

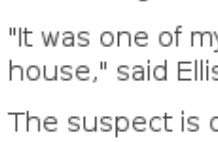
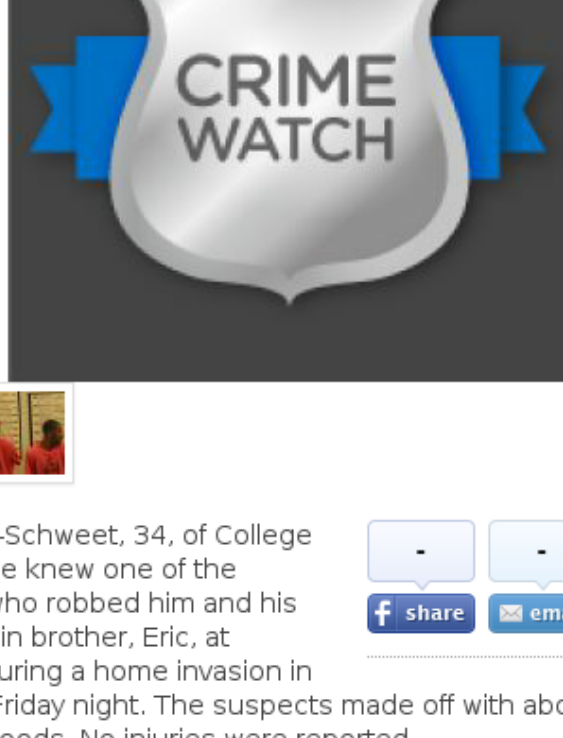
News | Police & Fire

Victim of Friday's Home Invasion in Grayslake Speaks to Patch

One of the victims of Friday's home invasion in Grayslake shares his ordeal with Patch.

Posted by **Angela Sykora** (Editor) · October 03, 2012 at 01:20 AM

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Shaun Ellis-Schweet, 34, of College Trail, said he knew one of the suspects who robbed him and his identical twin brother, Eric, at gunpoint during a home invasion in Grayslake Friday night. The suspects made off with about \$3,000 in cash and goods. No injuries were reported.

"It was one of my friends through AA. He was living in a half-way house," said Ellis-Schweet.

The suspect is one of four men police spent five hours searching for with a helicopter, dogs and thermal imaging cameras shortly before 11 p.m. Friday, Sept. 28.

After crashing their car and fleeing on foot, police eventually located three of the suspects and took them into custody. The fourth suspect, who was not apprehended, is the person known to the Ellis-Schweet brothers. Grayslake Police have issued a warrant for this man's arrest.

with armed robbery, unlawful restraint and residential burglary. He was remanded to the Lake County jail on \$750,000 bond. The two suspects in custody have yet to be charged, pending further investigation by the Lake County State's Attorney's Office, said police.

Trying to help a friend

Ellis-Schweet told Patch he had offered his friend, the fourth at-large suspect, a spare room in his townhouse in the 1000 block of Manchester Drive, if the man had been sober for 45 days.

"He wanted to check out the room and called me at 7:30 (p.m.)." Ellis-Schweet said he was at a meeting when the suspect called. He then told him when he would be arriving home. A few hours went by, then finally, the suspect said he would be coming right over.

Ellis-Schweet said he opened the garage door in expectation of the visit.

The next thing Ellis-Schweet knows, his "friend" is standing in his home with three other people he'd never seen before, with guns drawn. The fourth suspect had even managed to grab a wall-mounted collector baseball bat that belonged to Ellis-Schweet, having seen it in the house during a previous visit.

"At first I thought it was a joke, until he put the machine gun in my brother's eye and said, 'Give us all your money.'"

Ellis-Schweet said his brother's girlfriend was also at the home at the time of the invasion and armed robbery.

While on the ground, Ellis-Schweet said he managed to dial 911 on his cell phone. "They threw my brother's phone in water," he said. Unable to speak, Ellis-Schweet said he feared the suspects would hear the 911 operator asking what the emergency was. Fortunately, they didn't.

In a matter of minutes, the four suspects fled the home with cash, gold chains and a television set, all totaling about \$3,000.

"That was money for bills," said Ellis-Schweet, who hopes to get the money and items returned.

Earlier, said Ellis-Schweet, the fourth suspect had asked him if he and his brother had cashed their work checks (the three had worked for the same employer).

