



United



ASHLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT
2012 ANNUAL REPORT
ASHLAND, VIRGINIA

Message from the Chief

To our community:

On behalf of the men and women of the Ashland Police Department, I would like to invite you to take a look at our 2012 Annual Report to learn a bit more about your police department.

The Ashland Police Department is a full service law enforcement agency that provides police service and protection 24 hours a day, 365 days per year. The Ashland Police Department is comprised of 24 sworn officers, three full-time civilian staff members, and is fortunate to enjoy the commitment of many volunteers, two of them sworn officers.



2012 was an outstanding year for the Ashland Police Department as we made strides to improve the quality of life in our Town. Our efforts to improve traffic safety were recognized with a *Law Enforcement Challenge Award* and reflected in a reduction in reported accidents of 19%. 2012 saw fewer accidents than 2003 levels. Traffic safety continues to be a top priority of this agency and our efforts to improve the safety of the motoring public also netted 59 DUI arrests and 28 drug arrests.

Ashland experienced an 8.8% decrease in overall reported crime in 2012. Although we saw decreases in many crime categories, due to the price of scrap metal and gold, larcenies continued to rise in 2012. Although these property crimes account for the vast majority of our crime rate, we were very fortunate this year to experience a low violent crime rate and a dramatic reduction in burglaries (-58%). We were also able to continue to work with our community partners and neighborhood watch groups to address issues in their communities. Without our community partners, we would simply not be effective.

Our officers continue to impress me by continuing their effectiveness during their discretionary time between calls for service. 2012 once again saw increases in self-initiated activities by officers:

- 15,803 Property Checks
- 7,767 Park, Walk and Talk foot patrols
- 110 unlocked doors found at businesses during time of darkness
- 212 visits with our “Adopt-a Seniors”
- 261 “Lunch Buddies” visits at our local elementary schools

In addition to the provision of public safety, our agency coordinated the safety and security of a multitude of special events, festivals and charity runs.

The Ashland Police Department wishes to thank our partners in public safety, the Hanover County Sheriff’s Office, the Hanover County Commonwealth Attorney’s Office, the Hanover County Fire/EMS Department, Hanover County Emergency Communications and the Virginia State Police for their continued assistance.

I am very proud to be a member of this agency and will strive to work towards our vision of being “*The Best Police Department in the Commonwealth of Virginia.*”

I remain in your service,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'D.A. Goodman, Jr.'.

Douglas A Goodman, Jr.
Chief of Police



Organization and Structure

The Ashland Police Department employs 24 sworn officers and three civilian employees at its headquarters located at 601 England Street. The Ashland Police Department is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. The Administrative Offices are open Monday-Friday 8:30 am-5:00 pm.

The Ashland Police Department is led by Chief Douglas A. Goodman, Jr. Chief Goodman joined the agency in August of 2007 as a Captain and assisted the agency in the final steps in our initial CALEA accreditation process. On July 1, 2008 he was appointed to the Chief's position. Prior to joining the Ashland Police Department, Chief Goodman served 14 years with the Hanover County Sheriff's Office, reaching the rank of Lieutenant. He holds a bachelor's degree from Virginia Tech and earned his Master's in Public Administration from VCU in December 2007.

The Patrol Operations is commanded by Captain Anthony Callahan. The department operates on 12 hour shifts. With day shift operating from 7:00 am-7:00 pm; and night shift from 7:00 pm-7:00 am. The patrol operations is comprised of four Sergeants, two Corporals and ten patrol officers. This component is responsible for the day to day protection of citizens and businesses in Ashland along with the enforcement of all applicable state and local laws. In addition to the patrol function, Captain Callahan is also responsible for fleet management, Internal Affairs and maintenance of critical records.

