

Monday, December 30, 2019

Burglary on W. Lenox Street on Friday Night *Resident returned home to discover that someone had been inside and stolen items*

A resident of W. Lenox Street was out for the evening on Friday, December 27, 2019. When she returned home, she noticed that her rear sliding door was slightly ajar. As she moved through the house, she noticed that things were out of place. She quickly left and called the Village Police from the safety of a neighbor's home.

Officer Willie Hearn from the Village Police Department arrived in just a couple of minutes and met with the resident. Officer Hearn searched the house to make sure that it was empty. Although there was no evidence of a forced entry, the resident informed the officer that the rear sliding door was likely left unlocked. After the officer made sure it was safe to do so, he walked through the home with the resident, and she noted that some items of value had been taken from the house.

Officer Hearn was assisted on the scene by a Montgomery County Police patrol sergeant. While still on the scene, the officers called a County Police detective to notify him of the burglary; he will be conducting the follow-up investigation.

Residents are urged to do the following to reduce the chances of their home being burglarized:

- Lock all doors and windows,
- Set alarm systems,
- Place outside lights on (timers are recommended),
- **Install security cameras at the front and rear of your home,**
- Request a house check if you will be away for more than 24 hours, and
- Call the police immediately if you see or hear something that strikes you as suspicious.

Friday, December 27, 2019

Village Officers Arrest Package Thief on Grove Street *Alert residents witnessed the theft, quickly called police*

On Saturday, December 21, 2019, at about 9:30 a.m., a resident of Grove Street watched an unknown man walk into his driveway and pull on the door handles of his cars. The resident then watched the same man try the doors of his neighbor's car. The resident called the Village Police and Officers Joseph Chung and James Timmerman responded.

Once the officers arrived on scene, a second resident informed them that he had watched the suspect steal an Amazon box from the front stoop of a home on Grove Street. Soon thereafter, a third resident came forward and informed the officers that she had seen the suspect carrying a book shortly before Officer Chung arrived.

Officer Chung quickly detained the suspect. When Officer Timmerman arrived to assist, the officers used the observations from our residents to find the discarded Amazon box under a nearby pile of leaves and the discarded contents of the box—a cookbook—at a nearby house; the suspect dropped the book on the front porch of a random home.

Officer Chung arrested the man, identified as Maurice Smith, 39, of Washington, DC, and charged him with theft and attempted theft, and transported him to the county processing center in Rockville.

This arrest was the result of excellent teamwork by several alert residents collaborating with our quick-acting Village police officers. The Village Police Department is grateful to our residents for their help in stopping this thief in his tracks.

Monday, December 9, 2019

Alert Village Officer Interrupts Thief in the Act *Man arrested inside a resident's car*

On Friday, December 6, 2019 at about 11:50 p.m., Officer Drew Fones was on patrol on W. Kirke Street between Magnolia Parkway and Connecticut Avenue when he noticed an open car door and movement inside the dark interior of the car. As Officer Fones drove closer to the parked car, the occupant of the car quickly closed the driver's door. Officer Fones was able to detect that the lone occupant, a tall black male, was desperately trying to recline the driver's seat in an apparent attempt to hide from the approaching officer.

Being familiar with the neighborhood, Officer Fones knew the owner of the car and he instantly knew that the occupant was not the owner. Officer Fones pulled alongside the car and greeted the occupant and asked him if the car belonged to him. The man told Officer Fones that the car belonged to a friend, and that the man was in the car to smoke a marijuana cigarette. Officer Fones noticed that a bicycle was laying on its side immediately behind the car, so he asked the man if the bicycle was his. The man refused to answer any more questions. Fones radioed for assistance, and Village Officers Davor Hrnjak and Alex Jenkins quickly arrived.

Once backup officers were able to detain the suspect, Officer Fones knocked on the owner's front door and verified that no one should be inside his car. The man, later identified as 31 year-old Joshua Hernandez of no fixed address, was arrested, transported to the Central Processing Unit in Rockville, and charged with attempt theft and burglary of a motor vehicle.

