Message from the Chief

The purpose of this annual report is to provide information about your Police Department, about crime in the City of Takoma Park, accomplishments of the Department and to explain how everyone can make our community safer. The City of Takoma Park Police Department will continue to work to reduce crime in 2014 as we did in 2013. The department will work to target larcenies, which was our number one crime in 2013. We will continue to provide high quality service to our residents during these difficult economic times.

The City of Takoma Park appreciates the support by all members of the community. As your Chief, it is my job to earn and keep your trust by providing high quality police services.

Alan M. Golberg – Chief
Takoma Park Police Department

Mission Statement

The Takoma Park Police Department is committed to providing the highest quality of police services by promoting an environment where police department employees and the community work in a partnership with a goal of improving the quality of life within our expanding multi-ethnic community, while at the same time maintaining respect for the diversity, individual rights and dignity of all citizens.

The police department is committed to working in partnership with the community and each other to resolve issues and problems which impact public safety and the quality of life within our neighborhoods. We are further committed to nurturing the public trust by holding ourselves accountable to the highest standards of professionalism, ethics and integrity.
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<th>4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Part 1 Crime Comparison 2012 and 2013</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>5</td>
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</table>

**Total Part 1 Crime: By Wards: Jan – Dec 2013**

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**Crime Statistics 2012 and 2013**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Homicide</th>
<th>Rape</th>
<th>Robbery</th>
<th>Assault*</th>
<th>Burglary</th>
<th>Larceny</th>
<th>Auto Theft</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>2012</td>
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<td>42</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>73</td>
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<td>36</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>302</td>
<td>42</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Change</td>
<td>+100.0%</td>
<td>+100.0%</td>
<td>-14.3%</td>
<td>+25.0%</td>
<td>+71.2%</td>
<td>-17.0%</td>
<td>-22.2%</td>
<td>-4.0%</td>
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*For UCR purposes, only aggravated assaults are included in the totals

Uniform Crime Report (UCR) statistics for year-end 2013, as compared to year end 2012, shows a **-4.0% decrease** in Part 1 Crime.

**Five Year Average Percent Change**

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>Average</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>% Change from Avg.</th>
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<td>48</td>
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<td>Agg. Assault</td>
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<td>26</td>
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<td>112</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>109</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>115.8</td>
<td>125</td>
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<tr>
<td>Larceny</td>
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<td>470</td>
<td>364</td>
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<td>78</td>
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<td>764</td>
<td>653</td>
<td>565</td>
<td>550</td>
<td>654.2</td>
<td>528</td>
<td>-19.3%</td>
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</table>
Total Part 1 Crime Comparison 2012 and 2013

Breakdown of Crime by Area

The following data represents the 2013 Part 1 crime statistics for the City of Takoma Park. Included is a monthly break down of Part 1 crimes in each respective Ward as well as a crime comparison of each Ward to the Total Part 1 Crime that occurred in Takoma Park. In reviewing the data, you will see that Ward 6 represents the most crime (26%) followed by Ward 3 (19%) and Ward 1 (18%).

Below is a pie chart that depicts the percentage of Part 1 Crimes committed in each Ward. This report was developed using Uniform Crime Report (UCR) data.
## Ward 1 Crime Statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crime</th>
<th>Jan</th>
<th>Feb</th>
<th>Mar</th>
<th>Apr</th>
<th>May</th>
<th>Jun</th>
<th>Jul</th>
<th>Aug</th>
<th>Sep</th>
<th>Oct</th>
<th>Nov</th>
<th>Dec</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Homicide</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rape</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robbery</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
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<td>0</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Burglary</td>
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<td>0</td>
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<td>0</td>
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<tr>
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<td>3</td>
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## City of Takoma Park and Ward 1 Comparison

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crime</th>
<th>Ward 1</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>% of Total Crime</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Homicide</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rape</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robbery</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assault</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burglary</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Larceny</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>302</td>
<td>21%</td>
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<td>Auto Theft</td>
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<td>42</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>528</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Ward 1 accounts for approximately 18% of Part 1 Crimes in 2013**
## Ward 2 Crime Statistics

<table>
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<th>Feb</th>
<th>Mar</th>
<th>Apr</th>
<th>May</th>
<th>Jun</th>
<th>Jul</th>
<th>Aug</th>
<th>Sep</th>
<th>Oct</th>
<th>Nov</th>
<th>Dec</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Homicide</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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<td>0</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rape</td>
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<td>0</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>7</td>
<td>4</td>
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## City of Takoma Park and Ward 2 Comparison

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<td>2</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
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<td>Robbery</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Burglary</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Larceny</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>302</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auto Theft</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>82</td>
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**Ward 2 accounts for approximately 15% of Part 1 Crimes in 2013**
## Ward 3 Crime Statistics

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<th>May</th>
<th>Jun</th>
<th>Jul</th>
<th>Aug</th>
<th>Sep</th>
<th>Oct</th>
<th>Nov</th>
<th>Dec</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<td>0</td>
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## City of Takoma Park and Ward 3 Comparison

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<th>City</th>
<th>% of Total Crime</th>
</tr>
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<td>0%</td>
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<tr>
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<td>2</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robbery</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assault</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burglary</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>125</td>
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<td>302</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auto Theft</td>
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<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100</td>
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<td>19%</td>
</tr>
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</table>

**Ward 3 accounts for approximately 19% of Part 1 Crimes in 2013**
## Ward 4 Crime Statistics

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<th>Apr</th>
<th>May</th>
<th>Jun</th>
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## City of Takoma Park and Ward 4 Comparison

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**Ward 4 accounts for approximately 9% of Part 1 Crimes in 2013**
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### City of Takoma Park and Ward 5 Comparison

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<td><strong>13%</strong></td>
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**Ward 5 accounts for approximately 13% of Part 1 Crimes in 2013**
**Ward 6 Crime Statistics**

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**City of Takoma Park and Ward 6 Comparison**

<table>
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<th>Crime</th>
<th>Ward 6</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>% of Total Crime</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>21%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>136</td>
<td>528</td>
<td>26%</td>
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**Ward 6 accounts for approximately 26% of Part 1 Crimes in 2013**
Top Five Stolen Vehicles in the City of Takoma Park

**The photos are for reference only**

♦ Toyota Camry

♦ Dodge Grand Caravan

♦ Nissan Altima

♦ Ford Crown Victoria

♦ Honda Civic
2013 Arrest Origin Total - All Offenses

2012 Arrest Origin Total - All Offenses

The charts shown above represent a 2012 to 2013 comparison of arrest origin. When a subject is arrested, the individual provides a home address. This data was used to determine what area the arrested subjects migrate from. In both 2012 and 2013, the majority of subjects arrested in the City of Takoma Park were not residents of the City.
2013 Arrest Origin Total – Part 1 Offenses

2012 Arrest Origin Total – Part 1 Offenses

The charts shown above represent a 2012 to 2013 comparison of arrest origin. When a subject is arrested, the individual provides a home address. This data was used to determine what area the arrested subjects migrate from. In 2012, the majority of subjects arrested in the City of Takoma Park for Part 1 Crimes were residents of the City of Takoma Park, and in 2013, the majority of subjects arrested in the City of Takoma Park for Part 1 Crimes were not residents of the City. Part 1 Crimes are: Homicide, Rape, Robbery, Assault, Burglary, Larceny and Auto Theft.
2013 Arrest Origin Total - All Drug Offenses

![Pie Chart]

2012 Arrest Origin Total - All Drug Offenses

![Pie Chart]

The charts shown above represent a 2012 to 2013 for subjects arrested on drug related charges. In 2013, there was a 1% decrease in residents of Takoma Park who were arrested on drug charges. The largest increase occurred with the arrested subjects from Washington D.C. at 3%.
The charts shown above represent a 2012 to 2013 comparison on the types of drug charges subjects were arrested for. In 2013, there was a decrease in Marijuana related arrests and all other drugs compared to 2012. In 2013, officers began arresting only subjects in possession of large amounts of Marijuana, indicative of an intent to distribute, as opposed to those who were in possession of small (personal) amounts, which is directly attributable to the decrease in Marijuana arrests from 2012 to 2013.
2013 Arrests – Prior Criminal Record

The majority of subjects arrested in the City of Takoma Park have a prior criminal record. According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), approximately 70% of criminals reoffend within 3 years after they are arrested. Over the last two years, 83% of the subjects arrested in Takoma Park had a prior criminal history.
The charts shown above represents all arrests made in 2013 according to the six wards within the City of Takoma Park. The majority of arrests occurred in Ward 6 at 48%. The next closest was Ward 2 with 14% of total arrests made in 2013.
Office of the Chief

Automated Speed Enforcement Technology

Automated Enforcement is the use of technology to enforce traffic laws. Automated speed enforcement (speed cameras) is a less commonly used form of automated enforcement used to address vehicle speeds, automobile collisions and speed related injuries. Speed cameras detect the speed of motor vehicles and photograph vehicles exceeding a present speed threshold. Jurisdictions use speed cameras to supplement traditional speed enforcement programs.