Investigative Operations is commanded by Lieutenant Troy Aronhalt. This unit is comprised of three Investigators who are responsible for all major investigations for the police department. The investigators are responsible for processing and photographing crime scenes, conducting

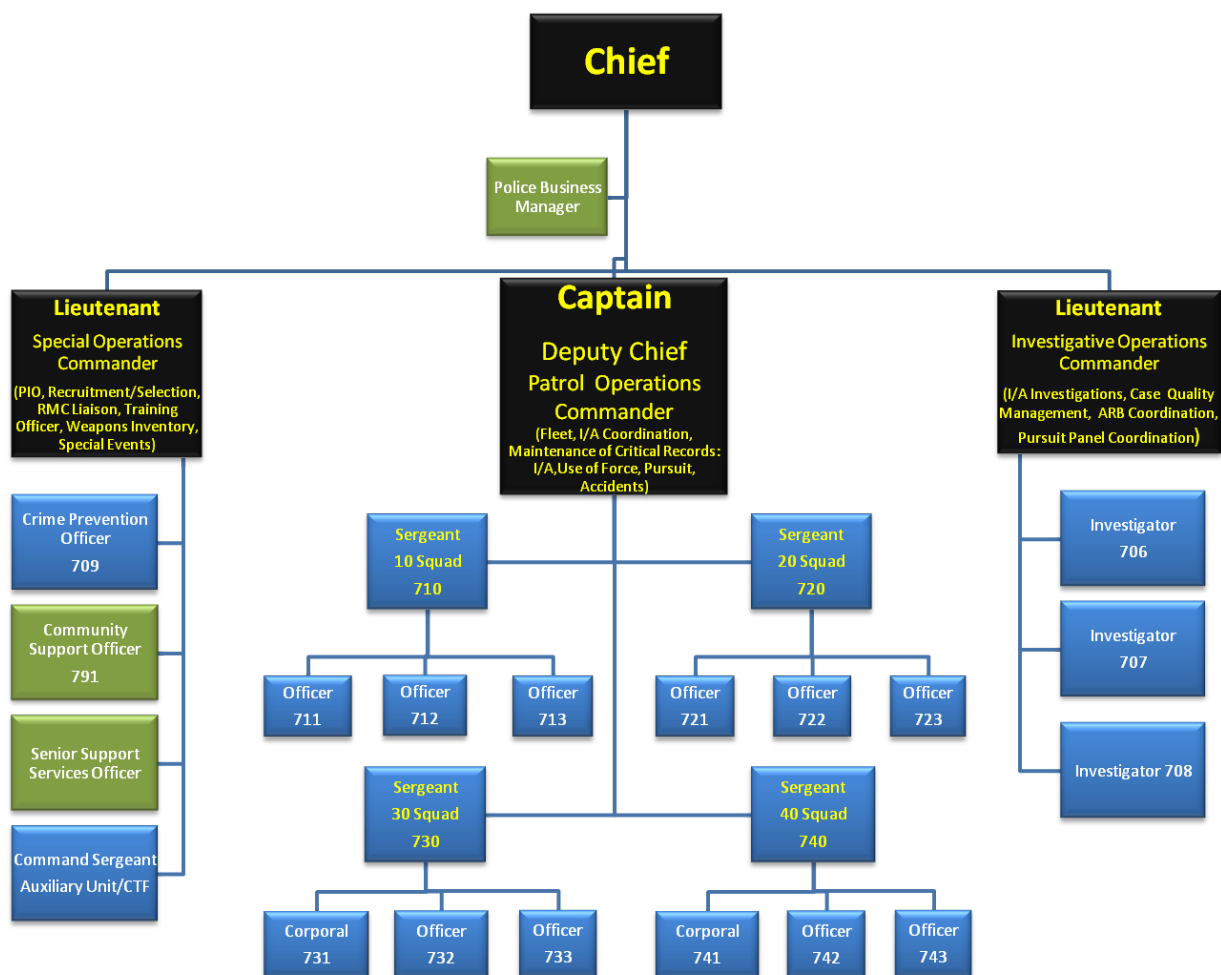
surveillance and covert activities, and executing search warrants. In addition to these duties Lt. Aronhalt is responsible for all review boards and case quality management.

The Special Operations unit is commanded by Lieutenant James Shelhorse. This unit consists of Support Services, Records Management, Special Events, Crime Prevention and Public Information services. In addition to these duties, Lieutenant Shelhorse is responsible for training and the corps of volunteers.





