

TOWN OF VINTON
POLICE DEPARTMENT

2013 ANNUAL REPORT



Serving the Citizens of Vinton and surrounding areas

www.vintonpolice.com



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2013

Foreword from the Chief



***Benjamin L. Cook
Chief of Police***

The Vinton Police Department's annual report for 2013 contains an overview of department activities, operations, and accomplishments of the department throughout the year. Our focus is to provide quality police services and community interaction with the goal of creating a safe place in which our citizens can live, work, and travel. Our officers are committed to ensuring that those we serve are provided safety, security, and outstanding customer service. Our officers respond to calls for police services, as well as fire and medical incidents, and with a focus on the protection of life, we have been able to help those in need no matter what type of situation they find themselves in.

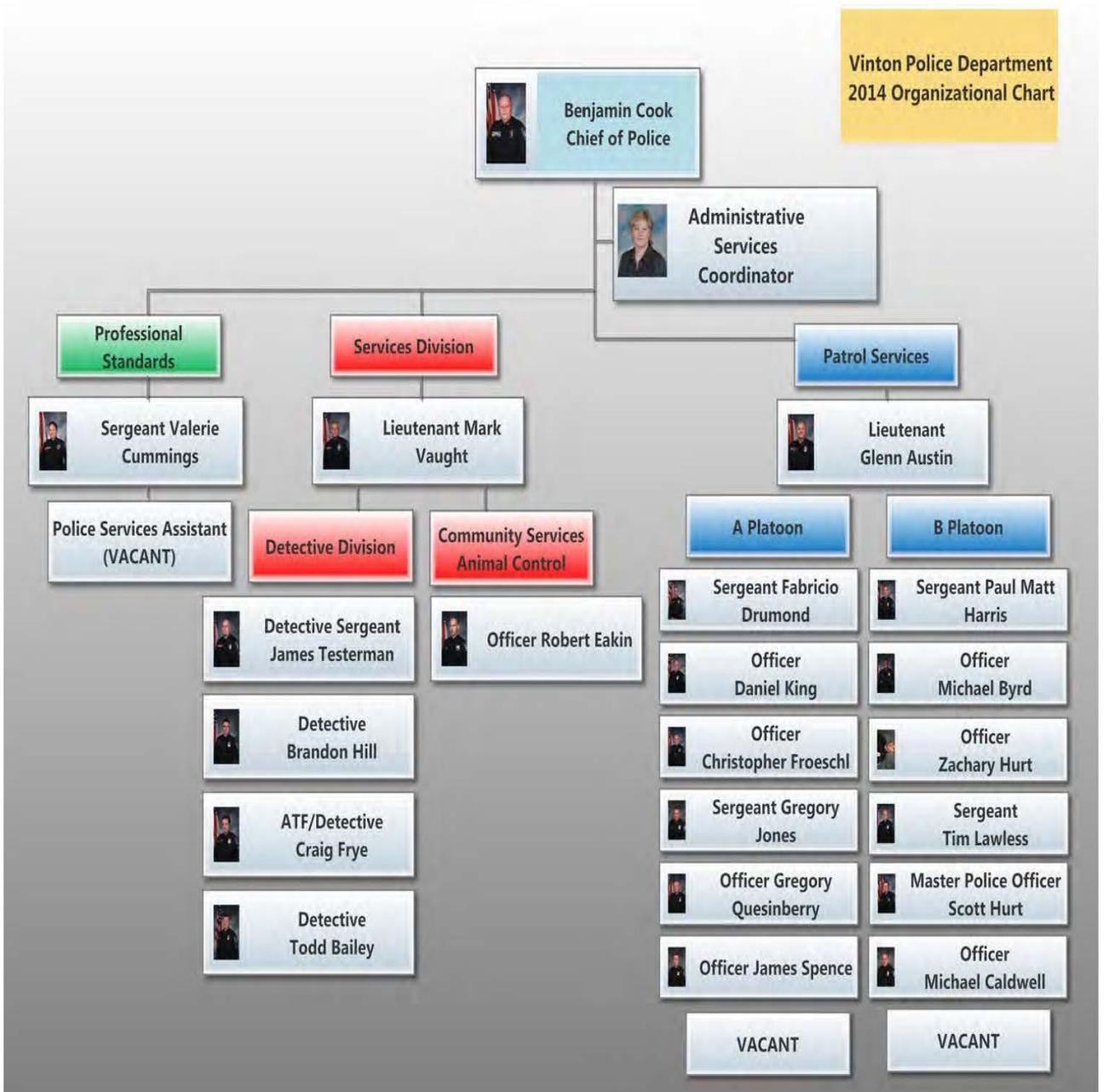
We continue to maintain a close relationship with the residents and businesses in our community through initiatives such as Citizen Police Academies, Neighborhood Watch groups, the

Business Blitz program, citizen surveys, school liaisons, senior citizen groups, and others. We also keep the department up to date with improvements in equipment, training, education, and technology.

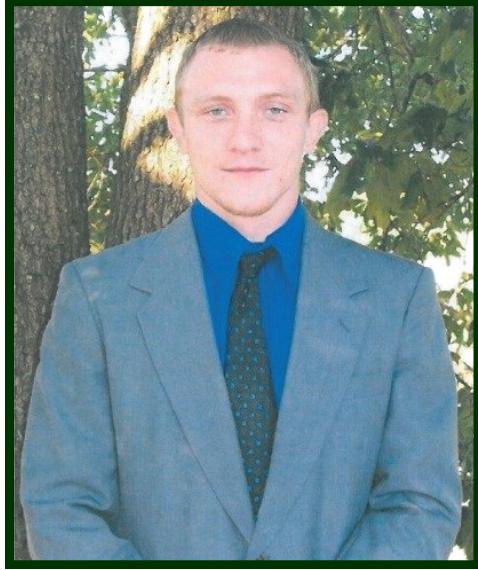
Through our partnerships with other local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies, we have been able to create a cooperative and effective system of interaction and information sharing that has been proven successful in the investigation of crime and the prosecution of those who commit criminal offenses.

The Vinton Police Department is a dedicated and professional group of officers and staff who will continue to work diligently to provide good customer service and ensure the best quality of life possible for those we serve.

2014 ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



Missing Person's Case



**Christopher Ray Douthat
24 Years Old 5'9" 200 lbs. Blue Eyes Blonde Hair
Tribal tattoo on right bicep**

Douthat was last seen on October 25, 2013 cashing his payroll check at the Kroger in Vinton at approximately 1530 hrs. He has now been missing for over 60 days now and has not made contact with any family or friends during this time. Douthat's disappearance is extremely suspicious and could be considered criminal in nature. The Vinton Police Department is requesting any information pertaining to his welfare or whereabouts. Please call 540-983-0617 x169 or our anonymous tip line at 540-345-9508 if you have any information.



