

TUCKAHOE POLICE DEPARTMENT



ANNUAL REPORT

Police Department Report 2015

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 eleventh 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 15 years. Another commendation was received for 41 consecutive years without a pedestrian fatality.

Swift911™

The department began using Swift911™ to keep constituents informed during fires, outages, floods and other emergencies, as well as crime prevention messages that are time sensitive. Messages may be delivered via voice, text, email, fax and social media.

[Please click here to sign up for the Swift911 system](#)

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 **2015** was:

Police Officer James Kennedy

Special Unit Reports

Child Passenger Safety Unit

The CPS unit hosted a seat check event on June 27th at the Parkway Oval in conjunction with the department's bicycle safety event. The unit installed 8 child safety seats at the event.

30 vehicles were checked by appointment or walk-in.

A total of 40 child safety seats were checked or installed 2015.

8 new seats were provided and installed free of charge to those whose existing seats were defective.

Certified members of the unit include: Anthony Solano, Andrea Pinto, James Kennedy, Ashley Tuccitto and Eliott Maldonado.

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 87 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 over **20 ceremonial escorts** in 2015, 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.

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 CT3 affiliates.

Call-Outs:

On March 30th, 2015 members of the Emergency Response Unit responded to Eastchester to serve a high risk search warrant on a residence involved in a narcotics investigation.

On April 4th, 2015 members of the Emergency Response Unit responded to Eastchester on a report of a barricaded male inside his home holding his wife and daughter hostage. Further, there were reports the wife may have been stabbed. Team members assisted with perimeter security and eventually made entry into the home which was found to be vacant. Investigations proved the entire event to be a hoax with intentions to provoke a large tactical response commonly known as "swatting."

On September 17th, 2015 members of the Emergency Response Unit responded to Concordia College on a report of a domestic dispute in which the alleged attacker was seen leaving the dormitories with a handgun. Team members did a search of the college grounds while the campus was put on temporary lockdown for student's safety. The suspect was believed to have left prior to police arrival.

Equipment:

The department traded in multiple automatic rifles for newer updated weapons. In addition, digital optics (EOtech) were added for an upgraded more efficient performance. Miscellaneous tools/items such as a "break and rake" pole and diversionary devices were purchased.

Training:

The team participates in New York State accredited training with the Westchester County Police SRT (Special Response Team). Over the course of the year, each operator will complete the required yearly tactical training requirement which will be led by instructors within the WCDPS staff. The collaborative effort has been a huge success and further illustrates the importance of multi-agency team work and shared services.

Youth Services

The Tuckahoe Police Department currently has **4 Youth Officers: Lt. Zirolnik, Sgt. Santiago P.O. Leone, P.O. Piasta** and. PO Piasta obtained his state certification in September just following the recent retirement of Lt. Margaret Belles. Lt. Zirolnik has been assigned to oversee the Youth Services Division in place of Lt Belles.

Explorer Program:

The Tuckahoe Police Explorer Program ended the 2015 year with **10 active Explorers**. Post #2008 had approximately **22 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 two Advisors are Lt. Zirolnik, and Sergeant Santiago

Intern Program:

In January, 2015, the Tuckahoe Police Department accepted three college interns from various local colleges into our department Intern Program. These interns worked with staff members and completed 104+ hours of internship hours.

From January 2015 through June of 2015, the Tuckahoe Police Department accepted an Eastchester High School Student to complete their WISE internship under the supervision of Lt. Belles.

Youth Enforcement:

There were **3 Youths mandated by the Village of Tuckahoe Court** to our Community Service Alcohol/Drug Awareness classes and Service Program in 2015. 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. Zirolnik, Po Santiago or Po Piasta at the Village of Tuckahoe Police Department.

There were **6 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 2015.

There were **4 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.

DARE Program:

Sgt. Andrew Zirolnik taught the 5th Grade DARE program to the William E. Cottle 5th Graders. There were approximately 90 students who received 10 weeks of instruction utilizing new "Keeping it Real" curriculum which will be culminated with a graduation ceremony.

P.O Piasta taught the DARE Middle school curriculum to the Tuckahoe Middle School's 7th grade class. There were approximately 90 students who received 10 weeks of instruction in the Middle School curriculum.

Po Leone taught High School Law Education to Tuckahoe High School. Approximately 80 students participated from the junior and seniors classes in a 5 Lesson block of instruction in the Spring of 2015.

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 Tournament" event. There were approximately 50 children who participated in the games, with family and friends in attendance. There were approximately 13 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 5th and 7th grade DARE students. Swimming, lunch, snacks, beverages and dessert were provided for all students and faculty.

The Tuckahoe Police Department hosted its second Annual Law Enforcement Open House in May. The program was initiated 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.

2015 Blotter Reports

Total Calls for Service:	4,430
Alarms:	256
Fire Responses:	204
Medical Aided:	411
Motor Vehicle Accidents:	138
Domestic Incidents	88
Assault	5
Harassment	36
Robbery	0
Burglary	6
Sex Offenses	1
Larceny	49
Motor Vehicle Theft	5
Drug Offenses	26
Criminal Mischief	14
DWI/ DWAI	6
Liquor Law Violations	0
Fraud – Identity Theft:	43
Criminal Cases:	256
Adult Arrests:	185

Traffic Citations

Moving Violations:

• Speeding	240
• Red Light	116
• Seatbelt	118
• Unlicensed Operator	142
• DWI / DWAI	6
• No Comm. Traffic	55
• Registration Offenses	110
• Stop Sign	202
• One Way	43
• Pass School Bus	5
• No Inspection	158
• Light Defect	184
• Improper Lane Use	141
• No Right Turn	43
• Mobile Phone Use	96
• Other Offenses	178

Total: ***1,495***

Parking Violations: ***11,813***

Police Department Grants

Traffic Safety

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

Youth Programs

- | | | |
|--|---------|--|
| 4. Drug Prevention/D.A.R.E.
(NYS Office of Children and
Family Services) | \$1,307 | Education/Prevention
Programs |
| 5. D.A.R.E.
(The Community Fund) | \$2,200 | Education/Prevention
Programs |
| 6. Youth Programs
(The Community Fund) | \$8,300 | Events (Cops for Kids, Open
House, Explorers, Safe Riders,
etc.) |

Total: \$20,732