



Northwood Police Department

Case #: 15-1107

RE: Reopening of Case - Theft of Amesworth Meteorite

On behalf of the Northwood Police Department, I want to extend my sincere thanks for your recent work identifying that the meteorite currently on display at the Northwood Observatory is, in fact, a forgery. Your attention to detail and persistence brought to light what our own lab testing has since confirmed—the displayed specimen is not the original Amesworth Meteorite.

As a result of your findings, we have officially reopened the Amesworth case as of this morning. Our team has been reexamining all previous evidence related to the theft. Of particular note are the online posts made by the user known as StarGazer424, whose messages suggest that the real meteorite may still be within the Northwood area. The language in those posts implies both familiarity with the observatory grounds and knowledge of the meteorite's movement following the theft. We have also pulled the shift ledger for that evening to see if we missed anything.

Given your deep understanding of this case and the clues uncovered so far, we are asking for your continued assistance. Specifically, we would appreciate your insight into potential search locations that could lead us to the real Amesworth Meteorite. If there are areas you believe warrant closer examination, please share those recommendations with our department as soon as possible.

Your contributions have already proven invaluable to this investigation, and we are hopeful that—with your continued help—we can bring the real meteorite home and finally close this case for good.

Thank you again for your time, expertise, and commitment to uncovering the truth.

Respectfully,

Sgt. T. Bellamy

Sgt. Thomas Bellamy
Northwood Police Department



Northwood Police Department

Interview Transcript (Form S-942)

Case No.
15-1107

Details

Interview: Dr. Helen Markham

Sgt. Bellamy: Dr. Markham, thanks for coming in again. I'll get right to it – the meteorite that's currently on display at the observatory is not the Amesworth Meteorite.

Dr. Markham: (visibly startled) What are you talking about?

Det. Henson: The special investigator confirmed it this morning. Weight and visuals don't match. The real Amesworth meteorite is still missing. What's on display now is a manufactured replica – good, but not genuine.

Dr. Markham: (quietly) I... see.

Sgt. Bellamy: We've got records showing that you signed off on the pawn-shop meteorite as authentic before it was brought back to the observatory. You're the one who told the department it was the real thing. So help us understand why you'd certify a fake.

Dr. Markham: I knew it wasn't right. The texture was off. The fracture pattern didn't match my records. But by then, the entire town was celebrating. The phones were ringing off the hook – reporters, donors, school groups – everyone wanted to see the "recovered Amesworth."

Sgt. Bellamy: So you knowingly let a counterfeit meteorite be displayed.

Dr. Markham: (firmly) I let the town breathe. The observatory's reputation was hanging by a thread. If the story of a fake came out before we had the real meteorite or any leads, we could've lost everything – grants, research partnerships, public trust. I wasn't protecting myself, I was protecting the institution.

Det. Henson: That sounds like justification after the fact. What if you were protecting something else – like your involvement in the original theft?

Dr. Markham: (snaps) I had nothing to do with the theft! I didn't steal it, and I didn't help anyone who did. I had nothing to do with creating the fake. I made a poor ethical decision, yes, but not a criminal one. I saw a chance to restore hope to this town – to keep people believing in the observatory – and I took it.

Sgt. Bellamy: You don't see how that looks to us? The fake shows up at a pawn shop. You, the one person who'd instantly know the difference, confirm it's authentic. It gets displayed. You restrict access so no one else can get close enough to notice.

Dr. Markham: I restricted access because I had to. If anyone examined it too closely, the truth would've come out before we could get ahead of it. I told the staff it was a security measure – that the meteorite was under special observation after the theft. It wasn't the truth, but it kept things orderly.

Det. Henson: "Orderly," or "quiet"?

Dr. Markham: (sighs) Both. You don't understand what the observatory means to this community – it's not just science. It's pride. It's identity. The idea that someone stole our centerpiece was devastating. I thought... maybe if people believed it was back, we could survive the fallout.

Sgt. Bellamy: And the research side of things? You barred your own scientists from running tests on it.

Dr. Markham: I did. I told them it was a temporary freeze due to security concerns. I knew if anyone took samples or ran spectroscopy, they'd spot the differences immediately. It wasn't meant to deceive forever – I just needed time to recover the real meteorite.

Det. Henson: But that didn't happen.

Dr. Markham: No. It didn't. And now I look like a liar on top of a failure. But please understand – I did what I thought was best for the observatory and for Northwood. I was trying to hold things together, not tear them apart.

Det. Henson: We'll let the evidence speak for itself. That'll be all for now.

