

SMITHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Issue 5, April 2011

DEPARTMENT NEWS

TORCH RUN PLUNGE - On Sunday, March 13th the 4th Annual Torch Run Plunge was held at Easton's Beach, in Middletown. The event featured 250 dedicated men, women and children from law enforcement, fire service, corrections and civilians that raised money through sponsorships for Special Olympics RI. These men, women and children plunged into the freezing bay to raise nearly \$34,000 for a great charity. Congratulations to Officer Orlando Braxton, who dared to take the plunge! Officer Braxton serves on the Special Olympics RI Torch Run Committee. ♦



Photo (left to right): lots of cold people, including Officer Orlando Braxton

SMITHFIELD F.O.P. SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY-
For the 16th consecutive year, the Smithfield Fraternal Order of Police, Lodge No.17, is proud to sponsor the *Sergeant Norman G. Vezina Memorial Scholarship*.



This award is given to honor the memory of Sgt. Vezina who died in the line of duty while attempting to save the life of another. The Smithfield F.O.P. will accept applications from graduating high school seniors, who are residents of the Town of Smithfield, **or** any graduating student who is the child of a member in good standing of



the Smithfield F.O.P., Lodge No.17. Preference will be given to those applicants who pursue an education in Law Enforcement, Criminal Justice or Administration of Justice. This year, at least 1 one thousand dollar (\$1,000.00) scholarship will be awarded to a student who has demonstrated academic excellence, citizenship, and commitment to his or her high school community.

Applications can be obtained at the Smithfield Police Department and at the school guidance department. Questions, concerns and requests for electronic copies of the application should be forwarded to the Secretary of Smithfield F.O.P., Lodge No.17, Sergeant Gerald P. Pezzullo, Jr. at gerald.pezzullo@fop.net or by phone at 401-231-2500 ext.119. Applications are due by May 6th, 2011. ♦

CHIEF'S CORNER

SURPRISE VISIT – Chief Richard P. St.Sauveur, Jr., recently visited Anna M. McCabe Elementary School to show “a very surprised” Joseph Paiva one of the Smithfield Police Department’s brand new cruisers. Joseph is a fourth grader who wrote a letter to Chief St.Sauveur, explaining his interest in police cars and in becoming a police officer. Along with his letter, Joseph included a drawing of a Smithfield Police cruiser. Chief St.Sauveur and Joseph are shown here with one of the department’s new, slick-top cruisers which will be utilized to provide a covert approach to traffic law violations in town. ♦



Photo (left to right): Joseph Paiva, Chief St.Sauveur

“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

PROMOTIONS AND NEW OFFICERS – On Wednesday, February 16th, 2011 a ceremony was held at the Smithfield Senior Center to recognize the promotion of three veteran officers as well as the public swearing-in of three new officers.

Captain Kenneth A. Brown, Jr. was sworn in as a full-time police officer on June 5th, 1990, and graduated from the Rhode Island Municipal Police Academy (RIMPA) on November 30th of that same year. On January 31st of this year, he was promoted to the rank of captain and now serves as the uniform division Commander, in charge of Patrol Operations. Captain Brown graduated from Smithfield High School (SHS) in June of 1984 and received his Associate of Science degree in criminal justice from Roger Williams University (RWU) in May of 2003. In 2009, he received his Bachelor of Science degree in criminal justice, also from RWU.

Lieutenant E. Eric Dolan was sworn-in as a full-time police officer on August 9th, 1994, and graduated from the RIMPA later that year. On January 31st of this year, he was promoted to the rank of lieutenant and continues to serve in the detective division. Lieutenant Dolan graduated from Smithfield high school in June of 1987 and received a Bachelor of Arts degree in communications from Rhode Island College in May of 1992. He also received his Bachelor of Science degree in criminal justice from Roger Williams University in August of 2001.

Sergeant Gregg L. Catlow II was sworn-in as a full-time officer following his graduation from the police academy on November 27th, 2002. In March of 2010 he was permanently transferred into detectives and was promoted to his current rank on January 24th of this year. Sergeant Catlow graduated from Smithfield high school in June of 1999 and received his Bachelor of Arts degree in administration of justice from Salve Regina University in May of 2002. He also received his Masters of Science degree in Justice & Homeland Security from Salve Regina University in May of 2009.

Patrol Officer Michael C. Proulx graduated from North Providence high school in June of 2003. He then received his Bachelor of Science degree in Human Services & Sciences from the University of Rhode Island in May of 2007. Officer Proulx graduated from the Rhode Island municipal police academy on December 17th, 2010.

Patrol Officer Justin E. Ferreira graduated from St. Raphael Academy in Pawtucket in June of 2005. He then received his Bachelor of Science degree in criminal justice from Bridgewater State College in May of 2009. Officer Ferreira also graduated from the Rhode Island municipal police academy on December 17th, 2010.

Patrol Officer Gary W. McDole graduated from North Providence high school in 2002. He then received his Associates Degree in Law Enforcement from the Community College of Rhode Island in 2005, and received his Bachelor of Arts degree in justice studies from Rhode Island College in 2007. He graduated from the Rhode Island Municipal police academy in 2009 and prior to being hired by the Smithfield police department, officer McDole worked as a police officer for the Brown University Department of Public Safety. ♦



Photo (left to right): Lt. E. Eric Dolan, Sgt. Gregg L. Catlow II, Capt. Kenneth A. Brown, Jr.



