



2008 Annual Report



Colonie Police Department

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The Town of Colonie, New York Governmental Leadership



Supervisor Paula A. Mahan

Town Board Members:

Nancy Hernandez

Robert Becker

William Carl

Brian Hogan

Nicole Criscione-Szesnat

Thomas With

2008, compared to recent years, proved to be a very quiet year in the Colonie Police Department. For the past several years, the department has dealt with a number of retirements and resulting personnel movement throughout the department so much so that approximately one half of our sworn officers have under ten years of service. 2008 was the first year since 1996 in which we did not hire any additional police officers.

Certainly an advantage to having a routine year is the ability to focus on police work and be proactive in the areas of patrol, criminal investigations and traffic safety enforcement. The number of cases investigated involving crimes against persons or property during 2008 rose once again to over 4,600 the highest in years. As a result, Uniform Crime Report Part 1 Offenses, or our most serious crimes, decreased 2% in 2008 while Part 2 Offenses declined 8% following major decreases in the year 2007.

Another area in which more focus was applied was in the area of traffic safety enforcement. While the department's number of calls for service increased 5% in the year 2008, over 13,000 tickets were issued by officers, an increase of 12% from 2007. Additionally, while the department did investigate two fatalities from traffic accidents, neither of these cases involved alcohol consumption.

One of these traffic investigations drew attention and praise by the law enforcement community calling it a "landmark case". In this investigation, Traffic Investigator Paul Musser prepared a professional crash reconstruction report and provided expert testimony at Grand Jury proving that a driver had made a conscious decision to run a red light from a distance of 389 feet or 6 seconds of travel time all the while accelerating resulting in the death of another driver. What made this case not only unique but the first of its kind, is that the Albany County District Attorney's Office was able to secure indictments of Manslaughter 2nd and Criminally Negligent Homicide as well as a guilty plea despite the lack of alcohol involvement in the crash.

A tremendous update in technology went into effect in the first quarter of 2008 in the form of upgrading our digital radio system used by our Communications Division. Because the Communications Division serves as the axis for nearly 100,000 fire, police and EMS related calls per year, it is imperative that we as a department do all we can to keep up with the ever changing technology that exists in the field of law enforcement.

I am pleased to learn that once again the Town of Colonie was recognized as one of the top ten safest communities in the country by CQ Press in their annual publication of City Crime Rankings. This recognition comes as a result of statistics during the year 2007. Having seen our crime statistics decrease once again in 2008, I am confident that we will once again be selected as one of the safest communities in the United States.

As I have stated in the past, the ability of our department to decrease crime in the Town all while fielding more calls are a credit not only to our hard working men and women of the Colonie Police Department, sworn and unsworn, but also our Town government for its support and the entire community for its role in crime prevention.



Executive Summary

- Chief Steven H. Heider

Deputy Chiefs of Police



Deputy Chief Richard A. Villa
Field Services Division



Deputy Chief Joseph Fitzsimmons
Administrative Services Division

Contact The Department

Unit / division commanders and their contact information:

FIELD SERVICES DIVISION

Deputy Chief Richard A. Villa
villar@colonie.org

Deputy Chief John M. Van Alstyne
vanalstynej@colonie.org
Beginning June 29, 2009
783-2800

A-Line Shift

Web Site

Lieutenant Stephen M. MacLasco
maclascos@colonie.org
783-2744

B-Line Shift

Lieutenant Paul D. Brannigan
branniganp@colonie.org
783-2744

C-Line Shift

K-9 Unit

ATV Unit

Bicycle Unit

Court

Police Explorers

Lieutenant Alexander M. Rinaldi
rinaldia@colonie.org
783-2744

Investigations Unit

Juvenile Unit

Victim Services Specialist

Forensics Unit

Computer Crime Lab

Public Information Officer

Special Services Team

Lieutenant Robert H. Winn
winnr@colonie.org
783-2754

Traffic Safety Unit

Court

Supplemental Police Services

Lieutenant Kenneth M. Pero
perok@colonie.org
783-2744

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

DIVISION

Deputy Chief Joseph P. Fitzsimmons
fitzsimmonsj@colonie.org
783-2800

Lieutenant Jonathan M. Teale
tealej@colonie.org
782-2619

Sergeant Michael D. Woods
woodsm@colonie.org
782-2619

Training

Community Services Unit
D.A.R.E.

School Resource Officer

Communications

Accreditation

Fiscal Management

Statistical Analysis

Fleet Management

Grants Management

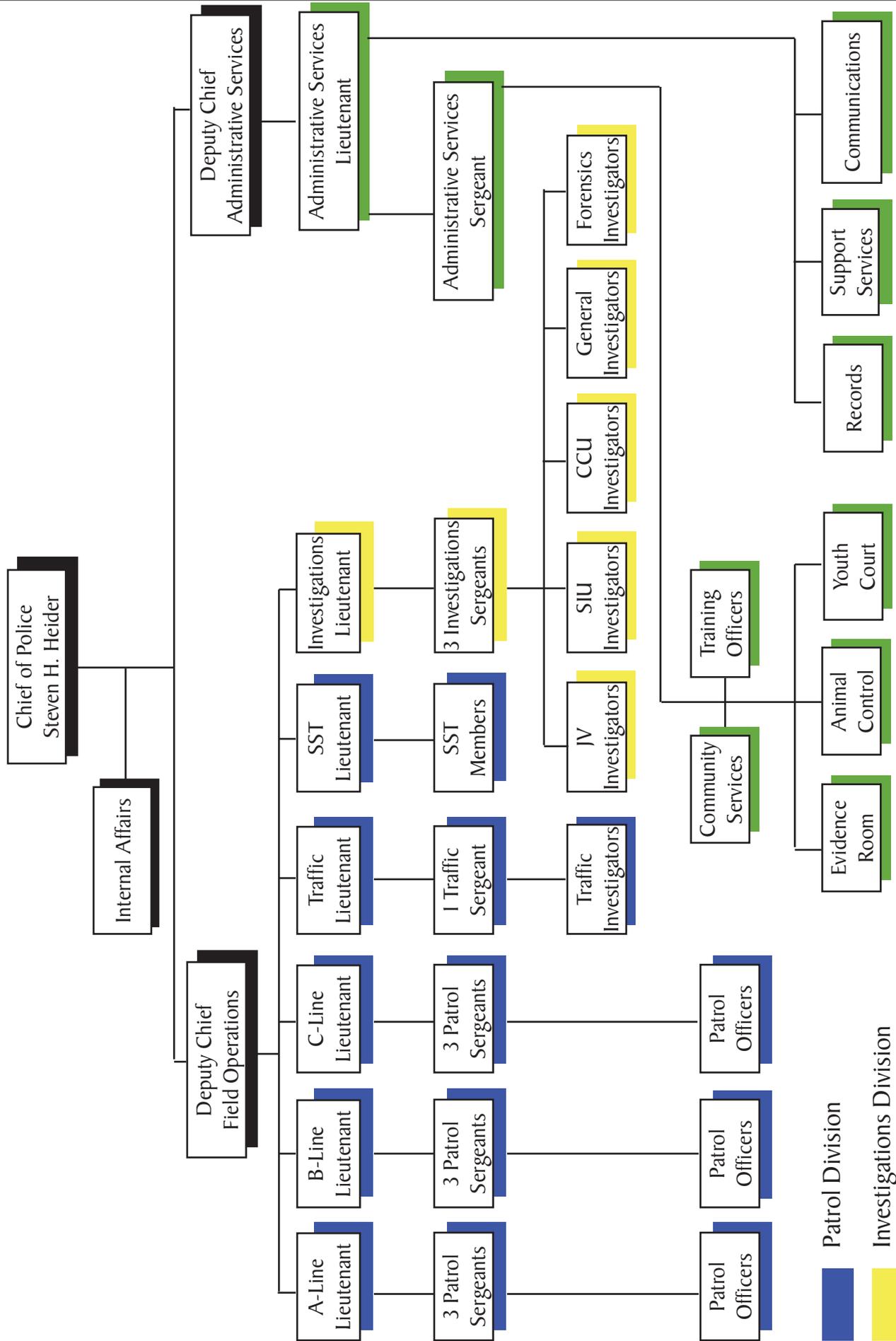
Candidate Processing

Animal Control

Evidence Room

Colonie Youth Court

Colonie Police Department Organizational Chart



Patrol Division

Investigations Division

Administrative Services Division

2008 Department Personnel

Chief of Police

Steven H. Heider

Deputy Chiefs of Police:

