



Police Department Monthly Report



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Chief of Police

April, 2011

SPECIAL PROJECTS / ACHIEVEMENTS / INNOVATIONS:

In April, 2011 the Wethersfield Police Department concluded its hiring process for the position of Probationary Police Officer. This hiring process began in December, 2010 when over five-hundred and eighty persons applied and over four hundred candidates took the written examination. On April 11, 2011 the Wethersfield Police Department hired three candidates. These probationary police officers began attending the State of Connecticut Police Academy on April 15, 2011. They will attend the Academy for approximately twenty-two weeks before returning to the Wethersfield Police Department for an additional twelve weeks of field training before they are assigned to the Patrol Division for solo patrol.

In April, 2011 the hiring process for the position of part-time Animal Control Officer also concluded. The new Animal Control Officer was hired on April 12, 2011. This Animal Control Officer will train with the senior Animal Control Officer prior to beginning duties on his own.

On Thursday, April 21, 2011 the Wethersfield Police Department, Training Unit, hosted one day of the Capital Region Police Recertification - Supervisor Program. This course was held in the WPD Community Room.

MONTHLY ACTIVITIES:

Patrol Division

Patrol Division (Cases of Interest)

On Thursday, April 14, 2011 at 8:52 PM several officers were dispatched to a retail business located on the Silas Deane Highway near Wells Road on the report that a female was just mugged in the parking lot. The victim reported that she was loading items into her car in the lot when she was approached by a male wearing a ski mask. The male demanded money from the victim. The victim did not give him any money and the victim immediately ran back to the store. The victim was not injured. The suspect was described as a male wearing a ski mask and a green Army type jacket. It was reported that the suspect was last seen running towards the east side of the building. A perimeter was quickly established and a search of the area was completed with negative results. At this time the case remains under investigation.

On Monday, April 25, 2011 at 1:10 AM an officer observed a suspicious car parked in the lot of a business located on the Berlin Turnpike. The vehicle appeared to be on and experiencing mechanical problems. A male was attempting to fix the car as the hood was up and he was manipulating the vehicle's parts. A check on the car's plate showed that the plate was listed as stolen. As the marker plate was stolen, the officer

approached the male. The male said it was not his vehicle and that it belonged to a female inside the business. Investigation at the scene revealed that the male and female had just committed a significant theft from the business that was not detected by the store clerk. The officers recovered stolen merchandise from the car, which included a display containing a large amount of new cigarette lighters, in addition to a large amount of gift cards. The display had been stolen from the front counter of the store. The male was arrested for Larceny 5th Degree, Conspiracy to Commit Larceny 5th Degree, Operating Under Suspension and Operating an Unregistered Motor Vehicle. The female was arrested and charged with Conspiracy to Commit Larceny 5th Degree, Larceny 6th Degree and Allowing Operation of Uninsured Motor Vehicle. Both were held on bond and were presented in court the same day.

Detective Division

In April, 2011 members of the Detective Bureau initiated or were assigned follow up to approximately eighteen new cases. Major case investigations included one fraud complaint, three identity theft complaints, two burglary complaints, one robbery complaint and a missing person investigation. Detectives also continue to perform town background investigations and backgrounds for pistol permits applicants.

Detective Division (Case of Interest)

Wethersfield detectives have seen an increase in fraudulent and identity theft type cases. Common schemes have included suspects calling Wethersfield residents reporting that a relative is in trouble and needs help out of state. The suspect asks that the resident send money via Western Union. In reality no one is in trouble and the money goes either out of state or out of the country. A second common scheme includes the listing of houses for sale or rent on the internet. A suspect copies real ads from Realtor.com for houses either for sale or for rent. The suspect copies the ad, lowers the price and places the ad on Craigslist. The victim sees the ad and corresponds with the suspect, who later asks for a month's rent. The victim then goes to the home only to find that this was a fraud. Wethersfield residents should always look at the home with the homeowner including going inside the house. Most of the suspects are out of the country for this scheme. If the ad looks too good to be true, it usually is.

