

READING POLICE DEPARTMENT

Mission and Value Statement

The Reading Police Department is committed to providing the highest level of public safety and service to the citizens and business people within the community. The members of the Department are empowered to enforce the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and By-laws of the Town of Reading to ensure that the peace and tranquility of our neighborhoods are maintained and that crime and the fear of crime are reduced.

We emphasize and value integrity, honesty, impartiality and professionalism from our members in order to create an environment that values differences and fosters fairness and flexibility in our mission. We encourage citizen input and interaction that will assist us in developing sound partnerships between the community and police. Working together we can protect our future and enhance the quality of life for everyone within the town.

This report summarizes the participation, activities, sponsorships, enhancements, accomplishments, and other notable events of the Reading Police Department during Calendar year 2012.

One notable event that occurred in the Police Department in April of 2012 is that Reading Town Meeting voted to remove the Police Department from civil service. This is a significant event as the Police Department had been voted into the civil service system by Town Meeting some 94 years prior. The system of civil service regulated the process of hiring and promoting of Police Officers.

In the beginning of the civil service system it was a well-intentioned system that worked to eliminate or reduce the potential for cronyism and abuses in hiring and promotions within the public safety professions. Unfortunately the civil service system became bogged down in bureaucracy and became a hindrance to management. The Police Chiefs position had been previously voted in 2004 to be removed from civil service after the current Chief, Chief Cormier, leaves the position. All newly hired and promoted Police Officers will no longer be under civil service regulations.

Personnel Changes

The following personnel changes and adjustments were experienced by the Police Department in calendar year 2012

March 2012: A narcotics detective was assigned.

August 2012: Sgt. Bruce Russell retired after 32 years of service to the community.

September 2012: Safety Officer Michael Lee returned to the Patrol Division and Officer Justin Martin was assigned as Safety Officer.

December 2012: Michael Muolo, Laura Bullis and Patrick Dawley were hired as police recruits. They will begin their academy training in January 2013. These are the first non-Civil Service police officers hired since the Town voted to remove the Department from Civil Service for future hires and promotions.

2012 Police Obituaries: In January 2012 Retired Sergeant Robert Marchand and Retired Officer Walter Franklin. In August 2012 Retired Chief John "Jack" Beaudoin.

Awards and recognitions:

March 2012:

Detective Michael Saunders was honored as the Reading Police Department's "2011 Officer of the Year" at the Reading/North Reading Chamber of commerce dinner. Detective Saunders was honored for his investigation of two serious crimes as the lead Detective in 2011. The first was the drug related murder of a 23 year old male in his Reading home. A suspect in his 20s was arrested, indicted and is awaiting trial. The second was a home invasion and armed robbery at an apartment complex. This incident also involved drugs. Four males in their 20s were arrested, tried and convicted for armed robbery, home invasion, assault and battery by means of dangerous weapon (handgun) and assault and battery.

May 2012:

The Board of Selectmen recognized National Police Memorial Week.

Community Policing:

The Reading Police Department continues to work closely with the community and other Town Departments, as well as State and Federal Agencies. The Police Department strongly promotes the philosophy of "working with the community". The Department sponsors or participates in a number of community events and/or programs, the following are a number of those.

The Police Department continues to be an active member of the Reading Coalition Against Substance Abuse (RCASA). Chief James Cormier and School Resource Office Corey Santasky are active members of the RCASA.

The Police Department was able to collaborate with the RCASA to be awarded grant funding that enables the Department to conduct alcohol compliance checks. The Detective Division has worked closely with the RCASA to be trained and implement alcohol compliance checks throughout the community. Unfortunately, after achieving one hundred percent compliance previously, this year we issued complaints to the licensing board for five violations in relationship to our compliance checks.

The Police Department is represented on the Human Relations Advisory Committee (HRAC) by Chief Cormier.

In June, police officers and their families participated in the Challenger Softball game, where they are afforded an opportunity to interact with children with challenges in a relaxed and fun atmosphere.

Also in June, the Department participated in Friends and Family Day held at Birch Meadow.

The Department participates annually in the Library's Vehicle Day in August where children of all ages get to enjoy the Town vehicles of the community.

Throughout the year, the Department participated in the Governors' Highway Safety Bureau's "Click-it or Ticket" program. This program is an intensified traffic enforcement effort subsidized by a grant that targets specific traffic issues, such as seat belt use, or impaired operation.

