

2013 ANNUAL REPORT

FEBRUARY 6, 2013

CHIEF'S MESSAGE



Police Chief Michael Meensen

As I sit here and write my first Chiefs Message I can't help but think back to the process that I went through to get here, the people that helped me become the officer that I am, and the Village Board who had confidence in a then 27 year old to lead the police department into the future.

When I started college in 2003 I knew I wanted to be a police officer, but also felt very strongly that I never wanted to sit in an office and do paperwork or continue my schooling for my Bachelor's degree. Well, as time passed I realized that education was important and also that starting a career in law enforcement was not nearly as easy as I thought it was going to be. While attending college I was fortunate enough to apply for a position with

the Elkhart Lake Police Department and after an interview with Chief Randy Boeldt (Ret) and Officer Bill Klaetsch (Ret) and I was offered a part-time position. That one part-time position changed my perception of law enforcement, my future plans, and set the tone for the rest of my career.

As I took over in 2013 I knew that the department ran efficiently and effectively, but I also knew there were a couple of things that I wanted to implement or change. One of the first ideas that I implemented was the usage of social media. The department utilizes a Facebook and Twitter page to put out news blasts or notify the public of important community happenings. During the summer months we used social networking to notify residents of street closures or important crime prevention information. This summer we also attempted to curtail the numerous crimes of opportunity that we have reported each year by community education. This was started by an article that was published in the Depot Dispatch and the department's website informing residents of ways to prevent such crimes. This initial education was followed up by officers talking with residents and vehicle owners as they say issues with their vehicles and informing them of ways to safeguard their belongings.

2013 was also a year that the department looked at all ordinances to ensure that they fit the needs of not only the department, but also the residents and visitors of Elkhart Lake. Prior to the review period we had received calls and complaints from residents and business owners about some of the ordinances and that changes needed to occur. Due this the department requested

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CHIEF'S MESSAGE CONTINUED

the Village Board pass an ordinances which allow officers to issue citations for possession of prescription drugs which allows officers to use discretion when dealing with individuals that may be in possession of these items. In addition changes were made to ordinances not allowing items (pamphlets, etc.) to be placed on windshields and dogs to be off leash in the Village unless under complete control of owners while on their property and while off property they are required to be leashed.

As I finish writing my first Chiefs message in my first annual report I think it is worth mentioning the departments new Core Values that were established this year in order to lead the departments officers into the future. I believe that it is important to have values that inspire and guide officers in their daily routine. As Police Officers we can often be overlooked and disrespected but we still need to maintain these values: excellence, service, respect, integrity, and professionalism. As you look through this annual report you will notice that officers within this department have lived by these values in 2013 with the work that they have done and this work will continue into 2014, and beyond.

Respectfully,



Michael A Meeusen
Chief of Police

CALLS FOR SERVICE

In 2013, the Elkhart Lake Police Department handled 1436 calls for service which is a 14% increase, above the number of calls handled in 2012. This figure represents all calls including 699 traffic related complaints. If one were to eliminate the traffic calls from the calls for service, the total number of calls is 737, which is a 4.78% decrease over the 774 calls handled in 2012, although a 10% increase of over the 669 handled in 2011.

In looking at the data from 2012 to 2013 there were some noticeable trends occurring in the Village. In 2013 the department levied 50 criminal charges for more serious crimes compared to only 30 in 2012. The chart below (left) shows the increases in charges between the two years. Although not inclusive of all charges it does show the major increases.

There was also a change noticed in ordinance citations issued (see chart below, right). This change was for the positive, in many aspects, and can be equated to the departments community policing approach to late night bar patrons. In 2013 the department met with all bar owners, managers, and employees to discuss our expectations of them during open, and closing hours. In addition we also started nightly foot patrols through establishments and around their premises. We believe that our

Criminal Offenses	2012	2013
Maintain drug trafficking place	0	1
Possess THC (marijuana)	3	5
Posses with intent/deliver	0	1
Misdemeanor bail jumping	1	4
Felony bail jumping	2	4
Possess controlled substance	0	1

continued interaction with employees and patrons helped in reducing problems by intervening quickly. In most cases ordinance citations, or simply our presence, could be issued to remedy the problem rather and escalating to a criminal arrest.

