



# LIBERTY POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER

## LIBERTY POLICE DEPARTMENT LIBERTY, SOUTH CAROLINA

### Where did that car come from? Officer has accident on Hwy 93.



On November 08, 2005 around 12:30am, I had a traffic accident at the intersection of Hwy 93 and Church Street. I was checking property and I pulled onto Church Street from the CVS parking lot. As I headed toward hwy 93, I looked over my shoulder towards the police department. When I turned back around, I was already partially onto hwy 93, so I just went ahead and pulled onto hwy 93 without looking. Before I knew what happened, I struck another vehicle in the driver's side. I took for granted that at this hour in the City of Liberty, there is very little to no traffic. I was comfortable, I was listening to music on the radio, but I was not paying attention to what was around me. I had no idea that another car was anywhere around. When Chief Miller arrived on scene, I commented to him that I could not believe that someone with my experience could make such a mistake. Chief Miller told me that accidents like mine were probably more common for officers with more experience because we get complacent. Seven years ago, when I

first came out of the academy, I was sharp and always on my toes. As the years have gone by, I have become complacent, and I have gotten lazy. I do not follow proper procedure when making car stops, I do not follow proper procedures when approaching residences, I do not thoroughly pat down arrestees, and obviously I have gotten to comfortable behind the wheel of a vehicle. The list could go on and on. These are the types of mistakes that get officers killed. We have a good department full of experienced officers; most of you have more experience than I do. It will soon be a new year, and I think it is important that we all take a good look at how we handle ourselves in the line of duty. We need to constantly critique ourselves, and look for ways to do things better and safer. I am making a commitment to do a better job. I am going to pay more attention to detail, and more attention when pulling out onto Hwy 93.

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### Remember Safety First

## Officer Of The Year



Every November the Police Officers are asked to select one of their fellow officers as the Officer of the Year. This Officer will be recognized at the annual Pickens County Municipal Banquet.

Officer Jared Bardon was selected as the Officer of the Year for 2005.

Officer Bardon started his law enforcement career with the Clemson University

Police Department as a Student Police Officer. After graduating from Clemson University Officer Bardon came to work for the Liberty Police Department. Officer Bardon Attended the South Carolina Police Academy class #463 and became a certified Class 1LE on August 27, 2004.

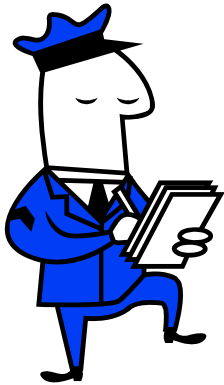
Officer Bardon plans on making law enforcement a life long career as he continues to seek ways to become a better police officer for the City of Liberty.

So far this year

**174**

Police Officers have  
Died in the Line of  
Duty.

## Assistant Chief's Corner



Remember in all you do and everyone that you meet.

Always Treat people the way you would want to be treated.



This months topics will deal with case follow-ups and general housekeeping. To start with I would like to discuss how we should follow up on our cases. When you take a report on an incident and you intend to follow up and close the case, I would like for you to document the case status as it progresses. Do the initial report with detailed information and indicate under administrative that you will be the follow up officer. After you complete your investigation and apply for a warrant and do a supplemental indicating your findings. When a warrant is obtained and you make and arrest do another supplemental and close the case. It is important that you document everything for court or simply to justify why you didn't charge someone in the case. All of you should be able to follow up domestics, assaults, and simple larcenies from start to finish. If you have a case where you have nothing at all to go on go ahead and document it and admin close it , we can re- open the case if needed. Any of the cases that I investigate, I will handle the warrant affidavits and supplemental reports. This will help us keep better track of the case load and make it

easier to communicate with the victims. Also don't forget to do victims forms when required.

The next issue I would like to discuss is housekeeping. We all need to keep our vehicles and department cleaner. We cannot rely completely on community service workers. If we have them great, but if not we need to do it ourselves. I would like to see everyone clean their cars weekly when weather permits. Keep them neat inside and out. We also need to keep the police department clean, if you dirty up dishes wash them, if you put stuff in the fridge clean it out, if you see trash laying around pick it up, well you get the point. A lot of people see our department and vehicles and the way they look is a direct reflection on us.

I hope everyone has a safe and happy holiday season. Keep up the good work.



## School Happenings

### Liberty Middle School



This year started with many changes. The school has a new principal, Donivan Edwards, who came to us from Newberry and has been in education for many years. Eight new teachers are also part of the middle school family now and we lost a good friend and teacher with the death of John Connelly in August.

The School has participated in a week of school zone safety and in gun safety, with classes taught and gun locks given to all adults for free. The Crime Watch Program and School Safety Patrol are

working well to make the school and surrounding area safe. The school football team did well this year, winning a few and looking much better than previous years, and basketball season is just opening with the hope that the boys and girls teams will do well this year.

Spring time should bring several events to be mentioned later and I hope to teach a class for 8th graders on Constitutional Law and Law Enforcement as an introductory to those who may be considering law enforcement as a career.

SRO Mike Constance

## Becky's Corner



As you all know, I have just returned from a week long training session at Myrtle Beach. Laura Hudson, Public Policy Coordinator with the South Carolina Victim Assistance

Network, was there speaking about new laws that are taking effect. One is dealing with Criminal Domestic Violence.

The new law provides revisions regarding the handling of domestic violence offenses by the judicial system and law enforcement.

the bill requires magistrates, family court judges, and circuit court judges to receive continuing education on issues concerning domestic violence.

