



# 2014 Annual Report



Colonie Police Department

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## On The Cover:

Members of the Colonie Police Department Bicycle Unit:

Officer Robert Willey, Officer Matthew Overocker, Sergeant Lou DiNuzzo, Officer Michael Sbardella, Officer Nicholas Sidoti, Sergeant Richard Villa and Officer Thomas Breslin

# Executive Summary

## - Chief Steven H. Heider

On behalf of Deputy Chief Van Alstyne and Deputy Chief Teale, I would like to thank all of our officers as well as our support staff for their work in the year 2014. It was during this year that the Colonie Police Department participated in its fifth accreditation process that ensures that the department's policies are in compliance with standards set by the NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services. Our department, which was first accredited in 1994, is among approximately a quarter of the law enforcement agencies in the state that can say they are fully accredited and an even smaller number can say that they have been accredited for the past 21 years. With 100% compliance in this year's critique, I am proud to say we have been able to maintain one of the most professional departments in the state.



While we have seen a reduction in line of duty deaths statewide in recent years, officer deaths still made headlines leading the department to introduce reality based training aimed at keeping our officers alert and safe. The purpose of this type of training is to induce real time, real life stress on the officer in order to simulate the "real thing". This is a much more progressive type of training which involves force-on-force technology that makes it possible to emulate violent and unpredictable encounters without injury. Training that replicates the pressure of real-life encounters is the only way to provide officers with the experience needed to survive. Officers who gain this real-life experience learn to perform and control stress while in dangerous situations and will ultimately have a better rate of survival during a violent encounter.

I would like to recognize two members of our department who retired in the year 2014: Lieutenant John Archambault who served for 30 years and Lieutenant Stephen MacLasco who served for 26 years. Both men brought years of experience and provided invaluable mentoring to many officers first serving as Training Officers and then as they moved up the ranks. I would like to congratulate them on their retirement and wish them the best.

2015 will prove to be a challenging year as it is projected that we will lose a number of officers to retirement. I have confidence in my department that by working together, along with Supervisor Mahan and the Town Board, we can continue to provide the Town the premier police services that residents have grown accustomed to.

As I write this message, I am concluding my 42 year career with the Colonie Police Department with my retirement at the end of June. I would like to thank Supervisor Paula Mahan and the Town Board for their unwavering support as well as my department for their dedication to their profession. I congratulate Chief Jon Teale on his promotion and wish him well in his new endeavor.

# Deputy Chiefs of Police



Deputy Chief John M. Van Alstyne  
Field Services Division



Deputy Chief Jonathan M. Teale  
Administrative Services Division

## Contact The Department

### FIELD SERVICES DIVISION

Deputy Chief John M. Van Alstyne  
vanalstynej@colonie.org  
783-2800

Lieutenant Robert S. Donnelly  
donnellyr@colonie.org  
783-2744

A-Line Shift  
K-9 Unit  
Police Explorers

Lieutenant James Gerace  
geracejj@colonie.org  
783-2744

C-Line Shift  
Bicycle Unit  
Motor Unit  
Court

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

B-Line Shift

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

Investigations Unit  
Juvenile Unit  
Victim Services Specialist  
Forensics Unit  
Computer Crime Lab  
Public Information Officer  
Special Services Team

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

Traffic Safety Unit  
Court  
Supplemental Police Services

### ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION

Deputy Chief Jonathan M. Teale  
tealej@colonie.org  
783-2800

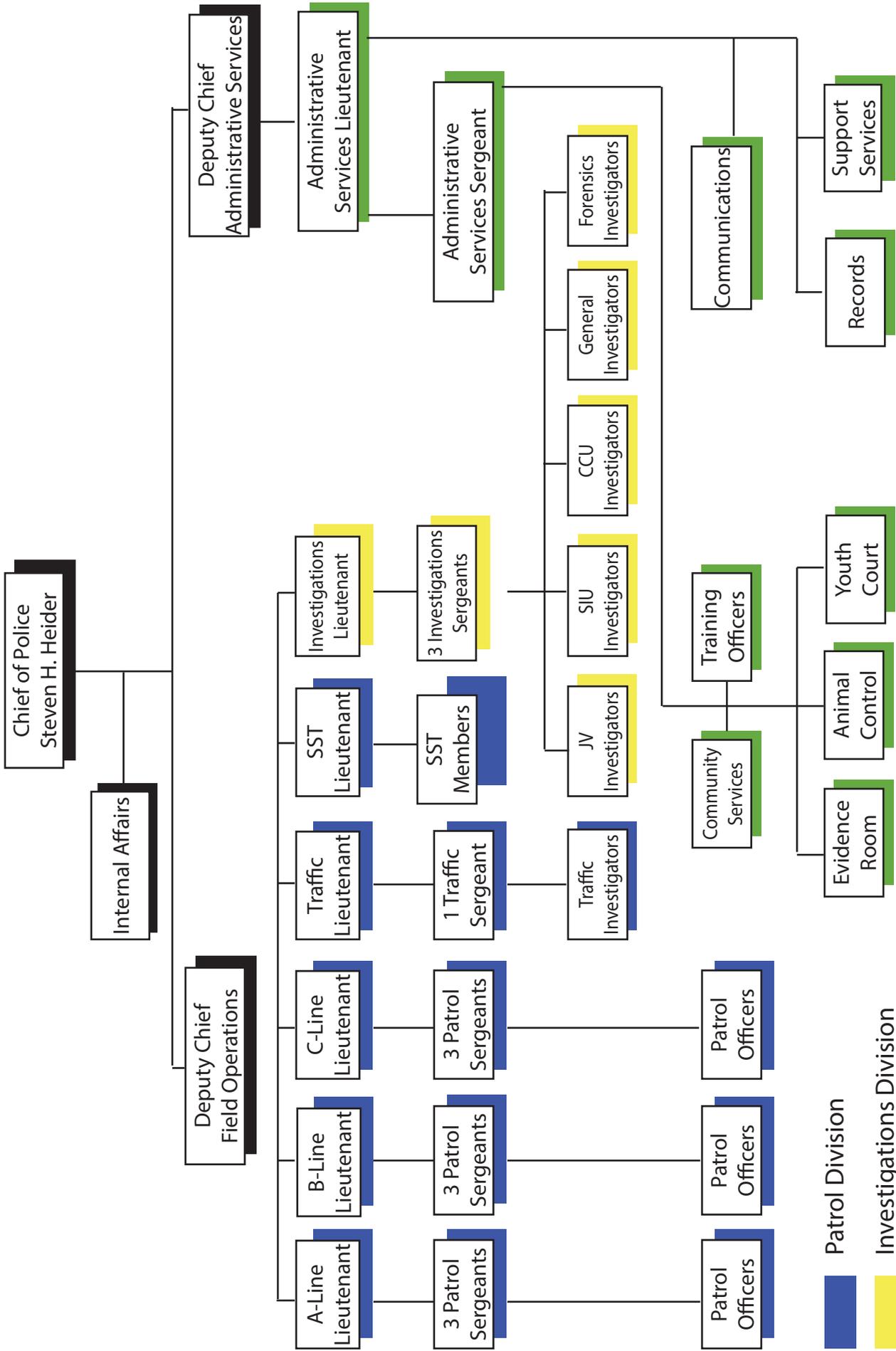
Lieutenant Michael D. Woods  
woodsm@colonie.org  
782-2619