2013

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Citizen Online Police Reporting



Police Department Website
WWW.VINTONPOLICE.COM

Jimmy Testerman
Detective Sergeant



In October of 2012, the Town of Vinton Police Department developed a new website, which expands upon features of the department's previous website and is maintained as a community oriented policing tool. The biggest improvements include a more professional appearance and the ability to control all aspects of the sites development. The online reporting feature still enables the citizens of Vinton to effectively communicate with our department anytime of the day or night within the comfort of their homes or businesses. Not only is the site beneficial to the citizens by allowing them to voice their concerns through online reporting, but it offers a two-way communication platform from which the department can pass along critical information pertaining to the safety and welfare of its citizens.

Online reporting has proven beneficial because it saves officers time and department money when responding to certain types of calls and/or concerns that are submitted through the website. It has proven to be an effective way to address public safety needs, while efficiently increasing the communication process between our police department and the citizens we serve. We encourage the public to visit the new site and take advantage of what it has to offer. Citizens can access information pertaining to state and town laws, monthly/yearly department reports, animal control issues, court information, accident reports, crime statistics, citizen police academy information, employment, and much more. Citizens can also submit information pertaining to crime/traffic complaints, anonymous tips, officer complaints, and vacation/business watches.



2013

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Citizens Police Academy

The 2013 Basic Citizen Police Academy, 8th Session, graduated on November 6, 2013. This event was held at the Vinton War Memorial.
Congratulations to all the Graduates !



Dawn Vineyard
Gary Woodson
Jacob DeLong
Joy Lester
Doug Adams
Cindy Daley
Christine Kelly





2013

SPECIAL THANKS

Sergeant Greg Jones and Officer Zachary Hurt were on Military Leave for a year serving in the United States Army. We thank you for your service, and welcome back !!





2013

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SPECIAL EVENTS



The Drug Take Back program was held on Saturday April 27th and September 29th.



This event was held at several locations in Roanoke, Vinton, and Salem. Medication was safely collected and then destroyed by local law enforcement and DEA Agents.

The event collected 177.4 pounds of various drugs from the Kroger location in Vinton. A total of 22,352.82 pounds was collected nationwide.

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month, a time to recognize that we each can play a part in promoting the social and emotional well-being of children and families in communities.



The Vinton Police Department partnered with the General Federation of Women's clubs, The Vinton Women's Club, to recognize **National Child Abuse Prevention Month**. On 04-2-2013 the Women's Club signified the event by planting pinwheels in front of the Municipal Building. This event was recognized by Town Council in the April 2nd meeting.



2013

SPECIAL EVENTS



The Vinton Police Department participated in the Click It or Ticket campaign during the month of May.

Special enforcement efforts were focused on occupant safety and zero tolerance was given to violators who were not wearing their seat belt. A survey to calculate seat belt usage was completed

before and after the campaign to see if there was an improvement in seat belt usage because of the program. We are happy to report that seat belt use did increase after the campaign, from a 91% use before to 94% after.

National Night Out



was held on Tuesday, August 6, 2013, at 7:00 pm at the Vinton Farmers Market.



This is a night

when all of the neighborhood watch groups get together and celebrate the hard work they have done through the year and show support for the night out against crime initiative.

There were about 125 people in attendance including the Mayor and Council Members

A Huge Thanks to the Homestead Creamery for the delicious ice cream!



2013

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SPECIAL EVENTS

Health & Wellness Benefits Fair

Thanks to the Town of Vinton for holding their Annual Health & Wellness Benefits event at the Vinton War Memorial on April 18th. It was very educational and a good way to take care of all your benefit needs at one time and place.



Town Christmas Luncheon

The Town Luncheon was held at the Vinton War Memorial on December 19th. Sergeant Greg Jones was recognized for his 15 years of service and Sergeant Paul Harris, MPO Scott Hurt and JoAnna Heaps were recognized for their 5 years of service to the Town of Vinton Police Department





2013

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SPECIAL EVENTS

The 2013 Roanoke Valley Law Enforcement Memorial service was held on May 15, 2013 at Campbell Memorial Presbyterian Church in Vinton. There were many people in attendance, including family members and friends of police officers who gave the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty. The church provided a perfect venue for the service and thanks go out to all who helped put the service together and supported the department in creating a fitting memorial to our fallen officers.





Business Blitz

In 2001, the Vinton Police Department began a program in which officers were assigned certain businesses within the Town and would be the contact officer for that business. One purpose of the program was to have the officer obtain contact information about the business, which includes the address, type of business and emergency contact information in case someone from the business had to be called after normal working hours to be notified of a problem.

A continued goal of the program is to give the business owner a specific officer that they are familiar with so that the business owner can contact with questions or concerns. Typical concerns that are addressed involve parking issues, problems with customers and other situations. This also allows the officer to be familiar with the businesses and the layout of the property in case of certain emergencies. Emergency situations are handled by on-duty personnel, but the officer assigned to the business would frequently be called by the business owner and notified of the incident.

Patrol Officers are each assigned 10 to 20 Businesses organized by geographic location. These Officers are responsible for maintaining contact with each assigned business every 4 months to ensure that all contact information is up to date. Having up to date contact information is essential for after hours emergencies such as burglar and fire alarms. The Town of Vinton has approximately 203 active businesses, including 12 financial institutions. We have had great feedback from business owners and employees in regard to this program and we will continue this business-community policing effort.





Training

The Patrol Division participated in numerous training events throughout the year that will ultimately increase their skill sets and provide a better quality of law enforcement services to the public. All officers completed their annual training in CPR/AED training, TASER recertification, RADAR/LIDAR certification, legal updates, blood borne pathogens, and cultural diversity. Continuing education training for members of Patrol include a defensive tactics refresher (provided in house), Driver Instructor Training, LIDAR Instructor, Evidence Technician, Level B VCIN, Active Shooter Response, First Line Supervisors School, NHTSA Standardized Field Sobriety Test class, Inter-Agency Gang training Consortium, Gang prosecution and human trafficking, Gang Investigations and Gang Task Force Round-table, Sovereign Citizens, Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs Investigation, EC/R II Breath Test Operator School, Active Shooter training in Roanoke City academy and Colt M-16/AR-15 Armorer School. Three of our newest Officers completed Basic Law Enforcement training at Cardinal Criminal Justice Academy, and our newest K-9 officer completed Police Canine training with his partner Jax.

