

Too many false alarms, police chief reports



The Amity Township police department has responded to more than 30 security system false alarms since Jan. 1, way too many for Chief Kent Shuebrook.

"Responding to that many false alarms is a real problem for my officers," Shuebrook told the township supervisors Wednesday. "It sucks up a lot of man hours we could spend in a much more effective manner."

He told the board that he plans to be more diligent in citing violators.

According to Shuebrook, almost all false alarms are caused either by human error or technical issues with the equipment.

"A lot of times the alarms need to be adjusted as they're way too sensitive and go off much too easily, and other times it's by human error," he said. "But either way we're sending out an officer where they're just wasting their time."

The township's false alarm ordinance does not penalize a system owner for the first two false alarms. A third false alarm is subject to a \$50 service fee, a fourth, \$100, and a fifth, a \$200 fine.

"We had one business this year alone with eight," he said.

Shuebrook also told the board that his department issued 26 parking tickets during the recent snowstorms for vehicle owners who did not move their cars off of the street.

- By Dan Andrews