Sergeant Henry Rosenzweig  
rosenzweigh@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



- Patrol Division
- Investigations Division
- Administrative Services Division

# 2014 Department Personnel

**Chief of Police**

Steven H. Heider

**Deputy Chiefs of Police:**

Jonathan M. Teale  
John M. Van Alstyne

**Lieutenants:**

Paul L. Brannigan  
Robert S. Donnelly  
James J. Gerace  
Kenneth M. Pero  
Robert H. Winn  
Michael D. Woods

**Administrative Services Sergeant:**

Henry J. Rosenzweig

**Detective Sergeants:**

Michael D. Franze  
Christopher P. Ruff  
Todd H. Weiss

**Traffic Safety Sergeant:**

David L. Leonardo

**Patrol Sergeants:**

Robert W. Barrett  
Daniel J. Belles  
Louis N. DiNuzzo  
Peter J. Gullinese  
Jeffrey A. Hellkamp  
Todd Martinovich  
John E. O'Donnell  
George Thomaidis  
John S. Vitale

**SIU Investigators:**

Guy Jubert  
John G. Santorio

**Juvenile Investigators:**

Robert J. Cazasta  
Stephen Donovan  
Jeffrey T. Lockart  
Paul R. Van Alstyne, Jr.

**Forensics Investigators:**

Samuel F. Criscione  
Aaron J. Malinoski

**Computer Crime Investigator:**

Christopher R. Smith

**Investigators:**

Joseph M. Brunetto  
Christopher J. Carey  
Michelle Crowley  
Daniel P. Grebert  
Gregory Heider  
Kevin P. Terry

**Traffic Investigators:**

Jason M. DePaulo  
Nicholas S. Layne  
Neil T. Leach  
Paul B. Musser

**Patrol Officers:**

Jason A. Bach  
Richard M. Barber  
Derek M. Breslin  
Thomas P. Breslin  
Henry J. Bryk  
Nicholas M. Burns  
Tracy L. Burns  
John Bushey, Jr.  
John J. Calabrese  
Edward P. Cronin  
Brian C. Curran  
Patrick J. Fennelly  
Joseph P. Fitzsimmons  
Stephen E. Frank  
Daniel K. Franklin  
Eric L. Gansle  
Matthew E. Garrigan  
Philip J. Gerwitz  
Thomas D. Haacke  
James V. Herbst, Jr.  
Katy J. Herrington  
Douglas C. Hoeffner  
David Hornberger  
Gregory L. Jensen  
Edward O. Johnson, Jr.  
Robert J. Laliberte, Jr.  
Janel L. Lawrence  
Robert E. Lemerise  
David M. Marra  
Mark P. Mauro  
Thomas McLaughlin  
Raymond Milham, Jr.  
David J. Mink  
Dennis C. Mink  
Eric R. Montijo  
Nicholas R. Morgan  
Jason R. Orkwis  
Matthew R. Overocker  
Joseph P. Parker  
Frank D. Peris  
Anthony J. Riccitelli  
John Rockwell  
Israel J. Roman  
Zacharias J. Ruter  
Michael P. Sbardella  
Anthony C. Sidoti  
Nicholas T. Sidoti  
Chris A. Smith  
Eric M. Sperber  
James M. Splonskowski  
Michael J. Tarbay  
Michael J. Torrey  
Jacques A. Tremblay

Michael W. Warner

Robert M. Willey  
Phillip J. Winglosky

**Warrant Officer:**

David J. Messmer

**Community Services Officers:**

Patrick Germaine  
Sean M. McGee  
David J. Mink  
Rebecca A. Ruecker

**K-9 Officer:**

Gerald R. Shaw and K-9 Vader

**Training Officers:**

Joseph A. Valiquette, Jr.  
Richard A. Villa

**Communications Supervisor:**

Michael G. Haller

**Senior Dispatchers:**

Lori A. Kunker  
Frank A. Lawyer  
John J. Miller  
David M. Ray  
Roy D. Stiles

**Dispatchers:**

Neil C. Blanchard  
David P. Danish  
Robert Davis  
Paul L. DiNuzzo  
Anthony M. Discipio  
Robert J. Elsner  
Derek J. Ewing  
Brian Franklin  
Jordyn Hagadorn  
David R. Haller  
Michael Hennessey, Jr.  
Keith R. Herrington  
Gregory J. Hirsch  
Kevin M. Krone  
Michael Mason  
Daniel M. McAllister  
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 Palombo

**Youth Court Program****Assistant:**

Jennifer Cole

**Principal Records Clerk:**

Kathleen J. Nash

**Administrative Aide:**

Mary Ellen Laurin

**Information Support Clerk:**

Melissa L. Shaw

**Personnel Clerk:**

Diana L. Blake

**Typists:**

Michelle L. Ainscoe  
Kayla Neil  
Maura K. Pilla  
Nakia Tonic

**Clerical Aides:**

Christopher Clemente

**Animal Control Officers:**

James Ainscoe, III  
Mary O. Garwood  
David Miller

**Crossing Guards:**

Jeannie M. Avellino  
Lillian Connor  
Karen Croteau  
Diana LaQue  
Elizabeth Neumeister  
John Ratzel  
Susan Yelle

*\* Department Roster as of  
January 1, 2015.*

*\* 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 2014, the budget was approximately \$14 million.

