

Arrest made in attempted murder

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By Sarah Morrison Stephens

Millbrook police officers have made one felony arrest of a Millbrook 17-year-old, charging him with two counts of attempted murder and one count of discharging a firearm into an occupied vehicle. Tanijay Woodard turned himself in Monday afternoon accompanied by a relative.

Woodard was arrested and transported to the Elmore County Jail where he remains under a total bond of \$40,000. Woodard was charged as an adult. Officers continue to investigate shots fired near the Millbrook Softball fields at the Memorial Center last week, and said this case could be related. They hope to make other arrests soon.

On Sunday, April 20, 2014, at approximately 10 p.m., the Millbrook Police Department received a delayed complaint with regards to a disturbance that occurred on Wildwood Drive, near Brookwood Drive, which is located in the Woodview subdivision off South Main Street.

Prior to that complaint, at approximately 7:32 p.m., Millbrook police units responded to the 2100 block of Wildwood Drive with regard to a civil disturbance during which shots were fired. Upon arrival officers were unable to locate anyone shooting, a victim, or anyone willing to cooperate with officers attempting to ascertain what had transpired.

Millbrook Chief of Police, P.K. Johnson said apparently several individuals were involved in a verbal altercation, which turned physical. The altercation was broken up, at which point two black males entered a vehicle and attempted to leave the area. As they were entering the vehicle someone began shooting in their direction. Several rounds entered the vehicle's passenger area from the rear, with one round striking the vehicle's left front fender. The victims left the area and later reported the incident at the Millbrook Police Department.

The victims were able to positively identify the offender, Johnson said. The vehicle was processed for physical evidence and detectives from the Millbrook Police Department's Criminal Investigations Unit responded to conduct an investigation. On Monday, warrants were obtained against the offender, identified as Woodard.

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"I am extremely pleased with the work of the officers and our Criminal Investigative Division in this case," Johnson said, but added that he is still very concerned with the shooting incident last week near the ballfields.

"On Saturday, April 12, 2014, we responded to an incident where several shots were fired in a parking lot between our Memorial Center and our girls' softball fields. At the time this occurred there was a softball tournament in progress on the ball fields and a juvenile's birthday party going on (at the Memorial Center)," Johnson said.

Johnson said the investigation into this incident has not stopped, and his officers have been able to identify several persons of interest. During the course of this investigation and subsequent arrest certain facts are pointing to the possibility that these cases may very well be related, Johnson said.

"While both cases remain under investigation, I will state that while our community is not immune from the violence that is far too prevalent in today's society, we don't have people getting shot or shot at as a regular occurrence in our city. We have people that are very concerned for the safety of their children. As the Chief of Police and as a parent, I share that concern," Johnson said.

Patrols have increased in the affected areas. During the course of this investigation officers have identified a group of people that apparently have made threats or continue making threats of violence against others they have issues with.

"Twice in just over a week we've had shots fired at or near a crowd of people. Our officers will be vigilant in their directed patrols, maintaining high visibility, while actively enforcing all state laws and city ordinances at our disposal. We simply will not tolerate this violent behavior in our city. Bullets don't have anyone's name on them once fired. In most cases they do not hit their intended target but rather an innocent bystander. That's a tragedy that no one can live with.

"As we continue our investigation in both cases, I want to encourage anyone with any knowledge of either case to contact the Millbrook Police Department at 285-6832 or they can

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contact our Secret Witness Line at 285-8500. If you know about instances like this and fail to take action; you are part of the problem, which may eventually effect you or someone that you love. To those individuals that have engaged in this type activity or plan to; we will be proactive in our enforcement activities and continue to make every effort to ensure the safety of our citizens,"Johnson said.