The department conducted two firearms qualifications this year, which demonstrates officer proficiency in the use of their duty weapons. This training incorporates tactical and simulated exercises and is an opportunity for officers to become more comfortable and proficient with the use of their firearms. Officers respond to scenarios, such as traffic stops, building clearing, and other use of force situations that require them to use their training and knowledge to safely and effectively resolve the situation. The Department continued to assimilate Patrol Rifles into the Patrol Division. These rifles provide officers additional tools to resolve critical incident response involving weapons. All Vinton Police Personnel are now trained in and assigned Patrol Rifles.



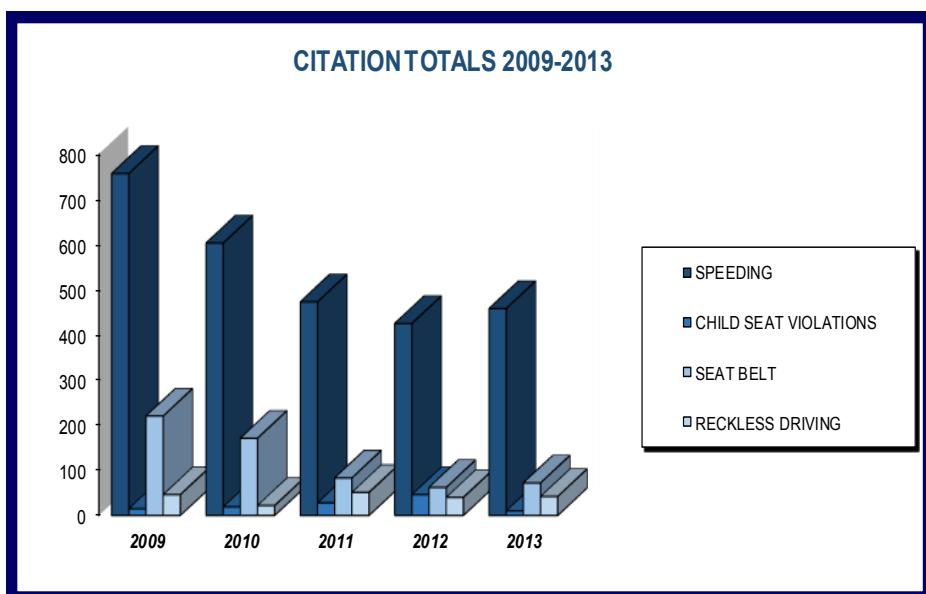


Traffic Enforcement Statistics

Most people have experienced the “oh no” feeling after seeing a police car in the rear view mirror. Most people hit their brakes, even if they were not speeding. Personal physical reactions and experiences can influence perceptions of traffic enforcement efforts, and often prevent people from realizing its true benefits.

Traffic enforcement is the most recognizable and universal police function. Marked police cars are easy to see and many drivers have been stopped for a traffic violation. Because of the punitive consequences attached to traffic enforcement, many do not have an appreciation for the positive benefits. Additionally, “myths” can result from misconceptions about the goals and motivations of traffic enforcement.

When you see a car pulled over, remember that the law enforcement officer may be doing more than writing a traffic citation. The officer may be apprehending a wanted person, or removing weapons and drugs from your community. Traffic enforcement can and does contribute to the quality of life in your community. Localities can realize the benefits of traffic enforcement and highway safety efforts; roads and neighborhoods will be safer, and police agencies will have more time to effectively police their communities. The Vinton Police Department continues to increase traffic enforcement efforts to ensure public safety.





Occupant Protection

Keeping Vinton Safe

One of the priorities of the department is to keep people safe by reducing vehicle crashes and traffic infractions. We received concerns from citizens in various neighborhoods about speed and other safety issues and a number of solutions were devised. Through the use of directed patrols and by utilizing the speed enforcement trailer, we were able to slow vehicular traffic down in a number of residential neighborhoods. Grant funding was also used to have increased high profile patrols strictly for traffic enforcement. This allows officers to saturate a neighborhood where we were having a number of complaints and create a presence making the public more aware of the problem and providing that extra step needed to gain compliance.

Where's a Cop when you need one.

It's a proven fact that a visible police presence will deter violations. However we can't be everywhere all the time. By the use of more proactive methods of enforcement, speed surveys and the speed enforcement trailer we have made steps to slow the motoring public and ensure safer communities, neighborhoods and school zones for the Citizens of Vinton.

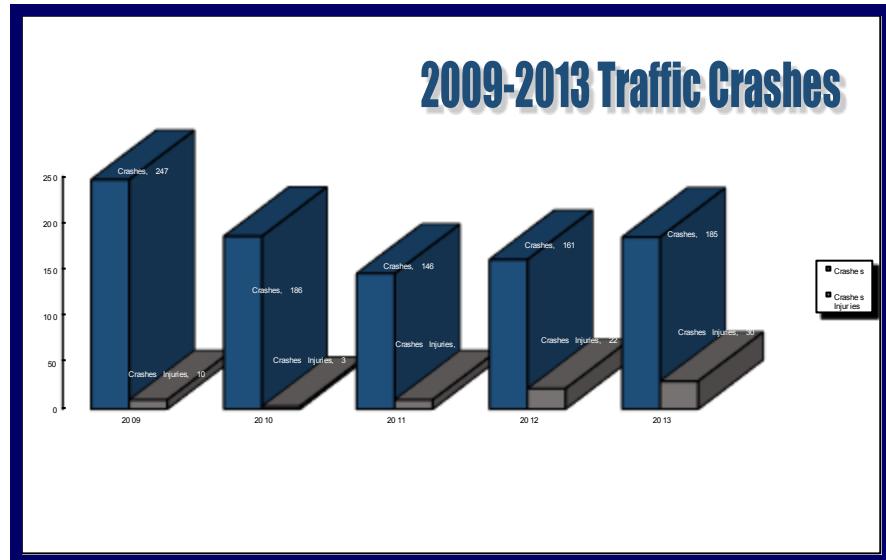
The speed trailer records vehicle speeds, conducts traffic surveys, and is another visible tool to reduce speeding.





