



Section 3:  
Protection of Persons & Property

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

In 2019 there were no major storms or natural disasters. Members of the Emergency Management Team cannot stress enough the importance of residents being prepared in the case of an emergency. Have a plan and assemble a 72-hour emergency kit, which should include the basic items necessary to get you through the first 72 hours of an emergency. Information on this kit as well as other related topics can be found on the Town's website under Public Safety, through the American Red Cross, and on the Massachusetts or Federal Emergency Management agencies' websites.

The Town's Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan was recently reviewed by the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency. This plan is continually updated with the Town's Emergency Management Team and representatives from the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency. The updates include gathering all data from various organizations within the town and transferring it to an electronic version. This plan will be critical in the event of a natural disaster or other emergencies occurring in town.

The local Emergency Management Committee continues to work with the School Department and other Town agencies on response plans to different incidents. All of the schools have updated plans with the help of the Police and Fire departments. The group also updated the town-wide crises book, which will help all Town employees in the event of an emergency.

We would like to thank the Emergency Medical Reserve Corp for all of their hard work, support, and dedication.

## **REPORT OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT**

In 2019, the Weston Fire Department responded to 2,524 calls for service. There was no loss of life or serious injuries resulting from fires. There were, however, many small fires that were detected by home fire alarm systems. The importance of making a conscious effort to protect ourselves from the dangers of fire cannot be stressed enough. These efforts can be as simple as the installation and frequent testing of smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, and having and practicing a home escape plan.

In October, the Weston Fire Department hosted the third annual open house to a large crowd. There were demonstrations for stove and dryer fires where guests could put out the fires with extinguishers. Firefighters presented a vehicle crash simulation and a demonstration of the Jaws of Life. There were also firefighting tools and gear try-on stations, as well as a spray house for the younger children. This is a successful community event for the Department and it ties in well with October's Fire Prevention Week. All are encouraged to attend.

Fire prevention remains a core component of the Department's mission, as it is easier to prevent a fire than to extinguish one. Firefighters continue to conduct school visits and required fire safety inspections for oil-burning equipment, liquefied propane installations, home fire and carbon monoxide alarms, fuel tank removals, and blasting operations, as well as plan review for all new construction and remodeling. Also, quarterly inspections of nursing homes and other public facilities were conducted, as required by law.

The Emergency Ambulance Service accounted for approximately 51 percent of the year's call volume and the Department's Emergency Medical Technicians continued to provide critical care to the residents and visitors of Weston. The Town is fortunate to have Emerson / Pro for its Advanced Life Support (ALS) provider. Weston Fire Department entered into a regional ALS system over eight years ago and in that

time there has been a dramatic increase in ALS coverage; however, steps must be taken to ensure that this level of care remains available for the community in both a timely and cost-effective manner. The Department strives to maintain its high level of service through continuing education, training, and strategic planning. Department members continue training on their basic skills through both practical and computer simulation.

Our program “Home Fire Safety” through the Council on Aging is in its second year and is offered free of charge to ensure the overall home safety for residents. In this program, Firefighters conduct a home safety audit and make recommendations for general home safety items. Residents interested in this program can contact the Council on Aging for additional information.



## 2019 FIRE DEPARTMENT STATISTICS

In 2019 the Weston Fire Department responded to 2,524 incidents as follows:

- 1,065 fire
- 1,342 ambulance
- 117 other emergency services

The Emergency Ambulance Service responded to 1,342 incidents, of which there were:

- 1,028 medical emergencies
- 258 motor vehicle accidents
- 56 medical assist and other rescues

### Comparison of Alarms Answered – 10 Year Period

<i>Year</i>	<i>Alarm</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Alarm</i>	<i>Year Average</i>	<i>Incidents Annually</i>
2010	2,453	2015	2,397	10	2,353
2011	2,272	2016	2,325	5	2,411
2012	2,166	2017	2,340	3	2,445
2013	2,183	2018	2,491		
2014	2,395	2019	2,524		

### Permits Issued Pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws:

Ansul Fire Suppression	0
Burning Permits	164
Blasting Permits	3
Carpet Installation	0
Cutting/Welding Permits	18
Environmental Report	49
Explosives Storage Permits	0
Fire Alarm Systems – New Construction	101
Fire Alarm Systems – Residential Sales	152
Flammable Liquid Storage Permits	4
Liquid Petroleum Gas Storage Permits	42
Oil Burner Installations/Alterations	16
Solar Panel Review	8
Sprinkler	12
Tank Truck Inspections	2
Underground Tank removal Permits	29

### Fiscal Year 2019 Revenue Turned Over to the Town Treasurer:

Ambulance Services Rendered Fees	539,422
Permit Fees	21,787
Master Box Fees	14,700
Mass Turnpike	53,650
Other Revenues Received	400
<b><i>Total Revenue</i></b>	<b>629,959</b>

## REPORT OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Weston Police Department is committed to providing the very best in public safety, but more importantly, in service to all in which we interact. To further this goal, the Police Department continues to seek and enact innovative ways to engage and serve all. Many of these are in conjunction with and through community partnerships.

