



News Release

February 7, 2008

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The Hanover County Sheriff's Office is seeking the community's assistance in identifying the suspect(s) involved in a highly unusual rash of daytime residential break-ins in the Eastern and Central regions of the County.

On Tuesday, February 5th, the Hanover County Sheriff's Office experienced a total of 4 residential break-ins and 1 attempted residential break-in, both in the Eastern and Central areas of the County, all of which occurred during the daytime. In evaluating this rash of break-ins, it is believed they are likely linked to 2 additional daytime break-ins in the same areas of the County, both of which occurred less than a month ago. In all of these cases, thousands of dollars worth of electronic equipment have been stolen. Fortunately, all of the homes were unoccupied at the time of the break-ins, so no one has been injured.

The dates and locations of these incidents are as follows:

Residential Break-Ins:

- 1/16/08: 11400 block of Ashcake Road, Ashland, VA 23005
- 1/22/08: 6200 block of Blackbear Trail, Mechanicsville, VA 23116
- 2/5/08: 12100 block of Melton Road, Ashland, VA 23005
- 2/5/08: 13000 block of Green Creek Court, Ashland, VA 23005
- 2/5/08: 10300 block of Summer Hill Road, Mechanicsville, VA 23116
- 2/5/08: 4300 block of River Road, Mechanicsville, VA 23116

Attempted Break-In:

- 2/5/08: 7400 block of Knightly Road, Mechanicsville, VA 23116

The Sheriff's Office would like to enlist the assistance of the community in helping to solve these crimes in order to bring these cases to successful conclusions, as well as to prevent anyone else from being victimized. Specifically, the Sheriff's Office encourages anyone who may have seen anything suspicious in these areas, *no matter how seemingly small or insignificant*, to report it immediately by calling the Sheriff's Office at 365-6140 or the Metro Richmond Crime Stoppers at 780-1000.

In addition, the Sheriff's Office would like to take the opportunity to remind the community of several crime prevention tips in order to prevent any further related crimes:

- Be vigilant in reporting ANY suspicious activity in a timely manner, no matter how insignificant it may seem. It is often the smallest detail that helps break the case.
- Be thorough in the information that you obtain and report to law enforcement. The more information that can be gathered, the better (i.e., license plates, physical descriptions, etc.).
- Keep all exterior doors and windows LOCKED at all times. Select strong, reliable locks for your home. Use 2 1/2-3" screws in the strike plates for the deadbolt and doorknob to make the doorframe stronger.

- All outside doors should be made of wood or metal. Inspect your doors for good fit, inspect wooden doors for any cracks and install a wide-angle door viewer. Also ensure that all exterior doorways are well-lit on the outside.
- Windows and glass doors need special care to ensure they are locked. Check the manufacturer's special instructions for securing windows and sliding glass doors.
- Consider having an alarm installed. Should you already have an alarm, make sure to use it routinely. Advertise your alarm system by displaying a sign or window sticker in order to deter criminals from targeting your home.
- Keep your outside lights on or use motion lights in order to keep the area around your home well lit.
- Engrave as many valuables as possible to make them less valuable to a criminal.
- Should individuals represent themselves as solicitors, they are required to have County issued solicitor's permit with them at all times. Always request to see their permits prior to conducting any business at your home. If they are unable to provide you with permits, DO NOT conduct business with them. Rather, instruct them to leave your property and obtain a detailed description of the individuals and their vehicles (to include a license plate), and promptly report this information to the Sheriff's Office.
- Stay involved in your neighborhood association and/or Neighborhood Watch program. If your neighborhood does not currently have a Neighborhood Watch, the Sheriff's Office can assist you in establishing a program.
- As an additional service to the community, the Sheriff's Office Crime Prevention Unit conducts home and business security assessments. For more information, call (804) 365-6110 and ask to speak to one of our Crime Prevention Officers to schedule an appointment.

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