

# **Town of Chester Police Department**

## **ANNUAL REPORT**



# **2019**



PREPARED BY

**Chief Daniel J. Doellinger, FBINA**

**Town of Chester Town Board (2020)**

Supervisor Robert Valentine

Councilman Thomas Becker

Councilman Robert Courtenay

Councilman Orlando Perez

Councilwoman Cynthia Smith

# **MISSION STATEMENT**

## **TOWN OF CHESTER POLICE DEPARTMENT**

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

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

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

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

## **MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF**

I am proud to offer this report detailing our activity during the calendar year of 2019. I hope you find it both interesting and beneficial. My staff and I regularly review the way we deploy our resources in an effort to increase our ability to respond to the needs of the community and to maximize the resources. The department stays aware of current technological advances and strives to provide the most up-to-date information and equipment for our staff. We are always exploring innovative ways to work with individuals, organizations and businesses to make our community an even better place to live and work.

The Town of Chester Police Department uses “Community Commitment” as our motto. The motto is visible daily to the officers as a reminder that their primary responsibility is to the community that they serve. We recognize that the department alone cannot make the town a safe place for our residents and visitors. In order to accomplish our goals, we need to work together with our residents and business owners and employees.

We also recognize that the best technology and equipment are only as good as the men and women who use them. Quality employees are critical to our mission. The department continues to seek and recruit quality personnel, while striving to be on the cutting edge of law enforcement technology and to operate within a budget created during tough economic times. Remaining current with state of the art technology and changing trends within the law enforcement community keeps our officers and staff enthusiastic about their chosen profession, while increasing their productivity and drive to serve the community.

I have been serving the Town of Chester as police chief since 2008 and take the responsibility and trust that you have placed in me as your chief very seriously. My efforts are focused on providing the highest caliber of police services possible while remaining fiscally responsible to the taxpayers. The men and women of the Town of Chester Police Department will continue to serve our residents, business owners and visitors in a professional and caring manner.

## **PERSONNEL**

The Town of Chester Police Department was created by Town Board resolution on July 22, 1975. The resolution included the appointment of all current town constables as police officers, with the Chief Constable (Chief Victor Roggia) becoming the first Chief of Police. The police department served the community with part-time police officers until 1991, when the first full-time police officer (Officer Teresa Dobbertin) was hired. The first full-time police chief (Chief Dennis Nolan) was hired in 1992. The first full-time detective was promoted in 2000 (Det. Sal Ardisi) and the first full-time sergeant was promoted in 2001 (Sgt. Dan Doellinger). The department provided coverage to the town for sixteen hours a day, supplemented by the New York State Police overnight, until January of 2007 when around-the-clock coverage began. The year 2019 marked our thirteenth consecutive year of providing continuous 24 hours a day of service to the community.

At the end of 2019, the department was staffed with fifteen (15) full-time police officers, five (5) part-time police officers and two (2) part-time clerical staff. The roster as of December 31, 2019 is below.

