

LUDINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT



2013 ANNUAL REPORT

City of Ludington
Department of Police
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Ludington, MI 49431
Phone: (231) 843-3425

Memorandum

To: Ryan Cox, Mayor
Ludington City Council
John Shay, City Manager

From: Chief Mark A. Barnett

Date: February 10, 2014

Re: 2013 Annual Report

POLICE ACTIVITY

Attached you will find a series of documents providing a summary of the various activities conducted by the Ludington Police Department in 2013.

Attachment #1

This report covers 2004 through 2013 and includes the following information:

- Departmental staffing levels
- Activity conducted
- Complaints Investigated
- Enforcement activity conducted
- Individual officer activity averages
- A chart illustrating trends of average officer activity

In 2013 the amount of Total Activity **decreased by 496** from 2012. The total number of Complaints Investigated **decreased by 237**, the number of Arrests **decreased by 100**, Traffic Citations **increased by 129** and Parking Violations **increased by 308 citations**.

NOTE: It is important to remember that we have not yet replaced 1 F.T.E. vacancy that occurred in May of 2009.

As you know a large portion of the department's activity is "officer initiated". With fewer officers there are fewer crimes detected, arrests made and citations issued.

Attachment #2

This attachment illustrates the number of Total Complaints Investigated as compared to the Total Amount of Activity, including Officer Initiated Activity. The Officer Initiated Activity gives you a good idea of the amounts of activity that the officers generate independently without being directed to Central Dispatch. Also illustrated is the percentage of that amount. You will note that in 2013 **44% of the total activity was Officer initiated.**

Also on Attachment #2 is a breakdown of Total Citations Issued versus the Total Traffic Stops conducted by the Department. The chart also illustrates the average number of traffic stops by each patrol officer.

Attachment #3

The Reported Crime Summary lists the most serious reported Person Crimes and Property Crimes, as well as the two most problematic Public Order Crimes encountered by the Ludington Police Department. It covers the time period of 2004 thru 2013.

In 2013 we experienced a **decrease of 46** reported Person Crimes and a **decrease of 144** in reported Property Crimes over 2012. We also saw a **reduction of 14** when comparing the most problematic Public Order Crimes in 2013 versus 2012.

Attachment #4

The Enforcement History Report summarizes arrest activity for the same crime categories that are listed on attachment #3.

Also included in the Enforcement History Report is information on traffic crashes, traffic citations and Operate While Intoxicated (O.W.I.) arrests, for the same time period.

In 2013 the number of arrests for Person Crimes **decreased by 23** over 2012, the number of Property Crimes arrests **decreased by 45** over 2012 and the number of Public Order Crimes **decreased by 124** from the previous year.

In 2013 the number of Traffic Crashes **increased by 35** and the number of O.W.I. arrests also **increased by 4** over those in 2012.

Attachment #5

The 2013 Organizational Chart illustrates the total number of Ludington Police Department personnel and how they were utilized.

- 1 Chief of Police
- 1 Police Captain
- 3 Sergeants assigned to road patrol (+ 1 vacancy)
- 6.5 Patrol Officers assigned to road patrol
- 1 Detective
- 1 S.S.C.E.N.T. Officer
- .5 School Resource Officer

- 1 Administrative Assistant
- 1 Part-time Clerical Assistant
- 12 Police Reserve Officers (Volunteers)
- 3 Part-time (Sworn) Officers assigned to road patrol

SIGNIFICANT INCIDENTS

The following information highlights incidents investigated by the Ludington Police Department that were significant due to type of incident, circumstances, amount of loss, required resources and/or the potential effect on the community.

Fatal Fire - George St.

On June 19 a fire took the life of Timothy Mohr in his apartment located @ 506 George St. The police department assisted the Ludington Fire Department and the Michigan State Police with that investigation.

Baby Kate Investigation

On June 28 & 29 Departmental personnel, along with Mason County Sheriff's Office, Michigan State Police, Michigan Department of Corrections, scientific experts from around the Midwest and approx. 80 scientifically trained searchers conducted a search of several location in the northern part of Mason County. The search areas were based on soil types and specific types of plant material in those locations.

