

Windom Police Department

2013

Year End Report

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

Dear Mayor and City Council Members:

The year 2013 was a year of continued change for the Windom Police Department. Our agency was again involved with numerous Community Oriented Policing activities, as well as providing effective law enforcement to the City of Windom.

This past year the Windom Police Department began a partnership with the Windom Area Schools in sharing a School Resource Officer. Aside from providing building security, Officer Dana Wallace is active in providing teaching and mentoring to the students of the district. I have received many compliments on Dana and I look forward to this partnership continuing for years to come.

Officer Jon Beck was hired to replace Officer Wallace in our patrol section. We believe that he is a fine addition to our department.

The Windom Police Department also established a Facebook page in 2013. It is our belief that by using social media, our agency can communicate more effectively with residents. I want to acknowledge the work our officers do each day to make Windom the safe community it is to live in. I am extremely proud of each one of them.

In closing, I would like to thank the Mayor and City Council members for their support. I would also like to recognize Records Clerk Deb Nesseth and Officer Dana Wallace for their work in creating this report.

Sincerely,



Scott Peterson, Chief of Police



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

ICAC.....	2
Investigations Update	2
Active Shooter Training	3
Field Training	3
School Resource Officer	4
Citizens Police Academy.....	6
Statistics.....	8
Evidence Room.....	9

2013 BY THE NUMBERS

- 36 Drunk Driving Arrests
- 252 Adults Arrested
- 1814 Calls for Service
- 15 Academy Graduates
- Lowest # of injury accidents in 5 years

DRUNK DRIVING

In 2013, officers arrested a record number of drivers under the influence (DUI)

- ◆ 36 Drivers arrested for DUI
- ◆ Average Blood Alcohol Level (BAC) was .17
- ◆ 25% of arrests were made in October
- ◆ In June, two officers arrested three drivers for DUI in a 5 hour period



Officer Louis Norell was nominated and selected as a DVI Enforcer All-Star earning a trip to a Twins Game and a special recognition ceremony.

INTERNET CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN

Windom PD actively participates in the Minnesota Internet Crimes Against Children (MICAC) task force as an ICAC Investigative Agency whose purpose is to identify, investigate, apprehend and prosecute predatory offenders who use the internet as a means to target and victimize children for sexual purposes.

2013 was a productive year for Officer Marcy as she was involved in 5 separate ICAC cases several with Federal charges pending.

Officer Marcy taking fingerprints at the "Take 25" event encouraging parents to talk to their children about safety and ways to prevent abduction

Locally, Windom PD investigated a unusually high number of sexual offenses this past year. The youngest victim was five years old.

Officer Marcy stays active educating the community giving presentations at events such as the Citizen's Academy, Day Care/Foster Care Association, and Tourist Club



NOTABLE CASES

In May 2013, we responded to a two-car personal injury accident in the heart of Windom. A truck failed to stop at a stop sign and collided with a van with 4 people.

The van rolled over and trapped several of the occupants.

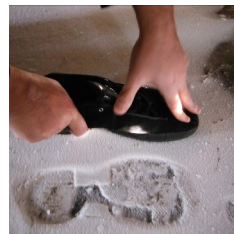
Police, Fire and Ambulance personnel worked together to rescue all the victims.

All the victims in the crash were saved from serious injuries because they were all wearing their seatbelts.



INVESTIGATIONS/DRUG TASK FORCE UPDATE

The 2013 criminal investigations were highlighted by a several month long investigation involving the thefts of over \$10,000 in lawn mowers and other lawn equipment from area retailers. An arrest of a 59-year-old Westbrook male was made in September, which led to a search warrant for a Westbrook residence. Numerous stolen lawn mowers and equipment were recovered and the Windom Police Department and Cottonwood County Sheriffs Dept. continues to work on this case into 2014, trying to locate owners of other possible stolen property.



Another investigation the Department worked on involved a suspect who was arrested for Breaking into a local jewelry store and mini storage. Items found on the suspect helped solve other thefts that took place up near the Twin Cities area.

The Drug Task Force was again active in its fight against drugs. Two adult females were arrested for 2nd degree sales of a controlled substance. Also two adult males were arrested for 2nd degree sales and these charges were enhanced as they took place in a school zone. Other cases the task force has been working on continue into 2014.

~Sergeant Kevin Patterson



ACTIVE SHOOTER TRAINING

In the wake of multiple mass shootings, including the Newtown massacre, two Windom Officers attended training at Camp Ripley, focusing on combating these “active shooters”. The training was hosted and funded by the Minnesota Department of Public Safety, Homeland Security Division, making it essentially free of cost for our Department.

The instructors running the program had vast experience in SWAT, and Military backgrounds, including DELTA Force, which is considered the greatest counter-terrorism unit in the world.

