

Violent Crime Takes a Nosedive in Montclair



Police cite a 43 percent reduction during 2014.

Violent crime has taken a nosedive in the township, according to the Montclair Police Department's Annual Report for 2014.

The report – a voluntarily compiled, 32-page summary of police activity during the past year – stated that violent crime dropped 43 percent from 2013.

That year, Police Chief David Sabagh noted that the town was experiencing a “[significant increase in violent crime](#)” that needed to be addressed.

Violent crimes in 2013 included a shooting on Greenwood Avenue, a bank robbery on Park Street, three cases of rape, a shooting on Mission Street, a drive-by shooting on Valley Road and an Elmwood Avenue shooting.

In response, police announced several initiatives to deal with the rising violence:

- Mapping hotspots of violent crime
- Reinstating walk and ride programs and increasing foot patrols
- Launching a Community Service Unit and Street Crimes Unit

“The men and woman of this police department have worked tirelessly to keep Montclair a very safe place to live, work and enjoy,” stated Sabagh in the 2014 report. “Our community policing efforts have opened the door to better communication with our residents which is fostering a true collaborative approach in addressing community concerns.”

Sabagh wrote that residents can expect the MPD to ramp up their community policing programs in 2015, as well as the rollout of their newly acquired command vehicle and officers on bike, foot and T-3 patrol.

OTHER CRIME REDUCTIONS

The report also cited reductions in other types of crime during 2014:

- Overall crime decreased by 6.6 percent
- Property crime dropped by 1.5 percent

[See the full report online here.](#)

Photo by the Montclair Police Department