

Cranford Police Department

An Accredited Law Enforcement Agency



Annual Report 2006

Viewing Cranford Police Department's 2006 Annual Report

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Cranford Police Department Mission Statement

The mission of the Cranford Police Department is to protect life and property, enforce all State and local laws and ordinances, apprehend and prosecute violators and provide the finest quality of routine and emergency police services to the community we serve.

Members of the Cranford Police Department, both sworn and civilian shall conduct themselves in a professional manner, treating all people with courtesy and respect and without bias or prejudice. We shall be judicious in the use of our authority, fair and compassionate when dealing with those we come in contact with and shall divorce our personal feelings, emotions and opinions from our decision making while in the performance of our duties.

Members of the Cranford Police Department acknowledge that the public trust is sacred and that it must be earned and vigorously maintained by strict adherence to our mission statement and core values. We shall establish and foster strong relationships with all groups within our community in order to be both proactive and responsive to their individual needs, with the ultimate goal of enhancing the quality of life in the Township of Cranford.

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Letter from Chief Eric G. Mason

In 2007 the Cranford Police Department attained our goal of achieving accreditation through the New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police Law Enforcement Accreditation Program. The accreditation is recognition of the everyday efforts of every member of the Cranford Police Department.

On behalf of the Cranford Police Department I want to thank the entire Cranford community for their ongoing support of their police department. It is this community support that allows us to be a professional and proactive law enforcement agency.

I also want to thank the Cranford Township Committee and Administrator Marlena Schmid for their dedication to the residents of Cranford and their public safety. It is our pleasure to work with all of the commissioners for the benefit of the community.

Lastly, I want to applaud all of the men and women who serve as members of the Cranford Police Department. Year in and year out your service to the people continues to be exemplary. I am extremely proud of your professionalism and consider you role models to the Cranford Community. I am proud to be your Chief and honored to serve with you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eric G. Mason". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Cranford Police Department Administration



Chief Eric G. Mason



Captain Jerome M. Andrews



Captain John C. Baer

Cranford Township Committee



Daniel J. Aschenbach
Mayor



George J. Jorn
Commissioner



George T. McDonough
Commissioner



Michael A. Plick
Commissioner



Robert I. Puhak
Commissioner



Marlena A. Schmid
Township Administrator

Chief of Police

Eric G. Mason

Captains

Jerome M. Andrews

John C. Baer

Executive Secretary

Joan F. Pinto

Administrative Secretary

Jennifer C. Burns

Lieutenants

Robert A. Colaneri

Joseph P. Van Bergen

Stephen D. Wilde

James Wozniak

Sergeants

Francis Hanley

Michael E. Dow

Christopher G. R. Chapman

Anthony J. Dobbins

Thomas J. Feeney

Craig L. Marino

Gerard P. Quinn

Frank T. Williams

Guy E. Patterson

Investigative Division

Lieutenant Stephen D. Wilde

Detective Bureau

Sergeant Gerard P. Quinn

Detective Robert A. Montague

Detective Patrick J. Fay

Detective John J. Swandrak

Detective Michael L. Andrews

Juvenile Bureau

Sergeant Michael E. Dow

Detective Christopher T. Polito

Detective Richard Vitale

Traffic Division

Lieutenant Joseph P. Van Bergen

Detective Edward R. Davenport

Detective Steven R. Toy

Traffic Civilian Personnel

Traffic Maintenance Charles E. Fette

Traffic Maintenance Joseph A. Corbisiero

Parking Enforcement Helen C. Green

Records Division

Sergeant Craig L. Marino

Information Systems Technician Emmanuel O. Chiobi

Principle Clerk Typist Jean H. McComb

Principle Clerk Typist Suzanne Welsh

Patrol Division

Lieutenant Robert A. Colaneri	Officer Joseph W. Stulpin
Lieutenant James Wozniak	Officer Nadia N. Jones
Sergeant Christopher Chapman	Officer Nelson W. Hearn, Jr.
Sergeant Thomas J. Feeney	Officer Sean T. Holcomb
Sergeant Francis Hanley	Officer Matthew Nazzaro
Sergeant Guy E. Patterson	Officer Brian Wagner
Sergeant Frank T. Williams	Officer Steven D'Ambola
Officer James Switek	Officer Matthew Widdows
Officer Robert E. Peters	Officer Edward Csuka
Officer Donald P. Zsak	Officer John M. Colineri
Officer Peter J. Graczyk	Officer Daniel S. Norton
Officer John M. Heesters	Officer Russell Luedecker
Officer Brian M. Lopez	Officer Spencer Durkin
Officer William K. Pietrucha	Officer Christopher DiFabio
Officer Derek M. Farbanec	Officer Thomas Stiansen
Officer Brian D. Thomas	Officer John J. Rattigan
Officer Thomas M. Bell	Officer Eugene J. Perrotta
Officer Timothy W. O'Brien	Officer Kelly A. Rieder
Officer Ryan J. Greco	

Communications Officers

Kathleen A. Ditzel
Diana M. Chilson
Stacy A. Thorn
Rosemary T. Cartwright
Ralph E. Gregson
Anthony E. Matusawicz
Salvatore Angiletta
Amy Nigro
Leon Paster
Kelly Sretenovic

In Dedication

This Annual Report is dedicated to all of the men and women who serve and have served on the Cranford Police Department and have loyally committed their lives to the service of our community.

We hope all who read this year's annual report will take a moment to review their names in recognition. *

Ronald W. Abram	Bernard Francis Clark
Nicholas Anthony Amicucci	David Lawrence Cochrane
Arthur E. Anderson	Robert Anthony Colaneri
Jerome M. Andrews	Antonio Colineri
Michael L. Andrews	John M. Colineri
Charles H. Archdeacon	Edward J. Coleman
Louis T. Atwood	Ronald Coles
John Charles Baer	William A. Connell
Thomas M. Bell	Wayne Cooper
Robert L. Bell	Raymond Cosmas
John Peter Benedetto	Harry A. Craig
Otto Behnert	WilliamF. Crissey
Thomas Roy Benton	William Crory
Phillip H. Bindenberger	Edward Csuka
Archie G. Bird	Donald Allen Curry
William Blaney	Myron Cymbaluk
Harry A. Bohman	Paul R. Cymbaluk
Lawrence Bonnell, Sr.	Samuel William Cymbaluk
Lawrence T. Bonnell	Steven D'Ambola
Thomas F. Bowne	Raymond Louis Davidson
Vincent Brinkerhoff	Edward R. Davenport
Alfred Broda	Michael Anthony Deane
Harry Cameron Brown	Christopher DiFabio
Francesco L. Buonocore	Anthony James Dobbins
Albert Frank Burr	Clifford W. Dobbins
William H. Burr	Michael Emil Dow
Frank Angelo Caruso	Bernard Arnis Doyle, Jr.
Leo M. Casper	Gregory James Drexler
Michael W. Cavalla	Nicholas Druzek
Christopher G. Chapman	Spencer Durkin

* Names in bold face indicate current and former Chiefs of Police

Edwin F. Eldridge
George Ennesser
Larry Erickson
Derek Farbanec
Patrick Fay
Michael Fedroff
Thomas Joseph Feeney
Albert Ralph Fischer
William A. Fischer
Steven Gachko
John T. Gallagher
Edward J. Galvin
William G. Gassman
Peter Joseph Graczyk
Ryan J. Greco
Jennifer Green
George Greiss
Alfred Vincent Grickowski
William Griffin
Louis Ludger Guertin
Robert A. Guertin
L. H. Halsey
Brian S. Hand
Robert Franz Hand
Gerard F. Haney
Matthew T. Haney
Francis Hanley
Richard C. Harrington
Henry Harris, Jr.
Nelson W. Hearn, Jr.
John M. Heesters, III.
James E. Hennesey
William Hennesey
John Joseph Herzer
Thomas R. Herzer
John M. Hicks
Sean T. Holcomb
Charles Michael Hoeffler
Roy Irving
John Harold Itzel

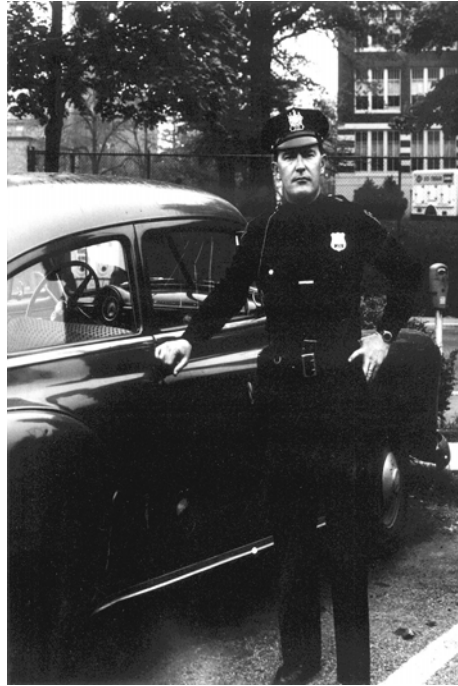
Williams Jennings
Paul S. Johnson
Nadia N. Jones
Robert A. Jones
George Wanzer Kane, Jr.
Thomas E. Kane
Alex King
Louis Max Kleeman
Rudolph Klempa
Edward John Klubenspies
John P. Korsch
Joseph Ralph Koury
Ralph J. Koury
Anton Kovacs
John Joseph Kovacs
Paul Lampert
Thomas Leavy
Edward Nathaniel Lee
Linn M. Lockwood, Jr.
Brian Lopez
John E. Lowrey
Russell Lueducker
James K. Manning
Salvatore Manuri, Jr.
Craig Lawrence Marino
Patrick J. Martin
Eric Grant Mason
Milton Theodore Mason
Carlangelo Massa
Joseph McCaffrey
James G. McFall
John Joseph McNerney
Robert Richard Merrill
Whitney Curtis Merrill
W. E. Merwin
Edward Joseph Metzner
Arthur T. Miles, Jr.
Leonard Miller
Peter Felix Miller
Robert R. Moffett

Robert Montague
Stephen Motyczka
Matthew R. Nazzaro
Frank Nielsen
Daniel S. Norton
Robert Ivan Nylen
Timothy W. O'Brien
John O' Donnell
William O'Donnell
Alfred J. Oram
Gordon J. Ostrowsky
Harry P. Page, Jr.
William Parsons
Guy E. Patterson
Robert Emmett Peters
William Gerard Peters
Eugene J. Perrotta
John J. Pienciak
Robert E. Pierce
William Pietrucha
Henry Polidoro
Christopher T. Polito
George A. Porcella
Lester William Powell
John J. Puglisi
Gerard Patrick Quinn
John G. Ranhofer
John J. Rattigan
Kelly A. Rieder
Frederick George Roberts
George Lawrence Rosendale
Robert Joseph Ryan
Leo John Schaeffer
Robert Schafer
Edward A. Schindler
Stephen D. Schlapak
Richard H. Schofield
Leo Anthony Schultz
Robert Michael Segear
Andrew J. Sharo, Jr.

Henry Simon
James F. Sloan
John H. Stanier, Jr.
Thomas Stiansen
Joseph W. Stulpin
John Swandrak
James P. Switek
William D. Thermann
Robert Carlyle Thieme
John Morton Timons
Brian D. Thomas
Lawrence Travis Thomas
Russell W. Thomas
Carl Thompson
Steven Toy
Joseph Patrick Van Bergen, Jr.
Vanessa Van Brunt
Leonard R. Van Saders
John Frances Varley, Jr.
Peter Vergalla
Richard J. Vitale
Brian Wagner
George Charles Ward
James Edward Washbourne
Matthew Widdows
Harry William Wilde
Russell Scott Wilde
Stephen Douglas Wilde
Frank Williams
David P. Winans
Norman Woitkowski
Thomas W. Woods, Sr.
Thomas H. Woods, Jr.
James Wozniak
Edward T. Zarzecki
William Edward Zirkel
Donald Paul Zsak

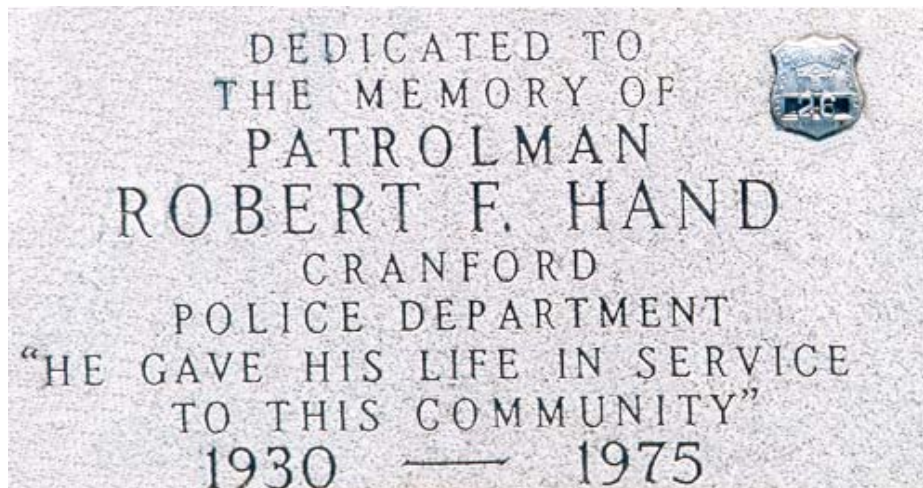
Officer Robert Hand

Officer Hand is the only Cranford Police Officer to have lost his life in the line of duty.



Officer Robert Hand beside a Cranford Police Department Patrol Car circa 1960's.

The below photographed Memorial Stone for Robert F. Hand is located next to the main entrance of the Police Department.



Personnel Changes

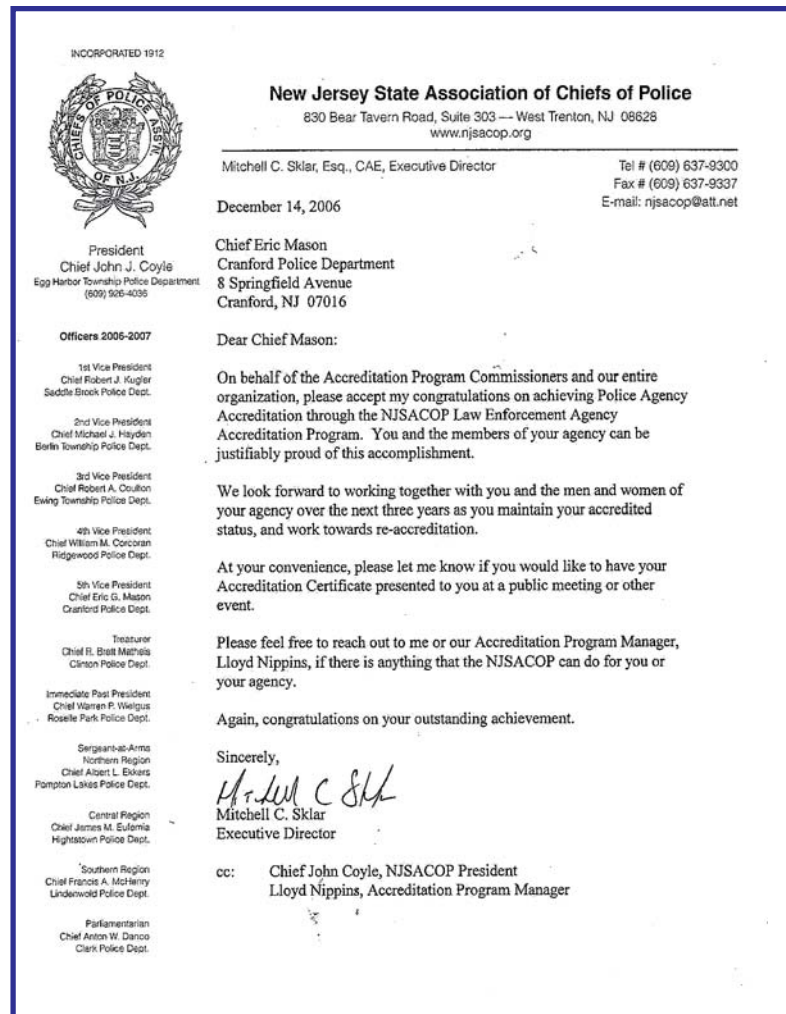
John M. Colineri	January 1, 2006	Officer 1 st Grade
Daniel S. Norton	January 1, 2006	Officer 1 st Grade
Brian Wagner	January 1, 2006	Officer 2 nd Grade
Matthew Nazzaro	January 1, 2006	Officer 2 nd Grade
Russell Luedecker	February 1, 2006	Officer 1 st Grade
Spencer Durkin	February 1, 2006	Officer 1 st Grade
Christopher DiFabio	February 1, 2006	Officer 1 st Grade
Edward Davenport	February 1, 2006	Detective 2 nd Grade
Christopher Polito	February 1, 2006	Detective 2 nd Grade
Joseph Stulpin	May 1, 2006	Officer 5 th Grade
Steven D'Ambola	July 1, 2006	Officer 2 nd Grade
Matthew Widdows	July 1, 2006	Officer 2 nd Grade
Thomas Stiansen	July 22, 2006	Officer 1 st Grade
Edward Csuka	July 22, 2006	Officer 1 st Grade
Edward Csuka	November 30, 2006	Resigned
Nadia N. Jones	December 1, 2006	Officer 4 th Grade
Nelson W. Hearn, Jr.	December 1, 2006	Officer 4 th Grade
Sean T. Holcomb	December 1, 2006	Officer 4 th Grade
John J. Rattigan	December 31, 2006	Officer 1 st Grade
Eugene Perrotta	December 31, 2006	Probationary
Kelly Rieder	December 31, 2006	Probationary
James Switek	RETIRED – 6/1/06	



The swearing in ceremony for Officers Perrotta and Rieder.
 Pictured from left to right: Officer Eugene Perrotta,
 Chief Eric Mason and Officer Kelly Rieder

On December 14, 2006, Chief Eric G. Mason and Captain John C. Baer appeared before the New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies. Following the hearing, the commission voted unanimously to award accreditation to the Cranford Police Department.

