

# FINDLAY POLICE DEPARTMENT



## 2008 ANNUAL REPORT

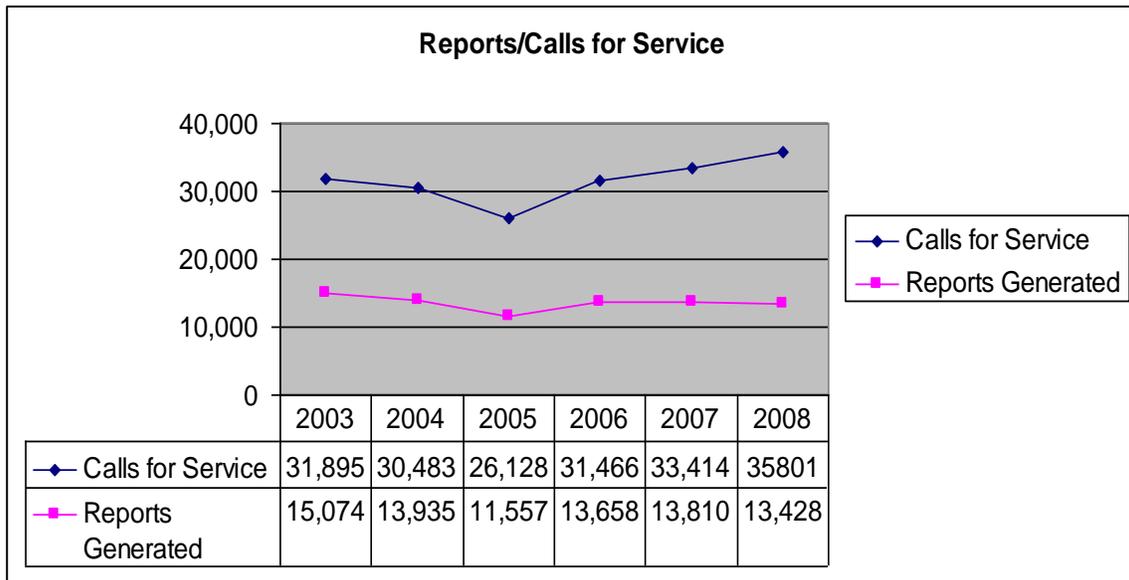
The Findlay Police Department has been serving the City of Findlay since 1887 and has evolved into an organization with an authorized strength of 73 sworn officers and 20 non-sworn support personnel.

The Department has three divisions including Patrol, Detectives and Special Services. The Patrol Division is responsible for community policing and makes use of both marked and unmarked cars. It also utilizes several trained bike patrol officers and a K-9 trained in narcotics detection and apprehension. The Detective Division includes the Vice Narcotics Unit, which is attached to the Hancock County Drug Task Force, METRICH Enforcement Unit. The Special Services Division is multi-faceted, overseeing the Property Officer, Crime Prevention, and Parking and Records as well as the day-to-day operations of the Communications Center. Special Services is also responsible for the Emergency Response Team (ERT) and the Neighborhood Enhancement and Abatement Team (NEAT).

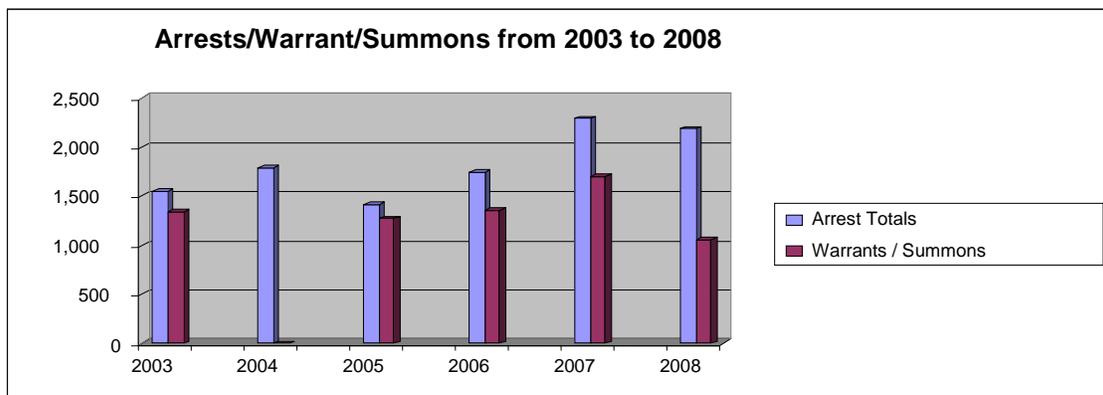
The Command Structure of the Findlay Police Department is comprised of the Chief of Police William Spraw, a Captain, three Lieutenants, each of which supervises a division. There are 9 Sergeants, one assigned to the Vice Narcotics Unit, one to the Crime Prevention office, and seven to the Patrol Division.

