

City of Eden Prairie Police Department

2013 Annual Report

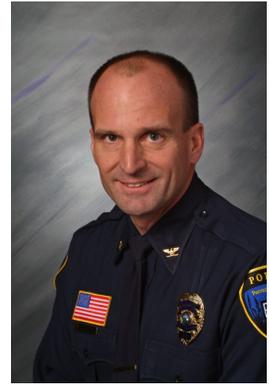


2013 Citizens Academy Graduates

March 2014

Dear Mayor Tyra-Lukens and City Council Members:

I am pleased to submit the 2013 Eden Prairie Police Department Annual Report to you and the residents of Eden Prairie. This report contains a summary of the events and operations the Police Department undertook in 2013.



Last year brought both tragedy and triumph to the EPPD. Along with the rest of the community, the EPPD grieved with the family of Mandy Matula who was missing for six months, and whose remains were eventually found in Stearns County. The Department received a great deal of support from the residents of Eden Prairie during the investigation and for that we are grateful.

The EPPD also investigated a tragic murder-suicide at Eden Place in September and a criminal vehicular homicide in August. Early in the year investigators looked into a dramatic increase in business burglaries and through their diligence, arrested a man who was later tied to nearly 70 business burglaries in the Twin Cities.

Eden Prairie suffered through two severe thunderstorms this summer – one on June 21 and one on Aug. 6, which was also Eden Prairie Night to Unite. That storm put a damper on many parties but EPPD staff still collected 7,790 pounds of food from 151 parties to stock the shelves of PROP (People Reaching Out to other People).

The Aug. 6 storm attracted a large number of roofing and siding contractors to Eden Prairie which led to a record number of peddler and solicitor permit applications for the City – 371 in 2013 compared to 121 in 2012.

We gave awards to citizens who did heroic things: Richard Lane III received a Commendation for coming to the aid of an officer who was struggling during a roadside arrest and Allison Deme, Mikaela Stekly and Ann Koehler received Letters of Recognition for saving the life of Sally Dougherty who collapsed in the parking lot of an Eden Prairie business in October.

2013 also brought us three new officers, one new K-9 and a new Officer of the Year— Travis Brown. We raised money for Special Olympics through the Polar Plunge and Torch Run, and delivered three truckloads of toys for Toys for Tots.

On behalf of the nearly 150 staff and volunteer members of the Police Department, I thank you for your continued support and look forward to serving you in the coming year.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Robert L. Reynolds'.

Robert L. Reynolds
Police Chief

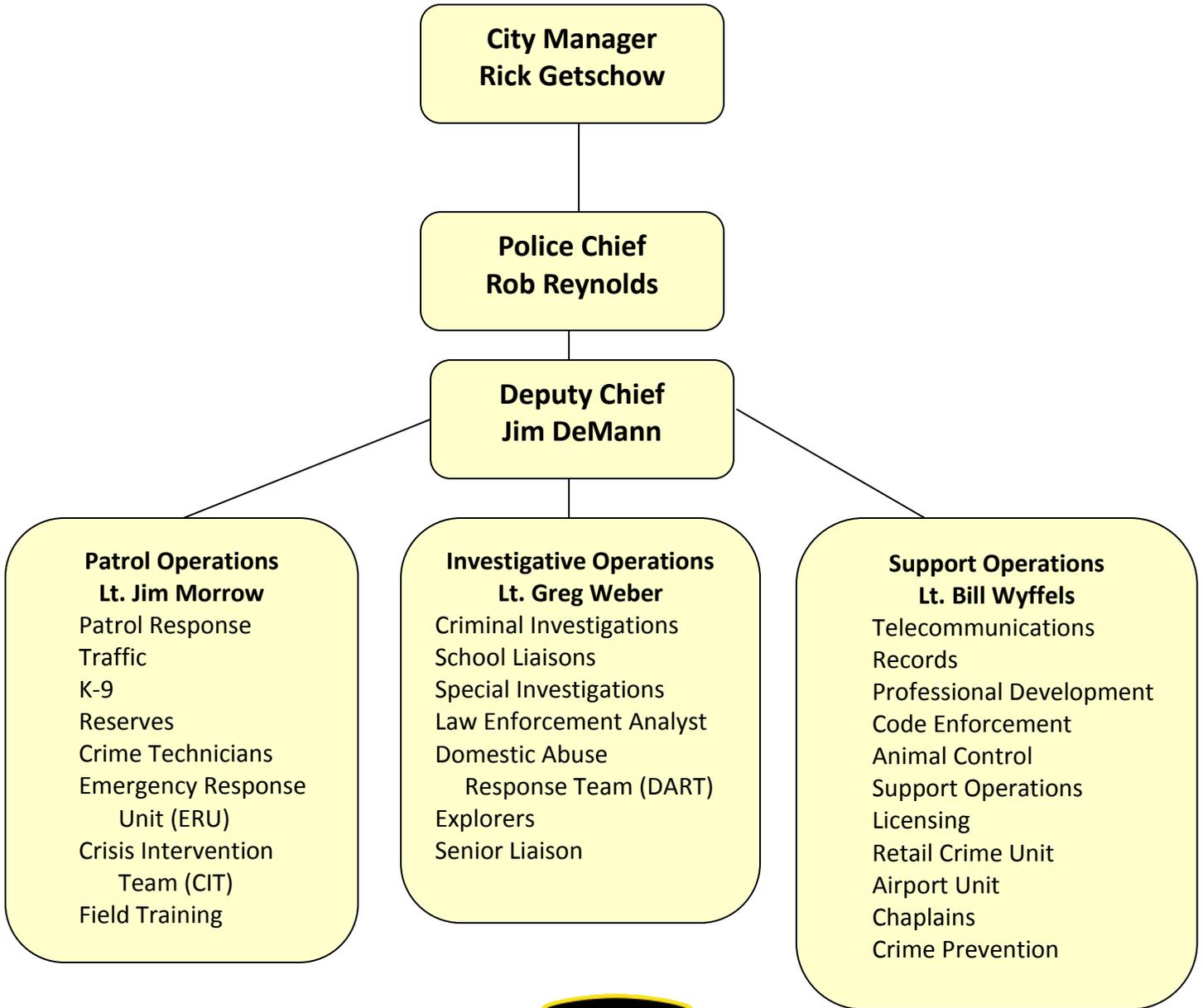
Mission statement

The mission of the Eden Prairie Police Department is to protect and serve the community of Eden Prairie through active and professional engagement.

