



# POLICE DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT

*Wethersfield*



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**James Cetran**  
**Chief of Police**

## MARCH 2013

### SPECIAL PROJECTS / ACHIEVEMENTS / INNOVATIONS

The Planning and Research Sergeant began a review of WPD General Order 5-421, Section 7 (Informant Use) and General Order 5-431, Section E (Vice Control, Illegal Drugs, & Organized Crime Operations) following a high liability incident which occurred out of state. The Sergeant is conducting research to support recommendations for possible policy updates/revisions to limit department liability and further ensure proper operations.

The Wethersfield Police Explorers conducted practical training involving D.U.I and Felony Motor Vehicle Stops.

In compliance with state law, the quarterly E-911 total call count report was provided to the State of Connecticut Department of Public Safety Office of Statewide Emergency Telecommunications. For the quarter January 1, 2013 to March 31, 2013 Wethersfield Police Dispatchers handled 2367 E-911 calls.

The Wethersfield Police Department, Training Unit, hosted one day of the Capital Region Police Recertification – Supervisor Program on Thursday, March 28, 2013. This course was held in the WPD Community Room. By hosting this training, the police department ends up receiving one free training seat.

### MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

#### Patrol Division

##### Patrol Division (Case of Interest)

On Monday, March 25, 2013 at approximately 10:51 AM an officer was dispatched to a commercial business on the Silas Deane Hwy on the report of a party in the store that attempted to pay with a counterfeit bill. The officer met with the store manager who showed the officer the counterfeit bill, which was a one hundred dollar bill and was obviously forged.

There were several factors that led the officer to believe that the \$100 bill was not legitimate. The officer then spoke with the suspect who attempted to pay with the bill. He stated that he received the bill as payment from his cousin for lending him money in the past. The suspect also told the officer that the bill did not feel right so he brought it to the cashier and told him to contact the manager to check the money with a counterfeit pen. A second officer spoke with the cashier who waited on the suspect. The cashier said that the suspect tried to buy an item with the bill. At that time, the suspect was placed under arrest for attempting to pay with money that he knew was counterfeit and for the attempted larceny of the item he attempted to purchase. He was transported to police headquarters and charged with Forgery in the 1st Degree and Criminal Attempt to commit Larceny in the 6th Degree. He was later released after posting his bond. He is scheduled to appear at GA15 in New Britain on 4/8/13 at 1000 hours. The Secret Service New Haven Office was notified and that office is also investigating.

On Tuesday, March 26, 2013 at 9:55 AM several officers were dispatched to a commercial business on the Silas Deane Highway on a reported shoplifting in progress. Dispatch provided a vehicle description to the responding officers; however the officers were not able to locate the suspect vehicle. The suspect stole Tide detergent from the store. The store manager gave a statement in which he stated that at about 9:53am he was notified about a shoplifting in progress in the store. An employee saw a dark skinned possibly Hispanic male wearing a large black coat exit the suspect vehicle; walk into the store and a moment later he quickly exited. He stated that she followed him and saw him start unloading bottles of Tide into the car from underneath his coat. He then re-entered the store and the employee again followed him and yelled to the manager that the male was stealing from the store. The manager stated that he then started following the male suspect, yelling at him to stop and he ran out of the store with more Tide concealed under his coat. The manager stated that he wrote down the license plate and called 911 and the suspect vehicle left northbound on Silas Deane Highway. The manager stated he found that 63 bottles of Tide were missing from the shelf, they were valued at \$15.29 each totaling \$963.27. The officer reviewed the store surveillance footage and saw that the male appears to be a dark skinned possibly Hispanic male, wearing a large black coat and dark pants. The officer continues to investigate this incident.

## **Support Services Bureau**

Wethersfield Public Safety Dispatchers received and handled 832 E-911 emergency phone calls.

The Wethersfield Volunteer Fire Department (WVFD) was dispatched to 27 calls for service.

The Wethersfield Volunteer Ambulance (WVAA) was dispatched to 84 calls for service and Aetna Ambulance to 232 calls for service.

Wethersfield Police Department Child Seat Technician inspected/installed seven child seats.

There were 104 phone calls and 39 calls for service involving animal control issues. Of the calls for service, twenty-two were handled by the part-time animal control officers and seventeen were handled by police officers. Six animals were impounded with three being redeemed, one adopted, one carried over and one euthanized. Cases included one dog bite and one cat bite. Animal Control Officers also investigated one case of possible cruelty to animals. Although the cruelty was unfounded, the ACOs assisted the owners with finding organizations that would find new homes for some of the animals.

