

What Is Suspicious Activity?

By Lori Grier
Post-Staff Writer
Ms. Ronnie Sorban of Crime Analysis informed us that through the end of December, 1983, there were 4,587 residential burglaries in Charlotte. Through the end of September, 1983, there were 3,330 residential burglaries in Charlotte. "Residential burglaries appear to be rising slightly, and the number of forced burglaries (where someone left a door or window unsecured) has risen over the past years," she stated.

Attorney Randy Means of the Charlotte Police Department revealed, "Under North Carolina Law if someone is breaking into your home and you reasonably believe he/she constitutes a threat of serious injury or death, you could use deadly force." Means also mentioned that the maximum punishment for first degree burglary can be up to 50 years in prison, while the maximum punishment for second degree burglary can be up to 10 years in prison.

There's a possibility that the number of burglaries could be reduced, and you wouldn't have to use deadly force if you knew about suspicious activity. What is suspicious activity?

The Charlotte Police Department's Crime Prevention Unit helps us recognize suspicious activity in the following categories:

Suspicious Activity Involving Persons

Persons going door-to-door in a residential area, especially if one or more persons go to rear of residence. Possible burglary suspects or trespassers.

Persons waiting or loitering in front of a house or business, if house is unoccupied or business is closed. Possible burglar suspects.

Persons forcing entrance or entering a house you know is unoccupied. Possible burglary, theft or trespassing.

Person running, especially if something of value is being carried or left at an unusual hour. Possible suspect fleeing the scene of a crime, such as burglary or robbery.

Person screaming. Possible rape or assault.

Person loitering around car or going from car to car peering into them, especially in parking lots or on streets. Possible car theft.

Persons loitering around schools, parks or secluded areas. Possible sex offenders or drug dealers.

Persons offering items for sale at a very low price. Possibly trying to sell stolen property.

Strangers loitering or slowly walking through neighborhood several times. Possible burglary suspects or vandals.

Suspicious Activity Involving Vehicles

Slow moving vehicle without lights, especially if its course appears aimless. Possible burglary, drug pusher or sex offender.

Parked or occupied vehicle containing one or more persons, especially significant if observed at an unusual hour. Possible lookouts for a burglary or robbery.

Vehicles being loaded with valuables, if parked by an unoccupied residence or closed business. Possible burglary in progress.

Recently abandoned vehicle, especially one bearing no signs that the driver had mechanical trouble.

Possible stolen car. Vehicles containing weapons. Owner may engage in criminal activity.

Vehicle into which someone is being forced, especially females or juveniles. Possible kidnapping, assault, attempted rape or child molestation.

Vehicle where business transaction appears to be under way, especially around schools or parks. Possibly selling stolen items or drugs.

Locked vehicle that someone is attempting to enter, especially in parking lots. Possible burglary or its consequences.

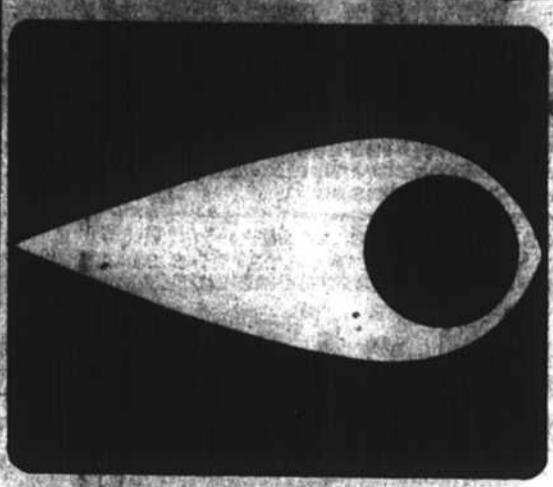
Persons tampering with mechanical parts or accessories on a vehicle. Possible theft or vandalism.

Objects of apparent value being thrown from a vehicle. Possible disposal of stolen property.

Suspicious Activity Involving Property

Property offered for sale

WARNING



OPERATION I.D.

All signs of value on these premises have been marked for ready identification by law enforcement agencies anywhere in the United States.

Third in series

at a very low price, except for obvious attic or yard sales. Possible stolen property.

Property in vehicles that is not normally found in vehicles such as TV sets, stereos, guns or auto parts. Possible stolen property.

Property being carried by persons on foot, especially suspicious at an unusual hour or unusual place. Very questionable if person is running and property is unwrapped. Possible property just stolen in burglary or robbery.

Property being removed from or loaded into a vehicle or building at an unusual hour, from an unoccupied resident or closed business. Possibly burglary in progress.

