



# 2015 Annual Report



Colonie Police Department

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## On The Cover:

Chief Jonathan Teale is sworn in by Supervisor Paula Mahan on June 25, 2015 to become the 6<sup>th</sup> Chief of Police in the history of the Colonie Police Department. He steps in following the retirement of Chief Steven Heider.

# Executive Summary

## - *Chief Jonathan Teale*

The Deputy Chiefs and I would like to thank all of the members of our department for their excellent work throughout 2015. This last year was a year of transitions and challenges for us. Of the ten officers who retired in 2015, three were patrolman, two were investigators, three were sergeants and one was the previous Chief of Police. These retirements along with openings in our Communications Division resulted in us holding over seventy interviews for new positions or promotions. During this time we also had some major cases which were solved due to the hard work and determination of our officers. We also saw the implementation of several major projects and new types of training. Despite the convergence of these events and the challenges they presented, we continue to provide the high level of quality service to our community.



In 2015, we formed a public safety communications consortium and anticipate the completion and upgrade of our Public Safety Radio system in 2016. The new system will allow for dramatically increased interoperability with other area police, fire and EMS departments and provide an expanded area of coverage. With a grant from the DEA we were able to install a state of the art moving target system at our police range. This will enable our officers to become more proficient and safer when confronted with use of force incidents. In 2015 we also trained several officers in the response to emotionally disturbed persons. A new team was implemented whereby these specially trained officers will be sent to these types of calls so we can more safely and efficiently resolve these incidents. We also have continued our reality based training where officers practice responses to scenarios and interact with role players using special equipment. This provides the most realistic way for officers to prepare for the variety of incidents they face.

I would like to recognize and congratulate the officers who retired in 2015 starting with past Chief of Police Steven Heider, Detective Sergeant Chris Ruff, Sergeant Jeff Hellkamp, Sergeant John Vitale, Investigator Chris Carey, Investigator Robert Cazasta, Officer Thomas McLaughlin, Officer Gregory Jensen, Officer Richard Barber and Officer Eric Gansle. I would also like to congratulate Deputy Chief Mike Woods, Lieutenants Todd Weiss and Henry Rosenzweig, Detective Sergeant Daniel Belles, Administrative Sergeant Robert Barrett, Patrol Sergeants Jason Bach, Thomas Breslin, Daniel Grebert, Guy Jubert, John Santorio and Investigators Ray Milham and David Mink, on their new assignments and promotions. I would like thank all of our active and retired officers for their years of service and dedication to our community. The support we received from Supervisor Mahan and the entire Town Board enabled us to meet our staffing needs, obtain new equipment and continue our training in 2015. I look forward to working with the Supervisor, our new Town Board, the P.B.A, and our community to keep our community safe.

# Deputy Chiefs of Police



Deputy Chief John M. Van Alstyne  
Field Services Division



Deputy Chief Michael D. Woods  
Administrative Services Division

## Contact The Department

### FIELD SERVICES DIVISION

Deputy Chief John M. Van Alstyne  
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Lieutenant Henry Rosenzweig  
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A-Line Shift

Lieutenant James Gerace  
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C-Line Shift  
Bicycle Unit  
Motor Unit  
Court

Lieutenant Todd Weiss  
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B-Line Shift  
Special Services Team

Lieutenant Robert H. Winn  
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Investigations Unit  
Juvenile Unit  
Victim Services Specialist  
Forensics Unit  
Computer Crime Lab  
Public Information Officer  
Special Services Team

Lieutenant Kenneth M. Pero  
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Traffic Safety Unit  
Court  
Supplemental Police Services

### ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION

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Sergeant Robert Barrett  
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K-9 Unit  
Training  
Community Services Unit  
D.A.R.E.  
School Resource Officer  
Communications  
Accreditation  
Fiscal Management  
Statistical Analysis  
Fleet Management  
Grants Management  
Candidate Processing  
Animal Control  
Evidence Room  
Colonie Youth Court  
Police Explorers

Public Affairs  
Melissa Shaw  
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# Overview and History of the Department

The Colonie Police Department is a New York State accredited, full-service police agency serving the Town of Colonie, New York.

The Colonie Police Department was formed by a Town Board resolution on January 2, 1934. This resolution authorized the Police Department to hire a Chief and two Patrolmen – total budget \$2,500.00.



In 2015, the budget was approximately \$14 million.

There were 109 sworn officers, 51 civilian support personnel and over 60 vehicles in the police fleet. Starting Officer's salary has risen from \$400.00 to approximately \$55,000.00. Although the population and related growth of the Town and the Police Department have both grown substantially, the Police Department maintains contact with citizens by promoting a Community Policing policy throughout the agency.

The Police Department is structured into two main divisions. The Field Operations Division includes Patrol, Investigations and Traffic Safety. The Administrative Services Division provides support functions such as Communications, Records, Training, Personnel and Community Services. Administrative Services is also responsible for Fiscal Management, Grant Management, Statistical Analysis, Accreditation, Emergency Management and Animal Control.

Colonie Police Department  
Public Safety Center  
312 Wolf Road  
Latham, New York 12110

(518) 783-2744  
Fax (518) 786-7326  
[www.colonie.org/police](http://www.colonie.org/police)

## Colonie Police Department Mission Statement:

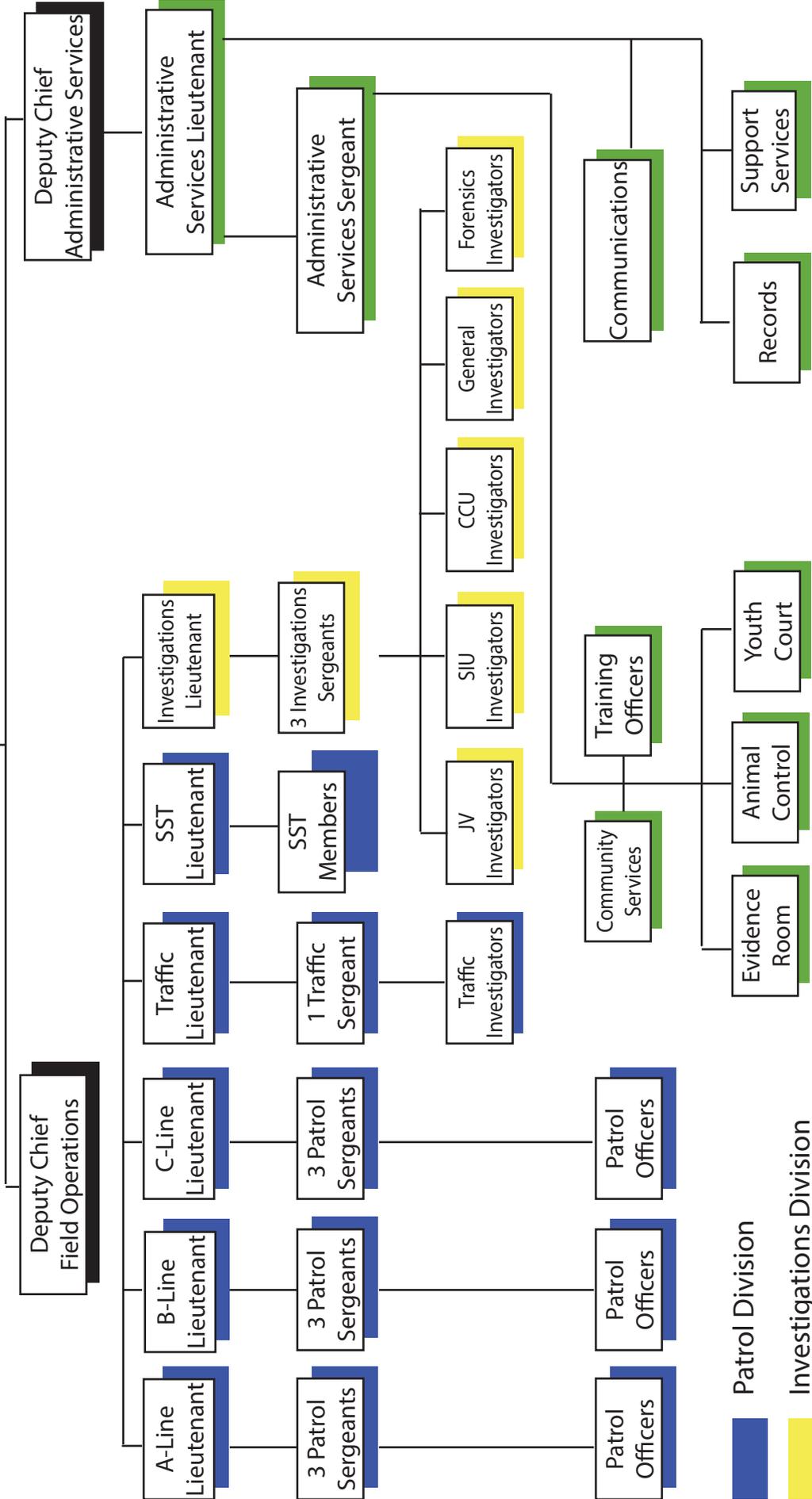
The mission of the Colonie Police Department is to interact with all citizens with dignity, honor and respect; to preserve life; to protect and maintain human and constitutional rights; to protect property; and to promote individual responsibility and community commitment to high quality standards of living.

