

MOUNT PROSPECT POLICE DEPARTMENT

112 E. Northwest Highway, Mount Prospect, Illinois 60056



John K. Dahlberg
Chief of Police

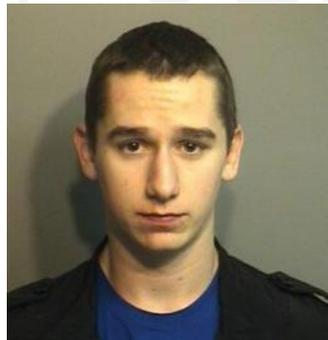
Crime Prevention
(847) 870-5650
Fax: (847) 392-1070

January 14, 2011

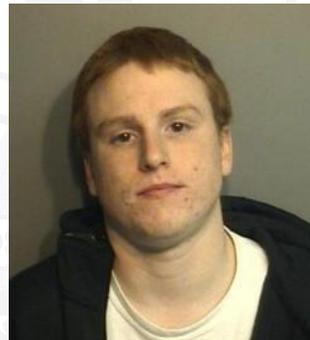
For Immediate Release
Contact: Officer Greg Sill
(847) 870-5650

PRESS RELEASE

MOUNT PROSPECT POLICE CHARGE SUBJECT WITH EIGHTEEN COUNTS OF CRIMINAL DAMAGE TO PROPERTY



Brian J. Essenberg



Keith J. Huff

On January 14, 2011 at 2:07 AM, while patrolling the area, Mount Prospect Police Officer Lisa Breskovich was travelling northbound on Burning Bush Lane approaching Tano Lane in Mount Prospect. Officer Breskovich observed the taillights of a vehicle also travelling northbound on Burning Bush Lane in front of her. Officer Breskovich then lost sight of the taillights and as she approached the intersection, she observed the vehicle driving over the side yard of 1400 North Burning Bush Lane with its headlights and taillights off. She observed the vehicle finish driving over the lawn and pull back onto the roadway, illuminating its headlights and taillights. Officer Breskovich stopped the vehicle and made contact with the driver and passengers of the Dodge Grand Caravan. The driver of the Dodge, Brian J. Essenberg, was arrested for reckless driving and brought back to the police station. The two passengers in the vehicle were also voluntarily brought back to the station to be questioned about the incident.

While speaking with the front seat passenger back at the police station, Keith J. Huff, officers detected an odor of an alcohol based beverage on his breath. Huff admitted to consuming alcoholic beverages earlier in the evening prior to being picked up by Essenberg and willingly submitted to a preliminary breath test which disclosed a blood alcohol concentration of .032.

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Huff was charged with one misdemeanor count of Unlawful Consumption of Alcohol by a Minor. Officers went back out to the area to check for additional damage and were able to locate new damage to lawns and shrubbery on the 1800 block of East Boulder Drive, the 1800 block of East Apache Lane, the 1900 block of Sioux Lane, the 1900 block of East Hopi Lane, the 900 block of North Burning Bush Lane and the 1800 block of East Bittersweet Lane. When the subjects were confronted with the additional damage discovered, they willingly admitted to driving over the lawns where damage was located.

While the Mount Prospect Police discovered a total of thirty three lawns that were damaged, seventeen homeowners wished to sign criminal complaints against the offenders at this time. An additional criminal complaint was signed on behalf of the Village of Mount Prospect for the seventeen parkways that were damaged by the subjects. Mount Prospect Police charged Brian J. Essenberg, 19 years old of the 900 block of Timothy Lane, Des Plaines, with eighteen misdemeanor counts of Criminal Damage to Property, one misdemeanor count of Reckless Driving and one misdemeanor count of Unlawful Possession of Cannabis. Keith J. Huff, 19 years old of the 0-100 block of East Debbie Drive, Mount Prospect, was charged with one misdemeanor count of Unlawful Consumption of Alcohol by a Minor. The back seat passenger in the vehicle was released and not charged in the incident.

Both Essenberg and Huff were released after posting the required bond and assigned a court date of February 16, 2011 at 9:00 AM in room #101 of the Cook County 3rd District Courthouse in Rolling Meadows.

The public is reminded that criminal charges are not evidence of guilt and that all defendants in a criminal case are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty in a court of law.

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