

Police: Few leads on M'ville burglar

*Spotlight
Nov 24*

By MARY LANNON

Police are stymied in the case of the burglar who struck McKownville two weeks ago, a Guilderland police officer told McKownville Improvement Association members at their Nov. 18 meeting

"We don't have many leads right now," said Patrolman Steven Stein.

He added that investigators have mainly the description of the suspect to go on. The burglar has been described as a 6-foot white male. Since the immediate area has easy access to bus lines and the University at Albany, Stein said the person could be anywhere.

The burglar struck three times, Stein said, once at 10 a.m. and twice in the early afternoon.

"The burglar pried open windows in the back of residences," Stein said.

Police have said that the burglaries took place on Nov. 3 in the 1400 block of Western Avenue. Jewelry and cigarettes were taken, police said. Police have been looking at local pawn shops to try and locate the jewelry, Stein said.

He also explained to the group that they may want to re-start a neighborhood watch group. Police officers will hold three meetings to help any neighborhoods interested in establishing one.

The meetings cover topics such as how government works and how to get everyone involved. It will also help set up block captains and block assistants who will ultimately run the watch.

Stein also offered other safety suggestions for neighbors. He said that often burglars will case neighborhoods and look for a break in the pattern of homeowners. So he said residents should be careful to maintain their routines whenever they're away.

He also recommended that outside lights should be kept on from dusk to dawn and that mail and newspapers should be regularly collected.

One resident asked about motion detection lights. Stein said those may act as a deterrent but as they become more commonplace, they become less effective. Still, he added burglars may be afraid of being seen when such lights go on.