

PROTECTION OF PERSONS AND PROPERTY



Weston's new Chief of Police Michael J. Goulding, formerly of the Medford Police Department, was appointed by the Board of Selectmen on February 2nd and sworn in on March 3rd. A well-attended swearing in ceremony was held in the Town Hall Auditorium on March 9th to welcome Chief Goulding to Weston. From left: Detective Sergeant Michael Forti, Lieutenant John Lyons, Chief Michael Goulding, Interim Chief Kevin Mooney, and Lieutenant Thomas Kelly.

REPORT OF THE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR

The Town's Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan was recently reviewed by the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA). This plan is continually updated with the Town's Emergency Management Team and representatives from MEMA. The updates include gathering all data from various organizations within the Town and transferring it to an electronic version. This plan will be critical to the Town in the event of a natural disaster or other emergencies in Town. This year, however, there were no major emergencies or shelters opened.

The Town's local Emergency Management Committee continues to work with the School Department and other Town agencies on response plans to different incidents. All of the schools have updated their plans with the help of the Police and Fire departments. The Team also updated the Town-wide crises book, which will help all Town employees in the event of an emergency, and is preparing for a joint venture active shooter training session in the coming year that will include all Town buildings.

Members of the Emergency Management Team cannot stress enough the importance of residents being prepared in the case of an emergency. Have a plan and assemble a 72-hour emergency kit, which should include the basic items necessary to get you through first 72 hours of an emergency. Information on this kit as well as other related topics can be found on the Town's website under Public Safety, through the American Red Cross, and on the Massachusetts or Federal Emergency management Agencies' websites.



Lieutenant Ken Case received help from his daughters with his Lieutenant's Badge during his swearing in ceremony

REPORT OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

In calendar year 2015, the Weston Fire Department responded to 2,397 calls for service, including two major building fires. Fortunately, no lives were lost. A dozen or so brush fires were reported during the year as well as many smaller home fires, which were detected by home fire alarm systems with minimal to no damage caused to the properties. As a department, we cannot stress enough the importance of making a conscious effort to protect ourselves from the dangers of fire including the installation and testing of 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 to extinguish one and, as such, prevention remains a core component of our mission.

The Department continues 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 homes and other public facilities were conducted, as required by law.

While our Emergency Ambulance Service accounted for approximately 54 percent of our call volume, the Department's Emergency Medical Technicians continued to provide critical care to the residents and visitors of Weston. We are fortunate to have Emerson/Pro as our Advanced Life Support (ALS) provider to the community. We entered into a regional ALS system over five years ago and in that time have seen a dramatic increase in our ALS coverage; 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. In the coming year we will be working on upgrading and improving upon the system. We encourage residents wishing to take a class in CPR or to learn more about defibrillators to please contact the Fire Department.

This year was a period of transition for the Department. Captain Paul Nicholas and Firefighter Robert Sinclair both retired, leaving with a combined experience of over 60 years; however, there were three promotions, Captain Justin Woodside, Lieutenant Ken Case, and Firefighter Stephen Ryan, and one new hire with Firefighter Andrew Vienneau.



Justin Woodside was promoted to Captain with his son and wife helping to pin his new badge during the swearing in ceremony

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 safe and maintain an effective level of service.

2015 FIRE DEPARTMENT STATISTICS

In 2015 the Weston Fire Department responded to 2,397 incidents as follows:

- 851 fire incidents
- 1,246 ambulance incidents
- 300 other emergency services

The Emergency Ambulance Service responded to 1,246 incidents, of which:

- 991 medical emergencies
- 165 motor vehicle accidents
- 90 medical assist and other rescues

Comparison of Alarms Answered – 10 Year Period

<i>Year</i>	<i>Alarm</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Alarm</i>		
2006	1,934	2011	2,272	<i>Year Average</i>	<i>Incidents Annually</i>
2007	1,990	2012	2,166		
2008	2,152	2013	2,183	5	2,282
2009	2,009	2014	2,395	3	2,325
2010	2,453	2015	2,397		

Permits Issued Pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws:

Above Ground Storage Tank Permits	0
Ansul Fire Suppression	0
Burning Permits	258
Blasting Permits	6
Carpet Installation	0
Cutting/Welding Permits	17
Environmental Report	45
Explosives Storage Permits	1
Fire Alarm Systems – New Construction	147
Fire Alarm Systems – Residential Sales	186
Flammable Liquid Storage Permits	0
Liquid Petroleum Gas Storage Permits	15
Oil Burner Installations/Alterations	16
Solar Panel Review	26
Sprinkler	16
Tank Truck Inspections	9
Underground Tank removal Permits	22

Fiscal Year 2015 Revenue Turned Over to the Town Treasurer:

Ambulance Services Rendered Fees	\$ 443,066.00
Permit Fees	25,054.00
Master Box Fees	17,100.00
Other Revenues Received	250.00
<i>Total Revenue</i>	\$ 486,070.00

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, an additional fee of \$5 will be imposed 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 necessary. 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.

