



Resident **Beat Officer**
ANTHONY COLEMAN
 (708) 606-1938
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Community **O**riented Policing
 Boundaries: Austin Blvd. to
 Ridgeland Ave. & Chicago Ave. to
 North Ave. **Zone meetings held every**
third Tuesday of the month at Hatch
School @7pm.

Oct-Dec 2009

Crime Update

Recently the Oak Park Police have been disseminating information through mail and emails regarding residential burglaries. In the last few months a rash of residential burglaries has occurred on the North Side of Oak Park. Many homeowners wonder what they can do to be proactive in crime prevention. Most burglary arrests stem from a resident observing a suspicious person. If a resident were to call regarding a suspicious person in the area of their home, the call can be anonymous. Occasionally people do not like to call police for issues that they are “unsure” about. There are many times that we receive calls days later in which a resident feels upset that they did not call regarding a suspicious person. Please note that residents should make a habit of calling on suspicious people. If someone is lingering in your neighborhood and does not live on the block, than it is important for residents

to call the police. We must all do our part to make our neighborhoods safe.



Halloween Safety Tips

- Keep kids close to you and on sidewalks. Have them wait at the curb until you say when it’s safe to cross as a group. Don’t cut between parked cars and cross only at the corners. If you are driving be sure to use extra caution and be alert for kids.
- Know the route your kids will be taking if you are not going with them.
- Costumes should be light in color so they are easily visible to drivers. If you have to use dark colors, place reflective tape several parts of the costume.
- Confine trick-or-treating to the Village’s recommended times of **3pm to 7pm.**
- Keep costumed children away from pets. Pets may not recognize them and become frightened. A frightened pet can become aggressive.
- Allow your kids to eat only wrapped treats that you have inspected.
- Don’t allow kids to enter homes to receive treats. Stay on the front porch or front steps.
- If you set jack-o-lanterns on your porch with candles in them, make sure that they are far enough out of the way so that kid’s costumes won’t accidentally catch on fire.
- **Parents of teens, please explain to your children the difference between tricks and vandalism.**

Holiday Safety Tips



The holiday season is a time for giving but for criminals, it's a time for taking. While residents are busy planning family get-togethers and shopping for gifts, criminals are looking for easy opportunities to steal and swindle. Here are some tips on how to avoid falling victim to such predators:

- Be alert when shopping. Place your wallet in a pocket that cannot be reached by strangers. Carry purses close to your body, with the strap across your shoulders and the bag underneath your arm.
- Walk confidently, taking note of people around you. A thief is more likely to target a person who is not paying attention. (no earphones or talking on cell phone)
- When shopping, bring only the credit cards you need. Don't carry excessive amounts of cash.
- Don't leave packages in your vehicle in plain view. If you must keep valuables in the car, place them in the trunk.
- At home, do not leave packages near a window where someone casing the neighborhood can see them.
- If you leave town for the holidays, put your lights on timers and ask a trusted friend or family member to pick up your mail and shovel your walkway. The police department offers free vacation house checks to those who request it. Call 358-5575 for more information.

- When you pull into your garage or parking lot after a shopping trip, take special notice of anyone suspicious loitering in the area, particularly in an alley. Robbers sometimes lurk in a gangway waiting for a victim to return home.
- Carry a cell phone in case of emergencies. (All cell phones have 911 capabilities even if there's not a service provider).

Following these simple rules will help you have a safe holiday.

NUMBERS YOU SHOULD KNOW

- Parking complaints: 358-5798
- Extended parking passes: 358-5750
- Day Parking Passes: 358-3197
- Night Parking Passes: 358-6483
- Excessive debris/litter in alley & private property: 358-5445 (John Ross)
- Excessive litter on public property: 358-5708 (Vincent Bryant)
- Police non-emergency dispatch: **386-2131**
- Crime Tip Hotline: 434-1636
- Graffiti Hotline: 358-5429
- Animal Control: 358-5680
- Community Relations: 358-5405
- Adjudication: 358-5479
- Property complaints/violations: 358-5443
- Village Manager's Office: 358-5770
- Public Works: 358-5700