



# WPD Blue Light News

July 2013 Issue 1 Volume 1

## Chiefs Corner

### Community Involvement

The Williston Police Department has been a supporter of the Special Olympics of Vermont since 2006. Sgt. Justin Huizenga (far left) has been the lead organizer for the event in bringing the torch from Richmond to Williston and on to South Burlington. Sgt. Huizenga and Officer Ben Hollwedel attend numerous meetings and events throughout the year in support of this event. 2013 was yet another successful year.



(c) Stephen Mease Photography

This is the inaugural edition of the WPD Blue Light News. Our plan is to put a new edition out every month offering the community a summary of activity, safety tips, and general information about the department. You will find information supplied by many employees, both sworn personnel (officers) and non-sworn (dispatchers, administrative assistant, and justice board members).

Our primary distribution methods are to send a link via the Front Porch Forum linking it to our website and have printed copies available at the library and town offices, but are also exploring the option of email subscription notices.

My first year in Williston has been nothing short of wonderful. Even before being hired, I felt welcomed by the Town's staff and community as a whole, and that feeling remains with me today. The community needs to know that the employee's making up the police department are truly professional and genuinely care about the public safety needs of their community. Although their days are busy keeping up with the daily demands, their spirits remain high and their energy levels never seem to falter. We know that the community stands behind our efforts.

The fiscal year ended with a surplus in spending for the police department. Although a couple of line items were slightly overspent, the overall budget remained in the black. The primary reason for the surplus was due to an officer vacancy for 7 months of the budget year and we were able to function without significant overtime expenditures.

Please let us know how you like our newsletter. You can contact our administrative office by phone at 764-1152; by mail at 7928 Williston Road, Williston, VT 05495; or fill in the website feedback form on the Town's main website to let us know your thoughts. Additional contact information is on our department website.

*-Chief Todd C. Shepard*

### Detective Division Highlights



The Detective bureau investigated reports from local banks and credit unions that a husband and wife, Scott (35 yoa) and Stephanie (47 yoa) Leavitt of New York came to Vermont and defrauded 10 local banks and credit unions from over \$17,000 using false names and social security numbers. Scott and Stephanie are currently in jail in New York facing extradition to Vermont when they complete serving sentences there for unrelated offenses. Stephanie is expected to complete her sentence first and return to Vermont in July.

The Detective bureau received a report of an employee from the NEFCU making unauthorized withdrawals from a customer's account and converting the money to her own use. Jennifer Pettinelli, 21 years old of Williston, was subsequently arrested for embezzling \$2900. She was arraigned on July 10. NEFCU took immediate steps to protect their members and remove Pettinelli from employment as soon as the thefts were discovered. - Detective Sergeant Bart Chamberlain

**Upcoming Events:** Annual Chowder Challenge September 15th, 2013! Mark your calendars! Presented by the Williston Police Officers Association!

# CAR TEMPERATURE PET SAFETY CHART

How long does it take for a car to get HOT?

## VEHICLE TEMPERATURE

Outside Temp (F)	Inside Temp (F)	
	10mins	30mins
70°	89°	104°
75°	94°	109°
80°	99°	114°
85°	104°	119°
90°	109°	124°
95°	114°	129°

**Dogs DIE EVERY SUMMER**  
In minutes your car temps are deadly!

VeterinaryClinic.co

### DON'T LEAVE YOUR PET IN A PARKED CAR

Never leave your pet unattended in a parked car for any period of time. On a warm day, the temperature in a car can exceed 120 degrees in a matter of minutes-even with the windows partially open. Your pet can quickly suffer brain damage or die from heatstroke or suffocation.

With the many "box stores" and ample retail parking space in Williston, the police get called daily, usually numerous times, by someone reporting a pet left in a parked vehicle.

If the pet appears to be in distress, the owner could face a "Neglect of Animal" fine in the amount of \$329.00. It should be noted that Officers do have the authority to forcibly enter a vehicle in an emergency.

For more information about responsible pet care, visit [www.humanesociety.org/pets](http://www.humanesociety.org/pets).

-Officer Travis Trybulski



### Patrol Tip of the Month:

*Keep your car doors locked and valuables out of view or remove them from your vehicle. 99% of all thefts from cars, are from a vehicle that is not locked. Motion activated lights are a great deterrent.*

## Daytime Patrol Trends

Metal thefts continue to be an issue. Police encourage business owners to secure any valuable metal as best as they can preferably inside. Often potential metal thieves will survey a business during the day and return that night if they see something of value. Police encourage you to call them with any suspicious vehicles you might see around business parking lots.

Williston Police have apprehended 16 Driving While Intoxicated operators on Williston roadways during the summer months of June and July to date. Police continue to encourage people to plan ahead with a designated driver or make a phone call for a ride. The potential repercussions from a DUI are not worth the risk.

The Williston Police Department is currently taking suggestions on locations for placement of our Speed Enforcement Cart. The cart is a valuable tool in our speed enforcement campaign and assists in identifying possible areas on our roads that see a high level of speed infractions.

On a wilder note; with wild animals continually roaming into neighborhoods Police remind people not to try and assist, capture or feed the animals. Young animals that appear to be abandoned often times have their mothers return for them at night. If you think an animal is potentially sick call the police.

- Sergeant Justin Huizenga

## The Nights Watch



Night shift has been keeping busy the past month, responding to various calls for service. The very wet month of June and beginning of July has kept things a bit slower, however things are resuming back to normal with the recent nice weather.

The nature of our calls since June 1, 2013 vary and include some of the following, suspicious circumstances, false alarms, family disturbances, agency assist calls and thefts. When not answering calls for service the Officer's will conduct traffic enforcement, business checks and residential neighborhood patrols.

We encourage anyone to call and report anything they believe is out of the ordinary. Examples of this are any vehicle or person you do not recognize in your neighborhood, strange noises or dog(s) barking continuously that normally are quiet. We rely on your eyes and ears to help us make Williston a safe place for all.

- Sergeant Brian Claffy

There is still time! The Williston Police Community Survey remains active until August 15th. Please visit [www.town.williston.vt.us/police](http://www.town.williston.vt.us/police) to take part in our survey. Your feedback is important to us!

Newsletter Editor: Marilla Whitcomb Phone: 802-764-1152 or email at [marilla.whitcomb@state.vt.us](mailto:marilla.whitcomb@state.vt.us) Please submit any questions or suggestions.