Blissfield Police Department

2012 Annual Report

PERSONNEL

The make up of the Blissfield Police Department changed significantly during 2012. Chief Kelley continues to serve as the Chief. However, Sgt Novak went on a medical leave 8/30/12 and then officially retired on 10/31/2012 after 33 years of service to the people of Blissfield. Officer Sam Pooley also took a medical leave at the end of August. Pooley announced he would be retiring 12/31/12 without returning to active duty. Ofc Pooley had 36 yrs as an officer with BPD. We wish Sam Pooley and James Novak happiness in their well deserved retirements.

On 5/7/12 Tyler Raburn was sworn in as a part-time officer for BPD. Raburn graduated from Blissfield High School and completed the Kalamazoo Police Academy. Upon Novak's retirement, Raburn became a full-time officer on 9/2/12.

With Sgt Novak's retirement, Ofc Jacob Wagner was promoted to the position of Sergeant effective 10/1/12. Sgt Wagner has served the Village of Blissfield for over 12 years. He mostly worked the midnight shift so his face may be new to many of the residents. In addition to his regular duties, Wagner has done an excellent job serving as the BPD Firearms Instructor and training the new officers.

On 10/26/12 David Nigh became a part-time police officer for the village. Nigh is originally from the Toledo area, but received his police training and experience in Anchorage, Alaska. Council approved Nigh's promotion to full-time officer on 11/12/12. His home is in Petersburg, MI.

A part-time officer was hired 11/26/12. Officer Chad Jagotka lives in Monroe County. Jagotka worked ten years with the Detroit Police Department and then with the Monroe County Sheriff for three years before a lay off.

At the end of the year the Blissfield Police Deparment was up to full staff with one chief, one sergeant, three full-time officers and one part-time officer: Chief Kelley, Sgt Wagner, Officer Meyers, Officer Raburn, Officer Nigh and Officer Jagotka. Carolyn Goetz continues as the School Crossing Guard with Molly Nieman as the alternate. We share Jennifer Tracy's hours with the Village Office as our Records Clerk and Receptionist.

ACTIVITIES

During 2012 there were many activities in Blissfield that the police department provided traffic safety and security. The BPD assisted with the parades: Memorial Day, River Raisin Festival, Homecoming, Parade of Lights, and Halloween. We also assisted with the Main Street events: Railroad Day, Wassail Festival, Art at Your Feet, Thursday night Cruise Ins, and Blue Grass Festival. There were three 5K runs this year in Blissfield that

the police assisted with: Bruce Jones, Almost May Day, and Hot Cha Cha. There were no significant issues with any of the events.

The River Raisin Festival brings thousands of people to Blissfield. Providing safety and security for the event requires extra officer hours. This year the Festival committee again reimbursed the BPD for those overtime hours with a check for $1,445. There were three arrests due to intoxication and disorderly behavior during the 2012 Festival.

Blissfield PD sponsored its 10th annual Safety City, all funded by contributions and a $15 tuition. We sponsored one scholarship this year. We had 36 participants who all received a T-Shirt and a bike helmet. The week long event is held at the Blissfield Elementary School and supported by Blissfield Community Schools.

A "Cat Coalition" was formed in August of 2012. Chief Kelley is working with a group of concerned citizens. Anyone is welcome to join the committee. The mission is: "We recognize that free roaming cats have become an issue for some residents in Blissfield. The Blissfield Cat Coalition is examining the problem, identifying humane ways to control it and working toward a long term solution."

OFFICER TRAINING

Law Enforcement agencies in Lenawee and Jackson Counties are members of the Southern Michigan Criminal Justice Training Consortium. The Blissfield Police Department receives many hours of officer training at minimal cost. In 2012 BPD paid $364.47 from our 302 funds(State issued training money from traffic tickets) and received the following training: Defensive Training in both Spring and Fall for all officers, Radar/LIDAR(speed measurement) for Raburn, Criminal Sexual Conduct interviews, Taser recertification for all officers, First Aide and CPR for all officers and Emergency Vehicle Operation for Kelley, Forensic Interviewing of children for Wagner and Meyers.