# PATROL DIVISION

Patrol Officers are the first responders to all emergency and non-emergency calls in the City of Findlay. The Patrol Division has an allotted complement of 46 patrol officers, six sergeants and 1 lieutenant. In 2008, the patrol division operated with an average of 40 patrol officers for the second year in a row. Calls continued to rise, following a four year trend with a record breaking number of 35,801 calls for service. 13,428 reports were generated by patrol officers in 2008. The following table shows a comparison of calls for service since 2003:



Patrol Officers made 2,186 arrests in 2008, which was just slightly lower than the 2,291 arrests made 2007. Summons and warrants also fell in 2008 to 1,055 from the 1,697 in 2007.



Findlay patrol officers responded to 2,303 crashes in 2008, reflecting a decrease of 155 crashes from 2007. Of the 2,303 accidents handled, a total of 1,640 were property

crashes, 200 injury crashes, 272 private property crashes, and 189 crash waivers. Two fatal crashes were investigated in 2008. One occurred in the 1200 block of Fostoria Avenue and the other in the 2100 block of Bright Road. In 2008, officers conducted 5,337 vehicle stops, issued 3,743 traffic citations and 1,472 warnings. One plane crash was also investigated after a local pilot crashed into the Tarbox- McCall stone Quarry. The pilot was not injured.

Property crimes remained relatively consistent during 2008. Burglaries and property damage complaints rose slightly from 2007. In 2008, officers were dispatched to 475 burglaries and generated 421 burglary reports. This was an increase from the 435 unlawful entries dispatched in 2007. Property damage incidents rose from 823 in 2007 to 876 in 2008. Motor vehicle thefts remained consistent in 2008 with 151 stolen vehicles reported. Thefts also remained consistent with 1,495 theft complaints lodged with the department during 2008.

	2003		2004		2005		2006		2007		2008	
	calls	reports										
<b>Burglaries</b>	466	423	492	390	482	371	450	323	435	286	475	421
<b>Thefts</b>	1585	1,376	1495	1,319	1526	1,328	1625	1,381	1501	1287	1495	1213
<b>Theft of vehicles</b>	130	96	152	116	132	93	144	117	155	118	151	115
<b>Questioned documents</b>	159	158	158	169	85	79	66	46	37	35	55	33
<b>Frauds</b>	143	97	201	142	212	158	244	167	330	246	308	280
<b>Shoplifters</b>	201	194	141	130	121	115	174	163	128	246	179	176
<b>Property damage</b>	1102	838	861	653	865	676	955	778	823	613	876	688

The most notable increase was in violent crimes. The violent crime statistics are divided into eight categories consisting of fights, assaults, robberies, domestic disputes, sex offenses, homicides, harassments and child abuse/neglect. Each category experienced an increase except robbery. Officers handled 608 fights, 330 assaults, 26 robberies, 868 domestic disputes, 106 sex offenses, 1,208 harassments and 299 child abuse/neglect cases. There were no homicides in Findlay during 2008.

	2003		2004		2005		2006		2007		2008	
	calls	reports										
<b>Fights</b>	381	93	379	80	374	84	480	115	555	101	608	139
<b>Assaults</b>	362	279	331	259	347	263	379	269	302	237	330	292
<b>Robberies</b>	28	27	25	23	60	26	21	21	30	24	26	30
<b>Domestic disputes</b>	879	682	929	660	1001	646	826	447	812	334	868	569
<b>Sex offenses</b>	131	135	110	100	95	87	111	108	87	95	106	107
<b>Homicide/ Attempted</b>	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	2	2	2	0	0
<b>Harassments</b>	923	509	1068	511	948	440	962	541	954	420	1,208	557
<b>Child abuse/neglect/</b>	437	233	513	273	501	272	571	299	273	273	659	299

Substance abuse cases fell slightly in 2008 and only 131 drug cases were generated by patrol officers. This number fell from the 195 drug cases reported in 2007. Liquor cases also fell from 263 in 2007 to 207 in 2008.

In 2008, patrol officers investigated 228 attempted / threatened and completed suicides and dealt with 181 different cases involving the mentally ill. Officers worked closely with Century Health and employed their crisis intervention training.

Patrol officers continued to patrol Riverside Park and the Cube during the first ten months of 2008. Criminal activity had fallen greatly at each location due to aggressive enforcement. Unfortunately, those details were later abandoned during the latter months of 2008, due to budget restraints.

The statistics for 2008 revealed that the number of "Non Residents" that patrol officers interacted with remained consistent with 2007. A "Non-Resident" is a person with a zip code other than "45840". Of the 13,428 events generated by Findlay Officers in 2008, 6,655 events involved non-residents. Non-residents comprised 49% of all officer event contacts in 2008.

