

2013 Amherst Police Report

Department Roster

Chief Mark O. Reams	Officer Nicholas A. Skiba
Lieutenant Anthony E. Ciampoli	Officer David P. Audet
Lieutenant Chad E. Blake	Officer Justin J. Gerome
Sergeant P. Derek Mahoney	Officer Heather E. Blase
Sergeant Patrick A. Webster	Officer Joseph P. Cerra
SRO Michael J. Knox	Officer Kevin R. Kelly
SRO John H. Smith	Officer Hans E. Chapman
Detective James B. Crocker	Sharon Higley, Executive Assistant
Detective Sarah D. Arnold	Special Officer Ralph Marschhausen
Officer Matthew R. Saunders	Sally Long, Crossing Guard
Officer Nathan T. Berry	Carolyn Karnis, Crossing Guard

Beginning in June of 2013, the Amherst Police Department undertook the development of a Strategic Plan alongside other Amherst town departments in an effort to improve the level of services to our community. The development of this plan prompted our agency to put forward an initiative which had been previously considered but never put into action: a community survey. A number of Amherst households were randomly selected to participate by assessing the quality of our police services. The feedback from these surveys has helped to identify not only the public's perception of our agency (88% rating of Very Good to Excellent), but has also served to identify those areas of concern that are most important to our citizens. We have used those results to help shape the goals that form the basis of our Strategic Plan.

The goals of our Strategic Plan have also been tied to the Town of Amherst Master Plan, which is a multi-year document aimed at identifying policies and actions for managing future growth and changes, while still preserving the unique heritage of our community. Further, our strategic goals are based upon an internal S.W.O.T. analysis of our department, where Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats have been recognized and used to help formulate the direction of our initiatives. Finally, the development of these strategic goals has also relied upon our own knowledge of the best practices of law enforcement agencies, as well as being based upon comparisons with similarly sized communities in New Hampshire.

The information derived from these sources has led to the development of a clearly defined Strategic Plan—a plan which will be continually reviewed to help ensure that our department is focusing its attention and resources on the objectives that are most important to the community, and to the professional growth of our agency.

Though slated to begin implementation on July 1, 2014, the Department managed to implement one of its strategic initiatives—*Increasing the Availability of Community Programs*—ahead of schedule in 2013. Even more importantly, this goal was accomplished through the forming of a partnership with two well-known community organizations— the Amherst Lions Club and Milford Rotary Club. The program, known as Rape Aggression Defense (or, R.A.D.), is a self-defense program which provides hands-on training for women of all ages. The Amherst Lions Club and Milford Rotary Club joined forces and donated the nearly \$3,000 needed to fund the purchase of the full-contact, padded training suits that are worn by participants

and trainers during the four week program. With this initiative, the Amherst Police Department hopes to raise community awareness of this issue, and to provide women of all ages with the knowledge, skills, and empowerment to overcome sexual harassment and sexual violence. A dedicated R.A.D. program for college-bound, Souhegan High School women is currently being planned for the spring of 2014.

Another area of focus for the Amherst Police Department in 2013 was an increased effort to address drug related activity. In 2013, the Department increased its number of drug related arrests by 21% over 2012. That figure represents not only the arrest of non-resident motor vehicle and criminal offenders, but also the investigation and arrest of resident offenders. Two specific enforcement efforts in 2013 resulted in substantial drug related asset forfeiture seizures, as well as the arrest of an individual suspected in the distribution of controlled drugs to students in Amherst. The men and women of the Amherst Police Department remain vigilant in their efforts to curb drug use and distribution within our town.

During the course of the past year, the Amherst Police Department completed its final stage of internal restructuring in the wake of several officer retirements which began in 2012. Several promotions were made within the Department, including the transition of Officer James Crocker and Officer Sarah Arnold into the Detective Division; the promotion of Detective Patrick Webster to Patrol Sergeant; the promotion of Sergeant Chad Blake to the rank of Lieutenant in charge of the Operations Division; and, the transition of Lieutenant Anthony Ciampoli from commander of the Operations Division to commander of the Support Division. Additionally, with the recent hiring of our newest Patrolman, Officer Hans Chapman, the Department is now at its full complement of 18 full-time officers.

However, as mentioned in the Strategic Plan, the Department's staffing level is three to four officers below the state and federal average. This shortage represents a growing challenge, especially when viewed alongside the increased level of business expansion over recent years, and the fact that the Department has not added a patrol officer position to the roster since 1998. The men and women Amherst Police Department remain hopeful that the citizens of our town will support the appointment of future positions as we endeavor to provide the continued, quality service that our residents expect and deserve.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mark O. Reams

Chief of Police