



2009 Annual Report



Colonie Police Department

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On The Cover:



On September, 21, 2009, President Barack Obama visited the Capital Region for a trip to Hudson Valley Community College. Landing at Albany International Airport, the President was escorted to HVCC for a speech and tour.

While being a fairly quiet year as a whole, the year 2009 proved to be a rewarding one for the Colonie Police Department.

After many years of being among the top ten safest communities in the United States, members of the Colonie Police Department were pleased to learn that the Town of Colonie was named the "Safest Community in the United States" based on numbers from the year 2008. Such an achievement is a credit to each and every member of the department whose commitment to public safety make something like this possible. Additionally, the credit also should go to our Town residents who have helped create an atmosphere of safety that encompasses people in all walks of life. While we always hope to remain number one, our ultimate goal is to consistently have positive interactions with the public and with their support ensure that we remain if not the safest, then one of the safest communities in the United States.

Also in the year 2009, the department went through its fourth re-accreditation process. Accreditation is the tool in the public safety field ensuring an agency and its policies and procedures are compliant with the standards set by state law. It is an arduous process preparing for the review, requiring work day after day that involves every member of the department from the policy makers to everyone who follows the department mission statement. The five year plan preparing for the next review begins almost immediately following the completion of the last one. I am happy to state the the Colonie Police Department successfully met or exceeded all the criteria and is recognized as an accredited agency through the year 2014.

A constant it seems in this department is the ongoing process of filling vacancies as a result of retirements. 2009 proved to be no different. After 33 years of dedicated service, Deputy Chief Richard Villa retired from the Colonie Police Department in the fall of 2009. Deputy Chief Villa who began his career with the police department in the fall of 1977, was promoted to the position of Deputy Chief in 2003. Taking his place in the administration as Deputy Chief of Police is John Van Alstyne, a 24-year veteran of the department. The department also hired five new officers filling the vacancies as a result of promotions. My administration looks to each new officer as a person bringing his or her own set of skills to not only contribute in the early stages of their career but also be available for their call to duty with increased responsibilities in the coming years.

All towns in New York State are faced with dire financial situations and our town and police department are no different. Through very creative thinking and through the use of a team approach to spending issues, the Colonie Police Department is extremely proud of the Town of Colonie governmental team in controlling costs while still providing exemplary service through almost daily contact between our administration, the Supervisor's Office and the Town Comptroller we collectively as a group have been able to continue to provide this service while attempting to have the least impact financially to our Town's citizens.

We can look at each and every member and staff of the Colonie Police Department as contributors to the previous, ongoing and future success of the police department. We also look though to all Town governmental members as equal partners in the success the Colonie Police Department enjoys. Emergency Services within the Town of Colonie is second to none across the entire state of New York. Our members and members of Colonie EMS and fire community work hand in hand to deliver the best possible outcomes when called upon. That is our goal and one that we will continue to strive to repeat.



Executive Summary

- Chief Steven H. Heider

Deputy Chiefs of Police



Deputy Chief Joseph Fitzsimmons
Administrative Services Division



Deputy Chief John M. Van Alstyne
Field Services Division

Contact The Department

Unit / division commanders and their contact information:

FIELD SERVICES DIVISION

Deputy Chief John M. Van Alstyne
vanalstynej@colonie.org
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 John Archambault
Beginning June 1, 2010
archambaultj@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

Deputy Chief Jonathan M. Teale
Beginning May 1, 2010
tealej@colonie.org
783-2800

Lieutenant Michael D. Woods
Beginning May 1, 2010
woodsmd@colonie.org
782-2619

Sergeant Michael Franze
franzem@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

Public Affairs
Melissa L. Shaw
shawm@colonie.org
782-2662

Colonie Police Department Organizational Chart

Chief of Police
Steven H. Heider

Internal Affairs

Deputy Chief
Field Operations

Deputy Chief
Administrative Services

A-Line
Lieutenant

B-Line
Lieutenant

C-Line
Lieutenant

Traffic
Lieutenant

SST
Lieutenant

Investigations
Lieutenant

Administrative Services
Lieutenant

3 Patrol
Sergeants

3 Patrol
Sergeants

3 Patrol
Sergeants

1 Traffic
Sergeant

SST
Members

3 Investigations
Sergeants

Administrative Services
Sergeant

Patrol
Officers

Patrol
Officers

Patrol
Officers

Traffic
Investigators

IV
Investigators

SIU
Investigators

CCU
Investigators

General
Investigators

Forensics
Investigators

Patrol
Officers

Patrol
Officers

Patrol
Officers

Community
Services

Training
Officers

Communications

Evidence
Room

Animal
Control

Youth
Court

Records

Support
Services

Patrol Division

Investigations Division

Administrative Services Division



2009 Department Personnel

Chief of Police

Steven H. Heider

Deputy Chiefs of Police:

