

TUCKAHOE POLICE



2020 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 pleased to present the 2020 Tuckahoe Police Department Annual Report. A year that offered many challenges that gripped our nation, our community and our department. Foremost, the Covid-19 pandemic, which presented exceptional hurdles to maintain uninterrupted services while keeping our officers and the public healthy. Members adapted to new protocols and safety measures that affected every facet of daily operations, training, investigations and administration. During the height of the infectious period, officers transitioned to 12-hour shifts to limit exposure and transmission of the virus. Although, the extended tours interrupted daily routines and family life for weeks, our members did so without objection.



Despite all the obstacles of the pandemic, the department forged ahead. Social distancing did not allow for many of the past community programs and ceremonies, so, we shifted our approaches. Our outreach included several food deliveries to shut-in members of our community. It was a program that benefited our senior population and struggling restaurants alike. Our DARE graduates could not have a graduation ceremony, but instead got a visit from DARE Officer Evan Piasta who went to each and every student's home with a Certificate of Achievement and gifts. We transitioned our Police Memorial ceremony from a public event to a private solemn service, which drew a huge response from our off-duty officers who came to honor our deceased members so their service to our community is never forgotten. Our first time Pizza with Police event held outside in Sanford Gardens was a great success.

The tragic and preventable death of George Floyd at the hands of Minneapolis police officers had the department assisting with protests throughout the county. As a profession, we know that we must work harder than ever to rebuild public trust and earn the confidence of each member of our community.

New York State Criminal Justice Reforms that went into effect in 2020 altered many of the policies and procedures of the department, and our officers adjusted to conform. On June 12, 2020 Governor Cuomo issued an Executive Order for all municipalities to develop a policing plan that builds mutual trust between the police and community. We welcomed the opportunity to have open and frank discussions with our citizens. An overview of the department that summarized our history of community policing, best practices, partnerships and high standards of accountability was shared with our residents. The department has assisted the Village's Commission on Police Reform in preparation of the plan and salute the volunteer members of the Commission for their hard work on this important endeavor.

LETTER TO CITIZENS



Crime prevention and solvability methods took a big step forward with adding cameras and license plate readers to Crestwood Plaza and Garrett Avenue. Always at the forefront of protecting our most vulnerable, the department established protocols and trained in the Lethality Assessment Program, an evidence based program to identify domestic violence victims who are at high risk of being killed by their intimate partner. The victims are connected to a domestic violence service for assistance. Our Department was amongst the first in Westchester to implement this life saving program with our domestic violence advocate partners.

I want to thank all our police officers for meeting the incredible challenges of 2020. Their professionalism and dedication were on full display. The coming year will again move us forward. We will implement changes developed by the Tuckahoe Commission of Police Reform. Increased training, transparency and open communication will aid us in continuing to build trust. We will work with our partners to recruit members of all walks of life to participate in the upcoming Police Officer exam. Selection of officers of diverse backgrounds, who possess the highest character and principles will shape our profession for years to come.

More than ever, I am proud of the efforts of our members this past year. I want to express my gratitude to our community, administration and elected officials for your support during a very trying time. Our experiences, partnerships and commitment will only make us stronger.

Sincerely,
John Costanzo
Chief of Police



ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE



CHIEF OF POLICE
JOHN COSTANZO



PATROL OPERATIONS
LIEUTENANT
ANDREW ZIROLNIK

- Executive Officer
- Emergency Response Unit Commander
- Personnel & Training
- Traffic Division / Motorcycle Unit
- Internal Affairs
- Community Outreach

Sgt Chris Aubry

- Tour 3 Supervisor
- Radio System / Desk Console
- Animal Complaints
- P.O. Evan Piasta
- P.O. Daniel Coughlin
- P.O. Steven McCann



ADMINISTRATIVE
LIEUTENANT
LAWRENCE ROTTA

- Administrative Commander
- Fleet Manager
- Law Enforcement Accreditation
- Grant Management
- Technology Officer
- Equipment/Uniforms

Sgt Chris Santiago

- Flex Supervisor
- Emergency Response Unit Team Leader
- Youth Services
- P.O. Fran Valencia
- P.O. Francisco Ramirez
- P.O. Anthony Solano



DETECTIVE DIVISION
DETECTIVE SERGEANT
ABELARDO BAUTISTA

- Detective Division Commander
- Case Manager
- Evidence Management
- Uniform Crime Reports
- Det. Steven Leone
- Det. Andrea Pinto
- Domestic Violence
- Sex Offender Registry

Sgt James Kennedy

- Tour 1 Supervisor
- Traffic Safety Unit
- Social Media
- Det. Emilia Yankowski
- P.O. Michael Guttman
- P.O. Chris Harris

Sgt Vincent Pinto

- Vacation Relief Supervisor
- Field Intelligence Officer
- Business Files
- P.O. Ashley Tuccitto
- P.O. Bryan Madan
- P.O. Zach Leone
- P.O. Peter Costa

YOUR COMMUNITY POLICE DEPARTMENT



PIZZA WITH THE POLICE

This past fall, members of the Tuckahoe Police Department hosted our first annual "Pizza with the Police" event. The event took place on Washington St and it was a great opportunity for members of the community to come out and get to know some of the men and women of their police department over some hot pizza.

