

January 2022 / MONTHLY REPORT



# TOWN OF SENECA FALLS POLICE DEPARTMENT

Respectfully submitted by:  
*Stuart W. Peenstra, Chief of Police*

February 1, 2022

# January “Snapshot”

In January 2022, members of the Seneca Falls Police Department documented 1908 duty-related events. These events include: responding to 690 calls for service, conducting 1012 property checks on both business and residential properties, and 179 traffic stops.

Seventy-four traffic tickets were issued consisting of 0 Felony, 14 Misdemeanor, and 60 Infractions. Out of these traffic tickets, officers arrested three individual for Driving While Ability Impaired.

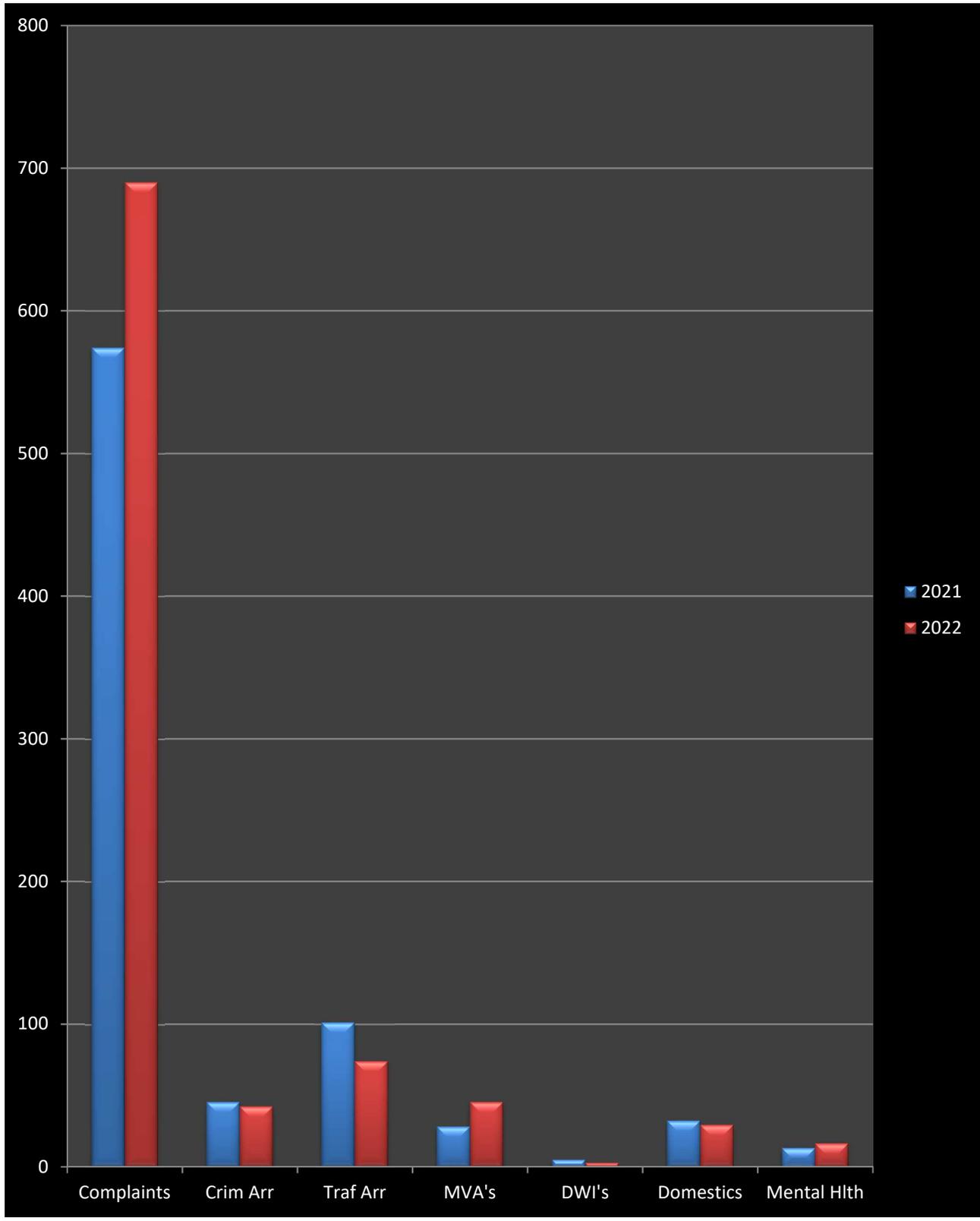
Forty-five motor vehicle crashes were investigated in January, consisting of 5 personal injuries and 40 property damage.

