

ALBERT LEA POLICE DEPARTMENT
Dwaine P. Winkels, Chief of Police

The Transition

2006 was a year full of promise, with a clear focus on the future. The department formally announced its' intention to become a pro-active policing agency.

The department took the big step of contracting with the Upper Midwest Community Policing Institute to provide training and counseling for members of the department throughout the transition process. The initial emphasis was placed on building a unified leadership team. During a three day retreat the team developed a new mission statement and guiding philosophies for the department. Departmental and individual goals were established based upon the mission statement and guiding philosophies. Supervisors also received training tailored to meet their individual needs. Numerous other training sessions all geared toward team building and policy development were held.

The mobile computer system project was finished in 2006. The one quarter million dollar project was started in 2005 and had been a dream of many officers for several years. The system is fully operational and has met or exceeded all expectations. The system is one of the best available. Officers receive call for service data in their squads, and have access to other information stored on the law enforcement center computers. The system is linked to the state system to allow officers to run license, registration, and warrant checks. The internet connection provides officers with access to a multitude of important databases and websites including; Statewide Supervision, MN Repository of Arrest Photos, Odyssey (State Court System), Predatory Offender Registry Database, and the Department of Corrections, just to name a few. The ability to send photographs and other data between dispatch and the squads have resulted in many arrests that otherwise may not have been possible. It has been a great asset for the officers.

The City of Albert Lea adopted a new Alarm Ordinance in 2006 in an attempt to cut down on the number of false alarms generated by area businesses and residences. Responding to false alarms is dangerous and ties up valuable police resources. Call for service data indicates most false alarms are the result of employee error or could have been prevented by simple system maintenance. The ordinance was approved with the understanding that the police department would work with businesses to improve their alarm systems and correct the problems. The alarm ordinance provides for a fee to be charged for excessive false alarms generated by one address. The number of false alarms has dropped since the ordinance was enacted and no location has been charged a fee for excessive false alarms. It is too early to tell if the ordinance will have a lasting affect on reducing the number of false alarms.

Two New Positions Created

A Community Service Officer (CSO) position was created for the department in the fall of 2006. This position was developed out of the need for the City to enforce parking ordinances throughout the city, and as part of our continuing realignment of duties through our community policing transition. The department merged parking enforcement duties with the evidence room duties. Each area only required part time hours. By combining the duties of both areas into one position, the department was able to create the CSO position. This position also removed the evidence room duties from a licensed police officer. The CSO position is off to a great start by working with the downtown business association and renters in the community to address parking concerns. The CSO is assisting in

developing new evidence room policies and procedures, and presenting educational programs to the community.

A secretary position has always been assigned to the department. The long time department secretary resigned in July of 2006 to accept another position. Prior to filling the vacancy created by this departure, the position was re-evaluated with consideration given to the reorganization within the department, staff changes, and changing job assignments. An administrative assistant position was created in October of 2006. This position was assigned administrative duties formerly done by the Assistant Chief, giving the new position greater responsibility and challenges.

Grant Funded Initiatives

The Zero Alcohol Provider (ZAP) program was started in 2005 as an effort to reduce underage consumption and identify adult providers. The program is still very successful and continues to receive recognition. The lieutenant in charge of the program has been invited to present at several state and national conventions. The department has provided training to numerous other agencies in our area to enable them to start their own program. The program is a partnership between the Albert Lea Police Department, the Freeborn County Sheriff's Office, Judge's, Prosecutor's, Court Service's, Public Health, Schools and other community organizations.

The Albert Lea Police Department and the Freeborn County Sheriff's Office teamed up to receive a Minnesota Department of Public Safety's *Safe N Sober* Grant. The police department had not participated in the statewide grant program for several years. Traffic offenses focusing on drunk driving, seat belt usage, and speeding were targeted for increased enforcement during several designated periods.

Members of the department serve on several advisory boards and task forces in the community that all work toward drug prevention and education.

School Liaison Program – A Commitment To School Safety

We continue to assign officers to work in our school system. Officer Herman is assigned to the high school and Officer Crabtree is assigned to Southwest Junior High. They are a valuable asset to our department. The officers work closely with the students and staff to ensure a safe learning environment. Each officer develops at least one large assembly-type educational program and several smaller programs for the school district. The officers work closely with other supportive agencies to deliver the best service to the students, especially those most in need.

Staff Development

Our staff possesses a wealth of knowledge in diverse areas. Several members of the department hold instructor certifications in Firearms, Use of Force, Bike Officer, and Non-lethal Weapons. In addition, other officers have a great deal of experience in a specific area. We utilize these personnel for in-service training conducted during shift changes and within the department with special duty days. When local training was unavailable, the department utilized training and staff development seminars throughout the country to meet our officer and community needs.