Organizational Chart





About the Ashland Police Department

Mission and Core Values

The mission of the Town of Ashland Police Department is to provide professional law enforcement services to our citizens, our businesses and our visitors. We will uphold justice, with compassion, integrity, and courage.

The following values will guide the actions of all members of the Ashland Police Department:

Honor: We are committed to holding ourselves accountable to the highest standards of conduct. We recognize the trust that our citizens place in us and we will diligently work to never betray that trust.

Service: No one will be turned away, we will provide services to those who we can, and give positive direction to the agencies that can help those we cannot.

Loyalty: We will be loyal to our badge, the community and to our profession.

Dedication: We are dedicated to upholding the constitution and providing fair and equal law enforcement services to all persons.

CALEA

The Ashland Police Department is one of less than 400 law enforcement agencies in the United States and Canada accredited through the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). Our next reaccreditation will be in 2013.



CALEA's goals are to strengthen crime prevention and control capabilities; formalize essential management procedure establish fair and non-discriminatory personnel practices; improve service delivery; solidify interagency cooperation and coordination; and increase the community and staff confidence in the agency. CALEA's standards for law enforcement agencies promote greater accountability within the department while increasing visibility and collaboration within the community.

The Ashland Police Department encourages residents, business owners, and visitors to provide feedback to our agency on our strengths and weaknesses in order for the department to improve our service to the Ashland community. Comments can be submitted via our website at www.ashlandpolice.us or by calling 804-412-0600.



Traffic Crash and Enforcement

The police department has four officers who are trained in traffic safety strategies. These officers use information compiled from the previous year to reevaluate the effectiveness of current traffic safety programs and implement new programs to improve the driving experience in Ashland.

In 2012 the agency was awarded a Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles grant in the amount of \$30,964.

The department used the grant money for selective enforcement activities, public safety checkpoints, child safety checkpoints and bike safety rodeos.

Additional monies were used to purchase two (2) radar units and four (4) Preliminary Breath Test analyzers (PBT) for agency use.

Operating Under the Influence

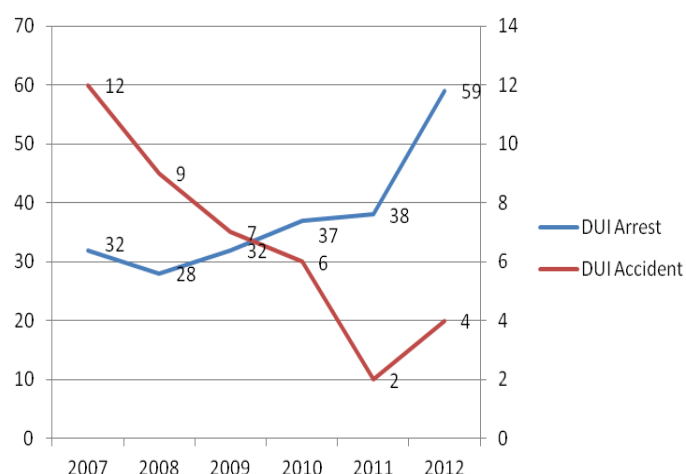
Operating Under the Influence is defined as driving or operating a motor vehicle or common carrier while mentally and physically impaired as the result of consuming an alcoholic beverage or using a drug or narcotic.

For 2012, the Ashland Police Department made fifty-nine (59) arrests for DUI/DUID compared to thirty-eight (38) arrests in 2011. The number of arrests for DUI/DUID increased by approximately fifty-five percent (+55%) compared to the previous year.

Crashes

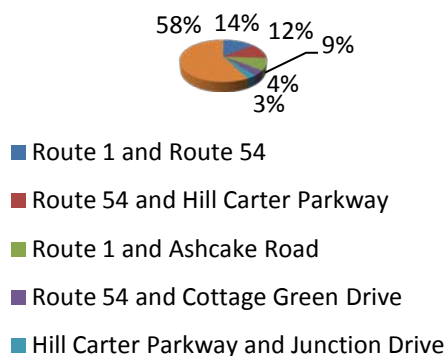
Traffic crashes include the accidental collisions of a motor vehicle with another motor vehicle, person, bicycle or stationary object.