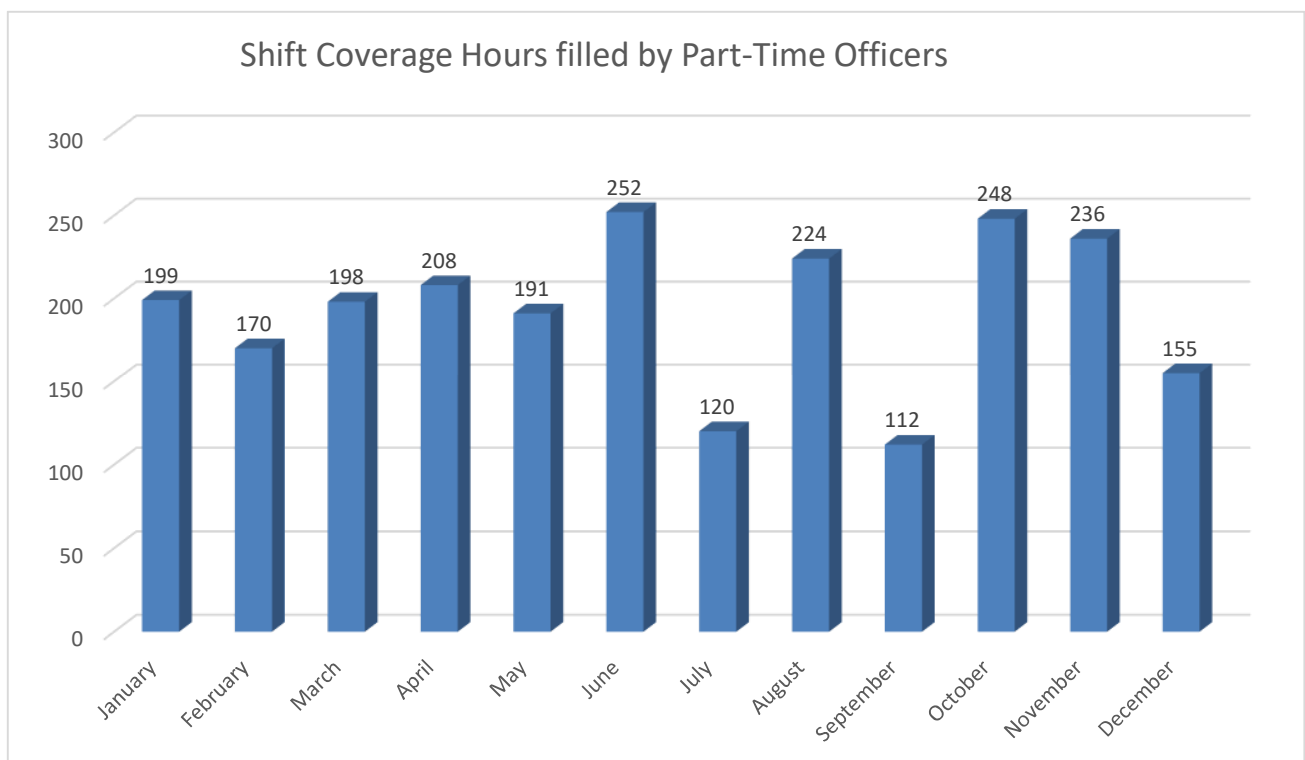
Chief of Police	Chief Daniel J. Doellinger	
Administrative Sergeant	Sgt. Norman Vitale	
Patrol Supervisors	Sgt. David Slowik	
	Sgt. Christopher D'Agnese	
	Sgt. Joshua Dugan	
Investigative Division	Detective Lee Slaughter	
Patrol Division (full-time)	Officer/SRO Richard Perez	Officer Robert Bird
	Officer Lee Weinstein	Officer Deana Santosky-Wright
	Officer Robert Stack	Officer Stephen Monsees
	Officer Bruce Chambers	Officer Michael Dunlop
	Officer John Calderone	
Patrol Division (part-time)	Officer John Maglione	Officer Jeffrey DeLuca
	Officer Erik Grahm	Officer Steven Pavese
Court Officers (part-time)	Officer Kenneth Rosengrant	Officer Jeffrey DeLuca
Police Clerks (part-time)	Clerk Simone Klopff	Clerk Desiree Petraro

## **PERSONNEL CHANGES IN 2019**

- Officer **Laura Gannon** resigned from her position as a part-time police officer on February 6<sup>th</sup> to take a full-time police officer position in the Town of Wallkill.
- Officer **Jeffrey DeLuca** has worked since 2017 as a part-time police officer assigned to the court. In March, he was also assigned to patrol duties while continuing to perform the court officer details.
- Officer **Steven Pavese** was hired as a part-time police officer on September 25<sup>th</sup>.
- Officer **John Calderone** was hired as a full-time police officer on October 24<sup>th</sup>.
- Sgt. **Norman Vitale** was promoted to **Administrative Sergeant** on November 20<sup>th</sup>.
- Officer **Joshua Dugan** was promoted to **Patrol Sergeant** on December 12<sup>th</sup>.

