

The Village Voice

The Village of Ada will be running informational articles about Village policies and services currently offered. These articles will be for informational purposes only, and further details and the complete Codified Ordinances may be found on the Village website, www.adaohio.org, or by calling the Village Water Office at 419-634-4045.

It's Back to School Time: Use Your Eyes, Use Your Ears.....

Parents, teachers, and students know it's about that time. Ada Schools are scheduled to resume classes for the 2011-2012 school on Wednesday, August 17th.

In years past, several weeks passed between the start of Ada Schools and the start of fall classes at Ohio Northern University. This year, due to the university making a transition from quarters to semesters, there are only a few days between the starts. Undergraduate classes begin Monday, August 22nd.

Those involved in back to school activities have their to-do lists full. Those who aren't directly involved in activities make think the bustle at this time of year have nothing to do with them.

But here are a few things for everyone to keep in mind:

- Keep your eyes open: kids will be walking and biking at certain times again, and the excitement of the school year may have them forgetting about their surroundings. Not only can you watch for kids moving, also keep an eye out for anything that seems out of place in your neighborhood. If you see suspicious looking vehicles, or people acting strangely, take note and contact the Ada Police Department at 419-634-0010.
- We're all in this together: the Ada Police Department cares about the safety of our children. Beginning with the first day of school, routine patrols both before and after school will resume.
- The wheels on the bus go....: buses will begin populating our streets once again. We all know a key to kids' staying safe around moving and large vehicles is for them to take things slowly. Take their lead. Be patient as buses are picking up and delivering children to their destination. Not only could you be breaking the law by passing a stopped bus, you are also risking the possibility of hitting a child.
- SLOW DOWN....: many accidents at this time of the year are the result of people rushing. Leave a little earlier, or avoid routes that are commonly busier with foot, bike, and vehicle travel. Allow yourself enough time to arrive at your destination without the pressure of running stop signs and speeding.
- Parents, walk or bike with your children: as your child makes his or her way to school, take the ride with them a few times. Show them possible obstacles and routes, and

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help them see the world around them. Let them know you know their routes, and where they can find help if they encounter problems later in the year. Teach them to cross streets safely; watch for moving vehicles, and to avoid playing on or near the streets.

This is a great time of the year to see how the citizens of Ada work together to create a safe and reliable environment. Let's have another safe back to school season!