In 2012, the agency continued to see a downward trend in reportable crashes and crashes resulting in injury. The agency responded to 319 crashes compared to 338 crashes in 2011. In 2012, the Ashland Police Department investigated 84 reportable crashes, compared to 104 reportable crashes investigated in 2011.





Most Crash-Prone Intersections



The number of reportable crashes decreased by seventeen percent (-17%) compared to the previous year. The total number of crashes involving injured parties in 2012 was thirty-six (36), compared to forty-one (41) crashes resulting in injuries to parties in 2011. The number of crashes resulting in injuries decreased by twelve percent (-12%) compared to the previous year.

Traffic Complaints

To address speeding complaints the Traffic Safety Unit has implemented Addressing Complaints Using Technology and Enforcement (ACUTE). This program combines the use of citizen input, technology and education to identify and correct speeding problems in Ashland.

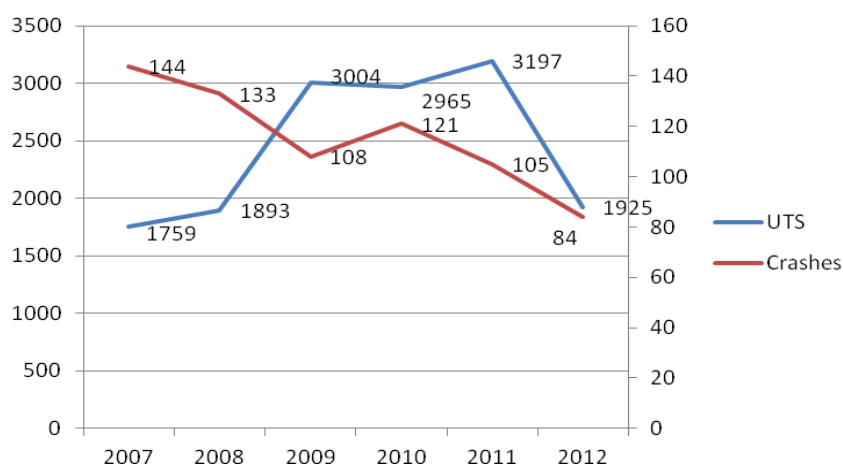
For 2012, the Ashland Police Department continued the ACUTE Program. The program consists of multiple phases that first determine if a speeding problem exists on a street,

educates the public about the posted speed limit, and, if necessary, results in directed enforcement in that area. In order for a location to qualify for the ACUTE Program, it must have a posted speed of 35 mph or less. A speeding problem exists if the 85th percentile speed in the area is found to be more than 8 mph over the posted limit, or there are three or more violations for 15 mph or more within three days.

The traffic safety unit used the ACUTE program in multiple locations throughout town. Follow-up evaluations after the implementation of the ACUTE Program showed that the speeding problems had been eliminated in most areas.

The traffic safety unit continues to utilize the program to address continuing speeding problems on N. James Street.

For more information on the ACUTE program go to our website at www.ashlandpolice.us.



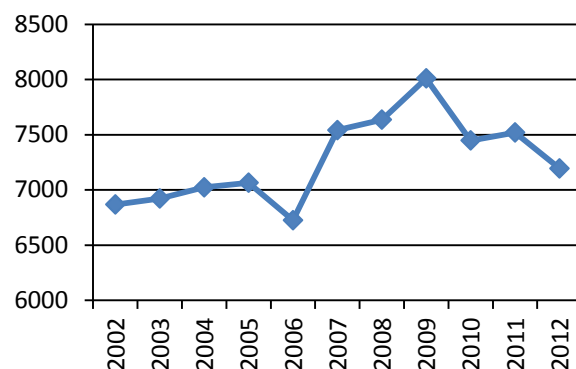


Calls for Service

A call for service is any type of call that is received where a officer responds to a location for a incident or provides advice to a citizen over the phone.

In 2012 we responded to 7,194 calls for service. This is a decrease from 2011 where we responded to 7,520 calls for service.

