

Wayne P. Marquis • Town Manager

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Dedicated to the memory of

**Officer
William Loughlin**

1951–2007
Served 1980–2005

Danvers Police Department
2007 Annual Crime Report



Presented by the
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Public Safety Analysis**
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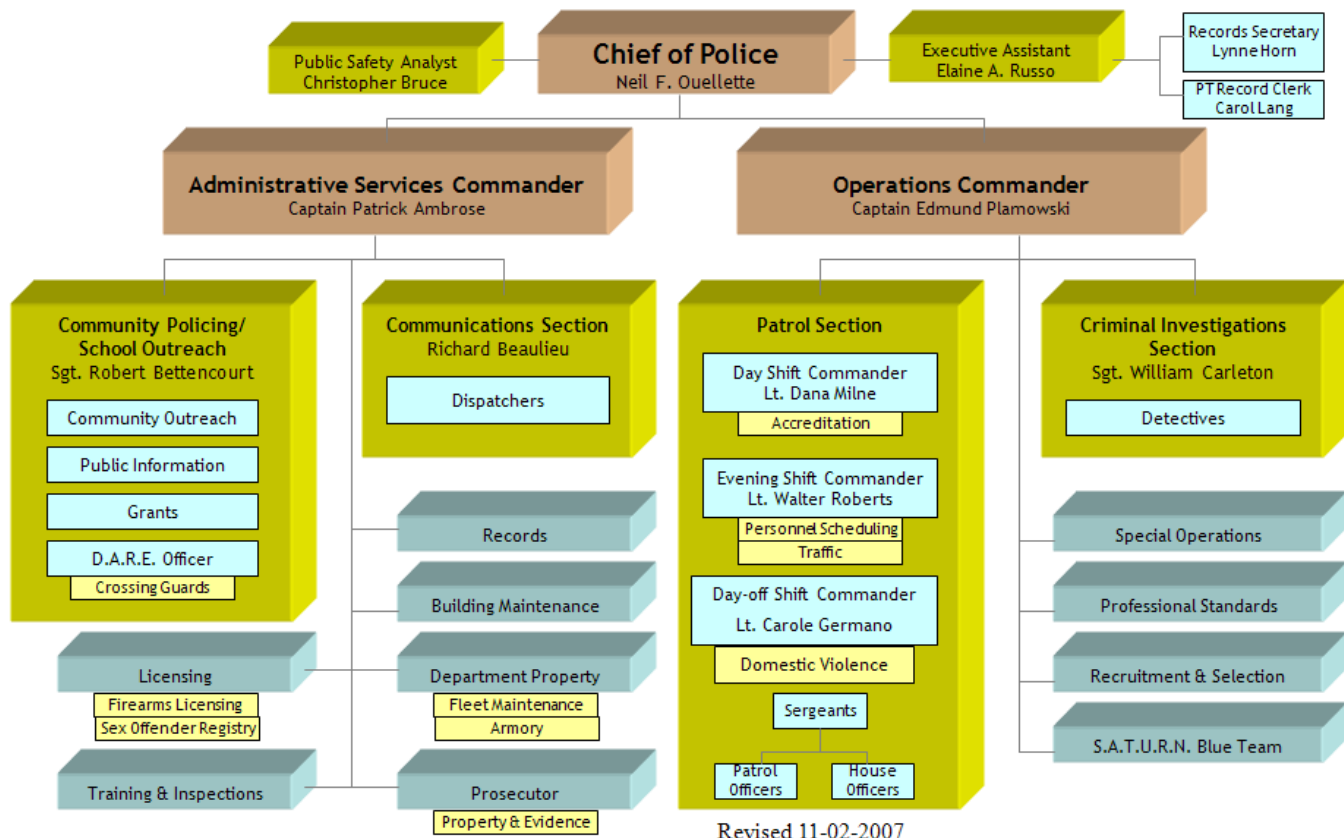
*The Danvers Police Department thanks the
Essex County Sheriff's Office for its printing
and publications services.*

DANVERS POLICE DEPARTMENT PROFILE

Organized: 1752
Population Served: 25,212
Sworn Officers: 47
Civilian Personnel: 13
Chief: Neil F. Ouellette
Headquarters: 120 Ash Street
Budget (FY08): \$5,175,029
Rank Structure: Chief
Captains (2)
Lieutenants (3)
Sergeants (8)
Officers (29) / Detectives (4)
Patrol Vehicles: 18
2007 Calls for Service: 16,484



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 municipal agency in Massachusetts to achieve accreditation (in 1986).



A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF



The Danvers Police Department has moved forward at great strides during the last three years. In 2005 we recognized the need for the department to address several social and crime problems within the community. Underage drug and alcohol use was perceived to be a significant issue within the community and this

fact was substantiated by the Youth Risk Survey which was conducted in 2006, along with the occurrence of numerous underage drinking parties and incidents of drug use.

A priority was established to hire an additional officer which the department had lost as a result of the fiscal 2004 state budget crisis. This additional Officer allowed the department to staff a full-time D.A.R.E./School Resource Officer at Danvers High School and Holten Richmond Middle School. Additionally, a Byrne Grant for Youth Substance Abuse Reduction programs was obtained by the Danvers Police Department in collaboration with the Danvers School Department. Since implementation, numerous substance abuse reduction programs were instituted for students and families within the community. A highlight of the grant was a five week drug recognition academy presenting parents with up to date first hand knowledge of current drugs of choice, trends, signs and symptoms, and preferred instruments used for ingestion.

In 2006 and 2007 the number of drug offenses increased due to aggressive enforcement. The addition of an evening detective has enhanced our ability to aggressively investigate and arrest drug dealers and target distribution networks. A balanced approach of prevention and enforcement will eradicate drug problems within the community. Liquor law violations related to underage possession and house parties are down by twenty percent.

In 2005 the Town was plagued by eleven liquor violations consisting of underage service, over serving and disorder in and around licensed establishments. The department responded by implementing a coordinated series of compliance checks with underage operatives, increased training and awareness by patrol officer's documenting and investigating alleged liquor violations. This resulted in eleven underage service violations occurring in twenty percent of licensed establishments which amounted to double the

statewide average. The department responded by hosting a training seminar for licensed establishments, police officers and the Board of Selectmen. This collaboration opened lines of communication with establishments and put them on notice of the Town's expectations in regard to liquor licensees. I am happy to report that a series of compliance checks were conducted as recently as November observing one violation which equates to a two percent failure rate.

I am happy to report that current crime statistics indicate that crime is down in most categories. housebreaks, commercial breaks and auto theft were very low in calendar 2007. Most notably, auto theft was at its lowest level since the 1970's. We continue to see an increase in fraud, forgery and simple assaults related to domestic violence. The increased number of global positioning systems has revived our theft from vehicle problem. Our Community Policing and School Outreach Section initiated a regional crime prevention approach to thefts from motor vehicles in collaboration with businesses along the Route 1 corridor in the communities of Danvers, Saugus and Peabody.

Through crime analysis, the department continues to identify emerging crime patterns and trends within the community. Combining this information with regional intelligence, the existence of known offenders, probationers and parolees within our community allows the department to respond more intelligently with the deployment of police resources to apprehend criminals or deter crime. Our monthly staff meetings have been structured on a COMPSTAT format. This format consists of accurate; timely intelligence communicated to all; rapid deployment, which is synchronized and focused; using effective tactics; and relentless follow-up and assessment.

We look forward to further reductions in crime and disorder as a result of partnering with our community members. The continuation of our community based programs including the Citizen Police Academy, RAD classes; Juvenile Youth Academy, Downtown Business Committee, and Community Collaborative programs will keep the department in touch with stakeholders within the community. We continue to appreciate the support that the Town of Danvers and its residents provide to the Police Department.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Neil F. Ouellette". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Neil F. Ouellette
Chief of Police

2007 CRIME AND INCIDENT STATISTICS

The following table summarizes crime and other incidents in 2007 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	1998-2007 Wtd. Avg.	Usual Range	2006	2007	Change from Avg.	Notes
VIOLENT/PERSONAL CRIME						
Murder	0	0–1	1	0	None	No murders in 2007. See page 32 for past incidents.
Rape	5	2–7	8	7	+40%	Trend with teenaged girls as victims. See page 32.
↑ Indecent Assault	8	6–10	6	11	+38%	High throughout the year, but incidents unrelated.
Aggravated Assault	34	27–41	37	33	-3%	About normal. Domestic assaults were up in the fall. See page 35.
Simple Assault	151	128–175	167	173	+15%	Domestic assaults were unusually high in the fall. See pages 28 & 36.
Robbery	11	6–15	7	11	0%	High in first half of the year; low in second. See page 33.
Kidnapping	1	0–2	0	0	-100%	Last incident was in the summer of 2004.
Threats/Intimidation	96	74–118	100	96	0%	Many domestic and acquaintance situations.
Bomb Threats	5	3–8	7	5	0%	Two at the high school in May. Otherwise, no patterns.
Violation of a Restraining Order	41	30–51	28	30	-27%	Has been continually low since 2005.
PROPERTY CRIME						
Residential Burglary	42	33–51	40	35	-17%	Plummeted in the fall. Otherwise normal. See page 36.
↓ Commercial Burglary	36	28–44	34	25	-31%	Lowest in at least 10 years, despite continuing copper thefts. See 36.
Theft from a Vehicle	241	189–292	250	268	+11%	GPS thefts are propelling this crime upward. See page 41.
↓ Theft from a Building	110	101–119	119	89	-19%	Record low despite health club thefts.
↓ Theft from a Person	29	22–36	25	19	-34%	Also record low.
Theft from a Residence	56	49–64	49	61	+9%	High, with guests and relatives blamed for many of the thefts.
Theft of a Bicycle	24	18–29	22	18	-25%	Record low. No patterns all year.
Theft of Services	22	16–28	13	23	+5%	Normal. Pre-pay policies mean gas prices have not driven this up.
↑ Shoplifting	256	211–300	285	305	+19%	Very high at a handful of major locations. See page 40.
↓ Auto Theft	61	47–75	52	38	-38%	Lowest in decades. See page 41.
Arson	3	1–6	3	1	-67%	One incident at an apartment, although some others remain under investigation.
↑ Fraud & Forgery	116	94–138	134	147	+27%	Record high as credit card fraud, counterfeiting, and identity theft continue to increase. See page 42.
Employee Theft	22	14–30	16	25	+14%	Primarily a retail crime involving teenagers.
↓ Trespassing	44	37–52	46	16	-64%	Plummeted with destruction, renovation of State Hospital.
↓ Vandalism	307	259–355	310	256	-17%	No patterns all year. See page 44.

Incident Type	1998-2007 Wtd. Avg.	Usual Range	2006	2007	Change from Avg.	Notes
SOCIETAL/VICE CRIME						
Drug Offenses	89	67–111	112	108	+21%	Reflects extra staffing in detectives plus good officer activity.
Liquor Law Violations	51	37–65	52	41	-20%	Few house parties. Some incidents of kids drinking in cars.
Drunk Driving	91	57–125	132	89	-2%	Some evidence that past enforcement is having an effect.
Prostitution	3	0–5	7	5	+67%	Growing problems at local budget motels.
Indecent Exposure	9	6–12	8	6	-33%	Mostly incidents of public urination. No "flashing" incidents this year.
Weapon Violations	22	10–35	20	20	-9%	Studded armband seizures are down, but there's a new knife bylaw.
Dumping/Littering	25	21–30	19	29	+16%	Occasional problem behind vacant buildings on Routes 1 and 114.
Child Neglect	17	10–23	12	14	-18%	A few cases of children left alone at homes or in cars.
DISORDER/QUALITY-OF-LIFE						
Disorderly Conduct	146	117–175	123	158	+8%	Normal. No particular patterns or hot spots observed.
↑Disputes	577	554–601	554	608	+5%	Landlord/tenant and road rage disputes particularly high.
Noise Complaints	427	354–499	361	365	-15%	Very low for the third year. Very few hot spots.
Fireworks	43	36–49	38	36	-16%	Down slightly. Mostly a summer problem.
↓Drunkenness	173	158–189	152	140	-19%	Record low, with some past problem restaurants/bars cleaning up acts.
↓Vagrancy	19	11–26	11	8	-58%	Never much of a problem in Danvers, now lowest in 10 years.
Youth Disorder	203	133–273	140	176	-13%	Large cohort of past problem teens "aged out."
↓Skateboard, Bike, & Scooter Complaints	126	88–163	62	79	-37%	Very low despite good weather. Reflecting inactivity among kids?
Suspicious Activity	884	797–970	1030	926	+5%	Normal. No patterns or trends observed.
↑Psychiatric Disorder	107	77–138	157	142	+33%	Multiple residents with delusions. See page 22.
Harassing & Annoying	48	40–56	52	51	+6%	Normal volume. Mostly acquaintance-related.
Annoying/Obscene Phone Calls	100	84–116	97	115	+15%	Unusually high. Several ongoing acquaintance feuds.
TRAFFIC ISSUES						
↓Motor Vehicle Accidents	1357	1292–1422	1284	1286	-5%	Was heading for a record low until December snows. See page 45.
↑Traffic & Parking Complaints	561	527–596	562	667	+19%	At an all-time high with parking complaints all year (esp. after snow).
↓Criminal Motor Vehicle Offenses	638	403–873	421	385	-40%	Recent retirements & promotions of notably aggressive officers.
↓Disabled Motor Vehicles	663	602–724	602	535	-19%	Lowest in at least a decade, but for unknown reasons.
↓Abandoned Motor Vehicles	57	45–68	46	37	-35%	Lowest in at least a decade, but for unknown reasons.
↓Recovered Stolen Vehicles	29	20–39	31	18	-38%	Decrease consistent with decrease in auto theft.
Dangerous Road Conditions	242	219–266	260	249	+3%	Normal. Low most of the year; high in December during snowfalls.

