



*St. Helens Police Department*

# 2013 Annual Report

*The mission of the St. Helens Police Department is to work with all citizens to make our city a place where people live safely, and to promote individual responsibility and community commitment.*



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Message from the Chief of Police .....	2
Department Budget.....	3
Department Structure.....	5
2013 Cases of Interest.....	6
St. Helens Police Statistics .....	9
Code Enforcement.....	13
Police Canine Program.....	14
Staff Update.....	15
Community Involvement.....	17
Acknowledgements.....	18

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF OF POLICE



Chief Terry Moss

I am pleased to present you with the St. Helens Police Department's 2013 Annual Report. This report reflects the outstanding work performed by the men and women of this agency and includes statistical information and highlights of this past year.

The City of St. Helens continues to enjoy a low crime rate that is the direct result of a visible and proactive police department that can rapidly respond to calls for service. Our staff continues to be filled by highly trained and very competent investigators who are actively engaged in protecting our citizens from crime. We enjoy strong partnerships within the community and continue to collaborate with other public safety agencies in our ongoing efforts to make St. Helens a place we can all be proud of.

While we are continually challenged by diminishing resources, the staff has been unwavering in its professional service to the City of St. Helens. I am very proud of the work they continue to do each and every day.

We look forward to the new year and challenges that will certainly add to our long list of accomplishments. As a reflection of our commitment to provide professional police services, the department plans to work toward becoming accredited through the Oregon Accreditation Alliance. This distinction will demonstrate that the policies and procedures employed by this agency are sound and adhere to industry-wide best practices. We also have ambitious plans to expand our Reserve Program and include citizens in other volunteer opportunities that will serve our mission of public safety.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the citizens of St. Helens and our elected officials for their continued support. It is important to us and very much appreciated. We feel privileged to serve the citizens of this community and look forward to continued success as an innovative and professional law enforcement agency.

Sincerely,

Terry Moss  
Chief of Police



## DEPARTMENT BUDGET

The following chart compares the size of the St. Helens Police Department and its budget between fiscal years 2008-09 and 2013-14.

	<b>2008</b>	<b>2013</b>
Population	12,325	12,895
Total Budget	\$2,571,539	\$2,366,650
Sworn Personnel	20	16
Non-Sworn Personnel	4	1
Department Personnel Total	24	17
Officers Per Thousand Residents	1.62	1.25

### ADOPTED BUDGET 2013-14



The total budget for the St. Helens Police Department during FY 2013-14 is \$2,366,650.

During the current budget cycle the police department made significant reductions including the elimination of the lieutenant and code enforcement officer positions.

In the spring of 2013, the Police Department invested in an online employee scheduling system. The tools provided by ISE® streamline the scheduling process and allow for improved oversight and flexibility in our scheduling system. The system was purchased at an initial cost of \$4,680. The system is incredibly comprehensive and has proven to be a wise investment for the city.