In August, the Department was issued an Award of Excellence, Silver Category for Municipal Departments for its commitment to traffic safety. The award was given based upon activities and level of traffic safety consciousness such as internal policies, officer training, effective patrolling and public information projects during the 2011 calendar year. It is noteworthy that the Department improved from the bronze category in 2010.

In October, the Department, in conjunction with its labor unions, organized its annual Senior Ham and Bean Supper at the Senior Center.

In November, AAA Southern New England issued the Department a "Pedestrian Safety Citation" for seven years with no pedestrian fatalities due to the Department's continuing efforts to educate and protect its citizens.

In December, the Department, in conjunction with its labor unions, organized the 32nd annual Children's Holiday Party at Austin Preparatory School. We again collaborated with the Free Masons (Reading Lodge) to offer the Child Identification Program (CHIP) providing over 48 identification kits.

The Department's Web Site http://www.ci.reading.ma.us/Pages/ReadingMA_Police/index is very successful and offers a variety of information for the public.

Safety Officer Lee returned to the Patrol Division in September. Officer Martel took over the Safety Officer assignment and between the two Safety Officers, safety talks were given to the following schools and groups during 2012:

- Joshua Eaton School: Topic - Safety Day.
- Barrows School: Topic - Summer Camp Safety Day for children with autism.
- Birch Meadow School: Topic - Safety Talk.
- Coolidge Middle School: Topic - Career Day, Summer Camp Safety, Summer Camp Bullying.
- Little Treasure's School: Topic - Safety Talk on Notifying People Where You Are Going, Halloween Safety, and book reading with the children.
- Elderberry Lane complex: Topic - Senior Safety and Telephone Scams.
- EMARC: Safety Lecture series.

School Resource Officer Santasky participated in the Reading Memorial High School Health Fair.

In September, the Police Department was actively involved in the planning and successful implementation of the fourth annual Fall Street Faire on September 9, 2012. The downtown business district was cordoned off to provide a street festival in the square and down Haven Street. The event was once again a huge success.

Patrol Division

The Reading Police Patrol Division is the core of policing services in the Town of Reading. The Patrol Division falls under the command of Lieutenant David Stamatis during daytime operations and Lieutenant Peter Garchinsky on nights. The Patrol Division is comprised of 2 Sergeants and 10 Patrol Officers during the day; and 4 Sergeants and 12 Patrol Officers on nights. It currently operates a fleet of 5 Ford Crown Victoria vehicles as well as a Ford Explorer and Expedition. In addition to standard patrol, the Reading Police Department's Patrol Division also uses 7 pedal bikes.

The Patrol Division is the most visible section of the police department, providing around the clock service to the citizens and visitors to Reading. They are the uniformed Officers who provide the first line of defense for the public's safety. Each law enforcement patrol officer works to protect life and property, uphold the civil rights of individuals, preserve public peace, provide citizen assistance, enforce criminal and motor vehicle laws, and respond to emergency situations. These are dedicated and committed professionals who place their lives and well-being in jeopardy for the citizens of Reading on a daily basis.

The men and women of the Patrol Division are responsible for: enforcing state and municipal laws and regulations designed to protect life and property; maintain order in an assigned district or beat; patrol the community to preserve the peace and to prevent crime; take criminal reports and interview witnesses and suspects; apprehend fugitives and criminals; collect evidence and give testimony in court; conduct investigations for all misdemeanor and many felony cases; direct traffic, issue traffic tickets, investigate accidents, and make arrests; participate in crime prevention, public information, and safety programs. Patrol officers maintain closer contact with the public than any other section of the police department.

Most likely, the first person you will see when you are in need of the police will be the patrol officer. The men and women of the Reading Police Department's Patrol Division take great pride in serving the citizens of Reading. It is important to realize that in a split second, the most inconsequential and routine activity can develop into a potentially hazardous situation. Without question, the Patrol Division is the backbone of the police department. In 2012, the Patrol Division issued 4,432 moving violations, made 295 arrests and answered 12,944 calls for service throughout the Reading Community.

Detective Division

The Detective Division is the liaison of the Police Department with the Reading Public Schools, Austin Preparatory High School, and the Northeast Regional Metropolitan Vocational School in Wakefield.

Outlined are a number of the Detective Division's activities for 2012:

In March of 2012 the Detective Unit added a Detective who is primarily assigned to investigate narcotics violations.

