



St. Helens Police Department

2015 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.....	4
2015 Items of Interest.....	5
St. Helens Police Statistics	10
Code Enforcement.....	16
Staff Update.....	17
Community Involvement.....	19
Acknowledgements.....	23

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF OF POLICE



Chief Terry Moss

I am pleased to present you with the St. Helens Police Department's 2015 Annual Report. This report reflects some of the outstanding work performed by the men and women of this agency and includes statistical information and highlights of this past year. We hope that you find it interesting and informative.

A tremendous amount of gratitude is owed to the patrol officers who serve as the backbone of this agency. I applaud them for their continuing commitment to service and unwavering support of our mission. Our community enjoys a low crime rate that is a direct result of the visible and proactive work that they do every day. They work very hard and I am incredibly proud of them.

As the city continues to struggle against a diminishing fiscal climate, we have witnessed a dramatic increase in the demand on our assets. In 2015 we experienced an unprecedented homelessness issue, the legalization of marijuana and an increase in calls related to mental illness. With this escalation in activity, the department continues to aggressively manage our resources and maintains a high level of service to the community.

The St. Helens Police Department continues to lead our community and public safety partners in efforts that will make this city safer. New in 2015, the Crisis Intervention Team program is a solid example of these innovative efforts. Our participation in a county-wide steering committee, training and the acquisition of federal funding, will enhance our response, and lead to safer interactions with people in a mental health crisis.

We look forward to 2016 with several new employees who bring energy and a fresh perspective to policing. I'm certain that their efforts will add to our long list of successes. I want to take this opportunity to thank the citizens and our elected officials for their collaboration and continued support of the St. Helens Police Department. It is important to us and very much appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Terry Moss". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font.

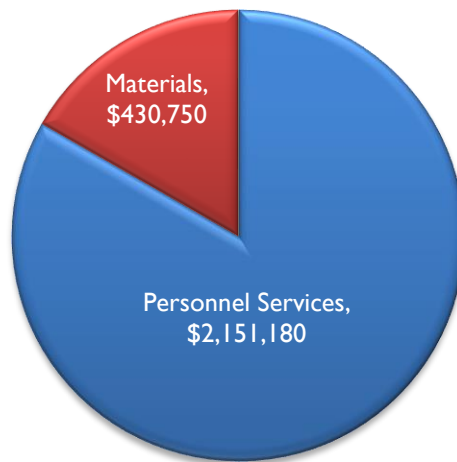
Terry Moss
Chief of Police

DEPARTMENT BUDGET

The following chart compares the size of the St. Helens Police Department and its budget between fiscal years 2008-09 and 2015-16.

	2008	2015
Population	12,325	13,095
Total Budget	\$2,571,539	\$2,581,930
Sworn Personnel	20	16
Non-Sworn Personnel	4	1.3
Department Personnel Total	24	17.3
Officers Per Thousand Residents	1.62	1.22

