

With warm weather and school out for the summer, this is the time of year law enforcement experiences an increase in vandalism, auto theft, and mischief that frequently causes damage to property. These tips from the Bay County Sheriff Department will help prevent crime in and around your home.

Lock It! We have had several entering automobile incidents in recent weeks. In every incident these vehicles were left unlocked in driveways with valuables visible from the outside. The simplest deterrent for this is to lock your car doors and remove valuables (laptops, ipods, GPS systems, ect.) by taking them inside or securing them in the trunk, out of sight. Always lock the doors to your home, especially at night or when leaving the house for any amount of time.

Light It Up! Lighting is a key to keeping vandals away at night. Motion sensors and flood lights are great deterrents. Additionally, let your neighbors know when you will be out of town.

Shut It! Please keep your garage doors down even during daylight hours. We have had several incidents of vandalism regarding this. An open garage is an invitation for a thief to survey and steal items.

As always, be observant and familiar with your surroundings at all times. If you see any suspicious activity or persons in your neighborhood call 911 immediately. For other issues call the non-emergency dispatch number 892-9551. Thank you for your help keeping our township safe!