



WESTERN SPRINGS POLICE DEPARTMENT

NEIGHBORHOOD CRIME ALERT

Western Springs, IL – October 24, 2013

The Western Springs Police Department would like to inform our residents about two recent reported **residential burglaries**. The Police Department is actively investigating two (2) reported residential burglaries that both occurred on Wednesday, October 23, 2013. Forced entry was made into unoccupied single family residences through the doors by an unknown offender(s) in both of these incidents. Both of the burglaries occurred between the hours of 3:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. on 10-23-13.

Cash and computer devices were taken from one of the homes and no property was reported missing from the other home.

These two burglaries occurred in the following neighborhoods:

- **Old Town North – 4200 block of Western Avenue**
- **Field Park – 4100 block of Howard Avenue**

The Western Springs Police Department would like to share a few important reminders to help avoid being a victim of a residential burglary.

A common tactic that burglars utilize is to knock on the front door to see if anyone answers. If someone does answer, the suspect will typically ask for someone that does not live there, and/or the offender fabricates an excuse as to what they are doing there.

Develop a relationship with neighbors in which you watch each other's homes while away. Our Neighborhood Watch Program is a proven method of crime prevention by reporting all suspicious activity to the police department. Please contact Deputy Chief Brian Budds at 708-246-1800, ext. 167 or at bbudds@wsprings.com if interested in starting up a Neighborhood Watch Program in your area.

Check your landscaping to keep your driveway and yard area open and visible to neighbors. Call the police department if you observe any of the following:

- Unfamiliar subjects walking between homes or yards
- Unfamiliar subjects knocking on doors and then going to the rear of a home
- Vehicle dome lights left on
- Unusual dog barking

Don't be an easy target. Lock all first floor windows with auxiliary lock mechanisms. Use a bar to fit tightly into the track of sliding windows or doors. You can have an inexpensive dowel cut to fit snugly in the window track. This will prevent the window from being slid open. Remember, exterior doors should always be locked whether you are home or not.

Secure your vehicles and garages. An unlocked vehicle often contains a garage door opener. Lock your vehicle even in your own driveway. Many residents fail to close their garage door immediately after entering or exiting. An open door is an invitation to a potential burglar. Finally, the service door between your garage and home should be of the same construction as an exterior door and contain a dead bolt lock.

If anyone has any information regarding these burglaries or would like additional information, please contact the Western Springs Police Department at 708-246-8540.