The Cranford Police Department is one of only eighteen police departments in the state to gain accreditation. In Union County, Cranford joins New Providence, Berkeley Heights, and Summit as accredited departments. The police department engaged in the accreditation process voluntarily. "By entering this process, the Cranford Police Department sought to improve community relations, and to hold itself to the highest professional standards," Chief Mason said. Accreditation status is granted by the commission for a three-year period. An accredited agency must then apply for re-accreditation and go through the entire accreditation process again. Chief Mason also acknowledged the input provided by the community, which was critical to the achievement of this status. "The community has always been very supportive of its police department. This partnership is what makes Cranford the safe and secure community that it is," stated Mason. Mason continued, "This process put



Captain John Baer managed the Cranford Police Department's accreditation process assisted by Sergeant Gerard Quinn and Sergeant Craig Marino.



Accreditation Team from left to right: Sergeant Gerard Quinn, Captain John Baer and Sergeant Craig Marino



Firearms Inspection from left to right: Chief John Coyle, Officer Steven D'Ambola and Chief Glenn Miller



Lieutenant Joseph Van Bergen presents police vehicle equipment during the on-site Vehicle Inspection



Lieutenant Robert Colineri presents department firearms during the on-site Armory Inspection



Pictured from left to right: CPD Captain John C. Baer, The Accreditation Assessors; Chief Glen M. Miller, Chief John Coyle, Retired Lt. Colonel Albert Kernagis, and CPD Chief Eric G. Mason



On Site Inspection Team Members with the State Chiefs Association Accreditation Assessors from left to right: Lieutenant Joseph Van Bergen, Officer Ryan Greco, Detective John Swandrak, Sergeant Gerard Quinn, Sergeant Craig Marino, Sergeant Thomas Feeney, Chief Glenn Miller, Chief John Coyle, Retired Lt. Colonel Albert Kernagis, Detective Edward Toy, Officer Steven D'Ambola, Officer Matthew Nazzarro, Officer Sean Holcomb, Lieutenant Robert Colineri and Detective Edward Davenport

Citizens Police Academy

The 2nd Session of the Cranford Police Department Citizens Academy kicked off in the spring of 2006. 10 new members embarked on a journey to see how the Cranford Police Department runs its day-to-day operations. With the success of the first ever Citizens Academy, this session promised to be as successful as the first one.

Each weekly class involved members of the department giving presentations on areas such as traffic, patrol, investigations, gang activities, auto theft, and much more. This year's class also received CPR training and attended the Clark Police Range to shoot weapons used by the Cranford Police Department. All members also went on ride-alongs in patrol cars.

The purpose of the Citizens Police Academy is to foster better communication between citizens and police through education. The academy creates a nucleus of well-informed citizens who possess greater insight into police practices and service. Graduates of the academy are encouraged to share their knowledge and experiences with the community as opportunities arise. "Everyone benefits from enhanced citizen understanding of the role and function of the Cranford Police Department," said Lieutenant Robert Colaneri. "The ultimate goal of a CPA is to reduce crime through strong bond between citizens and their police department," said Chief Mason.

The 2nd session, which graduated on June 13th, was made up of 10 members of the Cranford community, including members of the Board of Education, active residents, local merchants, and members of the clergy.

"I got a better understanding of how a police department functions, and how dedicated the officers are to their job protecting the citizens of Cranford," Carl Gamba said of the classes. "The role playing exercise really opened my eyes when it comes to officers stopping cars and the dangers they face." "Attending the Citizens Academy gave me a better insight for the community I serve as the pastor of the United Methodist Church," said Edwin Hann.

"We as a class appreciate the time and effort the Cranford Police Department and the other members of the Law Enforcement community put into the Citizens Academy, it was an experience that we will never forget." Camille Widdows, class spokesperson.

2006 Class Members

Timothy Brown	James Burns
Carl Gamba	Edwin Hann
Robert Hellenbrecht	George McDonough
Bertha McPhaul	Dolores Tomace
Joan Varanelli	Camille Widdows



D.A.R.E.: Drug Abuse Resistance Education

D.A.R.E. offers a variety of interactive, group-participation, cooperative-learning activities which are designed to encourage students to solve problems of major importance in their lives. It teaches children "life skills". The children are taught to not only "SAY NO", but are specifically taught "HOW TO SAY NO."

The emphasis of the program is to help students recognize and resist the many direct and subtle pressures that influence them to experiment with an abusive life style.

The tasks accomplished by D.A.R.E. are by:

- Providing students with accurate information about alcohol and drugs.
- Teaching students "8 WAYS TO SAY NO" to drugs while providing alternatives to drug use.
- Teaching students decision-making skills and the consequences of their behavior.
- Building student's self esteem while teaching them how to resist peer pressure.
- Students are also taught how to resolve personal disputes and deal with stress, which will help reduce acts of violence.

The program is a collaborative effort by D.A.R.E. certified law enforcement officers, educators, students, parents, and community to offer an educational program in the classroom to prevent or reduce drug abuse and violence among children and youth. Detective Christopher Polito and Detective Richard Vitale shared the responsibility of teaching D.A.R.E. in Cranford during the 2005-2006 year.

In 1992, Hillside Avenue School and Brookside Place School were the first two schools to receive the 5th grade Drug Abuse Resistance Education Program in the Township of Cranford. Since that time, the D.A.R.E. Program has expanded to Orange Avenue School, Livingston Avenue School, and St. Michael's School. Since its inception, more than 5370 students have benefited and graduated from the D.A.R.E. Program. The fifth grade classes receive a structured, 10-week core program presented

by a certified D.A.R.E. officer. The D.A.R.E. program offers preventative strategies to enhance those protective factors, bonding to the family, school, and community - which appear to foster the development of resiliency in young people who may be at risk for substance abuse or other problem behaviors.

The success of this program is being measured by the number of D.A.R.E. students who hold on to their commitment to "SAY NO" to drug use. Enhanced communication occurs that can greatly influence the perception those children will have of police officers when they become adults, and continue throughout their lives.

To date, more than 50 independent research studies have documented that D.A.R.E. reduces drug use, increases communication with parents, and increases positive views of the police after only 10 one-hour lessons in elementary school. The D.A.R.E. program is funded by grants received by the Cranford Municipal Alliance.

Beyond the fact that D.A.R.E. officers have been shown to be effective classroom instructors, D.A.R.E. is a fine example of a community-oriented, positive police program. D.A.R.E. is not just a drug education program; it is crime and violence prevention in our schools. The Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) program is our nation's most prominent and visible attempt to educate young people to resist drug abuse. It reaches over 60% of elementary school children in the United States, and is far and away the most prevalent drug education program in use today. D.A.R.E. goes far beyond traditional drug abuse programs.

D.A.R.E.: Drug Abuse Resistance Education- (Continued)

Typically, these programs emphasize drug identification and the harmful effects of drugs and alcohol. They warn children not to use these substances but don't teach them how to resist the pressures to try them. D.A.R.E. gives children skills to recognize and resist the subtle and overt pressures that cause them to experiment with alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, inhalants, or other drugs or to engage in violence.

It is difficult to say how effective we are in drug prevention. It may take a long time to see the effects our D.A.R.E. program has had, but social issues like drug abuse need a multifaceted approach of both prevention and education to be successful. D.A.R.E. is just one approach.

D.A.R.E. is not a singular program. It is only part of a triangle of family, law enforcement, and education. D.A.R.E. is no more or less important than the school or parents. Imagine a triangle with the family along the base, law enforcement as one of the vertical sides and education as the other vertical side. Law enforcement and education build on the base of the family. All three sides work together to hold the triangle together and make it strong.

Virtually all substance abuse and violence prevention programs agree that a key to success is enlisting the involvement of community leaders to reinforce a consistent message. D.A.R.E. provides unique involvement for a wide range of these figures, including law enforcement officers, classroom teachers, peer leaders, and parents. Law enforcement professionals especially favor D.A.R.E. because it provides an excellent opportunity for positive interaction with children in a familiar, comfortable classroom setting.

Juvenile Bureau

The Juvenile Bureau, located in Cleveland Plaza, offers an informal atmosphere conducive to creating a positive interaction between juveniles, parents, and Detective Sergeant Michael Dow, Detective Christopher Polito, and Detective Richard Vitale.

Parents are critical in fostering positive moral and social character development. Parents need to ask questions, make suggestions, console, comfort, support, encourage, discuss, teach, befriend, communicate, trust and respect their children. A parent who is actively involved in their child's life does make a difference.

The responsibilities and functions relating to juvenile delinquency, deterrence, and enforcement are exercised through the Family Court, Union County Prosecutor's Office and departmental policies. The goals of the Juvenile Justice System are:

1. To ensure that public safety is protected.
2. To rehabilitate the juvenile so that he or she can grow into a resourceful and productive person who will contribute positively to society.
3. To hold the juvenile accountable for his or her acts.

All cases assigned to the Juvenile Bureau are handled by a follow-up investigation, which may result in the signing of juvenile complaints. The Juvenile Bureau handled 425 cases during 2006, a decrease of 11 percent from 2005. There were 156 cases diverted from the Family Court. There were 91 juveniles taken into custody resulting in the signing of 144 complaints. The number of juvenile repeat offenders dropped dramatically from 110 in 2005 to 22 in 2006.

Juveniles are taken into custody to protect the health, morals and well being of the juvenile. Juveniles are not arrested. All investigations and complaints are handled individually and impartially. Many times, formal involvement in the juvenile justice system is unwarranted and may even be counterproductive. Juvenile officers attempt to resolve minor incidents without the need to file a complaint with the court. In these cases, the victim is given the opportunity to have input as to the final resolution of the matter. The

officers, in agreement with the victim, juvenile offender, and their families, fashion the juvenile's consequences specifically to the needs of the involved parties. In these instances, the matter is resolved swiftly and to the satisfaction of the victim, the police, and the juvenile and their family.

The purpose of diverting juvenile offenders from appearing before the Family Court in Elizabeth is to seek the help specifically designed to educate and rehabilitate the individual. During the past year, juvenile offenders have been referred to the Fire Setter Program of the Cranford Fire Department, the Trinitas Mental Hygiene Unit, the Carrier Clinic, the High Focus Center, and the S.E.R.V. Center. The Juvenile Bureau has an excellent working relationship with school officials. The Juvenile Bureau has utilized the resources Student Assistance Counselors (Bob Segear, Brian Gilroy, and Lisa Barenboim) in the Cranford Public School system.

The Union County Youth Service Bureau - Crisis Intervention Unit serves as a mediation mechanism designed to preserve the unity of the family, whenever possible, and to secure for each child the appropriate care, guidance and control in the best interest of the child's welfare. Last year, 9 referrals were made to the Crisis Intervention Unit and 12 referrals were made to the Division of Youth and Family services. No juveniles were placed in detention.

The Juvenile Conference Committee continued to play an active, integral part in the adjudication of juvenile delinquents. The members of the J.C.C. are volunteers from Cranford who are trained by court staff and appointed by the Presiding Judge of the Family Court to informally hear juvenile complaints that are referred by the court. The J.C.C. is primarily concerned with preventing future misconduct of young people. All matters coming before the Committee are strictly confidential. The Juvenile Bureau is easily accessible to the public making it convenient for parents, their children and the police to meet in a comfortable setting that encourages open dialogue amongst all parties. The office is also the home of the Cranford Police Athletic League. The Juvenile Bureau Conference Room was used for meetings by the following organizations during the past year:

- Juvenile Conference Committee
- Project Access - Crisis Intervention
- Division of Youth and Family Services
- Union County Juvenile Officer's Executive Board
- Union County Juvenile Probation
- Cranford Municipal Alliance
- Cranford Chamber of Commerce
- Cranford Baseball/Softball League Executive Officers
- Babe Ruth Baseball
- Rutgers Safety Certification Program
- Cranford Police Department - Superior Officers Staff
- Cranford Police Athletic League - Board of Directors

The Juvenile Bureau staff members have participated in and served on committees for the following organizations: Cranford Municipal Alliance, Red Ribbon Week, Cranford Police Athletic League, Union County Juvenile Officers Association, Union County D.A.R.E. Officers Association, New Jersey D.A.R.E. Officers Association and the New Jersey Juvenile Officers Association. They have been involved in activities at Cranford High School such as Project Graduation, Peer Development, the Booster Club, Open Gym nights, Spring Track and Field, Winter Track, Soccer, Baseball, and Gymnastics.

Cranford Police Athletic League

The P.A.L., established in 1981, has just completed its 25th year serving the youth of Cranford. The Cranford P.A.L. is a tax exempt, non-profit organization that is funded solely by the fundraising efforts of its volunteers.

The strength of the organization is the dedication and tenacity of volunteers who give selflessly to the children hoping to make a difference in their lives. P.A.L. is funded a campaign in which contributions are solicited by a magnet mailing. The P.A.L. will continue to provide the youth of Cranford positive activities in which to participate. The P.A.L. sponsors activities in football, flag football, cheerleading, field hockey, boys basketball, girls basketball, wrestling, volleyball, flag rugby, open gym, open pit and track and field.

The enrollment in the Cranford Police Athletic League Football program continued to thrive during 2006. The program boasts 177 participants this past year. The program, 3rd grade-8th grade, (six teams) participated in the Suburban Youth Football League. The "A" (9th grade) and "B" (7th grade) teams placed 4th in their respective divisions. The "C" (6th grade) team place 2nd in their division to qualify for the league playoff. They lost a very competitive game to Westfield by a score of 6-0. The program director for football is John Christiano.

The Cheerleading Program again fielded four separate squads this year. The participants are girls enrolled in 4th grade through 8th grade. The program director for cheerleading was Lena Chamra.

The Flag Football program is an introductory program for students in the 1st and 2nd grade. This year the program had 88 participants. The flag football program directors are Mike Dow and Chris Polito.

The Field Hockey program is similar to the Flag Football program in that it is an introduction to the sport for girls in the 4th through 6th grade.

The program had 36 participants this past year. The field hockey program director is Marita Dow. The Boys Basketball program provided seven (7) teams participating in different leagues throughout the state. The boys program consists of teams for 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th graders, a total enrollment of 84 athletes. The Girls Basketball program provided four (4) teams at the 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th grade levels. The teams participate in different leagues throughout the state. All of the teams participate in independent tournaments throughout the season. The P.A.L. purchased scoreboard controllers for use in the Hillside Avenue and Orange Avenue Middle Schools. The basketball director is John Frieri.