Although the car's owner determined that nothing was stolen from his car—thanks to Officer Fones' quick actions—a search of Hernandez' person and belongings revealed a treasure trove of items that were likely stolen from elsewhere.

Excellent, heads-up police work by the midnight team!

Residents are urged to help their neighbors and themselves by locking their cars every time they park. Doing so will remove opportunities from these petty thieves and make them look elsewhere.

Friday, September 27, 2019

Bicycle Taken from Unlocked Garage Overnight *Unlocked car entered nearby, also*

This morning (Friday, September 27, 2019), a resident in the middle block of Grafton Street discovered that his \$700 bicycle had been stolen from his unlocked detached garage overnight.

Also during the same time frame as the bicycle theft, a resident of the 5600 block of Kirkside Drive awoke to find that his unlocked car had been entered. Nothing was stolen from the car.

The Village Police Department urges residents to keep their garages, sheds, and cars locked to prevent theft. Additionally, police are now recommending that residents install outdoor security cameras to capture suspicious activity around their home. Video evidence has proven helpful in identifying and prosecuting thieves, and the cost of such cameras is very reasonable.

Friday, August 23, 2019

Two Vehicles' Windows Smashed

At 12:53 p.m. Tuesday, August 20, 2019, a resident called the Chevy Chase Village Communications Center to report someone had smashed her vehicle's door window. The vehicle was parked in the unit block of Magnolia Parkway between West Irving and Hesketh Streets. Around this same time, a resident in the first unit block of Hesketh Street heard a smashing sound and noticed a male subject walking away from a vehicle parked on the street. The subject was described as 18-21 years old, black male, wearing a gray shirt, black pants, and carrying a black backpack, last seen walking towards Cedar Parkway along the sidewalk.

Village Officers responded to the area, and Montgomery County Police circulated the surrounding area. Ultimately, the suspect was not found. The investigation revealed that the suspect took a tote bag from the vehicle on Magnolia Parkway and a large purse from the vehicle on Hesketh Street. The large purse was recovered on Hesketh Street near Cedar Parkway missing

\$650.00 in cash. The tote bag was not recovered. Officers were able to collect evidence, which has been submitted for analysis by County Police. DC Police also had a couple of thefts that were possibly committed by the same suspect. The investigation into these thefts is ongoing.

In addition to locking vehicles (which these victims did), residents are urged to remove all valuables from sight. If you hear or see anything suspicious, please report it right away to the Village Police Department, 301-654-7300.

Friday, August 9, 2019

Video: See a Nighttime Thief Stealing from an Unlocked Car in Montgomery County *This is EXACTLY why we need to lock our car doors!!*

Hit the below link to see one of the many thieves that work at night to steal from us.

The thief in the below video entered an unlocked Porsche in Montgomery County recently (not within Chevy Chase Village). The owner of the car essentially 'invited' the thief into their car by leaving it unlocked. As you can see, the thief was unfazed when the floodlight was triggered, and he evidently took something from inside the car before running off.

When we leave our cars unlocked, we make it too easy for the thieves. And when they find out how easy it is, they come back again and again.

If the door of this car had been locked, the thief would have moved on to the next driveway.

Please lock your car every time you get out of your car. If you don't, you are contributing to the problem.

<https://gcc01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fring.com%2Fshare%2F6721587701864603259&data=02%7C01%7Cmelissa.weber%40montgomerycountymd.gov%7C20acbc28ab384387a1df08d719aeee44%7C6e01b1f9b1e54073ac97778069a0ad64%7C0%7C0%7C637006094257456817&sdata=2UsnuQTqMQlQd7lcTxvJOjo9%2BSKJK4%2By2SAOfIx4A28%3D&reserved=0>

Friday, August 2, 2019

WARNING: Sophisticated Scammers Pose as PEPCO Agents *Thieves threaten to cut your power off unless you pay 'overdue' bills*

Recently, Village residents have been targeted by a group of fraudsters who have a very convincing set-up. This scam has the potential to separate you from your money. The scammers call your home and they know your name. Your caller ID will show that PEPCO is calling; they

spoof that somehow. They tell you that you have failed to pay your electric bill and that if you are skeptical, you should call PEPCO at **866-583-5999** to verify what they are telling you.

