

# LA GRANGE POLICE DEPARTMENT

## Memorandum

To: Robert J. Pilipiszyn, Village Manager  
From: Chief Renee Strasser   
Date: December 10, 2015  
Re: Monthly Report for November 2015

---



On November 11, 2015, LaGrange Officers honored those who have served in the United States Military by attending the annual Veteran's Day Memorial Services at the LaGrange Legion Hall and Lyons Township High School. It is no surprise that many members of the LaGrange Police Department have proudly served our Country as members of the Armed Forces. That list of personnel, along with service dates and assignments, appears at the end of this monthly report.

In the spirit of Veteran's Day, Army Captain Tim Andries surprised Mrs. Berkely's 5<sup>th</sup> Grade D.A.R.E class at Seventh Ave. School by teaching his D.A.R.E. lesson in his full military dress uniform. Captain Andries spent time answering the children's questions about his time serving as a Chemical Officer in the United States Army.



The Patrol Division welcomed the arrival of a 2016 Ford Explorer SUV to the fleet of police vehicles. The 2016 Ford Explorer features all-wheel drive, greater fuel efficiency, enhanced visibility and the room necessary for a Field Training Officer or Auxiliary Officer to sit comfortably in the passenger seat.

## MIDNIGHT SHIFT ACTIVITIES

**INVESTIGATIONS:** Ofc. Coleman, Ofc. Heredia, S/L Wolf, Ofc. Herrera and Sgt. Wardlaw responded to the LaGrange Memorial Hospital Emergency Room for a male subject who was unruly and combative with hospital staff. The subject was highly intoxicated, suffering from low blood sugar and had been placed into restraints by hospital staff. While restraining and treating the subject, several staff members had suffered minor injuries to their fingers and hands. Peace was restored, no complaints were signed and no arrest was made.

Ofc. Heredia and S/L Wolf responded to the 100 block of Sawyer for the report of a Missing Juvenile-teenager. The juvenile subject had been suspended from LTHS-North earlier in the day for getting into an

altercation. Early in the evening he then left the house without telling his mother where he was going. Mother advised that he had done this on previous occasions also. A Critical Reach-Track Flier was created about the subject and sent to surrounding agencies. Three days later the juvenile subject returned home safely on his own, stating he had stayed with a female friend in Cicero.

While conducting a premise check of the Village parking garage/structure, Sgt. Ljubenko observed an unoccupied parked vehicle on the second floor. A check of the vehicle registration showed it to be reported stolen out of Chicago. Chicago P.D. advised they would not be taking possession of vehicle for any further processing or investigation and that it could be released to the owner. The registered owner was contacted and the vehicle was turned over to him.

Ofc. Nemecek, Ofc. Coleman, Ofc. Herrera, Sgt. Wardlaw and Sgt. Ljubenko responded to the 0-50 block of N. Brainard for a domestic disturbance between a male and female subject. It was learned the two were boyfriend/girlfriend and shared an apartment. The two were in the process of moving out of the building and got into a verbal argument only about the packing of some items. Peace was restored.

Ofc. Nemecek and Ofc. Coleman responded to the report of an Attempt Burglary to Motor Vehicle in the 500 block of S. LaGrange Rd. The victim's work van had been parked in the parking lot of the apartment complex. Three passenger side door locks and door handles had been damaged by an unknown subject attempting to gain entry. No entry was made to the vehicle and nothing was taken from inside.

Ofc. Nemecek and Ofc. Coleman met with a male subject in the lobby of the P.D. regarding some domestic trouble he had been experiencing with his wife in the 800 block of S. Ashland. Subject advised that he and his wife were going through a divorce, they have gotten into arguments and his wife has been verbally abusive towards him. Male subject advised he will be staying temporarily in a hotel and is in the process of moving into his own apartment. Information and advice was given, domestic violence forms provided, matter of record only at this time.

Ofc. Nemecek and Ofc. Coleman met with a male subject regarding a theft of a statue. The subject advised that earlier in the month he used a moving company to move his belongings from his residence in the 800 block of S. 6<sup>th</sup> Ave to his new residence in Indian Head Park. The subject packed a marble and onyx statue into a box and placed it into the moving van. When he unpacked his belongings, he could not find the statue. Matter of record for insurance purposes only at this time.