Joseph P. Fitzsimmons
John M. Van Alstyne

Lieutenants:

Paul L. Brannigan
Kenneth M. Pero
Stephen M. MacLasco
Alexander M. Rinaldi
Jonathan M. Teale
Robert H. Winn

Administrative Services Sergeant:

Michael D. Woods

Detective Sergeants:

John F. Archambault
Kenneth M. Fuchs
Christopher P. Ruff

Traffic Safety Sergeant:

Robert S. Donnelly

Patrol Sergeants:

Robert W. Barrett
Michael D. Franze
Jeffrey A. Hellkamp
David L. Leonardo
John E. O'Donnell
George Thomaidis
John S. Vitale
Todd H. Weiss
James J. Gerace

SIU Investigators:

James D. Gerace
Stephen N. Donovan
Henry J. Rosenzweig

Juvenile Investigators:

Robert J. Cazasta
Guy C. Jubert, Jr.
Steven M. Leonardo
Allan C. Secor
Christopher R. Smith

Forensics Investigators:

Richard L. DiGiulio
Samuel F. Criscione

Investigators:

Joseph M. Brunetto
Christopher J. Carey
Michael S. Cerone
Michelle Crowley
Gregory Heider
Guy C. Jubert, Jr.
Kevin P. Terry
Paul R. Van Alstyne, Jr.

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.
Michael E. Condor
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
Edward O. Johnson, Jr.
Dennis M. Keane
Nicholas S. Layne
Aaron J. Malinoski
David M. Marra
Raymond Milham, Jr.
David J. Mink
Dennis C. Mink
Jennifer E. Oliver
Jason R. Orkwis
Matthew R. Overocker
Joseph P. Parker
Frank D. Peris
Anthony J. Riccitelli
Israel J. Roman
Rebecca A. Ruecker
John G. Santorio
Michael P. Sbardella
Nicholas T. Sidoti
Chris A. Smith
James M. Splonskowski
Michael J. Tarbay
Jacques A. Tremblay
Felice J. Trifaro
Richard A. Villa
Edward Weber
Shelly L. Whitelaw
Phillip J. Winglosky

Warrant Officer:

David J. Messmer

Community Services Officers:

Richard M. Barber
Patrick Germaine
Gregory L. Jensen
Sean M. McGee

K-9 Officers:

Gerald R. Shaw and K9 Beny
Mark P. Mauro and K9 Patriot

Training Officers:

Katy J. Herrington
Joseph A. Valiquette, Jr.

Motor Officers:

Robert J. Laliberte, Jr.
Todd Martinovich
Thomas McLaughlin
Michael J. Torrey

Communications Co-Directors:

Thomas R. Bortle
Michael G. Haller

Senior Dispatchers:

Michael Hennessey, Jr.
Lori A. Kunker
John J. Miller
David M. Ray
Roy D. Stiles

Dispatchers:

Neil C. Blanchard
David P. Danish
Robert Davis
Paul L. DiNuzzo
Scott C. Dilcher
Robert J. Elsner
Derek J. Ewing
Glenn V. Falzo
David R. Haller
Pieri Hayes
Keith R. Herrington
Gregory J. Hirsch
Frank A. Lawyer, IV
Robert Luke
Michael Mason
William J. Molesky, Jr.
Thomas J. Neil
Patrick F. O'Connor
Matthew Peterson
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:

Michelle L. Ainscoe
Kathleen D. Bianca
Beverly Buff
Maura K. Pilla
Dorothy C. Schultz
Nakia Tonic

Clerical Aides:

Christopher Clemente
Daniel J. Rourk

Animal Ctrl. Officer 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, 2010.*

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 2009, the budget was approximately \$13 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 \$48,000.00. 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 2009, members of the Patrol Division issued 14,012 tickets, a 5% increase from 2008.



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.

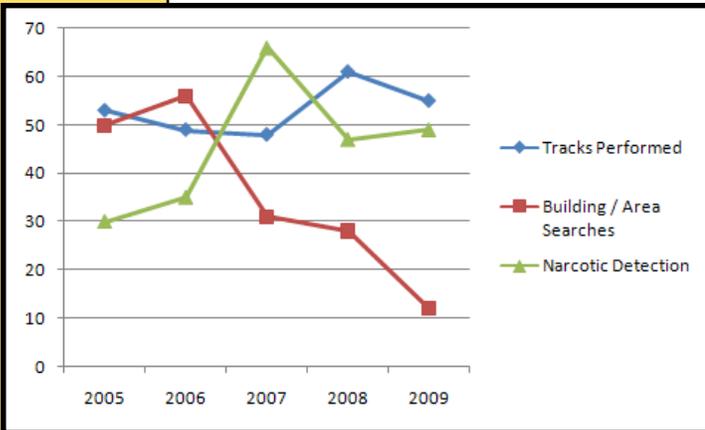


*K-9 Officer Jerry Shaw
& K-9 Beny.*

Working the streets today are K-9 Beny and K-9 Patriot. Beny is a eight 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 seven 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.



