



Bureau of Police  
City of Lancaster  
39 West Chestnut Street  
Lancaster, PA 17602



## Press Release

### Recent Downtown Burglaries

Author: Lt. Stephen Skiles

Contact Number: 717-735-3300

Date: September 29, 2008

### Recent Downtown Burglaries

During the past week, the Lancaster Bureau of Police has investigated several burglaries within the downtown business district. These incidents occurred in the evening and early morning hours. Entry has been gained through first floor windows and doors, some of which had been left unlocked. Some of the stolen items include laptop computers, cash, and other easily concealed items.

Anyone with information is asked to contact the Lancaster Police at 735-3300.

### Burglary Prevention Tips

#### Securing your home or business:

- „h Always lock your doors and windows when you leave. Burglaries can occur in a very short amount of time.
- „h Use a sturdy dead bolt lock.
- „h Install solid doors. Hollow doors are easy to kick in or force.
- „h Use wooden dowels (Charlie bars) to block sliding doors and windows from being opened. Place screws or pins in double hung windows to ensure that the window can only be opened a certain amount.

#### Lighting and planting:

- „h Keep your porch light on. Good lighting will help make it harder for a burglar to go unnoticed.
- „h Keep bushes and trees around windows trimmed. Bushes and trees that block windows give a burglar the perfect opportunity to break into your home or business unnoticed.
- „h Consider the use of motion sensors.

#### When you are away:

- „h Ask a trusted neighbor to take in your mail and papers for you.
- „h Use timers on lights, stereo and TV to give your house the appearance of activity.
- „h Have the grass mowed or the snow shoveled.
- „h Leave contact information for your neighbors.

#### Easy Changes:

- „h Lock doors and windows before you leave.
- „h Keep expensive property away from windows and doors.
- „h Change your answering machine message. Never say that you „are not home right now“.
- „h Get to know your neighbors. Good neighbors will notice suspicious activity and will call the police.
- „h Call 664-1180 for suspicious activity in process.

For additional crime prevention tips call: (717) 735-3315

To meet with your Neighborhood Police Officer or to learn more about the Lancaster Bureau of Police, go to [www.lancasterpolice.com](http://www.lancasterpolice.com)



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