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Driving While Intoxicated: On November 28, 2020 at 1:37 A.M., Pequannock police dispatch received a report of a Jeep traveling north on Route 23 in the southbound lanes. Patrolman Michael Rafferty was monitoring traffic near the Wayne border and located a Jeep that was traveling north. The Jeep had a flat tire and was riding on the rim of the front passenger side wheel. The Jeep continued north at a slow speed until Ptl. Rafferty was able to conduct a motor vehicle stop on Route 23 near Jackson Ave. With backup units from Wayne and Pequannock PD, officers approached the Jeep and were able to identify the driver as Thomas Vitale, 43 years old from Belleville, NJ. Mr. Vitale was confused and had a difficult time explaining what had happened to his tire. Ptl. Rafferty suspected that Mr. Vitale was under the influence of alcohol. Mr. Vitale was removed from the vehicle to conduct standardized field sobriety tests and he was placed under arrest at the conclusion of those tests. Thomas Vitale was transported to Pequannock police headquarters where he was charged with DWI, reckless driving, failure to pull over for an emergency vehicle, failure to maintain lane and failure to keep right. He was released to a third party pending an appearance in Municipal Court.

Issued by:

Lt. Kevin Nelson

Operations & Public Information Officer