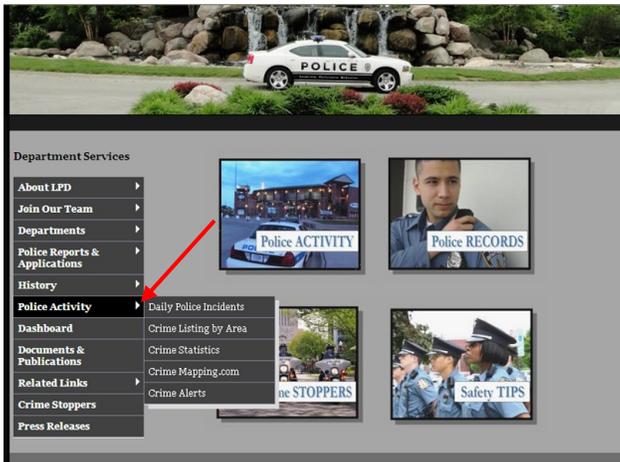


# Lincoln Police Department Crime-Watch Newsletter

## Fall 2011 & Winter 2012

### NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH: AS VITAL AS IT HAS EVER BEEN

The Crime Prevention Unit is a part of the police department that implements most of our community service related programs. Neighborhood Watch, Business Watch and McGruff House are some of the programs managed by the unit. Over the past few years budgetary issues have prompted changes in the way the Crime Prevention Unit operates. The number of officers in the unit has been reduced and they are now more incorporated into the Education & Personnel Unit. The officers' focus has been changed to include more emphasis on training of both recruit officers in our academy and ongoing training for veteran officers. These changes have allowed extra officers to be placed on patrol duty where, of course, the main mission of the police department resides. Now, more than ever, we need Neighborhood Watch groups to be active with each other and in their areas. Communication amongst your group members and the police department is vital to our shared success in keeping our community a great place to live. Much of the information that the Crime Prevention Unit previously accumulated and mailed out is easily available on-line. Our hope is that group members are actively getting that information and sharing it with each other. The entire police department is committed to keeping our city the safest place it can be. Our officers are committed to being "Community based" and active in our neighborhoods. Please continue to go to our web site at:



<http://www.lincoln.ne.gov/city/police/>

When there place your cursor on "Police Activity" and select the information you would like to find from the drop-down menu .

### NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH GATHERINGS

Many Neighborhood Watch groups make plans to meet on the first Tuesday of August which is the annual National Night Out. The police department will support groups doing that but we would also like you to consider meeting at different times throughout the year. The first Tuesday in August often limits who can participate because it's usually one of the hottest times of the year and many people are still involved in traveling or other summer activities. We would like to see groups meeting more than once a year to maintain familiarity and that sense of community. If you plan to have a meeting call your team area office or the Crime Prevention Unit (441-7261) and we will coordinate having an officer attend.



Jon & Taryn Vanderford chat with Nate Blum & Karen Noel during the "First at Four" newscast.

### A Neighborhood Outside the Box

The first Tuesday in August was the annual National Night Out– a program promoted by the National Association of Town Watch (<http://www.nationalnightout.org/nno/about.html>). Several Neighborhood Watch groups and neighborhood associations organized events for the evening to celebrate the vitality of their communities. One Neighborhood Watch group, #108AB, in the Prescott area decided to go beyond the basic neighbor gathering and worked to address a concern they see in our community. Nate Blum, and others in his group, coordinated with Karen Noel of the Great Plains Alzheimer's Association to incorporate a fund raiser for Alzheimer's research as part of their celebration. Nate's group planned with city public works to block off their street where they had BBQ, kid's games and promotional material available for both crime prevention awareness and the opportunity to contribute to Alzheimer's research.

## Lincoln Police Department Administrative Changes



**Chief of Police  
James Peschong**

Mayor Chris Beutler recently appointed Thomas Casady to the position of Public Safety Director. James Peschong was then promoted to be Lincoln's Chief of Police. Chief Peschong joined the department in January 1975. Over his career he has worked in a variety of capacities: foot patrol, motorcycle officer, cruiser officer, detective, Technical Investigations supervisor, Internal Affairs, Southwest Team Captain, Northwest/Center Team Captain, Criminal Investigations COIC, and Assistant Chief of Police.

Brian Jackson was then selected to be the Assistant Chief of Police. He has been with the Lincoln Police Department since June 1987. During that time, he has served in a variety of capacities including Investigator, Training Sergeant, Duty Captain and, most recently, Commander of the Lincoln/Lancaster County Narcotics Task Force.



**Asst. Chief of Police  
Brian Jackson**

### POLICE DEPARTMENT LOCATIONS & CONTACTS

If you need to contact the police with questions or information, please call our Service Desk at (402) 441-7204.

Other addresses and phone numbers are:

Headquarters  
575 S. 10th St  
(402) 441-7204

Center Team Captain  
(402) 441-7751  
LPD Center Team Station 1501 N. 27th St

Northwest Team Captain  
(402) 441-6555  
Sub-station:  
Highlands 5435 NW 1st St

Northeast Team Captain  
(402) 464-6007  
Northeast Team Station 4843 Huntington Ave.

