

2013

Paynesville Police Annual Report



Chief Paul Wegner

Paynesville Police Department

12/31/2013



Paynesville Police Department

Chief Paul Wegner

December 9, 2013

*City of Paynesville
221 Washburne Ave
Paynesville, MN 56362*

*Honorable Mayor Jeff Thompson
City Council Members
City Administrator Renee Eckerly*

On behalf of the City of Paynesville, I am pleased to present the Paynesville Police Department's 2013 Annual Report.

As you review the document, you will see that 2013 was a very exciting year and one that was full of subtle and not so subtle changes. Aside from our normal everyday activities in 2013, the staff undertook several projects that will have a lasting impression on the department and community for years to come. The staff also spent time looking at the internal operations of the department to help the department be more efficient and effective with the services provided to the community. This continues to be a work in progress.

As you look at the crime stats for the department, you will see that the activity level of the department is up. The hard work and dedication of the department's officers continue to make the City of Paynesville a safe place to live, work, and raise a family.

The continued support from the Paynesville City Council and the City's leadership team is greatly appreciated, as are the enhanced relationships that are being created daily with the public through our outreach efforts.

As you review the report, I hope you take the same pride as I do in knowing that the members of this department are committed to making a positive difference in the lives of the citizens of Paynesville. It is truly an honor and a privilege to serve as the Chief of Police for the City of Paynesville.

Respectfully,

*Chief Paul Wegner
Paynesville Police Department*

2013 Paynesville Police Department



Department Staff



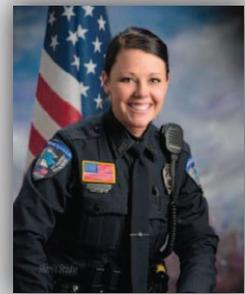
Paul Wegner
Chief of Police



Bruce Elfering
Full-Time Officer



Charles Buggs
Full-Time Officer



Kelsey Thompson
Full-Time Officer

Operations

The Paynesville Police Department provides 24 hour coverage, 365 days for the year to the 2,429 citizens of Paynesville. Officers are responsible for patrolling 2.3 sq miles of city property and often time are called to assist the neighboring communities. In 2013, the department logged 38,567 patrol miles on the department's squad cars.

The department is comprised of the Chief of Police, 3 full-time officers and a part-time officer. The department is responsible for all calls for service that occur within the City of Paynesville. In 2013, the department responded to 3,115 calls for service and generated 1,529 case files.

Officers of the Paynesville Police Department are responsible for not only responding to the calls, but are also responsible for processing the crime scenes, interviewing all parties involved, and conducting any necessary follow-up investigation.

Officers routinely respond to non-criminal calls for service as well. The department provides multiple public services, including door checks at local businesses, foot patrols through local apartment complexes and sporting events, and community outreach activities.

In addition to the officer's normal shifts, officers of the Paynesville Police Department partner with St. Cloud PD, Stearns County Sheriff's Office and other county agencies to routinely provide extra traffic enforcement under the Towards Zero Death (TZD) initiative.

Part of the initiative is to provide high visibility traffic enforcement to



areas of Stearns County having issues related to traffic crashes and deaths. This has proven to be one of the most effective methods of reducing injuries and deaths from traffic-related crashes. In 2013, officers conducted an additional 139 hours of traffic enforcement under the initiative.

Activity Highlights

Over the course of 2013, the department worked hard to abate several issues within the community. One of the big issues addressed during 2013 was the condition of the Premier Auto lot, located at the intersection of Old Hwy 23 and Hwy 55. At the beginning of the project, the lot contained 85 plus vehicles many of which were inoperable. The vegetation had grown up around the building and the property was generally in disrepair.

The department worked with the property owner to clean up the property. After approximately 4 months, all the vehicles were removed from the lot and the overgrown vegetation was cut down. The property owner has also kept up the property to this point.

One of the major cases investigated by the department during 2013, was the burglary of Dairy Queen. In November, the department received a report that the front window had been broken out and several items taken from the store.

During the subsequent investigation, officers not only located the property, but the suspect within a few hours of the burglary. The suspect, a non local, was arrested and charged with the burglary. In the days following the burglary, Officer Thompson, received multiple

compliments about the investigation from the County Attorney's Office and the business owners. Officer Thompson received a Letter of Recognition for her investigation of the burglary.

Community Outreach

The members of the Paynesville Police Department also engaged several outreach activities through the course of the year.

In March, Chief Wegner and Officer Thompson met with the driver's training class and discussed the responsibilities that come with driving a motor vehicle. They also discussed several issues facing today's youth as it related to driving a motor vehicle, including texting while driving, provisional license requirements and the importance of limiting the distraction while driving.

