

# **ROCHELLE POLICE DEPARTMENT**



**2011 ANNUAL  
REPORT**

## 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 234th 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.

A.A. Schwartz joined the department in 2001. She is the assistant to the Chief of Police and handles department records, statistical records, annual reports, correspondence, court scheduler, website maintenance, and is the CAD & Records Management System administrator. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration and served four years in the United States Air Force.

**10 YEAR**



**ANNIVERSARY**  
**ADMINISTRATIVE AIDE**  
**RENÉ SCHWARTZ**



# DETECTIVE DIVISION

## 10 YEAR



**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.



**ANNIVERSARY  
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 a department FOIA officer. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Law Enforcement Administration and a Master of Science in Biosecurity-Disaster Preparedness.



**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 is a truck enforcement officer 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 is a safety seat technician, holds an Associates Degree in Criminal Justice 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 and 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

## 10 YEAR



**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/drunken 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.



**ANNIVERSARY  
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 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, assists with fleet maintenance, and is assigned to the patrol division. From 2005 – 2008 he 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.



**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. He is a Field Training Officer and child safety seat technician. Officer Goodwin is assigned to the patrol division and holds an Associates Degree in Criminal Justice.



## 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. 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  
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.



**OFFICER  
ELVIS BANESKI**

Officer Baneski joined the department in March of 2008. He has a Bachelor's Degree in Management. Officer Baneski lead the department in calls for service, criminal, DUI and drug arrests. He has received training in patrol tactics, street crimes, complete traffic stops, rapid deployment, and breath alcohol testing. He is a bike officer and is assigned to the patrol division.

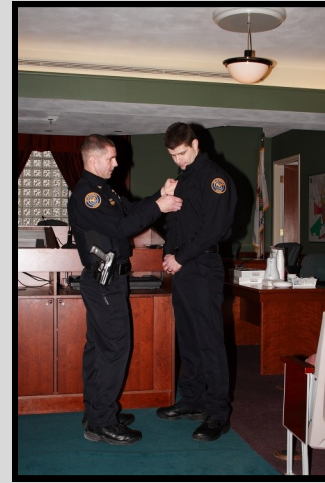


# PATROL DIVISION



**OFFICER  
JOSEPH SESTER**

Officer Sester joined the department in 2011. He is a bike officer and is assigned to the Patrol Division. He has training in patrol tactics, complete traffic stops and is a truck enforcement officer.



**Swearing-in Ceremony**



**OFFICER  
SONNY STREIT**

Officer Streit joined the department in 2011 and is assigned to the Patrol Division. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Law Enforcement and Justice Administration, and minored in Homeland Security. Sonny has training in patrol tactics and current drug trends.



**Swearing-in Ceremony**



# PATROL K-9

**5 YEAR**



**ANNIVERSARY**  
**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, breath alcohol testing, and Police Canine Training. She is assigned to the patrol division and assists with evidence room maintenance. Officer Anderson is on the ILEAS Mobile Field Force Team and is a K-9 Officer.



**K-9 DON**

**K-9 Don** began his career with the department in February 2010.



**OFFICER**  
**BRIAN VANVICKLE**

Officer VanVickle joined the department in February of 2009. Officer VanVickle has completed training in breath alcohol testing, excited delirium and 10 weeks of Police Canine Training. He assists with fleet maintenance and is assigned to the patrol division. Officer VanVickle is also a department truck enforcement officer and K-9 Officer.



**K-9 CRANK**

**K-9 Crank** began his career with the department in July 2011.



# 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 2011. 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 dispatch, 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 THUMAN**

Dispatcher Thuman joined the department in 1987. She is a certified LAC LEADS Operator and certified in 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, fire dispatch, domestic violence, TTY, and non-emergency call handling.



**DISPATCHER  
TONY MILBURN**

Dispatcher Milburn joined the department in 2000, and is a training officer and special needs/child safety seat technician. He is certified in 911 dispatch, 911 liability 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 the Rochelle Fire Department.



**DISPATCHER  
LUIA 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, On-Star and Homeland Security.



## COMMUNICATIONS



**DISPATCHER  
CORY BECK**

Dispatcher Beck joined the department in 2004. She is a training officer and a certified LAC LEADS operator. 911 dispatch, LEADS, incident command, active shooter, stress identification, 911-liability and domestic violence. She has additional training in CPR, AED, On-Star, fire dispatch, advanced law enforcement dispatch, EMD and TTY.



**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, On-Star and TTY.



**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 is certified in 911 liability emergency medical dispatch, and fire service dispatch. 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. Melinda is certified in emergency medical dispatch along with 911 liability and fire dispatch. She is the office manager for the NIU chemistry/biochemistry department.



# 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.



## CROSSING GUARDS

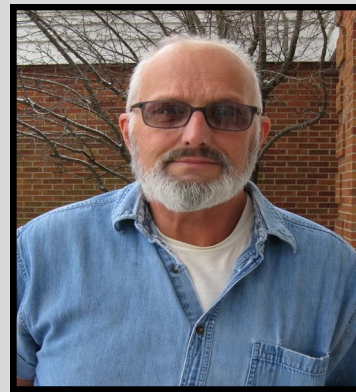


**CLYDE STROUSE**

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

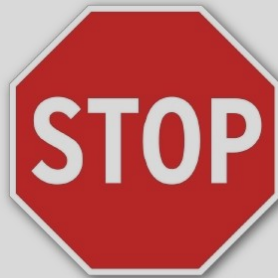
**RONALD TIPPY**

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.



## **CROSSING GUARDS**

### **KATHLEEN SANDERS**

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



### **JAMES BIRECHALL**

Mr. Birechall has been with the department for since 2011. He is currently serving as a substitute crossing guard.

### **JOAN BIRECHALL**

Mrs. Birechall has been with the department for since 2011. She is currently serving as a substitute crossing guard.



## DEPARTMENT NEWS

- An Official Department Facebook page was created this year. This tool will be used to keep people informed on what we are doing. News releases, pictures and other noteworthy information will be posted on this site. Facebook has been used successfully to raise community awareness and fight crime.
- 2011 was the first year that our marked fleet was composed entirely of black and white chargers, excluding one of our K9 units.
- An administrative tow ordinance was placed into effect in May. This ordinance is meant to give officers another tool to combat the chronic offenders in our city. Offenders arrested while driving in connection with certain offenses have a \$500.00 administrative fee imposed in addition to having the vehicle towed.
- The switch to BDU (Battle Dress Uniform) pants gives a more contemporary look and added uses utility/functionality.
- Two officers and one sergeant attended basic truck weight enforcement classes. This training addressed increased truck traffic, safety and infrastructure concerns. One 80,000 lb. legal semi does the same amount of damage to the road as 9,600 cars.
- In June-crash reenactment at Helms Field
- Sergeant Bergeron obtained an Associates Degree in Criminal Justice. Detective Inman obtained a Master of Science Degree in Biosecurity-Disaster Preparedness. Officer Goodwin obtained an Associates Degree in Criminal Justice.
- Replaced the garage door.
- The bathroom off of dispatch/911 center was refurbished.
- The old roll call room was organized and turned into an office/equipment storage area for the bike and K9 units.
- To better utilize existing space in the department, a storage room off of the former deputy chief's office was converted into an office for the detective sergeant, providing additional space for the three other detectives.



Officer Streit and Chief Higby at the Police Training Institute Graduation



## **TRAINING—FISCAL YEAR 2011**

**Officer Emily Anderson**-Current Trends in Drug Abuse-8 hours, Advanced Criminal Interdiction-24 hours, Law Enforcement Response to Suicide Bombing Attacks-8 hours, Advanced Commercial Vehicle Interdiction-24 hours, CPR-2 hours, Interviews & Interrogations-24 hours, Ground Fighting-7 hours. **97 Total.**

**Officer Elvis Baneski**-Illinois Vehicle Code-16 hours, CPR-4 hours, Police Cyclist-40 hours, Basic Traffic Crash Investigations-24 hours, B.A.O. recertification-2 hours, Ground Fighting 7 hours. **93 Total.**

**Sergeant Jason Bergeron**-Motorcycle Gang Investigation-8 hours, Hazmat-3 hours. **11 Total.**

**Officer Dave Christopherson**-Rapid Medical Response-8 hours. **8 Total.**

**Sergeant Phil Frankenberry**-Portable Scale Certification-4 hours, Basic Truck Weight Enforcement-40 hours, B.A.O. recertification-2 hours, LEADS recertification-2 hours, Hazmat-3 hours. **51 Total.**

**Officer Matt Gerard**-Cell Phone Investigations-7 hours, Basic S.W.A.T.-40 hours, Tactical Field Interviewing 14 hours, Hazmat-3 hours, LEADS-2 hours, Internet Investigation Techniques-8 hours, Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention-8 hours, Ground Fighting-7 hours, Illinois Vehicle Code-16 hours. **105 hours.**

**Officer James Gilliam**-CPR-2 hours, Hazmat-3 hours. **5 Total**

**Officer Jason Goodwin**-CPR-2 hours, Ground Fighting-7 hours, Motorcycle Gangs-8 hours, Social Networking Investigations-8 hours, Hazmat-3 hours, LEADS recertification-2 hours. **30 Total.**

**Sergeant William Haan**-Dui Detection & S.F.S.T. Refresher-8 hours, Law Enforcement Response to Suicide Bombing Attacks-8 hours, Hot Topics-8 hours, B.A.O. Recertification-2 hours, Hazmat-3 hours. **29 Total.**

**Chief Eric Higby**-Management's Rights-8 hours, When Technology Attacks- 2 hours, Personnel Management Issues for Police Supervisors-2 hours, Illinois Vehicle Code-10 hours, Law Enforcement Response to Suicide Bombing Attacks-8 hours, Organizational Accountability (Force Management)-5 hours, Child Abduction Investigations-8 hours, Why Teens Kill-4 hours, F.O.I.A. recertification-2 hours, Effective Discipline Practices for Chiefs-3 hours, Shining Star M.D.T. Training-16 hours. **68 Total.**

**Detective Terry Inman**-Lead Homicide Investigator-40 hours, I.E.M.A. Homeland Security-24 hours, Lead Homicide Investigator-40 hours, Child Abduction Investigations-8 hours, Hazmat-3 hours, Prescription Drug Abuse Investigations-8 hours, F.O.I.A. recertification-2 hours, O.M.A. recertification-2 hours. **127 Total.**

**Officer James Jakymiw**-Rapid Medical Response-8 hours, Illinois Vehicle Code-16 hours, Police Cyclist-40 hours. **64 Total.**



## **TRAINING cont'd**

**Detective John Kaltenbach**-Drug Community Supervision-32 hours, Why Teens Kill-4 hours, Taser Instructor Recertification-16 hours. **52 hours total.**

**Detective Sergeant Leininger**-Lead Homicide Investigator-40 hours, Hazmat-3 hours, Why Teens Kill-4 hours, Hazmat-2 hours. **49 total.**

**Officer Aaron Rodabaugh**-CPR-2 hours, Ground Fighting-7 hours. **9 total.**

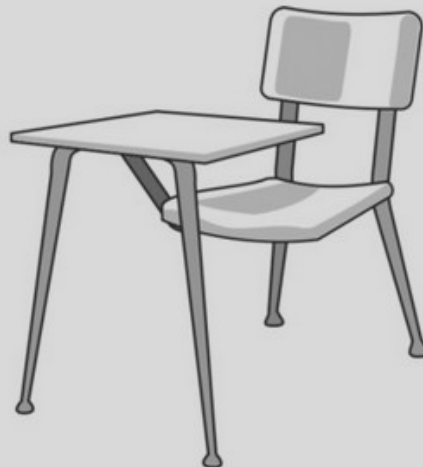
**Officer Joseph Sester**-Portable Scales Certification-4 hours, Basic Truck Weight Enforcement-40 hours, Breath Alcohol Testing-24 hours, CPR-2 hours, Illinois Vehicle Code-16 hours, Complete Traffic Stops-16 hours, Police Cyclist-40 hours. **142 Total.**

**Sergeant Chet Smith**-Con Games-4 hours, CPR-2 hours, Hot Topics-8 hours, Child Abduction Investigations-8 hours. **22 Total.**

**Officer Sonny Streit**-Current Trends in Drug Abuse-8 hours, Breath Alcohol Testing-24 hours, Basic Law Enforcement (academy) 480 hours. **512 Total.**

**Officer Brian VanVickle**-Police Canine Training-400 hours, Hostage Negotiations-40 hours. **440 Total.**

**Officer Matt Wittenberg**-Dui Detection & S.F.S.T. Refresher-8 hours, CPR-2 hours, Hazmat-3 hours. **13 Total.**



# K-9 ACTIVITY



- The Masons hosted a spaghetti supper at the **Masonic Lodge** to assist the department in generating funds to purchase a second K-9. K-9 Don was on hand and received lots of attention from guests supporting the initiative as depicted in the photo at the right.



- Officers are pictured at a **Rotary Club** meeting accepting a \$4,500.00 donation for the second department K-9 from Rotarian Robert Johns. *(right)* K-9 Don and his handler Officer Anderson provided a short demonstration for those in attendance.



- Officer Brian VanVickle pictured *(right)* with K-9 **“Crank”**. Crank was selected on July 18th from Northcoast K-9—Monroeville, OH, based upon his search and retrieval abilities as compared to other candidates. To read more about “Crank” see the July 24th article in the news release section.



- K-9 Demo at the Focus House** during their annual fundraising event. Pictured *(left)* Officer Anderson, K-9 Don, and Chief Eric Higby with the bite sleeve.



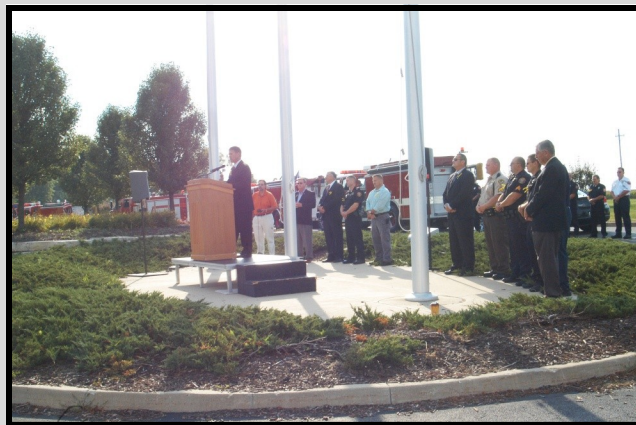
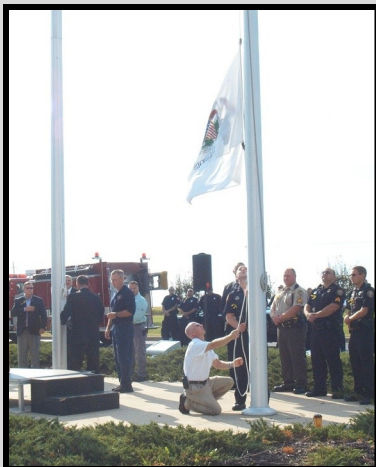
# 9-11 10th ANNIVERSARY TRIBUTE

On September 11, 2011 the Rochelle Police Department participated in a **Northern Illinois Tribute at the Rockford Speedway** which included a display of steel acquired from the World Trade Center incident.



Photo submitted courtesy of James L. Ambruso)

The department also participated in the **5.11 Tactical Patch Swap**. Where law enforcement agencies were invited to submit a department patch to be included in the construction of a 15 foot memorial commemorating the World Trade Center 10 year anniversary 9/11 event (right).



RTHS students remembered the victims of 9/11 Monday and honored local first responders with a **Flag-Raising Ceremony** outdoors.



# CITIZEN POLICE ACADEMY

The department experienced another successful year with it's **2nd Annual 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.



# COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

## LINCOLN HIGHWAY HERITAGE FESTIVAL

- Fire Chief Brian Johnson, Mayor Chet Olson, and Police Chief Eric Higby judged the “Rochelle’s Got Talent” event this year at Rochelle’s 14th Annual Lincoln Highway Heritage Festival (pictured at right).



Rochelle’s Got Talent contestants.

While on foot patrol for the duration of the festival—Officers spend time policing the grounds to ensure this event is safe and fun for all. Below officers can be seen mingling with festival goers and participating in the parade.



# COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- **Champions for Children** walk May 14<sup>th</sup>-More Ogle County residents took part in this year's walk than ever before. The walk is used to generate awareness of sexual and physical child abuse. This event is organized by the Shining Star Children's Advocacy Center in Dixon.
- **2011 Special Olympics Torch Run** was met with one of our largest turnouts in the last 15 years. The department was delighted to have Sammy Guzzardo, a participant in the Olympics, join them in the run this year.
- In 2011, the department held three **Neighborhood Watch** meetings that were open to the public. Our purpose was to engage residents in becoming aware of their surroundings and to network with their neighbors. These meetings allowed department personnel to meet with residents to field questions and to establish partnerships to combat community problems.



- Department members participate in the annual **St. Baldricks'** event sponsored by Xpressions Salon. This event benefits childhood cancer research.



- Chief Higby, Judge Mallon, and Attorney John Reddington participated in a **League of Women Voters** panel discussion about "bonds" in Ogle County.
- **School meetings** were held on various topics to include gang education and juvenile justice throughout the year.



Officer Joseph Sester

- A "**Hero Luncheon**" was held at Lincoln School in October which included reading to the kids, and discussion topics on policing and safety education.



Chief Eric Higby



# COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT



- Officer Goodwin spoke with **St. Paul School—1st grade students** about his role as police officer and shared basic safety information.



- The department hosted 3 blood drives this year collecting 119 units of blood. The popular **Halloween Vein Drain**



event kicks off with our gracious coordinator Jaclyn Thomson (*right*) of the Rock River Valley Blood Bank donning her spooky attire, complete with festive treats and door prizes awarded to our Halloween enthusiasts for best costume!



- Chief Higby was a guest on the May 18<sup>th</sup> “**Let the People know**” radio show hosted by Jeff Leon.
- A **Bicycle Safety** talk was held for students at the Rochelle Child Care Center.
- The department participated in the **Drug Enforcement Agency National Take Back Initiative** (DEA-NTBI) again this year. Each year collection dates and sites are established where residents are encouraged to drop off their expired, unwanted, unneeded pharmaceuticals preventing these items from falling into the wrong hands.
- Chief Higby fingerprints a child (*right*) during the **Childhood Identification Program** (CHIPS) event conducted at the Masonic Lodge.



- Chief Higby receiving a check donation (*left*) from Union Pacific Railroad for the **Bike Patrol** program which will be implemented in the spring/summer of 2012.



# COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

## National Police Week

Each year in May, the Tebala Shrine Temple hosts the **National Police Week** annual **Northern Illinois Police Memorial Breakfast and Service**. This event is held in honor of law enforcement officers who have died in the line of duty.



- Throughout the week area law enforcement agencies have displays at **Cherry Vale Mall**. Below, Officer Anderson and K-9 Don pose with visitors.



# COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

## 2011 Boundary Waters Trip

The fourth annual “No Boundaries” trip group included Detective John Kaltenbach, Officer Brian VanVickle, 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	2011	2010	2009	2008
TOTAL CALLS FOR SERVICE	10990	10925	9735	10677
TOTAL 911 CALLS	2660	2215	2071	2071
*INCOMING/OUTGOING CALLS	43599	61192	56435	0
TRAFFIC STOPS	2204	2082	1976	1962
TRAFFIC TICKETS ISSUED	1376	1332	1698	1772
WRITTEN WARNINGS ISSUED	1643	1464	1262	1304
DUI ARRESTS	79	61	64	58
ACCIDENTS	314	332	364	402
ACCIDENTS WITH INJURIES	25	19	16	22
ACCIDENTS WITH FATALITIES	0	0	2	1
CRIMINAL DAMAGE TO PROPERTY	78	90	73	91
CRIMINAL DAMAGE TO VEHICLE	50	83	75	68
CRIMINAL TRESPASS TO LAND	8	6	5	3
BURGLARY TO BUSINESS	17	16	4	17
BURGLARY TO RESIDENCE	17	24	20	16
BURGLARY TO VEHICLE	23	26	34	41
BURGLARY OTHER	2	5	2	2
ATTEMPTED BURGLARY	0	2	3	6
STOLEN VEHICLES	7	4	0	7
ARMED ROBBERY	2	1	0	0
THEFT OVER \$500	21	29	27	38
THEFT UNDER \$500	114	81	83	113
DOMESTICS	150	192	144	156
DOMESTIC BATTERY	41	45	51	55
AGGRAVATED BATTERY	2	3	5	2
BATTERY	44	54	48	44
DISORDERLY CONDUCT	10	10	8	9
WARRANTS SERVED	126	144	131	181
CRIMINAL ARRESTS	434	449	583	569
HOMICIDES	0	0	0	1
MALE PRISONERS	341	317	392	406
FEMALE PRISONERS	80	77	105	92
ANIMAL CALLS	234	303	316	290
ALARMS	220	217	322	207
CRIMINAL SEXUAL ASSAULT/ABUSE	6	6	4	7
SHOOTING	5	4		
ABANDONED VEHICLES	52	75	81	101
PARKING TICKETS	105	112	170	232
ARSON	1	1	1	1

\*Decrease due to recorder downtime.

## ROCHELLE POLICE DEPARTMENT 2011 STATISTICAL TRENDS

TYPE OF ACTIVITY	2011	2010	NUMERICAL DIFFERENCE	PERCENTAGE OF CHANGE
TOTAL CALLS FOR SERVICE	10990	10925	65	0.6%
TOTAL 911 CALLS	2660	2215	445	20.1%
*INCOMING/OUTGOING CALLS	43599	61192	-17593	-28.8%
TRAFFIC STOPS	2204	2082	122	5.9%
TRAFFIC TICKETS ISSUED	1376	1332	44	3.3%
WRITTEN WARNINGS ISSUED	1643	1464	179	12.2%
DUI ARRESTS	79	61	18	29.5%
ACCIDENTS	314	332	-18	-5.4%
ACCIDENTS WITH INJURIES	25	19	6	31.6%
ACCIDENTS WITH FATALITIES	0	0	0	0.0%
CRIMINAL DAMAGE TO PROPERTY	78	90	-12	-13.3%
CRIMINAL DAMAGE TO VEHICLE	50	83	-33	-39.8%
CRIMINAL TRESPASS TO LAND	8	6	2	33.3%
BURGLARY TO BUSINESS	17	16	1	6.3%
BURGLARY TO RESIDENCE	17	24	-7	-29.2%
BURGLARY TO VEHICLE	23	26	-3	-11.5%
BURGLARY OTHER	2	5	-3	-60.0%
ATTEMPTED BURGLARY	0	2	-2	-100.0%
STOLEN VEHICLES	7	4	3	400.0%
ARMED ROBBERY	2	1	1	100.0%
THEFT OVER \$500	21	29	-8	-27.6%
THEFT UNDER \$500	114	81	33	40.7%
DOMESTICS	150	192	-42	-21.9%
DOMESTIC BATTERY	41	45	-4	-8.9%
AGGRAVATED BATTERY	2	3	-1	-33.3%
BATTERY	44	54	-10	-18.5%
DISORDERLY CONDUCT	10	10	0	0.0%
WARRANTS SERVED	126	144	-18	-12.5%
CRIMINAL ARRESTS	434	449	-15	-3.3%
HOMICIDES	0	0	0	0.0%
MALE PRISONERS	341	317	24	7.6%
FEMALE PRISONERS	80	77	3	3.9%
ANIMAL CALLS	234	303	-69	-22.8%
ALARMS	220	217	3	1.4%
CRIMINAL SEXUAL ASSAULT/ABUSE	6	6	0	0.0%
SHOOTING	5	4	1	25.0%
ABANDONED VEHICLES	52	75	-23	-30.7%
PARKING TICKETS	105	112	-7	-6.3%
ARSON	1	1	0	0.0%

\*Decrease due to recorder downtime. 26

**ROCHELLE POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**INDIVIDUAL ACTIVITY**

**TOTAL CALLS 10990 FOR 2011**

OFFICER	#	TOTAL CFS	CRIMINAL ARRESTS	WARRANT ARRESTS	TRAFFIC ARRESTS	WRITTEN WARNINGS	PARKING TICKETS	ORDINANCE VIOLATIONS
WITTENBERG	8	533	52	14	90	121	4	2
JAKYMIW	9	658	29	20	156	134	1	6
INMAN	10	20	3			4		
BANESKI	11	748	92	31	344	295	20	2
STREIT	31	281	13	8	69	128	5	
GERARD	13	729	15	19	48	70	9	5
VANVICKLE	14	450	20	5	46	73	4	
SESTER	30	642	49	12	86	128	6	5
RODABAUGH	16	280	10	7	34	45	36	1
KALTENBACH	17	41	14	3	1	3		1
CHRISTOPHERSON	18	389	13	7	47	40		
GOODWIN	19	548	24	20	75	64	9	6
GILLIAM	20	282	39	16	40	50	1	
ANDERSON	21	647	29	6	67	149	2	
SMITH	22	289	2	3	13	53	3	6
BERGERON	23	252	14	5	25	31	1	2
FRANKENBERRY	24	421	8	8	161	190	1	
LEININGER	25	28	1		1	3		
HAAN	26	358	7	1	68	60	3	1
HIGBY	27	13						
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>7652</b>	<b>434</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>1376</b>	<b>1643</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>37</b>

**ROCHELLE POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
**SELECTED OFFICER ACTIVITY**  
**2011**

OFFICER	#	DUI	ILLEGAL POSS/CONS	MINOR POSS/CONS	DRUG	SUSP/ REVOKED	INSURANCE	SEAT BELT	SPEEDING	STOP ARM
WITTENBERG	8	14	2	7	15	5	14	1	33	
JAKYMIW	9	3	3	2	3	5	27	2	37	2
INMAN	10								1	
BANESKI	11	27	8	20	26	18	55	2	147	
STREIT	31	3			6	6	11		42	1
GERARD	13				2		13	1	12	3
VANVICKLE	14		1	1	6	2		1	26	
SESTER	30	2	1	2	4	5	11		18	1
RODABAUGH	16	1		1		1	7		11	
KALTENBACH	17				1				1	
CHRISTOPHERSON	18	4	1		1	4	14		1	
GOODWIN	19	6	1		12	5	9	1	28	1
GILLIAM	20	9	2	10	7	3	6	1		
ANDERSON	21	3	2	3	6	5	6	3	22	
SMITH	22						1		12	1
BERGERON	23	1	1		2	2	7		9	
FRANKENBERRY	24	6	4	2	4	10	26	4	40	
LEININGER	25								3	
HAAN	26					5	8	1	42	
HIGBY	27									
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>79</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>487</b>	<b>9</b>

# ROCHELLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

## OFFICER TIME USE

2011

OFFICER	OFFICER #	VAC HRS	SICK HRS	TRAIN HRS	COURT HRS	O. T. /Holiday HRS
WITTENBERG	8	80.0	30.0	15.5	25.7	153.0
JAKYMIW	9	130.0	41.0	68.9	5.4	102.0
INMAN	10	170.0	30.0	59.2	8.2	32.5
BANESKI	11	110.0		64.1	37.5	109.5
STREIT	31			668.9	1.8	60.5
GERARD	13	80.0	20.0	42.1	3.5	162.5
VANVICKLE	14	60.0		100.6	8.0	284.0
SESTER	30			66.5	15.6	94.0
RODABAUGH	16	180.0	116.0	3.6	2.7	26.0
KALTENBACH	17	200.0		18.6		26.0
CHRISTOPHERSON	18	160.0	50.0			83.5
GOODWIN	19	130.0	28.5	32.8	26.3	166.0
GILLIAM	20	118.0		17.2	10.1	123.0
ANDERSON	21	89.0	24.0	77.0	36.0	226.0
SMITH	22	156.0	12.0	1.1	5.6	114.0
BERGERON	23	168.0	118.0	23.5	7.3	140.0
FRANKENBERRY	24	176.0	90.0	5.1	9.0	139.0
LEININGER	25	212.0	16.0	6.3	7.8	38.5
HAAN	26	56.0	6.0	8.0	4.4	166.0
HIGBY	27	252.0	4.0	35.0		
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>2627.0</b>	<b>636.0</b>	<b>1321.6</b>	<b>223.3</b>	<b>2246.0</b>

**ROCHELLE POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**DISPATCH TIME USE**

**2011**

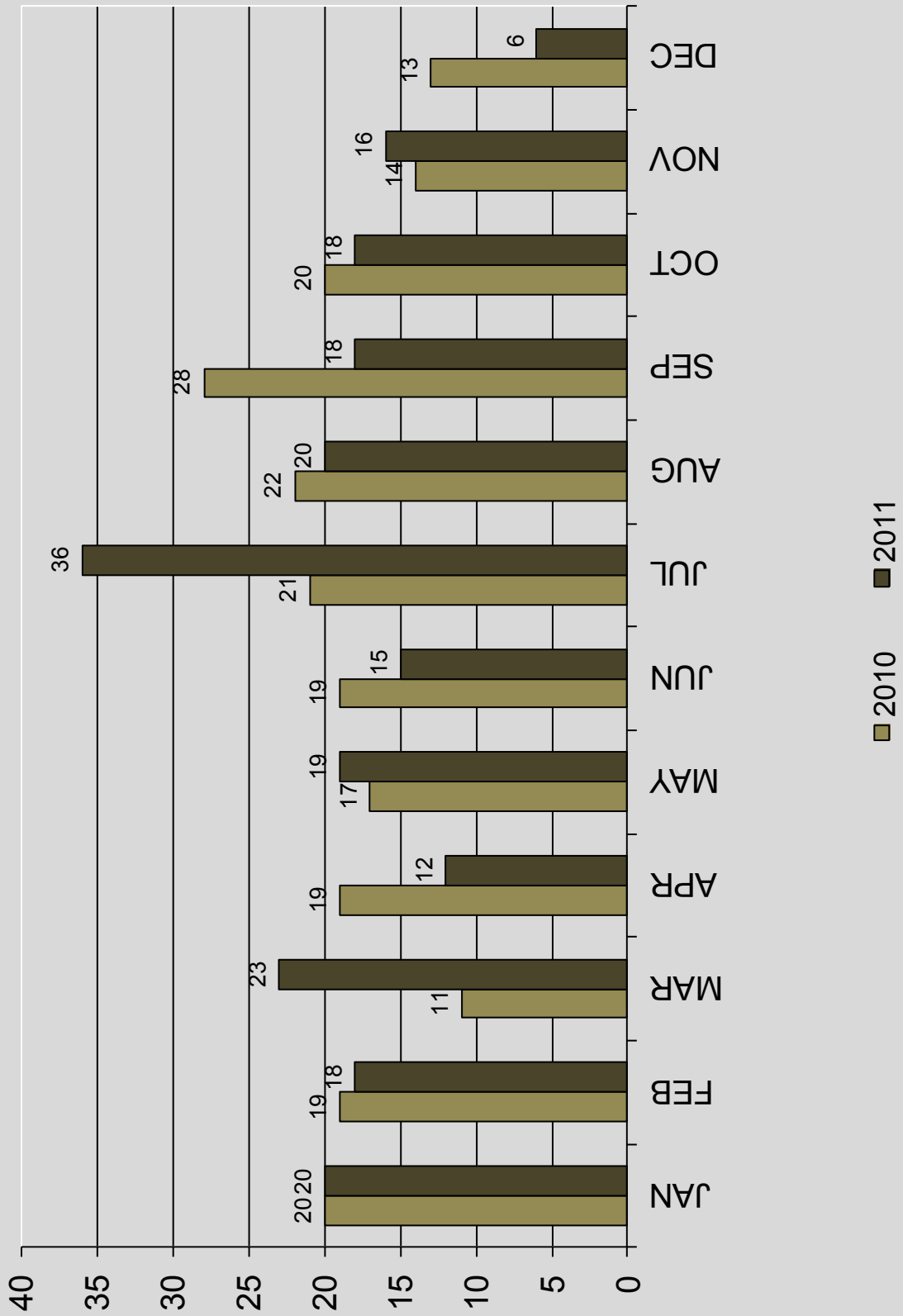
DISPATCHER	#	VAC HRS	SICK HRS	TRAIN HRS	COURT HRS	O.T. HRS/ Holiday HRS	CALLS DIS-PATCH	CALLS HANDLED
OLSZEWSKI	1	60.0	80.0	8.0		141.0	1621	352
NAMBO	2	40.0		15.7		123.0	2084	703
THRUMAN	3	185.0	16.0	15.7		28.0	1766	572
BECK	4	144.0	12.0	7.7		46.0	1686	260
MILBURN	5	147.3	75.5	27.7		105.0	1788	699
SULLIVAN	7	173.0	35.0	48.0		35.5	637	284
JOHANNING	28			20.0			681	214
DAVIS	29			20.0			727	238
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>749.3</b>	<b>218.5</b>	<b>162.8</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>478.5</b>	<b>10990</b>	<b>3322</b>

# ROCHELLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

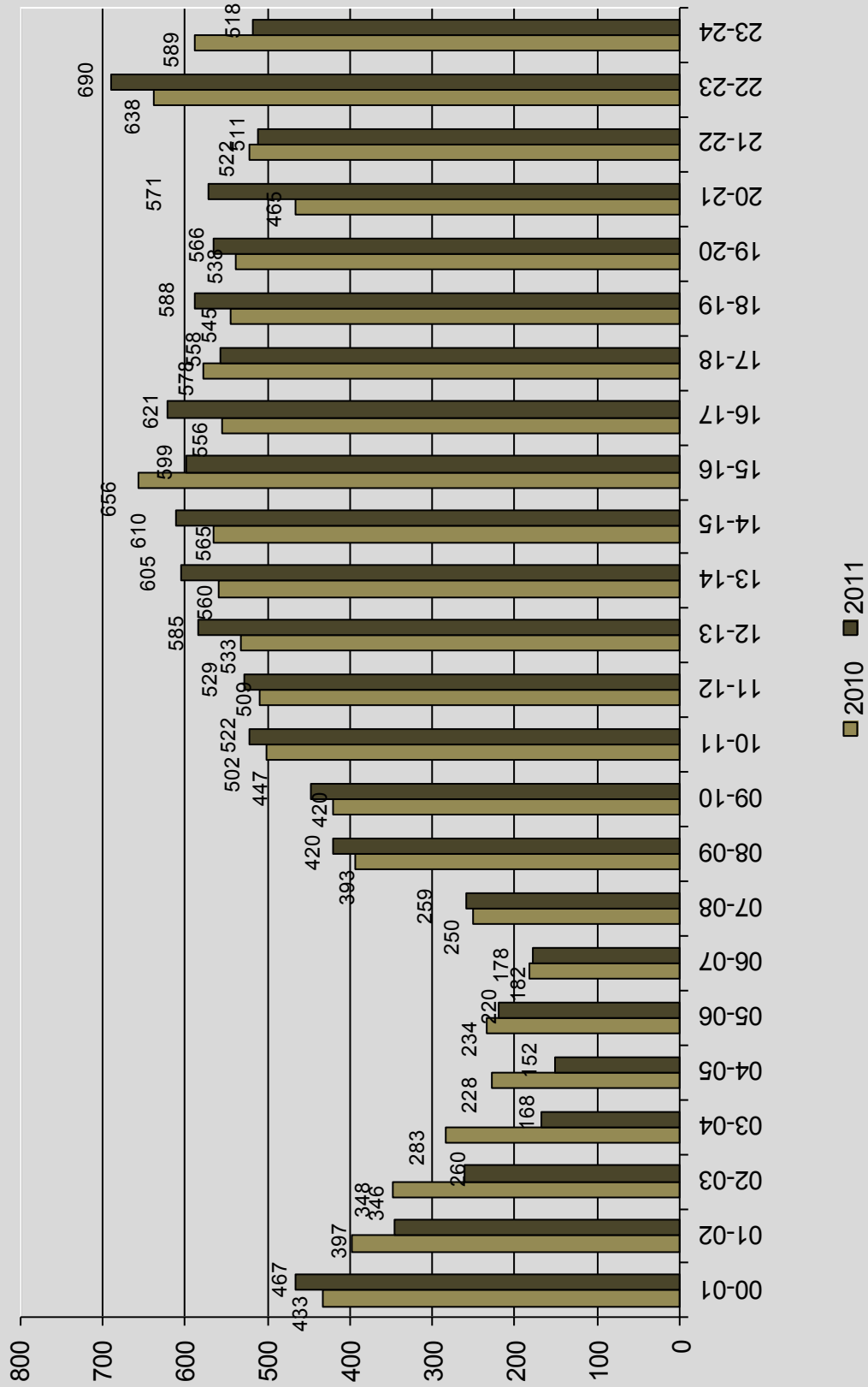
## RECEIPTS FOR YEAR 2011

MONTH	CIRCUIT CLERK FINES	REPORT COPIES	PARKING TICKETS	DUI FINES	DRUG FINES	VEHICLE FUND	ALARM FEES	ADMIN. TOW
JANUARY	\$ 9,252.69	\$ 105.00	\$ 120.00	\$ 220.00	\$ 80.00	\$ 304.00		
FEBRUARY	\$ 6,660.12	\$ 35.00	\$ 175.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 80.00	\$ 221.10		
MARCH	\$ 13,513.42	\$ 75.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 296.00	\$ 81.00	\$ 351.00		
APRIL	\$ 14,474.55	\$ 85.00	\$ 80.00	\$ 665.04	\$ 5,110.00	\$ 366.00	\$ 125.00	
MAY	\$ 9,569.73	\$ 60.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 270.00	\$ 135.00	\$ 329.90		\$ 3,000.00
JUNE	\$ 9,348.38	\$ 65.00		\$ 556.00	\$ 1,015.00	\$ 259.00	\$ 325.00	\$ 9,000.00
JULY	\$ 6,290.53	\$ 20.00	\$ 80.00	\$ 51.00	\$ 130.00	\$ 170.00	\$ 75.00	\$ 4,000.00
AUGUST	\$ 10,467.22			\$ 178.00	\$ 87.50	\$ 277.13		\$ 5,500.00
SEPTEMBER	\$ 12,744.79			\$ 305.00	\$ 282.37	\$ 110.00		\$ 7,500.00
OCTOBER	\$ 10,870.09	\$ 165.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 400.00	\$ 60.00	\$ 323.50		\$ 9,500.00
NOVEMBER	\$ 7,035.88	\$ 100.00	\$ 125.00	\$ 142.00	\$ 25.00	\$ 258.50		\$ 3,500.00
DECEMBER	\$ 8,005.65	\$ 90.00	\$ 85.00	\$ 20.00	\$ 20.00	\$ 105.00		\$ 11,000.00
<b>TOTALS</b>	\$ 118,233.05	\$ 800.00	\$ 1,015.00	\$ 3,153.04	\$ 7,105.87	\$ 3,075.13	\$ 525.00	\$ 53,000.00

