



# Greetings from Village of Oakwood Hills

December 2013

## **THANK YOU DELANEY DAWSON**

The Village of Oakwood Hills along with the Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots would like to extend a huge **THANK YOU** to Delaney Dawson for her unselfish kindness. Delaney is a 10 year old young lady who for the past three years has donated countless gifts from her December birthday party to Toys for Tots. This all began three years ago when her mother told her that with all the friends she has that she would have to either shorten her guest list to only 10 friends or donate the extra gifts to Toy for Tots. Well, she decided to donate her gifts. When she saw the overflowing box she was responsible for she told her mother she would like to do this every year.

Delaney because of your generosity you have made Christmas merrier for many children. Wishing you and your family a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

## **FROM THE PRESIDENT**

We had a great turn out for our Christmas Tree Lighting with Santa. Thank you to those who came out to support our new yearly activity. The kids had a great time as they filled Santa's ear with their Christmas wishes and everyone enjoyed hot cocoa and cookies. We hope to see even more next year! Please check the website for upcoming community events.

We will also have posters out around the Village as the event approaches.

We got off to a bit of a rough start with snowplowing but it seems that they have picked up the pace and are doing a great job in clearing our difficult roads. Resident's concerns have been addressed with the company.

With winter here and severe cold weather days ahead please let the Police Department know if an elderly or disabled person needs a wellness check as they will be happy to stop by. I am sure that there are plenty of kind neighbor's that will make sure our elderly or disabled resident's have clear walkways.

Though it is too late to contribute to the Toy's for Tots Program, I would personally like to thank Delaney Dawson for her yearly contribution of birthday gifts to the less fortunate. She is a great example of what Christmas is all about!

I hope that as this year comes to a close that we count our Blessings; sometimes life throws us a loop but those challenges make us better people as we learn to grow from those challenges. May the New Year bring you happiness and joy.

## **FROM THE POLICE DEPARTMENT**

The holiday season is always a special time of year. It is also a time when busy people may

become distracted and rushed causing become careless and vulnerable to theft and other holiday crime. We can never be too careful, too prepared or too aware. Please share this information with family, friends and neighbors. The Oakwood Hills Police Department wishes you a safe, happy and peaceful holiday season.

### Parking and Snow Removal

- **Section 12 -11-1304(d)(5). Snow Removal** - Following a snowfall of one inch or more, it shall be unlawful to park any vehicle on any street or street right-of-way. These restrictions remain in force until all snow removal operations have been completed or snow has melted.

### Driving

- Avoid driving alone or at night.
- Keep all car doors locked and windows closed while in or out of your car. Set your alarm or use an anti-theft device.
- If you must shop at night, park in a well-lighted area.
- Avoid parking next to vans, trucks with camper shells, or cars with tinted windows.
- Park as close as you can to your destination and take notice of where you parked.
- Never leave your car unoccupied with the motor running or with children inside.
- Do not leave packages or valuables on the seat of your car. This creates a temptation for thieves. If you must leave something in the car, lock it in the trunk or put it out of sight.
- Be sure to locate your keys prior to going to your car.
- Keep a secure hold on your purse, handbag and parcels. Do not put them down or on top of the car in order to open the door.
- When approaching or leaving your vehicle, be aware of your surroundings.
- Do not approach your car alone if there are suspicious people in the area.
- Ask mall or store security for an escort before leaving your shopping location.

### Automated Teller Machine (ATM)

- If you must use an ATM, choose one that is located inside a bank, mall, or well-lighted location. Withdraw only the amount of cash you need.
- Protect your PIN by shielding the ATM keypad from anyone who is standing near you.
- Do not throw your ATM receipt away at the ATM location.

### Shopping

- Shop during daylight hours whenever possible. If you must shop at night, go with a friend or family member.
- Dress casually and comfortably.
- Avoid wearing expensive jewelry.
- Do not carry a purse or wallet, if possible.
- Always carry your California Driver License or Identification Card along with necessary cash, checks and/or a credit card you expect to use.
- Even though you are rushed and thinking about a thousand things, stay alert to your

surroundings.

- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash.
- Pay for purchases with a check or credit card when possible.
- Keep cash in your front pocket.
- Notify the credit card issuer immediately if your credit card is lost, stolen or misused.
- Keep a record of all of your credit card numbers in a safe place at home.
- Be extra careful if you do carry a wallet or purse. They are the prime targets of criminals in crowded shopping areas, transportation terminals, bus stops, on buses and other rapid transit.
- Avoid overloading yourself with packages. It is important to have clear visibility and freedom of motion to avoid mishaps.
- Beware of strangers approaching you for any reason. At this time of year, "con-artists" may try various methods of distracting you with the intention of taking your money or belongings.

### Children

- If possible, leave small children at home with a trusted babysitter.
- Teach your child to go to a store clerk and ask for help in case your child is separated from you.
- Teach children to stay close to you at all times while shopping.
- Never allow children to make unaccompanied trips to the restroom.
- Children should never be allowed to go to the car alone and they should never be left alone in the car.
- Teach children their full name, address and telephone number to give to police officers or mall security. Teach children to immediately inform you if a stranger is bothering them.

### At Home

- Be extra cautious about locking doors and windows when you leave the house, even for a few minutes.
- When leaving home for an extended time, have a neighbor or family member watch your house and pick up your newspapers and mail. Request a House Watch from the Police Department.
- Indoor and outdoor lights should be on an automatic timer.
- Leave a radio or television on so the house looks and sounds occupied.
- Large displays of holiday gifts should not be visible through the windows and doors of your home.
- When setting up a Christmas tree or other holiday display, make sure doors and passageways are clear inside your home.
- Be sure your Christmas tree is mounted on a sturdy base so children, elderly persons or family pets cannot pull it over on themselves.
- If you use lights on your Christmas tree ensure the wiring is not damaged or frayed. Frayed or damaged wiring can cause a fire.
- Place your Christmas tree in water or wet sand to keep it green.
- Never place wrapping paper in your fireplace.

### Strangers at Your Door

- Be aware that criminals sometimes pose as couriers delivering gifts.
- It is not uncommon for criminals to take advantage of the generosity of people during the holiday season by soliciting donations door-to-door for charitable causes although no charity is involved.
- Ask for their identification, and find out how the donated funds will be used. If you are not satisfied, do not donate.
- Donate to a recognized charitable organization.

Peter J. Goldman  
Chief of Police

### **SLEDDING HILL IS CLOSED**

Due to the heavy rains this year the large eroded area adjacent to the sledding hill has become VERY dangerous! We must close the sledding hill for the entire snow season. There are signs posted in the area warning of the closing.

There are other great sledding hills nearby: In Cary on Silver Lake Rd is Lyons Park which has a huge hill on the other side of the parking lot for sledding. ALSO Veterans Acres in Crystal Lake located on Walkup just north of 176 has a great sledding and is lit up at night as well .

### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

For those of you looking to help in our Village we are looking for you. There are always projects that we could use some help with such as:

- Litter clean up, play ground power washing, flower bed weeding, etc.
- Halloween in the Park
- Easter Egg Hunt have
- Fishing derby's
- Sandcastle contests
- Santa and a tree lighting

If you are interested in helping your Village please stop in at the Village Hall or call 815-444-9435 ext. 50 and leave your name and contact information. We want this to be a great and fun place to live!

### **WINTER HOURS**

The Village Hall will only be open two (2) Saturday's per month beginning in September through April 2014. Dates will be posted on the [website](#) and on the sign at Village Hall.

### **PHONE NUMBERS AND HOURS**

The regular business hours for the **Village Hall** are as follows:

- Monday 11 AM - 2 PM,
- Tuesday 11 AM - 2 PM and 6 PM - 8 PM,
- Wednesday 11 AM - 2 PM,
- Thursday 6 PM - 8 PM and
- alternating Saturdays; please call 815-444-9435.

The regular business hours for the **Building Department** are as follows:

- Monday 5 PM - 6 PM,
- Wednesday 5 PM - 6 PM and
- Friday 4:30 PM - 5:30 PM; please call 814-444-9437.

Sincerely,

Village of Oakwood Hills

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