There were 109 sworn officers, 57 civilian support personnel and over 60 vehicles in the police fleet. Starting Officer's salary has risen from \$400.00 to approximately \$51,000.00. 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](http://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, 9 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.



Members of the Patrol Division duties include, but are not limited to:

- Proactive police patrol and crime prevention
- Enforcement of appropriate Federal, State & Local laws.
- Reporting and preliminary investigation of criminal complaints
- Crash investigation
- 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.

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

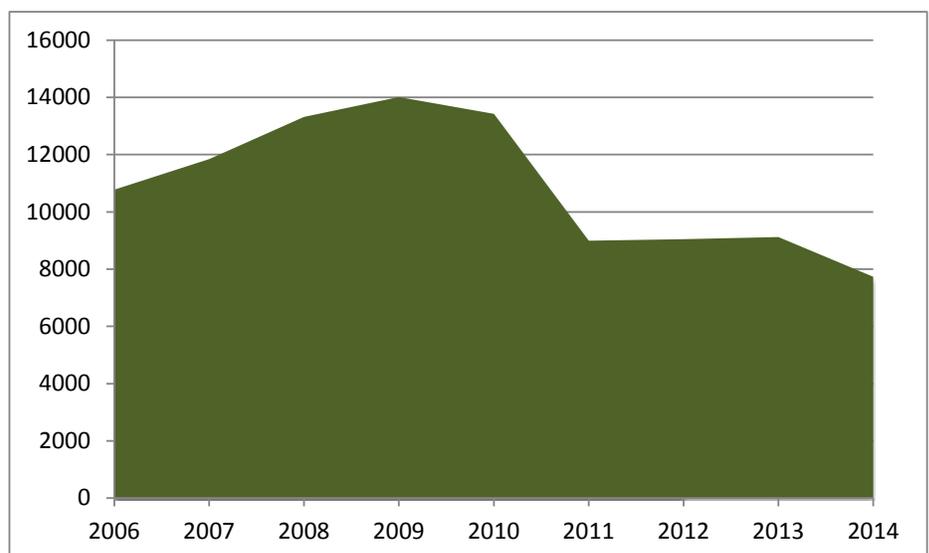
- A-Line - 11:00 p.m. – 7:00 a.m.
- B-Line - 7:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- C-Line - 3:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.

Thirty marked and unmarked vehicles are assigned for use by the Patrol Division.

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.

## Colonie Police Department Traffic Citations 2006 - 2014

In 2014, members of the Patrol Division issued 7,732 tickets. This is a 15% decrease from 2013.



## K-9 Unit



The Colonie Police Department currently has one Patrol K-9 team, 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. This team is a normal patrol unit and responds to routine calls for service as well as perform their specialized duties as a K-9 team. When not working, they are on call for immediate response. The team is trained in the following: tracking, building search, evidence recovery, handler protection, criminal apprehension, and advanced narcotics detection (which include, marijuana, methamphetamine, cocaine, heroin, ecstasy, and hashish). The team is certified by The NYS Dept. of Criminal Justice Services.

Working the streets today is K-9 Vader. Vader is an 70-lb, three year old German Shepherd who was born in Slovakia. Vader and his partner, Officer Jerry Shaw have been working patrol since 2013 and currently work the midnight shift.

The team participates in at least 24 hours of specialized K-9 training a month to meet the New York State requirement for certification. This team also takes part in local, state and national level training seminars to sharpen their skills. Also as part of their duties, this team participates in numerous public and private demonstrations to show why and how the canine is deployed as well as assists several other local police and government agencies.

### 2014 K-9 Unit Utilizations:

- 21 Tracks *(an increase of 40%)*
- 8 Area/Building Searches *(an increase of 100%)*
- 35 Narcotic Searches *(an increase of 338%)*

During 2014, Vader located a mask used during a robbery while performing a track. In another investigation, Vader tracked an intoxicated individual to her apartment after she fled from several auto accidents, one which involved a personal injury to another motorist.

## Motorcycle Unit

The Motorcycle Unit was formed in 1990 and is in service five to six months of the year. It consists of one sergeant and four officers who work two shifts, 7 a.m. - 3 p.m. and 3 p.m. - 11 p.m. All Motor Officers are certified and trained through Northwestern Traffic Institute at Northwestern University. Officers assigned to the Motorcycle Unit handle all patrol functions as well as special events such as parades, escorts and funeral details due to a level of interest of the unit by the public. They offer the additional benefit of being able to patrol the Town bike path and other locations such as heavy traffic conditions and school properties that 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 are: Motor Officers Anthony Riccitelli and Motor Officer Tom McLaughlin.

# 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's Highway Safety Committee.



Members of this unit are responsible for the maintenance and calibration of all of the department's speed measuring devices and breath testing instruments. The Traffic Safety Unit utilizes the Electronic Total Work Station. This computerized mapping instrument is an invaluable tool in precisely documenting a crime or crash scene. In 2014, the Traffic Safety Unit investigated 7 fatal crash (a 600% increase) and handled 289 case files (a 3% increase).

In 2014, the Colonie Police Department Traffic Safety Unit received: A \$18,953 grant from STOP DWI for the funding of eight county wide DWI sweeps. The grant also provided training and equipment for the Traffic Safety Unit. • A \$33,194 grant from the Governor's Traffic Safety Council for "Selected Traffic" Enforcement. • A \$1,068 grant from the Governor's Traffic Safety Council for Child Safety Seats.

# Bicycle Unit

In 2005, the Colonie Police Department debuted a Bicycle 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 objective of bicycle patrols is to reduce crime by enforcing laws through proactive policing and to better communicate with our residents by being more approachable than in a patrol car. Currently there are sixteen officers as well as a sergeant assigned to the Bicycle Unit.

Bicycles are available for deployment on every shift for every day patrol from October to April. Additionally they are utilized at several community services events during this time including bicycle safety events for children. The bicycles were a common sight at Town and Village sponsored events at The Crossings Park, Cook Park and the Pruyn House.

