

WILMINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

This year has been a busy year for the Wilmington Police Department. We have been short two officers for most of this year. This means officers have had to carry an increased call volume.

Calls for service for the year were 17,492. This year we have had several meth labs to deal with, and we have conducted a record number of search warrants. We have executed search warrants at residences and at local hotels in our efforts to combat drug trafficking. We have had some notable cases this year. In June we kicked off a 72-person drug round-up that concluded WPD's first wire case. We then did two other drug round-ups where we exceeded over 100 people arrested for drug trafficking this year. We had a stabbing incident that was clear by arrest. We saw the hazing incident at Wilmington College draw to a close as over a dozen students were charged with hazing. Most have been found guilty by this point. A few other notable cases include theft of a trooper's gun belt with the suspect discharging several rounds inside the city, as well as a breaking and entering at D & D gun shop where we recovered five of the seven guns stolen.

In 2014, Det. Scott Baker was the recipient of the Officer of the Year Award. He continues to work hard for our department and the community. Ptl. James Smithson was recognized as our Crime Fighter of the Year for his endless pursuit of criminals. My thanks to Det. Scott Baker and Ptl. James Smithson for a job well done. I would also like to recognize Ptl. James Smithson for perfect attendance.

We've been very busy in the community this year. We held Safety Days at the Banana Split Festival, Senior Center, Walmart, and at Quaker Apartments. We also conducted one Medication Disposal Day where over 100 pounds of pills were collected from local residents. Our medication disposal box that is located in our lobby has collected a little over 100 pounds of pills left for destruction. This year we purchased a speed sign and have moved it to various places around the city in an effort to curb speeding complaints.



We have also been busy with training and in-service. This year we have logged 2276 hours of training. We also did in-service for driving, mace, Taser, unarmed self-defense, and legal update. Sgt. Fithen and Sgt. Cravens taught A.L.I.C.E. (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, and Evacuate) to school staff and children. My thanks to them for completing this daunting task.

This year Wilmington Police Department saw some turnover. We had two officers leave. One of them, Brian Kratzer was a detective and a 23 year veteran of the force.



Brian Kratzer Retirement



Ptl. Anthony Mitchell Swearing-In

We are celebrating some new faces. We swore in Ptl. Anthony Mitchell and Ptl. Whitney McManus in February. We created a recruitment committee and tested for officers in early December. We had 37 candidates show up, which is a record number over the last three previous tests. We are looking to hire two new officers in 2015 to fill current vacancies.



Ptl. Whitney McManus Swearing-In



Neil Rager Promoted to Sergeant

In September, long-time patrol officer, Neil Rager, was promoted to patrol sergeant. Bob Wilson was assigned to our detective unit in 2014 and hit the ground running.

Wilmington Police Department also implemented a School Resource Officer (SRO) program. Ptl. Black was selected as our SRO and is mainly assigned to the high school and middle school, but makes appearances at a different elementary each week.



School Resource Officer (SRO) Program

This year WPD exceeded 1500 arrests. We had 1300 physical arrests and filed another 200-plus charges that were served as summons. This is great work by a great group of officers and detectives. I can't say enough about them and how proud I am to serve with the 20 men and women who call Wilmington Police Department home.

WILMINGTON COMMUNICATIONS

This year has been very busy for our Communications Center. In 2014, we dispatched 17,492 calls for police service, 3,086 calls for Wilmington EMS, 567 calls for Wilmington FD, 185 Blanchester fire runs, 105 Sabina fire runs, and 503 Sabina EMS runs. Our dispatchers handled just over 6,000 calls for 911 services.

My thanks to our excellent communication staff that worked through shortages all year long. We had Jennifer Tumbleson a long-time communications officer retire. We did hire three new communications officers. We welcomed Darcie Mayberry, Kaitlin Rager, and Martha Worstine to the department.

Hanna Smithson is being recognized as our Communications Officer of the year. She has done an excellent job for us and has been a joy to work with. Robin Cassell is being recognized for perfect attendance. This is her second year earning such distinction.



***New Communications Officers:
Darcie Mayberry, Kaitlin Rager &
Martha Worstine***

Submitted by:

Chief Duane Weyand

Wilmington Police Department