Twenty-seven individuals were arrested, resulting in 42 Penal Law charges. These charges yielded the filing of 9 Felony, 15 Misdemeanors, and 18 Violations with Town Court. This agency recorded one subject resistance report in January during one incident, resulting in no injuries to a civilian and no injuries to officers. There were zero citizen/officer complaints filed and numerous citizen/officer compliments filed.

The Seneca Falls Police Department responded to six-teen mental health related calls resulting in nine individuals requiring transportation by law enforcement to Clifton Springs Hospital. SFPD members utilized the department iPad for remote mental health services four times. Out of the four times, three individuals were stabilized within their home, requiring no transports for further evaluation by Clifton Springs Comprehensive Psychiatric Emergency Program.

In comparing January 2021 to January 2022, calls for service were up 20% (574/690); criminal charges were down 6% (45/42); traffic tickets were down 27% (101/74); traffic accidents were up 61% (18/45); Domestic Disturbances were down 9% (32/29); Mental Health Incidents were up 23% (13/16); and Driving While Intoxicated arrests were down 40% (5/3).

***Comparison Bar Graph Chart located on page 3.***



# **Criminal Investigation Division**

During the month of January 2022, the Criminal Investigation Division arrested four males which resulted in the filing of three felony and five misdemeanor charges. CID was assigned or assisted on 13 new investigations and successfully closed 10 of those with some form of closure. CID applied for and executed four Search Warrants and assisted on the execution of a multi-agency search warrant that yielded the seizure of illicit drugs and felony charges by another agency. CID made one court appearance and observed the forensic interview of 2 children at the CAC.

## **January Notable Case**

On Saturday, January 1, 2022, at 8:51 am the Town of Seneca Falls Police Department arrested Nora A. Weber, age 34, of Seneca Falls, New York. The arrest stems from an assault that occurred at the convenience store located at 126 East Bayard Street. At about 3:39 am the Seneca County 911 Center received a 911 call reporting that an officer of the Cayuga Nation Police Department had been stabbed in the leg during a property ownership dispute. Members of the Seneca Falls Police Department responded along with members of the Seneca County Sheriff's Office and New York State Police. Weber, a Native American was originally taken into custody by the Cayuga Nation Police under tribal laws. She was processed and released to the Seneca Falls Police Department who arrested and charged Weber under the New York State Penal Law. Weber was charged with one count of assault in the second degree, two counts of menacing in the second degree, one count of reckless endangerment in the second degree and one count of criminal possession of a weapon in the fourth degree. Weber was processed and transported to the Seneca County Law Enforcement Center to await arraignment. She will be due back in the Town of Seneca Falls Court at a later date to answer the charges.

## **January Notable Case – Continued from page 4**

On Monday, January 3, 2022, at 11:33 am the Town of Seneca Falls Police Department arrested Xavier J. Alford, age 29, of Seneca Falls, New York following a domestic dispute. During the dispute Xavier subjected a female to unwanted physical contact and also obstructed her breathing. Xavier was charged with one count of aggravated family offense, a class E felony, one count of criminal obstruction of breathing, a class A misdemeanor and harassment in the second degree, the latter being a violation. Xavier was processed and transported to the Seneca County Correctional Facility to await arraignment. He will be due back in the Town of Seneca Falls Court at a later date to answer the charges.

The Seneca Falls Police Department arrested a Buffalo-area man following an extensive police investigation and Seneca County Grand Jury indictment related to an incident involving sexual contact with a minor that took place in 2020. On Friday, January 7, 2022, at 7:02 pm town police arrested Walter L. Williams, age 41, of Buffalo, New York on a Seneca County Sealed Indictment Arrest Warrant. He was taken to the Seneca County Correctional Facility to await arraignment in county court on the sealed indictment warrant. Williams was arraigned in Seneca County Court on 01/10/22 on the sealed indictment warrant and charged with one felony count of sexual abuse in the first degree, one count of forcible touching, two counts of endangering the welfare of a child, and one count of sexual abuse in the third degree. He is accused of subjecting a person under the age of seventeen to sexual contact without that person's consent in the Town of Seneca Falls in May of 2020. He currently remains in custody at the Seneca County Correctional Facility in lieu of \$20,000 cash or \$40,000 bond and is scheduled to reappear in county court at a later date to answer the charges. The New York State Police and United States Marshals Service assisted in locating and apprehending Williams.

On Tuesday, January 11, 2022, at 1:32 pm the Town of Seneca Falls Police Department arrested Tammy S. Whitfield, age 50, of Seneca Falls, New York following an assault that occurred in November 2021. Police originally responded to an address on Bridge Street after a victim reported that she was stabbed in the leg by Whitfield during an altercation. The victim was transported to Geneva General Hospital for treatment of non-life-threatening injuries. Police were unable to locate Whitfield initially, a warrant was applied for and issued by the Town of Seneca Falls Court. On today's date police located Whitfield at a separate residence on Bridge Street from the initial incident. She was taken into custody by police without incident. Whitfield was charged with assault in the second degree and criminal possession of a weapon in the third degree, both class D felony charges. She was processed and transported to the Seneca County Correctional Facility to await arraignment. She will be due back in the Town of Seneca Falls Court at a later date to answer the charges.

