

# Rochelle Police Department 2010 Annual Report



**IN MEMORY  
OF  
Charles "Chuck" Henry**



Charles (Chuck) Marshall Henry, 72, Rochelle, passed away Oct. 16, 2010 at Community General Hospital in Sterling surrounded by his family.

Charles was born Aug. 26, 1938 in Rochelle, son of Joseph Ray Henry and Vivienne Lever. He married Joanne Lamb Oct.14, 1961.

Chuck was a graduate of Rochelle Township High School, served in the U.S. Air Force, was on the Rochelle Police Department and retired from Secretary of State after 32 years. He coached Little League baseball for many years and was an avid bowler for many years with Ray Kramer Construction. He loved to spend many hours with his grandchildren.

# ADMINISTRATION



## CHIEF ERIC HIGBY

Higby joined the department in 1996 and has spent time in both patrol and investigations divisions. He was appointed chief on September 25, 2009. He has a Bachelor's Degree in Law Enforcement Administration, and is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the department. He is a graduate of Northwestern University's School of Police Staff and Command. In 2008 he attended ten weeks of training at the 234<sup>th</sup> session of the F.B.I. National Academy in Quantico, Virginia. Chief Higby has recently received training in Freedom of Information, School Violence, and Media Relations.

## ADMINISTRATIVE AIDE RENE SMITH

A.A. Smith joined the department in 2001. She served as an EMT-A in the United States Air Force for four years, and holds a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration. She handles departmental records, correspondence, and statistical information. She also assists in maintaining the department's website, provides support for departmental and city sponsored events and is the assistant to the Chief.



## DETECTIVE DIVISION



**DETECTIVE  
SERGEANT  
JEFF LEININGER**

Sgt. Leininger joined the department in 1998. He supervises the detective division, field training program, and the evidence room. He assists with maintenance of the department's website, and serves as the department photographer. Sgt. Leininger has received specialized training in sex offender registration, homicide investigations, gang crime investigations, and serves as a member of the Ogle County Crime Stoppers Board. He is a graduate of Northwestern Illinois University's School of Police Staff and Command, and is assigned to the detective division.



**DETECTIVE  
TERRY INMAN**

Detective Inman joined the department in 2001. He has a Bachelor's Degree in Law Enforcement Administration, and served in the United States Navy for eight years. He is a member of the I.L.E.A.S. Mobile Field Force team and the Attorney General's Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force. Detective Inman has received training in homicide investigation and computer crimes including peer to peer. He is assigned to the detective division. Detective Inman is the departments FOIA officer.



**DETECTIVE  
JOHN KALTENBACH**

Detective Kaltenbach joined the department in 2004. He has an Associate's Degree in Criminal Justice, is a member of the Emergency Response Team, and is a Taser instructor. He has received specialized training in advanced special weapons and tactics, tactical interactions, homicide investigations, and gang crime investigations. He is assigned to the detective division.

## PATROL DIVISION



**SERGEANT  
PHIL  
FRANKENBERRY**

Sgt. Frankenberry joined the department in 1998. He served four years in the United States Air Force as a combat engineer. He has received training in incident command, sex offender registration, and special weapons and tactics. Sgt. Frankenberry is a graduate of Northwestern University's School of Police Staff and Command. He serves as a team leader on the Emergency Response Team and is assigned to the patrol division.



**SERGEANT  
JASON  
BERGERON**

Sgt. Jason Bergeron joined the department in 2000. He served in the United States Air Force for four years. He has received training in incident command, sex offender registration, special weapons and tactics, and supervision of police personnel. Sgt. Bergeron is an O.C. and firearms instructor, and a child safety seat technician. He serves as a team leader on the Emergency Response Team and is assigned to the patrol division.



**SERGEANT  
BILL HAAN**

Sergeant Haan joined the department in 2003. He has received training in incident command, sex offender registration, supervision of police personnel, search and seizure, breath alcohol testing, death investigations, and special weapons and tactics. He is a certified juvenile officer who is assigned to the patrol division.



**SERGEANT  
CHET SMITH**

Sergeant Smith joined the department in 2002. He has received training in sex offender registration, special weapons and tactics, supervision of police personnel and incident command. Sergeant Smith is a certified juvenile officer, and he is in charge of the department's fleet maintenance program. He is assigned to the patrol division.

# PATROL DIVISION



**OFFICER  
DAVE  
CHRISTOPHERSON**

Officer Christopherson joined the department in 1987. He served in the United States Army Reserves for six years as a military police officer. He has received training in drugged/drunk driver detection, breath alcohol testing, crime scene investigation, and traffic crash investigations. Officer Christopherson is a certified juvenile officer and is a hunter safety instructor. He is assigned to the patrol division.



**OFFICER  
AARON  
RODABAUGH**

Officer Rodabaugh joined the department in 2001. He served four years in the United States Marine Corps as a military police officer. He has an Associate's Degree in Criminal Justice. He has received training in breath alcohol testing and incident command. He is a certified juvenile officer and serves as a field-training officer who is assigned to the patrol division.



**OFFICER  
MATT  
WITTENBERG**

Officer Wittenberg joined the department in 2004. He is a member of the Emergency Response Team, and is a less lethal shotgun instructor. He is a firearms instructor and is assigned to the patrol division. From 2005 – 2008 he has received the Alliance Against Intoxicated Motorists award for having the highest number of D.U.I. arrests in the department. Officer Wittenberg holds an Associate's Degree in Criminal Justice and helps maintain the department fleet.



**OFFICER  
JASON  
GOODWIN**

Officer Goodwin joined the department in 2005. He served in the United States Marine Corps for four years, during which time he served as a military police officer and investigator in the Criminal Investigation Division. He is a member of the Emergency Response Team and has received training in special weapons and tactics, sniper operations, and breath alcohol testing. Officer Goodwin is assigned to the patrol division.

# PATROL DIVISION



**OFFICER  
JAMES  
GILLIAM**

Officer James Gilliam joined the department in 2005. He has a Bachelor's Degree in Law Enforcement and Justice Administration. He has received training in special weapons and tactics, breath alcohol testing, gang investigations, F.T.O., and incident command. He tied the department lead for number of drug arrests in 2010. Officer Gilliam is a certified juvenile officer, Taser instructor, and a member of the Emergency Response Team. He is assigned to the patrol division.



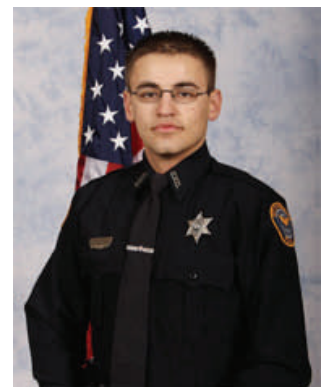
**OFFICER  
EMILY  
ANDERSON**

Officer Anderson joined the department in 2006. She has an Associate's Degree in Criminal Justice. She has received training in Incident command, emergency vehicle operations, patrol tactics, and breath alcohol testing. She assists with evidence room maintenance. Officer Anderson is on the ILEAS Mobile Field Force Team and is the department's K-9 handler.



**OFFICER  
JAMES  
JAKYMIW**

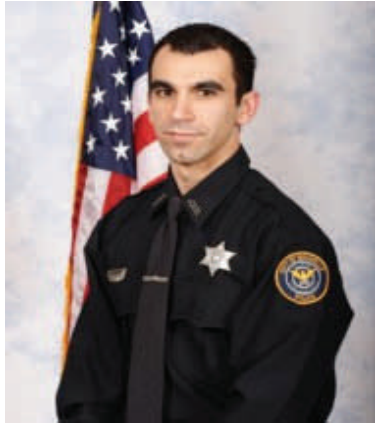
Officer Jakymiw joined the department in 2007. He has a Bachelor's Degree in Law Enforcement and Justice Administration. He has received training in breath alcohol testing, patrol tactics, and incident command. He is a certified juvenile officer who is assigned to the patrol division.



**OFFICER  
MATT GERARD**

Officer Gerard joined the department in 2007. He is a certified juvenile officer and is a member of the Emergency Response Team. He has received training in special weapons and tactics, tactical interactions, school violence, patrol tactics, and breath alcohol testing. Gerard is assigned to the patrol division.

## PATROL DIVISION



**OFFICER  
ELVIS BANESKI**

Officer Baneski joined the department in March of 2008. He has a Bachelor's Degree in Management. He completed his 12 weeks of basic training at the Police Training Institute. Officer Baneski lead the department in calls for service, criminal and DUI arrests, and tied the lead in drug arrests. He has received training in patrol tactics, street crimes, complete traffic stops, rapid deployment, and breath alcohol testing. He is a certified juvenile officer who is assigned to the patrol division.



**OFFICER  
BRIAN  
VANVICKLE**

Officer VanVickle joined the department in February of 2009. Officer VanVickle has completed training in breath alcohol testing, and excited delirium. He assists with fleet maintenance and is assigned to the patrol division. Officer VanVickle is also the department's truck enforcement officer.

# COMMUNICATIONS



**COMMUNICATIONS  
SUPERVISOR  
SANDY SULLIVAN**

C.S. Sullivan joined the department in 1996 and is in charge of the department's communications division. She serves on the Ogle County ETSB 911 Board and attended the IPSTA conference in 2010. She is a certified LAC Leads operator and is also certified in the areas of legal issues, training officer, EMD, incident command, hostage negotiations, advanced law enforcement, 911 liability, fire dispatch, CPR, AED, and on-star. C.S. Sullivan maintains scheduling for both dispatchers and crossing guards, and is a FOIA Officer.



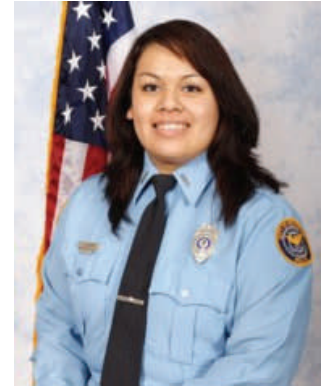
**DISPATCHER  
JULIE THRUMAN**

Dispatcher Thrumman joined the department in 1987. She is a certified in the areas of: Leads, EMD, public safety dispatch, 911 dispatch, active shooter, 911-Liability, and suicide intervention. She has received specialized training in incident command, CPR, AED, On-Star and fire dispatch.



**DISPATCHER  
TONY MILBURN**

Dispatcher Milburn joined the department in 2000, and is a training officer and child safety seat technician. He is certified in 911 dispatch, and Leads. He has received training in hostage negotiations, incident command, police & fire dispatch, On-Star, EMD, CPR & AED instructor, and is a Firefighter II for Rochelle Fire.



**DISPATCHER  
LUISA NAMBO**

Dispatcher Nambo joined the department in 2003. She is a bilingual dispatcher who is a training officer and child safety seat technician. She is certified in Leads, EMD and 911 dispatch. She has additional training in incident command, domestic violence, 911 liability, Active Shooter, suicide intervention, CPR, AED and On-Star.

# COMMUNICATIONS



**DISPATCHER  
CORY BECK**

Dispatcher Beck joined the department in 2004. She is a training officer and is certified in the areas of: 911 dispatch, Leads, incident command, active shooter, stress identification, 911-Liability and domestic violence. She has additional training in CPR, AED, On-Star and fire dispatch.



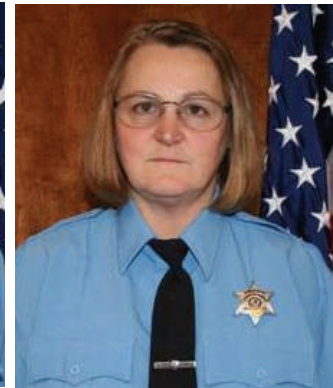
**DISPATCHER  
ROBIN  
OLSZEWSKI**

Dispatcher Olszewski joined the department in 2007. He is certified in Leads, advanced law enforcement dispatch, advanced fire dispatch, EMD, 911 dispatch, hostage negotiations, active shooter, domestic violence and suicide intervention. He has received specialized training in CPR, AED and On-Star.



**DISPATCHER  
ROGER  
JOHANNING**

Dispatcher Johanning was a veteran officer and dispatcher with the Rochelle Police Department when he started back on a part time basis in 2010. He began his career as a dispatcher in 1977, until 1981 when he was sworn in as an officer. He worked in that capacity until 2007 when he retired from the department. Roger has received 40 hours in-house training along with 911 Liability. Roger is currently the Asst. Fire Chief for the Ogle-Lee Fire Protection District Hillcrest Station.



**DISPATCHER  
MELINDA  
DAVIS**

Dispatcher Davis was a veteran dispatcher with the Rochelle Police Department when she started back on a part time basis in 2010. Her career began in 1980 and extended through 1997. Melinda has received 40 hours in-house training along with 911 Liability. She is office manager for the NIU chemistry/biochemistry departments where she has been employed since 1999.

# K9 "DON"



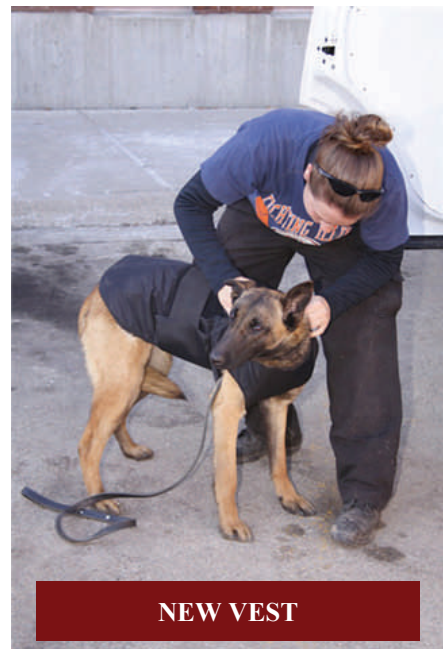
FIRST DAY

K9 Don began his career with the Rochelle Police Department in February 2010. *(See the February 25th news release for more information on the K9 selection process).*



TRAINING SESSION

In March, Don and Officer Emily Anderson attended 10 weeks of K9 Handler Training through the Illinois State Police Academy. They train daily in the areas of obedience, handler protection, article searching and human tracking as well as narcotics detection.



NEW VEST



RTHS SCHOOL SEARCH

## K9 "DON" (cont'd)

### MASONIC TEMPLE SPAGHETTI SUPPER



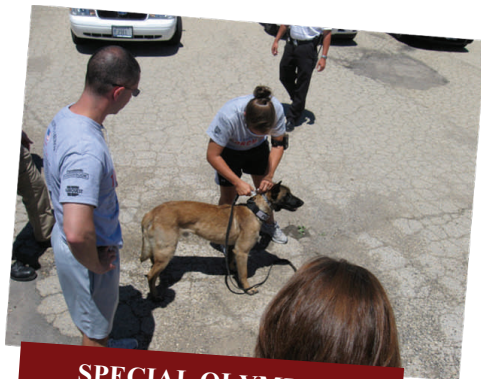
They performed 18 different school searches this year and participated in four different demonstrations include Police Week at the Cherryvale Mall . As a team they recertify every 6 months.



### POLICE WEEK



In addition to the usual open air sniffs on cars and trucks, our K9 unit was deployed to assist the Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency. Don was utilized to detect drugs within a plane at an airport outside of Rochelle.



### SPECIAL OLYMPICS TORCH RUN

From June to December 2010, Don's abilities led to multiple seizures of controlled substances and cannabis (*see next page*). During one traffic stop a large amount of cash was located and seized. The department, through this seizure, was awarded \$16,500.

**A special thanks to the community for the out pouring of support received to fund our most recent and invaluable addition to the department.**

## K9 "DON" (*cont'd*)

- 6/7/10- Assisted ICE in Sugar Grove with open air sniff of plane and rental vehicle, investigation still pending
- 6/30/10- Assisted on traffic stop, black digital portable scale located and seized, no arrest made though.
- Assisted on traffic stop, Don located a silver one hitter outside of the car, no arrest made.
- 8/17/10- Assisted on traffic stop, arrested subject for possession of 26.8grams cannabis
- 8/26/10-Arrested two subjects, one for possession of drug paraphernalia and the other for 1.5grams cannabis
- 9/6/10-Assisted on traffic stop, arrested subject for controlled substance (cocaine) and seized \$19,000 cash
- Assisted on search warrant on Irene Ave, located cannabis under couch cushion and in pants pocket
- 10/24/10-Assisted on traffic stop, arrested subject for drug paraphernalia
- 10/30/10-Traffic stop, arrested subject for drug paraphernalia and 0.5grams cannabis
- 11/28/10-Traffic stop, arrested subject for drug paraphernalia and less than 2.5grams
- 12/05/10-Assisted on traffic stop, arrested subject for possession of cannabis about 9 grams, several pieces of paraphernalia and a scale, subject was also charged with possession with intent to deliver
- 12/17/10-Assisted on traffic stop, arrested two subjects for possession of cannabis and possession of paraphernalia, 9.3grams total

# CROSSING GUARDS



**Chris Watson**

Ms. Watson has been with the department since 2002. She works at the intersection of Lincoln Avenue and North 9th Street.

**Sandra Lowe**

Ms. Lowe has been with the department since 2002. She works at the intersection of Avenue C and South Main Street.



**Don Rogde**

Mr. Rogde has been with the department since 2003. He works at the intersection of 10th Avenue and 9th Street. Mr. Rogde was a custodian employed by the City of Rochelle from June 18th, 1990 until August 31st of 2001.

**Clyde Strouse**

Mr. Strouse has been with the department since 2003. He works at the intersection of 1st Avenue and Main Street.



# CROSSING GUARDS



**Ronald Tippy**

Mr. Tippy has been with the department since 2006. He works at the intersection of 10th Avenue and Lincoln Hwy.

**Bob Eckhardt**

Mr. Eckhardt has been with the department since 2009. He works at the intersection of 1st Avenue and Washington Street.



**Kathleen Sanders**

Mrs. Sanders has been with the department since 2010. She works at the intersection of North 2nd Street and School Avenue.



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10 YEAR



Sgt. Jason Bergeron marked his 10th anniversary in 2010. He started on patrol, and in 2003 he was assigned to the detective division. In 2005, he was promoted to the rank of sergeant where he serves in the capacity on patrol. He is the supervisor of the Emergency Response Team, and he is a fire-arms instructor.



Dispatcher Anthony Milburn celebrated his 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2010. He serves in the Communications Division, and is a certified safety seat technician. Dispatcher Milburn is also a paid on call firefighter with the Rochelle Fire Department.

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5 YEAR



Officer Jason Goodwin marked his 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary with the department this year. He is assigned to the patrol division, where he serves as a field training officer and a member of the Emergency Response Team.



Officer James Gilliam also celebrated his 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. He is assigned to the patrol division where he serves as a field training officer. Gilliam is also a member of the Emergency Response Team, and he is a certified Taser instructor.

## PATROL DIVISION

When fully staffed, the department has eleven patrol officers and four patrol sergeant positions. These individuals respond to a wide spectrum of calls for service. Some of these are urgent in nature, and require a swift response to ensure the safety of those involved. The majority of calls are traditional police calls for service, but an officer will tell you there is no "ordinary" call or "routine" traffic stop. When not responding to calls, the patrol division is responsible for other tasks, such as traffic monitoring, intelligence gathering, and checking buildings.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Select department members went to Denver, Indiana to pick up “Don.”
- Completed Sergeants testing and list established.
- Each year the department primarily hosts area interns through the Kishwaukee College Criminal Justice Program.
- Police Officer testing and Sergeants testing was completed and lists were established.
- Officers received HK Armor training in Virginia. This provides detailed knowledge in the area of weapons maintenance (e.g., cleaning, disassembling, etc.).
- The department purchased patrol rifles and Taser equipment, new interview room recording equipment, trail camera, new computers throughout the PD.

In 2010, the department made a transition to Dodge Chargers for our squad cars. After evaluating three different makes and models. Warranties, all areas of performance and the ability to obtain local service were among the criteria considered during the process. In conjunction with this change, the squads were changed to a black and white color scheme. The cars were ordered black, and the additional decals were designed and applied locally by Large Car Rebuilders.



## **DETECTIVE DIVISION**

There are three detectives and one sergeant assigned to the division. Their primary activity is to conduct follow up investigations after an initial call has been completed by the patrol division. In addition to this duty, they are responsible for many other activities, such as running undercover narcotics operations, conducting alcohol and tobacco compliance checks with area retailers, running background checks, speaking to various organizations and school groups regarding safety procedures and tracking offenders. When the patrol division is in need of additional manpower, the detective division may be called upon to assist.

### **HIGHLIGHTS**

On August 11<sup>th</sup> the recently combined Emergency Response Teams executed a search warrant at 306 Irene Avenue #4. 55 grams of cannabis, United States Currency, were seized as a result of the warrant. A 9mm pistol, an illegally altered shotgun, and an illegally altered .357 revolver were also recovered. In connection with this call, Jordan Marcum, Steven Huffstatler and Anthony T. Johnson were arrested for charges ranging from possession of cannabis to aggravated unlawful use of a weapon.

On December 5<sup>th</sup> officers investigated a report of shots fired in the 300 block of South Main Street. Officers recovered evidence that showed rounds were fired, and after a month long investigation, Jowell Estrada was taken into custody. He was arrested on 010611 and charged with 2 counts of aggravated discharge of a firearm within 1000 feet of a school.

On Friday December 17<sup>th</sup>, at approximately 9:25 a.m., the Rochelle Police Department received a call to respond to the Rochelle Township High School in reference to an information report. Officers met with school personnel who advised they had discovered a threatening letter on the premises. After a preliminary investigation, it was determined that the school would not be evacuated as the students and school personnel were not in danger. An Alert Now message was broadcast so that parents were made aware of the situation. After concluding this investigation, Rochelle Police personnel arrested a 17 year old male for one count of misdemeanor Disorderly Conduct. He was processed and released to his guardian.

An old computer was added to the evidence room changing evidence protocols to ensure integrity of contents.

# COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION

In 2010, dispatchers in the Rochelle Police Department 911 Center answered 61,192 phone calls. 2,215 of these calls were received via 911. In addition to these calls, dispatchers were responsible for assisting citizens that enter the lobby for police services. Dispatch personnel enter all the department citations, racial profiling cards, crash statistics, Uniform Crime Report monthly reports, and 911 reports. Rochelle also serves as the backup dispatch center for the Ogle County Sheriff's Office. One of the most important tasks that dispatchers perform is to monitor the radio traffic for the police and fire departments. This is an essential function that ensures officer safety while delivering police services.

## HIGHLIGHTS

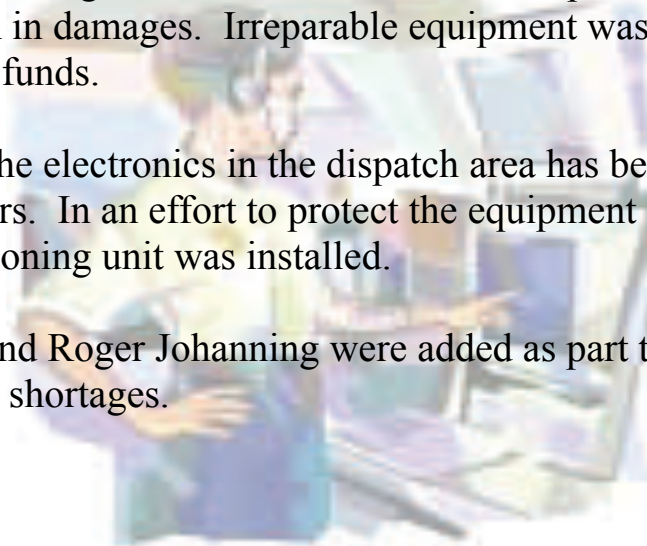
As of June 1<sup>st</sup>, the department transitioned to a paperless report review system. Prior to this inception, a report that needed to be corrected or sent to another officer as information could be copied several times. This information is now conveyed internally through the CIS system itself. As a result, the copying has been eliminated, and the wear on the department shredders has been greatly reduced.

An Aging Keltron alarm machine used to monitor various types of commercial alarms within the city was removed from dispatch as a result of streamlining dispatching operations.

On April 6th, lightning struck the radio tower at the police department and caused over 30K in damages. Irreparable equipment was replaced through insurance and 911 funds.

Overheating of the electronics in the dispatch area has been an ongoing problem over the years. In an effort to protect the equipment and remedy this issue, a new air conditioning unit was installed.

Melinda Davis and Roger Johanning were added as part time dispatchers to assist with staffing shortages.



# TRAINING HIGHLIGHTS

***Dispatcher Robin Olszewski-*** Emergency Medical Dispatching Recertification (24 hours), Fire Service Dispatch (16 hours), Law Enforcement Dispatch (8 hours), Non Emergency Call Handling (8 hours)

***Dispatcher Luisa Nambo-*** Emergency Medical Dispatching (24 hours), C.P.R. Recertification (2 hours), Homeland Security (8 hours).

***Dispatcher Julie Thruman-*** Advanced Law Enforcement Dispatching (16 hours), Non Emergency Call Handling (8 hours), Emergency Medical Dispatching Recertification (24 hours), 911 Liability (8 hours).

***Dispatcher Cory Beck-*** Advanced Law Enforcement Dispatching (24 hours), C.P.R. Recertification (2 hours), Fire Service Dispatching (16 hours), Homeland Security (8 hours), Emergency Medical Dispatching Recertification (24 hours), 911 Liability (8 hours).

***Dispatcher Tony Milburn-***Fire Service Dispatching (16 hours), Homeland Security (8 hours), Law Enforcement Dispatching Recertification (16 hours).

***Dispatcher Roger Johanning-*** 911 Liability (8 hours), plus an additional 40 hours of in-house training.

***Dispatcher Melinda Davis-***911 Liability (8 hours), plus an additional 40 hours of in-house training.

***Communications Supervisor Sullivan-*** Freedom of Information (4 hours), Leadership/Organizational Stress (7 hours), Advanced Law Enforcement Dispatching (16 hours), C.P.R. Recertification (2 hours), Emergency Medical Dispatching Recertification (24 hours), 911 Liability (8 hours), A.P.C.O. Conference (24 hours).

***Officer Matthew Wittenberg-***Officer in Charge (8 hours), Heckler Koch Armorer (8 hours), Hazmat (2 hours), Current Drug Abuse Trends (8 hours)

***Officer James Jakymiw-*** Basic Traffic Crash (24 hours) , Hazmat (2 hours), Current Drug Abuse Trends (8 hours)

***Detective Terry Inman-***Freedom of Information (4 hours), Gang Homicide (8 hours), Social Networking (8 hours), Hot Topics Search and Seizure (8 hours), Medical Aspects of Child Sex Abuse (8 hours), Hazmat (2 hours), Open Meetings Act (4 hours)

## TRAINING HIGHLIGHTS

**Officer Elvis Baneski-** Courtroom Success: High Profile Gang Cases (8 hours), Hazmat (2 hours), Gang Court Cases (8 hours), Hazmat (2 hours), Professional Breakthroughs (7 hours)

**Officer Nathaniel Hansmann-** Hazmat (2 hours), CPR Recertification (2 hours)

**Officer Matthew Gerard-** Hazmat (2 hours) CPR Recertification (2 hours), Current Drug Abuse Trends (8 hours)

**Officer VanVickle-** Gang Court Cases (8 hours), Truck I: Basic Truck Weight Enforcement (44 hours), Truck II: Commercial Vehicle Safety & Inspection (40 hours), Grade Crossing Collision (16 hours), Basic Traffic Crash (24 hours), Hazmat (2 hours).

**NOTE:** The week long schools (Truck I-Basic Truck Weight Enforcement, and Truck II-Commercial Vehicle Safety & Inspection) geared toward enforcing truck traffic laws highlighted some interesting statistics.

- Overweight trucks create a significant amount of wear and destruction as the roads are not designed for the excessive weight. One 80,000 lb truck causes the same wear on the roadway as 9,000 automobiles.
- Enforcement of traffic laws is an essential component to reducing fatalities. 1 out of 9 traffic fatalities involve trucks, and 82% of multi-vehicle crashes involving a large truck resulted in a fatality.

**Officer Rodabaugh-** Hazmat (2 hours), Human Trafficking (7 hours), Professional Breakthroughs (7 hours)

**Detective Kaltenbach-** Gang Court Cases (8 hours), Finding Words (40 hours), Heckler Koch Armorer (8 hours), Problem Oriented Policing/Community Policing (24 hours), Drug Court (40 hours), Hazmat (2 hours), L.E.A.D.S (2 hours), Breath Alcohol Recertification (4 hours).