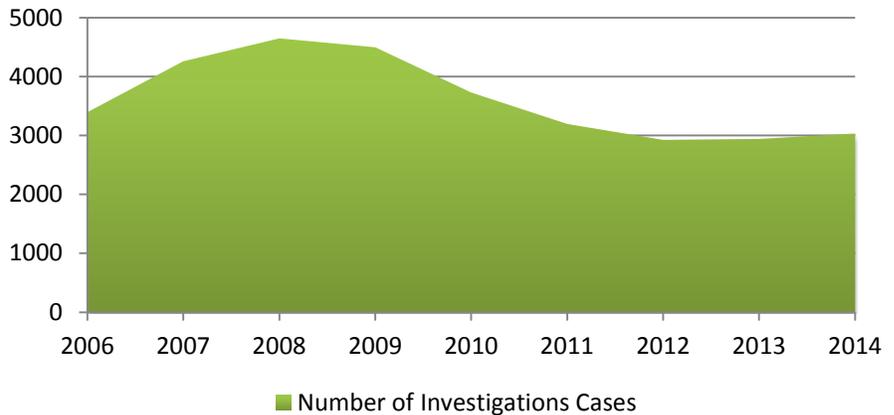


# INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION

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.

The Investigations Division is comprised of 17 investigators, three sergeants and one lieutenant.

## Number of Investigations Cases 2006 - 2014



## 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 3,035 cases in 2014. This is a 3% increase from 2013.

An investigation in August, 2014 by the Colonie Police Department Investigations Division led to the quick arrest and conviction of a violent career criminal sex offender following the Attempted Murder of a randomly selected victim walking along a Colonie roadway. The investigators employed all of their resources from old fashioned police work to the use of the latest technology to quickly identify and apprehend the offender. The case developed by the investigators led to a quick plea deal and a sentence of 18 years in prison. The case went from a stone cold whodunit to an arrest in less than 48 hours and represents just one example of the fine work done everyday by the Colonie Police Investigations Division.

## 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.

**2014 Figures:** Seizure of Assets and/or Property - **\$84,184**  
A decrease of 39% from 2013

# 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 Child Exploitation Task Force and New York State Police Internet Crimes Against Children. Our Investigator works side by side with the FBI, NYSP and the other member agencies to proactively investigate any case involving the use of computers or other technology to victimize children. These cases range from cyber bullying to child pornography to luring a child. These affiliations has broadened our investigative ability and fostered successful prosecutions in our jurisdiction and nationwide.

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.



# 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.

In the year 2014, the Colonie Police Department issued 89 official releases.

During the year 2011, the Colonie Police Department began working with CBS6 News anchor Liz Bishop on her weekly segment, Perp Patrol that features wanted persons of the Capital District. Since its inception, the Colonie Police Department has captured over 86% of suspects featured in the segment as well as identify individuals from surveillance photos. The result is a significant reduction on the warrant arrests in the Town of Colonie in turn making our community safer. 244 wanted persons have been broadcast on Perp Patrol for the Colonie Police Dept. resulting in 210 arrests.



## Forensic Unit:

The Forensic Unit is made up of two investigators specially trained in evidence handling and photography. These investigators receive and process evidence gathered by officers of this department during the course of an investigation. Investigators examine physical evidence including fingerprints which may be submitted to the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services, the New York State Police or the 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.

Forensics Investigator  
Sam Criscione

### 2014 Figures

Items of Evidence Received  
11,604  
An increase of 12%

Total # of Items Processed  
503  
An increase of 5%

In 2014, 144 fingerprint submissions were made to the New York State lab. Of these 33 submissions were identified.

In 2014, 220 DNA submissions were made to the New York State lab. Of these 27 submissions were identified.

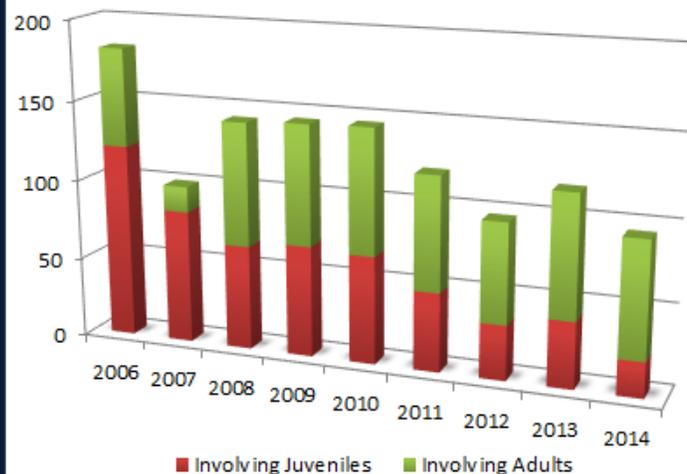
## Juvenile Unit

The Juvenile (JV) Unit is comprised of five Juvenile Investigators that investigate 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 2014, Ms. Lockart worked on 94 referrals of which 22 were for children under the age of 16 and the remaining 72 involved the adult population.

### Victim Services Referrals 2006 - 2014



# ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES 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
- Records
- Fiscal Management
- Statistical Analysis
- Training
- Fleet Management
- Grant Management
- Accreditation
- 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 staffed by a Public Safety Communications Supervisor, 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. Utilizing a Motorola Astro 25 Digital Radio System, the Town of Colonie has one of the most advanced two-way public safety and public service radio systems in the area.

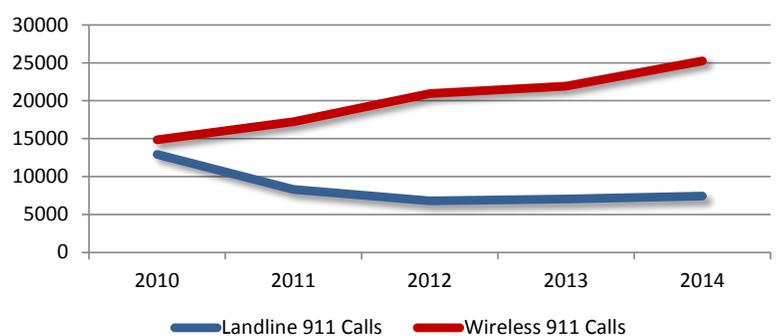


Starting in 2014, the Town of Colonie, the City of Albany and the Albany County Sheriff's Department embarked on a shared radio system which will allow the three agencies to communicate with one another at times when needed. At the same time each agency will be upgraded to the latest digital radio system that Motorola has to offer its customers. The Town of Colonie and City of Albany systems will be completed in 2015 and the Albany County System will be completed in early 2016. The yearly maintenance agreements will decrease substantially for all agencies once the warranty period ends in 2017.

All Public Safety Dispatchers undergo extensive, hands on training which includes cardio pulmonary resuscitation (which is updated every two years), National Incident Management System (NIMS) certification and Emergency Medical Dispatch training, which allows dispatchers to give medical instructions to callers reporting EMS emergencies.

