

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Ralph Portier, *Chief of Police*



2013 brought growth to the department. In the latter part of 2012, Mayor Lance Westcamp authorized additional staff and working with City Council on financing, he approved the hiring of additional staff.

The concept of having a number of officers per capita has been used for years to help communities determine how many officers might be needed. Mayor Westcamp and City Council recognized that the police department serves thousands of workers in our logistics and warehouse facilities, and the need to provide good quality police services to the community.

Early in the spring, City Administrator Marsha Hall and Finance Director Jeff Green made a decision to see if the possibility to finance a new facility for the police department could happen. A short drive through the community, found an existing facility at 5690 Clyde Moore. The facility was purchased and presently it is in a remodeling mode with an anticipated opening date in late February or early March of 2014.



In 2013 the Ohio Peace Officers Training Academy asked that we assist in reviewing and writing curriculum for the basic police officer courses. In particular the topics of Driving, the Role of the American Police Officer and Crisis Intervention will have the basic curriculum updated for all police officers in the State of Ohio. It should be noted that there are hundreds of police departments in Ohio and we are very honored and humbled to be able to participate.

In early December, the City was notified that the Sergeants have decided to unionize under the Benevolent Police Association. Negotiations are set to begin in early 2014

Department highlights: (to name a few)

- 1) Finding a Missing Mentally Disabled Person
- 2) Signed Non-emergency mutual aid agreements
- 3) Initiated and met with other Law Enforcement agencies, as well as the school to determine what actions are needed to protect the high school students due to elimination of bus services
- 4) Trained over 600 AEP employees in self- defense ideas concepts
- 5) Located a missing 6 year old child
- 6) Participated in Ohio University Women's Program
- 7) Located a vehicle involved in a hit/skip fatal accident
- 8) LEADS Audit was successful. No issues.



Police awards night:

Officer Danny Amabile was awarded the officer of the year for 2012, at the annual police awards night by Mayor Lance Westcamp.



Patrol:

Officers logged **226,739** patrol miles during the year and assisted in **351** mutual aid responses to neighboring public service agencies. Officers responded to nearly **9384** calls of service, which include self-initiated service of which **2283** calls were dispatched by the Franklin County Sheriff's Department.

Officers also responded to **159 accidents** reports.

Officers wrote **684 citations** and made **60 adult arrests** and **82 juvenile arrests**.

Two vehicles needed to be taken out of service due to major mechanical issues (transmission). Costs exceed value.

The patrol units continuously display professionalism with Honor and Integrity. Last year I received 3 contact regarding complaints against our staff.

We saw a change in vehicles that have been a remarkable addition to our fleet. In early 2013 we were highlighted as one of the best in trade *Facebook section* for the *National Police Cruiser Data Base*.

Shift Sergeants Highlights:

A Company, Sgt. Short: Increase in Enhanced Lockdown procedures to include A.L.I.C.E. training for the schools. Ohio State Highway Patrol Colonel, made a personal visit to thank the department and Ofc. York for the recovery of a hit and run vehicle.

B Company, Sgt. Adams. Change of staff due to one officer being assigned to a Franklin County Task Force. This has been the busiest shift and 2014 will have changed the schedule to accommodate more staffing to cover calls for service.

C Company, Sgt. Chan. Increased "knock and talk" at a local motel area known for drugs and other issues. Ofc. Nick Tiller left to be employed at Obetz PD, which reduced staffing but staffing was quickly covered with increased mandatory over-time and other part time staff. Due to the large volume of vehicle broken into, officers spent more time in residential areas patrolling.

OVI Task Force:

The Groveport Police Department participated in the Franklin County OVI Task Force for the 2013 Calendar Year.

Due to our participation and successful patrol numbers, The Department of highway Safety awarded us a new MPH Bee Doppler radar Unit, Valued at \$1,800.00

We worked 6 Saturation Patrol Events that included the following:

- Super Bowl Sunday, 2013
- St. Patrick's Day 2013
- Memorial Day Weekend, 2013
- 4th of July, 2013
- Labor Day Weekend, 2013
- Christmas/New Year's Weekend 2013-2014



The officers worked a total of 68 hours of the saturation patrol detail and we were reimbursed for the overtime worked totaling **\$4,414.42**. We produced the following statistics during the saturation patrol:

- 10 - Adult Restraint Citations
- 26 - Speed Violation Citations
- 7 - Driving Under Suspension Citations
- 14 - Other Traffic Offence Citations
- 0 - Warrant Arrests of Adults
- 159 -Traffic Stops Made During the Events

Reserves:

The 2013 Calendar Year has been a busy year for the Reserve/Part-Time Officer Division; the officers in this division have worked many of the events in and around the City of Groveport. The division worked **3,006 ½ hours for the year**, these work hours include: Normal Patrol, OVI Task Force Saturated Patrol Hours, 4th of July Celebration, Cops' and Kids, Apple Butter Day and Halloween/"Beggars Night". We have seen a lot of transition within the division again, we added Clark Manning in September, but lost Nick Tiller in October to Obetz Police Department, and after Nick Tiller's departure we lost Tiffany Roe from the Part-Time Division, but added her to our full time patrolperson ranks.

I am looking forward to seeing Brian Burfield and Clark Manning to progress from the Reserve Status to Part-Time Status in the first half of the 2014 calendar. Rick Stelzer who has been with Groveport Police Department for 10 years has asked for and granted by Chief Ralph Portier a leave of absence till sometime in the spring due to a health issue, I am looking forward to bring Rick back as soon as he is healthy.

Training:

Officers earned 964 hours of training and updates during the year 2013. The State of Ohio mandates certain training and we were able to obtain this through the internet. Nearly \$3,000 of training was provided free due to Chief Portier and Sgt. Thompson, providing advanced training services to the Ohio Peace Officer's Training Academy I London. We spent approximately \$15,000 in total training costs. 2014 will an increase mandated training and audits will be performed to ensure compliance.

Investigations:

For the year 2013 the number of cases assigned for further investigation and follow up by the bureau held steady with property crimes still the most prevalent. The theft of metals continues to be a consistent issue with the loss to one company alone at \$40,000 in one such case the defendant Jesse Miller pled guilty to the indictment (one count of Theft, 4th degree felony, and one count of Receiving Stolen Property, 4th degree felony) on October 21, 2013. He was sentenced to 34 months incarceration suspended for 5 years of community control (10 days credit for jail time already served). Conditions of community control: \$23,052.75 in restitution to the victim, drug screens and counseling, no scrapping activity, find and maintain employment.

The number of death investigation cases handled this year was eleven with approximately half of those being overdoses or suicides. A pair of suspects from a very complicated armed robbery case with shots fired and multiple scenes to process came up for trial and ended up taking a plea bargain which netted them 12 and 13 years respectively.

Drug Issues:

The official statistics are not yet complete but our participation with the Franklin County Drug Task Force has substantially reduced traffic in our area. The Task Force is set to provide our share of the impounded money and I will report those figures at a later date.

Due to the nature of this Task Force, I will not name the officer or describe his/her activities, but the agreement is working out very well for us.