The Parking Clerk has the ability to check ticket status online. Tickets may be paid in the office or online on the Town website through Online Services. Questions may be addressed to the Parking Clerk at Town Hall in the Assessor's Office or to the Police Department. Additional information is available at www.weston.org.

Parking activity for the year ended December 31, 2015

Tickets issued	103	Fines levied	\$ 2,005.00
Tickets paid	120	Total fines collected	\$ 2,270.00
Tickets dismissed	2	Fines dismissed	\$125.00
Tickets adjusted	1	Fines Adjusted	\$25.00



Officers of the Weston Police Department with the new Chief of Police

REPORT OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Weston Police Department was in a period of transition in 2015. Not only was there a change in leadership of the Department, but construction of a new police station was ongoing during the year. Interim Police Chief Kevin Mooney led the Department until the appointment by the Selectmen of Police Chief Michael Goulding in March.

During construction of the new station, operations continued and were based in modular trailers in the rear of the Public Works building. The old police station was demolished and construction began on the new facility. Police officials, led by Lieutenant John Lyons, met weekly with the contractor, architect and project manager for planning and construction related matters. During the summer, the shell of the new police station was up and officers were able to periodically tour the building, seeing the dramatic changes week to week. The Department moved into its new facility on December 3, 2015. The women and men of the Weston Police Department are grateful to the Board of Selectmen and the Town Manager, the Permanent Building Committee, the Finance Committee, the citizens of Weston, PMA Consultants, Donham and Sweeney Architects, G&R Construction, the Weston Fire Department, the Public Works Department, and the Facilities Department for all of their support to make this new station a reality.

Other highlights of the year included assisting the Public Works Department with a record winter where close to ten feet of snow fell between the end of January and March. Also, Weston's newest police officer, Amanda Broughton, was hired this year and enrolled in the Plymouth Police Academy, from which she successfully graduated in August. She completed her field training in November and is now in the work rotation.

Expanded training for officers has been a focus of the Department with 40 hours of mandated training in the areas of the law, firearms, and medical. This has been supplemented with other important areas. The Department collaborated with local city and town police departments to bring nationally acclaimed Dr. Lorie Fridell's Fair and Impartial Policing training to Weston. This training took place in July at Biogen's facilities on Boston Post Road. The Fair and Impartial Policing perspective is based on the science of bias, which can manifest subconsciously and impact perceptions and behavior even for well-intentioned individuals, and as such, agencies need to be proactive in promoting fair and impartial policing.

In November, five Weston Police officers graduated from a 40 hour Crisis Intervention Training class held at the Somerville Police Academy. The training was supported by the National Alliance on Mental Illness and is recognized as a national model on how police officers can best respond to those experiencing a mental health crisis, as well as assist in getting treatment and divert these individuals from the criminal justice system. The five Weston officers are spread throughout the ranks with the goal to have one crisis intervention trained officer on each shift. More officers will be trained in this area as openings for training become available.

The Weston Police Department continues to work with the School Department to keep our children safe and served. The Department has worked to support the School Department with the implementation of the ALICE Program (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate). The ALICE program involves training participants in self-survival skills and the ability to lead others to safety when faced with the danger of an active shooter.

The Council on Aging has also been holding regular meetings with Weston Fire and Police to bring service and resources to our elderly population. The Department also met with Riverside Community Care to better serve the residents of Weston in the area of mental health. This joint effort allows those in need to receive direction and follow up care instead of the traditional approach of responding to crisis situations. The group meets as needed to keep current on potential community needs and response.

The Weston Police Department is committed to providing the very best service and looking for resident feedback as to your experiences. If there is an area where we can improve or if you believe that an officer is to be complimented, please contact us either by mail, phone or email. If there is a complaint about an officer, please contact the police supervisor on duty.