Calls for Service 2002-2012

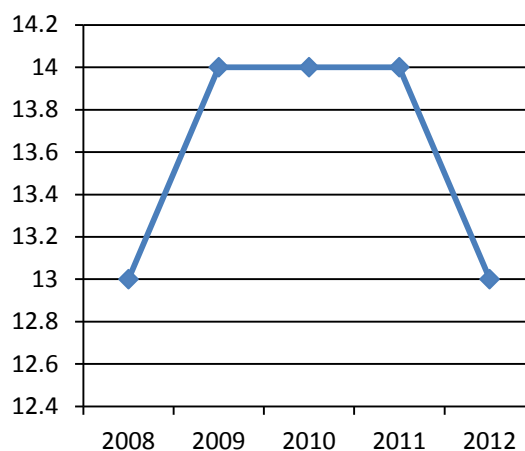


Assaults Offenses:

Aggravated Assault is an unlawful attack by one person upon another for the purpose of inflicting severe bodily injury. This type of assault is usually accompanied by the use of a weapon or by other means likely to produce death or great bodily harm.

In 2012, there were 13 reported aggravated assaults. Nine (9) of the 13 aggravated assaults were closed by arrest, while two were closed because the victim did not wish to prosecute.

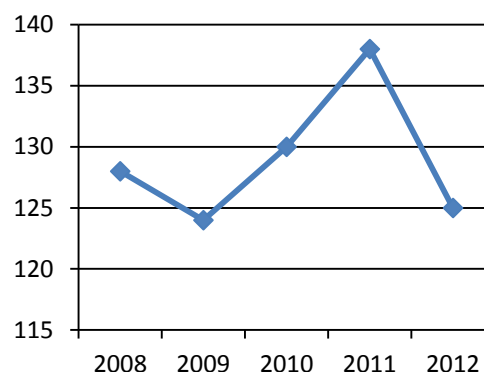
Aggravated Assaults 2007-2012



Simple Assault is an unlawful physical attack by one person upon another where neither the offender displays a weapon, nor the victim suffers obvious severe or aggravated bodily injury.

In 2012, we investigated 125 simple assaults. 68 were closed by arrest, while 51 were closed because the victim did not wish to prosecute.

Simple Assaults 2007-2012



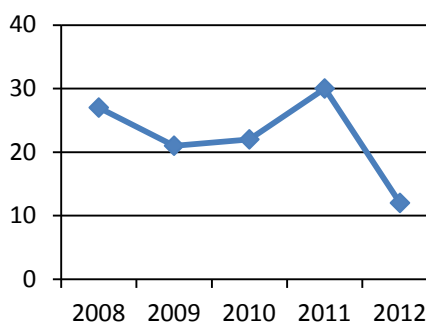


Breaking and Entering:

In 2012 there were 12 breaking and entering incidents. Three breaking and entering incidents were residential dwellings while the remaining nine were commercial businesses. This is a decrease of 60% when compared to 2011.

Of the 13 breaking and entering incidents in 2012, four have been closed by arrest.

Breaking and Entering 2008-2012



Larceny Offenses:

The FBI breaks larceny/theft into seven different categories. Pocket picking, purse snatching, shoplifting, theft from building, theft from coin machine, theft from motor vehicle, theft of motor vehicle parts or accessories, and all other larceny.

In 2012, there were 216 reported incidents of larceny in Ashland. This is an increase from 2011 where there were 191 reported incidents of larceny.

We attribute this 13.1% increase of larcenies, to the economy, and its effects on individuals. While we understand the hardships people endured, we will continue to aggressively investigate all reported incidents.

Larcenies	2011	2012
Pocket Picking	-	-
Purse Snatching	-	-
Shoplifting	42	74
Theft from Building	39	61
Theft from Coin Machine	1	2
Theft from Motor Vehicle	35	34
Theft of Vehicle Parts	15	13
All other Larceny	59	32

2012 Top Shoplifting Locations	
Wal-Mart	52 Incidents
ABC Store	10 Incidents
Food Lion	3 Incidents
Martins	3 Incidents



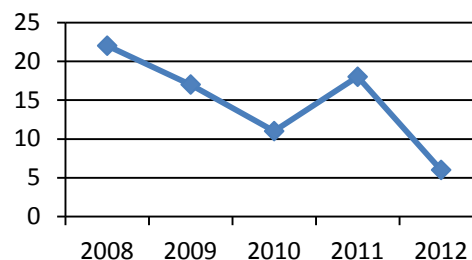


Motor Vehicle Theft

Motor Vehicle Theft is defined by the FBI by the taking of any vehicle that propels itself.