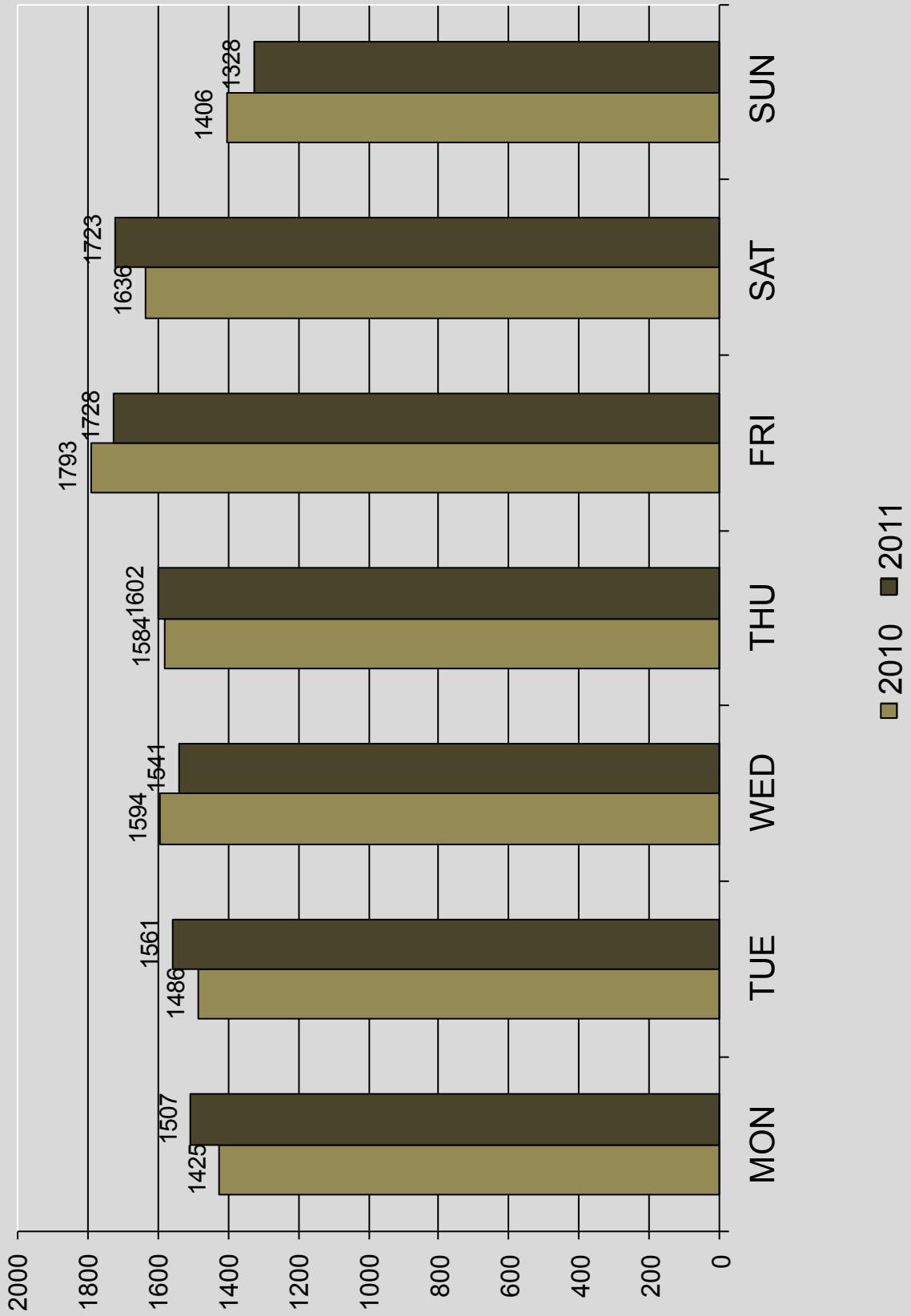
# ROCHELLE POLICE DEPARTMENT ALARMS RECEIVED