Incident Type	1998-2007 Wtd. Avg.	Usual Range	2006	2007	Change from Avg.	Notes
GENERAL SERVICE INCIDENTS						
911 Errors	272	231–313	219	305	+12%	Sudden increase starting in spring. May be due to new equipment.
↓ False Alarms	2084	1878–2291	1805	1777	-15%	Significant decrease in a significant annoyance.
Animal-Related Incidents	421	317–524	346	443	+5%	Problems with coyotes during the second half of the year.
↑ Check Well-Being	782	665–899	851	934	+19%	Up since 2005 with the new "RUOK" program.
Unattended Death	23	18–27	26	25	+9%	Normal volume with mostly natural deaths.
Fire Assists	87	68–106	77	77	-11%	Low. Includes State Hospital fire and a couple of significant house fires.
Lost Property	161	133–188	192	160	-1%	Normal again after high 2006.
↑ Medical Aid	1465	1365-1566	1444	1682	+15%	All-time high. Up in many categories. May reflect increasing population.
Missing Persons	73	29–117	34	44	-40%	Decreased when IFLL on Liberty St closed in 2003.
Suicide or Attempt	17	11–22	16	13	-24%	Fairly low. Three were successful.
↑ Town/Utility Problem	231	170–291	312	315	+36%	Record high in assistance to electric and water crews.
POLICE-DIRECTED ACTIVITY						
↑ Traffic Enforcement	625	8–1243	1854	3382	+441%	All-time high, due to new programs implemented in late 2005.
Warrant Arrests or Service	300	247–353	308	271	-10%	Nominal volume. Generally tied to overall crime rate.
↑ Service of Legal Papers	324	284–365	355	534	+65%	Includes restraining orders, summonses, etc.
Prisoner Transport	257	211–302	278	273	+6%	Tied to arrest volume.
OVERALL TOTALS						
Total Calls for Service ¹	16286	15700–16872	16057	16484	+1%	Almost exactly normal. Decreases in property crime and traffic balance by increases in general service calls.
Total Reported Crimes	2182	2040–2323	2260	2166	-1%	Also almost exactly normal.
Total Arrests	1021	828–1214	1134	890	-13%	Plummeted with decreases in drunk driving, motor vehicle offenses, liquor law violations, and protective custody

¹ 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 between 25,000 and 30,000 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
- Six strip malls and shopping plazas
- Several industrial parks
- Two major U.S. highways (U.S. Route 1 and U.S. Route 95) and four high-traffic 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.

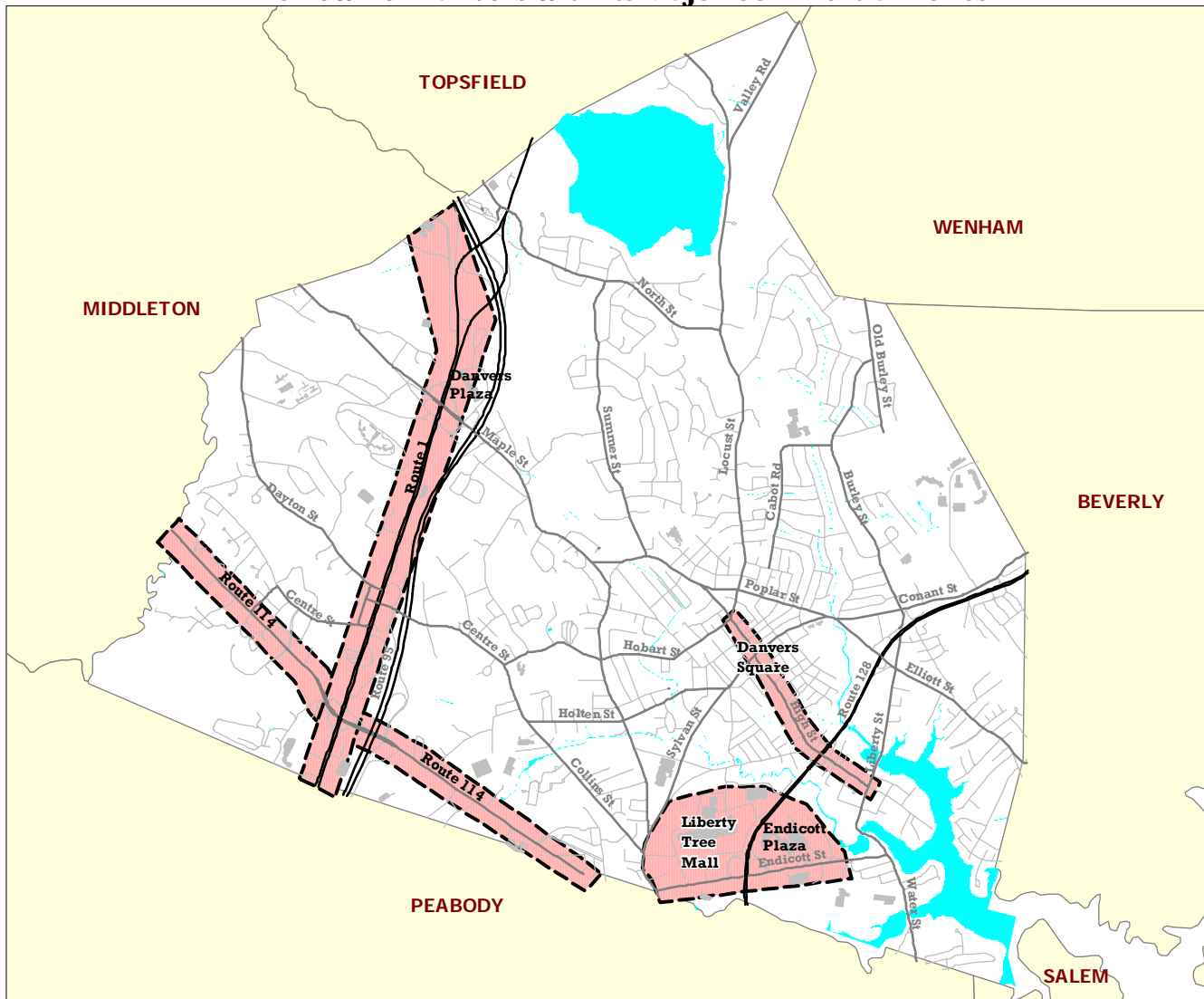


The problems experienced by this residential community are typical of many communities like it. There is sporadic domestic violence among specific families. Drug abuse and its related crime have taken hold among many teenagers, even from “good” families. Houses, though owner-occupied and usually single-family, 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 41% of all calls for police service and 56% 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 78 thefts from cars at the Liberty Tree Mall between 2006 and 2007, but Ash Street and Abington Road—the two residential streets that abut the Liberty Tree Mall—together had only three thefts from cars.
- Garden Street intersects Route 114 at one of its busiest points, but there were no crimes reported on Garden Street in 2007.
- There were 86 crimes along the commercial section of Endicott Street in 2007 (between Sylvan Street and Needham Road). There were no crimes 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 2006 and 2007, we saw the effects of new apartment buildings off Route 1 (including the old State Hospital site), the expansion of a substance abuse treatment facility, new medical facilities, new businesses in Danvers Square, and the re-opening of the Holten-Richmond School. In the coming year, we anticipate even more new residential units off Routes 1 and 114, the closing of one of our supermarkets, and several new restaurants and department stores.

The point is that Danvers is not simply a small, static 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 2007

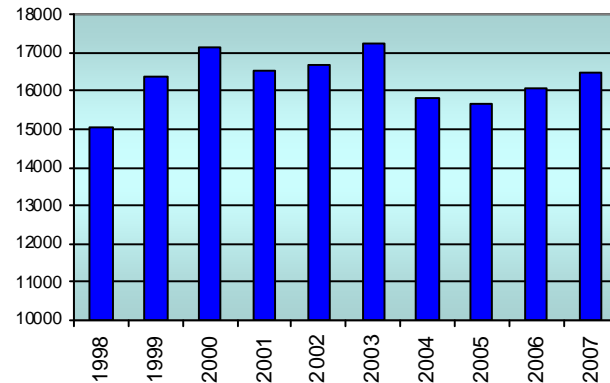
Highlights

Index crimes in Danvers have followed essentially the same trend as the rest of the United States: an increase in the 1980s, leading to a peak at the end of the decade; steady decreases throughout the 1990s; and fairly low numbers for the past eight years. Crime has been difficult to forecast since 2000: for three years it looked like it was going back up again, but then it bottomed out at 832 in 2005.

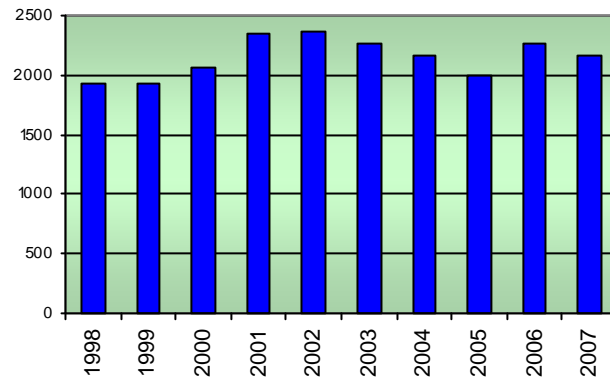
Index crimes aren't the only phenomenon to baffle us a bit. Overall calls for service peaked in 2003, then fell to an eight-year low in 2005 at the same time the town was experiencing significant residential and commercial growth. They have increased slightly since then. Logic would suggest that, with continuing residential growth, calls for service will increase over the next few years; experience, on the other hand, suggests that anything can happen.

Fueled by a new crop of energetic, pro-active officers, arrests hit an all-time high in 2004 and remained high in 2005, but the volume really wasn't sustainable. They fell in 2006 and 2007. Most of the lost arrest volume has been in the form of motor vehicle offenses, drunk driving, and liquor law violations. The decrease in motor vehicle offense arrests is partly due to police practice and technology issues, but the decrease in drunk driving and liquor-related arrests is, we think, a consequence of several years of intensive enforcement. Officers say that drunk drivers are harder to find, parking lots where teens used to gather and drink are empty, and house parties are rarely reported.

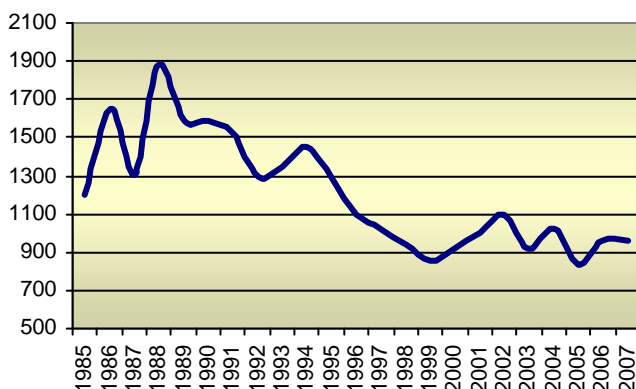
Total Calls for Service in Danvers



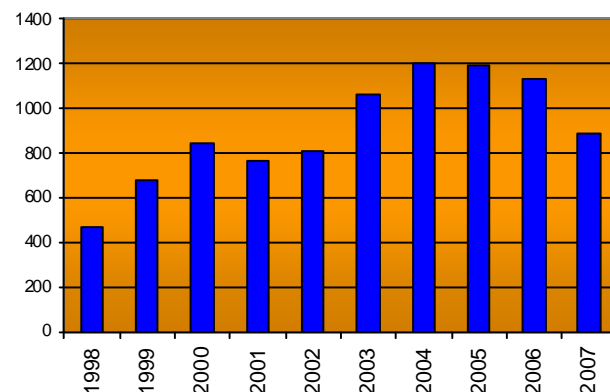
Total Crimes in Danvers



Total Index Crimes in Danvers



Total Arrests in Danvers



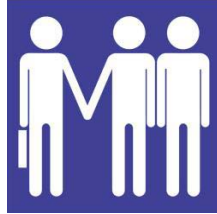
Notable Incidents and Events by Month

This section highlights the notable incidents, events, patterns, and trends that occurred in Danvers in 2007. 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, 2007

A Love Triangle. New Year's Eve is fairly quiet, but for the latest incident in an ongoing feud between one woman and the two men that love her. It is the twelfth incident among the trio in the past year. The woman in question keeps switching between them, moving out of one's house and in to the other's, leading to disputes, threats, harassing phone calls, assaults, restraining orders, and violations thereof. Incidents would continue until August of the year. The triangle here sets a theme for much of 2007: individual relationships, families, and feuds responsible for a large number of calls for service.



January 6, 2007

YMCA Thief. The YMCA at 34 Pickering Street suffers three thefts from lockers on the same day. This would be a sporadic problem throughout the year. Beverly Police reported the same problem at their YMCA later in the month.



January 10, 2007

Apartment Struck with Housebreaks. For the second time in three weeks, an apartment building on Dyer Court (off Holten Street) suffers a burglary. This small pattern (there would be no further breaks at Dyer Court) is one of the few housebreak patterns in Danvers in 2007. It was not solved.

January 25, 2007

Repeat Calls from Hallucinating Resident. In a situation indicative of the growing number of "psychiatric/mental disorder" calls the Danvers Police have been reporting for the last two years, a resident of Hyde Street reported a man hanging around outside her apartment window. It is her 19th report of this particular hallucination in the past four months. The problem would not stop until she moved in February.

January 25, 2007

Ill Skunks. The first "sick skunk" call of 2007 comes from Chase Street. An officer is forced to shoot and kill it. There will be 17 more calls for sick or disoriented skunks in the next three months, but it appears that no person is harmed by the epidemic.



February

February 4, 2007

The Existentially Dysfunctional. In the "Trends and Problems" section of the report, we talk about the "Existentially Dysfunctional"—frequent offenders who have no real criminal motivation, but who show up in a lot of police reports just because they can't get their lives together. At the beginning of February, we have strong examples of two of them: a boyfriend and girlfriend living on Ash Street who are always intoxicated and feuding (sometimes violently), and a Newbury Street resident who is, on February 4, placed in protective custody for drunkenness for the ninth time in two years.

February 5, 2007

Car Break Sprees. For two weekends in a row, we have had one-night sprees of thefts from cars, the first at the Liberty Tree Mall and the second at the 466 Pub & Grill on Route 1. Miscellaneous items are taken in each case.

February 9, 2007

GPS Thefts Continuing. At this point, thefts of GPS devices from cars are now part of our weekly routine, and it becomes fairly difficult to tell which are related in "patterns" and which are just crimes of opportunity. This month, we have three thefts along Route 1, where restaurants and motels will remain "hot spots" throughout the year.



February 21, 2007

Sex Offender Arrested. Danvers Police face a unique problem in a 53-year-old Level 3 sex offender whose "residence" is his camper. Always moving around to different area parking lots, his "address" changes frequently enough that he's usually in violation of sex offender registration laws. We arrest him two times this month for failing to register.

March

March 14, 2007

Thefts at Plains Park. As spring arrives and more residents start enjoying the outdoors, we have two thefts in a week at Plains Park, both between 12:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.: a digital camera and an iPod.

March 29, 2007

Infiniti Tires and Rims Stolen. We start noticing an increasing number of thefts of tires and rims from Infinitis at auto dealerships along Route 114. This trend will continue throughout 2007 and extend to the first month of 2008, totaling 14 incidents. The thefts happen at night, and no suspects are ever seen or described.



