



St. Helens Police Department

2017 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
2017 Items of Interest.....	5
St. Helens Police Statistics	9
Crisis Intervention Team.....	17
Code Enforcement.....	18
Staff Update.....	19
Community Involvement.....	21
2017 Holiday Campaign	31
Acknowledgements.....	33

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF OF POLICE



It is my privilege to present you with the 2017 Annual Report of the St. Helens Police Department. This document highlights just some of our accomplishments and illustrates our activity over the last year. A key to the stability of our community is the integrity of the criminal justice system and the effective delivery of police services. In 2017 the St. Helens Police Department responded to over 16,800 calls for service and made over 800 criminal arrests. This high level of activity resulted in a 13 percent decrease in crime over 2016, and 25 percent over 2014. This was accomplished without a single use of force complaint or a negative remark about our conduct. That we were able to accomplish this with fewer staff and a smaller budget, suggests that our proactive approaches to policing are effective.

In the Spring of 2017, the St. Helens Police Department completed an exhaustive review of its policies and became accredited by the Oregon Accreditation Alliance. That we are one of only 40 agencies across the state that have earned this recognition, makes us especially proud.

We continued in our efforts to engage the community through a number of events and functions. You may have enjoyed a cup of coffee with us, or helped us to collect food for the Columbia Pacific Food Bank. Maybe you follow us on Facebook or you are a fan of our new smart phone app. We enjoyed making those connections and look forward to many more in 2018.

There is much to appreciate about our community. Your support and trust in the work we do is always at the top of that list.

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

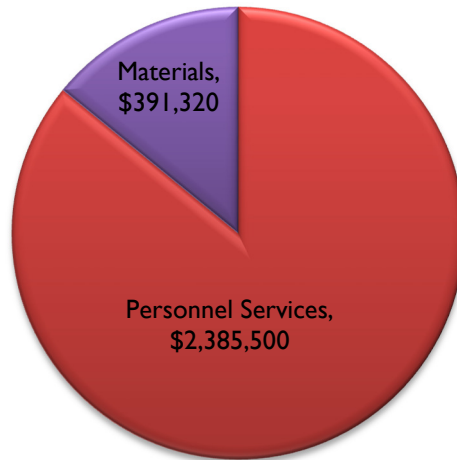
DEPARTMENT BUDGET

The following chart compares the size of the St. Helens Police Department and its budget between fiscal years 2008-09 and 2017-18.

	2008	2017
Population	12,325	13,240*
Total Budget	\$2,571,539	\$2,776,820
Sworn Personnel	20	17
Non-Sworn Personnel	4	2.3
Department Personnel Total	24	19.3
Officers Per Thousand Residents	1.62	1.28

