

From the Office of the Sheriff:

Recently, we have been successful in solving several crimes. The crimes were not major, but solving them is important and the means of which are important to share. My intent is to explain how these crimes were solved and at what length citizens and businesses go to assist in our investigations.

In one case, a woman suspected that a relative was stealing her prescription medications. The 53-yr old woman purchased a video camera and set it up overlooking her medications. The video soon taped the relative entering the room and stealing medication. The victim called and turned the video over to us which ensure successful prosecution for theft of prescription medication.

In another, a non-profit agency reported the theft of a laptop computer. We were able to identify a suspect who was a volunteer working for the agency. Our undercover detectives made contact with the suspect and baited him into meeting the detective for the sole purpose of buying the stolen laptop. The suspect met the detective and produced the laptop. The detective turned it on and the screen saver identified it as being owned by the non-profit agency. The detective negotiated a reduced price of \$240.00 and bought the laptop. The subject was arrested as he drove away.

Last week, a property owner came home and noticed some drawers ajar and that he was a victim of a burglary. He soon noted that a significant amount of change was missing. With little evidence and a few citizens' tips, we were lead to a local bank. The bank had video tape of two teenagers in the bank the following day cashing in a large amount of change. The teller, somewhat suspicious, asked them to fill out a form for the cash they received and of course they used an alias. The teller then interacted with them to ensure their faces would be exposed to the camera. It will be that video that will help convict the 17 and 19-yr old teenagers for burglary and theft of \$788.95.

Two weeks ago I talked about keeping a list of your serial numbers. This week we received a call from a business owner who stated a service company had just received a very expensive electronic item in for repair. The company had a record that the unit was sold to the businessman and called to question whether or not he had sold it. He had not. He called us as the item had been missing for a year. We sent detectives to the business and took the suspect into custody when he arrived days later to pick the item up after the repair was made. It appears to have been stolen last fall.

Pete Kaczmarek is a very dedicated dispatcher for the Sheriff's Dept. In his free time he shops online. One night, Pete took a chance and conducted an internet search on Craig's List for large items that were reported as stolen in Dodge County. Very soon he located a posting of a \$35,000.00 Cat loader stolen last May. Pete took his info to our detectives who quickly set up a ghost email account and started dialogue with the seller. Posing as contractors and showing interest in the Caterpillar, detectives met with the seller. Upon arrival, detectives located the stolen Cat w/trailer, a JD Z-turn, Kubota backhoe, and a New Holland skid steer. All stolen this past summer. We quickly recovered almost \$100k worth of equipment.

We need and use everyone we can to assist in our investigation. At times you may think your piece of information is irrelevant but when we use it with others it puts the entire puzzle together. Many of these were small crimes. However, solving them and bringing the perpetrators to justice will hopefully prevent them from escalating to bigger crimes. We have excellent investigators but we can not do it all. We appreciate the help. Thanks for listening tnehls@co.dodge.wi.us

