



# WPD Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue 2

May /June 2007

*Special points of interest:*

- **Please DO NOT provide alcohol for your child and their friends.**
- **55% of students reported drinking recently**
- **35% reported binge drinking (5 or more drinks in a couple hours)**
- **There are ways to help keep teens safe and healthy without spoiling their fun**

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## Underage Drinking

It is that time of year when students prepare for an exciting night at the prom, as seniors ready themselves for reaching an important milestone, high school graduation.

These times call for celebration for many years of hard work and dedication. Graduation is a wonderful time in the lives of proud students, family and friends. However, in some communities, this celebration is also a time of great sadness. Often with underage drinking and related high-risk behaviors, such as binge drinking and drinking and driving, devastating things can happen. Tragedies take many forms, some make the headlines, and others do not. Poor choices are made that affect the lives of our young people, sometimes forever.

We urge parents to be

cautious during this time of joy and celebration and **please do not provide alcohol for your child and their friends.** It is sometimes thought that providing it for them at home will keep them safe, but drinking and driving is only one of the high- risk behaviors.

Youth are drinking in excess, requiring hospital treatment for acute alcohol poisoning and other unintentional injuries, while others are getting into difficult situations that they are unable to handle while intoxicated.

We know our youth drink. In a 2005 Watertown High School Youth Risk Behavior Survey 55% of students reported drinking recently, and 35% reported binge drinking (5 or more drinks in a couple hours). Of those youth who drink, most

reported accessing alcohol through parties, siblings, friends, or parents.

There are ways to help keep teens safe and healthy without spoiling their fun. **The Watertown Youth Coalition**, with its youth, parents, school, community, and town representatives encourages youth to make healthy choices and reduce risky behaviors through parent, youth and community education and promotion of healthy activities for youth. For more information please call: 617-926-3600 or email

[watertownyouthcoalition@waysideyouth.org](mailto:watertownyouthcoalition@waysideyouth.org).



## Recruits... no longer

This time last year we were announcing the welcoming of our 1st ever W.P.D. newsletter as well as the new police appointees. This year I am happy to announce that they are no longer appointees or recruits, they are full-time Watertown

Police Officers.

As of January, we have seven new police officers that have completed their academy time, and subsequently their field training. Each of the seven officers are patrolling the streets of Watertown on their own.

Each officer has been assigned an area of Watertown that they will routinely patrol.

So if you see a new young officer on the street, take a moment and introduce yourself.

## Get to know your neighbors...

There are advantages to knowing your neighbors. It's beneficial for the safety of our homes and children that neighbors look out for one another. It's helpful if neighbors can spot a stranger on the street, and especially if one is lurking near your home. Children need to know where they can turn in an emergency and the difference between a friendly neighbor and a stranger.

A concerned community helps to create a sense of well being and safety for all.

With the hectic lifestyle most of us lead, it's much

harder to get to know our neighbors than it used to be. Between rushing to our jobs, racing to drop the kids off at daycare, running off with them to soccer practice, or catching up on weekend errands, people seem to spend very little time around their home.

That's why many communities organize block parties. Block parties provide the opportunity for neighbors to socialize at least once a year, and even if you don't become best friends, it becomes a little easier to identify a neighbor from another passerby.

Here are some of the basic guidelines for organizing a block party here in Watertown: You complete an application (\$25 fee) and Block party street closing form at the Clerk's office, you must have a minimum of 10 days notice, and the block party needs to end by no later than 10PM. If you have more questions on how you can plan a block party for your neighborhood, call 617-972-6486.

Below: (left) Ofc. Rodriguez, West End residents & (right) Councilor D- John Lawn



## "Your" Forum- Jury Duty Scam

This is real... Please pass along the information to anyone you know. Most people get a summons for jury duty and take it very seriously, but some people try to ignore their civic duty and as a result they have opened the door for the scam artists. Basically, someone calls you pretending to be a court official and says in a threatening manner that a war-

rant has been issued for your arrest as a failure to report for jury duty. Usually what happens next is the person states that they never received a summons for jury duty. At this point the scam artist asks you for your Social Security number and date of birth so that he/she can verify the information and cancel the arrest warrant. If you give out this information,

you have just given the scammer what they need to steal your identity. This scam has already been reported in 11 other states.

The FBI and the federal court system have issued nationwide alerts on their website, warning consumers about the fraud.

Thanks to Herm Getrost for bringing this issue to the newsletter.

