



**Press Release**  
Date: 12/19/2018  
Time: 1300  
Original

**AGENCY:** CARVER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE  
**SHERIFF:** JIM OLSON (802JK)  
**CLASSIFICATION:** DAMAGE TO PROPERTY  
**LOCATION:** WATERTOWN, MN  
**TELEPHONE:** 952-361-1212

Carver County Sheriff Jim Olson reports that sheriff's deputies responded to four (4) reports of damaged Christmas yard decorations on December 16, 2018, in the City of Watertown. The total combined damage is estimated to be \$1,400.00.

The first report occurred about 7:10 pm when the victims heard a snowball hit the front window of their home located on the 200 block of Westminster Ave SW. When they looked to see what had happened, they found their inflatable Santa Claus slashed and deflated. The decoration is valued at about \$40.

The second report was received about 7:43 pm. The victim reported discovery of two illuminated deer decorations that had been thrown into the street adjacent to his home on the 1300 block of Landings Ln., damaging about half of the lights used to illuminate the decoration. The decoration is valued at about \$100.

The third report, located at 300 block of Grove Ave SE, was received about 8:00 pm when the victim reported finding an illuminated fence pushed over. Upon further inspection, he noted an inflatable dinosaur had been deflated and slashed and a one-of-a-kind bell decoration had its lights damaged. The combined value of the damaged decorations is about \$1,300.

Sheriff's deputies received the fourth report at about 9:15 pm when the homeowner noted someone had driven across her yard (300 block of Geranium Dr.), damaging Christmas lighting, and onto the neighbor's property before leaving the area. The damaged lights were valued at about \$20.

In each case, the deputy examined footwear impressions and/or tire impressions in the snow, but snow conditions did not allow for adequate evidence collection.

The City of Watertown is offering \$500 reward for information leading to the arrest and prosecution of the Christmas Scrooge(s). Anyone with information related to this incident or any crime is asked to contact the Carver County Sheriff's Office at 952-361-1231 or use the tip line 952-361-1224. Our tip form is at <http://www.co.carver.mn.us/departments/county-sheriff/crime-prevention/crime-tips>.

If you need assistance from police, fire or medical personnel call 9-1-1.