

NEWPORT POLICE DEPARTMENT

2015 Annual Report

policechief@newportnh.net

Administration

James C. Burroughs	Chief of Police
Lisa Morse	Administrative Assistant
Robert E. Ballou	Captain (Ret) Records*

Detective Division

Ernest G. Rowe	Detective Sergeant
Shawn Hallock	Detective
Paul Beaudet	School Resource Officer
Matthew J. Hogan	Prosecutor*

Patrol Division

Craig M. Robertson	Lieutenant
Patrick B. Zullo	Sergeant
Charles M. McLeman IV	Sergeant
Shawn C. Seymour	Patrol Officer
Joshua Boone	Patrol Officer
Clayton Couitt	Patrol Officer
Dakota Titorenko	Patrol Officer
J. Ethan Yazinski	Patrol Officer
Gregory P. Belisle	Patrol Officer*
Michael J. Batista	Patrol Officer*
Timothy Julian	Patrol Officer*
Cara White	Patrol Officer/Communications Specialist*
Deborah Porter	Crossing Guard*

Communications

Kristal E. Rowe	Communications Specialist
Christina M. Boutin	Communications Specialist
Christopher Conroy	Communications Specialist
William R. Russell Jr.	Communications Specialist
Steve Haselton	Communications Specialist*

*Part-time



Newport Police Department

59 MAIN STREET
NEWPORT, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03773

JAMES C. BURROUGHS
Chief of Police



In previous annual reports, I've started with the mission statement and values for the department which is prominently displayed on the Police Department's section of the Town's web site located at www.newportnh.net. Please check out the Town's web site for our mission statement and other vital information about the Town, the departments, and current events happening in and around Newport.

In addition to information about the Newport Police Department being found on the Town's web page, we regularly release public records to local media about our calls for service. These are often condensed and re-printed and appear in local newspapers as the "Newport Police Log." The media's reprint of our log provides only a snapshot of our daily activity. Our local media does not re-print all of the Communications' and Police Department's activity, as the Communications Center enters over 18,000 calls per year. Last year, the Communications Center actually logged 18,198 calls, up only 9 calls over 2014's 18,189 calls for service. I was shocked at how surprisingly consistent we were with the previous year's calls for service.

The Communications Center provides Police, Fire/EMS and Highway Department dispatching for Newport as well as providing Police Dispatching for the Towns of Grantham and Springfield. The Town of Goshen receives police and EMS communication services. In total, the Town receives \$41,119.25 dollars in revenue for providing those communication services. The Communications Center is staffed 24/7 with only four full-time personnel and two part-time Communications Specialists. In January we welcomed Steve Haselton to the Communications team as a part-time Specialist. Steve is a 22 year member of the Newport Fire/EMS Department. Steve, like so many of our Communications Specialists, has a special skillset only gained from previous employment experience with Police, Fire or EMS departments. Steve's local background with the Fire Department is an asset and a welcomed addition to the Communications Division.

In many ways, 2015 was a busy year for the Department. The Patrol Division, which is our largest and most visible division, consists of eight full-time Officers and four part-time Officers. In 2015 the full-time patrol staff remained consistent; however, we did have one addition to our part-time staff of officers. In March we welcomed back Tim Julian. Many may remember Tim during his previous employment with the Town in the late 80's and early 90's as he was a full-time officer achieving the rank of Sergeant. In addition to his new part-time role within our Department, Tim remains the full-time Police Chief in the Town of Springfield. Officer Julian brings 29 years of law enforcement experience to the department and is a welcomed asset to the Patrol Division. Another change you may have noticed is the look of the department's police cruisers. The cruisers utilized by the department are Ford Police Interceptor

Explorers, and this year they underwent the first major graphics change in over 20 years. A special thanks goes out to Jim Chrimes of Paint n' Place for working with the Police Department to develop the new graphics and unique look of our patrol vehicles. The new graphics pay homage to our history and depicts our beloved Corbin Covered Bridge and our moniker "The Sunshine Town."

