

# The Waite Hill Police Beat

## February 2013

### Prescription Drug Disposal

The Police Department, in association with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), will provide an opportunity for residents to safely dispose unwanted, unused prescription drugs. Leftover medicine can lead to accidental poisoning and overdoses. It is also toxic waste when it's flushed, poured down the drain, or dumped in the garbage where it can end up polluting our waters, hurting aquatic life and contaminating water supplies. Please help the environment by properly disposing of your medicines. I am working with the Lake County Narcotics Agency and we will have a couple of dates for April of this year. I will confirm the date as soon as I receive more information.

### Solicitors

Waite Hill residents should be aware that **solicitors** have been canvassing the Village attempting to sell services or products. In addition to the product and sales people not being honest and/or having a quality reputation, the Village has an ordinance that requires all solicitors to register with the police department. These individuals have **not** done that. Also, most of you have signed that you do **not** want to be solicited at your home. If you have not signed our paperwork, please contact us and we will bring the form to you.

Individuals have been arrested and charged in the past few weeks with trespassing and soliciting without permits in other communities. There are strong indications that people who order services or products from these solicitors never receive what they are paying for. There are many complaints in numerous communities about their sales practices. Also, it is evident that homes are being cased and later burglarized. Our advice is to not engage any solicitor in conversation, certainly **do not** open your door to them, and call the police immediately.

### Internet Safety

Our children are the most vulnerable members of society, and protecting them from becoming victims of crime must be a priority. The advances in computer and telecommunication technology, which allow our children to reach out to new sources of knowledge and cultural experiences, are also leaving them vulnerable to exploitation and harm by computer-sex offenders. Potential predators come from "chat-rooms, gaming locations, cartoon – movie – music sites, as well as from your children's on-line video game consoles."

### Here are some tips you can use to avoid becoming a victim of cyber fraud:

- Do not respond to unsolicited (spam) e-mail.
- Do not click on links contained within an unsolicited e-mail.
- Be cautious of e-mail claiming to contain pictures in attached files, as the files may contain viruses. Only open attachments from known senders. Scan the attachments for viruses if possible.
- Avoid filling out forms contained in e-mail messages that ask for personal information.

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- Always compare the link in the e-mail with the link to which you are directed and determine if they match and will lead you to a legitimate site.
- Log directly onto the official website for the business identified in the e-mail, instead of “linking” to it from an unsolicited e-mail. If the e-mail appears to be from your bank, credit card issuer, or other company you deal with frequently, your statements or official correspondence from the business will provide the proper contact information.
- Contact the actual business that supposedly sent the e-mail to verify if the e-mail is genuine.
- If you are asked to act quickly, or there is an emergency, it may be a scam. Fraudsters create a sense of urgency to get you to act quickly.
- Verify any requests for personal information from any business or financial institution by contacting them by using the main contact information.
- Remember if it looks too good to be true, it probably is.

Respectfully submitted,

Keith A. DeWitt, Chief of Police