

## **PROTECTION OF PERSONS AND PROPERTY**

### **REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

Although there were no events in 2005 that required activation of Weston's Emergency Management System, the devastating Pacific tsunami and Hurricane Katrina brought to light the importance of having a current emergency plan. To this end we have begun a project in cooperation with the Council on Aging to identify those members of our community who may be the most in need of assistance in the event of a disaster. Our Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEM) was reviewed by members of the Town's Emergency Management Team and updated with the State. This plan will be critical in the event of a natural disaster or other emergency in Weston.

We cannot stress enough the need to have a plan in place for your family in the event of a disaster. This plan should include basic food and water for a minimum of 48 hours, essential documents and phone numbers, and a communications plan. Information on planning and other disaster related topics can be found through the American Red Cross as well as the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

### **REPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF INSPECTIONAL SERVICES**

Referring to our table of contents and comparing new dwelling and additions for FY05 compared to FY04, permits were up 44% and 40% respectively. Also the number of permits issued for plumbing, gas, and electrical installations increased over this period. The significant projects either started or completed during this period were:

- 680 South Avenue, a Chapter 40B condominium comprised of 16 residential units, four of which are affordable. The entire development was nearly completed by the end of December 2005.
- Post Road Green at 809 to 811 Boston Post Road, another residential Chapter 40B development, consisting of eight units, two of which are affordable, was completed in FY05.

Another multiple dwelling area known as Jericho Village was changed to condominium ownership and renamed Stonegate at Weston. Most of the dwelling units were issued permits to update the kitchens, baths and roofs and update plumbing and electrical systems as needed.

A gas explosion of a dwelling on North Avenue (by a miracle no one was injured) but the explosion completely destroyed the dwelling. The department extends our sympathy to the residents of this dwelling.

**REPORT OF THE INSPECTOR OF BUILDINGS AND WIRES  
CALENDAR YEAR 2005 AND 6-YEAR SUMMARY REPORT**

	2005			2004			2003		
	Permits Issued	Estimated Value	Fees	Permits Issued	Estimated Value	Fees	Permits Issued	Estimated Value	Fees
	<u>(Number)</u>	<u>(Dollars)</u>	<u>(Dollars)</u>	<u>(Number)</u>	<u>(Dollars)</u>	<u>(Dollars)</u>	<u>(Number)</u>	<u>(Dollars)</u>	<u>(Dollars)</u>
Single Family Residence	52	43,030,558	429,810	36	29,907,795	297,408	27	22,406,625	224,073
Multiple Dwelling District	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
New Building-Commercial	1	1,568,178	15,682	-	-	-	1	4,346,650	n/a
Additions/Alterations/ Repairs - Residential	258	25,766,459	259,264	184	21,906,604	218,770	195	25,132,569	251,768
Additions/Alterations/ Repairs - Commercial	10	1,419,000	14,190	12	1,108,000	11,080	10	2,937,970	29,381
*Other Construction/ Residential	192	3,606,022	38,736	207	3,899,526	43,500	178	3,600,285	40,431
*Other Construction/ Commercial/Municipal	22	584,360	1,892	38	1,197,908	12,815	23	681,978	7,025
Miscellaneous and Periodic Inspections	62	-	4,602	86	-	5,745	79	-	5,465
<b>Total Construction</b>	<b>596</b>	<b>75,974,577</b>	<b>764,176</b>	<b>563</b>	<b>58,019,833</b>	<b>589,318</b>	<b>513</b>	<b>59,106,050</b>	<b>558,143</b>
Gas Permits	351		15,668	345	-	12,609	349	-	13,593
Plumbing Permits	436		33,727	432	-	28,986	381	-	25,683
Wiring Permits	671		68,197	605	-	48,565	575	-	45,945
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,458</b>		<b>117,592</b>	<b>1,382</b>		<b>90,160</b>	<b>1,305</b>		<b>85,221</b>
*Demolition (included above)	34			40		8,000	24		4,900

