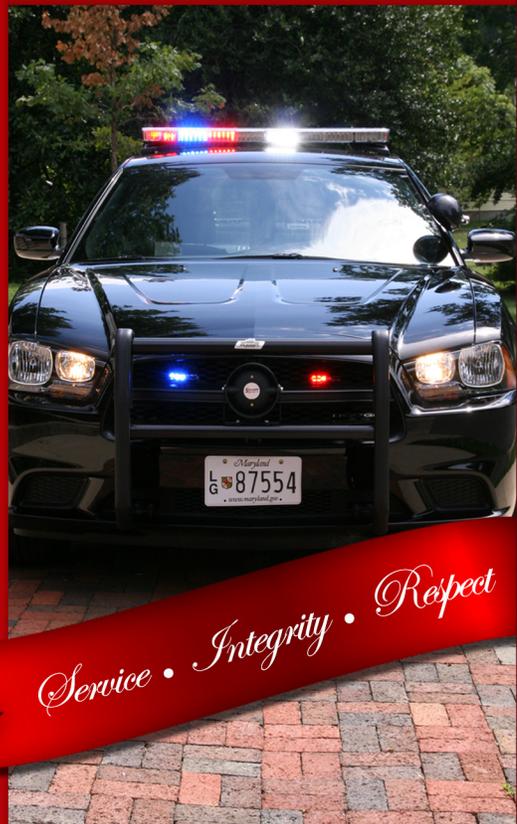
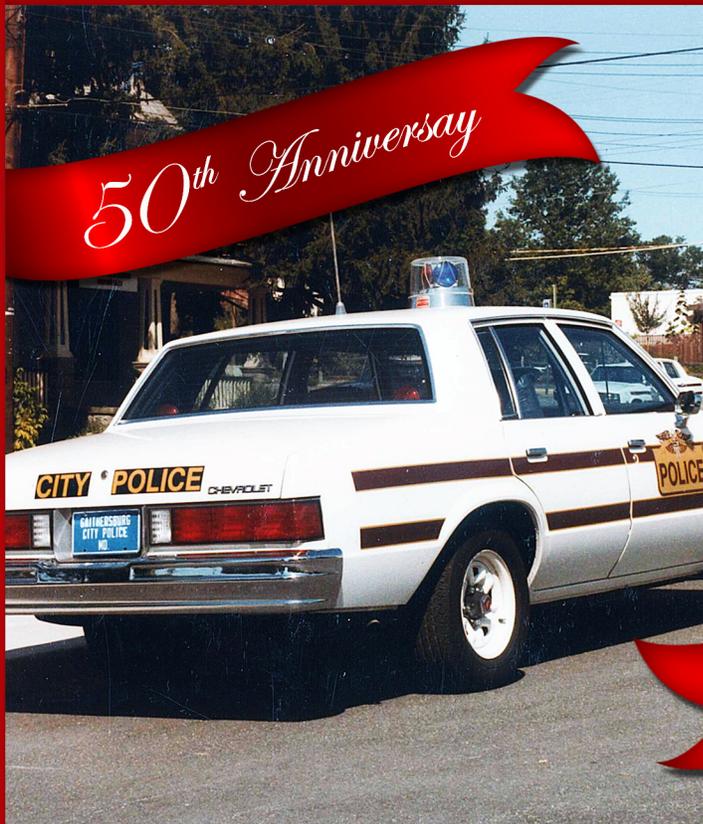




**2013**

# GAITHERSBURG POLICE ANNUAL REPORT





## MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

I am pleased to provide you with the 2013 Annual Report for the Gaithersburg Police Department. This report reflects the hard work, outstanding accomplishments and professional services provided by the men and women of this agency. The Gaithersburg Police Department is a progressive Department that will always strive to maintain excellence and professionalism in its service to the citizens and businesses of the City of Gaithersburg. In the Annual Report you will find an overview of the Department's activities and a breakdown of statistical crime and traffic data.

While calls for police service decreased from 32,879 in 2012 to 30,638 in 2013, proactive policing has led to an increase in arrests. In 2013, 774 adult criminal arrests and 75 juvenile arrests were made. 443 adult criminal arrests were made by patrol officers, and 240 of those were self-initiated, representing 240 additional crimes that may have gone unreported. Officers made 450 adult arrests in 2009, 401 arrests in 2010, 428 arrests in 2011, 711 arrests in 2012 and 774 arrests in 2013, contributing to a 6.1% decrease in Part I Crimes in 2013 compared to 2012.

Traffic accidents increased by 1.7% and personal injury accidents increased by 4.5%. There were two traffic fatalities in 2013 compared to four in 2012. In furtherance of our traffic safety efforts to reduce accidents, officers issued 8,211 citations and 4,764 warnings.

The City of Gaithersburg is an exceptional city and the efforts of our police officers, civilian support staff, volunteers, interns, citizens and the steadfast public safety support from the Mayor and City Council have made a positive impact on the quality of life in the community. We will continue to meet the needs of our citizens and do it with a professional and dedicated staff.

We look forward to continuing to work with our citizens to keep the City of Gaithersburg safe. On behalf of the men and women of the Gaithersburg Police Department, I thank you for your continued partnership and support that enabled us to achieve our successes in 2013.

Mark P. Sroka  
Chief of Police  
Gaithersburg Police Department



*Mayor*

**Sidney A. Katz**

*2013 Council Vice President*

**Michael A. Sesma**

*Council Members*

**Jud Ashman**

**Cathy Drzyzgula**

**Henry F. Marraffa, Jr.**

**Ryan Spiegel**

*City Manager*

**Tony Tomasello**



## MISSION, VALUES AND VISION

### OUR MISSION

We are committed to protecting life and property, improving the quality of life for all people and protecting City interests.

We will accomplish this by:

- Working with our community, City Departments and other government agencies;
- Developing and implementing proactive strategies;
- Growing to keep pace with our community; and,
- Maintaining a workplace that promotes equal employment opportunities, respects employees as individuals and fosters teamwork.

### OUR VALUES

We are committed to professionalism through:

- **Service** – Providing quality service and protection to all people in an efficient and competent manner, tempered with courtesy, compassion and understanding;
- **Integrity** – Upholding the public trust through honest, consistent and forthright interaction with all people, fostering an atmosphere of mutual trust and cooperation; and,
- **Respect** – Treating all persons with dignity and respect by promoting equality and fairness in upholding the constitutional rights of all people.

### OUR VISION

We will seek to function as a team with City Departments, other government agencies and our community to provide innovative, effective and efficient service to improve the quality of life for all people.

