

TUCKAHOE POLICE

2019 ANNUAL REPORT





OUR MISSION

*The Tuckahoe Police
Department shall protect
the quality of life in our
community in partnership
for those who we serve.*



LETTER TO CITIZENS



Village of Tuckahoe Residents:

I am delighted to present the 2019 Tuckahoe Police Department Annual Report. It was another year of achievements and gains brought about by the hard work and dedication of the men and women of the Department whose tireless efforts create a safe environment to live, work and visit. We continue to challenge ourselves to build upon past accomplishments and analyze our performance to provide first-rate police services to our community.



This year we installed cameras and license plate readers at our busiest intersection, Main Street at Columbus Avenue. This technology has proven to be an effective crime solving and prevention asset. We also partnered with the Westchester County Department of Public Safety's Real Time Crime Center to provide critical information and intelligence gathered from across the region to our officers while events are evolving. In preparation of new discovery rules enacted by criminal justice reform, we updated our computer system and technology infrastructure to meet the demand to expeditiously exchange electronic materials with the District Attorney's Office. Our community outreach expanded with a very successful new "Cone with a Cop" event, as well as increased participation in other successful activities. A new Traffic Unit was formed, which is highly successful in addressing critical traffic safety issues such as pedestrian safety, distracted driving and commercial vehicle enforcement. Our social media and notification systems continue to expand.

Understanding that people are our greatest resource, our members attended training throughout the region and beyond to improve their tactics, communication and leadership skills. We will continue to recruit, retain and promote the best officers to ensure excellent police services today and well into the future.

We are committed to our mission statement; "protecting the quality of life of our community in partnership with those we serve" by being fully engaged with our citizens and forging and renewing our relationships. Working together is what makes our Village so desirable. Although, this report does not reflect all that was achieved this year, it does provide a glimpse of the dedicated service and accomplishments of the men and women of the Tuckahoe Police Department. I am proud to lead such a fine group of professionals.

Sincerely,
John Costanzo

Chief of Police



ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE



CHIEF OF POLICE
JOHN COSTANZO



YOUR COMMUNITY POLICE DEPARTMENT



TORCH RUN

Every year, the Tuckahoe Police Department participates in the Westchester County leg of the Annual Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics. Officers from across the County join together for this amazing event with a mission to promote the Special Olympics and to protect the "Flame of Hope" as it makes its way through Westchester County. The Torch Run comes to our area in May of each year.

DONUT DAY OPEN HOUSE

The Tuckahoe Police Department held its second annual "Donut Day" Open House at our Police Headquarters. Kids were treated with free donuts while they toured our facilities and learned about some basic day to day operations that go on at the Tuckahoe Police Headquarters. Children were also presented with Community Safety coloring books and police badges. The kids all enjoyed taking pictures inside the police cars and interacting with our Officers.



BICYCLE SAFETY DAY

For years, the Tuckahoe Police Department has held its annual Bicycle Safety Day where the community comes out with Tuckahoe Police Officers to teach bike safety techniques while enjoying food and drinks with the children of Tuckahoe and surrounding towns. Free helmets are given away and dozens of new bikes are raffled off each year during the event.

SANFORD GARDENS COMMUNITY BLOCK PARTY

Members of the Tuckahoe Police Department attended the Sanford Gardens Community Block Party. Inflatable sporting games were provided as well as prizes and giveaways. Members of the Police Department enjoyed interacting with residents in various games and being in one another's company.



YOUR COMMUNITY POLICE DEPARTMENT



TURKEY GIVEAWAY

Each year for Thanksgiving, the Tuckahoe Police Department and its PBA donate approximately 60 turkeys to members of the community and local faith groups. This year was no different as Officers continue to work hard to keep this great ongoing tradition.



D.A.R.E. PICNIC

In June, the Tuckahoe Youth Division/D.A.R.E. Officers hosted the annual D.A.R.E. Picnic at Lake Isle for the 5th and 7th grade D.A.R.E. students. Swimming, lunch, snacks, beverages and dessert were provided for all students and faculty.

CONE WITH A COP

The Tuckahoe Police Department held our first annual "Cone with a Cop" day this year outside Swirl N Joy. It was a great opportunity for the youth of Tuckahoe to come out and meet their Police Department while enjoying free ice cream! The turnout for this event was far more then we anticipated and we will definitely be holding the event again in the upcoming year.