There are three forms of speed monitoring systems: fixed pole, mobile and portable camera units (PCUs). Both mobile and fixed speed camera systems consist of a radar antenna and a camera system. Fixed poles remain stationary. PCUs can be moved around to different locations. The City of Takoma Park utilizes fixed poles and PCUs.

Safe Speed Corridors

In February 2013, the City Council and State Highway Administration (SHA) approved the implementation of Safe Speed Corridors. Safe Speed Corridors are stretches of roadway identified and approved for Speed Camera Enforcement. Portable cameras can be placed in locations that have met all requirements and authorized by the SHA. The goal of this approach is to encourage drivers to respect the speed limit along the entire stretch of a roadway, rather than at one fixed speed camera location.

Location of Cameras

Takoma Park’s Safe Speed Program is currently utilizing five fixed pole cameras and three portable camera units. The fixed pole units operate 24 hours per day, seven days per week. The portable cameras operate 24 hours a day, seven days per week at the sites they are located. The sites are located as follows:

Fixed Poles
- 7200 block of New Hampshire Avenue/ southbound
- 7100 block of New Hampshire Avenue / northbound
- 500 block of Ethan Allen Avenue / westbound
- 400 block of Ethan Allen Avenue / eastbound
- 900 block of East West Highway / westbound
Portable Units
- 900 block of University Boulevard / eastbound
- 7400 block of Carroll Avenue / northbound
- 7400 block of Carroll Avenue / southbound
- 7400 block of New Hampshire Avenue / southbound
- 6900 block of New Hampshire Avenue / northbound
- 7300 block of New Hampshire Avenue / northbound

Corridor Locations
- 6900 – 7600 block of New Hampshire Avenue / northbound
- 6900 – 7600 block of New Hampshire Avenue / southbound
- 900 – 1300 block of University Boulevard / eastbound

These automated enforcement locations were determined by traffic studies completed by ACS Solutions at different locations throughout the City, as well as through accident data obtained from Maryland SHA and the Takoma Park Police Department’s records section. Thirteen sites were chosen for traffic surveys which assessed traffic volume and violation activity at each location.

The cameras in the 7100 block of New Hampshire Avenue (northbound) and 7200 block New Hampshire Ave (southbound) were established in 2009. Major construction to replace the Sligo Creek bridge was started during the first half of 2013. Sligo Creek Parkway was closed to traffic and the traffic light at New Hampshire Avenue and Sligo Creek was removed. A new traffic pattern for the area of these two cameras was set and two lanes of the roadway were lost. This continued construction caused a decrease to 15,561 recorded violations for 2013 from 21,847 in 2012.

Prior to the installation of the two New Hampshire Avenue speed cameras, 413 collisions were reported along this stretch of road in 2007 and 2008. These collisions included property damage and personal injuries. The improvements to the roadway and the success of the speed cameras decreased the number of collisions to 11 reported in 2012. Due to the construction and new traffic pattern, the number raised to 22 reported collisions for 2013.

The cameras in the 400 block of Ethan Allen Avenue (eastbound) and 500 block of Ethan Allen Avenue (westbound) were also established in 2009. The speed limit for this stretch of road is 25 mph. Due to the construction on New Hampshire Avenue in 2013, traffic in the area of these cameras increased. There were 2,112 violations recorded for these two locations, down from 2,322 in 2012.

Prior to the installation of the two Ethan Allen Avenue cameras, 31 collisions were reported along this stretch of road during 2007 and 2008. Due to the increased traffic on this road in 2013, the number of collisions increased to four reported in 2013.

In early 2011, a portable camera was installed in the 900 block of University Boulevard (eastbound). The speed limit in this stretch of road is 35 mph. The unit was upgraded in
November 2012. With the 2013 implementation of the Safe Speed Corridor, the camera unit at this location was used at several different locations, including this site. There were 4,040 violations recorded for this location.

There were eight collisions reported prior to the set up of this camera. This camera was set up to protect the high number of pedestrians. This stretch of road contains several shopping centers, bus stops, and elementary school and apartment buildings. In 2012, there were three collisions reported in this stretch of road. There were 11 collisions reported for 2013. This increase may be due to the use of this camera unit at other locations.

In late October 2011, a fixed pole was installed in the 900 block of East West Highway (westbound). The speed limit in this stretch of road is 30 mph. There was a significant delay in the installation of this camera due to equipment changes, issues with the location and delays in the permit approval process. Once the two week warning period ended and for the remainder of the year, 1,166 violations were recorded. The total for 2012 was 2,583 violations. This camera recorded 2,447 violations for 2013.

Accident data prior to the installation showed two collisions reported for 2011. This is a heavily traveled road used by pedestrians to get to bus stops, apartments, shopping centers and local restaurants. There were two collisions reported for 2012 along this stretch of road. For 2013, there was one collision reported in this area.

In late October 2012, two portable camera units were installed in the 7400 block of Carroll Avenue, one northbound and one southbound. The speed limit in this stretch of road is 25 mph. There was a delay in the installation of these cameras due to permit approval issues. It was originally planned for these two cameras to be installed in July. The normal two week warning period was extended due to Hurricane Sandy. The cameras didn’t begin issuing actual citations until mid-November. The total violations recorded for the remainder of 2012 for both cameras was 2,309. Due to the 2013 implementation of the Safe Speed Corridor, the southbound camera unit was relocated in May. The northbound camera unit continues to record high levels of violations. These two locations recorded a total of 9,752 violations for 2013.

There were 48 reported collisions between 2010 and mid-2012 which was prior to the installation of the speed cameras. This stretch of roadway is heavily traveled by pedestrians, school students, and vehicles. There were 11 collisions reported during 2013.

Two police officers and one civilian employee direct the program for the City. Anyone with speed camera questions can call the Safe Speed Program at 301-891-7138 and leave a message and someone will get back to you as soon as possible. Any further questions may be directed to Chief Alan Goldberg at 301-891-7104.
**Speed Citations Issued by Location**

Citations Issued by Location

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**Speed Citations Issued by Year**

Citations by Year

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**Nationwide Prescription Drug Take Back Day**

On April 27 and October 26, the Takoma Park Police Department, in partnership with the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), conducted Worldwide Prescription Drug Take Back Day. On April 27, the department collected 150 lbs of medications, conducted VIN Etching on 23 vehicles and five people signed up for the Watch Your Car Program. On October 26, the department collected 116.32 lbs. of medications, conducted VIN Etching on eight vehicles and two people signed up for the Watch Your Car Program. The Nationwide Prescription Drug Take Back campaign is important as it gives the public an opportunity to prevent pill abuse and theft by ridding their homes of potentially dangerous expired, unused, and unwanted prescription drugs. The other two programs help citizens to take further steps to protect their property. Our next campaign will take place on April 26, 2014.