In 2012, we experienced a decrease in motor vehicle thefts by 66.7%. There were a total of six vehicles that were stolen.

Motor Vehicle Theft 2008-2012

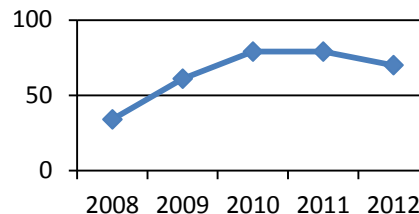


Drug Violations

In 2012, we experienced a decrease of drug violations when compared to 2011.

For 2012 the agency made 70 drugs/narcotics arrests and 36 drug equipment arrests. Due to the diligence of the police officers and investigators we have cleared 96% of the narcotics arrests and 97% of the drug equipment violations.

Drug Violations 2008-2012



Marijuana still continues to be the biggest illegal drug that plagues our town, with Marijuana being involved with 72% of our drug violations. The remaining drugs consist of other illegal drugs, as well as prescription drugs being misused.

Signs of Drug Use/Abuse among Teenagers

- Changes in friends
- Negative changes in schoolwork, missing school, or declining grades
- Increased secrecy about possessions or activities
- Use of incense, room deodorant, or perfume to hide smoke or chemical odors
- Subtle changes in conversations with friends, e.g. more secretive, using "coded" language
- Change in clothing choices: new fascination with clothes that highlight drug use
- Increase in borrowing money
- Evidence of drug paraphernalia such as pipes, rolling papers, etc.
- Evidence of use of inhalant products (such as hairspray, nail polish, correction fluid, common household products); Rags and paper bags are sometimes used as accessories
- Bottles of eye drops, which may be used to mask bloodshot eyes or dilated pupils
- New use of mouthwash or breath mints to cover up the smell of alcohol
- Missing prescription drugs—especially narcotics and mood stabilizers

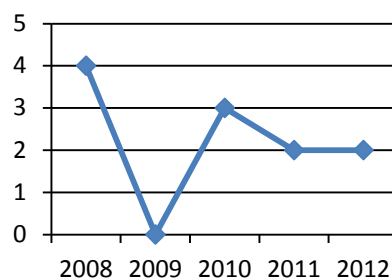


Rape

Rape is defined by the FBI as the carnal knowledge of a person, forcibly and/or against that person's will; or not forcibly or against the person's will where the victim is incapable of giving consent because of his/her temporary or permanent mental or physical incapacity (or because of his/her youth).

In 2012, we experienced a level amount of rapes when compared to 2011. Both rapes were closed; one was closed by arrest, while the other was closed by exception. In both instances, both the suspect and victim were acquaintances.

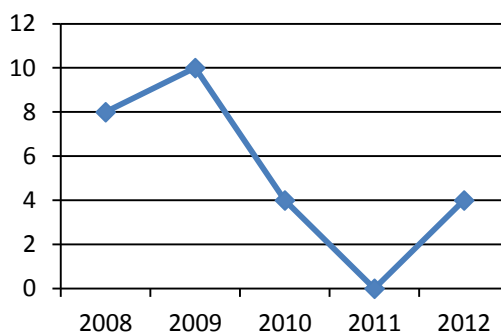
Rape 2008-2012



Robbery

In 2012, we experienced four robberies. In three of the robberies, the suspects were apprehended within a few hours of the robbery occurring, while one robbery still remains unsolved.

Robbery 2008-2012





Crime Prevention

The Ashland Police Department employs many avenues in its approach to community policing. We understand that citizen awareness and participation helps reduce crime and raise the quality of life for our residents. Our goal is to continue to develop our commitment to crime prevention and public involvement.

