

PROTECTION OF PERSONS AND PROPERTY

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Although there were no events in 2007 that required activation of Weston's Emergency Management System, our Town's Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEM) was reviewed by members of the Town's Emergency Management Team and updated with the State. This plan will be critical in the event of a natural disaster or other emergency in Weston.

We cannot stress enough the need to have a plan in place for your family in the event of a disaster. This plan should include basic food and water for a minimum of 48 hours, essential documents and phone numbers, and a communications plan. Information on planning and other disaster related topics can be found on our web site (www.weston.org) or through the American Red Cross and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

REPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF INSPECTIONAL SERVICES

FY07 was an active building year for single family dwellings increasing from 24 to 41. An important event for the Inspectional Services was the enactment of the permit tracking software. This program enables us to keep track of all building permits issued and better control of inspections and important data that is required while construction is ongoing.

Implementation of the 7th Edition of the Building Code 780 CMR of 1 & 2 Family Dwellings enactment date of October 1, 2007 was implemented on January 1, 2008.

The development of Highland Meadows an "active adult residential development" for 55 years and over is currently under way. As of this report, 11 buildings are under construction.

The Storm Water Committee is making progress toward presenting to the Town a By-Law.

REPORT OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

In calendar year 2007 the Weston Fire Department responded to 1,990 calls for service. We were fortunate to have only had one large loss fire however this should not lead to complacency. As a department we cannot stress enough the importance of making a conscious effort to protect ourselves from the dangers of fire including installing and testing smoke and carbon monoxide detectors; and having and practicing a home escape plan.



We have always felt that it is easier to prevent a fire than extinguish one. As such, prevention remains a core component of our mission. We continue to conduct school visits, and required fire safety inspections. These inspections include oil burning equipment, liquefied propane installations, home fire and carbon monoxide alarms, fuel tank removals, and blasting operations. In addition, quarterly inspections of nursing care and other facilities were conducted as required by law.

The 2006 Town Meeting approved the purchase of a new fire engine to serve as a first line engine and the engine is now in service. The 2007 Town Meeting approved the purchase of a new aerial ladder which will be delivered to the Town in July of 2008.

While our Emergency Ambulance Service accounted 47.7% of our call volume, the department's Emergency Medical Technicians and First Responders continue to provide critical care to the residents and visitors of Weston. We are fortunate to have both Emerson Hospital and American Medical Response Ambulance as Advanced Life Support providers to the community; however it is critical that we take steps to ensure that this level of care remains available for the community in both a timely and cost effective manner. We encourage residents wishing to take a class in CPR or learn more about defibrillators to contact the fire department.

We look back with gratitude to all of those who have supported and assisted this Department in many ways. Citizen support and cooperation is essential if we are to continue to keep our Town fire safe and maintain an effective level of service. To the citizens of Weston, the Honorable Board of Selectmen, Finance Committee, Town Manager, and the members of the Weston Fire Department who have all worked so diligently, I extend my sincere appreciation and thanks.

2007 DEPARTMENT STATISTICS:

(Year ending December 31, 2007)

In 2007 the Weston Fire Department responded to 170 Bell Alarms and 1,820 Still Alarms for a total of 1,990 incidents as follows:

Fire Incidents	==== 80
Ambulance Incidents	==== 949
Other Emergency Services	==== 961

Mutual Aid:

Received from neighboring communities	==== 216 times
Provided to our neighbors	==== 129 times

The Emergency Ambulance Service responded to 949 incidents as follows of which 777 were medical emergencies and 172 were motor vehicle accidents.

COMPARISON OF ALARMS ANSWERED -- 10 YEAR PERIOD

1998	1,740 Alarms	2003	1,990 Alarms
1999	1,773 Alarms	2004	2,007 Alarms
2000	1,883 Alarms	2005	2,023 Alarms
2001	2,080 Alarms	2006	1,934 Alarms
2002	1,803 Alarms	2007	1,990 Alarms

10 Year Average	== 1,922 Incidents Annually
5 Year Average	== 1,989 Incidents Annually
3 Year Average	== 1,982 Incidents Annually

Permits Issued Pursuant To Massachusetts General Laws:

Burning Permits	300
Blasting Permits	10
Carpet Installations	0
LP Gas Storage Permits	28
Tank Truck Inspections	6
Cutting & Welding Permits	4
Explosives Storage Permits	0
Flammable Liquid Storage Permits	2
Underground Tank Removal Permits	16
Oil Burner Installations/Alterations	36
Fire Alarm Systems - New Construction	112
Fire Alarm Systems - Residential Sales	224

Fiscal Year 2007 Revenue Turned Over To The Town Treasurer:

Fees For Ambulance Services Rendered	== \$	320,244.50
Fees For Services To Mass. Turnpike Authority	== \$	4,000.00
Fees For Permits	== \$	20,605.00
Master Box Fees	== \$	18,900.00
All Other Revenues Received	== \$	<u>72.50</u>
Total Revenue Year 2007	== \$	363,822.00