**Officer Dave Christopherson-** Hot Topics Search and Seizure (8 hours), Hazmat (2 hours)

**Officer Jason Goodwin-** Officer in Charge (8 hours), Hazmat (2 hours)

**Officer James Gilliam-** Tactical Interaction (8 hours), Gang Homicide (8 hours), Biker Gangs (8 hours), Hazmat (2 hours)

**K9 Officer Emily Anderson-** Hazmat (2 hours), The Patrol Canine: Legal Updates and Opinions (8 hours), Basic K-9 training (400 hours), K-9 Recertification (24 hours)

## **TRAINING HIGHLIGHTS**

***Sergeant Chester Smith-*** Hazmat (2 hours), Human Trafficking (7 hours)

***Sergeant Jason Bergeron-*** Hazmat (2 hours), Sex Offender Registration (8 hours)

***Sergeant Phillip Frankenberry-*** The Patrol Canine: Legal Updates and Opinions (8 hours), Hazmat (2 hours)

***Detective Sergeant Jeffrey Leininger-*** Gang Homicide (8 hours), Hazmat (2 hours), Sex Offender Registration (8 hours)

***Sergeant William Haan-*** Hazmat (2 hours), CPR Recertification

***Chief Eric Higby-*** Freedom of Information (4 hours), The Patrol Canine: Legal Updates and Opinions (8 hours), Human Trafficking (7 hours), Leadership/Reviewing Organizational Stress (7 hours), Gang Combat Dynamics (8 hours), Gangs in Schools: Prevention to Investigation (8 hours), Current Drug Abuse Trends (8 hours), NIU Shooting: Major Case Presentation (4 hours).



Officer Goodwin pictured qualifying at Rochelle PD's Range

## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

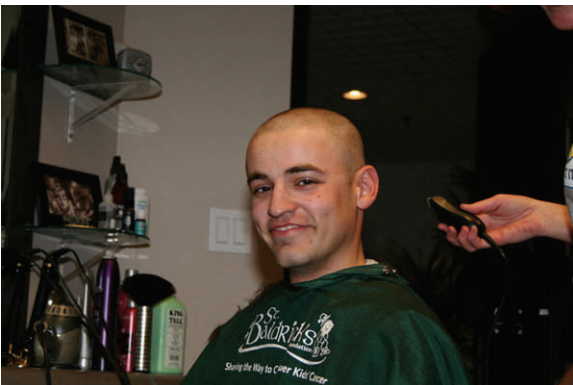
- Presentation to TLC drivers at their safety meeting
- Threw out first (gutter) ball-bowling at the 2009 Senior Pro Am kick-off
- Introduced Rochelle's First Citizen Police Academy Class
- Gang meeting with RTHS, RMS, and Probation
- Participated in Parent and Community resource fair at Rochelle Middle School



**Hosted the March 2010  
Blood Drive**

- Chief Higby gave a presentation to Mr. Zick's class on Gangs and Drugs
- Chamber of Commerce Legislative Breakfast
- Rochelle Police Department loaned a uniform to Justin Schaller for RTHS play
- Presentation at Rochelle Childcare on Stranger Danger
- RTHS presentation with Terry and Joanna of Shining Star

**Participated in St. Baldrick's Day  
fundraising activities**



## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- 2010 Northern Illinois Police Memorial Week—Former Rochelle Chief Winston Brass was honored for his years of dedicated service with his family on hand at this year's Memorial Service



- 4th of July parade and weekend activities
- KETCP (Kishwaukee Education To Careers Partnership) Luncheon at Kishwaukee College
- Chief Higby gave a presentation at Spring Lake for League of Women Voters on the state of the Police Department
- Intruder Drills were performed at local schools

**Shining Star: Champions for Children Walk, Dixon. Chief Higby currently serves on the Shining Star Board.**



# COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Participated in judging an art show at RTHS



## **Lincoln Highway Heritage Festival and Parade**



- Officers were present at schools for the first day back
- Delivered “Back to School” traffic/slow down posters to schools, Fire Dept and Rochelle Community Hospital



**Officer Jason Goodwin spoke at St. Paul's school on basic safety and his duties as police officer.**

- Citizens Police Academy presentation for Golden K at the Rochelle Country Club
- Assisted in the 13<sup>th</sup>-Masonic Lodge IL. CHIP program

# COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- “Get to Know Your Officer” featured in the Rochelle News Leader



**Chief Eric Higby and Officer Jason Goodwin entered the “30 Men Who Cook” competition winning best dessert!!**



**July 2010 Blood Drive**



**CASA Bowling**

- School Tours of the police Department



**2010 Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run**

# COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- The Police Department donated a used television to Central School  
**October 2010 “Vein Drain” Blood Drive**



## Hunter Safety Classes



Hunter safety instructors Officer Dave Christopherson and Detective John Kaltenbach, of the Rochelle Police Department, ran two 10 hour sessions which also included a live-fire exercise on the range.

Illinois Department of Natural Resources had a representative on hand to discuss laws, and Firefighter Jason Fore spoke about safety and first aid. This training is mandated for anyone born on or after January 1<sup>st</sup>, 1980.

# COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

## Dating Violence Proclamation presented to students and faculty at RTHS



- Dispatcher Julie Thruman donated one of her quilts made especially for the Christmas Tree Festival



- Lighted Christmas Parade activities
- Presentation to Central School staff on gangs

# COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

## **Citizen Police Academy**

In February 2010, the Rochelle Police Department introduced community members to its first Citizen Police Academy program. Participants receive a behind-the-scenes look at the structure, activities, and various functions within the Rochelle Police Department through presentations, and hands-on experiences.



Citizens successfully completing the CPA program receive a Certificate of Completion. Each graduate is then eligible to join the Citizens Police Academy Association (CPAA).

# COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

## **2010 Boundary Waters Trip**

The third annual “No Boundaries” trip group included Detective John Kaltbach, Officer Jason Goodwin, and six RTHS students chosen with the help of faculty members. Students were selected based upon criteria which took into account academic performance, as well as behavior at home and within the community.



## ROCHELLE POLICE DEPARTMENT YEAR END STATISTICS

INCIDENT	2010	2009	2008	2007
TOTAL CALLS FOR SERVICE	10925	9735	10677	10611
*TOTAL 911 CALLS	2215	2071	2071	2403
**INCOMING/OUTGOING CALLS	61192	56435	0	0
TRAFFIC STOPS	2082	1976	1962	1833
TRAFFIC TICKETS ISSUED	1332	1698	1772	1670
WRITTEN WARNINGS ISSUED	1464	1262	1304	1269
DUI ARRESTS	61	64	58	73
ACCIDENTS	332	364	402	463
ACCIDENTS WITH INJURIES	19	16	22	23
ACCIDENTS WITH FATALITIES	0	2	1	0
CRIMINAL DAMAGE TO PROPERTY	90	73	91	106
CRIMINAL DAMAGE TO VEHICLE	83	75	68	77
CRIMINAL TRESPASS TO LAND	6	5	3	16
BURGLARY TO BUSINESS	16	4	17	24
BURGLARY TO RESIDENCE	24	20	16	28
BURGLARY TO VEHICLE	26	34	41	46
BURGLARY OTHER	5	2	2	2
ATTEMPTED BURGLARY	2	3	6	6
STOLEN VEHICLES	4	0	7	6
ARMED ROBBERY	1	0	0	1
THEFT OVER \$300	29	27	38	39
THEFT UNDER \$300	81	83	113	111
DOMESTICS	192	144	156	164
DOMESTIC BATTERY	45	51	55	68
AGGRAVATED BATTERY	3	5	2	7
BATTERY	54	48	44	67
DISORDERLY CONDUCT	10	8	9	17
WARRANTS SERVED	144	131	181	170
CRIMINAL ARRESTS	449	583	569	638
HOMICIDES	0	0	1	0
MALE PRISONERS	317	392	406	396
FEMALE PRISONERS	77	105	92	79
ANIMAL CALLS	303	316	290	440
ALARMS	217	322	207	249
ESCORTS	79	89	64	78
KEYS LOCKED IN VEHICLES	16	19	16	18
ABANDONED VEHICLES	75	81	101	76
PARKING TICKETS	112	170	232	168

\* 2009 March 911 calls estimated as recorder was down.

\*\* New line item which replaced 911 Hang-Up calls.

**ROCHELLE POLICE DEPARTMENT  
2010 STATISTICAL TRENDS**

TYPE OF ACTIVITY	2010	2009	NUMERICAL DIFFERENCE	PERCENTAGE OF CHANGE
*TOTAL 911 CALLS	2215	2071	144	7.0%
**INCOMING/OUTGOING CALLS	61192	56435	4757	8.4%
TRAFFIC STOPS	2082	1976	106	5.4%
TRAFFIC TICKETS ISSUED	1332	1698	-366	-21.6%
WRITTEN WARNINGS ISSUED	1464	1262	202	16.0%
DUI ARRESTS	61	64	-3	-4.7%
ACCIDENTS	332	364	-32	-8.8%
ACCIDENTS WITH INJURIES	19	16	3	18.8%
ACCIDENTS WITH FATALITIES	0	2	-2	-100.0%
CRIMINAL DAMAGE TO PROPERTY	90	73	17	23.3%
CRIMINAL DAMAGE TO VEHICLE	83	75	8	10.7%
CRIMINAL TRESPASS TO LAND	6	5	1	20.0%
BURGLARY TO BUSINESS	16	4	12	300.0%
BURGLARY TO RESIDENCE	24	20	4	20.0%
BURGLARY TO VEHICLE	26	34	-8	-23.5%
BURGLARY OTHER	5	2	3	150.0%
ATTEMPTED BURGLARY	2	3	-1	-33.3%
STOLEN VEHICLES	4	0	4	400.0%
ARMED ROBBERY	1	0	1	100.0%
THEFT OVER \$300	29	27	2	7.4%
THEFT UNDER \$300	81	83	-2	-2.4%
DOMESTICS	192	144	48	33.3%
DOMESTIC BATTERY	45	51	-6	-11.8%
AGGRAVATED BATTERY	3	5	-2	-40.0%
BATTERY	54	48	6	12.5%
DISORDERLY CONDUCT	10	8	2	25.0%
WARRANTS SERVED	144	131	13	9.9%
CRIMINAL ARRESTS	449	583	-134	-23.0%
HOMICIDES	0	0	0	0.0%
MALE PRISONERS	317	392	-75	-19.1%
FEMALE PRISONERS	77	105	-28	-26.7%
ANIMAL CALLS	303	316	-13	-4.1%
ALARMS	217	322	-105	-32.6%
ESCORTS	79	89	-10	-11.2%
KEYS LOCKED IN VEHICLES	16	19	-3	-15.8%
ABANDONED VEHICLES	75	81	-6	-7.4%
PARKING TICKETS	112	170	-58	-34.1%

\* 2009 March 911 calls estimated as recorder was down.

\*\* New line item which replaced 911 Hang-Up calls.

**ROCHELLE POLICE DEPARTMENT  
INDIVIDUAL ACTIVITY  
TOTAL CALLS 10925 FOR 2010**

OFFICER	#	TOTAL CFS	CRIMINAL ARRESTS	WARRANT ARRESTS	TRAFFIC ARRESTS	WRITTEN WARNINGS	PARKING TICKETS	ORDINANCE VIOLATIONS
WITTENBERG	8	597	21	13	99	102	8	1
JAKYMIW	9	541	17	7	59	46	1	
INMAN	10	56	5			5		
BANESKI	11	1027	81	30	313	310	39	6
HANSMANN	12	717	33	46	128	121	7	9
GERARD	13	757	26	6	61	114	8	6
VANVICKLE	14	769	41	9	113	159	8	3
ALBERS	15	61	1	3	4		1	
RODABAUGH	16	316	21	5	58	34	1	1
KALTENBACH	17	66	14	1	6	2		1
CHRISTOPHERSON	18	463	9	2	45	55		2
GOODWIN	19	764	41	30	128	107	12	11
GILLIAM	20	407	65	24	45	61	6	2
ANDERSON	21	504	18	9	87	104	1	
SMITH	22	520	9	3	20	42	2	1
BERGERON	23	271	19	1	23	28	3	2
FRANKENBERRY	24	439	18	3	108	101	17	4
LEININGER	25	41				4		
HAAN	26	370	10	12	49	69	2	2
HIGBY	27	25						
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>8711</b>	<b>449</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>1346</b>	<b>1464</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>51</b>

**ROCHELLE POLICE DEPARTMENT  
SELECTED OFFICER ACTIVITY  
2010**

OFFICER	#	DUI	ILLEGAL POSS/CONS	MINOR POSS/CONS	DRUG	SUSP/ REVOKED	INSURANCE	SEAT BELT	SPEEDING	STOP ARM
WITTENBERG	8	8	3	2	3	4	12	2	44	
JAKYMIW	9		2	2		1	7		27	
INMAN	10								2	
BANESKI	11	17	7	17	15	15	60	4	156	
HANSMANN	12	4	1	3	6	23	23		32	2
GERARD	13			1	8	3	15		18	3
VANVICKLE	14	7	5	6	2		25	2	69	
ALBERS	15				1		1			
RODABAUGH	16	3		3	6	2	9		39	
KALTENBACH	17	1							1	
CHRISTOPHERSON	18	5	1		2	1	8		6	1
GOODWIN	19	12	2	4	4	10	20		54	
GILLIAM	20	3	1	20	15	8	12		5	
ANDERSON	21		4	1	9	4	17	1	23	
SMITH	22					3			12	1
BERGERON	23				2	1	3		11	1
FRANKENBERRY	24		2	1	1	4	21	2	71	
LEININGER	25									
HAAN	26	1				1	4	4	34	
HIGBY	27									
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>61</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>604</b>	<b>8</b>

**ROCHELLE POLICE DEPARTMENT  
OFFICER TIME USE  
2010**

OFFICER	OFFICER #	VAC HRS	SICK HRS	TRAIN HRS	COURT HRS	O.T./Holiday HRS
WITTENBERG	206	170.0		71.0	15.9	122.5
JAKYMIW	207	40.0	98.0	34.6	2.6	73.0
INMAN	208	140.0	30.0	82.5	3.4	21.5
BANESKI	209	40.0		21.0	39.8	82.0
HANSMALL	210	76.0	10.0	2.4	14.0	18.0
GERARD	211	98.0	26.9	35.9	21.9	30.5
VANVICKLE	212	20.0		165.3	21.3	250.5
ALBERS	213	190.0	30.0	61.8	3.7	
RODABAUGH	215	150.0	63.3	25.5	8.8	4.5
KALTENBACH	216	60.0		100.0	7.5	35.5
CHRISTOPHERSON	217	244.0	20.0	13.3	1.1	156.0
GOODWIN	218	60.0	10.0	27.9	13.6	121.5
GILLIAM	219	140.0	6.0	34.9	3.9	22.5
ANDERSON	220	66.0	15.0	424.3	3.7	141.5
SMITH	301	56.0	12.0	3.5	5.3	121.5
BERGERON	302	168.0	48.0	25.0	14.9	86.0
FRANKENBERRY	303	206.0	10.0	17.2	6.4	70.0
LEININGER	304	224.0	24.0	17.5	3.4	9.0
HAAN	305	306.0	277.0	4.2	1.5	88.0
HIGBY	501	224.0		69.3	3.7	
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>2678.0</b>	<b>680.2</b>	<b>1237.0</b>	<b>196.3</b>	<b>1454.0</b>

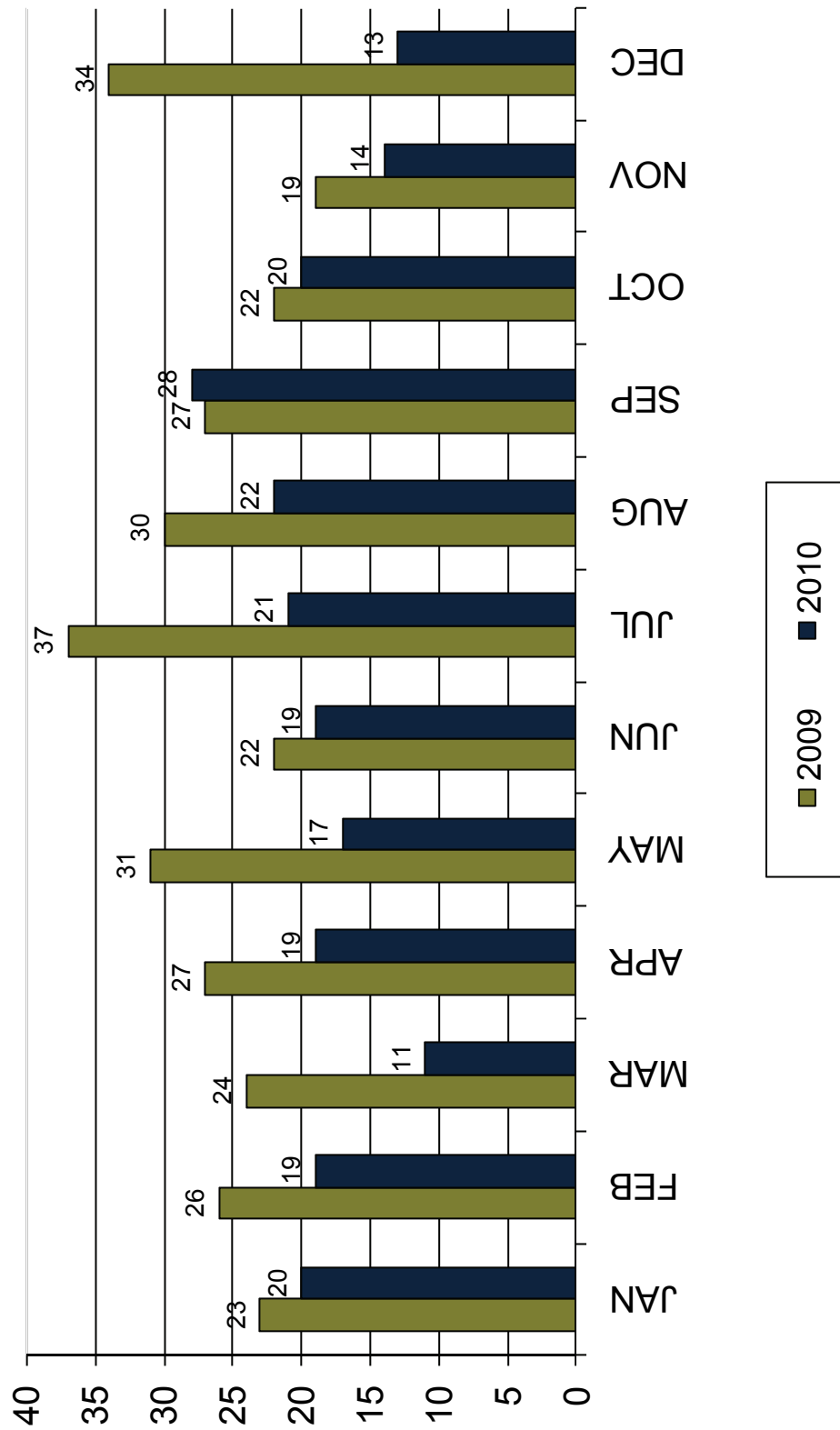
**ROCHELLE POLICE DEPARTMENT  
DISPATCH TIME USE  
2010**

DISPATCHER	#	VAC HRS	SICK HRS	TRAIN HRS	COURT HRS	O.T. HRS/ Holiday HRS	CALLS DISPATCHED	CALLS HANDLED
OLSZEWSKI	1	72.0	36.0	29.3		184.0	2422	274
NAMBO	2	330.5	293.5	1.3		32.0	1586	374
THRUMAN	3	174.0	32.0	19.1		74.0	1935	438
BECK	4	160.0	8.0	25.0		126.5	1698	207
MILBURN	5	160.0	248.0	29.3		90.5	1759	489
SULLIVAN	7	111.0	16.0	72.1		215.5	807	261
JAKYMIW	9						115	
JOHANNING	28						294	103
DAVIS	29						309	67
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>1007.5</b>	<b>633.5</b>	<b>176.1</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>722.5</b>	<b>10925</b>	<b>2213</b>

**ROCHELLE POLICE DEPARTMENT  
RECEIPTS FOR YEAR 2010**

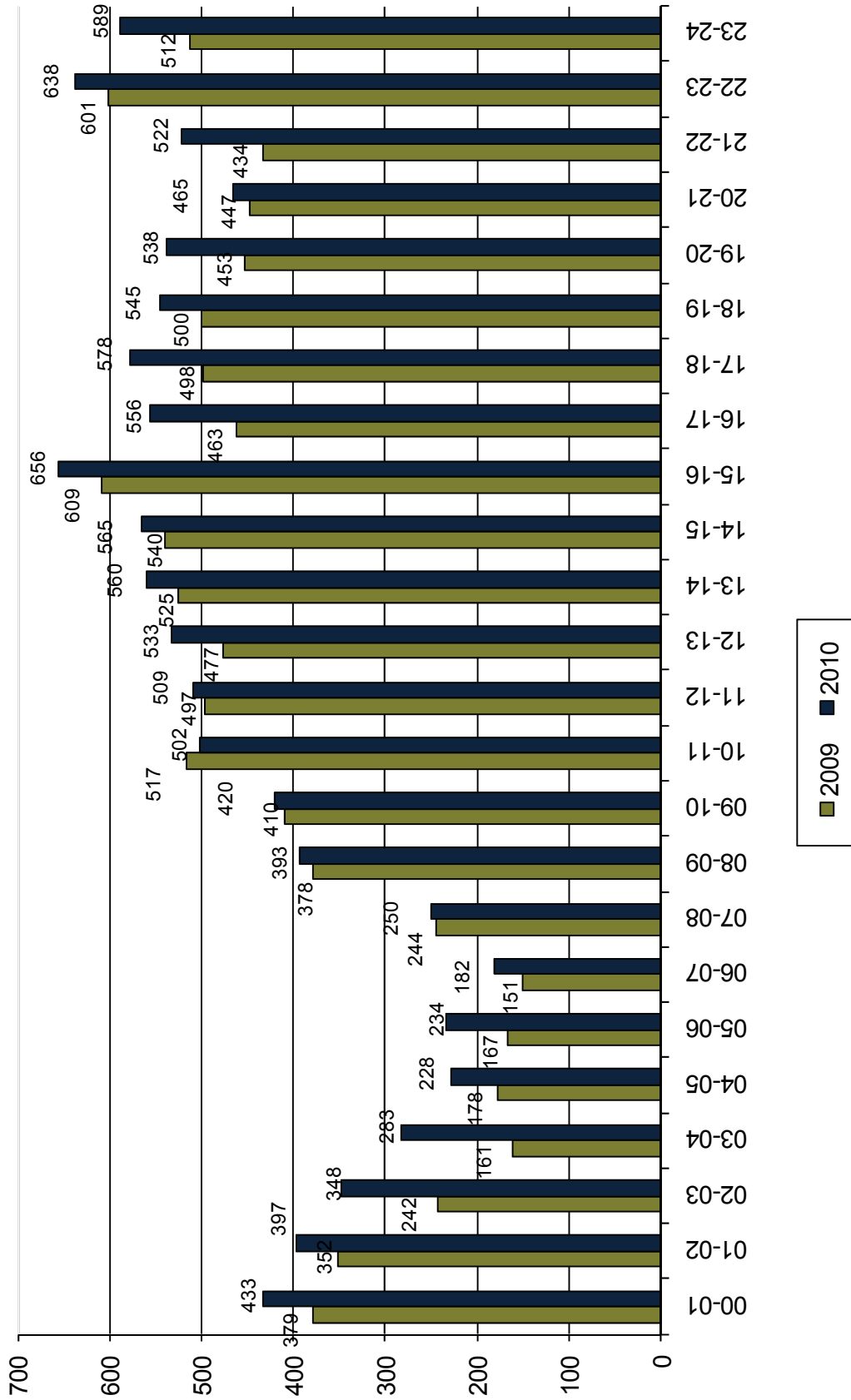
MONTH	CIRCUIT CLERK FINES	REPORT COPIES	PARKING TICKETS	DUI FINES	DRUG FINES	VEHICLE FUND	ALARM FEES
JANUARY	\$ 8,810.20	\$ 70.00	\$ 35.00	\$ 201.49	\$ 11.00	\$ 442.00	\$ 200.00
FEBRUARY	\$ 7,583.21	\$ 165.00	\$ 70.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 85.00	\$ 395.00	\$ 110.00
MARCH	\$ 11,134.24	\$ 118.00	\$ 170.00	\$ 516.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 351.00	\$ 210.00
APRIL	\$ 11,385.31	\$ 45.00	\$ 70.00	\$ 420.00	\$ 113.50	\$ 250.00	
MAY	\$ 12,620.68	\$ 216.65	\$ 315.00	\$ 155.44	\$ 206.50	\$ 300.00	
JUNE	\$ 8,777.45	\$ 35.00	\$ 80.10	\$ 247.00	\$ 92.00	\$ 166.00	\$ 532.00
JULY	\$ 10,029.15	\$ 120.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 277.60	\$ 90.00	\$ 266.00	
AUGUST	\$ 6,106.62	\$ 97.00	\$ 60.00	\$ 244.56	\$ 495.00	\$ 140.50	
SEPTEMBER	\$ 15,655.90	\$ 105.00	\$ 55.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 130.00	\$ 373.50	\$ 1,430.00
OCTOBER	\$ 7,723.88			\$ 520.00	\$ 103.50	\$ 300.00	\$ 140.00
NOVEMBER	\$ 11,073.47	\$ 45.00	\$ 80.00	\$ 136.00	\$ 114.50	\$ 195.00	
DECEMBER	\$ 10,294.21	\$ 115.00	\$ 325.00	\$ 184.00	\$ 60.00	\$ 208.00	\$ 224.00
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$ 121,194.32</b>	<b>\$ 1,131.65</b>	<b>\$ 1,290.10</b>	<b>\$ 3,252.09</b>	<b>\$ 1,601.00</b>	<b>\$ 3,387.00</b>	<b>\$ 2,846.00</b>

