
The Dunes Beat

The West Hampton Dunes Police Constabulary Association, Inc. Newsletter
www.whdpca.org

May, 2008

Volume 3, Issue 1



Are Our Police Constables in Jeopardy?

The village elections are to be held on Tuesday, June 17th 2008. Are you registered to vote? If you're not registered to vote you should contact Laura Dalessandro the village clerk at clerk@whdunes.org or call (631) 288-6571. Several village residents have announced their candidacy for various elected positions. We ask that you vote in support of the candidates that support the best interests and welfare of the police constabulary.

Who Are We?

Most of you are aware that the police constabulary consists of a group of eight dedicated individuals. What some of you might not know is that six out of eight of us have been here 10 years or more. With this experience comes knowledge. We know the history of the village, the majority of the residents, who they and their families are, which vehicles belong at which houses, what lights are normally on and which are normally off.



During this and past winters, many homes on Dune Road in the section located ***outside the village*** were vandalized, burglarized and even used as illegal dumping grounds for construction debris. This area is under the control of the Town of Southampton Police. It's not the fault of the individual town police officers because the area which they are responsible for is huge. The sector which covers that section of Dune Road (***and formerly our village as well***) also covers areas as far away as Remsenburg, Speonk and East Quogue. There is only one officer assigned to this sector. Response times to calls in this area of Dune Road are often so delayed that Westhampton Beach Police are frequently called upon to answer them. We take pride in the fact that the residents of our village can sleep well at night knowing that their homes are safe and an officer is minutes if not seconds away.

Due to our vigilance we have prevented numerous structure fires, assisted countless residents with medically related emergencies and many crimes were likely prevented before they could happen. Those residents who find themselves stuck in Cupsogue Park traffic every summer are escorted safely to their homes by officers. In the winter when we observe water pipe breaks at homes we even shut the water off to minimize the interior damage and notify the homeowner immediately. These are just a few of the many services we have provided and will continue to provide to our community members. There are no other law enforcement agencies that provide this level of community oriented policing.

It has been a long road rising to the level we're at now. We are at this level because of the equipment we've been issued and the training we have been able to participate in. As we have said before, help us help you. If you have a concern, suggestion, problem or comment please let us know. We are here to continue to preserve your quality of life. Thank you again for your support in the past and in the future. Please visit our website located at www.whdpca.org.

Summer Kick Off Party



Our annual association summer kick off party is scheduled for June 6th from 7pm to 10pm. Once again tickets are \$50 each which includes unlimited open bar (top shelf) and food. Tickets can be purchased in advance through any association member or at the door the night of the event. We thank the owners of John Scotts for their continued support. Check out the events section of our website at www.whdpca.org for further details.

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No News is Good News

If you have publications such as newspapers delivered it's important to cancel or suspend the services if you won't be out to your home for a prolonged period of time. Not only is it a violation of local law but the members of the department frequently remove the old newspapers from residents' driveways. A house with a large pile of newspapers says that there's no one home.

Association Helps With Village Beautification

The members of the Police Constabulary Association recently presented village resident and Barrier Beach Preservation Association member Gina Mulhearn-Cappiello with a check for \$500 to assist her with a native vegetation planting project. Gina has graciously volunteered to spearhead this project. This planting project will add beauty to the village and also fulfill some of the requirements of the stipulation with the federal government.

See the Barrier Beach Preservation website located at: www.barrierbeach.org for more information.



Deer Ticks & Lyme Disease

The deer population in the village continues to grow annually. Deer are pretty to look at but they sometimes harbor a dangerous disease carrier, the deer tick. Deer ticks are as small as a ballpoint pen tip and are known to carry Lyme disease. Lyme disease is caused by bacteria transmitted by the deer tick. This disease may cause symptoms affecting the skin, nervous system, heart and/or joints of an individual. Over 72,000 cases have been reported according to the New York State Department of Health since Lyme disease became reportable in 1986.

Symptoms of Lyme disease usually appear within three to thirty days after the initial tick bite. In 60-80 percent of cases, a rash resembling a bull's eye or solid patch, about two inches in diameter, appears and expands around or near the site of the bite. Sometimes, multiple rash sites appear. The early stage of Lyme disease is usually marked by one or more of the following symptoms: chills and fever, headache, fatigue, stiff neck, muscle and/or joint pain, and swollen glands. If Lyme disease is unrecognized or untreated in the early stage more severe symptoms may occur. As the disease progresses, severe fatigue, a stiff aching neck, and tingling or numbness in the arms and legs, or facial paralysis can occur. The most severe symptoms of Lyme disease may not appear until weeks, months or years after the tick bite.

These can include severe headaches, painful arthritis, swelling of the joints, and heart and central nervous system problems.



If you have pets that go outdoors, they should be wearing flea and tick collars, especially in tall grassy areas or if deer are coming into your yard (that's just about every home in the village). If you have deer coming to your yard regularly, you might consider having your yard treated with a flea/tick control product. (Source: NY Dept. of Health)



Emergency Dial 911

The answering machine in Police Constabulary Headquarters is checked periodically. Residents should utilize the voice pager (631-284-1308) to report a non-emergency. If you ever require an immediate response for any **emergency dial 911**.