

# NEIGHBORHOOD UPDATE

*from the City of Berkeley Police Department*

## CASES OF INTEREST:

- BPD Needs Your Help
- Ashkenaz
- Bank Robber Caught
- Auto Burglars Captured
- Tire Slasher
- Car Stop Nets Guns
- Gunshots Heard
- Distracted Driving Awareness Month
- South Campus Auto Burglary
- Burglaries on the Arlington
- April 27th Events
- Contact Info



2013 Year, Issue 4

April 12, 2013



## BPD NEEDS YOUR HELP

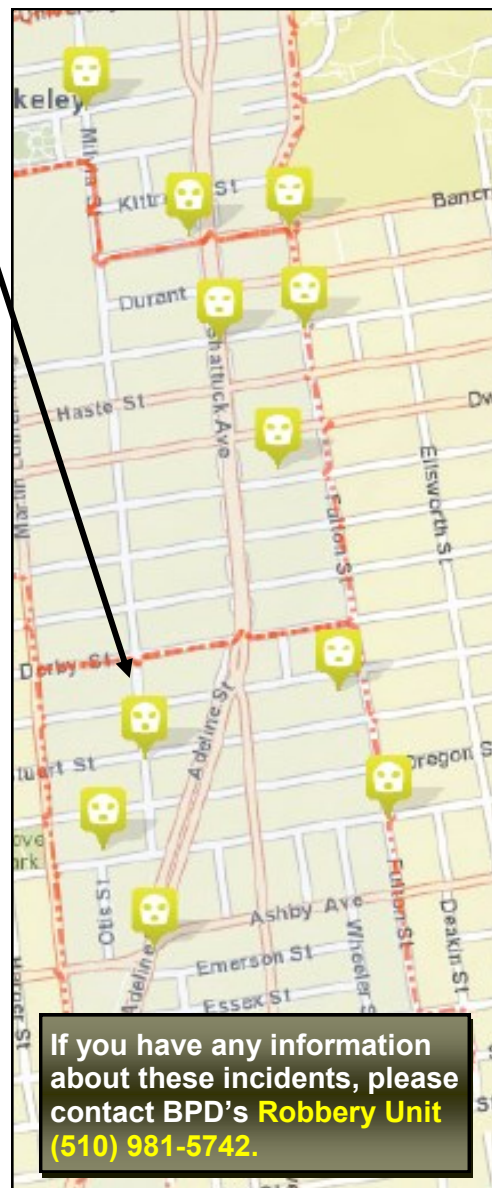
BPD Detectives are investigating an armed robbery that occurred near the intersection of Milvia & Stuart Streets on March 13th. The depicted individual is believed to be the suspect. The suspect fled the area and was last seen getting onto an AC Transit bus after the incident.

## STAY ALERT & AWARE OF YOUR SURROUNDINGS

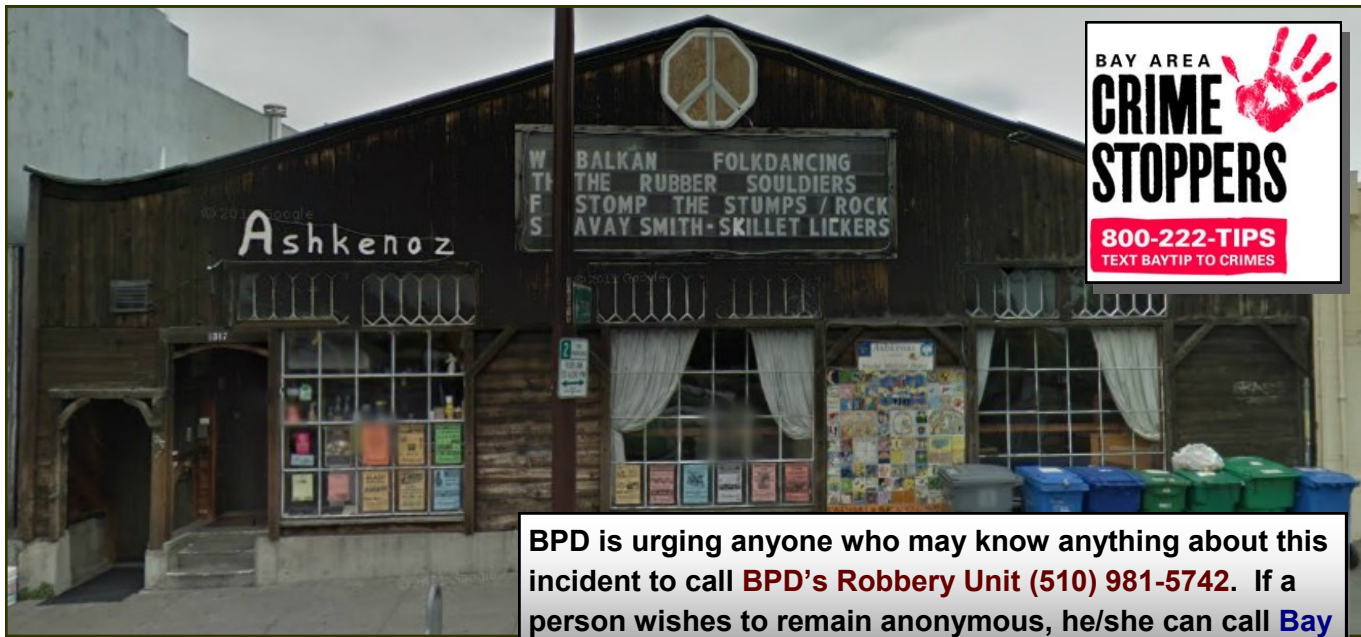
The Berkeley Police Department is currently tracking a pattern of street robberies along the Downtown Shattuck Corridor (see map). Frequently targeting persons with Smart Phones, BPD is encouraging persons with smart phones or other PDA's to keep them out of public view.