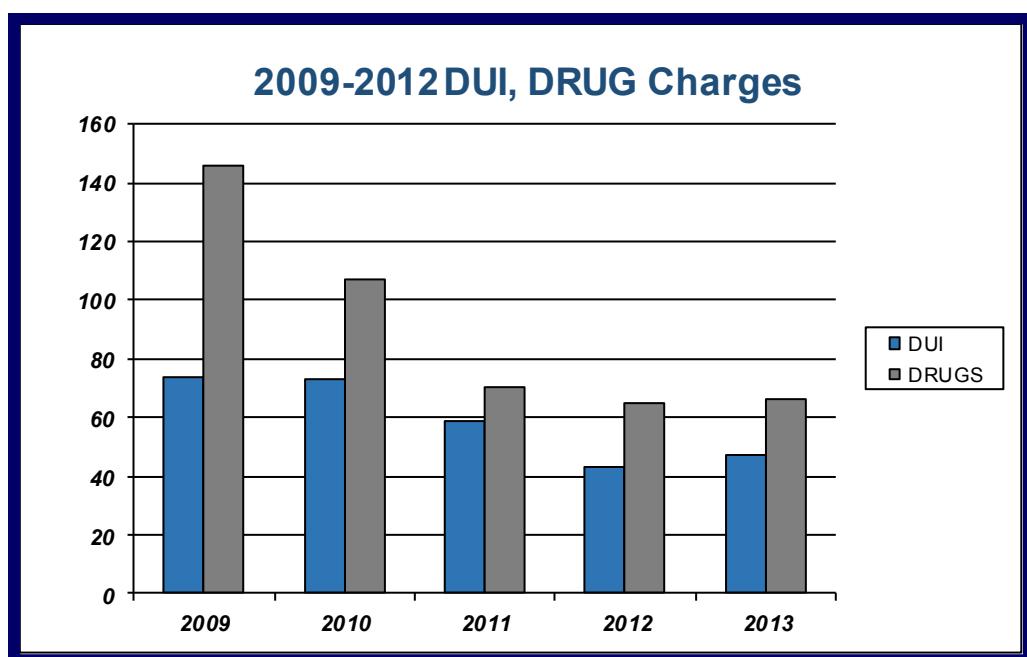
DUI & Impaired Driving

The Vinton Police Department responded to 185 reported crashes in 2013. Out of these 185 crashes there were 30 crashes with injuries. There were NO FATAL crashes in the Town of Vinton for the year 2013. The Vinton Police Department has had numerous enforcement activities during 2013.



The Police Department uses Department Of Motor Vehicle grants to conduct saturation patrols specifically targeting intoxicated drivers and speeders.

In 2013, DUI and Drug arrests decreased slightly from 2012. We contribute this to aggressive traffic enforcement and increased police visibility throughout the year.



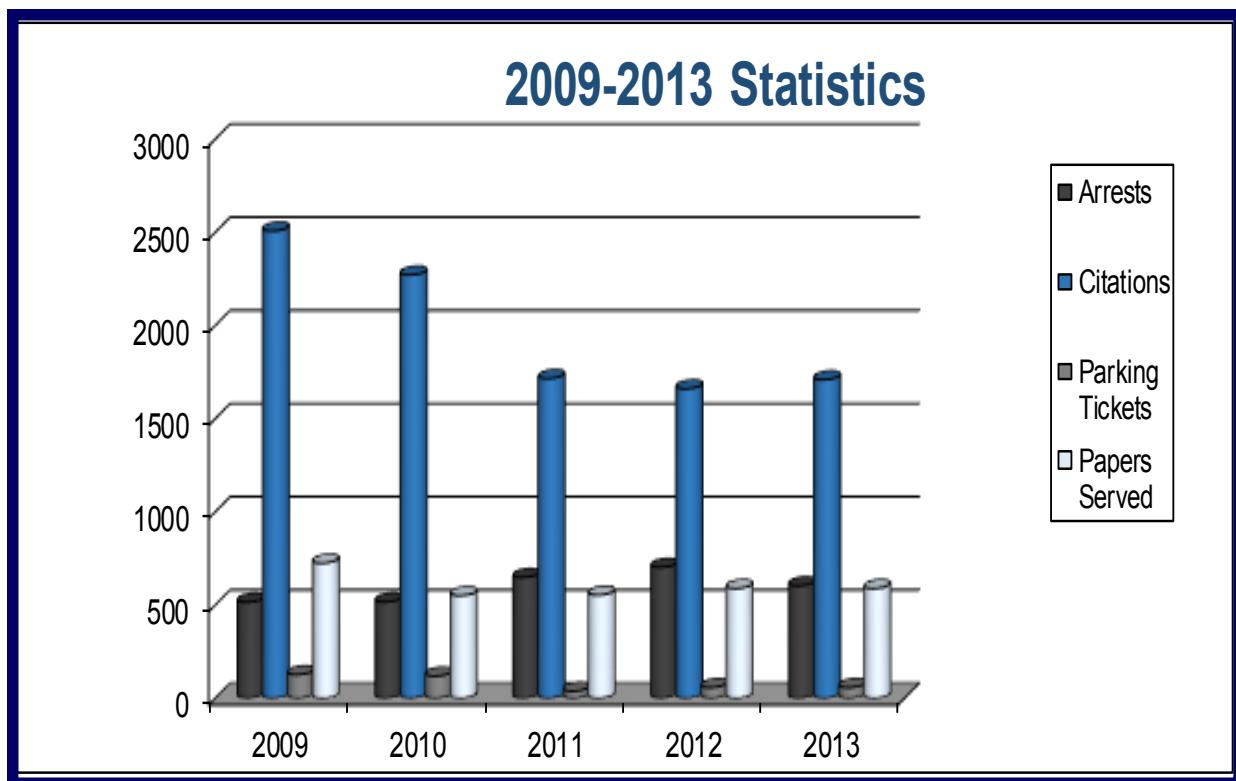


Yearly Statistics

The following graph shows the comparison of statistics, such as;

- Arrests
- Citations
- Parking Tickets
- Papers Served

from 2009 thru 2013.