Joseph P. Fitzsimmons

Richard A. Villa

Lieutenants:

Paul L. Brannigan

Kenneth M. Pero

Alexander M. Rinaldi

Jonathan M. Teale

John M. Van Alstyne

Robert H. Winn

Administrative**Services Sergeant:**

Michael D. Woods

Detective Sergeants:

John F. Archambault

Kenneth M. Fuchs

Mark L. Girard

Traffic Safety Sergeant:

Robert S. Donnelly

Patrol Sergeants:

Robert W. Barrett

Michael D. Franze

Jeffrey A. Hellkamp

David L. Leonardo

Stephen M. MacLasco

John E. O'Donnell

Christopher P. Ruff

George Thomaides

John S. Vitale

SIU Investigators:

James D. Gerace

Stephen N. Donovan

James J. Gerace

Juvenile Investigators:

Robert J. Cazasta

Guy C. Jubert, Jr.

Steven M. Leonardo

Henry J. Rosenzweig

Allan C. Secor

Forensics Investigators:

Robert A. Camilli

Richard L. DiGiulio

Investigators:

Joseph M. Brunetto

Christopher J. Carey

Michael S. Cerone

Michelle Crowley

Francis M. Forenzo

Gregory Heider

Kevin P. Terry

Todd H. Weiss

Traffic Investigators:

Jason M. DePaulo

Neil T. Leach

Jeffrey T. Lockart

Paul B. Musser

Patrol Officers:

Jason A. Bach

Daniel J. Belles

Derek M. Breslin

Thomas P. Breslin

Henry J. Bryk

Nicholas M. Burns

John Bushey, Jr.

Samuel F. Criscione

Edward P. Cronin

Brian C. Curran

Louis N. DiNuzzo

Tracy L. Dwyer

Patrick J. Fennelly

Stephen E. Frank

Daniel K. Franklin

Eric L. Gansle

Daniel P. Grebert

Peter J. Gullinese

Thomas D. Haacke

James V. Herbst, Jr.

Douglas C. Hoeffner

David Hornberger

Gregory L. Jensen

Edward O. Johnson, Jr.

Dennis M. Keane

Aaron J. Malinoski

David M. Marra

Todd P. Martinovich

Raymond Milham, Jr.

Dennis C. Mink

Jason R. Orkwis

Joseph P. Parker

Israel Roman

Rebecca A. Ruecker

John G. Santorio

Michael P. Sbardella

Chris A. Smith

Christopher R. Smith

James M. Splonskowski

Michael J. Tarbay

Felice J. Trifaro

Paul R. Van Alstyne, Jr.

Richard A. Villa

Edward Weber

Shelly L. Whitelaw

Phillip J. Winglosky

Warrant Officer:

David J. Messmer

Community Services Officers:

Richard M. Barber

Patrick Germaine

Sean M. McGee

K-9 Officers:

Mark P. Mauro and K9 Patriot

Gerald R. Shaw and K9 Beny

Training Officers:

Katy J. Herrington

Joseph A. Valiquette, Jr.

Motor Officers:

Robert J. Laliberte, Jr.

Thomas McLaughlin

Michael J. Torrey

Communications Co-Directors:

Thomas R. Bortle

Michael G. Haller

Senior Dispatchers:

Robert H. Dunn

Lori A. Kunker

John J. Miller

David M. Ray

Roy D. Stiles

Dispatchers:

Neil C. Blanchard

David P. Danish

Robert Davis

Robert J. Elsner

Derek J. Ewing

Glenn V. Falzo

David R. Haller

Pieri Hayes

Michael Hennessey Jr.

Keith R. Herrington

Barbara L. Laney

Frank A. Lawyer

Robert Luke

Michael Mason

Thomas J. Neil

Patrick F. O'Connor

Diane L. Velardi

Stephen D. Waite

James Warren

Kristopher Winne

Victim Services Specialist:

Patrice S. Lockart

Evidence Technician:

Elise Fronk

Youth Court Director:

Violet Colydas

Assistant Youth Court Director:

Javier-Luis Martinez

Principal Records Clerk:

Kathleen J. Nash

Administrative Aide:

Mary Ellen Laurin

Principal Account Clerk:

Deborah C. Gaulty

Information Support Clerk:

Melissa L. Shaw

Personnel Clerk:

Diana L. Blake

Typists:

Kathleen D. Bianca

Beverly Buff

Maura K. Pilla

Dorothy C. Schultz

Nakia Tonic

Clerical Aide:

Christopher Clemente

Daniel J. Rourk

Animal Ctrl. Officers Level II:

Jacob J. Oreshan, Jr.

Animal Control Officers:

James Ainscoe, III

Mary O. Garwood

David Miller

Ronald Notar

Matrons:

Michelle Dix

Lisa Mauro

Cathy McLaughlin

Penny A. Oreshan

Kiki A. Perkins

Luane D. Quinn

Therese Roberts

Crossing Guards:

Jeannie M. Avellino

Michelle L. Cleveland

Lillian Connor

Karen Croteau

Diana LaQue

Margie Mallory

John Ratzel

Susan Yelle

** Department Roster as of
January 1, 2009.*

** All officers are listed
alphabetically by unit.*

Overview and History of the Department

The Colonie Police Department is a New York State accredited, full-service police agency serving the Town of Colonie, New York.

The Colonie Police Department was formed by a Town Board resolution on January 2, 1934. This resolution authorized the Police Department to hire a Chief and two Patrolmen – total budget \$2,500.00.

In 2008, the budget was approximately \$11 million. There were 109 sworn officers, 60 civilian support personnel and over 60 vehicles in the police fleet. Starting Officer's salary has risen from \$400.00 to approximately \$40,000.00. Although the population and related growth of the Town and the Police Department have both grown substantially, the Police Department maintains contact with citizens by promoting a Community Policing policy throughout the agency.

The Police Department is structured into two main divisions. The Field Operations Division includes Patrol, Investigations and Traffic Safety. The Administrative Services Division provides support functions such as Communications, Records, Training, Personnel and Community Services. Administrative Services is also responsible for Fiscal Management, Grant Management, Statistical Analysis, Accreditation, Emergency Management and Animal Control.



Colonie Police Department
Public Safety Center
312 Wolf Road
Latham, New York 12110

(518) 783-2744
Fax (518) 786-7326
www.colonie.org/police

Colonie Police Department Mission Statement:

The mission of the Colonie Police Department is to interact with all citizens with dignity, honor and respect; to preserve life; to protect and maintain human and constitutional rights; to protect property; and to promote individual responsibility and community commitment to high quality standards of living.

The Colonie Police Department will perform this mission in partnership with the community it serves. The police department will foster and promote mutual education, respect, and problem solving with the community. All members of the police department have been empowered to be an agent for this partnership and the positive interaction it will bring.

