



# Public Safety

COMMUNITY MEETING

# Police Department Staff



**Chief of Police  
Gary Ratliff**



# Public Safety Community Meeting

- Overview of recent residential burglary activity
- Current public safety initiatives
- Crime prevention strategies for residents
- Community questions and discussion

## Important Notice

While the Police Department is committed to open communication and transparency with the community, this is an active investigation. Some information cannot be shared to protect the integrity of ongoing investigative efforts.





# Burglary Case

January 2025

## Attempted

- 3700 Tangley
- Alarm Activation 7:24 PM
- Broken Window
- No Entry Made



# Burglary Case

February 2025



- 6400 Sewanee Ave.
- Alarm Activation 7:07 P.M.
- Forced entry to rear door
- Suspect arrested:  
Ignacio Castillo Contreras
- Recovered Jewelry
- Radio Frequency Jammer
- Cell Phone

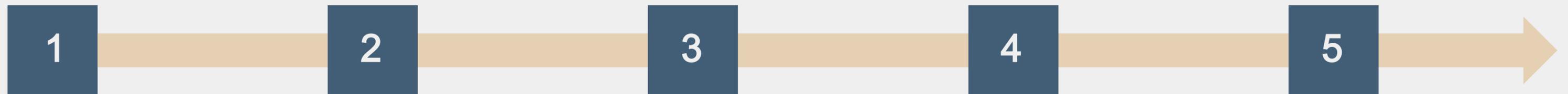
# Multi - Jurisdictional Investigation

As detectives analyzed evidence from the February crime scene, the investigation quickly expanded, revealing a complex and organized criminal network.

- Detectives identified a sophisticated burglary group responsible for multiple burglaries across:
  - West University Place
  - Neighboring agencies
  - Statewide jurisdictions
  - National locations
- A multi-agency investigation was launched into what is known as the SATG (South American Theft Group).



# Reports of Burglaries - 2025



**January**

1-Attempted Burglary

**February**

1-Residential Burglary

**March**

3- Residential Burglaries  
(Not Related)

**April**

No Reports

**May**

No Reports

# Reports of Burglaries - 2025





# Burglary Case

December 11, 2025

- 6300 Belmont
- 7:00 P.M. - 9:30 P.M.
- Entered from a neighbor's fence
- Disabled lights/ Turned cameras
- Used ladder on location
- Residence Occupied
- Second story window broken
- Luggage, Jewelry, High -End handbags taken

# Burglary Cases 2025

December 15

- 6500 Mercer
- Delayed Report 2:30 pm
- Force Entry to the rear back door
- Jewelry taken

December 21

## Attempted

- 3000 Carnegie
- Moved surveillance cameras
- Ladder
- Canceled alarm activation  
7:08 P.M.
- Second alarm activation  
7:11 P.M.
- Second story window broken
- No entry made



# 2026 Residential Burglaries

January 11

## Attempted

- 3400 Tangley
- 7:30 P.M. - 8:30 P.M.
- Upstairs broken window
- Used ladder from a nearby construction site
- No entry made