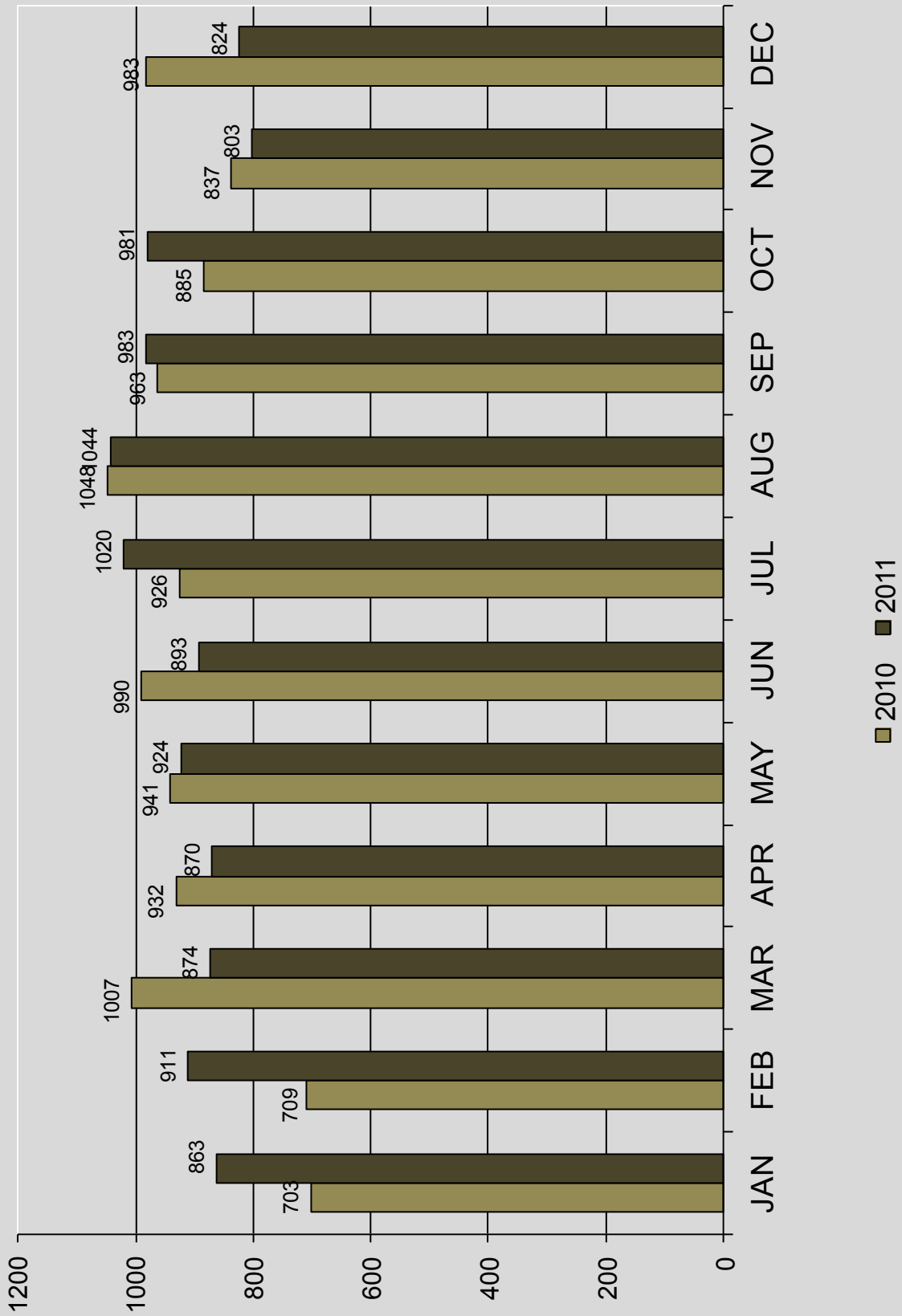
# ROCHELLE POLICE DEPARTMENT CALLS FOR SERVICE BY HOUR OF DAY



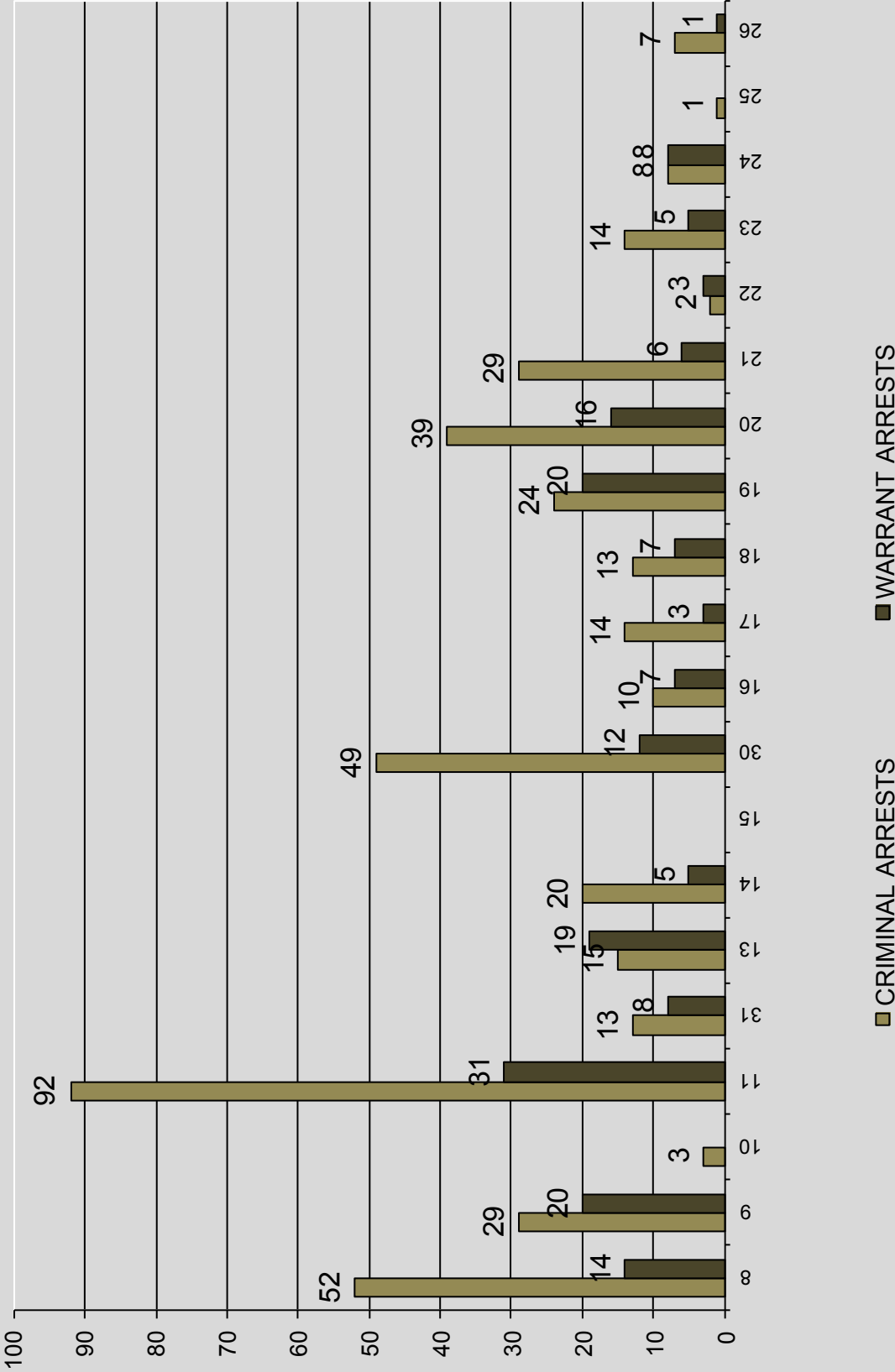
# ROCHELLE POLICE DEPARTMENT CALLS FOR SERVICE BY DAY OF WEEK



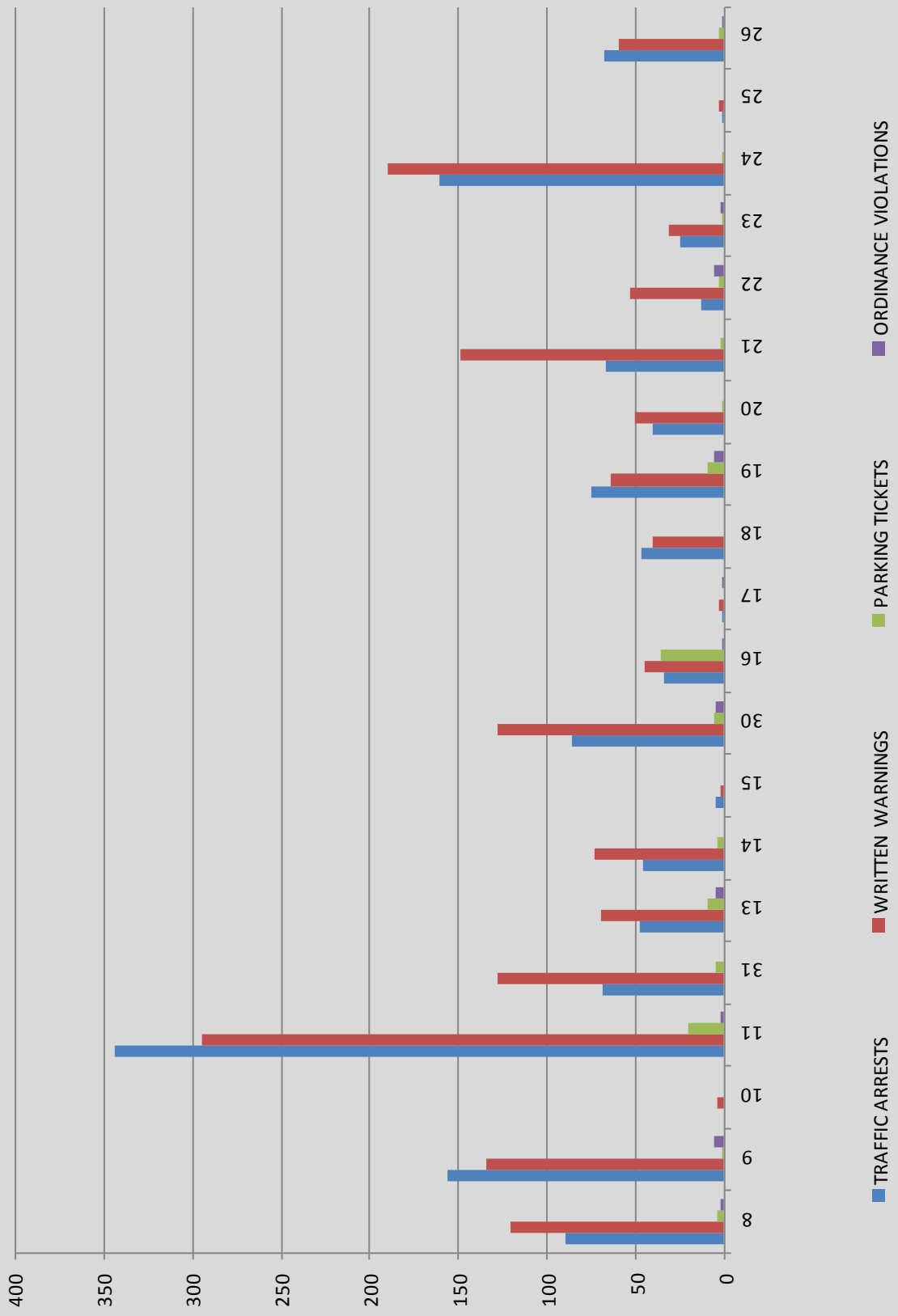
# ROCHELLE POLICE DEPARTMENT CALLS FOR SERVICE BY MONTH



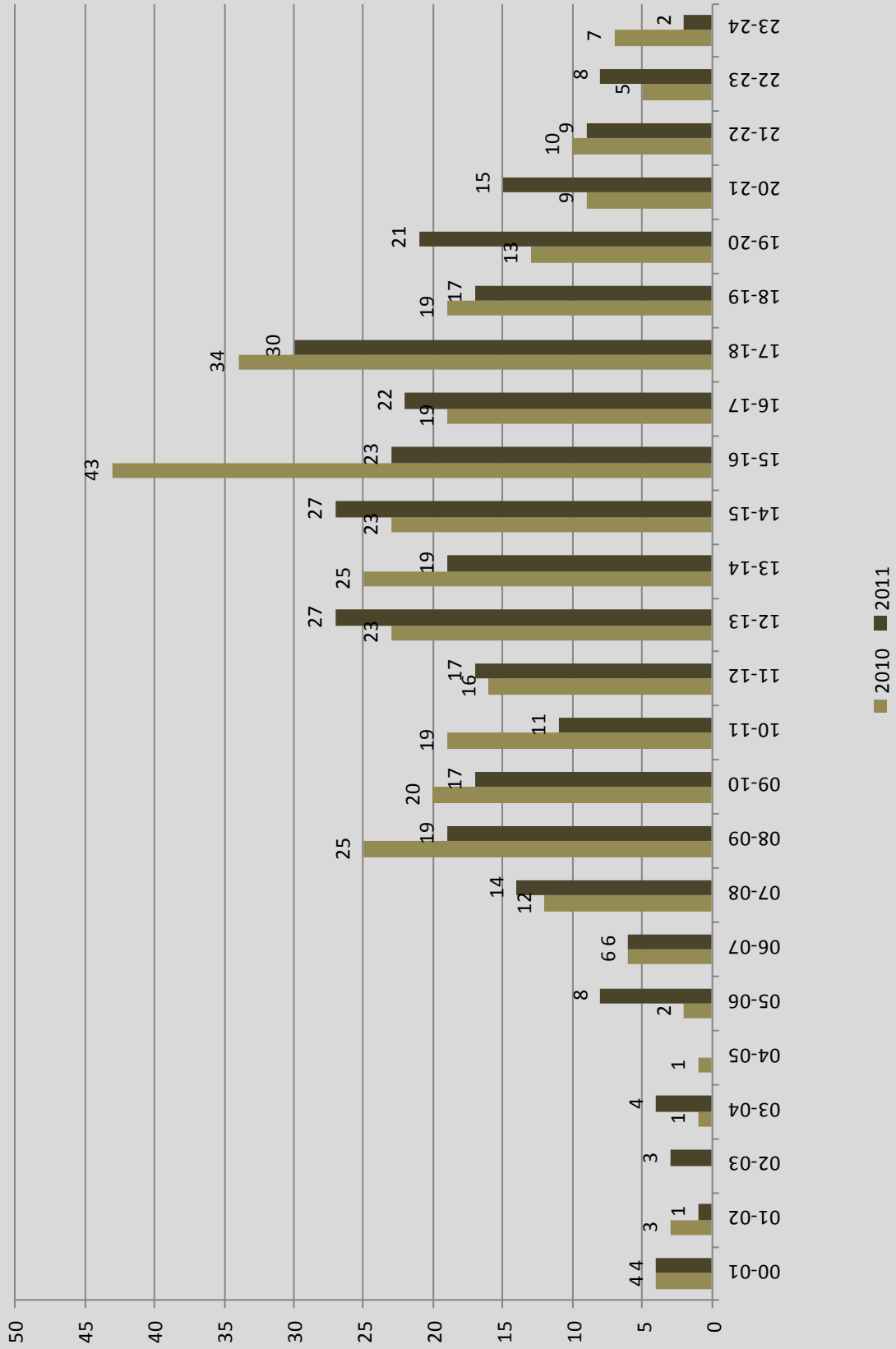
# ROCHELLE POLICE DEPARTMENT CRIMINAL ACTIVITY 2011



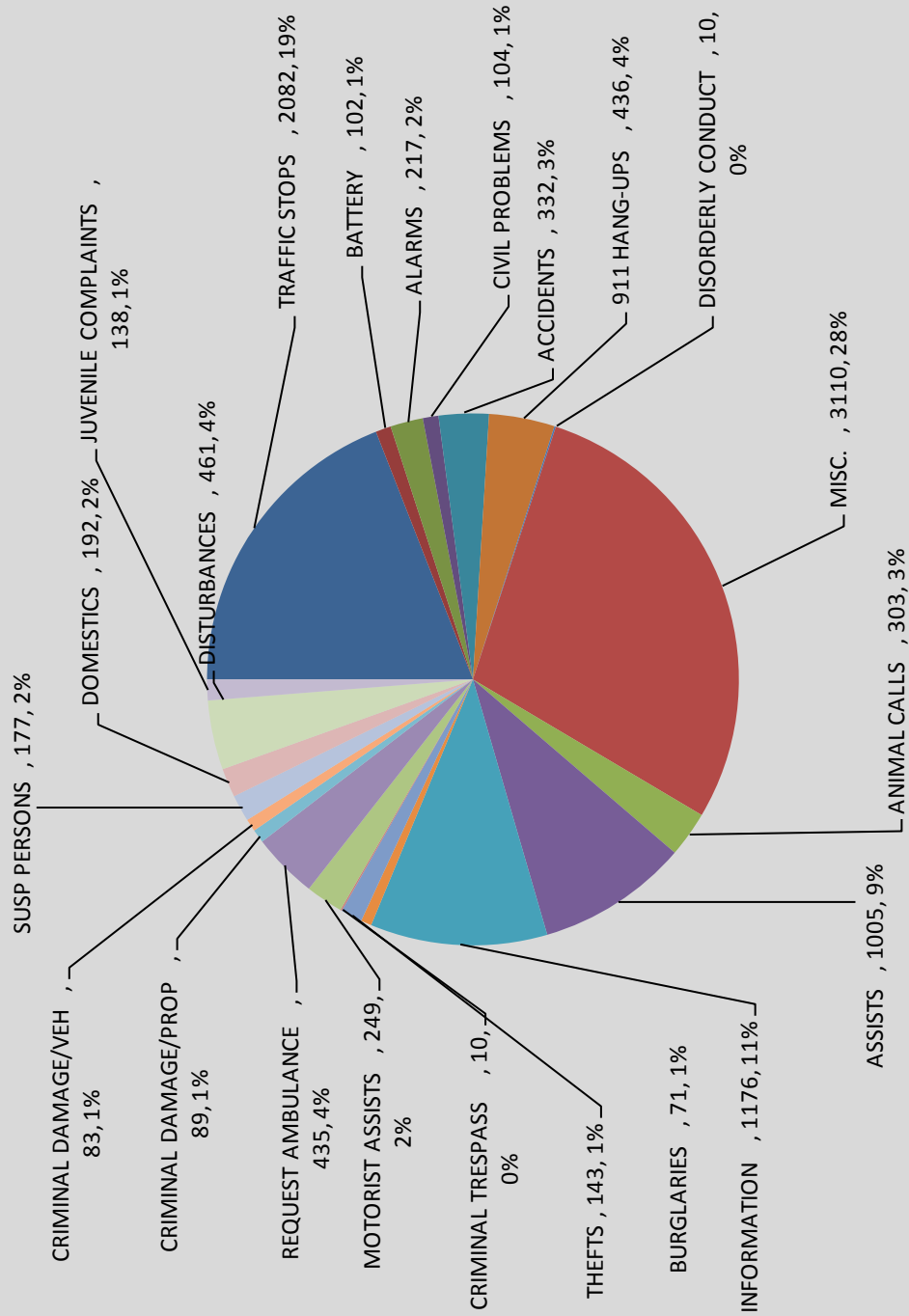
# ROCHELLE POLICE DEPARTMENT TRAFFIC ACTIVITY 2011



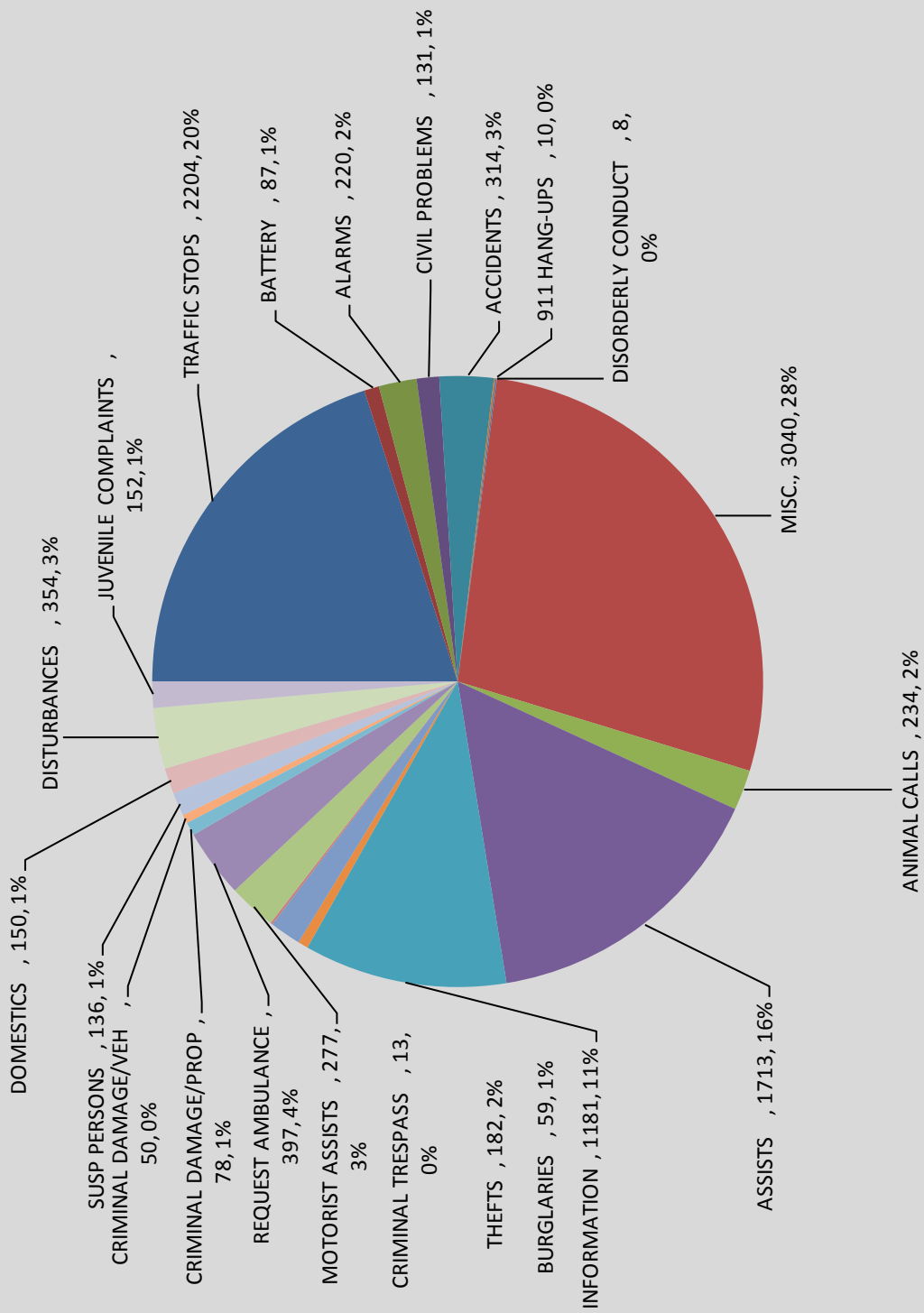
# ROCHELLE POLICE DEPARTMENT ACCIDENTS BY HOUR OF DAY



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

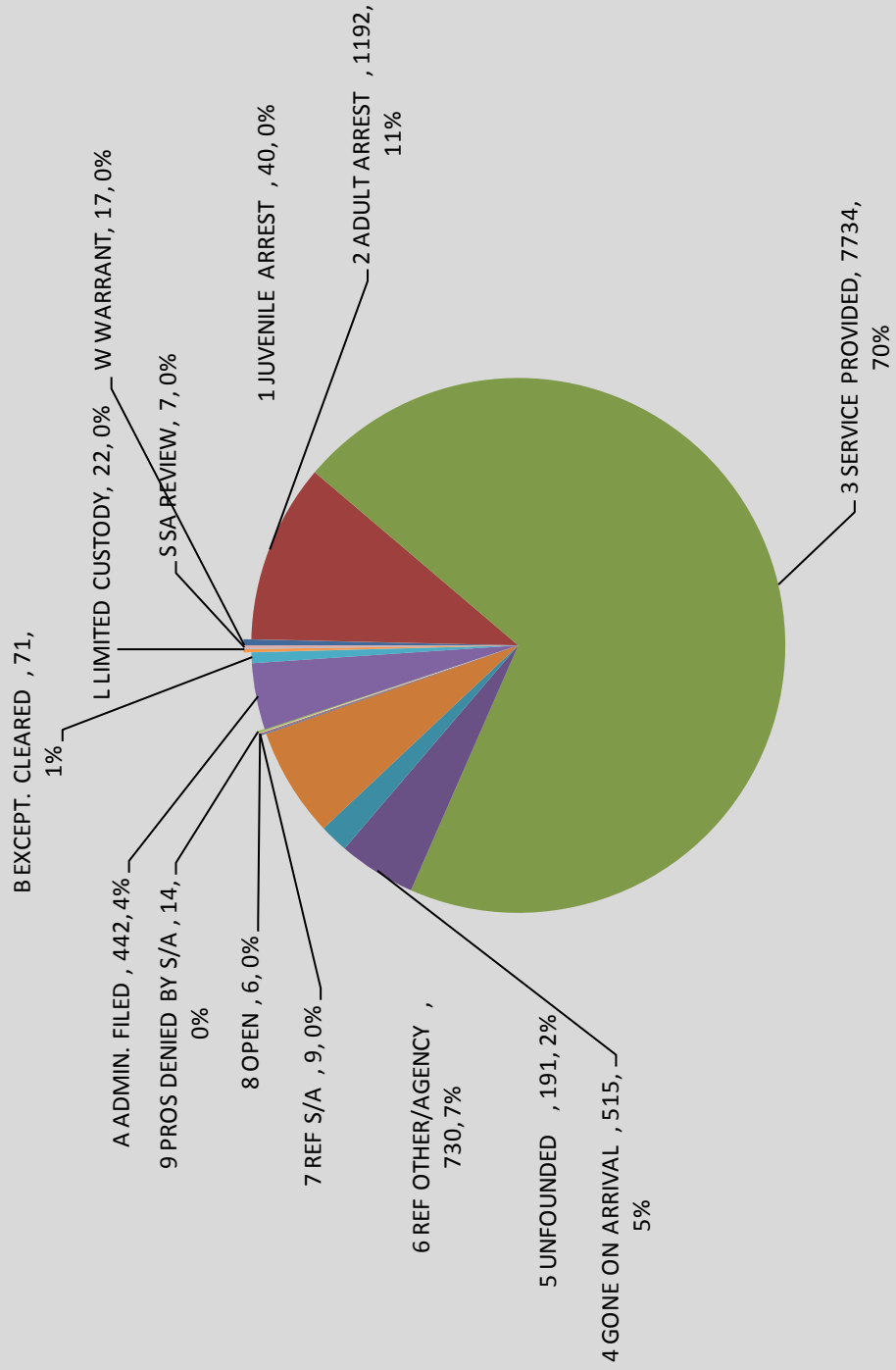


**ROCHELLE POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
**BREAKDOWN CALLS FOR SERVICE 2011**  
**TOTAL CALLS 10990**



# ROCHELLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

## CASE DISPOSITION 2011



## NEWS RELEASES 2011

### Late afternoon accident

January 2, 2011



Laurie A. Bagg, 39, Steward, was ticketed for failure to yield while making a left turn following an accident at Caron Road and IL Route 38 on Wednesday. Bagg was reportedly traveling northbound on Caron Road and turned left onto the highway in the path of another car that was heading southbound on Caron Road. She posted an I-bond and will appear in court in Rochelle Jan. 28.

### Body of man found

January 4, 2011

Rochelle Police Department officials are continuing to piece together an investigation after finding a body in a field on the east edge of town late Monday afternoon.

According to authorities, Det. Sgt. Jeff Leininger searched the area and located the body of Kim P. Kunde, 56, Rochelle. Kunde was found off of IL Route 38, just east of Caron Ridge Shopping Center. At this time, foul play is not suspected.

Apparently, a missing person report was filed on Jan. 2 for Kunde who had

been missing since the previous day. It appears he wandered away from his home in the area of School Avenue, and authorities added that he may have ceased taking medication for an ailment.

### Getting to Know Your Rochelle Police Officers

VanVickle happy with career choice

January 4th, 2011



"I really enjoy the opportunity to help people and give back to this community."

That is what Rochelle Police Department officer Brian VanVickle said of his job of nearly two years.

VanVickle joined the department after discussing some concerns of policing in the community in which he grew up.

"When I decided to become a police officer I did not want to work in Rochelle," he said. "Living in Rochelle my whole life, I did not want to handle situations with people I knew. After the position opened in Rochelle I spoke to former Chief Rob Buck about my concerns."

Rob told me he was in the same position when he worked as a patrol officer and he never regretted the decision. I can say the same thing. All we do, as officers, is help people whether they realize it or not. This is a great job helping people who I have known for a long time solve the problems they have," he said.

Officer VanVickle uses his training as an officer every day that he is on shift. He holds specialized training in over-weight commercial vehicle enforcement, commercial vehicle safety inspection and currently is receiving training in accident investigation and reconstruction.

"When I am not taking calls [while on shift] I spend most of my time enforcing traffic laws," he explained. "With my training I focus more on commercial vehicles."

VanVickle has made his home with his wife, Marla, and children, Zech and Ali, in Rochelle, adding that his children are the fifth generation to live in and call Rochelle home. "I think Rochelle is a great place to live. We have so many great hometown businesses in Rochelle that serve the community and with the planned commercial development east of town this will draw more people to our community," VanVickle said.

"These people will come for many reasons but most

## NEWS RELEASES 2011

will have kids. My wife and I have raised our kids here and they have attended many years of school. Although brick and mortar bring most new residents to a community, they have no idea how great the teachers in both school districts are. These are just a few things that make Rochelle a great place to live."

He has coached Rochelle Junior Tackle football for five years as well as many years of AYSO soccer and baseball.

"Of all the coaching opportunities, I have enjoyed football the most," he said. "Football teaches teamwork along with the results of hard work. These are life lessons that we as police officers use every day."

While much of his time is taken up between work and coaching, he still has time to spend with his family. VanVickle says he and his family enjoy spending time on a lake in Wisconsin or vacationing in the Caribbean.

"Since our kids our older we have started going to some national parks which the kids really enjoy," he added.

VanVickle also enjoys taking his son shotgun hunting, but added that now that he is older, the pair enjoy bow hunting and snowmobiling as well.

"I can't pinpoint one moment in time when I said this [becoming a police officer] is what I want to do.

Being a police officer is something I have always been interested in. I really enjoy the opportunity to help people and give back to this community."

### **Arrest made in December shooting**

*January 9th, 2011*

After a month-long investigation, Rochelle police made an arrest in connection with a shooting that occurred on Dec. 5 in the "Hub City." Jowell S. Estrada, 17, DeKalb, was taken into custody on Thursday and charged with two counts of aggravated discharge of a firearm within 1,000 feet of a school. This is a class X felony. One charge alleges that Estrada's target was a person and the other charge alleges that his target was the building. Shooting On Sunday, Dec. 5, 2010 at 1:01 p.m., the Rochelle Police Department received a 911 call in reference to a shot being fired at 300 S. Main St. The caller said that a male Hispanic subject shot a van that was parked and unoccupied at the location.

The offender fled the scene with another male subject and headed north on South Main Street; however, police were unable to locate him at the time.

Investigation lice Chief Eric Higby, during the course of the investigation it was determined that there were individuals standing in the parking lot, but these people

did not come forward the day of the shooting.

At least one person in the group was the intended target and it later was determined that the incident was gang-related.

Apparently, Estrada was known to the witnesses. See ARREST on page 2 ? Violent incidents on two consecutive days lead to second arrest In a related incident on Dec. 6, DeKalb County Sheriff deputies arrested John J. Smith, 17, Creston, and charged him with mob action and aggravated battery for an incident that occurred at the Kishwaukee Education Consortium on the campus of Kishwaukee College in Malta. During this investigation, information was obtained that the Kishwaukee incident was related to the shooting the day prior in Rochelle.

On Thursday, Rochelle Police personnel responded to KEC at which time Estrada was taken into custody. Estrada did not post bond and was transported to the Ogle County Jail in Oregon in lieu of bond.

### **Rolling good time**



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January 9th, 2011  
Rochelle Police Chief Eric Higby focuses in on the pins during the ceremonial throwing of the first ball to get the event started.

T-Byrd Lanes was hopping on Friday night during the annual Senior Pro-Am 9-pin No Tap Bowling tournament. Several area businesses help sponsor the popular event that kicks off the Midwest Regional PBA Senior tournament on Saturday and Sunday. Above, Steve Bryant gives a teammate five after a nice shot.

### **ARREST: Shooting was gang-related**



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### **Officers, fire department respond to car fire early Monday at Abe's**

*January 11th, 2011*

Rochelle police and fire departments responded to a vehicle fire in the parking lot of Abraham's Grille on Monday morning at 4:45 a.m. Vehicle was occupied Officers called in the car fire and when the fire department was en route, officers notified firefighters that an occupant was inside the vehicle. Prior to the fire department's arrival on the scene, officers were able to get the occupant, Corey D. Kelchner of Oregon, out of the 1995 Jeep Cherokee. The fire was located near a trash can behind the passenger seat. Authorities estimate nearly \$2,000 damage to the Cherokee. The fire was contained to the passenger seat and headliner area. Kelchner suffered no injuries.

### **New officer**

January 11th, 2011  
Rochelle City Clerk Bruce McKinney swears in the

## NEWS RELEASES 2011

newest officer of the Rochelle Police Department, Joe Sester.



Sester was previously an officer on the Rockford Police Department. "I am looking forward to working with you [fellow officers] and serving the citizens of Rochelle," Sester said. At right, Rochelle Police Chief Eric Higby pins on Officer Sester's badge during the ceremony Monday morning in Rochelle City Hall council chambers.

### **Report of shots fired near 'Teen Town' leads to arrest Convicted felon arrested**

*January 13th, 2011*

Once again, police responded to shots being fired in the "Hub City," possibly as many as seven.

According to Rochelle Police Chief Eric Higby, a call came in at 10:31 p.m. from a resident in the 100 block of Eighth Avenue complaining of possible shots being fired. Police then responded to 117 Eighth Ave., apartment 3, where they spoke with the resident, Adrian S. Torres, who denied any knowledge of the incident.

Officers then allegedly observed a 40-caliber pistol in plain view just inside the

doorway and continued to question Torres who apparently at one point pushed passed an officer.

Torres, 31, Rochelle, who is a convicted felon, was then placed under arrest on two counts of unlawful possession of a firearm as a felon and battery. The latter charge stems from Torres pushing the police officer and two charges of possession include the firearm and being in possession of ammunition. These are class 2 felonies.

During the course of the initial investigation, authorities located seven empty shell casings in the area of Torres' apartment.

Higby said it is not known at this time if Torres had an intended target, but it does not seem to be so. Apparently, there was a juvenile in the apartment at the time of the incident.

Higby said Torres was convicted in 1999 of robbery.

### **RPD makes arrest in high school bomb threat**

*January 16th, 2011*

A Rochelle Township High School student was arrested in connection with the bomb threat that occurred at the school in December.

The 17-year-old male was arrested on one count misdemeanor disorderly conduct charge on Friday following an investigation by the Rochelle Police Department. According to chief Eric Higby, the teen was

processed and released to his guardian.

