

2023

VILLAGE OF TUCKAHOE POLICE DEPARTMENT

ANNUAL REPORT



CRIME SCENE DO NOT CROSS



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:

As your new Police Chief I am happy to share with you the Tuckahoe Police Department 2023 Annual Report. Our community remains amongst the safest in New York State with a low crime rate and award winning traffic safety practices. The Village remains safe due to the hard work of the men and women of the Tuckahoe Police Department while working in partnership with the community we serve.

The 2023 Year End report will show an overview of some activities throughout the year. Police and Community working together to deter crime is a focus that makes the Village of Tuckahoe a safe place to live, work and enjoy your family.



Sincerely,

Larry Rotta

Chief of Police

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE



**Chief Larry
Rotta**

**Lieutenant
Andrew
Zirolnik**

Detective Division

**Detective
Sergeant Chris
Santiago**

Detective
Steven
Leone

Detective
Ashley
Tuccitto

Patrol Division

**Sergeant
Chris
Aubry**

**Sergeant
Vincent
Pinto**

**Sergeant
James
Kennedy**

**Sergeant
Chris
Harris**

Officer
Francisco
Ramirez

Officer
Michael
Guttman

Detective
Emilia
Yankowski

Officer
Anthony
Solano

Officer
Evan
Piasta

Officer
Daniel
Coughlin

Officer
Steven
McCann

Officer
Bryan
Madan

Officer
Peter
Costa

Officer
Daniel
Belles

Officer
Brandon
Belles

Officer
Robert
Lalli

Officer
Jalen
Laboy

YOUR COMMUNITY POLICE DEPARTMENT



PIZZA WITH THE POLICE

This past fall, members of the Tuckahoe Police Department hosted our third annual "Pizza with the Police" event. The event took place at Sanford Gardens and Senior Centers 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.

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.



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.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

Members of the Tuckahoe Police Department participated in National Night Out this past summer with other local police agencies like the Eastchester Police Department and Bronxville Police Department. This once a year event is held in Depot Square and is a great opportunity for the public to meet and talk with their local police officers.



YOUR COMMUNITY POLICE DEPARTMENT



TURKEY GIVE AWAY

Each year for Thanksgiving, the Tuckahoe Police Department and its PBA donated dozens of 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.



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.



CONE WITH A COP

The Tuckahoe Police Department held our 4th annual "Cone with a Cop" day 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 than we anticipated and we will definitely be holding the event again in the upcoming year!



SENIORS BBQ

Members of The Tuckahoe Police Department were happy to host a BBQ lunch for The Tuckahoe Seniors at Father Fata Hall in July. Burgers & Hotdogs were fresh off the grill to kick off the summer! Officers enjoyed a great lunch and fun conversations with some of Tuckahoe's PD's favorite supporters.



YOUR COMMUNITY POLICE DEPARTMENT



HALLOWEEN ACTIVITIES

Members of The Tuckahoe Police Department had a spooky Halloween with the community during our “Trunk or Treat” event and the Tuckahoe Candy Crawl down Main St. There were so many great costumes and candy shared by all and we are looking forward to do it again this year!



EASTER EGGSTRAVAGANZA

Tuckahoe Police Officers were on hand along with other local agencies during a very successful Easter EGGStravaganza! The event was held at Eastchester Town Hall and is already in the works to return this April!

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. Over the past year we experience several major weather events that our Officer's were on high alert for to assure the safety of all our residents.



KEEPING CITIZENS SAFE DURING SPECIAL EVENTS

The Tuckahoe Police Department, along with our law enforcement partners, the Westchester County Department of Public Safety Emergency Force, the Eastchester Police and Eastchester Auxiliary Police provided a safe route for the 46th Tuckahoe Challenge Race. It was the largest race to date and was a huge success. In July the Village held their annual Firework show at Parkway Oval where we were fully staffed to ensure the safety of everyone who attended.



DETECTIVE DIVISION



THE DETECTIVE DIVISION

The Tuckahoe Police Department's Detective Division is tasked with the responsibility of investigating all criminal activities, internal investigations and the records management of the entire police department.

Detectives act as liaisons with representatives from federal, state, county and other municipal agencies. The duties of a Detective may range from obtaining documentation relating to identity theft, 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 the task of actively pursuing and arresting subjects who evade court proceedings.



REAL TIME CRIME

Real Time Crime (RTC) was established by the Westchester County Police Department in 2017.

Detective Sergeant Chris Santiago, Detective Steven Leone and Detective Ashley Tuccitto participate weekly and collaborate with over 40 other police departments. They utilize RTC's resources which includes a combination of surveillance, license plate recognition, and shared police databases. One of the largest LPR systems in the USA, RTC scans & archives approximately 40 million plates a month across 220 MOBOTIX cameras. These plates can generate real-time alerts via a robust software platform, and the archived database. This technology has assisted Detectives with apprehending suspects.