Ordinance Offenses	2012	2013
Damage to Property	2	0
Underage alcohol	41	21
Resisting or obstructing	5	9
ID card (fake ID) violations	7	0
Open Intox	3	1

OFFICER RECOGNITION



Officer Scott Niemi

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Officer Sean Pringle

The Elkhart Lake Police Department would like to recognize Officer Scott Niemi and Officer Sean Pringle for their life saving efforts on February 28. Officer Pringle was training with Officer Niemi at the time when they were dispatched to Anchor lanes for a report of a male party not breathing.

When they arrived they found an unresponsive male laying in the passenger seat of a vehicle. First responders were just arriving on scene but due to the man's size were unable to remove him from the vehicle. Both Officers removed the man from the vehicle allowing emergency medical workers on scene to start CPR. After a short time the individual was brought back to life.

Without the assistance of Officer Niemi and Pringle EMS would not have been able to safely remove the party from the vehicle thereby possibly not saving his life.

For conduct such as that the department issued both officers the life saving award (seen below) for both to wear on their duty uniform. This is the first time the medal has been issued in our department.



COMMUNITY SERVICE OFFICER



Community Service Officer Amy Gross

The Elkhart Lake Police Department would like to introduce Amy Gross who started with the department in May as our Community Service Officer (CSO). Amy is a student at Lakeshore Technical College studying Criminal Justice with an anticipated graduation date of May 2015. Amy's roll as CSO has been ever changing throughout the summer.

When she was first hired we were unsure of what her duties would be but she had a desire to really help the officers out which made her a huge asset to everyone. As a CSO Amy assists with traffic direction, places no parking signs for events, assists officers during events, delivers vehicles for maintenance, and participates in ride-alongs. This position is completely unpaid which makes her work even more valuable to the department and Village. In 2013 Amy worked over 250 hours.

Amy is also a first responder with Elkhart Lake which helps immensely in her position with the department.

NEW EMPLOYEES IN 2013



Officer Pringle started full-time with the department in February. He holds a bachelors degree in Criminal Justice and several years of law enforcement experience with the Wisconsin State Patrol and municipal police departments.



Officer Parks started part-time in May and also holds a bachelor's degree in Justice and Public Policy. He is currently seeking full-time employment while gaining experience at our department.

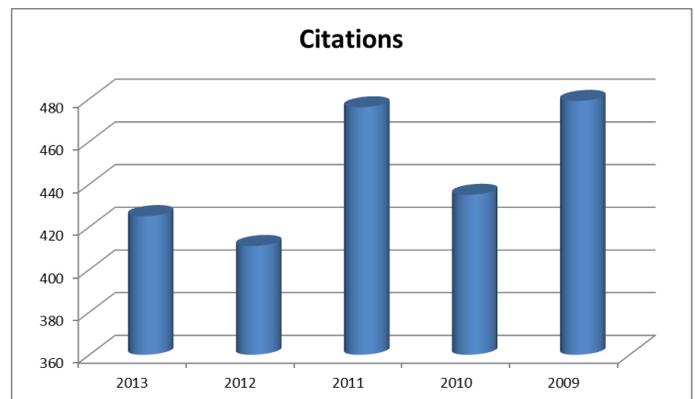
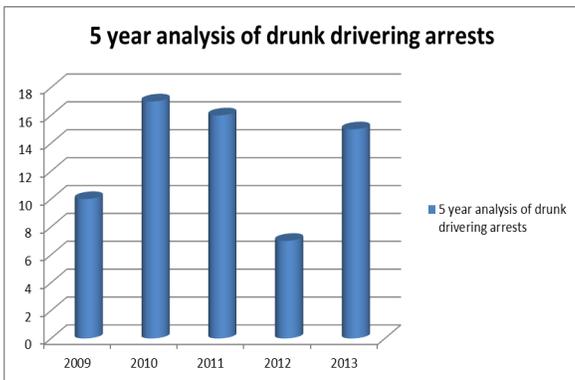
In 2013, the Elkhart Lake Police Department issued 411 traffic and ordinance citations for various infractions, as well as parking citations.