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



K-9 Figures 2005 - 2009

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 2009, the K-9 Unit was deployed 55 times for tracking, 12 times for building/area searches and was utilized 49 times for narcotic detection.

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 2009, the Traffic Safety Unit investigated 10 fatal crashes and handled 304 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. Additionally, the Motorcycle Unit serves as the upstate New York escorts for the Patriot Flight, a national effort to provide World War II veterans free transportation to the World War II Memorial in Washington D.C.

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.

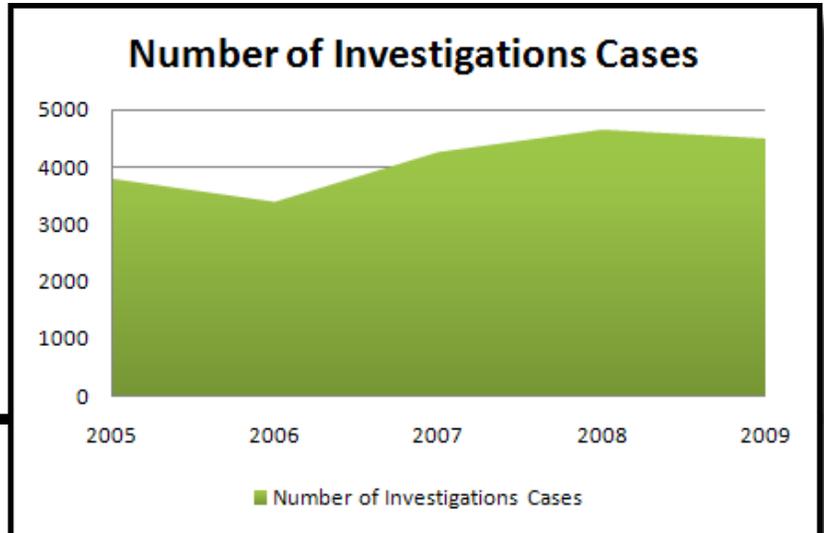
In June, the SST responded to a Rapple Drive address following a report of a suicidal subject. The subject had a past history of violence and was reportedly in possession of a shotgun and hunting rifle. All efforts to make contact with the subject were unsuccessful and

INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION

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 4,497 cases in 2009. This is a 3% increase from 2008.



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 2009, Ms. Lockart worked on 144 referrals of which 69 were for children under the age of 16 and the remaining 75 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.

2009 Figures

Seizure of Assets and/or Property - \$139,853
An increase of 241%.

2009 Figures

Items of Evidence Received
3,224
An increase of 13%.

Total # of Items Processed
158
A decrease of 5%.

In 2009, 88 fingerprint submissions were made to the New York State lab. Of these 24 submissions were identified.

In 2009, 211 DNA submissions were made to the New York State lab. Of these 17 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

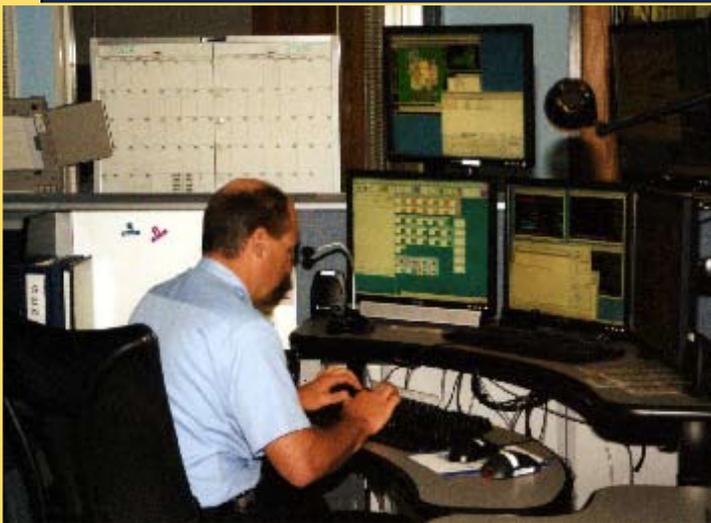
The Administrative Services Division is comprised of both sworn and civilian personnel. Personnel assigned to this division are responsible for all department support services including:

- 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.

