

CRIME ALERT

Burglars strike in Morris Park and Minnehaha

May 6, 2010

Facts:

There have been 8 burglaries ---four homes and four garages---since April 20 in Morris Park and Minnehaha Neighborhoods. Suspect(s) entered by cutting screens over unlocked windows, kicking doors in, or through unlocked doors and unsecured windows. At least one victim's rooms showed signs of having been rifled through. Most incidents happened in the evening or overnight. Among the items taken were a 52" TV, other electronics and games, cash, power tools, lawnmower and bikes. At least one car was searched.

The burglaries took place on the following blocks: April 20: 554xx 37 Av (Garage), 53xx 36 Av (House); April 29: 56xx 45 Av. (H), 57xx 45 Av (H), 56xx 39 Av(H); May 4: 57xx 36 Av (G), 57xx 36 Av (G), and 57xx 37 Av (G).

Suspect Information: Forensic evidence in some of the cases is still being processed, but at this time there is little information. Police lauded the action of a neighbor whose vigilance interrupted one attempted burglary. The alert neighbor heard glass breaking and pounding at his neighbor's home, and ran to his window because he knew his neighbor was out of town. He saw an unknown man kicking in the door of the home next door. His wife called 911 immediately, but the suspect suddenly turned away, as if he realized he had been seen, and fled down the street. Officers discovered a broken window on the house but entry was prevented by the watchful neighbor. Police emphasize residents should call 911 when they hear or see something suspicious.

Here's what you can do:

Make good home security and crime prevention techniques a habit for your whole family.

Keep a record of your serial numbers for TVs and other electronics, GPS systems, power tools, bikes, and other valuables. Serial numbers lead police to more suspects and arrests when stolen items are recovered through search warrants or from pawn shops. Photos also are helpful.

Do not disturb the crime scene. Leave everything as it is until the police arrive so that Forensics evidence is not disturbed. Do not sweep up glass, throw away cigarette butts, or touch items such as door knobs, drawer handles and other items that a suspect might have touched.

- Be aware of strangers loitering in the area when you leave your house. Make sure you know your neighbors!
- Make your home look occupied.
- Keep your doors locked at all times.
- Be on the lookout. **The police want you to call 911** about any suspicious activity such as strangers walking in yards or between houses, the sound of glass breaking, loud banging and unfamiliar trucks or vans lingering in your alley.
- Install deadbolt locks (with a 1" throw) and a high-security strike plate (with 3" screws) on home and garage doors. If you have glass within 42" of the door lock, consider: 1) a double-cylinder deadbolt lock, 2) tempered glass, or 3) a decorative grille over the glass.
- Use window pins, track fillers, or additional locks to prevent windows from being opened more than 6".
- Lock your vehicle when it is in the garage. Don't leave spare keys or valuables in vehicles.
- Leave outdoor lights on overnight, or install photosensitive lighting that operates from dusk to dawn, mounted high enough to be out of reach.
- Call Sue Roethle, 612-673-2839, to schedule a FREE home security check.

For individuals with disabilities:

If you need this material in Braille, large print, computer disk, or cassette tape, call 612-673-3447. Sign language interpreters available — call 612-673-3220 or 612-673-2626 (TTY). Please allow two weeks for accommodation.

