

PROTECTION OF PERSONS AND PROPERTY

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Although there were no events in 2006 that required activation of Weston's Emergency Management System, the flooding on the North Shore this past spring brings to light the importance of having a current emergency plan both as a community and individuals. 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

Construction activity during 2006 was down as compared to the previous year (as shown on the following pages) which was a reflection of the two Chapter 40B Developments on Route 20 and South Ave and the downturn in the Northeast Real Estate market.

A notable event in FY06 was the inception of the GIS (Geographical Information System). This program allows anyone to access property information by street address to retrieve pertinent information on zoning, water bodies, easements, etc.

Another event during this year is the promulgation of the 7th Edition of the Massachusetts State Building Code 780CMR. This replaces the 6th Edition which became effective February 29, 1997. The one and two family code used the International Residential Code (IRC) and the International Building Code (IBC) as models to complete the 7th edition. These codes replaced the previous B.O.C.A. International Code which was used as a model for the 6th Edition.

A committee consisting of with the Building Inspector and other Department Managers was formed to expand and explore Storm Water Regulations – Article XXVII of the Weston By-Law.

**REPORT OF THE INSPECTOR OF BUILDINGS AND WIRES
CALENDAR YEAR 2006 AND 6-YEAR SUMMARY REPORT**

	2006			2005			2004		
	Permits Issued	Estimated Value	Fees	Permits Issued	Estimated Value	Fees	Permits Issued	Estimated Value	Fees
	<u>(Number)</u>	<u>(Dollars)</u>	<u>(Dollars)</u>	<u>(Number)</u>	<u>(Dollars)</u>	<u>(Dollars)</u>	<u>(Number)</u>	<u>(Dollars)</u>	<u>(Dollars)</u>
Single Family Residence	24	18,117,000	181,771	52	43,030,558	429,810	36	29,907,795	297,408
Multiple Dwelling District	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
New Building-Commercial	5	12,709,959	128,500	1	1,568,178	15,682	0	0	0
Additions/Alterations/ Repairs - Residential	201	20,702,264	206,722	258	25,766,459	259,264	184	21,906,604	218,770
Additions/Alterations/ Repairs - Commercial	17	2,370,977	13,872	10	1,419,000	14,190	12	1,108,000	11,080
*Other Construction/ Residential	204	7,015,737	74,674	192	3,606,022	38,736	207	3,899,526	43,500
*Other Construction/ Commercial/Municipal	36	1,098,810	11,728	22	584,360	1,892	38	1,197,908	12,815
Miscellaneous and Periodic Inspections	90	-	6,925	62	-	4,602	86	-	5,745
Total Construction	577	\$ 62,014,747	\$ 624,192	597	\$ 75,974,577	\$ 764,176	563	\$ 58,019,833	\$ 589,318
Gas Permits	341		13,649	351		15,668	345	-	12,609
Plumbing Permits	383		27,393	436		33,727	432	-	28,986
Wiring Permits	671		111,176	671		68,197	605	-	48,565
Total	1,395		\$ 152,218	1,458		\$ 117,592	1,382		\$ 90,160
*Demolition (included above)	32			34			40		\$ 8,000

Alarm Security Fee plus **6,600

REPORT OF THE INSPECTOR OF BUILDINGS AND WIRES (continued)

