



# DODGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Dale J Schmidt Sheriff Scott Mittelstadt Chief Deputy

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Date: December 6, 2020

Sheriff Dale J. Schmidt

Office: 920-386-4115

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## **New video cameras at Swan Park help to solve recent vandalism**

At 7:03 PM on Wednesday, December 2, 2020, a citizen who was enjoying Rotary Lights at Swan Park saw that the door to the Gingerbread House had been kicked in and the doorknob was broken. This citizen reported the vandalism to Beaver Dam Police. Sheriff Dale Schmidt, the Chair of the Rotary Lights Committee, arrived to do maintenance on the light show shortly after and found Beaver Dam Officer Brad Konkel on scene investigating. Fortunately, the damage was limited to the door and the lock and Sheriff Schmidt was able to board up the door and replaced it the following day.

Thankfully with a large donation from Interquest, along with many other community donations, a camera system which includes WIFI for the park was installed shortly before this year's Rotary Light's display. Sheriff Schmidt was able to review video footage and located the perpetrators involved in this incident. He passed the footage on to Officer Konkel and within a few hours, Officer Konkel was not only able to identify the suspects but was also able to obtain a confession. This incident involves two juveniles who we will not be able to identify due to their age. Sheriff Schmidt would like to thank Officer Konkel and the Beaver Dam Police Department for once again working very hard to resolve this criminal activity. Officer Konkel did excellent police work, which our community can all be proud of and we are hopeful that restitution will be received for the damage.

This is the second year in a row that there has been vandalism at the park and for the second time, the perpetrators have been identified and will be held accountable for their actions. A special thanks to Detective Daniel Kuntz who was able to solve the case from 2019 where three juveniles were held accountable.

Sheriff Schmidt would like to let the community know that regardless of criminal activity that may occur, it will not dissuade the Beaver Dam Rotary Club or any of our volunteers who help to make this Christmas Light display what it is, from continuing to grow for years to come. They have seen what a positive impact Rotary Lights has had on the community and will do whatever possible to continue their service to the community. In a year like we have had in 2020, it is a blessing to see so many people enjoying Rotary Lights.

If you are interested in being part of the Rotary Lights committee or if you would like to donate to next year's display, please reach out to Sheriff Schmidt at [dschmidt@co.dodge.wi.us](mailto:dschmidt@co.dodge.wi.us) for more information. Finally, if you come across someone vandalizing the park or committing other crimes in Swan Park, please contact Beaver Dam Police or just call 911.

Questions may be directed to Sheriff Dale J. Schmidt.

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