Messages and Statistics

*Chief Ronald A. Ricucci*

The purpose of this annual report is to provide information about your Police Department, about crime in the City of Takoma Park, accomplishments of the Department and to explain how everyone can make our community safer.

The City of Takoma Park Police Department will continue to work to reduce serious crime in 2010 as we did in 2009. The department will work to target thefts from auto, which was our number one crime in 2009. This crime plagued the entire metropolitan area. We will continue to provide high caliber service to our residents during these difficult economic times.

The City of Takoma Park Police Department will work diligently in 2010 to continue to make a positive change. We will continue to do all that we can to ensure a safe place to live and work for all of our visitors and residents. The City of Takoma Park appreciates the support by all members of the community. As your Chief, it is my job to earn and keep your trust by providing a high caliber police service. I remain committed to that task, as do the men and women who work for the police department. To view the report on-line, please visit [www.takomaparkmd.gov/police/annualreport/index.html](http://www.takomaparkmd.gov/police/annualreport/index.html).
## Table of Contents

Crime Statistics ............................................. 1

Breakdowns of Crime by Area ............................... 2
  Total Part I Crime: By Wards: Jan - Dec 2009 ...... 2
  Total Part I Crime for the City of Takoma Park
    Jan - Dec 2009 ......................................... 3
  Ward 1 .................................................. 4
  Ward 2 .................................................. 5
  Ward 3 .................................................. 6
  Ward 4 .................................................. 7
  Ward 5 .................................................. 8
  Ward 6 .................................................. 9

Office of the Chief .......................................... 10
  A Child is Missing Alert Program ....................... 10
  Speed Cameras .......................................... 10
  Safe Roadways .......................................... 10
  Life Saving Incident .................................... 11
  Crackdown on Felony Fugitives in Maryland .......... 11
  Citizens Reporting Drunk Drivers ...................... 11
  Chief’s Advisory Board ................................ 11
  Police Department Phone Number Sticker Campaign 11
  Multi-Jurisdictional Holiday Pedestrian Safety Event 12
  2009 Chief’s Click it or Ticket Campaign .......... 12
  CompStat ............................................... 13
  Takoma Park Extra Eyes Program ...................... 13
  Tip411 Program ........................................ 13
  Facebook .............................................. 14
  CSAFE .................................................. 14
  Gang Awareness Training Workshops ................. 14
  Grants ................................................. 15
  License Plate Scanners ................................ 15
  Promotions ............................................ 16
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Statutory Mandates - 2009</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Night Out</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project “365”</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Criminal Investigations Division</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arrests</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crime Scene Technicians</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internal Affairs Complaint Investigations</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tactical Enforcement Unit</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operations/Patrol Division</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase in Driving While Intoxicated (DWI) Arrests</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Uniforms</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Citations Issued - 2008 and 2009</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative Services</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Crime Information Center (NCIC) Audit</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maryland Electronic Telecommunications Enforcement</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resource Systems (METERS)</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E*Justice</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calls to Dispatch</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Takoma Park Jazz Festival</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tips/Advice to Citizens</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Crime Statistics
By Lt. Richard Cipperly, Criminal Investigations Division

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Homicide</th>
<th>Rape</th>
<th>Robbery</th>
<th>Assault*</th>
<th>Burglary</th>
<th>Larceny</th>
<th>Auto Theft</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>429</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>383</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Totals</td>
<td>No Change</td>
<td>25% Decrease</td>
<td>42.5% Decrease</td>
<td>8% Decrease</td>
<td>23% Decrease</td>
<td>11% Increase</td>
<td>38% Decrease</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* For UCR purposes, only aggravated assaults are included in the totals.

Breakdowns of Crime by Area
By Lt. Richard Cipperly

The following data represents the 2009 Part I crime statistics for the City of Takoma Park. Included is a monthly break-down of Part I crimes in each respective Ward, as well as a crime comparison of each Ward to the Total Part I Crime that occurred in Takoma Park. In reviewing the data, you will see that Ward 6 represents the most crime (23%), followed by Ward 1 (21%), and Ward 3 (18%).

Below is a pie chart that depicts the percentage of Part I Crimes committed in each Ward. On the following page is a bar chart that represents each Part I crime total. This report was developed using Uniform Crime Report (UCR) data.
TOTAL PART I CRIME FOR THE CITY OF TAKOMA PARK
Jan – Dec 2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crime Type</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Homicide</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rape</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robbery</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agg. Asslt.</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burglary</td>
<td>104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Larceny</td>
<td>429</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auto Theft</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## PART I CRIME STATISTICS: WARD 1
JANUARY 1, 2009– DECEMBER 31, 2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CRIME</th>
<th>Jan</th>
<th>Feb</th>
<th>Mar</th>
<th>Apr</th>
<th>May</th>
<th>Jun</th>
<th>Jul</th>
<th>Aug</th>
<th>Sept</th>
<th>Oct</th>
<th>Nov</th>
<th>Dec</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Homicide</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rape</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robbery</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assault</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burglary</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Larceny</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auto Theft</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>146</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## PART I CRIME COMPARISON
CITY OF TAKOMA PARK & WARD 1 TOTALS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CRIME</th>
<th>Ward 1</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>% of Total Crime</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Homicide</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rape</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robbery</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assault</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burglary</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Larceny</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>429</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auto Theft</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>146</td>
<td>678</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ward 1 accounts for approximately **21%** of Part I Crimes in 2009.
PART I CRIME STATISTICS: WARD 2  
JANUARY 1, 2009 – DECEMBER 31, 2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CRIME</th>
<th>Jan</th>
<th>Feb</th>
<th>Mar</th>
<th>Apr</th>
<th>May</th>
<th>Jun</th>
<th>Jul</th>
<th>Aug</th>
<th>Sept</th>
<th>Oct</th>
<th>Nov</th>
<th>Dec</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Homicide</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rape</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robbery</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assault</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burglary</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Larceny</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auto Theft</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>112</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PART I CRIME COMPARISON  
CITY OF TAKOMA PARK & WARD 2 TOTALS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CRIME</th>
<th>Ward 2</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>% of Total Crime</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Homicide</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rape</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robbery</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assault</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burglary</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Larceny</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>429</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auto Theft</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>678</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ward 2 accounts for approximately 16% of Part I Crimes in 2009.
### PART I CRIME STATISTICS: WARD 3
**JANUARY 1, 2009 – DECEMBER 31, 2009**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CRIME</th>
<th>Jan</th>
<th>Feb</th>
<th>Mar</th>
<th>Apr</th>
<th>May</th>
<th>Jun</th>
<th>Jul</th>
<th>Aug</th>
<th>Sept</th>
<th>Oct</th>
<th>Nov</th>
<th>Dec</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Homicide</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rape</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robbery</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assault</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burglary</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Larceny</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auto Theft</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>9</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>123</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### PART I CRIME COMPARISON
**CITY OF TAKOMA PARK & WARD 3 TOTALS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CRIME</th>
<th>Ward 3</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>% of Total Crime</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Homicide</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rape</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robbery</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assault</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burglary</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Larceny</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>429</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auto Theft</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>123</td>
<td>678</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ward 3 accounts for approximately **18%** of Part I Crimes in 2009.
PART I CRIME STATISTICS: WARD 4  
JANUARY 1, 2009 – DECEMBER 31, 2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CRIME</th>
<th>Jan</th>
<th>Feb</th>
<th>Mar</th>
<th>Apr</th>
<th>May</th>
<th>Jun</th>
<th>Jul</th>
<th>Aug</th>
<th>Sept</th>
<th>Oct</th>
<th>Nov</th>
<th>Dec</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Homicide</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rape</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robbery</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assault</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burglary</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Larceny</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auto Theft</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>3</strong></td>
<td><strong>7</strong></td>
<td><strong>7</strong></td>
<td><strong>4</strong></td>
<td><strong>3</strong></td>
<td><strong>3</strong></td>
<td><strong>1</strong></td>
<td><strong>8</strong></td>
<td><strong>3</strong></td>
<td><strong>6</strong></td>
<td><strong>1</strong></td>
<td><strong>3</strong></td>
<td><strong>49</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PART I CRIME COMPARISON  
CITY OF TAKOMA PARK & WARD 4 TOTALS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CRIME</th>
<th>Ward 4</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>% of Total Crime</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Homicide</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rape</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robbery</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assault</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burglary</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Larceny</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>429</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auto Theft</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>49</strong></td>
<td><strong>678</strong></td>
<td><strong>7%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ward 4 accounts for approximately 7% of Part I Crimes in 2009.
### PART I CRIME STATISTICS: WARD 5
**JANUARY 1, 2009 – DECEMBER 31, 2009**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CRIME</th>
<th>Jan</th>
<th>Feb</th>
<th>Mar</th>
<th>Apr</th>
<th>May</th>
<th>Jun</th>
<th>Jul</th>
<th>Aug</th>
<th>Sept</th>
<th>Oct</th>
<th>Nov</th>
<th>Dec</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Homicide</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rape</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robbery</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assault</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burglary</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Larceny</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auto Theft</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>7</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### PART I CRIME COMPARISON
**CITY OF TAKOMA PARK & WARD 5 TOTALS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CRIME</th>
<th>Ward 5</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>% of Total Crime</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Homicide</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rape</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robbery</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assault</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burglary</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Larceny</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>429</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auto Theft</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>90</td>
<td>678</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ward 5 accounts for approximately **13%** of Part I Crimes in 2009.
### PART I CRIME STATISTICS: WARD 6
**JANUARY 1, 2009 – DECEMBER 31, 2009**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CRIME</th>
<th>Jan</th>
<th>Feb</th>
<th>Mar</th>
<th>Apr</th>
<th>May</th>
<th>Jun</th>
<th>Jul</th>
<th>Aug</th>
<th>Sept</th>
<th>Oct</th>
<th>Nov</th>
<th>Dec</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Homicide</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rape</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robbery</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assault</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burglary</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Larceny</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auto Theft</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>25</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>158</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### PART I CRIME COMPARISON
**CITY OF TAKOMA PARK & WARD 6 TOTALS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CRIME</th>
<th>Ward 6</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>% of Total Crime</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Homicide</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rape</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robbery</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assault</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burglary</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Larceny</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>429</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auto Theft</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>158</td>
<td>678</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ward 6 accounts for approximately **23%** of Part I Crimes in 2009.
Office of the Chief

The Office of the Chief consists of the Chief of Police, one Captain, a Research/Policy Manager and Executive Assistant/Public Information Officer.

