



For Immediate Release: 02.23.04

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Neighborhood Gatherings Set for Elementary Schools

Residents Invited to Discuss Service Delivery with Top Village Executives

Village Hall is going on the road again to discuss service delivery with residents in weekly neighborhood gatherings to be held in each of the community's eight elementary schools, beginning March 9 and continuing into April. Similar gatherings held two years ago attracted nearly 300 residents.

As with the previous gatherings, the Village Manager, department directors, police and fire chiefs, and senior staff will be on hand at each to talk one-on-one with residents. They will answer questions, provide information on Village programs and take requests for a closer look at any specific concerns individuals may have about municipal services in their neighborhoods.

"The goal of these neighborhood gatherings is to go out into each section of the community and create awareness of Village services, while at the same time, address whatever specific service delivery issues are of greatest concern to the residents who live there," said Village Manager Carl Swenson.

"Being an active part of the community is important to building greater understanding between residents and the government that manages their shared resources. We urge residents to take advantage of one of these opportunities to talk to us in an open, unstructured manner on any topic."

Swenson said the purpose of the neighborhood gatherings is not to talk about policies and laws, which can only be addressed by the Village Board, but to discuss how municipal services are provided.

Residents who attend one of the neighborhood gatherings won't have to listen to a lecture or watch a presentation touting Village services. The gatherings will be set up like an open house, with each Village department manning an informational table. Residents can stroll among each department's display, collecting literature, asking questions or simply chatting with Village staff.

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Neighborhood gatherings

The neighborhoods for each of the gatherings has been defined by elementary school boundaries because the school parameters provide not only a manageable meeting size but also offer an obvious gathering facility. Each gathering will be from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m., and are scheduled as follows:

Tue., March 9

Beye
230 N. Cuyler Ave.

Tue., March 23

Hatch
1000 N. Ridgeland Ave.

Thu., March 11

Mann
921 N. Kenilworth Ave.

Thu., March 25

Longfellow
715 S. Highland Ave.

Tue., March 16

Irving
1125 S. Cuyler Ave.

Wed., April 7

Holmes
508 N. Kenilworth Ave.

Thurs., March 18

Lincoln
1111 S. Grove Ave.

Thu., April 8

Whittier
715 N. Harvey Ave

Letters of invitation will be going out to residents in the neighborhoods within the boundaries of each of the schools prior to the gatherings. Reminders also will be advertised in the local newspapers, on the Village website, www.oak-park.us, in the Village's monthly newsletter, *OP/FYI*, and on VOP-TV channel 6, the Village's cable television station.

Residents also can call 358.5770 or email village@oak-park.us for more information.

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