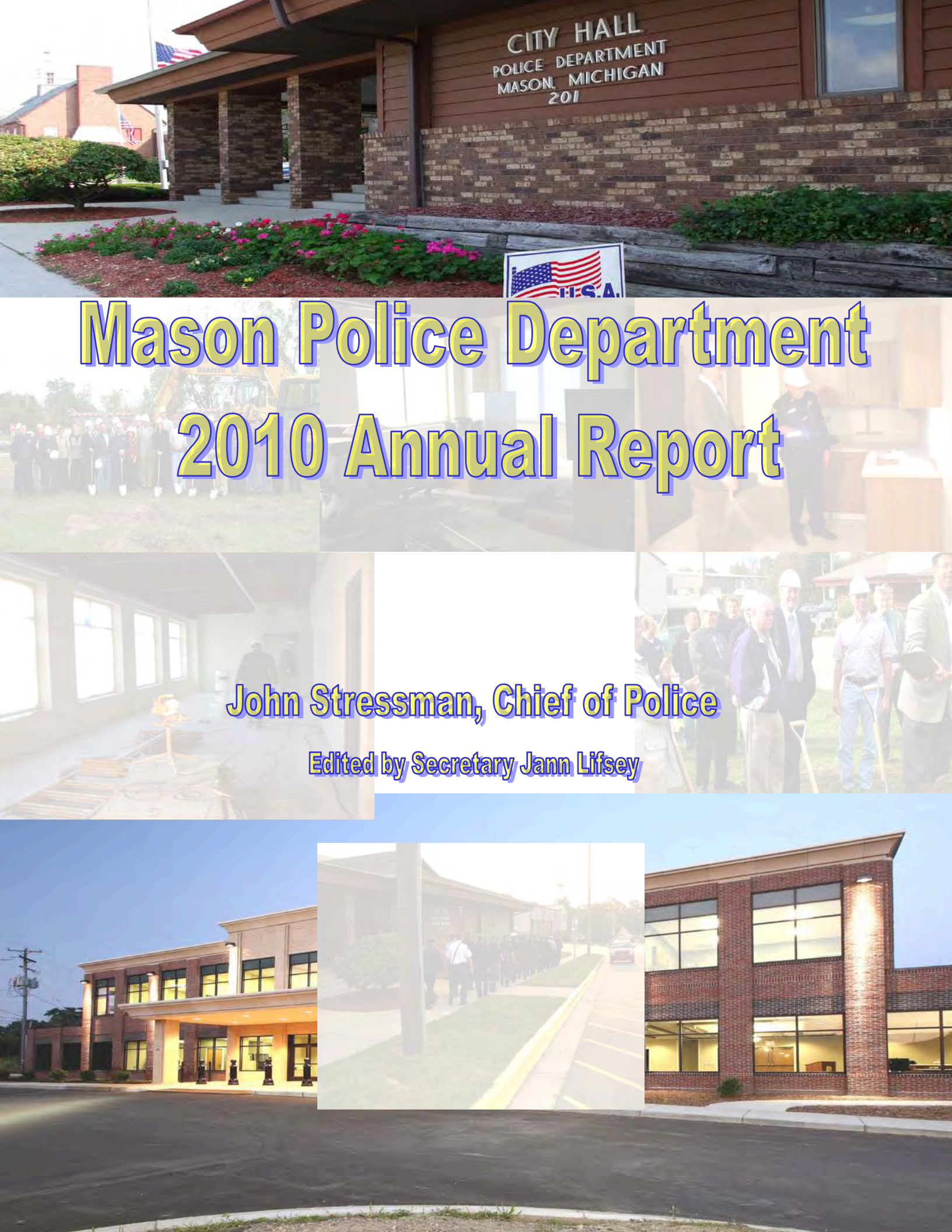


CITY HALL
POLICE DEPARTMENT
MASON, MICHIGAN
201

Mason Police Department 2010 Annual Report

John Stressman, Chief of Police

Edited by Secretary Jann Lifsey



2010 ANNUAL REPORT

Introduction

I am pleased to present to you the 2010 Mason Police Department Annual Report. While reading this report, I believe you will see our officers and staff members have again done an exceptional job of providing outstanding police service to the Mason community, helping maintain the excellent quality of life we are committed to, and to which our citizens have become accustomed.

In 2010, there were some changes in the organization, including new hires and incorporation of nuisance code enforcement into the Department's daily operations and community policing strategy. However, the preeminent event had to have been the moving into and occupying of this new state-of-the-art facility we now call "home." It is almost impossible to articulate the gratitude I and the Police



Department staff feel for this generous and well-planned facility. There are many people who deserve credit for this project: the City Council, for its foresight and role in approving the project, planning, and implementation; the City Administrator, for his vision, planning, and execution; the Director of Administrative Services, for her dogged execution and oversight of the construction and facility amenities; and the citizens of Mason, who supported this project through statements of affirmation and financially through their own hard-earned dollars. It is my intent—and that of the other Department members—to be good stewards of this first-rate resource we have been graciously provided with.

As we plan and prepare for the next year and beyond, I cannot help but recognize the possible ramifications due to the state of law enforcement in Ingham County and how it may affect our department. It is no secret that resources are diminishing and that, both county and state wide, the number of police officers is becoming smaller (a reduction of 3,404 in the past 10 years across the State of Michigan). The number of available officers impacts mutual aid and those support services we absolutely need to function and solve crimes (training, inter-agency cooperatives, forensics, field force deployments, and others), and this decrease in numbers may have an adverse impact on some of our efficiencies. Another potential crisis which is already a problem because of drastic funding cuts, is dealing with the mentally ill. Many of the resources we originally would have referred subjects with mental illness to have been eliminated, and the result of not having these resources available will strain Department personnel, with no way to handle what is becoming a larger area of concern in law enforcement. However, as always, we will do everything within our capabilities to continue to provide the same excellent quality of service to our community that we are known for.

Ethics and Standards

Chief of Police John Stressman

As Mason’s Chief of Police, I have always stressed accountability for actions, no matter the consequence, and an adherence to a strict citizen complaint process. Our policy is modeled after the policies of the International Associations of Chiefs of Police, the Michigan Municipal League’s Law Enforcement Action Forum, and the Michigan Municipal Risk Management Association.

All citizen complaints are received and scrutinized thoroughly. Some are initiated by citizens dissatisfied with an officer’s conduct or the service they received, while others are rooted in disagreement or lack of understanding of procedural issues. Administrative investigations of officer conduct or actions can be initiated internally during the incident review process or periodic evaluation. Whatever the reason for or cause of an investigation, the purpose is to insure the integrity of our procedures and operations, and insure community confidence in our conduct. In all cases where allegations are sustained, corrective action is taken—whether it is procedural change or employee discipline. And, in compliance with Department policy, an annual review of the complaint process is conducted and a report of that review is then completed by the Chief of Police.

Internal investigations: Ordered when the possible outcome could result in severe disciplinary action—up to termination. The Department opened two internal investigations based on citizen complaints. Both were closed as unfounded.

Citizen Initiated	2
Sustained	0
<u>Unfounded</u>	<u>2</u>
Total Closed	2

Generated Administratively	0
Sustained	0
<u>Unfounded</u>	<u>0</u>
Total Closed	0

Administrative Reviews: Ordered for possible infractions of a minor nature, usually resulting in some form of reprimand or training enhancement. Ten investigations were conducted by supervisors—six were generated administratively, and four by citizen complaints.

