



# WINTER HAVEN

## *The Chain of Lakes City*

### POLICE DEPARTMENT

Gary W. Hester, Chief of Police

Date: July 5, 2011  
Time: 11:00 A.M.  
Contact: Jamie Brown – Public Information Officer  
Office - (863) 295-5905 Cell – (863) 559-0449

WINTER HAVEN – The Winter Haven Police Department is reminding residents that criminal activity can be prevented when one thing is eliminated – opportunity. And the opportunity for car burglaries has been on the increase due to a one simple thing that victims have in common - unlocked doors on the vehicles.

It is imperative that residents take the step to lock all of the doors to their vehicles in order to alleviate the opportunity for criminals to have easy access to the inside, resulting in theft. It is also a good idea to keep items out of plain view in the vehicle. Keeping items locked in the trunk or not leaving things in the vehicle at all is another way to help prevent the unfortunate situation of someone trying to gain access to steal property, no matter how small or insignificant it may be. This includes GPS units, cell phones, change in the console, and even gym bags with nothing more than clothes inside.

“When cars have items in plain view, it’s an open invitation to criminals who are looking for anything they can get their hands on,” said Jamie Brown, Winter Haven Police Crime Prevention Specialist. “Add an unlocked door to that scenario and it significantly increases the possibility that you will become the victim of a crime.”

We all need to take simple steps to help reduce the opportunity for crime. It’s not a guarantee, but every step we take in crime prevention is a positive step towards overall reduced crime in our city.