The Colonie Police Department will perform this mission in partnership with the community it serves. The police department will foster and promote mutual education, respect, and problem solving with the community. All members of the police department have been empowered to be an agent for this partnership and the positive interaction it will bring.

# Colonie Police Department Organizational Chart

Chief of Police  
Jonathan M. Teale

Internal Affairs



Patrol Division

Investigations Division

Administrative Services Division

# PATROL DIVISION

The Colonie Police Patrol Division consists of four lieutenants, ten sergeants and 58 patrol officers. Part of the Patrol Division is the Traffic Safety Unit which consists of one Lieutenant, one Sergeant and four Traffic Investigators. These officers are deployed throughout eight patrol zones, 24 hours per day.



Members of the Patrol Division duties include, but are not limited to:

- Proactive police patrol and crime prevention
- Enforcement of appropriate Federal, State & Local laws.
- Reporting and preliminary investigation of criminal complaints
- Crash investigation
- Response to non-criminal complaints
- Response to calls for service

Additionally, members of the Patrol Division are at the forefront of the community policing initiative. Patrol officers are assigned to the same patrol areas on a daily basis to become familiar with the individuals and businesses they serve.

Officers assigned to the Patrol Division work one of three shifts:

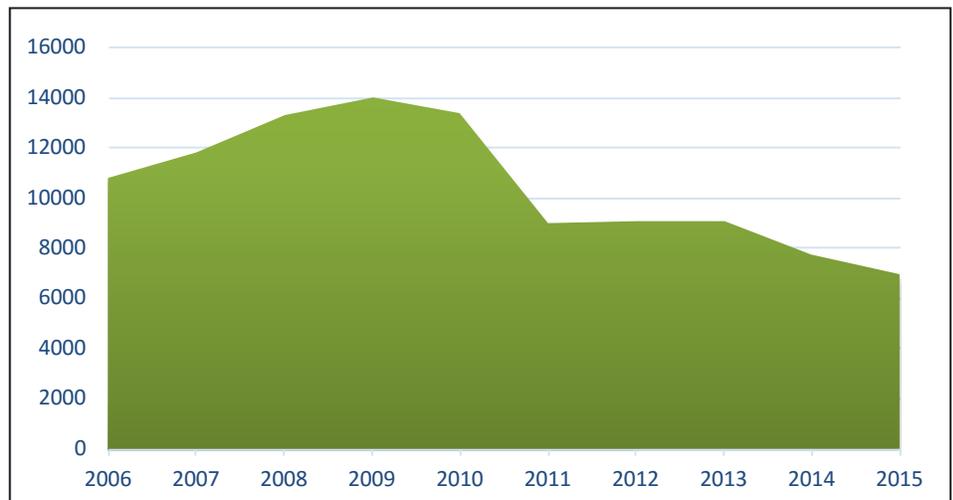
- A-Line - 11:00 p.m. – 7:00 a.m.
- B-Line - 7:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- C-Line - 3:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.

Thirty marked and unmarked vehicles are assigned for use by the Patrol Division.

Patrol officers participate in special enforcement programs such as "Operation Mainstreet," where officers are deployed in plainclothes and unmarked cars to take a proactive approach against drugs and criminal activity on Colonie's streets. These officers also actively participate in many highway safety programs including Buckle Up New York and Stop DWI. Both programs focus on reducing injuries and eliminating fatalities on our roadways through aggressive enforcement activities.

## Colonie Police Department Traffic Citations 2006 - 2015

In 2015, members of the Patrol Division issued 6,993 tickets. This is a 10% decrease from 2014.



# K-9 Unit



The Colonie Police Department currently has one Patrol K-9 team, consisting of a dog and its handler. The canine is assigned to a specific officer, and the animal goes home with the officer/handler, and becomes an integral part of the officer's family. This team is a normal patrol unit and responds to routine calls for service as well as perform their specialized duties as a K-9 team. When not working, they are on call for immediate response. The team is trained in the following: tracking, building search, evidence recovery, handler protection, criminal apprehension, and advanced narcotics detection (which include, marijuana, methamphetamine, cocaine, heroin, ecstasy, and hashish). The team is certified by The NYS Dept. of Criminal Justice Services.

Working the streets today is K-9 Vader. Vader is an 70-lb, four year old German Shepherd who was born in Slovakia. Vader and his partner, Officer Jerry Shaw have been working patrol since 2013 and currently work the midnight shift.

The team participates in at least 24 hours of specialized K-9 training a month to meet the New York State requirement for certification. This team also takes part in local, state and national level training seminars to sharpen their skills. Also as part of their duties, this team participates in numerous public and private demonstrations to show why and how the canine is deployed as well as assists several other local police and government agencies.

## 2015 K-9 Unit Utilizations:

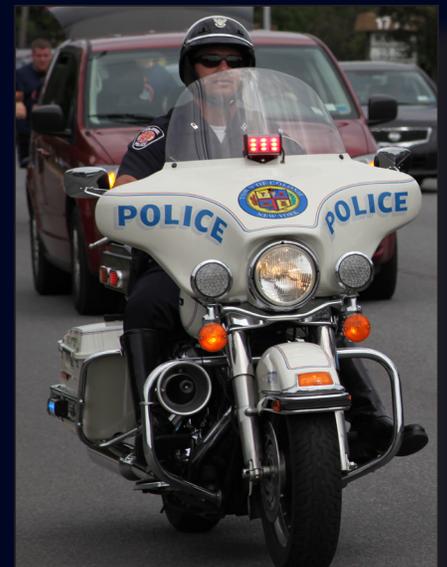
- 14 Tracks *(an decrease of 33%)*
- 6 Area/Building Searches *(an decrease of 25%)*
- 35 Narcotic Searches *(No Change)*

During 2015, Vader was call in from off duty 28 times. During these searches, he recovered 31 pounds of marijuana, 13 ounces of cocaine, 1.8 ounces of ecstasy and 3.8 ounces of heroin. Vader also found a possibly armed wanted parolee who was hiding from officers in the Crossings Park during an area search with SST members.

# Motorcycle Unit

The Motorcycle Unit was formed in 1990 and is in service five to six months of the year. It consists of one sergeant and four officers who work two shifts, 7 a.m. - 3 p.m. and 3 p.m. - 11 p.m. All Motor Officers are certified and trained through Northwestern Traffic Institute at Northwestern University. Officers assigned to the Motorcycle Unit handle all patrol functions as well as special events such as parades, escorts and funeral details due to a level of interest of the unit by the public. They offer the additional benefit of being able to patrol the Town bike path and other locations such as heavy traffic conditions and school properties that traditional patrol vehicles cannot access. Additionally, the Motorcycle Unit serves as the upstate New York escorts for the Patriot Flight, a national effort to provide World War II veterans free transportation to the World War II Memorial in Washington D.C.

Pictured is: Motor Officer Anthony Riccitelli.



# Traffic Safety Unit

The Traffic Safety Unit, as a component of the Patrol Division, is comprised of four uniformed investigators, one sergeant and one lieutenant who are specially trained in several areas of traffic services including, but not limited to traffic enforcement, crash investigation and reconstruction, motor carrier safety regulations and hazardous materials incident management. This unit has the responsibility of investigating all collisions involving a fatality, life threatening physical injury or crashes involving Town owned vehicles. In addition, they collect and analyze crash

and enforcement data, then develop and implement countermeasure programs that address identified highway safety problems. These investigators respond to the community's concerns involving traffic issues that include complaints of traffic volume, signage and vehicle traffic violations. This unit supports and assists the efforts of the Town's Highway Safety Committee.