CHILI COOK OFF

Members of the Tuckahoe Police Department, along with other local Police, Fire, and Medical services, took part in a charity Chili Cook Off at the Broken Bow Brewery last year. All proceeds from the event were donated to The Sharing Shelf, a Family Services of Westchester program. The Tuckahoe Police Department took home 1st Place this year!

PATROL DIVISION



WORKING AROUND THE CLOCK TO KEEP YOU SAFE

The Patrol Division is the most visible and largest section of the Police Department. The primary focus of the Patrol Division is the protection of life and property and to enforce the law in a fair and impartial manner, consistent with the values of a free and open society. Uniformed Patrol Officers have the most contact with the community. They provide the Village with a full range of police activities that our citizens have come to rely on. They are the first responders to calls of service that run the gamut from a barking dog to an armed encounter. The most inconsequential and routine activity can develop into a potentially hazardous and volatile situation in a split second.



KEEPING CITIZENS SAFE DURING SPECIAL EVENTS

The Village of Tuckahoe hold several special events throughout the year that are patrolled by the Tuckahoe Police Department. Some of these events include: the July Fireworks Event at Parkway Oval, the 5K "Tuckahoe Challenge" run that is held in September. Additionally, there are numerous other events that are held in the Depot Square area during the year which have included concerts, ice skating, car shows and food events and fairs.



DETECTIVE DIVISION



THE DETECTIVE DIVISION

The Tuckahoe Police Department's Detective Division is in charge with the responsibility of investigating all criminal activities, internal investigations and the records management of the entire police department. The duties of a Detective may range from obtaining documentation relating to harassing/annoying phone calls, to retrieving essential DNA samples at a burglary scene. The Detectives at the Tuckahoe Police Department strive to excel in all aspects of criminology including evidence collection, interview and interrogation, case documentation and court testimony. Aside from investigations, the Detectives are also assigned to the task of actively pursuing and arresting those subjects who evade court proceedings. In 2018 the Detective Division vacated out 10 active warrants for subjects wanted by the Tuckahoe Police Department for various crimes.



THE ALCOHOL AND DRUG ENFORCEMENT TASK FORCE

The Town of Eastchester, and the Villages of Tuckahoe, Bronxville and Scarsdale reformed its Alcohol and Drug Enforcement Task Force over the last year. The task force is run out of the Detective Division who work tirelessly, following up on leads obtained through police duties. The cooperative efforts of the task force focus on the sale and consumption of illegal drugs and the sale of alcohol to minors, as well as, underage drinking. The "B.E.S.T.A.D.E." Task Force is comprised of members of all four departments assigned on a part-time basis. Detective Steven Leone is assigned to the task force. Members work in tandem with neighboring jurisdictions to strengthen enforcement and awareness. The collaborative effort of the task force has been very successful and has achieved results that could not have been attained working independently.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE UNIT



EMERGENCY RESPONSE UNIT

The Tuckahoe Police Departments 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 team received certification from the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services after meeting and exceeding all accreditation standards.

The Emergency Response Unit consists of five active tactical operators. Lt. Zirolnik will continue to be the multi-jurisdictional Team Commander. While emergency call-outs were minimal, the team continued partaking in Operation Hercules exercises and training. Training opportunities have been consistent through out multi-jurisdictional team training with the Westchester County Police SRT team on a monthly basis. The members continue to be enthusiastic and eager to assist whenever called upon.



OPERATION HERCULES

Members of the Emergency Response Unit 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 jurisdictions and CTZ3 affiliates.

CALL-OUTS

In Jan 2019, members of the Emergency Response Unit responded to an address in Pelham to serve an arrest warrant. The suspect was successfully arrested and numerous guns were confiscated and turned over to Pelham PD.

In March 2019, members of the Emergency Response Unit responded to Lawrence Hospital on reports of an active shooter. After investigating it was deemed the threat was unfounded.

In September 2019, members of the Emergency Response Unit responded to Pelham to assist with a barricaded emotionally disturbed individual. With the help of a hostage negotiator the individual surrendered and was taken to the hospital for an evaluation.