PATROL DIVISION

The Colonie Police Patrol Division consists of three lieutenants, nine sergeants and 63 patrol officers. Part of the Patrol Division is the Traffic Safety Unit which consists of one Lieutenant, one Sergeant and four Traffic Investigators. These officers are deployed throughout eight patrol zones, 24 hours per day.

Officers assigned to the Patrol Division work one of three shifts:

- A-Line - 11:00 p.m. – 7:00 a.m.
- B-Line - 7:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- C-Line - 3:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.

Thirty marked and unmarked vehicles are assigned for use by the Patrol Division. Members of the Patrol Division duties include, but are not limited to:

- Proactive police patrol and crime prevention
- Enforcement of appropriate Federal, State and Local laws.
- Crash investigation
- Reporting and preliminary investigation of criminal complaints
- Response to non-criminal complaints
- Response to calls for service



Additionally, members of the Patrol Division are at the forefront of the community policing initiative. Patrol officers are assigned to the same patrol areas on a daily basis to become familiar with the individuals and businesses they serve.

Patrol officers participate in special enforcement programs such as "Operation Mainstreet," where officers are deployed in plainclothes and unmarked cars to take a proactive approach against drugs and criminal activity on Colonie's streets. These officers also actively participate in many highway safety programs including Buckle Up New York and Stop DWI. Both programs focus on reducing injuries and eliminating fatalities on our roadways through aggressive enforcement activities.

In 2008, members of the Patrol Division issued 13,312 tickets, a 12% increase from 2007.



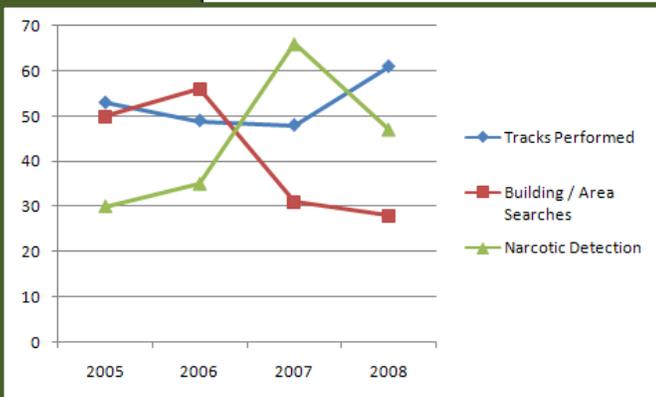
K-9 Unit

The Colonie Police Department has two Patrol K-9 teams, consisting of a dog and its handler. The canine is assigned to a specific officer, and the animal goes home with the officer/ handler, and becomes an integral part of the officer's family. These teams are a normal patrol unit and respond to routine calls for service as well as perform their specialized duties as a K-9 team. When not working, these teams are on call for immediate response. Both teams are trained in the following areas: tracking, building search, evidence recovery, handler protection, criminal apprehension, and advanced narcotics detection (which include, marijuana, methamphetamine, cocaine, heroin, ecstasy, and hashish). The teams are certified by The NYS Dept. of Criminal Justice Services.



*K-9 Officer Jerry Shaw
& K-9 Beny.*

K-9 Figures 2005 - 2008



Working the streets today are K-9 Beny and K-9 Patriot.

Beny is a seven year old German Shepherd who has been working as a police K-9 since 2003. Beny and his partner, Officer Jerry Shaw, currently work the midnight shift. Patriot is a six year old German Shepherd and is the first female canine to work for the Colonie Police Department. She is the partner of Officer Mark Mauro. Patriot and Officer Mauro currently work the afternoon shift.

Both teams participate in at least 24 hours of specialized K-9 training a month to meet the New York State requirement for certification. These teams also take part in local, state and national level training seminars to sharpen their skills. Also as part of their duties, these teams participate in numerous public and private demonstrations to show why and how the canine is deployed.

In 2008, the K-9 Unit was deployed 61 times for tracking, 28 times for building / area searches and was utilized 47 times for narcotic detection.



*K-9 Officer Mark Mauro
& K-9 Patriot.*

Traffic Safety Unit

The Traffic Safety Unit, as a component of the Patrol Division, is comprised of four uniformed investigators, one sergeant and one lieutenant who are specially trained in several areas of traffic services including, but not limited to traffic enforcement, crash investigation and reconstruction, motor carrier safety regulations and hazardous materials incident management. This unit has the responsibility of investigating all collisions involving a fatality, life threatening physical injury or crashes involving Town owned vehicles. In addition, they collect and analyze crash and enforcement data, then develop and implement countermeasure programs that address identified highway safety problems. These investigators respond to the community's concerns involving traffic issues that include complaints of traffic volume, signage and vehicle traffic violations. This unit supports and assists the efforts of the Town of Colonie's Highway Safety Committee.

Members of this unit are also responsible for maintenance and calibration of all of the department's speed measuring devices and breath testing instruments. The Traffic Safety Unit also utilizes the Electronic Total Work Station. This computerized mapping instrument is an invaluable tool in precisely documenting a crime or crash scene. In 2008, the Traffic Safety Unit investigated 2 fatal crashes and handled 323 case files.



Motorcycle Unit

The Motorcycle Unit consists of five officers and their Harley Davidson motorcycles. Officers assigned to the Motorcycle Unit handle all patrol functions as well as special events such as parades, escorts and funeral details. They offer the additional benefit of being able to patrol the Town bike path and other locations traditional patrol vehicles cannot access. One of the Department's Motor Officers, Sergeant John Archambault, is also nationally certified as a police motorcycle operator instructor.

Pictured: Motor Officer Todd Martinovich

Patrol Specialty Units - *Bicycles and All Terrain Vehicles*

In 2005, the Colonie Police Department debuted a Bicycle Patrol as well as an All Terrain Vehicle (ATV) Patrol with the intention of giving the police department more latitude in patrolling the various parts of the Town and to provide more options in keeping with our Community Policing Initiatives.

The all terrain vehicles are suited for patrolling the many Town parks, bike paths and Town owned properties as well as crowded events, wooded or congested areas, utility and railroad right-of-ways and community services events. The police department initiated this program to address a rising number of calls for service within the parks, all terrain vehicles operating in violation of the local law and to fill a recognized lack of resources for certain off-road incidents.



Officer David Hornberger and Sergeant Stephen MacLasco.

Throughout the late spring, summer and early fall, the bicycles were deployed to everyday patrol, directed patrol activity and to many community services events. The bicycles were a common sight at Town and Village sponsored events at The Crossings Park, Cook Park and the Pruyn House.

Special Services Team



The Colonie Police Department has a team of eighteen highly trained police officers known as the Special Services Team (S.S.T.). In addition to the training provided to all officers in the department, these officers receive specialized training in many areas including high risk traffic stops, barricaded

subjects, hostage situations, vehicle assaults and the execution of high risk search warrants. The team members train a minimum of twice monthly in order to maintain the high level of proficiency that is expected of them. Each member of the team has a specified role within the Police Department's day to day operations. When needed, the team can be quickly assembled and mobilized for a high risk assignment.

Colonie SST was deployed two times in 2008. In March, the SST was requested to a Ferrara Avenue home after a report that a wanted individual was spotted at a residence on the street. The individual had warrants for several violent felonies and he was believed to be armed with a handgun. After unsuccessful attempts to make contact with anyone inside the residence, the SST made entry and determined that the residence was vacant. The investigation revealed that the individual had fled the country to avoid arrest.

