

# Poacher

From B1

either a trophy or at least a very respectable deer," he said.

Brannen heard a gunshot, and a few moments later the wounded animal appeared and collapsed to the ground. A motorist had stopped on Grand Drive, but when Brannen ran to confront the driver, the suspect sped away.

"This guy probably just got excited and thought this was the biggest deer he'd ever seen," Brannen recalled. He ran up and told the shooter "you're not getting this deer."

The homeowner then called the Waterford Police Department. The police contacted DNR wardens.

Police Chief Matt Johnson said the shooter acted recklessly by discharging a firearm in a residential area. Johnson said there is a "huge difference" be-

## To offer tips

Anyone with information about the Nov. 12 poaching incident on Grand Drive in the Town of Waterford can call the Department of Natural Resources anonymous tip line at 1-800-847-9367 or the Waterford Police Department at 262-534-2119.



**Johnson**

tween legitimate hunters and this sort of misconduct.

If the suspect carries a loaded rifle in his vehicle and is capable of such poor judgment, Johnson said, he could pose a risk to others.

"It's very disturbing," the chief said. "It's not just this neighborhood's issue — it's the whole community's issue."

DNR agents knocked on doors in the neighborhood, and they staked out Grand Drive for several hours, hoping the suspect would return to collect the dead deer. But they had no luck catching or identifying the poaching suspect.

The animal carcass was later donated for food to a group that operates a food pantry for military veterans.

Investigators are hoping that a tip from the public will lead them to a suspect in the Nov. 12 incident. They theorize that the shooter probably cannot resist telling other people about his experience with Waterford's prized 10-point buck.

"People like to talk," Smith said. "Even the shooter probably told somebody something."

Brannen agreed: "Somebody's going to have to turn him in."