### Law Enforcement Clinical Support Program

One new 2019 partnership that the police department is very proud to have established is the Law Enforcement Clinical Support Program (LECSP), a collaboration between the Weston Police, Wellesley Police, and Riverside Community Care, our designated Emergency Services Provider. Through this partnership, each police department is sharing the cost of a dedicated, experienced, family-based Licensed Clinical Social Worker who is embedded in the police departments to assist officers with the variety of mental health calls that police respond to daily. Our LECSP Social Worker is available to all residents as a resource and can be contacted through the Police Department. Our social worker has been well received by officers, residents, and community members.

### One Mind Campaign

The Weston Police Department reaffirms our commitment and completed pledge to the International Association of Chiefs of Police One Mind Campaign. This program seeks to ensure successful interactions between police officers and persons affected by mental illness by focusing on uniting local communities, public safety organizations, and mental health organizations so that the three become “of one mind.” Law enforcement agencies pledge to implement four practices over a 12- 36-month time frame. These practices include:

- 1) establishing a clearly defined and sustainable partnership with a community mental health organization;
- 2) developing a model policy to implement police response to persons affected by mental illness;
- 3) training and certifying sworn officers and selected non-sworn staff in mental health first aid training or other equivalent mental health awareness course; and
- 4) providing crisis intervention team training.

Police departments pledging to the campaign are to train 25 percent of all police personnel in Crisis Intervention Training. Weston’s Police Department is proud to report that 68 percent of Weston’s officers (17) are currently trained, which is more than double our initial pledge. Our goal is to train 100 percent of the police personnel in this important training.

### Metro Boston Crisis Intervention Team Training and Technical Assistance Center

Training is provided through a grant and partnership with the Metro Boston Crisis Intervention Team Training and Technical Assistance Center based at the Somerville Police Department. The 40-hour course utilizes integrated public health and public safety lens to inform responses to individuals impacted by behavioral health, support officer wellness, develop policy and procedure, and improve communication across behavioral health and criminal justice partners. The training is developed with a multidisciplinary approach and delivered in conjunction with the National Alliance of Mental Illness. It is comprised of five key themes:

- 1) Increased Understanding of Behavioral Health;
- 2) Effective Communication and engagement skills;
- 3) Verbal and Tactical De-escalation;
- 4) Navigating Community Resources; and
- 5) Risk assessment tools.

### Community Crisis Intervention Team

The Weston Community Crisis Intervention Team was formed to bring together the police, Riverside Community Care, Middlesex District Attorney's Office, Town Departments, and other service providers to better address mental illness in the community. This group continues to meet once a month and the goal is to improve the way we respond to a mental health crisis. The Team has experienced success in providing care and resources to people in crisis.

### Use of Force Reporting

To promote trust and transparency, the Weston Police Department is participating in the Federal Bureau of Investigation's National Use of Force Data Collection Program. With a national data collection, data users can view use-of-force incidents involving law enforcement from a nationwide perspective. The goal of the resulting statistics is not to offer insight into single use-of-force incidents but to provide an aggregate view of the incidents reported and the circumstances, subjects, and officers involved. These events include:

- When a fatality to a person occurs connected to use of force by a law enforcement officer
- When there is serious bodily injury to a person connected to the use of force by a law enforcement officer
- In the absence of either death or serious bodily injury, when a firearm is discharged by law enforcement at or in the direction of a person

### New Faces

Four new police officers joined the Department in 2019. Officer Kevin Langley, Officer Nicole Holmes, Officer Lindsey Arsenault, and Officer Kyle Altieri. Officer Langley recently relocated his family to the area and brings ten-years of police experience from Florida.

### School Resource Officers

This past fall, in partnership with the Weston Public Schools, the Weston Police Department divided the recently allocated School Resource Officer position into two part-time positions. Officer Andrew (Drew) Gribbons is assigned to the High School and Middle School campus and Officer Lindsey Arsenault will be assigned to the elementary schools on the Case Campus. Each officer is also committed to providing a connection to the Department for the private schools and daycares located in Town.

