



BURGLARS CAUGHT WITH THE HELP OF NEIGHBORS

During the month of December 2005 a couple arrived home after an evening out. When they arrived home and discovered their electric garage door not working the wife went around the house to the back porch to unlock the house and go inside. When she did she noticed someone inside the living room. Immediately the wife returned to her husband in the driveway and they called 911. Throughout the entire incident the couple kept their wits about them and remained calm. Because of this they were able to give a

good description of the suspects. Winter Park officers were a few blocks away working and responded quickly.

Once on the scene, officers entered the house from the porch and arrested a total of three suspects still inside the house. All three were in their late teens and lived just outside the city limits of Winter Park. Since the arrests, burglaries have decreased in the area and several that were committed have been cleared due to the recent



arrests.

Also, On Jan 17th at 5:45pm a neighbor noticed a man and woman walking around a house that was vacant. The neighbor called police

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Special Points

Of Interest

Remember to lock all of your doors and your windows. The vast majority of crimes are committed because someone left a door unlocked or a window open. Criminals look for a easy target and something they can get away with fairly quickly, usually under 5 minutes. Open garage doors are also a red carpet invitation for a criminal.

Many crimes are done by someone in the neighborhood. Don't tempt them. Lock everything up.

NEW LOOK FOR NEWSLETTER

Well, what do you think? It has been many years since we changed the layout of the Neighborhood Watch Newsletter. Being a progressive police department we thought it appro-

priate to improve a product that we provide to you and also to change the frequency of its distribution. The newsletter will still feature prevention and safety topics but on a broader level. You

will also notice the statistics page has been removed. To view current crime trends and statistics you may log on to the police department's website (www.wppd.org) for that information. We hope you enjoy the new look.

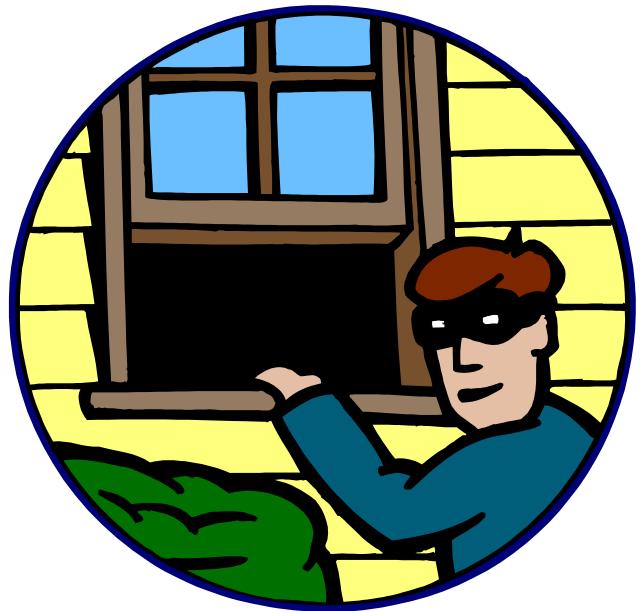


and gave a good description of the people. Once officers were on the scene they found the man and woman in a side yard. Through the investigation the man and woman were arrested for loitering and prowling.

Loitering and prowling is the act of being in a place where most people shouldn't be and not being able to explain to the officer why they are there. The fact they were snooping around a vacant house in a quiet neighborhood off Fairbanks Ave. and gave conflicting stories

why they were there contributed to the charges. Apparently they have been using the house as a place to store items and sometimes to sleep. The man also had a warrant and the woman was additionally charged with obstructing police. The homeowner deserves much praise for their observation skills & quick response to notify the police.

On Jan 18th at 3:30pm a woman was arrested for burglary to a house on Turner Rd. An observant home-



owner saw the woman steal a check out of a mailbox then go door to door asking for money. The homeowner called the police and explained the events that just happened. In a matter of minutes officers arrived

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PORNOGRAPHY AND KIDS

How many times has your son or daughter been solicited online? Would you believe the average is 1 out of every 5 children has been approached on the internet in some way in the past year? It may be an offer to chat, often involving adult themes or it could be a direct offer for a date. There are a number of ways to get to young people through the use of computers.

The Police Department is concerned about this as more and more websites become available that entice young people to post either personal web pages or personal information about them-

selves. These types of sites are not monitored and its very easy to gain access if you're not of legal age.

The Police Department will be offering a seminar for adults to show you the ways sex offenders prey on our kids through the internet and how to not only prevent it but to show you steps you can take to check on them while they are surfing the internet. Kids often feel invincible and are often naive. This contributes to their involvement in this type of activity. We'd like to see you on **April 20th at 7:30pm**. The seminar will be at the Police Department, 500 N. Virginia Ave. Adults only. No children will be allowed.



on the scene and quickly began a search for the woman. She was found hiding in a portable toilet at a construction site. Our hats are off to the homeowner for a job well done.

On January 23rd another burglar was arrested because of neighborhood watch. This one occurred on Fifeshire Dr. A known burglar was seen standing in the carport of a house. The witness who saw him knew he did not live there. She knew what to do and had a neighbor call the police while she observed the burglar. Without her keen observations the burglar may have gone unnoticed and not been apprehended.

