



## **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**

**January 11, 2012**

On Saturday evening, January 7<sup>th</sup>, the Hinsdale Police Department has investigated an incident of Residential Burglary which occurred in the 300 blk of S. Washington Street. The incident occurred between the hours of 3:00pm-11:00pm, and forced entry was made into the residence through a front entrance door while the home was unoccupied. Various jewelry items were taken from bedrooms within the home. There is no suspect information available at this time.

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. Residents should acknowledge the presence of persons at their doorstep, but should not open the door unless the person is expected.

In addition, deadbolts should be secured on doors, and residential security systems should be used, if so equipped, when leaving the residence or retiring for the evening. Residents should also consider the installation and use of video surveillance devices which may not only provide early warning to a homeowner of a person on their property, but likewise be used as an investigative tool in identifying suspects.

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 this incident, or video surveillance footage from a private residential video surveillance system that may aid this investigation, please contact the Investigations Division at (630) 789-7070.

Although the rate of Residential Burglary has declined 42% since 2009 (there have been 14 reported incidents in 2011 in Hinsdale), there continues to be a great community interest in this crime. The Hinsdale Police Department is continuing to urge residents through community notification measures to review the following safety tips to prevent becoming a victim:

## Burglary Crime Prevention Tips At Home

The Hinsdale Police Department encourages you to follow these crime prevention tips, particularly if you are vacationing away from home:

- ARM security alarms if they are present within the household. Residents within the community who have security systems sometimes fail to arm them due to the inconvenience or inexperience in their use. Arming the security system increases the likelihood of not only prevention, but also the opportunity of apprehension of the burglar. Even if you're leaving for a short period of time, arm your system if you have it.
- 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.
- Consider the installation of a video surveillance system. Video systems marketed today provide for the ability for users to monitor their homes while away from a smartphone, or even receive text and email alerts where an intruder may be present on the property. Further, video surveillance system increase the opportunity for investigators to develop investigative leads on a suspect.
- 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.
- Don't leave spare keys to the home or vehicle hidden in areas outside or near the home.

- 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.
- 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.