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Police Department



TO: NORWALK COMMUNITY
FROM: GREG STAPLES, CHIEF OF POLICE
SUBJECT: ANNUAL REPORT - CALENDAR YEAR 2013
DATE: APRIL 15, 2014
CC:

INTRODUCTION

The Norwalk Police Department is a full service law enforcement agency that provides public safety services 24 hours per day. The department is comprised of 13 sworn officers and two civilian administrative assistants. The department consists of a Chief, an Assistant Chief, two Sergeants, eight Patrol Officers and a School Resource Officer. Since the founding of the Norwalk Police Department in 1856, the officers and employees of the agency have served the community with distinction. The current departmental staff is proud of the long history of service to the community and pledge to continue this high level of service. Members of the department strive to serve the community in a manner that is reflective of the desires and needs of all residents of Norwalk.

The Norwalk Police Department finished calendar year 2013 in fine fashion. The state of the department is strong. The department's 13 members continue to provide quality service in a manner that the community should be proud of. The members of the department have involved themselves within the community and are regularly providing Norwalk with community based policing services.

The information in this report is organized into the following categories:

- Annual Call Volumes
- Annual Training
- Police Fleet Status
- Juvenile Outreach Programs
- Major Investigations
- Personnel
- Goals for 2014

ANNUAL CALL VOLUMES

The Norwalk Police Department answered a total of 5702 calls as reported by Westcom services. It should be noted that 1015 of these calls are self-initiated traffic stops. The total reflects a documented increase in calls but may not be reflective of an actual increase in calls. Due to the switch to Westcom and the fact that a previously contracted service provider may not have kept complete records, the annual totals reported for 2013 are higher than 2012. A true gauge of total call volume will not be available until the end of Calendar year 2014 when there will be another year of services through Westcom available for analysis. Attached are charts one, two and three that show the calls for service received by the department. Chart one reflects the number of calls for service over the calendar year compared to the two previous years. Charts two and three represent the 2013 data from chart one but grouped into larger categories. In this view it is easier to see how officers spend their time and for what purposes the community contacts us for service.

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ANNUAL TRAINING

Officers of the department completed all annual training for the year as required by the State of Iowa. Below are listed the dates and training titles that department members attended during the year. Attached as chart 4 is a graph that details the State mandated training with the dates of completion and the total number of training hours that each officer received. The Norwalk Police department remains a highly skilled and properly trained group of officers that the community can count on to provide professional service in their times of need.

Training for Calendar Year 2013

<u>February 13th, 2013:</u>	ASP Baton Instructor School	Ben Lewiston
<u>April 3rd, 2013:</u>	Mental Health Awareness	Rafe Albers & Doug Metzger
<u>April 10th, 2013:</u>	Chemical Munitions Instructor	Randy Hutchinson
<u>April 10th & 17th 2013:</u>	School & Capital City Fruit Pre-Plan	Staff/In-Service
<u>April 25th, 2013:</u>	Data Master Certification	Scott Palmer
<u>May 18th, 2013:</u>	K-9 Detector Dog Re-Certification	Scott Palmer/Zena
<u>May 30th, 31st, June 5th:</u>	Firearms Qualification	Department
<u>June 16th through 18th:</u>	DARE Training/Re-Certification	Jayson Spurr & Brad Criswell
<u>June 20th through 21st:</u>	School Resource Officer Conference	Jayson Spurr & Brad Criswell
<u>August 8th, 2013:</u>	Iowa/ NCIC Certification	Brian Melco
<u>August 21st & 28th 2013:</u>	TraCS Training	Staff In-Service
<u>August 21st & 28th 2013:</u>	CPR/AED Certification	Staff/In-Service
<u>September 18th & 25th 2013:</u>	Firearms Combat Course	Staff/In-Service
<u>October 2nd 2013:</u>	OWI Detection & Field Sobriety	Lewiston & Hutchinson
<u>October 23rd, 2013:</u>	Iowa/NCIC Re-Certification	Louise Taylor-Seibert
<u>November 8th, 2013:</u>	Iowa/NCIC Re-Certification	Brad Criswell & Scott Palmer
<u>November 19th, 2013:</u>	Firearms Training-Assist ILEA	Ron Downing

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December 18th, 2013:

Iowa/NCIC Re-Certification

Phil Parker

December 25th, 2013:

TASER Re-Certification

Ben Lewiston & Jayson Spurr

Note: Total scheduled training hours were reduced in 2013 compared to 2012. This was due to the need to keep dates flexible for Westcom training. Training still needs to be completed on MDB (Mobile Data Browser), CRIMES (Report Management), and additional TraCS training on electronic citations. Once these training topics are completed, officers will have full use of the capabilities of the new mobile data terminal systems. Officer Palmer returned to patrol duties in the middle of May after his assignment with HIDTA/DEA assignment which had been approximately 5 years. He went through an informal Field Training Process to re-integrate him in patrol functions, orientation with Westcom, changes in policy, and geographical orientation, etc. That training is not reflected above but it required having the Field Training Officers ride with him during that time.

POLICE FLEET STATUS

The police fleet continues to age. The department is in need of replacement vehicles so that operational readiness is not affected. The department plans to replace two vehicles during Fiscal Year 2014 and hopes to replace another vehicle in Fiscal Year 2015. The vehicle year, make, model and current mileage of each vehicle is listed below. The monthly mileage use and total miles is listed in chart 5.