# ROCHELLE POLICE DEPARTMENT ALARMS RECEIVED

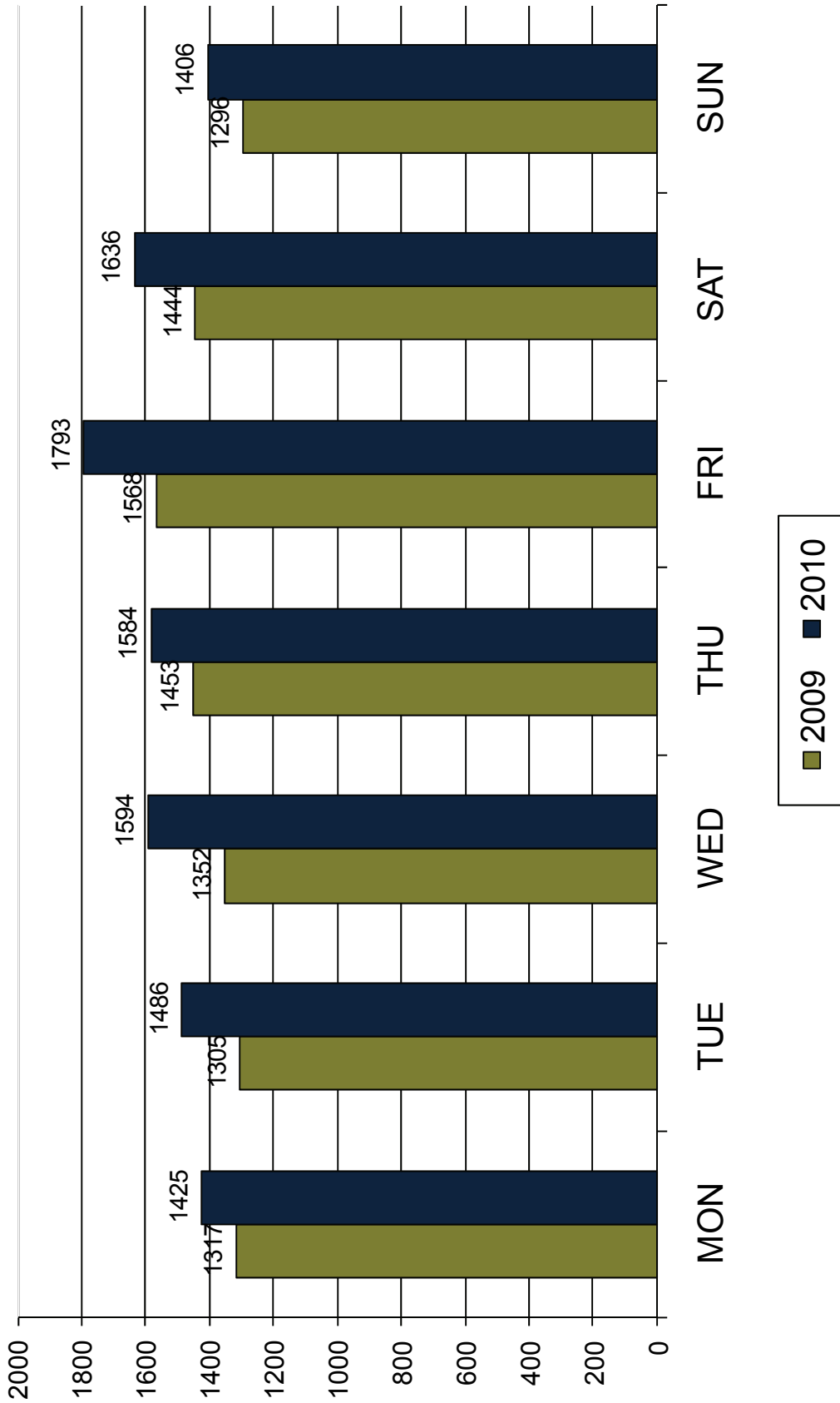


THERE ARE APPROXIMATELY 105 ALARM USERS IN THE CITY

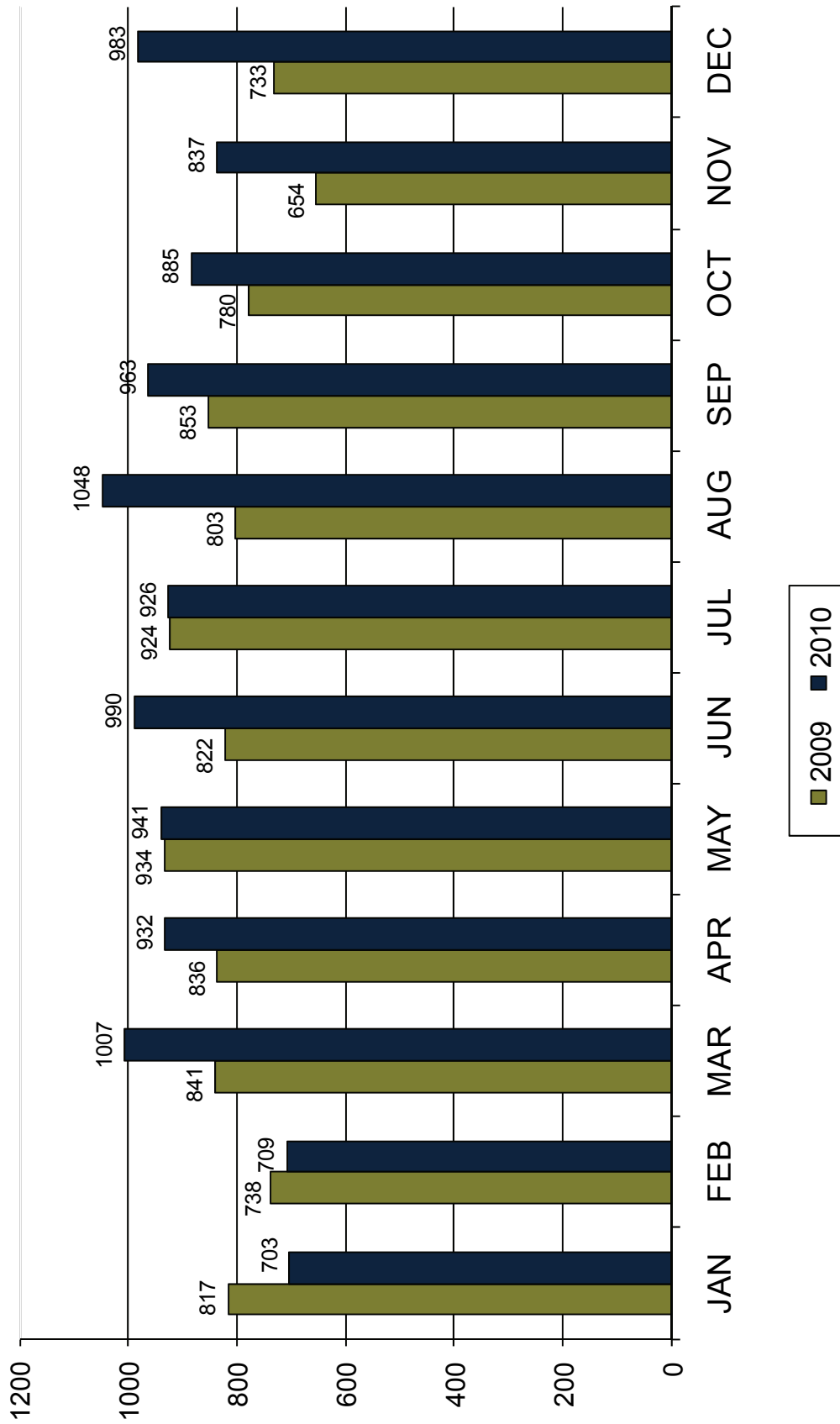
# ROCHELLE POLICE DEPARTMENT CALLS FOR SERVICE BY HOUR OF DAY



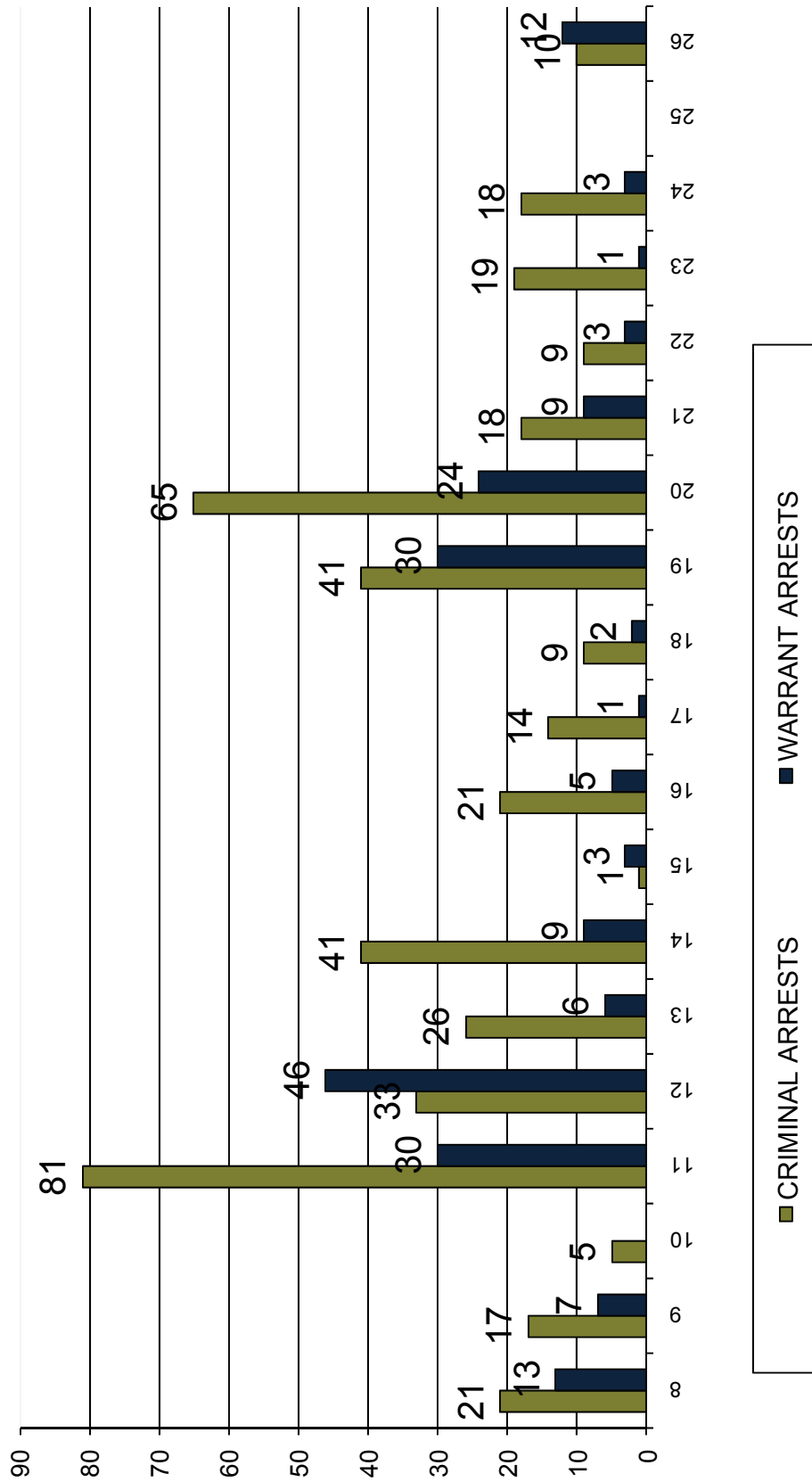
# ROCHELLE POLICE DEPARTMENT CALLS FOR SERVICE BY DAY OF WEEK



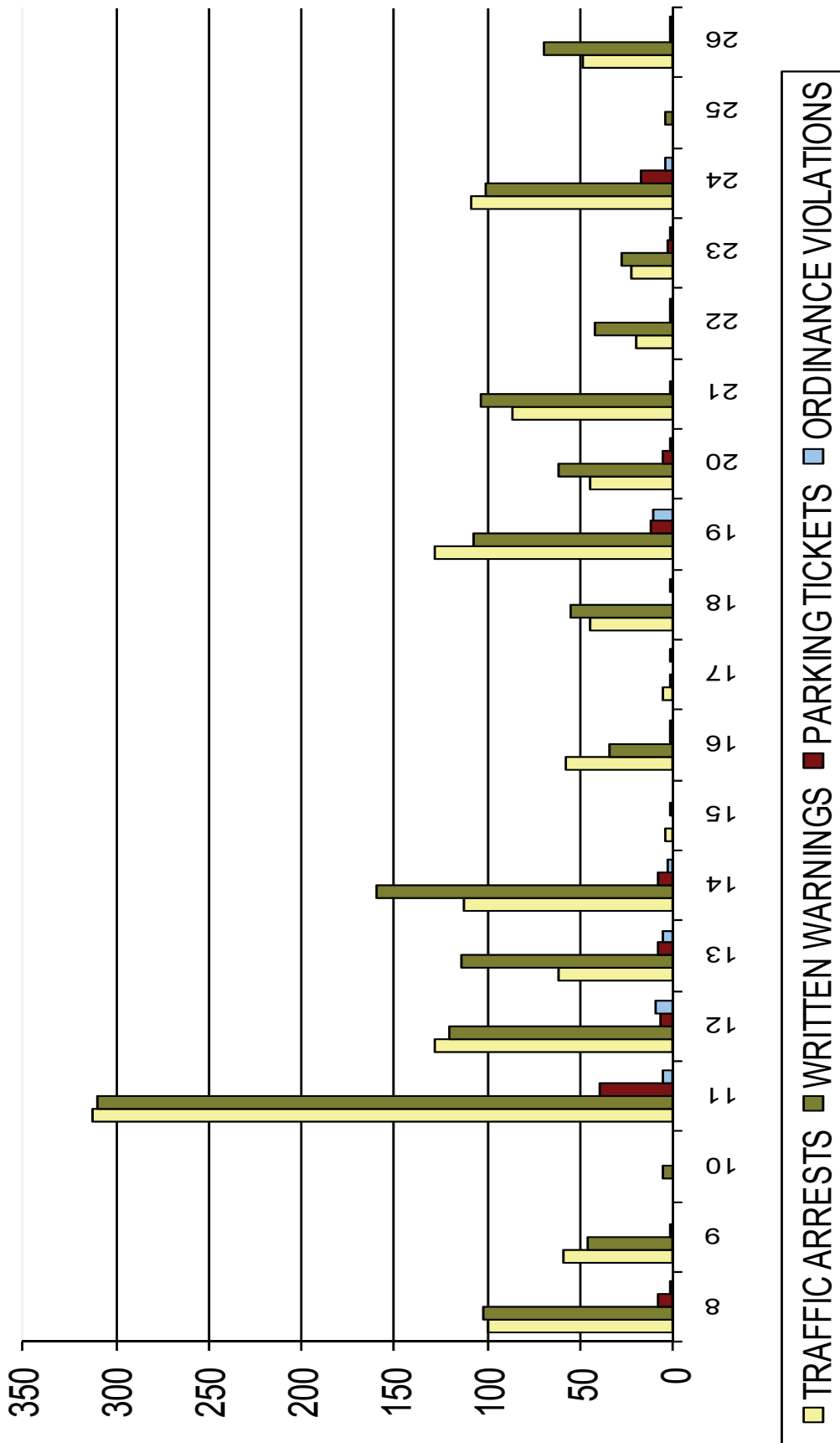
# ROCHELLE POLICE DEPARTMENT CALLS FOR SERVICE BY MONTH



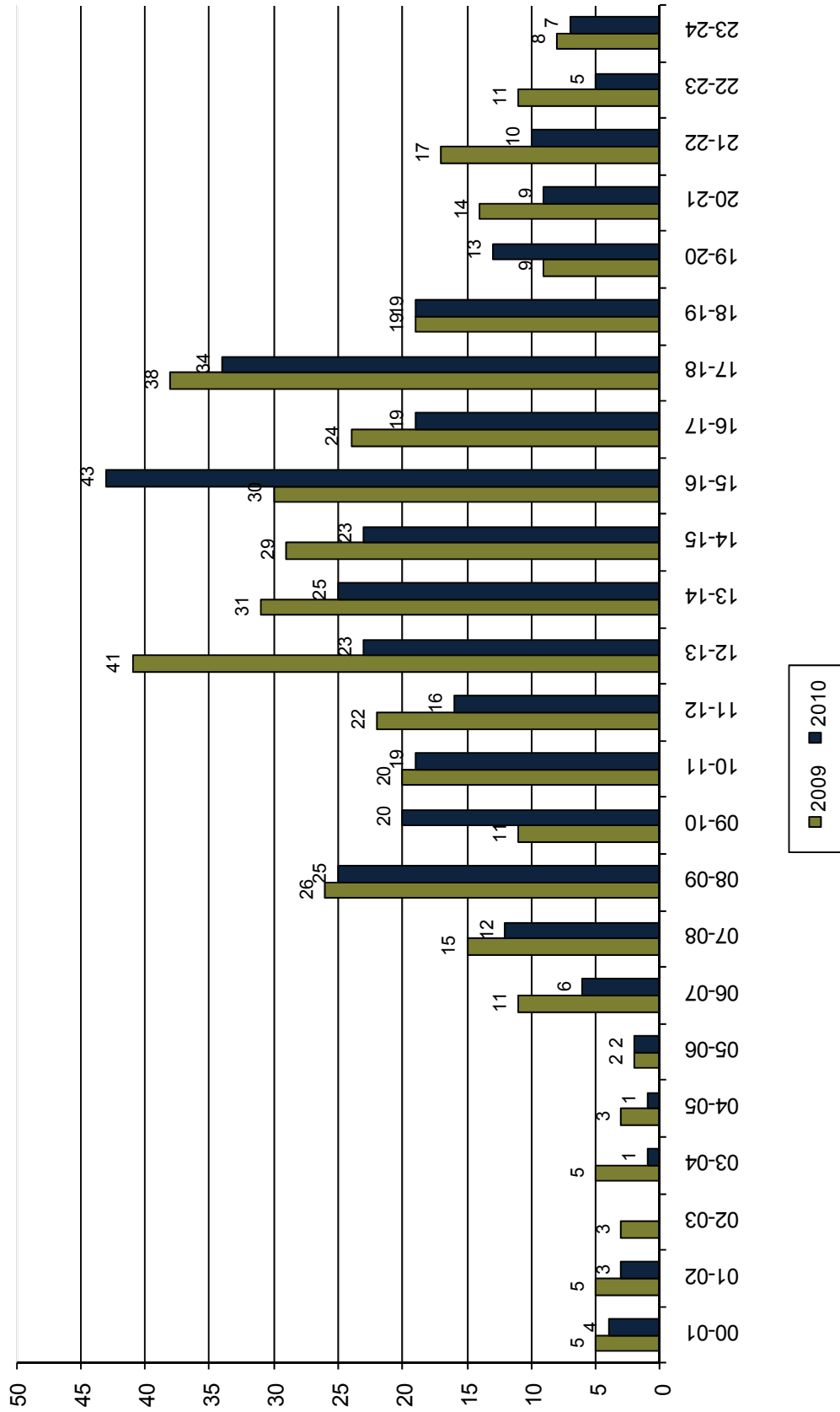
# ROCHELLE POLICE DEPARTMENT CRIMINAL ACTIVITY 2010



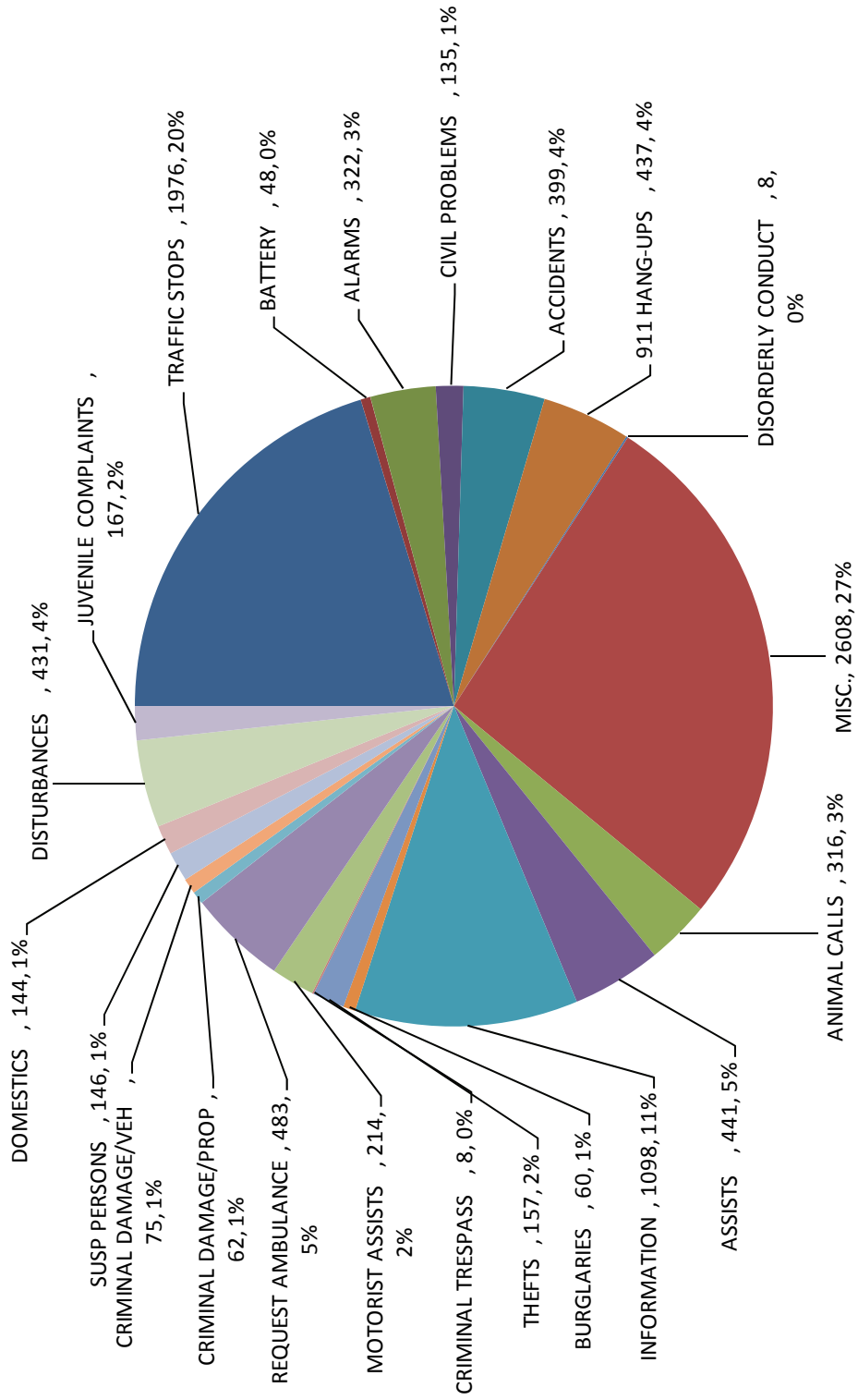
# ROCHELLE POLICE DEPARTMENT TRAFFIC ACTIVITY 2010



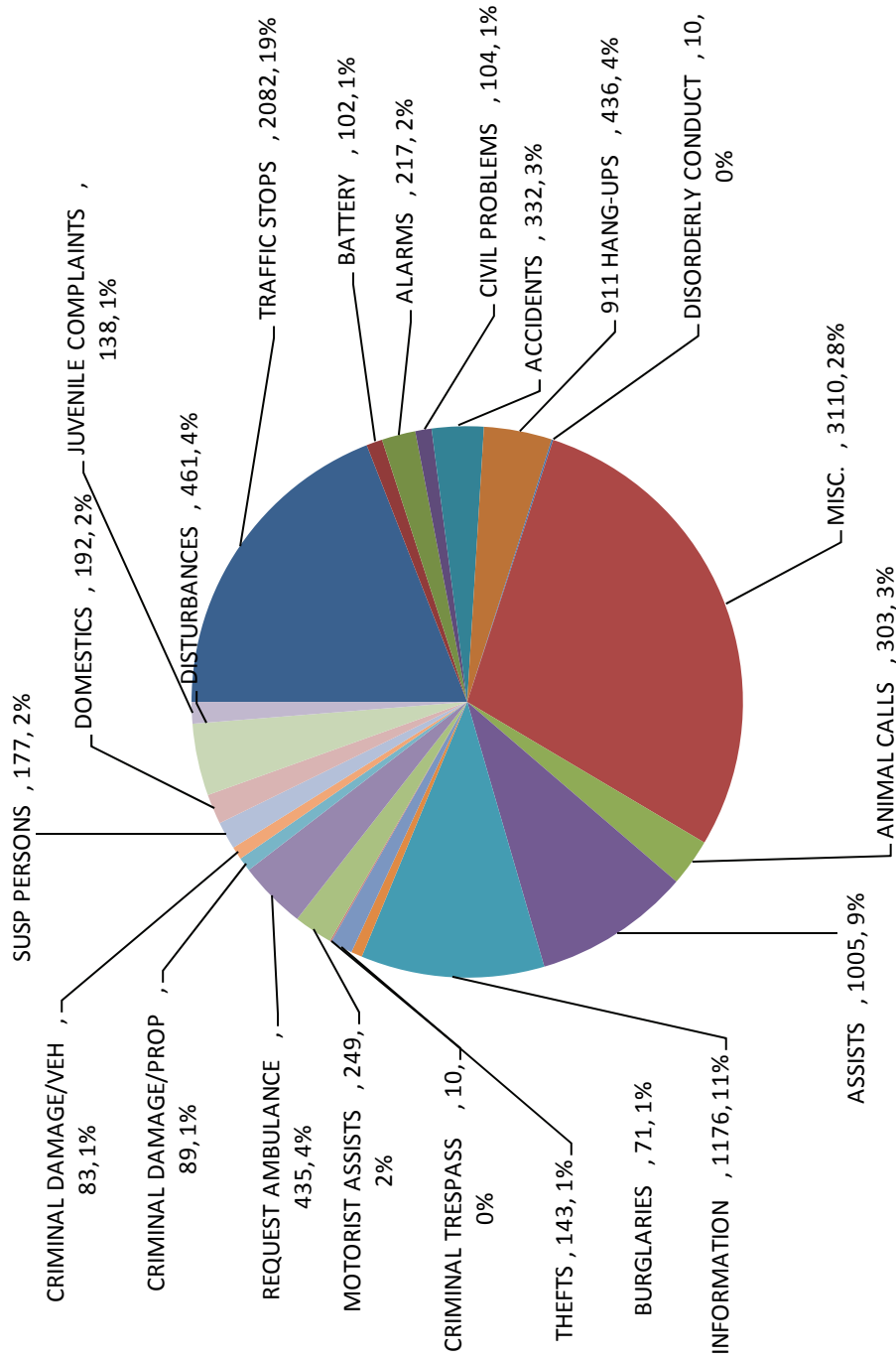
# ROCHELLE POLICE DEPARTMENT ACCIDENTS BY HOUR OF DAY



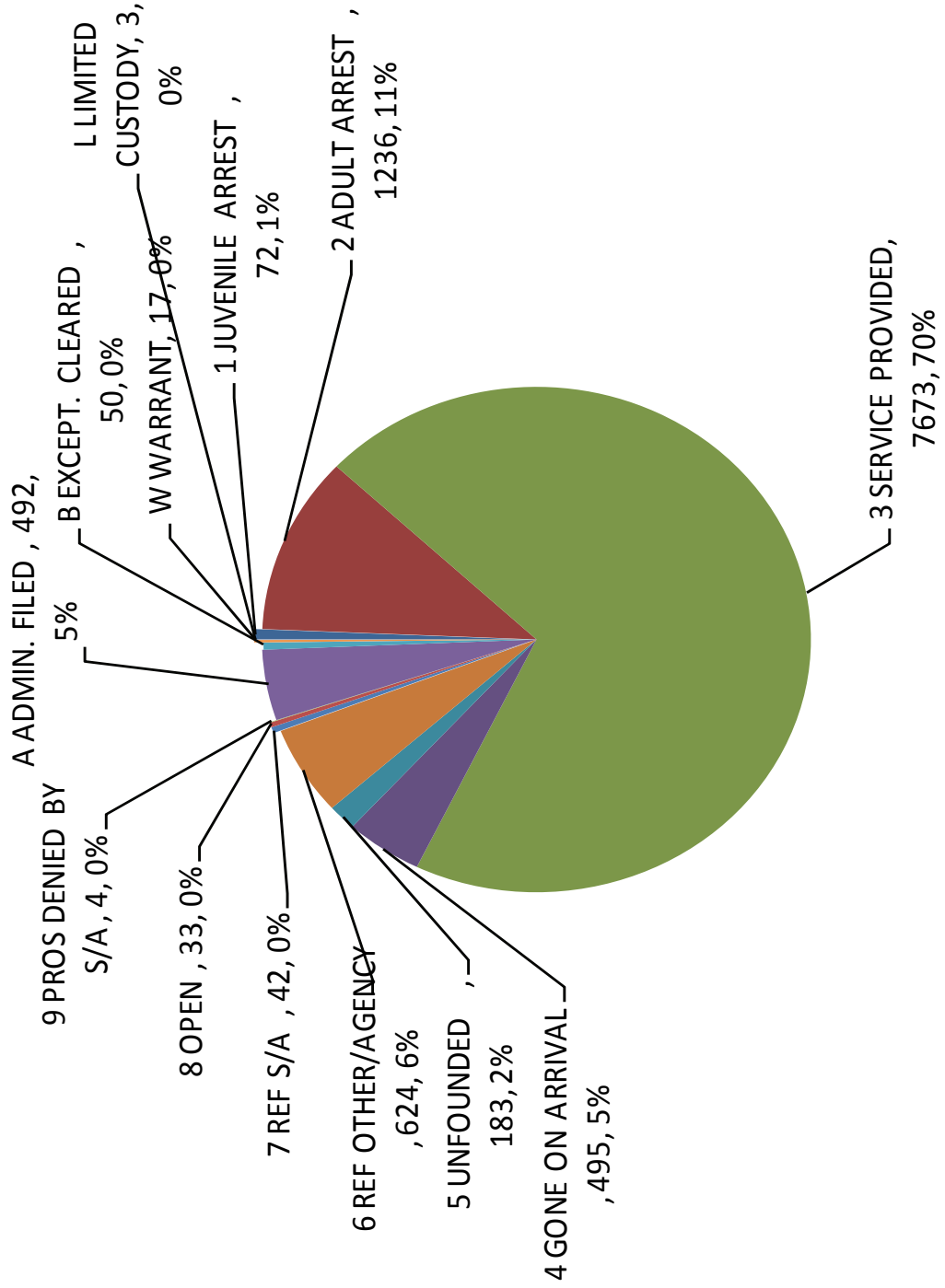
**ROCHELLE POLICE DEPARTMENT  
BREAKDOWN CALLS FOR SERVICE 2009  
TOTAL CALLS 9735**



# ROCHELLE POLICE DEPARTMENT BREAKDOWN CALLS FOR SERVICE 2010 TOTAL CALLS 10925



# ROCHELLE POLICE DEPARTMENT CASE DISPOSITION 2010



## NEWS RELEASES 2010

### **Rochelle PD accepting applications for Citizens Police Academy**

*January 5th, 2010*

The Rochelle Police Department will be hosting its first Citizen Police Academy beginning Thursday, Feb. 4. The academy had originally been scheduled to begin the first week of January; however, an extension for applications was needed.