The following is a summary of some of the activity by the Weston Police Department for the 2015 calendar year:

Calls for Service	12,999
911 Calls	2,893
Crimes Against Persons	302
Crimes Against Property	434
Arrests	142
Traffic Stops	3,244
Traffic Citations	2,533
Accident Investigations	405
Operating Under the Influence	32

REPORT OF THE OFFICE OF ANIMAL CONTROL AND INSPECTIONS

The Office of Animal Control and Inspections is under the supervision of the Chief of Police and is located at the Weston Police Department. The Animal Control Officer/Animal Inspector position is staffed by an employee who works on a part time basis for 18.5 hours per week; however, he is on call seven days a week. The officer is assigned office space at the Police Department and citizen complaints or concerns, in general, are reported to police dispatch and directed to the Animal Control Officer for response.

Stray or abandoned domestic animals found in Weston are kept in temporary kennels, located both outside and inside the police station. Animals that are anticipated to be in need of shelter for more than 24 hours are taken to the Natick Animal Clinic for safekeeping. Unless claimed by the owner beforehand, the animal will remain at the clinic for a mandatory seven day period while attempts are made to identify the owner. If the owner of the animal is not identified, the animal will be placed with Buddy Dog in Sudbury then put up for adoption or placed in a foster home. Injured wildlife, such as geese, birds of prey, reptiles, etc., when practical, is taken to Tuft's Veterinary School for treatment. The Officer works closely and cooperatively with the Massachusetts Environmental Police and the State Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, in this regard.

This year, the Weston Police Department recorded a total of 259 animal complaints or incidents. This compares with last year's total of 301 complaints. Of those calls, 54 required an additional follow up investigation by the Animal Control Officer and subsequent written reports. In addition to the recorded complaints, approximately 100 verbal complaints or reports, relative to animal-related issues, were received by the Officer directly from the public. Within these numbers were numerous reports of stray dogs running loose in the neighborhoods or along our public ways. A number of these animals were taken into the custody of the Officer and returned directly to the owner or to the police department kennel where the owners picked them up later in the day. A total of 15 dogs were placed under quarantine this year, having either bitten a person, bitten another dog, or had received a wound from an unidentifiable dog or unknown origin.

In addition to responding to complaints, the Animal Control Officer patrols the Town's conservation lands, as well as property belonging to the Weston Forest and Trail Association, the Recreation Department, and the School Department. All of these areas are popular places to walk or jog in addition to being popular for dog walkers, both individual and commercial. On occasion, conflicts arise in these areas due to the differences in use and interest and the Officer plays a role in resolving these conflicts.

During the year, two civil violations were issued to residents for violation of the Town's dog regulations and 34 residents were fined \$25.00 each for failing to license their dogs. The residents were also required to immediately acquire a license for their dogs.



A total of 940 dogs were licensed this year, generating a total of \$15,830.00 in general revenue, which also includes the fines for late licensing. Of the 940 dogs licensed, 852 were spayed or neutered and the remaining 88 were not. The three most popular dog breeds licensed were the golden retriever, the Labrador retriever, and the labradoodle. The Town Clerk also licensed a total of 21 commercial dog walking companies this year, resulting in a total of 31 commercial dog walkers being permitted to walk dogs in our community. These Commercial Dog Walking Permits generated \$25,475.00 for the town's General Revenue stream.

Massachusetts state law requires that annual inspections be conducted by the Animal Inspector on any public or private property where farm type animals are housed or stabled, including but not limited to, horses, cattle, swine, sheep, goats, chickens, exotic animals, etc. In addition, the Board of Health requires annual inspections where domestic dog or cat breeding is taking place. The purpose of these inspections is to ensure that the animals are being responsibly cared for, are living under sanitary conditions, and are properly sheltered from the weather. In addition, information gathered from these inspections, particularly the head count of each type animal, is reported to the Massachusetts Department of Agriculture. This information is placed within a state-wide data base and becomes available, should a natural or manmade disaster occur that would require the relocation or rescue of these animals. This year in Weston, 32 such properties were inspected and all found to be in compliance.

