

School buses searched because of police case

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A burglary and larceny investigation led Monroe County sheriff's deputies to search several Hilton Central School District buses transporting students on Monday morning.

Deputies on Monday were alerted to several burglaries and larcenies in the area of Collamer Road and Summertime Trail in Parma, said sheriff's office spokeswoman Amy Young.

Three nearby Hilton schools — Village Elementary, Quest Elementary and Merton William Middle School, all located within the village — were placed on a lockout on Monday, which means no one can enter or exit the school buildings while classroom instruction continues as normal, according to school district officials. The lockouts ended by 10 a.m.

As of mid-morning, five people were detained in connection with the string of thefts, and deputies continue to investigate, said Capt. Dean Tuthill of the Monroe County Sheriff's Office. While investigating, deputies learned that a suspect who was not a Hilton student may have boarded a Hilton school bus Monday morning.

“Out of an abundance of caution,” deputies worked with Hilton district officials “to ensure no students got off the buses,” Young said.

Tuthill said that deputies and New York State Police went to Hilton High School, stopped and searched all of the buses that came from that area.

Deputies determined that there was not a suspect on board any Hilton school bus at that time.

The students then left the buses and proceeded with their school day as usual, Tuthill said. District officials said that students and bus runs were held up for about 15 minutes.

District officials thanked the concerned resident who called 911 to report that a non-student may have boarded a school bus.

“We take the safety and security of our students and staff seriously and appreciate everyone's patience while the concern was fully investigated,” district officials said in a statement to parents about the incident.

“I think the underlying message here is...we have to lock up our cars,” Tuthill said, noting that valuables were taken from multiple cars in the area. “This is a crime of opportunity.”

Contact Victoria Freile at vfreile@gannett.com. Follow her on Twitter @vfreile and Instagram @vfreile. This coverage is only possible with support from our readers.

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