Citizen Initiated	4
Sustained	2
Unfounded	0
<u>Pending</u>	<u>2</u>
Total	4

Administratively Generated	6
Sustained	3
<u>Unfounded</u>	<u>3</u>
Total	6

Detective Bureau

Detective Corporal Lynne Mark

I regret to say, this is most likely my final annual report, as I am planning on retiring later this year. I would like to begin by commenting that with the new City Hall/Police Department now up and running, the work environment has improved beyond description. We managed to get the job done in our old facility, but with the new structure in place, the professionalism, efficiency, and “flow of paper”—mandated in this business—have improved vastly. Often, one of the first things crime victims (and suspects) inquire when coming into the facility will be, “Is there a place where we can talk in privacy?”—something that was non-existent in the old building. We now have three rooms designated for private interviews. The new facility has ample space for the officers, with room for equipment to be shelved and readily available, as opposed to at the old building when we oftentimes had to hunt and seek equipment because of the overcrowded conditions. I have been able to remove equipment and resource tools from my car and relocate these items in my office where they belong. Before the move, I had no other choice but to store my much-needed work implements in the trunk of my assigned car.



The case load of the Department continues to grow, with a daily onslaught of new investigations. As mentioned in past annual reports, crimes that occur within the city limits are investigated by the Mason City Police Department, but more often than not, the suspects are from areas other than Mason, requiring much follow-up investigation and increased travel time away from the City. A considerable amount of follow up is done by telephone, but ultimately—with virtually every case—travel is required, often to where the suspect is, or along routes where the suspect traveled. The Department wants to make every effort to ensure predators do not think they can come into Mason, victimize our citizenry, and then flee to the safety of other jurisdictions that most likely don’t have the time or inclination—because of decreasing resources—to do the work for us. As always, we strive to maintain a very good working relationship with neighboring police agencies in the tri-county area. Detectives from these agencies meet weekly to discuss cases and assist each other in developing suspects to crimes that have common themes and have cross jurisdictional implications.

The following are just three examples of the variety of cases investigated this past year:

1. A local business had a substantial amount of cash stolen. The case is being investigated jointly by the Mason Police Department and the FBI office.
2. We received a case of “sexting”—or the transfer of sexually-explicit photos being sent via wireless communications. The electronic devices were seized, search warrants were obtained for the content, and warrants will be sought. The Michigan State Police Computer Crimes Unit (CCU) recovered the evidence as a result of the search warrants.
3. We were made aware of a parent with debilitating mental health issues. After an investigation, mental health aid was obtained for long-term care, as well as housing and medical needs.

In-Service Training

Sergeant Donald Hanson

The Mason Police Department has again committed significant resources to its in-service training program. This year we accentuated training for new-hire officers, beyond the substantial and diverse training we provide veteran officers. By utilizing our own trainers for core training topics—firearms, C.P.R., control tactics, and Taser—and cooperating with neighboring police agencies, we keep most training in a local venue, decreasing travel-related and overtime costs. We partnered with the Ingham County Sheriff's Office, providing two trainers for Active Violence Incident Training sessions, during which officers from the tri-county area participated. Thus, our officers attended local training throughout the fall for a lower cost. In addition, many in-service courses were attended at the Michigan State Police Training Academy in Lansing, greatly reducing travel times. Officers and supervisors attended approximately 800 hours of classroom and hands-on in-service training in 2010. We now also utilize on-line training and testing courses by partnering with outside vendors who specialize in such technology. This continual commitment to quality in-service training does not just satisfy certain job-related requirements and certifications, but reaches well beyond that which enhances professionalism and law enforcement knowledge, allowing every Department member to provide efficient and effective service to the citizens of Mason.



The 2010 core training schedule, including certification and re-certifications:



Active Violence Incident Training: Classroom and hands-on, scenario-based training, during which officers were teamed with other agency officers and were challenged with critical decisions during violent life and death encounters.



C.P.R., First Aid Training, and Blood Borne Pathogen Training: Re-certification for officers in C.P.R. and First Aid, and training in the prevention and reduction in job-related exposure to blood and other infectious materials.



Firearms Training and Qualification: Includes classroom, range, and qualification in the use of Department-issued pistols, rifles, and shotguns. Officers were instructed and tested in various techniques and tactics to satisfy the new State of Michigan In-Service Firearms Qualification Standard.

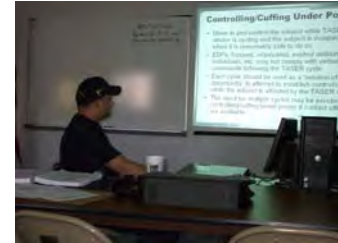
X-26 Taser Training and Qualification: A classroom course that reviewed a number of actual Taser deployment cases to assist officers in their learning and to teach any changes in the appropriate deployment of



the Taser. In addition, officers were required to go through a scenario, under stress, in order to demonstrate and learn by shooting two training cartridges.

This year several individual officers also attended additional or specialized training, certifications, or re-certifications. Some of those courses and seminars were as follows

Internet Tools for Criminal Investigations: A two-day course for officers and investigators in methodology for investigating computer-based crimes being committed by technology savvy predators, utilizing the internet as their primary tool.



X-26 Taser Instructor Re-Certification: Provided our Taser instructor with updated techniques, technology, and legal issues for providing required training and testing in Taser deployment.



Conservation Laws for Police Officers: Instructed law enforcement officers regarding conservation law violations they may encounter in their patrol responsibilities.



Stand Field Sobriety Testing (S.F.S.T.): A 24-hour course for training and certification of officers in drunk and drugged detection, enforcement, and courtroom preparation in State approved, standardized methodology.



Police Officer Response – Mental Health Issues: Provided officers training regarding how to better protect and assist those individuals who may have mental health illness.

Hazardous Material Training: A prerequisite course for preparation of an officer to assume a role as a Fire Investigator in 2011.

In 2011, we anticipate traditional and not-so-traditional challenges to police training. There will always be legal issues affecting the law enforcement environment, and the rapid growth of technology and internet-based crime requires completely different skill tools for successful investigations—and to meet these formidable challenges, officers must be properly prepared. We already have two officers scheduled to attend a sex-related crimes seminar, intending to enhance their preliminary investigation skills. Several officers may also be assuming expanded roles as specialized skills investigators to meet newer high tech challenges. We anticipate that computer-based fraud crimes, “sexting” crimes, and other internet-based crimes where innocents are at greater risk at the hands of predators will be a serious challenge and of utmost concern to the Department and residents of Mason. Therefore, we must be prepared to invest in proper training and practices. Officers also must still be prepared and equipped to investigate more traditional crimes such as domestic assaults, home invasions, and larcenies, and must attend skill and knowledge refresher courses. By keeping abreast of the ever changing environment surrounding law

enforcement and Michigan communities, coupled with controlling cost, we will continue to emphasize quality in-service training as a priority for our staff and to ensure an excellent quality-of-service delivery to the Mason community.

Firearms Training

Officer Robert Mentink



In 2010, locating adequate training facilities proved to be the greatest challenge for instructors. Three area facilities graciously allowed us to conduct department firearms training—a private property owner on Columbia Road, the Eaton County Sheriff's Office, and the Ingham County Sheriff's Office.

We began with Low Light Qualification in January, and ended in December with another low light shoot, using the Ingham County Sheriff's Office's in-door range at no cost to the Department. The ICSO requires the use of

lead-free, frangible ammunition, which is more expensive than conventional training ammunition. We strategized and reduced overtime costs by having instructors train officers during each officer's regularly scheduled shift. The reduced overtime and no cost for use of the range offset the increased cost of frangible ammunition.