On Friday, Dec. 17 at approximately 9:25 a.m., the police department received a call to respond to the 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.



As a precaution, bomb sniffing dogs from Northern Illinois University were brought in to determine the threat was unfounded. According to RTHS Assistant Principal Rich Harvey, within

## NEWS RELEASES 2011

15 minutes of finding the note they had it narrowed down to a small amount of students. The offending student was immediately under suspicion and has not been at school since the incident nor is he in an alternative school situation. Harvey said a handwriting specialist who is certified with the Federal Bureau of Investigation analyzed the hand-written note. Currently, the student is officially suspended from school; however, Harvey expects the board to take action that will permanently expel him from the school. "We're trying to protect our kids," Harvey said. "My vision is for this school to be a safe place for our students. It's all about protecting the students."

### Police looking for help in theft cases

March 5th, 2011



Rochelle Police are investigating two criminal incidents, both of which were reportedly caught on film.

Rochelle Police are assisting in an investigation of an identity theft where the victim lives in Texas, but the offender used the victim's credit card info in Rochelle.

The suspect, a black male, wearing a white button-up shirt and red sweater vest, was caught on a security camera while committing the offense.

The second case is a wire theft that occurred on March 1 at a local construction site. Images of two suspects were caught on camera, one wearing an oversized ski jacket.

To see the photo, go to the department's website at [www.cityofrochelle.net/police](http://www.cityofrochelle.net/police).

The Rochelle Police Department is asking anyone who may know these suspects or has information which could lead to an arrest in these incidents to contact them at (815) 562-2131 or the Ogle-Lee Crime Stoppers at (888) 228-4488.

### Police warn of scam

March 12th, 2011

Rochelle Police Chief Eric Higby is warning area residents of a scam that has struck the area.

The scam e-mail is as follows:

I'm writing this with tears in my eye, my family and I came down here to Scotland for a short vacation and got mugged at the park of the hotel we stayed, all our cash, credit card and Cell Phone were stolen off us at GUN POINT but luckily for us we still have our passports with us but don't have enough money to sort the bills so we can get out of here.

We've been to the embassy and the police here but they're not helping issues at all and our flight leaves soon but we're having problems settling the hotel bills, and the hotel manager won't let us leave until we settle the bills, I'm freaked out at the moment and wondering if you could help us with a quick loan, I promise I'll refund it once we get home. Please write me so i can send you the info for the wire of the money to save me from the embarrassment of not being able to cover the bills.

I'm freaked out at the moment.

"Citizens should verify any request for assistance even if the person asking is from their e-mail address book or one of their friends," Higby said.

This is an ongoing investigation.

### Patrolling the streets of Rochelle

March 15th, 2011



Rochelle Police Department Sgt. Phil Frankenberry has been serving the community. Many know him as the department's first K-9 handlers. He's also been on the department's SWAT

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team and has other specialized training.

Frankenberry became a police officer mainly for the structure the job offers.

"It is a structured career like the military, something I have been a part of since age 18 and I grew up with law enforcement," he said.

In serving as a sergeant, Frankenberry is responsible for the efficient performance of the police officers and dispatchers on an assigned shift to instruct them in procedures and work methods. "My co-workers, people you can always trust and know they will be there for you," Frankenberry said of what he enjoys most about his job.

He recalls a humorous incident while on duty. "I had a subject stopped for a traffic violation who called 911 to report they were stopped and didn't want a citation," he said. Along with being trained in FBI SWAT and K-9 handling, Frankenberry has specialized training in critical incident response, rapid deployment, juvenile law, drug investigations, medical first responder and is a graduate of Northwestern University's school of Police Staff and Command.

When not serving the community in his capacity of sergeant with the police department, Frankenberry enjoys biking, running and anything that takes him outside.

### **Sex offender arrested for failure to register**

*March 19th, 2011*



Rochelle Police arrested Hector Losoya on Friday after Losoya failed to register with Ogle County for his required 90-day Child Sex Offender registration, which put him eight days overdue.

Rochelle Police received a tip that he was living at 418 N. Second St., Apt . B, which is in a sex offender-free zone. Losoya also failed to register with the Rochelle Police Department as required. He was arrested for the Class 3 Felony offense of unlawful failure to register as child sex offender and transported to the Ogle County Jail in Oregon to await a bond hearing.

### **Two arrested in burglary of RMU substation**

*March 19th, 2011*



On Friday, March 11 at 12:52 a.m., the Rochelle Police Department responded to 1012 N. Caron Road, the Rochelle Municipal Utility substation, in reference to a

possible burglary in progress.

Upon arrival officers located two subjects fleeing the scene. Officers were able to apprehend the subjects, subsequently identified as Joseph C. Simms, 33, and James P. Kasmar, 19, both of Rochelle. Officers found the fence to the substation to have been cut as well as some wire within the enclosure. The subjects were in possession of wire cutters and a hacksaw. Both subjects were transported to the Ogle County Jail and subsequently charged with theft, a Class A misdemeanor.

Upon further investigation, Rochelle and Ogle County detectives determined Simms and Kasmar to be involved in several more wire thefts. The items taken during these thefts range from simple extension cords to a stainless steel freezer.

Subsequently, seven additional wire theft cases in Rochelle were cleared as well as several wire theft cases in Ogle County. Additional charges are pending. Detectives continue to follow-up on leads.

Anyone with information about wire or scrap metal thefts are urged to contact the Rochelle Police Department at (815) 562-2131 , or contact the Ogle-Lee Crime Stoppers at 1-888-228-4488.

### **An underwater experience**

*March 22nd, 2011*

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There's nothing like breathing under water. Just ask anyone who has taken scuba certification classes or tried a 'discover scuba' class.

For several local students, the night of March 15 was the first time they got to experience the awestruck of breathing under water. Through a joint effort between Forest City Scuba of Rockford and Detective John Kaltenbach of the Rochelle Police Department, several kids from Focus House and lifeguards from the Flagg-Rochelle Park District got an opportunity to gear up and 'test the water' at the Hickory Grove pool.

"It was an opportunity none of those kids will ever forget and probably would have never had," Kaltenbach said.

Dive instructor Thomas Sergent, of FSC, gave the kids a short lesson in scuba before they all geared-up and hopped into the pool. The students learned what wearing scuba equipment feels like and how easy it is to move around underwater while wearing the gear; they were able to find out what it's like to breathe underwater and learn that it is possible to be comfortable

there; and they learned some basic skills and safety rules that will carry over to a full scuba certification course should they decide to take that next step.

"Being a first time diver, I was nervous, but quickly overcame that after the lesson began. A couple students were a little nervous themselves about diving, but once they learned the basics from Mr. Sergent and Mr. Kaltenbach, who worked so well with the group, all nerves were quickly set aside," Kim Kirkolis, staff member from Focus House, said. "I am always excited to watch our students learn something new. A lot of our students may never have another opportunity to experience this. It is very fulfilling to see our students experience success and watch their eyes light up while succeeding at new, positive activities." It was the first diving experience for all participants March 15. "The class was a great opportunity to explore a new hobby for myself and some of the adolescents from Focus House," Focus House staff member Manfredo Winton said. "It was my first time diving along with everyone else. I thought the experience was amazing because I was an equal to the youths present while we were diving."

"The chance given to the kids to explore new hobbies

and new adventures is a treasure as the event has made new connections and methods showing these young people how they could spend their free time," Winton added.

"Healthy events like these show many kids new positive behaviors, a sense of belonging, and it shows them that they matter.

It touches my heart that John Kaltenbach, instructor Thomas Sergent, the park district, and the Focus House team relays their care for the kids this much."

Sergent began diving while serving in the Marine Corps in 1991. He has since developed a great love of diving he is PADI (Professional Association of Diving Instructors) certified as a rescue diver, master scuba diver and divemaster, has been teaching diving at FSC for two years, is the manager of the FSC scuba shop, works for Shark Diver Magazine, and is creator of Amphibious Warrior Scuba Wear.

"The most important thing for divers is to be familiar with their gear, the safety practices and be comfortable enough to enjoy it," Sergent said.

Sergent has dived many places. From the Great Barrier Reef in Australia (his favorite) to Grand Cayman to Cozumel and off Cape Hatteras, N.C., he enjoys each dive.

"It is also wonderful to

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have members of the community come and share their knowledge and experiences with our students, everyone involved appreciates the community support and involvement," Kirkolis said.

### **You have the right ...**

*March 27th, 2011*



Members of the Citizen's Police Academy got hands-on experience this week when they conducted mock traffic stops. Officers walked participants through each step before letting them conduct their own traffic stops using various equipment. Pictured above is Rich Ewald being placed under arrest by Officer Matt Wittenberg while Officer Jason Goodwin explains the procedure to the class. The Rochelle Police Department sponsors the academy once each year. Participants learn the ins and outs of police work while getting to know the various officers on the force.

### **Higher fee OK'd for police department**

*March 31st, 2011*



Laws are in place to keep peace and order. And if you're law abiding citizen, most of them never will affect you.

The Rochelle City Council, on the recommendation of Rochelle Police Chief Eric Higby, passed an ordinance that will allow authorities to impound certain vehicles which are connected to various citations or crimes.

According to Interim City Manager Meggon McKinley, the police department routinely searches for enforcement initiatives that reduce crime and increase public safety. In an effort to achieve these goals, several other communities have enacted a towing ordinance and related administrative fee as a deterrent to specific offenses. The council voted unanimously to pass the ordinance that imposes a \$500 administrative fee. This is on top of other applicable fines, costs, towing and storage fees.

The following offenses will result in impoundment and fees:

- Driving under the influence of alcohol and other drugs
- Aggravated fleeing to

allude a police officer

- Operating a vehicle without a valid driver's license
- Operation of a motor vehicle in connection with a violation of the Illinois Controlled Substance Act
- Illinois Cannabis Control Act
- Possession of drug paraphernalia
- Unlawful use of weapons statute
- Possession of a firearm without firearm owner's identification card
- Operation of a motor vehicle without a valid registration
- Operation of a motor vehicle during the commission of a felony offense

Motor vehicles seized will remain impounded until all costs associated with the towing and storage of the vehicle are paid to the Rochelle Police Department. The registered owner of the vehicle will be notified at the time of the incident or via certified mail within five business days. The ordinance also provides for an administrative hearing process should the registered owner choose to challenge the impounding.

Council member Dan McDermott asked specifically about the possession of drug paraphernalia violation. McDermott was concerned that tools, such as those used in soldering metals, could be considered drug paraphernalia. Higby explained that in order for

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something to be considered drug paraphernalia is also has to have drug residue on it. The ordinance goes into effect in May.

### **Arrest made in Rochelle shooting**

*March 31st, 2011*

Rochelle Police have made an arrest in connection with a Feb. 17 shooting in the "Hub City."

On Friday, Feb. 18 the Rochelle Police Department continued to investigate a shooting incident that was reported on Feb. 17.



Information was developed and a search warrant was obtained for the residence located at 211 Avenue H.

Subsequently, an arrest warrant was obtained for the resident living at the Avenue H address. Detectives received information that indicated the suspect had fled to Texas and as a result the U.S. Marshals Service was contacted. On Friday, March 25 U.S. Marshals took Vidal R. Mancilla, 18, of Rochelle into custody on the warrant. Mancilla was arrested on charges of possession of a controlled substance with intent to deliver a Class X felony and

possession of a controlled substance a Class 1 felony.

The Rochelle Police Department said additional charges are possible. Currently, Mancilla is awaiting extradition to Ogle County from Texas.

### **Man arrested for aggravated battery and domestic battery**

*March 31st, 2011*

ROCHELLE Following a domestic battery, the Rochelle Police Department was notified by medical personnel of injuries sustained by the victim.

On Saturday, March 26 the Rochelle Police Department was contacted by medical personnel regarding a battery victim. Officers were advised that the victim was suffering from facial, head and torso injuries in addition to a defensive stab wound. After police officers conducted an initial investigation, the alleged offender, Anacleto Resendez Jr., 32, Rochelle, was taken into custody by police at the intersection of Lincoln Highway and Lincoln Avenue. Resendez has subsequently been charged with aggravated battery and domestic battery (felony). He was taken to the Ogle County Jail in Oregon where his bond was set at \$150,000. Resendez is also on parole through the state of Missouri, according to police department officials.

### **Blood drive**

Published: April 2nd, 2011



The Rochelle Police Department held a blood drive on Wednesday for the Rock River Valley Blood Center. In all, 36 pints were collected. Pictured above is Terry Albright finishing up his donation with the help of blood center nurse Paige Heinke. The police department hosts a blood drive twice each year.

### **Man sentenced to seven years**

*April 2nd, 2011*

Following a plea agreement entered in Ogle County Court Wednesday, Jowell Estrada, 17, DeKalb, was sentenced to seven years in the Illinois Department of Corrections. Estrada pled to aggravated discharge of a firearm a Class 1 felony.

Estrada was eligible for the Impact Incarceration Program, according to Ogle County Assistant State's Attorney Mike Rock. The IIP was designed to treat first-time nonviolent offenders in a quasi-military prison environment. The military bearing aspects of the program are complemented by an emphasis on program services components in basic

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education, substance abuse education and treatment, life skills instruction, and release preparation. The combination of physical training, drills, hard labor details, and program services assists in developing inmates' self-esteem and selfconcept .

Impact incarceration represents an alternative to long prison terms in Illinois. Its goals are to accelerate the release of selected inmates from prison, to instill the discipline necessary to avoid a future return to prison, and to increase public safety by promoting and reinforcing lawful behavior of the youthful offender. The Department continues its commitment to conduct periodic reviews and evaluations of this program, according to the IDOC.

Estrada was arrested Jan. 6 following an investigation into a Dec. 5, 2010 shooting that occurred in the 300 block of South Main Street in Rochelle. On Dec. 5, Rochelle Police received a call at 1:01 p.m. in reference to shots fired. According to reports that day, a male Hispanic subject shot a van that was parked and unoccupied at the location. The offender then fled the scene with another male subject.

During the course of the investigation it was determined that there were individuals standing in the parking lot, but these people did not come forward the day of the shooting. At least

one person in the group was the intended target and it later was determined that the incident was gang-related .

Estrada was subsequently charged with 8 counts of aggravated discharge of a firearm within 1,000 feet of a school.

According to Rock, Estrada is being held in Ogle County Jail awaiting transport to the custody of the Illinois Department of Corrections.

### **Newest addition to RPD**

*April 2nd, 2011*



While it has only been since Jan. 10 that Officer Joe Sester has been working for the Rochelle Police Department, he has taken to his role quickly.

"I've been a Rochelle Police Officer for three months," he said. "I worked as a Rockford Police Officer for 1-1/2 years before coming to Rochelle. The officers on the Rochelle Police force seem to have things organized and put together well."

He added that he tested at other departments when Rockford was threatening police layoffs and he liked Rochelle the best.

Sester currently still resides in Rockford with his wife, Janelle, but will be moving

closer to Rochelle in the future as part of the probationary first year, new officers have one year to relocate. He grew up in Compton where his family still lives.

While growing up, Officer Sester came to love the game of baseball.

"I was pretty good [at baseball] and got several awards in high school and college," he said. "I played a short time for the Rockford Riverhawks. I was told I was going to get drafted by the Arizona Diamondbacks but it didn't happen."

He explained that playing for the Riverhawks was considered professional ball players were paid to play but it's not affiliated with the major leagues in that it is not a farm team and is in what is called an independent league. Those leagues are for players who wish to get to the minors or have been there already, were cut and want to get back.

"Considering that, I was a long way from the majors but it was my life for a long time. I never seemed to catch the break I felt like I should have been given and my time with the Riverhawks was short-lived and a long time ago," he said. "I am old now," he joked. "I also played at several colleges - Illinois Valley, Valparaiso University and Missouri Baptist University."

"I became a police officer because I enjoy dealing with

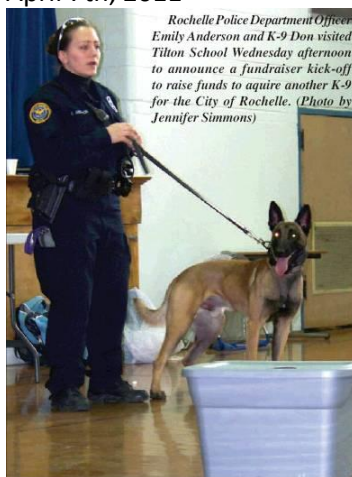
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people," he said. "In this line of work you have good experiences and bad all in the same day but, it's exciting."

As an officer on the Rochelle Police Department, Sester's duties are patrolling. "I patrol the streets of Rochelle, looking for odd things or people breaking the law," he said. "As an officer you are the first man on the scene or the start of the process."

When he isn't working and his wife isn't going to school she is currently finishing her thesis and will graduate in May with her master's degree and hopes to become a college professor they enjoy spending time outdoors. "Janelle and I like sports or basically anything we can do outdoors." "I'm looking forward to getting to know the citizens of Rochelle better," he added.

Rochelle police seeking second K9  
April 7th, 2011



Because Tilton School students were instrumental

in helping raise funds for the Rochelle Police Department's K9 Don, officers thought it only fitting to announce to students Wednesday that the department is beginning a fundraising campaign for a second K9.

"Last year Tilton students helped raised funds to acquire and train Don," Officer Brian VanVickle said.

"We wanted to come back and say thank you and because we were so successful, the city council and police department want to get another dog." In an effort to get the kids excited, Officer Emily Anderson and K9 Don were on hand to demonstrate Don's drug tracking ability.

Officer VanVickle placed several tubs in the gymnasium one with drugs inside and Officer Anderson gave Don the command to track which tub they were in. When he found the correct tub he was rewarded with a tennis ball.

The first major fundraising step is a bowling event to be held at 8 p.m. at T-Byrd Lanes on April 29. Officer VanVickle said cost is \$30 per couple and includes three games of bowling. There will also be a 50/50 raffle that evening.

"We will also be selling raffle tickets for a quilt," Officer Jason Bergeron said. Tickets for the quilt will be available at the Rochelle Police Department. The quilt was made by RPD dispatcher

Julie Thruman.

According to Bergeron and VanVickle, the department needs to raise approximately \$14,500 to be included in the next training session in September. That money includes purchasing a dog, training for the dog and handler and equipment for the dog.

Anyone wanting to donate funds can do so at the police department, 416 N. Sixth St., or by calling (815) 562-2131. Couples wanting to participate in the bowling event April 29 may e-mail Officer VanVickle at [bvanvick@hub-city.net](mailto:bvanvick@hub-city.net).

Higby is Rochelle's 'top cop'  
April 28th, 2011



September 25, 2009. That is an important day to Rochelle Police Chief Eric Higby. On that day he was sworn in as the chief of police for the city; his daughter pinned his badge on his shirt that day culminating a role that has become very important to him. While he has only been chief of police for less than two years, he has been serving the community for 15

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years.

Finding the job of a police officer interesting, Higby started his career in law enforcement because each day is exciting and different than the last and he gets the opportunity to help people on a daily basis. "I wanted to become an officer because the law enforcement field intrigued me. I was looking for a career where each day was exciting and different than the last, and where there was the opportunity to help people," Higby explained.

Serving in the role of chief is different than serving the community as a patrol officer.

"My main role as chief is determining the overall direction of the department. This is accomplished through training, budgeting, special programs, enforcement initiatives and policy development," he explained. "In addition, I am responsible for running the day-to-day operations which includes scheduling, purchasing, equipment maintenance and replacement, and the associated financial responsibilities."

There's a lot of work to being chief. Luckily, Higby has had lots of opportunity to get specialized training to prepare him for the position.