**New Officers**

The following persons were sworn in as Takoma Park Police Officers in 2013:

Matthew Muzzatti      May 23  
Bradley Greenbauer     May 23  
Maxim Glushkov         June 6

**Emergency Management**

On December 6, a new Emergency Preparedness Manager was hired, Mr. Ron Hardy. Mr. Hardy reviews and updates the Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) and Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP). He develops and trains City personnel on all Hazard Plans to complete Section 4 of the EOP. An All Hazards Plan is a plan that will give specific guidance to employees on how to prepare and deal with different types of emergencies. The plan consists of different annexes that deal with different events. For example, (1) evacuation of the City building and where to report outside the building (2) specific severe weather; and (3) active shooter/workplace violence, chemical spills and so forth. He develops training scenarios for City personnel at all levels using the Incident Command System. Training is from basic Power Point to table top, drills and actual exercises. He further acts as the liaison between the City and the County on Emergency Preparedness, and is the representative to the County EOC and the Capital Region Council of Governments (COG). He acts as a member of the Emergency Preparedness Committee and works with the committee on outreach to the City. He conducts other duties as needed that fulfill the mission of emergency preparedness for the City as decided by the Chief and City Manager.
Mr. Hardy has attended a COG meeting, developed a quick guide to the EOP for City directors and the City Manager, worked on an All Hazards Plan in the review stage, will have a Power Point training for the City employees after it is approved, reviewed by the EOP, COOP, and the recently approved Montgomery County Mitigation Plan. The Montgomery County Mitigation Plan was recently adopted by the City and it gives guidance on how to recover from emergency events and disasters. It spells out which departments or agencies are responsible for different aspects of recovery, and what the expectations are using grant money to re-build so it does not happen again. Mr. Hardy is working with the City Manager’s Office and directors to update EOP and COOP. He is developing liaisons with County Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (OEMHS) and COG representatives. The OEMHS is an agency within Montgomery County who we ask for assistance from during an emergency activation. They operate and staff the EOC for the County and coordinate all resources prior to, during and after an event. They are also responsible for the Alert System in Montgomery County. Mr. Hardy acts as the Takoma Park representative to this group.

Mr. Hardy is working on an active shooter scenario to involve Takoma Park Police, Montgomery County Police, the Washington Adventist Hospital (WAH) and possibly Montgomery College. It is in the early stages of planning. There will be a table top scenario for the directors to handle that is built around how the City will plan a recovery after an emergency event involving City employees.

Mr. Hardy will continue to reach out to teens and seniors as initial target groups.

Mr. Hardy is also working with the City’s Information Technology (IT) management to change over to a new vendor for the alert system for the Washington Region and how it will interact externally and internally.

**Statutory Mandates**

A plethora of new laws or changes to existing laws were enacted and/or became effective in 2013, many of which impacted the policies and procedures of the police department. Most significantly, the new handheld cell phone use while driving and seat belt laws that went into effect October 1, 2013 had a direct effect on vehicular traffic patrol.

**Hand-Held Cell Phones**

Maryland Senate Bill 339 and House Bill 753, signed into law by the Governor, made the handheld use of a cell phone by a driver enforceable as a primary offense, meaning that the police may stop an individual for such offenses without the driver committing any other offense. The law addresses prohibitions on Maryland
drivers from using a cell phone without a hands free device while operating a motor vehicle in motion on a street or highway. Another provision specifies that an individual under the age of 18 years may not use a wireless communication device while operating a motor vehicle at any time.

Seat Belts

The new law about seat belt use requires that every passenger in a moving vehicle be secured with a seat belt or child safety restraint. Every child from 8 to 15 years old who is not secured in a child restraint (car seat or booster seat) must be secured in a vehicle seat belt, in any seating position. Children under the age of 8 are required to ride in a child safety seat, unless they are at least 4 feet, 9 inches tall. Rear seat vehicle passengers age 16 or older are required to wear a seat belt. (Previously, only passengers under age 16 had to wear a seat belt when riding in the back seat of a vehicle.) Because all seating positions within a vehicle require the use of a seat belt, the number of passengers carried in a vehicle may not exceed the number of seat belts in that vehicle.

Reasonable Accommodations for Disabilities Due to Pregnancy Act

On May 16, 2013, the Reasonable Accommodations for Disabilities Due to Pregnancy Act (SB784/HB 804) was enacted into law and became effective October 1, 2013. The law requires Maryland employers with 15 or more employees to provide their pregnant employees, upon request, with certain reasonable accommodations beyond the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Pregnancy Discrimination Act (PDA). The new law mandates that employers provide pregnant employees who are temporarily disabled consequent to pregnancy with light duty assignments or transfers to less strenuous jobs, among other accommodations. Typically, these accommodations remove essential functions from a position, rather than allowing the employee to perform the essential functions. The law also requires that employers post a notice “in a conspicuous location” and devote a section in employee handbooks that explains a pregnant employee’s right to a reasonable accommodation under the new law. The Maryland Commission on Civil Rights has jurisdiction to enforce the new law, but the Commission is not required to issue regulations or to provide sample language or posting information.

Synthetic Marijuana, Cyberbullying, Gun Control

Other laws that went into effect October 1st and could impact enforcement responsibilities include the following: Synthetic marijuana - Selling and consuming synthetic marijuana is now illegal; Cyberbullying - A new law prohibits an individual from using an interactive computer to inflict serious emotional distress on a minor; and Gun control - The state is banning 45 types of assault weapons, limiting gun magazines to 10 bullets, and requiring handgun buyers to be fingerprinted. Provisions of a law signed by the Governor on May 22, 2012 and making possession of marijuana chargeable by citation (as opposed to custodial arrest) took effect January 2, 2013. Another provision
of the law required law enforcement agencies, effective January 1, 2013, to track
issuances of citations and the Maryland Office of Statistical Analysis in the Governor’s
Office of Crime Control and Prevention (GOCCP) to annually publish a report detailing
the number of citations issued, the type of offenses for which they were issued, and
demographic information on the individuals receiving citations.

Arrests of Juveniles (Takoma Park Police Department General Order change)

A revision was made to the department’s General Order 804, Juveniles, responsive to
changes in the Maryland Code that now require law enforcement officers, upon making
a custodial arrest of a juvenile, to notify the child’s parent/guardian/custodian of the
action and, if the child is to be released to the parent/guardian/custodian, must secure
the latter’s “written promise to bring the child before the court when requested by the
court.” Specifically, the following is an excerpt from the Courts and Judicial Proceedings
Article, Section 3-8A-14(b)**:

"(b) Notice. -- If a law enforcement officer takes a child into custody, the officer shall
immediately notify, or cause to be notified, the child’s parents, guardian, or custodian of
the action. After making every reasonable effort to give notice, the law enforcement
officer shall with all reasonable speed:

(1) Release the child to the child’s parents, guardian, or custodian or to any other person
designated by the court, upon their **written promise** to bring the child before the
court when requested by the court, and such security for the child’s appearance as the
court may reasonably require, unless the child’s placement in detention or shelter care
is permitted and appears required by § 3-8A-15 of this subtitle; or
(2) Deliver the child to the court or a place of detention or shelter care designated by
the court."

Drunk Driving

On April 17, 2013 the U.S. Supreme Court issued a decision in Missouri v. McNeely that
natural metabolism of alcohol in the bloodstream does not create an exigency that
heretofore justified an exception to the Fourth Amendment’s warrant requirement for
non-consensual blood testing in all drunk-driving cases. In fact, the Court stated: “We
hold that in drunk-driving investigations, the natural dissipation of alcohol in the
bloodstream does not constitute an exigency in every case sufficient to justify
conducting a blood test without a warrant.” Thereafter, the Maryland Chiefs of Police
Association and the Maryland Sheriff’s Association issued a Legal Update - Alert
expressing the view that ‘the forcible taking of a person’s blood is a seizure under the
Fourth Amendment” and “therefore, one is required to obtain a warrant before
conducting such a seizure, unless one of the warrant exceptions applies.” The Legal
Update - Alert pointed out that the potential loss of the blood alcohol level alone is not
an exigent circumstance, and not an exception to the warrant requirement. However,
the inability to obtain a warrant, after valid and good faith efforts to obtain one, may
provide support for a warrantless taking of blood as exigent circumstances, provided
that the officer can document what efforts were taken and why they failed in

SERVICE ★ ETHICS ★ INTEGRITY
furtherance of obtaining a warrant. Thus, an officer may obtain the results of a blood test with: (a) consent of the defendant for a test; (b) a warrant for the test; (c) without consent of the defendant if a warrant exception applies; and (d) a subpoena for hospital records of a blood test not ordered by the police.

Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003 (PREA) (Takoma Park Police Department General Order change)

Reference is made to the Statutory Mandates in the department’s 2012 Annual Report, wherein mention is made of the U.S. Department of Justice release of its final rule to prevent, detect and respond to sexual abuse in confinement facilities, in accordance with the Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003 (PREA). National standards, approved and promulgated by the U.S. Attorney General to eliminate sexual abuse in confinement, became effective August 20, 2013. The department’s General Order 616 - Prisoners was updated to acquaint sworn employees with the PREA standards.

Community Outreach

The Takoma Park Police Department continues to participate in the following outreach efforts:

✦ Caring About Residents Everyday (CARE): This program is directed at the residents of Takoma Park who live alone with special needs, or just need to be checked on each day. Residents who need to be checked on register with the Police Department. They call the department each day between 12:00 pm and 5:00 pm. If they don’t call, they will be called. If they do not answer, a patrol officer will be sent to check on their welfare. This program is to protect those in need and bring a sense of peace to those friends and relatives who care, but who are not close enough to check themselves. CARE is another way we can give back to the community and take care of those in need. Contact Cathy Plevy at 301-891-7142 or cathy.plevy@takomaparkmd.gov to register for the program.

✦ Citizen’s Police Academy: A program in which members of the community are educated in different functions and components of the Takoma Park Police Department.

✦ Click it or Ticket Campaign: A campaign during the month of May to raise awareness of the importance of wearing a seatbelt and using the proper child safety seats while operating or riding in a motor vehicle.

✦ Community Notification List: A “listserv” in which citizens can enroll and have the option of receiving crime alerts and events hosted by the police department through email. If you would like to be added to the police department’s listserv, contact Cathy
Plevy at 301-891-7142 or cathyp@takomaparkmd.gov. In addition, the department also has a crime blog, Facebook and Twitter page.

✦ **Home Security Surveys:** Survey of the strengths and weaknesses of security measures of a residence (fences, locks, alarms, etc.). It is conducted by an officer trained in completing security surveys. The officer provides information on how to reinforce the weak security measures.

✦ **House Checks:** Services offered to residents who will be away on vacation for a lengthy period of time (usually one week or more). A police officer responds to the residence on a daily basis to ensure that no crime (such as a burglary) has occurred to the residence.

✦ **National Night Out:** An annual event held by individual communities at which time they demonstrate their commitment to being partners in the fight against crime.

✦ **Police Chief’s Advisory Board:** A group of residents or business owners who live or work within the City and who meet on a regular basis to discuss community issues and how the police department can be of service.

✦ **Ride-Along Program:** Provides residents the opportunity to ride in a marked police cruiser alongside a patrol officer to observe the daily duties of an officer.

✦ **Secure Your Property Checks:** The officers in Takoma Park will mail a 4 x 6 notecard to a vehicle owner if they see property in plain view in a vehicle, for instance, a laptop computer, briefcase, gym bag, money, CD’s, cell phone, purse, GPS system, camera, phone charger, iPod/iPad, wallet, garage opener, etc. The card reminds citizens that, in an effort to reduce thefts from automobiles, to please secure personal property out of sight in the glove compartment, console or trunk of the vehicle and lock the doors.

✦ **“Take 25” Awareness Program:** Celebrated in the month of May and nationally recognized by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. It raises awareness of child safety and encourages parents to take 25 minutes of their time to educate their children in the importance of personal safety.

✦ **Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) Etching Program and Watch Your Car Program:** VIN Etching is a security technique in which your vehicle’s VIN is permanently etched into all the glass panes of the vehicle. It is a proven vehicle-theft deterrent, as criminals tend to avoid vehicles that have been etched because it is harder for “chop shops” to make profit off of VIN-etched vehicles. Attendees are also able to enroll in the “Watch Your Car Program” and immediately receive the program decals that need to be affixed to their vehicles. These programs are held in conjunction at the Nationwide Prescription Drug Take Back Day twice a year, in April and October.
**Officer/Civilian of the Year**

**Officer of the Year**

The Takoma Park Police Department held their Annual Awards Banquet on June 7, 2013 to honor their 2012 Award recipients.

Private First Class (Pfc) Michel Godlewski was nominated as Police Officer of the Year. Pfc. Godlewski took the Oath of Office with the Takoma Park Police Department on July 7, 2008. During his field training, Pfc. Godlewski’s willingness to learn, desire to perform his duties and his positive attitude were more than impressive.

After successfully completing his field training, Pfc. Godlewski continued to excel in his dedication to duty, professionalism and determination. He was involved in approximately 46 arrests varying from Controlled Dangerous Substance (CDS) arrests to domestic violence arrests; sometimes involving more than one arrest in one day on several occasions. During 2012, he had two separate incidents; one was a traffic stop, where handguns were recovered. He recovered Phencyclidine (PCP), Marijuana and Cocaine, with one stop having over 57 dime bags with Cocaine residue. Another incident involved the seizure of 287 grams of Heroin.

Pfc. Godlewski’s contributions to the department and the community through his enforcement activities and no-nonsense police style stood out during 2012. He is a team player and has assisted the Criminal Investigations Division (CID) on numerous occasions from providing prints of value that he had taken from more than one burglary scene, to the use of his stops for investigative purposes. He provides invaluable Intel to CID, which is utilized by all the detectives assigned to the division. He ensures that his stops are documented through field interview reports and associated photographs. Pfc. Godlewski became an invaluable source of information during investigations conducted by members of CID. On April 7, Pfc. Godlewski was selected to join the Special Assignment Team (SAT) in the department’s investigative unit. Pfc. Godlewski is a tremendous asset to the Takoma Park Police Department.

**Civilian of the Year**

Ms. Angelina Cannatella was nominated as Civilian of the Year. Ms. Cannatella joined the Takoma Park Police Department in February 1999. She is an asset not only to the Safe Speed Program, but the department as a whole. She embodies the word “teamwork” and is a huge supporter of officer safety. She is always willing to accept additional tasks. Ms. Cannatella gives up her own personal time to make sure the speed camera
information is downloaded over the weekends. The speed camera program is one that runs seven days a week, 24 hours a day. She also attends court, as needed, to ensure that the speed camera tickets are upheld. She trained the Sergeant who was new to the Speed Camera Division. Ms. Cannatella’s positive attitude fosters team building in the department, and she provides the highest customer service. She contributes significantly to the department’s visions and goals through her extraordinary efforts, outstanding performance and dedication to duty. Ms. Cannatella is a tremendous asset to the Takoma Park Police Department.

**National Night Out**

The City’s National Night Out Against Crime observance took place on August 6. National Night Out is held by individual communities to demonstrate their commitment to being partners in the fight against crime. National Night Out Against Crime is designed to heighten awareness, strengthen neighborhood spirit and enhance police-community relations.

**Criminal Investigations Division (CID)**

The Criminal Investigations Unit (CID) consists of one Commander, one Supervisor, three investigators, a Victim/Witness Coordinator, Property/Evidence Clerk and Special Assignment Team (SAT) officers. There is also a Crime Analyst position that was recently vacated and is in the process of being filled. The Commander is also responsible for the direct supervision of the Gang Unit Detective and Drug Task Force Detective.

**CID Statistics**

There were 237 new cases assigned during 2013. There were also two cases from prior years that were reassigned, for a total of 239 cases investigated.

Out of the 239 cases assigned to CID for investigation:

- 100 were closed (42% closure rate)
- 13 were exceptionally cleared (5% closure rate)*
- 99 were suspended
- 27 cases open
*Exceptionally cleared:* In certain situations, elements beyond law enforcement’s control prevent the agency from arresting and formally charging the offender. When this occurs, the agency can clear the offense exceptionally.

