

SMITHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



Issue 1, July 2010

CHIEF'S CORNER

ID SCANNER AWARDED - On Wednesday, June 23, 2010, the Smithfield Police Department and the Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition held a breakfast meeting on the campus of Bryant University. The meeting, which focused on reducing underage drinking, included discussion on new strategies and review of relevant laws and ordinances.

In appreciation of their attendance at the meeting, B&C Liquors was awarded an ID scanner which will assist co-owner Norberto Alvarado and his employees in ensuring that underage persons do not purchase alcoholic beverages from his store. Mr. Alvarado is shown here with Police Chief Richard St.Sauveur and the new ID scanner.



POLICE BLOTTER HIGHLIGHTS

ARMED ROBBERY SUSPECTS ARRESTED - On Tuesday, March 4, 2010, at approximately 9:30p.m., the Smithfield Police Department responded to the Fuel Depot, located at

644 Putnam Pike, for a reported armed robbery. Police learned two males wearing hooded type jackets entered the store, brandished a black semi-automatic type handgun and demanded money. The suspects left the store on foot, headed east on Putnam Pike, with an undetermined amount of cash and cigarettes.

After a lengthy investigation, on Friday, June 11, 2010, the Smithfield Police along with the North Smithfield, Cumberland, Woonsocket, Lincoln, and Attleboro Police arrested three men involved in a number of robberies throughout this state and Massachusetts. The Smithfield Police are charging the men with 1st degree armed robbery and conspiracy. Charged is Joshua Becker age 23, of Woonsocket, Gregory Hubert, age 19, of Woonsocket, and Matthew Pina, age 23, of Cumberland.

TRAFFIC SAFETY

STILLWATER / RIDGE / LIMEROCK - Throughout the year our traffic enforcement program is continually being examined and evaluated. Along with our ongoing efforts in areas that generate the highest number of traffic crashes, we allocate and deploy resources based on traffic complaints from residents. Prior to each shift going on patrol, shift commanders assign posts and direct their officers to these problem areas. The traffic posts are updated weekly to reflect the changes in enforcement focus.


"To be recognized as the most professional, well respected, highly trained, proactive, community-oriented law enforcement agency in Rhode Island."

SMITHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT VISION STATEMENT

Recently, we have targeted the areas of Stillwater Rd, Ridge Rd, and Limerock Rd. We first set up our recently acquired Variable Messaging Sign (VMS), alerting motorists that we would be strictly enforcing stop sign violations. Shortly thereafter, officers began targeting that location during peak travel times. Although the VMS has since been moved to a new location, officers continue to take posts in the area to address these violations. Additionally, the police department has requested that the Smithfield Department of Public Works make re-striping these intersections a priority, once they begin striping work for the year. All traffic concerns should be forward to Sgt. Pezzullo 231-2500 (ext. 119).



R.I. General Laws, §31-20-9, Obedience to stop signs:

 *“Every driver of a vehicle approaching a stop sign shall stop before entering the crosswalk on the near side of the intersection. In the event there is no crosswalk, the driver shall stop at a clearly marked stop line, but if none, then at the point nearest the intersecting highway where the driver has a view of approaching traffic on the intersecting highway before entering the intersection, except when directed to proceed by a police officer or traffic control signal.”* Violations are subject to an \$85.00 fine.

CRIME PREVENTION TIPS

809 AREA CODE SCAM - Recently, emails about a scam known as the “809 Area Code Scam” have been circulating on the internet. Smithfield residents should be aware of this scam so they do not return calls to high cost, pay-per-minute phone numbers. Citizens can fall victim to this scam when they receive a message from a number in the 809 area code, or other foreign area codes. The caller attempts to get the person to call back by telling them that there is a family member in distress or that they have won a prize. When a person calls the number back, they are charged as much as \$25.00 per minute on their phone bill. This is much like calling a “1-900” number in the United States. 809 and other similar area codes originate in the Caribbean. 809 is not the only area code that these scams originate from. This is an international call, but does not require a country code, so residents do not realize they are calling internationally. 809 is an area code no different

than 401, however these countries do not have a different exchange for pay per minute numbers. In fact, most 809 numbers are regular, legitimate phone numbers. Once a call is made, the local phone company will bill you on behalf of the foreign company. Residents should return calls only to familiar numbers and area codes. If you think you have been scammed, contact the carrier with whom the charge originated, or your service provider, and file a complaint with the Federal Communications Commission. As always, a common sense rule should apply when deciding whether to return a call. If you can think of no legitimate reason why someone would be calling you from a foreign location, then **DO NOT RETURN THE CALL!**

QUICK TIP - Any email to you from someone you do not know, especially from someone in another country, that contains any promise of something good is a SCAM. Delete the email. Do not reply to the email. Do not attempt to call the “Nigerian Foreign Lottery Claim Service” to collect your prize.



ANONYMOUS SAFETY LINE - It is the policy of the Smithfield Police Department to provide citizens with an anonymous means to forward complaints and/or information to the Department, as well as to facilitate additional flow of information from the community to the Department. A dedicated telephone line has been established specifically for this purpose by which tipsters can provide the Department with any and all types of information by calling (401) 233-1019.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

NIGHT BASKETBALL – The Smithfield Police Department will be teaming up with the Recreation Department and others to sponsor night basketball games for *local Smithfield youths*. The games will be held at the Deerfield Park basketball courts on the following Wednesdays: June 30th, July 7th, July 14th, July 21st, and July 28th, between 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. *Smithfield youths* (grades 5-8) are encouraged to participate by playing basketball, serving as timekeepers, or simply cheering on friends and enjoying these relationship-building evenings. There are no fees or registration. For more information contact the Smithfield Police Department Community Policing Unit 231-2500 (ext. 202).