April

April 7, 2007

Fire Engulfs State Hospital. In the second major fire-related event in six months (the first being the November 2006 Danversport explosion), a fire destroys several buildings under construction at the old State Hospital site. No cause is ever officially determined.



April 17, 2007

Residential Spree of Thefts from Cars. In one of the few residential theft-from-car patterns during 2007, five vehicle owners around the intersection of Maple Street and Pine Street found their windows smashed and various items—stereos, iPods, cash—stolen.

April 20, 2007

Auto Thefts Go On Break. The theft of a Jeep Cherokee today at the Comfort Inn proves to be the last auto theft reported in Danvers until July 12—the longest dry spell in at least 10 years. This will

contribute to a more than 30-year low in auto theft in 2007.

April 23, 2007

Loud Trucks Disturb Residents. Although noise complaints overall were low in 2007, an old problem reared its head in April, as residents near Route 114 reported loud trucks idling in commercial parking lots at nighttime. Loud nighttime deliveries are a recurring problem in this area.

April 24, 2007

K-9 K-os. After seven years of complaints of barking dogs and loose dogs (33 total reports), the Animal Control Officer finally ordered a Highlands resident to get rid of her dogs, much to the relief of her neighbors.

April 26, 2007

Health Club Thefts. We're in the middle of a series of thefts from cars at Planet Fitness (10 Newbury Street). There would ultimately be 15 thefts, some from cars, some from lockers, between March and July, ending in the arrest of a 41-year-old Roslindale man and his Lynn girlfriend.

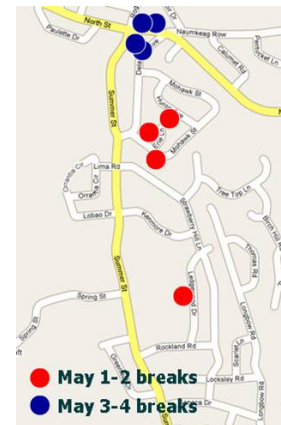
April 29, 2007

Seasonal 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.

May

May 4, 2007

Thefts from Driveways. A thief is prowling residential driveways between 11:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m. in the residential area near St. John's Prep. He enters unlocked cars and steals any items of value, including laptop computers, change, and iPods. He commits eight thefts over two nights and is never caught.



May 7, 2007

GPS Thefts are Back. After a low March and April, GPS thefts return with a vengeance this weekend, with six thefts over four days in the usual Route 1/Liberty Tree Mall/Route 114 hot spots.

May 17, 2007

"Pipe Bomb" on Route 1.

Someone left a paper-towel tube wrapped in duct tape in the parking lot of 89 Newbury Street, prompting a bomb squad response. It was detonated and found to have no explosives. This incident recalled a series of mysterious firecracker/pipe-bomb style explosions along Route 1 fields and parking lots in 2006.



May 21, 2007

Car Prowlers Arrested. A group of three teens from Revere and Malden are caught and arrested for breaking into cars on Prince Place and Alma Lane. This is in the middle of a month when thefts from cars are double the average volume.

May 24, 2007

Nutty Raccoons. Whatever was affecting skunks in March and April has now moved to raccoons: there have been eight calls for raccoon-related matters in the past three weeks. On this day, an officer was forced to shoot one, which was foaming at the mouth.



June

June 9, 2007

Number One Suspect of 2007 Emerges. The Danvers Police department regularly tracks its most voluminous offenders. This year, it's a local 18-year-old who keeps getting involved in petty thefts and vandalism. More importantly, he can't seem to remember his court dates, meaning that he almost always has an active warrant. He will ultimately be arrested five times on default warrants in 2007. This is a repeat problem with a handful of Danvers residents.

June 13, 2007

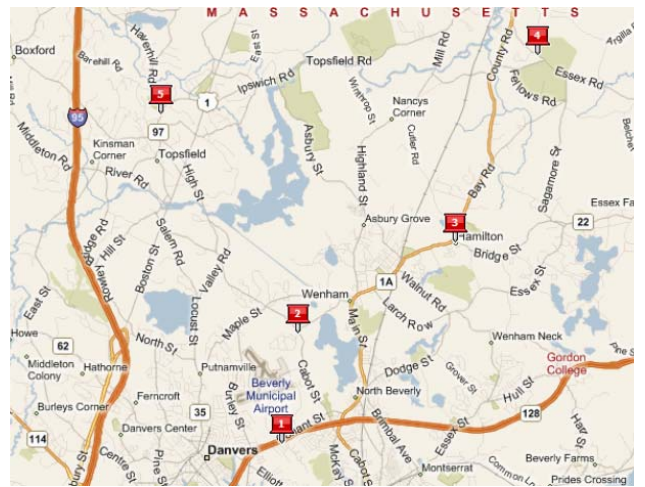
Another Romantic Triangle. We mentioned romantic triangles in January, and here in June we have another one, with a local 25-year-old woman vacillating between two neighbors, with the two men frequently fighting each other for her affections. Four incidents are reported in June. It will not be solved until one of the men moves later in the year.

June 13, 2007

Top Offenders are Barely Teenagers. Two of our top offenders of the year, aged 13 and 14, assault another teenaged girl in Plains Park. The two girls will be involved in 22 reports in 2007, from assault to shoplifting to general youth disorder, making them the youngest entries on our ongoing "top suspects" list. They both come from fairly dysfunctional homes.

June 19, 2007

Housebreak Spree. A group of five house burglaries struck Danvers, Wenham, Hamilton, Ipswich, Topsfield, and Georgetown on a single day, between 10:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. The suspect was described as a tall white male possibly driving a gray Honda Accord. A 15-year-old girl was home in the Danvers incident, and the offender fled when he realized he wasn't alone.



June 25, 2007

Stolen Lizards. A three-month headache involving two North Putnam Street residents reaches its quirkiest moment. The boyfriend/girlfriend team moved in to an apartment in May and immediately began feuding with their landlord and getting arrested for disorderly conduct and shoplifting. On this date, they steal a handful of lizards from the Petco in Topsfield, and return home, where they are arrested by waiting police. They have concealed the lizards in the man's pants;



one of them died during the journey, and the man is charged with cruelty to animals in addition to shoplifting. Less than two months later, the man will try to set fire to his landlord's apartment building, and the pair will be evicted.

July

July 2, 2007

Neighbor Feud Takes a Hiatus. Ongoing feuds between neighbors are a frequent problem for the Danvers Police. The most notable of these has been an epic contest of wills between two Reservoir area neighbors who, since 2001, have produced more than 40 reports of harassment, trespassing, petty theft, vandalism, and other such offenses. This date is notable for the last report in this feud—at least as of February 2008. Whatever fragile peace the two have reached, we hope it holds.



July 3, 2007

Fireworks Festival. In strict numeric terms, this July 3-4 is one of the lighter ones, with only 10 arrests—less than half of the record high in 2006. But the 2007 incidents are more serious, with several assaults during the fireworks festival, including two committed by the same 20-year-old man. One of them results in a broken jaw and eyesocket for an unfortunate teenager. The offender, one of our top offenders of all-time, is arrested. There are several other incidents of disorderly conduct and liquor law violations.



July 17, 2007

Trailer Pattern Ends in Arrest. A mini-pattern of construction trailer break-ins seems to emerge and end in a single evening. This night, the owner of a landscaping company on Pine Street catches two men from Peabody cutting the lock off one of his trailers. Identified by their vehicle, they are soon caught and found to have a “shopping list” of other trailer locations on the north shore. They are good suspects in previous trailer breaks on Route 1.

July 23, 2007

Bobcat Pattern Begins. We have two thefts this month involving thefts of Bobcat parts and equipment at construction sites. This will continue to be an infrequent problem through the rest of 2007.



August

August 1, 2007

CVS Robbery. The CVS in Danvers Square is robbed by a 62-year-old Boston man who just got out of prison after serving 22 years for robbery. He demands painkillers and pretends to have a gun in his waistband. Detectives identify the offender based on intelligence from Lynn and Boston, and they arrest him later in the month.

August 6, 2007

High Street Hijinks. In the past three months, there have been 41 incidents of disorder, noise, youth complaints, vandalism, theft, and suspicious activity along high street, centered in the parking lot around McDonald's. The perpetrators are a group of men and women in their late teens and early 20s who like to spend their summer evenings carousing at all hours until someone complains. Chased out of these lots, they re-locate to residential driveways nearby, creating another series of calls throughout August and September. Eventually, the little group will implode, fighting among themselves and creating a new set of problems that persist to this writing.

August 25, 2007

Pimp Arrested at Motel. It's not a pleasant subject, but prostitution is, unfortunately, a common problem at area motels. On this date, a 30-year-old man from Lynn who “manages” several prostitutes in the area is arrested on active warrants after his third Danvers incident in a month.

September

September 1, 2007

Laptop Theft Pattern. There has been a theft of a laptop computer from a car every night for the past three days, with all entries made by smashing a window. The thefts occurred at the Sheraton Ferncroft, the Liberty Tree Mall, and Hardcover restaurant between 5:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.



September 12, 2007

Counterfeiting Pattern. In the past six days, we have taken three reports of counterfeit currency: two at a gas station on Route 114 and one at a department store on Route 1. Bills in both \$10 and \$20 denominations have been received.

September 25, 2007

Inept Burglar Comes to Town. A spectacularly unsuccessful burglar prowls the MacArthur Boulevard area. He cuts the screen on one rear door, pops another window screen, and is seen unscrewing motion detector lights on a third house, but he never makes entry into any of the houses. The next night, an officer identifies a probably suspect walking around the area and scares him away.



October

October 4, 2007

Fired Solicitors Still Around. About the end of August, we arrested half a dozen magazine solicitors from "Fidelity Reader services." Either because of the arrests, or coincidental to it, they were all fired and left in Danvers. Lacking any resources to go home, several began living in Route 1 motels. As of October, they are still there, "romancing" and getting in various sorts of trouble with local girls, stealing from each other, committing an assortment of petty crimes, and being accused of sexual assault. The motel will eventually kick them out and they will disappear.

October 6, 2007

Knife Assault. After a series of harassing phone calls and e-mails between former friends, one goes to the other girl's house, gets into a fight with a group of juveniles there, and ends up stabbing one girl in the leg with a knife and slamming a car door on the arm of another. She is arrested later in the day.

October 23, 2007

Copper Thefts. Thefts of copper wire, piping, and scrap metal have been fairly low this year, but this month we have three of them at the same construction site on Route 114, with total losses around \$6000. Directed patrols (we think) drive the offenders away.



October 23, 2007

Top-Dollar Theft. The most expensive theft of the year is recorded when a Liberty Tree Mall jewelry store reports more than \$32,000 in jewelry bracelets, earrings, chains, rings, and other jewelry missing.

October 24, 2007

Growing Dementia. In one of the sadder instances of the growing number of "psychiatric" calls recorded by the Danvers Police, an elderly Sylvan Street woman is convinced that a former acquaintance, 15 years dead, is alive and stalking her. There are 11 such complaints in 2007, including four in October. Some family intervention will later help reduce the problem.

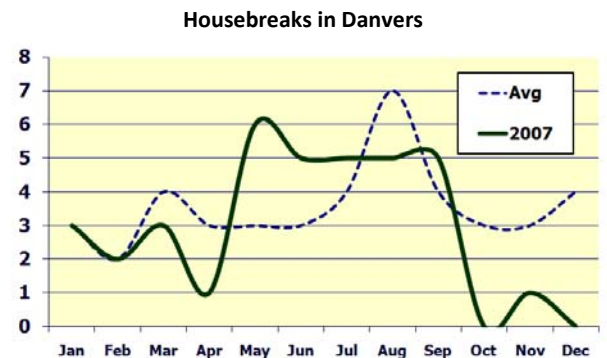
October 29, 2007

Brief Purse Theft Pattern. In the last week of October, we have four thefts from vehicles in parking lots of Endicott Street during the evening hours. The offender smashes side windows and steals purses. A quick allocation of directed patrols scares him off.

November

November 2, 2007

Last Housebreak. This date is notable for the last residential burglary in 2007; there won't be another one until January 18, 2008. This is the second-longest dry spell in the last 10 years.



November 20, 2007

Repeat Missing Person. Missing person reports have been rare since the Institute for Family and Life Learning (IFLL) on Liberty Street closed in 2003. But this month we have a rare pattern: six times this month, the daughter of a Danvers Square businessman goes missing from his workplace. The father seems to take some problem-solving measures, as the incidents stop abruptly after November 20.

November 26, 2007

Restaurant Hot Spot. Patrons of TGI Friday's on Route 1 suffer three smashed windows and thefts from their cars over a two-week period, all between 5:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.

November 26, 2007

Planet Fitness Re-Ignites. Incidents at the health club had declined after the arrest in the spring, but this month, we have four thefts—two from lockers, two from cars—at the center. All thefts target wallets and purses, just as in the series earlier in the year.

December

December 14, 2007

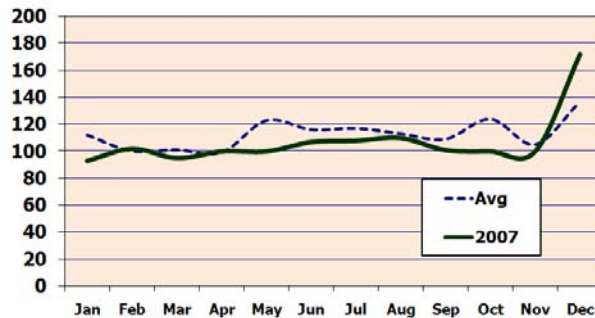
Fired Employee Unhappy. We receive multiple reports of a fired employee harassing and threatening his former co-workers at a Liberty Tree Mall restaurant.

December 21, 2007

Traffic Accidents Hit Record High. Traffic accidents were low most of the year, but on this date,

when a daytime snowstorm makes nightmares of both the morning and evening commutes, we have 31 accidents in Danvers—twelve incidents higher than the previous record of January 13, 2000.

Traffic Accidents



In Danvers in 2007, there was a:*

Assault	every	43 hours
Robbery	every	33 days
Burglary	every	6 days
Theft	every	11 hours
Auto theft	every	10 days
Vandalism	every	34 hours
Noise complaint	every	day
False alarm	every	5 hours
Crime	every	4 hours
Arrest	every	9 hours
Call for service	every	32 minutes



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

2007 Superlatives

- **Highest Call-for-Service Day:** Thursday, December 20, with 72 calls, thanks to a daytime snowstorm that caused a record high accident total and many disabled cars.
- **Lowest Call-for-Service Day:** Monday, November 12, with 19 calls. There were none between 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. this day, and none after 8:00 p.m.
- **Most Arrests:** Saturday, October 27, 2007, produced 15 arrests. Just after midnight, five teens were arrested in the same incident for liquor law violations, but the rest of the day remained high, with individual arrests for domestic assault, drunk driving, warrants, and drunkenness.
- **Highest Call-for-Service Locations:** Liberty Tree Mall (594); Wal-Mart on Route 114 (217); Endicott Plaza (202); Center for Addictive Behavior on Middleton Road (157); Danvers Plaza on Route 1 (154); Endicott Green Apartments on Route 1 (142); Danvers High School (130); Motel 6 on Route 1 (118); Home Depot on Route 1 (117).

