

# 2011 Annual Report



**Merrill**



**Police**

**Department**



Dear Mayor Bialecki, members of the Police & Fire Commission,  
and members of the Common Council,

The most notable occurrence to reflect on in 2011 was obviously the April 10, 2011 tornado which seriously impacted the citizens of our community. An event like this reminds us of how vulnerable we can be to the forces of nature. I have heard it said in the past that a tornado would never hit the City of Merrill. Obviously, we learned first-hand that is not the case at all. We can be thankful for the men and women who work in the various departments in this city that helped control the crisis at hand in the aftermath of the tornado. Everyone worked together to get a handle on the immediate situation and then, pitched in to help residents and businesses in the city as well as those living outside of the city recover. I think we all are stronger and safer today because of our experiences.

Some good things that came out of the Tornado of 2011 for the Merrill Police Department include recognition of equipment and training needs related to crisis or emergency management. We were able to purchase new and additional portable radios for each officer, and we have begun work toward being compliant with minimum training standards in the National Incident Management System.

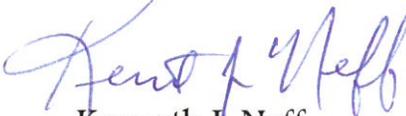
In our 2010 Annual report, we spoke of our plan for conducting a Citizen Academy. The Citizen Academy was a resounding success! Twelve community members participated in the Academy in 2011. The participants gained a working knowledge of actual police department management, operations and procedures. The interaction between officers and citizens strengthened community support and involvement in the Merrill Police Department. In addition, I was extremely pleased with the excitement and energy displayed by a number of officers who gave presentations and were otherwise involved in presenting the first-ever Merrill Police Citizen Academy.



As you will see by reviewing this 2011 annual report, there are several notable, positive trends happening in the City of Merrill Police Department. We continue to see a downward trend in the number of calls for service occurring in the Merrill High School and the Prairie River Middle School. In 2011 we hit a ten-year low of 173 calls for service that were handled by our School Resource Officer and other officers of the MPD. This is undoubtedly a result of the work done by SRO Mark Heckendorf in our schools. Traffic crashes in the city of Merrill matched a previous ten-year low of 177 crashes. In 2011 the roundabout was completed and regardless of the speculation that there would be a considerable number of crashes in the roundabout, we investigated only 7 crashes that were possibly related to the roundabout. We also continue to experience a downward trend in traffic citations issued, including a reduction in speeding arrests. It is my opinion that this decline is due to our increase in traffic enforcement efforts over the past several years. Operating While Intoxicated arrests also continue on a downward trend. Criminal arrests climbed slightly in 2011. The ten-year average is 483 criminal arrests. We made 518 criminal arrests in 2011.

In my view, these are all successes that can be attributed to the hard work and effort we see in the officers of the Merrill Police Department.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kenneth J. Neff". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "K".

Kenneth J. Neff  
Chief of Police

# 2011---CITY OF MERRILL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS---2011



## COMMON COUNCIL MEMBERS

William Bialecki - MAYOR

1st Ward - Don Heyel	5th Ward - John Burgener
2nd Ward - Steve Hass	6th Ward - David Sukow
3rd Ward - Ryan Schwartzman	7th Ward - Jeremy Thompson
4th Ward - Kandy Peterson	8th Ward - Anne Caylor

## POLICE AND FIRE COMMISSION

Dick Baumgart - President	Robert Smallman
Kurt Helmstadter	
Carol Holz	Mike Ravn

## HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

David Sukow – Chairperson	John Burgener	Ryan Schwartzman
Dr. Greg Gill – Health Officer	Norbert Ashbeck - Deputy Health Officer	
Ned Seubert, Police Chief	Robert Odegard, Fire Chief	

## “Serving Merrill with Pride”

### Vision:

It is the vision of the Merrill Police Department to be continually recognized as a professional law enforcement agency that is responsive to community needs and whose employees are committed to serving the citizens of this community with pride.

### Mission Statement:

The Merrill Police Department is committed to protecting life, property and maintaining order, while assuring fair and equal treatment.

### Guiding Principles:

#### *Integrity*

We discern between what is right and what is wrong and then act on what is right even at personal cost.

#### *Commitment*

We use a positive set of beliefs, coupled with an equally positive set of actions and behavior. We are dedicated to the duties entrusted to us by our community.

#### *Professionalism*

We strive to achieve and maintain the highest standards of conduct, reflecting the integrity of Police professionals.

#### *Responsiveness*

We recognize and respond to the needs of our community and promptly act using problem-solving methods.