Out of the 239 cases assigned to CID for investigation:

- 54 arrests were made
- 51 arrest warrants were issued
- 23 search warrants served

**Overall, the City reported a 47% closure rate of cases assigned**

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<th>Cases Suspended</th>
<th>Arrests</th>
<th>Arrest Warrants</th>
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**Notable Incidents**

**January 1**

Three victims were robbed at gunpoint in the 7100 block of Cedar Avenue. The victims were en route to the Takoma Metro Station when they were approached from behind by two suspects who ordered them to the ground. The suspects displayed handguns and yelled for them to get down. The suspects demanded money and searched the victims, taking property from their pockets. After obtaining property from the victims, the suspects fled on foot on Cedar Avenue towards Tulip Avenue. The victims continued to the Metro Station where they contacted police.

The investigation led to a suspect who used credit cards taken in the robbery at various locations. Surveillance video was retrieved and a potential identification was made. The identified suspect was also involved in another incident in Montgomery County and an arrest warrant had been issued for that crime. In coordination with Montgomery County Detectives, the suspect was arrested on the strength of their arrest warrant. The suspect was then interviewed by Montgomery County and Takoma Park Detectives, where he admitted to being involved in the Takoma Park robbery and named his co-defendants. The suspect was charged in the Takoma Park robbery and arrest warrants were issued for the co-defendants. All three suspects have subsequently been found guilty in court and are serving significant sentences.
January 2

Officers responded to the 200 block of Hodges Lane in reference to a burglary that had occurred earlier. Investigation revealed that the burglary was discovered when the residents returned from vacation. Forced entry was made and property was taken. During an unrelated investigation being conducted by Montgomery County Detectives, a flyer with a photo of a suspect they were seeking to identify was sent to surrounding jurisdictions. A Takoma Park Officer identified the suspect as being Daquan Tyler. Upon being identified, Montgomery County obtained an arrest and search warrant for Tyler and his residence. During the execution of the search warrant, numerous items possibly belonging to the victims of the Takoma Park burglary were discovered. Once the property was positively identified by the victims as belonging to them, an arrest warrant was issued for Tyler and the property returned to the victims.

January 22

Officers responded to the Prince George’s County Police Department District 1 Station in reference to a report of an abduction that occurred in Takoma Park. The investigation revealed that the victim was abducted by her ex-boyfriend. The suspect assaulted the victim, drove her to an unknown location and raped her, all the while threatening her and her family. The suspect told the victim that if she called the police he would kill her family. Eventually, the victim was able to convince the suspect that she would do everything he told her to do and the suspect drove her home.

After getting inside her home, the victim immediately packed her bags and rushed out of the house to call the police. CID Detectives followed up and warrants were issued. A collaborative effort between CID, SAT, Takoma Park Patrol, the Gang Unit and Montgomery County 3D Patrol officers yielded the location of the suspect in Gaithersburg, Maryland. A double vehicle block was performed and the suspect was taken into custody. Upon being arrested, the suspect had a suitcase packed and had in his possession an airline ticket and itinerary for a trip to Guatemala that was scheduled for early the next morning.

March 4

Members of the Special Assignments Team (SAT) initiated a traffic stop on a vehicle for traffic violations. The vehicle made numerous suspicious moves prior to stopping and, when the Detective approached the vehicle, the driver made furtive movements that raised the Detective’s suspicions. The driver was advised of the reason for the stop and was asked some basic questions to determine his reason for being in the area. The driver was evasive and gave contradictory or incomplete answers. The Detective returned to his vehicle to write the appropriate citations and a K9 was requested. Upon the arrival of the K9, a scan was done on the exterior of the vehicle and the K9 gave a positive alert for the presence of controlled dangerous substances. As officers began to search the vehicle, the driver fled and a foot chase ensued, with one officer remaining
with the vehicle. The driver could not be located and officers returned to the vehicle to continue the search. Located inside the vehicle was suspected crack cocaine packaged in individual plastic bags in a sufficient quantity to indicate an intent to distribute. Also located was a loaded .40 caliber handgun, three black face masks and several cell phones, along with paperwork belonging to the driver. Through further investigation at the scene, a possible address was located and officers responded to that address with members of the Montgomery County and Prince Georges County Police Departments. The driver was located there and placed under arrest.

As a result of this arrest, later in June, Detectives from Prince George’s County Homicide and Takoma Park SAT executed a Search and Seizure warrant on a storage locker registered to the suspect, resulting in the seizure of an assault rifle and two handguns. One of the handguns was used in a homicide in Prince George’s County.

Also in June, Takoma Park SAT contacted the DC Gun Recovery Unit in reference to an additional storage location registered to the suspect, located in Northwest DC. Members of the Gun Recovery Unit and SAT responded to the storage locker, executing a Search and Seizure Warrant which resulted in additional packaged crack cocaine.

March 12

Officers and Detectives responded to the Sun Trust Bank in Old Town for the report of a bank robbery in progress. Upon arrival, the suspect was gone and bank staff stated that the suspect had handed the teller a note stating “The money or else.” The suspect obtained approximately $1200-$1500 and fled the scene. A witness was located who stated that the suspect was last seen heading into Washington, DC. Surveillance images of the suspect were obtained and included in a press release that was disseminated to local media. An anonymous tip was received from a caller who stated that they recognized the subject in the bank robbery. The caller was able to provide numerous details and information that was later corroborated. Detectives obtained a photograph of the named suspect, which matched the suspect in the bank robbery. An arrest warrant was obtained and, on March 28, the suspect was arrested outside of his apartment by members of the Regional Fugitive Task Force as he was placing luggage in a van. He was transported to Metropolitan Police Department 4th District to be interviewed. The residence was secured pending a search and seizure warrant and the vehicle was towed to the Takoma Park Police vehicle/evidence bay pending a search warrant for it. The suspect was interviewed and confessed to the bank robbery. Items of evidentiary value were located at the residence and in the van during the execution of the search warrants. The suspect has since been found guilty and sentenced to 10 years in prison.

April 8

Fire and Rescue responded to an apartment in the 8500 block of Flower Avenue for a 911 call for help. The caller was requesting an ambulance. Once they arrived on scene,
Fire and Rescue discovered the door was locked and there was no response from anyone inside. Dispatchers tried several times to make contact with the caller, with no answer. Fire and Rescue then made forced entry into the apartment and found large amounts of blood on the floor and blood splatter on the wall. Takoma Park Police Officers and Detectives arrived on the scene to assist and checked the apartment for an injured person, but no one was found. A shell casing was seen lying on the floor. Police then exited the apartment and sealed off the area with crime scene tape in order to preserve the scene and apply for a search warrant to search for evidence. In speaking with witnesses in the area, it was reported that several males wearing all black clothing were seen running from the apartment prior to Fire and Rescue’s arrival on scene.

The victim in this case was later located at the Prince Georges County Hospital Center, where he had been taken by a friend. Detectives responded to the hospital and spoke to the victim, who related that he had been shot by a subject that he knew only by a nickname. Further investigation provided a phone number for the suspect. Further investigation revealed the true name of the suspect. A follow up interview was done with the victim, in which it was found that the suspect had shot the victim during a robbery. A photo array was put together and the victim positively identified the suspect who robbed and shot him. An arrest warrant was issued for the suspect, charging him with numerous charges including armed robbery, first degree assault and use of a firearm in the commission of a felony.

April 10

A residential burglary was reported in the 6800 block of Woodland Avenue. Entry was gained through an unlocked window and property worth approximately $5000 was taken from the residence. Detectives followed up with the victim, who was able to locate a serial number for a laptop that was taken in the burglary. A laptop matching that of the victim was found to have been pawned, along with items of jewelry, in Chillum, Maryland. An arrest warrant was issued for the suspect, as well as a search and seizure warrant for his residence, in order to search for additional items. The suspect was arrested.

May 17

A burglary was committed in the 6900 block of Carroll Avenue in which numerous items of video production equipment was stolen. The investigation revealed a suspect vehicle and a tag number was obtained. The suspect was identified and an arrest warrant was issued. On June 27, a burglary was reported at Washington Adventist University (WAH). Investigation revealed that housekeeping personnel had discovered two office doors kicked in. The one door had been kicked so hard that the door knob was found on the other side of the room. Nothing was reported stolen from either office. Detectives reviewed the video surveillance and observed a suspect known to investigators, who was the only person observed in the area where the offices are located during the time frame of the burglary. The suspect was known to investigators from being involved in
theft related crimes and the previous burglary in the 6900 block of Carroll Avenue. An arrest warrant was issued for the known suspect. The cases were later consolidated in court, along with a similar case involving the suspect in Montgomery County. The suspect was sentenced to serve 15 years in the Division of Corrections.