Thirteen persons were taken into custody and held requiring 264 hours of incarceration. Of the persons held, nine were arrested by warrant. Support Services personnel transported the prisoners to court, including eight males and five females. The females incarcerated by the department required ninety-six hours of matron coverage.

## **Training Division**

On Monday March 4, 2013 Dispatcher Karen Tomczyk attended a “**Regional Incident Dispatch (RID) Meeting.**” This meeting was held at the Regional Communications Center, Manchester, CT. The RID Team is a group of approximately twelve telecommunicators comprised from local law enforcement agencies. The RID Team is designed to supplement area Dispatch Centers in the event of a large crisis, man-made/ natural disaster, etc.

On Wednesday March 6, 2013, Lieutenants Andrew Power and Donald Crabtree attended a one day course entitled “**POI for the PSAP Manager.**” This training was held at the Crowne Plaza, Southbury, CT. Course topics included a presentation by CT State Police Lieutenant Paul Vance. Lt. Vance instructed the attendees on proper procedure on what and how information should be released.

On Thursday March 7, 2013 members of the **Capitol Region Emergency Services Team (CREST)**, including Sergeant Michael Connolly, MPO’s Luis Gonzalez and Ronald Floyd, and Officers Jeffrey Poulin and Justin Lord began attending monthly two-day training.

On Tuesday, March 12, 2013, Officer Joseph Baich, along with his canine, Owen, attended a one day training class entitled “**Police Canine/ Police Canine Handler Training.**” Officer Baich and Owen participated in this monthly canine training with several other area law enforcement canine teams. Training included evidence recovery and tracking.

On Tuesday, March 12, 2013, Detectives Anthony Demonte and Norberto Mendez, Officer Eric Knapp and Supernumerary Officer Michael Godart, began attending a one day training class entitled “**A Violent Crime Behavioral Analysis Seminar.**” This training was held at the US Coast Guard Academy, New London, CT. Course topics included discussion on school related crimes such as attacks, sexual assault, child abductions, and threat assessment.

On Thursday March 14, 2013, Detectives Michael Patkoske and Christopher Morris attended “**Search and Seizure Training.**” This training was held at the New Britain Police Department. The training consisted of a review of Search and Seizure laws.

On Friday March 15, 2013 Sergeant Michael Connolly assisted the Connecticut Police Academy with “**Practical Skills Day (ROCC)**” for the 334<sup>th</sup> Training Session. Sergeant Connolly served as an assistant instructor by monitoring and encouraging the recruits to complete very strenuous drills which encompass a variety of techniques they have learned during their entire time at the academy.

On Monday March 18, 2013 Dispatcher Karen Tomczyk attended a week long training entitled “**Communications Technician Training (COMT)**.” This training was held at the Regional Communications Center, Manchester, CT. Course topics included the dispatcher taking a lead role and utilization of the ICS System during a major incident.

On Thursday March 21, 2013, Officer John Blair assisted the Connecticut Police Academy with “**Practical Skills Day Traffic Direction**” for the 340<sup>th</sup> Training Session. Officer Blair assisted Academy Staff with recruits by monitoring recruits while they actually directed traffic in Meriden, CT.

On Tuesday, March 26, 2013, Officer Joseph Baich, along with his canine, Owen, attended a one day training class entitled “**Police Canine/ Police Canine Handler Training.**” Officer Baich and Owen participated in this monthly canine training with several other area law enforcement canine teams. Training included evidence recovery and tracking.

On Wednesday March 27, 2013, Officer John Blair assisted the Connecticut Police Academy with “**Practical Skills Day**” for the 340<sup>th</sup> Training Session. Officer Blair served as a role player in exercises that put into practice the knowledge recruits have gained in the classroom under controlled conditions.

On Thursday, March 28, 2013 Sergeants Oscar Rivera and Jennie Rivera attended “**Capital Region Police Recertification – Supervisor Program.**” This training was held in the Wethersfield Police Department Community Room. This training is mandatory every three years and is open only to supervisory personnel. The training this month was on the topics of Supervisory Liability and Sexual Harassment. This training is held once per month concluding in May, 2013.

On Thursday March 29, 2013 Officer Albert Whaples attended a course entitled “**North American Standard Driver-Vehicle (NASDI) In-Service Training.**” The training was held at the Connecticut Police Academy, Meriden, CT. Course topics included informational review of driver and vehicle inspections for commercial motor vehicles. Officer Whaples is part of the regional traffic team.

