



WPD Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue 1

March/ April 2007

Special points of interest:

- Currently there are only 23 law enforcement agencies in Massachusetts, out of approximately 400 agencies, that have been granted this accreditation status.
- The Watertown Police Department has been accredited since 2003.

Inside this issue:

Miss America	2
Honorable Mention Award	3
Cross St's 70th Birthday	3
"Your" Forum -A reader's response	3
Upcoming Police Examination	4
Contractor Fraud Alert	4

Accreditation Assessment

During the first week of November the Watertown Police Department was re-assessed by a team of assessors representing the Massachusetts Police Accreditation Commission. After completing the multi-day assessment the team is recommending that the Watertown Police Department be re-accredited.

Currently there are only 23 law enforcement agencies in Massachusetts, out of approximately 400 agencies, that have been granted this accreditation status. The Watertown Police Department has been accredited since 2003.

The accreditation process is a progressive and time-proven way of helping institutions evaluate and improve their overall performance, increase efficiency and pro-

fessionalism. The key to this successful system lies in the consensus of published and circulated policies and procedures containing a clear statement of professional objectives.

The accreditation process consists of meeting a certain number of standards recommended by the Massachusetts Police Accreditation Program, which have been adopted from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA) and customized to the practices, laws and customs of Massachusetts' Law Enforcement Agencies. The standards provide a description of what must be accomplished by a participating agency, but allows the agency latitude in determining how it will achieve its compliance with each applicable

standard.

The attainment of state accreditation is one form of proof of the professionalism of the Watertown Police Department. Accreditation can increase the confidence of the general public in the effectiveness, efficiency, and responsiveness of our department.



Officer Brian Gannon - Army National Guard

He is known to us as Officer Brian P. Gannon, but when he isn't working on the streets of Watertown he is with the Army National Guard.

As a member of the Army National Guard he is, Chief Warrant Officer two Brian P. Gannon and is assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 126th Aviation Regiment located at Otis Air

National Guard Base, Cape Cod, MA.

Sept. 03'-Sept 04' he was stationed at Fort Rucker, AL for Basic Warrant Officer training course, as well as an entry level Rotary Wing Aviation training course. In Jan. 05' - March 05' he was stationed at Fort Indiantown Gap, PA enrolled in an ad-

vanced Aviation course for the Black Hawk Helicopter. Aug. 05' - Nov. 06', he was deployed in support of Iraqi Freedom.

Officer Gannon's Military responsibilities are now limited to standard weekend Drills each month and a two week annual training scheduled in June. We are happy to have him home and safe.

Miss America 2006 at Watertown Police Dept.

The Watertown Police Department was visited Friday November 17th by Miss. America 2006, Jennifer Berry.

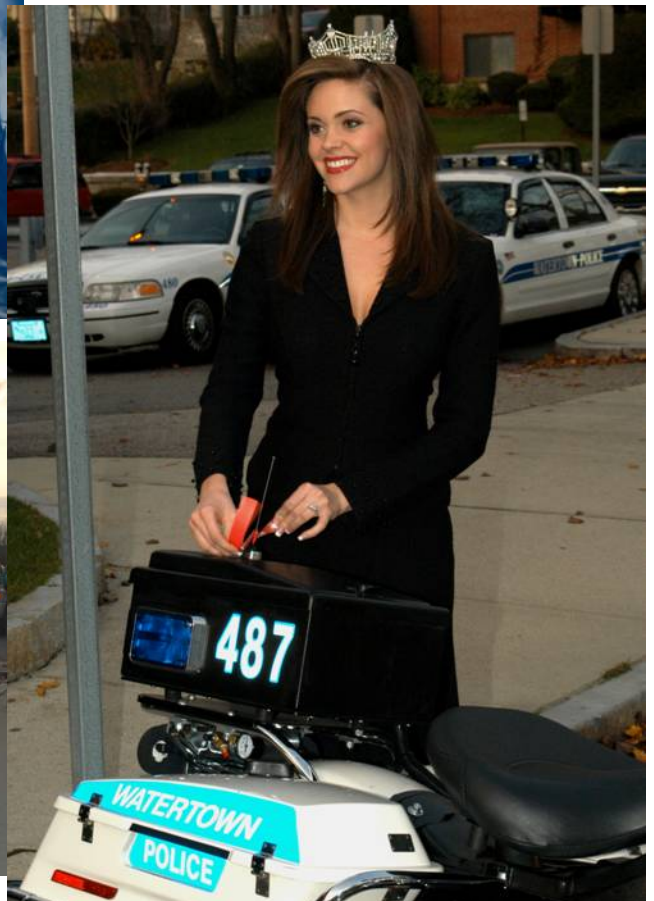
Ms. Berry is working in conjunction with MADD Massachusetts, and the Massachusetts State and local police for the launch of there 2006 Tie One on for Safety holiday safety ribbon campaign.

Ms. Berry was present for Friday's Roll Call, where she was greeted by Chief Deveau

and Members of the Watertown Police Department.

Ms. Berry was given a tour of the department, followed by a first hand look of our police cruisers and motor cycles.

Ms. Berry's visit was enjoyed by all and her message for motorists to drive safe and sober during the holiday season was heard loud and clear.



2006 Massachusetts Law Enforcement Challenge

The Watertown Police Department received the 4th Place – Gold Category MLEC award for traffic safety programs during the 2005 calendar year. The Challenge is a joint effort of the Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association (MPOCA) and the Governor's Highway Safety Bureau (GHSB), a program of the Executive Office of Public Safety.