A Child is Missing Alert Program

The Police Department formalized an agreement with A Child is Missing Alert Program to provide a high tech method to search locally for missing children, missing elderly persons (often suffering from Alzheimer's Disease), college students, and missing persons who may be mentally or physically challenged or disabled. The non-profit organization's alert system is operated nationwide and utilizes sophisticated computer-mapping systems and trained technicians to place 1,000 phone calls per minute to residents and businesses in the area where someone has gone missing. The alert system is highly localized and can be used when an AMBER Alert is not warranted, or it can be used in tandem with AMBER Alerts and thereby increasing the effectiveness of both. This program is a free service to law enforcement and a valuable investigative tool.

Speed Cameras

The City of Takoma Park, Maryland, working with ACS Solutions, installed speed cameras; one in the 7200 block of New Hampshire Avenue (southbound) and the 7100 block of New Hampshire Avenue (northbound). Two cameras have also been installed in the eastbound and westbound lanes of the 500 block of Ethan Allen Avenue. On March 16, 2009, the City of Takoma Park Police began issuing warnings to violators driving 11 miles over the speed limit. On Wednesday, April 1, 2009, the Takoma Park Police went live and began issuing citations. The Police Department issues citations and makes all decisions regarding citations. The speed camera fine is $40. There are no penalties or points assessed to your license or driving record. On October 1, 2009, the limit was raised to 12 miles over the speed limit for issuing citations.

Safe Roadways

Various personnel, sworn and civilian, from the Takoma Park Police Department participated in the Safe Routes to School 5K Challenge.
Life Saving Incident

On July 2, Takoma Park Police Officers, Sgt. John, Cpl. Rodriguez, Cpl. Conrad and Pfc. Mueller, responded to an incident originating at the 7800 block of Lockney Avenue, Takoma Park, Maryland, for the report of a fight coming from a first floor apartment. Upon arrival, a female was heard screaming and a male was heard yelling. Officers observed a male suspect with his right arm around the female victim's neck and the victim’s left arm was behind her back being held there by the suspect’s hand. The victim was having trouble breathing. Cpl. Rodriguez, fearing for the life of the victim, exerted force upon the suspect to get him to release his grip on the victim. The suspect’s grip loosened on the victim and she was able to flee from him and from the apartment. The victim complained of difficulty breathing and neck pain. Cpl. Conrad notified the fire department and continued to render aid to the victim until they arrived. These officers took control of the scene and performed in an outstanding manner securing the scene, witnesses and suspects, as well as administering first aid and undoubtedly saving the life of this victim.

Crackdown on Felony Fugitives in Maryland

Four officers assigned to the Tactical Enforcement Unit (TEU) participated in Operation Falcon - a crackdown on Felony Fugitives in Maryland, which was part of the U.S. Marshals Service. Takoma Park participated with Montgomery County Police, Montgomery County Sheriff, Prince George’s County Police, Anne Arundel County Police, Howard County Police, Parole and Probation and Metropolitan Police. This task force targeted felony fugitives with warrants. These suspected criminals commit crimes in all jurisdictions and know no boundaries. In all, 170 suspects were arrested and 212 arrest warrants were served. This operation, which directly impacts the City, was deemed a success!

Citizens Reporting Drunk Drivers

Takoma Park Police participated in the Citizens Reporting Drunk Drivers initiative. It encouraged Maryland drivers to report suspected drunk drivers by calling 911 or, in Takoma Park, calling 301-270-1100. The State Highway Administration posted the message on variable message signs across the state. Local and county governments also posted the message on their web sites and local businesses used their marquees to post the message “Report Drunk Drivers. Call 911.” The overall objective was to reduce the needless deaths and injuries associated with drunk driving during the holidays.

Chief’s Advisory Board

The Chief implemented a new Chief’s Advisory Board made up of 12 citizens and/or business owners in the City, who advise the Chief on issues, concerns, and matters which affect the quality of life in the City. The Chief has and will continue to update and brief this committee on a monthly basis (and more if needed) on what is occurring in the City and the department.

Police Department Phone Number Sticker Campaign

At the request of citizens, and the City Council, the Takoma Park Police Department launched a telephone sticker campaign and gave out stickers with the direct number to the police department for police services only (not for fire and/or rescue).
Multi-Jurisdictional Holiday Pedestrian Safety Initiative

This event was enforcement and educational outreach for pedestrian safety. Santa (Erwin Mack) substituted his sleigh for a Ford Model-T and made a special pre-Christmas Eve appearance in the Takoma-Langley Crossroads area. He was escorted by police from Montgomery County, Prince George’s County, the Maryland-National Capital Park Police and the City of Takoma Park, as he made a tour around the shopping plazas. Santa’s helpers distributed educational fliers about pedestrian safety. Then Santa himself demonstrated how to safely cross the street. Police Chiefs from the Maryland-National Capital Park, Montgomery County, Prince George’s County and the City of Takoma Park Police Departments kicked off this annual event with a press conference in the Langley Park Plaza hosted by Santa Claus - Erwin Mack, Executive Director of Takoma/Langley Crossroads Development Authority, Inc. At the end of the press conference, officers from each jurisdiction conducted pedestrian crosswalk enforcement in the area to help ensure that both drivers and pedestrians are aware of their shared responsibility to keep pedestrians safe as they cross the street. This enforcement and educational outreach was coordinated by the Maryland International Corridor CSafe-VPI Initiative, a program funded by the Governor’s Office of Crime Control and Prevention, which seeks to reduce crime and improve safety of all types at this juncture of both Montgomery and Prince George’s counties, and the City of Takoma Park.

2009 Chief’s Click it or Ticket Campaign

CompStat

The purpose of CompStat is to develop effective strategies to combat crime or other issues within a neighborhood, based on data analysis and accountability. It focuses on outcomes and is not used to measure productivity. It is a system that is used to strategically manage law enforcement operations. In March, the Chief implemented CompStat presentations at his monthly staff meetings to follow crime trends and patterns in the City. The City held its first public Computer Statistics (CompStat) meeting on September 30. The City lost its Crime Analyst shortly after and the meetings ceased. However, a new Crime Analyst has filled the vacancy and these meetings will resume.

Takoma Park Extra Eyes Program

In this endeavor, trained community members work with area police, stake out an area and radio in suspicious activities to local police as part of a collaborative effort to reduce alcohol related crime. The goal is to decrease the number of alcohol related tragedies that affect our communities through a collaborative effort between law enforcement and the community. The targets are drunk drivers, underage purchasers and habitual alcohol consumers. The program runs within Takoma Park neighborhoods only. A training session was held on April 20, 2009. This was done through the Montgomery County Department of Liquor Control, Community Outreach Office.

Tip411 Program

The City of Takoma Park Police Department added a new dimension to “eyes and ears” on the street to help create a safer community. The police launched Tip411, an internet based tool that enables the public to text message an anonymous tip to police, and lets the police respond back creating a two-way anonymous “chat.” Reserved exclusively for public safety purposes, and powered by CitizenObserver, a St. Paul, Minnesota company, Tip411 puts a powerful new crime fighting tool into the hands of our community for all ages and demographics. Anyone with a cell phone can now send an anonymous tip to the Takoma Park Police Department by typing in the number 847411 and typing the word “TPPDITIP” before the message. It’s 100% anonymous. CitizenObserver’s technology removes all identifying information before the Police Department sees it so there’s no way to identify the sender. This tip line should only be used for non-emergency tips. Texting to Tip411 is not an alternative to calling 911. According to Chief Ricucci, this capability is a new paradigm for creating safer communities - especially in reaching out to a younger age demographic. CitizenObserver, founded in 2000, provides web based alerting tools to law enforcement, education and public safety agencies in over 40 states. There have already been two tips that assisted in two arrests.

847411 - TPPDTIP
Facebook

The Police Department launched a Facebook page that links to all advisories and releases put out by the Public Information Officer. This technology is yet another tool which will allow police to quickly disperse critical information to as many of our citizens as possible, enabling the police department to better serve them. The goal is to have as much contact with the community as possible. It is another avenue for people to see what’s going on in the police department that serves their community. As the popularity of social networking sites such as Facebook and Twitter continues to grow, law enforcement agencies all over the country are taking notice. In 2009, a police department in Vermont solved a crime using tips submitted by teenagers on Facebook. The Police Department’s Public Information Officer, Catherine Plevy, is the administrator of the department’s Facebook page. It was decided to use Facebook because the department believes it really targets the majority - not only the younger generation, which is a plus, but adults as well. It’s another option for people to interact with police. If you would like to “become a fan” of the City of Takoma Park Police Department Facebook page, you must have a Facebook account. You can then search “City of Takoma Park Police Department” and add the page to your account and receive police communications directly to your Facebook page.

CSAFE

The Collaborative Supervision and Focused Enforcement-Violence Prevention Initiative (CSAFE-VPI) focus has evolved over the course of 2009. Historically, a community-based crime reduction program that had the goals of reducing crime, reducing recidivism and improving the quality of life; CSAFE-VPI evolved into a crime reduction program focused on supervising high-risk offenders. Throughout 2009, the Maryland International Corridor CSAFE-VPI program continued to have a community aspect to their program, however, the core of the initiative did become the coordination of efforts among various law enforcement agencies, including the Division of Parole and Probation, the Department of Juvenile Services, the State’s Attorney’s Office and police.

Gang Awareness Training Workshops

In Fiscal Year 2008, with funding from the Montgomery County Collaboration Council, the CSAFE-VPI staff worked with many community partners to develop a gang awareness training workshop for parents and community members. In 2009, CSAFE-VPI staff provided training and support to the staff of the Division of Family and Community Partnerships of Montgomery County Public Schools to implement and sustain the curriculum. Today, the gang awareness workshop is offered as one the Division’s courses available through the Parents Academy.
Grants

In addition to the CSAFE programs, the department has participated in the following grant programs, for the listed purposes:

- Bureau of Justice Assistance Grant (BJAG) award as part of the 2009 Recovery Act, earmarked to be used for salary and fringe benefits costs of an employee retained for the purpose of conducting research and planning activities, and to perform some internal inspectional services functions.

- Bureau of Justice Assistance Grant (BJAG) award as part of the regular FFY2009 appropriations for this grant award program, to be used to acquire and implement a digital photography and evidence management system.

- A Law Enforcement Technology Program grant from the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention, for the acquisition of an Automated License Plate Recognition Scanner, and a laptop computer used in its operation. The funds are BJAG monies awarded to the State for the purpose of sub-granting them to local governments for technology purchases under this program.

- An additional Automated License Plate Recognition Scanner, less the computer, was obtained via participation in the National Capital Region (NCR) Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) program. This program provides money from the Federal Department of Homeland Security, directly to the NCR, who in turn arrange for a member jurisdiction to oversee the program on behalf of all of the member governments in the NCR. Equipment obtained is usually distributed based on a formula accounting for the relative size of each jurisdiction.