## PERSONAL SAFETY TIPS:

- Keep all electronics & other valuables out of view.
- Keep aware of locations & situations that make you more vulnerable to crime—such as alleys, parking lots, stairwells, etc.
- Report suspicious persons or activities to police.
- Do not carry large amounts of cash.
- Always stay alert & aware of your surroundings.



If you have any information about these incidents, please contact BPD's **Robbery Unit** (510) 981-5742.



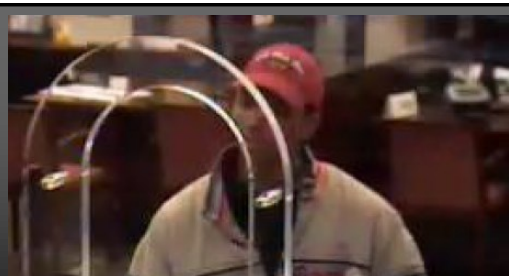
BPD is urging anyone who may know anything about this incident to call **BPD's Robbery Unit (510) 981-5742**. If a person wishes to remain anonymous, he/she can call **Bay Area Crimes Stoppers (BACS) at (800)-222-TIPS (8477)**.

## ASHKENAZ ROBBERY

On March 16th at about 12:16 am, two armed suspects entered Ashkenaz Music and Dance Center (1317 San Pablo Avenue)—demanding cash from the employees. During the robbery, two employees were shot and wounded.

BPD officers arrived on scene within moments and attempted to stop a subject who fled from the area. The subject ran into a yard and officers quickly surrounded the block.

Due to the violent nature of the crimes committed, BPD utilized their Barricaded Subject Hostage Negotiation Team (BSHNT) to search for the suspect. As a safety precaution residents in the area were notified of the incident and asked to stay inside their homes.



## BANK ROBBER ARRESTED

On 3-7-2013 at about 1:30 pm, the depicted suspect robbed Wells Fargo Bank (1095 University Avenue). After speaking with several witnesses, **BPD Robbery detectives** were able to identify the suspect—leading to the suspects capture and arrest (BPD #13-12957).



BPD Officers, working with an Alameda County Sheriff's Office K-9 Deputy, conducted an extensive yard-to-yard search of the area looking for the suspect. During the search, a suspect was located behind a building on the 1300 block of San Pablo Avenue and taken safely into custody.

