



Town of Bedford Police Department

2011 Annual Report

William J. Hayes, Chief of Police





OUR MISSION



The principal mission of the Department is to preserve the rights of citizens and reduce fear in the community through the prevention of crime, protection of persons and property, the maintenance of order in public places, and to anticipate and respond to events that threaten public order and the protection of life and property.

It is essential that all members remember that in the execution of their duties, they act, not for themselves but, for the good of the public. They shall respect and protect the rights of individuals and perform their services with honesty, zeal, courage, discretion, fidelity, and sound judgment.

Police Officers must seek and preserve public confidence by demonstrating impartial service to law and by offering services and trust to all members of the public.

It is the expressed policy of this Department that Police Officers will use force only when the exercise of persuasion, advice and warning is found to be insufficient to obtain public cooperation to an extent necessary to secure observance of law or to restore order, and to use only the minimum degree of physical force which is necessary upon any particular occasion for achieving a police objective.

TOWN OF BEDFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT

William J. Hayes
Chief of Police

Message From The Chief



On behalf of the men and women of the Bedford Police Department, it is my pleasure to present the department's Annual Report for 2011.

2010 was a transitional year for the department, with the appointment of a new Chief and coping with the most difficult economic conditions in decades. In 2011, the department continued to strive towards providing the most professional police service to our community while meeting the challenges of a rapidly changing social and economic climate.

This report presents an overview of the major functions of the police department and is an opportunity for the department to showcase its accomplishments for the year. It also presents our vision for the future. Our role is to maintain low crime rates and protect public safety in order to keep the Town of Bedford an attractive community in which to live and do business. We will continue to adapt to changing conditions to ensure that we are successful in this endeavor.

I would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the following: Town Supervisor Lee V.A. Roberts and the Town Board for supporting the mission of the department and for their confidence in my ability to serve in this position, the residents of the Town of Bedford that we are sworn to protect and who consistently support this department, and the men & women of the Bedford Police Department who, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, make personal sacrifices to protect our citizens.

2011 has brought about important changes to the Bedford Police Department, many of which will directly contribute to the future success of the organization. Improved operating efficiencies and new programs to serve our community position the department to continue protecting its citizens now and in the years ahead.

I hope that you enjoy reviewing this report and the accomplishments of the dedicated men and women of the Bedford Police Department.

William J. Hayes
Chief of Police



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A NEW YORK STATE ACCREDITED LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY



2011 Annual Report



TABLE OF CONTENTS

- I PERSONNEL COMPLEMENT**
- II ORGANIZATIONAL CHART**
- III PATROL SERVICES DIVISION**
- IV STAFF SERVICES DIVISION**
- V ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION**
- VI CIVILIAN STAFF**
- VII BUDGET SUMMARY & GRANTS**
- VIII CRIME DATA**
- IX TRAFFIC SAFETY**
- X AWARDS & RECOGNITION**
- XI COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & EDUCATION**
- XII IN THE NEWS**
- XIII INTO THE FUTURE**

Community & Department Profile

The Town of Bedford is located in northeast Westchester County and is composed of three hamlets: Katonah, Bedford Hills, and Bedford Village. It is home to the iconic Bedford Oak, a 300 year old oak tree, as well as one of the oldest government buildings in Westchester County, the Court House built in Bedford Village in 1787. The Township has residential, commercial, and light industrial districts and is centrally located near major transportation infrastructure. The community's quality schools, parks, access to numerous historical attractions, and houses of worship make the town an attractive location to live and do business.

The Town of Bedford Police Department is a full time department with 40 sworn officers serving a community with a population of 17,335, and covering over 39.3 square miles. As a result of the recent economic downturn, the overall strength of the department was reduced by 5 officers, or over 10% of our sworn strength.

Located just 33 miles north of New York City, uniformed officers of the Patrol Bureau provide services along 161 miles of roadway within the town, as well as assisting along sections of Interstate 684 and the Saw

Mill River Parkway; two limited access highways that bisect the town and are main arteries for commuter access to New York City. Route 35 is also a high volume corridor used by residents of Connecticut and surrounding areas to access the above mentioned routes.

The Metro-North Commuter Rail System maintains train stations in both Katonah and Bedford Hills. These stations provide transportation to more than 500,000 commuters from Bedford, Connecticut, and the surrounding towns/villages traveling into New York City and Southern Westchester every year.

The community is easily reached by commercial airline service at the Westchester County Airport, a 15 minute drive away, as well as any of the New York City airports.



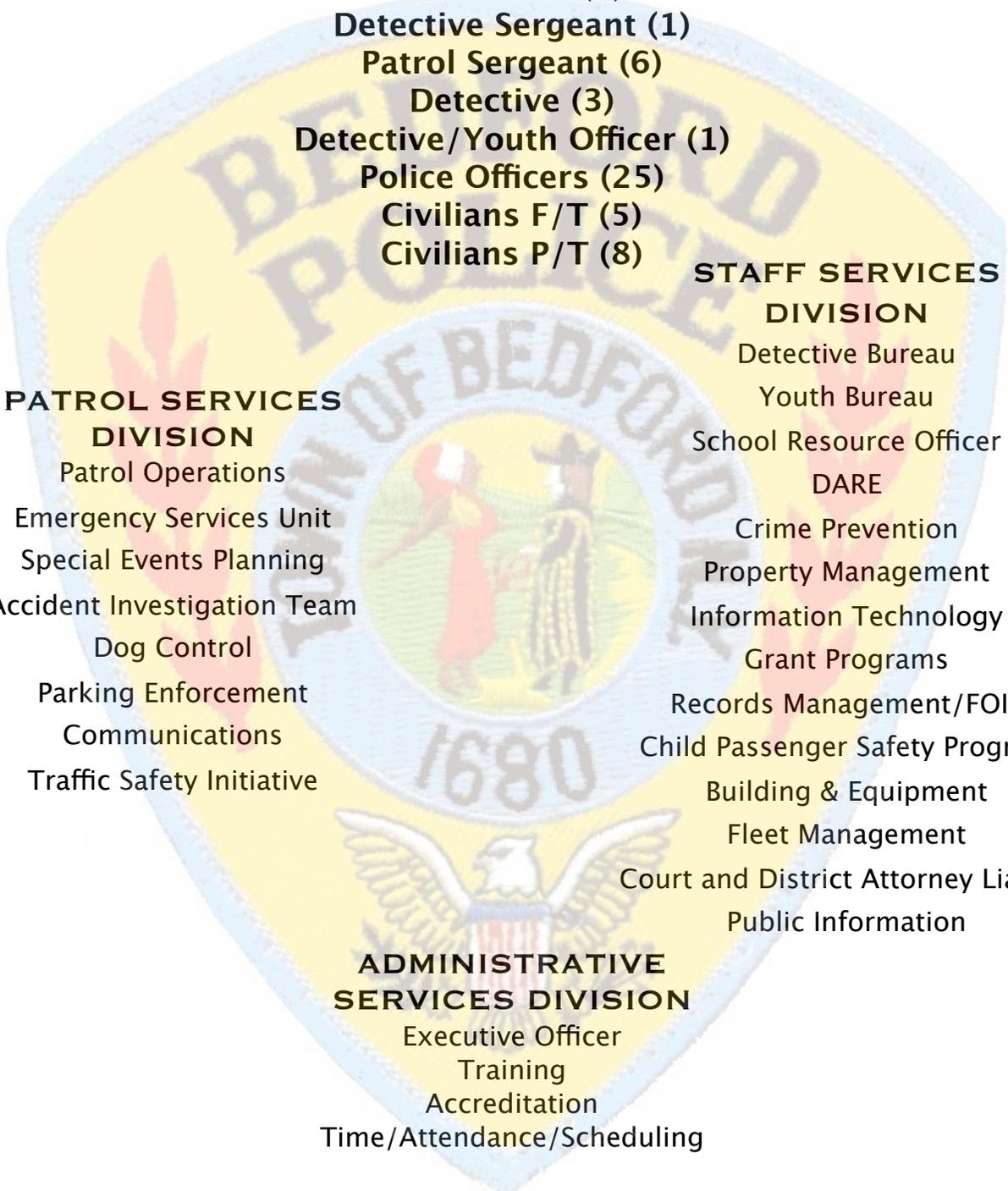
Katonah Metro North Train Station

SECTION I

2011 PERSONNEL COMPLEMENT



2011 PERSONNEL COMPLEMENT



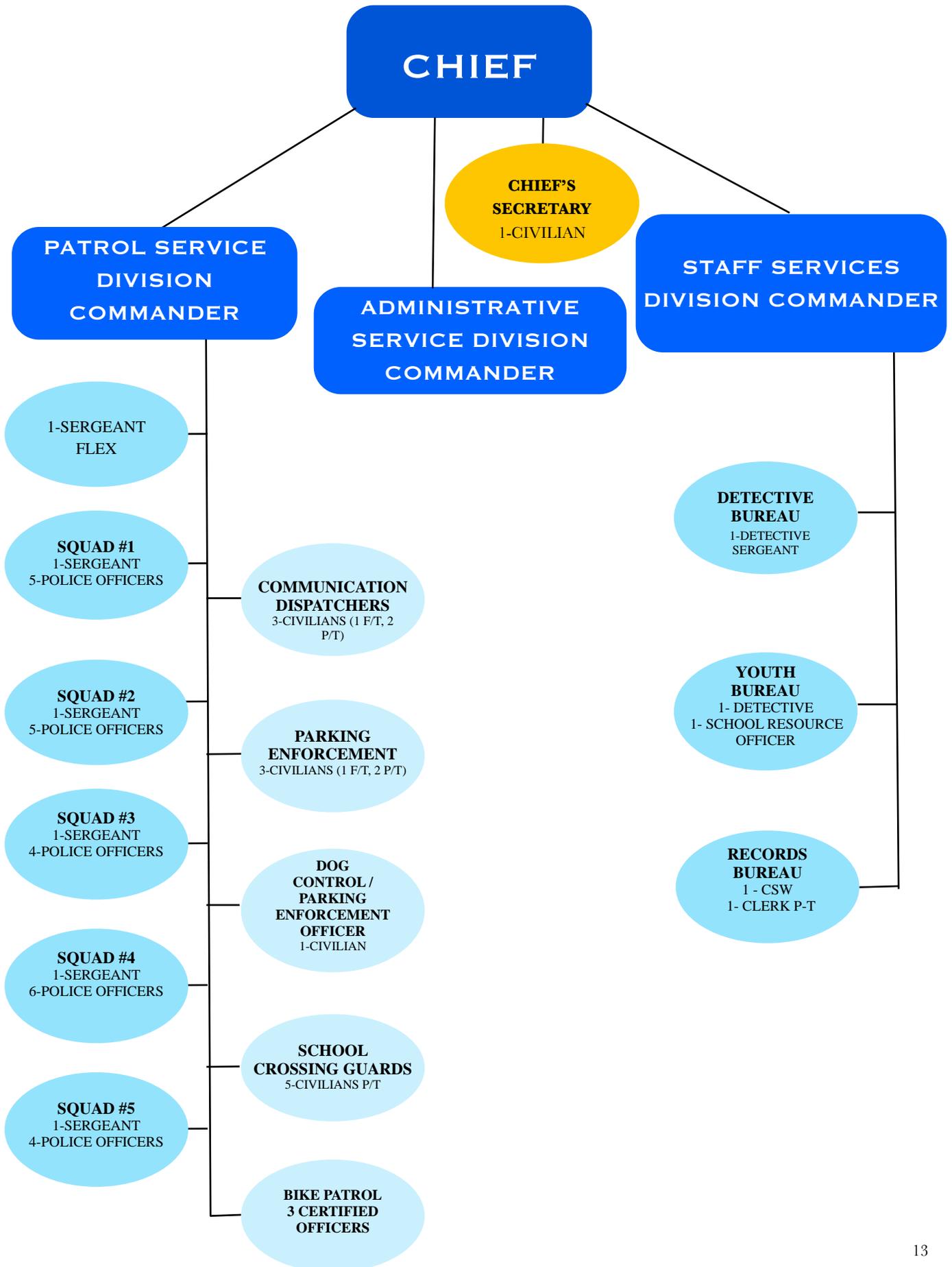
	<p>Chief of Police Lieutenant (3) Detective Sergeant (1) Patrol Sergeant (6) Detective (3) Detective/Youth Officer (1) Police Officers (25) Civilians F/T (5) Civilians P/T (8)</p>	
		<p>STAFF SERVICES DIVISION Detective Bureau Youth Bureau School Resource Officer DARE Crime Prevention Property Management Information Technology Grant Programs Records Management/FOIL Child Passenger Safety Program Building & Equipment Fleet Management Court and District Attorney Liaison Public Information</p>
<p>PATROL SERVICES DIVISION Patrol Operations Emergency Services Unit Special Events Planning Accident Investigation Team Dog Control Parking Enforcement Communications Traffic Safety Initiative</p>		
	<p>ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION Executive Officer Training Accreditation Time/Attendance/Scheduling</p>	

SECTION II

2011

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

Town of Bedford Town House



SECTION III

PATROL SERVICES DIVISION



PATROL SERVICES DIVISION



Lt. Robert W. Mazurak
Commanding Officer

The Patrol Services Division is the Police Department's largest division. Consisting of 25 Patrol Officers and 6 Sergeants, the Division is responsible for providing the department's core function of immediate response and preventative patrol for a population of nearly 18,000 people in a nearly 40 square mile area. To maintain maximum coverage and timely response, the Division is divided into 5 squads, each consisting of a Sergeant and assigned Officers.