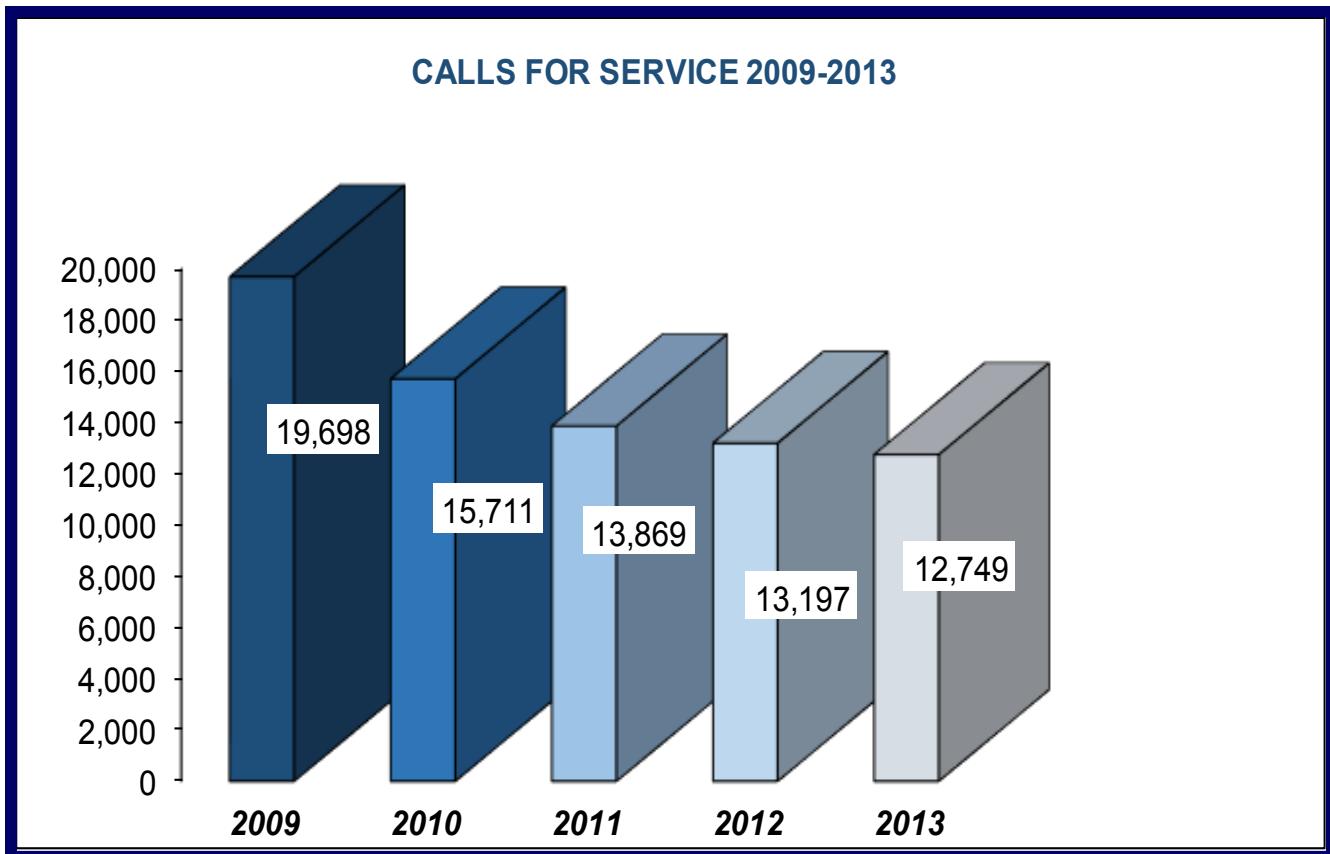


Calls for Service

A call for service is an event that occurs in or near the Town of Vinton that involves Vinton Police personnel. These incidents may be dispatched by the Emergency Communications Center or may be an Officer initiated event.

Often times these events will require formal documentation in the form of an incident report, supplemental reports, arrest reports, motor vehicle crash reports and traffic summons.

The Vinton Police Department has seen a fluctuating level of calls for service over the past five years. The statistics for 2013 are just slightly less than the previous year.





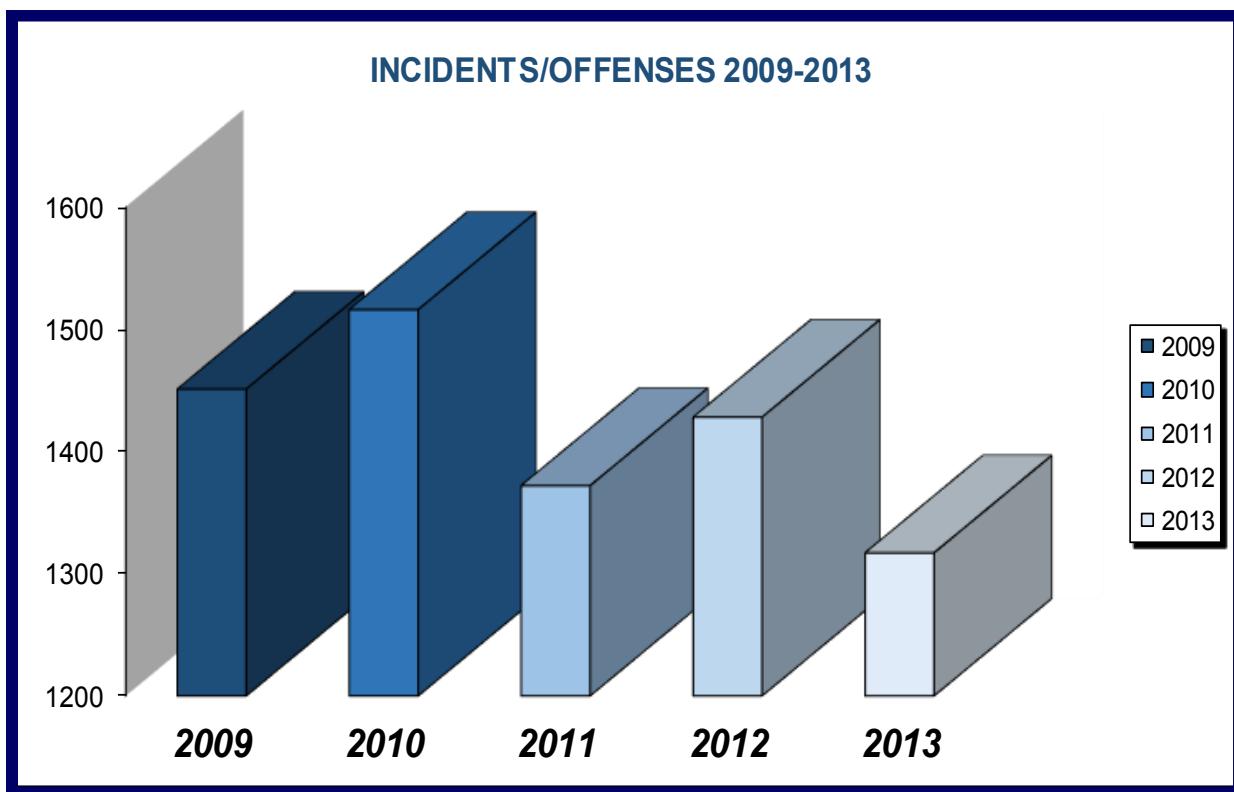
Crime Statistics

The Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program is a system of collecting and analyzing crime statistics gathered on selected crimes by participating law enforcement agencies throughout the Commonwealth.

The Vinton Police Department gathers and transfers, to the State Police, all reportable class 1 (A) (rape, robbery, burglary, serious offenses to the public well being) and class 2(B) offenses (alcohol offenses, drug offenses, victimless crimes, theft, etc.).

These incidents fluctuate from year to year. This years UCR reported Incidents decreased slightly from last year.

According to the most recent data available, the Town of Vinton has one of the lowest crime rates in the Roanoke Valley. This is based on FBI Part 2 crimes which include the more frequent offenses reported, and is based on a per 100,000 population. The Town of Vinton has a Part 2 crime rate of 3.4 %.





