

WESTERN SPRINGS POLICE DEPARTMENT



CRIME ALERT

Western Springs, IL - Date: October 6, 2014

The Western Springs Police Department is currently investigating thirteen (13) separate incidents of motor vehicle burglaries and one (1) motor vehicle theft that have occurred between September 5, 2014 and October 6, 2014. The motor vehicle burglaries are taking place in the early morning hours and all but one of the targeted vehicles have been unlocked. The following is a brief overview of this crime trend:

- September 5, 2014 - burglary to motor vehicle report on the 5400 block of Woodland Avenue. The vehicle was parked inside of the complainant's garage unlocked. An unknown offender(s) entered the vehicle and removed a Garmin "Nuvi" GPS device.
- September 18, 2014 - burglary to motor vehicle report on the 4000 block of Central Avenue. The vehicle was parked in the complainant's driveway unlocked. An unknown offender(s) entered the vehicle and removed a set of golf clubs.
- September 18, 2014 - a burglary to motor vehicle report on the 1000 block of Longmeadow Lane. The vehicle was parked in the complainant's driveway unlocked. An unknown offender(s) entered the vehicle and removed a purse that contained various amounts of cash, credit cards, and personal identification.
- September 21, 2014 - a motor vehicle theft on the 5000 block of Fair Elms Avenue. The motor vehicle theft occurred when an unknown offender(s) entered through an unlocked door and gain access to the owner's purse that was left on the front seat. The purse contained various amounts of cash, credit cards, and personal identification, and keys to the vehicle.
- September 22, 2014 – a burglary to motor vehicle report on the 5600 block of Ridgewood Drive. The vehicle was parked in the complainant's driveway unlocked. An unknown offender(s) entered the vehicle and removed set of golf clubs, golf balls, and \$25.00 in coins.
- September 24, 2014 - a burglary to motor vehicle report on the 4300 block of Woodland Avenue. The vehicle was parked in the complainant's driveway

unlocked. An unknown offender(s) entered the vehicle and removed a purse that contained various amounts of cash, credit cards, and personal identification.

- September 28, 2014 - a burglary to motor vehicle report on the 5000 block of Lawn Avenue. The vehicle was parked in the complainant's driveway unlocked. An unknown offender(s) entered the vehicle and removed a purse that contained credit cards, and \$500.00 cash.
 - September 28, 2014 - a burglary to motor vehicle report on the 1100 block of Longmeadow Lane. Two vehicles were parked in the complainant's driveway unlocked. An unknown offender(s) entered both vehicles and removed a small amount of change from the cup holders.
 - September 30, 2014 - a burglary to motor vehicle report at 1500 Walker Street. The vehicle was parked in the Recreation Center's parking lot. An unknown offender(s) entered the vehicle by breaking out the rear passenger side window and removed a purse that contained various amounts of cash, credit cards, and personal identification.
 - October 6, 2014 - a burglary to motor vehicle report on the 4500 block of Howard Avenue. The vehicle was parked in the complainant's driveway unlocked. An unknown offender(s) entered the vehicle and removed a Garmin GPS device.
 - October 6, 2014 - a burglary to motor vehicle report on the 4500 block of Howard Avenue. Two vehicles were parked in the complainant's driveway unlocked. An unknown offender(s) entered both vehicles but nothing was missing to date.
 - October 6, 2014 - two burglaries to motor vehicle reports on the 4500 block of Franklin Avenue. Both vehicles were parked in the complainant's driveway unlocked. An unknown offender(s) entered both vehicles and removed nothing was missing to date.
 - October 6, 2014 - a burglary to motor vehicle report on the 4700 block of Lawn Avenue. The vehicle was parked in the complainant's driveway unlocked. An unknown offender(s) entered the vehicle and removed a Garmin GPS device.
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Don't be an easy target:

- Keep all vehicle doors and windows closed and locked at all times, even during quick errands. Lock the trunk, hatchback or tailgate to block access into your vehicle. Close all vents or wing windows and sunroofs. Always take your keys with you.

- If your vehicle has a built in security system, use it. If you don't have a security system installed, it is worth the investment. It may also qualify you for a discount on your auto insurance.
- Remove visible items (cash, wallet, purse, MP3 players, iPods and cell phones) from the vehicle or place them in the trunk. If you leave items visible in your vehicle, you are a target. Don't forget that GPS system, as these portable devices are targets too.
- Park your vehicle in an area that is visible to the public and well-lit at night. If possible, park your vehicle in the garage. If garage parking is not available, park your vehicle in the driveway and install motion-sensor security lighting on your home.

Be a good neighbor:

- A person looking into parked vehicles may be looking for a vehicle to steal or valuables left in plain view inside.
- The sound of breaking glass or car alarm could mean a vehicle break-in.
- Any vehicle without lights at night, cruising slowly, or following a course that seems aimless or repetitive is suspicious in any location. Occupants may be "casing" for a burglary.
- A person walking around pulling on car door handles may be looking for unlocked vehicles to steal from.

Residents are encouraged to call 9-1-1 immediately about any suspicious activity or persons.

If anyone has any information regarding these crimes, please contact the Western Springs Investigative Division at (708) 246-8540.