January 2023
Volume 12 Issue 1

The "CAT"

"MAKE YARMOUTH THE SAFEST COMMUNITY IN THE REGION"

Chief Kevin Lennon

In This Issue:

Chairman's Message
YPD Awarded Grant
FOYCOA 13th Annual Polar Plunge
Shop with a Cop
Bass River Rod & Gun
Citizens Police
Smishing Scam Alert
New Year Word
Upcoming Events

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CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

By: Lee Hawkins, Neighborhood Crime Watch Chairman

Happy New Year to all, hope your holidays were good. This week was also MLK day and a good time for us to reflect and try to live up to his vision.

Thanks for another successful Polar plunge by the Friends of Yarmouth Council on Aging.

We are planning some changes for our monthly newsletter. The CAT name came from the original Community Advisory Team which started Neighborhood Crime Watch and other programs. However, as the other programs have moved to new sponsors, this team was disbanded, and Neighborhood Crime Watch continues on our own.

Newsletter Naming Contest

To help us rename the newsletter, we are sponsoring a Naming Contest. The winner will receive a YNCW blue polo shirt with our insignia.

The rules are simple:

- Be a Yarmouth resident
- The name can't be copyrighted by another organization, for example McGruff the crime dog
- Entries must be received by February 15, send your suggestion to cat@yncw.org. Please include your name and a phone number where we can reach you.
- Can't be a member of the YNCW management team

YPD Awarded $203,000 Grant

Source: YPD Facebook

The Yarmouth Police Department (YPD) has been awarded $203,000 from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health to expand services to survivors of domestic and sexual violence, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. As part of this grant, the Department has hired Shelby Ray as a second full-time Victim Services Specialist/Advocate in the Special Victims Unit (SVU). The hard-working SVU already includes Victim Services Specialist/Advocate, Annie Catalano (MS NACP CA), Detective Michael Zontini, who works with special and high-risk victims, and two mental health clinicians, Patrick McGuire (LMHC) and Justine Podurgiel (LMHC). Victim Advocates create safety plans, connect survivors to local counseling services, assist with restraining order applications, provide court accompaniment and victim assistance during sensitive interviews with detectives, and provide referrals to services for housing, financial support, and substance use disorder treatment. The COVID-19 Sexual and Domestic Violence Trust Fund Grant for Public Safety will now allow our Victim Advocates to be able to provide funding for survivors to help meet their basic needs for food, shelter, and transportation.

Additionally, the grant will allow YPD to provide both print and social media campaigns to inform citizens about the available services, as well as information about many other vital agencies around the community that support survivors. The YPD is also expanding interpreter services to increase communication accuracy with anyone whose first language is not English.

The SVU began in 2015 with only one detective and a part-time advocate. Through additional hard work and successful grant writing, the YPD has been able to expand the staff to continue to provide the highest quality support services to survivors during and after interactions with law enforcement and throughout the criminal justice process. The SVU will also be attending a weeklong national training to increase knowledge and skills in investigating and responding to violent crimes.

13th Annual Polar Plunge A Huge Success

By: Chris & Ed Morassi

On January 1, 2023 at high noon hundreds of brave souls took to the water at Smuggler's Beach in South Yarmouth. Chief Lennon participated and made a big splash at the event. This was one of the largest turnouts ever. This event was sponsored by the Friends Of Yarmouth Council On Aging (FOYCOA). The donations received will be used to support and enhance various activities at the Yarmouth Senior Center. A big THANK YOU to all those who volunteered, participated and/or donated!

Photos by Ed Morassi

Yarmouth Shop with a Cop

Source: YPD Facebook

Yarmouth Shop with a Cop was a huge success. A big thanks to Ryan Family Amusement in South Yarmouth and Kohl's in Hyannis for making this event extra special.

Sergeant Wells, Officer Pasquarosa, Officer Brewer, Officer Xiarhos and Dispatcher Curtis went on an afternoon of fun with the kids. Bowling and pizza was topped off with some fun shopping. K9 Officer Finley was also on hand to join in on the fun....

This event, and many others, are only possible through the generous support of many community members. WE THANK YOU ALL for helping out once again.

Thanks to Bass River Rod & Gun Club

Source: YPD Facebook

Words cannot express how grateful we are to have friends like the members of the Bass River Rod & Gun Club. Each year, the membership joins together and collects gift cards for the Police Department to distribute to individuals in need.

Members of the YPD met with President Kevin York, 1st Vice President Doug Nelson and Julie Robillard of the club and were presented with $7,000 in gift cards. The cards will bring much needed support to many this holiday season. Thank you again for your unbelievable generosity!

YPD Announces 28th session of the Citizens Police Academy

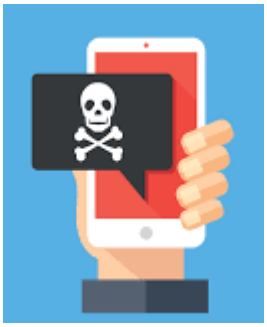
Source: YPD Facebook

The Yarmouth Police Department is proud to announce the open enrollment for the 28th session of the Citizens Police Academy. The program is slated to begin on Thursday, January 26th, and ends on April 13th. This program offers a comprehensive behind-the-scenes look at modern progressive law enforcement in Massachusetts and our community.

The Academy meets primarily on Thursday evenings from 6:30 PM to 9:30 PM in the Law Enforcement Training Center at the Yarmouth Police Headquarters.