*"If you give out this information, you have just given the scammer what they need to steal your identity".*

## Police Athletic League (PAL)

The Watertown Police Department is pleased to announce the eleventh season of the Police Athletic League street hockey program, PAL. This program targets all Watertown youths in grades 4 through 8. This program is divided into two divisions; the eastern division comprised of 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades, and the western division comprised of 6<sup>th</sup>

through 8<sup>th</sup> grades. Games are played on Sundays at Arsenal Park from 1-5PM and are scheduled for the following dates: May 6, 20, 28 (Memorial Day Monday), June 3, 10, 17, and 24<sup>th</sup>. Watertown Police officers will coach the teams. A free cookout/picnic will be held during and after the games on June 24<sup>th</sup> for all participants and their immediate families.

Applications will be available through DARE Officer Anthony Fantasia in the schools or the main desk of the Watertown Police Department. Children should complete and return the application ASAP. Applicants will be notified which team they have been assigned to. In the event notification is not received please come to Arsenal Park on



Sunday May 20<sup>th</sup> to find out what team your son/daughter has been assigned to.

Any questions regarding the league may be directed to Sgt. Sampson at 617-972-6500.

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## Meet the Officers - Ofc. Garabedian

Officer Eric Garabedian began his career in law enforcement when he was given the opportunity to participate in an internship program at the Watertown Police Department under Lieutenant Justin Hanrahan as part of his college experience. The experience furthered his already existing interest in law enforcement.

Eric then attended Curry College where he earned his bachelors degree in Criminal Justice. Not long after graduat-

ing college, he attended and graduated from the M.B.T.A. Police Academy. In September 2006 he was sworn in as a full-time police officer for the Watertown Police Department and is currently working a rotating nightshift as a patrol officer.

In the near future Eric plans to further his education in Criminal Justice. In his free time he enjoys traveling and spending time with friends and family.



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## 8th Annual Earth Day - Charles River Clean-Up

On Saturday April 21, 2007 members of the Watertown Police department joined forces with various state and local agencies and people, such as Senator Steven Tolman, to celebrtate the 8th Annual Earth Day Charles River Clean-Up.

The officers and local residents worked together to make

the walkways alongside the river were cleaner and free of trash.

The Cleanup is organized annually by the Charles River Watershed Association, The Esplanade Association, Charles River Stream Team, Charles River Conservancy, MASS-PIRG, State Senator Steven Tolman's Office, and the City of Newton.



Left to Right: Off. Samios, Off. Mendez, Sen. Tolman staff member & Off. Sarkissian



## Instructor at the M.B.T.A. Police Academy

During 2006 Captain Raymond Dupuis was invited to be an instructor at the M.B.T.A. Police Academy in Quincy, MA.

Captain Dupuis accepted the offer and became an instructor. This experience gave him an unique opportunity to witness the newest Watertown recruits attend the academy.

Captain Dupuis spent his days as an instructor and most of his evenings back at the station staying on top of his regularly assigned duties. This opportunity proved to be an invaluable experience for both Captain Dupuis personally, as well as for the department as a whole.

Picture– Captain Dupuis (far right) along with the other academy class instructors and the recruit class leader.

## 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](mailto:police@police.watertown-ma.gov)

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



## Upcoming Community Events

Anyone Interested in an **internship** with the Watertown Police Department should send a resume and cover letter to:

Lt. Justin Harahan  
Watertown Police Department  
34 John "Sonny" Whooley Way  
Watertown, MA 02472

The cover letter should include at least the following:

College or University presently attending

Available start date and end date

Hours and days or availability

Goals and reason for seeking the internship

**Note:** An internship with the Watertown Police Department is without remuneration.

## Middlesex Sheriff's Office Sheriff James V. DiPaola

Professionalism, Respect, Fairness, Integrity

FREE!!!



Seven years ago, Middlesex Sheriff James V. DiPaola launched a bold idea - a free Youth Public Safety Academy to teach 9, 10, 11, and 12 year old children about public safety.

The academy is designed to build up their confidence and team work and focus on the duties and responsibilities of law enforcement personnel in the hopes of establishing respect and trust between those children and

professionals. The Youth Public Safety Academy is a week-long program offered at no cost to residents of Watertown and other selected communities. Transportation, lunch and all activities are provided by the Middlesex Sheriff's Office in conjunction with the Watertown's Police, Fire and Emergency Services personnel.

During each week, local police officers, firefighters and EMT's work with the cadets to show them the importance of public safety; how to act in the event of a fire or an emergency situation; and the role they can play in making their homes, schools and communities safer.

## What can your kids do this summer?

Activities each week include K-9 demonstrations, fire safety house demonstrations, fingerprinting program, police and fire department tours, and a self-confidence course at the Billerica Boys and Girls club. Each week ends with a graduation ceremony where cadets receive their diplomas from Sheriff DiPaola and local officials.

For more information contact: The Watertown Police Department at 617-972-6529 or log onto Middlesex Sheriff's Office at [www.middlesexsheriff.org/outreach\\_youth.htm](http://www.middlesexsheriff.org/outreach_youth.htm)

Check website for dates and details.