

## Two Agency Drug Bust Yields Pill Dealer

Written by Steve Frank

Friday, 13 September 2013 16:04

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Narcotics officers with the Boone Police Department and Watauga County Sheriff's Office closed a drug investigation Wednesday in a joint investigation that targeted a distributor of prescription pills both in and around the Town of Boone. This 3-month investigation concluded with the arrest of Jerry Wayne Johnson by Boone Police for outstanding arrest warrants. This investigation involved the introduction of an undercover officer to Johnson which eventually led to the purchase of prescription medications from Johnson, according to the Boone Police release, who said these undercover purchases took place on different dates and times. Chief Dana Crawford of Boone Police said, "We have suspected Mr. Johnson's illegal activities for months, and I'm glad our narcotics officers were able to shut down this particular distribution point. As always, we are grateful to have the Watauga County Sheriff's Office as our partner in the fight against illegal drugs in our county." And Lt. Chris Hatton said, "When our narcotics officers receive information about a drug dealer, the goal is to build a case against the dealer and then arrest and successfully prosecute them in court. Undercover operations can be tough; they take time and creativity to be successful. Our narcotics officers work hard both day and night to find ways to build strong prosecutable cases against the people who push illegal drugs in our communities."

Johnson has been charged with the following charges:

- 1 count – Felony Possession with the /Intent to Sell & Deliver a Schedule II Controlled Substance.
- 1 count – Felony Sell & Deliver a Schedule II Controlled Substance.
- 3 counts – Trafficking in Opium/Heroin.

Johnson received a \$50,000 secured bond and was lodged in the Watauga County Jail.