



WPD BLUE



LIGHT NEWS



October 2013 Issue III

2013 CHOWDER CHALLENGE A SUCCESS FOR ALL!



Officer Travis Trybulski, Police Association President Detective Mike Lavoie, and Chief Todd Shepard accepting their award at the Challenge.

The 3rd annual Chowder Challenge was more successful than ever this year! A big thank you to Officer Travis Trybulski who works tirelessly on this important event throughout the year. His work along with all the sponsors paid off in a big way in 2013. The event raised over \$5000.00 for the Williston Food Shelf as well as supporting the Williston Police Officers Association. We would also like to thank everyone who took time out of their weekend to participate in the event. This year held record attendance and is proof that when brought together our community and neighbors can make wonderful things happen! Thank you to all the vendors, sponsors, and volunteers who helped make this such a successful and fun event!

WILLISTON POLICE'S MATT COHEN WINS IRON DOG COMPETITION IN HIS FREE TIME

Matthew Cohen who is one of Williston Police's Patrolman since 2010 took part in the Green Mountain Iron Dog Competition at Camp Kiniya in Colchester on Sunday September 29th with his dog Cooper, a almost 2 year old mixed breed. Cooper was a rescue puppy that Matt adopted from All Breed Rescue in South Burlington. Matt has worked with Cooper training for the Iron Dog Competition for the past year. Cooper's training consisted of daily runs of 3-5 miles as well as agility training which involved obstacles of all kinds. The Iron Dog Competition is a fundraiser for the Vermont Police Canine Association and the Lacey's Fund which is a fund to benefit Retired Police Canines.



Matt and Cooper finished First in their division on Sunday. The competition is open to the public and more information can be found at www.vtk9.com. We are proud of Matt and Cooper for their hard work dedication to this event.



The most common Police Canine is a German Shepard however, Belgian Malinois

are increasing in numbers, they look a lot like German Shepards but are faster and more driven.

Plan Ahead for Alternate Routes of Travel

-Patrol Sergeant Keith Gonyeau

With the winter weather approaching, now is a good time to plan ahead for seeking alternate routes to and from your home, work and stores.

Over the past year, Williston roads have had to be closed due to traffic crashes and weather related issues. In almost every instance, while we have been on scene, we have been approached by residents asking for alternate routes to their destination. As you can imagine, when on a scene like this, we are busy taking care of the issue at hand and unfortunately don't always have time to provide the directions.

Williston has a vast network of roadways and in almost every instance, there is another route to your destination that might only add a couple minutes to your drive time.

Also be aware that when there are barricades or cones blocking your lane of travel, this means the roadway is closed for you, even when an officer is not manning the closure point. There have been several times where we have blocked the road off and then proceeded to the scene, which may be out of sight from the closure point, only to have vehicles entering the scene after traveling around the barricades. This produces a safety issue for the officers, drivers and individuals involved in the incident as well as creating an issue in case of the need for evidence preservation.

Please plan ahead and familiarize yourself with the alternate routes available to you, so you spend less time in traffic when we have a road closure.

A helpful website for winter weather issues with major roadways is www.vermont.gov and click on the 511 Road Report. This page gives helpful maps of the entire state as well as updating accidents and road closures during severe weather.

Safe Travels!



Dispatch Corner

In this month's section of Dispatch Corner, we would like to share some information about calling the Police Department and what we generally do. First of all, the Dispatch Center here at Williston Police is not a 24 hour Dispatch Center. Our general operating hours are from Monday to Friday from 7am to 11pm. We have 2 full time dispatchers that provide the Monday to Friday Dispatch Service for Williston. From the hours of 11pm to 7am and on weekends and some holidays, the dispatch service is conducted through the Vermont State Police- Williston Barracks.

In the event that you happen to stop by the police department during the non-staffed hours, there is a phone that is located in the vestibule with instructions to follow to contact the State Police Williston Barracks to speak with a Dispatcher who will get you in touch with a Williston Town Police Officer.

