



Groveport Police Department
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Chief Ralph Portier
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REPORT TO:

MAYOR LANCE WESTCAMP AND THE CITY OF GROVEPORT COUNCIL

September 2013

From the Chief:

- 1) We have had multiple meetings on the day to day progress of the new police building.
- 2) Attended the Westerville Cops and Kids program with Officer Ernie Bell.
- 3) Attended the Private Investigator Security Services Commission
- 4) Provided additional classes at AEP on workplace violence and self defense
- 5) Attended the Personnel Board of Appeals meeting
- 6) Attended the Ohio Chiefs Association district 1 meeting
- 7) Attended a multijurisdictional meeting at the Madison Township community building, to discuss semi-truck issues on Toy and Swisher Roads.
- 8) Quickly resolved an issue with the FOP

Officer community involvement; continuing education and training:

Officer Bell attended the Annual Westerville Cops and Kids Program. This all day affair allows children to visit with police officers and see the various types of equipment that is available to Franklin County. This program was initiated years ago as the Franklin County Cops and Kids program and the tradition remains.

Schools attended included Computer crimes and Death Investigation.

The department responded to a number of vehicle break ins with two stolen cars – both recovered. We believe it is part of a ring of thieves that have hit surrounding counties.

Officers Bell, Roe and Herrera and I responded to a missing 6 year old. After a frantic search period, it was discovered he walked home from the Glendenning School to his home near Saltzgaber Road.

Vacation hours used: 146

Sick time used: 16.5

Comp time used: 79

Personal time used: 8



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MUTUAL AID CALLS	Number	REPORTED OFFENSES	Number
Franklin CO SO	7	Accidents	10
Madison TWP PD	28	Assaults	5
Madison Twp. Fire	5	Bad Checks - Forgery and Passing	0
Obetz	8	Burglaries	1
CPD/ CFD	0	Criminal Mischief	0
Public Assistance		Domestic Disputes	0
Other Agencies	1	Domestic Violence	3
House Watches	17	OVI and alcohol issues	3
		Fights	3
Mileage	18,161	Disorderly Conduct	4
		Theft Related/ Robberies	18
Part Time Hours	381	Weapon Related Calls	0
		Missing Persons/Juveniles	1
		Narcotic Related Offenses	1
Traffic Stops	65	School Related Incidents	4
Citations	75	Stolen/Unauthorized Use	4
Reports taken	219	Warrant/Arrests/Subpoenas	2
Identity Theft	0	General Complaints	10
Field Interviews	2	Suspicious Persons/Vehicles	1
		Parking	8
Juvenile Complaints	2	Threats	3
		Vandalism	1
		Suicide (1 attempts)	0



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Rash of car break-ins in Groveport

By Rick Palsgrove

Southeast Editor

Groveport Police Chief Ralph Portier said a series of vehicle break-ins in Groveport appears to be the work of a roving band of thieves from outside the community.

Portier said thieves broke into eight vehicles during the early morning hours on the weekend of Sept. 21 in the Elmont Place, Founders Bend and Bixby Road areas in Groveport.

"The vehicles were unlocked and parked in driveways," said Portier. "There was no damage to the vehicles. The suspects quickly entered the vehicles and took whatever they wanted."

Portier said cash was stolen from the vehicles. A power drill was also taken from one of the vehicles. Additionally, he said two vehicles were stolen but then quickly abandoned.

"One of the stolen vehicles was found less than a mile away and the other was found on Georgetown," said Portier.

Portier said officers first suspected the thefts were made by local youths out after curfew. However, similar style thefts were committed in Obetz and Pickerington around the same time leading officials to believe the crimes were committed by an outside group of thieves.

"Roving groups of thieves will quickly go from community to community to commit these crimes," said Portier.

He said police have no suspects at this time and the investigation is ongoing.

Portier said a similar rash of incidents of items being stolen from cars also happened in Groveport last spring.

According to Portier, the Groveport police will beef up patrols at night. He said the increased police visibility could deter crimes and also help officers catch criminals in the act.

He said citizens can help prevent crime by locking their vehicles, installing outside lights that come on when there is physical activity, and by not leaving money, such as coins, visible in their vehicles.

"We call that 'console raiding.' Thieves see change left in a vehicle's console and then they go after it," said Portier. "If they hit a lot of cars, stolen change can add up to a lot of money."

Portier said it is also important for citizens to watch for suspicious activities in their neighborhoods and notify police when they see it.

"We would rather respond to a call and find nothing rather than not to receive a call and then a crime is committed," said Portier.

He said citizens should call the police as quickly as possible whenever a crime has been committed or when they see suspicious activity. He said the phone number for non-emergency calls is 525-3333.