The spring Outdoor Qualification match required yet another venue change. This session is the most challenging to find a site to use as so many other departments also are competing for access to a very limited number of local outdoor facilities. The Eaton County Sheriff's Office outdoor range was secured through contacts we made in the Tri-County Training Consortium. The range is located within a 20-minute drive from Mason, making it an excellent location for our officers to train. The



ECSO did not charge the Department for the use of the range, and its professional staff was very gracious and accommodating to our instructors and officers. We are hopeful this will develop into a long-lasting relationship.

Updated scenario-based simmunitions training, sponsored by the Ingham County Sheriff's Office Training Division, was offered in Delhi Township. Simmunitions are foam .22 caliber paint-marking projectiles fired from modified duty firearms officers use which replicate duty weapons issued to

them. Officers are instructed and evaluated on their performance during reality-based scenarios. All area police agencies participated in the training sessions, utilizing trainers from each of the departments. This has proven to be an invaluable training experience by creating a safe environment for high risk stress situations involving lethal force, and is the only training experience where officers are actually “shot at” by suspects (roll players), creating as close to real life situations as possible.

In October, I attended Combat Handgun School, taught by Strike Tactical, at the Eaton County Sheriff’s Office range. Strike Tactical specializes in weapons training for Law Enforcement and the US Military, comprising minimal classroom instruction, followed by eight hours of on- range, live-fire shooting instruction. The techniques learned are based on common sense approaches to real life situations. Each training phase requires progressively higher proficiency qualifications proceeding to the next level. The knowledge I gained there will further develop the Mason Police Department’s firearms program to better prepare officers who may sometime face armed confrontation.

As every year, officers are instructed and tested on their knowledge of legal issues and department policies and procedures relating to firearms and deadly force use. Successful completion of the written test and firearms proficiency are required. Failure can lead to suspension from duty and, ultimately, termination if required knowledge and proficiencies are not successfully performed.





SPECIAL RESPONSE TEAM

Officer Matt Thorne

In 2010, SRT responded to 11 emergency callouts, as well as being activated in East Lansing for the Final Four basketball tournament. Three of the callouts involved barricaded gunmen: two in rural Ingham County, and the other, in Meridian Township. During two of the barricaded gunman situations there were shots fired by the suspect; however, no casualties resulted. In both situations the suspect was taken into custody after less lethal munitions were deployed. One was shot with a 40mm Exact Impact round and the other was Tased.

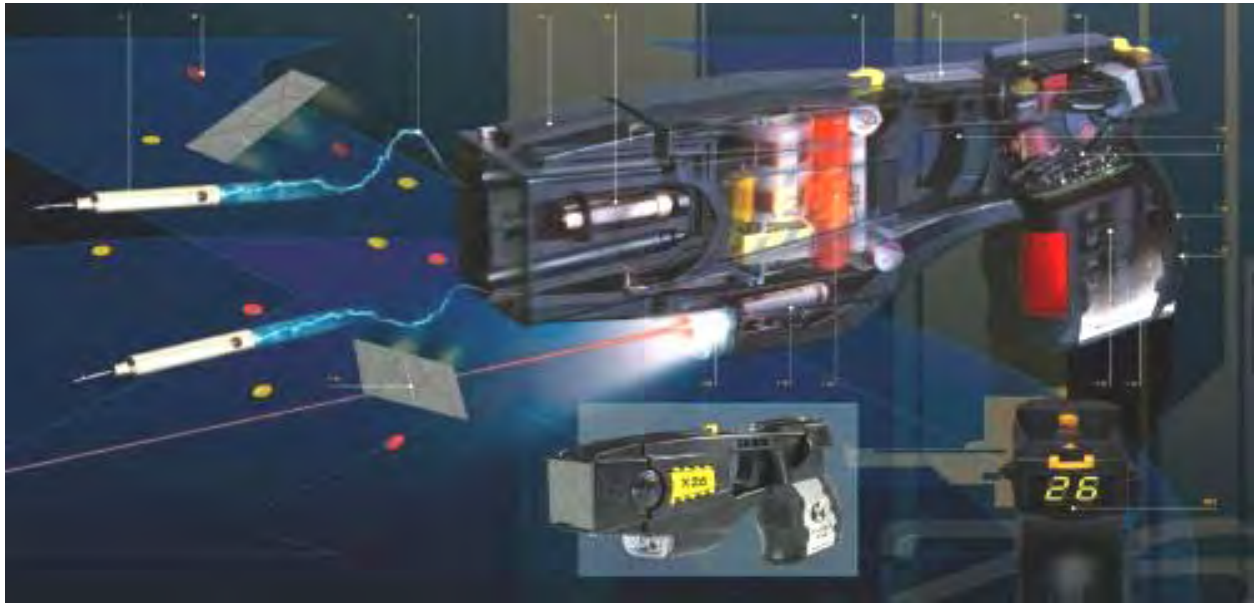
In May of 2010, the SRT trained for four days at the Fort Custer Army base in Battle Creek. During that time the team was deployed for several practical exercises involving armed gunman and hostage rescue. In addition, we practiced skills such as rappelling and crowd management using chemical munitions.

In October of 2010, I attended a week long Basic SWAT school held at Fort Custer in Battle Creek. During the training I was certified in mechanical building entry, distractionary devices, chemical munitions, less lethal munitions, defensive tactics, building clearing, and precision shooting.

SRT still trains once a month at the MSU firearms range. SRT has also been training with several K9 teams from participating agencies, should the need arise to deploy a dog during an operation.

During the monthly October training SRT used a City-owned residence slated for demolition. The house was used for training mechanical breaching of doors and windows, as well as deploying inert chemical munitions. In addition, the Army National Guard brought out a Jet Ranger helicopter to train with using its live video link from air to ground. This assisted the incident command post in positioning of reaction teams and scene overview.

SRT continues to serve as the first team to respond to crisis situations within greater Ingham County, including the City of Mason.



TASER 2010

Officer Richard Girard

The Mason Police Department has utilized the Taser, “Electronic Control Device” or ECD since 2003. The Department has 6 X26 Tasers and each officer receives 6 hours of required in-service refresher training annually. They must pass a written test and display knowledge and proficiency while operating the Taser, including deployment exercises. The Department uses scenario-based training, which has proved to be very beneficial to the officers’ training experience.

