

## **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 in Calendar year 2013.

### **Personnel Changes**

The following personnel changes and adjustments were experienced by the Police Department in calendar year 2013:

February 2013

- Sgt. Francis Duclos retired after 22 years of service to the community.

April 2013

- Two new Sergeants were promoted – Sgt. Christopher Picco and Sgt. Kevin Brown Jr. These are the first non-Civil Service police sergeant promotions since the Town voted in 2012 to remove the Department from Civil Service for future hires and promotions.

May 2013

- Two new Specialists were appointed - Safety Officer Christine Amendola and Armorer/Fleet Maintenance Officer Justin Martel.
- One Civilian Dispatcher was hired – Christina Paterno

June 2013

- Police Recruit Michael Scouten was hired and began his academy training in June at the Lowell Police Academy.

August 2013

- New civilian Dispatcher Christina Paterno graduated from the Public Safety Communications Academy.

#### September 2013

- The Department's three new police officers - Michael Muolo, Laura Bullis and Patrick Dawley were assigned to the Night Shift after graduating from the MBTA Police Academy in July and successfully completed their Field Training Officer (FTO) Program.
- Officer Michael Lee was assigned to the Day Shift.

#### December 2013

- Department Business Administrator, Andrew Scribner-MacLean, after 7 years of service to the Department, took a position as Assistant Town Administrator in Maynard, MA.
- New police officer Michael Scouten was assigned to the Department's (FTO) Field Training Officer Program after successfully graduating from the Lowell Police Academy.

#### Police Obituaries in 2013

- Retired Officer Gerald Powers
- Retired Detective Chet Thurston
- Retired Administrative Clerk Joan Puopolo

#### **Awards, Recognitions and Other Noteworthy Events**

#### March 2013

- Detective Michelle Halloran was honored as the Reading Police Department's "2012 Officer of the Year" at the Reading/North Reading Chamber of Commerce dinner. Detective Halloran was honored for her investigation of an attempted rape of a minor resulting from an internet relationship where a teenage girl thought she was corresponding with a teenage boy. Once she discovered that the boy was an adult male in his 30's, she alerted her parents who contacted the police department. Detective Halloran took on the role of the teenage girl for approximately 2 months. A date and time were made to meet in Reading at which time the adult male was arrested.

#### April 2013

- Officers Matt Edson, Michael Lee and Michael Fitzgerald as members of N.E.M.L.E.C.'s Rapid Response Team (RRT) assisted Boston, Cambridge, Watertown, Wilmington and Stoneham in the aftermath of the Boston Marathon Bombing.
- The 2011 Joseph Ronan murder case was brought to trial. John Burke pled guilty to manslaughter and illegal possession of a firearm. He will serve 18-22 years for manslaughter and an additional 4-5 years on the firearm violation in State prison.

#### May 2013

- The Board of Selectmen recognized National Police Memorial Week.

#### September 2013

- The Department received state accreditation from the Massachusetts Police Accreditation Commission. Accreditation is a self-initiated evaluation process by which police departments strive to meet and maintain standards that have been established for the profession, by the profession. These standards reflect critical areas of police management, operations, and technical support activities. They cover areas such as policy development,

emergency response planning, training, communications, property and evidence handling, use of force, vehicular pursuit, prisoner transportation and holding facilities. The program not only sets standards for the law enforcement profession, but also for the delivery of police services to its citizens. The Commission offers two program awards: Certification and Accreditation, with Accreditation being the higher of the two. The Department has been certified since 2003.

December 2013

- AAA Southern New England presented the Department with three awards; 1) its 2013 Gold Award of Excellence in recognition of the Department's outstanding achievements in traffic safety; 2) eight consecutive years without a pedestrian fatality; 3) Safety Officer Justin Martel was honored as an AAA Traffic Safety Hero.

### **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 Officer Corey Santasky are members of the RCASA.
- The Police Department collaborated with RCASA and was 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.
- 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 Governor's 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.
- The Department was awarded a grant to participate in the Governor's Highway Safety Bureau's Pedestrian Crosswalk Safety Initiative. An officer in plain clothes and a uniformed officer worked in tandem stopping motorists who failed to yield to the officer

in the crosswalk in an effort to raise awareness and educate the motoring public on crosswalk safety.

