



Scituate Police Newsletter

VOLUME V, ISSUE I

SUMMER 2018

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Summer of 2018 is finally upon us. For the Scituate Police Department, the summer months represent a significant uptick in calls for service and overall work load. This summer the department will continue with regular patrols of the Spit area and all beaches. Parking regulations around the beach areas will be strictly enforced and patrols on the beaches performed to ensure compliance with the public consumption of alcohol and marijuana. Our beaches are meant to be used for individual and family rest and relaxation. Nothing can ruin a sunny day faster than a group of people drinking too much, getting loud and obnoxious and drawing the attention of kids who should not be witness to such behavior. The purpose of our beach patrols are to maintain order and create a peaceful setting for everyone's enjoyment. The police department understands residents work all week and want to absorb every available minute of the summer sun on the weekends. If you see things on the beach that dampen the family fun spirit, please report the behavior to the police department so we can restore tranquility.

The department recently acquired a four seat, four wheel drive quad to assist with special operations. This vehicle will be used to provide better police coverage to the Spit area of town. Foot patrols of this area have proven very challenging in years past. This vehicle will allow officers to remain in the area longer, carry medical supplies, enable officers to perform a 9 PM closing time sweep of the area, assist in the transportation of injured persons, as well as, provide a conversation piece between officers, kids and adults.

During the summer months, officers are assigned foot beats in the Harbor, North Scituate and Humarock areas. Residents and guests are encouraged to get out and enjoy the numerous shops and restaurants these areas offer. Parking areas are available and are patrolled to ensure overflow parking does not impede emergency response vehicles. Please be mindful and considerate if parking options are limited.

It's nice to see that the warm weather has drawn kids out of the house. Please drive carefully knowing kids are out on bikes and chasing balls towards streets. Parents make sure kids wear helmets when riding bikes. The Scituate Police Department is proactive in traffic enforcement and drunken driving enforcement. These activities make our roads safe for our families.

On behalf of the Scituate Police Department I would like to wish you, your families and your guests a great summer.

Sincerely,
Chief W. Michael Stewart



The Patrol Division

Summer 2018

The Patrol Division of the Scituate Police Department is the backbone of our Department. The Officers of the Patrol Division respond to calls for service seven days a week, twelve months per year, 365 days per year and twenty-four hours per day.

These calls for service are answered regardless of when the call occurs, be it on a holiday or during inclement weather. Officers also spend a good amount of time away from family on any given holiday.

The Town of Scituate has been very supportive of the Police Department over the years. This has allowed the department to attain the highest level of training, equipment and a new Public Safety Building to better serve the citizens of Scituate for many years to come.

The most important asset the Police Department possesses is the human asset, the Officers. An important aspect of the department's Community Policing philosophy is to have the Officers involved in as many community activities as possible so that citizens can place a name and person behind the badge.

In order to facilitate this we have initiated a new section of our newsletter titled "Know Your Officers". In the present and future newsletters, we will introduce you to "your Officers". Officers will give you a small bio on themselves, why they became Scituate Police Officers and what their responsibilities are at the Department.

This month, you'll meet Sgt. O'Brien and Officers Gibbons, Donovan and Stenbeck.

We hope that you enjoy this new section, we welcome any feedback on other areas of the department you would like explored in future issues and hope that you have a wonderful summer season!

~ Sergeant James Gilmartin



"The Patrol Division of the Scituate Police Department is the backbone of our Department."



Know Your Officers

Summer 2018

My name is Sgt. Gerald (Jerry) O'Brien. I am an 18 year member of the Scituate Police Department. I grew up in Scituate and went through the Scituate School system. At one time or another I have been assigned to each of the 3 patrol shifts: Days (7:45 AM to 3:45 PM), Eves (3:45 PM to 11:45PM) and Mids (11:45 PM to 7:45 AM). Each shift has its own difficult challenges. I have spent my whole career in Patrol. I believe that Patrol is the backbone of a police department.

