

**ONTARIO POLICE DEPARTMENT  
ANNUAL REPORT  
2012**



## MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

This is my second Annual Report as your Chief of Police. As I mentioned last year, it is important to me to provide information on the police department to our elected officials, citizens and community partners.

You are going to find a lot of similarities in the two reports as far as format and messages, but our activities through the year have differed.

It is still my highest priority of the Ontario Police Department to have employees who are well trained, well equipped and who have a high degree of integrity and professionalism.

I remain amazed at the work the thirty dedicated employees of the Ontario Police Department do on a daily basis. They give a lot of themselves and their families to protect the City of Ontario.

In this annual report, you will find statistics, accomplishments, milestones and activities performed by the department in the year 2012. I always caution those reviewing statistics to not take them at face value, but to look into why a statistic is the way it is. I will attempt to identify factors for some of our statistics in order to give you a full picture.

I am confident I speak for my staff in that the biggest impact for 2012 upon the department and this community was the loss of Malheur County Justice Court Judge Terry Thompson in June. Judge Thompson was a great friend and mentor to many of us. Judge Thompson cared for our youth, our military personnel and our mentally ill. Judge Thompson is greatly missed by us all.

I would also like to thank my staff and Office Manager, Sheri Smith for helping me produce this report.

I welcome any comments, suggestions or questions you might have of the Ontario Police Department.

Sincerely,

Mark Alexander  
Chief of Police  
Ontario Police Department  
541-889-5312 ext 2303  
malexander@ontariooregon.org



## PERSONNEL

The Ontario Police Department has thirty employees. Employee positions are as follows:

Chief of Police  
Office Manager  
4-Patrol Sergeants  
14-Patrol Officers  
2-School Resource Officers  
1-Detective assigned to the High Desert Drug Task Force  
1-Code Enforcement Officer  
6-Telecommunicators

The City budget for 2011-2013 was adopted in June of 2011. The Police Captain position was eliminated in that process in order to maintain patrol officer staffing levels. The Captain position remains unfilled today. The Police Captain had been a long-standing position that provided substantial administrative support to the Chief. Job tasks of the Captain have been taken over by the Chief, Patrol Sergeants and often being assisted by Patrol Officers.

Melody Weir retired from the department in March. Melody started as a Cadet in 1987 and took a full-time Telecommunicator job the next year. Melody retired as a Lead Worker, which she was appointed to in 2006. We appreciate Melody's service to the City and this community and wish her well.

Our part-time Telecommunicator, Rebecca Carter, was promoted to full-time with Melody's absence. The part-time position was not filled due to a hiring freeze. That position remains unfilled today.

Officer Everett Denney retired from the Ontario Police Department in May. Officer Denney started with us as a Code Enforcement Officer after retiring from law enforcement in Washington. Officer Denney was promoted to Police Officer in November of 2004. We will miss Officer Denney's sense of humor and wish him well in his second retirement.

Officer Denney's position was not filled with the hiring freeze. Due to the shortage this left in patrol, the Gang Enforcement Officer was eliminated and that officer has been assigned to patrol duties.

The Ontario Police Department has realized a nearly 10% decrease in staff in the past two years.

Officer Brian Wickert has accepted a job with the Oregon State Police and will be leaving us in March 2013.

Dave Steifvater retired as the Malheur County Traffic Safety Coordinator on September 30th. Dave was hired April 2006 under a grant through the Oregon Department of Transportation. The Ontario Police Department has managed that grant and provided office space for the Coordinator. The grant is now being administered by the Boys and Girls Club of the Western Treasure Valley and has employed Tom Kuhlman to fill the position.

Several employees reached milestones in their years of service with the Ontario Police Department this year:

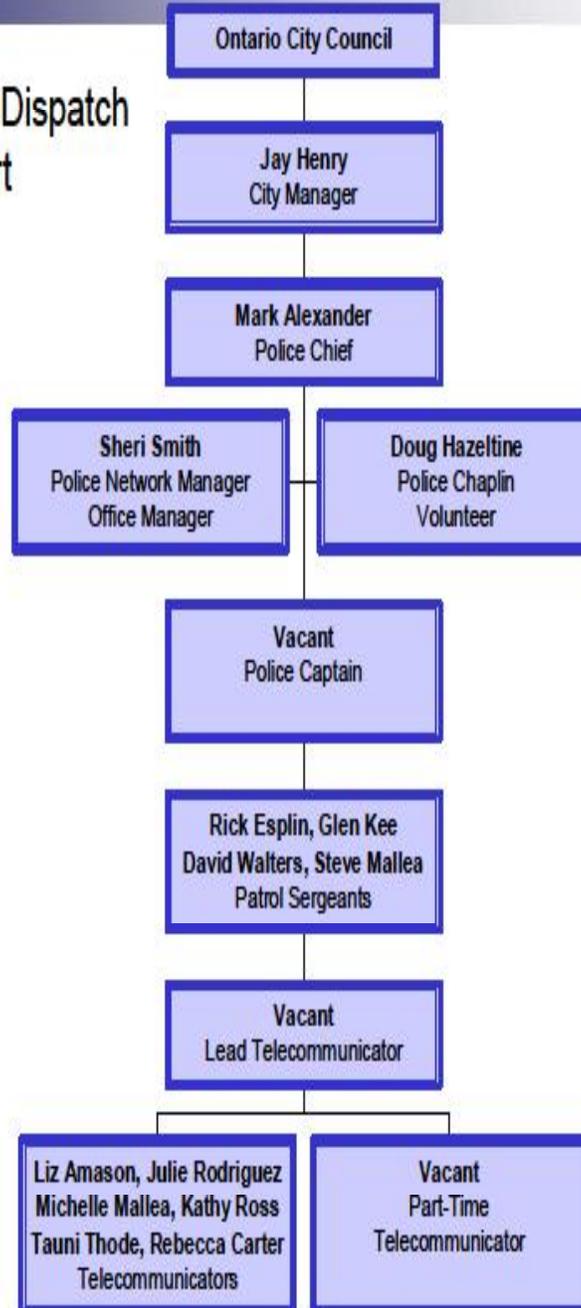
- Sergeant Glen Kee, 25 years service
- Sergeant Steve Mallea, 25 years service
- Detective Sam Almaraz 15 years service
- Telecommunicator Elizabeth Amason, 15 years service
- Officer Jason Cooper, 15 years service
- Telecommunicator Michelle Mallea, 15 years service
- Officer Scott Phelps, 15 years service
- Telecommunicator Julie Walker, 15 years service
- Officer Victor Grimaldo, 10 years service
- Officer Ridg Medford, 10 years service
- Telecommunicator Tauni Thode, 10 years service

