



## **1998 ANNUAL REPORT**

***THE MEDFORD LAKES POLICE DEPARTMENT IS COMMITTED TO PROVIDING THE HIGHEST QUALITY OF POLICING SERVICES, BY EMPOWERING OUR MEMBERS AND THE COMMUNITY TO WORK IN PARTNERSHIP, TOWARD IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME MAINTAINING RESPECT FOR INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS AND HUMAN DIGNITY.***

The Medford Lakes Police Department is the front line of Borough government. Our officers are the most visible and the most influential in the communities perception of the Borough and it's services. How the Department operates and acts determines the success of all government agencies.

In general, the basic mission of the Police Department is the prevention of crime and the safety of the residents. The **test of police efficiency is the absence of crime** - not dealing with it after the fact. The low instance of crime in any town is not the lack of a criminal element, but rather the visible presence and preventative actions of the police as a deterrent. Medford Lakes has one of the lowest crime rates in Burlington County and the State. It is the result of superior leadership and quality policing.

The Chief and officers of the Medford Lakes Police Department have adopted a pro-active method of policing, which has proven extremely effective in the Borough. Officers are involved in numerous community activities and deal with the residents on a daily basis. Officers are aware of the elderly who need a voice, the young who need a leader, the offenders who need correction, and the citizenry at large, who need peace of mind. But we are not alone.

The police are the people and the people are the police - crime prevention is everyone's responsibility. Residents must understand and accept their role as partners with the police in the prevention of crime. We are neither the enemy nor the cure; we are merely the tools. The English statesman Edmund Burke said, "*The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good people to do nothing.*"

We set our goals high and our stats reflect our commitment. Our relationship with the public is excellent and our visible presence is a deterrent to crime in Medford Lakes. Our status as the front line of government is unparalleled.

The Department handled 7,197 incidents during 1998, for an average of 19.8 per day. Some of the most frequently occurring incidents included 1,816 Information and General incidents, 249 Motor Vehicle complaints, 222 Disorderly Conduct incidents, 195 Emergency and Fire calls, 150 Animal complaints, 146 Follow-up Investigations, 129 Malicious Mischief and Juvenile incidents, 126 Lost or Found Property incidents, 96 Community Relations calls, 88 Abandoned 911 calls, 75 Suspicious Persons or Vehicles, 41 Wires Down calls, 40 Residential or Vehicle lockouts, 26 Possession of Alcohol complaints, 18 Transportation calls, and the investigation of 17 Motor Vehicle accidents.

The Department investigated 84 Class One crimes, finding 12 of them to be unfounded. The remaining 72 actual offenses consisted of 25 assaults, 4 burglaries, 42 larcenies, and one vehicle theft. All 25 of the assaults were cleared by arrest, as were three larcenies and the vehicle theft.

The total value of stolen property for the year was \$31,317 and the total value of recovered stolen property was \$12,847, or 41%.

Eighteen of the 39 juveniles arrested during 1998, 21 were referred to juvenile court at the County level, and one was referred to adult court.

Officers operated stationary radar on 2, 128 occasions, issued 1,057 summonses and 797 written warnings. The Department averaged 188 miles per day, for a total of 68,812 patrol miles.

Officers performed 4,223 individual house checks on 157 residences, for an average of 27 checks per house and 12 checks per day. While performing these checks, officers investigated 131 irregularities found at the residences, which required the officer or caretaker of the property to correct a problem.

Officers assisted neighboring departments on 120 occasions, while requesting assistance 45 times.