**REPORT OF THE INSPECTOR OF BUILDINGS AND WIRES (continued)**

	2002			2001			2000		
	Permits Issued	Estimated Value	Fees	Permits Issued	Estimated Value	Fees	Permits Issued	Estimated Value	Fees
	<u>(Number)</u>	<u>(Dollars)</u>	<u>(Dollars)</u>	<u>(Number)</u>	<u>(Dollars)</u>	<u>(Dollars)</u>	<u>(Number)</u>	<u>(Dollars)</u>	<u>(Dollars)</u>
Single Family Residence	27	19,647,072	196,511	45	32,131,975	293,954	37	19,997,522	171,091
Multiple Dwelling District	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
New Building-Commercial	4	10,286,444	93,400	2	8,905,400	89,054	1	2,740,000	27,400
Additions/Alterations/ Repairs (Residential)	169	22,699,900	229,497	152	14,528,664	145,555	167	22,105,586	217,466
Additions/Alterations/ Repairs (Commercial)	8	500,500	4,805	9	38,568,716	41,188	9	2,803,337	28,245
*Other Construction/ Residential	208	3,257,959	37,291	199	3,256,282	36,502	197	3,120,778	36,334
*Other Construction/ Commercial/Municipal	23	245,315	2,665	23	296,573	2,620	28	188,343	2,650
Miscellaneous and Periodic Inspections	89	-	6,810	62	-	2,700	70	-	8,176
<b>Total Construction</b>	<b>528</b>	<b>56,637,190</b>	<b>570,979</b>	<b>492</b>	<b>97,687,610</b>	<b>611,573</b>	<b>519</b>	<b>50,955,566</b>	<b>491,362</b>
Gas Permits	363	-	13,884	363	-	13,506	306	-	10,963
Plumbing Permits	381	-	27,658	381	-	26,063	363	-	23,360
Wiring Permits	612	-	69,132	587	-	42,041	512	-	42,166
<b>Total Construction</b>	<b>1,356</b>	<b>110,674</b>	<b>110,674</b>	<b>1,331</b>	<b>81,610</b>	<b>81,610</b>	<b>1,181</b>	<b>76,489</b>	<b>76,489</b>
*Demolition (included above)	33		6,600	28		5,650			

## REPORT OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

In calendar year 2005 the Weston Fire Department responded to 2,032 calls for service. Although our call volume was in line with the past few years we suffered four major loss fires, one fire fatality and one serious fire injury. As a department we cannot stress enough the need for all of us to continue to make a conscious effort to protect ourselves from the dangers of fire including installing and testing smoke and carbon monoxide detectors; and having and practicing a home escape plan.

In 2005 the fire department received a competitive Federal grant for \$194,000 to upgrade our emergency radio system. This upgraded system will ensure our ability to communicate more effectively not only with the Weston Police Department and surrounding fire departments, but it will provide the Town of Weston with a reliable radio frequency for our own Emergency Management operations.

Fire Prevention remains a core component of our mission. Although we have had to curtail some activities in this area due to budget restrictions, we continue to conduct some school visits, and required fire safety inspections. These inspections include oil burning equipment, liquefied propane installations, home fire alarm systems, underground fuel tank removals, and blasting operations. In addition, quarterly inspections of nursing care and other facilities were conducted as required by law.

Over the summer we completed the roof and building envelope repairs to our two fire stations. The completion of these projects guarantees that our stations will remain in service for decades to come.

While our Emergency Ambulance Service accounted for just under 50% of our call volume, the department's Emergency Medical Technicians and First Responders continue to provide a critical service to the residents of Weston. As we continue to see more defibrillators placed in the community we cannot stress enough the importance of bystander CPR. Residents wishing to take a class in CPR or learn more about defibrillators are encouraged to contact the fire department.

2005 saw the retirement of three veteran members of the Department. Call Firefighter Robert G. Hutchinson, Captain Peter M. Perrin, and Captain Daniel J. Robertson retired after over 80 years of collective service with the department. Although their retirements are well deserved, the loss of the knowledge and wisdom that only comes with years of service will be difficult to replace.

We look back with gratitude to all of those who have supported and assisted this Department in many ways. Citizen support and cooperation is essential if we are to continue to keep our Town fire safe and maintain an effective level of service. To the citizens of Weston, the Honorable Board of Selectmen, Finance Committee, Town Manager, and the members of the Weston Fire Department who have all worked so diligently, I extend my sincere appreciation and thanks.