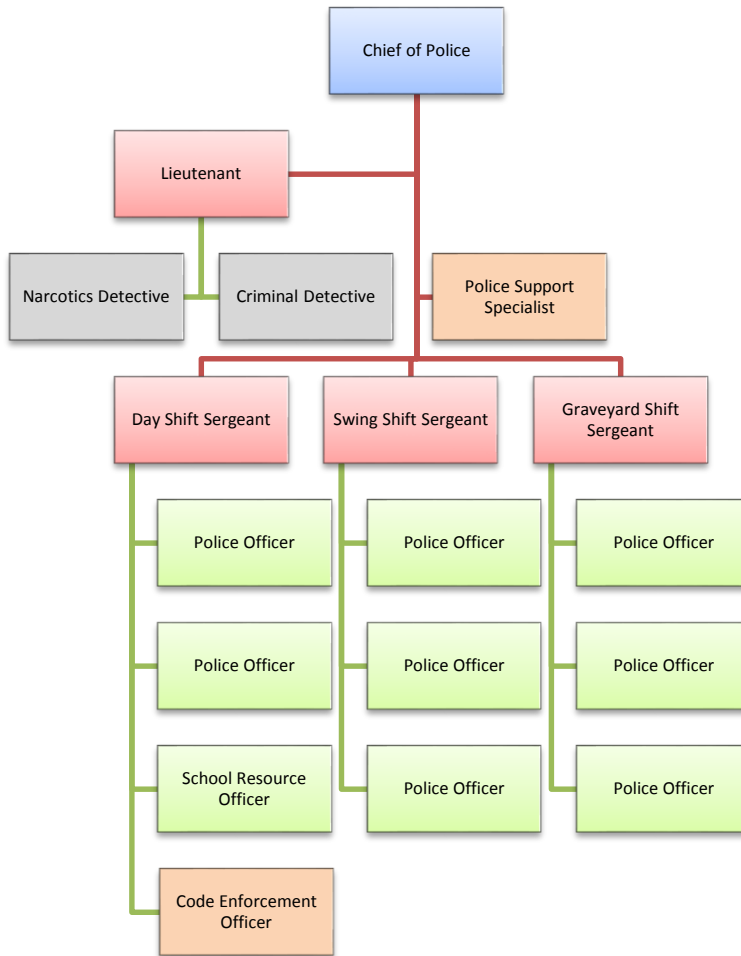
ADOPTED BUDGET FY 2015-16



The total budget for the St. Helens Police Department during FY 2015-16 is \$2,581,930.

DEPARTMENT STRUCTURE

The current structure of the St. Helens Police Department includes a management team of the Chief of Police, Lieutenant and three (3) Sergeants. Three police officers are assigned to each shift. When the department is fully staffed, there are two detectives that will report to the Lieutenant.



The model described above assumes that all of the allocated positions are filled and that no officers are involved in the Field Training Evaluation Program (FTEP). During 2015 the department saw a retirement, a resignation and an administrative separation. As a result, the model was never fully realized. In fact, for much of the year, the department functioned with just twelve sworn police officers. Currently the roles of Criminal and Narcotics detectives remain unfilled.

2015 ITEMS OF INTEREST

2015 brought a unique challenge to the St. Helens Police Department in the form of a new records management system known as the Regional Joint Information Network or RegJIN. RegJIN is a centralized collection of police records and is used by close to 50 law enforcement agencies in over five counties in Oregon and Washington. Transfer of records into this system required extensive training for every member of the department, particularly by our Police Support Specialist Malinda Duran. Now that the system is fully implemented, the vast majority of our records management systems are “paperless.”



Police Support Specialist Malinda Duran



Sergeant Anthony Miltich, Jacob Jones, Albert Schneider, Keith Locke

On March 27, 2015, Albert Schneider intervened when an angry neighbor was threatening a group of teenagers on Oakwood Drive. The man drew a gun and shot Mr. Schneider in the abdomen. Jacob Jones rushed to his aid and eventually disarmed the suspect. Mr. Schneider was very seriously injured but has recovered. For their heroism, Mr. Schneider and Mr. Jones were awarded the Civilian Medal of Valor. The suspect remains in jail and is awaiting a trial in the summer of 2016.

In April 2015 the St. Helens Police Department, and a number of community partners, presented Crisis Intervention Team training. This 40-hour course based on the “Memphis Model” of CIT training was the first of its kind in Columbia County. The training focused on situations involving people in mental health crises and gave officers tips and techniques to deescalate those events. The training was very successful and was repeated in the fall of 2015.

In September 2015, a grant aimed at helping law enforcement officers in Columbia County as they interact with people in a mental health crisis was awarded to the City of St. Helens. A collaborative effort between the St. Helens Police Department, our neighboring law enforcement agencies and



April 2015 CIT Graduating Class

Columbia Community Mental Health resulted in a \$249,095 award from the Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program. The grant will allow for a county wide expansion of Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training, to include every police officer and deputy in Columbia County. Training partners also include staff from Columbia Community Mental Health, Columbia River Fire and Rescue and the Columbia 911 Communications District.