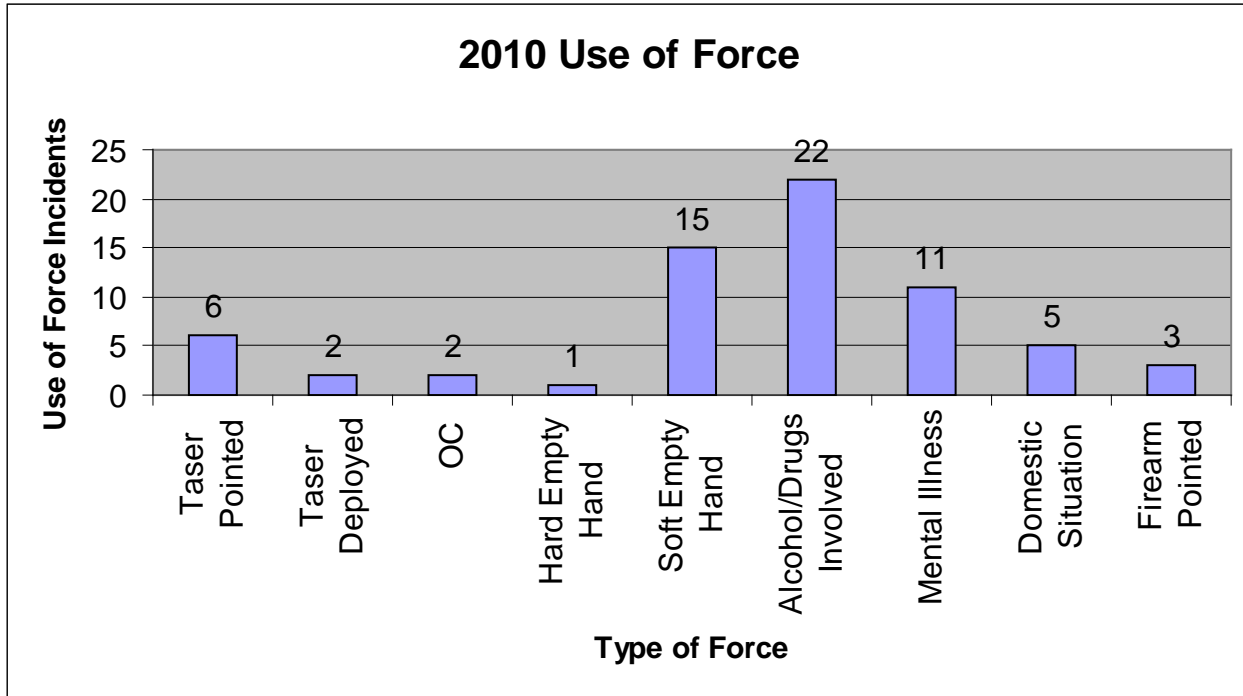
The Taser is still one of the most effective and safe subject control implements introduced to law enforcement in recent years. It is used as a means to control violent subjects without causing injuries to the offender or to the officer. The Taser deploys 2 probes out to a maximum of 25 feet and gives a 50,000-volt shock for a full 5 seconds, overriding the central nervous system, causing immediate incapacitation. It is such a remarkable tool, Michigan lawmakers have introduced legislation legalizing citizens to carry a “civilian version” of the Taser used by law enforcement.

Mason Police Department’s 2010 Use of Force records report 8 incidents of Taser use by officers. Officers displayed the Taser in 2 incidents and deployed it in 2 cases. One involved a domestic dispute where the suspect had lifted a table over his head and was about to throw it at the officer. The deployment quickly de-escalated the threat, and the suspect was taken into custody without injury to him or the officer. The other involved a vehicle chase and an uncooperative, drunk subject who refused to obey the officer’s commands. The deployment brought some cooperation from the suspect.

Use of Force

Officer Matt Thorne

In 2010, officers were involved in 26 incidents requiring a use of force report as part of our department's policies and procedures. The below chart is a breakdown of some of the factors that are considered when reporting incidents involving force.



In January of 2010, I attended a recertification class for PPCT (Pressure Point Control Tactics). The recertification is required once every three years to keep up to speed with changes in tactics and case law. PPCT is the system the Mason Police Department has adopted for training officers on how to respond to situations requiring force; however, it is not all that is considered. In 2011, MPD is sending an officer to GAGE (Ground Assault Ground Escape) school to become an instructor to team teach defensive tactics.

Community Police Officer

Officer Carrie Nettles



The Mason Police Department is committed to maintaining the highest quality of life, and superior police service and protection for those who live, work, and visit here. The program highlighting this commitment most is the Community Officer, currently staffed by Officer Carrie Nettles, who partners with Mason Public Schools, Mason businesses, Mason Community Fund, and a variety of residential groups and associations.

Officer Nettles interacts with Mason school students by giving educational presentations on issues ranging from dating safety and personal safety, the law, and many other appropriate and current topics applicable to varying age groups. The Community Officer's goal is to help insure an environment of safety, act as a role model for the children, and act as a resource to the Mason school community. Officer Nettles also assists and problem solves quality-of-life issues in our community, encompassing such challenges as parking problems in the downtown business district, assisting elderly citizens, and mediating neighborhood disputes. The Community Officer provides citizens with a personal contact in the Police Department who assists with concerns and problems that affect overall quality of life and needed specialized, individual attention.

This year the Mason Police Department—in partnership with 55th District Court Judge Allen, Ingham County Sheriff Gene Wrigglesworth, and Mason Public Schools Superintendent Mark Dillingham—has initiated a task force on Prescription Drug abuse primarily effecting Mason's youth. The priority in 2011 will be addressing the abuse of prescription drugs in our community and to solicit input from local doctors and pharmacies, with an eye on educating our citizens about the dangers of prescription drug abuse, and targeting those individuals and groups who are most susceptible to abuse of prescription medications.



Officer Nettles also coordinates the Department's bicycle program. Riding the bicycle as a means of patrolling the City provides an opportunity for officers to meet the community on a more personal level. Citizens are more likely to approach and speak with an officer on a bicycle than one enclosed, inside a vehicle. This face-to face contact provides officers with individual concerns and information they might not otherwise have access to. Communication is integral to providing the best possible police services to our citizens, and continuous interaction is the best method of communication.



Code Enforcement

James Duthie

The Mason Police Department's Code Enforcement Officer is a new assignment created to address those nuisance ordinances and code violations having deleterious effects on Mason neighborhoods—both the aesthetic and health and safety—which diminish the community's quality-of-life standards. Once appointed to the position, I started to get a feel for my responsibilities and what's expected of me. I work closely with Zoning and Development Director David Haywood to share information regarding zoning and code issues and complaints.



I have identified specific areas of concentration: Exterior structure complaints, dangerous buildings, junk accumulations and junk cars, tall grass and weeds, and other offenses, garage sale violations, salvage vehicle inspections, certain zoning issues (such as fence heights). Since August 1, 2010, I have initiated investigations for:

- * 8 exterior structure complaints
- * 8 dangerous building complaints
- * 41 junk and/or brush pile complaints
- * 11 junk vehicle complaints
- * 10 tall grass complaints
- * 16 miscellaneous complaints



Many investigations involve more than one violation, such as a property having exterior structure violations, junk accumulations, and tall weeds and grass. In nearly all these complaints, I have received voluntary cooperation from the property owners to abate these nuisances once they were brought to their attention. For those resistant to compliance, I've at least gotten some effort to make corrections and have only been forced into issuing four citations for code violations. Because of the extensive community support I have received, my job is made easier and more rewarding.

In my communications, I remind residents to take advantage of the Ingham County Hazardous Waste Program and various other drop-off sites where they can get rid of their discarded tires, scrap metal, and car batteries, and to take advantage of available brush pickup.

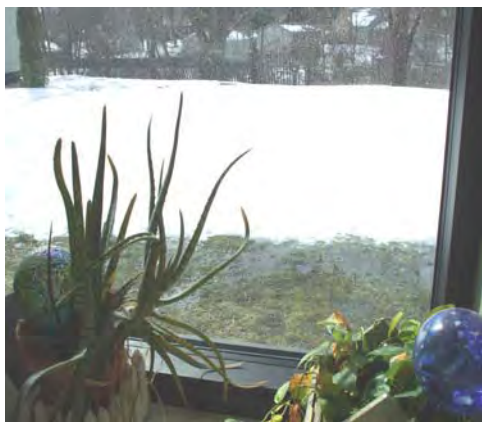
In 2011, I intend to continue working with property owners in removing junk accumulations, brush piles, junk cars, and correcting exterior structure violations—such as maintaining siding or

painting—whether it is homes or garages. Of primary concern, I have noted there are a number of old houses in town which are becoming more dilapidated and in need of drastic repair or demolition. A majority of these structures are vacant and appear well beyond the value of the capital required to make corrections, and may be best served by providing space for newer housing.