- The Department is working with the Montgomery County Police Department and the Montgomery County Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (OEMHS) to obtain equipment under the State Homeland Security Grant Program. These are Federal Homeland Security monies awarded to the State, then sub-granted to the County for equipment and other costs associated with improving regional security. The Department hopes to fund a portable fingerprinting identification system and a wireless video surveillance system through this program.

- The Department has worked on behalf of the City to partner with the Montgomery County OEMHS to use re-allocated UASI planning funds from FFY2007 in order to draft Emergency Operations Plans and Continuity of Operations Plans for all municipal governments in Montgomery County. The program was a follow-on to similar County efforts conducted in 2008-2009, and is designed to dovetail with the County plans established.

License Plate Scanners

The department purchased two license plate scanners after extensive review by the Council. The department is in the process of setting up training on their use.
Promotions

Three officers were promoted to Private First Class in June and two officers were promoted to Corporal in July.
Statutory Mandates - 2009

The department employs one Research/Policy Manager to keep abreast of the General Orders of the department, as well as the change of laws that affect police departments.

A new General Order 631 A, Covert Investigations, was issued effective October 1, 2009. The order complies with HB 311/SB 266 Freedom of Association and Assembly Protection Act, effective October 1, 2009, and codified in the Public Safety Article, § 3-701, Annotated Code of Maryland, which requires each law enforcement agency in the State of Maryland, on or before January 1, 2010, to adopt a written, publicly available policy governing: (1) the conduct by the agency of covert investigations of persons, groups, or organizations engaged in First Amendment activities; and (2) each agency’s collection, dissemination, retention, database inclusion, purging, and auditing of intelligence information relating to persons, groups, or organizations engaged in First Amendment activities.

Pursuant to a March 2009 policy directive from the Governor’s Office of Crime Control & Prevention (GOCCP) and 42 U.S.C. § 3796gg-8(a)and(b), the department’s policy on the use of polygraph examinations in sex offense investigations, as contained in General Order 634, Truth Verification Examinations, was amended effective August 24, 2009 to include the following guidance: (1) No member of the Department shall ask or require the victim of an alleged sexual offense to submit to a polygraph examination or other truth verification device as a condition for proceeding with the investigation of that offense; and (2) The refusal of a victim of an alleged sexual offense to submit to a polygraph or other truth verification test shall not prevent an investigation or prosecution from going forward.

General Order 608, Adult Missing Persons, was amended effective November 20, 2009 to include, inter alia, procedural details of Maryland’s new “Silver Alert” program introduced in HB 192 and enacted into law effective October 1, 2009. The law directs the Maryland State police to coordinate a notification plan that will be activated when certain criteria are met involving a person with a cognitive disorder who is missing. Patterned after the AMBER Alert program for critically missing children, the Silver Alert requires that certain criteria be met involving the missing person. If the situation warrants, state or local police investigating the disappearance will contact the Maryland State Police Silver Alert coordinator. Upon confirmation of the Silver Alert criteria, the coordinator will contact the Maryland Emergency Management Agency and request an emergency alert. This alert will go to all Maryland police departments, media outlets, and 9-1-1 centers.

The Maryland General Assembly in 2009 passed legislation requiring specific training for all officers who are approved to carry or use a Electronic Control Device (ECD). The new law (COMAR 12.04.05 for law enforcement officers) became effective January 1, 2010 and affects all correctional or law enforcement agencies that own and issue ECDs to its officers. An ECD is defined as “a portable device designed as a weapon capable of injuring, immobilizing, or inflicting pain on an individual by the discharge of electrical current”, such as, stun cuffs, stun belts, stun shields, neuromuscular incapacitation devices, etc. The law outlines exactly what must be taught (classroom instruction), demonstrated and tested. Any officer previously trained and currently approved by his/her agency to carry or use an ECD prior to September 30, 2009 does not have to repeat initial ECD training. However, those officers must complete an approved annual in-service training program. Any officer not previously authorized and/or who has not received training that meets annual ECD in-service
requirements within the last two years on a particular manufacturer and model ECD must complete initial training requirements and thereafter complete annual in-service training requirements. The department has adjusted its ECD (TASER) training accordingly.

In accordance with new SWAT Team Activation and Deployment report requirements contained in § 3-507 of the Public Safety Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, which became effective July 1, 2009, our General Order 665, Rapid Response Team, was revised to incorporate the following additional reporting responsibilities: The Team Supervisor will submit a report to the Chief, via the Operations Commander, regarding team activation and deployment activities every six months (June 30 and December 31), which will be provided to the GOCCP. A standardized report format, developed by the Police Training Commission in consultation with the COCCP, requires submission of the following information:

a. The number of times the Rapid Response Team was activated and deployed by the department in the previous 6 months.
b. The reason for each activation and deployment of the Team.
c. The legal authority, including type of warrant, if any, for each activation and deployment of the team.
d. The result of each activation and deployment of the team, including:
   - the number of arrests made, if any;
   - whether property was seized;
   - whether a forcible entry was made;
   - whether a weapon was discharged by a Team member; and
   - whether a person or domestic animal was injured or killed by a Team member.

No later than the 15th day of the month following the 6-month period that is the subject of the report, it will be submitted to the GOCCP and the City Manager for Takoma Park.

A final rule effective January 16, 2009 updated the Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) regulation, 29 CFR 825, to implement new military family leave entitlements enacted under the National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2008. In response thereto, Special Order 2009-001 was issued on February 6, 2009 that advised all personnel the two important new military family leave entitlements for eligible specified family members are: (1) up to 12 weeks of leave for certain qualifying exigencies arising out of a covered military member’s active duty status, or notification of an impending call or order to active duty status, in support of a contingency operation, and (2) up to 26 weeks of leave in a single 12-month period to care for a covered service member recovering from a serious injury or illness incurred in the line of duty on active duty. The order further noted eligible employees are entitled to a combined total of up to 26 weeks of all types of FMLA leave during the single 12-month period.
National Night Out

On August 4, 2009, the City of Takoma Park Police Department hosted one of the City’s annual National Night Out Activities, which was held at two different locations, including the Takoma/Langley Crossroads and Essex House. This year we added two more components to National Night Out: (1) we entered the City into the National Awards Program and (2) we are participating in “Project 365” which is a program in which the National Association of Town Watch (NATW) asks each police department participating in National Night Out to designate a problem and/or problem area in their community. The goal is to work towards correcting, or having a major impact, on the problem within an estimated “365” days - or in other words, by National Night Out 2010. Takoma Park Police’s objective for “Project 365” is to target drug activity, whereby decreasing crime in the area. By targeting the drug problem, we also target the gang activity and other criminal offenses related to that “life-style,” i.e., graffiti, loitering, auto theft, theft from vehicles, etc. Updates for “Project 365” will be given out periodically to the public, as will the total results at National Night Out 2010.

TAKOMA PARK - NATIONAL AWARD WINNER!

The City of Takoma Park was selected as a National Award Winner for its outstanding participation in the “26th Annual National Night Out” (NNO) crime, drug and violence prevention program. The National Association of Town Watch, who sponsors this event, bestowed a special award recognizing Takoma Park’s achievements in the NNO 2009 campaign. National Night Out 2009 involved 36.7 million people in 14,625 communities from all 50 states, U.S. territories and military bases worldwide.
Project “365” – National Night Out

As part of National Night Out 2009, Takoma Park Police Department is participating in a program called “Project 365.” This program asks each police department participating in National Night Out to designate a problem and/or problem area in their community. The goal is to work towards correcting, or having a major impact, on the problem within an estimated “365” days - or in other words, by National Night Out 2010.

Takoma Park Police’s objective for “Project 365” is to target drug activity, whereby decreasing crime in the area. By targeting the drug problem, we also target the gang activity and other criminal offenses related to that “life-style,” i.e., graffiti, loitering, auto theft, theft from vehicles, etc.

The following is the department’s first three month update on “Project 365” in Takoma Park:

**Arrests:**

There was a juvenile arrest made on August 10, 2009, in the 7700 block of Maple Avenue, for possession of Controlled Dangerous Substance (CDS) marijuana and possession of CDS paraphernalia. A call was received for subjects smoking CDS in the playground area in the 7700 block of Maple Avenue. The Tactical Enforcement Unit (TEU) responded and observed the defendant in possession of CDS and paraphernalia, which he discarded, but was later recovered. The defendant was arrested.

There was an adult arrest made on August 19, 2009, for possession of Controlled Dangerous Substance (CDS) marijuana and possession of CDS paraphernalia, as well as transporting a handgun in a vehicle. The subject vehicle was stopped by TEU and a consent search of the vehicle was granted. A loaded .22 caliber revolver was located in a backpack of the vehicle. The defendant had two baggies of marijuana secreted in his sock.

There was an adult arrest made on August 21, 2009, for trespassing. The subject is an associate of the Maple Avenue Crew (gang) and continually hangs out with other associates on Maple Avenue. He has been posted from numerous locations because of his loitering and other activities. He was observed by TEU trespassing on a property in the 7500 block of Maple Avenue after having been posted. He was arrested.

There was an adult arrest made on September 24, 2009, for fleeing and eluding police, trespassing, attempted escape, disorderly conduct, false statements, and warrant for a failure to appear for violation of probation. TEU members observed this subject on a bike and he matched the description of a person of interest from an earlier surveillance. The subject fled on his bike, but was later apprehended. The subject trespassed on posted property, lied about his name and was wanted on an open warrant.
There was a juvenile arrest made on October 4, 2009, for stolen auto and associated charges. While on patrol, an officer observed a vehicle driving at a high rate of speed. In an attempt to effect a stop on the vehicle, it was involved in a single vehicle accident. One of the occupants fled. There is possible gang affiliation.

**Surveillance:**

In addition to the above arrests, there were also surveillance operations on several occasions targeting Maple Avenue, specifically the 7600 block near Maple and Sherman Avenue. The surveillance that was conducted also included targeting associates that have ties to the “Maple Avenue Crew” (MAC) gang and who were believed to be a part of the group responsible for theft from autos that had increased dramatically throughout the area.

On September 1, members of TEU made contact with a business owner on Maple Avenue to inquire about trimming trees for better view, as well as changing the fencing around the property to prohibit sitting on the fence and “hanging out.” The owner was amenable to these crime prevention ideas. Detectives also made sure that the trespass contract was up-to-date in order for the police to continue to act as agents for the business and enforce the no trespassing.

A warrant application was completed by TEU for an associate of the MAC gang for trespassing in the 7500 block of Maple Avenue.

There was further surveillance conducted on September 3.

On September 9, surveillance of Maple Avenue was conducted. Four Field Investigative Reports (FIR’s) were completed on associates/members of the MAC gang. Subjects ran from officers and were stopped on Carroll Avenue near Lee Avenue to the rear of the businesses. One of the subjects was found to have property on him that was from a student at Montgomery College.

