



MELISSA MINUTE

FEBRUARY 2009

Helpful Tips from the Chief of Police to Avoid Becoming a Victim of Auto Burglary:



In just this past year alone, auto burglaries in Collin County have risen dramatically. Burglary of Motor Vehicle (BMV) cases can be very difficult to solve as, typically, little physical evidence is left behind. These offenses occur during all hours of the day, affecting both residential and business areas. However, in many cases these vehicle burglaries have been crimes of opportunity that could have possibly been avoided if preventative measures were taken.

Here are some simple vehicle burglary prevention tips to follow that may help keep you, your family, friends, or neighbors from becoming a victim. These steps should be used whenever and wherever you park your vehicle, whether you are just "running in for a minute" or parking for the evening.

- **ALWAYS close your windows, and lock your vehicle and garage doors** as an open or unlocked window/garage door is an invitation to a criminal and an easy target.
- **Park in well lit areas close to the building** or if at home, park in the garage (always the best option).
- **Lighting is one of the best property crime deterrents.**
- **ALWAYS remove loose valuables from your vehicle** including the garage door opener, as it is an easy way for a Burglar to gain entry into your home.
- **This includes purses, wallets, cellular phones, laptop computers, loose change, briefcases, etc.** A car burglar loves to see items that can be grabbed easily and carried away without much effort.
- **ALWAYS set your car alarm (if so equipped)** and take note of any car alarms you hear going off in your vicinity.
- **Don't hesitate to call 911 to report suspicious persons** if any are seen in or around parking lots/neighborhoods (particularly after hours) and/or looking into cars as they walk by. Police Officers cannot be everywhere, so we count on citizens to be our "eyes" and "ears" and report these types of suspicious activities.
- **Record the make, model and serial number of all your commonly used electronic equipment** (even if you plan on never leaving these devices in your vehicle). Having this information available is necessary in order to enter the items into the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) computer database. This will aid police in trying to locate the items if the offender(s) are found with them or if they are pawned. This will also ensure the property is returned to the rightful owner.

The Melissa Police Department is asking that every citizen do their part in helping to fight crime by taking both preventive action and spreading the word about this ever growing problem. Working together we can make a difference.

Should you have any questions concerning vehicle burglaries, other crimes or neighborhood watch, please contact the Melissa Police Department at (972) 838-2033. Should you need to report a crime, please call 911 or the Melissa Police Department non-emergency number (972) 838-2033.

CITY COUNCIL

- David Dorman, Mayor*
- Dan Trott, Mayor Pro Tem, Place 5*
- Randy Kaiser, Place 1*
- Stan Mercer, Place 3*
- Bill Reynolds, Place 4*
- Sharon Weideman, Place 2*

MANAGEMENT TEAM

- Jason Little, City Administrator 972-838-2338*
- Linda Bannister, City Secretary 972-838-2338*
- Jan Clark, City Librarian 972-837-4540*
- Gail Dansby, Finance Director 972-838-2338*
- Dana Nixon, Development Services Coordinator 972-838-2036*
- Duane Smith, Police Chief 972-838-2033*
- Perry Elliott, Fire Chief 972-837-1268*
- Brian Akins, Public Works Superintendent 469-853-9800*

City Hall is located at:

901 State Highway 121
 Melissa, TX 75454-9501
 Call (972) 838-2338
 Fax (972) 837-2452
www.cityofmelissa.com



Springtime Reminders from Code Enforcement

Some concerns Code Enforcement addresses are:

Illegal Sign Placement: It is illegal to erect or affix a sign in the right-of-way (the area from the curb to the sidewalk), on the median (the area in the middle of any street), on trees, public fences and/or buildings, or utility/telephone poles.



Garage Sale signs do not require the issuance of a Sign Permit but can only be at the location of the garage sale.

High Grass/Weeds: Twelve inches (12") is the height limit for grass and/or weeds. This includes the front, back, side yard, and right-of-ways. The grass in any alley and/or easement (area behind property) must be maintained to the mid-point. Property owners who regularly cultivate their properties are required to mow the outer perimeters and maintain the right of way adjacent to their properties.



Trash and Debris: Property owners, residents, and businesses are required to keep property free and clear of: (1) All material subject to deterioration by the elements, such as furniture, boxes, appliances, vehicle parts, tires, paper, and other objectionable, unsafe, unsanitary and/or unsightly matter; and (2) Material which is stored in a disorderly manner or in such a manner as to offer harborage of rodents/ or other vermin. Lumber and any building materials, except masonry should be stored at least eighteen inches (18") off the ground. (Items not made for outside use should not be stored outdoors.) All fallen debris is to be removed from the property as soon as possible. For trash pickup, please call IESI at (469) 452-8000.

Unsecured Swimming Pools: All private pools, spas, and hot tubs, with a depth of 24" (inches) or more, must be secured by a barrier which can be a fence, wall, building wall, or combination thereof which completely surrounds the swimming pool and obstructs access to the swimming pool.

Parking Prohibitions on Unsurfaced Areas:

No car, truck, or other vehicle shall be parked on an unsurfaced area of the front yard, unless such property has an improved surface of gravel, asphalt or concrete already established on which to park vehicles.



If you would like to report a violation of City codes, please call the Code Enforcement Division at 972-838-1081.

Code Enforcement Officers inspect properties daily, therefore, a Code Enforcement Officer may not be available to receive a complaint call. Please leave a voice mail message. You may also send your concern via e-mail to: ggnader@cityofmelissa.com.

Please ensure that you provide the COMPLETE street address or cross street location, and the TYPE of complaint (i.e. falling fence, high grass/weeds, illegal dumping) and any other information that may be helpful to the Code Officer.

City of Melissa General Election: May 9, 2009

The City of Melissa will hold a General Election, Saturday, May 9, 2009, to elect a Mayor and Council Members from Places 2 and 4.

We encourage all of our citizens to exercise your right to vote.



Please visit the Collin County Election website for specific voting locations, dates and times for early voting and Election Day information:

http://www.co.collin.tx.us/elections/election_information/index.jsp.

Catch Spring Fever at City of Melissa Parks!



The City of Melissa has two beautiful parks available to the community. **Zadow Park** is located on McKinney Street (Highway 5) and it has a pavilion, restrooms, picnic areas with grills, sand volleyball court, basketball/Inline skate court, and three baseball fields.

Bob Miller Park is located off Berry Road and has a pavilion area, playground and restrooms.

Please call the Development and Neighborhood Services Office at 214-544-9021 for more information.

Exciting Days at the Library!

Spring Break Program

March 16-20, 2009

Read/Write/Draw for prizes. Ages 2-12 years-old.



Celebrate 15 years of the Melissa Public Library!

Count Down beginning April 26 and ends May 30, 2009.

Door Prize drawings 3 each week. Names drawn at random during the week.

Come See us at the Library at 1713 Cooper Street or call 972-837-4540 for more information.

