

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY
OFFICE OF THE FIRE MARSHAL
FIRE & EXPLOSIVES INVESTIGATION UNIT

2660 Riva Road, Suite 290

Annapolis, MD 21401

MACRO TIMELINE

FIB CASE #: 25-056

INCIDENT DATE: 04/13/2025

INCIDENT TIME: Early morning hours



TABLE OF CONTENTS:

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2. ORIGINAL LEGAL NOTICES**
- 3. AARON'S SURVEILLANCE OF THE JOHNSON'S PROPERTY**
- 4. AARON'S SIGNIFICANT SEARCH HISTORY**
- 5. HARASSMENT VIA TEMU MAIL**
- 6. TOTAL TIMELINE WITH ALL KNOWN EVENTS AT THE TIME OF REPORT**
- 7. AARON'S CONCERNING SEARCHES**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Since apprehending Aaron Keel (hereinafter referred to as just Aaron), I have executed several search and seizure warrants in an attempt to understand the motive for Aaron setting the Johnson's property on fire. At the time of this report, I have obtained returns of evidence back from Aaron's Google Cloud account in addition to his Temu account. While the motive is still largely unknown, I was able to create a timeline that spans over the course of nearly one year that entails: 1) Aaron's personal surveillance of the Johnson's property; 2) numerous searches and research into Matthew Johnson, his employment, businesses he has owned as well as Stefanie Johnson and her place of employment along with map searches of Stefanie's employment and video reviews of Stefanie's employment; 3) Extensive research into created anonymous email accounts and being untraced on the internet while also creating an email address to purposefully mimic or impersonate Matthew's email; 4) shipping sex toys and lingerie to Matthew for the sole purpose of harassing him; and 5) numerous searches and research in the immediate days and hours prior to the arson into fire accelerants, hiring arsonists, and burning down a barn.

Through the evidence contained in the Google File and the evidence copied to this report, it is clear that Aaron stalked and harassed the Matthew Johnson over the course of a year, ultimately escalating into breaking into 3 Belhaven Court and then setting it on fire. While the motive is not known at this time exactly why Aaron committed these crimes, the arson was a continuation in a series of events over this timeframe, which will be detailed in the report as shown through the evidence obtained through the search and seizure warrants up until this point.

It should be noted: All times provided by Google are in Coordinated Universal Time (UTC). As such, UTC will be utilized as the times that reference any internet or logged history of significance.

Aaron's Significant Search History:

The following are significant internet activity of Aaron. All of the following are search inputs that he utilized unless otherwise noted.

April 5, 2025:

12:46pm: “How to hire an arsonists in Maryland”

April 7, 2025:

12:30pm: “how to burn down a barn”

9:50pm: “how to burn down a barn”

10:31pm: “what is incendiary ammo”

10:32pm: “types of us army incendiary materials”

April 10, 2025:

12:50am: “what happens if mix kerosene and stump remover together”

12:51am: “stump remover chemical”

12:52am: *Keel clicks add on Ace Hardware for stump remover*

12:53am: “does potassium nitrate burn”

12:53am: “is potassium nitrate a liquid”

12:54am: “what happens if mix kerosene and potassium nitrate together”

12:54am: **Keel visits Gichd.org website specifically to view a 250 page manual titled the following: “Basic Chemistry of Explosives and Hazards of Home-made Explosives and**

Chemical Precursors Handbook”

12:56am: “does potassium nitrate dissolve in kerosene”

12:58am: *Keel visits Physics Forums thread labeled “Will KNO_3 potassium nitrate dissolve in methanol and later burn”* 01:23am: “what is acab”

April 12, 2025:

6:38pm: “what products contain potassium nitrate”

6:39pm: “is potassium nitrate a fire accelerator”

6:41pm: “is sodium metabisulfite a fire accelerator”

6:42pm: “which home Depot products contain potassium nitrate”

6:42pm: *Keel visits Home Depot website with Stump Remover add*

6:46pm: “is spectracide stump remover a fire accelerant

7:12pm: “nearest kerosene station”

7:33pm: “k1 Kerosene near me”

7:33pm: *Keel visits Google Maps with “K1 kerosene near me” input*

7:34pm: “K1 kerosene near me”

7:34pm: *Keel visits Google Maps with “K1 kerosene near me” input*

7:34pm: “k1 kerosene near Glen Burnie, MD”

7:36pm: "k1 kerosene near Glen Burnie, MD"