Officer Bryon Deeter and his canine partner Spike logged 69 calls in 2008 and reported a 94.7% accuracy rating. Officer Deeter conducts training with several other canine officers from the Hancock County Sheriff's Department, Ottawa County Sheriff's Department, Tiffin Police Department, and Fostoria Police Department. Officer Deeter and Spike were used by several different agencies throughout 2008. The following is a breakdown of canine usage for 2008:

- 39 uses by the Findlay Police Department
- 9 uses by the Ohio State Highway Patrol
- 7 uses by the Hancock County Sheriff's Department
- 4 uses by Findlay Vice / Narcotics Unit
- 3 uses by Tiffin Police Department
- 1 uses by the Ottawa County Sheriff's Department
- 1 use by the Seneca County Sheriff's Department
- 1 use by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources
- 1 use by the Wood County Sheriff's Department
- 1 use by Adult Parole Authority

Officer Deeter and Spike conducted 27 drug searches, 19 patrol uses, 13 tracks, 7 building searches, 2 article searches and 1 area search.

During one search Spike tracked a burglary suspect from the scene of a burglary and a warrant was obtained and executed based on Spike's track. The suspect was apprehended and the stolen property was recovered.

## **Goals and Objectives**

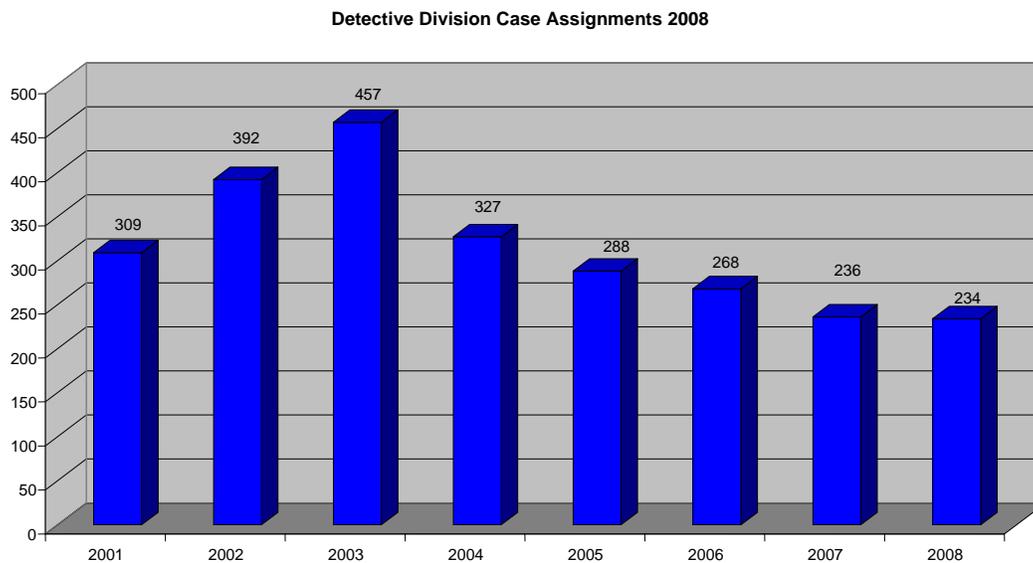
- Bring current staffing levels to strength to better serve the community
- Obtain further training to support the long term goal to better serve the public.
- To deter crime and apprehend criminals
- Continue to provide a professional service to the citizens of Findlay

# DETECTIVE DIVISION

The Detective Division consists of one Lieutenant, one civilian clerk, and six investigators. Assignments to serve within the Division are made at the discretion of the Chief. The Vice-Narcotics Unit (VNU) serves within the Detective Division. VNU consists of one Sergeant and four investigators. The VNU Sergeant is second-in-command of the Detective Division.

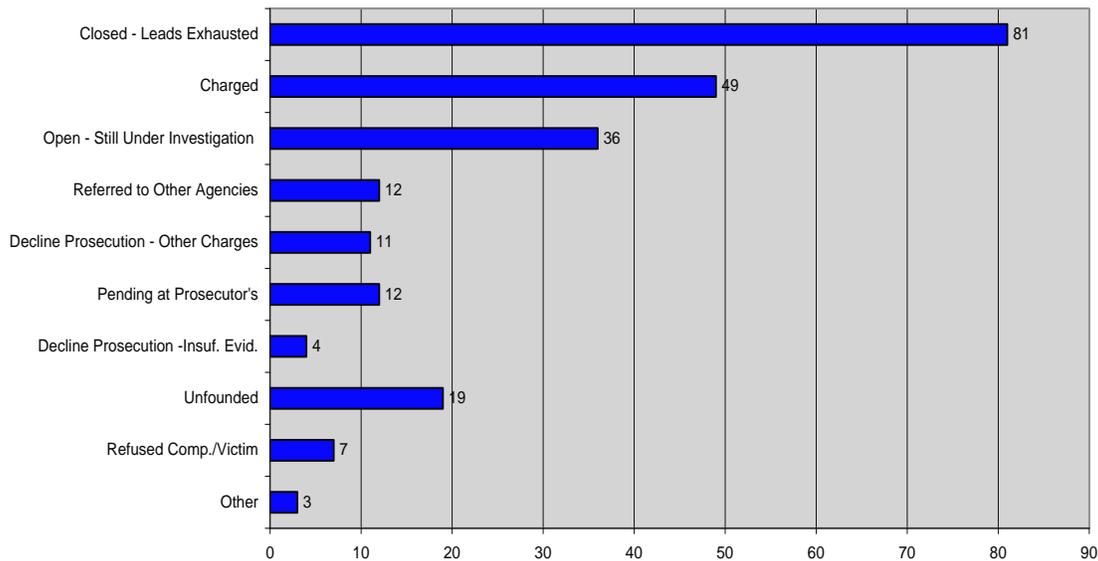
The Detective Lieutenant reviews all police reports and determines case assignments based upon solvability factors. The initial reporting officers complete many investigations in the Patrol Division. Cases that are assigned to an investigator usually require additional resources, time, and expertise. Investigators may also initiate cases from outside sources, such as prosecutors, social service agencies, attorneys, courts, or Crime Stoppers tips. Common cases that are assigned within the Detective Division include robberies, burglaries, sexual assaults, child sexual abuse, grand thefts, financial crimes, and death investigations.

