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# Homicide suspect puts up a fight, is arrested

**By Matt Williams and Chris Green****RRSTAR.COM***Posted Jul 16, 2009 @ 01:27 PM**Last update Jul 17, 2009 @ 01:08 AM***ROCKFORD — PAST COVERAGE**July 16: **Friends say 'sweet' couple helped others**July 15: **Police reassure residents after homicides**July 15: **Residents skeptical of reported crime drop**July 14: **Police on the trail of homicide suspect**July 10: **Neighbors distraught by killings**July 9: **Experts say seniors are easy targets**July 8: **Elderly couple slain; culprit at large**

ROCKFORD — Shoeless, shirtless and struggling to get away.

That's how police described Omarrian T. Jones when they captured and handcuffed the combative 24-year-old homicide.

Police said Jones, the subject of an intense manhunt, had been in hiding since Reynato Cardino, 77, and Le death July 8 inside their home on Pleasant View Avenue.

Jones was arrested at gunpoint shortly after 1 p.m. Thursday at Future Tool Inc., 2029 23rd Ave. Employees run through an open overhead door and into the business.

Those officers gave chase while an additional two dozen officers, a K-9 unit and a helicopter provided by the converged on the business.

Police say they chased Jones into the attic of the business. Running between the rafters, Jones allegedly di time, at least one officer fired a Taser stun gun but missed, Deputy Chief Greg Lindmark said.

Ray Hodyniak, owner of Future Tool, heard noises coming from the ceiling, then a crash as Jones fell through the door handle as Jones struggled to get out of the room, then called out to police as Jones climbed back u

"I yelled, 'Who is it?' and he didn't answer," Hodyniak said. "He then started pulling on the door, so we are g (the door handle) as tight as I could."

Hodyniak said about 10 employees were inside the building at the time.

Jones then fell through the ceiling again, this time landing on a desk in an office. Despite falling more than 10 feet, Jones tried to run again.

"He was struggling and kicking with the officers after they tried to subdue him," Lindmark said.

Jones was taken to a hospital where he refused treatment. He was later taken to the Public Safety Building where he had yet to be booked into the Winnebago County Jail. The time and date of his first court appearance was not yet known.

The Winnebago County state's attorney's office issued a warrant Tuesday for Jones' arrest on two counts of first-degree murder. Police say he is the only suspect in the homicide.

"It is a great relief to us, a great relief to the residents," Lindmark said. "At this stage of the investigation, we are not releasing any names."

Lindmark said detectives have recovered the suspected murder weapon and have established a possible motive. He declined to release details about either.

Police believe Jones had been staying for the past couple of days near the area where he was caught.

Employees at R.L. Leek Corp., 2210 Harrison Ave., reported some of their semitrailers broken into and notified police.

"It appears he had broken into it, and it appears he had been staying there for some time," Lindmark said.

Jones' Heritage Court home is about a quarter-mile from the Cardinos' home, and less than a mile from where the Future Tool are wooded areas and large drainage ditches, which police believe he could have used to travel.

Neighbors of Jones said they noticed something different soon after the homicides were reported.

They said Jones usually spent a lot of time outside and even assisted neighbors with their yardwork, but was not always there.

"He is always in his yard or outside doing something, and not to see him for a few days is kind of weird," said a neighbor.

Reyes said Jones had come over to her house for barbecues and had even mowed her lawn on occasion.

"He has been in my house, he has hung out with my boyfriend," Reyes said. "I was kind of shocked when I found out."

Lindmark said he does not anticipate additional charges.

In addition to killing the Cardinos, police said Jones also battered the couple's 51-year son, Reyle. Neighbor said Jones also battered his parents, and police said he fought with Jones before Jones fled the house. Jones suffered severe injuries at SwedishAmerican Hospital, but a hospital official said Thursday night that he is no longer registered there.