P-118	2003	Ford Explorer	93,353
P-119	2005	Ford Crown Victoria	98,305
P-125	2008	Dodge Charger	84,559
P-126	2009	Chevy Tahoe (K9)	68,175
P-127	2010	Chevy Tahoe	91,720
P-128	2011	Chevy Tahoe	49,138
P-130	2012	Chevy Tahoe	33,205

Two new Chevrolet Caprice Police Sedans will be ordered and placed into service during the first half of 2014.

JUVENILE OUTREACH

One key to a successful community is a populace that takes pride in their city and avoids bad decisions that create situations where crime can begin to fester and ingrain itself. In an effort to reduce the chance for crime to increase in the future, the department continues to provide a number of programs in the area of juvenile outreach. Listed below are some of the programs provided during calendar year 2013.

D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistant Education)

DARE is a police officer-led series of classroom lessons that teaches children how to resist peer pressure and live productive drug and violence-free lives. It gives the kids the life skills they need to avoid involvement with drugs (alcohol and tobacco), gangs and violence.

The DARE program is taught to all Norwalk 5th grade students. Just a few things we implement in DARE

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is learning how to have high self-esteem, say NO to peer pressure, and how to be positive role models. The classes have scenario based sessions that shows students ways to say NO in various negative situations. We teach the program with the hope that the students will take what they have learned in DARE and apply it to their own lives and make the choice to lead a Drug Free Life.

During the year, 96 classes were held providing information to approximately 200 children

Jr. Police Academy

This program is a partnership between the Parks and Rec Dept and the Norwalk Police, and is an opportunity for the police officers to build a positive bridge with the youth of the community. Cadets will take part in fingerprinting, investigating a crime scene, taking photos, casting footprints, and running an obstacle course. It is available for students who have completed 3rd - 6th grade and the 2014 version is tentatively set for July.

During July, approximately 16 children participated in the experience

Bicycle Safety

Each spring the police, parks and recreation and fire departments collaborate to conduct a bike rodeo for area youth. Participants are taught the "rules of the road", the importance of safety equipment, and how to complete an inspection of their bicycles. Several obstacle courses allow the kids to show off what they have learned and help identify areas they may need to improve upon. All participants in need receive a new helmet and get the opportunity to win a new bike. This event culminates with the annual Mayor's bike ride.

During May, approximately 85 Children participated in the event

Drug and Alcohol Awareness

Norwalk officers' conduct a variety of drug and alcohol awareness classes each year in addition to the DARE program. These classes are conducted in the Norwalk secondary schools. Officers serve as guest speakers in the health and government classes. These classes help to continue the development of a positive relationships with Norwalk teens. High school students especially enjoy the bi-annual classes utilizing the departments Fatal Vision Goggles. Students attempt to perform several tasks that include driving a golf cart through an obstacle course, while experiencing the simulated effect alcohol has on their vision. Students frequently comment on their inability to complete the scenarios that would otherwise have been quite simple.

Each year, approximately 800 students participate in this training

Character Education

Upon request, Norwalk officers will conduct a core of classes based on 40 Developmental Assets. The eight classes are divided into four external asset categories (support, empowerment, boundaries & expectation, and constructive use of time) and four internal asset categories (commitment to learning, positive values, social competencies, and positive identity). This program is taught as part of the school health curriculum or in conjunction with various summer camps.

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Personal and Situational Safety

Working closely with the schools, daycares, area church groups, and the Warren County Extension Office, Norwalk officers provide annual safety classes throughout the community. Popular topics include stranger danger, pedestrian safety, babysitting safety, and internet safety.

The Law and You

This is class that gives our teenage residents education in topics such as Probable cause, reasonable suspicion, search and seizure tec. The course is designed to teach the students about how our constitutional protections are applied by law enforcement and how those protections give citizens their rights and responsibilities.

MAJOR INVESTIGATIONS

During Calendar year 2013, the police department completed several major criminal investigations.

Noted below are a few of the higher profile crimes that were investigated:

- Metro area serial burglaries, 1 Norwalk offense, 2 subjects charged with burglary
- Death investigation, no charges, ruled natural causes
- Sexual assault on a juvenile, 1 subject charged with sex abuse third and lascivious acts
- Narcotic, 1 charge of possession with intent to deliver methamphetamine

The department did not have any formal complaints on officers that required an internal investigation.

PERSONNEL

During the year the department experienced only one change in personnel. Longtime Chief of Police Ed Kuhl retired after 15 years of service to the community. A Chief of Police selection process was held during November and the selection of new chief Greg Staples was announced on December 16.

GOALS FOR 2014

During the next year, the department will continue to provide the quality service that the community has come to expect. Specifically for 2014 the department will:

- Revamp and update the department website
- Create and launch a Facebook page
- Increase the number of juvenile outreach initiatives
- Create and hold a citizens police academy
- Attend a minimum of 24 community based meetings to discuss community issues
- Respond to all calls for assistance
- Emphasize problem solving within our service to the community
- Complete various programs to increase traffic safety and reduce traffic crashes

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Attachments