Avoid Some Crime With The Push Of A Button

West Dundee is a lovely Community with friendly neighbors and tree-lined streets, a place where most think you don't have to be afraid to leave doors unlocked, for the most part. It's even home to the Good Morning America's "Best Block In America". Unfortunately, the same attractions that entice you to want to live here, also entice a criminal element to want to visit our town for different reasons. The good news is that you can help reduce their efforts with the simple push of a button.

In recent months, the entire Dundee area has seen an increase in thefts from automobiles, a crime known as Burglary To Motor Vehicle (BTMV). In almost every single BTMV case reported in West Dundee, the offenders found "Easy Pickin's" in our town, because the cars that they entered were left "unlocked". In addition, victims left valuable items in the cars, an enticing booty that "keeps 'em coming back for more!" Among the "hot items" taken in these BTMV's were GPS units, Cell Phones, Personal Electronics (mp3's, book readers, etc.), wallets/purses (containing the victim's identity & credit cards), cash, coins and even cigarettes.

What can be done to stop this? Although the West Dundee Police Department does all it can through vigorous patrols & covert operations, which do result in some success (read more about recent arrests), we need your help on the "Crime Prevention" side. It's as easy as 1, 2, 3!

1. You can make a difference by making your car & valuables less of a target by simply "*pushing a button*"…your cars' *door lock button*. Remember "**Lock It or Loose It!**". Most thieves make their rounds trying car doors…no burglar tools needed when they can find most doors are left unlocked. Lock yours and keep them out of your car! It only takes a split second to save yourself hours on the phone, cancelling credit cards, making Police reports & making insurance claims.
2. **Do not leave valuables inside your car!** If you must leave valuable items (GPS units, spare coins, etc.) hide them from plain view! Under a seat, under a blanket, in the glove box. If your doors are locked and the car appears empty, chances are the would-be car burglar is not going to bother with your car. Most thieves do not want to attract attention to themselves by breaking a window or attempting other ways to force entry, *unless* they see something inside the car that they really want.
3. **Park your car inside your garage or in a well-lit area!** Do some fall-cleaning so that you can fit your car back into your garage, pull it in and close your door for the night. Thieves love the dark! Most prefer to operate in dark, low-light areas because it is easier for them to conceal themselves and their activity. If you must park your car outside in the driveway or on the street, turn on those outside garage or porch lights. In this day and age of compact fluorescents light bulbs it won't cost much to help illuminate the area! If that is not an option park close to the nearest street lamp.

Finally, if you see someone acting suspiciously in your neighborhood call the Quad Comm Dispatch Center at 9-1-1 or 847-428-8784. We would much rather come out and see who is hanging around & why *now* than be called for a BTMV report *later*. For more Crime Prevention Tips or any questions, please don't hesitate to call the non-emergency West Dundee Police Department at 847-551-3810, Monday thru Friday, 8 AM – 6 PM.