

PROTECTION OF PERSONS AND PROPERTY

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

There were no events in 2003 that required activation of Weston's Emergency Management System. Our 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.

This year Weston's newly formed Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) was certified to the Provisional level. This certification indicates that we have all of the components in place and have begun the process of reaching full certification. We also conducted a table top exercise which brought together members of local government, the Massachusetts Turnpike Authority, and the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority. This exercise dealt with a transportation accident near one of our schools and was designed to test and reinforce our emergency plans.

REPORT OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

In calendar year 2004 the Weston Fire Department responded to 2,007 calls for service. We suffered one major loss fire but were fortunate that there were no serious injuries or fatalities related to fire. As a department we cannot stress enough the need for all of us to continue to make 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.

In 2004 the Fire Department replaced our turnout gear and advertised for the installation of a vehicle exhaust extraction system for our fire stations. Both of these items were funded primarily by a grant received from the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Fire Prevention is a core component of our mission. Although we have had to curtail some activities in this area due to budget restrictions, we continue to conduct some school visits, and fire safety inspections. These inspections include oil burning equipment, liquefied propane installations, home fire alarm systems, underground fuel tank removals, and blasting operations. In addition, quarterly inspections of nursing care and other facilities were conducted as required by law.

John Finnerty stepped down as the department's mechanic and was replaced by Firefighter Michael Tuttle. I would like to thank John for his 14 plus years of dedicated service in that position and I am confident that Michael will carry forward the tradition of pride and concern for the fleet which has always ensured we have the tools to do our job.

This past year the substantial work for Weston's portion of the MetroWest Water Supply Tunnel was completed. With the completion of this project came the retirement of Richard Macmillan who had served as the Liaison Officer between the department and the MWRA during the project. In this position Rick provided an invaluable service to the department and this office in his handling of permitting and site safety as well as other projects.

Our Emergency Ambulance Service accounted for fewer than 50% of our calls. The department's Emergency Medical Technicians and First Responders continue to update their training and skills to meet the changing demands placed on them. As we continue to see more

defibrillators placed in the community we cannot stress enough the importance of bystander CPR. Residents wishing to take a class in CPR or learn more about defibrillators are encouraged to contact the fire department.

At the Annual Town Meeting in May voters were asked to support a capital request for extensive repairs to our fire stations. At that meeting an issue was raised about whether Weston truly needs a second fire station. In June the Board of Selectmen charge a citizen committee to study and evaluate Fire Station 2 and determine if in fact it was needed. After a thoughtful and thorough examination the committee determined that the station is a critical component in the delivery of fire and emergency medical services to the residents of Weston. After the committee's unanimous recommendation to keep Fire Station 2 open, this past November voters approved the money for the repairs.

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.

2004 DEPARTMENT STATISTICS:
(Year ending December 31, 2004)

In 2004 the Weston Fire Department responded to 165 Bell Alarms and 1,825 Still Alarms for a total of 1,990 incidents as follows:

Fire Incidents	====140
Ambulance Incidents	==== 947
Other Emergency Services	==== 920

Mutual Aid:

Received from neighboring communities	==== 115 times
Provided to our neighbors	==== 114 times

The Emergency Ambulance Service responded to 947 incidents of which 746 were medical emergencies and 183 were motor vehicle accidents.

COMPARISON OF ALARMS ANSWERED -- 10 YEAR PERIOD

1995	1,535 Alarms	2000	1,883 Alarms
1996	1,825 Alarms	2001	2,080 Alarms
1997	1,657 Alarms	2002	1,803 Alarms
1998	1,740 Alarms	2003	1,990 Alarms
1999	1,773 Alarms	2004	2,007 Alarms
10 Year Average	== 1,829 Incidents Annually		
5 Year Average	== 1,952 Incidents Annually		
3 Year Average	== 1,933 Incidents Annually		

Permits Issued Pursuant To Massachusetts General Laws:

Burning Permits	486
Blasting Permits	9
Carpet Installations	0
LP Gas Storage Permits	28
Tank Truck Inspections	0

Cutting & Welding Permits	4
Explosives Storage Permits	0
Flammable Liquid Storage Permits	0
Underground Tank Removal Permits	13
Oil Burner Installations/Alterations	38
Fire Alarm Systems - New Construction	116
Fire Alarm Systems - Residential Sales	218