REPORT OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Police Department has been working to stay current with issues facing the Town and collaborating with the various departments in an effort to address the changing issues facing emergency management. Both Police and Fire continue to scrutinize emergency measures with not only the School Department but also our private schools. Over the course of the year we have conducted drills relating to fire alarms, bomb scares, emergency evacuations and lock down procedures with all of the schools comparing policies to make sure our efforts are the most effective. The Department of Public Works and the Police have put together a team to work with the Environmental Protection Agency in order to make our operations as eco-friendly as possible. Also, the two departments are looking at the town-wide emergency notification system, so that if a crisis should occur the message can be sent out as swiftly and efficiently as possible. The Board of Health is constantly refining procedures to implement a plan in the event of a catastrophic health incident. Meetings and tabletop exercises, with not only Town personnel but health officials and volunteers, allow us to run scenarios to best predict what issues need to be addressed. The Information Technology Department has made invaluable contributions to our department, as well as all other town agencies, to upgrade and maintain our communications systems as well as computer records efficiency. John Blanchard, Manager of Information Technology, along with his assistant Ann Marie Mazzocchi, spend a great deal of time delivering their expertise and we are grateful for their time and patience. The Council on Aging is working to track seniors that may require assistance should an emergency arise. Identifying persons at risk of emergency will greatly reduce the time it takes to get help to those in need.

All of the departments of the Town of Weston are closely working together to effectively coordinate operations in the face of any emergency. In the coming year we expect to have a town-wide emergency radio frequency available to all of our departments in order to facilitate joint communications with all emergency responders. One of our top priorities is putting the equipment in place that will give the schools the ability to communicate with any branch of town Service at any time. Another priority is to strengthen policies and procedures that are already in place. State grants have been secured for emergency radio equipment and our aim is to supply all of the departments as well as the Administrative branch.

The Police Department is grateful to all Town departments for their efforts in helping us to aid residents in time of need. The Board of Selectmen, Town Manager, Finance Director and the Finance Committee have been very supportive in understanding our needs, as well as those of other departments, and work with us to secure the means to put emergency procedures and equipment in place. Many thanks to the Permanent Building Committee for their assistance with the process of a needs assessment study to identify options and helping to plan for a new police building in the future.

As always, thank you to the residents for your support and help over the past year. We realize that it is only through a partnership with the community that we can work toward our mission of protection of lives and property in Weston. Residents turn our few eyes and ears into many and we urge you to call whenever you suspect a problem.

2007 Police Department Statistics

Automobile accidents investigated	361
Persons reported injured	86
Accidents involving bicycles	2

Accidents involving pedestrians	2
Accidents - fatal	2
Accidents involving deer	35
Automobile thefts	0
Burglar alarms investigated	1268
Officers responding to burglar alarms	2540
Complaints and investigations (excluding dog)	15371
Complaints referred to Dog Officer	105
Animal Complaints Investigated by Police Officer	112
Report of dog bites	8
Domestic abuse orders	33
Emergency orders served	1
Orders violated	1
E911 Emergency calls recorded	923
Fire department, assist on calls (other than rescue calls)	481
Lockouts, auto/home	38
Lost property found in Weston	56
Obscene & Harassing phone calls reported	35
Street lights reported out	
Sudden deaths investigated	3
Traffic warnings forwarded to Registry	1832
Unlawful Credit Card Use & Checks	16
Civil citations forwarded to Registry	1018
Trespassing	6
Acts of vandalism reported	26
Mailbox Damage	23
Identity Theft	22

Major Crimes Reported to Police in 2007

Assault and battery	3
Burglaries reported	21
Forcible entry	1
Unlawful entry - no force	1
Attempts	2
Larcenies reported	34

Motor Vehicle Violation/Complaints - 2007

Disobey signs, signals, markings	22	240
Tinted Window	21	1,500
Fail to keep right	6	300
Fail to keep right, view obstructed		
Fail to yield at intersection	92	525
Stop sign violation, Town road	166	3,970

Not wearing proper seatbelt restraint	69	1,195
Operating, no license/registration in possession	105	1,750
Fail to report name/address change	8	105
Fail to signal before stopping/turning	5	20.00
Fail to stay in Marked Lanes	62	2,190
Non-inspected motor vehicle	650	12,850
Operating, after license suspended	81	
Operating uninsured motor vehicle	35	
Operating, no display of registration sticker	11	
Defective equipment	378	2,660
Operating unregistered motor vehicle	54	2,550
Operating, violation of Town by-laws	10	40.00
Operating, violation of DPW rules/regulations	9	80.00
Speeding	1224	57,925.00
Fail to stop - Red light	98	2,950.00
Miscellaneous	527	10,166.00

