



BREMERTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

Serving with P.R.I.D.E.



December 23, 2013

Chief Strachan's Weekly Update

The Suspect Looked a Lot Like...Me! Officer Duke Roessel responded to the report last week of an unoccupied vehicle that had rolled backwards out of the parking lot at a gas station, and struck a parked vehicle and a fence. While investigating the accident, he interviewed a woman who claimed to be a witness. He later determined that she was actually the person that had driven and parked the vehicle and she had provided him with a false name. He subsequently correctly identified her, tracked her down and jailed her for a felony Department of Corrections arrest warrant.

Just like on "NCIS"- We Had The Case Wrapped Up Within an Hour: Officer Jon Meador did a very nice job on a theft case last week. A woman was at an East Bremerton grocery store and put her Kindle tablet computer on a charger. While she looked away, someone took it. The store video was checked and showed a male taking the tablet and running out of the store. Officer Meador went to a nearby pawn shop to alert them in case someone came in with the Kindle. Sure enough - a short time later two men came in with the Kindle. Both went to jail and the property was recovered.

It's Tough Getting Older, Ain't It?: Officers responded to the old Bremerton High School building in East Bremerton after an alarm was set off. Two males were located inside attempting to break into a storage locker. Both had just turned 18 years old, and were somewhat surprised to be taken to the Kitsap County Jail instead of home to mom and dad.

Officer Dave Hughes saw a vehicle last week driving at a very high rate of speed on Highway 3 by the airport. After catching up to the car and stopping it, he determined that:

- the driver was really drunk (as in .24 blood alcohol content, three times the limit), and
- the driver was fleeing from a hit and run collision in the Belfair area.

Dave put a quick stop to this driver's dangerous evening and turned him over to the State Patrol's welcoming arms.

Two more examples last week of difficult calls involving potentially violent encounters in which officers were called on to take immediate action and try to resolve them as safely as possible. In the first instance, an autistic man living in a group home began to throw items around the residence. The staff secured the other patients, and themselves, behind locked doors. The responding officers were able to calm the subject down and get him to cooperate, and he was transported to the Harrison Hospital Emergency Department for an evaluation. In the second case, an officer responded to a residence on Madrona Point regarding an elderly woman suffering from dementia, who was physically threatening her son with a sharp fork. The officer was able to peaceably disarm the woman and she was transported to the hospital by aid. We only hear about these kinds of calls when the behavior of the subject forces officers to use force, but they are very frequent.

Following some good suggestions from Bremerton residents we have installed a 911 call box outside our front lobby door. Prior to the phone being installed, anyone coming to our front door after business hours would not have a way to get help or contact a police officer. The phone only works for 911. Many thanks to Lt. Luis Olan for his follow up on this good addition.

Finally, each year our "graveyard" or night shift officers take a group photo to celebrate the holiday season. Below is this year's photo taken in front of the Kitsap 9/11 Memorial, which includes girders from the Twin Towers. We are proud to serve a community with the commitment to create and support a memorial like this, which of course was dedicated this year.



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Happy Holidays to each of you and your families - and wishing you a safe 2014!

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