The success of any police department is contingent upon the involvement of the community; the police alone cannot be the sole providers of safety and security in a community. Citizen involvement and participation is instrumental in addressing crime and crime prevention in communities. The Takoma Park Police is committed to strengthening police community partnerships. Don’t be afraid to take your neighborhood back!

The following is the department’s second three month update on “Project 365” in Takoma Park:

**Arrests:**

There was an adult arrest made on November 10, 2009, at the District Court in Silver Spring, Maryland. The subject was wanted for a failure to appear and had an outstanding bench warrant. This adult is a known member/associate of the MAC gang.
There was an adult and juvenile arrest made on November 12, 2009, in the 7600 block of Maple Avenue, for a loitering and gambling complaint. The juvenile subject had been previously posted for trespassing in this location and was arrested and charged for such and later released to the custody of his parents. The adult subject had an open warrant and he was transported to the Montgomery County Central Processing Unit without incident. Both subjects are known members/associates of the MAC gang.

There was a juvenile arrest made on November 13, 2009, in the 7600 block of Maple Avenue for trespassing. The juvenile subject had been previously posted for trespassing in this location and was arrested and charged for such and later released to the custody of his parents. The juvenile is a known member/associate of the MAC gang.

There was a juvenile arrest made on November 20, 2009, in the 7500 block of Maple Avenue, for 1st and 2nd degree assault and possession of a firearm. Takoma Park Police responded to the area for a call that there was a subject with a gun. The juvenile subject was identified and transported to a juvenile detention facility. The gun was later recovered and determined to be a BB gun.

There was a juvenile arrest made on November 27, 2009, on Lee Avenue, for possession of marijuana. Takoma Park Police responded to Lee Avenue for a disorderly conduct and loitering complaint. The juvenile was arrested and transported to the Montgomery County Central Processing Unit.

There was an adult arrest made on December 2, 2009, during a routine traffic stop. The adult subject was the passenger in the vehicle who was found to be in possession of a Controlled Dangerous Substance (CDS) and arrested. He was also in possession of property taken in a theft from auto that had occurred in the 7400 block of Carroll Avenue. The driver of the vehicle had fled, although his identity was known. Both subjects are known members/associates of the MAC gang.

There was an adult arrest made on December 18, 2009, in the 100 block of Lee Avenue, for robbery, 2nd degree assault and theft under $100. Takoma Park Police had responded to the 100 block of Lee Avenue to locate the subject of a strong-arm robbery that had occurred. The subject was apprehended and arrested. Property was recovered.

There was an adult arrest made on December 23, 2009, in the 7600 block of Maple Avenue at the Black Lion Grocery store, for 2nd degree assault that had occurred on December 20, 2009.

There were two adult arrests made on February 12, 2010, in the 100 block of Lee Avenue, for violation of a protective order. This was a domestic related incident. Both subjects were arrested and transported to the Montgomery County Central Processing Unit without incident.

**Items of Interest:**

Although not directly related to the area specified in Takoma Park's Project 365, the following still impacts the gang issues in Takoma Park. On January 22, 2010, a large fight had occurred at and near the intersection of New Hampshire Avenue and East-West Highway. Persons involved in the fight were known members/associates of the MAC gang. The MAC gang had aligned themselves
with another criminal street gang, the “88 Crush Mob.” This gang fight was against the “Lewisdale Crew” gang. Multiple arrests were made of both adults and juveniles; weapons were also recovered.

**Surveillance:**

In addition to the above, there were also surveillance operations on several occasions targeting Maple Avenue, specifically the 7600 block near Maple and Sherman Avenue. The surveillance that was conducted also included targeting associates that have ties to the MAC gang and who were believed to be a part of a group responsible for theft from autos that had increased dramatically throughout the area. The surveillance also addressed Controlled Dangerous Substance (CDS) complaints. Specific dates and times are maintained and are confidential.

On February 4, 2010, three subjects had been identified as being “claimed” members or known associates of the MAC gang. Those three subjects all have active warrants for a parole violation, probation violation and district court bench warrant for failure to appear.

Due to severe inclement weather in February, there was a period of time when no surveillance operations were conducted.

This report is not inclusive of all activities and arrests in the City of Takoma Park, but for this specific Project 365 report for National Night Out.
Criminal Investigations Division

The Criminal Investigation Division (CID) consists of one Commander, one Supervisor, four investigators, a Victim/Witness Coordinator, Crime Analyst and Tactical Enforcement Unit (TEU) officers.

During 2009, 426 cases were assigned for investigation. Out of the 426 cases assigned for investigation, 139 cases were closed, 26 were exceptionally cleared, 261 were suspended, 100 arrests were made, 81 arrest warrants were obtained, and 18 search warrants were obtained and executed. The unit as a whole had a 38% closure rate. Ninety (90) theft from auto cases were assigned to be investigated which are Part 2 offenses. If the 90 theft from auto cases were not included, the unit as a whole would have had a 49% closure rate for Part 1 offenses for the year, which is well above the national average. This compares to 324 cases assigned in 2008, where 119 cases were closed, 34 cases were exceptionally cleared, 171 cases were suspended, 76 arrests were made, 43 arrest warrants were obtained, and 15 search warrants were obtained and served, with a closure rate for the unit as a whole of 47%.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2008 CID STATISTICS – Unit as a Whole</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cases Assigned</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>324</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2009 CID STATISTICS – Unit as a Whole</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cases Assigned</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>426</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Overall Percentage (%) Increase/Decrease from 2008 to 2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cases Assigned</th>
<th>Cases Closed</th>
<th>Cases Ex-Cleared</th>
<th>Suspended</th>
<th>Arrests</th>
<th>Arrest Warrants</th>
<th>Search Warrants</th>
<th>Closure Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.17% Increase</td>
<td>1.16% Increase</td>
<td>1.30% Decrease</td>
<td>1.52% Increase</td>
<td>1.31% Increase</td>
<td>1.88% Increase</td>
<td>0.53% Increase</td>
<td>1.23% Decrease</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Arrests

During 2009, several significant arrests were made:

Asian-owned commercial business robberies: During January/February 2009, there were approximately 16 Asian-owned commercial business robberies that occurred in Takoma Park and surrounding jurisdictions, which included Prince George’s County, Montgomery County, and the DC Metropolitan area.

- On February 7, 2009, a commercial armed robbery occurred at ABC Tobacco Outlet located at 1331 Holton Lane, Takoma Park, Maryland. In this case, three subjects entered the business and two of the suspects displayed handguns and forcibly removed property.
On February 19, 2009, an Asian owned commercial armed robbery occurred at China Town Restaurant located at 1163 University Blvd., Takoma Park, Maryland. In this case, two subjects entered the business armed with handguns and obtained money and secured the victim’s in a bathroom prior to fleeing from the scene. Patrol officers did an excellent job responding in a timely manner and providing a lookout of the subject vehicle to surrounding agencies, thus resulting in an officer with the Prince George’s County Police Department stopping the subject vehicle on New Hampshire Avenue. Property was recovered inside the vehicle that belonged to the China Town Restaurant and three subjects were apprehended.

Due to numerous Asian-owned business robberies, a collaborative effort was made with an investigator from the FBI Violent Crimes Task Force, DC Metropolitan Police Department, Prince George’s County Police Department and Montgomery County Police Department to close out additional robberies. Through investigation, it was determined that these subjects were responsible for possibly up to 30 Asian-owned business armed robberies, which occurred in all surrounding jurisdictions. While executing several search warrants in connection to the robberies, evidence was seized linking the subjects from the China Town robbery to the commercial armed robbery that occurred at ABC Tobacco located on Holton Lane.

On April 10, 2009, Joollee Cleaners was robbed, which is also an Asian owned commercial establishment. Two subjects, one being armed with a handgun, entered the business and announced a robbery. One subject held a gun to one of the victim’s head forcing him to open the cash register. A second subject took property from another employee. A third subject entered the business from a back door and a possible fourth subject was waiting in a vehicle. One of the victim’s was able to obtain a vehicle description and a tag number. The vehicle came back listed as stolen. Later, DC Police were involved in a vehicular pursuit. A bailout had occurred and two subjects were apprehended. Two subjects were arrested pertaining to the case.

On June 9, 2009, another armed robbery occurred at Joollee Cleaners. Two subjects entered the establishment with a third waiting in a vehicle. After entering the business, the subjects took currency and threatened to hurt the employees. One subject was armed with a police baton.

On June 13, 2009, Banners Cleaners, an Asian owned commercial establishment, was robbed. The subject in this case was armed with a police baton. Through investigative resources, the subjects were identified, arrested and charged accordingly. Through investigative and interview techniques, investigators were able to link the robbery at Banner Cleaners to the robbery that occurred at Joollee Cleaners on June 9, 2009. The subjects in this case confessed to robbing both cleaners.

During June and July 2009, there were multiple residential burglaries that occurred in the the areas of Old Town and the mid-section of the City. Investigators were able to develop a substantial lead in the case and were able to close out multiple cases and recover property taken in the burglaries. A total of five arrests were made in connection to all of the residential burglaries that occurred.
On August 12, 2009, a citizen was a victim of an armed robbery that occurred at 6907 New Hampshire Avenue, Takoma Park, Maryland. The victim was at the Sunoco gas station cleaning his vehicle when he was approached by two subjects armed with handguns. The victim had currency and other property taken. As a result of interview and investigative resources, the victim’s property was recovered and the two subjects were arrested.

On November 19, 2009, CID investigated a rape that occurred on the jogging path along Sligo Creek Parkway, between the Carroll Avenue bridge and Maple Avenue. A detective canvassed the area and located a possible suspect matching the description of the subject in the 7600 block of New Hampshire Avenue rape case in Prince George’s County. The subject denied any involvement but was in possession of a box cutter described by the victim. The detective obtained consent to obtain the subject’s DNA. Based on this, a DNA match came back matching the subject that the detective had stopped regarding the rape in Takoma Park. In addition, Prince George’s County Park Police were able to link the same subject to a similar rape that occurred in their jurisdiction. If it were not for the detective observing and stopping this subject, this case may have never been solved.

CID made several other arrests for robbery, burglary, child abuse, sexual assaults and many other cases throughout 2009.

Crime Scene Technicians

In 2009, all of the Crime Scene Technicians (CSTs) have undergone some form of crime scene and forensic training, including collection and assembly of physical evidence, photography of crime scenes, collection of DNA, blood spatter, identification of firearms, latent print recovery and documentation, and other related topics. Most, if not all, of the CSTs have responded to a variety of crime scenes, processed stolen vehicles, assisted detectives during search warrants and/or attended autopsies.

