

# Amity hit by rash of crimes

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**By Denise Larive**

Special to The Mercury

AMITY — The township has been hit with a slew of crimes including thefts and burglaries this month, according to a recent report given to supervisors.

Amity Police Chief Kent A. Shuebrook said there were 14 thefts from unlocked vehicles on Sept. 4 and 5. Shuebrook told the supervisors Sept. 15 that a burglary is a crime of opportunity. Fifty percent of robberies are committed by thieves going through unlocked doors and windows.

Shuebrook said residents need to lock vehicles parked outside as well as their homes' doors and windows.

"If we take different crime prevention steps, we can stop a lot of this," he said.

Two days after Shuebrook's words of caution, a home on Amity Park Road in Douglassville was burglarized and ransacked in the middle of the afternoon. Amity Police Cpl. Susan Brown said that the burglars entered the house through the front door.

She declined to comment further.

Police from Amity and Birdsboro, a canine police officer from the Exeter Township Police Department, and state police responded to the burglary in progress on Amity Park Road, near Limekiln Road.

The homeowner, who returned home while the burglars were still in the house, was assaulted by the two men, police said. He was not seriously injured and refused medical attention from Southern Berks Ambulance personnel.

The suspects have been described as white men approximately 5 feet, 9 inches to 6 feet tall, with medium builds, and in their early 20s. One suspect was wearing a baseball cap, shorts and a white T-shirt.

Brown said earlier this week that the two suspects had not been apprehended.

Shuebrook said police are also still looking for the vandals that caused "numerous" incidents of criminal mischief to mailboxes on Monocacy Creek Road and Old Airport Road on Aug. 13 between midnight and 2:30 a.m. Homeowners said their mailboxes were smashed by an unknown object or

removed from the ground by an unknown suspect or suspects.

There were also occurrences of traffic signs pulled out of the ground and attempted to be thrown through windows of houses.

"That concerns me because they were jeopardizing people's safety," said Shuebrook. "There were also four juvenile males running through the Valley View trailer park, and acts of vandalism on Old Airport Road and Rosecliffe Drive. No one was injured, but signs were pulled out of the ground and one was attempted to be thrown through the window of the Monocacy Elementary Center."

Police said someone attempted to break into a shed, and two vehicles were burglarized at the end of July on Weavertown Road. Thieves stole laptop computers and tools from the vehicles.

One house on the same street was burglarized between Sept. 3 and 6. The thieves stole jewelry, household items and electronics.

Shuebrook said police dusted for fingerprints but don't have any additional information on the suspects.

He encouraged residents to call the police department immediately if they witness any suspicious people or activity, instead of waiting a couple of hours or a day to call it in.