

# Press Release- Elwood Police

Crime Alert—Burglary to Motor Vehicles



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## Police Investigating A Series of Vehicle Break-ins in the Meadowbrook, Timber Creek and Noel Estates Subdivisions

**Elwood, Illinois** – The Elwood Police Department and the Will County Sheriffs are investigating a series of burglaries to unlocked motor vehicles. Early Monday morning, April 27th at approximately 12:30 A.M., suspects ransacked several vehicles on Laurel Drive and Meadowbrook Road in the Meadowbrook subdivision. The suspects fled prior to police arrival. The incident was captured on video surveillance. At 1:54 A.M. Elwood Officer Anthony Lohmar recovered a stolen vehicle at the intersection of Manhattan and Brandon Roads. Police have also received reports of cars being ransacked and items taken in the Timber Creek and Noel Estates subdivision.

Did you know it only takes 30 seconds to break into a car, grab something in plain sight, check the glove box for other items and get away? The Elwood Police Department reminds citizens to take extra precautions to reduce opportunistic vehicle burglaries. It happens everywhere even in small communities. You can do your part by following these tips:

### Lock It or Lost It!

Here are 10 easy tips for you and your loved ones to use to prevent a car break-in:

- Don't leave valuables in your car in plain sight or slightly hidden; lock them in the trunk.
- Always lock your car when you leave it; even in front of your house.
- Once home, unload your valuables immediately. Do not store valuables in your car any longer than necessary.
- If possible, leave no trace or sign that there might be valuables such as docking stations or connector cables. These can end up costing you hundreds of dollars to replace a broken window because the thief wanted to check your car for "hidden" valuables.
- Try to park in busy, well-traveled areas and well lighted areas; be aware of your surroundings.
- Set your alarm or anti-theft device if you have it, it can be an effective deterrent to an auto burglar who likes to choose easy targets.
- Don't use hide-a-keys; thieves know the best places to find them.
- Don't think your dark, tinted windows hide your valuables. Thieves often use flashlights to see through tint.
- Just covering a valuable radio or any valuables in your car with something like a blanket or towel will probably only draw thieves' attention—remove it when possible.
- Don't forget about your remote garage door opener in your car. That and the registration in your glove box may turn your car break-in into a home break-in as well.

If you see something, SAY something!

Call 9-1-1 immediately if you witness a car burglary or observe someone checking out cars for potential theft.

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