The Wrestling team participates in the Central Jersey Wrestling League and the Union County Wrestling League. The wrestling team also participates in numerous tournaments throughout the season. The total enrollment for the wrestling program grew to over 80 wrestlers. The P.A.L. purchased a new desktop scoreboard for the program this year. The wrestling program director is Kevin Murray.

The Track and Field program was held at the Ray White track at Memorial Field. The program is an introduction to Track and Field. One hundred athletes enrolled in 1st through 6th grade participated in the program. The staff consisted of members of the Cranford High School Track and Field team. The track and field program directors are Mike Dow and Kevin Fontana.

The Volleyball program was conducted in the upper gymnasium at Cranford High School. Enrollment was limited to 4th through 7th grade students. There were 46 participants in the program this year. The program director is Lucy Diaz.

Cranford Police Athletic League (Continued)

The Flag Rugby program was run in conjunction with the Union County Rugby Club. The team practices twice a week with matches being played against other towns on the weekend during July and August. The program had 77 participants this year. The flag rugby program director and U.C. Rugby Club liaison is Jim Brady.

This year also marked the passing of Cranford Police Athletic League Board of Directors Vice President Glenn Owens. Glenn was a charter member of the Cranford Police Athletic League. He retired from the Union County Prosecutors Office in Elizabeth in 1991 as a Lieutenant of Investigations in charge of the

Forensic Unit after serving 33 years. A former New Jersey State president and the current Union County President of the Retired Police and Fire Association, he was a past President of the New Jersey State Identification Association and taught at the Police Academy. He played professional baseball for the Philadelphia Phillies from 1952 to 1956, coached baseball in the Cranford baseball leagues for over 15 years and was inducted into the Cranford Sports Hall of Fame in 2002. Glenn served honorably in the United States Army from 1957 to 1963.

The Cranford Police Athletic League has initiated the Glenn Owens Police Athletic League Scholarship in his memory. The scholarship will be presented at the Cranford High School Awards program. Glenn's practical, methodical approach to life and "doer" mentality will be missed by all of us.

Cranford Auxiliary Police

Since the first group of 90 volunteers were established 90 years ago, as the men and women of the Cranford Auxiliary Police have been a viable part of the community.

Supplementing the regular force, these unpaid volunteers have always unselfishly performed their duties when needed. From assisting with traffic direction, to walking a "beat" in the downtown area the officers of the Cranford Police Auxiliary, have helped keep the town safe and provide our citizens with the same high quality of service given to them by the regular officers of the police department.

Cranford's Auxiliary Police are a highly trained, professional organization that is a model other towns pattern themselves after when forming their own town auxiliary police units. Although auxiliary officers do not carry firearms, they are trained with them for officer safety if in case a regular officer becomes disabled in a fight. The auxiliary would be able to make the officers weapon safe. They do however carry Pr-24 nightsticks, handcuffs, and Oleoresin Capsicum solution, better known as pepper spray, for their protection.

Although they rarely make arrests by themselves, auxiliary officers have the same arrest powers as regular officers while on duty. While on patrol they can issue warning summonses for parking and bicycle violations and if they observe a motor vehicle violation, notify a regular officer so summonses can be issued for the infraction.

Currently there are 12 active members of the auxiliary Police unit. Being led by Captain Ralph Gregson the members are:

Aux/Lieutenant James Nalepa
Aux/Sergeant Anthony Matusawicz
Aux/Officer Russell Albert
Aux/Officer Philip Andrews
Aux/Officer Archie Demartino
Aux/Officer Terrence Duane
Aux/Officer Sonny Heyder
Aux/Officer Stephen Pietrucha

Aux/Officer David Tenbroeck
Aux/Officer Francis Young
Aux/Officer Jedezn Virata

During 2006 Auxiliary members were looking to replace several officers that took regular police jobs with other agencies. Officers worked hard by manning booths at local street fairs and other functions throughout the community. Through their efforts they were able to recruit 2 new members. The new two new officers are Quashon Hasan and Michael Urbanski. The new officers, along with Frances Young and Jedezn Virata will start the Auxiliary Academy in March of 2007. We wish them luck in their training. During 2006, the Auxiliary officers volunteered **1,985** hours to the community. Their duties ranged from traffic control for which they logged **796** hours, to motorized and foot patrols that accounted for **399** hours. Officers also logged in **180** hours **emergency** hours. Emergencies include downed wires, traffic lights out etc... Other duties performed by the auxiliary officers were their assisting at DWI checkpoints, and courtroom security. In addition at to all of this they received over 180 hours of training, covering the following

topics: Basic First Aid, Booking Procedures, Firearms Training, Hand to Hand Combat, Use of the Mobile Vision Cameras, Use of the Big Easy Car Entry Tool, Use of Force Training, Handcuffing/Defensive Tactics, Domestic Preparedness and Checkpoint Procedures.

The motorized officers were involved in numerous police actions, ranging from assisting with traffic control at accident scenes to backing up the regular officers on narcotics and stolen vehicle arrests. The foot patrols assisted by giving the department a higher visible police presence in the downtown shopping area, thus providing the business district with a safe shopping environment.

The service provided by the men and women of our auxiliary police unit cannot be measured in dollars and cents. Their commitment has been invaluable to the department and the community as a whole. As we go forward into the year 2007, the officers of the Auxiliary Police will continue to provide our citizens with the same high quality of service and professionalism that they have been giving to the community for over 90 years.

Records Division

The year of 2006 brought about an administrative change within the Records Division of the Cranford Police Department.

Sergeant James Wozniak was promoted to Lieutenant and reassigned to the Patrol Division effective January 1. Sergeant Craig Marino assumed command of the Records Division. Sergeant Marino is a 17-year veteran of the Department and was transferred over from the Communications Division where he spent the last year serving as one of the Communications Supervisors.

The Records Division has many responsibilities. One of the primary responsibilities is records management. Every report generated within the Cranford Police Department gets processed through the Records Division for data entry and quality assurance. By law, the Cranford Police Department is required to maintain each and every record for a specified amount of time and provide for access to these reports under the provisions set forth in the Open Public Records Act. Reports are also provided to attorneys under discovery rules for courtroom proceedings. These

acts are completed with the help of his experienced administrative staff, Jean McComb and Suzanne Welsh. Jean McComb began working in the Records Division of the Cranford Police Department in 1987, while Suzanne Welsh came aboard in 2005. Both Administrative Clerks are well versed in Gun Permit Rules, Dog and Cat Licensing, Parking Rules, Alarm Registrations, Rules of Discovery, The Open Public Records Act and Criminal Record Expungements. These are just some of the other responsibilities that fall under the Records Division.

Most of the services provided by the Records Division generate revenue. The Records Division registered 753 alarms for businesses and residences within the Township. This provided for a total revenue intake of \$38,685.00.

In January of each year, the Records Division teams up with the Cranford Health Department and runs a rabies clinic for both cats and dogs. At this clinic we have a booth set up for the issuance of licenses. Residents brave the usually inclement weather to obtain two valuable services in one outing. This valuable service is well received not only by the Township residents, but also their pets. This year 505 cats and 1393 dogs were licensed. This generated a total revenue of \$19,689.00. This includes \$15,967.00 for 2006 licenses and \$3,722.00 for 2007 licenses.

As a commuter town, parking is a vital resource to the infrastructure. It is what draws many hard working families to Cranford. Easy accessibility to New York City, Newark Liberty Airport, and the many prestigious learning institutions in the metro area entices many to our Town. Our parking program allows for a variety of uses in our downtown area. The Records Division issues parking permits for commuters, shoppers, business owners, and residents. Twelve (12) hour permits allow the mass transportation commuter flexibility in their workday. The nine (9) hour permit provides business owners and their employees a place to park while providing goods and services to the town. These permits are \$120.00 a quarter. For those that live in the downtown area we provide overnight parking permits at \$120.00 a year and resident permits which are free of cost. In November the Township of Cranford opened a Municipal Parking Garage that included meter and permit parking. Twelve (12) hour permits were issued to Township residents for \$800.00 a year and to Non-Township residents for \$1,000.00 a year. The permits sold in 2006 were valid for January 1, 2007. In November the Township began issuing 9 hour and 12 hour parking permits on a semi-annual and annual basis. They were previously issued on a quarterly basis. Parking continues to be our largest revenue generator at \$353,900.00. The Records Division also collected \$11,449.95 in New Jersey Sales tax, as required for parking permits issued after November 1, 2006.

Other daily revenue from Firearms Applications, Fingerprinting Services, Bicycle Licensing,

and Police Reports brought the total revenue for 2006 to \$426,118.75. Sergeant Marino is also the Terminal Agency Coordinator (TAC Officer) and he is responsible for maintenance, training and review of the NCIC, CJIS, CCH and NCIC2000 systems. All members of the Cranford Police Department were given and passed a written test on these systems as required by The New Jersey State Police.

The Records Division also oversaw the upgrading of many computer-based systems, which they are responsible to maintain. The Records Division completed the following in 2006:

The camera system for the Municipal Building was improved with the addition of an exterior camera by the Engineering Department. The electronic door access program was also improved upon with the addition of a reader for the records archives room. This room stores all police records dating back to the early 1900's. With the addition of this reader the persons with access to these records can be limited and all activity can be tracked.

The camera system received another upgrade. The vendor changed the system that had two (2) digital video recorders to a system that has one (1) digital video recorder. The new system has a clearer image with more detail on playback, has the ability to archive recorded material for a longer period of time and allows the Communications Center to view a maximum of sixteen (16) cameras at one time, instead of the twelve (12) which was allowed with the previous system.

The Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system was upgraded five (5) versions and the name changed from FSCards to Xcards. This upgrade looks and works much like the previous version. The major changes are within the programming and directly addressed improving the security of the system. Software was added to the Cranford Police Department Computer Server and Computer Aided Dispatch Server, which allows for all

records to be automatically backed up and stored daily at two separate locations (The back ups are saved at the Municipal Building and off site). This saves time and resources because the systems were being backed up, manually, on cassette on a weekly basis.

The New Jersey Department of Records Management granted permission to destroy police records that have been kept past the required retention period. This includes records that date back as far as January 1910 and includes records up to December 2005.

The Administrative Office of the Courts announced that it was implementing the E-CDR for filing criminal complaints and warrants. Officers had been typing these complaints on a typewriter and the Municipal Court would retype the complaints into the Courts System the following day. The new system is web based and considered live. The new system is also windows based and has many drop down boxes, which again saves time. Most supervisors attended a train the trainer class in the use of the E-CDR System.

All officers were issued their own Log On Identifiers to access the E-CDR and received training on the usage of the system. Officers were also issued their own Log On Identifier to access the ATS/ACS (criminal and traffic warrants) system. Prior to this the majority of the users were sharing a generic Log On identifier.

A central air conditioning unit was installed in the Radio Room. This room, which houses the radio equipment, telephone equipment and uninterrupted power supply to the Communications Center, was previously being cooled by a window (seasonal) air conditioner. The air conditioner in this room operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and would be prone to freezing up in the winter months.

The Union County Office of Emergency Management obtained a federal "Homeland Security " grant. Under this grant they issued 12 portable radios to the Public Schools, 1 portable radio to Solomon Schecter School, 2 portable radios to Saint Michael's School and 1 portable radio to Crestview Educational Trust. The portable radios are programmed for a limited talk group, which is only monitored by the Cranford Police Department. If needed the user can push a button and expand the talk group, which will allow all of the police agencies in Union County to monitor the transmissions. The schools were instructed to use the portable radio when there is an emergency and they are not able to get to a telephone.

The Records Division began selling SMART CARDS in October. These cards allow for quick and easy usage of the centralized parking meters in Municipal Parking lots throughout the town.

Investigative Division

In 2006 there were no personnel changes within the Detective Bureau.

Sergeant Quinn is currently assigned as the nightshift supervisor in charge of the Detective Bureau.

Detective Patrick Fay, Detective John Swandrak, Detective Robert Montague and Detective Michael Andrews were all assigned to handle general investigations. In the late Fall and early Spring of 2006 Officer Timothy O'Brien was temporarily assigned to the Detective Bureau to handle narcotic investigations. During this four-month period Officer O'Brien conducted several investigations that lead to the arrests of several mid-level drug dealers who were operating in Cranford.

In 2006 Sergeant Jerry Quinn was assigned to the Cranford Police Department Accreditation Team, led by Captain John Baer. During this period Sergeant Quinn spent hundreds of hours developing and reviewing departmental policies as well as obtaining compliance verification for all 146 standards. On February 13, 2007 Captain Baer, Sergeant Quinn, and Sergeant Marino were recognized for their hard work by Chief Mason and Mayor Plick during a township meeting.

The Detective Bureau is a 24-hour 365 day a year operation. Each detective is on call 11 weekends a year. In addition, each detective assigned to the nightshift is on call from 11:00pm to until 5:30am. Detective Bureau supervisors are on call around the clock.

The Detective Bureau is responsible for investigating all reported crimes. Criminal investigations are often a time consuming and tedious process. The investigator must utilize the professional skills learned combined with science and technology to successfully clear a case. A truly successful investigator, however, will never forget that above all else, the ability to be creative, thoughtful, reflective, and compassionate are key elements of that success. To that end members of the Detective Bureau are committed to the goals of suppressing crime in the community as well as

providing quality police services to the residents of the Township of Cranford. During 2006 detectives were assigned a total of 2,751 cases. Each Detective handled an average of 460 cases in 2006.

In addition to handling a daily caseload, the detectives conducted 50 background investigations for firearms applicants. These background investigations involve interviewing all references, a state criminal history review, a national criminal history review, a mental health records check, a domestic violence/restraining order inquiry, and submission of fingerprints to the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the New Jersey State Police.

As a special service to the residents of Cranford, the Detective Bureau offers fingerprint services to all residents every Tuesday. In 2006 the Detective Bureau fingerprinted 112 residents. Those fingerprinted included school teachers, child shield applicants, taxi drivers, substitute teachers, school bus drivers, foster parents, bankers, home health care workers, and school custodians.

Each year the Detective Bureau is responsible for conducting annual inspections of licensed establishments. In 2006 Detective Swandrak conducted 14 inspections of licensed establishments in order to verify compliance with New Jersey State ABC regulations.

The Cranford Police Department is committed to serving the citizens of Cranford by providing a series of educational programs and lectures designed to increase awareness. In 2006 Lieutenant Stephen Wilde, Sergeant Jerry Quinn, Detective Patrick Fay, Detective John Swandrak, Detective Robert Montague and Detective Michael Andrews spoke to dozens of

community organizations such as The Little Gym, The Wednesday Morning Club, The Cub Scouts, and The League of Women Voters, and The Union County Rape Crisis Advocates. The topic of these lectures varied greatly and changed according to the groups specific needs. Some of the topics the detectives addressed were Internet Safety, Personal Safety, Child Safety, and Home Security. Educating the citizens of Cranford through these awareness programs not only help protect our citizens but also helps foster relationships between the police and the public. The members of the Detective Bureau not only enjoy providing this service, most find it incredibly rewarding.

In order to cultivate relationships with members of other law enforcement agencies Detective Bureau personnel held memberships in the following organizations in 2006:

The New Jersey State Crime Prevention Officers Association, The Union County Municipal Investigators Association, The Association of Evidence and Property Officers, The New Jersey Narcotics Officers Association, The High Tech Crime Officers Association, The New Jersey Fraud Investigators Association and The National Center For Missing and Exploited Children.

