

April 2001

## **Preventing Thefts from Vehicles in Our Community**

Very recently there have been at least four thefts from vehicles right here in our Woodland Reserve Community. You may have seen here in the Nextdoor Woodland Reserve posts on those events from the homeowners.

The Lenexa police have found that vehicle burglaries occur in a matter of seconds, with the burglar often smashing a car window and reaching in to take the items.

These are crimes of opportunity. The simplest way to prevent this type of theft is:

- Always remove all items of value from the passenger area your vehicle whenever it is parked,
- and always lock your vehicle when it is parked.

These crimes are occurring when a burglar might see something they want in your car. Simply putting the item on the floorboard or hiding with a jacket may not be enough to conceal the item from a passerby.

Failure to lock your vehicle when parked (day or night) only adds to the opportunity for a burglar to enter your vehicle. Even if there is nothing of value seen inside your vehicle, but your vehicle is unlocked, burglars will often open your vehicle door and look through glove boxes and under seats for anything of value. Also, thieves would have then access to your garage door opener and could get into your garage.

The Lenexa Police Dept. reports that some of the most common items stolen in these burglaries include women's purses (which includes cash, credit cards and checks), backpacks and computers or other electronic devices.

Suspects usually operate in pairs or small groups, with one person driving around and another on foot, peering inside vehicles for items to steal. Once items are stolen, suspects typically go immediately to area retailers to purchase items with the stolen credit cards and checks.

Report suspicious activity immediately to 911. Also, if you become the victim of a burglary, file a police report. You can file a police report with Lenexa PD by calling them directly at 913.477.7301.

You may also file a report online with them at the following link:

[https://lenexa.com/government/departments\\_divisions/police/police\\_reports](https://lenexa.com/government/departments_divisions/police/police_reports)

Please do your part to help prevent these crimes by not leaving any items of valuable inside your vehicle. Also, please continue posting these occurrences on Nextdoor so our community (and surrounding ones) are aware of the activity close-by.

### **Woodland Reserve Safety & Security Awareness Committee**

P.S. – Other related articles from the Committee Vehicle & Garage Security Awareness - [https://nextdoor.com/p/C9a9afhJpMUh?utm\\_source=share&extras=NTU2NTQyMTk%3D](https://nextdoor.com/p/C9a9afhJpMUh?utm_source=share&extras=NTU2NTQyMTk%3D)

Auto Thefts -

[https://nextdoor.com/p/hSgtgH7f6kHd?utm\\_source=share&extras=NTU2NTQyMTk%3D](https://nextdoor.com/p/hSgtgH7f6kHd?utm_source=share&extras=NTU2NTQyMTk%3D)