

911 call leads to recent drug arrests for SPD, traffic stops lead to other arrests

Written by Administrator

Wednesday, 11 March 2009 00:00 - Last Updated Wednesday, 11 March 2009 12:51

On Friday, February 27, the Sellersburg Police Department received a 911 call with the caller stating they had information about a Marijuana grow in Sellersburg.

Officers Daniel E. Cotton and Charles A. Stirsmen spoke with the caller, who related specific details about the location of the grow and how it was set up. Using this information Officers Cotton and Stirsmen obtained a search warrant for an apartment in the 300 block of South New Albany Street.

At approximately 1 a.m. on February 28, a small group of officers from the Sellersburg Police Department served the search warrant at the apartment. Inside, officers located 27 marijuana plants in various stages of growth, ranging from a couple inches to about one foot tall. Also found were various items used in the cultivation such as UV lighting, an automatic timer, potting soil and containers. Several items used to smoke marijuana were also located. Three people were present in the apartment at the time the search warrant was served, Jonathan Hicks, 22 and John Greer, 26, who leased the apartment, and Alyssa Dennison, 19, who is a resident of Mauckport, Indiana.

During the investigation it was found that Greer had an outstanding probation violation warrant from Harrison County and that Dennison had a current Protective Order out against Greer.

A patdown of Hicks found two unlabeled pill bottles containing various pills. The pills were identified by Poison Control as Xanax and Diazepam. A search of Dennison's vehicle turned up more Xanax and some digital scales. Neither stated they had a prescription for the pills.

Hicks was charged with Possession of Marijuana/Dealing (includes manufacture), a C Felony;

Possession of Controlled Substance, a C Felony; Possession of Paraphernalia, an A Misdemeanor and Maintaining Common Nuisance, a D Felony.

Greer was charged with Possession of Marijuana/Dealing (includes manufacture), a C Felony; Possession of Paraphernalia, an A Misdemeanor; Maintaining a Common Nuisance, a D Felony; Invasion of Privacy, an A Misdemeanor and Warrant Service, Probation Violation, Harrison County, Indiana.

Dennison was charged with Possession of Controlled Substance, a C Felony; Possession of Marijuana, an A Misdemeanor; Possession of Paraphernalia, an A Misdemeanor and Visiting a Common Nuisance, a B Misdemeanor.

All were held at the Michael L. Becher Adult Corrections Facility with a \$7,500 bonds.

"Even though the size of the plants, and the grow as a whole were small, the impact to the community and the residents of the apartment complex where it was located is not," said Officer Stirsmen.

Officer Cotton stated that "These types of operations bring undesirable elements into our community and expose our residents to increased threats of crime."

Detective Mark Levesque followed up saying, "Both of these Offices did a great job putting this case together and executing the search warrant. Things went smooth and no one got hurt. We want the public to know that when they give us tips about criminal activity, we do look into them, but not every case turns out with a search warrant and arrest, but some do as in this case. Please continue to call us with your information."

This is just one of several cases that have led to recent drug arrests for the Sellersburg Police Department in the past few weeks. K-9 Officer Matt Adams and K-9 Ana, along with Officers Charles Stirsmen, Daniel Cotton and John Cortie have been instrumental in several other cases leading to arrests.

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A February 10 traffic stop by Stirman led to the arrest of 19-year old Joshua Owens. He was arrested and charged with Possession of Marijuana, Possession of Controlled Substance, Possession of Legend Drug Act without a Prescription, Maintaining a Common Nuisance and a Warrant. A K-9 search by K-9 Ana and Adams led to the arrest. Also assisting on scene was Sgt. Pat Bradshaw.

A February 14 traffic stop by Adams led to the arrest of 19-year old Drew Weathers. He was arrested and charged with Possession of Marijuana and Possession of Paraphernalia. A K-9 search conducted by Adams and K-9 Ana led to the arrest. Also assisting on scene were Cotton and Stirman.

On February 18 Officer Cortie responded to a call that led to the arrest of two juveniles. The juveniles were arrested and charged with Dealing Schedule II and Possession of Legend Drug.

A February 22 traffic stop by Adams led to the arrest of 19-year old Jared Scifres. He was arrested and charged with Possession of Marijuana and Possession of Paraphernalia. The arrest came after a K-9 search by K-9 Ana and Adams. Also assisting on scene was Cotton.

A February 26 traffic stop by Stirman led to the arrest of 23-year old Lucas Collings. He was arrested and charged with Possession of Marijuana and Possession of Paraphernalia. Also assisting on scene was Cotton.

Anyone with a tip for the Sellersburg Police Department may contact the Sellersburg Police at 812-246-4491 and you can remain anonymous.