



# Police Department Monthly Report



*James L. Cetran*  
*Chief of Police*

**January, 2011**

## **SPECIAL PROJECTS / ACHIEVEMENTS / INNOVATIONS:**

In January, 2011 the Wethersfield Police Department continued its hiring process for the position of Probationary Police Officer. During the week of January 3, 2011 fifty-one police officer candidates took part in an oral board examination. Conditional Offers of Employment were then extended to eleven candidates during the week of January 17, 2011. Background investigations are being conducted by members of the WPD Detective Bureau on these eleven candidates.

The Wethersfield Police Department, Training Unit, hosted one day of the Capital Region Police Recertification — Supervisor Program on Thursday, January 20, 2011. This course was held in the WPD Community Room.

## **MONTHLY ACTIVITIES:**

### **Patrol Division**

#### **Patrol Division (Cases of Interest)**

On Sunday January 2, 2011 at 4:33 PM officers were dispatched to a jewelry store on the Berlin Turnpike on the report that someone had just stolen merchandise from the store. Dispatch advised the responding officers that the owner of the store was chasing the suspect through the parking lot. Arriving officers discovered a small group of four or five people next to a car in the parking lot near the jewelry store. The jewelry store owner was lying on the ground holding onto the leg of another male. The male he was holding was shirtless and looked as though he had been involved in a fight. Investigation by officers at the scene determined that the shirtless male had stolen a necklace and bracelet valued at \$12,000.00. The suspect suffered a dislocated shoulder, most likely the result of fleeing the store or engaged in the altercation with the store owner. The suspect was charged with Robbery Third Degree, Larceny Second Degree and Assault Third Degree.

On Thursday January 6, 2011, at 5:45 PM Wethersfield PD Dispatchers notified all officers working that the Rocky Hill Police Department (RHPD) reported that they received a shoplifting complaint from Wal-Mart in their town. The suspect had stolen numerous packages of gum and candy. The RHPD told Wethersfield Dispatch that the suspect was last seen leaving Wal-Mart in an older model Nissan Pathfinder, possibly heading north on the Silas Deane Highway. At 5:58 PM a Wethersfield officer located a vehicle matching the description heading north on the Silas Deane Highway towards Nott Street. The officer was able to confirm that the driver of this car matched the description of the suspect of the Wal-Mart shoplifting. The officer attempted to stop this Nissan Pathfinder however the Nissan did not pull over and continued north on the

Silas Deane Highway. The officer began to pursue the Nissan. This pursuit continued into Hartford and lasted several miles. The vehicle finally stopped near the Colt building in Hartford. Numerous items were retrieved from the car linking him to the shoplifting incident in Rocky Hill. The suspect was charged with Engaging Police in Pursuit, Reckless Driving, Operating M/V without Minimum Insurance, Misuse of Marker/Plate, Failure to Obey Traffic Controls and Operating Unregistered M/V. He was released to the custody of the Rocky Hill PD.

## **Detective Division**

In January, 2011 members of the Detective Division initiated or were assigned follow-up to eighteen new cases. Major case investigations included three burglaries, two sexual assaults, three fraud complaints, and three larceny complaints. Detectives also continue to perform local background investigations and background investigations for pistol permit applicants.

### **Juvenile Unit**

In January, 2010 the Wethersfield Police Department, Juvenile Unit handled twenty-four incidents involving twenty-nine juveniles. In these incidents, two juveniles were arrested for criminal violations and one was diverted to school punishment.

In January, 2011 the Wethersfield Police Explorers conducted practical training on the subject of domestic violence investigations.

### **School Resource Officer**

In January, 2011 the School Resource Officer (SRO) assigned to the Wethersfield High School (WHS) reported covering seventeen incidents which were entered into the School Cop Database. These incidents resulted in ten case numbers and five incident reports. These incidents included three arrests to include one Failure to Respond to an Infraction and two arrests for Breach of Peace Second Degree and Assault Third Degree.

The SRO also investigated a Larceny Sixth Degree complaint, a Criminal Mischief Second Degree complaint and a motor vehicle accident complaint. The SRO also investigated suspicious situation-type complaints involving vehicles and persons on or around WHS property.

Finally, the SRO also assisted the WHS school administration with truancy issues. School administrators and the SRO held several mediations with students in regards to dating relationships, sexting issues and general disputes. The SRO also attended STARS meetings on Fridays during the month pertaining to at risk students.

## **Support Services Bureau**

In January, 2011 Wethersfield Communications Unit personnel dispatched the Wethersfield Volunteer Ambulance to 88 medical emergencies and Aetna Ambulance to 203 medical emergencies for a total of 291 medical emergencies.

In January, 2011 Wethersfield Communications Unit personnel dispatched the Wethersfield Volunteer Fire Department to sixty-two calls for service.

In January, 2011 there were fifty-two calls involving animal control issues. Of those calls, thirty-two were handled by a part-time animal control officer and twenty were handled by police officers.

In January, 2011 eight persons were taken into custody and held requiring 146 hours of incarceration. Of the persons held, six were arrested by warrant. Support Services personnel transported eight prisoners to court to include seven males and one female. Also, during the month Support Services personnel processed twenty-three arrestees and eleven police office candidates.

### **Support Services Bureau, Training Unit**

On Wednesday, January 5, 2011 six members of the Capitol Region Emergency Services Team (CREST) began attending monthly two-day training.