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 2007, and the most promising avenues towards solving them.

In the *2007 Annual Crime Report*, we look at:

- Thefts of GPS devices from cars
- Thefts of wire, piping, and scrap metal
- Mental disorders
- Thefts of car parts from auto dealerships
- Juveniles from troubled homes
- Domestic Violence

Solving crime and disorder problems requires thinking “outside the box” and pursuing strategies with more long-term effects than simply making more arrests or trying to effect change from within the criminal justice system. 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.

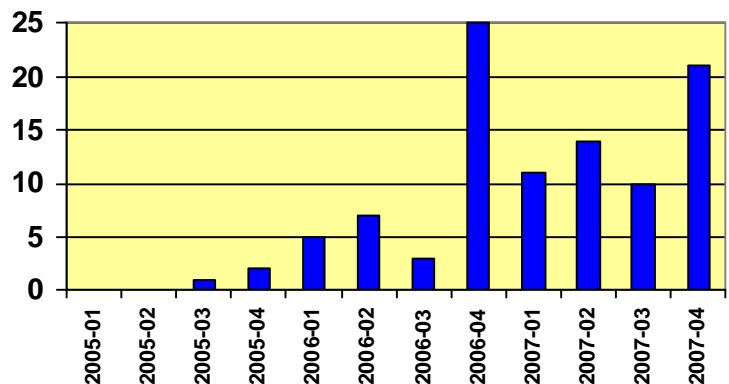
Theft of GPS Devices

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.² 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 about 2005, 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 in Danvers by Quarter

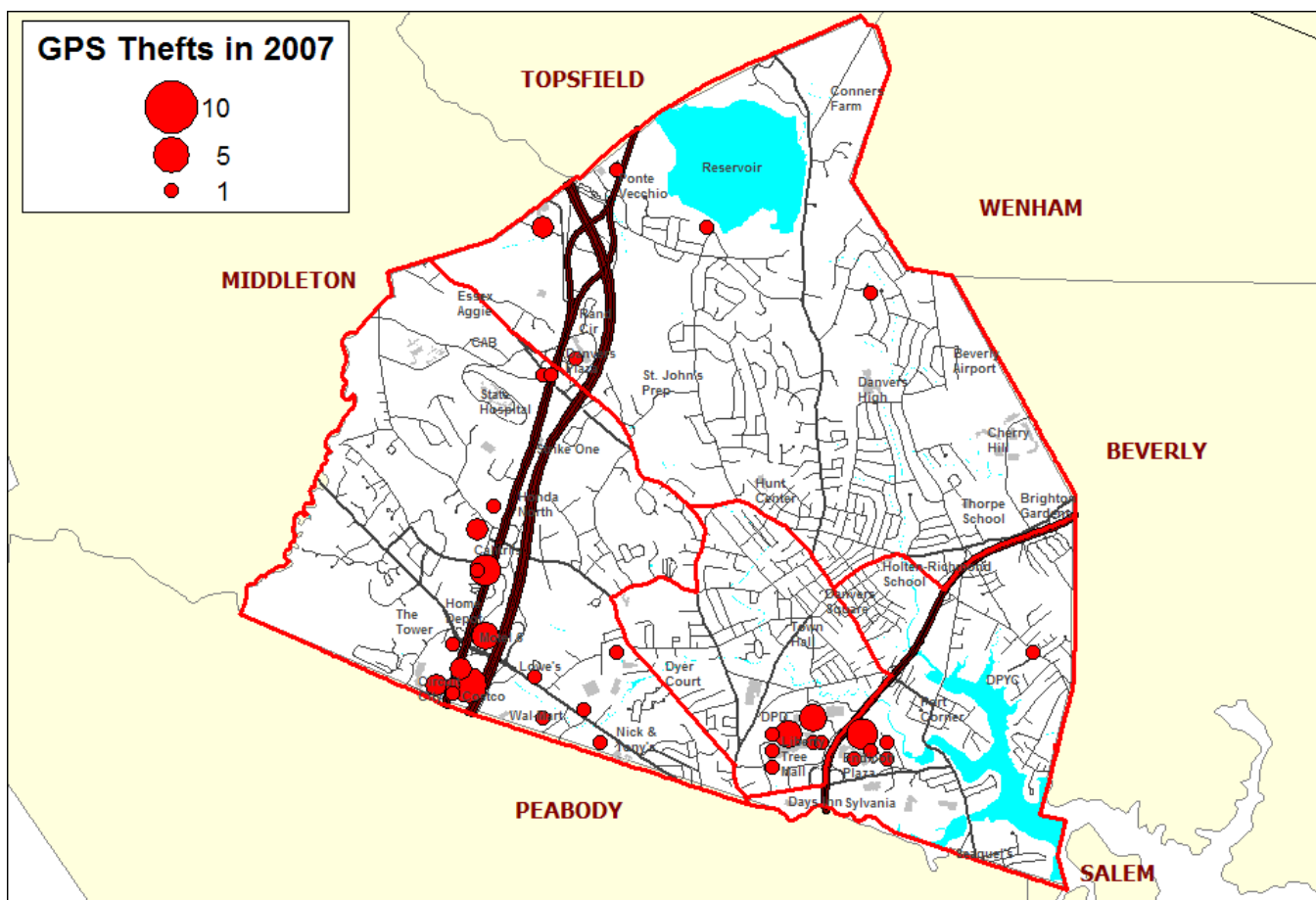


² Ronald Clarke, *Hot Products: Understanding, Anticipating, and Reducing the Demand for Stolen Goods* (London: Home Office, 1999).

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. Although no quarter in 2007 reached this high of 25 again, total thefts for 2007 (56) were 40 percent higher than in 2006 (40). High totals in January and February of 2008 suggest that the problem will continue to increase for the foreseeable future, as long as GPS devices are CRAVED.

GPS thefts are concentrated in the following geographic areas and location types:

- **Route 1 and Route 114 Restaurants** during the dinner hours of 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.
- **The Liberty Tree Mall**, also usually in the evening.
- **Route 1 Hotels and Motels** overnight (9:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m.)
- **Route 1 and 114 Department Stores** during the afternoons (12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.)
- **The Endicott Plaza Area**, especially Hollywood Hits Theater in the evenings.



The cars tend to be newer model, expensive vehicles (which of course are more likely to have the systems). Entry is most often gained (as with other thefts from cars) by smashing a window. Garmin systems seem to be the most targeted, though that is probably just a function of ownership rates; Garmin is the most popular manufacturer.

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 suspect a number 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.

Most important:

- **Owners should hide the devices or remove them from their cars when they will be left alone for long periods.**

This one step alone, if adopted, will eliminate the problem. The difficulty is, first, finding a way to deliver this message to potential victims and, second, getting them to abide by it.

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”

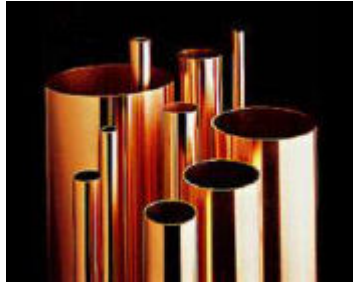
Finally, there are some steps that police can take to increase the chances of recovering stolen devices, disrupting markets, and identifying and charging offenders.

- 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.



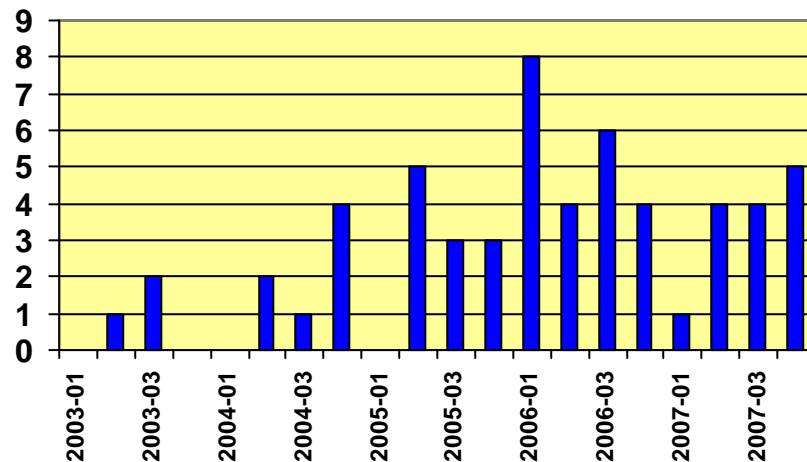
Thefts of Wire, Piping, and Scrap Metal



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 (many thieves have been electrocuted and killed in these attempts). We've even seen reports of burglars entering businesses, tearing down the drywall, and stealing the copper pipes directly out of the walls. Prices fell towards the end of 2006 and beginning of 2007, but have started to climb again since the fall. The problem certainly isn't over.

Metal Thefts in Danvers by Quarter



In Danvers, this problem manifested itself in several ways:

- **Shoplifting at Home Depot.** For some reason, the phenomenon has not affected Lowe's (or they're not reporting it to us). The Home Depot on Route 1 reported eight incidents of shoplifting in the last two years, and the one by the Liberty Tree mall reported three. These aren't sophisticated thefts; the thieves just wheel or carry it right out the front door. Almost all of the incidents have resulted in arrests.
- **Burglaries and thefts at construction sites.** There have been seven such incidents in the past two years, with some sites suffering multiple thefts. Poorly secured and unguarded at night, construction sites often make attractive targets for thieves.
- **Thefts from utility yards.** Danvers Electric Light suffered two thefts in 2006, but the problem went away on the adoption of better security (and, possibly, the arrests of the offenders in Lynn).

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.

Metal Thefts by Crime Type

Crime	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Commercial Burglary	1	0	0	0	3	2
Construction Site Theft	1	0	3	6	1	4
Utility Yard Theft	0	0	0	0	3	1
Shoplifting	0	3	2	3	9	2
Other Theft	0	0	2	2	6	5
Total	2	3	7	11	22	14

The key question is what happens to the copper (and aluminum, another “hot” metal in 2007) 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.

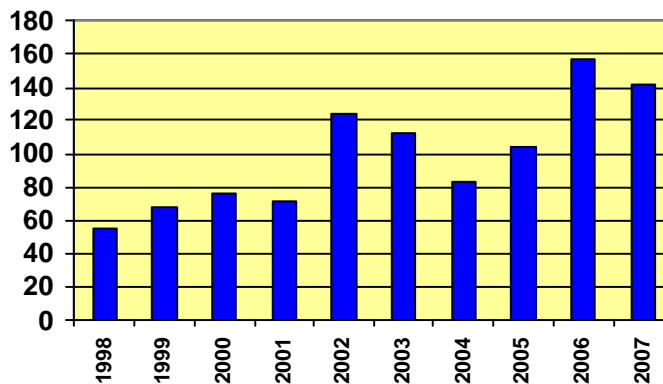
While targeting the outlets-for-sale is probably the most effective way to reduce thefts, there are other strategies that may work at specific locations.

- 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.
- Stores that sell copper wire and pipe should target extra surveillance in these areas and tag merchandise with electronic security measures.

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 142 calls for "psychiatric disorders" recorded in Danvers in 2007. 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.

"Psychiatric" Incidents in Danvers



Some examples:

- A woman in her 50s reported that someone has been sneaking into her apartment while she is away and placing surveillance devices, changing the placement of her picture frames, and rigging the heat so that music comes out of the vents.
- A woman in her 70s called police 13 times between September 2006 and December 2007 to report harassment, thefts, and burglaries committed by a man who has been dead for more than 20 years.
- A man in his 40s claimed a systematic pattern of harassment going back 15 years committed by another Danvers resident. When interviewed, the supposed tormenter clearly had no idea who the reporting man even was.
- In August, a woman left several long, nonsensical, and vaguely threatening messages for a priest she knew 28 years ago, then showed up and heckled him during mass.
- At a group home in the Woodvale neighborhood, a 24-year-old female resident, upset about her inability to make a phone call, assaulted staff members, ripped a door from its hinges, and trashed an office.
- At CVS in July, a Peabody man in his 20s parked his car the wrong way in the fire lane, entered, asked about buying makeup, wedged himself between the window and an ATM machine and hung out for a while, gave the clerk a \$100 bill to "hold" while he shopped, and scuttled about the floor on his hands and knees.
- On Hillcrest Road in June, a man in his 30s with a history of drug abuse barricaded himself in the basement of his home with his Rottweiler, claimed he had gasoline, and threatened to blow the house up. He gave himself up after a long stand-off.
- In March, a woman in her 30s barricaded herself her bathroom, requiring officers and EMS to force entry. She screamed incoherently, foamed, kicked, and clawed at officers as she was taken to the hospital.
- In February, officers went to check on the well-being of a woman in her 40s in her apartment. She was lucid but completely delusional, saying she was an archangel and her body was inhabited by two people. Her husband suggested that she might be under a voodoo hex. The same woman had claimed a month earlier that voices had threatened her with death unless she traveled to Sarasota, Florida.

These examples indicate a number of different types of disorders to which police respond. The table below tracks these categories over five years.

Type of Disorder	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Change 2002-7	Change 2006-7
Alzheimer's/Dementia	10	3	4	4	9	13	+30%	+44%
Bi-Polar Disorder	2	3	3	1	4	1	-50%	-75%
Hallucination/Delusion	10	7	9	13	23	31	+210%	+35%
Suicidal/Depression ³	49	54	34	43	65	46	-6%	-29%
Psychotic/Violent Rage	5	8	5	12	17	7	+40%	-59%
Unknown/Other Disorder	47	37	28	31	39	44	-6%	+13%
Total	123	112	83	104	157	142	+121%	-10%

Other relevant facts include:

- Three people accounted for 25 of the calls. One of them accounted for all of the increase in the "Alzheimer's/Dementia" category, and the other two together accounted for 48% (15) of the "Hallucination/Delusion" incidents.
- Other than the homes of the three people indicated above, the most common "hot spots" were the Center for Addictive Behavior on Middleton Road (incidents increased with the addition of a juvenile treatment facility in 2005); 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 "hallucination/delusion" 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 eight years, only ten people (6%) 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 normally 55% male. In 2007, they were 61% female. (This is likely because all three of the people indicated in the first bullet point were women.) Their average age is 38. Teenagers account for 20%. 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.

