

POLICE

PRESS RELEASE

October 31, 2017



Greendale Police Department

Greendale, Wisconsin

For more information, contact the Police Department at (414) 423-2121

Homicide Investigation

On October 21, 2017, Greendale 911 dispatch received a phone call from a frantic female caller screaming "he's tied up!" Greendale dispatch sent multiple officers and fire personnel to the residence of 9053 West Lake Drive in the Village of Greendale

Upon arrival, Officers met with Jason Latus and Maureen Troy outside the residence. Jason is the victim's son, and Maureen is his wife. They informed the officers that Jason's father, Kenneth Latus, age 76, was dead.

Greendale Police Officers then entered the residence and observed the resident, victim, Kenneth Latus, lying on the floor in the spare bedroom. Kenneth Latus' hands were tied behind his back and both of his feet were tied, which was later determined to be the cord from a missing cordless telephone set. Kenneth Latus was determined to be deceased.

Forensic investigators from the Wisconsin State Crime Lab and the Milwaukee County Medical Examiner's Office responded to the residence to assist with the investigation. When they rolled the victim over, they observed several reddish stains on the carpeting underneath Kenneth. They further observed his mouth and observed a swollen lip and bloody gums, as well as blood coming from his nose. These injuries were consistent with him having been hit or punched to the face.

An autopsy on Kenneth Latus would later determine that the manner of death is consistent with asphyxiation due to suffocation.

When the officers checked the residence they found Mr. Latus' black leather wallet that contained no money inside it. Investigation verified the victim had been robbed of \$160 in cash.

The victim's son Jason Latus stated that he had spoken to his father on Thursday, October 19, 2017, and that his father had stated that a package had arrived by UPS with someone else's name on it. It was later determined that the package was intended for a friend of a family member.

Jason states that later he talked to his father and was told that on Friday, October 20, 2017, a woman and a man, later determined to be Calvin Fleener, had come to Kenneth's house looking for the package. Jason states that his father provided the package to the man and woman.

Jason states that on the day of the homicide he had talked to his father in the morning and had attempted to call his father in the afternoon but that the phone was not picking up. Jason stated this was unlike his father, so he got into his vehicle with his wife, Maureen, and drove to his father's residence.

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Upon entering the residence Jason stated that he found his father in a spare bedroom covered by a blanket. Jason stated when they removed the blankets he saw that his father was lying on his stomach with his face in the carpeting and his hands and feet tied together and they called 911.

Officers had an opportunity to watch security video from the club house of the residence complex in which Kenneth Latus' residence was located. The video showed two individuals, one a woman and the other a male, later determined to be the Calvin Fleener, walking past the club house of the residential complex on their way to Kenneth Latus' residence to pick up the letter.

Officers then watched the video for the day of the homicide to determine if he could see who may have gone to Kenneth Latus' residence. Officers were able to observe two males, later determined to be Calvin Fleener and James Johansen, walking past the club house and taking the exact same path of travel Fleener and the woman had taken the day before when they went to visit Kenneth Latus. Officers then fast-forwarded the video and observed both Fleener and Johansen walking again past the club house through the parking lot in the opposite direction away from the house, but in a much faster manner.

Officers were assigned the job of watching all of the security video from the Milwaukee County Transit System buses that traveled on the route consistent with the bus stop to which the security video from the club house. Officers located video that showed both Fleener and Johansen ride the bus to the area of 76 Street, and then walking towards the victim's house past the club house.

Officers then observed from the security video on the bus, two males enter the field of view in front of the bus running eastbound on South 76th Street in a direction away from the victim's house. These two males are later determined to be Calvin Fleener and James Johansen.

Johansen can be seen paying for both of them to enter the bus. While watching the bus video, Officers hear Fleener make a loud sarcastic or exaggerated comment which appeared to have been similar to "oh my hand!" Officers found this statement to be significant as the victim appears to have been physically beaten.

In the video, Officers observed Fleener glance over his left shoulder and look into a blue drawstring backpack that he had worn onto the bus. Fleener then analyzes the contents of the bag, turns towards Johansen and states to the effect of "*we did good bro!*" Fleener then gives a high-five to Johansen which Johansen returned. Fleener can be seen flicking pieces of paper which appear consistent with the appearance of US currency.

Both men were identified through witness interviews and Officers began searching for them.

James Johansen was taken into custody by Greendale police near the homeless camp where he lives in the city of Milwaukee and Calvin Fleener surrendered to Milwaukee Police and he was turned over to the Greendale Police.

Both men are being held in Milwaukee County Jail pending charges by the District Attorney's Office.

For information, contact Captain Ryan Rosenow, (414) 423-2121.