Community Services Officer



Officer Robert Eakin is our Community Services Officer, which involves being the departments Animal Control Officer as well as being a community liaison, coordinating the efforts of our neighborhood watch groups and community events.

As Officer Eakin becomes more involved as the Community Services Officer, he will begin to take responsibility of Project Lifesaver. This is a bracelet type transmitter that is used to track lost persons with diminished mental capacities. At this time four citizens utilize the Project Lifesaver program. At the present time, Officer Eakin is doing double duty; being assigned to patrol due to a manpower shortage and investigating animal control complaints. We are looking forward to him being committed full time to Community Services Officer functions in the near future.

A note about animal tags...

Animal tags are a very important part of being a responsible pet owner. Tags must coincide with current rabies vaccinations. Town tags are also used for identification purposes, this will aid in returning your pet to you in the event he/she becomes lost.

One year tags can be purchased in the Treasures office for \$5.00, if the animal is spayed or neutered, and \$10.00 for unaltered animals. If your animal has a three year rabies vaccine you may purchase a three year tag for \$13.50 and \$27.00 respectively.



2013

Grant & Equipment Improvements

The Vinton Police Department has been awarded several grants in 2013.



From the Department of Motor Vehicles

The Town received 2 grants totaling \$21,800, this is being used for overtime traffic and DUI enforcement.



From The Department of Criminal Justice Services Bullet proof vest grant, we received \$2,002.00. This grant covers 1/2 the cost of a new vest for police officers.



From the Department of Criminal Justice Services, we received a grant in the amount of \$6,323.00 with a match of \$632.00. The Police department is using this money to install a security camera system inside the building and will tie it into the camera's already installed on the outside of the building.



2013

NEW EMPLOYEE'S



William Ray Welch

Served in the United States Army and currently in the Army Reserve. Graduated from Cardinal Criminal Justice Academy.



James R. Spence

Came to us from Botetourt County Sheriff's Office as a Deputy Sheriff, Jail Division. Graduated from Cardinal Criminal Justice Academy



Michael L. Caldwell

Came to us from Roanoke City Police Department, Animal Control Division, Graduated from Cardinal Criminal Justice Academy



2013

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NEW ADDITIONS



Declan Connor Hays was born on March 1, 2013 at 3:28 pm.

He weighed 6lbs 15.4oz, 20 1/4" long.

Congratulations to Chris and Jacinda Hays !



Kinley Shea Harris was born on March 18, 2013 at 3:30 am.

She weighed 7lbs 13 oz, 21 1/4" long.

Congratulations to Paul Matt and Nicole Harris !



Eli Michael Bailey was born on

November 18th, 6:32 pm

He weighed 11oz and 20.5 inches long.

Congratulations Todd and Toni Bailey!



2013

Patrol Division

In 2013, the Patrol Division continued to focus their efforts on fostering better relationships and providing quality public safety services for the citizens of the Town of Vinton. The patrol division's main objective continues to be the protection of life and property by detecting and deterring violations of the law. This is accomplished through being a visible presence in the community, and having approachable professionals who provide excellent customer service. Crime prevention and community involvement are equally important among the patrol division, to which numerous special duties have contributed to those efforts. Patrol Sergeant Harris directed the Citizens Police Academy, with the participation of many patrol officers as instructors. The Citizen Police Academy allows citizens the opportunity to meet and familiarize themselves with police department staff and is a valuable crime prevention strategy. The patrol division continues its "Business Blitz" initiative by maintaining a constant vigilance and line of communication with our local business owners to ensure that any concerns are addressed in the most efficient and effective way possible. The program continues to promote communication between the business community and patrol officers. Patrol officers maintain regular contact with the large Apartment Complex management in order to address any issues and in finding solutions to those problems that develop with tenants and visitors to the properties. The most common problems affecting these complexes have decreased, which has enhanced the quality of life for the residents therein. Patrol officers also participate in neighborhood watch group meetings and other community events throughout the year. These activities include the Fall Festival, National Night Out and events at Herman L Horn and W.E. Cundiff elementary schools. All of these initiatives allow the police department to give back to the citizenry and offer a more personal approach to community policing and public service in general.

In the spring of 2013 we saw the graduation of 3 of our newest patrol officers from Cardinal Criminal Justice Academy. In the fall of 2013 we saw the return of two officers, Sgt Gregory Jones and Officer Zachary Hurt from serving military deployments in the Middle East.

Sergeant Harris attempted a traffic stop that turned into a 13 mile pursuit into Franklin County. The Suspect was apprehended after a collision with a Franklin County Deputy. He is currently facing multiple charges including Felony Eluding, Property Damage, and Resisting Arrest.

Officers Byrd and Caldwell participated in several student activities which included basketball, jump rope, dancing and wall climbing at Fun day at Herman L Horn and W E Cundiff Elementary. The Objective was to help bridge the gap between law enforcement and it's youth.



Patrol Division Continued

Sgt Lawless investigated a Hit and Run in reference to a pedestrian that got struck by a vehicle at 905 Hardy Rd. The suspect vehicle left the scene. A search was conducted for the vehicle and was found in the parking lot of KFC. The suspect was charged with Felony Hit and Run, and the victim was transported to RMH due to injuries.

Sgt Lawless investigated a Missing Person on Etna Ave. A young teenage girl attended the Christmas Parade and went missing afterwards. After a search of the area and talking to friends, the female was found unharmed and was returned home to her parents.

Sgt Lawless responded to a B&E on Meadows Ct. The female resident returned home from work and did not realize that someone had broke into the house and was still in the residence when she returned home. The suspect stole some items from the house along with the victims purse, then ran out of the house when the victim was downstairs. After an intense investigation, The suspect was identified and a confession was obtained on the B&E, and also on another B&E as well. Multiple Felony charges were obtained and the suspect was convicted in court.

MPO Hurt investigated a larceny by check from a local business. Subject ordered items, then paid for the items by check and then placed a stop payment on the check after receiving the items. After further investigation, the suspect had multiple Felony convictions of similar offenses. Felony warrants were obtained and the subject was arrested.

Sergeant Lawless and MPO Hurt responded to a Malicious Wounding that resulted in the victim being hospitalized. Suspect was identified and arrested for that offense, and was also charged with 2 counts of threatening to kill Law Enforcement Officers.

Officer Caldwell investigated a grand larceny. The victim left his wallet on the counter at a local business, it was then stolen off the counter by a male subject. Multiple Credit Cards and a Debit Card along with approximately \$200 in cash was in the wallet. After watching surveillance video and doing a thorough investigation, a suspect was identified and arrested.

