

July 2009

Special points of interest:

- Check out police reports in your neighborhood. Go to <http://imaps.indygov.org/cvc>
- Watch IMPD unsolved crime on YOUTUBE at <http://www.youtube.com/user/IndyUnsolved>
- Miss the last informer? Go to <http://www.indy.gov/eGov/IMPD/Enforcement/Districts/Pages/North.aspx>

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Community Informer



Message from the Mayor

“When I took office as your mayor, I pledged to make Public Safety Job One. Under the leadership of Public Safety Director Scott Newman, and Chief of Police Mike Spears, we are reducing crime in Indianapolis by returning to the basics of law enforcement.



Community policing, improved training, better equipment, and a commitment to being a positive presence in our neighborhoods have all made a tremendous difference. By asking “what’s happening,” instead of “what happened,” we are reducing violent crime across Marion County. Please take a moment to review your latest IMPD North District newsletter and while you are at it, please feel free to read my latest newsletter by accessing the link below”

Sign up for the City of Indianapolis/Mayor's Office Newsletter

Visit: <http://www.indy.gov/Newsletters/pages/home.aspx> <<http://www.indy.gov/Newsletters/pages/home.aspx>>

North District Graffiti Clean Up

North District and the Marion County Prosecutor’s Office continue the Graffiti Clean-up Initiative. Anne Rincker with the prosecutor’s office has been heading up the project. Ms. Rincker maintains a list of locations that have been “tagged” with graffiti. If a property owner is unable to remove the graffiti, there is assistance available. Ms. Rincker has organized several graffiti clean-ups thus far utilizing workers from the Adult Probation Department. The workers have covered several locations that have been peppered with graffiti. A property owner who would like assistance but wishes to use a color other than the free gray paint, can purchase their own paint and request assistance from a paint crew. If you know of a location in need of painting or wish assistance with your own property, contact Ms. Rincker at 327-6100. It is important to note that a work crew cannot paint without an owner’s permission.



Brave Officer Disarms Armed Man

A passing motorist driving on Keystone Ave near I-465 noticed a man and a woman arguing by the side of the road. During the argument, the motorist saw the man begin stepping backward from the woman, remove a gun from his waistband and point the gun to his own head. Several citizen's called 911 and kept responding officers updated on the direction the man headed as he walked away from the woman. When officers arrived and spoke to the woman she told them that she had not seen a man pointing a gun to his head. Officer Michael Maxwell continued searching for the man. After searching several areas, Officer Maxwell spotted a man close to the description behind a gas station. When Officer Maxwell pulled up, the man ran behind the building. Officer Maxwell, despite the great risk, chased after the man on foot catching him behind the building. Officer Maxwell kept his own weapon at the ready and ordered the man to the ground. Ignoring Officer Maxwell's repeated commands, the man remained standing and dropped his hands to the front of his body. Officer Maxwell fired a Taser at the man. Unfortunately, only one of the two darts struck the man. Officer Maxwell quickly closed the distance and made direct contact to the man with the Taser, allowing him to complete the circuit. Officer Maxwell was able to subdue the man and removed a holstered loaded handgun from this dangerous subject. Officer Maxwell, despite great risk to himself, prevented this man from harming himself or others. Due to the heroism displayed by Officer Maxwell in confronting this subject Officer Maxwell is one of North District's Officers of the month.

Community Day a Huge Success

North District held its annual community day on June 25th in Broad Ripple Park. There were bounce houses, free food, drinks, clowns, music, and raffles. Hundreds of people attended. Everyone had a great time kids and adults alike. It was a fantastic event with many community organizations present. It was a great opportunity to meet and interact with the officers of IMPD. There were officers from the air patrol (helicopters), motorcycle, and mounted units present as well as the SWAT team. IMPD North District would like to thank everyone who came out to enjoy the day with us. North District would especially like to thank all of the sponsors who donated and the volunteers who made this day possible. We hope to see everyone again next summer!



Did You Know?

Here are some interesting facts:

IMPD North District:

- Area Served: Approx. 79 sq. mi.
- Population: 221,716 (2000 estimate)
- Total Officers Currently assigned: 209
 - (includes) Detectives: 23
 - (includes) Supervisors: 30
- Radio Runs answered in 2008: 140,666
- Radio Runs answered in 2007: 135,190
- Outright Arrests (2008): 6,824
- Summons Arrests (2008): 1,133
- Reports Completed (2008): 27,597

Based upon the 2000 census population data, if North District were a city unto itself, it would be the second largest city in Indiana, larger than Fort Wayne, Evansville, South Bend and Gary.

North District is approximately the same geographic size as Ft. Wayne, Indiana.

