

# SOLVED

## Crime Stories

A Crime Stoppers USA Newsletter  
December 2021 – Issue 7

Welcome back to the Crime Stoppers USA newsletter, **Crime Stories Solved!** We trust you will find these stories of solved crimes of interest from Crime Stoppers programs around the United States. So, without further delay, read away!



### **VANDALS IDENTIFIED, ARRESTED, FOLLOWING CRIME STOPPERS TIP**

On the night of October 10, 2021, vandals targeted Venezia Park in northern Colorado Springs, CO damaging restrooms, lighting, benches, and painting graffiti and obscenities. They left behind damaged materials, broken equipment and lamps, paint cans, and miscellaneous trash and debris. It was determined a minimum of \$20,000 in repairs and restoration would be needed to put the park back to its original state.

The very next day, Pikes Peak Area Crime Stoppers issued a \$1,000 reward for information leading to an arrest for these crimes.

On October 12, 2021, local citizen “Hiking Bob” Falcone, irritated by the damage and graffiti, called Crime Stoppers, and offered to increase the reward to \$2,000 with a private donation. An announcement doubling the reward went out that same day.

Hours later, an anonymous citizen called Pikes Peak Area Crime Stoppers and provided information that included a video with facial details of the vandals, along with what they were wearing, and more which led to the arrest of those involved.

“Crime Stoppers is proud to have helped a concerned citizen deliver critical information about a crime to local authorities,” said Don Addy, Chairman of the local Crime Stoppers

chapter. "Mr. Falcone is like many other citizens who want to help, and his reward boost was a big factor

"No doubt Crime Stoppers is a very helpful tool to our Investigations Division. They receive information that we would not and often it is the difference in making an arrest," said Sean Mandel, Commander of the CSPD Investigations Division. "We're thankful for the citizen who brought the information and video forward."



### **MURDER SUSPECT SOUGHT IN MICHIGAN MURDER CASE**

On August 22, 2021, Sheriff Deputies in Jackson County, MI responded to a home at 6 a.m. where they found an 80-year-old man and two 70-year-old men all deceased from apparent gunshot wounds inside the residence. 43-year-old, Zacharie Scott Borton, was staying at the home where the shooting occurred, but was missing.

A vehicle belonging to one of the victims was also missing and police quickly determined that Borton was the alleged shooter. A statewide alert went out and the next day, Monday, August 23, Silent Observer of West Michigan received a tip stating that Borton was at a certain address in Grand Rapids, MI which is 105 miles away.

Grand Rapids Police quickly responded to the address and Borton was arrested and sent back to Jackson to answer to his charges.



### **DRIVE-BY SHOOTING SUSPECT WANTED**

An anonymous tipster provided the name of a suspect involved in a drive-by shooting that injured an 11-year-old girl. The case got a lot of media attention, and Wichita Police Department released video asking for anyone with information to come forward. The information provided by the tipster was corroborated by another witness, which led to a warrant being issued for the suspect. Officers went to the suspect's home and arrested

him without incident. After arresting him, they located a firearm, drugs, and paraphernalia in his vehicle.

The suspect was on parole for aggravated robbery and is prohibited from carrying firearms. He was booked into the Sedgwick County jail on the following charges: Criminal Discharge of Firearm; Occupied Dwelling Great Bodily Harm, Aggravated Battery with a Deadly Weapon, Aggravated Assault (x4), Criminal Distribution of Firearm to Felon, Criminal Possession of Firearm, Possession of Marijuana, Use/Possession with Intent To Use Drug Paraphernalia, and a State Arrest and Detain Warrant.



#### **BRAZOS COUNTY CELEBRATES 40TH ANNIVERSARY**

On November 16th Brazos County Crime Stoppers celebrated the 40th anniversary of its inception in 1981. Starting on November 1st the program conducted a media campaign of 40 cases in 40 days, in honor of its 40th anniversary. They highlighted current cases, old unsolved cases, and high-profile cases that CrimeStoppers has assisted with in the past. To date, Brazos County Crime Stoppers has assisted in 2,900 arrests, that closed 3,400 cases and captured 677 fugitives. This resulted in \$1.8 million in recovered property, and over \$1.6 million worth of drugs off the streets, and for that paid over \$487,000 in rewards.