Members of this unit are responsible for the maintenance and calibration of all of the department's speed measuring devices and breath testing instruments. The Traffic Safety Unit utilizes the Electronic Total Work Station. This computerized mapping instrument is an invaluable tool in precisely documenting a crime or crash scene. In 2015, the Traffic Safety Unit investigated 11 fatal crashes (*a 57% increase*) and handled 280 case files (*a 3% decrease*).

In 2015, the Colonie Police Department Traffic Safety Unit received: A \$20,516 grant from STOP DWI for the funding of eight county wide DWI sweeps. The grant also provided training and equipment for the Traffic Safety Unit. • A \$33,920 grant from the Governor's Traffic Safety Council for "Selected Traffic" Enforcement. • A \$1,000 grant from the Governor's Traffic Safety Council for Child Safety Seats.

# Bicycle Unit

In 2005, the Colonie Police Department debuted a Bicycle Patrol with the intention of giving the police department more latitude in patrolling the various parts of the Town and to provide more options in keeping with our Community Policing Initiatives. The objective of bicycle patrols is to reduce crime by enforcing laws through proactive policing and to better communicate with our residents by being more approachable than in a patrol car. Currently there are sixteen officers as well as a sergeant assigned to the Bicycle Unit.

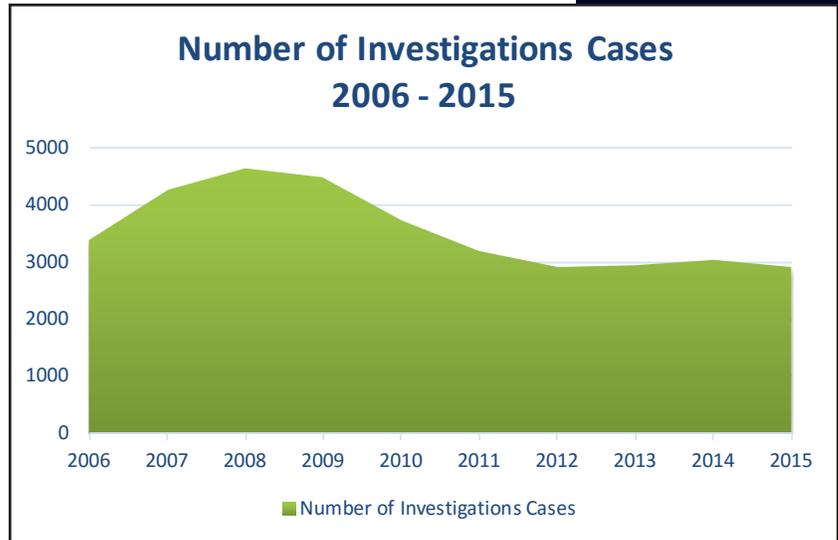
Bicycles are available for deployment on every shift for every day patrol from October to April. Additionally they are utilized at several community services events during this time including bicycle safety events for children. The bicycles were a common sight at Town and Village sponsored events at The Crossings Park, Cook Park and the Pruyn House.



# INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION

The Investigations Division is responsible for investigating crimes committed within the Town of Colonie. To meet the needs and demands of investigating various crime types, the Colonie Police Department Investigations Division has several units and sub-specialties.

The Investigations Division is comprised of 15 investigators, three sergeants and one lieutenant.



## Investigations Unit

The Investigations Unit is responsible for cases involving crimes against persons and property. This includes, but is not limited to, assault, robbery, burglary, and other penal law statutes. The Investigations Division handled 2,911 cases in 2015. This is a 4% decrease from 2014.

The Colonie Police Department investigated a homicide by stabbing that occurred in August of 2015. There was little information or evidence to indicate a particular suspect(s) and an intensive three months of work was done by all members of the Investigations Division and Police Department. In November of 2015, two local men were arrested and charged with the homicide and are currently in Albany County Correctional Facility awaiting trial. This case caused alarm among many residents and attracted heavy media attention. The hard work and dedication of all of the officers involved helped solve this tragic crime and assisted the victim's family.

## Special Investigations Unit

The Special Investigations Unit (SIU) investigates all illegal drug and vice-related crimes in the Town. They also assist and support the Investigation Unit in investigating crimes against persons and property. The Special Investigation Unit continues to work closely with local, state and federal agencies as well as local task forces. Money seized was used to buy new equipment such as ruggedized computer tablets, etc. for use by officers.

**2015 Figures:** Seizure of Assets and/or Property - **\$46,299**  
[ \$19,299 - Cash and \$27,000 Vehicle ]  
A decrease of 45% from 2014.

# Computer Crime Unit

The Computer Crime Unit continues to adhere to its mandate to investigate online criminal activity, conduct undercover online investigations and provide forensic analysis of digital materials. The unit's role of proactively working in an undercover capacity has expanded with member affiliation in the FBI Child Exploitation Task Force and New York State Police Internet Crimes Against Children. Our Investigator works side by side with the FBI, NYSP and the other member agencies to proactively investigate any case involving the use of computers or other technology to victimize children. These cases range from cyber bullying to child pornography to luring a child. These affiliations have broadened our investigative ability and fostered successful prosecutions in our jurisdiction and nationwide.

There continues to be an increase in the need for forensic analysis of computer materials. The Colonie Police Department has the ability to provide forensic analysis and works with local, state and federal municipalities to do so. The unit has investigated cases ranging from simple harassment to forgery, embezzlement, identity theft, missing persons, child abuse and exploitation. In each case, the capabilities of the unit to examine computer media and recover evidence have proven extremely valuable to both investigators and prosecutors.

Members of the Computer Crime Unit continue to conduct community programs for parents, teachers and students on internet safety. The unit also provides training on computer investigations to recruits at the regional Police Academy.



## Public Information Officer

Throughout the year, the department issues scores of press releases that not only announce the commission of crimes or the arrest of offenders but also for the purpose of disseminating vital information to the public. In addition to the Chief's Office, responsibility for this falls to the Investigations Commander as well as to the appropriate division heads as necessitated.

In the year 2015, the Colonie Police Department issued 81 official releases.

Beginning in the year 2011, the Colonie Police Department began working with CBS6 News anchor Liz Bishop on her weekly segment, Perp Patrol that features wanted persons of the Capital District. Since its inception, the Colonie Police Department has captured over 84% of its suspects featured in the segment as well as identify individuals from surveillance photos. The result is a significant reduction on the warrant arrests in the Town of Colonie in turn making our community safer. 304 wanted persons have been broadcast on Perp Patrol for the Colonie Police Dept. resulting in 256 arrests.



# Forensic Unit:

The Forensic Unit is made up of two investigators specially trained in evidence handling and photography. These investigators receive and process evidence gathered by officers of this department during the course of an investigation. Investigators examine physical evidence including fingerprints which may be submitted to the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services, the New York State Police or the Federal Bureau of Investigations laboratories for analysis and possible identification.



The Colonie Police Forensic Unit was one of the first specialty forensic units in the Capital District. The science of crime scene processing and evidence recovery plays a crucial role in the prosecution of criminal cases. Investigators in this unit receive detailed and ongoing training in the latest forensic trends.

Forensics Investigator  
Sam Criscione

## 2015 Figures

Items of Evidence Received  
12,774  
An increase of 10%

Total # of Items Processed  
657  
An increase of 31%

In 2015, 176 fingerprint submissions were made to the New York State lab. Of these 47 submissions were identified.

In 2015, 279 DNA submissions were made to the New York State lab. Of these 37 submissions were identified.