Lt. Rick Graham works through a scenario during the April CIT training





St. Helens High School softball batting cage following an arson fire

In May 2015, a 10-year-old boy was identified as the suspect responsible for two arson fires. In February a suspicious fire was set in the softball batting cage at the St. Helens High School. Then in March, a fire occurred at 115 May Avenue that caused extensive damage to the residence and resulted in the death of a parrot. The matter was referred to the Columbia County Juvenile Department.



Firefighters battle a structure fire at 115 May Avenue



The Fourth of July holiday was an exceptionally busy period of time for the St. Helens Police Department. In addition to a traffic crash, reports of domestic violence, disturbances and criminal mischief, officers received 52 fireworks complaints in a twelve hour period.

Fireworks over St. Helens during the 4th of July celebration



Lt. Rick Graham poses with local youth during the 4th of July celebration



Officer Jon Eggers

On September 6, 2015, Officer Jon Eggers responded to a report of a man attempting suicide by wrapping a zip-tie around his neck. A swift and decisive response by Officer Eggers to cut the zip-tie from his neck ultimately saved the man's life. For his efforts, Officer Eggers was recognized in front of the City Council and presented with a Lifesaving Award.

The month of October 2015 was filled with activities associated with the Spirit of Halloweentown celebration. Kick starting the event was a special appearance during the Pumpkin Lighting Ceremony by the actress Kimberly J. Brown, an original cast member in the Disney film “Halloweentown.” Ms. Brown’s appearance drew thousands of spectators to the downtown area and was widely recognized as the largest single day event in St. Helens history. The St. Helens Police Department provided traffic and crowd control, as well as a security detail for Ms. Brown



Kimberly J. Brown took some time to meet with the St. Helens Police officers



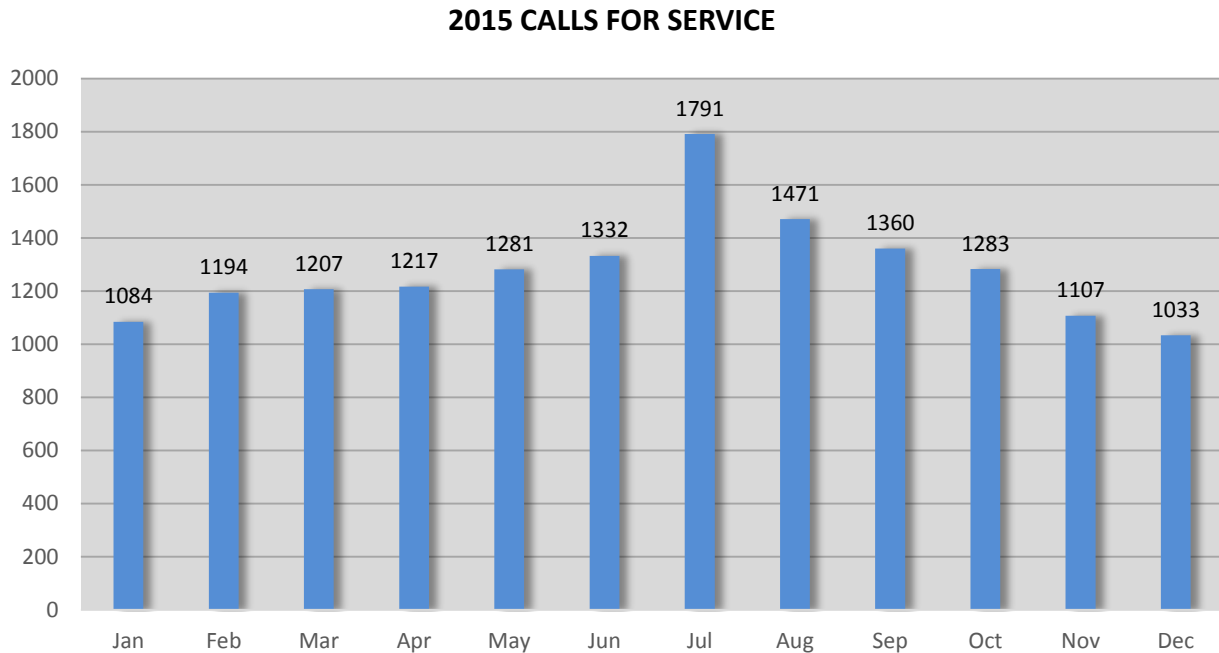
An elevated view of Plaza Square during the Pumpkin Lightina celebration



