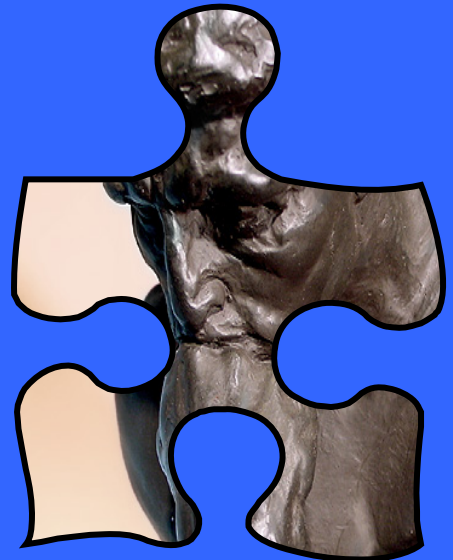
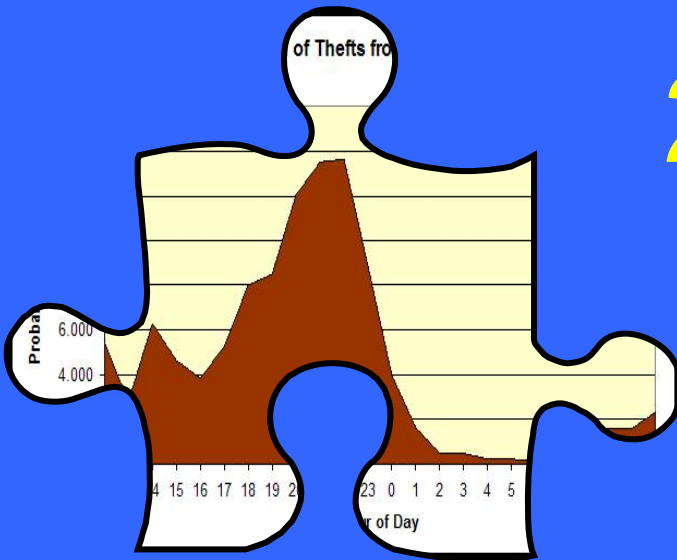




# DANVERS POLICE DEPARTMENT

## Annual Crime Report

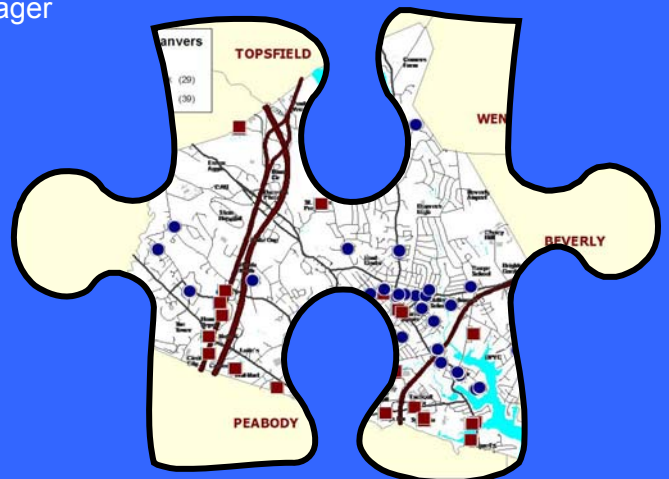
# 2006



Presented by the Danvers Police  
Office of Public Safety Analysis

**Neil F. Ouellette**  
Chief of Police

**Wayne P. Marquis**  
Town Manager



*A nationally-accredited law enforcement agency*

<http://www.danverspolice.com>



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Dedicated to the memory of

**Allen J. "Barney"  
Abbott**

1952-2006

**Danvers Police Department**  
*2006 Annual Crime Report*



Presented by the  
**Office of  
Public Safety Analysis**  
120 Ash Street  
Danvers, MA 01923  
978-774-1213 ext. 119  
cbruce@mail.danvers-ma.org  
<http://www.danverspolice.com>

**Christopher W. Bruce**  
Public Safety Analyst

**Alison Scarry**  
Public Safety Analysis Intern

**Neil F. Ouellette**  
Chief of Police

A proud member of:



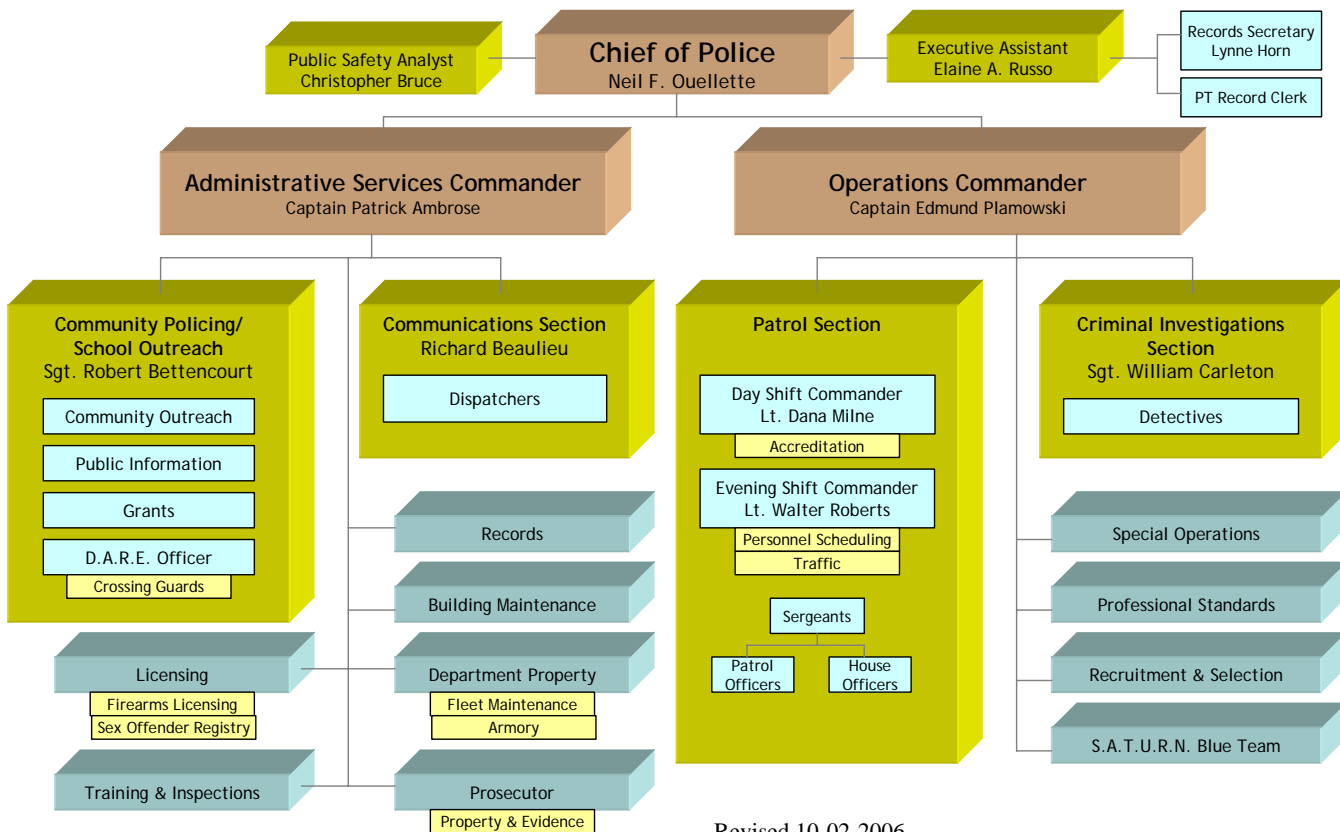
[www.macrimeanalysts.com](http://www.macrimeanalysts.com)

# DANVERS POLICE DEPARTMENT PROFILE

**Organized:** 1752  
**Population Served:** 25,212  
**Sworn Officers:** 46  
**Civilian Personnel:** 13  
**Chief:** Neil F. Ouellette  
**Headquarters:** 120 Ash Street  
**Budget (FY07):** \$4,609,762  
**Rank Structure:** Chief  
Captains (2)  
Lieutenants (2)  
Sergeants (8)  
Officers (29) / Detectives (4)  
**Patrol Vehicles:** 18  
**2006 Calls for Service:** 16,047



The Danvers Police Department is one of less than 400 law enforcement agencies in the United States and Canada accredited through the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies. Danvers became the first agency in Massachusetts to achieve accreditation (in 1986).



Revised 10-02-2006

## A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF



Looking back on 2006, the department has made significant progress toward our law enforcement vision. One of the major factors that sets the Danvers Police Department apart from other law enforcement agencies is the cooperation and mutual respect we enjoy with our town government, business owners, and the citizens of our community. The police cannot solve crime and disorder working autonomously; we require a partnership with stakeholders within the community. Many of the recurring crime trends and disorder problems that you will see outlined in this year's *Annual Crime Report* are indicative of deeper social, mental health, and substance abuse problems within today's society. With community engagement and problem solving skills we will be better able to impact crime and disorder within our community.

As a result of this collaboration, several areas of concern were identified, including drug and alcohol use among teens, drunk driving, and social disorder affecting our community. As a result of the dedication of our police officers, coupled with assistance from the Danvers School Department, "Community That Cares," parents, and teachers we have implemented several programs to reduce alcohol and drug use among teens. We have been able to deploy two full-time police officers to our schools in the last year where they handled seventy-nine police related incidents in addition to opening lines of communication between the police and children within the community.

The department has worked closely with the Essex County District Attorneys Office as well as the Salem District Court to implement an under age drinking policy that is balanced with deterrence, education, treatment, and enforcement strategies. The addition of two detectives within the criminal investigation section has enhanced the department's ability to respond to and investigate drug use and

distribution within the community. This proactive approach to the current problem is illustrated in the annual report resulting in increased enforcement of drunk driving and alcohol and drug violations.

Fortunately for Danvers, we have a very vibrant community that draws a large commercial and retail population to assist with stabilizing our tax base, and to keep our high level of municipal services affordable for our residents. One of the challenges we face as a police agency is to better equip our officers to respond to and take appropriate action regarding escalating mental health and substance abuse related disorder. We need to embrace social institutions and medical providers to identify more effective ways to deal with these recurring problems.

Looking forward to 2007, I hope to initiate new programs targeted at reducing crime through a collaboration of problem solving with key stakeholder within the business community to identify target hardening and crime prevention strategies.

In closing, I would be remiss if I did not mention the devastating events of November 22, 2006, the outpouring of public safety agencies who responded to our assistance, and the professional way in which our officers, firefighters, government employees, and citizens attempted to mitigate the devastating impact to our residents of the Bates Street and Riverside Street neighborhood in the following weeks and months. It was a trying time, but we are proud of our response and very grateful to all who assisted.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Neil F. Ouellette".

Neil F. Ouellette  
Chief of Police



## 2006 CRIME AND INCIDENT STATISTICS

The following table summarizes crime and other incidents in 2005 compared to previous years. The notes provide a few words of explanation or point to other sections of this report that elaborate. The ↑ and ↓ symbols indicate incidents that are unusually high or low (based on the usual range).

Incident Type	1998-2005 Wtd. Avg.	Usual Range	2005	2006	Change from Avg.	Notes
<b>VIOLENT/PERSONAL CRIME</b>						
Murder	0	0–1	1	1	N.C.	One carjacking-homicide. See Page 36.
↑ Rape	4	2–6	6	8	+100%	All acquaintance or domestic. Most occurred in previous years. Page 36.
↓ Indecent Assault	8	7–10	7	6	-25%	All acquaintance or domestic incidents. See Page 36.
Aggravated Assault	33	25–41	30	37	+12%	Domestic assaults were up in 2006. See Page 39.
Simple Assault	147	122–172	119	166	+13%	High after a low 2005. Domestic assaults were up. See Page 39.
Robbery	11	7–16	11	7	-36%	Very low until November, when there was a sudden spike. See Page 37.
Kidnapping	1	0–3	0	0	-100%	Last incident was in the summer of 2004.
Threats/Intimidation	94	70–119	66	100	+6%	Many domestic and acquaintance situations.
Bomb Threats	5	3–7	8	7	+40%	Pattern of bogus threats continued at Danvers schools.
↓ Violation of a Restraining Order	44	35–53	31	28	-36%	Very low in both 2005 and 2006.
<b>PROPERTY CRIME</b>						
Residential Burglary	42	32–52	39	40	-5%	High during first half of the year; low during second. See Page 40.
Commercial Burglary	36	27–45	29	34	-6%	Nominal. One jewelry store pattern.
Theft from a Car	238	181–295	159	250	+5%	Very low 2005 followed by high 2006, with several patterns. Page 42.
↑ Theft from a Building	107	99–116	103	119	+11%	Patterns of health club locker and construction site thefts.
Theft from a Person	30	23–38	19	25	-17%	One pattern at the AMC Theaters during the spring.
↓ Theft from a Residence	58	50–66	64	49	-16%	Low with no patterns.
Theft of a Bicycle	24	18–30	19	22	-8%	Several incidents at the Peabody Institute Library over the summer.
↓ Theft of Services	24	19–29	28	13	-46%	Gasoline thefts are down as more stations require pre-pay.
Shoplifting	248	201–295	251	285	+15%	High in 2006 after low 2005. Several stores were very active. Page 44.
Auto Theft	63	48–78	51	52	-17%	Remained even for second year in a row. Two patterns. See Page 44.
Arson	3	1–6	1	3	0%	Three unrelated, minor incidents: hotel room, picnic table, car.
Fraud & Forgery	112	89–134	100	134	+20%	Low 2005 turned out to be a fluke. Many patterns. See Page 46.
Employee Theft	24	15–32	25	16	-33%	Primarily a retail crime involving teenagers.
Trespassing	44	35–53	57	46	+5%	State Hospital pattern finally ended along with the State Hospital itself.
Vandalism	306	253–360	260	310	+1%	Back up after low 2005. Big pattern at high school.

Incident Type	1998-2005 Wtd. Avg.	Usual Range	2005	2006	Change from Avg.	Notes
<b>SOCIETAL/VICE CRIME</b>						
↑Drug Offenses	83	66–104	109	<b>112</b>	<b>+35%</b>	Reflects extra staffing in detectives plus good officer activity.
Liquor Law Violations	51	35–67	70	<b>52</b>	<b>+2%</b>	Down a bit after 2005 high. Fewer house parties.
↑Drunk Driving	81	51–111	120	<b>132</b>	<b>+63%</b>	Highest level in a decade. See Page 20.
↑Prostitution	1	0–2	1	<b>7</b>	<b>+600%</b>	Growing problems at local budget motels.
Indecent Exposure	9	6–12	7	<b>8</b>	<b>-11%</b>	Several incidents of men in their cars, several arrests.
Weapon Violations	23	9–37	18	<b>19</b>	<b>-17%</b>	Studded armband seizures are down, but there's a new knife bylaw.
↓Dumping/Littering	27	23–31	24	<b>19</b>	<b>-30%</b>	Lowest in seven years. No patterns observed.
Child Neglect	18	11–24	16	<b>12</b>	<b>-33%</b>	A few cases of children left alone at homes or in cars.
<b>DISORDER/QUALITY-OF-LIFE</b>						
Disorderly Conduct	152	122–182	136	<b>123</b>	<b>-19%</b>	Very low, even at the usual hot spots.
↓Disputes	583	560–606	597	<b>555</b>	<b>-5%</b>	Nominal volume. No trends observed.
↓Noise Complaints	443	370–516	333	<b>361</b>	<b>-19%</b>	Very low for the second year. Very few hot spots.
Fireworks	44	37–51	49	<b>38</b>	<b>-14%</b>	Down slightly. Mostly a summer problem.
↓Drunkenness	179	166–191	167	<b>152</b>	<b>-15%</b>	Low. Some usual hot spot bars cleaned up.
↓Vagrancy	21	13–28	15	<b>11</b>	<b>-48%</b>	Never very high in Danvers; has been low last two years.
↓Youth Disorder	219	149–289	152	<b>140</b>	<b>-36%</b>	Large cohort of past problem teens "aged out."
↓Skateboard, Scooter, & Bike Complaints	141	119–164	131	<b>62</b>	<b>-56%</b>	Very low despite good weather throughout the fall.
↑Suspicious Activity	847	796–898	903	<b>1030</b>	<b>+22%</b>	Uncertain cause of increase. No real patterns observed.
↑Psychiatric Disorder	95	75–114	104	<b>157</b>	<b>+65%</b>	Highest in a decade, with multiple residents with delusions. Page 18.
Harassing & Annoying	47	38–55	43	<b>52</b>	<b>+11%</b>	Nominal volume. Mostly acquaintance-related.
Annoying/Obscene Phone Calls	101	83–119	77	<b>97</b>	<b>-28%</b>	Has been decreasing for years with advent of Caller ID.
<b>TRAFFIC ISSUES</b>						
↓Motor Vehicle Accidents	1375	1315–1435	1357	<b>1284</b>	<b>-7%</b>	Considerably low. Good weather in fall plus extra traffic enforcement.
Traffic & Parking Complaints	561	522–599	562	<b>562</b>	<b>+0%</b>	About average for the year.
↓Criminal Motor Vehicle Offenses	692	460–925	500	<b>421</b>	<b>-39%</b>	Recent retirements & promotions of notably aggressive officers.
↓Disabled Motor Vehicles	678	620–737	657	<b>602</b>	<b>-11%</b>	Good weather in fall to credit for decrease.
↓Abandoned Motor Vehicles	60	48–71	58	<b>46</b>	<b>-23%</b>	An occasional problem in some large parking lots.
Recovered Stolen Vehicles	29	18–39	18	<b>31</b>	<b>+7%</b>	Pattern in April largely to blame for increase. See Page 44.
Dangerous Road Conditions	238	213–262	271	<b>260</b>	<b>+9%</b>	High in spring/summer with many rainstorms; low in fall with no snow

Incident Type	1998-2005 Wtd. Avg.	Usual Range	2005	2006	Change from Avg.	Notes
<b>GENERAL SERVICE INCIDENTS</b>						
↓911 Errors	285	250–320	256	<b>219</b>	<b>-23%</b>	Public education reduces these incidents slowly.
↓False Alarms	2154	1984–2324	1939	<b>1805</b>	<b>-16%</b>	A significant decrease in a significant annoyance.
Animal-Related Incidents	439	331–548	364	<b>346</b>	<b>-21%</b>	Calls for wild animals have been decreasing for years.
Check Well-Being	765	640–890	968	<b>851</b>	<b>+11%</b>	Up since 2005 with the new "RUOK" program.
Unattended Death	22	17–26	19	<b>26</b>	<b>+18%</b>	High after a low 2005. No particular patterns.
Fire Assists	89	68–110	67	<b>77</b>	<b>-13%</b>	Nominal in 2006. Includes one major explosion.
↑Lost Property	153	128–177	177	<b>192</b>	<b>+25%</b>	We offered more ways for residents to report in 2006, including online.
Medical Aid	1471	1359–1582	1424	<b>1444</b>	<b>-2%</b>	Nominal levels. Increases in proportion to population.
↓Missing Persons	83	39–127	34	<b>34</b>	<b>-59%</b>	Decreased when IFLL on Liberty St closed in 2003.
Suicide or Attempt	17	11–23	10	<b>16</b>	<b>-6%</b>	Normal after a low 2005. 14 were attempts, mostly by drug overdoses.
↑Town/Utility Problem	210	161–260	276	<b>312</b>	<b>+49%</b>	Lots of downed wires and other problems during spring storms
<b>POLICE-DIRECTED ACTIVITY</b>						
↑Traffic Enforcement	318	250–386	366	<b>1854</b>	<b>+483%</b>	New programs in 2006 quintupled the usual volume of assignments.
Warrant Arrests or Service	298	239–357	293	<b>308</b>	<b>+3%</b>	Nominal volume. Generally tied to overall crime rate.
Service of Legal Papers	316	275–358	267	<b>355</b>	<b>+12%</b>	Includes restraining orders, summonses, etc.
Prisoner Transport	251	202–300	309	<b>278</b>	<b>+11%</b>	Tied to arrest volume.
<b>OVERALL TOTALS</b>						
Total Calls for Service <sup>1</sup>	16340	15633–17047	15670	<b>16047</b>	<b>-2%</b>	Like 2005, slightly lower than average
Total Reported Crimes	2162	1993–2330	1993	<b>2257</b>	<b>+4%</b>	Back to normal after a very low 2005.
Total Arrests	993	799–1188	1189	<b>1134</b>	<b>+14%</b>	Driven by drunk driving, shoplifting, and drug arrest increases.

<sup>1</sup> The Danvers Police Department changed the way in which it recorded directed patrols in 2005, and the way it assigns selective enforcement in 2006. Consequently, this total does not include directed patrols and selective enforcement. Past Annual Reports did, so these totals are not directly comparable to past reports.



## DANVERS CRIME AND SAFETY PROFILE

Danvers, located on the north shore of Boston, about equidistant from Boston and the New Hampshire border, has just over 25,000 residents. But unlike most Massachusetts towns of its size, Danvers is in no way a “bedroom community”—with Routes 1 and 114, and the Liberty Tree Mall, Danvers has the commercial traffic of a town several times its size.

We find within Danvers’s borders a number of features non-existent in most other small towns:

- A major shopping mall
- Several industrial parks
- Two major U.S. highways (U.S. Route 1 and U.S. Route 95) and four heavily trafficked state routes (128, 114, 35, and 62).
- A harbor and several marinas
- 10 hotels and motels
- Part of an airport
- Three high schools—two public and one private
- Seven assisted living facilities
- Fifteen department stores
- More than 70 restaurants, pubs, and fast food establishments

Understanding the public safety dynamic means understanding the characteristics and contrasts of the residential and commercial communities.