**July 1, 2017 population estimate*

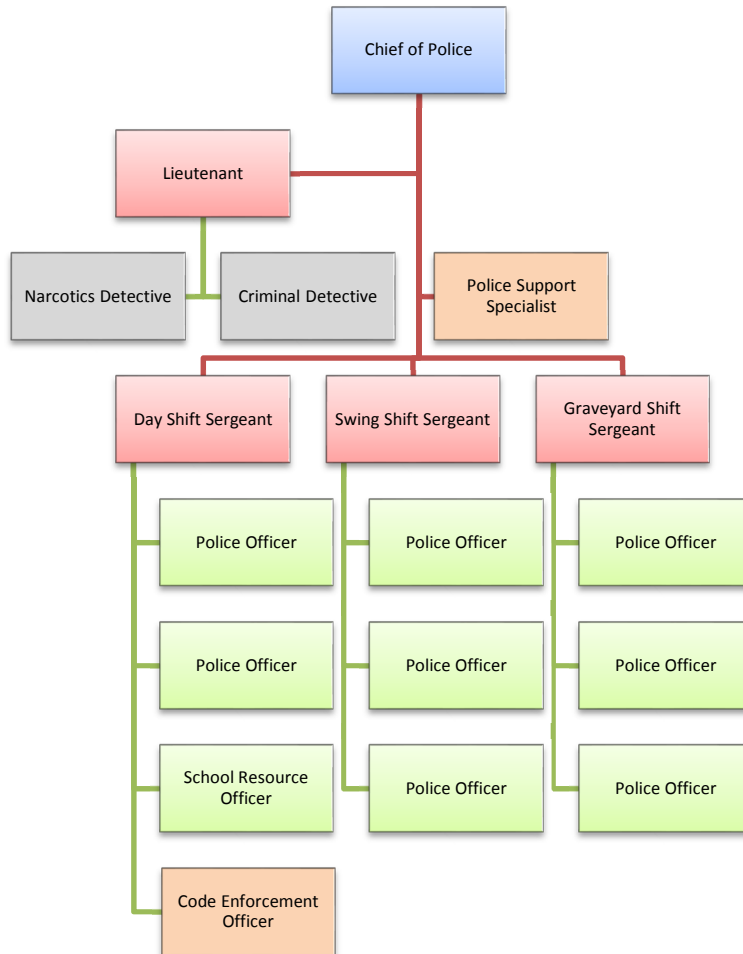
ADOPTED BUDGET FY 2017-18



The total budget for the St. Helens Police Department during FY 2017-18 is \$2,776,820.

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 will be two detectives that will report to the Lieutenant.



The year began with a process to recruit and fill two vacant police officer positions. Through an exhaustive process only one of those positions was actually filled. In the Fall of 2017 the St. Helens City Council authorized the police department to add an additional position to its ranks. This increased the strength of the department from 16 to 17 police officers. This was the first increase in the number of police officers in over a decade. As the year ended with an active hiring process, two new officers will be added in February 2018.

2017 ITEMS OF INTEREST



MISSING KIDS READINESS PROJECT In March the St. Helens Police Department became the first law enforcement agency in the state of Oregon to achieve membership with the Missing Kids Readiness Project. This premier program was developed by the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC) to ensure that every action taken during a missing child investigation makes the difference between a successful recovery and a tragic outcome. The Missing Kids Readiness Project promotes best practices for responding to calls of missing, abducted and sexually exploited children. To meet the requirements for membership with the Project, the St. Helens Police Department worked with NCMEC on its missing child

policy to ensure that the policy met the critical elements of NCMEC's model for law enforcement agencies. In addition, officers were also required to complete online training offered through NCMEC.

NALAXONE- In early March, the officers from the St. Helens Police Department began to carry Nalaxone in their patrol cars. Nalaxone is a life-saving drug that will counter the effects of an opiate overdose. A typical opiate overdose will slow and eventually stop respiration. Without an immediate intervention, the victim will die in just minutes. In 2017 St. Helens police officers administered the drug three times and are credited with saving the lives of all three victims.





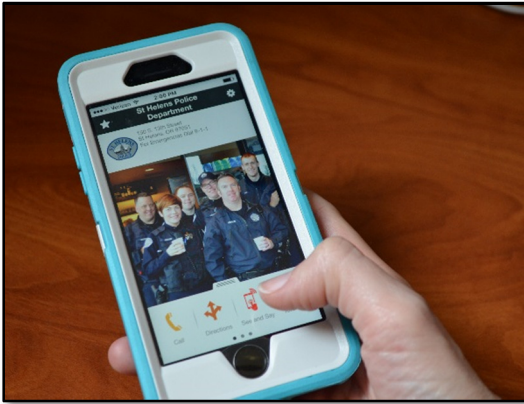
ACCREDITATION- After many months of hard work, the St. Helens Police Department has earned accreditation through the Oregon Accreditation Alliance (OAA). Police Chief Terry Moss and Police Support Specialist Malinda Duran were formally presented with an accreditation plaque on Thursday, April 13, at the Oregon Association Chiefs of Police annual conference in Bend.

There are approximately 175 law enforcement agencies in Oregon. The St. Helens Police Department now joins only 40 other agencies in the state to earn

accreditation and is the first law enforcement agency in Columbia County to become accredited.

To become accredited, an agency generally takes an average of 18-24 months to prepare for the required onsite assessment. During this time, the agency documents its compliance with OAA standards, reviews all agency policies and procedures, and must update or revise any deficiencies before an onsite assessment occurs. One or more assessors then perform an onsite assessment to review the agency's policies, procedures, and practices against the OAA's standards to ensure the necessary compliance is met. A report is compiled and forwarded to the OAA Board for review and then a nomination to award accreditation is made.





MOBILE APP- In June the St. Helens Police Department launched a new smartphone app to provide the community with a free and modern method of communicating and connecting with the department.

The app includes the latest police press releases, alerts and upcoming events where people can meet and connect with local police officers. Once the app is downloaded and push notifications are enabled, it also allows the St. Helens Police Department to send alerts to users' phones in the event of an emergency situation.

