

2013

Merrill Police Department



Annual Report

(Shelby Greffe painted this logo in the Police Department)

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

The year 2013 was an exciting and successful year for the Merrill Police Department. As an organization, we actively pursued the goals we had set for 2013 and were able to successfully attain those goals.

One significant highlight in 2013 is securing funding for a Police K-9 unit. The funding is from a community stakeholder and provides enough dollars to create and sustain this valuable tool for several years. Other highlights in 2013 include establishing our Police Auxiliary, and although we were not able to activate the unit in time for any events, other than the holiday parade in December, the groundwork is laid for making the auxiliary extremely valuable in 2014. In early 2013 we conducted another successful Citizen Police Academy. In addition to that, we collaborated with the Merrill High School and created our first Student Police Academy.

Our biggest success, and our largest project in 2013, was the creation and implementation of the Merrill Police Department Crime Prevention Initiative (CPI). The mission of the Crime Prevention Initiative is to create lines of communication with Merrill businesses, organizations, and citizens to assist in deterring crime, detecting crime, and diminishing opportunity for crime. I am especially proud of the efforts that our officers have put into this initiative. The work that was accomplished in 2013 is only the beginning as the CPI continues into the future.

CPI is a grass roots effort intended to strengthen the sense of community we have in the City of Merrill. CPI activities in 2013 included, officer contact with each retail business in the city, offering resources in crime prevention, and developing a database of contact information to assist in communicating with those businesses. Officers conducted security surveys with participating businesses and began the process of forming partnerships in preventing crime. During the late summer the CPI moved to an emphasis on building those same partnerships with Merrill residents. A number of city departments worked with us in hosting a "Community Night Out" at Normal Park. The "Community Night Out" provided residents the opportunity to see the resources our community has to offer its citizens. We also hosted a Town Hall meeting providing us the opportunity to discuss with citizens crime and crime prevention.

The next step in the CPI was to initiate “Nextdoor/Merrill”, a safe and secure social media site that helps build community by connecting neighbors in Merrill and in nearby neighborhoods. By the end of 2013, Nextdoor/Merrill had 210 participating neighbors and our goal for 2014 is to increase the participation level to 1,000 people, including retailers in the City of Merrill. This addition will enhance our ability, as well as other City of Merrill departments, to quickly communicate important information to our community when needed.

Our goals for 2014 include:

- Developing and deploying the new K-9 unit by early summer
- Creating and implementing a drug task force to compliment the efforts of the K-9
- Continue our Crime Prevention Initiative
- Re-deploy our bicycle patrol
- Utilize the police auxiliary unit
- Conduct another citizen police academy
- Continue to organize emergency management plans and processes
- Update and revise department policies.

The year 2014 brings many more opportunities to continue and expand the important and valuable steps we have taken to strengthen our connections with the citizens we serve and continue to make the Merrill community a safe place to live.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kenneth J. Neff". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent 'K' and 'N'.

Kenneth Neff
Chief of Police

From the Captain's desk,

2013 was an exciting year at the MPD. We established, accomplished, or at the very least set in motion many goals stated in 2013. It was also an organizationally stabilizing year as compared to the prior year of transition. This letter will review some of those stated goals as well as establish goals for 2014 that will build upon our foundation.

This letter will not reflect on the statistical areas referenced elsewhere in this report. It has become increasingly obvious to those of us that use these information systems; the statistics which our information systems can generate do not convey our activity accurately. I think it is best viewed as a "glimpse" of our activity. I believe 2014, at the very least, will establish a new source for traffic, ordinance, and crash reporting data. We look forward to improving these systems for both our use and public information.

Operational goals

In 2013, we focused on what can be viewed as the "core" or "nuts and bolts" of our operations. This was a stated goal in order to reiterate the basic public expectation of service that must always exist in our department as long as this part of our core is in place and operating efficiently, we can devote increased attention to special community needs or specific enforcement details.

Our 2013 goals were:

- **A daily focus on traffic safety:** Shift supervisors were directed to assign traffic enforcement detail on every shift, when sufficient manpower is available. Activity was noticeably increased and officers are even asking for more enforcement equipment.
- **Standardized reporting and review:** This is and will likely remain a work in progress. Supervisors previously had sole review over their shift's work product. Over time we have migrated to universal review of citations, then crash reports, and now incident reports. As we do not have a Supervisor dedicated to each patrol shift at all times, this helps continue the review process in a timely manner. Further, it works toward a standard of work for incident response and reporting.
- **Crime Prevention:** Engaging in one-on-one contacts with businesses and neighborhoods to address crime prevention, information sharing, and building positive relationships. This initiative was led by the Chief and remains a great success. Building relationships within the community has proven to be an invaluable tool in accomplishing our tasks but also in community support.

2014 goals:

- **Analysis of current Information Systems:** We currently operate a county-wide shared system with very little understanding of the capabilities of the whole. We need to examine the features and abilities of the product we already own, examine how we use it, and identify what improvements need to be made. This may be a multi-agency effort.
- **Implementation of the MPD Auxiliary:** The Auxiliary has been formed and given some basic training. A final training session is still required at this time. However, we expect to conduct this training in early 2014 and be able to deploy the Auxiliary at special events in 2014.
- **Implementation of the MPD K9 officer:** Through the generous donation(s) of community members we were able to obtain our 1st K9 officer position. Plans are currently underway which will provide for the K9, K9 Officer, and supporting equipment. The K9 officer will be deployed in full service by May 2014 and we look forward to this new historic position within the department.
- **Implementation of a local Drug Enforcement Initiative:** Building upon the skills of our officers and upon the local K9 availability, we intend to focus a very public and noticeable amount of effort on the local drug trade.