The residential community of Danvers is mostly middle class and upper-middle class. It is racially homogeneous (97.7% white and 99.2% non-Hispanic) and has 77.1% owner-occupied housing (statewide is 66.2%). Most of the indicators known to influence higher crime rates—absentee landlords, dilapidated buildings, transitional areas, poverty, and social disorganization—are absent from Danvers. Neighbors generally know each other and can identify suspicious activity. There are variations within the town, of course (the lower half of Danvers (below Route 62) has more rental housing than the upper half, and here residential space mixes with commercial space) but these statements generally hold true throughout our 14.09 square miles.

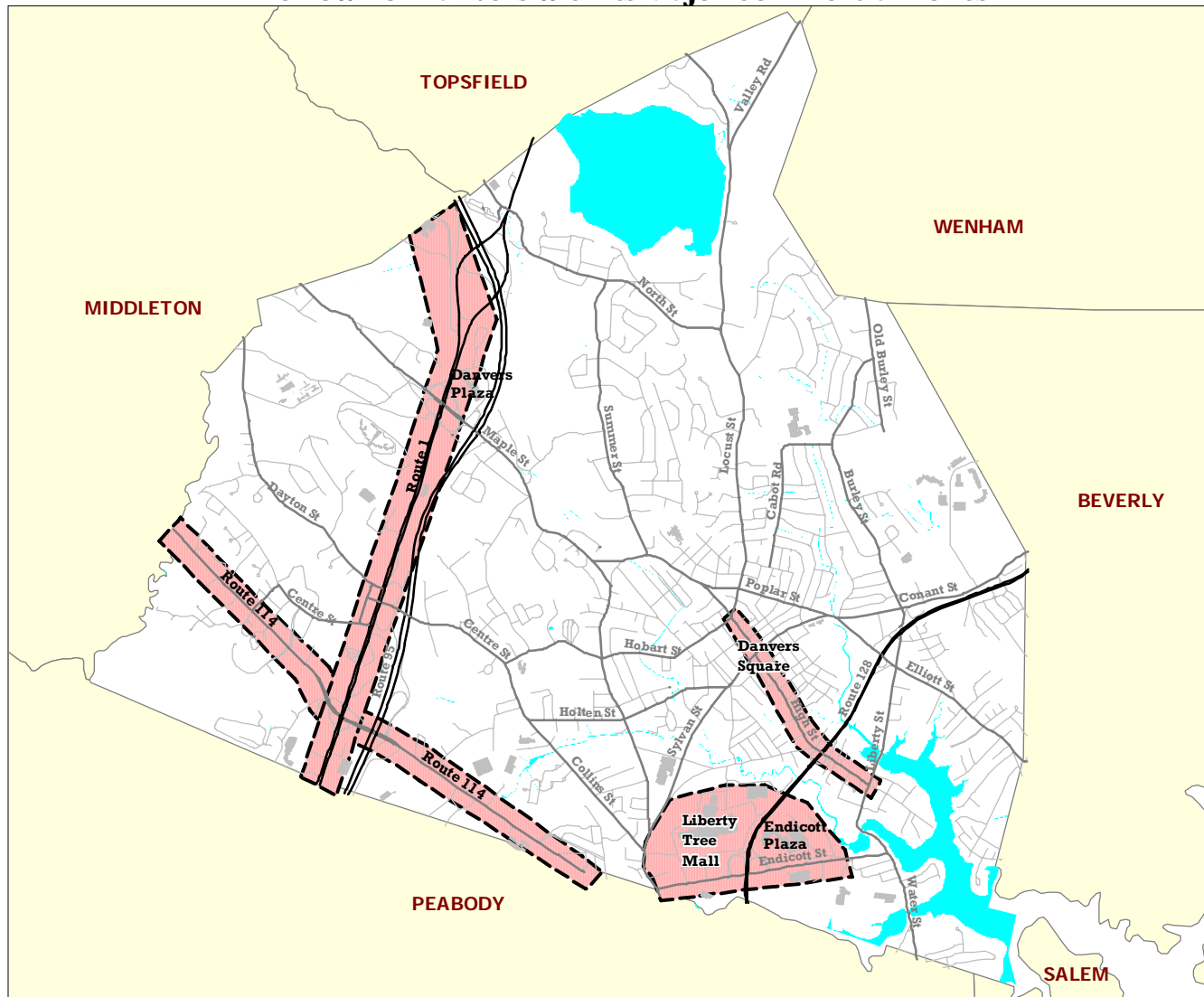


The problems experienced by this residential community are typical of many communities like it. There is sporadic domestic violence among specific families. Drug abuse and its related crime have taken hold among many teenagers, even from “good” families. Houses, though owner-occupied and usually single-family, are close together, leading to expected neighbor disputes and noise complaints. But none of these types of problems are unusually high in Danvers. Conversely, Danvers has very little “street” crime. “Muggings” are a rarity, occurring only once every one or two years. Sexual assaults committed by strangers are fewer than five per decade. Housebreaks are average for a community of our size.

In sharp contrast are the commercial and transitional populations. With the exception of Danvers Square, which is well-integrated into the local community, the residential and commercial areas attract more out-of-town patrons than local ones—visitors who think of “Danvers” as the Liberty Tree Mall, Route 114, and Route 1. The number of people (both potential offenders and targets) drawn to these areas creates a unique dynamic for the police. Our four major commercial zones—Route 1, Route 114, the Mall, and Danvers Square—account for 37% of all calls for police service and 52% of all crimes.

Some problems all commercial zones share, such as shoplifting, thefts from cars in retail parking lots, motor vehicle accidents, disputes between retailers and patrons, false burglar alarms, and the occasional robbery or purse snatching in the areas around the stores. Other problems are unique to specific zones.

**The Town of Danvers with its Major Commercial Zones**



*37% of all calls for police service come from the highlighted areas, which represent only 12% of our total area.*

**Liberty Tree Mall/Endicott:** A large number of youths frequent the Liberty Tree Mall and certain establishments around Endicott Plaza. These youths come in groups from other towns, and sometimes get into disputes or fights with other groups of youths. They have been known to harass or bother legitimate shoppers.

**Route 114:** As one of the most congested traffic routes on the north shore, there are lots of traffic problems on this busy stretch of road, including accidents, disabled cars, and traffic disputes. The large number of auto dealerships makes attractive targets for auto parts thieves.

**Route 1:** Route 1, or Newbury Street, has several restaurants and bars that stay open late, producing a number of drunk-and-disorderly arrests as well as drunken driving arrests each year. Thieves often target cars in restaurant parking lots. There are also several hotels along Route 1 where transients, partiers, drug-users, and occasional prostitutes mingle with legitimate guests.

**Danvers Square/High Street:** Populated mostly by local residents and workers, Danvers Square is the safest commercial area in the town, but there are still occasional problems. Complaints of disorderly local youths (including harassing patrons and skateboarding) have been a problem in the past. High Street is a fairly congested route that produces a number of traffic problems.

We must emphasize that the problems experienced within these zones are not *unusually* high for major commercial areas. A certain number of crime and disorder is to be expected where lots of people gather to shop, eat, and entertain themselves. Any community with a large commercial population—Burlington, Peabody, Saugus, and so on—experiences the same types of incidents. Moreover, the problems experienced in our commercial zones do not typically spill over into the residential zones. To take a few examples:

- There were 87 thefts from cars at the Liberty Tree Mall between 2005 and 2006, but Ash Street and Abington Road—the two residential streets that abut the Liberty Tree Mall—had no thefts from cars.
- MacArthur Boulevard intersects Route 114 at one of its busiest points. But there was only one crime—a single incident of domestic assault—on MacArthur Boulevard in 2006.
- There were 110 crimes along the commercial section of Endicott Street in 2006 (between Sylvan Street and Needham Road). There was only one crime along the residential section of Endicott Street (between Needham Road and Water Street).



*The Liberty Tree Mall and its surrounding stores is one of many features that distinguish Danvers from the typical "small town."*

The overall point is that the residential and commercial areas of Danvers do not "share" crimes, so there is a distinct contrast between the two communities that Danvers police must serve and protect. Any analysis of crime and safety in Danvers must keep this distinction in mind.

We have seen significant development in Danvers over the last several years, with expansion at the Liberty Tree Mall, hundreds of new housing units off Routes 114 and Route 1, and the development of the old Danvers State Hospital site.

In 2004 and 2005, we saw the effects of new businesses (e.g., Home Depot and Pier One at the Liberty Tree Mall) and residential developments (e.g., Avalon Bay Village off Route 114), as well as the closings of some old businesses, such as the King's Grant Inn off Route 128 and Friendly's on High Street. In the coming year, we anticipate multiple new residents in developments off Route 1 and other locations. In short, Danvers is not simply a small suburban New England community: it is the economic, entertainment, and transportation crossroads of the North Shore. As Danvers continues to develop and change, its public safety dynamic will change with it.

# HIGHLIGHTS AND NOTABLE INCIDENTS OF 2006

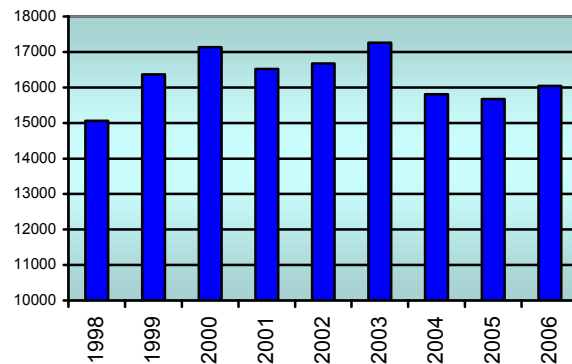
## Highlights

"Index crimes" (a collection of eight of the most serious crimes) reached a 25-year low in 2005. Total crime was at its lowest since 2000, and calls for service were the lowest since 1998. Arrests, on the other hand, were at the second-highest level we'd ever recorded. It was a good year for the police department.

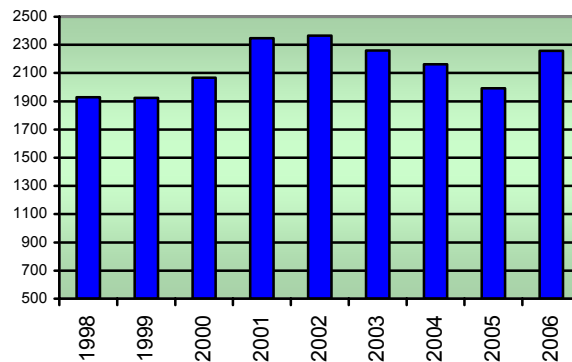
We had hoped, of course, to drive down crime even more in 2006, but we were unsuccessful. Total crime increased 4% from the 10-year weighted average and 13% from 2005. Total calls for service bumped up a bit from 2005 but remained below the average. And total arrests, while down from 2005, remained well above the average. In other words, 2006 was a mixture of good and bad.

The key to keeping crime at its lowest level is for the police and the public to respond quickly and effectively to emerging patterns and trends. This means stopping serial offenders as soon as their patterns are detected, but also removing the opportunities that almost all criminals rely on: laptops left unattended in cars; health club lockers unlocked; wallets loaded with credit cards; convenience stores with inadequate surveillance. This report contains many tips for accomplishing these goals in 2007 and beyond.

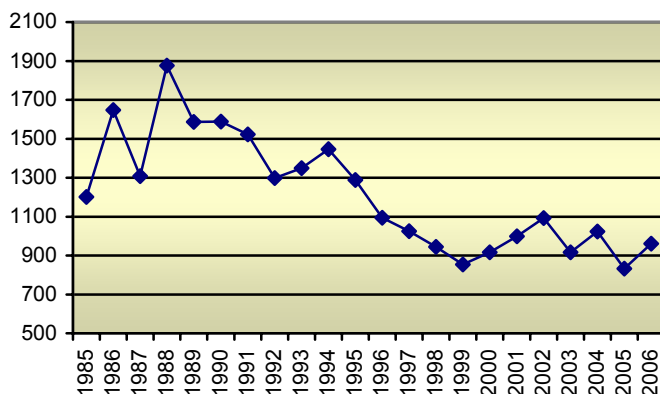
Total Calls for Service in Danvers



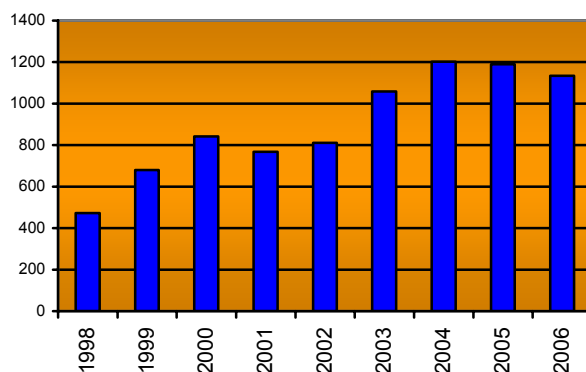
Total Crimes in Danvers



Total Index Crimes in Danvers



Total Arrests in Danvers



*Index crimes are murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny, auto theft, and arson*



## Notable Incidents and Events by Month

This section highlights the notable incidents, events, patterns, and trends that occurred in Danvers in 2006. A review of this section should give the reader a good sense of the types of crimes and disorder that Danvers experiences in a typical year.

### January

*January 1, 2006*

**Increased Drunk Driving.** The New Year started off with a bang—actually, three of them, as three drivers ran into telephone poles during a one-hour period between 1:00 A.M. and 2:00 A.M. This kicked off a January that produced a record 20 arrests, and a year that produced a record 132.



*January 26, 2006*

**Trespassing at the State Hospital.** On the night of January 26, five youths from Malden and Revere were arrested for trespassing at the State Hospital. This incident was one of six in the month of January, in which nine were arrested. It was rumored that thrill-seekers were trying to get in their visits before the site was demolished.



### February

*February 13, 2006*

**GPS Thefts.** In a two-week period between February 13 and 28, Danvers had four thefts of GPS devices from cars in restaurant parking lots off Route 1 and Route 114. This series served as an ominous warning for what would become a major problem in 2006.



*February 22, 2006*

**A Growing Problem with Mental Illness.** By mid-February, calls for service involving mentally-ill people were up 65% from the average and 43% from 2005. Locations for such calls spanned private residences, group homes, medical facilities, and public places, and the nature of the illnesses ran from hallucinations and delusions to suicidal depression to stark psychosis. This elevated call

volume continued unabated throughout the year and has risen even more so far in 2007 (see Page 18).

### March

*March 6, 2006*

**Car Crimes at Liberty Tree Mall.** A pattern of vandalisms to and thefts from cars at the Liberty Tree Mall began in February and intensified in March, with four auto thefts, five vandalisms to vehicles, and five thefts from vehicles. Such incidents have been historically frequent at the Mall, although 2006 showed lower totals than previous years. Most of the incidents in this pattern were at the back entrance near AMC Theaters.



*March 31, 2006*

**Stereo Salesmen at Home Depot.** Over and over, Danvers Police have warned solicitors selling stereos from their cars to register or face sanctions. (Some such companies are legitimate, but many sell stolen stereos.) One Portsmouth, New Hampshire company, in particular, has received multiple warnings. When a Danvers Police officer found two men from the company—one of them who had already been warned twice—selling stereos out of their van in the Home Depot lot, the one who had previous warnings was arrested. His companion, unable to learn, was back in town soliciting four days later, and was also arrested.

### April

*April 2, 2006*

**State Hospital Memorabilia on eBay.** In a final absurdity to the Danvers State Hospital Trespassing problem a 27-year-old man from Manchester, New Hampshire arrested at the site was found to be selling “memorabilia”—bricks, glass, marble, nails, a chandelier—on eBay.



**Danvers State Hospital Mental Institution Chandelier!!!**

Small: 17 inch diameter, 1 foot height, weight: 3 lbs.

Seller of this item? [Sign in](#) for your status:[View larger picture](#)

Starting bid: US \$29.99

End time: Apr-11 06 20:49:31 PT

Shipping costs: US \$6.99  
Standard Flat Rate Sh

Ships to: Worldwide

Item location: MA, United States

History: [Q bids](#)You can also: [Watch this item](#)[Email to a friend](#)*April 19, 2006*

**Auto Theft Spree.** In one day alone, four vehicles, mostly Hondas, were stolen in Danvers and at least three were stolen in Peabody. Within days, all of the cars were recovered in parking lots near Route 114 in Danvers and Peabody, usually at the locations of other thefts. The cars were not used to commit any crimes and nothing was stolen from them, leaving the purpose of the multiple thefts a mystery; in the words of one crime analyst, "it appears the thief was just screwing around."

*April 25, 2006*

**Noise Complaints at Home Depot.** Residents of the trailer park at 96 Newbury Street—and one resident in particular—filed consistent complaints throughout the month of April about noise at nearby Home Depot in the middle of the night. Such noise included forklifts operating, deliveries being made, and loud trucks idling. Home Depot management agreed to cooperate, but the complaints continued until they abruptly stopped in early May when the most vocal complainant moved. Noise complaints were low throughout Danvers for the rest of the year.

*April 30, 2006*

**Thefts from Cars.** On the night of April 30, in northern Danvers, someone broke into six cars and stole a seventh. All seven of the vehicles had been left unlocked in their owner's driveways and were of varying makes and models. Anything of value that was left unattended in the vehicle, including iPods, cell phones, laptop computers, and a purse, was taken. This one-night spree was part of a larger cross-jurisdictional pattern that has been affecting cities from Manchester-by-the-Sea to Lexington and

was the subject of a major State Police analysis over the summer. The pattern continues in 2007.

**May***May 1, 2006*

**Return of Solicitors.** Like weeds, they seem to spring out of the cracks in the sidewalk every spring: magazine solicitors. Coming from all over the country, staying in local motels, and traveling through communities in vans, these salespeople go door-to-door and try to pressure residents to subscribe to magazines. In many jurisdictions, they have also committed crimes, ranging from assault to home invasion to theft. The Danvers Police Department lost patience with them years ago and strictly enforces solicitor registration requirements. On "opening day" in 2006, we arrested a 19-year-old St. Louis man on warrants (for illegal soliciting) out of Marblehead.

*May 19, 2006*

**Vandalism and Destruction at the Schools.** Spring fever brought a series of nighttime vandalisms (including obscene graffiti and toilet paper) at Danvers High School that continued into July and ultimately chalked up 10 incidents. Danvers High was not the only victim: shortly after the conclusion of finals for seniors at St. John's Prep, someone crashed a stolen SUV through the exterior wall and into a classroom. The crime was not solved.

**June***June 3, 2006*

**Counterfeit Traveler's Checks.** Danvers became part of a nationwide pattern over the summer, as we begin to receive reports of counterfeit traveler's checks (mostly American Express, mostly \$500 denominations) passed at local retailers. During the summer, we arrested six people that seemed to have no connection with each other. Some users seem to have been victims themselves of a scam. As the year came to a close, residents and businesses reported receiving the counterfeit checks randomly in the mail.



June 17, 2006

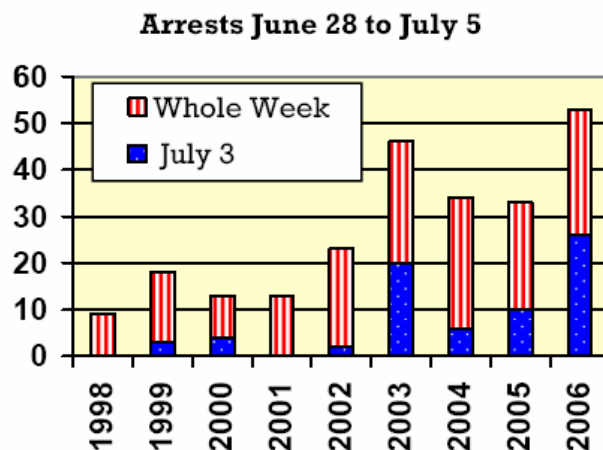
**Purse Thefts at Restaurants.** A theft series began at local restaurants, mostly around the Liberty Tree Mall and Endicott Street. In a one-week period, a woman entered five restaurants and stole employees' purses from hostess stands and other employees-only areas. A witness identification led to the arrest of the culprit, a 24-year-old Peabody woman, in July.



## July

July 3, 2006

**Fireworks Festival Brings Record Arrests.** The annual fireworks festival provided the highest number of arrests in years, topping the previous record of 20 by six. A majority of the 26 arrests were for liquor-related violations, drug offenses, and disorderly conduct. All but one of the arrestees were between the ages of 15 and 21, only four were residents of Danvers, and only two were repeat offenders in Danvers. Overall, there were more than 50 arrests for the week—another record.



July 4, 2006

**Vandalism with Arrows.** In a rare if brief pattern, there were two reported incidents in the past month of vandalisms with arrows. In the first incident, on June 6, someone fired an arrow into the press board at the North Shore Pentecostal



Church. Then, on July 4, someone fired an arrow through an above ground pool, damaging the frame and liner.