2009 Figures

Police Calls

76,219

A decrease of 2%.

Fire / EMS Calls

11,733

A decrease of 1%.

REMAC Calls

20,532

*A decrease of 41%.**

** Program being phased out.*

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 2009 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. 2009 was the 28th 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 2009, 216 safety seats were examined (An increase of 16% from 2008).

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.

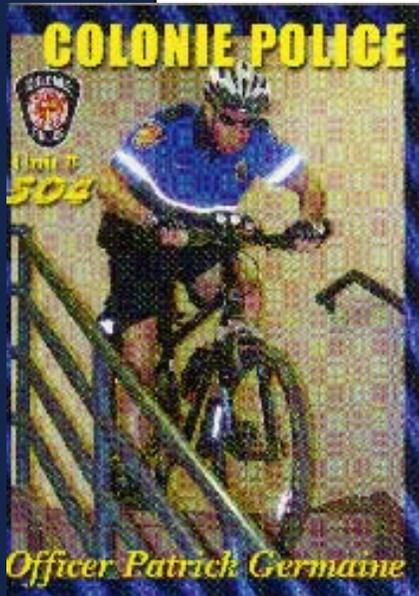
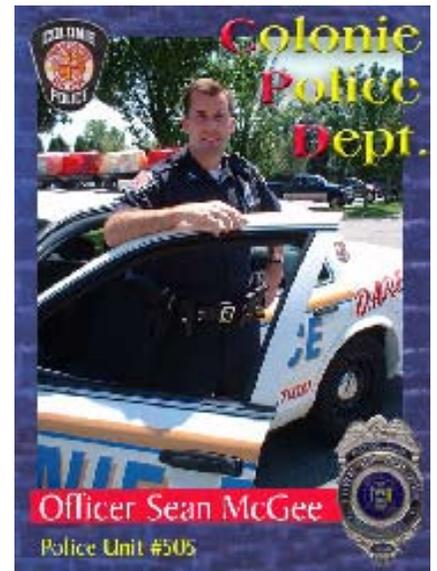


D.A.R.E.

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.

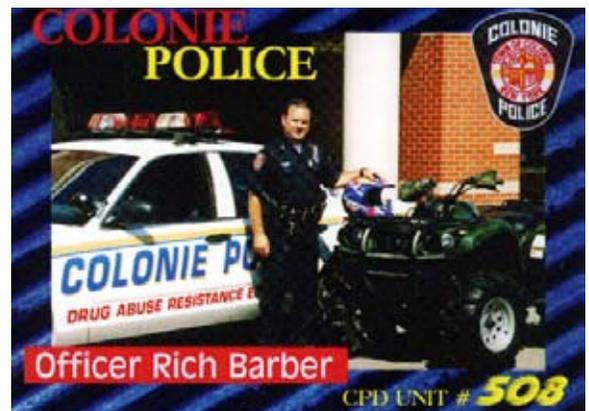


In 2009, these officers presented D.A.R.E. programs to approximately 2,500 students in the fifth, sixth and eighth grades in 18 schools and in 82 individual classrooms. Presentations and visitations to the kindergarten through fourth grade classrooms in 11 schools continue, which enable the D.A.R.E. 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 2009, 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 2009, the Colonie Police Department was awarded approximately \$200,000 in grants.



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.



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.

2009 Figures

Animal Control Complaints
2,711
An decrease of 2%.

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.

2009 Figures

Investigations Cases
4,498
An decrease of 3%

Accident Investigations
4,044
A decrease of 1%

Field Interviews
2,715
A decrease of 14%

Citations
13,312
An increase of 5%

Fiscal Management:



The Fiscal Management office has the responsibility of preparing, managing and administering the annual Town Board approved line-item budget. The 2009 Police Department budget was \$12,995,276 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

COLONIE YOUTH COURT

15 Years of Service



Colonie Youth Court is an early intervention diversion program for young people who have been arrested for the first time for a minor crime. Each defendant in youth court needs to meet general criteria which includes: under age 18, a crime of 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 jurors are town residents in grades 7-12 who wish to volunteer their time, listen, and deliberate on an actual case. Youth court volunteer members are high school students in grades 9-12 who undergo an extensive 8 week law related course of instruction. Youth court member roles include: Judge, Prosecutor, Defender, Jury Foreperson, Clerk and Victim Advocate.

In 2009, the program received 75 referrals from the Police Department, Justice Department, and the Albany County Probation Department. Of those, 72 youth were eligible for the program. The program achieved a 98% success rate among its program offenders that year. For the first time in the history of the Colonie Youth Court, there were more female offenders over males in 2009.