May 19

A citizen was walking home from work when he observed his girlfriend’s father driving by him slowly in the 7500 block of Maple Avenue. The suspect was driving a van that was also occupied by several other men. The vehicle stopped and three men exited the vehicle and confronted the victim, making statements referring to an argument the victim had had with his girlfriend the night before. The three unknown men then attacked the victim, hitting, punching and knocking the victim to the ground. During the assault, one of the suspects stole the victim’s cell phone and Metro pass. The victim tried to fight back, but the men kicked him over and over again while he was on the ground. Meanwhile the driver of the van, identified as the girlfriend’s father, stood by watching.

The girlfriend’s father was charged on this offense via an arrest warrant. After his arrest, the investigation continued for the other suspects involved in the case. It was learned that two of the father’s associates may have been involved and were identified. Photographic arrays were prepared and presented to the victim and the two associates were positively identified and arrest warrants issued.

June 30

Officers responded to the area of Holly Avenue and Eastern Avenue for the report of a strong arm robbery. During the initial investigation, the victim stated that he was coming home from a friend’s house and had taken the Metro. At approximately 2:40 am, he was leaving the Takoma Park Metro Station and got on the elevator. The victim states that an unknown male got on the elevator with him. After leaving the Metro Station, the victim walked towards Holly Avenue. The victim heard a man yell and observed a male subject with a ski mask on, running towards him. The victim advised that the masked man was the same one that had been on the elevator. The suspect demanded the victim’s property in a threatening manner, stating, “Give me your wallet or I’ll kill you.” The victim removed his wallet from his pocket, threw the contents out and tossed his cell phone. The suspect began searching for the victim’s wallet and contents in the grassy area and the victim fled the scene.

Detectives requested video from the Takoma Park Metro Station and met with the victim to follow up. The victim was able to describe a distinctive tattoo on the suspect’s face and described the shirt worn by the suspect. Investigators were able to locate a suspect that had the same tattoo that the victim described. In viewing the surveillance video, the suspect had on a shirt with white letters spelling out “Free Jackson 2400.” Investigators found that the logo on the shirt was in reference to a subject serving time
for armed robbery. The numbers “2400” referred to a criminal street gang that he was a member of. The suspect that investigators had located with the distinctive facial tattoo was also associated with this criminal street gang. The victim later positively identified this suspect as being the same person who had robbed him. A search warrant was issued for the suspect’s residence and various items of evidentiary value were located, including the distinctive shirt. The suspect was arrested and subsequently found guilty of robbery.

July 13

Montgomery County Police responded to a robbery call that occurred in the 8400 block of Flower Avenue. The lookout given for the suspects and suspect vehicle were similar to a robbery that had occurred in Takoma Park several hours earlier. In that case, a man was walking his dog when a dark colored vehicle pulled up and a suspect stated “I don’t want to cause any problems, I just need some money.” The victim noticed that one of the suspects was holding a large silver knife. An additional suspect approached from another angle and punched the victim in the face and pushed him to the ground. The two suspects continued to assault the victim and pulled his pants down while trying to retrieve his wallet. Ultimately, the suspects stole the victim’s wallet and cell phone before fleeing in their vehicle. A vehicle was spotted in the area during the canvas for the Montgomery County robbery. Three suspects were arrested and a knife was found lying on the passenger seat floorboard. A driver’s license and credit card belonging to the Takoma Park victim were found next to the driver on the driver’s side arm rest. Detectives from Montgomery County and Takoma Park participated in the investigation and interviews with the suspects, during which incriminating statements were made. Two of the suspects were subsequently charged in the Takoma Park robbery. The two cases were consolidated in court and both defendants have pled guilty, with one suspect receiving a sentence of 15 years. The second suspect’s sentencing is still pending.

August 4

Officers responded to an apartment in the 600 block of Houston Avenue for the report of a stabbing. Investigation revealed that the victim was returning home from work. As he approached the front of the elevators inside his apartment building, he heard someone approaching from behind. The victim looked towards the suspect, who then walked behind him and attacked him with a butcher knife. The victim was stabbed three times, with the force of the third thrust causing the knife handle to break, leaving the blade wedged in the victim’s back. After the attack, the suspect left the building at a leisurely pace. The victim made his way to his apartment where 911 was called and the victim was transported to Medstar with a punctured lung. As he was being loaded in the ambulance, the victim stated, he thought he saw his attacker in the crowd.

The investigation led Detectives to a resident in the building. A photographic array was prepared and shown to the victim. The victim positively identified the suspect who had
stabbed him and, it was found, robbed him of his wallet containing $450. An arrest warrant was then issued for the suspect. The suspect was later arrested and, as of this time, is committed to the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene at Perkins Hospital pending evaluation after initially being found incompetent to stand trial. The case is still pending.

**September 3**

Officers responded to a residence in the 1000 block of Elm Avenue for the report of a burglary that occurred earlier. Upon their arrival, officers spoke to the victim and were told that the burglary was discovered when the victim returned home from vacation. Force was used to gain entry to the house and numerous items were taken. In following up with the victim, investigators were given a comprehensive list of the stolen property and they began searching for items. It was found that one of the items had been pawned at a shop in Arlington, Virginia. Also pawned at the same time by the same person was a ladies gold watch that matched an item on the list. Detectives then began looking into the subject who pawned the items and other items belonging to the victim were found to have been pawned in Woodbridge, Virginia. An arrest warrant was issued and the suspect was arrested.

**October 7**

Officers responded to the 8000 block of Sligo Creek Parkway for the report of a burglary. Upon arrival they found that a basement door had been forced open and property taken. The victims provided a detailed list of items taken, to include laptops and jewelry with a total value exceeding $7000. Through investigation, it was found that a laptop was pawned at a local shop on the same day as the burglary. A check of the person who pawned the item revealed that he had pawned numerous items at three different pawn shops on the day of the burglary and the next day. An arrest warrant was issued, the suspect was arrested and numerous pieces of the victim’s property were able to be recovered.

**Special Assignment Team (SAT)**

The Special Assignment Team (SAT) is a plainclothes unit of four detectives, whose primary tasks are enforcing such crimes as, but not limited to, quality of life crimes, narcotics, weapons violations, prostitution and other related offenses.

The unit is also used in undercover decoy operations, intelligence gathering, covert surveillance and other assignments where the use of plainclothes or undercover officers is needed. SAT also handles all out of state extraditions and aided in several operations/details with the patrol division.

The unit is assigned to CID. While conducting its own investigations, SAT also assists CID detectives with case enhancement and apprehensions of suspects. Additionally, SAT
works hand in hand with state and federal agencies in combating criminal activities relating to the aforementioned.

SAT detectives use information received from citizens, officers and confidential informants to make cases against suspects involved in criminal activity, such as trafficking narcotics, property crimes, theft and quality of life crimes.

During 2013, despite the unit’s recent and new beginning, SAT has yielded over 65 arrests for crimes such as:

- Distribution and possession of narcotics (marijuana, crack cocaine, etc)
- Assault
- Firearm possession
- Burglary
- Armed Robbery
- Child Sex Assault
- Fugitive Warrants

Intelligence gathering and surveillance are some key responsibilities of SAT. Over 20 informants were cultivated during 2012 giving information to which SAT was able to close out several crimes, not only within the City, but some informants were even able to assist surrounding jurisdictions.

Oftentimes, SAT can find themselves conducting surveillance on a singular target for up to 14 days or more, determining a residence, place of work, affiliates and even observing a suspect committing additional crimes.

SAT officers were also afforded the opportunity of over 12 weeks of training collectively ranging from tactics, operations, and other specialty schools.