## August

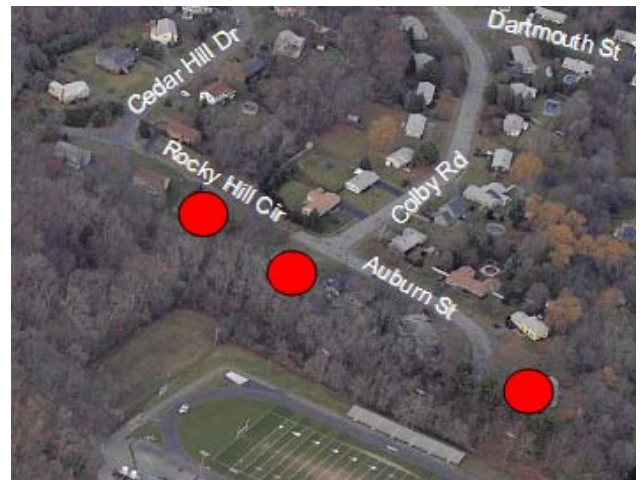
August 5, 2006

**Realistic Looking BB Guns.** In three unrelated incidents this week, officers encountered realistic looking BB guns. One incident involved a 22-year-old that used the gun to threaten his sister. In another incident, a 19-year-old male with affiliations with a gang out of Lynn had one on his person when he was placed in protective custody. Another incident occurred when an intoxicated movie theater patron was seen to have a gun on the seat next to him. These realistic looking guns have lead to numerous police shootings across the country over the past few years.



August 9, 2006

**Housebreak Series.** Housebreak series in 2006 were rare, but the major exception occurred starting August 9 with a burglary on Auburn Street. Two more followed on the same street within a week, and the pattern then expanded to other areas of the Woodvale neighborhood, ultimately resulting in six. The burglaries occurred through unlocked windows, and the burglars stole easily-carried items of value, including jewelry, cash, iPods, and cigars. The last incident occurred on August 21. Danvers Police arrested a Beverly couple in September for a burglary within this area; although we could only charge them for one, we suspect they were responsible for the series.





## September

*September 5, 2006*

### **Car Break-In Series Begins.**

One of the more prolific car break-in series to hit Danvers in 2006 began this day with an afternoon incident in the Sylvan Street Grill lot. Before the end of the month, there would be 11 more incidents, mostly in restaurant parking lots. The thieves, who drove a red Ford Explorer, would pull up next to the targeted car, quickly smash the window, steal purses, bags, jackets, and iPods, and speed away. Danvers Police arrested a 34-year-old Salem woman and a 35-year-old Lawrence man for the thefts and were able to charge them with 10 of them.



*September 6, 2006*

**Paving Scam.** Throughout the summer, residents, mostly elderly, were targeted by a paving company run by a Sam Stanley of Salem, NH. Stanley and his colleagues would contact residents stating that they had just finished a job and had some hot-top left over that they would be willing to use on their driveways for a reduced rate. The pavers would do a poor job and take the residents' money. When residents complained to the police, the pavers would pay restitution, avoiding all criminal sanctions. This scam has been reported in neighboring communities and New Hampshire.



## October

*October 5, 2006*

**Fake Laptop Scams.** After noticing that two males were acting suspiciously at the Liberty Tree Mall, officers followed the men, only to observe them approach customers inside the mall, offering to sell them laptops for \$500. The duo was initially arrested for soliciting, but the charges were increased to fraud when the "laptop" box was opened. It was found to be a Fed-Ex box that was flipped inside out and plastered with information about laptops and a CD for AOL, leading the average



person to believe that it was a laptop, when in fact the box was filled with crumpled up newspaper. Such scams have been plaguing eastern Massachusetts for a few years. The con-men are in their 40s and 50s and originally from New York.



Danvers Police

## November

*November 6, 2006*

### **Vandalism at State Hospital Construction Site.**

Construction vehicles at the Avalon Properties site suffered four incidents of vandalism this fall. These included a window smashed at the guard shack in September, someone walking on the hood of a vehicle and cutting its wires in September, and windows smashed on trailers and trucks in late October and early November. In the final incident, between November 3 and November 6, the suspects shot out windows with BB guns.



*November 9, 2006*

**Thefts at Planet Fitness.** Health club thefts were generally low in 2006, with the exception of a series of six thefts from lockers and four thefts from cars at Planet Fitness (on Route 1) between November 9 and the end of the year. The thief targeted unlocked lockers and smashed windows to get into cars. He was ultimately identified as a 22-year-old Bradford man after an arrest in Georgetown produced Danvers victims' stolen property. Danvers Police brought charges in early 2007.

*November 22, 2006*

**No Warning.** The 1-9 Shift on the day before Thanksgiving began uneventfully. Officers investigated the sounds of a motor vehicle crash on Summer Street. A warrant was issued for a restraining order violation on Route 114. Then...

## November 22, 2006

*"I was inside the station when I heard a huge explosion outside to the rear of the building. My first thought was that someone had thrown a pipe bomb or a cruiser oxygen tank had exploded. I ran out back and I saw a huge fireball rising into the sky forming a mushroom type cloud. The flames went out and I then observed small burning debris falling from the cloud." —Sergeant Richard Stoney, shift commander on the night of the explosion*

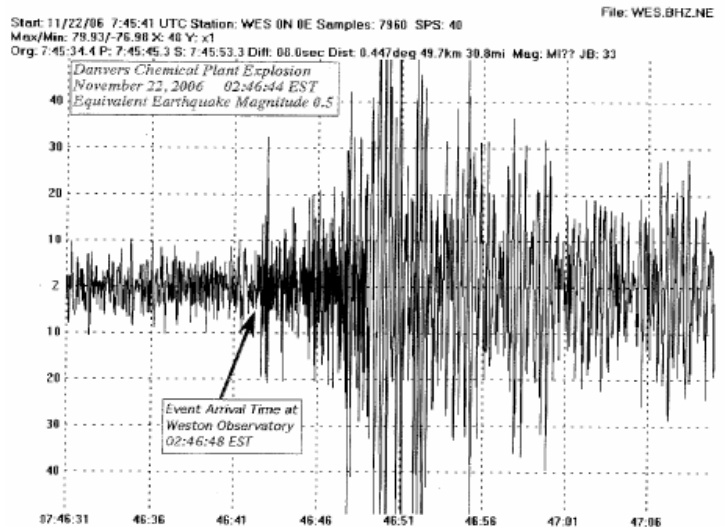
At 2:50 A.M. on November 22, an industrial building at 126 Water Street, occupied by CAI and Arnel, manufacturers of commercial paints, inks, and coatings, abruptly exploded, sending a fireball into the air and burning debris flying for blocks. The roof was torn off the Danversport Bakery. Houses on nearby Bates Street had the backs ripped away. Terrified occupants were injured by debris and came stumbling out of their homes. Windows were shattered throughout the area and in nearby towns. The ground shook as far away as Seabrook, New Hampshire, and 30 miles away, the shock registered 0.5 on the Richter Scale.

Officers and firefighters had no way of knowing what had occurred; whether it was a terrorist act or an industrial accident. They had no way of knowing whether dangerous chemicals or radioactive material were in the air. But they didn't hesitate a second. Emergency vehicles raced to the scene, blocked traffic, evacuated residents, and started house-to-house searches for anyone in need of emergency medical care.

Back at the station, the two dispatchers were swiftly overwhelmed. Hundreds of calls came in from frightened residents and witnesses. Dozens of radio messages a minute were transmitted by firefighters and police officers. Yet they handled the workload professionally and efficiently.

Our worst fears were not realized. No one died in the explosion. Ten residents were taken to area hospitals with mild or moderate injuries, the most serious requiring 70 stitches.

Peabody Police officers arrived and helped evacuate the nearby New England Home for the Deaf, which had suffered damage from the explosion. 81 residents were taken to an emergency shelter at the Danvers High School; three were taken to area hospitals because of their frailty. Police and fire later set up their command post at the New England Home's property.





***"The miracle is that you have the equivalent of a 2,000-pound bomb going off in a residential neighborhood at night when everybody is home and no one is dead and no one is seriously hurt." —Governor Mitt Romney, after touring the damage***

Over the next few weeks (including Thanksgiving Day), the Massachusetts State Police, the Essex County Sheriff's Office, the Northeastern Massachusetts Law Enforcement Council (NEMLEC), the Massachusetts Environmental Police, and officers from Beverly, Middleton, Peabody, Topsfield, Wenham, and North Shore Community College assisted with perimeter security, traffic control, and searches. The Danvers Fire Department and the State Fire Marshall's Office began their investigation into the cause of the explosion. (It remains under investigation as of March 2007.)

When everyone had time to think, it was hard not to consider the horrific "what if" scenarios. What if the explosion had occurred during the day, with all the workers on site? What if the shock wave had penetrated a few more meters into the damaged houses? To many, the absence of loss of life (or even significant injury) seemed like a miracle.

In January 2007, the last of the evacuated residents who still had homes to return to returned home. In February, the re-construction began on the Bates Street homes, though it will be many months before all the displaced residents are able to return.

The Danvers Police Department learned many lessons from the explosion and its aftermath—lessons about effective multi-agency coordination, command post setup, communications, and media relations. These will serve us well in the event of future emergencies.

On March 6, at a formal ceremony at the Senior Center, the Town of Danvers recognized the police officers, firefighters, and dispatchers who responded so effectively the night of the explosion. The police personnel were Dispatcher Denise Bean, Officer Edward Campbell, Sergeant William Carleton, Dispatcher Joseph DeBernardo, Officer James George, Officer Dana Hagan, Officer Peter Shabowich, Sergeant Richard Stoney, Detective Robert Sullivan, and Officer Timothy Timmons. The Danvers Police Department is proud of their performance and dedication during one of the most trying public safety events in Danvers history.



*Fire Chief James Tutko and Police Chief Neil Ouellette on the night of the explosion.*



*126 Water Street before and after the November 22 explosion.*



## December

*December 4, 2006*

**GPS Theft Series Begins.** Thefts of GPS devices from cars began creeping upward in 2004, keeping pace with the proliferation of the devices. We had low volumes through most of 2006, but a series started on November 30 and intensified in early November. The series ultimately chalked up 29 incidents before the end of January 2007.

Focused on the lower section of Route 1 (particularly the Hardcover, Costco, and Chili's lots) the series involved someone smashing windows, stealing GPS receivers from the dashboard, and roaring off down the highway. Laptop computers, iPods, and satellite radios were also targeted.



Danvers Police monitored as many affected parking lots as possible and identified and deterred several potential thieves. On January 11, Danvers detectives observed a 48-year-old man and a 42-year-old woman, both from Saugus, smash the window of a car in the Costco lot and emerge with the GPS. Both were arrested. A later search of their Carriage House

(Peabody) Motel room turned up boxes of stolen electronics. The arrests suppressed, but did not end, the pattern: more GPS thefts have been recorded in late January and early February.

*December 10, 2006*

**Jewelry Store Burglaries.** In the only commercial burglary series of the year, the same jewelry store on Route 114 suffered two breaks during the fall: one on October 31 and one on December 10. Both burglaries occurred early in the morning, and both featured a single male suspect who smashed his way through a side window and smashed glass display cases. He left a lot of his own blood behind in both incidents. The brief series was not solved.

*December 25, 2006*

**Crime Takes a Break.** Christmas Day passes quietly. There is one minor acquaintance assault at 1:43 A.M. on Doty Avenue, but no other crimes throughout the day.

*December 31, 2006*

**Unusual Quiet.** When New Year's Eve falls on a weekend day, we usually see more activity than when it falls on a weekday. This year is an exception. It is the quietest New Year's Eve on record: no drunkenness, no disorderly conduct, no underage liquor parties, no drunk driving, and no assaults. Here's hoping 2007 remains as quiet.

Incidents on December 31–January 1

Type	2003-4	2004-5	2005-6	2006-7
Drunk Driving	2	3	5	0
Assaults	2	2	2	0
Drunk/ Disord	2	3	3	0
All Crimes	11	13	15	4

In Danvers in 2006, there was a:\*

Assault	every	28 hours
Robbery	every	52 days
Burglary	every	5 days
Theft	every	11 hours
Auto theft	every	week
Vandalism	every	28 hours
Noise complaint	every	day
False alarm	every	5 hours
Crime	every	4 hours
Arrest	every	8 hours
Call for service	every	33 minutes

\*Numbers are averages and are not intended to imply regularity in occurrences



## TRENDS AND PROBLEMS

Police across America are increasingly being asked to take the lead in problem-solving and crime prevention, which means investing time and resources into identifying and analyzing problems and trends. We present here some of the ongoing problems—in crime, disorder, and quality-of-life issues—reported in Danvers in 2006, and the most promising avenues towards solving them.

In the *2006 Annual Crime Report*, we look at:

- Individuals with mental disorders
- Drunk driving
- Thefts of GPS Devices
- Thefts of Wire, Piping, and Scrap Metal
- Counterfeit Traveler's Checks
- The Existentially Dysfunctional

Solving crime and disorder problems requires thinking “outside the box” and pursuing strategies with more long-term effects than simply making more arrests. For assistance with such strategies, we are indebted to the resources at the Center for Problem-Oriented Policing (<http://www.popcenter.org>), and we hope that the United States government continues to fund this organization's efforts.

### Mental Disorders

Is it an outgrowth of drug and alcohol abuse? A result of more low-income housing in town? An inevitable reaction to the fearful times in which we live? Is it localized in Danvers, or part of a regional or national or world-wide trend? We refer to the 157 calls for “psychiatric disorders” recorded in Danvers in 2006—a record high that follows several years of increases. This figure does not represent all incidents in which a participant suffered from a mental illness; they are incidents in which the only evident problems are hallucinations, delusions, dementia, or psychosis.

Some examples:

- During the last three months of the year, the same 22-year-old female resident called Danvers Police ten times to report various people lurking around her house and spitting at her through her windows. There was never anyone there.
- In January on Hobart Street, officers found a 38-year-old woman standing in the street in the middle of the night, in the cold, holding a Bible and staring at a church. She said she was afraid of the Devil, was hearing voices in her head, and wanted to “go home to god.”
- The same 44-year-old male resident was taken to the hospital seven times in 2006 (and 24 times in the past six years) for suicidal depression.
- In May, a 13-year-old confessed to a teacher that he had frequent suicidal feelings, that he knew various ways to kill people, that he had access to a gun, and that voices in his head told him to kill. Officers helped refer him for psychological help and verified that the gun was fake.
- In September, a Pickering Street man called to report that everyone in the entire neighborhood was in his yard, pointing and laughing at him. Officers found the yard empty and had the man taken to the hospital, where he was diagnosed with possible schizophrenia.
- In December, an officer was on a motor vehicle stop when a 39-year-old woman pulled up next to him, jumped out of her car, and broke down in front of him, unleashing an emotional litany of her financial and marriage problems. Officers arranged for her and her infant son, who was with her, to be taken to the hospital.

These examples indicate a number of different types of disorders to which police respond. The table below tracks these categories over five years. All categories increased in 2006, some of them because of single individuals with repeat calls of the same type.

Type of Disorder	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	Change 2001-6	Change 2005-6
Alzheimer's/Dementia	8	10	3	4	4	9	+13%	+125%
Bi-Polar Disorder	0	2	3	3	1	4	N.C.	+300%
Hallucination/Delusion	6	10	7	9	13	23	+283%	+77%
Suicidal/Depression <sup>2</sup>	22	49	54	34	43	65	+195%	+51%
Psychotic/Violent Rage	6	5	8	5	12	17	+183%	+42%
Unknown/Other Disorder	29	47	37	28	31	39	+34%	+26%
<b>Total</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>+121%</b>	<b>+51%</b>

Other relevant facts include:

- Twenty of the incidents in 2006 occurred among three group homes on Riverside Street, Coolidge Road, and North Street. Such homes—there are several others in Danvers—often appear suddenly, and Danvers Police do not find out about them until the first call for service. Police have often found staff inadequately trained to cope with the foreseeable consequences of gathering multiple mentally ill individuals in the same house.
- Other “hot spots” for such incidents include the Center for Addictive Behavior on Middleton Road (incidents increased with the addition of a juvenile treatment facility last year); and locations housing transient populations, such as budget motels and the trailer parks on Route 1.
- There is a direct link between mental illness and drug and alcohol addiction. Most of the individuals responsible for repeat “psychiatric” calls also have alcohol or drug problems.
- Police responses for mental disorders, even for suicidal thoughts or depression, do not seem to be a good indicator of actual suicides. Over seven years, only eight people (7%) who have attempted suicide had a previous incident involving depression; only one person who has committed suicide (8%) had a previous incident involving depression. Put another way, only 3% of people involved in calls for depression or suicidal thoughts later went on to attempt suicide.
- Individuals involved for psychiatric calls are 55% male. Their average age is 35. Teenagers account for 23%. Those above the age of 65 account for only 9%, and almost all of these are in the “Alzheimer's/Dementia” category.
- The default response to calls for mental disorders is to have the individual transported to a local hospital, where he or she undergoes a psychological evaluation. Sometimes, as a result of the screening, the person is committed for a time, but in most cases, he or she is re-released into the community and referred to other services.

## Solving the Problem

Police are usually the first responders to such incidents, but we are not generally the best responders: the appearance of an armed, uniformed officer has exacerbated rather than calmed many situations. The solutions to mental illness are social and medical, and they lie outside police control. We only see the symptoms. But, as first responders, we can call attention to them, and we can improve our responses to them.

<sup>2</sup> Note that this figure does not include individuals who actually attempt or commit suicide

Some strategies might include.

- Getting patrol officers additional training on psychiatric disorders, their symptoms and causes, and how best to address them. All employees have currently received four hours of training in dealing with people with mental health issues.
- Use the full capabilities of our records management system to log residents with known disorders and the names and contact information for their relatives and case managers. Work more closely with these caretakers to solve underlying problems.
- Work with regional hospitals to develop more effective policies for evaluation and treatments, and to get more regular information about the dispositions of psychological screenings (if there are no legal or ethical barriers to doing so).
- Investigate legal and procedural restrictions on group homes for the mentally ill. Require notice to emergency responders before opening a home, compel a certain level of training among the staff, and establish clear policies on when police should be called and when they should not.
- Lend our agency's support and data to lobbying efforts to increase social services available in our area.
- Investigate funding opportunities to provide mental health professionals as first responders to psychiatric incidents.
- Explore diversion programs such as one instituted in Framingham in which mental health professionals work out of the police station and respond to calls for mental disorders.<sup>3</sup>

Whichever of these solutions that we pursue, we must do it soon. There were 34 incidents already in the first two months of 2007, which is a 125% increase from the average and puts us on a course to beat 2006's record high. For whatever reason, more people than ever are suffering psychological breakdowns, and the Danvers Police are on the front line of the response.

## Drunk Driving

Danvers Police officers have received awards from MADD for three years in a row, recognizing their extraordinary efforts to get drunk drivers off the roads. Between 2000 and 2005, the number of drunk driving arrests increased from 39 per year to 120, and led us to comment in the *2005 Annual Crime Report* that "there is [...] a truly astounding amount of drunk driving going on out there [...] A patrol officer working any time between [9:00 P.M.] and [3:00 A.M.] who is determined to make an arrest for drunk driving (and who is not called to other incidents) is almost never disappointed."

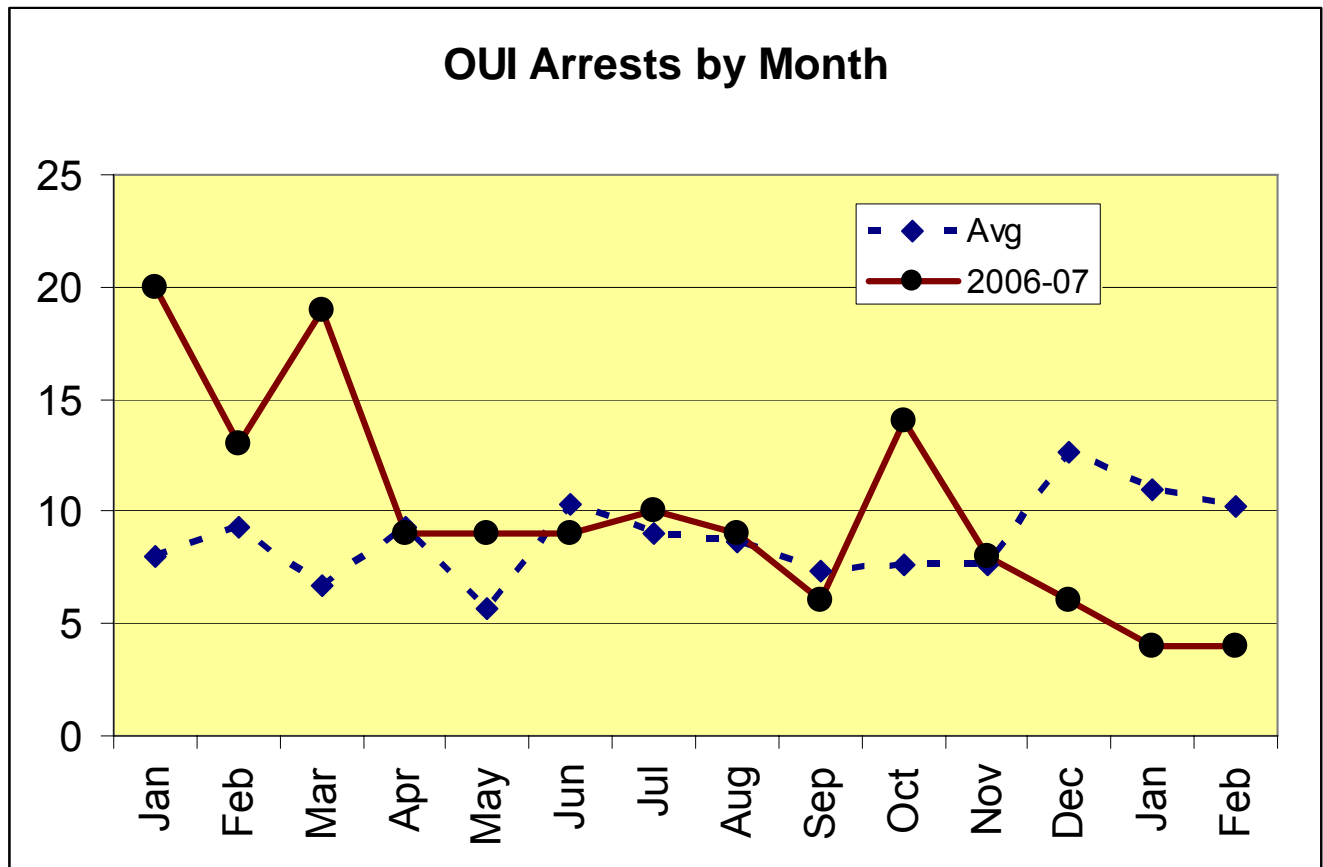
Then, in 2006, we topped that number even further, with 132 incidents. And during the same year, alcohol-related crashes increased, damaging our notion that all of our arrests were reducing the number of vehicular crashes. (Prior to 2006, increased arrests seem to correlate closely with fewer crashes; however, a single year's data does not invalidate this idea—it may just be a one-year statistical fluke.)

