

Neighbors, homeowner help local deputies thwart recent residential burglaries

Written by Marty Randall

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Alert neighbors and a homeowner helped the Sheriff's Department thwart two residential burglaries occurring on Sunday, July 20. A suspect was arrested in each case. Men being held on one count of Level 4 felony burglary are Christopher M. Hammill, 34, and Carl J. Brandenburg, 44. Both have Lexington area addresses.

In the Hammill case, Deputy Joe Johnson was dispatched to a residence on East Plymouth Road where neighbors had suspected a burglary was taking place.

He found Hammill on the property standing by a porch. Hammill told Deputy Johnson that he had recently moved into the neighborhood and had simply gone to the wrong house.

Yet a cursory search of the house revealed an open basement door and a light on. When the homeowner was contacted, he stated when he had left the residence, all doors were shut and all lights off. Neighbors said they saw two men at the home after the owner had left.

Hammill was arrested at the scene and transported to the Scott County Security Center, where he was booked on a preliminary charge of burglary.

Sheriff Dan McClain commended neighbors for calling authorities when they suspected a crime was being committed and the quick response of deputies arriving at the scene.

In Brandenburg's case, Deputy James Shelton was dispatched when the 9-1-1 Center received a call from a homeowner on Kinderhook Road advising he had caught a burglar in his home.

The homeowner told Deputy Shelton he saw Brandenburg as the intruder was leaving his home. A relative of the homeowner got his gun and ordered the man to stop, which he did.

A later inventory of the car Brandenburg was driving revealed several items belonging to the

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homeowner, which included a tent, miscellaneous hunting clothes and a car battery.

Brandenburg was placed under arrest and transported to the jail facility in Scottsburg.

Initial hearings were conducted in Scott Circuit Court on Tuesday, July 22, for the men. Preliminary pleas of not guilty were entered for them, and each was provided with the services of a public defender. An initial jury trial date of December 16 was scheduled for each case.

Bail was fixed for each man in the amount of \$75,000 corporate surety bond or \$15,000 cash bond.