This awards program recognizes police departments for their traffic safety efforts in 2005 to reduce motor vehicle-

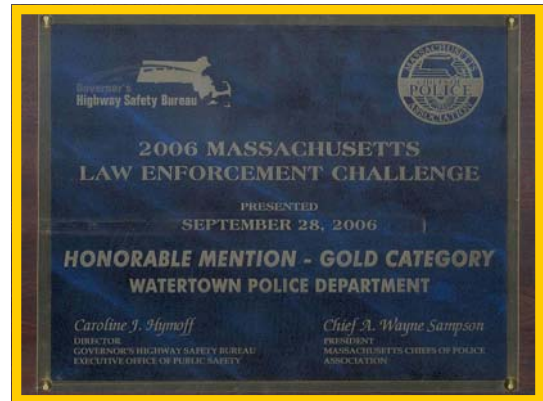
related fatalities, injuries and economic loss in communities by combining traffic enforcement with public information and education.

The MLEC is modeled after the national Law Enforcement Challenge presented annually by the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP).

The Watertown Police Department was entered into their first MLEC this year and through their hard work came in fourth place out of 22 entries

throughout the Commonwealth.

The Watertown Police is already looking forward to the 2006 MLEC and competing on the national level which will be awarded in 2007.



Happy Birthday 34 Cross St!!!

When did we begin at 34 Cross St? As a young patrolman I was always told that this building was taken over by the WPD in 1935 but no exact date was known. I decided to research the exact date and in the process found that the institutional memory was wrong.

A search of our in-house records for clues as to our start at 34 Cross St. proved negative. The search was going to be harder. I went to the Watertown Public Library and began to search through the archives. I searched the town's Annual Report to narrow the focus. Chief Milmore's annual re-

port to the town in the early 1930's continuously bemoaned the need for "adequate quarters" (new police station). A committee was reported to have been established in 1931 to search for a site for a new station. The Annual Report for 1935 has the following line from Chief Milmore "a new police station is at last a reality." So 1935 is where I began my search.

I started to read the microfiche records of the Watertown Sun of 1935 and was able to find the following stories: Oct. 31, 1935, *Town to Act on Pro-*

posed New Station, Nov. 14, 1935, *New Police Station Is Voted By Town On Cross Street Site*, Dec. 12, 1935, *State PWA Holds Police Station Bids* and Apr. 08, 1937, *Sheridan Turns New Police Station Over to the Town Fathers* and on Saturday April 03, 1937 the new police Station was accepted by the town. The keys were then turned over to Chief Milmore. The final cost for the building was \$90,000.00.

So on April 03, 2007 say Happy Birthday to 34 John Sonny Whooley Way (Cross St.) our home for 70 years.
Prepared by -Det. Sgt. William M. Logue

"Your" Forum

Securing your home... *A great suggestion by a fellow reader.* Look at your home through the burglar's eyes. Are there places where they could break in without being seen? Have you fitted *strong* locks on your doors and windows? Would they have to make a lot of noise by breaking glass?

Your front door should be made of solid wood and they should be tightly secured with a deadlock. In fact, install deadlocks on all of the external doors. Your front door should have a peephole and a screen door that can also be locked. The

screen door will place an additional barrier between yourself and whoever is at the door. If you have sliding doors, you need to secure them as they are definite weak spots. Another area that could be seen as a security weakness is a low or sagging fence, or a back gate with a weak lock.

Be sure to guard your keys very carefully. You should never leave a spare key in a hiding place just outside your front door. Some burglars are quite smart and will be able to figure out your hiding places quite easily. A better idea would be

to leave a spare with a family member or a trusted neighbor. The same can be done for your car keys.

Ensure your home looks occupied if you are going to be away. Use timed switches to turn on lights and radios when you are out.

You can reduce the risk of burglary happening to you by taking a few simple precautions, such as the ones listed above. For tips that may be more specific to your home and its design contacting a security company or viewing their website may be helpful.

Watertown Police Department

34 John "Sonny" Whooley Way
Watertown, MA 02472

Phone: 617-972-6500

Fax: 617-972-6526

Emergencies: 911

E-mail: police@police.watertown-ma.gov

We're on the Web!!!
<http://www.watertownpd.org>



MASSACHUSETTS HUMAN RESOURCES DIVISION OPEN COMPETITIVE EXAMINATION ANNOUNCEMENT NUMBER: 8580

POLICE OFFICER MUNICIPAL SERVICE AND MBTA

Examination Date: May 19, 2007

Application Deadline: April 2, 2007*

Examination Fee: \$75

Apply on-line with Visa or MasterCard at:

<https://www.csexam.hrd.state.ma.us/hrd/>

*Please note: There will be an additional \$25 dollar processing fee for applications received after this date. Applications **WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED** after April 23, 2007.



Contractor Fraud



Contractor and vendor fraud occurs when a contractor or someone posing as a contractor offers repair and debris removal services to victims, but does not provide the services. In many cases, the customer pays the fee up front and the repairman either fails to complete the job or never begins the job at all. The homeowner could be lured into paying in advance in return for a discounted price or to be prioritized at the top of the contractor's customer list. As another example, the repairs could be completed, but the victim wouldn't realize until later that the repairman used inferior supplies or construction methods. Often, this problem is not discovered until after the contractor is left the area.

Consider all your options before hiring a contractor. Take your time and verify that the contractor is licensed and insured. If a contractor is going door-to-door, this should raise suspicion. Normally, legitimate contractors will have more work than they can handle after a disaster. In a typical scam, the contractor says they have materials left over from another job and will offer you a discounted price. It is also important for the consumer to notice the contact information provided for the business. If a contractor does not have a local office or telephone number, this should raise suspicion.

The WPD strongly advises homeowners who are skeptical of a contractor to check references and also check with the Better Business Bureau and the Attorney Generals office to verify that the contractor is licensed and if there have been any complaints against them. If you have a question or think you might be being scammed contact your local police department before you become a victim. Prepared by Det. Lt. Michael Lawn