

RYE BROOK POLICE DEPARTMENT

2021

ANNUAL REPORT



Gregory J. Austin
Chief of Police

J. Arnold
Lieutenant

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Rye Brook Police Department, 2021.....	1
Mission Statement.....	2
Organizational Chart.....	3
Statistical Information.....	4
Contract Duty.....	5
Training.....	5
In-Service Training.....	5
Professional Development.....	6
Retirements and New Hire.....	7
Awards.....	9
Certificate of Honorable Mention.....	9
Unit Citation and Honor Bar.....	9
Certificate and Honor Bar for Exceptional Merit.....	10
Promotions.....	10
Sergeant Eric Dengler.....	10
Detective Dan Bruno.....	11
Professional Association Memberships.....	11
DARE.....	11
Goals and Objectives.....	11
2021 Goals and Results.....	12
2022 Goals.....	13
Noteworthy Incidents.....	13
Hurricane Ida.....	13
Christmas at Maria Fareri Children's Hospital.....	14
Overturned vehicle.....	15
Police Officer Titus Alexander Among Featured Paintings in California Art Exhibit.....	16
Winterfest at Pine Ridge Park.....	17

Rye Brook Police Department, 2021

This Rye Brook Police Department annual report for 2021 contains statistics and information about the performance of the Rye Brook Police Department to keep the public informed about public safety in Rye Brook, New York. It is not possible to measure and quantify everything performed by a police department, overall, crime is low, and Rye Brook remains a safe place to live and raise a family.

In 2021, the Department saw some return to normalcy, when COVID-19 restrictions were eased in the Spring and throughout the summer and Fall. Experience with living with COVID-19 has changed how we operate but all officers in the Department strive to provide the community with professional policing.

The Village Police Reform and Reinvention Committee met at the beginning of the year and published a comprehensive reform document that can be found on the Village of Rye Brook Web site.

There was a significant drop in larcenies from vehicles and motor vehicle thefts in 2021 compared to 2020. Still the common denominators in these crimes are unlocked cars and keys left inside the cars.

The Department said farewell to two officers who retired, and we welcomed a new police officer who came to us with experience from a neighboring department.

Overall, the Rye Brook Police Department had a good year, and I would like to extend my heartfelt appreciation to the men and women of the department for their extraordinary work effort and commitment to serving the citizens of our community. Their dedication is evident by our continued strides in building stronger partnerships with our citizens, business owners, community leaders, and visitors. Exceptional service to the community continues to remain our focus.

Thank you to all that support the Rye Brook Police Department as we will continue to provide excellent and professional public service. I am proud to be the Police Chief of this Department and I look forward to an exciting and productive 2022.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chief Gregory J. Austin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Gregory" being the most prominent part.

