

Highland Police Department



Community Police Newsletter

We're on the web at highlandpolice.com

Holiday Shopping Safety Tips



Highland Leadership Council

Trust your instincts.

- * Be aware of your surroundings at all times.
- * Don't let anyone see your cash.
- * Carry only the credit cards you're going to use that day.
- * Keep your purse on your body, not left in a cart or in the car. If you carry a small purse, you can carry it over your shoulder under your coat.
- * If someone wants your money, let him have it. It really is only paper; it can be replaced, but you can't.
- * If you feel like you're in danger, don't ignore it as being "paranoid". Pay attention to your sixth sense.
- * Watch your children at all times.
- * Have designated meeting times and places if you split up from the older kids and stick to it.
- * Look in your backseat before you enter your vehicle.
- * Stay away from vans, especially ones that don't have windows.
- * Park in a well lit area if you must shop at night.
- * Carry a well charged cell phone.

- * Shop where security is provided and where they have a good reputation.
- * Report suspicious behavior as soon as possible.
- * Keep your car well maintained, fueled up and keep jumper cables, spare tire, tire iron, jack and any other necessary tools in your car. If you don't know how to change a tire, call for help.
- * Keep a spare set of keys.
- * Keep your vehicle locked at all times and set your alarm.
- * Shop with friends. There is safety in numbers.
- * Responsibly carry pepper spray.
- * Don't try to carry too much merchandise at one time. It makes you look vulnerable.
- * If you have small kids with you, get in your vehicle, lock the doors, then buckle up.
- * Lock packages in the trunk if going from store to store.
- * If you believe you're being followed, return to the store and ask for security.

The Highland Leadership Council is comprised of members of the community including residents, businesses, and churches working together with local law enforcement and other government branches to improve the quality of life for Highland residents.

Meetings usually take place the fourth Thursday of each month at 12:00 noon in the reception hall at St. James Parish located at 9640 Kennedy Ave in Highland

Any resident, business, or civic organization that is interested in participating may contact Mr. Terry Krooswyk or Deputy Commander George Georgeff at the Highland Police Department for more information at (219) 838-3184 or e-mail us at leadership46322@yahoo.com



Community Crime Watch is a terrific way for people to help keep their neighborhoods safe from crime. Crime Watch neighborhoods are definitely safer because people are watching out for each other, and because our Crime Watch members are educated in how to

keep themselves, their families, and their neighborhoods safe. Community Crime Watch members in a particular neighborhood form a network of concerned citizens dedicated to crime prevention. They work in partnership with local law enforcement, becoming additional eyes and ears for those agencies. Frequent Crime Watch meetings are held to educate group members in crime prevention methods and

practices. Meetings also provide a venue for citizens to ask questions and pass along concerns to law enforcement officers working in the town. Contact Detective Greg Palmer at the Highland Police Department to find out how you can get involved and start receiving newsletters on meetings and seminars on crime prevention. To leave a message or request information contact our Crime Watch Voice mail at 838-1313 ext. 4001

Emergency Number
911

Non-Emergency Number
838-3181


Records Hours
Mon—Fri 8:00 am—4:30 pm

Records Phone Number
838-3184

Vehicle Title Checks
Mon—Sat 9 am—noon

Moped & Bicycle License
Saturday 9 am—noon

TIPS Line—
leave a message
838-TIPS



From the Desk of the Chief... The Highland Police Department's staff, both sworn and civilian, is comprised of dedicated individuals who strive to improve upon the quality of life for our residents by acknowledging both the responsibility and commitment our profession dictates. We realize our personnel are our biggest asset, as evidenced by their daily accomplishments. For even with the best tools in law enforcement, we could not have enjoyed the successes we have without the commitment from our employees. It is our honor to work alongside such individuals, possessing the characteristics of true law enforcement professionals.

Chief Peter Hojnicky



When to Call the Police

Many people hesitate about calling their local police departments even when faced with circumstances that, upon reflection, are highly suspicious. Some people think they are bothering us, some are not sure what they are seeing, but fortunately only a few don't want to get involved. Use the following guide and your good common sense and judgment. There are highly trained and experienced communications personnel at the other end of the line to ask questions and help decide the right thing to do. For emergencies and crimes in progress, call us on **9-1-1**, or use **(219) 838-3181** for non-emergency situations.

