

POLICE DEPARTMENT

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



Issue 4, December 2010

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Charity Bowling Tournament – On Friday, December 3rd, 2010, the Town of Smithfield hosted a Bowling Tournament to Benefit the Smithfield Welfare Department Holiday Fund. The tournament was held at Town Hall Bowling Lanes in Johnston. Several Police Department members and their families participated in the event, and the 5-person team who took home the first place honors, were some familiar faces of the Smithfield Police Department.



PHOTO: (Left to Right) Detective Lieutenant Kenneth A. Brown, Jr., Deputy Chief Robert W. VanNieuwenhuyze, Chief Richard P. St.Sauveur, Jr., Officer Gary E. Masterson, and Detective Sergeant Eric Dolan)

Smithfield Police Holiday Gift Programs - This year the Smithfield Police Department continued its participation in two gift programs to brighten the spirits of Rhode Island children during the Holiday Season. One program was coordinated through the Rhode Island Supreme Court. The Department received 50 index cards displaying a child's first name, age, size, and wishes. Department employees, in their typical generous fashion, ensured that every child listed on the index cards was provided with gifts this year.



PHOTO: (Left to Right) Captain Michael C. Rheume, Lorraine Pesaturo, Lisa DiSciullo, Melissa Peters, Chief Richard P. St.Sauveur, Jr., and Detective Lieutenant Kenneth A. Brown). Photo courtesy of *The Valley Breeze Observer*.

The Department also participated in the Kids, Cops, & Christmas Program. The Rhode Island State Police, Rhode Island Police Chiefs' Association, and law enforcement agencies statewide collected new,

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unwrapped presents to fulfill a wish for children who are clients of Crossroads Rhode Island. The goal of this particular program is to provide a positive holiday experience and to show children that police officers are their friends and are in the community to help them. Department employees contributed many gifts to this program, as well.

D.A.R.E. Skating Party - On Thursday, December 2nd, 2010 Smithfield *D.A.R.E.* officers hosted a 5th grade *D.A.R.E.* skating event. The event welcomed all of 5th grade elementary students in the town. They all came together for a fun time of skating with friends and hanging out with the *D.A.R.E.* Officers.

CRIME PREVENTION TIPS

Holiday Shopping Tips - With the holiday shopping season upon us, the December Crime Prevention tips offer suggestions on how to shop more safely, especially when using parking facilities.

- Make sure all vehicle doors, the trunk or rear hatch are locked, and all windows are closed completely. Leaving a door unlocked or a window open, provides the opportunity for someone to gain entry to your vehicle.
- Place all valuables out of sight. If you can't lock them away in the trunk then cover them with a blanket. If you are parking all day at work or at a shopping center you may want to return to your vehicle and move it to a closer location with better lighting, when possible.
- If you are parking at night choose an area of the parking lot that is well lit. Avoid parking close to bushes, trees or walls that could provide cover for someone. Avoid parking next to vans or other high-sided vehicles such as delivery or tractor trailer trucks.
- Look around before leaving your vehicle. Are there suspicious people loitering unnecessarily in the area? If there is, park somewhere else and notify security or police.
- Get into the habit of entering and exiting your vehicle as quickly as possible. Avoid opening the doors before you have gathered together all the items you intend to take with you. Do not make yourself an "easy" target by being pre-occupied or over-burdened with items.
- When returning to your vehicle, look for suspicious persons or activity as you approach. Look in the back

seat and cargo area of your vehicle before getting in and make sure no one has gained entry or is inside your vehicle.

- Remember to set your car alarm and any other security devices you have available to you when you leave your vehicle. Make use of alarm stickers or decals. If you don't have an alarm system, get one installed or purchase a steering wheel locking device.
- When using valet parking, only leave the keys that you need to start the vehicle with the attendant. Never leave personal keys such as those for your home or workplace on the key ring and never give the attendant keys that are marked with a key code or have a home address tag attached to your key ring.
- When parking in a lot that charges a fee always take the ticket with you, don't leave it in the vehicle. A thief will need that ticket to exit the parking lot with your vehicle.
- Whenever possible, shop with others and consider carpooling to work as an alternative to parking alone.