The app includes a See and Say feature that gives residents the ability to report code enforcement issues or suspicious activity from their phone. Select the See and Say button in the app and a list of reporting categories will appear. People can report an abandoned vehicle, suspicious person or vehicle, drug information, a tip on an unsolved crime or wanted person, make a nuisance complaint, or submit a barking dog complaint. App users have the option to provide information anonymously and can attach pictures and a detailed message with their submittal. Once information is submitted, a notification is forwarded to the appropriate police department staff member for follow up. Certain reporting categories will connect the user directly with non-emergency dispatch on their phone.



BODY CAMERAS- In August the St. Helens Police Department began to test body cameras. Through a program offered by Axon, the camera manufacturer, the department will be allowed to test the system at no cost for a period of 12 months. All uniformed patrol officers wear the cameras and record their interactions in limited situations. Those videos are stored in a secure cloud based system. The project has resulted in some very positive reviews.



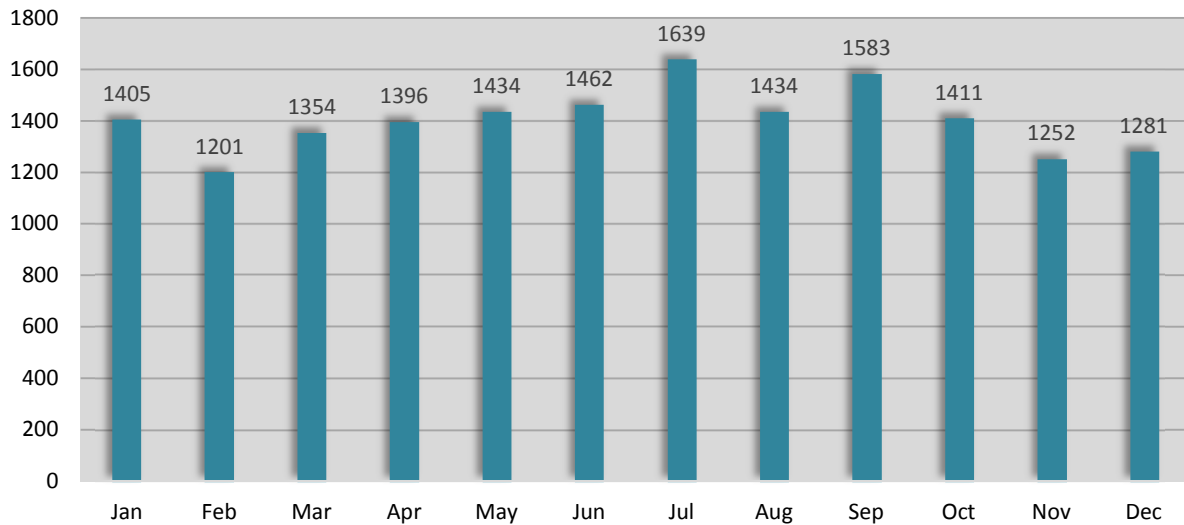
HALLOWEENTOWN- October is a busy month for the City of St. Helens and the police department. As thousands of people from all over the world descended on the community for the annual Spirit of Halloweentown celebration, the police department was very active in providing a safe environment for our visitors.



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.

2017 CALLS FOR SERVICE



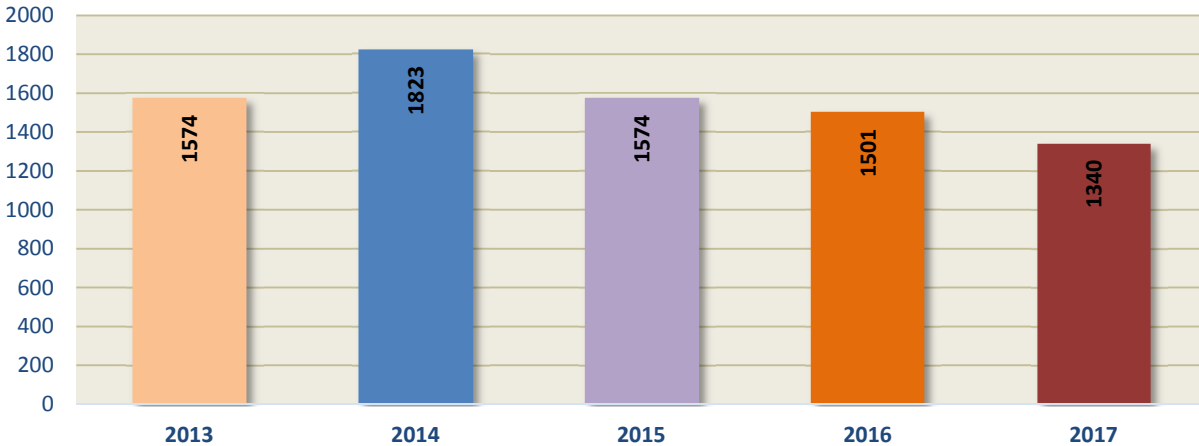
The St. Helens Police Department recorded a total of **16,852** dispatch activities during the 2017 calendar year. This represents a **7.8 percent increase** over the number of calls received during the 2016 calendar year. It is important to remember that not all activities are documented by C-COM. Some 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 five years.