As dispatchers we are more often than not the first interaction you will have with the Police Department. We have the responsibility of answering the phone lines into the Department, whether it is an emergency call or general questions. We are the voice on the other end of the radio for our Police Officers. We are the ones sending them to calls for service, providing them with the information that they have requested or that they need to perform their jobs.

But, in addition to that part of the job, we also take care of some administrative tasks. We have to prepare or enter a lot of the paperwork that gets generated by the Police Officers that comes with them doing their job. As dispatchers we have the job to decipher the different types of calls that come into the Police Department. This can be from an emergency call to a call for service to an administrative call. An emergency is a crime in progress, or just occurred in the last few seconds. A call for service can be a crime that was committed, but had occurred hours or days ago, such as check fraud. An administrative call is exactly what it sounds like, a call for information or to speak with someone.

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Please submit any questions or suggestions.

Detective Division

- Detective Bart Chamberlain

Grandparent Scam

Beware this "Grandparent scam" that has been circulating for the past couple of years and is still prevalent in Chittenden County.

Recently, some scammers have bilked the elderly out of hundreds -- or thousands -- of dollars by posing as their "needy" grandchildren.

According to ConsumerAffairs.com, the grandparent scam usually works like this:

You receive a phone call from someone who greets you with, "Hi Grandma."

"Hi."

"Do you know who this is?"

"Jeremy?"

"Yeah!"

Without knowing it, you just made a mistake. Instead of saying, "No, I don't know who this is," you supplied the scammer with the name of a grandchild. He then proceeds to impersonate that grandchild.

Your "grandchild" claims he's gotten into some kind of trouble -- auto accident, overdue rent, minor brush with the law -- and needs money to fix the situation. "Can you please help? But don't tell mom. She'd kill me if she found out!" This may seem like an obvious scam, but it's fooled plenty of people -- mostly because the scammers are good at what they do. They choose their targets carefully, tug on the heartstrings, and keep other family members "out of the loop" until it's too late.

One scammer "victimized dozens of seniors and found his victims by scanning the phone book for old-fashioned sounding names. One of his victims, an 86-year-old grandmother, even had to use a walker in order to get to her bank and withdraw money for him."

The scammers are cunning -- one couple could have sworn the guy REALLY was their grandson.

Recommendation: There's one easy way to expose the fraud: DO NOT fill in any "blanks" for the scammer. For example:

"Do you know who this is?"

"No, I don't. Who is this?"

"It's your granddaughter."

"Really? Which one?"

Most likely, the next sound you hear will be a click, followed by a dial tone.

That's the easiest way not to fall for the grandparents scam.

It is important to note, once you have sent money through a service such as Western Union, etc. the money is lost forever and you cannot recover it.

The one exception to this is if you were the victim of a scam between January 2004 through August 2009, where you wired money for a lottery scam, grandparent scam, or other fraud using MoneyGram, the Justice Department received a \$100 million settlement to reimburse victims. The deadline for applying is November 15, 2013, and you can learn more by visiting <http://www.atg.state.vt.us/news/refunds-available-to-eligible-moneygram-senders.php> or by calling the Vermont Attorney General's office at 802-828-5507.





Now, here are a few tips for when you have to call the Police Department:

- 1- Who- This is who you are. We need to know this, so we know who we are talking to and if you are involved. Most commonly we will ask for your name, phone number and date of birth. This will also refer to who was involved in the incident.
- 2- Where- Where did the event take place, and where you are now if you have moved from the original location?.
- 3- When- When did this happen? Was it just a couple seconds ago, or was it a few days ago?
- 4- What Happened- Explain what actually went on.
- 5- Information- We need to gather as much information about what happened as we can. If you have descriptions of people or vehicles, please be precise about it. Plate numbers on vehicles and descriptions help out so much more than just a vague description of a vehicle. When describing suspects, notice age, race, sex, height and weight. Compare your own weight and height with the suspect(s). Pick out some UNIQUE characteristics (scars, tattoos, jewelry etc) that will help identify the suspect(s).

