**Warning: Car Burglaries in Waller County**

Recently, **northern Waller County neighborhoods have been targeted by car burglars**. Thieves are usually “opportunists” who exploit a situation for their personal gain or benefit. They find unlocked cars and trucks and steal electronic items, some which are clearly visible from the outside. They also steal cash, guns, computers, radar detectors, brief cases, or anything of value that can be easily carried away. **The most commonly stolen items in Waller County are HANDGUNS, and they are stolen from unlocked vehicles.**

The handguns are easily converted to cash by sale from person to person, and also by trading for drugs or contraband. Stolen items are sold to friends and acquaintances and to others through internet markets, such as Craigslist or OfferUp.

Please prevent burglaries and thefts of your belongings by:

1. Locking vehicles and raising windows
2. Setting your alarm or anti-theft devices
3. Parking in well-lit areas
4. Recording serial numbers, make, models, and brands of guns and electronics
5. Placing identifying information on items with engraver (drivers license number, NOT social security number or date of birth, as these may inspire identity theft)
6. Being aware of your surroundings and reporting suspicious activity. Any of the below would be suspicious:
* Persons hanging out in the areas adjacent to parking lots
* Persons distributing handbills and flyers on vehicles
* Persons disembarking from a vehicle, with the vehicle continuing to cruise in a parking lot
* Persons walking to cars and lifting the handles in search of unlocked doors
* Persons who work in pairs: One distracts the driver while the other steals property
1. Never leaving your vehicle unattended with the engine running
2. NOT using a “hide-a-key” device, as thieves know how or where to find these

This message is brought to you by the Sheriff Glenn Smith and the Waller County Sheriff’s Office and G & W Water Supply. Please contact the Waller County Sheriff’s Office at 979.832.8282, for more information, or to report a crime. You may also contact Waller County Crime Stoppers, at 979.826.8266, or WallerSheriff@wallercounty.us