Try to remember: what the suspect looked like (height, weight, hair color, eye color, scars, tattoos, etc.), what the suspects were wearing (describe clothing from top to bottom), the suspect's direction of travel (north, south, down the alley, or which road), vehicle description (color, make, model, plate number and state if possible).

Fraud Alert!

Every year, one out of three adults in the United States gets a call from a con man, and the very best in the business of telemarketing fraud are known in the con game as "the closers."

They are the smooth, persuasive talkers who convince people to send them millions of dollars based on a phone conversation.

Recently, the most talented closers in the business have been working something called the Canadian lottery scam, one of the largest, most successful cons ever. This is how it works. You get a call from someone saying you just won a huge amount of money in a Canadian sweepstakes, and the money will be delivered just as soon as the taxes are paid on the winnings. The victims are told to send their checks to an address in Montreal, which is nothing more than a mail drop. From there, they're picked up by unsuspecting messengers who deliver them to the con men. And then the con men send them overseas to be cashed. Most times you will receive a check in the mail asking you to cash it and then mail the money back to them. These checks have even fooled banks. But when the check doesn't clear the bank, you are left responsible for the losses.

But the scam artists prefer wire transfers to Western Union, so that the money can be picked up anywhere in Can-



VOLUNTEERS IN POLICE SERVICE

The Highland Police Department is currently seeking applicants who may be interested in becoming a part of our Volunteers In Police Services (VIPS) program.

If you have a little (or a lot) of free time on your hands and would like a challenging, yet fun and exciting way to give back to the community, consider providing assistance to members of the Highland Police Department with tasks not necessarily requiring the presence of a law enforcement officer.

A training seminar is beginning soon and volunteers will receive over 40 hours of training covering topics such as first aid, patrol techniques, accident scene management, traffic control, town orientation, fingerprinting, filing, data entry, and emergency vehicle orientation, just to name a few.

After training, volunteers are assigned to areas where they feel most comfortable and may perform such duties while on patrol as vehicle escorts, bicycle patrol, vehicle patrol, traffic control, logging out-of-state registration violations, and emergency response (such as during the flood). Other tasks, performed inside the Department include filing, fingerprinting, and data entry. The duties are too many to list; however, there should be something for everyone. In addition, we host monthly training meetings, with dinner provided.

The first VIPS class graduated in July of 2005 and year to date have logged over 3,500 volunteer hours.

To become a member, you must be at least 18 years old, be able to successfully pass a background check, have the ability to get along well with others, be willing to have fun while working, and have a desire to become part of an organization with emphasis on making our community a better place to live. Volunteers are required to participate at least 12 hours per quarter. However our current volunteers often spend much more time than required. What a terrific opportunity to become involved, work hand in hand with our staff, and spend time with others who enjoy giving back to our community. Many friendships have developed through this wonderful program.

For an application or for more information please contact Officer John Swisher (VIPS Coordinator) or Detective Mark Santino (VIPS Co-Coordinator) at 838-3184.



ada, making surveillance by the police all but impossible. The scam is so effective, so pervasive, that even with Western Union's cooperation, Canadian law enforcement estimates that 67 percent of all the money coming into Western Union offices in Ottawa is from fraud. The scam is still going on; in fact, some victims are now getting calls from scam artists who claim they can recover all the money for a few thousand dollars in fees.

Home Improvement Scams



Sooner or later every home needs repairs or improvements. Although some home improvement companies do good work, some do not. Dishonest companies only want to take your money, not



>Tells you that they are doing work in your neighborhood and claims they have extra materials left from another job;

>Offers to use your home as a display home or offers a dis-

counted price or discounts for referrals, but only if you buy today;

>Tells you something that sounds too good (or bad) to be true. It probably is not true!

Warning signs you should watch for include when a salesperson:

>Criminals often work with a partner and their ultimate goal is to get into your house.

>Contacts you first (comes to your home uninvited or contacts you by telephone);

>Town of Highland employees drive clearly marked Town vehicles and carry photo identification. Before allowing anyone entry into your home, verify their identification.