The Communications Division is one of six E-911 answering points in Albany County answering both land line and wireless 911 calls for service as well as several other administrative lines. In 2014, the Communications Division answered 7,439 land-line 911 calls (an increase of 6%) and 25,260 wireless 911 calls (an increase of 15%). The number of administrative (non-emergency) calls that were answered was 71,072. (These figures do not include the calls to the front desk.)

### Land Line Vs. Wireless 911 Calls 2010 - 2014



## 2014 Figures

Police Calls

**69,058**

An increase of 4%.

Fire/EMS Calls

**12,678**

An increase of 9%.

## Community Services:

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 NYS 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
- Senior Citizen Committees
- Safe Schools Committees
- NYS Special Olympics
- Special Education Committees
- New York State Safe Kids

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



In a proactive approach to the growing threat of violence in the schools, the Community Services Unit continued its program in 2014 working with the local schools by assessing their security needs. In addition, Officer Pat Germaine 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.

## Child Car Safety Seat Inspections

Four certified Colonie Police Officers provide the service of checking child car safety seats to ensure that their installations are safe and proper. In 2014, 134 safety seats were examined (A decrease of 17% from 2013).

## 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. 2014 was the 32<sup>nd</sup> year for the Torch Run.

## Project

# D.A.R.E.



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 twenty-second full year of operation includes 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 2014, 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 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 2013, 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 fundraiser for the D.A.R.E. Program as businesses in the community assume the role as sponsors. In 2014, the event was held at the Schuyler Meadows Club where 162 golfers competed.

## 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



## Training Unit:

The Training Unit staff includes two police officers 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. Twice a year this unit conducts practical exercise and classroom instruction that all of our officers attend. 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 reality based scenarios to induce real life stress on the officer to simulate what happens on a real call as well as 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

The unit is also responsible for the acquisition, deployment and maintenance of the department fleet and associated equipment. When no longer usable for police service, department vehicles are transferred to other Town agencies or sold at auction.



## Fiscal Management:

The Fiscal Management office has the responsibility of preparing, managing and administering the annual Town Board approved line-item budget. The 2014 Police Department budget was \$14,254,328 of which approximately 87% was appropriated for personnel costs, including salaries and benefits. The remaining 13% 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 and personnel schedules.



## Police Department Web Page

The Colonie Police Department has a webpage in 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.

## 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.



## 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.



## 2014 Figures

Investigations Cases  
3,382  
A decrease of 2%

Field Interviews  
2,117  
A decrease of 6%

Accident Investigations  
4,055  
An increase of 7%

Citations  
7,732  
A decrease of 15%

## 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.

In 2014, Animal Control Officers answered 2,238 animal control complaints. This was a 10% increase from 2013.

## Accreditation:

The Colonie Police Department participates in an accreditation process which involves 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 five years is an arduous one and involves nearly full time work for over one year by department staff. During the year 2014, the department participated in its fifth accreditation process and as a result of this review, the Colonie Police Department successfully met or exceeded the criteria required for re-accreditation through October, 2019.

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.

## Colonie Youth Court



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 must meet general criteria which includes: under age 19, have committed a misdemeanor or violation, admission of guilt, and be 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 serve 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.

At the conclusion of 2014, the Colonie Youth Court received 50 referrals. Only two youths did not successfully complete the required sanctions imposed upon them. The program continues to maintain an overall 98.5% offender successful completion rate since hearing its first case in 1995.

The gender, race, crime committed and community service hours performed is as follows: 68% males and 32% females, 78% - Caucasians, 20% - African Americans and 2% - Other. The cases were composed of 49% theft related crimes and 34% marijuana related. The remaining 17% were composed of mischief, trespass, harassment and traffic related cases.

The total number of community service hours performed in 2014 was 1,247 hours in the Town of Colonie. In 2014, Colonie Youth Court also reached a milestone at the Regional Food Bank placement site. Youth Court offenders have performed 10,000 hours of service at the Food Bank alone since we began our community service projects in 1995.

## Civilian Police Academy

Civilian Police Academy students are exposed to all areas of police operations from administration, patrol, investigation, traffic, forensics, the court system and more. The classes are 2<sup>1/2</sup> hours long 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](http://www.colonie.org/police) or call 782-2662.

# EXPLORER POST 185

The Colonie Police Explorer Post 185 is comprised of individuals from 14 to 21 years of age who have an active interest in Law Enforcement as a potential career. Currently we have 27 Explorers in our post under the supervision of Lt. Robert Donnelly and the Post Advisors who include Sgt. Dan Belles, Inv. Jason Depaulo, Inv. Nicholas Layne, and Officers Derek Breslin and David Mink.

The Explorers program is designed to give youth in the community an opportunity to learn first-hand the knowledge and skills required in the field of law enforcement.



During their bi-monthly meetings, Explorers are exposed to Law Enforcement related topics such as Officer Safety, Interview Techniques, Domestic Violence, Vehicle and Traffic Law, Emergency Vehicles Operations, Crime Scene Investigation and Building Search. Explorers also have an opportunity to put their knowledge to the test by competing against other Police Explorer Posts in scenario based competitions at Stations Day and by attending a week-long, multi-phase Explorer Academy in Connecticut.

In addition to the training they receive, Explorers provide the Town of Colonie with valuable Community Service. During 2013 alone, Explorers donated over 1,900 hours of their time while providing services at functions such as the CP Telethon, Concerts in the Barn at the Pruyn House and various events at the Crossings Town Park.

Members must be at least 14 years of age and completed the 8<sup>th</sup> grade, must maintain an 80 average in school and be in good standing in your community.

For more information regarding the Explorer Post, contact Officer David Mink at 783-2744.



# SPECIAL SERVICES TEAM

The Colonie Police Department has a team of 19 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. Additionally, four Colonie EMS Paramedics train with the team and are prepared to be utilized in the event of a team deployment.



The team members also have access to a specially outfitted marked patrol SUV that is operated by team members and deployed for regular

patrol duties. This SUV has tactical equipment to aid in the resolution of high risk situations and when utilized by the on-duty team members, was used 27 times last year aside from actual call outs. High risk vehicle stops, building searches and suicidal subjects were the primary reason.