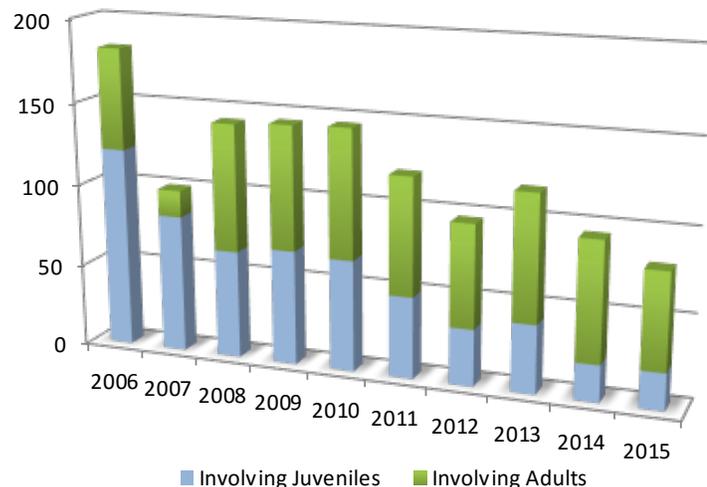
# Juvenile Unit

The Juvenile (JV) Unit is comprised of five Juvenile Investigators that investigate incidents involving crimes committed by or against youths (under 16 years of age). Incidents may range from minor offenses to all other crime classifications.

A valuable support member included in the Investigation Division Juvenile Unit is a non-sworn member, Victim Services Specialist Patrice Lockart. Ms. Lockart assists investigators in cases involving victims of crimes and works with vulnerable populations including youth, elderly, mentally ill persons, victims of sexual assault and domestic violence as well as their families. Referrals to Ms. Lockart are initiated by police, families, victims and community members. Assessments and referrals to appropriate community support agencies are made from this office.

In 2015, Ms. Lockart worked on 80 referrals of which 22 were for children under the age of 16 and the remaining 58 involved the adult population.

## Victim Services Referrals 2006 - 2015



# ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION

The Administrative Services Division is comprised of both sworn and civilian personnel. Personnel assigned to this division are responsible for all department support services including:

- Communications
- Community Services
- Records
- Fiscal Management
- Statistical Analysis
- Training
- Fleet Management
- Grant Management
- Accreditation
- Animal Control
- Colonie Youth Court
- Web Site

## Communications:

Communications is responsible for all public safety communications in the Town of Colonie. It is a 24-hour operation and is staffed by a Public Safety Communications Supervisor, five Senior Dispatchers, and 22 full-time Public Safety Dispatchers. Communications receives requests and information that must be processed and prioritized, then dispatch Police, Fire and Emergency Medical units via a computer aided dispatch system. Utilizing a Motorola Astro 25 Digital Radio System, the Town of Colonie has one of the most advanced two-way public safety and public service radio systems in the area.

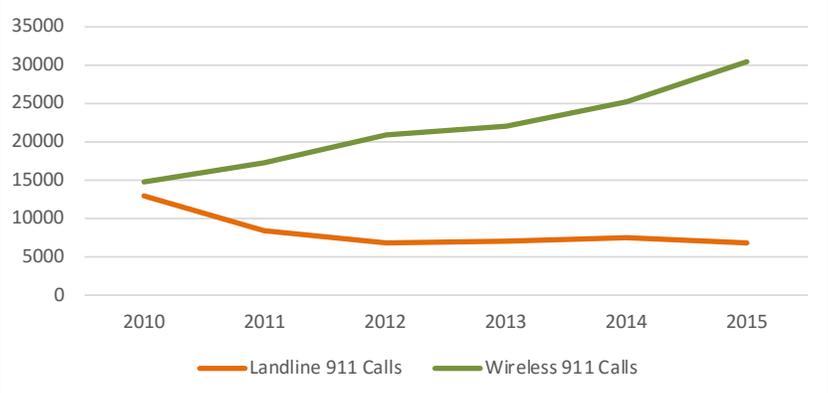


In 2014, the Town of Colonie, the City of Albany and the Albany County Sheriff's Department embarked on a shared radio system which will allow the three agencies to communicate with one another at times when needed. At the same time each agency will be upgraded to the latest digital radio system that Motorola has to offer its customers. The Town of Colonie and City of Albany systems will be completed in 2016 and the Albany County System will be completed in early 2017. The yearly maintenance agreements will decrease substantially for all agencies once the warranty period ends.

All Public Safety Dispatchers undergo extensive, hands on training which includes cardio pulmonary resuscitation (which is updated every two years), National Incident Management System (NIMS) certification and Emergency Medical Dispatch training, which allows dispatchers to give medical instructions to callers reporting EMS emergencies.

The Communications Division is one of six E-911 answering points in Albany County answering both land line and wireless 911 calls for service as well as several other administrative lines. In 2015, the Communications Division answered 6,767 land-line 911 calls (a decrease of 9%) and 30,496 wireless 911 calls (an increase of 21%). The number of administrative (non-emergency) calls that were answered was 64,935. (These figures do not include the calls to the front desk.)

Land Line Vs. Wireless 911 Calls  
2010 - 2015



## 2015 Figures

Police Calls

**70,246**

An increase of 2%.

Fire/EMS Calls

**14,436**

An increase of 14%.

# Community Services:

The Colonie Police Department Community Services Unit is comprised of four patrol officers. These officers work closely with citizens and businesses of the Town providing information about personal safety, security of property and methods to reduce criminal activities. In addition, one of our officers is a NYS Certified Crime Prevention Specialist.

Members of this unit assist neighborhood groups by facilitating neighborhood watch programs, conducting crime prevention security surveys, attending neighborhood gatherings or meetings and addressing any specific neighborhood crime prevention needs. These officers serve on many committees and boards of local civic and school programs such as:

- School Crisis Intervention Teams
- Senior Citizen Committees
- Safe Schools Committees
- NYS Special Olympics
- Special Education Committees
- New York State Safe Kids



The four Community Services Officers offer the citizens, schools, colleges, civic organizations and businesses of the Town of Colonie approximately sixty different programs and services. One officer is assigned to work closely with the Town of Colonie Senior Resources Department and the growing senior citizen population.

In a proactive approach to the growing threat of violence in the schools, the Community Services Unit continued its program in 2015 working with the local schools by assessing their security needs. In addition, Officer Pat Germaine serves as the School Resource Officer at Colonie Central High School providing a consistent police presence within the facility.

As part of the department's SAFE Schools Initiative members of the Community Services Unit provide "tabletop" training for school Crisis Response Team members. This training involves the use of scenarios in which school personnel are placed under stressful conditions in an attempt to deal with a mock crisis. Members of the police department, Emergency Medical Services and Fire Services are also present during this training and work with the school personnel while attempting to deal with the problem. In addition to the tabletop training, members of the Community Services Unit also provide classroom instruction on School Violence / Crisis Response to teachers.



## Child Car Safety Seat Inspections

Three certified Colonie Police Officers provide the service of checking child car safety seats to ensure that their installations are safe and proper. In 2015, 163 safety seats were examined (An increase of 22% from 2014).

# Project D.A.R.E.



In September of 1992 the Colonie Police Department in cooperation with the Town's two school districts and representatives of various private and parochial schools inaugurated the D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) Program. D.A.R.E. provides the children of our community with the skills needed to deal with the dangers of drug abuse, alcohol abuse and violence. It also provides them with the guidance they need to make the right decisions for their health and future. D.A.R.E. is targeted for school children in the fifth and sixth grades.

This unit, now in its twenty-third full year of operation includes three fully trained D.A.R.E. officers. Additionally, one D.A.R.E. officer has been trained in the D.A.R.E. parent component program.

In 2015, these officers presented D.A.R.E. programs to approximately 2,500 students in the fifth, sixth and eighth grades in 18 schools and in 82 individual classrooms. Presentations and visitations to the kindergarten through fourth grade classrooms in 11 schools continue, which enable the officers to interact with an additional 4,500 children. This interaction provides students with safety skills for use at both home and school. A high school program for the ninth through twelfth grades was developed to reduce the use and abuse of alcohol and drugs among our community's high school students. Students discuss the risks and consequences of underage drinking, experience hands-on demonstrations using fatal vision goggles and the risks and consequences of drinking, driving and riding with intoxicated drivers. In 2015, this program was presented to approximately 1,500 high school students in 55 classrooms.

In addition to the K-12 buildings, our officers also visit with many of our pre-kindergarten child care centers throughout the Town of Colonie talking with them about safety and letting them know that officers are their friends.

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## Annual D.A.R.E. Golf Tournament

The Annual D.A.R.E. Golf Tournament not only provides an enjoyable day of friendship but also serves as a great fundraiser for the D.A.R.E. Program as businesses in the community assume the role as sponsors. In 2015, the event was held at the Schuyler Meadows Club where 188 golfers competed.

