

WESTERN SPRINGS POLICE DEPARTMENT



CRIME ALERT

Western Springs, IL - Date: September 22, 2014

The Western Springs Police Department is currently investigating three (3) motor vehicle burglaries and one (1) motor vehicle theft. The first motor vehicle burglary occurred between 5:00 p.m. on Friday, September 5, 2014 and 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, September 6, 2014 in the Forest Hills area (5400 block of Woodland Ave). The other two motor vehicle burglaries occurred between 10:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 18, 2014 and 12:00 p.m. on Friday, September 19, 2014 in the Ridgewood area (1000 block of Longmeadow Lane) and the Old Town area (4000 block of Central Ave.) respectively.

- In the Ridgewood motor vehicle burglary, an unknown offender(s) entered through an unlocked door and removed a purse that contained various amounts of cash, credit cards, and personal identification that were in plain view.
- In the Forest Hills motor vehicle burglary, an unknown offender(s) entered through an unlocked door and removed a Garmin GPS that was in plain view.
- In the Old Town motor vehicle burglary, an unknown offender(s) entered through an unlocked door and removed a set of golf clubs that was in plain view.

The motor vehicle theft occurred between 9:30 p.m. on Saturday, September 20, 2014 and 12:00 a.m. on Sunday, September 21 in the Forest Hills area (5000 block of Fair Elms Ave).

- 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.
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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 and all suspicious activity.

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