2006 Class I Offenses By Month

	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	TOTAL
Homicide	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Rape	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Robbery	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3
Assault	3	4	6	6	5	6	2	7	4	6	4	2	55
Burglary	2	2	4	3	1	3	3	3	7	1	0	3	32
Theft	15	25	17	25	35	24	18	33	10	9	17	20	248
MV Theft	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	6
Arson	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1

Arrests

	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>
Adult	411	368
Juvenile	103	90
TOTAL	514	458

Aggravated Assaults On Police

<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>
6	3

Class I Offenses

	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>
Homicide	0	1
Rape	2	0
Robbery	4	3
Assault	59	55
Burglary	45	32
Theft	256	248
MV Theft	16	6
Arson	0	1
TOTAL	382	346

Class II Offenses

	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>
Fraud	118	125
Stolen Property	27	2
Malicious Mischief	371	283
Weapons	18	8
Sex Offenders	2	1
Narcotic Investigations	143	138
Family Offenses	76	55
DWI	80	99
Liquor Offenses	2	0
Disorderly Conduct	512	592
Bomb Incidents	0	0
Missing Persons	31	47
All Other Offenses	1401	1373
TOTAL	2781	2723

Cases Assigned To and Investigated By Detectives

<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>
2976	2751

Training

“Learning is what most adults will do for a living in the 21st century.”

- Lewis Perelman (Harvard Graduate, Management Consultant)

As we begin our journey into the 21st century it has become obvious that training has taken on a new and important role within law enforcement. The world is moving at an unprecedented pace and attempts to keep up with the rapid changes in society, technology and legislative actions are an absolute must for law enforcement. These dynamic changes dictate the need for continuous updating of standard operating procedures, education in new crime trends and exposure to innovations in technology as well as knowledge of the ever-changing laws, which guide our daily journey.

In an attempt to provide the citizens of Cranford a level of service that is the benchmark for law enforcement agencies statewide, Chief Eric G. Mason is committed to providing the best possible training available nationwide for the rank and file of the Cranford Police Department. Our Training Mission is to develop a system of training that will enhance the knowledge, skills, abilities,

attitudes and behavior of all its members.

In addition to the detailed list of courses our officers attended, numerous in-house training and refresher courses are provided annually in order to maintain certifications, and update officers on case law and crime trends. Some sources utilized are the Law Enforcement Television Network (L.E.T.N.), 911 Magazine, Quinlan Publishing Bulletin's, Union County Prosecutor's Office Newsletter and NJ Cops Magazine to name a few.

Members of the Cranford Police Department maintain proficiency and continual training with both the Union County Vehicle Pursuit Policy as well as the Union County Firearms Policy. These are mandatory training updates that are held twice annually.

The following training and educational programs were attended by members of the Cranford Police Department:

Jerome Andrews

Trucks & Terrorism

Terrorist Alert

Crime-N-Tel

Police Liability In NJ

Laws of Arrests, Search & Seizure 2006

Bias Officers Training session

Couterterrorism Conference

NJ One Call

Risk Management for Small Agencies

Internal Affairs Update

NJ Emergency Preparedness Conference

Critical Stress Management involving WMD

Senior Initiatives

CPR/Defibrillator

Critical Concerns of Terrorism in NJ

CPR/Defibrillator

Terrorism Awareness for NJ Law Executives

Michael Andrews

Solutions for Present Day Gangs

Gang Awareness Seminar

Senior Initiatives

Crime Scene Processing

Baer, John

Police Liability In NJ

NJ One Call

CPR/Defibrillator

2006 NJ Accreditation Conference

Internal Affairs Update

Bell, Thomas

CPR/Defibrillator

BTC/EMD Recertification Course

Chapman, Christopher

Crime-N-Tel

E-CDR Training

Chiobi, Emmanuel

Xcards Administrator Training

Colaneri, Robert

Police Security Expo

CPR/Defibrillator

E-CDR Training

Performance Evaluations

Trucks & Terrorism

FATS Instructor Training

UCPO Mental Health Training

CPR/Defibrillator Recert

Internal Affairs Update

Crime-N-Tel

Investigation of Police Misconduct

Leadership: A New Definition

Colineri, John

CPR /Defibrillator

BTC/EMD Refresher

Corbisiero, Joseph

IMSA Technical Conference

Csuka, Edward

CPR/Defibrillator

Patrol Practices

D'Ambola, Steven

Street Crimes

DWI Course

The Bulletproof Mind

Basic Telecommunicator Cert.

Emergency Medical Dispatch

40 Hour DWI

Davenport, Edward

Crash Investigation I Review

Crash Investigation II Review

Vehicle Dynamics Review

Crash Reconstruction Review

Specialty Crash Review

Child Passenger Safety Tech

Commercial Vehicle Investigations

NJTRI Form Training

Work Zone Safety

Traffic Engineering for Police

Traffic Officers

CPR/Defibrillator

Complete Traffic Stops

Back to Basics Accidents

Senior Safe Driving

Driving Down Deaths

Pedestrian Crash Formulas

Davidowitch, Amy

CORE 13

DiFabio, Christopher

CPR/Defibrillator

Rail Safety

Document Fraud

Active Shooter Training

Many Faces of Probable Cause

Dobbins, Anthony

Emergency Medical Dispatch
Instructor

CORE 13

CPR/Defibrillator

Water Rescue Technician

Crime-N-Tel

Public Safety Telecommunicator
Instructor Course

911 Instructor Trainer Course

Dow, Michael

NJ Learn S-200

CPR/Defibrillator

NJ Learn S-700

Durkin, Spencer

Methamphetamine Safety

The Bulletproof Mind

NJNEOA Seminar

Gang Awareness Seminar

Document fraud

Street Crimes

CPR/Defibrillator Recert

Basic 911

Narcotic Enforcement

CPR/Defibrillator

Farbanec, Derek

Active Shooter

Fay, Patrick

MAGLOCLN Major Crime
Conference

Introduction to Identity Theft

Excel for Law Enforcement

Cyber Crime Scene & Tracking

Search & Seizure Case Law
Review 2006

NJ Legal Update 2C, Title 39, AG
Guidelines

CPR/Defibrillator

Spotlight on Human Trafficking

Feeney, Thomas

Water Rescue Technician

E-CRD Training

Active Shooter Training

CPR/Defibrillator

CPR/Defibrillator

Street Encounters, Stops
& Frisks

Fette, Charles

IMSA Technical Conference

Graczyk, Peter

Street Crimes

CPR/Defibrillator

Water Rescue Technician

Greco, Ryan

CPR/Defibrillator

Water Rescue Technician

Gang Awareness Seminar

Gregson, Ralph

CPR/Defibrillator Recertification

Hanley, Francis

Basic Telecommunicator
Certification

Emergency Medical Dispatch

CPR/Defibrillator Training

CPR/Defibrillator Recert

Hearns, Nelson

CPR/Defibrillator

CPR/Defibrillator Recert

Emergency Medical Dispatch

Basic 911

Heesters, John

CPR/Defibrillator Recert.

CPR/Defibrillator

Holcomb, Sean

High Risk Warrant Service

CPR /Defibrillator

Jones, Nadia

Active Shooter

BTC/EMD Recertification Course

Patrol Practices

Gang Awareness

CPR/ Defibrillator Recert

Luedecker, Russel

40 Hour DWI

Street Crimes

Contraband Interdiction

CPR/Defibrillator Recertification

Document Fraud

Marino, Craig

CPR/Defibrillator Recertification
Training

CBRNE Awareness

Police and Press Relations

IS-200-FEMA National Incident
Management System

E-CRD Training

Hazardous Materials Awareness

Incident Command System
(I-100)

Counter Terrorism Awareness Part
1 (An introduction)

TAC Seminar

IS-700-FEMA National Incident
Management System

Active Shooter Training

Chemical Safety (Hazcom)

OPRA 2006 Review

Counter Terrorism Awareness Part
9 (Arabic/Islamic)

Counter Terrorism Awareness Part
7 (Officer Safety)

Xcards Administrator Training

First Annual ECDR Group Meeting
and Update

Counter Terrorism Part 6 (Dom
Terrorism)

Counter Terrorism Awareness Part
5 (Int'l Terrorism)

Blood Borne Pathogens

Counter Terrorism Part 4(Pivotal
Events in Mideast)

Counter Terrorism Awareness Part
3 (Role of JTTF)

Counter Terrorism Awareness Part
2 (Role of OCT)

Counter Terrorism Awareness Part
8 (Document Fraud)

Mason, Eric

Police Liability In NJ
 Internal Affairs Update
 Terrorism for the NJ Law Executive
 Safe Passage Symposium
 NJ One Call

McComb, Jean

OPRA 2006 Review

Montague, Robert

CPR/Defibrillator
 Assault Rifle Instructor
 Firearms Law in NJ
 FATS Instructor Training

Nazzaro, Matthew

Active Shooter Training
 CPR Recertification
 BTC/EMD Recertification Course

Norton, Daniel

CPR/Defibrillator
 40 Hour DWI
 Basic 911
 CPR/Defibrillator
 Emergency Medical Dispatch

O'Brien, Timothy

Water Rescue Technician

Patterson, Guy

Arrest, Search & Seizure
 Core 13
 High Impact Supervision
 Law Enforcement Supervision Course
 CPR/Defibrillator
 E-CRD Training
 Street Encounters, Stops & Frisks

Peters, Robert

BTC/EMD Recertification Course
 Rail Safety
 CPR/Defibrillator

Pietrucha, William

BTC/EMD Recertification Course
 CPR/Defibrillator

Polito, Christopher

Human Relations Skills part I
 NJ Juvenile Officers Assoc. Conference
 NJ Learn S-200
 NJ Learn S-700
 CPR/Defibrillator
 Human Relations Skills part II
 Methods of Instruction
 Successful Supervision
 Understanding Occults, Cults & Subcultures
 First Level Supervision

Quinn, Gerard

E-CRD Training
 2006 NJ Accreditation Conference
 Evidence Management
 Sex Offenders & the Internet
 Police & Press Relations
 UCR Reporting

Rattigan, John

Water Rescue Technician
 Emergency Medical Dispatch
 Basic Telecommunicator
 CPR/Defibrillator Recert

Sretenovic, Kelly

BTC

Stiansen, Thomas

CPR/Defibrillator
 CPR/Defibrillator Recert
 Basic Telecommunicator Cert.
 Emergency Medical Dispatch

Stulpin, Joseph

Water Rescue Technician
 CPR/Defibrillator

Swandrak, John

Successful Supervision
 CPR/Defibrillator
 Arrest, Search & Seizure
 Documenting, Disciplining and Dealing with Diff
 First Level Leadership

Thomas, Brian

CPR/Defibrillator
 CPR/Defibrillator Recert
 Street Crimes

Toy, Steven

Crash Investigation I

Van Bergen, Joseph

Crash Investigation I Review
 Crash Investigation II Review
 Vehicle Dynamics Review
 Crash Reconstruction Review
 Specialty Crash Review
 Police Liability In NJ
 Driving Down Deaths
 Pedestrian Crash Formulas
 Radar Instructor Recertification
 CPR/Defibrillator
 Safe Passage Symposium
 Leadership: A New Definition

Vitale, Richard

Internet Safety & Cyber Bullying
Train the Trainer

NJ Learn S-200

F.B.I. Leadership & Supervision

CPR/Defibrillator

NJ Learn S-700

Street Encounters, Stops & Frisks

Critical Incident Stress
Management involving WMD

EVOC Update 2006 & PTC
Committee Meeting

UCPO Mental Health Training

Crime-N-Tel

TAC Seminar

Wagner, Brian

Active Shooter Training

Gang Awareness

Narcotic Enforcement

40 Hour DWI

CPR/Defibrillator

Laws of Arrest Search & Seizure
2006

E-CDR Training

Performance Evaluation

Leadership: A New Definition

Widdows, Matthew

40 Hour DWI

BTC/EMD Recertification Course

CPR/Defibrillator

Street Crimes

Zsak, Donald

CPR/Defibrillator Re-certification

Wilde, Stephen

Emergency Planning/ Rapid
Assesment

CPR/Defibrillator

Internal Affairs Update

Leadership: A New Definition

Officer in Crisis

UCR Reporting

Williams, Frank

Arrest, Search & Seizure

Performance Evaluation Seminar

CPR /Defibrillator

E-CRD Training

Wozniak, James

Active Shooter

Water Rescue Technician

CPR/Defibrillator Recert

Traffic Division

The three “E’s” of traffic safety are Education, Enforcement, and Engineering. As you will see the Cranford Police Department Traffic Division utilized all three to formulate a comprehensive traffic safety plan for the Township of Cranford.

ACCIDENTS

The Traffic Division’s main function is the investigation of accident causation and attempts to do whatever is necessary to reduce the frequency and the injuries caused by them. Traffic personnel are trained in all phases of investigation and enforcement procedures. However, the important part of the traffic officer’s job is attempting to prevent accidents from happening.

Traffic personnel review every accident report written by patrol officers and conduct any follow up investigation that may be necessary. Each report is entered into an accident database program that allows us to identify trends around the township and see where improvements can be made that will lower the accident and/or injury rates. In addition, all accidents are pinned on a map of the township located in the Traffic Division office. This allows for a quick identification of possible accident problems in Cranford.

EDUCATION

The Cranford Police Department works energetically to insure safe practices by the users of our roadways. The Traffic Division stresses “*education*” to the citizens of Cranford. Cranford has continued to be a leader in Bicycle Safety programs for many years. Other cities and towns emulate Cranford’s program and seek our input for their safety efforts. Our school programs are designed to teach the students about traffic intelligently and safely. We also teach safe methods of bicycle transportation to our school children. Educational programs in the schools include such topics as Driving While Under the Influence, Bicycle Rodeos, Bicycle Safety and Registrations, Pedestrian Safety, Don’t Talk To Strangers, and Use of School Crossing Guards.

Detective Davenport is responsible for organizing and conducting bicycle and pedestrian safety lectures as well as bicycle rodeos at every grammar school in

Cranford, including Saint Michael’s School. Detective Davenport also provides training to the school crossing guards every year along with Lieutenant Van Bergen.

Lieutenant Joseph Van Bergen instructs the recruits of the Union County Police Auxiliary Academy in traffic control and other police traffic issues. The academy is run by the Union County Office of Emergency Management and is held at the John H. Stamler Police Academy in Scotch Plains twice a year. As a radar instructor, Lieutenant Van Bergen is in charge of the department’s Radar Certification and Re-Certification of all officers. He is assisted with this training by Detective Davenport. Lieutenant Van Bergen also handles all training related to the department’s mobile computers and other department computer programs.

ENFORCEMENT

The “*enforcement*” of our laws insures that the education is carried out.

The Traffic Division Detectives continued to conduct their own selective enforcement assignments as time and manpower permitted. The division also began to issue Traffic Enforcement Bulletins to the Patrol Division so they can focus their own selective enforcement efforts where they are needed most. When accidents occur, it is usually because of a type of careless operation. Due to the severe injuries that occur during high speed accidents, we are constantly enforcing the speed laws. This enforcement is accomplished with MPH Python Radar Units, Speed Detection Devices, and by Speedometer Clocking of vehicles with our police patrol cars certified speedometers.

The department continues to use the Speed Trailer on township roadways to alert drivers of their speed. After the trailer is on the roadway for a few days, it is then

removed and followed up by radar enforcement. We hope to purchase an additional speed display unit in 2007. These signs are very effective in bringing speed compliance to neighborhood streets. In fact, studies have shown that use of these speed displays have a better and longer term effect on speeding than strictly enforcement.

The Traffic Division monitors the number of cars using a given roadway, their speeds, and vehicle classification by using its two JAMAR Traffic Counters. This data is used to focus our enforcement on the areas that need it most and during the times of the most frequent violations. These counters are also necessary when making applications to the State or County for traffic upgrades.

We also enforce bicycle violations and issue both summonses and warnings depending on the severity of the case. We impound bicycles that are unsafe or are being operated in an unsafe manner and also impound skateboards and other human powered devices that are operated in a careless manner. This would include go-peds and mini-bikes.

The Department applied for and was awarded a “Click It Or Ticket” grant from the New Jersey State Division of Highway Traffic Safety for extra enforcement efforts during a two week period from the end of May to early June. The grant was coordinated out of the Traffic Division and was very successful in seatbelt enforcement awareness.

The Department also took part in the yearly “You Drink, You Drive, You Lose” DWI Enforcement program during the Labor Day holiday.

ENGINEERING

The Traffic Division is constantly looking for ways to make our roads safer. “*Engineering*” at certain intersections and on roadways is found to be a cause of many traffic problems.