Fiscal Year 2004 Revenue Turned Over To The Town Treasurer:

Fees for Ambulance Services Rendered	== \$	173,861.44
Fees for Services to Mass. Turnpike Authority	== \$	21,562.50
All Other Revenues Received	== \$	124.00
Total Revenue Year 2001	== \$	195,547.49

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
M-1	=	4 WD Pickup Truck	=	1987
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
Rescue - 4	=	Technical Rescue Unit	=	1970
Ladder - 1	=	85' Aerial Ladder	=	1977
Chief's Car	=	4 WD Explorer	=	1999
Ambulance - 1	=	1999 Horton ERV	=	1999
Ambulance - 2	=	1992 Braun ERV	=	1992
Boat & Trailer	=	14' Flat Bottom	=	1973
Fire Alarm Truck	=	36' Aerial Bucket	=	1981

REPORT OF THE FIRE STATION 2 STUDY COMMITTEE

In response to an inquiry at the 2004 annual town meeting the Board of Selectmen appointed a committee of five residents to research and evaluate whether Fire Station 2 should continue to remain open. The Committee was assisted by the Fire Chief, a representative of the Firefighters' Union, a member of the Board of Selectmen, the Assistant Town Manager and a Finance committee member.

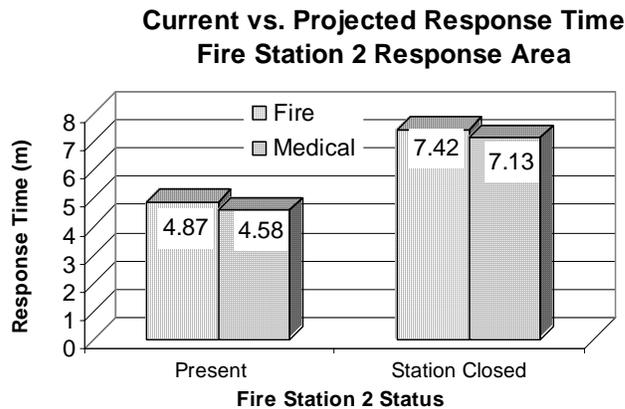
The Committee recommended unanimously to the Board of Selectmen that Fire Station 2 should remain open and maintained for the safety and security of the town. The significant benefit to Weston residents of shorter response times to emergency situations is justification for the incremental cost to the taxpayer of keeping this Station open. The Committee reached this conclusion after careful research into need, costs, response times and the role of the Station in

mutual aid. In addition, fifty percent of the high risk sites in Weston are located in the area of town covered by Station 2. Of this fifty percent, many have high population density, some have a high risk of industrial or work related accidents and others are sites of chemical and fuel storage.

Although all of the study factors are important, the Committee felt that response time was the most critical factor reviewed.

The Committee compared current response times with two adjacent communities. Review of 5-6 months of data demonstrated that the average response times for medical calls in these communities were 4.1 minutes and 3.2 minutes. If Station 2 were to close, the response times for medical calls to the south side of Weston would increase to 7.13 minutes while the response time for the north side would be 4.99 minutes. The response time for fire calls on the south side would increase to 7.42 minutes, while the north side response times remain 4.45 minutes.

This information led the Committee to conclude that fire and emergency services are currently well distributed in the community with the two stations operating. The Committee concluded that the closing of Station 2 is ill advised and would lead to significant degradation of services for the southern half of Weston.



REPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF INSPECTIONAL SERVICES

Overall the statistics for the building activity for 2004 show an increase in the number of single family dwellings of 36 versus 27 for 2003; otherwise all other categories remained relatively the same in volume. Notable issue of interest during 2004, was a Chapter 40B low and moderate development at 809-811 Boston Post Road, the erection of a cell tower on the Town of Weston property behind the Weston Police Station, and the interpretation by Town Counsel in May regarding retaining walls requiring zoning setback to such structures. Before this interpretation Inspectional Services was not requiring zoning compliance for retaining walls.

