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The "CAT"

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Chairman's Message

By: Lee Hawkins, Neighborhood Crime Watch Chairman

Hope all are doing will now that spring is finally here, and hopefully we will have rain this year. Remember our semiannual meeting coming up on May 18 at the Senior Center. We are trying an afternoon session at 2:00 PM this time to help those who don't like to drive at night.

While the crime rate and particularly break-ins are down, various scams are continuing at a high level. Remember that large companies and government agencies don't call or email you with ultimatums. They also don't request cash payments, or unusual payments like gift cards, or bit coins. If you are concerned about a notice you received being a possible scam, call a trusted family member for advice, or call YPD. Remember that links in an email, and caller ID on your phone are easily spoofed and you may be contacting a scammer's site rather than the legitimate organization. Don't click a link or call a phone number in an email or text. Only contact a bank or other entity through their public web site that you have bookmarked, or a phone number from their statement or other documentation.

YPD Blue 5K

Source: YPD Facebook

Come join us Sunday, May 21st!

Here is the sneak peek at the 2023 YPD Blue 5K Road Race t-shirt! This year we honor Detective Sergeant Stephen Desfosses of the Norton Police Department and Trooper Tamar Bucci of the Massachusetts State Police, who both lost their lives in the line of duty. They are why we run. Join us!

Need to sign up?! Register here:

https://racewire.com/register.php?id=13570

YARMOUTH POLICE OFFICER SEAN BREWER

Source: YPD Facebook

A Yarmouth police officer has been recognized as "Massachusetts Instructor of the Year" by nationwide nonprofit Law Enforcement Against Drugs & Violence (L.E.A.D) for his efforts in preventing drug use among local students.

Officer Brewer has been with our department since 2003 and is assigned to the Dennis-Yarmouth Intermediate Middle School. His dedication to guiding our community's youth is unwavering. This is a great article about some of what he does!

School Resource Officer (SRO) for Dennis-Yarmouth Intermediate Middle School Sean Brewer said the curriculum he teaches from the nonprofit builds on the strong relationships he has grown with the students.

Brewer has been teaching L.E.A.D. for one year to sixth and seventh grade students.

"That was the biggest thing why I like this age group. Because they're kids. They're supposed to make mistakes. We expect them to make mistakes. So when they do make mistakes, I'm there to try to say 'hey look let's learn from your actions and your decisions and let's see if we can go forward,'" said Brewer.

"I'm not going to hold it against you. I might have to take some kind of law enforcement action on it, but it doesn't mean my opinion of you has changed. It's just that I have to do my job. But I'm going to work with you to see if we can learn from this experience and make it better."

The curriculum is a 10-week program that educates students on how they can avoid involvement in drugs and violence.

"SRO Brewer truly deserves this award, and we congratulate him on an excellent job helping kids in Yarmouth understand why steering clear of harmful substances, such as drugs and alcohol, is vital," said Nick DeMauro, CEO of L.E.A.D in a statement.

"He's allowing students to take away crucial life skills as they receive lessons on how to set goals, manage their emotions and make good decisions, in addition to learning about the dangers of drugs and violence. We're confident that SRO Brewer's instruction is helping us to accomplish our goal of advancing police-community relationships."

As two opposing bills on Beacon Hill that would either expand or scale back the presence of SRO's in the Commonwealth's schools are considered by lawmakers, Brewer said he favored expanding the program. He added that SROs leave a positive impact on students and helps them see police as friends in times of crisis.

Enough is Enough

Source: YPD Facebook

On April 26th, a panel discussion titled "Demystifying the Criminal Investigation Process: From Court to Support" took place at Cape Cod Community College. Over 30 attendees from various backgrounds filled the classroom and joined us in engaging in powerful conversations surrounding child sexual abuse. Planned by the local Enough Abuse Campaign, which is directed by MassKids, the purpose was to educate as to how a child and family are supported once a report is filed.

The wonderful panelists included professionals from Children's Cove, YPD's Special Victims Unit, Independence House, The Cape & Islands District Attorney's Office, and The Department of Children and Families.

If you or someone you know needs assistance with reporting abuse contact the Yarmouth Police Department at 508-775-0445 Ext. 2100 or one of our Victim Services Specialist/Advocates at 508-775-0445 Ext. 2181

For more information as to how you can join in educating and preventing sexual violence against children or learn about the current legislation being fought for, please check out the following links:

www.enoughabuse.org

www.childrenscove.org

www.independencehouse.org

Using Contractors

Source: Lee Hawkins

Recently one of our members had a problem when using a contractor that they had contacted from one of those signs posted around town with a phone number advertising services. A few guidelines that may help you avoid problems with any contractor, especially one you have never dealt with before:

- Ask for references and check them. You can also check the Better Business Bureau.
- Don’t pay in advance for work to be done months later.
- Hold back some of the payment until the job is done to your satisfaction.
- Make sure the contractor has insurance.
- If doing extensive work, have a written contract.