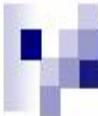
The thirty employees of the Ontario Police Department have over a combined 400 years of service and experience they bring to the City.

Except for the Chief of Police, the Office Manager and the four Sergeants, the rest of the employees of the Ontario Police Department are members of the Ontario Police Association. Our collective bargaining agreement expired June 30, 2012. The first meeting for labor negotiations between the City and the Ontario Police Association began on February 22nd. After just a few meetings a three-year agreement was signed in November. I believe the successful agreement is a testament of a good working relationship between the Association and Management. I appreciated the Association's professionalism in my first labor negotiations as Chief of Police.

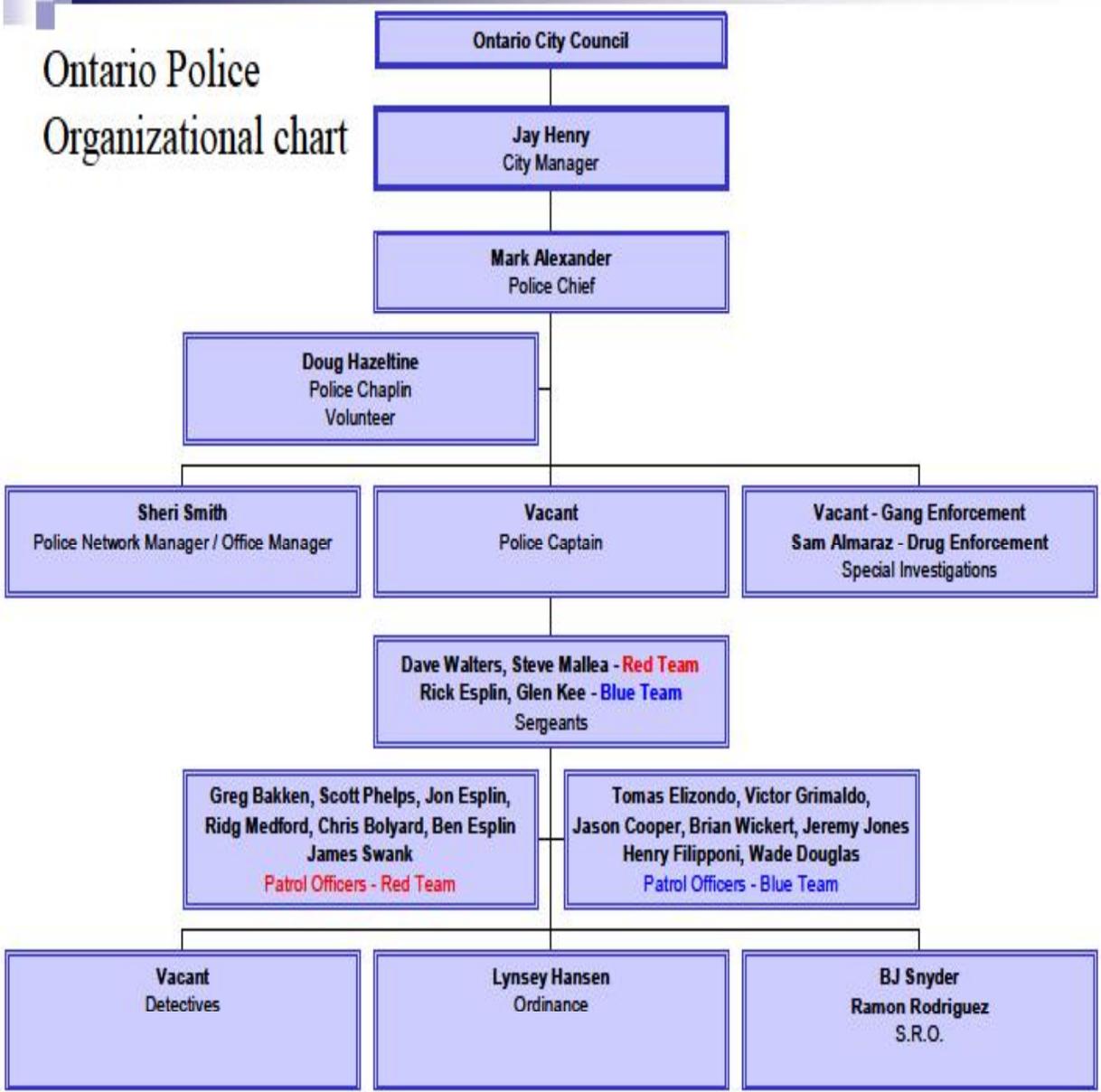


City of Ontario 911 Dispatch  
Organizational chart





# Ontario Police Organizational chart



## 2012 OFFENSE STATISTICS

Activity	2012	2011	% +/-
Calls for Service	10,538	10,092	+4%
Traffic Stops	2345	3368	-30%
Cited Traffic Violations	1311	1869	-30%
Motor Vehicle Crashes	359	380	-5%
Arrests	1256	1285	-2%
Arrests w/ Use of Force	14	14	N/C
Citizen Complaints	5	3	+66%
Misdemeanor Warrant Arrests	391	382	+2%
Felony Warrant Arrests	109	107	+2%
Cases to Dist. Attorney	868	761	+14%
MIP	31	32	-3%
DUII	20	32	-37%
Death Investigations	24	27	-11%
SRO Cases	167	186	-10%
Vandalism	504	437	+15%
Disorderly Conduct	175	274	-36%
Drug Laws	137	135	+1%
Motor Vehicle Theft	20	17	+17%
Fraud	33	20	+65%
Offense Against Family	8	27	-70%
Larceny	690	689	N/C
Burglary	135	119	+13%
Weapon Offenses	7	3	+133%
Assault	107	112	-4%
Homicide	0	0	N/C
Sex Crimes	21	34	-38%
Sex Offender Registry	320	293	+9%



## **Explanations and significant cases-**

**Motor Vehicle Crashes:** As you see, the City of Ontario saw a 5% decrease in motor vehicle crashes, even with a reduced amount of traffic enforcement. Still, we are just short of an average of one crash per day. Mild winter weather can account for some of this reduction without icy road conditions. We remain within the average number of motor vehicle crashes in the City of Ontario from the past several years.

If you were to average two vehicles per crash (Some are single vehicle crashes, some have multiple vehicles) and conservatively account \$1000 damage per vehicle, this would equal \$718,000 in property damage. Injury crashes and lost work time could make this number even higher.

ODOT traffic counts on East Idaho Avenue at East Lane show 24,600 vehicles passing through that intersection per day, which could account for the number of crashes we have each year.

### **Notable Cases:**

On Tuesday, January 31, 2012 at about 12:24pm, the Ontario Police Department responded to a nine (9) vehicle crash in downtown Ontario, Oregon.

A 2009 Dodge pick-up was being operated by 82 year-old Theodore Koch from Ontario, as he backed from a parking space on SW 3rd Avenue.

Mr. Koch backed into a 1999 Chevrolet pick-up, which was forced into a 2002 PT Cruiser. Mr. Koch then went forward, where witnesses state the vehicle accelerated to the point the pick-up's tires were spinning and smoking.

