

## CITY OF SPRING VALLEY VILLAGE POLICE DEPARTMENT

### MAJOR ACTIVITY

OFFENSES – JANUARY 2010	NUMBER
Burglary of a Residence	3
Burglary of a Business or Building	1
Burglary of a Motor Vehicle	8
Theft / Other	2
Theft of a Motor Vehicle	0
Juvenile Offenses	0
Assault	0
Robbery	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Total Calls for Service</b>	<b>1541</b>

The below article is from the Better Business Bureau and discusses the 2010 U.S. Census data collection procedures as well as warnings on census-related scams.

### **BBB Alerts Consumers about U.S. Census Workers Be Cooperative, But Cautious!**

For years, Better Business Bureau has educated consumers about not giving out personal information over the telephone or to anyone who shows up at their front door. With the U.S. Census process beginning, BBB advises people to be cooperative, but cautious, so as not to become a victim of fraud or identity theft.

The first phase of the 2010 U.S. Census is under way as workers have begun verifying the addresses of households across the country. Eventually, more than 140,000 U.S. Census workers will count every person in the United States and will gather information about every person living at each address including name, age, gender, race and other relevant data.

"Most people are rightfully cautious and won't give out personal information to unsolicited phone callers or visitors, however the Census is an exception to the rule," said Steve Cox, BBB spokesperson. "Unfortunately, scammers know that the public is more willing to share personal data when taking part in the Census and they have an opportunity to ply their trade by posing as a government employee and soliciting sensitive financial information."

The Census data will be used to allocate more than \$300 billion in federal funds every year, as well as determine a State's number of Congressional representatives. Households are actually required by law to respond to the Census Bureau's request for information.

During the U.S. Census, households will be contacted by mail, telephone or visited by a U.S. Census worker who will inquire about the number of people living in the house. Unfortunately, people may also be contacted by scammers, who impersonate Census workers to get access to banking and financial information. Law enforcement in several states have issued warnings that scammers are already posing as Census Bureau employees and knocking on doors asking for donations and Social Security numbers.

The big question is - how do you tell the difference between a U.S. Census worker and a con artist? BBB

offers the following advice:

- If a U.S. Census worker knocks on your door, they will have a badge, a handheld device, a Census Bureau canvas bag and a confidentiality notice. Ask to see their identification and their badge before answering their questions. However, you should never invite anyone you don't know into your home.
- Census workers are currently only knocking on doors to verify address information. Do not give your Social Security number, credit card or banking information to anyone, even if they claim they need it for the U.S. Census. While the Census Bureau might ask for basic financial information, such as a salary range, it will not ask for Social Security, bank account or credit card numbers nor will employees solicit donations.
- Eventually, Census workers may contact you by telephone, mail or in person at home. However, they will not contact you by e-mail, so be on the lookout for e-mail scams impersonating the Census. Never click on a link or open any attachments in an e-mail that are supposedly from the U.S. Census Bureau.

For more advice on avoiding identity theft and fraud, visit [www.bbb.org](http://www.bbb.org)

**CITY OF SPRING VALLEY VILLAGE POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**MAJOR ACTIVITY**

<b>OFFENSES – FEBRUARY 2010</b>	<b>NUMBER</b>
Burglary of a Residence	0
Burglary of a Business or Building	0
Burglary of a Motor Vehicle	2
Theft / Other	3
Theft of a Motor Vehicle	0
Juvenile Offenses	1
Assault	1
Robbery	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Total Calls for Service</b>	<b>1263</b>

**CITY OF SPRING VALLEY VILLAGE POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**MAJOR ACTIVITY**

<b>OFFENSES – MARCH 2010</b>	<b>NUMBER</b>
Burglary of a Residence	0
Burglary of a Business or Building	1
Burglary of a Motor Vehicle	1
Theft / Other	9
Theft of a Motor Vehicle	0
Juvenile Offenses	0
Assault	2
Robbery	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Total Calls for Service</b>	<b>1545</b>

Included among the above listed major incidents are the following:

On Sunday, March 21<sup>st</sup>, Spring Valley Village Police responded to a shoplifting call reported at The Home Depot in the 8400 block of the Katy Freeway. Loss Prevention personnel reported that a male suspect had exited the store with several items without paying for them. When the loss prevention personnel confronted the suspect, he became combative and injured one of the employees. During the scuffle, a female suspect who was waiting in a vehicle joined in and was able to facilitate the male suspect's escape, although he fled with a pair of handcuffs attached to one of his wrists. Both suspects fled in the vehicle.

