

TUCKAHOE POLICE DEPARTMENT



ANNUAL REPORT

Police Department Report 2013

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 ninth 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 13 years. Another commendation was received for 39 consecutive years without a pedestrian fatality.

In-Car Computers-TraCS Program

The Village of Tuckahoe Police Department installed in-car computers in two 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. The Tuckahoe Police Department has received additional funding to install in-car computers in the remaining patrol vehicles in the coming year.

Youth Bureau Office

The Department renovated unused office space in Village Hall to create a Youth Bureau Office. This vacant space was transformed into a conference room, youth office and storage room for juvenile records. It is a private setting away from the normal operations of the police department that is approved by the State for the questioning and the temporary detention of juveniles. More importantly, it allows the Department's four (4) youth officers to meet with young people, parents and partners in our schools and community to prevent and control criminal or anti-social behavior. Through these partnerships the safety and welfare of our community's children are greatly enhanced. The entire cost of this project, including construction, technology and furniture, was funded by the New York State Dormitory Authority.

Federal Excess Property Program

The Department has been very successful in acquiring vehicles, weapons and equipment through the 1033 Department of Defense Federal Excess Property Program. The equipment was provided free of charge, except for transportation costs. Sergeant Lawrence Rotta researched and coordinated the acquisition of the following property this past year, which were all in excellent condition:

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|--------------------------------|----------|
| • Humvee Vehicle (4,000 miles) | \$38,500 |
| • John Deere Excavator/Backhoe | \$33,800 |
| • Compressor Units (2) | \$10,500 |
| • M-16 Rifles (5) | \$5,000 |

Midnight Tour Communications Project

An internal analysis of the Police Department was conducted to optimize police operations while maintaining the Department's policing style, philosophy, response time, supervision requirements, anti-terrorism practices and community policing mission. The analysis included the department's staffing levels, calls for service per shift, patrol staffing levels per shift and desk officer workload/responsibilities.

The dispatching position on the midnight tour (tour 1), midnight to 8am, was identified as an area for greater efficiency due to the low volume of calls for service. Although patrols were very active in crime prevention and pro-active patrols, the desk officer functions, which are primarily communications, were minimal. The staffing requirement for the midnight tour desk officer is equivalent to approximately 1.9 police officers a year. Bringing greater efficiency to the midnight shift dispatch became a goal for the Department.

The Department began discussions with the Westchester County Department of Public Safety about the shared service of the midnight tour dispatch. It included 911 procedures, telephone procedures, radio communications, records management, Tuckahoe Police and County Public Safety protocols. The Tuckahoe Police Department also reaffirmed long-existing mutual aid and assistance procedures with Eastchester and Bronxville Police Departments. Internal policies and procedures of the Department were revised to reflect the WCDPS midnight tour dispatch. The physical security of the police department was upgraded and modified. An emergency phone directly linked to 911 was installed at the entrance to the police department for those needing urgent assistance when the desk is not manned.

On December 3, 2013, at the request of the Village of Tuckahoe Police Department, the Westchester County Department of Public Safety began to provide police and other public safety communications for the Tuckahoe Police Department from midnight (0001 hrs) to 7:40am (0740 hrs) seven days a week as a shared service. The project allows the Tuckahoe Police Department to maintain the excellent police services that our community has become accustomed to.

Special Unit Reports

Child Passenger Safety Unit

The CPS unit hosted a seat check event on September 21st at the Parkway Oval in conjunction with the department's bicycle safety event. The unit installed 26 child safety seats at the event.

Seventy one (71) vehicles were checked by appointment or walk-in.

A total of ninety seven (97) child safety seats were checked or installed 2013.

Bicycle Patrol Unit

The Bicycle Patrol Unit was in operation from May 1st 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 83 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 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 **21ceremonial escorts** in 2013, 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.

The Emergency Response Unit consists of 4 active TPD tactical operators. The joint team expanded its capabilities with the addition of tactical officers from the Village of Bronxville PD who trained two new members. In addition, Eastchester PD was able to train 2 additional operators bringing their staffing levels to 6 members. While call volume this year decreased, the team continued to actively train and prepare for high risk situations.

Emergency Response Unit Continued

Warrant Service

On February 15th, 2013 Members of the Emergency Response Unit assisted detectives to execute a narcotics case search warrant based on intelligence gathered by local and county detectives. Team members did a dynamic forcible entry at the location and apprehended two suspects linked to the drug investigation. Subjects were located in an apartment and taken into custody by various team members. Prior to the apprehension, rooftop officers observed one suspect discarding drugs and money through a bedroom window. All defendants were apprehended without injury, and all evidence and contraband recovered successfully.

Dignitary Protection

Members of the Emergency Response Unit were detailed on two occasions to assist with the safety and security of a high profile religious leader who was in the village to conduct services. Both events were performed without incident.

