

Police arrest four in copper wire thefts; investigate connection to larceny reports

by JESSICA L. FINCH
Associate Editor

Amherst police have arrested four people in connection with larcenies of copper wiring throughout much of Western New York.

Assistant Chief John Askey said the department is estimating that \$50,000 worth of tools, electronic components and wiring are connected to the arrests.

The arrests unfolded on April 4 when Officer John Fiore stopped a vehicle on Millersport Highway for following another vehicle too closely and having a loud muffler. The vehicle being followed was later investigated and connected to the case.

"The (first) vehicle was stopped outside the Verizon (store), and we gained information leading to an attempt to break into Verizon," Capt. Timothy Green said.

Amy L. Block, 28, and Daniel Harzynski, 18, both of Riverdale Avenue in Tonawanda, were questioned and charged.

Police searched the car and

found tools and electronic components such as wire cutters and some copper wiring.

Investigations into the case are ongoing. Several construction sites within Amherst were targeted recently.

Block, who was driving with a suspended license, was charged with possession of burglary tools, attempted criminal trespassing, conspiracy, criminal possession of stolen property, attempted grand larceny and unlawful possession of radio devices. Harzynski was charged with the same counts.

Askey said the team had been using Walkie Talkies to track police calls.

"Through information obtained we tracked the two individuals in the first vehicle," Askey said.

Police arrived at a Mang Avenue address in Kenmore where two additional arrests were made in connection to the theft of copper wiring.

Gary W. Woods, 42, of Mang Avenue, and Tania A. Harzynski, 48, of the Riverdale Avenue ad-

dress, were both arrested. Tania is the mother of Daniel Harzynski.

Woods and Tania Harzynski were both charged with conspiracy, attempted grand larceny, and possession of radio devices. Tania, in addition, was charged with criminal possession of a controlled substance.

Askey said more charges are pending.

Following initial investigations police obtained search warrants for the Mang Avenue and Riverdale Avenue residences, which took place on April 4.

"We recovered wire casing, several thousand dollars of tools, electronic components and copper wiring," Askey said.

Amherst police suspect the four arrests are connected to several crimes in surrounding jurisdictions.

Green said police are estimating that three van loads of stolen property have been discovered. Because materials were found in other jurisdictions the additional charges are still pending.

He added that most of the wire had already been removed, but police are investigating the tools and casings left in the residences.

The case extended into Buffalo as Amherst police recovered property belonging to a Buffalo resident.

"We recovered wire casing, several thousand dollars of tools, electronic components and copper wiring."

— Assistant Chief John Askey



FAMILY FUN — Shayla Toledo, 3, has her cheek turned into a work of art by painter Carmen Lombo during YMCA Healthy Kids Day held on March 31. Shayla's mom, Dawn Toledo, looks on. The YMCA sponsored the event, Put Play in Your Day, at six locations, including the Northeast Family Branch at 4433 Main St.

Photo by Jim Smerecak
Purchase color photos at www.BeeNews.com

Village Meetings

The following events will be held at Village Hall, 5565 Main St., Williamsville, unless otherwise noted. For more information, call 632-4120.

Farmers Market meeting will be at 6 p.m. Wednesday, April 11.

Beautification Committee will meet at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 10.

Environmental Committee will meet at 7 p.m. Monday, April 16.

Youth and Recreation Committee will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 17.

Meeting House Events Com-

mittee will meet at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 17.

Zoning Board of Appeals will meet at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 18.

Environmental Committee observance of Earth Day will be April 21.

Village Board will meet at 7:30 p.m. Monday, April 23.

Community Plan Committee will hold its public forum at 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 24 at Williamsville South High School, 5950 Main St., Williamsville.

Water Mill Committee will meet at 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 25.

Robber takes \$1,000 at gunpoint

Amherst police are investigating a robbery that took place on Friday evening at the Famous Footwear at 1561 Niagara Falls Boulevard.

Capt. Timothy Green said a black man, 25-30 years old, 5 feet 9 inches tall and weighing approximately 165 pounds, approached the clerk at 7:45 p.m. and asked for shoe polish.

When the clerk opened the register, the suspect reportedly demanded the money and displayed an automatic handgun. The suspect allegedly forced the clerk to the back of the store and then left through the front door.

Police said the suspect was wearing a black skull cap, multicolored winter jacket and jeans and had a scruffy beard and mustache.

He left with an estimated \$1,000 in cash.

A burglary from Sunday is also being investigated.

Green said the doors to the China King Restaurant and Supercuts, both at 9860 Transit Road, were pried open. Damage to each location is estimated at a couple of hundred dollars, he said.

The suspect(s) reportedly took \$500 from the restaurant. While responding to the China King complaint, detectives investigated the surrounding businesses, and that is when they discovered the damage to Supercuts.

Green said it is unknown at this time what was taken from the hair salon.


Police estimate that the crimes took place sometime between midnight Saturday and Sunday morning.

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