April 13, 2025:

11:59am: "how delete browser search history"

1:54am: *Keel visits website for Counselin, Bradal, Kosmerl & Nolan P.A.*

1:54am: "attorneys council baradel"

1:54am: *Keel visits "Council Bradal: Annapolis Maryland"*

April 14, 2025:

11:23am: *Keel views "Rosenberg Martin Greenberg LLP"*

11:23am: "adam baker Rosenberg martin"

5:20pm: "k1 kerosene near glen Burnie, Md"

5:39pm: *Keel views "Rosenberg Martin Greenberg LLP"*

5:39pm: "adam baker Rosenberg martin"

5:49pm: "what is an alford lea"

5:49pm: "what is an alford plea in Maryland"

9:07pm: *Keel views "Council, Bradal, Kosmerl & Nolan, P.A."*

9:07pm: "council bradel"

November 1, 2024:

2:36am: "rape table torture"

2:39am: "table designed to rape women"

2:40am: "what does a rape table look like"

2:42am: "bdsm table design plan"

2:42am: "Woodworking bdsm Bondage Table – Youtube"

The following were searched within Google Images specifically:

2:37am: The following photograph is viewed from cdn.i-scmp.com:

2:37am: "rape table torture"

2:37am: "rape table design"

2:28am: "rape table design"

2:39am: "table designed to rape women"

2:39am: "eable designed to rape women"

Fire Hypotheses:

All possible ignition sources and fuel loads were considered when analyzing the fire activity at 3 Belhaven Court, Severna Park, MD 21146. After a thorough investigation, I determined that there were numerous set fires throughout the residence. None of the fires in the residence were communicating, meaning that one fire's origin was not responsible for the secondary, third, or so-forth fire. Additionally, there were not any competent

ignition sources located in the vicinity of any of the fires within the structure that could scientifically explain how the fire originated.

There were at least five distinctive fires that are detailed on the following pages.

(Intentionally left blank. Please see next page)

1. Below was a fire located in the basement of the residence on the B/C side, just under the electrical panel of the home, immediately in front of the sliding door:



The following hypotheses as to how this fire occurred were considered and ruled out:

Electrical fire: I considered this theory as to the cause of this fire and was able to rule this theory out. This fire origin was in close proximity to the electrical panel, but there was not extension to or from the electrical panel. There was no evidence of any electrical issues in the panel itself and the panel was in working condition with no fire damage. The debris

itself was searched through and there was no evidence of any sort of electrical or battery source.

Smoking fire: Discarded cigarettes, marijuana, or other smoking materials were considered for this fire event and I was able to rule out this theory.

Spontaneous combustion: I considered this theory and was able to rule out spontaneous combustion as a possibility for the fire activity for this event. There was no materials or chemicals within the area that would be consistent with that of a spontaneous combustion.

Intentionally set fire: After considering every possibly ignition source, the only ignition source that was competent to start this fire was an external source such as a cigarette lighter or matches. This fire was started by the intentional act of a human and this was the only remaining hypothesis after considering every other way that this fire could have been created.

2. Shown below are the damages of a fire in the basement on the B/C side room against the far left wall, which would be represented as the D side wall:



This fire had no reasonable fuel load that suffered any significant fire damage nor was there any sort of ignition source anywhere within the immediate vicinity. The fire was to structural wooden beams of the home and could be described as charring. There may have been a combustible material that sat on top of the wood that had been consumed by the fire or an open flame was held to wood itself.

The following hypotheses as to how this fire occurred were considered and ruled out:

Electrical fire: This theory was considered but was ruled out as there was no electrical sources anywhere within the vicinity of this fire activity that could have been an ignition source or cause for this fire.

Embers: I considered an ember or firefighter suppression activity being responsible for this distinctive burn into the wood and was able to rule that out. The larger basement fire that is photographed under “1,” could not have communicated with this fire. There were physical barriers between these fires which would have eliminated any possibility of an ember traveling to this location and being the ignition source for a separate fire. Additionally, the distance from this fire and the larger fire titled “1” was too far for either of these fires to be responsible for the cause of the other fire.

Intentionally set fire: This fire was an independent fire from every other fire activity in the house. The cause of the fire was the intentional introduction of an external ignition source such as a cigarette lighter or matches. The fuel was either a completely consumed combustible or the open flame was held to the wood itself.

