

INTRODUCTION

by

John Stressman
Chief of Police



After my first full year as Chief of Police, I continue to be impressed by the hard work, ability, and dedication to the community that the staff of this department display. I am even more impressed with the continued support and commitment the community displays toward the Mason Police Department—not just the gestures of kindness through gifts of baked goods, but through other initiatives like Mason Cares activities and financial contributions towards the purchase of equipment by business owners.

As you will see, we are taking steps to enhance our relationship with the community. The Mason Police Bicycle Patrol is one prime, more obvious, example. Increased use of the patrol motorcycle is another, and most importantly, involvement of Department members in community programs. We also now obtain assistance from representatives of the Mason School District, the Ministerial Alliance, and the Ingham County Sheriff's Department to participate in the officer candidate pre-employment screening process. We do these things because we recognize that we derive our authority from the community.

I am pleased to present the Mason Police Department's 2005 Annual Report for your review. All of us here are proud of this police department and the community we serve. I am also very proud of the efforts we have made to improve the quality of service we provide; not just by police officers you see every day, but also by support staff who are the backbone of the organization. You will notice emphasis on some high profile criminal investigations, an increase in much-needed training hours, and the new emphasis on the bicycle patrol.

For the year, the Department received and investigated three citizen complaints of misconduct. One was determined as exonerated, which means the officer did not do what was alleged. The other two were unfounded, which means not enough evidence was obtained to substantiate any claims of misconduct. However, during the course of the investigation, other actions were identified which were not improper conduct but, rather, training issues which merited supervisory intervention in the form of counseling.

While reviewing the data we report here for 2005, as compared to 2004, you most likely will notice a drastic increase—almost double—in reported criminal sexual conduct reports. These incidents, for the most part, are not stranger-on-stranger crimes, but rather, incidents where the victim and offender had a parent, family, or guardian relationship. These are the types of incidents prevented through education of victims and their advocates, as opposed to police intervention. This could also explain the increase in numbers, as victims become more aware of their situations and report them to authorities.

Other areas of increase generally reflect incidents with mitigating factors. Obstruction of Justice incidents are generally because of an increase in bench warrants for contempt, issued by the courts. Quality of Life issues are directly attributed to the number of increased hours by the bike patrol. Disorderly Conduct, Liquor Law violations, and a twenty-percent reduction in Motor Vehicle Crashes are related to increased prevention efforts by officers, particularly during special programs such as "You Drink, You Drive, You Loose". However, although there may be some changes in numbers from one crime class to the other, the total incidents are fairly close between 2004 and 2005.

MASON POLICE DEPARTMENT AND THE COMMUNITY

Sergeant Edward Hude

The Mason Police Department was first created in 1865, upon conclusion of the Civil War. It is not known how many Officers were employed, their level of education, nor areas of expertise in law enforcement. Methods of communication would have been verbal, written, or telegraph. Chances are the major crimes of the day were complaints of intoxicated individuals, lost and found property, malicious mischief, occasional larcenies, and skinny dipping in the Sycamore Creek. There may have been an occasional horse theft or two. The goal then was providing law enforcement service to the Mason Community. That goal, however, could only have been achieved with the support and participation of the citizens. Without Community support and participation, the Department would not have continued to exist.



By comparison, in the year 2005, the Mason Police Department consists of 9 Officers, 1 Detective-Corporal, 2 Sergeants, 1 full-time Secretary, 1 part-time Secretary, and the Chief of Police. The current-day crimes are larcenies, burglaries, car theft, financial frauds, illegal drug/narcotics violations, identity theft, sex crimes, computer crimes, and drunk driving, and many more. In addition to criminal investigations are the traffic crash reporting, traffic enforcement, HazMat, Homeland Security, Neighborhood Watch, and various other community-related activities. With the ever-growing list of responsibilities, the Mason Police Officer of today must work harder, think smarter, and make decisions that yesterday's counterparts would never have thought necessary or possible. Officers today rely heavily upon computers, law enforcement computer programs, inner agency networking and cooperatives at all government levels, and continuous training to meet the every-demanding and evolving needs of today's society.



