

**LAW ENFORCEMENT
NON-EMERGENCY
CONTACT NUMBERS:**

LAPORTE POLICE DEPT.

*1206 Michigan Av.
LaPorte, IN 46350
Ph: (219) 362-9446*

LAPORTE COUNTY POLICE DEPT.

*809 State St., Suite 202A
LaPorte, IN 46350
Ph: (219) 326-7700*

MICHIGAN CITY POLICE DEPT.

*102 West Second St.
Michigan City, IN 46350
Ph: (219) 874-3221*

***IF YOU HAVE AN
EMERGENCY
CALL 9-1-1***



SHOPPING & GIFT LIST

1. _____
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**Enjoy a SAFE
Holiday Season**

Strategies to keep yourself and your property safe during the holidays!

- Personal Safety
- Vehicle Safety
- Pickpocketing Prevention
- Identity Theft
- Online Shopping Safety
- Home Burglary Prevention
- Other Fraud Alerts



Provided Courtesy of:
LaPorte Police Department
1206 Michigan Av., LaPorte, IN 46350
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A Community Oriented Policing based agency.

Enjoy A Safe Holiday Season

Personal Safety

- Share your shopping itinerary with someone you trust.
- Bring your cell phone and keep it charged!
- If shopping after dark, take a friend. Park in well lighted and well traveled areas.
- Be alert! Look confident, walk with a purpose.
- Avoid overloading yourself with packages.
- Lock the doors of your car, whether driving or parked.
- Keep keys in your hand when walking to your car or home.
- Be aware of your surroundings and anyone approaching you or your vehicle.
- When shopping with children, teach them to go to a store clerk or security guard if you get separated.
- If someone demands your purse or wallet, surrender it immediately—it's not worth your life. If anything is stolen, report it to the police immediately.

Prevent Pickpocketing & Identity Theft

- Bring only the cash and credit cards you will need. Keep cash separate from ID & credit cards. Do not carry your social security card or passport.
- Be alert! Your purse or wallet may be a target for crime in crowded shopping areas, bus stops, and on buses. Be wary of those creating distractions.
- Record credit card numbers so you can immediately report any loss to the police and issuing company.
- Strong, confident body language and eye contact with others is likely to discourage pick pocketing.
- Men should keep wallets in hard to reach places.
- Women should keep wallets deep inside their purse. When using a shopping cart, use the child restraint belt to help secure your purse. Never leave your purse unattended in the cart. When loading items from your shopping cart into your vehicle, place your purse inside the vehicle first and then load items.
- If taking public transit, keep your fast pass separate from your purse or wallet.
- Shred receipts that show your credit card number.

Shopping Online With Your Credit Card

- Do business only with companies you know.
- Shop only at secure websites.
- Do not respond to e-mails asking you for your personal or credit card information.

Home Burglary Prevention

- Keep all doors and windows locked.
- Gifts and valuables should be kept out of sight and away from windows.
- If you are traveling, ask a neighbor you trust to watch your house.
- If you have an alarm system, use it!
- Put timers on different lights throughout the interior and exterior of the house.
- Have newspapers, mail and deliveries held or picked up by someone you trust.
- Take a home inventory of your valuables & record serial numbers; engrave property with Your driver's license number or ID number. Photograph your items to assist police and for insurance purposes.
- Do not publicize that you will be out of town for the holidays on your answering machine, e-mail replies, or to others whom you don't know.

Prevent Auto-Boosting (vehicle break-ins)

- Leave nothing visible in the vehicle. Keep your vehicle locked.
- Keep packages locked in your trunk while shopping. Move your car to a different location each time you do this.
- Never leave your vehicle unattended with the engine running.
- Consider parking in an attended lot if possible.

Charity and Fundraising Fraud

- Request written information about the organization.
- Check out any charity you don't know.
- Don't give in to high-pressure tactics or emotional appeals.
- Don't be fooled by a name that closely resembles the name of a respected or well-known charity.
- Give directly to the charity or on their website (if secure).
- Be careful of telephone solicitors.