

News Search:

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

SAVE \$200 at local restaurants!

[click here for details](#)

EXTRA EXTRA Business Opportunity
 **Click Here To Apply**

SECTIONS

News Gateway

Top Stories

Local

Sports

Business

Opinion

Living

PhotoWeek

NewsWeek

Sunday's Edition

Nation/World

Entertainment

Health

Bride 2005

Dating

TourismVT.com

Classifieds

Shopping

Careers

Real Estate

Business Directory

ARCHIVES

EXTRAS

Obituaries

Columnists

PDA Version

E-technology

Announcement Forms

SERVICES

Contact Us

Subscriber Services

contact toll free: Law Firm of Packard, Packard & Johnson, PC.

Telephone: 1-800-494-7940 • www.packard.com

The above information is not an offer to represent you, and does not constitute legal advice. Calling and sharing information does not create an attorney-client relationship.

Local News

[Subscribe!](#)

Wednesday, August 17, 2005

[More Local News](#)

Local News Archives for: [Sun](#) [Mon](#) [Tue](#) [Wed](#) [Thu](#) [Fri](#) [Sat](#)

■ [NewsWeek](#)

Step Up To Policing program starts second year

Published: Wednesday, August 17, 2005

By Rick Burnham

Correspondent

Jeanette Davis always knew she wanted to be a police officer. Now, thanks in part to a program designed to assist women in training for careers in law enforcement, she is one.

Davis, one of 11 women who attended the inaugural Step Up To Policing For Women program last year, recently graduated the Criminal Justice Training Academy in Pittsford and has joined University of Vermont Police Services as a law enforcement officer.

Step Up To Policing For Women is a nine-week program of Northern New England Tradeswomen.

Davis, 42, one of four graduates of the course who are working as either law enforcement or correctional officers, said the program helped her fulfill a lifelong dream.

"I was always drawn to being a cop," said the Morrisville native. "When we played cops and robbers as kids, I was always a cop."

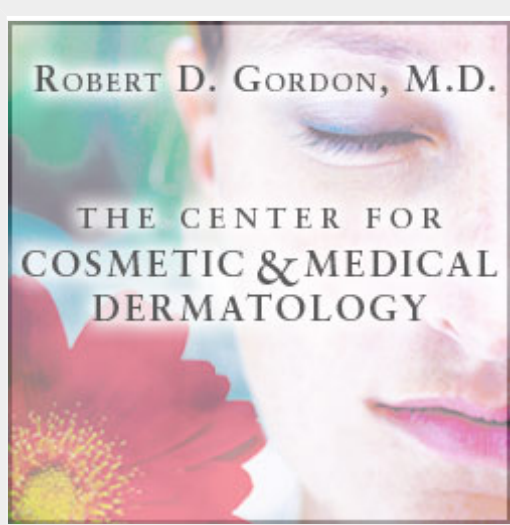
Ten women graduated from the course. Two of the graduates work at University of Vermont Police Services; two work for the Vermont Department of Corrections.

Davis, who formerly worked as a data processor at Maple Leaf Farm drug relief and rehab center, said that recent changes to the program, primarily to beef up emphasis on physical conditioning in preparation for the rigorous 16-week academy, make perfect sense.

"Last year's program did not prepare us enough physically," she said. "The academy can present substantial challenges to a person if they are not physically fit."

Jayne Sheridan, deputy director for Northern New England Tradeswomen, who coordinated Step Up To Policing For Women last year, said changes in the curriculum have come as a result of lessons learned during the program's first year.

"Physical conditioning is the biggest barrier for all people, not just women," she said. "But we found that to be a common theme among graduates of our course -- that they needed more physical training."



-- Advertisement --



Restaurant

Solarium

Bar

The place where the locals dine
 Burlington, VT



Find the Latest Sales & Deals at Your Favorite Local Stores!



Customer
Services

Advertise

Ad Design Specs

Carrier
Opportunities

 ©2001 The Burlington Free Press. Use of this site signifies your agreement to the Terms of Service updated December 17, 2002.





As a result, the program now includes physical training at a local gym, with individualized help available for those students who may need assistance in specific areas.

That is good news, said Kimberly Conant of Colchester, who attended the program last year but was unable to attend the academy because of physical concerns. Conant, 31, said she is scheduled to attend the academy in February and has been offered a job with University of Vermont Police Services. At her previous job, she was in charge of the rental car fleet at Hertz Corp.

"You simply cannot make it in the academy if you are in anything but above average physical condition," she said.

Kristen Mullins, director of women's programs for Northern New England Tradeswomen, who will coordinate the course in the second year, said the increased emphasis on physical conditioning is just one element of Step Up To Policing For Women. The 270 hours of training incorporated into the program include everything from an introduction to criminal justice to bias-free policing to report writing, she said, adding that much of the guidance comes from area professionals.

"We have actual police officers who come in and provide training to the students," she said. Eight local law enforcement agencies -- Essex Police Department, Hinesburg Police Department, South Burlington Police Department, University of Vermont Police Services, Vermont Criminal Justice Training Center, Vermont Department of Corrections and Vermont State Police -- and Vermont Department of Employment and Training are program partners.

Conant said the participation of local officials is one of the program's best features. Step Up To Policing

The next session of Northern New England Tradeswomen's Step Up To Policing Program will run 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Mondays-Thursdays, Sept. 12-Nov. 10 at Fletcher Free Library in Burlington. For more information, call 878-0004 or (800) 639-1472, or visit <http://www.nnetw.org/>. Information session 2-4 p.m., Aug. 23, Department of Labor office, 59 Pearl St., Burlington. Female officers

According to the state Department of Public Safety, 22 of the Vermont State Police's current 328 sworn officers -- 6.7 percent -- are women.

According to the National Center for Women and Policing, women typically accounted for 12.7 percent of all sworn law enforcement officers in the United States in 2001.

[Respond to this story in a Letter to the Editor](#)

[Back to index](#)