The Department handled 23,895 calls for service during 2011. In addition to response to calls for service, Patrol Officers conduct preventative patrols to deter and interrupt crime and conduct traffic enforcement efforts designed to minimize the loss of life and property caused by traffic accidents, dangerous driving, and intoxicated motorists. Many Patrol Officers are certified as Emergency Medical Technicians and are fully trained to render lifesaving first aid and to stabilize the injured at auto accidents and medical calls until emergency medical personnel arrive.

Members of the Patrol Division have diverse specialties and serve as bike patrol officers, accident investigators, child seat technicians, training instructors, and bilingual translators.

Members of the Patrol Division made 195 arrests, issued 3331 summonses for traffic violations, and responded to 617 motor vehicle collisions in 2011.

BIKE UNIT

The bike unit added 2 new Certified Officers in 2011. Operational changes were implemented to increase the deployment of the Bike Patrol officers.

Prior to 2011, due to staffing reductions in personnel, the department was unable to field the Bike Patrol in the manner in which it was originally conceived.

Our goal is to increase the number to Certified Bike Patrol Officers as training and funding become available.



C.E.R.T. TEAM

The Community Emergency Response Team was created during the post 911 era in an effort to engage and train members of the community in disaster response.

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program educates people about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their area and trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. Using the training learned in the classroom and during exercises, CERT members can assist others in their neighborhood or workplace following an event when professional responders are not immediately available to help. CERT members also are encouraged to support emergency response agencies by taking a more active role in emergency preparedness projects in their community.

Interested individuals undergo a 21 hour training program given during 8 weekly sessions at the Westchester County Department of Emergency Services. Instructors are drawn from a variety of agencies and the Westchester Citizen Corps Coalition.

In 2011 the team consisted of 1 Police Officer Coordinator and 10 community members. The team manages and deploys a trailer stocked with cots, blankets, towels, and other items sufficient to shelter up to 120 people. This trailer is owned by the Westchester County Department of Emergency Services and is pre-positioned in the Town of Bedford as part of a joint effort to serve northern Westchester County during a disaster.

The C.E.R.T. team manned the Town Emergency Shelter during Hurricane Irene and provides ongoing assistance during Child Passenger Safety Events.

Our goals for the future include expanding the use of the team and continuing to offer training awareness, and skills needed during critical incidents.

NIXLE & ONLINE SERVICES

The NIXLE Community Notification Service was introduced in 2011 as a mechanism to deliver important information to as many citizens as possible in a timely manner. NIXLE is a free subscription that allows the police department to send messages concerning road closures, crime prevention information, and other items of community interest to the email address and/or mobile phone of your choice. The effectiveness of the system is compounded by the number of subscribers enrolled.

The Bedford Police Department currently has over 1000 Nixle subscribers. Sign up free at www.nixle.com. SMS messages sent via NIXLE are also distributed on the department's Twitter feed: @BedfordTownPD.



Despite reduced staffing, our efforts to increase efficiency and improve the “customer” experience continue. Motor vehicle crash reports are now available via the web 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at: www.reportsonline.docview.us.com. Currently, our Records Unit is only accessible to the public 4 hours per day on weekdays. By implementing this eCommerce solution with Docview LLC, the public has access to crash reports whenever they are needed, regardless of where they are. Citizens no longer have to make a trip to the police station during limited hours. The department still makes paper reports available to those that are unable to access these reports electronically.

Email is also used to ease communication between Officers and complainants, victims, and for other official business. Department records other than accident reports can be requested via email at: www.bpdrecords@bedfordny.gov

Our goals for 2012 and beyond include a user friendly Police website, social networking, and a dedicated “TIPS-LINE”.

EQUIPMENT

BAT Shield

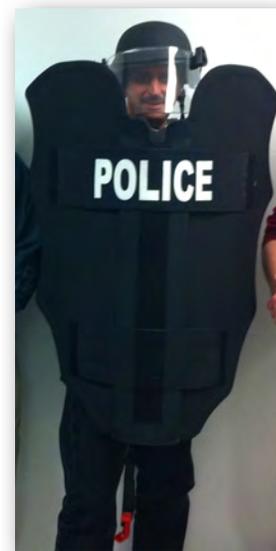
1 light-weight ballistic “BAT” shield was obtained by the department in 2011 partially funded through public donations and seized assets. It is intended to provide protection for the police officer when responding to violent encounters. This shield is available on patrol 24hrs/7days a week.

TraCS Computers (Traffic & Criminal Software)

The Bedford Police Department was awarded a grant in late 2011 for 4 new mobile computers to replace obsolete units and saving thousands of Bedford taxpayer dollars.

The TraCS system enables the department to issue tickets and accident reports electronically. The data is then forwarded directly to Albany, saving labor costs on a process that was previously done manually and then mailed.

The department hopes to be awarded the 2nd phase of grants to replace the remaining mobile data terminals.



Sgt. Anthony Frasca trains with the BAT Shield



SECTION IV

STAFF SERVICES DIVISION

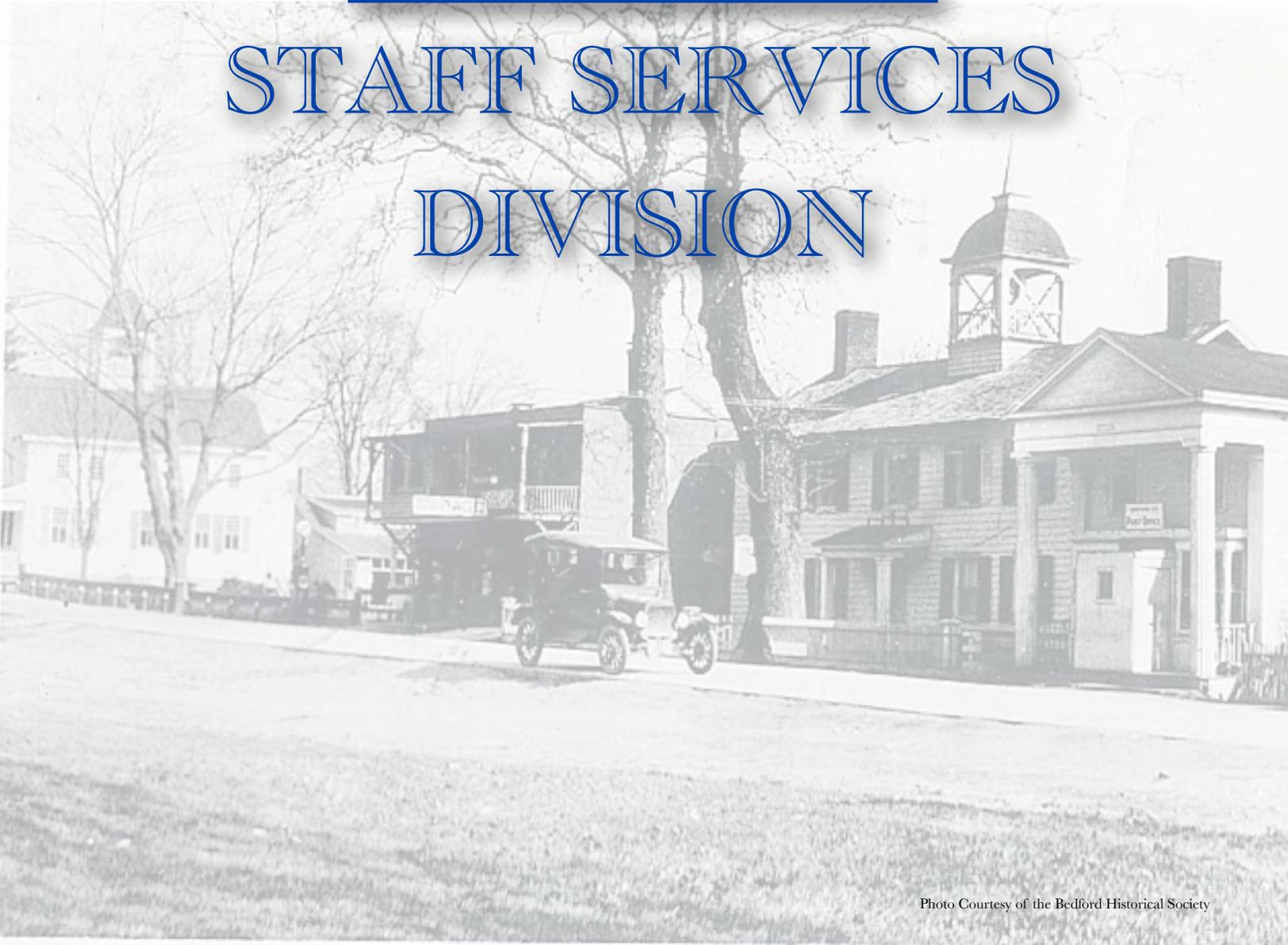


Photo Courtesy of the Bedford Historical Society

STAFF SERVICES DIVISION



Lt. Jeffrey R. Dickan
Commanding Officer

The Staff Services Division oversees the Detective Bureau and also provides all necessary support to accomplish the mission of the department.

The Staff Services commander serves as the Department's Public Information Officer, preparing press releases and interacting on a daily basis with representatives from local print, radio and television media.

The Staff Services Division is responsible for maintaining the department's information technology systems, records management, grant programs, fleet management, building and equipment, and all other functions that support our operation. The Detective Bureau is responsible for investigating all crimes as well as juvenile matters. The Bureau is also responsible for coordinating the intelligence and counter-terrorism functions of the department. The Detective Sergeant serves as the Bureau commander and is also the department's Field Intelligence Officer (FIO). The FIO is responsible for collecting and exchanging criminal intelligence with other agencies as well as the Westchester Intelligence Center and the New York State Intelligence Center (NYSIC). The Detective Sergeant is also responsible for reviewing all prisoner debriefings for actionable intelligence and forwarding that intelligence to the appropriate agency.

DETECTIVE BUREAU

The Detective Bureau is responsible for the prevention of crime and the investigation of criminal cases, detection and arrest of offenders, locating missing persons, recovering lost and stolen property, as well as coordinating interagency investigations with the appropriate authority.

Each Detective in the Bureau is a generalist and is expected to investigate a wide range of crimes as they occur. In addition to their general investigative functions, one Detective is designated as the Youth Officer, another actively investigates “cold” cases, and another conducts and coordinates the department’s narcotics investigations, often in cooperation with the Westchester County Police Narcotics Unit.

The Bedford Police Department Detective Bureau is equipped with modern photographic and evidence collection equipment; allowing members of the Bureau to collect and process evidence from crime scenes. Detectives routinely collect fingerprint and DNA evidence for laboratory analysis.

The Detective Bureau works jointly with law enforcement agencies at the local, state, and federal level in order to accomplish its mission. Members of the Bureau represent the department at meetings of the Westchester County Crime Analysis Union and the New York State Counterterrorism Zone 3.

The Bedford Police Department maintains information sharing agreements with a variety of agencies including the Westchester Intelligence Center and the United States Department of Homeland Security.



ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION UNIT

The department maintains a fully qualified Accident Investigation Unit.

8 Certified Investigators, 2 of which are reconstructionists certified by the Institute of Police Technology & Management at the University of North Florida. Additionally some members have special IPTM certifications in investigating pedestrian, bicycle and/or motorcycle crashes.

All members are assigned full-time to either the Patrol Bureau or Detective Bureau and are on call to respond to investigate crashes involving serious physical injury or death.

The Unit is equipped with state of the art “Total Station” laser measuring equipment and modern computer software allowing animated diagramming of motor vehicle collision scenes. This equipment is also used to assist the Detective Bureau in documenting and diagramming crime scenes.



ZONE 5 CAUSE & ORIGIN TEAM

Pursuant to the Westchester County Arson Zone Plan, each of the county’s five Mutual Aid zones have a Cause & Origin (C&O) team assigned to provide local fire and police departments with trained experts to assist in the determination of the cause and origin of suspicious fires. Each team is composed of New York State Certified Fire Investigators who are volunteer firefighters or police officers. By bringing police and fire professionals trained in fire investigation together in teams benefits are realized in determining the cause & origin of fires, as well as the subsequent criminal investigations that follow.

The Bedford Police Department hosts the Zone 5 Cause & Origin team. Chief Hayes is the Zone Director for the team, and the department provides a shared vehicle and has one officer assigned to this team. The department directly benefits by sharing the costs associated with maintaining an arson investigation capability.

Chief Hayes also sits on the Westchester County Arson Task Force Executive Board.

SECTION V

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION



ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION



Lt. Edward Collins
Commanding Officer

The Administrative Services Division performs the essential administrative functions that support the operation of the department.

Recurrent training is a necessary component in maintaining a proficient and skilled workforce. The Administrative Services Division maintains the department's training records, manages all in-house training programs, schedules members for training, and oversees the department's cadre of Certified Instructors. The Division is also responsible for maintaining the department's accredited status by conducting an ongoing review of the department's rules and operating procedures and ensuring that they are in compliance with changes in the law and best practices within the profession.

The Division also maintains the work schedule for all department employees and manages time & attendance records as well as payroll.

The Commanding Officer of the Division serves as the department's Executive Officer, serving as second in command of the department and assuming the responsibilities of the Chief of Police in the absence of the Chief.

SECTION VI

CIVILIAN STAFF



CIVILIAN STAFF

The Bedford Police Department employs civilians to perform routine assignments; thereby freeing sworn police personnel to focus on the law enforcement function.