Thirty-eight (38) crime prevention events were delivered to our citizens and business partners during 2012. Events included:

- Safe and Sober Teen Driving-Hands on event that demonstrates to young adults the danger of drinking and driving as well as distracted driving.
- National Walk to School Day-Officers joined school children as they were walking to school to promote pedestrian safety.
- “Child Passenger Safety Week”-Officers conducted child safety seat checks to promote safe seat installations and inspections.
- Hoops, Cops and Kids program-In cooperation with the YMCA the department hosts one event a month as an outlet for community children ranging in age from six (6) to seventeen (17) to enjoy friendly games of basketball with our officers.
- National Night Out-Held annually, our officers, along with the Town Manager and members of the Town Council visit neighborhoods to enjoy food and fellowship with community members. This provided an opportunity for citizens to have contact with and become familiar with the members of the government that serves them.

In addition to these events the crime prevention officer attended numerous neighborhood watch meetings, conducted three (3) security assessments, made 1,125 community contacts and 768 business contacts and represented the agency in multiple public meetings.

To obtain more information regarding these programs or any other crime prevention tips and programs the agency offers, please contact us at 412-0600.

Training

In complying with the Virginia Administrative Code, each sworn member of the department must complete 40 hours of mandatory legal training every two years to remain a certified law enforcement officer. Our Training Officer assures that each member is in compliance with this mandate by comprehensive recordkeeping and scheduling of classes for the officers. While the state mandates officers attend firearms training once per year, our officers qualify with their firearms twice a year. Our Firearms Training Officer schedules and conducts the training.

In addition to mandatory training, many of our officers are selected to attend specialized schools to provide the most professional and up-to-date law enforcement techniques available.

In 2012, our officers participated in 1,850 hours of training. This training encompassed every facet of law enforcement from traffic accident reconstruction, school safety issues, criminal investigative training, crime prevention, to first line leadership and executive level training.



Awards and Recognition

2011 Law Enforcement Challenge

The Ashland Police Department placed 2nd in our division for the 2011 Virginia Law Enforcement Challenge sponsored by the Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police. This award, presented in August, recognizes departments for their traffic safety initiatives and enforcement efforts.

Virginia Statewide Neighborhood Conference, Inc.

The agency was honored to receive two awards from the VSNC for our work in the STAR corridor.

Project of the Year

2nd Place – Through increased patrols in the department and implementation of community policing, Ashland Police Department has addressed long-term social disorder that had deteriorated quality of life in the neighborhoods. The Department proactively implemented neighborhood watch; youth sports events, Adopt-A-Senior program, and various education and outreach efforts to address community needs. Their actions contributed to measurable decreases in drug interdiction, criminal violations, blight abatement, abandoned vehicles, and related public nuisances ultimately reducing the number of service calls and improving quality of life concerns.

Advocate of the Year

2nd Place – Chief Douglas Goodman - The chief worked with the community to create a superior neighborhood watch program in the Town of Ashland. Neighbors reported a sense of feeling safer and more than 40 residents are involved in community meetings. Challenges addressing public nuisances, gang behavior, vandalism, and the like are being enforced achieving as high as a 48% reduction in call volume ultimately endorsing a community wide improved quality of life.

Certificates of Commendation

Senior Support Services Officer Jane Donovan received a certificate of commendation for being the glue that held Support Services together during the year. Her diligence, work ethic and attention to detail has allowed the agency to expand its' crime prevention services to the community.

Certificate of Commendation Recipients

Sergeant Ethan Hicks
Sergeant Scott Menzies
Officer Paul Stirnaman
Officer Scott Nuessle
Officer Stuart McCullough
Officer Wayne Donovan
Officer Sam Hollins
Community Support Officer Joe Perkins



Harry V. Smeeman Leadership Award



Harry Smeeman was Ashland's first Town Sergeant (Chief of Police) who began his career in 1922. His tenure was cut short in 1929 when he was killed in the line of duty.

This award, named in his honor, recognizes a leader or leaders in the agency who continue to display tenacity, commitment to community and dedication to professionalism as displayed by Sgt. Smeeman a century ago.

For their attention to detail and willingness to go above and beyond the call of duty this year's recipients are Captain Anthony Callahan and Sergeant Marie Kemp.