The St. Helens Police Department’s entry into the annual Scarecrow Contest

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.

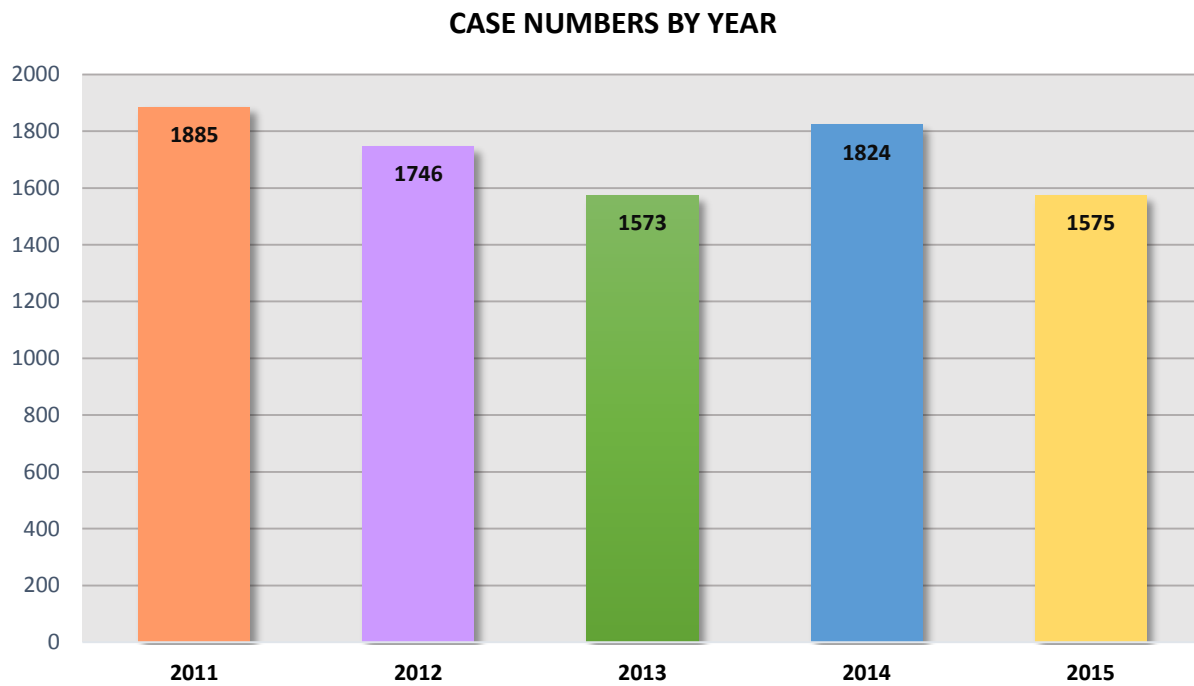


The St. Helens Police Department recorded a total of **16,643** dispatch activities during the 2015 calendar year. It is important to remember that not all activities are documented by C-COM. Some of our activity comes from walk-in traffic at the Police Department or through referrals from our fellow 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 three years.