The search was successful in eliminating other possible areas, and helped focus law enforcement efforts on a much smaller area. This allowed the use of other scientific methods in the investigation.

Through the combined efforts of the Mason County Prosecutor's Office and the Michigan Attorney General's Office Mr. Phillips has been charged with Open Murder and is awaiting preliminary exam.

Closson's Jewelry Store Embezzlement.

On August 3rd the department began on investigation of an embezzlement at Closson's Jewelry Store. The suspect, former employee, was charged with the theft of over \$50,000 and under \$100,000. The case is still pending in court.

Petunia Parade Committee Embezzlement

In November the Department began an investigation into the embezzlement of approximately \$47,000. by the former Chairperson of the Ludington Petunia Parade Committee. The suspect was charged with Embezzlement of over \$20,000. and under \$50,000. The suspect is awaiting trial in Circuit Court.

Murder of M.S.P. Trooper Paul Butterfield

On September 9th, 2013 the department assisted in the response to the murder and follow-up investigation of Michigan State Trooper Paul Butterfield.

Snowmobiler Death in Pere Marquette Township

In late December members of the department assisted the Mason County Dive Team in the recovery of the body of William Green who died in a snowmobile accident in Pere Marquette Township.

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

The following information highlights a number of initiatives that the Ludington Police Department is involved in. While some projects are directly linked with "traditional" law enforcement efforts, others involve activities that, if successful, assist in making the community safer in a more indirect manner.

End of Collaboration between the City of Ludington and the City of Scottville Police Departments

In July of 2013 the Cities of Ludington and Scottville ended their collaboration. The City of Scottville hired a part-time Police Chief and the Ludington Police Department assisted in the transition.

Cooperation with the Mason County Dive Team

With the assistance of Federal Port Security grant funds three members of the Department have joined the Mason County Dive Team. This team functions similar to the S.E.R.T. Team in regards to command structure and response.

L.P.D. members have completed basic dive training and are continuing to train with the Team.

Reserve Marine Unit

The Reserve Marine Officers (which includes active duty members of the U.S. Coast Guard-Station Ludington) assisted in staffing the Fire & Police Boat in 2013 and conducted the following activities:

- Harbor patrol
- Response to several marine incidents
- Special events (Macker, 4th of July and the Triathlon)
- Crew member training for both the Fire & Police Departments
- Equipment recovery
- Beach closings

Reserve Marine Unit members conducted 30+ missions in 2013.

Digital Forensic Lab

R/O Stephen Marx continues to volunteer his time to help operate the Digital Forensic Lab (D.F.L.) at the Ludington Police Department.

The D.F.L. is a cooperative effort and is currently staffed by R/O Marx and Detc. Mike Kenney of the Mason County Sheriff's Office.

In January of 2013 R/O Marx and Detc. Kenney, along with Ludington Officer J. Miller and a Mason County deputy, attended training in Forensic Exams in Holland, MI funded by Homeland Security funds. R/O Marx reports that the continued "in-house" training of Ofc. J. Miller is going very well.

By the end of December 2013 the D.F.L. has assisted in forty-six (46) investigations with examinations of eighty-seven (87) devices. While the majority of these investigations are for agencies in Mason County, the D.F.L. has provided investigative assistance to other agencies in Manistee and Oceana Counties as well.

Project Respecto

Members of the Department participated, with M.S.P. and Mason County in visiting migrant work camps located in Mason County. The goal is to improve the relationship between the seasonal workers and law enforcement.

Networking Group

The Ludington Police Department continued to coordinate the Networking Group throughout 2013 to respond to criminal issues that affect the Ludington/Mason County Community.

All the cooperating agencies continue to benefit by partnering together to address issues that are common challenges.

The listed groups continue to partner with L.P.D. in this effort:

Mason County Prosecutor's Office
Juvenile Court
Probation/Parole
Journey High School
Ludington Area Schools

Mason County Central School District
Mason County Eastern School District
Staircase
Mason County Sheriff's Office
Michigan State Police

Major issues that have been addressed by this group include the Sexting issue, and needed critical incident training.