3. Below is a photograph of the attachment point for the foldable attic ladder:



In terms of fire spread and intensity, fuel consumption, and overall damage to the structure, the fire in the attic was the most significant fire event associated with the home of 3 Belhaven Court. The fire spread through a large portion of the attic and partially and completely consumed numerous structural support beams for the roof itself.

There were numerous rags found draped over the wooden beams in the attic, which I was able to conclude were not there the day prior when the electrician was in the attic. The rags were laid out in a manner that was consistent with an individual attempting to use them as a continuous fuel source. The ignition temperature for 2x2 and 2x4's would be too high for somebody to realistically hold a lighter to in order to start a fire. The rags have a much lower ignition temperature and were utilized to act as the first fuel ignited, which then in turn ignited the wooden beams. The timeline, which is detailed in this report under "Timeline" is consistent with a slow burning fire in the attic space of this home with the fuel package that I know was in the space.

The following hypotheses as to how this fire occurred were considered:

Electrical fire: There was wiring that ran through the attic so an electrical fire was considered. I was able to rule this out through my own examination of the wires and determined that the fire damage to the wiring itself was minimal and a result of heat damage from the fire, not a cause of the fire. Additionally, Travelers Insurance performed

an additional origin and cause examination that consisted of a fire investigator along with an engineer. I accompanied the private investigators on their investigation at 3 Belhaven Court and the engineer was able to conclude on scene that the wires in the attic were not a cause of this fire. While this was only a verbal confirmation Travelers collected the wires as evidence to perform testing to confirm the on-scene findings. This evidence and any report associated with it will be provided to the States Attorney once I receive it.

Intentionally set fire: After considering all possible ignition sources for the attic fire, the only ignition source that was competent enough to be responsible for this activity was an external ignition source such as a cigarette lighter or matches. The fuel for this fire may have been combustibles that were consumed by the fire or they were the readily available combustibles within the attic, which would just be the actual structure itself. There was no storage in the attic at the time of this event.

4. Below is a fire that occurred between the door jam on the first level of the home in the A/B side bedroom:



The following hypotheses as to how this fire occurred were considered:

Drop-down debris: The attic fire was located directly above this door-jam. I considered the possibility of fire burning through the attic floor or fire suppression efforts from the fire department causing debris to drop down, which in turn would cause this fire. I was able to rule this out after determining that it was not possible. The charring in this door-jam could only have occurred if there was a sustained flame to the wood itself. This area of the door-jam had no ledge or lip that would allow drop-down to settle and for the fire to grow.

Intentionally set fire: The only hypothesis for this fire that remained after considering all possible ignition sources was that a human used an external ignition source such as a cigarette lighter or matches. There may have been a combustible lodged between the door that was consumed by the fire or the human held a lighter or match to the specific area between the doorjam long enough for a fire to occur.

5. There is a fifth fire that is not photographed, which occurred in the basement to a rag that was resting on top of a horizontal structural wooden beam. That fire was also ruled to be incendiary.

While I considered each fire event individually, I also considered the totality of all fires occurring within the same timeframe and to the same structure. The home was undergoing renovations and through various interviews of the home owners and an electrician contractor, I learned that individuals were in and out of the house. As such, I considered any sort of event that could have been responsible for five separate fires occurring within the same structure, with all five events being non-communicating. After considering any sort of hypothesis as to how this could occur, I ruled out any possibility other than an intentionally set fire.

The fires in this dwelling were so distinctive that not a single fire in the home could have been responsible for another fire. There was no possibility of the fire in the attic being the cause of the fires in the basement or the fire on the first floor. Likewise, there was no possibility of the fires in the basement causing the fire in the attic. Furthermore, the independent fires within the basement itself were non-communicating.

[REDACTED] Interview:

[REDACTED], whose identifiable information will be provided as a supplement, was the electrician working on the residence at 3 Belhaven Court. Mr. [REDACTED] was in the residence on April 12, 2025, the day prior to the fire. Mr. [REDACTED] informed me that he ran wire in the attic to the three upstairs bedrooms to prep them for smoke detectors, but he never actually installed the smoke detector. Mr. [REDACTED] advised that he left the attic and closed the foldup ladder that gave access to the attic before leaving for the evening. Matt Johnson confirmed that [REDACTED] was the last individual in the residence prior to the fire occurring.