Officers are expected to constantly keep up with professional skills and changing requirements. Other trainings that we participated in are: Cyberbullying, MITN(Michigan Information Technology Network), New Datamaster and SFST(Standard Field Sobriety Testing) Refresher, Officer Safety and Street Survival Training, and Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police Conference. The BPD conducts regular firearms training, both in daylight and darkness at the River Raising Sportsmans Club, and this year once at the gravel pit near Hudson.

RESOURCES

Ford Motor Company is no longer making a Crown Victoria police vehicle. Bids were put out for a new car and the Dodge Charger, police package was chosen. The new black and white 2012 Dodge was put out on the road on April 23, 2012. (Photo on the cover) We maintain a fleet of three vehicles.

The BPD was approved for a grant from the US Government Department of Justice Vest Program to purchase body armor for our two new officers. The grant will pay half the cost of each vest which is $675.00. Officer Raburn and Officer Nigh have benefited from the program.

The Federal Government has required all radio frequencies be switched to "narrow banding" before 1/1/13. BPD has met that requirement as of 10/1/12.

The Village of Blissfield has partnered with Lenawee County to upgrade our technology. Council authorized $4,146 per year for ongoing licensing, maintenance and replacement programs for new Mobile Data Computers for each patrol car. The BPD began working with the county to upgrade our Records Management and Report Writing System to New World. The process for both upgrades will continue into 2013.

STATISTICS

The Blissfield Police Department handled a couple of more serious crimes during 2012. On July 13th a Double Homicide occurred where two young women and an unborn child lost their lives. With the assistance of the Michigan State Police and the Lenawee County Sheriff Office the case was solved and the suspect committed suicide just prior to his capture in West Virginia. Our state statistics(found on the "Offense County Report") will not include the homicide, as it is recorded with the statistics for the Michigan State Police and can not be included in both.

Schmidt and Sons Pharmacy has been one of many pharmacies in the area to be burglarized. Suspects broke into the pharmacy on 7/22, 8/3 and 10/25. A Lenawee County Sheriff detective has been working with BPD and the other law enforcement agencies to identify the suspects. Three people were apprehended in Monroe and have confessed to one of the larcenies in Blissfield. Prosecution is still pending.

Despite the more serious crimes that occurred, overall reported crime is down from 2011. In 2011 332 crimes were reported and in 2012, 318 crimes were reported. The total number of officer work hours logged is also down from 10,437 in 2011 to 10,060 in 2012. The number of traffic stops and traffic tickets are more in 2012 than in 2011. In 2011 the BPD officers made 1,467 traffic stops and wrote 667 tickets. In 2012 the

officers made 1,703 traffic stops and wrote 781 tickets. Approximately 55% of the drivers were given a verbal warning rather than a ticket.

The 10,060 hours of work time is broken down into different categories: Traffic Patrol 3268 hours, Complaint Investigations 985 hours, Security Patrol 1,801 hours, Administration 1,702 hours, Officer Training 449 hours, and Report Writing 605 hours The other minor categories are Public Relations, Equipment Service, Lunch, Court, and Assists to other Agencies.

During 2012 the BPD arrested 153 adults and 11 Juveniles. These numbers are very similar to arrests in 2011. Most of the arrests were traffic related with 26 charged with Operating While Intoxicated and 69 charged with other traffic offenses such as Driving on Suspended License and No Insurance. The other 69 arrests were for Assaults, Larcenies, Credit Card Fraud, Narcotic Violations, and others.

With the large volume of traffic in the village, the number of car crashes is relatively low. In 2012 there were 27 on public streets and 12 on private property. In 2011 there were 40 crashes on our streets and 16 on private property. Traffic Enforcement helps keep the speeds down, which helps prevent crashes.

The most common types of crimes reported in Blissfield are:

Assault & Battery	16
All Larcenies	63
Malicious Destruction of Property	20
Fraud	19
Violation of Controlled Substance	13

The Blissfield Police Department continues to work hard for the preservation of the good quality of life in this community. We appreciate the support of the citizens, recognizing that you are our customers. As always, there is an officer on duty 24/7. We can be reached by dialing 911 or 263-0524 for Central Dispatch non emergency police service. Our business phone number is 486-4340 when the village office is open or to leave a voice mail message.