

January 2015

## Truro Police Department

As we move into a new year, I and the men and women of the Department want to thank all of you for the tremendous support you have provided over the past year. Not only was this evident at Town Meeting, but the ballot box as well. For the first time in a number of years, the Department has expanded its ranks in order to meet the needs of our community. Additionally, you participated in programs offered by the Police Department, be it a Citizen's Police Academy or one of the safety programs / workshops put on by members of our staff. An important initiative was started and will continue to tackle difficult mental health issues within our community this year. Considering the growing epidemic of heroin use, Officer's now carry NARCAN as part of our standard medical equipment in the event its life-saving effects are needed. The staff continues to impress me with their willingness to extend themselves to the community and volunteer time to many of our community service / outreach efforts. Further, I'm proud of the members of our Department, and of our Town – for supporting the Police Department as you have. Thank you!

## Policing in America

In recent months, all across America, conversations have turned to the issue of community relations, use of force by Police Officers, civil disruption, continuing tragic and violent deaths of Police Officers in the line of duty, and increased friction between Police Departments, the media, and governance. The building of positive relationships that all Police Departments form with its citizens is crucial to being able to effectively police the towns and cities in which we serve. Truro Police Officers recently volunteered to attend funerals for the fallen Officers in New York City. Doing so not only honors our profession but helps to instill pride, professionalism, and dedication to the calling our officers have chosen. While speaking to the members of our Department, I continue to emphasize that if we remember the three "R's" – doing the right thing at the right time for the right reasons, and concentrate on delivering the professional services we always have, we and our community will be just fine.

## Our Community

Once again, the Officers and Telecommunicators have distinguished themselves in providing the next level of community service to our residents and community, much of which is on their own time. They are always looking for new programs or ideas to get involved within the community. Additionally, they search out people in need and, quietly in the background, make a difference in people's lives, one at a time. The Police Department simply provides a framework in which they can do this – the ideas and initiatives are all the staff's. Some examples from this past year are "Operation Safe Ride," the Truro Central School Basketball Fundraiser for the 5/6<sup>th</sup> grade Washington DC trip, Special Olympics Torch Run, Bike Rodeo, Foreign Student Workers Bike Safety, Touch-a-Truck, Stuff-a-Trunk, Shop with a Cop (Back to School and Christmas,) Toys for Tots, and the "Families in Need" Program.

# Prescription Medication

Over the past year, Police Departments from Provincetown to Falmouth have seen a significant increase in the theft and abuse of prescription medication. We can all help in reducing the availability of medications that would be subject to theft and abuse. Please check your medications and consider the following:

1. Ensure all medications are locked up – especially out of reach of children
2. Simply placed in a medicine cabinet is not safe enough
3. Dispose of all unused or expired medication
4. For disposal, all non-liquid medications can be placed in a Drug Kiosk located in the lobby of all Police Stations on Cape Cod.
5. For Liquid Medications, - place the bottle or container in a sealed zip lock bag and ask our desk personnel to take it for you. We will dispose of it separately.
6. Ensure your children have only the exact dose required and if you are unsure, consult your doctor.

These simple steps will help keep medications off the street, out of our aquifer, and out of the hands of people in danger of abusing medication.

As always, please don't hesitate to reach out with questions or concerns. I hope the coming year is safe for you and your families.

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