A.L.I.C.E. (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter and Evacuate) training in the Ludington Area School District was conducted by Mr. Dan Mesyar and Officer Tony Kuster, as well as other location in the Mason County area.

T.A.P.S. & Neighborhood Watch – Sgt. David Maltbie

In 2013 the T.A.P.S. committee identified 4 target areas during the year in which officers were assigned to focus their attention. The identified target areas and problems to be addressed were as follows:

Neighborhood(s)

1. Neighborhoods 502-504
2. Neighborhoods 303-304-307
3. Neighborhood 203
4. Stearns Park

Problems:

Traffic issues
Parking & Traffic Enforcement
LHS/OJ - Pedestrian/traffic issues
Loud Music/Loitering/ Traffic

The following enforcement activities were conducted in these areas:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----|
| • Felony Arrests | 2 |
| • Misdemeanor Arrests (Custody) | 43 |
| • Appearance Citations | 7 |
| • Traffic Citations | 186 |
| • Parking Violations | 173 |

A total of 411 pieces of enforcement were conducted as a result of the volunteer efforts of the T.A.P.S. committee members working together with L.P.D. officers.

Neighborhood Watch/ Landlord Property Management

Neighborhood watch has been difficult to keep afloat. There are currently no neighborhood watch groups in the city. There had been one group active in 2012 but due to lack of interest it has disbanded.

In 2013 LPD has been active in assisting property managers and homeowners who rent properties. Previously we had hosted a Crime free multi housing seminar to assist owners with ways to protect themselves and their properties by doing background checks, checking references, and using lease addendums.

We have had some informal meetings to assist and answer any questions or assist in any problems they may have regarding renters. It's also a way for owners/managers to get together and bounce ideas off one another as to practices that have been successful to them and how to improve. These property managers have been proactive in learning the number of times the police have been called to their properties and have taken active steps to either remove the problem renters or stop the problems to improve the tranquility of the neighborhood.

The use of social media to provide information to more citizens proved to be successful and this will continue to be utilized and improved upon in 2014.

Sex Offender Monitoring – Sgt. Dean Schultz

The City of Ludington had forty six (46) registered sex offenders residing within the City during the January 2013 compliance check with all offenders being compliant.

The April check showed forty-two (42) offenders with one being non-compliant for failing to verify. The offender was arrested and charged.

The June check showed thirty-six (36) offenders, with all offenders compliant.

In August of 2013 we began checking the offenders monthly with the following results (see below legislation change):

- August - thirty-three (33)
- September showed thirty five (35)
- October showed thirty five (35)
- November showed thirty six (36)
- A December check was not completed due to technical issues.

All checks completed from August thru November showed offenders to be compliant. During Halloween, as in the past, we assisted the Michigan Department of Corrections - Mason County Probation/Parole Office with home visits of offenders on parole. A parole condition prevents offenders from participating in Halloween activities. No issues or violations were detected.

In 2013 an error in the school safety zone map of the City was found. The map did not include the playground for Foster Elementary School. With adding the area of the playground two (2) offenders were living within the school safety zone. One offender had moved prior to this being found and another offender was informed of the violation and relocated their residence.

In 2013 new legislation was passed which is going to cause some changes starting April 1st of 2014. Anticipating the above change we chose to begin a monthly compliance check in August of 2013 to prepare for the upcoming year.

One of the upcoming changes affects when offenders verify. Offenders are tiered level 1, 2, or 3 with level 1 verifying annually, level 2 semi-annually, and level 3 quarterly. Previously the months were set as follows: January, April, July, and October for offenders to verify. With the changes offenders will still follow the above tier level but will register according to the month in which they were born. The offender will now have a full month to comply. An example would be a level 3 offender with a birth month of February. The offender is going to verify February, May, August, and November.

A second significant change coming is the program used by agencies verifying offenders. The current system is provided and operated by the State Police. The new program, Offender Watch, will be starting February 2014. Offender Watch is a private vendor which is currently be used by sixty-eight percent (68%) of the United States. A major benefit to the new system will be communications. The current system is only used in Michigan, the new system opens communications nationally between Offender Watch agencies using the new systems.

