

Windom Police Department

2012

Year End Report

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

Dear Mayor and City Council Members:

The year 2012 was a very productive one for the Windom Police Department. Our agency was effective both in the areas of enforcement, as well as community relations.

Our Department updated its website during this past year. The page provides information about our current programs, as well as a video on the 75 year history of our Department. We have also made Nixle available to the community. This is a personal notification service provided by our Department that will make subscribers aware of current law enforcement happenings, as well as weather related announcements. Our webpage provides information on our agency's involvement with Minnesota CrimeStoppers. This program provides people with a way to report crime anonymously. If their information leads to an arrest and successful prosecution, they may be subject to an award.

This past year, we partnered with the Cottonwood County Sheriff's Office to hold our first Citizen's Academy utilizing our new website for online applications. It was a six week course designed to provide residents of the county with a closer look at how law enforcement does its job. We feel it was a success and look forward to conducting another one in the Spring of 2013.

In the following pages, there will be more details into the activities of the Windom Police Department in 2012. Every year provides change, however, our number one goal continues yearly; making Windom a safe community to live and work in.

I want 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 project.

Sincerely,



Scott Peterson, Chief of Police



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2012 BY THE NUMBERS

- 29 Drunk Driving Arrests
- 226 Adults Arrested
- 2064 Calls for Service
- 17 Academy Graduates
- Lowest Accident Total in 5 years (130)

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.

2012 was a productive year as Officer Marcy completed her training as an ICAC Investigator and was involved in 10 separate cases.

Of those, five Minnesota adult males were charged with Felony level "Online Solicitation of Children for Sexual Purposes" with two other similar cases referred out-of-state for felony charges.

Officer Marcy has also given several presentations of NetSmartz—a multimedia Internet safety presentations tailored for specific audiences – parents and communities, tweens, teens, and younger children.



Officer Donna Marcy



Chief Peterson and Officer Wallace at the Children's Fair teaching children how to dial 9-1-1 in an emergency

"Since 1998, National ICAC Task Forces have reviewed more than 280,000 complaints of alleged child sexual victimization resulting in the arrest of more than 30,000 individuals."

NOTABLE CASES

A suspect was found to have a substantial amount of Child Pornography. Seven local "victims" have been identified and numerous other child victims from throughout the world (US, Belgium, Ukraine, Paraguay, Norway, United Kingdom, Germany, Sweden, Canada and Peru) have been identified through the help of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, Child Victim Identification Program. We are still in the process of going through all the evidence which will undoubtedly lead to more victims being identified.

This case proves that child exploitation is a National problem, which Windom PD is a happy to assist in combating. The suspect was ultimately convicted of Felony Possession of Child Pornography and a Felon in Possession of a Firearm and will soon be serving a 5 year prison sentence.

Officer Marcy

DRUG TASK FORCE

The Windom Police Department along with the Sheriff's Office has Officers and Deputies that work on Drug related cases. This group is called the Cottonwood County Drug Task Force. This group works closely with the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA) in an effort to solve some of the area drug problems. 2012 was again a busy year for the task force.

In April 2012, 4 suspects were arrested and charged for the sale of a large amount of Methamphetamines to an undercover BCA agent. Numerous search warrants were obtained and served in connection with this case. The Task Force worked on this investigation for months leading up to the actual arrests.

In May 2012, a suspect was arrested for the sale of a large amount of Methamphetamines to an undercover agent. This arrest was again made possible by the ongoing efforts of the Drug Task Force. This case involved an investigation taking place over several months.

In November, the Drug Task Force investigated a report of a Methamphetamine Lab in downtown Windom. The investigation led to the arrest of one individual who was charged with the manufacturing of Methamphetamine. This investigation also led to other criminal charges on this same person for other serious crimes.

The Drug Task Force continues its investigations as it heads into 2013

Sergeant Kevin Patterson

MILLION DOLLAR THEFT

The biggest case of the year was a 6 month long investigation involving the theft of over 1 million dollars of meat from the PM Windom Packing Plant. The thefts took place over several years and 4 people were arrested and charged for their involvement. The charges were for Theft by

Swindle with a possible 20 year jail time for the suspects. These cases are

still going through the court system. Numerous search warrants were obtained and executed in the case.