Students will meet at the Rochelle Police Department every Thursday night from 6 to 9 p.m. for 10 weeks. Participants are required to be at least 21 years of age and live or work in the City of Rochelle. The academy is free, but applicants are required to submit to a background check.

Please have applications submitted by Jan. 25. This proactive program allows citizens to have an inside look at all aspects of department operations, including the Patrol and Detective divisions as well as special programs such as Emergency Response Team, (E.R.T.). Topics include crime scene investigation, drug investigations, DUI enforcement, crime prevention, use of force, domestic violence, traffic stops, and will conclude with a mock trial. This academy is highly interactive and

participants will be able to ride along with a patrol officer during the program.

"For the first time, people will have the unique opportunity to interact with Rochelle Police officers on an unprecedented level," Rochelle Police Chief Eric Higby said. "Citizens who are informed as to the procedures of our police department can aid us in solving and preventing crime."

Class size is limited to 22 participants. Applications are available at the Rochelle Police Department, 416 N. 6th St.

Those who are interested in seeking more information about the Citizen Police Academy should contact Detective John Kaltenbach at 815-561-2015.

### **Students raise money for new dog**

*January 26th, 2010*



Rochelle firefighter, Dan Miller, left, representing the fire department's social organization presents Rochelle police chief Eric Higby with a \$1,000 donation to the

police department's fund to purchase a new dog for continuation of the K-9 program.

Students at Tilton Elementary School are pitching in the community-wide effort to help the Rochelle Police Department continue its K-9 program.

The department's K-9 of seven years, Olaf, was put to rest in October following an illness. Since that time, the police department has been fundraising to purchase a new dog and pay for training of a new handler. The cost of a dog and its training is approximately \$8,000 and because the cost is not in the budget, police chief Eric Higby said the department is relying on donations from the community to continue the program. The K-9 program, Higby said, is used in a variety of ways to make Rochelle a safer place.

"The new dog will be used primarily to detect drugs, but they can also provide handler protection, tracking and article search services," he said. "The dog will play a vital role for us in combating drug activity."

Officer Brian VanVickle said many area businesses and organizations have donated money to help the

## NEWS RELEASES 2010

department reach its goal to purchase a new dog, including the Rochelle Fire Department Social Organization, which recently donated \$1,000. Also, Julie Thrumman, one of the department dispatchers, is making a queen sized quilt which will be raffled off with the proceeds going toward the K-9 program. So far the department has raised more than \$6,600.

To help in this effort, Tilton students have started a "Jaws and Paws Enforcing Laws" fundraiser to help the department purchase a new dog. Collection cans have been placed throughout the school and students have created posters publicizing the fundraiser to let their fellow classmates know about it. Classes will continue to raise money through Friday and the class that raises the most money will earn a pizza party. In light of the disaster in Haiti, funds raised will be split between the K-9 program and the Haiti relief fund.

Tilton fifth-graders Cate Myers, Ali VanVickle and Kelle Parker helped to spearhead the school's involvement with the K-9 program.

"I met Olaf once and he was a nice dog, so we wanted to help the police to get a new dog," Kelle

said. Tilton principal Tony Doyle said the fifth-graders at the school have a history of thinking of others and taking action.

"This fifth-grade group is great about coming up with causes to raise money for," he said. "Last year, they raised more than \$400 for St. Judes and now this year, they decided to help the police department raise money for their K-9 program and for the relief efforts in Haiti. They are a very conscientious group."

VanVickle said the K-9 program is utilized to reach out to the community.

"The department K-9 is a great tool for law enforcement," he said, "It's a great way to reach out to the community.

Sometimes the dog helps to break the ice and people are able to look at police officers in a different light. It can make a huge difference."

VanVickle added that there are also several financial benefits of the program. Dogs have an unmatched ability to sniff out drugs in cars, so K-9 s are often called to the scene if there is suspicion of drugs. When the department seizes a vehicle in conjunction with a drug arrest, it receives money back as a result. Higby noted that if the department chooses not to

use the vehicle, officers can call the Illinois State Police and inquire whether they would take the vehicle, and sell it at an auction the department then would get 65 percent of the profit.

Higby added that the department also can use the seized vehicle, and as long as it is kept more than one year, the department can sell it and keep 100 percent of the proceeds. A more significant benefit from the drug bust, Higby noted, comes from mandatory fines that are imposed by the court system when an individual is found guilty of a drug related charge.

VanVickle added that the money received from court fines and funds from the sale of seized vehicles goes back into the drug fund account and allows the department to purchase equipment to aid them in enforcing the drug laws.

Sgt. Phil Frankenberry had been Olaf's handler since the dog joined the force in 2002. Although Frankenberry will not continue to serve as the department K9 handler, he will be the direct supervisor of the program. Higby said several officers have expressed interest in becoming the dog's handler and candidates will be interviewed for the position.

## NEWS RELEASES 2010

### **Polar plungers will be freezin' for a reason throughout Illinois**

*January 28th, 2010*

It's not every day that people are willing to "go jump in a lake" particularly in the winter let alone do so with thousands of other people, including members of the law enforcement community. But that's exactly what will happen on various weekends in February and March as part of the annual Law Enforcement Torch Run Polar Plunge® to benefit Special Olympics Illinois presented by GEICO.

The event has grown from one location in 1999 to 17 locations across the state this year. The Polar Plunge series will kick off with a SUPER Plunge where people plunge into Lake Michigan once an hour every hour for 24 hours on Feb. 26-27 at Northwestern University's North Beach in Evanston.

Any adventurous soul is invited to join law enforcement officers, as well as media and business and civic leaders from their community by donning bathing suits, costumes or any clothing of choice to jump in a lake. Each plunger must collect a minimum of \$75 in donations that will be used to support Special Olympics programs in Illinois.

Individuals and teams can register for the plunge on the Special Olympics Illinois website at [www.plungeillinois.com](http://www.plungeillinois.com) or by contacting the Special Olympics Illinois staff.

Plungers are encouraged to form teams to spread the fun. Each team member must raise the minimum of \$75 in donations and all team members' individual fundraising totals will be merged to form a combined team total. All plungers will receive gifts, compete for prizes, and enjoy food and camaraderie with other chilly participants. The more money a plunger raises, the more chances he/she will have to win a trip to Allegro Playacar in Riviera Maya, Mexico, presented by Apple Vacations and other grand prizes. For every \$500 a plunger raises, he/she will get an entry into the drawing for the grand prizes. In Rockford, the event will be held at noon on Saturday, March 6, at Olson Lake, Rock Cut State Park. Contact Debbie Kelly at 815-288-2939 for more information.

The Illinois Law Enforcement Torch Run is the single largest year-round fundraising vehicle benefiting Special Olympics Illinois. Each year, more than 3,000 officers in Illinois run more than 1,500 miles carrying the Flame of Hope through the streets of their hometowns and deliver it to the State Summer Games in Normal in June.

### **Citizen's police academy**

*February 7th, 2010*



The first Rochelle Police Department Citizen's Police Academy class met Thursday night. Police Chief Eric Higby gave a presentation on the history of the police department and talked about the function of the various divisions within the department. Dispatch supervisor Sandy Sullivan explained how some of the equipment is used in the dispatch room and what the function of the dispatcher is. The group of 18 adults participating in the academy were then given a tour of the police department. Above, Chief Higby talks to the group while in the garage looking at the department's K-9 unit squad car. The academy will run for 10 weeks and will include presentations on drugs and gangs, criminal investigations, the department's emergency response team, traffic and DUI enforcement and information from the Ogle County State's Attorney's office. Some of the weekly classes will also include hands-on activities.

### **Rochelle officers pursue man in weekend chase**

*February 9th, 2010,*

## NEWS RELEASES 2010

On Sunday afternoon, Rochelle police officers and the Lee County Sheriff's Office pursued an allegedly intoxicated motorist in a chase which started in Rochelle and ended in a collision and arrest of the man on several charges.

Rochelle Police Chief Eric Higby said on Sunday at approximately 3:30 p.m., officers were called to respond to a possibly intoxicated driver traveling southbound on IL Route 251 from IL Route 64. According to Higby, officers followed the individual, later identified as Paul Bernier, 50, of Beloit, Wis., and attempted to pull him over, however, he failed to comply. As he approached the Intermodal facility, Higby said officers placed stop sticks to halt Bernier's vehicle, but he was able to evade them.

Bernier continued driving, at a speed of between 40 to 55 m.p.h., west toward Franklin Grove into Lee County. Higby said when Bernier reached speeds of 70 to 80 m.p.h., Rochelle officers called off the chase. Approximately five minutes later, Bernier hit another vehicle near Dutch Road and IL Route 26 in Lee County and he was taken into custody by Lee County Sheriff deputies. Neither he nor the passengers in the other vehicle were injured. The pursuit lasted approximately one hour.

Bernier was wanted on a warrant for driving under the influence and revoked

license . Charges in Lee County include felony driving while license revoked, reckless driving , speeding 40 m.p.h. or more over speed limit, aggravated fleeing to elude, driving under the influence , no insurance and disobeying stop sign.

Higby said in Ogle County, charges are still pending but likely will include aggravated fleeing , felony driving while license revoked and miscellaneous traffic charges.

Bernier remains in Lee County Jail on a \$100,000 bond. A preliminary hearing has been set for 9 a.m. on Feb. 10.

### **Man arrested for stalking local woman**

*February 11th, 2010*

A Rockford man was arrested late Saturday night after he followed a local woman home from work and attempted to enter her home.

On Saturday, Feb. 6 at 11:35 p.m., the Rochelle Police Department received a 911 call about a male attempting to break into a residence in the 400 block of N. 9th Street. Officers responded to the area and were able to locate the male offender on scene. The male, John D. Olson, 48, of Rockford, was taken into custody.

Officers were told that Olson followed a female victim home from her place of employment to her residence. She advised that she was able to run into her house and lock her doors just before he tried to enter her

residence. Olson was charged with criminal trespass to property and disorderly conduct. However, after further investigation and discussion with the Ogle County State's Attorney's Office, officers were able to secure an arrest warrant for the Class 4 felony offense of stalking for Olson.

On Tuesday, Rockford Police took him into custody on the \$50,000 warrant. He is currently being held at the Winnebago County Jail awaiting transport to the Ogle County Jail.

### **Drug indictments issued for area men**

*February 11th, 2010*



Villalobos



Shaw

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Two drug related grand jury indictments were issued on Thursday, Feb. 4. Rochelle Police Chief Eric Higby said the indictments were the result of the continued efforts to combat drugs in the Ogle County and Rochelle area by the Rochelle Police Department and the Ogle County Sheriff's Office.

On Saturday Feb. 6, Rochelle Police arrested Roman S. Villalobos, 26, of Rochelle, on a warrant for the offenses of unlawful delivery of a controlled substance within 1,000 feet of a park (Class X felony), unlawful delivery of a controlled substance (Class 1 felony), and possession of a controlled substance (Class 4 felony). As a result of this investigation, a seizure warrant was obtained for Villalobos' vehicle and Rochelle officers took custody of it during his arrest.

Villalobos was taken to the Ogle County Jail in lieu of his \$100,000 bond. On Monday, Feb. 8, his bond was reduced to \$10,000 and he was able to post the required 10 percent, \$1,000 and was subsequently released.

On Friday, Feb. 5, the DeKalb Police Department took Thomas B. Shaw, 32, of DeKalb, into custody on a grand jury related warrant. Shaw was arrested for unlawful delivery of a controlled substance (Class 3 felony).

**Local man sentenced to seven years prison**  
*February 23rd, 2010*

A local man was sentenced to prison last week after he pleaded guilty to a drug charge.

On Thursday in Ogle County Court, Shalamar Sopys, 28, of Rochelle, pleaded guilty to delivery of a controlled substance, a Class 1 felony. The incident took place on Feb. 19, 2009 when Sopys delivered less than one gram of cocaine to an individual. He was sentenced to seven years in the Department of Corrections, \$2,000 drug assessment fee and additional court costs.

**Man receives jail time after pleading guilty**  
*February 23rd, 2010*

A Rochelle man pleaded guilty last week in Ogle County court to unlawful use of a credit card and was sentenced to jail.

On Thursday, Dillon Knight, 19, was sentenced to one and a half years in the Department of Corrections, \$130 in restitution and court costs after pleading guilty to the charge. The offense was committed on Sept. 12, 2009 when Knight used an individual's debit card without the authorized cardholder's consent.

Count II of receiving goods in violation of the Credit Card Act was dismissed per plea.

**Polar Plungers wanted for March 6 event at Rock Cut**  
*February 23rd, 2010*

Be a fan of brrravery! More Polar Plungers are wanted for the March 6 Law Enforcement Torch

Run Polar Plunge into Olson Lake at Rock Cut State Park, Rockford at noon to support Special Olympics Illinois Northwestern/Area 1, which serves athletes with intellectual disabilities in nine counties.

All Polar Plungers are required to collect a minimum of \$75 in donations. Check-in begins at 10:30 a.m. People are encouraged to come in costume and to form teams. Each team member must also raise the minimum of \$75 in donations; all team members' individual fundraising totals will be merged to form a combined team total. Teams are placed into divisions based on size and are awarded prizes for the most money raised. Every Plunger receives an official Polar Plunge sweatshirt. There are also incentive items for raising more money and three grand prizes including a Mexico vacation package from Apple Vacations. Lunch will follow the plunge at Rock Cut State Park. Lunch is free for Plungers and \$5 for non-Plungers .

See complete directions on the Special Olympics Illinois website at [www.soill.org](http://www.soill.org). Plungers can register for the Plunge at [www.plungeillinois.com](http://www.plungeillinois.com).

**Rochelle man dies in crash**  
*February 18th, 2010*

A Rochelle man died after being involved in a two-vehicle accident on

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Wednesday morning in rural Ashton.



*Emergency responders work at the scene of a deadly accident Wednesday morning on Chana Road.*

Emergency responders were called to the scene of the accident on Chana Road, approximately three miles south of Chana on Wednesday at 8:37 a.m.

An investigation determined that a pickup truck driven by Ralph G. Gleissner, 64, of Ashton, was westbound on Chana Road, and was struck head-on by an eastbound car driven by Joshua Garza, 23, of Rochelle, who allegedly crossed the centerline.

Garza was pronounced dead at the scene by the Ogle County Coroner. Gleissner was transported to Rochelle Community Hospital for injuries sustained and was later flown to St. Anthony Medical Center by Lifeline helicopter.

Ashton and Rochelle fire departments, along with the Ogle County Sheriff's Office responded to the scene. An investigation into the accident is ongoing.

**K-9 Don on scene, reporting for duty**  
Rochelle PD names Emily

Anderson K-9 handler  
February 25th, 2010



*Rochelle officer Emily Anderson poses with the department's new dog, Don. Anderson was recently named the department's new K-9 handler*

The Rochelle Police Department recently named its new K-9 handler officer Emily Anderson as the department welcomed its newest member of the force last week, K-9 Don.

Anderson, who has been with the department since 2006, said she is thrilled about her new role as handler.

"Being a K-9 handler has always been a dream and goal of mine, and I was fortunate to be at a stage in my career that I could take on this position," she said. "We'll raise the bar that's been set by Sgt. Frankenberry and the community will be shocked when we exceed their expectations; he's here to help protect the community and he'll do

that in many ways."

She added that she is thankful for the outpouring of support for the program from several local businesses and individuals. "Without the community's support and donations, Don wouldn't be part of the Rochelle Police Department today, so endless thanks goes out to everyone who has helped keep the K-9 program going," she said. After the department's K-9 of seven years, Olaf, was put to rest in October following an illness, the department set out to and succeeded in raising the necessary \$8,000 to purchase a new dog and pay for training of a new handler through a variety of community donations.

Rochelle Police Chief Eric Higby said there were several viable candidates up for the handler position, but Anderson was chosen for her dedication to the program.

"Officer Anderson's commitment to the program was clear," he said. "Obtaining a position as a K-9 handler was one of Emily's career goals, and she has worked hard to ensure her consideration. Over the last several years, she has been one of our most consistent performers with a high volume of traffic and drug arrests. She brings an enthusiasm to the position that will have a tremendous impact on our department. These attributes are critical for a handler."

On Feb. 17, Higby, former handler Sgt. Phil

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Frankenberry and Anderson traveled to Denver, Ind., to the Vohne Liche Kennels to select a new dog out of 10 K-9 contenders, consisting of German Shepherds, Belgian Malinois and Dutch Shepherds.

Higby said handlers from the Sterling Police Department and Illinois State Police District 16 accompanied the Rochelle team to assist in the selection process. Dogs were evaluated using various tests, such as searching for and retrieving tennis balls which approximates the drive the dog would have for tracking, along with article and drug searches. The K-9s were also evaluated to see if they were sensitive to their environments and were tested on an obstacle course.

"This is important as the dog needs to be able to crawl under objects, jump over objects and be willing to enter vehicles or other confined areas," Higby said. "The dogs were checked to see if they would be distracted by other animal scents, or if they would focus on the task at hand."

After taking the dogs through preliminary evaluations, Higby said four finalists were taken to the facility's indoor training center and were tested with bite sleeves and a full bite suit to see what their abilities were. The handlers also attempted to distract the dogs with various noises and the animals were

taken mid-bite through pit full of empty cans and milk jugs. Higby added that in simulation rooms, handlers tested the ability of the dogs to find and bite in the dark and on slick floors.

After the evaluation process, Higby said all of the officers agreed that Don, a Belgian Malinois born in December of 2008 in the Czech Republic, was the best fit for the Rochelle department.

"He continually performed at a high level, and he showed that he was a strong yet social dog," Higby said. Anderson was able to bring Don home the day of the visit and said that he is adjusting well to his new home with her in Rochelle.

"At home he listens pretty well and is always ready to play," she said. "He has already displayed a protective instinct which is comforting because I know he'll be there whether we are at home or work."

Anderson will attend K-9 handler training at the Illinois State Police Academy starting March 1. The community is invited to follow along as Anderson and Don receive their training through updates on Anderson's K-9 blog at [www.rochellek9.com](http://www.rochellek9.com) comments and questions are encouraged.

### **Rochelle PD citizen's academy well underway**

February 25th, 2010



By Jennifer Simmons Staff Writer

FOR the past three Thursday evenings, I have spent time in a classroom setting and it has been a long time since I was in any classes. This class, however, isn't about learning math, English or science. This class is to learn and get a better understanding of how the Rochelle Police Department operates.

The first Rochelle Police Department Citizen's Police Academy began the first week of February and will run through mid-April. Myself and 17 other members of the community are taking the class from moms and dads to area employees and longtime community members each is taking the class in hopes of obtaining a better understanding of how the department operates and to get an inside look at the day-to-day workings of the employees of the police department.

Each Thursday, we assemble in city council chambers to learn more about how the police

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department functions from dispatch to patrol to investigations to training each part is instrumental in providing the citizens of this community with defense against wrongdoers and violators of the law. During the first class, Police Chief Eric Higby spoke to the class about the history of the department from its earliest beginnings in 1861 to present the force has seen many changes. Staff size has changed, vehicles have changed, technology has definitely changed and will continue to change.

From my perspective, it is amazing to see how the department operated years ago compared to now especially with the technology advances. What once would have taken several minutes now takes mere seconds thanks to in-squad computers. Officers are able to pull up driver information based on license plate numbers information from name, address, any driving offenses and possible warrants are all available literally with the touch of a button.

During our second class we heard from officers about the protocol when responding to a call. Patrol officers work 10-hour shifts and patrol sergeants work 12-hour shifts. The detectives work 10-hour shifts, dispatchers work 12-hour shifts (and one 8-hour cover shift). The chief, detective sergeant, communication supervisor and administrative

assistant all work 8-hour shifts. Currently there are 20 employees at the Rochelle Police Department.

Patrol officers are responsible for covering 13 square miles during their shift.

Officer Jason Goodwin explained that depending on the nature of any given call especially in the event of a domestic call it is important to be able to handle the scene and keep everyone involved safe. Sometimes that can be difficult given the number of officers on duty. In those instances, any patrol officer on duty tries to respond to that scene to provide assistance to the first responding officer.

That night, we also heard from executive director of H.O.P.E., Ruth Carter, who explained the services provided to victims of domestic violence in Rochelle. Kelly Kempson, a court advocate for HOPE, also spoke to the class about what HOPE can do for victims through the court system. It was interesting to hear how the two agencies work together. During the Feb. 18 class, we heard from Detective Terry Inman about the investigation aspect of police work. Sometimes it can be very grueling trudging through leads, witnesses and reports but when a case is worked to completion it is very rewarding.

"Report writing is key," Inman said. "And I get made fun of most times because I write long

reports." But Det. Sgt. Jeff Leininger said good report writing is essential. Sometimes, because an officer can write a very detailed report, court appearances aren't necessary thus saving the department money not having to call an off-duty officer into court. Det. Sgt. Leininger also explained that evidence documentation is key in many cases.

He explained how evidence is handled from the time it is collected, to when it is bagged and processed, and protocol once it is entered into the department's evidence room. Some evidence can be destroyed after cases have cleared the court system but some evidence will be in the evidence room indefinitely, especially in the case of homicides, he explained. Det. Sgt. Leininger told us of one case involving drugs when live marijuana plants were seized from a home.

"All of those plants are evidence," he said. "So I had to preserve that evidence." He explained that he had to dry out the plants in order to "bag" them because live plants would die or become moldy if placed in evidence bags. Once that case was cleared and the evidence no longer needed, the items were disposed of as are any other drug evidence.

So far I have learned some new information about the police department. Having worked in the newspaper

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field for more than 10 years I frequently have dealings with the department for various reasons and I thought I knew a lot but taking this class has opened my eyes to some new information. That was my main focus for taking the class. With several more class sessions to go, I am looking forward to learning more about the policies and procedures police officers use and how they make those work to help protect the community I live in.

### **Man pleads guilty to sexual assault**

*March 2nd, 2010*

A Rochelle man pleaded guilty to sexual assault and sexual abuse charges Friday in Ogle County court. On Friday afternoon, Chad Rand, 23, of Chicago, formerly of Rochelle, pleaded guilty to one count predatory criminal sexual assault of a child less than 13 years old, a Class X felony, and one count of aggravated criminal sexual abuse, a Class 2 felony. The alleged incidents are reported to have taken place in Rochelle, over the course of several years, between May of 2003 and June of 2005, and included multiple victims. In September of 2007, Rochelle Police Department detectives, along with assistance from the Illinois State Police

Internet Crimes Unit and the Chicago Police Department, executed a search warrant at 851 West Wellington Ave. in Chicago. As a result of the search, officers confiscated several computer hard drives. Rand's sentencing hearing is scheduled for July 13 in Ogle County Court.

### **Family duo plans icy plunge for good cause**

*March 4th, 2010*

At the urging of his stepson, 13-year-old Rochelle Middle Schooler Alec Seebach, Rochelle Police Department Detective Terry Inman and Seebach will take the "Polar Plunge" this Saturday, in an effort to raise funds for the Illinois Special Olympics. The fundraiser is part of the Law Enforcement Torch Run for the Special Olympics.

Inman and Seebach will be joining more than 3,600 people statewide who will voluntarily jump into freezing cold water at Olson Lake at Rockford's Rock Cut State Park.

Each participant is asked to raise at least \$75 in pledges to support the Special Olympics. Plungers are encouraged to come in costume, and prizes are given for the best costume and other categories.

Special Olympics Illinois

offers a year-round program of sports training and competition for more than 22,000 children and adults with mental disabilities.

In 2009, more than \$961,000 was raised statewide by more than 3,600 plungers. In 11 years, \$3.44 million has been raised by more than 11,700 plungers, according to [plungeillinois.com](http://plungeillinois.com).

To donate to Inman and Seebach, visit [www.firstgiving.com/boysinblue](http://www.firstgiving.com/boysinblue) or bring donations to the Rochelle Police Department by Friday afternoon.

### **Citizen's Police Academy**

*March 7th, 2010*



*Dixon Police Department officer Jeff Ragan and K-9 Bobby visited the Rochelle Police Department Citizen's Police Academy class Thursday night.*

Bobby, a Vizsla, joined the Dixon P.D. in November 2005 and serves as one of two K-9 units. Officer Ragan talked to the class about the duties he and Bobby perform, including drug searches and even missing

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person searches when appropriate.



Ogle County State's Attorney Ben Roe also spoke to the class about the duties his department has as part of the judicial system in Ogle County. Roe is serving his second term as the county's State's Attorney.

### **Frigid plunge**

*March 11th, 2010*



Rochelle Middle School student Alec Seebach, and his step-father, Rochelle Police Department Detective Terry Inman took the "Polar Plunge" on Saturday in an effort to raise funds for the Illinois Special Olympics. The duo joined more than 3,600 people statewide who voluntarily jumped into freezing cold water at Olson Lake at Rockford's Rock Cut State Park. Inman and Seebach raised \$760 in a short time for the cause and thank those

that donated. Inman and Seebach pose just before taking the plunge.



Above, the duo jumps into the freezing water in a group.

### **Man found dead in Petro parking lot**

*March 16th, 2010*

A Glen Ellyn man was found dead in the Petro Travel Plaza parking lot early Tuesday morning after emergency responders had to search for the man when he called for help. Rochelle Police Chief Eric Higby said a truck driver initially called 9-1-1 at 12:24 a.m. for assistance because he was having chest pains, however, the man could not give his exact location. Rochelle police officers were dispatched to the scene to help find the man. After going truck to truck through the lot, responders located the man, who was pronounced dead at the scene.

Higby said the man's name is not yet being released because his family had not been notified.

### **Officers teach class members about weapons**

*March 25th, 2010*

CPA class members had the opportunity to fire weapons of different

caliber during the recent class.



*Citizen's Police Academy class member Robert Whipple listens to instructions from Sgt. Jason Bergeron before taking his turn on the police department's firing range during a recent CPA class.*



*Rochelle Police Officer Matt Wittenberg tells the Citizen's Police Academy class members about the shotgun used by the department. Sgt. Jason Bergeron then told the class about the Heckler & Koch MP5 used by the Emergency Response Team.*

Members of the community taking part in the first Citizen's Police Academy learned about firearms during the March 18 class.

Class members were able to fire weapons in the police department's firing range - weapons used were .22 caliber, .40 caliber, .45 caliber and 9 mm handguns.

Prior to stepping foot in

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the range, Officer Matt Wittenberg and Sgt. Jason Bergeron talked about the various weapons and ammunition used for the weapons. They also demonstrated the proper way to handle a handgun. Once on the range, the officers helped class members who have never shot a firearm to properly handle the weapon before firing at targets. Approximately 13 of the 18 class members participated in the firing range activity.

The Citizen's Police Academy has three more classes before completion. The class meets on Thursday evenings at the Rohelle City Hall.

Rochelle Police Chief Eric Higby started the class this year in hopes of making the community more aware of the workings of the Rochelle Police Department. The department hopes to continue the class each year. The class is open to those who live or work in Rochelle.

For more information about Citizen's Police Academy, call 815-562-2131 .

### **Rochelle PD to host blood drive**

*March 28th, 2010*

The Rochelle Police Department will host a community blood drive from 2 to 7 p.m. on Tuesday, March 30 at city hall, 416 N. Sixth St. For more information or to schedule an appointment to donate, please call 815-562-2131 .

### **Pair arrested for attempted murder**

*March 30th, 2010*



Donovan



Lepperd

Two Rochelle women remain in Lee County Jail after allegedly attempting to rob and run over a man with a vehicle late Friday night.

Gabrielle Lepperd, 20, and Jamie Donovan, 19, appeared in Lee County court Monday afternoon when bond for each of the women was set at \$500,000. Neither had posted bond as of Tuesday morning. Both women face charges of attempted first-degree murder, attempted aggravated robbery and conspiracy to commit aggravated robbery.

According to Lee County Sheriff John Varga, a 911 call was received at 11:16 p.m. on Friday from a man at 1857 Brooklyn Road in rural Ashton who said two females tried to rob him and steal his car. After deputies arrived on the

scene, it was determined that Donovan, who was an acquaintance of the man, asked him to give her and Lepperd a ride to the Brooklyn Road residence. Varga said when the three arrived in front of the home, one of the women sprayed a foreign substance in the eyes of the man. The man immediately got out of the car and started walking away, when Donovan allegedly moved from the passenger's seat into the driver's seat and proceeded to drive at and chase the man through outbuildings on the property. During the car chase, Varga said Donovan crashed into an LP tank, then hit the northwest corner of the home with the car.

