

Village of Orland Park Media Relations

NEWSRelease

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Orland Park Police to Host “Night to Out Smart Crime”

ORLAND PARK – The Village of Orland Park will join communities across the country when it observes **National Night Out** on **Tuesday, August 4, 2009**. The Orland Park Police Department will host “**Orland Park’s Night To Out Smart Crime**” from **5:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M.** in the **Orland Park Village Center**, 14700 South Ravinia Avenue, one block west of LaGrange Road/U.S. Route 45.

Area seniors are invited to help kick off the festivities at the free luncheon hosted by the Police Department at the Orland Park Civic Center. Lunch will be served beginning at noon with a brief safety presentation. Seniors are invited to see the Police Department’s newest equipment, meet officers and view the department’s displays.

Reservations are required for the free “National Night Out Against Crime Lunch for Seniors” and may be made by calling 708/364-8149. Attendees are asked to leave their names and the number of guests.

National Night Out is an evening of activities for all ages, along with opportunities to learn more about public and personal safety. Residents across the country are encouraged to turn on their porch lights as a statement against crime before joining the festivities held in their towns.

“Orland Park’s National Night Out festivities heighten the awareness of our residents and businesses, helping them learn what they can do to help prevent crime,” said Orland Park Police Chief Timothy McCarthy.

“The night’s activities are directed, to a large extent, to the children in our community to encourage them to be alert for criminal activity and to make them more comfortable with the police in an informal, fun setting,” the chief added.

Orland Park’s activities will include bicycle registration and visits with the Orland Park Police Department Bike Patrol Officers. Free gun locks along with firearms safety information will be available and parents may obtain DNA identification kits that parents keep for their children. The Police Department’s D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) officers will be on hand, as will the department’s school resource officers.

The Police Department is conducting a community wide push for residents to register their bicycles for free with the department.

“It’s easier to find the owner of a lost or stolen bike that’s registered with the Police Department,” said Officer Chuck Barth. Bicycle registration is available at the front desk of the new police station, 15100 South Ravinia Avenue, will be available at National Night Out and is also available at the department’s Trailer In The Park events.

Area residents who have had bicycles lost or stolen are encouraged to call the Police Department at 349-4111 with a description of the bicycle so that the evidence officers can check to see if the bike was turned in to the department. Unclaimed bicycles are donated to area charitable organizations.

“The annual National Night Out gives residents the opportunity to meet the members of our Police Department in an informal atmosphere to learn ways to avoid crime and protect belongings,” said Trustee Pat Gira. “The success of this wonderful event is due to the tremendous effort of the Police Department and their support staff,” Gira added.

This year’s National Night Out will also include a Free Community Document Shred, provided by ProShred, an Orland Park based mobile document destruction company. Families are invited to bring 100 pounds of documents to National Night Out to have them shredded for free as part of the Orland Park Police Department’s Identity Theft Prevention Program.

Orland Park Police Canine Officer James Heramb and the department’s police dog, K-9 Bosco will conduct a demonstration. The Orland Fire Protection District, a separate government entity, will participate to discuss fire safety, giving visitors a close up view of firefighting and emergency medical care equipment.

The event will also include a disc jockey, contests, prizes, raffles, magic show and face painting.

Additional information is available by calling the Orland Park Police Department’s non-emergency number at 708/349-4111.

PHOTO CAPTION

The Orland Park Police Department Bicycle Unit will be a part of the Orland Park Police Department's National Night Out festivities held Tuesday, August 4 from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Orland Park Village Center. Pictured here are Bike Patrol Officers Eric Rossi (left) and Shawn Walsh.