Incident	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Drunken driving charges	39	55	46	80	107	120	132
Alcohol-Related Crashes	31	35	28	29	27	21	31

<sup>3</sup> <http://jdp.framinghampd.org/operations.htm>

There is reason, however, to suspect that our efforts have been paying off. As the chart below shows, we started out very high in the first quarter of 2006—so high, that it looked like we might have well over 200 arrests by the end of the year. But by April, 2006 arrests were paralleling the average, and stayed that way (except for a spike in October) through November. But starting in December, and continuing through February 2007, arrests have been far below the average. It's not that we're not trying: officers are searching for drunk drivers as diligently as ever. They're just not finding very many.

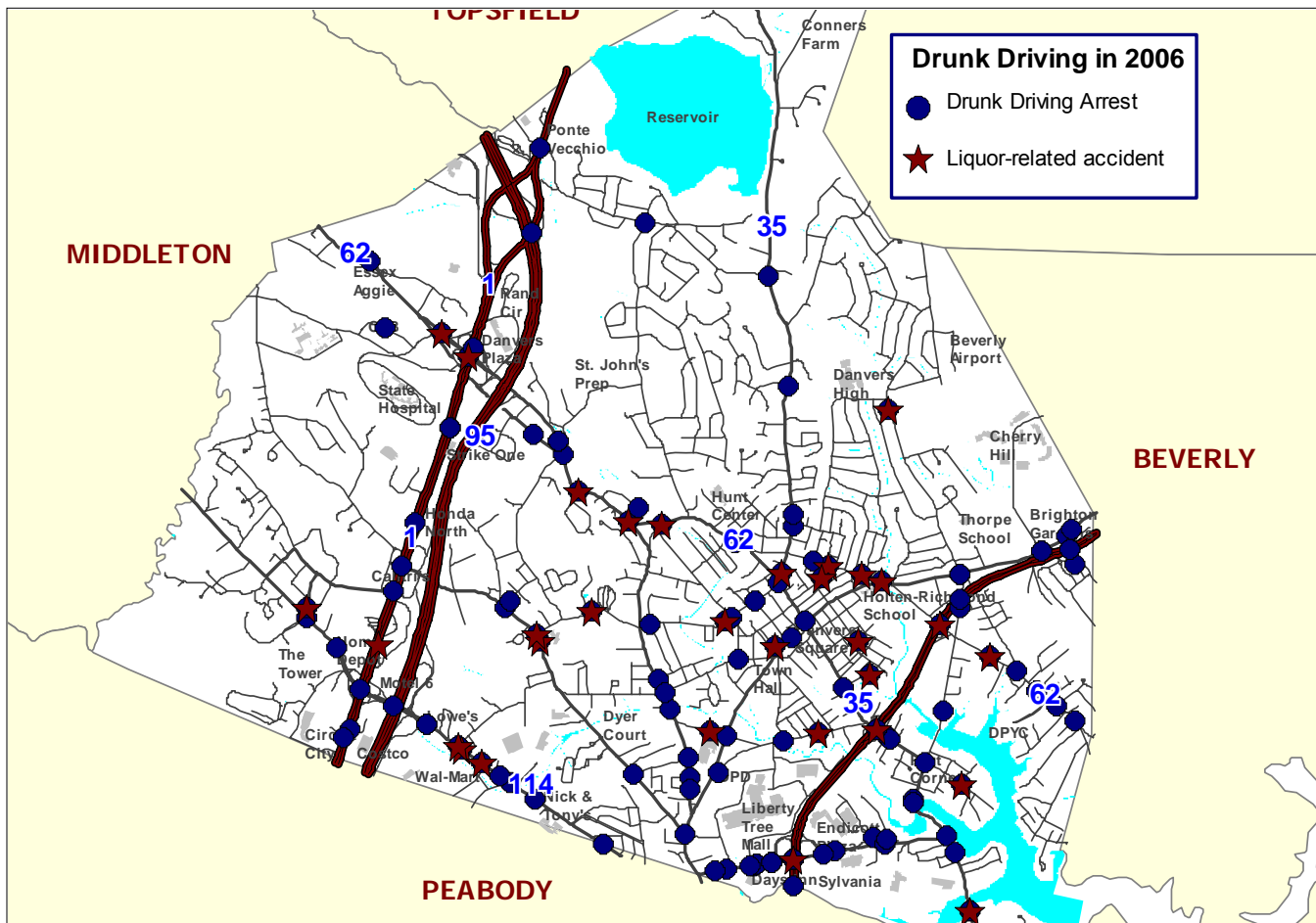
It may be a temporary lull, or it may be that word has finally gotten around that Danvers is a bad place to plan your drunk driving trip.



Though drunk driving increased from 2005 to 2006, its characteristics remained largely the same. Ages of drunk drivers tend to peak in the 20s but still remain high through the 50s, when propensity for other crimes a dramatic downturn. Three-quarters of drunk drivers are men, which mirrors the total arrest population, and just over one-third of those arrested in Danvers live in Danvers. Since 2005, we have been careful to ask drunk drivers where they were drinking before they got into their cars, but this questioning has not revealed any blatant over-serving at any particular local bar. (We have, however, continued to investigate each individual case, and have applied sanctions when appropriate.)

A map of drunk driving arrests (next page) shows that, as expected, they concentrate on the major arteries throughout town, including Route 114, Route 62, Endicott Street, Sylvan Street, and Pine Street. These locations are heavily dependent on officers' patrol practices. Fewer hot spots are apparent when we view just crashes. We see them on Route 62, at the tricky intersection of Collins Street and Centre Street, and on Route 114 near Wal-Mart.





## Solving the Problem

First, we must note that drunk driving is a *regional* problem, and requires a regional solution. Drunk drivers do not all begin and end in Danvers. Many of them drive home to Danvers after drinking elsewhere, many more start drinking in Danvers and then drive home to other towns, and still others simply pass through Danvers on the way between their bars and their homes. The most far-reaching solutions would be too cumbersome for a single town to implement.

The previously-cited Center for Problem-Oriented Policing site suggests nine avenues for reducing drunk driving, with multiple strategies in each area.

- |  |                                 |
|--|---------------------------------|
| 1. Legislation                         | 6. Reducing Alcohol Consumption |
| 2. Enforcement                         | 7. Public Education             |
| 3. Curtailing Driving Privileges       | 8. Alternative Transportation   |
| 4. Sanctioning Convicted Drunk Drivers | 9. Environmental Design         |
| 5. Monitoring Drunk Drivers            |                                 |

Of the nine, only "Enforcement" is fully within a police department's control, though we can lend our voice and support to other solutions. Rest assured that enforcement will continue in Danvers. Long-term solutions depend on laws, policies, and public awareness campaigns that lie outside the capabilities of a single police agency. We encourage all readers and residents to support the efforts of MADD and similar organizations in Massachusetts and throughout the nation.

## Theft of GPS Devices

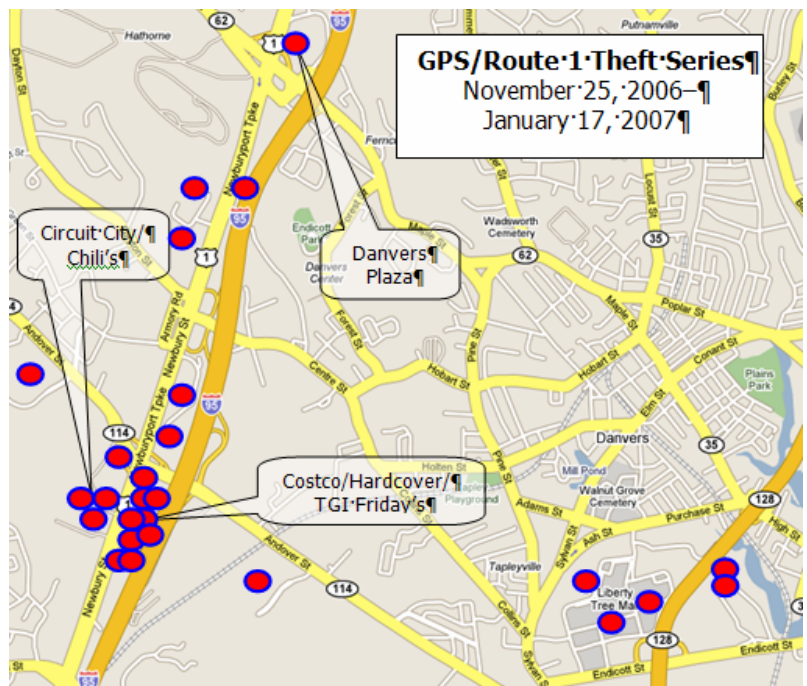
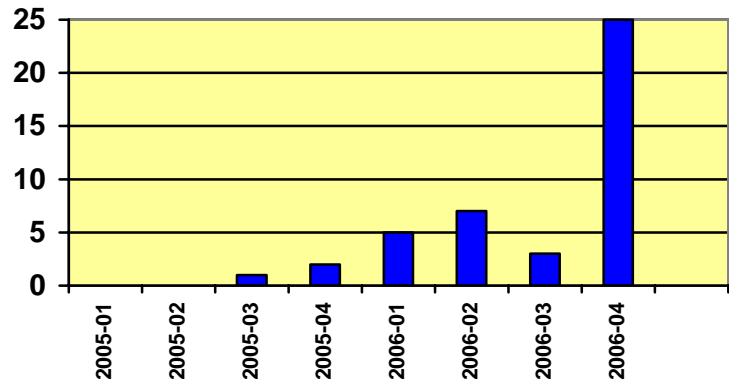
Criminologist Ronald Clarke says that the products most likely to be stolen are those that are CRAVED—an acronym that stands for Concealable, Removable, Available, Valuable, Enjoyable, and Disposable.<sup>4</sup> Cash and credit cards, two of the most popular theft targets, meet almost all these criteria. Big-screen televisions, on the other hand, are rarely stolen despite their value and enjoyability because they are not very concealable or removable.

Cell phones were once a much CRAVED target, but these days they are neither very valuable nor disposable, since their owners can be easily identified. Consequently, cell phone thefts have declined considerably in recent years, to the point at which they are mostly stolen by accident when a thief takes a briefcase or purse.

Enter dashboard GPS devices. Until recently, these electronic gadgets met every criteria of the CRAVED model except “availability.” But within the last two years, they have proliferated, with many models of cars coming with them already installed. Their popularity has led to significant after-market sales for other car owners. Criminals have responded predictably, and many towns in Massachusetts have reported spikes in GPS thefts since 2005.

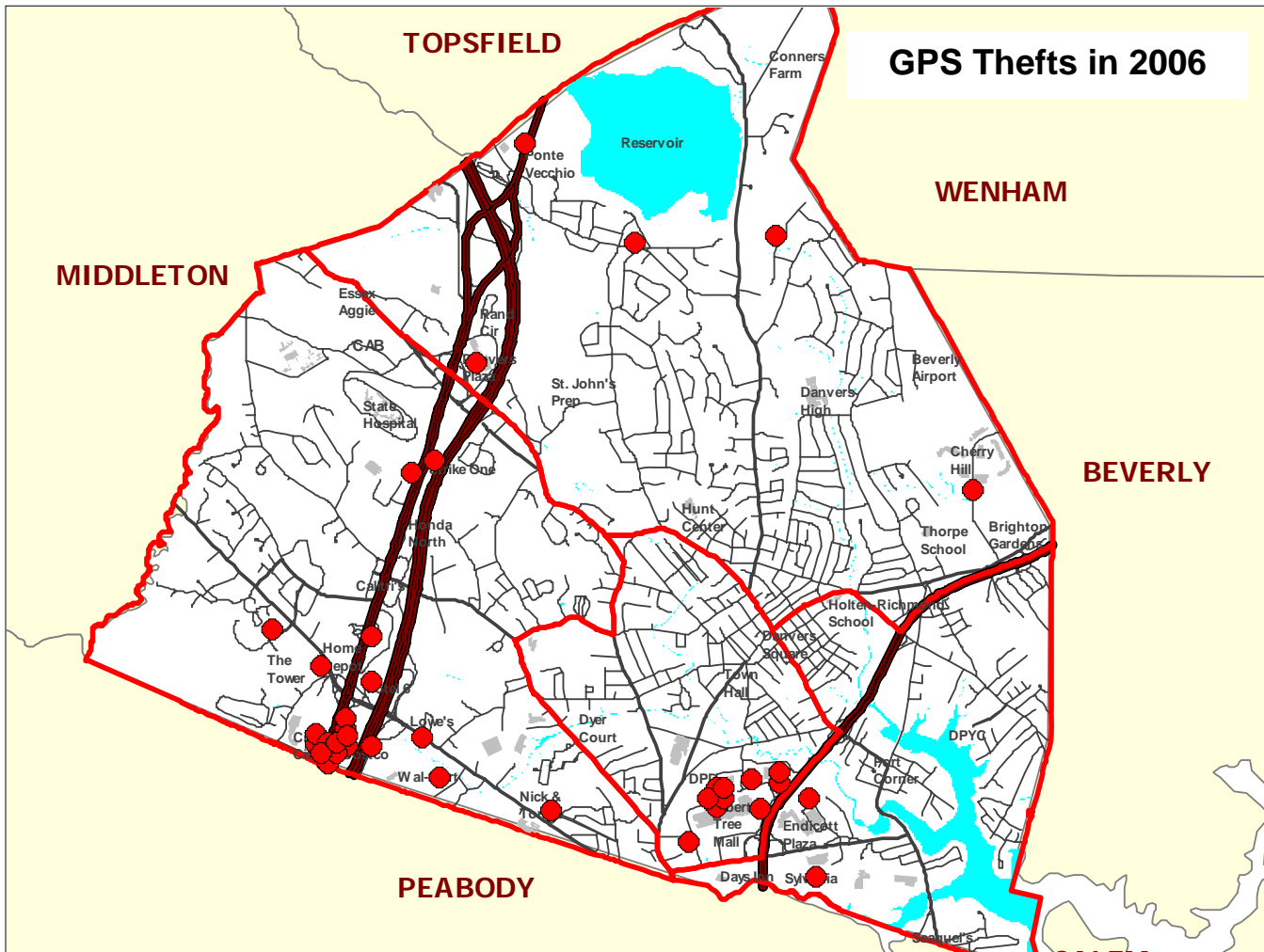
GPS thefts began in Danvers in the third quarter (July-September) of 2005 and were occurring at a rate of about one every three weeks during the first nine months of 2006. Then, suddenly, they spiked during the fourth quarter of 2006, with 25 reported between mid-November and the end of the year. Many of these thefts are part of a series that began around Thanksgiving, but Danvers Police arrested the thieves in early 2007, and thefts have continued. Very likely, these thefts are here to stay as long as GPS devices are CRAVED.

GPS Thefts in Danvers by Quarter



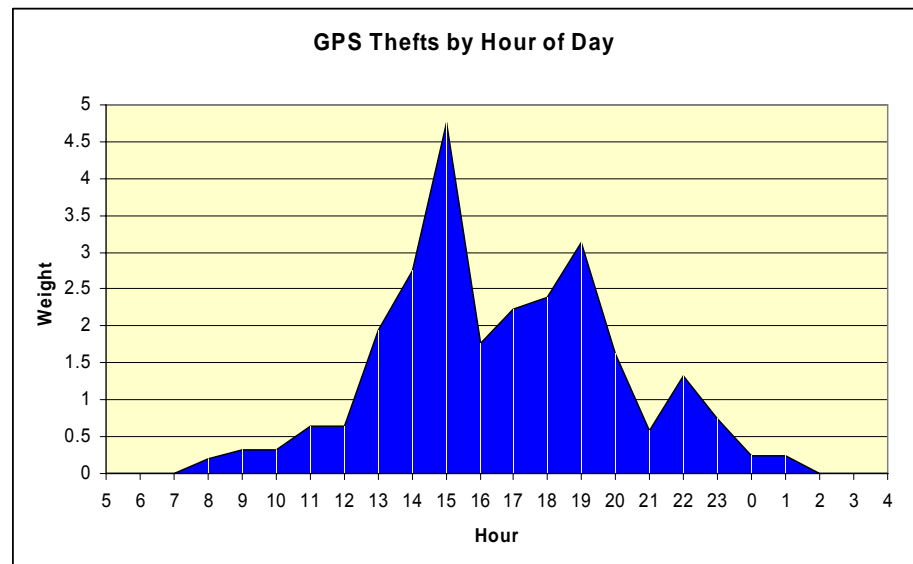
Geographically, the thefts have thus far fallen into two clusters: the Liberty Tree Mall (which is the top hot spot for other thefts from cars) and Route 1 south of the intersection of 114, including the Costco, Hardcover, Circuit City, and Chili's parking lots. The latter hot spot was favored in the 2006 series.

<sup>4</sup> Ronald Clarke, *Hot Products: Understanding, Anticipating, and Reducing the Demand for Stolen Goods* (London: Home Office, 1999).



The thefts peak on weekend afternoons (2:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.) and evenings (6:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M.) the rest of the week, when owners are shopping and dining. The cars tend to be newer model, expensive vehicles (which of course are more likely to have the systems). And entry is most often gained (as with other thefts from cars) by smashing a window.

We don't know what is happening to all the stolen devices. Some of them have turned up at various pawn shops, but not enough to account for all the thefts. We have received word that at least one offender has been selling them to cab drivers in Boston, and we suspect a number of others are sold directly to consumers on the street.



## Solving the Problem

First of all, in answer to the question that people usually ask first, no, there is no way to “track” stolen GPS devices. Most GPS systems receive geographic coordinates but do not transmit them (and most of the exceptions are non-portable services like On-Star).

But some vendors maintain records of stolen devices, to make it more difficult for thieves to fence stolen ones. This makes it imperative for owners to save their documents and record their serial numbers.

The best ways to prevent GPS thefts are methods that have worked with other types of CRAVED property in the past. The onus for these strategies is on the owners, but the police can get the word out.

- Owners should note the serial numbers of their devices, to report to central registries and to facilitate recovery.
- Owners should engrave their names into the devices to make it difficult to fence them once stolen.
- Owners should be encouraged to hide the devices or remove them from their cars when they will be left alone for long periods.



Since by nature most of the systems are stolen from cars, there are several crime prevention techniques that may reduce overall thefts from cars. The police can help facilitate these measures by working with management at problem locations.

- Better lighting in parking lots, where needed
- Extra security (either police or private) at target locations
- Surveillance cameras at “hot spots”



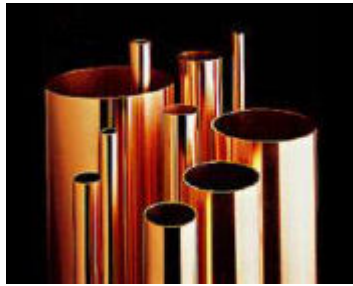
Finally, there are some steps that police can take to increase the chances of recovering stolen devices, disrupting markets, and identifying and charging offenders.

- Promote and support a centralized pawn registry that can be easily searched by property type and serial number
- Sharing data with other agencies to identify and track patterns as they develop
- Following up on all arrests for GPS theft by interviewing offenders on their methods and markets for the stolen devices

Data from Danvers, Burlington, Brookline, Saugus, Peabody, and a host of other agencies make it clear: this is a swiftly-developing, growing, national trend. Quick action and effective strategies at the outset may keep it from becoming a long-term problem.



## Thefts of Wire, Piping, and Scrap Metal



In May 2006, copper futures reached a record high of \$4.04 per pound, driving up the prices commanded for used copper at salvage yards. It had been climbing steadily since 2002, driven by new construction in Asia. Not coincidentally, reported thefts of copper wiring, piping, and scrap copper began increasing in 2002 as well and peaked in the spring of 2006. Thieves first stole it from construction sites, hauled it away

from utility yards, and shoplifted it from Home Depot and Lowe's. Then, as these sources became more difficult to tap, thieves asked, why steal only *inactive* copper? From Honolulu, Hawaii to Amesbury, Massachusetts, they began tearing down live wires, disrupting power to thousands. (Two men were killed attempting this in Kentucky and Quebec in 2006.) We've even seen reports of burglars entering businesses, tearing down the drywall, and stealing the copper pipes directly out of the walls.

