



Irving Safety Newsletter

An Informed Community is a Safer Community

December 2009

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EMERGENCY 9-1-1

Non Emergency Phone number

972 721-2518

[Irving Police Website](#)

[Contact Phone Numbers](#)

[Crimeweb](#)

[Email Your Beat Officer](#)

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Spotlight – ...

Irving Citizen Police Academy NEW topics and times for 2010 classes

The Irving Police Department Citizen Police Academy (CPA) is an educational program designed to provide the public with a working knowledge of the Irving Police Department's personnel and policies. The CPA was developed with the belief that education is the key to understanding and with understanding comes a more open line of communication.

Class members are a cross section of the Irving community. Homemakers, professional business persons, students, laborers, retirees and others are encouraged to apply for admission. The minimum age for enrollment is 18 and you must live or work in the City of Irving to be eligible to attend.

The training program is a series of eleven classes, held once each week for three hours. It consists of classroom and "hands on" instruction, with each session facilitated by Department staff from the particular area of expertise. Topics covered include: Officer Selection and Training process, Police Communications, Criminal Investigations, Domestic Violence, Gang Unit, Narcotics Investigations, Tactical Operations, Defensive Tactics, Firearms Training and more. Instruction also includes facility tours and the opportunity to participate in the patrol "ride-along" program.



The academy is held twice each year; once in the spring and once in the fall. Classes are held each Tuesday evening from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. To graduate, each participant is required to attend eleven of the fourteen classes.

There is no cost for the academy. Graduates of the Irving Citizen Police Academy are not trained to be police officers or vigilantes. The purpose of the academy is to provide information to attendees to allow them to make informed judgments about the police department. Participants learn a day in the life of an Irving Officer assigned to a particular field.

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Community Services

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Neighborhood Watch

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Officer Brian Crum

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Crime Free Multi-Housing Officers

Officer Twila Severance

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Officer Carrie Lindemuth

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Criminal Investigations

972 721-2325

South Patrol (south of SH183)

972 721-2603

North Patrol (north of SH183)

972 721-7805

It is the hope of the Irving Police Department that the continued availability of the academy will improve police/community relations through this education process. In turn, the Department becomes more aware of the feelings and concerns of the community from the participants' interaction and input. Together, we can create a coalition of citizens and police working together to make the City of Irving an even safer place to work and live.

The Irving Citizen Police Academy Alumni Association is comprised of CPA graduates whose mission is to serve as goodwill ambassadors for the Irving Police Department in the Irving community, to provide help and support to the department when requested and to provide to the incidental needs of the department.

In June 2005, the department hosted its first Citizen Police Academy conducted in Spanish. Currently the goal is to conduct one CPA in Spanish every June in addition to the two courses conducted in English.

Print, complete and submit an [application](#) and make plans now to attend. **IMPORTANT NOTE: Each class is limited to 25 students so get your application in early to reserve your seat!** (Don't wait, applicants are accepted year round).

Start dates for 2010 are:

March 2, 2010 English

June 1, 2010 Spanish

August 17, 2010 English

The Academy is now 14 weeks long (2010) and the hours have changed. Classes will meet on Tuesday evenings from 6:30P-9:30P with two Saturday classes from 9:00A to 5:00P. The class has limited seating so please submit your application as soon as possible via fax 972 721-3731 or drop it off in person at The Irving Police Department 305 N. O'Connor Blvd. attention Officer L. Peikert. If you desire further information, please contact the Irving Citizen Police Academy Coordinator at (972) 721-3557 (English) or 214 287-6314 (Spanish).



Jail

972 721-3608

To register for

["All About Irving"](#)

[CLICK HERE!](#)

Citizens Police Academy
application



Contact me,

Officer Lance Peikert

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Safety Tips -

Fireplace safety tips:

- Have flues and chimneys inspected before each heating season for leakage and blockage by creosote or debris.
- Open the fireplace damper before lighting the fire and keep it open until the ashes are cool. Never close the damper or go to bed if the ashes are still warm. An open damper may help prevent build-up of poisonous gases inside the home.
- Never use gasoline, charcoal lighter or other fuel to light or relight a fire because the vapors can explode. Never keep flammable fuels or materials near a fire. Never store flammable liquids in your home.
- Never use charcoal in a fireplace because of the risk of carbon monoxide poisoning.
- Keep a screen or glass enclosure around a fireplace to prevent sparks or embers from igniting flammable materials.

