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Whitman police add park patrols after arrest

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Photos




Marc Vasconcellos/The Enterprise

This sign welcomes visitors to Whitman Town Park.



By Allan Stein
Enterprise correspondent
 Posted Oct 07, 2011 @ 06:07 AM

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WHITMAN — Police have stepped up drive-by patrols at the town park following the arrest of a juvenile who was caught trying to sell martial arts weapons and a stun gun at the basketball courts in September. Police Chief Christine May-Stafford said she called for the increased presence as a public safety measure. “We definitely want people who do use the park to have a sense of security,” the chief said. On Sept. 13, police received a tip that the boy, 13, was at the basketball courts in the park saying he had weapons for sale. Police located a Chinese throwing star and a double-edged knife in the boy’s backpack. They also found a stun-gun stashed in a box on a nearby hill. May-Stafford said she was “very disturbed” by the discovery of weapons and felt it necessary to increase patrols to prevent similar incidents. Selectman Daniel Salvucci is also calling on stronger measures to curtail addicts who use the town park as a dumping ground for used syringes. Recently, he met with the chief and state Rep. Geoff Diehl hoping to begin a formal dialog among state legislators about the extent of the problem.

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untamed shrew 18 hours ago Report Abuse

How about changing the park rules to 'No one in the park after dusk?' Who needs to be in it at night anyway? Oh yea, the teenagers making in on the the slides and kiddie toys like I saw the other night!

thebigpayback 18 hours ago Report Abuse

Good, maybe now the drivers who have had a couple can make it home safely without being arrested.

TwistedSister 1 hour ago Report Abuse

Police should be doing patrols as a regular part of their police work. What's happening at this park is what's happening everywhere. You can't put too much focus on one area of town because a problem develops. The fact that someone contacted police about this kid selling weapons is proof that problems can be handled effectively when the public gets involved and notifies the police station. They can't do it alone.

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