



# Payson Police Department 2013 Annual Report

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# A Message from the Chief

As you will note in the details of this annual report, the Payson Police Department had a very busy year in 2013, responding to and handling 20,799 calls for service. This is a slight increase from 2012 at 20,030 calls for service. Even though this number includes on-view activity as well as actual incoming requests for service by all different means, it is very impressive that a department functioning at a staff level averaging 26 officers is able to handle that number of calls. It is an outstanding accomplishment.

The other statistic that always deserves some attention is the Uniform Crime Reporting Index Crime Rate figure. In 2013, the crime rate figure increased to 48.0 per 1000 population. This is a slight increase, and it resulted mainly from a variety of different opportunistic type of thefts that occurred in our community. Fortunately, the dollar value losses in these particular thefts were minimal in nature, and often associated with vehicle burglaries in which the suspects were checking doors to find unlocked vehicles and then committing the thefts.



Our community also continues to be challenged with a persistent Methamphetamine use, and also now has a resurging Heroin use problem, which requires considerable amounts of time from the patrol staff as well as the narcotics and investigation divisions of the department. These two drug problems continue to be the driving force behind the majority of the criminal activity occurring in our community. Each time we are able to solve a major crime or group of crimes, a high percentage of the time they are tied directly to the use of either Methamphetamine or Heroin.

Once again, I am very proud of the accomplishments of the entire staff of the Payson Police Department. They continue to respond in an exemplary manner with customer service a high priority for all of our employees.





