

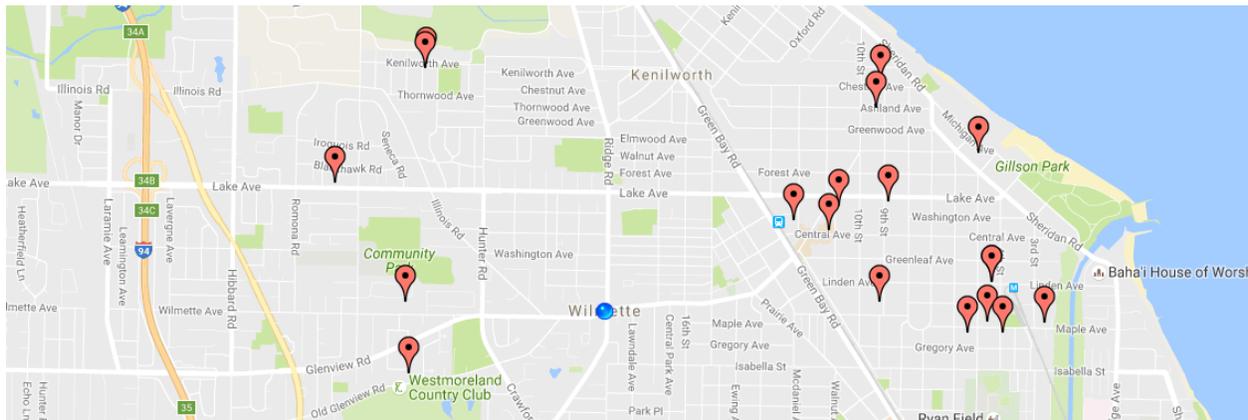


Crime Alert from the Wilmette Police

The Wilmette Police Department is urging residents to lock their cars and remove the keys and key FOB's from their vehicles.

In the last year and a half the police department has been working a series of auto thefts where keys were left in unlocked vehicles and the vehicles were taken and subsequently used in other crimes and burglaries. The pattern started and was generally centered on the east side near the 4th & Linden "el" station. It now encompasses every area of town and numerous surrounding communities. Below is a map indicating where autos were stolen from January 2015 thru August 2016.

Location of Cars Stolen January 2015 thru August 21st, 2016



Autos Recovered & Offenders Arrested

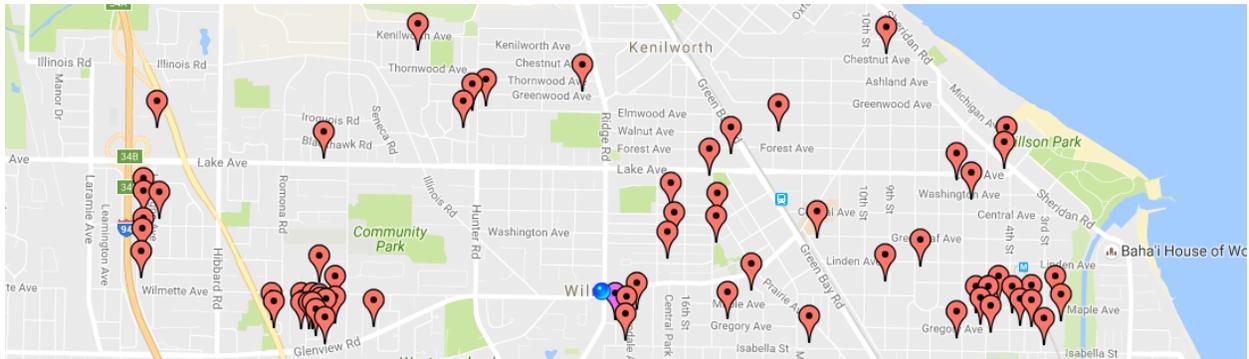
The Police Department has charged 11 individuals clearing 14 of the 17 auto theft cases. In addition we have recovered every auto stolen in the Village. Many of the offenders are juveniles, some are young adults and all have prior contacts with the criminal justice system.

The Connection to Unlocked Auto Burglaries

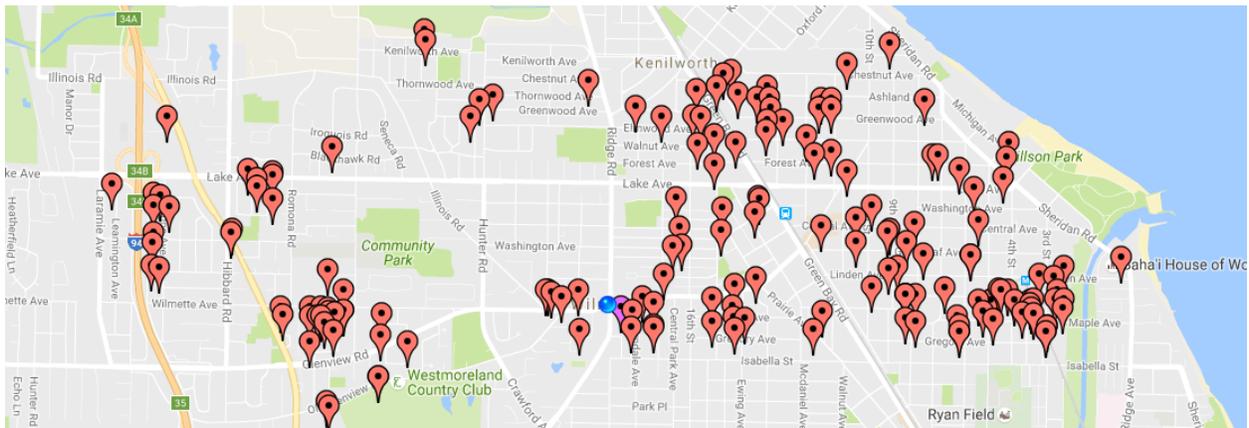
The auto theft pattern is closely connected to our overnight auto burglaries. The primary purpose for auto burglaries in the vast majority of these incidents is to find cars with keys or key FOBs inside so they can be easily stolen.

The Village has experienced 121 burglaries to unlocked vehicles in 2015 and 54 so far this year. These burglaries primarily occur in the overnight hours.

Location of unlocked auto burglaries from January 2016 to August 2016



Location of unlocked auto burglaries from January 2015 to August 2016



Auto Thefts & Burglaries Lead to Other Crimes

Offenders in our auto thefts and auto burglaries are suspects in violent crimes including armed robberies, street robberies and car-jackings. Wilmette experienced an attempted robbery and car-jacking on Monday August 15th in the 400 block of Sandy Lane where two masked offenders attempted to take a woman's vehicle at gunpoint. We believe this attempted armed robbery is related to the same group of offenders. Two of the Wilmette stolen vehicles were recovered with loaded firearms inside.

What does success look like?

Wilmette has experienced success in recovering automobiles stolen in the Village. We have also experienced success in identifying and arresting offenders. Every time an offender finds keys or a key FOB in a luxury vehicle, it encourages him to come back to the community to commit additional crimes. Success in stopping this crime pattern is dependent on a commitment from each of our residents to take their keys and lock their doors. If there are no cars to steal, the offenders will simply go elsewhere. The offenders that we have arrested tell us that it is the areas reputation for an “easy score” that brings them to this area- meaning the ability to find a high end car unlocked with keys inside. One adult offender last year was out of jail mere hours prior to returning to the community to steal another vehicle.

We ask that each resident do his and her part by securing their property and removing the keys from their vehicles.

Brian King
Chief of Police