

# **TUCKAHOE POLICE DEPARTMENT**



## **ANNUAL REPORT**

# Police Department Report 2014

## **Recipient of National Traffic Safety Award**

The Tuckahoe Police Department was a recipient of the **Automobile Association of America's Gold Award**. It was bestowed for the Department's superior programs and projects that address local traffic safety. This is the tenth consecutive year that the Department has been recognized with a prestigious award by the AAA. The award was given for the Police Department's effectiveness in addressing local traffic safety issues, by implementing superior programs and projects such as:

- Safe Riders Day-Bicycle Safety Education
- STOP-DWI / Safe and Sober Campaigns-Driving Under the Influence enforcement and education
- Buckle Up New York / Operation ABC Mobilization-Adult and child restraint enforcement and education
- Operation Safe Stop – School Bus enforcement and education

These programs, among other efforts resulted in no DWI related fatal or serious injury accidents, no serious bicycle accidents, no serious school bus accidents and a high compliance rate of occupant protection for the past 14 years. Another commendation was received for 40 consecutive years without a pedestrian fatality.

## **In-Car Computers-TraCS Program**

The Village of Tuckahoe Police Department completed installation of in-car computers in all marked patrol vehicles to operate Traffic and Criminal Software (TraCS). This application software, combined with laptop computers, a central PC and data communications provides officers with all the functionality needed to record and retrieve incident information wherever and whenever an incident occurs. Officers write tickets and accident reports on the computers, print copies for involved citizens and electronically transmit the data electronically to Village Court and Department of Motor Vehicles. The software, hardware, installation and training were provided through a Governor's Traffic Safety Committee grant.

## **Midnight Tour Communications Project**

The Village of Tuckahoe Police Department and the Westchester County Department of Public Safety entered into a shared services agreement for the Department of Public Safety to handle communications and dispatch duties for the Tuckahoe Police Department on the midnight shift. This arrangement allows the Tuckahoe Police Department to optimize police operations while maintaining the Department's policing style, philosophy, response time, supervision requirements, anti-terrorism practices and community policing mission. During the first year (2014), The Department of Public Safety dispatched 891 calls for service for the Village. The increased efficiency of this shared service allows for more officers on patrol with reduced costs.

## **Tip411**

The police department launched an anonymous web tip program-tip411. It allows tips to be sent by anyone to the police department by smartphone, tablet, standard cell phone or computer. Police may respond back, creating a two-way chat, which is completely anonymous. The program was made available by the Honorable Janet DiFiore, Westchester County District Attorney using seized criminal assets.

The following are instructions:

### ***Send Tips, Photos and Video to the Police Anonymously***

#### **How to submit a tip:**

Anyone with a Smartphone, Tablet, standard cell phone or computer can text in a tip to the Tuckahoe Police Department and create a two way anonymous “chat”

#### **By text to:**

Text the keyword TUCKPD and your message to 847411

#### **By app: iTunes:**

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/tuckpd-tips/id885844934?ls=1&mt=8>

#### **By App: Android(Google Play Store):**

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.citizenobserver.tuckpdtips>

#### **What Tip411 does:**

- Protects the anonymity of the sender by assigning a six digit code with numbers and letters
- Messages can be responded to in real time creating an instant two-way live chat
- It allows the public to text photos or video to the police anonymously

#### **What Tip411 doesn't do:**

- It doesn't track the identity of the tipster
- It is **NOT** a substitute for calling 911. If you should need the police or other emergency responders you still should call 911.

## **Officer Recognition Award**

The Officer Recognition Award is awarded in acknowledgment of a patrol officer's outstanding police work. Officers are chosen for professional dedication, consistent performance at an exceptional level, accomplishments of note-worthy deeds, extraordinary performance of duty, leadership, community participation, and continued learning. The picture and name of the recipient is prominently displayed in Village Hall. The recipient for the year **2014** was:

***Police Officer Emilia Yankowski***

## **Special Unit Reports**

### **Child Passenger Safety Unit**

The CPS unit hosted a seat check event on June 28th at the Parkway Oval in conjunction with the department's bicycle safety event. The unit installed 9 child safety seats at the event.

Fifty- one (51) vehicles were checked by appointment or walk-in.

A total of sixty (60) child safety seats were checked or installed 2014.

Seven (7) new seats were provided and installed free of charge to those whose existing seats were defective.

PO Ashley Tuccitto completed a 4 day training course and became a certified CPS Technician. She joins other certified members of the unit who include: Anthony Solano, Andrea Pinto, James Kennedy, and Elliott Maldonado.