Ofc. Nemecek, Ofc. Coleman, Ofc. Comstock and Sgt. Wardlaw responded for a Domestic Battery incident in the 1000 block of S. Madison. It was learned a female subject and her husband reside in their residence, along with the female subject's brother and the brother's girlfriend. The female subject and her brother's girlfriend got into a verbal argument over unpaid bills. The argument escalated with both female subjects slapping and scratching each other. Both sustained minor injuries and they declined any medical attention. Peace was restored, domestic violence forms provided to all parties. Female subject's brother and girlfriend left the residence to stay with another relative. They plan to move out of residence permanently in near future.

**OTHER POLICE ACTIVITY:** The midnight shift completed 65 traffic contacts which included 1 Misdemeanor Traffic Arrest for Driving While License Suspended/Revoked, 1 Traffic Arrest for Driving a Truck with a Canceled CDL and investigated 2 property damage traffic accidents and 1 personal injury hit & run traffic accident. Shift Officers issued 84 parking citations for overnight parking and other violations. Shift Officers conducted 113 Building/Business Premise Checks and Foot Patrols.

**TRAINING:** The shift successfully completed the November 2015 Police Law Institute online training along with the Lexipol Daily Training Bulletins. In addition, S/L Wolf attended NIPAS 1-day Full Team training, Ofc. Heredia completed Phase II field training with F.T.O. Wolf and Ofc. Nemecek began Phase III field training with F.T.O. Coleman.

## **DAY SHIFT ACTIVITIES**

**INVESTIGATIONS:** The investigative reports taken on this shift include: (2) missing juvenile, (4) disorderly conduct, (2) criminal damage to property, (4) theft, (1) burglary to motor vehicle, (1) unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia, (1) fraud, (1) criminal trespass to property.

Ofc. McDermott responded to a Disorderly Conduct complaint at Catherine and Ogden in which a subject was kicking the complainant's vehicle. No permanent damage to the vehicle. No complaints were signed.

Ofc. Wessendorf handled an Attempted Theft by Deception case in the 400 block S. Kensington where the complainant received a telephone call from an unknown person portraying themselves to be with the Attorney General's Office. The complainant was advised that a suit was brought against them and they owed money. There was no monetary loss and the offender could not be identified/located.

Ofc. McDermott took a Criminal Damage to Property report in the 00 block S. La Grange in which a complainant's vehicle was scratched. A suspect was named, but not charged due to lack of physical evidence.

Sgt. Rohlicek responded to a Disorderly Conduct case in the 00 block of N. Kensington in which a subject made inappropriate comments to school/church officials. The victim did not wish to pursue the matter criminally.

Ofc. Moncivais managed a Burglary to Motor Vehicle in the 600 block S. La Grange Road, where a subject was seen on camera breaking into a vehicle. The case was under investigation (solved in early December).

Ofc. Wessendorf responded to a delayed Theft report in the 100 block N. La Grange Road in which a display cellular telephone was stolen by a customer.

Ofc. McDermott recovered a small amount of Cannabis and Paraphernalia after a traffic crash. The party involved was not under the influence at the time of the crash. No charges were filed.

Sgt. Cimalista observed damage to the La Grange Parking Garage, in which unknown offender caused damage to the freshly painted floor of the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> floors. Damage is estimated at \$2,000.00.

Ofc. McDermott investigated a Theft by Deception in the 500 block S. Brainard Ave. in which unknown offender advised the complainant that her grandson required bail due to an arrest. The complainant wired money to the offender and later learned it was a "scam." No identification has been made nor been complaints filed.

Ofc. Moncivais handled a Theft in the 00 block W. Hillgrove in which the victim's purse was stolen from a restaurant. There were no suspects/witnesses to the theft. The case is under investigation.

**ARRESTS:** S/L Fulla arrested a 29 year old Elmwood Park man for Criminal Trespass to Property in the 500 block S. Park. The offender was found sleeping in a bathroom.

