

# LA GRANGE POLICE DEPARTMENT

## Memorandum



To: Robert J. Pilipiszyn, Village Manager

From: Michael A. Holub, Chief of Police

Date: March 11, 2013

Re: Monthly Report for February 2013

Attached for your review are the general statistics for the Shift activities for the month of February 2013. Besides the activities, I have included a summary of other noteworthy events.

Nearly 10 years from the exact date of the murder of Dennis Campbell in La Grange, Sherry Halligan was found guilty of first degree murder. In 2003 Dennis Campbell was shot to death and Halligan turned herself in to police and confessed to shooting Campbell. But in 2004, and while out on \$50,000 bond, Halligan became a fugitive. In the seven years as a fugitive she changed her name and her appearance, as shown in these two photos. She was arrested after someone recognized her from a segment of a TV show featuring wanted or fugitive suspects. The FBI and Inv. Wardlaw arrested her at her Palos Hills apartment. After a 5-day bench trial, she was found guilty of shooting Dennis Campbell five times. The original investigators, Renee Strasser and Ken Cozen, were called to testify at the trial. Miles Odom, one of the original responding officers, joined Steve Ljubenko and the others in testifying at the trial. The thoroughness of the investigation and documentation of the 10-year old case, were crucial in obtaining a guilty verdict.



### **MIDNIGHT SHIFT ACTIVITY**

- February started with a bang on February 1st as Ofc. Gill requested a supervisor respond to 47th and Gilbert as he has just been rear-ended while stopped for a red light in the left turn lane. Thankfully Gill was not injured, but after further investigation it was determined by Ofc. Gill that the offender was driving under the influence of alcohol. The Offender was arrested and processed for DUI.
- Ofc. Gill arrested a person for driving while license revoked
- Ofc. Gill arrested a person for driving with no valid driver's license and four other lesser traffic offenses.
- Squad Leader Wardlaw made a traffic stop and found the driver wanted on a "No Bond Warrant" issued by the Illinois Department of Corrections.
- Ofc. Gill investigated an occupied vehicle at Sedgwick Park and found the vehicle owner and a passenger in the park after hours. Both were in possession of cannabis and both were cited for that as well as for being on Park District property after hours.
- Ofc. Gill investigated a broken window on a vehicle in the 900 block of S. 6th Avenue caused by an unknown offender.

### **AFTERNOON SHIFT ACTIVITY**

During the month the shift handled 16 car accidents, 13 of which were property damage only crashes. One accident had injuries involved with it and two others were hit and run accidents. One of the accidents involved a La Grange Park squad car and another resulted in an arrest for misdemeanor possession of cannabis.

Other Activities in the Afternoon Shift are detailed below:

- Four drivers were arrested for driving while their license was suspended.
- The afternoon shift completed 161 traffic stops
  - 42 were State Traffic Citations
  - 17 were Compliance Citations
- 4 Parking Citations were issued by patrol officers
- A vehicle was observed stalled on the Burlington railroad tracks. Trains were stopped until the car could be removed.
- There were four reports of criminal damage to property
  - one involved a BB hole through a window
  - one was a snowball breaking a window
  - two were related to graffiti.
- A student from LTHS reported being a victim of a battery while walking home from school.
- An I-PASS transponder was taken from a vehicle when it was in for service (last April).
- A report for fraud was filed when \$4,000.00 was noticed missing from an account.
- An identity theft was reported from one of our local businesses.
- The shift investigated two separate deaths, both which were determined to be from natural causes.
- Two incidents of 'cyber bullying' were reported by parents of LTHS students.
- A sexual assault of child by her grandfather was reported and turned over to investigators. Officers Joseph and Balon assisted on the search warrant and subsequent arrest of the suspect.
- A motor vehicle had its back window broken and items removed from the car while it was parked at the Corner Bakery.
- A burglary to a residence occurred and while taking the report Ofc. Balon spoke to a 'person of interest' who then returned the items that were taken. After reclaiming the items taken the complainant did not wish to pursue any further action.
- Officers Joseph and Andries assisted with an ILEAS call-out in Lyons for a subject barricaded in his home. The situation was resolved peacefully.
- Officers Kneifel and Andries assisted DCFS in an investigation of child abuse.
- One solicitor was issued a citation for violating our Village ordinance.
- TCO Borowitz received a call from a medical doctor in California who had a client with a history of self injury and was considered a high risk for suicide. The caller told the doctor he was going to kill himself. Borowitz was able to use GPS and the cell phone service provider to track and locate the individual. That jurisdiction was notified and the person was located.
- Ofc. Comstock completed his field training program and is assigned to the shift.
- Special patrol was given at the Spring Avenue School to help alleviate traffic problems with parent pick-up after school activities.
- Sgt. Kielczynski assisted Villa Venice organizing their own neighborhood watch program.