## **Administrative Services Bureau**

This department has responded to 57 alarms in month of March. Non-residential locations made up 26 (46%) of this total, residential alarms made up 29 (51%), and State and Town government made up 2 (3.5%.) The alarms received were: 55 burglar, 0 holdup / panic, and 2 fire. There currently are 1599 alarm registrations on file, 54 of which experienced alarm(s)

this month; this represents a 96% compliance rate. Seven new alarm registrations were entered this month. During this month, \$1,950 in alarm billing has occurred. There have been 183 actions performed by this unit with the CryWolf system, and 160 items of correspondence sent out.

The Clerk III process has been brought to be conclusion pending background investigations. One of the top three candidates will be hired in April.

The certified officer process is under way. Applications close March 30<sup>th</sup>; testing and background checks will be conducted throughout April to fill the anticipated vacancy of one police officer.

## **Detective Division**

### **Juvenile Detective**

Wethersfield Police department handled approximately 50 incidents, involving approximately 70 juveniles. In these incidents, 3 juveniles were arrested for criminal violations, 3 were diverted to school punishment, 13 were diverted to parental punishment, and 2 were diverted to the Town of Juvenile Review Board.

### **School Resource Officer**

Officer Knapp took over the SRO duties from the now Juvenile Detective Mendez.

In the month of March the SRO covered a total of ten (10) incidents including activities at the school, which were entered into the School Cop Database. There were no arrests at the school during the month. Selective motor vehicle enforcement for student safety was conducted. Violations regarding school bus stop sign violations were targeted as well as any hazardous operation in the morning student drop off area near the Wolcott Hill Road entrance. Several stops were made including an infraction that was issued for the operating a vehicle (moped) without a license.

The School Administrators and the SRO held mediations with students over disputes and defiance issues.

The SRO spoke in Ms. Ryba's English class in regards to class project they are conducting and attended the STARS meeting pertaining to at risk students.

The SRO participated in the Town of Wethersfield Juvenile Review Board which juveniles who reside in town are deferred from the Juvenile Justice System to our board.

## **COMMUNITY RELATIONS**

Support Services Bureau officers continue 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 at several town schools.

Based on citizen concerns and traffic study results, officers performed selective enforcement at various locations throughout town. Officers performed selective enforcement eighteen different times spending approximately 9 hours 01 minute doing selective enforcement on various roads in town. Locations given extra attention included Highcrest School, Silas Deane Middle School, Thornbush Road and the Berlin Turnpike.

A traffic study on Valley Crest Drive was initiated and completed utilizing a speed monitoring device over the course of fourteen days. The speed limit in this area is posted at 25 MPH. During the 204.25 survey hours, 4,338 cars were recorded, averaging 21 cars per hour. Results from the speed monitoring device showed an average speed of approximately 23 MPH, the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile speed of 22.5 MPH, the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed of approximately 32.5 MPH and a top speed of 49 MPH.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

The Explorers will be continuing their practical training regimen focusing on Building Searches and CIT training.

The Wethersfield Police Department, Training Unit, will be hosting one day of the Capital Region Police Recertification – Supervisor Program. This five day course, which began in January, will be held in the WPD Community Room on April 25, 2013 and continue one more in May, 2013.

Annual CPR/ AED, Airborne/ Bloodborne Pathogen and First Aid training is scheduled for April 2013.

## PERFORMANCE MEASURES

	March 2012	March 2013	YTD 2012	YTD 2013
<b>Criminal Arrests</b>				
Criminal Arrests	70	83	223	196
<b>Burglaries and Robberies</b>				
Residential Burglaries	5	2	10	7
Commercial Burglaries	0	0	5	0
Armed Robberies	0	0	0	0
Strong-Arm Robberies	0	0	2	0
<b>Family Violence Arrests</b>				
Family Violence Arrests	5	0	19	6
<b>Traffic Related</b>				
Infractions/ MV Summons	221	163	619	413
DUI	13	8	39	19
MV Crashes	50	51	145	143
Parking Tags	70	45	106	118
<b>Miscellaneous Activities</b>				
911 Calls	783	832	2304	2367
Alarm Responses	78	57	199	177
Records Requests	208	205	629	605
Prisoners Transported	11	13	36	34
Child Car Seat Installations	6	7	18	27