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Locals fight back against crime increase

Tanya Arja

SEFFNER - As thieves target more homes and cars in a subdivision in Seffner, residents are fed up and ready to fight back.

Neighbors in the Bloomfield Hills subdivision are tired of being victims. In just the past two weeks, many of their cars and homes have been targeted by thieves. It doesn't appear, the criminals are being picky. They've hit cars and trucks, every make and model.

Karen Sullivan walked out of her house Monday morning and discovered her husband's truck had been broken into.

"The passenger door lock had been broken out of it. They got into the truck; luckily, we've learned not to leave anything in the truck. So luckily, nothing was taken," Sullivan said.

She's so angry with the rash of crimes, she now does her

own patrols through the neighborhood.

"Throughout the day, I try to drive through the neighborhood, make sure I don't see any activity, for the people that are working, that can't be at home watching their houses," she said.

Detectives are investigating the increase in crime. But they say, they need help from neighbors -- something residents are more than willing to do.

Kayla Williams said her mother's car was hit last week. They now watch the streets, looking for people who don't belong.

"Even last night, we saw some people that we know don't live in the neighborhood, walking through the neighborhood very slowly," Williams said. "And that's two nights in a row. So we're on a little bit of an alert right now."

They question people who don't belong there and they're joining together, watching out for each other.

"We're tired of it, we're not going to put up with it and we're going to do whatever we have to do, to keep it from reoccurring," Sullivan said as she left for another patrol through the neighborhood.

Lt. Michael Willette, with the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office said they all have to pitch in.

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