



THE NET

Lincoln Business Watch



Funny Money Is On The Rise

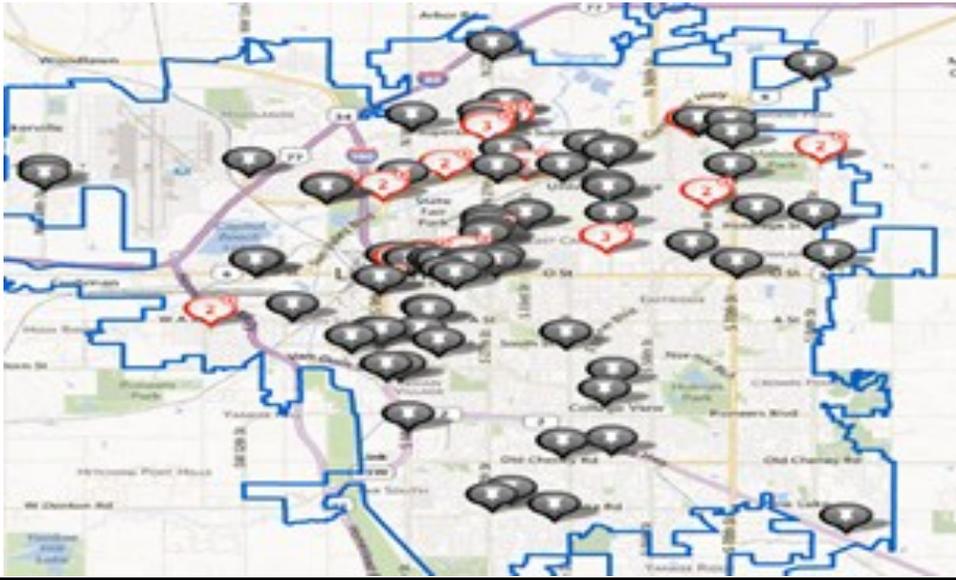
Counterfeiting has become more and more prominent in Lincoln. As more of the fake money is accepted around town, the greater the loss sustained by the business community. The federal government has added new security features over time to make it difficult for counterfeiters to be successful. These security features also make it easier for counterfeit bills to be identified. Although there are numerous features that can be pointed to, security threads, paper and portrait features serve as some easy recognizable features to look for on currency.

- ⇒ **Security Threads:** These are clear inscribed polyester threads that have been incorporated into the paper of genuine currency. It runs vertically through the clear field to the left of the Federal Reserve seal on all notes except the \$1.00. Printed on the thread is an identifier. On bills \$20.00 and below the thread has "USA" followed by the written denomination. Higher denominations will show "USA" followed by the numerical value.
- ⇒ **Paper Features:** Genuine paper contains no watermarks. It has tiny red and blue fibers embedded throughout. Often counterfeiters try to simulate these fibers by printing tiny red and blue lines on their paper. Counterfeit notes will have these lines printed on the surface and not embedded in the paper.
- ⇒ **Portrait Features:** The genuine portrait appears lifelike and appears almost three dimensional from the background. The counterfeit portrait is usually lifeless and flat. The details in a genuine bill are visible whereas the detail definition on a counterfeit bill appears almost smudged.
- ⇒ **Federal Reserve & Treasury Seals:** On a genuine bill the saw-tooth points of the Federal Reserve and Treasury Seals are clear distinct and sharp. The counterfeit seals may have uneven, blunt or broken saw-tooth points.
- ⇒ **Serial Numbers:** Genuine serial numbers have a distinctive style and are evenly spaced. They are printed in the same ink color as the Treasury seal. On a counterfeit the serial numbers may differ in color or shade of ink from the Treasury seal. The numbers may not be uniformly spaced or aligned.
- ⇒ **Border:** The fine lines in the border of a genuine bill are clear and unbroken. On the counterfeit, the lines in the outer margin and scrollwork may be blurred and indistinct.
- ⇒ **Micro-printing:** A line of micro-printing appears on the rim of the portrait on the \$50.00 & \$100.00 bills. The words "THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA" are repeated along the sides of the portrait. To the naked eye the micro-printing appears as a little more than a solid line and can only be read using magnification. Neither the security thread nor the micro-printing can be accurately reproduced by an office machine copier.

Here are some examples of what to look for.



Remember, if it doesn't feel right or look right, it probably is not right. If there is any question on if the bill you receive is fake, don't hesitate to call the police.



Crime Trends

There have been 112 reports of counterfeit money being passed in the city since the first of the year. Most of the cases have been \$20 bills and \$100 bills being passed. A lot of the times the counterfeit bills could have been identified if the correct measures would have been followed. Some of the bills passed were actually on paper money that had been washed out and reprinted to represent larger denominations. Make sure you take your time and look them over.

Winter Headaches: Don't Have to Be

With the arrival of the fall season, winter is just around the corner. It's time to get the snow shovels out of the shed and make certain snow blowers start. We decided to go through the city policies that deal with winter emergencies.

SNOW EMERGENCY: When declared, no parking is allowed on any arterial, emergency snow route or bus route. These routes are listed in your Alltel phone directory. Any vehicle parked on these routes during a snow emergency that is not an emergency vehicle, may be ticketed and towed.

RESIDENTIAL PARKING BAN: Residential streets **are not** plowed after every snow storm. When it is apparent that the snowfall will start to hamper travel in the residential areas, a residential parking ban may be declared by the Mayor. Parking may be banned on the even/odd sides or both sides. Local news media will let the public know when these bans are placed into effect. Any vehicles parked on these streets after the bans (even/odd or total bans) can be ticketed and towed.

SANDING OPERATIONS: Sanding starts when freezing rain begins to fall. Material is placed on the main arterials, bus routes and known problem areas. Generally, no parking ban will be in effect during this time, but things could change quickly. Listen to local media for updates.

SNOW REMOVAL - SIDEWALKS: City ordinance 14.80.110 requires that sidewalks be cleared of snow by 9 am the morning after snow stops falling. If a person does not remove the snow/ice from their sidewalks, a person or company can be charged by the city for the cost of removing the snow, as well as cited for a violation of city ordinance.

SNOW PLOWING OF DRIVEWAYS AND PARKING LOTS: City ordinance 14.92.040 prohibits the placing of snow into the roadway from parking lots and driveways at any time. Citizens or commercial contractors removing snow from their parking lots or drives must have a location to place the snow. Any person or contractor placing snow into the city street may be subject to citation for violation of city ordinance. The city may also assess the person the cost of removing the snow that was placed there by the offending party.

Please be prepared for the upcoming winter season. A more comprehensive definition of the policies for snow emergencies and snow removal can be found in the Alltel phone directory and on line at the city website.