Data is collected from traffic counters, accident reports, intersection reviews, and citizen complaints in order to assist the Traffic Division in evaluating roadways or intersections for engineering changes.

These changes can be as simple as better signage or pavement markings or can be as complicated as roadway widening or traffic signal installations.

TRAFFIC COORDINATING COMMITTEE

On a regular basis, safety meetings are held with members of the **Traffic Coordinating Committee**. This committee is comprised of members from the Police Department, Fire Department, Township Administrator’s Office, Engineering Department, Department of Public Works, Board of Education, and the Downtown Management Corporation. During the past year the following projects were handled by the Traffic Division and placed on the agenda of this committee for review:

- The New Jersey Department of Transportation installed a traffic control signal at the intersection of North Avenue West (State Highway Route 28) and Orchard Street. The light was activated on June 27th. This entire project has been in the works for more than a decade.
- The Eastman Street Bridge construction started in late July 2004 by the County of Union and was opened this year after design problems delayed the project.
- Cranford Summer Concerts by the DMC and Recreation and Parks Department as well as Cruiser Nights were all assisted by the Traffic Division. This included lot closures, auxiliary lighting, and auxiliary police for traffic control.
- A request was sent to the Union County Engineer to review and upgrade the traffic signals at the intersections of Centennial Avenue with Myrtle Street, Wall Street, Cayuga Road, and Raritan Road.
- Plans for a Walgreens Pharmacy and stand alone bank were reviewed by traffic and construction is expected to begin in early 2007.

➤ An application for the construction of townhouses on Miln Street near Springfield Avenue was reviewed by the Traffic Division and construction will start in 2007.

➤ The streetscape along Centennial Avenue between Lincoln Avenue and Builders General was constructed during 2006. This included new brick pavers, Victorian street lights, planters, and new crosswalk markings.

➤ The Cranford Crossing development began construction on November 12, 2004 and the parking garage was opened over Thanksgiving weekend 2006. During the entire construction period there were no major traffic safety issues. Meetings were held bi-weekly to monitor progress and any problems.

➤ The Traffic Division worked with the DMC and Engineering on a Pedestrian Improvement Grant from NJDOT in 2005 and was awarded the grant in late 2006. The grant will improve safety of pedestrians at the Train Station as well as the area under the Walnut Avenue underpass.

➤ The NJDOT installed curb cuts at the intersection of Route 28 and Centennial Avenue in order to make the crosswalks handicap accessible.

➤ A new traffic signal at South Union Avenue and Lincoln Avenue was installed during the summer and activated on September 11th.

➤ A new crosswalk was installed across Springfield Avenue at Holly Street and pedestrian crossing signs installed.

➤ Bollards were installed at South Union Avenue where Eastman Street meets at a T. This will improve pedestrian safety and prevent a vehicle from jumping the curb.

➤ Two pay stations were installed in Lot #7 and went online in mid April. The change machine was removed. Also, a pay station was installed in Lot #1 on October 16th.

➤ A speed limit study was conducted at the request of the Township Committee for the entire length of Walnut Avenue and Centennial Avenue. As of the end

of the 2006, the County has stated they will conduct their own review of Centennial Avenue. An ordinance for a 25 MPH zone on Walnut Avenue between South Avenue and Lenhome Drive was approved by the town and the County must approve a concurring ordinance in 2007 before it is sent to NJDOT for approval.

➤ A request for a school crossing guard at Lafayette Place and Willow Street was denied by the Committee after it was found to be unwarranted.

➤ Striping was installed at Kenilworth Boulevard and Nomahegan Court to prevent people from blocking the intersection.

➤ The Traffic Division met with representative at Orange Avenue School in order to improve safety on school property. A sidewalk was installed from the school to the pool parking lot in order to increase use of that lot by parents.

➤ A new ordinance was enacted to extend the no parking here to corner on Springfield Avenue at Central Avenue in order to increase visibility for those at the stop sign on Central Avenue traveling west.

➤ The County paved Centennial Avenue between North and South Avenues, Raritan Road from Commerce Drive to Moen Avenue, and Walnut Avenue from South to Lincoln Avenues. Part of the paving on Walnut Avenue included new curbing and sidewalks as well.

➤ The County installed new street name signs along Walnut Avenue for better visibility by drivers.

➤ The flashing signal light heads at North Union and Elizabeth Avenues were upgraded from 8" to 12" to improve visibility.

➤ NJDOT was contacted and requested to upgrade their signals along the Route 28 corridor for better movement of traffic.

➤ School Guard hours were modified for the 2006-2007 school year. The lunch shift was eliminated and the morning and afternoon shifts adjusted to 1.25 hours each.

➤ Additional pedestrian crossing signs were installed at the Centennial Avenue Pool Complex.

➤ An ordinance restricting Low Speed Vehicles (LSV's) from Cranford roadways was enacted on the recommendation of the Committee due to safety concerns. Low Speed Vehicles are small golf cart sized vehicle limited to 25 MPH. They are meant for gated communities, but without an ordinance restricting them could have found there way onto our roadways.

➤ A residential parking ordinance was enacted on Elm Street to prevent parking of people visiting the businesses along Centennial Avenue.

➤ A bike lane was painted on Belmont Avenue between Windsor Place and Hazel Street to prevent

motorists from parking in the lane.

SCHOOL GUARDS

It is the duty and responsibility of the Cranford Police Traffic Division to monitor and review the Township's School Safety Program. Shifts in traffic patterns, school boundaries, or student residences necessitate modifications to the School Safety Program yearly.

An integral component of the School Safety Program is the establishment of a "Suggested Route to School" for students. The main objective is to guide children along routes which will minimize exposure to hazards.

The 2006-2007 school year saw the first major change to school guard hours in many years. The new hours eliminate the lunch time shift and enact a 1 ¼ hour morning shift and 1 ¼ hour afternoon shift. As of the end of 2006 we have seen no problems related to the modified hours.

During the 2005-2006 school year the Traffic Division was required to provide coverage at 269 school post assignments due to school guards failing to report for duty for either personal or medical reasons. During this calendar year, a total of 181 public/parochial school days occurred of which only 27 did not require members of the police department to fill in for a school guard. This equated to 1.48 school guards out every school day which was a slight increase over the 1.38

the previous year. These posts were covered by reserve school guards, the parking enforcement officer, and sworn Traffic Division personnel. Maintaining five reserve guards solved most of the problems encountered in the previous school years in reference to guard absences. With the additional reserves, sworn police officers and the parking enforcement officer were not relied upon as heavily as in the past to cover school posts.

OTHER DUTIES

As supervisor of the Traffic Division, Lieutenant Joseph P. Van Bergen is responsible for overseeing two traffic detectives, two traffic maintenance personnel, one meter enforcement officer, and twenty five school crossing guards. His responsibilities include assigning selective enforcement details, scheduling, traffic maintenance planning, ordinance development, purchasing bids and quotes, traffic safety grants, site plan reviews, and testifying at township board and committee meetings. One major responsibility that keeps him busy is the filling of extra duty assignments. In 2006 the Traffic Division coordinated and filled **692 off duty jobs**. These jobs include traffic control at township festivals and construction zones, as well as security at private events.

Lieutenant Van Bergen maintains the responsibility of Fleet Manager and is in charge of making sure the police vehicle fleet is maintained by Traffic Maintenance personnel. He is also responsible for vehicle equipment and upgrades to the equipment. He obtains quotes yearly to assure we are getting the best price and the best equipment. He must ensure that any Safety Recalls by Ford Motor Company are identified and repaired as soon as possible. He also assists Emmanuel Chiobe with the maintenance of the police department's computer system.

Lieutenant Van Bergen is a member of the Traffic Coordinating Committee, Union County Traffic Officers Association (Vice-President), New Jersey Police Traffic Officers Association, National Association of Fleet Administrators, Institute of Transportation Engineers, and is a Notary Public. He is also an advisor of the Cranford Police Explorers.

Detective Edward Davenport has the responsibility of vehicle impounds and obtaining junk titles on all vehicles not claimed. New Jersey State Statute requires that any vehicle held for more than 20 business days be auctioned. This requires him to send certified mail to all owners/lien holders requesting they respond to pick up their vehicle otherwise it will be sold at auction. In 2006 about 500 vehicles were towed and 15 were sold at four auctions.

Also, Detective Davenport is responsible for the data entry of the daily summonses, crash reports, vehicle reports, and driver abstract requests. In 2006, 387 driver abstract requests were prepared for patrol personnel.

Detective Davenport is in charge of advertising, setting up, and running the department's car, bicycle, and equipment auctions. He also is responsible for the in-car video camera systems and portable radio maintenance and repair. In addition, Detective Davenport coordinates the purchase, installation, maintenance, and repair of the mobile personal computers (MPC) in the radio cars.

Detective Davenport is also a certified Child Passenger Seat Technician and Radar Instructor. He also is responsible for School Crossing Guard training and payroll. All employee registration forms and fingerprinting is also done by him.

Detective Davenport is a member of the Union County Traffic Officers Association (Secretary), New Jersey Police Traffic Officers Association, Cranford Parking Task Force, Cranford Bicycle Safety Board, and is a Notary Public.

Patrolman Steven Toy entered the Traffic Division in May with the primary purpose of enforcement. When necessary, however, he assists Lieutenant Van Bergen and Detective Davenport in the above administrative duties.

Patrolman Toy is a member of the Union County Traffic Officers Association and New Jersey Police Traffic Officers Association.

Our vehicle service intervals are set at every 3,000 miles or 3 months. This policy includes regular tune ups, oil changes, light and siren repair, interior cleaning, washing and waxing of vehicles, and more. This vehicle policy was developed to assure the Cranford Police Department has the safest, cleanest, and most professional looking vehicle fleet in the area.

The Traffic Division also coordinates all of the maintenance and repair of portable and mobile police radios. All insurance claims related to police vehicles, Victorian street lights, traffic lights, and traffic signs are handled by Traffic Division personnel as well.

The 400 on-street parking meters and nine central space rental machines are maintained and collected by Traffic Maintenance personnel. The central pay stations allow for easier maintenance, collection, and security. We purchased and install two new pay stations in Municipal Lot #7 and one in Municipal Lot #1 to replace individual meters. With the assistance of the DPW and DMC, all meter poles were removed from Lot #7 and those in Lot #1 will be removed in 2007. The Cranford Crossing Parking Garage also opened in late 2006. The garage has 310 parking spaces which are controlled by permit and four pay stations.

Along with the new pay stations purchased in 2006, we also installed a central parking system server to allow us to monitor payment and violations, as well as pay station status. All new pay stations connect via a cellular connection to the server and report use as well as any malfunctions as they happen. Parking enforcement personnel carry a web-pad device that reports real time use of the lots. A quick glance at the web-pad displays expired meters as well as meter malfunctions.

Part of the new system also includes the use and availability of smart cards for payment. The pay stations allow payment via coin, token, or smart card. The smart cards can carry an amount from \$5 to \$255 and are rechargeable. In 2007, the Township plans to accept paper currency and credit cards at the pay stations to improve ease of use.

The Township's 2007 capital budget contains a request for additional pay stations for Municipal Lots, Warner Plaza, Eastman Plaza, and Post Office Plaza. These machines would connect to the server as well.

Members of the Traffic Division are on call on a rotating basis in order to provide 24 hour a day, 365 days a year coverage in the event of a serious or fatal motor vehicle accident. Each Detective is on call for two weeks at a time with the Lieutenant providing coverage as needed.

Cranford hosts dozens of commercial, television show, and movie filmings a year. This year was no exception with numerous television commercials filmed in town. All coordination between and township and movie studio was done by the Traffic Division. This included arranging for extra duty police officers, street closings, special parking, security, and more.

TRAFFIC MAINTENANCE

As always, Traffic Maintenance personnel were busy in 2006. They are responsible for the maintenance and repair of all vehicles in the police department fleet; vehicle equipment installation; street sign maintenance and installation; maintenance and repair of 16 traffic signal intersections and 5 flashing lights; crosswalk and centerline painting; meter maintenance and collection; maintaining approximately 400 Victorian lights; bicycle rodeo setup; traffic counter placement; Speed Trailer placement; and much more. Traffic Maintenance personnel are also on call

24 hours a day, seven days a week in case of storms, power outages, and traffic light damage/ maintenance. The Traffic Division continued to install International type crosswalks at many intersections within the town using thermoplastic paint. This ladder type design allows for safer pedestrian crossing because they draw the attention of drivers who see them more readily than other types. The crosswalk paint duration is longer and, therefore, is more cost effective than traditional paint. The thermoplastic paint is also highly reflective at night. The department also uses 3M reflective tapes to improve visibility of lines at night.

Members of the 2006 Traffic Division:

Lieutenant Joseph P. Van Bergen
Detective Edward R. Davenport
Patrolman Steven R. Toy

2006 civilian personnel included:

Helen Green, *Meter Enforcement*
Charles Fette, *Traffic Maintenance*
Joseph Corbisiero, *Traffic Maintenance*
Glenn Brown, *Summer Traffic Maintenance*
Jamar Ingram, *Summer Traffic Maintenance*
Michael Urbanski, *Summer Traffic Maintenance*

Accidents and Injuries Summary

Reportable Accidents

Type	2005			2006		
	Accidents	Injuries	Fatal	Accidents	Injuries	Fatal
Motor Vehicle vs. Motor Vehicle	82	87	0	77	93	0
Motor Vehicle vs. Fixed Object	17	20	0	14	16	0
Motor Vehicle vs. Pedestrian	8	8	0	11	11	0
Motor Vehicle vs. Bicyclist	7	6	0	8	8	0
Motor Vehicle vs. Parked Vehicle	14	10	0	16	17	0
Other	1	1	0	4	4	0
TOTAL	129	132	0	130	149	0

Non-Reportable Accidents

Type	2005	2006
Motor Vehicle vs. Motor Vehicle	404	423
Motor Vehicle vs. Fixed Object	53	46
Motor Vehicle vs. Pedestrian	5	0
Motor Vehicle vs. Bicyclist	1	0
Motor Vehicle vs. Parked Vehicle	188	151
Other	4	5
TOTAL	655	625

Motorized Equipment

The Cranford Police Department's motorized equipment presently consists of 37 units; 22 cars, four sport utilities, two motorcycles, three traffic trucks, two trailers, two boats, and two ambulances. Below is a list of these vehicles:

1	1997 Harley Davidson Motorcycle
1	1995 Harley Davidson Motorcycle
1	1994 Chevrolet Suburban 4X4
1	1997 Ford Expedition 4X4
1	2004 Ford Excursion 4X4
1	2004 Ford Explorer 4X4
1	2006 Ford Explorer 4X4
5	2006 Ford Police Interceptors
1	2005 Ford Police Interceptor
4	2004 Ford Police Interceptors
1	2003 Ford Police Interceptor
3	2002 Ford Police Interceptors
5	2000 Ford LTD Crown Victorias
1	1998 Ford LTD Crown Victoria
1	2001 Ford F-450 Super Duty Platform Truck
1	2000 Ford F-450 Super Duty Bucket Truck
1	1999 Ford F-250 Super Duty Pick-up Truck
1	1998 Toyota Camry
2	2005 Ford F-350 Ambulances
2	2001 Zodiac Boats
1	2003 Kristi Utility Trailer
1	1998 AMR Speed Detection/Message Board Trailer

A total of **333,590 miles** were traveled by motorized equipment during the year of 2006. Vehicles were serviced approximately every 3,000 miles and were cleaned and washed on average of once a week.

Motor Vehicle Violations

The following is a comparative classification of motor vehicle violations between the period of January 2006 and December 2006 with the same period in 2005.