## **January Notable Case – Continued from page 5**

On Tuesday, January 11, 2022, at 1:32 pm the Town of Seneca Falls Police Department arrested Felicia F. Cesarini, age 58, of Seneca Falls, New York. The arrest stems from a warrant investigation of another individual. The investigation revealed that Cesarini rendered criminal assistance to the wanted person by harboring, concealing and providing transportation with intent to prevent or delay the arrest of that individual known to be wanted by police. Cesarini was charged with one count of hindering prosecution in the third degree, a class A misdemeanor. She was processed and transported to the Seneca County Correctional Facility to await arraignment. Cesarini will be due back in the Town of Seneca Falls Court at a later date to answer the charge.

On Tuesday, January 11th, 2021 at 10:25 pm the Town of Seneca Falls Police arrested Katherine H. Stevenson, age 48, of Waterloo, NY for Petit Larceny and Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument in the First Degree. The arrest stems from a complaint at Walmart where it was reported on 01/04/2022 that Stevenson had used two counterfeit bills to purchase merchandise at Walmart. Stevenson was arrested and released with an appearance ticket. She is due to appear in the Town of Seneca Falls Court on a later date.

The Seneca Falls Police Department arrested Derek H. Hager, age 37, of 33 Green Street, Seneca Falls, NY on January 12th, 2022 at about 4pm. Hager was charged with one count of Criminal Sexual Act in the First Degree, a class B felony. It is alleged that in September of 2021 Hager engaged in oral sexual conduct with an adult female victim while she slept and was unable to provide consent. Hager was transported to the Seneca County Law Enforcement Center to await arraignment.

On Sunday, January 16th, 2022, at 5:17 PM, the Town of Seneca Falls Police Department arrested Bryan T. Rugenstein, age 57, of Seneca Falls, for Petit Larceny and Criminal Solicitation in the 5th degree. The arrest follows an investigation into a theft that occurred on December 27th, 2021. It was reported that Rugenstein had secured a personal check from the victim with a promise to purchase merchandise on behalf of the victim. Rugenstein then failed to purchase the merchandise as promised and utilized a third party in order to cash the check. Following the arrest, he was processed and released with an appearance ticket. He is due to appear in the Town of Seneca Falls Court on 02/09/2022 at 10:00A.M.

## **January Notable Case – Continued from page 6**

On Thursday, January 20, 2022, at 12:31 pm the Town of Seneca Falls Police Department arrested Kelly L. Utter, age 38, of Seneca Falls, New York following a child abuse investigation. On Wednesday January 19, police were called to the Seneca Falls Central School District office after transportation employees were unable to make contact with the parent of a nine-year-old child they were attempting to drop off at home. When school officials did make contact with Utter she stated that she was no longer going to be able to care for the child and would not be coming to pick the child up. Utter was charged with one count of abandonment of a child, a class E felony and one count of endangering the welfare of an incompetent or physically disabled person in the first degree, also a class E felony. The child was not injured or left unattended during the incident. A joint investigation between the school district, Seneca County Child Protective Services and the police department is underway. The child has been temporarily placed into another individuals care.

On Friday, January 21, 2022, at 1:03 am, the Town of Seneca Falls Police Department arrested Thomas P. Rath, age 32, of Lodi, New York. The arrest stems from a bench warrant that was issued on November 10th, 2021 by the Town of Seneca Falls Court after Rath failed to appear in court for the original charge of criminal possession of a controlled substance in the seventh degree. Rath was transported to the Seneca County Correctional Facility where he was held for arraignment. He will be due back in the Town of Seneca Falls Court at a later date to answer the charges.

On Sunday, January 23, 2022, at 3:36 pm the Town of Seneca Falls Police Department arrested Kyle A. Davis, age 29, of Waterloo, New York following a fight in the parking lot of the Top's Plaza on State Route 5. Davis engaged in a physical fight with another individual subjecting that person to unwanted physical contact and injuries. Following the investigation Davis was charged with assault in the third degree, disorderly conduct and two counts of harassment in the second degree. Davis was processed and transported to the Seneca County Correctional Facility to await arraignment. He will be due back in the Town of Seneca Falls Court at a later date to answer the charges.

The Seneca Falls Police Department arrested a 17-year-old adolescent male on January 26th, 2022 at about 4pm. The male was charged as an Adolescent Offender with Rape in the First Degree. The adolescent allegedly had sexual intercourse with a female while she slept and was incapable of providing consent during the spring of 2021. He was released to his parents and is to appear in Seneca County Supreme Court - Youth Part.

