Belmont K9 plays a large part in solving local burglary

BY DONNA RHODES

BELMONT — Belmont Police Department’s K9 “Vito” is certainly pulling his weight on the department, especially when it comes to tracking down suspects of crimes in the community, like the brazen daytime burglary he and his handler, Officer Evan Boulanger, assisted with last Friday morning.

A call came in at 11:20 a.m. on Nov. 18 from residents of High Street. The couple had been shopping at a local grocery store and when they returned home they found a door was open and the residence had been rummaged through, reported Lt. Richard Mann.

“The resident was able to quickly identify missing property, which aided police in the recovery of much of the property,” he said.

Vito and Boulanger were quickly called to the scene where Vito picked up a scent track leading from the home. As officers followed Vito’s lead through the neighborhood, a contractor working in downtown Belmont that day spotted the team. He informed them he had observed several minors walking away from the neighborhood with a guitar and a box of electronics.

Armed with that information, BPD was soon able to locate two juveniles approximately one mile from the scene. One of those two did admit to police that they had participated in the burglary, Mann said.

Police on Friday were busy gathering fingerprints and other evidence from the residence and the search was still on for a third juvenile believed to have been involved in the crime.

“Use of the department’s K-9 team was instrumental in this investigation,” said Mann in a written press release. “Vito was able to lead officers in the right direction the suspects used to leave the area after the crime and, ultimately, to identify a key witness who gave a description of the suspects.”

Each of the juveniles involved in the burglary will face a variety of charges through the Juvenile Justice System, the lieutenant added.

Anyone with information about this case is asked to contact Belmont Police Department at 267-8350.

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