The gender, race, crime committed and community service hours performed is as follows:

- 41% males and 59% females
- 78% - Caucasians, 14% - African Americans
- 8% - Other

The cases were composed of:

- 54% theft related crimes
- 16% marijuana related
- 9% unlawfully dealing with a child
- 7% multiple offenses
- 1% trespass
- 23% were composed of mischief, criminal tampering, reckless endangerment of property, assault, and traffic related offenses.

In 2009, members of the Administrative Services Division completed a thorough update of the department's Police Officer's Manual. Officers were trained on all changes beginning in February, 2010.



Accreditation:

During the year 2009, the Colonie Police Department participated in its fourth accreditation process. The process involved a critique and review by outside independent assessors of all department policies and procedures to ensure that they are in compliance with the standards set by New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services. While a self-assessment of the agency is an ongoing responsibility of department members, preparation for the critique that takes place every four years is an arduous one and involves nearly full time work for over one year by department staff. As a result of this year's review, the Colonie Police Department successfully met or exceeded the criteria required for re-accreditation through October, 2013.

The accreditation program has long been recognized as a means of maintaining the highest standards of professionalism thus establishing confidence in the department by Town residents and department employees alike. Originally accredited in 1994, the Colonie Police Department is one of a small number of police departments in the state of New York that have been accredited for the past sixteen years.

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 Todd Weiss, Patrolmen Brian Curran, Daniel Grebert, Aaron Malinoski and David Mink. 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 1800 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 Officer Aaron Malinoski at 783-2744.

2009 Awards Ceremony

On the evening of May 28, 2009, 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
Officer Gregory Jensen

Esposito/Russo Memorial Award

The Esposito/Russo Memorial Award is given to the officer for aggressive anti-DWI efforts throughout the year. The 2009 award recipient was Officer Derek M. Breslin for his outstanding efforts in the field of impaired driving enforcement. He is shown with Chief Heider and Anna Russo.



**Public Safety
Dispatcher of the Year**
*Public Safety Dispatcher
James Warren*



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 2009 Life Saving Award recipients were Officer Eric Gansle, Lieutenant Robert H. Winn, Officer Michael J. Torrey, Officer Edward O. Johnson and Officer Jason A. Bach.



Explorer of the Year
*Explorer
Christopher Allen*

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.

Sergeant John S. Vitale
Officer John G. Santorio
Officer Christopher A. Smith
Officer Phillip J. Winglosky
Officer Aaron J. Malinoski
Officer Jason R. Orkwis

Officer James V. Herbst
Investigator Francis Forenzo
Officer James M. Splonskowski
Investigator Kevin Terry
Traffic Investigator Paul Musser

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 2009, Civilian Awards were presented to:

John Diamond	Jude Hanley	Joanne M. White	Kevin Baker	Thomas Thornton
Sheila L. Van Alstine	Jeremy Bogosian	Josh Thornton	Mark DeSessa	Patrick Martone
Tom Thornton				

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.



Promotions, Reassignments, Appointments & Retirements

Promotions:

John M. Van Alstyne
*Investigations Lieutenant to
Deputy Chief of Police*

Stephen MacLasco
Patrol Sergeant to Patrol Lieutenant

Todd Weiss
Investigator to Patrol Sergeant

James Gerace, Jr.
Investigator to Patrol Sergeant

Paul Van Alstyne
Patrol Officer to Investigator

Christopher R. Smith
Patrol Officer to Investigator

Reassignments:

Robert H. Winn
Patrol Lieutenant to Investigations Lieutenant

Christopher P. Ruff
Patrol Sergeant to Investigations Sergeant



Pictured above are newly promoted or reassigned officers: Deputy Chief John Van Alstyne, Lieutenant Stephen MacLasco, Detective Sergeant Christopher Ruff, Sergeant Todd Weiss, Sergeant James Gerace, Investigator Paul Van Alstyne and Investigator Christopher R. Smith.