The Department continues its Community Policing practices and is involved in numerous programs. They include safety programs, Neeta School dance "walk throughs," and the D.A.R.E. program. This year, D.A.R.E. is being introduced to grades K-4, in addition to the current intensive study program in the 5th grade classes. Bike inspections were held at both schools, with over 450 bikes being licensed. This year, the Department introduced a new bike license, one that does not expire and is current for the life of the bike. This is a cost saving program, and should prove to be successful. Officers continued to respond to all fire and squad calls, and to cover for absent crossing guards when a substitute is not available. This year, only one substitute is on the schedule, which has put a strain on the program. The Department is very proud of its new KidCare ID program, held on Saturdays during September and once at night in December. Over 100 children were fingerprinted and photographed. Parents were happy with the program and appreciated the continued protection of the Borough's children. Officers conducted hundreds of foot patrols of area businesses and Colony properties. This practice is an example of how the visible presence of officers contributes to a reduction in crime. There were only four burglaries in 1998. The Medford Lakes Police Officer's Association provided tickets and transportation for the 5th grade DARE students to attend a Trenton Thunder baseball game. Officers attended the Memorial Day Parade and the Cubmobile Derby, and they were represented at the ProCops banquet and the May Fair at Neeta School. Officers gave Halloween safety talks at the schools, and participated in the new "Violence in the Schools" program.

This year, the Department joined Mothers Against Drunk Drivers with the presentation of several projects and programs. Officers were on hand at the student "lock-down" at Shawnee High School on graduation night and assisted with the events presented by M.A.D.D. and the student's parents. Over 420 of the 500 graduates enjoyed a "dry" overnight party with food, prizes, dancing, and fun. M.A.D.D. also donated a pair of Fatal Vision Goggles to the Department. The Department's juvenile officer has used these to present programs at both Lenape and Shawnee High Schools on the effects of drinking. He has also presented several programs at the Intoxicated Driver's Resource Center at the County facility for those taking the court-ordered alcohol classes.

The Bike Patrol continued to be a successful and popular program. The patrol was used effectively during Canoe Carnival and the Medford Halloween Parade, as well as community policing and surveillance of our beaches. Officers logged well over 180 hours of patrol time on the bikes.

In June, the Department presented a seminar for the Borough's senior citizens. Speakers talked to those present about safety concerns and offered tips. The Department is in the process of enacting a "Senior Visit" program, which will allow officers to visit with the elderly and be of service should they have problems. Several older residents have already completed an initial form and the program planning is proceeding.

An officer of the Department participated in an undercover drug operation with the Burlington County Prosecutor's Office. The four month investigation resulted in the arrest of over 25 defendants and the seizure of hundreds of thousands of dollars in cash and property. The Department continues to accept the challenge of local law enforcement and the ever-widening scope of regionalized crime prevention.

Members of the Department consider continuing training and education to be one of their highest priorities. This year, officers attended a record number of extensive and varied classes and seminars. A brief listing of these classes include Police Chief's Orientation class, EMT training, Contemporary Supervision Practices, DWI certification, Breathalyzer Refresher, Accident Investigation school, ASP training, Firearms training, Methods of Instruction, Shotgun Instructor, the International Chiefs of Police Grant Writing seminar, Mandatory In-service training, and Terminal Agency Coordinator class. Chief Scott attended the International Chiefs of Police Conference in Salt Lake City.

The Department is proud of two very important graduations during the year. Chief Scott was selected from chiefs throughout the Mid-Atlantic Region to attend a week long course presented by the FBI entitled Law Enforcement Executive Development. The material covered and the contacts he made will long be beneficial to the Borough and the Department. In December, Lt. Martine graduated from the West Point Command and Leadership Program. The program conducts leadership training for command level police officers.

During 1998, the Department was pleased to be presented with an important life saving tool when the Medford Lakes Lions Club donated a defibrillator. Several officers, who already EMTs, were trained in its use. Should the need arise, the Department is ready.

This year, the Department lost three officers, two relatively new patrolmen and a veteran Corporal. It is always disheartening to lose trained officers and it is expensive and time consuming to replace them. However, as is expected of them, the Officers of the Medford Lakes Police Departments responded with dedication and selflessness. They covered shifts and assignments, providing the residents with the services they have come to expect. Our efficiency is undeniable; our commitment is without question. We are happy to work with and for the residents of Medford Lakes.

---

Chief Robert L. Scott, Sr.

