



The Williston Police would like to remind the community to lock vehicles and to never leave valuables inside your vehicle. Over the last week the department has received numerous calls in regards to car break-ins.

There have been instances where windows were smashed to gain access. Police have requested that if you witness any suspicious activity in parking lots or areas around town please report such activity immediately. **DO NOT WAIT** to call police if you have been a victim of a vehicle break-in or any other crime for that matter.

Time is limited in these cases as thieves usually “unload” or sell stolen property quickly therefore, the sooner you call the police the better chance they have of apprehending the offender.

**Williston Police Department: Monday thru Friday 7am-11pm**

**802-878-6611**

**Vermont State Police (Williston Dispatch after hours)**

**802-878-7111**

**Emergency 24 hours- 911**



As you may have noticed there is an awful lot of road construction going on lately! It is that time of year when road crews are doing their best to get road work completed before the snow flies. We would like to remind drivers to be patient this time of year when traveling on our busy roadways and remember to pay **FULL** attention to driving!

**NO TEXTING OR TALKING ON CELL PHONES** in construction zones. Always be alert and follow the speed limits posted. Never pass another vehicle in a construction zone. Drive safely!

**Vermont Rabies Hotline:**

**1-800-4-RABIES (1-800-472-2437)**

**If you have contact with an animal that may have rabies, call the**

**Vermont Department of Health at 800-640-4374 or 863-7240 (8 to 4:30 Mon-Fri)**



## Chief's Corner

I am truly excited to prepare this month's article for our newsletter, WPD Blue Light News because I get to publically commend my department for a job well done. Following some rather intense review, the Williston Police Department was selected for 2<sup>nd</sup> Place in this year's Vermont Law Enforcement Challenge, up from 3<sup>rd</sup> place for the past several years. This higher award was one of our agency goals this year, and it took the entire department to accomplish it.

The Law Enforcement Challenge is an annual effort sponsored by the Vermont Governor's Highway Safety Program. Each agency submitting an application in the challenge must showcase their efforts toward traffic safety in the previous year. You may think that traffic safety is all in the numbers, but it truly isn't. Applications are judged on an agencies efforts in enforcement, but are also judged on the effectiveness of their policies, recognition of officers for their efforts, public information & education, training, importance placed on traffic safety, and crash rates. In addition, the GHSP looks at your involvement in statewide efforts to improve our state's occupant protection use and decrease in the number of impaired drivers.

The Town of Williston has a significant amount of traffic, of which, the safety of our motoring public as well as the safety of our pedestrians and bicyclists is of significant importance to our agency. During the 2013 calendar year, we took on the approach of defining our crash rates and locations using data driven analysis. We were able to identify key locations and reasons for crashes and made a concerted effort to address these problem areas through directed patrols, public education, and ongoing evaluation. As one may guess, most of our crashes are along the US Route 2 and 2A corridors as well as in and around the Marshall Ave. and Harvest Lane area. Our patrols have been directed at reducing crashes (especially those involving injury) and include at least one DUI Checkpoint.

Our public education efforts have included this newsletter, our website, our local newspaper The Williston Observer, Front Porch Forum, safety events, and even the use of our speed monitoring trailer. We get numerous requests for our speed trailer and this only helps to slow our commuters down and save lives.

As the Chief of the Williston Police Department, I was ecstatic when I got news that we had been chosen as the 2<sup>nd</sup> place winners of this challenge and I know full well that the reward was based on the hard work of the officers working the road, the increased work load on dispatchers because of the extra enforcement efforts, and the significant amount of time of our Administrative Assistant, Marilla Whitcomb put into organizing our challenge application.

Great job Team WPD!!!!

### NEW LAW IN EFFECT

A widespread ban which passed the legislature on July 1st.

It, in part, prohibits smoking in cars with kids.

The law applies to children who have to be in a car seat, typically children under eight years old. This also applies to old children under a certain height and weight.

"It's a primary violation, meaning police officers across Vermont can initiate a traffic stop for witnessing it," says Trooper William Warner of Vermont State Police.

The fine for smoking with a child in the car will be 100 dollars.

## RABIES INFORMATION

### **What is rabies?**

Rabies is a viral disease affecting the central nervous system. It is transmitted from infected mammals to man and is invariably fatal once symptoms appear. Fortunately, only a few cases are reported each year in the United States.

### **Who gets rabies?**

All warm blooded mammals including man are susceptible to rabies.

### **How is rabies spread?**

Rabies is almost always contracted by exposure to a rabid animal. The exposure is usually through a bite, but saliva contact with broken skin is also a possible route.

### **What are the symptoms of rabies?**

Early symptoms include irritability, headache, fever and sometimes itching or pain at the site of exposure. The disease eventually progresses to paralysis, spasms of the throat muscles, convulsions, delirium and death.

### **How soon after exposure do symptoms appear?**

The incubation period in humans is variable but is normally two to eight weeks. Incubation periods of over one year have been reported.

### **When and for how long is a person able to spread rabies?**

Person to person transmission is extremely rare, however, precautions should be taken to prevent exposure to the saliva of the diseased person.

### **What is the treatment for rabies?**

Treatment requires prompt scrubbing of the bite site, followed by the administration of rabies immune globulin (dosage dependent on weight) and five doses of human diploid cell rabies vaccine administered in the arm on days 0, 3, 7, 14 and 28 after exposure.

### **What happens if rabies exposure goes untreated?**

Exposure of a person to a rabid animal does not always result in rabies. If preventive treatment is obtained promptly following a rabies exposure, most cases of rabies will be prevented. Untreated cases will invariably result in death.

### **What can be done to prevent the spread of rabies?**

Exposure to rabies may be minimized by **vaccinating all pets** and staying away from all wild animals especially those acting abnormally.