

Police Department

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen and the Citizens of Stockbridge:

I hereby submit a report of the activities of the police department for the year 2011:

Mother Nature made her presence felt throughout the year, beginning with a good old fashioned New England winter of consistent cold and a steady array of snow storms, which ironically helped to keep our motor vehicle crash numbers down. Historically in light snow winters we tend to have higher numbers of crashes, a factor we attribute people taking less care when driving in marginal weather. A number of nature's phenomenon impacted Stockbridge and placed demands on the police department's resources.

As the result of snow melt and heavy rain on Monday March 7th, flooding occurred on East Main Street. Flooding occurred, in part, as the result of poorly maintained Mass Highway drainage, and entered two homes, as well as taking out portions of a driveway and eroding a large area of back yard at edge of the Housatonic River.

During the early evening hours on Wednesday June 8th a line of severe thunderstorms passed through Berkshire County. One of the passing storms created a micro-burst. The winds left a path of destruction from Larrywaug through the village of Interlaken, along the southern cottage area of Lake Mahkeenac, into Mahkeenac Heights, along the edge of Bean Hill Road and on into Lenox and Lee.

Downed trees and power lines in Mahkeenac Heights was so extensive that we were only able to traverse the roads on foot until the weekend and even after that the roads were clogged with National Grid and tree company trucks for several weeks. A review of the town's response in a meeting with the Board of Selectmen, Police, Fire, Emergency Management and the Highway Department indicated that we did not coordinate our response well enough with each other and more important our ability to communicate, in an emergency, with second home owners was sadly lacking. Through the efforts of Emergency Management Director Scott Muir corrective measures have been undertaken with the reverse calling system and any home owner can have cell phones or even e-mail addresses added to the notification system. We were, however, spared the tornados that created large scale destruction to much of Western Massachusetts in the Springfield area.

On Tuesday August 23 at 1:51 PM, while running radar on Church Street, I felt the cruiser rocking violently, and learned a short time later that Stockbridge had been hit by an earthquake; lasting 20 to 30 seconds that was centered in Virginia, measuring 5.9. Stockbridge appeared to have been spared any damage.

Hurricane Irene hit Stockbridge on the weekend of August 27th and 28th, doing far less damage than first projected for Berkshire County, but giving all emergency services a second chance to do it right. Under the guidance of Emergency Management Director Scott Muir and Fire Chief Ernest Cardillo the response was of textbook quality. We were literally in the eye of the storm and watched as surrounding counties and states absorbed the worst of the damage.

In October, on Saturday the 29th Stockbridge was blanketed with a major snow storm, up to two feet in some locations, with relatively few power outages. The Springfield area, once again, looked like a war zone, and suffered more damage from the snow storm than from the tornados and hurricane.

Black bears were unusually active this summer, to include two home invasions, several attempted home invasions, and more close encounters than a number of people felt comfortable with. I responded to invitations from home owners of Beachwood, Mahkeenac Shores and Mahkeenac Heights to discuss black bear behavior and possible solutions to the on-going problems. In addition Mass Wildlife attempted to trap one habituated bear that was involved in at least one of the home invasions.

House breaks by humans numbered twenty-five for the year. Thirteen of those, spread out mostly across Glendale and Interlaken, appear to be drug addict related. Of the eight house breaks related to contractors on site, all appear to be sub-contractor or former employee related. Two “house breaks” were entries into garages and two were related to mental health problems. Working with Great Barrington Police we were able to solve several house breaks and the suspect, who was from Great Barrington, was arrested. Additionally one house break and one smash & grab from a vehicle resulted in the arrest of a woman from Adams with the help of Adams Police. A break at the Stockbridge Sportsman’s Club resulted in the arrest of two people from Pittsfield. All breaks that we were able to solve involved people addicted to either crack cocaine, heroin or oxycontin type prescription drugs.

Eleven thefts from motor vehicles were reported during the year. Eight of those thefts were from unlocked cars and three were what we refer to as smash & grabs. One of those smash and grabs was from a string of smash and grabs that started on West Street in Pittsfield, continued into Lenox and then ended in Stockbridge, all unsolved to date, but, again, most likely drug related.