In June, the SST responded to a Rapple Drive address following a report of a suicidal subject. The subject had a past history of violence and was reportedly in possession of a shotgun and hunting rifle. All efforts to make contact with the subject were unsuccessful and the SST made entry into the residence. The subject was located sleeping in a second floor bedroom and was transported for treatment without any further incident.

INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION

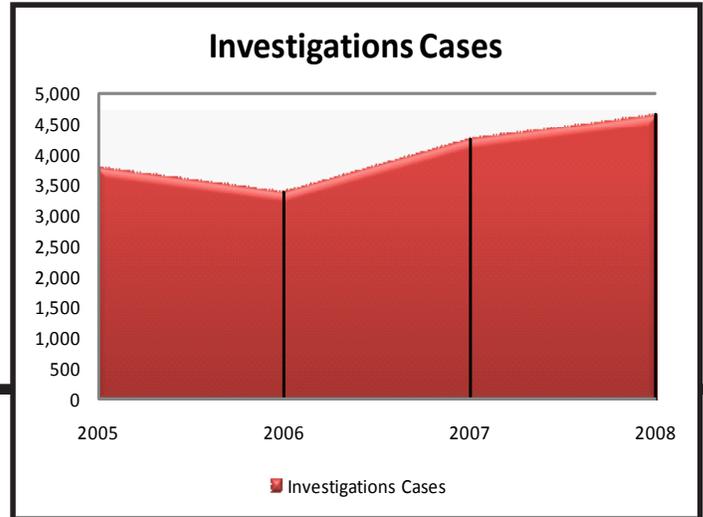


Lieutenant
John M. Van Alstyne

The Investigations Division is responsible for investigating crimes committed within the Town of Colonie. To meet the needs and demands of investigating various crime types, the Colonie Police Department Investigations Division has several units and sub-specialties.

Investigations Unit

The Investigations Unit is responsible for cases involving crimes against persons and property. This includes but is not limited to, assault, robbery, burglary, and other penal law statutes. The Investigations Division handled 4,650 cases in 2008. This is a 9% increase from 2007.



Juvenile Unit

The Juvenile (JV) Unit investigates incidents involving crimes committed by or against youths (under 16 years of age). Incidents may range from minor offenses to all other crime classifications.

A valuable support member included in the Investigation Division Juvenile Unit is a non-sworn member, Victim Services Specialist Patrice Lockart. Ms. Lockart assists investigators in cases involving victims of crimes and works with vulnerable populations including youth, elderly, mentally ill persons, victims of sexual assault and domestic violence as well as their families. Referrals to Ms. Lockart are initiated by police, families, victims and community members. Assessments and referrals to appropriate community support agencies are made from this office.

In 2008, Ms. Lockart worked on 142 referrals of which 65 were for children under the age of 16 and the remaining 77 involved the adult population.

Public Information Officer

Throughout the year, the department issues scores of press releases that not only announce the commission of crimes or the arrest of offenders but also for the purpose of disseminating vital information to the public. In addition to the Chief's Office, responsibility for this falls to the Investigations Commander as well as to the appropriate division heads as necessitated.



Forensic Unit:

The Forensic Unit receives and processes evidence gathered by officers of this department during the course of an investigation. Investigators examine physical evidence including fingerprints which may be submitted to New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services, New York State Police or Federal Bureau of Investigations laboratories for analysis and possible identification. The Colonie Police Forensic Unit was one of the first specialty forensic units in the Capital District. The science of crime scene processing and evidence recovery plays a crucial role in the prosecution of criminal cases. Investigators in this unit receive detailed and ongoing training in the latest forensic trends.

Special Investigations Unit

The Special Investigations Unit (SIU) investigates all illegal drug and vice-related crimes in the Town. They also assist and support the Investigation Unit in investigating crimes against persons and property. The Special Investigation continues to work closely with local, state and federal agencies as well as local task forces.

2008 Figures

Seizure of Assets and/or Property - \$41,012

An increase of 306%.

2008 Figures

Items of Evidence Received

3,735

An increase of 15%.

Total # of Items Processed

167

A decrease of 64%.

In 2008, 100 fingerprint submissions were made to the New York State lab. Of these ten submissions were identified.

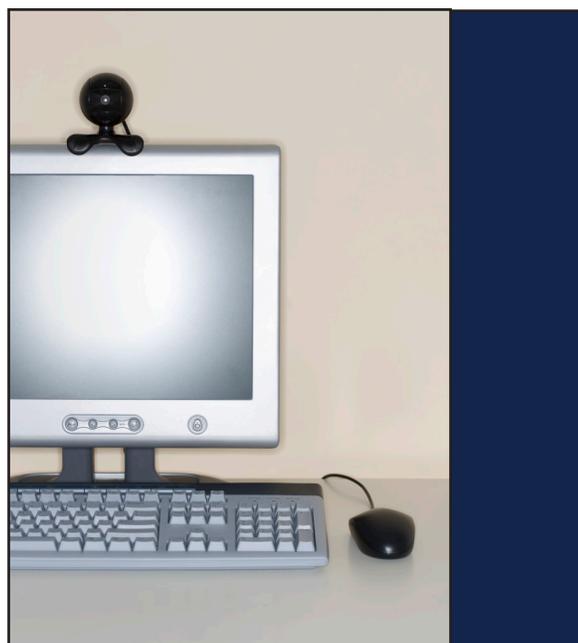
In 2008, 141 DNA submissions were made to the New York State lab. Of these six submissions were identified.

Computer Crime Unit

The Computer Crime Unit continues to adhere to its mandate to investigate online criminal activity, conduct undercover online investigations and provide forensic analysis of digital materials. The unit's role of proactively working in an undercover capacity has expanded with member affiliation in the FBI Innocent Image Program. This Innocent Image Task Force consists of six officers from capital district police agencies in partnership with members of the FBI Cyber Crime Unit to conduct undercover online investigations. Membership in this program has fostered investigations and networking information on a national level.

There continues to be an increase in the need for forensic analysis of computer materials. The Colonie Police Department is the only capital district municipal police agency to provide forensic analysis of computer medium. Providing these services to agencies throughout the capital district, the unit has investigated cases ranging from simple harassment to forgery, embezzlement, identity theft, missing persons, child abuse and exploitation. In each case, the capabilities of the unit to examine computer media and recover evidence have proven extremely valuable to both investigators and prosecutors.

Members of the Computer Crime Unit continue to conduct community programs for parents, teachers and students on internet safety. The unit also provides training on computer investigations to recruits at the regional Police Academy.



COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION

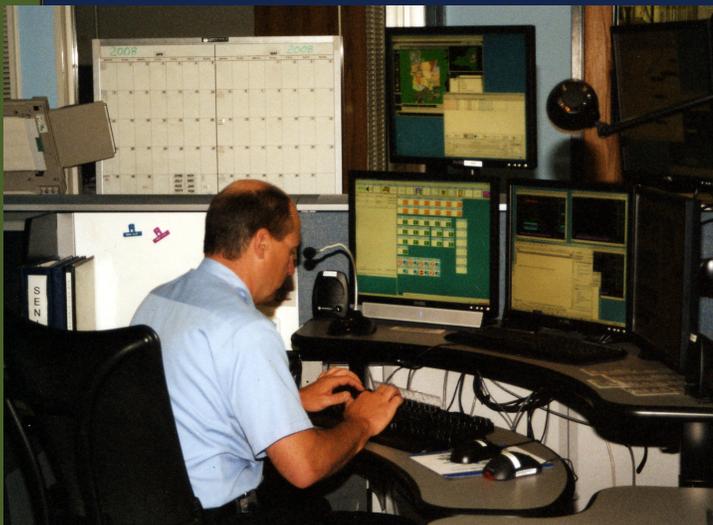
The Administrative Services Division is comprised of both sworn and civilian personnel. Personnel assigned to this division are responsible for all department support services including:

- Communications
- Community Services
- D.A.R.E.
- Records
- Fiscal Management
- Statistical Analysis
- Training
- Fleet Management
- Grant Management
- Accreditation
- Emergency Management
- Animal Control
- Colonie Youth Court
- Web Site

Communications:

Communications is responsible for all public safety communications in the Town of Colonie. It is a 24 hour operation and is one of six E-911 answering centers in Albany County. It is staffed by two co-directors, five Senior Dispatchers, and 22 full-time Public Safety Dispatchers. Communications receives requests and information that must be processed and prioritized, then dispatch Police, Fire and Emergency Medical units via a computer aided dispatch system.

