



Warren C. Evans
Sheriff

News Release

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Forfeited equipment, once used to grow marijuana, now will help grow young minds in science class

◆ ***Sheriff donates “grow lights” seized in drug raid to local school***

Specialized lamps once used by local drug dealers to grow indoor marijuana crops now will be used for science projects by some local elementary school students, thanks to Wayne County Sheriff Warren C. Evans.



Evans and some of his narcotics officers personally delivered three 1,000-watt lamp systems – valued at about \$500 each – to the science lab at Thirkell Elementary School in Detroit. Evans said his Office has two more sets ready to donate, but arrangements with another school are still being finalized.

The light systems were seized by deputies in a drug raid last year and became the property of the Sheriff’s Office after the court cases were concluded.

Evans presented the equipment to Principal Claire Smith and a group of enthusiastic students inside the Thirkell Elementary’s science lab. To help the children get their first project underway, Evans also brought planting trays, seeds and topsoil.

“Instead of being used for illegal activity, these lights now will be used to help some promising young children learn,” Evans said. “I can’t think of anything better than to take something that was being used for an illegal purpose and convert it to some as wholesome as this.”

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This isn't the first time the Sheriff has donated items that were once evidence in criminal cases. Evans said he always looks for opportunities to put forfeited items to good use in the community. In recent years, his Office has donated 10,000 servings of stolen baby formula mothers of infants who have fled abusive relationships and dozens of stolen toys to needy families at Christmas.

"Instead of auctioning these lights off - knowing they may have been put back into use for the same illegal purpose - I thought it made more sense to donate them someone I knew would use them in a positive way."