

Police Reports

Compiled by Evan Ortega
HOTEL BURGLARY
TUESDAY, JULY 21

A guest at a hotel in the 1700 block of Sepulveda Boulevard left her room from 10:30 to 11:30 p.m., finding her laptop missing as she packed her bags early the next morning. The guest saw no forced entry to the door but noticed her window was open two inches. The hotel manager told police the hotel has security cameras, but that she wouldn't check the cameras or room lock data because she had to go to court for jury duty. Police will investigate further.

GAS STATION THEFT
FRIDAY, JULY 24

A man parked his car at a gas station pump in the 1000 block of Sepulveda Boulevard at 1 p.m. The man told police he went inside the building for approximately one minute, leaving his wallet inside, the car's doors unlocked and its windows rolled down. Upon return he could not find his wallet, which he said contained \$130 in cash. The clerk didn't know how to work the surveillance cameras and told police the manager could be contacted regarding the cameras.

STOLEN SEATS
MONDAY, JULY 27

A man parked his car in a shopping center parking lot in the 3200 block of N. Sepulveda Boulevard at 7 p.m. He told police he returned at 8:45 p.m. to find the third row seat of his suburban missing.

BABYSITTING MONEY STOLEN
TUESDAY, JULY 28

A woman called police in the morning to report that \$750 worth of her daughter's babysitting money was stolen at their home in the 800 block of Third Street. The woman's daughter had saved about \$1,000 in a clear plastic bag and last put cash in it the day before. The woman said her daughter discovered it missing after talking about donating some of it to a local animal shelter. The daughter also reported seven of 11 gold coins missing from a porcelain box next to where the bag of money was sitting. A neighbor had a camera pointing toward their house, but said it was inoperable.

DOG WALKER CONFRONTATION
WEDNESDAY, JULY 29

Police were called to the 3700 block of the Strand after a woman on rollerblades got into an argument with a woman and two companions walking 15 dogs at 4 p.m. Both parties called police saying they felt threatened. Officers filed a report with the following conclusions: As rollerblader passed the dog walker, a German Shepard nipped at her. Words were exchanged and the rollerblader stepped aggressively toward the dog walker. At that point, police reported the dog walker told the dogs to "get her," (she claimed it was to get the rollerblader to back down) prompting the rollerblader to skate to her Hummer, where both parties confronted each other again. The rollerblader then brandished a golf club, (she claimed it was to protect herself from the dogs) shortly after which police arrived. The rollerblader said she only wanted to prosecute if the dog walker wants to prosecute, which the latter told police she does.

FEUDING NEIGHBORS
THURSDAY, JULY 30

Police responded to a man's house at 8 a.m. after somebody smashed eggs on his driveway and scattered orange traffic cones in and around his driveway and front yard overnight. He told officers that over the last several months, stray and feral cats have wandered into his backyard searching for food and leaving feces. The man is allergic to cats and said his dog got sick with parasites; his veterinarian told him that it is probably due to eating the cat feces. The man told police that Manhattan Beach Animal Control said he could trap the cats and give them to lo-

cal animal shelters. He bought a "Havahart" live animal cage trap and captured a black cat with no identification or collar, before leaving it at a Carson shelter.

The following day, the man's neighbors told him their cat was missing. He went to their house to talk to discuss the matter, saying the cat he left at the shelter did not match their cat's description. The man told police his neighbors and their visiting guests "jumped down my throat," not listening to anything he had to say. The day of the vandalism, the man told police his neighbor received a letter accusing people at his house of dropping cats off at Polliwog Park or local shelters. He told police he didn't want to prosecute, but wanted documentation in case the situation escalated. Police gave the man the number of a dispute resolution specialist and suggested the man get together with his neighbors to resolve the issue. The man told police it was a "great idea" and that he would follow up on the idea.

DIAPER THIEF
FRIDAY, JULY 31

Police responded to a department store in the 1200 block of N. Sepulveda Boulevard at 9:30 p.m. regarding a theft a day earlier. A loss prevention employee told officers a suspect on their shoplifting "watch list" was seen on surveillance cameras stealing three cans of baby formula and a package of diapers, valued at \$85. The female suspect put the items in a basket and walked out the entrance.

WATCH MY STUFF
SUNDAY, AUGUST 2

A man visited the police department at 4 p.m. to report his belongings stolen during the Six-Man tournament on the south side of the pier an hour earlier. The man told police that he asked a group of strangers, white men and women in their 20s, to watch his belongings while he went in the ocean. After returning to the beach about three minutes later, the people were gone, apparently taking with them his \$300 iPhone, wallet containing \$55, and his passport. The day after the incident, the victim called his credit card company to find \$340 in purchases at a local sushi restaurant, café and brewery.

HOTEL HIJINKS
SUNDAY, AUGUST 2

Officers responded to a hotel in the 1200 block of N. Valley Drive after bottles of liquor were reportedly stolen and a sign was vandalized. A front desk supervisor told officers that between 6:30 and 7:30 p.m., he went upstairs after hearing a loud noise, walking past a group of intoxicated hotel guests. The supervisor noticed a metal gate covering an unattended bar open with a four-inch gap and noticed a sign had been ripped off a wall. Later that evening, he noticed several bottles of alcohol missing from the bar and saw empty bottles near the outdoor lounge chairs.