In 2008, the radio system in communications was updated to a Motorola Astro 25 Digital Radio System replacing the former analog system, which had been in place for more than 15 years. Now that the upgrade is complete, the Town of Colonie has one of the most advanced two-way public safety and public service radio systems in the area. The change has improved radio communications throughout the Town as well as having software that will allow for future expansion.



This division also maintains and operates a mobile Field Operations van that provides communication functions in a command post setting. This vehicle is also utilized for backup dispatching services in the event of technical or mechanical failures in the 911 center.

The Communications Center also serves as the Regional Emergency Medical Alert Center (REMAC). This service allows emergency medical personnel throughout the capital district to have direct contact with medical physicians.

2008 Figures

Police Calls

77,672

An increase of 5%.

Fire / EMS Calls

12,483

An increase of 2%.

REMAC Calls

34,593

An increase of 12%.

Community Services Unit:

The Colonie Police Department Community Services Unit is comprised of four patrol officers. These officers work closely with citizens and businesses of the Town providing information about personal safety, security of property and methods to reduce criminal activities. In addition, one of our officers is a New York State Certified Crime Prevention Specialist.

Members of this unit assist neighborhood groups by facilitating neighborhood watch programs, conducting crime prevention security surveys, attending neighborhood gatherings or meetings and addressing any specific neighborhood crime prevention needs. These officers serve on many committees and boards of local civic and school programs such as:

- School Crisis Intervention Teams
- Town of Colonie Kidsfest
- Senior Citizen Committees
- Safe Schools Committees
- NYS Special Olympics
- Special Education Committees
- New York State Safe Kids

One officer is assigned to work closely with the Town of Colonie Senior Resources Department and the growing senior citizen population.

The four Community Services Officers offer the citizens, schools, colleges, civic organizations and businesses of the Town of Colonie approximately sixty different programs and services.

In a proactive approach to the growing threat of violence in the schools, the Community Services Unit continued its program in 2008 working with the local schools by assessing their security needs. In addition, Officer Rich Barber serves as the School Resource Officer at Colonie Central High School providing a consistent police presence within the facility.

As part of the department's SAFE Schools Initiative members of the Community Services Unit provide "tabletop" training for school Crisis Response Team members. This training involves the use of scenarios in which school personnel are placed under stressful conditions in an attempt to deal with a mock crisis. Members of the police department, Emergency Medical Services and fire services are also present during this training and work with the school personnel while attempting to deal with the problem. In addition to the tabletop training, members of the Community Services Unit also provide classroom instruction on School Violence / Crisis Response to teachers.

Law Enforcement Torch Run For Special Olympics

The mission of the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics is to raise funds and awareness of the Special Olympics movement worldwide. Law enforcement officers from every state and over thirty countries carry the Flame of Hope in honor of the Special Olympics athletes in their area and around the world. 2008 was the 27th year for the Torch Run.

Child Car Safety Seat Inspections

Three certified Colonie Police Officers provide the service of checking child car safety seats to ensure that their installations are safe and proper.

In 2008, 187 safety seats were examined (A decrease of 28% from 2007).

For more details on the Safety Seat Program, contact the Community Services Unit at 782-2662 and follow the instructions in the recorded message or visit www.colonie.org/police.

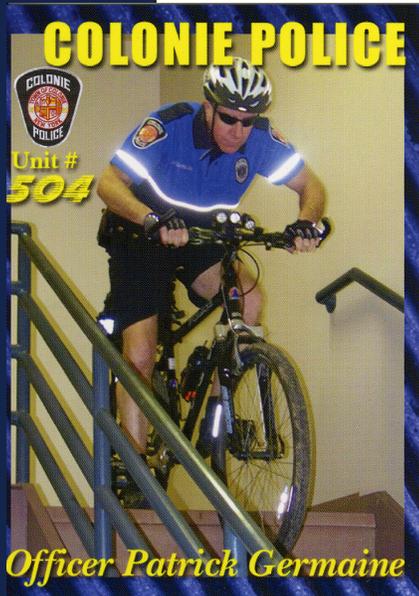
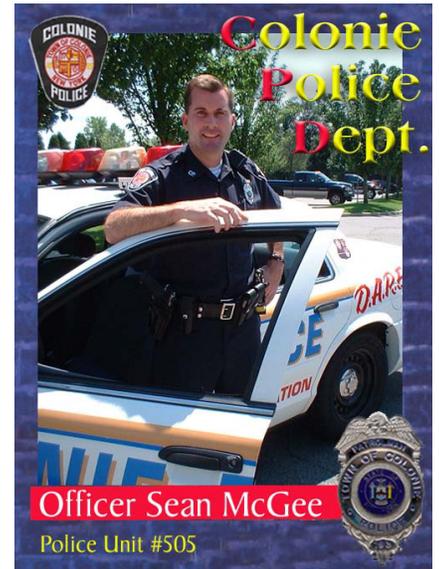


D.A.R.E.

Project

In September of 1992 the Colonie Police Department in cooperation with the Town's two school districts and representatives of various private and parochial schools inaugurated the D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) Program. D.A.R.E. provides the children of our community with the skills needed to deal with the dangers of drug abuse, alcohol abuse and violence. It also provides them with the guidance they need to make the right decisions for their health and future. D.A.R.E. is targeted for school children in the fifth and sixth grades.

This unit, now in its sixteenth full year of operation has grown to include three fully trained D.A.R.E. officers. Additionally, one D.A.R.E. officer has been trained in the D.A.R.E. parent component program.

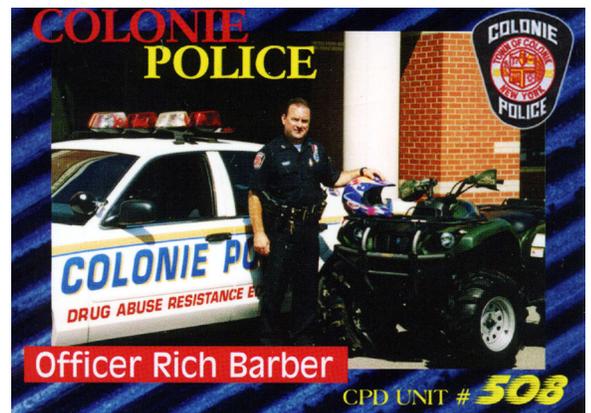


In 2008, these officers presented D.A.R.E. programs to approximately 2,500 students in the fifth, sixth and eighth grades in 18 schools and in 82 individual classrooms. Presentations and visitations to the kindergarten through fourth grade classrooms in 11 schools continue, which enable the D.A.R.E. officers to interact with an additional 4,500 children. This interaction provides students with safety skills for use at both home and school.

A high school program for the ninth through twelfth grades was developed to reduce the use and abuse of alcohol and drugs among our community's high school students. Students discuss the risks and consequences of underage drinking, experience hands-on demonstrations using fatal vision goggles and the risks and consequences of drinking, driving and riding with intoxicated drivers. In 2008, this program was presented to approximately 1,500 high school students in 55 classrooms.