Equipment

Our goals for 2013 equipment replacement were fully implemented as planned. Specifically we were able to fully integrate our video evidence systems with the Panasonic Arbitrator product purchased in 2012. All of our squad video and interview video sources are now unified into one evidentiary system. Additionally, we implemented the new squad rifles in 2013 after sourcing ammunition and additional equipment during a very demanding time in the firearm industry. In short, it was no small miracle that our rifles were put into service within the calendar year.

2014 equipment goals include another capital purchase of firearms. However, this year our duty side arms and supporting equipment will be replaced and are expected to last for a similar 10-year cycle. We are still experiencing delays within the firearms industry. However, we have already received the new duty weapons and are simply awaiting the training ammunition. We hope to be fully implemented by early summer or late spring.

We will also be looking at responsible replacement processes for our speed enforcement equipment, mobile data equipment, squad radios, and squad emergency lighting. Ideally, this would be accomplished in an established cycle consistent with squad replacement. However, the cost of this equipment is beyond the normal capital outlay when combined with the cost of a modern police vehicle. In short, a strategy will need to be developed.

Training

2013 was an absolutely successful year for training at the MPD. This was a great surprise as relative spending actually decreased from 2012 for general department-wide training. Despite that fact, we were able to take advantage of some very unique and local training opportunities with the assistance of other funding sources and partnerships. A great example was partnering with the DOJ for their locally offered session of Evidence Technician training. Normally we have been struggling to get one person to this training for the past couple of years. However, as the city was willing to provide the former Lincoln House structure for mock crime scene training, we were able to enroll and train three officers!

Additionally, another stated training goal was to bring every employee of the department to a specified minimum certification level of the Incident Command System. I am proud to announce that we have reached this goal and have set a great example for the remainder of the city. Overall, in 2014 we logged almost 2500 hours in training and instruction time. This was still an improvement over the banner year of 2012.

Part of our 2014 training plan involves expanding on locally offered training. As of December 2013, we began a monthly training goal. Every month the department will attempt to host required training in a core discipline. This is designed to keep skills fresh as well as make better use of our in-house instructors. Further, we will have a trial run at "hosted" training either at the PD or the Merrill NTC campus. Hosting statewide or national training opportunities will bring unique opportunities to us as well as potentially provide a source of revenue. This is a work in progress and we look forward to exploring these opportunities. Although 2014 will bring similar challenges in budget constraints, I am confident we will find solutions in order to expose our officers to valuable training opportunities.

In conclusion, we will continue to build upon our previous successes, identify long term goals consistent with the overall vision, and chase those goals incessantly. Through this process, we will continue to serve Merrill with pride.

Respectfully submitted,



Corey Bennett, Captain

2013---CITY OF MERRILL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS---2013



COMMON COUNCIL MEMBERS

William Bialecki - MAYOR

1st Ward - Chris Malm

5th Ward - John Burgener

2nd Ward - Steve Hass

6th Ward - David Sukow

3rd Ward - Ryan Schwartzman

7th Ward - Rob Norton

4th Ward - Kandy Peterson

8th Ward - Anne Caylor

POLICE AND FIRE COMMISSION

Kurt Helmstadter - President

David Hayes

Don Heyel

Carol Holz

Mike Ravn

HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

Anne Caylor - Chairperson

Dave Sukow

Kandy Peterson

Dr. Greg Gill - Health Officer

Norbert Ashbeck - Deputy Health Officer

Kenneth Neff, Police Chief

Dave Savone, 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

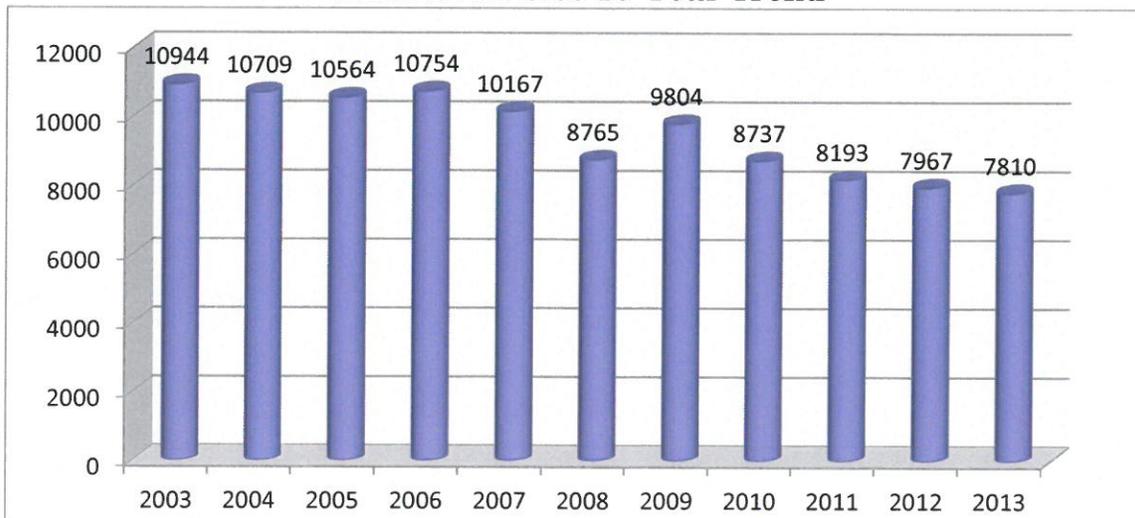
We recognize each other as valuable members of our team and work together to identify and solve organizational and community issues. We seek citizen involvement in our mission.

