



Frankfort Police News

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New Laws In The New Year

What you need to know

By now, most people have heard of the new laws that went into effect on January 01, 2014. The laws that are frequently asked about are: the new Concealed Carry law, no cell phone use while driving, and the Medical Marijuana law. Of these, the hands free cell phone law is the most asked about. It is correct; you can no longer drive and talk on your cell phone. You can however use a hands free device. Some residents have asked, "What if I talk on speaker phone?" The answer is no, it is not legal. The Frankfort Police Department has developed an informative flyer to hand out on traffic stops about the new laws. **"When it comes to new laws, we always try to educate the public before enforcing laws. This is why we had our officers issue mostly warnings and give a hand out to explain the dangers of distracted driving,"** said Chief John Burica. For more information on the new laws visit our website at: www.frankfortpolice.net.

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The New FREE Network

www.nixle.com

In 2005, The Frankfort Police Department launched its FREE Network, a communication website to send out information to our residents and business owners. In 2013, the Frankfort Police Department made a transition to a new information website called Nixle. Nixle will work just like the FREE Network, but offers our subscribers more choices. Through Nixle, the Frankfort Police Department can send out community alerts, advisories, and information. If you sign up for Nixle, you get to choose how you receive the information. You can sign up to receive text messages, e-mails, or choose to go to the website on your own for information. To sign up for Nixle, you just need to go to www.nixle.com and sign up. It is that easy. The Frankfort Police Department is committed to getting out pertinent information to the public as soon as possible. Nixle is a great tool to do just that. Make sure you sign up and encourage family, friends, and neighbors to sign up as well.

"The Frankfort Police are working hard to solve these crimes"- for more on the residential burglaries go to page 2

Do you know what this sign means?



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This is the symbol that Illinois is recognizing as an official notice that businesses and buildings displaying this sign do not permit concealed carry on their premises.

“Owners of any statutorily prohibited area or private property, excluding residences, where the owner prohibits the carrying of firearms must clearly and conspicuously post the Illinois State Police approved sign, in accordance with Firearm Concealed Carry Act, at the entrance of the building, premises or real property. Please refer to Section 65 (Prohibited Areas) of the Firearm Concealed Carry Act for more information on statutory requirements for signage as well as where concealed weapons are prohibited.”

If your business or organization needs one of these signs, you can download it from the Illinois State Police’s website: <http://www.isp.state.il.us/>.

Residential Burglaries and Break-ins

On Monday, January 20th six homes were burglarized in Frankfort between 4-6pm. According to Deputy Chief Kevin Keegan the victimized residences were all on the southeast end of town. The suspects forced entry through doors and primarily took small items that could be gathered quickly. Since this rash of burglaries in the southwest suburbs, many have asked what they can do to help prevent break-ins. The Frankfort Police are working hard to solve these crimes. We encourage our residents to call in any time they see anything out of the ordinary. **“We count on our resident’s assistance for information to help us prevent these crimes. No one knows their neighborhood better than those that live there!”** advised Chief of Police John Burica. Here are a few additional tips to help keep you and your family safe:

- **Report any suspicious persons or vehicles to the police.**
- **Get to know your neighbors and work together as a community to watch out for each other and your homes.**
- **Be aware of Frankfort’s solicitation policy.**
- **Talk to your children about strangers and personal safety.**
- **Always lock your doors and vehicles.**

Services offered by the Frankfort Police Department

The Frankfort Police Department prides itself on offering our community premier service. We try our best to make things as easy for our resident’s as possible and work hard to keep our community safe. Here are a few services you might not know that we offer:

- Vacation watches
- Child Safety Seat Inspections
- On-line reporting (for certain crimes go to our website for more information)
- Security surveys of your home or business
- Our new No Solicitation Program
- Nixle.com for up to date incident and community information
- Fingerprinting services - free to our resident’s
- Available to present safety talks to homeowner association meetings, organization meetings, and businesses
- Various community events offered throughout the year for families and individuals
- Several volunteer programs available for citizens to get to know our police staff and to get involved in keeping our community safe

***For information on these programs call us at (815)469-9435 or go to www.frankfortpolice.net**

Did you know?

