



# zone 3 newsletter

winter 2010

## ZONE 3 BORDERS:

Harlem, Chicago, Austin, and North Blvd.

## ZONE 3 MEETINGS

The 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of every month at 7:00pm in the Main Oak Park Public Library.

## 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 Murphy, and attend your regular monthly zone meeting.

Resident Beat Officer Raphael Murphy / 708.305.9779 / rmurphy@oak-park.us

## Happy New Year!

I'd like to take the opportunity of a fresh new year to revisit the topic of Neighborhood Watch groups. Neighborhood watch programs are organized to promote a partnership between

police and the community to work together to make neighborhoods more crime resistant. This partnership exemplifies the intent of community policing and the Resident Beat Officer program. I

urge anyone who would like to help me revitalize neighborhood watch on their block to contact me at 708-305-9779 or rmurphy@oak-park.us

## Snow Parking

We've been pretty lucky this year with a relatively mild winter, but it still makes sense to be prepared more snowfall. The Emergency Snow Removal Parking Plan goes into effect when there is a two-inch snowfall, and is enforced seven days a week, including holidays.

Parking is forbidden on main streets designated

as snow routes.

Parking is permitted on non-snow route streets between 8am and 10pm on the EVEN address side on EVEN numbered days and ODD address side on ODD days.

Designated Commercial Parking areas follow the ODD/EVEN rule between midnight and 8am.

Snow parking rules do not

apply to emergency vehicles and delivery vehicles are allowed to park up to 10 minutes. The Snow Emergency does not override other parking regulations such as time limitations and prohibitions. Vehicles parked in violation of snow restrictions are subject to ticketing and towing.

## Block Captains

With the New Year, the Oak Park Police Department is currently looking for more persons interested in being Block Captains. The Block Captain might aid the police in the dispersal of

their neighbors, perhaps by maintaining an e-mail distribution list, or possibly organize or host a neighborhood watch meeting from time to time. Anyone in Zone 3 who is interested should contact

RBO Murphy at 708-305-9779. Or, if you know someone on your block that you think might be a good choice, speak to them about giving me a call.

**Oak Park Police**  
123 Madison, Oak  
Park

PHONE:  
708.358.3800

**For Emergencies**  
**Dial**  
**911**

## Seasonal Crime Tips

The Oak Park Police Department is working to raise public awareness of some common crimes of the season by offering the following tips to help reduce the chances of become a victim.

**Motor vehicle theft...**Many autos are reported stolen during colder months after being left unattended to warm up, unlocked and running with the keys in the ignition. This can happen on the street, in a garage or while making a quick stop at a store. Leaving a running vehicle unattended not only increases its risk of it being stolen, it also is a violation of state law.

**Auto burglaries...**Packages and valuables left visible in auto – even if it is locked – are an invitation to thieves who may be willing to damage the vehicle to get at them. And if you have to make multiple trips from your car to your home to unload, be alert – especially if the trunk or a door must be left open.

**Package theft...**If you are expecting deliveries, make arrangements with friends, family or neighbors so that packages will not be left out where thieves can see and get them.

**Pickpockets and thieves...**While out shopping or dining take care with purses, bags and wallets. Thieves like bags and purses hanging on chair backs, left in shopping carts, sitting unattended or simply put down while the owner answers a telephone or is otherwise distracted.

Residents are urged to report any suspicious activity to the Police, and if you are a victim or witness to a crime call 911.

## New Driving Laws

Effective in January 2010, the State of Illinois has implemented some new driving laws.

Many of you may be annoyed, but not surprised to learn that texting or sending e-mail while driving is now illegal in Illinois. Drivers may not use any electronic communication device to compose, send, or read an electronic message.

Don't worry about getting lost however, because the law makes an exception for navigation systems.

Although the State of Illinois does not currently completely ban the use of cellular phones while driving, it is now illegal to use a wireless phone while driving in certain areas. No person, regardless of age may use a wireless telephone in a school speed

zone, construction zone, or maintenance speed zone. So if you're planning to call your teenager as you arrive at the High School to pick them up, wait until you've found a parking spot, or you might get a ticket.

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**RBO Murphy**  
**708-305-9779**

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