



# COMMUNITY ALERT

## RUSE BURGLARIES

Ruse burglaries are usually committed by offenders working in pairs. One offender uses a distraction (ruse) to keep the victim's attention diverted while the second offender enters the home to steal valuables, typically cash or jewelry. Ruse burglaries often target senior citizens and people living alone. If you have seen suspicious vehicles and subjects approaching neighbors or feel you were the victim of a ruse burglary, please call the Burr Ridge Police Department Investigations at **630-323-8181**.

**CALL 9-1-1 if the incident is in progress.**

### COMMON THEMES

- Utility issues, such as water, gas, or electricity, must be addressed immediately.
- Property line issues (fences, tree trimming, etc.)
- Unsolicited offers to work on your home or property (driveway sealing, roof, gutters, etc.)
- Asking questions about homes for sale in the area.
- Strangers introducing themselves as friends or family of the previous owner.

### SAFETY TIPS

- Do not let anyone you do not know or did not schedule into your home.
- Always ask for ID. A legitimate utility worker will not object to providing ID.
- Never leave your door unlocked and unattended (including garage doors).
- Village vehicles are clearly marked and Public Works employees wear distinctive uniforms and carry ID.
- Verify utility emergencies by calling the Village or 9-1-1.
- Never confront any suspected individuals.
- If you suspect you are being targeted, remain indoors, lock the door, and call 9-1-1. If it can be done safely - take pictures of the vehicles and license plate numbers, and give police the descriptions of the individual(s).
- Offenders are known to wear fluorescent safety vests and use walkie-talkies, or cell phones, to help them look like public employees.