

## **VEHICLE BURGLARY INFORMATION**

Dear Resident,

Over the past 3 months there have been numerous car burglaries which have occurred all over Wheeling as well as many communities in the Chicagoland area. This is not a problem that only affects Wheeling.

The Wheeling Police Department is committed to solving these crimes if possible. We have made arrests over the past 2 months which have solved over 50 of these car burglaries.

Here are some basic tips to avoid becoming a victim:

- Lock your car doors. Many burglars do not smash windows but are “door checkers”. They walk along a row of cars trying all of the door handles.
- Remove valuables such as coins, GPS units, purses, bags, boxes, tools, electronics, etc.
- Remember to remove any charging cords as this will also tell the burglar that you may have the device hidden in your car.
- Keep records of make/model/serial number of your belongings in a safe place. Having this information greatly assists us in locating your property and making an arrest.
- Report suspicious persons in your parking lots by calling 9-1-1. A suspicious person is someone or more than 1 person that you do not recognize as residents of your community and/or are doing something that doesn't seem right. (Example: You see a person walking through the parking lot looking into all of the car windows. Why is it suspicious? That one person more likely than not doesn't own all of the cars they are looking into and their behavior tells you that they may be looking for something to take). Don't over analyze the situation and think that the person is “just checking their reflection in the windows to see if they look good that day”. Do not confront the subject. Call the police and let us check that person out.
- Although you may remain anonymous, be prepared to give the dispatcher the following information:  
Location, Person's description (characteristics, clothing), what exactly was the person doing that was suspicious, vehicle description and license plate.
- For more information, please check out the [village website for Beat Meeting info](#).

Thank you for your cooperation,

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