³ 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.⁴

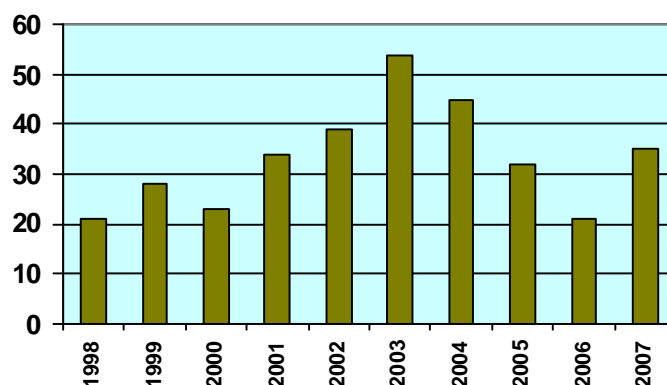
This is one of several social issues frustrating to police, because although we are on the front line of response, we can do little about the underlying factors that give rise to the incidents. Nonetheless, because we *are* on the front line of response, we shall keep trying different problem-solving strategies until something sticks.

Thefts of Car Parts from Auto Dealers

We left this problem off last year's list because it seemed to be going down (check the trend from 2003 to 2006), but we had a resurgence in 2007. It will probably exist to some degree as long as auto dealerships exist within Danvers, so we'll have to keep checking in frequently.

For a thief looking for cars or car parts, Danvers is a one-stop shopping center. With Ford, Infiniti, Dodge, Chevrolet, Lexus, Mitsubishi, Toyota, 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.

Thefts from Car Dealers in Danvers



⁴ <http://jdp.framinghampd.org/operations.htm>

The problem is particularly difficult for police to solve, for two primary reasons:

1. Auto dealerships are difficult to patrol. There are many places to hide. Thieves can easily conceal themselves and wait for police patrols to leave.
2. The crimes seem to be committed by a large number of individuals. We have made multiple arrests over the years, but none of them have made it go away. It seems wherever there is a large supply of available targets, offenders will come.

Though some dealerships have been “hot spots” on-and-off, this problem affects all of them—no dealership in Danvers has been immune from thefts in recent years.

Statistics show that thefts from cars at auto dealerships reached a peak in 2003 and dropped considerably for the next two years. The 2006 total of 21 was the lowest in at least 10 years. But thanks to a new affinity for Infiniti tires and rims, we saw a significant increase (from 2006) in 2007.

The majority of the thefts are of car parts. In the last three years, we have lost:

- 117 tires, rims, and/or hubcaps
- 22 stereos
- 14 sets of headlamps
- 7 rear-seat televisions/DVDs
- 4 tailgates
- 2 bumpers
- 2 grilles
- 2 snow plows
- 1 license plate
- 1 set of seat covers
- 1 catalytic converter
- 1 glove box door
- 1 transmission knob
- 1 dashboard
- 1 hood
- 1 axle

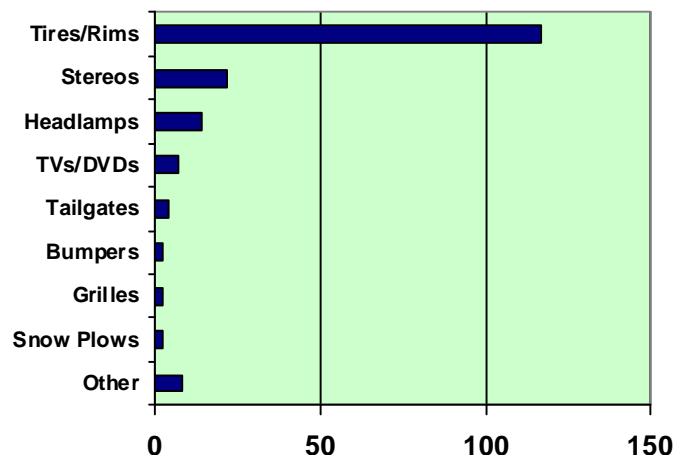
Thefts in 2007 were a bit more focused than in previous years: 46% involved thefts of tires and rims, compared to 42% in 2006, 19% in 2005, and 31% in 2004. We can tell from crime scenes that many of these thefts were committed quickly, efficiently, and with skill. The specificity of the items stolen suggests that thieves come to town with a “shopping list” of parts that they know crooked shops are ready to buy.

The thefts occur when dealerships are closed, of course, and on all days of the week. No particular season of the year dominates.

In ten years, we have arrested only nine people for such thefts on six occasions. They were aged between 17 and 38, all men, all from eastern Massachusetts—the closest from Peabody, the furthest from Brockton. Many had been suspected or arrested for auto parts thefts in other towns.

What we still don't know is where the stolen parts are going. Is there a significant market for used auto parts (especially many that look suspiciously new), or are the stolen parts being sold to a small handful of crooked auto shops? If the latter, how do they communicate their current “demand” to would-be thieves? We need to develop regional intelligence and conduct follow-up interviews with known offenders to help identify the characteristics of these markets.

Thefts from Car Dealers in Danvers



Solving the Problem

We believe that the key to reducing auto parts thefts is to reduce demand for stolen parts. This means disrupting illegal markets, most of which are probably run out of shady repair and body shops. Such shops would buy stolen parts at cut rates, then bill customers or insurers for the full value of a new part.

We do not believe that such dealerships are located in Danvers, so disrupting these markets will involve collaboration with other agencies, especially those with dealerships that are experiencing the same problems. Since many cities and towns with auto dealerships suffer the same problem, collaboration is within the best interests of many agencies. These agencies can work to develop and enhance regional intelligence on stolen auto parts thieves and their markets, conduct surveillance on known thieves, and investigate crooked repair shops.

Beyond that, and again assuming that thefts rise again, we might look to more standard environmentally-based crime prevention measures at local dealerships. The dealerships, of course, have a vested interest in preventing thefts, so we assume that they've already enacted a number of measures, but only a comprehensive survey can tell for sure.

Neighborhood Feuds

They can start over anything. One resident complains about another's loud stereo. A woman yells at her neighbor's kids for drawing on her walkway with chalk. A man cuts down a tree that is (or is perceived to be) on someone else's property. Angry words follow, perhaps a veiled (or not-so-veiled) threat or two, a call to the police, and pretty soon the neighbors are at war. If all goes well, the police are able to mediate, the neighbors shake hands, and things return to normal. If not, the incidents escalate to vandalism, theft, increasingly ugly disputes, harassment, and perhaps even an assault.

During 2007, Danvers police took reports involving 16 ongoing feuds between neighbors. There were 115 total incidents of crime and disorder in which the participants were neighbors, down slightly from 119 in 2006.

Some of the 16 chronic feuds represented in 2007 have been going on for years. One, in the Reservoir area, has racked up more than 40 incidents of threats, harassment, vandalism, theft, trespassing, and similar incidents since 2001. Others are just emerging, as in a noise-related feud between neighbors in Danversport that has resulted in three incidents since December 2007. Some feuds are "about" something, as in the case of the ongoing spat between two Maple Street neighbors over where one's dog habitually defecates, or a brief January 2007 conflict between Elliott Street residents over property lines. Others had an original cause but swiftly devolved into general animosity between the participants.

Incidents Between Neighbors		
Type	2006	2007
Sex Offenses	2	0
Assault	3	3
Other	9	21
Disputes	66	43
Disorderly/Drunkenness	7	6
Harassment	6	8
Theft	2	2
Noise Complaints ⁵	15	21
Threats	4	3
Traffic Complaints ⁵	3	3
Vandalism	2	5
Total	119	115

⁵ These represent only the incidents in which the complainant was verified as a neighbor. There are many more incidents in which the complainant was anonymous or unknown.

In the worst cases, home life becomes a nightmare. Instead of relaxing in their homes after a long day, participants never feel comfortable in their own houses. They obsess about what their neighbors are doing, stand transfixed and suspicious at the window whenever a neighbor is outside, wake up in the night at any noise or light, and can never feel safe leaving their homes to go on vacation or even to work. It's no way to live.

Neighborhood feuds are particularly vexing to police for several reasons. First, while each participant undoubtedly feels that he or she is "in the right," there's usually blame to go around on both sides. (One neighbor may have been responsible for the first event, but the other's chosen means of response makes him or her just as culpable for the ongoing feud.) Second, incidents rarely rise to the level of actual crimes, so instead of charging someone with an offense, police have to act as mediators. Officers have varying degrees of skill at this sort of thing. Third, neighborhood feuds are usually about subjective offenses. An officer may simply not agree that music is "too loud" or that the lights are "too bright" or that one resident "deliberately" aimed his snowblower into the other's yard. Finally, involving the police often simply exacerbates the feud.



Solving the Problem

Solving neighborhood feuds is no harder than solving most personality conflicts between individuals living in close quarters and sharing resources...which means it's pretty hard. Nonetheless, some strategies have shown success in other agencies:

- The department's crime analyst should scan for emerging neighborhood feuds just like any other pattern or series. He should alert the agency to any repeat or escalating problem so that the agency can intervene quickly.
- The police department could designate one individual, with the requisite personality skills, as a "neighborhood mediator." With some training in dispute resolution, a single trained and skilled officer might have more success where individual officers have not. Alternately, the department might seek someone from another town agency to fill this role.
- The department should prepare some literature for residents reporting problems with their neighbors, with tips for dispute resolution and a guide for when to involve the police, other town agencies, or legal assistance.



Domestic Violence

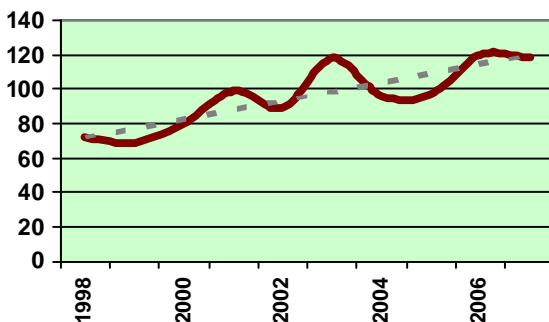
Domestic violence is an old and persistent problem. Violence is actually only one category of the various crimes that can occur between family members and intimate partners.

Domestic Crimes and Incidents in Danvers

Incident Type	2004	2005	2006	2007
Aggravated Assault	10	5	15	12
Simple Assault	60	66	76	83
Threats/Intimidation	24	22	23	20
Sexual Assault/Sex Offenses	2	4	6	3
Total Violence	96	97	120	118
Violation of Restraining Order	48	26	22	25
Auto Theft	0	2	0	0
Burglary	4	7	7	5
Fraud/Forgery	7	2	3	7
Other Theft	6	7	8	6
Vandalism	5	9	9	10
Disorderly/Drunkenness	24	27	24	29
Disputes (immediate)	217	231	226	233
Harassment	18	8	7	16
Harassing Phone Calls	23	15	20	20
Civil Disputes (no immediate incident)	9	13	17	20
Keep Peace/Stand By	14	17	17	14
Other	18	26	14	26
Total Incidents	489	487	494	530

After years of decreases in the 1990s, domestic violence bottomed out in about 1998 and has been increasing slowly but steadily since then. The total of 120 incidents in 2006 was a 10-year high, and 2007 wasn't far behind at 118. Domestic simple assault in 2007 was at the highest level in a decade. Total domestic incidents also hit a high of 530 in 2007, with high totals in various kinds of disputes.

Domestic Violence in Danvers



Domestic Violence by Relationship Type

Relationship	2006	2007
Intimate Partner	30	42
Parent/Child	32	26
Spouse	29	25
Ex-Intimate Partner	9	11
Sibling	7	7
Ex-Spouse	7	3
Other	6	4

This increase is probably a function of increasing population. In the past two years, we have seen several new, large, multi-unit apartment complexes open on Route 1, Route 114, and Conant Street, and many of the incidents are concentrated at these new buildings. Still, the increase is disturbing. To help combat it, the Danvers Police appointed Lt. Carole Germano to the task of monitoring domestic violence, identifying individuals with repeat or escalating incidents, and intervening. We hope this reduces overall volume in 2008.

Status of Problems Reported in the 2006 Annual Crime Report

The *2006 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 2007. Following is a brief update of each.

Drunk Driving

Danvers Police have received awards from MADD for four years in a row, recognizing their extraordinary efforts to get drunk drivers off the roads. Between 2000 and 2006, the number of drunk driving offenses increased from 39 per year to 132.

Incident	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Drunken driving charges	39	55	46	80	107	120	132	89
Alcohol-Related Accidents	31	35	28	29	27	21	31	24

Drunk driving didn't cease to be a problem in 2007, but the number of arrests fell 33% between 2006 and 2007, and officers report that drunk drivers are becoming harder to find. We hope that our past years of intensive enforcement, coupled with our strict enforcement at liquor license locations, can take at least part of the credit.

Aside from the decrease, the problem, and its potential solutions, remain unchanged from 2006. Readers can refer to the *2006 Annual Crime Report* (online at www.danverspolice.com) for the analysis. We reprint the "solution" section below.

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.

Counterfeit Traveler's Checks

Counterfeit traveler's checks (mostly American Express), gift checks, and MoneyGrams began flooding the United States in 2005 and really took off in 2006. It was a nationwide problem, and we still don't know where they came from. They made their way into circulation through a number of ways:

1. Offenders got them directly from the sources and, knowing they were counterfeit, passed them at stores.
2. Victims applied for online job ads, did various types of work, and were paid in the counterfeit checks. They found out they were duped when they showed up at stores to use them.
3. Residents selling items on eBay and Craig's List were paid in the counterfeit checks. They were generally *overpaid* (by "mistake," the buyer would say) and instructed to wire the difference back to the seller.

Some of the luckless folks in the latter two categories were actually arrested in various jurisdictions. It was a tough call for police. Many of those caught realized the checks were *probably* forged but tried to cash them anyway. They were both "victims" and "offenders" of the same crime.

The problem continued in 2007 with 15 incidents, but almost all of them were attempts. Stores caught on to the pattern fairly quickly and learned how to detect counterfeits. So while there are still a lot of counterfeits out there, they're not being successfully passed very often. There are some signs that offenders have adapted and are targeting smaller retail outlets rather than chain department stores, hoping that independent operators will have been less likely to have heard of the scam.



We repeat our advice from last year: the easiest way to solve this problem is for consumers and businesses to be suspicious of *all* traveler's checks, gift checks, and money orders. Get photo identification from the user and verify the check's authenticity with the issuer.