	2003			2002			2001		
	Permits Issued <i>(Number)</i>	Estimated Value <i>(Dollars)</i>	Fees <i>(Dollars)</i>	Permits Issued <i>(Number)</i>	Estimated Value <i>(Dollars)</i>	Fees <i>(Dollars)</i>	Permits Issued <i>(Number)</i>	Estimated Value <i>(Dollars)</i>	Fees <i>(Dollars)</i>
Single Family Residence	27	22,406,625	224,073	27	19,647,072	196,511	45	32,131,975	293,954
Multiple Dwelling District	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
New Building-Commercial	1	4,346,650	n/a	4	10,286,444	93,400	2	8,905,400	89,054
Additions/Alterations/ Repairs (Residential)	195	25,132,569	251,768	169	22,699,900	229,497	152	14,528,664	145,555
Additions/Alterations/ Repairs (Commercial)	10	2,937,970	29,381	8	500,500	4,805	9	38,568,716	41,188
*Other Construction/ Residential	178	3,600,285	40,431	208	3,257,959	37,291	199	3,256,282	36,502
*Other Construction/ Commercial/Municipal	23	681,978	7,025	23	245,315	2,665	23	296,573	2,620
Miscellaneous and Periodic Inspections	79	-	5,465	89	-	6,810	62	-	2,700
Total Construction	513	\$ 59,106,050	\$ 558,143	528	\$ 56,637,190	\$570,979	492	\$ 97,687,610	\$611,572.50
Gas Permits	349	-	13,593	363	-	13,884	363	-	13,506
Plumbing Permits	381	-	25,683	381	-	27,658	381	-	26,063
Wiring Permits	575	-	45,945	612	-	69,132	587	-	42,041
Total Construction	1,305	\$	85,221	1,356	\$	110,674	1,331	\$	81,610
*Demolition (included above)	24	\$	4,900	33	\$	6,600	28	\$	5,650

REPORT OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

In calendar year 2006 the Weston Fire Department responded to 1,934 calls for service. We were fortunate to not have had any large loss fires but 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 our first line engine at Headquarters. This year we will be asking for the purchase of a new aerial ladder. If funded, this will replace the 30 year old ladder truck currently in service. Although the present truck has served us well, with the changes in residential construction in Weston over the past 30 years and technological advances in apparatus design, the present ladder is no longer adequate to provide for the safety and needs of our residents or firefighters.

While our Emergency Ambulance Service accounted 46% 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.

This past year we updated our department website to include our incident log, information and photos on interesting incidents as well as links to other fire and safety related sites. We encourage residents to check out the fire department, and other department pages, on a regular basis. The web address is www.weston.org.

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.

2006 DEPARTMENT STATISTICS:

(Year ending December 31, 2006)

In 2006 the Weston Fire Department responded to 165 Bell Alarms and 1,769 Still Alarms for a total of 1,934 incidents as follows:

Fire Incidents	===== 84
Ambulance Incidents	===== 889
Other Emergency Services	===== 960

Mutual Aid:

Received from neighboring communities	===== 148 times
Provided to our neighbors	===== 130 times

The Emergency Ambulance Service responded to 889 incidents as follows of which 720 were medical emergencies and 169 were motor vehicle accidents.

COMPARISON OF ALARMS ANSWERED -- 10 YEAR PERIOD

1997	1,657 Alarms	2002	1,803 Alarms
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

10 Year Average	== 1,889 Incidents Annually
5 Year Average	== 1,951 Incidents Annually
3 Year Average	== 1,988 Incidents Annually

Permits Issued Pursuant To Massachusetts General Laws:

Burning Permits	258
Blasting Permits	6
Carpet Installations	0
LP Gas Storage Permits	23
Tank Truck Inspections	17
Cutting & Welding Permits	7
Explosives Storage Permits	0
Flammable Liquid Storage Permits	1
Underground Tank Removal Permits	22
Oil Burner Installations/Alterations	41
Fire Alarm Systems - New Construction	103
Fire Alarm Systems - Residential Sales	126

Fiscal Year 2006 Revenue Turned Over To The Town Treasurer:

Fees for Ambulance Services Rendered	== \$	249,906.00
Fees for Services to Mass. Turnpike Authority	==	15,400.00
Fees for Permits	==	12,220.00
Master Box Fees	==	23,000.00
All Other Revenues Received	==	<u>82.00</u>
Total Revenue Year 2006	== \$	277,608.00