### Josephine A. Gazzola Advancing and Supporting Women in Law Enforcement Conference

The Gazzola Family of Weston donated to the Weston Police Department at the request of the late Josephine Gazzola, a longtime Weston resident. The gift was put towards advancing and supporting women in law enforcement. Due to the success of the first conference held in the Weston Police training room, the January conference was relocated to Regis College. The conference reached a capacity of 130 female officers. Once again, Weston Detective Kellie Connarton, Natick Lieutenant Cara Rossi, and Framingham Lieutenant Patricia Grigas were instrumental in planning and coordinating the day. Chief Kelly Nee of the Boston University Police Department was the keynote speaker for the day-long event.

### Community Engagement

It is very important to the Weston Police Department for the community to be able to not only put a name and face to an officer but to be able to interact with officers in times not involving crisis. During 2019, the Police Department sponsored:

- The Kraft Family Dana Farber Cancer Institute Bloodmobile
- Community document shredding days
- No Shave November, which benefits veterans and their families through the Red Sox Foundation and the Massachusetts General Hospital
- the Martin Luther King Drive for Cradles to Crayons

- Toys for Tots through the United States Marine Corps

This is in addition to our usual presence at community events. We are open to hosting or sponsoring any event and we are hoping to add self-defense classes in 2020.

The Weston Police Department remains committed to the sanctity of life, the value of each person, the protection of rights for all, and being a positive part of the Weston Community.

Weston Police Activity in 2019

Total Calls for Service	16,285
911 Calls Received	2,921
Crimes Reported	641
Arrests (Including Summons Issued)	135
Traffic Stops	4,084
RADAR Assignments/Requests	1,147
Traffic Citations Issued	2,732
Crash Investigations	616
Operating Under the Influence Cases	26
School/Library/COA "Walk-Throughs"	1,199

**REPORT OF THE OFFICE OF ANIMAL CONTROL AND INSPECTIONS**

The Office of Animal Control and Inspections is under the supervision of the Chief of Police and is located at the Weston Police Department. The Animal Control Officer and Animal Health Inspector are staffed by a single individual who works on a full-time basis for 37.5 hours per week. However, the Animal Control Officer (ACO) is on call seven days a week. The Officer is assigned office space at the Police Station and complaints or concerns, in general, are received by dispatch and then directed to the ACO for a response. Although the ACO and Animal Health Inspector responsibilities are performed by the same individual, the statutory authority for each, for enforcement purposes, in particular, are separate and distinct.

Stray Domestic Animal Protocol

Stray or abandoned domestic animals, found in Weston, are kept in temporary kennels, located both outside and inside the Police Station. Animals anticipated to require shelter for more than 24-hours, are taken to the Natick Animal Clinic for safekeeping. Unless claimed by the owner beforehand, the animal will remain at the clinic for a mandatory seven-day period while attempts are made to identify the owner. If the owner of the animal is not identified, the animal will be placed with a rescue facility, such as Buddy Dog in Sudbury, to be put up for adoption or placed in a foster home. Injured wildlife, such as geese, birds of prey, reptiles, etc., when practical, is taken to the Tufts Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine for treatment. The ACO works closely and cooperatively with the Massachusetts Environmental Police and the State Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, in this regard.

Animal Complaints

This year, the Weston Police Department recorded a total of 244 animal complaints or incidents. Of this year's calls, approximately half of them required an additional follow up investigation by the ACO and subsequent written reports. Further, the ACO received approximately 100 verbal complaints or reports relative to animal-related issues directly from the public. Within these numbers were numerous reports of stray dogs running loose in the neighborhoods or along our public ways. A number of these animals

were taken under the control of the ACO and returned directly to the owner or taken to the police department kennel where the owners picked them up later in the day. Additional complaints received this year involved wildlife activity and required education, or in some cases, a visit to the residence.

A total of 19 dogs and cats were placed under quarantine this year, having either bitten a person, bitten another dog, or had received a wound themselves from an unidentified dog, wild animal, or an unknown origin.

#### Patrol and Communication

The ACO also patrols the Town's conservation lands, as well as property belonging to the Weston Forest and Trail Association, the Recreation Department, and the School Department. All of these areas are popular places to walk or jog and are also popular for dog walkers, both individual and commercial. On occasion, conflicts arise in these areas due to the differences in use and interest and the ACO plays a role in resolving these conflicts. The ACO ensures that all persons walking dogs are complying with the town's Dog Regulations.

In the fall of 2018, Weston's Conservation Commission applied for a grant through Sudbury Valley Trustees to create a "Volunteer Bark Ranger Program." The Bark Ranger Program launched in Weston in early 2019. Volunteers were trained by the ACO to hike the trails while helping to educate users about their dog walking habits and spread awareness of the Town's rules and regulations for dogs and dog owners. The program will continue in 2020 with additional training opportunities for new volunteers to join.