The Existentially Dysfunctional

"Existentially Dysfunctional" was the awkward term we adopted for a large number of offenders who fit a basic template. As we wrote in 2007:

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.

We probably bit off more than we could chew with this "problem." We noted that a holistic approach to addressing this population would involve drug and alcohol rehabilitation, mental health counseling, employment assistance, education, family support, residential stability, legal assistance, anger management, life management, and spiritual restoration.



The problem is, police aren't good at any of these things. Consequently, we envisioned "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." We're still exploring avenues here, but our plans to get a program off the ground in 2007 proved to be too optimistic. We're currently research how other agencies have approached this problem, and what funding sources are available for such a significant project. We hope to have an update in 2008.

Problems We're Watching in 2008

These are some problems that will probably make an appearance in the *2008 Annual Crime Report*, unless trends turn around:

- **Juveniles from Troubled Homes:** Some of our top offenders in recent years have been juveniles from staggeringly dysfunctional families. We'll look at ways to involve social services and the juvenile justice system to provide the guidance and resources their families cannot.
- **Prostitution at Budget Motels:** Budget motels throughout town continue to have sporadic problems with prostitutes, pimps, customers, and the inevitable disputes, disorder, drugs, and theft among them. We are working with the State Police to impact this problem and may have more to report at the end of 2008.

ANALYSIS OF SELECTED CRIME AND DISORDER

Murder

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

Average of 0 • 0 in 2007

Murder is a very rare crime for most cities and towns of Danvers's size. They occur in Danvers at a rate of one every three years. There were none in 2007.

The most recent Danvers murder was on May 4, 2006. 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 of stopping, 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, 2006 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.

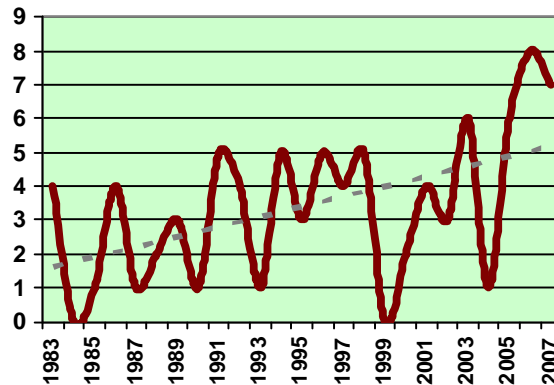
Rape

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 5 • 7 in 2007
40% Increase

The 2006 rape total was the highest in more than 25 years. In 2007, we dropped by one—still well above the average.

Rape, 1983–2007



A disturbing trend noted in 2006 became sharper in 2007: six of the seven victims in 2007 were under the age of 21. Four were aged 16 or under. All of the victims except one (the adult) knew or had prior contacts with her assailant. All were female.

Over the years, several repeat rape scenarios have emerged in Danvers:

1. Adult women visiting bars or parties in Danvers or other towns accompany man back to motel rooms in Danvers. There was one such incident in 2007.
2. Young teenaged girls dating men in their 20s are coerced or forced into sex against their will.
3. Teenaged girls, often in pairs, are picked up by older, out-of-town boys, also often in pairs, in public places. What starts out as a "date" or flirtation becomes a sexual assault when the boys get the girls intoxicated and/or to a secluded place.

Stranger rapes are very rare in Danvers. In 10 years, there has only been one rape in which the offender was completely unknown to the victim.

Indecent assaults (including molestation) were also high in Danvers in 2007 at 11. All but two were between acquaintances and 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.
- Set strict rules on your daughters' relationships with older men. Talk to them about the dangers involved with such relationships and how to escape if things turn ugly.

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.

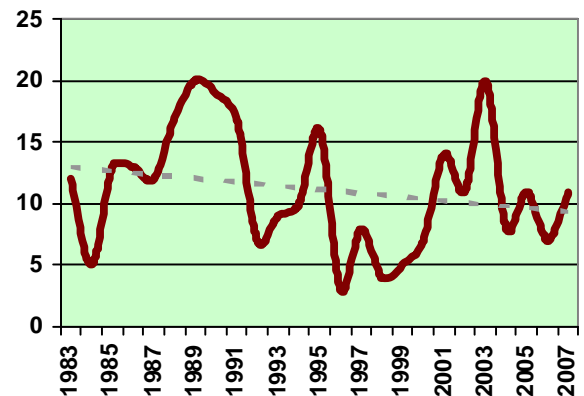
Robbery

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 • 11 in 2007 No Change

Robbery has been all over the map in the past 25 years, from a low of 4 in 1998 to a high of 20 in 1989 and 2003. At 11, it was about average for 2007.

Robbery, 1983–2007



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 2007, there were four individual robberies and seven commercial robberies.

There were a couple of mini-patterns in the 2007 incidents:

- Two of the individual robberies were committed against juveniles waiting for the bus near Best Buy at the Liberty Tree Mall. They were in April and August. One resulted in the arrest of a Lynn teenager.
- The new CVS on Route 1 was robbed once in November 2007 and again in February 2008. The old location for the same CVS, about 100 yards away, was never robbed.

Between 2000 and 2005, there were frequent patterns of purse snatchings, usually occurring in grocery and department store parking lots on Endicott Street. These did not recur in 2006 or 2007. There was one purse snatching in 2007, but it occurred at the Peabody Institute Library.

Bank robberies have also been a problem in the past, but there was only one in Danvers in 2007. Danversbank on Federal Street was robbed on a Sunday afternoon in July by two inept drug addicts in their 20s who were caught shortly afterwards.

Six of the eleven robberies resulted in the arrest of at least one participant, either in Danvers or another jurisdiction. Except for juvenile "bullying" robberies, robbery offenders are overwhelmingly drug-addicted men in their 20s or drug-addicted boyfriend/girlfriend pairs. Their need for immediate cash overwhelms simple common sense: robbery is one of the dumbest crimes to commit, offering high risk of capture and severe punishment for often very little reward.

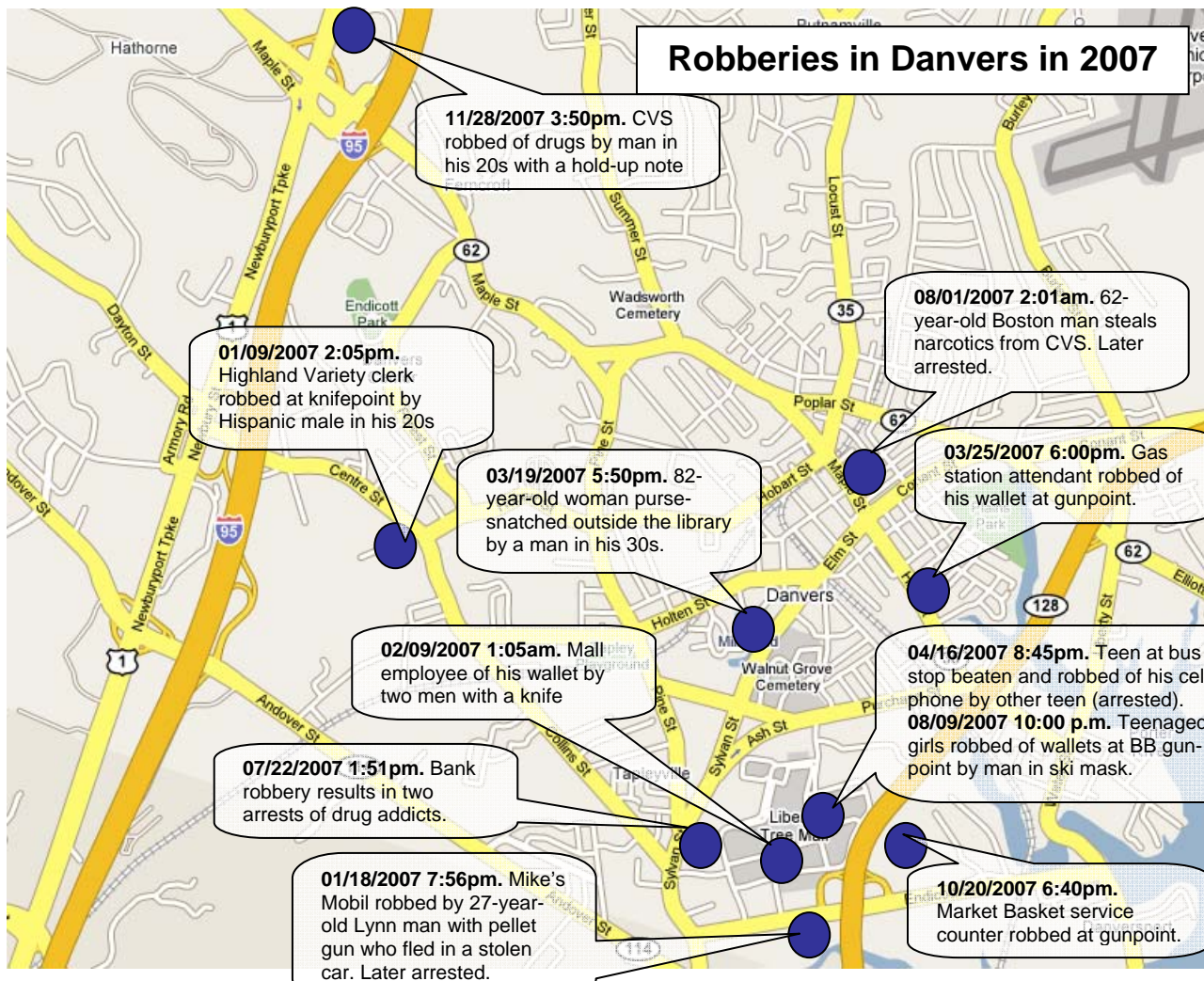
Preventing Robbery

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 2007



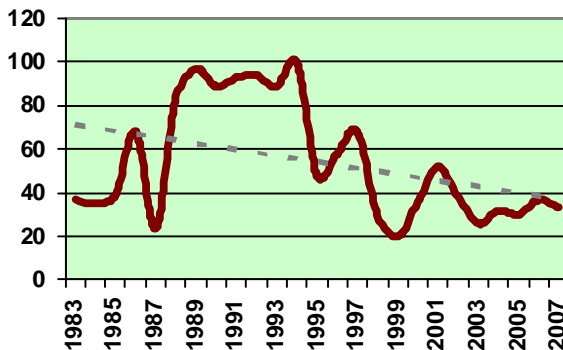
Aggravated Assault

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 34 • 33 in 2007
3% Decrease**

Statistics vary wildly for aggravated assault (from over 100 in 1994 to only 22 in 1999) because victims' reporting practices vary. The 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 slightly since 2003.

Aggravated Assault, 1983–2007



In 2007, there were three aggravated assaults that we categorized as “random,” meaning they were between strangers and unprovoked.

1. During the fireworks festival on July 3, a 20-year-old Beverly man looking for trouble exchanged words with a group of juveniles, shoved two girls to the ground, and punched a boy in the face so hard he broke his jaw, teeth, and eye socket.
2. In the early morning of September 2, for reasons unknown, two Danvers men beat a Beverly man bloody outside a house party on Elm Street. They were both charged.
3. On the afternoon of September 12, an 11-year-old girl walking home was shot in the leg with a paintball by two men in a Jeep Cherokee.

Aggravated Assaults by Category

Category	2004	2005	2006	2007
Domestic	10	7	16	12
Juvenile	7	5	4	6
Acquaintance	3	8	9	6
Bar Fight	2	1	1	1
Road Rage	4	0	3	0
Random/Stranger	2	4	3	3
Retail/Patron	1	0	1	0
Workplace	0	1	0	1
On Police Officer	1	2	1	3
Other/Unknown	2	2	0	0

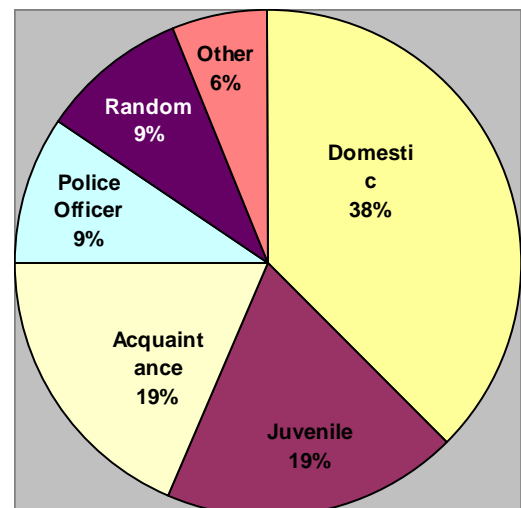
Domestic aggravated assaults had increased significantly in 2006. They fell slightly in 2007 but were still above average (as were domestic simple assaults). There were a couple of repeat families.

None of the 2007 incidents involved a gun, compared to five in 2006 (but just one in 2005). In four of the assaults, the weapon used was an automobile. Knives were used in three, and some kind of club or stick in seven.

Only two of the incidents resulted in serious injury: the above-mentioned July 3 assault left a teenaged boy with a broken jaw and eye socket, and an August 8 juvenile assault at the Liberty Tree Mall resulted in a damaged optic nerve, broken nose, and possible brain clot for an 18-year-old boy. Sixteen of the incidents resulted in no injury at all, although a dangerous weapon was used and the victim was placed in fear.

Alcohol was a factor in eight of the incidents (24%), including five of the 12 domestic aggravated assaults.

2007 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 2007, simple assaults increased 15% from the average, following an 8% increase in 2006—a disappointing trend after an eight-year low in 2005. The 2007 figure was the highest since 2001.

Simple Assaults by Category

Category	2004	2005	2006	2007
Domestic	60	67	78	87
Juvenile	23	21	30	25
Acquaintance	13	13	28	30
Bar Fight	2	0	2	2
Road Rage	4	1	6	6
Random/Stranger	5	3	8	2
Retail/Patron	8	2	3	4
Workplace	3	5	3	5
On Police Officer	8	2	6	9
Other/Unknown	7	5	3	3
TOTAL	133	119	167	173

The chart shows the increase entirely in the "domestic" and "acquaintance" categories. There several ongoing feuds between former friends, neighbors, and other acquaintances that have produced multiple incidents. Domestic assaults are reviewed in the "Trends and Problems" section of this report, on Page 28.

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.