Mr. Koch travelled westbound on SW 3rd Avenue at a high rate of speed, disobeying the stop sign at SW 1st Street and then hitting a 2003 Ford pick-up, which was parked in the 100 block of SW 3rd Avenue.

A chain reaction then occurred where three additional vehicles, A 2004 Land Rover, a 2004 Acura and a 2006 Ford Taurus were damaged by the Ford pickup. The Ford pickup also hit a tree, which was within the sidewalk.

Mr. Koch then turned to his left, going south into a parking lot where he hit two more vehicles, a 1996 Oldsmobile Aurora and a 2001 Volkswagen Jetta before coming to a stop.

Mr. Koch sustained non-life threatening injuries and was transported by ambulance to St Alphonsus Hospital in Ontario. Fortunately, the eight vehicles that were struck were unoccupied. Four of the vehicles had to be towed from the scene. The scene contained substantial and extensive damage.

Mr. Koch told an investigating officer that the accelerator to his pickup became stuck. I cannot think of another crash in the police department's history with such magnitude, except for the next one.

On June 2<sup>nd</sup>, Global Village was taking place in Lions Park when thirty-two (32) people were injured after 19 year-old Everado Jaime crashed his car into the bleachers. Mr. Jaime initially pled Not Guilty, but in October would plead Guilty to three (3) counts of Assault in the Second Degree, 20 Counts of Assault in the Third Degree, and DUII. He was sentenced to 120 months in prison.

The response by first responders was incredible as was the criminal investigation that followed. Police, Telecommunicators, Fire and Rescue, Ambulance personnel and Aquatic Center Lifeguards were later recognized by St Alphonsus Medical Center in a newsletter they publish. They were also recognized during a special Global Village event in Lions Park in September.

On October 30<sup>th</sup> at 7:35am, two Ontario High School students were hit by a motor vehicle while on their way to school. The crash occurred on SW 4th Avenue at SW 11th Street in Ontario.

The students were crossing SW 4th Avenue northbound and were in a crosswalk. They were struck by a 21 year-old female from Caldwell, who was westbound on SW 4th Avenue and operating a 1995 Ford Aspire.

One student, a 16 year-old male from Ontario was taken to Ontario St. Alphonsus Medical Center and was later released. Air Ambulance immediately took the second, a 14 year-old male and brother to the other, to Boise St. Alphonsus Medical Center where he remained in critical condition for a period of time.

The Oregon State Police with crash reconstruction services assisted us in the investigation.

In December of 2012, the victim was determined to be stable in his condition enough to then forward the investigation to the Malheur County District Attorney's Office for review. After a determination of non-criminal intent, the driver, 21 year-old Catarina Velez, of Caldwell was then issued a citation for Failure to Yield to Pedestrian in a Crosswalk and Passing a Stopped Vehicle at a Crosswalk, which are both Class B traffic violations.