Animal Inspections – Type and Count

Horse	35	Swine	5
Ponies	2	Poultry	272
Miniature Horse	3	Peacocks	6
Mules	1	Pheasant	6
Sheep	12	Rabbits	3
Cattle	35	Pigeons	6
Goats	6	Persian Cats	40

Weston, like our neighboring towns, is experiencing an increase in the number of wildlife species that are living within our borders. Coyote and deer continue to be the number one source of complaints and the sighting of both these species is not uncommon, as well as the sighting of fishers. Small dogs and cats are being preyed upon and taken as a food source, particularly by coyotes. Pet owners are warned not to let small dogs or cats outside and unattended. Information on protecting your pet is available on the Town's website or by contacting the Animal Control Officer. Information on wildlife living in this area can be found at the website for the Massachusetts Department of Fisheries and Wildlife.

REPORT OF THE TRAFFIC AND SIDEWALK COMMITTEE

Since the Traffic and Sidewalk Committee was re-formed by the Board of Selectmen in 2009, members have worked diligently with Town staff, state and local elected officials, and residents to identify cost-effective ways to address the Town's most critical traffic, bicycle, and pedestrian safety issues while seeking treatments that fit with the rural and historic character of Weston. It is the Committee's goal to discuss each letter and email received, soliciting insight from the School Department, Public Works, and Police Department. The balance of each meeting is spent in discussions of the major traffic and pedestrian issues in Town, collecting and analyzing data, and listening to residents and each other, with the intent of preparing the Committee to ultimately take an informed vote that recommends specific actions to the Board of Selectmen or a Town department. The Committee works to address both large and small issues with the ultimate goal to improve the quality of life for all Weston residents.

Below are highlights of committee activities in 2015 and a summary of efforts since 2009 towards this objective. We thank the members who left the committee this year for their efforts: Brad Dutot, Interim Police Chief Kevin Mooney, and School Superintendent Dr. Cheryl Maloney. We look forward to new members joining the committee in 2016. The Committee can be contacted via email at traffic@westonmass.org. The Town website contains more details related to committee activities in 2015, and the online meeting minutes contain additional details about the items described below, and many others.

Traffic Signal at Wellesley Street and Brown Street/Middle School Driveway

Following Town Meeting approval of a Committee-sponsored warrant article in 2014, a new traffic signal was installed and placed in operation in summer 2015. The new signal improves safety by creating a signalized pedestrian crossing of Wellesley Street and allows for controlled vehicular entry and egress to the Middle School/High School campus as well as Brown Street. This was especially critical with the recent consolidation of bus stops within the campus, meaning the majority of school buses now must exit the campus via this intersection during morning rush hour. A traffic signal also eliminates the ongoing expense of police detail during school days.

Sidewalk Master Plan

Priorities in the 2010 sidewalk master plan are given to missing links and connections to schools, recreational facilities (including footpaths), and commuter rail stops. The Committee continues to advocate for an expansion of the Town's sidewalk network by adding approximately four miles of new sidewalks, including segments along portions of Brown Street, Winter Street, Glen Road, Highland Street, Ash Street, Merriam Street, and Warren Avenue. The Town Engineer created concept plans for each segment, noting which side of the street was most feasible for a sidewalk and locations where topography and/or available public right of way would be challenging for sidewalk construction. Additional funds appropriated by Town Meeting have been used to further develop the proposed designs through a land survey and consulting civil engineer. Highlights of specific activities on sidewalk sections are included below:

Brown/Winter streets: A request for an additional \$250,000 in funding to construct the remaining portion of the Brown/Winter streets sidewalk section failed at 2015 Special Town Meeting by just two votes. The Committee plans to re-introduce the article with a narrower sidewalk that will reduce the cost while maintaining a sufficient width for the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance and snow plowing. The project will be rebid in spring 2016.

Merriam Street: The Committee continued to solicit feedback from Merriam Street residents regarding the proposed new sidewalk and associated design issues. The overwhelming number of emails and comments received were in support. A Community Preservation Act Fund request for design fees is planned for the 2016 Annual Town Meeting to create construction documents that can be advertised for

bids later in the year. A separate request for construction funds is anticipated for fall Town Meeting or the 2017 Annual Town Meeting, assuming design funds are approved.

Highland Street: After public input from numerous abutters on Highland Street, the Committee voted to hold off on pursuing this section for now. The committee feels that building this section would be in the best interest of the Town for pedestrian safety and would complete the missing link; however, the majority of abutters to this portion are opposed and private property easements are required since the Town right of way does not provide the necessary space. The Committee felt this project would not be approved at Town Meeting. With these factors in mind, the decision was made to focus efforts on those sections in the master plan with greater chances for success, namely Winter, Brown, and Merriam streets.