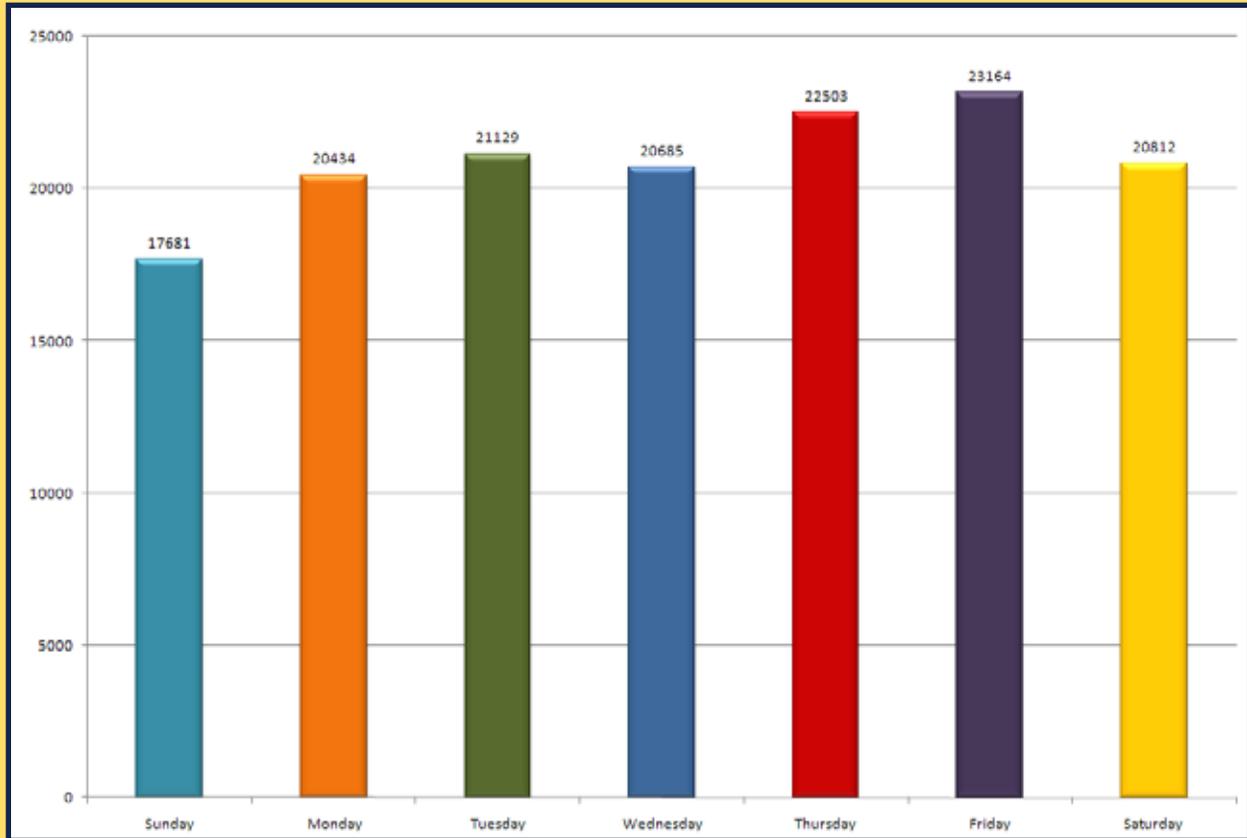
Retirements:

Deputy Chief Richard A. Villa
Detective Sergeant Mark Girard
Investigator Robert Camilli

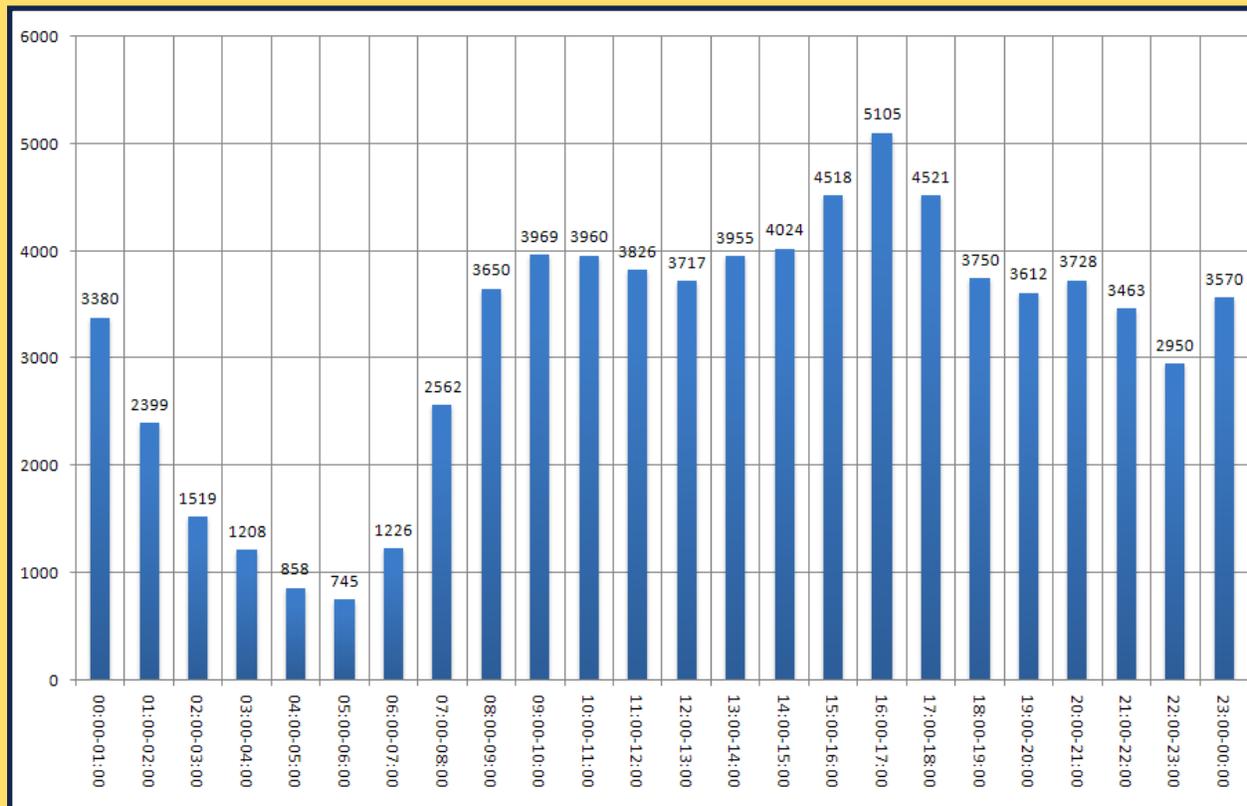
Appointments:

(Pictured left to right)
Patrol Officer Michael Condor
Patrol Officer Jennifer Oliver
Patrol Officer Matthew Overocker
Patrol Officer Frank Peris
Patrol Officer Nicholas Sidoti

Number of Calls By Day of the Week



Number of Calls By Hour of the Day



2009 Calls For Service

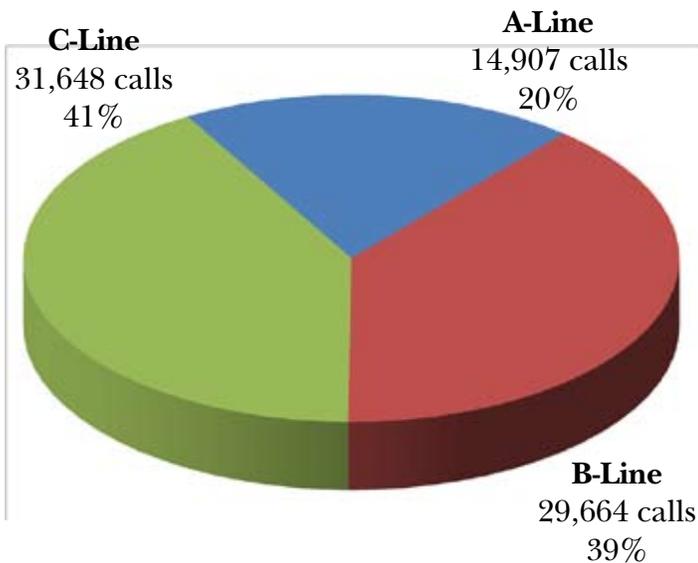
	2008	2009	Change
911 Accidental Call	2,736	2,981	+9%
911 Hang-Up Call	1,326	2,193	+65%
911 Non-Emergency/ Nuisance	461	503	+9%
Abandoned Vehicle	250	243	-3%
Alarm Drop	867	873	+7%
Animal Control Complaint	2,773	2,711	-2%
Assault	99	103	+4%
Assist A Person	894	987	+10%
Auto Accident Property Damage	4,057	3,937	+3%
Auto Accident Personal Injury	583	543	-7%
Auto Accident Unknown	94	109	+16%
Bomb Threat	4	2	-50%
Boy / Girlfriend Trouble	112	92	-18%
Burglar Alarm	5,525	5,259	-5%
Burglary In Progress	51	60	+18%
Car Blocking	193	190	-2%
Check A Subject	3,582	3,355	-6%
Community Services Event	514	427	-17%
Custodial Interference	64	77	+20%
Disabled Motor Vehicle	1,585	1,407	-11%
Domestic Call	1,512	1,623	+7%
Drunk Annoying	89	99	+11%
Emotionally Disturbed Person	342	397	+16%
EMS Call	1,187	621	+48%
Executing A Warrant	33	31	-6%
Fight	270	246	-9%
Fire Call	310	302	-3%
Fireworks	146	126	-14%
Found Property	338	336	-6%
Get A Complaint	1,019	1,196	+17%
Get A Report	5,780	5,107	-64%
Group Annoying	602	548	-9%
Hazardous Material Call	12	10	-17%
Hold-Up Alarm	246	237	-4%
Jail Run	104	75	-28%
Juvenile Incident	136	118	-13%
Landlord / Tenant Trouble	78	60	-23%

