

WPD Blue light News

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Police Fun Fact

The Vermont Teddy Bear Factory in Shelburne, Vermont donates teddy bears to police and emergency responders every year to be given to children in a crisis situation. These bears are called Little Hero Bears and they are very much appreciated by us here at the Williston Police Department. Many times children are involved in situations where it is comforting to have something to hold on to and help them through what can be difficult times. We thank Vermont Teddy Bear for this program and for donating their products and services for the better of our communities.



Dog Licenses Are Overdue!!!!!!

Do you have a canine? Did you renew his license with the Town? If not your late! But no worries there is still time, stop in at the Town Hall and get your best friend legal today! Please bring proof of current rabies vaccination with you and the cost for licensing is \$12.00 per dog.



Special Olympics of Vermont

On the weekend of March 7th & 8th, 2015 Administrative Sergeant Justin Huizenga and Dispatcher Ben Hollwedel from the Williston Police Department took part in the medal awards ceremony for the Vermont Special Olympics Winter Games. The games were held this year at Suicide Six ski mountain outside of Woodstock, Vermont. Athletes participated in snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, snowboarding, and downhill skiing. Sergeant Huizenga and Dispatcher Hollwedel have volunteered their time with Special Olympics of Vermont for many years. They are both on the Board for the Vermont Law Enforcement Torch Run which supports the Special Olympics program in Vermont. Sergeant Huizenga is the Co-Director of that event. We thank them for representing the Williston Police Department and giving of their time to participate in these important activities.



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Chiefs Corner

This is the first newsletter since town meeting and I wanted to express my thanks and appreciation for all those community members who came out to town meeting and/or came out to vote. The passage of the town budget enables me to put in motion our plan for the upcoming fiscal year.

The police department has made a slight change in its operations dealing with our dispatch function. Until this week, we had been scheduling our two dispatchers Monday thru Friday 7 AM until 11 PM. Doing this allowed our front lobby to be open those same times. Beginning April 4th, our dispatchers are now scheduled Monday thru Sunday 7 AM until 7 PM with the exception of every other weekend when they begin at 9 AM and end at 5 PM. We are in hopes that this schedule change will better serve our community and our officers as our weekend days have been getting busier. As always, our front vestibule is always open when our lobby is closed and you can use the supplied phone to contact a dispatcher/officer for service.

You have probably been hearing about the planned change with the Vermont State Police dispatch consolidation project. I attended a meeting on April 6th regarding this since our department utilizes the services of the Vermont State Police for dispatching services when our dispatchers are not on duty. I have been assured that there will be no significant changes for those calling for police services in Williston. There will be a small increase in the number of staff to accommodate the increased workload once the Derby Barracks merges with Williston, but I have been assured that we will receive the same level of service.

The one minor change that our community will notice is that if the Vermont State Police are answering for us, what you hear when they answer the phone will change slightly. They formerly answered, "State Police answering for Williston Police". Now they will be simply answering, "Vermont State Police". This change needed to occur due to equipment limitations. Essentially, they won't have enough buttons/lights on the phone that identify which line they are answering when the Williston Barracks absorbs the Derby agencies. Because of this, they are combining all police calls for service to come in on one line, fire on another, and EMS on another.

The next question that may be asked is when does this merger take effect? There is no specific date, but steps are being taken for implementation as early as possible. We do know that there are some legislative efforts taking place to delay this merger of Public Safety Answering Points (PSAP's) and dispatch functions, but still we have no date.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me by email, phone, or mail; email is police@willistontown.com or you can call my office at (802) 764-1152.

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Spring is here!!!! Please practice bicycle safety!

- **Wear a Properly Fitted Bicycle Helmet.** Protect your brain, save your life. For more information see the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration publication
- **Adjust Your Bicycle to Fit.** Stand over your bicycle. There should be 1 to 2 inches between you and the top tube (bar) if using a road bike and 3 to 4 inches if a mountain bicycle. The seat should be level front to back. The seat height should be adjusted to allow a slight bend at the knee when the leg is fully extended. The handlebar height should be at the same level with the seat
- **Check Your Equipment.** Before riding, inflate tires properly and check that your brakes work.
- **See and Be Seen.** Whether daytime, dawn, dusk, foul weather, or at night, you need to be seen by others. Wearing white has not been shown to make you more visible. Rather, always wear neon, fluorescent, or other bright colors when riding day or night. Also wear something that reflects light, such as reflective tape or markings, or flashing lights. Remember, just because you can see a driver doesn't mean the driver can see you.
- **Control Your Bicycle.** Always ride with at least one hand on the handlebars. Carry books and other items in a bicycle carrier or backpack.
- **Watch for and Avoid Road Hazards.** Be on the lookout for hazards such as potholes, broken glass, gravel, puddles, leaves, and dogs. All these hazards can cause a crash. If you are riding with friends and you are in the lead, yell out and point to the hazard to alert the riders behind you
- **Avoid Riding at Night.** It is far more dangerous to ride at night than during the day because you are harder for others to see. If you have to ride at night, wear something that makes you more easily seen by others. Make sure you have reflectors on the front and rear of your bicycle (white lights on the front and red rear reflectors are required by law in many States), in addition to reflectors on your tires, so others can see you.