CIVILIAN DISPATCHERS

Full-time and part-time Civilian Dispatchers are employed to supplement Desk Officers in the Department's Radio Room/Communications Center. All 911 calls and non-emergency calls for service are handled in the Radio Room. Dispatching functions are supported with a state-of-the-art Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system, allowing for rapid dispatch of officers and integration of call related information into the department's Records Management System. Civilian Dispatchers are an essential part of our delivery of service to the community.

COMMUNITY SERVICE WORKER

The Community Service Worker performs a wide variety of assignments such as parking enforcement, clerical work, school crossings, dispatch, and other duties as assigned.

DOG CONTROL

The Department employs one Dog Control officer to investigate dog complaints and take necessary actions to solve dog related problems or to collect information to bring the violator to court. The DCO returns identified dogs to their owners, impounds unidentified dogs, and ensures the Department's compliance with state and local regulations regarding impounded dogs. The Dog Control Officer also performs parking enforcement, maintains parking meters, and substitutes as a School Crossing Guard when necessary.

INTERMEDIATE CLERK/DATA ENTRY

The clerk performs clerical duties such as data entry in the Records Unit and other office work as required.

INTERNS

The Bedford Police Department has expanded its Educational Internship Program which provides practical experience for aspiring youth interested in a law enforcement future.

PARKING ENFORCEMENT

The department employs civilian Parking Enforcement Officers that patrol the Town's eight business and commuter parking lots as well as the hamlet areas to ensure compliance with the permit system and enforce parking restrictions. These PEO's also assist the public by giving directions, providing information on parking locations, and providing information on the permitting process.

SCHOOL CROSSING GUARDS

5 part-time School Crossing Guards assist students and their parents at critical intersections near the Bedford Hills Elementary School and Katonah Elementary School.

SENIOR OFFICE ASSISTANT/SECRETARY TO THE CHIEF

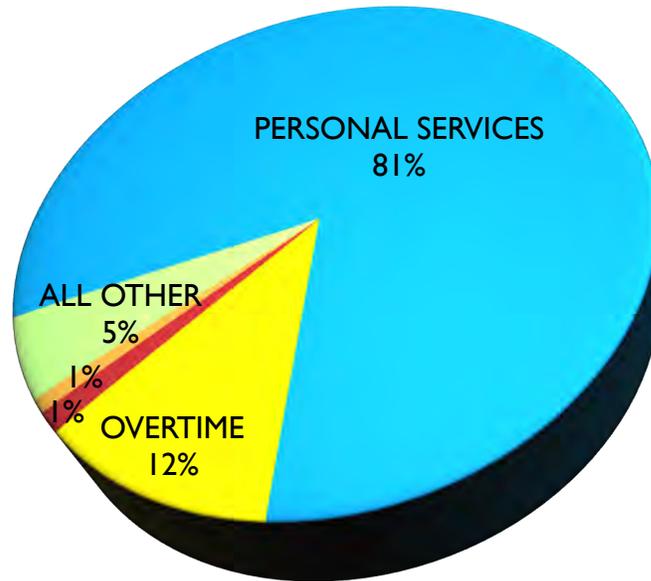
The Chief's Secretary performs all of the clerical & administrative functions necessary to support the office of the Chief of Police.

SECTION VII

BUDGET SUMMARY & GRANT PROGRAMS

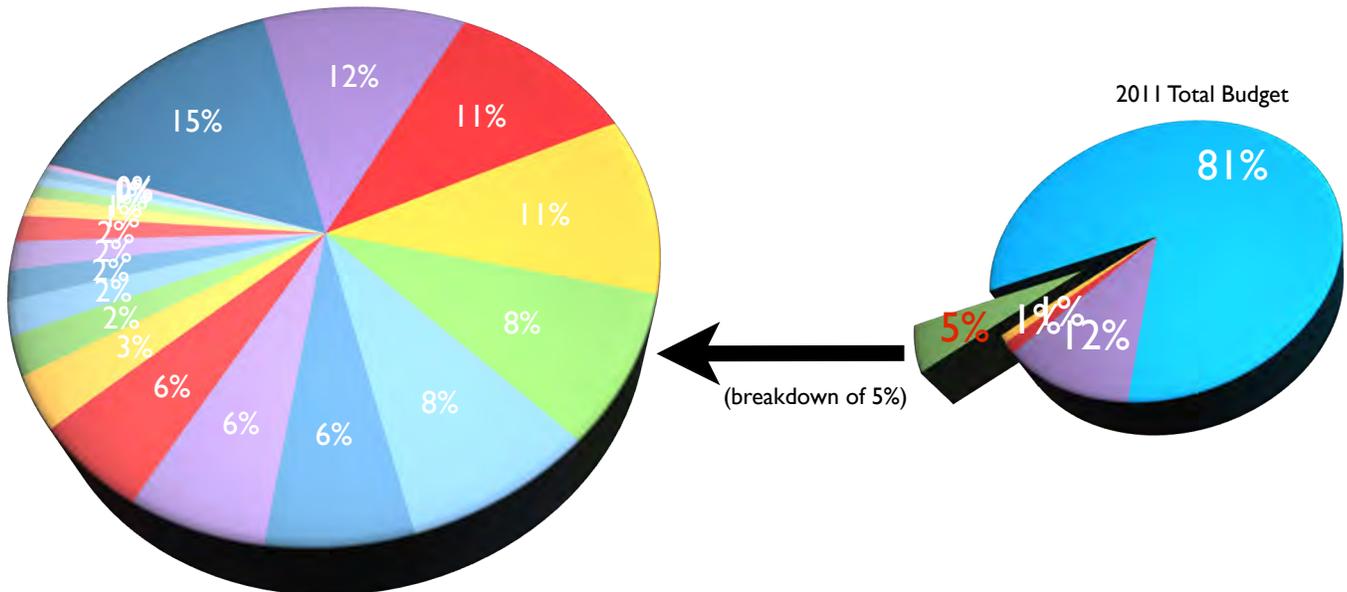


2011 BUDGET SUMMARY



CATEGORY	DOLLARS	PERCENT
PERSONAL SERVICES	4,140,748	80.5
OVERTIME	602,549	11.71
AUTO REPAIR	72,577	1.41
GASOLINE	47758	0.93
ALL OTHER*	280,025	5.44

TOTAL	5,143,657
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- UNIFORM EXPENSE
- PART-TIME LABOR
- SUPPLIES
- INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
- TELEPHONE
- SCHOOL CROSSING GUARDS
- BUILDING REPAIR
- ELECTRICITY
- EQUIPMENT
- HEATING FUEL
- PRINTING
- POUND CARE
- BLDG SUPPLIES
- SPCA
- RADIO REPAIRS
- EDUCATION AND TRAINING
- POUND LEASE
- RADIO TOWERS
- INVESTIGATIONS
- DARE
- VOICE RECORDER

CATEGORY	DOLLARS	PERCENT
UNIFORM EXPENSE	43,050	15.37
PART-TIME LABOR	32,772	11.70
SUPPLIES	30,539	10.91
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	29,632	10.58
TELEPHONE	23,631	8.44
SCHOOL CROSSING GUARDS	23,011	8.22
BUILDING REPAIR	17,814	6.36
ELECTRICITY	17,535	6.26
EQUIPMENT	15,666	5.59
HEATING FUEL	9,213	3.29
PRINTING	6,749	2.41
POUND CARE	5,857	2.10
SPCA	5,152	1.84
RADIO REPAIRS	4,929	1.76
EDUCATION & TRAINING	4,533	1.62
BLDG SUPPLIES	3,564	1.27
POUND LEASE	2,160	0.77
RADIO TOWERS	1,595	0.57
INVESTIGATIONS	1,504	0.54
DARE	909	0.32
VOICE RECORDER	200	0.07

TOTAL	280,025
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2011 GRANTS RECEIVED

The Bedford Police Department aggressively pursues grant opportunities that assist the department in offsetting operating expenses, increasing traffic safety, and pursuing new technologies.

In 2011, the department received over \$12,000 in traffic safety enforcement grants to fund additional patrols in order to reduce aggressive and impaired driving. The department also received \$3496 from the New York State Office of Children and Family Services to assist in funding our Detective/Youth Officer position.

The department was also awarded nearly \$12,000 in new equipment from NY State to replace aging mobile data terminals in our patrol cars. This new equipment allowed the department to implement electronic traffic ticketing and accident reporting. This program is intended to improve efficiency, increase the accuracy of reports, and reduce manual data-entry.

GRANT	AMOUNT (\$)
New York State Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP)	4050.00
Westchester STOP-DWI	8400.00
NY State Office of Children and Family Services	3496.00
New York State Traffic and Criminal Software (TraCS)	11926.20
Office of Justice Programs- Bullet Proof Vest Partnership	1262.50