## **STAFFING AND SCHEDULING**

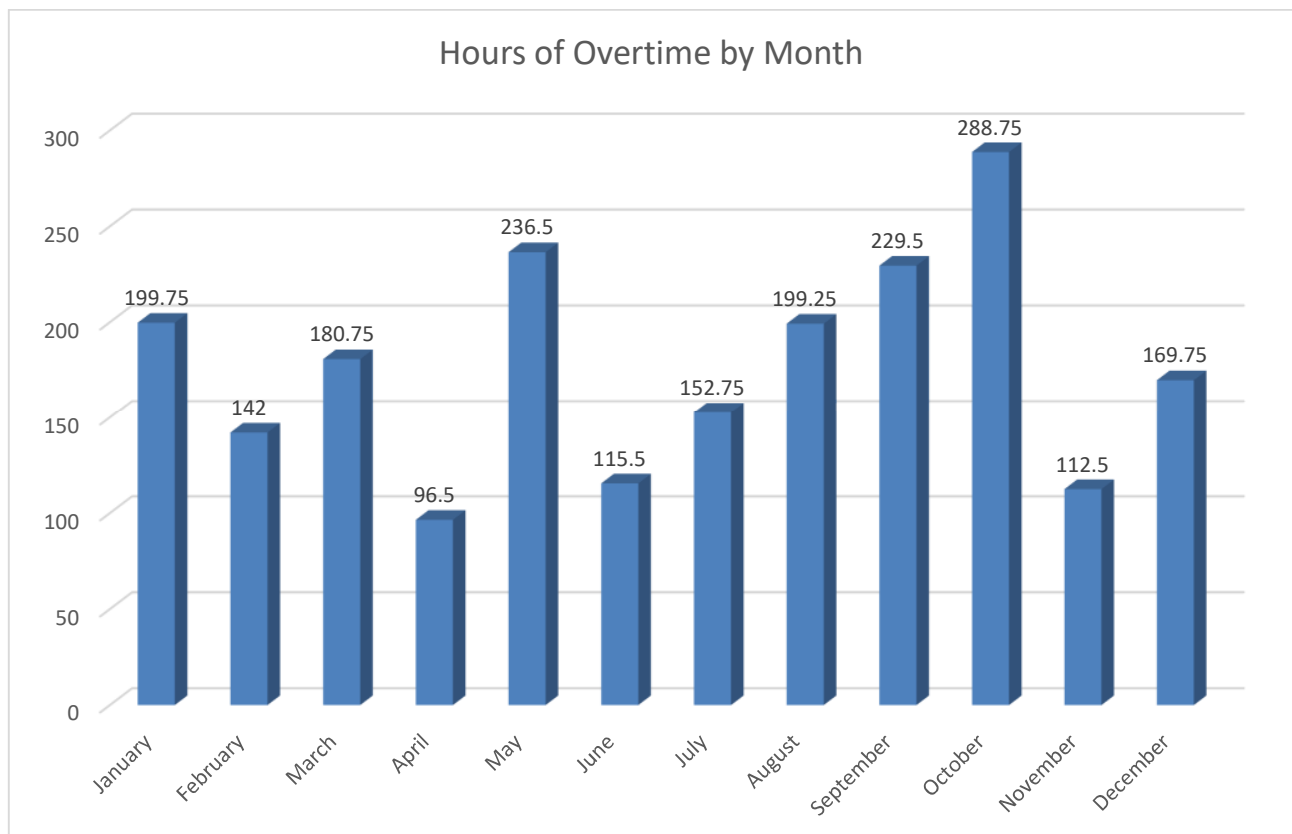
In 2019, members of the department provided over 29,000 hours of service to the town for an average of 79.75 man-hours per day. We maintained the contractual staffing level of at least two officers assigned to patrol at all times. Part-time police officers were used to maintain the minimum patrol staffing for 2,313 of those hours, or about 8% of the total hours worked by all. In 2019, full-time police officers were paid for 1,163 hours of overtime to maintain the minimum staffing level. When compared to the previous year, part-time officers worked 312 more shift coverage hours in 2019 and full-time officers were paid 37 fewer hours of overtime to meet minimum staffing requirements.



## **OVERTIME**

There were 2,124 hours of overtime paid overall in 2019. A breakdown of the overtime categories totaling more than ten annual hours is below. About 12% of the overtime was reimbursed from an outside source.

Shift Coverage	1162.75	Sugar Loaf Festival Details	33.5
Training/Firearms Qualifications	240	Court/Hearings	32.75
Stop DWI Patrols	155.5	HS Game Details	21
Police Traffic Services Grant	98	1033 Program Equipment Pickups	14
Late Calls and Arrests	92.25	Supervisor Administrative Assignments	12.25
Commercial Vehicle Enforcement	74.5	Court Officer Coverage	12
Investigations	46.25	School-related Assignments	12
Traffic Enforcement Details (incl. DWI Checkpoints)	40	Community Day	11.5
Town Fireworks Detail	39.75		





We were awarded \$12,324 to use for dedicated DWI patrols in 2019 as part of a county-wide STOP-DWI grant administered through the Orange County Department of Emergency Services Traffic Safety Division. The grant award funded 179 hours of overtime dedicated to enforcement of the DWI laws. Officers working during this program stopped 267 vehicles, issued 178 tickets and made two arrests for driving while intoxicated during three prescribed periods throughout the year.