**2005 DEPARTMENT STATISTICS:**

(Year ending December 31, 2005)

In 2003 the Weston Fire Department responded to 198 Bell Alarms and 1,834 Still Alarms for a total of 2,032 incidents as follows:

Fire Incidents	====	135
Ambulance Incidents	====	917
Other Emergency Services	====	980

Mutual Aid:

Received from neighboring communities	====	135 times
Provided to our neighbors	====	129 times

The Emergency Ambulance Service responded to 917 incidents as follows of which 827 were medical emergencies and 190 were motor vehicle accidents.

COMPARISON OF ALARMS ANSWERED -- 10 YEAR PERIOD

1996	1,825 Alarms	2001	2,080 Alarms
1997	1,657 Alarms	2002	1,803 Alarms
1998	1,740 Alarms	2003	1,990 Alarms
1999	1,773 Alarms	2004	2,007 Alarms
2000	1,883 Alarms	2005	2,032 Alarms

10 Year Average	==	1,879 Incidents Annually
5 Year Average	==	1,982 Incidents Annually
3 Year Average	==	2,010 Incidents Annually

Permits Issued Pursuant To Massachusetts General Laws:

Burning Permits	255
Blasting Permits	9
Carpet Installations	0
LP Gas Storage Permits	31
Tank Truck Inspections	2
Cutting & Welding Permits	3
Explosives Storage Permits	0
Flammable Liquid Storage Permits	2
Underground Tank Removal Permits	9
Oil Burner Installations/Alterations	45
Fire Alarm Systems - New Construction	118
Fire Alarm Systems - Residential Sales	149

Fiscal Year 2005 Revenue Turned Over To The Town Treasurer:

Fees for Ambulance Services Rendered	== \$	236,585.00
Fees for Services to Mass. Turnpike Authority	== \$	17,900.00
Fees for Permits	== \$	14,475.00
Master Box Fees	== \$	23,000.00
All Other Revenues Received	== \$	<u>76.00</u>
Total Revenue Year 2005	== \$	292,036.00

DEPARTMENT APPARATUS INVENTORY

<u>APPARATUS</u>	=	<u>TYPE</u>	=	<u>YEAR PURCHASED</u>
Car - 2	=	4 WD Expedition	=	2003
Car - 3	=	4 WD Expedition	=	1998
Car - 4	=	4 WD Pickup Truck	=	1998
Engine - 1	=	1,250 GPM Pumper	=	1996
Engine - 2	=	1,000 GPM Pumper	=	1990
Engine - 3	=	1,250 GPM Pumper	=	2002
Engine - 4	=	1,000 GPM Pumper	=	1985
Engine - 5	=	4 WD Brush Truck	=	1991
Rescue - 3	=	Technical Rescue Unit	=	1999
Rescue - 4	=	Technical Rescue Unit	=	1970
Ladder - 1	=	85' Aerial Ladder	=	1977
Chief's Car	=	4 WD Explorer	=	1999
Ambulance - 1	=	1999 Horton ERV	=	1999
Ambulance - 2	=	1992 Braun ERV	=	1992
Boat & Trailer	=	14' Flat Bottom	=	1973
Fire Alarm Truck	=	35' Aerial Bucket	=	2005

**REPORT OF THE PARKING CLERK**

Vehicles violating town and/or state parking regulations may be ticketed by the Police Department. If a ticket remains unpaid and no request for a hearing has been made to the Parking Clerk within 21 days, additional fines may be imposed (in Weston there is a \$5.00 late fee for each unpaid violation) and, after notice to the vehicle's owner, the ticket is marked at the Registry of Motor Vehicles. Once a vehicle has been marked at the Registry, the owner may not renew or his or her driver's license or vehicle registration until all fines and late fees plus a \$20.00 penalty have been paid and a release has been issued by the Parking Clerk.

Safety issues and traffic circulation are of primary concern in establishing and enforcing parking restrictions. Of greatest importance is the ability of emergency vehicles to gain unimpeded access to all areas of the town when needed.

Massachusetts law prohibits parking within 10 feet of a fire hydrant or 20 feet of an intersection, in crosswalks, on State Highways or in handicapped spaces without a handicap license or placard. Town regulations include a two hour time limit for parking in the town center, a prohibition on parking on any Town Road unless there is a 10 foot wide lane for traffic flowing in each direction, restrictions on where parking is permitted at the Weston Public Schools, the Kendal Green train station and other town facilities, and restrictions on parking on various streets due to safety considerations.