# Command Staff



*Chief of Police*  
*Donald B. Engler*



*Police Lieutenant*  
*Sherwood 'Woody' Eldredge*  
*Hired in January 2013*



# Supervisory Staff



*Sergeant Jason Hazelo*



*Sergeant Les Barr*



*Sergeant Donald Garvin*

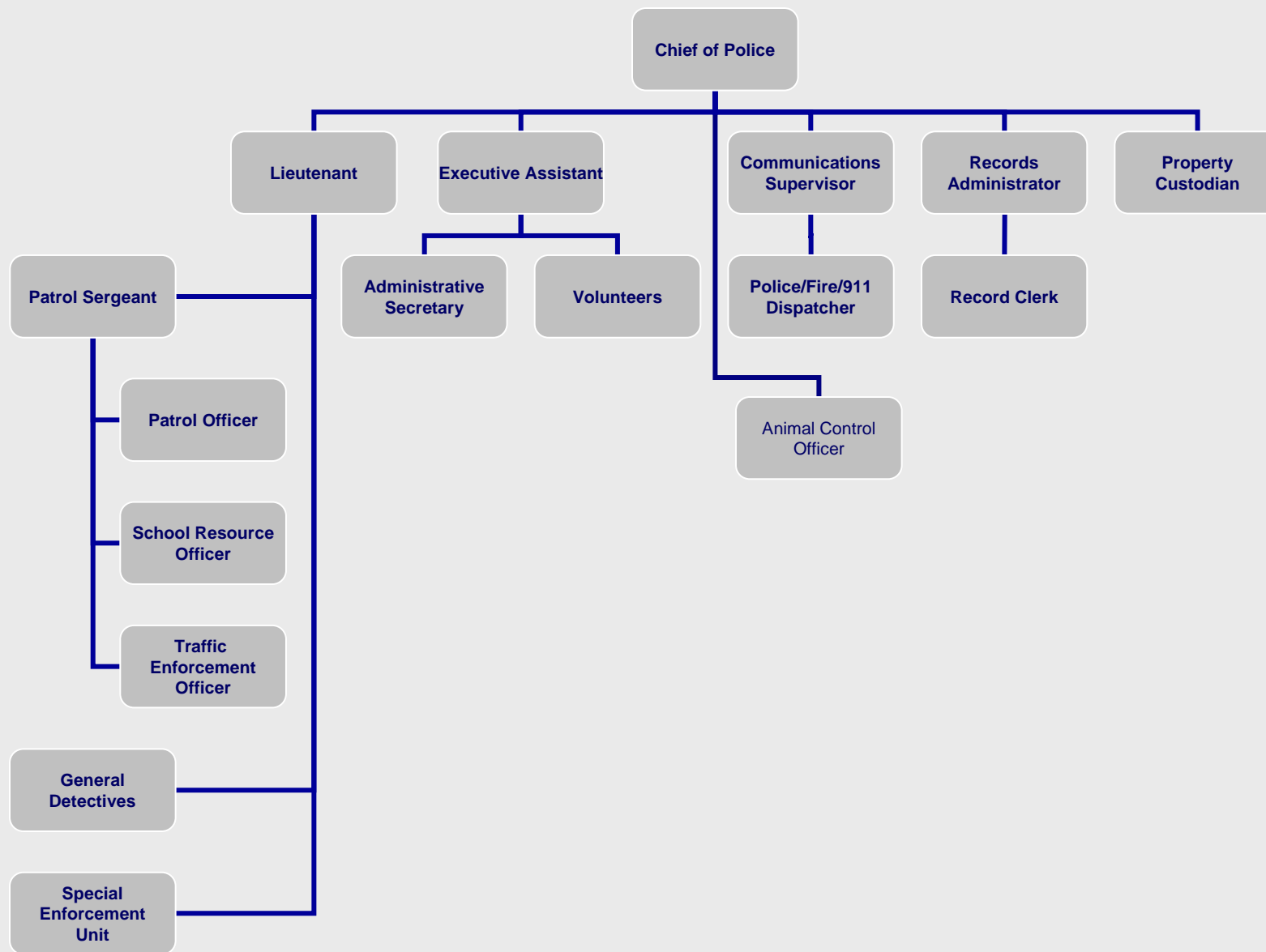


*Sergeant Joni Varga*





# Organizational Chart



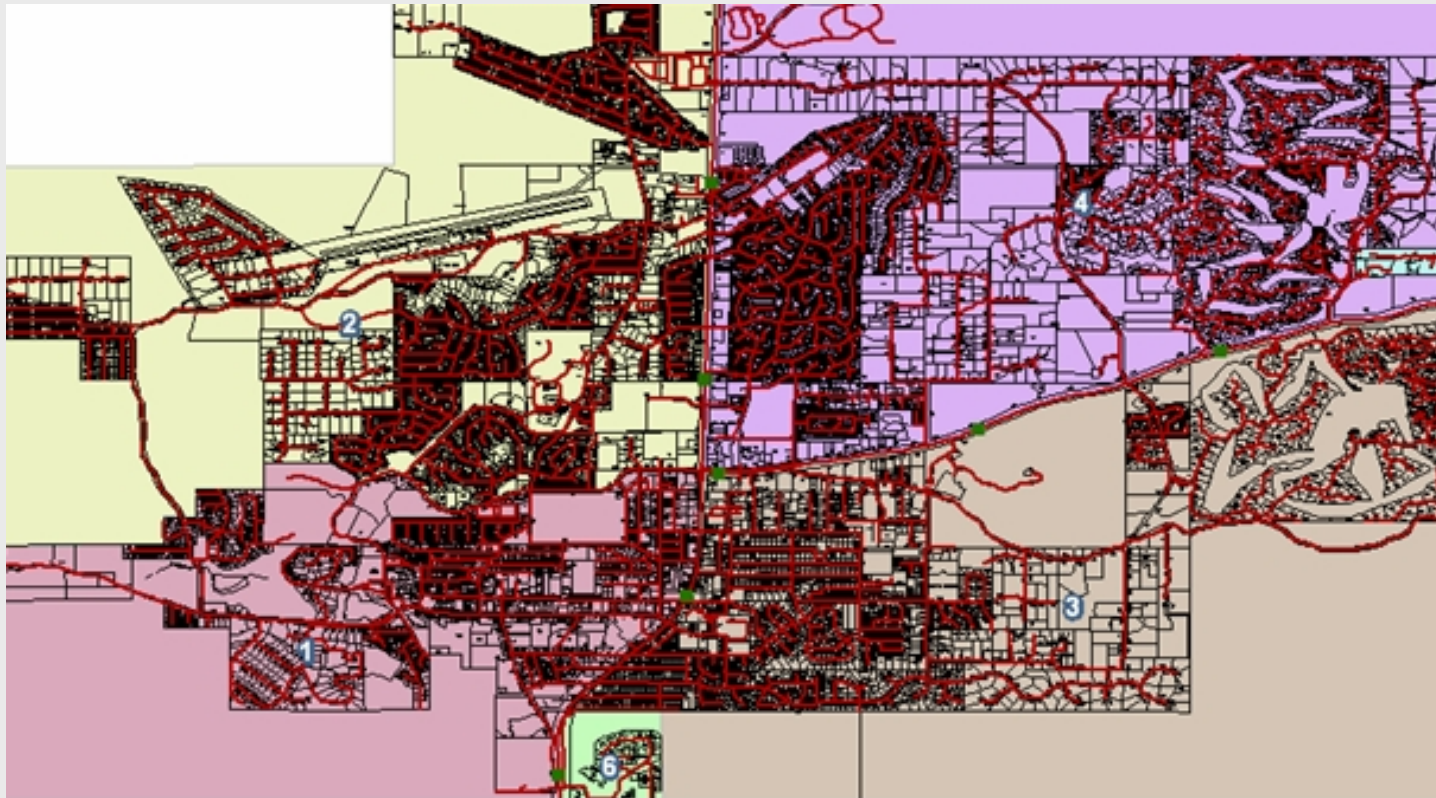




# Jurisdiction & Population

Town of Payson  
(25 Square Miles)  
Population 15,301 (2010 census)