- In October the Department, in conjunction with its labor unions, organized its annual Senior Ham and Bean Supper at the Senior Center.
- In December the Department, in conjunction with its labor unions, organized the 33rd annual Children's Holiday Party at Austin Preparatory School. Again collaborating with the Free Masons (Reading Lodge) to offer the Child Identification Program (CHIP) providing over 50 identification kits.
- The Department's Web Site - <http://www.readingma.gov/police-department> is very successful and offers a variety of information for the public.
- Officer Amendola took over the Safety Officer assignment from Officer Martel. Between the 2 officers, safety talks and presentations were given to the following schools and groups and provided safe routes and traffic control for school races.
  - Wood End School - traffic safety for Ice Cream Day and a Veteran's Day talk
  - Joshua Eaton School - Safety Day
  - Birch Meadow School - Health and Wellness Fair
  - YMCA - Health and Safety Day
  - Parker Middle School - Walk for Sudan
  - Barrows School - Fun Run
  - Joshua Eaton School - Jaguar Jog
- Community Service Officer James Collins gave a safety talk to the Low Vision Group at the Senior Center.
- 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 fifth annual Fall Street Faire. The Faire continues to be 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 8 Patrol Officers during the day; and 6 Sergeants and 15 Patrol Officers on nights. It currently operates a marked fleet of 5 Ford Crown Victoria style and 3 Ford SUV style cruisers as well as unmarked units. In addition to standard patrol vehicles, 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 sector 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 citations, 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 2013, the Patrol Division issued 4,447 moving violations, made 119 arrests and answered 14,410 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 School as well as the Northeast Regional Vocational School in Wakefield.

- In April the Detective Division conducted a K9 sweep of the RMHS building and parking lot for narcotics. In addition, in May, a K9 sweep of the Austin Preparatory School building and their parking lot was conducted. No violations were found.
- In May, the Detective Division in conjunction with local, state, and federal agencies conducted a human trafficking investigation leading to two arrests.
- In the spring of 2013, the School Resource Officer promoted safe junior prom activities in collaboration with RCASA (Reading Coalition Against Substance Abuse) for local schools and continued planning for other activities.
- The Detective Division conducted alcohol compliance checks of all licenses and party patrols to identify intoxicated youth throughout the year. In June, there were 23 checks with two failures for 'sale to a minor.' Detectives conducted one Party Patrol in June and weekly patrols in September with no problems detected.
- In October, the School Resource Officer attended the National Association of Addiction conference in Atlanta, GA.
- In November, the School Resource Officer made a presentation to the PTOs of the middle schools on the dangers of social networking.

- In November, the School Resource Officer attended the Middlesex DA's Partnership for youth distracted driver presentation by Middlesex DA Marian Ryan at Austin Preparatory School.
- The Detective Division developed an iPhone/Android app to help promote the Department's anonymous Text a Tip program. 210 anonymous tips were processed.
- The Detective Division began implementation of the A.L.I.C.E. (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate) program. This program is a safety program that has been implemented within the Reading Public Schools. The A.L.I.C.E. program offers a different philosophy in light of recent school violence. The philosophy of A.L.I.C.E. is to use technology and information in a way so that staff and students can make informed decisions. In a crisis, this program recommends removing as many people as possible from the danger zone, and provides realistic training so that those involved in a crisis have a better chance of surviving.
- The Detective Division along with RCASA and the Reading School Administration operated the Chemical Health Education & Diversion Program. School violations result in a 25% loss of season activity (games only) and required participation in a 2 hour chemical health class. Pre-trial violations result in community service hours, a 2 hour chemical health education class and other Court conditions. High school administrators (school violations) and police (Pre-trial Diversion Program) referred 90 juveniles to the program in 2013. Overall, 95% of these offenses involved underage drinking. Staff conducted monthly Chemical Health Education classes (using Hazelden's Alternate Routes curriculum) for juveniles with violations. Of the court cases, one juvenile re-offended and is scheduled for arraignment. A RCASA Parent Class was added as a court requirement in November. The first class was held in December for two parents.
- 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 November of 2009, over 10,119 bottles of prescription and over the counter drugs have been collected. In 2013, 3,634 bottles were collected.
- Detectives continue to fingerprint residents for business purposes upon request.
- The Detective primarily assigned to narcotic investigations became a member of the "Southern Middlesex Regional Drug Task Force."
- The Detective Division executed three separate search warrants of buildings during 2013. As a result of those search warrants, three arrests and the seizure of numerous drugs, a firearm, a vehicle, and currency were made. Many other search warrants were written and executed for electronic devices such as phones and lap-tops.
- Major crimes that the Detective Division investigated this past year included but were not limited to armed robberies, sexual assaults, breaking and entering's, larcenies and cybercrimes.
- Members of the Detective Division attended many training programs in the areas of cybercrime investigation, search warrant preparation, domestic violence, drug and narcotics investigatory techniques and prosecution.

