

From the desk of Officer Marshall Morehead

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Something for Nothing

We all love this time of year. The weather starts being just about perfect, the football games are all getting a little more important, and when you're walking or working outside you don't feel like you're swimming in the humidity. Unfortunately, other people like this time of year for completely different reasons. There are those in our community who would like nothing more than to get your hard earned belongings at no cost. These people sneak around at 2 and 3 o'clock in the morning and look for things in your vehicle. There has been a rise in these types of incidents lately all over the County, with most of it occurring just outside of the City limits.

As I've spoken about in past articles, these people are predominantly lazy and don't realize if they'd put the same time and effort into working that they put into stealing they would probably be successful. Throughout history in any society there always has been, and will be a petty criminal element. With the dragging economy held firmly in hand as an excuse, this element will continue to commit crimes and break the law with no remorse. There was a time when a person would be ashamed of living a life where they didn't earn what they possessed. But as I look around at the signs of the times, such as the clothing being worn by our children, the manner in which the parents allow it to be worn, the vulgar language that is spoken in public (by men, women and children alike) and the complete disrespect many in our County treat each other with, I see that shame is a commodity that is running a little low.

You've heard me refer to this type of incident as window shopping in the past and the same techniques I've spoken of are usually successful in defeating it. Locking your car doors (even when you only plan on being out of your vehicle for a few minutes) and not leaving anything of value in plain site are the two best tactics that will keep a lazy criminal (most of them) out, however there are a few other things that you can do. When at home, make sure you park under a yard light or motion activated flood light. When eating out or going into a business, try to park where you can see your vehicle from inside. And just generally look out for one another. As I've often said, we have some really good Law Enforcement Officers in Colleton County, but we can't be everywhere at the same time. Criminals know this and try to take advantage of the fact, but we, the people, are all over the County and can make a dramatic difference in crime reduction just by working together and reporting any suspicious activity. I have had several groups from different parts of the City call and get information about community crime watches, before I left to go to the Fire Academy. Now is the time to take advantage of this interest. All it takes is several concerned citizens to make a difference. One such group will be meeting at Forest Hills Elementary School on Thursday Oct 24th at 5pm. This group has invited local Law Enforcement and wants to combat the criminal problems specific to their part of our community. I applaud them for their effort and invite anyone in the Forest Hills area (or elsewhere that wants to learn about how to start a crime watch) to join us. Thank you again for your time and for helping us to better serve you.