



THE SMITHFIELD THIN BLUE LINE

Smithfield Police Department

2nd Quarter 2009



Kristi Edwards - 10 years of service

Congratulations to Kristi Edwards, Smithfield Police Department Records Custodian, for 10 years of dedicated service to the Town of Smithfield. She was recently recognized for this milestone and was presented a plaque by Town Manager Peter Stephenson and Chief of Police Mark Marshall as a small token of appreciation for her of years service. She was originally hired by the Town in 1997 part-time as the Town Receptionist. After a year she took a full-time job with another employer. Kristi came back to the Town of Smithfield full-time in 1999 as the Town Receptionist until 2004, when she was transferred to the Smithfield Police Department, working in Records Administration. Her computer skills, time management skills, people skills, and plethora of knowledge have proven her to be a valuable asset to the Smithfield Police Department. Congratulations Kristi!

Uniform Accoutrements for Service



The Smithfield Police Department requires all sworn officers to wear approved uniforms and accoutrements. Years of service to the Department are represented by a gold bar worn on the lower left arm of the long sleeve service shirt. Each gold bar represents four years of service to the Police Department. The following officers were recently recognized for their years of honorable service.

- Captain Alonzo Howell, 16 years of service, November 2008
- Sgt. Detective Jim Tragesser, 4 years of service, August 2008
- Officer Patrick Valdez, 4 years of service, February 2008
- Officer Ron Bryan, 4 years of service, August 2008
- Officer Robert Fox, 4 years of service, October 2008

If you see these individuals on patrol, make sure to congratulate them on their dedication to the Town of Smithfield. Their commitment helps ensure the citizens of Smithfield enjoy the benefits of a knowledgeable and professional Police Department.

It's a Boy! Patrick Graham Valdez

Congratulations to Officer Patrick Valdez and his wife Katie on the newest addition to their family, Patrick Graham Valdez, pictured with his "big" brother Isaac. Graham was born on December 22nd at 6:22 pm, weighed 7 lbs 11 ounces and was 20 1/4" long.



PHOTO FLASHBACK
Can you guess which Smithfield Police Department employee this is? Answer on next page

Hometown Hero Fund Raiser

The Smithfield American Legion Post 49, in conjunction with the Isle of Wight County Fair, will be hosting a motorcycle Poker Run to benefit Lt. Kurt Beach of the Smithfield Police Department. The run is scheduled for September 20th, and will end with all bikes riding in to the fairgrounds for VIP parking. This will be a non-profit event with proceeds from the ride going to the Kurt Beach Medical Fund. You can check the Isle of Wight County Fair website at www.thefairiscoming.com for information as it becomes available. Also check the Smithfield Times and Daily Press as the event gets closer for more information. So plan on firing up your ride and coming out to support a real Hometown Hero!

Firearms Safety in the Home

According to the National Sport Shooting Foundation and the National Security Council accidents involving firearms in the home have decreased significantly over the last twenty years. This is due to better education on the issue of firearms safety, as well as firearms owners taking responsibility for safe firearm handling practices by all family members. By strictly following some common-sense rules, parents and children can prevent firearm accidents in the home.



Safe and Secure Storage Options

The primary options most people use to safely store their firearms are firearm lock, firearm case/cabinet, and a firearm safe. The most secure means of firearm security is the safe, which provides varying degrees of protection against fire and forced entry. A cabinet has a locking device intended only as access deterrence from unauthorized persons, especially children and is not designed to withstand forced entry. A firearm lock is a low tech device used to prevent the weapon from functioning. Always check municipal, county, state, and federal law for any requirements for the safe storage of firearms and ammunition and legal use.

Sporting Firearms

Sporting firearms should always be unloaded before they are brought into the house, and it should never be loaded inside the home. The sporting firearm and ammunition should be stored separately, secured, and out of the reach of children. It is a good practice to clean and place firearms in their proper storage location as soon as possible from a hunting trip or a day at the range. Treat all firearms as if they were loaded, re-check them completely and often to make sure that they are in fact unloaded. Accidents have occurred from circumstances in which a family member has borrowed or loaned a firearm and returned it to storage while it was still loaded. It is also your responsibility for making certain that the firearms in your home are not casually accessible to anyone - especially curious young people.