>Tells you that you need to make repairs immediately;

>Verify contractors by calling the Town Hall's Building Department at 838-3185

>Talks too fast (to confuse you) and pressures you to sign papers today;

Crime Impact Unit



The Crime Impact Unit specializes in problem solving in neighborhoods where normal patrol response is sometimes restricted by the mere volume of calls for service elsewhere or the length of time needed to resolve the problem. The Crime Impact Unit conducts targeted and mission oriented police activities. Crime Impact Officers frequently assume undercover identities to accomplish their goals and work closely with citizens and confidential informants to resolve difficult problems. They are routinely called upon to adapt their schedules, appearance, and tactics as needed, often on very short notice. The multitude of assignments and constantly changing nature of work makes an assignment to the Crime Impact Unit an example of how the Highland Police Department makes the most efficient use of available resources.

Out of State License Plates



In the past, the Highland Police Department has established enforcement zones for those residents violating the reciprocity law, Indiana Criminal Code 9-18-2-1. State law requires those residents moving into the state acquire Indiana registration plates for their vehicles within 60 days (or sooner if their plates are expiring) of moving into the state. Formerly, the enforcement zones were only established in apartment complexes where a multitude of violators existed; however, it has come to our attention that many homeowners are also violating this law. Therefore the Highland Police Department has established an aggressive campaign in which Highland residents are asked to report suspected violators. In addition, violators may also be reported on our website at www.highlandpolice.com (License Plate Violations). A data base has been established and upon receiving a complaint a member of our VIPS (Volunteers In Police Service) will visit the location and leave an information sheet regarding the state's reciprocity law and also a phone number for the owner of the vehicle to contact Deputy Commander George Georgeff should they feel they may be exempt. The data base will be updated and if the resident has not made contact indicating their exemption within 60 days after the initial contact, an officer will visit the suspected violator and a citation will be issued.

Prevent Theft From Your Vehicle

Tips to Keep your Home Safe in the Winter

Before leaving your home during the day, make it look as if someone is still at home by using timers on lights in various rooms. Remember that daylight hours are shorter during the winter. It may still get dark faster than you expect or you may return home later than anticipated, and taking this step ensures that your home appears occupied at all times.



Ensure that all doors leading to the home and garage are locked, even when leaving for short periods of time. The typical burglary takes less than five minutes, and unlocked doors with an empty home put out the "welcome mat" for crime.

An unkempt yard could be viewed as a sign of an empty home to a burglar. If you're planning to be away from home on vacation for more than a day or two, ask a neighbor to park a car in your driveway and pick up your mail and newspapers – or be sure to make arrangements to cancel the paper and hold the mail. Disable your garage door opener and manually lock it from the inside, and don't forget to check that the door leading from the garage to the home is locked, too. When leaving home, take your house keys along or leave a spare set with a trusted neighbor. Never leave a key under a welcome mat, in a mailbox or other hiding spots – most burglars will know where to look.

Many of our burglaries are committed by acquaintances or family members. Be aware of who your friends are, who your children's friends are, and which relative you allow to stay with you. Place valuable items in safe boxes and cash in bank accounts. If you need to keep cash and valuable items on hand, do not leave them in places likely to be found easily by burglars. Keep a copy of serial numbers from your TV's, video games, computers, etc., as these items are likely to be removed, but can be entered into a national database if known, thus increasing the chances of their recovery.

Over a quarter of all recorded crimes are car thefts or thefts of items from cars, such as stereos and mobile phones. It's a problem that affects us all no matter where we live.

Never leave a car door unlocked or a window or sunroof open, even when just going into a shop for a moment or two.

Don't leave any belongings in your car. A thief won't know that a bag or coat doesn't contain something valuable and might break a window to get at it. If you can't take them with you, lock them in the trunk.

Security mark your stereo and if it's removable, always take it with you. Make a note of the serial number and keep it in a safe place.

Don't leave credit cards or check books in the glove compartment. One in five stolen checks and credit cards are taken from cars.

Remove the ignition key and engage the steering lock - even when parking in your own driveway or garage - and don't forget to lock the garage door.

Double check that all car doors, windows, sunroof, and trunk are locked before leaving the vehicle. Always try and park in a well lit, open area.

Highland Police Department

3333 Ridge Road



*Enroll Now for an
upcoming
Citizens Police
Academy
Call for details
(219) 838-3184*

Crime Watch
Keeping an eye on crime!



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Community Police Newsletter

POSTAL CUSTOMER
HIGHLAND IN 46322



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This Newsletter can be found on
line at www.highlandpolice.com

Check on line for upcoming
Crime Watch dates.

Highland Community Crime Watch Program



Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday
November 30th, 2006 at the Town Hall.
The meeting will begin at 7:00 pm with
refreshments served.