



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

May 25, 2010

### **St. Mary's County Bureau of Criminal Investigations Public Service Announcement**

The St. Mary's County Bureau of Criminal Investigations recently arrested four individuals for breaking into numerous motor vehicles and stealing items from within the vehicles. Over fifty vehicles were broken into and thousands of dollars in property was stolen. The investigation revealed the suspects specifically targeted unsecured/unlocked vehicles. Examples of items taken during these thefts from motor vehicles include:

1. Purses and Wallets
2. U.S. Currency
3. Cellular Telephones
4. GPS and other navigation systems
5. Electronic devices such as iPods and MP3 players
6. Power tools

Thieves who break into motor vehicles frequently target vehicles parked in large parking lots, such as apartment or townhouse communities. The thief will survey vehicles in the parking lots and break into vehicles which are left unlocked or are not equipped with anti-theft devices to prevent drawing attention to themselves.

The St. Mary's County Bureau of Criminal Investigation would like to remind citizens to please take the following precautions in securing vehicles:

1. Park in well-lit areas and **LOCK** your vehicle
2. Make sure windows are rolled completely up and secured
3. Lock passenger compartments inside of your vehicle such as the glove box and center console
4. Never leave valuable items in plain view. Remove the items from the vehicle or secure them in the trunk.

Captain Terry Black  
Commander  
St. Mary's County Bureau of Criminal Investigations