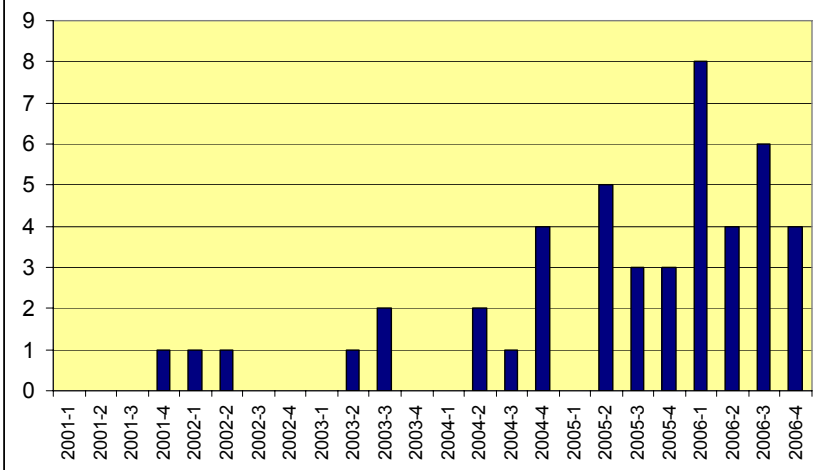
Fortunately, copper prices have declined since the spring of 2006, and with them, so has the prevalence of the thefts. But it's certainly not over. Even the reduced value (copper is trading at about \$2.20 now) is three to four times what it was at the beginning of the decade.

In 2006, which doubled the total of 2005, we saw increases in all categories except construction site thefts. Shoplifting of copper wire and sheathing became a problem at our

two Home Depots. There were a couple of mini-patterns: the Danvers Electric Light yard was hit twice during the year for spools of wire (Lynn may have arrested the offenders), and the same business on Maple Street was burglarized twice during the month of May.

The media has made out these copper thieves to be some special breed of criminal. But, in reality, they seem to be the same disorganized, substance-abusing thieves that we find involved in other crimes. The majority in Danvers are heroin addicts in their late 20s and early 30s. Many of the shopliftings are committed by boyfriend/girlfriend or husband/wife teams: one wheeling the goods out in a shopping cart, the other driving the getaway car. The utility yard thefts seem to be committed more by pairs of male offenders with their own pickup trucks.

**Thefts of Scrap Metal in Danvers by Quarter**



**Metal Theft by Crime Type**

Crime	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Commercial Burglary	0	1	0	0	0	3
Construction Site Theft	0	1	0	3	6	1
Utility Yard Theft	0	0	0	0	0	3
Shoplifting	0	0	3	2	3	9
Other Theft	1	0	0	2	2	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>22</b>

The key question is what happens to the copper (and aluminum, another "hot" metal in 2006) once it's stolen. Intelligence points to salvage yards in Chelsea and Everett buying most of it, but we have no real hard data.



## Solving the Problem

This problem is not only regional but international. We have reports of the same increases from Canada, the United Kingdom, Australia, Italy, and Russia, among others. However, in each location experiencing the increase, there is a regional node centered on scrap metal dealers. Without willing dealers to buy the copper, the problem would not exist.

This isn't to say that it's the dealers' fault. It's difficult to identify scrap metal as stolen—it usually doesn't have unique markings (except on sheathing, which thieves usually strip or burn before selling it). But we can help dealers avoid buying stolen scrap metal through laws, notices, and cooperation.

- Require scrap metal dealers, through law or agreement, to get photo identification from sellers, to record information about each seller and the material sold, and to supply the records to local police. This is much like current laws that apply to pawn shops. Many dealers do this already by policy.
- Provide lists of known thieves to scrap metal dealers and ask or compel them not to buy from these offenders.
- Use state and local bylaws to bring charges against unlicensed dealers ("back yard dealers," also known as the "grey market") who buy from multiple offenders and re-sell the metal out of state.
- Compel dealers to pay by check rather than cash. This leaves a paper trail and may deter some thieves looking for immediate drug money.

Because there are no scrap metal dealers operating in Danvers, such measures would have to be taken by other agencies, regional task forces, or state agencies.

While targeting the outlets-for-sale is probably the most effective way to reduce thefts, there are other strategies that may work at specific locations.

- Construction companies should inform the police department when they begin a project, what assets are on site, what security measures they have implemented, and when they expect to complete the job. This will allow us to provide more effective, targeted patrol at construction sites.
- Construction sites and utility yards should take the most stringent security measures possible, locking up and hiding all assets (including metals) during the night and on weekends, and providing nighttime and weekend security when possible. The decrease in construction site thefts in 2006 is largely due to construction companies beefing up their security.
- Stores that sell copper wire and pipe should target extra surveillance in these areas and tag merchandise with electronic security measures.

Finally, members of the public should be made aware of this problem and should be encouraged to report:

- Smells of burning petroleum (thieves often burn sheathing off wires)
- Deposits of wire sheathing
- Large amounts of wire or piping seen in garages, yards, and noncommercial vehicles

With luck, the market will eventually "solve" this problem, but until then, we can at least take these steps to curb further thefts.

## Counterfeit Traveler's Checks

Another nationwide problem to affect Danvers in 2006 was an increase in counterfeit traveler's and gift checks, mostly American Express, and mostly in \$500 denominations. It was spectacularly unsuccessful: almost everyone who passed these checks in Danvers was caught and arrested.

We had never seen a counterfeit traveler's check in Danvers before June 3, 2006, when a 15-year-old Lowell girl was arrested passing one at Target. Eight days later, two more were passed at other Liberty Tree Mall stores. In August, a 22-year-old Salem woman was caught passing them at Target again, and in October, two New York City men were arrested using them at Wal-Mart.



During this same period, we received similar reports from dozens of cities, including Burlington, Dennis, Yarmouth, North Kingston, RI, Kittery, ME, and Lewiston, ME. Further stories came out of the Carolinas and Florida (which Wal-Mart security apparently believed was the origin of the checks).

By November, the problem began to take a new turn. Two residents were caught attempting to deposit counterfeit checks into their bank accounts. Each had fallen victim to a scam: one received the checks from a "woman in Britain" who asked him to deposit the checks and send her the money, minus a fee for himself; another had signed up for an online job opportunity (reprinted below) by which he would receive batches of the checks on a regular basis, deposit them, and wire 90% of the value back to a company in the United Kingdom. Residents in other areas were told that they "won" the checks and were asked to wire an "administrative fee" back to the sender.

**Min Education:** Tech School

**Job Type:** Full Time

[Email this job to a friend](#)

Dear Sir/Madam,

My name is JAMES RANGEL i am a freelance researcher.I would be very interested in offering you a part-time paying job in which you could earn alot.I just resigned my job as a research scientist for ARINI(Agricultural Research Institute of Northern Ireland(www.arini.ac.uk)) but I still work as a freelance consultant for the instistute which gives me very much time to do my own work which is basically being a freelance researcher who could be employed by research institutes to do research projects anywhere in the world.WHAT YOU NEED TO DO FOR US? Presently, I have just been granted a funding to head a research project in the tropical regions of West Africa regarding rare and vulnerable plant species and this would be commencing very soon, However my funding were by my American counterparts which sent me the bunch of payments mostly in US based money orders. Getting an accountant in the states or opening an account would have been my best choice but I have a deadline to meet and taking any of those choices would cost me time and a whole lot of other requirements I am not ready to deal with as I would be traveling a lot in the meantime.So presently, assuming you would be able to deal with cash, I would be willing to employ you on contract basis to be my payment representative back in the states, this way I could issue and make these money orders out to you, you could then cash them easily, withdraw 10% of the total amount on these money orders as your commission and then send the rest back to me through Western Union wire transfer.

**JOB DESCRIPTION?**

1. Recieve payment from Clients
2. Cash Payments at your Bank
3. Deduct 10% which will be your percentage/pay on Payment processed.
4. Forward balance afer deduction of

At the end of the year, things got stranger. An auto dealership and a resident both received multiple batches of the bogus checks in the mail, with no explanation and no instructions to do anything with them. With no "victim," Danvers Police simply confiscated them and sent them on to American Express.

## Solving the Problem

This is an eminently preventable crime. We have no desire to upset traveler's check issuers, but the easiest way to solve the problem is for consumers and businesses to be suspicious of *all* traveler's checks. Credit and debit cards have largely obviated traveler's checks; their legitimate use is so rare that it would hardly be a burden for businesses to check photo identification *and* use the issuers' verification services with all purchases by traveler's check or gift check. There is evidence that this is already happening, and that the problem is waning. Major traveler's check issuers publish information about detecting bogus checks; businesses that accept checks should obtain these and train their associates.

## The Existentially Dysfunctional

Their names appear on the Danvers Police “Top Suspects” list, but they are not the criminal masterminds this designation implies. They live their lives day-to-day, and often spend their nights in a police cell. Their car registrations and driver’s licenses are never up to date. They never seem to remember, or never get up in time, or never have a ride, or can never afford enough gas to get to court when they’re supposed to, and they often have default warrants. They seem to have no permanent residence, living with family members until kicked out; living with boyfriends or girlfriends until a fight sends them out the door; living at motels until they run out of money. They just don’t “have it together.”

Their crimes are less a matter of intent than an outgrowth of the overall disorder in their lives—disorder caused by drug use, alcohol addiction, unemployment, anger-management problems, financial woes, relationship difficulties, mental illness, or any combination of the preceding. They are not “bad” people, but their actions hurt others. And they will end up in jail or prison if they don’t get their lives on track.

Some examples from 2006:

- A 21-year-old man who grew up in Danvers and has been involved in various offenses since he was 14. By the age of 19, he was heroin-dependent. He began committing crimes, including assaults and theft, against his family members and friends, and he was kicked out of his house. In 2006, he was arrested for burglary, fraud, theft, and four times for active warrants, and during the same year he overdosed on heroin at least twice.
- A 48-year-old alcoholic who seemed to have no occupation other than terrorizing his neighbors with loud music and other noise.
- A middle-aged local business owner, in trouble with the Internal Revenue Service, losing the business property, struggling with drug and alcohol issues, arrested and fined multiple times for issues associated with operating the business illegally.
- A 17-year-old resident with anger-management issues. He was involved in a fight that severely injured another youth, and he acted out against his parents, school officials, and a bus driver. He was brought to the station for drunkenness on one occasion, arrested for disorderly conduct on another, and charged with bicycle theft in still another.
- A severely alcoholic 42-year-old woman with an alcoholic boyfriend. She was both arrested for domestic abuse and the victim of domestic abuse. She and her boyfriend moved in together, moved out, and moved back in multiple times over the year, but no matter where she lived, she couldn’t seem to establish good relations with landlords or neighbors. Within a one year period, she was arrested for drunk driving once, and placed in protective custody (a kind of arrest with no criminal charges, but where the intoxicated person is held in a cell until sober) three times.
- An 18-year-old boy, diagnosed with a mental illness, who was criminally charged three times for assaulting his parents. He also tried to kill himself at least twice and overdosed at least once.



We arrest such people. A lot. Sometimes it's because they've committed serious offenses; sometimes it's because that's what we know how to do. But with each arrest comes the sad realization, among all involved, that we are not really solving the problem. Sometimes we're making it worse: each arrest brings more problems, more financial difficulties, more reasons for an employer to reject an application, more mental strain.

Ten years ago, the Boston Police Department implemented a program, called Operation Ceasefire that sought to reduce gun violence among juveniles. A key aspect involved bringing gang members into "interventions" with police, family members, social workers, and clergy. In these interventions, offenders learned, in detail, what consequences they could expect to face if they continued their lives of violence. At the same time, they were offered social services, job referrals, and other means of escaping their self-destructive activities. The strategy was widely credited, both anecdotally and through careful research, with significantly reducing gun violence in Boston during the late 1990s.

The Danvers Police Department is interested in exploring whether a similar strategy might work with lower-level offenders such as the ones described above. Each of the individuals described in the list requires some combination of:

- Drug and/or alcohol rehabilitation
- Mental health counseling
- Employment assistance
- Education
- Family support
- Residential stability
- Legal assistance
- Anger management
- Life management
- Spiritual restoration

At the same time, they need to be aware of the very real and probable consequences if they continue on the same path—not just criminal consequences, but also medical, social, and financial ones.

These services *are* available, in different forms, throughout the region. But they are scattered, uncoordinated, and often confusing to the uninitiated. Moreover, many require individuals to exercise significant personal initiative to obtain them—initiative that is beyond the capabilities of those who need them most.

We envision a working group of medical, legal, educational, and occupational professionals who can work in conjunction with the police and the family and friends of the "Existentially Dysfunctional" to solve their underlying problems and put them back on a productive path. Offenders could be referred to this team by police or family members, or they could be legally coerced to participate as part of a criminal sentence.\*

Various juvenile intervention programs offer precedents for this kind of proposal, but we are aware of no such programs that target the multi-faceted needs of adults. We plan to research this prospect further in 2007—research that will include feasibility, existence and effectiveness of similar programs throughout the nation, and potential funding sources.

We hope that by the time we write the *2007 Annual Crime Report*, we can report on a new avenue for the Town of Danvers—an avenue that will provide troubled men and women with the services that they most need, and that will reserve the severity and stigma of the handcuff, the judge's gavel, and the prison cell for the truly incurable criminals.

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\* In contrast to conventional wisdom that individuals must take their own initiative for such measures to "stick" (e.g., "for someone to change, he has to *want* to change"), researchers have found that "forced participation" has worked in many arenas, including drug rehabilitation, employment counseling, and mental health counseling.



## Status of Problems Reported in the 2005 Annual Crime Report

The *2005 Annual Crime Report* contained discussions of several problems not covered here. You can still find the report, and the discussions of these problems, on the Danvers Police Department web site. Their exclusion in this report indicates that either they didn't change much, or they ceased to be problems in 2006. Following is a brief update of each.

### Drug and Alcohol Abuse among Teenagers

In 2005, we reported on the many facets of this troubling social problem over four pages. The problem, of course, did not disappear in 2006. In fact, it remained relatively unchanged

Incidents involving teens and...	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Liquor law violations	21	27	34	55	47	45
Drunken driving	8	4	6	19	13	16
Drunkenness	13	16	11	16	19	23
<b>Total liquor-related</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>84</b>
Marijuana possession/sale	45	36	22	29	34	32
Cocaine possession/sale	0	1	3	3	4	2
Heroin possession/sale	1	1	1	4	6	3
Rx drug possession/sale	2	1	4	6	1	3
Other drug possession/sale	1	1	0	1	1	1
<b>Total drug-related</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>Total incidents</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>125</b>

Most of the analysis and recommendations remain unchanged from 2005, and we refer readers to that report. Two of the points are worth repeating, however:

- “Drug and alcohol abuse, whether among teenagers or adults, is largely a social problem. This means that it is reflected in ways not reported to the police, and its solution generally lies in methods that fall outside police control. Nevertheless, police must deal with its consequences, and the public generally looks to police and other law enforcement authorities to take the lead on solving such issues.”
- “Study after study has reinforced the same simple fact: youths with good relationships with their parents (or other family members), and who have received a continual and forceful message that drinking and drug use are both wrong and intolerable, are less likely to use alcohol and drugs.”

We also note that in 2006, the Danvers Police Department was able to fund two School Resource Officers; we had been operating with only one for a few years. We were also part of a local coalition of agencies that received a Juvenile Justice Grant to combat drugs and violence among teenagers; operations under this grant began in the fall of 2006 and are continuing into 2007.

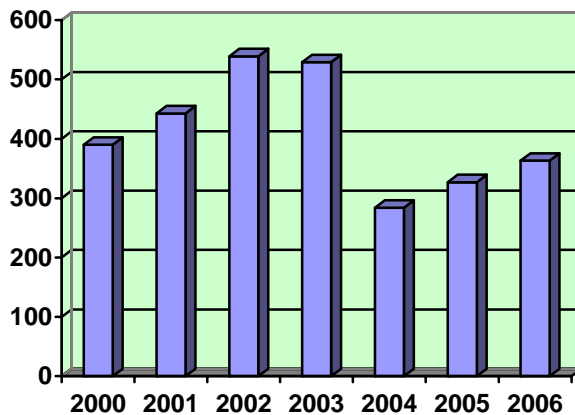
### Hotel and Motel Crime

In 2005, we analyzed the different crimes and disorder—robberies, sexual assaults, burglaries, prostitution, drug use, liquor parties, unruly guests, and so on—that occur at the nine hotels and motels within Danvers. We discovered that, as we may have expected, incidents were much higher at establishments with budget room rates. But we noted that: “The statistics are encouraging. After a 2002 peak, both total incidents *and* total crimes have fallen significantly.”

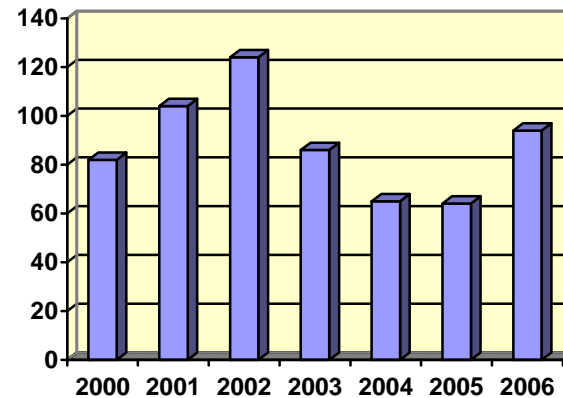


This trend did not continue in 2006: crimes rose again, although not to the levels of 2001–2002.

**Incidents at Danvers Hotels/Motels**



**Crimes at Danvers Hotels/Motels**



The 2006 increase was universal, across almost all crime categories and across almost all hotels. The overall analysis otherwise remains unchanged from 2005, as do the recommended solutions.

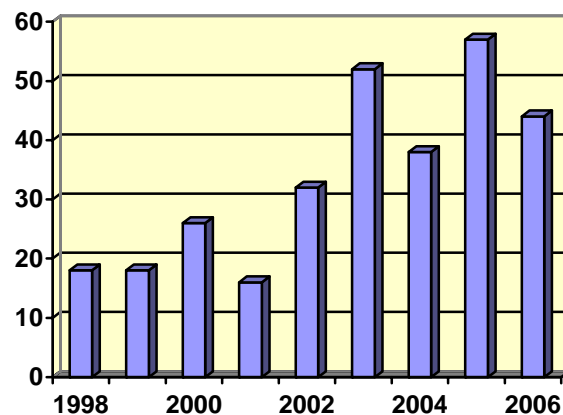
The Center for Problem-Oriented Policing Guide titled *Disorder at Budget Motels* remains the standard for analyzing this problem.\*

### **Annoying and Suspicious Solicitors**

Last year, we reported on the epidemic of magazine solicitors that arrives in town every spring. They go door-to-door, concerning and sometimes frightening residents. Usually from other states, they arrive in vans operated by questionable companies that pay a low wage to their workers. In other states, these solicitors have been implicated in crimes from thefts to threats to home invasion to sexual assault.

The solicitors returned in April of 2006, and the calls increased significantly in May and remained high through the summer. As in previous years, Danvers Police adopted a low threshold of tolerance, made multiple arrests, and warned company after company to register or leave town. The phenomenon otherwise progressed as in previous years although total calls were lower than in 2005. We will no doubt see them again in 2007. We plan to continue aggressive enforcement of anti-soliciting laws, and we encourage residents to refuse to buy from these perennial nuisances. "By making Danvers inhospitable to questionable peddlers," we wrote last year, "we may persuade them not to return."

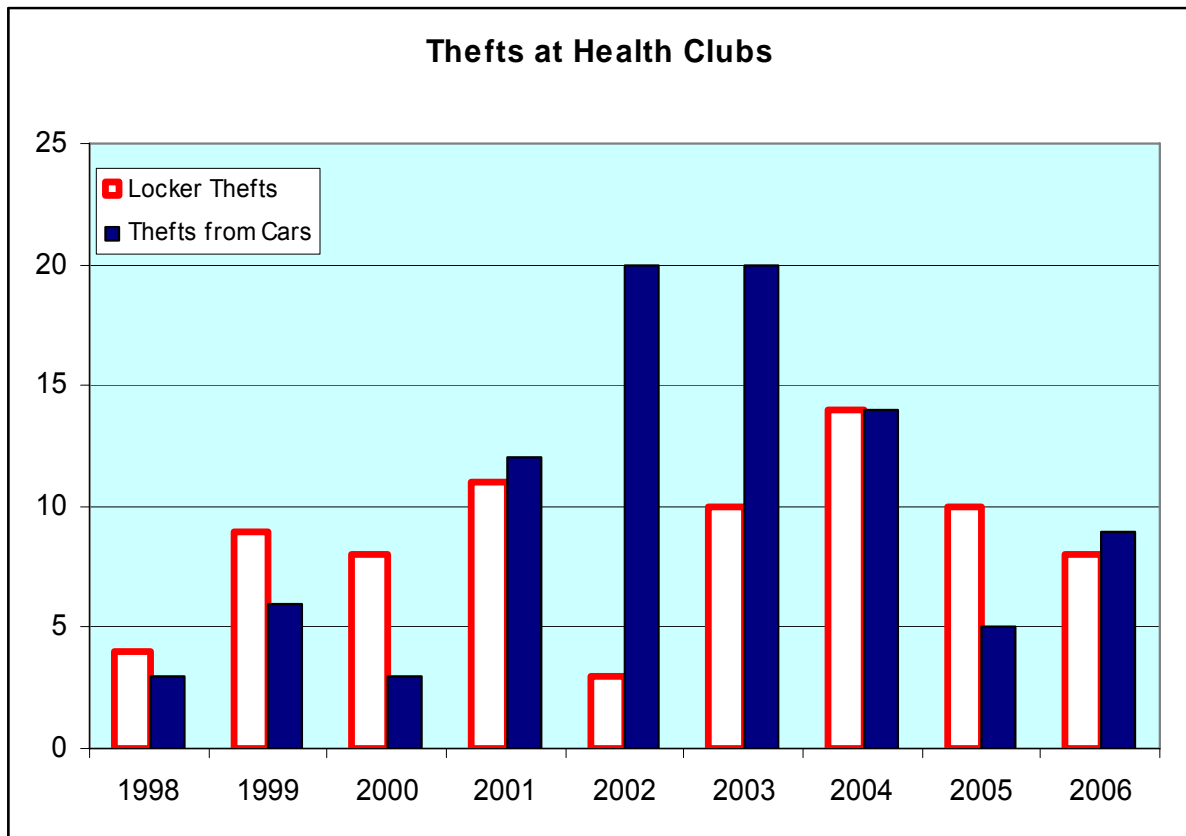
**Calls Involving Solicitors**



\* [http://www.popcenter.org/Problems/problem-budget\\_motels.htm](http://www.popcenter.org/Problems/problem-budget_motels.htm)

## Health Club Thefts

Thieves who target health clubs make effective use of victim's routines. Simply put, people do not exercise with their wallets in their pockets or their purses slung over their arms. But since most health club patrons arrive at the clubs *with* their wallets or purses, they choose between one of two options: leave them in their cars, or take them inside and put them in lockers. Consequently, health club parking lots and locker rooms have long been prowling grounds for thieves.