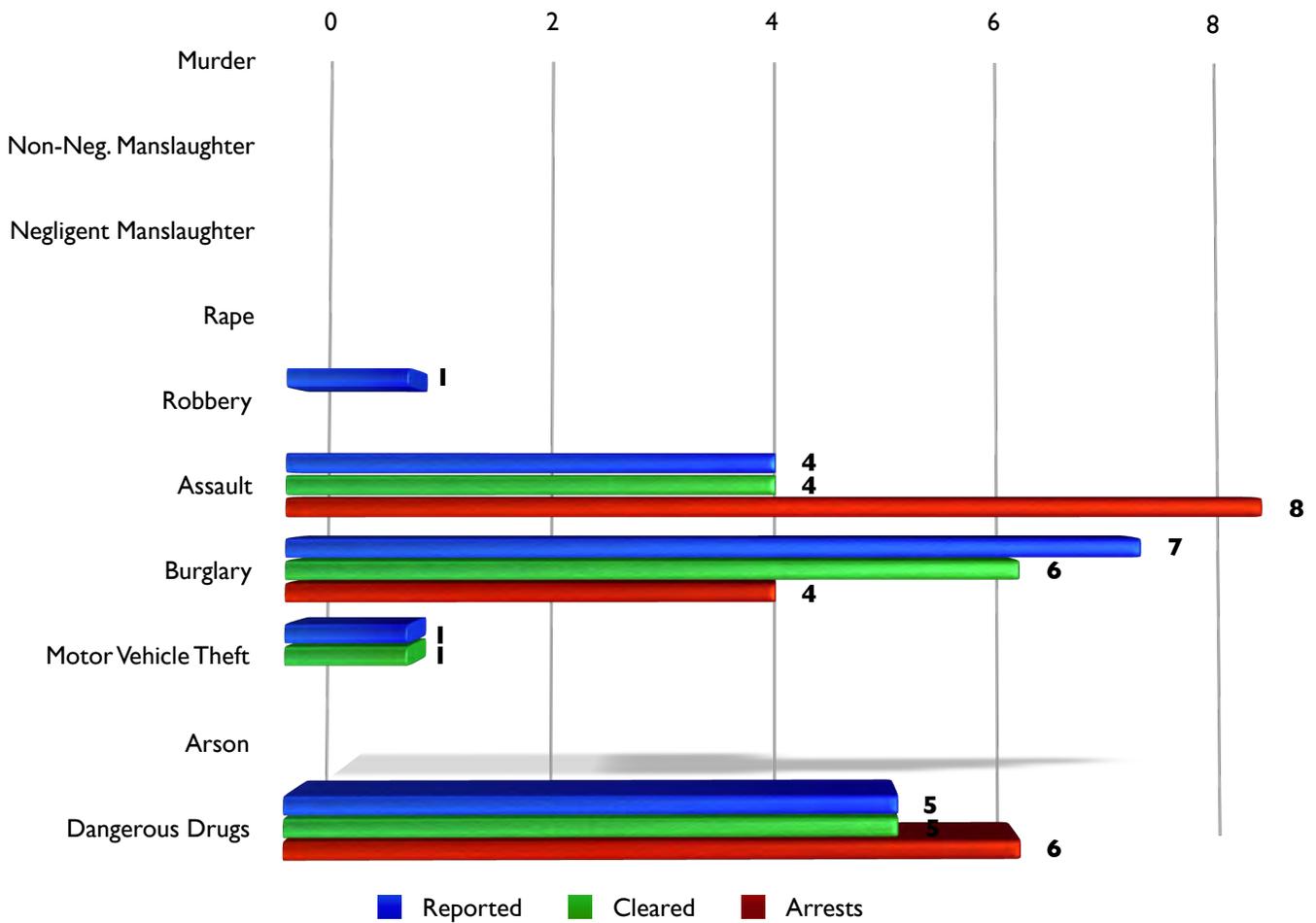
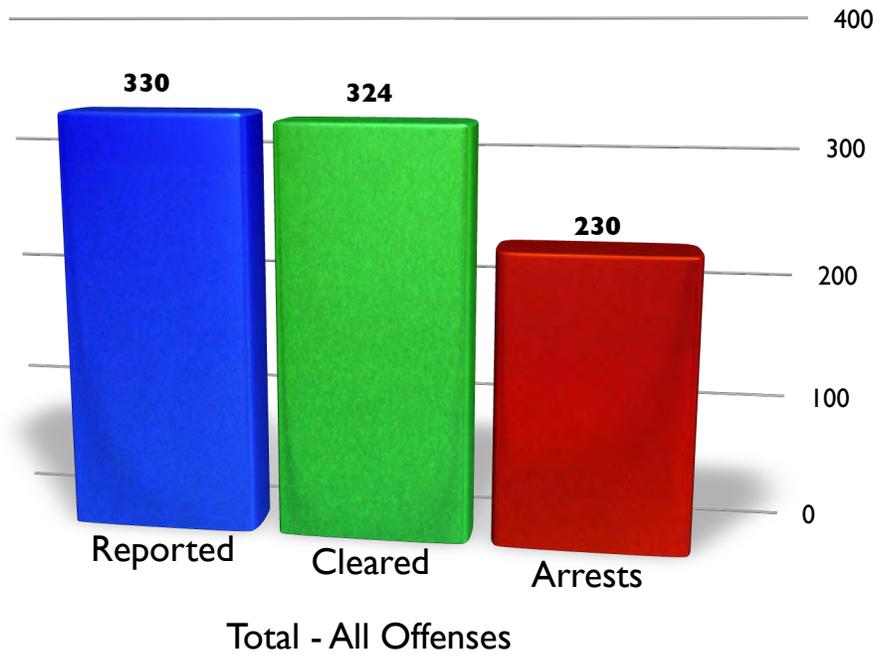
TOTAL	\$29,134.50
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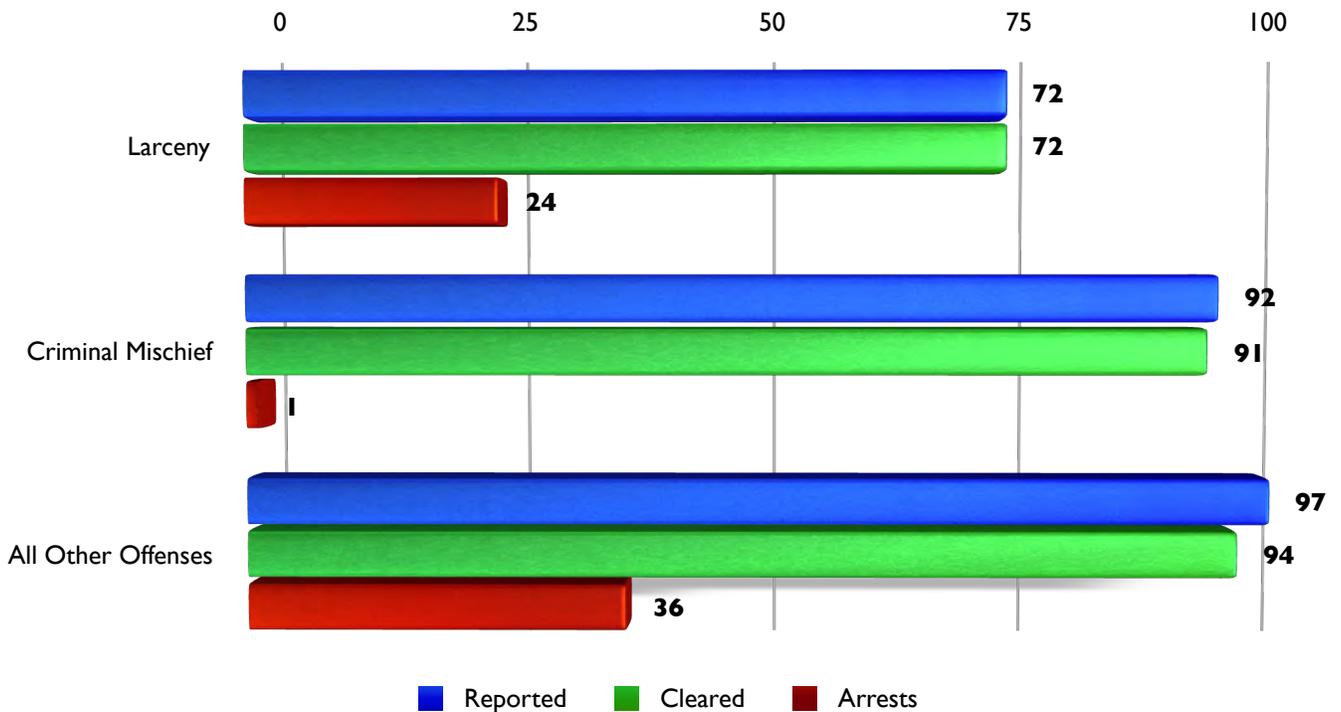
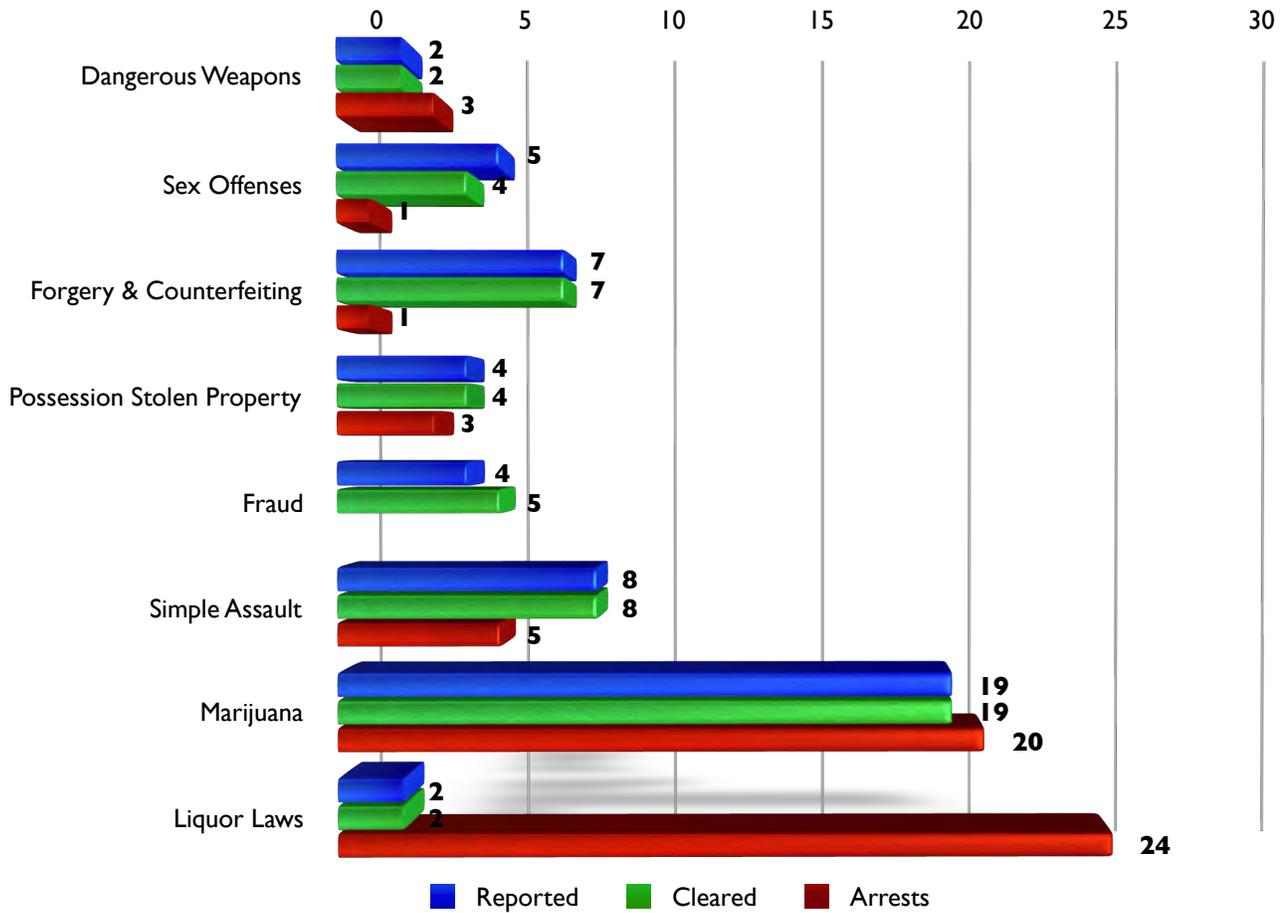
SECTION VIII

CRIME DATA



2011 CRIME DATA





SECTION IX TRAFFIC SAFETY

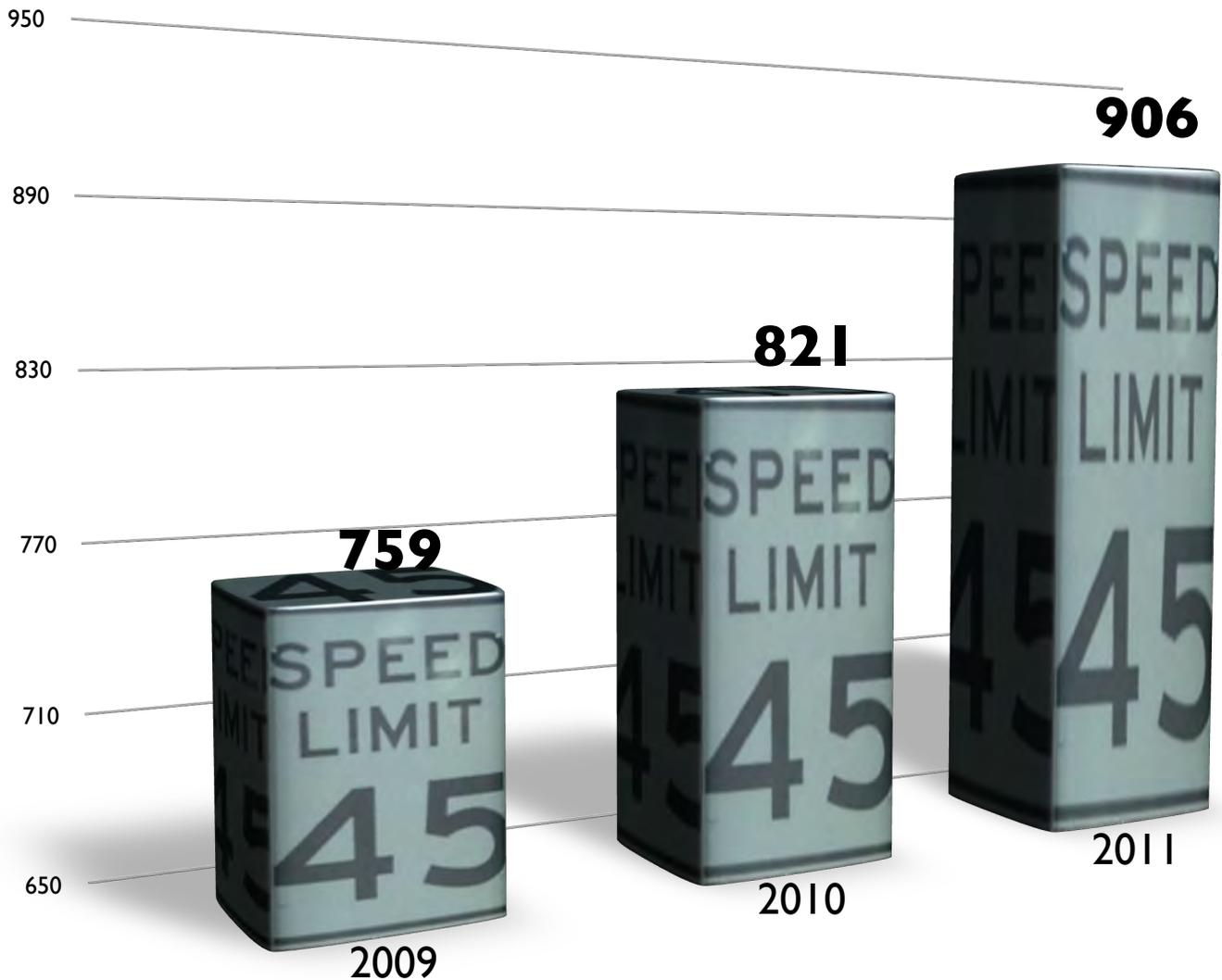


TRAFFIC CITATIONS



In 2011, the Bedford Police issued 3331 traffic citations. That is an impressive 28% increase from just two years ago in 2009. This heightened diligence was in response to increased citizen complaints about traffic issues and quality of life. With the establishment of a department Traffic Safety Coordinator to oversee and coordinate a tailored response to these complaints, 48 special traffic details were conducted to address traffic related complaints from citizens in addition to our normal traffic duties. Furthermore, the TraCS system was installed in 4 of our primary patrol cars in December 2011 which should streamline the process for officers to issue traffic citations to violators.