	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>
Total Dispatched Incidents	15166	15051	17262	16643
Suspicious (Circumstances, Person or Vehicle)	1355	1510	1708	1620
Assist Public	832	981	1124	1012
Theft	467	422	453	451
Domestic Violence	255	254	279	275
Disturbance	220	244	304	360
Welfare Check	143	215	243	288
Harassment	213	205	207	196
Alarm Silent/Audible	173	160	227	266
Criminal Mischief	184	160	176	154
Traffic Complaint	146	136	197	241
Traffic Accident	128	121	154	192
Drug Activity	82	111	98	91
Abandoned 911/Hang up	140	105	93	110
Burglary	85	84	90	80
Hit and Run	78	78	67	92
Suicide (Threat or Attempt)	108	78	107	113
Assault	71	74	58	51
Prowler	45	56	78	79
Fight in Progress	49	43	35	27
Sex Crime	38	35	23	29
Juvenile Abuse	18	22	23	14
Death Investigation	16	19	10	8

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 five calendar years.

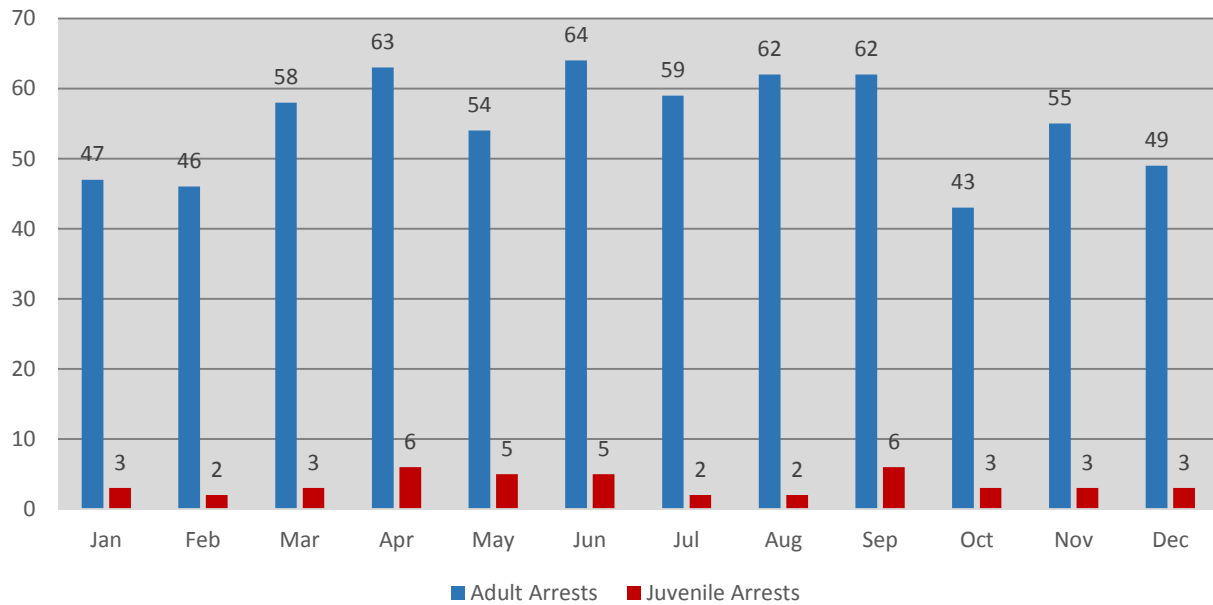




Sgt. Anthony Miltich speaks to an inmate at the Columbia County Jail

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. During the 2015 calendar year, the St. Helens Police Department was responsible for the arrest of 662 adult and 43 juvenile offenders. The following chart details arrests that occurred during the last calendar year.