MERRILL POLICE DEPARTMENT

COMPLAINTS INVESTIGATED

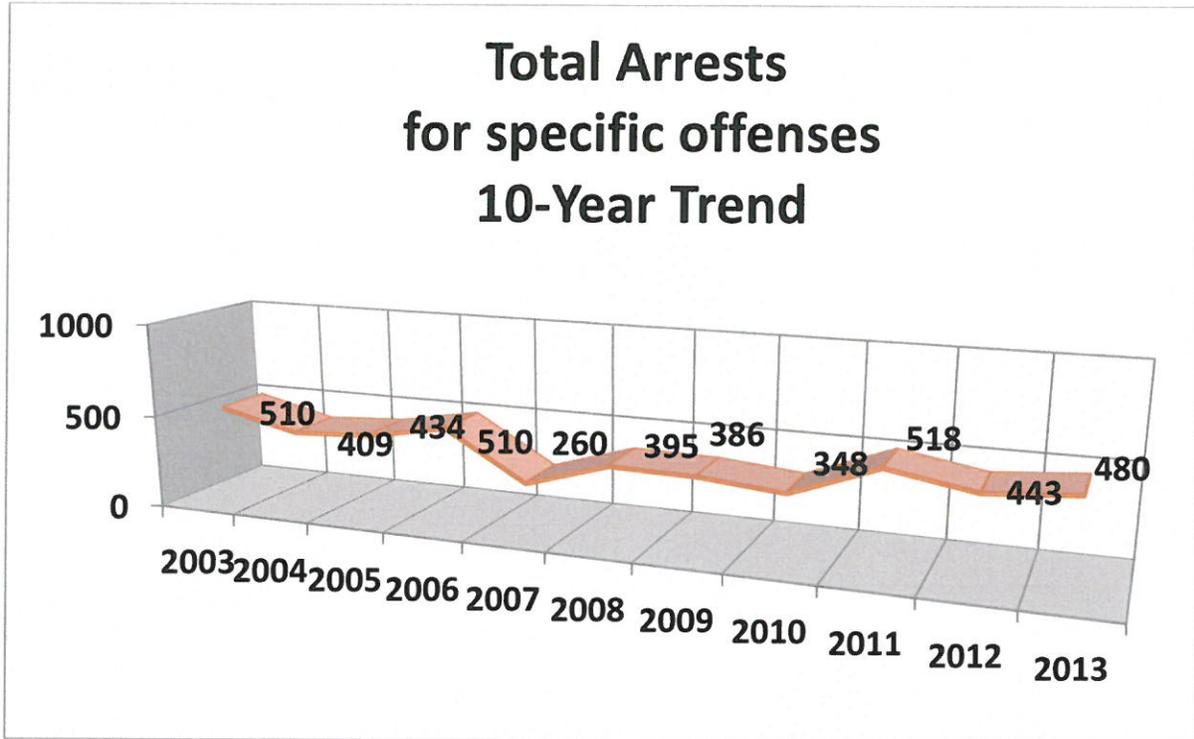
<u>TYPE OF COMPLAINT</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>
Alarms	173	172
Animal Complaint	328	262
Burglary	68	39
Disturbance/Noise	174	109
Domestic Disturbance	103	82
Escort	83	81
Hit & Run	68	59
Open Door/Window Found	62	48
Warrant/P&P/DSS Apprehension Arrests	331	324
Prowler/Suspicious Activity	377	299
Request to Watch Home/Building	5	6
Snowmobile/ATV	8	15
Vandalism/Property Damage	173	132
Vehicle Lockout	341	404
Miscellaneous	5,673	5,778
Total Calls For Service Received	7,967	7,810

