

WPD BLUE LIGHT NEWS

January 2014 Issue V

HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM ALL OF US AT THE WILLISTON POLICE DEPARTMENT!



Following the ice storm on December 23rd we were called out to round up a "herd" of pigs loose on South Road. A resident mailed in this great photo of that day. All the pigs were safely returned to their pen.



Please remember to be safe and always have a designated driver if you have plans to be out celebrating the New Years festivities!

If someone appears intoxicated, keep them from driving and call them a cab to ensure they get home safely, and don't let them leave with someone they do not know. Have a buddy system and stick to it.



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Williston Community Justice Center Yearly Update

Summary Narrative

In the past year, the Williston Community Justice Center has provided restorative approaches to crime and conflict in the towns of Williston, Richmond, Huntington and St. George that address the needs of the citizens of those communities. The Williston CJC began actively promoting the services listed below which have resulted in greater visibility of the work of our volunteer board members and the center itself. The WCJC has performed services in the name of the communities above in the areas of:

- **Community Restorative Justice Panels-** These panels meet six times /month and hear one to two new cases each evening and one to two completions each night depending upon the cases received in the month. The purpose of the board is to follow the mission statement by supporting victims and provide responsible parties with the opportunity to acknowledge their wrongdoing and to make amends to the individual(s) and the community where the wrongdoing occurred.
- **Victim support-** staff and board members provide support to victims of criminal cases, where the victims choose to be involved in the process. The affected parties have the opportunity to meet face to face with the client and have a chance to describe the impact and request reasonable actions from the client aimed at repairing the harm they have experienced.
- **Conflict Resolution/ Medication Strategies-** CJC staff and volunteers are available to help community members, local officials and the local police department address community conflict and safety concerns before a crime is committed, including neighborhood conflicts and landlord to tenant disputes. Strategies may include mediation, facilitated group meetings and individual consultation.
- **Community Dialogue/ Education Forums-** Through its partnership with other community organizations, WCJC develops education programs and facilitates community discussions about topics that are helpful in the community and topics that address the

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Top 10 Cold-Weather Pet Tips

Courtesy of the ASPCA website



Dashing through the snow sometimes doesn't feel too dashing. Learn how to keep your furry best friend warm and safe all winter long.

1) There's no place like home

The best strategy, of course, is to keep your pets indoors during inclement weather. Outdoor cats are especially susceptible to hazards like frostbite, getting lost, or being exposed to diseases. If you don't want to be outside, your pet probably doesn't want to be, either.

2) Keep close

When you do venture outdoors with your dog, keep them on-leash. Snow and rain can wipe away familiar scents, causing your dog to become lost or disoriented. If you live in a very cold area, unsupervised dogs also run the risk of falling through thin ice near ponds or other frozen bodies of water.

3) Bundle up!

A fur coat isn't all the protection your pet needs from the cold, especially if she is short-coated, a puppy, or a senior. She might be much more comfortable in some warm winter-wear, such as a sweater, jacket, or booties. Look for coats or sweaters that cover from neck to tail and aren't restrictive or uncomfortable. When indoors, be sure she has a warm, draft-free spot to rest in with lots of bedding. And to keep her skin and coat in tip-top shape from the dry winter air, brush her more frequently than usual, and never shave a long-coated dog during the winter.

4) Warm as toast

Wrapping your pet up in an electric blanket all day might sound like a good idea, but leaving an animal unattended with an electric item is a recipe for disaster. SnuggleSafe Pet Heating Pads can be warmed in the microwave and retain heat for 12 hours. They are excellent for tucking in your pet's bedding at night, giving her an extra bit of snuggly warmth as she nods off to dreamland.

5) Potty problems

When it's cold or rainy out, pets might resist going to the bathroom outside. (And really - wouldn't you?) Work with them to try to keep them comfortable while they do their business - a jacket or rain slicker might help, as would holding an umbrella over them to keep them dry.

6) Check for cat cargo

When the temperature drops, chilly kitties will look for any warm place to curl up. This includes under the hoods of cars where they can be seriously injured or killed when the car starts. A trick to evict stowaways is to bang on the hood of your car loudly a few times before you enter. Any slumbering felines will be frightened by the noise and escape before you start your car.

7) (Don't) chill out

You should never leave your pet unattended in a car on a cold day. The winter weather turns your car into a rolling refrigerator - great for keeping your groceries chilled, but terrible for keeping your pet safe. If it's cold outside, leave your animals warm and safe at home.

8) Dry them off

When coming in from a winter walk or play session, dry your pet off thoroughly and take extra care to wipe her legs, paws, and stomach. Pets in snowy climates can pick up salt, antifreeze, or other dangerous chemicals on their pads and lick them off, making them sick. Ice and salt can also cause their pads to crack and bleed, so look them over thoroughly after all outside adventures.

9) Gimme shelter

Pets should not be kept outside during the cold months. However, if you absolutely must leave them outdoors for a limited amount of time, create a shelter for them to retreat to. It should be dry, clean, and well-insulated (straw works well to trap heat), and protect them from the wind and elements. And be sure to frequently check their water bowl to be sure they have plenty of fresh (not frozen) H₂O.

10) Stay healthy

Animals with fragile immune systems - including kittens, puppies, and senior pets - might be more susceptible to illness during the change of seasons. If you suspect your animal has a cold weather-related illness, take them to see the vet right away.

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Chief's Corner

January 2014

I thought it would be appropriate to recap some of 2013 in this edition of WPD Blue Light News.

This year noted the addition of Officer Joshua Hansell as our newest officer. As I write this short brief, he is anticipating the delivery of his newborn anytime now. I offer my early congratulations to he and his significant other, Takara. Hiring Officer Hansell closed all current vacancies that the department had during the year.

The Williston Police Department was once again awarded third place in the annual Vermont Governors Highway Safety Challenge for the municipal police category of equivalent sized departments. Our agency has placed in the top 3 for several years and it is our goal this year to place higher in the challenge due to the great work our officers are doing.

Significant work has been done working with our schools working jointly in the school safety committee. In addition to this committee, officers have made efforts to involve themselves with school activities by making occasional visits, assisting with traffic, and assisting planning personnel when needed.

We have had several notable anniversaries by employees this year; Dispatcher Debbie Davis and Sgt. Brian Claffy were recognized for their 15 years of dedicated service; and Officer Josh Moore and Travis Trybulski were recognized for 5 years of service.

The Williston Police Department was awarded a \$125,000 Community Oriented Policing Hiring Grant. In our budget request for FY 2015, it includes the 25% match that we will need to take advantage of this hiring grant for one additional officer. This grant pays a maximum of \$125,000 for a period of 3 years with the caveat that this agency agrees to keep the officer for at least one additional year beyond the 3 year payment cycle.

Our efforts to reach into the community with publications like this seem to be a success. Our Facebook page has 566 likes and regularly receives feedback from postings. We have made use of Front Porch Forum as well as enhanced our website to get information out to the public.

All in all, I would say that 2013 was a productive and positive year for the Williston Police Department and we would like to thank the community for all of its support.

As always, we appreciate any feedback that you may have. Please feel free to contact my office anytime or email us at police@willistontown.com.

Chief Shepard