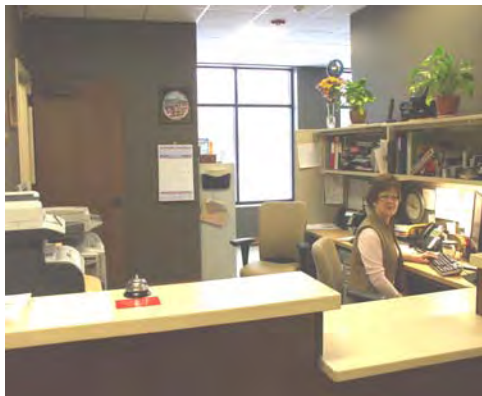
My goal is to raise the expectations of the citizens of Mason in regards to making it a safer and more attractive community to enjoy and prosper in. I'd like visitors to feel envious when they see our town so they will leave and tell others about it as a place they would like to live and raise a family.

Support Staff Operations

Secretary Jann Lifsey



The year 2010 was an exciting one, with lots of changes—particularly, the momentous move to our beautiful, brand new building. The contrast between our work areas in the old building and the new is phenomenal. We clerical staff are no longer squeezed into cramped quarters, tripping over one another. I have a cubicle of my own just outside the Chief's office so I can focus on giving him secretarial support more efficiently without all the distractions of the front office. And the view from my large windows—not just one, but two!—is fantastic! In my 31 years of working for the City, it is the first time I have really had my own window, which means no more typing beneath the dim glow of artificial lighting and a much more user-friendly atmosphere.



Clerical staff Sandy Stacy and Cindy McNamara have their own desks, file cabinets, and phones in the Police Department's reception area, rather than having to share a work area and equipment. They have lots of large file cabinets to keep the Department's records and files in, which is a real change from the old city hall where files had to be crammed full, and it was hard to maneuver around the drawers if they were open. For the first time we even have a small room where we can keep supplies.



For all these improvements and other nice amenities, we are very grateful to the citizens of Mason for their financial support and to all the other people who made the new City Hall possible.

In the year 2010, a total of 137 pistols were purchased within the city limits, including those purchased by persons with concealed pistol licenses (CPL's). Of these, 69 were purchased by residents who had come in and gotten purchase permits.

We issued 7 parking permits to residents living in the downtown business district. In 2011, we are expecting changes in the rates and the way we issue the permits, which should make it more convenient for people to purchase them.

We continue sending out Citizen Satisfaction Surveys. In 2010, we sent out a total of 183 surveys, and received back 71 of these, along with a handful of unopened surveys that were returned due to the recipients having moved. We appreciate the citizens who take the time to complete these surveys, as their feedback helps us to know how we are doing overall as a department and how we can improve our services to the community. When we receive negative comments, we evaluate them to see if they have merit and try to improve our performance if they do. If residents write in concerns they want to have addressed—and they have given us their names and contact information—the Chief will assign command officers to talk with them to see whether or not these problems can be resolved.

A copy of the 2010 Citizen Satisfaction Survey Results is as follows:

2010 CITIZEN SATISFACTION SURVEY RESULTS

183 Surveys Sent in 2010
71 Completed Surveys 5 (returned as undeliverable)
40% of Surveys Responded to by Recipients

Positive Responses	70
Negative Responses	1
Number of Written Suggestions/Comments	40

Respondents' Feedback	Good	Fair	Poor
"The police coverage around my neighborhood/business is:"	53	13	0
"The image of the Mason Police Department within the community is:"	63	5	0

Suggestions/Concerns
"I have called the police on 4 separate locations over the past 18 months—all for the same reason –a semi truck parked overnite in the parking lot...with its engine..running all nite. The truck doesn't need to stay overnite running—particularly in the summer when windows are open. Sometimes after contact by the police the truck leaves, but sneaks back in during the night."
"We have ongoing issues with the next door neighbors fighting, arguing, and abusing each other. The female is lax in her care for her oldest child. We have called several times, as have many of the other neighbors. MPD has been excellent in the handling of the situations. We do feel more research into the issues would show as much abuse by her as him. Question the neighbors. We all would like to talk to someone."

<p>“The officer did not arrive at my home until about 45 minutes after my call. I think there may have been a slight communication breakdown between the dispatcher and officer. I do however understand that my issue was not critical or life threatening.”</p>
<p>“The officer explained that the situation was not something that they could rectify. It would have to be handled by our landlord.”</p>
<p>“My concern which I brought to the Mason Police Department dealt with a grown man contacting my daughter (age 10) through X-box then through text messaging. I was disappointed by the fact that this grown man had been doing this for a long period of time to other girls along with mine. It is such a shame that things are like this. We as a family have learned from this unfortunate situation and have taken precautions to not let it happen again. Thank you to Officer...for all his help.”</p>
<p>“I have no complaints at all, except it’s not easy to find the non-emergency phone number in the phone book. I finally looked it up online.”</p>
<p>“I asked for a returned call...only complaint...still waiting. I’ll check with you as I know you are busy with a limited staff.”</p>
<p>“The officer did not respond to my residence directly after receiving the dispatch. His attitude, by the time he arrived, was one of disrespect toward my son (the witness), and did not listen, as he seemed to have made his mind up before getting here. When he decided to start taking notes, it seemed like an inconvenience for him to do this. My son is 10, and the officer, seemed to me, to be a little belligerent toward my son, and made him uncomfortable and scared.”</p>
<p>“I like others think (officers) have a personal issue regarding local speed traps at the bottom of Okemos St going into town and the big hill leaving Mason going to Meijer. Move the signs so people are not breaking the law until they are at the bottom of the hills.”</p>
<p>“My one complaint is when they (the officers) work the football games—they spend too much time standing under the bleachers talking to concession workers rather than patrolling.”</p>
<p>“Possibly connect police website with the Mason Public School website.”</p>

<i>Positive Feedback</i>
<p>“It was only to inspect a little trailer. I am happy!”</p>
<p>“Thank you for coming when I have had to have the police come to my assistance.”</p>
<p>“My great-granddaughter was present when the officer arrived. He made a very good impression on her and repeatedly says the police are here to help us. She was 3 ½ years of age.”</p>
<p>“I love living in Mason and hope the Police keep taking proactive steps to keep it the “Great” place it is to live. I hope the force is adequate; if not, hire some new policemen.”</p>
<p>“Was very satisfied with the result of my complaint.”</p>
<p>“After reading (about) the loss of another (such item as was stolen from her) called. (The clerk) was super...very professional but even more, so caring and so understanding...I wish you and all your Department continued success. You make Mason an even better place to be a part of.”</p>
<p>“Any dealings I’ve had with Mason PD have always been handled quickly and with courtesy and professionalism. I think you’re all doing a terrific job.”</p>
<p>“We appreciate the support and attentiveness we’ve received from the Mason Police Department. We feel safe in our community! Thank you! Keep up the great work!”</p>
<p>“Officer ___ was very helpful and appeared to do his job correctly and not half and half. Thank you for your community support.”</p>
<p>“I think you guys and gals are doing a great job. I hope funding continues to help support you! Don’t remember seeing the motorcycle or bicycle out this summer.”</p>
<p>“Thank you for the concerns for me and follow-up info on the scam to me.”</p>
<p>“I have dealt with the Mason Police Department on a couple of occasions. All of the times they</p>

were prompt and polite. Handled the problems quickly and professionally. Very pleased with the Mason Police Department!”
“I think Mason is a very safe, secure and quiet community. I believe this to be largely due to Police and Fire immediate responses when called.”
“Over the years I have had contact with the Mason Police on numerous occasions—both casual and for police business. I have always found them to be helpful, professional, and reassuring in extremely stressful situations.”