DEPARTMENT APPARATUS INVENTORY

<u>APPARATUS</u>		<u>TYPE</u>		<u>YEAR PURCHASED</u>
Car - 2	=	4 WD Expedition	=	2003
Car - 3	=	4 WD Expedition	=	1998
Car - 4	=	4 WD Pickup Truck	=	1998
Engine - 1	=	1,250 GPM Pumper	=	1996
Engine - 2	=	1,000 GPM Pumper	=	1990
Engine - 3	=	1,250 GPM Pumper	=	2002
Engine - 4	=	1,000 GPM Pumper	=	1985
Engine - 5	=	4 WD Brush Truck	=	1991
Rescue - 3	=	Technical Rescue Unit	=	1999
Ladder - 1	=	85' Aerial Ladder	=	1977
Chief's Car	=	4 WD Explorer	=	1999
Ambulance - 1	=	2006 Horton ERV	=	2006
Ambulance - 2	=	1999 Horton ERV	=	1999
Boat & Trailer	=	14' Flat Bottom	=	1973
Fire Alarm Truck	=	35' Aerial Bucket	=	2005

REPORT OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

The year of 2006 has brought major changes to the Police Department. We have six new officers replacing retired personnel and the face of the department is getting younger. New officers Bill Carlo and Phil Bird attended and graduated from the six month Police Academy sponsored by the MBTA Police. Officers David Zampell and Tim Bousios came to us from The University of Massachusetts, Lowell Campus Police having already completed their mandatory Academy training. Our two newest appointments, Kellie Moloney and Jason Mello are presently attending the MCJTC Academy, and are scheduled to graduate at the end of July. We are excited to have new personnel and look forward to the professional and energetic additions to our department. Internal changes include moving John Lyons, a 20 year member of the department, to the position of Acting Lieutenant and promoting Tom Kelly, with seven years of service, to the rank of Sergeant. All of these additions and promotions are promising changes that will help move our department forward in these changing times.

Technology is progressing faster than most departments can keep up with and it seems that every month something new is rolled out. Technology that makes for more effective communication, gives better access to internal and external agencies and streamlines procedures is critical to the effective operations of all public safety and first responder groups. The new GIS system implemented over the last couple of years will prove to be an invaluable tool in protecting and providing emergency services to residents and citizens within our borders, pinpointing locations of calls for service and drastically cutting down response time to those in need. The Town IT department has worked diligently to install a fiber optic network linking departments and building a foundation for communications throughout the Town bringing us closer to present technology anywhere it is needed. After months of planning and preparation the Reverse 911 system which allows multiple calls to a specific area of town or town-wide if necessary has been put in place aiding in notification of residents in the even of an emergency requiring information to be disseminated. This new system is in contrast to groups of town

workers going door to door to make notification, taking in some cases days: the new system cuts the notification time down to hours.

Traffic is still the major problem in Weston with tens of thousands of motorists using all of our streets every day. Going back through past Town Reports traffic has been cited as a condition needing to be targeted with innovative and comprehensive programs in order to make a bad situation safer and more tolerable. Since 1962 an officer dedicated specifically to traffic issues has been proposed in order to evaluate complaints, concerns and issues that pose safety hazards on small streets not designed for the volume of traffic we now see passing through once quiet neighborhoods. A traffic officer will not make the traffic go away; I'm afraid this is a condition that we will all have to live with and adjust to, but having an officer dedicated to addressing specific problem areas, setting up programs, talking to neighborhood groups and focusing on congested intersections will be a step in the direction of improving the safety of our streets.

Homeland security issues have forced us to look at situations not directly related to possible terrorist events. As is usually the case, something bad has to happen before something good can come of it. One case in point is assisting and protecting our senior population in the event of an emergency. Finding out who will need assistance and how to provide that assistance has been the main focus of the Senior Watch Collaborative, a group formed by the Council on Aging, Police, Fire and the Board of Health has been focusing on medical treatment, communication with and response to the need of seniors who have no one able to respond in a timely manner in case of emergency. Local groups that may have access to smaller, more manageable numbers of seniors are asked to help as well as individuals who may have a senior neighbor in need of assistance, not only in a crisis situation but on a regular basis, in order to improve day to day living. We are at a time where neighbors have become more distant and separated from those living close by who have traditionally looked out for one another. The Weston Police Department urges all residents to make the effort to stay in contact with neighbors and work together as a community assist each other in times of need. Thanks to all of the individuals and agencies that have supported the Police over the last year and indeed over many past years. We appreciate your support and wish the best for all.

