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Police Launch Monthly Neighborhood Meetings Program

Regularly scheduled monthly neighborhood meetings will give residents a new forum for voicing concerns, asking questions and discussing issues with their Resident Beat Officers (RBO). A meeting will be held every month at 7 p.m. on the same date in the same place in each of the Village's eight community policing zones.

"Neighborhood meetings are a great forum for the Police Department to keep the community informed and for residents to make sure police understand and respond to their concerns," said Police Chief Rick C. Tanksley. "Meetings at the neighborhood level also create an opportunity for residents to really get to know their respective beat officer – and vice versa."

Neighborhood meetings have long been an important Oak Park policing tool, according to Tanksley, who added, "But we tended to hold them when a specific need arose or a specific request came from the neighborhood. Scheduling regular meetings is a more proactive approach to working with the community at the neighborhood level."

Topics discussed at the meetings likely will include home security, traffic and parking issues, crime statistics for the area and crime prevention tips. Discussions will focus on the neighborhoods within the individual beats, Tanksley said, since needs and issues can vary from zone to zone.

The Resident Beat Officer Program promotes communication at the neighborhood level by assigning officers to work from their homes, which are located in their respective beats. Three new resident beat officers, including the Village's first woman RBO, were recently named and a new beat added to the south end of the community.

Information on each zone, including direct telephone numbers and email addresses for each RBO, is posted at www.oak-park.us and broadcast on VOP-TV6. Information also is available by calling 386.3800, the Oak Park Police Department's non-emergency number.

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(Editor's Note: A list of meeting dates and locations, and a beat map is attached. All meetings are scheduled to begin at 7 p.m.)

Monthly RBO Zone Meetings Schedule

Zone 1 – North/Austin/Ridgeland/Chicago
RBO Anthony Coleman
3rd Tuesday (Oct. 18)
Hatch School
1000 N. Ridgeland Ave.

Zone 2 – North/Ridgeland/Chicago/Harlem
RBO Elizabeth Fox
1st Tuesday (Nov. 1)
United Lutheran Church
409 Greenfield St.

Zone 3 – Chicago/Austin/Metra tracks/Harlem
RBO Eric Locke
4th Wednesday (Oct. 26)
OPRF High School
201 N. Scoville Ave.

Zone 4 – Austin/Metra tracks/Oak Park/Madison
RBO A. Paul Razzino
2nd Wednesday (Nov. 9)
Percy Julian Middle School
416 S. Ridgeland Ave.

Zone 5 – Metra tracks/Oak Park/Harlem/Eisenhower
RBO Sean O'Shea
4th Tuesday (Oct. 25)
Fox Center
640 S. Oak Park Ave.

Zone 6 – Madison/Oak Park/Austin/Eisenhower
RBO Mark Scott
1st Wednesday (Nov. 2)
618 S. Austin Blvd.

Zone 7 – Eisenhower/East/Roosevelt/Austin
RBO Greg Hyppolite
2nd Tuesday (Nov. 8)
Barrie Park Center
1011 S. Lombard Ave.

Zone 8 – Eisenhower/East/Roosevelt/Harlem
RBO John Rumoro
3rd Wednesday (Oct. 19)
Lincoln School
1111 S. Grove Ave.

