

ROUND LAKE BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT

2013 ANNUAL REPORT



Richard H. Hill, *Mayor*

David Kilbane, *Village Administrator*

Gary L. Bitler, *Chief of Police*

ROUND LAKE BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT

OATH OF HONOR

On my honor, I will never
Betray my badge, my integrity,
My character or the public trust

I will always have the courage to hold
Myself and others accountable for our actions

I will always uphold the constitution,
My community and the department that I
serve



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Chiefs Message

March 03, 2014

Honorable Mayor Richard Hill and Village Board,

The Annual Report for 2013 is attached for your review. The report as always highlights accomplishments of individuals and department units and sections. In 2013 officers focused on data collection and performance measures to help us accomplish efficient deployment of personnel. We continued to look for ways to be more efficient and reduce our overall cost for the citizens of the Village while maintaining services that they have come to expect from us.

We worked together with other Village Departments and the Village Administrator to help identify and/or implement the following efficiencies;

- Identified means to reduce court overtime.
- Cross trained Records Clerks to move toward a single Village clerks unit.
- Shared responsibilities with Economic Development in the Crime Free Multi Housing and Inspections Programs.
- Maintained performance measures and data collection for all personnel
- Continued toward electronic reporting for traffic crashes, and traffic citations.
- Implemented a new parking ticket system.
- Transitioned to a new payroll/time system.
- Implemented a new patrol schedule.
- Used patrol data to reallocate patrol personnel in a more efficient manner.

In 2010 a plan was formulated for the entire department to follow in an attempt to reduce gang crime. In 2011 gang crime was reduced 59% from the previous year. In 2012 gang crime was slightly below 2011 numbers and in 2013 the numbers remained relatively the same. As I have stated we will never be able to eliminate this problem but we have been able to positively impact it and hang on to those gains.

Our annual community programs were once again successful as we hosted fifty- seven children and their families at Shop With A Cop and National Night Out brought out hundreds of residents for positive interaction with our Department. These programs were added to this year by officers reaching out to the community and helping those in need during the holiday season.

With your input and approval we have established a long term plan giving us direction into 2014 and beyond. I expect that we will continue to serve our residents and business community in the most efficient and cost effective way using this plan.

Gary L. Bitler
Chief of Police





Mission of the Round Lake Beach Police Department

We see our mission as protecting the rights of all persons to be free from crime and providing public safety services for all citizens that will both serve them and promote a safe environment through our Core Values.

Our Core Values rest within the PRIDE we have in our community:

Professionalism – We will provide the highest quality service by communicating and applying our skills, knowledge, and abilities for the benefit of the community

Respect – We are committed to fair and impartial service within the Department and throughout the community. We will ensure that all persons are treated with equality, courtesy, and compassion

Integrity – We will maintain the highest standards of honesty and ethical conduct within the Department and throughout the community

Dedication – We are committed to the relentless pursuit of justice while providing the highest level of service to the community

Excellence – We will lead by example and maintain the highest level of performance through the application of education, training, and technology

*The Values and Mission Statement were created by
the men and women of the Police Department in 2006*



Command and Essential Services

The Police Department is the largest of the operating Departments in the Village of Round Lake Beach. The Police Department has an authorized strength of 43 full-time police officers and three full time civilians. The department is a full service police agency with a current operating budget of approximately 5.9 million dollars. The organizational chart below shows the 2013 structure for the police department. Chief Gary Bitler oversees the four divisions (Patrol, Investigations, Support Services and Technical Services) of the police department.



Homeland Security

Lieutenant Chiarello is responsible for Homeland Security. The Department takes an active part in evaluating information from various Federal entities and funnels the information back to the officer on the streets. The Terrorism Liaison Officers Committee (TLOC) and the Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF) are just a couple of groups that are used as a conduit to pass on information of local trends as well as global threats. The TLOC is comprised of at least one law enforcement officer from each of the local police departments located within FBI Chicago Division territory. TLOC provides a venue for local law enforcement to interact with each other and with the FBI to share ideas and intelligence regarding the nation's war on terrorism and to discuss the counter terrorism challenges faced daily by police officers on the streets.

Emergency Management

The Police Department is also responsible to coordinate and oversee the Villages Emergency Management function. The Village had one FEMA recognized emergency in 2013. The Village continues to exchange information with other Lake County Emergency Management Programs through a monthly meeting hosted at the Lake County Emergency Management Emergency Operations Center.