SPEED CITATIONS



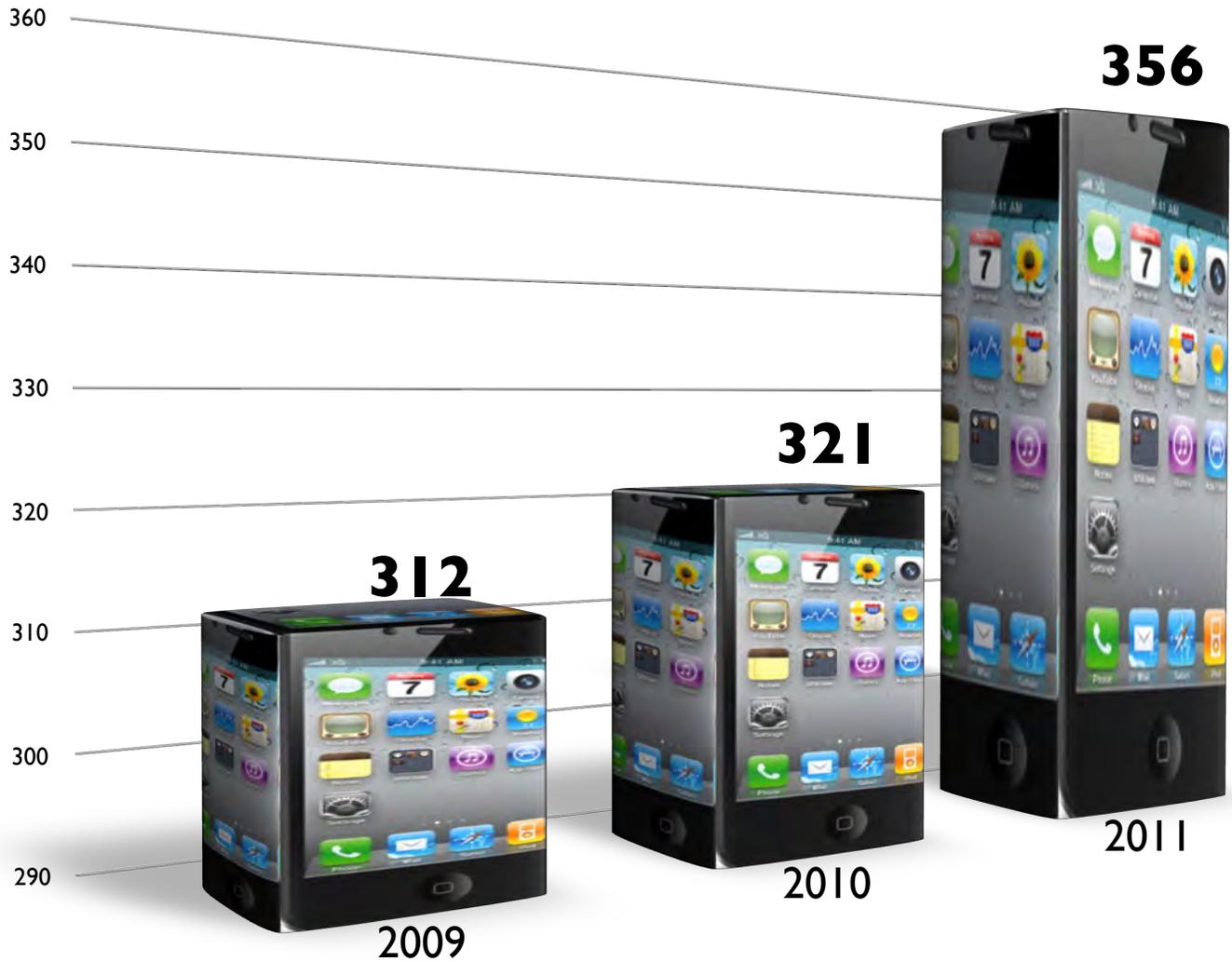
In 2011, the Bedford Police Department issued 906 speed citations. This record-high represents a 20% increase from 2009. This trend clearly shows that in response to public concerns about speeding, this department has devoted significant attention to speeding enforcement utilizing stationary and mobile speed boards as well as strict enforcement by patrol officers using RADAR and LASER speed measurement technology.

DWI ARRESTS



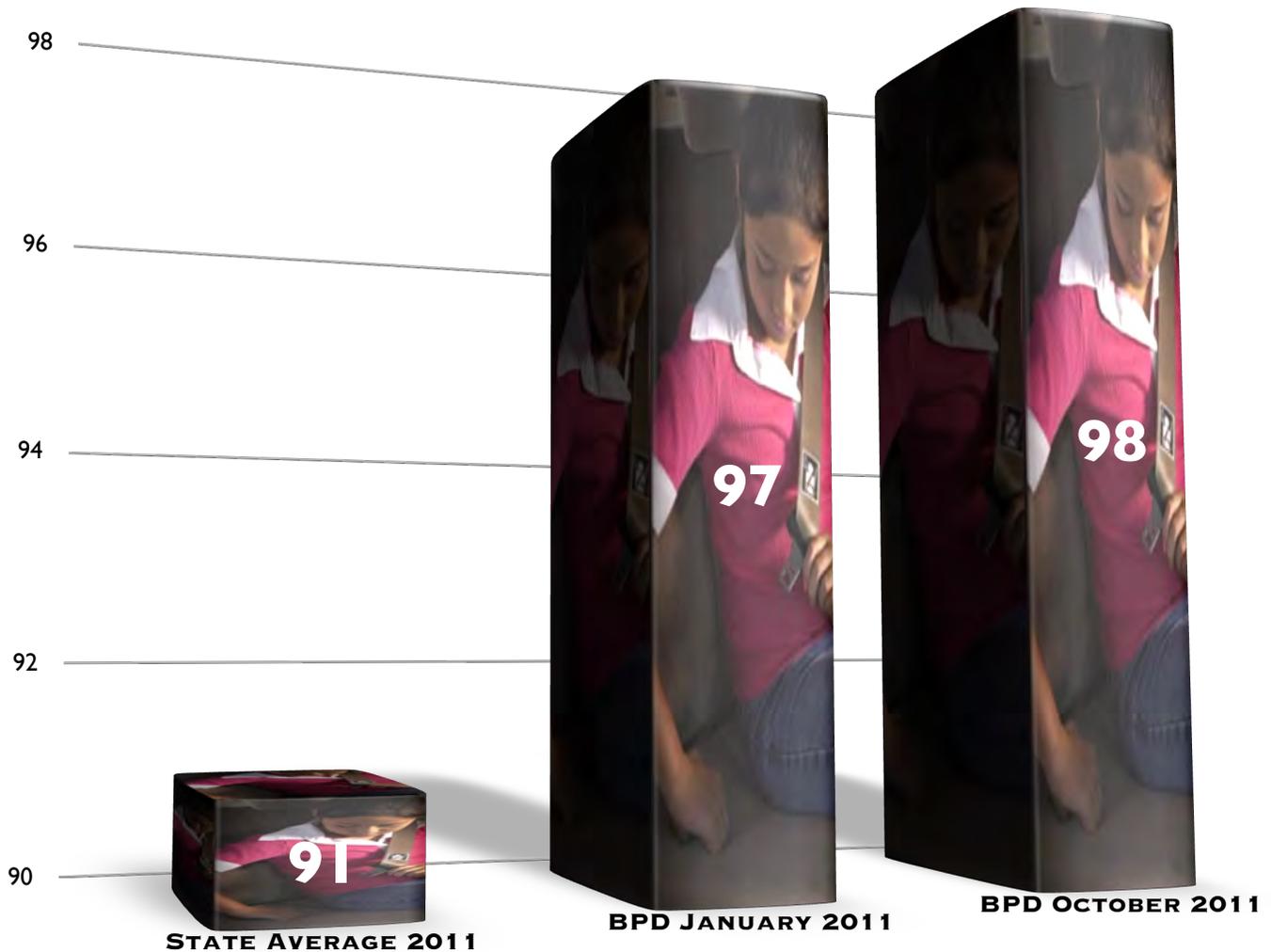
In 2011, Bedford Police made 39 DWI arrests. This is an impressive 16% increase from 2009. The success in DWI enforcement can, in part, be attributed to the Bedford Police Department’s local “Your Bars or Ours” Stop DWI campaign. In addition to the local and state anti-DWI campaigns, the department deployed 8 special DWI enforcement details throughout the year, including 2 checkpoints and 6 saturation patrols resulting in 6 DWI Arrests.

CELL PHONE CITATIONS



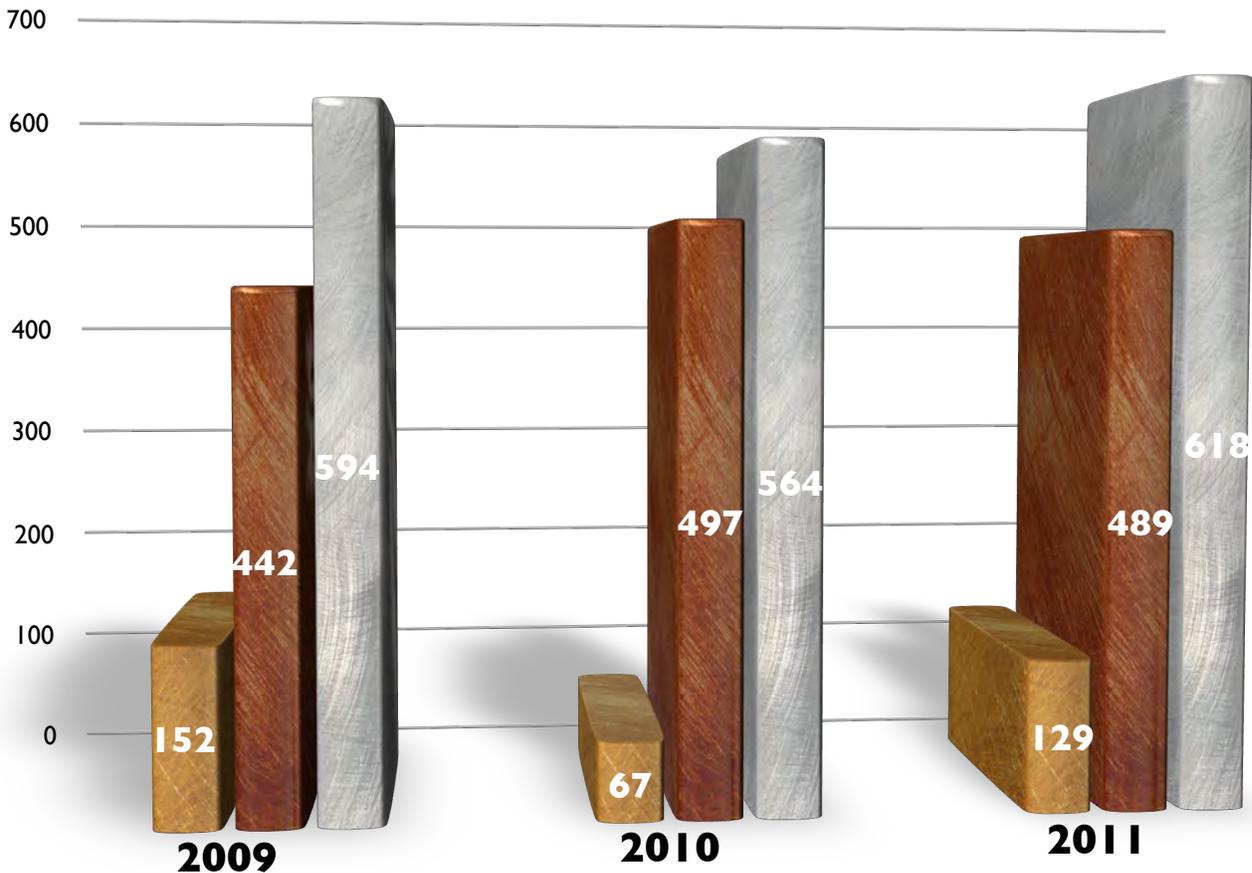
The Bedford Police Department has maintained a commitment to enforcing distracted driving violations. Accordingly, 356 cell phone citations were issued in 2011 by the Bedford Police. This is an 11% increase in citations from 2010, and a 14% increase since 2009.

SEAT BELT SURVEY



At the start of 2011, a 97% seat belt compliance rate was observed throughout the Town of Bedford. There was a nominal increase to 98% by the end of the year. Surveys taken both in the beginning and end of 2011 showed that we were significantly ahead of the New York State average of 91%. We believe this is a direct result of our 15 high visibility seatbelt/safety checkpoints conducted throughout the year.

VEHICLE ACCIDENTS



The total number of vehicle accidents has stayed fairly consistent over the last three years with a 15% reduction in personal injury auto accidents since 2009. Our seatbelt enforcement has increased 95% since 2009 and our speeding enforcement also increased 20% since 2009; we believe a reasonable argument can be made that our increased efforts on Speed and Seatbelt enforcement were two important factors leading to the reduction of auto accidents resulting in injury. Furthermore, there have been ZERO (0) fatalities in the Town of Bedford over the last three years.

SECTION X

AWARDS & RECOGNITION



The Bedford Police Department believes in the importance of recognizing employees who distinguish themselves through their actions and work performance. Awards are presented annually to those team members that demonstrate exemplary service.