**OTHER POLICE ACTIVITY:** The dayshift completed 102 traffic contacts which included 3 Misdemeanor Traffic Arrest for Driving While License Suspended/Revoked. Shift Officers issued 8 parking citations and 17 compliance tickets. They completed 31 crash reports, conducted 6 Foot Patrols and served as crossing guards on 9 separate occasions. Officers participated in 88 community contacts at the schools.

In addition, dayshift personnel conducted lockdown drills at Spring Ave. School, Gurrie Jr. High School and Ogden Ave. School and attended a lunch and recess for Spring Avenue School children. They also provided a station tour for Cub Scout Pack 39. Finally, dayshift officers assisted with traffic/pedestrian enforcement for the annual Pie Run.

**TRAINING:** The shift successfully completed the November 2015 Police Law Institute online training along with the Lexipol Daily Training Bulletins. Sgt. Rohlicek attended LTHS Snowball event and began a 2-week Supervision of Police Personnel course at Northwestern University.

## **AFTERNOON SHIFT ACTIVITIES**

**INVESTIGATIONS:** Investigative Case Reports taken this month included: Vandalism, Warrant Service, Theft Under \$500 (4), Criminal Damage to Property (3), Domestic Trouble (2), Identity Theft, Attempt Burglary, Suspicious Vehicle/Subject (3), Fraud Attempt, Telephone Harassment (2), Missing Endangered Subject, Criminal Damage to Motor Vehicle, Aggravated Assault of a Peace Officer (2), Damage to Village Property (2), Suicidal Subject, Battery (3), Forgery, Unlawful Possession of Drug Paraphernalia, Counterfeit Currency, Lost Property, Burglary to Garage (2), Disorderly Conduct, Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol.

Ofc. Kang responded to the 700 block of South Ashland Avenue in reference to a 16-year old special-needs juvenile who was reported missing. Her mother reported that she was not home from school (LTHS-South) after classes ended. The juvenile was later located by police in Countryside and she was returned home safe.

Ofc. Burrell responded to the 00 block of South Spring Avenue to take an Attempt Residential Burglary report. The offender(s) reportedly tried to gain access to the residence through a first floor ground-level window. An immediate check of the area and neighborhood canvass yielded negative results in locating a suspect. The case was turned over to Investigations.

Ofc. Rogers reported to the PD lobby to take a Telephone Harassment complaint. A LaGrange Park woman reported while driving through the Village, she received a call on her personal cellular phone from a man demanding money. Ofc. Rogers contacted the owner of the phone number that was provided to police by the victim. The male owner of the phone, who refused to identify himself, denied making any calls to the victim. The male was advised to cease all contact with the victim, to which he advised he would comply.

Ofc. Burrell responded to the 700 block of South LaGrange Road for a report of a Garage Burglary. The resident reported that taken from his open garage were several power tools valued at over \$1,400. The resident reported no suspects or witnesses.

Ofc. Irizarry responded to a business in the 00 block of South LaGrange Road in reference to a counterfeit note (\$100 bill) that was passed to a cashier at the store. The bill was recovered by police and forwarded to the U.S. Secret Service for further processing and assessment. A brief description of the woman who passed the bill was provided, but she has yet to be located.

Ofc. Rogers responded to the 700 block of South Spring Avenue in reference to a Suspicious Vehicle/Subject complaint. A 13-year old female advised that she was approached by an older male Hispanic in a white vehicle as she was walking towards her home. The male asked her, from his vehicle, if she would assist him in locating his "lost dog". The girl was able to enter her residence safely and spoke to her father about the incident. A Critical Reach Track Flyer and Press Release was issued in reference to this case. The case is under investigation.

**ARRESTS:** Ofc. Nemecek and FTO Uher cited a 29-year old Berwyn man for Disorderly Conduct after LaGrange police units responded to 00 block of West Harris for a fight-in-progress. A witness reported seeing the man fighting with another unidentified male prior to the arrival of police. The man was taken into custody and cited without incident.

Ofc. Kang and Ofc. Irizarry completed Warrant Service for two individuals following a traffic stop conducted by Kang in the vicinity of LaGrange Road and Maple Avenue. The driver, a 20-year old Berwyn man had an outstanding Stickney warrant for Driving While License Suspended. One of the passengers, a 19-year old LaGrange Highlands woman had an outstanding Livingston County warrant for Unlawful Possession of Drug Paraphernalia. The driver was issued additional citations, including driving on a suspended license.