The Village's own VIPS (Volunteers in Police Services), group logged in **3232.52860 hours of volunteer work**; 25931681.75 hours were worked for auxiliary traffic control for planned events, while 412.75219.5 hours were for emergency situations like: emergency traffic control for accidents, fires, down power lines, and railroad gate malfunctions. The remainder of time was for meetings and training. Mobile Eye pledges to continue to assist the Round Lake Area by providing auxiliary traffic control in emergency and non-emergency situations.



Administrative Reviews of Conduct

All complaints, including those that are anonymous, are investigated. The Department makes the complaint process available to the public by placing pamphlets in the lobby and posting the process on the Department's website. These pamphlets and the website (www.rlbpolice.org) also describe the method of complimenting employees.

Complaints and Internal Affairs Investigations

External	2010	2011	2012	2013
Citizen Complaint	4	4	1	5
Sustained	0	0	1	1
Not Sustained	2	0	0	4
Unfounded	0	4	0	0
Exonerated	2	0	0	0
Internal				
Directed Complaints	8	4	6	11
Sustained	7	2	6	8
Not Sustained	0	0	0	2
Unfounded	1	1	0	0
Exonerated	0	0	0	1

There were no Bias Based Profiling complaints in 2013.



Patrol Division

The Patrol Division is commanded by Lieutenant David Hare. It is the responsibility of the Patrol Division to provide 24 hour patrol services to the Village. Patrol officers are encouraged to conduct as much initial and follow-up investigation into offenses as possible. The Patrol Division is the largest division of the Police Department. The Patrol Division is responsible for responding to both emergency and non-emergency calls for service from the public, in addition to handling special assignments, self-initiated activities and addressing community concerns. Patrol officers are responsible for the protection of life and property, and maintaining peace and order in the community. The Patrol Division helps prevent crime and gives a visible presence to the public that instills confidence and security. Patrol officers are responsible for the initial investigation of all crimes from traffic crashes to homicides. During 2013, department members responded to 14,632 calls for service.

The Patrol Unit is divided into four shifts in order to provide 24-hour police services. Each shift is supervised by one sergeant. The number of officers assigned to each shift is directed by anticipated activity levels.

As mentioned earlier, the Department augments traditional patrol units with officers trained to perform specialized functions such as Evidence Technician, Field Training Officer, Bicycle Officer, Juvenile Officer and Breath Analysis Officers.

Two community service officers acted as an adjunct to the Patrol Division and assist the patrol officers with a dynamic range of tasks including parking enforcement, animal control, abandoned vehicles, private property crash reporting, traffic control and enforcement of ordinance violations.



Parking Enforcement

During 2013, there were 4,769 parking citations issued to drivers for a variety of reasons, with the main offenses listed below:

The primary violations for which parking citations were issued were 2-6am street parking, unregistered vehicles, fire lane parking, sidewalk parking, and inoperable vehicles.

Administrative Fee Recovery

In order to recover the cost of certain services performed by the Department and to reduce the impact on the taxpayer, the Village of Round Lake Beach began assessing administrative fines for vehicles which were towed as a result of being used in the commission of a crime and for certain traffic violations such as DUI, Driving While License Suspended or Revoked, No Valid Driver's License, Suspended Registration, and no Insurance.

Traffic Enforcement

There was an increase in traffic stops and , traffic citations and DUI arrests for 2013.

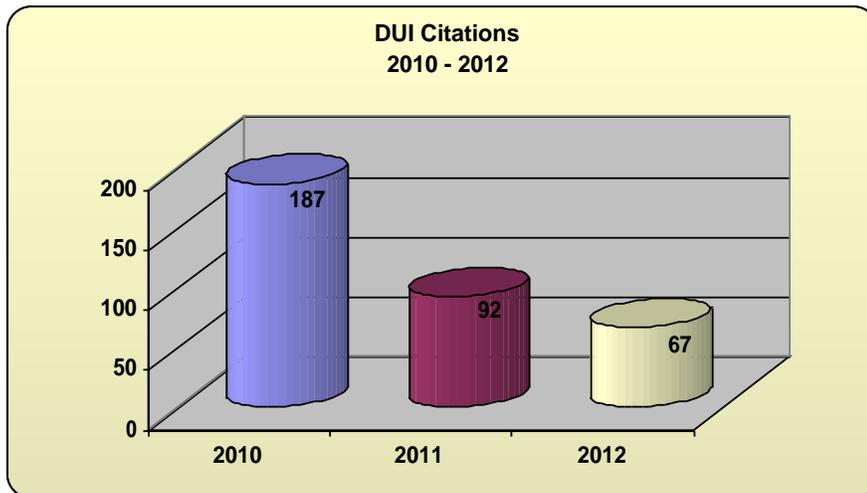


Traffic Crashes

In 2013, there were 822 traffic crashes which is an increase of 33 from the 789 traffic crashes in 2012.