Reach staff writers Matt Williams at [mwilliams@rrstar.com](mailto:mwilliams@rrstar.com) or 815-987-1389, and Chris Green at [cgreen@rrstar.com](mailto:cgreen@rrstar.com)

## Jones did time for drugs

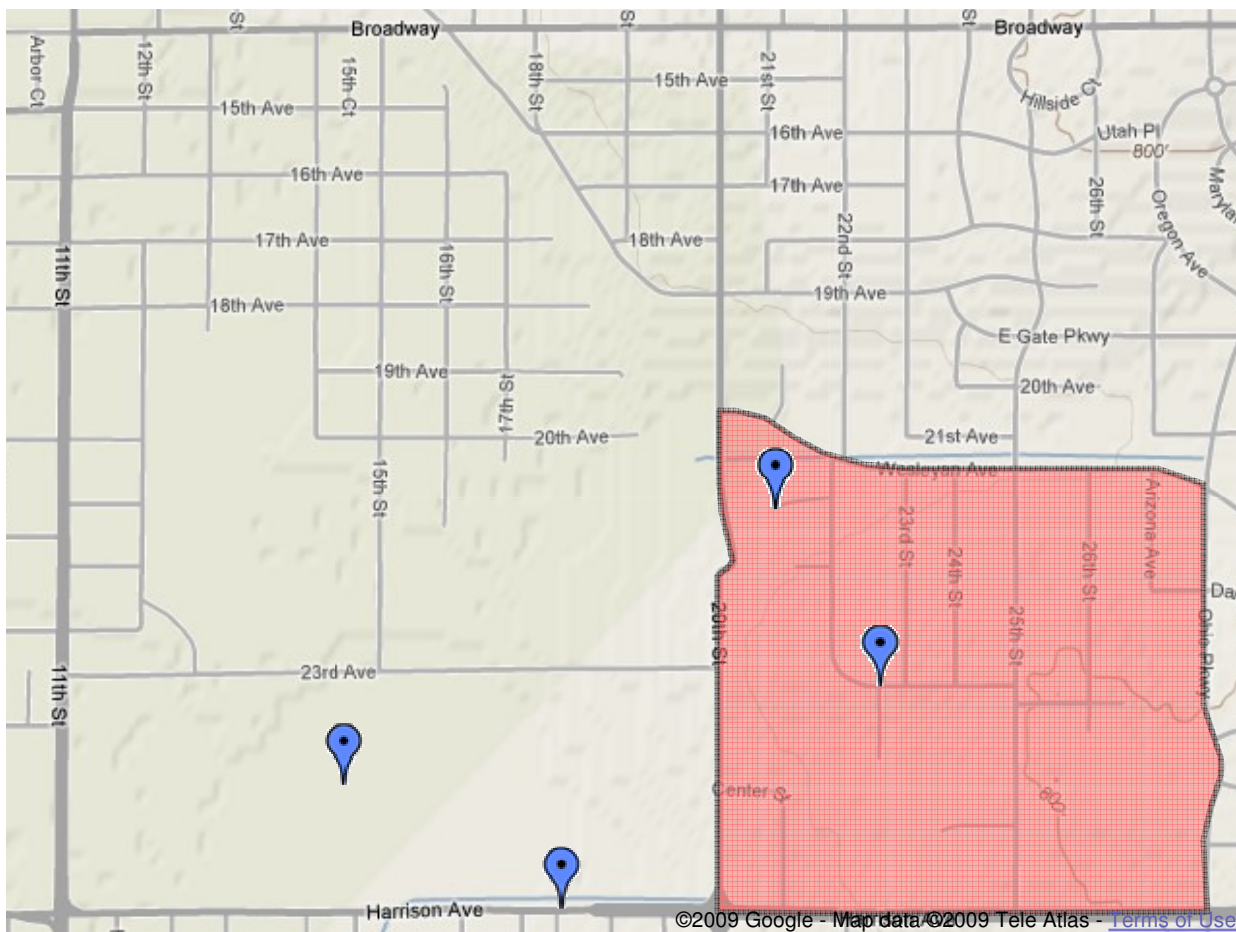
According to Winnebago County Courthouse records, Omarrian T. Jones pleaded guilty to felony drug charge

He was sentenced to 180 days in jail and received 347 days' credit for time served. He was also sentenced to pay fines and fees in the amount of \$598, of which \$556 is unpaid.

The charges stem from a 2004 arrest.

According to the criminal complaint filed in Winnebago County Court Tuesday, Jones struck Reynato and Le a blunt object, knowing such act created a strong probability of death.”

— *Rockford Register Star*



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