Drive Safe, Drive Sober Program

The 2013 *Drive Safe, Drive Sober* campaign was another great success this year making this New Year's Eve celebration was a safe and enjoyable one. This success was due to the combined efforts of Abrahamson's Towing, Quinn's Tires & Tows, Oceana Auto and the Ludington Mass Transportation Authority.

Through the efforts of LMTA and the wrecker services a total of **1,269** individuals were transported to and from their holiday destinations, rather than driving themselves this year, and fourteen (**14**) of those individuals had their vehicles towed free of charge.

There was only one (**1**) reported traffic crash involving injury and only two (**2**) property damage crashes reported during this year's celebration. None of these crashes involved the use of alcohol.

A review of Mason County Law Enforcement Agencies' activity reveals three (**3**) arrests for Operating While Intoxicated (O.W.I.), eleven (**11**) other arrests involving alcohol, three (**3**) assault arrests and six (**6**) other warrant arrests were made. A total of fourteen (**14**) traffic citations were issued.

Thanks to the combined efforts and resources of Abrahamson's Towing, Quinn's Tires & Tows, Oceana Auto, Ludington Mass Transportation Authority, Mothers Against Drunk Driving of Mason County, SADD, Ludington Beverage Co. Inc., several Ludington-Mason County area businesses, and Mason County Law Enforcement, the 2012 New Year's Eve was another safe and enjoyable Holiday.

Movies in the park

Movies in the Park continues to be a popular event with attendance during the 2013 season averaging around 350-400 per night. Movies were shown four of the Thursday nights in August in City Park at the Kiwanis Band shell.

This event would not be possible without assistance of Ms. Gail Lyons, Ms. Kaye Ferguson-Holman, Ms. Jackie Steckel, Ms. Melanie Tomaski and the Ludington High School Business Professionals of America Group, "Captain", Ms. Jerry Welton and "Captain" Andrew Kimetz and the Baby Badger, as well as Mr. Ron Maluchnik (R.C.M. Audio) and Mr. Caleb Nordine, the Downtown Ludington Board. In 2013 the House of Flavors and various financial sponsors.

OBSERVATIONS / GOALS

A review of the above data leads us to the following conclusions and goals:

1. The 2013 Goal to increase Reserve Unit's role in preventative land and marine patrols as well as providing technical investigative assistance was accomplished as it relates to the Reserve Marine Unit. Members conducted increased patrols and training mission, which provided and increase Marine presence.

2. The 2013 Goal to Assign Departmental member to the Mason County Dive Team has been accomplished. Divers are equipped, received Basic Dive Training and are training with other team members.

The Department will likely face some personnel challenges in 2014. It is likely that at least one, and possibly both senior sergeants who are eligible to retire this year will retire.

This will create new promotions and new hires.

2014 Goals

1. Our goal is to conduct a smooth transition for new hires as well as the selection and promotion of 1 or 2 new sergeants.
2. Our second goal for 2014 is to revamp employee evaluation process. This goal will be critical in the accomplishment of the first goal, and will have a long-term impact on departmental operation.

CONCLUSION

The men and women of the Ludington Police Department are a group of professional police officers and clerical staff that continue to do a great job! They look for ways to improve communication with, and provide better service for, the residents of the City of Ludington.

We appreciate the continued support of the citizens of Ludington, Mayor Cox, the City Council and City Manager John Shay. We will continue to do all that we can to make Ludington safe.

LUDINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT
TEN-YEAR OFFICER STAFFING AND PRODUCTIVITY STUDY

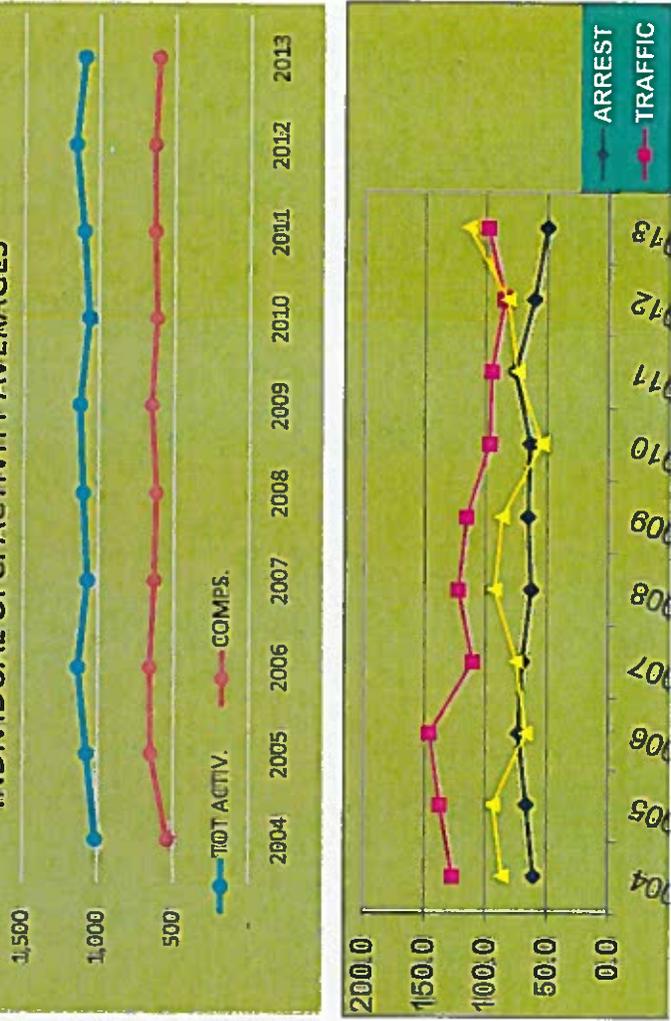
DEPARTMENTAL TOTALS

DEPT. YEAR	TOTAL SWORN	CLERICAL	ADMIN.	SUPPORT	BUDGETED PATRO POS.	ACTUAL PATRO POS.	TOTAL ACTIVITY	COMPS. INVEST.	ARRESTS	TRAFFIC	PARKING
2004	16	1	2	3	10	9	9,132	5441	608	1269	864
2005	16	1	2	3	10	10	10,739	7203	736	1514	1031
2006	16.5	1.5	2	3	10	10	11,317	7275	807	1603	743
2007	16.5	1.5	2	3	10	10	10,718	6968	774	1216	821
2008	16.5	1.5	2	3	10	10	11,007	6811	693	1343	1017
2009	16.5	1.5	2	3	10	9	10,111	6529	667	1153	868
2010	15.5	1.5	2	3	9	9	9,573	6181	640	966	547
2011	15.5	1.5	2	3	9	9	9,898	6340	759	951	747
2012	15.5	1.5	2	3	9	8.5	9,828	6027	577	804	780
2013	15.5	1.5	2	3	9	8.5	9,332	5790	477	933	1088

INDIVIDUAL OFFICER ACTIVITY AVG'S.

YEAR	TOT ACTIV.	COMPS.	ARREST	TRAFFIC	PARKING
2004	1,015	544.1	60.8	126.9	86.4
2005	1,074	654.8	66.9	137.6	93.7
2006	1,132	661.4	73.4	145.7	67.5
2007	1,072	633.3	70.4	110.5	74.6
2008	1,101	619.2	63.0	122.1	92.5
2009	1,123	652.9	65.7	115.3	86.6
2010	1,064	618.1	64.0	96.6	54.7
2011	1,100	634.0	75.9	95.1	74.7
2012	1,156	634.4	60.7	84.6	82.1
2013	1,098	609.5	50.2	98.2	114.5

INDIVIDUAL OFC. ACTIVITY AVERAGES



LUDINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT
TOTAL DEPARTMENTAL ACTIVITY BREAKDOWN

YEAR	TOTAL COMPLAINTS INVESTIGATED	TOTAL ACTIVITY	OFFICER INITIATED ACTIVITY	% OFC. INIT. ACTIVITY	CALLS FOR SERVICE INTO DISPATCH
2007	6966	10718	5618	52%	5100
2008	6811	11007	6080	55%	4927
2009	6529	10111	5342	53%	4769
2010	6181	9573	5035	53%	4538
2011	6340	9898	4853	49%	5045
2012	6027	9828	4155	42%	5673
2013	5790	9332	4095	44%	5237