January 30

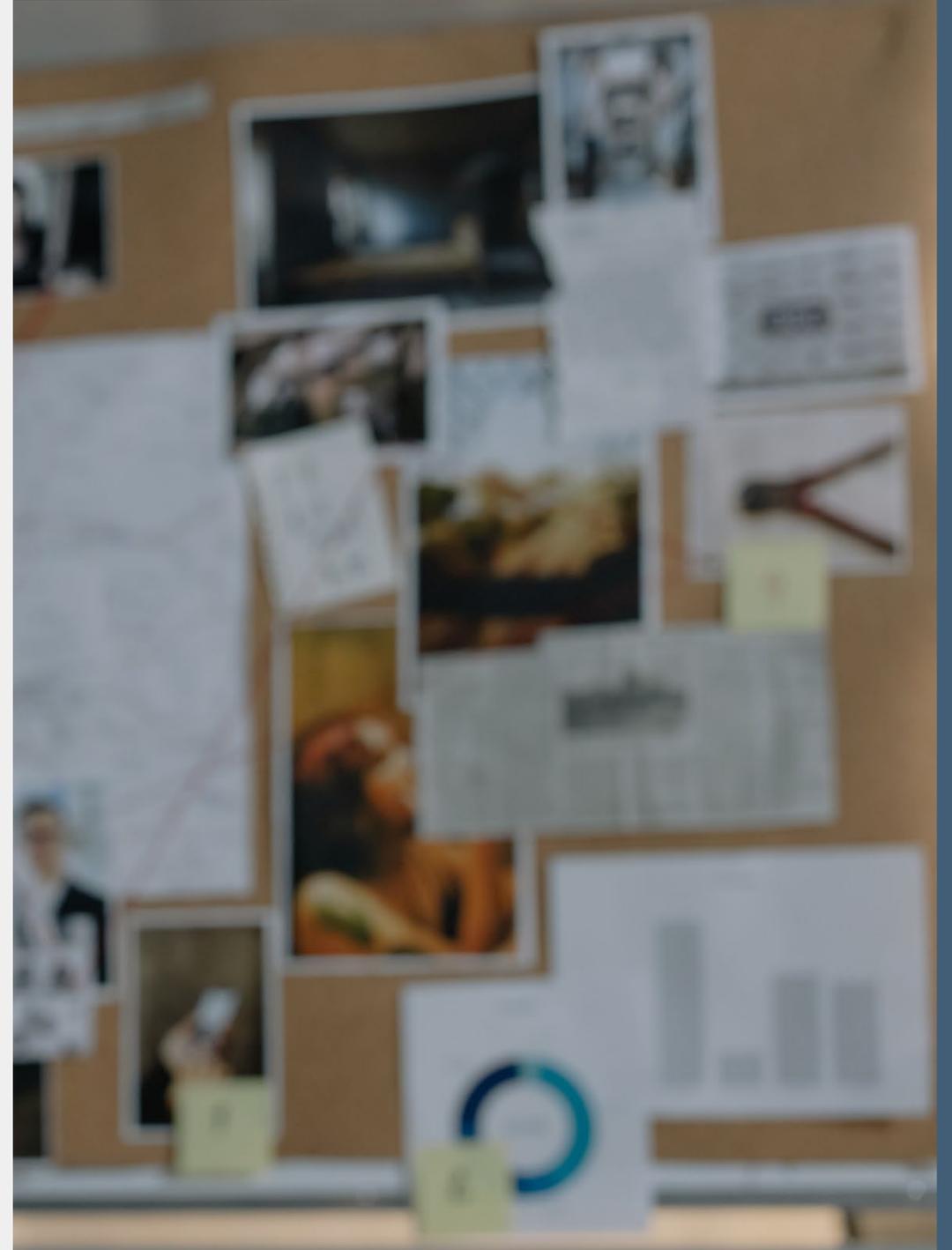
- 3700 Plumb
- 7:00 P.M. - 9:30 P.M.
- Alarm not activated
- Used outdoor furniture to gain access to second floor
- Upstairs door forced open
- Exited rear back door
- Jewelry taken