When you call the number provided, you get a very official-sounding recording that says, **“Thank you for calling PEPCO. Please listen carefully to the following as our menu options have changed...”** When you get a live person on the line, it will be a different person than the one who called your home (a man may have called you, but a woman will answer when you call back). Even though you don’t recall seeing any overdue notices, you may begin to believe the scammers at this point. Resist that temptation.

Ultimately, if you continue to be hypnotized by the scammers, they will lead you to pay a false overdue bill by either:

- going to a Western Union office and depositing funds to a scammer-controlled account or
- buying a payment card and transferring the funds to them (they’ll have you read the serial number to them, and your cash is instantly gone).

DO NOT STAY ON THE LINE WITH THESE THIEVES. Hang up the phone and call the Village Police Department.

PEPCO is aware of this scam and they’ve posted a warning on their website; you can read it at the below link:

<https://www.pepco.com/News/Pages/2015-09-16.aspx>

Wednesday, June 5, 2019

VIDEO: Nighttime Theft from Auto in DC turns into a Burglary
After looking into the victims’ unlocked cars, the suspect then entered the occupied house

The Metropolitan (DC) Police are investigating a burglary that occurred on Sunday, June 2, 2019 at about 5:00 a.m. in the 3100 block of Ellicott Street, Northwest (1.5 miles from the Village).

At approximately 5:07 am, the male suspect went into a car parked in the driveway looking to steal from it. At 5:26 a.m., the suspect entered the occupied home through an unlocked door at the rear of the home near the swimming pool. According to the time stamp on the recording, the suspect spent 10 minutes inside the house—**10 minutes!!**—where he stole a laptop computer and other items, then finally fled the scene at 5:36 a.m.

The crime was captured by the homeowner's security camera and you can view it using the below link:

<https://youtu.be/2nOK1yOktKI>

IMPORTANT:

It is imperative that residents lock their cars and their homes. This burglar found it very easy to enter a car then enter the house—and the residents were at home asleep. This is what we (your Police Department) constantly worry about. Please do your part to eliminate the easy opportunities for thieves and burglars to do their work in our community:

- Lock your car and remove all valuables.
- Lock your home.
- Leave outside lights on all night long.
- Call us when your dog barks at night or if you hear/see someone outside.

Please.

Tuesday, May 28, 2019

Drunk Man Enters Home on Chevy Chase Circle

The man told the resident he was trying to call an Uber, then walked out

Shortly after 1:00 Tuesday morning, May 28, 2019, a resident awoke inside her Chevy Chase Circle home to the sound of her dog barking hysterically on the first floor of the house. She then heard the sound of someone trying to 'hush' her dog. When she went to investigate, she found her dog angrily barking at a strange man who was standing in her kitchen.

The resident said that the young (20-25 years old) man appeared drunk, and she asked him why he was in her kitchen. He was holding his smart phone and he replied that he was trying to call and Uber ride. The resident told her husband to call the police, and with that, the young man walked out the way he came in (through an unlocked side door).

Officer Drew Fones arrived in the vicinity within 2 minutes of dispatch, and began to search for the man right away. Officer Fones requested additional officers from the Montgomery County Police, and the county dispatcher relayed the man's description to the DC police, as well. Officers did not locate the man.

The resident told police that she didn't think he intended to commit a crime and that he was confused due to his being drunk.

Residents are urged to keep their doors and windows locked—especially at night and before leaving the house.

Monday, April 8, 2019

6 Bicycles Stolen Since March 1

Thieves are entering unlocked garages looking for bikes

Since March 1, 2019, thieves have stolen 6 bicycles from Village residents. All of the bikes were either in unlocked or wide open garages, or on porches.