A key aspect of police patrol is providing a high visibility for the police force in a neighborhood. Visible patrolling officers provide residents, visitors, and others in an area a strengthened sense of safety and security. That's one reason officers who are serving on certain types of patrol, particularly in neighborhoods, will appear conspicuously in uniforms and marked patrol cars. They will visit both prominent locations and locations where past crimes have occurred to improve a sense of safety in those areas

Patrolling officers serve an important role in a department's community policing strategy. Because they are so visible on the street level, officers on patrol provide an opportunity for residents and others in a neighborhood to interact with the police. This engagement can lead to people passing along valuable information to officers, such as tips about recent or even pending crimes, and it can allow officers to pass along advice and resources to citizens. Patrol work diminishes the sense of distance and detachment between officers and citizens, making the police more accessible.

In addition to my work in patrol, I have also been appointed as the Town of Scituate Alcohol Licensing Officer. It's a position where I work with local establishments enforcing underage alcohol laws in addition to educating them on state alcohol regulations. I also work alongside The Massachusetts Alcohol Beverage Control Commission to ensure compliance with alcohol laws of the commonwealth.

I encourage citizens to visit The Scituate Police Department and observe how The Patrol Division operates.

~ Sergeant Gerald O'Brien

Hi my name is Brad Stenbeck and I am a Patrolman with the Scituate Police Department. I have lived in Scituate for over 25 years and grew up in the West End. My parents were both born and raised in Scituate and my heritage runs deep. I became a Police Officer because I found police work interesting and exciting. I thought there's no better place to work than for the Scituate Police Department, giving back to the town I grew up in.



I currently patrol on midnights and days, but you'll also see me on plenty of road details. I am a big fan of community policing and encourage all citizens to come forward with comments, questions and concerns. Patrol is the forefront of police work, and with the help of our citizens, it will only make Scituate a safer and more enjoyable place to call home.



**"I encourage
citizens to visit
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Know Your Officers

Summer 2018

My name is James Donovan and I am a Patrolman with the Scituate Police Department. I have lived in Scituate for my entire life, growing up and going through the public school system here. I later went on to Endicott College to obtain my criminal Justice degree and from there was hired as a summer special in 2008.



In 2012 I was made a Permanent Intermittent officer, and hired as a full time patrolman in 2014. I became a Scituate police officer to help others and give back to the community I was lucky enough to grow up in.

I currently work the day and eve shift as a patrolman. I am privileged to say that I am also a Field Training Officer through patrol and have been able to train many of our new officers on the road.

In addition to my normal duties on patrol, I am also a member of the METRO-LEC SWAT Team and Scituate Police Marine Unit. METRO SWAT provides specialized tactics and response to approximately 50 cities and towns across Massachusetts. This elite unit trains throughout the month and is on standby 24x7 to handle emergency situations. As part of the Scituate Marine Unit, I am able to draw upon my training, experience and life long knowledge of the Scituate waterways as an operator for the Police Unit MP-I.

~ Officer James Donovan

My name is Edward Gibbons and I am a Patrol Officer for the Scituate police Department. I have been with the Department for six years. My first five years I was assigned to the midnight shift and currently work the day and evening shifts. I grew up in North Scituate and attended Scituate Public Schools until graduation in 1982.

After High School, I enlisted in the U.S Navy (Seabee's) and retired as a Senior Chief with twenty four years of active duty and reserve service. I have been stationed in several different countries and deployed to Iraq in support of "Operation Noble Eagle/Enduring Freedom". I also owned and operated my own local Plumbing and Heating Business (Metro P&H), servicing the town for twenty years until my full time employment with the Town of Scituate in 2007. I worked fifteen years part time and five years full time as the Scituate Assistant Harbormaster, serving the maritime community before joining the Police Department in 2012.

I look forward to continuing to foster good public relationships with community groups and individuals to build partnerships between our department and the general public.



"I became a Scituate police officer to help others and give back to the community I was lucky enough to grow up in."



Seals on the Beach

Every summer and sometimes at other times of the year, seals and seal pups come up on shore. Young seal pups tend to pick strange places to rest! The very best thing you can do for that seal is to keep your distance and call the number below.

