

PUBLIC SAFETY

POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Stow Police Department hired a full-time patrol officer to fill the vacancy created when Officer Kimberly Doughty officially retired. With approval from the Town Administrator and Selectmen, the hiring process began with advertising the full-time position. We received 77 applications and narrowed the search to 14 applicants. Interviews and background investigations were conducted on the top applicants by the three Stow Police Sergeants who then reduced the number of applicants to six candidates. The next step required the six candidates to be interviewed by a committee that included the Town Administrator, a member of the Board of Selectmen, the Fire Chief and a Police Sergeant. When the interviews were complete, Thomas Maskalenko was selected. He was offered the position and he accepted. Tom was a full-time police officer in the Town of Pepperell, Massachusetts. The Town of Pepperell was having financial difficulties at that time and several police officers were informed of pending lay offs, he being one of them. Not only does he have all the required training to be a full-time police officer; he has years of experience and training as a former full-time firefighter and certified Emergency Medical Technician. Tom worked his first shift on January 12th and is currently assigned the 11 P.M. to 7 A.M. shift.

We continue to do our part in energy reduction and conservation in areas where we have some control. A few years ago the police station building was evaluated and recommendations were made to help reduce electrical usage, however, the changes would come at a high monetary cost. This information was given to a group of residents known as the Stow Energy Working Group who offered to volunteer their time and evaluate energy usage in our building. A recommendation will be made when the evaluation is complete.

We continue to search and apply for various grant opportunities. The Community Policing Grant was a very popular grant that many police departments counted on each year to support many activities and to purchase new equipment. Due to financial cuts in State Government, Governor Patrick ended this grant opportunity. The amount varied from year to year, but Stow was eligible for around \$12,000.00 per year. Over the years this grant paid for our laptop computers, Domestic Violence Victims Assistance Program (DVVAP), the D.A.R.E. Program, support for the Boys and Girls Club summer program and during the last four years, and the activities at Springfest. The parents and children who attended Springfest this year (2009) would have seen the inflatable slides located near the tennis courts. The police department was able to provide the inflatables, hats and T-shirts at no charge to the public. In addition, the Police Association donated the cotton candy, popcorn and snow cones. This grant will be missed by all agencies as it helped fund many activities that are important to each individual police department across Massachusetts

We applied for and received \$12,525.00 from the State 911 Department Support and Incentive Grant Program to replace and upgrade all the computer equipment in dispatch. We also purchased two dispatch chairs and were able to move the AC unit to cool the E911 equipment to the attic. A portion of this grant was used to pay the hourly rate of a part-time dispatcher who worked scheduled shifts. We applied for and received \$5,000.00 from the Statewide Emergency Telecommunications Board Training Grant Program to help defray the costs of specialized

training courses. The grant subsidized the cost of the specialized training classes plus the cost to pay dispatcher's overtime or the overtime costs to cover the dispatchers shift.

Each year we seem to have one or two incidents that stand out among all the rest. Last year it was apprehending a murder suspect for Framingham Police. This year's incident was a call from the parents of their missing 14-year-old girl. Responding police officers discovered the young girl had left her home one hour before the parents had called police. Her cell phone and laptop computer indicated that the missing girl had been emailing and text-messaging a person prior to leaving the home that night. The suspect was identified as a member of the Air Force based in Georgia. We made calls to the Air Force, Massachusetts State Police and District Attorney's office requesting assistance. Experts in the Cyber Enforcement Unit analyzed the computer and cell phone. Information from computer records led State Police to a location in Boston where the individuals were not found. Other means were used to track the suspect to a location in Concord. The suspect was arrested and the girl was returned to her home. In the end it was found that these two individuals had initially made contact over the Internet using Facebook and a date and time was set to meet. A young girl willing to leave her home and get into a car with someone she met on Facebook. We all hear stories about sexual predators using the Internet to find their next victim. Fortunately, in this case the 14-year-old girl is back home, safe and can move on with her life. Not all cases similar to this one end on a good note. Many times victims are scarred for life or never come home. With all the good the Internet has brought to all of us, there comes the dark side. The criminals and sexual predators have another tool at their fingertips to search for victims, to scam a person out of their money, steal their identity or place that person in a dangerous situation. In this case the suspect was prosecuted in Superior Court in Massachusetts and Military Court in Georgia.

I will briefly write about an incident that took place late one night in July to give you an idea of how we respond to a specific situation. This incident took place at the Stow Acres Country Club and would involve almost a dozen other police departments. On July 15th at 12:30 A.M. the police department dispatched two cruisers to investigate an alarm for the main building at Stow Acres Country Club. The first officer who arrived at the scene reported finding a broken window with the screen removed which meant someone was possibly inside the building. Mutual Aid was requested from Hudson, Bolton, Boxborough and Maynard Police to surround the building. A Hudson police officer arrived and saw a person inside the building looking out a window. A State Police K-9 was requested to assist searching the building for the individual(s). Within a short time two K-9 units arrived and were sent in along with several police officers. Within minutes the K-9 located two suspects hiding. One suspect gave up immediately and the other did only after being bitten by the K-9. The remaining building was searched and two arrests were made. It was found that these two subjects were both armed with throwing knives, pepper spray and numerous tools to commit their crime. Their vehicle was located at the far end of the parking lot. The vehicle was towed back to the police station and secured in our garage. The arrest of these two individuals for breaking into the Stow Country Club was broadcast over the teletype system informing police agencies across Massachusetts. Many calls came in from other police agencies that had similar breaks in country clubs. A detective from Leominster Police interviewed the subjects and they both admitted to breaking into and vandalizing about nine other country clubs in Massachusetts and stealing property. A search warrant was obtained for their vehicle and a wallet containing identification belonging to another person was found and property from the vehicle was identified from several other area breaks. In the end, two more subjects were arrested in Leominster for taking part in breaking into and vandalizing other golf courses in the area and breaking into cars throughout the Leominster area. It was also discovered that they did this for fun, using a GPS unit to find golf courses so they could steal and destroy property.