THE AWARD RECIPIENTS FOR 2011 WERE:

POLICE OFFICER OF THE YEAR 2010

Det. Joseph Comunale

MERITORIOUS POLICE DUTY

P.O. Matthew Hawley

LIFESAVING AWARD

P.O. Matthew Hawley & P.O. Nicholas Fusco

TRAFFIC SAFETY ENFORCEMENT AWARD 2010

P.O. David Novick

COMMENDATION

P.O. Patricia McGraw

UNIT CITATION

Detective Division, Det(s) Joseph Comunale, Matthew DiBiase, Larry Haynes

UNIT CITATION

P.O.(s) Matthew Hawley, David Novick, Patricia McGraw, Nicholas Fusco, Det.(s) Thomas Deibold, Michael Roche, Lt.(s) Jeffrey Dickan, Robert Mazurak



SECTION XI
COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT &
EDUCATION



SAVED BY THE BELT

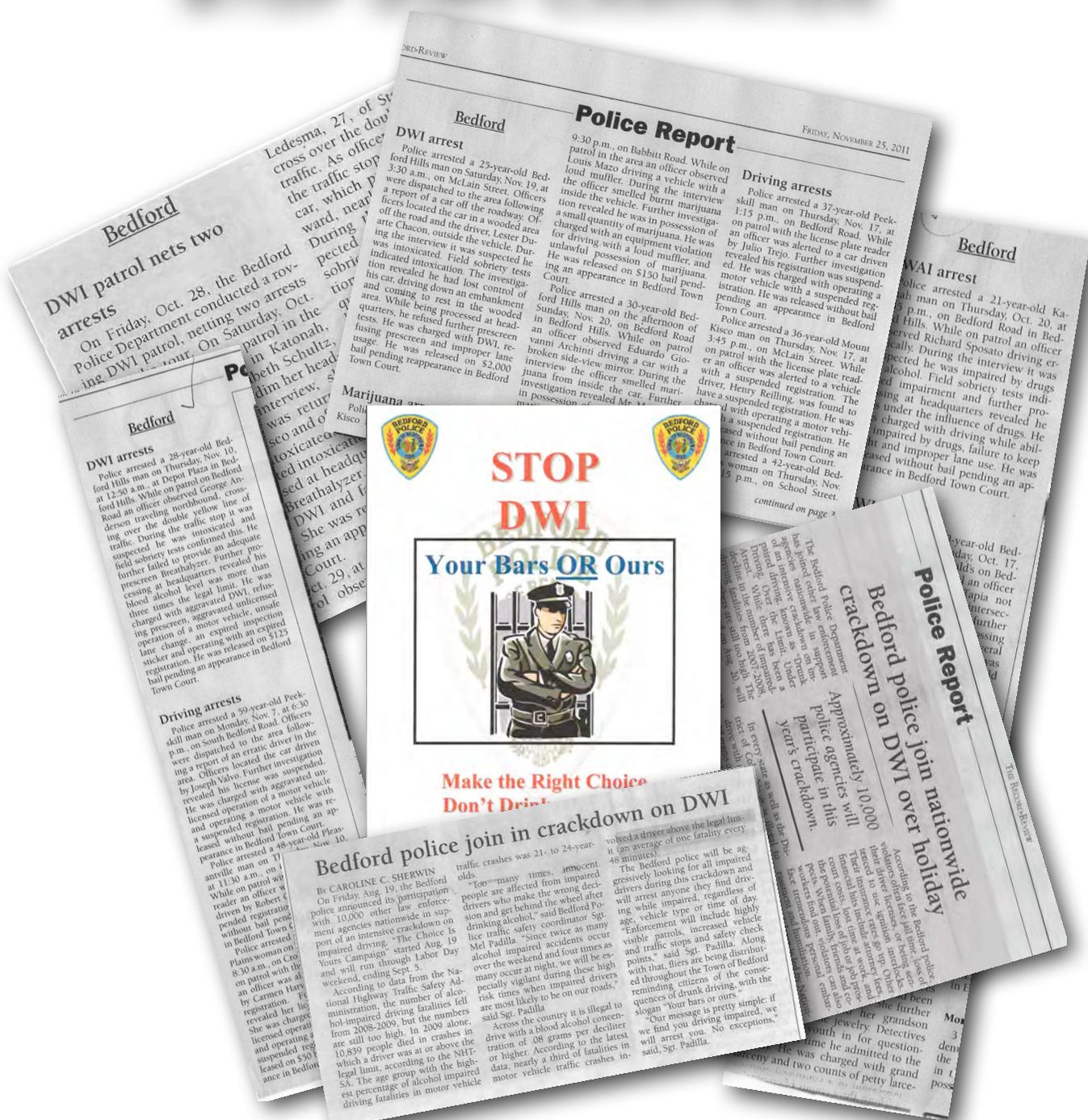


On December 10, 2011 the Bedford Police were proud to participate in the **Saved By The Belt Program** for the first time and recognized 7 survivors. The award recipients this year were the perfect example of how seat belts save lives. On July 30, 2011, just before midnight, the seven recipients (2 adults and five 11 & 12 year old boys) were on their way home from a birthday

party when an oncoming vehicle swerved into their lane causing a head-on collision. The impact sent their vehicle off of the roadway and into the tree line. Fortunately, all of the occupants had made the life saving choice to wear their seat belts and a terrible tragedy was avoided. Chief Hayes

commended the group for the strong example they set for others and told them they are living proof that seat belts save lives. This public event was very well received by the recipients and the community and this department fully intends to continue to participate in this important program.

STOP DWI CAMPAIGN



In addition to participating in the national STOP DWI campaign entitled “Over the Limit, Under Arrest,” the Bedford Police Department launched its own local DWI campaign in 2011: “Your Bars or Ours, Make the Right Choice, Don’t Drink and Drive”. Posters portraying the slogan (pictured above) were displayed and distributed throughout the town to further raise awareness of the consequences of DWI.

OPERATION SAFE STOP



Every year many children are needlessly killed or injured by motorists who pass stopped school buses that are loading and unloading student passengers. To help alleviate this serious safety problem, the Bedford Police Department participates in **OPERATION SAFE STOP**, a New York State campaign of public education and police enforcement of school bus safety violations. **OPERATION SAFE STOP** is aimed at educating the motoring public that passing a stopped school bus is dangerous and illegal. It is a combined effort of the Bedford Police, school personnel, school bus contractors, and traffic safety organizations to make this message clear to the motoring public.

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY



The Town of Bedford takes pedestrian safety very seriously. Because of that, the Town began the process to replace the black and white "State Law, Yield to Pedestrians in Crosswalk" signs (red arrow) with new High Visibility Pedestrian Crossing Signs (yellow arrows)

to make it easier for drivers to see crosswalk areas and to remind them to use caution. The Town of Bedford also employs civilian Crossing Guards to help safely cross parents and their children walking to and from the various schools located throughout

the Town (pictured below). Uniformed Officers also provide assistance at intersections for safe crossing during the School Districts "Walk to School Friday" program which is held during the spring and early summer months every year.



D.A.R.E.

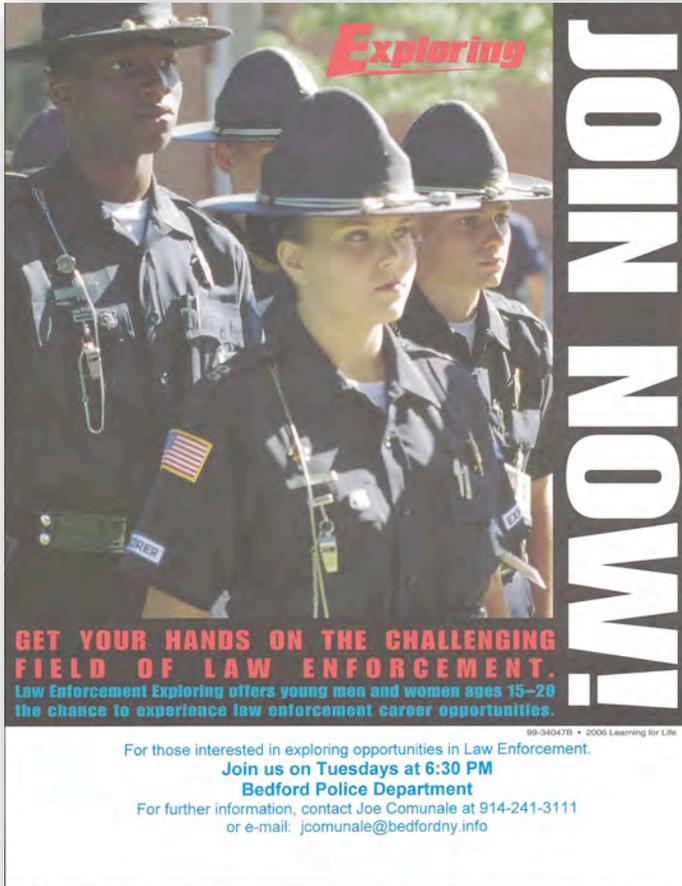


Pictured above are 2011 D.A.R.E. graduates of Harvey Middle School along with Bedford Police Detective Joseph Comunale (far left)

D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) is a highly successful nationwide program designed to give children the necessary skills to avoid involvement in drugs, gangs, violence, and peer pressure. In fact, D.A.R.E. programs are implemented in 75 percent of school districts throughout the nation today.

In Bedford, D.A.R.E. has been in existence for the past 20 years and is taught at St. Patrick's school, Rippowam Cisqua, and the Harvey School. It is a ten week program coordinated by the Bedford Police Department's Youth Officer, Joseph Comunale. The program educates fifth grade students about the harmful effects of alcohol, tobacco, and marijuana on the body, peer pressure, decision making, and bullying. Not only do the students learn important life skills - D.A.R.E. also affords them an opportunity to build relationships with police officers, gain a better understanding of the profession, and to see police in a helping role.

LAW ENFORCEMENT EXPLORERS



Exploring

JOIN NOW!

GET YOUR HANDS ON THE CHALLENGING FIELD OF LAW ENFORCEMENT.
Law Enforcement Exploring offers young men and women ages 15-20 the chance to experience law enforcement career opportunities.

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For those interested in exploring opportunities in Law Enforcement.
Join us on Tuesdays at 6:30 PM
Bedford Police Department
For further information, contact Joe Comunale at 914-241-3111
or e-mail: jcomunale@bedfordny.info



Explorers Club

Members of the Explorers, students who teamed with the Bedford police in the Explorers youth program. Front row, Elmir Pasalic, Bryan Maidana, Olivia Azrak, Jesse Sementilli; back row, Michael Geremino, Konti Markvukaj, Martha Slivka, Stephen Rivera, Nate Alexander.

In 2011, the Bedford Police Department initiated a Law Enforcement Explorers Program, coordinated by the department's Youth Detective, Joseph Comunale. Students 14-20 years of age are given the opportunity to gain hands-on experience in law enforcement. Law Enforcement Explorers take part in crime prevention activities, community policing, traffic control, fingerprinting, ride-alongs, patrol procedures, and connecting activities with high schools, court systems, as well as national, state and local academies.



Detective Joseph Comunale instructs explorers on traffic control during a classroom training session.

DEFENSIVE DRIVING



The Bedford Police Department’s 3 Defensive Driving Instructors trained 201 civilians in 2011. Our instructors held training courses at multiple locations throughout this community and also assisted other municipalities in training their communities in Armonk, NY and Mahopac, NY.

CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY



Prior to March 26, 2011, the Bedford Police Department provided walk-in child seat installation/inspection service to the public. This service was based on the availability of certified officers since they were usually also on road patrol, if on duty. In an effort to make availability more convenient and predictable, beginning March 26, 2011, the department started a new program where an actual car seat installation event is held on the last Saturday of every month, as pictured above. There, our certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians assist the public in installing and inspecting car seats as well as educate them on proper use of child car seats. The implementation of this new program has ensured that certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians are available to serve the public when they arrive, whereas previously technicians were not always available or on the duty to assist walk-in requests. In 2011, The Bedford Police Child Passenger Safety Technicians assisted the public in performing 121 Child Seat Installations.

PAMPHLETS & PUBLIC INFORMATION



The station house lobby serves as a public information center. Pictured above are a few of the many pamphlets and flyers available to the public. They provide information about Traffic Laws, Driver Education, Seat Belt Safety, Bicycle Safety, and DWI and other important topics.

SECTION XII

IN THE NEWS

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2011

Child Safety Seat day

On Wednesday, Sept. 22, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., the Bedford Police Department will be sponsoring a Child Safety Seat program in conjunction with the National Child Passenger Safety Program. The event will be held at the Bedford Hills Memorial Park. Officers will be on hand to assist with the proper installation of safety seats for children and answer any questions relating to child safety issues. For more information, call the Bedford Police at 241-3111.

Hundreds of young children are killed each year in collisions with motor vehicles, and thousands more are severely injured,

ORD REVIEW

Bedford

DWI arrest

Police arrested a 25-year-old Bedford Hills man on Saturday, Nov. 19, at 3:30 a.m., on McLain Street. Officers were dispatched to the area following a report of a car off the roadway. Officers located the car in a wooded area on the road and the driver was later arrested.

Bedford police join in crackdown on DWI

By CAROLINE G. SHERWIN
On Friday, Aug. 19, the Bedford Police announced its participation with 10,000 other law enforcement agencies nationwide in support of an intensive crackdown on impaired driving. The "Choice Is Yours Campaign" started Aug. 19 and will run through Labor Day weekend, ending Sept. 5.

According to data from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, the number of alcohol-impaired driving fatalities fell from 2008-2009, but the numbers are still too high. In 2009, alone, 10,839 people died in crashes in which a driver was at or above the legal limit, according to the NHTSA. The age group with the highest percentage of alcohol-impaired driving fatalities in motor vehicle crashes is 21-24-year-olds. Other drivers are going to school for the first time.

Police Report

9:30 p.m., on Babbitt Road. While on patrol in the area an officer observed Louis Mazo driving a vehicle with a loud muffler. During the interview the officer smelled burnt marijuana inside the vehicle. Further investigation revealed he was in possession of a small quantity of marijuana. He was charged with possession of marijuana in violation of the law.

Driving arrests

Police arrested a 37-year-old Peekskill man on Thursday, Nov. 17, at 1:15 p.m., on Bedford Road. While on patrol with the license plate reader an officer alerted to a car driven by the man. Further investigation revealed the information was suspended because of one fatality every 48 minutes. The Bedford police will be aggressively looking for all impaired drivers during this crackdown and will arrest anyone they find driving while impaired, regardless of age, vehicle type or time of day. Enforcement will include highly visible patrols, increased vehicle and traffic stops and safety checkpoints, said Sgt. Padilla. Along with that, fliers are being distributed throughout the Town of Bedford reminding citizens of the consequences of drunk driving, with the slogan "Your bars or ours, we find you driving impaired, we will arrest you." No exceptions, said Sgt. Padilla.