VIOLATION	2005	2006
Speeding	464	424
Stop Sign	50	48
Careless Driving	279	266
Reckless Driving	11	16
Driving Under The Influence	80	99
Open Container In Vehicle	21	25
CDS In Motor Vehicle	75	64
Wrong Way on One Way Street	4	5
Traffic Signal	119	164
Improper Passing	65	75
Illegal Turns	101	165
Obstructing Traffic	6	24
Driving While On Cell Phone <i>*(new law in 2005)</i>	24	24
Unlicensed Driver	89	118
Revoked Driver	304	318
Unregistered Vehicle	221	223
Uninsured Motorist	73	57
No License In Possession	88	140
No Registration In Possession	129	193
No Insurance Card In Possession	23	48
Leaving The Scene Of An Accident	19	17
Fictitious/Obstructed Plates	437	416
Maintenance Of Lamps	499	700
Seatbelt Violations	963	916
Safety Glass Violations	453	637
Inspection Law	194	271
Other Hazardous Violations	61	62
Other Non-Hazardous Violations	146	117
TOTALS:	4,998	5,632

Parking Violations

The following is a comparative classification of parking violations between the period of January 2006 and December 2006 with the same period in 2005.

VIOLATION	2005	2006
Meter Parking	6,103	4,980
4:30 P.M. to 6:00 P.M.	646	479
Restricted Hours	233	439
9 Hour Permit	412	400
12 Hour Permit	298	590
Overnight Parking	413	379
25' Of An Intersection	125	131
25' Of A Crosswalk	79	31
2 Hour Limit	140	89
10' Of A Fire Hydrant	12	8
50' Of A Stop Sign	96	71
Parked On A Crosswalk	8	9
Parked On A Sidewalk	5	3
Blocking A Driveway	26	22
School Zone	300	214
Bus Stop	1	1
Disabled Vehicle	9	0
Fire Zone	17	28
Facing Wrong Direction On Street	48	35
Between Signs	21	7
Head In Only	133	58
Not Within Lines	73	60
Handicapped	33	14
Loading Zone	11	23
Meter Feeding	17	25
No Parking Anytime	26	111
Other Parking Violations	25	55
TOTALS:	9,310	8,262

Patrol Division

The Patrol Division is the backbone of the Cranford Police Department. It is manned by more officers than any other division within the department.

The Division's preventive and proactive patrol efforts contribute toward safe streets and neighborhoods allowing the residents of Cranford to enjoy walking and cycling in complete confidence. Personal safety and property security are a paramount importance in guiding our efforts to preserve public tranquility. The Patrol Division is under the command of **Captain Jerome Andrews**. He is assisted by

Lieutenants James Wozniak and Robert Colaneri, who each command two platoons. They are assisted by **Sergeants Christopher Chapman, Thomas Feeney, Guy Patterson, and Frank Williams** who are in charge of the four division squads. There were a total of **64,986** incidents reported to the Cranford Police Department during 2006. These total incidents are broken down as follows:

10,045 calls for criminal related activity, including:

- 1,434 calls reporting burglary/trespass/alarm
- 2,438 calls reporting disorderly conduct
- 412 calls reporting thefts/stolen property
- 281 calls reporting vandalism/
malicious damage
- 596 calls reporting warrant arrests

24,690 calls for traffic related activity, including:

- 967 calls reporting motor vehicle accidents
- 3,705 calls reporting selective enforcement assignments
- 17,675 calls reporting motor vehicle violation investigations resulting in warnings/
summonses

25,827 calls requesting public service, including:

- 3,212 medical assistance requests
- 17,473 building examinations and public transportation inspections
- 451 requests for assistance with vehicle/
house lock-outs

4,424 administrative assignments, including:

- 300 Police Auxiliary/Explorer details
- 507 In-Service/L.E.T.N. training

School Safety

An important safety measure in school areas is the use of school crossing guards. We once again, salute them and extend our sincere appreciation for a job well done in protecting our most precious possessions. Rain or shine we can always be assured that these dedicated people will be on the job!

The year was another busy one for the Traffic Division due to many personnel changes in the ranks of the department's school crossing guards. Below are the retirements, resignations, and hires from 2006. After 21 years of service, Joseph Petrone retired from his post at St. Michael's School. Stephanie Dubrel, Livingston School post, retired in December after almost 20 years. Charlotte Giampino retired from her post at Bloomingdale Avenue School after eight years of service. Nicholas Ruggiano resigned from his post at Walnut Avenue School after three years of service to take a position in another town.

Reserve Guards William Zorich, Ethel Smith, and Linda Seggern retired after a year of service. Reserve Guard Michael Metchnick resigned after two years of service

due to health reasons. They will all be truly missed by not only the members of the police department but by the children they safely crossed everyday! We wish them all well.

Reserve guard Betty Mobley was moved to full time status at the post for Walnut Avenue School. Anthony Lopez was moved to Bloomingdale Avenue School to allow for Reserve Guard Claus Broderius to be made a full time guard at Severin Court and Centennial Avenue. Reserve Guard Joseph Lopes was given the full time post at St. Michael's School. We would like to welcome the following new crossing guards hired in 2006 to the Cranford Police Department, Claus Broderius and Joseph Lopes.

School Crossing Guards 2006

Claus Broderius	Severin/Centennial	Samuel Manderson	Lincoln/South Union
Rosemary Corbisiero	Springfield/Miln	Elizabeth Manfredo	South Union/Livingston
Maria DiLello	Hillside Avenue Tunnel	Kathleen Meier	Denman/Culin
Stephanie Dubrel	Denman/Livingston	Betty Mobley	Walnut/Blake
Elizabeth Erdody	Gallows Hill/Brookside	James Mulcahy	Wadsworth/Orange
Charles Haller	Springfield/Tulip	Elsie Muldrow	West End/Spruce
Margaret Herzer	Retford/Livingston	Everitt Nye	North Lehigh Tunnel
Loretta Honeywell	Springfield/Doering	Jean Parenti	Brookside/Spruce
Nazaire Jennings	Centennial/Myrtle	Louise Ruggiano	Brookside/Orchard
John Leonard	Lexington/Denman		
Joseph Lopes	Alden/Miln		
Anthony Lopez	Bloomingdale/Albany		

Reserve Guards

Robert Bell

"Click It or Ticket" Mobilization

The Cranford Police Department recieved grant money from the New Jersey Division of Highway Traffic Safety for seatbelt enforcement during the National "Click It or Ticket" campaign.

The goal of the program is to increase seatbelt usage rates through education and enforcement. New Jersey reported 757 fatalities in 2005. More than half of the motor vehicle occupants killed were not wearing a seatbelt. Also, seatbelt use is



especially important for teens and young adults, as motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for people ages 15 to 34 in the United States.

This years "Click It or Ticket" Mobilization was conducted from May 22, 2006 to June 4, 2006. The department conducted nine seat belt checkpoints utilizing overtime, patrol, and traffic personnel. A total of 108 hours of overtime were utilized, which was reimbursed by the grant. Below is a summary of the department's enforcement efforts.

The department's results were consistent with those of 2005 which reported 385 seat belt violations and 89 non-seatbelt violations for a total mobilization of 473 summonses. Total seatbelt summonses were up slightly and total summonses were up by 193 summonses. According to the New Jersey Division of Highway Traffic Safety's 2006 Click It or Ticket Mobilization Summary Report, the Cranford Police Department issued the most summonses

among the 22 police departments in Union County during the mobilization. This was an improvement over 2005 when we were in second place in the county. Prior to the mobilization we reported a 93% seat belt use rate.



At the completion of the mobilization we reported a 96% use rate, second highest of the seven reporting departments in Union County.

Seat Belt Violations

By overtime officers	128
By patrol/traffic officers	260

Child Restraint Violations

by overtime officers	002
by patrol/traffic officers	001

TOTAL SEATBELT: 391

Non-Seatbelt Violations

by overtime officers	062
by patrol/traffic officers	213

**TOTAL SUMMONSES DURING
THE MOBILIZATION: 666**

Safety ID Tag Program

The Cranford Police Department continued its Safety ID Program which began in 2005 in order to give outdoor exercisers a little piece of mind.

Participants can come to police headquarters to obtain a Safety ID Tag at no cost to them. They will be issued a reflective, waterproof Safety ID Tag which can attach to their sneaker/shoe laces.

The Safety ID Tag contains basic contact information, as well as pertinent medical information such as allergies that will assist first responders in case of a medical emergency. Since many people go for walks or a run without any identification, this small Safety ID Tag can be a lifesaver.

Police Chief Eric G. Mason stated he would encourage all Cranford runners, joggers, and walkers to come to police headquarters and pick up their free Safety ID Tag. The tags have also been picked up by parents for use by their small children.



You Drink and Drive, You Lose Mobilization

The Cranford Police Department participated in the national "You Drink and Drive, You Lose" program.



The goal of the program is to decrease incidents of drunk driving through education and enforcement. This year's "You Drink & Drive, You Lose" Mobilization was conducted from August 18, 2006 to September 4, 2006. The department conducted roving patrols utilizing patrol personnel. Below is a summary of the department's enforcement efforts.

TOTAL PRODUCTIVITY:

DWI Arrests:	1
Moving Violations:	39
Non-Moving Violations:	109

TOTAL: 149

Keep Kids Alive, Drive 25

At the end of the 2006 school year, the Cranford Police Department sought to expand their "Keep Kids Alive Drive 25" safety program.

Since its implementation in June of 2005, the department has distributed more than 300 lawn signs to township schools, crossing guards, PTAs, and residents. "Keep Kids Alive Drive 25" is a national safety campaign designed to allow residents to contribute to a reduction in speeding in their neighborhoods.

The program was developed in response to the fact that most speeders live in or around the neighborhoods they speed in. When drivers see the "Keep Kids Alive Drive 25" logo it reminds them to check their speed and slow down as needed.

During the initiative, residents are asked to place their signs out each morning and then bring them in at night. The signs are least effective when left out permanently.



Cranford Police Explorer Post #74

Law Enforcement Exploring is run through the Boy Scouts of America. Exploring is a program designed to educate and involve youth in police operations and to interest them in law enforcement functions whether they want to go into police work or not.

Through involvement, the Explorer program establishes an awareness of the complexities of police service. Exploring gives the members an opportunity to see firsthand the efforts of sworn police personnel and later share their observations with their fellow explorer members and peers. In this way, the basic idea of civic responsibility can be instilled.

The Cranford Police Explorer Post # 74 was established in 1982 and has served hundreds of children in those years. Numerous members of the Cranford Police Department were previously Explorers. The current advisors to the post are Lieutenant Joseph Van Bergen, Patrolman Matthew Widdows, Patrolman Steven D'Ambola, and Communications Officers Stacy Thorn and Anthony Matusawicz.

The current rank structure of the post is as follows: Chief Mike Urbanski and Sergeant Andrew Deweever. As of the end of 2006, the Post has 10 members. That number is continually growing due to the recruitment efforts of the members of the Post.

We are proud to report that the Post donated over 200 hours of participation to the department and township. The Post continued to hold training sessions at the monthly meetings. These sessions included discussions and training videos of current police topics and hands on practical scenarios. Post advisors taught 10 codes and phonetic alphabet, traffic control, crowd control, traffic accident report and traffic summons writing, domestic violence procedures, D.W.I. recognition and procedures and other basic department procedures. The Post also received a demonstration from the Union County Sheriffs Office K-9 Unit.

Practical exercises included mock motor vehicle stops in the rear lot of headquarters. The Explorers conduct motor vehicle stops as if they were real police officers. Fellow explorers and post advisors act as the "suspects." After the scenarios are done the post discusses the positive and negative actions of the Explorers.

Some of the activities the Post participated in during 2006 were: traffic control at the 4th of July fireworks, the Spring and Fall Festivals, and the Memorial Day Parade. In addition, the Explorers participated in a Ride-Along program. In this program, Explorers ride along with experienced police officers on Friday and Saturday nights. During a ride along an Explorer observes what being a police officer entails. The Explorer also goes on calls that the officer deems appropriate and assists where the Explorer can.

Cranford EMS

Cranford Emergency Medical Service (CEMS) was established in June of 2002.

CEMS is a licensed medical agency with the State of New Jersey.

CEMS operates weekdays from 5:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. In 2006 CEMS responded to 1,281 calls for service; this number is steadily increasing annually. Two EMS crews are on call daily, two EMTs per crew. The crews are titled EMS 1 and EMS 2. Each crew is assigned to an ambulance at the start of their shift.

CEMS operates under the direction of the Cranford Police Department. CEMS Supervisor Mikael Diaz seeks experienced, practiced, and knowledgeable emergency medical technicians. Each employee must be a state certified EMT and possess a valid CPR certification. Employees are trained in Incident Command, Mass Casualty Incidents, Hazardous Materials, and National Incident Management System. Our standards and requirements assure us that we have competent and skilled EMTs providing the best emergency service to the residents and visitors of Cranford. All employees attend an Orientation session prior to their first workday. Employees are trained on proper radio protocol, CEMS policies, ambulance supplies and equipment, and much more.

CEMS handles emergencies such as difficulty breathing, chest pains, motor vehicle accidents, falls, trauma, choking, sport injuries, machinery injuries, labor and delivery, strokes, and many more. In addition, we do Basic Life Support Presentations at schools, which includes a tour of our ambulance, supplies, and equipment, as well as the instruction of basic first aid. CEMS stands by at large sporting events such as marathon runs, and also at Hazardous Material scenes and fire scenes.

Many of our calls are medical related; CEMS also responds to the Garden State Parkway as well as either of our two nursing homes in town, and any of our three assisted living complexes in town.

Mutual aid is delivered to surrounding towns that

should require EMS assistance when needed. Surrounding towns will reciprocate if we are unavailable due to a high number of calls that day. ALS units that respond with us when warranted are based out of Union Hospital (MONOC), Overlook Hospital, Trinitas Hospital, and Rahway Hospital. Some of the calls that may warrant ALS would be cardiac or respiratory calls, severe trauma, strokes, and serious motor vehicle accidents.

CEMS responds to medical calls everyday, not knowing what to expect when they arrive. Every emergency is unique. In July of 2006, EMT's Heather Giles, Mikael Diaz, Daniel Donnerstag, and Amy Davidowitch responded to a report of a construction accident at the corners of Forest Ave and North Ave East. Upon arrival of EMS it was determined that the patient had fallen off the roof of a building under construction and had landed in a four-foot trench. The patient was in respiratory distress with multiple injuries. EMS stabilized the patient while still in the trench using a Kendrick Extrication Device (KED). Once the patient's spinal column was secured the patient was lifted out of the trench by EMS and onto a backboard and stretcher. EMS was then able to fully assess and treat the patient's injuries. Upon determining the severity of the injuries the patient was transported by CEMS to The University of Medicine and Dentistry Trauma Center in Newark, NJ. The patient was treated for several days at UMDNJ with multiple traumatic injuries. The experience and skills of the CEMS EMTs at the scene ensured that the patient's injuries were treated appropriately and not worsened. The rapid transport to the appropriate hospital also ensured that the patient would receive the best medical care possible, which CEMS strives for on every medical call.

CEMS employees report to headquarters for the start of their shift at 0530 hours. The day is started with a very rigorous rig check performed by all staff. Medical

CEMS is based out of the Cranford Fire Department. CEMS works very closely with the Cranford Police and Fire Departments in an effort to provide the most superior medical care.

CEMS ambulances are licensed by the New Jersey State Department of Health and Senior Services (NJDOHSS) to provide Basic Life Support. EMS 1 and 2 are inspected yearly by the NJDOHSS. Each year CEMS ambulances have passed state inspections far above normal standards. CEMS ambulances are equipped with countywide radios, Mass Casualty and Incident Command equipment. They are capable of carrying two critical patients and up to four non-critical patients. Compartments are large enough to store extra supplies and equipment in the case of an MCI. They are equipped with the latest in Radio Communications allowing Cranford EMS to communicate with all other Union County agencies as well as State agencies during times of crisis and disasters.

CEMS billing program which was began in 2005 has helped CEMS to expand its service to the residents of Cranford and continue to utilize the most up to date supplies and equipment to provide the most efficient care.

CEMS many public relations programs have helped the residents as well. One program, the File of Life Program, has greatly increased access to medical information, primarily for senior citizens in town. The program allows citizens to fill out important information in the event of an emergency. This

information has been used numerous times since its introduction. Such information includes their past medical history, who to contact in case of an emergency, and their current medications. This has been very beneficial to CEMS arriving at the scene of an unconscious patient, who is not able to provide us with any information at that time due to their condition.

