

UPDATE ON RECENT BURGLARIES

As many of you may already be aware as the result of local news coverage, several arrests were made last Friday, March 25th, after a home was burglarized nearby in Hunters Creek Village. As officers from the Memorial Villages Police Department responded to this incident, they were joined by Spring Valley Village Police Department officers, both uniformed and undercover, as well as a double-digit quantity of additional plainclothes officers from the Houston Police Department who were assisting Spring Valley investigators with an ongoing undercover operation initiated for the purpose of addressing the recent burglaries in our area.

As a result, three suspects were arrested as they fled the scene of the Hunters Creek burglary. All three suspects were charged with Burglary of a Habitation. Two remain in the Harris County Jail. However, the third suspect posted a \$30,000 bond and was released within eight hours of his booking at the county jail. One of the other two remaining suspects is the same suspect who was arrested and charged with felony theft in connection with one of the previous Spring Valley burglaries. He had posted bond on that theft charge just two weeks ago and, as you can see, was already allegedly "back in business".

I share these details with you in order to show you how important it is to continue to be vigilant and observant. As much as these arrests are a positive step toward resolving our recent issues, it would be irresponsible to assume that these arrests will guarantee that these suspects will not return to our area.

For those of you whose homes are equipped with alarms, I would strongly recommend that you contact your alarm company and request that they contact the police department immediately upon receiving an alarm activation rather than attempting to contact you and/or other family members prior to contacting the police department. This will assist your police officers in responding to any emergency in a much more timely fashion.

Most of you are aware that Spring Valley Village's alarm system ordinance allows the city to charge a \$50.00 fee for each response by the police department to an alarm site as a result of a false alarm in excess of five false alarms during any twelve-month period. As a result, some of you may have been reluctant to use your alarm or to have your alarm company contact the police department immediately for fear you may be charged for excessive false alarms.

In response to this, I made a recommendation to Spring Valley Village Mayor Mike Andrews that the enforcement of this portion of our alarm ordinance be temporarily suspended in order to encourage residents to utilize their burglar alarms to their fullest potential without having to be concerned about being charged for false alarms. Mayor Andrews has approved this proposal. As a result, enforcement of the false alarm fee section of our ordinance will be temporarily suspended, effective immediately, through June 30, 2011.

Thanks to all of you who have reported suspicious activity in your neighborhood. Please continue to do so as we work together to help Spring Valley Village remain a safe and secure community.

Gary A. Finkelman
Chief of Police