



POLICE

CHIEF ROBERT MALASUK
VILLAGE OF GREENDALE

5911 WEST GRANGE AVENUE, GREENDALE, WI 53129 (414) 423-2121/(414) 423-2119 (FAX)

November 2, 2017

In the last few months, Greendale has been exposed to media attention for crimes within the Village. While media coverage has increased giving the appearance of higher crime, the Village remains a safe place to live and raise your families.

Recently, we have reported about auto thefts and break-ins to homes. These incidents have been County wide and not specific to Greendale, with numerous arrests having been made. These types of thefts can be prevented by simply locking your homes and vehicles, and taking your car keys and garage remotes out of your vehicles. This is a crime of opportunity. If you don't leave items of value in the open in your car and you lock your car, you are less likely to be a victim.

In the most recent incident in which a Greendale resident was robbed and killed, the suspect specifically targeted that person as a victim and the crime was not random. In this instance, a family member unknowingly exposed the victim to the suspect who would later commit the crime.

While nobody can stop a motivated bad guy from victimizing someone, there are things you can do to protect yourself. A web search will bring up many different articles specifically written with ideas that can help you avoid being the victim of a crime; ideas such as safety in numbers-walk with a friend, travel on a well-lit, heavily used path, vary your routine-go by different routes at different times, lock your doors and windows, don't open your doors for people you don't know, etc. There are many articles that describe ways to keep yourself safe, by not only your actions but also your body language and your physical presence.

The Greendale Police Department has some excellent resources that you can use to protect your security and safety in your home. In every Village newsletter, printed quarterly, the Greendale Police Department has shared different ideas to safeguard yourself from being the victim of a crime.

The Home Security Handbook, created and shared with residents in 2016, begins with a home security survey to assess your home's safety. You simply follow a checklist which surveys your home and identifies weak areas which may allow a burglar into your house. The booklet then provides tips on how to correct them and improve your protection.

Even though burglary is one of the most frequently committed crimes, it is preventable. Most home burglaries are done by opportunists who spot an open window, a faulty lock, or a house that looks like no one's around or will be gone for a while. Most burglaries are "no forced entries" because burglars walk through an unlocked door or climb in an open window. You can reduce the chance of this happening to you. The Home Security Handbook provides information on how to safeguard your property. Many of the suggestions will cost you very little but will contribute immensely to your piece of mind. They will also safeguard your property. Remember: lock your doors and windows when you leave your home. If you have an alarm, USE IT. Don't become a crime statistic.

We also encourage participation in the Operation Identification program in which you can borrow an engraver from the Police Department and mark your personal property. This deters theft and, if you are the victim of a theft or burglary, aids in the apprehension of the suspects and recovery of your property.

The handbook and Operation Identification information are still available on the Police Department page at the Village website (www.greendale.org).

Home security surveys can be requested by residents. Officers have been trained to help residents conduct home surveys and improve their home security. You can still have a home security survey performed by contacting the Greendale Police Department at 423-2121.

We all need to work together to ensure Greendale remains a safe community. If you see something, say something (423-2121). Report suspicious activity immediately.