	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>
Total Dispatched Incidents	15051	17262	16643	15534	16852
Suspicious (Circumstances, Person or Vehicle)	1510	1708	1620	1726	1866
Assist Public	981	1124	1012	979	759
Theft	422	453	451	498	431
Domestic Violence	254	279	275	312	229
Disturbance	244	304	360	345	326
Welfare Check	215	243	288	299	276
Harassment	205	207	196	193	159
Alarm Silent/Audible	160	227	266	289	331
Criminal Mischief	160	176	154	168	132
Traffic Complaint	136	197	241	279	277
Traffic Accident	121	154	192	188	247
Drug Activity	111	98	91	99	93
Abandoned 911/Hang up	105	93	110	161	91
Burglary	88	90	80	84	43
Hit and Run	83	67	92	89	102
Suicide (Threat or Attempt)	79	107	113	148	144
Assault	74	58	51	66	61
Prowler	56	78	79	59	50
Fight in Progress	43	35	27	56	24
Sex Crime	35	23	29	34	33
Juvenile Abuse	22	23	14	29	24
Death Investigation	19	10	8	12	9

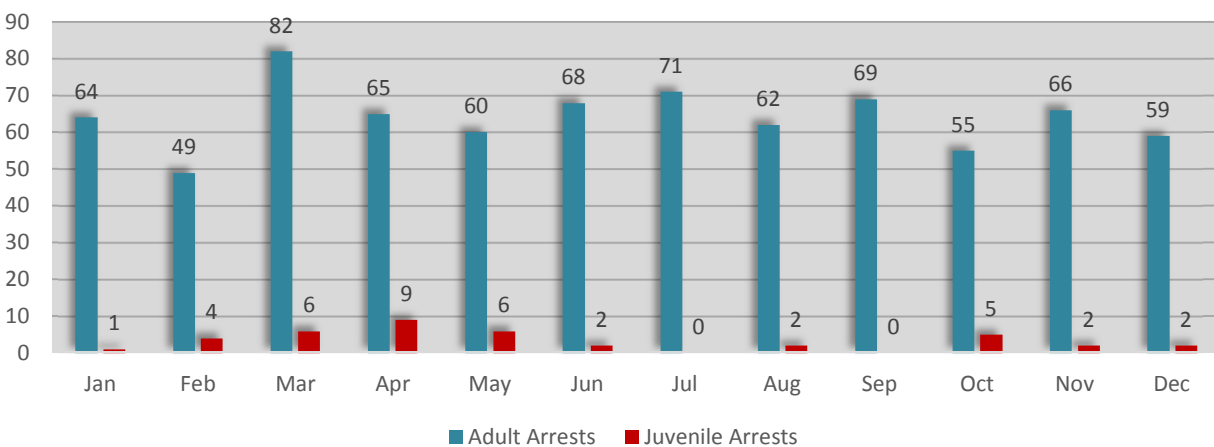
Not every call for service generates a police report. In fact, the majority of our calls for service are handled informally without any administrative action taken. When an officer is required to write a police report, the report is assigned a case number and filed in our records bureau. The St. Helens Police Department used **1,340** case numbers in 2017. The following graph details the number of case numbers used during the past five calendar years.