## HISTORY OF THE DEPARTMENT

### CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

It was 50 years ago on April 1, 1963 that the Gaithersburg Police Department was established by a resolution signed by then Mayor Merton F. Duvall. Chief David Marsteller was the first Chief of Police, although there are references to a “Town Marshall” in the minutes of Town Council Meetings prior to 1963. The town budget for Fiscal Year 1964 included “police protection” salaries for the sole officer amounting to \$4,000, and equipment purchases of \$500.

The Department grew from an authorized strength of three sworn officers and one civilian clerk in the early 1970’s, when the City’s population was 7,000, to its current authorized strength of 57 sworn officers and 16 civilians, including eight full-time civilians,

one part-time Parking Enforcement Official, and seven part-time Police Services Aides. Gaithersburg's population now stands at just over 64,000, and the adopted operating budget for the Police Department in Fiscal Year 2014 is \$9,230,486.

“Over the last half century, the Department has seen many changes, including an increase in the number of officers, technological advancement and training, and redesigns of the police cruisers and uniforms; however, our mission has not changed. We remain committed to our core values of Service, Integrity and Respect, continuing to enhance public safety and add to the quality of life for all Gaithersburg residents,” said Chief Mark P. Sroka.



To commemorate this occasion, the Department created an anniversary badge to serve as a visual reminder of our commitment to public safety. Wearing the anniversary badge was voluntary this year. All officers will resume wearing their regular duty badges in 2014.

Over the years, there would be several Chiefs of Police: James Tassie, formerly of the Rockville City Police Department; Marson Johnson, who had been an officer in Michigan; John F. DeVries and George Fusco, both of whom had retired from the Montgomery County Police Department as Lieutenants; Mary Ann Viverette, who came to the Department from the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office; and John King from the Montgomery County Police Department. Upon the resignation of Chief King in January, 2010, Major Mark P. Sroka of the Maryland State Police was assigned as the Interim Police Chief and was later appointed Chief of Police in July, 2010, following a nationwide search.

The GPD has seen much growth over the years; however, the importance of remaining community-oriented continues to be a priority. Gaithersburg Police officers utilize marked and unmarked vehicles, foot patrol, and bicycles to assist citizens with community concerns. The Department's growth has given the City of Gaithersburg the ability to increase customer focus and problem-solving activities put forth by sworn and non-sworn staff.



Since the appointment of Chief Sroka, the Department has continued its trend of positive changes to include:

- Continuing an aggressive hiring process seeking qualified individuals to join the Department, with an emphasis on diversity and developing a workforce reflective of the community we serve.
- Allowing officers more opportunities to work in specialized units on a permanent and temporary basis.
- Improving technological advances to fight crime.
- Implementing social media sites that inform citizens of crimes and community involvement of the Gaithersburg Police officers.



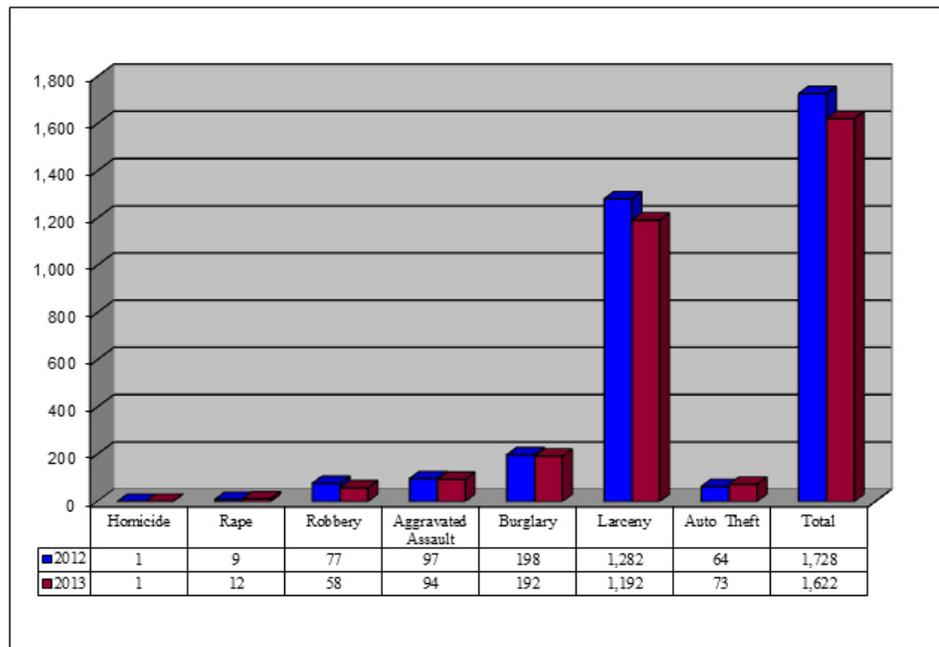
## OFFICE OF THE CHIEF

### Crime and Traffic Safety

The Gaithersburg Police Department continues to use and enhance its Data Driven Approach to Crime and Traffic Safety (DDACTS) philosophy. The Crime Analyst continues to provide crime maps of specified crimes on a shift basis. This mapping allows each shift to see the type and amount of crime occurring during their specific work hours and days so they can better allocate resources to address crime. A weekly list of Quality of Life calls, such as disorderly conduct and noise complaints, is also provided. Tracking these types of incidents enables the Department to address these issues with various resources to assure problems that affect our neighborhoods can be targeted and resolved in a timely manner. Our Street Crimes Unit utilizes a variety of criminal intelligence information to target and address specific crimes occurring within the City. Continued use and enhancement of our crime analysis capabilities allows us to deploy officers in the right areas at the right times to impact crime and traffic safety.

### Criminal Enforcement

There has been a 6.1% decrease in Part I Crimes within the City of Gaithersburg in 2013, as compared to the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) statistics for 2012. An analysis of Part I Offense data shows that there was a decrease as compared to 2012 in robberies, aggravated assaults, burglaries and larcenies. In 2013 burglaries saw a 3.0% decrease, from 198 incidents in 2012 to 192 incidents in 2013. Residential burglaries decreased by 2.7%, from 147 in 2012 to 143 in 2013. Commercial burglaries decreased by 3.9%, from 51 in 2012 to 49 in 2013. Robberies saw a 24.7% decrease, from 77 incidents in 2012 to 58 incidents in 2013. Street robberies saw a 39.2% decrease, from 51 in 2012 to 31 in 2013, and commercial robberies saw a 15.4% decrease, from 13 in 2012 to 11 in 2013.