Southwest Team Captain  
(402) 441-7754  
Sub-stations:  
F Street Community Center 1225 F St  
Bess Dodson Walt Library 6701 S. 14th St  
Bryan/LGH West 2300 S. 16th

Southeast Team Captain  
(402) 441-7755  
Sub-stations:  
Auld Recreation Center 3140 Summer  
LMEF Inc. 4525 F Street  
Union College 3645 S. 51st Street

You can also go to our website at:  
<http://www.lincoln.ne.gov/city/police/stats/lpdmil.htm>  
and be able to e-mail the employee you want to contact.

### ROUNABOUTS

Circular intersection designs, or roundabouts, are being used more often in Lincoln street planning and construction. The city Public Works and Utilities Department has provided a lot of information regarding the reasoning for a roundabout and tips on driving through them. Please go to their website at:



*The recently opened 10th & Salt Creek Roundabout.*

<http://lincoln.ne.gov/city/pworks/engine/roundabout/>

Click on "Videos" and you can watch a video simulation of traffic on the roundabouts scheduled for 10th and Salt Creek and 14th and Superior Streets.

### ANYONE INTERESTED IN POLICE WORK?

If you or anyone you know is interested in learning how to become a police officer we can provide you with a lot of information. On the Lincoln Police Department website you can go to the "Join Our Team Menu" and see what is involved in the application, hiring, and training process. To read about recruit officer training go to:

<http://www.lincoln.ne.gov/city/police/retraining.htm>

For some direct insight from people involved in the process go to the "Recruit Blog" at:

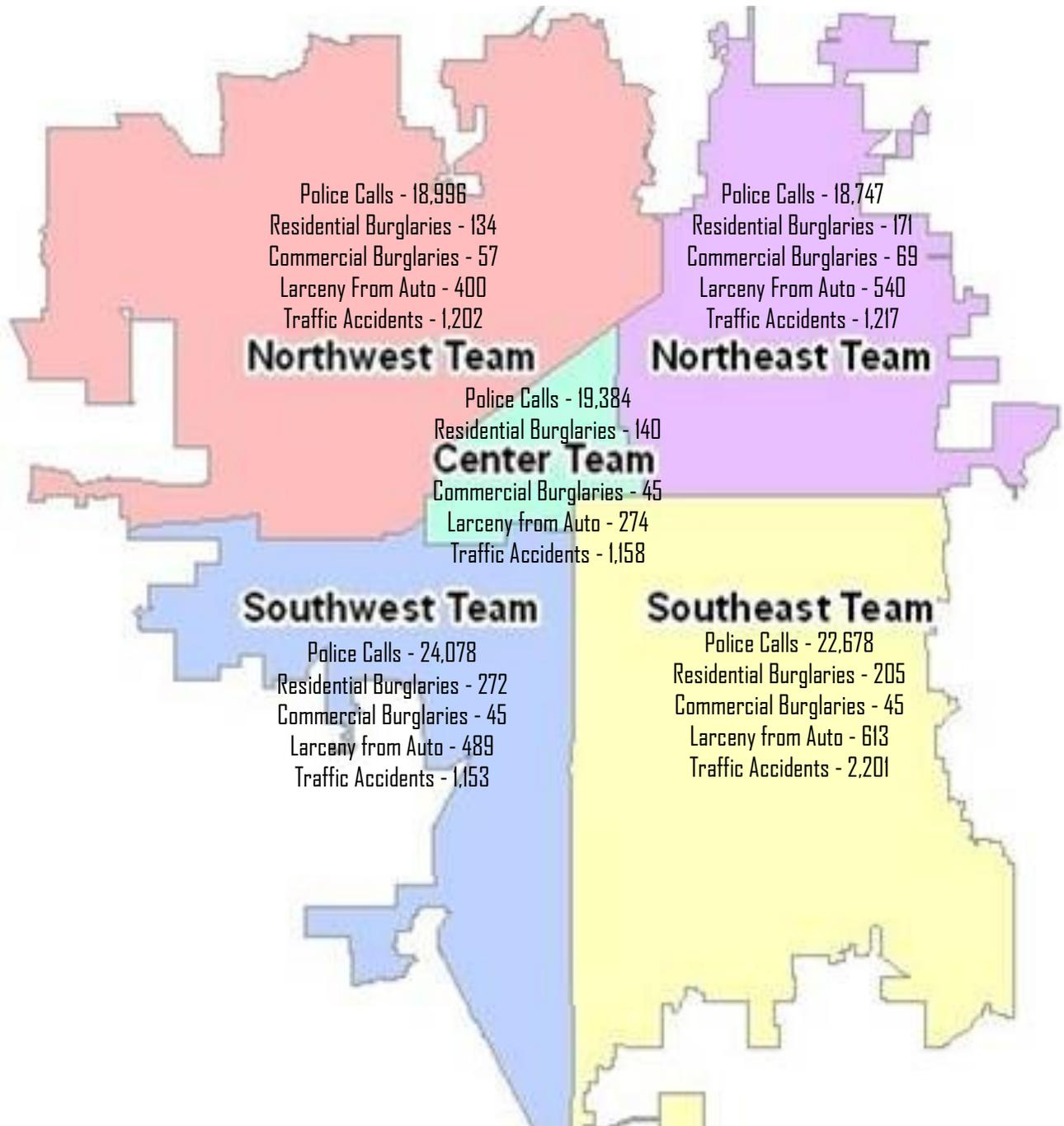
<http://www.lincoln.ne.gov/city/police/blog/blog4/blogintro.htm>

