

DEER PARK BROADCASTER

Overall crime down, rape rate up in La Porte

By: Florian Martin 03.12.12

Crime in La Porte in 2011 is down compared to the year before, according to numbers released by the La Porte Police Department Saturday (March 10).

LPPD's final compilation of 2011 crime statistics for the city showed an overall decrease of 7.6 percent in crime compared to 2010, police department spokesman Sgt. John Krueger said.

The overall crime rate for the past year is 20.59 per 1,000 people, according to the department's statistics.

While La Porte showed a decrease in all other crime categories used by the FBI's Uniform Crime Report, the number of recorded rapes almost quadrupled in 2011 compared to 2010.

Robberies were down by 29 percent, aggravated assaults by 33 percent, burglaries by 9 percent, larceny-thefts by 8 percent and auto thefts by 9 percent. There were no murders during 2010 or 2011.

But La Porte recorded 23 rape cases in 2011, compared to only six the previous year.

However, that doesn't necessarily mean that there are more rapes occurring in La Porte. Krueger contributes much of the increase in recorded rapes to the department's proactive efforts to uncover child victimization.

He said the department actively participates in the regional Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force and the Harris County Child Assessment Center investigative group.

"This belief is evidenced by the fact that in 22 of the 23 reported cases, the suspect was a family member, acquaintance or consensual partner to an underage victim," Krueger said.

He said there was only one rape allegation made in the city of La Porte during 2011 where the alleged suspect was not related or known to the victim.

In addition to the crime statistics, the La Porte Police Department reported making strides in keeping roadways safe.

Krueger said the agency continued to target impaired drivers in 2011, arresting a total of 139 drunk drivers, a 5 percent increase over 2010. These efforts were accompanied by an overall 49 percent decrease in accident-related injuries, a 75 percent reduction in traffic fatalities, and a 13 percent decrease in commercial motor vehicle collisions within the city of La Porte.

La Porte Police Chief Ken Adcox said he is pleased with the overall decline in crime and increased traffic safety experienced during the past year, crediting La Porte police officers as well as the department's citizen volunteers and an active community in general.

"Preventing and controlling crime is job one for any police department," Adcox said. "Every member of our organization is committed to our public safety mission and we are also very fortunate to have an involved community that is willing to do their part to keep our community safe. We welcome their involvement and are committed to working in partnership with our citizens."

For the complete 2011 Uniform Crime Report stats for the city of La Porte and its neighboring communities, go to www.ci.laporte.tx.us/gov/police/ucrstats.

For more information on Uniform Crime Report statistics in Texas, log onto the Texas Department of Public Safety website at www.txdps.state.tx.us.