# SELECTED ACTIVITY COMPARISONS 1989 - 1998

	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
HOMICIDE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ARMED ROBBERY	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
RAPE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ASSAULT	22	31	15	27	24	18	14	9	7	25
POLICE ASSAULTED	6	6	1	1	1	1	2	0	1	0
BURGLARY	21	14	23	24	12	23	15	9	10	9
ARSON	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	
THEFT	69	71	55	53	38	62	72	49	47	44
MV THEFT	1	2	6	2	5	1	2	1	1	2
MAL. MISC. & JUV.	128	91	72	55	85	64	106	59	174	129
DISORDERLY	34	124	157	164	187	185	166	87	196	222
MV ACCIDENTS	74	67	53	37	50	35	32	33	21	17
SQUAD CALLS	108	107	100	129	117	118	132	125	123	159
FIRE CALLS	51	57	61	45	43	53	60	48	27	36
ALARMS	155	128	152	131	108	139	108	128	130	103
DRUG OFFENSES	5	9	18	2	11	19	23	17	20	15
DRUNK DRIVING	11	18	29	15	18	27	23	20	26	18
MV SUMMONSES	1,236	1,626	1,573	871	1,187	1,082	1,207	1,448	1,007	1,057
MV WARNINGS	382	491	509	617	420	516	452	452	797	
MV TOTALS	1,618	2,117	2,082	1,488	1,583	1,502	1,723	1,900	1,529	1,854
ADULT ARRESTS	125	129	184	134	178	199	170	175	131	130
JUV. ARRESTS	33	18	39	34	54	37	42	56	29	39
TOTAL ARRESTS	158	147	223	168	232	236	212	231	160	169
WARRANTS SERVED	76	80	99	60	53	47	51	55	45	46
GUN PERMITS	24	23	23	15	17	29	16	14	19	20
HOUSE CHECKS	3,071	3,488	3,331	3,094	2,121	2,247	2,693	3,135	3,103	4,223
PATROL MILES	68,029	78,027	77,346	71,858	71,514	66,657	69,376	70,662	71,511	68,812
ASSIST OTHER DEPTS.	192	188	197	176	147	190	190	137	163	120
TOTAL INCIDENTS	5,101	5,225	5,400	5,768	5,312	5,625	6,292	5,408	5,413	7,197
STOLEN PROP IN \$s	52,698	24,504	51,383	81,012	53,527	39,871	50,650	11,942	25,454	31,317
REC'V'D PROP IN \$s	13,577	4,420	33,561	22,099	18,996	2,995	33,887	2,329	4,924	12,847
% RECOVERED 25.8	18.0	65.3	27.3	35.5	7.5	67	19.5	19.3	41.0	

# ARRESTS - 1998

	MARTINE	DOGOSTINO	CARBONE	LYDON	CHERBY	TIVER	BURGER	LANGFELD	WARNER	FORSTER	TOTALS
ASSAULT	4	3	2	2	3	3	0	0	0		17
BURGLARY	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0
THEFT	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0		3	
MV THEFT	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0		1
CDS	0	1	6	3	1	0	2	0	1		14
DWI	1	1	3	1	5	3	3	0	1		18
ALCOHOL	2	6	6	6	2	8	3	7	0		40
MAL. MISCH.	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		3
WEAPONS	0	0	0	1	4	0	1	0	0		6
VIOLATE TRO3	0	0	1	2	0	1	0	1		8	
OTHER*	2	6	4	11	10	2	3	1	3	17	59
WARRANTS	<u>0</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>		<u>46</u>
TOTALS	12	27	36	33	33	26	17	8	17	17	215

\*Includes Harassment, Domestic incidents, Municipal Ordinance Violations,  
and other Disorderly Conduct arrests  
(Forster) = Summonses issued for unlicensed dogs

# STATIONARY RADAR OPERATION BY STREET 1998

## STREETS WITH MOST RADAR OPERATIONS

---

TRAIL	NUMBER OF OPERATIONS	AVERAGE MINUTES PER OPERATION
STOKES ROAD	461	35
LENAPE TRAIL	388	35
NANTUCKET TRAIL	243	25
MCKENDIMEN ROAD	201	30
TUCKERTON ROAD	184	30
ATSION ROAD	154	30
TABERNACLE ROAD	125	30
DIXONTOWN ROAD	115	30
MOHAWK TRAIL	96	25
WAGUSH TRAIL	53	35

RADAR OPERATION - 1997 = 1,746

RADAR OPERATION - 1998 = 2,128

**INCREASE = 21.9%**