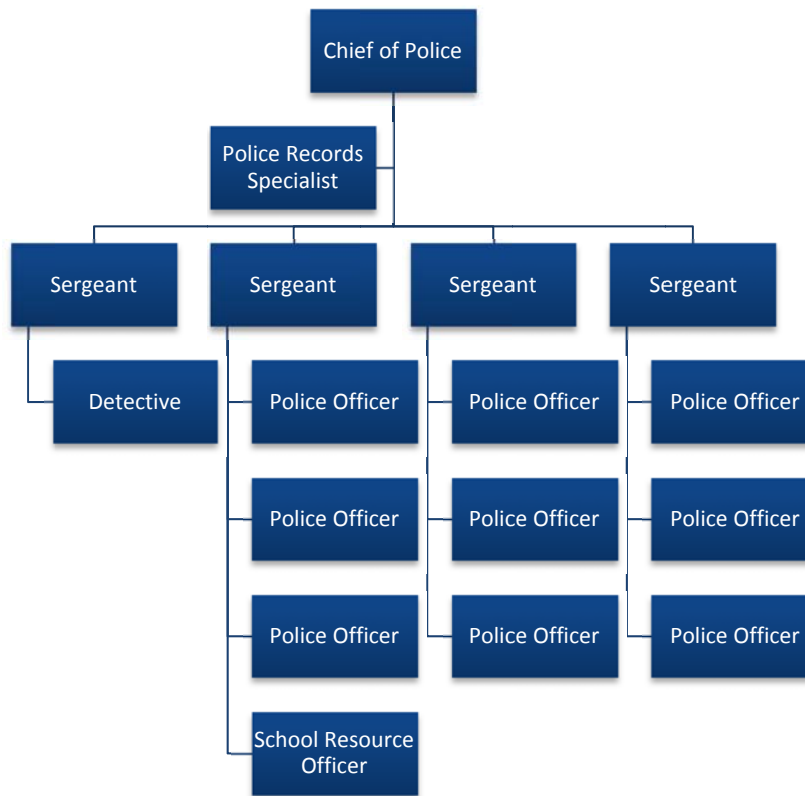
In 2004-05, the Police Department received a grant through the Homeland Security and Terrorism Prevention Programs to purchase Mobile Data Computers (MDC's) for each of our patrol cars. Mobile Data Computers allow the officers to receive dispatch information and access databases in the field. The MDC's reached their life expectancy and were due to be replaced. Chief Steve Salle' was instrumental in obtaining \$68,000 in funding through the Oregon State Homeland Security Grant Program. Those dollars were used to replace all of the MDC's in the St. Helens, Columbia City, Scappoose, Vernonia and Clatskanie Police Departments with Apple I-Pads. In March 2013, the old MDC's were removed and the I-Pads were installed. The I-Pads are less expensive, compact and are robust in technology that will continue to evolve as applications are developed.

There were no other capital improvements made with general fund or grant dollars during the 2013 calendar year.



## DEPARTMENT STRUCTURE

The current structure of the St. Helens Police Department includes a management team of the Chief of Police and four (4) Sergeants. A Sergeant is assigned to each of the three patrol shifts while the fourth is assigned to supervise the Detective and CENT operations.



## 2013 CASES OF INTEREST

On **January 23, 2013**, Lynn M. Paan-Saephan disappeared from the Cornerstone Residential Mental Health facility located at 271 Columbia Blvd. An extensive investigation revealed no clues to her whereabouts and she remains a missing person. The Paan-Saephan family is offering a \$5,000 reward for information that leads to her recovery.



*Lynn Paan-Saephan*

On **February 19, 2013**, the Columbia Enforcement Narcotics Team, assisted by the St. Helens Police Department, Oregon State Police, and Columbia County Sheriff's Office, executed a search warrant at a residence located at 614 S. 12th Street. The investigation involved the distribution of methamphetamine and the making of sexually explicit videos in exchange for drugs.

The suspect was identified as Kenneth "Sonny" Dale Glick. Based on interviews with Mr. Glick it was determined that he had distributed more than 13 pounds of methamphetamine over the past two years. When the investigation identified a child rape victim, and a lengthy prison term was looming, Mr. Glick committed suicide by hanging himself in his residence.

On **March 14, 2013**, several officers responded to 714 Oregon Street in an attempt to arrest a fugitive identified as Daren McLoud. Mr. McLoud has an extensive history that involves assaulting police officers and resisting arrest. After attempts to negotiate his surrender failed, officers entered the residence to take Mr. McLoud into custody. During his aggressive attempt to resist, Mr. McLoud and Officer Jeremy Hepp fell to the ground. Officer Hepp suffered a traumatic leg injury that required surgery and an extended hospital stay. Officer Hepp remains in recovery and has returned to work on a light duty status.

In the early morning of **April 13, 2013**, three men wearing masks and armed with handguns, robbed the Muchas Gracias restaurant at 155 N. Columbia River Hwy.