This is the time of year when bicycle theft increases. You can help us prevent this crime by doing a few important and simple things:

- **Keep all bicycles in a secure location.** Keep them inside and out of sight. If you store bikes in your garage, lock the garage day and night—even when you are home. An unlocked garage is a prime target of these thieves, and they've entered garages virtually unnoticed even when residents have been at home. If you cannot store your bicycles inside, then lock them to an immovable object.
- **Write down the serial number from every bicycle.** Without a serial number, we cannot identify your bicycle, we likely will not be able to arrest a suspected thief found on your bike, and police will not be able to return your bicycle to you if/when it is found. To make it easy for you, the Village Police Department will register your bicycle for you for free. We will record the serial number and description of your bike and apply a sticker to the frame.
- **If your bike is stolen, please report it to us right away.**
- **Leave your exterior lights on all night long, and call the Village Police Department whenever you see or hear anyone that arouses your suspicions.**

Thursday, March 28, 2019

Man Charged via Civil Citation for Possession of Marijuana ***Alert resident witnessed man smoking in park at Oliver & Cedar***

On Wednesday, March 27, 2019 shortly before 10:00 p.m., a resident called the Village Communications Center to report two people sitting on a bench in the park at Oliver Street and Cedar Parkway apparently sharing a marijuana cigarette. Officer Patterson arrived within

minutes and spotted two teenagers walking away and he greeted them and asked if he could speak with them. As soon as Officer Patterson neared the pair, he smelled a strong odor of marijuana in the air around them.

Officer Hearn arrived to assist Officer Patterson. The officers identified the pair as a 16 year-old boy and a 16 year-old girl, both from Washington, DC. The boy admitted to possessing marijuana and paraphernalia, he produced the items and handed them to the officers. The young man was charged with possession of marijuana, a civil offense, via citation, and his parents were contacted. The boy was detained only long enough to issue the citation, and he was released on the spot. The marijuana and paraphernalia were seized as evidence.

The Village Police Department appreciates the call from the alert resident.

Thursday, March 28, 2019

Beware of a Phony ‘PEPCO’ Telephone Scam *Fraudulent callers threaten to shut off your electricity unless you pay them*

There is no shortage of thieves or the methods that they use to try to separate us from our money. This scam presents a new variation on an old theme.

Within the last week, three Village residents reported that they received a call from a person claiming to be with PEPCO who tells them that their electricity will be shut off due to arrearages unless the resident pays a sum of money to PEPCO right away. The thief then provides an ‘800’ phone number to the resident and directs the resident to call that number and pay ‘PEPCO’ over the phone. The wily thieves have created an authentic-sounding answering system so that, if a would-be victim were to call the 800 number, it will sound as if they have actually reached PEPCO’s automated phone tree.

If you get a call like this, simply hang up. It is not PEPCO. Trust your gut on this. If you miss a payment to PEPCO, they know where you live; they’ll bill you again. Do not fall for this scam. PEPCO is also aware of this scam.

These are a very old confidence games—but they continue to work. Don’t be tricked by these thieves. Residents should keep the following in mind whenever the phone rings:

1. You do not have to answer your phone. If you have caller ID, look at it, and if you don’t recognize the caller, ignore the phone.
2. Never!!! Repeat: never (as in never, ever) give any personal information to anyone who calls you. Bad things will happen. Don’t do it. Period. Ignore the

call.

3. If you happen to answer the phone and the person on the other end asks for money or information, hang up. Do not be courteous; just hang up.

Thursday, March 28, 2019

Nearby Brookville Pharmacy Robbed at Gunpoint *This is part of a trend of pharmacy robberies seeking narcotics*

On Monday, March 25, 2019 shortly after 7:00 p.m. (closing time), as an employee was about to lock the back door at the Brookville Pharmacy in Martin's Additions, two men entered the back door from the parking lot, brandished a gun and demanded that the clerk give them narcotics medications. The narcotics were locked away and inaccessible to the clerk, so the robbers stole cash from the register, struck the clerk, and fled the store. They were last seen getting into a black car with tinted windows. Although the suspects had partially covered their faces, they were described by the victim as either Hispanic or black males.

Thieves have targeted pharmacies across the metropolitan area seeking opioid drugs for resale on the street. The Montgomery County Police Department's Robbery Section is investigating this crime.

