

# ROUND LAKE BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT

2011 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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March 05, 2012

Honorable Mayor Richard Hill and Village Board,

The Annual Report for 2011 is complete and attached for your review. The report as always highlights accomplishments of individuals and department units and sections. The overall mission remains constant. We continually strive to fulfill that mission with empathy, respect and fairness to all citizens. Personnel and economic issues made 2011 a rough year. It was a challenge to maintain progress.

We have embraced what some have termed the “new norm” in regards to the economy and what that means to our budget. We continually strive to reduce costs and efficiently serve the community. We are closer than ever to implementing new technology that will make us more efficient and have identified outside vendors and volunteers to assist us in performing tasks. We plan to continue finding efficiencies in 2012.

In 2010 we restructured the Special Operations Unit and put a plan in place for the entire department to follow in an attempt to reduce gang crime. The challenge for 2011 was to improve upon gains made in the area of gang crime. I am happy to report that gang crime has dropped 59% in 2011 from the previous year. Gang crime will always be a part of our mission and the success we had in 2011 is a direct result of the hard work and focus of the entire department. We will continue to put pressure on gang activity and work with outside agencies and the community to improve upon the gains made.

Our community programs were once again successful due to community involvement and the hard work of members of the department assigned to these programs. We had more community involvement than ever at National Night Out and Shop With a Cop.

2011 also saw the resolution of a 1982 homicide case. This was just one of many important cases resolved by members of the department, who work together every day to resolve problems for residents and business owners.

2011 marked my thirty-third year with the Village. It was one of the most challenging I have seen in a long while. We stayed within our budget while looking for additional efficiencies to deliver the best possible service to the community. I expect 2012 to be even more challenging and we are working at ways to meet those challenges.



## Mission of the Round Lake Beach Police Department

**W**e 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.

**O**ur Core Values rest within the PRIDE we have in our community:

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

**R**espect – 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

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

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

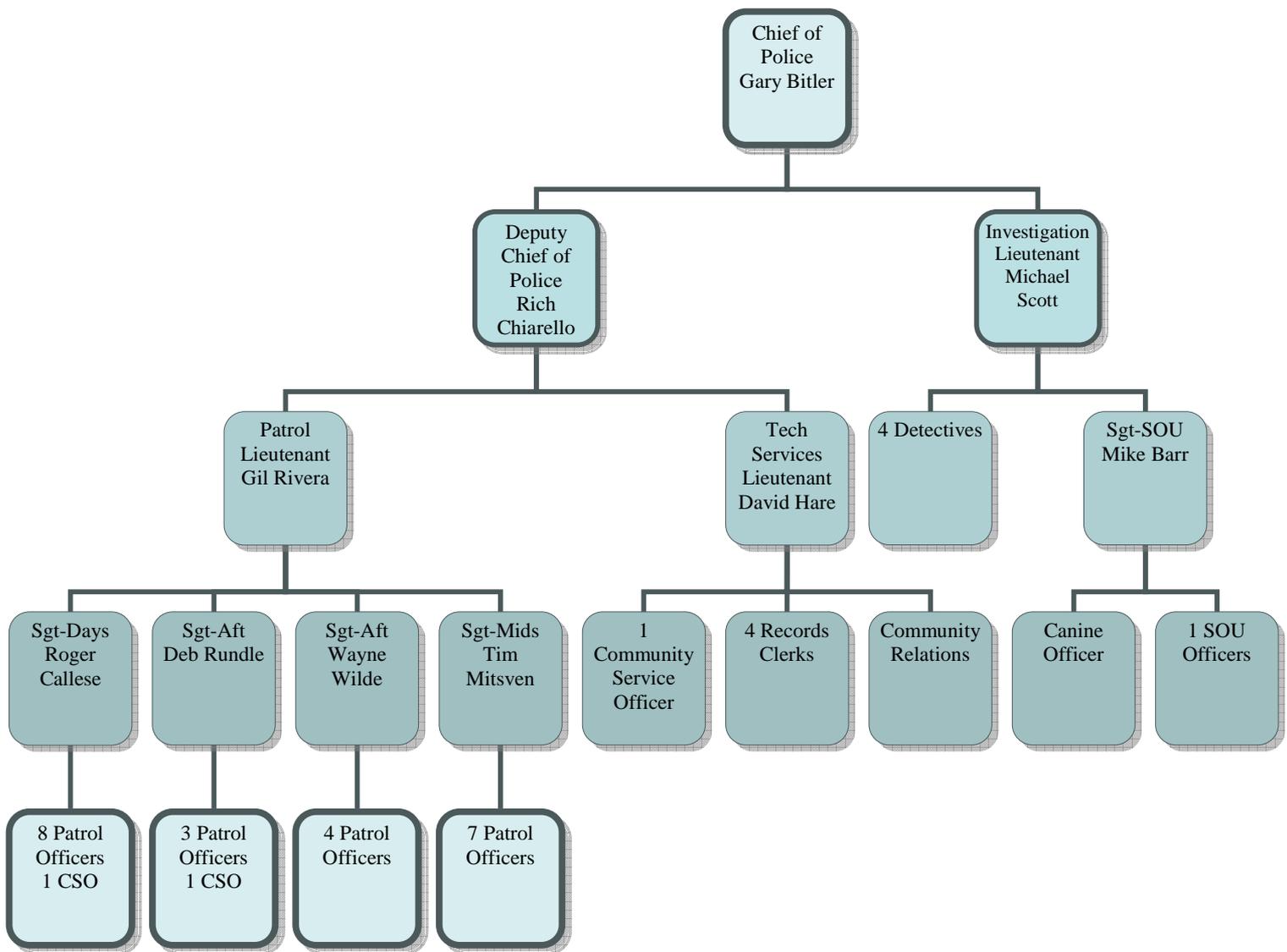
**E**xcellence – We will lead by example and maintain the highest level of performance through the application of education, training, and technology

