

Organizational Structure

The Command Staff of the Saratoga Springs Police Department consists of the Chief of Police, Assistant Chief of Police and Captain. Civilian oversight of the Police Department is the responsibility of the Commissioner of Public Safety and Deputy Commissioner of Public Safety.

The Department had an authorized strength of 67 sworn officers in 2013. Due to several long-term injuries, retirements and staffing reductions made several years ago, the department was not able to be fully staffed at any point during 2013. Nine police officers were hired in 2013. Each new hire must complete a six month basic course for police officers at the Zone 5 Law Enforcement Academy in Schenectady followed by fifteen weeks of supervised field training. The 9 new officers will be available for full duty in mid 2014.

Police Chief Christopher Cole, Captain Michael Chowske and Lieutenant Linda Quattrini all retired in 2013. The department recognizes their dedication and service and we wish them well in retirement.

The department is divided into three Divisions, The Patrol Division, Investigations Division and Traffic Division. Each of the divisions is responsible for specific duties related to the overall mission of the police department.

PATROL DIVISION

The patrol division consists of three shifts providing 24 hour patrol coverage. Patrol Officers work in uniform, conduct routine patrol, respond to calls for service and conduct preliminary investigations. Patrol Officers also are responsible for traffic control, order maintenance, crowd control, vehicle and traffic enforcement, and transporting prisoners to and from City Court arraignments.

The Patrol Division Captain is responsible for the Patrol Division. However, with the retirement of Captain Michael Chowske in early 2013, the position was left vacant for most of the year. Supervision of each of the shifts was the responsibility of a shift Lieutenant. Two Sergeants on each shift provide direct supervision of the 10-13 officers assigned per shift. During the summer months a ten hour overlapping shift of two officers was assigned to help provide coverage during the evening and overnight weekend shifts.

The communications center falls within the patrol division with a minimum of two dispatchers assigned per shift 24 hours per day. The Senior Public Safety Dispatcher oversees general supervision of dispatch personnel with the Patrol Division Officer-In-Charge responsible for the day-to-day activities of communications staff assigned to the shift.

Dispatchers are responsible for answering calls for service and dispatching appropriate emergency personnel. In addition to the routine tasks of dispatching emergency personnel, dispatchers complete a number of clerical duties essential to effective emergency police, medical and fire operations. Some of these duties include the maintenance of several databases including, orders of protection issued by

various courts, warrants, business and residential emergency contact information, trespass notices, coordination of response with other city departments and outside agencies.

The Animal Control Officer, as mandated by the City Charter, responds to calls for service directly related to domestic animals. The Animal Control Officer is also responsible for Parking Enforcement duties and assists with the care of the horse assigned to the Mounted Unit. In 2013 the Animal Control Officer responded to 167 calls for service directly and assisted patrol members with another 181 animal related calls. He transported 107 live and deceased animals and assisted the Saratoga County Health Department with 36 bite cases.

The Mounted Unit consists of two horses, Jupiter and King Tut. The department currently has two officers who are certified to ride the horses on duty. Jupiter and King Tut are generally utilized for crowd control during weekend summer nights and special events throughout the year.

TRAFFIC DIVISION

Members of the Traffic Division are primarily responsible for matters related to vehicle and traffic safety. They actively enforce traffic laws, respond to citizen complaints regarding vehicle and traffic violations, conduct commercial motor vehicle inspections, reconstructing serious personal injury and fatal motor vehicle accidents, as well as managing state and federal traffic safety related grants. School crossing guards, seasonal traffic officers and parking enforcement officers are all within the responsibility of the Traffic Division which is commanded by the Traffic Sergeant.

In 2013 Traffic Division personnel conducted 146 commercial motor vehicle inspections with 20 vehicles being placed out of service due to serious safety violations. The digital speed awareness sign was placed at various locations throughout the City in 2013 in an effort to reduce speeding violations in targeted areas. Traffic Division also maintains the License Plate Readers (LPR) attached to patrol and traffic division vehicles. These readers scan license plates of vehicles travelling or parked on public roadways and are able to alert the officer of vehicles that are wanted by police, are stolen, or have registrations that are suspended or revoked. LPR hits in 2013 consisted of 21 uninsured vehicles, 21 suspended operators and 89 suspended registrations. Five wanted persons were apprehended after LPR hits. LPR locates also resulted in the recovery of \$9,265.00 in outstanding fines.

