

# ARLINGTON HEIGHTS POLICE DEPARTMENT COMMUNITY ALERT

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Village of  
Arlington Heights

## B U L L E T I N

### Burglary from Motor Vehicle Fitness Centers/Health Clubs – Child Daycare Facilities

The Arlington Heights Police Department is investigating six (6) vehicle burglaries all occurring on Friday December 4<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday December 9<sup>th</sup> at the following child daycare and fitness center facilities: Kindercare 110 W. Boeger Dr. between 7:40 AM – 8:05 AM and XSport Fitness 320 E. Golf Rd. between 5:30 PM – 7:38 PM.

In all 6 reported incidents, the unknown offender(s) shattered the passenger side windows of all victim vehicles and removed either a personal storage bag or women's purse. The focus of each burglary is personal identification including but not limited to Illinois Driver's Licenses, Social Security Cards and other personal identification or credit cards.

Other local communities including Buffalo Grove, Hoffman Estates, Mt. Prospect, Northbrook, Palatine and Wheeling, Il. have experienced vehicle burglaries at similar business locations. In each burglary, offending vehicles appear to be newer models almost always characterized as having distinctly dark tinted windows and no front license plate. Given the type of burglary and locations of offense, the offender(s) are believed to **surveil fitness club and daycare parking lots** by parking to watch the behavior of customer traffic. **Victims observed to leave parked vehicles without carrying or securing handbags are then targeted.**



(Pictures shown above taken of offending vehicles in Northbrook, Buffalo Grove and Cary)

Anyone having information about this or any other serious crime in Arlington Heights should submit an anonymous text tip by texting the keyword 847AHPD and your message to 847411(tip411) or call Arlington Heights Crime Stoppers at (847) 590-STOP. Callers are guaranteed anonymity and may qualify for a cash reward of up to \$1,000.



CALL **911** TO REPORT SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY

# Arlington Heights Police Department

## VEHICLE BURGLARY PREVENTION



Would you leave a stack of **\$20** dollar bills sitting on the dashboard of your car while you were working, shopping, visiting a friend or just sitting inside your home? If you are like most people the answer is a resounding **NO!** But there are hundreds maybe even thousands of people in Arlington Heights each day that leave their GPS, radar detector, laptop computer, ipod, purse, briefcase or other valuables sitting in plain view on the car seat, dashboard or floor. The vast majority of the Vehicle Burglaries in Arlington Heights involve valuables in plain view being taken out of locked or unlocked vehicles parked in business, apartment, and condo parking lots, as well as, residential driveways and along village streets.

These crimes can occur at anytime during the day ☀️ or night 🌙 .

Vehicle burglary is a crime of opportunity. There are three basic elements of a typical vehicle burglary:

- #1) Vehicle parked outside and accessible to a potential criminal.
- #2) Items of value (GPS, Radar Detectors, Purses, Computers, etc) are left in plain view
- #3) Offender either breaks window or opens unlocked door and removes items.

**WE CAN** control the first two elements.

- ✓ Use a garage if available.
- ✓ Remove all items of value from plain view, including the brackets or docking stations.

By following these recommendations we, as a **community** can reduce the incidents of vehicle burglary by limiting the offender's desire to complete the crime – **ELEMENT #3.**

Additionally we can follow these crime prevention tips:

- ✓ Always close the windows and lock your car.
- ✓ Park your car in a well-lit area, where it can be easily and frequently viewed.
- ✓ Do not leave important papers including personal identification, check books, vehicle titles or a spare key in the car.
- ✓ Document all serial numbers and/or engrave property.
- ✓ And always remember to **call 9-1-1 immediately** to report any suspicious person(s), car(s) or activity.
- ✓ Do not confront suspicious subjects. Your personal safety is more valuable than any piece of property.

Follow these Vehicle Burglary Prevention tips to keep your valuables out of the hands of criminals.

