

Child Car Seat Inspections



The Mason Police Department has been involved in a very active Child Car Seat Inspection program for several years. In 2006, I attended a 5-day, 40-hour class put on by the National Highway Traffic Safety Council. There I learned to install over 100 different brands, makes, and models of car seats before passing the exam to become a certified car seat installer/inspector. In 2007, I assisted approximately 50 Mason and Ingham County residents and families in safely installing child safety seats in their vehicles. Some of these were eligible to receive free cars seats which had been donated to our

department by Evenflo upon the successful completion of my 2006 training. The 20 new seats were provided to give to people who could not afford their own and to replace seats that were no longer safe for use.

Bicycle Patrol Officer Steve Chick



The bicycle program has continued to be a positive addition to the Mason Police Department, and the bicycles have really assisted with a proactive approach to policing. When criminals observe officers out on bicycles, they may decide not to commit crimes at that time because they would have no idea where the bicycle patrol might show up. On the other hand, if a criminal is committing a crime, an officer on a bicycle might hear or see the crime being committed without the bad guy knowing.

There were at least 2 incidents in 2007 that would bear this out. Officer Mark Reckling was able to apprehend a person who was attempting to break into a business. He was on bicycle patrol during his midnight shift when he heard the sound of glass breaking. He went to the area of the glass breakage and found a subject attempting to break into a downtown business. The subject was ultimately arrested for Breaking and Entering.

Officer Reckling also located two subjects on the Hayhoe River Trail who were smoking marijuana. In this incident he again was on bicycle patrol during his midnight shift when he came across the two subjects. He made contact with them, confiscated the illegal substance, and took enforcement.

These are only a couple of examples of how a bicycle can have a greater advantage over a patrol car in that an officer can be in an area without being heard, or sometimes, even without being seen.



In addition to utilizing the bicycles for paroling, officers used them for special details such as the Fourth of July parade, the 5-K run, and the light parade. In these events officers patrolled the routes to make sure all citizens and participants remained safe. They also used the bicycles to ride up and make contact with the citizens, as the bikes have proven to be a great public relations tool.