Monday, March 25, 2019

Bicycle Taken from Screened Porch over the Weekend

Sometime between Friday evening (March 22, 2019) and Sunday morning (March 24, 2019), someone entered a screened porch of a home on Grafton Street between Kirkside Drive and Wisconsin Avenue. The thief apparently entered the locked porch by pushing the screen inward in order to reach through and turn the latch on the screen door. The thief took an adult bicycle that was likely visible from the street. Two kids' bikes were also on the porch, but they were not taken.

Spring is the time of year when bicycle thefts tend to spike. The Village Police Department recommends storing bicycles inside a locked garage or shed whenever possible. If storing a bike inside is not practical, we urge residents to lock their bicycles to a secure object to prevent easy theft.

If your bicycle is stolen, please report it to us right away. And please register your bicycle with the Village Police Department; or at a minimum, *record the serial number of all of your bicycles* and keep those numbers in a safe place. Without a serial number, we cannot identify

your bicycle, we likely will not be able to arrest a suspected thief found on your bike, and police will not be able to return your bicycle to you if/when it is recovered.

And as always, please leave your exterior lights on all night long, and call the Village Police Department whenever you see or hear anyone that arouses your suspicions—especially at night.

Monday, March 11, 2019

Five Unlocked Cars Entered on Hesketh and Grafton *Village officer discovered the thefts while on patrol*

At 4:15 a.m. today (Monday, March 11, 2019), Officer Ryan Patterson was on patrol on Hesketh Street between Magnolia Parkway and Cedar Parkway when he spotted a purse sitting on top of a car's trunk lid. Immediately suspecting that the purse might have been discarded by thieves, Officer Willie Hearn joined Officer Patterson, and the two officers began to walk through the neighborhood inspecting cars for signs of tampering.

In all, the officers located five cars that appeared to have been entered: four cars on that same block of Hesketh and one car on Grafton Street between Cedar and Kirkside. Investigation revealed that all of the cars had been unlocked. Nothing was taken from three of the cars; loose change was taken from one, and the empty purse was taken from another.

Residents are urged to lock their car doors every time they park their car regardless of the hour, and to remove all valuables from sight. We need your help to make it harder for thieves to get into your cars. For the benefit of you and your neighbors, please lock it up!

Thursday, March 9, 2019

Bicycle Stolen from Unlocked Garage Overnight *Occurred on Hesketh between Magnolia and Cedar*

On Wednesday morning (March 6, 2019), a resident of the unit block of Hesketh Street noticed that his garage doors were wide open; they were closed but unlocked the previous evening when he had gone to bed.

Upon inspection, the resident noticed that his mountain bike was missing from inside the garage. The resident hadn't heard or seen anything suspicious overnight. Village officers canvassed the neighborhood, and none of the neighbors had seen or heard anything, either.

Residents are reminded to lock all exterior doors and windows, and to remove garage door openers from their cars when the vehicles are not parked inside the garage. Residents are also encouraged to leave front and rear porch lights on all night long, and to consider adding exterior security cameras to their alarm systems.

Friday, March 1, 2019

UPDATED: 3 Unlocked Cars Entered in the Village Overnight *2 cars stolen and several cars entered just north of Chevy Chase Village*

Village Incidents

Shortly after 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday, February 27, 2019, a resident of the 3800 block of Bradley Lane called the Village Communications Center and reported that her unlocked car had been entered overnight. The car had been parked in her driveway, and she reported that \$500 cash and her credit cards had been stolen from the car.

Village officers responded to the area and canvassed the neighborhood. Officer Eli Perper found two unlocked cars parked in the driveway of a home in the same block of Bradley that appeared to have been entered. Officer Perper alerted the residents, and they inventoried the contents of their cars. Nothing had been stolen.

A short time later, a resident of the unit block of Grafton Street called to report that her unlocked car had been entered; the vehicle's registration card was the only item reported missing.

Section 3 and Rollingwood Incidents

At 10:00 a.m., after Village officers had left the area of Bradley Lane, a resident of the 3800 block of Bradley lane on the Section 3 (north) side, flagged down a Montgomery County officer to report that their 2013 white Audi A4 had been taken overnight. At about the same time, a resident from the 3400 block of Rolling Court in Rollingwood reported that their 2014 brown Lexus LE460 car was missing. It appears that both cars were left unlocked with the keys inside. County Police informed us that several cars were entered by the thieves in the area around each of the stolen cars.

