

The Gazette

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NORTH HALEDON

Crime rate continues to drop in town

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While crime on average rose nearly 20 percent in Passaic County last year, North Haledon was the safest town in the county as it continued its downward trend with 34 reported incidents in 2010.

In 2008, North Haledon reported 77 crime incidents, which dropped to 56 incidents in 2009. Last year, the borough reported 20 larceny thefts, seven

burglaries, four aggravated assaults and three motor vehicle thefts.

"Our police officers are highly educated and motivated and the residents are very vigilant," Mayor Randy George said. "We're a small community so everybody knows everybody here."

George said the low crime rate was a "collaborative effort" due in part to parking enforcement, vigilant policing and volunteer services.

North Haledon was also named 93 in the top 100 Best Places to Live in a recent New Jersey Monthly poll, but George was quick to add that the borough was "93 out of 566 towns in New Jersey."

"It's all because we're a small-knit community of 8,300 people who enjoy living here," George said.

By comparison, Haledon, Hawthorne and Prospect Park each had 237 incidents, 209 incidents and 160 incidents,

respectively. Hawthorne continued its downward crime trend, decreasing from 264 crimes in 2009 to 209 crimes last year. In 2008, Hawthorne reported 325 crime incidents.

Paterson had the highest reported amount of crime in the county with 6,102 incidents including 18 murders, 44 rapes, 735 aggravated assaults and 2,329 larceny thefts.

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