There was a 7.0% decrease in larcenies, from 1,282 incidents in 2012 to 1,192 incidents in 2013. Theft from vehicles/theft of vehicle parts increased by 9.8%, from 295 in 2012 to 324 in 2013. Shoplifting decreased by 16.4%, from 544 in 2012 to 455 in 2013.

**Internal Affairs**

The Department is a nationally accredited force that continually strives for professionalism while closely monitoring the conduct of its officers and civilian staff. The reporting of internal affairs complaints reflects the policy of the Police Chief and the City government regarding transparency and open government by reporting all complaints.

| Member Status   | Offense                                 | Results       |
|-----------------|---|---------------|
| Police Officer  | Excessive Force/Unlawful Arrest         | Sustained     |
| Police Officer  | Discourtesy                             | Sustained     |
| Police Officer  | Violation of Traffic Laws               | Sustained     |
| Police Officer  | Neglect of Duty                         | Sustained     |
| Police Officer  | Discrimination Complainant              | Unfounded     |
| Police Officer  | False Statements                        | Not Sustained |
| Police Officer  | Preventable Accident                    | Sustained     |
| Police Officer  | Neglect of Duty                         | Sustained     |
| Police Officers | Neglect of Duty                         | Sustained     |
| Police Officer  | Discourtesy                             | Not Sustained |
| Police Officer  | Discourtesy                             | Not Sustained |
| Police Officer  | Violation of Traffic Laws               | Not Sustained |
| Police Officer  | Unauthorized Access to Police Databases | Unfounded     |
| Police Officer  | Racial Profiling                        | Unfounded     |
| Police Officer  | Excessive Force                         | Open          |



**Gaithersburg Police Foundation**

The Gaithersburg Police Foundation (GPF), formed as a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization in January 2008, seeks to support the members of the Gaithersburg Police Department with its mission of providing quality services to the citizens of Gaithersburg. The Foundation offers educational opportunities to members of the Department, enhances recruitment and retention of officers, provides logistical support and technology assistance to officers and helps to finance community outreach initiatives.

The GPF currently has twenty-one board members. Chris O'Brien is Chairperson, Tamara Clarke is Vice Chairperson and David Elder is Treasurer. Board members at large are Ayesha Arora-Sharm, Patricia Badaczewski, Ralph Billeter, Daniel Borten, Ron Canova, Dick Carter, Candace Child, Clark Day, Gary Edell, Robert Fuentes, Gary Hann, Aris Mardirossian, Bob Mauri, Greg Moore, Julie Parker, Jeffrey Penn, Gil Price and Lori Weiman.

In 2013, funds donated to the Foundation were used to sponsor events such as a table at the Gaithersburg-Germantown Chamber of Commerce Public Safety Awards Breakfast, Chief's Pistol Competition, The National Police Challenge Relay Race, 50th Anniversary Celebration, National K-9 Trials, Thanksgiving dinner for officers that were on duty, and the Department holiday party. Funds were also used to purchase rifle plates and carriers, a color printer and surveillance cameras.



### **Training**

Training of the Gaithersburg Police Department personnel, both sworn and non-sworn, remains a priority; it enhances the skills, knowledge and abilities of staff and identifies gaps in capabilities and procedures. Gaithersburg Police officers, like all sworn officers across the state, must meet the Maryland Police and Correctional Training Commission annual certification requirements, which include a minimum of 18 hours of on-going “in-service” training. This training was completed jointly with the Montgomery County Police Department and the various law enforcement agencies from across the County to ensure a coordinated response to emergency situations. The training included legal updates, domestic violence, ethics, bias based policing, understanding autism, dementia and Alzheimer’s disease, financial exploitation of vulnerable adults, diversity, CPR re-certification, use of force, defensive tactics, and firearms safety and qualifications.

All officers with the Gaithersburg Police Department exceed Commission requirements by attending specialized classes in supervisory/management topics, investigations and firearms/patrol tactics. Supervisors, patrol officers and detectives attended a wide range of training programs designed to improve their skills to include response to public safety-related situations. The training covered traditional areas such as managing a police shooting and interview and interrogation techniques. The Department has incorporated scenario-based training into our officer development programs and made extensive use of the training for use of force issues in 2013. One of the biggest risks to police officers across the nation continues to be traffic collisions. \*There were more than 1,676 traffic collisions in the City, with more than 300 resulting in injury and two resulting in death. As a result, the Department committed to a course designed for officers to recognize and reduce the risks of high speed driving. This training was provided by an outside vendor and was well received by all personnel who attended.

The training of newly hired officers remained a priority in 2013. The opportunity to train a new officer, who will have an impact on the Department and community for years, is critical to the future of the agency. As a result, in 2013 significant effort was provided to the two local academy classes offered by the Montgomery County Police, which provided entry level training to six newly hired Gaithersburg Police officers. Staff also attended Field Training Officer, Firearms Instructor and Taser Instructor certification courses in order to enhance the capabilities of current and newly hired officers.

### **Emergency Management**

In 2013, the City focused on response to incidents with a continued emphasis on the incident management principles which are at the core of emergency response. The Police Department command staff participated in County training related to the Emergency Operations Center, the hub for emergency management activities in the County. The Department has key staff that is certified for use of the WebEOC program, which provides updated incident information as well as access to all resources from the municipal, county, regional and state levels. City staff from the Police and Public Works Departments participated in functional exercises that involved the six City-owned high hazard dams in order to test the effectiveness of the High Hazard Dam Emergency Action Plans and coordination among City-County and State staff.

*\*The above data is considered to be “preliminary” as it was gathered from a CAD extraction of Calls for Service.*

City staff worked together to complete and submit the FEMA Federal disaster assistance application following Hurricane Sandy, for which the City received Federal reimbursement related to recovery and shelter operations.

As in past events, the City Manager's Office, Police, Public Works, and Community and Public Relations Departments were actively involved in public information, public safety response, high hazard dam monitoring, traffic control and debris management. The response to these emergency and weather-related events involved close coordination with the City Manager's Office, the full support of City staff and collaboration with our partners in the County Emergency Management Group.

The timely notification to City residents, business owners and regular visitors of events which impact their safety and daily routine remains a priority. The Alert Gaithersburg system continues to be the primary tool for providing emergency information to both the public and City staff regarding traffic incidents, weather events, public health alerts and changes in the operational status of City Departments and facilities. As of December, 2013 there were 10,546 subscribers to the system. To subscribe to Alert Gaithersburg, update or change contact information or be removed from the system, visit <http://alert.gaithersburgmd.gov>. City staff has been actively involved with staff from across the region in upgrading and enhancing the regional alerting system. That project was ongoing throughout 2013 and is anticipated to be complete by the summer of 2014.



