



**Oak Park Police
Community Policing Newsletter
Zone 4
April-June 2009**



*“Committed to
community,
integrity, and
excellence in
public safety”*

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Zone 4 Borders:
Austin Blvd to Oak Park Ave.
Madison Street to South Blvd.

Community Meetings: Second Wednesday of each month at 7:00 P.M. at Percy Julian Middle School 416 S. Ridgeland Ave.

Zone 4 Beat Meetings

The purpose of these meetings is to provide a forum where the residents and the police department can discuss issues in our specific zone that affect our quality of living. During these meetings we will be focusing on criminal activity in the beat, crime prevention, street safety, home security, as well as traffic and parking issues. The meetings are held at Percy Julian Middle School on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7:00 P.M. Please stop by and find out what's going on in your neighborhood.

Block Parties

Block parties are a great way to meet your neighbors and have some fun this summer. The streets around the party location will be barricaded and children will be allowed to play in the street designated for the party. A petition to hold a block party must be returned to the Village two weeks prior to the requested event date. You can request a police officer or a community relations representative to attend your event. Pick-up a block party guide at Community Relations or online http://www.oak-park.us/Community_Services/Block_Parties.html. Let me know when you have your block party and I can come out meet the residents and register bicycles.

Vacation Checks

The summer months will be here soon which means that it will be vacation time. If you plan to go out of town and would like to have your resident beat officer conduct a “vacation house check” please contact me via e-mail or telephone and be sure to leave an emergency contact number.

Bicycling Tips

The warmer weather means that many children and adults will be out riding bicycles. It's important to remember that bicycles on the streets are subject to the same traffic rules as motor vehicles. For example cyclists are expected to obey traffic signs and signals, right of way, and the like just as they were driving a car. And remember to always wear a properly fitted and adjusted helmet. Be safe and have a good summer.



Crime Reports

Keep up to date with what is going on in our zone by checking the crime reports posted by the Oak Park Police Department. Go to <http://www.oak-park.us/> and on the main page click on the crime reports tab. For those without access to the internet or if anyone has questions about the reports please give me a call.

Village News

Did you know that you can directly contact the West Suburban Consolidated Dispatch Center for non-emergency police services at 708-386-2131. Please note if you have a non-emergency question you may still call the police non-emergency number 708-386-3800 to speak with an officer.

Remember for all emergencies dial **9-1-1**

RU-OK This program gives participants a phone call every day at a predetermined time to check if you're OK. If you don't answer the phone we send an officer and if necessary the paramedics to assist you. Interested? Call 708-383-8060 to get the process started.

Home Security

Don't welcome a burglar into your home. A simple test of whether your home is easy to break into is to take a walk around, inside and out. IF YOU CAN BREAK INTO YOUR OWN HOME, SO CAN A BURGLAR.

What Types Of Targets (homes) Do Potential Burglars Look For?

1. Homes they can get into and out of quickly.
2. A home that looks unattended, or like nobody is home.
3. A house surrounded by large hedges and shrubs, which hamper visibility from the street and neighbors houses.

Most residential burglars devote little if any time to the advance planning of any specific break-in. Their crimes are, for the most part, a crime of opportunity. They pick what appears to be an easy mark. If their advance checking and closer examination reveal a greater risk than anticipated, they move onto a safer target. The more you can do to keep your home from looking like an easy target, the safer you are.

The first step in improving overall security is to take a hard look at the security measures already in use at your home. To help you with this task, I can assist you with a free home security survey. We can look at your house at night as well as in the daytime. Remember, this survey points out security weaknesses around your home. Your home cannot be adequately protected until these weaknesses are corrected.

If you know of any vacant property on your block (foreclosures) please let me know so that we can monitor that.

PREVENTING BICYCLE THEFT:

- Keep bicycles locked any time they are unattended.
- Whenever possible, lock it to a post, bike rack or stationary object. Lock back wheel, frame and front wheel.
- Be able to identify the bicycle, not only by its color, but by its features.
- Register your bicycle with the village. (it's free)
- Never loan a bike to strangers.
- Try to avoid parking a bicycle in poorly lit areas.
- Stay out of alleys and try not to ride alone.
- Beware of two people on one bike. One may want your bike.
- Report all bicycle thefts so that we can monitor certain areas.

McGruff Houses

A McGruff House is a temporary, safe haven for children who find themselves in an emergency or threatening situation, such as being injured, bullied or followed while walking in the neighborhood. If you live in a single-family residence, are home during the day and are interested in making your home available, please contact me for an application.