



**For Immediate Release:** 02.06.02

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*Neighborhood Gatherings Set for Elementary Schools*

Residents Invited to Discuss Service Delivery with Top Village Executives

Village Hall is going on the road to discuss service delivery with residents in weekly neighborhood gatherings to be held in each of the community's eight elementary schools, beginning Feb. 20 and continuing into April.

The Village Manager, department directors, police and fire chiefs, and senior staff will be on hand at each gathering to talk one-on-one with residents. They will answer questions, provide information on Village programs and take requests for a closer look at any specific concerns individuals may have about municipal services in their neighborhoods.

"The goal of these neighborhood gatherings is to go out into each section of the community and create awareness of Village services, while at the same time, address whatever specific service delivery issues are of greatest concern to the residents who live there," said Village Manager Carl Swenson.

"Being an active part of the community is important to building greater understanding between residents and the government that manages their shared resources. We urge residents will take advantage of one of these opportunities to talk to us in a less structured manner than at a board meeting or public hearing on a specific topic."

Swenson said the purpose of the neighborhood gatherings is not to talk about policies and regulations, which can only be addressed by the Village Board. But executives on hand will be able to discuss how policies are implemented through the municipal services provided for and managed by Village staff.

Residents who attend one of the neighborhood gatherings won't have to listen to a lecture or watch a presentation touting Village services, according to Swenson. The gatherings will be set up like an open house, with each Village department manning an informational table. Residents can stroll among each department's display, collecting literature, asking questions or simply chatting with key Village staff.

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Neighborhood gatherings

The neighborhoods for each of the gatherings has been defined by elementary school boundaries because the school parameters provide not only a manageable meeting size but also offer an obvious gathering facility. Each gathering will be from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., and are scheduled as follows:

Wed., Feb. 20  
Lincoln  
1111 S. Grove

Thurs., March 21  
Mann  
921 N. Kenilworth

Wed., Feb. 27  
Hatch  
1000 N. Ridgeland

Wed., April 3  
Longfellow  
715 S. Highland

Wed., March 6  
Irving  
1125 S. Cuyler

Wed., April 10  
Holmes  
508 N. Kenilworth

Wed., March 13  
Beye  
230 N. Cuyler

Wed., April 17  
Whittier  
715 N. Harvey

Letters of invitation will be going out to residents in the neighborhoods within the boundaries of each of the schools prior to the gatherings. Reminders also will be advertised in the local newspapers, on the Village website [www.vil.oak-park.il.us](http://www.vil.oak-park.il.us), in the Village's monthly newsletter, *OP/FYI*, and on VOP-TV channel 6, the Village's cable television station.

Residents also can call 358.5770 or email [village@vil.oak-park.il.us](mailto:village@vil.oak-park.il.us) for more information.

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