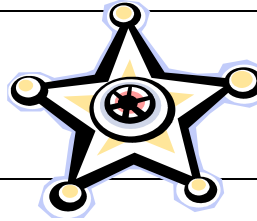




Zone 5 Newsletter

Resident Beat Officer
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Zone 5 Borders
Oak Park Ave. to Harlem Ave.
Harrison St. to South Blvd.

RESIDENTIAL BURGLARIES

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.

Oak Park residents are fortunate to live in a place where property owners really care about the exterior of their houses. With the current real estate market, some home owners have been fortunate and some have not. If there is a home in your neighborhood that appears to be abandoned or is not in

Don't hesitate to call 9-1-1

Oak Park's community policing approach relies on residents taking an active role. If you see unusual activity, suspicious people or vehicles in your neighborhood, call 9-1-1 immediately. For more information on the Community Policing Program, or to contact your Resident Beat Officer, call 708.386.3800 or visit www.oak-park.us/police.

Drivers take extra care

With the new school year now underway, Oak Park police are urging motorists to stay alert — especially when driving in school zones. Motorists need to stay focused and avoid distractions like talking on cell phones, police say, as well as come to a complete stop at intersections and not stop in crosswalks. Drivers also must obey the signals of crossing guards and should never attempt to pass a stopped school bus with lights flashing. To protect the many students who typically trek along Oak Park streets en route to their neighborhood schools, police have stepped up their presence with additional enforcement efforts at key crossings and along walking routes. For more information on the Oak Park Police Department's school programs, call 708.386.3800 or e-mail police@oak-park.us.



The three most common violations are:

- ◆ **Speeding.**
Most of Oak Park's side streets are 25 MPH and most of the main streets are 30 MPH.
- ◆ **Disobeying Stop Signs.**
Always make a complete stop at the marked stop line. A good rule of thumb is to stop and count to three, before proceeding.
No “Hollywood Stops” please!
- ◆ **Failing to signal when required.**
Remember that signaling is required 100 ft. prior to making a turn. If your vehicle's signals don't work then the use of hand/arm signals are acceptable.

With a little time and effort I believe that we can all make a difference in reducing traffic violations. Together we can continue to keep Oak Park's streets safe for all.



TRICK-OR-TREAT HOURS SET

Official hours for Halloween trick or treating are 3:00pm to 7:00pm on Saturday Oct. 31. Parents should accompany young children, especially after dark, and inspect all treats. Other safety tips include:

- Use make-up instead of masks
- Choose flame-retardant costumes
- Wear light-colored clothing at night or add reflective tape to dark colored costumes
- Give and accept only wrapped and packaged candy
- Go out in daylight and carry a flashlight in case of delay
- Stay within your neighborhood and visit only homes you know

For more information on trick-or-treating hours, call 708.358.5670 or e-mail clerk@oak-park.us. For safety information, call 708.445.3300 or 708.386.3800, or e-mail fire@oak-park.us or police@oak-park.us.

Police seeking volunteer block captains

The Oak Park Police Department is seeking volunteers to serve as block captains who help Resident Beat Officers and foot patrols communicate with residents at the neighborhood level. The block captains would serve primarily as liaisons between their neighbors and Police by creating contact lists and telephone trees, tools that can help ensure that important information is shared among neighbors. Officials say having an individual on every block who knows how to reach out to his neighbors can greatly enhance police communications efforts. The time commitment is minimal. Individuals interested in becoming block captains or learning more about the program, should contact their RBOs. Information on individual RBOs is posted at www.oak-park.us/police

Who Do You Call?

Oak Park residents are fortunate to live in a place where property owners really care about the exterior of their houses. With the current real estate market, some home owners have been fortunate and some have not. If there is a home in your neighborhood that appears to be abandoned or is not in compliance with building and property standards please contact me via e-mail or telephone so that I can notify the appropriate department.

Some examples of property standards violations:

- *Failure to maintain lawn.
- *Failure to maintain roof or building structure.
- *Excess garbage or trash around a residence.
- *Unsanitary conditions.
- *Too many people living in residence (usually condos).

Callers can remain anonymous

Annual fall leaf collection

Oak Parkers who chose to rake their leaves rather than compost them can take advantage of the village's annual fall leaf collection program. Residents will have seven opportunities to have their leaves picked up.

- * East Ave. to Harlem's pick up dates are: Oct. 20, 27. Nov. 3, 10, 17, 24. Dec. 1.
- * East Ave. to Austin's pick up dates are: Oct. 19, 26. Nov. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30.

Rake leaves only, do not park on or near pile of leaves, dampen piles after raking to avoid wind-blown leaves.