We reported in 2005 that the crime had been decreasing for a couple of years, and it remained low in 2006. Thefts from cars were up slightly from 2005, but locker thefts were down despite a November–

January pattern that resulted in the arrest of a Groveland man.

### Thefts (All Types) at Health Clubs

Landmark	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Boston Sports Club 50 Ferncroft Road	4	5	1		4	3	
Gold's Gym 30 Prince Street	2	11	17	16	12	3	2
Lydon Aquatic Center 200 Commonwealth Ave		4		1			
Planet Fitness 10 Newbury Street				5	5	2	13
SuperFitness 10 Hutchinson Drive	2	2	4	7	6	1	<i>closed</i>
YMCA 34 Pickering Street	2	1	1	2	1	5	1

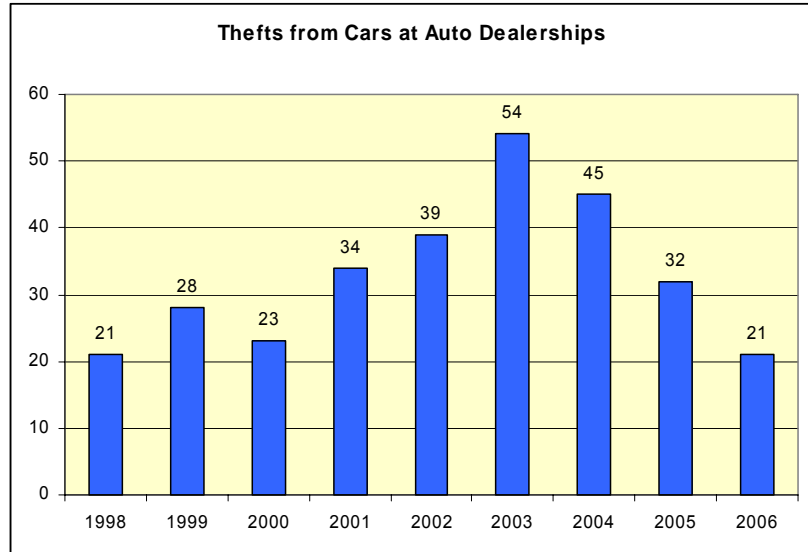
*Note: these are the current or most recent names at these locations. Some of these businesses had different names or were owned by different chains in previous years.*

We can also report that Gold's Gym, which used to be the most likely location for a theft, seems to have largely solved its problem. In 2006, almost all of the thefts were at Planet Fitness on Route 1. The staff of the club is working with Danvers Police to reduce future thefts.

## Auto Dealership Thefts

“For a thief looking for cars or car parts, Danvers is a one-stop shopping center. With Ford, Chevrolet, Mitsubishi, Daewoo, Audi, Lexus, Toyota, Honda, Mazda, Saturn, Cadillac, and several other dealers all within a two-mile stretch between the Liberty Tree Mall and Route 1 north, there are few models that thieves cannot find. And where targets and opportunity exist, thieves will appear.”

This is what we reported in 2005, but in 2006 we had the lowest number of thefts since 1998. We remain uncertain what caused this precipitous decline from 2003's high to 2006's low. It is possible that a major ring of thieves was arrested in another jurisdiction, or a crooked autobody shop was put out of business without our knowledge. Whatever the reason, we welcome the decline in this long-term problem.



## Crime and Disorder at the Liberty Tree Mall

From 2005: “The Liberty Tree Mall is the top crime hot spot in Danvers, but this fact alone should not serve to alarm patrons. Any city or town’s top crime hot spot is likely to be its top *activity* spot—the place where the largest numbers of people gathers to shop, entertain, and otherwise hang out. In most cities and towns with a shopping mall, the mall is number one for both activity and crime.

“But though we expect a high volume of calls for service and crime reports from the Liberty Tree Mall, we still have to keep careful tabs on what’s going on there. Patterns can emerge quickly. Trends at the Mall can influence crime statistics townwide. And citizens, particularly elderly residents, routinely complain that they feel unsafe at the Mall. With such concerns, it is important to check in frequently and see how things are doing.”

Things didn’t go so well in 2006. 2005 brought unusually low numbers in some of the more traditional mall crimes, including assaults, thefts from cars, fraud, thefts from buildings and persons, and shoplifting. Almost all of these (with the exception of thefts from cars) went back up in 2006. Shoplifting in particular, bolstered by more active security staff at several stores, reached historic highs. Trespassing was also high as mall security sought to make more extensive use of “no trespassing” warnings. But there was good news: disorderly conduct and youth disorder were both down after 2005 increases (the distinction is a fine one: disorderly conduct describes offenses that are so out-of-line that the offender could be criminally charged; “youth disorder” is just any behavior that bothers people).

In 2007, we are working more closely than ever with Liberty Tree Mall security, sharing data on a regular basis, performing directed patrols at hot spots as they emerge, and working with police in other local jurisdictions to identify gang members and known offenders lurking around the area.

## Selected Incidents at the Liberty Tree Mall

Includes all businesses with an Independence Way address

Incident Type	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	Avg.	2006
Rape and Indec. Assault	0	2	3	1	2	2	3
Aggravated Assault	1	2	2	4	0	2	2
Simple Assault	27	30	19	13	13	20	23
Robbery	4	4	5	4	3	4	0
Threats	17	11	13	5	2	10	4
Violation of RO	0	2	2	1	1	1	0
Burglary	9	2	1	3	1	3	2
Larceny from MV	40	53	40	45	38	43	38
Larceny from Building	23	24	23	23	12	21	22
Larceny from Person	13	14	10	12	8	11	14
Larceny of Bicycle	3	1	3	4	5	3	1
Larceny of Services	0	0	1	2	4	1	1
Shoplifting	127	133	77	171	102	122	183
Auto Theft	21	31	20	16	10	20	12
Fraud/Forgery	39	25	26	33	16	28	30
Employee Theft	6	9	11	4	6	7	7
Trespassing	8	12	5	9	2	7	12
Vandalism	54	42	40	23	22	36	29
Drugs	11	9	4	10	14	10	13
Liquor Laws	1	5	2	1	3	2	5
Indecent Exposure	1	2	1	2	1	1	2
Weapon Violations	5	44	4	13	5	14	1
Vagrancy	3	2	2	2	2	2	1
Disorderly	31	27	35	23	39	31	25
Dispute	20	49	47	48	43	41	39
Noise Complaints	6	4	5	3	0	4	7
Drunkenness	13	13	14	12	14	13	15
Youth Complaints	11	13	21	9	12	13	7
Suspicious Activity	57	54	74	68	80	67	63
MV Accident	61	61	65	76	71	67	69
Traffic Complaint	34	32	42	36	32	35	28
Recovered Stolen MV	4	4	2	5	2	3	3
Alarms	178	182	161	154	211	177	161
Medical	67	77	56	75	85	72	69
<b>Total Crimes</b>	<b>446</b>	<b>489</b>	<b>355</b>	<b>437</b>	<b>318</b>	<b>409</b>	<b>438</b>
<b>Total Calls for Service</b>	<b>1159</b>	<b>1385</b>	<b>1251</b>	<b>1295</b>	<b>1193</b>	<b>1257</b>	<b>1216</b>

## Trespassing at the Danvers State Hospital Site

The problem was bad early in the year, with many thrill-seekers taking advantage of their last chance to prowl the abandoned buildings. The problem essentially ended in the summer, as the buildings marked for demolition were torn down, and developers secured the entire site against interlopers while constructing new housing.

# ANALYSIS OF SELECTED CRIME AND DISORDER

## Murder

**Murder:** *The willful, non-negligent, non-justified killing of one human being by another.*

**Average of 0 • 1 in 2006**

Murder is a very rare phenomenon for most cities and towns of Danvers's size. They occur in Danvers at a rate of one every three years. Unfortunately, 2006 was one of the years.

The single murder in 2006 occurred on May 4. Keith Koster, a 20-year-old Boxford man, was working at a clothing store on Route 114 when he saw his SUV being stolen from the parking lot. The thief was 31-year-old Roy C. Dowds Jr., of Lawrence. Koster ran out of the store and jumped on the running board to intervene. Instead, Dowds sped down 114 and Koster was killed in an ensuing crash. Dowds fled the scene but was caught nearby. He was arrested for auto theft, drunk driving, driving after revocation, and murder.

The most recent murder before this occurred on March 15, 2004 when a 78-year-old Alzheimer's patient pushed an 83-year-old patient during an argument at an assisted living facility. The victim fell to the ground, struck his head, and later died in the hospital. The "offender" was transferred to another facility where he later died of natural causes.

On December 1, the body of a 19-year-old woman killed a decade ago in by gang members who believed she would testify against them, was found in a Peabody schoolyard. Hair and blood belonging to the victim was found in a Danvers trash bin in 1997, but her body had not been located until recently.

## Rape

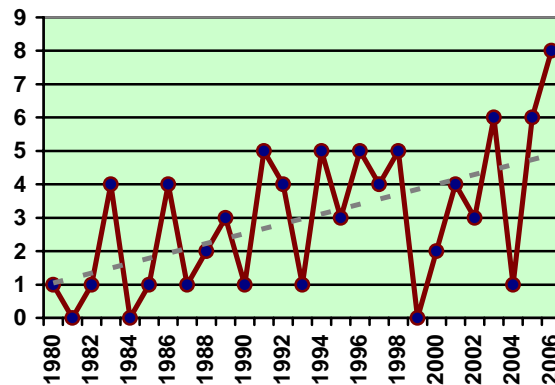
**Rape:** *The carnal knowledge of a person, forcibly and/or against that person's will, or not forcibly or against the person's will in cases where the victim is incapable of giving consent because of temporary or permanent mental or physical incapacity. Attempts are included.*

**Average of 4 • 8 in 2006**  
**100% Increase**

There were eight rapes reported in 2006, the highest total in more than 25 years.

Oddly, however, only two of the rapes *reported* in 2006 actually *occurred* in 2006. Three occurred in 2005, one in 2004, one in 2000, and one in 1987.

**Rape, 1980–2006**



In all of the incidents in 2006, the victim knew his or her attacker. Three of the victims were male; five were female. Six of the eight victims (including all of the males) were aged 16 or under at the time of the offense. All of the offenders have been identified, but we have only been able to charge two of them so far.

Two of the incidents occurred at the Days Inn at 152 Endicott Street. In both cases, an adult woman returned to the motel with an acquaintance after a night of drinking.

Two other incidents occurred in the Liberty Tree Mall parking lot; both involved juvenile female victims who were picked up at their houses and driven to the mall by adult male acquaintances.

Most rapes are committed by acquaintances. Of the 35 rapes reported since 1998, 14 were committed by friends or schoolmates, five by co-workers, three by boyfriends, two by husbands, two by other family members, two by medical service providers, one by a neighbor, and one by a teacher.

There were also six incidents of indecent assault (molestation in) 2006. All victims were under the age of 16. Most of the suspects were family members.



## Preventing Rape

The best way to prevent rape is to stay away from, or escape from, the types of situations in which they are most likely to occur:

- Use police resources to escape abusive relationships.
- Do not go drinking alone with strangers, or people you don't know very well. Have friends with you, have a plan for getting home safely, and agree to go home together.
- Do not agree to go back to motel rooms or apartments with people you don't know well.
- Many rapes have occurred during teenage liquor parties. Know what your children are doing and what's going on in your house.
- Have a friend or a relative with you when you go apartment or house-shopping.

Though extremely uncommon in Danvers, the "street" rape, the kind that most people fear, is still present in other areas. If you regularly find yourself walking down deserted streets, through parking lots and garages, or working alone in an empty office, particularly at night, it may be worth taking the following precautions:

- Be aware of your surroundings as you walk. Try not to become engaged in thoughts or phone conversations.
- Consider getting a license for pepper spray and carrying it in your purse.
- Consider taking a Rape Aggression Defense (RAD) class, offered at your local police department.
- If you see a suspicious person or vehicle, call the police for an escort.

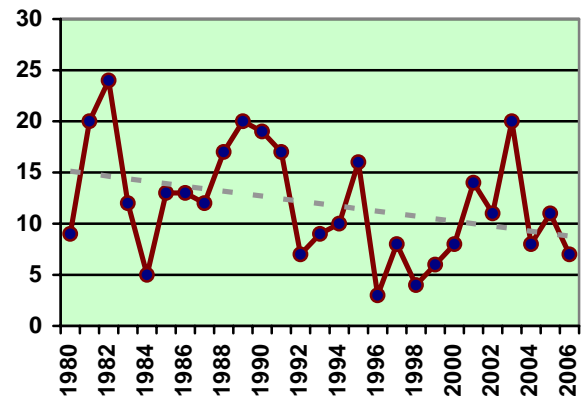
## Robbery

**Robbery:** *The taking or attempting to take anything of value, under confrontational circumstances, from the control, custody, or care of another person by force or threat of force or violence and/or by putting the victim in fear.*

**Average of 11 • 7 in 2006  
36% Decrease**

Robbery has been all over the map in the past 10 years, from a low of 4 in 1998 to a high of 20 in 2003. At 11, it was about average for 2005.

**Robbery, 1980–2006**



Robbery has two broad classifications: individual robbery and commercial robbery. Individual robberies are committed against private individuals, usually on the street or in a public place. Commercial robberies are committed against institutions or businesses, such as banks, gas stations, and liquor stores. In 2006, there were three individual robberies and four commercial robberies.

Robbery started off slow in 2006. The first was not reported until March 8, and the second not until August 5. Four of them occurred during the last 40 days of the year. Two of the seven were committed with guns; four with knives.

There were no patterns in 2006, and none of the patterns from 2005 continued. For the first time in four years, there were no purse snatchings committed against shoppers on Endicott Street. The four bank robberies reported in 2005 (the highest ever reported in one year) decreased to one in 2006.

By far the most dramatic robbery (albeit an attempted one) occurred on November 20, shortly after the staff of the Extended Stay America on Route 1 discovered a knife and a hammer in the room occupied by a 30-year-old Lynn man. The staff alerted Danvers Police. The responding officers knocked on the door, scaring the suspect and prompting him to escape out the window and flee through the woods to the DiLuigi's Sausage Company parking lot, where he tried to carjack a 22-year-old female employee by grabbing her by the neck and screaming for her keys. She refused, and he kept running. He was eventually caught by officers and arrested, but on the way to the police station, he kicked out the window of the cruiser, jumped out, fled, and had to be re-caught. (This was captured by a news helicopter and widely televised.) Meanwhile, back at the hotel, officers found that the suspect's van had been stolen three days earlier from Lynn, and booking officers found 1.9 grams of cocaine in his pockets.

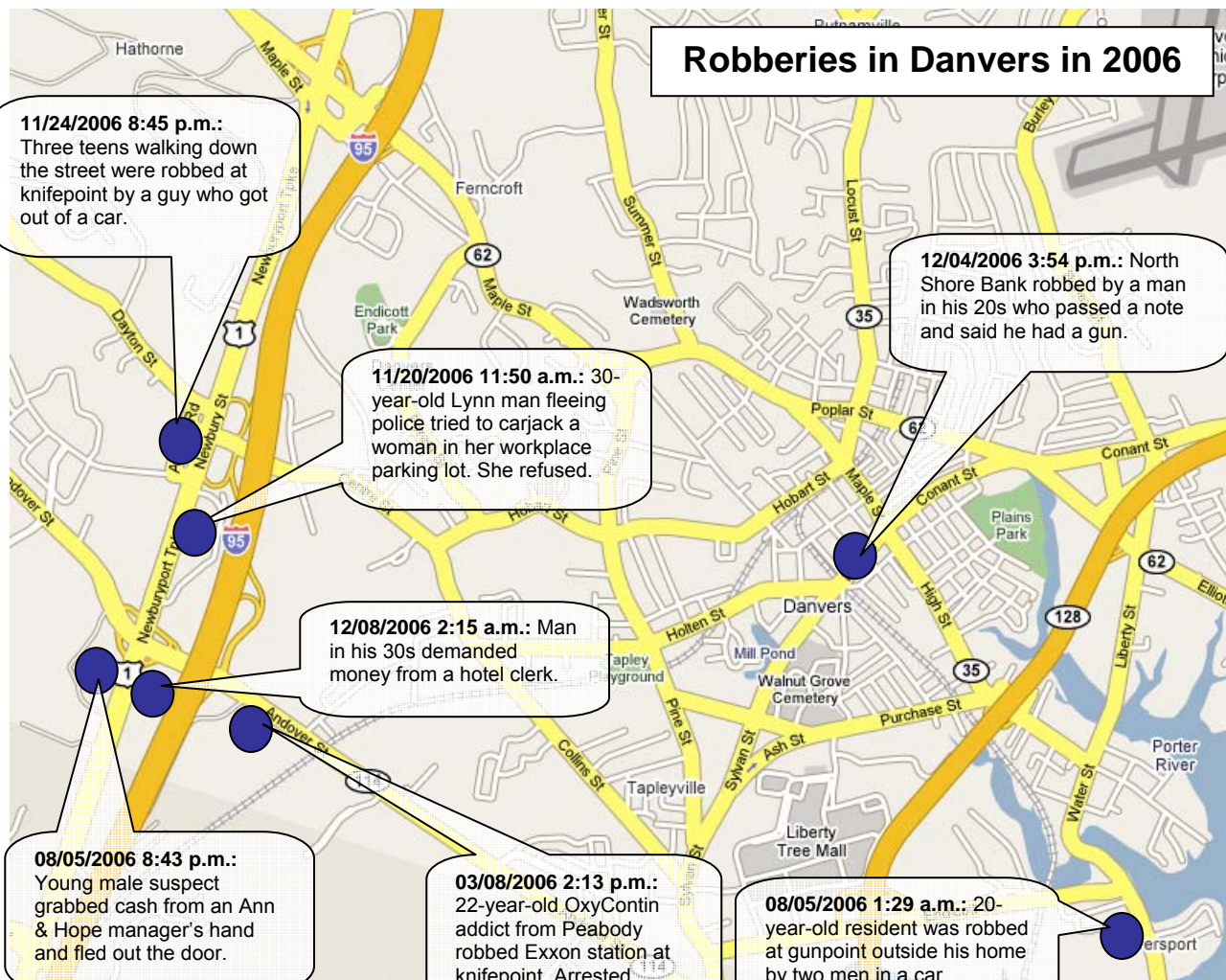
### Preventing Robbery

Most **individual** robberies are committed against women for their purses. If you are a woman, be wary as you walk through parking lots. Keep your purse close to your body and watch for cars pulling up near you.

Most **commercial** robberies are committed at gas stations and convenience stores. Such robbers are best deterred by increasing visibility from the street, installing visible surveillance cameras, and using drop safes.

If you are a victim of a robbery of either type, do not try to resist the robber—many people have been injured doing so. Flee if you can do so without harm; otherwise, give him what he wants. Try to memorize the robber's description, vehicle description and license plate, and direction of flight.

### Robberies in Danvers in 2006



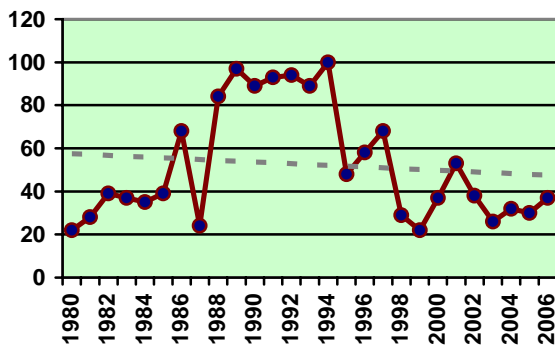
## Aggravated Assault

**Aggravated Assault:** The unlawful attack by one person upon another wherein the offender uses a weapon or displays it in a threatening manner, or the victim suffers obvious severe or aggravated injury involving broken bones, loss of teeth, internal injury, severe laceration, or loss of consciousness.

**Average of 33 • 37 in 2006  
12% Increase**

Statistics vary wildly for aggravated assault (from over 100 in 1994 to only 22 in 1999) because victims' reporting practices vary. The peak 1988/1994 peak probably has less to do with any real increase, and more to do with the success of domestic violence advocacy projects during that period. Assaults have fallen since then, though they have crept up over the last three years.

### Aggravated Assault, 1980–2006



In 2006, there were three aggravated assaults that we categorized as "random," meaning they were between strangers and unprovoked.