*"Honor Guard detail on May 3, 2013 for National Peace Officers Day"*

### **Honor Guard**

The GPD's Honor Guard, led by Sergeant Beth Quinlan, was formed in 1996 and is made up of members from the ranks of Police Officer I to Sergeant. Current members are Sergeant Quinlan, Officers Lane, McCarthy, Johannesen, Maskey, Ackermann, Bennett, Grubic and Camilo. Sergeant Quinlan is an original member of the Honor Guard and has participated for the last 17 years in funerals, parades, ceremonies, and other functions as directed by the Chief of Police.

As it has since being formed, the Honor Guard led Gaithersburg's Annual Labor Day Parade in September. In addition, the Honor Guard was an active participant in the National Peace Officers Memorial Day activities, which are held in Washington, D.C. over several days each May. During this very special detail, members of the Gaithersburg Police Honor Guard escorted the family members of officers from across the U.S. and Canada who have been killed in the line of duty. The Honor Guard also participated in this year's Polar Bear Plunge charity event benefiting Special Olympics, as well as presenting colors for such events as the Gaithersburg-Germantown Chamber of Commerce Awards ceremony and the annual State of the City event.

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The GPD has the following programs in place to assist and educate the citizens of Gaithersburg:

### *Police Advisory Committee*

The Police Advisory Committee was designed to facilitate the flow of information between the community and the Department. Members of the Police Advisory Committee make suggestions, voice concerns and give important feedback to the Chief and Department members. The Committee holds quarterly meetings throughout the year at the Activity Center at Bohrer Park.

Committee members are Andrew Bove, Charles Ferrell, Victor Guerrero, Mike Janus, Chris Jones, Sigrid McCutcheon, Carol Martin, Rada Puri, Doug Wagner and David Weber.



### *National Night Out*

The City's National Night Out Against Crime observance took place on August 6. National Night Out is held by individual communities to demonstrate their commitment to being partners in the fight against crime. National Night Out Against Crime is designed to heighten crime awareness, strengthen neighborhood spirit and enhance police-community relations. Four communities participated in 2013: Brighton Village Apartments, Kentlands, Quince Orchard Park, and Saybrooke.

### *Neighborhood Watch*

There are 24 neighborhoods participating in the Neighborhood Watch program. This program teaches citizens how to help themselves by identifying and reporting suspicious activity within their neighborhoods and has become an invaluable resource for the Police Department. Neighborhood Watch groups typically focus on observation and awareness as a means of preventing crime and employ strategies that range from simply promoting social interaction to "watching out for each other."

Through regular communication, the Community Services Office provides all Neighborhood Watch groups with safety tips, other crime prevention information, and strives to keep the communities informed of criminal activities within their neighborhoods.

### *Social Media (Facebook)*

The Gaithersburg Police Department launched a Facebook page on December 18, 2013 to create another channel of direct communication with the community it serves. By doing this, the GPD is letting citizens see how its goals and missions are accomplished on a daily basis, while at the same time providing them public safety information that may affect their lives as quickly as possible. The Department is excited about this new opportunity to further engage the community, allowing for a higher quality police service in the City of Gaithersburg. Like GPD on **Facebook** at: [www.facebook.com/gaithersburgpolice](http://www.facebook.com/gaithersburgpolice).



### **BROTHERS Program**

Brothers Reaching Out To Help Each Reach Success (BROTHERS), a mentoring program founded by Parking Enforcement Officer Morris Hudson, is operated under the auspices of Family Services, Inc. with funding and support from the City of Gaithersburg. The program focuses on “at-risk” males at Gaithersburg High and Middle Schools. Street gangs, negative peer pressure, domestic violence, and substance abuse are daily realities for some of our City youth. The BROTHERS program provides mentoring, counseling and a variety of other services to benefit the members and their families, and offers an alternative to gangs and gang-related activities.

BROTHERS partners with the Gaithersburg Police Department to provide guest speakers that share their personal experiences as well as educate the participants on the legal and criminal justice system. In 2013, the program had a membership of more than 150 at-risk males. The members perform community service work, including volunteering at local hospitals, assisting at local homeless shelters, and tutoring and mentoring students at all levels.

In addition to their daily service, BROTHERS members participated in a 5K walk for blind and visually challenged individuals, collected and distributed Thanksgiving baskets to those in need, participated in the annual Toys for Tots Drive, and hosted a college fair.

This year the program received the MLK Children of the Dream Award for achieving 15,000 hours of community service. The program was visited by Maryland Lieutenant Governor Anthony Brown, Montgomery County Executive Isiah Leggett, and other dignitaries from across the region who addressed the group on topics required for success. Founder Morris Hudson was featured on National Public Radio for work with the BROTHERS program and its record of helping at-risk youth overcome hurdles and attend college.

Officer Robert Blackmon, our School Resource Officer, continues to serve as the liaison between the Department and the BROTHERS program.



### **AWARDS**

#### **Officer of the Year for 2013**

##### **Officer Larbi Dakkouni**

Officer Larbi Dakkouni displays a highly motivated inner drive that enables him to consistently go well beyond what is minimally expected. Officer Dakkouni is a competent and dedicated officer who has shown extraordinary energy and resourcefulness as demonstrated in his overall exemplary performance.

Officer Dakkouni received special acknowledgment regarding Officer of the Month for eleven out of 12 months and received the Officer of the Month award in July 2013. Officer Dakkouni reports to work each day with a positive attitude, always accepts assignments without reservation and has received many complimentary letters from citizens and officers concerning his professionalism and assistance provided to the public. During the past year, Officer Dakkouni made 87 criminal arrests and handled 947 calls for service in both a primary and secondary capacity. In furtherance of the Department’s goal to reduce accidents and save lives, Officer Dakkouni issued 693 traffic citations and 315 written warnings, and made 18 DUI arrests. He completed 95 field interviews and 122 reports.

Officer Dakkouni initiated a traffic stop in September for a headlight violation and seized 67 grams of marijuana, currency and a vehicle. As a result of further investigation, he obtained a search warrant for a residence and seized one pound of marijuana, 28 Xanax pills, along with other prescription medications. This investigation is continuing and has developed additional suspects in California.

