Hobart Police Department 705 E. 4th St. Hobart, IN 46342 Neighborhood Watch Program Partners in Public Safety



Issue #237, Friday August 19, 2016 Police Blotter: 08/01/16 - 08/14/16 Public Relations 219-942-1125 x 1070 www.cityofhobart.org



Bi-Weekly Newsletter

<u>MESSAGE FROM OUR CHIEF</u>



It is back to school time and with the school year starting August 17th, we have once again increased our police presence in and around the schools to proactively encourage safe driving practices. The weather is nice, the pedestrian traffic flow is high, and some drivers are challenged with time management (kids to school and off to work on time) and other issues. When all else fails, our visibility and presence in marked and unmarked police vehicles gets attention and generally makes people more conscious of their driving habits.

This police practice has been intended to encourage everyone to drive safely. You may be having a bad morning and feel like you can catch up with your day by just driving a little faster or just ignoring a few traffic laws, but life will suddenly get worse if you have an accident and someone gets hurt. Shaving a few minutes off your commute time, may turn into a lifetime of misery or sorrow for your actions. The kids are precious and hopefully all focused on learning as they get to school, but they generally pay no attention to the vehicles around them. You should use your best driving practices every time you get behind the wheel, but especially in the school zones.

Another area of caution is when commuting around school buses. The stop arm and blinking lights are there for a reason. They mean "STOP" and to disregard the stop arm is a misdemeanor and mandatory court appearance. There is nothing in life important enough to endanger children. The law also allows the police to use the bus driver's observations to issue a citation to the registered owner of the vehicle. So if you are in too much of a hurry to care, just remember that a police car does not have to be there for the citation to be delivered to you at a later date. The police department will work closely with the school bus services in our city to pursue offenders that violate these laws.

Patterns do develop and certain locations become more susceptible to "stop arm" violations. With coordination from the school corporations, we will increase patrols in areas with frequent violations. There may be a police vehicle waiting up the road to make the traffic stop, provide a lengthy delay for your commute, and take the enforcement action. We may not catch all of them, but with some creative policing, we can make a safer commute for our school children. My hope is that EVERYONE would be more conscious of their driving. So please, ask all the drivers in your home or in your family to use their best driving habits in and around the schools and the school buses.

Chief Rick Zormier

DID YOU KNOW? Distracted Walking

According to a study 61 children are hit by cars every day in the United States, most often during the hours before and after school, and peaking in September. And, there has been a noticeable demographic shift. It is now much more likely a teenager will be hit by a car than his younger counterpart. With this knowledge, the National Safety Council is focused on efforts to eliminate distracted walking - specifically walking while texting. According to a study kids age 13 to 17 send more than 3,400 texts a month. That's seven messages every hour they are awake. Before your children head out, remind them of these year-round safety tips: Never walk while texting or talking on the phone. If texting move out of the way of others and stop on a sidewalk. Never cross the street while using an electronic device. Be aware of your

surroundings. Always walk on a sidewalk when one is available.

Fake Checks

The Federal Trade Commission, the nation's consumer protection agency, wants you to know that counterfeit check scams are on the rise. Some fake checks look so real that bank tellers are reporting being fooled. The scammers use high quality printers and scanners to make the checks look real. Some of the checks contain authentic-looking watermarks. These counterfeit checks are printed with the names and addresses of legitimate financial institutions. And even though the bank and account and routing numbers listed on a counterfeit check may be real, the check still can be a fake. These fakes come in many forms, from cashier's checks and money orders to corporate and personal checks. Could you be a victim? Not if you know how to recognize and report them.

Fake Checks: Variations on a Scheme

Counterfeit or fake checks are being used in a growing number of fraudulent schemes, including foreign lottery scams, check overpayment scams, Internet auction scams, and secret shopper scams.

Check overpayment scams target consumers selling cars or other valuable items through classified ads or online auction sites. Unsuspecting sellers get stuck when scammers pass off bogus cashier's checks, corporate checks, or personal checks. Here's how it happens:

A scam artist replies to a classified ad or auction posting, offers to pay for the item with a check, and then comes up with a reason for writing the check for more than the purchase price. The scammer asks the seller to wire back the difference after depositing the check. The seller does it, and later, when the scammer's check bounces, the seller is left liable for the entire amount.