<i>Respondents' Feedback regarding the MPD's weekly report. (These questions were added to the Survey later in the year.)</i>	Yes	No	Not Often or Occasionally
“Do you read the Mason Police Department's weekly report in the Ingham County Community News or The Shopping Guide?”	49	13	3
If so, do you find it a useful source of information as to Police Department activities and crime in the community?	46	2	Somewhat 0
<i>Comments Concerning the Weekly Report</i>			
“All of my calls were not in the paper.”			
“I find it very interesting to find out what is happening in my community and where break-ins and theft are happening at.”			
“It gives me an idea as to the areas in which your police department is coming and how close I live to where the incidents are happening—and where the officers are working. Thank you.			
“What's the purpose? See enough crime on TV.”			
“Thank you!”			
“Makes you very aware of local crimes. It can happen to you...very close. Sadly the amount... but feel more secure with a police department doing an excellent job.”			
“I feel sorry for the department on some of the calls from the same people over and over.”			
“The spreading of information hasn't always been the best. I was unaware of a breaking/entering /major theft at a house 1 block down from me until over a year later.”			
“If I had time to read it, I would.”			
“It's always good to stay informed and sometimes it's good for a smile, too!”			
“If the Community News is reporting all that you do, either there is not much crime for you to work on or a lot is not in the newspaper. I think you are more professional than the newspaper articles and headings make you look sometimes.”			
“I think that all of us need to know what's going on and to be more aware of what we can do to keep our neighborhood and our town safe (and attractive).”			
“We are new in the community and it is helpful to know what things and how they are handled.”			
“I think Mason is a very safe, secure and quiet community. I believe this to be largely due to Police and Fire immediate responses when called.”			
“I read it every week. It would have more value, however, if location information...were provided in all instances so citizens can be watchful and looking out for their neighbors...”			

Neighborhood Watch

Officer Kris Service



After a rash of residential burglaries during the late 1990's, the Mason Police Department initiated the first Neighborhood Watch program. The Brookdale and Warner neighborhoods were the first to have groups started. Since that time watch groups have been organized throughout the City, including the Eugenia, Franklin Farms, and Kiwanis Village subdivisions. As of this date a total of 11 have been established. In 2010, residents in Vision Village became organized and will be having their first meeting in the spring of 2011.

Each of these Neighborhood Watch groups has received training in crime prevention, crime reporting, and home security. They also can receive a one-on-one home security survey with me to identify security problems in and around their homes and have recommendations made for improvements.

We, at the Mason Police Department, do our best to address safety and crime issues, but we need everyone in our community to get involved in identifying suspicious situations and persons and to report any crimes or potential crimes they witness. Our training helps them to learn to pay attention to things out of the ordinary and to "watch out" for their neighbors and their neighborhoods. Neighborhood Watch also gives them an opportunity to develop working relationships with the officers of the Department and to gain a sense of partnership with these officers to make their homes and neighborhoods safer places to live.

Child Car Seat Inspections

Officer Kris Service

The Mason Police Department has a very active Child Car Seat Inspection program because we recognize the importance of properly installing child restraint seats in motor vehicles to prevent the unnecessary injury or death of our most precious of treasures—our children. The number one cause of accidental death of children aged one through nine is automobile crashes, and we hope that by educating parents in how to install their children's car seats properly, that we will keep our community's children from becoming part of the statistics.



I attended a 5-day, 40-hour class in 2006—presented by the National Highway Traffic Safety Council—where I achieved proficiency in correctly installing over 100 different brands, makes, and models of car seats before passing the written exam and becoming a certified car seat installer/inspector. In 2010, I assisted more than a dozen Mason and Ingham County residents and families in safely installing child safety seats into their vehicles. Due to the change in booster seat legislation in Michigan in 2008, we anticipated a greater need for booster seats and, in 2009 and 2010, were able to provide 15 different families with free seats and instructions for proper use and installations.

In 2011, we are faced with the serious challenge of a shrinking supply of seats and no apparent source of revenue to purchase more. We are also faced with a training issue—or lack of. We need recertification classes to continue providing citizens with this important service, but the National Highway Traffic Safety Council cannot provide training in a location where we can afford to send technicians; thus, recertification training remains out of reach. We will continue to make every effort to continue this program but the outlook remains grim.



TECHNOLOGY

Sgt Edward L. Hude



Records Management System

The Mason Police Department continues to participate as a member of Ingham County's Technology Committee (TIC) using the countywide VisionAir records management system (RMS). The purpose of the alliance is to allow for data sharing of police reports between Ingham County law enforcement agencies, to continually review technology for more cost effective efficiencies, and to foster further inter-agency cooperation.

Field Based Reporting System

The VisionAir Field Based Reporting System is not yet functional for this department and other county police departments because of delays in the planned county wide 911 Dispatch Center and conversion to a VisionAir computer-aided dispatch system (CAD). The current 911 Center servicing Mason is using a Motorola CAD system, while a VisionAir CAD is currently in use by police agencies operating under the East Lansing Dispatch Center. A VisionAir CAD would allow RMS data to be sent electronically to Mason police cars to populate the field base reporting form (FBR) or the initial police report. The FBR then could be transmitted electronically back to the Agency for review and additional work. The Department has been informed the Lansing Dispatch Center will be updated with the VisionAir CAD in September, 2011, thus making the FBR efficiencies available to Mason police officers through mobile data terminals.

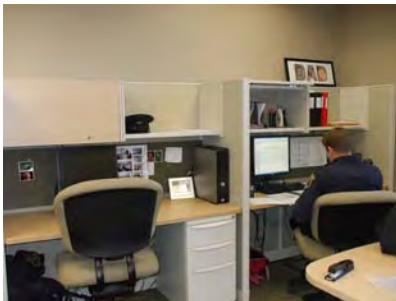


APS Electronic Citation Program

At the direction of Chief Stressman, the Department has purchased and installed electronic ticket writing systems in all the patrol cars. The vendor is APS (Advanced Public Safety, http://www.aps.us/products_eticket.html) and is used by a majority of police agencies in Ingham County as a component of the VisionAir RMS program. The E-Citation program allows the police officer to electronically scan the bar code on the back of the driver's license into the in-car laptop computer.

The data in the bar code populates the citation screen on the car's mobile computer. The officer enters the proper codes, a paper copy of the citation is created and given to the violator, and the data is electronically transmitted from the police car to District Court.





Computer Equipment

This past year Chief Stressman applied for a Byrne Grant, which was awarded in July. Funds from the grant were used to purchase 12 personal computers and 3 dedicated multi-use printers for officers and staff, to be installed in the new police facility. Now each officer is assigned a personal computer and work station, and each office area has individual work stations and printers. Formerly only two computers and work stations were shared by all the road officers, causing a serious back log and waiting time for access. This upgrade has eliminated the need to share computers and the delay in officers being able to complete writing their reports.

L3 Mobilevision In-Car Video System

Digital video recordings have proven to be—time and again—indispensible to the Mason Police Department as an excellent evidence tool, for quality control of service, and as a risk management tool. This technology was purchased with a 50 percent grant match, has been in service for 4 years, and is responsible for many convictions in a variety of criminal cases. In-car videos are also reviewed during investigations of citizen complaints against officers, more often than not, clearing officers of any wrong doing, but occasionally sustaining the complaint and bringing about corrective measures. It will be necessary to update the in-car video equipment to the next generation in the near future, with an eye towards individual cameras attached to each officer, allowing the camera to “see” what the officer sees without the limited range restrictions currently associated with the car-based recorder.