He broke into the house through an unlocked back door. This burglar stole several small items he could hide in his clothing and was caught by responding officers as he was leaving the backyard. The burglar told investigators he was riding up and down the neighborhood streets looking for a house to break into because he needed money to pay off a debt. Again, our thanks to a partner in Neighborhood Watch.

This is a great example of how Neighborhood Watch works! By remaining calm and not rushing to confront potentially dangerous felons the police were able to effectively arrest these people without anyone being harmed. Being the best witness you can be and getting a good description is a great benefit to the police.

Oftentimes residents see someone in their backyard or even in their house and confront the person. This can be dangerous since you don't know the person's intentions. Are they a would-be burglar or someone worse? Always call the police using 911 and give the best description you can. Let us do our job and continue to keep you safe.

The police department would like to compliment all of the residents mentioned in this story on a job well done and know that because of their actions they helped put several burglars out of circulation.

Services & Programs

C.A.T. Program: Enroll your vehicle in this free anti-theft program. This program allows police to stop a vehicle with a C.A.T. sticker on it if the vehicle is being driven between 1:00 am and 5:00 am, the time when most car thefts happen.

Business Watch: Business owners are offered anti-theft ideas, information regarding fraud, workplace violence & robbery issues, and become aware of current criminal trends.

House Check Program: If you are out of town more than a few days the Police Department will stop by your home (work load permitting) and check the exterior of it to ensure it is secure. If any problems are found, your emergency contact will be notified. This service is free. Contact the Police Communications Center at (407) 644-1313.

Ride-Along Program: Ride with an officer on a tour of duty. Riders must be at least 18 yrs. old and of good moral character. Contact Officer McDaniel @ (407) 599-3455. Riding is at the discretion of the Police Department.

Security Surveys: Officers of the Community Policing Unit will be glad to meet you at your home to point out existing preventive measures.

PROTECTION AGAINST CARJACKING

Stealing a car by force has captured headlines across the country. Statistically your chances of being a carjacking victim are very slim. Preventive actions can reduce the risk even more.

Why is Carjacking a Problem?
Some explanations include:

- It's a crime of opportunity - a thief searching for the most vulnerable prey. Sometimes it's the first step in another crime.
- For some, carjacking may be a rite of passage, a status symbol, or just a thrill.

- Cars, especially luxury ones, provide quick cash for drug users and other criminals.

- Sophisticated alarms and locking devices make it harder to steal unoccupied cars.

- Though carjacking can occur anytime, many appear to take place during the late night hours.

If It Happens to You...

- Don't park in dark or poorly lighted parking lots or walk to your car alone at night.

- Keep some distance between you and the car ahead of you at an intersection

- If the carjacker threatens you with a gun or other weapon, give up your car. Don't argue. Your life is worth more than a car.

- Try to remember what the carjacker looked like - sex, race, age, hair and eye color, special features, clothes, etc.

- Report the crime immediately to the police.

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“We're always there when you need us”



Quick Phone List of City Departments

<i>Clerk of the Court</i>	407.671.1116
<i>City Planner</i>	407.599.3217
<i>Code Enforcement Division</i>	407.599.3392
<i>Drivers License Office</i>	407.623.1148
<i>-Appointments</i>	407.623.1147
<i>Electric Utility</i>	407.599.3233
<i>-Power Outages</i>	407.691.7878
	or 1.877.811.8700
<i>License Plates & Tags</i>	407.647.0022
<i>Orange County Animal Services</i>	407.352.4390
<i>Parks & Recreation</i>	407.599.3334
<i>Permits & Licenses</i>	407.599.3237
<i>Recycle Bins & Otto Carts</i>	407.843.7370
<i>Waste Management</i>	407.843.7370

We're on the web!

www.wppd.org

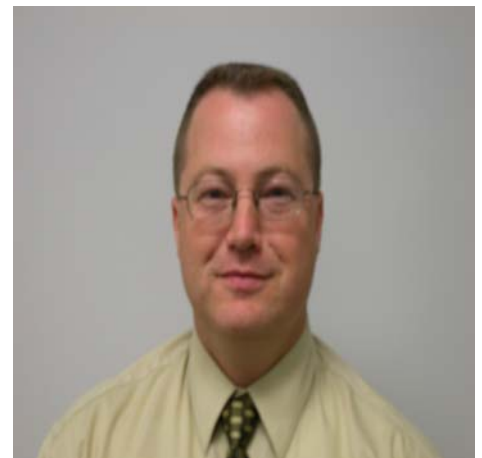
Find out what crime is doing in your area. Log onto the web for residential crime statistics

MEET YOUR NEW OFFICERS

Please help us welcome Officer Paul Foster who was sworn in to the Winter Park Police Department on December 6, 2004. Officer Foster comes to us from the Florida Highway Patrol where he served with distinction for 11 years and 11 months. While with FHP, Officer Foster earned the designation of Trooper for the Month three separate times. Paul decided to join the ranks of the Winter Park Police Department for more opportunities in varying aspects of

police work. He is interested in the detective bureau and community policing. Paul enjoys the camaraderie between the officers and the amount of support they show each other in addition to the amount of support the citizens extend to their police department.

Paul holds a Bachelors of Arts degree in Public Administration. He has three Labrador Retrievers, and in his spare time, he enjoys reading, video games



and participating in Civil War and WWII reenactment events.