*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 seven 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 2011 structure for the police department. Chief Gary Bitler and Deputy Chief Richard Chiarello oversee the three divisions (Patrol, Investigations and Technical Services) of the police department.



## **Homeland Security**

Deputy Chief 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 oversees the Villages Emergency Management function. The Village did experience a FEMA recognized snow emergency in February that left most of us isolated for a couple of days. Another emergency the Village reacted to was in July where severe straight line winds that left most of the Village without power. Both emergencies activated a number of different resources that had been preplanned in the event of an emergency. Both incidents brought to fruition that our preplanning efforts reduced our recovery time and increased our efficiencies during the response. The Village was also awarded money from FEMA to offset the cost of the response to the events.

Deputy Chief Richard Chiarello has continued to educate himself, as well as the community in his capacity as the Village's Emergency Services and Disaster Coordinator. In September he was recognized by the State and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as completing the curriculum in a Professional Development Series for Standards of Excellence in Emergency Management. He has conducted several meetings with the Villages Citizen Corps Council. The Citizen Corps Council has taken an active part in inspiring the community to take action and get involved. Please visit <http://www.citizencorps.gov/cert/index.shtm> for additional information.



The Village's own VIPS (Volunteers in Police Services), group logged in **2620.5 hours of volunteer work**; 1603 hours were worked for auxiliary traffic control for planned events, while 302.5 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](http://www.rlbpolice.org)) also describe the method of complimenting employees.

### **Complaints and Internal Affairs Investigations**

<b>External</b>	2009	2010	2011
Citizen Complaint	7	4	4
Sustained	0	0	0
Not Sustained	2	2	0
Unfounded	0	0	4
Exonerated	5	2	0
<b>Internal</b>			
Directed Complaints	10	8	4
Sustained	8	7	2
Not Sustained	0	0	0
Unfounded	0	1	1
Exonerated	1	0	0

In 2011 one internal complaint was closed other than listed

**There were no Bias Based Profiling complaints in 2011.**



## **Patrol Division**

The Patrol Division is commanded by Lieutenant Gilbert Rivera. 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 2011, department members responded to 14,269 calls for service.

