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Happy Fall!

The Dane County area is still experiencing an increase in motor vehicle theft, theft from auto, and burglaries. Many of these crimes are committed because the opportunity is there due to unsecured vehicles and homes. I encourage everyone to be mindful of maintaining a "hard target" by securing their property. Here are some tips:

1. When parking outside, do not leave your keys, garage door opener, or any valuables in your vehicle.
2. Close and lock all windows and doors of your vehicle when you park.
3. Never leave your vehicle unattended while it's running.
4. Keep your residence well lit with adequate exterior lighting to illuminate all areas surrounding your residence.
5. Lock the doors of your residence, especially at night or when you are away. Pay extra attention to lock the interior door from your garage to your house.

The Sheriff's Office cannot stress enough, the need for homeowners to be extremely diligent about securing their homes and vehicles. This is a large and organized group of criminals that are becoming increasingly brazen. They are swarming entire neighborhoods in search of easy targets. No area/neighborhood is considered off limits. In several recent burglaries throughout the county, firearms have been stolen and there is a high likelihood that some of these thieves may be armed. In addition to locking homes and vehicles, we encourage citizens to keep their outdoor lights on throughout the night and do not leave valuables like wallets, purses and car keys where they are easily accessible.

Law enforcement is also asking for the public's help in catching the perpetrators. If you see or hear suspicious activity in your neighborhood, call 911 immediately. For those with home video systems like a Ring doorbell or other home security system, save and share anything suspicious or concerning with your local authorities.

In other news, The Dane County Sheriff's Office now has a mental health worker embedded within our department. This collaboration is with the Journey Mental Health Crisis Unit. We are able to co-respond to mental health crises in the community and work proactively to connect the community with mental health resources.

If you or someone you know is experiencing a mental health crisis call Journey Mental Health at 608-280-2600 or 911 for emergencies.

If you would like more information on these topics, please contact Deputy Leslie Fox at the Dane County Sheriff's Office at 608-283-3964 or [fox.leslie@danesherriff.com](mailto:fox.leslie@danesherriff.com).