CASE NUMBERS BY YEAR



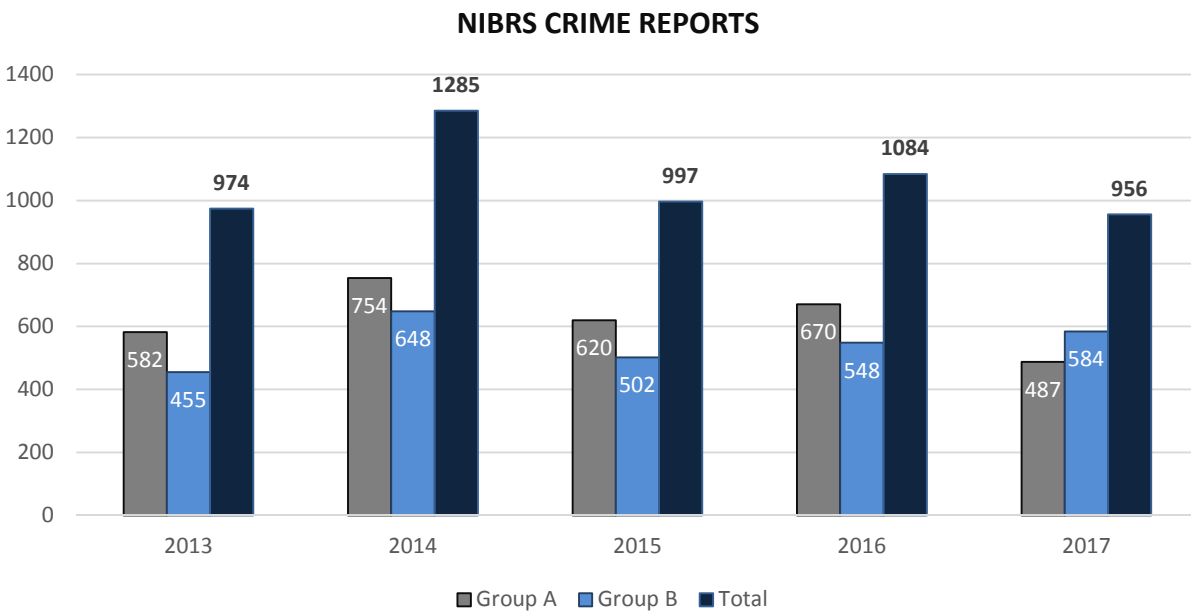
St. Helens police officers are also responsible for arresting criminal suspects. Many of these suspects are arrested as part of a criminal investigation, while others are the subject of outstanding arrest warrants. In some cases involving juvenile arrests, the suspect is taken into physical custody; however, the vast majority involve a simple referral to the Columbia County Juvenile Department. During the 2017 calendar year, the St. Helens Police Department was responsible for the arrest of 770 adult offenders. The following chart details arrests that occurred during the last calendar year.

2017 ARREST DETAIL



The St. Helens Police Department submits all crime data into the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program. The UCR Program is a nationwide, cooperative statistical effort of more than 18,000 city, university and college, county, state, tribal, and federal law enforcement agencies voluntarily reporting data on offenses reported or known. The data is collected via the programs National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS). Through NIBRS, the police department reports data on each offense within 52 specific crimes called Group A offenses. There are 10 other categories identified as Group B offenses.

The following chart details the total number of Group A and Group B offenses that have occurred over the past five calendar years.



To evaluate the data in a little more detail, it may be helpful to see just a few of the offense categories and compare the numbers with data collected over the past three years.

	2015	2016	2017	
Group A	Rape	10	10	4
	Robbery	1	4	1
	Assault Felony	8	1	6
	Assault Misdemeanor	50	49	52
	Burglary	36	45	28
	Shoplifting	80	82	95
	Theft	180	220	118
	Theft of Vehicle	22	28	22
	Vandalism	106	122	49
	Drug Offense	96	96	96
Group B	Warrants	224	226	266
	Disorderly Conduct	39	27	32
	DUII	53	82	102
	Trespassing	36	42	38

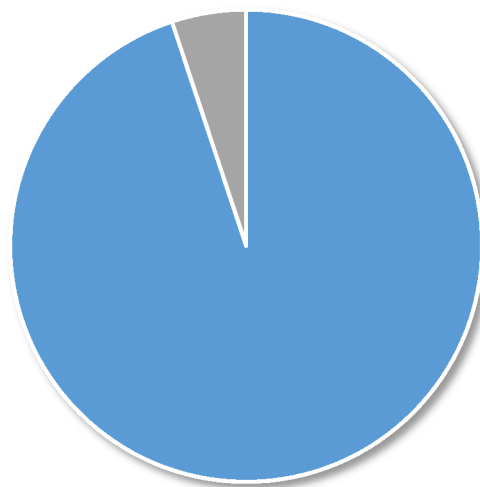


In a very small percentage of arrest incidents, force is used to effect the arrest. For reporting purposes, physical force is defined as any use of a firearm, Taser, oleoresin capsicum spray (OC) and other weapons, active counter strikes, or other physical force applied on a combative or resistive person.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

- During 2017, force was used in **43** of the **770** arrests or just **5.9** percent 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 twice in 2017.