Milepost 254.7



Milepost  
254.8

Milepost 250.8



# Crime by Area

# TOWN OF PAYSON

## INDEX CRIMES

# Murder

## Rape

# Arson

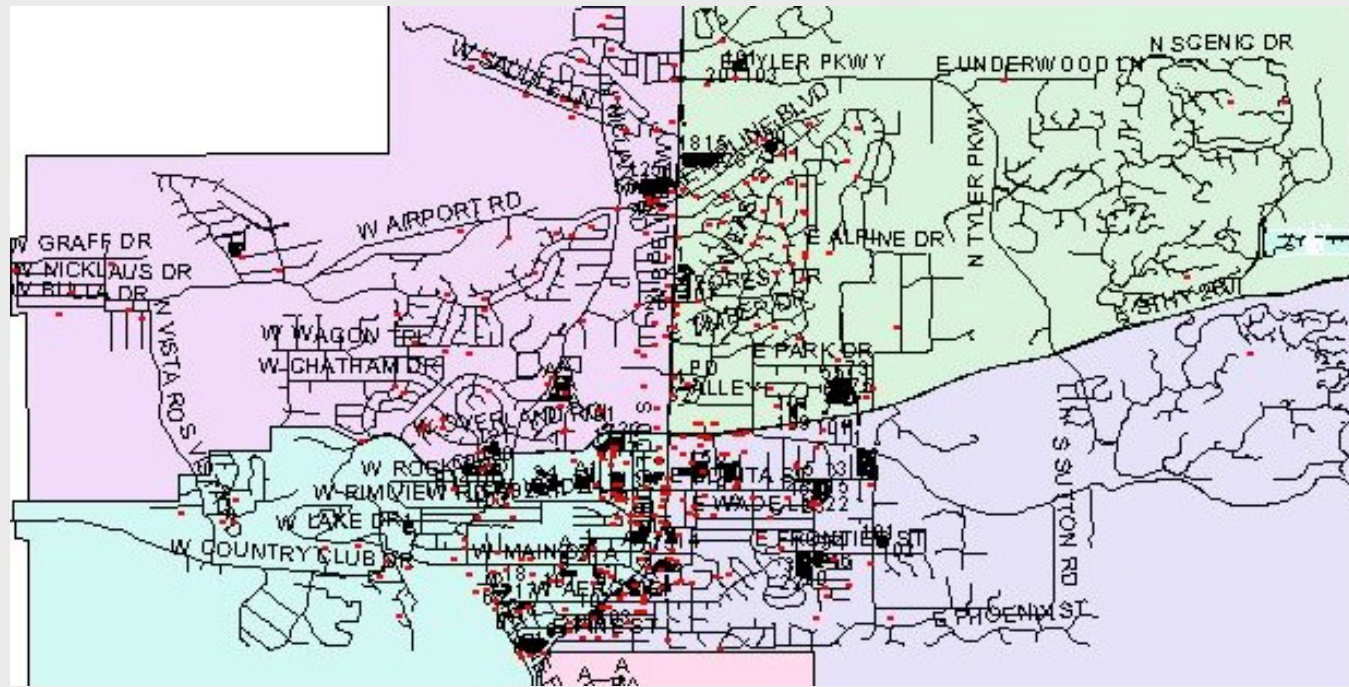
## Theft

## Burglary

# Robbery

## Agg. Assault

## Assault



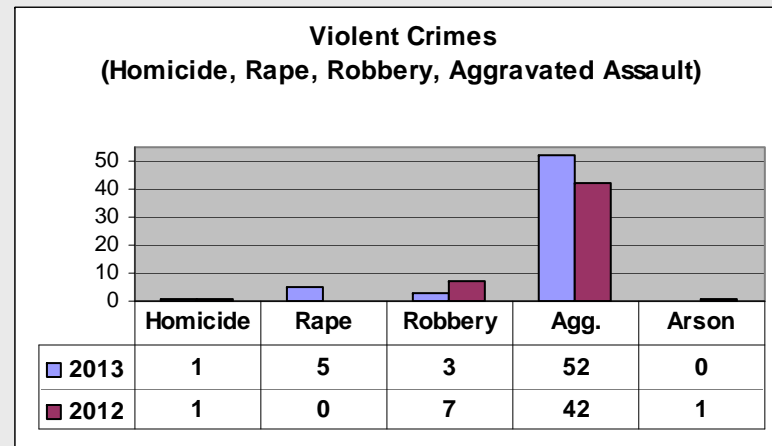
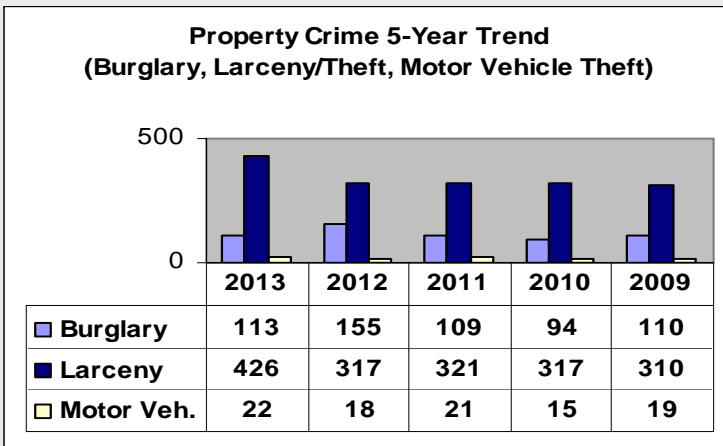




# Uniform Crime Report (UCR)

CRIME	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009
Homicide	1	1	0	0	0
Rape	5	0	3	3	2
Robbery	3	7	5	4	1
Arson	0	1	0	1	0
Aggravated Assault	52	42	47	117	123
Assault	113	134	149	129	85
Motor Vehicle Theft	22	18	21	15	19
Burglary	113	154	109	94	110
Larceny	426	317	321	317	310
Yearly Totals	<b>735</b>	<b>674</b>	<b>655</b>	<b>680</b>	<b>650</b>

There was a slight increase in the Uniform Crime Reporting activity from 674 in 2012 for UCR reported crimes to 735 in 2013. The Index Crime Rate figure for 2013 is 48.0 per 1000 population.



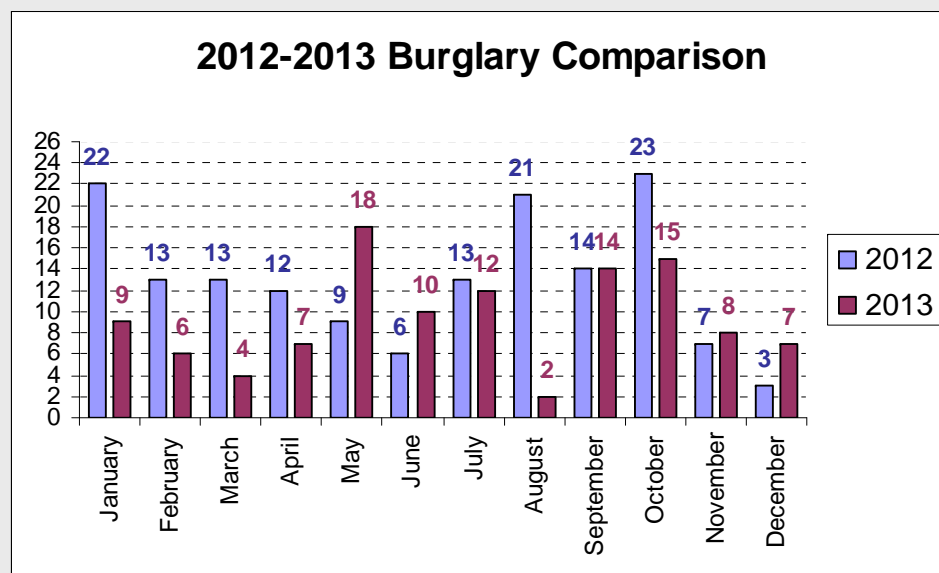


# Investigations

The primary function of the Investigative Division is to conduct follow-up investigations of reported crimes (i.e. murder, robbery, burglary, fraud, auto-theft, etc.) These investigations consist of interviewing suspects, victims, and witnesses; analyzing information for validity, reliability, and accuracy; and compiling a comprehensive and factual case to present to the prosecutor, who is responsible for presenting the case in court. Detectives assigned to the Investigative Divisions are also responsible for processing crime scenes in search of evidence that could be used to successfully prosecute offenders.

During 2013, the Investigations and Narcotics Units saw a change in its structure. Because of the increase in narcotic crimes, one general detective was assigned to assist the narcotics investigator. While placing a strain on the remaining general detectives, it was necessary to address the growing use and sales of Heroin.