Dumb Criminals-

This happened to my father-in-law while he was employed as an Ontario Provincial Police officer in New Liskeard, Ontario, Canada. He was on duty as the court officer one day when a prisoner waiting for his case to come up decided to escape. He ran out of the court house with my father-in-law right behind him. He ran through the downtown area and out onto the town dock and jumped into the lake. When my father-in-law got to the end of the dock there was the escaped prisoner screaming to be saved.

He forgot he couldn't swim.

Crime Prevention Tip -

by [Chris E McGoey, CPP, CSP, CAM](#)

Shopping Center Security

Our family is at the center of our personal universe. Most people would do almost anything for the sake of their family. That includes protecting them from known dangers and harm. This becomes increasing difficult, at times, because we live in an open society where we share the same public places as violent criminals like at shopping centers.

Family Security Plan

Whenever your family walks out the front door they leave that zone of protection that you have created. The secret to keeping your family reasonable safe once they leave home is to have a family security plan. To

routines of each family member and think of ways to make them safer from the violent people in the world. The best way to accomplish this is to hold a family meeting to discuss this plan and play *what if* using different scenarios. For example, *what if* we need to go to the shopping at the mall? What precautions can we take to be safer in the parking lot? *What if* someone approaches to rob us while walking to our car on the street at night? What would we do and how would we react? Where would we go and who would we notify in case of emergency?

Most people have no such family plan and have not met as a family to discuss *what if* situations. When or if a criminal assault does occur, the family will not be prepared and will have to rely on instinct in response to the incident. What if their response instincts are wrong or their reactions inappropriate, under the circumstances?

Shopping Centers


Shopping centers come in all sizes from the giant regional malls to the small strip-center with only a few stores. What they have in common is a parking lot. This is where your family is at greatest risk because of the "nature" of a parking lot. If you think about it, we are all strangers in a large parking lot. Violent criminals can blend in with the rest of us and get in close proximity fairly easily. Criminal predators can walk right by us and we will allow it because of the public setting.

Learn to Observe Conduct

Next time you go to a large shopping center sit in the parking lot for a few minutes and observe how easy it would be for a criminal predator to approach and attack you or your family. Shoppers walk to and from their cars totally consumed by their thoughts and thinking about what they are going to do next. Watch shoppers as they approach their cars fumbling for their keys. They will turn their backs and attention completely away from those nearby to load their shopping bags into the car, and get children and infants installed inside the vehicle. Most shopping center violent crimes occur precisely at this point. The most common violent crimes are purse-snatch and strong-arm robbery. Less common but potentially more serious are the crimes of carjacking and abduction.

Awareness is Important

To protect your family in this setting the best defense is awareness. Awareness will allow you anticipate the potential danger and plan ahead for the next time you go to a shopping center. Planning includes selecting a safer time to shop (daylight) and arranging not to shop alone if possible. You can plan where to park (i.e. not next to a large van) and in high traffic areas. You can plan to scan the area for suspicious males before parking and exiting your vehicle. You can also plan not to park or exit your vehicle if suspicious males are in the area. Families should agree in advance to exit and enter their vehicle quickly and lock the doors. Families should be



trained to look around their vehicle before approaching and retreat if anyone suspicious is loitering in the area. They should be trained to return to the shopping center and alert security or call the police.

- Be aware and alert to predators in the parking lot
- Plan when to go and where to park
- Do not get out of the car if it doesn't appear safe to do so
- Scan the area around your car as you approach it
- Teach your family to enter and exit the car quickly
- Trust your instincts if you see someone suspicious
- Return to the store if anyone looks or acts suspicious
- Ask if the shopping center does parking lot escorts