Plus channel 10/11, KOLN/KGIN, is doing a series of special reports called "Behind the Badge" where they are following along with the new recruit officers we have in our academy at this time. See their stories and videos at:

[http://www.1011now.com/targetedspecialreports/headlines/Behind the Badge Under the Gun 133197208.html](http://www.1011now.com/targetedspecialreports/headlines/Behind%20the%20Badge%20Under%20the%20Gun%20133197208.html)

*Would you like to have the inside scoop on the Lincoln Police Department? You can see everything we're about by checking out the 2010 Annual Report at: <http://www.lincoln.ne.gov/city/police/annual/2010.pdf>*

SUMMARY OF REPORTED CRIMES-between 1-1-2011 and 10-31-2011



**STATISTICAL SUMMARY FOR 2011 up to October 31st, 2011:**

The total number of calls for service, citywide, is at 105,193 which is down 4.1% compared to this same time frame in 2010. The total number of residential burglaries city wide has dropped by 0.8% compared to the end of July 2010. Commercial burglaries had a downturn of 1.2%. Larceny from auto cases are at 2,428 which is a 2.5% increase. Center Team, which is our smallest geographic team area, has seen the biggest increase in numbers of both residential and commercial burglaries. Opportunistic crimes remain the most common theme in the reports we investigate. We need to keep encouraging everyone to lock doors (homes & vehicles) and keep overhead garage doors down— during all times night and day. The total number of accident reports is down by 4.5% so far this year. Avoiding distractions and driving defensively are extremely important while operating a motor vehicle.

## *"CRIME-WATCH"*



### **THEFTS FROM VEHICLES**

***There are several things you can easily do to deter thieves from breaking into your vehicle:***

- Remove all of your valuables when you leave.
- Secure valuables into the trunk or other places they can not be readily seen.
- Do not leave purses or briefcases in the car– they usually contain money, checks & credit cards.

### **LOCK YOUR VEHICLE !**

***Thieves have told the police:***

- They "shop" along the street– looking into cars.
- They try door handles to find those that are left unlocked.
- They look for suction cup marks or brackets on the windshield.
- They look for dangling power cords or cords plugged into accessory outlets.
- They look for iPods, cases or loose CDs laying around.

***What additional security measures can be taken?***

- Park your car in a well lit area.
- Park close to an inhabited structure.
- Record the brands, model numbers & serial numbers from your electronics and accessories.
- Keep an inventory list of your property.
- Invest in a security system if you feel the value of the contents in your vehicle justifies the cost.

### **LOCK YOUR VEHICLE !**

### **NEW CRIME PREVENTION OFFICERS**

Beginning in January there will be two officers new to the Crime Prevention Group at the Lincoln Police Department. Officers Erin Spilker and Shane Winterbauer will be part of the Education and Personnel Unit. Their duties will include creating, implementing and coordinating training for new officer academy classes and ongoing training for veteran officers. They will also continue managing the Neighborhood Watch, McGruff House and Business Watch programs for the department.



Ofc. Erin Spilker



Ofc. Shane Winterbauer

### **ONLINE SHOPPING & THEFT PREVENTION**

- \* Do business with companies you know.
- \* Shop only on secure websites.
- \* Do not respond to emails asking you for personal or credit card information.
- \* Check your credit card and bank statements regularly for any fraudulent use.
- \* Record credit card numbers so you can immediately report any loss to the police and issuing company.
- \* Shred receipts that show your credit card number.
- \* Keep track of when and where mail order packages will arrive. Many companies provide package tracking options.

### **LARCENY FROM AUTO PREVENTION**

The Lincoln Police Dept. once again conducted its successful **Crime Free Dollars** program at Lincoln's public high schools in cooperation with AAA. Police Officers checked the school parking lots for vehicles that were locked and had no valuables in view. These vehicles were entered into a drawing, with a winner from each school getting \$50 courtesy of AAA.

The winners were:

- ◆ Mitch Makovicka from East High School;
- ◆ Eric Hall from Southeast High School;
- ◆ Ahsan Kamal from Southwest High School;
- ◆ Nate Adams from Northeast High School;
- ◆ Natausha Vodraska from Northstar High School;
- ◆ Clayton Walter from Lincoln High School.

Congratulations to the winners, and thank you to **AAA** for helping to make this project a success!



AAA manager Marilyn Muir and Officer Matt Tangen announce the winning names for CRIME FREE DOLLARS