



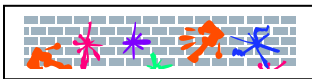
Zone 2 Newsletter

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Summer 2010

Greetings Zone 2 Residents! Finally the good weather is approaching. I hope everyone had a safe winter. A small reminder the Zone 2 monthly meeting is at 6311 North Avenue at the North Avenue Substation at 7 P.M. every first Tuesday of the month. The meetings are a wonderful way to voice your concerns about Zone 2 specific problems. Please come to discuss any police issues, questions, or neighborhood matters. Hope to see you there!



Over the past several months The Village of Oak Park has become a victim of multiple graffiti offenses. Although most people do not consider graffiti as a major crime, it is. Several offenses that have occurred in both Oak Park and River Forest involve an offender(s) who is etching the word "Vomet" in windows and spray painting the word on the businesses. This type of destruction has led to costly repairs

for the Village and private business owners. When graffiti is visible it causes a feeling of unease that there are underlying crime issues. This particular offender(s) is participating in a form of graffiti known as "tagging". Offender(s) will write a name, initials, or slogan which is identifiable by other artists. All graffiti is not gang related and in fact many people who participate in this crime consider graffiti as an art form. Unfortunately for residents and tax payers graffiti affects all of us in a negative way. Graffiti is criminal damage to property not art.

The sale of spray paint to minors is prohibited. The Oak Park Police Department is requesting assistance from all residents to report graffiti in your neighborhood. Contact the Oak Park Police immediately if you should see any suspicious activity or loitering. If you suspect someone you know is participating in graffiti please contact the crime tip hotline @ 708 434-

1636. Calls can be made anonymously.



Recently the Village of Oak Park has had issues with an excessive amount of false alarms. Zone 2 has had a rise in false alarms in 2010. Since the Village of Oak Park has the capability of fining both home owners and businesses for excessive amounts of false alarms, it is important to learn how to properly use your alarm system. If you are a business owner and allow employees to deactivate the alarm, please teach employees the proper way to activate and deactivate the alarm as it will prevent you from incurring fines. Lastly if there is a problem with your alarm system, contact your alarm company immediately. False Alarms cause valuable resources to be wasted.

The next Zone 2 meeting will be held May 4th, 2010 at 7PM at 6311 North Avenue!!!!!!

VEHICLE SAFETY TIPS SUMMER 2010

Once again the summer months are approaching and that means more vehicles and pedestrians. The Oak Park Police Department requests all drivers and passengers conduct themselves in a safe manner. Texting while driving is illegal and extremely dangerous. The Oak Park Police Department will be focusing on that issue specifically within the summer months. Using a cellular phone in a school zone has recently been declared illegal in Illinois. Regardless of whether or not a call is an emergency the police have a duty to enforce this traffic law to protect pedestrians. Be aware of your surroundings when riding your bicycle on the street. Cyclists age 13 and younger are allowed to ride on the side walk. Remember to always wear a helmet!

Always wear a helmet when riding your bike.



SUMMER SAFETY TIPS

Always conceal what you have to steal, such as money or a cell phone.

- Cell phones are just like cash—when thieves see a cell phone they want it. To be safe, treat your cell phone like your cash: don't let anyone know you have it.

Call the non-emergency dispatch number (386-2131) when you observe suspicious people.

- The police *want* to hear from you, and you could prevent a crime! Provide as much information as possible, including the time you noticed the person, the clothing worn, the shoes worn, and the manner in which the person walks.

The street

- Be aware of who is around you. If someone looks suspicious or makes you feel uneasy, avoid that person. Go inside a store or business if necessary.
- If you must make a call while you are walking, go to a safe, public place, like a store. Make your call, then conceal your phone the way you would conceal your cash before going back to the street.

Your car

- When leaving your car, lock it and close the windows.
- Take your key. Don't leave items inside the car, even if you think they look like trash—they'll still look attractive to a thief.
- When you get in the car, close and lock the doors immediately. Keep the doors locked and the windows rolled up.