**Notable Incidents**

**March 4**

Due to an increase in drug and violent crime in the area of 4th Avenue and Poplar Avenue, SAT began to target the area. During this time, a traffic stop yielded approximately 150 individually packaged bags of Crack Cocaine, two larger bags of Cocaine and one loaded .40 caliber semi-automatic pistol. The suspect in question was also a convicted felon and prohibited from possession a firearm. This investigation prompted detectives to pursue storage containers owned by the suspect in Maryland and the District of Columbia. A collaborative effort with several agencies yielded the seizure of three additional firearms. One of the firearms, an assault rifle, was also suspected to be used in a homicide in Prince George’s County. Also found was approximately 110 individually packaged bags of Crack Cocaine. Considering the severity of the crimes, and the suspect’s extensive history, he was indicted federally.
March 17

CID/SAT began an investigation into reports of graffiti located at Montgomery College stating “CRACKERS” on two separate incidents and a third incident stating “CRACKER IS AN INFERIOR RACE” and “DEATH TO AMERICA.” A suspect was developed from a 2011 case, where the suspect was convicted for a similar incident at Montgomery College. SAT began extensive surveillance at the college embedding themselves into the college to appear as students in an effort to catch the suspect in the act. Subsequently, the suspect was arrested and interviewed by SAT. SAT received a full confession from the suspect.

June 5

SAT units conducted surveillance on two hotels for illegal activity due to noticing an increase in prostitution and drug activity. A suspicious vehicle was observed and later stopped revealing recently purchased narcotics from the hotel. The suspect was cooperative, providing the identification and whereabouts of the dealer. Surveillance was then conducted on the dealer’s hotel room. The dealer and three other defendants were identified and arrested shortly after yielding 27 CDS charges, one vehicle seizure, and $2,500 in currency. Additionally, one suspect cooperated with SAT and Montgomery County Police Department’s Special Investigations Division (SID), resulting in the arrest of an additional suspect for cocaine distribution. This resulted in the seizure of 11 firearms and over $11,000 in currency.

December 19

CID/SAT began investigating a call were a student of Montgomery College made death threats to team members and school staff by way of a text message stating that he had a gun and was after bodies. Team practice was subsequently canceled and police were notified. CID began to identify the student and apply for an arrest warrant. SAT immediately began conducting covert surveillance of the student’s home. CID obtained said warrant. SAT was able to locate and apprehend the suspect without incident. A search of the suspect’s residence resulted in locating property of evidentiary value to include shotgun ammunition. CID/SAT jointly interviewed the suspect where they obtained a full confession of the aforementioned threats. The suspect was charged accordingly.

Although SAT is a new concept to the department, the expectations and promise are high.

Internal Affairs Complaint Investigations

The Department continues to strive for professionalism, while closely monitoring the conduct of its officers and civilian staff. The reporting of internal affairs complaints
reflects the policy of the Police Chief and the City government regarding transparency and open government by reporting all complaints. The following is the Takoma Park Police Department’s Summary of Complaints for calendar year (CY) 2013.

Seventeen formal complaints were recorded, with nine subjected to internal affairs investigations. Thirteen complaints were submitted by citizens, and the other four were generated internally by employees, the Chief of Police or the Command Staff. There were no complaints referred anonymously. Subjects of the complaints included a total of 16 sworn officers, some of whom were involved in more than one complaint. Of the nine Internal Affairs complaints investigated, one investigation involved the conclusion of an officer involved deadly force incident that occurred in 2011. One of the complaints involved an incident that occurred approximately two years earlier, but was reported in 2013.

Four of the 17 formal complaints were completed with determinations that resulted in sustained findings of improper conduct, and disciplinary measures warranted; five were determined to be unfounded, seven were referred to a supervisor for counseling in lieu of an internal investigation and one was regarding the officer involved deadly force incident, which was within policy. The disciplinary measures taken included: loss of leave involving two employees, departmental restrictions placed on one employee and one letter of counseling.

Residents are reminded that the process for making a complaint against a police employee is detailed on the City Police Web Page and in flyers available to the public in the Police Department lobby.

**Victim Witness Assistant Statistics**

The needs of victims within the service area of the City of Takoma Park can vary. Variables can include, the type and extent of each individual crime, the existing support already in place for each victim, the age of the victim or the victim’s financial needs. Some victims may require as little as basic information given by a police officer in the form of a pamphlet provided by the State, “Crime Victims and Witnesses: Your Rights and Services.” Other victims may need many hours of support and assistance provided by police officers, the Takoma Park Police Department Victim Witness Assistant, and other related service providers.

The Victim Witness Assistant, a civilian police employee, may initially come into contact with a victim at the crime scene if called in by an officer or detective, especially if the victim has need of emergency services such as safety planning, protective orders, emergency shelter, or crisis counseling. Most victims are contacted by the Victim Witness Assistant to offer support, information, accompaniment to court or to offices of other agencies. A victim’s needs are accessed at that time and referrals for additional services such as counseling, medical care, support groups and compensation are given to victims after an incident. The Victim Witness Assistant also acts as a liaison between
the victim and detectives investigating a case, passing on important information and explaining police procedures, the investigative process and the criminal justice system.

In 2013, the Victim Witness Assistant worked with approximately 1,026 victims of reported crimes. These cases involved mostly Part I crimes, as well as cases of domestic violence, assault, identity theft, unattended deaths, runaways, and child abuse and sex assaults. Accompaniment was provided to court, prosecutors’ offices or service providers 204 times. Many of these included transportation. The Victim Witness Assistant also responded to calls from 98 people seeking information pertaining to unreported incidents or concerns.

Ongoing support and services continued for victims of incidents that occurred in previous years, as needed.

The Victim Witness Assistant also keeps a court calendar for officers and personnel who have been subpoenaed to testify in criminal cases and acts as a liaison between the Department and the State’s Attorney’s Office when there are conflicts or complications or additional information is needed for court. In 2013, the Victim Witness Assistant logged in 3,958 subpoenas.

**Gang Unit**

Currently, the Takoma Park Police Department has one detective assigned to the Montgomery County Police Department’s Special Investigations Division (SID), Criminal Street Gang Unit. This collaborative effort began in 2010, when there was a gang-related incident within the City every 3.5 days. Since having a gang investigator assigned to the Criminal Street Gang Unit, gang-related incidents have steadily declined each year with 2013 being the lowest since the inception of having a full time gang investigator. In 2013, there were less than 50 gang-related incidents which occurred within the City limits. While this trend continues, there are strong indicators suggesting gang members and affiliates who once perpetrated their criminal acts within Takoma Park are now committing criminal offenses in the neighboring jurisdictions. The gang investigator is continually working with allied agencies to combat criminal offenses occurring both within and outside the City limits of Takoma Park.

The mission of the Criminal Street Gang Unit consists of the following, but also involves additional responsibilities which are not for public information. Some of the responsibilities include:

- Investigative support of gang-related crimes
- Develop gang intelligence through enforcement, investigations and debriefings
- Support on-going federal investigations related to gang activity in the County/city of Takoma Park.
- Provide training to law enforcement and the public in relation to gang trends and identification.
Provide training at schools
Send awareness and informational letters to parents of juveniles who are involved in gang-related incidents

The Criminal Street Gang Unit is tasked with investigating all crimes ranging from property offenses to violent crime. Many times, the gang investigator is able to assist detectives in CID by identifying and apprehending subjects responsible for crimes that occur within the City. The following is one example of case enhancement which illustrates the importance of the current full-time gang detective position:

During the month of January 2013, three citizens were walking in Takoma Park when they were confronted by three subjects, two of who were armed with handguns. The suspects assaulted the victims at gun point and stole property before fleeing the area. Later, surveillance video was obtained of one of the subjects utilizing a victim’s credit card. The assistance of the gang investigator was requested, who was able to positively identify the subject despite the fact that he was fully clothed and wearing a mask. This subject later confessed and implicated two additional suspects for the offense. All three subjects were previously documented by the Criminal Street Gang Unit as active members who either resided in or frequented the City of Takoma Park. Further investigation into this and other offenses committed by one and/or all three subjects lead to the closure of over 15 criminal offenses to include, but is not limited to armed robbery, vehicle theft, burglary, handgun possession, possession with intent to distribute “crack” cocaine, witness intimidation, etc. All three subjects were later found guilty or plead guilty to multiple felony offenses and are currently incarcerated.