No matter the technology, the Mason Police Department could not function without citizen support. Times may change, needs may change, technology will change, but as in 1865, the 2005 Department will always rely upon Community support.

IN-SERVICE TRAINING 2005

Sergeant Don Hanson

The Mason Police Department understands the need for ongoing quality training of officers and staff so we may continue providing a high level, quality service to the Mason community. Michigan law constantly changes and evolves, as do accepted practices for police officers in the line of duty. To stay abreast of changes, and maintain proficiency of high-risk, low-use activities, the Mason Police Department practices an aggressive training regimen and continues a conscious effort to increase training hours. In 2004, department personnel attended approximately 240 hours of in-service training. In 2005, department personnel attended over 875 hours of in-service training. The year 2006 will again see an increase in training of police department personnel as a more formal in-house program.



The high-risk, low-frequency training required of officers throughout the year includes firearms proficiency, defensive tactics, and the use of Electro-Muscular Disabling Devices (Tasers). These are skills an officer rarely, if ever, uses but which need to be maintained to insure correct application. In 2005, we also provided mobile field force training, legal update, unified incident command, CPR and first aid. In 2006, we have scheduled almost all personnel to be trained in registered sex offender investigations by the Michigan State Police, due to rising community concern regarding this issue.

Individual professional development is also necessary to keep our department self sufficient and better able to address training needs. In addition to department-wide in-service training, officers also attend more specialized training in areas of expertise or responsibility. Included are: pistol armorer, firearms and rifle instructor, motor vehicle theft investigations, advanced interview techniques, child abuse investigations, school resource officer training, and controlled substance investigations identification. In 2005, I was fortunate to be able to attend a training program, sponsored and hosted by the FBI, dealing with how to better supervise officers in today's police department. In addition, two supervisors are currently enrolled in a police supervision self-study course administered through Northwestern University.



Our goal for 2006 is to develop a consistent and regimented training calendar. We plan on utilizing more of a train-the-trainer philosophy; training our officers to be trainers for other officers in our department and, on occasion, take part in cooperative training programs involving neighboring departments. This is in keeping with our core belief: a well-trained officer is more efficient, confident, and competent in the performance of his/her duties.

INVESTIGATIONS

Detective-Corporal Lynne Mark

When an investigation started by a patrol officer shows the potential of becoming more in depth and time consuming, or the investigation leads outside the City of Mason venue, the case is assigned to my office. Depending on severity of the crime or amount of follow-up required, an investigation can occupy anywhere from one hour to forty or more hours. Investigations require evidence collection and processing, witnesses and suspect interviews, continuous report updates, and consultation with the Ingham County Prosecutor or the Mason City Attorney, leading up to the charging of a suspect.

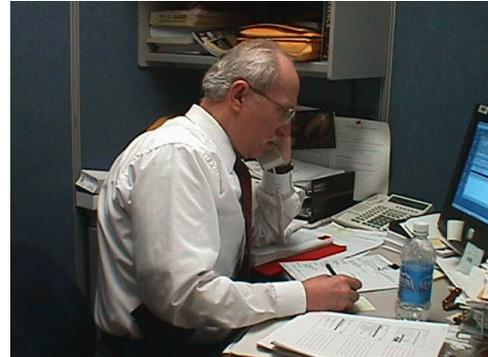
Some cases of significance which were successfully concluded in 2005 include:

- A cold case investigation of a 1961 fatal hit-and-run car accident. Family members of the victim requested the investigation be reopened. The case was never completely investigated in 1961, and we found that all the evidence and Mason Police reports had been destroyed or disposed of. Through newspaper accounts a witness was located who never had been interviewed, and ultimately, a suspect was identified. Unfortunately, this suspect had died in 1979. The case was reviewed by the Ingham County Prosecutor's Office and finally closed after 44 years, allowing the victim's family long-needed closure.
- A Criminal Sexual Assault 1st degree/kidnapping case in August lead to an out-of-state "suspect" being arrested. During the investigation, we discovered the "victim" had, in fact, fabricated the report, and was consequently arrested for filing a false felony report. The case was solved by obtaining a search warrant for the suspect's computer, forensically examining its hard drive, and discovering the incriminating evidence.
- A major embezzlement case, which had been the focus of a two-year investigation, resulted in two suspects pleading guilty to felony charges, and court-ordered restitution of the funds to the victim business.
- A fraud case gained national attention after Mason citizens took in a self-proclaimed refugee from Hurricane Katrina. Contributions of goods and housing were made, after which it was discovered the

refugee's status was fraudulent. The case is still in the judicial process and should be resolved by spring, 2006. This investigation involved joint efforts with Louisiana authorities, including coordinating their testimony in the Mason 55th District Court via means of speaker phone.

Types of case follow ups investigated by the Mason Police Department—approximately 75 percent of which are adjudicated—include, but are not limited to:

- Criminal Sexual Assaults, 15 total cases
- Identity Theft/Forgeries/Fraud, 46 cases
- Embezzlement, 11 cases
- Domestic & Simple Assaults, 67 cases
- Aggravated Assaults, 11 cases
- Stalking, 6 cases
- Breaking & Entering with Forced Entry, 15 cases
- Breaking & Entering with No Force, 5 cases
- Larceny from Building Including Shoplifting, 27 cases
- Unlawful Driving Away of Autos/Stolen Cars, 5 cases



"S.A.F.E." and "A CHILD IS MISSING" PROGRAMS

Officer Carrie Nettles



In 2005, the Mason Police Department partnered in the development and implementation of S.A.F.E.—Supporting Autistic Friends Effectively—a voluntary identification program for families who have loved ones on the Autism Spectrum. It is designed to assist law enforcement officers who encounter an individual on the autism spectrum who needs assistance, or has gone missing from home or school. Autism is America's fastest-growing developmental disability, estimated to affect as many as 1 in every 166 births annually. Autism is a neurologically-based developmental disability which affects a person's ability to communicate, socialize, and make judgments. Current research indicates people with autism spectrum disorders, or other developmental disabilities, will have up to seven times more contact with law enforcement during their lifetimes than members of the general population.

The Mason Police Department recognizes this population as one that has been overlooked in the past. We have partnered with several organizations to address the needs of people on the autism spectrum in regards to contact with law enforcement. The Department, along with Mason Public Schools, Ingham Intermediate School District, Capital Regional Autism Network (CRAN), Grand Valley State University, and Ingham County Chiefs of Police, have developed this program and an in-service training program video for law enforcement officers in the tri-county area and around the state, on safely and effectively dealing with people on the autism spectrum.

The Mason Police Department has also subscribed to "A Child Is Missing," a non-profit organization that provides assistance to law enforcement in locating missing children and vulnerable adults. "A Child Is Missing" places automated telephone calls in widening concentric circles from the place the missing individual was last known to be. The "A Child is Missing" protocol has been amended by the Department to incorporate the procedure by which persons in the autism spectrum are reported to the police.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

Officer Kris Service

After a series of residential burglaries in the late 1990's, the Mason Police Department initiated the Neighborhood Watch program. The first groups started in the Warner, Brookdale, and Eugenia neighborhoods. Since then, groups have organized throughout the city to where we currently have seven active watch groups. Group members have received training in home security, crime prevention, and reporting. Upon request, they can also receive home security surveys to identify security problems and make recommendations for improvements.