After banging on the doors of the Brooklyn Road residence, the man then jumped through a window of the home and Donovan slammed into the porch when air bags were deployed and the vehicle became disabled, Varga said.

The man was able to find a hammer in a tool box on the porch and after seeing him with the tool, the two women fled the scene on foot, heading north toward I-88 , Varga explained. They were apprehended a short time later in a field by Lee County deputies. Varga said the Brooklyn Road home was unoccupied at the time of the incident and it appears that the women chose the residence at random. The victim was transported to

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Rochelle Community Hospital for cuts to his hands and head and was released. Lepperd also was transported to RCH and was released. Donovan refused treatment at the scene. Varga noted that drugs and alcohol did not have a role in the incident.

Donovan is currently facing two pending cases in Ogle County on charges of possession of cocaine and theft. Lepperd also has two pending cases in Ogle County on charges of possession of methamphetamine and theft.

### **Masons to host fundraiser**

*March 30th, 2010*

The Rochelle Masonic Lodge, 500 Lincoln Highway, will host an all-you-can-eat spaghetti benefit dinner for the Rochelle Police K-9 dog, Don, from 4 to 8 p.m. Friday, April 9.

Tickets are \$6, and are available at the police department, city hall, and at the door.

### **St. Baldrick's set for Friday**

*March 30th, 2010*

Many area residents will have their hair shaved off at Xpressions Salon, located in the May Mart shopping center, on Friday afternoon to raise money and awareness about childhood cancer.

The event is part of a fundraiser for the St. Baldrick's Foundation, which raises money for childhood cancer research. Participant's sign up to have their

heads shaved and then accept donations. Since 2000, the foundation has raised more than \$69 million by hosting more than 2,500 events and shaving more than 108,000 heads in 24 countries and all 50 U.S. states. The foundation receives these funds and makes grants to research experts to find new and better treatments for fighting kids' cancer.

The St. Baldrick's event at Xpressions is set from 4 to 6 p.m. Friday, April 2 at the salon. Shavees can either show up the day of the event or preregister. To register, visit the foundation's website at [www.stbaldricks.org](http://www.stbaldricks.org), click events and follow the instructions, or for more information call the salon at 815-561-9096.

Donations to the cause also can be made on the website.

Xpressions stylist Carrie Frankenberry helped to organize the event and said people who are not having their heads shaved are invited to come and watch the event. A 50/50 raffle also will be held during the afternoon.

According to the St. Baldrick's Foundation, each year 160,000 children worldwide are diagnosed with cancer and are in need of help more than ever. About one in 300 boys and one in 333 girls will develop cancer before their 20th birthday. In the United States, childhood cancer kills more children than any other disease more than AIDS, asthma, diabetes

and cystic fibrosis combined.

The foundation cites that one to two children will develop cancer for every 10,000 children that makes for more than 15,000 children diagnosed with cancer each year this is a diagnosis every three minutes and every four hours a child with cancer loses their battle.

### **Citizen's Police Academy**

*March 30th, 2010*



*Class member Cory Ansteth role plays making a traffic stop.*



*Above, class members role play a DUI stop.*

Class members in the Rochelle Police Department Citizen's Police Academy learned about making traffic stops during last Thursday's class. With instruction from Officers Brian VanVickle and Jason Goodwin, class members were able to role play and practice making traffic

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stops. The officers explained how officers make stops and procedures followed when doing so. DUI stops were also discussed, along with role playing a DUI stop.

### **Get to know ... officer Matthew Wittenberg** *April 4th, 2010*



*Rochelle Police Department officer Matthew Wittenberg poses with his wife, Lynsey, and son, Ethan, at Gooseberry Falls State Park in Minnesota.*

*Wittenberg is a native of Duluth, Minn., and enjoys being outdoors.*

This is part of a series to introduce residents to their law enforcement agents, both those new to the force and veterans. Periodically, the News-Leader will feature a different Rochelle Police Department officer.

ROCHELLE Police Department officer Matthew Wittenberg looks at his career not only as a job, but also as a way of life. The opportunity to make a difference and responsibility officers have to the community is what drew Wittenberg to the profession. "As police officers are in the public eye and are held to a high standard, we can set an example by actions and words," he said. "We can effect change in other's behaviors by just being in

the room. I see my job sometimes as being a mediator where we think for others when they are not thinking right, whether blinded by anger, substance or just don't know what to do."

Wittenberg has been on the force since 2004 and is assigned to the patrol division. The Duluth, Minn., native earned an associate's degree from Fondulac Community College in Cloquet, Minn. When jobs were scarce in Minnesota, Wittenberg looked to an open position on the Rochelle force, because of family ties to the area.

When considering moving to the City of Rochelle and joining the police department, Wittenberg said he and his wife, Lynsey, saw many.

"I was impressed by the forward thinking and moves made by the city and police department to keep growing and staying technologically advanced," he said. "I was also impressed by the equipment and training availability that the department offered and equipped its officer with."

Wittenberg has received specialized training in several areas in his five years with the department. He is a juvenile officer, certified in breath alcohol testing and received specialized training in SWAT, tactical instruction and firearms instruction. Using that training, Wittenberg serves on Rochelle Police Department's Emergency Response Team (SWAT).

He also serves as one of the range officers and firearms instructors as well as less lethal shot gun instructor.

Wittenberg has led the department in DUI arrests for four consecutive years from 2005 to 2008, something Police Chief Eric Higby said no other officer has achieved according to department records. Higby added that this is just one example of Wittenberg's dedication to the profession. "Officer Wittenberg is a crucial component to our fleet maintenance and firearms programs. He is slated to attend special training this spring at the Heckler Koch facility that will give him 'armorer' status so he is able to maintain our department firearms," he said. "Officer Wittenberg's performance extends beyond enforcement and into the service portion of our job. He is patient, polite, and shows dedication to his work."

Wittenberg explained that alcohol and drug impaired drivers are a concern for all communities and Rochelle is not exempt.

"DUI is a common occurrence of the people I have arrested and most do not believe they are over the legal limit nor under the influence," he noted. "In Rochelle and the close surrounding area, we enjoy a peaceful way of life and have a low violent crime rate. We may not know anyone who has been robbed, or battered or shot at, but most people can name a friend

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or family member who has been affected by a DUI related crash, whether property loss, injury or death. As a department we can hope we saved as many, if not more lives than the number of offenders we arrest."

Wittenberg said it was the values his mother and father instilled in him at a young age that allow him to serve the community as a police officer. His parents and his sister, along with her family, still reside in Duluth, where Wittenberg said he and his wife like to bring their 4-year-old son, Ethan, to visit.

"Growing up in northern Minnesota, I have a love of the outdoors and fishing," he said. "I still try to get out but it is harder with a 4 year old, but it will change as he gets older and grows to love it as I do."

Wittenberg said each day, his family inspires him to serve his community and protect the values he was taught growing up. "Police officers don't have all the answers, but we are good listeners and problems solvers," he said. "We have clear objectives which are dictated by law and communities we serve. We all took an oath and it is what guides us. Being a police officer puts us on the front line protecting our values, which we as a community share."

### **Mock trial**

*April 8th, 2010*



The Rochelle Police Department Citizen's Police Academy finished up last Thursday with a mock trial. Above, CPA class member Chris Haas, center, plays the role of police officer testifying about a DUI case, while State's Attorney Ben Roe plays the role of judge and Emily Seifert, of the State's Attorney's office, plays the role of prosecutor. At left, Rochelle Detective John Kaltenbach plays the role of attorney and class member Laury Bailey plays the role of defendant for the purpose of demonstrating how court proceedings are handled.

### **Woman pleads not guilty to attempted murder**

*April 10th, 2010*

Rochelle woman charged with attempted murder pleaded not guilty in Lee County court this week as she and her co-defendant remain in jail, each on \$500,000 bonds.

Jamie Donovan, 18, who pleaded not guilty Wednesday, faces charges of attempted first-degree murder and aggravated vehicular hijacking after she and Gabrielle M. Lepperd, 19, of Rochelle, allegedly attempted to rob a man and run over him with his car late March in rural Ashton.

Lepperd, also charged

with attempted first-degree murder, is scheduled for a preliminary hearing May 3.

Lee County Sheriff John Varga said the women are being kept separate through the court process, which is a common practice. Lepperd remains in Lee County Jail and Donovan is being held in Ogle County Jail.

The Lee County Sheriff's Office was called to 1857 Brooklyn Road in rural Ashton on the night of March 26 after a man reported that two females tried to rob him and steal his car. After deputies arrived on the scene, it was determined that Donovan, who was an acquaintance of the man, asked him to give her and Lepperd a ride to the Brooklyn Road residence. Varga said when the three arrived in front of the home, one of the women sprayed a foreign substance in the eye of the man and when he jumped out of the car, Donovan allegedly moved from the passenger's seat into the driver's seat and proceeded to chase the man with the car. The victim was able to escape by jumping through a window of the home and Donovan slammed into the porch, according to Varga.

The women were apprehended a short time later in a field by Lee County deputies. The victim was transported to Rochelle Community Hospital for cuts to his hands and head and was released.

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### **Rochelle police investigate burglary**

*April 17th, 2010*

The Rochelle Police Department is searching for a suspect of a burglary that occurred at Johnson Tractor early Friday morning.

Rochelle Detective Sergeant Jeff Leininger said officers were called to the scene, 1030 S. 7th St., after a break-in occurred at approximately 4:46 a.m. A significant amount of machinery was taken from the business in the incident. Leininger noted that no employees were present at the time of the burglary.

Security footage at the business revealed the image of a suspect which is currently being analyzed by officials. He added that the burglary might be related to a similar incident in Sterling and he has been in contact with Sterling police to compare information.

Officers also are searching for a vehicle that could have been involved in the incident. Witnesses saw a red truck, possibly a Chevy, near the scene in the parking lot of Brun's Construction on Thursday evening at approximately 6:30 to 7 p.m. The truck reportedly had a black ladder rack on top and was pulling a tandem axle trailer. The truck reportedly left the parking lot at about 1 a.m. Residents who might have seen the vehicle or have any information are encouraged to call the

police department at 815-562-2131.

### **Local man arrested in fighting incident**

*April 20th, 2010*



*Charles Chamness*

Rochelle man is being held at the Ogle County Jail on several charges after an alleged fight involving a weapon Friday night.

On Friday, April 16 at 8:30 p.m., the Rochelle Police Department received a call of a fight in progress in the area of the 700 block of Lincoln Avenue. Officers were advised one of the participants was armed with a knife. Officers spoke with the complainants, who said two male subjects approached their car while they were turning around under the overpass on 1st Avenue. According to witness statements, one of the males entered the vehicle and tried unsuccessfully to stab one of the occupants. One of the remaining occupants was able to shut the car door before any injuries were inflicted.

After further investigation, Charles D. Chamness, 26, of Rochelle was arrested on the offenses of Mob Action (Class A Felony), Vehicular Invasion (Class 1

Felony), Aggravated Assault (Class A misdemeanor), Criminal Trespass to Vehicle (Class A misdemeanor), and two counts of disorderly conduct (Class C misdemeanors).

Chamness remains in Ogle County Jail on a \$100,000 bond.

The Rochelle Police Department continues to follow leads and investigate this report. Citizens with information about this case should call the police department at 562-2131, or Crimestoppers at 1-888-CAUGHT-U (1-888-228-4488). Information given through Crimestoppers can be eligible for cash rewards up to \$1,000.

### **Citizen's Police Academy wraps up**

*April 20th, 2010*



Shown are the graduates of the first Rochelle Police Department Citizen's Academy, front row from left, Jennifer Simmons, Laury Bailey, April Blodgett, Judy Schermerhorn; second row, left to right, Rochelle Police Chief Eric Higby, Robert Whipple, Tessa Stouffer, Dannielle Hahn, Bob Elliott, Stephanie Whitmer, Carrie Wiese, Bil Hayes, Rochelle Police Department Detective John Kaltenbach; back row, left to right, Chris Haas, Rodger Griffith,

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Andrew Reiss, Bud Norcross and Corey Ansteth. Not pictured, Jim Moore and Dan Paul. (Courtesy photo)

The first Rochelle Police Department Citizen's Police Academy came to a close on April 15 after 10 weeks as the class gathered for a graduation dinner.

Seventeen citizens completed the first academy class designed to give the community a better understanding of how the police department operates. From dispatch to patrol and investigations, each department has specific duties and must be able to work together to complete the task of keeping the community safe.

Each week, class members were introduced to officers with the department and taught about specific aspects of police work during the three hour meeting. Classes ranged from basic patrol to drug and gang awareness, criminal investigations, use of force and the Emergency Response Team, traffic enforcement, firearms and DUI enforcement. Ogle County State's Attorney Ben Roe also took part, speaking to the class one night about what the State's Attorney's office does and how it interacts with the police department, and again on the night of the class's mock trial when he served as the judge.

Each class was instructed by RPD officers. "Our officers enjoyed the

opportunity to give the attendees an inside view of the Rochelle Police Department," police chief Eric Higby said. "The Citizen Police Academy exceeded all of our expectations. One of the things that impressed us the most was the quality of the 'students.' Without educated and inquisitive students, our presentations would not have had the intended effect," Chief Higby added. "We thrived on the feedback and enjoyed sharing our job with the citizens."

The class was open to citizens living or working in Rochelle. Each class member had to present an application and submit to a background check before being accepted into the class. The hope was to have a class of approximately 20 to 25 students.

"The participants in the class had the opportunity to meet several officers who taught the various training blocks on a personal level, making the officers more approachable in the future," Kaltenbach said. "The participants were always very interactive and interested in the classes, often staying after the class to discuss issues."

"I loved the fact that the age group was so varied in the class," Tessa Stouffer said. "It made for excellent discussions and interesting observations."

Some of the classes were also held in "hands on" format. During the class on use of force, students

were given the opportunity to take part in a drive stun demonstration. Officers Jim Gilliam and Jason Goodwin instructed the class which covered Electronic Control Devices (ECD) as well as hands on control tactics.

The ECD can be used in two ways a drive stun and probe deployment. A drive stun consists of the officer removing the probe cartridge and pressing the ECD against the non-compliant subject and administering an electronic shock. This type of deployment does not incapacitate the subject, rather it is a pain compliance technique. When the probe cartridge is on the ECD the probes can be fired at a non-compliant subject, from a distance. The two probes will connect to the subject and allow an electrical shock to travel through their body. This type of deployment results in a temporary incapacitation of the subject, as long as the subject follows the orders given by the officer, and remains compliant another electrical shock is not administered. Two class members, Stouffer and Corey Ansteth, agreed to participate in the drive stun demonstrations. "I never expected that I, or anyone else, would have the opportunity to be tased, or that it would be the first time I shot a gun," Stouffer commented. "I still have marks on my leg," Ansteth said at the graduation dinner. "I liked the interaction and energy of the class," class

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member Laury Bailey said. "The hands-on learning puts a whole different perspective on police work. It's one thing to be told what police work is all about, but when you are actually placed in a police scenario, it is a whole different ball game." "I thought the class was wonderful," April Blodgett said. "A lot of information was given about things I never knew that the police did or didn't do." Detective Terry Inman taught the class about criminal investigations. "I was pleased to have the opportunity to directly interact with citizens who took such an interest in our job," detective Inman said. "The attendees in the class were very engaged in the material and asked a lot of thought provoking questions. I hope they took something beneficial away from the class and hope more citizens take part in any future academies."

"I didn't expect the opportunity to speak to as varied a group of officers as were involved in the class," Stouffer added. "It was nice to get several points of view on various situations."

Chief Higby hopes to continue offering the class to the community.

"We will be sending out evaluation forms to the students to see if we need to adjust the length of any of the classes for the next CPA," Higby said. "It was a positive experience for our instructors, and it is a program that we do want to continue if there are

interested citizens. Our next class would be scheduled in January/February 2011."

"I think the class needs to be longer in weeks not in hours," Blodgett said. "Three hours is good, I think there should just be more weeks in order to get more information."

"I definitely wouldn't have minded tagging a few more weeks onto the class or even an extra hour or so a night," Stouffer said. "I have nothing but good things to say about the Rochelle Police Department, and this class!"

Anyone interested in obtaining more information about the Rochelle Police Department's Citizen's Police Academy is urged to visit the department's website at [www.cityofrochelle.net/police](http://www.cityofrochelle.net/police) and click on the link for Citizens Police Academy.

### **Atwood Park vandalized** *April 29th, 2010*



A routine patrol at 1:45 a.m. on Sunday morning by Rochelle Police found a port-a-john fully engulfed in flames behind the Atwood Park band shell.

Rochelle Fire Department was called to

the scene to extinguish the fire. The fire appears to be an act of arson and is being investigated by the Rochelle Police Department.

Flagg-Rochelle Park District Director Steve Liezert said two porta-johns were destroyed in the fire. It appears that vandals hit the same location again Tuesday night. A soda machine also located near the Atwood Park band shell was burned and cut open and the scene was covered in graffiti. Liezert said the monetary damage between the two incidents at the park could reach as much as \$10,000 to \$15,000.

The Flagg-Rochelle Park District is offering a \$1,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the perpetrators.

### **Thank you for support of RPD K-9 program**

Sincerely, Eric Higby  
Rochelle Police  
Department Chief  
*April 29th, 2010*

Dear Editor,  
The Rochelle Police Department would like to thank the following local individuals, businesses and organizations for their donations to the department's effort to continue its K-9 program:  
David K. Meisener ,  
Margaret M. Anderson,  
Nicholas Cascio and  
Margaret Anderson,  
Christa Jourdan, Nicole  
Guenther, Roger Bunger  
/Thrivent Financial,  
Jerome Cascio, Christine  
Ward, Darrell Richert,

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Medcare, Bruns Construction, First National Bank of Rochelle, Alfano, Hayden Real Estate, Tyler J. Carls, Andrew Good, Chad Gelderloos, Rochelle Disposal, Dr. Scott Wilson, F.O.P., Dr. Chad Piller, Nancy Gelderloos, Walmart, Road Ranger, Ogle County States Attorney's, Rochelle Fire Department Social, Rob Buck, Anderson Plumbing & Heating Inc., Petro, Fred J. Walters, Phyllis Higby, Super 8 Motel, Holcomb State Bank, Tilton Elementary School students, Rochelle Area Wrestling Club, Macklin, R.H. Felker, Paul and Marie Slowiak, Georgia Paddock, Don and Carol Elliott, Lynette Fischer, Rene Smith, Jenny Thompson, LuAnn Ciacco, Lori and Reed Harris, Theresa Crystal's class at Rochelle Middle School, Ron Stonebraker, James and Lois Moore, the Rochelle Masonic Lodge spaghetti dinner, Lois Rowley, Sally J. Truitt and Dachsies to Danes. The department's quilt raffle also raised \$1,400 for the cause.

As I was thanking local businessman Pete Alfano, he told me that "we are all in this together." When we went out and solicited funds to continue the program, that same theme was echoed by most of the people who donated to the cause.

The contributors said that any cause that makes our community safer is worthwhile. We are grateful we are able to

continue this program, and we could not have done it without assistance from the community.

### **Attempted murder suspect indicted**

*May 4th, 2010,*

A Rochelle woman accused of attempted murder was indicted on four counts by a Lee County Grand Jury late last week.

Gabrielle Lepperd, 19, is charged with attempted first degree murder, aggravated vehicular hijacking, attempted armed robbery and aggravated battery. She is scheduled for a pre-trial on Thursday in Lee County Court.

Lepperd and her co-defendant, Jamie Donovan, 18, also of Rochelle, are accused of attempting to rob a man and run over him with his car late March in rural Ashton. Donovan is charged with attempted first-degree murder and aggravated vehicular hijacking.

According to police, emergency responders were called to 1857 Brooklyn Road in rural Ashton on the night of March 26 after a man reported that two females tried to rob him and steal his car. After deputies arrived on the scene, it was determined that Donovan, who was an acquaintance of the man, asked him to give her and Lepperd a ride to the Brooklyn Road residence. Lee County Sheriff John Varga said when the three arrived in front of

the home, one of the women sprayed a foreign substance in the eye of the man and Donovan allegedly moved from the passenger's seat into the driver's seat and proceeded to chase the man with the car. She escaped from the home and Donovan slammed into the porch, according to Varga. The women were apprehended a short time later in a field by Lee County deputies.

Donovan and Lepperd remain in jail, each on a \$500,000 bond.

Ogle County Sheriff On May 2 at 1:45 a.m., Ogle County Sheriff deputies were dispatched to the 200 block of W. Third St. in Leaf River in reference to an ambulance assist. After an investigation, Orin Carter, 23, of Rockford, was arrested for battery. Carter was transported to the Ogle County Jail and held in lieu of bond.

On May 2 at 12:26 a.m., Ogle County Sheriff deputies were dispatched to the 5,000 block of CL Meyers Drive in Byron in reference to a minor drinking party. After an investigation, deputies arrested Andrew Lamb, 18, of Holcomb, Deanna Letman, 18, of Holcomb, and Joshua Mintor, 20, of Davis Junction, for unlawful consumption of alcohol by a minor. They were transported to the Ogle County Jail and released on an I-bond.

On May 1 at 10 p.m., Ogle County Sheriff deputies responded to the 5,000 block of South Unity

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Road reference to a check welfare . After an investigation, Brandon Reynolds, 26, of Polo, was arrested on an outstanding Whiteside County warrant. Reynolds was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he posted bond.

On April 27 at 10:52 a.m., Ogle County Sheriff deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 18,000 block of E. Quarry Road. After an investigation, deputies arrested Jessica Gulley, 33, of Rockford, for driving while license suspended. Gulley was transported to the Ogle County Jail where she posted bond and was released.

On April 27 at 2 p.m., Ogle County Sheriff deputies arrested Manuel J. Rodriguez, 38, of Rochelle, at his residence on an outstanding Ogle County warrant and one outstanding warrant for Boone County. He was transported to the Ogle County Jail and held in lieu of bond.

### **K-9 cash**

*May 11th, 2010*



Rochelle Masonic Lodge Master Marshall Bud Norcross presents Rochelle Police Department officer Emily Anderson with a check

from the Rochelle Masonic Lodge for \$1,372.43 from proceeds of the lodges spaghetti dinner held April 9. The fundraiser was to benefit the police departments K-9 program and to purchase their new dog, Don. The lodge was pleased with attendance and wants to thank the citizens of Rochelle for their support and Sullivan's Foods for their donations.

### **BURGLARIES: Residents with information urged to contact authorities**

*May 13th, 2010*



Image of the Rochelle Church of God burglary suspect from security film footage. Anyone with information is encouraged to contact authorities.

The Ogle County Sheriff's Office announced Wednesday that they are searching for suspects and information regarding recent burglaries at several area churches across the county since April.

Ogle County Sheriff's Office Detective Doug Lockard said county-wide, there have been eight burglaries of churches in locations such as Hillcrest, Leaf River,

Stillman Valley, Grand Detour and Rochelle.

The Rochelle Police Department is currently investigating a burglary at Rochelle Church of God, which occurred Friday. Officers responded to the church, 222 1st Ave., at approximately 4 p.m. on Friday. After an investigation, officers determined that a Shop vac and some miscellaneous tools were taken from the church. Rochelle Police Chief Eric Higby also noted that doors at the church were damaged. St. Patrick's Catholic Church also was burglarized May 3, when cash was stolen from the building. It is unknown whether the Rochelle burglaries are connected to the other county-wide church burglaries.

Lockard said the countywide church burglaries began in early April and have continued since that time. He said burglaries also have been reported just over the county line in Winnebago and Lee counties. Most of the churches, he said, are believed to be entered in the early morning hours. He also noted that there are similarities between all the burglaries such as similar forced entry and stolen cash. There are no suspects at this time.

The Rochelle Church of God suspect was caught on video surveillance, and appears to be a white male, possibly with a tattoo on his neck.

The Rochelle Police Department is asking anyone with information

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about the possible identity of the suspect to call the department at 815-562-2131 or the Ogle-Lee Crime Stoppers at 1-888-228-4488 (1-888-CAUGHT-U).

### **Four-vehicle accident**

*May 15th, 2010*



Thursday at 3:15 p.m., Rochelle ambulance and police responded to a four-vehicle accident near the entrance of RTHS. Drivers Adam Johnson, 16, Kelsey Barkei, 16, Julia Drewitz, 16, and Marilyn Thomasson, 59, were southbound exiting the school when Johnson struck Barkei in the rear of her vehicle, causing Barkei to strike Drewitz, which then caused Drewitz to strike Thomasson. Johnson was transported to Rochelle Community Hospital. No citations were issued.

### **Alleged church burglar nabbed Amboy woman arrested during church break-in, implicated with male accomplice for recent regional burglaries**

*May 20th, 2010*

A suspected church burglar is in custody and another is being sought in connection with a series of burglaries spanning several counties since early April.



*Brian Dees*



*Nicole Rutherford*

Nicole Rutherford, 27, of Amboy, and alleged accomplice Brian Dees, 32, also of Amboy, are implicated in 25 to 30 church burglaries in Ogle, Winnebago, Lee and Bureau counties, beginning in April. Churches in Hillcrest, Leaf River, Stillman Valley, Grand Detour and Rochelle have been hit, among others.

Rutherford was arrested May 13 while allegedly burglarizing the First Baptist Church in Pecatonica. Pecatonica Police Chief Ron Gwaltney said in days prior to the arrest, officers increased surveillance of the six churches in the village in response to the outbreak of church burglaries in the region. Officers were directed to check on the facilities every two hours and keep a log of activity.

Gwaltney said at approximately 4 a.m. May

13, officer Jon Humphries noticed a door open at the First Baptist Church after a second round of checks on the building. He then reportedly witnessed two suspects fleeing the scene on foot. The duo eventually split and Humphries was able to apprehend Rutherford. A male suspect later identified as Dees, evaded police. Gwaltney credited Humphries for his quick response to a dangerous situation.

"This was a little bit of luck and some good police work," he said. "I am proud of Jon and our police department."

Officials have said that most of the burglaries occurred in the early morning hours and there were similarities such as forced entry through a door or window and stolen cash.

Rutherford remains in Winnebago County Jail on a \$150,000 bond. She has only been charged in Winnebago County. Dees is wanted on a Winnebago County warrant his bond is set at \$200,000. Anyone with information or who sees Dees should call police.

Rochelle Police Chief Eric Higby said no arrests have been made in the two Rochelle church burglaries and the investigation is continuing.

### **Police nab three overweight trucks**

*May 29th, 2010*

Truck drivers might think twice before ignoring truck signs heading over the overpass on IL Route 251.

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The Rochelle Police Department sent Officer Brian VanVickle to a five-and-a-half day training class to spot overweight vehicles and the regulations that go along with them. And the class is already yielding results. In the past week, the department has handed out more than \$30,000 in overweight charges, but Chief Eric Higby said it's not about the money.

"This is a safety issue for everyone concerned," Higby said. "Overweight trucks just can't be going over the bridge."

The overpass over both sets of railroad tracks was given a new weight limit of 20 tons the last week of April when Illinois Department of Transportation District Operations Engineer Kevin Marchek said an inspection uncovered deteriorated pier caps under the bridge, which are designed to be placed on top of pillars or column to protect brick or stone work from weather and corrosion scale, beginning at 0 to 2,000 pounds overweight and up. The minimum fine is \$180, but serious offenses, which include weights of 40,000 pounds and up, can be as high as \$15,000.

Of the fines given over the past week, one was \$15,000, one was \$14,000 and another was \$1,000.

The class that VanVickle took prepared him to look for warning signs of an overweight vehicle. Things like bulging tires, sagging suspension or trouble accelerating are all cues

that the truck could be overweight, Higby said.

If VanVickle suspects the truck of being overweight, he pulls them over and sends them to the certified scales at Petro, east of town.

Construction on the bridge is scheduled to be completed summer of 2011. Higby said he's not sure whether driver's aren't seeing the signs or are just ignoring them, but regardless he said it's their duty as a driver to pay attention to any signs that are posted. "You have to be vigilant of the signs," Higby said. Fines for an offense run on a sliding

**Department Special Olympics Torch Run set for June 9:** *Donations being taken at downtown station  
June 3rd, 2010*



*Members of the Rochelle Police Department will take part the annual Special Olympics Torch Run on June 9. Donations are accepted at the Rochelle Police Department. Pictured are group of runners from the police department that participated in last years run.*

The annual Law Enforcement Torch Run for the Special Olympics will be held Wednesday,

June 9. Several members of the Rochelle Police Department will receive the torch from Winnebago County and will carry it through town, passing it on to Lee County.

