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# HILLIARD DIVISION OF POLICE

## BLOCKWATCH NEWSLETTER

### Operation Street Smart Is Coming Back

The Hilliard Division of Police is proud to present “Operation Street Smart” on March 4th & 5th from 6pm-9pm. This two night presentation from members of the Special Investigation Unit with the Franklin County Sheriff’s office will educate parents, teachers, and community residents about current drug trends, paraphernalia and terminology. They will have a wide variety of items to show how people hide their drugs and paraphernalia. This is a free event and only adults are permitted to attend. The event will be held at the Hilliard Division of Police and seating is limited. To register, email your name, address and phone number to: policeinfo@hilliardohio.gov

### New Officers To Be Patrolling The Streets of Hilliard

The Hilliard Division of Police is pleased to announce four new officers have graduated from the police academy. The officers are now in their field training phase before they begin patrolling Hilliard streets on their own. They will complete this process around the end of March.



Vanessa Spears



Caitlin Emmerich



Dustin Gigandet



Hunter Schweickart

### Women's Self-Defense Class Being Offered

This course on Self Defense and Frame of Mind offered by the Hilliard Division of Police is a conscious, proactive approach to life. It focuses on prevention strategies, but also teaches self-defense options which could be used if needed.

The classes are free and you must be at least 15 years of age to enroll in the class. The course is comprised of two four sessions (taken on consecutive nights) from 5PM to 9PM. If you are interested, email your name, address, phone number and email address to: policeinfo@hilliardohio.gov.

#### 2015 Class Dates:

February 18 & 19  
February 25 & 26  
July 29 & 30  
August 5 & 6

**Wishing Everyone a Safe and Prosperous New Year**



## ARE YOU A MEMBER OF NIXLE OR MAILCHIMP?



Nixle and Mailchimp are two ways for the Hilliard Division of Police to communicate important information to the residents of Hilliard.

This email notification system allows our police agency to send messages about any of the following issues:

- Traffic situations that may affect your commute
- Crime Alerts about issues in your neighborhood
- Scams that have been reported recently to our agency
- Missing Persons

These are just a few of the items that can be sent to your email.

To sign up or to get more information, visit our website:

<http://www.hilliardohio.gov/police.aspx>

Click "Alerts & News" to sign up.

## SIGNS OF A SCAM

The Ohio Attorney General's office wants you to know that "Scammers" use a variety of ways to make you think their offerings are legitimate. Here are some tips that someone may be trying to scam you:

- ◆ Ask you to wire money or purchase a prepaid money card ("Green Dot" card has been a popular means of payment by scammers)
- ◆ Pressures you to "act now"
- ◆ Tells you to send money in advance to secure or ensure a loan or grant
- ◆ Claims you've won a contest that you have not heard of or entered
- ◆ Tells you to pay a fee to receive your "prize"
- ◆ Request your personal information
- ◆ Asks for a large down payment
- ◆ Refuse to provide written information or contact information
- ◆ Asks you to send money out of the country



## SCAM ALERT - IRS SCAM

As we enter into the tax season, be on guard of scammers calling to tell you that you owe back taxes and you must pay immediately or face being arrested.

### Remember this about the Internal Revenue Service:

The IRS does not initiate contact with taxpayers by email, text messages or the telephone to request personal or financial information. The IRS does not ask for PINs, passwords or similar confidential access information for credit card, bank or other financial accounts.

The IRS will always send taxpayers a written notification of any tax due via the U.S. mail. For more information or to report a scam, go to [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) and type "scam" in the search box.

## HOME SAFETY TIPS

The National Safety Council says carbon monoxide detectors save lives, but less than one-third of American homes have one installed. With December and January at the peak of CO poisonings, be sure to follow tips like these:

- Make sure chimneys, fireplaces and other areas are annually inspected and cleaned by a certified technician.
- Do not use ovens or gas ranges to heat your home.
- Never leave a lawn mower or car running in an enclosed space.
- Have a carbon monoxide alarm in your home. If the alarm goes off check that it is the carbon monoxide monitor, check for poisoning symptoms and clear out of area immediately if someone is experiencing symptoms. If not, thoroughly ventilate your home.

Home fires are more prevalent in the winter months than any other season. Cooking is the leading cause of all winter residential building fires, while other causes include space heaters, fireplaces and candles. Please be careful when using these devices for heating purposes. Make sure they are away from other flammable items, use in well ventilated areas and do not leave these devices unattended when they are in use.