

SKOKIE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Neighborhood Watch

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CRIMES OF OPPORTUNITY

Skokie citizens can help keep their property safe by preventing crimes of opportunity. Following are examples of what everyone can do to prevent crime in the community.

Crimes of opportunity would not occur if the opportunity wasn't presented. A classic example is a woman leaving her unattended purse in a shopping cart, enabling an opportunist to steal quickly and easily.

Due to several vehicle burglaries which have occurred recently, it is important to provide a friendly reminder to lock up your vehicles. In most cases of theft from a motor vehicle, the vehicle was unlocked, and the items taken were in plain view in the passenger compartment.

Many cars are stolen with keys in the ignition; sometimes, the car has even been running in the victim's driveway. Theft of property from cars are almost always crimes of opportunity. Thefts of briefcases, laptops, purses, GPS devices and other small electronics that have been left on a seat or on the floor of the passenger compartment, in plain view, make it too easy for a criminal to take your valuables.

Many burglaries are crimes of opportunity. In almost half of all residential burglaries, the burglar enters through an open or unlocked door or window.

Protect your home by keeping it secure.

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With school in session, some children can be unhappy about returning to school.

Here are some reasons to be happy about returning to school.

1. New friends
2. Becoming smarter
3. New experiences
4. Becoming more responsible
5. New teachers
6. School activities
7. Holiday celebrations
8. Opportunity for a fresh start
9. Seeing old friends
- 10 Project S.A.F.E.

(Safety Awareness for Everyone)

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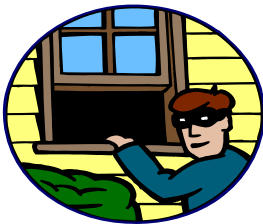
Crimes of Opportunity (Continued)

Make sure that your garage door is always kept closed so that the contents aren't visible to anyone passing by. Most homes have attached garages and many people do not lock the deadbolt between the garage and their home; always use it.

Be aware of door-to-door salespersons, petitioners, and people delivering flyers in your neighborhoods. While most of these people are legitimate, some are trying doors and making note of those residences where no one appears to be home.

If you see someone suspicious in your neighborhood, please contact the Skokie Police. Call 9-1-1 and provide dispatchers with a detailed description of the individual, their vehicle and a direction of travel, and tell us why you think they are suspicious.

Criminals watch for opportunities. Protect yourself from crimes of opportunity.



**NEIGHBORHOOD SECURITY:
CITIZENS AND THE SKOKIE POLICE
DEPARTMENT, WORKING TOGETHER!**

Community policing involves everyone working together to prevent crime. There is evidence that when members of the community work with governmental organizations and agencies to keep the streets safe, it's an effective way of preventing and reducing crime.

Crimes have been shown to decrease when a neighborhood takes part in safety awareness. Through methods like ensuring that your home is protected with an alarm/security system, participating in a simple security survey, neighbors keeping a watchful eye on each other's property, and Neighborhood Watch programs, these crimes can be prevented from occurring.

Citizens and local governmental agencies can be quite a powerful combination. The more aware people are, the more vigilant they become. Law enforcement agencies can inform citizens of criminal activity and provide them with knowledge to better protect their neighborhoods.

The Skokie Police Department is committed to ensuring every possible tool is available to the citizens of Skokie to help prevent crime.

If you are interested in additional information on neighborhood security, please contact Officer Marzigliano at (847) 982-5919.



What Parents Can Do To Keep Kids Safe At School !

In the classroom:

Kids need a safe and comfortable environment to learn to the best of their capabilities. It is important that children interact in a positive manner with their teachers and classmates.

- Talk to your children about their day.
- Teach children to resolve problems without fighting.
- Keep an eye on your children's internet use, especially social networking.
- Ask about the safety and emergency plans for your children's school.