Firearms for Home Security

The decision to maintain a loaded firearm in the home for self-protection is a serious, personal matter. Any added safety benefit gained depends in large measure on the owner's having the appropriate training and a clear understanding of safe handling and storage rules and practices. Factors such as individual temperament, reaction to emergency situations, specific domestic circumstances and support for your having a firearm in the home from other adults in the household must be considered. Here are some useful websites related to firearms safety:

www.projectchildsafe.org www.nrahq.org www.kidsandguns.org www.nssf.org www.nra.org

DEA Launches Website for Parents

www.GetSmartAboutDrugs.com was developed as a resource for parents/caregivers to help identify drug abuse, prevent children from using drugs, and find resources for substance abuse prevention in an informative, non-technical manner.

The website was introduced at the National Leadership Forum of one of DEA's partner organizations, the Community Anti-Drugs Coalition of America. Acting Administrator Michele M. Leonhart said, "In this fight, information is power, and DEA's new website has current, accurate, and practical information about how to spot signs of abuse, identify drugs and paraphernalia, and how to talk to teens about drugs."



PHOTO FLASHBACK answer: Officer T. Davenport

Identify Drugs and Behavior

So you've found a pill on the carpet in a corner of your child's room, and she stammered a lot when you asked about it. Your radar is sounding. You don't want to make assumptions, but you're a little worried. It occurs to you that you really don't know much about the kinds of things teens are confronted with these days, especially when it comes to drugs. And the whole subject of drug abuse is so complicated! There's so much to know - and so much at stake. Information is available you can use to help you and your child navigate today's murky social waters when it comes to drugs. .

Help is available! www.GetSmartAboutDrugs.com has a section on identifying drug use and behavior. This section of the website will give you information you can use to help you and your child navigate today's murky social waters when it comes to drugs. This website will assist you to learn what sorts of products in your home can be abused by kids to get high. On the Identify page you will find links to the following pages: Visual Glossary, Drugs, Signs of Drug Use, What is Drug Paraphernalia, Drug Use Patterns, and Consequences.



Marijuana is the most widely used illicit drug among teenagers in the U.S.

VEHICLE SAFETY

So you've finally found a parking place for your car, but did you remember to...

- Remove valuables from the seats and/or floor area BEFORE arriving at your destination?
- Avoid parking on deserted street?
- Report suspicious activities to the police or parking attendant?
- Check your vehicle/tag when you return?

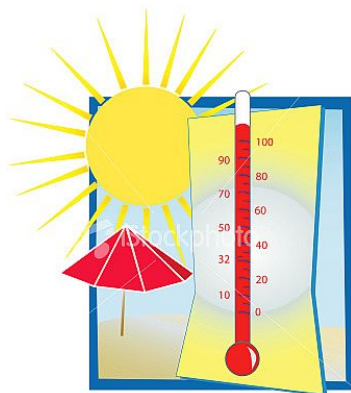


HAVE YOUR CHECKED YOU TAG LATELY?

Many criminals count on you never noticing that your tag is missing, until they have left the scene. When was the last time you actually walked around your vehicle to check your tag? Most people can honestly say "almost never". Checking the exterior of your vehicle should be a part of your daily routine, whether your car is parked in your driveway or in a parking lot! Running into the gas station or the store for a moment? Check your tag when you return to your vehicle. Do you know your tag number? You should carry the information in your wallet or take a picture with your cell phone for a quick reference. If you discover your tag is missing, contact the police department so a report can be filed.

Summer Danger for Children - Hot Cars

Approximately 25 children a year die as a result of being left or becoming trapped in hot vehicles. Cars parked in direct sunlight can reach internal temperatures of 131° F - 172° F when outside temperatures are 80° F - 100° F. Temperatures in the 60s can cause a car temperature to rise above 110° F. In warm weather a vehicle can warm to dangerous, life-threatening levels in 10 minutes. Very high body temperatures can cause damage to the brain and other vital organs, as well as heat stroke and death. Body temperature may rise to 106° F or higher within 10 to 15 minutes. A body temperature of 107° F is lethal.



Some of the most tragic incidents happen when adult caretakers forget a child is in the vehicle. This frequently happens when a parent or guardian breaks an established routine and leaves a child in the car. Often they do not realize that they left the child in the vehicle until hours later.

Not all children who die in hot cars are left there by adults. Many children climb into unlocked vehicles without their parents' or guardians' knowledge. Once in the car, they may become confused by the door handle's configuration and be unable to open the door from the inside. Also, children may accidentally lock doors by leaning on a power control device and be unable to get out. According to a National SAFE KIDS Campaign survey, only half of all parents lock their cars when they park at home.