After an extensive investigation that featured the use of social media and Facebook, the suspects were identified and arrested.

Terrance Anthony Cochran, Joshua Phillip Walker and Daniel Thomas Rehrig were convicted and sentenced to nearly six years in prison.



On Friday **May 3, 2013**, an Oregon State Police Trooper was involved in a pursuit that came to a dramatic conclusion near the St. Helens Golf Course. The suspect, Josiah Max Fischer, pointed a firearm at the Trooper and was eventually shot and killed.



St. Helens Police Officers were actively involved in the pursuit and then played a large part in the investigation with the Columbia County Major Crimes Team.

On Friday, **June 14, 2013**, two St. Helens Police Officers responded to a call regarding a bird blocking the road at the intersection of North 2nd Street and Columbia Boulevard. Arriving at the intersection, the officers discovered a three foot Blue Heron standing in the road. The bird was behaving as if it was injured and would not leave the road.



Newly-hired St. Helens Police Officer Anthony Miltich wrapped the bird in burlap, and the heron was then transported to Dove Lewis Animal Hospital. Dove Lewis kept the bird overnight before giving it to the Audubon Society of Portland for monitoring and rehabilitation. The Blue Heron had a bacterial infection in its eye that prevented it from flying.

Shortly after 2:00 a.m. on **July 20, 2013**, officers responded to a report of a despondent man armed with a long knife in the 2700 block of Sykes Road. When the officers arrived they were confronted and threatened by Rogelio Rodriguez Martinez, a sixty year-old St. Helens resident.



*Rogelio Martinez*

The officers tried to establish a rapport and negotiate with Mr. Martinez as he walked towards the Best Western Oak Meadows Inn. Despite their efforts to calm the man, establish communication and get him to surrender the knife, he advanced on one of the officers. As the officer retreated, trying to gain time and space, other officers used a Taser to try to stop him. When Mr. Martinez did not respond to the Taser and continued to aggressively advance on the officers, they were forced to use their handguns to stop him.

Mr. Martinez is currently facing charges that include Attempted Aggravated Murder.



On Thursday **October 10, 2013**, just past 10:30 p.m., officers were dispatched to a report of a burglary in progress at 59440 Alderwood Drive. A neighbor watched as two men attempted to break into the garage and then left the scene in a red Subaru.

When officers attempted to stop the vehicle, the driver and his passenger fled at a very high rate of speed towards Scappoose. After reaching speeds in excess of 100 miles per hour, the vehicle ended up crashing into the athletic fields near the Scappoose High School.

The driver, identified as Randy Weston Parker, a 27 year-old Seattle Washington resident, fled from the vehicle. Mr. Parker was eventually apprehended by "Lykos," the St. Helens Police Canine Officer. The passenger, identified as Tomas Scott Schlickeiser, a 43 year old Portland, Oregon resident was arrested a short distance away. Both suspects were convicted and sentenced to prison.



*Randy Parker*



*Thomas Schlickeiser*

On **October 25, 2013**, officers went to 445 N. 9<sup>th</sup> Street to check the welfare of a woman who lived in the residence. The residence is also the home of Joshua Taylor. Mr. Taylor is known to have a violent history that involves assault and resisting arrest.

After officers arrived at the residence they came to realize that Mr. Taylor was inside the residence, holding a woman against her will. When the officers heard screams and the sounds of a struggle they forced their way through a barricaded bedroom door. The officers found Mr. Taylor in the act of strangling the woman. After a violent struggle and the application of a Taser, Mr. Taylor was taken into custody. The woman was taken to a hospital for the treatment of her injuries.