Officer Caldwell investigated a Grand Larceny/Obtaining Money by False Pretenses call. Golf Clubs were stolen out of a vehicle. During an Investigation it was found that 2 suspects tried selling the Golf Clubs to a Play-It-Again store in Roanoke County, but the store refused to purchase them. The 2 suspects then sold the golf clubs on Craig's List. (Cont)



2013

Patrol Division Continued

The two suspects were identified and arrested, and the individual that bought the Golf Clubs on Craig's List was also identified and the Golf Clubs were returned to the owner.

Hit and Run where the suspect gave a false identity. Had to subpoena phone records and contact numbers on those records until Officer Quesinberry was able to locate someone who knew who owned the phone. Once identified the suspect was finally located.

A juvenile gave false information and identity during a drug possession investigation. There were witnesses that went along with his false statements. The Officer Quesinberry was able to locate the subject by searching Facebook for a photograph of him. After confronted with this information the witnesses became cooperative and identified the suspect.

After a vehicle was stopped for speeding and improper registration the driver was found to be not licensed. Later that day that same vehicle was reported stolen. Officer Quesinberry investigated further he found that the tags were taken off of a vehicle in Bedford County. The driver of the vehicle was later interviewed and he gave information about the passenger of the stolen vehicle. Charges on both juveniles were placed.

After locating personal items and information in a dumpster, the Officer Quesinberry contacted the person and found that they were a victim of a larceny. The previous shift had spoken to a subject that was in the area earlier so the officer interviewed him. The subject confessed to the larceny from a vehicle and a laptop computer was recovered.

Three charges were made of violation of a protective order. Officer Spence received three letters from a complainant with different names and return address on them. After further investigation Officer Spence found that the suspect was sending letters from the Roanoke County Jail with his cellmates name on it to his friends on the outside. They were instructed to give these letters to the victim.

Officer Froeschl responded to a Domestic in progress where a firearm had been brandished. Officer Froeschl was able to control a highly volatile situation and continue his investigation. Suspect encountered was irate and intoxicated. Officer Froeschl was able to determine through the course of his investigation that offender had brandished a firearm. A firearm was located and seized. Offender was arrested for Brandishing a Firearm.

2013

Patrol Division Continued

Officer Froeschl responded to a hit and run at the Wilco Hess station. It was determined that a vehicle had struck gas pumps and left the scene. Officer Froeschl was able to locate the vehicle at the 500 block of Cedar Ave overturned in the creek. The two occupants were removed from the vehicle without injuries. Both occupants originally denied driving the vehicle and blamed one another. Through Officer Froeschl's investigation he was able to get an admission of the driving and the damage that had occurred at the Wilco Hess. Offender was arrested for Hit and Run and DUI.

Officer Froeschl through proactive patrol located a vehicle after hours at Fallon Park. Officer Froeschl made contact with two subjects in the car. An admission was made by the subjects of marijuana use. Officer Froeschl did a complete and thorough search of the vehicle. In the trunk of the vehicle hidden and inside a crown royal bag Officer Froeschl located a large quantity of Marijuana, multiple cell phones, and US Currency in small denominations indicating that Marijuana was for Distribution.

Officer King responded to a Hit and Run at 3rd and W Virginia Ave. A vehicle had ran the red light and struck another vehicle injuring a small child sitting in the back. Officer King located the suspect and through a thorough investigation determined that the operator was under the influence of alcohol and also located Marijuana.

Officer King observed a vehicle on the night of March 17, 2013 traveling down the wrong way on Hardy Rd without headlights. Officer King maintained his composure while trying to keep the violator safe and other operators. Officer King was able to keep traffic off the violator. The vehicle was stopped and Officer King observed that the driver was only partially dressed and covered in food. It was determined that she was highly intoxicated. Through the course of the investigation the driver was arrested for DUID.

Officer King investigated a Disabled Vehicle throughout the course of his investigation Officer King would realize the driver had just been involved in a separate Motor Vehicle Collision. Officer King was able to obtain an admission that the driver is a drug user and had consumed her sister's methadone. The driver also had no recollection of how she got to the Town of Vinton nor did she know where the Town of Vinton was.



2013

Patrol Division Continued

Officer King responded to an active Domestic Assault on March 20th where a intoxicated male encountered officers in the residence. Suspect being intoxicated did not comply with officers orders and shoved Officer King. A struggle ensued to subdue combative suspect. An TASER was deployed resulting in a successful apprehension. While Officers dealt with the male suspect now under arrest, the female offender became agitated and fought with officers on scene. Officers were able to control both offenders without injuries.

Lifesaving events

Officer Spence and Sergeant Drumond responded to a silent alarm at Vinton Pawn. The call turned to a medical emergency where a white male had collapsed in the parking lot became unresponsive and stopped breathing. Once Officer Spence determined that the male was not breathing he quickly assessed the patient and began chest compressions while Sgt Drumond ran back to his vehicle (vehicle parked a distance away due to call being as alarm) to retrieve an AED. Officer Spence was able to get a faint pulse back and some breathing from the patient. Officer Spence continued chest compression well after rescue arrived. The victim was revived and has since been discharged from the hospital.

On Christmas Day 2013, Officer King and Sgt Drumond responded to a 524 Olney Rd where a female had choked on food and was now unresponsive. Officer King determined the female to be in serious condition and initiated life saving measures. The Heimlich maneuver was performed and dislodged a piece of food from the patient's windpipe. CPR was performed and breathing restored. It would later be determined that through Officer King's actions a life had been saved., the victim was revived and has since been discharged from the hospital.



2013

Criminal Investigation Division



Detective Sergeant
James M. Testerman

The Vinton Police Department Criminal Investigations Division encompasses two primary investigators, one ATF Task Force member, and a supervising Lieutenant. The division's primary mission is to assist the Uniform Patrol Division with the investigation of Felony and complex Misdemeanor investigations. Investigators are also



Detective
Brandon B. Hill

certified crime scene technicians who remain on-call at all hours to respond to crimes where evidence collection and further follow-ups are needed. Investigators handle a variety of cases, but are primarily responsible for serious Felony offenses, such as Murder, Rape, Robbery, Burglary, Arson, and Fraud. Investigators are also tasked with presenting the department's criminal indictments to the Grand Jury on a bi-monthly basis. Besides these normal duties, Investigators also participate in a variety of multi-jurisdictional groups in order to address issues affecting the community as a whole and collaborate on law enforcement initiatives.

In 2013, the division investigated 166 cases, which was an increase from 2012's 118 cases. Out of those, 61 cases were cleared by arrest with a case solvability rate of 37%, which is an increase from 28% in 2012. In 2013, the Criminal Investigations Division obtained a total of 87 Felony warrants and 18 Misdemeanor warrants on offenders.