Radio Tower

The City’s 30-year-old radio tower has been replaced with an updated, taller tower with increased load capacity. I was appointed to a committee to develop a replacement tower and requested that underground conduit be run from nearby electrical poles to the new tower’s location, eliminating the need for aerial electrical and telephone lines. Four sections of conduit were run under ground of the current parking lot, and the new tower is built to specifications able to support cellular service antennas. The City’s radio antennas were then relocated on the new tower, leaving upper levels available to lease. One level is now occupied by Sprint. The Sprint contract not only includes annual rental fee revenues to the City, but provides for an enhanced antenna service throughout the city hall facility to maximize cell phone transmissions and reception from even the hardest-to-reach areas normally cut off from reception. Sprint has also committed to providing more cellular services to Mason, providing additional business development possibilities for our community.



Evidence Room

Sandy Stacy

It has been quite a year. Between getting everything all packed and unpacked, accounting for each item, organizing the new evidence room, and entering the items into the new location for the new evidence room, what a job!! It takes time to get these things done, and it is an every day chore. The new Evidence Room is fabulous. I am going to give you a tour of our new Evidence Room in a break down of areas.



We'll start first with the **Evidence Prep Room**. This room is for the officers and staff who are submitting any item to be sent to the lab, entered into evidence, a found item, or an item for safe keeping. We were fortunate enough to have had installed a locker storage unit called "Pass through Lockers." This unit is unique for the simple reason that once the locker has been closed securely, it cannot be reopened from the Prep side. It can only be unlocked and opened from the Evidence Room side. This feature is a plus in evidence for a very important priority called "Chain of Custody." There are 12 individual lockers of various sizes. One locker has a slot so that multiple small items can be put in that locker after it has been closed.

Next, there is the **General Area**. This room contains my work station. It also houses items that have been found and items for safe keeping. Also in the General Area there are two vented **Drying Closets**. One is a double door closet for large items, and the second is for smaller items. These would be used if there was a need to hang wet, contaminated items. Additionally in the General Area there is an individual secured room for the firearms and dangerous weapons.





Now we will enter the Evidence **Secured Room**. This is a large open room full of shelving. We were able to save a lot of funds by purchasing the shelving units from the MSU Surplus store. Most of the general evidence goes into this room. If it does not fit the criteria of the previously-mentioned rooms, here is where it ends up. Lastly,



there is a separate secured room, located inside the Secured Room area—the **Drug Room** which also houses currency and valuables. There is extra security, plus it is a vented room!

In the old building, the Evidence Room was one small room. Included in that small room were all of the previously-mentioned areas, plus storage for first aid supplies, video equipment and reproduction, and supplies for the officers. It was difficult to find things, and sometimes when working in the room, the odor was really pungent.

Having the new Evidence Room is such a wonderful change. It allows for the number one priority—ORGANIZATION—and that, in turn, allows for efficiency.



To compare the amount of evidence that was entered into our record system the past 2 years, we entered 578 items in 2009 and 309 items in 2010.

**Mason Police Officer
Amanda Mitchell**



The Mason Police Department is pleased to announce the appointment of its newest police officer, Amanda Mitchell, who began her employment on September 7, 2010. A former Henderson resident, Officer Mitchell is a graduate of Ferris State University where she earned her Bachelor's Degree, and the Flint Regional Police Training Academy, where she received her Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards License. Officer Mitchell has held positions with the Elsie Police Department, Elsie, Michigan, as a patrol officer, and the Shiawassee County Sheriff's Office, as a Court Security Officer and then a Narcotics Investigator.

Officer Mitchell has now successfully completed—with very high marks—the Department's mandatory and rigorous 14-week training program and has assumed full-time duties as a Mason Police Officer.

Crossing Guards

Secretary Jann Lifsey



In 2010, we had no changes in our crossing guard roster until the beginning of the new school year. Full-time crossing guard Roger Shiery became a substitute guard, and Kellie Davis—a former guard who had left our employ a few years ago—returned to take his position.

We still are in need of substitute crossing guards, but finding people to accept this position remains difficult. Our crossing guards are invaluable to the Mason Police Department and the community, but it takes a special breed of person who is willing to stand outside in all types of weather and be committed

to showing up at his/her corner 3 times a day for an average of only 2.7 hours.

When crossing guards must be absent, they are responsible for finding substitutes to take their places. However, if none can be obtained, they call our department, and we send police officers to cover their crossings. This ties our officers up from doing their regular duties, so it is imperative that we have enough substitutes so we don't get into a bind.

Crossing guards are more than just people who cross our community's children safely across the streets. They watch out for the welfare of their individual kids and are on the lookout for any suspicious persons, vehicles, and goings on in their immediate areas. They do a great service that usually goes unnoticed and underappreciated by the majority of the City's residents, but the members of the Mason Police Department and the Mason School District are very glad—and grateful—to have them on the payroll.



DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL ACCOLADES

Several members of the Mason Police Department not only serve the Mason community while performing their jobs, but also by volunteering their time and talents outside the scope of their regular duties. The following are some of these activities.

Lynne Mark

TRIAD is a group of senior citizens and law enforcement officers from area jurisdictions who meet on a monthly basis. The goal of this group is to maintain an open line of communication between senior citizens and law enforcement in order to reduce the risk of seniors becoming victims of crimes. Senior citizens are very often the victims of crimes—especially white collar, scams, and various frauds—because the conception amongst perpetrators is that they are easy targets. Our goal is to keep that from happening. TRIAD has two major annual projects:

Files of Life are informational documents that each senior is encouraged to have. The information contains their medical history, medications, emergency contacts, physicians, etc. The information is kept on the resident's refrigerator. The program provides a decal that is placed at the entrance to the residence so that emergency personnel know of the existence of these documents. In the event of a medical emergency, EMS has vital information available to them to assist medical staff. Usually, every emergency is chaotic, and information from either the patients or their loved ones is not readily forthcoming or accurate. This program ensures that the medical and other information is as accurate as possible.



No Senior Alone at Christmas – This is a program designed to ensure that no senior citizen in our community is forgotten at the Christmas season. Many of our seniors have no immediate families. Or, if they do, those families are not in the area, so the seniors are alone at Christmas. With referrals and requests, the TRIAD provides Christmas baskets which include homemade goodies, wrapped donated presents, handmade crafts, cards, food, and hygiene products. A uniformed officer with a marked police vehicle delivers these baskets to the seniors on a designated day (this year was December 15). In doing these deliveries, I have discovered that although the baskets are welcomed, the visit and time spent with the recipients is of more value. Although some deliveries are short, many are not. Much time is spent just sitting in a living room or kitchen listening to stories and looking at time worn photo albums of times past.

These two projects are expensive. In order to pay for them, we have a “Senior Prom” which is held in July of each year. We have many donations and in-kind donations from the business and private community in order to have this prom. Admission for a senior is \$10.00, which includes a full sit down meal, entertainment, and dancing with a live band which plays various types of era music. A highlight for the participants is that uniformed officers of the tri-county area are present to dance with the prom goers. This event is well attended and grows every year. From the prom of 2010, after expenses TRIAD cleared over \$10,000.00 in order to pay for the above two projects. It is truly a community effort.

MEALS ON WHEELS – The delivering of packages is nothing new to Detective Mark, as every other week he also delivers meals in the Mason and surrounding area.