In addition to the K-12 buildings, our officers also visit with many of our pre-kindergarten child care centers throughout the Town of Colonie talking with them about safety and letting them know that officers are their friends.

To help further our anti-drug programs our police department has instituted the "TARGET" Program (Teenage Alcohol Related Gathering Enforcement Team). This program is designed to reduce the use of alcohol among our community's youth.



Annual D.A.R.E. Golf Tournament

The Annual D.A.R.E. Golf Tournament not only provides an enjoyable day of friendship but also serves as a great fund raiser for the DARE Program as businesses in the community assume the role as sponsors.

In 2008, the event was held at the Schuyler Meadows Club where 144 golfers competed.

Training Unit:

The Training Unit staff includes two police officer and one sergeant on a full-time basis. This unit develops, implements and evaluates mandated in-service training as well as providing selective topical training. This unit conducted over 30 hours of practical exercise and classroom instruction that all of our officers attended. Officers also attend numerous local training sessions held throughout the region on various topics.

Training this year included instruction on the use of force, legal updates, EMS protocol and a full day of defensive tactics training. Additional in-service training consisted of two days of firearms training.

The department also continued its "Roll Call Training" in which officers receive ten minute training sessions during their daily briefing. In addition to their traditional instructional roles, these officers also have responsibilities in the following areas:

- Field Training Officer Program
- Police Officer Candidate Processing
- Internship Educational Program
- Department Armorers
- Quartermaster Duties
- Public Safety Dispatcher Candidate Processing

Statistical Analysis

Monthly, quarterly and yearly reports compiling various statistics and data charts are produced for use by Field and Administrative personnel. Mandated Federal and New York State reports, including Uniform Crime Reports are produced by this office.



Grant Management

Grant Management, requires the preparing, budgeting, accounting and fiscal reporting related to grant awards. These awards are received from Local, State and Federal sources. Programs funded by grant monies include Stop DWI, Target, Campaign Safe and Sober and Buckle Up New York. Grant managers are also responsible for acquiring new technology for use by all department members. In 2008, the Colonie Police Department was awarded approximately \$200,000 in grants.



The unit is also responsible for the acquisition, deployment and maintenance of the department fleet and associated equipment. In 2008, over one million miles were driven on department vehicles. When no longer usable for police service, department vehicles are transferred to other Town agencies or sold at auction.

Web Page

The Department's webmaster is responsible for the development and maintenance of our web site which offers information on department services such as child safety seat inspections and the Civilian Police Academy as well as updates on department activities and promotions. Online forms are also available and include a House / Property Check Form that notifies the department when you will be on vacation and your house will be vacant, an Alarm / Emergency contact card that informs the department who to contact in the event of an alarm drop or emergency at your home, a Home Security Survey and a Contract For Teen Drivers. Please visit us at www.colonie.org/police.



Records

The Records Division is responsible for data entry, as well as the processing and maintaining of information pertaining to official reports and arrest records. All Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) requests are received and processed by Records personnel. This unit reviews all Police Officer documented reports for content, clarity and completeness.

2008 Figures

Cases Processed

13,140

A decrease of 4%



Investigations Cases

4,650

An increase of 9%

Accident Investigations

4,095

A decrease of 7%

Field Interviews

3,143

A decrease of 13%

Citations

13,312

An increase of 12%

In 2008, members of the Administrative Services Division worked on the complete update of the department's Police Officer's Manual in anticipation of the re-accreditation process beginning in the fall of 2009.

Animal Control:

Colonie's Animal Control officers focus on the enforcement of state and local laws in relation to dogs and other animals. The intention is to promote health, safety, and general welfare of the people of the Town of Colonie. Specifically, Animal Control enforces provisions of the New York State Agriculture and Markets Law and Town local laws.

The philosophy of the unit is to remove animals in a safe and humane manner. They interact with the public by providing information on local and state laws before actual enforcement becomes necessary.

Duties of Colonie Animal Control Officers include: the seizure of lost dogs, impoundment, investigations of barking dog complaints, removing sick or injured animals, investigation of animal bites, removing deceased dogs and cats from highways, occasional trapping of wildlife found in homes, transporting possible rabid animals for testing, and investigating cruelty complaints.

Responsibilities consist of the service of legal processes related to criminal or civil proceedings including: appearance tickets, impounding dogs found at large, transporting dogs to the Mohawk and Hudson River Humane Society, notifying the owner of its whereabouts and transporting stray dogs and cats to veterinarians for immediate medical treatment if necessary.



Fiscal Management:

The Fiscal Management office has the responsibility of preparing, managing and administering the annual Town Board approved line-item budget. The 2008 Police Department budget was \$12,170,250 of which approximately 88% was appropriated for personnel costs, including salaries and benefits. The remaining 12% accounted for the day to day operating budget. Fiscal Management personnel act as the liaison with the Town Comptrollers office and the Office of General Services.

Functions of this office include:

- Procurement of merchandise and services
- Billing and accounting
- Payroll preparation
- Personnel schedules

2008 Figures

Animal Control Complaints

2,773

An increase of 7%.

COLONIE YOUTH COURT

A White House Event



On February 7, 2008, the White House held its 3rd Anniversary

Reception of the Helping America's Youth Initiative. Former First Lady Laura Bush traveled the country over the last 3 years visiting youth programs and organizations who support her mission to help at-risk youth. Mrs. Bush visited the Colonie Youth Court program on October 4, 2006 to view a mock trial presented by the youth court members.

Youth Court Director, Violet Colydas, was invited to attend the White House event. Former President Bush and the former First Lady made remarks in the East Room on the Initiative's progress since 2005. President Bush signed an executive order so that it will continue its successful efforts and help increase the cooperation of federal, state, local and private sectors. A reception followed with approximately 175 people representing different organizations around the country participating.

"It was an honor to see the President and Mrs. Bush again. I was able to congratulate her personally on her successful efforts on her Helping America's Youth Initiative. She has done a remarkable job coordinating this effort, and I am grateful to have been given this once in a lifetime opportunity to be a part of the President's and Mrs. Bush's celebration at the White House." says Violet Colydas, Director, Colonie Youth Court.

On July 8, 2008, the youth court hired Program Assistant, Javy Martinez. Javy is a former offender of CYC who currently holds the record number of community service hours of 302. After Javy successfully completed his sanctions, he joined the membership training

program and worked on a variety of cases throughout high school. He is now currently pursuing a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from SUNY Albany. Javy has been a great asset to the program, especially to our young offenders.

In 2008, the program received 83 referrals from the Police Department, Justice Department, and the Albany County Probation Department. Of those, 81 youth were eligible for the program. The program achieved a 100% success rate among its program offenders that year. The gender, race, crime committed and community service hours performed is as follows: 62% males and 38% females, 85%-Caucasians, 9%-African Americans, and 6%-Other. The cases were composed of 46% of theft

related crimes, 13% marijuana related, 11% multiple offenses, 9% criminal trespass, 7% unlawfully dealing with a child, and the remaining 23% were composed of mischief, controlled substance, falsely reporting an incident, assault, reckless endangerment, and traffic related offenses. The total number of community service hours performed in 2008 was 3,171 hours in the Town of Colonie.