There were 234 cases assigned to investigators serving within the Detective Division during 2008. This is an average of 39 cases per investigator for the year. Additional responsibilities of investigators include background investigations of new hires within the police department, juvenile court duties, pawnshop reviews, evidence processing, and photography. The following chart shows case assignments for the past 8 years.



Of the 234 cases assigned within the Division in 2008, 36 are still open and under investigation at the time of this report. The remaining cases have closer codes as depicted in the following chart. There was sufficient evidence to request prosecution in 77 cases assigned, or 33%, during 2008.

**Detective Division Case Dispositions 2008**



There were many successful investigations of major crimes in 2008. These include solving local robberies, burglaries, sexual assaults, felonious assaults, and major theft cases. Many of these cases have already proceeded through the judicial system with successful prosecutions.

In 2007, the Findlay Police Department, in conjunction with the Hancock County Sheriff's Office and the Hancock County Prosecutor's Office, formed an Internet Crimes against Children Task Force (ICAC). In 2008, with the assistance of the Open Arms Domestic Violence and Rape Crisis Center, funding was secured to open an office and provide equipment and training to investigate these types of crimes. One investigator received advanced training in this area and attended a week long training conference in 2008. This task force has opened several cases as a result of this project.

The Detective Division continues to work closely with the Hancock County Prosecutor's Office and Hancock County Children's Protective Services to investigate child abuse and child sexual abuse cases. Two investigators have received advanced training in this area. These types of cases account for approximately 30% of the cases assigned to investigators in 2008. Bi-weekly case reviews with representatives from all involved agencies ensure each case is thoroughly investigated, which results in many successful prosecutions.

The goals and objectives of the Detective Division for 2008 and their results included:

- Increasing staffing. Staffing levels remained constant, as the department faced a hiring freeze in the latter half of the year.
- Provide advanced training in specialized areas. Investigators received advanced training in crime scene photography, interview and interrogation, and ICAC operations.

- Establish and staff an ICAC center. The ICAC center is up and running and actively investigating cases. Funding has been provided for overtime for investigators to work on these specific cases.
- Increase the percentage of solved cases. The solvability rate for 2008 was 33%, up from 29% in 2007.

### **Goals and Objectives**

- Maintain a solvability factor above 30%
- Obtain specialized training as budgeting allows
- Increase ICAC workload as funding allows

## **Vice Narcotics Unit/METRICH**

The Vice Narcotics Unit(VNU) is part of the Detective Division of the Findlay Police Department and is comprised of four Detectives and one Sergeant from the Findlay Police Department and one Deputy and one Sergeant from the Hancock County Sheriff's Office. The Unit is assigned the task of investigating violations of laws involving narcotics, gambling, weapons, prostitution, and gangs.

The Unit is also part of a ten county drug task force called METRICH Enforcement Unit. METRICH is one of the only de-centralized task forces in the State of Ohio promoting a Community Policing philosophy approach to task force operations. METRICH is also the largest drug task force in Ohio. The Findlay Police Department and the Hancock County Sheriff's Office joined METRICH in October of 1999. METRICH is funded through the Office of Criminal Justice Services under Chief Phil Messer of the Mansfield Police Department.



**Our mission is to improve the quality of life for the citizens in Findlay and Hancock County by reducing the availability of illegal drugs and weapons through community partnerships; thus promoting safe and secure neighborhoods.**

The VNU/METRICH handled 260 incidents in 2008, an increase of 6% from last year's 245 incidents. The Detectives investigated the following cases: 105 narcotics, 24 sales of alcohol to underage person, 21 pharmacy/prescription, 4 gambling, 3 prostitution, 2 calls to assist other agencies, 2 bribery and intimidation of witness, and 99 field interviews/sources of other information to obtain intelligence. This information came into the Hancock County Crime Stoppers (419-425-TIPS or online at - [hancockcrimestoppers.org](http://hancockcrimestoppers.org)), the METRICH online website - [crimeline@metrich.com](mailto:crimeline@metrich.com), our work e-mail address - [narcs@ci.findlay.oh.us](mailto:narcs@ci.findlay.oh.us), or contacting our office at 419-424-DRUG (3784).

