

Girls call 911 as burglars try to break in

05 Aug 2010 — Bucks County Courier Times

Middletown

Police, including new Chief James Kane, quickly apprehended three men who are allegedly in the country illegally.

Two illegal immigrants pried their way into a Middletown home Wednesday, but ran away after two teenage girls inside yelled that they were calling the cops, police said.

Minutes later, the men were pulled over by several officers - including Middletown's newly appointed police chief, James Kane - police said. He happened to be driving in the area and responded to the call on his second day on the job, according to police.

The burglary occurred shortly before 11 a.m. on the 700 block of Highpointe Circle, which isn't far from Neshaminy Creek and is north of Hulmeville, Sgt. Ken Mellus said.

The two girls inside the home heard a knock at the door but didn't answer.

They then saw the two men go to the back of the house and pry open a patio door, Mellus said.

The girls yelled at the men that they were calling 911, and the men ran to a car, Mellus said

Once on the phone with dispatchers, the girls described the black Chevrolet with Florida plates that sped away, police said.

The car was spotted and pulled over on East Lincoln Highway near I-95 by Middletown police Officer Robert Weber, Mellus said. Weber called for assistance, which is when the new chief pulled up, followed by Mellus.

Three men were inside the Chevrolet, Mellus said. The third man, who's also living in the U.S. illegally, was acting as the getaway driver but didn't accompany the burglars into the house, Mellus said.

A fingerprint database revealed the men's identities, country of origin and immigration status, according to Mellus.

According to police:

Marquos Guevara-Vargas, 47, originally from Mexico, has a nationwide warrant out on him for drug dealing, Mellus said.

Nestor Hernandez-Romero, 25, originally from Mexico, is wanted on a New Jersey warrant for fraud, according to Mellus.

Julio Araujo-Misitich, 27, originally from Peru, was the alleged getaway driver.

Mellus said the three men have been charged with burglary, a first-degree felony punishable by up to 20 years in prison.

Penndel District Judge Daniel Baranoski sent all three to Bucks County prison in lieu of \$85,000. They can't be released on bail because Immigration and Customs Enforcement has put detainers on them to keep them there until Bucks County finishes prosecuting them.

Mellus said Lower Bucks has been seeing an uptick in daytime burglaries.

"We're getting killed with burglaries - not just us but all of the townships," he said. "And we've been catching a lot of the burglars, too."

Ben Finley can be reached at 215-949-4203 or bfinley@phillyBurbs.com.

"Girls call 911 as burglars try to break in" Bucks County Courier Times 05 Aug 2010: B5