

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



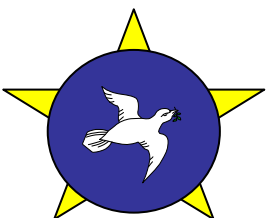
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South Side Scoop

Dear Residents and Business Owners of Zone 8,
I want to take this time to inform you about some of the programs that our village has to offer. The **R-U-O.K. Program** which serves to reassure senior, handicapped, homebound, and seriously ill community residents who live alone that help is available. A computerized telephone system calls eligible residents at a predetermined time to check on their welfare, and if no response is received, a police officer is dispatched to check on the citizen's well-being. Another great service is the **Police Department Crisis-Intervention Program**. We contract with a private mental health center to provide 24-hour availability for emergency crisis intervention, including emergency psychiatric evaluations, domestic violence/substance abuse referrals, counseling, advocacy services for victims of and witnesses to crime, and specialized services for runaways. In addition to crisis intervention, the program provides follow-up and home visits for affected persons, and steorage to the appropriate agency. I also have received training related to mental heath issues. We also provide the **Ride-Along Program**. This affords the Oak Park residents the opportunity to personally observe the Oak Park Police Department patrol operations thereby fostering greater community interests and understandings of the duties of police officers. The **Night Business-Check Program** was formed in conjunction with the Oak Park/River Forest Chamber of Commerce to enhance and safeguard the security of the village's business areas. It provides premise inspections by beat officers, who leave a card verifying an officer's physical inspection of each establishment.
If anyone has any questions regarding these programs or any other programs the village has to offer, please contact me and I will get you the information needed. On the next page I have included some home security safety tips as well as some personal safety tips.

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 DISUSS 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. Homes that look 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.

Safety While Walking

The choice whether or not to physically resist attack can only be made by you. If the assailant is armed, your options are limited. Remember, there is no way to predict an attacker's actions. The following are some measures you can take to limit your chances of becoming a victim of a crime.

- Avoid walking, jogging, or biking alone at night unless absolutely necessary.
- Plan the safest route to your destination. Choose well lighted busy streets and avoid short cuts through parks, vacant lots, behind shopping centers or unlit areas.
- Consider not wearing headphones while out walking or jogging. You cannot hear what is going on around you.
- If you suspect you're being followed by someone on foot, cross the street and head for the nearest well lighted, populated area. Walk quickly or run to a house or store to call police.
- If you need to attract attention, scream "fire!"
- Do not use automated teller machines (ATM's) at night. Use them during the day. Have your card ready and scan the surrounding area before approaching the machine..
- Do not overburden yourself with packages or a bulky purse. They can take your attention away from your surroundings.
- Always remain alert to your surroundings and walk with purpose, head up, making quick eye contact with everyone that you pass by.