The Police Traffic Services Grant was awarded \$7,015 to our agency from the state (for FY2019) for reimbursement of overtime costs for specialized traffic enforcement details. Thirty percent (30%) of the award was for seatbelt and child restraint enforcement with the remainder (70%) assigned to the enforcement of aggressive driving behaviors. As part of this grant program, officers participated in several initiatives. The No Empty Chair campaign in April focused on safe teen driving behaviors directed at having no empty chairs at graduation because of traffic fatalities. The statewide Distracted Driving mobilization also took place in April directed towards texting and cell phone use violations. The nationwide Click It or Ticket campaign in May focused on seatbelt and child restraint enforcement. In August, officers participated in Speed Awareness Week.

## **PATROL ACTIVITY**

In 2019, town police officers initiated or responded to almost 3,400 calls for service, including over 179 motor vehicle accidents. The top twelve types of calls that we responded to are listed below.

Medical calls	284	Suspicious Activity (persons, vehicles or conditions)	247
Motor vehicle crashes	179	Commercial and residential alarms	172
Assist other agencies	209	Animal complaints	182
Fires, fire alarms, and assist the fire department	149	Domestic disputes, disturbances, neighbor or landlord/tenant disputes and family court matters	101
Reckless drivers and traffic complaints	69	Disabled vehicles and vehicles off the roadway	63
911 hang-ups and misdials	62	Vehicle lockouts	47

We continued to run our vacant house check program for homeowners who are on vacation or otherwise away from home for an extended time. Officers completed 340 house checks in 2019. We also patrolled our local businesses and warehouse districts frequently, recording 12,964 of these business checks in 2019.

## **TRAFFIC SAFETY**

We responded to 179 motor vehicle crashes in 2019. Sixty-eight (68) of those crashes involved deer, sixteen (16) of those crashes involved personal injury and ninety-five (95) involved property damage only. We assisted both the Village of Chester Police and the State Police at fatal crash investigations last year, but had no fatal crashes in our primary patrol area in 2019.

In 2019, the department conducted over 4,000 traffic stops and issued over 2,770 uniform traffic tickets. The number of tickets issued represents an 21% increase from the 2,296 tickets issued in 2018. The increase can be partly attributed to having all full-time positions filled for most of the year. Less overtime and more regular work schedules have been shown to decrease officer fatigue and burnout, which in turn increases self-initiated work activity.

DWI Detection Checkpoints were held on Friday evening June 14<sup>th</sup> on state route 17M and Kings Highway. One driver passing through the checkpoint was arrested for driving while impaired.

## **COMMERCIAL VEHICLE SAFETY**

There has been an increase in commercial vehicle traffic in the town as the industrial park continues to grow. In 2019, we worked with commercial vehicle inspectors from the NYS Department of Transportation to complete twelve commercial vehicle inspection checkpoints throughout the year. As a result, seventy-two (72) trucks were inspected and thirty-one (31) were taken out of service for major safety violations. In 2019, Officer Dunlop completed two weeks of training in Albany to become a Level 1 commercial vehicle inspector. We also increased our use of the set of scales purchased in 2018, enabling the department to enforce commercial vehicle weight restrictions more frequently.

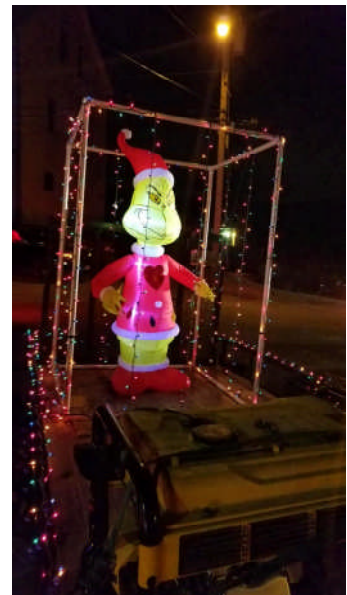
## **ARREST ACTIVITY**

There were 247 arrests made by the department in 2019. This represents a 5% decrease from the 260 arrests made in 2018. The top charge for one hundred twenty-nine (129) of the arrests were for offenses of the Vehicle and Traffic Law and one hundred eighteen (118) of the arrests were for offenses of other laws. The top charge in twenty-one (21) of the arrests were felonies including six (6) driving while intoxicated offenses, eight (8) grand larcenies, and three (3) robberies. There were also twenty-seven (27) arrests for top charges of Penal Law misdemeanors, with Criminal Mischief, Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance, Criminal Contempt, Bail Jumping, and Criminal Trespass being the most common offenses charged. Twenty-six (26) people were charged with Unlawful Possession of Marihuana and nine (9) people were charged with violations of the Town Code. Twenty-eight (28) people were arrested on outstanding warrants. Sixteen (16) people were charged with Driving While Intoxicated or Driving While Ability Impaired by Drugs.