On Monday, September 17, 2012 at about 5:20pm, an 81 year-old Ontario resident was traveling home on her motorized scooter and was southbound on Alameda Drive. As she was in the roadway and going around a legally parked vehicle, she was struck by a mini van that was also southbound. The driver failed to report the incident and failed to render aid to the victim.

The victim was ejected from her scooter and sustained several broken bones and related injuries. The victim was taken to Saint Alphonsus in Ontario and later transferred to Saint Alphonsus in Boise. She would ultimately be released to return home.

The police department attempted to contact 49 year-old Ontario resident Elmer Charles Harp, regarding the incident for a couple of days before he finally reported to City Hall. Mr. Harp was arrested for Felony Failure to Perform the Duties of a Driver Involved in an Accident, Assault in the Second Degree and Criminal Driving While Suspended.

In December, Mr. Harp was convicted of Felony Hit and Run in Malheur County Circuit Court and was sentenced to 20 months in prison.

**Arrests/Traffic Stops/Use of Force/Complaints:** Approximately 10% of our contacts end in arrest. For every use of force incident, officers handled 752 calls that required no use of force. Good employees, good training and good policies and procedures keep use of force and citizen complaints low. No lawsuits have been brought upon the department for several years.

**Notable Cases:**

On Thursday, May 31st at about 2:40pm, officers learned a wanted felon was at a home located in the 400 block of NW 5th Street in Ontario.

Kristopher Craig Hensley, 26 years of age from Weiser, Idaho was wanted out of Ada and Payette County for felony warrants. Hensley was considered armed and dangerous and a flight risk.

Ada County's warrant was for Failure to Appear on a Dangerous Drug charge and Payette County's warrant was for Resisting an Officer.

Several attempts were made by officers to contact Kristopher with no response. Tear gas was put into the house and Kristopher still did not respond.

Kristopher was ultimately found hiding in an attic space and gave up prior to the deployment of a patrol K-9 from the Canyon County Sheriff's Office. He was taken into custody at about 5:45pm.

Homes in the area were evacuated by police officers and Ontario Public Works blocked off surrounding streets. The Ontario Fire Department and Treasure Valley Paramedics also were placed on stand-by.

An Ontario Police Officer sustained injury to his arm while deploying tear gas. He was later treated and released from Saint Alphonsus Medical Center in Ontario.

Several officers from Ontario Police Department, High Desert Drug Task Force, U.S. Marshall's Office, Oregon State Police and Canyon County Sheriff's Office assisted in the arrest.

**Cases to District Attorney:** 868 cases were presented to the District Attorney for consideration of prosecution in 2012. These are misdemeanor and felony cases that are heard in Circuit Court in Vale, Oregon. Lower level misdemeanor cases are heard in Justice Court, in Ontario and are treated as violation.

**Death Investigations:** Most of the Ontario Police Officers are appointed Deputy Medical Examiners who investigate deaths under the direction of the County Medical Examiner. Oregon law requires investigations under certain conditions. Most of our investigations are deaths due to natural causes when not under the care of a physician.

Officers Jon Esplin, BJ Snyder, James Swank and Jeremy Jones attended death investigation training this year to become appointed as Deputy Medical Examiners. The Department conducted 24 death investigations in 2012.

An unfortunate job task for police officers is investigating infant deaths. For two weeks in a row in August, officers were summoned to investigate the death of an infant. The first was on the 15th and then exactly a week later on the 22nd. The investigations ultimately went before the County's Child Fatality Review Board where natural causes for both cases was determined.

**SRO Cases:** The 2010-2011 school year had only one SRO due to budget cuts. The Ontario School District re-instated an additional SRO for 2011-2012. One SRO is assigned to the Middle School and the other to the High School. It is my hope that activity will continue to decrease with the added officer's presence.

**Notable Assault Cases:**

On Wednesday, February 1, 2012 at about 5:30pm, the Ontario Police Department responded to shots fired in the 200 block of NW 6rd Street in Ontario, Oregon. A black pickup was observed being associated to the shooting.

An occupied home had been the target of the shooting. The home sustained damage from the gunshots. No one inside the residence was injured.

An occupant of the home had been in a dispute with the suspect who fired the shots. The suspect was identified as 29 year-old Lazaro "Larry" Garcia, with a last known address of Ontario.

The vehicle fled the area and was located on NW 16th Ave in Fruitland, Idaho at about 5:50pm without the suspect being inside. At about 6:45pm, Lazaro Garcia was located in a different vehicle. He was arrested after a traffic stop was made by the Payette County Sheriff's Office on Washoe Road.

Lazaro Garcia was arrested for Attempted Murder and Unlawful Possession of a Firearm and was lodged in the Payette County Jail. On February 1st, 29 year-old Lazaro Garcia was charged with shooting at an occupied home in the 200 block of NW 6th Street and has since been sentenced to 60 months prison.

On Thursday, February 2, 2012 at about 3:00pm, the Ontario Police Department responded to an attempted carjacking at Lifeways, located at 702 Sunset Drive in Ontario.

A 21 year-old female from Ontario was in the parking lot with her baby and 2002 Dodge Neon passenger car. A male subject approached on foot where he physically and forcefully took the keys from the female during an altercation. A witness was able to secure the female's baby while another called 9-1-1.

The male suspect entered the Dodge Neon and attempted to leave with the vehicle. Not being able to start the vehicle, the suspect fled the scene. The suspect was located by an Ontario Police Officer a short distance away and was taken into custody.

The victim was not seriously injured in the incident.

The suspect was identified as 25 year-old John Jacob Riggs of Ontario. He was arrested for Robbery III and a felony warrant issued out of Payette County, Idaho for Obstructing Police. Mr. Riggs would be sentenced to 13 months in prison.