YEAR	ACTUAL TRAFFIC CITATIONS ISSUED	TOTAL TRAFFIC STOPS	AVG. TRAFFIC STOPS PER OFFICER
2007	1216	1988	180.7
2008	1343	1835	166.8
2009	1153	1683	168.3
2010	966	1749	174.9
2011	951	1661	166.1
2012	804	1455	153.2
2013	933	1664	175.2

One officer vacancy occurred on May 1st, 2009

Data supplied by T.I.M.S. Records Management Software-L.P.D.

Data supplied by Mason-Oceana 911

LUDINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT
 REPORTED CRIME SUMMARY

PERSON CRIMES

	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004
Homicide (Incl. Att.)	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	0
Abduction (Incl. Att.)	0	0	3	0	1	0	2	0	1	1
Robbery	1	0	2	4	4	2	1	3	0	0
Sexual Assault	22	25	18	21	21	23	23	18	16	29
Assault	108	150	149	129	153	167	169	159	151	140
Stalking	4	6	7	7	0	9	4	6	5	2
Sub-total	135	181	179	161	179	201	199	186	173	172

PROPERTY CRIMES

Arson	0	3	3	2	2	3	0	3	7	3
Burglary	46	46	38	35	55	53	70	76	73	67
Controlled Sub. Vio.	47	47	78	51	38	44	50	45	33	24
Damage to Property	78	133	122	136	162	154	182	208	176	157
Embezzlement	2	2	6	1	2	2	1	7	7	3
Fraud	52	49	40	53	43	61	35	63	31	52
Larceny	211	289	248	223	257	280	288	311	350	282
Retail Fraud	14	20	21	17	24	13	10	14	6	8
Vehicle Theft	5	8	3	7	6	11	9	11	17	12
Weapon Offenses	4	6	4	9	5	5	7	10	6	12
Sub-total	459	603	563	534	594	626	652	748	706	620

PUBLIC ORDER CRIMES

Disorderly	593	607	694	617	652	589	496	496	539	459
Liquor Violations	36	46	75	78	69	104	94	97	100	66
TOTAL	1223	1437	1511	1390	1494	1520	1441	1527	1518	1317

LUDINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT
ENFORCEMENT HISTORY REPORT

PERSON CRIMES

	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004
Homicide (Includes Att.)	0	1	0	0	0	0	4	0	1	0
Abduction	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Robbery	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	1	0	0
Sexual Assault	4	5	1	1	2	4	5	5	0	7
Assault	44	65	86	55	63	58	70	73	56	48
Stalking	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	1
	48	71	88	63	65	62	79	81	57	57

PROPERTY CRIMES

Arson	6	0	3	0	0	1	0	1	1	8
Burglary	6	10	6	3	25	5	26	22	11	8
Controlled Sub. Vio.	20	42	44	54	30	24	44	47	31	21
Damage to Property	3	13	7	7	10	8	12	18	8	5
Embezzlement	0	1	2	1	0	1	0	5	2	0
Fraud	0	1	6	3	8	4	6	7	4	6
Larceny	10	14	28	28	14	28	31	20	18	10
Retail Fraud	10	15	13	12	15	13	6	10	4	6
Vehicle Theft	2	4	1	3	3	2	3	3	5	1
Weapon Offenses	1	3	2	3	3	4	3	4	3	6
	58	103	112	114	108	90	131	137	87	71

PUBLIC ORDER CRIMES

Disorderly	49	81	73	81	63	87	57	81	86	53
Liquor Violations	40	64	75	70	129	117	163	113	148	96

TOTAL (Catagories Above)	195	319	348	328	365	356	430	412	378	277
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TRAFFIC

Traffic Crashes	239	204	219	210	252	271	259	292	335	359
Traffic Citations	933	804	951	966	1153	1343	1216	1603	1514	1269
Operate While Intox. Arrests	40	36	53	39	49	66	78	80	65	54

LUDINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT
 2013 ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

