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News Release

Police urge vehicle security by citizens after six recent burglaries

Burglaries, 3 car thefts occurred south of Madison, between 2nd and C streets

ARKANSAS CITY, Kan. (September 5, 2019) — The Arkansas City Police Department is warning residents to remove keys and any visible valuables from parked cars, as well as to lock their car doors, in response to a recent property crime spree.

Residents in the southern portion of Arkansas City have experienced an increased number of car burglaries since the middle of August, according to ACPD Capt. Eric Burr.

Documented car burglaries occurred in an area south of Madison Avenue, stretching from Second Street to C Street and south to the city limits. A total of six burglary reports have been made so far.

In addition, the department also has observed an increased number of stolen cars. A total of four cars have been stolen since Aug. 24, Burr said.

Some commonalities noted in each of the thefts included the geographic area and method. Three of the stolen cars were taken from the same area as the six car burglaries. Additionally, a stolen car from Newkirk, Oklahoma, was recovered in the same area, as well.

Keys left in the ignition or in the car are a contributing factor in three of the four thefts. All of the vehicles since have been recovered.

In response, police patrol presence has been increased in the affected areas. Investigators also are working to identify potential suspects.

During this time, ACPD urges everyone to remove their keys from their vehicles, as well as any valuable items such as wallets, purses, backpacks, electronics and guns, and lock the vehicle's doors.

The Arkansas City Police Department utilizes computer software to track crime trends. The public can access the community crime map for Arkansas City at www.communitycrimemap.com.

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“If you notice someone has been in your car, please call the police department at (620) 441-4444 to make a report,” Burr said. “We rely on mapping geographic locations where crime occurs to help place resources where they are sorely needed.”

The police department also posts nightly reminders to lock up, called “#9PMRoutine.” The reminders appear regularly on the department’s Facebook and Twitter pages.

The 9PM Routine program is aimed at reducing citizens’ chances of being the victims of property crime by removing valuables and keys from their vehicles, and locking the doors.

The reminder also extends to homes, garages and sheds, to increase safety and security.

“We could drastically reduce the chance of being a victim of crime if we all take a proactive approach to crime prevention by doing a few small things around our homes each night,” Burr said.

Finally, through the month of September, the Arkansas City Police Department will be educating the public on “Serial Number September.”

The purpose of this campaign is to raise awareness of the need for citizens to document serial numbers to their most valued belongings, such as guns, electronics and bicycles.

A serial number can help police to track an item, if it is stolen. Documenting a serial number could be as easy as taking a photograph of the number on a cell phone.

Anyone with information about these recent vehicle burglaries and thefts is asked to contact the Arkansas City Police Department at (620) 441-4444.

Those wishing to remain anonymous may contact Cowley County Crime Stoppers, which offers rewards of up to \$2,500 for information leading to an arrest.

Call (620) 442-7777 in Arkansas City or (620) 221-7777 in Winfield, or visit www.tipsubmit.com or accs.crimestoppersweb.com to make an anonymous report.

An anonymous tip also can be submitted by texting ACTIPS to 847411.

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