We, at the Mason Police Department, feel we do a very good job addressing crime and safety issues in our community. We cannot, however, be all places at once. What Neighborhood Watch Groups provide are eyes and ears all over the community. If a crime is witnessed, or a suspicious situation observed, conscientious citizens call for the police. With this kind of help, we can, in a sense, almost be everywhere at once. Watch group members "watch out" for each other by paying attention to things out of the ordinary. We are not asking people to become "best friends" with their neighbors, but simply be comfortable with each other enough to discuss issues in their neighborhoods, like concern over speeding vehicles, street lighting, or strangers walking through the area. We hope citizens will be more likely to tell their neighbors when they will be gone on vacation or for extended periods of time, and ask neighbors to watch their homes while they are away. Doing little things like taking in the mail or newspapers for the neighbors, turning their lights on periodically, and parking in their driveways all go a long way in making neighbors' homes look occupied.

Of the seven active watch groups, we have a variety of ways programs operate. Some neighborhoods choose to be very active, having multiple meetings a year, including annual block party/picnics; and some choose to meet only when there is a problem, but stay connected on line and through newsletters. Both of these methods keep neighbors connected, familiar with each other, and aware of their surroundings.

EVIDENCE AND PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

Officer Todd Thie



In 2005, the Mason Police Department received 460 pieces of property/evidence associated with criminal and non-criminal reported incidents. In the same year, only 67 pieces of property were able to be disposed of. Laws governing rules of evidence, and the retention of found property, account for much of the disparity in these numbers, resulting in the Department taking in far more property than it can legally or properly dispose of. Available space to store and process incoming property and evidence is very limited. Most of the property received is evidence associated with criminal incidents. A small percentage of the property that comes in is categorized as "found property". This property is turned in to the Department so that attempts can be made to locate and return it to the owner.

The evidence process usually starts with an officer bringing a piece of property, obtained during a complaint investigation, to the Department. The officer completes a property tag, attaches it to the property, then places the tagged property into an evidence locker. The Property Control Officer then brings the property from the secured locker into the evidence room and determines if it needs to be retained for court proceedings, sent to the Michigan State Police Crime Lab for testing, held in an attempt to locate and return it to its owner, or destroyed as some type of illegal contraband that is not needed for prosecution. After the appropriate time period has passed, the PCO disposes of the property in accordance with applicable laws and department procedures.

SUPPORT STAFF

Jann Lifsey & Linda Jakeway



The Mason Police Department's civilian staff consists of one full-time member, Jann Lifsey, Secretary to the Chief of Police, and Linda Jakeway, part-time Administrative Clerk. Also in 2005, Susan Middlebrook, who works as a School Crossing Guard during the school year, volunteered her services for the summer months as a file clerk. Her assistance was vital, as the summer months prove to be some of the busiest of the year.

Here, as in any police department, maintenance of accurate records is of utmost importance. Not just to meet local, state, and federal document storage requirements, but also for proper accounting of incidents in criminal and administrative law proceedings. Accountability, availability, and presentation of police

department records is not just a reflection on the organization and its personnel, but a matter of effectively applying each document's value to criminal and civil prosecution. Failure to provide accurate, credible documents in court can likely lead to dismissal charges or unfavorable rulings.

Besides maintaining all Department records, Support Staff must perform many other duties. These include—but are not limited to—processing of Freedom of Information requests; gun permits, which require using the L.E.I.N to check for criminal histories; insurance companies' requests for accident reports; entering parking tickets—accepting and inputting payments and sending out late notices; preparing paperwork for the detective to present to the prosecuting attorney; preparing payroll, which includes the Department personnel and the Crossing Guards; answering all telephone calls which do not involve emergency 911 attention, and determining if each call should be handled by office personnel or dispatched to an officer; working with various agencies, such as 55th District Court, Family Protective Services, Domestic Violence Units; and, provide customer service to any and all who ask for assistance via the telephone or visiting the Department in person.



BICYCLE PATROL

Officer Steven Chick



The Mason Police Department now has 4 Police Mountain Bicycles; 2 which were donated in 2005 by local business owners Ron Sheele, of the Mason Jar Pub and Grub, and Harold Darbor, of Darb's Tavern. The Department also purchased high tech lighting systems for the two new bicycles, thanks to a spaghetti dinner fundraiser put on by citizen Shirley Grieve and Jeff Hauter, manager of the A & W restaurant. We also purchased bicycle carriers and receivers for patrol cars, enabling us to use the bicycles in various parts of the City without putting our officers too far from emergency calls requiring the quick response of a patrol car. Bright yellow uniform shirts were issued to the bike officers to improve visibility and safety.