MASON STATE BANK 5-K RUN/WALK – there have been 23 annual Spring Fling 5K Run/Walks. The event has grown every year. The event is sponsored by the Mason State Bank, with corporate donations from the community. The money raised from the race goes to the Mason Schools Foundation. The planning for the next event starts as soon as the race is completed. Regularly scheduled planning meetings begin in January of each year for an event that is held on the first Friday of May. Several Mason officers volunteer their time to help make this event a success.



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SHOP WITH A HERO – This is a project sponsored by the Ingham County Sheriff Department in which children are paired with officers prior to Christmas and then shop together at the Mason Meijer Store.

Carrie Nettles

For the second year in a row, Officer Carrie Nettles volunteered with local 4-H and Pony Club groups in the area, doing what she loves best—working with horses and children. She taught the youth proper horse care and maintenance. During the Ingham County Fair, she also taught a class to 4-H kids on Sports Massage Therapy and Stretching exercises for their horses. The kids had a great time participating with their horses and learning how to keep them healthy.



Ed Hude

Over the past years I have worked with the U. S. military in Iraq, sending used police uniforms, pistol belts, body armor, and other items of clothing. As the supply system in Iraq improved, it was no longer necessary for me to continue to send them, but I still had several boxes of light blue shirts and other items. When speaking with my son, Captain Nathan Hude, he put me in touch with Captain Thomas LaFave. Captain LaFave works with the Michigan National Guard in Grayling training personnel in preparation for deployment to Iraq. He told me he could use the items in his training exercises. I take great pride in working to support our military personnel, and working towards Homeland Security for the citizens of Mason, the State of Michigan, and the United States of America



AWARDS

Sandy Stacy

In December, at the City’s annual Christmas get together, Staff Assistant Sandy Stacy received the prestigious “City of Mason Employee of the Year” award for outstanding service and dedication to the City of Mason.



Appreciation from a Resident

Resident William Husband surprised the Department’s senior officers, Sergeant Ed Hude and Detective Corporal Lynne Mark, with beautiful handmade name plates for their new offices.



On July 1 and July 2, 2010, the motion picture company, Real Steel Productions/Dream Works, began filming a portion of their upcoming movie, "Real Steel," in the downtown area of Mason. Filming was done on the Ingham County Courthouse lawn and within the second floor court room, as well as within the 100 Block of West Ash and the 300 Block of South Jefferson Street. Mason Police Department was responsible for providing security, and the Ingham County Sheriff's Office assisted us with traffic control around the Courthouse square. A couple of times during the shoot the movie's leading actor, Hugh Jackman, met with the crowd and signed autographs, which required additional security from us. On the last day of filming here the movie production staff stated they were very happy with how everyone worked with them. They were very complimentary to the Mason Police and Ingham County officers. Many of the staff stated that they would love to come back to Mason.



Bottom left 2 pictures from Real Steel Website

2 Photos by Lansing State Journal

Disney released the official synopsis of the sci-fi film, "Real Steel", starring Hugh Jackman, Evangeline Lilly, Dakota Goyo, Kevin Durand, Phil LaMarr, James Reborn and Anthony Mackie: "A gritty, white-knuckle, action ride set in the near-future, where the sport of boxing has gone hi-tech, "Real Steel" stars Hugh Jackman as Charlie Kenton, a washed-up fighter who lost his chance at a title when 2000-pound, 8-foot-tall steel robots took over the ring. Now nothing but a small-time promoter, Charlie earns just enough money piecing together low-end bots from scrap metal to get from one underground boxing venue to the next. When Charlie hits rock bottom, he reluctantly teams up with his estranged son Max (Dakota Goyo) to build and train a championship contender. As the stakes in the brutal, no-holds-barred arena are raised, Charlie and Max, against all odds, get one last shot at a comeback."

The film will open in conventional and IMAX theaters on October 7, 2011.



2010 Reported Incidents

Abduction/Kidnapping	1
Accidents (Motor Vehicle)	181
Accidents (Non-Motor Vehicle)	11
Administrative Investigations	11
Administrative Tasks	40
Alarms	71
Arson	1
Assistance to Other Agencies/Departments	281
Assaults	
Aggravated/Felonious	7
Non-Aggravated	60
Intimidation/Stalking	0
Telephone/Internet Harassment	9
Burglaries	
Forced Entry	13
No Force	4
Citizen Assists	143
Civil Disputes	68
Controlled Substance/Narcotic Equipment Violations	67
Criminal Sexual Conduct	14
Damage to Property (Malicious)	55
Disorderly Conduct/Mischief	62
Family - Abuse/Neglect/Non-support—Nonviolent	7
Family Trouble/Trouble with Subjects	78
General – Non Criminal	66
Gone On Arrival	204
Health and Safety/Conservation	72
Immigration	2
Inspections	40
Juvenile Complaints	12
Juvenile Run-Aways	7
Larcenies	70
Larcenies by Fraud	101
Larcenies – Motor Vehicle Theft	2
Larcenies – Retail Fraud	39
Liquor Law Violations	22
Lost and Found	57
Mental Health	33
Misdemeanor Sex Offenses	4
Missing Persons	7
Natural Death	10
Obstructing Justice/Police	51
Operating Under Influence Liquor or Drugs	39

Ordinance Violations	139
Public Relations/Special Events	46
"Quality of Life" Non-Criminal Complaints	147
Suspicious Persons/Situations	152
Traffic Complaints/Violations	140
Trespassing	8
Weapons Offenses	8
Welfare Checks	<u>117</u>
	2779

2010 Annual Traffic Safety Report

Officers investigate automobile crashes on both private property and public roadways. Midway through this year, as a means of improving time efficiencies, we changed our procedure for reporting private property accidents. Vehicle owners are directed to appear at the Mason Police Department service desk to complete the appropriate crash report required for insurance claims when they have a private property crash or if they discover unknown persons have hit their vehicles and driven off without identifying themselves. The exception to this rule is hit-and-run accidents that occur where the suspect drivers or suspect vehicles have been identified and an officer is needed to track down the suspects.

Of the total 184 accidents reported in 2010—174 which were investigated—there was no discernable pattern or grouping indicating an established traffic problem. The Department continues its practice of aggressive traffic enforcement, which not only deters accident-causing driver behavior, but is also an excellent deterrent to criminal enterprise.

Personal Injury Accidents (causing personal injury)	19
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Fatalities	0
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Public Property Accidents (no personal injuries)	117
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Private Property Accidents	35
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<u>Private Property Hit & Runs (no suspects)</u>	<u>10</u>
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Total Reported Traffic Crashes	181
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2010 Arrests



<u>Description</u>	<u>2010</u>
Kidnapping (Other)	0
Criminal Sexual Conduct	0
First and Third Degree	0
Second and Fourth Degree	0
Stalking	0
Robbery	0
Felony Assaults*	2
Misdemeanor Assaults*	16
Arson	0
Burglaries	8
Larcenies	6
Motor Vehicle Thefts	0
Forgeries	1
Larcenies by Fraud	4
Embezzlements	1
Stolen Property	0
Property Damage	1
Retail Fraud	10
Drug Offenses	20
Sex Offense - Other	1
Child Neglect/Cruelty	1
Liquor Law Violations	4
Resisting/Obstructing Police	4
Obstructing Justice	100
Weapons Offense	0
Ordinance Violations	2
Impaired Driving/OWI Offenses	40
Driving Offenses	6
Health & Safety Offenses	0
Miscellaneous Offenses	14

*(11 of the Assault and Battery arrests were for Domestic Violence.)