Time-stamped video from inside the bar showed an arm reach through the gap and grab several of the bottles, one by one from the bar at about 6:30 p.m. The video revealed a partial image of the suspect, a man with shaggy hair wearing a Lakers-style jersey. Other surveillance footage showed him conversing with the intoxicated hotel guests who the manager saw earlier. The guests and suspected thief left the hotel, but did not check out. Police took pictures and gathered evidence, returning to the hotel shortly before midnight to help the manager evict one of the guests after they had returned. According to the police report, the guest was intoxicated and confused as to why he was being evicted. When the officer explained that one of the guest's associates had committed a crime, the man would not identify the man and told the officer, "You are not going to win this battle." The man left the hotel shortly after without incident.

Earthtalk



Turning the thermostat up in summer and down in winter is a simple yet oft-overlooked way to save money and energy on heating and cooling. Image by Getty Images.

From the Editors of E/The Environmental Magazine

Dear EarthTalk: What are some simple low cost improvements I can do to my home to make it greener?

-- Stefan Lonce, via email

According to consumer advocate, Remar Sutton, there are many ways to save energy and other resources around the home without spending a lot of money. And taking action sooner rather than later will lead to ongoing savings on utility bills, so a little cash outlay now will more than pay for itself in the long run.

On the energy front, turning your thermostat up in summer and down in winter is one often overlooked way to reduce usage and cost. "For each degree you raise or lower your thermostat, you can save anywhere from one to five percent on your cooling or heating bills depending on where you live," Sutton reports, adding that programmable thermostats can help greatly to maximize efficiency and cut out waste.

Other ways to save energy include: lowering the hot water heater's thermostat; getting heating and cooling equipment tuned once a year; insulating hot water pipes and hot water storage tanks; caulking cracks and gaps on walls, including around door and window frames; weather-stripping air leaks around windows and doors; and replacing incandescent light bulbs with more efficient compact fluorescent (CFL) bulbs.

Sutton recommends doing an energy audit to identify all the areas around the house where simple, low-cost improvements can

make a difference. Your local utility may offer a free or low-cost audit, or you can do-it-yourself via the online calculator at the U.S. Department of Energy's Home Energy Saver website.

Beyond energy savings alone, Sutton offers a wealth of tips on how to reduce water usage around the house as well: Wash and dry only full loads of laundry and only wash full loads of dishes; fix leaky faucets and toilets; install aerating low-flow showerheads and faucets; turn off the faucet while brushing teeth and shaving; and take short(er) showers and avoid baths altogether. By taking some or all of these measures, you can

run a much greener home without spending much at all.

Once you've exhausted ways to save energy and water around the house as it is, you might consider taking larger steps to boost efficiency more. According to Harvey Sachs of the American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy, installing or upgrading insulation is a sure-fire way to save money over time, as your heating and cooling equipment won't have to work so hard maintaining the desired temperature of your home's interior. Planting shade trees around your home's exterior will help reduce the need for air conditioning in summer and, if they're deciduous, they'll let sunlight through in the winter.

Also, says Sachs, upgrading to more energy efficient appliances—preferably those brandishing the federal government's EnergySTAR seal of approval—should more than make up for any cost premiums with the energy savings they'll bring going forward.

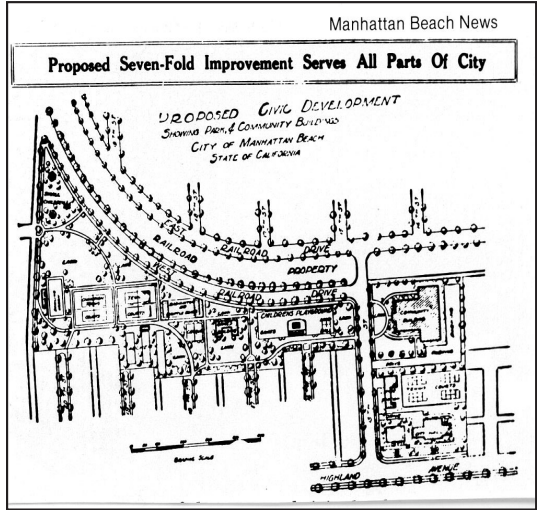
Replacing older single pane windows with new more efficient double or even triple pane varieties can significantly reduce home energy usage and heating/cooling bills as well. Be sure to get professional help when installing insulation or new windows, as improper installation can negate the benefits you're trying to obtain.

Contacts: DOE Home Energy Saver Website, www.hes.lbl.gov/hes/vh.shtml; American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy, www.aceee.org; EnergySTAR, www.energystar.gov.

Send your environmental questions to: EarthTalk, P.O. Box 5098, Westport, CT 06881; earthtalk@emagazine.com. Read past columns at: www.emagazine.com/earthtalk/archives.php. EarthTalk is now a book! Details and order information at: www.emagazine.com/earthtalkbook.

History

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Engineers' sketch of the proposed civic development as tentatively outlined and approved for the Seven Point Improvement Plan. August 1938.

citizens had voted \$142,000 in participating bonds for the \$400,000 development, with the remaining funds to be furnished by federal WPA monies. Houses were being bought and demolished or moved to accommodate the Civic Center development. Five dwellings located on the site were located at: 305 16th Street (two), 317 15th, 321 15th, and the Bradbury home at 316 13th Street. All were moved to other areas in town.

With all the preparation for the proposed Seven-Fold Improvement Plan, the project never materialized. Citizens were unhappy with the Engineering Service Corporation, there was a lack of funds, and the WPA had been disbanded because of World War II. To be continued...