Some things occur which arouse suspicion and which the police should know about, but which do not necessarily require the presence of police on the scene right away. If you observe these activities, call the Police non-emergency number, 374-2351.

High volume of human traffic to and from a certain residence if it occurs on a daily basis. Possible vice or fence operation.

Property in homes, garages or storage areas if

accumulated in large quantities and/or items are in good condition but not in use. Possible stolen property.

Continuous repair operations at a non-business location. Possible stolen property being altered.

Vehicle which was obviously abandoned some time ago. Possible stolen car.

How To Report A Crime. If you observe any of the suspicious activities described above, call 911 immediately. The longer you wait to call the police, the greater the chances are that the suspect will get away.

Here are some guidelines to follow:

1. When the 911-Emergency Operator answers, say, "I'm calling in reference to a possible...." and name the type of crime you suspect. You need not go into detail at this point.

2. Give your name and location. If you don't know the block number, give the closest cross street or intersection.

3. Stand by to answer further questions, if necessary. The 911-Emergency Operator is trained to get the necessary information in order to dispatch a car and to advise the officers about just the barest facts. See WHAT On Page 13A.



Micah

.....Waiting to be adopted

Micah Won't

See This Story

Micah won't see this story about him. At birth his eye nerves were damaged, and he may never have useful sight. Brain damage affected his muscle control, so that without medication, his arms or legs may stiffen, limiting normal progress of crawling, walking or using his hands.

In his first year of life, he received little special care of therapy. Then he entered foster care where an experienced foster parent took on the challenge. In his second year he began to show slow, but important progress. He now receives medications to relax his muscles and to help him sleep normally. He responds to sound and to being touched, grins and shows pleasure (instead of crying all the time).

His physical development is progressing well, and his foster mother believes he is more aware of things around him than he's able to show. Once he gains a skill, such as relaxing his arm and touching his hands together, he masters it and repeats it. He now has better control of his left hand, and is getting control of his arm muscles.

Micah would certainly benefit from having a permanent family. If you find satisfaction in taking on challenges with many unknowns, and might consider adopting Micah, call the South Eastern Exchange at 803-799-1234 or write SEEUS, P. O. Box 11181, Columbia, S.C. 29211. Financial help is available to cover expenses for his needs.

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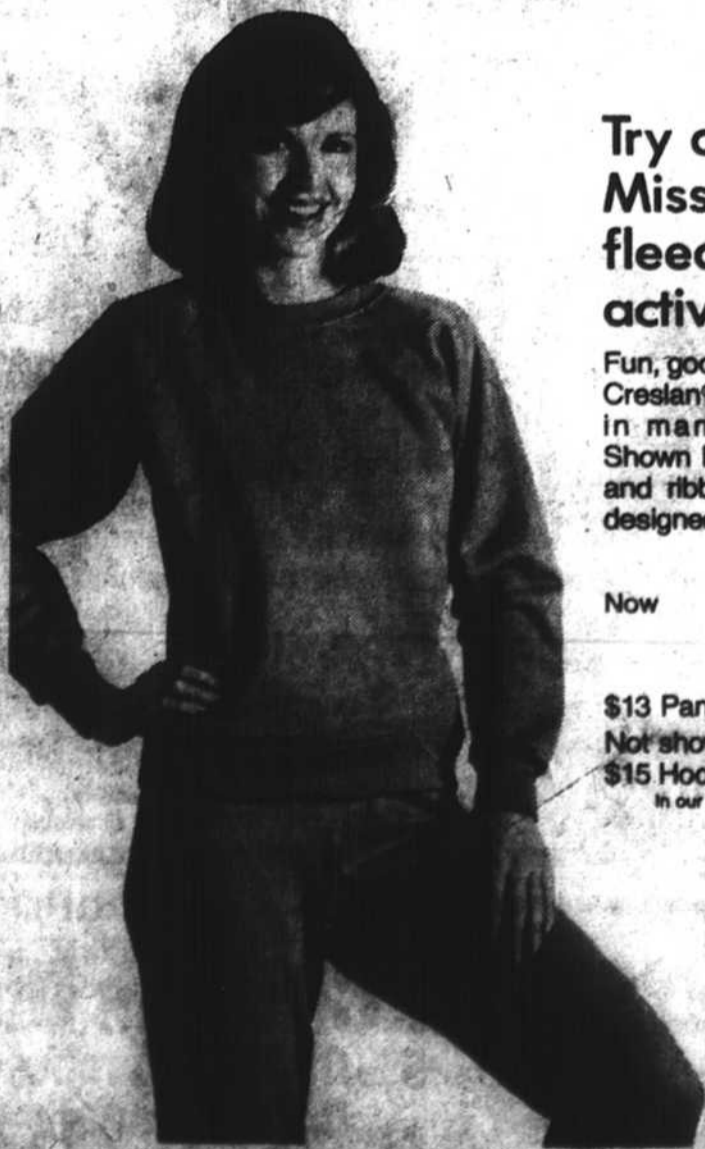
City of Charlotte
Notice to Minority/Women Business Enterprises - Construction and Suppliers of Goods and Services
Plan to Attend
Quarterly Conference on City Projects and Purchases
Saturday, February 4, 10-11:30 a.m.
McDonalds Cafeteria, I-85 and Beatties Ford Road
Engineering Department
Future Construction Projects