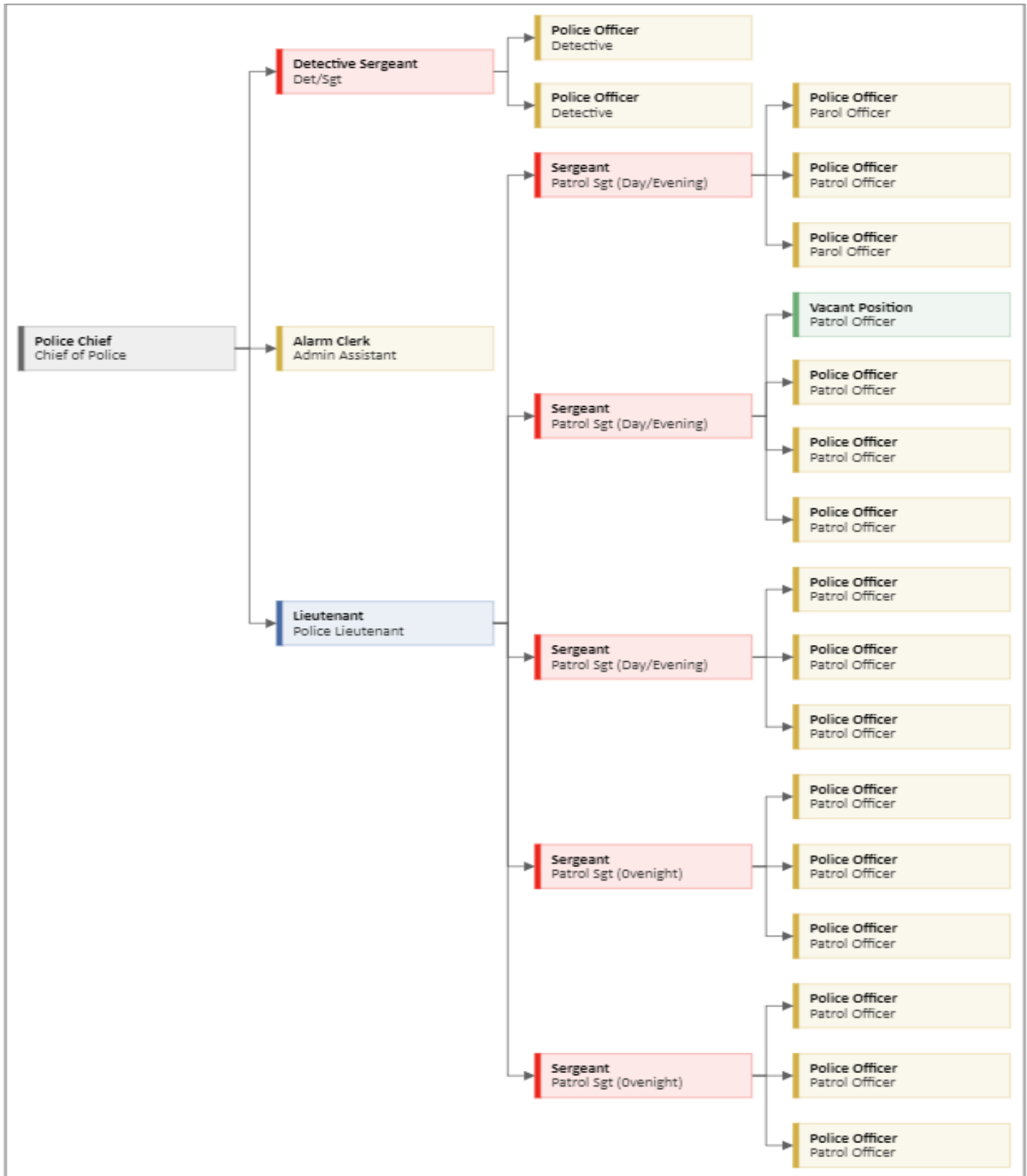
Gregory J. Austin
Chief of Police

Mission Statement

The Mission of the Village of Rye Brook Police Department including the duties and responsibilities of all its members is as follows:

1. To protect life and property;
2. To prevent crime;
3. To detect and arrest offenders;
4. To preserve the public peace; and
5. To enforce all laws and ordinances.
6. To treat everyone with respect and maintain community trust.

Organizational Chart



Statistical Information

Uniformed Crime Report Part I Offenses			
	2020	2021	Difference
Murder	0	0	No Change
Rape	0	1	+1
Robbery	0	0	No Change
Aggravated Assault	0	0	No Change
Burglary	4	2	-2
Larceny	54	59	+5
Motor Vehicle Theft	18	6	-12
Uniformed Crime Report Part II Offenses			
	2020	2021	Difference
Controlled Substance Possession	2	0	-2
Dangerous Weapon Possession	0	0	No Change
Sex Offense	2	0	-2
Forgery	2	2	No Change
Criminal Mischief	17	18	+1
Stolen Property Possession	0	3	+3
Fraud	42	85	+43
Offenses Against the Public Order	0	1	+1
Simple Assault	3	0	-3
Offenses Against Family	0	4	+4
DWI	7	3	-4
Loitering	0	0	No Change
All Other Offenses	9	6	-3

Calls for Service			
	2020	2021	Difference
Total Calls for Service	4,853	5,188	+335
Motor Vehicle Accidents	152	189	+37
Traffic Tickets	250	274	+24
Quality of Life Violations	6	7	+1
Custodial Arrests	43	17	-26
Registered Sex Offenders	2	2	No Change
Citizen Complaints against officers and/or Dept	1	1	No Change
Domestic Incidents	48	36	-12
Alarms (Burglar/Fire)	553	532	-21
Medical Aided	368	447	+79
Impounded Vehicles	30	24	-6
Use of force by officers*	3	2	-1

*In 2020, New York State changed the reporting requirement for use of force by a police officer to include displaying a weapon.

Contract Duty

Members of the public or organizations can contract directly with the Village to hire police officers for valid public safety reasons for security or traffic control above normal patrol. In 2021, eleven groups hired officers for fifty-seven different events. Rye Brook Police Officers provided security or traffic control within Rye Brook to these groups in 2021.

Training

In-Service Training

Each year the department provides in-service training to the members of the department. Additionally, each supervisor attends eight hours of training specific to their position as first line supervisors. The Department offered more than forty hours of in-service training in 2021 to the police officers.

In-service training in 2021 included the following:

- Firearms training qualification
- CPR
- Sexual Harassment
- Workplace Violence
- De-escalation
- Bloodborne Pathogens
- Narcan Administration
- Defensive Tactics
- Use of Force
- Right to Know
- Procedural Justice
- Less lethal force
- Legal Updates

Professional Development

Each police officer can participate in workshops, seminars, and continuing education to enhance their professional development. Below is a list of the professional development that officers took advantage of in 2021. Again, due to COVID-19, the opportunity for training was limited and was mostly done online.