Internal Affairs Complaint Investigations

In keeping with the Police Department’s policy directives that require investigations of all complaints against the department or its employees, and that annual statistical summaries of such investigations by the internal affairs function be made available to the public, the following is the Takoma Park Police Department’s Summary of Complaints for calendar year (CY) 2009.

Twelve formal complaints were recorded and all 12 were subjected to internal affairs investigations. Seven complaints were submitted by citizens and the other five were generated internally by the Chief of Police or the Command Staff. Subjects of the complaints included a total of 20 sworn officers, some of whom were involved in more than one complaint. No civilian employees were the subjects of complaints. Three additional complaint investigations, carried over from CY 2008, were closed out; one due to a finding of an unfounded allegation and two due to insufficient evidence to support the allegation or sustain a charge.
Two of the 12 CY 2009 formal complaint investigations remained in a pending status at years-end, i.e., a disposition had not been made; five were completed with determinations that the complaints were unfounded; and five resulted in findings of improper conduct and disciplinary measures warranted. The disciplinary measures taken included: (1) an order for written counseling and remedial training; (2) one 5-day suspension from duty; (3) one 4-day suspension from duty; and (4) two 1-day suspensions from duty.

Residents are reminded that the process for making a complaint against a police employee is detailed on the City Police Web Page and in flyers available to the public in the Police Department lobby.
Tactical Enforcement Unit (TEU)

The Tactical Enforcement Unit (TEU) consists of one Supervisor and two investigators.

Members of TEU were involved in many activities in 2009, to include:

- Attending Inter-Agency Robbery meetings held at the U.S. Attorney’s Office in order to exchange information on robberies that are occurring in the Takoma Park and Metropolitan areas;
- Attending LANE meetings sponsored by the University of Maryland Police Department, in which several jurisdictions attended to exchange criminal intelligence information regarding on-going investigations;
- Attending CSAFE/Heat Team meetings; and
- Attending public CompStat meeting.

TEU also participated in several warrant sweeps throughout the City in order to serve open and outstanding criminal warrants both inside and outside the City. TEU assisted the Criminal Investigations Division (CID) throughout the year with special details involving robbery and burglary investigations. TEU provided assistance in writing and by serving search and seizure warrants obtained by both TEU detectives and detectives in CID.

There were numerous details worked throughout the year by TEU members working side by side with patrol and CID to including:

- Theft from auto details due to an increase in theft from autos that occurred in 2009.
- Burglary details both night time commercial burglaries and daytime residential burglaries.
- Robbery details due to increased commercial and street robberies.
- Transportation security detail in conjunction with several allied agencies at the Metro.
- Operation Falcon with several allied agencies sponsored by the U.S. Marshall’s Service.
- Details involving drug possession and distribution.
- Project 365 details, which were initiated this year, involving criminal activities on Maple Avenue as a targeted location.

TEU assisted CID with identifying suspects wanted in an attempted murder case, in which one suspect is currently awaiting trial.

TEU members had over 44 arrests in 2009 with 27 criminal warrants served. The arrests consisted of an arrest for possession of a stolen vehicle, two arrests on warrants for Homicide, a handgun arrests, 19 drug arrests, with six of those arrests for possession with the intent to distribute. The warrants that were served also included a robbery/kidnapping case, and other robbery and burglary cases. The Operation Falcon detail worked with the U.S. Marshall’s Service netted approximately 109 warrant arrests in the Metropolitan area between the TEU team members and their respective teams.

The details that were worked by members of TEU involved working various shifts to accommodate the various hours that the details took place. The TEU members mostly worked in plainclothes and therefore may not have been identifiable by members of the public but the presence of the team members assisted in crime prevention and detection.
Operations/Patrol Division

The Operations/Patrol Division consists of one Lieutenant, one Administrative Sergeant, four Sergeant Team Leaders, 10 Corporals (two who are K-9), 13 Private First Class officers (one who is K-9), and one Nuisance Abatement Officer.

Increase in Driving While Intoxicated (DWI) Arrests

During 2009, Takoma Park Police conducted several details using saturation patrols, which resulted in arrests. Saturation patrols involve an increased enforcement effort, targeting a specific area, to identify and arrest the impaired driver. Multiple agencies often combine and concentrate their resources to conduct saturation patrols. A DWI training course was conducted within the Takoma Park Police Department and led by a Corporal on the force. In 2009, there were 59 DWI arrests, which is an increase over the 43 DWI arrests in 2008 by 27%.

New Uniforms

On May 10, the Takoma Park Police Department switched to an all black, everyday uniform. The uniform is worn by all officers in the patrol division. This uniform was selected so that all officers are wearing the same uniform. This is a more durable, everyday uniform. The police patch now has a black background. This is a process which started as a result of citizen feedback on the City’s survey of residents in regards to appearance and our old uniforms. As a result of negotiations with our police union, Local 400, we reduced a negotiated benefit so the uniforms could be purchased by the City and not have a fiscal impact on the City budget.
## Citations Issued – 2008 and 2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PURPOSE</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Citations issued to drivers failing to stop or yield to pedestrians in crosswalk</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Citations issued to drivers who were involved in accidents involving pedestrians or bicycles</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of accidents involving cars versus either pedestrians or bicycles</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of fatalities involving cars versus either pedestrians or bicycles</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Citations issues to drivers blocking bicycle or pedestrian access including sidewalks, bike lanes or other pedestrian access</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Citations issued to pedestrians or bicyclists for any infraction (e.g., running a red light, jaywalking, etc.)</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Administrative Services

The Administrative Services Division consists of one Manager, a Records Clerk, National Crime Information Center (NCIC)/Warrants Clerk, Logistics/Payroll Clerk, Parking Enforcement Coordinator, and Property/Evidence Clerk. The Administrative Services also has a Senior Communications Dispatcher with four full-time Dispatchers as well as eight crossing guards.

National Crime Information Center (NCIC) Audit

Maryland State Police conducts an audit every two (2) years of every terminal within the agency to ensure compliance with State and Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) policy and regulations. During the terminal agency audit system security, terminal operator training, NCIC validation procedures, use of the Interstate Identification Index (III) and general state and NCIC policy are evaluated. Department NCIC entries are reviewed for completeness, accuracy and validity of the record. Compliance audits cover the following areas in conjunction with both the III and NCIC stolen property and person records:

Accuracy: NCIC entry contains no erroneous data. Maintain necessary documentation and be sure that it is available from state and local users accessing NCIC through them.

Completeness: Information contained in an NCIC entry or in a criminal history record to be disseminated is comprised of all the pertinent available information.

Timeliness: Entry, modification, update and removal of information are completed as soon as possible after information is available, and information is processed and transmitted in accordance with NCIC standards.

Security: An organization protects its information against unauthorized access, ensuring confidentiality of the information in accordance with laws and NCIC policy, regulations, and standards.

Dissemination: All information released is in accordance with applicable laws and regulations and a record of dissemination of criminal history records is maintained.

Takoma Park Police was scored in the “low-risk” category and is currently operating in compliance with Federal and State guidelines.

Maryland Electronic Telecommunications Enforcement Resource System (METERS)

Recently, Maryland State Police introduced the new Maryland Electronic Enforcement Resource System (METERS NCIC 2000). All agencies who use NCIC were required to transition to the new windows-based interface, which is mandated by the Federal government. The purpose of METERS is to allow a more secure transfer of information, including criminal history, to be shared among law enforcement agencies.
Administrative Services

E*Justice

E*Justice is a web-based records management that is designed to streamline and improve data integration and sharing throughout the law enforcement community. The E*Justice eliminates redundant data entry, streamlines workflow, improves data integrity and security, and allows for automatic data verification. The E*Justice system allows personnel to obtain copies of reports, search for suspect and offender information, gather information on associated persons involved in an arrest or police involved contact. The new software will allow increased functionality and efficiency because of the many integrated modules within the application. This system features search utilities including master name and master address indexes and a narrative search capability that searches and retrieves E*Justice records based on a word or text string. Other features include broadcast messaging, file attachment, and a record audit that can produce an audit trail of all transactions made in the system.
# CALLS TO DISPATCH

## 2008

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>6</th>
<th>7</th>
<th>8</th>
<th>9</th>
<th>10</th>
<th>11</th>
<th>12</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Other Self-Initiated</td>
<td>495</td>
<td>635</td>
<td>653</td>
<td>698</td>
<td>675</td>
<td>653</td>
<td>725</td>
<td>661</td>
<td>536</td>
<td>596</td>
<td>567</td>
<td>485</td>
<td>7,379</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Traffic Stops</td>
<td>292</td>
<td>433</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>540</td>
<td>523</td>
<td>529</td>
<td>503</td>
<td>462</td>
<td>381</td>
<td>418</td>
<td>406</td>
<td>448</td>
<td>5,435</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>787</td>
<td>1,068</td>
<td>1,153</td>
<td>1,238</td>
<td>1,198</td>
<td>1,182</td>
<td>1,228</td>
<td>1,123</td>
<td>917</td>
<td>1,014</td>
<td>973</td>
<td>933</td>
<td>12,814</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th>Dispatched CAD Events</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>704</td>
<td>687</td>
<td>699</td>
<td>732</td>
<td>734</td>
<td>773</td>
<td>777</td>
<td>770</td>
<td>722</td>
<td>720</td>
<td>651</td>
<td>700</td>
<td>8,669</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Total for 2008

1,491 1,755 1,852 1,970 1,932 1,955 2,005 1,893 1,639 1,734 1,624 1,633 21,483

**Other Self-Initiated Calls:** These types of calls are initiated by a police officer and given to dispatch, i.e., loiterers, suspicious subjects, parking, etc.

**Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) Events:** These types of calls are received by the 911 dispatcher and then given to police officers, i.e., burglaries, alarms, 911 disconnects, etc.

## 2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>6</th>
<th>7</th>
<th>8</th>
<th>9</th>
<th>10</th>
<th>11</th>
<th>12</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Other Self-Initiated</td>
<td>476</td>
<td>488</td>
<td>583</td>
<td>629</td>
<td>695</td>
<td>785</td>
<td>567</td>
<td>571</td>
<td>511</td>
<td>461</td>
<td>355</td>
<td>342</td>
<td>6,472</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Traffic Stops</td>
<td>559</td>
<td>562</td>
<td>470</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>470</td>
<td>402</td>
<td>368</td>
<td>524</td>
<td>396</td>
<td>352</td>
<td>287</td>
<td>366</td>
<td>5,256</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>1,035</td>
<td>1,050</td>
<td>1,053</td>
<td>1,129</td>
<td>1,165</td>
<td>1,187</td>
<td>944</td>
<td>1,095</td>
<td>907</td>
<td>813</td>
<td>642</td>
<td>708</td>
<td>11,728</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th>Dispatched CAD Events</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>647</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>647</td>
<td>657</td>
<td>686</td>
<td>689</td>
<td>760</td>
<td>713</td>
<td>654</td>
<td>701</td>
<td>620</td>
<td>559</td>
<td>7,933</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Total for 2009

1,682 1,650 1,700 1,786 1,851 1,867 1,704 1,808 1,561 1,514 1,262 1,267 19,661
Takoma Park Jazz Festival
Takoma Park Jazz Festival
Tips/Advice to Citizens

Throughout the year, the police department routinely gives out tips and/or advice to citizens in various situations. In 2009, the police disseminated information relating to identity theft, scams, pedestrian and driver safety, jaywalking and the dangers, theft schemes, fire-related issues, vehicle break-ins, and how senior citizens could prevent crime.

