



City of Lafayette Police Department

# Crime Bulletin

## May 2016



# Attempted Burglary

The City of Lafayette Police Department is providing information about a crime that recently occurred within the city. The purpose of this bulletin is to inform residents about the incident and to obtain additional information to aid the police department in our investigation.

### DR # 16-6531

On Tuesday, 5/3/16 at 2:39 p.m., LPD Officers were dispatched to a suspicious circumstance in the 1000 Block of Upper Happy Valley Road. A passing neighbor had seen a white late-model Honda parked in front of a neighbor's home. When the neighbor passed the vehicle, she saw two young men hurriedly walking toward the car. While they were walking, she saw one of the subjects throw an object into the bushes. The alarm of the neighbor's home then went off. The neighbor began to follow the vehicle, writing down the license plate number of the vehicle and telephoning 911. The neighbor followed the vehicle onto west-bound Hwy 24.

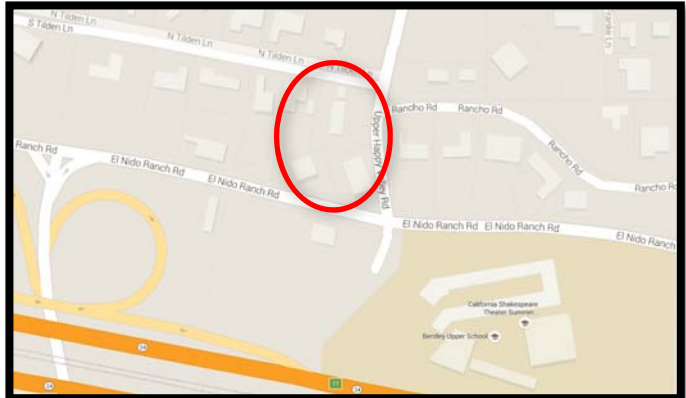
Officers responded to the home near where the car had been parked and the alarm was sounding. Officers found a broken window on an exterior door of the home. Officers searched the interior of the home and found the home had been searched and items taken from the home. Officers discovered the home was not currently inhabited by the owners. The items that were thrown into the bushes were items of property taken from the home.

As officers canvassed the neighborhood, they located another neighbor who had seen the pair moments before. The neighbor reported that approximately ten minutes prior to the seeing the police, the two subjects had rung his doorbell. When he answered the door, one of the males asked him if he knew where someone lived. The neighbor reported he did not recognize the name and the individuals left his home, walking toward the home that was later broken into.

LPD Investigators compared the license number and descriptions of the vehicle with the images captured on a nearby neighborhood camera. The license number and vehicle description matched those provided by the neighbor who had followed the car out of the neighborhood. LPD Investigators contacted the police agency where the vehicle was registered. Allied officers checked the address of the registered owner and did not find the vehicle. At approximately 10 pm., the vehicle was located at the address and our investigators responded to Marin County to contact the owners of the vehicle.

LPD Investigators were able to speak with the registered owner and one of the individuals who was believed to have been involved in our crimes. The vehicle was towed back to Lafayette to be searched and processed by our CSI personnel.

The following day, the vehicle was searched and items were located linking the vehicle to the Lafayette crimes. Investigators also located a loaded handgun that has been linked to another residential burglary in Pinole.



" A Community Partnership "

## Attempted Burglary – 5/3/16

Based upon their investigation, LPD Investigators have identified one of the subjects who attempted to burglarize the occupied home and entered the unoccupied home. This afternoon, our investigators obtained an arrest warrant for that subject. Our investigators expect to have the suspect in custody on 5/10/16. LPD Investigators will then file their case with the District Attorney's Office.

**Investigation.** Our investigators have learned this vehicle was likely in the Upper Happy Valley Neighborhood on two occasions prior to the 5/3/16 incident. It's believed on the previous visits to the neighborhood, the suspects may have stolen mail and packages from homes in the neighborhood. Our investigators are seeking information from neighbors who may have lost packages during the last two weeks of April. Also, anyone with additional information about the vehicle or its occupants.



**Prevention.** The suspects in this case approached a residence and rang the doorbell to see if anyone was at home. When the door was answered, the suspects made up a story that they were looking for an old friend who had lived in the neighborhood. This is a very common ruse used by burglars. If a stranger comes to your door and asks for directions to the freeway or some other question that makes no sense to you, give us a call and let our officers help them. The homeowners whose home was entered by the suspects were well prepared. The home was equipped with an alarm that announced loudly to the suspects and the neighbors that there was trouble at the home. The sounding alarm drew the attention of a neighbor, who saw the suspects and followed them. In this case, the home was unoccupied and the valuables had already been removed from the home. If you are not living in a home, ensure that you remove things that are irreplaceable or are valuable.

**E-Mail Alerts.** If you are a resident of the City of Lafayette and are not currently receiving our email alerts, please contact Chief Christensen at [echri@so.cccounty.us](mailto:echri@so.cccounty.us). Provide your name, street address and an email address. We want to make sure that all of our residents are aware of significant incidents and crime trends within our community.

**Nixle Alerts.** Residents who have not yet subscribed are urged to subscribe to our alerting system that we perform through the Nixle Alerting System. For significant incidents and disasters within the community, this is the primary system that will be used to provide our residents with information about incidents such as this one. You can subscribe to Nixle Alerts by visiting the Nixle Website ([www.nixle.com](http://www.nixle.com)) - a free service for our residents.

Emergency	911
Dispatch (Non-Emergency)	(925) 284-5010
Police Department Office	(925) 283-3680
Tip Line	<a href="mailto:94549Tip@gmail.com">94549Tip@gmail.com</a>
Email	
SGT Shiells (Investigations)	<a href="mailto:HShie@so.cccounty.us">HShie@so.cccounty.us</a>
Det Dennison (Investigations)	<a href="mailto:JDenn@so.cccounty.us">JDenn@so.cccounty.us</a>
Det Ones (Investigations)	<a href="mailto:VOnes@so.cccounty.us">VOnes@so.cccounty.us</a>



**PLEASE call us if you see suspicious individuals or vehicles in your business or neighborhood.**

### Thinking About a Camera ?

When it comes to improving the security of your own home or your neighborhood, there are few things that can beat the installation of a home camera system. Cameras today are reasonably priced, don't require a lot of work to install, and can easily be connected to your home Wi-Fi System. We have several camera models at the police department that you can come and borrow for a quick test-drive. We have several different makes and models that you can compare how they work before you buy. The image quality of these cameras is just amazing and can provide some excellent leads in helping us solve your case or the case of a neighbor. Give us a call to find out what cameras are available and to reserve the type you are the most interested in. Call the police department business line and talk to Cathy Surges-Moscato.

