

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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CONTACT:

Monica Meyers, Executive Director
Laurie Metanchuk, Director of Community Affairs
630-232-5980 forestpreserve@kaneforest.com

Forest Preserve District of Kane County
1996 S. Kirk Rd., Ste. 320, Geneva, IL 60134
www.kaneforest.com

Suspect charged in additional forest preserve vehicle burglaries

GENEVA, IL — A suspect initially charged with burglary to a motor vehicle in a Kane County forest preserve, Oct. 31, has now been charged with 16 additional counts related to motor vehicle burglaries.

Miguel A. Gonzalez, 28, of the 400 block of Franklin Boulevard in Elgin remains in the Kane County Jail on 9 felony counts of burglary to a motor vehicle and 8 misdemeanor counts of theft.

Forest Preserve District of Kane County police arrested Gonzalez in Jon J. Duerr Forest Preserve on Oct. 31, with assistance from South Elgin police.



Miguel A. Gonzalez

Photo courtesy Kane County Sheriff

More than 20 “smash and grab” burglaries have taken place in the Kane County forest preserves over the past few months, prompting District police to increase surveillance, add safety advisory signage to all preserve kiosks, and post additional safety advisory signs at frequently targeted preserves. Forest Preserve District police are now cooperating with other local agencies to see if Gonzalez may be involved in additional vehicle burglaries outside the Kane County area.

Forest Preserve Sgt. William Glisson said the public should still remain vigilant about staying safe and being aware of their surroundings when visiting the forest preserves. “The public should always take steps to protect themselves and their belongings when in the forest preserves, parks or any public areas. You should never leave valuables in plain sight or casually hidden in your vehicle,” he said. Sgt. Glisson also recommends preserve users carry a cell phone at all times, and call 911 immediately if they see anything suspicious.

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The Forest Preserve District advises preserve users to follow these safety tips:

- 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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