Driving Under the Influence

There were 5667 arrests for Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol and drugs in 2013, which is a decrease from the 6792 arrests made in 2012. Officers and supervisors have reported a noticeable decrease in traffic during the overnight hours the past three years for unknown reasons.



Vehicle Pursuits

In 2013, the department had 1 vehicle fail to stop for police officers. The incident was reviewed and no corrective measures were needed.

Vehicle Pursuits

	2010	2011	2012	2013
Total Pursuits	3	3	4	1
Policy Compliant	3	2	3	1
Policy non-Compliant	0	1	1	10
Accidents	1	1	0	0
Injuries: Officer	0	0	0	0
: Suspects	0	0	0	0



: Third Party	0	0	0	0
Traffic Offense	1	3	3	1
Felony	3	2	1	0
Misdemeanor	0	1	0	0

Calls for Service

Calls for service include all reported crimes and incidents where the public needs the assistance of the Police Department. In 2013, the Department experienced a slight increase in calls for service with 14,632.

Arrests

2013 showed an 8 percent decrease in the total number of people arrested. There was a 4659 percent decreasedecrease in the arrests for the more serious Part 1 offenses.

Property and Evidence

The Department has five officers trained as evidence technicians. Two also double as Property Control Officers. These personnel are available 24-hours per day and perform their functions in addition to their regular patrol duties. Guidelines developed by the Illinois State Forensics Lab are used for the collection, preservation, storage and submission of physical evidence. The Evidence Technician Unit has access to both film and digital camera systems. All equipment is contained in a vehicle for rapid response as needed.

Police Training

The Department recognizes the importance of training and continually strives to ensure both sworn and civilian police employees are provided with the knowledge and education to perform their service to the community in a professional and safe manner.

New Officer Training and Field Training



Recruit police officers receive their initial training in a 14-week course at the Suburban Law Enforcement Academy in Glen Ellyn, at the Police Training Institute at the University of Illinois in Champaign or at the Illinois State Police Academy in Springfield.

The field training program for new officers who have graduated basic training is a 14-week program. The selection process for a field training officer requires the submission of a written request which is reviewed by a panel consisting of the Field Training Officer supervisor and current Field Training Officers. A recommendation is then forwarded to the Chief. New Field Training Officers must attend a 40-hour training course.

The Field Training Program consists of 14 weeks of one-on-one training and is designed to acquaint new officers to the Village, and to the policies and procedures unique to the Department. Each new officer will spend time with each of three different Field Training Officers (FTOs) over a period of 14 weeks. New officers will be trained and evaluated in all areas of the profession, and will be required to demonstrate a level of proficiency prior to successful completion of the program.

Each officer who successfully completes the program will remain on 12 additional months of probation, and will be released from probation only when they have displayed their ability to competently serve our citizens. Daily meetings are conducted to closely review their progress.

Round Lake Beach Police Officer Training

Police personnel are among the most well trained employees in the County. During 2013, Round Lake Beach Police Officers received a total of 2,118 hours of training or an average of approximately 55 hours per officer.

The in-house training function is an invaluable asset to the Department. Department personnel provide annual and specialized training to their fellow employees. Sworn employees receive firearms training every six months and to enhance that training and provide a feeling of realism, the Department has added simulated ammunition training. This training allows the officers to experience realistic situations where they can assess



their ability to quickly evaluate and react to a situation in a simulated life and death situation. The officers experience an elevated heart rate, a quickened pulse, and the level of adrenaline not possible by merely shooting at a paper target.

Investigations Division

The Investigations Division is managed by Lieutenant Michael Scott and includes the Investigations Unit and the Special Operations Unit.

