

Spring is here and the weather is beginning to get warmer. Many thefts that occur this time of year are crimes of opportunity. Most of us will be enjoying the outdoors or taking vacations away from home. In the dash to begin enjoying the weather, sometimes we forget to lock our homes and vehicles or leave valuables unattended in our cars. The consequences of not securing vehicles and homes, or leaving valuables in view of anyone walking by can result in thefts. Unfortunately, there is an element of our society that can't walk past a valuable item that is unsecure without taking it. These thefts often occur during darkness but that doesn't mean thefts only occur at night. I have investigated numerous thefts during my career. Most of the thefts could have been prevented if the property was secured or not left unattended. While investigating a reported theft, I would offer several recommendations to prevent future thefts, such as locking doors and windows, installing alarm systems, install additional lighting around residences, parking cars in the garage and most of all, do not leave valuables unattended where someone could take it without permission. If property is stolen, the police department should be contacted to investigate what occurred and document the incident. Some theft reports can be handled over the telephone, but if there is possible evidence (fingerprints/photographs/video surveillance) that could identify the suspect, an officer will respond to the location. Once a report is written, a copy of the report may be needed for insurance purposes, if the items were insured. If credit cards or bank checks are taken, they need to be cancelled immediately. Many times, the thief has already purchased something with the stolen check or credit card before the victim even knows it is gone. Don't be a victim, lock your doors and keep your valuables secure. If you have any concerns or would like to talk to me about this issue, I encourage you to contact me.

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