Calls for Service 10-Year Trend



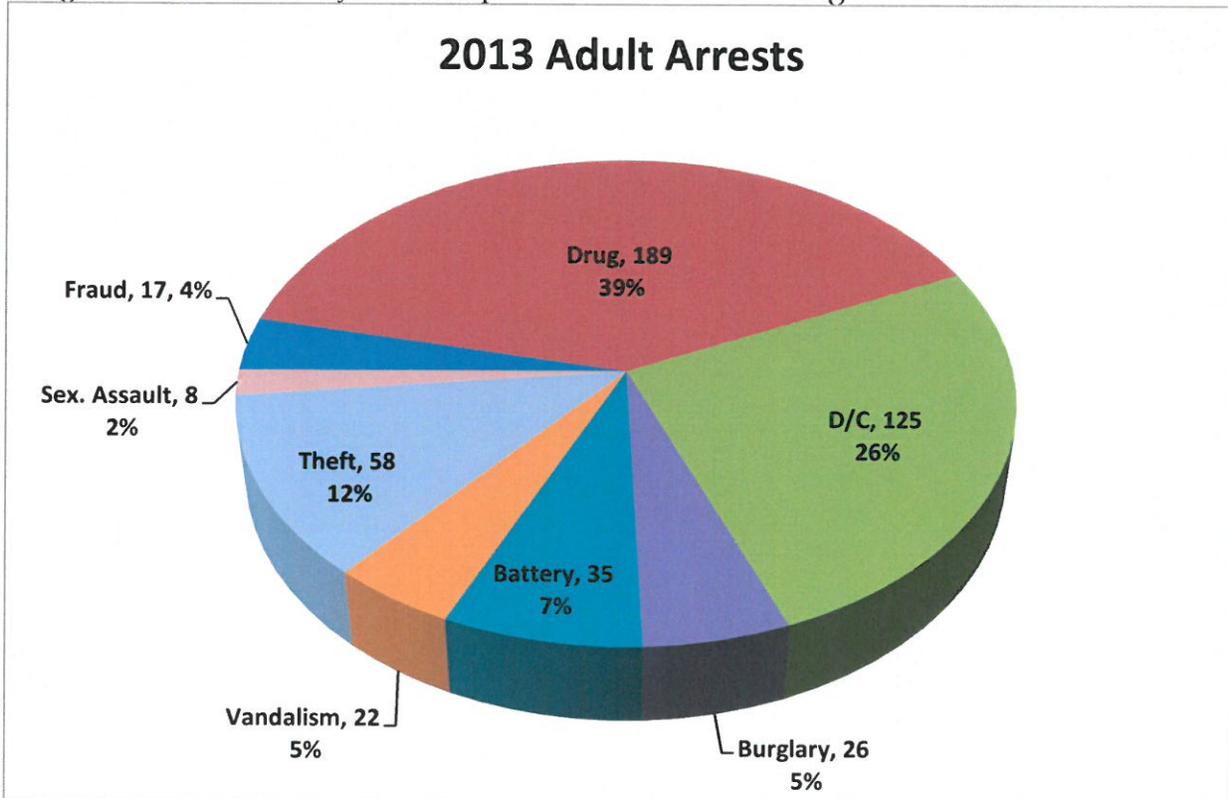
ADULT ARRESTS

Total Arrests for specific offenses 10-Year Trend

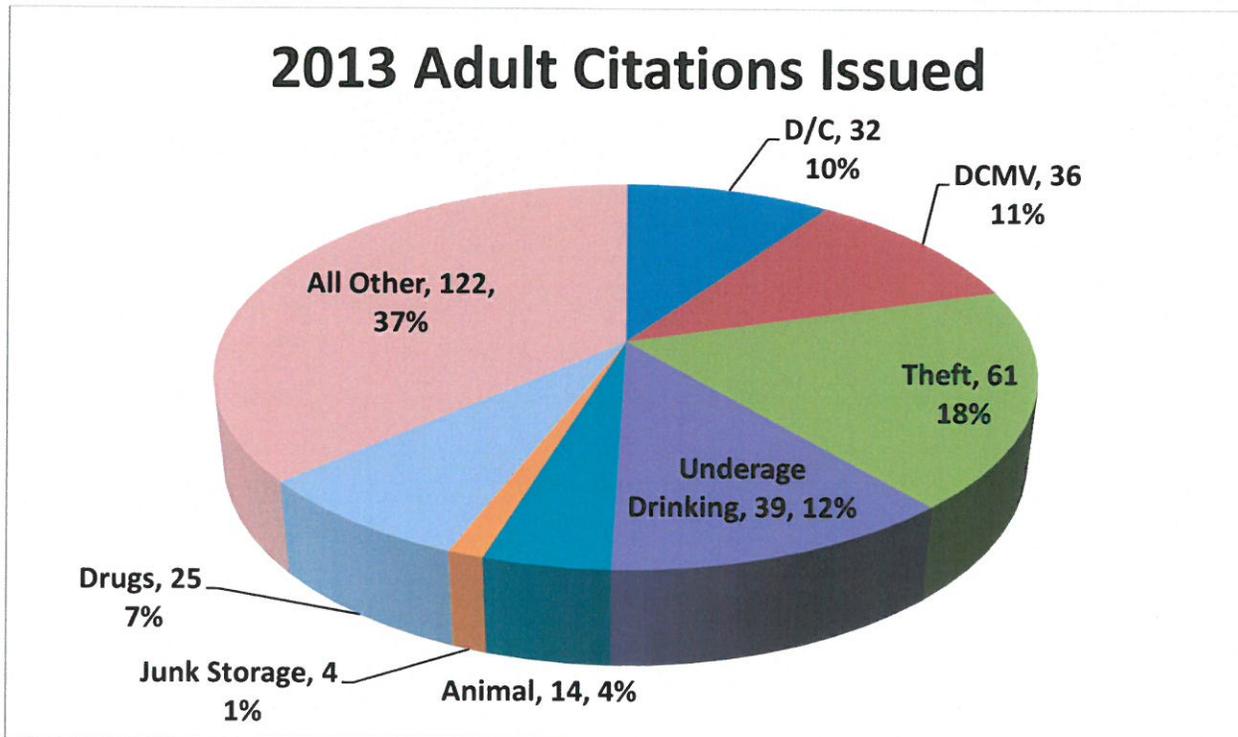
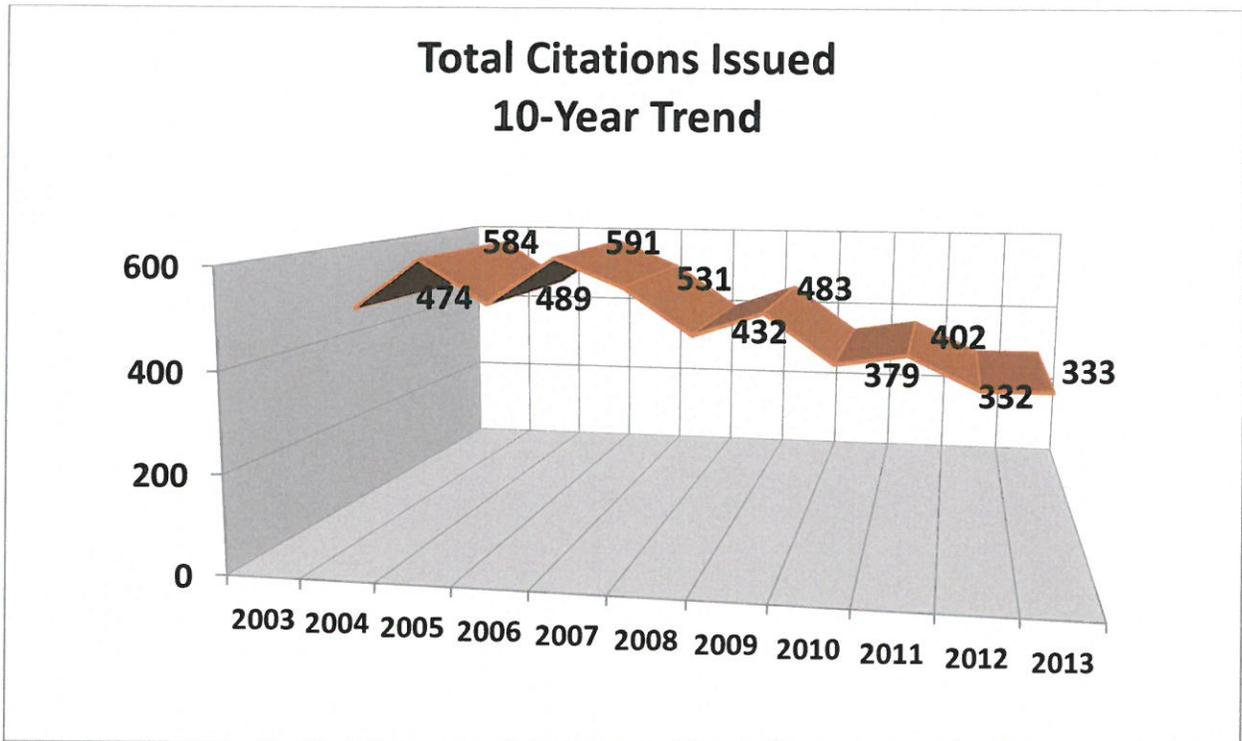