Warren Avenue: Design development of this section continues. The timeframe for construction has not yet been determined.

North Avenue (Route 117) and Church /Lexington Street

The Committee worked with design consultant VHB to address pedestrian and vehicular traffic concerns at these intersections as part of an upcoming reconstruction project to be completed by the Town in 2016. The design includes traffic calming features such as narrower travel lanes, dedicated left-turn lanes, paved shoulder areas for bicycles, and shorter crossing distances. The Committee recommended installing electrical conduits under the roadway in order to facilitate a traffic signal or signalized crossing in the future, if need be, so the new pavement would not have to be cut open. The design also eliminates a large paved area on the north side at the Church Street intersection that will discourage parking; this change was enthusiastically supported by the resident abutters who attended committee meetings in 2015.

Route 20 Intersections

The Committee continued to work with design consultant, VHB, to conduct a traffic study and concept design of the following locations: 1) Boston Post Road at School and Church streets, 2) Route 20 at School Street, and 3) Route 20 at Wellesley Street. The first intersection is Town-owned and is now under the purview of the Weston Town Center Planning Committee. We hope this committee will review the VHB recommendations during its deliberations in 2016 and incorporate them into any proposed design. The remaining two intersections are owned by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation and the Committee's goal is gain the state's support for a state-funded safety improvement project that is consistent with the Town's desire to minimize road widening and associated visual impacts. The Committee is in the process of finalizing a Town-preferred option, which is based on resident and Board of Selectmen feedback, and will be reviewed by the Selectmen before it is forwarded to the Department of Transportation in 2016.

Route 30 at Wellesley Street

A state-sponsored project to reconstruct this intersection was funded and then advertised for bids in 2015. The project will include overhead modern traffic signals, pedestrian crosswalks, and dedicated turning lanes. Construction is anticipated to begin in 2016 and completed in 2017.

Route 30 at Ash Street

With the understanding that the existing Fire Station's emergency traffic signal is reaching the end of its design life, the Committee has been working with consultant VHB on a concept plan to redesign this location and study the potential to simultaneously improve safety for pedestrians crossing Route 30.

Wayside Rail Trail

The Committee continues to advocate for developing the right of way, which is owned by the Department of Conservation and Recreation, into a space that will encourage its recreational use through the construction of a new trail. The Committee is studying trail development efforts in Wayland and

other communities, coordinating our efforts with the Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee as that plan is being updated, and participating in regional advocacy groups. We are also studying project costs and funding options used in other Towns, such as Eversource and Community Preservation Act. A presentation to the Selectmen seeking guidance for next steps is planned in spring 2016.

1265 Main Street Development in Waltham

The Committee continues to monitor potential development of this site in order to understand any proposed impacts on the Town of Weston, including MBTA service, traffic congestion, Wayside Rail Trail, and other infrastructure.

Highlights of Past Accomplishments 2009-2014

- High School/Middle School campus traffic study, which led to the construction of the new traffic signal described above
- Creation of a Town-wide sidewalk master plan and design development of four of six proposed new sidewalks to date
- Left-turn arrows added by the Department of Transportation to the School Street at the Route 20 traffic signal
- Accessible pedestrian push buttons and countdown clock added by the Department of Transportation to School Street at the Route 20 traffic signal
- Electronic radar speed signs for school zones installed at both school campuses
- Left-turn lane onto Highland Street westbound from Route 20 added by the Department of Transportation
- Safer visual crosswalk on School Street at the Scout House using colored and stamped asphalt
- Do Not Block driveway signs at the north exit/entrance of the high school and also at the north-bound entrance/exit of Brook School Apartments
- Stop sign at Church Street and Boston Post Road
- Stop Ahead sign from Wellesley Street to School Street by 40 Acre Field

2015 Traffic and Sidewalk Committee Members

Appointed by the Board of Selectmen

Peter G. Hill, Chair	2016	Town Engineer Stephen Fogg, <i>ex-officio</i>
James A. Doyle	2018	Police Chief Michael Goulding, <i>ex-officio</i>
Clint Schuckel	2018	Interim School Superintendent John Brackett, <i>ex-officio</i>
Bradley Dutot	<i>resigned</i>	