In the scenarios practiced, the trainees assaulted a building to free hostages and shooting victims, while subduing the “active shooter” to prevent further injuries. As a Train-the-Trainer course, upon the completion officers are certified as instructors themselves. This expands the reach of the training exponentially by these officers returning to their departments, delivering these skills and training to their departments and surrounding agencies.

~Officer Louis Norell

Mayor’s Medal
of Honor
Winner

Deb Nesseth

27 years of service



FIELD TRAINING EXPERIENCE OFFICER JON BECK

I started my field training in the middle of August with Officer Hyatt as my training officer. I was fortunate to have started my field training during a busier time of the year. This allowed me to experience a wide variety of situations. I learned how to handle everything from thefts to domestic situations to traffic accidents.

The most memorable call from my field training started out as a call about a dog that was running loose. As Officer Hyatt and I arrived on the scene I heard what sounded like dogs fighting in the back yard of a neighboring house.

As we went around the house I saw a brown dog that was trying to fight with another dog that was inside an enclosure. The brown dog immediately stopped when we walked into the backyard. The brown dog then walked towards us a few feet before turning around and walking towards its home.



Officer Hyatt went to knock on the door so that the owner could help catch the dog. While he was knocking I walked towards the back of the home to see where the dog had gone. I found the dog wandering in a neighboring yard.

When the dog saw me he started walking towards me. Officer Hyatt didn’t get an answer at the door and came to the back of the house. The dog then began charging at me full speed. I moved out of the dog’s path but he changed course to continue coming at me.

When the dog was about 10 feet from me it was clear that he was planning to attack me. I deployed my Taser to protect myself. The dog fell a few feet from where I was standing before standing up and running away. The dog was found about 15 minutes later hiding under a car inside the open garage of a neighboring house.

~Officer Jon Beck

NOTABLE CASES

In the early morning hours of June, I was on patrol in Windom when I noticed a vehicle sitting in the middle of 6th St in the lane of travel not moving. I turned around and conducted a traffic stop on this vehicle. Once I was walking towards the vehicle, the vehicle left the scene at a high rate of speed. I called pursuit as the vehicle turned south on Highway 60. The vehicle then drove on private property on the south side of Windom. After the short pursuit, the vehicle then had come to a stop after hitting a residence causing over \$4,000 in damage.



The driver then ran on foot but was placed into custody shortly after. The driver was charged with fleeing a peace officer in a motor vehicle, criminal property damage, DWI, along with many other traffic violations.

~Officer Cory Hillesheim

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER



Having a School Resource Officer in a school does not mean that the school is unsafe.

It does mean that the community is taking positive and proactive steps to create orderly, safe, and secure schools.

The Windom Police Department in partnership with the Windom Area School District has a full time officer, Officer Dana Wallace, assigned to the Windom Middle/High School and Winfair Elementary. Officer Dana's training includes National Association of

School Resource Officers (NASRO) certifications in school safety and curriculum presentation.

The School Resource Officer program is based on three concepts: classroom instruction, school safety, and mentoring.

Officer Dana interacts and works with students, parents, teachers, and administrators during the school day, and participates in school-related extra-curricular activities.



Informal interaction also provides a good opportunity to reinforce the lessons or answer questions that students were afraid to ask in front of a group.

The program promotes youth/police interaction, trust and communication.



NOTABLE CASES

Having a SRO in the school who already had a relationship with the students/staff and knew school policies and procedures was found to be extremely beneficial when, in November, a bomb threat was written on a bathroom wall.

Working collaboratively with the school administrators, viewing surveillance cameras, handwriting analysis and interviewing numerous students, the case was solved by the next day without any interruption to the student learning environment.



WHAT DOES OFFICER DANA DO ALL DAY??

General activities

I work frequently with student services and social workers to share information regarding students in need of assistance.

Member of the [School Crisis Team](#)

Assisted in planning and implementing the whole school evacuation drill in Nov 2013 coordinating with Law Enforcement, EMS, and Fire

Created Emergency Crisis backpacks for both schools with maps, emergency info and supplies

Helping to upgrade school crisis plans



Law enforcement/traffic duties

I observe the morning and afternoon traffic, varying my times and places every day, watching both schools, either [re-educating or enforcing laws](#), as needed.

Due to road construction and challenging traffic patterns at the elementary school, I make myself highly visible before school to make sure parents and students are safe and following the rules.

I work with the principal's to address any student issues that rise to the criminal level.

I patrol the student parking lot looking for any contraband or weapons in plain view.

Take various complaints of theft, assaults and other incidents that occur both in school and out of school. A vast majority of reports and tips I receive from students are from interactions when I am out in the hallways during passing times and at lunch.

I [check in with students](#) who I know have been involved with Law Enforcement outside of school either as a suspect or victim.