Photo (left to right): Ptl. Gary W. McDole, Ptl. Justin E. Ferreira, Ptl. Michael C. Proulx

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

DEA'S PRESCRIPTION DRUG TAKE-BACK EFFORT - This initiative addresses a vital public safety and public health issue. More than seven million Americans currently abuse prescription drugs, according to the 2009 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration's National Survey on Drug Use and Health. Each day, approximately, 2,500 teens use prescription drugs to get high for the first time according to the Partnership for a Drug Free America. Studies show that a majority of abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends, including the home medicine cabinet.



In an effort to address this problem, DEA, in conjunction with state and local law enforcement agencies throughout the United States, conducted the

first ever National Prescription Drug Take Back Day on Saturday, September 25, 2010. The purpose of this National Take Back Day was to provide a venue for persons who wanted to dispose of unwanted and unused prescription drugs. This effort was a huge success in removing potentially dangerous prescription drugs, particularly controlled substances, from our nation's medicine cabinets. There were approximately 3,000 state and local law enforcement agencies throughout the nation that participated in the event. All told, the American Public turned in more than 121 tons of pills on this first National Take Back Day.

Due to the overwhelming success of the first event, DEA has scheduled the second National Prescription Drug Take Back Day which will take place at the Smithfield Police Department on **Saturday, April 30, 2011, from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm**. This is a great opportunity for those who missed the first event or who have subsequently accumulated unwanted, unused prescription drugs, to safely dispose of them. **PLEASE NO LIQUID MEDICATIONS.** ♦

YMCA 6TH ANNUAL HEALTHY KIDS DAY & BIG TRUCK DAY EVENT - Saturday, April 16th, 2011, noon – 2:00pm, at the Smithfield YMCA on Deerfield Drive. (Raindate, Saturday, April 23rd, 2011) ♦

WILD FOR WINSOR 5K - Saturday, April 2nd, 2011, **Time:** 8:30 AM kids race, 10:00 AM 5K race, **Location:** Deerfield Park, Smithfield, RI, 5k Road Race to raise money for William Winsor Elementary School. <http://wildforwinsor5k.com/> ♦

CRIME PREVENTION TIPS

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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SMITHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT VISION STATEMENT

SAFETY TIPS FOR PARENTS

(...AND GRANDPARENTS)

NHTSA RELEASES NEW CHILD SEAT GUIDELINES
“Keep your child rear-facing as long as possible. It’s the best way to keep him or her safe. Your child should remain in a rear-facing car seat until he or she reaches the top height or weight limit allowed by your car seat’s manufacturer. Once your child outgrows the rear-facing car seat, your child is ready to travel in a forward-facing car seat with a harness.”

Recommendations For All Ages - Select a car seat based on your child's age, height, and weight. All children under 13 should ride in the back seat. Follow the car seat manufacturer's instructions and your vehicle owner's manual on how to install.

Get Help - Certified technicians are available to check your car seat installation for free. For more info go to: <http://www.nhtsa.gov/Safety/CPS>.

The Smithfield Police Department will be conducting car seat clinics. If you would like to schedule an appointment please call the Community Policing Unit 231-2500 ext. 202.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Crashes are the leading cause of death for children from 3 to 14 years old.
- An estimated 8,959 lives were saved by child restraints from 1975 to 2008.
- You can register your child seat and receive notifications of defects and recalls.

Car Seat Recommendations for Children

- Select a car seat based on your child's age and size, and choose a seat that fits in your vehicle and use it every time.
- Always refer to your specific car seat manufacturer's instructions; read the vehicle owner's manual on how to install the car seat using the seat belt or LATCH system; and check height and weight limits.
- To maximize safety, keep your child in the car seat for as long as possible, as long as the child fits within the manufacturer's height and weight requirements.
- Keep your child in the back seat at least through age 12.



AGE



Birth – 12 months

Your child under age 1 should always ride in a rear-facing car seat. There are different types of rear-facing car seats: Infant-only seats can only be used rear-facing. Convertible and 3-in-1 car seats typically have higher height and weight limits for the rear-facing position, allowing you to keep your child rear-facing for a longer period of time.



1 – 3 years

Keep your child rear-facing as long as possible. It's the best way to keep him or her safe. Your child should remain in a rear-facing car seat until he or she reaches the top height or weight limit allowed by your car seat's manufacturer. Once your child outgrows the rear-facing car seat, your child is ready to travel in a forward-facing car seat with a harness.



4 – 7 years

Keep your child in a forward-facing car seat with a harness until he or she reaches the top height or weight limit allowed by your car seat's manufacturer. Once your child outgrows the forward-facing car seat with a harness, it's time to travel in a booster seat, but still in the back seat.



8 – 12 years

Keep your child in a booster seat until he or she is big enough to fit in a seat belt properly. For a seat belt to fit properly the lap belt must lie snugly across the upper thighs, not the stomach. The shoulder belt should lie snug across the shoulder and chest and not cross the neck or face. Remember: your child should still ride in the back seat because it's safer there.

DESCRIPTION (RESTRAINT TYPE)



A **REAR-FACING CAR SEAT** is the best seat for your young child to use. It has a harness and in a crash, cradles and moves with your child to reduce the stress to the child's fragile neck and spinal cord.



A **FORWARD-FACING CAR SEAT** has a harness and tether that limits your child's forward movement during a crash.



A **BOOSTER SEAT** positions the seat belt so that it fits properly over the stronger parts of your child's body.



A **SEAT BELT** should lie across the upper thighs and be snug across the shoulder and chest to restrain the child safely in a crash. It should not rest on the stomach area or across the neck.



www.facebook.com/childpassengersafety



<http://twitter.com/childseatsafety>

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