Through police investigation, both suspects were identified and charged with Robbery – Bodily Injury. Both were arrested on Tuesday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, and placed in the Harris County Jail.

On the night of Monday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>, Spring Valley Village Police Officer Trent Wood observed a suspicious vehicle in the driveway of a residence in the 1300 block of Bingle Road. The residence had been damaged by fire several weeks earlier, and the homeowner had reported the theft of some valuables from a storage building on site the previous week. On this night, officers checked the suspicious vehicle and found that three occupants had allegedly just burglarized the garage at the location, taking tools and other valuables. An 18-year-old adult male suspect and two juvenile male suspects were arrested and charged with Burglary of a Building. All of the stolen property was recovered. It is believed that these arrests also clear the theft from the previous week.

**CITY OF SPRING VALLEY VILLAGE POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**MAJOR ACTIVITY**

<b>OFFENSES – APRIL 2010</b>	<b>NUMBER</b>
Burglary of a Residence	0
Burglary of a Business or Building	0
Burglary of a Motor Vehicle	4
Theft / Other	2
Theft of a Motor Vehicle	1
Juvenile Offenses	1
Assault	1
Robbery	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Total Calls for Service</b>	<b>1351</b>

In addition to the above listed major incidents for the month of April, many of you may already be aware of a residential burglary that occurred last Friday afternoon, May 7<sup>th</sup>, in the 8300 block of Cedarbrake. The homeowner reported that upon arriving home and attempting to activate her garage door opener, the door did not open normally. As the door partially opened, the homeowner observed a male suspect inside the garage. The homeowner then went to a neighbor's home and called police. Officers arrived in the area nearly immediately, but the suspect was not located. It was determined that an unknown suspect or suspects turned off the electricity to the residence, then entered and moved items from the house to the attached garage, likely in preparation for a vehicle returning to the location to load the valuables from inside the garage.

Numerous items of forensic evidence were recovered at the scene and will be submitted for analysis in an effort to identify a suspect.

We have learned that there were persons in the area prior to the burglary going door to door soliciting yard work. It is unknown if these persons are connected to the burglary. Regardless, we strongly urge any citizen to immediately report solicitors or any other type of suspicious activity to the police department. If someone comes to your door soliciting work or you are hesitant to answer the door, please call the police department immediately.

Gary Finkelman  
Chief of Police

**CITY OF SPRING VALLEY VILLAGE POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**MAJOR ACTIVITY**

<b>OFFENSES – MAY 2010</b>	<b>NUMBER</b>
Burglary of a Residence	1
Burglary of a Business or Building	1
Burglary of a Motor Vehicle	7
Theft / Other	4
Theft of a Motor Vehicle	1
Juvenile Offenses	0
Assault	1
Robbery	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Total Calls for Service</b>	<b>1340</b>

<b>OFFENSES – JUNE 2010</b>	<b>NUMBER</b>
Burglary of a Residence	0
Burglary of a Business or Building	1
Burglary of a Motor Vehicle	8
Theft / Other	4
Theft of a Motor Vehicle	0
Juvenile Offenses	1
Assault	0
Robbery	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Total Calls for Service</b>	<b>1315</b>

The statistics above clearly show a recent rise in the number of motor vehicle burglaries throughout the city. Of the fifteen such incidents reported during the two previous months, five occurred at business addresses. The remaining ten occurred at residences.

Of the ten car burglaries that occurred at residences, all but one of them occurred during nighttime hours. In all nine of these nighttime car burglaries, entry was made into each vehicle without force. This likely indicates that all of these vehicles were left unlocked while parked in driveways or in front of homes overnight.