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 Harris 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 ERU team have participated with other jurisdictions across the county in order to provide extra security during various holidays and during Election Day. In addition, special attention was 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.



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 hours 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, Sgt. Pinto, Sgt. Krause and PO Persico continue to train as certified sniper elements.

SPECIAL UNITS



CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY UNIT

The CPS unit is comprised of seven members, Sergeant James Kennedy, Detective Ashley Tuccitto, Police Officers Anthony Solano, Dan Coughlin, Peter Costa, Dan Belles, and Police Custodian Elliot Maldonado. The unit hosts annual car seat events throughout the Village and at events during the year. Over the 2023 year dozens of car seats were inspected and installed by out Car Seat Technicians.



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 15 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. Solano, P.O. McCann, P.O. Costa, and P.O. Lalli. 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.



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 47 tours in 2023. Almost all members of the Department in their career have taken the treacherous five day Police Mountain Bike Patrol Course.

ANNUAL TRAINING



Unified In-Service Training (Westchester County Police Academy):

includes Firearms Qualification, Less Lethal Certifications, CPR & First Aid, Legal Updates, Domestic Violence, Report Writing, NarCan, Procedural Justice, Principled Policing & modern trends

-Defensive Tactics & Use of Force

-Active Shooter Training Response

-Tuckahoe Police In-House Firearms Qualification & Use of Force

-Path of the Guardian (weekly roll call training):

online program to focus on important policy and police practice issues developing across the country including Supreme Court updates.

-LexiPol Policy and Procedural Updates and Training:

Department rules and regulations manual in digital format which provides critical content immediately available to staff as well as training updates/quizzes relevant to our individual policies

-Use of Force Interactive Training Simulator

-Breathe Test Operator Certifications



YOUTH SERVICES



YOUTH SERVICES

The Tuckahoe Police Department continues making strong efforts to continue our goal of serving our community and its youth. Some minor adjustments were made in various programs and community outreach concepts over the years due to the pandemic, but we are excited to continue our current programs and add new ones in the future.

The Tuckahoe Police Department currently has 6 Youth Officers: Lt. Zirolnik, Sgt. Santiago, Det. Leone, PO Piasta, PO Solano, PO Madan and Det. Tuccitto. Lt. Zirolnik will continue to oversee the Youth Services Division.

The Tuckahoe Police Department accepted one High School intern into our department Intern (WISE Program.) The intern worked under the supervision of Chief Rotta and Lt. Zirolnik and was involved in various departmental projects and observed daily operations. The internship program has been a great success and we were happy to host young ambitious student who seek experience and knowledge within the law enforcement career.

There were 4 juvenile cards and 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.

PO Piasta taught the 5th Grade DARE program to the William E. Cottle 5th Graders and PO Madan taught 7th graders at Tuckahoe Middle School. There were approximately 110 students who received 10 weeks of instruction utilizing a "Keeping it Real" curriculum which culminated with an in-person graduation ceremony.



EXPLORER PROGRAM

The Tuckahoe Police Explorer Program had 14 active Explorers. Post #2008 had approx. 22 regular meetings throughout the school year, which included community service opportunities for all of the enrolled Explorers. The Explorer Program meets every other Wednesday, from 5:30PM-7:30PM, September-June at the Tuckahoe Police Department. The two advisors are Officer Steven McCann and Officer Bryan Madan.



DEPARTMENTAL AWARDS



2023 OFFICER OF THE YEAR



Daniel Coughlin

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. Steven Leone
P.O. Evan Piasta

P.O. Daniel Coughlin
P.O. Bryan Madan

EXCELLENT POLICE DUTY

Det./Sgt. Chris Santiago
Sgt. Chris Aubry
Sgt Vincent Pinto (x2)
Sgt. James Kennedy (x2)
Sgt. Chris Harris
P.O. Micheal Guttman (x3)
Det. Steven Leone (x3)
P.O. Anthony Solano

P.O. Evan Piasta
Det. Ashley Tuccitto (x2)
P.O. Steven McCann (x2)
P.O. Peter Costa
P.O. Evan Piasta (x2)

UNIT CITATION

Accreditation Manager - Detective Emilia Yankowski

POLICE CHIEF COSTANZO RETIREMENT



The Tuckahoe Police Department congratulated Chief John Costanzo this past fall after retiring with 41 years of dedicated service with the Tuckahoe Police Department. We thank Chief Costanzo on his amazing career with the department and everything he has done to help keep the Village of Tuckahoe safe over the last several decades!

