Weekly Police Beat for the week ending February 4, 2022

Technology Makes it Easy for Someone to Track Your Every Move

Apple Airtags can be used to find your missing car keys—or to track you

Recently, a resident alerted Chief Fitzgerald to an article about how Apple AirTags have been used by persons to stalk their unwitting victims (often following the break-up of a domestic relationship).

AirTags are small, coin-sized devices that transmit their location—very precisely—to the owner's iPhone. AirTag owners often attach the devices to important items such as car keys or purses so that, when the item is misplaced, the owner can use their iPhone to find the item. This is the 'good' side of these devices.

On the other hand, these same devices can be used diabolically to track or stalk someone. A person with bad intentions can simply slip an AirTag into a victim's car, purse or backpack and track the victim's whereabouts around the clock. This is the 'bad' side of such devices.

The links below will take you to articles explaining how AirTags work, how you can determine if an AirTag is tracking you, and what steps you might take to prevent this from happening to you.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/technology/2021/05/05/apple-airtags-stalking/

https://www.cnet.com/tech/services-and-software/apple-airtags-can-be-used-to-track-you-how-to-protect-yourself/