In the past year, Officer Dakkouni participated in the Maryland Special Olympics Polar Bear Plunge Photo Shoot in October, held at Sandy Point State Park. This worthwhile event raises awareness and funds for Special Olympics. He qualified for and participated in the 2nd Annual Chief's Pistol Competition, and placed 3rd overall in the Department. He participated in the Lakeforest Holiday Mall Initiative as well as the Alcohol Holiday Task Force.

Officer Dakkouni is commended for his hard work and service to the community over the past year. Officer Dakkouni embodies the Core Values of the Department and upholds the public trust.



**Supervisor of the Year 2013**

**Corporal Brian Hurtt**

Corporal Brian Hurtt supervised the Investigation Section, which experienced an increase of cases in 2013 compared to 2012. Under his supervision, the case load increased by 8.5%, achieving a total case closure rate of 69%, an increase of 13% compared to 56.6% in 2012. Corporal Hurtt managed complicated cases and coordinated efforts that resulted in multiple arrests, search warrants, convictions and closures. Corporal Hurtt often assumes responsibilities commensurate with the rank of Sergeant. This would include the recent case of multiple burglaries in the Park Station Apartments and surrounding areas. This case was the first "Major Case Supervisor Incident" initiated by the Department and resulted in Corporal Hurtt having to coordinate multiple resources to include patrol, Street Crimes Unit, Gaithersburg Police Department detectives, and Montgomery County Police 5th and 6th District detectives. The case required numerous manpower hours and eventually resulted in the location, identification of suspects and recovery of evidence. Search warrants and arrest warrants were obtained, culminating in the arrest of several subjects.

Another case in which his supervisory assistance was critical was in the co-investigation of the East Diamond Avenue/Mi Pueblito case, which took months of follow-up investigation and resulted in the arrest of a suspect developed by investigators, along with the identification of the second involved subject that resulted in the issuance of an arrest warrant. This case resulted in closure and conviction of the arrested subject based on evidence, interviews and cooperation obtained from a witness. Corporal Hurtt's coordination was essential in the overall investigation.

There was a multiple burglary case that occurred in the Perrywinkle Road area where property was taken, including a stolen car, computer and other items. This led to a surveillance investigation. Search warrants were obtained for addresses in both Rockville and Gaithersburg, which eventually led to the identification of a suspect and an arrest

warrant. The suspect was recently arrested in this case. Corporal Hurtt served as a liaison with the Rockville City Police, Gaithersburg Police Street Crimes Unit and others. Another recent aggravated assault/stabbing case was closed by the Investigation Section with the assistance of Corporal Hurtt. This resulted in the location and arrest of the suspect. Corporal Hurtt supervised and assisted the lead detective with interviews and follow-up tasks that eventually led to the identification of subjects involved in the Hutton Street/East Deer Park section burglary and multiple thefts from vehicle incidents. This resulted in the arrest and search warrants for four individuals and locations which resulted in the recovery of stolen property and confessions from the defendants.

Corporal Hurtt's multiple tasks require regular liaison with allied agencies and specialized units in the form of meetings and telephone calls. He schedules investigator call-outs and is relied upon by patrol sergeants at all times, regardless of the hour, for advice and support on major criminal incidents. Corporal Hurtt always makes time to assist patrol officers with questions and direction on cases that they are working on that require more involved investigation.

In addition to Corporal Hurtt's own investigative case load, he supervises background checks and Internal Affairs investigations assigned to the Investigation Section. He provided Taser instructor services and Office of Internal Affairs (OIA) training to supervisors assigned to the Operations Bureau and Special Operations Bureau in 2013. Upon learning that subordinate detectives are working to capacity, he will assume the lead investigative case responsibility to ensure that other detectives are able to effectively complete their assignments.

Corporal Hurtt has shown efficiency in coordinating the Section by ensuring that detectives have the required items needed to complete their tasks, including equipment, investigative software and training. Corporal Hurtt always puts the interest of detectives as his priority and provides timely updates to command personnel. As the Investigation Section supervisor, Corporal Hurtt is always accessible and accountable for the management of the Section. He assists with the cases starting from the initial review to the interviews, search and arrest warrant reviews, interviews, evidence collection and processing, case processing, State's Attorney conferences and court testimony.

Corporal Hurtt displays a strong commitment to all personnel and advances the effectiveness and efficiency of the Gaithersburg Police Department by his individual contributions and by supervising the work of other detectives/officers.

*Officer of the Month for 2013*

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| <i>January</i>   | Officer John Jordan  |
| <i>February</i>  | Officer Gregg Johannesen   |
| <i>March</i>     | Officer John Duke  |
| <i>April</i>     | Officer Chris Cyran  |
| <i>May</i>       | Officer Brandon Day  |
| <i>June</i>      | Officer Marlon Ramirez   |
| <i>July</i>      | Officer Larbi Dakkouni   |
| <i>August</i>    | Officer Robert Scire   |
| <i>September</i> | Street Crimes Unit<br>Sergeant Shawn Eastman, Corporal Raul Delgado,<br>Officer Shane Eastman, Officer Robert Maskey |
| <i>October</i>   | Officer Marlon Ramirez   |
| <i>November</i>  | Officer Chris Leach  |
| <i>December</i>  | Detective Wade Caron   |



*Officer John Jordan*



*Officer Gregg Johannesen*



*Officer John Duke*



*Officer Chris Cyran*



*Officer Brandon Day*



*Officer Marlon Ramirez*



*Officer Larbi Dakkouni*



*Officer Robert Scire*



*Sergeant Shawn Eastman*



*Corporal Raul Delgado*



*Officer Shane Eastman*



*Officer Robert Maskey*



*Officer Chris Leach*



*Detective Wade Caron*



### **Pistol Competition Awards**

The Gaithersburg Police Department hosted its second annual “Chief’s Pistol Competition” on October 14, 2013. Nineteen officers qualified for the event based on an average of the officers’ daytime and nighttime qualifications. The Department’s firearms instructors designed a combat course for the competition and the top three officers were awarded trophies:

**1st Place**                      **Officer Rico Thompson**  
**2nd Place**                      **Officer Mark McGinnis**  
**3rd Place**                      **Officer Larbi Dakkouni**



*Officer Rico Thompson*



*Officer Mark McGinnis*



*Officer Larbi Dakkouni*

The event, sponsored by the Gaithersburg Police Foundation, provides an opportunity for Gaithersburg police officers to demonstrate proficiency in the use of a firearm. “While it is always our intent that our officers do not need to use weapons in the performance of their duties, we take very seriously the skill and training necessary to use them safely and effectively when called upon,” said Chief Mark Sroka. “This competition exemplifies the officers’ training with scenarios that required them to focus under pressure and demonstrate confidence and proficient use of their firearm.”



