



Oak Park Police  
Community Policing Newsletter  
Zone 4  
October-December 2008



*"Committed to  
community,  
integrity, and  
excellence in  
public safety"*

**Resident Beat Officer: Robert Primak**  
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**Zone 4 Borders:**  
**Austin Blvd to Oak Park Ave.**  
**Madison Street to South Blvd.**

**Community Meetings: Second Wednesday of each month at 7:00 P.M. at Percy Julian Middle School 416 S. Ridgeland Ave.**



### School's in Session

#### School Bus Safety

All too often people disregard school buses while they load and unload children and illegally pass the stopped school bus. Illinois law requires that vehicles traveling in either direction must stop before reaching a school bus that has its flashing lights and stop 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. The only exception is on a roadway with four or more lanes and you are traveling in the opposite direction of the bus, but you should drive cautiously.

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

#### School Speed Limits

School Speed Limits are set at 20 mph. These speed limits are in effect on school days when children are present. You'll find the school speed limits posted in the immediate vicinity of schools and they are often enforced by police officers that are equipped with radar units.

*The fine for violating this law is a minimum \$150.00.*

For more information on these and other rules of the road go to the internet at:

<http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/>

Remember to drive safely, slow down around schools and parks. Take a few extra minutes to arrive safely at your destination. Don't forget the winter driving season will be upon us shortly. Prepare your vehicle for the cold weather that's right around the corner.

### Important Telephone Numbers

#### 9-1-1 Emergency

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

**708.386.3800 for general information**

#### 708.434.1636 Crime Tip Hotline

Please call the police and report any suspicious activity that you may observe. By working together we can make our community a safer place to live work and play.

### Zone 4 Beat Meetings

The purpose of these meetings is to provide a forum where the residents and the police department can discuss issues in our specific zone that affect our quality of living. During these meetings we will be focusing on criminal activity in the beat, crime prevention, street safety, home security, as well as traffic and parking issues. The meetings are held at Percy Julian Middle School on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month at 7:00 P.M. Please stop by and find out what's going on in your neighborhood.

### Block Captains Wanted

The police department is looking for block captains for each block in our zone. If you're interested in becoming the captain of your block give me a call or send me an e-mail.

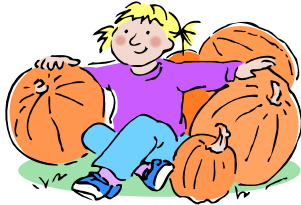
## Zone 4 Crime Watch



There has been an increase in the number of reports regarding lost or stolen license plates and registration renewal stickers. Make sure your license plates are securely attached to the vehicle. When you renew the license plates remove the old registration sticker if possible, clean the license plate and affix the new sticker. If you discover that your license plate(s) or registration sticker is missing contact the police department.



Please do not leave your GPS units visible in your vehicle. Leaving the unit in your vehicle attached to the window or left on the dashboard invites thieves. It only takes a minute to take it with you, lock it in the glove box or store it securely in your vehicle. Also do not leave other valuables in plain sight such as cellular telephones or purses. Remember to lock your doors when you exit the vehicle. Please report any suspicious activity immediately to 9-1-1.



## Make It A Safe Halloween

The Oak Park Police Department recommends hosting a Halloween party for youngsters as a safe alternative to “trick or treat” activities. However, if children go “trick or treating”, they should do so between 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Friday October 31<sup>st</sup>. Follow the guidelines recommended by the Oak Park Police Department for safer “trick or treating.” Take just a few moments to read over the guidelines below and you can help prevent an accidental injury.

- Children’s costumes should fit properly and be designed so they can see well. Non-toxic face paints are better than face masks.
- Light colored costumes and reflective strips are safer because they make trick or treaters more visible to motorists.
- Children should “trick or treat” in their own neighborhoods since they may be more familiar with the area and its residents. Young children should always be accompanied by an adult or responsible teen.
- Children should never eat anything until they get home and their treats have been examined. Throw away any candy that is unwrapped. Cut and wash fruit before eating.
- Confining “trick or treating” to daylight hours is recommended, but if children plan to be out after dark they should carry a flashlight.
- Know which friends your children are with and what route they are taking.
- Instruct children to avoid houses that are dark. Go instead to the next well-lit home.
- Remind children to look for traffic first before crossing the street. Cross streets at the corner, use crosswalks (where they exist) and do not cross between parked cars.
- Keep costumed children away from pets. Pets may not recognize them and become frightened. A frightened pet can become aggressive.

Homeowners should leave a front light on for the youngsters. Motorists are reminded to be alert to youngsters “trick or treating”. Anyone who observes suspicious treats or activities should call the Oak Park Police Department (9-1-1) immediately!