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

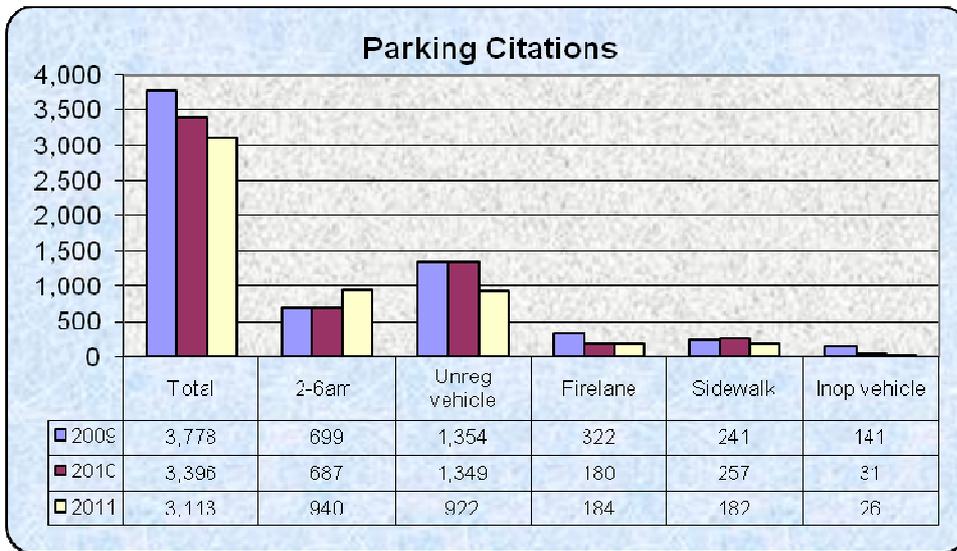
As mentioned earlier, the Department augments traditional patrol units with officers trained to perform specialized functions such as that of Canine Officer, Evidence Technician, Field Training Officer, Bicycle Officer, Juvenile Officer and Breath Analysis Officers.

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 2011 there were 3,113 parking citations issued to drivers for a variety of reasons, with the main offenses listed below:

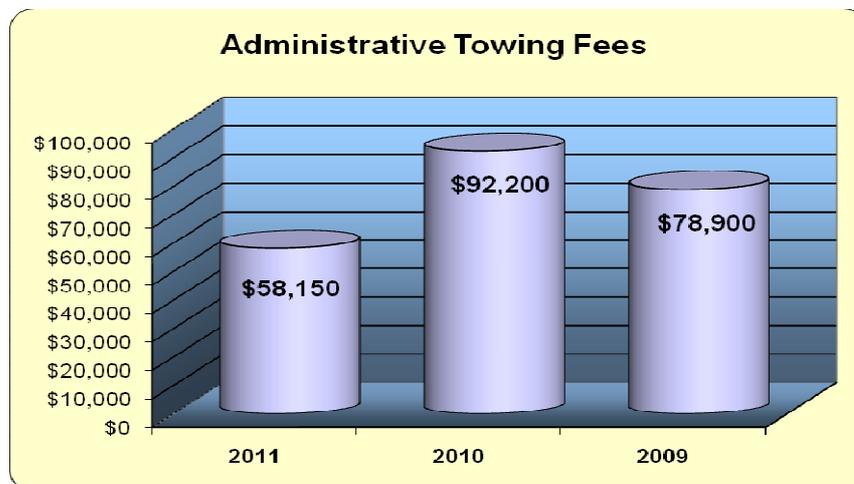




The primary violations for which parking citations were issued were 2-6am street parking, unregistered vehicles, fire lane parking, sidewalk parking, and inoperable vehicles.

