



MORRIS TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

MEDIA RELEASE

49 Woodland Avenue, Convent Station, NJ 07961
Phone (973) 539-0777 Fax (973) 326-7485

John K. McGuinness
Chief of Police

Notable Incidents for Week ending May 12, 2013

May 14, 2013

Incident: Possession of CDS

I.R. #: 2013-11240

Date: May 08, 2013@01:12AM

Location: Route 24

Summary of Incident:

On Wednesday, May 08, 2013, the defendant, Lucia Wells was stopped for a speeding violation on Route 24 by Ptl. Ryan Farrell and Sgt. O'Hare. While on the stop they noticed the scent of burnt marijuana coming from within the vehicle. After the driver consented to a search of the vehicle, several partially burnt cigars containing what was believed to be marijuana were found as well as a zip lock bag containing suspected marijuana. The defendant was charged with possessing less than 50 grams of marijuana, possession of CDS in a motor vehicle, and speeding. She was transported to Police HQ and when completed with processing she was released pending a future date in municipal court.

Suspect/Defendant:

Name: Wells, Lucia	SEX: F	Age: 25	Town: Morris Township, NJ
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Incident: Theft

I.R. #: 2013-11273

Date: May 09, 2013

Location: 250 James St..

Summary of Incident:

On Thursday, May 09, 2013 officers took a report of a theft of batteries from construction equipment at the old Verizon site on James St. The batteries, valued at approximately \$460.00 were taken from two bulldozers and two backhoes. Anyone with information on this incident or who may have seen anything suspicious in the area is asked to contact the Morris Township Detective Bureau at 973-326-7480.

Incident: Possession of CDS

I.R. #: 2013-11461

Date: May 10, 2013@12:07AM

Location: Whippany Rd.

Summary of Incident:

On Friday, May 10, 2013 Ptl. Brian Markt was checking a commercial property when he encountered four juveniles in a car. While speaking with the juveniles Ptl. Markt smelled the odor of burnt marijuana coming from within the vehicle. The juveniles allegedly admitted to smoking marijuana and one of them admitted to swallowing the evidence when the officer arrived. Three of the juveniles were released to their parents while the fourth was transported to Morristown Medical Center for evaluation and to meet his parents.



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MEDIA RELEASE

Incident: Aggravated Assault

I.R. #: 2013-11465

Date: May 11, 2013@02:24AM

Location: 2 Whippany Rd.

Summary of Incident:

On Sunday, May 11, 2013, police responded to a call about an intoxicated man who had assaulted 2-3 people. When officers arrived they found the suspect, Justin McElrath who had been subdued by another guest in the lobby of the Westin Hotel. He had apparently had a loud argument with his girlfriend and when another man had asked if she was OK the defendant punched him in the face and kicked him in the head. The victim was transported to Morristown Medical Center for treatment of his injuries. The defendant was charged with aggravated assault and simple assault. He was transported to Police HQ and when completed with processing, he was transported to Morristown Medical Center for evaluation.

Suspect/Defendant:

Name: McElrath, Justin	SEX: M	Age: 25	Town: River Vale, NJ
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Incident: Burglary

I.R. #: 2013-11486

Date: May 11, 2013

Location: St. Virgil's School & Church, Speedwell Ave.

Summary of Incident:

During the past week St. Virgil's Church and School hosted their annual carnival. On Saturday, May 11th it was discovered that a trailer used as an office for the carnival company had been broken into between the hours of 01:30am – 09:00am and removed an undetermined amount of cash. Anyone with information on this incident or who may have seen anything suspicious in the area is asked to contact the Morris Township Detective Bureau at 973-326-7480.

Incident: Armed Robbery

I.R. #: 2013-11494

Date: May 11, 2013@08:07pm

Location: Cedar Street

Summary of Incident:

On Saturday, May 11, 2013, Morris Township Police responded to the area of the Evergreen Cemetery on a reported robbery. The suspect had answered the victims Craigslist posting on the sale of his I-Phone. The suspect, a 17-year old Morris Township resident had lured the victim to the area of the cemetery to make the transaction. When the two met, the suspect allegedly brandished a knife and demanded the victim's I-Phone after which he fled on foot into the cemetery. With the assistance of officers from Morristown a perimeter was quickly established and the suspect apprehended. Morristown Officer Brian LaBarre found the suspect who matched the description given by the victim exiting the cemetery near New St. After the suspect was identified by the victim, he was transported to Morris Township Police HQ for criminal processing. The defendant was charged with robbery, unlawful possession of a weapon, and use of a weapon for unlawful purposes. He was later lodged in the Morris County Juvenile Detention Center.



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MEDIA RELEASE

Incident: Possession of CDS

I.R. #: 2013-11511

Date: May 12, 2013@02:41AM

Location: Convent Rd.

Summary of Incident:

On Sunday, May 12, 2013, Ptl. Brian Markt encountered an occupied vehicle in a commercial lot. Upon encountering the suspects, evidence of marijuana use was in plain view. The defendants were charged with possession of less than 50gams of marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia, and possession of an open container of alcohol in a motor vehicle. Samantha Schmerge was also charged with resisting arrest. The defendants were transported to Police HQ and when they completed processing, they were released pending a future date in Municipal Court

Suspect/Defendant:

Name: Schmerge, Samantha	SEX: F	Age: 25	Town: Sayville, NY
Name: Schmerge, Matthew	SEX: M	Age: 19	Town: New York, NY

NOTE: Despite these pending charges, every defendant is presumed innocent, unless and until found guilty beyond a reasonable doubt following a jury trial at which the defendant has all of his/her rights guaranteed by the U.S. and New Jersey Constitutions and relevant state law

Capt. Richard Ferrone
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