

TUESDAY  
NOVEMBER 11, 2008

## Sheriff's Dept. updates fleet of cruisers

By ARCHIE MOUNTAIN  
Staff Writer

The Sullivan County Sheriff's Department has taken on a new look with a new fleet of cruisers.

The 2008 six-cylinder Chevrolet Impalas replace the old fleet of seven 2003 Ford Crown Victorias. In addition, a

**Newport** 2008 Chevrolet Express van will replace the 2003 Ford van that went to the maintenance department at the Sullivan County complex in Unity.

"The research we have done indicates the new cruisers will probably pick up a minimum of 4 miles per gallon in gasoline and that's quite substantial," said Sullivan County Sheriff Michael Prozzo. The seven cruisers are expected to log 160,000 total miles in the current budget year.

He said his department spent approximately \$28,000 for gasoline in the past year and gasoline for 2009 has been budgeted at \$20,000.

The new vehicles are being leased from Ron Currier Hilltop Chevrolet in Somersworth. "We always deal with the agency that has the state bid," Prozzo said.

The new fleet is being leased for four years instead of five for

the old fleet. "You're pushing the envelope at five years," Prozzo revealed. The previous cars had logged up to 126,000 miles. The new cruisers are a standard color, but a little lighter, the sheriff said. "Sometimes they appear more gold than gray, depending on the light. And they don't show the dirt so much," Prozzo noted.

He said the Chevrolet vehicles also included some standard equipment such as spotlights with their package. Much of the equipment in the older vehicles including radios was taken out

and installed in the new cruisers by Adamson's Industry in Haverhill, Mass.

Financing of the lease was done locally with Lake Sunapee Savings Bank. The financing package will cost \$38,418 annually or \$4,802 per vehicle including the van. The annual charge for the old fleet was about \$35,000 or \$4,399 a vehicle but this covered five years compared to four years for the new vehicles.

Dartmouth Motors of Newport will service the new vehicles.