Chief Wegner also addressed the ECFE class and was able to interact with the kids and parents. He spent time discussing safety and addressing concerns the parents had.

In May, Chief Wegner and Officer Buggs participated in the 1st ever Kids Safety Fair. Chief Wegner and Officer Buggs spoke to residents at the department's booth and also had the department's new squad car on display.

They also conducted a bike safety clinic for the kids that were in attendance. The clinic addressed safe riding and proper riding locations on the road. The kids were also taught proper hand signals while riding their bike and were able to use those signals while riding through an obstacle course.



Chief Wegner and Officer Thompson also spoke to the area chamber of commerce at their September meeting. Chief Wegner and Officer Thompson were able to introduce themselves to chamber members and answer any questions they might have had.

October brought more training for the public on traffic safety issues. Chief Wegner put on a presentation at the Rose Center regarding the Diverging Diamond Interchange being constructed in Sartell. He also spoke to the fall driver's training class. He provided the students in the class with some reminders about driving safety and handed out key chains reminding them to W8 2 TXT.



Training

In 2013, officers of the Paynesville Police Department completed over 300 hours of continued training. Based on the number of officers in the department, this averages 60 hours of continued training per officer.

This year the department was able to utilize several grants to assist in reducing the costs of training to the city. Officer Thompson and Officer Buggs received CornerHouse Training through a grant provided by the Department of Human Services. Chief Wegner was able to attend the Minnesota Chief of Police Association CLEO and Command Academy thanks to a grant provided by Motorola.

Some of the notable training received by officers in 2013 includes:

- CornerHouse Training- Interviewing Child Victims of Sexual Abuse
- CLEO and Command Academy
- Standardized Field Sobriety Testing (SFST)
- Advanced SFST- Drug Impaired
- First Responder Recertification
- DMT Operator Recertification
- Occupant Protection Usage Enforcement
- And much more....

Grants

5 Grants were applied for in 2013 by the Paynesville Police Department. Of the 5 grants, the department was awarded funds for 4 of the grants. The only grant the department was unable to secure funding under was the Department of Justice COPS grant for a School Resource Officer. The following grants were applied for and awarded to the department in 2013:

- Federal Body Armor Reimbursement Grant: **Awarded \$924.00**
- Department of Human Services Training Grant: **Awarded \$2,000 enrollment for 2 officers for CornerHouse**
- Central MN Regional EMS Reimbursement Grant: **Awarded \$350**
- Motorola Solutions Foundation Scholarship Training Scholarship: **Awarded \$540.00**

Awards

- Letter of Recognition- Officer Kelsey Thompson (Dairy Queen Burglary)
- Service Award (10 Years)- Officer Charles Buggs



Time of Transition

Personnel

To understand 2013 within the Paynesville Police Department, we must journey back to early 2012. In early 2012, the department lost its Chief of Police when he took a position with another agency, leaving the City of Paynesville with a decision to make on the department's future. In the end, the City and Community agreed that the Department was an important part of the community. In mid-2012, while going through the hiring process for a new Chief of Police, the department lost one of its senior officers to another department, leaving the department well understaffed. In late 2012, Chief Wegner was hired to fill the vacancy left by the former Chief.

As 2013 began, so did a time of transition and change for the Paynesville Police Department. The department began to rebuild and worked quickly towards getting back to full staff.

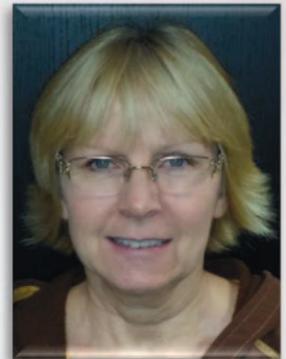
In February 2013, the Paynesville Police Department welcomed the department's first ever female officer, Kelsey Thompson. Paynesville was



Officer Thompson's first job in law enforcement. After completing an extensive field training program, Officer Thompson began solo patrol on May 27, 2013. The community has embraced Officer Thompson and she has become a valuable member of the department.

With the addition of Thompson, the department returned to full-staff with the Chief of Police, 3 full-time officers, and a part-time officer.

In August 2013, the department also added a volunteer to the staff. Diane Fournier approached Chief Wegner seeking to do some volunteer work with the police department. Fournier retired from the Plymouth Police Department after 21 years where she was an administrative assistant to the Chief of Police and his Command Staff. Since August, she has volunteered 60 hours.



Fournier has assisted Chief Wegner with clerical duties including updating policies and department forms, typing and filing. She has assisted in reorganizing and brainstorming the department's records filing system and assisted with the advertising and disposal of department property. Fournier has also been responsible for purging the department's old files per the city's records retention policy. This has added valuable space to the department. She also assisted with the compilation and formatting of the department's annual report.