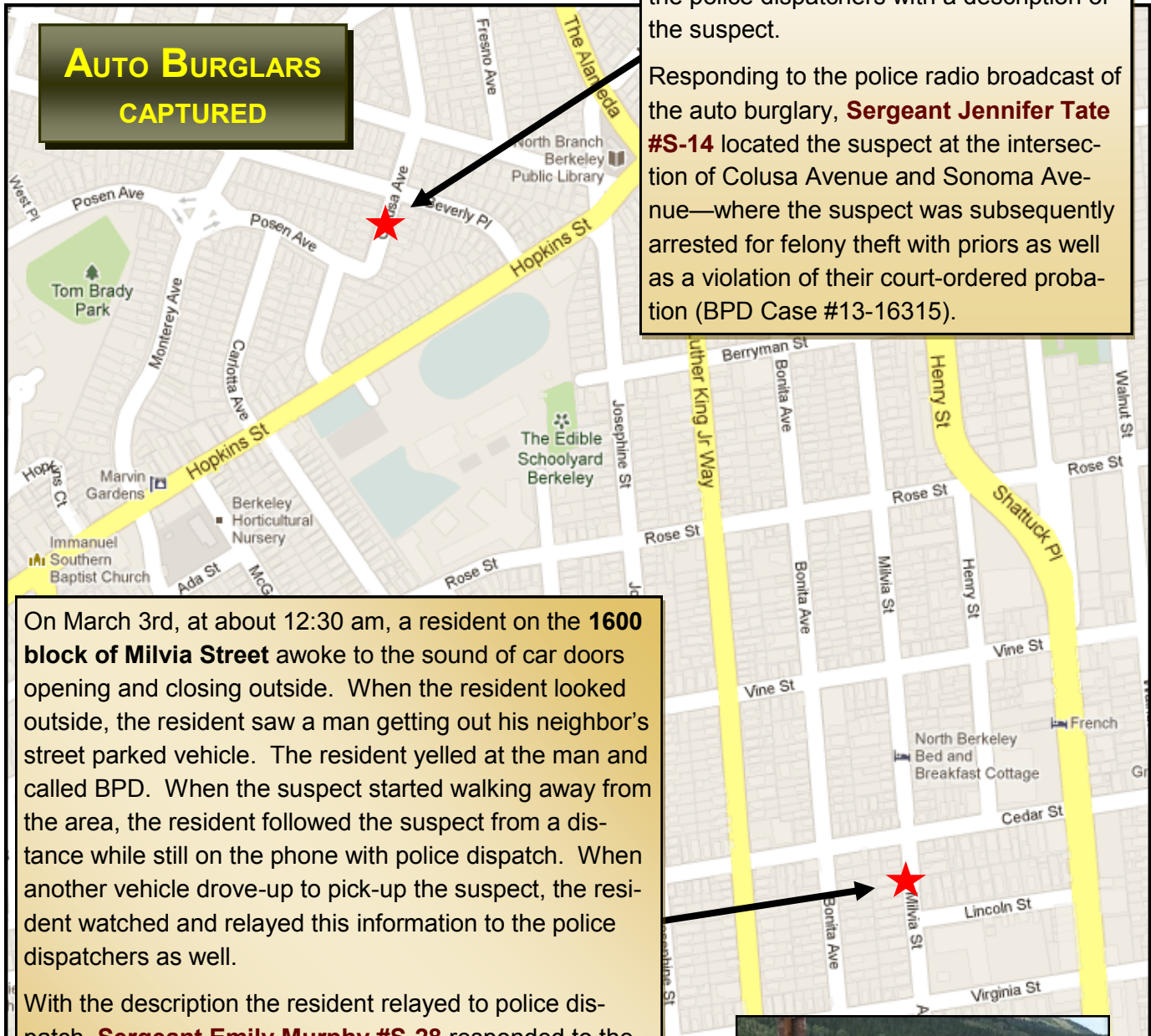
The injured employees were transported to a local hospital and treated for their serious injuries.







## AUTO BURGLARS CAPTURED



On March 3rd, at about 12:30 am, a resident on the **1600 block of Milvia Street** awoke to the sound of car doors opening and closing outside. When the resident looked outside, the resident saw a man getting out his neighbor's street parked vehicle. The resident yelled at the man and called BPD. When the suspect started walking away from the area, the resident followed the suspect from a distance while still on the phone with police dispatch. When another vehicle drove-up to pick-up the suspect, the resident watched and relayed this information to the police dispatchers as well.

With the description the resident relayed to police dispatch, **Sergeant Emily Murphy #S-28** responded to the area to search for the suspect get-away vehicle. While driving the area, Sergeant Murphy spotted the suspect get-away vehicle at the intersection of Milvia Street and Hearst Avenue. With the assistance of several other BPD officers, Sergeant Murphy stopped the vehicle and detained the suspect—who was subsequently arrested for felony theft with priors (BPD Case #13-12093).

On March 25th, at about 2 am, a resident on the **1100 block of Colusa Avenue** saw a person inside her vehicle that was parked on the street. As the resident watched the person walk away from her vehicle, the resident immediately called BPD and provided the police dispatchers with a description of the suspect.

Responding to the police radio broadcast of the auto burglary, **Sergeant Jennifer Tate #S-14** located the suspect at the intersection of Colusa Avenue and Sonoma Avenue—where the suspect was subsequently arrested for felony theft with priors as well as a violation of their court-ordered probation (BPD Case #13-16315).



## TIRE SLASHER

On March 9th at about 6 pm, an unknown suspect slashed the tires of seven different vehicles parked along the **2800 block of California Street** (BPD Case #13-13281).