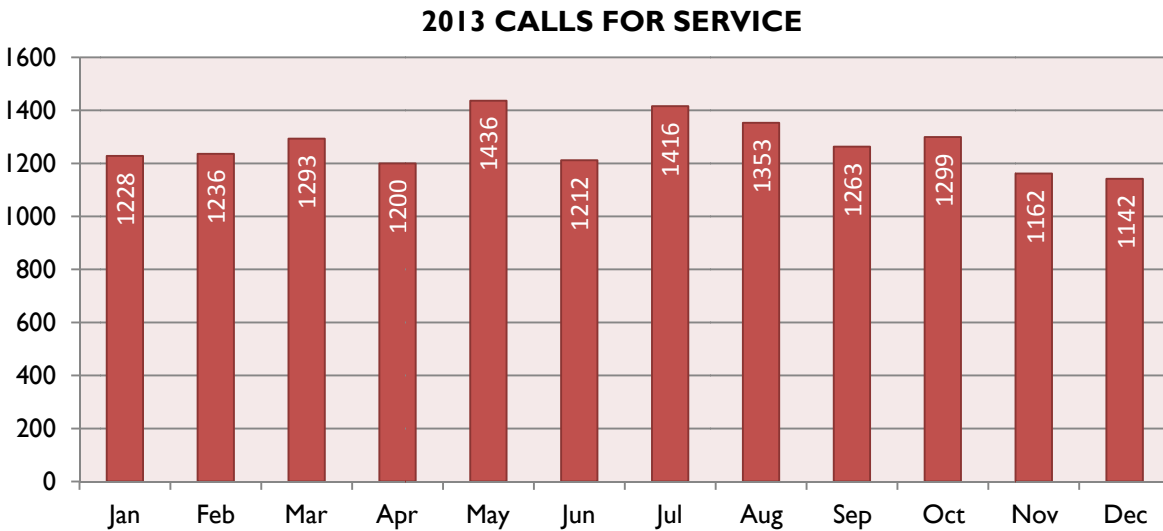
*Joshua Taylor*

Mr. Taylor is still being held in the Columbia County Jail on a number of charges including Assault, Kidnapping and Strangulation. The matter is still pending.



## ST. HELENS POLICE STATISTICS

The St. Helens Police Department receives dispatch services from the Columbia 911 Communications District (C-COM). A “call for service” is a request for police service in which an officer is dispatched or an incident is found by an officer. The following graph details the total calls for service as documented by C-COM each month during the calendar year.



It is important to remember that not all activities are documented by C-COM. Some of our activity comes from walk-in traffic at the Police Department or through referrals from our fellow public agencies like the Department of Human Services, the Amani Center or the St. Helens School District. While those activities may generate a police report, those activities are not recorded by C-COM for statistical purposes.

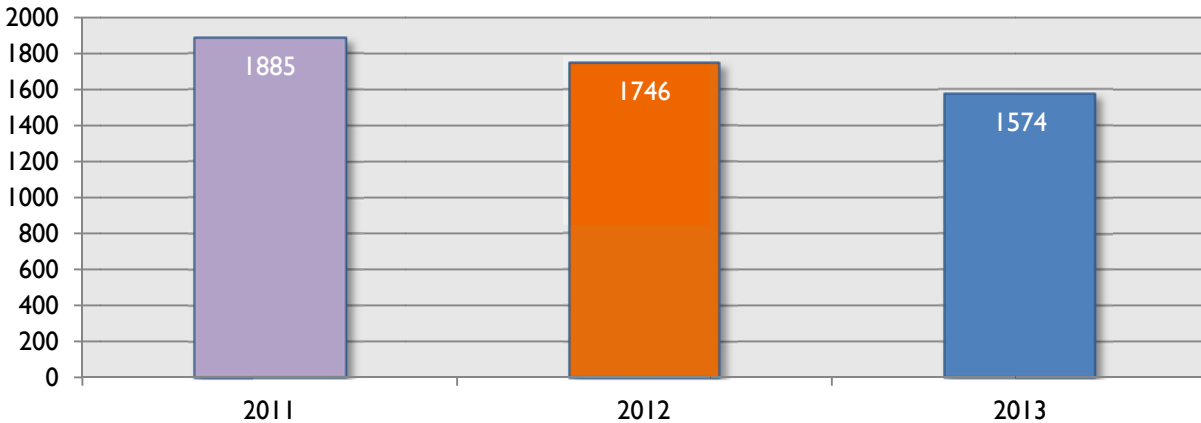


When a call for service is document by C-COM, it is assigned to one of 96 different call types. The table below details a few of the most interesting or commonly used call types over the past two years.