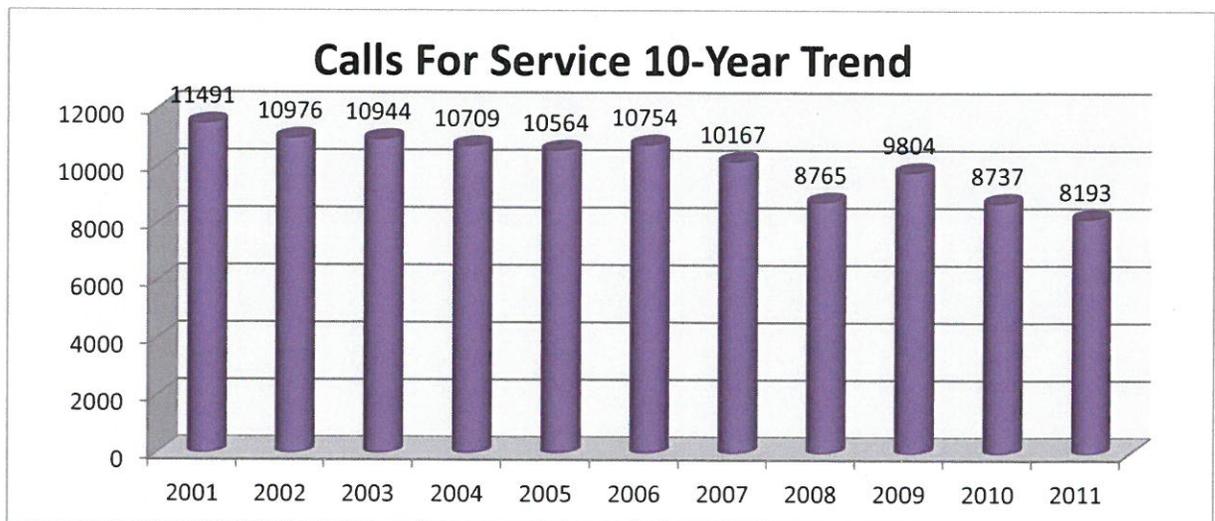
#### *Teamwork*

We recognize each other as valuable members of our team and work together to identify and solve organizational and community issues. We seek citizen involvement in our mission.

# MERRILL POLICE DEPARTMENT

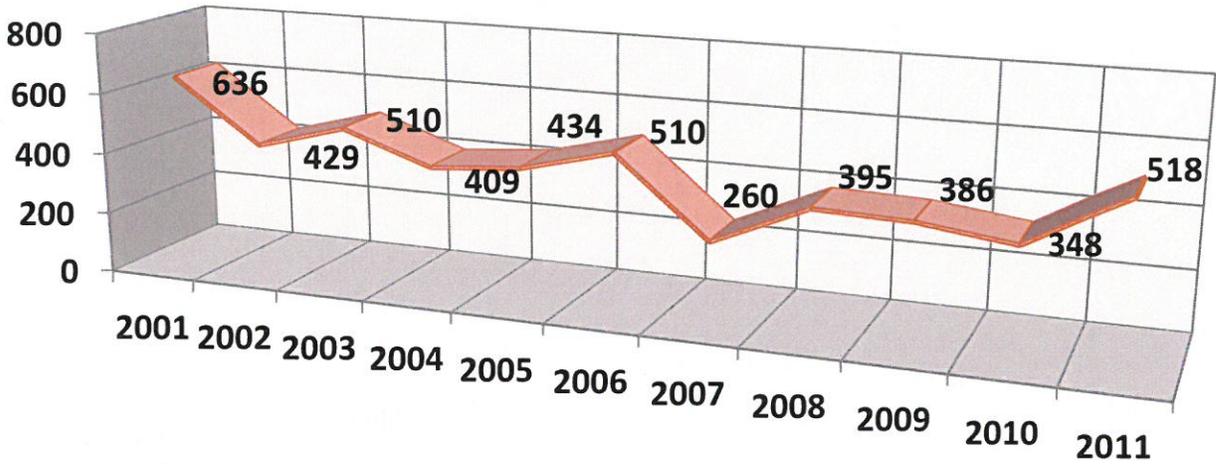
## COMPLAINTS INVESTIGATED

<u>TYPE OF COMPLAINT</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>
Alarms	207	166
Animal Complaint	391	262
Burglary	48	42
Disturbance/Noise	145	153
Domestic Disturbance	85	93
Escort	79	88
Hit & Run	60	60
Open Door/Window Found	24	60
Warrant/P&P/DSS Apprehension Arrests	304	310
Prowler/Suspicious Activity	341	302
Request to Watch Home/Building	9	11
Snowmobile/ATV	22	11
Vandalism/Property Damage	178	154
Vehicle Lockout	422	383
Miscellaneous	6,422	6,098
<b>Total Calls For Service Received</b>	<b>8,737</b>	<b>8,193</b>