2015 ARREST DETAIL

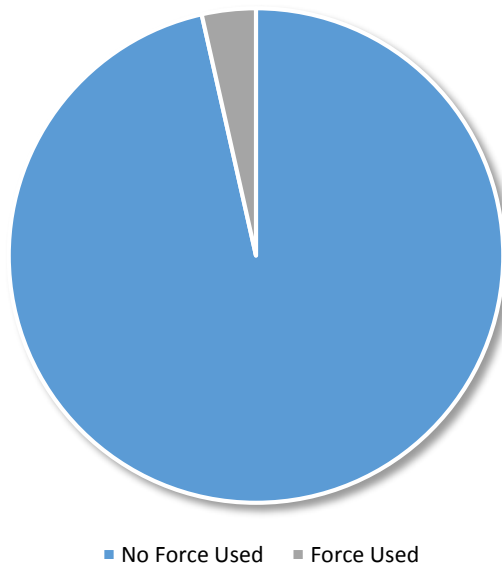


In a very small percentage of arrest incidents, force is used to effect the arrest. For reporting purposes, physical force is defined as any use of a firearm, Taser, oleoresin capsicum spray (OC) and other weapons, active counter strikes, or other physical force applied on a combative or resistive person. Use of force does not include mere presence, verbal commands, passive contact or routine handcuffing techniques.

- During 2015, force was used in **23** of the **662** adult arrests or just 3.4% of the time.
- Not one of these incidents resulted in a use of force complaint.
- No officers or suspects were seriously injured.
- The most common use of force was the pointing of a firearm or Taser.
- The Taser was deployed just one time in 2015.

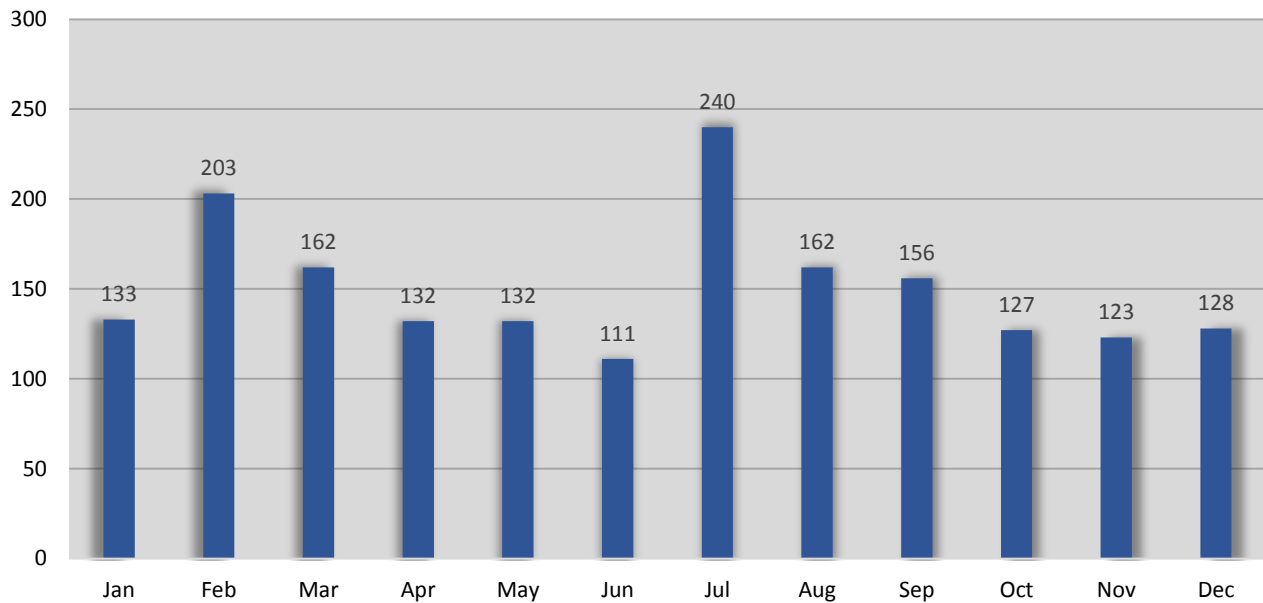
These low numbers are a testament to the officers, their training, and their ability to work at a very high level in difficult situations.