Since the summer of 2005, the Parking Clerk and the Assistant Treasurer have the capability of checking ticket status on line. Tickets may now be paid at the Treasurer and Collector's Office.

Questions may be addressed to the Parking Clerk at Town Hall or to the Police Department. Information is also available at [www.weston.org](http://www.weston.org).

*The following is a summary of parking activity for the year ended June 30, 2005:*

Tickets issued	122	Fines levied:	\$ 1,305.00
Tickets paid	108	Total fines collected	\$ 2,160.00
Tickets dismissed:	2	Fines dismissed	\$ 30.00
Tickets adjusted	14	Fines Adjusted	\$ 75.00

## **REPORT OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT**

The year of 2005 has brought with it continued concerns about traffic issues. From January to December the Weston Police Department investigated a total of 309 accidents, one of the highest crash rates in the state. During the year we investigated five fatalities, a record number for this town. We continue to work together with residents, town organizations, the Traffic Advisory Committee and outside agencies looking for ways to address this problem that grows ever worse each year. I encourage those of you with ideas for areas of concern, traffic flow issues and “traffic calming” measures to reach out to the Traffic Advisory Committee with your suggestions. Please keep in mind when doing so that the Town has persistent budget concerns and large scale projects with major road construction are expensive projects that cannot be entered into on a trial basis without great cost.

This year the department had two retirements; Officer Rich Staunton and Officer Ron Benotti, both having given thirty years of service to the Town, we wish them both well. In the next few years there will be many new faces at the P.D. with new recruits coming in to fill vacancies left by retiring officers. Replacement seems to come in cycles and we are experiencing just that. Between 2005 and 2006 I expect at least six new officers to take the place of officers that have reached retirement age. While we will miss the retiring officers this is an exciting opportunity to bring new blood and fresh ideas to the department. I have every confidence that these new additions to our ranks will be outstanding officers who are welcomed by all.

Internet fraud and identity theft continue to present the fastest growing crimes not only for Weston but the entire country. We urge everyone to use extreme caution when entering into financial agreements online and over the phone. Disregard any emails soliciting any deal requiring you to put up front money with a promise of a large payoff. Keep in mind the old adage: If it seems too good to be true, it probably is. When accepting online payments beware of anyone who sends bank or personal checks that exceed the amount of the agreed upon payment with a request to send back the balance of the overage. You will soon get a call from your bank notifying you that the check was bogus and not only will you have lost your goods for sale but also be stuck for the amount of the money sent. Check your credit card statements religiously and report discrepancies to your financial institutions and the police. Do not give personal or financial information to anyone if you do not know that the transaction will be secure. When reporting incidents to the police department be aware that many of these online frauds cross jurisdictional lines and the only recourse for the police is to take an initial report and forward it on to the proper authorities.

We at the Police Department wish to thank everyone for the tremendous support that has been extended to us in the past and wish everyone a safe year in 2006. We urge all residents to call anytime with concerns or to report suspicious activity. The community is an extension of our department's eyes and we depend on you to make us aware of things that are of concern, so we ask you to help us help you.

### Revenues Generated by the Police Department in Calendar Year 2005

1. Reimbursed from Commonwealth of Massachusetts for Career Education Incentive Plan:	\$ 124,231.00
2. Parking fines paid	2,695.00
3. Second District Court of Eastern Middlesex at Waltham, fines and assessments	5,440.00
4. Requests for copies of reports - insurance co. etc:	1,721.00
5. Fees collected for issuance of firearms permits:	8,300.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>142,387.00</b>

### 2005 Police Department Statistics

Automobile accidents investigated	309	Orders violated	1
Persons reported injured	69	E911 Emergency calls recorded	782
Accidents involving bicycles	2	Fire department, assist on calls (other than rescue calls)	465
Accidents involving pedestrians	1	Lockouts, auto/home	30
Accidents - fatal	4	Lost property found in Weston	24
Accidents involving deer	36	Obscene & Harassing phone calls reported	36
Automobile thefts	0	Street lights reported out	526
Burglar alarms investigated	1,294	Sudden deaths investigated	9
Officers responding to burglar alarms	2,604	Traffic warnings forwarded to Registry	1,079
Complaints and investigations (excluding dog)	13,926	Unlawful Credit Card Use & Checks	19
Complaints referred to Dog Officer	104	Civil citations forwarded to Registry	709
Animal Complaints Investigated by Police Officer	90	Trespassing	6
Report of dog bites	4	Acts of vandalism reported	85
Domestic abuse orders	35	Mailbox Damage	47
Emergency orders served	1		