## National Prescription Drug Take-Back Initiative

The Colonie Police Department, in collaboration with the Drug Enforcement Administration, hosted two National Prescription Take-Back Days during the year 2014. The events focused on removing potentially dangerous controlled substances from medicine cabinets.

On these days, residents had the opportunity to surrender expired, unwanted or unused pharmaceutical controlled substances and over the counter medication to law enforcement officers for destruction. According to the 2011 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's National Survey on Drug Use and Health, more than six million Americans abuse prescription drugs. That same study revealed more than 70 percent of people abusing

prescription pain relievers got them through friends or relatives, a statistic that includes raiding the family medicine cabinet. The National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day aims to provide a safe, convenient, and responsible means of disposal, while also educating the general public about the potential for abuse of these medications.



At both the spring and fall Take-Back events, the DEA and the Colonie Police Department collected approximately 500 pounds of medication.

# 2014 Awards Ceremony

On the evening of May 22, 2014, 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.



## Command Recognition Awards

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 Henry Rosenzweig  
Investigator Guy Jubert  
Investigator John Santorio  
Officer Jason Bach  
Officer Daniel Franklin  
Officer Raymond Milham  
Officer John Calabrese

Officer James Herbst  
Officer Jason Orkwis  
Officer Anthony Sidoti  
Officer Janel Lawrence  
Officer Nicholas Morgan  
Dispatcher James Warren

## 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 2014, a Civilian Award was presented to

William Kieran                      Merlin Thomas  
Lawrence Devine                  Anne-Laure DeCerro  
R. Joseph Lowry



## Esposito/Russo Memorial Award

The Esposito/Russo Memorial Award is given to the officer for aggressive anti-DWI efforts throughout the year. The 2014 award recipient was Officer Eric Montijo for his outstanding efforts in the field of impaired driving enforcement.

Officer Montijo is pictured with Chief Heider and Ms. Anna Russo.