Firefighters who conducted fire suppression efforts in this case were interviewed, which is part of the case file in #25-056, and confirmed that the ladder to the attic was in the down position. This is important as to understanding the origin and cause for the fire within the attic because the only way the fire would have been in the down position is if somebody physically pulled it down after [REDACTED] left. Matt Johnson, the husband to Stefanie Johnson and neighbor at 4 Belhaven Court, confirmed that the ladder is always kept in the closed position as well.

Matt Johnson Interview:

Matt Johnson attempted to open the front door of the residence after he noticed the fire, which I confirmed through viewing his Ring Camera, which is part of the case file #25-056. Mr. Johnson could not open the front door to the residence because it was locked. This immediately caused alarm to Mr. Johnson as he said that the door physically cannot be locked from the exterior of the house due to it being installed improperly. He had the door locking mechanism getting fixed in his soon to-do list. Furthermore, he said that the door would never be locked as they have not locked it since Stefanie came into ownership of the residence. He keeps it unlocked for contractors to come in and out and said that he never felt the need to lock the home since they live in a safe neighborhood. This means that the front door was locked by an individual from within the home, which is important to understanding the origin and cause. This places an individual in the residence, which is consistent with the origin and cause in this case since all the fires at 3 Belhaven Court were started from an external ignition source as a result of a human intervention.

Final Origin and Cause:

The fires at 3 Belhaven Court, Severna Park, MD 21146 were incendiary.

Ignition Source: Cigarette lighter, matches, or other external ignition source

Origin: Multiple separate origins throughout the residence

Cause: Incendiary**TIMELINE:**

Through witness statements, surveillance footage, and the unique facts that I know about the residence of 3 Belhaven Court, Severna Park, MD 21146, I was able to create a timeline that identifies Aaron Keel as the individual who is responsible for arson in addition to his vehicle as the means of transportation for various aspects of the arson.

Home Security: I was able to learn that the home was kept unsecured at all times through interviews with Matt and Stefanie Johnson. Additionally, I was able to review home surveillance footage of both 4 Belhaven Court and 2 Belhaven Court, which are the houses to the right and left of the home where the arson occurred. Both these homes are equipped with surveillance that alerts to motion within the court. I was able to completely rule out any possibility of the arsonist, later learned to be Aaron Keel, either walking through the front door to gain entry into the residence or walking through the front yard and around the side of the home to enter the house from the rear. This was not possible as the camera on 4 Belhaven and 2 Belhaven would have been alerted and the footage would have been captured.

There were access points on the rear of the dwelling which would be represented as the C side. I was able to conclusively ascertain Aaron Keel entered the dwelling through the C side by traveling through the woods that is directly behind 3 Belhaven Court.



The photograph on the previous page shows the uniqueness to the positioning of 3 Belhaven Court. The only logical access point would be from the street side of the court. Mr. Keel's unique knowledge of the home itself and surrounding areas is responsible for him utilizing an unconventional path in order to access the home.

Timeline:

Weekend of February 22, 2025:

Stefanie hosted an estate sale located at the residence of 3 Belhaven Court. Stefanie and Matt, in addition to [REDACTED] which is Mr. Keel's wife, confirmed that Mr. Keel attended the estate sale and purchased a bedframe. Mr. Keel had the opportunity to see the layout of the house in addition to the access and egress points. Furthermore, Mr. Keel had an opportunity to observe the Johnson's residences at 4 Belhaven Court for surveillance footage.

The following timeline is meant to serve as a matter of convenience for the court's honor, legal counsel, the defendant, any possible jury, or other interested party. This timeline was created through a variety of videos that were obtained within the neighborhood of Severndale and it is the duty of counsel to review the original videos as the absolute

source. The timestamps are meant to illustrate Aaron Keel's path of travel and timing of the arson.

*The parenthesis correspond to the label of the video itself and then followed up by the label of the Google subfolder, which is the address that the footage was retrieved from, that the video is part of. For example, the first event is "02:21am – (Exits residence – 91 Eastway). This means that the event starts at 02:21. The video is labelled "Exits residence" and the folder that the video is under is labeled "91 Eastway." Following the label will be a description of the actual video within the timeline itself. There was an extensive amount of video retrieved for this matter. As such, I created a file labelled "***Videos for timeline***" under the "Relevant" tab. All videos that I used will be under their respective tabs within this folder as a matter of convenience.*

The following events are on the date of April 13, 2025:

- 1. 02:21am** – (Exits residence – 91 Eastway): Aaron Keel drives from his home on Eastway towards the direction of Northway.
- 2. 02:22am** – (Port-Potty 1 – Oak Hill Elementary): Aaron Keel turns left onto Truck House Road coming from Northway. This is towards the direction where he ultimately parks.
- 3. 02:22am** – (Driveway – 102 Truck House): Aaron Keel drives past the area where he will ultimately park on Truck House Road.
- 4. 02:23am** – (Driveway – 102 Truck House): Aaron Keel drives back towards the direction of Severndale neighborhood on Truck House Road. He parks on the side of the road next to a "cut-through" in the woods that is parallel to 3 Belhaven Court. The cut-through that he parks in front of can be referenced in the below photograph:



5. **02:24am** – (Driveway – 102 Truck House): Aaron Keel turns his vehicle lights off and turns his flashers on while parked in front of the cut-through. He then steps out from the driver side of his vehicle and grabs an unknown object out of his car. He walks into the woods for a few seconds before reappearing. He then gets back in his vehicle and departs the area. He drives on Truck House Road towards the direction of Oak Hill Elementary School.
6. **02:25am** – (Port-Potty 1 – Oak Hill Elementary): Aaron Keel makes a left into the driveway of Oak Hill Elementary School off of Truck House Road. He drives towards the direction of the dumpsters in the corner of the school.
7. **02:25am** – (Hydrant 1/Parking lot 1/Dumpsters 1 – Oak Hill Elementary): Aaron Keel drives through these footage angels towards the dumpsters. Aaron turns his lights off and departs his vehicle. He then throws an unknown object away in the dumpsters. It is at this time that there are unique characteristics of Aaron’s vehicle that are observed, which will be better detailed under the “Suspect Identification”

tab. Additionally, this is where I learned of Aaron's identity through multiple sources after showing them various stillshots from the video labelled "Dumpsters 1," which will also be detailed further in the "Suspect Identification" tab.

- 8. 02:27am** – (Port-Potty 1 – Oak Hill Elementary): Aaron Keel makes a left onto Truck House Road when exiting the school parking lot. He drives towards the direction of 31 Truck House Road (the address which he later uses to walk through). Aaron parks on the side of the road momentarily and interchangeably turns his lights off and then back on again. Aaron, at some point, turns back around on Truck House Road and drives back towards the direction of the school. He then makes a left onto Northway, back into the Severndale community.
- 9. 02:28am** – (Returns home – 91 Eastway): Aaron Keel drives back to his driveway and parks his vehicle in front of his residence. Aaron's headlights are off while his vehicle is in motion on Eastway.
- 10. 02:31am** – (Leaving – 31 Truck House Road): Aaron Keel walks through the property of the home to the rear of him towards the direction of Truck House Road.