The School Resource Officer (SRO) represented the Detective Divisions Alcohol Compliance Team at the Reading Memorial High School Health & Wellness Day. An informational table which focused on impaired driving and underage drinking prevention was set up. The SRO used a program called Fatal Reflections which allowed him to create personalized scenarios that detailed a night in the life of a student that chose to drink and drive.

In the spring of 2012, the SRO promoted safe junior prom activities in collaboration with RCASA for local schools and continued planning for other activities. The team planned party patrols and surveillance operations for the summer.

Detectives conducted party patrols and identified intoxicated youth and drug possession situations. The team conducted a Compliance Check of all licenses. Officers found three violations where an underage operative was sold alcohol. Detectives also conducted a Shoulder Tap operation using 2 underage operatives. The program sends minors to liquor retail stores to "tap on the shoulder" and solicit adults to buy alcohol for them. Detectives worked with the Operatives and solicited thirty-two adults at four local establishments. Of the thirty-two solicitations, only one adult agreed to purchase alcohol for the minor. The individual that furnished the alcohol to the minor was summonsed to Woburn District Court for the violation. Individuals that refused the minor were approached by Detectives to explain the operation.

In October, the Detective Unit, with the assistance of NEMLEC Detectives, did surveillance and conducted a raid on an illegal massage parlor. This investigation led to the arrest of two females.

Detectives monitor the "Text a Tip" program. This program allows the public to send anonymous tips to the police department via cell phone or computer. 78 tips were provided to police in 2012.

Detectives worked in conjunction with RCASA to collect and properly destroy prescription drugs through the "RX Round-up" program. Since the program was developed in 2009, over 6,363 bottles of prescription and over the counter drugs have been collected. In 2012, 2,681 bottles were collected.

Detectives fingerprinted residents for business purposes upon request.

Detectives applied for several executed search warrants throughout the year.

Detectives assisted the DEA with "Operation Log Jam". This was the first ever nationwide law enforcement action against the synthetic designer drugs industry responsible for the production and sale of synthetic drugs that are often marketed as bath salts, Spice, incense, or plant food.

Major Crimes that the Detective Division investigated this past year included, but not limited to, Enticement of a Child, Armed Robberies, Sexual Assaults, Breaking & Entering's, and Larcenies.

Members of the Detective Division attended many training programs in the areas of alcohol compliance enforcement, cyber crime investigation, search warrant preparation, domestic violence, drug and narcotics investigatory techniques, and prosecution.

The Detective Unit developed and monitored the Reading Police Departments Twitter page. We have received over 690 followers in the past year.

Detective Criminal Investigations = 149.

Public Safety Dispatch

The Reading Public Safety Dispatchers provide, through communications, a lifeline for the community, Police Officers and Firefighters. Eight full time dispatchers are under the direct supervision of the Head Dispatcher and under the command of the Day Shift Patrol Division Commander Lt. David Stamatis. Dispatchers receive requests for information and services, then triage those requests based on available resources, and disseminate those requests to the emergency personnel in the field. Dispatchers greet the public entering the police station and provide a valuable service to our community.

Each year, Dispatchers attend various training seminars to expand their knowledge and provide a higher level of service.

Dispatchers recorded 33,127 calls for service in 2012 and issued 3,937 Community Access Stickers. The Dispatch Corps are the face of Reading Public Safety. In most cases they are the first interaction the public has with a Public Safety agency.

Crossing Guards

The school crossing guards are part-time civilian personnel. Currently there are eighteen permanently assigned crossing guards and six spares that fill in when a regular crossing guard is unable to cover their post. They are under the direct supervision, coordination, and control of Safety Officer Justin Martel. Each crossing guard plays an essential role in ensuring the safe commute of children to and from school. They also serve as an extra set of eyes and ears for the police department and the community as well. These crossing guards have proven to be devoted to their duties and are a great asset to the Town of Reading.

Animal Control

The Animal Control Officer is Ronald Burns. He works 13 hours per week and is on call for emergency situations. There were more than 426 calls for service received by the Animal Control Officer. There were 10 dog bites over the year resulting in injuries to humans. There were 5 dog to dog bites resulting in veterinary care. There were 11 bites over the year resulting from animal of unknown ownership (9 dogs and 1 cat). There was 1 cat bite to humans reported. Those that tested negative for rabies were quarantined for 10 days. There were over 40 coyote sightings and missing cat calls reported. Over 321 fines and citations were issued to residents for failure to keep their dog on a leash, failure to license their dog, and for biting. The majority of the calls were received from neighbors complaining about other dogs. As a result of a dog attack on a jogger, there were two meetings of the Animal Control Appeals Committee which declared the dog to be vicious and placed it under a permanent restraint order as long as it remained in Reading.