Ofc. Burrell, along with S/L Uher and Ofc. Hon arrested two 45-year old LaGrange men for Battery after police responded to the 100 block of North Stone for a fight-in-progress. A witness reported that the men punched and kicked another male at the scene, causing injury. The two men were both arrested and charged, without incident.

Ofc. Irizarry, along with Ofc. Rogers and Ofc. Kang arrested a 53-year old local homeless man on two counts of Aggravated Assault, and one count of Unlawful Possession of Drug Paraphernalia after officers responded to the Village Parking Garage for an unwanted subject. The man shouted threats and made aggressive movements towards the officers while in close proximity to them. The man was immediately taken into custody.

Ofc. Kang arrested a 69-year old Westchester man for DUI and Damage to Village Property after officers responded to the intersection of Cossitt and 7<sup>th</sup> Avenues for a three car personal injury accident. Kang completed the scene investigation and arrested the driver, after he was provided medical treatment. The man refused all chemical testing prior to being processed on several charges.

**OTHER POLICE ACTIVITY:** The Afternoon shift completed 88 traffic contacts which included 3 Misdemeanor Traffic Arrests for Driving While License Suspended/Revoked. Officers completed 25 crash reports (3 Personal Injury) and issued 10 parking citations. Shift Officers conducted 51 Building/Business Premise Checks and Foot Patrols.

**TRAINING:** The shift successfully completed the November 2015 Police Law Institute online training on: Investigations during Traffic Stops, Criminal Resisting and Obstructing, Passengers Seized as a Result of a Traffic Stop, Observations of Any Occupant by Officers, Delays during Legal Stops, and Canine Sniffs (Walkaround).

Sergeants Berg and Odom attended Behavioral Observation Training conducted at the LaGrange Fire Department. Sergeant Berg and Officer Hon attended the Illinois Tactical Officer Association (ITOA) 28<sup>th</sup> annual training conference in Oakbrook, Illinois. Officer Hon completed the NEMRT 40-hour Juvenile Officer Specialist Course and exam.

## **INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION ACTIVITIES**

**INVESTIGATIONS:** Inv. Andries assisted in the investigation of a teacher receiving threatening text messages and phone calls while at St. John's Lutheran School. Through the course of the investigation it was determined that no threats of physical harm were ever made towards the school, the students, the teachers or staff.

**OTHER POLICE ACTIVITY:** As the departments D.A.R.E. Officer, Inv. Andries was invited back to Gurrie Middle School to speak with 8<sup>th</sup> grader students about juvenile law and legal consequences of drugs and underage alcohol consumption.

Inv. Andries was invited to the Bethlehem Woods retirement home Men's Club to speak to the members on common trends in Identity Theft scams. Inv. Andries also provided each member with information on how to identify a scam and what to do if they should ever become a victim of identity theft.

Inv. Andries attended the MCAT meeting for the month of November.

**TRAINING:** Inv. Andries successfully completed the November 2015 Police Law Institute online training along with the Lexipol Daily Training Bulletins.

## **TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

LTACC E/D Kim Knutsen was busy at Village Board Meetings in November. Approval was granted to purchase New World System software for Computer Automated Dispatch and PowerPhone software for Emergency medical Dispatch.

## **AUXILIARY AND PART-TIME POLICE UNITS**

The Auxiliary Unit volunteered 73 hours during the month of November and their time was spent conducting house checks, street lights out lists and various patrol duties. The Auxiliary Officers provided safety and security for the annual Pie Run. Auxiliary Director Liotta participated in Hillside's annual parade.

The Part-time Officers made 31 traffic contacts and 1 misdemeanor traffic arrest for Suspended Registration. They were also active during the month conducting directed traffic patrols and assisting the full-time officers where necessary.

**ARRESTS:** Ofc. McGuire arrested a 32 year old LaGrange Park man for an outstanding traffic warrant.

**PARKING DIVISION**

The parking division registered \$14,503 in parking fines through conventional payments, on-line payments, or collection efforts. Over 100 commuters have signed-up for Passport Parking. P/E/O Hannon and Kotrba continued to serve as school crossing guards.