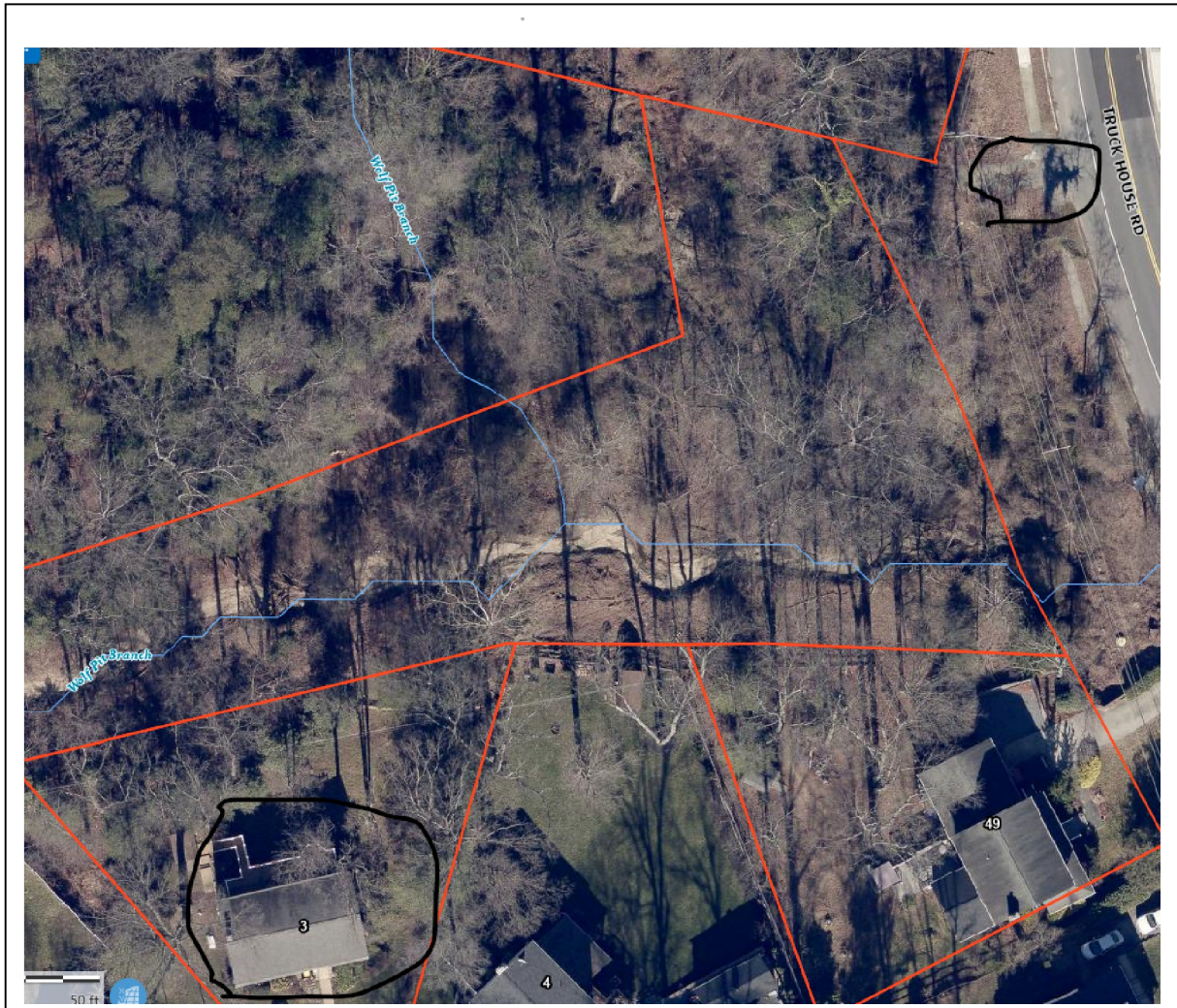


11.02:31am – (Leaving – 31 Truck House Road): Aaron Keel’s home is referenced in the above picture compared to that of 31 Truck House Road. His home has “93” in the center of it while 31 Truck House has a small circle. Aaron had to maneuver a fence in order to walk through this property. The highlighted area is the driveway that belongs to 31 Truck House Road. Aaron walked towards the direction of the driveway, which leads to Truck House Road. This is also the same area that Aaron drove towards when departing the school prior to turning around and driving back into the Severndale neighborhood.

12.02:33am – (Bus loop 1 – Oak Hill Elementary): Aaron Keel’s silhouette is seen illuminated under the lights from the school as he walks on Truck House Road towards the direction of the cut-through.

13.02:35am – (Parking lot 1 – Oaky Hill Elementary): Aaron Keel’s silhouette is seen illuminated under the lights walking down the side of the road on Truck House Road. He is walking on the same side as the woodline is located and towards the direction of the same woods.

14. 02:37am – (Driveway – 102 Truck House Road): Aaron Keel walks into the woods at the exact location that he was parked at 02:24, thirteen minutes prior. Below is a reference point to where the cut-through in the woods is located compared to the residence at 3 Belhaven Court:



15. 02:42am – (2:42 – 4 Belhaven): This video is from the porch of the neighboring home, which is also owned by the Johnsons and is their primary residence. The video is audioequipped. You can hear a noise that is consistent with the gentle opening and closing of a door, which would be one of the rear entrances to 3 Belhaven.

16. 02:48am – (2:48 – 4 Belhaven): 3 Belhaven is the home to the immediate right of this camera angle. At **2:49:44** the front porchlight turns off. This is a significant event

because the light was in the ‘on’ position prior to this and was then turned to the ‘off’ position. The front porch light is not motion censored and can only be turned on and off manually with a switch from the interior of the residence. The electrical engineer contracted by Travelers Insurance Company field tested this and conclusively determined that the light had to have been switch off from the inside of the home.

17. (2:50, 3:02, 3:16 – 4 Belhaven): Numerous noises heard coming from inside the residence

18. 03:13 (3:13 – 4 Belhaven): A light is seen from inside the window. The light is consistent with either a flashlight, phone light, or some other sort of illuminating mechanism.