In secret shopper scams, the consumer, hired to be a secret shopper, is asked to evaluate the effectiveness of a money transfer service. The consumer is given a check, told to deposit it in their bank account, and withdraw the amount in cash. Then, the consumer is told to take the cash to the money transfer service specified, and typically, send the transfer to a person in a Canadian city. Then, the consumer is supposed to evaluate their experience but no one collects the evaluation. The secret shopper scenario is just a scam to get the consumer's money.

Con artists who use these schemes can easily avoid detection. When funds are sent through wire transfer services, the recipients can pick up the money at other locations within the same country; it is nearly impossible for the sender to identify or locate the recipient.

Protecting Yourself

Here's how to avoid a counterfeit check scam:

Throw away any offer that asks you to pay for a prize or a gift. If it's free or a gift, you shouldn't have to pay for it. Free is free.

Resist the urge to enter foreign lotteries. It's illegal to play a foreign lottery through the mail or the telephone, and most foreign lottery solicitations are phony.

Know who you're dealing with, and never wire money to strangers.

If you're selling something, don't accept a check for more than the selling price, no matter how tempting the offer or how convincing the story. Ask the buyer to write the check for the correct amount. If the buyer refuses to send the correct amount, return the check. Don't send the merchandise.

As a seller, you can suggest an alternative way for the buyer to pay, like an escrow service or online payment service. There may be a charge for an escrow service. If the buyer insists on using a particular escrow or online payment service you've never heard of, check it out. Visit its website, and read its terms of agreement and privacy policy. Call the customer service line. If there isn't one or if you call and can't get answers about the service's reliability don't use the service.

If you accept payment by check, ask for a check drawn on a local bank, or a bank with a local branch. That way, you can make a personal visit to make sure the check is valid. If that's not possible, call the bank where the check was purchased, and ask if it is valid. Get the bank's phone number from directory assistance or an Internet site that you know and trust, not from the check or from the person who gave you the check.

If the buyer insists that you wire back funds, end the transaction immediately. Legitimate buyers don't pressure you to send money by wire transfer services. In addition, you have little recourse if there's a problem with a wire transaction. **Resist any pressure to "act now." If the buyer's offer is good now, it should be good after the check clears.**

If You Think You're a Victim

If you think you've been targeted by a counterfeit check scam, report it to the following agencies: The Federal Trade Commission The U.S. Postal Inspection Service

Your state or local consumer protection agencies. Visit www.naag.org for a list of state Attorneys General, or check the Blue Pages of your local telephone directory for appropriate phone numbers.



08/05, 6:45pm, Battery, 2400 block E. 80th Ave., no description

08/05, 8:58pm, Burglary, 300 block Ruta Dr., theft of two television sets from residence

08/05, 9:51pm, Theft, 3200 block E. 81st Ave., theft of letters

- 08/06, 12:13pm, Theft, 1100 block S. Virginia St., theft of items from vehicle
- 08/06, 1:34pm, Theft, 4400 block W. Ridge Rd., theft of purse from vehicle
- 08/06, 1:47pm, Theft, 2600 block E. 81st Ave., Target, theft of purses from shopping cart
- 08/06, 1:49pm, Theft, 1900 block Southlake Mall, Chipotle, theft of wallet from purse

