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## Flat-screen TV thefts on the rise in town

BY MELISSA MCKEON MMCKEON@HOLDENLANDMARK.COM

Holden Police are investigating several breaks in the area last week involving the theft of large flat-screen televisions.

Two break-ins on Clearview Avenue and Avery Heights Road last week are similar to other recent breaks in the Fox Hill area several weeks ago, and in Paxton and Sturbridge recently, police said.

In those housebreaks the only items stolen were the televisions, even though other smaller items of value were in plain sight, according to Holden Detective Christopher Carey.

All the breaks in Holden happened while residents were not at home.



One description of a vehicle that may have been involved has been given by a witness, and some fingerprints have been taken at one crime scene, Carey said. It has yet to be determined whether the fingerprints belonged to the suspects or others who



had a right to be in the home. The crime scenes were processed by Holden Officer Megan Wrinkle. Detective Al Bourget is investigating.

Carey said the theft of such a large item is unusual in that it's a bulky item to remove and difficult to hide. It's also unlikely that the items are being peddled at flea markets, and they are difficult to trace. Most homeowners do not record the serial

numbers on their televisions, he noted. Serial numbers are also easy to remove on televisions. Carey said he's not sure if the manufacturer inscribes the serial number in several areas on the items.

Police advise residents to continue to report any suspicious activity, such as strange cars and persons in their neighborhoods and particularly any cases where individuals have come to the door of a home asking for someone who doesn't live in the area. Such incidents, Carey said, could involve suspects casing the property for valuable items, or checking to see if anyone is home before breaking in.

He also advised residents to keep shades or curtains drawn to prevent others from seeing into the house.

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