The criteria to refer a young person to youth court includes: the offender shall be age 18 or under, committed a misdemeanor or violation, admission of guilt, and a first time offender. In youth court, a youth must explain their actions to a jury of his/her peers, and accept a sentence of community service hours deemed appropriate by a young jury. Our jury pool of 275 young people are town residents in grades 7-12 who wish to volunteer their time to listen to an actual case and decide on an appropriate sentence. Our 120 youth court volunteer members are high school students in grades 9-12 who had to undergo an extensive 8 week law related course of instruction. Youth court member roles include: Judge, Prosecutor, Defender, Jury Foreperson, Clerk and our newer role, Victim Advocate.



Colonie Youth Court Director Violet Colydas with former First Lady Laura Bush at the White House in February, 2008.



Accreditation:

Administrative Services is responsible for ensuring that all department policies and procedures are in compliance with the standards set by New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services. The accreditation program has long been recognized as a means of maintaining the highest standards of professionalism. The Colonie Police Department was originally accredited in 1994 and reaccredited in 1999 and 2004.

In 2009, our agency will go through another re-accreditation program. The process will involve a critique and review by outside independent assessors of all department policies and procedures.

EXPLORER POST 185

Colonie Police Explorer Post 185 is a chartered organization of the Boy Scouts of America and is sponsored by the Colonie Police Department. It is comprised of young men and women who would like to learn more about a career in Law Enforcement. The Post membership includes their own command structure with ranks of Corporal, Sergeant, Lieutenant and Captain and all fall under the Police Department supervision of Lt. Alex Rinaldi, Sergeant George Thomaidis, Investigators Al Secor and Jason Depaulo and Patrolmen Brian Curran, Daniel Grebert and Aaron Malinoski.

The Post meets twice each month on the 2nd and 4th Thursday. At these meetings, after regular business is discussed, training sessions are held, often by the same instructors used to teach law enforcement officers at the Police Academy. Topics such as Forensics, Arson Investigation, Computer Crime and Juvenile Law are common, as well as how to handle Domestic calls, High Risk Traffic Stops and DWI checks.



For the building search training, members of our own New York Air National Guard pitched in to help. It was held at their facility at the Albany International Airport and a tour was included.

The Post also performs community service on a regular basis, last year totaling more than 1700 hours at events such as the annual Family Fun Day, concerts at the Pruyn House, the CP Telethon, Special Olympics and many more...

...but it's not all work. The Post competes against other Police Posts at regular events called Stations Days, and also travels to Connecticut annually for a week long Explorer Academy.

To be a member, you must be 14 years old, have completed the 8th grade, maintain an 80 average in school and be in good standing in your community.

For more information, you may call Investigator Jason DePaulo at 783-2744, ext. 1204.

2008 Awards Ceremony

On the evening of May 31, 2007, the Colonie Police Department hosted our Annual Awards Ceremony where department members joined with officers' families and friends at the Town of Colonie Public Safety Center in this recognition event.

Distinguished Service Award

The Distinguished Service Award is given to a member of the department who in the course of their duties and while interacting with their peers, supervisors and the public, displays exceptional dedication to their profession and to the department. This award is given to the explorer, communicator and police officer of the year.



Officer of the Year
*Sergeant
George Thomaides*

**Public Safety
Dispatcher of the Year**
*Public Safety Dispatcher
Michael Mason*



Explorer of the Year
*Explorer
Maria Apruzzese*

Esposito/Russo Memorial Award

The Esposito/Russo Memorial Award is given to the officer for aggressive anti-DWI efforts throughout the year. The 2008 award recipient was Officer Nicholas M. Burns for his outstanding efforts in the field of impaired driving enforcement. He is shown with Chief Heider.



Life Saving Award

The Life Saving Award is presented to a member, who in the performance of their duty, renders medical first aid of a distinguished or unusually creditable nature to a person whose life is in immediate jeopardy, and does so in a manner that most certainly sustains the person and enables such person to be delivered alive to a medical facility. The 2008 Life Saving Award recipients were Officer Daniel K. Franklin and Officer Michael J. Torrey.

Awards Ceremony *Continued*

Command Recognition Award

The Command Recognition Award may be awarded to a member, who in the line of police duty performs a task in an exemplary manner thereby displaying alertness, efficiency and dedication to duty.

Investigator Gregory Heider
Investigator Christopher J. Carey
Investigator James J. Gerace, Jr.
Investigator Todd H. Weiss
Investigator Henry J. Rosenzweig

Officer James M. Splonskowski
Officer Nicholas M. Burns
Officer John G. Santorio
Officer Daniel P. Grebert
Officer Aaron J. Malinoski

Civilian Award

A Certificate of Community Service may be awarded to a civilian who has rendered assistance to the Police Department in an emergency, or who by action or deed, has contributed to a better police-community relationship. In 2008, a Civilian Award was presented to Robert Porter.

Civilian Police Academy

Civilian Police Academy (CPA) students are exposed to all areas of police operations from administration, patrol, investigation, traffic, forensics, the court system and more. The classes are held in three hour sessions for nine weeks. Class sessions are taught by carefully selected officers who specialize in the topic being covered. Students are also given the opportunity to attend optional sessions including a ride-along. A graduation ceremony is held at the completion of the program.

The ultimate goal of a CPA is to reduce crime through a strong bond between the citizens and their police department. This is in keeping with the philosophy of community policing.

Objectives of the Academy:

- Foster cooperation between police and CPA students.
- Showcase the education, capabilities, and talents of the members of the Colonie Police Department.
- Dispel misconceptions of how the police department operates by explaining why police act as they do.
- Create "neighborhood ambassadors" who will take information from the CPA and spread positive information to their neighbors.

For more information on the Civilian Police Academy visit www.colonie.org/police or call 782-2662.



