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The Westford Police Department will be training 12 officers for Project Lifesaver March 5th and 6th. Project Lifesaver is a national search and rescue program that is saving lives and community resources across the United States. This program helps protect the most vulnerable citizens – those who wander due to Alzheimer’s disease, autism, Down syndrome and related disorders. Since its inception in 1999, public safety agencies at over 700 locations in 42 states and Canada have implemented the program. Project Lifesaver has successfully located 1,715 wanderers nationwide in an average time of 30 minutes or less from time of arrival on scene.

Citizens of Westford who qualify would be fitted with a battery operated wrist band transmitter. The wristband device has its own individual electronic code that transmits a radio signal. Once a person is reported missing, a Westford Police Officer who is trained in the Project Lifesaver equipment would activate a hand held receiving device. The electronic code from the wrist band would be entered into the receiving device and the officer would start tracking in the area the individual was last seen. To maximize response time, more Officers will be trained in the future. In order to use the device the Officers must be trained.

Batteries in the wristband devices will be replaced every thirty days with the assistance of the Westford’s Counsel of Aging. One wrist band device costs approximately \$300. 00.

Project lifesaver International is a non profit organization. Anyone who would like to donate to the Westford Police Departments Project Lifesaver can make the checks out to Project Lifesaver, c/o of the Westford Police Department. Any money raised goes directly to the Westford Police Departments account with Project Lifesaver. The money goes towards purchasing new batteries, wristband devices and related equipment.

The Westford Police Department is the first Department in Middlesex County to implement this program.

Any wanting more information on this may contact Captain Victor Neal at the Westford Police Department 978-692-2161. Also visit Project lifesavers website at <http://www.projectlifesaver.org/site/>