## Distinguished Service Awards

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 James Herbst*



*Public Safety Dispatcher  
Thomas Neil*



*Explorer Lieutenant  
Dom DiBenedetto*

# Promotions, Reassignments, Appointments & Retirements

## Promotions:

Robert Donnelly  
*Detective Sergeant to Patrol Lieutenant*

James J. Gerace  
*Patrol Sergeant to Patrol Lieutenant*

Lou DiNuzzo  
*Patrol Officer to Patrol Sergeant*

Todd Martinovich  
*Patrol Officer to Patrol Sergeant*

Daniel Grebert  
*Patrol Officer to Investigator*

## Reassignments:

Michael Franze  
*Training Sergeant to Detective Sergeant*

Henry Rosenzweig  
*Patrol Sergeant to Training Sergeant*

Allan Secor  
*Juvenile Investigator to Patrol Officer*

## Appointments:

Patrol Officer Joseph Fitzsimmons

Patrol Officer John Rockwell

Patrol Officer Robert Lemerise

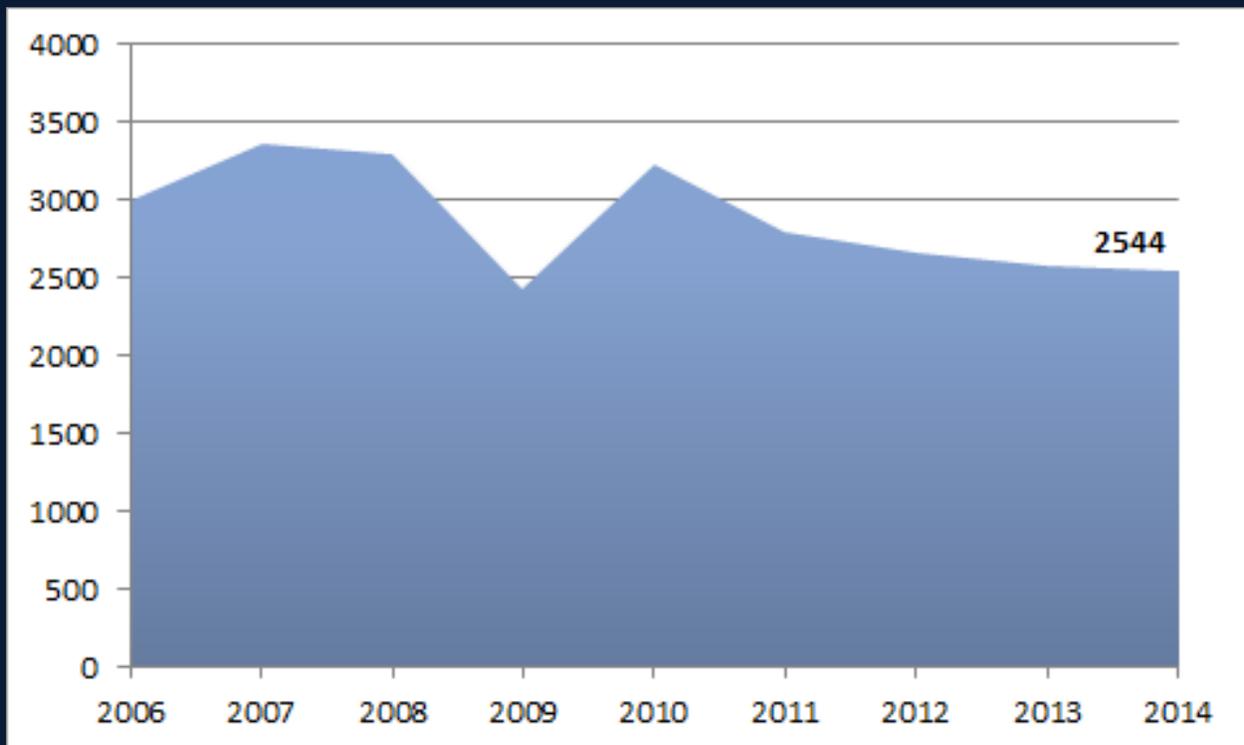
Patrol Officer Tyler Grieves

## Retirements:

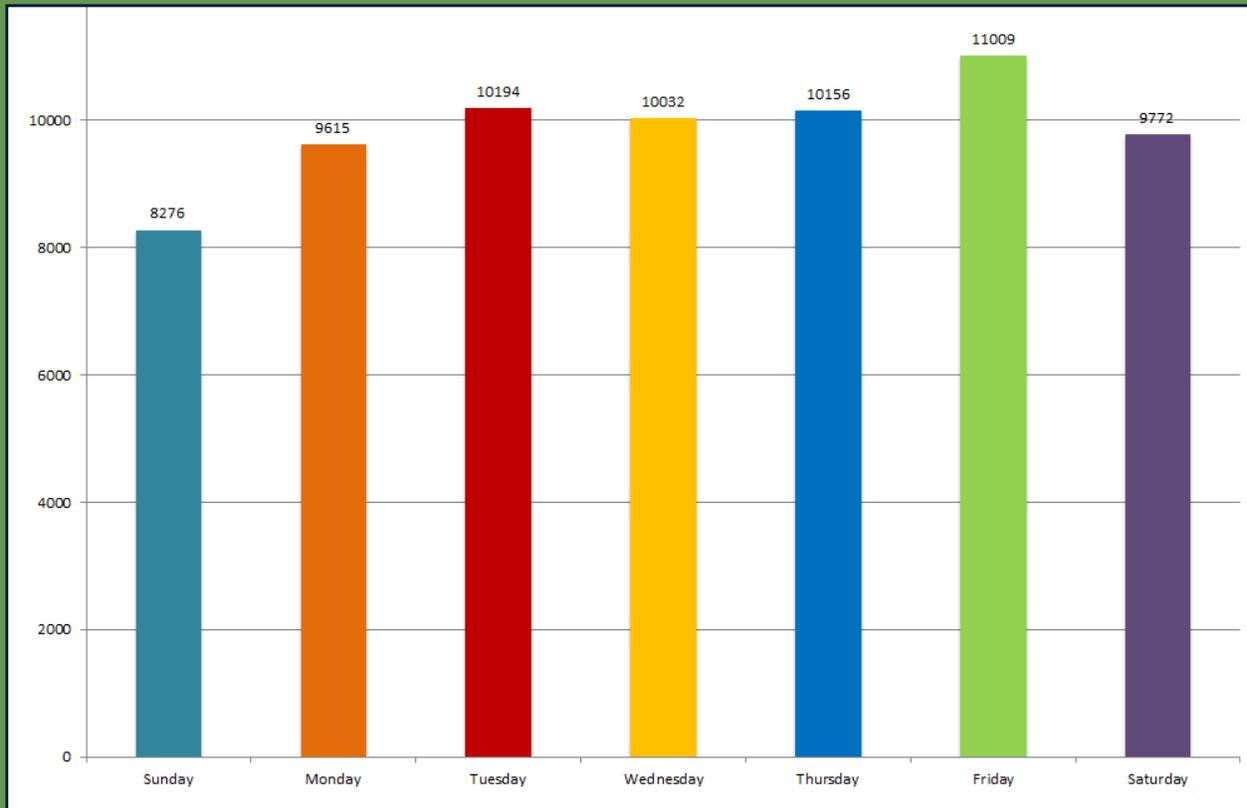
Lieutenant John Archambault

Lieutenant Stephen MacLasco

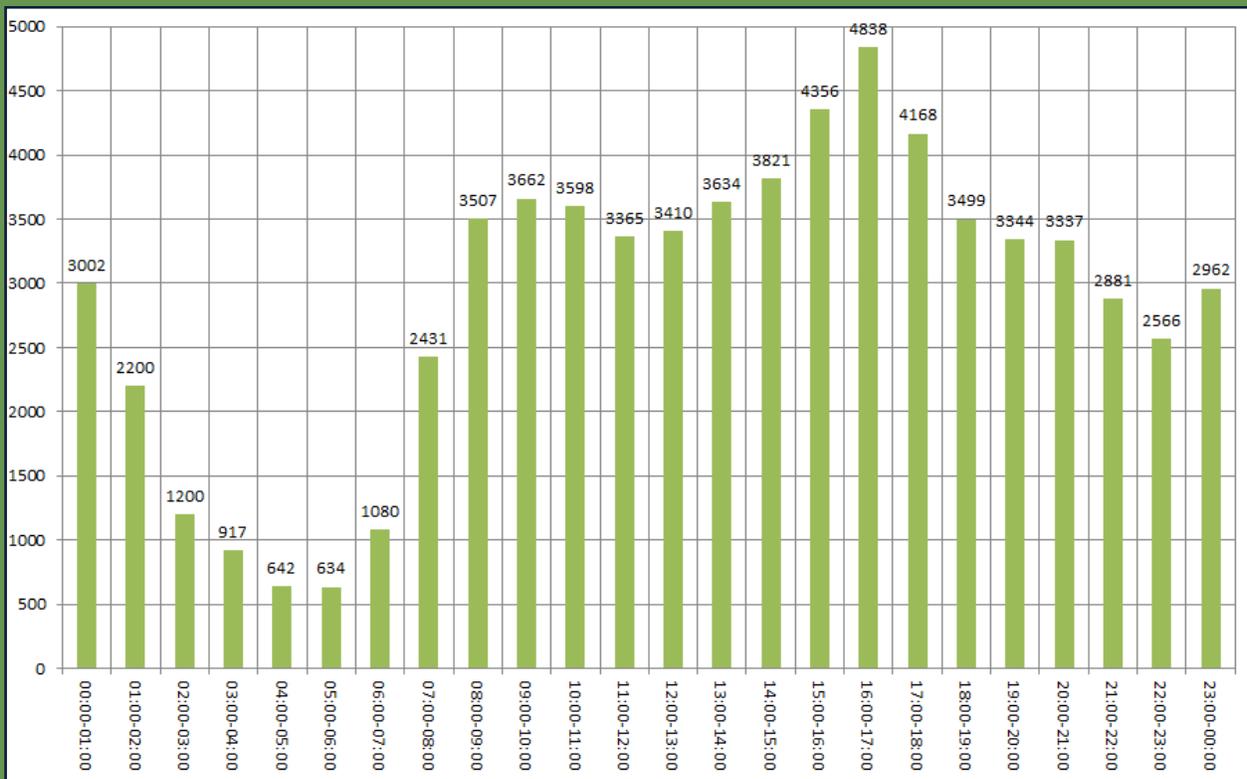
## Number of Department Arrests



# Number of Calls By Day of the Week



# Number of Calls By Hour of the Day



# 2014 Calls For Service

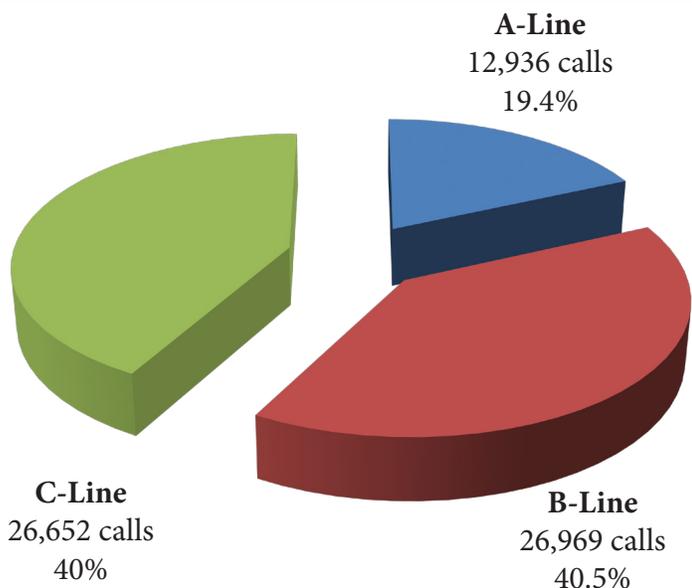
	2013	2014	Change
911 Accidental Call	2,862	3,256	+14%
911 Hang-Up Call	2,235	2,735	+22%
911 Non-Emergency/ Nuisance	227	368	+62%
911 Transfer	2,715	3,240	+19%
Abandoned Vehicle	219	211	-4%
Alarm Drop	702	582	-17%
Animal Control Complaint	2,042	2,238	+10%
Assault	60	63	+5%
Assist A Person	915	918	+0.3%
Auto Accident Property Damage	3,710	3,924	+6%
Auto Accident Personal Injury	519	543	+5%
Auto Accident Unknown	76	76	-
Bomb Threat	2	5	+150%
Boy / Girlfriend Trouble	94	74	-21%
Burglar Alarm	5,009	5,412	+8%
Burglary In Progress	37	47	+27%
Car Blocking	160	167	+4%
Check A Subject	3,427	3,685	+8%
Community Services Event	399	317	-21%
Custodial Interference	69	81	+17%
Disabled Motor Vehicle	1,108	1,092	-1%
Domestic Call	1,288	1,231	-4%
Drunk Annoying	95	96	+1%
Emotionally Disturbed Person	389	422	+8%
EMS Call	1,148	1,191	+4%
Executing A Warrant	12	13	+8%
Fight	349	363	+4%
Fire Call	263	365	+39%
Fireworks	102	112	+10%
Found Property	383	316	-17%
Get A Complaint	1,237	1,193	-4%
Get A Report	4,557	4,353	-4%
Group Annoying	319	325	+2%
Hazardous Material Call	24	4	-83%
Hold-Up Alarm	199	256	+29%
Jail Run	93	144	+55%
Juvenile Incident	73	97	+33%

	2013	2014	Change
Landlord / Tenant Trouble	65	90	+38%
Larceny Just Occurred	198	261	+32%
Lock Out	114	117	+3%
Malfunctioning Traffic Light	305	325	+7%
Neighbor Trouble	196	222	+13%