Juvenile Unit

In April, 2011 the Wethersfield Police Department Juvenile Unit handled thirty incidents involving thirty-nine juveniles. In these incidents, six juveniles were arrested, two juveniles were diverted to school punishment, and one juvenile was diverted to parental punishment.

School Resource Officer

In April, 2011 the School Resource Officer (SRO) assigned to the Wethersfield High School (WHS) reported covering seven incidents which were entered into the School Cop Database. These incidents resulted in three case numbers, one incident report and one accident report. The incident report was for a complaint of larceny.

The SRO also reported being interviewed by students in two academic literature classes in regards to law enforcement as a professional career. Also discussed were the dangers of texting and cell phone use while driving.

The SRO also reported handling mediations regarding student disputes.

It should be noted that the SRO was not assigned to the Wethersfield High School from April 5, 2011 through

April 22, 2011 due to April vacation and to supplement patrol staffing.

Support Services Bureau

In April, 2011 Wethersfield Communications Unit personnel dispatched the Wethersfield Volunteer Ambulance to 107 medical emergencies and Aetna Ambulance to 243 medical emergencies for a total of 350 medical emergencies.

In April, 2011 Wethersfield Communications Unit personnel dispatched the Wethersfield Volunteer Fire Department to twenty-six calls for service.

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

In April, 2011 twelve persons were taken into custody and held requiring 237 hours of incarceration. Of the persons held, six were arrested by warrant. Support Services personnel transported the twelve prisoners to court to include ten males and two females.

The Support Services Bureau Commander continues to receive requests for added or replacement road signs. Work orders completed in April, 2011 included replacing the existing "NO PARKING ANYTIME" signs just north of 152-154 Wolcott Hill Road and on the southwest corner of its intersection with Lorraine Road. Also, a work order that was processed in December, 2010 for traffic signs on Ridge Road was found not to be finished completely. An e-mail was sent to Physical Services and this was corrected in a timely manner.

Support Services Bureau, Training Unit

On Monday, April 4, 2011 an officer began attending a two week course entitled "CREST (Capitol Region Emergency Services Team) Basic SWAT Training." This training was held at various venues throughout the Capitol Region. This training class is a basic introduction to the team and SWAT tactics.

On Monday April 4, 2011 an officer and police canine, Owen, began attending "NAPWDA Basic Canine Handler Training." This training class is sponsored by the Manchester Police Department Canine Training Unit. The officer and police canine Owen will receive approximately sixteen-weeks of Patrol Dog Training and Narcotic Detection Training. Training areas will include obedience, aggression control, tracking, evidence recovery, imprinting to narcotic odor, and concealed finds. Training is expected to conclude in late May, 2011.

On Wednesday April 6, 2011 an officer attended a course entitled "Motor Vehicle Enforcement Seminar: Wreckers, Dealer Repair, and License Plate Use." This training was held at the Connecticut Police Academy in Meriden, CT. Course topics included discussion on DMV statutes pertaining to the use of various license plates used by repair and towing shops.

On Monday, April 11, 2011 three officers began attending the five day "Capital Region Police Officer Recertification Training." This training was held at the Middletown Police Department, Middletown, CT. This forty hour class is mandatory every three years to keep officers certified in the State of Connecticut. The training encompasses a wide variety of topics including legal updates, bias crimes, patrol procedures, emotionally disturbed persons, suicide prevention, juvenile law and domestic violence laws.

On Monday, April 11, 2011 a detective began attending a five day training class entitled "Advanced Crime Scene Processing." This training was held at the Connecticut Police Academy in Meriden, CT. This detective had previously attended the Intermediate Crime Scene Processing class. Course objectives include lifting latent prints from unusual surfaces, locating and collecting trace evidence, learning casting methods and

preparing a case for court.

On Tuesday, April 12, 2011 four dispatchers attended the one day "2011 Telecommunicator Conference." This conference was held at the Crowne Plaza in Cromwell, CT. Training objectives included risk management, problems in the 911 Center, ten things that get 911 dispatchers in trouble and a review of the Hartford Distributors 2010 Shooting.

