



Town of Wallkill Police Department

MEDIA RELEASE

**For Immediate Release
January 31, 2020**

Incident: Vehicle Pursuit and Arrest – Grand Larceny Auto
Location: 30 Tower Drive, Town of Wallkill, NY
Date/Time: January 29, 2020 / 12:20 am

On Wednesday, January 29, 2020 at 12:20 am, Town of Wallkill Police Officers responded to a report of an “Intoxicated Male” operating a front end loader in the parking lot of Hannaford, 30 Tower Drive. The caller reported that the vehicle damaged a concrete curb in the parking lot before driving away. Subsequently, Police Officer Ponds observed the front end loader in the vicinity of East Galleria Drive and Ballard Road and attempted to stop the vehicle. The defendant failed to stop and continued to drive the vehicle on Ballard Road until he entered the parking lot of 95 Crystal Run Road where he struck two concrete curbs and a retaining wall. During the pursuit, the front end loader's bucket dragged along the ground, significantly slowing down the speed of the vehicle. After a brief period of time the defendant lost control of the front end loader, driving off of the parking lot roadway. The defendant, Paul M. Pepe, 42 year old, male, Town of Wallkill resident, was subsequently arrested and charged with Grand Larceny Second Degree, Criminal Possession of Stolen Property Third Degree, Unauthorized Use of a Vehicle Third Degree, Reckless Endangerment of Property, Criminal Mischief Fourth Degree, Driving While Intoxicated, and Aggravated Unlicensed Operation Third Degree.

The defendant was released with an appearance ticket to appear before Judge Peter Green, Town of Wallkill Court on February 14, 2020 at 9:00am.

A criminal charge is merely an allegation by the police that a defendant has committed a violation of the criminal law, and it is not evidence of guilt. All defendants are presumed innocent and entitled to a fair trial, during which it will be the State of New York's burden to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

Robert McLymore
Lieutenant

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