



# DARIEN POLICE



JOSEPH A. MARCHESE  
Mayor

GREG THOMAS  
Chief of Police

EDWARD RENTKA  
Deputy Chief - Operations

1710 Plainfield Road  
Darien, Illinois 60561-5044  
Administration 630.971.3999  
FAX 630.971.4326  
Police Response 9-1-1  
[www.darien.il.us](http://www.darien.il.us)

## IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM THE DARIEN POLICE CHIEF

Dear Resident,

The Darien Police Department would like to share important information with you about crimes that have occurred in Darien, as well as surrounding communities, and provide you with valuable tips that can help keep you and your family safe.

First, it's important to emphasize that Darien is a safe community. **Crime in Darien is on the decline.** In 2019, Darien experienced one of its lowest reported crime totals in years.

### Residential Burglaries

While crime is down, we have recently seen an upswing in residential burglaries, which primarily occur during the day when most residents are not at home.

One type is "ruse" burglaries where the perpetrators represent themselves as utility workers/contractors, claiming that there is an issue in the area (e.g. water, electricity, gas) or that your home is in need of repair. They will try to gain access to your home to keep you occupied while another offender searches for items to steal.

The other more prevalent residential burglary is when an offender determines a house is empty and forces open a door. Typically an offender will knock on the door and if no one answers, they walk to the rear of the house and force entry through the rear door. Other times, they may sit in a vehicle on the street pretending to talk on the phone and wait for someone to leave and then enter the home. These forced entry burglaries also tend to occur during the day when no one is home.

### Together, we can make Darien safer. Follow these important tips:

- If you see suspicious people, vehicles or circumstances, call 911 and the police will respond. Please use 911 for reporting any type of incident.
- Never let anyone that you're not expecting come inside your home. Legitimate businesses will schedule an appointment in advance and will not show up at your door unannounced. If a contractor/worker comes to your door without an appointment, **call 911** so that the police can check their official photo identification and verify who they are and why they are at your house.

- Email security camera video or photos of suspicious people to us at [crimetips@darienil.gov](mailto:crimetips@darienil.gov).

### ***2019 Darien Crime Stats Snapshot***

216 Part I Crimes\* were reported in 2019.

This represents a **reduction by one half** (1/2) compared to five and ten years ago.

*\*The FBI Uniform Crime Reporting Statistics identifies Part I offenses as murder, rape, robbery, assault & battery, burglary, motor vehicle theft, theft and arson.*

### ***Report a Crime Tip!***

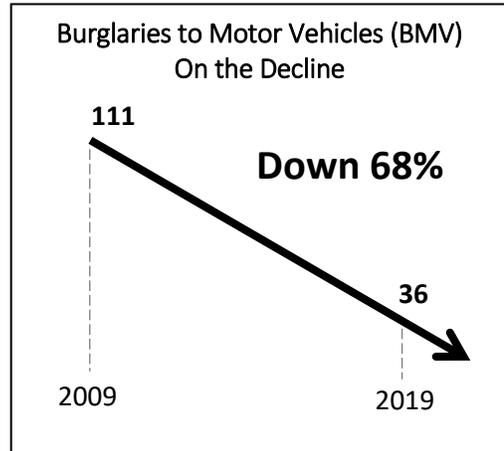
Email: [crimetips@darienil.gov](mailto:crimetips@darienil.gov)

Call: [630-353-8150](tel:630-353-8150)

[Leave a message and one of our detectives will be glad to assist you.](#)

### Burglary to Motor Vehicle / Motor Vehicle Theft

Burglary to Motor Vehicles (BMV) and Motor Vehicles Theft (MVT) continue to occur, but are easily preventable. These crimes typically occur during the overnight hours. **The majority (90%) of BMV and MVT happen because the vehicle was not locked. Cars are stolen because the keys or key fob are left in the vehicle.** The good news is that we have seen fewer BMVs in Darien – down more than 68% from 10 years ago. However, MVT are up. Sometimes these stolen cars are used in other crimes. By working together, we can reduce BMV even more and reverse the trend on MVT.



#### Please remember these safety tips:

- Lock your car doors, even if you will only be away for a short period of time.
- Do not leave your keys or key fobs in the vehicle and don't leave valuables in your car (Trunk It -or- Take It).
- If you park your vehicle outside, do not leave your garage door remote in the vehicle. Thieves can use it to open the garage door, gain access to your garage and possibly your home. Even if you park inside your garage, bring your keys/key fob inside your home and lock the garage door leading into your home every night before bed.

Thank you for your time and assistance. Together we will continue to make Darien a nice place to live.

Sincerely,

Greg Thomas  
gthomas@darienil.gov  
630-353-8351

*\*For more information on Darien Police and to stay up to date on news and updates, check out my Chief's Monthly Report available at [darien.il.us/City-Services/Police.aspx](http://darien.il.us/City-Services/Police.aspx). Along the left column click on "Police Chief Report."*

#### Help Darien Police Solve Crimes – Register Your Video Security System

The Darien Police Department encourages residents to voluntarily register their video security system so we can contact you and request use of this video, if needed. Visit [www.darien.il.us](http://www.darien.il.us) and search for Video Camera Registry.

#### Connect with Us!

During an emergency situation, Darien will provide critical information via our Direct Connect email newsletter and our social media channels. Follow us to stay informed on important City news and community events.



**Darien Direct Connect eNews:** subscribe by visiting [darien.il.us](http://darien.il.us) or texting **Darien to 42828**



**Social Media:** Follow the City of Darien and the Darien Police Department on Facebook and Twitter. Visit [darien.il.us](http://darien.il.us) for links to our official pages.