On Wednesday, February 29, 2012, at approximately 12:00pm, an Oregon State Trooper located a gunshot victim on the Yturri Beltline in Ontario, Oregon. The Trooper transported the victim to St Alphonsus Hospital in Ontario where he was able to gain further information.

The information led to the arrests of Lester "Earl" Reger, Erlene Reger, Todd Mulvaine and John Fritz.

The victim, 19 year-old Ramon Fry, was later transported by air to St Alphonsus in Boise where he would become stable with non life-threatening injuries.

The investigation continued for several months with the assistance of the Malheur County Sheriff's Office, The Oregon State Police, Oregon State Police Crime Lab and the Malheur County District Attorney's Office.

John Fritz cooperated with the prosecution of the case and was sentenced to 90 months in prison for his part in conspiring to murder Ramon Fry.

Erlene Reger and Todd Mulvane were found guilty in Malheur County Circuit Court in October of Attempted Murder, Conspiracy to Commit Murder and Assault in the Second Degree and were sentenced to 90 months in prison.

Earl Reger was found guilty of Attempted Aggravated Murder, Conspiracy to Commit Murder, Felon in Possession of a Firearm and Assault II in Baker County Circuit Court in December. He was sentenced to 120 months in prison.

This was a vast case that took a lot of staff time for the investigation and court proceedings. The Malheur County District Attorney should be applauded for his ability to balance effective prosecution with concern to the police department's fiscal situation. I have estimated the overtime costs for this case to be approximately \$5000.

A home invasion robbery occurred on June 29th in the early morning hours in the NE part of town. Three males and one female robbed the female victim and her child at gunpoint. Two individuals were located and arrested in connection to the incident. 22 year-old Lourdes Escalante and 23 year-old Leo Paredes pled guilty to Robbery and were sentenced to 70 months prison.

**Notable Sex Crime Cases:**

On Saturday, September 8th, the Ontario Police Department investigated three cases of Public Indecency at local stores in Ontario.

At about 3:30pm, Officers were summoned to the Idaho Youth Ranch regarding a male suspect exposing himself to a customer. The suspect left the store prior to officer's arrival was not located.

At about 4:20pm, Officers were then summoned to the Salvation Army Store regarding a similar described suspect exposing himself. The suspect again left prior to officer's arrival and was not located.

The suspect was observed driving a white Dodge Dakota pickup with Arizona license plates.

At about 4:45pm, an Ontario Police Officer located a white Dodge Dakota with Arizona license plates in the parking lot of Red Apple Marketplace. Officers maintained surveillance on the vehicle from a distance.

At about 5:30pm, a customer of Red Apple called Ontario Police Dispatch after a male subject exposed himself to her. Officers were directed to the suspect who matched the previous description and was approaching the Dodge Dakota.

50 year-old Marcus Dean Payne of Payette, Idaho was taken into custody and later lodged at the Malheur County Jail on three counts of Public Indecency, all felonies.

On Friday, December 14, 2012 at about 1:50pm, the Ontario Police Department responded to a residence in the 400 block of NW 9th Street in Ontario and began an investigation into the sexual assault and attempted murder of a 78 year-old female who lives at that location.

The victim sustained injuries from the assault and was taken to St Alphonsus in Ontario by ambulance. She was later released and is in the care of family members.

The victim told investigators the suspect came to her home that day around noon and inquired about doing some yard work. Living in a rental complex, the victim told the suspect he would need to contact the landlord.

The suspect followed the victim into the home while she obtained a phone number for the landlord. The suspect would not leave when asked and began to sexually assault the victim.

The suspect allegedly attempted to kill the victim by choking her. The suspect ultimately left and the victim was not physically able to summon help until later. The case remains under investigation.

**Sex Offender Registry:** Those who have been convicted of crimes requiring registration must register annually or when an address or occupation change.

## DRUG ENFORCEMENT

The Ontario Police Department participates in the High Desert Drug Task Force, which includes personnel from the Malheur County Sheriff's Office, Fruitland Police Department, Payette Police Department, Weiser Police Department, Payette County Sheriff's Office and Washington County Sheriff's Office. The Ontario Police Department provides one full-time employee to the Task Force.

### **Notable Drug Cases:**

On Monday, February 20th, 2012, the Ontario Police Department began an investigation into an individual attempting to pass a forged prescription at area pharmacies for controlled substances. The suspect was observed driving a red Dodge pickup.

On Wednesday, February 22nd, the Emmett, Idaho Police Department located this vehicle and identified four occupants. It was found these subjects were staying in a motel in Ontario, Oregon.

Later in the day, the Dodge pickup was located at the motel in Ontario. A search warrant was granted for the motel room and the pickup.

As a result, substantial evidence of forged prescriptions, forged documents, Methamphetamine possession, Heroin possession and firearm possession was located.

Four individuals were arrested and lodged in the Malheur County jail for drug and forgery charges. They are:

Ashley Ann Harris, 20 years of age from Tacoma, Washington  
Christopher Gene Rowden, 23 years of age from Olalla, Washington  
Corey James Rowden, 22 years of age from Olalla, Washington  
Jordan John Shiver, 21 years of age from Kent, Washington

Two additional suspects from Federal Way, Washington remained at large until arrested later in different jurisdictions. Brett Marshall Burnson, 28 years of age and Garrett Lee Crandell, 24 years of age were found to be involved with this group.

Investigators found these individuals are substantially tied to numerous forgeries of prescriptions, theft, identity theft and burglary in Oregon, Idaho and Washington. The case would later be taken over by Federal prosecutors.