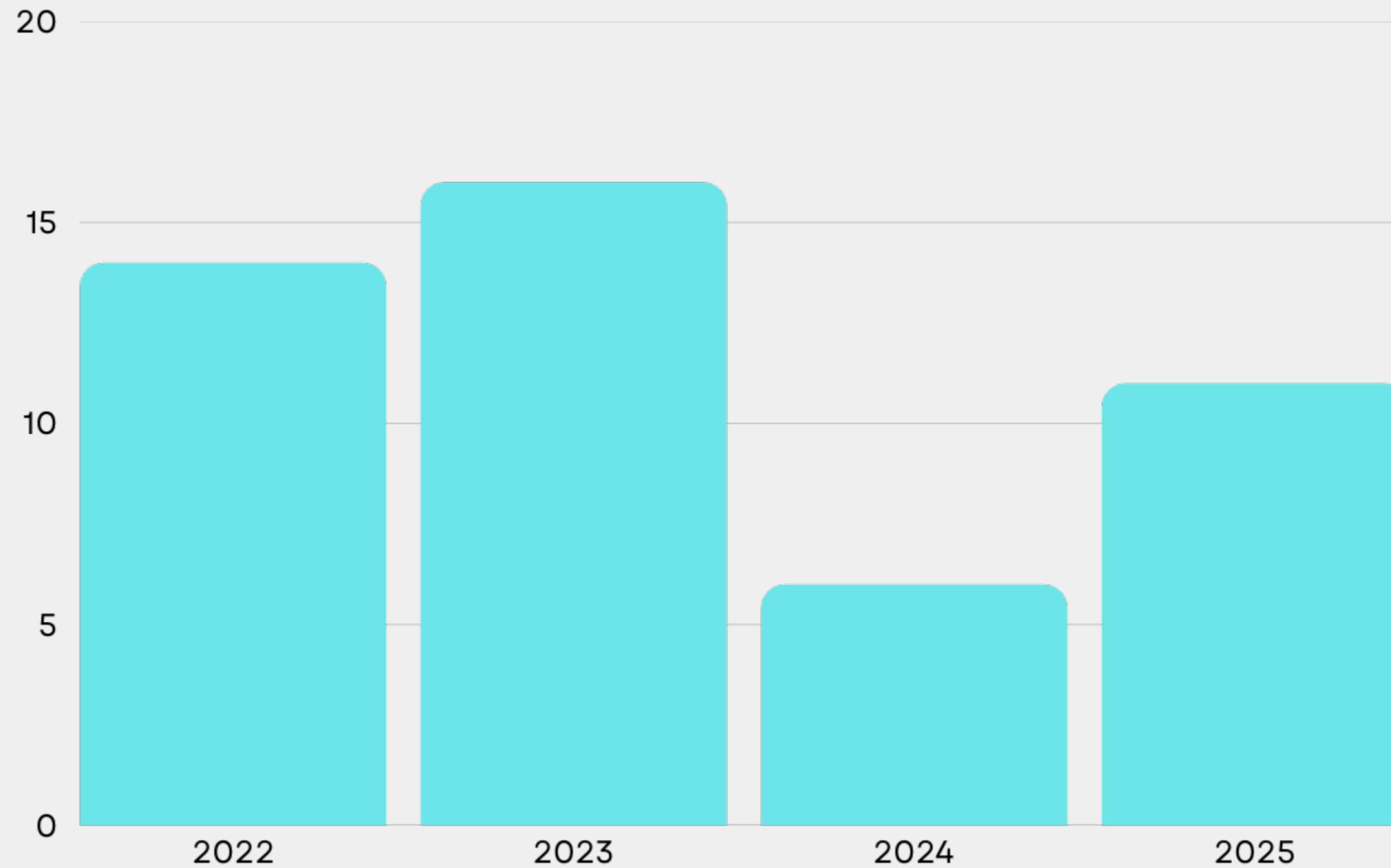
# Common Patterns

- Time Frame 7 –9 PM
- Targeted Zone - Rear of house
- Second -floor window entries common
- Cameras moved to avoid detection
- Window punch/ Screw drivers used
- Homes near empty lots at higher risk
- Ladders and nearby items used to gain second story access
- Pillowcases/backpacks used to conceal stolen items

\*Signal jammers used on alarms/cameras



# Residential Burglary Crime Stats



# West U Crime Statistics

Offense	2022	2023	2024	2025
Aggravated Robbery	1	5	1	1
Robbery	2	2	5	0
Aggravated Assault	1	2	1	0
Burglary-Vehicle	49	50	61	64
Burglary-Habitation	14	16	6	11
Burglary- Building	8	8	3	6
Auto Theft	16	22	10	9

# Police Initiatives

- Enhance Patrol
- Additional Virtual Gate Cameras
- Multiple Agency Investigation
- Patrol Finder Software



# Stay Connected

Facebook

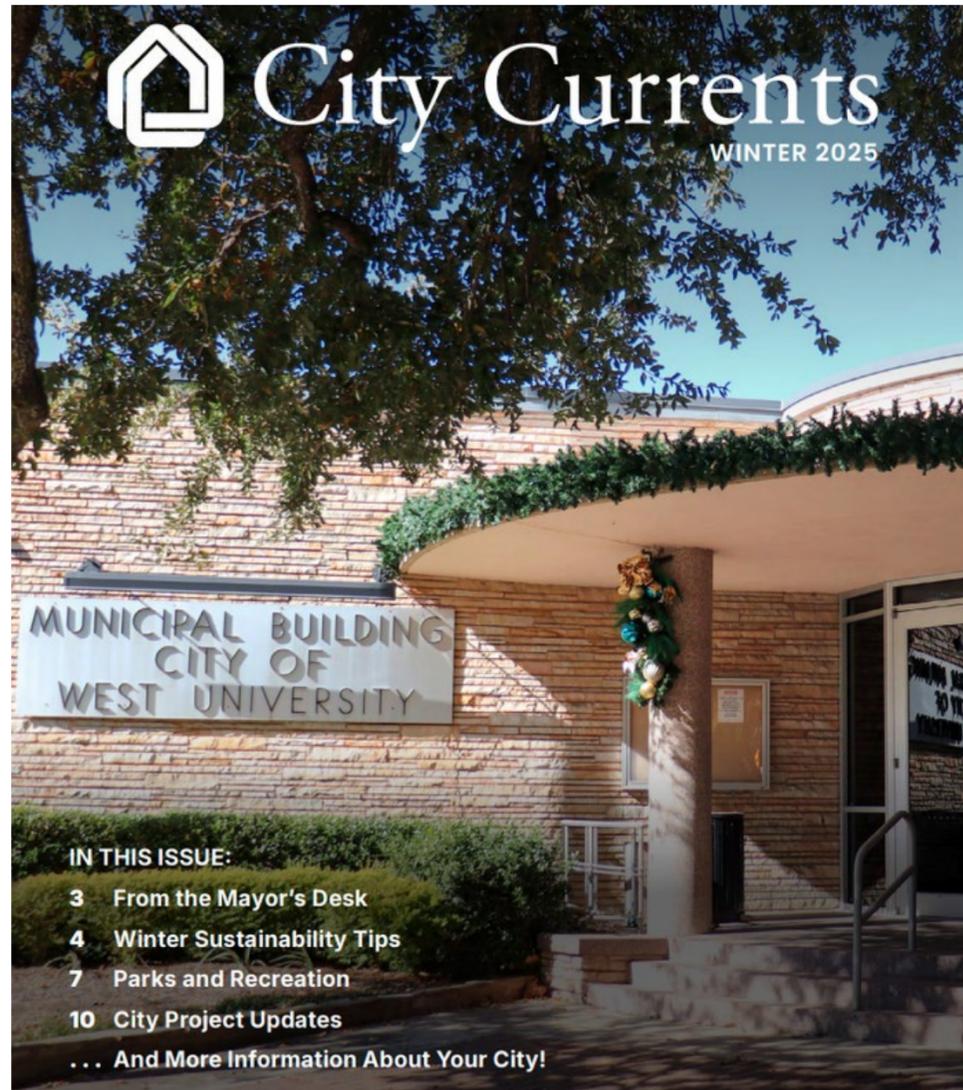
In 2025, the PD shared 71 Public Safety Announcements on social media, including topics such as:

- Vehicle Burglaries
- Jugging
- Crime Prevention Tips
- City Ordinances
- Package Theft
- Traffic Enforcement Initiatives
- Driving Safety Education
- Residential Burglaries
- Seasonal Holiday Safety Tips
- Public Safety Programs
- Crime Trends



# Stay Connected

City Currents



## HOLIDAY SAFETY AND CRIME PREVENTION TIPS

 [West University Place Police Department](#)  
[West University Place Fire Department](#)

**T**HE HOLIDAY SEASON is upon us, and while it's a time for family, friends, and celebration, it's also important to think about the safety of your home – especially if you'll be traveling.

The West University Place Police Department encourages residents to take a few extra steps to secure their property during the busy holiday months:

1. Lock all doors and windows before leaving home, even for short trips.
2. Avoid leaving packages or gifts visible through windows.

3. Use timers for lights to give the appearance that someone is home.
4. Ask a trusted neighbor to pick up mail and packages if you'll be away.
5. Consider leaving a car in the driveway or having a neighbor park there to make the home look occupied. Remember to lock the vehicle doors and conceal valuable items to deter potential thieves.

In addition to these tips, the West U Police Department offers a free Vacation House Watch program for residents. For more information or to register your home for this service, please visit [www.westutx.gov/police](http://www.westutx.gov/police).

# Stay Connected

Subscription Notifications



## Weekly Crime Report

Weekly Crime Report 01/29/2026-02/04/2026

Read more about the [Weekly Crime Report](#)

Weekly Crime Report

Posted on February 06, 2026

# Crime Prevention

While our officers actively patrol and work hard to keep the community safe, residents also play a key role in protecting their homes. Being aware of your surroundings, securing your property, and taking simple, proactive steps, you can significantly reduce the risk of becoming a victim. When police and residents work together, we create a safer, stronger community for everyone.





# Security Entry Points

- Lock all doors and windows
- Reinforce door frames
- Use quality deadbolts
- Don't leave key in the door
- Use Auxiliary locks for doors and windows
- Lock garage and interior access doors



# Exterior Safety

- Use exterior and motion lighting
- Trim landscaping especially near windows
- Eliminate hiding spots
- Secure sheds and storage areas
- Keep tools and ladders locked away
- Lock electrical boxes and ensure wires are buried.
- Add locks to gates leading to the rear of the property

# Smart Daily Habits

- Do not leave spare keys outside near the door
- Hold mail and packages when away
- Use light timers
- Vary daily routines
- Do not post travel plans on social media
- Program West U's Non-Emergency line into your phone (713)668-0330
- Make a family emergency plan
- Remove name from property through tax assessor's office
- Blur your home on google maps





# Technology & Security

- Utilize alarm systems and maintain a thorough understanding of their various functions.
- Hardwire cameras/Video doorbells
- Secure Wi -Fi and smart devices (WiFi - scrambler prevention)
- Add live monitoring for cameras/ security system
- Add glass brake to all floors
- Consider panic buttons (alarm)

# Awareness & Prevention

- Know your neighbors
- Report suspicious activity
  - Non - Emergency Line: (713)668 -0330
  - Emergency Line: 9 - 1-1
- Participate in safety programs
  - No - knock List
  - Vacation House Watch
  - Security Survey
- Stay Informed through police communication



# Questions