Detective Unit

The Detective Unit is comprised of 3 Detectives and a Sergeant. The Detective Unit is responsible for conducting investigations that may require substantial traveling beyond the Village's jurisdiction, require specialized skills or training, and are lengthy and in-depth in nature. Patrol officers are encouraged to conduct as much initial and follow-up investigation into offenses as possible. The Detective Unit conducted investigations that led to 78 arrests in 2013. The arrests were for Sexual Assaults, Aggravated Battery, Homicide, Residential Burglary, Burglary, other violent crimes and for white collar crimes like Forgery, Deceptive Practices and Identity Theft.

Special Operations Unit and Warrant Services Team

The Round Lake Beach Police Department Special Operations Unit main focus is drug and gang enforcement, though they also may be assigned to work with the Patrol Unit and assigned to conduct other specialized functions. The Special Operations Unit actions resulted in 118 arrests during 2013. The Village has had a slight increase in gang graffiti from 37 incidents of Gang Related Criminal Defacement reports in 2012 to 40 in 2013.



Along with the three Special Operations Unit Officers, ten Patrol Officers join with them to form the Warrant Service Team. This team trains for the safe execution of serving warrants. The Round Lake Beach Special Operations Unit conducted investigations leading to 6 search warrants for houses involved in selling drugs within Round Lake Beach and surrounding communities. The Special Operations Unit also gathers gang intelligence and is tasked with updating this information on a daily basis.

The Round Lake Beach Police Department belongs to the Lake County Underage Drinking Prevention Task Force. The Special Operations Unit conducts quarterly alcohol compliance checks on businesses that sell alcohol in Round Lake Beach, as well as quarterly tobacco compliance checks on tobacco retailers.

Support Services Division

The Support Services Division manages accreditation, recordkeeping, equipment provision, supply and logistics function, community education and professional compliance duty. Support Services is managed by Lieutenant Gilbert Rivera.

Records Unit

As the repository for all documented calls for service, the Records Unit processes and archives all reports of criminal, non-criminal, and traffic activity handled by the Department.

The Department is customer service oriented. The Records Unit is open to the public Monday through Friday from 8:00 A.M. until 5:00 P.M. The village hall is open on Saturday mornings if someone needs assistance. The unit is responsible for the receipt, storage and dissemination of Department records, including citations and reports. The Records Unit acts as the Department's first point of contact to citizens. They are usually the first employees that visitors encounter when they come in to the Police Department or call for information. They assist citizens with obtaining copies of reports, dispense



employment applications, accept payment of parking ticket citations, handle the payment of towing fines and the release of vehicles, assist officers locating records, and act as a liaison with the States Attorney's Office by providing copies of reports and other documentation necessary for the successful prosecution of offenders.

Internships

The Round Lake Beach Police Department works with area colleges and universities to bring in students to experience the police department first hand. Interns from College of Lake County, North Park University and Southern Illinois University participated as Interns in 2013. The interns spend time in each division and unit at the police department.

Community Relations & Education

Gang Awareness Program (GAP) - GAP was provided to students at the three elementary schools. This program is used to keep young children from becoming involved in gangs. This program rewards the children in the form of recognition after completion of the program. The program is designed to provide support, education and a partnership between young people and the department. Also included in the G.A.P. education are proactive efforts to deter the recruiting efforts of local gangs at the elementary school level.

Crime Free Multi-Housing (CFMH)- The Crime Free Multi-Housing Project is a partnership between the Department, the Village and owners of rental properties to maintain properties that do not lead to criminal activity. Owners of rental properties are required and in turn require their tenants to maintain the premises as crime free. If the tenant does not maintain such an environment, the lease may be terminated by the property owner. Property owners have welcomed this tool as a means of maintaining safe housing. This program is not merely about penalties, it is about a new relationship that has been formed between the police and the landlords, especially in regards to sharing information.

The CFMH program involves education, enforcement, and follow-up. Each landlord is required to attend a free training seminar to educate them about the Village rental



requirements as well as their rights as landlords. During 2013, there were 19248 landlord re-certifications educated at 46 seminars and an additional 1367 new landlords at 5 seminars. The results of these efforts wereas that 94108 incidents occurred at rental properties in 20132 with 914 properties being vacated due to violations of the Crime Free Multi-Housing Program.

National Night Out -This event is designed to strengthen the community spirit and increase the awareness of crime and how to prevent it. It helps to recognize and enhance the police-community partnership. The 2013 event attracted over 1,500 residents. The National Night Out car show, organized by Officer Gary Lunn, was a huge success. It featured the Bat Mobile (loaned to us by Volo Auto Museum).