Identity Theft

Identity theft is on the fast track and probably the most insidious white-collar crime occurring in America today. A victim should prepare himself or herself for a roller coaster ride that could destroy their credit, leaving them with a tangled mess of epic proportions. There's no sure armor to protect anyone from victimization, but there are some ways of reducing the odds.

Identity theft occurs when a thief or con artist successfully obtains pieces of personal information. This information could include a target's name, address, date of birth, Social Security Number, etc. Armed with this information, the thief or con artist can then proceed to open new credit or financial accounts, buy or lease cars, apply for loans, drain your existing accounts and obtain a myriad of other financial benefits - ALL IN YOUR NAME!

Tips on protecting your identity:

Don't leave incoming or outgoing mail in your mailbox overnight or on weekends. If you're going on vacation, have someone pick up your mail or request your local post office place a "vacation hold" on your mail until you return.

Don't throw out unwanted mail, magazines, statements, etc., in the garbage or place them in your paper recycling box, unless all references to your personal information are totally removed.

Purchase an inexpensive electronic paper shredder. Shred all bills; bank statements; credit card charge receipts; insurance forms; pre-approved credit offers, etc. that you intend to dispose of. Simply tearing up documents containing personal information is not a sufficient safe measure.

Review your consumer credit report annually. You're entitled to one free credit report each year. Get yours and closely examine it. If you have a PC, you can obtain your free annual credit report by visiting https://www.annualcreditreport.com/cra/index.jsp. Examine your report to determine if any accounts were opened without your consent. If that occurs, contact the major credit agencies and request they place a "fraud alert/victim impact" on your file.

Equifax: Call 1-800-685-1111
Experian: Call 1-888-397-3742
Trans Union: Call 1-800-916-8800

Remove your name from mailing lists for pre-approved credit lines. The credit bureaus offer a toll-free number that enables you to "opt-out" of having pre-approved credit offers sent to you for two years. Call 1-888-567-8688.
Remove your name from marketers' unsolicited mailing lists.

Report lost or stolen credit cards to the police and issuer immediately.

Contact your credit card company or service provider if expected bills don't arrive.

If you have applied for a credit card and you don't receive it in a timely fashion, contact the issuing company.

Sign your new credit cards when received before someone else does.

Cut up your expired credit card into little pieces before discarding.

Don't use your date of birth or street address as your password or PIN.

Make sure that your PIN numbers cannot be observed by anyone while using an ATM.

Don't ever leave receipts behind at ATMs, on counters at financial institutions, restaurants or at gasoline pumps.

Check expiration dates on credit cards and contact the issuer if you don't get a replacement card before they expire. The same for monthly financial statements and bills.

Match credit card receipts against monthly bills and check financial statements for accuracy.

Only release your personal data (Social Security Number, date of birth, bank account or credit account numbers, etc.) to agencies that require it for action that you have initiated.

Never give this type of personal information to unsolicited telephone callers or to an unsecured site on the Internet.

Close all unused credit cards or bank accounts.

Memorize your Social Security Number, PINs and passwords - don't carry them with you in your wallet. A lost or stolen wallet might become keys to the kingdom for a thief.

Don't keep a record of your passwords or PINs on the hard drive of your personal computer. Keep them on a floppy disk or CD that can be removed from your PC.

If you suspect you're a victim of ID theft, take action:

Notify your local police department.

If the crime involved the U.S. Mail, report it to your nearest U.S. Postal Inspection Service office. If the crime involves counterfeit credit cards or computer hacking, report it to the U.S. Secret Service.
Notify all creditors, by phone and in writing, explaining the incident. Send your correspondence to them via Certified Mail.

Contact your bank and have them flag your accounts and request they contact you of any unusual account activity. Immediately change all passwords & PINs.

Contact each creditor on your credit report and request that any unusual activity be flagged and verified with you. Any creditor with fraudulent accounts in your name should be advised the account is fraudulent. Request a copy of all documents related to the account and demand that the account be closed immediately. Follow up each conversation with a letter detailing the exact circumstances and action requested again, by Certified Mail.

Do not pay any bill or charges that result from identity theft.

Contact your financial institution and request new account numbers, ATM cards and PIN numbers.

Contact the Social Security Administration and advise them of your situation. Call the Social Security Administration Fraud Hotline at 1-800-269-0271. Request their assistance by issuing you a new number and flagging your old number for fraudulent use.

Report ID theft online with the Federal Trade Commission (http://%20www.consumer.gov/idtheft) or, call its Identity Theft Hotline at 1-877-IDTHEFT and file a complaint. The FTC has counselors to help you resolve financial and other problems that can result from this crime.

If you feel it to be appropriate, contact or visit your local state motor vehicle agency and request they issue you a new driver’s license number in your name.

Keep a record of the names and phone numbers of people with whom you discussed your case, and of all reports and supporting documents. Keep copies of all correspondence.

Keep your personal information safe from online hackers.

The Internet offers a convenient way to conduct business. To ensure you use it safely, never input your credit card or other financial account numbers at a Web site unless it offers a secure transaction. A secure (or “encrypted”) transaction will have these two features:

An icon of a padlock appears in the bottom strip of the Web browser page.

The URL address for the Web page changes from "http" to "https" for the page at which you input the personal data.

- Taken from The National Association of Bunco Investigators
Be Aware of Scams

The Takoma Park Police Department would like to remind the citizens about various scams that they have seen on the rise. These scams are not all inclusive, and you should always thoroughly research and confirm the validity of any dealings, business or personal, with persons/entities who are not known to you.

Driveway and/or Roof Repair

In the driveway scam, homeowners are advised that their driveway is in need of seal coating. After an exchange of funds, the driveway is either painted black or coated with roofing oil, which does not protect your driveway. In the roof scam, homeowners are advised they need roof work to not void a previous work warrantee or leaks of some kind. Several different crimes are possible here. In some cases, homeowners can be billed for undone work, or in other cases the worker takes up the homeowner's concentration and another criminal enters the home and burglarizes it during the scam. This scam is mostly tried on the elderly.

If workers come to your home and advise you that you need repairs, request to see their License to work. All contractors and businesses must be licensed and bonded. Do not hesitate to call police for assistance when confronted at your home by "business" men who try to hard sell you into something. Do not do business with unlicensed companies or workers.

Handkerchief Switch

Key element: A stranger with a large amount of money, joined by a second stranger, convinces the victim to hold the money for safekeeping or distribution to a charity after putting the money from all three in a handkerchief or paper bag. After the strangers leave, examination of the package reveals the money is actually cut up paper.

Other names for this scam: South African Letter, Jamaican Switch and Country Boy Switch.

Example scenario: The victim is approached on the street by the first stranger who will pose as (a) a South African with a large amount of money obtained in an insurance settlement; (2) a Jamaican or other foreign seaman with a large amount of money obtained from wages; or (3) a country boy with a large amount of money from the sale of produce, land, etc. The stranger who approached the victim may play the part of a fool and ask the victim for assistance in locating an address, which is non-existent. In the case of the South African, the stranger may be looking for a church or charitable institution to donate the money, as he cannot take the money home because of political turmoil. He may even show letters from an attorney or insurance company indicating the amount of money and a letter from his home country explaining that he cannot bring the money back. In the case of the Jamaican or country boy, the stranger may explain that he paid several hundred dollars to a woman to “have a good time” and is looking for the hotel (non-existent) where she told him to meet her.
If the victim is deemed suitable, he will signal for his “partner” to join in. He will then explain the scenario a second time to his partner. During the conversations, he will display a large roll of what appears to be several thousand dollars. The partner who joined in will tell the stranger that the location does not exist and caution him about showing the money in public, as people will rob him. At this point, a discussion about banks may ensue which will help determine if the victim has money in the bank. At this point, the suspects make a determination whether to play the victim for the cash he has on him or attempt to get money that is in the victim’s bank.

If they decide to play for the bank money, the stranger who began the scam may claim ignorance about banking procedures and will not believe that currency can be taken out of the bank. The second scammer enlists the aid of the victim to convince the first scammer how banks work. In some cases, the scammer will tell the victim and his partner that he will match anything they get out of the bank to prove that money can be taken out as an incentive to have the victim withdraw money. The second scammer may or may not pretend to make a withdrawal to show the first scammer. The victim is then induced to do likewise.

Pigeon Drop

Key element: Pretending to find a large quantity of money and convincing the potential victim they can share in the money. The offense can be committed on any victim but is normally committed on an older victim by two suspects, females and/or males. However, it can be committed by one suspect acting in concert with someone on the telephone. The initial approach is made in retail shopping areas.

Example scenario: The victim is approached by at least one suspect who engages the victim in conversation. The suspect alone (or joined by a second suspect) will find or tell the victim they found a package, wallet, etc. Subsequent examination will reveal the package contains what appears to be a large amount of money. One of the suspects volunteers to check with his “boss” to get advice on what to do with the “found money.”

The suspect may use a cell phone to contact the “boss” or leave with the package to see the “boss.” After consulting with the “boss,” the suspect will tell the victim the money came from an illegal source such as gambling, narcotics, etc. and the package contains several thousand dollars (i.e., $100,000.00) and they can split the money three ways. The victim may also be told that the package contained a valuable bond or security worth several thousand dollars which adds to the total they can split. The victim is told the “boss” will help them share the money and cash the bond. He may require each of them to show “good faith” by producing money of their own to demonstrate they can manage large amounts of money without spending it for 30 days or he may offer to make the income derived from the division of the “found money” look legitimate such as proceeds from an investment which he will "postdate."

The victim is led through the ensuing process by the suspects who let them believe they will receive a share of the “found money” for just being present when the money was found and doing very little on their part. This may entail the ruse of bank withdrawals by one of the suspects and a trip to see the “boss” with the suspect returning and displaying a share of the money. Eventually, after several temporary set backs, the victim is convinced to withdraw several thousand dollars to
be able to receive a share of the "found money." Initially the victim believes they will not lose possession of the money. Eventually the money is taken from the victim and given to the purported "boss." The victim is sent into a business to see the "boss" and retrieve their money and their share of the found money only to discover there is no boss and the suspects are gone.

