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From: David Powers
Communications Director
708.358.5781

Contact: Rick C. Tanksley
Chief of Police
708.386.3800

Police posting daily neighborhood crime maps on website

Crimes reported by location are now listed on maps posted daily on the Police Department section of the Village web site, www.oak-park.us/police. The crime information



page may be accessed from multiple places within the web site, including through a dedicated icon visible on the main landing page at

www.oak-park.us.

“Preventing crime requires everyone to be engaged and involved,” said Village Manager Tom Barwin. “We hope by posting crime information on the website, residents will be more aware of what is going on in their neighborhoods and be quick to call police if they see something suspicious or out of place.”

Maps are prepared each weekday by the Police Department’s crime analyst and posted by date. The maps are Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF) files, which allow users to zoom in for a closer look at activity in particular neighborhood.

The main crime report page also provides definitions of crimes to help users understand classifications, as well as information on Resident Beat Officer (RBO) jurisdictions and how to contact them.

Police Chief Rick Tanksley call the crime reports page “a work in progress,” saying changes may be made to how the data is posted, such as whether to leave multiple days up or create summaries, either weekly or monthly. The page may eventually will become more interactive, he said, allowing residents to read more about individual crimes.

“This is another step in our efforts to expand our community policing program,” Tanksley said. “Currently, we host monthly meetings in each of the eight resident beat jurisdictions and actively pursue neighborhood-level communications. These maps will allow us to provide important information to residents even more frequently.”

As residents review crime activity, Police are urging them to direct questions to their RBO – either by telephone, e-mail or at the neighborhood meeting.

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