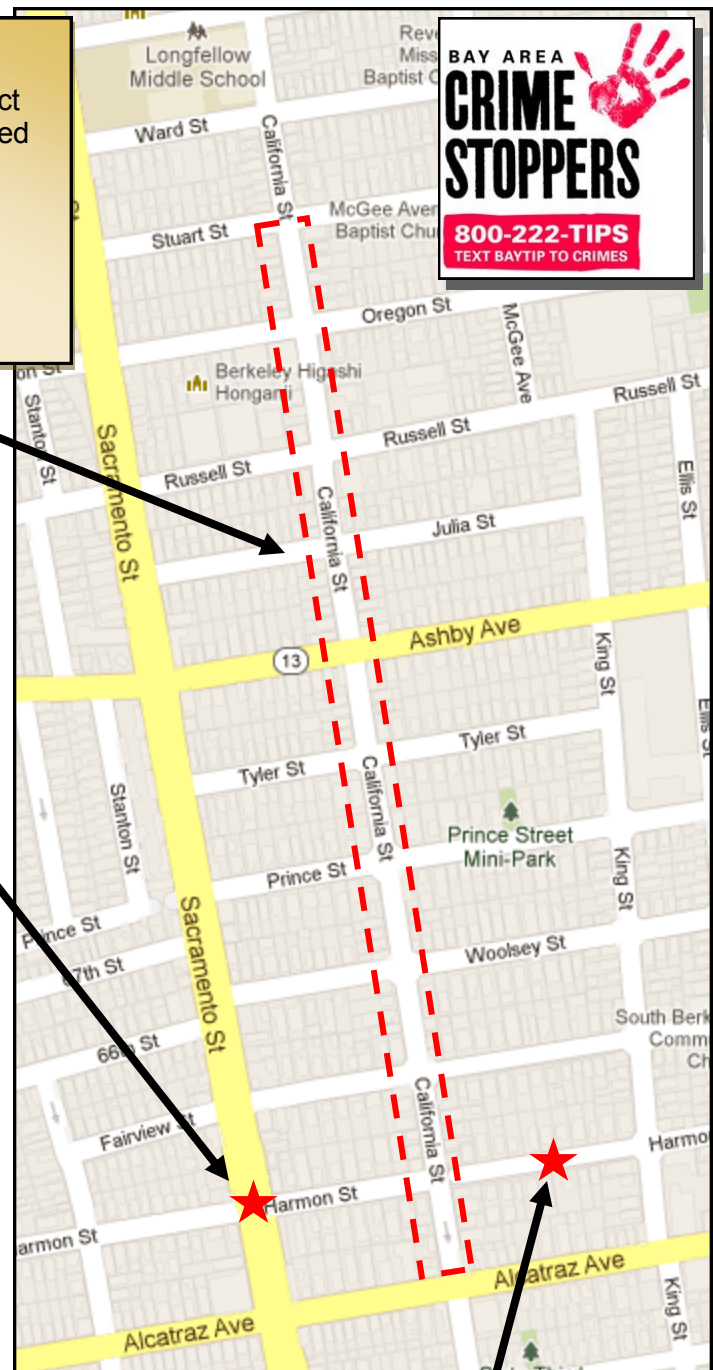
If you have any information about these incidents, please contact BPD's **Property Crimes Unit (510) 981-5737**.

## CAR STOP NETS GUNS!

On March 1st at about 10 pm, **Officer Michael Yu #28** spotted a vehicle driving northbound on **Sacramento Street (near Harmon Street)** with its headlights turned-off.

After stopping the driver for the violation, Officer Yu discovered that the driver did not have a Driver's License. As vehicles driven by unlicensed driver's are subject to be towed—per the CA vehicle code, Officer Yu had the driver and passenger step out of the vehicle. When Officer Yu searched the vehicle, he discovered two loaded weapons and ammunition.

When the passenger saw that Officer Yu had discovered the handguns, the passenger ran from the scene—but was quickly captured nearby and arrested for the weapon violations (BPD Case #13-11855).



## GUNSHOTS HEARD

On March 27th, at about 6:15 pm, BPD received numerous 911 calls of gun shots heard from the area of **Harmon Street / California Street**. Upon their arrival, officers located four (4) parked vehicles struck with bullets (unoccupied).

Witnesses describe the suspect as a male in his twenties—last seen running southbound on California Street (BPD Case #13-16839).

If you have information about this incident, please contact BPD's **Homicide Unit (510) 981-5741**.

### NEIGHBORHOOD CRIME WATCH



We Immediately  
Report All  
Suspicious  
Activities to Our  
Police Department





Ofc. Rashawn Cummings #34

## HELLO'S & GOODBYE'S

This month, [Officer Rashawn Cummings](#) joined the Community Services Team. Selected for the Area 4 coordinator position, Officer Cummings is taking over the reigns from (recently promoted [Sergeant Cesar Melero](#)).

Serving in assignments such as Patrol, Bicycle Patrol, and the Drug Task Force (DTF), Officer Cummings has a wealth of knowledge and experience that he can apply in Area 4.

In addition to his new responsibilities, Officer Cummings will continue to be a Field Training Officer (for new recruits), a Firearms Instructor, and a member of the Barricaded Subject Hostage Negotiation Team (BSHNT).

After serving as Area Coordinator for both Area 3 and Area 4, Sergeant Melero will now continue his service on the streets as a Patrol Supervisor. We both welcome Officer Cummings to the Community Services Bureau and wish Sergeant Melero the best in his new assignment.

## BPD'S NEWEST MEMBERS

On March 10th, the Berkeley Police Department welcomed three (3) new police officers to the force. After completing twenty-six (26) weeks of training at the Contra Costa County Law Enforcement Training Center, the new officers will begin on-the-job training in the Field Training Program.