*Data from MECA run data, US Census, and IMPD Information Services

Armed Robber Taken Down by Alert Officer

Following a broadcast of a vehicle taken during an armed robbery, Officer Justin Baker quickly responded to the area. Paying close attention to his surroundings, he located a vehicle that was similar to the description provided in the radio broadcast. Knowing that a potentially armed and dangerous individual could be inside the vehicle he waited for his back-up to arrive. When he and the assisting officers approached the car, the suspect hammered the gas and sped off. The officers took off in pursuit. After a short chase the suspect lost control of his car and crashed. The suspect attempted to continue his run of terror by fleeing on foot. Officer Baker spotted the suspect and gave chase. While the suspect was still armed with a .357 magnum revolver, Officer Baker tased the suspect when he attempted to turn on him with the gun. When Officer Baker saw the gun, he dropped the Taser, drew his Glock, and ordered the suspect to the ground. The suspect, who had been knocked to the ground by the Taser, decided that his was a losing effort and gave up. This valiant effort is the reason that Officer Baker is one of North District's Officers of the Month.

Back to School Safety

Yes, it is that time of year again. Summer is winding down and it is time to buy school supplies, clothes, and books. It is also time to start talking to your children about school bus stop safety. Some things to consider:

Talk to your children about the risks involved with strangers

- Do not talk to strangers (even if they say they know your parents)
- Do not approach an unknown car
- Do not take any gifts from an unknown person for any reason

Children should know what to do in case of an emergency. Talk to them about:

- What is suspicious activity
- Where could they run in the event of an emergency (where can they go if nobody is at home?)
- Give them the confidence that it is ok to run to safety if they sense danger and to call 911 immediately.

If possible, at least one responsible adult should wait with younger children at the bus stop both before and after school. Work schedules will not always allow this. Get to know the other parents in the area and try to work out a schedule. Even if you do not have children, every member of the community should keep an eye on the bus stops and the children there. Anyone seeing something suspicious should call 911 immediately.

North District Task Force: Staying Connected

North District Commander Robert Holt invites all members of the community to attend our next task force meeting. Task Force is a community meeting that provides a great opportunity to find out what is happening on North District. Task Force meetings will often include guest speakers who will speak on a variety of topics that will be of interest to the public.

Next Meeting: Sept. 3

Time: 3:00pm

Location: 4180 N College Av

The guest speaker will be Sergeant Eric Eads who will speak on identity theft.

Parking Lot Safety: How to Prevent a Vehicle Break-in

How many seconds do you think it takes for a thief to break a car window and search the inside of a car for laptop computers, GPS units, iPods, cellular phones or any other valuables? The answer is not very long. Most vehicle break-ins are a crime of opportunity. There are never any guarantees, but here are some things to consider:

1. Do not secure valuables in your vehicle. If you must, hide them in your trunk BEFORE you get in the parking lot. If a thief sees you putting your valuables in your trunk, he knows that something valuable is in the car.
2. Hide all cases out of sight. You may know that your laptop case or bag holds nothing of value, but a potential thief will not know that until they have broken in and checked it out.
3. Hide charging cords and mounts. A GPS mount on the windshield or dash will advertise that there is likely an expensive GPS unit in the car somewhere. Cords left plugged in and in view will likewise indicate that the electronic item that they plug into might be inside the car.
4. Do not leave money in sight.
5. Kid's handheld games, cases and toy jewelry should be hidden from view as well. All of the items may be valuable or at least look valuable to a passing thief.
6. Shopping bags of any kind are an indicator of something of value that was recently purchased is inside.

The old adage that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure certainly applies to your vehicle. Even if there are no valuables in your car, a little bit of prevention may save you from the headache and expense of having to replace a car window.

Burglary Prevention Tips

This article is a continuation of an article from last month's informer. If you missed last month's tips you can find the informer at:

<http://www.indy.gov/eGov/IMPD/Enforcement/Districts/Pages/North.aspx>

Crime Watch

- Communication is the Key!
- When neighbors talk to each other, crime is reduced.
- Volunteer to be a Watch Block Captain.
- To start, contact your North District Crime Prevention/Crime Watch coordinator, Shirley Purvitis 327-3781 or email P1527@indy.gov

Windows

- Keep windows closed and locked!!! (even second story windows)
- Use thumb locks to reinforce the lock
- Use a nail or pin to secure the window

Garage Doors

- Keep them CLOSED!!! If you are going on vacation disengage the door.
- 70% of residential burglaries are "No Forced Entry."
- Close your garage door even while you are mowing the yard! Don't let someone sneak in while you are occupied for 30-60 minutes with a door open that you cannot see.

Burglar Alarms

- Recommended if you are usually away from home during the day or night for long periods
- Use them even if you are home. Especially if you are elderly.
- Check with home supply stores for alarms that you can install yourself
- Get several quotes from reputable companies
- Even an unmonitored alarm is better than no alarm. Criminals are less likely to remain in a home if a loud alarm is notifying the neighbors or police of a break-in.