The following table shows the history of building activity in Weston over the past three years:

	2004			2003			2002		
	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	36	29,907,795	297,408	27	22,406,625	224,073	27	19,647,072	196,511
Multiple Dwelling District	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
New Building-Commercial	-	-	-	1	4,346,650	n/a	4	10,286,444	93,400
Additions/Alterations/ Repairs - Residential	184	21,906,604	218,770	195	25,132,569	251,768	169	22,699,900	229,497
Additions/Alterations/ Repairs - Commercial	12	1,108,000	11,080	10	2,937,970	29,381	8	500,500	4,805
*Other Construction/ Residential	207	3,899,526	43,500	178	3,600,285	40,431	208	3,257,959	37,291
*Other Construction/ Commercial/Municipal	38	1,197,908	12,815	23	681,978	7,025	23	245,315	2,665
Miscellaneous and Periodic Inspections	86	-	5,745	79	-	5,465	89	-	6,810
Total Construction	563	\$ 58,019,833	\$ 589,318	513	\$ 59,106,050	\$ 558,143	528	\$ 56,637,190	\$570,979
Gas Permits	345	-	12,609	349	-	13,593	363	-	13,884
Plumbing Permits	432	-	28,986	381	-	25,683	381	-	27,658
Wiring Permits	605	-	48,565	575	-	45,945	612	-	69,132
Total	1,382		\$ 90,160	1,305		\$ 85,221	1,356		\$ 110,674
*Demolition (included above)	40		\$ 8,000	24		\$ 4,900	33		\$ 6,600

REPORT OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT



In 2004 the Police Department, as well as all of the Town's residents, have struggled to cope with a problem that has plagued us for years - traffic. One of the most attractive aspects of Weston is also a detractor from the quiet lifestyle we have all enjoyed in this community; we are close to all major routes. From the north and south Rte 95 has two entrance/exits that attract and discharge heavy volumes onto our narrow winding streets on a daily basis. From the east and west one of the Mass Pike's busiest interchanges processes tens of thousands of motorists that make their way to and from Interchange 14 all day every day but especially at rush hour during the week. also Rtes 20, 30 and 117 running east to west

receive large amounts of traffic from neighboring communities. As a byproduct of clogged highways, commuters search for alternate routes or "cut-throughs" which inevitably brings them into your neighborhoods. The Police Department together with the Traffic Advisory Committee, using traffic counts from Mass Highway and doing our own manual counts, totaled up a conservative estimate of in excess of 175,000 cars per day traveling on our roads. This means that on an average weekday from September through June, Weston's population multiplies by roughly fourteen times. Along with stepping up traffic enforcement the Police, DPW, the Board of Selectmen and the Traffic Advisory Committee are working together to identify key locations that could be updated or reconfigured in an effort to make travel safer for everyone. Always keep safety in mind when you travel through our neighborhoods and remember that when you leave Weston, on your way to whatever your destination may be, the route you drive is someone else's neighborhood, so please drive responsibly.

During the year the Weston Police Department entered into an agreement with a nonprofit organization named "A Child is Missing." The purpose of this group is to give local law enforcement the ability to contact large numbers of people in the event of a missing person. This program is a no cost way to utilize computerized geographically identified phone records in the immediate target area of a missing person including children, Alzheimer's patients, handicapped individuals and any other missing person where unusual circumstances may be indicated. The program taps the telephone database of any geographic area and sends a prerecorded message to homes in a designated radius of the last known whereabouts of the missing person with the description and basic situation of that person. A Child is Missing will work in conjunction with the Amber Alert to focus as many eyes in the target location before the search expands beyond the immediate area. When and if the person is found a follow-up message is sent to the same phones with notification of the end of the search. Although we hope we never have to use this service we are fortunate that technology gives us the opportunity to better assist our community.

Technology also has its drawbacks. Internet fraud, credit card theft and identity theft are the most numerous crimes of the current decade. The officers of the police department caution everyone against giving out bank or credit card information to anyone if you are not 100% certain that they are genuine especially over the phone. Make sure that any computer transactions are secure and do not give out passwords or pin numbers because the legitimate on-line services will

not ask for this information. Make sure you pay attention to your statements, bills and loan records. If you see any suspect entries notify your financial institution immediately. Computers make our lives easier but added care and responsibility are necessary on our part as consumers to go along with that. Remember that the Weston Police Department is always available for assistance.