The Rochelle Police Department has taken part in the Special Olympics Torch Run for many years, helping raise funds for Special Olympics.

Special Olympics is an international, non-profit organization dedicated to empowering individuals with intellectual disabilities to become physically fit productive and respected members of society through sports training and competition.

Donations: The Rochelle Police Department would like to encourage the citizens and businesses of Rochelle to take this opportunity to make a difference in the lives of more than 2.25 million athletes and their families by dropping off or mailing your contribution to Special Olympics, c/o Rochelle Police Department 416 N. Sixth St., Rochelle IL 61068. Please make checks payable to Special Olympics.

If you would like more information, contact Sandy Sullivan at 815-562-2131.

**Sgt. Haan enjoys working with helping citizens**

*June 5th, 2010*

Rochelle Police Department Sgt. William Haan has been serving the community for nearly

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seven years four of those in the supervisory position he holds today.



"I always had an interest in the law enforcement field," he said. "My dad was a state trooper and I always looked up to the uniform."

Haan grew up in Rockford and is a graduate of Jefferson High School. Becoming an officer with the Rochelle Police Department had mostly to do with timing.

"I had a friend let me know that Rochelle Police were testing," Haan said. "I wanted a secure job with a good retirement and I always had an interest in being an officer so the timing seemed right."

Sgt. Haan is trained in DUI enforcement, sex offender registration, is a breath alcohol operator, trained in management and supervision, rapid deployment, field interviews, interview and interrogation, search and seizure and is a juvenile officer as well. "My day-to-day duties include supervision of the on-duty

patrol officers," Haan said. "Making sure paperwork is completed properly and handling citizen complaints as they may arise during my shift are also part of my day-to-day duties."

In the nearly seven years that Sgt. Haan has been with the RPD, a transformation in technologies is probably the number one change.

"The computers, video systems and how we do our report writing is what has probably changed the most," he said. "The police work is still pretty basic the who, what, where, when, why and how hasn't really changed."

When Haan is not working he enjoys his time at home, just outside of Rochelle where he has lived for nearly 11 years.

"I enjoy hunting the most," he revealed. "I have two Labradors that are crazy for pheasants. I like to have friends over for cookouts and entertaining too."

"Rochelle is a good place for family because there is a low crime rate," he added. "Most people know each other so if you need to know something about your children you can usually find out pretty easily."

I really enjoy working in the community seeing the town and helping folks out when I can."

### **Police investigating recent car break-ins** *June 8th, 2010*

Rochelle Police are investigating damage done to several vehicles in the "Hub City" over the

weekend.

According to Police Chief Eric Higby, 10 cars were involved and damage included slashed tires, spray painting and scratched cars. He said although the incidents were random throughout town, they have found a connection between them and do have suspects. At this time, Higby believes there were two separate groups doing the damage and in some cases a particular person was targeted. In addition to the vehicles, a garbage dumpster at St. Patrick Catholic Cemetery on South Main Street was damaged with spray paint. With the exception of the dumpster, all the damage was on residential property and all happened over the weekend during the night hours.

"It's a pretty cowardly thing to do," Higby stated, adding that they presently are investigating two vehicle burglaries that occurred recently, one on Cleveland Avenue and the other in Shirley Avenue, both in the same neighborhood.

### **Police arrest local man again after he fails to update crime registry**

Seaney charged for third time in past two years; taken to jail after not posting bond. On Monday June 14, Rochelle Police Department personnel arrested Josh W. Seaney, 30, Rochelle, as a result of a follow up investigation.

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June 15th, 2010



Seaney was charged with the (Class 3) felony offense of failing to register as a violent offender against youth registry member. Seaney was arrested twice in 2008 for the same offense

Illinois Compiled Statutes mandate that the Illinois State Police establish and maintain a statewide Violent Offender Against Youth Database, accessible on the Internet, identifying violent offenders against youth who have been convicted of certain offenses and/or crimes against children and must register as a violent offender against youth. Background According to Rochelle Police Chief Eric Higby, the department is not aware of the exact offense as it did not occur in Ogle County so at this point it is the department's priority to make sure Seaney registers in the event he changes his address or place of employment.

Seaney has five days

after making such changes to register with the local police station. A search of Seaney in the judicial system found previous non-compliant arrests in the two years he has resided in Rochelle. Higby added that Seaney is not a convicted sex offender, but has to register in a similar fashion so local authorities know his whereabouts.

Following his arrest, Seaney did not post bond and was transported to the Ogle County Jail in Oregon.

### **Burglary suspects arrested Sunday**

June 15th, 2010

Rochelle Police arrested two men while leaving the scene of a burglary on Sunday evening.

According to Chief Eric Higby, Elizeo Nambo, 38, Rochelle, and Lorenzo Villanueva, 49, also of Rochelle, were both cited for burglary under \$300 and criminal trespass to property. Higby explained that the two allegedly stole scrap metal from the rear of Anderson Plumbing, Heating and Cooling, located in the 600 block of First Avenue.

The incident took place at 8:50 p.m. and the two were immediately apprehended. Each man posted a \$100 bond and are to appear in court July 16.

### **Rochelle's finest patrolling in style**

June 27th, 2010

Those who haven't noticed a few new squad

cars roaming Rochelle's streets will probably spot them sooner than later. And that is what the Rochelle Police Department is banking on.



The department recently replaced three of their older squads with three new Dodge Chargers. The Chargers have a new look, a new color scheme and better overall performance than the Ford Explorer and Crown Victoria and Chevy Tahoe they replaced, Chief Eric Higby said.

"They're the best performing squad car in history," Higby added.

Several factors played into the switch from the traditional Crown Victoria and Impala squads, but Higby said they mostly switched because both those models are in their last year of production and it didn't make sense to invest in a model that will be obsolete next year.

Higby said they factored in everything from crash safety to speed performance, but after reviewing everything, the Chargers were "a no brainer."

Each May, the department reviews its budget and needs, and determines which squads to upgrade. Because of the high mileage and the wear and tear on patrol cars, the department has to replace at least a few units almost every year.

"We do it because [the

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old cars] need to go," Higby said.

The new vehicles come fully equipped with mounting brackets, deactivated rear doors and windows as well as a key lockout button. The key lockout allows the cars to idle without keys, but prevents them from being put into gear until the key is inserted.

Higby said the initial investment is a little more expensive than the other models because a lot of the equipment brackets won't switch over, but said it's something they would have had to do in the future anyway and the department didn't see the sense of investing in models they couldn't get in the future. The plan right now is to spend the next few years switching over to the Chargers. Currently, Higby has one of the new squads, the sergeants have one they share and there is one used as a patrol car.

"All of the officers really like them," he added. "I haven't heard any negative complaints."

Besides the change in model, the color scheme is probably the largest difference from the old squads to these. The new units are painted all black and striped with white markings to add visibility to their vehicles.

Visibility is always a concern as a police officer, Higby said. "Anytime you're more visible it helps us out," he said.

Drivers and other civilians are more apt to spot these vehicles, which

helps officers when they have to make a traffic stop or just patrolling in general.

Even though the units weren't purchased from a local dealer, Higby said local maintenance is a big advantage for these cars, too.

The department had to purchase the cars from Thomas Dodge because they have the Illinois state contract, but Large Car Rebuilders here in Rochelle striped all of them and Krahenbuhl Chrysler-Jeep on IL Route 251 has the ability to service them. Improved value

By having Large Car Rebuilders stripe the vehicles instead of having them factory painted black and white, they improve the resale value in the future.

"No one wants a black and white car," Higby said.

When the department prepares to sell them, all they'll have to do is remove the decals and the equipment and they're back to black vehicles.

But that probably won't be for awhile. With a 5-year or 100,000 mile warranty, these cars are probably around to stay.

### **Detective Inman working to keep "Hub City" safe** *July 6th, 2010*

Rochelle Police Detective Terry Inman has been working on the force for nine years and holds specialized training in many areas of police work including criminal investigations of child abuse/ sex crimes,

homicide, narcotics /gangs, computer crime,



Homeland Security Emergency Response/Incident Management, asset seizure/forfeiture, interview and interrogations, disaster preparedness, riot response and control, SWAT/ tactical response and juvenile law.

You can say with the training he holds, if it happens in Rochelle, Inman has seen it and probably worked on some aspect of the case. "I've always been interested in law and law enforcement," Inman said. "I received my Bachelor's degree in Law Enforcement Administration and I've worked in the general field of law enforcement for about 8 years prior.

I don't know if anything made me want to become a police officer, I think it was more a combination of interest in the field and the right timing in life. I would agree with sentiment expressed by other officers that there is a certain mindset in people who choose professions of service, especially ones that involve a risk to their own lives." Inman has many duties with the RPD. From investigating crimes as

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assigned to conducting community service presentations on a variety of issues including identity theft and Internet safety to business security measures, Inman can surely help educate the community. Inman also reviews all juvenile arrests or contacts officers have with juveniles and decides the appropriate disposition for the case.

His duties aren't strictly to the City of Rochelle either. Inman serves on the Illinois Attorney General's taskforce on Computer Crimes Against Children, serves on the Lee/ Ogle Local Emergency Planning Committee and is part of the ILEAS Region 2 Mobile Field Force.

"I enjoy the challenge of my job," Inman said. "Part of the reason I enjoy investigations so much is the challenge connected with building a legally solid case on behalf of a victim. From first getting the case, sorting through the known and potential unknowns to putting the final package together for the prosecution and finally sitting down with the victim after a successful prosecution, I enjoy every aspect."

Work as a detective isn't the only thing that keeps Inman busy either. He was born and raised in Rochelle and except for his service in the military and time at college; he has made his home here.

"I live in Rochelle with my wife, Melissa, stepson Alec and son Hayden," Inman said. "We like to

take vacations as a family. The kids participate in local sports teams, we go to NIU and Illinois football games, enjoy cookouts and swimming in the pool during the summer." Given that the couple's boys participate in local sports, it isn't any surprise to see Inman at a Rochelle Little League baseball game in fact he just wrapped up coaching his son's T-ball team or at Rochelle Junior Tackle football games. Inman serves on the board of directors for the junior tackle program.

Being so involved with work and sports in Rochelle doesn't leave Inman with too much free time but when he has free time he enjoys spending time with his family, playing golf, reading and working out.

"Law enforcement is a very unique profession and anyone considering this career path should definitely get a variety of opinions from those in and around it."

### **Taped box causes stir Bomb squad called to remove container outside Road Ranger**

*July 12th, 2010*



Rochelle Police Department Detective Terry Inman with traffic control at IL Route 38 and Dement Road. The blue container that was left outside of the building at the Road Ranger located at IL Route 38 and Dement Road, caused suspicion Thursday morning. Photo by Brian W. Miller Photo

A normally low-key Thursday morning turned intense when a suspicious package was found outside the Subway Restaurant located in the

Road Ranger building at IL Route 38 and Dement Road.



At 9:07 a.m. on July 8, the Rochelle Police Department received a call of a suspicious package and responded in seconds while the Rochelle Fire Department reacted likewise.

Officers met with employees who had observed the package and after an initial investigation, it was determined that it was potentially dangerous. A written message was reportedly taped to the box, and that added to the concern because it could have been taken as a threat.

Officers evacuated the stores surrounding the area and contacted the Winnebago County Sheriff Police Bomb Unit. After speaking with bomb unit personnel, it was determined that they would respond to the scene.

Traffic was redirected around the area for three hours as the blue tote box wrapped in duct tape awaited the bomb unit. The box was located on the north exterior wall of the Road Ranger building, closer to the Subway restaurant.

Initially, employees were told the evacuation would be about 20-30 minutes;

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however, once it was determined the box could be a threat and the bomb unit had to be called, that time was extended. The bulk of the three-hour delay was spent waiting the arrival of the bomb squad and allowing it to assemble the robot and assess the situation. In the meantime, local authorities kept onlookers from getting too close to the potentially dangerous situation.

The package was opened remotely by a bomb squad robot with a water cannon and officers found personal belongings inside the package plastic tote container, mainly clothing. The owner of the belongings was located, and the incident was investigated. According to Rochelle Police Chief Eric Higby, the situation seems to be domestic in nature and, although the contents of the box belonged to a Road Ranger employee, that person was unaware it had been placed by the store or what it contained. Higby said there will not be any arrests as a result of the investigation.

The situation required a lot of manpower, but because all the officers were presently on duty it did not cost the city, county or state police anything additional to pay the officers. Likewise, the bomb squad is a service that is provided free of charge.

"You cannot be too careful in these situations, we did not want to put our First Responders at risk,"

Higby explained. According to the Winnebago County Sheriff's Police Bomb Unit website, the team consists of six technicians and one coordinator, and all go through rigorous training, including classes mandated by Homeland Security. Because they are the responding bomb squad for Northern Illinois and Southern Wisconsin, they respond to 60-80 calls a year. Two of the technicians are also assigned to the S.W.A.T team. Winnebago County Sheriff Deputy Chief Dominic Iasparro explained that the robotic machine was sent to the box to assess the situation, then a very strong water charge also known as a water canon was used to take off the top to expose the contents of the box. At that point, a camera viewed the container for safety purposes before an officer approached it. "It's time consuming, but there are certain procedures that have to be followed and safety is the key," Iasparro said. Although Road Ranger and Subway were closed and evacuated, other area businesses such as McDonald's, Culvers, Wendy's and Petro Stopping Center remained open. The trick was getting to the businesses as sometimes the access roads to these places were shut off.

Additional assistance was provided by the Ogle County Sheriff Department, the Rochelle Fire Department and the

Illinois State Police and the situation was resolved just after noon.

### **Multiple charges**

*July 13th, 2010*

A disturbance call in the McDonald's parking lot turned into a tussle with the Rochelle Police Department on Saturday, July 10.

Christopher Jones, 26, was arrested on four counts around 11:35 p.m. Saturday after police were called because of a disturbance between Jones and a female passenger.

Police arrested Jones on an outstanding battery warrant, driving while license suspended and reckless driving after he allegedly tried to hit the female passenger with his car after she exited the vehicle.

While investigating the matter, Chief Eric Higby said Jones was able to slip his handcuffed arms underneath his legs. When officers tried to remove him from the backseat of the car and place his arms behind his back again, Jones allegedly rushed the officers putting his hands around one of them.

Jones was eventually subdued and charged with a count of aggravated battery for the assault.

### **Drug search results in arrests**

On-duty officer observed suspicious behavior in Walmart parking lot  
*July 15th, 2010*

On Monday July 12 at approximately 9 p.m., a Rochelle Police officer

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observed what was believed to be a drug transaction in the parking lot of Walmart. After a brief investigation, the officer detained the two occupants and a K-9 free air sniff was conducted.

According to Rochelle Police Chief Eric Higby, when the officer observed what seemed to be a drug transaction involving the occupants of two vehicles, one of the vehicles fled the scene. It was later located in the 600 block of North Third Street and towed to Ron's Towing.

It was at that point that authorities obtained a search warrant and the vehicle, a white truck, was searched. K-9 Don alerted on the vehicle, and a search led to the discovery of approximately 283 grams of cannabis.

Higby explained that officer Emily Anderson guides K-9 Don through the procedure and he sends her alert signals regarding his findings.

Bradley J. Christensen, 24, Rochelle, and Karen J. Alonzo, 30, Rochelle, were both arrested and charged with the class 4 felony offense of unlawful possession of cannabis and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Both subjects were transported to the Ogle County Jail in Oregon. Christensen's bond was set at \$25,000 and Alonzo's was set at \$75,000. Higby explained that it's possible Alonzo has prior arrests which is why the judge set her bond significantly higher than Christensen's bond.

The third person who fled the scene in the truck, Jamie L. Nason, 29, Rockford, was arrested and charged with unlawful delivery of cannabis (class 3 felony) and unlawful possession of cannabis (class 4 felony). She was transported to the Ogle County Jail in lieu of bond. Higby said Nason turned herself in.

### **Local man receives 19-year prison sentence** *July 15th, 2010*

John B. Roe, Ogle County state's attorney, announced Wednesday that Chad Rand, 25, Rochelle, was sentenced to 19 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections following a case of predatory criminal sexual assault of a child.

On Feb. 26, Rand pleaded guilty in Ogle County Circuit Court to Count I the offense of predatory criminal sexual assault of a child, a Class X felony, and Count IV the offense of aggravated criminal sexual abuse, a Class 2 felony.

In addition to the prison sentence, Rand was ordered to pay a \$500 fine and restitution as necessary to compensate the minor victim in one of the counts for expenses that may be incurred.

According to Roe, Rand must serve 85 percent of the Class X sentence and 50 percent of the Class 2 sentence for a total of roughly 15 years. All other pending counts involving predatory criminal sexual assault of a child, aggravated criminal sexual

abuse and predatory criminal sexual assault were dismissed per the plea in this case.

Rand received credit for 30 days for time already served.

On Oct. 4, 2007 Rochelle Police detectives, along with assistance from the Illinois State Police Internet Crimes Unit and Chicago Police Department executed a search warrant at a residence in the 800 block of West Wellington Avenue in Chicago, where Rand was living at the time.

As a result of the search, officers confiscated several computer hard drives. Detectives then met with Rand who was taken into custody without incident. Subsequently, Rand was charged with three counts of predatory criminal sexual assault, with each count being a Class X felony, and one count of criminal sexual abuse, being a Class 4 felony.

The arrest stemmed from a report received by Rochelle Police in September 2007 of a possible criminal sexual assault, with the victim being under 13 years of age.

As a result of the investigation it was learned there were multiple victims.

The alleged incidents were believed to have taken place in Rochelle, over the course of several years.

### **Officer Rodabaugh enjoys interaction** *July 25th, 2010*

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HOW often do you hear someone say "I love going to work?" Rochelle Police Department Officer Aaron Rodabaugh does.

"I love going to work and knowing that I might see something I have never seen before and probably wouldn't have ever seen it if I didn't do this job," he said.

Being a police officer allows Rodabaugh to experience just that. "I also enjoy being faced with problems and trying to work with people to find a solution."

Rodabaugh has been with the RPD for eight years. "I can't even remember what made me want to be a police officer," he said. "I was telling people I wanted to do this job when I was 12."

Rodabaugh started his career as a police officer in a smaller department with fewer resources. "When I started in Rochelle the technology far surpassed anything I had worked with before."

Having those technologies available makes an officer's job easier and allows for utilization of an officer's specialized training.

Rodabaugh is trained as a field officer, juvenile officer and breath alcohol operator. He has additional training in rapid deployment, interview and interrogation and accident investigation. "In performing my as a patrol officer, I act as a first responder to pretty much any incident where police may be involved," he said. "This can range from answering citizen questions to responding to a burglary, armed robbery or domestic violence call. In between calls, my duties involve general patrolling while enforcing traffic and watching for and investigating suspicious activities."

He is also responsible for new-hire training. "When someone is newly hired and graduates the police academy, I am responsible for training them to perform this job safely and effectively."

He recalled an incident while on the job last winter in which he gave aid to a citizen.

"Last winter, when the bars were closing on an icy winter night, I saw a patron walking himself home. As he entered a patch of ice, his feet flew into the air and he landed on his back," he said. "I started to drive up the block to check on him. As I did, he attempted to stand up, only to slip back onto the ice. By the time I could reach him, he had been up and down seven times. As I helped him off the ice, he asked why I was stopping him."

Rodabaugh grew-up in Dixon but had a roommate at the police academy who worked for Rochelle.

"He sold Rochelle as a great place to work with great people to work with," Rodabaugh said.

When Officer Rodabaugh is not on duty he enjoys spending time with his two sons, ages 9 and 10, and his dog, Rooney.

"We like to hit all sorts of parks and go to movies," he said. "Our favorite vacation spot is Cape May, New Jersey, where my parents took me as a kid, and spending as much time in the ocean as possible."

He also spends time working in the yard, although he says he doesn't enjoy it.

"I don't enjoy yard work so much as I hate the result of not doing it so I end up spending a lot of time on it," he joked.

In his free time he also enjoys music, bike riding, movies and watching television. "When I find time, I like experimenting with photography and Photoshop," he added.

Rodabaugh is truly a people person. From dealing with citizens while on duty to his off-duty time as a father,

"I spend every minute I can with my family and friends."

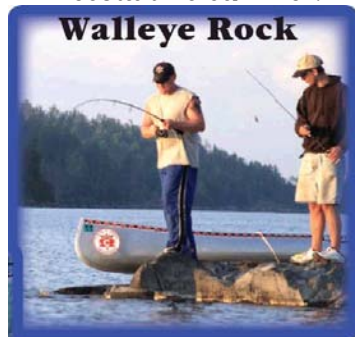
### **Learning the "boundaries"**

*July 29th, 2010*

Rochelle Police Detective John Kaltenbach and Officer Jason Goodwin took a group of six Rochelle-area teens on

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a trip to the Boundary Waters in northern Minnesota this summer.



The group spent time fishing and hiking while on the week-long trip. At left, the group, Jacob Frohling, Daniel Ross, Kevin Stevens, Tyler Perales, Harley Boeck, Cade Doane, Kaltenbach and Goodwin pose after hiking to the top of Thunder Point. Above, Goodwin and Boeck spend some time fishing on Walleye Rock.



THIRD time is a charm for Rochelle Police Department Detective John Kaltenbach. Kaltenbach spearheaded a third trip for area youth to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness in northern Minnesota just after the Fourth of July.

"My favorite part about this trip is having the opportunity to take youth from the community to a place they would not otherwise get to go," he said. "It's always nice to hear that even after dealing with all the

mosquitoes and the hard work to get there, the kids are willing and want to go back." Rochelle Police officer Jason Goodwin accompanied Kaltenbach and six area teenagers on the trip this year.

"My favorite part of the trip was taking the kids out fishing," Goodwin said. He had never been to the Boundary Waters, unlike Kaltenbach who has been going annually for nearly 25 years.

"I've never even been to Minnesota," Goodwin joked.

This year, the officers took six teenagers on the trek out "into the middle of nowhere." Harley Boeck, Cade Doane, Jacob Frohling, Daniel Ross, Kevin Stevens and Tyler Perales all took part in the third department-sponsored trip. "I really trip," - vens said. "It was very fun and it was nice getting away. Detective Kaltenbach and Officer Goodwin and the guys that went were fun, we all had a great time. The trip made me appreciate all the things that we take for granted."

"It was great," Doane said. "It was a lot of fun. We got to do something that most people don't have the opportunity to do."

Kaltenbach began taking trips to the BWCAW when he was a kid. Gary Cater, former Ashton High School principal, and Bob Rohr, former Ashton High School teacher, used to take a group of kids up. Since then, he has continued going to the BWCAW with

family and friends every year. This year's group of six were chosen with the help of the faculty at Rochelle Township High School. Before the school year ended in May, Kaltenbach met with a group of students interested in going on the trip. He gave information on the location, when the trip would take place and what the trip entailed.

Some stipulations to be eligible included good behavior at home as well as having no the community involving negative contact with the police department.

Going on the trip means working as a group. Everyone in the group participated in everything from cooking to navigation to doing their own laundry and washing their own dishes. A team effort meant sharing the load and working to make sure that the gear was divided appropriately and that the team worked together to reach goals each day.

"We had chores everyday," Doane said. "John would tell us stuff that needed to be done such as gathering firewood, doing dishes, catching fish , and then we would decide among us who would do what."

The group left from the Rochelle Police Department early morning July 6. Goodwin drove a department squad with three kids and Kaltenbach drove the other three. The drive is nearly nine hours.

"You could tell on the drive up that the kids didn't really know each

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other too well," Goodwin said. "They didn't talk (to each other) much."

Before heading out to camp, the group spent time at Canadian Border Outfitters in Ely, Minn.

"We stopped to pick up our permits and any last-minute supplies," Kaltenbach said. "The kids are also able to take canoes out and paddle around before heading out. We sleep in a bunkhouse the first night before having a big breakfast and heading out to our site the next morning." The kids did a great job of packing. Their packs were light and they had stuff in garbage bags," he added. "Usually I have to tell them to take certain items out and repack."

"At the beginning of the trip the kids really couldn't maneuver their canoes, they were paddling and kind of off in different directions," Goodwin said. "But by the end of the trip the guys who were last (in line) when we left were first and paddling in a straight line."

Setting up camp was the first priority once the group picked their campsite. When the group arrived at their site, a bear was seen on the shoreline.

"The kids had to set up their tents and make camp," Kaltenbach said. There were three tents for the group of eight.

"They had a hard time with that," Goodwin joked, "but they got it done."

Fishing was a big part of this trip.

"The fishing was great,"

Goodwin said. "The thing I thought was cool was that some of them didn't know how to fish, but once you showed them how to work the jig, the next thing you know they are catching their own."

"The fishing was the best," Doane said. "There were so many fish, they were easy to catch."

"Every night Jason and I would try to take one kid out after dinner to fish until it was dark or the mosquitoes were too much to handle," Kaltenbach said. "Every kid caught a fish, mostly walleye."

The group jokingly named one of their fishing spots "Walleye Rock" because of this.

Most of the time out at camp was spent fishing, but the group also hiked to the top of Thunder Point one day and picked wild blueberries.

Thunder Point is located on Knife Lake where the group camped.

"We had canoe wars, canoe races from one side of the lake to the other and also swam," Kaltenbach said. "You get to know people really well," Doane said. "I knew the other guys as acquaintances when we left, but really got to know them on the trip. I'd do it again in a heartbeat."

The group headed back to the outfitters on Monday, July 12.

"When we got to the outfitters (before camping) they had us stay in a bunk house for the night. The beds they gave us felt really uncomfortable but when we got back to the

outfitters after being on the water the beds felt like the best ones ever," Stevens said. "I'm glad I went on this trip."

Overall, Kaltenbach and Goodwin were satisfied with the trip too. "I don't think the kids missed their 'electronics' they never complained about not having them while out camping," Goodwin joked. "But they, of course, grabbed them and used them right away when we got back."

"Without help from the community, this trip wouldn't happen," Kaltenbach said. "I am grateful for the donations."

Donations are a big part of the trip. This year, donations came from several sources. Granite Gear, a backpack company based in Ontario, Canada, donated eight packs for the campers to use. Monetary donations came from the Rochelle Area Community Foundation, Mr. and Mrs. Ken Alberts, First National Bank, Flagg Township, Steve and Debbie Ramsey, Rochelle Walmart and the Kishwaukee College Mudslingers and Criminal Justice Club. The City of Rochelle donated the use of a squad for the trip as well.

"This trip helps us (officers) build a better relationship with kids in the community and give them a positive experience that they won't forget," Kaltenbach said. He hopes the department is able to continue providing this

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opportunity to kids in the community.

### **Police blood drive**

*July 29th, 2010*



The Rock River Valley Blood Center blood mobile was on hand at Rochelle City Hall on Tuesday for the Rochelle Police Department-sponsored blood drive. Here, Abbi Theisen of Sycamore donated for the first time on Tuesday. Amber Walker of RRVBC worked with her during the donation. According to Rochelle Police Chief Eric Higby, nearly 40 pints of blood were collected.

### **Man drowns Friday evening at Lake Sule**

*August 8th, 2010,*

On Friday night at 5:06 p.m., the Rochelle Police Department along with the Rochelle Fire Department responded to Lake Sule reference a possible drowning. Upon arrival, it was learned that the male subject, 40-year-old Johnny Lee Crenshaw of Rochelle, had been swimming in the lake and had not returned to shore.

Area dive teams, including Rockford Fire, Blackhawk Fire, New Milford Fire and Harlem-

Roscoe Fire, were called in to assist in the recovery efforts. At 6:16 p.m., the victim was recovered from the water and taken to the Rochelle Community Hospital where he was later pronounced dead.

No foul play is suspected.

### **Rochelle Police make drug and weapon arrests**

*August 14th, 2010*

Rochelle police arrested three area men on drug and weapons charges following a search of a south side apartment Thursday morning.

The combined emergency response teams from the Ogle County Sheriff Department and the Rochelle Police Department executed a search warrant at 306 Irene Ave., apt. 4.

After the scene was secured, the Rochelle Police Department K9 Unit was deployed to search the residence. As a result of the search warrant and subsequent investigation, officers recovered approximately 55 grams of cannabis and numerous pieces of drug paraphernalia.

As a result, Anthony T. Johnson, 27, Rochelle, was charged with unlawful possession of cannabis 2.5-10 grams. This is a class B misdemeanor. In addition, Steven M. Huffstatler, 20, was arrested on an outstanding Whiteside County warrant for failing to appear on the original charge of unlawful possession of cannabis. Jordan Q. Marcum, 19,

was arrested for aggravated unlawful use of a weapon, a class 4 felony. Both subjects were transported to the Ogle County Jail and later posted bond.