There were three fatal motor vehicle accidents within the City limits in 2013. Traffic Division personnel assisted with the reconstruction and investigation of each collision. The first fatal motor vehicle accident in 2013 occurred on June 7 at the corner of Ballston Ave and Hamilton Street. As a result of that accident Paul Nicholson III was indicted for Vehicular Manslaughter and DWI. The case is still pending in court. On August 23, near the intersection of Lake and Weibel Avenues, Justin Price was killed while riding his bicycle. The driver of the tractor trailer involved in the accident was not ticketed and the investigation indicated that the accident was the bicyclist's error. The last fatal motor vehicle accident of 2013 occurred just two days later on August 25 at the entrance to the Saratoga Spa State Park on Route 9 at the East-West Road. An SUV turned in front of a motorcycle travelling south on

Route 9, killing the motorcyclist. The driver of the SUV was ticketed for a traffic violation and the case is still pending prosecution.

The department's commitment to traffic safety included several DWI Enforcement and traffic safety checkpoints during the year. 326 arrests for driving while intoxicated were made during 2013. Enforcement efforts included eight DWI checkpoints, 2 seat belt checkpoints, and five high intensity enforcement periods around holidays. The Saratoga Springs Police Department cooperates with other state and local police agencies by participating in the STOP-DWI program, Buckle Up New York and the Governor's Traffic safety Council Holiday crackdown periods. In 2013 Police Officer Mark Leffler received a recognition award from the New York State STOP-DWI Foundation and Mothers Against Drunk Driving New York State for his efforts in DWI enforcement.

19 School Crossing Guards are stationed around the public and private schools within the City of Saratoga Springs to assist with traffic and pedestrian safety during arrival and dismissal times. Seasonal traffic control personnel are assigned to the area of the Saratoga Race Course during the meet to assist with traffic posts.

Parking Enforcement Officers assigned to the Traffic Division issued 10,650 parking tickets in 2013 resulting in the collection of \$388,785.00 in fines.

INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION

The Investigations Division consists of two units, the Criminal Investigations Unit and the Special Investigations Unit. The Criminal Investigations Unit (CIU) is responsible for the investigation of major incidents and serious crimes while the Special Investigations Unit (SIU) is responsible primarily for the investigation of drug related crimes.

In January 2013 members of the CIU investigated a bank robbery at the Trustco Bank. The investigation was linked to several other bank robberies in the Capital District. The offender was ultimately identified and is currently serving his prison term for his crimes.

In June 2013 an individual committed an armed robbery of the CVS on Congress Street and stole a large amount of hydrocodone pills. The suspect was identified and apprehended at Albany Airport as he attempted to flee to Florida.

A major fire on Woodlawn Ave in July required much investigation over the following two months. The fire has been determined to have been arson and the investigation continues to this day.

As previously noted in the Traffic Division section, there were three fatal motor vehicle accidents in Saratoga Springs in 2013. Investigators assisted with each of those investigations as well as the murder/suicide on October 4, 2013 at a residence on Union Ave.

Members of the Saratoga Springs Police Department have joined the FBI-Cyber Crime Task Force that investigates child pornography. In July the department partnered with the local FBI office to participate in "Operation Cross Country" intended to rescue child victims of prostitution. Fortunately there were no

juveniles identified as victims in local investigations however several charges were brought against various individuals for prostitution, drug possession and larceny resulting from the efforts of local authorities.

Members of the Special Investigations Unit are charged with the investigation of all levels of drug trafficking in Saratoga Springs, from street level dealers to major drug trafficking organizations. In addition to pro-active details targeted to street-level drug activity in the downtown area and during SPAC concerts, the members of the SIU conducted over thirty (30) drug investigations, making fifty (50) undercover drug purchases and executing fourteen (14) search warrants.

MISCELLANEOUS

Special Events

As a tourist destination, Saratoga Springs hosts many special events during the course of the year. From the Floral Fete in August that brought tens of thousands of visitors to the City, to high school and college graduations and multiple downtown events, road races and parades, special events require a police presence. In 2013 the police department identified 64 special events requiring police attention with 41 of those events requiring additional police officers above the number of officers required for routine patrol duties. Over \$37,000 was required to staff special events in 2013 with over 900 man-hours dedicated to special events alone.

Identification Clerk

The Identification Clerk is the only civilian support staff employed by the police department. The ID Clerk is responsible for processing all requests for information, including Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) requests, fingerprinting civilians for licensing, military and employment purposes, as well as maintaining all records and the electronic fingerprinting submission system.

