

MPNA ALERT

The Melrose Park Neighbors Association

Neighborhood Alert Number 14

Friday, March 28, 2008

From MPNA President – Andy Rudin andrewrudin@earthlink.net

What is a Melrose Park Neighbors Alert?

If the police think there is an increase in activity in a particular section of our neighborhood, they will email me the information. I will then send it out to our email list with the hope that neighbors will notify the police if they see any potentially dangerous or criminal behavior. The MPNA website is www.melroseparkneighbors.org.

What do we do if we see dangerous or criminal behavior?

Call 9-1-1 for suspicious activity in progress or soon after. For tips, additional information or questions, call Sergeant John P. Slavin, at 215-885-1600 ext. 482, or email johnslavin@cheltenham-township.org

Alert #14

Andy, Please pass the following information on to your friends and neighbors. We are experiencing a number of theft from auto reports throughout the Township. The majority of the thefts involve unlocked cars with valuables left out in plain sight. Please encourage your friends to report suspicious activity and persons to the Police Department.

Thefts from Vehicles Police Departments throughout the tri-county area are experiencing an increase in theft from vehicle complaints. Most of the thefts occur during the evening or early morning hours. Here are some helpful tips that may deter a thief from targeting your vehicle.

Immediately report suspicious activity in your neighborhood to the Police. Never leave a car door unlocked, or window or sunroof open, even when just going into a shop for a moment or two or even when parked in your own driveway. It is amazing how many people do not lock their vehicles. Park in well lit areas of parking lots and utilize motion activated spotlights in your driveway. Remove the ignition key and engage the steering lock, even when parking on your own property. If you have an alarm, turn it on every time you park. Security mark your stereo or satellite radio and if it is a removable type always take it with you. Make a note of the serial numbers on radios, computers, etc. Do not leave purses, backpacks, or wallets in the vehicle. Never leave credit cards or check books in the vehicle. Never leave money (cash or coins) or jewelry in in the vehicle.

If you have a garage or access to a garage, use it. Then lock the garage. If you have an attached garage make sure the door between the house and garage is always locked. If your garage door opener is stolen from your vehicle, you risk giving the criminal access to your entire home. If you are a victim of a theft from auto incident, file a police report. It is difficult for the Police Department to analyze crime trends and patterns without having an accurate picture of what crimes are occurring in what areas. If you are a victim of a theft from auto incident, please notify the Cheltenham Police Department as soon as possible. Try to avoid touching the vehicle until after the responding Police Officer has an opportunity to inspect the vehicle for any evidence left behind by the thief.

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