The total number of adult arrests in 2013 was 1,286 compared with 1,202 in 2012. Notable increases in specific offenses listed below include an increase in drug arrests from 135 to 189; an increase in burglary arrests from 23 to 26; and an increase in theft arrests from 41 to 58. Those increases are likely attributed to a prevalence of illegal drugs in our community and our proactive effort in dealing with the issue.

2013 Adult Arrests

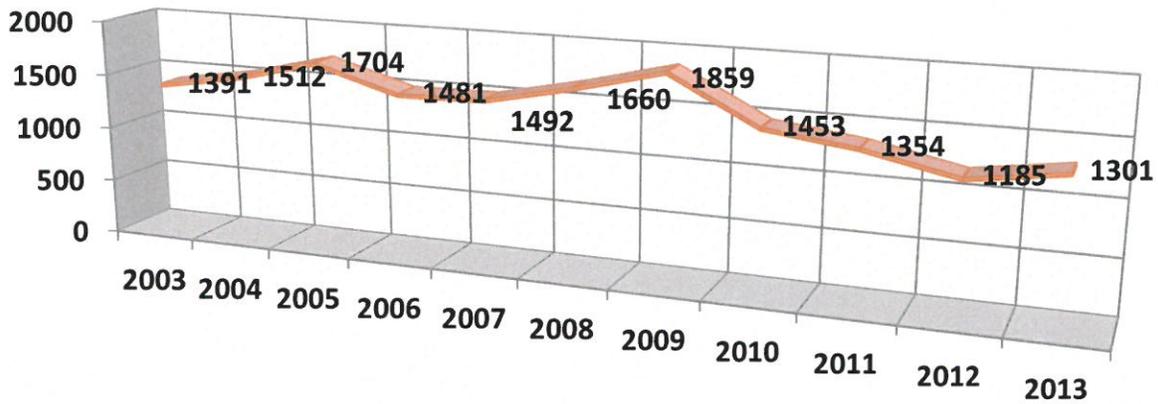


Ordinance Citations



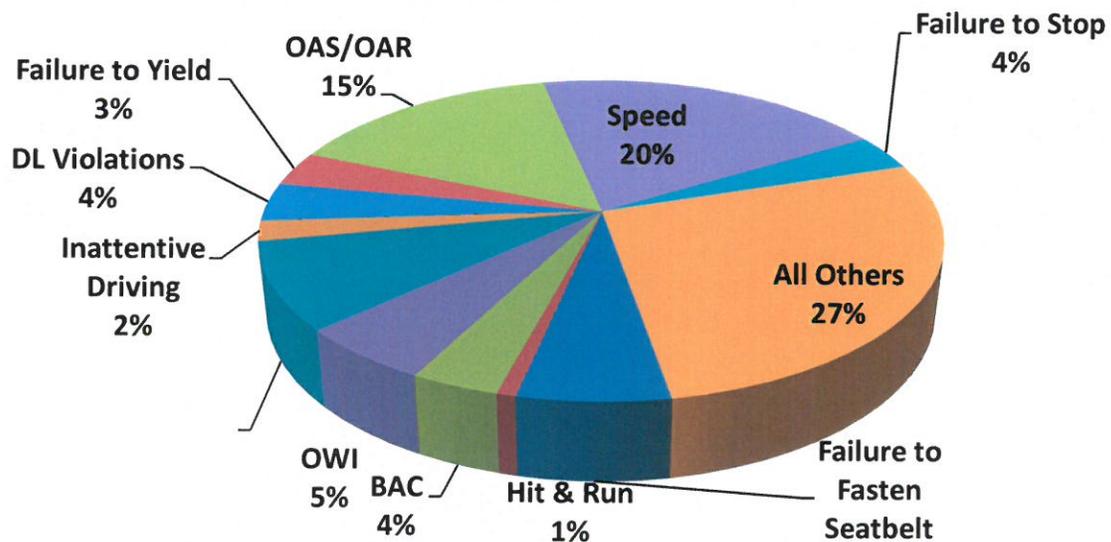
Traffic Citation Statistics (Adults and Juveniles)