The bill requires a law enforcement officer who is convicted of or pleads guilty or no contest to a criminal domestic violence offense loses certification.

The bill increases penalties for criminal domestic violence offenses.

First offense is punishable by a fine of not less than \$1,000 dollars nor more than \$2,500 dollars or imprisonment not more than 30 days.

Second offense (within a period of 10 years) is punishable by a fine of not less than \$2,500 dollars nor more than \$5,000 dollars and im-

prisonment not less than a mandatory minimum of 30 days nor more than one year.

The court may not suspend the mandatory 30 days imprisonment. The judge may order that the mandatory 30 day sentence may be served two days during the week or on weekends as well as allows the offender to be eligible for good time credits and early release.

Third offense (within a period of 10 years) is a felony offense punishable by imprisonment for not less than a mandatory minimum of one year but not more than five years. The court may not suspend the mandatory one year imprisonment.

CDV High and Aggravated is punishable by imprisonment for not less than a mandatory minimum of one year nor more than 10 years. The court may not suspend the mandatory one year imprisonment.

The bill requires that an individualized hearing must be held for criminal domestic violence offenses trialed in magistrates or municipal court and that the victim of the offense must receive notice of the hearing.

This is just highlighting some changes to the Criminal Domestic Violence law. More information is available at [www.svan.org](http://www.svan.org).

Governor Mark Sanford signed it into law on June 7, 2005. The new law becomes effective January 1, 2006.



A successful individual typically sets his next goal somewhat but not too much above his last achievement. In this way he steadily raises his level of aspiration.

**Kurt Lewin**

## Joke of the Month

### Wife helps out the cop

A male driver is pulled over by a cop and the following conversation takes place:

Man: What's the problem officer?

Cop: You were going at least 75 in a 55 zone.

Man: No sir, I was going 65.

Wife: Oh Harry. You were going 80.

(Man gives his wife a dirty look.)

Cop: I'm also going to give you a ticket for your broken tail light.

Man: Broken tail light? I didn't know about a broken tail light!

Wife: Oh Harry, you've known about that tail light for weeks.

(Man gives his wife a dirty look.)

Cop: I'm also going to give you a citation for not wearing your seat belt.

Man: Oh, I just took it off when you were walking up to the car.

Wife: Oh Harry, you never wear your seat belt.

Man: Shut your mouth, woman!

Cop: Ma'am, does your husband always talk to you this way?

Wife: No, only when he's drunk.



To Protect and Serve

P.O.Box 716  
206 W. Front Street  
Phone: 864-843-3956

# Training Opportunities

## CRIME SCENE RESPONSE

This month's issue deals with the basics of crime scene investigation. Before I begin with the obvious, it needs to be stressed that as a police officer it important to present a professional and caring attitude when responding to a crime scene. Therefore, if you respond to a call such as a burglary or larceny and the victim is requesting someone dust for finger prints, use the kit that is provided you and make an attempt. Normally, that is enough to satisfy someone. It isn't necessary to call out I.D. on every call. You can accomplish a lot by taking some initiative. An I.D. kit and camera are provided for your use, USE THEM. Naturally, I.D. will be called out for more serious crimes. Following is a "Top Ten" list of the basics of crime scene investigation.

### TOP TEN

1. Watch where you're walking (Don't destroy evidence).
2. Locate witnesses, victim(s), suspect(s), and separate if necessary.
3. Secure and protect the scene (close and deny access).
4. Don't touch (until it has been documented, identified, measured, and photographed) only exceptions are if it could be used to harm or cause death to someone at the scene or if it has the potential to be damaged or destroyed.
5. Once the emergency is over, and the scene is secure, then law enforcement must comply with 4<sup>th</sup> Amendment requirements (i.e. "Consent" or "Search Warrant").
6. Perform detailed search of the scene.
7. Photograph scene (Sketch the scene if necessary).
8. Obtain written statements.
9. When in doubt, WRITE IT OUT (Document!)
10. Double check your work.

The SCCJA web site has information on different resources such as Controlled Substance I.D., Search Warrant Guidelines, and Crime Scene Response. I encourage each of you to take a few minutes to look over this free information.

## Monthly Totals

### November 2005

Warning Issued	-	7
Citations Issued	-	89
Calls for Service	-	142
Accidents Reported	-	11
Juveniles Housed	-	27

## Chief's Corner



As I sit here writing this article it is the Friday after Thanksgiving. I am reminded of the many things we have to give thanks for.

We all have good health and nobody got seriously hurt this

pass year.

We have grown closer, the turn over rate for the department is down and we all get along with one and another pretty good.

We survived another election. For those of you who weren't here four years ago, Liberty made the papers when all of the Department heads walked off their jobs after a new mayor was elected. This election the police department just concerned itself with doing our job and staying out of the election process.

I am also thankful for the smooth transition from one mayor to another and look forward to assisting the newly elected mayor and councilmen move this city forward.

I hope to get the accreditation process back on track and get it completed next year. I am still rewriting all of the policies and procedures for the department . Once this is done then it will be the responsibility of all of us to put them into effect.

I will be putting a roof on our new washing station in the back parking lot soon. Once this is done I hope to move all of our cleaning stuff there where we can keep an eye on it. I also plan on moving a washer and dryer in there so it will be closer to the jail.

Now that we have paused to looked back and give thanks lets now look forward to the future and keep working hard of the citizens of Liberty.