## **SPECIAL PATROLS AND ASSIGNMENTS**

Officers were assigned to numerous special patrols and details throughout the year. Officers patrolled on foot during the spring and fall festivals in Sugar Loaf. Patrols were assigned to several events sponsored by the town Parks and Recreation department including the annual fireworks festival, the children's Halloween party and the children's Holiday party in December. Bicycle patrols were utilized during events on the Heritage Trail and at the town fireworks display. Officers also assisted with traffic control during the town's annual Clean Sweep event in April. Road closure barricades were provided for several block parties in the town during the summer months and officers also completed equipment demos at a few of those events as requested.

The PBA built a float for the Chester Holiday Lights parade on November 30<sup>th</sup>, which was escorted by several department vehicles during the parade.



### TACTICAL RESPONSE UNIT



We continued to participate in the Tactical Response Unit led by the Woodbury Police under a joint agreement with the Towns of Woodbury and Warwick and the Villages of Harriman, Goshen, and Monroe. We provided two operators on the team which offers warrant service, barricaded subject response and quick reaction teams for large public gatherings.

### TOWN COURT SECURITY

Two part-time police officers were assigned to perform court security in the Town of Chester Justice Court. The officers conduct security checks for weapons and contraband for anyone entering the courtroom when court is in session, as well as maintaining order in the courtroom.

## **CHESTER UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT**

The Chester Union Free School District consists of two schools, Chester Elementary and Chester Academy, both located in the town. During 2019, the department worked closely with the district on both safety and security issues, as well as outreach activities with the students. Daily foot patrols were conducted inside the buildings when students were present.



**CHESTER UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
*Excellence in Education*

In January, Officer Perez was assigned to the school as a School Resource Officer for one day each week. An agreement was reached with the district for the 2019-20 school year to assign him there on a full-time basis. He began this assignment in September.

The department sponsored the annual Officer Phil safety demonstration at the elementary school in October. Chief Doellinger, Officer Perez and Officer Weinstein attended and participated in the event.

Officer Stack assisted the Orange County Traffic Safety Division with presentations to the health classes at the Chester Academy in May.

Also in May, Officer Perez planned and participated in several events geared to student safety at their annual prom. The annual mock DWI crash demonstration was held for the students in front of the school. The "Not One More" presentation was held for students in the auditorium and officers participated in a safe driving forum, including the demonstration of the "fatal vision" goggles to the junior and senior class.

Officers also attended and/or assisted with traffic control and security for multiple school events in 2019, including the first day of school, career day, graduation, field day, the annual Halloween parade and the all-night graduation party. We provided foot patrols at several basketball games at the Chester Academy in January and February and provided foot and UTV patrols at five varsity football games held in the Chester Commons town park in the fall. A few district-wide lockdown drills were also conducted with the schools. Chief Doellinger represented the town at the high school graduation ceremony in June.

## **CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY**

The department continued our commitment to the safety of young children riding as passengers in motor vehicles. We began the year with three certified Child Passenger Safety Seat Technicians on staff, and added another one when we hosted the county's annual four-day Technician



certification course in our training room. All four officers remained available throughout the year to assist with seat checks and new installations. The technicians, Officers Weinstein, Bird, Stack and Dugan, also participated in several multi-agency checkpoints during the year, two of which were held at our station. Some child seats obtained through a grant were available at the police department to replace outdated or damaged seats or for new installations to parents who can't afford to purchase their own. Over fifty seat checks and/or installations were completed at our station during the year.

## **COMMUNITY GROUPS**

Involvement with our community groups is also a priority.

- Officer Bird maintained contact with our local senior citizen group throughout the year by attending meetings periodically. He conducted a safety presentation in October and attended the Snow Ball in December.
- Officer Monsees maintained contact with our local scout leaders and conducted tours of the police station for the groups. He coordinated with a Girl Scout troop leader holding a campout at the Chester Commons Park in June. Officers attended part of the campout along with some Chester FD members for camping, fire safety and knot-tying lessons. He also made plans to assist a Girl Scout unit with a merit badge in 2020.
- Officer Dunlop maintained contact with the Bruderhof's Bellvale Community. He attended events at the community and reviewed security in their school.
- The PBA volunteered their time to complete two events for the children in our community and surrounding communities. A free community Easter Egg Hunt was held in the spring and the PBA participated in the Marine Corps League's Toys for Tots drive in December by placing donation boxes and collecting toys from them, as well as delivering them to the train when it stopped in Sugar Loaf.