"It should have been a red flag," said Ellis-Schweet, but this person was his friend and he wanted to help him out by offering him a place to stay once he had obtained sobriety.

Unfortunately, he said of the suspects, "They smelled of liquor and marijuana."

"I've never been a part of something like this," said Ellis-Schweet, who added that he still feels safe in his Grayslake community.

He praised the work of the Grayslake Police Department, who stayed at the home throughout the night and kept a squad car outside.

"They were absolutely amazing," said Ellis-Schweet of the Grayslake Police.

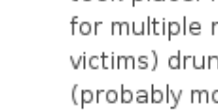
One Suspect Charged in Grayslake Home Invasion

3 Home Invasion Suspects in Custody of Grayslake Police After 5 Hour Search Friday Night

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Daisy Flanders October 01, 2012 at 07:47 PM
"Victim" http://grayslake.patch.com/articles/grayslake-police-blotter-guns-warrants-dui
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Joseph shapiro October 01, 2012 at 09:40 PM
Machine gun? The previous report said they were armed with two handguns, and it is extremely doubtful that they could have obtained a full-auto firearm.
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Shaun Ellis-Schweet October 02, 2012 at 01:17 AM
Obviously Joseph believes everything he reads and has never been to the south side of Chicago... But I guess ignorance is bliss.
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Joseph shapiro October 02, 2012 at 01:39 AM
Very funny. I actually live in the same neighborhood in which this took place. I say that I doubt they could have had machine guns for multiple reasons. 1. They were (according to one of the victims) drunk and high on weed. Machine guns are expensive (probably more so in Illinois, because you can't get them legally here), and drug and alcohol addictions can cost quite a bit of money. 2. If they had (a) machine gun(s), I'm sure the police would have said so, considering how much the Illinois government and cops are against civilian gun ownership. 3. If they DID have something other than a handgun (and it wasn't a traditionally styled shotgun), such as an AR-15, an AK variant, or even a Mini-14, I wouldn't be surprised if the victim assumed it was a machine gun, considering most civilians know almost nothing about firearms, and of course if it LOOKS like it could be a machine gun, then it MUST BE one, right (sarcasm)? Either way, since no shots were fired, and again, it's doubtful the victim knew much about guns, it is unlikely that he would know that it was a full-auto firearm.
Recommend Flag as Inappropriate

Joseph shapiro October 02, 2012 at 01:41 AM
Oh yes, because of course, unless you've been to the south side of Chicago, there is no WAY you could possibly know anything about firearms! I'm SO sorry for my ignorance! Obviously, sarcasm again.
Recommend Flag as Inappropriate

Joseph shapiro October 02, 2012 at 01:47 AM
If you guys are actually the Ellis-Schweets, perhaps instead of just insulting me, you could enlighten me as to how you knew it was a machine gun? I am genuinely interested to know.
Recommend Flag as Inappropriate

Reason October 02, 2012 at 03:00 AM
@daisyflanders: do you have a copy of the case file,discovery, and deposition? So you may not know the whole story, right? So what you are saying anyone who is arrested for a crime is convicted of the crime, right? So anyone who has committed any type of crime deserves to be robbed at gunpoint,right? So even if someone is convicted of a crime and pays back their debt to society and looks to turns their life around for the better should be subject to armed robberies?
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Reason October 02, 2012 at 03:13 AM
Also, hats of to the grayslake pd! Your work is appreciated! I hope you find the 4th suspect and that justice will be swift. With Chicago making such a turn for the worse over the past few years there is no doubt that it will spill over into the suburbs.
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Reason October 02, 2012 at 03:35 AM
@joseph: a gun to the head is a gun to the head, machine gun or not. Btw, we are all soooooo impressed with your knowledge of firearms. Please, tell us more!
Recommend Flag as Inappropriate

Tom October 02, 2012 at 03:43 AM
The reported power outage is standard protocol when using thermal imaging equipment. Com Ed cut the power so there wouldn't be any interference.
Recommend Flag as Inappropriate

Joseph shapiro October 02, 2012 at 03:44 AM
Seriously? I was simply doubting that there was actually a machine gun used in the crime. I never said anything that would imply a gun that wasn't a machine gun isn't just as deadly, or my trying to have pointed at your head. I was only using my knowledge of firearms to demonstrate my points, I wasn't showing off. There is no reason for you to insult me.
Recommend Flag as Inappropriate

