

Criminal incidents result in Dunkirk installing security camera system

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Seth Busch looks over the new security system he installed in the village of Dunkirk. The village council decided to place the cameras at various spots throughout the village following two criminal incidents there. Times photo/Ty Thaxton

DUNKIRK — Sparked by a potential attempted human trafficking incident downtown by an out-of-town trucker, as well as an act of vandalism at the park, the Village of Dunkirk felt it was necessary to install security cameras.

In working with Seth Busch Information Technologies, the village now has 11 cameras installed at such locations as the village office, the park, the water plant and the Hardin Northern Public Library.

Since their installation, Mayor Terry Cramer said the cameras have been beneficial. “Down at the park, they’ve been very beneficial because we’ve had some incidences of vandalism,” Cramer said. “With the cameras, we have discovered who has done it. “What really set it off was the truck driver who stopped at the restaurant and was trying to pick up a waitress,” Cramer continued. “That was the incentive to get the cameras so we could see the license plate numbers and see the activity going on.”

Busch said he originally learned of the need for cameras from Dunkirk Fiscal Officer Phyllis Spencer who had mentioned an act of vandalism at the park when some kids broke into the concession stand and stole equipment. “By the time anyone showed up, they were completely gone,” Busch said.

In speaking with the village, Busch made sure to stress his point that his cameras didn’t require any expensive fixtures or equipment to use.

“The gist of it is with these cameras you can throw them up anywhere, anyhow, anytime,” Busch said. “They’re all powered over the ethernet, which means they don’t have any expensive cables that are required.”

A device installed on an antenna at the village office broadcasts a signal on a 5 GHz band, Busch explained, which is then picked up by another device at the village park. From there, the signal goes to a central NID (Network Interface Device) which powers all the cameras so no cables touch the ground. Everything feeds back to the central server at the village office, Busch said, which means the footage can’t be tampered with by outside sources.

Village officials are able to monitor the cameras live anytime, anywhere by signing in on a specific website. The Hardin County Sheriff’s Office has also been given access to the cameras. The cost of the project was about \$2,200, Busch said, which included the cameras, server and going up on the tower to mount the radio.

“From what I can tell, it’s actually severely cut down on the issues the town’s been having,” Busch said.

By TY THAXTON
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