That the Frankfort Police Department partners with School District 157c to help keep our kids safe and to offer them valuable safety information. The children in Frankfort receive the following programs in school:

- **Stranger Safety**
- **Internet Safety**
- **Bicycle Safety**
- **Halloween Safety**
- **D.A.R.E.**
- **Community Connections - HCMS Program**



Do you want to have a better idea of how local law enforcement works?

Join our Citizen's Police Academy. This 12 week program is designed to give residents a thorough understanding of how the police world works. Through this free program you will: learn how to conduct a traffic stop, get a tour of the police department, see a K9 demonstration, Taser demonstration, get a tour of Will County Jail and much more! This program is a combined effort with the Will County Sheriff's Office, New Lenox Police Department, and Manhattan Police Department. Class is on every Thursday night starting March 6th at 7:00pm. For more information about this very important program call Officer Bender at (815)469-9435 or e-mail the Frankfort Police Department at admin@frankfortpolice.net. All participants must complete an application and pass a criminal background check. The application can be found on our website or is available at our police department. This program is for persons age 18 and older. Space is limited.



Frankfort Police Department is pleased to introduce a new program to help keep our resident's safe

The Frankfort Police Department will now be offering our resident's new "No Soliciting" stickers or static clings at no cost. The police department has been seeing offenders using solicitation more and more as a way to commit "ruse burglaries" or as a way to find out if a homeowner is home. With this No Soliciting sticker, it clearly tells those soliciting that they are not welcome. Residents have a choice of course, if they would like solicitors to come to their home. Please keep in mind however, that in Frankfort, all solicitors must register at the police department and are issued a permit. If someone comes to your door and they do not have a permit to solicit, this should be a red flag. Please contact the Frankfort Police Department's non-emergency number (815-485-2500) to report this information. Those wishing to obtain one of our new No Soliciting stickers or static clings can come to the Frankfort Police Department to pick one up. Please bring a valid ID with you to prove residency.



Have a traffic problem? We would like to introduce you to Sergeant Scott Potter.



Sergeant Scott Potter has been with the Frankfort Police Department for almost 20 years. He has many areas of specialty, but is particularly passionate about keeping people safe on roadways. If you have a traffic situation in your subdivision or on a particular roadway, you can contact Sergeant Potter at traffic@frankfortpolice.net or (815)469-9435. Here are some thoughts from Sergeant Potter about ways he can assist you:

StealthStat Equipment: "I deploy it on a regular basis throughout the Village to gather data such as the number of vehicles using a roadway in specified times and the speeds associated with the vehicles. The software then calculates average speeds and peak times for possible enforcement needs. Sometimes there is no actual speed concern but other factors which lead a resident to perceive a concern. I try to get to the heart of the concern and either 'prove or disprove' it. My explanations are sometimes not popular but I always try to listen for the whole concern, not just the emotional part."

"Citizens can, do and are encouraged to contact me with concerns in their neighborhoods and such. I like to meet with them in person as much as possible. Obviously, workload dictates my ability to do so and sometimes I have to simply stay in contact via telephone or email."

"Not only do I establish the special radar assignments for the patrol division on a monthly basis (based on complaints, violations and accidents) but I also conduct special enforcement details on my own to address issues at hand." So in other words, our officers have special traffic assignments they complete daily. Sergeant Potter or a member of the Command Staff can assign officers to specific areas of concern.

"Beyond the enforcement aspect, I also work with homeowners and the village or other government agencies to troubleshoot hazardous roadways, intersections etc. I have been instrumental in providing study data which has helped secure grant money for roadway improvements on Village and Township roads. Due to my suggestions and working with the village, several re-signing projects have taken place to help alleviate traffic congestion caused by overflow on residential streets."

How well do you know the law? Take the Quiz below to find out!

1. What is the curfew for children 16 years of age and younger?
2. Is a cigarette butt considered a piece of litter?
3. How many passengers can a 16 year old driver have in their vehicle?
4. Parking on the street is prohibited after ___ inches of snow?
5. The current fine for speeding 1-19 mph over the posted speed limit is _____ dollars.

Answers: 1. 9:30pm 2. Yes 3. 1 under the age of 20 4. 2 inches 5. \$120.00 + court costs



The Frankfort Police Department will be issuing a newsletter quarterly with up to date information on current crime trends, community events, and laws. To get a copy of our newsletter go to www.frankfortpolice.net.