- Runaways at Risk
- Conducting a Secure Online Investigation
- Fundamental Crisis Intervention for Law Enforcement
- FBI Explosive Awareness
- Search and Seizure
- 911 Diversion Training
- Stop the Bleed (Law Enforcement Tactical First Aid and Hemorrhage Care)
- Lethality Assessment
- Recognizing Impaired Persons
- Prioritizing First Responder Mental Health
- Realistic De-Escalation
- Countering the Mass Shooter Threat
- US Supreme Court Case Law for Law Enforcement
- Street Drugs and Driving

- Biological Incident Awareness
- Community Trust Building
- Interview and Interrogation

Retirements and New Hire

In 2021, two senior members of the police department filed for retirement, Sgt. James Mitchell retired in February after completing 40 years of service and Sgt Terence Wilson retired in October after completing 32 years of service.

Both officers will be missed, and we wish them good luck and good health in their retirement.

A new police officer, Christian Bautista, who previously served as a police officer in a neighboring community was hired in December 2021 and we look forward to P.O. Bautista to have a long and rewarding career in Rye Brook.



Sgt James Mitchell (second from left) with the members of his squad.



Sgt. Terence Wilson making the first cut into a cake to celebrate his retirement from the Rye Brook Police Department.



P.O. Christian Bautista starting his first shift as a Rye Brook Police Officer.

Awards

On September 28, 2021, the Police Department recognized members of the Department for going above and beyond what they are expected to do the Department recognized and honored officers for incidents that occurred between June 1, 2018, and April 30, 2021.

Certificate of Honorable Mention

- 1) Police Officer Christian Delarosa for the recovery of a valuable necklace where the owner was a victim of a fraud.
- 2) Sergeant Eric Dengler for the arrest of a suspect in October 2020 who shoplifted \$200.00 worth of merchandise from CVS in Washington Park Plaza.
- 3) Det Marc Rampolla for countless hours investigating a multitude of incidents where he has gathered evidence that sometimes did not result in an arrest for a Rye Brook incident, but he was able to build a case so an arrest can be made by another police department.

Unit Citation and Honor Bar

- 1) P.O. Linda Dekonski and P.O. Michael Caridi for the recovery of a knife that was used to commit a homicide in New York City.
- 2) P.O. Aaron Weiss, Det Dan Bruno, P.O. Linda Dekonski, and P.O. Paul Osterman (Westchester County Police Department) for the coordinated efforts that resulted in

the arrest of the suspects who committed who committed a burglary on September 24, 2020 on Bowman Ave. Det Marc Rampolla was awarded a certificate and Honor Bar for Excellent Police Duty for his investigation of this burglary that assisted additional jurisdictions to tie our suspects to burglary cases that occurred elsewhere over several months.

Certificate and Honor Bar for Exceptional Merit

- 1) P.O. Paul D'Amore and Det Dan Bruno for the arrest of a suspect armed with a handgun who was barricaded in a hotel room at Doral Arrowwood, holding a female guest and an infant child against her will. Officers were able to gain entry to the room and take the suspect into custody without injury to the victims, officers and suspect.



Members of the Rye Brook Police Department who received awards on September 28, 2021.

Promotions

Sergeant Eric Dengler

With the retirement of two sergeants in 2021, the opportunity for promotion opened up and the Department was fortunate to be able to promote Eric Dengler to sergeant in February, 2021. Sgt Dengler has served with the Rye Brook Police Department since 1998 and previously worked for the New York City Police Department.

Sgt Dengler was the Department's Youth Officer and also a Middle School DARE instructor.

The Department will promote another officer to sergeant to fill the second vacant sergeant's position in early 2022.

Detective Dan Bruno

With the promotion of Sgt Dengler, a vacancy was created in the Detective Bureau for a Detective/Youth Officer. Dan Bruno was promoted in May 2021 to Detective and will be the Department's Youth Officer and DARE instructor.

Professional Association Memberships

Many officers serve in leadership positions in state and local professional associations. Chief Austin is a member of the Board of Governors of the New York State Association of Chiefs of Police and is the Chair of the New York State Law Enforcement Accreditation Council.

Sgt Eric Dengler is a member of the Board of Governors of the New York State Juvenile Officers Association.

Chief Austin and Det Bruno are also members of the Blind Brook Community Coalition.

DARE

In 2021, we were able to resume the DARE program at BMP/Ridge Street School which was cancelled in 2020 due to the pandemic. The Rye Brook Police Department is committed to continuing teaching DARE to our students.