Through the diligent efforts by nightshift officers in marked patrol units as well as covert operations by investigators in unmarked vehicles, several arrests have been made resulting in the filing of burglary and theft charges on several adult suspects. Although we are optimistic that these arrests will lead to a decrease in the number of such crimes, I urge each of you to remove all valuables from your vehicles and secure them when parking, whether at or away from home.

As always, if you observe any suspicious activity in your neighborhood, please contact your police department immediately.

Gary Finkelman  
Chief of Police

**CITY OF SPRING VALLEY VILLAGE POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**MAJOR ACTIVITY**

<b>OFFENSES – JULY 2010</b>	<b>NUMBER</b>
Burglary of a Residence	0
Burglary of a Business or Building	0
Burglary of a Motor Vehicle	2
Theft / Other	3
Theft of a Motor Vehicle	0
Juvenile Offenses	0
Assault	0
Robbery	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Total Calls for Service</b>	<b>1226</b>

<b>OFFENSES – AUGUST 2010</b>	<b>NUMBER</b>
Burglary of a Residence	1
Burglary of a Business or Building	0
Burglary of a Motor Vehicle	3
Theft / Other	6
Theft of a Motor Vehicle	0
Juvenile Offenses	0
Assault	2
Robbery	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Total Calls for Service</b>	<b>1286</b>

It is that time of year again for “National Night Out”, the annual get-together of citizens, law enforcement agencies, civic groups, businesses, neighborhood organizations, and local officials of the community.

National Night Out is designed to:

- Heighten crime and drug prevention awareness;
- Generate support for and participation in local anti-crime programs;
- Strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships; and
- Send a message to criminals letting them know that our neighborhoods are organized and are fighting back.

This year’s event will be held **Tuesday, October 5<sup>th</sup>, from 6:00 P.M. to 10:00 P.M.**

Last year we had a great turnout, and this year the police department is anticipating another successful event.

We are inviting anyone who may be interested in being a Host Home to contact your police department to coordinate this year’s events. If you are interested in hosting an event or need additional information, please contact Officer Robert Moore by phone at 713-465-8323 no later than September 17<sup>th</sup>.

We look forward to seeing you on October 5<sup>th</sup>.

Gary Finkelman  
Chief of Police

**CITY OF SPRING VALLEY VILLAGE POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**MAJOR ACTIVITY**

<b>OFFENSES – SEPTEMBER 2010</b>	<b>NUMBER</b>
Burglary of a Residence	1
Burglary of a Business or Building	1
Burglary of a Motor Vehicle	5
Theft / Other	2
Theft of a Motor Vehicle	1
Juvenile Offenses	0
Assault	3
Robbery	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Total Calls for Service</b>	<b>1435</b>

<b>OFFENSES – OCTOBER 2010</b>	<b>NUMBER</b>
Burglary of a Residence	0
Burglary of a Business or Building	0
Burglary of a Motor Vehicle	4
Theft / Other	2
Theft of a Motor Vehicle	0
Juvenile Offenses	1
Assault	0
Robbery	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Total Calls for Service</b>	<b>1459</b>

<b>OFFENSES – NOVEMBER 2010</b>	<b>NUMBER</b>
Burglary of a Residence	1
Burglary of a Business or Building	0
Burglary of a Motor Vehicle	1
Theft / Other	5
Theft of a Motor Vehicle	0
Juvenile Offenses	0
Assault	2
Robbery	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Total Calls for Service</b>	<b>1276</b>

During these days leading up to Christmas, we should all exercise caution and be aware of our surroundings as we walk to and from our vehicles in shopping center parking lots as well as during our drives to and from these locations. Here are some "Shoppers' Safety Tips" to keep in mind.