He holds a bachelor's degree from Western Illinois University in law enforcement administration. He also has graduated from

the F.B.I.'s national academy and Northwestern's School of Police Staff and Command. In addition, he has training in S.W.A.T., firearms instruction, school violence, terrorism, homicide investigation, gang investigation, personnel management, media relations, search and seizure, rapid deployment, critical incident management and hundreds more hours in other areas that allow him to complete his job as police chief.

Training never stops.

School training isn't all that has prepared Higby for his role.

"Fortunately, I had an excellent field training officer in Russ Kelly and sergeants when I came on," he said. "I also had the opportunity to work under three chiefs Al Gorr, Ken Woolbright and Rob Buck and observing their strategies has been invaluable."

"I was drawn to Rochelle as a place to start my career because the department had excellent equipment and training, even back then," Higby explained. "It was clear that there was already a commitment to ensuring the officers had the tools they needed to make their jobs safer, just as we have continued to do for our officers today."

Having served in law enforcement in Rochelle for 15 years, Higby has seen many changes in the field.

"When I started we would hand write our reports and hand them in to have a dispatcher type them into the computer. Now we enter the narratives and modules directly into our system," he said. "I think some of our dispatchers would certainly look at us like we were crazy if we did that today," Higby joked.

"We recently adopted a paperless report review process which has worked well for us."

Other changes include updated duty weapons, radios, in-car computers and camera systems, patrol rifles and the addition of Tasers."

Each of these additions has made officers' jobs more efficient and safer.

"Another change is that everyone used to work eight-hour shifts and that has changed as we now have personnel on eight, 10 and 12-hour schedules. Supreme Court decisions also have generated procedural change as it relates to the way we handle calls, he explained.

"We have made many changes over the last two years since I've been chief to ensure we are moving in the right direction. These include the continuation of our K9 program, the start of the Citizen Police Academy, squad car changeover, our renewed participation in National Police Week and our participation in charitable events."

While Higby doesn't have

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the opportunity to patrol the streets as he did as an officer, he still appreciates the unknown in his position.

"Enjoying the varied calls for service while on patrol has now become adapting to the different administrative challenges that come up on a random basis," he said. "We can't allow ourselves, as officers, to become complacent as law enforcement is constantly changing."

When he isn't working to preserve the safety of citizens in Rochelle, Higby enjoys spending time with his children.

"I have two children my daughter is 10 and my son is 19 months old," he said with a smile. "My daughter plays on a traveling soccer team, which is great because I have also played and coached for about 30 years," he gushed. "Anytime I can be outside with my children and my 13-year-old labrador is great!"

"My son has been dribbling a soccer ball already," Higby said jokingly. "I think he was indoctrinated early."

Higby grew up in Dixon, but has lived in Rochelle for about 14 years. "Rochelle is a unique blend of the small town atmosphere, coupled with a forward-thinking emphasis on technology," he said. "It's great to see our community band together to put on successful events for charity or benefits for those with health issues."

Higby is one to contribute

to those events personally, too.



He recently participated in the St. Baldrick's Foundation event sponsored by Xpressions Salon. The event has been held for several years and urges participants to raise money for children's cancer research. In return, participants have their heads shaved.

Higby also serves the community through volunteering his time on the board of directors for the Shining Star Children's Advocacy Center and the Champions for Children Walk. He also participates each time the department sponsors a blood drive to support the Rock River Valley Blood Center. And he participated in the Rochelle Township High School Education Foundation's 30 Men Who Cook event, the Special Olympic's Torch Run and the National Takeback Initiative.

"The National Takeback Initiative is kind of like taking any unwanted or unused prescription drugs so they don't harm the environment or get into the hands of children," Higby explained. He added that the Rochelle Police Department and the

Rochelle Community Hospital will team up to hold the Drug Take Back Program this Saturday from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. The community will be able to dispose of bottles of unused prescription drugs safely at the Rochelle Police Department.

Between work and family, free time is something that comes very seldom.

"In my free time I enjoy anything physical that will keep me healthy and active. If I'm stuck inside, you may catch me reading or watching a movie," he said.

"Getting to know other people in the community is an added side benefit of being an officer," Higby said.

Donation to K9  
April 28th, 2011



Karly and Kayla Keilman of Rochelle recently raised more than \$75 with their lemonade stand. The two donated the funds to benefit the Rochelle Police Department K9 program. The department is looking to add another K9 to its force.

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Pictured above are the Keilmans with Officer Emily Anderson and K9 Don.

K9 bowling  
May 3rd, 2011



Every lane was full Friday night at T-Byrd Lanes for the Rochelle Police Department K-9 fundraiser. Part of the event included "silly" bowling, pictured above. At left, participants were able to purchase 50/50 raffle tickets when checking in and throughout the evening. Approximately \$2,100 was raised that evening. Overall, nearly \$6,000 has been raised to purchase a second K9 unit almost half of the amount needed. Raffle tickets for a quilt are available at the police department. Tickets are \$5 each or six for \$25.

K9 Quilt  
May 5th, 2011



The Rochelle Police Department is selling tickets for a quilt raffle to raise

funds toward an additional K-9 unit. Tickets are \$5 each or six tickets for \$25. RPD dispatcher Julie Thruman made the quilt. Tickets are available at the police department. The drawing will be held July 1 and you need not be present to win. Pictured are Thruman and RPD Sgt. Jason Bergeron.

Citizens' Police Academy graduation  
May 5th, 2011



The Rochelle Police Department held a graduation for its Citizens' Police Academy recently. The 10-week program is a crash course for area residents on police work, crime prevention and other dealings the officers contend with on a daily basis. Pictured above is, front row, Det. John Kaltenbach, Kathryn McGrath, Sheila Quinn, Morgan Quinn, Patricia Best, Susan Rothenberger, Jeanette Bennett, Roxanne Maliszewski, Wendy Horn and Chief Eric Higby. Pictured in the back row is Joe Hill, Bill Boyce, Kathleen Carline, Marvin Quinn, Brent Ohlinger, James Carson, Rich Ewald, Victoria Gilbertson, Tom Villa, James Peters, Scott Nuttle and Ray Wireman.

Police looking for shooter  
May 12th, 2011



The beauty of a crime that occurs in broad daylight is that there's a better chance of people actually seeing it go down.

That was the case Tuesday at 7:17 p.m. when a lone gunman approached a car in the neighborhood of Treatment Plant Road and opened fire. It's believed that no one was injured in the incident, but the shooter escaped. Police know who they're looking for, though.

A warrant was issued late Wednesday afternoon for Charles D. Chamness, 27, Rochelle, on two counts of aggravated discharge of a firearm. Chamness is driving a white or silver Cadillac sedan and was last seen wearing a black T-shirt and jeans.

According to Rochelle Police Chief Eric Higby, his department as well as the Ogle County Sheriff's Department received multiple 911 calls.

Those in the area said they saw a tall, thin white male approach a purple pontiac

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and shoot at the two occupants of the car. The gunman apparently then took off west toward the creek and it's believed put something in the creek. Police think it was the weapon, but they have yet to locate it. Residents who heard the incident said an initial shot was fired, then two to three follow up shots. The two victims drove off and officials have yet to locate them or their vehicle. Higby said the shooting was gang related. Apparently, some of the 911 callers knew Chamness. Witnesses also said that Chamness blocked the entrance to the neighborhood with his Cadillac before shooting at the intended targets. Although shots were fired, there were no shell casings found at the scene. This leads police to believe a revolver which would not dispel shell casings was the weapon used.

Chamness is a convicted felon and was sentenced to eight years in the Illinois Department of Corrections for a 2002 charge of aggravated discharge of a firearm in a school zone.

Chamness was arrested in February of this year for possession of cocaine with intent to deliver, but is currently out on bail.

"His bond was reduced from \$100,000 to \$50,000 and he posted in a few days. A little more than a month later he's out shooting at

people," Higby said, adding that more charges will be filed at a later date.

Although the incident is gang related, Higby said his officers have not been called for gang activity at that location.

As of press time, Chamness was at large. Chamness is driving a white or silver Cadillac sedan and was last seen wearing a black T-shirt and jeans. He is approximately 6 feet tall with several tattoos. One tattoo on his neck is of a crown with the letters B I G. He also has a crown tattooed on his upper chest and the word LUNUTIK tattooed across his stomach.

Anyone with information regarding his whereabouts is encouraged to call the Ogle/Lee Crime Stoppers at (888) 228-4488 (888-CAUGHTU) or the Rochelle Police Department at (815) 562-2131.

### **Masons hosting soup/chili supper to raise funds for K9** *May 15th, 2011*



In an effort to help raise funds for an additional Rochelle Police Department K9 Unit, the Rochelle Masons will host a chili/soup supper

fundraiser on Wednesday, May 18 from 4 to 7 p.m.

The all-you-can-eat supper will be held at the Rochelle Horicon Masonic Lodge in downtown Rochelle, across from the Rochelle Post Office. Cost is \$6.50 for anyone over 5. Children under 5 are a donation.

The Masons were instrumental in helping raise funds for the purchase of Don, who began his service with the police department in 2010. The public is encouraged to attend the event.

### **K9 dinner**

*May 22nd, 2011*



The Masons held a fundraiser for Rochelle Police Department's K9 program, which is looking to add a second dog to its program. Pictured above at the event is Rochelle Police Chief Eric Higby with Mason Bud Norcross, officer Brian VanVickle and K9 handler Emily Anderson (kneeling is Det. John Kaltenbach).



Alex Hopkins and his dad, Greg, get all the fixings for

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their chili from Mason Brit James.

### Police Torch Run heading through town

Annual event raises funds for Special Olympics, donations accepted at police department

June 5th, 2011



The annual Law Enforcement Torch Run for the Special Olympics will be held Wednesday, June 8. 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

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

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. Donations can be dropped 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.

### Students donate to RPD K9 effort

Published: June 5th, 2011



Students at Tilton School held a lemonade sale for two days and collected \$180 to donate to the Rochelle Police Department toward the purchase of a second K9 unit. Pictured is Rochelle Police Department officer Brian Van Vickle and Tilton School principal Tony Doyle. To date \$7,500 has been raised through fundraising efforts by the department to acquire a second K9 unit for the city. A quilt raffle is also being held to raise funds. Tickets for the quilt, which is on display at the police department, are \$5 each or six tickets for \$25. The drawing for the raffle will be held July 1 and the winner

need not be present to win. For more information on how to donate to the K9 unit call the police department at (815) 562-2131.

### Heated marathon

June 9th, 2011



Rochelle Police officers participated in the annual Special Olympics Torch Run Wednesday afternoon. Above, new RPD officer Sonny Streit (farthest left), Officer Elvis Baneski, Chief Eric Higby and Zech Van Vickle, son of officer Brian Van Vickle, run down Lincoln Highway from Fifth Avenue. The regular route was detoured because of construction to the IL Route 251 bridge. At left, Sam Guzzardo, a 15-year-old from Creston, holds the torch after it was handed off by Winnebago County officers at Krahenbuhl's on IL Route 251. Guzzardo participates in the Special Olympics and received a \$200 donation from HI-TIDE POOL & SPA so he could continue participating in the Special Olympic games. HI-TIDE POOL & SPA is owned by Rochelle Police Department officer Brian Albers.



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### **New officer**

*June 12th, 2011*



*Rochelle's newest police officer, Sonny Streit, was sworn in last week. Streit graduated from Rochelle Township High School and, most recently, Western Illinois University, summa cum laude. At left his wife, Mallory, pins his badge on him during the ceremony.*

### **CSC donates to Special Olympics**

*June 12th, 2011*



*Following the annual Special Olympic Torch Run by the Rochelle Police Department, members of the department were able to check out the plane used by Chicagoland Skydiving Center at the Rochelle Municipal Airport. CSC made a donation to Special Olympics at the end of the torch run. Runners*

*finished at the Rochelle Municipal Airport*

### **Rochelle woman sentenced**

*Will spend two years in prison*

*June 14th, 2011,*

*A Rochelle woman was sentenced Thursday to two years in prison for trying to rob a man in March 2010 and run him over with his own car.*

*Gabrielle M. Lepperd, 21, pleaded guilty to aggravated battery in Lee County Court. Prosecutors dropped the more serious charge of attempted murder in exchange for her plea.*

*She was also absolved of charges of aggravated vehicular hijacking and attempted armed robbery. 2010 incident*

*The charges stem from a March 2010 incident when Lepperd and Jamie C. Donovan, also of Rochelle, called a Rochelle man to take them to a house at 1857 Brooklyn Road in rural Ashton.*

*The two made a plan to rob the man of his paycheck a week before the incident to buy drugs and make a down payment on an apartment above a Rochelle bar.*

*While they waited for the man to pick them up, they bought carburetor spray and other items to knock him out. When they got to the house in rural Ashton, the women sprayed the man in the face. When he jumped out of the car, Donovan*

*jumped into the driver's seat and chased him around several outbuildings.*

*Donovan then slammed the vehicle into the northwest corner of a house, hit a propane tank, and slammed into the porch.*

*Per Lepperd's sentencing Thursday, she was given credit for 103 days served in the Lee County Jail.*

*She still is facing drug and theft charges in Ogle County. She is set for a pretrial conference on those charges July 25.*

*The Lee County State's Attorney's office recommended the two year sentence because Lepperd cooperated in the case against Donovan.*

*Donovan, 19, was sentenced in September to 10 years in prison after pleading guilty to armed robbery.*

### **Rochelle man arrested on weapon charge**

*June 19th, 2011*

*A Rochelle man was arrested Thursday at 7:19 p.m. by DeKalb County Sheriff's deputies following stop for a vehicle registration violation on IL Route 38 west of Huber Parkway.*

*The driver of the vehicle gave officers consent to search the vehicle and upon search, deputies asked the passenger, Dontae Cathina, 27, of Rochelle, to step out of the vehicle. Cathina was found to be in possession of a loaded handgun and*

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cannabis. Following an investigation, deputies found that the handgun had been reported stolen from Winnebago County. Cathina is also a convicted felon.

Cathina was arrested and transported to the DeKalb County Jail. He is being charged with unlawful possession of a weapon by a felon, possession of a stolen firearm, aggravated unlawful use of a weapon, possession of a firearm and ammunition without a FOID card and possession of cannabis.

### Local Masons donate to police K-9 unit

June 19th, 2011



From left to right are K-9 Officer Emily Anderson and Don, Chief Eric Higby, Past Master Bud Norcross and newly elected Master of Rochelle Masonic Lodge Eric Da Costa. A check of \$650 was presented to the K-9 Unit by the Rochelle Masonic Lodge to support the recruitment and training of a second police dog.

### Man stabbed several times Police searching for multiple suspects

June 21st, 2011



On Saturday, June 18 at 9:33 p.m. the Rochelle Police Department received a call that a man had been stabbed in the 500 block of North Second Street.

When officers arrived they located a male subject in the front yard that had been stabbed multiple times.

He was initially taken to the Rochelle Community Hospital via ambulance, but he was transferred to another hospital a short time later.

Witnesses indicated that the victim observed a group of four or five individuals spray painting the Behr Iron and Steel building.

According to Rochelle Police Chief Eric Higby, the victim told the offenders to stop what they were doing, and during the subsequent confrontation in the yard of 508 N. Second St., the victim was injured.

Higby said the victim suffered between six and eight stab wounds. Apparently, there were people in the vicinity of the incident and it appears that the victim's girlfriend called 911. It's not known what kind of knife was used, it was not recovered at the scene; however, other evidence was collected for the investigation. Higby said they're looking for as many as five suspects.

Although Higby said his department is working on the assumption that the incident was gang-related, it wasn't a case of two gangs attacking each other.

It seems that the group was spray painting gang symbols on the property and simply didn't like that the victim interrupted them.

The Rochelle Police Department's K9 unit was utilized during the investigation. The Illinois State Police Crime Scene Services Division and the Rochelle Fire Department also assisted with this case.

At this time no arrests have been made and anyone with information related to this investigation is asked to call the Ogle/Lee Crimestoppers at (888) 228-4488 (1-888-CAUGHTU) or the Rochelle Police Department at (815) 562-2131.

### Alleged shooter arrested July 7th, 2011

A Rochelle man wanted in connection with a shooting in May is now in custody.

Charles Chamness, 27, was wanted on two counts of aggravated discharge of a firearm and was found in Princeton. According to Rochelle Police Chief Eric Higby, someone in the Princeton area called Crimestoppers with a tip on the whereabouts of Chamness. Princeton is roughly 60 miles southwest of Rochelle. Apparently, Chamness initially tried to

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fiel , but he was apprehended a short time later and taken into custody.

On May 10 at 7:17 p.m., a lone gunman, allegedly identified by witnesses as Chamness, approached a car in the neighborhood of Treatment Plant Road. No one was seriously injured in the incident.

That night, witnesses said they saw a tall, thin white male approach a purple Pontiac and shoot at the two occupants of the car. The gunman apparently then took off west toward the creek and it's believed put something in the creek. Police think it was the weapon, but they have yet to locate it. Witnesses also said that Chamness apparently blocked the entrance to the neighborhood with his Cadillac before reportedly shooting at the intended targets. Although shots were fired, there were no shell casings found at the scene. This leads police to believe a revolver which would not dispel shell casings was the weapon used. Chamness is a convicted felon and was sentenced to eight years in the Illinois Department of Corrections for a 2002 charge of aggravated discharge of a firearm in a school zone. Chamness was arrested in February of this year for possession of cocaine with intent to deliver, but was out on bail. Higby said Chamness will be transported to the Ogle

County Jail in Oregon where he will be formally charged.

### From WIU 'Streit' to the RPD

July 7th, 2011



Sonny Streit may be new to the Rochelle Police Department but he sure isn't new to Rochelle. Streit grew up in Esmond and graduated from Rochelle Township High School. His family roots run deep in this community.

"I do live in Rochelle, I've lived here for about six months after I finished at WIU," Streit said. "I grew up in the country a couple miles outside of Esmond ". If anyone asks though I tell them I'm from Rochelle, because even some people from Rochelle do not know where Esmond is," he added jokingly.

Streit will be heading off to police academy this month; however, he is somewhat familiar with the job of a police officer.

"I have been employed at Rochelle for about a month," he said. "I have done two internships with the Rochelle Police Department. [While attending Kishwaukee College] I had to complete 225 hours with the department, and [while attending ] Western Illinois University I was at the

department for 600 hours over 15 weeks."

Officer Streit graduated from K.C. with an associate's degree in Criminal Justice. He graduated from WIU with a 4.0 G.P.A. and a degree in Law Enforcement and Justice Administration and a minor in Homeland Security.

Graduation and a job with the police department isn't the only big news for Streit. He married Mallory Jordal - also an RTHS grad - last July. "My wife and I live in Rochelle. We met at Rochelle Township High School and got married last July," he said. "We don't have kids yet, not for awhile. Not that we don't want them, but I enjoy being an uncle and I don't want anything taking away from my nephews and niece."

Family is important to Streit and making his home and starting his law enforcement career in Rochelle is a good fit for him.

"I think Rochelle is a great place to live. I grew up here and I liked it a lot," he said. "In this community when someone is in need, the community rushes to help. My brother, Tim Hammonds Jr., passed away in September and the community amazed me with the amount of support his children and family received."

"I moved to Macomb to attend WIU and I just knew I wanted to be an officer . I

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really would have worked anywhere," Streit explained. "In September of 2010 when my oldest brother, Tim, passed unexpectedly, my entire world was rocked. You always think you can go away for a bit and come back and everything will be the same, but I was wrong. My family and my church have become much more important in my life since he passed. I want to spend as much time with them as I can and they all live in the area. I also want to help create a safe environment for my friends and family so that their community can feel more like home. Rochelle has everything I want my friends, my family and supporting community I really don't want to work anywhere else."

