

Veazie Police Department

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To: **Mark E. Leonard, Chief of Police**
From: **Sheryl Sutherland**
Date: **April 1, 2005**
Re: **2005 First Quarter Council Report**
CC: **William Reed, Town Manager & Town Council**

Community Service

- The Veazie Police Department assisted the Fire Department with the set up of the skating rink this year.
- Officer Brian Sirois attended the sledding party hosted by the Recreation Department. Many students participated even though the temperature was very low.
- Officer Jeremy Leal will be starting the DARE program on April 1, 2005. Fifth graders and Kindergarten students will have the benefit of this program.
- The after school program provides students with a place to stay until parents can get out of work. Officer Brian Sirois and myself visited with Rosemary Freese and discussed the time schedule and what the students will be participating in. Officer Sirois has been attending the program numerous times during the week and interacting with the students along with joining in the activities and helping them with homework questions.

- Officer Jeff Gotreau assisted in the Easter Eggstravaganza held at the school. Officer Gotreau helped the students with games, and handed out lollipops and stickers.
- Fingerprinting is a free service the Department provides for the Veazie citizens. Please call ahead to insure an Officer will be available to assist you.
- Streetlight malfunctions are being noted and given to the Code Enforcement Officer to get corrected. The Officers while on patrol, maintain a streetlight log for the purpose of having sufficient lighting in town.
- Property checks have been in demand with Winter being vacation time for many. All property and business checks are done on a daily basis. Please call or come in to the station for a form that gives us information on your property. This will assist us in watching your house while you are away.
- To avoid any accidents or traffic complications, the Officer on duty is directing traffic for the Sunday Church service.
- Officer Jeremy Leal attended a Title 4 meeting held at the Veazie Community School. The meeting and the Officers' participation was mandatory in order to apply for a State grant for sixth grade students to go to Camp Kiev, a YMCA camp. Camp Kiev teaches team building, and leadership skills to the students selected to go.
- Officer Kevin Dionne has been researching the training options for Child Safety Seat Installation. This is a four day course ending with Officer Dionne being certified to install booster, and car seats correctly. The training will be in June and we will announce when this service will be available.

Criminal Activity:

- The Veazie Police Department had 8 warrant arrests during this quarter. Failure to appear in court and unpaid fines, in the amount of hundreds of dollars, were some of the reasons for these Warrants.
- A plate light violation resulted in an arrest of the passenger on an active Warrant for unpaid fees and fines. Identifying all of the individuals in a vehicle is for everyone's safety, and aids the Officers in locating suspects.
- Another Warrant suspect was located during a traffic stop that ended in other agencies becoming involved. The vehicle was stopped for failure to dim headlights, when it was discovered that the passenger had a Warrant from the US Marshall's office originating in Virginia. The suspect fled on foot through the woods with Veazie, Bangor, Orono, and Old Town police trying to locate the suspect. After a short distance the individual was located and arrested. He was then taken to Penobscot County Jail. This person is now serving a 2 year sentence in a Federal Prison.

- During a Warrant arrest at a Veazie residence, drugs and drug paraphernalia were discovered. This case is still considered an open pending investigation. Our Detective Bridges who is an agent for the Maine Drug Enforcement Agency is assisting with this case.
- This Agency assists other Departments throughout the state when needed. An arrest was made in Veazie for the Ellsworth Police Department on a Domestic Assault suspect. Other assists are locating individuals for subpoenas, warrants, and back up for local agencies.
- While stopping to check the welfare of a hitchhiker, it was found that the individual was intoxicated and also in violation of their probation. This person was arrested and transported to the Penobscot County Jail.
- Chief Mark Leonard is investigating harassing phone calls coming in to a resident senior citizen. Please call the Department anytime you have any suspicious calls or mail.
- A Criminal Mischief charge from last fall is still open and Chief Leonard has summonsed suspects for that case. After many hours of investigation and research by the Chief, and local agencies, juveniles were issued summonses for court.
- Gas drive offs are becoming more and more frequent due to high gasoline prices. Without a description or license plate number it makes locating the suspect more difficult. Providing the police department with as much information as possible is important.
- With the assistance of the Penobscot Sheriff's Department, and University of Maine Police, Veazie conducted a search warrant in town which resulted in confiscating electronic equipment, documents, and accessories for a pending case.
- A motor vehicle was rented from a local business and not returned as expected. Chief Leonard conducted an investigation and the case has since been resolved and closed.
- Criminal and Civil court cases totaled 29 for this quarter.

Training:

- Officer Jeremy Leal attended a 2 week DARE program and is now certified to teach the students at the Veazie Community School. Officer Leal's evaluation from his Mentor during this class was excellent and we are excited about the program which will be starting in April.
- A refresher course on the Maine Crash Reporting System was taken by the Veazie Police Department. This was a practical exercise with the computer system, involving the diagram of an accident, and how to be more accurate with describing the scene.

- Officer Jeff Gotreau attended a 4 hour class on Drug Trends in New England. This was informative on what to look for in our area and different kinds of drugs being used and sold.
- Chief Leonard attended a 48 hour training on Executive Leadership for Community Policing. The agenda consisted of numerous topics including citizen complaint intake, homeland security, community policing, personnel administration and training.
- Annual trainings were conducted at the Veazie Municipal Building. These trainings were attended by all Veazie Police Department staff members. First Aid, CPR, Automated External Defibrillator, Hazardous Materials, Bloodborne Pathogens, and Sexual Harassment. The instructors were from the Veazie Fire Department.
- The Veazie Officers were instructed in a reading course titled "Instant Fact; How To Get The Truth Out of Anyone". This is an in depth instruction on what to look for when interviewing witnesses or suspects. How their eyes, facial and body motions can tell if they are telling the truth or if they are not telling the whole story. The Officers are using this information on a daily basis.

Traffic:

- Citations: 112
- Warnings: 240
- Speeding: 91
- Inspections: 120

Speeding and Inspection violations resulted in most of the tickets issued this quarter. Inspection violations were 34% of the total while 26% were speeding violations.

The Veazie winter parking ban is still in effect until April 15, 2005.

Studded tires must be off your vehicles by May 1, 2005.

Additional Information:

- Spring is now here and the sun stays out longer. Children are also staying outside longer, please be aware of them when driving through the streets of Veazie. Slow down through populated areas for their well being. The seniors will be out walking now that its warmer so watch out for them also.
- Many wild animals and birds are being born this time of year. Remember not to disturb nests or baby animals. This is for your safety as well as theirs. Call the Police Department if there are any orphaned animals or any questions concerning the wildlife. The Police will assist you or direct you to the appropriate Animal Control Officer.