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NEWS Highlights
City Edition

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April 9, 2010 Southwest News-Herald - City

Beat 835 Looks At Child Abuse, Solved Crimes

By TASHA L CLOPTON-STUBBS

Beat 835 held its monthly Community Alternative Policing Strategy (CAPS) meeting on Monday at the Wrightwood-Ashburn Library, 8530 S. Kedzie Ave.

Touting this monthly meeting as a forum to "identify chronic crime problems and issues that affect the community," a guest speaker was on hand to remind residents that April is Child Abuse Awareness Month.

Officer Elizabeth Antkiewicz, a liaison with the Chicago Lawn 8th District Domestic Violence Unit, provided literature to those in attendance in an effort to educate the neighborhood on spotting and reporting child abuse.

Noting that the 900,000 cases reported each year include neglect and any type of physical or sexual abuse, Antkiewicz advised concerned residents to report suspected abuse by calling (800) 25-ABUSE.

"Your name is never given to those that are being investigated," she said. "If you're more comfortable, you don't have to give your name at all."

Residents voiced concerns of burglaries, while Sgt. Chuck Maida provided residents with crime statistics for the month and stressed the need for "nosy neighbors" to remain diligent.

Referring to a "Keeping it Real" session in which eight convicted burglars shared their strategies for selecting a home to burglarize, the sergeant noted that only one of the seven home burglars were caught due to the alarm system.

"One guy got tripped up because of the alarm, but the other six went down because of the nosy neighbor," he said.

Updates on recent concerns included news that a tagger who was allegedly damaging property all over the city had been apprehended, as was the man suspected of sexual assaults on young girls near Bogan High School.

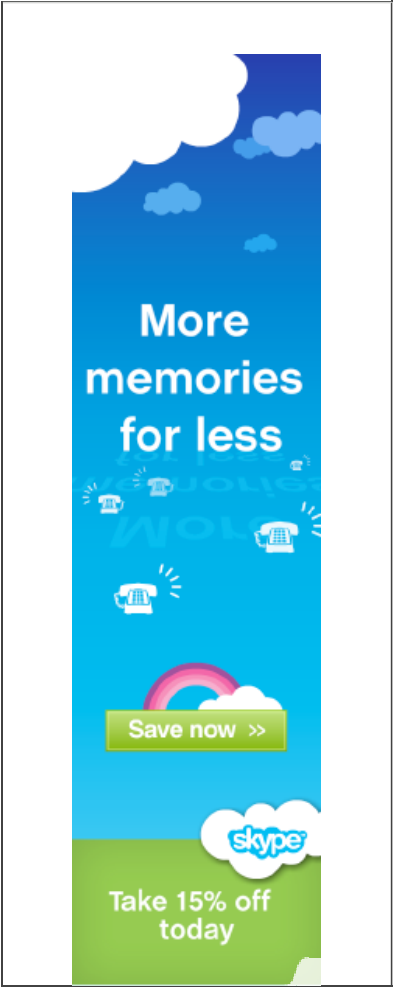
At the Citgo gas station on 82nd and Kedzie, a suspect who unwittingly assaulted an officer during a controlled drug buy was also apprehended and arrested.

In other news, the 18th Ward will sponsor a Gospel Fest on Saturday, June 19 in Hayes Park, 2936 W. 85th St. Gospel artist Inez Andrews is the featured performer.

Beat 835 is from 73rd to 83rd streets between Bell and Western avenues; 73rd to 87th streets from Western to Kedzie avenues; and from 73rd to 79th streets from Kedzie to Central Park avenues.

The beat meeting is held on the first Monday of each month at the Wrightwood Library. The next meeting is at 7 p.m. May 3.

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