



Town of Webster
Police Department
"Improving the Quality of Life"
Chief Timothy J. Bent

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REPORT OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Webster Police Department remained consistent throughout the course of the year. As far as our community policing efforts are concerned, our summer programs were again a huge success. The "Hoops for Hope" program recorded more youth in attendance as new relationships were begun and old relationships were furthered. Our focus is to build relationships that will undoubtedly shape the future between the town's youth and police. We also provide young men and women with constructive activities to occupy their time while instilling positive values. As an added bonus, a trip to the Worcester Tornados game was planned with our "Hoops" youth; we had a great time. Our second "Junior Police Academy" was also well received. With thirteen local youth enrolled, the weeklong training went flawlessly. "National Night Out" was held at Memorial Beach and although it rained, the evening was fun and educational.

Another successful program, "Movie Night," was added to the community policing events. Under the direction of Dan Marcoux from The Party Planner, movies were shown on the Town Common once a month. What made this program so exceptional was the response from our local businesses that sponsored the event. This was monumental, as it epitomized community policing at a grass roots level (police and the community working together). Thank you to the following businesses who donated:

JV Mechanical	Mohegan Bowling	Booklovers' Gourmet
O'Connor Insurance	Orbitz	Diamond Staffing
Arts Service Station	Party Planner	Hillside Bait&Tackle
Century 21	Page Chiropractic	Kensho Ryu Karate
Chowder Bowl	Patriot Newspaper	Manzi's Barber Shop
Cindy's Flower and Gift	PC Triage	The Quilter's Loft
Dudley Hot Tub	Pete's Tire & Oil	60 Minute Cleaners
Elaine's Bridal	PJ Overhead Door	Apollo Pizza
Erlich & Erlich	Place Motor	Charniak Insurance
Golden Greek	Powerhouse Gym	Chocolate Paradise
Guardian Self-Defense	Pratt Trucking	Delray Doc's
Holly Farms	Regis Limo & Alisha's Tux	Fusion Salon & Spa
Hometown Bank	Shades of Tan	Paradise Jewelers
Hope Realty	Smart Shopper	Pratt Vacuum
Hot Costumes	Starry Night Bakery	Webster Five Bank
Insation Technologies	Tatnuck Bead	
Jeanne's Hair Loft	The Hair Studio	
Lake Pizza	Therriens Garage	
Lake Realty	Val-Go	
Lic's Restaurant	Varo's Fine Jewelry	
Lighthouse Print Works	Wendy's Dance Studio	
Matte's Hardware		

Our Community Policing Programs main fund raising event, professional wrestling at the Town Hall, also recorded substantial growth. We contracted with a new promoter, Big Time Wrestling. Partial proceeds from ticket sales and proceeds from the concession stand go directly to our Community Policing Programs Account. This account funds our community policing efforts such as Hoops for Hope, the Junior Police Academy, Movie Night, National Night Out, and, this year, it assisted with funding Winter Wonderland. I would like to thank the members of the police department for embracing the importance of community policing, especially Officers Wheeler and Johnson. Your enthusiasm and tireless voluntary efforts are what drives these programs. Thanks again to the dedicated Junior Police Academy staff: Sergeant Shaw, Officers Cacciapouti, Wentworth, Perry, and Young Jr. What a great program you have developed!

At the writing of this report, our police canine, "Red", and his handler, Officer Suss, have almost completed patrol training at the Boston Police Canine Academy. Patrol training encompasses tracking and patrol work. Prior to that, our canine unit was trained and certified in narcotics detection at the Worcester Police Canine Academy. This undertaking has been extensive and time consuming, to say the least. We now look forward to utilizing their talents on the street. We greatly appreciate the private donations which make this program possible. Soon we will all realize that our efforts have not been in vain.

Our School Resource Officer was once again in our schools this year. Although staffing the position is sometimes difficult, it was agreed that consistency is the key to the programs success. Officer Johnson assisted our schools' administration and students as needed and whenever possible. We can't help but feel that having an SRO program in place is just too important to discontinue. With a disheartening economic forecast, every conceivable effort will be made to continue this worthwhile program.

We have appointed Officer Gordon Wentworth as the department's second Detective. As manpower increases, it is imperative to increase the Detective Division in an attempt to meet the demands for service. Dispatcher Matthew Langevin resigned to take a job in the private sector; we wish him well. The Town hired Bruce Hamm to fill the vacancy. We also hired part-time Dispatchers Jill Peck, and Scott Baldracchi. On a sad note, Auxiliary Officer Brian Keegan passed away at the age of forty-two. Officer Keegan was a devoted member of the Auxiliary Unit and served the Town with distinction; he will be missed. Auxiliary Officer Paul Cooke retired with over twenty years of service, and Auxiliary Officer Todd Jankowski was hired.

It was a solid year of work by the South Worcester County Drug and Counter Crime Task Force. Several narcotic search warrants were conducted throughout the south county, resulting in arrests, property seizures and illegal contraband confiscations. The task force, comprised of the south county police departments, is working well together. What is impressive is their collective passion to rid our communities of the drugs that plague us all.

The police station building committee was formed and began work with great enthusiasm. The committee is busy with site locations and will be asking for funding at the next town meeting. The funding will allow for further necessary studies to be conducted for the new and old buildings.

A Town by-law, sponsored by the police department, was passed regarding sex offender residency. Under the new by-law, classified level 2 or 3 sex offenders will not be allowed to live within five hundred feet of any park, school, registered day care, or elderly housing facility.

Although arrests increased slightly, we did not experience dramatic increases in any offense type category. Domestic assaults (categorized under simple assaults) did increase, and one domestic assault and battery situation resulted in a homicide. Vandalism of property increased; we did address a great deal of graffiti complaints. It was encouraging to record a decrease in operating under the influence offenses, although we did experience an increase in alcohol-related protective custodies. The department recorded a total of 747 in custody arrests, requested a total of 1,091 criminal complaints, and logged a total of 19,790 incidents. As the nation's economy worsens, it is typical to observe an increase in crimes against the person and crimes against property. The Webster Police Department will continue to concentrate on proactive prevention. Most crime prevention experts agree that this is the key success. The author Rick Arrington wrote, "*The test of police efficiency is the absence of crime and disorder, not the visible evidence of police action in dealing with them.*"

Thank you to the men and women of the Webster Police Department. I am proud to serve as your Chief. The upcoming year will present many challenges as we face uncertain fiscal cuts. With a "miserable" economic forecast the police department will undoubtedly make some adjustments. As our economy worsens, we in law enforcement are asked to do more with less. Assuredly, we will face the challenges as we always do, together.

The Chief's office received two written citizen complaints regarding police conduct during the course of the year. One resulted in a "sustained" finding, the other in an "unfounded" finding. Citizen complaints regarding police department personnel may be directed to the shift supervisor who, in turn, will either investigate the complaint or forward the same to the Chief's office for further investigation.

Respectfully submitted,

Timothy J. Bent
Chief of Police