### **Bicycle Patrol Unit**

The Bicycle Patrol Unit was in operation from May 1<sup>st</sup> through October 31st. The high profile proactive bicycle patrols promote positive public relations, deter serious crimes, address quality of life complaints and foster and maintain the commitment to the community policing philosophy. Members of the unit patrolled 81 tours.

### **Motorcycle Unit**

The Motor Unit consists of four (4) specially trained officers who operate two fully outfitted Harley-Davidson Electra Glide motorcycles. The motorcycles are a very visible means of patrol with the primary function of traffic enforcement. The maneuverability of the motorcycles and the ability to accelerate quickly make them excellent tools to enforce speeding violations and other traffic offenses. The goal of the added enforcement is to increase traffic safety and decrease motor vehicle accidents. They maneuver through traffic for improved response time and reach areas such as parks that are not easily accessed by patrol cars. In addition, the unit participated in **20 ceremonial escorts** in 2014, which included funeral escorts, parades, charity rides and the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics.

## **Emergency Response Unit**

The Tuckahoe Police Department's Emergency Response Unit is a highly trained and skilled tactical team used as a resource for the department in the handling of critical incidents. The use of well managed police tactical units has shown to substantially reduce the risk of injury or loss of life to citizens, police officers and suspects with a high success of favorable resolutions of critical incidents. The Unit trains and deploys with members of the Eastchester Police Department, Bronxville Police Department and Pelham Police Department.

Upon completion of 2014, The Emergency Response Unit still consists of 4 active tactical operators. The team expanded its capabilities with an additional tactical officer from The Village of Bronxville. While call volume this year decreased, the team continued partaking in Operation Hercules exercises. Although training opportunities have been hindered due to various fiscal restraints, the members are still enthusiastic and eager to assist whenever called upon.

### **Operation Hercules:**

Members of the ERU team have participated with other jurisdictions, more notably the MTA Police, in order to provide extra security during the holiday season on the rail system. In addition, special attention has been given to high risk security threats related to terrorism such as storage facilities and houses of worship. While most of our local focus was on both the Tuckahoe Train Station as well as the Crestwood Train Station, the team has increased its presence in neighboring jurisdiction and CTZ3 affiliates.

On November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2014 (Black Friday) members of Emergency Response Unit assisted with an Emotionally Disturbed Person, barricaded inside his home in the City of New Rochelle. Team members assisted with extraction of a family member being held hostage inside the home, as well as safely detaining the unstable party involved. The incident was a success and was heavily covered by local media.

**Dignitary Protection:** Not applicable this year

### **Training:**

This past year, the team continued to train with local partners, as well as with tactical units throughout the County to address large scale tactical scenarios involving several teams.

## **Youth Services**

The Tuckahoe Police Explorer Program ended the 2014 year with **12 active Explorers**. Post #2008 had approximately **26 regular meetings** throughout the year, with additional trips and community service opportunities for all of the enrolled Explorers. The Explorer Program runs every other Thursday, from 5:30PM-7:30PM, September-June at the Tuckahoe Police Department. The two Advisors are Sgt Zirolnik and Officer Santiago under the command of Lt Belles. In June, 2014, **11** Explorers attended the Westchester County Station's Competition Day held at the WCPS Police Academy, Valhalla New York. This was an all day competition testing Explorers in various Law Enforcement fields such as domestic disputes, traffic stops, medical emergencies, and search and seizure procedures. Numerous medals and commendations were received. In January, 2014, the Tuckahoe Police Department accepted three college interns from various local colleges into our department Intern Program. These interns worked under the supervision of Lt. Margaret Belles and completed 104+ hours of internship hours.

From January 2014 through June of 2014, the Tuckahoe Police Department accepted an Eastchester High School Student as well as a Bronxville High School student to complete their WISE internship under the supervision of Lt. Belles. The Tuckahoe Police Department currently has **4 Youth Officers, Lt. Belles, Sgt. Zirolnik, P.O Leone and P.O. Santiago**.