The Citizens Police Academy is a program designed to open the lines of communication between the Yarmouth Police Department and the community. It is the sincere desire of the Yarmouth Police Department to develop a style of policing that reflects a collaborative effort between the community and the police. This process requires an informed citizenry and it is the goal of the CPA to increase “Understanding through Education.”

Applications must be submitted via the online registration portal. To apply please click the following link: https://ma-yarmouth2.civicplus.com/.../Citizen-Police...



SMISHING SCAM ALERT

Source: Reader's Digest - Alina Bradford

Don't let the funny name confuse you. Smishing is a major scam that could cost you big bucks.

While a text may seem perfectly normal, it could be from someone with malicious intent, someone who wants to steal your identity, your bank account number, or other sensitive information. A recent report by the cybersecurity company Proofpoint found that 74 percent of organizations surveyed faced texting attacks. But companies aren't the only ones being targeted. Scammers are sending scam texts designed to fool individual users as well, with a practice called smishing. Smishing can affect anyone who texts, no matter what kind of smartphone they have. Here's what you need to know about it, and how to protect yourself.

Smishing is a type of phishing attack that uses social engineering to get personal information about someone using text messaging. In case you were wondering, here's how smishing and phishing are different from vishing. Smishing is short for "SMS phishing." It combines "SMS" (literally "short message service," or "texting") with "phishing;" it's a phishing scam that operates through text messages.

Basically, these fake texts are an attempt to get your personal information by pretending they come from sources you know and trust, like your boss, the IRS, or a bank. According to Ryan Prejean, help desk lead at Guardian Computer, an IT support and service company based in New Orleans, these texts often include messages like: We've noticed suspicious activity or log-in attempts, there is a problem with your account or payment information, you must confirm personal information, you need to click on a link to make a payment, you're eligible to register for a government refund, you're being given a coupon, your child is hurt and personal information needs to be sent for their treatment, you've been overcharged for something and you're being offered a refund, you've won a prize and you need to claim it.

All of this is an attempt to get you to give them personal information like your social security number, bank information, or credit card details. A good smishing attack can be used to steal your identity in order to drain your bank account, charge up your credit cards, or take out loans in your name.

Here are some examples of smishing texts:

- "You have won $5,000. The prize needs to be claimed ASAP. Please reply with your bank information so we can deposit the money into your account."
- "Your package has been lost. Please click here for more information: http://bit.ly/123R4m"
- "Your IRS tax refund has been denied. Click here to file a review in 24 hours: http://bit.ly/sdfsd5"

If you get a smishing text, don't reply. Don't even text "stop." Any kind of communication tells the scammer that your phone number is active—and ripe for targeting again. Your best bet is to block the number. "Users should also report all spam texts to their wireless carrier for them to investigate," says Prejean. "You can send any suspicious or spam messages to 7726 (which spells SPAM) if your carrier is AT&T, Sprint, T-Mobile, or Verizon."

Everyone makes mistakes. If you think you've already clicked a fraudulent link and/or provided compromising information, take immediate action. First, change all of the passwords that are associated with the information you gave out. Next, contact the real company you thought you were texting to let them know what happened. Most importantly, if you gave out bank or credit card information, contact the bank or credit card company to report suspected fraud and cancel the card associated with the account.

Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid.
The remaining letters spell the name of a popular location for celebrating New Years Eve.

S E I B A B N E W Y E A R S E V E Y
G C H A M P A G N E T Y I M N S T T
E N S S U E T H C D A N C E D R H R
S Q I N F E T O O D M U A Y O E I A
E F C G F I N A S L S U E R F K R P
D H E F N F R R R R I A S E D A T S
A I U S E I A S E B R D N I E M Y K
R B B T T E S M T I E S A F C E F R
A M T A Y I A N N O R L A Y E S I O
P I S W L E V R O E F T E E M I R W
N D E A R L E I N I H J V C B O S E
D N E T R V O N T E T E A S E N T R
A I S W I A A O R I N A S N R O H I
Y G Y E O B I T N T E I R R U K C F
O H W I N E I T S S K S I O H A T S
N T Y L I M A F N O I S A C C O R T
E T S A E F S N O I T U L O S E R Y
S R E Z I T E P P A Y F R I E N D S

APPETIZERS
BABIES
BALLOONS
BANNERS
BUFFET
CELEBRATE
CHAMPAGNE
CONFETTI
DANCE
DAY ONE
DECORATIONS
END OF DECEMBER
EVENTS
FAMILY
FATHER TIME
FEAST
FESTIVITIES
FIREWORKS
FIRST OF JANUARY
FRIENDS
HATS
HOLIDAY
HORNS
KISS
MIDNIGHT
MUSIC
NEW YEARS DAY
NEW YEARS EVE
NOISEMAKERS
OCCASION
PARADES
PARTY
PUNCH
RESOLUTIONS
SINGING
STREAMERS
THIRTY FIRST
TIARAS
WINE
YEAR IN REVIEW

SAVE THE DATE

Upcoming Events

Event	Location	Date	Time
NCW Meeting	YPD	February 8, 2023	10:00 AM

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SHARE THE CAT

Block captains are requested to ensure that their members get a copy of the CAT. You can email them a copy or sign them up for a subscription. Block captains will get a copy automatically and do not need to subscribe.

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.