



Another Archer Looses an Arrow in the City

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Michael Appleton for The New York Times

Eric Weinberger narrowly escaped being hit by an arrow which struck his house in Queens.

By CHRISTINE HAUSER
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Eric Weinberger was taking the garbage out on Tuesday night when something whizzed by his head and embedded itself in his aluminum siding.

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Kaitlyn Weinberger

An arrow in the window frame Mr. Weinberger's home.

His wife and his 13-year-old daughter, who was seated in the dining room doing homework, were visible through the side window. He ran inside and yelled words that they had probably never heard before, and probably would never hear again in their quiet Queens neighborhood:

“Get out of here! Somebody just shot an arrow into the house!”

Even more unusual is that the arrow that hit Mr. Weinberger's house is the second one sent flying through the air in a city neighborhood in the last 10 days. And while the police are ruling out a copycat urban archer, Mr. Weinberger is not so sure.

“If I had been a little bit slower it would have gone right into my head,” said Mr. Weinberger, 48, a receiving manager for Costco. “It was a random act of copycat.”

Ten days ago, a 51-year-old Yonkers woman was struck in the abdomen and injured by an arrow fired outside a nursing home in the Riverdale section of the Bronx. The police arrested a man who had been moving into a house next door and charged him with assault and reckless endangerment, but they have called that episode an accident.

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Paul J. Browne, the chief police spokesman, conceded that reports of arrows flying through the air in New York are rare, but he said there was no evidence that a copycat was on the loose or that the Weinbergers were targets. "At this point the detectives are working on the hypothesis that it was another accidental shooting," he said on Wednesday, "and someone is just afraid to come forward."

When the three-foot-long arrow struck Mr. Weinberger's rented house on 20th Road in Whitestone, he heard the impact and at first thought it was a brick, he said. It landed between two windows at eye level, and drove in about three inches deep, he said. He was shaken up but not injured.

The family called the police. Mr. Weinberger's daughter, Kaitlyn, took photographs of the arrow jutting out from the house. When detectives arrived, they questioned Mr. Weinberger, canvassed the neighborhood and looked for surveillance video. A helicopter was deployed, sweeping the dark streets with a spotlight, Mr. Weinberger said.

Footage from a neighbor's house later turned up a black sports utility vehicle in the area, but there was no indication that it was involved in the firing of the arrow, Mr. Browne said on Wednesday afternoon.

Mr. Weinberger and Mr. Browne said the arrow had a dark shaft, a silver-colored tip and yellow and green feathers on the end, like the kind used in bear hunting. Detectives also found a four-inch piece of another arrow down the street, he said.

The detectives tried to figure out which direction the arrow had come from, Mr. Weinberger said. He told the police that he had no enemies. There are no parks for hunting within arrow range, but there could have been a line of fire from the street.

"There are trees there," Mr. Weinberger said. "But the arrow got through somehow."

Ann Farmer contributed reporting.

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