Total Traffic Citations Issued 10-Year Trend



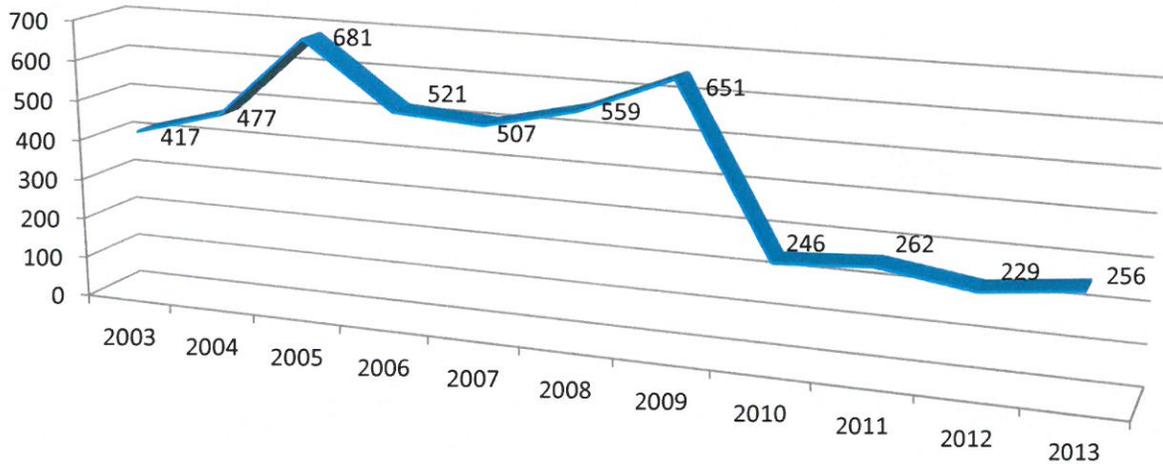
2013 Traffic Citations Issued

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| ■ Failure to Fasten Seatbelt | ■ Hit & Run |
| ■ BAC | ■ OWI |
| ■ Vehicle Reg. | ■ Inattentive Driving |
| ■ DL Violations | ■ Failure to Yield |
| ■ OAS/OAR | ■ Speed |
| ■ Failure to Stop | ■ All Others |

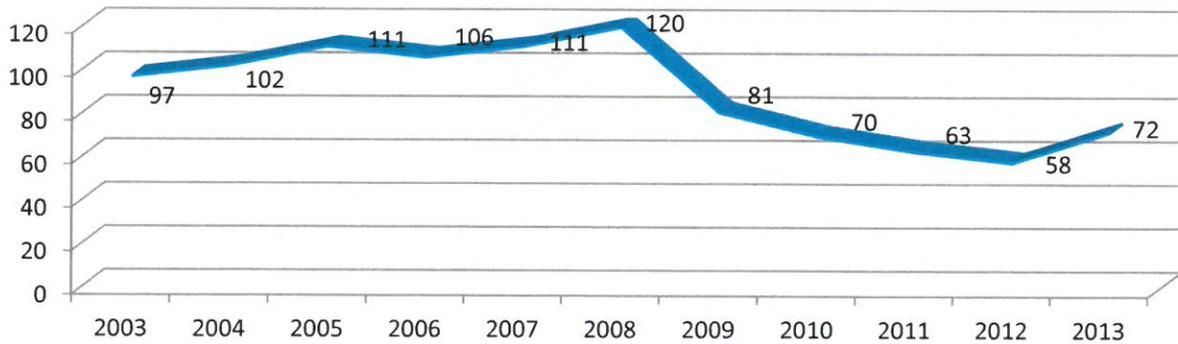


Traffic Citations Continued.....

Speeding Citations 10-yr Trend



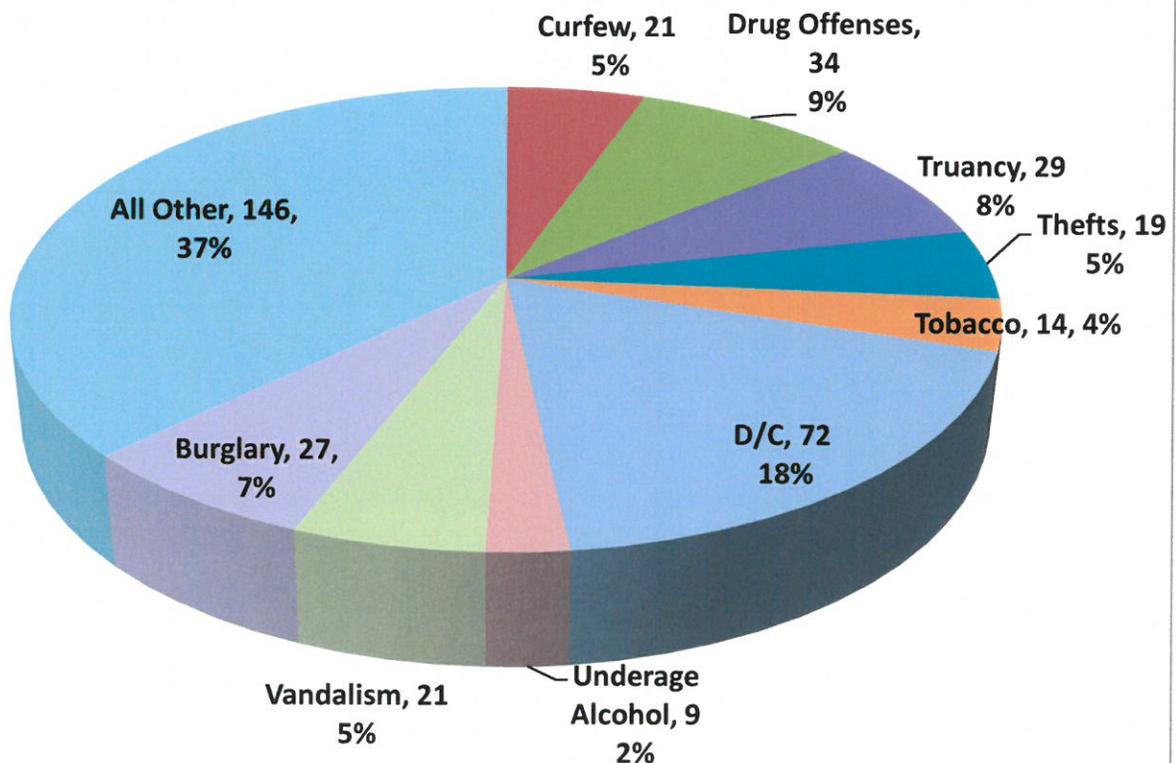
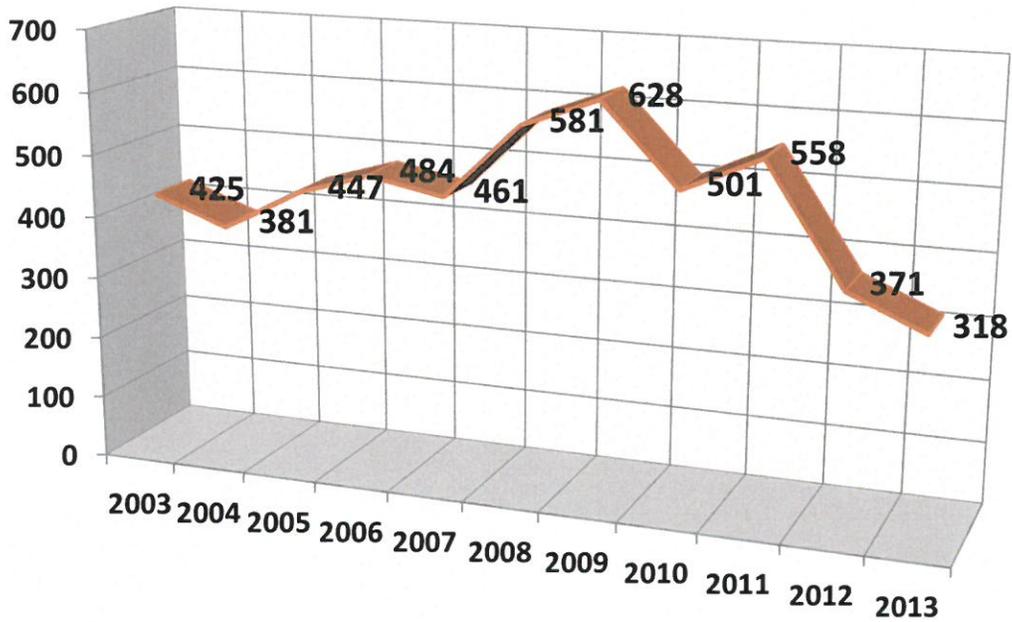
Operating Motor Vehicle While Intoxicated 10-year Trend