3rd Graders ride past the jail during the annual Bike Safety Ride



Kindergartner's checking out the newest Squad car during the annual Halloween Safety Talks

PROPERTY FORFEITURE FUNDS SAVES TAXPAYERS

In 2012, The Windom Police Department received \$15,200.00 in administrative forfeiture money. These forfeitures typically are the result of enhanced DWI cases. Per statute, the money was used to purchase equipment and to supplement our existing budget. In using these funds, we were able to limit our requests for new equipment at the taxpayer's expense. Our Department will continue to work within the confines of the law to save money.

NOTABLE CASES

On a cold, snowy January night. Officers were out on a meal break when they watched a semi pull in the Lewis Drug parking lot.

They watched as the driver drove the wrong way into the drive-thru area and

soon after then they heard a loud metal grinding noises.

As the officers went over to investigate, the semi driver pulled forwards running over concrete barriers and the support cables to one of the town's main electrical poles, snapping the top off, breaking the streetlight and knocking out power to a significant portion of town.

The driver kept trying to move forward even as he was hung up on the wires with live, broken power lines hanging above the cab.

Officers quickly removed the driver from the cab, determined that the driver was intoxicated and arrested him for DUI. His blood alcohol content was .27 – 6 times the legal limit to drive a commercial vehicle. He caused over \$100,000 damage to the electrical system.

Officer Partlow

CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY



On Wednesday nights in April and May, seventeen civilian volunteers from Windom, Mountain Lake and the 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 implemented a new tool, the Citizens Police Academy, to enhance 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.

The Academy is based on the B.O.O.T.S (Buns out of the Seats) theory and tried to provide as many hands-on activities as possible.

Each participant was able to tour the jail and dispatch area, learning about the booking process, the 9-1-1 system, and our new ARMER radio system. Laughter abounded as one the attendees found him-

self "volunteered" to get an up close and personal demonstration of the unruly prisoner restraint chair.



Defensive Tactics Demonstrations
Don't worry, it's a Corrections Officer underneath



"I think you're supposed to walk around the cones" ~Drunk Goggles Demonstration

During the Defensive Tactics demonstration, each student had an opportunity to learn safe handcuffing techniques by practicing on other students, trading off who played the part of the "bad-guy" leading to many giggles.



Handcuffing Practice



Attendees learned about the local history of law enforcement with help from the Historical Society as they graciously loaned us some of the tools of the trade from the bygone era including the file cabinet accidentally shot when ex-Sheriff Bell was shot by nefarious

car thieves. Later in the Academy, all students had a chance to see and, in some cases, wear the present day equipment we carry and use including our duty belts, weapons and special equipment.

The class that brought up the most questions surprisingly was on local ordinances. Through active discussions, we were able to clear up many misperceptions surrounding our enforcement of animal control laws, noise ordinances and parking issues.

“There is no doubt it has improved my appreciation of Law Enforcement. It was fun to know they do have some fun at work, and aren't out to get people.” ~Academy Graduate



The most exciting class involved students donning real duty belts with realistic, but fake, pistols to become traffic enforcement officers acting out mock traffic stops, complete with emergency lights and sirens, in the safety of our rear parking lot. Each “Officer” had the opportunity to practice real scenarios ranging from dealing with a speeder, finding drugs, arresting a drunk driver, all the way up to encountering a suspect jumping out of car firing a weapon. The actors the students were “pulling over” were Chief Peterson and Officer Todd Hyatt. We had no idea Officer Hyatt had such hilarious acting skills.

As this was our first year, we used the participants as testers helping us to create an even better Academy in 2013. Some of the changes include lengthening both the hours and sessions, adding more hands on experiences and creating a brand-new Youth Citizens Academy for grades 10-12.

This Academy would not have been such a success without the great support and participation of the Police Department and Sheriff's Office. We have such a depth and variety of knowledge in these departments that nearly every Officer and Deputy played a part in the Academy either by teaching or assisting with classes.