Operation Hercules

Members of the ERU team participated with other jurisdictions, more notably the MTA Police, in order to provide extra security during the holiday seasons on the rail system. In addition, special attention was given to other security threats related to terrorism. While most of our local focus was on both the Tuckahoe Train Station and Crestwood Train Station, the team increased its presence in neighboring jurisdictions as well.

Equipment

Over the course of the year, the team purchased miscellaneous tactical gear such as entry tools, medical pouches, and additional rifle magazines. In addition, the department was able to receive a military H1 Humvee via the Federal 1033 Program to assist with team transportation, movement of equipment and high water rescues.

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 2013 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 Wednesday from 5:30PM-7:30PM, September-June at the Tuckahoe Police Department. The four Advisors are Lt. Belles, Sgt Zirolnik ,Officer Santiago, and Officer Leone. In June, 2013, **9** 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.

The Tuckahoe Police Department's **Internship Program** accepted and hosted 6 interns in 2013. Four interns were from the Eastchester High School Wise Program and two were from Mercy College. These interns worked under the supervision of Lt. Margaret Belles and completed over 104 internship hours.

The Tuckahoe Police Department currently has **4 Youth Officers, Lt. Belles, Sgt. Zirolnik, P.O Leone and P.O. Santiago.**

- There were **10 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 2013.
- There were **14 Juvenile cards** forwarded to the Youth Division for follow up by our Patrol 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. There were 2 other Juvenile Cases where cards were not completed, as a Youth Officer was on duty and completed the case investigation and Juvenile Activity reports. These youths were included in the above reported number of juveniles diverted from the Juvenile Justice System.
- Sgt. Andrew Zirolnik taught the 5th Grade DARE program to the William E. Cottle 5th Graders. There were approximately 85 students who received 13 weeks of instruction utilizing new "Keeping it Real" curriculum which will culminate with a graduation ceremony on Friday, February 14th, 2014.
- P.O Leone taught the DARE Middle school curriculum to the Tuckahoe Middle School's 7th grade class. There were approximately 100 students who received 6 weeks of instruction in the Middle School curriculum.
- PO Steven Leone taught the new curriculum for the Tuckahoe High School Law Related Education Program which was taught to 100 students in a 6 Lesson block of instruction in 2013.

Community Outreach Efforts

The Tuckahoe Police Department hosted “Safe Rider’s Day” which focuses on Bicycle Safety instruction and courses, Car Seat installation, crime prevention, Raffles and games. The event was held in September and there were approximately 150 attendees over the course of the event.

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 115 children who participated in the games and about 70 adults in attendance. There were approximately 18 Tuckahoe Police Officers who participated in both of these events.

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

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 **2013** was:

Police Officer Anthony Solano

2013 Blotter Reports

Total Calls for Service:	3,881
Alarms:	286
Fire Responses:	205
Medical Aided:	410
Motor Vehicle Accidents:	113
Domestic Incidents	65
Assault	14
Harassment	33
Robbery	0
Burglary	11
Sex Offenses	0
Larceny	47
Motor Vehicle Theft	3
Drug Offenses	19
Criminal Mischief	17
DWI/ DWAI	8
Liquor Law Violations	4
Fraud – Identity Theft:	21
All Others:	34
Criminal Cases:	245
Adult Arrests:	150

Traffic Citations

Moving Violations:

• Speeding	245
• Red Light	57
• Seatbelt	104
• Unlicensed Operator	108
• DWI / DWAI	17
• No Comm. Traffic	9
• Registration Offenses	65
• Stop Sign	173
• One Way	22
• Pass School Bus	13
• No Inspection	80
• Light Defect	144
• Improper Lane Use	139
• No Right Turn	93
• Mobile Phone Use	175
• Other Offenses	211

Total: **1,665**

Parking Violations: **10,981**

Police Department Grants

Traffic Safety

1. Selective Enforcement Program: (Governor's Traffic Safety Committee)	\$3,500	Police Overtime
2. STOP-DWI Program: (Westchester County)	\$8,400	Police Overtime
3. Buckle Up New York	\$2,496	Police Overtime
4. Child Safety Seat Program (Governor's Traffic Safety Committee)	\$2,500	Child Safety Seats Training / Supplies

Youth Programs

5. Drug Prevention/D.A.R.E. (NYS Office of Children and Family Services)	\$1,307	Education/Prevention Programs
6. D.A.R.E. (The Community Fund)	\$1,700	Education/Prevention Programs
7. Youth Programs (The Community Fund)	\$7,800	Events

Storm Recovery

8. Hurricane Sandy FEMA/SEMO	\$47,500	Police Overtime Protective Measures
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Equipment

9. TraCS (NY Governor's Traffic Safety Committee)	\$12,660	In-Car Computers
10. 1033 Program Department of Defense	\$87,800	Vehicles, Equipment, Weapons

Infrastructure

11. Youth Bureau Office NY Dormitory Authority	\$100,000	Construction, Furniture, Technology
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Total: \$275,663