2006 Police Department Statistics

Automobile accidents investigated	249	Emergency orders served	1
Persons reported injured	75	Orders violated	1
Accidents involving bicycles	4	E911 Emergency calls recorded	853
Accidents involving pedestrians	1	Fire department assists (other than	
Accidents - fatal	1	rescue calls)	473
Accidents involving deer	32	Lockouts, auto/home	35
Automobile thefts	0	Lost property found in Weston	24
Burglar alarms investigated	1,306	Obscene & Harassing phone calls reported	21
Officers responding to burglar alarms	2,612	Street lights reported out	582
Complaints and investigations		Sudden deaths investigated	3
(excluding dog complaints)	14,124	Traffic warnings forwarded to Registry	1,234
Complaints referred to Dog Officer	81	Unlawful Credit Card Use & Checks	8
Animal Complaints Investigated by Police		Civil citations forwarded to Registry	2,038
Officer	91	Trespassing	6
Report of dog bites	6	Acts of vandalism reported	60
Domestic abuse orders	26	Mailbox Damage	23

Major Crimes Reported to Police in 2006

Assault and battery	5	Unlawful entry - no force	1
Burglaries reported	8	Attempts	4
Forcible entry	1	Larcenies reported	38

Motor Vehicle Violation/Complaints - 2006

Disobey signs, signals, markings	60	540.00
Tinted Window	16	1,250.00
Fail to keep right	34	600.00
Fail to keep right, view obstructed	4	120.00
Fail to yield at intersection	123	735.00
Stop sign violation, Town road	148	3,700.00
Not wearing proper seatbelt restraint	52	990.00
Operating, no license/registration in possession	81	1,654.00
Fail to report name/address change	4	70.00
Fail to signal before stopping/turning	3	25.00
Fail to stay in Marked Lanes	46	2,000
Non-inspected motor vehicle	572	10,194.00
Operating, after license suspended	68	
Operating uninsured motor vehicle	30	1,800
Operating, no display of registration sticker	6	
Defective equipment	263	1,355.00
Operating unregistered motor vehicle	38	1,550.00
Operating, violation of Town by-laws	10	40.00
Operating, violation of DPW rules/regulations	7	40.00
Speeding	1,175	45,375.00
Fail to stop - Red light	75	2,670.00
Miscellaneous	325	3,258.00

Adult Arrests and Other Court Cases - 2006

	Male	Female
Assault and Battery Domestic	4	1
False Documents	1	
Larceny	2	
Minor Transporting Alcohol	11	
Operating Under the Influence of Alcohol	18	
Operating after License Suspended	25	
Operating Without Valid License	6	
Possession Class D - Marijuana	11	2
Larceny of MV	1	
Open and Gross	3	
Warrants Served	10	2
Total:	94	5

Disposition of Arrests - 2006

Dismissed- court cost	16	Cont without a Finding, Court Cost	17
Arrest Turned over to other PD	6	Dismissed	9
Guilty	18	Cases Cont until 2007	15
Cont without a Finding	19		

Revenues Generated by the Police Department in Calendar Year 2006

1. Reimbursed from Commonwealth of Mass for Career Ed Incentive Plan:	\$ 123,000.00
2. Parking fines paid	1,685.00
3. Second District Court of Eastern Middlesex at Waltham, fines and assessments	6,460.00
4. Requests for copies of reports - insurance co. etc	1,778.00
5. Fees collected for issuance of firearms permits:	<u>8,300.00</u>
Total:	\$ 141,223.00

REPORT OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES OFFICER

2005 – 2006 was a busy year! Community Services Officer Keith Kasprzak began the school year with elementary grades participating in bus safety and evacuation drills. In October he visited students in K thru 8th grade and discussed Halloween safety. K – 5th students were given glow sticks donated by the Weston Police and Ogilvie’s. The warm Halloween weather resulted in no pedestrian accidents or arrests. During the year Officer Kasprzak conducted numerous station tours over the winter to Scouts and Brownies.