On Wednesday April 20, 2010 a detective attended a course entitled "Cognitive Interviewing, An interactive program for investigators and first responders." This training was held at the Connecticut Police Academy in Meriden, CT. Course objectives include proper techniques to use when interviewing victims and witnesses of crimes in order to solicit good information that might otherwise have never been said.

On Wednesday April 20, 2011 two sergeants and two officers attended "The FBI's Law Enforcement Officer Killed and Assaulted Program and Safety/ Street Survival Training." This training was held at the Torrington Town Hall, Torrington, CT. Course objective include statistics on officers killed and assaulted each year and ways to combat those numbers.

On Thursday April 21, 2011 the Department SRO attended a course entitled "Grieving and Teen Violence Seminar." This training was held at the Connecticut Police Academy in Meriden, CT. Course objectives include helping youth cope with grief, particularly sexual assault and teen violence.

On Tuesday, April 26, 2011 a lieutenant and an officer began attending "CREST - Dive Team" training. This training was held in Hartford, CT. This training is conducted on a monthly basis with several other area law enforcement agencies that comprise CREST. Activities included water rescues and evidence recovery.

Administrative Services Bureau

In April, 2011 police personnel responded to fifty-seven police related alarms to include fifty-five burglar alarms and two hold-up/ panic alarms. Locations included twenty-seven residential alarms, twenty-seven non-residential alarms and three state/ town government alarms. A total of 1,485 alarm permits are currently on file with the Police Department. During the month, forty-seven locations experienced a false alarm resulting in a 96% compliance rate. This month there were 143 items of correspondence sent in connection with billing, registration and false alarm violations with \$3,275 in alarm billing.

As of April 30, 2011 the Wethersfield Police Department has expended \$378,747.00 on overtime. This is equivalent to 93% of the Department's total budgeted overtime for this fiscal year.

In April, 2011 ninety shifts were staffed with no shifts staffed below minimum or critical staffing levels.

As of April 30, 2011 the Department has no police officer vacancies and is at its authorized strength of forty-seven officers. The Department also has its authorized complement of two part-time animal control officers. The Department has one Records Clerk vacancy within its Records Unit. The application process for this position has closed with a written examination expected in mid-May, 2011. Finally, as of April 30, 2011 the Department has one sworn officer assigned to light duty and one officer on maternity leave.

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. To address these complaints, officers performed selective enforcement at numerous locations throughout town. In April, 2011 officers performed selective enforcement sixteen different times and spent approximately fourteen hours doing selective enforcement on these

identified roads.

In April, 2011 a complaint was received from a resident of Hang Dog Lane about vehicles speeding on this roadway. The SMART Machine was set up in the area of the three-hundred block of Hang Dog Lane for several days. Results from the SMART Machine showed an average speed of approximately 29 MPH, the 85th percentile speed of approximately 37 MPH and a top speed of 41 MPH. Using these results, selective enforcement will be set up after the road construction is completed in mid-May, 2011.

As part of National Public Health Week and in cooperation with the Central Connecticut Health District a WPD car seat technician completed car seat inspections and installations on April 7, 2011.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Officers from the Wethersfield Police Department will be participating in the upcoming annual "Click It or Ticket" enforcement period being held May 23, 2011 through June 5, 2011 and aggressively enforcing seat belt and child car seat statutes.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES:

	April 2010	April 2011	YTD 2010	YTD 2011
Criminal Arrests				
Criminal Arrests	65	76	227	268
Burglaries and Robberies				
Residential Burglaries	1	2	16	6
Commercial Burglaries	0	0	0	1
Armed Robberies	0	0	0	0
Strong-Arm Robberies	0	1	1	2
Family Violence Arrests				
Family Violence Arrests	12	15	34	32
Traffic Related				
Infractions/ MV Summons	294	165	951	712
DUI	19	14	65	47
MV Accidents	55	50	226	233
Parking Tags	112	51	620	186
Miscellaneous Activities				
911 Calls	821	797	2990	3246
Alarm Responses	76	57	237	229
Records Requests	176	192	n/a	930
Prisoners Transported	12	12	51	42

Child Car Seat Installations	6	10	24	35
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