### **Chief’s Award**

**Lieutenant Wells Weymouth**  
**Ensign John Hunt**

At the October 7, 2013, Mayor and City Council meeting, Gaithersburg Police Chief Mark P. Sroka presented the Chief’s Award to Ensign John Hunt, United States Navy and Lieutenant Wells Weymouth, United States Army for their outstanding commitment-to-duty, professionalism and contributions to the citizens of the City of Gaithersburg.

On July 23, 2013 at approximately 1:00 p.m., a personal injury collision was reported at the Sam’s Club located at 610 North Frederick Avenue. A car had crashed through a set of utility doors to the right of the store’s main entrance. Behind those doors is the Sam’s Club food court. As a result of the collision, one victim was struck in the parking lot and two additional victims were struck inside the food court. Of those struck, a 76-year-old male who was in the food court was the most severely injured. The victim’s leg was severed below the knee. At the time, Lieutenant Weymouth and Ensign Hunt were inside the Sam’s Club shopping. They observed the collision and immediately came to the assistance of the injured male. They quickly fashioned a makeshift tourniquet to control the bleeding and calmed the victim until the arrival of medical personnel.

Montgomery County Fire and Rescue officials credited both Lieutenant Weymouth and Ensign Hunt's actions in administering immediate first aid for saving the elderly man's life.

For their life saving actions, Ensign Hunt and Lieutenant Weymouth were presented with the Chief's Award.

The Chief's Award was created in 2010 to be awarded to any member of the Police Department, a citizen or a City employee for outstanding work that has brought credit to the Department and where the recipient has gone above and beyond the requirements of his or her normal assignment to contribute to a more effective and efficient police service.

**Chief's Certificate of Appreciation**

- Officer Andrew Alger**
- Officer Jason Essel**
- Officer Wade Milyard**

On December 11, 2013, a Fire/EMS call was dispatched to 802 London Court, Frederick, MD for a 2-year-old boy that had fallen out of a chair onto a pair of scissors the child was using while working on a craft project. The scissors impaled the child in the armpit/chest area that resulted in significant blood loss.

In addition to Fire/EMS personnel, Officer Andrew Alger, Officer Jason Essel and Officer Wade Milyard responded to the home of Gaithersburg Police Officer Jonathan Bennett. Once there, the officers displayed the utmost professionalism and compassion to Officer Bennett and his wife, Christina, in calming them until such time as their son was flown by MEDEVAC to Johns Hopkins Hospital. Jonathan Jr. is expected to make a full recovery from his injuries.

The actions of Officer Alger, Officer Essel and Officer Milyard demonstrate the brotherhood in law enforcement wherein we pride ourselves in being there for each other in good times as well as bad.

**Commanders Awards**

- POIII John Jordan**
- POIII John Breck**
- POII Marlon Ramirez**

**Letter of Commendation**

- POII David Bower**



*POIII John Jordan*



*POIII John Breck*



*POII Marlon Ramirez*



*POII David Bower*



*Corporal Kathy Fairfield*

## MARYLAND STATE HIGHWAY AWARDS

### *Annual Smooth Operator Law Enforcement Award*

#### **Corporal Kathy Fairfield**

The National Capital Region Smooth Operator Program recognizes law enforcement officers from across the region for their demonstrated commitment to reducing aggressive driving through significant enforcement during the annual Smooth Operator waves that occurred in 2013. The recognition luncheon and award ceremony was held on September 25, 2013 at Martin's Crosswinds in Greenbelt, Maryland.

### *Eleventh Annual DUI Law Enforcement Awards*

#### **Officers Gregg Johannesen, Danny Vaca, John Duke, Holly Parke, Noah Grubic, and Shane Eastman**

The Maryland Highway Safety Office, a division of the Motor Vehicle Administration, and the Impaired Driving Coalition recognize those law enforcement officers who have gone above and beyond the call of duty in the fight against impaired driving through DUI arrests or innovative programs to reduce incidents of drunk or drugged driving. The GPD officers were recognized for the number of DUI arrests made in 2012 at the event held on Sunday, September 29, 2013, at Michael's Eighth Avenue in Glen Burnie, Maryland.



*Gregg Johannesen*



*Danny Vaca*



*John Duke*



*Holly Parke*



*Noah Grubic*



*Shane Eastman*



*Corporal Chad Eastman*

### *United States Police Canine Association Triple Crown Award*

#### **Corporal Chad Eastman**

In October of 2013, K-9 Max and his handler, Corporal Chad Eastman, participated in the United States Police Canine Association (USPCA) National Canine Trials. This is the first time a Gaithersburg Police canine team had attempted to qualify on a national level. The team also participated in the USPCA Triple Crown Award. Corporal Chad Eastman and his partner, Max, won the Triple Crown Award. The Triple Crown Award is presented to the Region Three member in good standing who achieves certification in "Patrol Dog (PD) I, Tracking and Detector" in a calendar year (January to December). This is the fourth year in a row that Corporal Eastman and Max have received this award.

Montgomery County Police Quarterly Awards

Lieutenant Curtis Pettaway – Chief’s Certificate of Appreciation

Sergeant Chris Vance – Chief’s Certificate of Appreciation

Officer Robert Blackmon – Chief’s Certificate of Appreciation

Officer Gregg Johannesen – Chief’s Certificate of Appreciation

Officer Jammie Lopez – Chief’s Certificate of Appreciation



Lieutenant Curtis Pettaway



Sergeant Chris Vance



Officer Robert Blackmon



Officer Gregg Johannesen



Officer Jammie Lopez

**ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE**

The GPD is made up of three bureaus: Administrative, Operations and Special Operations.

**Administrative Bureau**

Lieutenant Curtis L. Pettaway is the Administrative Bureau Commander.

The Administrative Bureau is responsible for overseeing various functions that support the operational units in the agency. These functions include planning and research, policy review and development, fleet management, quartermaster/supply, technology implementation, budget preparation and administration. The Bureau is also responsible for recruitment selection, all accreditation activities and administrative support.



**Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agency (CALEA)**

The Administrative Bureau CALEA team consisting of Lieutenant Curtis Pettaway, Sergeant Ray Campbell, Corporal Kathy Fairfield and Accreditation Manager John Osborne, achieved the agency’s seventh Accreditation award. Lieutenant Pettaway and Mr. Osborne accepted the award at the 2013 Summer CALEA Conference in Columbus, Ohio. The award represents the culmination of self-evaluation and concluded with a review from independent assessors and CALEA Commissioners. CALEA Accreditation represents acceptance of an ongoing obligation to continue the quest for professional excellence by working toward compliance with all applicable standards. The agency received the certificate of Advanced Meritorious Accreditation GOLD STANDARD award.



Lt. Pettaway and Accreditation Manager Osborne at the CALEA Conference

| Position                          | Authorized | Actual |
|-----------------------------------|------------|--------|
| Police Chief                      | 1          | 1      |
| Lieutenant                        | 3          | 3      |
| Emergency Management Coordinator  | 1          | 1      |
| Sergeant                          | 9          | 9      |
| Corporal                          | 9          | 9      |
| Police Officer                    | 35         | 31     |
| Crime Analyst                     | 1          | 1      |
| Administrative Support Supervisor | 1          | 1      |
| Administrative Assistant II       | 2          | 2      |
| Speed Camera Technician           | 2          | 2      |
| Accreditation Manager             | 1          | 1      |
| Part-Time Personnel               | 8          | 8      |
| TOTAL                             | 73         | 69     |

***Yearly Statistical Reports***

|                              |        |
|------------------------------|--------|
| Calls for Service            | 30,638 |
| Traffic Citations            | 8,211  |
| Traffic Warnings             | 4,764  |
| Adult Criminal Arrests       | 774    |
| Juveniles Taken into Custody | 75     |

**Operations Bureau**

Lieutenant Robert V. Wilkes is the Operations Bureau Commander.

Officers are on patrol 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The primary function of this Bureau is the protection of life and property through aggressive motorized, bicycle and foot patrols. This Bureau consists of six patrol shifts.

The Department’s philosophy of “Focused Enforcement Policing” has effectively institutionalized Community Policing. Its premise requires every patrol officer to spend set periods of time each day in smaller, specific geographical areas based on crime and/or traffic trends, conducting traffic enforcement, conducting field interviews and strengthening the working relationships with citizens and businesses.

**Special Operations Bureau**

Lieutenant Thomas Stanton is the Special Operations Bureau Commander.

The Special Operations Bureau is comprised of the specialized units of the Police Department. These units consist of the Community Services Office, the Crime Analyst, the Investigation Section, the Street Crimes Unit, the K-9 Unit, the Traffic Unit, the Photo Radar Enforcement Unit, and Parking Enforcement. The Special Operations Bureau works directly with Gaithersburg Police patrol officers and allied law enforcement agencies to provide an enhanced level of service to the community.



*Police Explorers*

**Community Services Office**

The Community Services Office consists of the Community Services Officer (CSO), Dan Lane, and the School Resource Officer (SRO), Robert Blackmon. The CSO establishes and maintains communication with Homeowners Associations, Neighborhood Watch groups and other civic organizations. The CSO also conducts security surveys for both commercial and residential owners, assists the Maryland Police and Correctional Training Commissions (MPCTC) with classes instructing other officers from around the state on current crime prevention practices, and participates in various committees both within the City and on the state level. The CSO is also an advisor with the Montgomery County Police Explorers program, teaching teens about the law enforcement field and basic life skills. The Community Services Office is also responsible for the public information function, performed in coordination with the City’s Public Information Office, with the goal of ensuring that information is relayed to the public via the Crime Summary webpage, social media outlets and the local media in a timely fashion.

The Office is also responsible for coordinating community outreach efforts such as:

- **Charity Basketball Tournament:** Officers of the Gaithersburg Police Department play head-to-head against staff and students of Gaithersburg High School (GHS) in a charity basketball tournament for a cause selected by students and staff of GHS.
- **“Coffee with a Cop”:** An opportunity for citizens to speak with officers in a casual atmosphere with no formal agenda. Officers were on hand to answer questions about crime and quality-of-life issues in neighborhoods and on roadways.
- **Junior Police Academy:** A six-week after-school program at a select middle school where students and officers interact with one another, learning about team work, decision making and what a police officer’s day-to-day duties consist of.
- **Junior Detective Day:** In a collaborative effort with Kentlands Mansion staff, Gaithersburg Police Officers were on hand to help participants make I.D. badges and get fingerprinted. They also learned about neighborhood safety, witnessed K-9 demonstrations, and explored an actual police car and motorcycle to see the technology equipment used by police officers.
- **National Night Out:** An annual event held by individual communities at which they demonstrate their commitment to being partners in the fight against crime.
- **Teen Police Academy:** An eleven-week youth program hosted at the Olde Towne Youth Center where students and officers interact with one another, learning about team work, decision making, and what a police officer’s day-to-day duties consist of.
- **“Tip-A-Cop”:** An official Law Enforcement Torch Run Campaign fundraising event. Law enforcement officers and Department personnel volunteer their time as “Celebrity Waiters” to collect tips at Red Robin Restaurants to support Special Olympics Maryland.
- **National Drug Turn-In Day:** In partnership with the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), the Gaithersburg Police Department held two events in 2013 giving the public an opportunity to prevent prescription drug abuse and theft by ridding their homes of potentially dangerous expired, unused and unwanted prescription medications. At these events, a total of 338 pounds of prescription drugs were turned in.



*Junior Detective Day*

### **School Resource Officer**

The Department continues to provide a School Resource Officer (SRO) for Gaithersburg High School. While primarily assigned to the high school, the SRO also assists Gaithersburg and Forest Oak Middle Schools. The SRO has the responsibility of serving as a liaison between the Police Department and schools for police-related concerns and incidents. The SRO's primary function is to enhance the safety and security of the learning environment for students, staff and the school community.

### **Crime Analyst**

The Crime Analyst is trained in the use of crime analysis software, Automated Tactical Analysis of Crime (ATAC), and enhanced mapping systems, ArcMaps. Using these programs the Police Department is able to determine specific activity and patterns that are occurring in both the City and the County to identify crime trends. The dissemination of criminal intelligence gained by the work of the Crime Analyst and communication with other analysts of surrounding agencies promotes communication and provides de-confliction in criminal investigations.