On Wednesday evening, county police in Silver Spring saw a speeding car and ran the tag; it was the stolen Audi from Bradley Lane. Officers arrested an adult male and an adult female and charged them with the theft. The male has been arrested for thefts several times in DC and in Maryland.

Also on Wednesday evening, the stolen Lexus from Rolling Court was involved in a crash in DC. The occupants ran from the scene. DC police recovered the car and contacted Montgomery County Police. The investigation is continuing.

Wednesday, February 27, 2019

3 Unlocked Cars Entered in the Village Overnight
2 cars stolen and several cars entered just north of Chevy Chase Village

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Friday, February 8, 2019

Car Stolen from W. Newlands and Recovered Hours Later in DC
Key job had been left inside the car

Shortly after 7:00 a.m. on Thursday, February 07, 2019, Village residents out for a walk spotted a small pile of mail and other papers discarded on the roadway in the unit block of Newlands Street (between the Newlands semi-circle and Brookville Road). The residents took a closer look at the discarded items and found the name and address of a nearby resident on some of the documents. The residents called the Village police.

Thinking that the items might have been discarded by thieves, Officer Timmerman responded quickly to the call to collect the items, while Officer Chung responded directly to the address reflected on the documents.

Once at the address, Officer Chung made contact with the homeowner who immediately discovered that his 2013 Jaguar was missing from his driveway. The man said that he had left the car's key fob and his company's iPad inside the stolen car. Village officers entered the stolen auto's information into the national crime database.

With the help of his company's IT staff, the victim located his iPad in Washington, DC. The victim contacted the DC police who located the stolen car. The victim met with DC police and drove his car back to Chevy Chase Village where Village Officer Timmerman and a Montgomery County Auto Theft Detective processed the car for latent evidence. Several items will be sent to the county crime lab for analysis.

The investigation is continuing.

Residents are reminded to remove all keys and key fobs from their cars, to lock their cars and remove all valuables, and to remove any garage door openers from their cars when they park.

Tuesday, January 29, 2019

Attempted Burglary on East Side ***Front door kicked, door frame damaged, but thief did not enter***

At 2:24 p.m. today (Tuesday, January 29, 2019), the Montgomery County Emergency Communications Center dispatched a call for an alarm at a home in the 100 block of Primrose Street (between Brookville Road and Oxford Street).

Village Officer Joseph Chung arrived on the scene at 2:26 p.m. and immediately found that the front door was slightly ajar. On closer inspection, Officer Chung could see that the door handle and frame had been damaged. Officer Chung called for assistance. Additional Village and County officers quickly arrived and surrounded the house.

Officer Chung and the K9 team made entry into the home to make sure that it was safe. It had been snowing prior to the alarm, yet there were no wet footprints inside the foyer nor was there any other evidence of someone having entered the home. The officers searched the house; there was no one inside and it appeared to be undisturbed. When the homeowner arrived, she verified that nothing inside the house had been moved or taken. The person who damaged the door did not enter the home; perhaps the sound of the alarm caused him to leave. Officers conducted a neighborhood canvass and found no eyewitnesses.

In this event, the resident locked their home and set their alarm. Residents are encouraged to do so.

IMPORTANT:

Residents are urged to direct their alarm monitoring companies to call the Chevy Chase Village Police Department rather than the County Police Department. Due to the volume and serious nature of some of the calls that the County Police receive, alarm calls are low priority calls for them. If the County Police are busy, incoming alarm calls will be held in queue while higher priority calls are dispatched. Village officers may be available to respond, but if the call is being held by the County, our Village officers will not be aware of the call. **To avoid this potential delay, residents should make sure that their alarm company is directed to call the Village at 301-654-7300 to get an immediate police response.**

Friday, January 11, 2019

Worker's Stolen Car Recovered in Prince George's County *Owner had left key inside his unlocked car*

On Thursday, January 03, 2019 at about 3:30 p.m., a contractor who was working at a home in the 100 block of E. Lenox Street called police to report that his car was stolen within the past hour. The man said that he had left the key inside his red 2008 Cadillac CTS, and when he returned to the driveway, he discovered that his car was gone.