Police arrested a 42-year-old Bedford Hills woman on Thursday, Nov. 17, at 9:15 p.m., on School Street. While on patrol with the license plate reader to a vehicle registration. The driver was found to be in possession of marijuana and an equipment violation. He was released without bail pending an appearance in Bedford Town Court.

continued on page 3

Aunt Stabs Two Young Katonah Sisters

Perhaps no episode evoked more horror locally than the aunt who abruptly began stabbing two young nieces she was babysitting in their Katonah home. As dawn broke that Sunday, the first day of August, no one—including Lisa Turkki, then 39 and the lone suspect—could explain what drove someone to raise up her sister's kitchen knives, as the Bedford police maintain Turkki did, and repeatedly slash two 7- and 9-year-old girls.

At 9:22 Saturday evening, Turkki's 911 call had summoned Bedford Police Officer Matt Hawley to 85 Girdle Ridge Road. Encountering the suspect

outside, Hawley took her into custody. He then discovered the two sisters, both with multiple stab wounds, lying in their own blood on the kitchen floor. Hawley and Officer Nick Fusco provided first aid until Westchester EMS paramedics and members of the Katonah-Bedford Hills Volunteer Ambulance Corps arrived. They rushed the sisters, their injuries serious, to the Westchester County Medical Center in Valhalla.

As the brutal attack was unfolding at home, Turkki's older sister, Eva, and her husband, Joseph Kelly, were taking in a performance at the

Caramoor Center for Music and the Arts, only a short walk down the road.

Today, Turkki, a resident of East Syracuse, N.Y., sits in the Westchester County Jail. Now 40, she faces trial on two counts of first-degree attempted murder and two counts of first-degree assault, both felonies, and two counts of fourth-degree criminal possession of a weapon, a misdemeanor. Her young victims reportedly have recovered, following surgeries and recuperation at the Westchester Medical Center. It remains to be seen whether trust recovers as readily as flesh.

Police Report

Turkki pleads 'not responsible' to stabbing

By CAROLINE C. SHERWIN

On Monday, April 18, Westchester County District Attorney Janet DiFiore announced that Lisa Turkki, 40, of East Syracuse pleaded not responsible by reason of mental disease or defect. This plea was agreed upon by both parties to the entire six-count indictment against her following her arrest on Saturday, July 31, 2010, after stabbing her two nieces at their residence on Maple Avenue in Katonah.

Lucian Chalfen, spokesman for Ms. DiFiore, said that Ms. Turkki's plea of "not responsible" acknowledges her actions and motivations relating to each count in the indictment. "Her plea is not to be construed as a guilty plea," he said.

Once she entered the plea of not responsible, Ms. Turkki by law stood alongside her lawyer, Jeanne Mettler, and agreed to the terms as delivered by Westchester County Judge James Hubert.

"At that time she acknowledged each of the six counts against her, admitting to the stabbing with intent to kill," said Mr. Chalfen.

During her incarceration she was evaluated by psychologists on both sides who agreed she could not make sound judgments due to her mental disorder.

She was charged with two counts of attempted murder in the second degree, two counts of assault in the first degree and two counts of criminal possession of a weapon in



Lisa Turkki

the fourth degree.

On July 31, 2010, police received a 911 call from Ms. Turkki, who had been babysitting her sister's children, requesting assistance for the two girls. Officers arrived and found Ms. Turkki in the driveway. She was taken into custody, and officers found the two girls, ages 9 and 7, on the kitchen floor, conscious and bleeding from what appeared to be stab wounds. The girls were immediately transported to Westchester Medical Center. Two knives used in the attack were recovered at the scene. Ms. Turkki's sister and brother-in-law were notified and returned home immediately.

Ms. Turkki was indicted on Dec. 1, 2010, by a grand jury on charges

of attempted murder.

The indictment stated that after she was transported to headquarters, the defendant stated she had driven to her sister's home in New York to kill her family and stabbed the nieces. The nine-page indictment against Ms. Turkki contained statements she made to police in which she acknowledged committing the crime.

Ms. Mettler later told the court that Ms. Turkki had struggled with her mental health her entire adult life. Ms. Mettler said she was hopeful both sides could reach a disposition of this matter that was "humane and just."

The district attorney's office said Ms. Turkki will be committed to a secure facility for an examination in the custody of the New York State Commission of Mental Health. "She is now in custody of the mental health commissioner at a facility where she will be evaluated," said Mr. Chalfen.

"The judge will receive a report from the commissioner and will then commit her for an indeterminate amount of time," said Mr. Chalfen.

Assistant District Attorney Heide Mason, chief of the Child/Elder Abuse Bureau, and Assistant District Attorney Christine Hatfield, acting deputy bureau chief of the Child/Elder Abuse Bureau prosecuted the case.



Lisa Turkki, 40

Pound Ridge Man Arrested in Katonah Drug Den Bust

A Pound Ridge resident is due in court Thursday night after being arrested in connection with a drug den bust in Katonah.

While responding to an alarm company's call about a residential alarm going off on Wildwood Road in Katonah on Feb. 5, Bedford police arrived to find the front door ajar. They investigated the home and found a massive stash of drugs, drug paraphernalia and marijuana plants, according to police reports.

"While investigating the call, officers found marijuana bowls, ziploc bags filled with pills in plain view, heat lamps and what appeared to be cannabis plants," said Lieutenant Jeffrey Dickan. "Then they obtained a search warrant to investigate further."

The house was temporarily vacant, but police identified Jesse Weiler, 22—a relative of the former homeowner—as the person using the house. Their full investigation revealed a veritable pharmacy of pills and other plant growing materials, said police. Among the inventory taken by officers were these drugs, according to Dickan:

- 52 acetaminophen pills
- 32 hydrocodone pills
- 11 morphine pills
- Over 6 grams of marijuana
- 22 zolpidem pills
- 22 morphine sulfate pills
- 72 diazepam pills
- 70 xanax pills

Routine dispatch leads to find of pills, pot plants

By CAROLINE C. SHERWIN

On Saturday, Feb. 5, at 3:05 p.m., Bedford Police Officer Jim Fiori was dispatched to a routine burglar alarm investigation at a residence on Wildwood Road. What he discovered on his arrival led to the arrest of 22-year-old Jesse Weiler.

"Just simply said, textbook police work," said Bedford Police Chief Bill Hayes on the arrest after the discovery of a pot farm inside the house along with controlled substances discovered in the investigation.

"Jim was dispatched to the residence following the activation of a burglar alarm," said Bedford Police Detective Sgt. Tom Diebold.

"He discovered an unlocked door and no one at the residence. Per standard procedure, he entered the house to conduct a routine search," said Detective Sgt. Diebold. "In an upstairs area, he noticed a small black vinyl tent with a frame, which alerted him to possible marijuana growing inside."

According to police, he also noticed narcotics paraphernalia on the main level of the house, which led him to suspect further investigation was needed. He notified headquarters of the situation, requesting the assistance of the detective division in the name of Detective Matthew DiBiase.

As Officer Fiori was securing the residence, Mr. Weiler returned to the residence and he was questioned by Officer Fiori and detained, according to Detective Sgt. Diebold.

After Detective DiBiase conducted a walk-through of the residence,

Mr. Weiler was questioned further and he was placed under arrest and transported to headquarters.

"Matt issued an extensive search warrant, which was approved by Judge Eric Jacobsen around 7:30 p.m. We immediately executed the warrant and searched the house and the defendant's car," said Detective Sgt. Diebold, who accompanied Detective DiBiase.

Detectives located what they believe to be two six- to seven-inch marijuana plants inside the tent. They also located what they believe to be approximately 139 hydrocodone pills in a separate area of the house. Inside the car they located what they believe to be morphine sulfate and hydrocodone pills.

The collected evidence has been transported to the Westchester County Lab for analysis.

"This is still an active investigation with further charges possible," said Detective Sgt. Diebold. "We have to give a lot of credit to Officer Fiori for his preliminary investigation; he responded, observed the evidence, secured the residence and engaged the defendant in conversation on his arrival home."

Mr. Weiler was charged with one count of criminal possession of a controlled substance in the fourth degree, two counts of criminal possession of controlled substances in the seventh degree, growing cannabis and criminal possession of marijuana.

After appearing before Judge Jacobsen, he was released on \$5,000 bail pending reappearance in Bedford Town Court.

Weiler was charged with fourth-degree criminal possession of a controlled substance, fourth-degree criminal possession of marijuana, two counts of seventh-degree criminal possession of a controlled substance and growing cannabis.

After his arraignment by Judge Erik Jacobsen on Feb. 6, he was released on \$5,000 bail and is due to appear in the Town of Bedford court Thursday night at 7 p.m.

Man Extradited to Face Sex Abuse Charges Involving Bedford Hills Teen

Jose Toapante, 38, arrived in New York on Tuesday after being extradited from North Carolina to face sexual assault charges in connection with the abuse of a 15-year-old girl from Bedford Hills.

Toapante is accused of sexually abusing the girl in February 2011. Police said the girl and her parents together reported the incident, and said she knew her alleged attacker.

After the incident was reported, police learned the suspect had left the area and

issued a warrant for his arrest. Detective Haynes led seven-month investigation that led to Toapante's extradition.

The suspect was brought back from North Carolina with the assistance of the Westchester County District Attorney's Office, the Westchester County Department of Public Safety, the Wake County Sheriff's Office, NC and the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Toapante was charged with a third-degree criminal sexual act, a felony. He was taken

into custody on by the Westchester County Dept. of Public Safety warrant squad and turned over to the Bedford Police.

Following his arraignment, Toapante was remanded to the Westchester County Jail pending a court appearance on Thursday.



Man returned to jail after narcotics investigation

By CAROLINE C. SHERWIN

A 26-year-old Mount Kisco man who was released from state prison in January 2011 after serving four years for drug dealing, is now back in Westchester County Jail.

Christopher Bua was arrested by the Westchester County police on Nov. 9, 2011, following an investigation into alleged drug dealing. His arrest was not announced until this week.

"Members of the Narcotics Division started an investigation in conjunction with both Bedford and Mount Kisco police after it was revealed Christopher Bua was allegedly selling drugs in the area," said Kieran O'Leary, a spokesperson for the Westchester County police.

According to police, an undercover operation by the county police started several months ago when it was

learned Mr. Bua had allegedly been selling drugs in Bedford and Mount Kisco. "During the operation, Mr. Bua had made an alleged sale to an undercover county officer in Mount Kisco," said Mr. O'Leary.

At 8 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 9, police conducted a traffic stop of Mr. Bua's car in a Bedford shopping center, where he was found to be in possession of 250 oxycodone pills. "Following his arrest, police executed a search warrant at his residence in Mount Kisco, where police recovered another 100 oxycodone pills," said Mr. O'Leary.

Mr. Bua was charged with criminal possession of a controlled substance with an intent to sell and criminal sale of a controlled substance. After appearing in both Mount Kisco and Bedford town courts, he was remanded to Westchester County Jail on \$50,000

bail, cash or bond.

On March 9, 2007, Mr. Bua was sentenced to six years in state prison following his guilty plea to similar charges after his arrest on Jan. 5, 2006, for drug dealing. According to reports, in the fall of 2005, the Bedford Police Detective Division identified Mr. Bua as a major narcotics supplier. With the assistance of the County Narcotics Unit, an investigation commenced culminating in the January 2006, arrest. The investigation had determined that Mr. Bua was involved in a drug distribution ring. It was revealed that he moved large quantities of cocaine throughout rural parts of Westchester.

On Jan. 5, 2006, police executed a search warrant at Mr. Bua's Lewisboro residence. The items seized in the Lewisboro residence included one kilo of cocaine, a loaded .45 caliber semi-

automatic handgun with 36 rounds of ammunition, one Kel Tech .223 assault rifle — reported stolen in a 2004 residential burglary in Brewster — and \$75,000 in cash. Following the execution of the subsequent search warrant in Ridgefield, police seized close to four pounds of marijuana, an ounce of cocaine and \$700 in cash.

At the time of his sentencing, he also faced similar charges in Connecticut. Both New York and Connecticut sentences were served concurrently as part of a joint agreement between the states. Both cases in Mount Kisco and Bedford are pending, and his next appearance will be March 8.

According to Lucian Chalfen of district attorney Janet DiFiore's office, Connecticut authorities have been advised of Mr. Bua's arrest and the investigation is ongoing.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY BEDFORD POLICE

A graffiti tag located behind the Perks building on Katonah Avenue discovered by the Bedford Police on Wednesday, June 29, at 12:20 a.m., following the arrest of four area youths, alleged to be responsible.

Graffiti taggers are arrested in Katonah

By CAROLINE C. SHERWIN

On Wednesday, June 29, at 12:20 a.m., while assisting in an investigation of a burglary that occurred in Bedford Hills, Bedford Police Officer Frank Egelsen located four area youths who are alleged to have been tagging on Katonah Avenue. The youths, all female, were arrested after spray-paint cans, used to paint graffiti, were located in their car.

"Prior to midnight on June 28, we received a report of a possible burglary at the Penny Pincher Boutique, located on the Route 117 Bypass," said Bedford Police Lt. Jeff Dickan.

During the investigation Officer

Egelsen, as backup, was dispatched to Katonah Avenue where he spoke with an individual inquiring if he had observed any suspicious activity.

The man advised him that he had observed a group of youths drive behind the building where Perks is located, according to Lt. Dickan.