TRAFFIC SAFETY

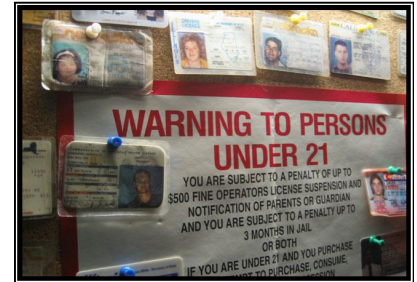
Winter Driving Safety Tips - The best advice for driving in bad winter weather is not to drive at all, if you can avoid it. Don't go out until the snow plows and sanding trucks have had a chance to do their work, and allow yourself extra time to reach your destination. If you must drive in snowy conditions, make sure your car is prepared, and that you know how to handle road conditions. It's helpful to practice winter driving techniques in a snowy, open parking lot, so you're familiar with how your car handles. Consult your owner's manual for tips specific to your vehicle. Here are some tips for driving safely on icy roads:

- Decrease your speed and leave yourself plenty of room to stop. You should allow at least three times more space than usual between you and the car in front of you.
- Brake gently to avoid skidding. If your wheels start to lock up, ease off the brake.



- Turn on your lights to increase your visibility to other motorists.
- Keep your lights and windshield clean.
- Use low gears to keep traction, especially on hills.
- Don't use cruise control or overdrive on icy roads.
- Be especially careful on bridges, overpasses and infrequently traveled roads, which will freeze first. Even at temperatures above freezing, if the conditions are wet, you might encounter ice in shady areas or on exposed roadways like bridges.
- Don't pass snow plows and sanding trucks. The drivers have limited visibility, and you're likely to find the road in front of them worse than the road behind.
- Don't assume your vehicle can handle all conditions. Even four-wheel and front-wheel drive vehicles can encounter trouble on winter roads.

Alcohol Compliance Checks - The Smithfield Police Department continues to work with local liquor license holders in addressing the sale of alcohol to underage persons. The Police provide trainings to educate servers on State Law and local town ordinances. The department loans out ID scanners to license holders to assist in the detection of fraudulent identification. In October 2010 the department received the second phase of the Drug Free Communities Grant. The funding assisted in alcohol enforcement operations, which consisted of Cops & Shops, Underage Alcohol decoy checks, Party Patrols and Responsible Beverage Server Trainings.



DEPARTMENT NEWS

Drug Recognition Expert – Patrol Officer Thomas J. Coleman, a five-year veteran of the Smithfield Police Department, recently completed Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) training. The training colloquium and practicum consisted of sixteen hours of Advanced Roadside Impairment Detection and Enforcement, followed by twenty-four hours of Drug Recognition Expert Pre-School and fifty-six hours of Drug Recognition School. During the DRE training, he participated in two alcohol workshops evaluating alcohol-dosed individuals, in addition to twelve practicum evaluations of persons in protective custody for narcotics abuse. The final training consisted of evaluations of the incoming prison population at the 4th Street Jail complex in Phoenix, Arizona and work-release inmates in June of 2010. Over the course of the training Officer Coleman worked hands-on with officers from across New England, Arizona, Montana and Canada, and performed nearly thirty formal evaluations while observing close to one hundred evaluations of persons under the influence of substances as varied as paint thinner and PCP to crystal methamphetamine. He spent several hundred hours evaluating persons severely impaired by illicit narcotics, prescription drugs, abuse of common household chemicals and over the counter medications. This training and experience will allow him to assist the Department and outside agencies by conducting a standardized and systematic examination in a controlled environment, of a person who has been arrested or is suspected of drug-impaired driving.

SAFETY TIPS

TECHNOLOGY RESOURCE TIPS FOR PARENTS - More than ever before, today's kids need their parents to help them acquire the skills to use time wisely. Technology has opened many doors to vast amounts of information, social networks around the world, and new career development opportunities. Parents can help kids be selective in using technology for learning as well as for entertainment purposes by modeling lifelong learning skills and monitoring their kids' use of software and the Internet. In order to do this, parents need to be technology savvy. Here are a couple of helpful websites for parents: Visit the **Parent Tech Guide** website to learn more about parenting in the digital age. www.parenttechguide.com, the **National Parent Teacher Association** has initiatives in educational technology to help parents stay involved in their schools' technology activities. www.pta.org



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.

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Have a Safe & Happy Holiday Season



Photo courtesy of Gene Hutnak Photography.

From Chief Richard P. St.Sauveur, Jr., and the dedicated men and women of the Smithfield Police Department