While comparing the statistics from 2008 to 2007 we have increased in the number of requested felony charges by 22%. We closed out 162 cases with 176 felony indictments for drug related offenses and 28 misdemeanor offenses. Most of the misdemeanor offenses were sales of alcohol to underage persons. There are 48 drug cases from 2008 that are currently open/under investigation. The Division conducted 4 high risk buy bust operations and also served 6 search warrants with the assistance of the Findlay Police Department, the Hancock County Sheriff's Office, and the Wood County Sheriff's Office Emergency Response Teams. We also examined and/or followed up on some of the additional 164 narcotic involved reports generated by the Findlay PD, the Hancock County Sheriff's Office, and the Ohio State Highway Patrol - Findlay Post. This involvement keeps us steps ahead and it is harder for drug traffickers to become settled in our community.

The following were seized from drug investigations:

- 218.6 grams of Crack Cocaine
- 838.8 grams of Cocaine
- 1,496.3 grams of Marijuana
- 24.6 grams of Heroin
- 1.7 grams of Methamphetamine
- 282 tablets of Ecstasy
- 233 tablets of Alprazolam/Xanax
- 88 tablets of Clonazepam
- 76 tablets of Darvon
- 57 tablets of Percocents/Oxycodone
- 50 tablets of Tramadol

- 42 tablets of Vicodin/Hydrocodone
- 28 tablets of Oxycontin
- 20 tablets of Tizanidine
- 5 tablets of Adderall
- 3 tablets of Suboxone
- 2 tablets of Ciproflaxacin
- 2 tablets of Claritin
- 2 tablets of Faceplate
- 1 tablet of Loperamide
- 1 tablet of Dilaudid
- 1 tablet of Phenergan
- 125 Marijuana plants
- \$7,077.31 and a large coin collection in a safe
- 11 altered prescriptions which diverted 840 dangerous drugs
- Requested forfeiture on five vehicles and one property
- No weapons were seized

Our seizures increased from last year in all of these categories with the exception of Crack Cocaine and Marijuana. We had a tremendous increase in Cocaine, Heroin, and Ecstasy seizures

March was a very active month with two search warrants being conducted at residences in Findlay and Fostoria. Four persons were arrested on numerous felony offenses of Trafficking in Drugs and Possession of Drugs. A total of 650.4 grams of Cocaine, 122.7 grams of Crack Cocaine, 16.5 grams of marijuana, and \$6,009.00 in U.S. currency were seized.

In June a two year long RICO drug conspiracy investigation called “Operation Clean Sweep” concluded and 14 persons were indicted on 48 felony drug related offenses. The persons were from Toledo, Fostoria, Lima, Tiffin, and Findlay. They have all be apprehended and in different phases of the criminal justice system at this time. The main person of this investigation was shot and killed in Fort Wayne, IN on April 2, 2008 of drug activity there. Other charges are still pending based on follow up interviews by Detectives of these 14 suspects.

On September 7, a search warrant was executed on a residence in McComb and locating the first active methamphetamine lab in Hancock County. There were three children and four adults present at this residence. One person was arrested for Illegal Assembly or Possession of Chemicals for the Manufacture of Drugs, and one person was indicted for Endangering Children.

METRICH Detectives are spending increased time with surveillance and working with Findlay Patrol Officers and from the Hancock County Sheriff’s Office Deputies on road patrol with some areas known to have a high volume of traffic and suspected of drug activity. The following agencies were assisted by the Unit with additional manpower: Seneca METRICH Enforcement Unit and the Lima PACE Drug Unit. Other agencies that have assisted the Unit throughout this year with additional manpower were: BCI&I (Bowling Green, OH Office), and D.E.A. (Toledo, OH Office) and the Wood County Sheriff’s Office. The majority of this combined effort is to identify sources from the

surrounding communities of Fostoria, Lima, and Toledo which directly affect drug crimes in Findlay and Hancock County, OH.

METRICH Detectives received the following training: Basic Training for Street Gang Investigators and sessions of in-house training at the Findlay Police Department and the Hancock County Sheriff's Office. Detectives also spoke at seven different organizations in reference to illegal narcotics through the use of a visual presentation along with handout information.

### **GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

- To increase drug removals
- To increase the investigations aimed at reducing the availability of weapons to drug violators and felons
- Following up with the forfeiture of money and/or property being seized suspects
- Increase pharmaceutical diversion cases and the seizure of diverted drugs or prescriptions
- Effective and efficient use of manpower and use of covert funding for operations
- Drug awareness through more presentations to various local groups/agencies and the continued support of the Red Ribbon campaign with the schools

## **SPECIAL SERVICES DIVISION**

The Special Services Division is comprised of several smaller but vital and important units that contribute to the Police Department as a whole. These units include Crime Prevention, N.E.A.T., Court Officer, Records, Parking, Property Officer, Training, and Crossing Guards. During 2008 the command of the Crisis Management Team fell under the command of this division.