Today, after 41 years as a member of the Tuckahoe Police Department, I will be walking out of police headquarters in uniform for the last time. My career in law enforcement has been incredibly rewarding, I am extremely proud and honored to have served my community. A community, which I have lived my entire life. It has embraced and supported me every step of my journey. I have had the opportunity to work with so many dedicated police officers over the years, all who have contributed to my success. It has been a blessing to serve with, and privilege to lead such a distinguished group of men and women, past and present. Police officers who embody commitment, integrity and fairness.

I want to thank all the residents, merchants, village employees and elected officials who supported me and the mission of our department over the years. Partnerships with houses of worship, fraternal organizations, civic associations, benefactors and our veteran groups have led to the strength of our department, and improved the quality of life in our community. The teamwork of our first responders, Eastchester Fire Department, Eastchester Volunteer Ambulance Corps and police departments collectively deliver first class emergency services town-wide. With a shared purpose, the collaboration and cooperation with law enforcement in Westchester County, particularly, our neighboring departments, Eastchester and Bronxville, have improved the safety of all our citizens.

Throughout my tenure, I have received backing and encouragement from my family and friends. I will be forever grateful to every person in my life who has been there for me, in good times and bad. Lifetime friendships have been forged all along the way. Words cannot adequately express my love and appreciation to my wife, Donna and sons, Joseph and John for their love, sacrifice and support.

The future of the Tuckahoe Police Department is in good hands. The leadership team of soon to be Chief Lawrence Rotta and Executive Officer, Lieutenant Andrew Zirolnik will guide an exceptional assembly of committed and talented supervisors and officers for years to come. I am walking out this afternoon with a great sense of pride and accomplishment. I'm leaving with humility and gratitude to have worked in the noblest of professions, which I hope allowed me to make a positive difference in people's lives.

Wishing our citizens and our officers much success, safety, good health and happiness.

Sincerely,
John Costanzo
Chief of Police



TRAFFIC SAFETY AWARD



TRAFFIC SAFETY AWARD

The Tuckahoe Police Department was the recipient of the Automobile Association of America's Silver Award. The award was bestowed for the Department's superior programs and projects that address local traffic safety. This is the fourteenth 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 47 consecutive years without a pedestrian fatality.



POLICE DEPARTMENT GRANTS



POLICE DEPARTMENT GRANTS

Traffic Safety:

1. Selective Enforcement Program:(Governor's Traffic Safety Committee)	\$7,137	Police Overtime
2. STOP-DWI Program (Westchester County)	\$5,400	Police Overtime
3. Child Safety Seat Program: (Governor's Traffic Safety Committee)	\$2,750	Child Safety Seats/ Training/Supplies

Youth Programs

4. Drug Prevention/D.A.R.E. (NYS Office of Children and Family Services)	\$1,955	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(Cone with Cop, National Night Out (The Community Fund), Explorers, Safe Riders, etc)

Counter-Terrorism

7. NYS Homeland Security	\$3,000	Police Overtime (Tactical Patrols)
8. NYS Homeland Security	\$3,595	Tactical Training

TOTAL: \$36,937

CALLS FOR SERVICE / CITATIONS



2023 Blotter Reports

Total Calls for Service: 3,301

Alarms:	156
Fire Response:	169
Medical Aided:	612
Motor Vehicle Accidents:	112
Domestic Incidents:	71
Assault:	7
Harassment:	19
Robbery:	0
Burglary:	3
Sex Offenses:	0
Larceny:	23
Motor Vehicle Theft:	2
Drug Offenses:	0
Criminal Mischief:	15
DWI/DWAI:	1
Liquor Law Violations:	0
Fraud/Identity Theft:	34

Criminal Cases:	192
Adult Arrests:	157

Traffic Citations

Total Citations: 1,942

Speeding:	227
Red Light:	87
Seatbelt:	134
Unlicensed Operator:	142
DWI / DWAI:	1
Commercial Vehicle Offenses:	53
Registration Offenses:	174
Stop Sign:	202
One Way:	24
Pass School Bus:	12
No Inspection:	304
Equipment Violation:	216
Improper Lane Use:	106
No Right Turn:	69
Mobile Phone Use	69
Other Offenses:	118

Parking Violations:	12,729
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CONTACT US

Non-Emergency Desk:: 914-961-4800

Emergencies:: 911

Email:: PoliceDesk@Tuckahoe-NY.com

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- Safety Updates
- Road Closures & Traffic Updates
- Police/Village Event Information
- Wanted/Missing Person updates
- Current Crime Trend updates
- Parking Enforcement news
- and much more...

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