Police Blotter Continued

08/06, 2:17pm, Fraud, 2600 block E. 79th Ave., Burlington Coat Factory, counterfeit US currency used for purchases 08/06, 3:19pm, Theft, 2600 block E. 81st Ave., Target, theft of cell phone 08/06, 3:38pm, Juvenile Problem, 3200 block W. 37th Ave., Luke's Gas Station, juveniles playing in parking lot 08/06, 8:07pm, Theft, 1800 block Southlake Mall, theft of vehicle 08/06, 9:12pm, Disturbance, 2900 block E. 80th Ave., Chuck E Cheese, multiple subjects in verbal altercation 08/07, 9:30am, Criminal Mischief, 1000 block S. Colorado St., unknown subjects entered vehicle 08/07, 10:54am, Overdose, 400 block Driftwood Dr., subject transported to hospital 08/07, 12:56pm, Theft, 7700 block E. 37th Ave., Stracks, theft of food 08/07, 2:04pm, Theft, Police Station Report, theft of several items from vehicle 08/07, 2:05pm, Theft, 4500 block 14th Ln., theft of tools from vehicle 08/07, 2:17pm, Fraud, 1600 block S. Lake Park Ave., CVS, fraudulent prescription 08/07, 3:47pm, Theft, Southlake Mall, theft of US currency 08/07, 4:13pm, Harassment, 800 block S. Lake Park Ave., harassment from known subject 08/07, 7:41pm, Theft, 2900 block E. 79th Ave., theft of cell phone 08/07, 7:55pm, Overdose, 1200 block W. 3rd St., subject transported to hospital 08/07, 10:21pm, Criminal Mischief, 100 block E. Old Ridge Rd., Festival Park, damage to flower pot 08/07, 10:42pm, Threats, 800 block S. Lake Park Ave., report taken 08/08, 3:58am, Theft, 2900 block E. 79th Ave., Walmart, subject arrested 08/08, 9:07am, Criminal Mischief, 3900 block Howard St., property spray painted 08/08, 12:40p, Harassment, 7800 block Tanager St., unknown subject shining lights and tapping on window 08/08, 1:06pm, Drugs, E. 73rd Ave. & Mississippi St., subject arrested 08/08, 1:32pm, Threats, 500 block S. Joliet St., threats made through social media 08/08, 3:12pm, Fraud, 5900 block E. 80th Ave., Maxim Power Sports, subject arrested 08/08, 3:16pm, Public Intoxication, Police Station Report, subject arrested 08/08, 5:27pm, Burglary, 100 block Kelly St., theft of US currency and Firearm from residence 08/08, 6:49pm, Theft, 2100 block Southlake Mall, Sprint, theft of cell phone 08/09, 10:23am, Fraud, Police Station Report, scam report 08/09, 2:50pm, Theft, 3800 block Barnes St., theft of package from mailbox 08/09, 4:49pm, Missing Person, 3000 block E. Cleveland Ave., subject returned to residence 08/09, 5:39pm, Juvenile Problem, S. Wisconsin St. & W. 3rd St., juveniles playing on train tracks 08/09, 8:07pm, Drugs, W. 37th Ave. & I65 N., subject arrested 08/09, 8:26pm, Drugs, 5700 block S. Liverpool Rd., subject issued summons 08/09, 8:55pm, Theft, 2100 block E. 80th Ave., DSW Shoes, theft of shoes 08/09, 11:18pm, Juvenile Problem, 3000 block W. 38th Pl., juveniles messing with vehicles 08/10, 1:10am, Theft, 400 block Crestwood Dr., theft of items from vehicle 08/10, 7:23am, Theft from Vehicle, Multiple Residences, theft of several items from vehicles 08/10, 10:05am, Fraud, 400 block W. 14th St., phone scam 08/10, 11:39am, Missing Person, Police Station Report, no description 08/10, 4:29pm, Burglary, 3500 block E. 34th Ln., forced entry to residence/theft of several items 08/10, 4:41pm, Disturbance, 3700 block W. 49th Ave., verbal altercation 08/10, 5:30pm, Theft, 2700 block Walnut Ln., theft of US currency from vehicle 08/10, 8:45pm, Disturbance, 1100 block E. 61st Ave., verbal altercation 08/10, 9:12pm, Battery, 500 block N. Union St., no description 08/11, 2:10am, Juvenile Problem, Crestwood Dr. & W. 3rd Pl., no description 08/11, 2:56am, Theft, 1600 block E. 80th Ave., Art Van, theft of a love seat 08/11, 7:26am, Criminal Mischief, 6800 block Prairie Path Ln., damage to property 08/11, 8:10am, Theft, 400 block Briarwood Ln., theft from vehicle 08/11, 10:45am, Fraud, 200 block N. Delaware St., fraudulent phone 08/11, 11:29am, Fraud, Police Station Report, report taken 08/11, 1:36pm, Battery, 1100 block W. 39th Ave., report taken 08/11, 1:55pm, Theft, 3500 block N. Hobart Rd., Duke of Oil, internal theft

08/11, 2:32pm, Criminal Mischief, 100 block S. California St., vehicle rummaged through