## Grant Management

Grant Management, requires the preparing, budgeting, accounting and fiscal reporting related to grant awards. These awards are received from Local, State and Federal sources. Programs funded by grant monies include Stop DWI, Target, Campaign Safe and Sober and Buckle Up New York. Grant managers are also responsible for acquiring new technology for use by all department members.



## Training Unit:

The Training Unit staff includes two police officers and one sergeant on a full-time basis. This unit develops, implements and evaluates mandated in-service training as well as providing selective topical training. Six times a year this unit conducts practical exercise and classroom instruction that all of our officers attend.



Officers also attend numerous local training sessions held throughout the region on various topics.

Training this year included instruction on the use of force, legal updates, EMS protocol and a full day of defensive tactics training. Additional in-service training consisted of reality based scenarios to induce real life stress on the officer to simulate what happens on a real call as well as two days of firearms training. The department also continued its "Roll Call Training" in which officers receive ten minute training sessions during their daily briefing. In addition to their traditional instructional roles, these officers also have responsibilities in the following areas:

- Field Training Officer Program
- Police Officer Candidate Processing
- Internship Educational Program
- Department Armorer
- Quartermaster Duties
- Public Safety Dispatcher Candidate Processing

The unit is also responsible for the acquisition, deployment and maintenance of the department fleet and associated equipment. When no longer usable for police service, department vehicles are transferred to other Town agencies or sold at auction.

## Fiscal Management:

The 2015 Police Department budget was \$14,254,328 of which approximately 87% was appropriated for personnel costs, including salaries and benefits. The remaining 13% accounted for the day to day operating budget. Fiscal Management personnel act as the liaison with the Town Comptrollers office and the Office of General Services. Functions of this office include: procurement of merchandise and services, billing and accounting, payroll preparation and personnel schedules.



## Police Department Web Page

The Colonie Police Department has a webpage which offers information on department services such as child safety seat inspections and the Civilian Police Academy as well as the ability to search for sex offenders in your area using Offender Watch or sign up for notifications from the police department with Nixle.

Online forms are also available and include a House/Property Check Form that notifies the department when you will be on vacation and your house will be vacant, an Alarm / Emergency contact card that informs the department who to contact in the event of an alarm drop or emergency at your home, and a Home Security Survey.

## Statistical Analysis

Monthly, quarterly and yearly reports compiling various statistics and data charts are produced for use by Field and Administrative personnel. Mandated Federal and New York State reports, including Uniform Crime Reports are produced by this office.



## Records

The Records Division is responsible for data entry, as well as the processing and maintaining of information pertaining to official reports and arrest records. All Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) requests are received and processed by Records personnel. This unit reviews all Police Officer documented reports for content, clarity and completeness.



## 2015 Figures

### Investigations Cases

3,073

A decrease of 9%

### Field Interviews

1,625

A decrease of 23%

### Accident Investigations

4,301

An increase of 6%

### Citations

6,993

A decrease of 10%

## Animal Control:

Colonie's Animal Control officers focus on the enforcement of state and local laws in relation to dogs and other animals. The intention is to promote health, safety, and general welfare of the people of the Town of Colonie. Specifically, Animal Control enforces provisions of the New York State Agriculture and Markets Law and Town local laws.



The philosophy of the unit is to remove animals in a safe and humane manner. They interact with the public by providing information on local and state laws before actual enforcement becomes necessary.

Duties of Colonie Animal Control Officers include: the seizure of lost dogs, impoundment, investigations of barking dog complaints, removing sick or injured animals, investigation of animal bites, removing deceased dogs and cats from highways, occasional trapping of wildlife found in homes, transporting possible rabid animals for testing, and investigating cruelty complaints.

Responsibilities consist of the service of legal processes related to criminal or civil proceedings including: appearance tickets, impounding dogs found at large, transporting dogs to the Mohawk and Hudson River Humane Society, notifying the owner of its whereabouts and transporting stray dogs and cats to veterinarians for immediate medical treatment if necessary.

In 2015, Animal Control Officers answered 1,942 animal control complaints. This was a 13% decrease from 2014.

## Accreditation:

The Colonie Police Department participates in an accreditation process which involves a critique and review by outside independent assessors of all department policies and procedures to ensure that they are in compliance with the standards set by New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services. While a self-assessment of the agency is an ongoing responsibility of department members, preparation for the critique that takes place every five years is an arduous one and involves nearly full time work for over one year by department staff. During the year 2014, the department participated in its fifth accreditation process and as a result of this review, the Colonie Police Department successfully met or exceeded the criteria required for re-accreditation through October, 2019.

The accreditation program has long been recognized as a means of maintaining the highest standards of professionalism thus establishing confidence in the department by Town residents and department employees alike. Originally accredited in 1994, the Colonie Police Department is one of a small number of police departments in the state of New York that have been accredited for the past sixteen years.

# Colonie Youth Court



Colonie Youth Court is an early intervention diversion program for young people who have been arrested for the first time for a minor crime. Each defendant in youth court must meet general criteria which includes: under age 19, have committed a misdemeanor or violation, admission of guilt, and be a first time offender. In youth court, a youth must explain their actions to a jury of his/her peers, and accept a sentence of community service hours deemed appropriate by a young jury. Our jurors are town residents in grades 7-12 who wish to serve on an actual case. Youth Court volunteer members are high school students in grades 9-12 who undergo an extensive 8 week law related course of instruction. Youth Court member roles include: Judge, Prosecutor, Defender, Jury Foreperson, Clerk and Victim Advocate.

During the 2015 Fall Membership Training Program, Youth Court welcomed 50 new trainees into its volunteer member population. Over 250 volunteer jurors currently serve annually.

At the conclusion of 2015, the Colonie Youth Court received 50 referrals. 100% of offenders successfully completed the required sanctions imposed upon them. The program continues to maintain an overall 98.5% offender successful completion rate since hearing its first case in 1995.

The gender, race, crime committed and community service hours performed is as follows: 60% males and 40% females, 56% - Caucasians, 24% - African Americans, Other - 9%, Hispanic – 5%, Asian – 2%. The cases were composed of 55% theft related crimes and 17% marijuana related, and 9% multiple offenses. The remaining 19% were composed of mischief, assault, harassment and tampering cases.

The total number of community service hours performed in 2015 was 1,180 hours in the Town of Colonie.

For more information on the Colonie Youth Court program, please contact Director, Violet Palombo at 782-2638.

## Civilian Police Academy

Civilian Police Academy students are exposed to all areas of police operations from administration, patrol, investigation, traffic, forensics, the court system and more. The classes are 2<sup>1/2</sup> hours long for nine weeks. Class sessions are taught by carefully selected officers who specialize in the topic being covered. Students are also given the opportunity to attend optional sessions including a ride-along. A graduation ceremony is held at the completion of the program. The ultimate goal of a CPA is to reduce crime through a strong bond between the citizens and their police department. This is in keeping with the philosophy of community policing.

### Objectives of the Academy:

- Foster cooperation between police and CPA students.
- Showcase the education, capabilities, and talents of the members of the Colonie Police Department.
- Dispel misconceptions of how the police department operates by explaining why police act as they do.
- Create "neighborhood ambassadors" who will take information from the CPA and spread positive information to their neighbors.

# EXPLORER POST 185

The Colonie Police Explorer Post 185 is comprised of individuals from 14 to 21 years of age who have an active interest in Law Enforcement as a potential career. Currently we have 27 Explorers in our post under the supervision of Lt. Robert Donnelly and the Post Advisors who include Sgt. Tom Breslin, Inv. Jason Depaulo, Inv. Nicholas Layne, and Officers Derek Breslin and John Rockwell.

The Explorers program is designed to give youth in the community an opportunity to learn first-hand the knowledge and skills required in the field of law enforcement.



During their bi-monthly meetings, Explorers are exposed to Law Enforcement related topics such as Officer Safety, Interview Techniques, Domestic Violence, Vehicle and Traffic Law, Emergency Vehicles Operations, Crime Scene Investigation and Building Search. Explorers also have an opportunity to put their knowledge to the test by competing against other Police Explorer Posts in scenario based competitions at Stations Day and by attending a week-long, multi-phase Explorer Academy in Connecticut.

