



Standoff in Huguenot ends with 1 in custody

By Dean Balsamini

July 16, 2007, 11:58PM

A verbal exchange between a Huguenot homeowner and some teens parked in front of his house last night escalated into gun violence and an hourlong standoff between the homeowner and cops before he was finally arrested, police said.

Eventually, the suspect -- identified by neighbors and police sources as Leonardo Cavicchio, 40 -- was taken into custody without incident after walking out of his home at 824 Edgegrove Ave.

However, once placed in the rear of a 123rd Precinct patrol car, Cavicchio kicked out one of the vehicle's rear windows. He had to be strapped to a stretcher for transport to Staten Island University Hospital, Prince's Bay, where he was to undergo evaluation.

Emergency Service Unit officers searching Cavicchio's house for more suspects discovered two rifles, multiple shotgun shells and fireworks mortar tubes, a police source revealed.

Investigators were expected to obtain a warrant and return early this morning to search the home, the source added.

Police say the episode unfolded at about 8:30 p.m. when two unidentified teens -- driving a silver 2003 Honda Accord coupe registered to Thomas Russo, 43, of the 400-block of Foster Road -- apparently pulled up in front of Cavicchio's home.

Cavicchio -- known on the block as Leo -- confronted the teens and an argument ensued, during which Cavicchio slashed one of the Honda's rear tires, police continued.

Then, sources said, Cavicchio retreated into his home as the teens gathered some neighborhood friends and went about emptying the car's trunk to get to the spare tire.

Next, Cavicchio comes out of his home with a weapon.

"I heard a few gunshots and then two kids came running up over here," said neighbor Raymen Au, 23. "I knew something bad was happening, so I called 911."



Staten Island Advance/Chad Rachman

Officers from the Emergency Service Unit take suspect Leonardo Cavicchio into custody outside his Edgegrove Avenue home in Huguenot.

The groups of teens scattered and Cavvichio ran back into his house.

Meanwhile, moments before the violence played out, Cavicchio's wife -- Jacqueline, 39 -- drove off in their black Dodge Magnum with the couple's two young kids.

With Cavicchio holed up in his house, cops shut down the street and called in the Emergency Services Unit.

With cooperation from Cavicchio's brother, ESU cops were able to persuade the suspect to come out of his home, unarmed, and surrender.

--- *Contributed by Doug Auer*

© 2007 SILive.com. All rights reserved.