Village officers placed the stolen vehicle information in the national crime database, and gave the information directly to the county police and DC police.

The car was located in Prince George's County. After determining that the car had apparently been abandoned by unknown thieves, Montgomery County detectives impounded the car and will be processing it for evidence.

The investigation is continuing.

Wednesday, January 9, 2019

Remove Garage Door Openers from Your Cars *Thieves used garage door openers to enter garages in 2 recent events*

On Sunday morning (January 6), Montgomery County officers responded to a call just north of the Village in Martin's Additions. The victim reported that he found his car rummaged through

and his overhead garage door was wide open. The victim had left his car parked in the driveway. Apparently, a thief entered the victim's car, rooted around, and then used the victim's garage door opener to access the interior of the garage. A total of 4 residents in the area (Martin's Additions, Section 3) also reported that their vehicles had been entered; thieves smashed windows to steal visible items inside two of the cars. All told, several items were stolen including 3 bicycles. Security video from a resident in Section 3 showed two thieves entering the victim's car at about 3:30 a.m. Click on the below link to see the video.

Link: <https://ring.com/share/6643299634992445270>

Shortly after 3:00 a.m. on Tuesday, January 8, a resident in the 5500 block of Grove Street heard his garage door opening. When he looked out the window, he saw two men entering his garage and then fleeing toward Cedar Parkway—one riding the resident's stolen bicycle, and the other on foot. The resident called the Village Communications Center, and Officers Ryan Patterson and Willie Hearn responded immediately and arrived in two minutes. The officers searched the area for the suspects without success.

Investigation revealed that the thieves entered one of the resident's vehicles which was parked outside, found a garage door opener within the car, and used it to raise the garage door and enter the garage. Officers Patterson and Hearn found that three additional vehicles on that same block had been entered and rummaged through.

Village police are in regular contact with Montgomery County and DC Police; those agencies report that they are dealing with a high number of thefts from auto.

The Village Police Department strongly recommends that residents remove their garage door remote control openers from their cars overnight to prevent thieves from using the openers to enter their garage. Thankfully, the thieves have not yet entered the interior of the homes after entering the garages, but this is a possibility. **Please bring your garage door openers inside your home, and lock the door from the garage into your home.**

Friday, January 4, 2019

Worker's Car Stolen on E. Lenox Street During the Day *Owner left the key inside the unlocked car*

On Thursday, January 03, 2019 at about 3:30 p.m., a contractor who was working at a home in the 100 block of E. Lenox Street called police to report that his car was stolen within the past hour. The man said that he had left the key inside his red 2008 Cadillac CTS, and when he returned to the driveway, he discovered that his car was gone.

While officers were on the scene of the stolen auto, they were approached by two landscapers who had been working at a residence directly across the street from the stolen auto. The

landscapers reported that unknown persons had taken a smart phone and two lunch boxes from their unlocked work truck.

About 30 minutes later, three roofers in the unit block of E. Lenox Street called to report that unknown persons had apparently entered their unlocked work truck and stolen each of their cell phones.

Village officers placed the stolen vehicle information in the national crime database, and gave the information directly to the county police and DC police.

None of the victims reported seeing any suspects. The investigation is continuing.

January 3, 2019

Investigation of Area-Wide (DC/MD) Daytime Thefts from Work Trucks Progresses *Village Police Need Your Help to Spot the Suspects*

Recently, several contractors in the Village experienced thefts from their work trucks during daytime hours. Some of those thefts involved broken truck windows. Investigation revealed that the County Police and Metropolitan (DC) Police were seeing the same pattern. All three police agencies have been working hard to share information to identify suspects and make some arrests.

A DC police officer was able to obtain an image of the suspects (see below) from a surveillance camera in the area of one of the crimes in DC. The photo, combined with other information from DC, provides valuable information. The suspects apparently posed as construction workers with yellow reflective jackets and a hard hat as they broke into work trucks.

Please keep a lookout for anyone wearing similar construction clothing/gear and call the Village Police immediately. Officers will respond immediately and investigate.