



## Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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### Media Release

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**From:** Denise M. Moloney  
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**Re:** Burglar Does the Backstroke

**Date:** December 26, 2012

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Since the beginning of November and continuing into December, the Hernando County Sheriff's Office has received numerous reports of residential burglaries in the Spring Hill area, primarily along Mariner Blvd. In some cases, the suspect was described as a white female. There were times when a white male was also observed and some witnesses provided a vague description of a "green vehicle."

On Friday, 12-21-12, a call was received from 6474 Richard Dr. regarding another residential burglary (attempt). This time, the homeowner was at home and caught the suspect in the act. The homeowner went outside and chased the suspect, later identified as Chelsea Lane, north towards the river.

Lane jumped into the river, to avoid apprehension by the homeowner. She then proceeded to do the "backstroke" across the canal to get to Fine St. Deputies made contact with Lane after she got out of the river. They took her into custody and transported her to the District Two office for questioning.

Detectives took over the investigation and upon questioning Lane, she admitted to committing numerous burglaries in the Spring Hill area. These burglaries were committed in the daytime with the targeted items being jewelry. Lane also advised detectives that her accomplice was Richard Leach. He assisted by driving the getaway vehicle and by pawning some of the stolen items. The pair used the money for drugs.

Lane advised detectives that they would knock on the victim's door and if there was no answer, they would proceed to the rear of the residence and break in through a slider (door) or break a window.

The Crime Analysis Unit assisted detectives in determining that Lane owns a 1999 Green Pontiac Grand Am (the suspect vehicle description provided in some of the burglaries). Detectives in Pasco County located the vehicle and have impounded it.

Sheriff Al Nienhuis said, “Although many crimes are solved through the investigative process, just as many are cracked open because of an alert citizen. Detectives were especially concerned about this case, due to how brazen the couple was. Although it was only a matter of time before they were arrested, this alert citizen prevented others from being victimized. We strongly encourage citizens, and entire neighborhoods, to take an active role in crime fighting. The only requirement for the role is to call us if anything suspicious happens, even during the daylight hours. My deputies will handle the rest.”

Lane is also wanted by the Pasco County Sheriff’s Office for several burglaries that occurred in their jurisdiction on 12-20-12.

Richard Leach has also been taken into custody and has admitted to being involved with Chelsea Lane and participating in criminal activity with her. Leach also admitted to pawning some of the stolen jewelry.

Chelsea Lane W/F DOB/01-05-1991 was arrested by detectives for a total of six burglaries in Hernando County. She is being held in the Hernando County Detention Center. Her bond is set at \$8,000.

Richard Leach W/M DOB/06-01-1971 was arrested for a total of four burglaries in Hernando County. He is also being held at the Hernando County Detention Center. His bond is set at \$5,000.

This investigation continues and more charges are pending.