

## **Summer Safety Reminders**

With the arrival of summer months, certain activities such as pedestrian, bicycle and vehicle traffic historically increase within the community. The Police Department offers some reminders for the purpose of increasing public safety and increasing the quality of life within the City.

- **Statewide Hand-Held Cell Phone Restriction-** Like other States, hand-held cell phone use while driving is restricted in Illinois. Hands-free devices are permissible (except while operating a motor vehicle within a school speed zone or on a highway in a construction or maintenance speed zone). Violations qualify as a moving violation and fines range from \$50 to \$500 with bond set at \$120.
- **Share the Road-** Motorists and bicyclists are encouraged to “Share the Road.”
  - Motorists overtaking a bicycle are required by law to leave a safe distance of at least three-feet when passing the bicyclist and shall maintain that distance until safely past the bicyclist.
  - Slow Down! Motorists are reminded to obey posted City speed limits. Speeding endangers lives and property, reduces reaction time and increases fuel consumption. Fines for speeding violations begin at \$120. Excessive speeding may result in a physical arrest.
  - Traffic laws apply to all persons riding bicycles. Bicyclists can be cited for traffic violations. Bicyclists must stop at stop signs and may not ride more than two abreast on the roadway. In addition, bicyclists are also restricted from using a hand-held electronic communication device while operating a bicycle on the roadway. Bicyclists are also required to utilize a light during hours of darkness.
- **Bicycle/Safety Helmet Requirements-** Every person under the age of 16 operating a bicycle, skateboard, in-line skates or any other non-motorized user-propelled wheeled device upon any public highway, sidewalk, bike path or any other public right-of-way within the City of Highland Park is required to wear a protective bicycle/safety helmet that meets current safety requirements. To reduce the risk of death or serious injury, persons age 16 or older are strongly encouraged to wear an adequate bicycle/safety helmet when engaging in the aforementioned activities.
- **Teen Driver Safety and Local Curfew for Minors Law-** Be aware of Illinois’ graduated driver’s licensing laws and the City of Highland Park curfew for minor’s ordinance.
  1. A nighttime driving curfew is in place Sunday through Thursday from 10pm to 6am and Friday and Saturday 11pm to 6am for teen drivers aged 15 through age 17. The driver’s license of a teen becomes invalid when driving after the curfew and the driver is subject to arrest for driving without a license. In addition many insurance companies may not cover damages caused by an unlicensed driver.
  2. For the first year of licensing, or until the driver is age 18, whichever occurs first, the number of passengers is limited to one person under age 20, unless the additional passenger(s) is a sibling, step-sibling, child, or step-child of the driver. After this period, the number of passengers is limited to one in the front seat and the number of safety belts in the back seat.

3. For further information, use the following internet link: [http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/drivers/teen\\_driver\\_safety/gdl.html](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/drivers/teen_driver_safety/gdl.html) .
  4. In Highland Park, it is unlawful for a person age 17 and under to be present at or upon any public place, building, street or highway Sunday through Thursday between the hours of 11pm and 6am and on Saturday and Sunday between 12:01am and 6:00 am. Violators are subject to arrest and fines range from \$25 to \$500. City Ordinance does allow exemptions which include: persons under age 17 must be accompanied by a parent, guardian or responsible person 18 years of age, attending or travelling to or from an official school, religious or civic activity, or involved in an emergency involving the protection of a person or property from an imminent threat of serious bodily injury or substantial damage. To review the entire City code regarding curfew, see the following link: [https://wwwnext.municode.com/library/IL/highland\\_park/codes/code\\_of\\_ordinances?nodeId=Title%20XIII%20-%20Chapter%20132%20-%20Offenses%20Against%20Public%20Peace](https://wwwnext.municode.com/library/IL/highland_park/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=Title%20XIII%20-%20Chapter%20132%20-%20Offenses%20Against%20Public%20Peace) .
- **Seat Safety Belts Save Lives-** As of January 1, 2012, the driver and all passengers of a motor vehicle operated on a street or highway of this State, must wear a properly fastened and adjusted seat safety belt. A seat safety belt violation qualifies for primary enforcement and bond is set at \$60. Highland Park Police enforce seat safety belt violations.
  - **Start Seeing Motorcycles-** In the spring and summer, motorcycle and motorized scooter activity increases. Motorists are encouraged to maintain awareness and exercise caution while operating a motor vehicle near motorcycles or motorized scooters. Motorcyclists and motorized scooter riders should wear proper high-visibility protective clothing to increase their visibility to other motorists and helmets to reduce their risk of death or serious injury.
  - **Parental Responsibility-** Parents are reminded that:
    1. It is illegal for parents or teens to host or allow teen drinking parties in their home.
    2. It is illegal to provide alcohol to anyone under the age of 21, even with the permission of the underage person's parents.
    3. It is illegal to knowingly allow a person under the age of 21 to remain in your home or on your property while consuming or possessing alcohol.
    4. Parents and teens can be prosecuted under the law for violations and they are subject to civil action.

Residents that need further clarification on the provided information are encouraged to contact Sergeant Chris O'Neill at the Police Department non-emergency number 847-432-7730.