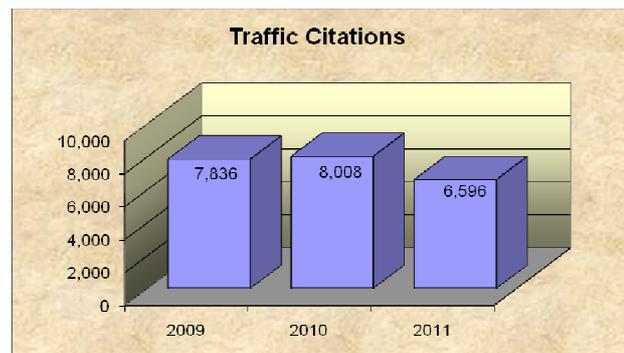
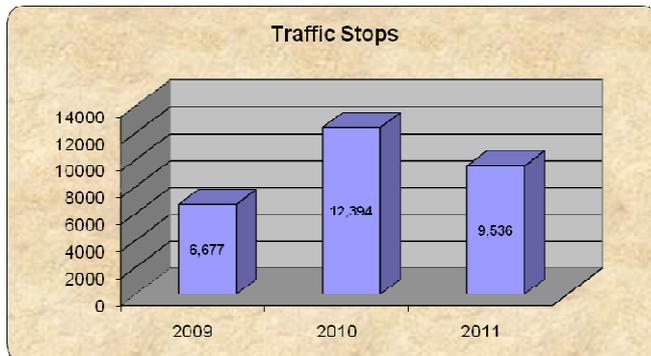
### Administrative Fee Recovery

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.



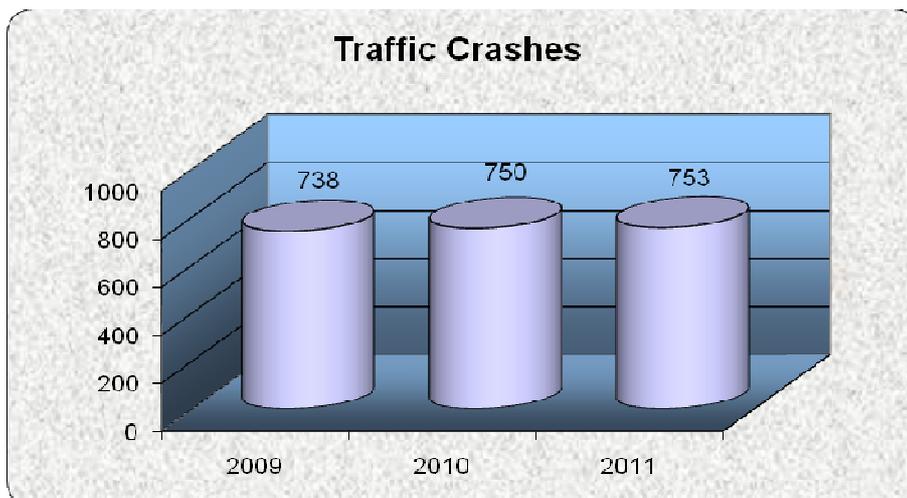
## Traffic Enforcement

There was a decline in traffic stops, traffic citations and DUI arrests for 2011. Personnel issues, voluntary compliance by the public and a focus on gang crime may have contributed to the decline.