Ofc. De Bruin #2



Ofc. Perez #21



Ofc. Schaefer #113

**For information on how you can become a member of the Berkeley Police Department, contact our Personnel & Training Unit (510) 981-5977.**

## DISTRACTED DRIVING AWARENESS MONTH

In a growing effort to stem the dangerous tide of texting and cell phone use while driving, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) has again designated April as **National Distracted Driving Awareness Month**.

Nationwide, many people die needlessly each year because people continue to use their cell phones while driving (handheld or hands-free).



### WHAT IS DISTRACTED DRIVING?

Here are some examples: (from [Distraction.gov](#))

- Texting
- Using a cell phone or smart phone
- Eating & Drinking
- Grooming
- Reading (including maps)
- Using a navigation system
- Watching videos
- Adjusting your radio, CD player, or MP3 player

## A PARENT'S QUICK REFERENCE CARD

### Recognizing and Preventing Gang Involvement

This quick reference guide provides common warning signs of gang involvement, but may not be all-encompassing. Parents should look for multiple signs to indicate possible gang involvement because some of these indicators alone, such as clothes or musical preferences, are also common among youth not involved in gangs. Parents are encouraged to familiarize themselves with local gang symbols, seek help early, and consider contacting school personnel, local law enforcement, faith leaders, and community organizations for additional assistance.

From the [US Department of Justice Community Oriented Policing Services](#) website. Click [here](#) to download your own Reference Card.

### WARNING SIGNS THAT YOUR CHILD MAY BE INVOLVED WITH A GANG

- Admits to “hanging-out” with kids in gangs
- Shows unusual interest in one or two particular colors of clothing or a particular logo
- Has an unusual interest in gangster-influenced music, videos, movies, or websites
- Uses unusual hand signals to communicate with friends
- Has specific drawings or gang symbols on school books, clothes, walls, or tattoos
- Comes home with unexplained physical injuries (fighting-related bruises—injuries to hand/knuckles)
- Has unexplained cash or goods, such as clothing or jewelry
- Carries a weapon
- Has been in trouble with the police
- Exhibits negative behavior such as:
  - ▶ Withdrawing from family
  - ▶ Declining school attendance, performance, behavior
  - ▶ Staying out late without reason
  - ▶ Displaying signs of drug abuse
  - ▶ Breaking rules consistently
  - ▶ Speaking in gang-style slang

### WHAT PARENTS CAN DO TO PREVENT GANG INVOLVEMENT

- Spend quality time with your child
- Get involved in your child's school activities
- Be a positive role model & set the right example
- Know you child's friends & their families
- Encourage good study habits
- Teach your child how to cope with peer pressure
- Help your child develop good conflict/resolution skills
- Encourage your child to participate in positive afterschool activities with adult supervision (recreation centers, organized sports, youth groups)
- Take action in your neighborhood (create a neighborhood alliance, report & remove graffiti)
- Talk with your child about the dangers & consequences of gang involvement. Let your child know that you don't want to see him or her arrested.
- Explain to your child that he or she should NOT:
  - ▶ Associate with gang members
  - ▶ Attend parties or social events sponsored by gangs
  - ▶ Use hand signs, symbols, or language that is meaningful to gangs
  - ▶ Wear clothing including specific colors, which may have meaning to gangs in your area

## SOUTH CAMPUS AUTO BURGLARY

On the March 3rd, at about 5:30 pm, a resident heard the sound of glass breaking coming from the **2400 block of Dana Street**. When the resident looked over, the resident saw a man standing next to a parked vehicle—with its passenger-side window smashed-in. Thinking this was suspicious, the resident kept watching the man and saw the man begin to rifle through a backpack. As the man walked away from the vehicle, the resident followed the suspect from a distance and called BPD.



Quickly arriving to the scene, the resident flagged-down **Officer John Ettare #156** and the resident pointed out the suspect. With the prompt and terrific effort from the resident, Officer Ettare was able to detain the suspect—leading to the suspect's arrest for auto burglary. Since the suspect also had stolen property from a 2nd auto burglary in his possession, the suspect was ultimately arrested for two counts of auto burglary, possession of burglary tools and stolen property (BPD Case #13-12194 & 13-12274).



### WHO IS THIS SUSPECT?

On March 25th at about 2 pm, this suspect stole a cell phone from the Sprint store (2210 Shattuck Avenue).

Witnesses describe the suspect as an African-American male, mid 20's to early 30's, about 6'3" tall, with a thin goatee, wearing blue jeans and a grey hooded sweatshirt with the letter "R" on the front of it—possibly the "Rocawear" brand (BPD Case #13-16401).