Project	Description	Estimated Cost	Anticipated Bid Date
Central Ave. TSM Sidewalk Improvements	Includes widening of sidewalks on Central Avenue from Pecan Avenue to the Plaza. Pavement grinding and resurfacing in this area are also included.	\$ 69,000	January
36th Street Culvert	Includes construction of a double-barrel, reinforced concrete box culvert on 36th Street at Sugar Creek. Incidental highway work is also included.	\$150,000	February
Fourth Ward Sidewalks, Phase V	Includes construction of brick paver sidewalks and granite curb at various locations in the Fourth Ward Historical District.	\$177,900	February
Tryon-College Street Connector	Includes construction of a connector street from S. Tryon Street to S. College Street. Curb and gutter, sidewalks, storm drainage and paving will be part of the construction.	\$250,000	March
Intersection Improvements - Various Locations	Four intersections will be improved under this contract. The improvements will involve median construction, lane widening and paving, and reconstruction of curb and gutter radii.	\$ 85,000	March
Independence Park Parking Lot Improvements	Construction will include concrete sidewalk and curb, and asphalt paving of the existing parking lot at Independence Park.	\$ 60,000	February
Utility Department Water Treatment Facilities			
*Vest Water Treatment Plant	Rehabilitation of Clearwell	\$900,000	February
Water Distribution Facilities			
*Hoskins Reservoir	1900' of 54" transmission main & reservoir modifications adjacent to Franklin Treatment Plant	\$800,000	March
University City	1750' of 16" Water Main along N. Tryon Street U.S. 29 North at W.T. Harris Boulevard	\$ 67,000	February
Morehead Street	Valve replacement from Graham to College Streets	\$ 65,000	February
Downs and Culp Roads	2750' of 8" main on Downs and Culp Roads near Arrowood Industrial Park	\$ 43,500	March
Miscellaneous			
Wastewater Maintenance Facility on Remount Road	Fuel pump canopy	\$ 25,000	February
Wastewater Collection Facilities			
University City	2500' of 12" sanitary sewer to proposed development at N. Tryon Street & W.T. Harris Boulevard	\$100,000	February
Clarke's Creek Interceptor	1700' of 30" sanitary sewer along Clarke's Creek adjacent to W.T. Harris Boulevard	\$150,000	March
Carmel Acres Trunk	650' of 8" sanitary sewer main in south Charlotte at Quail Hollow Road	\$ 25,000	March
Dalebrook Pump Station Trunk	1350' of 8" ductile iron sanitary sewer adjacent to I-77 near I-85 to eliminate pump station	\$ 75,000	March
Westbourne Trunks	11,000' of 8" sanitary sewer to serve area north of NC 16 near Plank Road	\$350,000	March
*NOTE: Wastewater bids pending right-of-way acquisition, delayed from December 1983.			
Purchasing Department Proposed Purchases			
	Traffic signal controllers		January, February, March
	One wheeled tractor with backhoe		
	Two buses with wheel chair lifts		
	One industrial truck mounted sweeper		
	Automotive filters (gas, oil and air)		
	Various and sundries office, janitorial, and automotive parts and supplies.		

For further information call:
Engineering Department-Eva Dixon-374-2291
Utilities Department-Kathy Freeze-399-2221
Purchasing Department-Bill Mouchet-374-2256
M/WBE Coordinator, Community Relations Committee-George Wallace-374-2424
IT IS THE INTENTION OF THE CITY OF CHARLOTTE TO ADVERTISE FOR CONSTRUCTION THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS DURING FEBRUARY AND MARCH. THE CITY ENCOURAGES ALL BUSINESS ENTERPRISES INCLUDING THOSE OWNED AND OPERATED BY MINORITIES AND WOMEN TO CONSIDER PARTICIPATING IN THESE PROJECTS.

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STARTS WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25
ends Saturday, January 28, unless otherwise stated



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