



The Chatham Police Community Newsletter

Mark R. Pawlina
Chief of Police

Summer '15

Three New Officers Join Chatham Police Department Ranks

Between September of last year and June of this year the police department filled three vacancies with the hiring of three officers. Each of the new officers brings unique and valuable attributes to the department and are well suited for the Town of Chatham.

Ofc. Joseph Amara III is a native of Chatham, graduating from Chatham High School in 2010 where he served as the first high school intern in the Chatham Police Department. After high school, he went on to pursue a degree in Criminal Justice from Johnson & Wales University in Providence, RI. He completed his undergraduate studies in only three years and then completed the twenty-six week Police Academy in Plymouth. Ofc. Amara is a member of the Patrol Division and is currently assigned to the Evening Shift.

Ofc. Brendan Walker is a native of Yarmouth, MA and holds a degree in Criminal Justice from UMASS Dartmouth. He previously worked for the Hanover Police Department after completing the twenty-eight MBTA Transit Police Academy in Braintree. Ofc. Walker is a member of the Patrol Division and is currently assigned to the Day Shift.

Ofc. Mark Pasionak is a native of Easton, MA and holds a degree in Criminal Justice from Cape Cod Community College. Prior to coming to Chatham he worked in the state of Missouri where he was a police officer on the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department. Ofc. Pasionek is a member of the Patrol Division and is currently assigned to the Overnight Shift.

Several 2015 J-1 Students Talk Bicycle Safety and Other Important Topics With Chatham Police

Through a cooperative partnership with St. Christopher's Church and Chatham Bars Inn, Chatham Sgt. Bill Massey met with a number of visiting J-1 seasonal workers to discuss the importance of bicycle safety as well as other topics that can often involve the students as they spend their summer in Chatham. For the last few years, the police department has teamed up with St. Christopher's Church to make bicycle safety lights available to summer workers who often rely on bicycles to get to and from their summer jobs, frequently riding when it's dark. Along with the bike lights, important information about bike safety and the rules of the road are provided to the workers, many of whom are away from their native countries for the first time and may be unfamiliar with U. S. customs and traffic laws.

This year the gathering was a "Welcoming Cookout" sponsored by Chatham Bars Inn and St. Christopher's Church on the beach at Oyster Pond. Approximately one hundred J-1 students representing nations all over the world gathered to meet one another and learn about some aspects of American culture including how police in America interact with citizens, which is often significantly different from their native countries. Sgt. Massey says he can relate to the students' insecurities about being in a foreign land at such a young age because he felt some of those same insecurities when traveling abroad while he served in the military. "I looked different, I talked different, I acted different, I dressed different" said Massey of when he was deployed overseas. "I wanted to learn as much as I could about other cultures and I wanted to do things right so I wouldn't get in trouble" he said. Many J-1 students said that they appreciated the chance to speak informally with a police officer and that it did help alleviate some of their nervousness about being in a different culture for an extended period of time. They also were excited to get the bicycle safety lights.

The J-1 International Exchange Program is designed as an educational and vocational opportunity to foster an increase in understanding of different cultures and is primarily geared toward college age participants.

Tip of the Hat to Chatham's Finest

Chief Pawlina received a letter of praise on behalf of Sergeant Andrew Goddard from a resident who unexpectedly found herself without transportation when she had a time sensitive issue that left her essentially stranded. Sgt. Goddard made arrangements for her to take care of her situation and assisted her with some transportation. Sgt. Goddard joined the Chatham Police Department in 1997 and is a member of the Patrol Division currently assigned as the DAY shift supervisor.

Chief Pawlina also received a letter of praise on behalf of Officer Christopher Vardakis from a family visiting Chatham. Ofc. Vardakis was extremely helpful and assisted some senior citizens in the family who were infirmed during a family event. Ofc. Vardakis joined the Chatham Police Department in 2013 and is a member of the Patrol Division currently assigned to the NIGHT shift.



From The Chief's Office:

Greetings –

Fraudulent scams that target innocent citizens over the telephone continue to occur in our community. The best defense to protect yourself from telephone scammers is to not conduct any business or exchange any personal financial information such as credit card numbers, checking account numbers or wiring of your funds via telephone. Here are some of the frequent scams that you should be aware of:

- A utility (gas, electric, water) bill is overdue and you need to make immediate payment.
- A tax bill (IRS, State or Municipal) has not been paid and you need to make immediate payment.
- Your computer has a virus and they need to remotely access your computer to fix it.
- A relative is in jail out of state or out of the country and you need to pay bail immediately.

Remember; keep your personal financial accounts and information personal.

- Chief Mark Pawlina

Safety Awareness

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Crime Prevention Corner

Emergency Only - 911

Alt. Emergency - (508) 945-1212

Routine Business (508) 945-1213

Make you and your property an undesirable target

In this edition of the newsletter we highlight an effective way to make your home a less desirable crime target by turning in unwanted medications. Given that the three most popular items taken from a residence during a break-in are cash, jewelry and medications, it makes sense that steps should be taken to ensure that those items are securely out of sight and not readily available. Cash and jewelry should be locked in a safe or a lockbox and any medications should be kept safely and securely out of sight. This can be tough to accomplish given the need to get to medications with a little more frequency than cash or jewelry, but it's still a good idea to keep them in an area that is both out of sight as well as less accessible. And, always, always, always, make sure your home is secure by locking your doors, even when you're home. If locks are for protecting your valuables, what's more valuable than you and your family? All too often victims of a break-in tell police "but we live in Chatham, we never lock our doors". This is a false sense of security and unfortunately, despite how safe our community is by comparison, everyone should be reminded that crime can happen to anyone, anywhere, at any time.

CPD Collecting Unwanted Medication

The Chatham Police Department, along with a number of other Cape Cod public safety agencies, has partnered with the National Association of Drug Diversion Investigators (NADDI) to provide members of our community the opportunity to safely and securely dispose of unwanted and unused prescription and over-the-counter medications. With the exception of "sharps" any unwanted medications can be easily turned in to the Chatham Police Department for appropriate disposal. By turning in unwanted medications, citizens make their homes safer, especially if children are around the home while at the same time protect our environment from the popular alternative disposal method; flushing the medications down the toilet.

Additionally, with 100% of all property crime in Chatham over the last year being tied directly to the addiction problem in the Northeast, you make your home less of a target for those with criminal intent. We encourage you to check your homes for expired, unnecessary, unused, old or otherwise unneeded medications and bring them to the lobby of the Chatham Police Department where you will find a convenient and anonymous drop box. It is also recommended that prior to disposal that you remove or otherwise conceal any personal information that may be attached to medication containers or bottles.

This collection box, located in the main lobby of the Chatham Police Department, is available at any time for the appropriate disposal of unwanted prescription and over-the-counter medications. Remember to remove any personal information from labels on the medication containers. Sharps are not accepted. Dropbox provided by the National Association of Drug Diversion Investigators and made available by the Chatham Police Department.