### **Crime Prevention**

The Crime Prevention unit continued to be a dynamic and essential part of the police department and community.

Crime Prevention increased its' activities over the past year by introducing several new programs. The S.H.I.P. –Senior Housing Inspection Program was started in the summer of 2008 and many seniors had their houses inspected and given crime prevention advice in order to feel more secure in their homes.

Power Point programs were introduced to area groups. The issues presented were how to reduce workplace violence, fraud and identity theft, and personal safety. There were over 400 citizens that watched the presentations over the past year.

The BlockWatch program also continued to grow. There were 11 new neighborhoods that started a watch during the year raising the total to 15 “active” groups.

Most of these neighborhoods had a meeting at least once a quarter. 220 new residents were added to the BlockWatch total.

The Bureau was also very active in 2008 in the public and private school systems educating school age children about Crime Prevention issues. There was a monthly topic/issue following the virtues that each would encounter during their year. Some of the virtues were self-discipline, respect, responsibility, courage, compassion, perseverance, integrity, hope, and diversity. Topics were taught to all 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students monthly or weekly depending on the grade level. There were over 500 students in each grade. Positive results were reflected as there were very few issues concerning student behavior during the past year. Some of the topics taught were as follows:

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Program

Turning Failure into Success  
We Can All Get Along  
Put Yourself in Someone Else's Shoes: Building Character  
Harassment Hurts: Gossiping, Taunting, and Bullying  
Stress Busters  
What to do About Anger  
Seatbelt Safety  
What about Tobacco?  
What Should I Do? Making Decisions: Summer Safety

### 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Program

Say No and Keep Your Friends  
Drugs, Your Friends, and You  
The Law and Court Terms  
The Truth about Marijuana  
Respect: The Real Deal  
When Anger Turns to Rage  
The Truth about Inhalants  
Drinking and Driving—Josh Meyers Video  
Vision Goggles—Alcohol Dangers with Peer Pressure

### 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Program

Change Your Attitude: Change Your Life  
Respect: Why Does it Work?  
Taunting, Gossiping, and Hazing: It's Harassment  
The Law and Court Terms: Criminal Law Dictionary  
Teen Adult Conflict: Working it Out  
If You Drink.....Anything Can Happen  
Anger Management Skills  
Internet Safety-What You Don't Know May Hurt You  
Facts About Drugs and What You Need to Know

A tour of the police department was given to all 6<sup>th</sup> grade students from the City and St. Michaels schools. At the end of the school year a police academy was also given to all of the 6<sup>th</sup> grade students involving four other officers from the Findlay Police Department whom were working in other divisions. This was organized and given in half-day increments with each officer teaching a 45 minute session four times a day about their prospective topic. The topics offered during the academy were Alcohol/Tobacco/Drug Prevention, K-9 officer and Spike Demonstration, Crime Scene Investigation and Crash Scene Investigation.

The instructors along with the Crime Prevention Officer ate lunch with the students and teachers after their academies allowing them to answer any questions that did not get answered during class. This allowed the students to personally meet the officers. The schools collected “pop-tabs” and turned them for money which was used to buy Spike training supplies and food.

Crime Prevention also assisted the area colleges by doing presentations and teaching classes. Brown Mackie, Owens Community College, and the University of Findlay were the recipients. There were over 250 students that were affected.

## **Public Relations**

The Crime Prevention Bureau is also active during the year in many organizations and committees such as:

Triad  
Red Ribbon Campaign  
Ohio Crime Prevention Association  
Hancock County Community Partnership  
Just Say No Clubs  
Safety Town  
Safe Kids  
Pre-school and Adult Education  
Numerous Health and Safety Fairs  
Block Watch  
Family Month Task Force  
Millstream Employer Advisory Team  
Independent Living through Findlay High School  
Project “HAPPY” Weekend  
National Night Out  
Adult Cluster  
Senior Solutions  
Crime Stoppers  
Boy Scout Merit Badge programs  
Home Security inspections  
Robbery Prevention Trainings with Banks/Credit Unions  
Business Security Inspections  
United Way

The Crime Prevention Bureau position has also allowed the officer in not just being a liaison between the department and the public, but also has allowed the officer to assume positions of leadership as President of Safety Town and Chairperson of the Community Partnership/ADAMHHS Board.

## **Fingerprint—Background Checks**

Fingerprinting individuals for criminal record and employer checks is another well-known function of the Crime Prevention Bureau. The computerized system called the “Web-Check” continues to be utilized. Criminal checks are done for taxi and solicitor licensing and for employer/employee requirements. A minimum of two hours were devoted weekly to performing this task. Over 150 persons had their backgrounds checked during 2008.