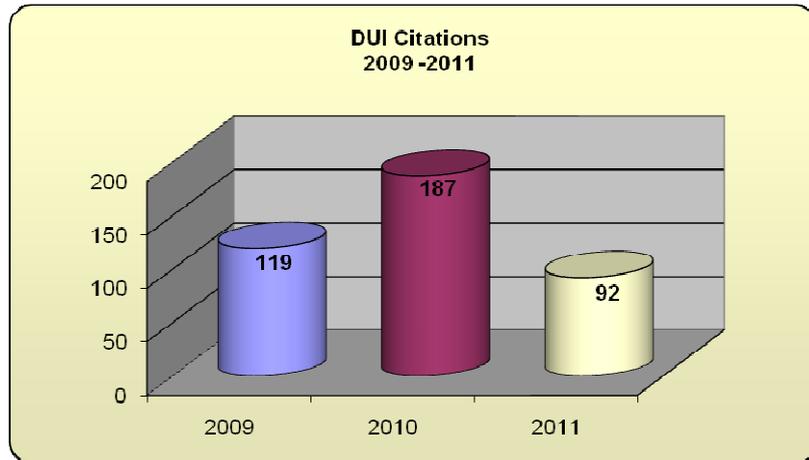
## Traffic Crashes

In 2011 there were 753 traffic crashes which is an increase of only 3 from the 750 traffic crashes in 2010.



### Driving Under the Influence

There were 92 arrests for Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol and drugs in 2011, which is a decrease of approximately 50 percent from the 187 arrests made in 2010.



### Vehicle Pursuits

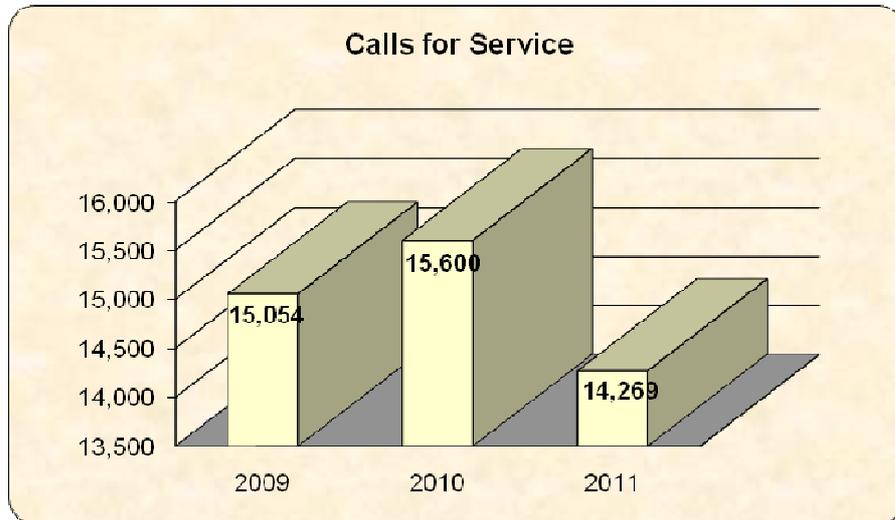
In 2011, the Department had 3 vehicles fail to stop for police officers. Each incident was reviewed and corrective measures were taken when needed. No injuries resulted in any of the pursuits.

#### Vehicle Pursuits

	2009	2010	2011
Total Pursuits	2	3	3
Policy Compliant	2	3	2
Policy non-Compliant	0	0	1
Accidents	1	1	1
Injuries: Officer	0	0	0
: Suspects	0	0	0
: Third Party	0	0	0
Traffic Offense	1	1	3
Felony	2	3	2
Misdemeanor	0	0	1