	<b><u>2012</u></b>	<b><u>2013</u></b>
Total Dispatched Incidents	15954	15240
Suspicious (Circumstances, Person or Vehicle)	1355	1510
Assist Public	832	981
Theft	467	422
Domestic Violence	255	254
Disturbance	220	244
Welfare Check	143	215
Harassment	213	205
Alarm Silent/Audible	173	160
Criminal Mischief	184	160
Traffic Complaint	146	136
Traffic Accident	128	121
Drug Activity	82	111
Abandoned 911/Hang up	140	105
Burglary	85	84
Hit and Run	78	78
Suicide (Threat or Attempt)	108	78
Assault	71	74
Prowler	45	56
Fight in Progress	49	43
Sex Crime	38	35
Juvenile Abuse	18	22
Death Investigation	16	19

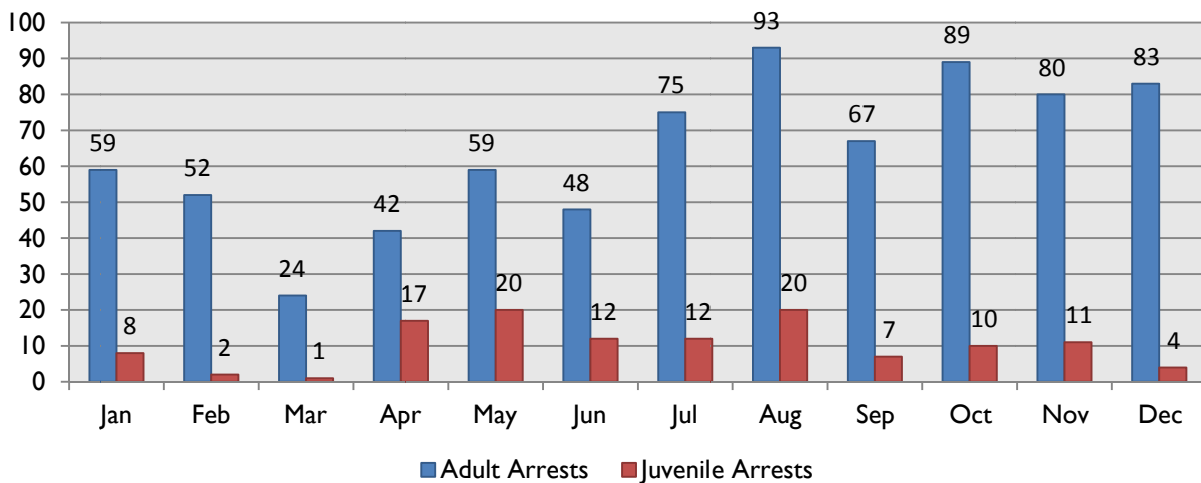
Not every call for service generates a police report. In fact, the majority of our calls for service are handled informally without any administrative action taken. When an officer is required to write a police report, the report is assigned a case number and filed in our records bureau. The following graph details the number of case numbers used during the past three calendar years.

### CASE NUMBERS



St. Helens Police Officers are also responsible for arresting criminal suspects. Many of these suspects are arrested as part of a criminal investigation, while others are the subject of outstanding arrest warrants. In some cases involving juvenile arrests, the suspect is taken into physical custody; however, the vast majority involve a simple referral to the Columbia County Juvenile Department. The following chart details arrests that occurred during the last calendar year.