New England Aquarium Stranding Hotline
617-973-5247



*“Dogs die every
Summer, in
Minutes your
Car temps are
Deadly!”*

CAR TEMPERATURE PET SAFETY CHART

**How long does it take
for a car to get HOT?**

VEHICLE TEMPERATURE		
Outside Temp (F)	Inside Temp (F)	
	10mins	30mins
70°	89°	104°
75°	94°	109°
80°	99°	114°
85°	104°	119°
90°	109°	124°
95°	114°	129°



DOGS DIE EVERY SUMMER
In minutes your
car temps are deadly!



VeterinaryClinic.com

Scituate Animal Control

Summer 2018

Important Information for Pet Owners

- All dogs in the town of Scituate are required to be licensed through the Town Clerks office.
- All dogs are to be leashed at all times when off the owners property.
- Please be sure your pets have ID TAGS! Or write your contact info on their collar!!!
- Dogs are not allowed on any public beach within the town of Scituate from June 15th to September 15th from 10am-6pm or on ANY athletic playing field maintained by the town at ANY TIME.
- PLEASE pick up after your dog. IT'S THE LAW!
- Please educate your children on the importance of not approaching unfamiliar dogs/cats and to always ask permission before interacting with someone's pet.
- When making the decision to bring a new pet into your family, please be informed. Always be sure all members of the family have met the animal and are in agreement with adding a new pet to your family. Work with adoption counselors and ask to see a temperament test to ensure the right fit!
- During the summer months leave your dog at home! The heat, whether it's inside a car or out in the direct sun, can prove deadly for a dog.
- Remember lots of fresh, clean water for all your pets.
- Please spay and neuter your pet. If you are having financial difficulty call 781.545.8709 and ask about Loretta's Fund.
- This office recommends all cats remain INDOORS. An indoor cat leads a happier, healthier, longer life!
- All your pets MUST be inoculated for rabies! This is especially important here in Scituate where rabies has been confirmed for many years. Rabies is deadly. This simple step could save lives!
- If you see an animal you believe is being treated poorly or are experiencing a problem, please call Animal Control @ 781.545.8709 or email: kstewart@scituatepolice.org
- The Animal Control office is not staffed 24 hours a day. Your call is important; please have patience when waiting for a return call.

Thank you!



***"Please pick
Up after your
dog. It's the
Law!"***



Fourth of July Holiday Observance

Summer 2018

ALL LAWS PERTAINING TO FIREWORKS, BONFIRES AND PUBLIC CONDUCT WILL BE STRICTLY ENFORCED.

1. Bonfires will not be permitted and no permits will be granted July 2nd—6th to civic, fraternal, veterans, business or community organizations (MGL Chapter 111, Section 142-H, 1).
2. Campfire/cooking fires are permissible but must comply with the following regulations (MGL Chapter 48, Section 13):
 - > 3' in diameter, (wood)
 - > 16" in height, surrounded by beach stone
 - > No closer than 75' to the nearest combustible (marsh grass, deck, fence, dwelling, etc).
 - > Campfire/cooking fires should be limited to no closer than the high tide line of the beach. The SFD will ask that any responsible party extinguish cooking fires beyond the high tideline or wait until the tide recedes before starting a camping/cooking.
3. All fires are to be safely extinguished by the responsible party. Any fire must be under the control of a party 18 years of age or older.
4. No liquid accelerants can be used to start cooking/campfires. Kindling or a Sterno type log may be used to start the fire.
5. Storage of wood for any cooking /campfires will be limited to 3' diameter by 3' high, stacked outside the foundation of your home. **No pallets allowed.**
6. Permission can be denied or revoked by Scituate Fire or Police Department for any violation of Massachusetts General Law, safety concerns, weather or for prior violations of any cooking or permit fire.
7. All regulations, statues, and bylaws will be enforced by the Scituate Police and Fire Departments, Plymouth County Sheriff's Department, members of the State Police Bomb Squad, and Fire and Explosion Investigation unit of the State Fire Marshal.