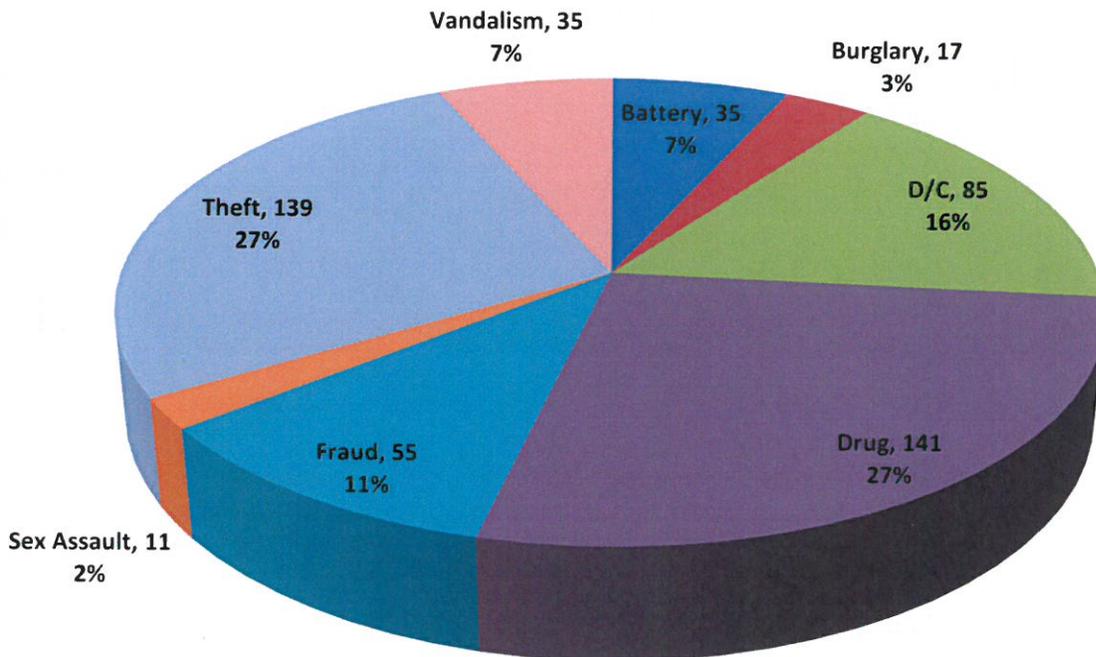


# CRIMINAL ARRESTS

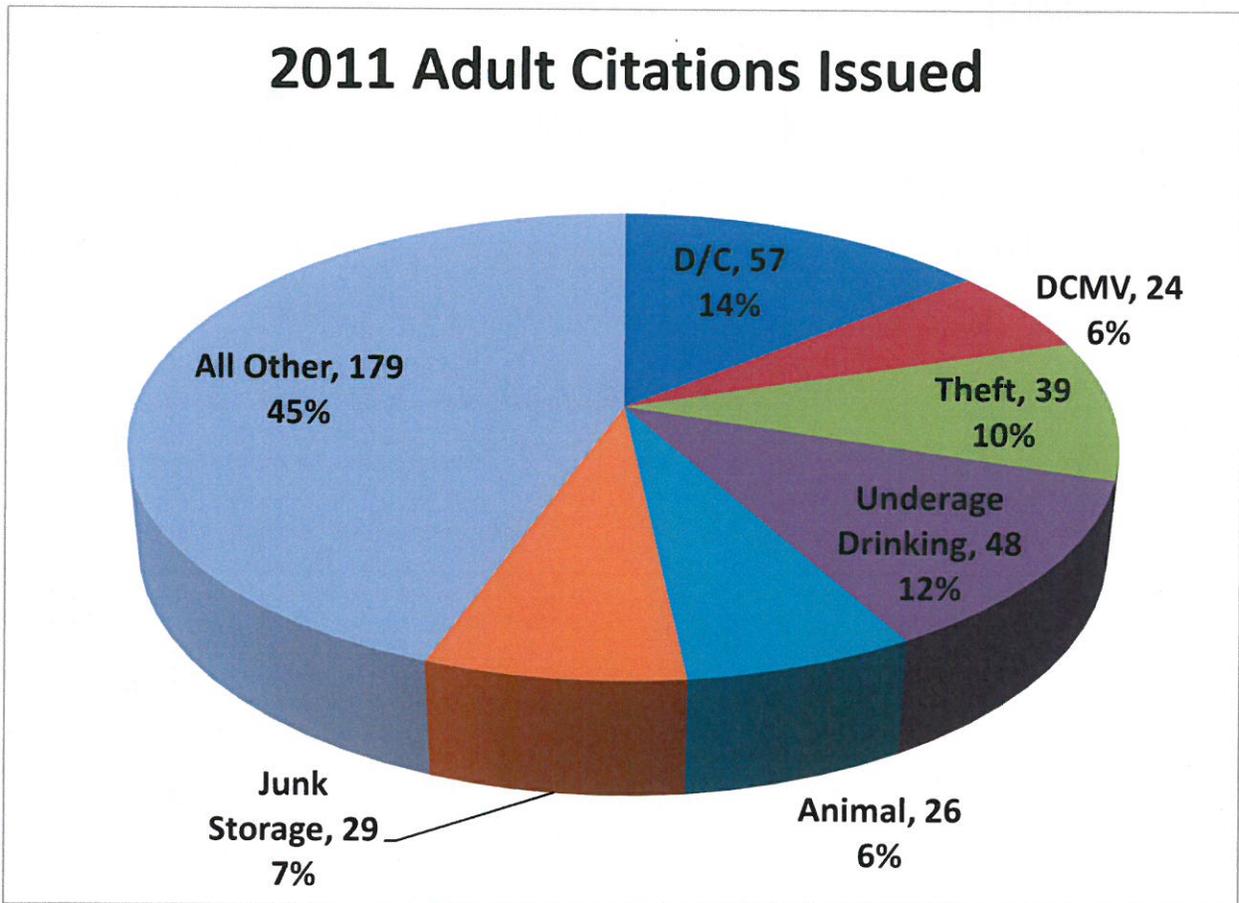