In addition to the citations that were returnable in municipal court, the department also levied 30 criminal charges for more serious offenses. The combined count of 441 arrests is a 17.7% decrease over the 527 arrests in 2011. This decrease can be attributed to multiple factors including an increased call volume, new part-time and full-time officers and the transitional training period that happened when Chief Boeldt retired.

The chart displayed to the right shows a listing of all the criminal charges that were issued to violators. Conversely, the Village has ordinances that would cover many of the charges listed in the chart; However, officers routinely use their discretion to determine if they want to utilize the more serious State Statutes shown to the right (which can include jail time), or an ordinance citation which is simply a forfeiture with no chance of jail. Customarily the officer's decision is based on the violator's past history and whether there are multiple charges.

In 2013 there were 15 drunk drivers arrested an increase of 6 over 2012. Ten of those arrests were first time offenders, one was a 4th offense, two were second offenses, one was a first offense operating with drugs, and one was a 1st offense felony causing injury. The average age of the offenders was 38 years old with the oldest being 65 and the youngest 20 years old. The average blood alcohol concentration was .15%. The lowest blood alcohol reading was a .1%(with suspected drug usage) and the highest reading was .22%.

Criminal Offenses	Count
Operating While Revoked	9
Criminal Drunk Driving	3
Battery	2
Operate firearm while intoxicated	1
Intentionally contact victim	1
Damage to Property	4
Resisting or obstructing	5
Bail Jumping—Misdemeanor	4
Bail Jumping—Felony	4
Disorderly Conduct	7
Harassment-Fear of Death	1
Manufacture/Deliver THC	2
Possession of controlled substance	1
Possession of Marijuana	5
Maintain drug trafficking place	1
Possession of Drug Paraphernalia	6



CITATIONS BY DAY AND TIME ANALYSIS

Hour	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Totals
00:00–00:59	1	0	0	2	3	15	12	33
01:00– 01:59	3	0	0	0	0	5	13	21
02:00–02:59	1	1	0	0	0	17	10	29
03:00–03:59	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	11
04:00–04:59	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
05:00–05:59	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
06:00–06:59	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	3
07:00–07:59	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	4
08:00–08:59	0	0	0	2	0	1	1	4
09:00–09:59	1	0	1	0	1	2	0	5
10:00–10:59	3	0	1	0	1	0	5	10
11:00–11:59	2	1	3	2	0	6	3	17
12:00–12:59	1	0	0	5	0	2	1	9
13:00–13:59	1	2	4	0	1	1	10	19
14:00–14:59	1	3	1	0	0	3	4	12
15:00–15:59	4	2	2	3	2	7	6	26
16:00–16:59	4	3	4	5	2	5	7	30
17:00–17:59	7	4	6	4	6	8	7	42
18:00–18:59	4	2	11	4	8	14	2	45
19:00–19:59	2	1	3	5	3	17	6	37
20:00–20:59	2	3	2	5	6	3	0	21
21:00–21:59	4	6	4	3	6	2	4	29
22:00–22:59	0	4	0	3	10	13	5	35
23:00–23:59	0	0	0	0	13	6	1	20
Total by Day	41	32	45	44	64	129	109	464

