

CITY OF SPRING VALLEY VILLAGE POLICE DEPARTMENT

MAJOR ACTIVITY

OFFENSES – AUGUST 2009	NUMBER
Burglary of a Residence	1
Burglary of a Business or Building	1
Burglary of a Motor Vehicle	0
Theft / Other	4
Theft of a Motor Vehicle	0
Juvenile Offenses	2
Assault	0
Aggravated Robbery	0
TOTAL	8
Total Calls for Service	1286

As this month’s report indicates, and as many of you have already learned through emails from others, a burglary of a habitation occurred in the city last month. A second burglary occurred earlier this week on Labor Day.

Your police department has been diligently investigating these two burglaries, and we continue to identify witnesses and develop information that we hope will lead to the solution of these crimes and to the prevention of any such additional criminal activity.

I am aware that many of you actively seek and share information on community issues including occasional crimes that are committed in the neighborhood. I support and encourage this type of information sharing. However, great care must be taken to avoid publicizing inappropriate content. In the process of networking with our citizens, the police department must also respect the privacy of the victims of such a crime. In addition, the publicizing of too much information, such as specifics concerning how the crime was committed or what items were taken, can easily compromise the criminal investigation and hamper our efforts.

Please do not misinterpret my comments. I want you all to continue to communicate and share information. At the same time, please keep in mind that there may be reasons why law enforcement delays the release of information for valid investigative causes.

I would also encourage each of you to check the “Police Report” section of The Memorial Examiner newspaper that is delivered to your home each week. There you will find weekly updates on any major criminal activity that has occurred in Spring Valley

Village and the surrounding areas. Information on this August residential burglary was published in last week's edition.

This first burglary occurred on Saturday, August 29th, in the mid-afternoon at a residence in the 8700 block of Lanell. Valuables were taken from the garage as well as the home. No forced entry was found.

The second burglary occurred on Monday, September 7th, also in the mid-afternoon, at a residence in the 1300 block of Mickey Way. Again, valuables were taken from the home, and no forced entry was found.

In both cases, neighbors observed suspicious activity and a suspicious vehicle at the residence. However, the police department was not notified. Information obtained from these witnesses indicates that the same persons in the same vehicle may have committed these two burglaries. The suspects may be a Hispanic couple, a male and female. In one case, two to three young children were seen with them at the burglary scene. Their vehicle is described as an older-model custom van, maroon or copper in color, possibly with an elevated roof, multi-colored striping, and dark tinted windows.

I am asking each of you to watch for this vehicle and **CALL THE POLICE DEPARTMENT IMMEDIATELY** if you think you see this vehicle or any other suspicious vehicle or activity. Such activity might even include an unknown person knocking on your door while you are at home requesting financial assistance. I would also ask each of you to make sure you lock your entry doors and garage doors when you leave your home. If your home is equipped with a security system, activate that alarm when you leave.

In reference to the above listed Burglary of a Building, this incident involved the burglary of a church in the 1200 block of Wirt Road in Hilshire Village. An unknown person or persons entered the church and stole a sound mixer board. A few days later, officers from the Memorial Villages Police Department arrested a man as he burglarized a church in their area. Investigators from their agency and ours learned that this suspect had been pawning a large quantity of sound equipment and other valuables at pawnshops throughout Harris County. This information led to the recovery of the property stolen in the Hilshire Village church burglary. That property has been returned to the church, and the suspect has been charged with burglary and is being held in the Harris County Jail on a \$15,000 bond.

I would also like to update you on three business burglaries that were listed in last month's activity report. As you may recall, these burglaries occurred at businesses in the West Memorial Park office complex located in the 8500 block of the Katy Freeway. The Spring Valley Village Police Department has filed charges in connection with these three burglaries. Officers and investigators recovered property stolen in these and other business burglaries after responding to a disturbance call at an apartment complex in Humble. A 28-year-old man was arrested and charged with Felony Theft and Burglary of a Building. A 29-year-old man was arrested and charged with Felony Theft. A third

suspect is still under investigation. Investigators believe these three suspects are responsible for the three burglaries in Spring Valley Village as well as others that occurred at businesses in Houston along the Katy Freeway.

Thank you all for your concern and interest. Please continue to assist your police department by calling us with suspicious activity.

Gary Finkelman
Chief of Police