In addition to the training they receive, Explorers provide the Town of Colonie with valuable Community Service. During 2015 alone, Explorers donated over 1,900 hours of their time while providing services at functions such as the CP Telethon, Concerts in the Barn at the Pruyn House and various events at The Crossings of Colonie.

Members must be at least 14 years of age and completed the 8<sup>th</sup> grade, must maintain an 80 average in school and be in good standing in your community.

For more information regarding the Explorer Post, contact Officer Derek Breslin at 783-2744.



# SPECIAL SERVICES TEAM

The Colonie Police Department has a team of 19 highly trained police officers known as the Special Services Team (S.S.T.). In addition to the training provided to all officers in the department, these officers receive specialized training in many areas including high risk traffic stops, barricaded subjects, hostage situations, vehicle assaults and the execution of high risk search warrants. The team members train a minimum of twice monthly in order to maintain the high level of proficiency that is expected of them. Each member of the team has a specified role within the Police Department's day to day operations. When needed, the team can be quickly assembled and mobilized for a high risk assignment. Additionally, four Colonie EMS Paramedics train with the team and are prepared to be utilized in the event of a team deployment.



The team members also have access to a specially outfitted marked patrol SUV that is operated by team members and deployed for regular patrol duties. This SUV has tactical equipment to aid in the resolution of high risk situations and when utilized by the on-duty team members, was used 27 times last year aside from actual call outs. High risk vehicle stops, building searches and suicidal subjects were the primary reason.

## Promotions, Reassignments, Appointments & Retirements

### Promotions:

Jonathan Teale  
*Deputy Chief to Chief of Police*

Michael Woods  
*Administrative Services*  
*Lieutenant to*  
*Deputy Chief of Police*

*Chief Jonathan Teale and*  
*Deputy Chief Michael Woods*  
*with Supervisor Paula Mahan*



Continued on page 21.

# Promotions, Reassignments, Appointments & Retirements

## **Promotions (*Continued*):**

Todd Weiss  
*Detective Sergeant to Patrol Lieutenant*

Henry Rosenzweig  
*Training Sergeant to Patrol Lieutenant*

Jason Bach  
*Patrol Officer to Patrol Sergeant*

Guy Jubert  
*Investigator to Patrol Sergeant*

Thomas Breslin  
*Patrol Officer to Investigator*

John Santorio  
*Investigator to Patrol Sergeant*

James Herbst  
*Investigator to Patrol Sergeant*

Daniel Grebert  
*Investigator to Patrol Sergeant*

David Mink  
*Community Services Officer to Investigator*

Raymond Milham  
*Patrol Officer to Investigator*

## **Reassignments:**

Robert Donnelly  
*Patrol Lieutenant to  
Administrative Services Lieutenant*

John O'Donnell  
*Patrol Sergeant to Traffic Safety Sergeant*

Derek Breslin  
*Patrol Officer to Training Officer*

Robert Barrett  
*Patrol Sergeant to Training Sergeant*

Peter Gullinese  
*Patrol Sergeant to Detective Sergeant*

Allan Secor  
*Juvenile Investigator to Patrol Officer*

## **Appointments:**

Patrol Officer Ryan Berkery  
Patrol Officer Austin Blais  
Patrol Officer Taylor Carey  
Patrol Officer Ryan DeJordy  
Patrol Officer Mark Garhartt  
Patrol Officer Alvin Guerrero  
Patrol Officer William Guthrie  
Patrol Officer Alexandra Hart  
Patrol Officer Kyle Keane  
Patrol Officer Ian Kelly  
Patrol Officer Javier Martinez  
Patrol Officer Patrick Murphy  
Patrol Officer Brianna Pierce  
Patrol Officer Ardit Potka  
Patrol Officer Jordan Rando

## **Retirements:**

Chief Steven Heider  
Sergeant Jeffrey Hellkamp  
Sergeant John Vitale  
Sergeant Christopher Ruff  
Investigator Christopher Carey  
Investigator Robert Cazasta  
Officer Gregory Jensen  
Officer Thomas McLaughlin  
Officer Richard Barber  
Officer Eric Gansle

# 2015 AWARDS CEREMONY

On the evening of May 7, 2015, the Colonie Police Department hosted our Annual Awards Ceremony where department members joined with officers' families and friends at the Town of Colonie Public Safety Center in this recognition event.



## Command Recognition Awards

The Command Recognition Award may be awarded to a member, who in the line of police duty performs a task in an exemplary manner thereby displaying alertness, efficiency and dedication to duty.

Investigator Daniel Grebert  
Investigator John Santorio  
Officer Jason Bach  
Officer Edward Johnson  
Officer Brian Curran  
Officer Edward Cronin  
Officer James Herbst  
Officer Derek Breslin

Officer Michael Sbardella  
Officer Nicholas Morgan  
Officer Matthew Garrigan  
Dispatcher Greg Hirsch

## Civilian Award

A Certificate of Community Service may be awarded to a civilian who has rendered assistance to the Police Department in an emergency, or who by action or deed, has contributed to a better police-community relationship. In 2015, a Civilian Award was presented to Michael Bianco.

## Esposito/Russo Memorial Award

The Esposito/Russo Memorial Award is given to the officer for aggressive anti-DWI efforts throughout the year. The 2015 award recipient was Officer Thomas Breslin for his outstanding efforts in the field of impaired driving enforcement.

## Live Saving Award

The Life Saving Award is presented to a member, who in the performance of his or her duty, renders medical first aid of a distinguished or unusually creditable nature to a person whose life is in immediate jeopardy, and does so in a manner that most certainly sustains the person and enables such person to be delivered alive to a medical facility. In 2015, the Life Saving Award was presented to: Sgt. Lou DiNuzzo, Officer Patrick Fennelly, Officer Thomas McLaghlin, Sgt. Chris Ruff, Inv. Dan Grebert, Inv. Chris Smith and Officer Mark Mauro.

## Special Service Award

The Special Service Award may be awarded to a member of the force who submits a device or method adopted by the department which significantly increases efficiency in administration or tactical procedures. In 2015, the Special Service Award was presented to Sgt. Michael Franze and Sgt. Henry Rosenzweig.

# Distinguished Service Awards

The Distinguished Service Award is given to a member of the department who in the course of their duties and while interacting with their peers, supervisors and the public, displays exceptional dedication to their profession and to the department.

This award is given to the explorer, communicator and police officer of the year.



*Investigator  
Christopher R. Smith*



*Officer Raymond Milham*

*Public Safety Dispatcher  
Frank Lawyer*

*Not Pictured:*

*Explorer Lieutenant  
William Doynow*



# Installation of A Moving Target System At Firearms Range

After many months of planning, a moving target system was installed at the Colonie Police Department Firearms Range, a major upgrade from what stood there before. Up until this point, the range setup consisted of static targets being hung on a wire. This new system includes a set of 15 lane fixed turning targets, a dual running man lateral non-turning system, range control tower, ballistic knee wall, public announcement system and a master control screen. The running man system alongside the turning targets is a challenging training system that will improve the shooter's skills and present officers with shoot / don't shoot situations. Training officers in the control tower with the use of the control screen can manipulate which targets turn as well the speed in which the "running man" moves.