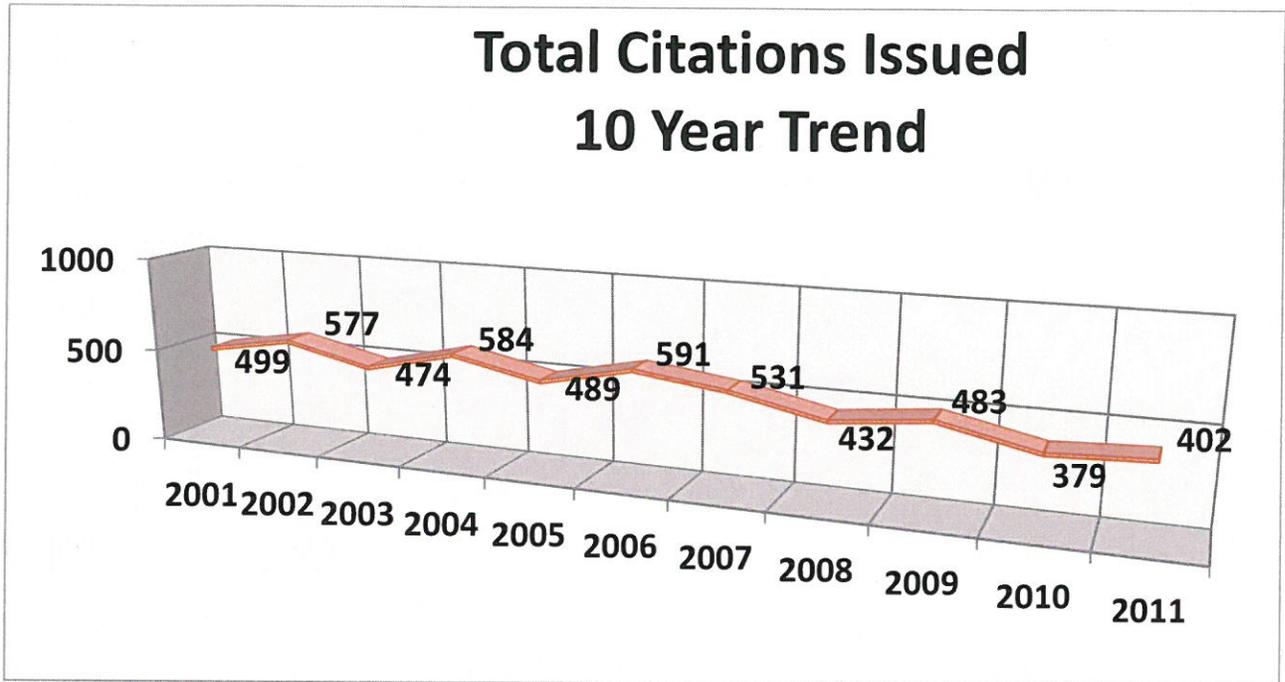
## Total Arrests 10-Year Trend



