



police@oak-park.us

www.oak-park.us/police

708.386.3800

Garage burglaries prompt call for citizen vigilance 10.20.11

A recent rash of successful and attempted garage burglaries in one general area of north central Oak Park has Police urging residents to be on the lookout for suspicious persons or activities and not to hesitate to call 9-1-1 immediately if they observe anything out of the ordinary.

Eleven garages were targeted overnight, Wed., Oct. 19, with an offender or offenders gaining entry to six garages and damaging five others in failed attempts to enter. Golf clubs, a lawn mower, a snow blower, a bicycle and a camera were stolen.

Entry was gained to six of the garages with a pry tool or brute force, while the other five garages sustained damaged from similar attempts, but remained secure.

Four incidents occurred in the 1000 and 1100 blocks of Fair Oaks Avenue, three incidents occurred on both the 1000 block of North East Avenue and 1100 block of Columbian Avenue and one occurred on the 1200 block of North East Avenue.

While many garage burglaries in Oak Park occur because doors are left unsecured, Police say the garage owners in these instances had locked their doors, which is why entry was not gained to five of the garages.

"A determined thief can defeat most any kind of lock," said Police Chief Rick Tanksley. "But as we saw in these instances, the thieves had to work for it and didn't succeed in five of the attempts. In cases such as these, an observant property owner or neighbor willing to call 9-1-1 is the best defense."

In addition to locking garage entry doors with deadbolts, Police also are urging property owners to install good lighting with features like motion detectors or automatic dusk-to-dawn switching.

In the meantime, Police say they will be stepping up patrols in alleys throughout the community.

Anyone with information about these incidents or related matters is urged to call 708.386.3800 or e-mail police@oak-park.us.

###