Reason October 02, 2012 at 03:56 AM
I apologize and didn't mean to insult you. I just found that your statement minimized a awful situation. I will go easy with my sarcasm. Bottom line I hope they find the 4th suspect so victims can rest a little easier.
Recommend Flag as Inappropriate

Joseph shapiro October 02, 2012 at 04:01 AM
I thank you for apologizing, and also hope they find the fourth guy. I will say however that I have become somewhat numb to hearing about things like this, because I hear about them all the time (I frequent multiple news sources). It is definitely very serious, and must have been terrifying.
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chet conte October 02, 2012 at 04:14 AM
I just don't understand why anyone would rob a friend at gunpoint. Did he not think he was going to get busted? No offense, but it seems there is more to this story. If the car crashes and they run, where is the guns, cash, and tv? It's frappachino and I'm glad I live on the other side of town from this crackhouse. Cops will enjoy staking this place out.
Recommend Flag as Inappropriate

Reason October 02, 2012 at 04:31 AM
@chet: another to jump to conclusions. Two guys in aa trying to help a friend get sober. Nothing wrong with that until said friend is trying to take advantage of you. Bottom line: you can't trust anyone and this can happen to anyone. Chet, you should be embarrassed of your ignorance.
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Amy October 02, 2012 at 12:09 PM
It saddens me that the victim in this HORRIFIC attack is being attacked proffocally!! So as a woman are you telling me that wearing a provocative dress is asking for rape also!!!! I dont know these victims but regardless of what may or may not have happened in their past who are we to judge!?! @joseph, you are the one that should apologize, for treating the victim like the criminal.
Recommend Flag as Inappropriate

Xarmyguy October 02, 2012 at 12:31 PM
I agree that the chances of the criminals having a machine gun were slim to none. A machine gun is a belt fed crew served weapon. Maybe he meant an assault weapon or something but they certainly did not have machine guns! More importantly were any firearms actually recovered yet? I would like to know if there are still "machine guns" hidden in the neighborhood? Nobody is justifying what happened to the victims, just suggesting anytime the media reports anything involving firearms they are too quick to use incorrect descriptions.
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catalina10 October 02, 2012 at 12:37 PM
I agree Amy. Judge not less be judged and judge not until you have ALL the facts.
Recommend Flag as Inappropriate

Xarmyguy October 02, 2012 at 12:45 PM
Sounds like there is definitely more to this story. I did not initially read that first link to his arrest for possession of a firearm by a felon earlier this year. Obviously he knew he was in the wrong on that one? If he knew the guy from AA was it court appointed AA? Which does not necessarily mean he was turning his life around. I will give him the benefit of the doubt but there is a lot more to this case than meets the eye
Recommend Flag as Inappropriate

Angela Sykora (Editor) October 02, 2012 at 01:26 PM
RE: Firearms recovered: The following statement from the police chief was posted yesterday in the "One Suspect Charged" story. Also, it was not the media that used the machine gun description. It was a quote from the victim. Thanks. "We had searched the area extensively with police dogs and a helicopter equipped with special night/ infrared vision the night of the occurrence and with dogs and police personnel the next day as well as officers today. We have not located a weapon. I cannot go into case specifics, but there is a discrepancy as to the exact involvement of weapons. I will advise concerned citizens in the immediate area of where the car crashed, (Atkinson and Brae Loch) to check around the perimeter of their homes and in their outside garbage cans for anything suspicious. Most common areas have been checked by police."
Recommend Flag as Inappropriate

Xarmyguy October 02, 2012 at 02:55 PM
Sorry for my generalization Angela. You were only reporting what was told to you by the victim. Thanks for all your hard work in our community
Recommend Flag as Inappropriate

Angela Sykora (Editor) October 02, 2012 at 03:17 PM
It's cool. This is a sensitive story and we don't know all the facts but I will continue to post updates as they become available.
Recommend Flag as Inappropriate

Joseph shapiro October 02, 2012 at 05:12 PM
I did not treat the victims like criminals. Once again, I was only doubting the presence of a machine gun. Obviously, since I live in the same neighborhood, I would be interested to know whether criminals that may or may not frequent this area are armed with machine guns, as that may be hazardous to my health.
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