During 2013, the General Investigations Unit conducted 138 criminal investigations,, resulting in 52 arrests, including one homicide. The General Investigation Unit was also challenged with burglaries during 2013, but did see a reduction in burglaries from 2012.





# Special Enforcement

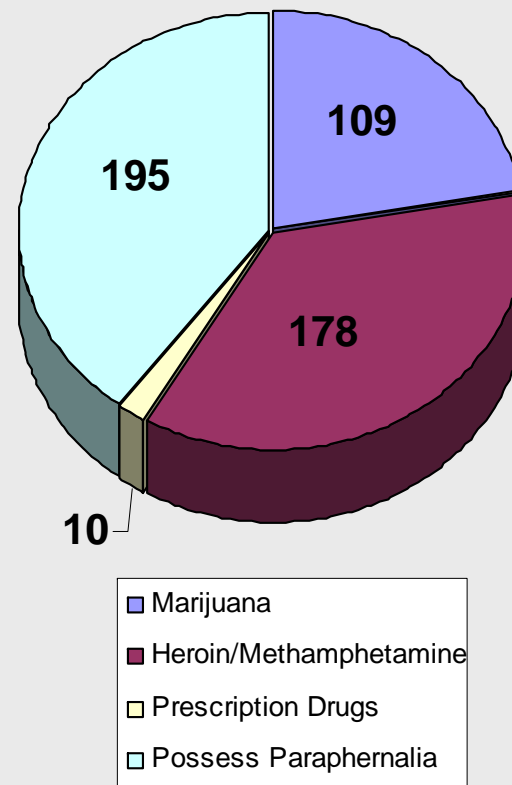
The primary function of the Narcotics Division is to investigate drug crimes. The Narcotics Division works with County, State and Federal taskforces to identify and arrest individuals who are involved in the manufacturing, sale and use of illicit narcotics.

The Narcotics Division continues to see a troubling increase in the use and sale of illegal narcotics. While Methamphetamine continues to be prevalent within the community, Heroin use continues to rise along with the increase in overdoses, some that have resulted in death. There would have been additional deaths had it not been for medical intervention.

The Narcotics Division investigated 88 drug related crimes and made 39 arrests during 2013.

In addition to the arrests the Special Enforcement Division conducted, the Patrol Division also arrested 278 individuals for drug related crimes.

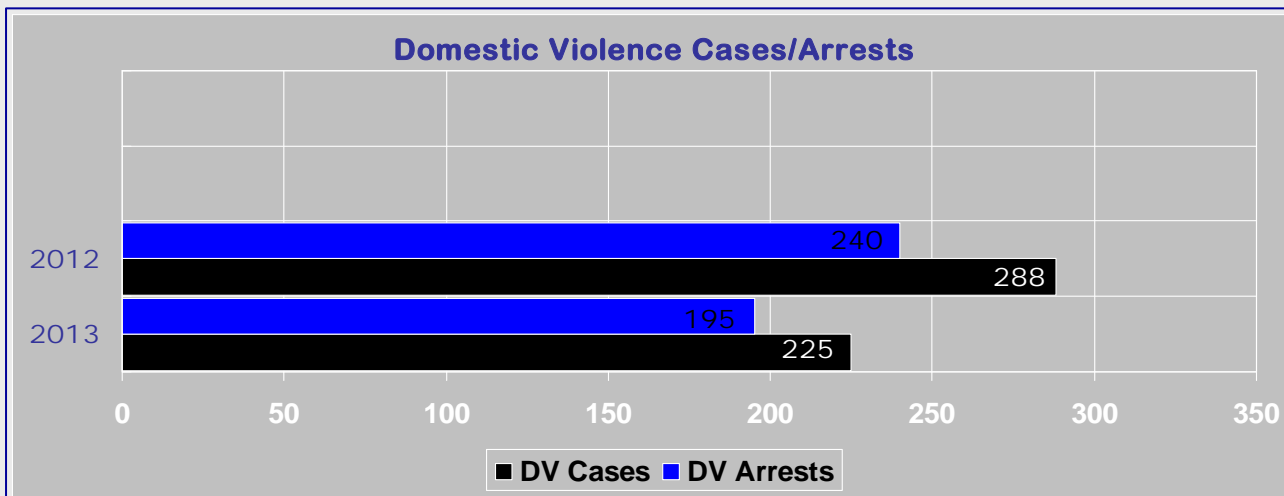
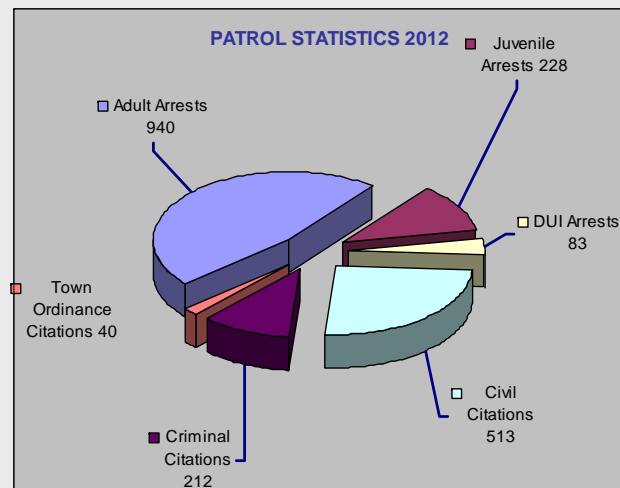
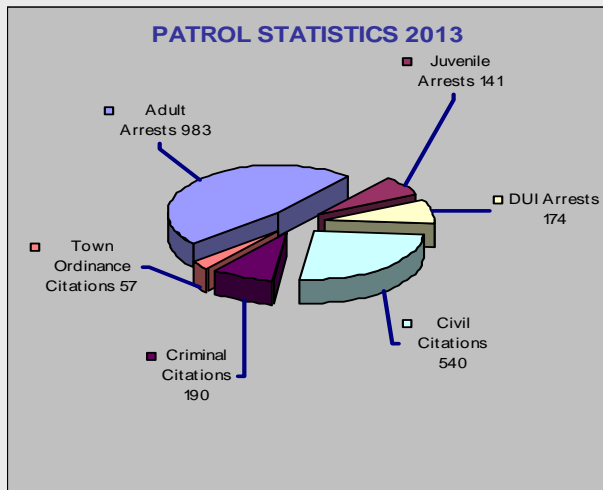
*(Note: some arrests include more than one charge)*







