

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Police make arrest in forest preserve vehicle burglary

GENEVA, IL — Police from the Forest Preserve District of Kane County and South Elgin have made an arrest in a vehicle burglary at Jon J. Duerr Forest Preserve in South Elgin.

The arrest follows more than 20 “smash and grab” burglaries in the forest preserves, over the past few months.

Miguel A. Gonzalez, age 28, of the 400 block of Franklin Boulevard in Elgin, was arrested at approximately 5 p.m., Oct. 31, at Jon J. Duerr Forest Preserve. While Gonzalez was initially stopped for a traffic violation, officers observed several purses in the red Ford Expedition he was driving.

Gonzalez is currently in the Kane County Jail awaiting bond call on one count of burglary to a motor vehicle.

In addition to Jon J. Duerr Forest Preserve, several other preserves have seen an increase in vehicle burglaries over the past few months, including Big Rock, Fitchie Creek in Elgin, Fox River Bluff West in St. Charles and Raceway Woods in Carpentersville. Vehicle burglaries have also taken place at park district lots. So far, preserves and parks in Kane, DuPage, Lake, McHenry and Cook Counties have all been hit.

Forest Preserve District police have increased surveillance and been on high alert for suspicious activity in and around the preserves. New safety advisory signage has been added to all preserve kiosks. Additional signage has also been posted at the aforementioned preserves.

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The Forest Preserve District of Kane County strongly advises preserve users to follow these safety tips when visiting the forest preserves, parks and other large public areas:

- Do not leave wallets, purses, cash or other valuables in plain sight.
- Avoid bringing valuables to a preserve, or if possible, lock them securely in your trunk *before* arriving.
- Lock your vehicle.
- Be alert to your surroundings — do not wear earbuds or headphones.
- Remain on designated trails and paths.
- Walk or run with a companion.
- Carry a cell phone to report problems or request assistance.
- In cases of emergency, call 911 immediately.

More information on public safety is available on our Web site at <http://www.kaneforest.com/publications/brochures/publicSafety.pdf>.

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