2013 Juvenile Arrest Statistics

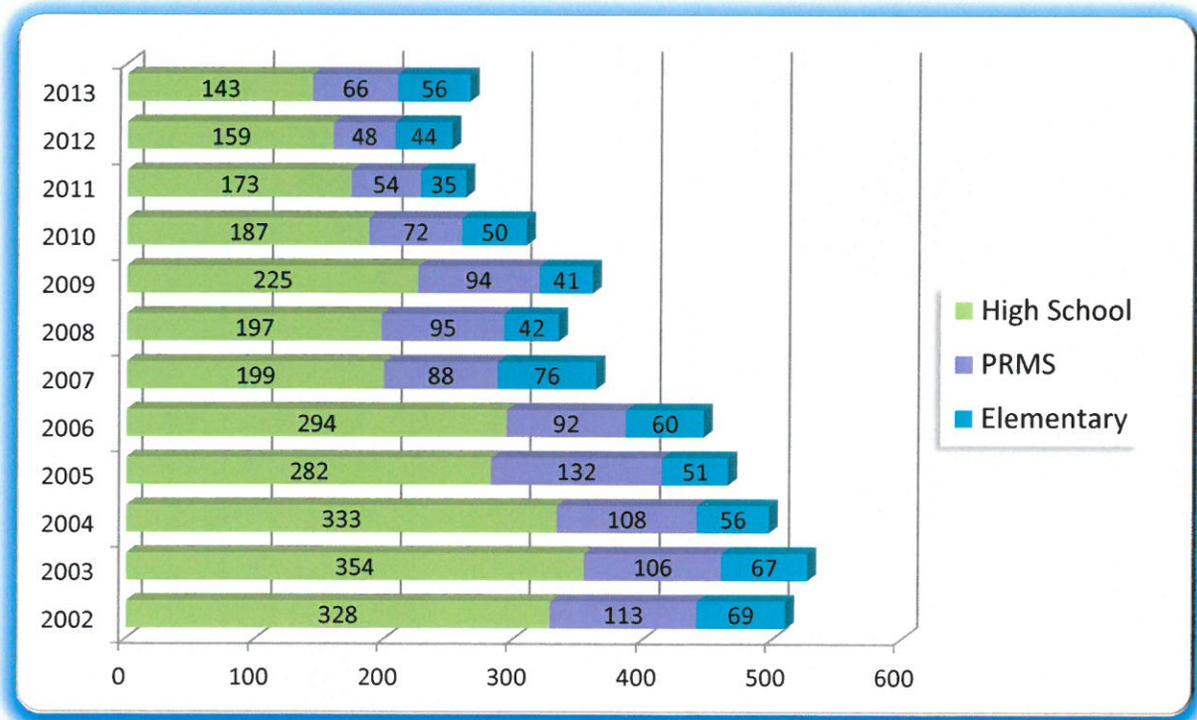
(16 years of age and under)