In September, the Ontario Police Department joined other local agencies with arrests and search warrants related to marijuana dispensaries, specifically a business just outside of town called the 45<sup>th</sup> Parallel. There are several defendants in the case, which is still unresolved.

## **Minor Decoy Operation**

On Wednesday December 12, 2012, Malheur County Sherriff's Office, Ontario Police Department and the Nyssa Police Department in conjunction with the Oregon Liquor Control Commission completed a Minor Decoy Operation throughout Malheur County. Six local youth were recruited to attempt to purchase alcohol at 61 businesses in Malheur County.

Malheur County had a 90% compliance rate, meaning that 55 of the 61 stores did not sale alcohol to the minors. The OLCC, local law enforcement and Malheur County Drug Free Communities Coalition is very happy with this rate. In 2011, Malheur County only had a 50% compliance rate.

According to the 2012 Oregon Student Wellness Survey, almost 37% of Malheur County 11th graders had at least one drink of alcohol in the past 30 days from the date they were surveyed. We also know that kids who start drinking before the age of 15 are 4 times more likely to become addicted. We are all doing our part to make sure that our kids grow up to reach their full potential.

The youth participating in the Minor Decoy Operation were between the ages of 18 and 20 years. Assurances were made so that each minor looked his or her age. Each youth went through an one hour long training on the requirements of the program and how to address clerks when they were asked how old they were, the minors were required to carry their State issued personal identification and when asked they were instructed to produce their ID.

Local law enforcement agencies were pleased with the results of the operation. One concern that was brought up was the number of store clerks who apologized they could not sell to the minors. We want to remind local businesses that it is your job to not sell alcohol to minors. Be firm with minors when they attempt to buy alcohol sending a strong message that our county is not going to tolerate the sale of alcohol to minors.

Local law enforcement and Malheur County Drug Free Communities Coalition would also like to remind stores to be on the lookout for shoulder-tapping. This is where a youth waits outside of a store and asks an adult to buy alcohol for him or her. This is illegal.

In October 2012, the OLCC and Lifeways in partnership with Treasure Valley Community College provided an ID Checking Classes. Both classes were well attended. Store clerks, bartenders and servers were all trained on how to properly look at an ID, as well as what to look for in fake ID's. Each business was also given a 2012 Drivers License Guide, that shows images of current and previous state ID's.

Positive letters from OLCC, Malheur County Drug Free Communities Coalition and a Certificate of Appreciation will be mailed to each of the stores that did not sell to minor.

## CODE ENFORCEMENT

The Ontario Police Department has one full-time Code Enforcement Officer, Lynsey Hansen. Funding for the officer is split with Public Works. The Code Enforcement Officer addresses animal offenses, weed and garbage violations, parking violations and graffiti removal. Summertime is especially busy for Code Enforcement.

The City of Ontario maintains a dog-lodging contract with Ani-Care to lodge and dispose of dogs found running at large in the City. Disposal is through adoption or euthanasia. The City requires dog owners to have their dogs licensed. One benefit of dog licensing is to have your dog returned if found at large.

Ontario City Councilor Norm Crume continues to provide his time with graffiti removal in the City. Councilor Crume operates cleaning equipment and will remove graffiti as time and weather allow.

The Police Department employed a seasonal worker to address weed and graffiti abatement in a timely manner and proved to be a successful venture that we would like to continue.

Officer Hansen attended the 2012 Oregon Code Enforcement Association annual conferences in Seaside in April and Bend in September. Officer Hansen is able to receive training on a variety of job related topics and network with other Code Enforcement Officers from the State.

### CODE ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY

Offense/Call for Service	Total for 2012	Total for 2011	% +/-
Dogs Running at Large	414	303	+37%
Dogs transported to Ani Care	103	118	-6%
Dog a Public Nuisance	94	60	+57%
Animal Neglect/Cruelty to Animal	57	18	+217%
Weed offenses	170	170	n/c
Garbage offenses	37	49	-24%
Junk Vehicle offenses	16	15	-6%
Parking over 72 Hours	26	38	-32%
Other Parking citations	34	63	-45%
Total cases for 2011	705	715	-1%



## 9-1-1

The Ontario Police Department has one of the two 9-1-1 Public Safety Answering Points (PSAP's) in Malheur County. Funded partially by State 9-1-1 taxes, the Ontario 9-1-1 PSAP operates 24-7-365 employing six full-time employees. Staff answers 9-1-1 phone calls and provides dispatch services for police, fire and ambulance services. Staff performs a variety of records and data entry services for the police department along with window services for the public.

The Mission of the Ontario 911 PSAP Center is to provide prompt, courteous communications to our customers to the best of our ability. Our standard is excellence. Our model of success is teamwork. We are always there and always ready.

In 2012, 9-1-1 Telecommunicators handled 6,043 9-1-1 calls and 50,405 non-emergency and business calls.

Two notable events occurred where the 9-1-1 Center played a critical role in helping save lives.

In June, the Global Village incident required numerous law enforcement and medical resources to respond. Telecommunicators did an incredible job acquiring and keeping track of them while taking a variety of other calls and requests at the same time.

In August, two range fires sparked by lightning occurred one evening west of Ontario and became an overwhelming event for the PSAP Center. The glow from the fires was deceptive, causing numerous reports of fires in other locations. Resources had to be sent to confirm there were not additional fires occurring. In January 2013, Telecommunicators Michelle Mallea and Becky Carter were honored by the Ontario Elks as Telecommunicators of the year for 2012 for their work relating to this incident.