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

2017 USE OF FORCE INCIDENTS

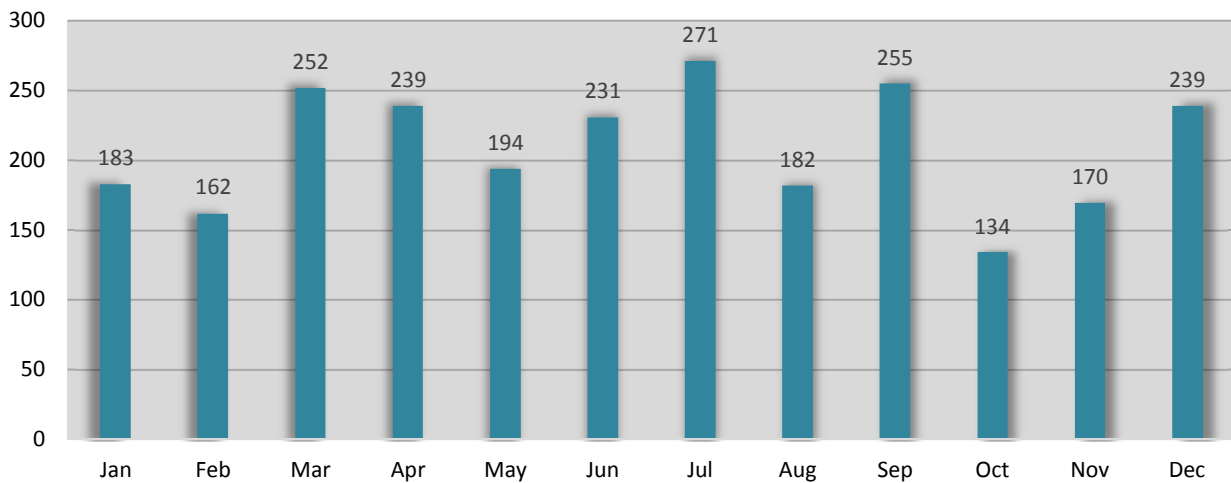


■ No Force Used ■ Force Used

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 is not based on issuing citations, instead it is aimed at changing or modifying unsafe driving behavior. The St. Helens Police Department conducted **2,512** traffic stops and issued **569** citations during the 2017 calendar year. The following graph details the number of traffic stops each month over the past year.



2017 TRAFFIC STOPS



The most commonly issued citations entered into the St. Helens Municipal Court in 2017 include:

- Violation of Speed Limit- 56
- Driving While Suspended- 172
- Driving Uninsured- 142
- Driving Under the Influence of Intoxicants- 79
- No Operators License- 58
- Failure to Obey a Traffic Control Device- 25
- Reckless Driving -21
- Careless Driving- 11
- Failure to Use a Safety Belt- 36



CRISIS INTERVENTION TEAM

Late one night in April, it was reported that an adult female left her home in Scappoose, armed with a handgun, and the intent to commit suicide. Frantic family members reported that she had ammunition for the gun and was headed towards the St. Helens Marina. Just a few minutes later, St. Helens police officers found the vehicle on River Street. When they tried to stop the car, the driver fled. She led the officers on a short chase before coming to a stop on South 14th Street.

The woman slowly got out of the car with a loaded 9mm pistol in her right hand. After challenging the officers to take her life, she sat down in the middle of the street. Officers spent the next several minutes trying to engage her in conversation and safely end this stressful situation. The woman held the gun under her chin and refused to comply.

The woman eventually got back into her car and sped away. Officers followed her to the parking lot of the Columbia County Courthouse where she parked her car and began to walk towards the river. Armed with the handgun, the woman jumped into the water. Fortunately, officers were able to rescue the woman as she floated downstream and into another dock. She was taken to a hospital and placed under a Peace Officers Hold.

This case is just one example of call that St. Helens police officers frequently respond to. In 2017 we responded to 200 calls involving people who were mentally ill, or involved in a mental health crisis. In 129 of these cases someone threatened, or attempted suicide. Twenty-three people were taken into custody and placed under a Peace Officers Hold. In just three of those cases, officers had to use some level of force to take them into custody.

The seriousness and frequency of these calls highlight the need for continued training in the concepts of de-escalation and crisis intervention.