# Patrol Statistics





# Patrol



## February

In February, 2013, 15 cases of graffiti were solved with 1 suspect arrested by the Patrol Division.

## March

Approximately 135 credit card thefts were investigated by the Patrol Division in March, 2013.

## July

In July, 2013, Walgreen's suffered an armed robbery where the suspect actually went over the pharmacy counter.

## September

In September, 2013, the Patrol Division assisted DPS in a high speed pursuit of an armed gunman that had shot a DPS officer.

## June

The Town of Payson mandated that local stores could no longer sell synthetic drugs.

The Payson Police Department Patrol Division is committed to improving public safety and the quality of life for residents in our community.

In 2013, the Payson Police Department Patrol Division operated with 4 patrol sergeants and 16 patrol officers.

There were 5 new officers that completed their field training and are now solo officers serving the community and doing a great job.

As in years past, patrol remained busy with traffic, DUI and proactive enforcement.

Below are some of the more notable cases that were handled by the patrol division.



# New Officers of 2013



*Officer  
Paul Snyder*



*Officer  
Nicholas Bogatko*



*Officer  
Fernando Torres*



*Officer  
Garth Linkey*



*Officer  
Nathaniel Mullins*







# School Resource Officer

In 2013 the School Resource Officer position went through a transition, with Officer Mike Hansen leaving the program after serving for 2 years to return to regular patrol duties. Officer Rory Vaughn stepped into the role for the 2013-2014 school year and has adjusted to the duties well. The program currently covers three schools; Rim Country Middle School, Julia Randall Elementary, and Payson Elementary. At the close of this school year, there will be another open bid process for SROs in the state, and it will be our goal to regain the grant to provide a SRO position for the Payson High School. The program is geared to providing on-site law enforcement, but the main goal is to introduce Law Related Education to the students, taught by the SRO.

Officer Rory Vaughn is assigned as an on-site School Resource Officer, working hand in hand with the Payson Unified School District to instill a sense of safety for students and faculty members to create a safe place to work and study.

SRO Vaughn enforces laws and investigates reported crimes on campus, and also serves as an advisor and instructor. He consults with students, parents, faculty, and community citizens with issues that affect the educational process of each person involved.

SRO Vaughn works to establish a rapport with the youth he encounters every day and is available for special school events such as sports, special programs, and various other special events.



*School Resource Officer  
Rory Vaughn*



# Traffic Enforcement Officer



*Traffic Enforcement Officer  
Matt Zimmerman*

In 2013, the Payson Police Department received a grant from the Governor's Office of Highway Safety to purchase a fully equipped vehicle for the primary use of DUI and traffic enforcement, as well as accidents occurring within the town limits of Payson.

Officer Matt Zimmerman was the first officer to be assigned to this vehicle. Since the beginning of his assignment as Traffic Enforcement Officer in December until the end of 2013, he conducted 142 traffic stops, resulting in 31 civil citations and 6 criminal citations, 3 of which were DUI's.

