

April-June
2010

Zone 4 News



Resident Beat Officer Robert Primak / 708.305.9780 / primak@oak-park.us

Spring 2010

Spring is here and summer is right around the corner. When you're out and about doing your spring cleaning take a look at your property, for example are the trees / hedges trimmed for visibility and are the lights working on your motion sensors. Also let us know if there are any street lights burned out in the area or other conditions that need attention from the village, such as graffiti, trees that need to be trimmed around signs or lights and excess garbage that may have accumulated.

ZONE 4 BORDERS:

Austin, Oak Park, Madison, and South Blvd.

ZONE 4 MEETINGS

The 2nd Wednesday of every month at 7:00pm at Percy Julian Middle School, 416 S. Ridgeland.

MCGRUFF HOMES

McGruff Houses provide safe locations in neighborhoods where children can seek nearby assistance if they feel threatened or scared. Please consider making your home a McGruff House. For more information, please contact Officer Primak.

In Illinois, bicycles on the street are subject to the same traffic rules as motor vehicles. Cyclists are expected to obey traffic signs, signals and right of ways just like those driving a car.

Oak Park also has several ordinances pertaining to cyclists. The following are a few of the most important.

- Bicycles may not be ridden on the sidewalk by anyone 15 years of age and older.

Blow a Whistle Stop a Crime

We recently received a limited supply of whistles sponsored by Community Bank. The goal of the Blow a Whistle, Stop a Crime program is to give individuals another tool for letting everyone within earshot know that someone needs help and to call 9-1-1. Preventing crime is not about just having police officers everywhere, all the time. The most important tools

of crime prevention are alert citizens who are willing to get involved. You don't even need a whistle to get involved in the program – you only have to call 9-1-1 immediately if you hear a whistle being blown. If you would like more information on the program give me a call or go to <http://www.oak-park.us/Police> and click on the whistle.

Bicycle Safety Tips

- Bicycles are prohibited on sidewalks in business districts by riders of any age.
- Cyclists on roadways should ride as close to the right-hand side as possible.
- Groups of cyclists on the road should ride in a single file.
- Bicycles cannot be used to carry more than the number of people for which the bike is designed or equipped.

Here are a few simple precautions to protect bikes from theft.

- Remember to secure your bike when it is not in use.
- Advise children not to let anyone borrow or try their bike that they do not know and avoid persons or groups who might try to bully their bikes away from them.
- Register your bicycles with the police department.

Oak Park Police
123 Madison Street,
Oak Park, IL 60302

**IMPORTANT
TELEPHONE
NUMBERS**

9-1-1 Emergency

**708.386.2131
to have an officer
dispatched in a non-
emergency situation**

**708.386.3800
to talk with a police
supervisor**

**708.434.1636
Crime Tip Hotline**

**708.358.5445
Excessive debris /
litter in alleys &
private property-John
Ross**

**708.358.5708
Excessive litter on
public property-Vince
Bryant**

**708.358.5429
Graffiti Hotline**

**708.358.5700
Street light outages
Public Works**

**708.358.5405
Community Relations**

Online Crime Maps

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/Police/index.html> and click on the crime reports tab. For those without access to the internet or if anyone has a question about the reports please give me a call.

School Bus Safety

All too often people disregard school buses while they load and unload children. Illinois law requires that vehicles travelling in either direction must stop before reaching a school bus that has its flashing lights and stop signal arm extended. You must remain stopped until the stop signal arm is no longer extended and the flashing lights are turned off, or the driver

signals you to pass. An exception is on a roadway with four or more lanes, at least two lanes of traffic in each direction and you are travelling in the opposite direction of the bus, but you should still drive cautiously.

Your driving privileges will be suspended for three months if you are convicted of illegally passing a stopped school bus.

Robbery / Theft Prevention Tips

- **Do** obey an offender's instructions when it's practical to do so – particularly when they threaten to hurt you. Property can be replaced – you cannot.
- **Do** pay attention to your environment and what's around you.
- **Do** keep cash in a separate money clip or pouch in case of an incident, so you don't lose your credit cards, identification and other important items.
- **Don't** be distracted while walking or waiting for public transportation. Someone on a cell phone or listening to music can be enticing to a would-be robber.
- **Don't** carry a purse or shoulder bag loosely around your shoulder.
- Avoid carrying a purse. Keep your wallet in your pocket instead.
- If you wear jewelry, conceal it under your clothing.
- Carry your cell phone separately from your purse or backpack. If someone steals your bag, your cell phone is still accessible to call 9-1-1.
- Avoid walking alone in the street at night. When unavoidable, use well-lit streets to get to your destination.
- If you think someone suspicious is following you, cross to the other side of the street and head for the nearest public place.
- Carry a whistle and use it when your personal safety is in danger.
- Don't make it obvious that you are in unfamiliar territory.
- Pay attention. Suspects look for victims who are not alert.
- Moderate alcohol intake and remain in control of your senses. Offenders target those who are most vulnerable.
- Should you be targeted by a potential offender, make a mental note of the persons race, age, height, sex, clothing, color of hair and eyes, etc. Note anything unusual such as scars or tattoos.
- Note how the person left the area, direction of travel, what type of vehicle, the make, color and license plate.
- Call 9-1-1 in an emergency.