- There were **2 Youths mandated by the Village of Tuckahoe Court** to our Community Service Alcohol/Drug Awareness classes and Service Program in 2014. The Court imposed a \$75.00 Administrative fee for these classes. This fee is payable on the day of the class, and goes directly toward the cost of running this program. These classes are run by Lt. Belles, Sgt Zirolnik and/or Po Santiago at the Village of Tuckahoe Police Department.
- There were **4 Juveniles** who were **diverted from the Juvenile Justice System** by our Youth Division and given Community Service Classes and hours relevant to the offense in 2014.
- There were **7 Juvenile cards/juvenile activity reports** forwarded to the Youth Division for follow up by our Youth officers. These juveniles may have been involved in activity that would have constituted a crime, but due to their age were referred to the Youth Division for appropriate consequences.
- Sgt. Andrew Zirolnik taught the 5<sup>th</sup> Grade DARE program to the William E. Cottle 5<sup>th</sup> Graders. There were approximately 85 students who received 13 weeks of instruction utilizing new "Keeping it Real" curriculum which will culminated with a graduation ceremony on Friday, June 16th, 2014.

## **Youth Services Continued**

- P.O. Leone taught the DARE Middle school curriculum to the Tuckahoe Middle School's 7<sup>th</sup> grade class. There were approximately 90 students who received 6 weeks of instruction in the Middle School curriculum.
- P.O. Leone taught High School Law Education to Tuckahoe High School. Approximately 85 students participated from the junior and seniors classes in a 4 Lesson block of instruction in the spring of 2014.

## **Community Outreach Efforts**

The Tuckahoe Police Department hosted "Safe Rider's Day" which focuses on Bicycle Safety instruction/course, Car Seat installation, crime prevention, Raffles and games. The event was held in June at the Parkway Oval and a strong local turnout was present. The Tuckahoe Explorer Post assisted during the event.

The Tuckahoe Police Department also hosted "The Cops for Kids Annual Kickball/Softball Tournament" event. There were approximately 50 children who participated in the games, with family and friends in attendance. There were 12 Tuckahoe Police Officers who participated in both of these events.

The Tuckahoe Youth Division/DARE Officers hosted the annual DARE Picnic at Lake Isle in June for the 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade DARE students. Swimming, Lunch, snacks, beverages and dessert were provided for all students and faculty.

The Tuckahoe Police Department hosted its first Annual Law Enforcement Open House in May. The program was initiated by Lt Belles in place of National Night Out against crime to offer local residents an opportunity to tour our department facility, as well as visit various stations/booths set up to educate people on the services that the Tuckahoe Police Department offers.

## **2014 Blotter Reports**

<b>Total Calls for Service:</b>	<b>4,230</b>
Alarms:	232
Fire Responses:	180
Medical Aided:	328
Motor Vehicle Accidents:	139
Domestic Incidents	89
Assault	15
Harassment	46
Robbery	0
Burglary	3
Sex Offenses	0
Larceny	55
Motor Vehicle Theft	6
Drug Offenses	23
Criminal Mischief	19
DWI/ DWAI	2
Liquor Law Violations	9
Fraud – Identity Theft:	45
All Others:	55
Criminal Cases:	238
Adult Arrests:	137



## **Traffic Citations**

### ***Moving Violations:***

• Speeding	320
• Red Light	93
• Seatbelt	118
• Unlicensed Operator	95
• DWI / DWAI	4
• No Comm. Traffic	6
• Registration Offenses	56
• Stop Sign	297
• One Way	42
• Pass School Bus	7
• No Inspection	103
• Light Defect	216
• Improper Lane Use	114
• No Right Turn	89
• Mobile Phone Use	230
• Other Offenses	94

***Total:***                ***1,884***

***Parking Violations:***                ***11,584***

# **Police Department Grants**

## **Traffic Safety**

- |  |         |   |
|--|---------|---|
| 1. Selective Enforcement Program:<br>(Governor's Traffic Safety Committee) | \$3,000 | Police Overtime                           |
| 2. STOP-DWI Program:<br>(Westchester County)                               | \$4,425 | Police Overtime                           |
| 3. Child Safety Seat Program<br>(Governor's Traffic Safety Committee)      | \$1,500 | Child Safety Seats<br>Training / Supplies |

## **Youth Programs**

- |  |         |                                  |
|--|---------|----------------------------------|
| 4. Drug Prevention/D.A.R.E.<br>(NYS Office of Children and<br>Family Services) | \$1,307 | Education/Prevention<br>Programs |
| 5. D.A.R.E.<br>(The Community Fund)  | \$2,000 | Education/Prevention<br>Programs |
| 6. Youth Programs<br>(The Community Fund)                                      | \$7,800 | Events                           |

## **Equipment**

- |   |          |                  |
|---|----------|------------------|
| 7. TraCS<br>(NY Governor's Traffic<br>Safety Committee) | \$18,035 | In-Car Computers |
|---|----------|------------------|

**Total: \$38,067**