### **Investigation Section**

The Investigation Section of the Gaithersburg Police Department currently consists of three full-time detectives. Each detective routinely utilizes traditional investigative procedures, numerous databases, covert cameras in public areas and the Computer Voice Stress Analyzer (a device used for detecting deception) to conduct thorough investigations. These detectives share the responsibility of investigating significant crimes and crime patterns within the City and as a result are subject to "call out" 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

City of Gaithersburg detectives maintain liaison with other Investigation units of allied agencies and the Crime Analyst to stay informed of criminal activity in or near the City limits. The Investigation Section is also responsible for conducting Internal Affairs investigations as directed by the Chief of Police. In 2013, the Investigation Section had a case closure rate of 69%. The unit made 53 arrests while investigating 176 criminal cases and investigated an additional 16 non-criminal cases.

### **Street Crimes Unit**

The Street Crimes Unit is comprised of several officers working in a covert capacity, in dress and vehicles. The mission of the Street Crimes Unit is to target areas that are experiencing higher than average crime, drug activity and pattern crimes. The Unit is required to be proactive, which often requires officers assigned to the Unit to adjust working hours with short notice and gather information from a variety of sources. The members of the Street Crimes Unit have extensive experience with the application of Search and Seizure Warrants and the Universal Forensic Extraction Device (UFED), which is used to extract information from the cellular phones of suspects and victims. As a result, they often work with patrol officers and allied agencies conducting investigations relating to burglaries, robberies, thefts and drug sales. The Street Crimes Unit is also heavily involved in the background process of hiring new employees and firearms training for the Department. During 2013, the unit made 136 arrests and served 21 Search and Seizure Warrants.



*K-9 Section*

**K-9 Section**

The K-9 Section works closely with all other units of the GPD as well as assisting in locating missing persons, fleeing suspects and taking subjects into custody, avoiding the need for the use of force. In 2013, the two K-9 teams that comprise the section responded to 1,420 Calls for Service, resulting in 299 deployments of the police canines. These deployments resulted in 122 arrests for narcotics and other various criminal offenses.

**Traffic Safety Unit**

The Traffic Safety Unit’s mission is to reduce traffic violations and motor vehicle collisions within the City. The Unit accomplishes this in a variety of ways. It works closely with the City’s Traffic Engineer to develop engineering solutions to traffic and collision-related issues throughout the City. Using Data Driven Approaches to Crime and Traffic Safety, the Unit identifies high collision areas and focuses enforcement efforts in these areas designed to reduce the traffic violations that have been identified as causation factors for collisions. The Unit also addresses neighborhood traffic complaints through selective enforcement and education. The Traffic Unit provides educational programs to community groups on a variety of traffic safety issues and participates in the Maryland Highway Traffic Safety Grant programs, targeting various traffic safety issues including impaired driving, seatbelt use, aggressive driving and others. The Traffic Unit also oversees the Citizen Information in Traffic Enforcement (CITE) program, through which citizens can report, via e-mail, observed traffic violations throughout the City.



In 2013, the Traffic Safety Unit conducted a variety of traffic enforcement activities throughout the City. Pedestrian enforcement and education initiatives continued to be an area of focused attention, especially in the following areas: The Frederick Avenue corridor, Great Seneca Highway and Orchard Ridge Drive, Washingtonian Boulevard, Clopper Road and Firstfield Road, Muddy Branch Road, North and South Summit Avenues, Washingtonian Boulevard and Kentlands Boulevard. The Unit also worked closely with Gaithersburg High School to address traffic and pedestrian related concerns surrounding the construction of the new school. Great Seneca Highway remained a primary concern for the Unit. As a result of these enforcement efforts, 145 citations were issued along with 152 warnings.

The Traffic Safety Unit also participated in the National Occupant Safety Campaign, “Click it or Ticket,” in May and November. Members of the Unit, in cooperation with other Montgomery County police agencies, conducted nighttime enforcement activities throughout the City and participated in the Nighttime Injury Avoidance program that focused on the off ramps from I-270 leading into the City. Officers issued 141 citations, arrested six motorists for driving under the influence and made eight criminal arrests during the campaign.

During the first weeks of June, July, August and September, the Traffic Safety Unit participated in the statewide Smooth Operator Enforcement Initiative. During these weeks, officers conducted saturated enforcement of the major corridors through the City. Special attention was paid to speeding, following too closely, unsafe lane changes and other aggressive driving behaviors. Officers issued 338 citations and arrested two motorists for driving under the influence as a result of this campaign.

Officers from the Traffic Safety Unit, along with patrol officers, used State-provided grant funding to target impaired drivers at key times throughout the year. They also routinely participated in Driving Under the Influence (DUI) Checkpoints within the City limits conducted in cooperation with allied Montgomery County police agencies.

The Traffic Safety Unit continues to provide guidance and assistance for all special events held within the City limits.

Working with the City's Traffic Engineer and representatives from Montgomery County Department of Transportation and the State Highway Department, the Traffic Safety Unit was able to initiate several engineering solutions to address traffic safety concerns. At the intersection of Odendhal Avenue and North Frederick Avenue, the signals were split to reduce the conflict of motorists turning from Odendhal Avenue onto North Frederick Avenue and motorists exiting the service station. This change in timing also helped with pedestrian safety at this intersection.

A dedicated left-turn signal was added at Education Boulevard for motorists turning onto northbound Frederick Avenue. This addition was requested to help reduce the conflict of left turning vehicles with pedestrians using the crosswalk on Frederick Avenue.

A project has begun to realign the intersection of Great Seneca Highway and Kentlands Boulevard/Orchard Ridge Road. This intersection has been an area of concern for motorists and pedestrians. This project should help with the overall safety of this intersection.

The improvements at the intersection of Saybrooke Oaks Drive and Victory Farm Drive/Bristol Downs Drive were completed. These improvements were done to help increase stop sign compliance at these intersections.

### **Photo Radar and Parking Enforcement**

Speeding and parking-related concerns continued to result in the highest number of requests for service by the Traffic Safety Unit. In its continuing effort to address speeding concerns, the Department has four portable speed cameras, two fixed cameras and two vans deployed at various locations throughout the City. In October of 2013, an additional Photo Speed enforcement location was approved by the Mayor and City Council for southbound South Frederick Avenue at Education Boulevard. This location was identified as an area of concern due to the presence of Gaithersburg High School, the Activity Center at Bohrer Park, and St. Martin's Catholic Church and School. In 2013, the portable and fixed cameras were operational 24 hours a day seven days a week. Photo Speed enforcement works together with Radar and Laser enforcement by individual officers to ensure motorists obey the posted speed limits within the City.

Throughout the year, the part-time Parking Enforcement Official worked various days and hours to address the many parking-related concerns throughout the City. The part-time Official, with the help of the Sworn Police Officers and Code Enforcement Officials, issued 2,470 parking citations in 2013.