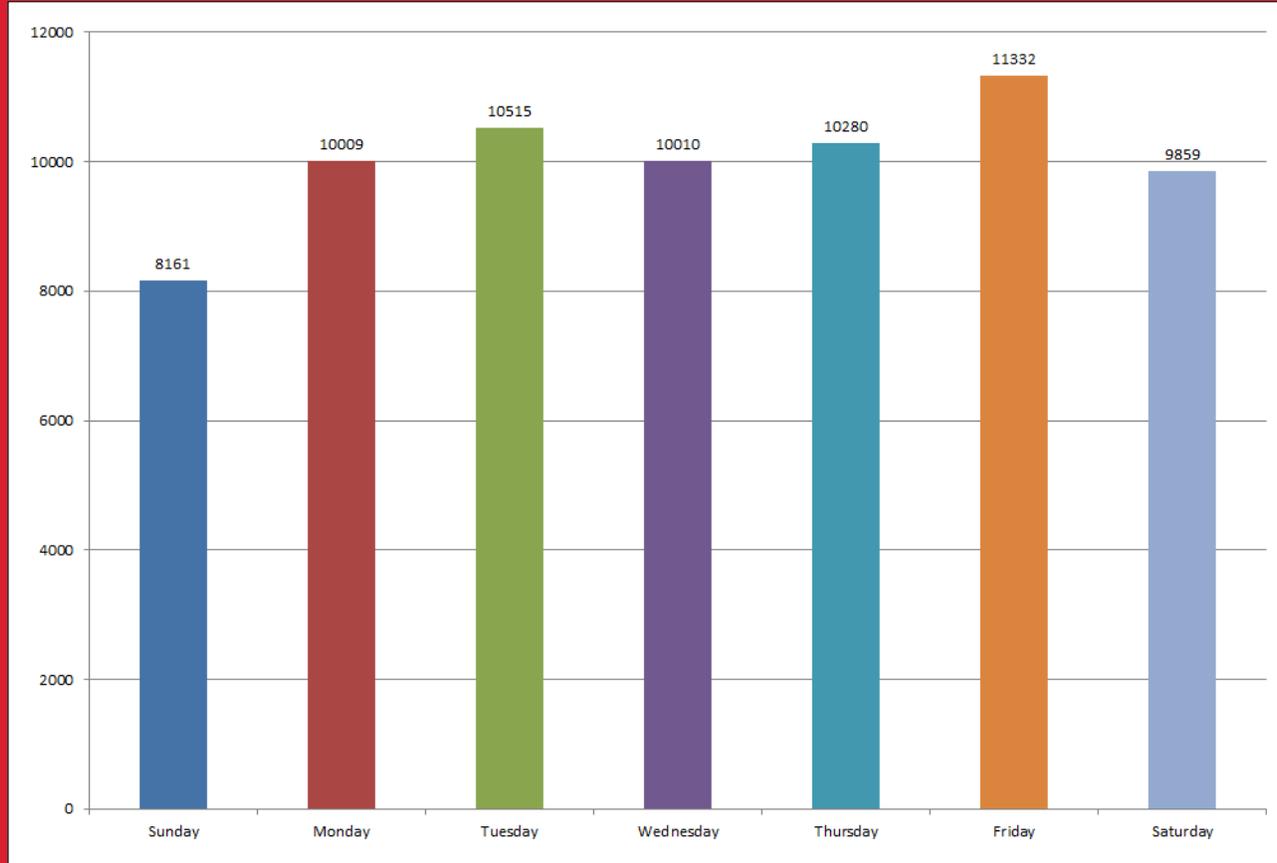
A grant of approximately \$298,000 was given to the Town of Colonie by the Drug Enforcement Agency which enabled the Town to make the purchase. Site work was completed by Bast Hatfield as well as the Latham Water Department who installed a drainage system. Once the system was completed, D&D Power Systems of Latham donated its time and supplies to install several telephone polls thus providing ten additional target lanes.

One beneficial feature of the new system is the ability to keep the lines that control the system heated. These specialized heating elements will keep the air lines and turning mechanisms operating in freezing conditions. This will allow the Colonie Police as well as an additional nineteen agencies that all utilize the range the opportunity to train year round.

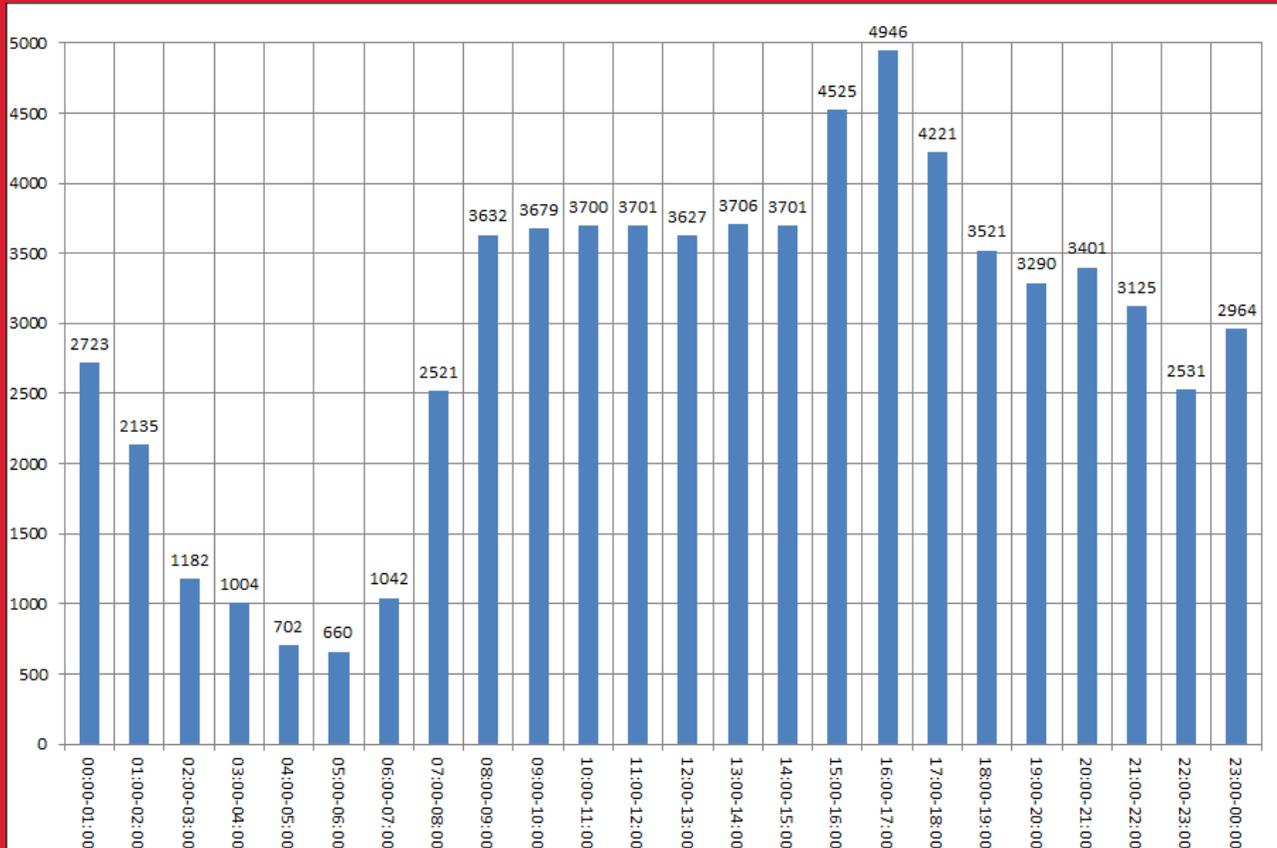
The days of simply shooting at a static target are no longer adequate for the real world conditions law enforcement face in the field. Training on moving targets provides the opportunity to learn new skills that prepare for the real world, when targets are always moving and conditions are always changing.



# Number of Calls By Day of the Week



# Number of Calls By Hour of the Day



# 2015 CALLS FOR SERVICE

	2014	2015	Change
911 Accidental Call	3,256	3,546	+9%
911 Hang-Up Call	2,735	3,192	+17%
911 Non-Emergency/ Nuisance	368	324	-12%
911 Transfer	3,240	4,318	+33%
Abandoned Vehicle	211	214	+1%
Alarm Drop	582	407	-30%
Animal Control Complaint	2,238	1,942	-13%
Assault	63	60	-5%
Assist A Person	918	1,021	+11%
Auto Accident Property Damage	3,924	4,198	+7%
Auto Accident Personal Injury	543	572	+5%
Auto Accident Unknown	76	55	-28%
Bomb Threat	5	4	-20%
Boy / Girlfriend Trouble	74	71	-4%
Burglar Alarm	5,412	5,191	-4%
Burglary In Progress	47	47	-
Car Blocking	167	164	-2%
Check A Subject	3,685	3,472	-6%
Community Services Event	317	363	+15%
Custodial Interference	81	77	-5%
Disabled Motor Vehicle	1,092	1,037	-5%
Domestic Call	1,231	1,274	+3%
Drunk Annoying	96	78	-19%
Emotionally Disturbed Person	422	462	+9%
EMS Call	1,191	1,275	+7%
Executing A Warrant	13	13	-
Fight	363	347	-4%
Fire Call	365	428	+17%
Fireworks	112	129	+15%
Found Property	316	334	+6%
Get A Complaint	1,193	1,261	+6%
Get A Report	4,353	4,465	+3%
Group Annoying	325	261	-20%
Hazardous Material Call	4	7	+75%
Hold-Up Alarm	256	193	-25%
Jail Run	144	166	+15%
Juvenile Incident	97	241	+148%
K-9 Search	73	80	+10%
Landlord / Tenant Trouble	90	71	-21%
Larceny Just Occurred	261	256	-2%