Formal Mentoring

I am a [mentor](#) to 7 senior students doing their senior year Eagle Achievement projects on a variety of topics involving drugs, driving and alcohol.

Weekly Reading Buddy to a 3rd grader who needed a role model.

Student interaction

As duties allow, I [talk and interact](#), on an informal level, with students as often as possible during passing times, before/after school, lunch, and at after school events.

I eat lunch daily with a variety of students at both the HS/MS and elementary schools.

A few times a week, I play very popular games of Uno with middle school and elementary kids.

I started the games of Uno, after having several complaints of students misbehaving in the commons area, because it allows me to monitor activities without students realizing they are being observed.



I try to be [visible](#) both in and outside of school in a variety of places.

I take pride in learning and remembering student's names while learning about their personal life in sports, hobbies, and other interests.

While patrolling the school halls, I'll stop to help younger students in study halls struggling with their homework

While off-duty, I go to games, concerts and other events to support the students.

Attend various gym classes, recess, and other special school events as my duties allow.

I give lots of [high fives](#) and fist bumps trying to keep a very [positive attitude](#) and hopefully changing student's attitudes towards police officers.

****On average, I put in 4-5 miles a day, on foot, during the school day.**



CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY #2

On Wednesday nights in April and May, fifteen citizens from Cottonwood County could be found in the basement of the Law Enforcement Center learning all about the different aspects of police work.



The Windom Police Department along with the Cottonwood County Sheriff's Office ran our second Citizens Police Academy, enhancing the relationship between law enforcement and the citizens they serve and protect.



The goal of the Academy was to open the lines of communication between the community and the police. To the citizen, sometimes it appears that the police are not doing their job or they are exceeding their boundaries. By allowing citizen's a firsthand look at what rules, regulations, and policies the police follow, some of the misunderstandings may be alleviated.



2013 Year End Statistics

Traffic Enforcement

	2013	2012
Total Accidents	113	130
Persons Injured	13	39
Fatalities	0	0

Citations

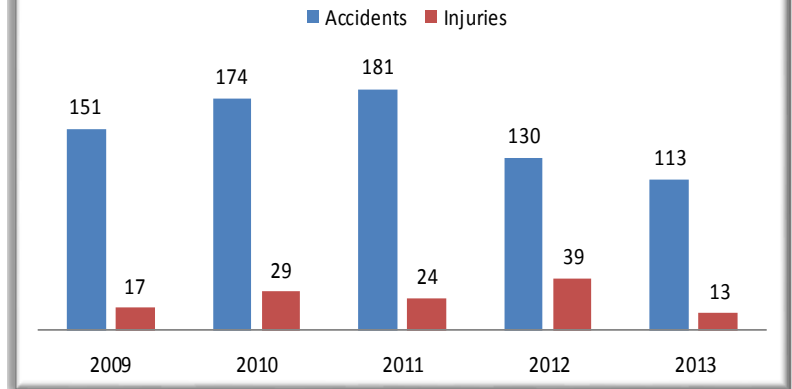
Moving Tickets	269	232
Non-Moving Tickets	7	4
Moving Warnings	329	42
Non-Moving Tickets	17	15
Repair Tickets	63	18