TRAINING

Team members participate in a collaborative training schedule with the Westchester County Police SRT (Special Response Team). Over the course of the year, each operator completed a minimum of 96 hours of tactical training. This shared service allows for training venues and extensive equipment accessible to our team members. The collaborative effort has been a huge success and further illustrates the importance of multi-agency team work.



SPECIAL UNITS



CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY UNIT

The CPS unit is comprised of six members, Sergeant James Kennedy, Detective Andrea Pinto, Police Officers Anthony Solano (Unit Leader), Ashley Tuccitto, Dan Coughlin and Police Custodian, Elliott Maldonado. The Unit hosted a seat check event on May 18th on Fisher Ave in conjunction with the Department's Bike Safety Event. The Unit checked/installed 10 child safety seats at the event.

- On September 21st, the Unit assisted the Ardsley Police Department hosted a CPS Event at Buy Buy Baby in Scarsdale where 38 seats were installed or inspected
- 31 Vehicles were checked by appointment or walk-in at Tuckahoe Police Headquarters in 2019.
- 79 child safety seats were inspected or installed in 2019.
- Three new seats were provided and installed free of charge to those whose existing seats were defective.



MOTORCYCLE UNIT

The Motor Unit consists of four specially trained officers who operate three fully outfitted Harley-Davidson Electra Glide motorcycles. The motorcycles were purchased, with a grant from the Generoso Pope Foundation. 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 12 ceremonial escorts, which included funeral escorts, parades, charity rides and the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics.



SPECIAL UNITS



TRAFFIC SAFETY UNIT

The Traffic Safety Unit was formed in 2019 and is comprised of 5 Members, Sgt Kennedy, P.O Ramirez, P.O. Valencia, P.O. Harris and P.O. Tuccitto. The unit holds monthly traffic details that targets drivers under the influence, unsafe commercial vehicles, vehicles failing to yield to pedestrians, motorists using cellular phones without hands free devices, along with many other targeted enforcement areas. The Unit held 10 targeted details which produced 283 summonses.



BICYCLE PATROL UNIT

The Bicycle Patrol Unit was in operation from May 1st through October 31st. The high profile, proactive bicycle promotes positive public relations, deters serious crimes, addresses quality of life complaints and fosters and maintains the commitment to the community policing philosophy. Members of the unit patrolled 60 tours in 2019. Almost all members of the Department in their career have taken the treacherous five day Police Mountain Bike Patrol Course.

YOUTH SERVICES



YOUTH SERVICES

The Tuckahoe Police Department currently has **six Youth Officers: Lt Zirolnik, Sgt. Santiago, Det Leone, P.O. Piasta, P.O. Solano and P.O. Tuccitto.**

- January 2019, The Tuckahoe Police Department accepted two College students into our Department's Intern Program. The interns, whose studies focused in Criminal Justice, worked under the supervision of Lt. Andrew Zirolnik and completed 104+ internship hours.
- There were **4 youths mandated by the Village of Tuckahoe Court** to our Community Service Alcohol/Drug Awareness classes and Service Program in 2019. The Court imposed a \$75.00 administrative fee for these classes. This fee is payable on the day of the class, and is directly used toward the cost of running this program. These classes are instructed by Sgt. Santiago, Det. Leone and P.O. Piasta at the Village of Tuckahoe Police Department.
- There were **four juveniles** who were **diverted from the Juvenile Justice System** by our Youth Division and given Community Service Classes and hours relevant to the specific offense.
- There were **six 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 they were referred to the Youth Division for appropriate consequences.
- P.O. Piasta taught the 5th Grade D.A.R.E. Program at the William E. Cottle Elementary school. There were approximately 100 students who received ten weeks of instruction utilizing the new "Keep it Real" curriculum which was culminated with a graduation ceremony in June of 2019.
- P.O. Piasta taught the D.A.R.E. curriculum to the Tuckahoe Middle School's 7th grade class. There were approximately 90 students who received ten weeks of instruction in the Middle School curriculum.
- Det. Leone taught High School Law Education in the Tuckahoe High School to both Juniors and Seniors. Curriculum included drug use, applicable social trends, affects of bullying, and laws that coincide with various behaviors



EXPLORER PROGRAM

The Tuckahoe Police Explorer Program ended the 2019 year with 14 active Explorers. Post #2008 had 22 regular meetings throughout the year, with additional trips and community service opportunities for all of the enrolled Explorers. The Explorer Program meets every other Wednesday from 5:30PM-7:30PM from September to June, at the Tuckahoe Police Department. The two advisors are Sgt. Santiago and P.O. Piasta. This past year, the Explorers attended a CPR Certification Course, took field trips and participated in group challenges, as well as team building exercises.