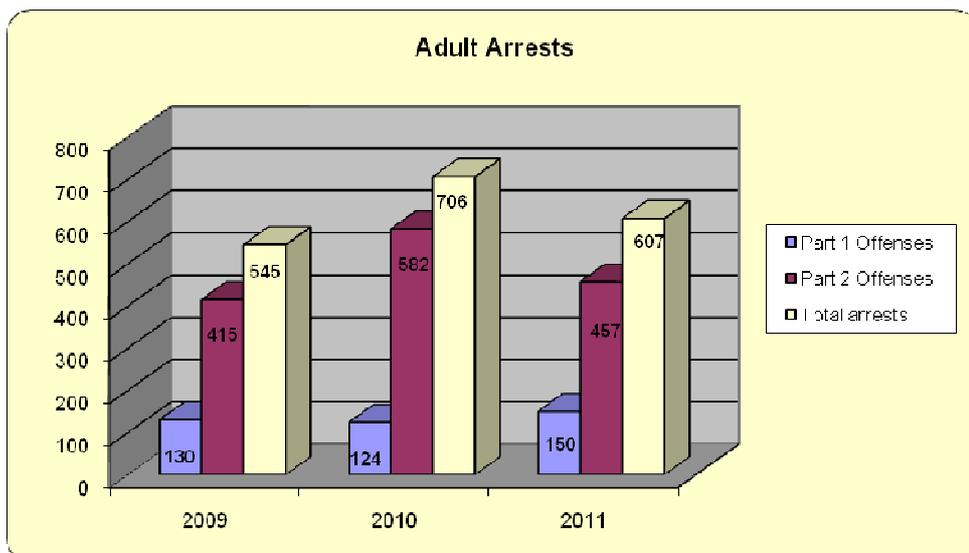
### Calls for Service

Calls for service include all reported crimes and incidents where the public needs the assistance of the Police Department. In 2011 the Department experienced a slight decrease in calls for service with 14,269.



### Arrests

2011 showed a 14 percent decrease in the total number of people arrested however there was a 20 percent increase in the arrests for the more serious Part 1 offenses.



## **Bicycle Patrol Team**

The Bicycle Patrol Officers are trained and certified by the International Police Mountain Bike Association under the supervision of Sergeant Roger Callese, a certified IPMBA trainer. Round Lake Beach Police Officers spent approximately 152 hours riding bicycles on duty throughout the community in 2011 and made over 1000 citizen contacts.

## **Property and Evidence**

The Department has five officers trained as evidence technicians. One also doubles as an accident investigator and two are also 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, Illinois or at the Police Training Institute at the University of Illinois in Champaign.

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, current Field Training Officers and the Deputy 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 2011, Round Lake Beach Police Officers received a total of 2792 hours of training or an average of approximately 69.8 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 ammunitions 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.

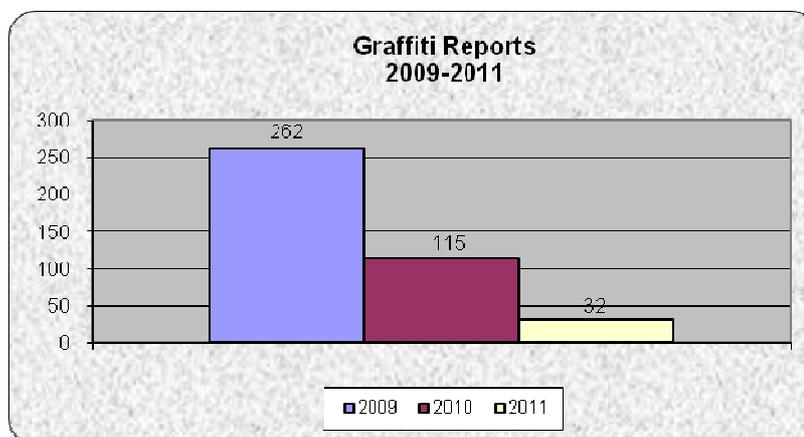


## Investigations Division

The Investigations Division is managed by Lieutenant Michael Scott. The Investigations Division 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 investigations unit conducted investigations that led to 133 arrests in 2011. The arrests were for Sexual Assaults, Aggravated Battery, Residential Burglary, Burglary, Child Pornography, 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 village has had a reduction in gang graffiti from 262 incidents of Criminal Defacement reported in 2009 to only 32 in 2011.



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 5 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.

### **Police Canine Team**

The team belongs to the Special Operations Unit and assists with searches for items, drugs, or people. The Canine Team received approximately 171 hours of training in 2011 to maintain their skills. The Canine Team also provides assistance to other departments as needed, and conducts public demonstrations. The Canine Team participated in 6 Demonstrations in the Round Lake Beach area. The demonstrations were conducted for the Round Lake Area Chamber of Commerce, the Girl Scouts, and area Retirement Homes. The Canine Team also does demonstrations at Beachfest and National Night Out. In 2011 the Canine Team was used to search 20 vehicles and 6 homes for drugs. The Canine Team was also used to assist other area law enforcement agencies 20 times this year in Lake Villa, Mundelein, Fox Lake, Round Lake Heights, Antioch, Lakemoor, the Lake County Sheriff's Department and the Metropolitan Enforcement Group.

