

# Asheville Police debunk Grove crime rumors

By Heather McGaha

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Kara Hubbard started keeping her windows locked in her apartment at the Grove after she heard rumors of intoxicated men climbing through women's windows at the complex.

"The bottom floors are where most people are experiencing crime. I feel safe because I live on the third floor and lock all my doors," the senior environmental science student said.

Hubbard said she was aware of men breaking and entering in first floor apartments, and residents should remember to lock their windows and doors.

The Grove apartment complex has experienced crimes such as breaking and entering into apartments and cars, as well as fights, according to Shannon King, real estate manager for the Campus Crest development.

The incidents that happen at the Grove are not unusual for a complex located in a city setting, she said.

According to a call summary for 2009, the Asheville Police Department is most often called to Bulldog Drive for loud music and civil disturbances, according to APD Community Relations Manager Melissa Williams.

"About two years ago, there was a spell where a few people I knew had their cars broken into, or left their apartment unlocked and a few things were taken, but nothing big," said John Williams, a junior basketball player and resident of the Grove.

This year, there have been eight police reports regarding larceny from motor ve-

hicles, according to Melissa Williams.

Most of these reports are a result of windows left rolled down, unlocked car doors and even keys in the ignition, she said.

According to King, fights that occur at the Grove usually involve people who do not live in the complex.

She said properties around the complex occasionally need additional security supervision, but the Grove does not have full-time security guards on the premises.

According to Hubbard, there is a low-income housing complex behind the Grove, which residents refer to as "The Klondike."

"I don't go out at night by myself, that's for sure. I just keep aware of my surroundings and don't give anyone a reason to approach me," she said.

The Grove does have security cameras in and around the clubhouse area in order to prevent electronics from theft, but the complex does not intend to put any other surveillance cameras on the premises in the future, according to King.

"Privacy is a factor, as well as cost. We want to still provide an affordable housing option and do not want to live our lives on camera," she said.

The Grove ensures residents are aware of ways to keep themselves safe.

Management publishes common safety tips for the complex community, as well as a phone number for 24-hour on-call personnel.

"If something does happen on our grounds, we have the capability to evict people if they break the law," King said.

Melissa Williams said a Grove resident can not guarantee he or she will never be a victim of crime, but there are things resi-

dents can do to try to avoid it.

Impaired judgment from drugs and alcohol has a lot to do with crime at the Grove, she said.

Safety tips include awareness of emergency telephone numbers, traveling in groups and planning a traveling route including well-lit paths.

"Stay alert to your surroundings and the people around you. Don't text and chat on a cell phone instead of paying attention to your surroundings. Share your class schedule with your parents and trusted friends, and give them your telephone numbers," Melissa Williams said.

Hubbard said she called the Grove personnel when an odd solicitor came to her door, and they dealt with the man right away.

According to Banks, there is no reason not to live at the Grove due to crime.

Hubbard and John Williams said they agree.

"If safety is a concern when moving to the Grove, you can rest easy with your decision. It is safe," John Williams said.

He said he knows his neighbors and roommates well and feels they would help him in any potentially dangerous situation.

An advantage to living at the Grove is 24-hour access to an on-call management team that can help in an emergency, Banks said.

"Crime does not appear to be exceptional for the Grove. The calls the police department gets regarding loud music and fights are typical of apartments that cater to college-age clients who are generally living on their own for the first time," Melissa Williams said.

# Zeis

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had more stuff," he said. "We are working with the development office to enhance the equipment budget."

Renovations are now planned for Rhoades-Robinson Hall. Construction should begin this winter, Krumpke said.

"Representatives from the General Assembly came up and toured Rhoades Hall and Rhoades tower and saw that it was not appropriate square footage," Krumpke said. "It was old and in need of repair. It was not the place where we wanted students learning about cutting edge science."

The chemistry and biology departments, along with MMAS, will move to Zeis. The departments left in Rhoades-Robinson Hall will expand and take up the space, Krumpke said.

"During that time Wilma Sherrill, who was in the General Assembly and became special assistant to the Chancellor here at UNCA, was instrumental in getting the \$9 million that we got from the state to renovate Rhoades Hall and Rhoades tower," Krumpke said.



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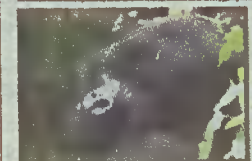
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# Fees

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McBee said. "I'm not in athletics, I don't attend, games and I don't use the gym or anything because I commute."

The sociology student said the open forum interests her, and she wants to attend to hear the justification for these expenses.

"Since I'm not participating I want to know why I'm paying for this," McBee said.

Jenna Dover, student president of the Student Athlete Advisory Committee, dis-

agreed with McBee's view.

"I think the student fee increases are needed, and it's not too much," Dover said. "They asked for the smallest increase this year, only like 2.5 percent."

Dover said UNCA's teams help earn money for the school.

"A lot of college sports programs are losing money right now and we're not," the SAAC president said. "We are proud of our school and I wish some students

showed more school spirit."

Another student contributed her opinion, but requested anonymity in order to speak candidly.

"UNCA is not really an athletic kind of school and the majority of students aren't athletes, so do they need \$605 from each of us," she said. "Not that I would say that to my peers. Since I have class with several of them, it might create an embarrassing situation."