**COMPLAINTS/CALLS BY DAY AND TIME
ANALYSIS**

Hour	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Totals
00:00–00:59	5	2	5	2	7	31	24	76
01:00– 01:59	1	6	1	1	3	16	16	44
02:00–02:59	1	2	0	0	4	12	16	35
03:00–03:59	0	0	0	0	0	1	4	5
04:00–04:59	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
05:00–05:59	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
06:00–06:59	1	1	0	1	1	3	0	7
07:00–07:59	1	2	3	0	6	4	6	22
08:00–08:59	2	3	11	3	8	10	8	45
09:00–09:59	6	3	7	3	5	7	3	34
10:00–10:59	13	5	8	4	12	6	13	61
11:00–11:59	7	3	4	11	4	13	10	52
12:00–12:59	4	7	5	14	5	6	14	55
13:00–13:59	4	7	8	6	5	11	17	58
14:00–14:59	10	11	7	10	6	14	18	76
15:00–15:59	15	14	10	19	10	14	17	99
16:00–16:59	8	14	10	15	10	15	20	92
17:00–17:59	14	11	15	10	18	23	10	101
18:00–18:59	14	10	15	14	23	20	8	104
19:00–19:59	13	15	11	21	21	27	9	117
20:00–20:59	10	8	8	14	21	22	5	88
21:00–21:59	13	15	11	9	18	21	10	97
22:00–22:59	11	9	3	13	24	22	6	88
23:00–23:59	2	3	5	16	26	24	2	78
Total by Day	155	151	148	186	237	322	237	1436

GRANTS/DONATIONS

During the course of 2013 the department was able to secure several donations from local businesses which allow us to better serve the community. All of the equipment of items purchased would not be possible without the generosity of these local businesses and persons.

Blaines Farm and Fleet donated a gun safe which allows the department to securely store all firearms that we own plus those that may be seized. This item was \$750 and additionally a donation was made to the departments gun lock program in the amount of \$100. Officer Niemi spearheaded the gun lock program and after speaking with Community Bank and Trust they felt that a donation of \$500 was appropriate in order to keep our kids safe in Elkhart Lake and the surrounding area.

The Stone Foundation made a generous donation of \$1010 which allowed the department to purchase our first ever body cameras that will be used for school interviews, while on bike patrol, and during water patrol in the summer months. The last and final grant that we received in 2013 was a Wisconsin Department of Transportation Click it or Ticket \$4000 equipment grant. The department is still working with the state in order to determine what equipment will be purchased.

BUDGET / FINANCING



In 2013, the department was plagued with unexpected expenses. We had expensive repairs on one of our squad cars along with a failing copy machine and DVR system. Likewise, the department hired two new employees which requiring additional training time.

Even with all the issues mentioned above, the department managed expenses to **\$336,078**, which was approximately **3.4%** below the budgeted amount of \$347,547.

“Dedicated to an active partnership with the community”

MUNICIPAL COURT



In 2013, the Elkhart Lake / Town Rhine Municipal Court handled 444 citations. This reflects a 7.5% increase in the courts' caseload from the 413 cases handled in 2012 and a 10.84% decrease over the 496 handled in 2011. This slight increase can be explained on several factors which include increased complaint caseload, several new part-time officers, and the training period

that Officer Pringle underwent.

The Elkhart Lake / Town of Rhine Municipal Court is funded through revenue generated when violators pay their citations. This year the court had court cost revenue of **\$9,355** versus court expenditures of **\$7,011**, for a net **loss of \$2344**. While there was a net loss for the year, one must remember that this is because of unpaid fines and if violators would simply pay the forfeiture the court would be profitable. The court fees have been increased by \$10 therefore the court should see profit in 2014. Additionally, the court saves the Village money by; not paying officers to drive to Circuit Court and vehicle maintenance.

As of the date of this report, there is **\$77,571.86** due in delinquent fines.

The court currently utilizes four methods to help facilitate the collection of unpaid fines. One method used is to suspend the violators drivers' license for a period of two years or until the fines are paid. Another method used is the Tax Refund Intercept Program, where liens are placed on future tax refunds of the violators. Currently the court has **\$23,099.48** in unpaid fines where the first two methods were utilized. The third method the court utilizes is a collection agency. There is currently **\$53,809.00** assigned to the Stark Collection Agency. Lastly, the Court uses wage garnishment on repeat offenders who continually fail to pay.