



## City of Spring Valley Village Police Department

1025 Campbell Road  
Houston, TX 77055  
713-465-8323  
Fax: 713-465-3135

Gary A. Finkelman, Chief of Police

---

### NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: SEPTEMBER 29, 2009**  
**CONTACT: Chief Gary A. Finkelman, 713-465-8323**

## **SPRING VALLEY VILLAGE POLICE DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES ARRESTS IN SERIES OF HOME BURGLARIES**

On Monday, September 28<sup>th</sup>, the Spring Valley Village Police Department, with assistance from members of the Houston Police Department, arrested three persons believed responsible for three recent burglaries of homes in Spring Valley Village as well as numerous other burglaries in the Spring Branch and Spring Shadows neighborhoods of Houston.

Twice in August and again once in early September, Spring Valley Village Police received reports from residents that their homes had been burglarized. In each case, valuables including computer equipment, jewelry, and tools were taken from the homes. In addition, items including food and children's toys were taken.

Witnesses reported seeing a maroon-colored van at two of the burglaries. In one case, small children were seen with the adult suspects while the burglary was being committed.

Spring Valley Village Police investigators compiled information from witnesses as well as from other evidence recovered at the crime scenes and then relayed this information to Houston Police Department investigators assigned to the northwest Houston area. As a result, additional related burglaries having occurred in Houston were identified, and police from both agencies combined their information and efforts.

Last week, Spring Valley Village Police located the vehicle believed used in these burglaries. Through investigation, they were able to identify several possible suspects as well as numerous locations where these suspects were selling the stolen property.

Spring Valley Village and Houston Police officers conducted surveillance on the suspects and observed them as they burglarized a residence in Spring Branch. The suspects were arrested as they left the burglary scene.

Arrested and charged with Burglary of a Habitation are 25-year-old Luis Zavala, 29-year-old Sandra Ventura, and 43-year-old Bertha Martinez. Martinez is also charged with Tampering with a Government Record.

Police have recovered a large quantity of stolen property from the suspects' town home. Investigators believe these suspects may be responsible for as many as thirty residential and forty building burglaries in the northwest Houston area over the past several months.