- Officer Santosky-Wright maintained contact with the Sugar Loaf Chamber of Commerce and assisted them with planning several events, including the Spring and Fall Festivals and the December Holiday Celebration.
- Officers attended the community September 11<sup>th</sup> Remembrance Ceremony at the memorial site in the town park and the annual community Memorial Day and Veterans' Day services held at the Main Street firehouse.
- Chief Doellinger also represented the department and the town at many events during the year. He participated as a reader at the Orange County Crime Victims Vigil in April which was held at the new Chester Senior Center in 2019. He attended a Breaking the Cycle event at the Bruderhof's Mount Academy in February and the Chester Academy graduation in June. Chief Doellinger participated in the Chester Little League opening ceremonies in April. He also attended several events throughout the year at the Bruderhof's Bellvale community and many other community events.



*Sgt. D'Agnese donned the Easter Bunny costume for the annual Egg Hunt. Officers Chambers and Pavese also dressed in costume for the town children's Halloween party at the Senior/Rec Center.*

## 1<sup>st</sup> ANNUAL CHESTER COMMUNITY DAY

On September 14<sup>th</sup>, the town held the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Chester Community Day at the Chester Commons Park. This event was a combination of the former Emergency Services Day and Touch-a-Truck events, held in the spring and fall respectively for the past few years. The event committee, which included Sgt. D'Agnese and Officer Monsees, brought together over twenty agencies and organizations that are involved in serving and protecting the town, including local, county and state agencies. Officers were involved in the planning, setup and execution of the event. During the event, town police officers staffed a police department booth including children's games and an obstacle course. Tactical team members participated in a Tactical Response Unit demonstration. Officers also participated by providing traffic and parking assistance, as well as the aforementioned Child Passenger Safety Seat checkpoint where multiple seats were checked.



## TOWN OF CHESTER COMMUNITY DAY

A new event combining the  
6th Annual Touch-A-Truck **AND** Police Emergency Services Day

**Saturday September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019 • 9am-2pm**

**Chester Commons Park • 81 Laroe Road**



- See dump trucks, fire trucks, police cars, snowplows, medevac helicopter (weather-permitting), ambulances and other heavy equipment
- Activity and information booths from the Library, Recreation Department, Humane Society and other community organizations
- Emergency response demonstrations and displays from many law enforcement agencies
- Free food and drinks
- FREE Child Safety Seat Check

**SIREN-FREE HOUR from 9am-10am**



For more information, please call the library at 469-4252  
or call Sgt. Chris D'Agnese or Officer Stephen  
Monsees at the police department at 469-7000 ext 1

**FREE! Open to all ages!**



## **TRAINING**

The department recognizes that law enforcement is a constantly evolving profession that requires ongoing education efforts to keep our supervisors and officers up to date on the most current topics and legal decisions. We are fortunate to be located in a zone within the state where training is readily available and usually offered for free. The Police Chiefs' Association of Orange County runs our local police academy and strives to offer a comprehensive group of in-service training courses, outside of the basic police academy course. Although the academy is our primary source of training, we also have many other nearby affordable options available as well. Officers completed over 1600 hours of in-service training in 2019. Sgt. Vitale served as the department training coordinator.

The department also supplied instructors to assist with several courses offered in the county during 2019. Chief Doellinger assisted with the Standardized Field Sobriety Testing training course, Officer Bird assisted with the Child Passenger Safety Seat updates courses and two basic certification courses and Sgt. Slowik assisted with firearms instruction during the Basic Course for Police Officers.

In 2019, Town of Chester police officers completed over 1000 hours of training schools, courses, conferences and seminars. The training included the following courses/topics:

Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training	FBI Basic Digital Photography	NY Tactical Officers Association Annual Training Conference
Animal Cruelty Investigations	FBI Crime Scene Photography	NYS Intelligence Summit
Basic Criminal Investigator	FBI Surveillance Photography	Overview of the NY Counterdrug Aviation Unit
Child Abduction Investigation and Response	FBI LEOKA Officer Survival Safety and Awareness	Police Officer Suicides
Child Passenger Safety Technician Update	FBI National Improvised Explosives Familiarization	Pre-employment Background Investigations
Child Passenger Safety Seat Technician Basic Course	Fentanyl Trends and Officer Safety Issues	Radar/LIDAR Operator
Civil Rights Law §50-a	Freedom of Information Law Requests	School Safety training through BOCES
Commercial Vehicle Inspection Level 1 Parts A & B	Glock Armorer	School Threat Assessment
Controlled Party Dispersal & Underage Drinking Enforcement Tactics	Investigating Hate Crimes	Social Networking Investigations
Course in Police Supervision	Initial Response to the Active Shooter	Standardized Field Sobriety Testing Course
Disability Awareness Instructor	Interview and Interrogation	Street Drugs and Driving
Disciplinary Issues (Civil Service Law §75 & Town Law §155)	Legal Updates	TASER Instructor Recertification
DWI Documentation and Testimony	Long Gun Familiarization and Tactics	Use of Force Legal and Tactics
Empire State Law Enforcement Traffic Safety Conference	Mid-Hudson Stop DWI Annual Conference	