## 2011 Adult Criminal Arrests

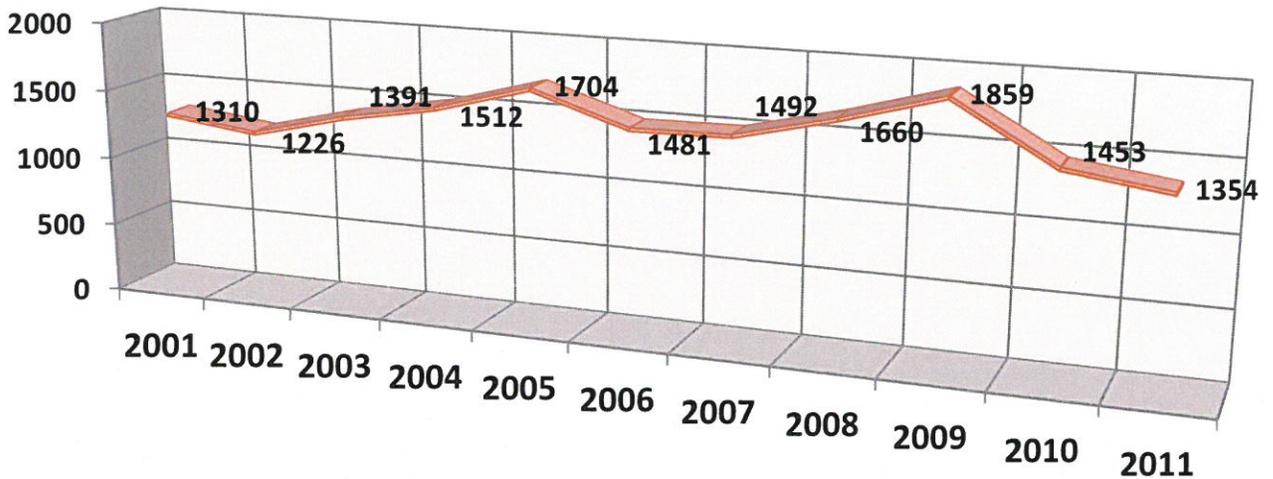


# Ordinance Citations

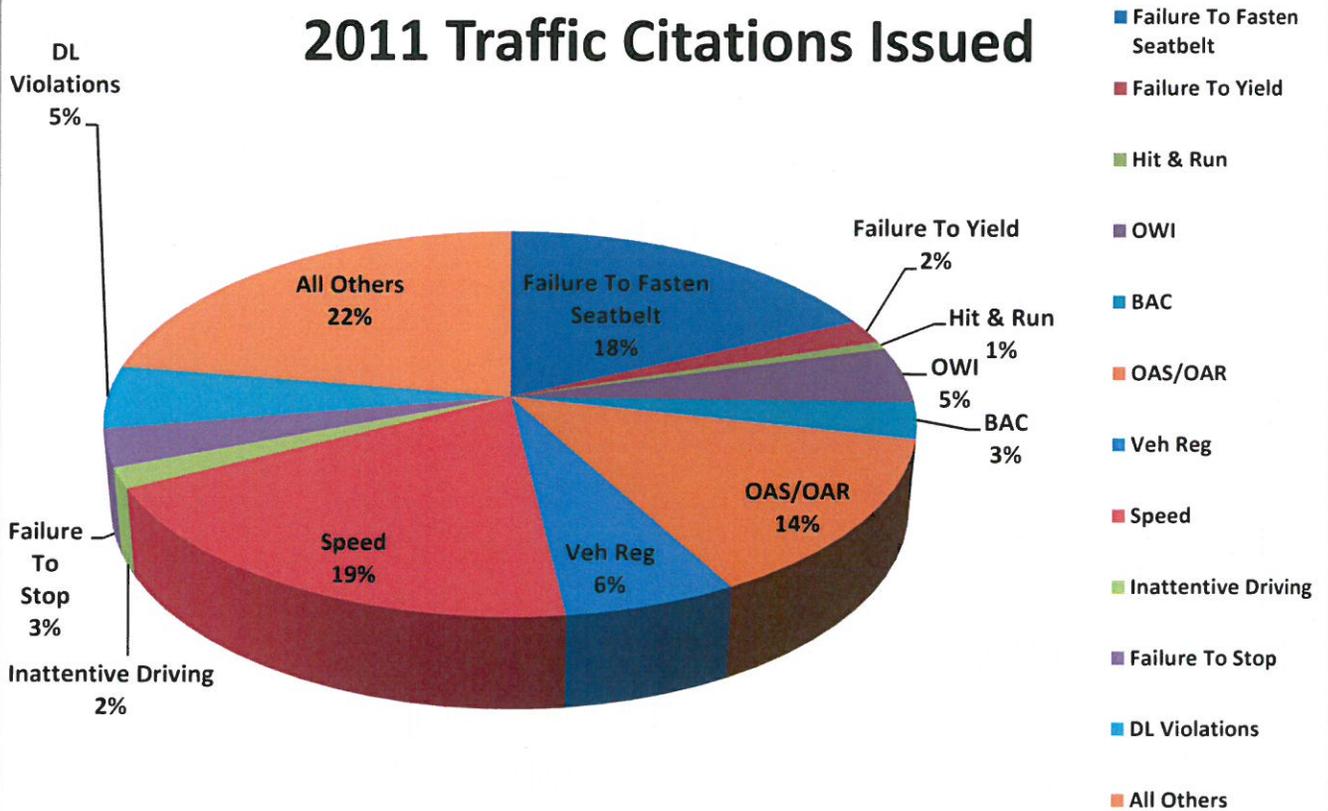


# Traffic Citation Statistics (Adults and Juveniles)

## Total Traffic Citations Issued 10-Year Trend

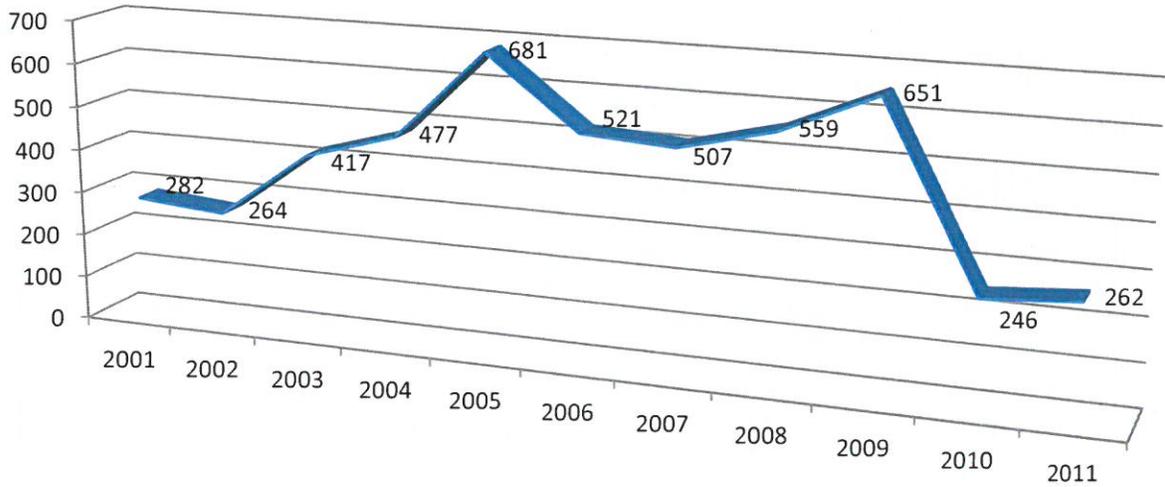


## 2011 Traffic Citations Issued

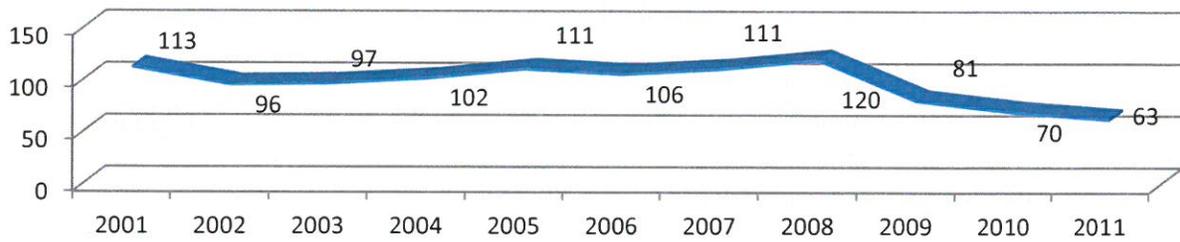