Officers also recovered three weapons on scene, including a 9mm handgun, an illegally altered shotgun and an illegally altered .357 caliber handgun. Ammunition for the weapons and a small amount of cash also was seized.

At approximately 6:01 p.m., a traffic stop was conducted on a vehicle that was occupied by two additional residents of 306 Irene, apt. 4.

This incident is still under investigation and additional arrests are expected. Rochelle Rochelle Fire Department assisted the police.

### **Getting to Know Your Rochelle Police Officers**

*August 22nd, 2010*



ROCHELLE Police Department Sgt. Jason Bergeron is a family man who enjoys spending time with his wife, Maha, and three children, 12-year-old Adam, 10-year-old A.J. and 5-year-old Sejah. "I can't forget to mention our

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two dogs Buddy and Judge, because every time Maha gets mad at us collectively to the point where she wants to give us away, she always includes the dogs," Bergeron joked. "My family loves to do many things outside, including cookouts, sports, and traveling to scenic areas.

Unfortunately I have to convince the boys that an outdoor activity is not standing on the porch with wireless remotes playing video games through the window and I have to convince Sejah that outdoor activities do not include window shopping, which ultimately lead to spending money."

Bergeron and his family live in Rochelle. "I do currently live in Rochelle," he said. "I have lived here for approximately 13 years. I grew up in the surrounding area; however, I never attended school in Rochelle. I did spend many weekends in town at the Spring Lake Marina and movie theater, when I was young."

Bergeron's hometown is Belvidere. with his family, he is spending time as a sergeant for the Rochelle Police Department, where he has worked for approximately 10 years.

"I have heard people say 'if I was a police officer I would..!' Generally people have an idea of how he or she believes people in society should act," Bergeron said. "I was no ; , remaining a bystander, I became an effect. I am a big believer in leading by

example and I felt the best way to accomplish that was to get into law enforcement."

Along with basic police training, Bergeron has training in homicide investigation, robbery, sexual assault/abuse, burglary, DUI and drug detection, deceptive practice and forgery. In addition, he holds specialized training for interviews and interrogations and emergency response training. "I am a patrol sergeant. A sergeant's duties are a combination of being an administrator (supervisor), public relations officer, investigator and general patrolman," Bergeron explained. "Some days we (sergeants) perform all these duties. If manpower allows, sergeants concentrate on supervision of the patrol officers."

What I enjoy most is completing an investigation that leads to justice for a victim, especially young victims," he added. "Although it is more difficult in patrol, due to time constraints, I enjoy taking a case from start to finish."

Sgt. Bergeron recalls what drew him to a career in law enforcement.

"Toward the end of my service in the U.S. Air Force I started to think of where I would like to settle. As I thought about it, I realized most of the friends I had and most of my childhood memories came from being here," he said. "It seems simple, but

I wanted to work in law enforcement where I wanted to live. I wanted to help keep Rochelle the type of place where young people could have good experiences and memories."

Since entering the field of law enforcement, Bergeron has noticed some changes.

"The most significant change I have seen is more cooperation between law enforcement agencies. In my opinion, agencies seem to be combining resources together to make police work more effective. Of course that correlates to the advancement of technology and equipment. Rochelle has always been a department that seeks to upgrade where ever possible in order to become more efficient," he said.

Bergeron is happy to have made the choice to raise his family in Rochelle.

"I believe there are a lot of good people here, many of whom I have gotten to know over the years. I like the fact that there are still times of the day when things are not hectic. Rochelle is a growing community, but it still has a small town vibe and there is access to other cities and areas not too far away, where my family could enjoy."

When Bergeron is faced with some free time he enjoys riding his motorcycle, watching sports or reading. Most recently, Bergeron also helped instruct the department's first Citizens'

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Police Academy.

Bergeron is happy with his work life. "I continue to be impressed by my co-workers. I am not sure many people realize how highly-trained we are. Police work is not just a job for us it is a way of life," he said. "I have seen many impressive outcomes to cases we handle based on the diverse skill set we all have. We are not cookie cutter officers and that is a very good thing."

### **Police looking for weekend shooting suspects**

*August 24th, 2010*

Rochelle Police officers continue to investigate a drive-by shooting that occurred at 10:22 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 20.

The Rochelle Police Department received the call of shots fired in the 900 block of Garfield Drive.

Responding officers were advised that a red pick-up truck, possibly a Chevrolet S-10 or Ford Ranger, was involved.

According to witnesses, the vehicle left the scene traveling eastbound on Garfield and then turned north onto South Ninth Street. Officers were able to locate evidence including shell casings and fired rounds at the scene indicating multiple shots were fired.

An occupied vehicle was struck and one round entered a residence, but no injuries were reported. Information

At this time there are no suspects in custody, and

anyone with information relating to this case is urged to call the Rochelle Police Department at 815-562-2131 or the Ogle/Lee CrimeStoppers at 1-888-CAUGHTU.

### **Veteran officer enjoys serving the community** *September 7th, 2010*

For the first seven years of his career with the Rochelle Police Department, Officer Dave Christopherson was the "rookie."



Now, 23 years later as a patrolman and Christopherson is looking forward to retirement in seven more.

"I actually wanted to become a conservation police officer when I was in grade school, but was hired on by the Rochelle Police Department in my early 20s (first as a dispatcher) and have enjoyed my career and the daily contact with citizens," Christopherson said.

Christopherson has received hundreds of hours of training, from specialized training in domestic terrorism, interviews and interrogation, to juvenile officer, criminal law, traffic law, DUI enforcement, operation valkyrie, crime scene processing, hazardous material

training, railroad crossing investigation, accident investigation, domestic violence training and as a gun safety instructor.

"My duties change, but generally I am on patrol and handling calls throughout the day or night," he explained.

"Writing citations is not something I enjoy, but it is an important function in trying to maintain traffic safety in the community and sometimes tickets need to be issued."

Technology has changed a lot in the years that Christopherson has served his community. "The biggest changes I have seen are the technology. We would hand write reports when I started and now reports are paperless. The equipment is so advanced and the department has always tried to provide the best and safest equipment for officers that can be purchased within budget," he added.

Technology isn't the only thing that Officer Christopherson has seen change either. "In my career so far I have worked for five different chiefs, 16 sergeants and have worked with numerous officers, so I have had an opportunity to see many different management styles and changes both good and bad." Christopherson grew up and lived in Rochelle's city limits for 33 years. Several years ago he moved his family out to the country. "I have been married to my wife, Julie, for more than 25 years.

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We were married at 19 and 20 years of age, before I was an officer, and had children five years later," he said. "My wife has been very supportive of my career over the years and unfortunately has to attend many school and family functions without me as the job can be very demanding."

His boys, Ryan, 20, and Tyler, 17, both attended Rochelle Township High School.

Christopherson added that spending time with his family is difficult, especially now that his boys are getting older, but when the opportunity to do so is there, they enjoy boating, fishing, campfires, watching pay-per-view fights and quad riding in the backyard.

So what does Officer Christopherson enjoy most about his job?

"I mostly enjoy the citizen contact and I always try to treat the citizens as I would want to be treated just like I was raised," he said. "Most people who know me, I would hope, would say they have been treated fairly and with respect."

Rochelle is a very safe, multicultural community," he added. "Everything that happens in a larger city happens here, but on a smaller scale. Rochelle is and always has been a friendly community for the most part and a nice place to raise kids."

When his job as an officer, father or husband isn't calling, Christopherson enjoys fishing, yard work,

boating, golfing, gardening, hunting and cooking.

"Anything outdoors when the weather is warm is a good place for me to be."

### **Rochelle traffic stop leads to drug possession arrest; money also seized**

*September 9th, 2010*

On Sept. 6 at approximately 11:37 p.m., a Rochelle Police officer initiated a traffic stop on a Chevrolet Tahoe based on a speeding violation that was observed on IL Route 38. The driver of the vehicle, Carlos A. Nevarez-Diaz, was found to have no valid driver's license. One passenger, David A. Diaz-Carreno, was wanted on a DuPage County warrant for failing to appear on a liquor charge. The Rochelle Police K-9 Unit arrived on scene to assist with the traffic stop. Don was deployed and he alerted on suitcases and an article of clothing that was in the vehicle. A search of the clothing and suitcases revealed a small amount of a controlled substance, and over \$15,000 in cash. Additional monies were discovered during the investigation. A total of more than \$19,000 was seized.

### **Attorney General, RPD arrest man on child pornography charges**

*September 18th, 2010*

A Rochelle man was arrested on possession of child porn Wednesday and was in custody at the Ogle

County Jail until Friday morning when he was released on bond.



Anthony Peterson

On Wednesday at 7:30 a.m., members of the Illinois Attorney General's Office and the Rochelle Police Department executed a search warrant at 435 Willis Avenue, Apt. 24.

After searching the premises, the resident, Anthony Peterson, 24, was arrested and charged with three counts of possession of child pornography. Items seized

Computers and other electronic media were seized and taken as evidence.

The offense is a class 3 felony, punishable by two to five years in the Illinois Department of Corrections. He was taken to the Ogle County jail, where his bond was set at \$10,000.

According to Rochelle Police Detective Terry Inman, Peterson had not lived in Rochelle very long.

On Friday morning, Peterson went before Ogle County Judge Stephen

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Pemberton and was released after posting \$1,000.

The investigation and arrest happened after the attorney general's office notified Rochelle Police personnel of Peterson's online activities, and a joint investigation was subsequently initiated.

On Thursday, Attorney General Lisa Madigan met with local authorities and announced her continuing crack down on child pornography statewide which resulted in Peterson's arrest.

### Announcement

Rochelle Police Chief Eric Higby joined Madigan at an afternoon press conference Thursday to announce that Peterson was arrested Wednesday and charged with three counts of possession of child pornography a class 3 felony, punishable by two to five years in the Illinois Department of Corrections.

According to Madigan, when investigators arrived at the home, Peterson admitted to having child pornography on his home computer. Madigan - ties searched Peterson's apartment they also found a camera that was near a window and directed toward a play area where children in the neighborhood regularly gather.

"Child pornography is not a victimless crime. In fact, it destroys lives. Each time these horrid images are downloaded or traded on the Internet, vulnerable children are revictimized," said Madigan. "We must

protect these innocent victims, some of whom are literally infants. These arrests should send a clear message to child pornographers: we can find you, and we will arrest you for your crimes."

Last month, Madigan announced a new initiative to find and arrest child pornographers by tracking them using the unique identifier that each computer is assigned when it accesses the Internet.

This identifier is known as an Internet protocol (IP) address. In the past 30 days, more than 8,000 Illinois IP addresses were seen trading child pornography images and videos.

Madigan said that Peterson was one of the top two traders of porn in the state of Illinois and she plans to continue this work to investigate and arrest child pornographers.

"What these Internet predators should know is the technology they use to abuse children and share child pornography is the same technology law enforcement will use to track and prosecute them," Madigan said.

Studies have shown that users of child pornography are more likely to also be sexual abusers of children. A total of 26,813 sex offenders are registered in Illinois, of which more than 75 percent committed a crime against a child. Also as part of this initiative to crack down on child

pornographers, Madigan's office, working with the DeKalb Police Department conducted compliance checks on four sex offenders convicted of child pornography or aggravated child pornography to obtain their IP addresses in order to monitor them and to ensure their compliance with the sex offender registry laws.

Of the four, three were in compliance.

Earlier in the week on a separate case, DeKalb County Sheriff deputies arrested Sean Grimoldby 38, Cortland, on 11 counts of aggravated child pornography and one count of child pornography following an investigation.

Grimoldby was taken into custody and turned over to corrections deputies.

### **When not at work, Leininger likes to play** *September 23rd, 2010*



SPENDING time with family, off-roading in his jeep, photography and police work. That is how Rochelle Police Department Sgt. Jeff Leininger spends his time. After serving about 18 months with the Illinois Department of Corrections

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a family friend told Leininger that the RPD was hiring. He joined the force in September 1998 as an officer; was promoted to sergeant in May 2004; and promoted to detective sergeant in May 2006. Leininger celebrated his 12-year anniversary with the department just last week.

"One of the least favorite patrol duties officers have is picking up stray cats and dogs and transporting them to the veterinarian's office. When I was a rookie and my field training officer, Russ Kelly, was just a few days from retirement he was dispatched to a cat call," he said. "He responded over the air by saying 'Rochelle, I don't do cat calls anymore.' When I heard that I laughed and thought, someday". I ended up responding to that cat call."

As the detective sergeant, Leininger holds many duties. "I review the daily reports and assign follow-ups as needed [to the other three detectives]. I ensure that cases are followed up on and the proper charges are sought and arrests made," he said. "I not only oversee the day-to-day case load, but I also investigate cases. Aside from those duties I track the registered sex offenders who reside within the city and perform random checks on them to ensure they are compliant. I oversee the field training program and I am also the department evidence custodian."

I enjoy the challenges the different types of cases present. There's nothing quite like catching someone that thought they got away with it," he added. He also is vice president of the Ogle-Lee Crimestoppers board.

Leininger's training is extensive and is continuously on-going. He has received specialized training in homicide investigation, interview and interrogation, sex offender registration, asset seizure and forfeiture and critical incident response. He also is a 2006 graduate of the Northwestern University Center for Public Safety Police Staff and Command School.

"In the relatively short time I've been in law enforcement many changes in equipment have taken place," he said. "The duty weapons we carry have been upgraded, patrol rifles have been added to our squads and Tasers have been assigned to patrol officers."

"The mobile computers in the squads have changed the most. When I started, the car computers would allow you to run basic vehicle/driver information," Leininger explained. "I can now do from my car, or anywhere for that matter, almost everything I can do from my desk, since the computer in my squad goes to my desk with me." Off-time

Leininger and his wife, Tracey, live in Rochelle and have twin daughters, Ashlynn and Mallory. His oldest daughter, Tiffani, is

married and attends Northern Illinois University.

"We enjoy getting outside whenever we can, whether it's a jeep ride, a trip to a local park, or just a day in the pool," Leininger said of his time with family. "We end up spending the majority of our time together [when I am not working]. In the winter we enjoy a weekly family game night, which means no TV or computer."

Being a detective requires you to rotate being on-call, with each rotation covering a two-week period," he explained. "Being on call requires me to stay close to Rochelle and limits our travels so we try to get away on the weeks I'm off call."

Leininger also likes to incorporate two of his hobbies in his off-time. "I enjoy photography and off-roading in my Jeep, but I really enjoy combining the two of them," he said.

Leininger has lived in Rochelle his entire life and enjoys the "smallness" of the town and avoiding the "rat race" of the larger cities. He says that when he began his law enforcement career he looked elsewhere, but thought working in the town he grew up in would be a good fit. "So far, that's worked out just fine," he said.

When Detective Sgt. Leininger isn't working on catching the bad guys, you can most likely find him at the soccer fields on Saturday mornings when

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his daughters are playing; driving around in his jeep or snapping photos at a local park.

Leininger loves living and working in Rochelle. "I've lived in Rochelle my entire life and someday I hope to grow up here," he said jokingly.

### **Rochelle police hosting hunter safety course**

*September 23rd, 2010*

The Rochelle Police Department, in cooperation with the Department of Natural Resources, will be hosting a hunter education course at the Rochelle Police Department this October.



Participants must attend three sessions to successfully complete the course. They are on Tuesday, Oct. 5 and Thursday, Oct. 7 from 6-9 p.m. and Saturday, Oct. 9 from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m.

Rochelle police personnel, along with area certified instructors, will assist in teaching the class, which is designed to promote responsible hunter conduct and give participants a better understanding of their obligation to the resource, the land owner, other hunters and themselves. There is no cost to take the course, but it is limited to 35 people.

Parents are encouraged

to attend with their children.

To register, call the police department at (815) 562-2131.

### **Police investigating Tuesday shooting**

*September 30th, 2010*

The Rochelle Police Department is investigating another incident of gunshots fired. This time, officers received a call at 12:25 p.m. on Tuesday of possible shots fired in the area of 226 South Ninth St. Witnesses informed police that shots were fired from a group of two or three people toward two individuals.



"We were not provided with any names of who the shooter(s) are," police chief Eric Higby said. "Initially, we were given very general descriptions [of the suspects]. Some of the witnesses told us that the shooters ran into 900 Avenue B and we tried to make contact with negative results."

Officers on the scene of the shooting were able to recover evidence that in fact indicated a shooting had taken place. Other officers met with the victims away from the incident on Main Street where the victims had traveled to.

"We kept the residences [900 Ave. B, apartments A and B] secured until we could obtain a search

warrant," Higby added.

"We subsequently obtained the warrant and our officers along with the Ogle County Emergency Response Team executed it at approximately 7 p.m. that night."

As a result of the execution of the search warrant, five individuals were taken into custody; however, no weapons were located on site. Two individuals in the residence were arrested on unrelated charges. A 17-year-old juvenile was arrested on a juvenile warrant and Amos A. Martinez, 30, was arrested on an Ogle County contempt warrant. According to Higby, none were charged with the shooting and the incident remains under investigation.

This incident is the third shooting that has taken place in Rochelle since August. The first occurred on Aug. 27 at a house on Garfield in which shots were fired into the home. The second occurred in the 300 block of S. Third Street.

"There was a residence that was shot [323 S. Third Street]," Higby said. "With this incident we had multiple residents who heard shots being fired and one person saw a suspect flee on foot from the area. The crux of the issue is that none of these witnesses called us. We discovered that there was a shooting when the apartment tenant came home days later."

Higby added that his department has not found

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any evidence that any of the incidents are related.  
**Precautions**

Because Tuesday's incident was so close to two schools, authorities notified the elementary district and both Lincoln and Central schools were put on a lockdown. According to Superintendent Todd Prusator, as soon as they got word the staff made sure all students were in the building and in their classrooms. Students were not allowed in the hallways, either, but by the time dismissal came around the situation was no longer a threat and students were dismissed as usual.

In addition, the district sent out alerts to parents, but Prusator explained that it's a fine line between taking precautions and creating a panic. He added that everything went smoothly.

The five schools in the district normally are locked for security reasons.

Anyone with information should call the RPD at 815-562-2131 or Crimestoppers at 1-888-CAUGHT-U.

### **RPD, RCH hosting Halloween Vein Drain**

*October 3rd, 2010*



The Rochelle Police Department will host the first-ever Rochelle Community Halloween Vein Drain on Thursday, Oct. 7. This event is from 12:30-7 p.m. and is being held to provide a fun and safe place where blood donors and their families can dress in costume and donate blood. All donors and family members dressed in costume will have a chance to win prizes from Xpressions Salon, Rochelle Walmart, Prescott Brothers Ford and the Rock River Valley Blood Center. In appreciation, all blood donors will receive a complimentary sandwich donated by Sullivan's Grocery Store and apples donated by Edward's Apple Orchard. The first 50 donors also will receive a free, "Got Blood" T-shirt.

For more information or to schedule an appointment to donate, call the Rochelle Police Department at 815-562-2131.

If you are at least 17 years old (16 with parental consent), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in general good health you should be eligible to donate blood. One in three people will need blood. You never know when it might be you or someone you love who will need blood.

The Rock River Valley Blood Center serves as a centralized, community blood center and is the sole provider of blood products and services to Rochelle Community Hospital as well as the

Rockford hospitals. For more information or to find out when the mobile bus will be in the area, call 877-RRBVC-99 or go to the website at [www.rrbvc.org](http://www.rrbvc.org).

### **Higby completes first year as chief; progress being made**

*October 7th, 2010*

Rochelle Police Chief Eric Higby is pleased with his first year serving the community as police chief, adding that there have been several changes over the past year and updating of officer equipment - all making the police department's job serving the community more productive and successful.



"We have acquired some new equipment that will help our officer's combat gang and drug activity in Rochelle," Higby said. Officers also have new equipment that brings the department up to date with state regulations for interviewing suspects.

"In April we installed a continuously-recording DVR camera in our interview room," Higby said. He said that the equipment officers previously used was out of date and often, if interviews went beyond the recording capabilities of the equipment, officers would have to stop interviews to change

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recording cassettes.

"It really wasn't practical," he said. "Having to change tapes and stopping interviews would have left us open to problems."

New patrol rifles were also purchased within the past year as well as new computers, three new squad cars and a new air conditioning unit in the station's dispatch area.

Besides new equipment, the department's new K-9, Don, has been utilized on many occasions.

"Don has been utilized more than 50 times," Higby said. "From local to state, county and even once for the [U.S.] Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency." Higby went on to explain that the Rochelle department was contacted by ICE to help search a plane for narcotics that was at the Aurora Municipal Airport near Sugar Grove.

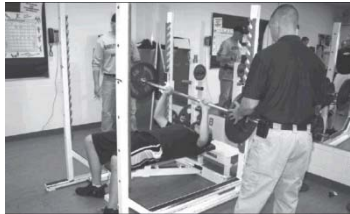
"Overall, I think we have made real good progress," Higby said. "We have been able to log a lot of training hours as well."

Chief Higby is also looking to fill an officer position that will be open by the end of October and in anticipation of that opening the department recently held testing for the establishment of an eligibility list. "Right now we are authorized for 21 officers," he explained. "We currently have 20 officers. We will be losing Officer Nate Hansmann at the end of October because he is moving."

While Higby is

disappointed to be losing an exemplary officer in Hansmann - who led the department in drug arrests last year - he is pleased with the amount of applicants from the recent testing.

"We had 53 applications returned," he said. "On the day of testing we had a few no-shows, lost a few candidates during the physical and written part of the testing process, but have 34 applicants to interview."



Higby added that of those applicants there are several officers currently serving other departments. "It would be great if the officer that ends up at the top of the eligibility list is already an officer," he said. "That would save the city some money on the cost associated with sending an officer to the police academy."

Higby said the cost to send an officer to academy is roughly \$5,000 for 12 weeks. He explained that if the next officer hired is already an officer he or she would not have to attend the academy.

"We do have a slot reserved for the next academy in January in the event we do need to send someone," he said.

Higby added that he would like to fill the vacant deputy chief position as well.

Higby added that the eligibility list that will be established from these applicants will be "good" for two years.

Besides an open officer position, Higby said there is another position that is open as well.

"We did not back-fill that position when I was promoted to chief so that position is still vacant," he said. "I would like to see that position filled." Community input while some area city and county departments have seen negative effects of the weakening economy, Higby said Rochelle has been fortunate enough to not have been hit with layoffs or dramatic budget cuts.

"Despite the economy we are still moving forward," he said.

And despite all the tools and technology available to the officers, Higby said there is still one area that he wants to improve.

"Cooperation from the public is essential for us," he said. "I really urge the public to contact us, whether it is a question or to report a crime or suspicious activity, we need input from the community."

As part of the department's effort to involve the public, earlier this year the first Citizen's Police Academy was held.

"We will continue to hold the CPA," Higby said, adding that the next class will probably be held in February.

The CPA was held to involve members of the community and "teach"

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different aspects of police work from department history, basic patrol operations, criminal investigations, drug and gang awareness, emergency response team, firearms training, criminal law, and traffic and DUI enforcement the class opens the door for citizens to become aware of the operations officers face on a day-to-day basis.

### **Charles "Chuck" Henry** *October 19th, 2010*



Charles (Chuck) Marshall Henry, 72, Rochelle, passed away Oct. 16, 2010 at Community General Hospital in Sterling surrounded by his family.

Charles was born Aug. 26, 1938 in Rochelle, son of Joseph Ray Henry and Vivienne Lever. He married Joanne Lamb Oct. 14, 1961.

Chuck was a graduate of Rochelle Township High School, served in the U.S. Air Force, was on the Rochelle Police Department and retired from Secretary of State after 32 years. He coached Little League

baseball for many years and was an avid bowler for many years with Ray Kramer Construction. He loved to spend many hours with his grandchildren.

He is survived by his wife, Joanne; two daughters, Marsha Joanne (Dave) White and Rhonda Sue (Mike) Christensen; four grandchildren, Connor Christensen, Bethany Christensen, D.J. White and Cullen White; and one brother, Mike (Linda) Chunko.

He is preceded in death by his parents; and brothers, Morris, Garrett and Richard Henry.

Funeral services will be held at 11:15 a.m. Wednesday, Oct. 20 at Coulon-Lyons Family Funeral Home, 704 N. Sixth Street in Rochelle. Pastors Ann and Ken Erickson and Pastor Dola Gregory will officiate. Visitation will be held at 9 a.m. until time of service.

Burial will be at Lawnridge Cemetery in Rochelle.

Online condolences can be made at [www.coulon-lyonsfamilyfh.com](http://www.coulon-lyonsfamilyfh.com).

Memorials may be made to the National Parkinson Foundation or New Life Four Square Church of Rochelle.

### **Halloween Safehouse open Thursday night** *October 26th, 2010*

Several area businesses and groups are coming together to provide a safe, fun place for local youth to go trick-or-treating this week.



The annual Trick-Or-Treat Safehouse will be held on Thursday, Oct. 28, from 5-7 p.m. on the first floor of the Comfort Inn & Suites of Rochelle, located at 1133 N. Seventh St. Admission is free and costumes are welcome, but not required.

"The Safehouse has become a tradition in Rochelle. It is an event that serves as an alternative to customary Halloween activities," said Stephanie Whitmer of the Rochelle Area Chamber of Commerce. "The Safehouse gives children and their parents a place to go to celebrate the tradition of gathering candy."

The first floor of the hotel provides a safe and handicap accessible venue. Since safety is a priority, chaperones and the Rochelle Police Department will be on hand to ensure the safety of the children, Whitmer explained.

This event is intended for children fifth grade and younger and for those with special needs. For safety reasons, children must be accompanied by an adult age 18 or older at all times. Families will enter through the private parking garage located on

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the west side of the building, collect candy from sponsors in the decorated rooms on the first floor and exit out the east side of the building.

Pictures for online purchase taken by Lifeworks Imaging will be available in the Vineyard Room.

Current 2010 Safehouse Sponsors include the Rochelle Area Chamber of Commerce and Business Development; Comfort Inn & Suites of Rochelle ; WRHL Radio; Sara Lee/TLC; Prescott Brothers Ford of Rochelle; Abraham's Bar and Grille; Query Insurance ; Holiday Inn Express of Rochelle; Flagg-Rochelle Community Park District; Salon 22; Holcomb State Bank; Rochelle Foods; Rock Valley Federal Credit Union; Sully's Hot Off the Grille; Rochelle Elementary Education Association; Sullivan's Foods; Nestle; Hub City Senior Center; Alfano's; Thrive Market Intelligence; Meyers Furniture; Aaron's Sales and Lease; and Kishwaukee Community College.

### **Gerard enjoys working with Rochelle community**

*October 28th, 2010*



Rochelle Police Department officer Matthew Gerard has been proudly serving the community for three years. Gerard grew-up in Medinah and moved to DeKalb while attending Northern Illinois University in 2004.

"I lived in Rochelle my first year on the department," he said. "But have since moved to DeKalb."

Gerard explained that he recently purchased a house in DeKalb and spends most of his free time remodeling his home.

"I'm a single guy," he said. "I usually spend as much time as I can with my parents. My father and I enjoy fishing when we can, and lately both my parents have been coming out to help me with renovations to my house, which has been a surprisingly fun experience."

When he isn't working on his house, Gerard also enjoys working on his car, a 2002 Toyota MR2 Spyder. "Those two hobbies eat up most of my spare time and money," he said. "And although time doesn't often allow me to, I enjoy cooking when I can." Gerard's job with the police department began in 2008. He was attending school at NIU when he learned of the testing for the RPD. "I went to school at Northern for a few years, and when I began applying to police departments, I heard Rochelle was hiring and so here I am."

Gerard, who did not

want a typical desk job, enjoys his job with the police department. "I enjoy being outdoors and interacting with people," he said.

"I'm primarily a patrol officer," he explained. "This entails providing traffic enforcement within the city limits and responding to calls for service from the public."

Gerard also has training and is a member of the Ogle County Emergency Response Team. The ERT handles numerous types of situations, from serving search warrants to responding to barricaded subjects.

"I most enjoy the ability to meet new people every day," he said. "This job gives me that opportunity when handling different calls or when patrolling on foot throughout the community. I get to interact with people in a positive way."

### **Fredrickson pleads to child porn charge**

*October 28th, 2010*



James Fredrickson, 52, of Rochelle, was sentenced Monday by Ogle County Court Judge Stephen Pemberton after entering a

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guilty plea on possession of child pornography charges.