Driving Under Influence

Misdemeanor	12	14
Gross Misd/Felony	24	15
Underage Drink/Drive	0	2

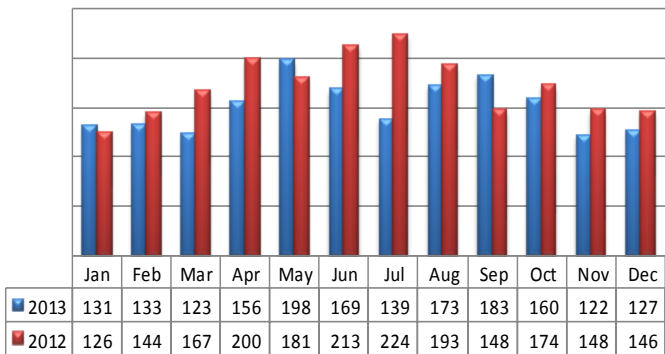


5-year Accident Comparison

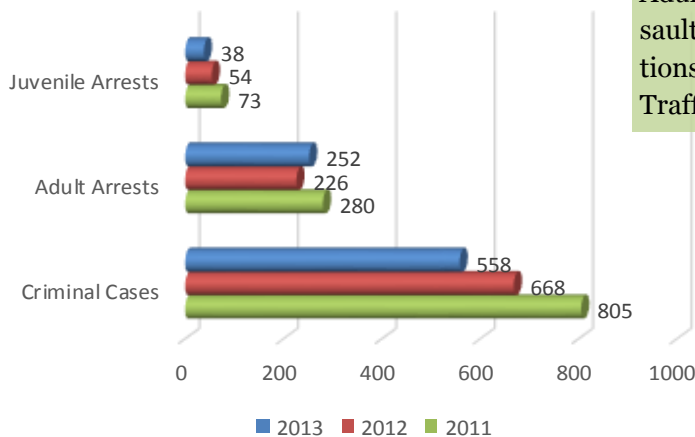


**Injuries increased in 2012 due to a bus crash involving 15 injured juveniles

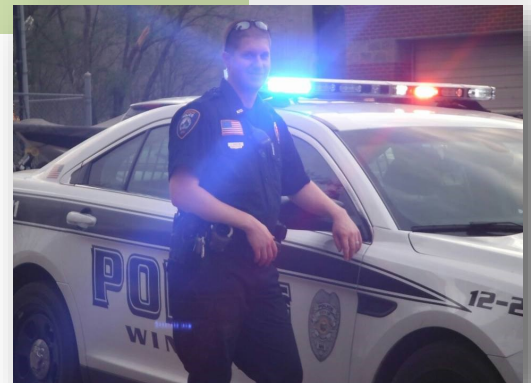
Total Calls for Service



Juvenile criminal activity and arrests were down in 2013



Adult arrests showed a decrease in Assault and Disorderly Conduct violations but increases in Property and Traffic Violations



Criminal Cases Adult Arrests Juvenile Arrests			
1			Arson
30	25	3	Assaults (All Degrees) & Terroristic Threats
12	3	1	Burglary (All degrees)
35	14		Check Fraud, Check Forgery, Dishonored Checks, Thefts by Checks, Theft by Swindle, Computer Crime, Counterfeit, Identity Theft, Fraudulent use of Debit Card, Prescription Forgery, etc.
26	17		Crimes against the Administration of Justice(Including Obstructing Legal Process, False name to Officer, Falsely Reporting a Crime, Release Order Violation, Sex Offender - Fail to Change Address, Probation Violation, etc.)
1			Crimes against the Family (Inc. Abuse of Vulnerable Adults
43	2	2	Criminal Damage to Property (All Degrees)
7			Cruelty to Animals
11	8	7	Disorderly Conduct
13	12	2	Drug Related Offense (including Possession Small Amt. of Marijuana, 1st Degree - Manufacture Meth, 5th Deg -Sale of Marijuana, Poss. Paraphernalia)
5	5	1	Escape - Fleeing/Fugitive from Justice
3	3		Fires-Unlawful Burning
1			Gambling
			Health - Safety (Hazardous Waste)
1			Internet Crimes Against Children
1	1		Kidnapping-Deprive of Custodial Rights/False Imprisonment
46	47	8	Liquor Violations (Inc. DUI's (Msd, GM, Felony) Minor Consumption, Underage Drink & Drive,Open Bottle, Minor in Possession, Purchase Sell, Barter & Furnish Under 21, etc.)
15	n/a	9	Runaway/Incorrigible Juv/Curfew/Truancy
6	7		Sex Offense (Criminal Sexual Conduct - All Degrees)
1			Solicitation
2	1	2	Stolen Property - Receiving/Possession
43	6	1	Theft (All Degrees)
6			Theft (Bikes)
2			Recovered Bikes
1			Theft (Shoplifting)
9			Theft (Motor Vehicle) - includes Riding Lawnmowers
5			Recovered Motor Vehicles
1			Tampering/Entering Vehicle/Driver without Consent
2		2	Tobacco Violations
97	74		Traffic - Misd/Gross Misd Traffic Violations and Hit and Run
125			Other: Disturbing the Peace, Harassing Communications/Harassment, Interference with 911 call, Stalking, Criminal Defamation, Trespass and Disruptive Intoxication
	3		Harassing Communications ,Interference with 911 call
	20	1	Property Offenses, Disturbing the peace, Trespass and Disruptive Intoxication
1	1		Unfrozen Waters - Operate OHV
6			Weapons- Discharging, Dangerous Weapon on School Property, Transport Uncased Firearm and Carry Rifle in Public Place
	2		Transport Uncased Firearm and Carry Weapon in Public Place
	1		Dangerous Weapon on School Property
558	252	39	2013 Totals
668	226	54	2012 Totals
805	280	73	2011 Totals

The arrest totals represent the number of arrest charges per offense, not the number of individual cases. (Ex. One adult that has charges with three offenses would count as three arrest charges)

EVIDENCE ROOM

The Property and Evidence Room was busy this year. Two officers were assigned as specialized Evidence Officers. Working with the Sheriff's Office they implemented a new records and organizational system which increased security and accountability.

We conducted a long overdue inventory and auction of the Firearms stored in the Property Room.

The oddest find was a firearm belonging to a 1982 case.



Windom Police Department

444 9th St
PO Box 38

Windom, MN 56101

Phone: 507-831-6134

Fax: 507-831-1957

E-mail:

speterson@windom-mn.com

