

RBO: Zones 7 and 8
Austin to Harlem Ave.
Roosevelt Rd. to Garfield



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South Side Scoop

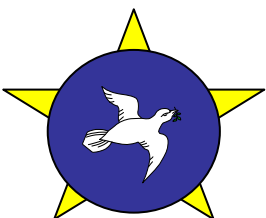
Dear Residents and Business Owners of Zone 7 and 8,
It looks like the nice weather is finally upon us. For most people that means open the windows and get outside on the block and to the parks. For some people that means stealing bikes and breaking into houses. I am going to provide some bicycle safety tips as well as some tips to protect your home and property.

I want to reiterate the importance of community team work this summer. The majority of our crimes during the summer months are bicycle thefts. I am asking that we all look out for the children in the neighborhood as they enjoy themselves while bike riding. First explain to them the importance of locking up their bicycles. Our bike thefts are the results of unlocked bicycles. Also, go over the safety tips with them that I provide for you. (I am also available to meet with you and your children at any time to help discuss bicycle safety). The rest of the responsibility is on the police and the home owners. Keep in mind that the thieves are constantly looking out for the police and rarely commit a crime while being observed. This is why your role is so important. Offenders aren't really concerned about citizens. They still think people mind their own business. Let's change that. Let's get into their business. All you have to do is keep your eyes open and watch as the kids ride down your block. Make sure they get off your block safely. If you see any suspicious persons (two kids on one bike, cars circling the block, strangers walking and changing directions...) then contact 911 and pass on your observations.

The same goes with suspicious persons walking down your block. Watch to see if they are looking around. Trust your instincts. Let's really work together on this and make Oak Park safer. We may never get to the point where we can leave our homes unlocked. But I truly feel that we can be confident knowing that if someone is "snooping" around our home, a neighbor will call the police and prevent a crime from happening. Please contact me with any questions or comments.

Sincerely,
OFFICER JOHN
E-mail: rumoro@oak-park.us

REMEMBER: I WILL CONTINUE TO HAVE MY COMMUNITY MEETINGS AT THE BARRIE PARK RECREATION CENTER ON THE SECOND TUESDAY OF EVERY MONTH. THE MEETINGS START AT 7:00 P.M. WE WILL DISCUSS COMMUNITY CONCERNS AS WELL AS GO OVER CRIME STATISTICS. HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE. KEEP IN MIND THAT IF YOU CANNOT ATTEND THE MEETINGS, YOU CAN ALWAYS CONTACT ME TO DISCUSS YOUR CONCERNS.



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, 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. There are many steps and strategies that you can take to minimize your loss or reduce the opportunity (for a break-in) and improve your chances of recovery if a break-in does occur.

The first step in improving overall security is to take a hard look at the security measures already in use in your home. To help you with this task, I will be more than happy to assist you with a free home security survey. We will look at your house at night as well as in the daytime. Remember, this security survey points out security weaknesses around your home. Your home cannot be adequately protected until these weaknesses are corrected. Also keep in mind that if you have neighbor that might need my assistance, please contact me on their behalf and I can assist with that as well.

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.
- During the day at home, keep the bicycle out of sight, or at least at the rear of the house.
- At night and when not at home, keep the bicycle inside a locked structure.
- 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.
- Avoid riding past groups of kids and/or two kids on one bike.
- Report all bicycle thefts so that we can monitor certain areas.

Please contact me regarding any questions. I am more than happy to sit down with your children and make them feel comfortable about riding their bikes as well as provide some safety tips without scaring them.