2013

Evidence



Sergeant of Professional Standards
Valerie Cummings

The evidence and property room management is an important function of the department. Sergeant Cummings is the primary Evidence Custodian, and is assisted by Detective Sergeant Testerman.

During 2013 an inventory of the property/evidence room was completed.



Detective Sergeant James M. Testerman

Destruction orders were obtained for numerous items of evidence no longer needed by the Department. The items were destroyed in response to court orders.

Quarterly inspections of randomly selected items of evidence are conducted by an employee not routinely associated with the evidence room to ensure the integrity of the evidence function.

Additionally, the Chief of Police makes unannounced inspections of the Property and Evidence room at least two times each year.



Professional Standards



Sergeant Valerie Cummings took over the new position as Sergeant of Professional Standards.

One of her tasks is that of the departments Accreditation Manager. The department remains accredited through the Virginia Law Enforcement Professional Standards Commission, a designation that we are proud of and we continue to fulfill the standards of professionalism set forth by the commission.

Sergeant of Professional Standards
Valerie Cummings

Sergeant Cummings is in the process of getting the department ready for Re-Accreditation in 2014 and has Term 3 completed with the addition of 3 new standards (Photo/In-Person Lineups, Special Purpose Animals, and canine Training Narcotics) bringing the total of standards to be compiled with to 189.

A Term 3 mock assessment was completed in November with assistance from members of the following agencies: Bedford County Sheriffs Office, Bedford Police Department, Salem Police Department, and Pulaski Police department.

Sergeant Cummings participated in mock assessments of the following agencies during 2013; Virginia State Parks, Radford City Police Department, Radford Sheriffs Office, Bedford County Sheriff's Office, Rockingham County Sheriffs Office, and Salem Police Department.

Sergeant Cummings continues to update Policies for the Police department, 33 policies have been reviewed and revised during this year.



2013

Awards and Recognition



Officer Stephen Foutz was Awarded this years Woodsmen of the World Award. This award is presented to outstanding people in the community. Officer Foutz received this award for his outstanding commitment and work ethic.



May 7, 2013, A reception was held to present Shirley Patsel with the "Superstar" award from the Virginia Department of Emergency Management for her outstanding support of the Police Department, including the Citizen Police Academy and K9 programs. Ms. Patsel was selected to be the recipient from all of the nominations submitted throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia.



2013

Awards and Recognition



The 13th Annual Vinton Police Department Awards Banquet was held on November 25, 2013, at the Vinton War Memorial. Our guest Speaker this year was Judge Philip Trompeter (pictured left).

This years Event was Catered by Lib & Amy Catering. All pictures featured in this section were taken by Barry Brooks of Barry Brooks Photography.



Mayor's Customer Service Award winner Officer Christopher Froeschl

Presented to the member of the force whose actions, deeds, or accomplishments most personify the highest ideals of customer service and overall good service to the Community.



Leadership award Winner Sergeant Fabricio Drumond

Presented to the member of the force who has shown and applied outstanding leadership skills in the performance of their duties.



Chief's Medal of Achievement award winner Officer Michael Byrd

Awarded by the Chief of Police to the member of the force who, through some outstanding deed(s) or achievement(s), brings acclaim and/or technological or other advancement to the department and the law enforcement profession.



Awards and Recognition cont'



Meritorious Service Award winner's

Lieutenant Mark Vaught, Lieutenant Glenn Austin, Sergeant Fabricio Drumond, and Detective Sergeant James Testerman

Presented to the members of the force who through dedication and perseverance, solves an extremely difficult and serious criminal case, or apprehends a dangerous felon that poses a threat to the community



Chamber of Commerce Career Achievement Award

Detective Sergeant James Testerman

Presented to the member of the force whose action, deed, or accomplishment most personifies the highest ideals of professional police work in conjunction with service to the community



Grand Cordon

(Officer of the Year) Award Winner

Master Police Officer Todd Bailey

Presented to the member of the force who has distinguished themselves among their peers for their continuous professionalism, dedication to the department, and service to the community.



Gallantry Star

Sergeant Todd Bailey, Master Police Officer Scott Hurt

Presented to members of the force, by whose actions, deed, or dedication performed under intelligently calculated risk of injury, under trying circumstances beyond the expected call of duty, let to the apprehension of a dangerous criminal, prevented a serious crime, or brought a significant benefit of well-being to one or more persons

2013



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Certificate of Commendation
Sergeant Todd Bailey



Certificate of Appreciation
Roanoke County PD and IT



Police Service Assistant JoAnna Heaps



Shirley Patsel



Sergeant Todd Bailey
winner of the Occupant Protection award



2013

Awards and Recognition



Sergeant Paul Harris
Officer Christopher Froeschl
Winners of the DUI Enforcement Award



Master Police Officer Todd Bailey
Winner of the Speed Enforcement award



Best Dressed
Officer Michael Byrd



The Patriot
Officer William Welch, Us army



Academy Graduates
Officer William Welch
Officer Michael Caldwell
Officer James Spence



2013

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Top Gun/Triumphant

Sergeant Timothy Lawless



Good Conduct

Sergeant Gregory Jones 15 years

Sergeant Paul Harris 5 years

Master Police Officer Scott Hurt 5 Years

Police Service Assistant JoAnna Heaps 5 Years



Law Enforcement Memorial

Chief Cook, Lieutenant Vaught, Lieutenant Austin,

Detective Sergeant Testerman, Sergeant Drumond,

Sergeant Harris, Officer Byrd, Officer Froeschl,

April Alterio, Joanna Heaps



Distinguished Community Service

Sergeant Paul Matt Harris



Educational Achievement

Sergeant Paul Matt Harris



Drug Buster

Master Police Officer Todd Bailey

Officer Chris Froeschl

Officer Greg Quesinberry

National Police Week

This week was the time to honor fallen Law Enforcement Officers
and their families

*I never dreamed it would be me,
my name for all eternity*

*Recorded here at this hallowed place,
alas my name, no more my face*

*“In the line of Duty” I hear them say,
my family now the price to pay*

*My folded flag stained with their tears,
we only had those few short years*

*The badge no longer on my chest,
I sleep now in eternal rest*

*My sword I pass to those behind,
and pray they keep this thought in mind*

*I never dreamed it would be me,
and on my heavy heart and bended knee*

*I ask for all those here from the past, Dear God,
let my name be the last*

A Police Officers Prayer

Lord I ask for courage

Courage to face and conquer my own fears

Courage to take me where others will not go

I ask for Strength

Strength of body to protect others and strength of

spirit to lead others

I ask for dedication

Dedication to my job, to do it well

Dedication to my community

To keep it safe

Give me Lord, concern for others who trust me and

compassion for those who need me

And Please Lord

Through it all

Be at my side