Crime Stoppers of Houston

### **\$400K ROLLS ROYCE FOUND WRECKED AND SHOT UP**

On June 10, 2021, police happened upon a 2019 Rolls Royce valued at \$400,000 wrecked on the side a road. Upon inspection of the scene, officers discovered blood and bullet holes in the car but not a single person. A tip to Crime Stoppers provided the name of a man that was responsible for stealing the high-end luxury car.

Based on this information, police conducted surveillance to confirm the tipster's information. While doing so, officers located the suspect and attempted to speak with him, but he fled on foot only to be captured moments later. Further investigation revealed that the suspect was in possession of a machine used to make fictitious vehicle identification number plates. Based on the information provided the suspect was charged with Theft Over \$300,000.



### **INCREASED REWARDS FOR VIOLENT CRIMES INVOLVING WEAPONS**

Baltimore Metro Crime Stoppers has had a good year supporting area police jurisdictions. Metro Crime Stoppers supports six-county jurisdictions, four city police jurisdictions, and the Maryland State Police. In the past year the program has averaged 190 tips per month. The tips have assisted the local police in eighteen arrests including ten Wanted Fugitives, four Murders, two Drug Distribution, one Prostitution, and one First-Degree Assault. Additionally, tips have assisted police in confiscating five different types of illegal weapons.

Metro Crime Stoppers has recently entered into an agreement with the City of Baltimore to support a new program that will increase rewards for crimes involving murder and guns. The goal is to give tipsters new incentives to offer information on violent crimes. The new program will allow Metro Crime Stoppers to offer rewards that can reach up to

\$10,000 for violent crimes involving weapons. The specific rewards will depend on the crime, number of arrests and weapons.



### **OFF DUTY NEW ORLEANS POLICE DETECTIVE KILLED AT HOUSTON RESTAURANT**

On August 21, 2021, the victims in this case were an off duty New Orleans Police Detective and his friends eating at an upscale restaurant in the Galleria area. The suspects in this case approached the victims after they were seated in an outdoor patio area. After a short period, the suspects walked up and demanded jewelry.

The victims attempted to reassure the suspects that they were willing to comply. An order was made for one of the suspects to retrieve the jewelry while the other suspect jumped over the railing. It was at this point that the suspect fired two gunshots at the victims causing fatal injuries. Both suspects returned to their vehicle and fled the location.

Crime Stoppers of Houston and Crime Stoppers of Greater New Orleans joined the restaurant's owner to announce an increased reward for information on the suspects. The very next day a tipster called in with information that aided in the identification and eventual arrest of all three suspects.

### **SAFETY GUIDE – INTERNET SAFETY FROM: NATIONAL POLICE ASSOCIATION**

#### **Staying safe online**

The internet has made our lives extremely convenient. We can find information, purchase items, and connect with our friends in a matter of seconds. With use of the internet, however, come a number of risks. As you use the internet to perform more and more tasks, consider how you are keeping you and your family safe while doing so.

**Password protect all devices** Protect your computer and all other smart devices (remember your phone contains just as much private information, if not more, than your computer). Use passwords that are unusual or unexpected (i.e. avoid important dates, names of pets, etc.).

**Keep antivirus and antispyware software current** Viruses and spyware are not only inconvenient, but can expose you to identity theft or theft of other vital information. Even

if you have antivirus software, be careful what you download. Just opening an email attachment from someone you do not know can put you at risk.

#### **Beware of social media or email scams**

If a deal seems too good to be true, it probably is. Do not readily share financial or personal information with someone you do not know. **Think about what you post online, and where.**

Predators often check social media to find out when families are away from their home, or when and where your children are most vulnerable. If you regularly post photos of your home, children, vacation itineraries, or any information that is personal and / or semi-confidential, make sure to triple-check your privacy settings.

#### **Kids and the internet**

Have several conversations with your kids about:

- What they are using to communicate with each other
- What they are allowed to post or share
- What they are allowed to buy

Remind kids never to reveal any personal information, and never to agree to meet someone in person that they met online. Talk to kids about cyber bullying, and make sure they know who to talk to if they find themselves victims of bullying, or know someone who is. There are a number of apps and programs for parents of kids and teens to help monitor, and even limit, internet use. Check out what is available and come up with a plan that works for your family