



# CRIME PREVENTION ALERT

May 07, 2009



- Incident

Several detached garages were recently entered unlawfully. Most of these incidents have occurred during the over night hours. In most cases, the burglars have entered the garage through an unlocked service door. Once inside, the burglars have entered an unlocked vehicle and removed readily available items such as, a purse and digital camera. In some cases, golf clubs were also removed from inside the garage.

- Recommendations

Secure your garage. Make sure **BOTH** the service entrance and over head door are locked. Since these burglaries have occurred during darkness, it is important to illuminate your back yard. Outside light timers and motion sensors in back yards and around garage entrances are both effective tools.

Communicate with your neighbors and watch out for each other especially if you know your neighbors are away. Do not leave items such as a purse, wallet, GPS or portable electronic communication devices inside of your vehicle. Do not leave your overhead garage door open for unnecessary periods of time. This simply advertises to everyone what you store in the garage.

Report any suspicious activity/persons/telephone calls to the Winnetka Police Department immediately at 847-501-6034. If you believe a crime is being committed dial 911. Do not take suspicious sounds or people for granted. **PLEASE HELP US PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY AND APPREHEND THE OFFENDERS—DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE NEXT DAY TO CALL.**

- Security Survey

The Winnetka Police Department Crime Prevention Unit offers free security surveys. Upon request, an officer will conduct a survey of your building/property and make recommendations on how you can make the building more secure and reduce the opportunity of becoming the victim of a crime. For more information or to schedule a survey please contact Sergeant Marc Hornstein at 847-716-3409.