



# WPD Blue Light News

## 2013's 3rd Annual Chowder Challenge!



Sunday September 15, 2013 12-3 p.m. on the  
Williston Village Green!  
[www.willistonchowderchallenge.org](http://www.willistonchowderchallenge.org)

### Meet Your Officers



Officer Travis Trybulski started with the Williston Police Department as a part-time officer in November 2007 and became a full-time officer in September 2008. Officer Trybulski began his career in law enforcement as a reserve officer in Billings, Montana. Later he worked as a part-time officer in Sunapee, New Hampshire while working full-time for the Department of Homeland Security as a Law Enforcement Support Technician. He holds a B.S. in Sociology from the University of Montana at Billings.

Officer Trybulski is active in motor vehicle enforcement and is one of the department's bike patrol officers. He organizes the Williston Chowder Challenge as a fundraiser to benefit the Williston Community Food Shelf and the Williston Police Officers' Association. This year marks the third year of the Williston Chowder Challenge, which will be held on Sunday September 15, 2013.

### Chief's Corner

August has been a busy month for our agency so far. Officers have been directed to help reduce our traffic crash rates by paying closer attention to offenses that occur in and around intersections and utilizing available time toward efforts designed to reduce speeds and combat distracted driving. Additionally, my officers report an increase in criminal offenses surrounding fraudulent returns of retail merchandise. Officers have reported dozens of incidents where offenders enter a store, take products off from the shelf and attempt to return them for store credit.

We conducted our first community wide survey and received responses from a total of 324 community members or an estimated 3.7% of our community's residential population. Although not fully analyzed, over 96% of respondents feel the town and their neighborhoods are safe and about 68% of respondents believe crime rates have neither increased nor decreased in town. We would like to extend our thanks to all those who participated and hope to get a more comprehensive report on the results posted to our website in September.

We entered the era of social media this past month by creating a presence on Facebook. Please visit our page and "like" us. We currently have a total of 325 likes and we would love to have that number grow. We know that communicating to the public is important and we are trying to post our press releases, found articles, and significant events on the page so you can stay up to date. It is our hope to keep this page changing on a weekly basis at a minimum. [www.facebook.com/willistonvtpd](http://www.facebook.com/willistonvtpd).

As you will read later in the edition, we welcomed aboard our newest officer, Officer Joshua Hansell. Officer Hansell comes to us after serving 2 years with the Richmond Police Department. We know Officer Hansell will do well here and expect that he will be an integral part of the Williston Community. Bringing Officer Hansell on board has filled our last vacancy in our department and we hope to stay that way so we can expand by one in January as approved by the voters.

Continued on Page 3



## Detective Division

Detective Lavoie would like to offer a few tips while out shopping to protect your personal property.

- Do not leave anything valuable, Phones, Computers, Change etc. in plain view in your vehicle whether its parked in your driveway at home or you are just going shopping, out for dinner etc.
- Always keep your pocketbook, purse or your wallet close to you and never leave them unattended!!! Always keep your purse closed so thieves cannot reach in & grab your wallet or perhaps just your cash, credit cards etc.
- When shopping be aware of the people around you, do not fall prey to the "oops I bumped into your shopping cart" method or "do you know where they keep the eggs in this store?", or a stranger walks up to you & starts a conversation out of nowhere.

Thieves will distract you to get what they want. I strongly suggest the above especially during the holiday seasons which are fast approaching us.

If you do have your wallet or purse stolen report it as soon as practical to the police and the banks or credit card company. I challenge you to look around the parking lots and see how many folks leave valuables in plain view in their cars and also see how many purses are left unattended in the grocery stores, etc.

Please remember to report any suspicious vehicle or person to us, we are here to assist you in any way we can.

-Detective Mike Lavoie



**Police Fun Fact:** In 1844 The City of New York established the first 24 hr round the clock, paid police force in the United States.



**Patrol Tip of the Month:** With the days getting shorter don't forget to be seen! When you go out biking, jogging or walking please wear reflective clothing.



**Upcoming Events:** 9/11 Ceremony at the Williston Fire Department at 9:30am on September 11, 2013 to honor of all those lost on September 11th, 2001.



## The Williston Community Justice Center Update

Growth and development of programs and a name change have highlighted the Williston Community Justice Center's 2012-'13 fiscal year. As of our May board meeting, we revised and adopted a new set of by-laws which incorporated the name change for our organization and a revised formal mission statement.

The Williston Community Justice Center (WCJC) is committed to promoting and advancing the well-being and safety of our community by providing resources for positive change and repairing damaged relationships through a collaborative restorative process.

In the past fiscal year the reparative board of the WCJC were referred 137 cases ranging from embezzlement and child endangerment to possession of marijuana and most everything in between. We fell eight cases shy of last year's record 147 cases heard. We are proud to say we had a successful completion of 106 out of 111 (95%) of cases heard. Twenty-six cases are still waiting to be heard.