	2014	2015	Change
Lock Out	117	100	-15%
Malfunctioning Traffic Light	325	314	-3%
Neighbor Trouble	222	246	+11%
Noise Complaint	311	344	+11%
Notification	921	861	-7%
Officer Needs Assistance	115	109	-5%
Open Window / Door	128	156	+22%
POP (Police Oriented Policing)	17	16	-6%
Person Acting Suspicious	384	324	-16%
Person Annoying	604	694	+15%
Person Attempting Suicide	58	45	-22%
Person Down	30	31	+3%
Person Exposing Self	13	7	-46%
Person With A Weapon	35	49	+40%
Police Wanted Unknown	29	39	+34%
Property Check	2,747	2,539	-8%
Prowler	62	54	-13%
Road Hazard	534	490	-8%
Robbery	24	13	-46%
School Crossing	16	37	+131%
Selling Drugs	15	5	-67%
Shooting	3	1	-67%
Shoplifter	429	374	-13%
Shots Fired	46	53	+15%
Someone In Building	26	15	-42%
Traffic Enforcement Details	263	264	+0.3%
Traffic Stop	14,434	14,238	-1%
Tree Down	65	61	-6%
Trouble With A Customer	350	341	-3%
Vehicle Annoying	1,442	1,524	+6%
Vehicle In Violation	238	203	-15%
Warrant	573	582	+2%
Water Break	140	179	+28%
Wires Down / Arching	178	148	-17%
All Other Call Types	4,222	3,694	-13%
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>68,982</b>	<b>70,258</b>	<b>+2%</b>

## Overdoses In 2015

All Types - 286

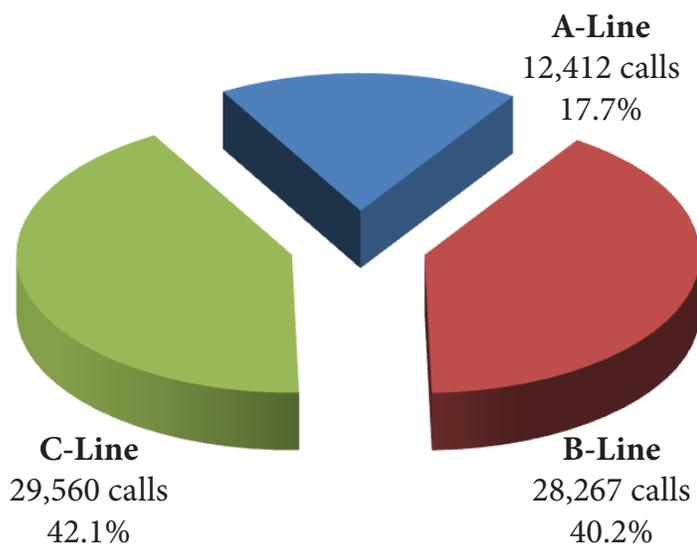
Alcohol - 138

Opioid - 77

## Uniform Crime Report (UCR) Part 1 Offenses

	2014	2015	Change
Murder	0	1	+100%
Rape	1	1	-
Robbery	37	28	-24%
Assault	30	42	+40%
Burglary	187	201	+7%
Larceny	1,786	1,745	-2%
Vehicle Theft	37	37	-
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>2,078</b>	<b>2,055</b>	<b>-1%</b>

## Percentage of Calls By Shift



## Custodial Arrests In 2015

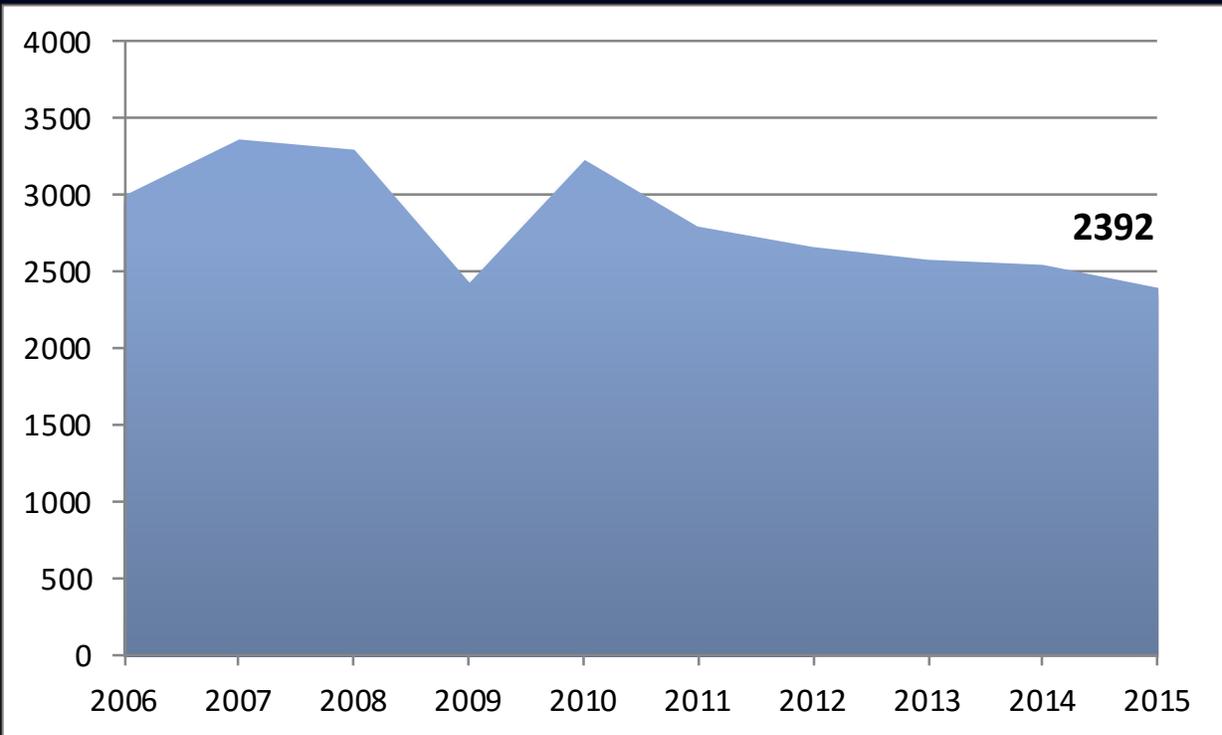
Adults	Juveniles
2,392	52
A decrease of 0.2%	A decrease of 74%

## Uniform Crime Report (UCR) Part 2 Offenses

	2014	2015	Change
Arson	2	1	-50%
Kidnapping	1	3	+200%
Controlled Substances	328	275	-16%
Dangerous Weapons	22	16	-27%
Sex Offenses	18	17	-6%
Extortion	0	0	-
Forgery / Counterfeiting	101	103	+2%
Stolen Property	42	47	+12%
Prostitution & Vice	14	3	-79%
Coercion	1	0	-100%
Criminal Mischief	400	393	-2%
Fraud	240	312	+30%
Gambling	0	0	-
Offenses Against Public Order	0	0	-
Embezzlement	0	0	-
Simple Assault	412	418	+1%
Offenses Against Family	114	171	+50%
Driving Under Influence	182	164	-10%
Unauthorized Use of Vehicle	28	7	-75%
Possession of Burglar Tools	0	0	-
Liquor Law Violations	0	0	-
Disorderly Conduct	25	7	-72%
Loitering	4	1	-75%
All Other Offenses	335	285	-15%
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>2,473</b>	<b>2,223</b>	<b>-10%</b>

*The Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program was conceived to meet a need for reliable, uniform crime statistics for the nation. The FBI collects, publishes and archives these statistics from nearly 17,000 law enforcement agencies across the United States.*

# Number of Department Arrests



## The Town of Colonie, New York Governmental Leadership



Supervisor Paula A. Mahan

### Town Board:

Christopher Carey  
David Green  
Linda Murphy



Paul Rosano  
David Rowley  
Jennifer Whalen