Fredrickson was originally arrested in September 2009 following an investigation and subsequent raid of his residence, 5273 Wendell Drive, by the Rochelle Police Department in which Fredrickson was found to be in possession of child pornography.

Officers had received information of possible child pornography being present in the household. As a result of the search, police said several items were confiscated, including CDs, computer hard drives and thumb drives. Evidence of child pornography was found amongst the items. Fredrickson was charged with four counts of child pornography and five counts of aggravated child pornography. He was released on a recognizance bond by Ogle County Judge Michael Mallon following that arrest.

As part of a plea agreement, Fredrickson pleaded guilty to Count I of the charges; all other charges were dropped per the agreement.

Fredrickson's sentence includes 48 months probation, he must register as a sex offender per the Illinois Sex Offender Registration Act, attend court appointed evaluation/counseling and pay \$2,366, according to Ogle County Assistant State's Attorney Aaron Wiles.

Monday evening, Fredrickson registered as

a sex offender with the Rochelle Police Department. On Wednesday morning, officers from the Rochelle Police Department made contact with Fredrickson and informed him that per the Illinois Sex Offender Registration Act he would have to move from his residence on Wendell Drive by Monday, Nov. 1.

According to state law, it is unlawful for a registered sex offender to reside within 500 feet of a school, playground, child care institution, day care center, part day child care facility or facility providing programs of services exclusively directed toward a person under 18 years of age, or within 500 feet of the victim. Because his residential property is located within 250 feet to property owned by the Rochelle Township High School District he is not able to remain living in the residence.

### **Higby: Yielding to pedestrians in crosswalk is the law**

*November 1st, 2010*

Do you know the crosswalk law in the State of Illinois? Rochelle Police Chief Eric Higby said the police department has received several complaints about motorists disobeying the state crosswalk law.

In July, the state legislators changed the Illinois Vehicle Code concerning crosswalks. Higby said drivers must stop, not just yield the right-of-way, when necessary as previously

required for pedestrians in all crosswalks. The law applies even if there are no traffic signals, stop signs or clearly defined crosswalk markings.

For their part, pedestrians cannot suddenly leave a curb or other place of safety and get in the path of a moving vehicle, according to the law out and expect that a driver is going to stop." The fines for failing to stop for pedestrians in a crosswalk range from \$50 to \$500. Illinois is the 12th state in the country, along with the District of Columbia, to enact a law requiring a complete stop at pedestrian crosswalks that lack traffic Department Transportation statistics show more than 6,000 pedestrians are hit by cars statewide each year. Of those, about 170 on average are killed and 1,000 seriously injured.

"We j u s t want people to be aware of the law," Higby said. "Obviously we [officers] can't sit and watch specific crosswalks waiting for a violation." He added that people need to use some common sense too.

"People can't just step signals or stop signs.

Before the change in the law, Illinois law required drivers to slow down or yield for pedestrians, which often meant drivers typically rolled through a crosswalk.

**Man charged with attempted armed robbery  
Less than \$1 taken from**

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### **victims; subject being held on felony counts**

*November 4th, 2010*



A couple walking in the downtown area escaped injury Tuesday evening after being approached by a man who appeared to have a weapon while attempting to rob them.

According to Rochelle police, a 911 call came in just before 9 p.m. reporting that a subject approached a couple near the intersection of Fourth Avenue and Main Street and told them to empty their pockets.

According to Chief Eric Higby, the subject reportedly did not display a weapon, but appeared to have one under his sweatshirt and took less than a dollar from the victims.

A subject meeting the description was located just a block north of the incident and responding officers took him into custody. After he was apprehended, officers said they did find a knife on him.

Sean M. Cox, 19, homeless, was arrested and charged with two counts of attempted armed robbery (class 1 felonies), possession of alcohol as a minor and consumption of alcohol as a minor.

He was transported to the Rochelle Jail where he allegedly became

combative and was transported to Rochelle Community Hospital.

He later was transported to the Ogle County Jail in Oregon and held in lieu of bond.

### **Woman pleads guilty, sentenced to 10 years in prison**

*November 6th, 2010*



A Rochelle woman who pleaded guilty in September to charges stemming from a March 26 incident in Lee County was sentenced Wednesday to 10 years in prison on the charge of armed robbery.

Jamie Donovan was arrested in March after she and Gabrielle Lepperd, also of Rochelle, attempted to rob and steal the vehicle and paycheck of an Ashton man. Lepperd is set for sentencing in the case on Dec. 2. Each also face charges in Ogle County Court.

Donovan is scheduled to appear in Ogle County Court Nov. 8 on a theft and possession of a controlled substance charge. Lepperd is scheduled to appear in Ogle County Court Nov. 22 on a methamphetamine possession charge and a theft charge.

The pair were charged with attempted first-degree murder, attempted robbery and conspiracy to commit aggravated robbery in the Lee County case. On March 26, deputies were called to the 1800 block of Brooklyn Road by a man stating the pair tried to rob him and steal his car. After deputies arrived on the scene, it was determined that Donovan, who was an acquaintance of the man, asked him to give her and Lepperd a ride to the Brooklyn Road residence. Lee County Sheriff John Varga said when the three arrived in front of the home one of the women sprayed a foreign substance in the eyes of the man. The man immediately got out of the car and started walking away, when Donovan allegedly moved from the passenger's seat into the driver's seat and proceeded to drive at and chase the man through outbuildings on the property. During the car chase, Varga said Donovan crashed into an LP tank, then hit the northwest corner of the home with the car.

After banging on the doors of the Brooklyn Road residence, the man then jumped through a window of the home and Donovan slammed into the porch when air bags were deployed and the vehicle became disabled. The women fled the scene on foot, heading north toward I-88. They were apprehended a short time

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later in a field by Lee County deputies.

### **Driver flees after scuffle with police**

*November 11th, 2010*

A local man is in custody after resisting arrest and leading police on a high speed chase that began in town and ended in Kirkland.

Ryan M. Rachas, 30, Rochelle, faces multiple charges after officers were dispatched to 117 Seventh Ave. at 10:49 p.m. Wednesday for the violation of an order of protection.

According to Rochelle Police Chief Eric Higby, the responding officer tried to arrest Rachas, but he resisted and drove off in his vehicle, dragging the officer roughly 20 feet. Officers then located his vehicle at IL Route 38 and Turkington Terrace where the chase began, going north on Caron Road to Flagg Road to IL Route 251. Rachas then led officers north to IL Route 64 and headed east where he crossed over into DeKalb County.

The incident ended just outside of Kirkland, near Malta Road, where the suspect fled on foot into a corn field where he was apprehended and subdued with a stun gun. Higby said Rachas reached speeds of 80 m.p.h., but because it was late at night the traffic was minimal.

Rachas faces charges of DUI, aggravated fleeing to allude, violation of an order of protection, aggravated battery to a

peace officer, two counts of resisting a peace officer, possession of a controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia as well as numerous other traffic offenses.

Three of the charges, aggravated fleeing to allude, aggravated battery to an officer and possession of a controlled substance, are felony offenses.

Rachas was then taken to Kishwaukee Community Hospital where he was treated and released to another facility. The officer who initiated the call was treated for minor injuries at Rochelle Community Hospital and released.

The incident remains under investigation.

### **Man who led police on chase being held in jail on \$100,000 bond**

*November 20th, 2010*

A Rochelle man is being held in jail on \$100,000 bond on a list of charges after leading police on a high-speed chase to Kirkland last week when they tried to arrest him on a violation of an order of protection,

Ryan Rachas, 30, Rochelle, was charged in Ogle County Court this week with aggravated battery to a police officer, aggravated fleeing to elude a police officer, two counts of resisting a police officer, possession of a controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia, two counts of violating an order of protection, DUI as well as several traffic offenses,

including three counts of failure to stop at a stop sign, three counts of failure to signal and disobeying a traffic control device.

According to Rochelle Police Chief Eric Higby, the charges did not surface until several days after the incident as Rachas was admitted to a mental health facility in Hoffman Estates following his apprehension after the chase. Once released from the facility on Monday, warrants were issued for his arrest and, according to Higby, prior to being taken into custody on the warrants, Rachas allegedly violated the order of protection again, this time electronically via cell phone. When DeKalb County Sheriff deputies attempted to serve Rachas with the warrants, he again resisted arrest and had to be subdued with a stun gun. According to DeKalb County Sheriff's deputies, Rachas threatened to hurt himself in the course of the arrest. He was taken to Kishwaukee Community Hospital and treated before being transported to the Ogle County Jail in Oregon. Officials said it has yet to be determined if Rachas will face charges in DeKalb County for resisting arrest.

The events began to unfold Nov. 10 when police received a call at 10:47 p.m. that Rachas had violated an order of protection against a resident at 117 Seventh Avenue in Rochelle. When the officer attempted to

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take him into custody, he resisted and drove off, dragging the officer 20 feet in the process. Authorities later located Rachas at the intersection of Turkington Terrace and IL Route 38, where the chase began. Police pursued Rachas east on the highway, north on Flagg Road to IL Route 251 where he headed north to IL Route 64 and east before stopping near Kirkland and attempting to flee on foot. He was apprehended in a corn field near the intersection of IL Route 64 and Malta Road, where he resisted arrest and had to be subdued with a stun gun. He was transported to Kishwaukee Community Hospital where hospital personnel made the decision to have him admitted to a mental health facility rather than be transported to the jail.

Rachas appeared before Ogle County Judge Michael Mallon Wednesday who sustained his bond of \$100,000. According to Ogle County Assistant State's Attorney Aaron Wiles, Rachas has indicated he will be retaining counsel and is to appear in court on Monday for a status hearing on the case.

### **No two shift days are ever the same**

*November 23rd, 2010*

Officer James Gilliam has been serving the Rochelle community for 5 years, having started with the department Sept. 26, 2005.



"I really started to have the desire to become a police officer while in high school," he said. "Obviously the desire to have the chance to make a difference in a community and help people was the main reason for the initial interest. I always felt it was truly inspirational knowing there are people - police officers only being one example - who responds to an emergency situation, sometimes risking their own well-being to help someone they had probably never known." In preparation for his selected career path, Gilliam attended Western Illinois University and majored in law enforcement. "At that point it really started to feel that becoming a police officer was more of a calling or something I felt was my duty rather than just a career choice."

Gilliam is a trained Taser instructor as well as a member of the Emergency Response Team with SWAT training. He is also a field training officer and holds training in gang investigations. He was previously EMT-Basic certified.

He says response to community calls is the most important as an officer. "Responding and

acting as a problem solver to resolve the situation to the best of our ability using sound judgment and decision-making and enforce laws when necessary," Gilliam said. "Other important duties are patrolling while proactively searching for suspicious activity and enforcing traffic laws with the goal of trying to do our best to help preserve the safety of the public. Aside from those most important duties there are other duties such as appearances in court, processing offenders, completing all necessary paperwork, maintaining equipment, keeping up with current law changes, and continuous training and recertification for previous training."

Gilliam says Rochelle is a community that provides all of the necessary services and infrastructure to feel secure while raising a family - the school districts, healthcare systems, retail stores, emergency response and utilities just to name a few. Officer Gilliam lived in Rochelle earlier in his career with the department but now lives outside of Rochelle. He grew up in Monroe Center, the youngest child with five brothers and two sisters, and attended Stillman Valley schools.

He chose Rochelle for his law enforcement career because he grew up nearby and spent time here throughout high school.

"When I knew I wanted

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to become a police officer I had no idea where I was going to end up. I tested with four different agencies when I was 21 years old," Gilliam explained. "At the time I just wanted to become a police officer regardless of where it was. However, when I got a job offer from three different agencies in a two week period I really did start to take other factors into consideration."

I was so overwhelmed and excited about the opportunity at the time I really cannot reflect on what other factors influence my decision. I am just glad everything worked out the way it did and feel this is just where I am supposed to be."

So what does Officer Gilliam find enjoyable about his job?

"One of the most enjoyable things about the job is each day you have no idea what is going to happen. There is no routine as you don't know when, where, or why you will be called upon to handle a given situation," he said.

"One case I can remember in particular happened when I had only been at the police department for about a year," he said. "Another officer and I responded to call in an apartment building when we were confronted with the task of trying to get a bat out of the hallway. Needless to say it was not a situation we had been presented with during any type of training so we employed some tactics we learned

from the Chris Farley movie "Black Sheep" to get the bat out of the building," he joked. "Along the same lines, it is remarkable to think throughout an entire career you will never have a situation exactly identical to any one you have had before. It might be the same type of problem or situation you are dealing with, but there are always different factors involved. The thought of it keeps me constantly mentally preparing myself for what "could happen." The true enjoyment comes when you are able to resolve the situation and did the best you could to provide service and safety to the community."

When he is not serving in his capacity as officer, Gilliam enjoys spending time with his girlfriend and their 3-year-old daughter. They enjoy spending time outdoors at the park or in the yard during the summer and sledding in the winter. They also enjoy family vacations at least once a year to visit relatives in Florida.

Gilliam is also an avid Chicago sports fan - rooting for the Bears, Blackhawks, Bulls and Cubs. He also enjoys fishing, hunting and camping.

And he likes to participate in community activities such as the Citizen's Police Academy or other charity events and fundraisers when the opportunities arise.

### **Police crackdown on drug-related items**

*November 24th, 2010*

The Rochelle City Council took measures at its regular meeting to help the Rochelle Police Department better serve the community.

The police department continues to focus on ways to combat drugs and drug use in the community and the Illinois Drug Paraphernalia Control Act specifically prohibits the sale of several items that can be used in the processing or use of controlled substances. Recently officers discovered items available for sale in local businesses which are not covered under the act, but can easily be converted to facilitate drug use.

According to Rochelle Police Chief Eric Higby, his officers began seeing such merchandise show up in various retailers in town such as the gas stations, convenience stores and tobacco shops other uses.

One item in particular is a small, glass vile roughly 3-4 inches long and the width of a pen that contains a decorative rose. He explained that cocaine users remove the rose and use the vile as a crack pipe. Other items have hidden compartments and are disguised as shaving cream cans or tire sealant. The conventional use is as a place to hide a key or something else of value; however, drug users store drugs and other paraphernalia in these

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compartments.

"This ordinance allows us to crack down on offenders, whereas the previous ordinance did not cover these products or their marketing," Higby said. The Drug Paraphernalia Control Act allows local units of government to impose further restrictions on drug paraphernalia which are not covered under the act. Higby and Attorney Alan Cooper reviewed several drug paraphernalia ordinances from other communities and proposed an amendment to the code.

The changes will provide police officers with additional enforcement options based on the intended use of items. Other Business The Council received good news as it reviewed the city's budget halfway through the fiscal year. Financial Manager Chris Frye shared information with the council on various revenues and expenditures, stating that the budget is "pretty much on target." She added that the state is roughly three months behind in their income tax payments to the city, but they have a pattern of that and she expects everything to be paid in full eventually. Bonds issued

At the Oct. 12 city council meeting, the mayor and council approved an ordinance authorizing the issuance of general obligation bonds in an amount not to exceed \$2.94 million to finance offsite

improvements related to the Lighthouse Pointe Subdivision and IL Route 38 corridor, otherwise known at site for the new Wal-Mart.

This will grant the city the authority to issue Taxable General Obligation Bonds designated as Recovery Zone Economic Development Bonds with proceeds from the bond issuance going to finance improvements within the TIF District as outlined in the Pre-Development Agreement between the city and North Route 38 LLC.

The bonds will be issued in an amount not to exceed \$2.94 million with principal payable annually on Dec. 1 and interest due semi-annually on June 1 and Dec. 1.

The bonds will become due and payable over a period ending no later than Dec. 1, 2030 in an amount not exceeding \$500,000 per year. The annual debt service will be paid through TIF revenues, interest refunds from the Internal Revenue Service and other lawfully available city funds.

Financial manager Chris Frye addressed the council and said they recently were awarded an A+ bond rating. "This is a reflection on the strong management, credit worthiness and other good things going on in the city," Frye explained. Engineering services The city is looking to replace a cast iron water main on Kelley Drive that has experienced 11 water main

breaks in the past four years. A visual inspection of the main, conducted while under repair, indicated that the main is pitted and has begun developing holes.

Waste Water Superintendent Cathy Cooper explained to the council that water mains put in place nearly 100 years ago tend to work well as do the newer pipes installed; however, the water mains put in during the 1950s through the 1970s tend to see more breaks.

This water main in particular is 6 inches, but it will be replaced with an 8-inch pipe and possibly a 12-inch pipe in some places to plan for future growth.

At RMU's request Willett, Hofmann & Associates submitted an engineering proposal for the design and construction observation related to the replacement of 1,750 feet of water main on Kelley Drive from Seventh Avenue to Caron Road for a total fee of \$50,000.

The 2010/11 Water Division Capital Budget includes \$25,000 for the engineering design of 2011/12 projects to facilitate the preparation of plans, bid specifications and permit submittals. Based on the proposed timeline, the construction phase of the water main replacement would begin in April of 2011.

RMU plans to include the construction observation fee of \$21,000 in the 2011/12 Water

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Division Capital Budget.

The council unanimously approved the bid for services.

### **Police academy offered again**

*December 7th, 2010*

The Rochelle Police Department is now taking applications for the second annual Citizen Police Academy. The academy is held on Thursday nights from 6-9 p.m. beginning on Feb. 3, 2011.



*Members of the first Rochelle Police Department Citizen's Police Academy practiced traffic stops during last year's class.*

Applications can be picked up at the police department at any time and the deadline for them to be returned is Jan. 21. In order to be accepted to the C.P.A., candidates need to either work or reside in Rochelle and pass a background check.

The purpose of the academy is to introduce community members to the functions and activities within the Rochelle Police Department. Each Thursday night for 10 weeks, the individuals who are selected will learn about department history, department divisions (communications, patrol, detective, administration), domestic violence, patrol operations, criminal

investigations and evidence, police K9 deployment, drugs and gangs, criminal law, the Emergency Response Team, use of force, firearms, DUI and traffic enforcement. A mock trial also will be part of the curriculum.

Anyone with an interest in learning more about the Rochelle Police Department and contributing to the safety of the community is encouraged to take advantage of this unique opportunity.

### **Police asking public for help**

*December 9th, 2010*

Rochelle Police are asking for the public's help in looking for two subjects who allegedly used a Illinois Link card at a local grocery store.

On Wednesday, Nov. 3 the Rochelle Police Department responded to Aldi Foods in reference to the unlawful use of a Illinois Link card.

The victim reportedly used his Link card at 1:49 p.m. while at the store.

The victim reported he later found another charge on his Link card had been made at 4:04 p.m., also at Aldi Foods.

The victim was not at Aldi Foods at the time of this transaction. On Nov. 30, the Rochelle Police Department obtained video footage of two male, white subjects who are seen purchasing groceries at the time the fraudulent charge was made to the victim's Link card.

The Rochelle Police

Department has been unable to identify the two subjects in the video and is asking for the public's assistance in doing so.

If you have any information as to the identity of the subjects seen in the photos please contact the Rochelle Police Department at 815-562-213 or call the Ogle-Lee Crime Stoppers at 1-888-228-4488.

### **With the fresh snow come parking rules**

*December 9th, 2010*

The official arrival of winter last Friday evening with a blanket of snow ushered in some annual adjustments for residents of the "Hub City."

With snow comes the task of snow removal and city crews worked all night and well into Saturday clearing the white stuff to make it easier for motorists to get around town.

Like most cities, Rochelle has a parking ordinance that goes into effect after three inches of snow accumulation. On even calendar days, drivers should park on the even side of the street so city crews can clear the odd side. On odd days, cars should be parked on the odd side of the street. This is in effect from 7 a.m. to 7 a.m. each day and for not less than 48 hours from the time the snowfall ends.

So basically, if crews were in the midst of removing snow today, you would park your vehicle on the odd side of the street and tomorrow

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morning you would move it to the even side of the street. This routine would be in place until two days after the snow stops falling. Superintendent of Streets Don Elliott explained that once the plows get through the streets and clear both sides, then motorists can return to parking on either side until the next snow fall.

The police are prepared to enforce the ordinance when problems occur. According to Rochelle Police Chief violators will pay \$25, but only if it comes to the point where a vehicle has to be towed from street. Officers do not issue warnings, but instead mark the vehicle with a sticker which informs the owner that they are improperly parked.

### **RTHS bomb threat** *December 18th, 2010*



It started out like any other Friday morning for Rochelle Township High School officials, but one piece of paper changed that. At just after 9 a.m., a teacher informed the administration that a threatening letter was found in their classroom, making a "non-specific"

bomb threat at the school. The note was hand written and found in a classroom; however, school officials and police would not indicate which classroom.

The Rochelle Police Department immediately was called and after conducting an initial investigation, it was determined that the school would not be evacuated as the students and staff were not in danger.

RTHS Superintendent Jamie Craven broadcast an Alert Now message at 3:15 p.m. so parents were made aware of the situation. According to Craven, a "person of interest as the possible author of the note was quickly identified," but neither Craven nor police officials would comment on how or why they made this determination. "We take these matters seriously and always have the students' best interest in mind," Craven said. "Had there been any cause for real danger we would have evacuated immediately." After school was let out, the police department was assisted by the Northern Illinois University Police Department who brought in bomb-sniffing dogs to canvas the school. The entire building was searched with three dogs as well as several officers. The sweep took just over two hours and officials did not find anything threatening. Students participating in after-school activities were present during the search and the basketball game

versus Morris High School went on as planned. The school begins final exams on Monday. Craven explained that they brought in the dogs to be proactive and to be absolutely positive that there was not a threat. He added that if anyone has additional concerns or information helpful to the investigation, they can contact the high school at 815-562-4161. The investigation is ongoing and anyone with related information is urged to call the Rochelle Police Department at 815-562-2131 or Ogle Lee Crimestoppers at 1-888-228-4488.

### **Creston man arrested on mob action charges**

*December 21st, 2010*



A Creston man has been charged in DeKalb County in connection with a fight that took place earlier this month on the campus of the Kishwaukee Education Consortium in Malta, and authorities are connecting the dots to another incident that occurred in Rochelle around that same time.

On Dec. 6, authorities were called to the KEC campus, which is on the same property as Kishwaukee College, for a

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report of a fight, said Gary Dumdie , chief deputy for the DeKalb County Sheriff's Office.

Apparently, several individuals pulled up in a vehicle and attacked a particular person, Dumdie said. According to authorities, the incidents appear to be gang-related and the victim was singled out because of gang ties.

Dumdie said there were several witnesses because the busses were loading students at the time near the area where the incident occurred. It appears that there were four to five individuals in the vehicle, some of whom were wearing masks. There has been just one arrest thus far. John J. Smith, 17, Creston, was charged with mob action a Class 4 felony punishable by up to three years in prison and aggravated battery, a Class 3 felony punishable by up to five years in prison.

A portion of the case has to deal with the Dec. 5 shooting in Rochelle. In that incident, Rochelle Police received a 9-1-1 call at 1:01 p.m. that a shot had been fired at 300 S. Main St. According to Chief Eric Higby, the caller said that a Hispanic male subject shot at an unoccupied van in the parking lot, then fled north on foot with another male subject. Descriptions of the two were sketchy, but witnesses said they were wearing blue jeans and coats. Officers were able to recover evidence at 300 S. Main Street, including a round from a

small-caliber gun. It appears the gunman was standing on the sidewalk when he shot at the van; however, authorities do not know if the van was the actual target.

Dumdie said the Rochelle incident and the one in Malta were gang-related. "It's an ongoing investigation," Dumdie said, but authorities from DeKalb County and Rochelle Police are remaining tightlipped on what or who they are looking for so as not to jeopardize the case. Dumdie said the shooting in Rochelle happened the day prior to the incident at KEC, so when they started asking other officials in the area things started coming together connecting the two incidents. Dumdie said he believes the incident at KEC was retaliation.

"We ' l l p r o b a b l y h a v e more arrests in the near future." Smith was taken into custody Friday afternoon and is awaiting a bond hearing and as of Monday afternoon remained in custody.

Higby said Smith has not been charged for the Rochelle shooting and both events remain under investigation.

**Police department offering academy**  
*December 28th, 2010*



The Rochelle Police Department is now taking applications for the second annual Citizen Police Academy. The academy will be held on Thursday nights from 6-9 p.m. beginning on Feb. 3, 2011. Applications can be picked up at the police department at any time and the deadline for them to be returned is Jan. 21. In order to be accepted to the C.P.A., candidates need to either work or reside in Rochelle and pass a background check.

The purpose of the academy is to introduce community members to the functions and activities within the Rochelle Police Department. Each Thursday night for 10 weeks, the individuals who are selected will learn about department history, department divisions (communications, patrol, detective, administration), domestic violence, patrol operations, criminal investigations and evidence, police K-9 deployment, drugs and gangs, criminal law, the Emergency Response Team, use of force, firearms , DUI and traffic enforcement. A mock trial also will be part of the curriculum. Anyone with an interest in learning more about the Rochelle Police Department and contributing to the safety of the community is encouraged to take advantage of this unique opportunity.

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### **Police have person of interest in RTHS threat**

*December 30th, 2010*

Sometimes what seems like a bad event actually can turn out to be a rather positive happening, despite the stress it causes at the time.

On Friday, Dec. 17, Rochelle Township High School experienced what seemed to be a bomb threat. Not your everyday crisis, but one for which the school district as well as local authorities were prepared.

"These situations are never good, but we are fortunate to have a wonderful working relationship with the Rochelle Police Department," said RTHS Superintendent Jamie Craven. Although the investigation is ongoing, Rochelle Police Chief Eric Higby did say that officials identified a "person of interest" who has been interviewed. The suspected person is a male who allegedly acted alone.

On that Friday at roughly 9 a.m., an instructor found a handwritten note in a classroom which apparently threatened the school with a bomb. Neither Craven nor Higby would state in which classroom the note was found. At the time, the school was preparing for final exams that began the following Monday.

School officials acted quickly and immediately called in the police, who determined the letter was not a threat to the safety

of the students or staff at 3:15 p.m., following normal dismissal, an AlertNow message was sent out to all parents and guardians explaining the situation and encouraging parents to call if they had concerns. Craven said they had a few parents call and they responded to those inquiries by that evening. "The rest of the responses we received were nothing but positive," he added.

To be cautious the school district called on the help of Northern Illinois University who worked with other agencies to secure three bomb-sniffing dogs who swept the entire campus that afternoon after students were dismissed. "We didn't have to do it, but we always want to be 100 percent certain we're safe and the only way to verify that to be true was to bring in NIU and use their resources," Craven explained, adding that the entire search took three hours. Law enforcement agencies often call upon other departments in their area to assist in crisis situations. For example, Rochelle Police Department sent its K-9 officer to NIU for the Feb. 14, 2008 shooting that occurred on campus. The S.W.A.T. Team works in much the same way, sending officers out from a centralized location in Rockford.

"It's really a testament to how well the AlertNow system works," Craven said. "We can get one message out to everyone

so they hear the same message at the same time." In addition, Craven said he spoke with each member of the board of education, making them aware of the situation.

Penalties range

Higby explained that detectives are continuing the investigation into the incident and evidence has been sent to a lab for evaluation. Craven confirmed that the alleged person of interest is not in school at this time. The possible penalties if the student is charged and convicted depend on the actual charges and whether they are misdemeanor or felony offenses.

If you have information pertinent to the case, contact the police department at 815-562-2131.

### **Squad car damaged while assisting motorist**

*December 30th, 2010*



The Rochelle Police Department is minus a cruiser after one of its squad cars was involved in an accident earlier in the month.

According to Rochelle Police Chief Eric Higby, Officer Brian Van Vickle parked the vehicle near the intersection of Flagg Road and 20th Street when it was struck by another moving vehicle.

Van Vickle was stationary and had the

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emergency lights activated while assisting a motorist who had gone into the ditch just east of the intersection. At this point, a third vehicle lost control and struck the squad car.

No one was injured in either accident and it appears that weather was a factor in both the original car going in the ditch and the second car striking the squad car.

Higby is waiting to hear from the insurance company if the vehicle is totaled, but he said the first estimate came back supporting that.

It's a white 2007 Chevrolet Impala and the department is able to rotate in unmarked squad cars to fill the gap of the out-of commission vehicle. He added that the cost of replacement is \$21,000 to \$23,000, and most likely the department will follow its replacement schedule as this squad was due to be replaced in the near future.

Although the light bar cannot be salvaged, much of the interior equipment can be transferred to a new vehicle.

Last year, the department obtained three new Dodge Chargers and Higby said that most likely this one will be replaced with a Charger as well.

Because law enforcement agencies are not allowed to investigate their own accidents, the Illinois State Police is handling the investigation.