19. 03:21 (Driveway – 102 Truck House): Aaron Keel departs the woods at the same location that he had previous parked his vehicle at and then entered on foot, which is the cutthrough behind the woodline to 3 Belhaven Court.

20. 03:25 (Dumpsters 2 – Oak Hill Elementary): Aaron Keel walks behind the dumpsters before approaching one of them. He throws an unknown object away at the slide on the dumpster before departing the school area back towards the direction of the Severndale Community.

21. 03:26 (Parking lot 2 – Oak Hill Elementary): Aaron Keel walks across the parking lot towards the direction of Severndale Community.

22. 03:26 (Bus loop 2 – Oak Hill Elementary): Aaron Keel walks across the parking lot and into the open field between the school and Truck House Road. He then crosses Truck House Road and walks towards the direction of 31 Truck House Road.

23. 03:30 (Returning – 31 Truck House Road): Aaron Keel walks back through the property that is behind his own residence, which is 31 Truck House Road. He is walking back towards the direction of his own house. There is no other natural path or foot traffic in this area. He is walking in a driveway, not a street or road that leads to anywhere.

24. 4:05 (405am – 4 Belhaven): Audible smoke detectors are alerting at 3 Belhaven Court. I later learned that there were battery operated smoke detectors that were in the closet directly beneath the opening to the attic, which the largest of the fires was set in. These smoke detectors were activated.

25. 06:34 (0634am – 4 Belhaven): Matthew Johnson is seen running out of his house with only his boxers on to investigate the smoke coming from the eaves of the home. He attempts to open the front door but is unable to do so.

Timeline synopsis:

Aaron's entire path of travel is accounted for from the moment he drives away from his residence at 93 Eastway until his return to his residence on foot. Aaron drove his vehicle from his house to the 'cut-through' and dropped an unknown item off in the woods. He then returned to his vehicle, drove to the elementary school, and threw an unknown item away. Aaron then drove towards the direction of 31 Truck House Road, which he would later use as a means to travel on foot, before turning around and driving back to his residence. After parking his car at his home, Aaron walked through his backyard and maneuvered his fence to walk through the neighboring property to the rear of him. He walked onto Truck House Road and towards the direction of the cut-through, before reaching the woodline. Aaron then walks through the woods.

From the point of Aaron walking into the woods until the point of seeing him again, nearly 42 minutes elapses. Within these 42 minutes, numerous events happen at 3 Belhaven that indicate a human-being had to have been in the residence. You can hear the rear door opening to 3 Belhaven. Additionally, the porch light is turned off, which would only be possible from the interior of the home. Lastly, a light is seen through the window from inside the residence.

At 06:34, Matt Johnson attempts to open the front door of 3 Belhaven Court, which at this time has light smoke coming from the eaves. He is unable to do so after realizing that the door is locked. This is of importance because the front door lock was installed incorrectly and it was not possible to lock the door from the exterior. Matt indicated that he always left the door unlocked as well. Just as the light that was turned off on the porch could have only happened from the interior of the home, the lock could have only been locked from the inside as well.

Aaron is able to return to his residence prior to the first smoke alarms going off. I reviewed an extensive amount of video for this arson and was able to conclude that there was motion activated or continuous recordings of every angle that somebody could have entered either the home or the woods. After reviewing all footage, nobody else entered the woods on the evening of April 13, 2025 nor did anybody approach the home from the front. As such, there could be nobody else responsible for this arson other than Aaron Keel.

In addition to the timeline detailed in this report, Aaron continuously displayed behavior that, through my training, knowledge, and experience, I have learned to be consistent with activity of somebody attempting to avoid detection. Aaron drove back and forth on Truck House Road two separate times, which would indicate he was surveilling the area himself or that he was placing his vehicle in a position to be able to leave the area as quickly as possible. Additionally, Aaron turned his headlights off to his vehicles numerous times when it was completely dark outside.

This is consistent with driving in a manner to avoid detection of neighborhood surveillance.

Lastly, Aaron's travel path to the woods was consistent with an individual avoiding detection. Instead of using sidewalks or paved roadway, Aaron walked through the neighbor's yard who lives directly behind him, even though there was no natural walking path from his house to theirs. He then walked through the woods behind 3 Belhaven Court, which does not have any hiking trails or natural paths. There is no other reason he took this route other than to avoid detection.