**9-1-1, What's your emergency?**

## TRAINING

Members of the Ontario Police Department participated in over 2,300 hours of training in 2011. Employees are required by the State to have yearly training hours in specific categories to maintain Police Officer and Telecommunicator certifications. Training involved the following areas of instruction:

- First Aid
- CPR
- AED
- Emergency Vehicle Operations
- Active Shooter
- Defensive Tactics
- Policy and Procedures
- Legal updates
- Legislative updates
- Firearms
- Domestic Violence
- Communications
- Taser
- Child Safety Seat Technician
- 9-1-1 issues
- DUII Investigation
- Gang Investigation
- Technology/Computer Investigations
- Death Investigation
- Leadership and Supervision
- Child Abuse Investigation
- Social Media
- Juvenile Crime
- Drug Recognition
- Traffic Safety
- MILO

Police Officers and Telecommunicators can hold Basic, Intermediate, Advanced, Supervisory, Mid-Management and Executive Certificates. Officer Wade Douglas obtained his Intermediate Police Officer Certificate in February.

### **Notable Training:**

Chief Alexander along with Sergeants, Esplin, Kee, Walters and Mallea attended the Oregon Executive Leadership Training Seminar in Seaside in January. The Oregon Association of Chief's of Police and the Oregon State Sheriff's Association sponsor this annual training.

Officer Greg Bakken attended a Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) conference in February in Grand Ronde, Oregon.

Officers Chris Bolyard and Brian Wickert attended the Oregon Child Abuse Summit in Portland in April.

Chief Alexander attended the Oregon Association of Chiefs of Police annual Conference and the Oregon Marijuana Summit in April.

Officer Ridg Medford attended a fire investigation class in May that was sponsored by the Oregon Fire Marshall's office and the Ontario Fire Department.



## ONTARIO POLICE BOARD

Since July of 2002, the Ontario Police Department has maintained the Ontario Police Board. A committee comprised of 14 citizens from the community, this group volunteers their time to learn about the criminal justice system on a monthly basis. Monthly presentations give this group a realistic idea of what the police department does and the challenges we face. Chief Mark Alexander hosts the group and strives to dispel the inaccuracies police television shows give society. New members are always welcome.

The Ontario Police Board heard presentations on the following topics:

- 2011 Annual Report overview
- Code Enforcement
- Arrest Procedures
- Department updates
- MILO

## VEHICLES

The Ontario Police Department maintains 15 vehicles, which are as follows:

- 8-Patrol cars
- 1-Supervisor SUV
- 4-Unmarked vehicles
- 1-Code Enforcement pickup
- 1-SUV for transport of graffiti removal equipment

The department decreased our vehicle fleet 16% by eliminating a vehicle used by the Traffic Safety Coordinator, our police motorcycle and an unmarked detective vehicle.

Total miles driven in 2012: 165,101  
Total miles driven in 2011: 174,714

The Police Department obtained a 2002 Ford Expedition from a donation by the Linn County Sheriff's Office in 2009. The vehicle was used as a K9 vehicle until that program was abolished. The vehicle was recently used solely for the transportation of graffiti removal equipment.

It was this vehicle that is used by Councilor Norm Crume and the seasonal part-time employee. The vehicle was kept in a City shop, which was broken into in December. The Expedition was stolen and was later crashed into a convenience store in Vale. 31 year-old Jerry Boatman, of Ontario would later be arrested and indicted by a Malheur County Grand Jury for Burglary and Unauthorized Use of Motor Vehicle. The case is still pending. Our insurance carrier has covered the loss and the department will look into replacing the vehicle.



## **GRANTS**

2012 was the 8<sup>th</sup> year the Ontario Police Department has managed the grant to fund and employ the Malheur County Traffic Safety Coordinator program. This \$33,000 grant from the Oregon Department of Transportation pays wages for a part-time employee and supports a variety of traffic safety events. Dave Steifvater has served as the County Coordinator since the inception of the program. As mentioned earlier, Dave retired in September and the Boys and Girls Club of Western Treasure Valley are now managing this grant.

The police department was awarded and is managed a \$10,200 federal grant to purchase wearable video cameras for law enforcement officers from the Ontario Police Department, Malheur County Sheriff's Office and Nyssa Police Department. Wearable cameras provide excellent documentation of events officers encounter on a daily basis. Cameras will capture better evidence for successful prosecution of crimes and will protect the officers from liability.

The police department received \$7000 in grant funding to pay overtime for seatbelt and speed enforcement under the Three Flags program funded by the Oregon Department of Transportation.

The police department received \$5000 in grant funding to pay overtime for DUII enforcement funded by the Oregon Department of Transportation.

The majority of our traffic enforcement is conducted during overtime hours provided by these grants. The ability for the department to conduct traffic enforcement is dependent upon these grants.

The police department is managing a \$3000 grant to fund car seats and fitting station in a grant funded by the Oregon Department of Transportation.

## **DONATIONS**

The Ontario Police Department received three donations in 2012. The Ontario VFW gave \$250. The Ontario American Legion gave the department \$100 and the employees of the Malheur County Soil and Water Conservation District, USDA Farm Services Agency and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service gave \$42 from a weekly competition they held each Friday.

## **ON THE JOB INJURIES**

Six officers were injured in the line of duty in 2012. Two officers were injured while effecting arrests, one sustained a cut to a finger and strain to his wrist and the other sustained a knee injury. An officer injured his wrist and elbow after falling from a trip hazard. While introducing tear gas into a home through a broken window, an officer sustained a severe cut to his arm. One officer was bit on the hand while attending to an injured cat. The final injury occurred during a foot pursuit when an officer had to jump out of the way from an uninvolved vehicle and sustained injury to his hands and knees.

