

# ANNUAL REPORT OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT



It is a pleasure to present the Deerfield Police Department 2014 Annual Report for your review. I strongly believe that our citizens and visitors have a right to know what law enforcement services and activities are provided to the community.

## ***Department Overview***

The Deerfield Police Department is currently staffed with eight full-time employees to include the Chief of Police, Lieutenant, Sergeant, and four patrol officers. We have an Administrative Assistant who provides secretarial, record keeping, and clerical support. Our patrol function is also supplemented with four part-time patrol officers who are utilized to fill open shifts and to provide extra manpower during community events.

There were some personnel changes that occurred in 2014. During the first half of the year the department was in the unfortunate position of having three open full-time positions, which adversely impacts our ability to efficiently and effectively provide services to the community. The four officers that were here during that time frame did an outstanding job of holding everything together and worked countless hours of overtime in order to maintain a presence and respond to calls for service.

The department hired Katherine Bragg as a full-time officer in May. Kate was already a certified police officer who came to us from another New Hampshire agency. After completion of a Field Training Program we were able to place her in the rotation and out on patrol. Keegan Pearl was hired as a full-time officer in September. Keegan came to us after spending four years in the military and he has completed his Field Training Program and also graduated from the fourteen week Basic Full-Time Officer Academy in December. There was also one promotion during 2014. Sgt. Dan Deyermond, who had served as Officer in Charge during the first half of the year, was promoted to Lieutenant in July

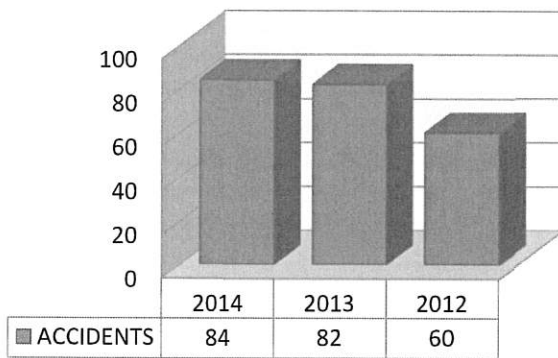
After an extensive search the Board of Selectman hired Gary Duquette as Police Chief for the Deerfield Police Department. Chief Duquette spent the past twenty years as a police officer in Maine, serving in the capacity of Chief for the last seven of those years. This position brought our agency back up to its full complement of seven full time officers.

## ***Calls for Service***

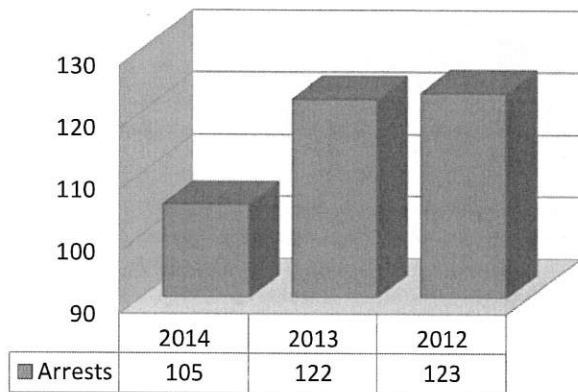
Patrol officers are responsible for the initial response to all calls for service, which may be dispatched through the regional call center or, may be an officer initiated incident. Every incident requires formal documentation in the form of an incident report, arrest report, motor vehicle crash report, or traffic summons.

Deerfield has seen fluctuating levels of calls for service over the past few years. The statistics for 2014 are slightly lower than the previous year. The total number of incidents for 2014 has decreased from the previous year, and there was also a slight drop in the number of arrests. Being as short staffed as our agency was for half the year subsequently resulted in less officer initiated activity and proactive policing, which is directly attributable to lower numbers. The number of motor vehicle accidents remained consistent with last year.