SUSPECT IDENTIFICATION:

After piecing the different videos together that are outlined in the timeline, I was able to determine who my suspect was, but I did not learn of his identity until April 24, 2025. In addition to the suspect, I was able to conclusively determine that the vehicle that was utilized was a Toyota Highlander between the years of 2017-2019. I was able to make this determination by observing characteristics of the vehicle such as the grill style, which was unique to only the years of 2017-2019.

Additionally, through the videos that I obtained from Oak Hill Elementary School, I was able to locate a unique characteristic with the Toyota Highlander, which was a silver ball hitch to the rear of the vehicle.

At this point in my investigation, I did not have any viable identification as to who the suspect was. On the evening of April 24, 2025, I drove to the Johnson's residence located at 4 Belhaven Court, Severna Park, MD 21146. I showed them a still-shot and the video from the elementary school, which is labelled "Dumpsters 1."

Below is a still-shot from that video that I showed both Stefanie and Matthew Johnson



After giving Stefanie and Matthew Johnson the opportunity to review this footage and photographs associate with it, they both identified the suspect with 100% certainty as Mr. Aaron Keel

I departed the residence after their identification and drove to Criminal Investigation Division

(CID) building in Anne Arundel County, Maryland. Through my investigation, I learned that [REDACTED] lived in [REDACTED] and the Johnsons and would be familiar with his vehicle and what he himself looks like. It should be noted that [REDACTED] is a colleague of mine and a detective who is assigned to [REDACTED] section whom I work with regularly and currently have open cases pending litigation with. Prior to interviewing [REDACTED], I ensured that neither Stefanie nor Matt spoke to him in order to avoid any sense of impartially or confirmation bias. Once at CID, I showed [REDACTED] the video of the subject at the dumpster and he was able to identify him as Aaron Keel.

Additionally, during the search and seizure warrant of Aaron Keel's residence, [REDACTED] was interviewed. I showed her the same videos showed to [REDACTED] and the Johnsons and asked [REDACTED] if the person in the video was her [REDACTED] to which she responded, "It looks like it's probably him."

After I had three individuals identify my suspect as Aaron Keel, I performed a further investigation into the subject. I learned that Aaron Keel drives a 2018 blue Toyota Highlander, which is consistent with what I knew this vehicle was. I performed surveillance on Aaron Keel's residence and was able to confirm that his vehicle had a unique ball hitch to the rear of it, just as the vehicle in the video at the dumpsters.

Through further investigative means, I learned that Aaron Keel visited numerous home improvement stores in Bowie and Glen Burnie the day prior to the arson taking place, April 12, 2025. My partner, Lt [REDACTED], canvassed the stores for footage and was able to locate Mr. Keel walking through stores and wearing the same style of pants (faded jeans) which were viewable in the video in front of the dumpsters, behind 31 Truck House Road, and located during the search and seizure warrant of the residence. Mr. Keel is also observed driving the Toyota Highlander in these videos.

I was able to conclusively identify that the individual who travelled from 93 Eastway to 3 Belhaven Court for the purposes of unlawfully entering the residence to set it on fire was Aaron Keel.

CONCLUSION:

Through an extensive investigation, I was determined that Aaron Keel unlawfully entered the residence at 3 Belhaven Court for the purpose of committing the act of arson. There were numerous individual fires set throughout the residence that were the result of an intentional act. The fires were set in varying areas, which indicated that Aaron wanted to maximize the damage to the property. These areas included the basement, main living floor, and the attic.

The footage that accompanies this case file will show that Aaron Keel planned and prepared this act by locating an access point in the woods to reach the residence and then maneuvered in a manner to avoid detection. He spent an extensive amount of time in the residence setting the fires until he left the home and returned back to his own residence.

OUTSTANDING EVIDENCE:

At the time of this report, the following items are with forensics labs, whether that by physical, fire, or digital:

1. Cell phone
2. Three laptops
3. Fire debris
4. DNA/Prints

Once I receive the return on these items, an additional report will be completed and all discovery will be shared with counsel.

Additionally, a search and seizure warrant for Aaron Keel's Meta (Facebook) account will be applied for in the coming week. If the court grants said warrant and after the return of that data, an additional report will be completed and that discovery will be shared with counsel.

INV. C.S. TEWELL, FIRE & EXPLOSIVES INV. UNIT
PRIMARY CASE INVESTIGATOR

MAY 10, 2025