- The Detective Division developed and monitors the Reading Police Department's Twitter page. It currently has 2,336 followers up from 690 in 2012. The Twitter page has strengthened public participation and interaction between the Department and the Community. It allows the Department to pass along important public safety information in an expedited manner. Such information includes but is not limited to: road closures, special events, press releases, weather related concerns, and safety tips.
- Detectives review all new/renewal applications for Alcohol Licenses or any modifications for existing licenses, Class 2 Licenses (License to buy, sell, exchange or assemble second hand motor vehicles or parts), Livery Licenses, Precious Metal License, and Auctioneer's License which are submitted to the Town.

Detective Criminal Investigations = 135

### **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 request 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 33,152 calls for service in 2013 and issued 3,943 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, seasonal civilian personnel. Currently there are eighteen permanently assigned crossing guards and nine 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 Christine Amendola. 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 and he works 13 hours per week and is on call for emergency situations. There were more than 400 calls for service received by the Animal Control Officer. There were 8 dog bites over the year resulting in injuries to humans. There were 7 dog to dog bites resulting in veterinary care. There were 12 bites over the year resulting from animal of unknown origin (9 dogs and 3 cats). There were 2 cat bites to humans reported. Those

that tested negative for rabies were quarantined for 10 days. There were over 14 coyote sightings reported. Over 300 citations were issued to residents for failure to keep their dog on a leash, failure to license their dog, for biting and disturbing the peace. The majority of the calls were received from neighbors complaining about other dogs. There was one bat call which tested positive for rabies. One opossum was euthanized but did not test positive for rabies.

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, Animal Control Officers 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 MDFA.
- Collect the head of the euthanized animal and deliver or send it to 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:

- Identify and cite motorists who violate Reading's parking regulations and reduce opportunities for violations to be committed through preventive patrols of all parking areas.
- Tally and inventory tickets daily.
- Identify parking problem areas within the town and forward this information to the Safety Officer.
- Perform related duties as required.



**PATROL OFFICERS**

Joseph Belmonte	Michael C. Bouvier	Laura Bullis	Anthony F. Caturello
Patrick Dawley	Erik Drauschke	John C. Edson	Matthew C. Edson
Michael P. Fitzgerald	Keith D. Hurley	Christopher E. Jones	Salvi Lavita
Mark Mullen	Michael Muolo	Ian A. Nelson	David Savio
Michael Scouten	Patrick Silva	Kristen Stasiak	Christopher Voegelin
Sean M. Wilson			

**Reading Police Department  
2013 Ancillary Personnel**

**BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR**

Andrew Scribner-MacLean (Resigned December)

**CLERKS**

Administrative Assistant Victoria Cummings      Principal Clerk Joanne Power

**DISPATCHERS**

Head Dispatcher Victoria Avery

Christopher Finnegan	Debra Haynes	Ryan Mahoney	Joseph Pagnotta
Cristina Paterno	Regina Saunders	Susan Tapley	Matthew Vatcher

**SCHOOL CROSSING GUARDS**

(s=Spare)

Cindy Asci	Mildred Barton	Bob Bent	John Cain (s)	Jeanne Crawford (s)
Bob Dewolfe	Art Dickinson	Peg Faulkner	Mary Fitzgerald (s)	James Hubbard (s)
Gerry Intonti	Lucy Intonti	Tina Lantz	Marsha Leighton	Ann Lipchus
Joe Lopiccolo	Louann MacKinnon	Kris McNeil	Dick Prudente	Al Sletterink
George Snow (s)	Dick Stosez	Lynn Upton (s)	Mike Upton (s)	Joe Veno (s)
Rosemary Violante	Barbara Wilson			

## ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER / PARKING ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

Ronald Burns

### Service Statistics calendar year 2013

▪ Arrests	119
▪ Protective Custody	59
▪ Motor Vehicle Citations	4447
▪ Parking Violations	1290
▪ Detective Criminal Investigations	135
▪ Automobile Crashes Investigated	559

### Fees Collected calendar year 2013

▪ License to Carry Permits	\$ 4,075.00
▪ Firearm Identification Cards	\$ 462.50
▪ Police Reports Copied	\$ 2,378.00
▪ Parking Fines	\$47,880.00
▪ Administrative Fees for details	\$25,851.00
▪ Community Access Stickers	\$80,650.00
▪ Parking Space Rentals	\$42,220.00
▪ Civil Motor Vehicle Infractions	\$43,722.50
▪ Community Room Rental fee	\$ 675.00
▪ Motor Vehicle Lease Surcharge	\$ 2,481.60

### 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*

James W. Cormier

Chief of Police