The Canine Team worked with the Round Lake Beach Special Operations warrant service team when they serve search warrants in town.

#### **Canine Team Activities**

VEHICLE DRUG CHECKS	32
SUSPECT TRACKING	9
SEARCH WARRANTS	5
BUILDING SEARCHES	7
OUTSIDE AGENCY ASSIST	20
TRAINING HOURS	171
PUBLIC EVENTS	6



## **Technical Services Division**

The Technical Services Division manages accreditation, recordkeeping, equipment provision, supply and logistics function, community education and professional compliance duty. Technical Services is managed by Lieutenant David Hare.

### **Records Unit**

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

The Records Unit is staffed by four civilian employees. The Department is customer service oriented. The Records Unit is open to the public Monday through Friday from 8:00 A.M. until 8:00 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, University of Wisconsin Parkside and Bradley University participated as Interns in 2011. The interns spend time in each division and unit at the police department.



## **Community Relations & Education**

Officer Greg Vanco is designated as the Police Department's Community Relations and Crime Prevention Officer. He is responsible for many tours and programs including Community Action Teams, Gang Awareness Programs, and the Crime Free Multi-Housing Program.

The Department began its Community Action Teams (C.A.T.) program in 2006. This program is similar to a neighborhood watch program, used as a method of partnering with the community to develop community involvement in crime prevention. During 2011, there were 16 CAT meetings with nearly 821 citizens attending the meetings.

Gang Awareness Program (GAP) - GAP was provided to 330 students at the two 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 2011 there were 29 landlord recertifications educated at 15 seminars and 97 new landlords at 5 seminars. The result of



these efforts was that 159 incidents occurred at rental properties in 2011 with 19 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 2011 event attracted approximately 1,000 residents who were lined up for food and fun at the Round Lake Beach lakefront when a violent thunderstorm struck the area and everyone was forced to run for cover. Several hundred returned when the clouds parted and the sky cleared.

### **Shop With A Cop**

On 12-07-09, the Round Lake Beach Police Department conducted the Village's first Shop With A Cop program. Shop With A Cop provided a positive holiday experience for 54 Round Lake Beach children in need by allowing positive interaction with law enforcement. The event is held at the Civic Center. Entertainment, activities, crafts and refreshments are also provided.

In 2011, the third annual shop with a cop event took place and 54 children were again selected to participate. Each child received a \$100 shopping spree at Wal-Mart. Officer's made sure that the children purchased necessary items (coats, gloves, etc.). The officer's were also instructed to make sure that every child bought at least one toy.

### **Accreditation**

The Round Lake Beach Police Department became internationally accredited in 2009 through CALEA. Chief Bitler wanted to maintain accreditation while being fiscally responsible and decided that the Illinois Law Enforcement Accreditation Program (ILEAP) will meet the needs of the department. The police department has maintained all of the CALEA policies and even added a few that ILEAP requires. The department had set a goal to transition to ILEAP by the end of 2011 but the final inspection from the assessors was postponed until February of 2012.



### **Enforcement of the Sex Offender Registry Act**

The Village of Round Lake Beach had between 39 and 42 registered sex offenders residing within the Village limits during 2011. That State of Illinois requires that each sex offender receives one home visit from a police officer per year. Our Department has two officers who are responsible for conducting the home visits, and they conducted 2 such visits for every adult sex-offender in town throughout the year. The 135 home visits our officers made resulted in 4 warrants being obtained for violations, as well as 2 arrests made for onsite violations.