As the Patrol Division handles calls for service, a portion of those calls result in court cases being brought before either the Newport District Court or the Sullivan County Superior Court. In 2015 the Department brought a total of 454 adult cases to court while another 28 juvenile cases were processed. The Prosecution Division consists of one part-time Police Prosecutor. A large portion of the full-time Administrative Assistant's duties are also allocated to the Prosecution Division. In January of 2015 we said goodbye to the Department's Administrative Assistant Irene Neimi as she announced her retirement. Irene retired after seven years of faithful service to the Town and the Department. I would like to personally thank Irene for her assistance during my transition as Chief of Police. Irene truly made that critical time appear flawless and was my savior on many occasions over the next several years. Irene's skills were cemented prior to her employment with the Department as she had served with distinction for over forty years as an Administrative Assistant to other area establishments. I am sure that all who have ever worked with Irene will join me in wishing her health and happiness as she enjoys her well-deserved retirement. With Irene's retirement came the addition of Lisa Morse as the Department's Administrative Assistant. Lisa joins the Department with a wealth of knowledge and more than 37 years of experience. Many residents may recall Lisa from her time with the Newport School District and as the Towle Elementary School's Administrative Assistant, a position she held for more than 27 years. We welcome Lisa and her vast experience to the team.

In 2015 we saw big things come from the smallest division within the Newport Police Department. The Detective Division historically brings to light the most notable and high profile cases each year. The Detective Division is comprised of only three full-time and two part-time members. Included in the Division is the School Resource Officer, Police Prosecutor (part-time), two Detectives, and one officer assigned to the NH Attorney Generals Drug Task Force (part-time). Throughout the year we conducted several drug dealer "round ups." These multi-offender arrests are vital to the Department's mission of keeping our town free of the drug dealers who prey on persons suffering from addiction. We remain committed to combating the drug related issues that are so very publicly gripping our state. With changes in the types of drugs and their potency we need to remain vigilant in our efforts to apprehend the dealers and to provide a clear path to recovery for those suffering from addiction. In addition to several notable drug related arrests made this past year, the Detective Division closed several high profile criminal investigations. Most notably was the apprehension and successful prosecution of a person responsible for committing several arson fires in Newport. Arson is perhaps one of the most challenging crimes to investigate and prosecute and it is only through the combined team efforts of our state and local Detectives that we were able to bring closure to these cases. The string of arsons was unnerving to many local residents and we were pleased to bring closure to those investigations. In addition to our criminal investigations, we continue to provide crime prevention education to community groups. Frequent requested topics often include: employee safety, fraud prevention, and drug abuse recognition and prevention. Another major

preventative, education and safety initiative, is the joint venture between the Newport School District and Town to fund the School Resource Officer. The SRO works within the schools to maintain safe educational campuses for all students from kindergarten through 12th grade. The School Resource Officer program is in its 18th year in Newport and continues to be a vital link between the Town and the School as we work together to achieve our missions.

Throughout the years, we are able to maintain our high level of services as outlined above due in large part to staffing efficiency and technology changes. As we proceed through these challenging budget times it's these continued changes and adjustments that have allowed the department to operate at peak efficiency and absorb the increases and demands placed upon the agency. In previous years I have reported that the department remains understaffed and has done so since the 2008-2009 budgets when one officer went unfunded. That position continues to be unfunded and is expected to remain so through the 2016/17 budget year. As a single point of reference to the changes the department has undergone, the department handled 13,697 calls in 2008, last year that number was 18,198. So, operationally we have had to improve our systems to keep up with the demands while at the same time decreasing or maintaining our overall budget.

I again want to remind residents that we continue to maintain our aging communication system as we continue to save and plan for future costly equipment replacement. We currently have communications equipment nearing its effective service life. This equipment services all aspects of emergency communication to the Police, Fire/EMS, and Highway Departments. To prepare for the future, we have established a very modest capital reserve and are saving \$5,000 dollars per year towards the inevitable costs associated with future equipment replacement.

In 2015 the department sought and received funding through grants and other sources for safety equipment, personnel costs, and specialty enforcement patrols. In 2015 the Newport Police Department received just over \$84,289 dollars in grants and related funding. I also want to acknowledge the generous bequeathed donation of \$5,000 to the Department from the estate of the late Virginia Parker. Those funds will be used for future equipment and training costs that will certainly pay countless dividends to the community for years to come. Thank you to the Parker family.

As I conclude my report, I want to take this time to welcome and acknowledge our new Town Manager Shane O'Keefe. I look forward to many successful years of service under his leadership. I also want to thank the community and the many talented and dedicated men and women of the Newport Police Department for making this another successful and safe year in Newport. Our "Sunshine Town" is truly a special place to call home. Even as we reflect back on 2015, we look forward to making 2016 even better!

Respectfully submitted,

James C. Burroughs
Chief of Police