The department also offered eleven monthly in-service training sessions in 2019, as well as a firearms qualification session for each officer. This training accounted for over 550 man hours of training department-wide. The department in-service training covered the following topics:

Active Shooter Response	Handcuffing and Search Techniques	Sexual Assault Investigations and Resources
Animal Cruelty Investigations	Hazardous Materials Response	Sexual Harassment Awareness
Bail and Discovery Reform changes and procedures	Infectious Diseases and Bloodborne Pathogens	Tactical Room Entry & Breaching
Child Passenger Safety Seat awareness	Law Enforcement Survival Kits	Taser Refresher
Civilian Response to the Active Shooter	Legal Updates	Use of Force/Article 35
Emergency Tourniquet Use	Mental Health Emergencies	UTV Operator Course
Extreme Risk Protection Orders	Naloxone Use	Workplace Violence
Firearms	OC Spray Use	

## **DEPARTMENT AWARDS FOR NOTABLE CASES**

The awards listed below were presented at a department awards ceremony held on March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at the Sugar Loaf Performing Arts Center.

### **HONORABLE MENTION**

While on routine patrol on March 23, 2019, **Officer Deana Santosky-Wright** was flagged down by a victim of a recent armed robbery with a gun, with three suspects reportedly still in the area. She broadcast a description of the vehicle as well as the suspects. This resulted in a broadcast bulletin which and the subsequent apprehension of two of the suspects by a neighboring department, as well as the recovery of the vehicle and victim's property. The main suspect was apprehended on scene by Officer Santosky-Wright and positively identified by the victim. Officer Santosky-Wright maintained her focus and extracted a detailed description of the other two suspects from the victim, as well as determining the vehicle description from the LPR. Working alongside Officer Santosky-Wright was **Officer John Maglione**, a 30-year law enforcement veteran. After Officer Santosky-Wright's broadcast of the report over the radio, Officer Maglione responded to the scene to assist. While on scene, the main suspect was observed and believed to still be in possession of the firearm used in the crime. Officer Maglione drew his service weapon and covered the suspect as Officer Santosky-Wright handcuffed him. With the main suspect in custody, both officers now began the arduous task of securing the scene and conducting a thorough investigation for prosecution. The other two suspects were quickly located in the town of Blooming Grove. **Officer Bruce Chambers** arrived for the midnight shift and was detailed to assist with the arrest processing and interviews. He drew from his prior experience as an investigator with another agency and conducted excellent interviews, extracting detailed statements from the suspects that provided the foundation for supporting the victim's statements. Officer Chambers utilized his skills and experience in gaining the confidence and trust of the suspects to elicited the detailed statements describing the events as they had occurred. Officer Chambers was instrumental in providing a solid foundation for obtaining both confessions as well as the eventual search warrant of the vehicle.

## HONORABLE MENTION

On May 9, 2019, **Officer Robert Bird** received a call from an agency in New Jersey about an unlawful surveillance case they were working on. The agency had determined that one of the victims may have been victimized in the Town of Chester. Officer Bird worked closely with the Sussex County Prosecutor's Office to determine that the victim was a resident of Chester and the crime had happened within our jurisdiction. Officer Bird diligently gathered all pertinent evidence and conducted interviews necessary to ensure a conviction of the alleged perpetrator. He was recently sentenced in Orange County Court to one to three years in prison.

## HONORABLE MENTION

In May of 2019, we received a call from an officer in another state who was with a victim reporting that she had recently been sexually assaulted within our jurisdiction. **Officer Deana Santosky-Wright** spoke with the partially cooperative victim. The victim was very reluctant to give full details of the incident and would not name her assailant, only providing that he was a longtime friend. Over several months, Officer Santosky-Wright stayed in contact with the victim. She found help for her through Orange County Social Services to assist her with recovery from the assault. Her contact with the victim gradually gained her trust. Through interviews and many phone conversations, Officer Santosky-Wright finally won the victim over enough to name her attacker and provide the full details of the assault. This resulted in his arrest in November on three felony and two misdemeanor charges in connection with the assault.

## SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD

On June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019, **Detective Lee Slaughter** would receive one of his first felony investigation cases as a detective requiring extensive work. The case involved the stealing of property valued at well over \$1,000 from the victim's home during some renovations. For the next month, Detective Slaughter diligently worked to figure out the details of the case. Through interviews, statements, and good investigative work, Detective Slaughter was able to identify a main suspect and make an arrest. His investigative efforts not only resulted in an arrest but also in the recovery of the victim's stolen property.

## SPECIAL RECOGNITION

On August 11, 2019, **Officer Bruce Chambers** was on routine patrol when he was notified by radio of an erratic operator heading into the Town of Chester. As a result of his diligent patrolling, he just happened to be in very close proximity to where the suspect vehicle was reported. Officer Chambers observed the vehicle in question and then observed the vehicle in operation. During this time, he observed multiple traffic infractions and erratic driving behavior. He conducted a vehicle stop and completed his investigation determining the motorist to be under the influence of drugs while driving. Furthermore, the motorist had her two young children in the vehicle with her, ages 3 and 4. Officer Chambers' quick response and actions led to the safety of the innocent children involved.

## HONORABLE MENTION

On September 13, 2019, a wallet was stolen from inside the Chester Senior Center during a penny social event. The victim stated that she left her pocketbook on the chair and when she returned, the wallet from inside it was missing. **Officer Bruce Chambers** reviewed the video. He located the time when victim left her wallet on a table and walked away. He then found the footage from two minutes later where the suspect approached the wallet, picked it up and left the building. The suspect then walked out to her vehicle which was identified as a red Dodge Durango, placed the wallet inside and returned to the senior center. Although the female could be seen on the videos, no one recognized her and the license plate on her vehicle couldn't be read from the videos. Using DMV files to search for local vehicles fitting the description, Officer Chambers found four red Durangos of the style on the video registered in the surrounding area. After researching the registered owners of these vehicles, Officer Chambers identified a suspect, set up an interview and obtained a confession. She was charged with felony Grand Larceny and the contents of the wallet were returned to the victim.

## OFFICER OF THE YEAR

**Officer Bruce Chambers** displayed a consistent effort and dedication to the enforcement of laws and to community service in 2019. During the year, he issued almost four hundred (400) uniform traffic tickets and made forty (40) arrests. The arrests included top charges of five (5) felonies and twenty-five (25) misdemeanors, including five (5) driving while intoxicated offenses. He also worked on three other cases during the year that earned him separate awards for his investigative work. This outstanding activity and work ethic earned him the Officer of the Year award for 2019.

## CIVILIAN OF THE YEAR

In 2019, the Town of Chester Police Department had the privilege of hosting **Emma Benedict** as an intern from the Chester Academy. She volunteered numerous hours of her time to learn about a very difficult job at a young age. She hopes this time spent here will help her be a better police officer in the future. She worked with a number of different officers during her time with us. All officers had only positive remarks and high praises about her. She has repeatedly donned some of our gear for ride-alongs, talked on the police radio and assisted with whatever she could when asked. On September 14<sup>th</sup> of this year, Emma was asked if she wanted to volunteer her time by helping with our 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Community Day event. Emma emphatically replied yes, and as a right of initiation she donned one of our ballistic vests for the entire day without question. During the course of the day, she assisted with the set up and break down of the event. She assisted with administering the children's obstacle course, often running with the children throughout the course herself. She even acted as the hostage in the Tactical Response Unit's live demonstrations, feeling the force of several flashbang grenades. It is our honor to know her and we know that when Emma she begins her desired career as a law enforcement officer, she will have the Town of Chester Police Department and our motto of Community Commitment in mind.

## **CONCLUSION**

I hope that you have found this report informational, interesting and beneficial. As we strive to offer the best possible services, your comments and suggestions are always welcome. My contact information and the department's anonymous tip line are included below. We look forward to working with you to improve our services.

Chief Daniel J. Doellinger  
Town of Chester Police Department  
79 Laroe Road  
Chester, NY 10918  
[ddoellinger@thetownofchester.org](mailto:ddoellinger@thetownofchester.org)

## **ANONYMOUS TIP LINE**

(845) 469-7000 ext. 370

## **24 HOUR DISPATCH**

(845) 469-9311

## **TOWN OF CHESTER ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES**

(845) 469-7000 ext. 1

**Please use 911 to report any emergencies!**