Excellent Police Duty

The Excellent Police Duty award is given to all members of the department who met the challenge of a major incident and the increased workload as a result of the incident. Their contributions were instrumental in the smooth operation of providing uninterrupted service to the citizens of the Town, whom without their contributions their respective roles would falter, and who represented the Police Department in an exemplary manner.

Corporal Grant Bonistalli

Investigator Matt Hileman

Investigator Adam Aigner

Investigator Joe Oakley

Officer of the Year

The Officer of the Year is awarded to the officer who was nominated by his or her peers and supervisors and selected by the Chief of Police for exemplary performance during the previous year.

In the few short years Officer McCullough has been a member of this department, he has received numerous commendations and acknowledgements. His reputation as a "go getter" is highlighted by his 453 summonses issued and 58 criminal arrests.



Incident	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2012 Cleared	Percent Cleared	Different from 2011 to 2012
Arson	1	-	5	-	1	1	100%	100%
Assault Offenses								
Aggravated Assault	13	14	14	14	13	11	85%	-7.14%
Simple Assault	128	124	130	138	125	119	95%	-9.42%
Intimidation	1	10	11	6	2	1	50%	-66.67%
Bribery	-	-	-	-				
Burglary/B&E	27	21	22	30	12	4	33%	-60.00%
Counterfeiting/Forgery	14	11	14	16	18	9	50%	12.50%
Destruction/Damage/Vandalism	148	143	125	90	80	21	26%	-11.11%
Drug/Narcotic Offenses								
Drugs/Narcotic Violations	34	61	79	79	70	67	96%	-11.39%
Drug Equipment Violations	15	9	45	46	36	35	97%	-21.74%
Embezzlement	5	9	4	8	2	2	100%	-75.00%
Extortions/Blackmail	-	-	-	-				
Fraud								
False Pretense/Swindle	16	15	19	12	17	7	41%	41.67%
Credit Card/Automatic Teller	26	13	19	23	19	6	32%	-17.39%
Impersonation	4	5	8	2	10	9	90%	400.00%
Welfare Fraud	1	-	-	-	-	-		
Wire Fraud	-	1	1	2	1	-	0%	-50.00%
Homicide Offenses								
Murder/Non-negligent Manslaughter	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Negligent Manslaughter	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Justifiable Homicide	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Kidnapping/Abduction	-	1	1	4	6	6	100%	50.00%
Larceny/Theft Offenses								
Pocket-Picking	3	-	-	-	-	-		
Purse-Snatching	5	-	-	-	-	-		
Shoplifting	19	44	19	42	74	60	81%	76.19%
Theft from Building	58	66	62	39	61	12	20%	56.41%
Theft from Coin Machine	6	-	-	1	2	-	0%	100.00%
Theft from Motor Vehicle	35	66	33	35	34	10	29%	-2.86%
Theft of Motor Vehicle Parts	25	15	17	15	13	1	8%	-13.33%
All other Larceny	62	44	40	59	32	8	25%	-45.76%
Motor Vehicle Theft	22	17	11	18	6	2	33%	-66.67%
Obscene Material/Pornography	1	1	1	1	-	-		-100.00%
Prostitution Offenses								
Prostitution	-	1	-	2	-	-		-100.00%
Assisting or Promoting Prostitution	-	1	-	-	-	-		
Robbery	8	10	4	-	4	3	75%	
Sex Offense: Forcible								
Rape	4	-	3	2	2	2	100%	NC
Sodomy	1	-	-	-	-	-		
Sexual Assault with Object	1	-	-	-	-	-		
Fondling/Indecent Liberties/Child Molesting	3	3	4	4	2	1	50%	-50.00%
Sex Offense: Non-Forcible								
Incest	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Statutory Rape	-	-	-	1	-	-		-100.00%
Stolen Property Offense	1	1	4	2	2	2	100%	NC
Weapons Violations	11	9	8	10	8	7	88%	-20.00%
Total for all offense	698	715	703	701	652	406	58%	-6.99%
Total Part 1 Offenses	287	297	230	255	254	114	45%	-0.39%