1. On May 17, a 50-year-old Cabot Road resident became enraged at some passing youths over a trivial offense, and he chased them down the street waving an axe and a metal baton. Responding officers arrested him.
2. On November 11, two teenagers walking through the Liberty Tree Mall parking lot were shot in the head with paintballs. The suspects fled in a red pickup truck.
3. An office worker on Constitution Way reported that when he was taking out the trash at midnight on November 18, three men lurking outside the door (perhaps trying to break in) displayed a handgun, ordered him to the ground, and then fled.

### Aggravated Assaults by Category

Category	2003	2004	2005	2006
Domestic	9	10	7	16
Juvenile	7	7	5	4
Acquaintance	5	3	8	9
Bar Fight	0	2	1	1
Road Rage	2	4	0	3
Random/Stranger	0	2	4	3
Retail/Patron	3	1	0	1
Workplace	0	0	1	0
Other/Unknown	0	3	4	1

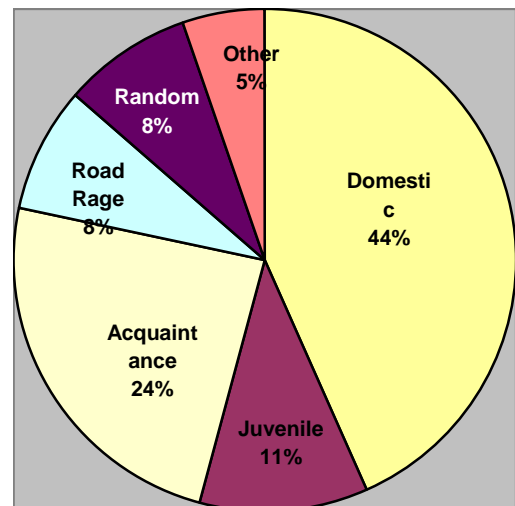
After a decrease in 2005, domestic assaults shot up in 2006. Ten of them were committed between boyfriends and girlfriends. There were no repeat incidents involving the same people, so it is otherwise difficult to account for the increase.

Also notable is that five of the assaults in 2006 were committed with a gun, compared to just one in 2005. Shots were fired in only one case, however: a December 3 incident on Water Street in which someone fired a shotgun at a resident over a dispute. The case remains under investigation.

In four of the assaults (one road rage and three domestics), the weapon used was an automobile. Knives were used in three. The most common weapon, however, was simply hands and fists.

Only two of the incidents resulted in serious injury. Curiously, they both happened an hour apart from each other in the early morning of April 1, but they were otherwise unrelated. They consisted of a bar fight at Tequila's on Route 1 and an acquaintance fistfight on Ash Street.

### 2006 Aggravated Assaults by Category





## Simple Assault

In contrast to aggravated assaults, "simple assaults" describe attacks involve neither dangerous weapons nor serious injury to the victims. Examples include a slap in the face, a kick to the shin, or a shoving match.

In 2006, simple assaults increased 13% from the average, a disappointing trend after an eight-year low in 2005. The 2006 figure essentially returned simple assaults to the level they exhibited in 2003; we had hoped that decreases in 2004 and 2005 would turn into a long-term trend.

### Simple Assaults by Category

Category	2003	2004	2005	2006
Domestic	73	60	67	77
Juvenile	38	23	21	30
Acquaintance	19	13	13	28
Bar Fight	4	2	0	2
Road Rage	5	4	1	6
Random/Stranger	2	5	3	8
Retail/Patron	6	8	2	3
Workplace	6	3	5	3
On Police Officer	5	8	2	6
Other/Unknown	8	7	5	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>166</b>

With simple assaults, the specter of domestic violence still looms, accounting for 46 percent of all simple assaults in 2006. But most the 2006 increase was in the "acquaintance" category, with friends and neighbors pummeling each other fairly liberally.

## Preventing Assault

As with rape, the key to preventing assault is to get out of, and stay away from, situations in which they are most likely to occur. This means:

- Using police and social service resources to escape abusive relationships
- Refusing to get drawn into escalating workplace, neighborhood, or traffic disputes
- Exercising caution around people who have been drinking
- Report assaults. Police intervention now may stop you or another person from future victimization by the same offender.

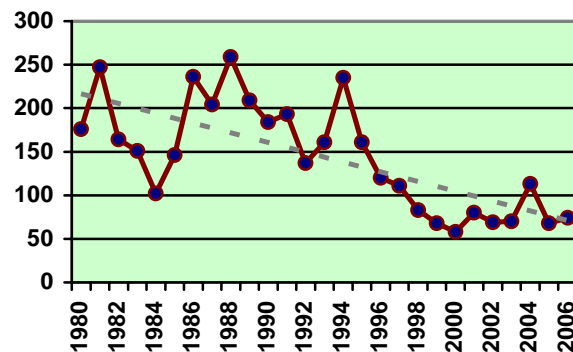
## Burglary

**Burglary:** The unlawful entry into a building or other structure with the intent to commit a theft or other crime.

**Average of 78 • 74 in 2006**  
**5% Decrease**

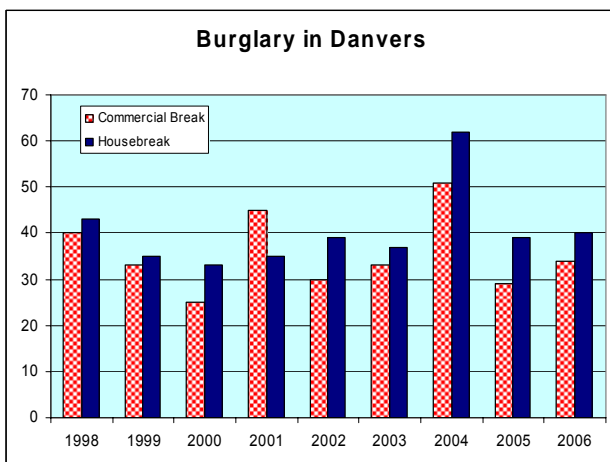
Burglary in 2006 was pretty even with what we've been experiencing this decade.

### Burglary, 1980–2006



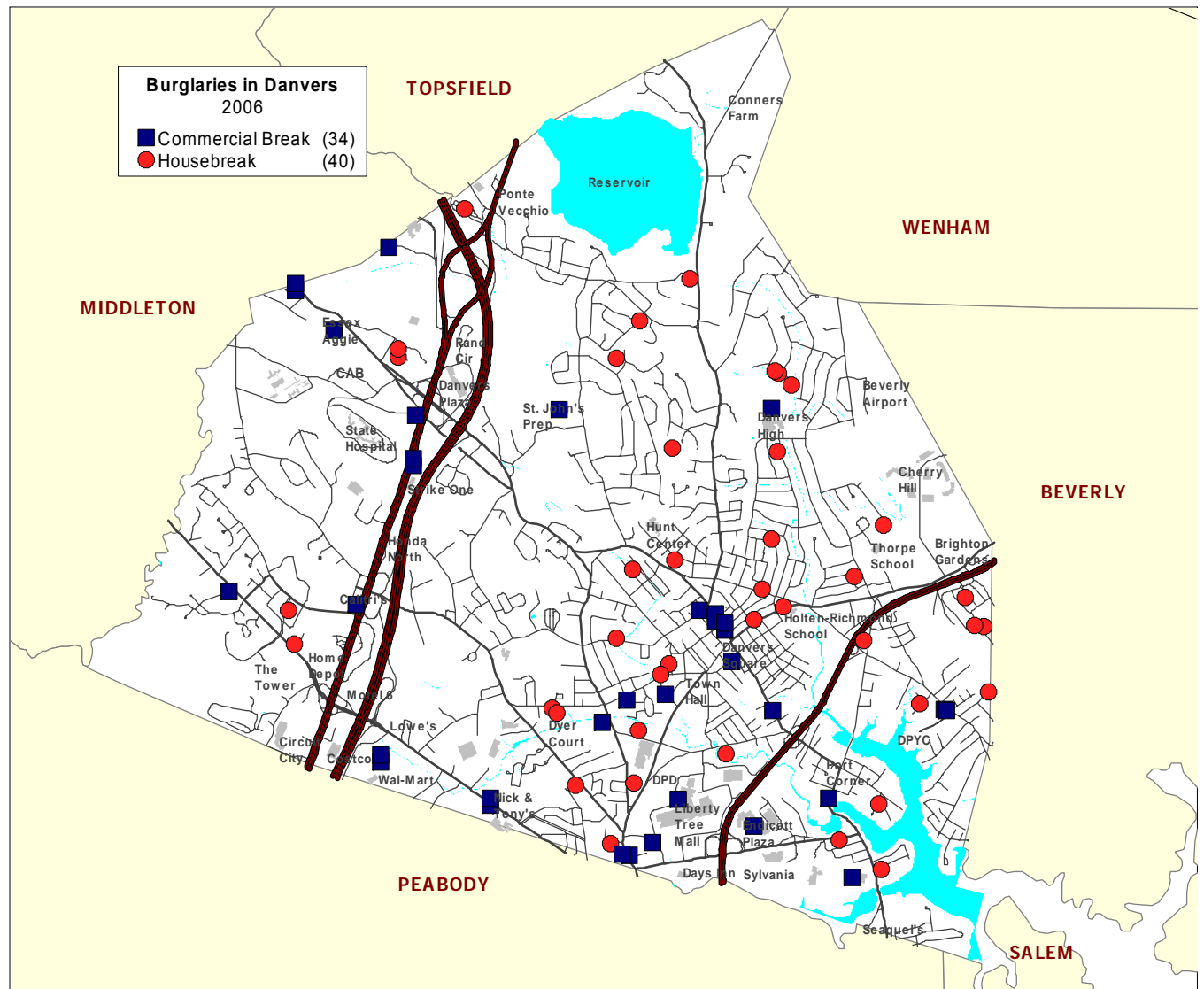
The 74 burglaries in 2005 comprised 40 housebreaks and 34 commercial breaks. Both were on line with the average. There were a few minor patterns of both offenses in 2005 (one laundromat burglarized twice; youth arrested after breaking into the same house twice; and a five-incident series in September in which televisions were stolen), but nothing to rival the 2004 series.

### Burglary in Danvers



There was only one commercial burglary series in 2006, and it was a brief one: someone broke into the same utility yard twice in May and stole scrap steel.





There was also only one residential burglary series in 2006, although it was a bit more elaborate. It began with three breaks practically next door to each other on Auburn Street and Rocky Hill Circle during the month of August. It soon expanded to other residences north of Route 62. In late September, we arrested a Beverly couple for one housebreak, and we believe they committed the series. In any event, not only did the series stop after the arrest, but housebreaks were almost entirely absent from Danvers during the last three months of the year.

Housebreaks are usually a daytime phenomenon: over the past three years, 72% of housebreaks have occurred between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. Commercial breaks, for obvious reasons, almost always occur at night: 87% are between 9:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. Those that don't occur at night invariably occur on weekends at closed businesses.

Most house burglars look for cash and jewelry; the latter they often pawn at shops in Salem and Lynn (the Danvers Police closely monitor out-of-town pawn activity). Computers, portable electronics, video games, video game systems, and certain medications are also popular targets.

In 13 of the 40 housebreaks (33%), the victim knew the burglar. Many were the victim's children and other relatives. In none of the non-acquaintance burglaries did a victim come to harm or even encounter the burglar.

Unfortunately, many Danvers residents routinely leave doors and windows unlocked: 17 burglaries occurred through an open door or window. Another 15 were committed by forcing a door, the standard door locks being insufficient to hold up to much force. In most commercial burglaries, entry was made or attempted by prying or forcing a door.

### Preventing Burglary

Many burglaries are committed by someone that the victim knows.

- Change your locks and the hiding place of your valuables if you change roommates or if “bad blood” develops between you and someone with access to your house, or if a friend or family member develops a substance abuse problem.
- Don’t let your children’s friends find out where you keep your valuables.

To prevent or reduce all burglaries:

- Invest in strong deadbolt locks for all your doors. Also consider “window stops” for your first-floor windows.
- Make sure you lock your doors and windows at night and when you leave your house.
- Hide cash and jewelry in non-obvious places. Burglars search bedrooms first.

### Thefts from Cars

**Thefts from Cars:** Theft of property from an automobile or truck, including items left within the vehicle and vehicle parts or accessories.

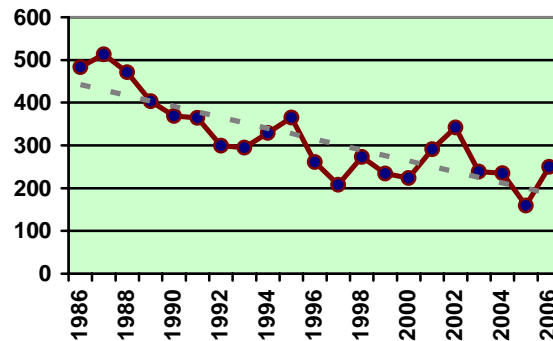
**Average of 238 • 250 in 2006  
5% Increase**

Thefts from cars reached a 20-year-low in 2005, following a precipitous decrease from a 2002 peak. We cautioned: “It’s too early to pop the champagne corks; 2006 will tell us whether this is a new trend, or just a one-year fluke.” It now appears it was a one-year fluke. 2006 ended with almost 100 more thefts than 2005. The year did not entirely reverse the 2002–2005 decrease, but it came close.

2006 was marked by several significant patterns of thefts from cars, including:

- An April series of dinnertime thefts in restaurant parking lots on Routes 1 and 114.
- Thefts from residential driveways north of Route 62 during several nights in April and May.
- Several incidents over the summer in which laptops were stolen from Verizon trucks.

### Thefts from Cars, 1986–2006



- A July pattern in which thieves stole stereos from Jeeps at and around the Liberty Tree Mall.
- A spree on the night of August 7 that struck driveways up and down Locust Street.
- Several thefts from cars in the Planet Fitness lot in November; part of a series that also targeted lockers.
- A major pattern of GPS thefts that started in November and continued through the end of the year, mostly affecting Route 1 business lots.

Locking a car does little to deter thieves: most thefts are committed by simply smashing a window or prying a door lock. Common targets include cell phones, purses, wallets, cash, credit cards, briefcases and backpacks, laptop computers, CDs, GPS devices, and car stereos (including, lately, satellite radios).

Thefts of car parts—including tires, doors, panels, and airbags—is confined primarily to auto dealerships along Route 114 and Route 1.

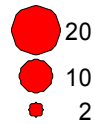
### Preventing Thefts from Cars

Preventing thefts from cars is easy: don’t leave anything of value inside your car! This includes laptop computers, cell phones, wallets, purses, and dashboard GPS devices.

Don’t make any exceptions—not your own driveway, not your friend’s house, not “just running into the store for 5 minutes.” No exceptions!

If you choose to ignore us, at least put your valuables out of sight. Some thieves don’t bother to break into cars if they don’t see anything worth stealing, so under the seat or in the trunk is better than nothing.

# Thefts from Cars in Danvers 2006



TOPSFIELD

WENHAM

MIDDLETON

BEVERLY

**Motel 6** was an unusual hot spot, with guest's cars burglarized over night. There were five during the month of July.

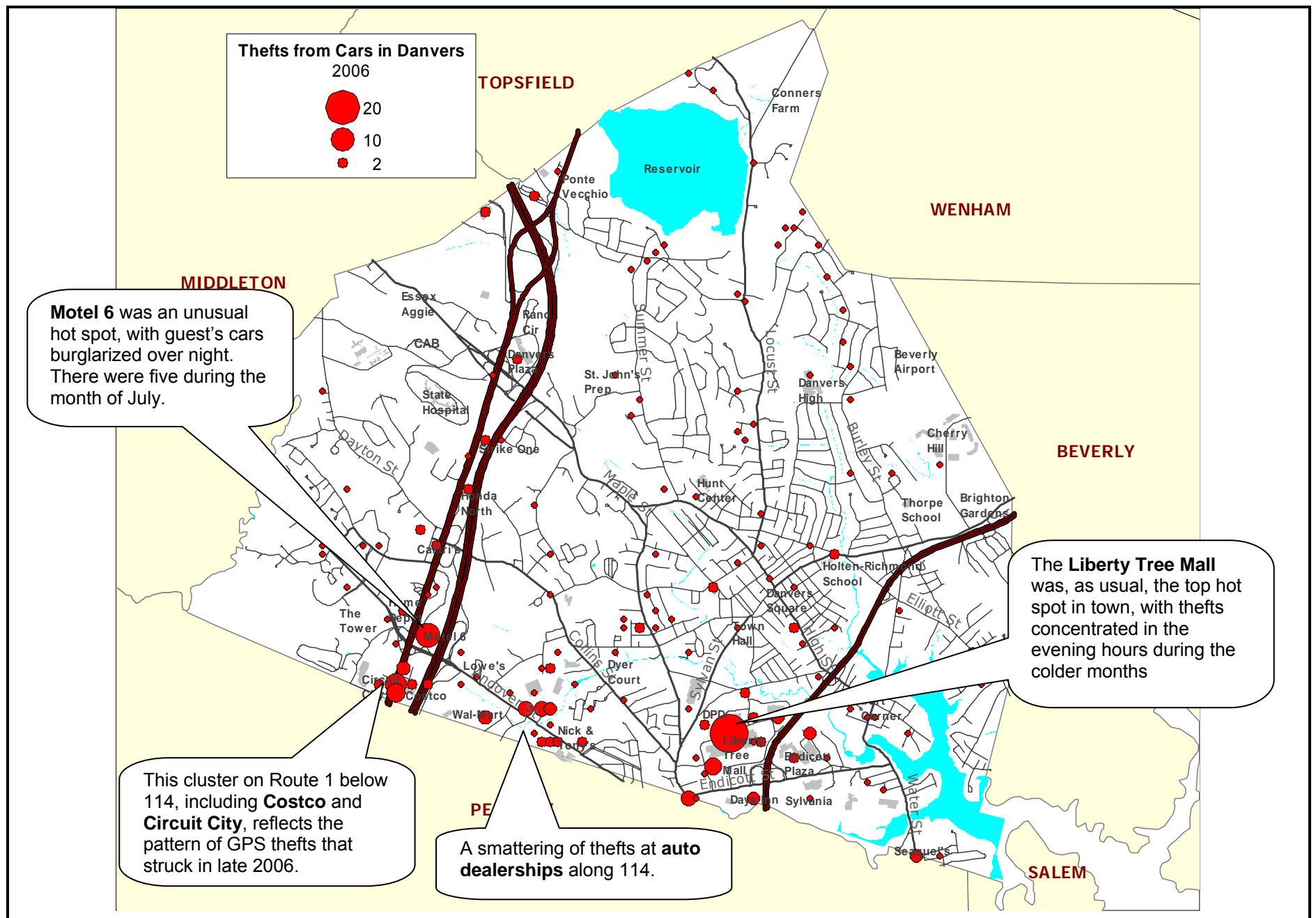
This cluster on Route 1 below 114, including **Costco** and **Circuit City**, reflects the pattern of GPS thefts that struck in late 2006.

A smattering of thefts at **auto dealerships** along 114.

The **Liberty Tree Mall** was, as usual, the top hot spot in town, with thefts concentrated in the evening hours during the colder months

PE

SALEM



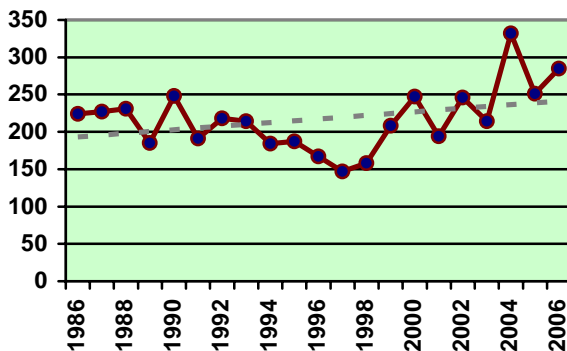
## Shoplifting

**Shoplifting:** Theft of merchandise from a retail establishment by a customer.

**Average of 248 • 285 in 2006**  
**15% Increase**

Shoplifting totals are linked inextricably with commercial development. Between 2002 and 2005, Danvers added a Kohl's, a Home Depot, a Stop & Shop, and a Pier One to its already bustling commercial population. Such new additions—and Kohl's in particular, which has had a very active loss prevention force—helped push shoplifting totals to the highest levels ever recorded in Danvers in 2004. Numbers fell in 2005, then rose again in 2006.

**Shoplifting, 1985–2006**



Any analysis of shoplifting must begin with the caveat that our statistics only reflect a small portion of what actually occurs. Unlike other larceny crimes, if no one sees or catches a shoplifter, the crime is likely to go undetected and unreported. The numbers given above are only incidents that we *know* about. A conservative estimate (based on studies conducted in other jurisdictions) is that the actual number of shopliftings is four or five times the number we record.

Because having a report of shoplifting usually depends on someone witnessing or catching the thief, stores with aggressive security forces—and policies that require them to prosecute shoplifters—report a high number of incidents. Some Danvers stores report no shoplifting incidents from year to year because employees handle the incidents internally and don't involve the police. All in all, the lack of data makes shoplifting a difficult crime to analyze and address.