The Animal Control Officer is authorized to isolate and confine domestic animals suspected of being exposed to rabies. Acting according to state regulations and guidelines, the Animal Control Officer must:

- Investigate reports of domestic animals exposed to rabies.
- Determine if the domestic animal has or may have been exposed to a rabid animal, and if the domestic animal has been properly vaccinated.
- Make an evaluation of the exposure of the vaccinated animal and prescribe the appropriate action according to state regulations.
- Obtain permission to euthanize exposed, unvaccinated animals from their owners or from the Massachusetts Department of Food and Agriculture (MDFA).
- Carry out euthanasia permitted by the animal owner or the MDFA.
- Collect the head of the euthanatized animal and deliver or send it to the MDPH State Laboratory Institute if the animal has bitten or otherwise exposed a human or domestic animal.
- Inspect residential kennels that house 4 or more dogs.
- Ensure that vaccinated domestic animals receive a booster vaccination if needed, and that the animal remains under appropriate strict confinement or isolation.
- Contact local officials when exposed domestic animals have exposed humans.

Although the Animal Control Officer is not responsible for handling wildlife calls, he evaluates such calls and assists where possible. He provides contact numbers for the appropriate State or private agency to handle wildlife issues beyond the Town's control.

Parking Enforcement Officer

The Parking Enforcement Officer is Ronald Burns. He works 18 hours per week. The major responsibilities of the Parking Enforcement Officer are:

PATROL OFFICERS

Christine Amendola	Joseph Belmonte	Michael C. Bouvier	Kevin M. Brown Jr.
Anthony F. Caturello	Erik Drauschke	John C. Edson	Matthew C. Edson
Michael P. Fitzgerald	Keith D. Hurley	Christopher E. Jones	Salvi Lavita
Robert MacHugh Jr	Justin P. Martel	Mark Mullen	Ian A. Nelson
Corey Santasky	David Savio	Patrick Silva	Kristen Stasiak
Christopher Voegelin	Sean M. Wilson		

**Reading Police Department
2012 Ancillary Personnel**

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR

Andrew Scribner-MacLean

CLERKS

Administrative Assistant Victoria Cummings Principal Clerk Joanne Power

DISPATCHERS

Head Dispatcher Victoria Avery

Christopher Finnegan	Debra Haynes	Ryan Mahoney	Joseph Pagnotta
John Rawcliffe	Regina Saunders	Susan Tapley	Matthew Vatcher

SCHOOL CROSSING GUARDS

(s=Spare)

Cindy Ascì	Mildred Barton	Bob Bent	Jeanne Crawford s	Bob Dewolfe
Art Dickinson	Peg Faulkner	Jerry Intonti	Lucy Intonti	Tina Lantz
Marsha Leighton	Ann Lipchus	Joe Lopiccolo	Louann MacKinnon	Kris McNiel
Don Pierce s	Dick Prudente	Al Sletterink	George Snow s	Dick Stosez
Lynn Upton s	Mike Upton s	Joe Venos	Rosemary Violante	

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER / PARKING ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

Ronald Burns

Service Statistics calendar year 2012:

▪ Arrests	151
▪ Protective Custody	28
▪ Motor Vehicle Citations	4910
▪ Parking Violations	2072
▪ Detective Criminal Investigations	149
▪ Automobile Crashes Investigated	450

Fees Collected calendar year 2012:

▪ License to Carry Permits	\$ 3,962.50
▪ Firearm Identification Cards	\$ 675.00
▪ Police Reports Copied	\$ 2,399.00
▪ Parking Fines	\$47,160.00
▪ Administrative Fees for details	\$37,949.70
▪ Community Access Stickers	\$80,300.00
▪ Parking Space Rentals	\$57,000.00
▪ Civil Motor Vehicle Infractions	\$43,749.50
▪ Community Room Rental fee	\$ 370.00
▪ Motor Vehicle Lease Surcharge	\$ 2,427.60

Conclusion

To summarize our Mission Statement, we are empowered to enforce the laws of our land, but in order to do this appropriately and adequately we have to work with the community. Providing the community with the highest level of police service is a goal that will require dedication, hard work and a strong commitment to and from our community.

I want to thank the citizens of our community for their support and cooperation. Working with the community your police department will accomplish its mission.

Respectfully submitted,

James W. Cormier

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Chief of Police