Planning Board Listening Sessions

Source: Yarmouth Town Planner, Kathy Williams, PE

The Planning Board would like to invite the Yarmouth community to a series of Listening Sessions on proposed amendments to the Accessory Apartment Zoning Bylaw. There are 3 sessions in June, one that is in-person or online and two that are in-person only. The current Draft Accessory Apartment Zoning Amendment, Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs), and more information can be viewed on the Town Website at:

https://www.yarmouth.ma.us/2052/Proposed-2023-Accessory-Apartment-Zoning

There's a New Gift Card Scam to be Wary of

Source: Reader's Digest, Nina Derwin

If you receive a message from someone claiming to be your wealthy grandmother, beware.

Scammers are nothing if not creative. Just when you think you've heard about every scam in the book, a new one emerges. It has become increasingly popular for unsuspecting people to fall victim to gift card scams, but the best way to thwart these fraudsters is to learn their game before they have the chance to target you.

So, what's the latest scam to watch out for?

The rich grandma gift card scam is beginning to make the rounds, but you won't have to worry once you know how to spot it.

The latest online scam is called the rich grandma scam, and if you didn't know better, it would be easy to fall victim to it. The scammers reach out to their target via Facebook direct message claiming to be a wealthy grandmother promising more than one million dollars and a brand-new home. When the target agrees, the "grandmother" informs them that they will need to first pay $15,000 in taxes upfront.

The scam takes shape when the target is asked to purchase $15,000 worth of gift cards and share the activation numbers and photos of the gift cards with the "grandmother." All of this communication typically occurs via WhatsApp, and in some cases, the fraudster even stages phone calls posing as the grandmother's lawyer. Then, the target receives a number of checks from the "grandmother" that ultimately bounce, leaving the target without their money and with no recourse.

How to protect yourself from the rich grandma scam

- While scammers are clever, educating yourself about their tricks is the best way to avoid falling victim. There are a few key tips to help you protect yourself from the rich grandma scam as well as other internet scams:
- Avoid sending any form of payment to anyone you don't know personally.
- If a situation sounds too good to be true it likely is, so beware.
- If anyone contacts you out of the blue offering money, seek the advice of a lawyer or financial advisor to confirm the legitimacy of the offer.

Ultimately, the best way to combat scams is to ask questions and be wary of those you meet on the internet. Fraudsters are smart, but you can be smarter.

Citizens Police Academy

Source: YPD Facebook

28th Session, YPD CPA - Complete!

We would like to congratulate the recent graduates of the 28th Session of the YPD Citizens Police Academy!

Special thanks to Officer Nick Pasquarosa for his dedication to making this program a huge success!

Students attended classes one night a week for 12 weeks learning about how our department operates in the community. They also received instruction on Patrol Procedures, Telecommunications, SWAT Operations, Investigations from our Detective Division, Mental Health in Law Enforcement and heard excellent information from our Special Victims Unit. Students also experienced demonstrations from our K-9 Unit, SWAT Team, and a practical at the Gannon Training Center.

Part of the program also includes live-fire range demo and riding along with one of our officers to see first-hand what happens during a shift.

Happy Mothers Day

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APPRECIATION
BEAUTIFUL
BREAKFAST
CANDY
CHARMING
COMFORT
DEVOTED
FLOWERS
FORGIVING
GIFTS
GUIDANCE
HUGS
JEWELRY
JOY
KISSES
LAUGHTER
LOVE
MATERNAL
MOM
MOTHER
NURTURE
PERFUME
PROTECTIVE
SHARE
TELEPHONE
TENDER
THE BEST
WARM
WISE

DIRECTIONS: Find and circle the vocabulary words in the grid. Look for them in all directions including backwards and diagonally.

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SAVE THE DATE

Upcoming Events

Event	Location	Date	Time
Semi-Annual NCW Meeting	Yarmouth Senior Center	May 18, 2023	2:00 PM
YPD Blue 5K	South Shore Drive	May 21, 2023	11:00 AM
NCW Meeting	YPD	June 14, 2023	10:00 AM
Summer Concert Series Begins	Parkers River Beach	July 3, 2023	6:00 - 7:30 PM

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The CAT is a newsletter from the Yarmouth Police Community Advisory Team (YPCAT) relating to happenings in the Neighborhood Crime Watch Program and the community.

Do you have an article you would like to see published in the CAT, or an idea for us to include? If so, contact us at cat@yncw.org.

Interested in learning more about, or joining Yarmouth Neighborhood Crime Watch—Visit our web site www.yncw.org . Here you can find out if you are in a current block, and learn more about the program and how to start your own block. You can also contact us at info@yncw.org.