



Wyckoff Police Department PRESS RELEASE

TO: ALL NEWS MEDIA
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For Immediate Release:

On November 27 at approximately 10:40 AM, a Wyckoff resident reported numerous items of jewelry missing from her home. The investigation was turned over to the Detective Bureau who identified a possible suspect. On November 30, Det. Sgt. Kevin Kasak applied for and was granted a search warrant for the residence of the suspect. During the search of the residence, numerous items of jewelry belonging to the Wyckoff resident were located and seized. Additional evidence was recovered that revealed that the suspect recently had sold jewelry to several local pawn shops. Those shops were visited and the jewelry was recovered. The recovered jewelry was positively identified by the victim as belonging to her. The subsequent investigation, resulted in the arrest of Brian D. Lang, Mahwah NJ, age; 55. On December 12, Lang was charged by Det. Sgt. Kasak with one count of 3rd degree theft. He is scheduled to appear in court. Det. Sgt. Michael Ragucci assisted with the investigation.

On Tuesday December 12 at approximately 9:00 PM, P.O. Robert Schlossberg observed a vehicle travelling north on Route 208 and noted several motor vehicle violations. He conducted a traffic stop on Route 208 North in the area of Russell Avenue. During the stop, P.O. Schlossberg located 360 decks of heroin, 3 digital scales, 5 cellphones, and a black prop handgun. The subsequent investigation resulted in arrest of Scott C. Sweeney, Walden NY, age; 45. He was charged with possession of a schedule 1 narcotic, manufacturing and distributing a schedule 1 narcotic, and possession of drug paraphernalia with intent to distribute. He was also issued motor vehicle violations for maintenance of lamps, obstructed view, and possession of a controlled dangerous substance in a motor vehicle. He was found to have an outstanding warrant issued by the Palisades Interstate Parkway Police. After being processed he was transported to the Bergen County

Jail. A passenger in the vehicle, Ashley H. Torres, Port Jervis NY, age; 30 was charged with possession of a schedule 1 narcotic. She was found to have an outstanding warrant from Pike County PA. Pike County authorities declined to pick up Torres and she was processed and released from headquarters. The cellphones, prop gun, and vehicle were seized pending further investigation. Sgt. Daniel Kellogg, Sgt. Brian Zivkovich, Det. Sgt. Michael Ragucci, Det. Sgt. Kevin Kasak, and P.O. Kyle Ferreira assisted P.O. Schlossberg.

On Friday December 15, at approximately 6:10 PM, P.O. William Christopher was dispatched to 555 Russell Avenue on a report that a vehicle had left the roadway and was on the front lawn. Upon his arrival, P.O. Christopher located the vehicle and observed the driver appeared to be asleep. He was able to wake the driver and began speaking with her. He detected a strong odor of an alcoholic beverage emanating from the driver. The subsequent investigation resulted in the arrest of Kristen A. Ferguson-Sandowic, Wayne NJ, age; 44. She was transported into headquarters and charged with driving while intoxicated, refusal to submit breath samples, revocation for refusal to submit to a breath test, driving while intoxicated in a school zone or park, reckless driving, and failure to provide a registration card for her vehicle. She was processed and released to a family member and is scheduled to appear in court. Sgt. Michael DeMaio, P.O. James Bakelaar, and P.O. Kenneth Marcoux assisted P.O. Christopher.

On Saturday December 16, at approximately 4:16 PM, Sgt. Michael DeMaio and P.O. Michael Flim were dispatched to 685 Wyckoff Avenue on a report of a male passed out in a black BMW. The caller had notified dispatch that the BMW had been parked in that location running with the headlights on for approximately 30 minutes. Upon the arrival of the officers, they observed a male party sitting in the driver's seat who appeared to be asleep. The officers were able to wake the driver and detected an odor of an alcoholic beverage emanating from the vehicle. The subsequent investigation resulted in the arrest of Emmet J. Ryder Jr., Cedar Grove NJ, age; 65. He was transported into headquarters and charged with driving while intoxicated, driving while intoxicated in a school zone, refusal to submit to a breath test, revocation for refusal to submit to a breath test, reckless driving, consumption of an alcoholic beverage in a motor vehicle, and possession of an open alcoholic beverage container in a motor vehicle. Ryder was unable to contact anyone to pick him up and remained in the custody of the Wyckoff Police for approximately 12 hours before being released. P.O. Ryan Tenney assisted with the arrest.

On Sunday December 17 at approximately 6:45 AM, Sgt. Michael DeMaio and P.O. Kyle Ferreira were dispatched to Amherst Street on a report of a suspicious vehicle idling with the driver asleep behind the wheel. The caller reported that they tried to wake the driver and were unable to. Upon the officer's arrival, they observed the vehicle running with the parking lights on and the left turn signal activated. As they approached the vehicle, the officers detected a strong odor of an alcoholic beverage emanating from it. The subsequent investigation resulted in the arrest of Richie E. Sawal, Teaneck NJ, age; 35. He was transported into headquarters and charged with driving while intoxicated. He was

processed and released to the custody of a family member and is scheduled to appear in court. P.O. Ryan Tenney assisted with the arrest.

On Thursday December 21 at approximately 12:20 AM, Sgt. Michael DeMaio was on patrol when he observed a vehicle travelling on Godwin Avenue. He observed the vehicle swerve over the double yellow line and enter into the lane of oncoming traffic. He conducted a motor vehicle stop and while speaking with the driver detected an odor of an alcoholic beverage emanating from her. The subsequent investigation resulted in the arrest of Lucy B. Lettis, Ramsey NJ, age; 64. She was transported into headquarters and charged with driving while intoxicated, careless driving, reckless driving, failure to exhibit registration, and failure to wear a seatbelt. She was processed and released to a friend and is scheduled to appear in court. Sgt. Brian Zikovich and P.O. Kenneth Marcoux assisted Sgt. DeMaio.

With the Holiday Season upon us, the Wyckoff Police would like to remind all residents to be alert for any suspicious behavior or activity. Among the crimes that increase during this time are residential burglaries, package thefts, shopliftings, phone scams, frauds, and motor vehicle burglaries. If you see something that you feel is out of place or seems suspicious, contact the police department immediately. Your call should include a description of the actor(s), a vehicle description, and the direction that they were travelling. Working together, we can make the Holiday Season a safe and happy one for all of our residents, businesses, and visitors.

The Wyckoff Police Department would like to point out that the above individuals have been charged with a crime, offense, and or motor vehicle violations. However, they are presumed innocent unless and until they are found guilty in a court of law.

We cannot stress enough the value of our residents remaining alert in their neighborhoods and reporting anything unusual or suspicious to the police, "Hear It!, See It!, Report It!"

We encourage all residents to report ANY suspicious persons, vehicles, or activity occurring at any time to the Wyckoff Police – County Communications Center at 201-891-2121 or 911 in the event of an emergency.