**If you have any information about this suspect, please contact BPD's Property Crimes Unit (510) 981-5737).**



## BEWARE OF THE PET DOOR!

On March 19th, a burglar entered a home on the 1200 block of Campus Drive using the residence's large-sized pet door. Just a reminder to everyone, the larger the pet door—the easier it is for unwanted intruders to enter. Something else to consider is that even if you have a smaller pet door, other animals could potentially use this as an entrance as well. To prevent this, consider having a pet door with access only to a secured space—like a garage, mud room, etc.



"So that's how you get in!"

"I'll bet there's some good snacks in here!"



**PS. THE POLICE DO NOT REMOVE SKUNKS OR RACCOONS.**



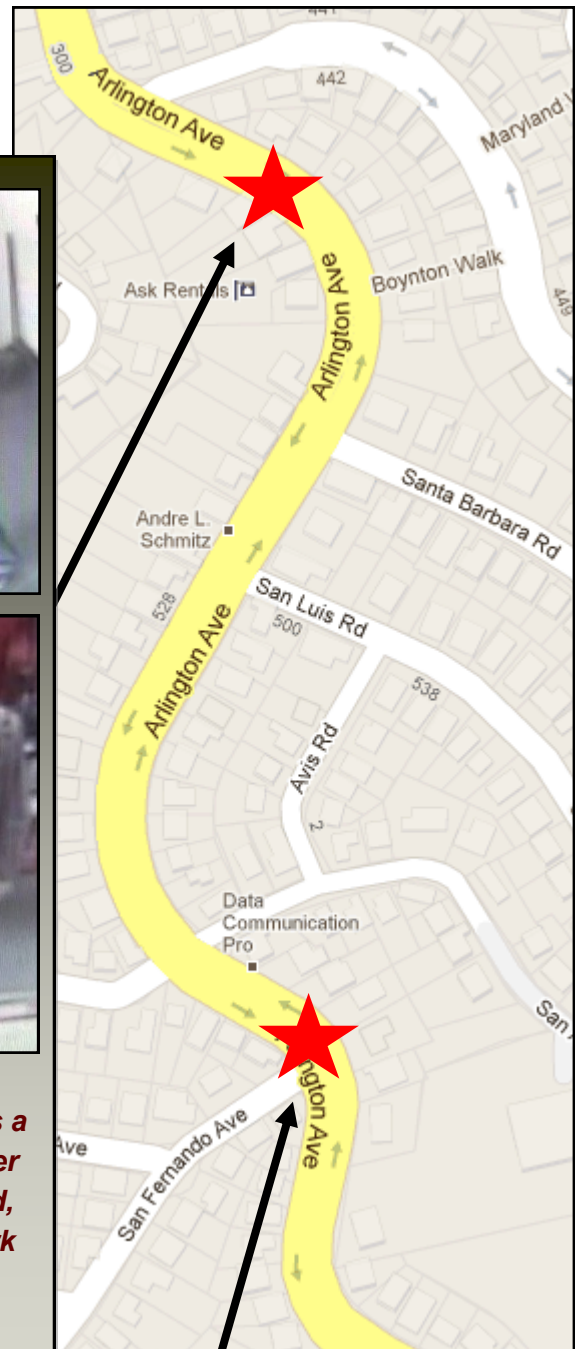
## BURGLARIES ON THE ARLINGTON

On Monday March 25, 2013 at about 2:30 pm, two suspects broke into a residence on the **400 block of Arlington Avenue** by breaking a rear door. At home during the burglary, the resident confronted the two suspects. The suspects told the resident they found the back door open and then fled—stealing the resident's purse. Later the same day, one of the resident's credit cards was used at a store in El Cerrito, CA. The below images were captured by store surveillance cameras (BPD Case #13-16414).

*Witnesses describe one of the suspects as a White male in his 20's, about 5'10"—6'0" tall, with a thin build, short curly brown hair, wearing a black and grey plaid jacket, grey t-shirt, and blue jeans.*



*Witnesses describe the 2nd suspect as a White female (middle photograph) in her 20's, about 5'6"-5'10", white a thin build, long hair, wearing a grey/white hat, dark sweater, and blue jeans.*



On March 8th at about 7:15 pm, a couple on the **600 block of the Arlington Avenue** returned home to discover that something was not quite as they left it. The couple noticed that one of their hallway doors was ajar. When they looked closer, the couple was surprised by an intruder running down their staircase. While the wife called 911, the husband yelled for the intruder to "Stop!"

Arriving moments later, officers restrained the intruder in handcuffs—who was later charged with home invasion robbery (BPD Case #13-13175).





## NATIONAL PRESCRIPTION DRUG TAKE BACK DAY

Residents can come to the [Heart 2 Heart Neighborhood Celebration](#) and safely & anonymously dispose of all unused, unneeded, and expired prescription medications.

This is the best way to dispose of medication—especially those drugs which may not be accepted back by pharmacies. Unused medications that are flushed contaminate the water supply. Turning in old medication reduces the risk of accidental poisoning, overdose, theft, and abuse. Proper disposal of unused drugs saves lives and protects the environment.

