

Town of Wendell
Police Department
North Carolina



PRESS RELEASE

Contact: Chief Bill Carter
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 21, 2017

Motor Vehicle Break-Ins

During the first two weekends in March, the Town of Wendell experienced a rash of motor vehicle break-ins in several neighborhoods. There were a total of 21 vehicles entered at 16 different addresses. In five cases, property was reported as being taken and in one case a vehicle was stolen from Deer Lake Trail. In each case there was no sign of forced entry, the vehicles were believed to have been unlocked.

On Saturday, March 11, 2017 Knightdale Police Officers attempted to initiate a stop of the vehicle stolen from Wendell. A brief pursuit ensued and the vehicle was stopped. Seven occupants were reported as being in the vehicle. Five occupants were detained or arrested. Many of the occupants were juveniles.

Subsequent investigation identified three suspects responsible for the vehicle break-ins and theft of the vehicle. Two of the suspects are juveniles and are being referred to the Juvenile Justice System. The third suspect was identified as Philip Eldridge (16 year old male of 501 Meadow Lane, Wendell). Eldridge was charged with 21 counts of felony breaking or entering of a motor vehicle, 1 count of felony larceny, 1 count of felony larceny of a motor vehicle, 4 counts of misdemeanor larceny, three counts of misdemeanor possession of stolen property and one count of misdemeanor possession of drug paraphernalia. The police department has recovered most of the stolen property.

Chief Bill Carter stated these recent events were crimes of opportunity and a few steps can reduce your chance of becoming a victim. Residents should lock their vehicles when unoccupied, do not leave items of value in plain view from outside the vehicle, install motion sensing floodlights on the exterior of the home or take other steps to illuminate your vehicles. These small steps can serve as a huge deterrent to these types of crimes. He finally concluded by saying if you see or hear anything suspicious do not hesitate to contact the Wendell Police Department.

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