

# News Release



Joel D. Scharf  
Chief of Police

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160 Lake Street North, Big Lake MN, 55309

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**Incident Number:** N/A

**Date/Time:** 9/26/2013

## Vehicle Break in Arrests

During the past week, Big Lake Police have arrested 2 individuals in two separate instances of theft from motor vehicles in our City. In both instances, the arrests were the result of observant citizens who called regarding suspicious activity in their neighborhoods. Over the past two weeks, the Big Lake Police Department has experienced a surge in reports of thefts and tampering with unlocked motor vehicles, as well damage to parked motor vehicles that all appear related. The two arrests are connected to an ongoing investigation including additional suspects related to this string of incidents which will likely result if additional charges. Big Lake Police are again asking that vehicle owners be diligent in the removal of items of value from their vehicles, and to ensure doors are locked. We also ask that our citizens report any activity they deem to be suspicious or out of the ordinary.

## Out of Area Contractors

With the recent storm, a large number of out of the area contractors have been soliciting repair work from members of our community. Big Lake Police have received reports of overly aggressive individuals soliciting door to door, as well as individuals multiple phone calls. All door to door solicitors from out of the area are required to have in their possession a City of Big Lake Peddlers License. All contractors are required to be licensed in the State of Minnesota. Big Lake Police are urging those experiencing harassing behavior to make a police report. In addition, please take extra steps to ensure you are dealing with a reputable construction company prior to entering any financial arrangement. If you have questions related to a contractor, it is suggested that you contact the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry at 1-800-342-5354, they field questions related to the license status and disciplinary history for contractors licensed in Minnesota.



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