

Medford police now cruising on a Harley, thanks to Rotary

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MEDFORD - For the first time in its history, the township Police Department is using a brand-new Harley-Davidson motorcycle to patrol the roadways.

"We've never had one," Medford Police Capt. James S. Kehoe said yesterday.

The Medford-Vincentown Rotary Club paid \$16,000 to purchase a 2003 Harley and donated it to the Police Department in early June.

The club agreed to purchase the special edition police bike when Harley-Davidson of Camden County in West Collingswood Heights pledged to replace the motorcycle each year at no charge, said Leo Roselli, president of the Medford-Vincentown Rotary Club.

"Rotary clubs worldwide have community service as one of their four primary objectives," Roselli said, "and the local club has long wanted a continuing project that would make its presence known in the immediate area.

"When the opportunity came that would assure the Police Department of having the additional vehicle, with the assurance of a new replacement each year, the club jumped at the chance."

The Harley-Davidson dealership in Camden County has similar arrangements with police departments in Willingboro and Cherry Hill. Kehoe said the dealership would sell the used bike each year after it is turned in for a new one.

The bike features the township's police seal as well as the Rotary's logo, Kehoe said.

The motorcycle is currently being used for traffic patrol. School resource officers in the Drug Abuse Resistance Education program also may use the bike, police said.

"The kids love to see it, and it's great for traffic enforcement," Kehoe said.

Officer Ron Kalkbrenner is the principal driver and caretaker of the bike.

"He has a smile on his face at all times," Kehoe said.

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