



RESIDENT BEAT

OFFICER

ANTHONY COLEMAN

(708) 606-1938

colemant@oak-park.us

Community Oriented Policing

Boundaries: Austin Blvd. to

Ridgeland Ave. & Chicago Ave. to

North Ave. Zone meetings held

every third Tuesday of the month at

Hatch School in the auditorium

@7pm.

April-June 2009

CRIME UPDATE

Burglaries and thefts are up slightly in our zone. Citizens can decrease these incidents by securing their property and reporting suspicious people, incidents and autos immediately to the police. Your Oak Park Police Department needs your help now more than ever. With an ailing economy, crime unfortunately rises and citizen involvement is paramount. If *we* all work together, a collar can be put on crime.

Summer Safety Tips for Kids

Now that the weather is getting warm, it's time to play outside with friends and get some fresh air. But did you know that you can help prevent crime while you have fun in the sun? Follow these tips and help "Take A Bite Out Of Crime."

- Be sure to take your toys and other things with you when you go inside. You don't want someone to take them if you leave them out.

- Stick with your friends. Remember how to be safe in your neighborhood.
- If some picks on you, find your friends and walk away. If you see someone being picked on, be a friend and ask that kid to play with you.
- Stay out of the street. Cars make the street a dangerous place to play.
- If you ride a bike, lock it up before you leave it. If you don't have a lock, talk to your parents about getting one.
- Remember how to ride right if you're on a bike-wear a helmet, wear bright clothing and obey the rules of the road.
- As always, be careful around strangers. Remember the difference between a good stranger and a bad one, and remember never to go anywhere with some you and your family don't know. If anyone makes you uncomfortable, run away and tell a trusted adult.

STAY SAFE ONLINE



It's easy to be safe online if you know what to do and what not to do.

- If you see a website, email, or anything that makes you feel uncomfortable, talk to your parents or an adult you trust right away.
- Never give out personal information like your name, telephone number, address, email, or school name.
- Never meet someone face-to-face that you know only from the internet. Remember that the people you chat with online may not be who they say they are.
- Don't open emails from people you don't know- the emails may be spam that could give your computer a virus.
- Check with your parents before you buy anything online.

- Ask your parents before you download music or movies- it's illegal to download some things you find online.



Vacation Checklist

With summer approaching, many families are getting ready to go on **vacation!** Remember an empty house is a tempting target for a burglar. Use this check list of tips to safeguard your home while you're gone:

- Tell your resident beat officer and close neighbors you plan to be away. Patrol officers will periodically check your home.
- Stop all deliveries, or ask a neighbor to pick up your mail, newspapers and packages.
- Hide garbage cans in garage or storage shed. Empty garbage cans mean nobody is home.
- Secure garage doors and windows. Ask a neighbor to occasionally park in driveway.
- Leave your blinds, shades and curtains in a normal position.
- It's a good idea to leave your contact information with a neighbor so you can be reached in case of an emergency.
- Plug in timers to turn lights/radio on and off and make sure to turn the ringer on the phone off.

Hotel/Motel Safety Tips

- Determine the most direct route from your room to fire escapes, elevators and nearest telephones.

- Use the door viewer to identify anyone requesting entry. If in doubt, call the office.
- Suitcases should always be locked so they cannot be used to carry your property out of your room.
- Never leave money, checks, credit cards or car keys in the room. Take them with you.
- Use the hotel/motel safe to store extra cash, expensive jewelry or other valuables.
- Report any lost or stolen items to the management or to the police.

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