Being that Streit hasn't attended police academy yet, he hasn't been able to perform full duties as a police officer; however, he has been training with various officers at the department.

"I watch the officers to see what will be required of me in each situation I come across," said Streit. "I enjoy everything so far. I've had to work a few bad jobs while trying to pay for school, it's great to work in a career field I want to be in, at a department I want to be at only a few weeks after I graduated college. I enjoy helping people, I want to do everything I can to better the

community that I grew up in."

When Streit isn't at work at the police department these days, he can be found spending time with his family.

"The perfect day to me is just sitting outside at a family picnic. I've always been close with my family. We get together a lot more than most families," he said. "I also like being an uncle a lot. My nephews and niece are a handful, but I can take them to the movies or the park, fill them up with sugar and send them home to their parents. It's a pretty great system. Mallory and I have worked. So what does the future hold for Streit?"

"Helping people and improving the community," he said. "I've worked hard in school and have worked jobs that I did not enjoy. It's exciting to be in a career field I've wanted to be in since I was a kid. During my internships I've seen the good that Rochelle Police Officers do and I'm excited to be a part of that."

He may even get the chance to participate in another fun activity.

"I've flown in an airplane twice and never landed in it," he joked. "I've gone skydiving twice, both times at Chicagoland Skydiving Center, but that was when they were in Hinckley. I hope to go again once my wife and I get settled in our new careers."



Hopefully we will even be able to go on a trip somewhere that requires us to land in the airplane, but I don't think it's going to beat jumping out of it," he added. "I don't think it's going to beat jumping out," he added jokingly.

The rest of his family is pretty important to him too.

"My family is great. I couldn't ask for better parents who have provided my siblings and me with everything we have needed to succeed. They showed us how to treat people, and how to work hard to achieve your goals. I have been truly blessed to have two parents who are so great," he said. "I also have some great siblings. My older brothers, Lucas Streit and Tim, are my heroes. As I grew up everything I did I tried to be a little more like them. Maggie and Charlie, my younger sister and brother, impress me more and more everyday and I'm very proud of the adults they are turning into."

### **Police investigating string of burglaries**

*July 10th, 2011,*

Rochelle Police are investigating a series of break-ins to businesses in the "Hub City." According to

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police chief Eric Higby, three businesses and one industrial building were broken into this past week. On July 5 at approximately 7:03 a.m., the police department was contacted by the Rochelle Country Club to investigate a burglary to the pro shop. Entry was made through a side window and approximately \$400 cash was taken. "It doesn't appear that any equipment was stolen," Higby said.

On July 6 at approximately 8 a.m., employees at Dairy Queen contacted police to report a burglary to the business. Higby said entry was made through the drive thru window and approximately \$800 cash was taken from the business.

On Friday morning, employees at T-Byrd Lanes contacted police to report a break-in. Employees discovered some of the gaming equipment had been tampered with. Entry was made by breaking thru a small window to the lower level. Early estimates show approximately \$500 in cash and approximately \$1,000 in damages - including the window and vending machine equipment.

Higby said these three cases could be connected.

Officers were also called to Del Monte on June 27 after it was discovered that a bay door had been driven through to gain entry and nearly 1,000 feet of copper wire stored in the building

had been stolen.

"We did find evidence of green paint transfer from a vehicle to the damaged door," Higby said.

Anyone with information on any of the burglaries is urged to contact the Rochelle Police Department at (815) 562-2131 or Ogle-Lee Crime Stoppers at 1-888-228-4488.

### **Burglar strikes again**

*July 12th, 2011*



Two more local businesses were burglarized in the "Hub City" last night adding to a string of three others over the past week.

The Olive Branch Restaurant on South IL Route 251 was broken into and it appears the Ogle County Health Department's Rochelle office - which shares the building with the restaurant - were burglarized around 4 a.m. this morning.

Detectives on scene this morning were not releasing many details as it was still too early to determine the extent of damage and what was stolen. Anyone with information on these or other recent burglaries is urged to call the police

department at (815) 562-2131.

### **Thieves strike again**

*July 14th, 2011*

Two more burglaries overnight bring the total number of recent break ins to seven. And one business has been lucky enough to be targeted twice.

An officer on patrol early this morning discovered a broken window at the drive through at Dairy Queen. This business was the target of a break in last week.

According to DQ owner Steve Boothe, after last week's burglary a larger and stronger safe was purchased and as far as he knows there was no money taken in this recent incident.

He added that the cash registers had been tampered with; however, they do not store cash in the drawers. The Tikkala Building, located in the 1,000 block of Lincoln Highway, also fell victim to burglars. This was discovered by patrolling officers who discovered a broken window in one of the offices. As of press time, it did not appear anything had been taken.

The Illinois State Police crime lab was in town all morning, working at both businesses to search for clues. The window at DQ is roughly 6 inches wide, so authorities are looking at someone small enough to gain access through a narrow opening.

Other businesses targeted

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recently were the pro shop at the Rochelle Country Club, Olive Branch Restaurant, the Ogle County Health Department office, Dairy Queen and T-Byrd Lanes.

Sgt. Jason Bergeron said the police department is actively investigating these burglaries and any help from the public is welcome. In addition, he suggests business owners install security systems and cameras. "Our response time to places where alarms are installed is very quick," Bergeron said. "And images from cameras help us identify suspects. We have good success with that."

Those with information can call the police department at (815) 562-2131 or Crime Stoppers at (888) 228-4488. Callers do not need to leave their names.

### Always a good cause

July 14th, 2011



Doug Wood of Kings relaxes while Susan Parker of the Rock River Valley Blood Center prepares him for the process of donating blood. The mobile blood bus was at the Rochelle Police Department Tuesday where area residents came out to

donate their blood at the event. Blood donated through the blood center stays in the area and is used by local hospitals.

### Police have clues into recent burglary spree

Chief urges businesses to install cameras, alarms

July 16th, 2011

Recent burglar activity has local residents on edge, particularly if you own a business. The break ins began about two weeks ago in the "Hub City," with businesses being the targets. That doesn't mean all residents shouldn't be cautious. The seven burglaries include the pro shop at Rochelle Country Club, Dairy Queen, T-Byrd Lanes, Olive Branch Restaurant, the Ogle County Health Department, the Tikkala Building on Lincoln Highway and DQ, again.

In the case of the Olive Branch and the health department, police did chase a suspect to the 200 block of Gary Street before the suspect eluded officers. At the Tikkala Building a window in a business was reportedly left open about an inch, which allowed the suspect to gain access.

According to Rochelle Police Chief Eric Higby, good evidence has been collected at each scene by the Illinois State Police crime lab.

At the country club technicians were able to lift finger prints and an empty

bottle was swabbed for DNA. In addition, fingerprints were found at DQ along with partial foot impressions.

In all cases, the thief or thieves are looking for cash and passing up other valuables. "Most likely this is someone with an addiction of some type they're trying to feed," Higby said.

Even though businesses are being targeted, all citizens can take precautions and keep their eyes open.

"If you see someone walking around at an unusual time of night, particularly near a business that isn't open, give us a call," Higby said, adding that, although it's an expense, businesses should consider investing in alarms or cameras.

"An alarm and a camera is a best-case scenario so we have something to work with going backward." Although all the businesses have been targeted at night, there isn't a particular night they hit thieves businesses.

And from what he knows other communities aren't seeing this particular activity, so it seems to be Rochelle-specific.

"We're going to work on the assumption that they're going to be more," Higby said. "It's a matter of time before someone sees something, notices something."

### Body found in quarry water

July 16th, 2011

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Police are investigating the death of a man whose body was discovered late Friday afternoon in the quarry water just southeast of the intersection of Flagg Road and IL Route 251.

At approximately 5 p.m. on July 15, the Rochelle Police Department was notified of a body in the water at the quarry site. Reportedly, two fishermen found the body and called police. With the assistance of the Rochelle Fire Department, the body was recovered and turned over to the Ogle County Coroner.

Police reported that the deceased was a white male, but as of Saturday morning his identity had not been released pending notification of his next of kin.

Authorities said the cause of death is unknown, but an autopsy was expected to be conducted over the weekend.

### **Drowning ruled as cause of death**

Man identified as Jason Spohn

*July 19th, 2011*

Rochelle police continue to investigate the death of 36-year-old Jason Spohn, whose body was found by

fisherman in the quarry late Friday afternoon.

Spohn's body was found in the quarry water just southeast of the intersection of Flagg Road and IL Route 251.

At approximately 5 p.m. on July 15, the Rochelle Police Department was notified of a body in the water at the quarry site by two fishermen.

With the assistance of the Rochelle Fire Department, the body was recovered and turned over to the Ogle County Coroner.

An autopsy was conducted by the coroner Monday morning. Preliminary results show drowning as the cause of death; however, results of toxicology will not be known for another three weeks.

According to police officials no foul play is suspected.

### **Another break-in brings the total to eight**

*July 21st, 2011*

The Rochelle Country Club seems to have fallen victim, again, to burglars. Officers located broken glass at the pro shop just before 2 a.m. According to Rochelle Police Chief Eric Higby, thus far it appears a cash register drawer was taken. Since the string of burglaries began, officers have been looking for signs of break-ins while on patrol. This is how two of them were discovered recently.

The country club was hit a few weeks back when the

string of burglaries began. Other businesses hit include Dairy Queen, T-Byrd Lanes, Olive Branch Restaurant, the Ogle County Health Department and the Tikkala Building, located at 1054 Lincoln Highway. Dairy Queen was hit twice. At the Tikkala Building a window had been left open slightly while at Dairy Queen the suspect broke and crawled through the drive-through window. In the case of the Olive Branch and the health department, police did chase a suspect to the 200 block of Gary Street before the suspect eluded them. This seems to be the case in the most recent burglary as well. According to Rochelle Police Chief Eric Higby, good evidence has been collected at each scene by the Illinois State Police crime lab. In the case of first hit at the county club they were able to lift fingerprints and an empty bottle was swabbed for DNA. In addition, fingerprints were found DQ along with partial foot impressions.

In all cases, the thief or thieves are looking for cash and passing up other valuables.

Even though businesses are being targeted, Higby asks that all residents take precautions and keep their eyes open. If you see something suspicious, call authorities.

Although all the businesses have been targeted at night, there isn't a particular night

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they hit the businesses.

And from what he knows other communities aren't seeing this particular activity, so it seems to be Rochelle-specific.

### **K-9 Crank joins force**

Police department held fundraisers for new dog  
*July 24th, 2011*



Good news is coming from the Rochelle Police Department. The newest K-9 officer has been announced as well as the purchase of a dog.

The Rochelle Police Department has announced Officer Brian VanVickle as the new K-9 handler and the department got the newest K-9 dog this past week. Crank, a 2-year-old German Shepherd, and VanVickle are expected to attend a 10-week training program beginning at the end of August. Team effort

"Without the community's support and donations, Crank wouldn't be part of the Rochelle Police Department today," VanVickle said. VanVickle has been with the department since 2009. Crank is the third K-9 at the RPD. Olaf was with the

department for seven years before he passed away following an illness in 2009. Don, a Belgian Malinois, the city's second K-9, was acquired in 2010.

"Officer VanVickle was chosen to be our new handler for several reasons," Higby said. "He has a strong work ethic which is essential for our program. He has truck weight enforcement training which hopefully will translate into larger [drug] seizures. The most important reason was his dedication to the program Brian was instrumental in raising funds for Don, and he has been involved in K9 training as well."

VanVickle and Higby said that Crank was chosen out of several dogs after observing various tests including searching for and retrieving tennis balls which approximates the drive the dog would have for tracking, along with article and drug searches.

The dogs were also tested with bite sleeves to see what their abilities were.

Crank has been home with VanVickle since coming to his new home of Rochelle from North Coast K-9 in Ohio.

VanVickle said that Crank is adjusting very well, especially with his family and two other dogs.

The pair will attend K-9 handler training at the Illinois State Police Academy.

Funds to acquire the new dog and equipment were

given by the people of Rochelle through many donations. Many monetary donations were given including \$1,000 from Illinois River Energy, \$1,000 from Prescott Brothers Ford, \$500 each from the Ogle County States Attorney and Patricia Best (Best Welding), \$300 from Holcomb State Bank and \$220 from Anytime Fitness.

The Rochelle Rotary Club is donating \$4,500 to the program.

Many in-kind donations were also given by local businesses including Rochelle Printing, Hub Printing Inc. and T-Byrd Lanes who allowed for a fundraiser to be held at their facility earlier this year. That fundraiser brought in \$2,281 for the program.

The Mason's also held soup supper fundraiser that brought in several hundred dollars for the program.

"The community has shown great support for the program and we are grateful for each donation, large or small," VanVickle said.

### **Caught in the act!**

Police make arrests in the recent string of burglaries  
*July 26th, 2011*

Thanks to an alarm system in one business and a heads up from a local citizen at another, local police have two burglary suspects in custody.

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Burgess



Terrell

Over the past several weeks, the Rochelle Police Department has been investigating a string of burglaries which occurred at local businesses, and now they believe they have arrested the two men responsible for the break-ins.

On Saturday, July 23 at 11:39 p.m., the Rochelle Police Department received a burglary alarm call at Arby's. Responding officers observed broken glass at the scene and a short time later a male was detained on South Main Street near Avenue E. Upon further investigation, the male subject, Chancellor J. Terrell, 19, Aurora, was arrested and charged with burglary (class 2 felony) as a result of this call. Following more

questioning, Terrell was also charged with seven other burglaries (class 2 felonies) which have occurred during the past several weeks. The locations of these burglaries were Rochelle Country Club on July 5; Dairy Queen on July 6 and July 14; T-Byrds on July 8; Ogle County Health Department on July 12; Olive Branch on July 12; and Salon 22 on July 14.

Terrell was transported to the Ogle County Jail in Oregon and held in lieu of bond. Citizen's help

A second arrest was made early Sunday morning with the help of an alert citizen, who reportedly caught the suspect in the act of breaking into a local restaurant.

After being the victim of a previous break in, T-Byrd Lanes owners hired a security person to stay at the business after hours in the event another break in occurred.

His presence at the bowling alley led to an arrest as he witnessed the burglary attempt at the Butterfly Restaurant across the street.

On Sunday, July 24, at 2:24 a.m., the Rochelle Police Department received a call about a burglary in progress at the Butterfly Restaurant. When officers arrived on scene, a male subject was allegedly exiting the restaurant with a cash register and was taken into custody. The man, Jeremiah J. Burgess, 27, Peoria, also was wanted on a Peoria

County warrant for failing to appear for an obstructing justice charge.

After further investigation, Burgess was charged with burglary (class 2 felony) for this case. He also was charged with burglary (class 2 felony) for a break-in which occurred at the Rochelle Country Club on July 21.

In addition, Burgess was charged with being in possession of burglary tools. He also was transported to the Ogle County Jail and held in lieu of bond.

### Teen charged with attempted murder

More arrests expected in stabbing case

July 31st, 2011



Williams

A 19-year-old teen has been arrested and charged with attempted murder in connection with a stabbing that occurred in Rochelle last month.

Jeremy L. Williams, 19, was arrested on Thursday at 3532 S. Woodlawn Road in rural Creston by Rochelle Police Department detectives. He was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he is being

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held on bond.

On Saturday June 18 at 9:33 p.m. the Rochelle Police Department received a call of a stabbing victim at 508 N. Second Street. When officers arrived they located a male subject in the front yard that had been stabbed multiple times. He was initially taken to the Rochelle Community Hospital via ambulance, but he was transferred to another hospital a short time later.

Witnesses stated that the victim observed a group of four or five individuals spray painting the Behr Iron and Steel building. The victim reportedly told the offenders to stop what they were doing and during the subsequent confrontation in the yard at 508 N. Second Street the victim was stabbed several times in the back.

In addition to two counts of attempted first degree murder (Class X felony), Williams is also being charged with two counts of aggravated battery (Class 3 felony).

Police said other arrests in the case should be forthcoming.

### **Two-wheeled donation**

*August 2nd, 2011*

The Rochelle Police Department recently was awarded a donation from Union Pacific Railroad. Funds will go directly to a



bicycle patrol program that has been implemented in the city. The department recently purchased bikes for officers to use while on patrol during events, such as the Fourth of July and Lincoln Highway Heritage festivals. Pictured above Chief Eric Higby, third from left, accepts the check from UP officials while Mayor Chet Olson, third from right, and Rochelle City Manager Dave Plyman, far right, look on.

### **Staying 'in bounds'**

Local teens & officers connect during wilderness adventure

*August 7th, 2011*



A weeklong trip to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness was a welcome experience for

several area teenagers who were fortunate enough to accompany two local police officers on the journey up north.

Early last month Rochelle Detective John Kaltenbach and Officer Brian VanVickle took six teenage boys on the weeklong adventure. This is the fourth year Kaltenbach has taken a group of kids to northern Minnesota and the third that the department has sponsored. "The Boundary Waters trip is important because it allows our officers to interact with teens in a unique environment. With this interaction, the teens are able to learn wilderness survival skills and they have the opportunity to converse with our officers outside of their law enforcement roles," said Rochelle Police Chief Eric Higby.

"This trip is a great opportunity to form a relationship with kids in the community," said Kaltenbach, who has been traveling to the BWCAW for more than 25 years. "I got started going when I was in school," he said. "Gary Cater and Bob Rohr used to take a bunch of kids up." Cater is a former Ashton High School principal and Rohr is a former Ashton High School teacher.

Through the help of administration at Rochelle Township High School, Kaltenbach was able to speak with a group of students who

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might be interested in the trip. To be selected interested boys had to keep their grades up, demonstrate good behavior at home, school and in the community and have no negative contact with the police department. "The kids were given responsibilities on this trip and they learned a lot of life lessons," Kaltenbach said. "They had to cook, do dishes, gather firewood and they learned respect and cooperation."

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."

After arriving at the Canadian Border Outfitters the group took their last hot showers and drank the last cold beverages they would enjoy for the next week, because BWCAW is part of the Superior National Forest in which no combustion motors are allowed. The only way in or out of the area is by canoe or hiking. The only supplies campers have are the items carried in a canoe and on backpack through the woods to the next lake. Tents are the only form of covered shelter and canoes are the

mode of transportation.

The trip began with a towboat ride through the first nine miles of connecting lakes where motors are allowed. There the campers experienced the first of many portages they would encounter on the way to Knife Lake where they would set up a base camp.

VanVickle said the connection the group makes with nature in quite an experience.

"The most memorable event was when a Bald Eagle came within 15 feet of the camp and tried to grab a fish from the water," he shared. "The part about the trip that I liked the best was being in the middle of nowhere. We were 19 miles from the closest road and just the sheer quiet that went with being in the wilderness. There were no man-made noises, no trains, no airplanes, no cars - just the sound of the loons and the paddle moving water."

One of the young men on the trip included Nathan Meador, who echoed VanVickle.



"Seeing the wildlife and experiencing nature was incredible," he said. "The sun didn't go down until about 11 p.m. and we were near the wildlife all night. We saw

an eagle fly near us and we were able to take pictures." Ellwood Cook admitted that the trip was hard work, but definitely worth the effort. "It was a lot of paddling, but the best part was catching the fish and eating them at night. It was really fun." VanVickle best summarized the experience. "It takes a lot of work to go to the boundary waters that's why so few people are around," he said.

"We left the outfitters and started with a 45-minute boat ride to the edge of the no motor area. Then we loaded the canoe for a four-hour paddle which included seven portages. Then you get to sleep in a tent for a week cook all the food you carried in and, yes, it's all worth it. So many adults don't have the skills or confidence to leave civilization and this gave six young men an experience of a lifetime."

### **Hotel employee robbed at gunpoint**

Assailants escape with undisclosed amount of cash  
*August 9th, 2011,*

The employee of a local business was the victim of an armed robbery early Monday morning.