The Police Bicycle Patrol is proving itself to be a valuable asset to the Mason Police Department, giving us the ability to utilize bicycles to patrol areas not normally accessible by a police car. More importantly, officers are being made more accessible to citizens on a regular basis, especially in areas such as City parks, the Hayhoe

Riverwalk, and the grounds surrounding the area schools. Neighborhoods and other areas in need of special attention are not left out, either. In addition, bicycles are utilized for special events such as parades, Mason's 5-K Run, and firework displays at the Ingham County Fairgrounds.



I have received many positive and encouraging comments while riding the bicycle through neighborhoods and area parks. Citizens seem to feel much more comfortable approaching officers who are more readily accessible to them. I have also made a number of arrests, conducted traffic enforcement, and apprehended several youths committing liquor, tobacco, and drug law violations. I was able to do all of this because I was in places a police officer isn't normally expected to be.



MOTORCYCLE PATROL Officer Todd Thie



The Mason Police Department has one Harley Davidson Motorcycle in its fleet. Each year a new motorcycle is leased for \$500 and is placed into service in late March and ridden through late October, depending on the weather. The inexpensive lease cost, excellent mileage—35 miles per gallon—and low maintenance costs make the patrol motorcycle a

frugal means of policing the streets of Mason. In 2005, it logged approximately 240 patrol hours.



The motorcycle has many unique and useful advantages over traditional patrol cars, including its ability to maneuver through tightly-congested traffic in an emergency. The motorcycle is especially useful for special events like patrolling the Ingham County Fair and parade routes after being closed to automobile traffic. It is an outstanding and effective traffic enforcement tool, and provides the officer with a greater chance to have more one-on-one encounters with the public, as opposed to when using a patrol car.

Police motorcycle operators must complete a minimum 40-hour training course. The course instruction includes proper safe operation of the vehicle during what is generally called "routine patrol," and instructs officers how to respond in critical situations.



PERSONNEL ACTIVITY
By Chief John Stressman



After an extensive interview and background investigation process, Officer Steven Heyduck was sworn in as the newest Mason Police Officer on April 18, 2005.

Steven is a graduate of Kellogg Community College where he received his Associates Degree in Law Enforcement and was certified as a licensed police officer by the State of Michigan. Steven was formally employed by the Battle Creek Police Department as a Cadet

and is currently a member of the United States Army Reserve, assigned to the 33rd MP Company, Jackson, Michigan.



Lynne Mark was promoted to Detective-Corporal on October 2, 2005. Lynne began his law enforcement career in Mason in 1979. He holds an Associates Degree from Kirkwood Community College in Iowa, and an Associates Degree from Lansing Community College, where he also received his Law Enforcement Certification as a Police Officer in 1979. He has been very active in youth programs—both in career development and sports—during his many years as a member of the community; is a leader and mentor to staff and officers in the Department; and is highly regarded as a first-class investigator in the law enforcement community.

In December, Officer Jim Duthie was named the City of Mason's Employee of the Year. Jim has been with the Mason Police Department since October 7, 1977, and has been a solid contributor and leader over the years. He received this award for his dedication to the City and Department, and for his outstanding work as a police officer. Jim has a keen ability to engage people in conversation, pick up on the most innocent of details, and then solve a crime. This was most obvious when he discovered evidence that resulted in solving a high-profile burglary merely by engaging the suspect's relative in an unrelated conversation, and consequently, locating the evidence.



To our great regret, Franz Martin tendered his resignation as a Mason Police Officer in December. He resigned his position to explore new opportunities with the City of Mason Department of Public Works. Franz became an officer in 1988, and has been an excellent employee during those 17 years. He was as conscientious and enthusiastic about his job as anyone could

have asked, and his presence around the Department will be sorely missed.