Community Relations

Many members of the Saratoga Springs Police Department donate their time in the community and participate in charity events. Police officers hand out free hot chocolate during Chowderfest in February and delivered food and gift baskets to the Franklin Community Center during the week of Thanksgiving. They also participated in the Law Enforcement Torch Run, Law and Orders at Applebee's, and Cops on Top at local Wal Mart stores- all in support of the Special Olympics. In 2013 SSPD officers officiated and coached several youth sports teams, including basketball, football, baseball and soccer teams. Investigator Glen Vidnansky has become a member of Lower Adirondack Search and Rescue, a volunteer organization that assists authorities with the search for missing persons.

In 2013 members of the police department met Nas Williams. Williams is a young man with Bannayan-Riley-Ruvalcaba syndrome. Nas was doing a coat drive when he first met members of the police department. Nas and several officers worked together to donate many coats to the Franklin Community Center. Since the coat drive several officers have remained in contact with Nas and have provided him and his family with an all-expense paid trip to the Great Escape Lodge.

The Saratoga Springs Police Department crime prevention program consists of crime prevention specialists designated to coordinate non-governmental agencies, civic groups, local businesses and not-for-profit organizations with crime prevention awareness, education and assistance. Lieutenant Jillson, Sergeant Tetu and Investigator Wilson are trained crime prevention specialist certified by the New York State Crime Prevention Coalition and the Division of Criminal Justice Services. Our department maintains a long established partnership with the Southwest Neighborhood Association and many other neighborhood organizations since 1986. Both Lieutenant Jillson and Sergeant Tetu regularly attend monthly meetings to share and receive information regarding crime and quality of life issues for various regions of the City. In 2013, Sergeant Tetu conducted a crime prevention seminar for the Southwest Neighborhood Association. The attendees learned about crime prevention strategies and developing a neighborhood watch program.

Also in 2013, Sergeant Tetu coordinated the Skidmore College student outreach program for the department. Members from the police department, Skidmore security and Skidmore residential life, walk door-to-door within neighborhoods where off-campus students live in order to integrate temporary residents in permanent neighborhoods. Sergeant Tetu also represented the department at the Skidmore College Student Safety seminars. All current registered students have to attend a safety brief given by a representative of the Police Department, Fire Department, Campus Safety and Crime Victims Student Advocacy. This is our 12th year of supporting this program. The intent is to empower students with knowledge of New York State Laws, Local laws, Crime Prevention Tips, available services and general strategies for effective communication with local government.

Twice per year the Saratoga Springs Police Department teams up with the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Prevention Council to participate in the National Drug Take-Back days. These events allow anyone to drop off excess and unwanted medication in a safe place for disposal by authorities. During each event a large amount of prescription medications are dropped off at the various locations, keeping these drugs out of the hands of unauthorized persons.

School Safety Initiative

In 2013 the Saratoga Springs Police Department continued its commitment to improving relationships with the local schools and enhancing safety. Police supervisors and school administrators met frequently in 2013 and worked on lock-down and evacuation procedures, conducting several drills during the school year. Members of the department have provided training for school personnel and conducted safety assessments at the schools within the city. Being unable to assign officers on a full-time basis, the police department has committed to frequent routine visits to city schools to both provide a police presence and maintain relationships with school personnel. Officers have also engaged

with the younger students by participating in secret reader programs for elementary school children and provided a pizza party for each second grade class in the district.

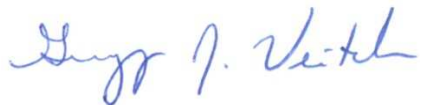
Police Officer Lloyd Davis is assigned as the department's School Resource Officer (SRO). Officer Davis is assigned full time during the school year to the Saratoga Springs High School with 60% of his salary reimbursed by the school district. Officer Davis' presence on a daily basis at the high school has been found to be beneficial to both the school district and the police department.

Holding Cells

The Saratoga Springs Police Department maintains holding cells for arrested persons who are in custody awaiting arraignment by a local judge. In 2013 there were five (5) jail cells available for male detainees and one cell, separate from the male cells, designated for female detainees. Annual audits and associated reports are sent to the New York State Department of Corrections. In 2013 the department housed 509 male and 62 female prisoners.

Downtown Camera System

Public safety surveillance cameras were installed in the downtown area in 2013. Working with the City Risk and Safety Manager and representatives of the NY-New York Civil Liberties Union, policies and procedures were developed and the cameras were operational by September. The location of the cameras and other facts regarding the system and retention of video footage was made public via the department's website at www.saratogapolice.org.



Gregory J. Veitch

Chief of Police