## **January Notable Case – Continued from page 7**

On Sunday, January 30th, 2022, at 3:18 am, the Town of Seneca Falls Police Department arrested Franklin L. O'Shea, age 34, of Seneca Falls, following a domestic incident. During the incident, O'Shea subjected the female victim to unwanted physical contact and attempted to prevent the victim from calling 911. O'Shea was charged with one count of harassment in the second degree, a violation, and one count of attempted criminal mischief in the fourth degree, a misdemeanor. O'Shea was secured at the Seneca County Correctional Facility in order to await arraignment in the Seneca County Centralized Arraignment Part Court. An order of protection was requested on behalf of the victim.

On 01/30/2022 at 8:42 P.M. The Town of Seneca Falls Police Department arrested Elizabeth M. Borne (age 30) of Ovid for criminal mischief in the fourth degree and criminal trespass in the third degree, following a report of a domestic dispute. It is alleged that Borne went to a residence in Seneca Falls and entered an enclosed structure at that residence. Borne then kicked and damaged a door at that location. Borne was secured at the Seneca County Correctional Facility in order to await arraignment in the Seneca County Centralized Arraignment Part Court. An order of protection was requested on behalf of the victim.

# 2021 LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMUNITY SURVEY



We invite you to take this Law Enforcement Community Survey about the Seneca Falls Police Department in 2021. It will take approximately ten minutes of your time and is completely confidential.



Scan the QR code with any smart phone camera to launch the survey now.

**SCAN TO START NOW!**

OR visit: [www.senecafallspd.net](http://www.senecafallspd.net)

Your participation will help us improve our services, processes, and reputation.

***Fast. Easy. 100% Confidential!***

*Don't have access to a computer or internet?*

Copies of the survey are available in the lobby of the police department.

**Survey open until February 28, 2022**



# Seneca Falls Police Department

## Law Total Incident Report, by Nature of Incident

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<u>Nature of Incident</u>	<u>Total Incidents</u>
911 HANG UP	2
911 OPEN LINE	4
ALARM	2
Alarm Fire (Not Defined)	1
POLICE ALARM	19
ANIMAL BITES ANY TYPE	1
ANIMAL PROBLEM	12
ASSAULT	1
AGENCY ENTITY OR PERSON	45
INSUFFICIENT FUNDS CHECK	1
CALL FROM CALL BOX	1
CELLAR PUMP	3
CHILD ABUSE OR NEGLECT	2
CHILD SAFETY SEAT	1
CIVIL COMPLAINTS	6
CARBON MONOXIDE ALARM	3
CRIMINAL MISCHIEF	2
DEAD BODY	2
DISABLED VEHICLE	13
DISORDERLY CONDUCT	5
DISPUTE OR FIGHT IN PROGRESS	2
DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE	17
DRUGS NARCOTICS MARIJUANA	1
ELECTRICAL PROBLEMS - ANY	1
ENCON COMPLAINT	1
ESCORT	1
FALLS	1
FAMILY PROBLEMS	12
FIRE ALARM	21
FIRE OUTSIDE OF STRUCTURE	1
FIRE STRUCTURE	1
FRAUD	7
HARASSMENT	18
INFORMATION REPORT	39
JUVENILE	11
LANDLORD/TENANT	7
LOCK OUT VEHICLE / RESIDENTIAL	17
MEDICAL EMERGENCY	93
MENACING	2
MENTAL HEALTH INCIDENT	16
MISSING PERSON	3
NEIGHBOR PROBLEMS	6
NOISE COMPLAINT	3
NOTIFICATIONS	8

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<b><u>Nature of Incident</u></b>	<b><u>Total Incidents</u></b>
ODOR INVESTIGATION	4
ORDER OF PROTECTION VIOLATION	2
OPEN DOOR / WINDOW	5
OVERDOSE POISONING INGESTION	1
PARKING PROBLEM OR COMPLAINT	3
TRAFFIC ACCIDENT WITH DAMAGE	40
TRAFFIC ACCIDENT WITH INJURIES	5
PROPERTY CHECK ALL TYPES	1016
PROPERTY FOUND	10
PROPERTY LOST	6
PROPERTY RETRIEVAL	9
RECREATIONAL VEHICLE COMPLAINT	1
REPOSSESSED	6
ROAD HAZARD	14
SEX OFFENDER CONTACT	10
SEX OFFENSE	3
SMOKE INVESTIGATION	1
SPECIAL DETAIL	85
SUSPICIOUS PERSON / VEHICLE	25
THEFT OR LARCENY	8
ALL TRAFFIC COMPLAINTS	15
TRAFFIC STOP	180
TRANSPORT-LAW	16
TRESPASSING	1
WARRANTS ALL TYPES	12
CHECK THE WELFARE	14
WIRES DOWN	1

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Total reported: 1908

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