# Traffic Citations Continued.....

## Speeding Citations 10-yr Trend

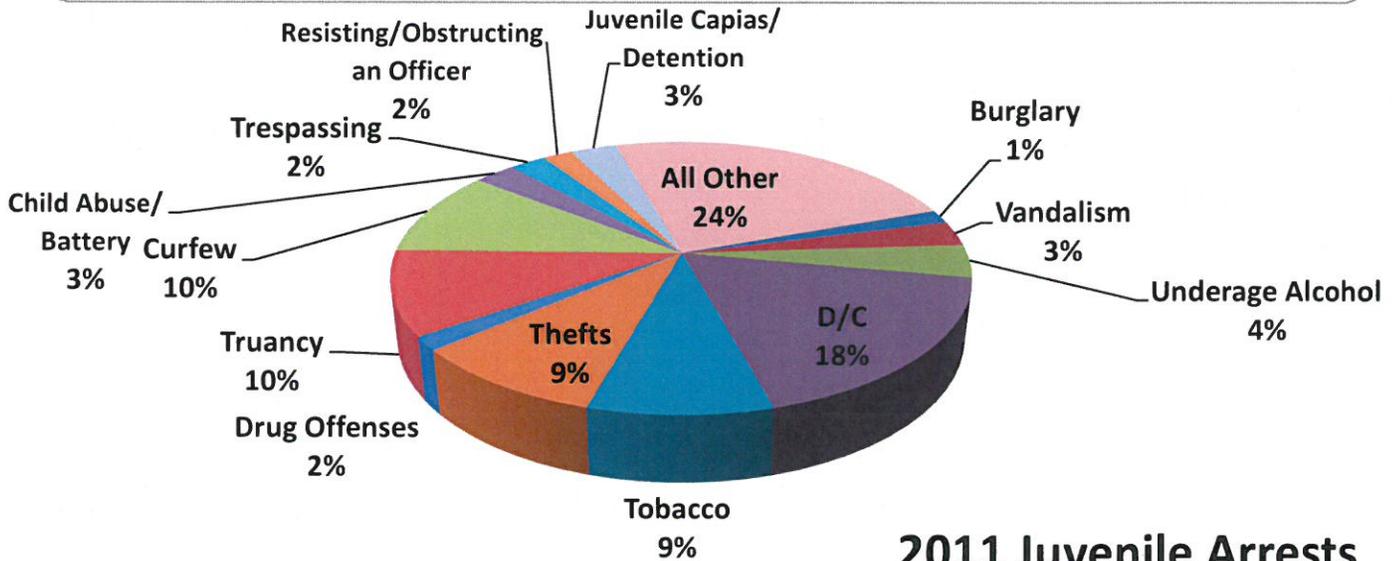
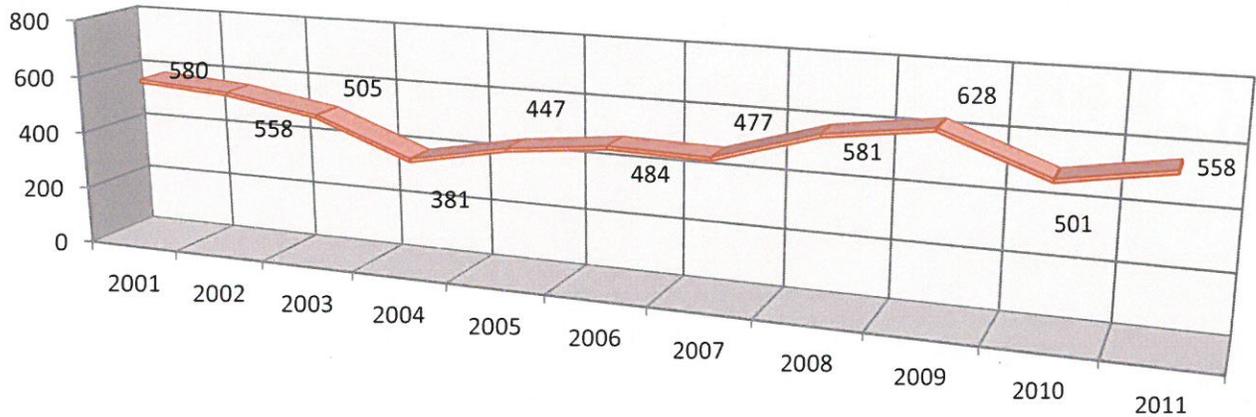


## Operating Motor Vehicle While Intoxicated 10-year Trend



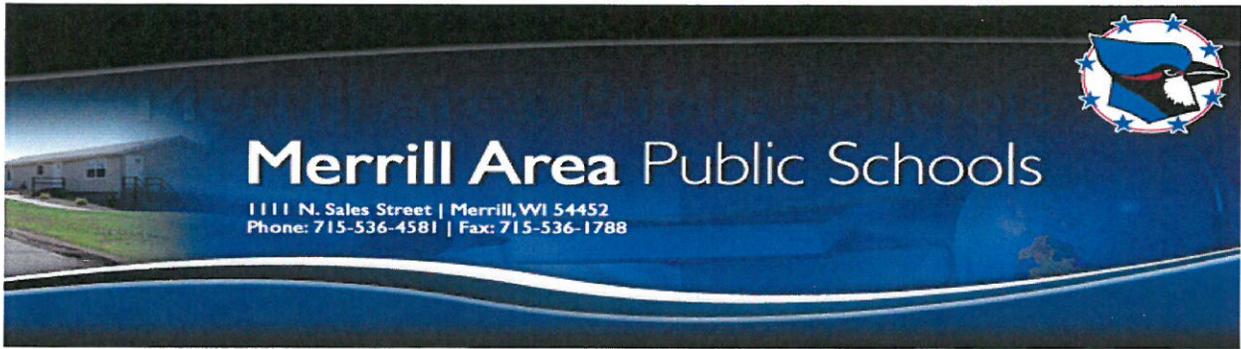
# Juvenile Arrest Statistics (16 years of age and under)