**Where:** The corner of Oregon & Sacramento Street in South Berkeley

**Date:** Saturday, April 27th, 2013

**Time:** 10 am — 2 pm

**Cost:** Free!

*The National Take-Back Initiative is a project of the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) in conjunction with the City of Berkeley Health, Housing and Community Services Department, as well as the Berkeley Police Department. For more information, please visit [www.dea.gov](http://www.dea.gov).*

### HOW IT WORKS

- Residents can bring any medication to the booth on the corner of Oregon & Sacramento Streets for disposal.
- No identification is required and no records are kept.
- Residents can keep or dispose of the containers.
- No needles, please.
- Because pharmacies generally cannot accept controlled substances, residents are encouraged to dispose of controlled substances such as Vicodin, Percocet, OxyContin, and Codeine; Stimulants such as Ritalin and Dexedrine; Sedatives and tranquilizers as well.

## GET PREPARED!

There is a [Berkeley CERT City Emergency Exercise](#) scheduled for **April 27, 2013**. This very important event is open to anyone--regardless of your level of training or level of preparedness. There will be exercise activities that can be completed by anyone who wants to help prepare themselves and their families for disaster and emergencies.

Encourage your friends, family, and neighbors to register as a participants as well. The [Participant Handbook](#) on the exercise website details ways you can conduct preparedness actions and practice our emergency response plans and skills for this event. Click [here](#), to register for the event.

If you have any questions, see the [Exercise FAQ](#) or feel free to contact the CERT Program Manager—Khin Chin (510-981-5506) [kchin@ci.berkeley.ca.us](mailto:kchin@ci.berkeley.ca.us).



## CITY OF BERKELEY CONTACTS

Animal Control	(510) 981-6600	<a href="mailto:animalservices@cityofberkeley.info">animalservices@cityofberkeley.info</a>
Berkeley Housing Authority	(510) 981-5470	<a href="mailto:bha@cityofberkeley.info">bha@cityofberkeley.info</a>
Code Enforcement	(510) 981-2489	<a href="mailto:codeenforcement@ci.berkeley.ca.us">codeenforcement@ci.berkeley.ca.us</a>
Housing Code Enforcement	(510) 981-5444	<a href="mailto:housing@ci.berkeley.ca.us">housing@ci.berkeley.ca.us</a>
Neighborhood Services	(510) 981-7000	<a href="mailto:manager@ci.berkeley.ca.us">manager@ci.berkeley.ca.us</a>

## COMMUNITY POLICE CONTACTS

Homicide	(510) 981-5741	Property Crimes	(510) 981-5737
Robbery	(510) 981-5742	Sex Crimes	(510) 981-5735
Domestic Violence	(510) 981-5736	Youth Services	(510) 981-5715
Internal Affairs	(510) 981-5706	Special Enforcement Bureau	(510) 981-5818
Property Room	(510) 981-5725	Records/PRA Requests	(510) 981-5750
Parking Enforcement	(510) 981-5890	Traffic Enforcement	(510) 981-5980

### BPD Public Information Officer:

Officer Jennifer Coats #151 (510) 981-5780 [JCoats@ci.berkeley.ca.us](mailto:JCoats@ci.berkeley.ca.us)

### BPD Area Coordinators:

Area 1—Officer Byron White #17 (510) 981-5773 [BWhite@ci.berkeley.ca.us](mailto:BWhite@ci.berkeley.ca.us)  
 Area 2—Officer Jessyca Nabozny #118 (510) 981-5778 [JNabozny@ci.berkeley.ca.us](mailto:JNabozny@ci.berkeley.ca.us)  
 Area 3—Officer Stephanie Polizziani #31 (510) 981-5772 [SPolizziani@ci.berkeley.ca.us](mailto:SPolizziani@ci.berkeley.ca.us)  
 Area 4—Officer Rashawn Cummings #34 (510) 981-5774 [RCummings@ci.berkeley.ca.us](mailto:RCummings@ci.berkeley.ca.us)

### BPD Neighborhood Watch Scheduler:

Jane Ortega (510) 981-5805 [JOrtega@ci.berkeley.ca.us](mailto:JOrtega@ci.berkeley.ca.us)

### BPD Special Events Coordinator:

Sergeant Fomby #S-7 (510) 981-5821 [SFomby@ci.berkeley.ca.us](mailto:SFomby@ci.berkeley.ca.us)

### Partners:

University of California Police Department (510) 642-6760  
 BART Crime Prevention Unit (510) 464-7052

## DOWNLOADABLE INFORMATION & FORMS

- [Area Command Map](#)
- [Patrol Beat Map](#)
- [Vacation Watch Forms](#)
- ["No Trespassing" Letter](#)
- ["No Trespassing" Sign](#)

*Tip:*  
 Any of these forms on the left can  
 be faxed to (510) 981-5819 or  
 Emailed back as an attachment  
 to [jortega@ci.berkeley.ca.us](mailto:jortega@ci.berkeley.ca.us).