Many important and productive relationships have been established with the community through the Special Services Division and Crime Prevention. By presenting a positive and helpful image, the Crime Prevention officer can instill trust, respect, and responsibility within our school-age children and can continue to provide education for the adults of the community.

## **Goals and Objectives**

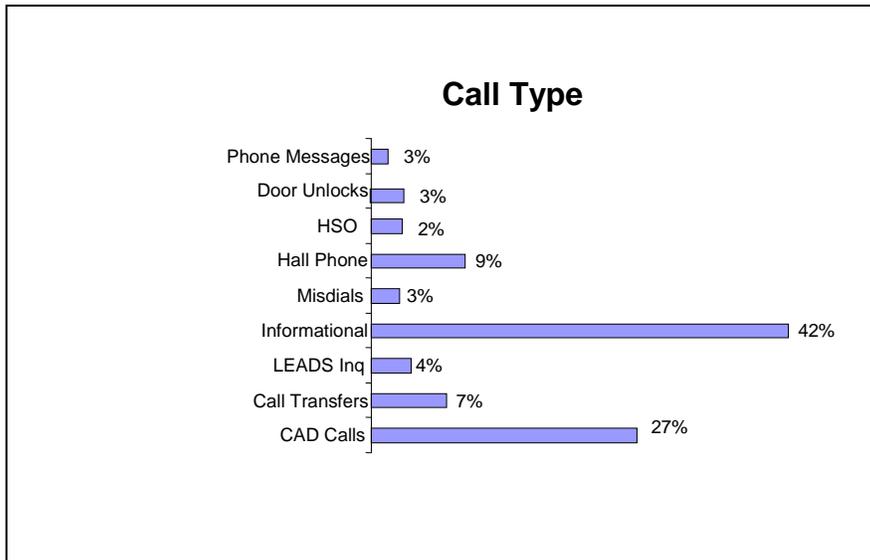
- Continued training for the Crime Prevention Officer
- Continue to teach and develop new programs
- Research new policing techniques and objectives in order to keep the public aware of law-enforcement activities
- Continue to public relations area within our department and community by staying involved with committees and groups
- Increase the awareness of the National Night Out and Blockwatch Programs

## **Communications Division**

The Findlay Police Department’s Communications Division has developed a reputation for being progressive in its approach to integrating public safety resource allocation with customer service. The work done within the Center has evolved into a technical profession requiring workers to manage three to five computer systems in order to track and manage personnel in the field. In addition, we are the only agency in Hancock County that requires all of its dispatchers to be certified in CPR and Emergency Medical Dispatching. This enables them to provide pre-arrival instructions during medical



emergencies. The Communications Division has also implemented a tactical



dispatch team, trained to operate in all-hazard situations. This would include warrant services and hostage barricade situations as well as natural disasters and fire rescue operations.

The Center is the central answering point for public safety

agencies within the City. Dispatchers receive requests for emergency services from the public through an Enhanced 911 telephone system. In addition, non-emergency calls for police, fire, EMS and other departments are handled by the Center. There were approximately 205,786 phone contacts made within the Center this year which equates to almost 4,600 hours of phone time.

This year, 38,561 CAD entries were made into the system. This was a decrease from the 41,250 entries in 2007. While a majority of CAD entries were police related, 2,061 involved dispatching the fire department and 1,980 were specific requests from citizens for medical assistance.

While there were several weather related events that caused a spike in dispatches, on September 14<sup>th</sup>, remnants of Hurricane Ike caused winds to sweep through the City knocking down trees and electrical wires. In just over a 7.5 hour time period, dispatchers had 449 phone contacts and entered 161 calls for service. This incident was handled by the two dispatchers already on duty, augmented by a police officer to handle radio traffic and a tactical dispatcher who was deployed to the south fire station. This was the first time that a tactical dispatcher was used in this capacity.

This fall, in an effort to address staffing problems within the Center, administrators from our Department met with the Findlay City Council appropriation committee, petitioning for an increase in manpower. Administrators requested two additional dispatchers. Council agreed to the addition of one dispatcher with the promise of future consideration of a second should the City's fiscal outlook improve. The approved dispatch position will be filled following the next Civil Service exam.

Training has been a continuing process with all dispatchers completing one hour of continuing education each month in order to satisfy emergency medical dispatching requirements. They also completed a class in crisis intervention. Deputy Chief Tom Jorgensen held a four-hour training class in basic fire dispatching and our tactical dispatchers had additional training with the fire department's Tactical Response Team in confined space rescues. Looking towards the future, we are focusing on more intensive in-house training on topics related to active shooters and school violence.

## Goals and Objectives

- Continue to obtain training and certifications through FEMA and Homeland Security
- Train all dispatchers in the operation of tactical dispatch equipment
- Increase training time with the fire departments Tactical Response Team
- Increase manpower complement



## N.E.A.T.

Members of the Neighborhood Enhancement & Abatement Team (NEAT) received a record number of new cases during 2008. A total of 1,225 complaints were received broken down as 35 Dilapidated Structure issues, 490 calls regarding weeds or tall grass, 216 calls regarding junk on premises, 179 junk and/or abandoned vehicles, 27 properties with minor maintenance issues, 34 overgrowth cases, 34 right of way cases, 50 calls regarding sidewalk obstructions, 114 trash calls and 46 miscellaneous cases.

