

Report of the Police Department 2005

The year 2005 once again continued to compel the Police Department to improvise continually to maintain priority services to the residents and the businesses of North Hampton. At the same time, the staff at the police department want to recognize the generous support of the Board of Selectmen, the Budget Committee, and of course the Residents of North Hampton in adding two police officers to the staff in 2005. The full benefit of the addition of these two new officers has not yet been fully recognized mainly due to the fact they have not yet completed their fourteen-week Field Training Programs. In addition, from January through March of 2006 these two new officers will be mandated to attend the New Hampshire Police Standards Training Academy in Concord, in order to obtain the Police Certifications that are required to perform their duties independently of their Field Training Officers. As of this publication the two new officers, Juan Infante Jr, and Brian Holbrook have performed very well in providing services to the residents of North Hampton, and of course other citizens who do not reside in North Hampton. From my observation of the training process, there is no question in my mind that the credit for the success of Officer Infante and Officer Holbrook goes to the Field Training Officers on the department who are responsible for getting them ready to work independently. I commend Officer Gary Homiak, Officer Peter Cormier, Officer William Adams, and Officer Michael Oliveira for their self-initiative, and for their willingness to accept the responsibility and the accountability in this critical process of training the new officers and making them ready to provide quality, professional services to the Town of North Hampton. Once they are out of the academy in March, they will complete the last four weeks of their field training under the watchful eye of the four officers mentioned above, and after that time Officers Infante and Holbrook will finally be in a cruiser on their own.

In 2005 the department once again saw increases in calls for service, such as arrests (+9.4% over 2004), motor vehicle stops (+28% over 2004), motor vehicle accidents, (+8% over 2004), criminal incidents (+4% over 2004), and overall calls for service, (+2% over 2004). Although these figures are not excessive as it pertains to changes over one year's time, these figures are considerably high where they are compounded with significant increases over the last three calendar years. In addition to these obvious increases, we also continue to maintain similar trends in the nature of crime in North Hampton, along with new trends such as armed robberies of convenience stores (compared to banks last year) and persons filling or attempting to fill false prescriptions at our local pharmacy. This type of crime is a felony under New Hampshire Statute(s). We are unsure if it is a new trend, or a pre-existing one we were not aware of, but with the large increase in motor vehicle stops we also discovered an abrupt increase in mid-day arrests for Driving While Intoxicated.

In June of 2005 Officer Michael Oliveira attended a federally funded school, which provided him with intensive training in leadership as a School Resource Officer. A great deal of this training concentrated on completing a School Safety Plan, and drills to conduct and the steps to take following the adoption of this plan. This effort will ensure

that the children of North Hampton, and the staff of the school, are as safe as they can possibly be while school is in session. Officer Oliveira quickly completed a draft of this plan upon his return from this training, and the plan will be approved through a collaborative effort between the school administration, the fire department, and the police department. As soon as these steps are completed, the parents of the children of North Hampton will be apprised of the final plan, and of course told exactly what to do in the event of any type of school emergency.

On December 3, 2005 we also had our annual visit from Santa Claus, which took place at the United Church of Christ. Thanks to the efforts of North Hampton's Recreation Director Diane Wheeler, and volunteers from the Recreation Commission this visit from the North Pole was once again a huge success. I also want to take this opportunity to thank Diane's husband Jim, and a group of girls who volunteered along with Diane's youngest daughter for their efforts in making this visit from Santa so successful.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the residents of North Hampton for their never ending support, and also to remind them to call us if they see anything they consider dangerous or suspicious. The success of any police agency relies greatly on the eyes and ears of the public so please do not hesitate to call and make us aware of your concerns. We would prefer to receive your call, and find that there was not a crime being committed, than to not get a call and then discover that there was a crime committed and we were unable to intervene while it was in progress.

Brian P. Page
Chief of Police