The public section of Humarock beach will be CLOSED on July 3rd at 4:30 pm

OUR GOAL IS FOR ALL OF OUR RESIDENTS AND VISITORS TO HAVE A SAFE AND FUN HOLIDAY. IF YOU NOTICE ANY HAZARDS OR VIOLATIONS, PLEASE CONTACT THE SCITUATE PUBLIC SAFETY CENTER AT (781) 545-1212 OR CALL 9-1-1.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ASSISTANCE!



Massachusetts General Law Chapter 148 Section 39

It is illegal for private citizens to use, possess, or sell fireworks in Massachusetts, or to purchase them legally elsewhere and then transport them into the state. The law prohibits any article designed to produce a visible or audible effect. The possession and use of all fireworks by private citizens is illegal in Massachusetts. This includes Class C fireworks which are sometimes falsely called "safe and sane" such as sparklers, party poppers, snappers, firecrackers, spinners and cherry bombs, to name a few. Sparklers burn at 1800°F. In the past decade (2001-2010) there have been 774 major fire and explosion incidents involving illegal fireworks in Massachusetts.

Fines \$100—\$1,000 Imprisonment up to 1 Year

We have all witnessed how quickly fires can spread on the waterfront where housing is thickly settled and densely populated. Large crowds and traffic congestion on the 3rd and 4th of July create serious public safety risks.

Because of these risks, the construction and ignition of bonfires will not be permitted July 2nd through 6th.

Please be advised that any bonfire materials stored on private property or on the beach in violation of fire prevention regulations will be removed at the owner's expense.

Any illegal fire will be extinguished by the fire department and the property owner held responsible for costs.

We ask for the cooperation of all residents and their guests to adhere to this fire safety provision.

Scituate Coastline Rules

Summer 2018

Beach areas open from sunrise to sunset

NO DOGS June 15th to September 15th from 10am - 6pm



NO DOGS ALLOWED

NO overnight camping, or open fires



NO alcohol



DO NOT disturb wildlife or enter designated habitats



*“Violators are
punishable by
fines or
arrest.”*

Boat Safety

Summer 2018

Scituate encompasses approximately 21 square miles of waterways, including five primary public beaches: Minot, Sand Hills, Egypt, Peggotty and Humarock. There are also four salt water rivers, beautiful sand spits along our northern and southern points and a large, vibrant harbor.

The SPD Marine Unit is responsible for ensuring boater safety, law enforcement functions and emergency response throughout the Town's waterways. The Marine Unit is staffed by operators and crew that undergo advanced training in law enforcement, medical aid and tactical maritime activities throughout the year. The Unit has forged collaborative working partnerships with federal, state and local law enforcement and emergency responders throughout the region including the U.S. Coast Guard, Mass Environmental Police, METRO LEC, Scituate Fire Department and Harbor Master's Office.

EMERGENCY: CALL 911
MARTIME EMERGENCY/HAILING VHF CH 16



*"Wear It!
 A life jacket
 only works if
 it's worn."*



Wear It, Wear It Right Life Jackets Save Lives!

1

CHECK THE LABEL

The label will tell you:

- Whether the life jacket is Coast Guard approved
 - The size of the jacket
 - How the jacket can be used
- Sizes run from infant to extra extra large. Adult life jackets will not work for children until they weigh about 90 pounds. Children's life jackets should have a loop on the collar and a strap between the legs.



2

CHECK FOR DAMAGE

Check that there are no broken parts and no mold or rips in the fabric.



FASTEN UP

Fasten up all buckles, zippers and straps. Adjust straps so that the jacket fits snugly.



4

CHECK FOR PROPER FIT

- Lift the shoulders of the life jacket
- Make sure it does not slip above the chin or ears
- It should feel snug, yet comfortable. A properly fitted life jacket keeps your head and shoulders above water. You will be able to swim with it, too.



3

5

WEAR IT!

A life jacket only works if it's worn. Take the time to be prepared. Make sure you have and wear the right life jacket before you go out in the water.



WS-P-24

<http://watersafety.usace.army.mil>


Scituate Police Department

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Scituate, MA 02066

Phone: 781-545-1212

Email: newsletter@scituatema.gov

Web: www.scituatepolice.org

 @ScituatePolice

 Scituate Police Department



WWW.SCITUATEPOLICE.ORG