### **Police Fitness Challenge**

The Fitness Challenge is an employee sponsored event to promote physical fitness and provide individual employees the opportunity to demonstrate the fitness they have achieved. During 2011 the Challenge consisted of pull-ups, sit-ups and completing a 1.5 - mile run. The employee receiving the greatest amount of points is the winner of the Fitness Challenge. Officer Gardiner Wade was the recipient of the 2011 Fitness Challenge.



## Milestones

Each year the Department celebrates the accomplishments and important events that occur, which affect the members who protect the Village. The year 2011 was no different and the Department recognized the following events:

### **Twenty Years of Service**



**Officer Sandra Molidor**



**Lieutenant Michael Scott**



**Officer Greg Vanco.**

## Awards and Commendations

Throughout the year, awards are presented for superior service. Additionally each February, the Police Officer of the Year and Civilian Employee of the Year are awarded. 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, their ability to work well with others, volunteering for assignments or extra work, and routinely making good decisions

### **2011 Employees of the Year**

#### **Police Officer of the Year**

Officer Ken Lupi was recognized as Officer of the Year for 2011. Officer Lupi was awarded a Life Saving Award in March for performing CPR on a woman in distress that contributed to her survival. Ofc. Lupi also was instrumental in closing a kidnapping case and various burglary cases. Ofc. Lupi did not miss a day of work in 2011 while serving on the night shift.



### **Civilian Employee of the Year**

Community Service Officer Tammy Dreyer was named 2011 Civilian of the Year. Tammy has been a valued employee since 2006. Tammy has a very diverse job description at the police department. Tammy maintains all of the equipment including the squad cars. She enforces parking at the Metra station, does work in records and participates in the Community Relations Unit. Tammy also helps organizes community events like National Night Out and Shop with a Cop.

### **Federal Bureau of Investigations National Academy**

Lt. Michael Scott attended the FBI's National Academy in Quantico VA at the FBI training academy. The training consists of 10 weeks of management level training with law enforcement executives from across the county and the world.

### **Executive Management Program**

Lt. Gilbert Rivera attended the Northwestern University Center for Public Safety Executive Management Program. The three week course completes Northwestern's cycle of management training which also includes a two week first line supervisor course and a ten week mid-management course.

### **Perfect Attendance (No Sick-Time)**

Perfect attendance awards were issued to the following dedicated employees:

Police Officer Ken Lupi

Police Officer Vincent Sciarrone (for the fifth straight year)

Sergeant Wayne Wilde

### **DUI Awards**

The DUI award is given to each officer that arrests more than 25 drivers for Driving Under the Influence with in the calendar year.

Officer Ryan Rodriguez made 28 DUI arrests in 2011.

Officer Rodriguez was also recognized by the Illinois Department of Transportation in 2011 for having more than 75 DUI arrests in his career.



## Conclusion

In 2011 Officers were tasked with reducing crime by deterring gang activity. They accomplished the task and will continue to push for progress in this area in 2012. We will continue to work with our community and law enforcement partners to maintain the gains made.

We expanded our community programs this year. National Night Out and Shop With A Cop had the most community participation we have ever had. We taught children in our schools about good choices with the GAP program and the Crime Free Multi Housing program also expanded and assists us with reducing crime and nuisance activity.

We had contact with approximately 25,000 citizens in 2011 and received four citizen complaints. We also had four internal complaints in which we hold ourselves accountable for the policies and rules and regulations we work by. We also had no bias based profiling complaints 2011. Those low numbers indicate we are doing the right things and treating people right.

It is because of the dedication and efforts of the men and women who serve this Village that 2011 was another successful year. To those men and women I say thank you and remind them that the job is never done.

We understand the “new norm” in regards to the economy and strive every year to be good stewards of the resources given to us by the community. Efficiencies were found and implemented in 2011 and we will continue into 2012.

We appreciate the support and confidence given to us by the Mayor, Village Board, Village Administrator, Department Heads and Village Employees. Without that, the job would be much tougher. Thank you.