Noise Complaint	275	311	+13%
Notification	776	921	+19%
Officer Needs Assistance	104	115	+11%
Open Window / Door	115	128	+11%
POP (Police Oriented Policing)	10	17	+70%
Person Acting Suspicious	358	384	+7%
Person Annoying	634	604	-5%
Person Attempting Suicide	48	58	+21%
Person Down	30	30	-
Person Exposing Self	12	13	+8%
Person With A Weapon	42	35	-17%
Police Wanted Unknown	40	29	-28%
Property Check	2,696	2,747	+2%
Prowler	61	62	+2%
Road Hazard	510	534	+5%
Robbery	18	24	+33%
School Crossing	30	16	-47%
Selling Drugs	16	15	-6%
Shooting	1	3	+200%
Shoplifter	393	429	+9%
Shots Fired	34	46	+35%
Someone In Building	16	26	+63%
Traffic Enforcement Details	388	263	-32%
Traffic Stop	15,256	14,434	-5%
Tree Down	77	65	-16%
Trouble With A Customer	335	350	+4%
Vehicle Annoying	1,436	1,442	+0.4%
Vehicle In Violation	268	238	-11%
Warrant	582	573	-2%
Water Break	101	140	+39%
Wires Down / Arching	153	178	+16%
All Other Call Types	3,476	4,222	+21%
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>66,492</b>	<b>68,982</b>	<b>+4%</b>

## Uniform Crime Report (UCR) Part 1 Offenses

	2013	2014	Change
Murder	0	0	-
Rape	0	1	+100%
Robbery	28	37	+32%
Assault	29	30	+3%
Burglary	165	187	+13%
Larceny	1,558	1,786	+15%
Vehicle Theft	45	37	-18%
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>1,825</b>	<b>2,078</b>	<b>+14%</b>

## Percentage of Calls By Shift



## Custodial Arrests In 2014

<b>Adults</b> <b>2,397</b> <i>A decrease of 7%</i>	<b>Juveniles</b> <b>203</b> <i>An increase of 250%</i>
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## Uniform Crime Report (UCR) Part 2 Offenses

	2013	2014	Change
Arson	3	2	-33%
Kidnapping	1	1	-
Controlled Substances	257	328	+28%
Dangerous Weapons	20	22	+10%
Sex Offenses	16	18	+13%
Extortion	0	0	-
Forgery / Counterfeiting	86	101	+17%
Stolen Property	40	42	+5%
Prostitution & Vice	22	14	-36%
Coercion	0	1	+100%
Criminal Mischief	382	400	+5%
Fraud	220	240	+9%
Gambling	1	0	-100%
Offenses Against Public Order	0	0	-
Embezzlement	0	0	-
Simple Assault	407	412	+1%
Offenses Against Family	170	114	-33%
Driving Under Influence	184	182	-1%
Unauthorized Use of Vehicle	5	28	+460%
Possession of Burglar Tools	0	0	-
Liquor Law Violations	0	0	-
Disorderly Conduct	13	25	+92%
Loitering	1	4	+300%
All Other Offenses	395	335	-15%
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>2,223</b>	<b>2,473</b>	<b>+11%</b>

*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, New York  
Governmental Leadership



Supervisor Paula A. Mahan

**Town Board:**

William Carl  
David Green  
Brian Haak



Linda Murphy  
Paul Rosano  
David Rowley