Det. Daniel Bruno teaching DARE

Goals and Objectives

To ensure continual direction and unity of purpose the Department sets annual written goals and objectives. Contribution to the management and operation of the department by all

members is encouraged and input from the officers in the development of the Department goals and objectives are always welcome. Each year, the Department Administration meets with the first line supervisors to set the Department goals and objectives for the upcoming year and to evaluate the Goals and Objectives from the previous year.

Additionally, New York State Executive Order 203 issued in June of 2020 requires each police department to meet with the public and to develop a plan to reinvent and reimagine policing in their communities.

The Rye Brook Police Reform Committee met from September 2020 until March 2021 and developed a comprehensive police reform plan. Items from the reform plan will be referenced when defining goals and objectives for the Department.

Below you will find the goals and objectives set for 2021 and their results along with the goals and objectives that the Department will work toward in 2022.

2021 Goals and Results

- 1. Develop a Community Outreach plan that the public can interact more with the Department members in a positive manner including but not limited to:**
 - a. Due to the ongoing pandemic, holding in person Civilian Response to Active Shooter Event (CRASE) workshops for the community or Coffee with a cop in person events did not occur. We will strive to bring back these activities in 2022.
 - b. We did increase our social media presence and interact with the community through our Facebook and Instagram accounts.
- 2. Develop a Peer Review Process whenever officers are involved in a high stress incident or when such a review would be a good opportunity for training.**
 - a. Sergeants conducted informal peer review with the members of their squads, we will work to build upon this in 2022. DCJS has also created an officer wellness Accreditation standard which will be adopted by the Department in 2022.
- 3. Make the process for the public to report complaints about Department members more transparent and easier to accomplish.**
 - a. The Police Department Internal Affairs General Order was updated to include ways for the public to file a complaint without coming to the police department in person.
 - b. Complaint forms are now available in the police department lobby, police department web site or can be submitted by email to the Chief or Lieutenant.
- 4. Develop a Scenario Based in-service training class which would eventually lead Reality based training for Department members.**
 - a. Reality based scenarios were added to in-service training during 2021, we will continue to build on this during our 2022 in-service training.
- 5. Develop a Mayors' Challenge Health and Wellness program for Department members.**
 - a. A Mayor's Challenge Health and Wellness program framework has been developed; it need to be reviewed by the police department administration before it is put into place. This will also be part of the DCJS accreditation wellness standard.

2022 Goals

1. Create a Training Advisory Committee to develop a list of proposals for training for the upcoming year.
2. Reestablish the Civilian Response to Active Shooter (CRASE) community workshops that was put on hold due to the pandemic.
3. Enhance the police department radio system to find ways to reduce the number of areas within the system where communications are weak.

Noteworthy Incidents

Hurricane Ida

During the evening of September 1 into the early morning hours of September 2, 2021, Hurricane Ida came through the area leaving in its wake damage not seen since Superstorm Sandy. In very many ways, village residents suffered damage and loss far worse than we have ever seen from a storm.

At the height of the storm, the rain was falling at a rate of 7 inches per hour, and by 2:00 am on September 2, a total of 8.57 inches of rain had fallen.

During the storm, numerous calls overwhelmed emergency services many were residents calling for help were asking to be evacuated from their homes.

Residents experienced devastating damage their homes and property and sadly two Rye Brook residents were killed when they were swept away by swift flowing flood waters after their car had been caught up in rising tide of the Blind Brook. Almost six months after the storm, many residents are still rebuilding what they have lost.



Christmas at Maria Fareri Children's Hospital

Again in 2021, just before Christmas, officers from the Rye Brook Police Department joined together with many other agencies to light up the night outside of Maria Fareri Children's Hospital.



Overturned vehicle

On July 7, 2021, a motorist backing out of her garage lost control of her vehicle and overturned the vehicle where it ended up on its roof in her neighbor's backyard. Rye Brook and Port Chester Fire Department's both responded and were able to extricate the occupant from the vehicle who luckily only suffered minor injuries.

Hannigan's Towing and with the assistance from the Port Chester Fire Department was able to upright the vehicle and remove it from its location.



Police Officer Titus Alexander Among Featured Paintings in California Art Exhibit

P.O. Titus Alexander was among the featured paintings by artist Susan Chen during her exhibition in California from September to October. Alexander was one of 17 subjects, or "sitters," featured in an art exhibition at the Night Gallery in Los Angeles. The show, titled "I Am Not a Virus," displayed various portraits painted by Susan Chen that explored the idea of diversity and identity in the Asian-American community through oils on a canvas.



Winterfest at Pine Ridge Park

2021 saw the return of Winterfest at Pine Ridge Park a favorite activity put on by the Village Recreation Department. In 2020, Winterfest was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but we were happy for its return in 2021.



Village Administrator Christopher Bradbury members of the Rye Brook Police Officers and Rye Brook DPW at this year's Winterfest.



Independence Day 2021 Fireworks display at Port Chester Senior High School