**Monday — Friday**  
**8:00 AM to 5:00 PM**



## BERKELEY POLICE DEPARTMENT

Community Services Bureau  
2100 ML King Jr. Way  
Berkeley, CA, 94704  
Phone: 510-981-5806  
Fax: 510-981-5819  
police@ci.berkeley.ca.us

### EXECUTIVE STAFF:

**Michael Meehan**  
Chief of Police

**Cynthia Harris**  
Police Captain

**Lynne Ohlson**  
Business Manager

**Erik Upson**  
Police Captain

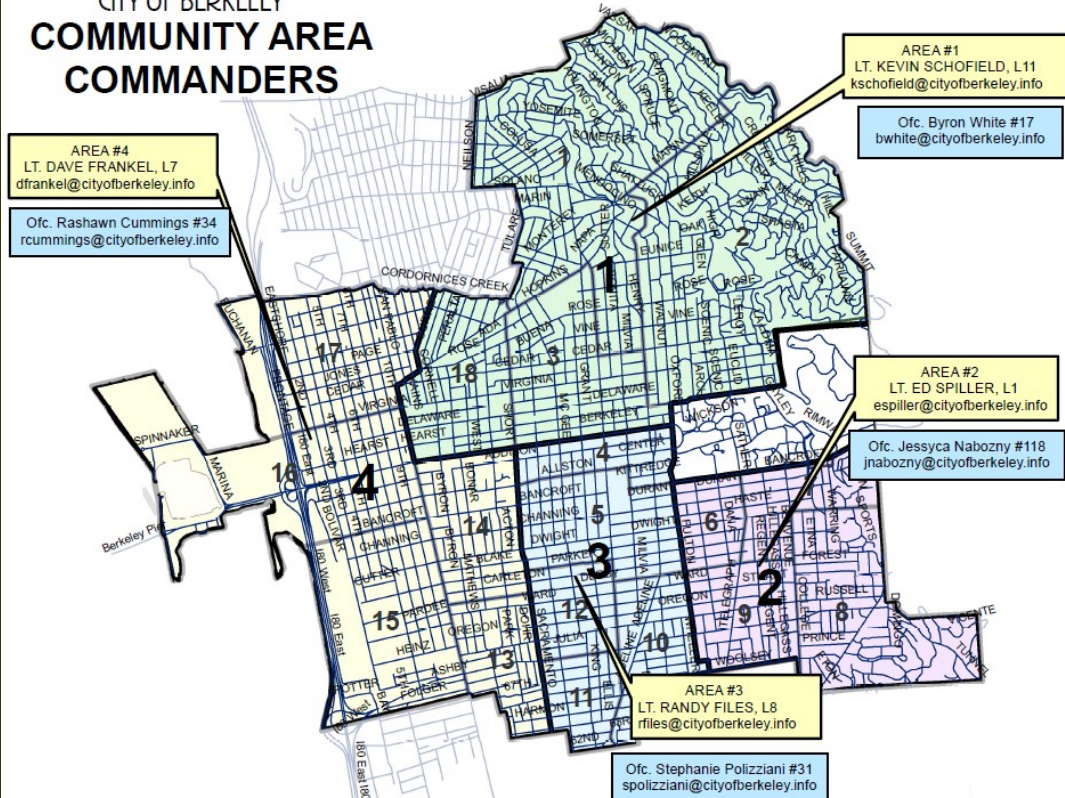
**Andrew Greenwood**  
Police Captain

**Report**  
**US Mail Crime!**  
[Mail Theft/Tampering](#)  
[Mailbox Vandalism](#)  
[Mail Fraud](#)  
[False Change of Address](#)



## Crime, Respect, and Accountability

### CITY OF BERKELEY COMMUNITY AREA COMMANDERS



Neighborhood Update is an occasional Berkeley Police Department (BPD) Newsletter focusing on **crime trends** and **significant events** occurring throughout the city.

To get a complete view of crimes happening in your neighborhood, visit BPD's Community Crime View web page—(<http://berkeley.ca.crimeviewcommunity.com/default.aspx>) or Crimemapping.com (<http://www.crimemapping.com/>).

If you wish to receive this newsletter directly, please send an Email with your **name** and **mailing address** to—[police@ci.berkeley.ca.us](mailto:police@ci.berkeley.ca.us).

**EMERGENCIES 911** (Program 510-981-5911 for your cell phone)

To report Non-Emergencies and to make police reports, call (510) 981-5900.

### BERKELEY POLICE DEPARTMENT'S ONLINE CRIME REPORTING SYSTEM

<http://www.cityofberkeley.info/onlinepolicereport/>

You can use the system so long as:

- it is a non-emergency matter;
- There are **NO** known witnesses, suspects, or physical evidence;
- The incident occurred within the Berkeley city limits, but not on University of California property or on a freeway;
- You have an email address.