Revenues Generated by the Police Department in Calendar Year 2007

1. Reimbursed from Commonwealth Of Mass for Career Ed Incentive Plan:	\$
2. Parking fines paid	\$
3. Second District Court of Eastern Middlesex at Waltham, fines and assessments	\$
4. Requests for copies of reports - insurance co. etc:	\$1,483.50
5. Fees collected for issuance of firearms permits:	\$7,200.00
Total:	\$8,683.50

Adult Arrests and Other Court Cases - 2007

	Male	Female
Assault and Battery Domestic	4	2
Assault		1
Breaking & Entering Nighttime	1	
Disorderly	2	
Larceny	1	
Minor Transporting Alcohol	1	2
Operating Under the Influence of Alcohol	12	4
Operating after License Suspended	21	3
Operating Without Valid License	12	1
Possession Class D - Marijuana	7	1

Receiving Stolen Property	1	
Open and Gross	1	
Warrants Served	19	
Miscellaneous	4	
Total:	88	14

Disposition of Arrests - 2007

Dismissed- court cost	8
Arrest Turned over to other PD	
Guilty	28
Cont Without a Finding	18
Cont W/out a Finding Court Cost	22
Dismissed	8
Cases Cont until 2008	16

2007 JUVENILE INVESTIGATIONS/COMPLAINTS*

	Male	Female
Breaking & Entering	1	0
Child in Need of Services	2	1
Disorderly/Disturbance	13	3
Drug Offenses	20	2
Domestic Complaints	2	1
Fire Setting	1	0
Liquor Violations/poss./use	31	17
Pellet Gun	5	0
Poss. Of Dangerous Weapon	1	0
Runaway	2	1
Miscellaneous	42	23

Juvenile court appearances: 101
 Settled at school or family level: 79
 Referred to outside agency: 16

*Note: For the purpose of this report, juvenile matters are reported for ages 7 through 17. State reporting is for ages 7 through 16.

REPORT OF THE PARKING CLERK

Vehicles violating town and/or state parking regulations may be ticketed by the Police Department. If a ticket remains unpaid and no request for a hearing has been made to the Parking Clerk within 21 days, additional fines may be imposed (in Weston there is a \$5.00 late fee for each unpaid violation) and, after notice to the vehicle's owner, the ticket is marked at the Registry of Motor Vehicles. Once a vehicle has been marked at the Registry, the owner may not renew or his or her driver's license or vehicle registration until all fines and late fees plus a \$20.00 penalty have been paid and a release has been issued by the Parking Clerk.

Safety issues and traffic circulation are of primary concern in establishing and enforcing parking restrictions. Of greatest importance is the ability of emergency vehicles to gain unimpeded access to all areas of the Town as needed.

Massachusetts law prohibits parking within 10 feet of a fire hydrant or 20 feet of an intersection, in crosswalks, on State Highways or in handicapped spaces without a handicap license or placard. Town regulations include a two hour time limit for parking in the town center, a prohibition on parking on any Town Road unless there is a 10 foot wide lane for traffic flowing in each direction, restrictions on where parking is permitted at the Weston Public Schools, the Kendal Green train station and other town facilities, and restrictions on parking on various streets, due to safety considerations.

Since the summer of 2005, the Parking Clerk and the Assistant Treasurer have had the ability to check ticket status on line. Tickets may now be paid at the Treasurer and Collector's Office.

Questions may be addressed to the Parking Clerk at Town Hall or to the Police Department. Information is also available at www.weston.org.

Parking activity for the year ended June 30, 2007:

Tickets issued	155	Fines levied:	\$ 1,915.00
Tickets paid	152	Total fines collected	\$ 2,585.00
Tickets dismissed:	9	Fines dismissed	\$ 275.00
Tickets adjusted	9	Fines Adjusted	\$ 45.00

REPORT OF THE SIDEWALK AND TRAFFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Committee met periodically throughout the year to address a variety of issues, including traffic concerns and sidewalk planning.

In general, there were several letters concerning speed of traffic and requesting additional signage. The speed concerns are a common problem on most of Weston's east-west, and north-south roads. Unfortunately in most cases additional signage has perhaps at best, a short time effect.

We are still attempting to come up with a list of sidewalk/traffic priorities. There are two traffic concerns that stick out. The first would be a modernization of the traffic lights at Wellesley Street and South Avenue, complete with pedestrian crossing capability and perhaps a modest

modification to the road configuration to accommodate turning traffic. The second involves the warning light at the South Avenue Fire Station. Our understanding is that this light needs to be modernized and at the same time could be configured to allow pedestrian crossing from South Avenue to Ash Street. Both of these projects fall outside of our Committee's budget, but hopefully will be included in the Capital Projects request.

Our top sidewalk priority continues to be extension of the Ash Street sidewalk from the Reservoir to Newton Street. It is hoped that we can accomplish this in 2008.

The Committee would like to acknowledge the efforts of Dave Bell who, for about 35 years, has served on the original Pedestrian & Traffic Safety Committee. His expertise utilizing his civil engineering background has made many of our sidewalk projects possible.