

NEWS



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SUNNYVALE PUBLIC SAFETY HELPS TOBACCO THIEF BREAK NASTY HABIT

SUNNYVALE, Calif. – Three Sunnyvale liquor stores reported similar burglaries in mid-July. In each case, a suspect used a golf club to smash a window to gain entry then stole cases of cigarettes and cigars. While images of the suspect were captured on security video and a golf club was left behind at each scene, detectives received their best lead when the suspect left a cell phone behind at the third burglary.

Although the cell phone was registered to a female and video surveillance showed only a male at the crime scenes, detectives were able to link the male suspect to the owner of the phone and shared descriptions of the suspect and phone owner with patrol officers. Within a few days, Public Safety Officer Momtaheni, who had responded to a routine disturbance call, alerted detectives that both the suspect and phone owner were arrested on unrelated outstanding warrants.

During the follow up investigation, the detectives interviewed the suspect and conducted a probation search of his apartment, where they located cases of cigarettes and cigars, clothing worn by the suspect during the burglaries and the remaining golf clubs to complete the set.

Anyone with additional information related to the case is asked to contact Sunnyvale Public Safety Detective Joel Lockwood at (408) 730-7134 or to email information anonymously to SVTIP@tipnow.org.

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