### 2013 ADULT AND JUVENILE ARRESTS

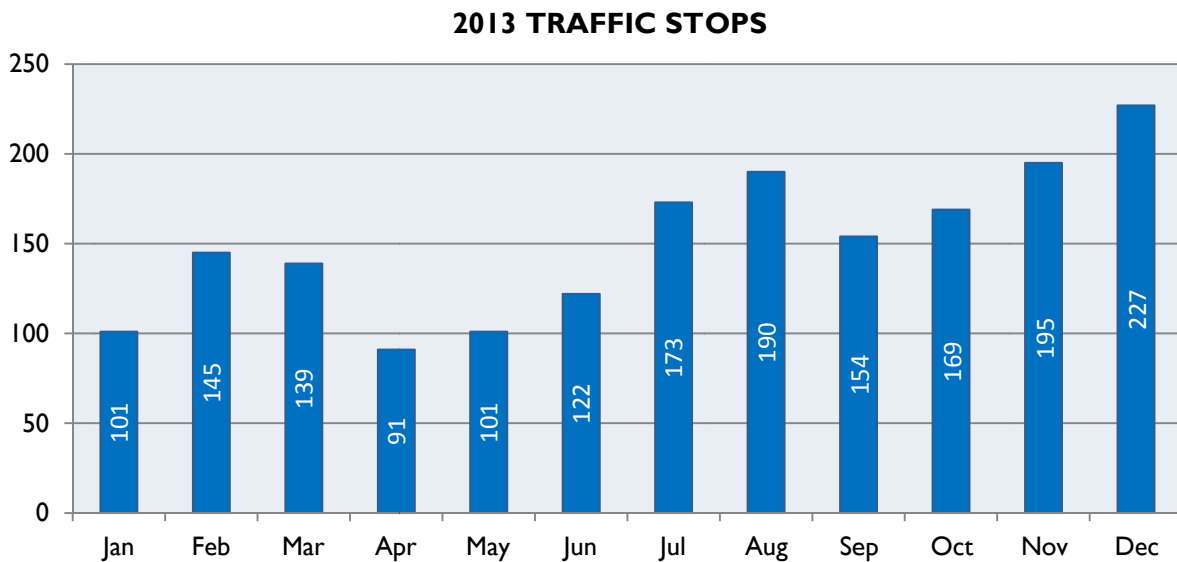


In a very small percentage of arrest incidents, force is used to effect the arrest. For reporting purposes, physical force is defined as any use of a firearm, Taser, oleoresin capsicum spray (OC), other weapons, active counter strikes, or other physical force applied on a combative or resistive person.

Use of force does not include mere presence, verbal commands, passive contact or routine handcuffing techniques. During the 2013 calendar year, force was used in 27 of the 771 adult arrests or just 2.8% of the time. These low numbers are a testament to the officers, their training, and their ability to work at a very high level in difficult situations.



In addition to calls for service, officers from the St. Helens Police Department are actively engaged in traffic enforcement. The focus of our traffic enforcement efforts are not based on issuing citations; rather it is aimed at changing or modifying unsafe driving behavior. The St. Helens Police Department conducted **1,807** traffic stops and issued **424** citations during the 2013 calendar year. The following graph details the number of traffic stops each month over the past year.