D.A.R.E. GRADUATION DROP OFFS

Due to COVID-19, the 5th graders at The Cottle School were unable to have their annual D.A.R.E. BBQ at Lake Isle. To make up for it, Tuckahoe Officer's went around and made special deliveries to the entire graduating class. Each student received an embroidered backpack cooler filled with their DARE graduation certificate as well as DARE memorabilia and fresh baked chocolate chip cookies. Special thanks to The Community Fund for their support and funding!



HOLIDAY SENIOR GIVING

The Tuckahoe Police Department tried to make these past holidays a little special for some of our Seniors by surprising them with meals and flowers. The gifts were hand delivered by members of the Tuckahoe Police Department right to their homes. Special thanks to The Community Fund for their support and funding!



THANK YOU RIDE FOR OUR HEALTHCARE WORKERS

The Tuckahoe Police Department, along with other local Agencies, took part in #ClapBecauseWeCare to express our support and gratitude to all those working in the medical community at New York-Presbyterian Lawrence Hospital during the rough months of the pandemic. These men and women worked tirelessly to battle this pandemic and instead of being home with their loved ones, they are working non-stop to nurse the sick back to good health. All of us are in this together and support each other to the fullest during these difficult times!



YOUR COMMUNITY POLICE DEPARTMENT



TURKEY GIVE AWAY

Each year for Thanksgiving, the Tuckahoe Police Department and its PBA donate approximately 35 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.



THANKSGIVING DINNERS

Members of the Tuckahoe Police Department were happy to deliver Thanksgiving dinners to homebound seniors this past year. A special thank you to the ArmourVilla Neighborhood Association for donating the meals. The Tuckahoe Police Department donated a bouquet of flowers to each household with the help of The Community Fund. During these difficult times it was our pleasure to put a smile on the faces of our Seniors!

BIRTHDAY PARADES

This past year was especially difficult for the youth in our Village as so many were stuck inside quarantined during their birthdays. The Tuckahoe Police Department tried to help out and make their birthdays a bit more special by participating in dozens of "Birthday Parades" around the Village. We're sure you heard at least one of them drive by your area this past year!



VETERAN'S DINNER

Members of the Tuckahoe Police Department hosted dinner for the VFW Post #2285 during the fall of this past year as a "Thank You" for their service to our country. It was a special event with a great turnout!

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 normally holds several special events throughout the year that are patrolled by the Tuckahoe Police Department. Unfortunately, these events were all postponed or canceled this past year due to the Pandemic. Hopefully this year some of these events will start coming back and you can be assured that the Tuckahoe Police will be there to guarantee everyone's safety!



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.



CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM/ COVID 19

The new Discovery statute requires greater transparency and establishes accelerated time frames for the sharing of evidence. In response to the law changes, the Department acquired equipment and increased man-hours to facilitate the prompt sharing of evidence. Detectives Andrea Pinto and Steven Leone are the designated Discovery Compliance Officers.



The emergence of COVID-19 further impacted daily operations, requiring the Detective Division to respond in a variety of ways to meet the needs of the community. Interviews and interrogations were done in a manner to limit any potential exposure of the virus. Methods used in the collection of evidence were also modified. The Detectives were tasked with setting up virtual court proceedings to ensure concerted communications between with the District Attorney's Office, the defense attorney, the defendant and the Justice of the Court.

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, which includes Sergeant Chris Santiago as the Unit's team leader. While emergency call-outs were minimal, the team continued partaking in Operation Hercules exercises and training. Training opportunities have been consistent throughout 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.

TRAINING

Administration from our four municipalities agreed upon a collaborative training schedule with the Westchester County Police SRT (Special Response Team). Over the course of the year, each operator is required to complete a minimum of 96 hrs per year of tactical training which will be led by instructors within the WCDPS staff. Training venues and extensive equipment are now more accessible to our team members. The collaborative effort has been a huge success and further illustrates the importance of multi-agency team work. Sgt. Santiago and Sgt. Pinto continued their training as marksman/observer elements.



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 hosts annual car seat events which were unfortunately postponed this year due to COVID-19 concerns. Before the COVID-19 pandemic occurred in March, the Unit inspected/installed 35 car seats by appointments.