2004 Police Department Statistics

Automobile accidents investigated	337	Orders violated	2
Persons reported injured	90	E911 Emergency calls recorded	670
Accidents involving bicycles	3	Fire department, assist on calls (other than rescue calls)	367
Accidents involving pedestrians	3	Lockouts, auto/home	28
Accidents - fatal	1	Lost property found in Weston	50
Accidents involving deer	39	Obscene & Harassing phone calls reported	18
Automobile thefts	0	Street lights reported out	389
Burglar alarms investigated	1,689	Sudden deaths investigated	6
Officers responding to burglar alarms	2,800	Traffic warnings forwarded to Registry	2,669
Complaints and investigations (excluding dog complaints)	13,722	Unlawful Credit Card Use & Checks	32
Complaints referred to Dog Officer	96	Civil citations forwarded to Registry	1,353
Animal Complaints Investigated by Police Officer	123	Trespassing	6
Report of dog bites	4	Acts of vandalism reported	21
Domestic abuse orders	45	Mailbox Damage	34
Emergency orders served	5		

Major Crimes Reported to Police in 2004

Assault and battery	6	Unlawful entry - no force	8
Burglaries reported	5	Attempts	2
Forcible entry	2	Larcenies reported	34

Motor Vehicle Violation/Complaints - 2004

Disobey signs, signals, markings	82	Non-inspected motor vehicle	702
Fail to display plates	81	Operating, after license suspended	54
Fail to keep right	10	Operating uninsured motor vehicle	30
Fail to keep right, view obstructed	3	Operating, no display of registration sticker	12
Fail to yield at intersection	7	Defective equipment	202
Stop sign violation, Town road	216	Operating unregistered motor vehicle	44
Not wearing proper seatbelt restraint	159	Operating, violation of Town by-laws	33
Operating, no license/registration in possession	201	Operating, violation of DPW rules/regulations	35
Failure to slow at intersection	14	Speeding	2,401
Failure to signal before stopping/turning	6	Fail to stop - Red light	86
Failure to restrain child while operating motor vehicle	12	Miscellaneous	391
		Total:	4,797

Revenues Generated by the Police Department in Calendar Year 2003

1. Reimbursed from Commonwealth Of Mass for Career Ed Incentive Plan:	\$ 125,512.00
2. Parking fines paid	\$ 3,095.00
3. Citations processed through Registry of Motor Vehicles, deemed civil assessments, minor in nature, minor traffic violations	\$ 139,300.00
4. Second District Court of Eastern Middlesex at Waltham, fines and assessments	\$ 11,612.50
5. False burglar alarm assessments:	\$ 4,305.00
6. Requests for copies of reports - insurance co. etc:	\$ 1,364.00
7. Fees collected for issuance of firearms permits:	\$ 7,462.50
Total:	\$ 292,650.00

Adult Arrests and Other Court Cases - 2004

	Male	Female		Male	Female
Assault and Battery Domestic	4		Open & Gross	3	
Assault Dangerous Weapon	2		Operating Under the Influence		
Assault w/intent to Murder	1		of Alcohol	15	4
B&E Nighttime	1		Operating after License Suspended	21	4
Disorderly	3		Operating Without Valid License	5	1
Failure to Stop for PO	1		Possession Class D - Marijuana	2	
Minor Transporting Alcohol	6		Trespassing	1	
Violation of Protection Order	1		Warrants Served	15	1
			Total:	81	10

Disposition of Arrests - 2004

Dismissed- court cost	27
Arrest Turned over to other PD	2
Guilty	47
Responsible	5
Continued without a Finding	7
Pre-Trial Probation	1
Sufficient Facts/Fine Assessment	1
Cases Cont. until 2005	1
Total:	91

REPORT OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES OFFICER

Officer Keith Kasprzak is responsible for school related safety programs, police investigations and interventions with juveniles.



Officer Kasprzak with Weston High School interns Patrick Flynn and Christopher Giovino.

This year all students who ride on Weston buses participated in bus safety and evacuation drills. Kindergarteners participated in a more in-depth bus safety training program with Officer Kasprzak and the bus drivers. Officer Kasprzak and Officer Michael Forti conducted a Halloween safety class for Grades K through 8. Students received either bookmarks or trick or treat bags with safety tips. During the spring, grades K through 5 participated in "Stranger Danger" class in which they watched a video; role played and learned self defense tactics. At the High School, freshmen participated in a law class, and in the spring, participated with drug/alcohol awareness. Some students wore the "Drunk Buster" intoxication simulator goggles and attempted field sobriety testing. Numerous Girl Scout and Boy Scouts troops came into the station for tours and safety talks.