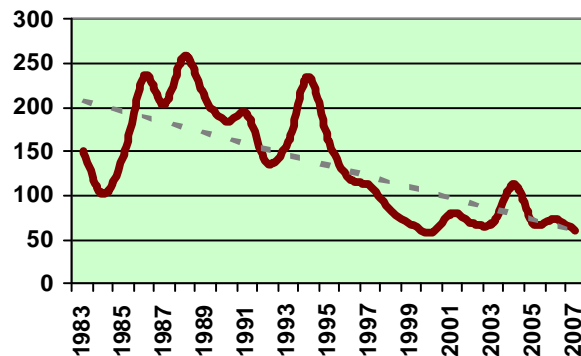
Burglary

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

**Average of 78 • 60 in 2007
23% Decrease**

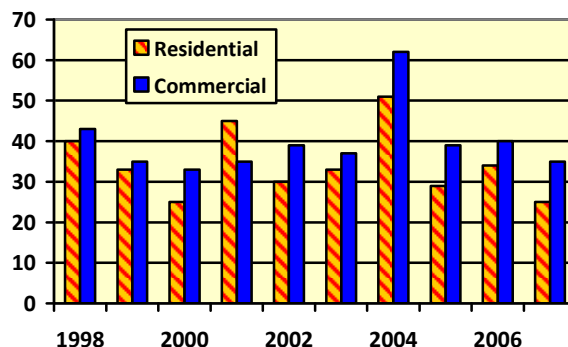
The burglary total was one of the best pieces of news in 2007, with commercial burglary falling 31% from the average and residential burglary falling 17%. These were the lowest totals since 2000 and the second-lowest totals in at least 25 years.

Burglary, 1983–2007

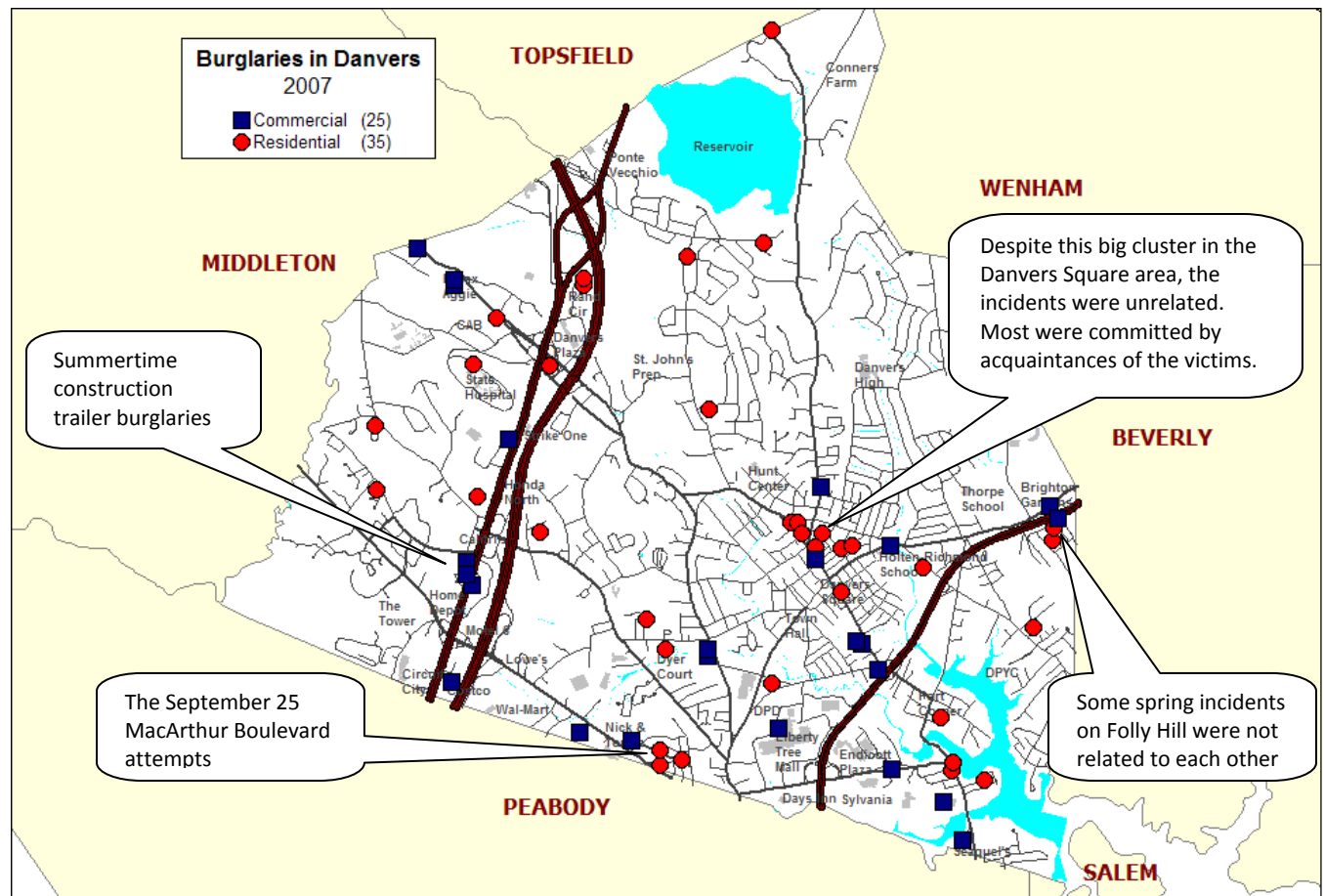


The 60 burglaries in 2005 comprised 35 housebreaks and 25 commercial breaks. Both were at their lowest points in seven years.

Burglaries in Danvers



There were only a couple of small patterns during the year. In December, an industrial facility on Water Street was burglarized for copper tubing, and it was identical to a September 2006 incident at the same location. An unsuccessful house burglar made three attempts on MacArthur Boulevard in September but didn't get in to any houses.



Over the summer, several construction trailers were burglarized on Route 1 with office equipment and tools stolen.

On June 20, Danvers was one of six towns struck in a residential burglary spree. We had only one of the incidents.

Housebreaks were actually fairly high or at least average over the spring and summer, but they dropped off abruptly in the fall. There was only one burglary during the last three months of the year.

Housebreaks are usually a daytime phenomenon: over the past three years, 67% of housebreaks have occurred between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m.; over half occur between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Commercial breaks, for obvious reasons, almost always occur at night: 85% 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.

Items most commonly stolen in housebreaks are:

- Jewelry
- Cash
- Video games and systems

- Cameras
- Laptop computers
- Drugs

Except cash, these items are often pawned in Salem and Lynn or sold at other types of secondhand shops throughout the area. Danvers Police are working on a bylaw requirement that would require the same level of reporting from shops buying secondhand games and DVDs as is required from traditional "pawn shops."

In 10 of the 35 housebreaks (33%), the victim knew the burglar. Many were the victim's acquaintances or ex-boyfriends. In none of the non-acquaintance burglaries did a victim come to harm, and in only one did the victim even encounter the burglar. He promptly fled.

Unfortunately, many Danvers residents routinely leave doors and windows unlocked: 12 burglaries occurred through an open door or window. Another 11 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 Vehicles

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

Average of 241 • 268 in 2007
11% Increase

Thefts from cars reached a 20-year-low in 2005, following a precipitous decrease from a 2002 peak. Things were looking good. But the proliferation of GPS devices has single-handedly revived the crime. (GPS thefts are studied earlier, on page 17.)

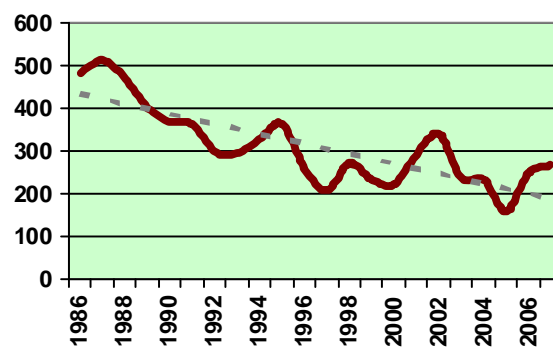
2007 was marked by several significant patterns of thefts from cars, including:

- Sporadic sprees at the Liberty Tree Mall all year.
- Thefts of tires and rims from Infinitis at Route 114 dealerships throughout the year.
- A May nighttime residential spree that targeted iPods in owner's driveways around Pine Street.
- GPS thefts from Route 1 and Route 114 restaurants and motels throughout the year.
- More than a dozen thefts from the Planet Fitness parking lot between April and July, with purses

stolen and credit cards used in Saugus, ultimately resulting in the arrest of a Boston man.

- Another May residential pattern, on Prince Place and Alma Lane, that resulted in the arrest of three teens from Malden and Revere.
- Thefts of parts from Bobcats over the summer.
- In October, a pattern of thefts from store parking lots off Endicott Street, with purses targeted.
- A new Planet Fitness pattern at the end of the year.

Thefts from Cars, 1986–2007



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—are 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.

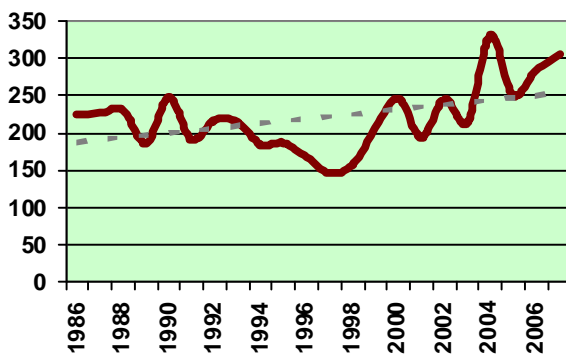
Shoplifting

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

Average of 256 • 305 in 2007
19% 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 and 2007.

Shoplifting, 1985–2007



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 2007 Shoplifting Reports

Wal-Mart	55 Brooksby Village Dr	61
Kohl's	50 Independence Way	54
Marshalls	100 Independence Way	26
Stop & Shop	5 Independence Way	24
Stop & Shop	301 Newbury St	17
Best Buy	230 Independence Way	17
Target	240 Independence Way	15
Claire's Boutique	100 Independence Way	11
Costco	11 Newbury St	9
Home Depot	92 Newbury St	7
Circuit City	4 Newbury St	7
Boater's World	35 Independence Way	7

The list shows the variances security practices can make. It is unlikely that tiny Claire's Boutique has fewer shopliftings than the big box stores below it on the list (not to mention several stores, like Lowe's and the mall Home depot, which reported one or no shopliftings). But shoplifters at Claire's are easier to catch, and the security policies there probably require a police presence.

The fourth-highest location on the list, the Liberty Tree Mall Stop & Shop, closed in late 2007, and we're already feeling its loss in lower shoplifting totals in 2008. But a CVS scheduled for Endicott Street may make up for it, depending on the store's policies.

A review of the 1,536 people arrested or suspected of shoplifting since 2003 shows that they are 51% male and 49% female (women have a far greater share of shoplifting than most other crimes). 44% are under the age of 21 (peak ages are 14–18), 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 (16%), Peabody (12%), Danvers (9%), Salem (8%), and Beverly (7%). Gloucester, Saugus, 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.

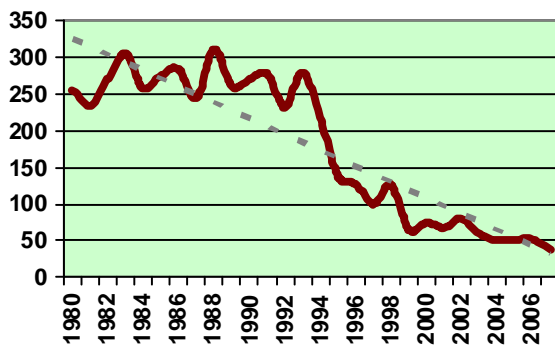
Auto Theft

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 61 • 38 in 2007
38% Decrease**

Auto theft is a crime on its way out. The 2007 total of 38 was the lowest in at least 28 years and probably a lot longer (we don't have data prior to 1980). In 2007, there was a period of almost three months (April 20–July 12) with no thefts, and two other periods of one month with none.

Auto Theft, 1983–2007



Several technologies and strategies have converged to reduce auto theft. In the 1990s, city and 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 police computers allow officers to determine quickly if a vehicle has been reported stolen, and tracking systems 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.

Incidents were so low in 2007 that only three locations had more than one: the Liberty Tree Mall (always the top spot because of the large number of targets) with nine; a dealership on Route 114 with two; and an body shop on Route 1 with another two.

Despite the low totals, we did have one pattern. Between December 18, 2007 and January 1, 2008, there were three thefts of 1991 Honda Accords at the

Liberty Tree Mall, with recoveries made in Saugus and Malden. The thefts were concentrated between 5:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. on weeknights. We also recovered two Honda Accords, stolen from Saugus and Salem, at the Mall. On January 5, State Police arrested a 19-year-old Lynn man driving a Honda Accord stolen from Saugus. He had a master key stolen from a Honda dealership, and the thefts stopped after his arrest.

During the past three years, the Honda Civic has been the most stolen model, with 23 thefts. The next, in order, are the Acura Integra (9), the Pontiac Grand Am (7), the Ford Explorer (6), and the Honda Accord (6). Historically, the average model year stolen has been about six to eight years prior to the year of the theft. The average model years stolen in 2007 was 1999.

85% of cars stolen since 2005 have been recovered. Our recovery rate in 2007 was 82%. Towns supplying the most recoveries since 2004 have been:

Danvers	19	Revere	9
Lynn	16	Chelsea	6
Peabody	13	Lawrence	6
Boston	10	Salem	6

Danvers Police recovered 17 stolen cars in Danvers in 2007, well below the average of 29. As we saw in the December 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.