The Williston Community Justice Center also participated in community problem solving scenarios on four different occasions this year. Board members and staff also assisted educators and staff members of Williston schools and the Jean Garvin School on several occasions as well. This past fiscal year marked the Center's first efforts in working with offenders located in our community providing them with opportunities for help in personal finance skills, family goal setting and general advice.

In the next fiscal year, our 23 board members and two staff members will continue to make ourselves available to citizens of the towns we serve (currently Williston, Richmond, Huntington, St. George and Hinesburg) for assistance in mediation and peaceful conflict resolution. If you have need of assistance, please call Director Stephan LaTulippe or Reparative Coordinator Cristalee McSweeney at 802-764-1151

-Director Stephan Latulippe



## Welcome Aboard!

On August 14th, 2013 the Williston Police welcomed Officer Joshua Hansell to our Patrol Division. Officer Hansell comes to us with two years of experience with the Richmond Police Department. He is a full time certified police officer which means as soon as he has completed a revised training process with our Department Training Officers he will be assigned to the evening patrol shift. We welcome Officer Hansell and hope he has a long and prosperous career here with us at the Williston Police Department.

*(Above: Officer Hansell being sworn in by our Town Clerk Deb Beckett)*

*Continued from page 1:*

As I write this article, school is about to begin. We want to encourage the parents to offer a hand in our efforts to ensure safe streets. Please talk to your teenage drivers about the importance of driving the speed limits, staying off from the phone, paying close attention to their driving, and never drink and drive.

We know the school days can be long and it can sometimes be challenging to be with so many other students throughout the day, but we must get along and accept the differences each of us has. Help your classmates and involve those who may be a little timid about becoming part of the group. You never know, you might develop a long lasting friendship. Bullying other students or making harmful remarks does more damage than most people think and can have dramatic effects on the community as a whole as well as the individual.

As always, 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 Shepard



*The Williston Police are now on Facebook! Please "Like" our page to stay updated on the latest events and news from your Police Department!*

## Employee Highlights:

**During the months of July and August we celebrated a few employee anniversaries.**

**Officer Joshua Moore- on July 21st celebrated 5 years with the Williston Police Department.**

**Officer Alex Tower on July 24th celebrated his 1st year anniversary with us!**

**Officer Matthew Cohen- On August 4th celebrated 3 years of service .**

**Travis Trybulski celebrates his 5th year with the Williston Police on August 31st!**

**Chief Todd Shepard celebrated his 1st year anniversary on August 20th!**

**We Would like to congratulate and thank each and every one of you for your service to the Town of Williston and the Williston Police Department and look forward to many more years of service!**





## Sexting: What is it and what you can do to prevent it.

### What is **SEXTING**?

SEXTING, or a sexual text message, "is the sending or receiving of inappropriate (explicit or implicit) sexual text messages, video or picture electronically, but primarily using wireless devices (e.g., cellphones, smartphones, tablets, ect.)

As parents you have the power to educate your children about responsible wireless use and why sexting is inappropriate.

### How to Respond:

Prior to your child having a cellphone or smartphone. Parents and children should agree to family rules to spell out what is appropriate or inappropriate behavior, and what happens when the rules are broken.

Service Providers also offer many tools. Which include limiting who, when and how your kids can use their phone to contact others by voice and text. Password protecting camera, internet or download functions.

One of the most effective ways to prevent sexting is to keep a close eye on how your kids are using their cellphones.

### Sexting and its Consequences:

In some cases , sexting may cause emotional distress if the sender's images or messages are forwarded on to unintentional audiences. Sexting between a minor and an adult violates child pornography laws in most states.

According to a survey from the Pew research center's Internet and Life Project. 4 percent of 12 to 17 year-olds who own a mobile devise admit to sending a sexually nude or nearly nude image or videos of themselves or someone else. Yet 15 percent of these teens say they have received such images of someone they know. In other words, even though a small percentage of teens admit to sending a sext, these images are usually shared with others and not only the intended recipient.

In the past few years the Williston Police Department has been notified of several sexting incidents. Most of the incidents are when schools are in session and are reported by staff. Even though the incidents are being reported by the schools, quite often sexting has been done outside of the school grounds. It may be that when schools are not open, other incidents are not being reported as often.

The Williston Reparative Board have helped some of the parents and the children who have been involved in the sexting incidents that the Department has come across. The program has been very successful in educating and finding solutions for the parents and children.

*Sgt. Scott Graham- Patrol Division Supervisor*



**Reminder to ALWAYS wear your seatbelt!**



**FYI: Once the red warning lights on a school bus have been activated, you must stop your vehicle. Remember, even in a school yard, you must not pass a stopped school bus with its alternately flashing red warning lights activated.**

**Please be safe and always watch for children!**

If you have questions regarding policing, Vermont laws, issues regarding police policy, Etc., you can submit your questions online to [willipdchief@gmail.com](mailto:willipdchief@gmail.com) and your questions along with answers may make our next edition.



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Please submit any questions or suggestions.