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DANE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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The Dane County Sheriff's Office would like to remind people of a few basic crime prevention tips. We tend to see an increase in thefts and burglaries in the spring/ summer months. Therefore, please keep the following information in mind.

Please make sure all vehicles, houses, patio doors, and garages are secured at all times. Most victims of theft have not locked up, allowing easier access to valued items.

Burglars can enter your house if your vehicle is left unlocked with the garage door opener or keys inside. It is best to keep your vehicle locked in a garage, if one is available.

Keeping an inventory of your property (including serial numbers and photos of property) is very helpful for reporting purposes in case you become a victim of a crime.

If you are on vacation, ask a trusted neighbor to watch your residence. Arrange for someone to mow the lawn, gather your mail, newspapers, etc. It's also a good idea to contact the Dane County Sheriff's Office and have them conduct a vacation check on your house, free of charge, while you're away. In general, keep your bushes/shrubs well trimmed and your lighting sufficient enough to illuminate all sides of your house.

The Dane County Sheriff's Office would like any suspicious activity, noise, people, or vehicles in your neighborhood to be reported AS SOON AS you see them. Vehicle description, license plate numbers, location, and direction of travel can be extremely helpful in locating and preventing further criminal activity in your neighborhood. You are the eyes and ears of your neighborhood and the information you share can be very valuable in making your neighborhood a safer and better place to live.

These are only a few tips to help prevent crime. If you're interested in further keeping your neighborhood safe, the Dane County Sheriff's Office can help your neighborhood set up a Neighborhood Watch. A Neighborhood Watch builds partnerships between law enforcement and citizens to address neighborhood concerns and works to build a greater "sense of community" by having neighbors get to know each other and work together. For more information on neighborhood watch, go to www.USAOntWatch.org.

Also, there are now free and private social networking sites you can set up for your neighborhood to better connect with people who live in your neighborhood.

TO REPORT AN INCIDENT OR SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY CALL:
9-1-1 FOR EMERGENCIES
255-2345 FOR NON-EMERGENCIES

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH INFORMATION CALL:
COMMUNITY DEPUTY LESLIE FOX 608-283-3964