- Never leave packages, bags, cell phones, purses or other valuable items inside of your car where they can be seen from the outside.
- Never fight over parking spaces. It is not worth pushing the wrong person to become violent. Your car could also be vandalized as a result.
- Always park in a well-lighted area and with other people around if possible. Look for landmarks and remember where you parked so you don't roam the parking lot looking for your car after shopping.
- When shopping, always try to walk with someone else. Robbers seldom confront multiple victims. Carry your purse on the opposite side of traffic when walking through a parking lot. Plan to obtain cash during the day and avoid using an ATM at night.
- Stay alert and be aware of the people around you.
- As you approach your car, have your keys in your hand so you can enter your vehicle and close and lock the door quickly behind you.
- When loading packages or children into your car, keep an eye on purses, other bags and packages. Put your purse in the car first, then unload your bags.
- Never buy items such as computers, jewelry, stereos or anything from a "guy in the parking lot." These items are often stolen, sub-standard or fake.

- **Keep your purse zipped or buttoned up. Make sure that your wallet pocket is closed. Don't hang your purse on a fitting room hook. Place it on the bench where you can see it.**
- **Never store a purse in the child's seat of a shopping cart. Place it in the cart and keep it closed to protect your wallet.**
- **If you observe anyone you believe is following you home, drive to a public, well-lighted area such as your local police station.**
- **Program the police department's 10-digit phone number into your cell phone, and never hesitate to call your police department to report suspicious activity.**

**Happy Holidays !!**

**Gary Finkelman**

**Chief of Police**

**CITY OF SPRING VALLEY VILLAGE POLICE DEPARTMENT  
MAJOR ACTIVITY**

OFFENSES – DECEMBER 2010	NUMBER
Burglary of a Residence	0
Burglary of a Business or Building	2
Burglary of a Motor Vehicle	7
Theft / Other	2
Theft of a Motor Vehicle	0
Juvenile Offenses	0
Assault	0
Robbery	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Total Calls for Service</b>	<b>1520</b>

Car Burglaries at Area Schools

Three of the burglaries of motor vehicles shown above all occurred on December 9, 2010, at area schools located on Wirt Road in Hilshire Village. Two of the incidents occurred in the morning in a parking lot in the 1200 block of Wirt Road. In both of these cases, the victim's car window was broken out, and a purse was stolen from the front seat while the victim was dropping off her child. The other incident occurred that afternoon in a parking lot of a school in the 1300 block of Wirt Road. As in the other cases, a window was broken out and valuables were taken.

On December 17, 2010, a representative from one of the schools notified police of a suspicious person and vehicle in the parking lot of the school. Police responded and located the suspicious person and vehicle and learned that the driver, a 47-year-old male from Beaumont, was wanted on an outstanding warrant out of Orange County, Texas for Burglary of a Motor Vehicle. The suspect was also found to be in possession of several stolen items including GPS navigation systems and Ipods. The suspect was arrested on the outstanding warrant and transported to the Harris County Jail. Police believe that this suspect is responsible for the motor vehicle burglaries that were committed earlier in the month as well as numerous other car burglaries in other jurisdictions including as far away as Mississippi.

Police strongly recommend that when dropping off or picking up children at school, parents should never leave their purse or other valuables in their vehicle where those items are visible or accessible. Although it may be an inconvenience to carry your purse inside with you, along with lunch boxes, diaper bags, and children in arms, it is certainly much less problematic than the theft of your purse or valuables. As you arrive and depart

the school parking lots, be observant and report any suspicious activity to school officials and/or the police department.

Burglaries Being Committed by Suspects Posing as Utility Workers

As many of you may have seen this week in local television news reports, there is a scam currently operating in the Memorial Villages area. Although we have not experienced any such incidents in Spring Valley Village, I wanted to make each of you aware of this activity.

A friendly female and at least one male will pose as representatives of a utility company, knock on your door, and ask for access to your home or yard. While you are distracted by the female, the male will burglarize your home.

You should exercise great caution when opening your door to anyone. It is not common practice for a utility worker to ask for access into your home. If anyone suspicious comes to your home, contact the police department immediately.

Here is a link to the KTRK report:

<http://abclocal.go.com/ktrk/story?section=news/local&id=7900357>

Gary A. Finkelman  
Chief of Police