The following is a summation of the training that officers of the Police Department received in 2006. Not included in these totals is the monthly SWAT training received by members of the Emergency Response Unit.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT SUMMARY

<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>ATTENDEES</u>	<u>HOURS</u>	<u>TOTAL HOURS</u>
<u>INITIAL RESPONDING OFFICER TRAINING</u>			
Sexual Assault Investigation	1	8	8
CPR/First Aid	28	4	112
Use of Force	28	4	112
Pursuit Driving School	14	8	112
Intoxilyzer Training	12	4	48
Dispatch Training	1	8	8
Report Writing	1	8	8
Firearms Qualifications	27	2	54
SFST/DWI Update	16	4	64
FEMA Incident Tests	21	6	126
2006 DWI & Traffic Safety Law Training	10	3	30
Use of Force New Employee Training	1	45	45
Advanced/Standardized Field Sobriety	1	24	24
Search & Seizure/Warrant Concepts	2	8	16
Law Enforcement Guide to Forfeitures	2	2	4
Surveillance Techniques	4	4	16
Commercial Vehicle Analysis Reporting	3	1	3
<u>SPECIALIZED TRAINING</u>			
Computer Forensics	1	40	40
Query Only Training	2	3	6
FTO Basic Certification	2	40	80
i-SAFE America	3	8	24
K-9 Trials & Certification	1		60
Computerized Crime	3	8	24
Evidence Collection Technique	2	8	16
Reid Interview Technique	2		40
Clan Lab Update	2	8	16
Non-lethal Weapons Instructor School	1	40	40
Death Investigations	2	8	16
Background Investigation	1	8	8
Basic SWAT School	4	40	160
Automatic Pawn System	2	8	16
Practical Homicide Investigations	1	24	24
Forgery/Identity Theft/Welfare Fraud Investigation	1	8	8
Pandemic-a Tabletop Orientation	2	4	8
Financial Crimes & Exploitation	2	2	4
Minnesota Investigator Conference	2	24	48
<u>MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT</u>			
Police Accountability	2	8	16
Data Practice	3	8	24
Law Enforcement Planner's Course	1	40	40
Spring Regional ATOD Forum	1	8	8
Chiefs Executive Training	1	32	32
MN Alcohol Traffic Association Conference	1	8	8
Toward Zero Death Conference	2	8	40

Underage Drinking National Conference	1	40	40
FEMA Incident Command	4	9	36
Program Sharing Conference	1	24	24
Youth at Risk Summit	1	8	8
Canine Administrator Seminar	1	16	16
UMCPI Management Training	6	63	315
Public Information Officer Training	3	2.5	7.5
			Total Hrs
			2042.5

Crime Prevention

The change to a community policing philosophy resulted in many individual officers giving presentations to various community groups and businesses. The individual officer is encouraged to identify needs within the community and find programs or training to meet those needs. Service clubs routinely asked for a speaker on a wide range of topics.

In March of 2006 eleven citizens graduated from a Citizen Academy. The department started the popular Citizens Academy several years ago. The academy brings in interested community members and educates them on the roles of police officers within the community. The attendees are treated to training ranging from firearms training to role playing. Each graduate also rides along with on-duty personnel to experience the job first hand.

Crime

The following statistics are representative of the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program to which the Albert Lea Police Department is a contributing agency. Our Records Unit reports local criminal offense statistics to the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension for compilation of state statistics. That agency in turn submits Minnesota statistics to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for inclusion in nation crime statistics.

All criminal offenses reported within Albert Lea are categorized according to the standardized definitions developed for the UCR program. A single crime is carried for each incident. The UCR program does not include traffic violations. UCR statistics include only jurisdictional population figures along with reported crime, clearance, or arrest data.

***ALBERT LEA 2006 CRIME STATISTICS**

There were *16,771 calls-for-service* in the City of Albert Lea in 2006
(Calls-for-service are not synonymous with criminal acts.)

Class I Crimes

Murder.....	1
Rape	1
Robbery.....	2
Assault.....	23
Burglary	44
Theft.....	357

Vehicle Theft.....	23
Arson.....	2

Class II Crimes

Simple Assault	102
Fraud/Forgery	37
Vandalism	232
Sex Offenses	20
Drug/Liquor	95
D.U.I	100
Disorderly	51
Other	96
Adults arrested	712
Juveniles arrested	302

**Class I and Class II crime statistics are from January through November due to a delay in receiving statistical data from the state.*

We have the capability within our records department to breakdown our total calls for service into 107 categories. The yearly totals on some of the more noteworthy categories, not reported as a class one or class two crimes, are as follows:

Vehicle Hit & Run Accidents	137
Traffic Accident, No Injury	440
Injury Traffic Accidents	56
Juvenile Problems	369
Domestics	393
Animal Control Complaints	1167
Attempt to Locate	79
Bar Checks	300
Child Abuse/Neglect Report	98
Child in Need of Protection	9
Harassment/Stalking Complaints	266
Liquor Law Violations	74
Medical Assistance	829
Missing Person	22
Noise Complaint/Disturbance	282
Permit to Purchase Handgun	74
Juvenile Runaway Report	84
Suspicious Person or Vehicle	579
Traffic Stops	3169
Violation of Order For Protection	68

ANIMAL CONTROL

The Albert Lea Animal Shelter received 333 animals in 2006.

Adoptions were low again this year, but Paws and Claws of Rochester has been very helpful in rescuing the adoptable pets.

Below are the 2006 statistics:

Animals Licensed 2006	686
Dogs impounded	224
Cats impounded	106
Rabbits impounded	1
Guinea Pigs impounded	0
Domestic Birds impounded	0
Ferrets impounded	0
TOTAL IMPOUNDED	333
Animals Adopted	7
Animals Sent to Rescue	47
Animals Claimed	128
Animals Euthanized	151
Income	\$3,860.00