Employees of the Cranford Emergency Medical Service for 2006 include:

Amy Davidowitch, Supervisor
Mikael Diaz, Assistant Supervisor
Michael Anderson
Michael Davitt
Michael Dinkel
Kyle Dobiszewski
Daniel Donnerstag
Lisa Ferdinando
Tiffany Gaven
Heather Giles
Danielle Gritenas
Joanna Halat
Matthew Hokanson
Kimberly Loessel
Peter Magliano
Richard Raymond
Philip Rivera
Andrew Webb
Kenneth Wetzel

Communications

The Communications Division is a separate Division in the Cranford Police Department, although it works very closely with the Patrol Division.

The Communications Division is commanded by Administrative Captain John C. Baer. Sergeant Anthony J. Dobbins and Sergeant Frank Hanley were the supervisors assigned to work in the communications center. The schedule for the Sergeants is from noon until midnight to cover a majority of both the day and night shifts. Their duties were to oversee day-to-day operations related to Communications.

Ten full time civilian Communications Officers comprise the workforce. The schedule for these Communications Officers is as follows: two day shift officers, two night shift officers, and one mid-shift officer per day. Both the Communications and Patrol Divisions adhere to the four-day on, four day off work schedule.

Communications Officer William Kleeman left his position and attended the Alternate Route Program at the John H. Stamler Police academy in Scotch Plains. We wish him well in his future in law enforcement. His departure left a vacancy that was filled with the hiring of Communications Officer Kelly Sretenovic in October of 2006. With the addition of Communications Officer Sretenovic, the communications center returned to a full compliment of ten communications officers.

One of the primary goals of the communications department is updated training of all officers. One of the initiatives of the department surfaced when we began to realize a shortage of trained instructors for the Basic Telecommunications and Emergency Medical Dispatch course. This caused the Cranford Police Department to navigate a new avenue, the provision of training communications and police officers in the communications center. Sergeant Anthony Dobbins enrolled in the courses necessary to become an instructor in Basic Telecommunications and Emergency

Medical Dispatch. Sergeant Dobbins is a certified EMT and holds the other required certificates that would enable him to become an instructor for both required training courses. The classes, presented at the Hamilton Station of the New Jersey State Police, were successfully completed by Sergeant Dobbins.

The calls for service for 2006 were **64,986**. This is an increase of **2,197 calls**. This is the first time since 2001 that call volume has increased by less than five percent. The change in policies and procedures during the past two years coupled with Increased Security and Protections checks have laid the cornerstone for providing a safe environment for all citizens. In our modern, post September 11 world, this assurance of safety adds essential value to the community and all of those concerned with it.

The significant changes in the Communications Center have allowed us to again look for ways to improve our already stellar service. We welcome new opportunity and challenges. As the hub of the Township's emergency response system, the officers in the communications center have a vested interest in establishing and maintaining the highest level of achievement possible.

Cranford Police Department Internet Site

In 1997, recognizing the larger role that technology and computers would play in the future, the Cranford Police Department became one of the first police departments in Union County to establish a permanent presence on the Internet's World Wide Web.

The creation and maintenance of the police website (www.cranford.com/police) was designed to give the public more access to departmental information, and to present a means for people, both local and non-local, to communicate non-emergency concerns. Today, and even more so in the near future, the public we serve is making use of emerging Internet technologies; the Cranford Police Department is adapting to meet the challenges of this new medium.

The Department home page provides the following information and services...

- It lists the address, phone numbers, and email address (police@cranfordnj.org) of the department.
- It shows pictures of department members, activities and equipment.
- It contains information and application instructions for the Police Auxiliary and Police Explorers Post.
- It presents special announcements, community updates, drunk driving enforcement news, and other current information on a "bulletin board" page.
- It allows the viewing, downloading and printing of common forms, applications, and ordinances online.
- It provides crime prevention tips and advice for workers, seniors, homeowners and children.
- It lists Police Athletic League, DARE, and juvenile justice information.
- It presents a number of links to related police, local, and governmental websites.

In the past nine years (since 1998) the Department's Internet home page has logged over 113,000 visits to the site. That averages over 34 visitors per day. Email has been received from numerous local residents as well as foreign citizens and law enforcement agencies. Local residents have reported everything from fraud cases to chronic barking dog issues; they have requested information for school reports and have arranged home and business security inspections. Foreign visitors have exchanged training and scheduling information, have requested patches or memorabilia, or have just stopped by to say "hi." Retired officers have checked in from as far away as Arizona and Florida. Design and maintenance of the Cranford Police website, as well as responding to and recording email correspondence, is the responsibility of Sergeant Gerard Quinn (in cooperation with the web design team at Cranford.com/WebCards). Lieutenant Joe VanBergen assists with the email correspondence and has provided numerous photographs and graphics for the site. Each of the Department's division and bureau heads has provided information and regularly contributes to the overall makeup of the site. Through its Internet presence, the Department intends to continue its progressive tradition and meet the technological challenges of the new millennium.

Cranford Police Department - The Year in Review: 2006

JANUARY:

The Murder of Mary Ellen Touris

On Monday January 2, 2006 at 8:30am the Cranford Police Department and the Union County Prosecutor's Office announced the arrest of 44 year old Christopher Pessolano of Cranford. Pessolano was charged with one count of Murder in the first degree. The arrest was the result of a six hour investigation that was conducted by detectives from the Union County Prosecutor's Office and the Cranford Police Department.

On Sunday January 1, 2006 at 8:34pm the Cranford Police responded to 120 Retford Avenue on a report of an unresponsive woman. The original 911 call was made by a family member who had stopped by the Touris home for a visit. Upon arrival of the police the victim was found on the floor of the basement. The victim, Mary Ellen Touris, 45, of 120 Retford Avenue, Cranford, was pronounced dead at the scene. She suffered from severe head trauma.

In a joint announcement by Union County Prosecutor Theodore J. Romankow and Cranford Police **Chief Eric G. Mason** first degree murder charges were lodged against the suspect this morning in a complaint signed by Cranford Police **Detective John Swandrak**. Pessolano was arrested without incident at a motel on Route #22 in Springfield Township. "This is a brutal, senseless and violent killing and I commend the team of detectives who worked so hard to determine who was responsible and charge him with this crime," said Romankow, who highlighted the efforts of Cranford **Detectives John Swandrak, Patrick Fay, Michael Andrews, Robert Montague, Sergeant Gerard Quinn**.

Chief Mason said, "The team of detectives worked quickly to develop evidence and to determine the whereabouts of the defendant who had a seven month long relationship with the victim which began shortly after she became separated from her husband." The victim lived on Retford Avenue with her two children ages 20 and 16. An autopsy is expected later this afternoon to determine the exact cause of death.

This is the first murder in Cranford since May 26, 2001. Chief Mason stated that he is proud of the efforts of all of the detectives involved in the investigation and for their abilities to bring this case to a swift and successful conclusion.

The Record Shows: on January 5, 2006

A pregnant Elizabeth woman was viciously attacked December 30 as she was leaving work for the day at Cranford Health and Extended Care.

The expectant mother was immediately transported to University Hospital in Newark, where she was treated for a broken hand, a broken wrist, five broken fingers and "multiple blunt trauma injuries to her body and head," reported **Detective Lt. Stephen Wilde**. She was hospitalized for less than 48 hours before being released this weekend, according to Cranford **Detective Sgt. Gerard Quinn**. "The initial indications are that there are no permanent injuries to the unborn baby," Quinn said.

After an investigation by Cranford **Detective Robert Montague**, Elizabeth officers acting in conjunction with the Cranford police arrested Odessia Leak, 24, without incident at her 1st Avenue home Saturday. She is charged with one count of aggravated assault and one count of possession of a weapon for an unlawful purpose.

The Record Shows: on March 23, 2006

An underground electrical fire on North Avenue West caused a major headache in the downtown Tuesday, snarling traffic for hours and even sending two manhole covers shooting into the air. The fire, which began during the morning commute, set PSE&G crews to work trying to restore power and had police directing detoured traffic throughout the day.

At 7:17 a.m. a manhole explosion had occurred in front of the Garlic Rose Bistro at 28 North Ave. West, with the manhole cover reportedly thrusting into the undercarriage of a vehicle. Police and Fire personnel responded to the scene within minutes and were investigating when another explosion caused a manhole cover at the intersection of North and North Union Avenues to shoot into the air.

Police were present at the major intersections to guide drivers through blinking traffic signals, and emergency vehicles were also used for a brief period of time to corner off the affected sections of the roadways.

April:

Detective Lectures on Internet Predators

In a program titled “Don’t Become a Victim on the Information Superhighway,” hosted by the Board of Education and led by **Detective Sgt. Gerry Quinn**, local parents gathered in the Orange Avenue School auditorium for a sobering lesson on the dangers that lurk within the computers they keep in their homes.

In his work undercover with the High Tech Task Force, Sgt. Quinn will pose as a young girl in a chatroom. He said that “usually within 30 seconds, through no effort of our own.... we would be contacted by a predator.”

He shows samples of actual chats that he participated in, demonstrating for the audience that a child’s interaction with a predator could change from an innocent conversation to sexually-charged dialogue in a matter of minutes. The danger is made all the more real when social networking Web sites such as Facebook and MySpace are factored in, he said.

In preparation for his presentation, Quinn logged onto MySpace three months ago and searched for Cranford High School students; within a few minutes, he turned up 78 entries. In using sites such as MySpace, which requires that users be 14 to register and 18 to have a public account, children often unwittingly expose themselves to predators by posting enough personal information to make contact in the real world easy, he said.

Quinn told parents, many who sat with their mouths open, that for Cranford students he found full names, birthdays, school grade levels, the names of the student’s teachers, details such as height, weight and eye color, employers and work schedules, party plans, names of best friends and, more often than not, a selection of photos that would make the poster readily identifiable in person.

Quinn went on to warn parents that Internet criminals including predators, have been arrested in Cranford and that the dangers he described are real; but preventable. Parents who monitor and limit their children’s Internet time, keep their computer in a common area in the home and readily talk to their children about not meeting Internet contacts in person are helping to combat the dangers of predators on the Web, he said.

“Checking up (on a child’s Internet usage) isn’t spying, it’s parenting, and that’s the biggest hurdle for a lot of parents,” Quinn said.

Cranford Police Department - The Year in Review: 2006

May:

SWAT Team Raids Apartment

Local detectives, with the assistance of the Union County SWAT team, executed an early morning search warrant that resulted in three arrests and the seizure of 10 marijuana plants as well as other drugs and paraphernalia from a Centennial Avenue apartment.

The raid, which took place at 7 a.m., was the culmination of a three month investigation by Cranford **Detective Robert Montague** that began with an anonymous phone tip, according to **Lt. Stephen Wilde**.

In addition to the marijuana plants, police discovered an undisclosed quantity of pills - which have yet to be identified pending the results of laboratory tests - and marijuana cigarettes, Wilde said.

The primary residents of the apartment, Michael Gelnovatch, 26, and Jillian Brand, 18 along with a 13-year-old boy from Westfield who was present when police entered the second-story apartment

were arrested without incident, Wilde said. The SWAT unit was brought in because of concerns over what threats police might find inside the dwelling. "We had information that there may have been a weapon in the apartment," Wilde said. The drug arrests did not come as a surprise to some neighbors.

"Everybody on the street knew. They were too obvious," said a worker in an adjacent building who witnessed the raid's conclusion but declined to give his name. Gelnovatch, Brand and the juvenile were all charged with distribution of a controlled dangerous substance, possession of marijuana, possession of paraphernalia and possession of a controlled dangerous substance with intent to distribute within 1,000 feet of a school. Brand was released on her own recognizance and the 13-year-old was released to his mother, Wilde said. Gelnovatch was held on \$10,000 bail pending a hearing.

The Record Shows: on May 26 2006

The Cranford Police Department marched in honor of those who died serving in the United States Armed Forces during the Annual Township Memorial Day Parade.



The Record Shows: on June 1, 2006 Officer James Switek Retires

Officer James Switek, retired from the Cranford Police Department on June 1 after 30 years of service to the citizens of Cranford. Officer Switek served as a member of the Patrol Division throughout his law enforcement career and also served as president of Cranford PBA Local 52 for 14 years. Mason spoke highly of Switek's role as mentor to younger officers in the department and his calm, steady presence in the face of any situation.

"Having served with Jim for 29 years of his 30-year career, I can tell you that I truly miss his presence in the department," Mason said. "His leadership, courage, commitment to duty, pride in the department and selflessness are characteristics to be emulated by us all."

As a token of appreciation for his service to the community and the police department, Switek was presented with a clock adorned with a plaque.

June:

Cranford Police Carry the Torch

The annual Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics New Jersey passed through the region, as officers from the Cranford Police Department carried the flame in an effort to raise funds and awareness for disabled athletes. After traveling 950 miles through 380 communities, the run concluded at the College of New Jersey in Ewing, where the last runner lit the cauldron to open the Special Olympics NJ Summer Games



Sgt. Anthony Dobbins, Sgt. Thomas Feeney, Officer Sean Holcomb, Sgt. Guy Patterson, Officer Spencer Durkin, Officer Steven D'Ambola, Officer John Rattigan and Lt. James Wozniak at the starting point of the Torch Run.



Officer John Rattigan, Officer Steven D'Ambola, Officer Sean Holcomb, Sgt. Guy Patterson and Officer Spencer Durkin take to the streets of Cranford to carry the torch for the Special Olympics.

Cranford Police Department - The Year in Review: 2006

June:

Officers Awarded with Departmental Citations

A host of police officers were honored with departmental citations for their service at the Township Committee meeting June 13. Many of the officers' family members were present as **Police Chief Eric Mason** took the lectern to read the names of the nine Cranford policemen and relate briefly the actions for which they were being recognized.

Officer Timothy O'Brien was recognized for running down a robbery suspect while off duty in Elizabeth. **Officers James Switek** and **Spencer Durkin** were honored for a traffic stop involving a struggle to subdue a drug suspect armed with a handgun.

The swift arrest of murder suspect Christopher Pessolano, accused of killing MaryEllen Touris on Jan. 1, earned citations for **Detectives Robert Montague** and **Michael Andrews**, who assisted in tracking Pessolano to a Route 22 motel. **Sgt. Thomas Feeney** and **Officer Sean Holcomb** were credited with breaking up a brawl in the Homewood Suites Hotel, which entailed subduing a subject armed with a handgun. Also at the Homewood Suites, **Officers Donald Zsak** and **Brian Lopez** were recognized for arresting three subjects in possession of a loaded handgun who were discovered ingesting cocaine in a room at the hotel.

Officer Donald Zsak also received a second citation for a traffic stop which led to the discovery of 163 bags of marijuana and a loaded handgun. Zsak, a veteran of the department who has worked in law enforcement on the county, state and federal level, spoke proudly of Cranford's police force. "I expect nothing else of myself and these guys," he said. "These awards are consistent with the efforts of the Cranford police over the last 25 years since I've been there."

"I'm extremely proud of the effort the men and women of the Cranford Police Department put forth in the past year," Mason said.



July:

Point of View - Commissioner George Jorn

At last week's Cranford Township Committee meeting, resident Bob Milkowski offered his opinion that the Cranford Police Department has a lackluster approach toward public safety in general and traffic safety specifically.

Having worked with the Police Department as a member of the Township Committee the past eight years, and having worked personally with the Police Department on many safety initiatives, let me offer my conflicting opinion.

Cranford residents can rest assured that public safety - and specifically traffic safety - has the constant and ongoing attention of the Cranford Police Department.

As I write this letter, the traffic signal at the intersection of South Union and Lincoln avenues moves toward completion. Two years ago I was fortunate to arrange a visit with New Jersey Department of Transportation officials to plead Cranford's demand for that traffic signal. Lt. Van Bergen and Captain Andrews accompanied me to Trenton and their thorough and professional presentation of data in support of that traffic light was the determining factor in securing approval of the installation.

In addition, the recently installed traffic signal at the intersection of North Avenue and Orchard Street was the direct result of the Police Department's ongoing lobbying efforts with state officials for more than a decade.