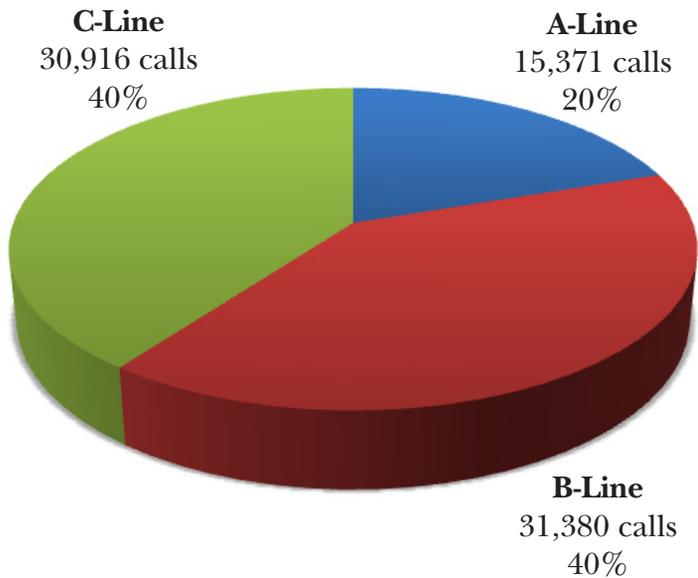
2008 Calls For Service

	2007	2008	Change		2007	2008	Change
911 Accidental Call	2,406	2,736	+14%	Larceny Just Occurred	213	166	-22%
911 Hang-Up Call	667	1,326	+99%	Lock Out	410	224	-45%
911 Non-Emergency/ Nuisance	440	461	+5%	Loud Music	251	190	-24%
Abandoned Vehicle	340	250	-26%	Loud Party	155	153	-1%
Alarm Drop	877	867	-1%	Malfunctioning Traffic Light	450	421	-6%
Animal Control Complaint	2,712	2,773	+2%	Neighbor Trouble	316	301	-5%
Assault	92	99	+8%	Notification	749	1,557	+108%
Assist A Person	849	894	+5%	Officer Needs Assistance	185	164	-11%
Auto Accident Property Damage	4,246	4,057	-4%	Open Window / Door	181	174	-4%
Auto Accident Personal Injury	663	583	-12%	POP (Police Oriented Policing)	788	781	-1%
Auto Accident Unknown	92	94	+2%	Person Acting Suspicious	645	557	-14%
Bomb Threat	4	4	-	Person Annoying	637	595	-7%
Boy / Girlfriend Trouble	71	112	+58%	Person Attempting Suicide	53	72	+36%
Burglar Alarm	5,609	5,525	-1%	Person Down	16	27	+69%
Burglary In Progress	40	51	+28%	Person Exposing Self	19	11	-42%
Car Blocking	224	193	-14%	Person With A Weapon	37	37	-
Check A Subject	3,568	3,582	-	Police Wanted Unknown	52	42	-19%
Community Services Event	519	514	-1%	Property Check	2,016	2,554	+27%
Custodial Interference	90	64	-29%	Prowler	73	79	+8%
Disabled Motor Vehicle	1,987	1,585	-20%	Road Hazard	630	616	-2%
Domestic Call	1,790	1,512	-16%	Robbery	19	32	+68%
Drunk Annoying	84	89	+6%	School Crossing	55	58	+5%
Emotionally Disturbed Person	320	342	+7%	Selling Drugs	11	11	-
EMS Call	1,225	1,187	-3%	Shooting	4	0	-400%
Executing A Warrant	38	33	-13%	Shoplifter	451	559	+24%
Fight	208	270	+30%	Shots Fired	59	47	-20%
Fire Call	391	310	-21%	Someone In Building	23	12	-48%
Fireworks	257	146	-43%	Traffic Enforcement Details	292	328	+12%
Found Property	347	338	-3%	Traffic Stop	18,915	20,835	+10%
Get A Complaint	1,035	1,019	-2%	Tree Down	95	242	+155%
Get A Report	5,730	5,780	+1%	Trouble With A Customer	351	342	-3%
Group Annoying	658	602	-9%	Vehicle Annoying	1,775	1,686	-5%
Hazardous Material Call	6	12	+100%	Vehicle In Violation	479	408	-15%
Hold-Up Alarm	293	246	-16%	Warrant	908	793	-13%
Jail Run	92	104	+13%	Water Break	103	77	-25%
Juvenile Incident	134	136	+1%	Wires Down / Arching	172	459	+167%
Landlord / Tenant Trouble	73	78	+7%	All Other Call Types	4,327	5,029	+16%
				Totals:	74,162	77,613	+5%

Uniform Crime Report (UCR) Part 1 Offenses

	2007	2008	Change
Murder	1	0	-100%
Rape	5	1	-80%
Robbery	21	33	+58%
Assault	57	20	-65%
Burglary	269	239	-11%
Larceny	2,007	2,032	+1%
Vehicle Theft	53	39	-26%
Totals:	2,413	2,364	-2%

Percentage of Calls By Shift



Custodial Arrests In 2008

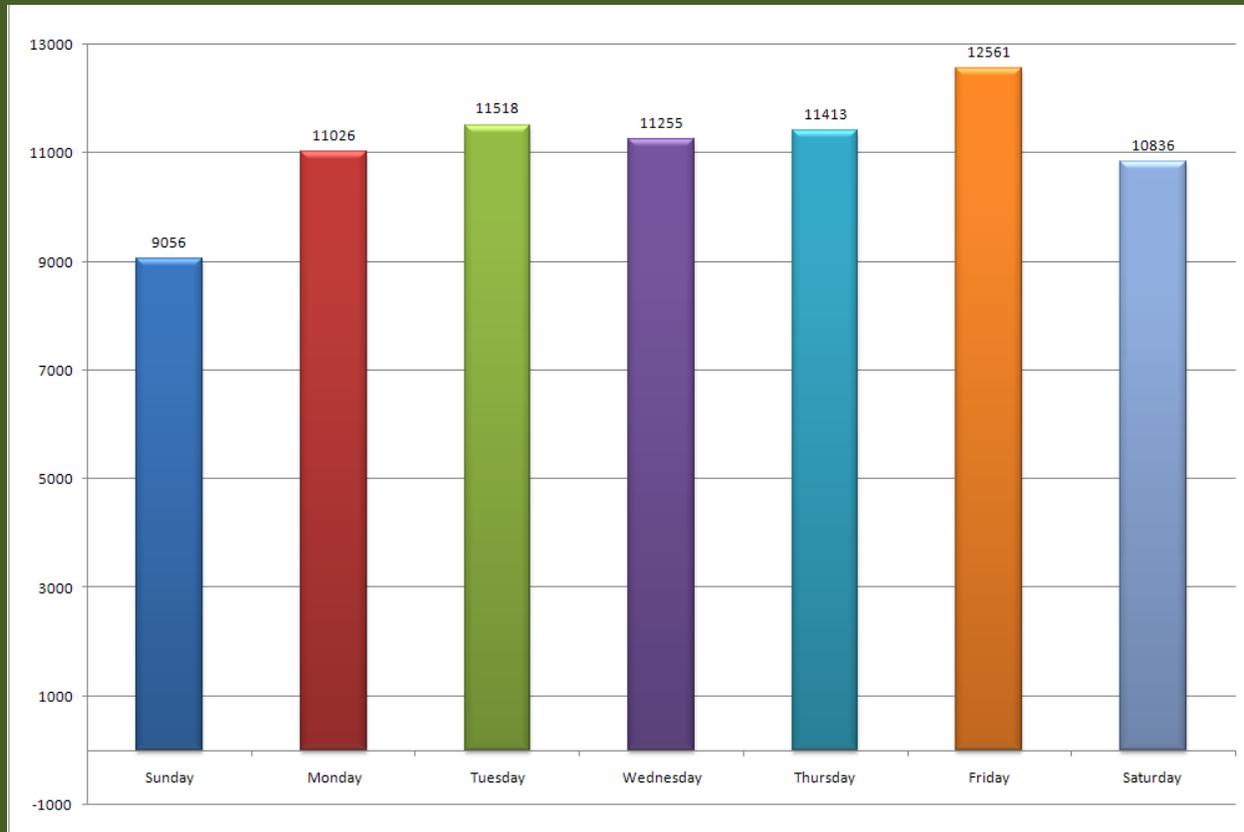
Adults	Juveniles
3,154	149
<i>A decrease of 2%</i>	<i>An increase of 3%</i>

Uniform Crime Report (UCR) Part 2 Offenses

	2007	2008	Change
Arson	5	4	-20%
Kidnapping	0	0	-
Controlled Substances	239	251	+5%
Dangerous Weapons	14	9	-36%
Sex Offenses	15	5	-67%
Extortion	0	0	-
Forgery / Counterfeiting	103	125	+21%
Stolen Property	60	45	-25%
Prostitution & Vice	0	4	+400
Coercion	0	0	-
Criminal Mischief	858	731	-15%
Fraud	335	293	-13%
Gambling	0	0	-
Offenses Against Public Order	5	0	-500%
Embezzlement	0	0	-
Simple Assault	110	145	+32%
Offenses Against Family	154	165	+7%
Driving Under Influence	275	278	+1%
Unauthorized Use of Vehicle	5	5	-
Possession of Burglar Tools	1	5	+400%
Liquor Law Violations	0	0	-
Disorderly Conduct	533	470	-12%
Loitering	0	0	-
All Other Offenses	609	524	-14%
Totals:	3,321	3,059	-8%

The Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program was conceived to meet a need for reliable, uniform crime statistics for the nation. The FBI collects, publishes and archives these statistics from nearly 17,000 law enforcement agencies across the United States.

Number of Calls By Day of the Week



Number of Calls By Hour of the Day