The number of teenage drinking violations was up. They could be divided into two categories: House Parties and Minors transporting Alcohol in motor vehicles. Drug possession incidents, mostly Marijuana related, showed an increase among in younger students.

To the parents: Please do not leave your teenagers home alone for an overnight. Maintain good communication with your kids at ALL AGES. If you have questions, Officer Kasprzak can be reached Monday thru Friday at (781)893-4803.

2006 JUVENILE INVESTIGATIONS/COMPLAINTS*

	Male	Female
Breaking & Entering	0	0
Child in Need of Services	3	0
Disorderly/Disturbance	18	6
Drug Offenses	18	8
Domestic Complaints	4	2
Fire Setting	0	0
Liquor Violations/poss./use	36	18
Pellet Gun	3	0
Poss. Of Dangerous Weapon	2	0
Runaway	2	1
Miscellaneous	45	19

Juvenile court appearances:	110
Settled at school or family level:	82
Referred to outside agency:	21

*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, 2006:

Tickets issued	153	Fines levied:	\$ 1,995.00
Tickets paid	140	Total fines collected	\$ 2,030.00
Tickets dismissed:	4	Fines dismissed	\$ 75.00
Tickets adjusted	6	Fines Adjusted	\$ 60.00

REPORT OF THE SIDEWALK AND TRAFFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Committee met periodically through the year, attempting to address a variety of issues, the majority related to traffic.

Early in the year we looked at the traffic congestion around the water trough/Post Road/School Street junction. We did come up with a mini-rotary type configuration which we felt was at least worth a trial; however, the Selectmen did not opt to proceed with the trial at this time.



At the same time we suggested that moving the stop sign forward and the addition of a small island would increase safety for merging traffic coming from Church Street, Conant Road and Town House Road. This was approved by the Selectmen and implemented by the Highway Division of the town's Department of Public Works, along with some nice landscaping on the new island. We also met with some residents from the King's Grant area who have many

young children and were concerned about neighborhood traffic. The committee strongly suggested that this group address the residents of the area with their concerns, but did support installation of a 4-way Stop sign at the intersection of King's Grant, Miles Standish, and Spruce Hill Roads. With the approval of the Selectmen, this has been done by the DPW.

There are a number of developments both in and outside of the town which will probably have some impact on traffic in Weston. These include two projects in the Green Street/Upper Main Street area in Waltham, the new Wayland Center project, and the possible Regis development in town. We continue to follow these developments with other town boards, although our ability to impact them is probably limited.

On the sidewalk side of our committee we are hopeful to see the section of walk on Ash Street from the Reservoir to Newton Street constructed in 2007, pending approval of residents/Town Boards and available funding.

Walks that might be considered in the foreseeable future would include a short section on Oak Street to provide access to the Norumbega Reservoir property, extension of a walk on Conant Road from Sunset to Viles Street and a section of walk on Glen Road connecting to Wellesley Street.

We also hope to have some monies included for repair/repaving of existing walks. The DPW is in the process of rating walks in town based on their condition.

Members of the committee are:

Robert Mosher, Chairman
David Bell
Lil Hayes
William McCarthy
Denise Mosher

Eugene Ritvo
John Ryan
Ex Officio:
Robert Hoffman, Director
of Operations, DPW

Steven Fogg, Town Engineer
Richard Sullivan, Deputy
Director, DPW
Steven Shaw, Police Chief
Edmund Walker, Fire Chief