At the end of the year there were only 124 cases that remained open. These are broken down as 20 dilapidated structures, 7 weeds or tall grass, 50 junk on premises, 38 junk vehicles, 2 minor maintenance issues, 9 right of way cases and 7 trash cases.

During 2008 several cases had to be abated by NEAT personnel, City of Findlay personnel and private contractors. There were 3 demolitions performed which cost approximately 20,000.00. Four lot cleanups were performed with 5 cases presently pending a cleanup by City personnel and 11 vehicles were towed due to non compliance. Three properties had overgrowth removed and there were 107 cases of lots within the City having to be mowed. Additionally, there were 51 assessments made to property taxes totaling \$34,168.90. These are due to non-payment of invoices for services rendered to handle abatement of issues at various properties that failed to comply with NEAT requests.

- Continue to provide an efficient and professional service to the community through both education and enforcement

## Property Officer

All property--such as impounded vehicles, evidence from crime scenes and recovered bicycles is the responsibility of the Property Officer. The Property Officer also has the responsibility of running the city auctions. Total proceeds from the one (1) auction in 2008 were \$6,323.75. The property room generated \$2063.50. Items seized by METRICH brought in \$1,237, while various other city departments contributed \$3023.25.

Twenty-five percent of the Police Department's auction proceeds are donated to the Crime Stoppers Program.

### **Goals and Objectives**

- Continue to manage property in an efficient manner

## **Parking Division**

The Parking Division consists of one Parking Enforcement Attendant. The Parking Division's main responsibility is the enforcement of parking violations in Downtown Findlay. During 2008 the Parking Division issued 3503 parking tickets and collected \$18,791 in city owned parking lot rental.

### **Goals and Objectives**

- Continue to provide a professional service to this community through parking enforcement
- Collaborate with Downtown Business Owners and Mayors Parking Authority to establish a workable parking enforcement policy for Findlay's Downtown

## **Court Officer**

The Police Department supplies an officer to the Findlay Municipal Court whose duties include courtroom security, court paper service such as summonses, subpoenas, eviction notices, prisoner escort, and copying reports for officers and the Law Director's Office. Activity generated by the court officer includes the following:

Papers Processed:	2022
Court Security Hours	852.25
Prisoners Transported to Court	625
Summons Reviewed/Signed	870

### **Goals and Objectives**

- Maintain a good working relationship with Findlay Municipal Court

## Training

In 2008 officers received over 100 hours of continuing education training. Training this year included the annual weapons qualifications, policy review, and the annual refresher of “Rapid Response To An Active Shooter” within a school environment. The Rapid Response training consisted of classroom instruction, refresher and placing the officers in reality based scenarios. At the conclusion of the training, the training staff came to the conclusion that this department is well-prepared to address an event such as this if it were to occur.

In 2008 a new training program was started for police officers. Officers were placed in scenario based training situations that were applicable to everyday issues that are addressed. Some of the scenarios required use of lethal force and others were designed to challenge the officer’s communications skills. This program, in its first year was found to be successful.

## **Goals and Objectives**

- Continue Scenario Based Training, in the school setting and houses, branch out to scenarios that involve open air events and vehicle contacts.
- Maintain an enrichment program that increases the officer’s productivity and helps to provide exceptional service to this community.

## Crisis Management Team



The Findlay Police Department maintains a crisis management team. This team consists of four main components. The first component being the Emergency Response Team (ERT). The ERT is a 16 man team of officers that are trained in tactical operations. The ERT is responsible for conducting all drug related or high risk search

warrants. The ERT is also trained to respond to hostage or barricade situations, assist in dignitary protection and any dynamic event that is considered high risk. This team trains for at least 8 hours every month. The training is critical to being able to effectively respond to the above mentioned events.

The second component of the Crisis Management Team is the crisis negotiators. The Department has four slots for crisis negotiators, with three of the slots currently filled. The crisis negotiators are specially trained police officers, called upon to intervene in situations involving hostage takers, barricaded subjects or potentially self-destructive individuals.

The third component of the Crisis Management team is the tactical dispatchers. Our Tactical Dispatch Team is trained in All-Hazard tactical dispatching. During these events, the dispatchers log all radio traffic and document unit positions and resource allocation.

The fourth component is the tactical medics. The tactical medic program was incorporated into the crisis management team in 2004. The tactical medics are a support element to the deployment of the ERT. The medics are all certified paramedics who have gained their experience through combat medicine in a military environment or through EMS responses. The tactical medics are required to train with the ERT every month. During those training days, scenarios are implemented that test the abilities of the medics to provide combat casualty care. This service is invaluable resource for the Findlay Police Department, should injuries occur during high risk events.