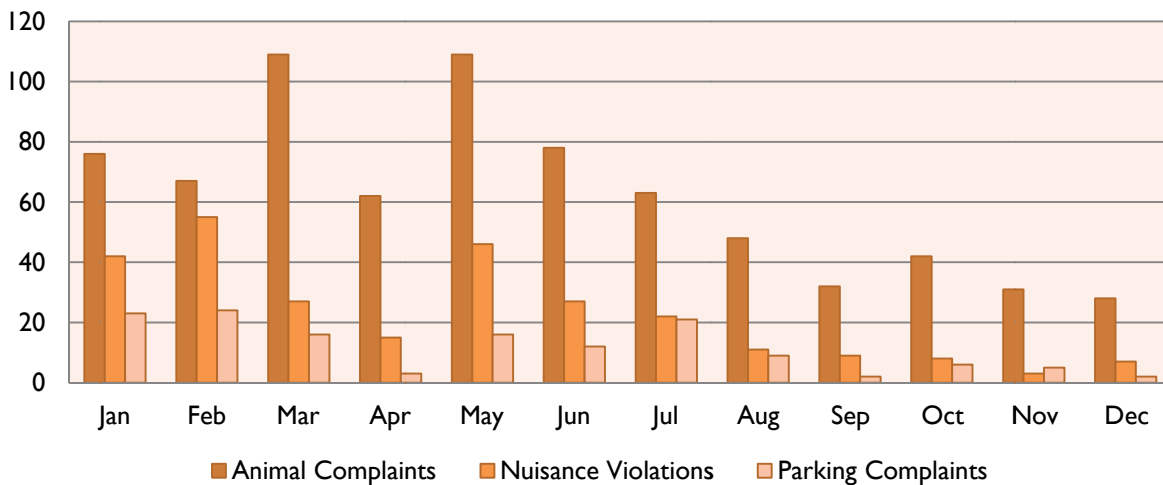
## CODE ENFORCEMENT



Officers from the St. Helens Police Department respond to a fair number of complaints that are related to the enforcement of City codes. These codes include animal control issues, nuisance violations like garbage and noxious weeds and parking complaints. In June 2013, the code enforcement position was eliminated. This

shifted the bulk of code enforcement responsibility to the police officers. A consequence of this change was a shift in focus from the proactive enforcement of a dedicated staff member toward a complaint-driven process. The chart below details those activities over the past calendar year.

### 2013 CODE ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES



## CANINE POLICE OFFICER PROGRAM



Since 1987 the St. Helens Police Department has employed a Canine Police Officer. Over the years these animals and their handlers have proven to be a valuable asset to the Police Department and the community. Their ability to capture suspects, find lost people, recover evidence and protect their fellow officers is truly second to none.

Today the Canine Officer position is filled by Lykos, a pure-bred German Sheppard. Lykos is seven years old and trained in the detection of fresh human scent. Lykos works with his handler, Officer Jon Eggers.

Two years ago Lykos received an unfortunate injury to his spine that threatened to end his career prematurely. With a successful surgery and months of rehabilitation, Lykos returned to full duty and has been capturing criminals ever since.

In 2013 Lykos was deployed a total of fourteen times. During his deployments he was directly responsible for the capture of five suspects. Because he can detect fresh human scent, Lykos is used regularly in what we call “article searches.” In two noteworthy cases in 2013, Lykos recovered a handgun and clothing used by a suspect in a bank robbery in Scappoose.

Because he is the only Canine Officer of his kind in Columbia County, Lykos and Officer Eggers are called upon regularly to assist in cases throughout the region.

Lykos and Officer Eggers train almost every day in tracking, article searching and bite work. During the 2013 calendar year they logged over 200 hours of training together.





## STAFF UPDATE

The 2013 calendar year began with the Department in the middle of an extensive hiring process to fill a vacant police officer position. That vacancy was created by a resignation that occurred in late 2012.



On April 1, 2013, Chief Steven Salle' retired after 32 years of service to the City of St. Helens. Lieutenant Terry Moss was promoted to the position of Police Chief.

For a number of years the St. Helens Police Department has been the parent agency for a county-wide Critical Incident Response Team (CIRT). As budget and staffing issues have affected law enforcement agencies throughout the region, the team struggled to remain intact. In the spring of 2013, the Columbia County Sheriff's Office announced that due to ongoing budget issues they would be forced to withdraw their members from participation in CIRT. With membership from St. Helens Police Department at an all-time low, the unfortunate decision was made to suspend tactical operations of the team. However, a Crisis Negotiation Team continues to function with four specially trained hostage negotiators who are employed by this agency.