Juvenile Arrest 10-Year Trend





Calls for Service to Schools





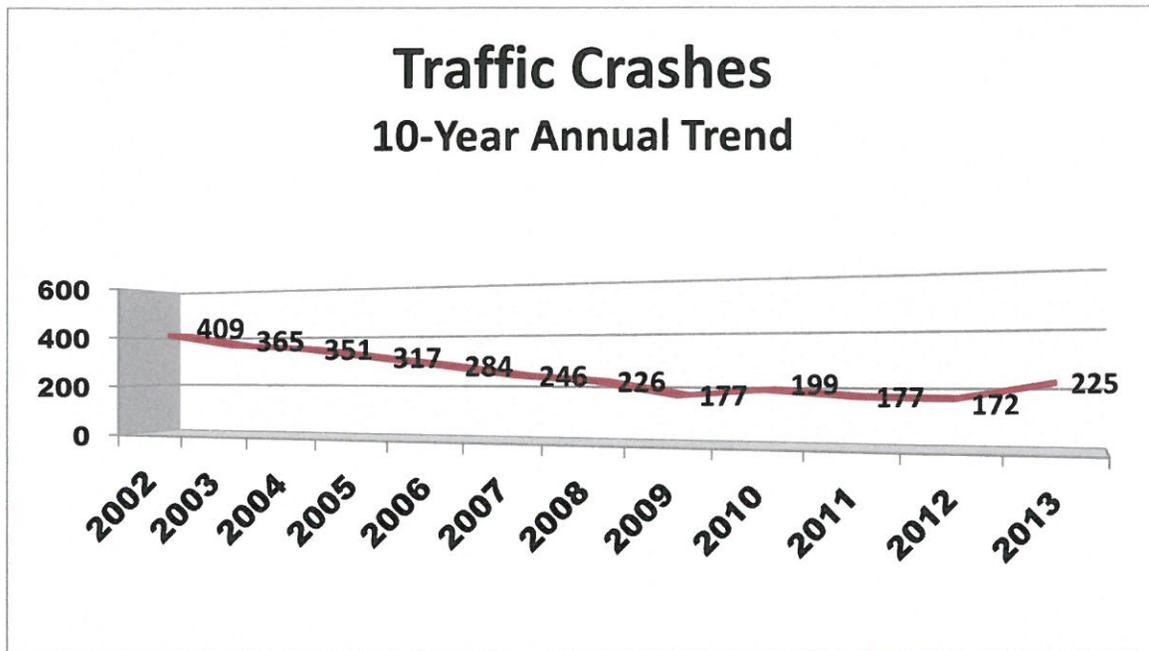
Value of Property Stolen



Type of Property	2012 Amount Stolen	2013 Amount Stolen
Motor Vehicles	\$24,306	\$43,500
TVs & Stereos	\$10,466	\$2,659
Currency	\$16,354	\$13,260
Bicycles	\$6,760	\$2,527
All Other Property	\$79,101	\$45,331
Total Property	\$136,987	\$107,277

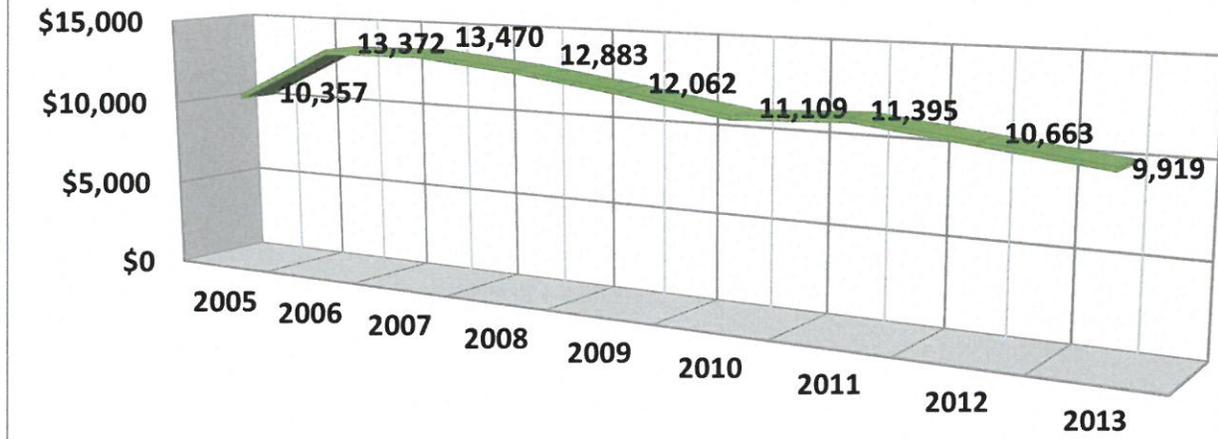
This chart indicates the total amount of property stolen for 2012 and 2013.

Traffic Crash Summary



	2011	2012	2013
Total Crashes	177	172	225
Occupants	383	404	516
Number Injured Restrained	40	26	31
Number Injured Unrestrained	6	3	5
Fatalities	0	2	0
Occupants Wearing Seatbelts	364	368	476
Seatbelt % Compliance	95%	91%	92%
Citations Issued	112	100	131
Alcohol Involved	4	3	4
Deer	6	1	1
Bicyclists	5	2	1
Pedestrians	0	0	0
Controlled Intersection Stop Sign	32	36	45
Controlled Intersection Traffic Light	6	6	7
Controlled Intersection Yield Sign	3	4	4
Controlled Intersection Other	0	0	0
Uncontrolled Intersection	26	19	20
Non-Intersection	60	51	84
Private Property	8	4	10
Parking Lot	42	52	55
Roundabout	7	6	4

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.

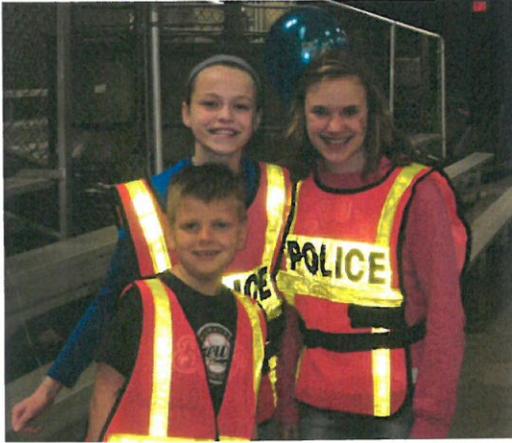


MERRILL POLICE Crime Prevention Initiative





Children's Fest



Citizen's Police Academy