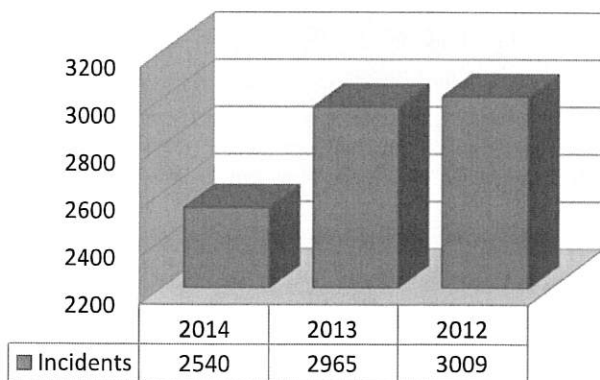
### **Accidents**



### **Arrests**



### **Incidents**



## ***Patrol Overview***

The patrol division is the backbone of any Police Department. Under the direction and supervision of the Lieutenant and Sergeant, the patrol division is made up of uniform patrol officers, with some having been trained in various specialty areas. Officers are responsible for the protection of life and property; maintaining peace, order, and safety for all citizens; and the day to day patrol of neighborhoods and businesses.

The Deerfield Police Department has a certified Accident Reconstructionist, who has received advanced training in the area of traffic accident investigations. This officer is called upon to investigate and reconstruct crashes that result in a fatality or serious bodily injury. This same officer is also a certified Child Passenger Safety Seat Technician, who can assist our citizens with the proper installation of child safety seats.

Our agency also has a certified Drug Recognition Expert, who has received advanced training in order to detect and successfully prosecute persons who were operating motor vehicles while under the influence of drugs other than alcohol.

Our Lieutenant also serves as our full-time Detective. He is responsible for following up on all cases that require extended investigation. He also reviews all police reports in order to determine their investigative priority and to assign any necessary follow-up action that needs to be conducted by the responsible officer. He has also received specialized training in the handling of evidence and is responsible for the logging in, chain of custody, safekeeping, and release or court ordered destruction of each piece of property or evidence that is collected.

## ***Training***

The Deerfield Police Department trains new officers both before and after they have completed their basic training at the New Hampshire Police Academy. Field Training serves as the first step for new recruits, which is an eight week program covering departmental policy and procedure, criminal law, traffic law, patrol operations, and community awareness through an intensive one-on-one oversight program. This training is to ensure that the probationary officer is ready to operate on his/her own. Our agency currently has two specially trained Field Training Officers and the Sergeant is designated to oversee the program. If you see two officers in one patrol car then chances are one of them is currently going through this program.

Our officers participated in numerous training courses throughout 2014 that will ultimately increase their skill set and provide a better quality of law enforcement services to the community. The training curriculum included topics such as Use of Force, Domestic Violence, Leadership, Property & Evidence Room Management, Legal Updates, and Field Training Officer

to name a few. We also conducted annual firearms training, which requires officers to demonstrate proficiency in the use of their duty weapons.

Our department also has officers who have received instructor training in defensive tactics, taser, and firearms. These certifications have allowed us to provide many hours of in-house training to our officers.

### ***Community Relations***

Over the past several years there has been a growing trend in law enforcement around the country to change the way police are traditionally viewed. Over the past several months we have worked on realigning the organizational management, structure, and personnel of our department in order to better support community partnerships. We strive to develop solutions to problems and increase trust in police. We have several programs in place to assist us in meeting this goal.

We ran our very first Citizens Police Academy in the fall with ten participants graduating. The goal of the CPA is to familiarize the public with how the Police Department operates within its Policies and Procedures while providing an avenue for positive interaction. The program received positive reviews and we hope to run at least two every year.

We also have a property watch program; provide fingerprinting services: inspect and install child safety seats; and participate in a national drug take-back program. Please check our website for a full description of these programs. Our officers also enjoy participating in local community events such as Old Home Days, the Santa Parade, and the Tailgate Trick or Treat event.

In closing, I would like to acknowledge the men and women of the department for their dedication, performance, and professionalism. I also want to thank our elected officials, department heads, and the community for their support of the police department.

Sincerely,

Gary Duquette, Chief of Police