



Sheriff Walter L. Davis III

Delaware County Sheriff's Office
Community Relations

Sheriff Alert

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Information disseminated is intended to inform citizens of criminal and suspicious activity in and around residential and business areas that affect our community. The information provided is intended to provide a proactive approach to our law enforcement services and enhance the communication between the community and law enforcement officials that serve and protect the citizens of Delaware County. Any questions or concerns, or any information that needs to be disseminated immediately contact the Delaware County Sheriff's Office Community Relations at 740-833-2886.

Is Your Garage Door Locked? Burglars want to know

The Delaware County Sheriff's Office wishes to thank all of the residents who offered us a warm welcome during National Night Out on Tuesday, August 3. Sheriff Davis and more than two dozen deputies provided extra patrols in 30 Delaware County neighborhoods. This was a great opportunity to take extra time to greet families, heighten crime prevention awareness and strengthen community spirit.

It is important to note that as sheriff's deputies patrolled the neighborhoods, they noticed a large number of open garage doors. In many cases, garages were wide open while residents were either in the back yard, indoors or away from home. Lawnmowers, bikes, hand tools and other property were easily visible from the street. Sheriff Davis urges residents to put their garage doors down even if you are home. An open garage door is an invitation to burglars looking for items to steal.

In the past month, the Sheriff's Office has taken at least 15 reports of property stolen from open garages. In many cases, the thief rummaged through vehicles after finding them unlocked inside the open garages. From these unprotected vehicles GPS units, purses, personal papers, sunglasses and iPods were stolen. In other cases, things stored in the garage like bicycles, leaf blowers and hand tools were taken.

Sometimes residents tell the Sheriff's Office they can't figure out what happened to their property because they only left the door open a few minutes while working in their yard. A burglar can grab your property and leave in just a minute or two. A brazen burglar will do this even during daylight hours and while you are at home. Make sure garage doors are closed and locked both day and night. The Sheriff's Office urges homeowners to take an active role in crime prevention. Remember, burglars are opportunistic; if your house appears secure, they will move on.

Tips to help protect your property:

- **Lock it or you might loose it.** Close your garage door and lock any other doors and windows. Lock your car doors even inside the garage.
- **Be aware.** Watch for suspicious persons or vehicles and write down their license plate numbers.
- **Trust your instincts.** Don't hesitate to report suspicious persons and activity.
- **Write down serial numbers** along with make and model of your valuables. Plus mark your name, initials or other identifying information on your property. Should something be stolen, this increases your chances of getting it back.