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Gifts for Guns



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By Miranda Grossman

Story Published: May 10, 2009 at 3:14 AM EDT
Story Updated: May 10, 2009 at 3:14 AM EDT

Shot guns, pistols and ammunition. That is what was dropped off Saturday at the West Springfield Police Department for the "Gift for Guns" buyback program. "People can bring in a functioning gun, in exchange for an FL Roberts gas gift card," said Captain Anthony Viecegli of the West Springfield Police Department.

This is the third year local police Departments and Baystate Medical Center teamed up to take guns off the street. 98 guns were collected from six different locations. Bringing the total to more than 385 guns collected over the past three years of the program. "We see a lot of older people with guns in their homes that don't know what to do with them. They are afraid they might get stolen and put into the wrong hands," said Mary Paine of Baystate Medical Center Children's Hospital.

Officials say this program won't stop gun violence, but getting one gun off the street is worthwhile. "You never know where these guns will turn up. If you have a gun in your house and someone breaks in and steals them, they could get out in the street and used in a crime," said Captain Viecegli.

They hope this program will stop accidents before they happen. "We've seen kids at friends houses, they find a gun that's not locked up and its just heartbreaking. If we can avoid that then this program is doing its job," said Paine.

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3:50 AM **This is nuts!** wrote ...

Captain Viecegli, if you are so concerned about these weapons being used by criminals then why dont you offer a course that people could take and learn to use them properly? Being a servant you should know your oath of office and that is to defend the Constitution. Why not teach a course on safety and how to protect yourself from the bad guys? The right to bear arms is every free mans right. Why take them from people? Whats going on here?

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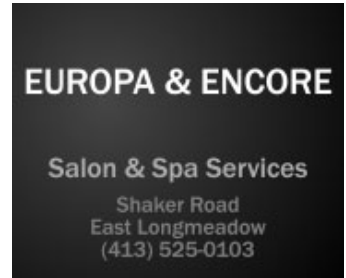
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