CROSSING GUARDS

Sergeant Edward Hude



The Mason Police Department, in partnership with the Mason School District, employs seven full-time school crossing guards and four substitute crossing guards. This year saw a departure from the traditional orange vests to the



new green safety vests, which are much brighter and increase the visibility of guards to oncoming traffic. There were also departures in personnel, as Richard Ferris, a long-time school crossing guard, concluded his many years of service to the community. We also suffered the loss of Jack Lundmark, who passed away just before Christmas. On a much more positive note, we were pleased to welcome new crossing guard Crystal Fuller.

Crossing guards are essential to the safety of our school children, not only for assisting them in crossing busy



City streets, but also for keeping a watchful eye out for suspicious persons and situations that might pose a threat to them. Crossing guards help to free up valuable time which otherwise would be spent by officers in traffic control.





2005 Patrol Activities

Calls for Service	5,719
Incident Reports	2,113
Arrests	
Misdemeanor/Appearance Citations	292
Felony Probable Cause	27
Warrants	175
Traffic Enforcement	
Total Initiated	1,458
Warnings	910
Hazardous Violations	371
Non-Hazardous	178
Parking	402
Radar Operation Hours	621
Investigations	
Hours of Follow-up	4,390
Warrant Requests	417
Field Contacts	155
Liquor Inspections	100
Juvenile Contacts	
Informal Action	31
Formal Action	80
Property Checks	2,039
Citizen Contacts	951
Special Events and Presentations	214
Bicycle Patrol Hours	160
Administrative	
Court Appearances	98
Court Duty Hours	317
In-Service Training Hours	875
Preliminary Breath Tests	2,425



2005 Arrests

<u>Description</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>
Kidnapping (Other)	0	1
Criminal Sexual Conduct		
First and Third Degree	0	3
Second and Third Degree	1	0
Robbery - Business - Gun	0	1
Felony Assaults	2	6
Misdemeanor Assaults	27	28
Burglaries	6	6
Larcenies	6	13
Motor Vehicle Thefts	4	0
Forgeries	4	1
Larcenies by Fraud	12	19
Embezzlements	4	1
Stolen Property	4	1
Property Damage	3	3
Retail Fraud	30	13
Drug Offenses	30	24
Indecent Exposure	0	1
Child Neglect/Cruelty	8	6
Liquor Violations	64	63
Resisting/Obstructing Police	9	15
Escape	2	0
Contempt of Court	148	157
Weapons Offense	4	1
Ordinance Violations	10	17
Impaired Driving/OWI Offenses	41	71
Driving Offenses	50	35
Health & Safety Offenses	0	3



Reported Incidents

	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>
Immigration	0	1
Homicides	0	0
Criminal Sexual Conduct	7	16
Robbery	1	2
Assaults		
Aggravated	8	11
Non-Aggravated	79	66
Intimidation/Stalking	17	6
Burglary		
Forced Entry	25	15
No Force	10	7
Larcenies	150	185
Motor Vehicle Theft	9	5
Larcenies by Fraud	61	46
Damage to Property (Malicious)	115	84
Retail Fraud	85	36
Controlled Substance/Narcotic Equipment Violations	37	53
Misdemeanor Sex Offenses	7	1
Family - Abuse/Neglect/Non-support--Nonviolent	6	6
Liquor Law Violations	34	62
Obstructing Justice/Police	141	177
Weapons Offenses	7	4
Disorderly Conduct	100	137
Operating Under Influence Liquor or Drugs	38	71
Health & Safety/Conservation	29	17
Alarms	179	134
Assistance to other Agencies/Departments	409	375
Ordinance Violations	183	163
Motor Vehicle Accidents	321	269
Suspicious Activities	391	318
"Quality of Life" Non-Criminal Complaints	140	304
Civil Disputes	129	120
Missing Persons	9	3
Juvenile Runaway	11	9
Mental Health	24	30
Suicide Calls	19	5
Check Security/Welfare	160	159
Traffic Complaint/Violation	87	89