

GARDEN CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

Neighborhood Watch Newsletter

August 2008

KEEPING YOUR WHEELS

AUTO THEFT not only hurts you, but it hurts us



all. From the rise in insurance rates to a feeling of being violated and vulnerable it's important to take steps to prevent this type of crime from happening to you. **Not only new expensive cars are stolen.** Older, more common cars are a regular target because of the ease to sell and fit parts. If you don't feel your vehicle is valuable to a car thief, think again, it may make for a easy ride or have easy parts to sell depending on the market.



DID YOU KNOW...

One car is stolen every 19 seconds in the U.S.? That's less time than it takes most people to unlock their car, put on their seat belt and start the engine.

More than two thirds of all auto thefts take place at night, and over half occur in residential areas.

The thief who drives your vehicle is 200 times more likely to have a serious accident with it than you are.

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO SAFEGUARD YOUR CAR...

Whether you leave your car for a few minutes or several hours, roll up the windows, lock the doors and take the key.

A good thief can steal your car in 30 seconds!

Park in busy, well lighted areas.

Lock your vehicle in your garage at home or use good lighting to park in the driveway.

Carry your registration with you. Don't leave any personal identification, keys or credit cards anywhere in the vehicle.

THEFT PREVENTION DEVICES

Alarms

After years of false alarms, people stopped paying attention to the sound. There is no statistical evidence that alarms reduce auto theft. Any serious anti-theft device must do more than just make noise unless you use it to only alert you.

SERVICE-PRIDE-INTEGRITY



GARDEN CITY POLICE

COMMUNITY SERVICES

CITY DEPARTMENT
PHONE NUMBERS

EMERGENCY- 911

POLICE 793-1700

DETECTIVE BUREAU 793-1710

CITY HALL 793-1600

21ST DIST. COURT 793-1680

BUILDING DEPT. 793-1650

CITY CLERK 793-1620

LIBRARY 793-1830

MAPLEWOOD CTR. 793-1850

PARKS & REC. 793-1880

VEHICLE THEFT

Kill Switches

A kill switch is a simple switch device that shuts off the engine's ignition system. A risk is that it may accidentally be activated by the driver, so placement is very important not only to you but also to conceal from a thief. Improperly installed switches can damage the vehicles' electrical system and possibly void any warranty.

Steering Wheel Locks

Steering wheel locks are visible from outside the car and prevent the wheel from being turned more than a few degrees. A variation on the steering is the J-bar or grip lock, an

adjustable steel bar rod that hooks under the brake and locks to the steering wheel.

Collars

Collars are devices that prevent the steering column from being stripped.

Etching Parts

Many cars are stolen for parts. Professional thieves shy away from a vehicle that has had the Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) etched into the doors, windows, windshield etc.

Anti-Theft Systems

Starting at less than \$300 and going higher as options are added, anti-theft systems typically include siren alarms, starter disablers, motion sensors, remote control activation, panic buttons and shock detectors on doors,

windows, truck lids. A beeper can alert the owner when someone trips the system.

Note

Many newer cars are equipped with a combination of anti-theft devices such as alarms, flashing lights, ignition kill switches, steering wheel locks, coded keys, etc. These used in combination with etching and prevention tips are the most effective deterrents.

Remember, spending money on anti-theft devices won't help if drivers don't follow the basic precautions of locking doors, taking the key, and activating the anti-theft device installed.



WATCH BLOCK NEWS

MEETINGS WILL BE BEGINNING AGAIN SOON!!

Don't forget the meeting dates:

OCTOBER, DECEMBER,

MARCH and MAY. If there is not enough interest in the meetings and or members that are not attending, then they may be cancelled!

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me.

Thank you, Detective Sergeant Brian Aure'

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH BLOCK / CITY CRIME STATS

July Crime Statistics—Cases Reported

Arson 0	Robbery 2
Breaking & Entering 12	Public Peace 4
Larceny 36	Fraud 12
Stolen Vehicles 3	Drugs 14
Assaults 27	Property Damage 22
Murder 0	

The numbers listed represent statistics for the entire city during the month listed