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Milwaukee man in jail as police seek charges for July crimes at businesses

Port Washington police on Monday arrested a 20-year-old Milwaukee man in connection with two burglaries in the city in July.

Police are asking the district attorney's office to charge the man with two counts of burglary and one count of bail jumping, Chief Richard Thomas said.

The man, who is in custody in the Ozaukee County jail, was identified after police were able to obtain a fingerprint from a piece of broken glass at the scene of the burglaries, Thomas said.

The print was matched to the suspect by the state's fingerprint data base, he said — the first time the database has been used by the department to solve the burglary of a business.

The July 23 burglaries were at Oh Zone! hair salon, 480 W. Grand Ave., and Homeward Bound Tattoo, 484 W. Grand Ave.

Thomas credited the work of officers Matt Keller and Craig Czarnecki, who processed the burglary scenes, and Eric Schmeling, who conducted follow-up work, with solving the crimes.

Thomas noted that the crime illustrates a growing trend in the area.

"The fact that this evidence led us to a suspect from Milwaukee shows that criminals are much more transient than they were years ago," he said.

"Crime is not as local as it used to be, which doesn't make our job any easier."

In other police news:

Officers were called to Westport Meadows Park at 5 p.m. Sept. 16 after receiving a report of juveniles trying to set a fire under the trees. When they arrived, they found a 15-year-old Port boy. He was cited for setting an open fire, police said.

About 8:45 a.m. Sept. 15, police received a report from Port Washington High School of a teen who was intoxicated.

The 15-year-old Saukville boy was cited for underage consumption of alcohol and possession of tobacco and was referred to juvenile authorities on charges of disorderly conduct, resisting or obstructing an officer and escape, police said.

A 57-year-old Port Washington man who called 911 about 2:25 p.m. Sept. 12 looking for the police department's non-emergency number was warned for misuse of the emergency line.

The man, who was found to be intoxicated, was calling to report vehicles speeding past his home on Norport Drive, police said. No vehicles were observed speeding when officers arrived.