DEPARTMENTAL AWARDS



2019 OFFICER OF THE YEAR



ASHLEY TUCCITTO

The Officer Recognition Award is awarded in acknowledgment of a patrol officer's outstanding police work. The 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 the Village Hall.

MERITORIOUS POLICE DUTY

Det/Sgt. Abelardo Bautista (x2) Det. Andrea Pinto
Det. Steven Leone

EXCELLENT POLICE DUTY

<i>Sgt James Kennedy</i>	<i>Det/Sgt. Abelardo Bautista</i>
<i>Det Andrea Pinto</i>	<i>Det Steven Leone (x2)</i>
<i>Sgt Vincent Pinto</i>	<i>P.O. Anthony Solano</i>
<i>P.O. Fransisco Ramirez</i>	<i>P.O. Steven McCann</i>
<i>P.O. Bryan Madan</i>	<i>P.O. Daniel Coughlin</i>

UNIT CITATION

Fleet Management - P.O. Micheal Guttman

PROMOTIONS



Police Officer Steven Leone was promoted to the rank of Detective



TRAFFIC SAFETY AWARDS

The Tuckahoe Police Department was the recipient of the Automobile Association of America's Gold Award. The award was bestowed for the Department's superior programs and projects that address local traffic safety. This is the twelfth consecutive year that the Department has been recognized with the prestigious award by the AAA. The award was given to the Police Department for our 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 - 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 19 years. The Department also received a commendation for 45 consecutive years without a pedestrian fatality.



POLICE DEPARTMENT GRANTS



POLICE DEPARTMENT GRANTS

Traffic Safety:

1. Selective Enforcement Program:(Governor's Traffic Safety Committee)	\$5,670	Police Overtime
2. STOP-DWI Program (Westchester County)	\$5,400	Police Overtime
3. Child Safety Seat Program: (Governor's Traffic Safety Committee)	\$2,300	Child Safety Seats/ Training/Supplies

Youth Programs

4. Drug Prevention/D.A.R.E. (NYS Office of Children and Family Services)	\$2,375	Education/ Prevention Programs
5. D.A.R.E. (The Community Fund)	\$3,900	Education/ Prevention Programs
6. Youth Programs (The Community Fund)	\$7,000	Events(Cops for Kids, Open House, Explorers, Safe Riders, etc)

Equipment

7. Department of Justice	\$2,435	Soft Body Armor
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Counter-Terrorism

8. NYS Counter-Terrorism	\$8,275	Police Overtime (Tactical Patrols, Training)
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TOTAL: \$37,355

CALLS FOR SERVICE / CITATIONS



2019 Blotter Reports

Total Calls for Service: 3,851

Alarms:	235
Fire Response:	224
Medical Aided:	506
Motor Vehicle Accidents:	128
Domestic Incidents:	89
Assault:	4
Harassment:	25
Robbery:	1
Burglary:	4
Sex Offenses:	1
Larceny:	52
Motor Vehicle Theft:	6
Drug Offenses:	7
Criminal Mischief:	11
DWI/DWAI:	7
Liquor Law Violations:	3
Fraud/Identity Theft:	40

Criminal Cases:	196
Adult Arrests:	147

Traffic Citations

Total Citations: 2,157

Speeding:	156
Red Light:	180
Seatbelt:	119
Unlicensed Operator:	114
DWI / DWAI:	7
Commercial Vehicle Offenses:	163
Registration Offenses:	82
Stop Sign:	306
One Way:	40
Pass School Bus:	17
No Inspection:	129
Equipment Violation:	219
Improper Lane Use:	198
No Right Turn:	122
Mobile Phone Use	150
Other Offenses:	155

Parking Violations:	13,365
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CONTACT US

Non-Emergency/Desk: 914-961-4800

Emergencies: 911

Email: PoliceDesk@Tuckahoe-NY.com

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