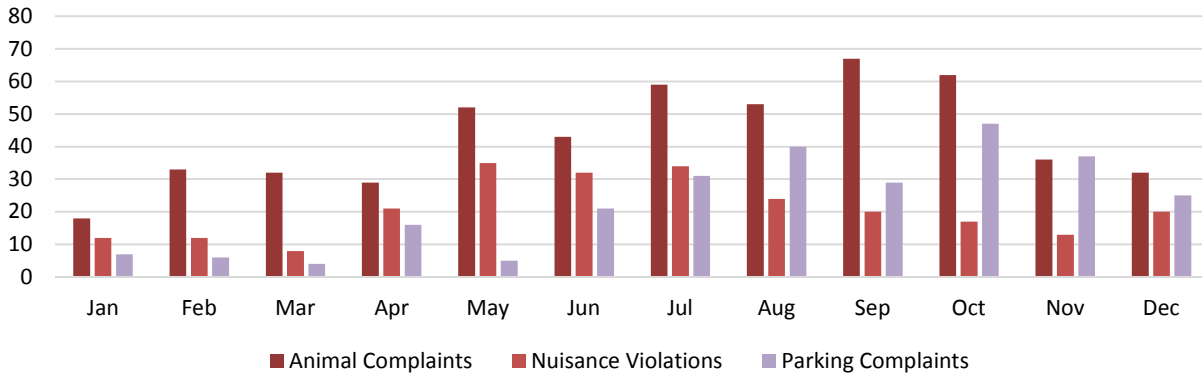
In September 2015 the St. Helens Police Department secured a grant from the Bureau of Justice Assistance that would allow for the development of a countywide Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) program. The grant also allowed for the creation of a full-time CIT Program Coordinator position. In a cooperative agreement with Columbia Community Mental Health (CCMH), Brianne Mares was hired to fill that role. She is responsible for coordinating the entire CIT training program and act as a liaison between police officers and the CCMH Mobile Crisis Unit.

By the end of 2017, 66 officers from all over Columbia County and the Portland metropolitan area were trained in the 40-hour CIT program. There is still a lot of work to do in this area. Over the next 18 months we will work towards our goal of having every officer in Columbia County trained in the concepts of CIT.

CODE ENFORCEMENT

Our Code Enforcement Officer, Adam Hartless responds to 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 2017 the police department responded to a total of 516 animal complaints. This represents an 18 percent increase in activity over the 2016 calendar year. Officer Hartless also responded to, or initiated, 248 nuisance complaints. This is a 39 percent increase over 2016. The department also saw a huge increase in parking complaints as we responded to 268 this past year. This is a 60 percent increase in activity over 2016. These increases are a testament to the proactive work performed by Officer Hartless. The following chart details the Code Enforcement activity over the past year:

2017 CODE ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY



The response to nuisance complaints usually begins with an attempt to gain voluntary compliance with city codes. When those efforts fail, a citation can be issued and a nuisance abatement process can begin. Over the past year, the nuisance abatement process was initiated 22 times. Three derelict homes were boarded up and several tons of trash and debris were removed.



STAFF UPDATE



In January two of our longest serving members were promoted. Officer Matthew Molden was promoted to Sergeant, while Sergeant Joseph Hogue was promoted to Lieutenant.

Lieutenant Joe Hogue began working for the St. Helens Police Department as a reserve police officer in 1996 and was subsequently hired as a police officer in July 1998. He was promoted to Sergeant in January 2007.

Sergeant Matt Molden was hired with the St. Helens Police Department as a police officer in October 1999.

In February, Seann Luedke was added to our ranks as a police officer. Officer Luedke began his law enforcement career in 2008 as a reserve officer for the City of Hubbard. In 2011, he became a sheriff's deputy for the Clatsop County Sheriff's Office in Astoria.



In April, Adam Hartless joined the department as our Code Enforcement Officer (CEO). CEO Hartless served as a cadet with the Portland Police Bureau (PPB) from 2007-2012 and continues to serve the PPB as a training advisor to their cadet program. Hartless was most recently employed by Portland Patrol, Inc. (PPI) as a bicycle officer. He worked with the Portland Police Bureau and the Portland Development Commission to patrol the city parks, streets and parking garages in the downtown area.

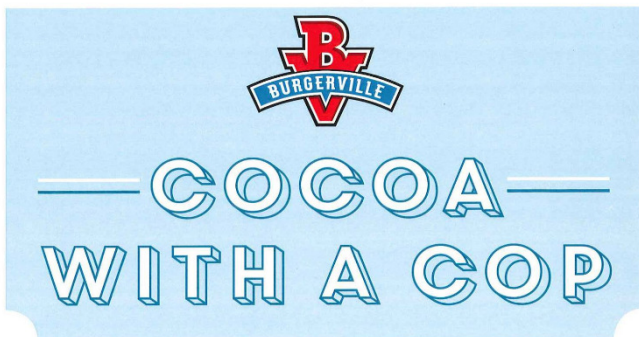


In April, Anthony Boswell was sworn in as a new member of the St. Helens Police Department. Officer Boswell served six years in the United States Army. He received the Army Service Medal, four Army commendation medals, three Army achievement medals, and two overseas ribbons. He was deployed overseas twice, once to Iraq and once to Afghanistan.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

The St. Helens Police Department continues its tradition of community involvement by sharing its staff in a number of ways that support other groups and charitable organizations. In 2017, officers engaged the community through a long list of events.