	2008	2009	Change
Larceny Just Occurred	166	179	+8%
Lock Out	224	133	-41%
Loud Music	190	156	-18%
Loud Party	153	106	-31%
Malfunctioning Traffic Light	421	321	-24%
Neighbor Trouble	301	254	-16%
Notification	1,557	1,810	+16%
Officer Needs Assistance	164	158	-4%
Open Window / Door	174	146	-16%
POP (Police Oriented Policing)	781	424	-46%
Person Acting Suspicious	557	408	-27%
Person Annoying	595	620	+4%
Person Attempting Suicide	72	67	-7%
Person Down	27	25	+7%
Person Exposing Self	11	15	+36%
Person With A Weapon	37	39	+5%
Police Wanted Unknown	42	68	+62%
Property Check	2,554	2,370	-7%
Prowler	79	87	+10%
Road Hazard	616	523	-15%
Robbery	32	24	-25%
School Crossing	58	-	-100%
Selling Drugs	11	9	-18%
Shooting	0	1	+100%
Shoplifter	559	460	-28%
Shots Fired	47	48	+2%
Someone In Building	12	20	+67%
Traffic Enforcement Details	328	268	-18%
Traffic Stop	20,835	20,166	-3%
Tree Down	242	41	-83%
Trouble With A Customer	342	279	-18%
Vehicle Annoying	1,686	1,669	-1%
Vehicle In Violation	408	404	-1%
Warrant	793	685	-14%
Water Break	77	114	+48%
Wires Down / Arching	459	138	-70%
All Other Call Types	5,029	6,800	+35%
Totals:	77,613	76,219	-2%

Uniform Crime Report (UCR) Part 1 Offenses

	2008	2009	Change
Murder	0	0	-
Rape	1	1	-
Robbery	33	29	-12%
Assault	20	31	+55%
Burglary	239	205	-14%
Larceny	2,032	2,037	+0.2%
Vehicle Theft	39	42	+8%
Totals:	2,364	2,345	-0.8%

Percentage of Calls By Shift



Custodial Arrests In 2009

Adults 2,994 A decrease of 5%	Juveniles 134 An increase of 10%
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Uniform Crime Report (UCR) Part 2 Offenses

	2008	2009	Change
Arson	4	9	+125%
Kidnapping	0	1	+100%
Controlled Substances	251	285	+14%
Dangerous Weapons	9	22	+144%
Sex Offenses	5	9	+80%
Extortion	0	0	-
Forgery / Counterfeiting	125	112	-10%
Stolen Property	45	70	+56%
Prostitution & Vice	4	9	+125%
Coercion	0	0	-
Criminal Mischief	731	661	-10%
Fraud	293	252	+14
Gambling	0	0	-
Offenses Against Public Order	0	0	-
Embezzlement	0	1	+100%
Simple Assault	145	150	+3%
Offenses Against Family	165	196	+19%
Driving Under Influence	278	323	+16%
Unauthorized Use of Vehicle	5	3	-40%
Possession of Burglar Tools	5	2	-60%
Liquor Law Violations	0	0	-
Disorderly Conduct	470	520	+10%
Loitering	0	4	+100%
All Other Offenses	524	538	+3%
Totals:	3,059	3,167	+4%

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.



The Town of Colonie The Safest Community in the U.S.

Chief Steven Heider and Town Supervisor Paula Mahan were pleased to learn that the Town of Colonie was named the Safest Community in the United States for the year 2008. This selection was realized with the release of City Crime Rankings 2009-2010: Crime in Metropolitan America, from CQ Press.

The rankings were calculated based on the occurrence of more violent crimes such as murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, and motor vehicle theft in the community. Colonie, with a total of 54 of these crimes, was the lowest of all 393 cities in the study. While the Town of Colonie has been among the top fifteen safest communities in each of the past eleven years, nine of which were in the top ten, this is the first number one ranking for the Town.

“This achievement is due not only to the hard working men and women of the Colonie Police Department both sworn and unsworn, but also it is through a combined effort of Supervisor Paula Mahan, the Town Board and all Town departments that we can bring exceptional services to the residents of the Town of Colonie thus improving the quality of life in our community.

- Chief Steven H. Heider

The Town of Colonie, New York Governmental Leadership



Supervisor Paula A. Mahan

Town Board:

Nancy Hernandez

Robert Becker

William Carl

Daniel Dustin

Daniel Hornick

Linda Murphy