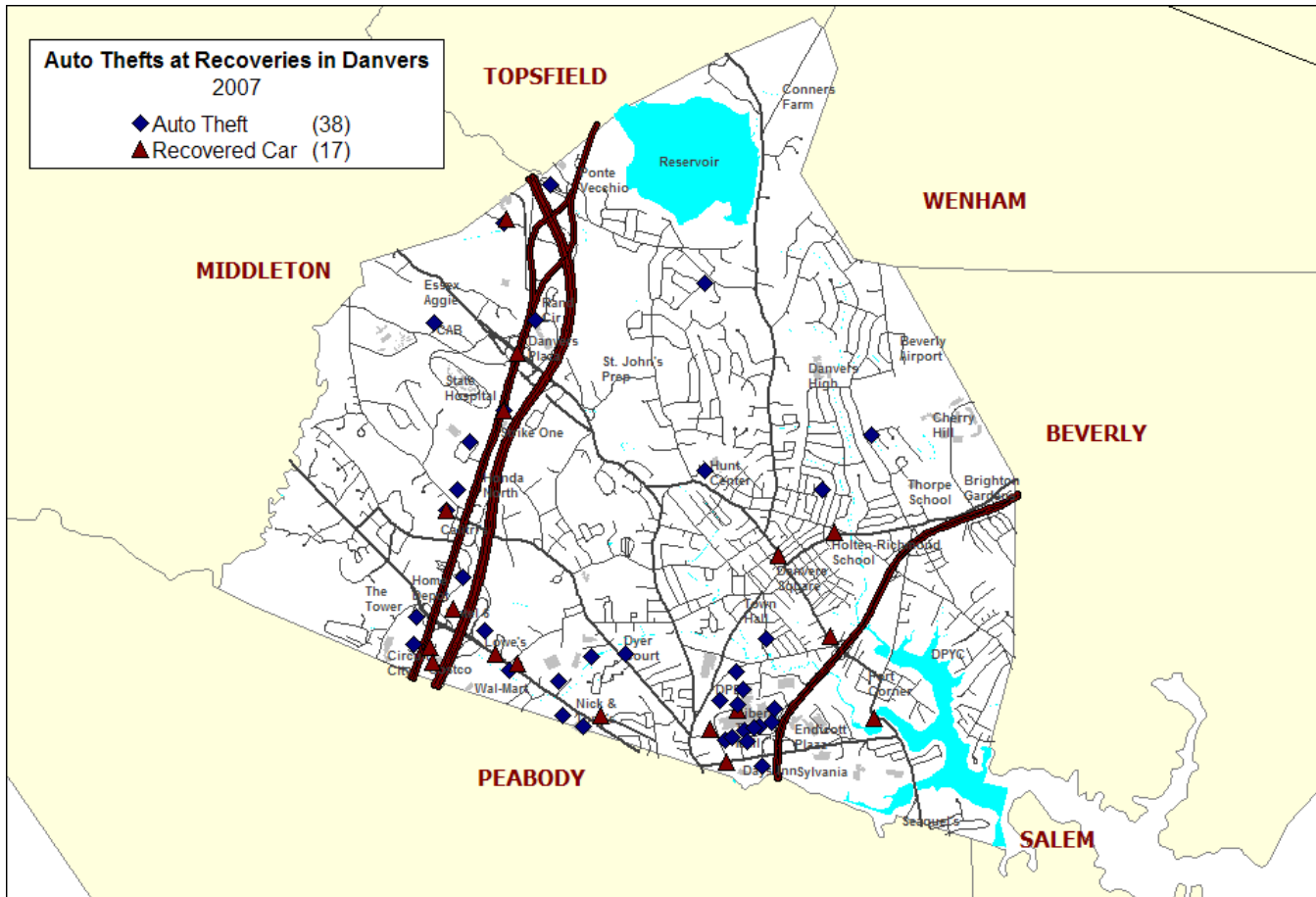
Preventing Auto Theft

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 116 • 147 in 2007
27% Increase

Except for an unexpected decrease in 2005, fraud and forgery have risen steadily in the 10 years that we have been tracking it. It reached its highest level on record in 2007 and shows no signs of slowing.

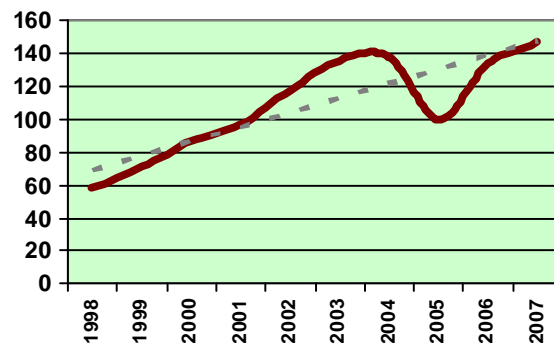
Fraud and forgery are a particularly vexing problem for local police for several reasons:

1) The means used to commit it transcend jurisdictional boundaries. Much is committed on the Internet, making it hard to determine which agency is responsible for investigating it.

2) No local agency has the resources to investigate multi-jurisdictional (often multi-state or multi-nation) offenses; yet state and federal agencies are usually uninterested unless the fraud reaches a high dollar value.

3) Credit card companies and retail chains have the power to eliminate many types of fraud but, for economic reasons that baffle us, choose not to.

Fraud & Forgery, 1998-2007



Fraud by Category

Category	2004	2005	2006	2007
Bad Checks	10	9	10	6
Con Games	15	18	31	12
Counterfeiting	13	8	15	35
Credit/ATM Card	62	35	57	57
Forged Check	19	12	8	14
Identity Theft	17	18	12	20
Other	2	0	1	2
TOTAL	138	100	134	147

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.

Other important tips include:

- Carry on the credit cards and checks you need for regular use—not all the ones you possess
- Hide your credit cards and checks, and consider changing account numbers, if a family member develops a drug problem or if you're going through a contentious divorce or break-up.
- Check your credit report regularly.

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 usually this involves credit cards stolen in other jurisdictions, used at Danvers stores. In the past two years, Best Buy, Target, Home Depot, Circuit City, and Wal-Mart



have been the hottest spots for credit card forgery, though an increasing number are occurring over the Internet. **Credit card fraud could be virtually eliminated** if credit card companies required a PIN with all purchases, and/or if stores required photo identification with all purchases. Requiring users to enter a zip code is a half-measure that has had some success in several states, but since the victim's identification (with zip code) is often stolen along with the credit card, it doesn't prevent the crime in a lot of cases.

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 U.S. bank account. If the victim agrees to the initial proposal, he or she is 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." This scam particularly targets elderly residents. Remember: if you have to send money to get money, it's a scam.
- **Online Sales Scams:** a growing problem that simply involves property purchased over eBay, Craig's List, or other online sites that never arrives even after payment is made. There isn't much victims can do about this except to work through the fraud departments of the online companies.

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 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 Pages 29–30, which elevated figures in 2006 and 2007.

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. The Danvers Police Department web site has links to resources for the prevention of identity theft.

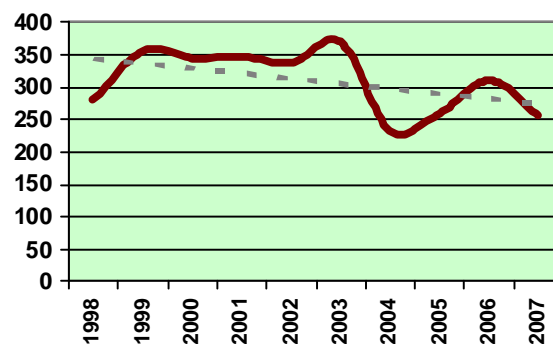
Vandalism

Vandalism: the intentional destruction or defacement of property. Such property might include houses, businesses, automobiles, public streets and signs, trees and flora, and personal property. Types of destruction can include smashing, graffiti, and egging.

**Average of 307 • 256 in 2007
17% Decrease**

Vandalism has been on a bit of a roller-coaster for the past several years, going from a high of 370 in 2003 to a low of 232 in 2004, followed by two years of increases in 2005 and 2006 and then a significant decrease in 2007.

Vandalism, 1998-2007



The difference between a high-vandalism year and a low one usually amounts to how many patterns and sprees that we have. Such patterns in the past have included springtime school vandalism, summer damage to plants in Danvers Square, and winter holiday decoration destruction. In 2007, we had essentially no such patterns.

Vandalisms in 2007 included 151 incidents of damage to automobiles, 36 incidents of damage to residences, 34 to businesses, and 25 to public buildings or property. The most common situational types were:

- Windows smashed on automobiles (usually in commercial parking lots): 51 incidents
- Automobiles scratched or keyed (27)
- Automobile tires slashed (26)
- Windows smashed at businesses (15)

Vandalisms are often the end result of petty feuds and squabbles between friends, ex-boyfriends and girlfriends, and neighbors.

Traffic Accidents

Traffic Accidents: The accidental collision of a motor vehicle with another motor vehicle, person, bicycle, or stationary object.

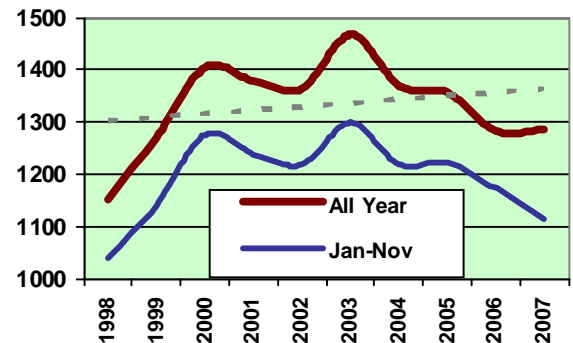
**Average of 1357 • 1286 in 2007
5% Decrease**

Traffic collisions were well on their way to the lowest total since 1998 when a terrible December brought several daytime snowstorms and the highest one-day accident total in history on December 20, which in turn made December 2007 the highest one-month accident total (172) in history. But the resulting total was still reasonably low, especially given that increased residential and commercial development have brought record levels of overall traffic to the town.

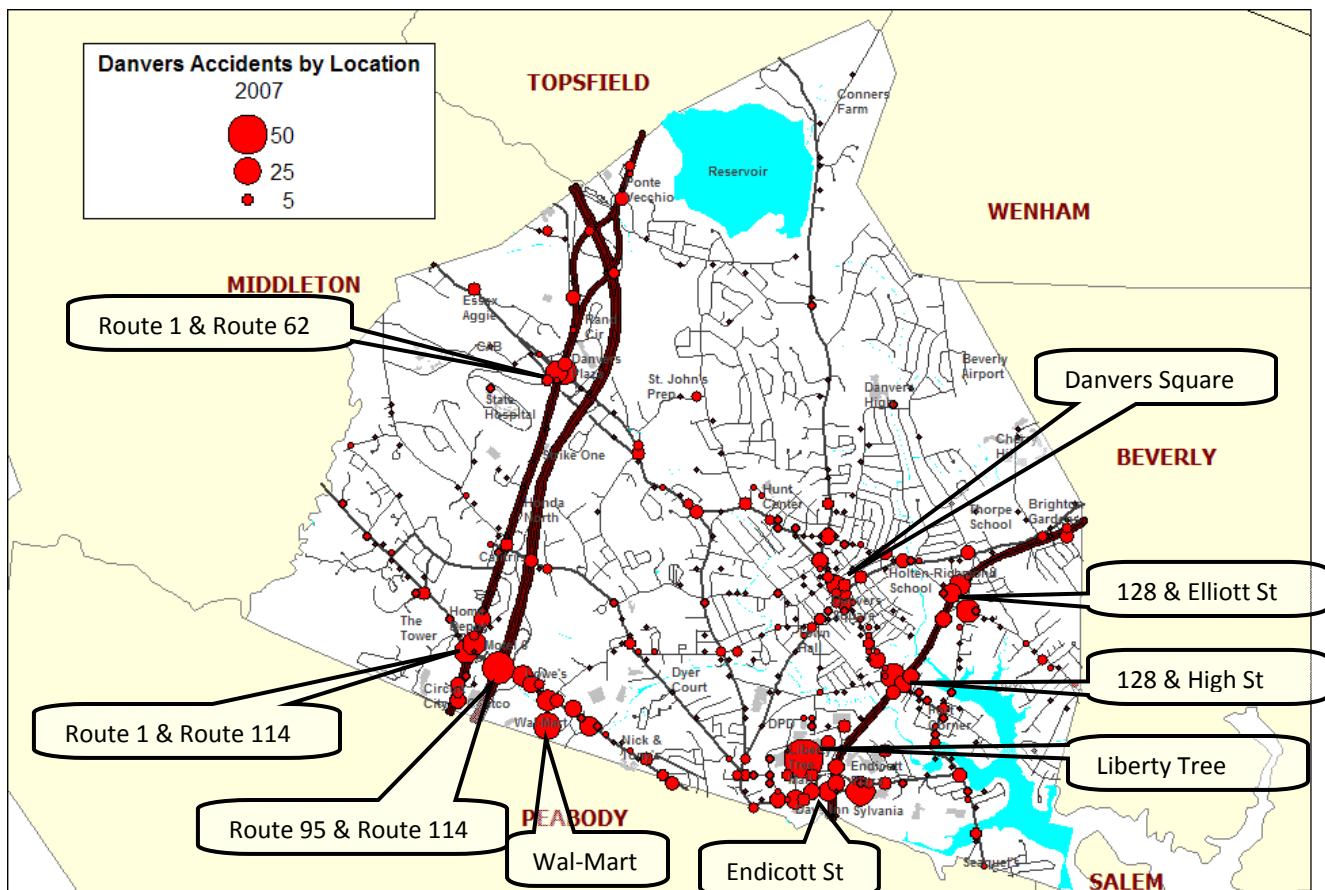
We credit the decrease primarily to an aggressive policy of **selective enforcement** adopted in late 2005 and continued in 2006 and 2007. An average of nine times a day, officers sit at assigned locations for fixed time periods, looking for specific violations (these locations and times may be determined by

analysis or by community concerns). This is up from an average of once a day in 2004.

Traffic Collisions, 1998-2007



One may wonder why, with nine times the level of selective enforcement, we could only effect a five percent decrease. The simple answer is: only a small percentage of accidents (about 11%) are caused by enforceable violations like speed, drunk driving, and running red lights. The vast majority are caused by distractions, inattention, misjudgment, and simple congestion—none of which are things an officer can practically identify and cite ahead of time.



POLICE SERVICES AND CONTACTS

The Danvers Police Department Web Site

<http://www.danverspolice.com>




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

[Alerts](#)
[Contacts](#)
[Stats & Analysis](#)
[Prevention](#)
[Forms](#)
[FAQ](#)

Top Reasons for Visiting

[Report a crime online](#)
[Download a form](#)
[Get information about firearms licensing](#)
[Get crime prevention tips](#)
[Contact someone at DPD](#)
[Get sex offender information](#)
[Search the state sex offender database](#)
[Review the town bylaws](#)

Please note: the Danvers Police Department does not provide patches to collectors or other agencies.

Search

WWW DanversPolice.com

Address
120 Ash Street
Danvers, MA 01923

Telephone
978-774-1213
978-774-1212

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 Neil F. Ouellette

The Danvers Police Department is a community

Chief's Tip of the Week

Careful When Merging!
One of the top accident causes in Danvers is what we call "merge mirage": when two cars are on an on-ramp, and the rear car mistakenly thinks the forward car has "already merged" into traffic. The rear driver turns to watch for his own opening and guns it when he sees one, not realizing until too late that the forward car is still in his path. Please make sure you have a clear path ahead of you when merging.

Read the New DPD Newsletter

The first issue of "The Defender," the Danvers Police Department's quarterly newsletter, was published on December 10. Click on the image below for holiday safety tips, the latest crime statistics and trends, "most wanted" felons, and departmental

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.

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.

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. 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 Eric Clarizia 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.

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