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Moraga Police Release Crime Statistics for 2011

By Sophie Braccini

The good news in the recent figures published by the Moraga Police Department is that the number of crimes in 2011 was at a ten-year low of 196; down from 252 in 2010.

The major areas of improvement are robberies, down 67 percent (from three in 2010 to one in 2011), assault, down by 37 percent, and larceny, down by 29 percent.

The number of forcible rapes was up by 500% (from zero in 2010 to five in 2011), and auto thefts rose by 70% (from 10 to 17).

Traffic citation increased, from 1290 in 2010, to 2011 in 2011; mostly in the area of speed and cell phone use, while adult DUIs decreased from 43 to 27.

"While reviewing the statistics with staff, we discussed possible reasons for the 40 percent drop in DUI arrests," commented Chief Bob Priebe. "While we cannot determine one single cause, it was noted by both supervisors that worked the night shifts during both years, that they had seen a tremendous increase in the use of taxis, which I think could represent some level of success in both education and enforcement efforts."

Reach the reporter at: sophie@lamorindaweekly.com

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