**TRUCK ENFORCEMENT**

<b>November 2015</b>	<b>7-3 SHIFT</b>	<b>3-11 SHIFT</b>	<b>11-7 SHIFT</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>Total # Of Traffic Stops</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Stop Cards/Warnings</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Compliance Citations</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>State Citations</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Trucks Weighed</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Truck Inspections</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Non-Designated Violations</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Safety Violations</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>State/Local/Admin. Violations</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Lane Violations (LaGrange Rd)</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>

**SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES**

<b>PATROL ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>November</b>		<b>November</b>		<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>
	<b>2015</b>		<b>2014</b>		<b>YTD</b>	<b>YTD</b>
NUMBER OF CALLS TAKEN	1,376		1,149		13,967	14,275
ACCIDENT REPORTS TAKEN	61		62		582	740
FELONY ARRESTS	0		1		7	6
MISDEMEANOR ARRESTS	7		3		46	67
DUI ARRESTS	1		1		4	30
COMPLIANCE CITATIONS ISSUED	36		32		548	612
TRAFFIC CITATIONS ISSUED	34		58		630	1,116
PARKING TICKETS - by Officers	86	459	202	8,560	6,042	8,560
PARKING TICKETS - by Parking Div.	373		513			
JUVENILE ARRESTS	0		0		8	16
PRISONERS HELD IN LOCK-UP	8		6		50	98

In honor of Veteran's Day, I would like to publicly acknowledge the members of the La Grange Police Department who are Veterans. They are listed below with the service dates and assignments.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Branch</b>	<b>Rank</b>	<b>Military Occupation</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Duty Station Additional Info</b>
<b>Tim Andries</b>	Army	Captain	Chemical Officer	2008-2014	Ft. Knox, KY, 2008-2012 Operation Enduring Freedom Tour, Ft. Sheridan, IL 2012-2014
<b>Kevin Comstock</b>	Air Force	Senior Airman	Security Forces	2005-2010	Lackland AFB, T.X. 2005-2006 Minot AFB, N.D. 2006-2008 Kleine Brogel Air Base, Belgium 2008-2010 Inactive Reserve 2010-2013
<b>Patrick Egan</b>	Air Force	Senior Airman	Security Forces	1982-1987	Lackland AFB, TX 1982 Hurlburt Field, FL 1982-1983 Greenham Common Royal AFB, England 1983-1986 Mather AFB, CA 1986-1987
<b>Robert P. Grimm Jr.</b>	Army	Specialist 5th Class	Air Defense Radar Repairer	1974-1977	Active duty 3 years, Ft. Bliss, TX. Repair of search radars and missiles. U.S. Army Reserves 3 years – NCOIC of electronics shop.
<b>John Hannon</b>	Marine Corps	Corporal	Infantry	1973-1975	1973 boot camp San Diego; 1973 infantry training Camp Pendleton; 1973 - 1975 Marine Barracks Guard Section, Washington, D.C.
<b>Steve Ljubenko</b>	Army	Captain; Major	Field Artillery Officer	1984-1990	1984-1990: Captain, U.S. Army-Active Duty, Field Artillery Officer. 1990-2006: Major, U.S. Army Reserves, Field Artillery Officer
<b>Miles Odom</b>	Army	1st Sergeant	Military Intelligence	1984-2014	Regular Army 1984-1988; Army Reserve 1988-2009, Interrogator, Iraqi Freedom for 18 months, 1SG, 2-330 Infantry Regiment
<b>Andy Peters</b>	Air Force	Senior Airman	Law Enforcement Specialist	1989-1992	Active Duty, 1989-1991, Clark AFB; Carswell AFB; Wright Patterson AFB; Inactive Reserve 1991-1992
<b>Rob Wardlaw</b>	Navy	Petty Officer 3rd class	Electrician's Mate	1989-1993	Great Lakes Naval Station 1989/90 U.S.S. Leyte Gulf CG 55 1990-1993 Operation Desert Storm (Gulf War) 1990-1991 Inactive Reserve 1993-1997