In 2007, the Town implemented SwiftReach 911 as our emergency notification provider to communicate with Stow residents and businesses. This is an overview of the SwiftReach 911, Town-Wide Notification System. The Board of Health activated the Notification System four times during the calendar year to inform residents of the flu clinic, H1N1 clinic, E-Coli level at Lake Boon and to activate the Medical Reserve Corps. I'll explain how quickly the system works, and what the costs are associated to use the system.

A database was created to include all public phone numbers and entered into the notification system. This system does NOT include unpublished numbers or cellular phone numbers unless someone enters them into the system manually. The unpublished and cellular phone numbers can be included by residents by going to the Town of Stow webpage www.stow-ma.gov, click on the Swift911 icon and enter your information. If you don't have access to a computer, call the police station or drop a notice off with the name, address and phone numbers. Once you enter your information, an officer will confirm the information and geo code (GPS coordinates to enable the system to send the message to a specific area of Stow) of the residential location. The policy on the use of this system is clear, that the intended purpose is for "Emergency Use Only". However, there are times when the system could be used for Non-Emergency situations. In those cases, prior approval must be granted by the Town Administrator or the Police Chief. Access to the system is password-protected and only one official from Police, Fire, Highway, Board of Health and one from the Town Building are given user privileges.

A town official composes a brief message, then logs into the SwiftReach website and types out the message that will be sent. A phone call is made to SwiftReach and the voice message is recorded. The date and time for the message can be set and the system will immediately call the residents. In May, the Board of Health notified the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) members to report to a certain location for a drill. To quickly reach the MRC members, 62 numbers are listed in the SwiftReach system. Sixty-two calls were made in five minutes twenty-one seconds at a cost of \$9.59. In July a message was sent to Stow residents, a total of 2339 calls were made, of that total 237 did not answer the phone nor did an answering machine pick up the call, 30 lines were busy, 41 numbers were "op-int", which means the number is out of service or no longer exists. The system made a total of 2339 calls in 23 minutes 45 seconds. The system records who answered, who did not, message left on a recorder, records name and address and number called. In this case 237 did not answer the phone after three attempts. The message can be re-sent specific to those 237 numbers. The cost for this notification is \$239.82.

When residents receive a SwiftReach message, the caller ID displays a phone number and the Town of Stow. Please listen to the entire message. Answering machines have a delay in the recording time so residents need to listen carefully as the introduction will be repeated twice before the voice message is recorded. If you would like to learn more about the system, you can go to their website at www.swiftreach.com.

On a sad note, Officer Kim Doughty passed away in December 2009. Officer Kim had recently retired and moved to New Hampshire where she spent her days enjoying life, caring for her cats and fishing. Kim was a kind and caring person who loved the children she taught in her D.A.R.E. classes and also the friends at the Council on Aging and in the town. Kim unselfishly gave of herself to help others. She will be fondly remembered by all whose lives she touched. We are that much less for her passing.

In closing, I wish to thank the Board of Selectmen, the Town Administrator, and all other departments. Most importantly, I wish to thank the officers of the Police Department, Public

Safety Dispatchers, members of the Fire Department and the Highway Department employees for their continued support of the Police Department throughout the year as we all work together towards one goal of serving the people of Stow. And, to you, the residents of Stow and the business community, I thank you for continued support during the year.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark H. Trefry, Chief of Police

Rachel R. Belanger, Administrative Assistant

Full-Time Officers:

William L. Bosworth, Sergeant
Ralph Marino, Sergeant
Timothy Lima, Sergeant.
Steven B. Sturtevant, Detective
Gary P. Murphy, Prosecutor
David J. Goguen, Patrolman
Kimberly H. Doughty - Retired
Darren J. Thraen – D.A.R.E. Officer
Sean M. Collins, Patrolman
Michael J. Sallese, Detective
Thomas Maskalenko, Patrolman

Special Police Officers:

Sherry J. Morton-Pelley
John Fantasia
Jonathan Butler
James F. Finneran
Robert F. Blanton
John Connors
Michael Smith
Lee Heron
Enrico Maldari

Public Safety Dispatchers:

Sherry J. Morton-Pelley, Supervisor
John Fantasia
Jonathan Butler
Darlene Trefry
Justine St. John – part-time

Police Matrons/Prisoner Watch:

Deborah L. Richardson
Rachel R. Belanger
Darlene D. Trefry
Phyllis Tower
Richard Tower

Auxiliary Police Officer: Darlene Trefry



IN MEMORY OF

KIMBERLY DOUGHTY

1964 - 2009

STOW POLICE OFFICER

1990 - 2008

Years of Service