



## WILMETTE POLICE DEPARTMENT

# Community CRIME ALERT

February 19, 2020

The following is a Crime Alert from the Wilmette Police Department.

If you have any information concerning these crimes, please contact the Wilmette Police Department.

### Diversionsary Residential Burglary

On Saturday, February 15th at 4:10 PM, an unknown male subject wearing a construction vest contacted a homeowner in the 700 block of Lacrosse Ave. The subject told the resident that his neighbor had a water problem and that he needed to check his water. The subject had the homeowner go with him to the basement. A short time later, the homeowner's wife encountered two male subjects on the second floor. These subjects also claimed to be testing water and directed her to the basement. After the three subjects left, the residents discovered that the 2nd floor bedrooms had been ransacked. The subjects took jewelry and cash.

Also, Wilmette Police took a suspicious incident report at residence in the 3100 block of Wilmette Ave. On Saturday, February 15th at 4:00 PM, an unknown male repeatedly rang the doorbell. When the resident answered, the subject told the homeowner that it was going to snow and asked if they wanted their driveway plowed later. But, there was no snow in the forecast.

### Diversionsary Residential Burglary Crime Prevention Tips

- Do not allow anyone inside of your home unless you know them or have a scheduled appointment.
- Do not be lured out of your home or into the backyard without locking your doors.
- If an individual claims to be with a local government agency or public utility, ask them for the identification.
- If someone comes to your house asking for help, tell them you will call the police for them.
- Please be ready to provide a description of the offender(s) (height, weight, clothing, etc), the offender's vehicle and a license plate number.
- Immediately report any suspicious activity by calling 911

**When in Doubt, Call Us Out**

## Auto Burglaries

During the overnight hours, unknown offender(s) burglarized three unlocked vehicles in the following blocks:

- 1600 block of Forest Ave - February 18th to February 19th, two unlocked cars parked in the driveways were searched and change was taken.
- 700 block of Locust - February 6th to February 7th, unlocked car parked in driveway was ransacked and the garage door opener was taken.

## Auto Burglary

On Saturday, February 15th between 3:00 PM and 5:00 PM, an unknown subject(s) smashed a window of a locked vehicle parked in the parking lot in the 900 block of Michigan Ave. The offenders took a briefcase and a silver case that were left on the back seat.

**Always lock your car, home & garage doors and windows. Do not leave purses and wallets in a location visible from a first floor window or door. Immediately contact the Wilmette Police by dialing 9-1-1 if you see or hear something suspicious.**

## Gift Card = Scam

**No government agency or utility will instruct a person to purchase gift cards and provide the account information in order to pay bail, attorney fees, utility bill, or prove identity.** Wilmette Police have taken fraud scam reports concerning tax debt, warrants, arrested family member, and unpaid utility bills that involve the purchasing of gift cards. The caller usually tells the victim that he/she or a loved one is in trouble and could be arrested, have warrant issued for his/her arrest, lose utility service, or some other negative consequence. The caller then tells the victim to purchase gift cards and provide the account information of the gift cards to them in order to pay the bail, the bill or a fee. Sometimes, the caller may even indicate you will be reimbursed at a later date.

On Friday, February 14th at 11:00 AM, a resident was contacted by someone purporting to be from the Social Security Department. The resident was told that based on a vehicle allegedly associated with him, there was a warrant for drug trafficking and money laundering. He was told that this matter could be cleared up if he provided personal information and follow the alleged DEA agent's instructions. He was then directed to stay on the phone and go purchase Target gift cards. He was told to provide the account information of the Target gift cards to verify his identity and clear his name. The caller stated that once his name was cleared, he would get the money back and some additional money for his trouble.



The Wilmette Police Department wants to share with residents the opportunity to register for [Smart911](#), which allows you to create a safety profile that will provide important information to first responders in an emergency. [Smart911](#) is a free opt-in service, and you can provide as much or as little information as you would like. When anyone in your household dials 911 from

a landline or cell phone connected to your safety profile, all the information is immediately displayed to the emergency dispatcher. Download the Smart911 App on the [Apple Store](#) or [Google Play](#) or [Click Here](#) to register for Smart911 online. You can also [check out this video](#) for more information! [Smart911](#) is now the Village's Emergency Notification system, replacing CodeRed. When you register, you can select to receive these alerts via Text, E-mail or voice. Learn more at <https://www.wilmette.com/police-department/>