Police Blotter Continued

08/11, 2:55pm, Theft, 2200 block Southlake Mall, theft of clothing 08/11, 2:55pm, Theft, Police Station Report, theft of items from residence 08/11, 8:37pm, Theft, 2300 block E. 80th Ave., theft of wallet from purse 08/11, 8:45pm, Harassment, 0 block S. Hobart Rd., harassment from known subject 08/11, 10:38pm, Threats, 2900 block E. 79th Ave., threats made by known subject 08/11, 11:55pm, Juvenile Problem, 3900 block W. 37th Ave., no description 08/12, 12:00am, Domestic Disturbance, 1200 block Csokasy Ln., known subjects in altercation 08/12, 4:12am, Juvenile Problem, 1500 block S. Lake Park Ave., juveniles in parking lot 08/12, 4:14am, Drugs, W. 61st Ave. & Colorado St., subject arrested 08/12, 6:50am, Criminal Mischief, 200 block Hemlock Dr., mailboxes damaged by unknown subjects 08/12, 11:04am, Harassment, 900 block W. 37th Ave., harassment from known subject 08/12, 12:58pm, Fraud, Police Station Report, check scam 08/12, 1:06pm, Disturbance, 700 block N. Hobart Rd., altercation 08/12, 1:42pm, Fraud, 2000 block Southlake Mall, report taken 08/12, 1:54pm, Criminal Mischief, 9300 block E. 37th Ave., Remus Farms, several potted plants damaged 08/12, 3:45pm, Burglary, 3300 block County Line Rd., no description 08/12, 5:01pm, Theft, 2900 block E. 80th Ave., theft of a cell phone 08/12, 5:04pm, Drugs, N. Wisconsin St. & E. 37th Ave., subject issued summons 08/12, 5:28pm, Theft, 1900 block E. 80th Ave., theft of debit cards 08/12, 6:18pm, Drugs, W. 37th Ave. & Northridge Dr., subject issued summons 08/12, 6:53pm, Theft, 2000 block Southlake Mall, Lids, theft of jerseys 08/12, 9:02pm, Burglary, 4600 block E. 81st Ave., Team Honda, doors open to business 08/12, 9:46pm, Domestic Disturbance, 7700 block Murrelet St., altercation between known subjects 08/13, 12:32am, Trespassing, 2900 block E. 79th Ave., subject issued trespass warning 08/13, 2:39pm, Harassment, 1100 block W. 10th St., harassing phone calls 08/13, 4:05pm, Theft, 1700 block W. Old Ridge Rd., theft of US currency 08/13, 4:06pm, Disturbance, 500 block N. Cavender St., no description 08/13, 6:58pm, Drugs, W. 37th Ave. & I65, subjects arrested 08/13, 7:08pm, Harassment, 400 block N. Liberty St., harassment from known subject 08/13, 10:05pm, Theft, 4000 block Missouri St., theft of moped 08/13, 11:00pm, Criminal Mischief, 2800 block E. 81st Ave., window broken on vehicle 08/13, 11:32pm, Harassment, Police Station Report, no description 08/14, 12:24am, Domestic Battery, 7200 block Kestrel Dr., no description 08/14, 12:41am, Threats, 7800 block Rhode Island St., no description 08/14, 11:06am, Juvenile Problem, 1300 block S. California St., no description 08/14, 11:23am, Theft, 8100 block E. 37th Ave., CVS, theft of toothpaste 08/14, 7:38pm, Juvenile Problem, E. 5th St. & Center St., juveniles on railroad tracks 08/14, 8:05pm, Domestic Battery, 400 block Center St., verbal altercation 08/14, 9:19pm, Theft, 400 block N. Wisconsin St., theft of Ipad from vehicle

Found Property

<u>August 9, 2016</u> Phone Found East 10th St. <u>August 10, 2016</u> Gym Bag W/Several Items Found 900 block Lake George Dr.



Questions in regards to found property please call: 942-1125 Ext. 1067

Arrests 08/01–08/14 All subjects are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law

Jose L. Esscobedo, 31, Arrest Warrant, Hammond, IN Kerri C. Fox, 23, Arrest Warrant, Hobart, IN Bianca P. Griffin, 29, Arrest Warrant, Gary, IN Brandon M. Hatfield, 23, Criminal Mischief, Hobart, IN Brian J. Horst, 21, Multiple Charges, Whiting, IN Joel R. Martin, 30, Arrest Warrant, Hobart, IN Daniel A. Peay, 36, Arrest Warrant, Valparaiso, IN Thomas J. Sabo, 49, Arrest Warrant, Schererville, IN Charles E. Steele, 47, Operating While Intoxicated, Crown Point, IN Antonio D. Walton-Rogers, 21, Arrest Warrant, Hobart, IN Jonathan M. Lawson, 27, Failure to Reg. as Sex Offender, Gary, IN Christopher W. Roehr, 28, Arrest Warrant, Lake Station, IN Glenn C. Andrews, 23, Arrest Warrant, Hobart, IN Porscha S. Cobb, 36, Arrest Warrant, Gary, IN Dwayne A. Cohen, 30, Arrest Warrant, Gary, IN Montrelle D. Dubose, 47, Theft, Gary, IN