On May 28, 2013, Anthony Miltich was hired and filled the vacant police officer position.

In June 2013, retired Police Chief Steven Salle' came back to the Police Department to serve in a new role as a Reserve Police Officer. Reserve Officer Salle' worked each Thursday night during the summer to provide security and police services to the Thirteen Nights concert series.

The St. Helens Police Department entered the 2013-14 fiscal year facing another significant shortage in funding. That shortage led to the difficult and unfortunate decision to eliminate the code enforcement officer position. On June 30, 2013, Code Enforcement Officer Laura Snyder was laid off.

Since the late 1980s, the St. Helens Police Department has hosted the Columbia Enforcement Narcotics Team (CENT). Over the years the St. Helens Police Department has staffed the team with at least one detective and a sergeant. Our partner agencies have participated in the team by dedicating staff as budgets and staffing levels would allow. Most recently the team was assisted by a detective from the Columbia County Sheriff's Office. That position was funded through a grant provided by the U.S. Department of Justice. When that grant expired at the end of June 2013, the Sheriff's detective was laid off. Today CENT is staffed by a lone St. Helens Police Sergeant.



On July 1, 2013, Detective Jose Castilleja was promoted to the rank of sergeant. Sergeant Castilleja has been with the Department since 2007.



Due to the very critical state of the budget, the position of lieutenant was left vacant. Instead the city filled that vacant position with a police officer. On July 17, 2013, Brandon Yon was sworn in as our 16<sup>th</sup> police officer.



In July 2013, Sergeant Joseph Hogue was recognized by the City Council for his fifteen years of service to the City of St. Helens.



In August 2013, two officers left employment with the City to seek opportunities with another agency. The Department began another search for qualified applicants to fill those vacant positions. On December 13, 2013, Brent Thompson and William Hass were sworn in as our two newest police officers.

In September 2013, Officer Jeremy Howell was assigned to the St. Helens School District as the School Resource Officer. Officer Howell has been with the Department since 2004. The School Resource Officer program is a partnership with the St. Helens School District to provide our schools with a safe learning environment. In addition to being an active high profile law enforcement officer, the School Resource Officer is a resource for students, parents, teachers and administration regarding law enforcement related issues.

## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

The St. Helens Police Department continues in its tradition of community involvement by sharing its staff in a number of ways that support other groups and charitable organizations.



On April 20, 2013, officers from the St. Helens Police Department participated in an annual Donkey Basketball game against staff from Columbia River Fire and Rescue. This annual event is a fundraiser for the Community Emergency Preparedness Association (CEPA) and the St. Helens Kiwanis Club.



In the spring of 2013 the St. Helens Police Department and Columbia River Fire and Rescue completed another Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training program. Conducted annually over the past seven years, this training event has provided over two hundred local citizens with the skills and equipment necessary to stay safe in the event of a disaster. On May 9, 2013 fourteen more citizens were added to that list including six St. Helens High School students.



On December 14, 2013, the St. Helens Police Department held its 11th annual Donut Day. During Donut Day, citizens are invited to the Police Department where they can trade canned food for Krispy Kreme donuts. This year the event featured live music and a visit from Mr. and Mrs. Claus. We were very pleased to present the Columbia Pacific Food Bank with \$2,100 in cash and 2,765 pounds of canned food.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The members of the St. Helens Police Department would like to take this opportunity to thank our City leaders and the citizens of this community for their continued support. The relationships shared by this Department are vital to our efforts of preventing crime and to our mission of creating a safe community. Your support is appreciated.

### **2013 ELECTED OFFICIALS**

#### **MAYOR**

Randy Peterson

#### **CITY COUNCILORS**

Doug Morten (Council President)

Keith Locke (Police Commissioner)

Susan Conn

Ginny Carlson

#### **CITY OF ST. HELENS STAFF**

John Walsh (City Administrator)

Crystal Farnsworth (Communications Director)

Malinda Duran (Municipal Court Clerk)