*(Vehicle shown on front cover)*



# Special Response Team

The Payson Police Department's Special Response Team (SRT) mission is to enhance officer safety through the use of teamwork, specialized equipment and training. The SRT members, which are selected by the chief of police, must possess skills and attributes that fit the missions of the team, and of the department. The following are the selected members of the SRT:

**Donald Garvin** Team Leader - 19 years of service

## Specialists

<b>Matt VanCamp</b>	<b>Operator &amp; Equipment Specialist 15 years of service</b>
<b>Jason Hazelo</b>	<b>6 years of service to the team – Operator &amp; Entry</b>
<b>Chad Deschaaf</b>	<b>8 years of service- Operator &amp; Breacher</b>
<b>Lorenzo Ortiz</b>	<b>5 years of service- Operator</b>
<b>Justin Deaton</b>	<b>2 years of service- Operator</b>
<b>Matt Zimmerman</b>	<b>2 years of service- Operator</b>

Each member of the SRT has a primary role at the police department. Primary responsibilities include patrol officer, sergeant, or detective, and becoming a member is in addition to their primary responsibilities.

SRT completes monthly training specializing in the area of less-lethal munitions, advanced building search tactics, specialized weapons and equipment training, and team approaches to resolving high-risk incidents.

SRT members have take-home vehicles to aid in the rapid response to in-progress emergencies.

SRT works closely with the Payson Police Department's negotiation unit, K-9 unit and the Special Enforcement Officer Division (SEO.) This year, a majority of the SRT calls dealt with assisting the Special Enforcement Officer Division and the Gila County Narcotics Task Force with drug related search warrants.



*Sgt. Donald Garvin*

*Team Leader*

*19 Years of Service*





# K-9

With the close of 2013 came the end of the career of K9 Dex. He completed his six years of service and will be replaced in the coming year. K-9 Officer Jesse Davies opted to stay on as the department's handler and will be training the new service dog in the upcoming months. Dex had a good career, starting with Handler John Huss, who left the department and turned Dex over to Officer Davies. Davies and Dex ran into a few issues during their time together as Dex was injured and missed several months and then the department's K-9 vehicle had to be replaced which took the team off the streets for several more months. With all of these issues behind us, the department hopes the new team will be very active in the goal of attacking the growing illegal drug issues in the area.

Officer Davies remains committed to the program and along with K-9 will be joining the Special Response Team, which is another area the K-9 Unit can be used. The upcoming year promises to be a busy and productive year for the K-9 Unit.



*K-9 Handler*

*Officer Jesse Davies*



*Payson PD*

*K-9 Dex*



# Communications

The Communications Center is staffed 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Staff answered 56,891 incoming phone calls, including 8,407 9-1-1 calls and 48,484 non-emergency and informational phone calls. The Center dispatches for the Payson Police and Fire Departments, as well as the Hellsgate, Houston Mesa, Christopher-Kohl's, Beaver Valley, and Whispering Pines fire departments. They also dispatch for other town departments after hours, on weekends, and on holidays. During 2013, the Center handled 20,799 calls for service, 769 more calls than in 2012.

As was the case in 2012, the Center continued to function with 5 vacancies. Three dispatch Trainees were hired as well as two dispatchers with previous experience at other agencies. One dispatcher with previous experience left shortly after completing her training period, and another trainee resigned her position shortly after being hired, leaving 2 vacancies still unfilled. We also lost Communications Supervisor Irma Bramlet, retiring in June. Promoted to fill her vacancy was Dispatch Shift Leader/Training Supervisor Alison Murphy. At the end of the year, the Center's staff included the Communications Supervisor, 4 dispatchers, and 3 trainees.



*Communications Supervisor  
Alison Murphy*



# Records



*Records Clerk Celena Ortiz \* Records Administrator Kathy Klein \* Records Clerk Beth Lacey*

The Payson Police Department Records Division plays a very important role in the area of law enforcement. Prompt and accurate processing and dissemination of the police reports and associated paperwork is an integral part of the judicial process.

The Records Division is staffed with two Record Clerks, Beth Lacey and Celena Ortiz, and a Records Administrator, Kathy Klein. They provide assistance to the officers, those working within our judicial system, and to the general public. In 2013, Beth and Celena also provided part time assistance with some administrative duties by covering the vacant Administrative Secretary desk, also providing coverage in Dispatch as needed. The Records staff is also thankful for the assistance provided by a few dedicated volunteers who assist with filing and various other duties in this area.

