



## **PRESS RELEASE**

**ANY QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RELEASE OF INFORMATION MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE HINSDALE POLICE DEPARTMENT'S PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER: MARK WODKA, DEPUTY CHIEF OF POLICE, 630-789-7086, 121 SYMONDS DRIVE, HINSDALE, ILLINOIS, 60521**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**December 10, 2011**

On Friday evening, the Hinsdale Police Department has investigated two incidents of residential burglary to unoccupied homes.

The first incident occurred in the 600 blk of Woodland between the hours of 4:00pm-6:45pm. The second incident occurred in the 600 blk S. Washington between the hours of 4:00pm-10:09pm. Forced entry was made into both of the homes through a rear doorway, and jewelry was taken from bedrooms within the home. The homes had been unoccupied at the time of occurrence. There is no suspect information available at this time, and police have not yet determined whether the two incidents are believed to be related.

As the investigation in these burglaries continues, the police department is requesting the assistance of the community to continue being vigilant in reporting any suspicious circumstances in your neighborhood. In particular, residents are reminded to be aware of any person(s) that may appear at their doorstep (or their neighbor's) wishing to provide a service that had not been requested, asking for someone that does not live there, or is acting like they must be at the wrong address.

In addition, use deadbolts on doors and residential security systems should be used, if so equipped, when leaving the residence or retiring for the evening

If you observe behavior that is unusual or suspicious, contact the Hinsdale Police Department by calling 9-1-1. It is important to report an accurate description of the person(s) clothing, height, gender, and race. If you observe a vehicle, note the color, make, style, and/or license plate.

If you have information that may assist the police department related to these incidents, please contact the Investigations Division at (630) 789-7070.

The Hinsdale Police Department is also urging residents through community notification to review the following safety tips during the Holiday season:

## Holiday Crime Prevention Tips At Home

The Hinsdale Police Department encourages you to follow these crime prevention tips during the Holiday season, especially if you are vacationing away from home:

- The #1 prevention tip is to make your house look “**LIVED IN**” when you’re away. Never let items pile up in the mailbox or on the porch. It sends the message that no one is home or watching the residence.
- Arrange with a trusted neighbor to pick up your mail, newspapers, and garbage cans. They live in your neighborhood and know what looks suspicious in the area.
- Make arrangements with trusted friends, neighbors or family to shovel the driveway and maintain the property.
- Set automatic timers for interior and exterior lights, radio and TV’s. Turn the ringer down on the phone. A ringing phone alerts others that no one is home.
- Leave your window shades in a “normal” position, or have your “house-watcher” move the window shade positioning throughout your vacation or your time away from your home. **DO NOT CLOSE THE BLINDS.**
- Lock your valuables in a safe deposit box or fire safe. Document all valuables via videotape and place this and important serial numbers in a safe deposit box as well.
- Notify the police department and request a “**VACATION WATCH**” if you will be away from your home for an extended period of time.
- Lock **ALL** ladders and other supplies in a shed or garage and make sure your garage (attached or detached) is secured at all times.
- Lock your CAR DOORS. Garage door openers in unlocked cars are an instant gateway into your residence regardless of the precautions you take to safeguard the home. You should consider even taking your garage door openers **OUT** of your vehicles. Remove important papers and documents with personal information on them. Have vehicles moved on occasion, so as to not be parked in one spot all the time.
- Make sure your burglar and fire alarms are in working condition. Test them with the alarm company and make sure your alarm company has an updated call list.
- Secure your windows by “**PINNING**” them and place a security bar in the track of your sliding glass doors.
- Leave emergency contact information with the police or a trusted neighbor.
- If you see a suspicious person or vehicle **PLEASE** don’t hesitate to notify the police by calling 911.