"Officer Egelsen located the vehicle and observed four female youths, two 17-year-old youths from Waccabuc and Katonah, and two 18-year-old youths from Katonah and Goldens Bridge," said Lt. Dickan. "When he approached the vehicle he observed several spray-paint cans in the car, one in plain view. He also observed some of the

ladies had paint on their hands."

During the interview, they admitted to tagging the area behind Perks, where officers located a symbol of a pacifier, the word "vibration" and the quote "Sand is biracial."

The 17-year-old Waccabuc youth and 18-year-old Katonah youth were charged with making graffiti and possession of graffiti paraphernalia. The 17-year-old Katonah youth and 18-year-old Goldens Bridge youth were charged with two counts of making graffiti and possession of graffiti paraphernalia. They were all released without bail pending appearances in Bedford Town Court.

Ossining teen charged with burglary

By CAROLINE C. SHERWIN

The Bedford police arrested a 17-year-old Ossining male on Tuesday, Jan. 11, at 7:15 a.m., in the area of St. Patrick's School in Bedford Village. The arrest followed a multi-agency search for the youth after he was reported missing by his two friends, a 17-year-old Ossining female and 20-year-old Ossining female. Following the investigation, the two females were also arrested.

The chain of events began at 5:30 a.m., when officers Drew Bellantone and Jon Evans were dispatched to the Bedford Shell following a report of two suspicious females in the area. Officers located the 17-year-old female and Katrina Oglesby, 20, who stated their friend, the 17-year-old male, who was allegedly intoxicated at the time, had jumped out of the car and run away

from the area. Police immediately requested the assistance of the Bedford Fire Department, Westchester County Aviation and MTA K-9 patrols to assist in the search for the missing man. Around 6:52 a.m., Officer Evans located the youth in the area near St. Patrick's School, not wearing a jacket and allegedly intoxicated.

"Due to his physical condition and exposure to the cold, we requested Bedford Village Fire Department ambulance to transport him to Northern Westchester Hospital," said Bedford Lt. Jeff Dickan.

The two females were transported to headquarters for interviews.

As officers were clearing the scene at St. Patrick's School, they were advised of an activated burglar alarm in the school. An officer responded and determined entry

had been made via a broken window.

"A large amount of criminal mischief was discovered inside the building, several light fixtures were broken, with an estimated value of hundreds of dollars in damage," said Lt. Dickan.

During interviews with all three suspects, it was revealed the 17-year-old male had entered the school, causing the damage. He was charged with burglary and held for arraignment. The two females were charged with false written statements after police discovered they had denied being with the individual through the night, "when in fact they were with him and aware of his actions," said Lt. Dickan. They were both released without bail pending an appearance in Bedford Town Court.

For 9/11, Police Step Up Security With 'Operation Safeguard'

In the six months leading up to the tenth anniversary of 9/11, Bedford police have stepped up security checks in sensitive areas around town and conducted an outreach program to businesses to educate them about suspicious activities that could lead to terrorism.

"Recent major terrorist attacks—in London, Madrid, and Times Square, big attacks involving bombs—were all logistically supported from the suburbs or outlying areas of a city," said Bedford Police Chief, William Hayes. "It's hard to get people to buy into that this is important, but it's critical that we are all vigilant, even in a small town like Bedford."

A month after September 11, 2001, then-Gov. Pataki established the New York Office of Homeland Security and set up 14 counter-terrorism zones throughout the state, according to the department's website. A few years later, Operation Safeguard was created as a way to educate businesses to be on the lookout for suspicious activity.

Bedford police have implemented the program, which includes keeping up-to-date contacts with businesses in the area, as well as informing them on how they could

be used by terrorists to acquire materials, skills, or training in order to carry out an attack.

"For example, we talk with all of the pool supply companies about reporting when one person tries to purchase large amounts of chemicals, and let the medical groups with radiation on site know about potentially dangerous situations," said Lt. Jeffrey Dickan. "It's about educating the public, and raising awareness on things to watch out for."

Dickan and Hayes repeated their oft-uttered mantra, "if you see something say something," emphasizing that the only way to stay on top of things is having the ordinary citizenry play a part.

"Wouldn't it be great if all of the town residents were on alert for suspicious activity?" said Hayes.

If a resident does see anything suspicious, they can call Bedford police at 241-3111 or call the state "terrorism tips" line at (866) 723-3697.

Both said they were not expecting any incidents to occur over the weekend, but Hayes said "anything can happen."

"We live in a different world," said Dickan. "On Sept. 11, life changed forever."

New Technology Helps Police Find Stolen Cars, Catch Criminals

The Bedford Police Department has driven into the future.

New technology—license plate readers mounted on police cars—can read a thousand plates a minute and notify police officers when a car is stolen, has a suspended registration, or is potentially being driven by someone who has committed a serious crime.

The LPR was installed on a police patrol car in July 2009 but was out of commission for the last six months after the car was involved in a collision. The car is now back in service, and has been a tremendous asset to the department, according to Police Lieutenant Jeffrey Dickan.

"In the last year and a half, the LPR led to 578 hits, 14 out of state positive hits, one stolen car recovered, and 38 arrests," he said. "Without it, those arrests would not have been possible."

However useful, the technology doesn't come cheap. The LPR was purchased for \$22,000 using state grant funds. The department is seeking funds to purchase an additional unit.



A Bedford police vehicle with a mounted license plate reader

Bedford Police Department's Explorers Program graduates 18 in first year

By JACOB BLAU

The Explorers Program, a new 16-week course aimed at teaching a handful of high school students from Bedford, Pound Ridge, and Mount Kisco about life as a police officer, culminated with a graduation ceremony at the Bedford Town Court on Wednesday, May 15.

Detective Joe Comunale established the program and served as the catalyst for its introduction and success. "The main goal was to foster an interest in law enforcement and give the students valuable experiences, leadership opportunities and a social awareness they wouldn't otherwise have," said Detective Comunale.

The Explorers, whom program

directors Detective Joe Comunale and Officer Billy Smith consider pioneers, were out and about at least once a week, getting to know local policemen and becoming more aware of the department's role in town life. Meeting on Tuesday nights, they learned about defensive tactics, crime prevention and first-aid calls from some of the department's officers. Explorers also rode along in Bedford Police Department squad cars. "The program got them much more involved in the community," said Detective Comunale.

"It was also good for career building, regardless of whether that career involves police work," said Detective Comunale. By ob-

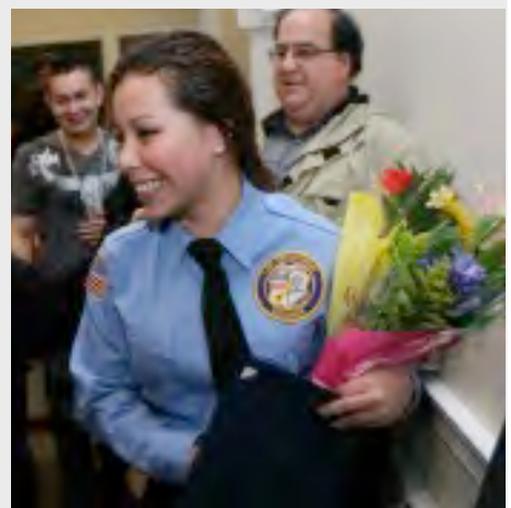
serving police officers on active duty, he explained, students learn about responsibility, discipline and maturity — traits helpful in any line of work.

Since their graduation a few weeks ago, the students' police-related activities have shifted from training and education to real-life work in the field. "The students will continue their service," said the detective, "except now in the form of volunteer participation in a variety of community events."

According to Detective Comunale, the Explorers will continue riding along in department squad cars, learning about traffic control and relations with town citizens, as well as getting involved with

crowd-control efforts at large town events. "The annual town carnival at St. Patrick's was a great experience for them in terms of handling one of the year's most popular events," he said. "I'm confident they have learned a lot about managing the masses — an important skill in police work."

Going forward, the Explorers will broaden their understanding of the Bedford Police Department by working four-hour morning shifts with officers in a wide range of policing disciplines. Detective Comunale deemed the Explorers Program a marvelous success in cultivating a well-trained, disciplined crop of future civic-minded adults.



DARE graduation at St. Patrick's School

On Thursday, April 7, the Bedford police DARE program held a graduation for 18 fifth-graders at St. Patrick's School in Bedford. The 10-week course taught the youths the harmful effects of alcohol, tobacco and marijuana, according to Bedford DARE representative Detective Joseph Comunale. The program also included peer pressure discussions and role playing that focused on making healthy choices and good decisions.

Pictured above and below are graduating members of the Bedford Police Explorers



Bedford in the wake of Hurricane Irene

Excerpts from local news articles:

Most of Bedford Remains Powerless

Over 70 percent of the town was without power by 9 p.m. Sunday. By [Lisa Buchman](#) and [Lanning Taliaferro](#) 8/28/11
By noon Sunday Bedford town officials had logged 14 pages of calls reporting more than 100 trees down and live wires all over local roads.

"I can't emphasize enough how people should stay away from standing water, live wires and downed trees," said Bedford Supervisor, Lee Roberts. She was working from town hall, where power was restored mid-day. Strong evening winds spurred the town to extend its state of emergency until 9 p.m. Sunday.

Live wires were the cause of [death for a Spring Valley man](#) attempting to help his neighbors Sunday morning.

An afternoon conference call between area town supervisors and NYSEG offered no relief—officials could not give estimates about when power would be restored to residents.

"They said it could be days, possibly even weeks, for full restoration," said Roberts. NYSEG did not begin any repairs Sunday, only assessments of the damage.

The town's state of emergency is still in effect, said Town Clerk Lisbeth Fumagalli. Bedford police issued alerts via its Nixle service to warn all non-emergency vehicles should stay off the roads.

The problem was, so many residents were without power—over 80 percent of the town, by mid-day—that no one could receive the alerts on their computers. Cellular signals were spotty for many as well.

By late afternoon, many residents eager to get outside and survey the damage were seen walking about town.

Local crews working night and day

If roads weren't cleared quickly, it wasn't for lack of trying. The town's highway crew showed up for work Saturday night by midnight, said Kevin Winn, public works commissioner. "We've logged at least 100 calls about trees down, flooded basements. The problem is, we in some cases we have to wait for the utility response because of live wires. In other cases, we're doing what we can to clear any road, even if it's a state road."

Access to Northern Westchester Hospital Center via Route 172 was restored by 5 p.m.

Other notable damaged areas today included Route 35 in Lewisboro, completely blocked heading East at the town park until late afternoon, Valley Edge Road in Katonah blocked, and Route 117 at Huntville Road was blocked for most of the day.

See the video posted with this story for images of storm damage, including a tree on a house located on Huntville Farm Road in Waccabuc.

The local fire departments were out in full force all day. Santo Curro, Bedford Hills Fire Department commissioner, said they'd responded to more calls than he could count. They would begin helping residents with basement pumpouts on Monday, he said, because the ground was too saturated to start any earlier.

More than 25,000 NYSEG customers in northeastern Westchester lost power, [according to NYSEG's website](#).



(Right: Bedford PD Officer John Moylan distributes dry ice)



Update: NYSEG: 'Majority by Friday Night, All By Early Next Week'

Local lawmakers have been critical of the response time of the utility company. By [Lisa Buchman](#) August 30, 2011 Update 4 a.m.



In a statement released Tuesday night, NYSEG reported that the majority of customers who are still without power are projected to have service restored by Friday night; all power is projected to be restored early next week for the 32,000 customers in its Brewster Division (parts of Westchester, Putnam and Dutchess counties).

Of its 6,629 customers in Bedford, 2,952 were without power as of 4 a.m. Wednesday morning; 12,786 customers in Westchester do not have electricity.

NYSEG officials said that of the 272,000 power interruptions that occurred because of the storm damage, they have restored approximately 206,000 services.

SECTION XIII

INTO THE FUTURE



LOOKING AHEAD...

2012 promises to be an ambitious year for the department. Effective January 1st, 2012, the organizational structure was changed to create a more efficient structure that improves the department's ability to perform its mission and deliver superior service to the community. The reorganization eliminated the Patrol Services and Staff Services Divisions and consolidated the patrol, investigative, and communications functions under a single Operations Division. A Support Services Division was created to consolidate the support functions of the department. The Administrative Services Division remained intact to continue the administrative functions of the agency.

The department has applied for, and will be granted, "Best Practices" certification for Sex Offender Management from the New York State Chief's of Police Association

For the first time, the department will enter the New York State Law Enforcement Challenge. The Challenge is an awards program that recognizes and rewards law enforcement agencies that have the best overall traffic safety programs in the state. Participation in the program will help strengthen and support the Department's traffic enforcement program with special emphasis on: occupant protection impaired driving, and speeding. The department will be evaluated for its effectiveness in the areas of officer training, public information, and enforcement to reduce crashes and injuries.

Successful community outreach programs, such as the Child Passenger Safety Seat program, DARE and the Police Explorers, will continue. A new program, the Youth & Police Initiative, will commence in the first quarter of 2012. This program, which is designed to improve police interaction with at-risk teens, will be conducted in conjunction with the North American Family Institute with support from local donors.

During the spring of 2012, the department intends to train and certify additional bicycle officers in order to expand the operation of the Bicycle Unit.

Later in the year, we hope to introduce periodic "Community Compstat" meetings, in which senior leaders from the police department meet with the community to share information and develop solutions to community problems.

In 2012, the department will explore increasing its internet presence and accessibility to the community through social media sites such as Facebook, Twitter and an improved website.