Traveling to and from school:

- Map out with your children a safe way for them to walk to school or to the bus stop.
- Teach children to follow traffic signals and rules when walking or biking.
- Encourage children to walk with a friend.
- Teach children not to talk to strangers.
- Help children memorize home and work phone numbers.

On the bus:

- Have your children arrive at the bus stop at least five minutes before the bus is scheduled to arrive.
- Make sure children know to stand on the sidewalk while waiting for the bus.
- Never walk behind the bus.
- Be aware that often bullying takes place on the school bus. Ask children about their bus ride. Let them know that if they see someone being bullied, or are bullied themselves, they can talk to you, the bus driver or another trusted adult.



HALLOWEEN

Yes, it's that time of year again! Soon the Village of Skokie will be filled with ghouls, ghosts and witches going door to door having fun. Their only request is a simple treat!

Halloween Trick-or-Treat Hours in Skokie

The Village of Skokie has set Halloween trick-or-treat hours from 3 to 8 p.m. on Monday, October 31. Please respect the privacy of homeowners and do not ring doorbells before or after this period. If the outside house light is not on, do not disturb the homeowner by ringing the doorbell.

Enjoy this fun-filled holiday for young and old by being **SAFE**. This can be accomplished by following some simple suggestions:

- ☞ Children should be accompanied by an adult when trick-or-treating.
- 👁 Children should wear clothing that can easily be seen at night. Reflective materials are best.
- 👁 Children should trick or treat in one well-known area and not wander into unknown neighborhoods.
- ⚡ All candy should be inspected by an adult to make sure that no one has tampered with it. If it looks suspicious, the police should be contacted.
- 👁 Children should wear masks that do not interfere with vision. Better yet, they can avoid masks by wearing makeup.
- 👁 Children and adults should watch for moving vehicles when crossing streets.
- ✂ Costumes should be short enough that the child will not trip.
- ☞ Trick or treaters should dress appropriately for the weather and carry a flashlight.
- ★ For extra safety, organize a Halloween party for children in your neighborhood.

SKOKIE POLICE DEPARTMENT



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**The Skokie Police
Department**

has a great website:

www.skokie.org



Don't just secure your home, secure your neighborhood!

Securing your home is always a great idea. It's important though, to look at the security of our neighborhood as a whole.

- ◆ **If you notice a potential crime prevention hazard, mention it to your neighbor. Examples are: open garage doors, light bulbs out or shrubs blocking a window.**
- ◆ **"Patrol" your neighborhood by going for walks at different hours of the day/night and report suspicious information to the Skokie Police Department.**
- ◆ **Keep a watchful eye on the elderly.**
- ◆ **Report suspicious solicitors who do not have the proper credentials.**
- ◆ **Never hesitate to call 9-1-1.**

These simple tips will help keep your neighborhood safer and less of a target criminal activity.

The Skokie Police Department maintains one of the largest Neighborhood Watch programs. If your block does not participate in this very successful program, you are missing out.

Please contact the Skokie Police Department's Crime Prevention/Community Relations Unit at 847/ 982-5919.

BEFORE WINTER BEGINS, SECURE YOUR HOME

Autumn is a great time of year. The leaves are changing, children are returning to school and the weather starts to cool down to a comfortable level. Autumn also brings shorter days. As we "fall back" on our clocks (November 6, 2011), evening and darkness come very fast.

Burglars prefer being in the dark. The cover that is provided by darker days allows criminals to feel bolder.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- ⇒ Complete all repairs to your home. Remember, criminals look for homes that are in turmoil. The thought is that if a homeowner doesn't care about their home, they are not paying attention to property that is missing.
- ⇒ Change all light bulbs early in the fall. There is nothing worse than having to change an outside light during the cold winter months.
- ⇒ Secure your property. Ladders, patio furniture and all other yard items should be safely locked in a shed or garage.
- ⇒ Trim all shrubs and bushes. Additionally, dispose of any garbage or items left out during the summer.
- ⇒ Do not let your property be inviting to criminals.