Officer Dana Wallace



Students got a chance to test out Pressure Point Control Techniques on themselves

Like us on Facebook at http://www.windom-mn.com/police-department/cpa_applyinfo/

2012 Year End Statistics

Traffic Enforcement

	2011	2012
Total Accidents	181	130
Persons Injured	24	39
Fatalities	0	0

Citations

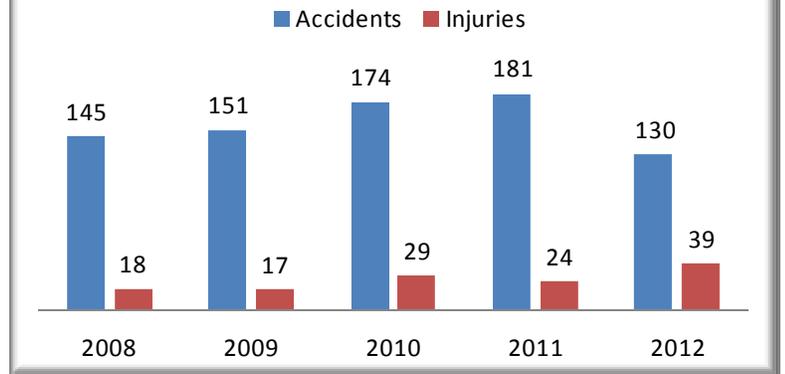
Moving Tickets	198	232
Non-Moving Tickets	*194	4
Moving Warnings	87	42
Non-Moving Warnings	*258	15
Repair Tickets	23	18

Driving Under Influence

Misdemeanor	9	14
Gross Misd/Felony	22	15
Underage Drink/Drive	3	2

*It should be noted that 2011 shows a higher volume of Non-Moving Tickets & Warnings due to the snow emergency situation