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 10 ceremonial escorts, which included funeral escorts, parades, and charity rides.



SPECIAL UNITS



TRAFFIC SAFETY UNIT

The Traffic Safety Unit was formed in 2020 and is comprised of five Members, Sgt Kennedy, P.O. Ramirez, P.O. Solano, 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. This past year the unit was limited with enforcement details due to COVID, but they did complete three days of details before the pandemic which resulted in 93 summonses being issued. The summonses issued were mainly for commercial vehicle violations and seat belt violations.



BICYCLE PATROL UNIT

The Bicycle Patrol Unit was in operation from July 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 45 tours in 2020. 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.**

- The Tuckahoe Police Department accepted two High School students into our Department's Intern Program. The interns, whose studies focused in Criminal Justice, worked under the supervision of Lt. Andrew Zirolnik and Lt. Rotta and completed 104+ internship hours.
- 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 virtual graduation ceremony.
- 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.



EXPLORER PROGRAM

The Tuckahoe Police Explorer Program ended the 2020 year with eight 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



The Tuckahoe Police 2020 Award Ceremony was postponed to 2021 due to COVID-19.

2020 OFFICER OF THE YEAR



Steven McCann

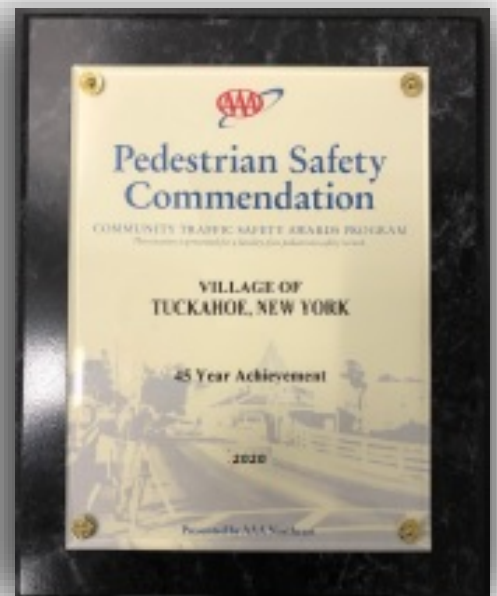
The Officer Recognition Award is awarded in acknowledgment of a patrol officer's outstanding police work. The Officers are chosen for professional dedication, consistent performance at an exceptional level, accomplishments of note-worthy deeds, extraordinary performance of duty, leadership, community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

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 20 years. The Department also received a commendation for 46 consecutive years without a pedestrian fatality.



POLICE DEPARTMENT GRANTS



POLICE DEPARTMENT GRANTS

Traffic Safety:

1. Selective Enforcement Program:(Governor's Traffic Safety Committee)	\$7,280	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)	\$4,100	Education/ Prevention Programs
6. Youth Programs (The Community Fund)	\$9,000	Events(Cops for Kids, Open House, Explorers, Safe Riders, etc)

Equipment

7. Department of Justice	\$1,870	Soft Body Armor
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Counter-Terrorism

8. NYS Counter-Terrorism	\$8,600	Police Overtime (Tactical Patrols, Training)
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TOTAL: \$40,925

CALLS FOR SERVICE / CITATIONS



2020 Blotter Reports

Total Calls for Service: 3,188

Alarms:	193
Fire Response:	152
Medical Aided:	450
Motor Vehicle Accidents:	72
Domestic Incidents:	66
Assault:	3
Harassment:	26
Robbery:	0
Burglary:	2
Sex Offenses:	1
Larceny:	47
Motor Vehicle Theft:	4
Drug Offenses:	1
Criminal Mischief:	9
DWI/DWAI:	3
Liquor Law Violations:	0
Fraud/Identity Theft:	42

Criminal Cases:	127
Adult Arrests:	77

Traffic Citations

Total Citations: 847

Speeding:	83
Red Light:	96
Seatbelt:	41
Unlicensed Operator:	40
DWI / DWAI:	8
Commercial Vehicle Offenses:	41
Registration Offenses:	49
Stop Sign:	84
One Way:	18
Pass School Bus:	2
No Inspection:	87
Equipment Violation:	91
Improper Lane Use:	67
No Right Turn:	33
Mobile Phone Use	41
Other Offenses:	66

Parking Violations:	8,037
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CONTACT US

Non-Emergency Desk 914-961-4800

Emergencies 911

Email PoliceDesk@Tuckahoe-NY.com

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TUCKAHOE POLICE
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- Road Closures & Traffic Updates
- Police/Village Event Information
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- Current Crime Trend updates
- Parking Enforcement news
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