In spite of the disturbing trend with the use of prescription drugs evolving into heroin addiction and related property crimes, 2011 was a relatively quiet year. We hope that is in part due to the proactive work of the following members of the police department: Officers Brian A. Shaw, Bruce J. Stringer, Adelheid I. Teutsch, Darrell G. Fennelly, Rosario Messina and Special Officers Robert F. Nielson, Michael J. Stanton, Elizabeth McCormack, Kimberly Shaw and Paul Petrescu.

	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
Daily Blotter Entries	24,323	26,122	18,229	13,150	9,677	8,982	8,037
Investigations	445	505	449	558	563	553	447
Motor Vehicle Crashes	70	99	91	91	111	102	108
Uniform Crime Report Offenses	122	152	161	155	119	100	104
Motor Vehicle Citations	440	653	997	762	770	693	753
Parking Tickets	37	42	65	59	58	45	46
Alarm Calls	500	592	599	644	492	580	449
Business Open Doors	118	83	78	91	25	31	34

Offenses: National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS) & Civil Motor Vehicle Infractions
The statistics below include all reported crime, which may later be determined to be unfounded.

A&B With Dangerous Weapon	3	Assault With Dangerous Weapon	1
Assault	2	Assault & Battery	12
A&B on a Police Officer	1	A&B on Ambulance Personnel	1
Assault to Intimidate	1	Attempt to Commit a Crime	7
Alcohol in Motor Vehicle, Open	2	B&E Nighttime, Felony	22
B&E Nighttime, Vehicle	9	B&E For Misdemeanor	10

B&E Daytime For Felony	3	B&E Vehicle Daytime For Felony	6
B&E Nighttime Felony	1	Burglariou Instruments, Possess	1
Credit Card Fraud Under \$250	1	Credit Card, Larceny of	2
Credit Card, Improper Use Over \$250	1	Child Pornography, Possession of 2 nd off	1
Child Abuse	1	Destruction of Property Over \$250	13
Destruction of Property Under \$250.00	11	Drug Possession of Class D, Marijuana	1
Disorderly Conduct	6	Disturbing the Peace	22
Driving Under The Influence, Alcohol	2	Forgery of a Check	1
Dog Fail to Muzzle/Restrain	1	Fireworks, Possess Unlawfully	1
Identity Fraud	2	Indecent A&B on a Person Over 14	1
Kidnapping	2	Larceny From a Building	8
Larceny Over \$250	33	Larceny Under \$250	11
Larceny from a Person over 65	5	Larceny under \$250 false pretense	1
License Operate a MV Suspended	4	Leave the Scene of Property damage MVA	8
Leave the Scene Personal Injury MVA	1	Malicious Damage to a MV	1
Larceny by Check Over \$250	1	Lewd, Wanton 7 Lascivious Conduct	1
Harassment , Criminal	3	Marked Lanes, Fail to Stay In	6
No Inspection Sticker	4	Negligent Operation of a MV	4
Number Plate Violation	1	OUI Drugs	2
OUI Liquor	4	OUI Liquor, 2 nd offense	1
Reckless Operation of a MV	4	Rape	2
Rape of a Child	1	Murder, attempted	1
Stop for a Police Officer, fail to	1	Stalking	1
Stop/Yield, fail to	1	State Highway Traffic Violation	1
Motor Vehicle, Larceny of	1	Telephone calls, Annoying	5
Telephone calls Obscene	1	Threat to Commit a Crime	4
Trespass	12	Trash, Litter	1
Use a Motor Vehicle w/o Authority	1	Utter a Counterfeit Note	1
Utter a False Document	1	Uninsured Motor Vehicle	1
Unregistered Motor Vehicle	1	Utter a False Prescription	1
Tagging Property	1	Unsecured/Uncovered Load	1
Warrant, Default	1	Unsafe Operation of a MV	1
Weight Violation, State Highway	1	Speeding Citations	286

Respectfully submitted,

Richard B. Wilcox, **Chief of Police**