### Major Crimes Reported to Police in 2005

Assault and battery	5	Unlawful entry - no force Attempts	4
Burglaries reported	7	Larcenies reported	6
Forcible entry	4		26



**Motor Vehicle Violation/Complaints - 2005**

Disobey signs, signals, markings	39	335.00
Cracked Windshield	5	105.00
Fail to keep right	9	100.00
Fail to keep right, view obstructed	3	100.00
Fail to yield at intersection	71	1,050.00
Stop sign violation, Town road	108	3040.00
Not wearing proper seatbelt restraint	59	1,110.00
Operating, no license/registration in possession	58	1,090.00
Fail to report name/address change	4	70.00
Fail to signal before stopping/turning	3	25.00
Fail to yield for traffic left	9	35.00
Non-inspected motor vehicle	394	7,800.00
Operating, after license suspended	45	
Operating uninsured motor vehicle	26	
Operating, no display of registration sticker	6	
Defective equipment	128	1,355.00
Operating unregistered motor vehicle	38	1,800.00
Operating, violation of Town by-laws	6	80.00
Operating, violation of DPW rules/regulations	16	235.00
Speeding	671	32,980.00
Fail to stop - Red light	52	1,955.00
Miscellaneous	245	2,538.00

**Adult Arrests and Other Court Cases - 2005**

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Assault and Battery Domestic	6	1
B&E	1	1
False Documents	1	
Identity Fraud	1	
Possession of Burglary Tools	3	
Larceny	1	
Minor Transporting Alcohol	3	
Operating Under the Influence of Alcohol	18	4
Operating after License Suspended	25	7
Operating Without Valid License	6	
Possession Class A	1	
Possession Class C	2	
Possession Class D - Marijuana	7	
Selling to Minor	1	
Trespassing	2	
Warrants Served	<u>24</u>	<u>3</u>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>16</b>

### Disposition of Arrests - 2005

Dismissed- court cost	18
Arrest Turned over to other PD	12
Guilty	2
Dismissed	3
Cont. without a Finding	19
Sufficient Facts/Fine Assessment	18
Cases Cont. until 2006	38
<b>Total:</b>	<b>96</b>

### 2005 Juvenile Investigations/Complaints\*

	<u>Male</u>	Female
Assault	3	0
Breaking & Entering	0	0
Child in Need of Services	0	0
Disorderly/Disturbance	11	4
Drug Offenses	10	2
Domestic Complaints	4	1
Fire Setting	0	0
Liquor Violations/possession/ use	24	13
Pellet Gun	0	0
Poss. Of Dangerous Weapon	1	0
Runaway	0	0
Miscellaneous	<u>31</u>	<u>14</u>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>34</b>

Juvenile court appearances:	44
Settled at school or family level	61
Referred to outside agency:	17

\*Note: For the purpose of this report, juvenile matters are reported for ages 7 through 17. State reporting is for ages 7 through 16.

## **REPORT OF THE SIDEWALK AND TRAFFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Early in the year, at the suggestion of the Selectmen, it was decided to merge the Pedestrian and Vehicular Safety Committee and the Traffic Advisory Committee into a single committee. This made a lot of sense as the work of the two committees overlapped with respect to matters concerning Pedestrian and Vehicular Safety.

The Committee met throughout the year to deal with items primarily to do with traffic and safety. We hope that some ledge/rock removal items and signage additions on Sudbury Road can be completed by spring.

There has not been much activity on sidewalks due to lack of funding. We are hopeful that the section of walk on Ash Street from the reservoir to Newton Street can be constructed in 2006, after review with neighbors and Town Boards.

We are in the early stages of reviewing traffic patterns at the Boston Post Road/Church Street/School Street intersection to see if anything can be done to ease congestion and improve safety during rush hour crunch time.

We continue to address individual concerns whether they come directly from individuals or are forwarded by the Selectmen.

Members of the committee are listed on page 11.