5-year Accident Comparison

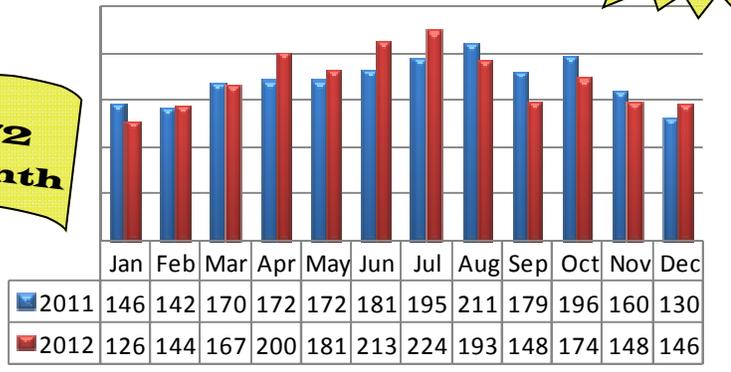


**Injuries increased this year due to a bus crash involving 15 injured juveniles

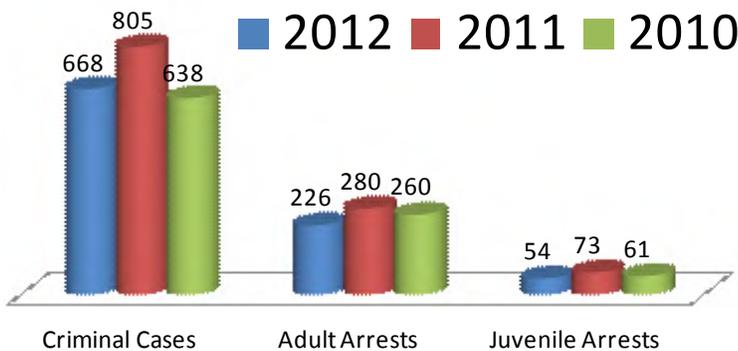
Total Calls for Service

**2064
Total
Calls**

**Avg. 172
calls/month**



3 Year Total Criminal Cases & Arrests



Criminal Cases

Adult Arrests

Juvenile Arrests

Assaults(All Degrees) & Terroristic Threats	61	40	7
Burglary (All degrees)	31	3	2
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	46	19	
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)	35	14	2
Crimes against the Family (Inc. Abuse of Vulnerable Adults	1		
Criminal Damage to Property (All Degrees)	72	4	1
Disorderly Conduct	20	17	6
Drug Related Offense (including Possession Small Amt. of Marijuana, 1st Degree - Manufacture Meth, 5th Deg -Sale of Marijuana, Poss. Paraphernalia)	18	13	5
Escape - Fleeing/Fugitive from Justice	3	3	
Fires-Unlawful Burning	4	2	
Health - Safety (Hazardous Waste)	1		
Disturbing the Peace, Harassing Communications, Interference with 911 call, Stalking	113	1	2
Kidnapping-False Imprisonment	1	1	
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.)	45	43	3
Property Offenses (Crimes Against Property, Trespass, Unlawful Deposit of Garbage)	31	14	3
Possession of Stolen Property		1	1
Runaway/Incorrigable Juv/Curfew/Truancy	29		16
Sex Offense (Criminal Sexual Conduct - All Degrees)	4	1	2
Shoplifting	1	1	1
Solicitation	1	1	
Stolen Property - Receiving/Possession	2		
Theft (All Degrees)	45	1	
Theft (Bikes)	6		
Recovered Bikes	1	-	
Theft of Motor Vehicle	5	1	1
Recovered Motor Vehicles	4	-	
Tampering/Entering Vehicle/Driver without Consent	4		
Tobacco - Furnish	3	3	
Traffic - Misd/Gross Misd Traffic Violations and Hit and Run	67	40	1
Weapons- Dangerous, Discharge, Possess Pistol/Assault Weapons & Felon Conviction of Crime of Violence	4	4	1

Adult arrests showed an increase in Disorderly Conduct and Weapons Violations and a decrease in Assault, Drug, Liquor and Theft violations

Juveniles arrest data showed an increase in Juvenile Drug Violations, along with Truancy and Runaways

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)

Other Police Activity

	2011	2012	% change
Ambulance Assists	166	152	-8.43%
Assist Other Agency	42	51	21.43%
Concern for Welfare	63	64	1.59%
Disturbances	107	127	18.69%
*Domestic Disturbances	17	25	47.06%
Funeral Escorts	30	27	-10.00%
Lost/Found/Recovered Property	37	60	62.16%
Mental (Inc. Suicidal, etc)	10	15	50.00%
Miscellaneous (Inc. Informational Calls, Exchange of Information with other Depts)	295	311	5.42%
Missing, Lost or Runaways	13	9	-30.77%
Prowlers, Suspicious Persons/Activity Window Peepers, etc.	68	149	119.12%
Public Assists/Misc. Public	130	161	23.85%
Traffic- Hit and Run Accidents	46	27	-41.30%

EVIDENCE ROOM

The Police Department makes every effort to return found, safekeeping and evidentiary property to the rightful owner when it is no longer needed. As a cost-saving method we are now using Propertyroom.com to auction off our abandoned, stolen, lawfully seized, or unclaimed property of every kind and description.

Using this service allows the department to streamline property sales. The only cost to the department is a small fuel surcharge when we schedule a pickup.

Propertyroom.com catalogs, prices, sells and collects the proceeds, splitting the cost of the proceeds with the department.



Officer Partlow helping the Ambulance crew learn to extricate Officers from squad cars



Officer Wallace with the winners of the Bike Rodeo



Officer Marcy teaching the Girls Scouts as they earn their Safety Badges

NOTABLE CASES

In June 2012, a call came into dispatch of an intoxicated male about to drive off in a vehicle. Dispatch gave the description of the vehicle which I soon found on the east side of Windom.

I watched as the male, who appeared to be highly intoxicated, got into the vehicle. Once the male drove out of the driveway, I activated my overhead lights and the vehicle failed to stop.

I, along with a Cottonwood County Deputy pursued the vehicle throughout Jackson County. At one point due the pursuit, we drove through a wildlife area and a bean field. At that point, administration called off the pursuit for the safety of the public. The male was later arrested in a town in Nobles County. The pursuit lasted 30 minutes and was 19 miles long.

Officer Hillesheim



Officer Hillesheim assisting the Driver's Safety Class

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