2015 USE OF FORCE INCIDENTS



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, instead it is aimed at changing or modifying unsafe driving behavior. The St. Helens Police Department conducted **1,809** traffic stops and issued **578** citations during the 2015 calendar year. The following graph details the number of traffic stops each month over the past year.

2015 TRAFFIC STOPS



The most commonly issued citations in 2015 include:

- Violation of Speed Limit- 101
- Driving While Suspended- 97
- Driving Uninsured- 96
- No Operators License- 49
- Failure to Obey a Traffic Control Device- 34

CODE ENFORCEMENT

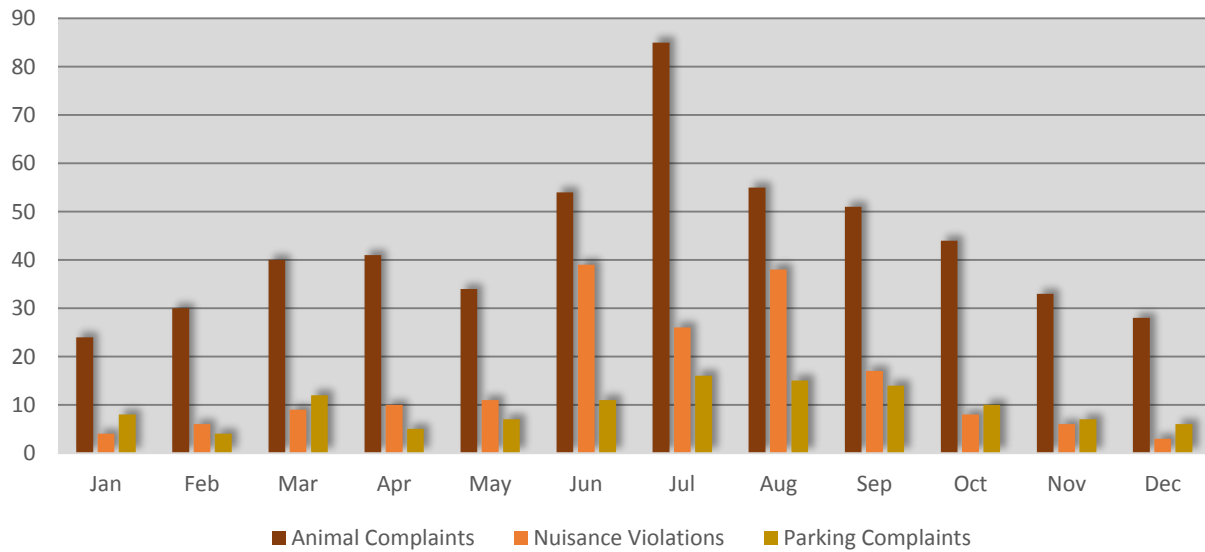


The residence at 115 South Vernonia Road prior to a Code Enforcement response in the summer of 2015

In June 2013, the full-time code enforcement officer position was eliminated. This shifted the bulk of code enforcement responsibility to our police officers. Officers began responding to a fair number of complaints that are related to the enforcement of City codes including animal control issues and nuisance violations like garbage, noxious weeds and parking complaints. In July 2015 the position was partially restored. Scott Williams, a former Code Enforcement Officer who was laid off during budget reductions in 2008, returned to the position just one or two days a week. The partial restoration of that position serves as a stark reminder that much work needs to be

done in this area. The chart below demonstrates the constant need for code enforcement services in the city. Each month the department responds to a significant number of nuisance complaints, animal control issues and parking violations.

2015 CODE ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY



STAFF UPDATE



Officer Dylan Gaston

In June 2015, Dylan Gaston was sworn in as a Police Officer. For a very short period of time, Officer Gaston was a Reserve Police Officer.

In July 2015 Jamin Coy was sworn in as a Police Officer. Officer Coy was also a Reserve Officer with the department.