### **DAY SHIFT**

The significant incidents on the Day Shift are listed below:

- an attempted residential burglary was reported in the 700 block of W. Hillgrove
- a battery was reported in the 100 block of S. Brainard
- a burglary to motor vehicle occurred in the 300 block of S. 6th
- criminal damage to vehicles were reported in the 300 block of E. Plainfield and in the 200 block of S. Brainard
- a criminal trespass to property was reported at 10 W. Cossitt
- identity thefts were reported in the 300 block of S. Sunset, and in the 200 block of S. 8th
- a suspicious person and vehicle were reported in the 700 block of S. 7th
- a vandalism occurred in the area of Finley and Sawyer
- the Day Shift conducted a “Lock Down Drill” at Ogden Avenue School
- the members of the shift continue to periodically walk the halls of our schools during school days.

### **DEPARTMENT TRAINING**

- All three shifts completed the monthly Illinois Law Updates and Lexipol studies.
- Sgt. Berg / Dak remain current in K9 maintenance training.
- Sgt Odom attended training on Field Testing for DUI Arrests.
- Lt. Strasser, Sgt. Cimbalista, Ofc. Rohlicek and representatives of our schools joined other municipalities for a seminar called ALICE (alert, lockdown, inform, counter, evacuate). This training is part of our school Emergency Crisis Response plans.
- Ofc. Rohlicek attended a training course on School Safety
- Squad Leader Ljubenko attended the quarterly pension board meeting
- Ofc. Andries began the FTO program with Day Shift

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

Earlier in the year we recognized the members of our Auxiliary Police Unit with an informal gathering of department members and village officials. Sgt. Brian Wedoff received a plaque acknowledging his unit leading contributions. We also added four new members to the police auxiliary and would like to welcome Oscar Gonzalez, Jody Fritsch, Glen Blaylock, and Steve LaPino to the unit!

Collectively the members of the Auxiliary Unit contributed 266 hours of service to the Village during the month of February which included time spent conducting House Checks, Light Lists and Patrol duties. Meanwhile, the members of the Part-time Police unit continued with their focus on traffic and pedestrian safety, and assisting officers when needed.

**SUMMARY OF POLICE ACTIVITIES**

Training seemed to be the main theme for our officers as we primed our new Auxiliary Officers and our new part-time officers for their duties. The on-going Field Training program for Ofc. Andries was also a significant time commitment. Our focus continues to be on primary call response and hence traffic enforcement remains at a level lower than we would prefer. Still officers conducted approximately 250 traffic stops in the month of February.

PATROL ACTIVITIES	February		February	2013	2012
	2013		2012	YTD	YTD
NUMBER OF CALLS TAKEN	1,225		1,309	2,480	2,746
ACCIDENT REPORTS TAKEN	36		31	92	79
FELONY ARRESTS	1		2	2	3
MISDEMEANOR ARRESTS	4		28	13	58
DUI ARRESTS	1		4	2	9
COMPLIANCE CITATIONS ISSUED	54		73	107	167
TRAFFIC CITATIONS ISSUED	105		121	175	252
PARKING TICKETS - by Officers	150	432	176	507	1,122
PARKING TICKETS - by Parking Div.	282		331		
JUVENILE ARRESTS	1		0	3	6
PRISONERS HELD IN LOCK-UP	5		9	12	27