

# JOHNSON COUNTY

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# Bevy of break-ins puzzles cops

Police find no link, motives at mobile home community in Franklin

By PAIGE E. WASSEL

DAILY JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

pwassel@thejournalnet.com

A recent string of break-ins has residents in a Franklin neighborhood concerned.

People living in Countryview Mobile Home Community on Hospital Road have reported three residential entries, six burglaries and one theft since the week before Christmas.

Police are investigating the burglaries and have increased patrols in the area, Franklin Police Chief John Borges said. He added that officers consider this an unusually high number of incidents for one neighborhood.

Investigators are looking for patterns to the crimes and searching for suspects.

Several homeowners reported

having doors forced open or windows broken in the burglaries, according to police reports. Many of the missing items were electronic devices.

Some of the items taken were ceramic dolls, Nintendo, Xbox and PlayStation 2 systems, DVD players, two computer systems and a printer, a surround sound speaker system, a cell phone, two bicycles, a television and an antique shotgun.

Homeowners provided names of possible culprits in a couple of cases, but police officers haven't found physical evidence to link the people to the crimes, Borges said.

Usually, when police get this many reports, he said, officers are able to clearly identify a pattern among the incidents, which

helps them locate the offenders.

In one case, Cathi Wray returned from visiting family over Christmas to find her bedroom window broken and window screens on the porch.

The television set in her bedroom was flipped over, but her computer was untouched, she said. A nonworking cell phone was the only thing that she found missing.

Wray said she was aware of other break-ins at nearby homes and worried if enough was being done to solve the crimes.

A resident who lived down the street from Wray awoke to find two people she didn't know in her home on Dec. 18.

Angela Goodine said she was home with her daughter when she heard noises. She found the

people near the door of the home. They ran away when they saw her.

She called police, but the intruders had already left before officers arrived to check the property.

Goodine told police that she had locked her front door and secured it before she went to bed. She hadn't had any problems like that in the past, according to a Franklin police report.

Some residents said they thought the crimes might be motivated by people wanting items that could easily be sold for drug money.

Borges said investigators haven't found any evidence linking the Countryview crimes to drug dealing, but he said drugs often figure into property crimes.

## ON THE RECORD

### Police/fire

#### Franklin

##### Residential entry

- 1500 block of Lochry Road: A man reported that the front door to his home was standing open at 2:10 p.m. Wednesday. He did not discover anything missing from inside the home, but someone had scratched a vehicle parked in the driveway.

##### Thefts

- Max Merritt Auto Specialties, 235 Terre Haute St.: An employee reported that he was walking away from the business and saw a man driving a truck filled with parts from the business. He confronted the driver and then returned to the business to call police. The driver was gone when police arrived.

- 100 block of Patterson Street: A man reported Wednesday that an acquaintance was supposed to drive his vehicle to his home from Indianapolis about noon Monday. The woman left Indianapolis in the man's vehicle but never arrived at his house.

##### Criminal mischief

- 2000 block of Franklin Cove Court: A woman reported that someone scratched an obscenity into the side of her vehicle between 6 p.m. Tuesday and 7 a.m. Wednesday.

##### Personal-injury accident

- 8:22 p.m. Wednesday — U.S. 31 and Earlywood Drive: Shawn Michael Smock, 23, Franklin; Megan M. NevenHoven, 22, Franklin. NevenHoven complained of head pain.

##### Property-damage accidents

- 7:41 a.m. Wednesday — Branigin Road and U.S. 31
- 7:24 a.m. Wednesday — 750 International Drive

##### Greenwood

##### Burglary

- 1200 block of Barrington Drive: A woman reported that someone entered her home and stole items from her bedroom between 7 and 7:25 a.m. Wednesday. The woman's juvenile son returned to the home at 7:25 a.m. and saw a vehicle in the driveway. When he entered the home through the garage, he heard someone leaving through the front door and noticed that the vehicle in the driveway was gone.

##### Officials