Eric B. Ellis, 36, Arrest Warrant, Gary, IN Eduardo Mendez-Nova, 21, False Reporting, Louisville, KY Aryana Randall, 18, Theft, Merrillville, IN Demetrice J. Reeves, 51, Public Intoxication/Disorderly, Gary, IN David M. Sass, 21, Possession of Marijuana, Fort Wavne, IN Jerry M. Stokes, 49, Arrest Warrant, Gary, IN Jason D. Troutman, 33, Arrest Warrant, Lake Station, IN Julian J. Guerrero, 21, Multiple Charges, Hobart, IN Arthur L. Jacobs, 23, Resisting/Disorderly, Crown Point, IN Daykyeon J. Jamison, 20, Theft, East Chicago, IN Roger L. Mullins, 68, Poss. of Synthetic Drug, LaPorte, IN Joseph A. Searer, 27, Operating While Intoxicated, Valparaiso, IN Eranzie L. Smith, 23, Resisting Law Enforcement, Gary, IN Gregory P. Weldon, 48, Operating While Intoxicated, Hobart, IN Boris Williams, 23, Conversion, Merrillville, IN **3** Juveniles Arrested

Code Enforcement Section-Sgt. Ron Russo Our next article will post in our September 2nd issue.

Pokémon GO Players Fall for Phishing Con

The sudden success of Pokémon GO has scammers cooking up ways to cash in on the app's popularity. The latest is a phishing email that fools victims into thinking they need to pay for the game.



How the Scam Works:

You receive an email addressed to Pokémon GO players. The message reads: "due to the overwhelming response to our new Pokémon GO app and the need for more powerful servers we can no longer afford to keep your account as free." The developers are now charging \$12.99 a month, and your account will be frozen if you don't upgrade.

The email urges you to click a link, log in to the app store and purchase the "full version." Don't do it! The log-in form isn't run by an official app store or Ninatic Labs, the game's developers. It's on a third party site, and it is a way to steal users' passwords.

Unfortunately, this is not the only Pokémon GO scam out there. Before the app launched, scammers lured victims with the promise of getting early beta test access to the game. Then, a fake version of the game appeared in some app stores. As long as the app stays popular, scammers will devise new ways to fool players.

How to Spot a Phishing Scam:

Be wary of unexpected emails that contain links or attachments. Do not click on links or open files in unfamiliar emails. **Check the reply email address.** One easy way to spot an email scam is to look at the reply email. The address should be on a company domain, such as jsmith@company.com.

Don't believe what you see. Just because an email looks real, doesn't mean it is. Scammers can fake anything from a company logo to the "Sent" email address.

Consider how the organization normally contacts you. If an organization normally reaches you by mail, be suspicious if you suddenly start receiving emails or text messages without ever opting in to the new communications.

Be cautious of generic emails. Scammers try to cast a wide net by including little or no specific information in their fake emails. Be especially wary of messages you have not subscribed to or companies you have never done business with in the past.

For More Information

To find out more about other scams, check out BBB Scam Stopper (bbb.org/scam). To report a scam, go to BBB Scam Tracker (bbb.org/scamtracker).

Our Newsletter can also be picked up from the following locations:

Hobart Police Station, Maria Reiner Senior Center, Hobart Family Y.M.C.A., Hobart Public Library, Walgreen's 742 W. Old Ridge Rd., Ellney's Bakery and Catering 1995 W. Old Ridge Rd, and at the following restaurants: Lake Park, Diner's Choice, and Paragon

<u>If you would like to receive our newsletter via email:</u> Please call our Public Relations Office at 219-942-1125 ext. 1070. You can also email us at hpdnews@cityofhobart.org or find the newsletter on facebook.com/Hobartpolice. **This Week's Sources: Better Business Bureau, Federal Trade Commission, National Safety Council**