Department Patch

In 2013, the Paynesville Police Department and the Paynesville Area School partnered together to create a new patch for the police department. After speaking with school personnel, a contest was created to design the next patch for the Paynesville Police Department.

The art students of the Paynesville High School and Middle School were asked to design a patch for the police department that they felt best represented the Community. The contest generated 14 amazing entries. After a panel of judges narrowed the entries to the top 3, Chief Wegner selected the winning patch.

Rachel Rittenhouse, a senior at the Paynesville High School, was the winning artist. Her design provided a simple, elegant, and identifiable logo for the Paynesville Police Department.



On May 29, Chief Wegner presented Ms. Rittenhouse with an award recognizing her contribution to the Paynesville Police Department. Her design is proudly worn by the men and women of the Paynesville Police Department; it has become a symbol for the department. Her design has been incorporated in all aspects of the department, from department forms to department letterhead.



New Squad Car



2013 also saw the addition of a new Ford Interceptor Utility to the department's fleet. With the addition, the department changed the graphics to reflect the same simple and elegant look of the department's patch.

The squad was design with several features to assist department personnel with their job. The squad was outfitted with a new Watch Guard 4RE camera system with post event recording capabilities, a new Stalker Duel DSR radar, allowing officers to monitor traffic both approaching and traveling in the same direction as the officer, and a new laptop. The squad was configured to optimize the visibility of the officer and limit the blind spots created by the equipment.



Internal Changes

The most visible changes to the department were the patch, the squad car and personnel. The most important changes to the department came with the internal operation of the department.

By mid-summer, the department's evidence locker was inventoried and all property not currently involved in active cases were purged from the system. The department's evidence collection, packaging, storage and retention were also completely overhauled in the process.

In December, the City Council approved a new Department Policy Manual. The new manual took a year to complete and lot of man hours went into completing it.

The department also made several minor procedural changes which have increased the effectiveness and efficiency of the department.

Paynesville Police Department

Statistics

Year to Year Comparison

	Crimes Against Persons		
Description	2011	2012	2013
Assault	27	9	12
Disorderly Conduct/ Public Urination	5	3	3
Domestic/ Verbal Disputes	26	28	17
Fraud	2	7	8
Gun person with	2	5	4
Gun shots fired/heard	4	4	1
Harassment/Restraining Order Viol	26	26	14
Human Services	0	0	3
Identity Theft	1	1	1
Child Abuse/Neglect	2	6	2
Sexual Assault	4	7	2
Robbery	0	1	0
Threat Complaint	9	16	15
Total	108	113	82
% increase over previous years		4.6%	-27.5%

	Property Crimes		
Description	2011	2012	2013
Burglary	16	10	11
NSF/ Worthless Check	47	18	24
Thefts	40	59	46
Counterfeiting	1	1	1
Forgery	1	0	2
Stolen Vehicle	4	2	5
Stolen Vehicle Recovered	0	1	1
Tamper with a Motor Vehicle	0	0	1
Trespassing/ Unwanted Person	13	10	10
Damage to Property	23	33	19
No Pay Customer	32	15	32
Total	177	149	152
% increase over previous years		-15.9%	2.0%

	Traffic Enforcement		
Description	2011	2012	2013
Traffic Stops	440	407	681
DWI/Underage Drink & Drive	12	4	9
Accident- includes Boat/Plane/Train	57	31	45
Fatal Accidents	0	0	1
Hit and Runs	8	0	5
School Bus/School Violations	1	0	4
Driving Complaints- includes ATVs and Snowmobiles	23	23	29
Motorists Assists	17	8	17
Deer Permits Issued	6	2	6
Parking Violation	116	52	97
Total	680	527	894
% increase over previous years		-22.5%	69.6%

	Public Service Activities		
Description	2011	2012	2013
Assists- Agency/Business/Person	113	112	556
Citizen Contacts	11	11	144
Door Checks	0	0	278
Open Doors	7	3	15
Foot Patrols/ Park Patrols	0	0	76
Escorts	24	19	19
Medical Assists	101	71	80
School Patrols	0	0	116
Fingerprinting	0	0	14
Alarms	89	41	53
Paper Service	11	7	5
Total	356	264	1,356
% increase over previous years		-25.9%	413.6%