In 2013, the Payson Police Department received 20,799 calls for service. Many of these calls require the completion of a police report and, in 2013, the Records Division transcribed and processed approximately 906 reports per month. The Records Division handles many additional duties to include responding to requests for police reports and individual background checks.





# Volunteers In Policing



The Payson Police Department Volunteers in Policing Program had an exciting year in 2013. Executive Assistant Kim Becker became the Volunteer Coordinator and brought in 10 new volunteers, bringing the roster to 49 active volunteers. Also, the first Volunteer Academy began in early November with 10 students. These students will graduate from the academy in early 2014 as fully certified volunteers.

The volunteers assist patrol officers with traffic control, funeral escorts, crime scene security, and many more duties, freeing up the officers' time.

Volunteers also help in Administration, Reception, Property, and the Records Department. They are a key element in the day to day function of the police department. In 2013, volunteers contributed 9,089 hours to the Town of Payson! The police department has programs that are solely run by volunteers, like the Guardian Angel Program and the PATH Program. These programs, which are free to the community, would not exist without the hard work and dedication of volunteers!



# Alarms

The Payson Police Department responded to 255 alarms in 2013. 179 were commercial alarms and 76 were residential. 254 of these alarms were false alarms. 1 call was a criminal damage case.

As of the end of 2013, the Payson Police Department has had a total of 641 Residential alarm systems registered with the department and a total of 1472 Commercial alarm systems registered with the department.





# D.A.R.E.

DARE is a program that is taught at the Julia Randall Elementary School to the 5th grade classes. The program teaches children to make wise decisions and the dangers of drug abuse.

The Payson Police Department has been teaching the DARE program for 23 years and currently has two officers teaching the program. The program was re-structured and a new curriculum was applied last year, making it more interactive for the children. Both officers attended a training to keep them current with the new changes. The officers teach each semester to the children on the school campus.

In 2013, 186 students graduated the DARE program and were recognized for their hard work during the 10-week course. The students were honored by having a graduation and pizza party for their tremendous work and efforts. Family and friends attended the graduation to honor their children and to give positive reinforcement for what their children learned throughout the course.



*D.A.R.E. Officer  
Matt Zimmerman*



# Public Relations

The relationship between the Payson Police Department and the community is critical. Members of the police department participate in several community policing programs to facilitate proactive approaches to address crime and/or safety related issues in the community. Here is a list of some of the Community Policing Programs the Payson Police Department hosts:

Drug Awareness

National Night Out (NNO)

Bicycle Safety

Torch Run for Special Olympics

Drive Hammered Get Nailed Campaign

Block Watch

Vehicle VIN Etching

Watch Your Vehicle Program

Click it or Ticket Campaign

Additionally, the police department has a partnership with educational facilities in the community. Officers speak to students ranging from kindergarten to high-school level on a variety of educational topics. Many Community Policing presentations are formatted with civic organizations such as, The Boy Scouts of America, Optimist Club, Kiwanis Club and neighborhood associations.

Anyone interested in a Community Policing Program or a Public Relations detail can simply call the police department at (928) 474-5177 to schedule a program.





# 2013 Awards & Recognition



Sgt. Les Barr received the award for  
Officer of the Year 2013

Kim Becker received the award for  
Support Services Employee of the Year  
2013





# Resources

Emergency.....	9-1-1
Non-Emergency.....	928-474-5177
Administration.....	928-474-5242 X220
Fax.....	928-474-4558
Web.....	<a href="http://www.paysonpolice.com">www.paysonpolice.com</a>
Chief Donald Engler.....	<a href="mailto:dengler@paysonaz.gov">dengler@paysonaz.gov</a>
Investigations - Lt. Sherwood Eldredge.....	<a href="mailto:seldredge@paysonaz.gov">seldredge@paysonaz.gov</a>
Volunteers in Policing – Kim Becker.....	<a href="mailto:kbecker@paysonaz.gov">kbecker@paysonaz.gov</a>
Records - Kathy Klein.....	<a href="mailto:kklein@paysonaz.gov">kklein@paysonaz.gov</a>
Facility Tours - Chief Engler.....	<a href="mailto:dengler@paysonaz.gov">dengler@paysonaz.gov</a>
Watch Your Car - Joni Varga.....	<a href="mailto:jvarga@paysonaz.gov">jvarga@paysonaz.gov</a>
Vehicle Impounds – Kim Becker.....	<a href="mailto:kbecker@paysonaz.gov">kbecker@paysonaz.gov</a>
D.A.R.E. Jason Hazelo.....	<a href="mailto:jhazelo@paysonaz.gov">jhazelo@paysonaz.gov</a>
Silent Witness.....	928-HOT-TIPS (468-8477)