## Juvenile Arrest 10-Year Trend

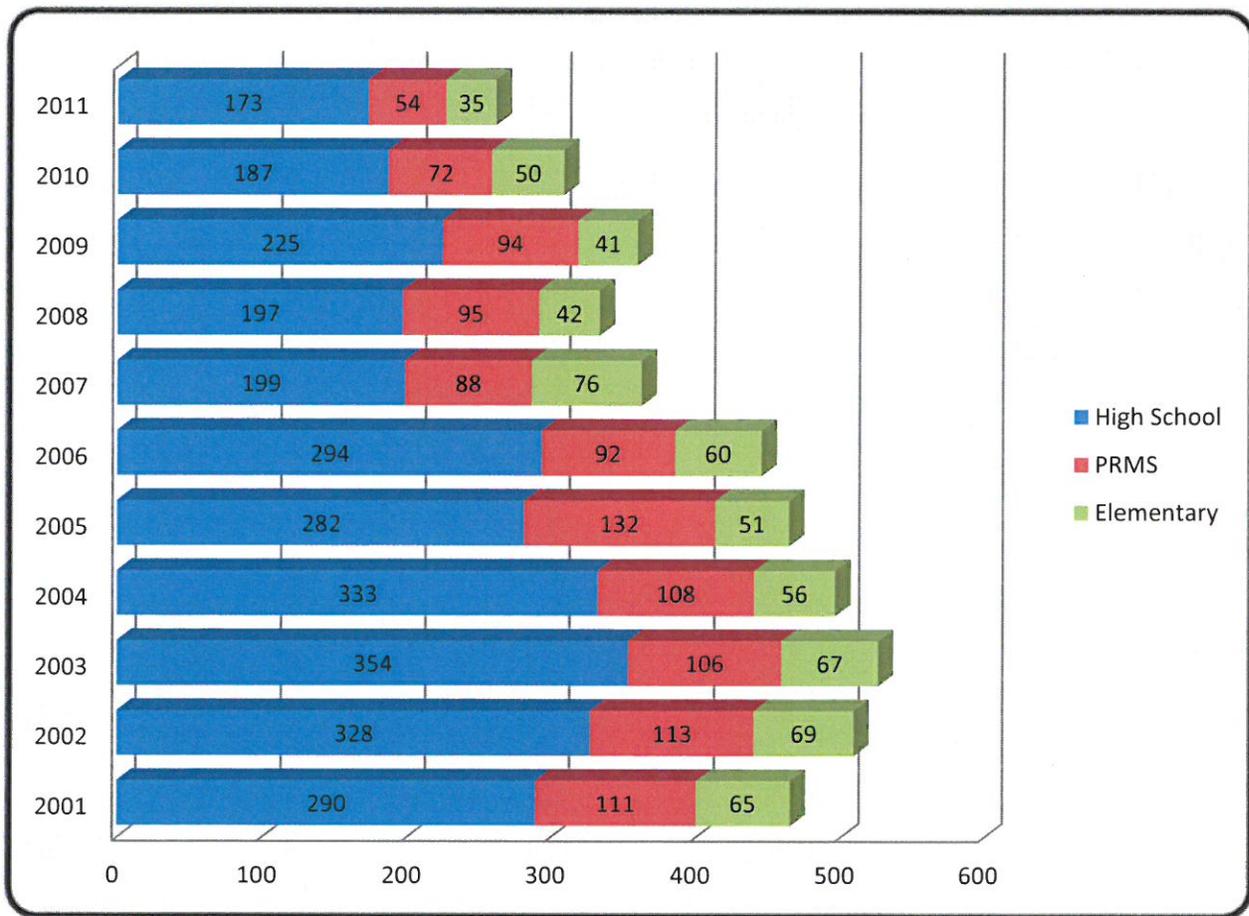


## 2011 Juvenile Arrests

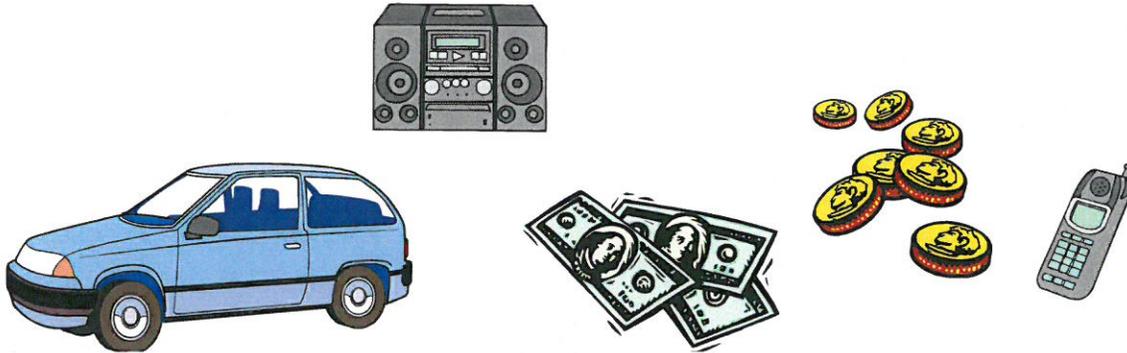




## Calls for Service to Schools in 2011



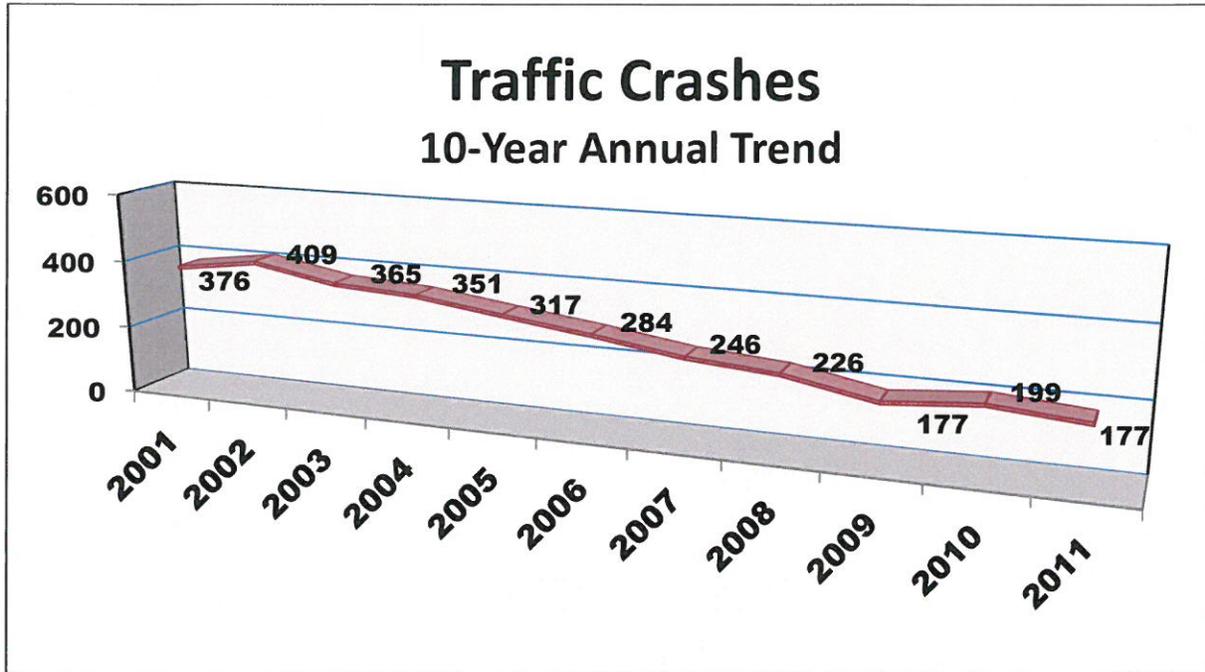
# Value of Property Stolen



Type of Property	2010	2011
	Amount Stolen	Amount Stolen
Motor Vehicles	\$20,280	\$53,862
TVs & Stereos	\$6,256	\$8,838
Currency	\$30,545	\$25,578
Bicycles	\$7,300	\$4,102
All Other Property	\$58,769	\$72,610
<b>Total Property</b>	<b>\$123,150</b>	<b>\$164,990</b>

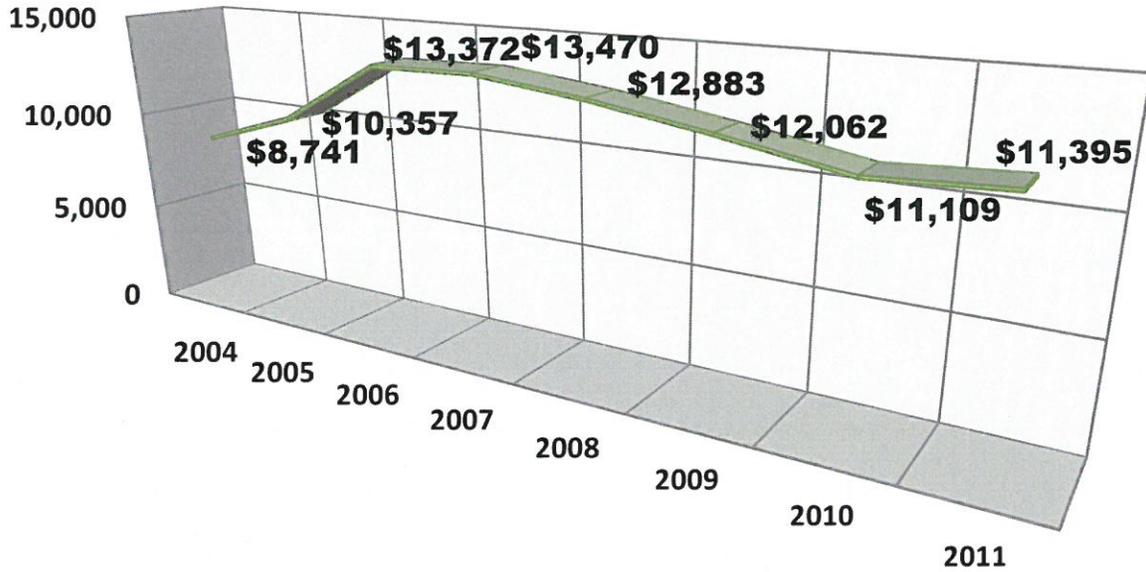
This chart indicates the total amount of property stolen for 2010 and 2011.

# Traffic Crash Summary



	2009	2010	2011
Total Crashes	177	199	177
Occupants	367	427	383
Number Injured Restrained	14	23	40
Number Injured Unrestrained	3	9	6
Fatalities	0	0	0
Occupants Wearing Seatbelts	343	401	364
Seatbelt % Compliance	93%	94%	95%
Citations Issued	81	115	112
Alcohol Involved	5	6	4
Deer	8	4	6
Bicyclists	0	3	5
Pedestrians	0	0	0
Controlled Intersection Stop Sign	18	26	32
Controlled Intersection Traffic Light	5	15	6
Controlled Intersection Yield Sign	0	0	3
Controlled Intersection Other	0	1	0
Uncontrolled Intersection	26	34	26
Non-Intersection	57	63	60
Private Property	7	9	8
Parking Lot	64	51	42
Roundabout	-	-	7

## Computerized Vehicle Registration Annual Revenue



The Computerized Vehicle Registration service that is provided by the Merrill Police Department continues to generate revenue. This service gives citizens an option for taking care of vehicle registration needs without having to travel to a Department of Transportation Service Center in another area.



# COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

## *“Serving Merrill With Pride”*

Throughout the year members of the Merrill Police Department are involved in various community activities, presentations, meetings and events.

In 2011, members of the Police department attended or were involved in many community events either supported by or conducted by the Merrill Police Department. Our officers participated in numerous meetings, and conducted presentations to children and adults. In addition, in order to be prepared to serve our community and stay current in the law enforcement profession, and to comply with Wisconsin mandates, officers and staff of the Merrill Police Department received above and beyond the minimum hours of training in 2011.



Check out our website at: [www.merrillpd.com](http://www.merrillpd.com) for more!

# Meet the Merrill Police Department



*Left to right front row:* Officers Don Seubert, Joshua McCaskill, Jamie Jaeger, Corey Bennett, Tyler Tesch, Melissa Tremaine, Kurt Perra, and Nicole Steppert.  
*Second row:* Officers Dale Knapp, Brad Becker, Matthew Waid, Clerks Jennifer Thorson and Christine Brahos, Administrative Assistant Kaye Severt, Investigator Patrick Wunsch, Officer Peter Borchardt, Lieutenant Greg Hartwig.  
*Third row:* Chief Ned Seubert, Officer Dane Mathwich, Lieutenant Chris Hartwig, SRO Heckendorf, Officer Matthew Drabek, Lieutenant Dale Bacher, Investigative Lieutenant Michael Hamann, and Captain Kenneth Neff.