The traffic lights mentioned above are two major initiatives that have high visibility on a daily basis. The traffic safety that we are blessed with in Cranford is also the cumulative effect of numerous smaller initiatives brought to fruition by the Police Department. The following are some of the other recent initiatives the Police Department has enacted or is in the process of enacting:

- The "Keep Kids Alive Drive 25" campaign.
- No trucks allowed on Chester Lang Place and Lexington Avenue.
- New stop intersections along Chester Lang Place.
- The Cranford High School parking plan.
- New "Cross Traffic Does Not Stop" signs were added at locations with blinking signals to decrease confusion. Accident rates have decreased significantly as a result.
- The department worked with state officials to retime traffic signals on Centennial Avenue and Raritan Road.
- LED lights on every traffic light in Cranford for increased safety and energy savings.
- Revised parking ordinances for residents on Buchanan and Cleary Streets.
- Student drop-off zones at Brookside Place and Bloomingdale Avenue schools.

- Traffic safety recommendations of site plans relative to the new Walgreens, Town Bank and Valley National Bank buildings.
- Stop sign added to Wade Avenue and Lambert Street in response to pedestrian volume.
- New parking ordinances along Elm Street at the Centennial Avenue intersection.
- A new crosswalk installed with pedestrian signage at Springfield Avenue and Holly Street in response to the recently completed Hanson Park project.
- A safety identification tag program for Cranford residents.
- New crosswalks at South Union and Lexington avenues, and West End Place and Orchard Street.
- The department worked with the Cranford Downtown Management Corporation to secure a grant to improve pedestrian safety at North Avenue and Alden Street and at the train station plaza. In addition, the department recently assisted the DMC and Cranford's Engineering Department in the completion of a grant application to improve pedestrian safety under the Walnut Avenue train underpass.
- The police convinced the Union County engineer to add a crosswalk (in process) at Walnut Avenue and Chestnut Street, where previously there was none.
- At the request of the Cranford Police department the county of Union will soon install edge lines along Walnut Avenue from Chester Lang Place to South Avenue to slow traffic and delineate traffic lanes and parking areas.
- A traffic study was recently completed by the CPD's Traffic Bureau with a recommendation for consideration by the Township Committee to close Miln Street in front of the Post Office to improve pedestrian and motorist safety.
- A request was recently sent to the NJ DOT to study all traffic signals along State Route 28 (North Avenue). State officials have agreed to complete a re-examination and updating of all signal timing, equipment and striping.
- Yearly "bike rodeos" and bike/pedestrian lectures are presented every year at Cranford schools.
- All traffic signals in Cranford are constantly being upgraded and maintained as part of a carefully monitored maintenance program.
- The DOT installed new crosswalks at North and Lincoln avenues along with new stop bars at the CPD's request. New crosswalks were also installed at South and Lincoln avenues.
- Sidewalks and crosswalks were recently added to the entire length of Commerce Drive in the Cranford Business Park to improve safety.
- Safety enhancements at the intersection of Orchard Street and Brookside Place in response to a resident's request.
- Upgrade blinking traffic light at the intersection of North Union and Elizabeth avenues.
- Installation of new Bike Path signs at various locations.

I could go on, but I believe that the improvements listed above indicate an aggressive and proactive approach towards public safety. As to Mr. Milkowski's requests for speed bumps, yield signs and speed enforcement efforts involving traffic laws, the Cranford's Police Department's response has also been thoughtful and proactive. Often what appears to be an obvious solution to a problem is not possible or wise to implement.

In 2005, more than 5,000 summonses were issued for motor vehicle violations. That amount was almost double the amount issued during the previous year and was above average when compared to neighboring towns. In fact, one officer has been assigned to sole duty of enforcing speed limits within Cranford. Traffic safety is also a constant topic of discussion with the Police Department.

As to the installation of "Yield Pedestrian" signs in roadways, the Police Department has taken a cautious and thoughtful approach. The signs are not endorsed by the NJ State Traffic Officers Association because they have not been shown to reduce pedestrian accidents. The signs might even increase accidents because they create a false sense of security for pedestrians. I have personally experienced this myself on countless occasions in towns that have the signs i.e. people just walking out into traffic because of a sign.

In addition, the signs could become projectiles if struck by a motorist who might not anticipate a sign in the middle of a street. There are also various legal restrictions that prohibit the signs from being located in certain areas.

As to speed bumps, the Police Department has not endorsed the placement in Cranford for many good reasons. Most of the speed bumps that are in Westfield do not meet the specifications of Jersey law. There have also been some very serious accidents and damage to vehicles caused by speed bumps in Westfield.

In addition, there are many restrictions that prohibit their installation - such as not being allowed on municipal roads with a speed limit excess of 30 mph and with average daily traffic counts in excess of 3,000 vehicles. Speed bumps can also cause increased speeding within the area where there are no bumps or the areas between the bumps. They also delay emergency vehicle response time and cause drivers to veer off the side of a street to avoid the bump I will leave to your imagination potential consequences of a motorist forgetting about or not anticipating a speed bump.

I want to assure all Cranford residents that public safety continues to be the prime directive for every member of the Cranford Police Department. I also want to assure you that commentary from Mr. Milkowski, and all Cranford residents, is encouraged by the Police Department and is taken very seriously.

Cranford Police Department - The Year in Review: 2006

July:

National Night Out

Cranford participated in the 23rd National Night Out, an event designed to heighten crime prevention awareness and to help unify neighborhoods.

In Cranford, police officers were stationed at the gazebo located at North Union and Springfield avenues. Police distributed free ice cream and balloons and children posed for a picture on a police department motorcycle and had their faces painted.

A DJ performed at this year's event, and the Union County Sheriff's Office K-9 Unit was on hand displaying their trained dogs. Police also distributed information to promote identity theft awareness and online safety. Residents were encouraged to stop by and participate in the festivities.

Kids also watched Petals, a unique female entertainer, performing a comedy magic show with funny storytelling routines and hilarious hand puppets. She and her assistant did face-painting.



The Record Shows: on August 31, 2006

Steven LaFace, a 25-yr. old homeless man, was charged with resisting arrest, disorderly conduct and exposing an officer to bodily fluids after police arrested him on an existing warrant at the Rustic Mill Diner at 12:22 a.m. August 23.

LaFace, who allegedly spit on an officer, was later transferred to Trinitas Hospital.

Guy Chills, 40, of Hamilton Square was charged with disorderly conduct after police received a report of a loud person at a party at a Walnut Avenue home at 10:51 p.m. Friday. Chills was allegedly intoxicated and attempting to pick fights with other guests when police arrived. When he reportedly refused to leave, he was arrested.

October:

Lieutenant Colaneri Completes FBI Accademy

On Sept. 15, **Lt. Robert Colaneri** of the Cranford Police Department was one of 260 law enforcement officers who graduated from the FBI National Academy at Quantico, Va. Colaneri was part of the 226th Session of the National Academy, which consisted of men and women from all 50 states, the District of Columbia and 25 foreign countries. Internationally know for academic excellence, the 10-week National Academy program offers undergraduate and graduate level courses in law, behavioral sciences, forensic science, leadership development, communications, and health and fitness training for competitively selected officers who have a proven record of professionalism in their agencies. FBI Academy instructors, special agents and other staff members who are recognized as experts in their fields provide training for the program.



Colaneri is a 21-year veteran of the Cranford Police Department. During his tenure, he has served in the Patrol Division and the Juvenile Bureau. He was promoted to the rank of Sergeant in 2000 and to the rank of Lieutenant in 2004. He currently serves as a platoon commander in the Patrol Division. In addition to his position as a platoon commander, Colaneri is also the commander of the police department's Firearms Training Unit. Most recently, he was responsible for the development and implementation of the department's Citizens Police Academy. Colaneri is also an active member of the Cranford Police Athletic League, where he serves as a member of the PAL board of directors.

Following Colaneri's graduation from the FBI National Academy, Cranford Police Chief Eric Mason said, "Lt. Colaneri is a smart, thoughtful and reflective leader. His graduation from the National Academy is an example of his continuous pursuit of professional excellence. The entire police department is proud of his accomplishment. Colaneri joins Chief Mason as the only two active members of the department who have attended the FBI National Academy. Only five members of the department have been selected to attend the National Academy since its founding in 1935. Former members of the department who graduated from the program are Capt. Ralph Koury, Lt. Lawrence Bonnell and Detective Sgt. Michael Dean.

November:

Letter to the Editor of the Cranford Chronicle

The Record Shows: on September 9, 2006

The Cranford Police Department is making a technological advancement with the purchase of seven new laptop computers for use in the department's 12 patrol cars. The Panasonic Toughbooks replace the current 8-year-old units currently being used, according to **Lt. Joe Van Bergen**.

"The old ones couldn't run today's software," said Van Bergen, adding that the old units were upgraded several times in the past. "It's more cost effective to just get new ones. It basically prevents us from having to reinvent the wheel," Van Bergen said. These units come at a much higher price than normal laptops, because they have been "ruggedized" and built to military specifications so they can handle the heat and motion of the police cars.

The new laptops come equipped with a touch sensitive screen, backlight keys, waterproof keyboard, 80 gigabyte hard drive, 512 megabyte ram, and Windows XP Professional. The new units can run license plates and stolen property without officers having to call in. They also allow in-car reporting and messages to headquarters, all without tying up the radio frequency. "It's more efficient, and it increases safety by a quick record checks" said Van Bergen.

Resident Grateful for
Police Department

To The Chronicle:

My family recently went on vacation for ten days. Prior to leaving, I completed a form at the Cranford Police Department, advising them of our departure and return dates, and advising them that a friend would have access to the house.

Upon our return, my friend told me that one day, she'd inadvertently left the storm door ajar while she was still in the house. A police officer who was cruising by noticed it and came up to the door to investigate.

Our neighbor also said that she saw police cars driving by our house frequently. I would like to commend the police department for its diligence; I am very impressed, and I feel safer knowing that these caring officers are out there doing their job to protect us. Thank you, Cranford police!

- Sandra Polsky
Cranford

The Record Shows: on December 9, 2006

A fire destroyed a downtown building and the businesses that occupied it in December, as crews worked for two hours to extinguish the blaze.

The fire engulfed the structure at 111-115 North Union Ave., a two-story building that housed the Irish import store Emerald Cottage, Cranford Florist, and Erva Doce, a women's clothing boutique. The building, was damaged beyond repair, according to Capt. Wesley Ditzel of the Cranford Fire Department. It will be demolished after the holidays, when traffic conditions permit the closure of the street.

The first report of the blaze came in around 8:40 p.m., when a passer by walked to the fire department headquarters on Springfield Avenue to report that smoke was coming from the building. Fire personnel responded to find "smoke rolling out from under the awnings," Ditzel said.

Firefighters first forced their way into Emerald Cottage, where they found smoke but no flames. They then made their way into the Cranford Florist, which was filled with smoke. The crews broke the front window of the store and continued to battle the blaze while the **Cranford Police Department** closed the street and worked with firefighters to secure the area.

Cranford Police Department - The Year in Review: 2006

December:

Verdict Handed Down for the Murder of Mary Ellen Touris: GUILTY

Beaten and choked, Cranford resident MaryEllen Touris died at the foot of her basement stairs New Year's Day. Christopher Pessolano, Touris' boyfriend of seven months, pleaded guilty to aggravated manslaughter – just under one year after he was arrested by Cranford police.

Pessolano, who lived with Touris in her modest yellow house on Retford Avenue, admitted to punching the 45 year-old mother of two daughters repeatedly in a “fit of rage” before “throwing her against the wall, holding his foot on her throat until she stopped breathing and throwing her down the basement stairs during an argument,” according to a press release issued by Assistant Prosecutor Robert O’Leary.

A team of Cranford police officers, led by **Detective John Swandrak**, arrested Pessolano at the Colonial Motor Court motel on Route 22 in Springfield just six hours after Touris' body was found lying at the foot of the basement stairs at 8:30 p.m. by a relative who stopped by for a visit. An autopsy later determined Touris died of severe blunt force head trauma and asphyxiation.

Union County Prosecutor Theodore Romankow said Pessolano will face a 25-year prison sentence.

“This grisly act of brutality gripped the entire community, and now the person responsible will have years and years to think about the pain and suffering he caused to the victim and her family,” Romankow said.

According to Romankow, Pessolano will be required to serve 85 percent of his prison term before becoming eligible for parole. Pessolano, who was described as an “out-of-work landscaper” by a neighbor, was indicted on one count of first-degree murder by a Union County grand jury June 2.

He is scheduled to be sentenced Feb. 2. Several family members were present at the plea proceedings including Touris' brother, a Cranford firefighter, her two daughters and her sister, prosecutors said.

“They will never be the same,” said Assistant Prosecutor James Donnelly. “His brutal and callous act devastated the entire family and we will be asking for the maximum term permitted by law at the sentencing.”

NOTE: Christopher Pessalano was sentenced in early 2007 and received the maximum sentence by law, 25 years in prison. He will be eligible for parole in 2028.

The Record Shows: on December 7, 2006

Officer Donald Zsak, a 22-year veteran of the department, was presented with the Cranford Police Department's Chief's Medal for his work in foiling a plot by a known member of the “Bloods” street gang to kill an Essex County police officer.

Zsak said he was contacted by a trusted resource from his years undercover who informed him that the gang member had put out a contract to kill the officer in order to put a stop to his narcotics enforcement activity.

The Essex County Prosecutor's Office subsequently issued an arrest warrant for the gang member. The warrant charged the perpetrator with crimes related to the attempt to have a police officer killed. The officer who was in danger continued his work, Zsak said.

Zsak said he appreciated **Chief Eric Mason's** recognition of the case because in recent years threats against officers have become more serious.

“There is no doubt in the minds of any of the law enforcement people associated with this case that **Officer Zsak's** actions prevented the possible execution of a police officer,” Mason said. “Personally, I am extremely proud of the professionalism and tenaciousness that **Officer Zsak** exhibited in averting what could have been a tragedy. His actions represent a tradition of courage and professionalism in the Cranford Police Department.

Cranford Police Department - The Year in Review: 2006

December:

Officer Eugene Perrotta Sworn In

Officer Eugene Perrotta is a graduate of Arthur L. Johnson Regional High School. He attended Drew University where he earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in History in 1999. Following his undergraduate studies, Officer Perrotta attended Rutgers School of Law where he earned his Juris Doctorate Degree in 2002. He was admitted to the bar in November 2002. While in law school, Officer Perrotta participated in summer internship programs with the Union County Prosecutor's Office in 2000 and 2001. Officer Perrotta was an Associate Attorney with a local firm for three and a half years until his acceptance into the Alternate Route Program at the John H. Stamler Police Academy in July 2006. While in the police academy, Officer Perrotta was elected Class President. He graduated from the academy on December 5 with an academic average of 93.9% which ranked him fourth out of 55 recruits academically.



Officer Eugene Perrotta after the swearing in ceremony, photographed with his attending family members.

December:

Officer Kelly Rieder Sworn In

Officer Kelly Rieder is a graduate of Rahway High School. While in high school, she participated in the school's Junior ROTC program as well as the Rahway Police Department's Police Explorer Program. Officer Rieder holds an Associate of Arts degree from Union County College and is a 2004 graduate of Rutgers University where she earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice. It has always been Officer Rieder's goal to become a police officer. Her efforts to achieve that goal led her to gain entry into the police officer Alternate Route Program at the John H. Stamler Police Academy. On December 5, 2006, she graduated from the police academy at ceremonies held on the campus of Kean University.



Officer Kelly Rieder after the swearing in ceremony, photographed with her attending family members.

Days Gone By...



1946 Cranford Police Department

(Pictured left to right, top to bottom)

Top Row:

Patrolman Archie Bird, Patrolman Joe Kovaks,

Second Row:

Patrolman Rudy Klempa, Patrolman Nick Druzek, Patrolman Ed Lee,
Patrolman George Ward, Patrolman Lou Guertin

Third Row:

Patrolman Frank Caruso, Patrolman Bill Gassman, Patrolman Tony Kovaks,
Patrolman Lester Powell, Patrolman Pete Miller

Fourth Row:

Sergeant Lawrence Bonnell, Sr., Sergeant Ed Metzner, Lieutenant George Rosendale,
Chief William Fischer, Lieutenant Tom Woods, Sr., Sergeant Harry Page, Jr.