

Annual Report of the Washington Police Department

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Welcome to the 2011 annual report for the Washington Police Department. This year has unfortunately seen an increase in activity both in terms of statistics & seriousness in the nature of the incidents. Our staff has remained stable and the crews has been the same for over 4 years.

During 2011 we have continued with many of our on-going programs, as well as some new events we have not participated in previously.

Installation of storm windows on the main floor of the police station

A complete re-write and update of our operations manual

Chief Marshall, Ofcs. Moser & Corrigan instruct at the 38th NH Police Cadet Training Academy

Residents Samantha Cordiero (2nd year) & Michael Cordeiro and Brian Doherty graduating from the Cadet Academy

On going Student of the Month lunch trips

Operation Take Back- prescription & medication take back program

Installation of an on-board video system for the cruiser

Grant approval to obtain a new breath testing device

Obtaining a free boat, motor & trailer from military surplus

In spite of all the exciting things the police department does and gets involved in during the year, probably the most asked question of 2011 was, "When is the movie coming out?" The only thing I can get from the producers is they are working on it. It has been titled *3 Days of Normal*, and you track it's progress on imdb.com. All I can report at this point is my scene ended up on the editor's floor, so I guess I'll keep my day job.

The new cruiser went into service in January and has saved a substantial amount of money in unneeded repairs from the old cruiser.

Myself and Ofc. Corrigan worked with the LAE Board of Directors during the year to set up the Town's first Neighborhood Watch program. There was no cost to the town to set this up, and it provides the police extra eyes to watch the neighborhood and unoccupied homes.

As far as criminal police events, we are disappointed to see not only an increase in calls for service, up by over 10% from 2010, but also incidents and crimes. The nature of crimes we are being called to, and having to investigate has become a concern. If there is any bright side to that statistic, it's that there has not been a noticeable increase in alcohol or drug arrests or crimes. Most of what we investigate seem to be finance and perhaps economy driven. However, if one reviews police activities from our neighbors and other communities in the state, one would see that the crimes are not unique to us. Fortunately we are seeing in far fewer numbers that the others.

Because of the increase in criminal activity response, traffic enforcement activity has decreased. We try to put an educational component in all our motor vehicle enforcement, and trend to warnings rather than arrests or summons. Our theory and presence seems to work in that biggest marker we look for in traffic activity, traffic collisions, are very minimal. As of early December we have only had 8 accidents, and half them were injury

free. This information is available to insurance companies and that is a factor used in determining premiums and rates, making Washington lower because of our safety record.

2011 was the first year the Washington Police Department participated in the Drug Enforcement Administration's Operation Take Back. A table was set up at the Transfer Station one Saturday in July for residents to turn in unused and unneeded prescriptions and medications from home. We collected a total of 26 pounds of medications from 18 residents. We will look to participate again in 2012

We applied for grants for enforcement activities and were awarded money for 90 hours each of dedicated radar and DWI enforcement patrols. We take advantage of every opportunity we can for funding for training, equipment and resources. We enrolled in the Department of Defense's equipment reutilization program to obtain a 16' boat, 25 hp motor and trailer to help us better serve the island residents and marine complaints in town. Other than fuel to pick it up at the Portsmouth Navy Yard there was no cost to obtain them.

Our Student of the Month program continues, and the monthly winners are featured on our web site. I commend the community for their sponsorships of the program. The list of sponsors goes into the 2012-13 school year

I again encourage community members to subscribe to Nixle.com. Nixle is a public service notification system that the emergency services can use to notify citizens of important information. The subscribers can enroll, at no cost, and opt to receive the messages by text messaging, email and web service. It is a secure and private system. There are no ads or pop-ups and your address is not sold to any other agency or enterprise. We have used this system to warn of suspicious vehicles/people, burglaries sprees, road closings, approaching weather emergencies, flu clinics and hearings. I encourage all residents and property owners to subscribe. Just go to www.nixle.com and select Washington, NH.

As always, I am very grateful for the support, cooperation, friendship and genuine sense of community good that we get from the DPW, Fire & Rescue, Town Hall, School Staff and other Town agencies and commissions. Washington is so unique to have this kind of spirit and staff. Most importantly is the dedication and service from my staff, Officers Brian Moser, Tim Puchtler and John Corrigan, and the unofficial member, Trooper Mark Barrett. Of course, I could not be anywhere near productive without the behind the scenes help from the Town Administrative Assistant, Michelle Dagesse. She does all our unseen work like activity logs, pistol license processing, statistics and reporting to government agencies. Without her I would never get away from the desk.

We wish all of you a productive, happy, health and most importantly safe 2012.

Respectfully,

Steven I. Marshall

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Chief of Police