

SPRING ISSUE | PUBLISHED BY LINCOLN CENTRAL ASSOCIATION

## Police offer suggestions for safety

These tips were compiled by the LCA Safety Committee from suggestions made by the Chicago Police at recent Chicago Alternative Policing Strategies (CAPS) meetings in the LCA area. CAPS meetings for LCA residents north of Armitage are held the second Wednesday of every month, 6:30 pm at the St. Vincent DePaul Center, Halsted at Webster.

- Do not leave any valuables such as cell phones, GPS devices, or packages exposed on your car seat. You can become an easy target for smash-and-grab thefts.
- Before you exit your car, particularly late at night or in a dark or secluded place like an alley or side street, check to see if anyone is standing around or waiting in a nearby parked car. If they are, you may want to consider your options
- Attendance by individuals and local groups at court sentencing hearings is strongly encouraged by the Police Department. Tough sentencing, particularly in high-profile cases or with repeat offenders, is typically much more frequent when individuals from the community where the crime took place are present.
- Be aware that police are focusing on stop signs in local neighborhood areas and are issuing tickets for no-stops or rolling stops, particularly where safety may be threatened.

In these days of increased economic hardship, fraud attempts, especially on senior citizens, have shown a dramatic increase. No official police organization will ever call a citizen to ask for money. If you receive such a call, it's fraudulent.

- When in doubt - call 911!

Recently, a parent at the Franklin Elementary School witnessed an individual attempting to entice a couple of children into an automobile. The following morning the parent reported the incident to the school principal. The principal called the police who interviewed the parent and were able to get a partial license plate number.

The police mentioned that if the parent had immediately called 911, and perhaps used a cell phone camera to photograph the car and the license plate, it would have been very easy to identify the suspect. As it turned out, there was very little evidence to go on, and much time had passed since the incident.

The message is: when in doubt call 911. Don't be concerned that you're causing trouble, don't have all the information, or may be mistaken. The police can sort out the details once they arrive. If you don't inform them of a potential problem, however, there's nothing that they can do. It's much easier to deal with criminal activity immediately, rather than hours, days, or weeks after it has occurred.