For the upcoming year, the assigned gang investigator will continue his/her efforts to solidify open lines of communication with Takoma Park’s neighboring jurisdictions to help identify suspects and combat criminal activity committed by gang members. Additionally, preventative measures such as school presentations and letters to parents/guardians of juveniles suspected of having an affiliation to a criminal street gang will continue.

Operations/Patrol Division

The Operations/Patrol Division consists of one Captain, one Administrative Sergeant, four Sergeant Team Leaders, seven Corporals (two who are K-9 handlers), nine Private First Class Officers (one who is a K-9 Handler), three Private Officers and one Nuisance Abatement Officer.
K-9 Unit

The K-9 Unit works closely with all other units of the Takoma Park Police Department. The department currently has three K9s: Zoro, Ryker and Kota. During 2013, the K9 unit took calls for the following:

- Mutual Aid – 22
- Tracks – 17
- Building Searches – 12
- Article Searches – 8
- Commercial Alarms – 52
- Residential Alarms – 48
- Hold Up Alarms – 8
- Burglaries in Progress – 9
- Burglaries – 7
- Attempt Armed Robberies – 3
- Armed Robberies – 5
- Strong Armed Robberies – 4
- K9 Demonstrations – 3
- Drug Finds – approximately 25

From April 1 – May 24, a K9 officer and his dog attended the Montgomery County Police K9 Drug School and graduated as “Drug Certified.”

On August 6, a K9 officer and his dog attended National Night Out.

In September, an officer and his K9 were requested by the City of Hyattsville Police Department to conduct a vehicular drug scan on a vehicle that officers had stopped. The officer’s K9 alerted and recovered 2 lbs. of marijuana inside the vehicle, along with $10,000 in currency.

In December, an officer and his K9 conducted a track for an armed robber. Along the way of the track, the K9 located a pair of gloves fitting the description of the suspect’s gloves. The victim positively identified the gloves as being the suspect’s.

One of the K9s was utilized on numerous calls where he was about in the City and on stand-by while violent offenders were apprehended and taken into custody.
**Honor Guard**

The Takoma Park Police Department’s Honor Guard, led by Sergeant Jerome Erwin, was formed in the late 1980’s and is made up of members from all ranks.

In January, the Honor Guard participated in the funeral detail of Prince William County, Virginia, Officer Chris Young, who was struck by a motorist on December 31, 2012.

In April, the Honor Guard traveled to Boston to attend the funeral of MIT Officer Sean Collier, who was killed by Tamerlan Tsarnaev and Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, the Boston Bombers.

In May, Chief Goldberg and the Honor Guard participated in the Concerns for Police Survivors (COPS) Escort Detail at Reagan National Airport during National Police Week.

**Administrative Services Division**

The Administrative Services Division consists of one Captain, a Records Clerk, Logistics/Payroll Clerk, Warrants/(National Crime Information Center) NCIC Clerk, Parking Enforcement Clerk and six dispatchers.

The Administrative Services Division is responsible for overseeing various functions that support the overall departmental units. These functions include policy review and development, fleet management, quartermaster/supply, technology implementation, grant research, budget preparation and administration. This division is also responsible for recruitment selection and oversees the Administrative Support Staff.

**Current Staffing**

The Takoma Park Police Department is authorized to employee 42 sworn positions. Currently there are two police vacancies and two employees are in the police academy; they are expected to graduate in September 2014. There are also two non-sworn vacancies; one in Communications for a dispatcher and one in the Criminal Investigations Division (CID) for a Crime Analyst. Both of these positions are in the process of being filled.
# TAKOMA PARK POLICE: DISPATCHED CAD EVENTS

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<th>Jan</th>
<th>Feb</th>
<th>Mar</th>
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<th>Nov</th>
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<td>577</td>
<td>610</td>
<td>516</td>
<td>602</td>
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<td>720</td>
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<td>641</td>
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<td>545</td>
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<td>648</td>
<td>697</td>
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<td>625</td>
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**Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) Events:** These types of calls are received by the 911 Dispatcher and then given to police officers, i.e., burglaries, alarms, 911 disconnects, etc.

**Self-Initiated Calls:** These types of calls are initiated by a police officer and given to dispatch, i.e., loiterers, suspicious subjects, parking, etc.

# SELF-INITIATED FIELD ACTIVITY

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Jan</th>
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<th>Apr</th>
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<tr>
<td>Other Self-Init</td>
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<td>564</td>
<td>683</td>
<td>696</td>
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<td>638</td>
<td>493</td>
<td>514</td>
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<tr>
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<td>488</td>
<td>520</td>
<td>635</td>
<td>380</td>
<td>509</td>
<td>465</td>
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<td>322</td>
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<td>Other Self-Init</td>
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Training

Training of Takoma Park Police personnel, both sworn and non-sworn, remains a priority; it enhances the skills, knowledge and abilities of staff and identifies gaps in capabilities and procedures. Takoma Park police officers, like all sworn officers across the state, must meet the Maryland Police and Correctional Training Commission annual certification requirements, which include a minimum of 18 hours of on-going “in-service” training. This training was completed jointly with the various law enforcement agencies from across the county to ensure a coordinated response to emergency situations. The training included legal updates, domestic violence, domestic terrorism, mental health awareness, diversity, use of force, defensive tactics, and firearms safety and qualifications.

Supervisors, patrol officers and detectives attended a wide range of training programs designed to improve their skills, including responses to public safety-related situations. The training covered traditional areas such as managing a police shooting incident, active shooters and traffic stops. Patrol officers and detectives also focused on emerging issues such as the use of social media sites, cellular phone data recovery, and technology in forensics investigations.

The training of newly hired officers, and the continuing of training all officers, will remain a priority in 2014. The opportunity to train a new officer, who will have an impact on the department and community for years, is critical to the future of the agency.

Key Projects and Achievements

Improving Technology to Fight Crime and Streamline Internal Processes

✦ Nearly completed the upgrade of all radio equipment to allow for interoperability with neighboring agencies.

✦ Expansion and re-missioning the Special Assignment Team (SAT) to apprehend criminals, case enhancement and address specific hotspot issues.

✦ Purchase IA Pro software to allow for better tracking of complaints, compliments and other internal processes; thus, allowing another layer of transparency.

✦ Implementation of ACRS to complete collision reports.
• Beast Program to track evidence and internal property.

• Adding traffic count technologies to provide metrics for decisions on traffic enforcement and engineering.

• Other technologies as a force multiplier:
  • Video partnerships
  • Thermal cameras
  • LPR Technology

Addressing Staffing and Recruiting Challenges

• Recruitment and Hiring: This is a priority for sworn and non-sworn positions. Within the last two years, we have hired eight new officers (two are currently in the academy). We currently have two vacant sworn positions, a crime analyst and a dispatch position, which will be filled.

• Nearly 25% of the department has less than three years with the agency.

• Hiring new dispatchers and the Emergency Management Coordinator.

Trends

Trends within the City of Takoma Park and Region:

• Crime Trends: There are no real crime trends within the City that are unique to Takoma Park. Every surrounding jurisdiction experiences similar criminal activity. While surrounding jurisdictions tend to have more significant violent crime and higher incidents of property crimes, the targeted victims and property show some commonality:
  • Electronics thefts, cell phones, laptops
  • Theft from Auto/Gas Station events
  • Cell phone store thefts and robberies
  • Auto thefts: “jump ins”

Looking to the Future

Challenges Going Forward

• Crime Prevention: Getting people to apply crime prevention tips.
• Engage the residents to watch out for the neighbors and community.
Staffing of police departments will always be an issue. Often, this is caused from injuries, officer involved shootings, etc. Succession Planning/Anticipation of vacancies.

**Opportunities Going Forward**

- Continue and improve information sharing and transparency with the community evolving social media outlets as well as traditional methods.
- Continue to build partnerships with neighboring jurisdictions to enhance crime prevention and closure. Provide crime prevention training to all patrol officers.
- Utilizing technologies as force multipliers.

  - Building out on existing technologies.
  - Exploring new technologies and data sharing.