**Latin Lotto**

Key element: Victims in this case are normally Hispanic and the suspects are male and female Hispanics. The suspects normally speak only Spanish while playing this offense.

Example Scenario: The first suspect, who claims to be looking for an attorney, approaches the victim on the street. The suspect goes on to say that he has a winning lottery ticket but is afraid to cash it as he is in the country illegally. The second suspect joins the scenario and the story is told again. The first suspect either offers to pay the two a substantial amount of money or sell them the winning ticket at a great discount for assistance in cashing the ticket. Once the victim agrees to help, the suspect claims to want proof that they know how to handle money or needs currency to purchase or redeem the ticket and induces the victim to withdraw several thousand dollars. Once the money is withdrawn it is taken from the victim either in a switch or, more frequently, by sending the victim into a drug store and driving off. In this scenario, one of the suspects feigns sickness throughout the offense and pretends to very ill when the victim returns from the bank. The victim is sent into the drug store for medicine and the suspects drive off.

**Door to Door Solicitor**

Example Scenario: As a door-to-door solicitor, the suspect asks for a donation to benefit a nonexistent organization or purpose, or sells a product for a reduced price if the person signs the contract immediately and pays cash at the time of sale.

Verify a door-to-door solicitor's identification and permit. If in doubt, call local law enforcement immediately. Tell the solicitor the contract will not be signed until an attorney has reviewed it.

**Investment Scams**

In this scam, the criminal contacts you with a great investment plan. While the specific details of the plan can vary depending on who is delivering the pitch, one thing is certain -- it is a bad investment for everyone but the criminal.

**Lottery Scams**

Foreign Lottery- In this scam, you receive a call, email or letter -- usually from a foreign country -- telling you about a way to select winning lottery numbers, and you need to call a toll-free number to find out more. There is no need to call that number. All the con criminal has is a winning way to take your money.

Lotteries - A person offers to sell a winning lottery ticket or a "law firm" says someone has left you a winning lottery ticket, but you must send money so a computer can verify your identity. The "winning" ticket may be counterfeit or not exist. Be suspicious, do NOT buy a ticket from an individual, and do NOT send money!
Pedestrians and Drivers Should Use Caution on Roadways

There is a lot of advice and laws for pedestrians on how to walk safely on busy roadways. Unfortunately, that advice is sometimes not taken, and the law not followed, and pedestrians find themselves in the path of a vehicle. It is imperative that pedestrians be aware of their surroundings and obey all pedestrian traffic laws. Drivers should also be aware that pedestrians at times will not, or cannot for a myriad of circumstances, follow that advice or law and thus they too should be aware of pedestrians in the roadways.

We want to remind pedestrians and drivers again to follow some safety laws/precautions:

- Pedestrians, do not begin crossing at a crosswalk if the red Don't Walk or upraised palm symbol is flashing or steady. Drivers should use caution when driving through crosswalks.

- Although the walk or walking person symbol is displayed, pedestrians should still look for vehicles before leaving the curb. Drivers should also look for pedestrians who may still be in the crosswalk or have begun to cross against the signal.

- Pedestrians, when possible, make eye contact with drivers to ensure they see you.

- Just because one lane of vehicles has stopped doesn't mean that the other lanes will. Pedestrians should continue to look for vehicles while crossing. Drivers should be aware that the possibility exists that a pedestrian will step out from behind a stopped vehicle. Use caution in those situations.

- Pedestrians should be especially careful of vehicles turning right on red or left with an intersection. Drivers may be busy looking out for other vehicles instead of pedestrians. Drivers should pay special attention to this demanding type of scenario.

- Pedestrians, crossing outside of a crosswalk makes you less visible to drivers, especially around a bend.

- Pedestrians, if a bus or other large vehicle is blocking your view, they are also blocking the view of drivers in other lanes. Consider waiting until it leaves before crossing. Drivers should also be cautious when driving behind a bus that frequently stops to pick up or drop off passengers. If pedestrians believe you are stopped behind the bus, they may step out without knowing you intended to drive around the bus or are in the other lane that is not stopped. This is a dangerous situation where everyone should use caution.

- The law states that no pedestrian shall suddenly leave a curb or other place of safety and walk or run into the path of a vehicle which is so close that it is impossible for the driver to yield. This is also a dangerous situation where everyone should use caution.

- Pedestrians, being visible to drivers is important. Wear light colored clothing or reflective material if you are walking or exercising during hours of darkness. During sunrise and sunset, be aware that the sun in the eyes of drivers may affect their ability to see you.
Jaywalking is Dangerous and Against the Law

Jaywalking is defined as walking across a street outside of marked cross-walks and not at a corner, and/or against a signal light. If there is vehicle traffic or clear markings of a place to cross, this is a traffic misdemeanor subject to fine, and may be (but not conclusively) contributory negligence in the event of injury to the jaywalker by a vehicle. Jaywalking is against the law and is punishable by a fine of $40 for pedestrians who don't obey the law in the State of Maryland.

According to the National Safety Council, approximately 5,900 pedestrians are killed by automobiles every year; 84,000 suffer nonfatal injuries. Almost one-third of these victims are children under the age of 15 yet they represent only about 15% of the United States population. By following the few safety tips listed below, you can protect yourself and your children from being a part of these statistics.

- It is critical to teach children to look left-right-left before crossing streets.

- Cross only at designated crossings. Entering traffic mid-block or from between parked cars is very dangerous.

- Teach children to never dart out into traffic.

The following represents pedestrian accident statistics for the United States according to the National Highway Traffic Association (NHTA) and the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety:

- Pedestrian fatalities account for 11 percent of motor vehicle fatalities.

- Pedestrians comprise the second largest category of motor vehicle accident deaths following occupant deaths.

- On average, a pedestrian is injured in a traffic accident every 8 minutes.

- On average, a pedestrian is killed in a traffic accident every 111 minutes.

A pedestrian has an 85 percent chance of death when involved in a motor/vehicle collision at 40 mph, a 45 percent chance of death at 30 mph, and a 5 percent chance of death at 20 mph.

Young children and the elderly are the most vulnerable for pedestrian accident related injuries. Based on population, children under the age of 16 years are most likely to be struck by motor vehicles. Elderly pedestrians, although struck less frequently than children, are more likely to die after being struck by a vehicle. This group accounts for 16 percent of all pedestrian fatalities and 6 percent of all pedestrian injuries. Young children and the elderly have always held the highest risks of pedestrian death and injury.

When a pedestrian is involved in a motor vehicle accident they are at risk for countless serious injuries. Pedestrians' head, legs, and arms are the most vulnerable in an accident. Often, pedestrians endure extreme bodily injuries such as:
- Traumatic brain injury
- Spinal cord injury
- Paraplegia
- Quadriplegia
- Coma
- Fractured bones

Pedestrians who are jaywalking and are hit by a vehicle, regardless of their injuries, are, in some instances, at partial or complete fault. It is so important to use crosswalks and always follow the direction of the crosswalk lights. Special attention should also be paid to vehicles, as they may not always follow the rules of the road, but as a pedestrian, the highest burden is on you to protect yourself and to teach your children to protect themselves. Police can educate, but ultimately, you are responsible for your own safety - it's called personal responsibility.

There are numerous common factors that contribute to pedestrian accidents. Negligence is one of the most common factors. Motorists have a responsibility to adhere to the laws of the road and drive in a safe and observant manner at all times. Pedestrians are killed every day due to a driver’s negligence.

Some common negligent practices by motorists include:

- Inattentive or pre-occupied drivers are potentially very dangerous for pedestrians.

- A driver’s failure to observe posted speed limits can add to the severity in a pedestrian/motor vehicle accident.

- A driver’s failure to yield the right of way to pedestrians at marked cross walks can increase the chance of being involved in a pedestrian/motor vehicle accident.

- A driver’s disregard for traffic control devices can also increase the chance of being involved in a motor/vehicle accident.

Some people get angry with the police when they are issued a citation for jaywalking. They wonder if the “police have better things to do with their time.” In fact, the police believe that jaywalking and protecting the citizens from possible fatal situations is just as important as a drug bust or a drunk driving arrest. In a time of cell phones and text messaging, drivers’ attention is not always on the task of driving safely. People are also busy and in a hurry to get to their destination. Pedestrian safety is of high concern for the police department.
One highly publicized legal case regarding jaywalking included the actress, Rebecca Gayheart. On the afternoon of June 13, 2001, Gayheart was driving northbound on Bronson Avenue in Hollywood, California. Nine-year-old Jorge Cruz, Jr., on his way home from nearby Grant Elementary School, was crossing the street in the middle of the block, jaywalking far from the nearest crosswalk. A number of cars stopped for him, but when Gayheart drove up behind them, apparently not understanding why the cars were stopped in the middle of the block, she pulled into the two-way left turn lane in the middle of the street to go around the stopped traffic. Furthermore, police estimated her speed at approximately 40 miles per hour, while the speed limit in the area was 25 miles per hour. She apparently never saw Cruz crossing, and her car struck the boy, who died the next morning of the injuries he sustained in the accident. Obviously, Gayheart’s speed played a factor, but if the little boy had been educated and not jaywalking, he may not have been in the middle of that block.

Jaywalking is dangerous, it interrupts traffic flow and potentially results in injury or death to the jaywalker. Don’t become a statistic. Don’t let your children become a statistic. Be safe. Be responsible.

Theft Scheme

On February 13, 2009, a Takoma Park Police Officer took a theft scheme report from an elderly victim who resides in Takoma Park, Maryland. The victim received a letter from a fraudulent company called “IRG” which advised that he was the winner of a $1,605,578.67 sweepstakes. The victim telephoned the phone number provided and spoke with who he thought was a claim representative. The suspect instructed the victim to wire $350 via Western Union in order to qualify for the alleged lottery money. The victim sent the money but never received the alleged winnings. The victim called the number again and was instructed to send additional funds to qualify. The victim sent over $1,000 before realizing that he was the victim of a theft scheme.

The money was sent to an address in Jamaica.

Many scams can include bogus prize offers, like the one referenced above, or phone travel packages, phony charities, or get-rich-quick investment schemes. Please take note of the following regarding lottery scams:

- You don’t win lotteries you didn’t enter.

- If lottery winnings seem "to good to be true," they probably are.

- Beware of lotteries that charge a fee or taxes that you must pay first before delivery of a prize, or any pressure to “act now” or the offer will expire.

- Beware of demands to send additional fees for future or additional winnings.