Officer Jamin Coy



Police Commissioner Keith Locke and Sgt. Phil Edwards

On July 31, 2015 Sergeant Phillip Edwards retired from the department after 29 years of service.



Lieutenant Rick Graham, Judge Cindy Phillips, Sergeant Anthony Miltich

On September 15, 2015, Sergeant Rick Graham was promoted to Lieutenant, and Detective Anthony Miltich was promoted to Sergeant.



On October 27, 2015, Dustin King was sworn in as a Police Officer. Officer King was most recently a Deputy with the Columbia County Sheriff's Office.

Officer Dustin King

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.



CERT volunteers demonstrate their new skills during a full scale exercise

In the spring of 2015 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 nine 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 7, 2015, twenty more citizens were added to that list, including seven St. Helens High School students.

On May 22, 2015, the St. Helens Police Department hosted “Coffee with a Cop” at Burgerville. A handful of Police Officers spent some time drinking coffee and getting to know a number of customers who turned out for the event.

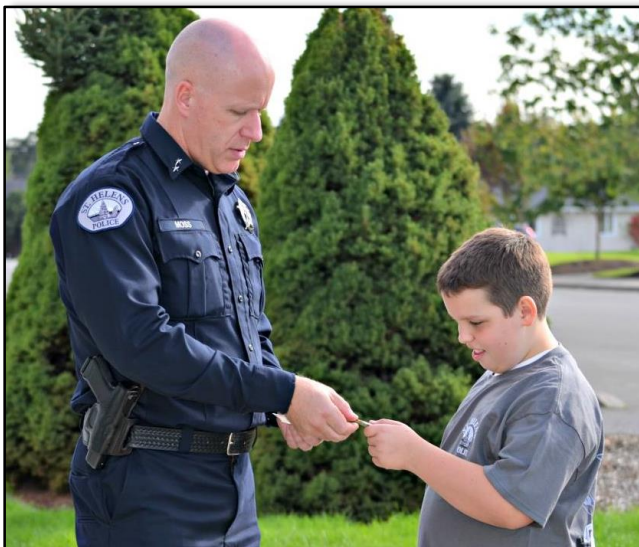


Sgt. Jose Castilleja during “Coffee with a Cop”



Police Officers, Special Olympians and their families pass through St. Helens during the 2015 Torch Relay

On July 8, 2015, officers from the St. Helens Police Department, Oregon State Police, Scappoose Police Department and the Columbia County Sheriffs Office participated in the Law Enforcement Torch Relay. In support of the Special Olympics of Oregon, the officers were joined by Special Olympics athletes as they carried the torch along Hwy 30 from St. Helens to Scappoose.



Chief Terry Moss presents a challenge coin to our contest winner, Trevor Hjort

In September 2015, the St. Helens Police Department hosted an autograph contest. In support of National "Thank a Police Officer Day," local youth were encouraged to contact police officers to collect their autographs. The person who collected the most signatures was awarded a SHPD t-shirt, challenge coin and other prizes.

In the fall of 2015, St. Helens resident and former U.S. Marine Corps Sergeant and Vietnam Veteran Douglas Walker donated two POW/MIA flags to the City of St. Helens. On November 6, 2015, the St. Helens Police Department hosted a flag raising ceremony. In front of 200 visiting students from the Lewis and Clark Elementary School, the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign War proudly raised the flag over the police department.



Local veterans raise the POW flag above the St. Helens Police Department



Students from Lewis and Clark Elementary School stand in observance of the flag raising ceremony



Police department staff pose with Mr. and Mrs. Claus during the 2015 Donut Day celebration

On December 12, 2015, the St. Helens Police Department held its 12th 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 Santa Claus and the Grinch. After trading 325 dozen donuts, we were very pleased to present the Columbia Pacific Food Bank with over \$2,000 in cash and 3,712 pounds of canned food.



A fleet is tied to the city docks during the 2015 Christmas Ships parade

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.

2015 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 Officer)