Most of these apply to an emergency call, but may pertain to other calls as well.

I hope this help shared some insight into the Dispatch Center here at Williston Police Department and help you to understand what it is that we do here.

- Dispatcher Anthony Leclair

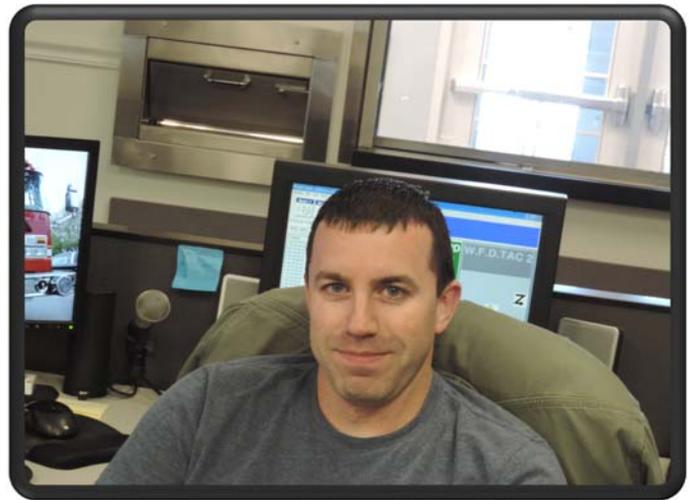
Chief's Corner

Fall is here and that can only mean that Halloween is right around the corner. Our nights are getting longer and days shorter. For our drivers out there, please be extra careful of our pedestrians and bicyclists. To our pedestrians and bicyclists, please make yourself as visible as possible by wearing reflective material and/or carry some sort of lighting with you. We must work together to help prevent injuries and we must share our roadways.

Fall also begins the time of year when we have many tourists in the area who like to go out and look at the wonderful sights that Vermont has to offer during the autumn. This will mean visitors traveling around our town not necessarily knowing where they are going or driving slowly while they take in the sights. Please be patient and do not allow ourselves to become upset and start driving in an aggressive manner or worse yet start becoming aggressive toward one another.

As a member of the School Safety Committee, our group held its first meeting of the year last week where we began the process of reviewing the school crisis manual and the written procedures. As part of our commitment toward the safety of our youth, we are starting the process to have small tabletop exercises at our meetings so that we can work as a group in a controlled setting so we have a better understanding what each group needs to accomplish during an emergency or even a less critical event.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention the outstanding work of my staff in the organization and management of the Williston Chowder Challenge held on the 15th, sponsored by the Williston Police Officers Association to support the Williston Food Shelf. The event went off without any significant issues and the more than 500 attendees all seemed to enjoy their time.



Dispatcher Anthony Leclair

Special thanks goes out to Officer Travis Trybulski, the founder of the Williston event.

Last month I mentioned the hiring of our newest officer, Joshua Hansell. In the past month, we have started the process to hire a new officer in January. This new officer will fill a new position that was authorized by the Select Board and approved by the voters last year. If you know someone who may be interested in becoming a police officer for the town, please have them submit an application. Interested persons can find a description and requirements on our website.

-Chief Todd C. Shepard

Have a safe and Happy Halloween in 2013!



Always walk, slither, and sneak on the sidewalks not in the roadway to stay safe.



Choose bright colors and reflective materials.



Have a grown up inspect your candy before eating. Don't eat candy that has already been opened.



Travel in groups or with parents and stay in neighborhoods you are familiar with.

The Williston Police Officers will be out on Halloween evening handing out goodie bags from their cruisers in some of our neighborhoods, if they don't make it to your neighborhood or home please stop in to the police department and pick up your goodies! We will also have glow in the dark bracelets to wear during your trick or treating adventures! Have a safe and spooktacular Halloween!