	Other Criminal/ Ordinance Violations		
Description	2011	2012	2013
Intoxicated Person	6	5	7
Deceased Person	5	2	2
911 Hang-up	8	6	5
Abandoned Vehicle/Bike	3	5	4
Animal Complaint	106	54	42
Illegal Burning	4	1	3
Civil Matter/Dispute	26	26	26
Curfew Violation	1	3	1
Illegal Dumping	7	5	1
Fire- Building/Car/Wild/Other	6	9	7
Found/Lost Property	7	11	17
Fireworks Complaint/Violation	6	2	4
Gas Leak	4	1	1
Hazardous Conditions	11	11	16
Matter of Information	31	25	21
Juvenile Problem	17	13	16
Missing Person/Runaway	7	7	10
Narcotics Violation	2	0	4
Noise Complaint/Loud Music	19	11	15
Ordinance Violation	0	0	4
Phone Complaint	8	7	6
Pornography Violation	1	0	0
Suicide Complaints/Threats	6	3	11
Suspicious Activity/Vehicle/Person/Smell	84	49	88
Underage Consumption	0	2	0
Vulnerable Adult Complaint	1	0	0
Warrant Arrest/ Attempted	5	20	31
Warrant/ Search Warrant Executed	0	0	3
Welfare Check	56	58	45
Misc Public Contacts	44	23	42
Total	481	359	432
% increase over previous years		-25.4%	20.3%

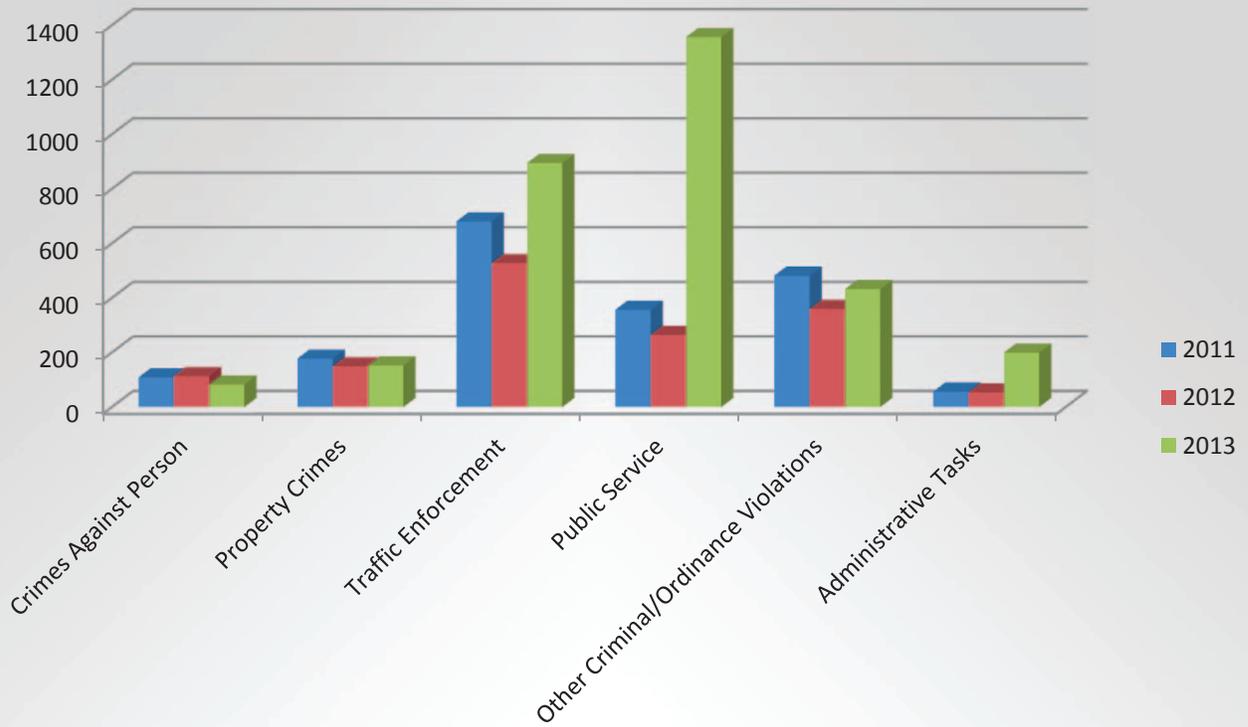
	Administrative Tasks		
Description	2011	2012	2013
Administrative Cases	1	0	4
Follow-Up Investigations	48	34	81
Meetings Attended	1	1	28
Gun Permits Issued	3	1	30
POR Registration	1	6	11
Training	1	9	2
Background Check	0	2	1
Records Request	0	0	41
Compliance Checks- Alcohol/Tobacco	1	0	1
Total	56	53	199
% increase over previous years		-5.4%	275.5%

	Total Calls for Service		
Description	2011	2012	2013
Calls for Service	1858	1465	3115
Case Files Generated	1733	1070	1529

	Squad Mileage		
Description	2011	2012	2013
Squad Mileage	24,922	20,585	38,567

	Criminal Charges		
Description	2011	2012	2013
Felony Criminal and Delinquent Charges	12	8	13
Misdemeanor Violations	296	194	165
Custodial Arrests	20	22	31

Police Activity Comparison 2011 to 2013



2013 Activity Comparison