Please keep these facts in mind when you have children, and pets, in your car!

Proper display of your Smithfield town tag

Almost everyone who lives in town is familiar with the Smithfield town tag for vehicles, that blue tag that proudly bears our town's name. The tag is managed by the treasurer's office. By January 15th, the town treasurer sends a vehicle application for the upcoming year to all residents whose personal property taxes are paid by December 5th. A \$20.00 fee is required to properly register a vehicle with the treasurer.

According to the Smithfield Town Code, section 78-51 "The town treasurer shall issue a license tag for each vehicle for which the tax prescribed by this article is paid. Such tag shall be displayed on the front of such vehicle at all times, so that it is plainly visible. Such tag shall be maintained in such condition that the numbers thereon shall be, at all times, clearly visible and clearly legible."

The town tag is blue, each year the treasurer issues a decal to show a vehicle is in compliance, this year the decal color is brown.

Here are a few tips for applying the decal. First, put the new decal over the old one, not beside it or on the other side of the tag. Secondly, make sure you put the town decal on the town tag, and not on your license plate.



Police Department receives Thermal Imager System

The Smithfield Police Department received a Bullard TacSight Thermal Imager System, valued at over \$20,000, courtesy of a grant from the Department of Homeland Security. Officer Bob Fox attended training in Washington D.C. on the operation of the equipment and is now a Certified Basic Thermographer. Engineered specifically for law enforcement, the Bullard TacSight Thermal Imager System provides a powerful and effective thermal imager with a complete array of accessories to support the full range of applications from surveillance and detection, to search and rescue, as well as hazmat and accident investigation. TACSIGHT is especially well suited for tactical operations in poorly lit conditions. The TACSIGHT thermal imager requires no light. Heat energy is detected from target objects or subjects, and seen by the camera operator as a clear visual image.



Night Vision Goggles awarded to Police Department via Grant



The Department of Homeland Security Commercial Equipment Direct Assistance Program is an important component of the Administrations coordinated effort to strengthen the Nation's overall level of preparedness. It enhances regional response capabilities and mutual aid by providing technology and equipment, together with training and technical assistance required to operate the equipment, to law enforcement, emergency responders and public safety agencies in smaller jurisdictions and certain metropolitan areas. This grant awarded the Smithfield Police Department a Night Enforcer lightweight monocular night vision device designed for nighttime operations, valued at more than \$5,000.

Boat Patrol awarded new gear from Port Security Grant

One of the core missions of the Department of Homeland Security is to enhance the ability of state, territory, local and tribal governments to prevent, protect against, respond to and recover from terrorist attacks and other disasters. It was this grant that awarded the Smithfield Police Department Boat Patrol with four sets of foul weather gear valued at \$5,000. Each set included cold weather survival gear, bomber jackets, anti exposure suits, inflatable flotation devices, boots, gloves and strobe lights. As an added safety feature, all items of clothing are also designed as personal flotation devices.



American Legion Veteran's Dinner

Sergeant Marty Roach, Officer Bob Fox and Officer Bryan Miller, all members of the American Legion and the American Legion Riders (ALR), recently took part in the annual ALR motorcycle ride from the Smithfield American Legion Post 49 to the Veterans Hospital in Hampton. They escorted two bus loads of disabled veterans back to Smithfield for dinner and camaraderie. Music was provided by an Air Force band from Langley Air Force Base. The veterans and Legion members had a great time. The ALR provided a motorcycle escort for the buses back to Hampton.



Officer Pablo Finelli in the processing room using LIVESCAN to capture an individuals fingerprints, an important step in the arrest process.



American Red Cross Training

The Smithfield Police Department took part in American Red Cross training in March of 2009. As a First Responder, it is quite possible a police officer will be the first person on scene where medical aid is required. Officer received training on CPR, AED, First Aid and blood borne pathogens.



Search and Rescue Training for Marine One

The Smithfield Marine Patrol Unit recently participated in the 2009 Search and Rescue (SAR) Forum for Hampton Roads, hosted by the Marine Incident Response Team and U.S. Coast Guard Sector Hampton Roads. The forum concentrated on essential SAR techniques. Those in attendance took part in classroom and on water drills. Classroom training included personal protective equipment, navigation equipment, search patterns, towing safety, and navigation. On water drills included practical application of sonar, towing, navigation and plotting, search patterns and night navigation.