Shop With A Cop

On 12-02-13, the Round Lake Beach Police Department conducted its annual Shop With A Cop program. Shop With A Cop provided a positive holiday experience for 57 Round Lake Beach children in need by allowing positive interaction with law enforcement. The event was held at the Civic Center. Entertainment, activities, crafts and refreshments were also provided. Each child received a \$100 shopping spree at Wal-Mart. Officer's made sure that the children purchased necessary items (coats, gloves, etc.). The officers were also instructed to make sure that every child bought at least one toy.

Accreditation

The Round Lake Beach Police Department maintained ILEAP accreditation in 2013.

Enforcement of the Sex Offender Registry Act

The Village of Round Lake Beach has 4330 registered sex offenders residing within the Village limits during 2013. Currently, there is oneare three that are who is in violation of their registrations.

Milestones



Each year the Department celebrates the accomplishments and important events that occur, which affect the members who protect the Village. The year 2013 was no different and the Department recognized the following events:

Retirements



Greg Vanco



Gunner

2013 Police Officer of the Year

Throughout the year, awards are presented for superior service. Additionally each February, the Police Officer of the Year is recognized. To receive the award, the nominee has to be an outstanding employee who has had an excellent work record over the past year. The employee's performance is looked at in several areas such as, going beyond what is regularly expected, presenting a professional demeanor, willingness to help others, volunteering for assignments or extra work, and routinely making good decisions. Officer Gardiner Wade was recognized as the 2013 Officer of the Year.





Gardiner Wade

Conclusion

In 2013, we worked together with community partners and other village departments to be as efficient as possible while providing professional service to those that need it. We used volunteers to accomplish tasks and worked together as one village to reduce costs and improve service.

We once again had no bias based profiling complaints and of the thousands of citizen contacts we conduct each year we received five official documented citizen complaints that were resolved in 2013.

Officers continued in 2013 to focus on gang activity. Through their efforts the gains made the past two years were maintained in 2013, with a slight decrease in gang related crime over 2012.

We expanded our presence in the community by identifying those in need and assisting them with basic needs. National Night Out, Shop With a Cop, GAP, CAT and the Crime Free Multi Housing program continue to be our signature community programs.

In 2013, we implemented numerous changes designed to make the best use of our time, personnel and finances. We will monitor those changes in order to make sure they continue to be the best practice.

I would like to thank my fellow Department Heads and Administrator Kilbane for their cooperation and assistance. We continue to move forward to become as efficient as we can be while still being effective. To Mayor Hill and members of the Village Board, we appreciate your efforts and guidance under difficult economic conditions. Thank you for your support.



The year 2013 will be my last as I close a thirty-five year career of service to the residents of Round Lake Beach. I am grateful for the opportunities given and I wish those that continue to serve, all the best.

Gary L. Bitler
Chief of Police

In any given year it is imperative that we work together with all who have a stake in our community and that we treat all people we serve with the respect and dignity they deserve. 2012 was no different as we worked together with community partners and other Village Departments to move toward being as efficient as we can be while still providing professional service to those that need it. We once again had no bias based profiling complaints and of the documented 33,095 citizen contacts we had during the year we received one documented official citizen complaint.

Officers continued in 2012 to focus on gang activity. Through their efforts the dramatic gains made the past two years were maintained in 2012. Realizing we can not totally control gang activity we will not lose focus in this area and will continue to be a presence for those who threaten the peace and safety of our community.

We maintained our commitment in the community through our usual programs, and being present whenever needed at various functions and activities held by the many community partners we serve. We attended many 75th Anniversary events which were well done and a lot of fun. Here is one last tip of the cap to the 75th Committee. Thank you!

We strive every year to be good stewards of the resources given to us by the community. In 2012 more than any other year I can recall we worked hard together with other Village Departments and the Village Administrator to identify and implement numerous changes designed to make the best use of our time, personnel and finances.

I would like to thank my fellow Department Heads and Administrator Kilbane for their patience and efforts. Getting away from the norm and implementing change is rarely easy. To Mayor Hill and members of the Village Board we understand and appreciate your desire to have us all be safe and to be the best we can be. Thank you for another good year!

Gary L. Bitler
Chief of Police