On Thursday, January 6, 2011 an officer attended a one day training class entitled "The Yellow Dot Refresher Update and Driving with Dementia." The training was held at the Glastonbury Triad and Riverfront Community Center, Glastonbury, CT. Course objectives include discussing dementia and strategies for helping individuals and families as they face the need to stop driving.

On Monday, January 10, 2011 a lieutenant and a sergeant attended a one day training class entitled "TASER Use of Force, Risk Management & Legal Strategies Seminar." The training was held at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA. Course objectives included legal updates with Taser and proper investigative techniques when the Taser is deployed.

On Tuesday, January 11, 2011 an officer, who is a member of the CREST team, attended a monthly one day training class entitled "Explosive Breaching School." Training was held at the West Hartford Police Department and the New Britain Police Range. This training included updates to explosives used by SWAT teams in breaching buildings.

On Tuesday, January 18, 2011 a canine officer and Narcotic Canine Elaine began attending a three day training class entitled "Narcotics Detection Canine In-Service Training." The canine officer and Canine Elaine attended training at the Connecticut State Police Training Unit, Meriden, CT. This in-service training is conducted quarterly in order to maintain certification through the Connecticut State Police.

On Tuesday, January 18, 2011 a canine officer and his canine, Hunter, attended a one day training class entitled "Police Canine/ Police Canine Handler Training." The canine officer and Hunter participated in this monthly canine training with several other area law enforcement canine teams. Training included evidence recovery and tracking.

On Tuesday, January 25, 2011 two dispatchers attended a one day training class entitled "Active Shooting Response." Training was held at the East Hartford Police Department, East Hartford, CT. Course objectives specifically address the role of the public safety telecommunicator in active shooting incidents.

On Thursday, January 28, 2010 two dispatchers began attending a two day training class entitled "Critical Incident Dispatching." Training was held at the Glastonbury Police Department, Glastonbury, CT. Course objectives focus on skills dispatchers need to dispatch various calls, which may become critical incidents.

### **Administrative Services Bureau**

In January, 2011 police personnel responded to fifty-two police related alarms to include fifty burglar alarms and two hold-up/ panic alarms. Locations included twenty-three residential alarms, twenty-four non-residential alarms and five state/ town government alarms. A total of 1,460 alarm permits are currently on file with the Police Department. During the month, forty-five locations experienced a false alarm resulting in a 96% compliance rate. This month there were ninety-six items of correspondence sent in connection with billing, registration and false alarm violations with \$ 2,375 in alarm billing.

As of January 31, 2011 the Wethersfield Police Department has expended \$260,779.25 on overtime. This is equivalent to 64.03% of the Department's total budgeted overtime.

In January, 2010 ninety-three shifts were staffed with no shifts staffed below minimum or critical staffing levels.

As of January 31, 2010 the Department has two Probationary Police Officer vacancies. A hiring process to fill these two vacancies is well under way and was previously mentioned in this report. The Department also has a part-time Animal Control Officer vacancy. This position has been posted and applications have been accepted. The Town Human Resources Officer is coordinating this hiring. Finally, the Department currently has two sworn officers assigned to light duty, one lieutenant and one patrol officer and one sworn officer assigned to administrative duty.

## **COMMUNITY RELATIONS**

The Support Services Bureau continues to address citizen complaints involving traffic, parking violations, and other motor vehicle violations. Citizens regularly complain of a variety of different violations on various town streets and several town schools. To address these complaints, officers performed selective enforcement at numerous locations throughout town. In January, 2011 officers performed selective enforcement nineteen times and spent approximately fourteen hours doing selective enforcement on various roads in town.

In January, 2011 a complaint was received about vehicles speeding and disregarding stop signs on Hang Dog Lane in the area of Dusty Lane. A selective enforcement assignment was conducted fifteen times for approximately ten hours. Ten infractions tickets and seven warnings were issued as a result.

In January, 2011 several complaints were received regarding parking and traffic issues in and around Charles Wright School. Officers responded to the school seven times and spent approximately 3 1/2 hours enforcing parking violations and advising parents. This has been an ongoing problem. The Support Services Bureau (SSB) Commander spoke with the school principal who was going to try to put extra staff outside the school, which was a complaint of several parents. The SSB Commander spoke to several parents who either received a ticket or complained of other parents not receiving tickets. The SSB Commander also spoke to Mr. Thomas Dillon, Wethersfield Public Schools Security and Residency Officer, who stated he has a meeting scheduled with the school principal to address this issue.

In January, 2011 a complaint was received about school parents parking vehicles on Mapleside Drive across from Emerson Williams School during the afternoon impeding traffic. Officers responded on two occasions and found no violations and no impediment of traffic.

## **PERFORMANCE MEASURES:**

	<b>January 2010</b>	<b>January 2011</b>	<b>YTD 2010</b>	<b>YTD 2011</b>
<b>Criminal Arrests</b>				
Criminal Arrests	56	61	56	61
<b>Burlaries and Robberies</b>				
Residential Burglaries	3	3	3	3
Commercial	0	0	0	0

Burglaries				
Armed Robberies	0	0	0	0
Strong-Arm Robberies	1	1	1	1
<b>Family Violence Arrests</b>				
Family Violence Arrests	11	3	11	3
<b>Traffic Related</b>				
Infractions/ MV Summons	206	178	206	178
DUI	14	11	14	11
MV Accidents	56	66	56	66
Parking Tags	302	59	302	59
<b>Miscellaneous Activities</b>				
911 Calls	719	762	719	762
Alarm Responses	58	52	58	52
Records Requests	n/a	230	n/a	230
Prisoners Transported	11	8	11	8
Child Car Seat Installations	6	8	6	8