According to Rochelle Police Chief Eric Higby, his department received a call from Baymont Inn at 4:06 a.m. The caller advised he had been robbed at gunpoint and tied up by two subjects wearing all black. The caller said the two offenders were

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African American, and one of them displayed a silver handgun.

The victim also said the offenders wore masks and left the scene on foot. An undisclosed amount of cash was taken from the scene. Higby said no one saw a getaway vehicle.

Higby has been in contact with the Rockford Police Department as a similar robbery happened there. Early Sunday morning, the Sleep Inn was robbed at gunpoint.

In the Rockford robbery, the victim said there was only one assailant, also African American and wearing dark clothing. The hotel is located near the intersection of East State Street and Interstate 90. Authorities at this time do not know if the two incidents are related.

The Illinois State Police Crime Scene Services is assisting the departments.

Anyone with information is encouraged to call the Ogle/Lee Crimestoppers at (888) 228-4488 (1-888-CAUGHTU) or the Rochelle Police Department at (815) 562-2131.

### **Teen arrested after incident** *August 23rd, 2011*

Friday, Aug. 12 at 9:28 p.m., Ogle County Sheriff deputies responded to a 911 call received from Lot #116 in the Shangri-La Trailer Park, approximately 2 miles west of Rochelle.

At the scene, deputies located a 35-year-old male with serious head and facial injuries. This male was transported to Rochelle Community Hospital via Rochelle Fire Department ambulance and later transferred to Rockford Memorial Hospital in Rockford. Second 911 call

At the same time as this call, deputies received another 911 call from a residence a short distance from the trailer park. At that location deputies found a 17-year-old male with lacerations to his neck area.

This male was also transported by Rochelle Fire Department ambulance to Rochelle Community Hospital and later transferred to Rockford Memorial Hospital. An investigation revealed that the 17-year-old male had gone to Lot #116 and struck the 35-year-old victim in the face and head with a hammer several times.

The 17-year-old then fled the scene and was located a short time later via the second 911 call. His injuries were found to be self-inflicted.

This incident stems from a prior altercation between these two subjects which occurred approximately one week prior.

On Aug. 19, deputies arrested Ernesto Rivera-Morales, 17, for aggravated battery. Rivera-Morales was transported to the Ogle County Jail in Oregon and

will appear in court at a later date.

### **Armed robbery overnight**

*Published: August 25th, 2011, Rochelle News-Leader, Page 1*

ROCHELLE In the second time in roughly a month, Road Ranger was the victim of a robbery. This time, the assailant was armed.

According to Rochelle Police Chief Eric Higby, a 911 call was received at 2:31 a.m. Thursday regarding the robbery. The robber, a white male who was armed with a butcher knife, apparently got away with cigarettes and an undisclosed amount of money. It appears he was alone and K-9 Don tracked him to the area of 1251 Short Court.

The assailant is described as a white male, 5-foot, 6-inches tall and 180-210 pounds. He was wearing a red hoodie, blue jeans, sunglasses, gloves and a bandana.

Higby added that it appears the entire incident was caught on store video.

This robbery is very similar to one that occurred on Saturday, July 23 where the robber was wearing a hoodie, a bandana over his face and sunglasses. In that incident, he did not display a weapon.

If you have information about this, please contact the Rochelle Police

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Department at (815) 562-2131.

### Woman arrested for child porn

*Published: August 28th, 2011*



A Rochelle woman is in custody on alleged child pornography charges.

On Thursday, Aug. 25, the Rochelle Police Department received information from the Cherry Valley Police Department regarding a possible child pornography case. Information was brought to Cherry Valley officers from an employee who discovered suspicious pictures and video during a cell phone data transfer. This case was brought to the Rochelle Police Department as the alleged offender was believed to be a Rochelle resident.

During the course of this investigation, a search warrant was obtained and electronic devices were seized.

Susana A. Guzman, 48, Rochelle, was arrested and charged with child pornography a Class 1 felony on Thursday. She was transported to the Ogle

County Jail in Oregon and held in lieu of bond. On Aug. 26, her bond was set at \$100,000, of which 10 percent applies. One minor was taken into protective custody during this incident. Assistance

The Rochelle Police Department was assisted by the Shining Star Children's Advocacy Center, the Department of Children and Family Services and the Cherry Valley Police Department.

### Smoke causes minimal damage

*Published: August 30th, 2011*



Rochelle fire officials responded to a fire Sunday evening at an apartment on Short Court. According to the report, a call came in at 8:43 p.m. reporting smoke in the hallway of the complex, coming from apartment #5. Fire chief Brian Johnson said the building was then evacuated and because there was no response from the occupants of the apartment, officials forced the door open. Once inside, they found a pan smoking on the stove. Apparently, the resident started cooking chicken, but then forgot and left the apartment. Johnson said the only real damage was to the pan. The building

was aired out and residents were allowed to return to their homes a short time later.

### 30 Men Who Cook – Saturday, Sept, 17<sup>th</sup>



Brian VanVickle & John Kaltenbach

#### Brian VanVickle

**Chef's partner:** John Kaltenbach  
**Recipe name:** Homemade Donuts and Coffee  
**Category:** Dessert  
**Secret or Unique Ingredient:** Sugar and Caffeine  
**Where acquired recipe:** Great-Grandma's donut recipe  
**One Word to describe the dish:** Sugar-Buzz

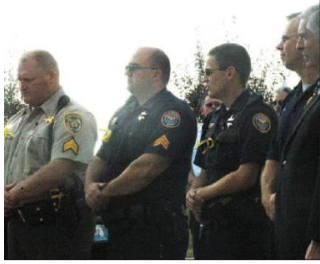
### Honoring responders

*September 13th, 2011*



RTHS students remembered the victims of 9/11 Monday and honored local first responders with a flag-raising ceremony outdoors. Superintendent Jamie Craven spoke briefly to the crowd that also included local police officers, fire department officials and other volunteers (below).

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Pictured at right is Craven, Mayor Chet Olson and former Fire Chief Tom McDermott doing the honors of raising the American flag. The color guard, bottom right, and the band participated as well.

### '30 Men Who Cook' fed 300+

September 20th, 2011



Two of the 30 Men Who Cook, Jay Mulholland and Brian VanVickle, both served so many people that they ran out of food before the end of the night. The fifth annual event raised funds for the RTHS Education Foundation. There was everything from doughnuts with coffee to stuffed jalapenos to shredded beef, and it was all good. The fifth annual 30 Men Who Cook fundraiser was a big hit last weekend. So much so, that there were actually 32 "men who cooked." Chefs lined the perimeter of the airplane hangar at Koritz Field, while the crowd mingled and

sampled. This is the second year the event has been held at the Rochelle Airport. This year, the overhead doors were open and there was seating available outside. It has yet to be determined how much money was raised, but seeing as many of the chefs ran out of food, it's safe to say they may have collected more than previous years. Brian VanVickle said he started with 400 doughnuts, but by 8 p.m. he was out. Others were in the same boat. The event is sponsored by the Rochelle Township High School Education Foundation. Look for extended results and photos of this year's 30 Men Who Cook in a future edition of the News-Leader.

Traffic stop Tuesday resulted in arrest

September 22nd, 2011



Rochelle Police made a drug arrest following a traffic stop Tuesday night.

At 11:47 p.m., Juan M. Reyes-Valdez, 25, Rochelle, was arrested for possession of a controlled substance along with no valid driver's license and one headlight. The charges were later upgraded to include

possession of a controlled substance with intent to deliver. Original stop According to Rochelle Police Chief Eric Higby, Reyes-Valdez was originally stopped by the K-9 unit in the 1,110 block of North Seventh Street because of the headlight violation.

Once pulled over, the officer found what appeared to be a bag of cocaine. Higby explained that, because of the driver's license violation, the vehicle was being prepared to be towed. During the course of doing an inventory of the car, the bag containing the cocaine was found. Higby said it allegedly contained 28.4 ounces of cocaine, which has a street value of roughly \$600. Felony offense Possession of a controlled substance and possession with intent to deliver both are felony offenses. As far as Higby knew, Reyes-Valdez doesn't have any previous convictions.

Reyes - Valdez was transported to the Ogle County Jail in Oregon. He will appear in court today at 1 p.m.

### Welcome aboard

October 4th, 2011



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*Rochelle Police Officer Sonny Streit graduated the police academy last week, and now will continue with field training on-the-job with the Rochelle Police Department. Streit is a Rochelle native and a graduate of Western Illinois University. He's pictured above, left, at his graduation with Rochelle Police Chief Eric Higby.*

### **Got drugs?**

Prescription drug take back program this month  
*October 11th, 2011*

When something works, you keep doing it. When it involves drugs, you get serious about it.

On Saturday, Oct. 29 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., the Rochelle Police Department and the Drug Enforcement Administration will give the public another opportunity to prevent pill abuse and theft.

The program allows area residents to rid their homes of potentially dangerous expired, unused and unwanted prescription drugs.

Bring your medications for disposal to the police station at 416 N. Sixth St. The service is free and anonymous, no questions asked. Proven success

Last April, Americans turned in 376,593 pounds or 188 tons of prescription drugs at nearly 5,400 sites operated by the DEA and more than 3,000 state and

local law enforcement partners.

This initiative addresses a vital public safety and public health issue. Medicines that languish in home cabinets are highly susceptible to diversion, misuse and abuse. Rates of prescription drug abuse in the U.S. are alarmingly high, as are the number of accidental poisonings and overdoses due to these drugs.

Studies show that a majority of abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends.

These include drugs from the home medicine cabinet. In addition, Americans are now advised that their usual methods for disposing of unused medicines flushing them down the toilet or throwing them in the trash both pose potential safety and health hazards.

Legislation Four days after the first Take-Back event in September of 2010, Congress passed the Secure and Responsible Drug Disposal Act of 2010. This act amended the Controlled Substances Act to allow an "ultimate user" of controlled substance medications to dispose of them by delivering them to entities authorized by the attorney general to accept them. The act also allows the attorney general to authorize long-term care facilities to dispose of their residents' controlled substances in certain

instances. DEA has begun drafting regulations to implement the act, a process that can take as long as 24 months. Until new regulations are in place, local law enforcement agencies like the Rochelle Police Department and the DEA will continue to hold prescription drug take-back events every few months. For more information, log onto [www.dea.gov](http://www.dea.gov).

### **Police looking for robbery suspects**

Hoping someone comes forward with information which leads to an arrest  
*October 16th, 2011*



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*Rochelle Police released photos in the hopes they will lead to an arrest following three robberies at the Road Ranger gas station on North Seventh Street*

Police work depends upon good information, and technology has enhanced the opportunities for sharing information with the public.

The Rochelle Police Department continues to investigate multiple robberies which have occurred at the Road Ranger convenience store located at 1101 N. Seventh St.

On three separate dates July 23, Aug. 25 and Oct. 11 an individual entered the store and demanded money. During two incidents, a weapon was either shown or implied. During the last incident no weapon was shown.

The Rochelle Police Department is releasing surveillance photos of the suspect(s) in hopes that someone may be able to identify the subject(s) by his clothing.

The Rochelle Police Department is currently awaiting the results of forensic examination of

evidence collected as a result of these robberies. Reward

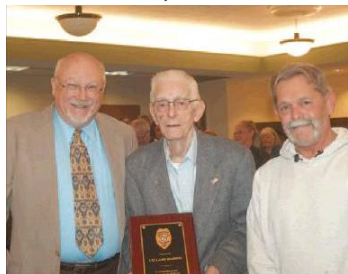
Anyone with information about these incidents is encouraged to contact the Rochelle Police Department at (815) 562-2131 or the Ogle-Lee Crime Stoppers at (888) 228-4488 (1-888-CAUGHT U).

Remember Crime Stoppers wants your information, not your name. Cash rewards up to \$1,000 are paid out for information that leads to an arrest.

### **Commissioner honored by council**

Mr. Lee Harris has served in various ways in the community his entire adult life

*November 15, 2011*



A town like Rochelle relies on public servants to fill in the gaps; to serve on committees and direct departments with their knowledge and experience.

These people have a thankless job, most not even knowing the role they play in our community.

Monday night, the mayor and city council recognized one of these hard-working public servants.

Lee Harris has served on the Board of Police and Fire

Commissioners for so many years that no one even really knows exactly how many.

"He's watched many folks being hired and trained over the years in our police and fire departments," Mayor Chet Olson said. "We'd also like to thank your many friends and family who are here tonight."

The council chambers were filled with longtime friends and supporters of Harris.

Those in the crowd included the other two commissioners on the board, Bob Johns and Ron "Stony" Stonebraker.

Likewise, members of Harris' family and employees from the police and fire departments were in attendance to show support and congratulate Harris.

The Board of Fire and Police Commissioners are appointed by the mayor with the consent of council. The commission develops eligibility lists for police and fire appointments and hears appeals concerning employee discipline action. Olson made it clear that the city is pleased that Harris continues to serve on the commission. "I can't think of anywhere I'd rather be than Rochelle," a visibly touched Harris remarked following the ceremony.

Fire department vehicle  
The 2011-12 Ambulance Fund Budget included \$25,000 for the purchase of a command vehicle for the fire department. It'll be used as a

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vehicle for the fire chief and, when necessary, to tow the rescue boat and hazardous materials trailer to emergency scenes. The current command vehicle will be maintained for use by the shift lieutenant for day-to-day needs.

Three dealers submitted bids, with Prescott Brothers Ford submitted the winning bid of \$27,314.82. The recommended bid is roughly \$2,400 over the budgeted amount, but other expenditures in the ambulance fund have come in under budget.

The entire council voted in favor of the purchase.

### Improvements

Several streets in the southeast quadrant of the city were identified in 2005 for reconstruction and urbanization. Since that time, South First Street, South Second Street and sections of Avenue G have been reconstructed and urbanized. The budget includes \$197,000 which includes curb and gutter, pavement, storm sewer, sidewalks and ramps.

Rochelle City Engineer Sam Tesreau reviewed the bids and recommended the acceptance of the apparent low bidder, Northern Illinois Service Company, with a bid of \$364,814.45. This is a multi-fiscal year project. The improvements will be funded through transfers from the Motor Fuel Tax fund and/or the Utility Tax Fund.

Construction is expected to begin by the end of November and should be completed by July of 2012.

RMU general manager Since May of this year, following the resignation of RMU General Manager Ed Carr, the position has remained vacant. The consensus of the Administrative Committee was to discuss the RMU General Manager vacancy and the associated proposal with the full council.

An executive search proposal was requested from the firm of Mycoff, Fry & Prouse, a recognized leader in the recruitment of executives and management personnel in the utility industry.

The firm has identified a scope of services to facilitate the selection of the RMU General Manager which includes: gathering information from RMU and the City, developing a position profile, conducting recruitment activities and interviewing candidates for a minimum fee of \$39,000, plus expenses.

Providing the Mayor and Council approve the proposal, City Staff will participate in interviews with the finalists as well as the final selection of the RMU general manager. Although the cost for this search was not included in the 2011-12 budget, it should be offset by the fact that the position has

remained vacant for several months.

"I think we're looking for someone who has significant amount of electrical experience, such as an electrical engineer, as well as management experience," explained city manager Dave Plyman. "The hiring decision is a local decision and I intend to use a team in this process ... this will be a work in progress."

Plyman added that searches such as this normally three to four months. "The council and staff will be very involved in the process."

The council all voted in favor of hiring the firm.

### 'Got Drugs' take back initiative program to continue

November 22, 2011



On Saturday, Oct. 29, area residents were given the opportunity to turn in their unused or expired medication as part of the Drug Enforcement Agency's

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(DEA) Nationwide Take Back Initiative Program. The Rochelle Police Department served as a collection site from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

This is the second time this year the Police Department and Rochelle Community Hospital have teamed up to offer the program.

The quantity collected in Rochelle filled five garbage bags which were given to DEA officials for safe disposal. Nationwide, the DEA collected 188.4 tons of unused or expired medication on this date. By all indications, the DEA will be continuing this nationwide program with collection dates every six months.

Consider these facts provided by the DEA regarding prescription drugs:

- Unused or expired prescription medications are a public safety issue, leading to accidental poisoning, overdose, and abuse.

- Pharmaceutical drugs can be just as dangerous as street drugs when taken without a prescription or a doctor's supervision.

- The non-medical use of prescription drugs ranks second only to marijuana as the most common form of drug abuse in America.

- The majority of teenagers abusing prescription drugs get them from family and friends—and the home medicine cabinet.

- Unused prescription drugs thrown in the trash can be

retrieved and abused or illegally sold. Unused drugs that are flushed contaminate the water supply. Proper disposal of unused drugs saves lives and protects the environment.

Take-back programs are the best way to dispose of old drugs. But if a program is not available:

Take the meds out of their bottles; mix them with something unappealing like used kitty litter or coffee grounds; seal them in a bag or disposal container, and throw that away.

For more information on prescription drug abuse, go to: [www.dea.gov](http://www.dea.gov), [www.getsmartaboutdrugs.com](http://www.getsmartaboutdrugs.com) or [www.justthinktwice.com](http://www.justthinktwice.com).

### **Rochelle man sentenced Monday**

*December 1, 2011*

A Rochelle man pleaded guilty Monday in Ogle County court to aggravated criminal sexual abuse and also received his sentence, according to Assistant Ogle County State's Attorney Mike Rock.

Martin Zamarron was arrested in May 2009 on charges of predatory criminal sexual assault of a student during the 2006-2007 school year.

He was a teacher at Lincoln School at the time of the assault and the victim was a student.

Sentencing

Following the guilty plea, Zamarron was sentenced by Ogle County Judge Stephen Pemberton. According to Rock, the sentence includes four years probation, classification as a sexual predator requiring Zamarron to register as a sex offender for life, must attend sex offender counseling, payment of fines and court costs totaling approximately \$1,900, no contact with the victim or minors under the age of 18 excluding family and 180 days in jail. "He has served 13 days and the balance of the [180] days has been stayed," Rock said. He clarified that Zamarron could serve the rest of that sentence once he has completed his court mandated counseling. By law, Zamarron has three days to register as a sex offender with the local police department.

### **Police academy applications now accepted**

*December 4, 2011*

Local department offers class that includes exposure to hands-on police work

For the third year, the Rochelle Police Department will be hosting Citizen Police Academy. Applications are currently being taken for the 2012 class that is scheduled to begin Jan. 26.

"We are thrilled to be able to offer our program in 2012," Rochelle Police Chief Eric Higby said. "After

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evaluating our 2011 installment, we realized that we needed to make some enhancements [to the upcoming class]. This time it will be one week longer and we will still offer students the same highly interactive classes. The academy is enjoyable for us, and it gives people a chance to interact with us on a different level.”

The class is scheduled to run Jan. 26 through mid-April and will meet on Thursday nights from 6-9 p.m. in the Rochelle City Council Chambers at Rochelle City Hall.

Applications can be picked up at the police department at any time, and the deadline for them to be returned is Jan. 20. In order to be accepted to the CPA, 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.

### **Presentations**

Each Thursday night for 11 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 will also 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.

### **RPD gearing up for third citizen's police academy; applications available**

*December 13, 2011*

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Department will be hosting Citizen Police Academy. Applications are currently being taken for the 2012 class that is scheduled to begin Jan. 26.

“We are thrilled to be able to offer our program in 2012,” Rochelle Police Chief Eric Higby said. “After evaluating our 2011 installment, we realized that we needed to make some enhancements [to the upcoming class]. This time it will be one week longer and we will still offer students the same highly interactive classes. The academy is enjoyable for us, and it gives people a chance to interact with us on a different level.”

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For more information call (815) 562-2121.