In 2019, the ACO handed out "Courtesy Tag" violation notices. These notices are given to trail users who are observed to not be adhering to one or more sections of Article XX in the General Town By-laws pertaining to dog walking. The Courtesy Tag is designed to educate trail users by listing various potential violations as well as the potential for a monetary citation for second offenses. This past year, the ACO has handed out approximately 500 Courtesy Tags for various infractions, which helped to open many constructive conversations regarding proper dog walking etiquette and expectations of responsible dog owners while utilizing town-owned land.



The ACO has continued posting to an online blog called "Animal Control Corner" where she posts monthly content. Post topics range from domestic animals, livestock, and wildlife. Interested readers can subscribe to receive email notifications of when new posts are made. Past posts can be found at [Weston.org/ACOBlog](http://Weston.org/ACOBlog). The ACO has also added useful information to the town's website to educate residents on animal-related issues.

In addition to the blog and website, the ACO hosted two talks to help educate residents. John Maguranis, a representative of Project Coyote, gave a presentation called "Living with Coyotes." Residents had the opportunity to learn about the misunderstood Eastern Coyotes that reside in Weston and also ask questions. The training room at the Police Department had standing room only, and many residents described feeling relief following the presentation. This presentation was recorded by Weston Media and is available to anyone unable to attend. The ACO also hosted a local dog trainer, Vera Wilkinson, for a two-part dog behavioral talk. The first part was about young children and pet safety and the second part of the session was geared toward proper trail etiquette while walking your dog.

### Dog Licensing

Failing to license a dog is a finable offense and 11 residents were issued a \$25 fine this year and were required to immediately obtain a current license for their dog(s). A total of 893 dogs were licensed this year, generating a total of \$15,815 in general revenue for the Town. This total includes the fines for late licensing.

Of the licensed dogs, 876 were spayed or neutered and the remaining 96 were not.

The ACO also licensed a total of 26 commercial dog walking companies this year, resulting in a total of 38 commercial dog walkers being permitted to walk dogs in our community. The Commercial Dog Walking Permits produced a total of approximately \$30, 810 in general revenue.

### Animal Inspections

Massachusetts State Law requires that annual inspections be conducted by the Animal Health Inspector, on any public or private property, where farm-type animals are housed or stabled, including but not limited to, horses, cattle, swine, sheep, goats, chickens, exotic animals, etc. Also, the Board of Health requires annual inspections where a domestic dog or cat breeding is taking place. The purpose of these inspections is to ensure the animals are being responsibly cared for, are living under sanitary conditions, and are properly sheltered from the weather. Information gathered from these inspections, particularly the headcount of each type of animal, is then reported to the Massachusetts Department of Agriculture where it is placed within a state-wide database. This information will be useful in the event of a natural or man-made disaster that would require the relocation or rescue of these animals. This year in Weston, 35 such properties were inspected and all found to be in compliance.

#### 2019 Animal Inspections: Type and Count

Horses	39	Swine	1
Ponies	4	Poultry	349
Miniature Horses	6	Peacocks	2
Turkeys	3	Game Birds	18
Sheep	5	Waterfowl	19
Cattle	5	Pigeons	7
Goats	31	Persian Cats	47

### ACO Education

At the beginning of this year, ACO Hoffman attended and successfully completed the Reserve/Intermittent Police Officers academy to receive her certification on May 16th. She also completed the last of a three-module series to become certified as an Animal Cruelty Investigator in September 2019.

### Wildlife in Weston

Weston, like our neighboring towns, is experiencing an increase in the number of wildlife species that are living within our borders. Coyotes, turkey, and deer are a consistent source of complaints and sightings are not uncommon.

A wildlife report and tracking system is also in place so residents can record what and where different species of Weston's wildlife has been seen. Information on living with wildlife is available on the Town's website at [www.weston.org/Wildlife](http://www.weston.org/Wildlife) and also on the Massachusetts Department of Fisheries and Wildlife website.



*ACO Hoffman with a Great Horned Owl that was rescued from chicken netting*

## 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, an additional fine of \$5.00 for each unpaid violation may be imposed 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 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. 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.

The Parking Clerk can check ticket status online and tickets may be paid in the office at Town Hall. Questions may be addressed to the Parking Clerk or the Police Department

### Parking activity for the year ended December 31, 2019

Tickets issued	394	Fines levied	\$6,455.00
Tickets paid	208	Total fines collected	\$2,580.00
Tickets dismissed	12	Fines dismissed	\$360.00
Tickets adjusted	0	Fines Adjusted	\$0