COCOA WITH A COP- In January the police department hosted “Cocoa with a Cop” at the St. Helens Burgerville. The community was invited to come in out of the cold and enjoy a cup of cocoa with a police officer. The event was popular with the children and was very well attended.





**COMMUNITY
EMERGENCY RESPONSE
TEAM-**

In the spring of 2017 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 11 years, this training event has provided over 200 local citizens with the skills and equipment necessary to stay safe in the event of a disaster. On May 11, 2017, 15 more citizens were added to that list.

CERT volunteers continue to support the police department in a number of ways including traffic control for special events around the community. Their support is always appreciated.





LEMONADE WITH THE LAW- In June, the police department hosted “Lemonade with the Law” at the St. Helens Burgerville. The community was invited to spend the evening with the department and enjoy a free glass of strawberry lemonade.

COP TALK- With support from AM 1600 KOHI, the police department has been involved in a weekly radio show that addresses local and national concerns related to public safety and policing.





LAW ENFORCEMENT TORCH RUN- In July, officers from agencies across Columbia County, dispatchers, Special Olympics Athletes and their families participated in the Law Enforcement Torch Run. Officers carried the Flame of Hope along Hwy. 30 from St. Helens to Scappoose to bring awareness to the Special Olympics and the State Games.





CITIZENS DAY IN THE PARK- In August, officers participated in the Citizens Day in the Park. This daylong event was an opportunity for the community to interact with the police department and meet our new K-9 Officer Ryder.





YOUTH COUNCIL - In August the police department began to attend meetings with the St. Helens Youth Council. Engaging youth through positive interactions is a priority at St. Helens Police Department. Youth outreach fosters positive relationships and helps open important lines of communication with the young people in our community. We hope that this provides a meaningful opportunity for our officers to connect with the young people in our community, hear the concerns and ideas of our younger community members, and be able to answer any questions that they might not ask otherwise. We look forward to seeing the positive connections that come from these meetings.



COFFEE WITH A COP- In October, the police department participated in the “National Coffee with a Cop Day.” The day began in 2016 as part of National Community Policing Week and now continues each year on the first Wednesday in October. With support from Starbucks, over 250 law enforcement agencies across the country hosted Coffee with a Cop events.





TRUNK OR TREAT- On Halloween, the police department hosted a “Trunk or Treat” Cruise-In in the police department parking lot. A number of other organizations including the Humane Society, Columbia 911 Communications District, MADD, and the St. Helens Public Library also participated. Children were invited to play games, learn about other programs and collect a lot of candy. The event was very well attended.

TRUNK OR TREAT Cruise In

Hosted by the St. Helens Police Department





HOLIDAY CARD CONTEST- In November, the third-grade students from the St. Helens School District were asked to help us create the artwork for the front of our police department holiday card. Ninety students responded to the challenge and submitted art work. Haviland Kennedy from Mrs. Luttrell's class at McBride Elementary submitted the winning entry. She was recognized at a City Council meeting and was rewarded with a donut party in her classroom.





DONUT DAY- In support of the Columbia Pacific Food Bank, the police department held its 15th annual Donut Day celebration in December. Three hundred and forty dozen fresh Krispy Kreme donuts were traded for non-perishable food items. By the end of the day 3,700 pounds of food and over \$2,700 in cash was collected for the food bank



2017 HOLIDAY CAMPAIGN

In December the police department took an unprecedented leap in its hiring process and hired Santa Claus.

Officer Claus was sworn in as an honorary police officer for the entire month of December.



In addition to his regular patrol duties, Officer Claus helped to promote safety messages related to distracted driving, pedestrian safety and impaired driving.

Officer Claus assisted in crossing guard duties at Lewis and Clark Elementary School.





In an event that garnered international media attention, Officer Claus was involved in the arrest of the Abominable Snowman. The story was shared by the Associated Press and traveled around the world.

He also attended a holiday party with the Columbia County chapter of the Autism Society of Oregon, visited a pre-school and conducted “naughty and nice” patrol.



Officer Claus and his wife were also instrumental in the success of our annual Donut Day celebration.

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.

2017 ELECTED OFFICIALS

MAYOR

Rick Scholl

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)