Conducted By: Sgt. T. Bellamy and Det. K Henson

Transcribed By: Shawn Nguyen

Parks of Northwood: A Town Rooted in Nature

The parks of Northwood tell the story of a community deeply connected to its landscape. Each green space offers its own charm — a mix of history, art, and outdoor discovery that invites residents and visitors alike to explore, learn, and unwind.

Riverside Grove Park (*est. 1950*)

Riverside Grove Park is known for its stately maple trees that blaze crimson each fall. The park features a riverside bandshell that hosts summer concerts, a boat launch, and a cheerful playground perfect for family outings. Whether it's music, fishing, or simply enjoying the view, Riverside Grove continues to be one of Northwood's most vibrant gathering spots.



Northwood Arboretum (*est. 1915*)

The Northwood Arboretum is a living museum of native wildflowers and woodland beauty. Visitors can wander its wooded trails, relax in the nature-based play area, or admire the outdoor sculpture garden featuring the iconic Marie Sundial, a local landmark said to be as accurate as it is beautiful. Established more than a century ago, the arboretum remains a peaceful retreat for anyone who wants to experience Northwood's natural roots.

Observatory Hill (*est. 1972*)

Home to the renowned Northwood Observatory, Observatory Hill is intentionally kept tree-free to provide clear, unobstructed views of the night sky. The site also includes a cozy picnic area and the "Our Place in the Universe" sculpture, a reflective piece celebrating humanity's connection to the cosmos. Each summer, stargazers gather here for the annual Stargazer Night, when the whole town turns its eyes skyward.



Oak Park (*est. 2016*)

Oak Park celebrates the strength and beauty of Northwood's towering oak trees — some more than a century old. The park features a peaceful picnic area, a children's play area, and the whimsical Giant Acorn sculpture, a favorite selfie stop that nods to the park's name. It's a small but beloved space, perfect for quiet afternoons and community picnics.



Whispering Pines Park (*est. 1984*)

True to its name, Whispering Pines is a serene park filled with white pines that rustle softly in the breeze. Visitors can rent the charming sun-themed gazebo for weddings or gatherings, stroll through the rock garden showcasing geological samples from around the Northwood area, or simply enjoy the scent of pine needles underfoot. It's a place where nature's calm voice speaks the loudest.





Northwood Police Department

Evening Shift Ledger

Date: Oct 17, 2015

Shift: 1600-0000 hrs

LOG

16:25 hrs - Minor Car Accident - Main St. & 3rd Ave.

Two-vehicle fender bender, no injuries. Drivers exchanged insurance info. Officer Carlson assisted with report and traffic direction.

17:10 hrs - Suspicious Activity - Behind Northwood Café

Caller reported movement behind café dumpster. Officers arrived to find two raccoons rummaging through trash. Scene cleared, wildlife unharmed.

18:05 hrs - Animal Complaint - Maple & 5th St.

Caller reported a cat stuck in a large oak tree. Officer Carlson and a local resident successfully retrieved the animal using a ladder. Cat returned safely to owner (Mrs. D. Gunderson).

18:42 hrs - Domestic Disturbance - 412 Elm Street

Verbal argument between a couple regarding "who makes the better tater tot hotdish." Situation resolved without incident. Both parties calmed and agreed to "duel it out" at the next church potluck.

20:31 hrs - Suspicious Activity - Observatory Hill

Caller observed a man behind observatory hill behaving "weird". Officer Mason identified the individual as Rick Hanlon smoking a cigarette. No violations.

20:50 hrs - Suspicious Activity - Whispering Pines Park

Caller observed individuals with flashlights and shovels after dark. Officers made contact - identified as geocachers searching for a hidden cache. No one else in the park. No violations.

21:30 hrs - Public Assistance - Northwood Observatory Event

Ms. Helen Lightfoot twisted her ankle at the Stargazer event. Officer Mason provided first aid and transport home.

22:05 hrs - Traffic Hazard - Bridge near Center Street

Report of debris on road (fallen tree limb). Officer Mason removed obstruction.

23:10 hrs - Disturbance - Northwood Diner Parking Lot

Two teens allegedly throwing pebbles at a streetlight. Officers arrived; no property damage. Teens given warning and sent home.

End of Shift Notes:

Stargazer Event concluded without major incident.

Increased foot traffic near Observatory noted.

Extra patrols to monitor parks overnight for unauthorized activity.

REPORTING SERGEANT

Sgt. N. Chen

@StarGazer424

The traveler has found peace at last. No longer trapped behind glass or under fluorescent skies. Now it rests near laughing children, beneath swaying trees, where sunlight dances and time forever moves forward. The stars can finally see the traveler again — even here in Northwood. 🌲✨

 **Oct 19, 2015 – 7:42 AM**

 **412 Likes**  **129 Comments**