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

On June 9th local law enforcement officers teamed with the Boys and Girls Club of the Western Treasure Valley for the inaugural Fish With a Cop Day. Several kids and officers rode a bus to Lake Owyhee for a day of fishing and positive mentorship. Several local businesses made donations such as food, fishing poles and tackle. Malheur County Drug Free Communities Coalition was of great assistance to make the event happen. We also appreciate the help of the Grimaldo family for their cooking skills and Tom Davis for driving the bus that was provided by the Ontario Recreation Department. We are looking forward to Fish With a Cop 2013.



Chief Alexander helps with one of the catches of the day.



Code Enforcement Officer Lynsey Hansen with a delicious bass.



**Officer Elizondo is in the foreground watching for the bobber to sink while Officer Swank is in the background, most likely untangling some fishing line.**



**Since the fish were not biting, we resorted to our back-up fare of hotdogs.**



**Officer Swank helps get the pole set for the next catch**

**Notable events and activities:**

Officer Greg Bakken was recognized by the Oregon Department of Transportation during the Malheur County Traffic Safety Commission meeting in February for his initiative to become certified Child Passenger Safety Technician in 2011.

The police department participated in two Drug Take-Back events, one in April, which collected 98lbs of unused prescription drugs and another event in September, which netted 74lbs.

Officers Ridg Medford, BJ Snyder, Wade Douglas, Lynsey Hansen and Chief Alexander participated in Serve Day on May 12<sup>th</sup> by painting a home.

The police department had the honor of helping escort the Oregon World War II Memorial through town in October. The memorial was being transported to its future home in Salem.



SRO's Ramon Rodriguez, BJ Snyder and Chief Alexander participated in Challenge Day with the Ontario High School in November.

Some of our officers are involved in community organizations both inside and outside of work. Officer Greg Bakken was appointed as a board member for Project DOVE this year. Telecommunicator Liz Amason has been a board member for the Ontario Chapter of Modern Woodmen and was appointed as the Chapter's Activities Coordinator. Chief Alexander is a board member for the Oregon Association of Chief's of Police, the Boys and Girls Club of Western Treasure Valley and the Malheur County Commission on Children and Families.



## TEEN DRIVER SEMINAR

The 2012 Teen Driver Seminar was held at the Ontario High School on September 11<sup>th</sup>. Students learned a variety of automotive skills such as safety around snowplows, installing tire chains, changing a tire, etc.

Officer Ridg Medford conducted the first event in 2011 and was able to receive grant funding to hold this seminar in 2012.



## Ontario Police & Child Safety Seat Education

The police department managed a \$3,000 grant to fund car seats, technician certification and equipment for the child safety seat fitting station held at City Hall from 4:00-6:00 PM the second Thursday of every month. This grant is funded by the Oregon Department of Transportation and allows our Safe Kids nationally certified car seat technicians to educate and service families in need of child safety seats.

The Child Safety Seat Technician Team in Malheur County worked with 134 families in need of child safety seat education. A total of 189 car seats were checked and 78 new seats were provided to families in need. This was all done through 12 fitting stations held at Ontario Fire & Rescue, two car seat clinics held at the Nyssa Fire Department in Nyssa, Oregon, and one car seat clinic held at the Ontario Wal-Mart during National Child Passenger Safety Seat check day September 22, 2012.



Ontario Police Office Manager Sheri Smith is a Nationally Certified Car Seat Technician Instructor and our Safe Kids Malheur County Coordinator. The Ontario car seat fitting station and other car seat clinic events are organized by Sheri and registered through Safe Kids U.S.A. We currently have nine (9) Child Safety Seat Technicians in Malheur County.



**Child Passenger Safety Seat Technician Helen Dickinson checks issues with car seat install.**

We are proud and honored to provide this necessary program through the Ontario Police Department to the families of Malheur County. Our goal is to provide education and assistance to keep children safe in and around vehicles in our community.

## TRAFFIC SAFETY SCHOOL

In early 2005 the Ontario Police Department began a project to provide a traffic safety school to local traffic violators sentenced from the Ontario Municipal and Justice Courts. After several months of research a curriculum was developed and approved by the Court. Since that date we continue to enhance the course and update information as traffic laws continue to change.

We currently hold two traffic school classes a month, one in English and one in Spanish. The class is four hours in length and covers a variety of traffic law information. Ontario Traffic School is voluntary and often times are offered by a Court in order to give a violator the opportunity for the violation to be held off of a violator's official State driving record. The cost of the class is \$45. Students may be given the option to attend from area Municipal Courts, Justice Courts and Juvenile Departments. We also accept students from the general public who are interested in keeping informed on general traffic laws.

The instructors, one being Office Manager Sheri Smith, are well schooled in traffic law and have a genuine interest in traffic safety. The class is interactive and students can enjoy lively dialogues concerning driving and traffic enforcement. Some of the topics discussed include such things as:

- Seat belt laws;
- Child safety seat laws;
- Driving under the influence of intoxicants;
- The proper response to traffic control devices;
- Driving distractions / Cell Phone Use;
- Road rage;
- School zones; and
- General rules of the road.

This year a total of 16 traffic school classes were held, 10 English and 6 Spanish. A total of 156 students attended.



## CONCLUSION

This report highlights the many activities of the Ontario Police Department. Further information such as a Daily Police Blotter, Dog Licensing procedures, Public Safety Master Plan, Child Safety and other law enforcement resources can be found on the City of Ontario website, located at [www.ontariooregon.org](http://www.ontariooregon.org). The Ontario Police Department can also be found on Facebook and Twitter.