### Locations with the Most 2006 Shoplifting Reports

Kohl's	50 Independence Way	73
Stop & Shop	301 Newbury St	25
Wal-Mart	55 Brooksby Village Dr	23
Marshalls	100 Independence Way	22
Target	240 Independence Way	18
Home Depot	92 Newbury St	18
Stop & Shop	5 Independence Way	11
Claire's Boutique	100 Independence Way	11
Home Depot	235 Independence Way	11
Sports Authority	100 Independence Way	9
Circuit City	4 Newbury St	8

A review of the 2,199 people arrested or suspected of shoplifting since 2002 shows that they are 57% male and 43% female (women have a far greater share of shoplifting than most other crimes). 41% are under the age of 20, but numbers remain high well into the 40s, and estimates of available data suggest that about 75% of adult shoplifters are drug dependant. Shoplifters are most likely to be from Lynn (14%), Peabody (11%), Danvers (11%), Salem (8%), and Beverly (5%). Gloucester, Lowell, and Revere also contribute high totals. Shoplifting is one of the few crimes where most of the individuals suspect or arrested do not come from Danvers itself.

The types of property stolen depend on the locations. Stores like Kohl's, Target, and Marshalls lose mostly clothing, with juvenile female shoplifters stealing for personal use. Home improvement stores have fallen victim to tool and, lately, copper wire thefts; suspects here are most often men in their 20s or above. Wal-Mart and the grocery stores are more likely to cater to the drug-addled shoplifter, looking for DVDs, CDs, and other items easy to sell for cash.

## Auto Theft

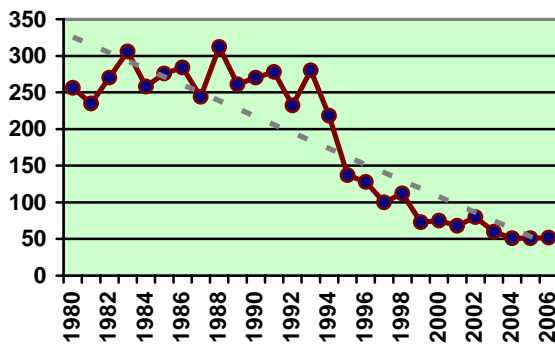
**Auto Theft:** The theft of a self-propelled motor vehicle that runs on the surface of land and not on rails—includes automobiles, buses, recreational vehicles, trucks, motorcycles, and mopeds.

**Average of 63 • 52 in 2006**  
**17% Decrease**

Auto theft has declined sharply all across the northeastern United States since the early 1990s. In Danvers, it went from a high of 280 in 1993 to a low of 51 in 2004. Since achieving this record low, however, the crime has hardly budged: 51 again in 2005, and 52 in 2006. In crime analysis, we call this "bottoming out"—when a crime has reached the lowest level possible given current conditions.



### Auto Theft, 1980–2006



Several technologies and strategies have converged to make auto theft a difficult crime. In the 1990s, local communities and the State Police put an end to most of the “chop shops” that would buy stolen cars and strip them for parts. Electronic keys have made stealing a new car difficult, and many owners of older cars have turned to steering wheel locks. Mobile computers in police cruisers allow officers to determine quickly if a vehicle has been reported stolen, and systems like LoJack and OnStar can lead police to stolen cars. Consequently, much of the auto theft that remains is either (1) cars stolen with keys in the ignition or (2) cars stolen by friends or family members. And unlike the 1980s, when owners never saw their cars again, today stolen cars are usually recovered within a few days, with little damage.

The Liberty Tree Mall, because of the large number of available targets, was once again the top “hot spot.” The dealerships along Route 114 lost a few cars, and other commercial lots along Route 1, Route 114, and in Danvers Square reported scattered thefts.

At least two thefts in the residential area north of Route 62 were part of a pattern that has affected towns from Lexington to Essex since 2005. In this pattern, someone steals cars from driveways in the middle of the night. All the stolen cars have had the keys in the ignition, and many of the thefts have been preceded by thefts *from* cars within the same neighborhood. The cars are usually recovered the next day in Lynn or Peabody, with little or no damage. Analysts studied this pattern in 2006 and agreed that the thefts are not committed for profit, and that the thief appears to be using the vehicles to get home. We have been unable to determine what brings him to these communities in the first place, however, that requires him to steal a car to go home.

A second mystifying series occurred on April 19, 2006. Someone stole a 1994 Honda Civic from the Northshore Mall in Peabody and dumped it, undamaged, in the Liberty Tree Mall lot in Danvers.

From there, they stole a 1993 Acura Integra and dropped it in the Rosewood Drive lot off Route 114. They took another 1994 Civic from Rosewood and dropped it at Lowe’s in Danvers, where they stole another Civic and dumped it at the Northshore Mall. On and on this goes, with eight cars ultimately stolen and left at the site of another theft. With no damage and nothing stolen from the cars, there seems to be no real motive behind the thefts. All vehicles were ultimately recovered.

During the past three years, the Honda Civic has been the most stolen model, with 21 thefts. The next, in order, are the Acura Integra (16), the Pontiac Grand Am (7), at the Ford Explorer (6). The average model year of a car stolen in 2006 was 1999 (the average model year of cars stolen during a given year is always six to eight years ago).

88% of cars stolen since 2004 have been recovered. Our recovery rate in 2006 was 79%. Towns supplying the most recoveries since 2004 have been:

Danvers	21	Salem	8
Peabody	15	Boston	8
Lynn	15	Lawrence	7
Revere	8	Chelsea	5

Danvers Police recovered 31 stolen cars in Danvers in 2006, slightly higher than the average of 29. As we saw in the April 19 series, recoveries often occur at the same time a theft is reported, and towns often “trade” thefts. For instance, a woman reports her car stolen from the Home Depot. An officer responds to take a report. A few spaces away, he discovers a car stolen the previous day from Lawrence. The next day, the Danvers woman’s car is found in Lawrence.

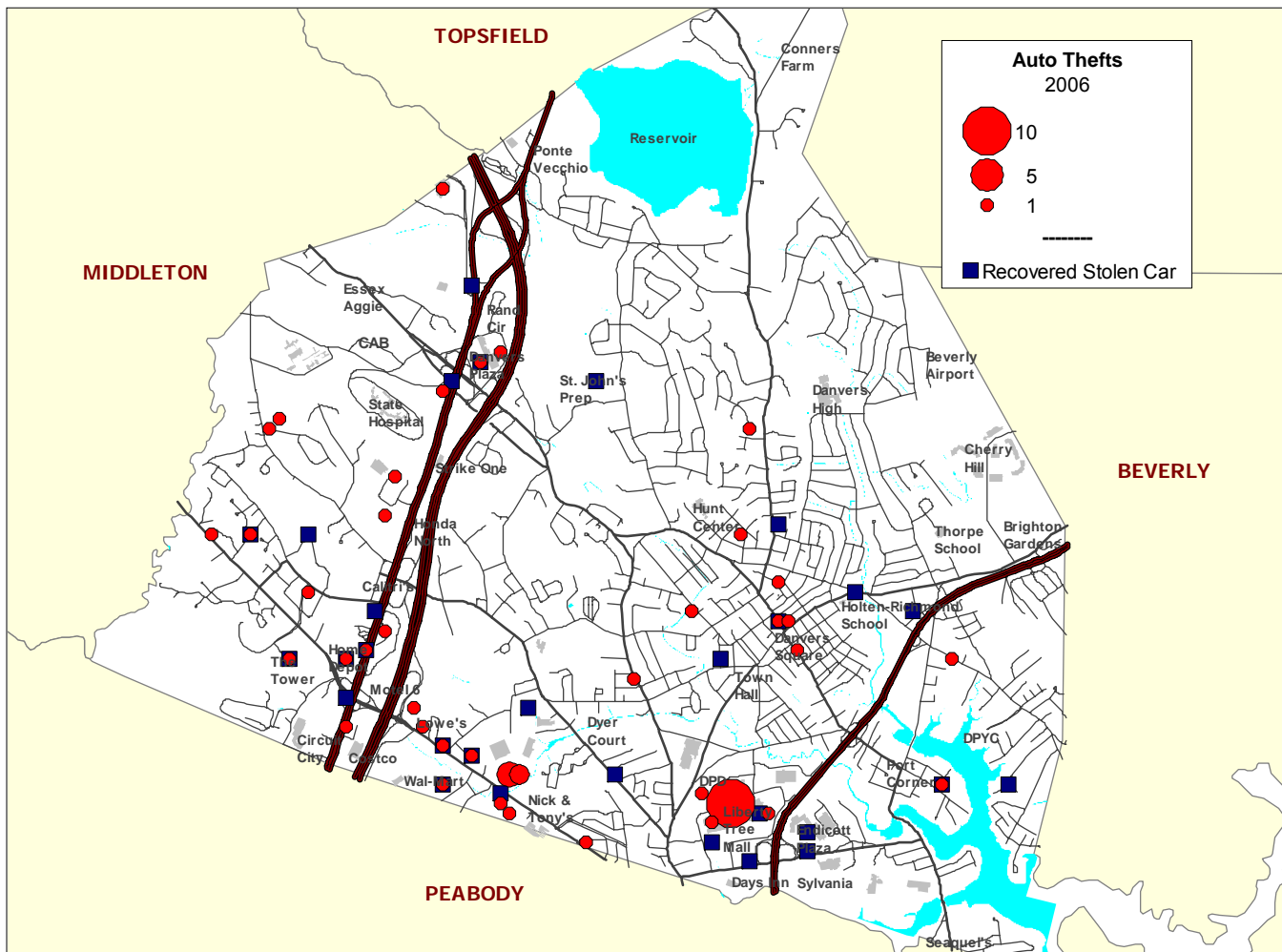
### Preventing Auto Theft

About 25% of all cars stolen in Danvers, particularly newer models, have the keys in them at the time of the theft. Do not leave your car keys in your car.

Do not leave your car running, even to “run into” a gas station or coffee shop. Thieves watch for such behavior.

If you have an older car, without electronic security measures, consider a Club or similar device. These are very effective, though they sometimes displace thieves to the next car.

Be careful who you lend your car to. At least 10 “thefts” a year occur when a victim lends his car to someone he doesn’t know very well.



## Fraud & Forgery

**Fraud & Forgery:** A category that describes thefts committed through duplicitous or fraudulent means. It includes unlawful use of a credit card, ATM card, or check; con games and swindles; counterfeiting; and identity theft.

**Average of 112 • 134 in 2006**  
**20% Increase**

After years of steady increases, fraud unexpectedly stalled in 2005, falling for the first time in a decade. Alas, it was not to last: in 2006 the crime was back up again in all categories, and it will probably continue to rise in the future. New technologies make it easier than ever to commit credit card fraud and identity theft, and until the industries reign in such abuse, we expect numbers to be high. Listed below are some of the most common situational types involved in fraud.

## Fraud by Category

Category	2003	2004	2005	2006
Bad Checks	7	10	9	10
Con Games	16	15	18	31
Counterfeiting	13	13	8	15
Credit/ATM Card	50	62	35	57
Forged Check	27	19	12	8
Identity Theft	18	17	18	12
Other	5	2	0	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>134</b>

## Preventing Fraud & Forgery

Most fraud requires a willing victim. The best way to prevent fraud and forgery is to understand the situations in which it occurs. Read the different scenarios below and watch out for them in your business and personal life. Use these descriptions to educate your family—particularly elderly relatives.

**Bad Checks** include checks written on closed accounts or accounts with insufficient funds. This crime has become rarer as more stores check the accounts before processing payment.

**Forged Checks** involve checks that are stolen and later forged at banks or stores. Very often, the offender is related to the victim: a disturbing trend of teenagers stealing checks from their parents and forging them (often to support a drug habit) is emerging. In other cases, the forged checks are stolen (with purses) from cars.

**Credit Card and ATM Card Fraud** has increased steadily. Usually this involves credit cards stolen in other jurisdictions, used at Danvers stores. In the past two years, Best Buy, Stop & Shop, Home Depot, CompUSA, Wal-Mart, and Lowe's have been the hottest spots for credit card forgery, though an increasing number are occurring over the Internet.

Many of these crimes could be prevented through better store security policies that require clerks to ask for a photo ID before accepting the credit card.

**Con Games** reel in 15–20 victims every year. Here are some of the repeat scenarios:

- **Solicitation Scams:** the victim receives a call or home visit from someone collecting for a charity or police fund. The victim gives cash or a personal check that simply goes into the solicitor's pocket. Insist on giving charitable donations only through the mail. Check up on charities that mail solicitations to you.
- **Nigerian Gold:** the victim receives a letter, fax, or e-mail from a government or corporate official in some African nation, usually Nigeria. The letter says that the sender has millions in gold or cash that he needs to "get out of the country." He offers the victim a percentage of the money if the victim will allow the sender to funnel the money to his or her bank account in the United States. If the victim agrees to the initial proposal, he or she is eventually asked to put up some money for "routing fees" or some other such nonsense. Some victims have lost tens of thousands in this scam.
- **Lottery Scams:** a classic "send money to get money" scenario. Victims are told they've won thousands or millions in some lottery (usually in a foreign country), but they need to send a "processing fee" to claim it or "pay taxes up front." Remember: if you have to send money to get money, it's a scam.
- **Contractor Cons:** an old con in which a team of men offers to work for the victim (often re-

paving the driveway) for a low price, then either do the work with sub-standard materials, or just leave with the money. We had a series of driveway paving scams in Danvers in 2006 involving a ring of con men from the Haverhill area.

- **Cash Shuffle:** a fast-talking swindler enters a retail store and looks for a young or inexperienced cashier. The con man asks for change for, say, a \$20 bill. By distracting the victim with a constant stream of chatter, "changing his mind" about the denominations he wants, handing bills back and forth, confusing the cashier about whose money is whose, and so on, the con artist manages to walk out of the store with two to five times the amount he entered with—leaving the slightly dumfounded cashier thinking he has only "made change." We had a pattern of such incidents around Endicott Street in the fall of 2004.
- **Big Carrot:** An elaborate scam in which the con man contacts his victim's place of business and claims to have a brother or friend who works at a retail store (in Danvers, it's usually Best Buy) and can offer the victim a laptop computer or other expensive item at a great price. The victim meets the swindler at the retail store and hands over thousands in cash in exchange for a phony store receipt. The victim is then told to wait or to go to the receiving area to pick up the merchandise. The swindler disappears and is never seen by the victim again. Danvers last saw this scam in 2002, though other towns with malls have experienced it as recently as February 2006. Our detectives arrested who we believe is the "ringleader" of the scam in 1999 and may have scared them out of Danvers.
- **Utility Impostors:** a group of con men show up at a victim's home and claim to be from the electric, gas, water, or cable company. They con their way into the victim's house, where one distracts the victim while another prowls the house for valuables.

**Counterfeiting** remains a sporadic phenomenon, subject to occasional patterns. Counterfeit currency typically turns up in store registers with no indication of who passed it. In 2006, we started to see a pattern of traveler's check and gift check counterfeiting, recounted on Page 28.

**Identity Theft** has become a national concern, particularly with the proliferation of personal information on the Internet. Local police agencies often do not receive reports of identity theft because incidents cross state boundaries.



# POLICE SERVICES AND CONTACTS

The *New* Danvers Police Department Web Site

<http://www.danverspolice.com>



**Danvers Police Department**  
120 Ash St Danvers, MA 01923  
978-774-1212

<b>Alerts</b>	<b>Contacts</b>	<b>Stats &amp; Analysis</b>	<b>Prevention</b>	<b>Forms</b>	<b>FAQ</b>
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**Top Reasons for Visiting**

[Report a crime online](#)  
[Download a form](#)  
[Get information about firearms licensing](#)  
[Get crime prevention tips](#)  
[Contact someone at DPD](#)

**Search**

   
[WWW](#) [DanversPolice.com](#)

**Address**  
120 Ash Street  
Danvers, MA 01923

**Telephone**  
978-774-1213

**Welcome!**



Welcome to the Danvers Police Department web site. We hope these online services help to improve your safety and quality of life, whether you live in, work in, or visit the Town of Danvers.

**Chief's Tip of the Week**

**Think Before You Wire.** Many active scams make use of Western Union and other money-wiring services. Before you wire, make sure you know who you're sending money to, and why. If it's because someone "paid too much" for something they bought from you, or because of a "job opportunity" you signed up for over the Internet, or because you were told you had to wire taxes on lottery winnings, then you're being scammed.

**Danvers Police on TV!**

[Danvers Community Access](#)

On our web site, you can:

- Review recent crime alerts
- Learn about the latest scams and confidence games
- See registered sex offenders
- Request traffic enforcement
- View crime prevention tips
- Register for the next Citizen Police Academy
- Download collision & other forms
- Get information on policies & procedures
- Learn about town bylaws
- View current contact information
- Report a crime online!
- Report suspicious activity



## How Do I...

### **Report a Crime in Progress or Other Emergency?**

Dial 9-1-1 from the nearest telephone.

### **Report a Past Crime or Other Activity of Concern?**

Call **978-774-1212**, come to the Danvers Police station in person, or report it online at <http://www.danverspolice.com/reportacrime>. Note that some restrictions apply to online reporting.

### **Find Out About Crime & Safety Information in My Area?**

Call or e-mail the Public Safety Analyst at **978-774-1213 ext. 119** or [cbruce@mail.danvers-ma.org](mailto:cbruce@mail.danvers-ma.org).

### **Get a Copy of a Crime or Collision Report?**

The rules about who can obtain what types of crime reports can be complex. Call the Records Section at **978-774-1213, ext. 118** to discuss the situation with a Records Section employee. Collision reports should always be requested by your lawyer or insurance company.

### **Learn More About Restraining Orders or Obtain a Restraining Order?**

You can get a restraining order against a spouse or ex-spouse, a relative, a current or ex-boyfriend or girlfriend, or someone living with you, if that person has abused you with violence or threats. Depending on your situation, the restraining order may order the abuser to stop abusing or hurting you, to stay away from you, your home, work, or school, or vacate a home that you share together. The Danvers Police Department can help you obtain a restraining order if you are in an abusive situation, and we can provide more information about resources available to you. Call us at 978-774-1212 or come to the station at any time for assistance. Of course, call **9-1-1** to report any immediate violence or abuse.

### **Get a Police Officer to Come to a Community Event?**

Call or e-mail Sgt. Robert Bettencourt at **978-774-1213 ext. 134** or [rbettencourt@mail.danvers-ma.org](mailto:rbettencourt@mail.danvers-ma.org).

### **Get Tips on Protecting Myself and My Home?**

Aside from the tips gleaned from this report, the Danvers Police Department offers crime prevention tips on our web site (<http://www.danverspolice.com>). We will be happy to mail or e-mail you this material if you contact the Public Safety Analyst at **978-774-1213 ext. 119** or [cbruce@mail.danvers-ma.org](mailto:cbruce@mail.danvers-ma.org). We are also pleased to offer a Residential Security Survey program—a crime prevention officer will look over your house and recommend strategies to make it safer. Call Sgt. Bettencourt at **978-774-1213 ext. 134** to set one up.

### **Obtain or Renew a Firearm License or Permit (including Pepper Spray Permit)?**

The Danvers Police Department has a lengthy section on this process on its web site at <http://www.danverspolice.com/faq/firearm.html>. If you do not have access to the Internet, call Detective Robert Sullivan at 978-774-1212.

### **Become a Danvers Police Officer?**

To become a police officer in most Massachusetts jurisdictions, including Danvers, applicants must first apply at the Massachusetts Human Resources Division and take the standard Police Officer examination. The results of this exam produce an eligibility list, from which the Danvers Police Department appoints new officers. Eligibility is based on exam scores, Danvers residency, educational level, and veteran status.

Applicants must have a high school diploma or GED, must have a valid Massachusetts license and a good driving record, must not have been convicted of a felony at any time, must be a United States Citizen, and must be able to pass a psychological test, a physical examination, and an extensive background investigation. His or her vision must be correctable to 20/20. If the applicant has previous military service, he or she must have an honorable discharge.

Selected recruits then attend a 16-18 police academy sponsored by the Municipal Police Training Committee, followed by eight weeks of field training at the police department.

## Contact Information

**Danvers Police Department • 120 Ash Street • Danvers, MA 02139**  
**978-774-1213 • Fax: 978-777-8861**  
<http://www.danverspolice.com>

<b>Neil F. Ouellette</b> Chief of Police	978-774-1213 ext. 135	nouellette@mail.danvers-ma.org
<b>Captain Patrick Ambrose</b> Administrative Division Commander	978-774-1213 ext. 129	pambrose@mail.danvers-ma.org
<b>Captain Edmund Plamowski</b> Operations Division Commander	978-774-1213 ext. 128	eplamowski@mail.danvers-ma.org
<b>Lt. Dana Milne</b> Day Shift Commander   Accreditation	978-774-1213 ext. 126	dmilne@mail.danvers-ma.org
<b>Sgt. Robert Bettencourt</b> Community Policing/School Outreach	978-774-1213 ext. 134	rbettencourt@mail.danvers-ma.org
<b>Lt. Walter Roberts</b> Night Shift Commander   Traffic	978-774-1213 ext. 116	wroberts@mail.danvers-ma.org
<b>Sgt. David Joyce</b> Court Prosecutor	978-774-1213 ext. 126	djoyce@mail.danvers-ma.org
<b>Sgt. William Carleton</b> Investigative Division Commander	978-774-1213 ext. 127 Fax: 978-777-0268	wcarleton@mail.danvers-ma.org
<b>D.A.R.E./Juvenile Officers</b>	978-774-1213 ext. 130	rbettencourt@mail.danvers-ma.org
<b>Public Safety Analysis</b>	978-774-1213 ext. 119	cbruce@mail.danvers-ma.org
<b>Records Section</b>	978-774-1213 ext. 118	lhorn@mail.danvers-ma.org
<b>On Duty Patrol Supervisor</b>	978-774-1213 ext. 116	
<b>Communications/Dispatch</b>	978-774-1212	
<b>Front Desk Officer</b>	978-774-1213 ext. 113	
<b>Webmaster</b>	978-774-1213 ext. 119	cbruce@mail.danvers-ma.org