A "drinking and driving prevention campaign" was held at the High School. Students, Ashley Russo, Dante Capasso, Beth Yanco and Steve Ryan attended a "train the trainer" program sponsored by Middlesex County District Attorney Martha Coakley. We learned how to get kids talking about alcohol related issues and how to solve the problems. Principal Phil Lanoue assisted with organizing an all-school assembly based on this campaign. Students and faculty watched a video called "Sean and Betsy," a recent story of a young high school couple killed by a drunk driver. We were fortunate enough to have Betsy's mother come and speak to everyone about the tragedy and how decisions about drinking and driving affect everyone. It was a very powerful and moving discussion.

Juvenile crime was slightly higher than last year. Some crimes that were predominant were: minors in possession of alcohol, possession of marijuana, vandalism, truancy, internet threats, assault and battery and motor vehicle offenses. Many youths were either summoned into court, arrested, performed community service and/or lost driving privileges.

The Police Department sponsored its eighth Weston High School Police Internship. The program allows two students interested in some form of criminal justice as a career to see what law

enforcement is all about. They spend one month on various shifts and get insight into all aspects of the job. This past year students Pat Flynn and Chris Giovino participated. They learned about patrol procedures, firearms training, investigative techniques and court proceedings. Having them was a pleasure and the officers enjoyed their enthusiasm.

Maintaining a strong bond between the local youths and police is one of the most valuable relationships within a community. Parents with questions or concerns regarding youth issues or behavior may contact Officer Kasprzak weekdays at the Weston Police department.

2004 JUVENILE INVESTIGATIONS/COMPLAINTS*

	Male	Female
Assault	4	3
Breaking & Entering	1	0
Child in Need of Services	1	0
Disorderly/Disturbance	4	1
Drug Offenses	6	3
Domestic Complaints	3	2
Fire Setting	0	0
Liquor Violations/poss./use	16	10
Pellet Gun	2	0
Poss. Of Dangerous Weapon	3	0
Runaway	1	0
Miscellaneous	26	8
Total:	67	27

Juvenile court appearances: 36
 Settled at school or family level: 52
 Referred to outside agency: 4

*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.

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

The following is a summary of parking activity for the year ended June 30, 2004:

Tickets issued	154	Fines levied:	\$3,220
Tickets paid	156	Total fines collected	\$3,095
Tickets dismissed:	11	Fines dismissed	\$ 450
Tickets adjusted	2	Fines Adjusted	\$ 90

REPORT OF THE PEDESTRIAN AND VEHICULAR TRAFFIC COMMITTEE

A one-half mile section of walk was installed on Highland Street leading from Dickson Meadows to the look-out. This will make access to the conservation areas around Love Lane easier and safer. Our next project, pending availability of funds and review with residents and appropriate Town Boards, would be a section on Ash Street from the Reservoir to Newton Street. This was planned some three years ago, but at the request of e DPW was deferred so that the footpath on Highland could be packaged with the recently completed road drainage/paving project to maximize cost effectiveness.

After completing the walk on Ash Street we might look at a section on Conant Road past Sunset Road and/or a section on Glen Road leading to Wellesley Street.

REPORT OF THE TRAFFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

There were several changes in the make-up of this Committee during the mid year. Our first task was to try to come to some resolution as to what should or should not be done on Sudbury Road to mitigate traffic volume/speed. At the request of the Selectmen, a group consisting of the Fire and Police Chiefs, DPW Director and Town Manager were asked to see if there was any possible alternative to speed bumps, which they thought might work. Subsequent to that meeting we surveyed all residents with their suggestion of "street print" surfaces (similar what is used in crosswalks in Wellesley), pointing out that it might help with reducing speed, but that the likelihood was that it would not reduce the volume.

Approximately 60% of those surveyed were for the speed prints, while about 40% were not in favor of them. The Committee did not feel that this warranted proceeding further. We did feel that there were some minor safety items that should be addressed in order to make it safer for residents and people who regularly commute on this road, and perhaps have some chance of slowing speeds. These issues will be addressed in the spring of 2005.

The Committee continues its input as to traffic concerns on developments within and in proximity to Weston. In many cases there is little we can do to mitigate traffic volumes - we live in an area which continues to grow to our west and work to our east.