- Be cautious when dealing with persons from outside of the United States.

- Learn how to say NO. Ask that information be sent by mail to give you time to check it out.
- Appoint a friend or relative as your "financial adviser" and tell callers you have to run any opportunities by your adviser before signing up.

- Put your name on the national do-not-call registry. Telephone numbers placed on the National Do Not Call Registry will remain on it permanently due to the Do-Not-Call Improvement Act of 2007, which became law in February 2008. To register your phone number, go to www.donotcall.gov and follow the instructions.

Fire-Related Issues

It was brought to the Chief’s attention that many citizens in the City of Takoma Park were not aware of the responsibilities of our fire department. The Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Department handles all fires and subsequent investigations into those fires. The Montgomery County Fire Marshall’s Office is the investigative arm which conducts those investigations. When a fire is reported, you should call 9-1-1 and ask for fire. The fire department will respond. If they need assistance from the City of Takoma Park Police Department, they will contact us and we will respond to assist accordingly. On all fire related scenes, the fire department is the primary agency who handles putting out the fire and they handle the subsequent investigation. The City of Takoma Park Police Department works with the fire department when assistance is requested which requires both agencies. Any questions about fires and fire investigations should be directed to the Montgomery County Fire Investigations Unit at 240-777-2255. It is the Chief’s intention to ensure that all of our citizens are aware of the delineation of responsibilities on fire investigations in the City of Takoma Park. If you have any questions about this, please contact the Chief directly at 301-891-7104 or his assistant and the Public Information Officer, Ms. Cathy Plevy, at 301-891-7142.

How Senior Citizens Can Prevent Crime

Crime is a frightening problem, especially for senior citizens. You may be worried about:

- burglary
- fraud
- muggings
- purse snatchings.

But, as a senior citizen, you don’t have to feel helpless! You can learn how to reduce your chances of becoming a crime victim.

How can I protect myself?

You can start by learning some basic crime prevention information. For example, it helps to know:

How criminals operate: They look for easiest opportunities.
How to make crime difficult: Look for and remove any opportunities before criminals spot them.

You don’t necessarily need physical strength, agility, speed or expensive security devices. You do need to be alert, cautious and self-confident.

At home, consider these tips:

Keep doors locked.

- Install easy-to-use deadbolt locks.

- Don’t attach an ID tag to your key ring.

- Install new locks if you move to a new home or lose your key.

- Keep garage and basement doors locked, too.

- Lock your windows. Draw the curtains and blinds at night. Also, put fire department-approved grates on the ground floor and fire escape windows.

Note: Inadequate cooling and ventilation may pose a health hazard. When shutting doors and windows, make sure your home is adequately cooled and ventilated.

Install and use a peephole. Never open the door to strangers or let them know you’re alone. Ask service people for an ID before you open the door. Remember, chain locks can be forced open.

Consider a pet. Even a small dog can provide some protection.

Beware of phone and internet scams.

- Don’t give personal or financial information over the phone or Internet unless you initiate contact.

- Hang up on nuisance callers.

- Don’t open or respond to e-mails from people you don’t know.

Consult local law enforcement officials. Find out about crime in your local area. Ask about specific problems - what law enforcement officials are doing and what you can do.

Protect valuables.

- Keep money and securities in a bank.

- Have your Social Security or pension check deposited directly into your account.
- Mark all valuables with an ID number (for example, your license number - if it’s not your Social Security Number) and your state’s abbreviation.

**Find out about alarm systems.** If you’re away a lot or have many valuables, an alarm may be worth the cost.

**Organize a buddy system.**
- Have neighbors watch each others’ homes or form security patrols.
- Do laundry, shopping or errands in groups.

When you go out, play it smart.

**Secure your home:**
- Leave outside lights on.
- Don’t leave notes about your return.
- Leave a radio or TV and a light on.
- Make sure all entries are locked.

**Secure your wallet.**
- Don’t carry large amounts of cash.
- Carry your wallet in a safe inside pocket or on a chain attached to your belt.
- Avoid using ATMs alone at night. Keep your Personal Identification Number (PIN) private.

**Plan your route.**
- Choose a safe, familiar and well-lit route.
- Let someone know where you’re going and when you should arrive.

**Take care with your purse.**
- Leave your purse at home, if possible.
- Don’t use a purse with a shoulder strap - you could be thrown to the ground and injured if it’s snatched.
Go with a friend.

- You’re safer if you have company.
- Leashed dogs of any size will deter most muggers.

Travel safely on public transportation.

On buses:
- Sit in the front, near the driver (but not too near the door).
- Hold on to your packages.
- Ask the driver - not other passengers - for directions.

On the subway or train:
- Wait near the ticket booth until ready to board.
- Pick a car with several people in it - don’t enter an empty car!

Prevent crime when you return home.
- Have your key out and ready.
- Have the driver watch until you’re inside, if possible.
- Don’t enter an elevator alone with a stranger.
- Be alert for anyone hiding nearby.

Stay safe in your car.

When driving:
- Keep the doors locked and windows up.
- Keep your purse and valuables out of sight.
- If you’re harassed at a stop, drive away as soon as possible.
- Never pick up hitchhikers.
When returning to your car:
- Be alert for anyone hiding behind nearby cars.
- Check the back seat and floor before you get in.

When parking:
- Park close to your destination.
- Choose an area that will be well-lit when you return.
- Lock valuables in the trunk before you arrive.

If your car breaks down:
- Raise the hood but stay inside - keep your doors locked.
- If strangers stop to help, just ask them to alert law enforcement officials or a service station for you. (Remember to speak through a closed window).

When going on a trip, take protective measures before you leave:
- Stop delivery of newspapers, mail, etc.
- Lock all entries - don’t leave an extra key out.
- Ask neighbors and law enforcement officials to keep an eye on your home.
- Don’t discuss your trip in public before you go.
- Give your house a “lived in” look. Be sure to leave the lights on timers, shades up, ringer on the phone turned down and the lawn tended.

On the way, act safely. Use caution at airports:
- Keep luggage locked and in sight.
- Put an ID tag inside luggage, too.
- Carry traveler’s checks or credit cards instead of cash.

Be alert at your hotel:
- Carry your room key at all times.
- Keep the room locked with your luggage inside.
- Leave valuables in the hotel safe.

At your door, at the store, or on the phone or Internet - Protect yourself against these common types of consumer crimes:

**Fraud.**

(a) **Medical fraud.** Ask your health-care provider for advice before buying into “miracle cures” or special deals. Use caution when purchasing prescription drugs over the Internet.

(b) **Sweepstakes scams.** Don’t pay anything or give your credit card number in order to claim a “free prize.”

(c) **Land-in-the-sun deals.** Never buy sight unseen. Check out the property and seller.

(d) **Insurance fraud.** Carefully read offers that claim large benefits at low rates. They may be exaggerated.

(e) **Business schemes.** Beware of work-at-home job offers with “registration” fees.

(f) **Home repairs.** Avoid “free inspections.” Deal only with firms you trust to avoid unnecessary repairs. Ask to see licenses (if required in your state).

**Buyer beware.** Before you agree to anything: (1) check out offers with the Better Business Bureau and (2) get advice from people you trust.

**Sales gimmicks.**

(a) **The “bait and switch.”** Stores lure you in for a “bargain,” then try to sell you a more expensive model.

(b) **Fear-sell tactics.** Beware of sales claims that play on your fears of misfortune.

(c) **“Harmless” contracts.** Fine-print clauses can cost you plenty! Read contracts carefully and ignore verbal promises.

(d) **Referral selling.** You may get the “discount” only if you get friends to buy, too.

(e) **Pressure tactics.** Beware of salespeople who rush your decision.

(f) **Debt consolidation.** Watch out for sky-high interest rates in these plans.

**Stop crooked sales people.** Don’t sign anything you don’t understand. See a lawyer, if needed. And, if you aren’t getting straight answers, end the conversation.
"Con games" and identity theft.

(a) **Bank scams.** A person claiming to be a "bank official" or "detective" asks you to help "catch a crooked teller." You withdraw your savings then the "bank examiner" takes it to be "counted."

(b) **Charity scams.** Someone claims to be collecting money for a charity, but they refuse to provide written information about the organization or tell you how donations are used.

(c) **Phony bills.** A surviving spouse is sent bills for phony debts or purchases.

(d) **Identity theft.** Identity thieves use your personal information (name, date of birth, Social Security Number, credit card number) for their own economic gain. For example, they can open credit card accounts in your name or make large purchases and never pay the bills. Minimize your risks:

(i) Shred items with personal information before throwing them in the trash.

(ii) Don't carry your Social Security card. Leave it in a secure place. Keep your number confidential.

(iii) Never give credit card numbers over the phone unless you've placed the call yourself and you trust the company.

(iv) If using your credit card on the Internet, make sure the site is secure and the company is legitimate.

*If you suspect identity theft, contact the Federal Trade Commission at 1-877-ID-THEFT (1-877-438-4338).*

**How to foil con artists:**

- Ask to see proper identification.
- Always check out "officials" or charities by calling their offices.
- Before you give anybody money, stop and think!
- Check out unfamiliar bills before you pay them.
- Call law enforcement officials if you're suspicious.

If you do become a victim of a crime, know what you can do.

**If your home is burglarized while you're out:**

- Don't go in if you suspect someone is still inside.
- Call law enforcement officials at once from a neighbor’s phone.
- Don’t touch anything.

If you’re held up or your purse is snatched:
- Don’t resist - give things up rather than risk injury or life.
- Hand things over quickly.
- Note as many details as possible.
- Notify law enforcement officials immediately.

*Remember, your life is more important than your money!*

If you’ve been swindled, report the incident. Call the:
- local police or sheriff.
- Consumer Protection Agency.
- Better Business Bureau.

*Fast action may save your money!*

If someone breaks in while you are home:
- Don’t confront the burglar.
- Lock the doors to the room you’re in.
- If you can get to a phone, call law enforcement officials.

**What to do if you’re attacked.** Remember, each situation is different. Only you can decide which course of action is appropriate. In general:
- Sit down to avoid being knocked down and injured.
- Be realistic about your ability to protect yourself. Yelling, hitting or biting may give you a chance to escape, but it may also lead to further harm.
- If your life is in danger, passive resistance like vomiting or urinating may be your best defense.

Let law enforcement officials help.
- Report any crime, attempted crime or suspicious activity.
- Give details, including height, weight, clothing, appearance, license plate number and information about witnesses.
- Press charges when the criminal is caught. This helps protect others.

Protect yourself against crime.

Be alert - at home and away.

Be aware of what you can do to help prevent crime.

Be involved - join community anti-crime activities.

Report all crimes and suspicious activities to law enforcement officials.

Prevent crime all the time!