

Lee police change traffic stop policy

Monday, January 11, 2010

LEE — Police say only marked cruisers will conduct traffic stops in town after recent reports of a police impersonator in the region, including one incident in Lee that later turned out to be a prank.

Police Chief Chet Murch told the New Hampshire Union Leader that town policy now dictates that unmarked cruisers only will conduct traffic stops in town in a "dire emergency."

In the Lee impersonation incident, someone saw a suspicious traffic stop at the Lee Marketplace parking lot on Tuesday and reported it. That incident turned out to be a joke played between friends, police said.

In Rochester, there have been two recent reports of female motorists being stopped by a police impersonator. In one incident, a man told a woman he pulled over that he was looking for drugs, while in the other incident, the impersonator checked the woman's license and registration, as if it were a normal traffic stop, then let the woman go, Rochester police said.

On both occasions, the unmarked vehicle had flashing blue lights on its grill.

There were similar descriptions of the suspect in both cases: a white man in his 30s, 6 feet, 3 inches tall and of average build. Victims said he wore a blue jacket and blue jeans and had closely cropped brown hair.

Anyone with information on the impersonator can call Rochester Police at 330-7127 or the Rochester Crimeline at 335-6500. The Crimeline is anonymous and may offer a reward for information leading to an arrest.