

The

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La Porte, Morgans Point Police Team-up to Catch Suspect

In their ongoing effort to both target and eliminate vehicle burglars in the La Porte community, the city's police officers took down yet another car burglar.

However, while the arrest of another criminal represents yet another positive stride for the department and their community, the agency was quick to make known that the collar was indeed a combined effort. If not for the assistance of the neighboring Morgan's Point Police Department, La Porte may have another unsolved mystery on their hands.

Shortly before midnight on Feb. 21, La Porte Officers responded to the Fairmont East subdivision in reference to a call regarding an unknown white male jumping over residential fences. The call-for-service followed a reportee's discovery that a suspect had been caught rummaging through his vehicle as it was parked in his residence driveway.

Upon arrival, officers immediately canvassed the area, where, soon after, Morgan's Point Police Chief Sherry Ditrich noticed a vehicle leaving a construction area along Spencer Highway as she made her way home for the evening.

Ditrich, monitoring the La Porte radio channel, followed the departing vehicle into the Spencer Landing subdivision and alerted La Porte officers of her discovery. A subsequent traffic stop was made by La Porte officers for other traffic violations and within minutes a thorough series of inquiries and investigative techniques ensued. The detaining of the suspect eventually led to a citizen eyewitness' identification of the perpetrator and the discovery of additional stolen property in the criminal's vehicle.

As a result, suspect Dustin Clarkson of La Porte was arrested and charged with two counts of burglary of a motor vehicle.

Of equal importance, following the arrest, La Porte investigators from the agency's Criminal Investigation Division interviewed the suspect in an attempt to determine Clarkson's possible involvement in other area crimes.

As a result, detectives were able to obtain further information from Clarkson which linked him to several other motor vehicle burglaries in La Porte, as well as the eventual recovery of numerous additional pieces of property. Coincidentally, among the information elicited from Clarkson, in relation to his string of motor vehicle burglaries, were additional details tagging him as the actual perpetrator in another recent crime which was originally attributed to La Porte citizen Michael Montes by way of eye-witness video identification.

While Montes remains in custody on unrelated charges, the charges relating to burglary of vehicle have been dropped on him.

Investigators further report that Clarkson is also suspected of other area crimes and, as LPPD detectives continue to inspect evidence, it has been announced that additional charges against Clarkson may appear in the near future.

If you have any additional information regarding this incident or any other criminal events, contact the La Porte Police Department at 281-471-2141.