Department values

- Provide customized service to the community;
- Exercise discretion and fairness in enforcement;
- Build public trust in the Department; and
- Promote the professional development of its members.

2013 Eden Prairie Police Department Organizational Chart



Office of the Police Chief

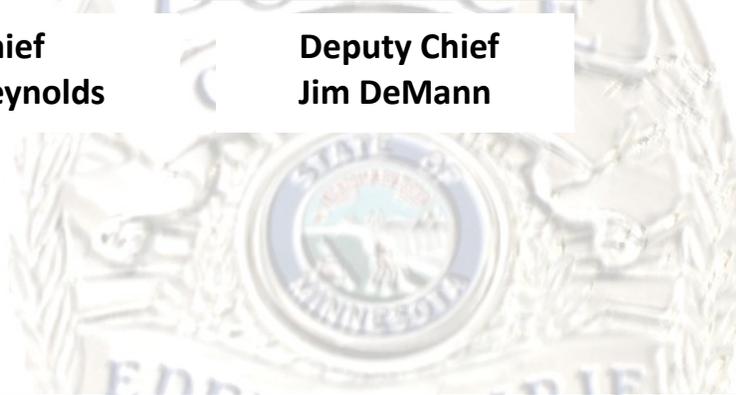


**Chief
Rob Reynolds**



**Deputy Chief
Jim DeMann**

The **Office of the Police Chief** (OPC) consists of the Chief, Deputy Chief, Projects Coordinator and Administrative Assistant. The OPC oversees departmental operations including a \$12.6-million annual budget.



The Command Staff, L to R: Lt. Bill Wyffels, Lt. Greg Weber, Chief Rob Reynolds, Lt. Jim Morrow, Deputy Chief Jim DeMann

Office of Police Chief

Patrol Division



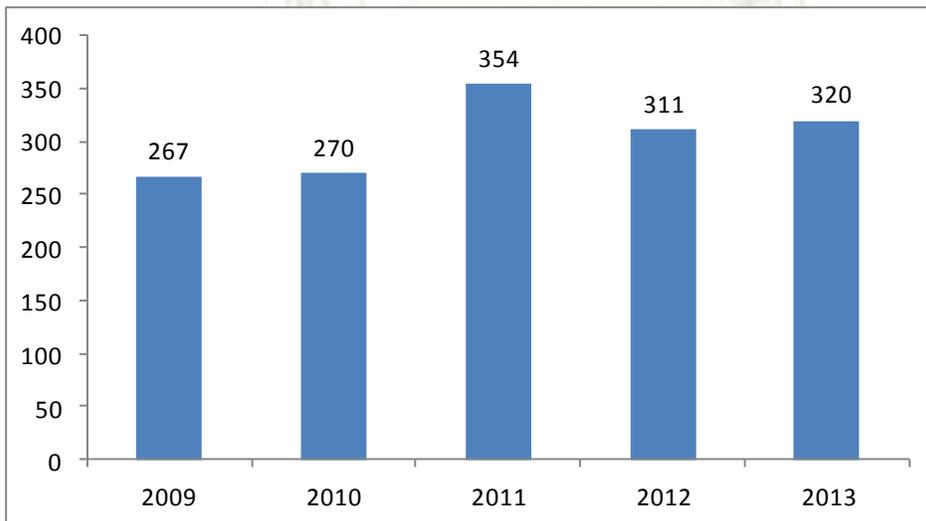
Lt. Jim Morrow

In 2013 the **Patrol Division** was led by Lt. Jim Morrow and includes seven sergeants and 34 officers. There are seven patrol units as well as the secondary Crisis Intervention Team, K-9, Field Training, Crime Tech, Reserve and Emergency Response Units.

Lonnie Soppeland was promoted to sergeant April 19, 2013. Since 2005, Sgt. Soppeland has worked as a Patrol Officer, ERU team member, Field Training Officer, Reserve Coordinator, Radio Focus Group member and DART team member. Sgt. Soppeland also spent 20 years serving our country in the Army National Guard.



Driving While Impaired Arrests 2009-2013



Patrol Division

Patrol Division

Welcome New Officers



Tony Behl began working as an officer in Eden Prairie Jan. 14, 2013. Prior to coming to Eden Prairie, Officer Behl worked in loss prevention and hospital security.



Jason Hunt began working as an officer in Eden Prairie June 29, 2013. A graduate of Eden Prairie High School, Officer Hunt served Eden Prairie as a Community Service Officer and member of the Police Reserves before becoming a sworn officer.



Paul Reichman began working as an officer in Eden Prairie July 1, 2013. Prior to coming to Eden Prairie, Officer Reichman worked as a Police Officer for the City of Eau Claire, Wis.

K-9 Jace joined the Department in March to work alongside **Officer Jenny Schnickel**. Jace and Officer Schnickel graduated from the St. Paul Police Department's K-9 Academy in May.



Patrol Division

Retirements



Sgt. Maggie Munro retired in April after serving the department for 25 years.



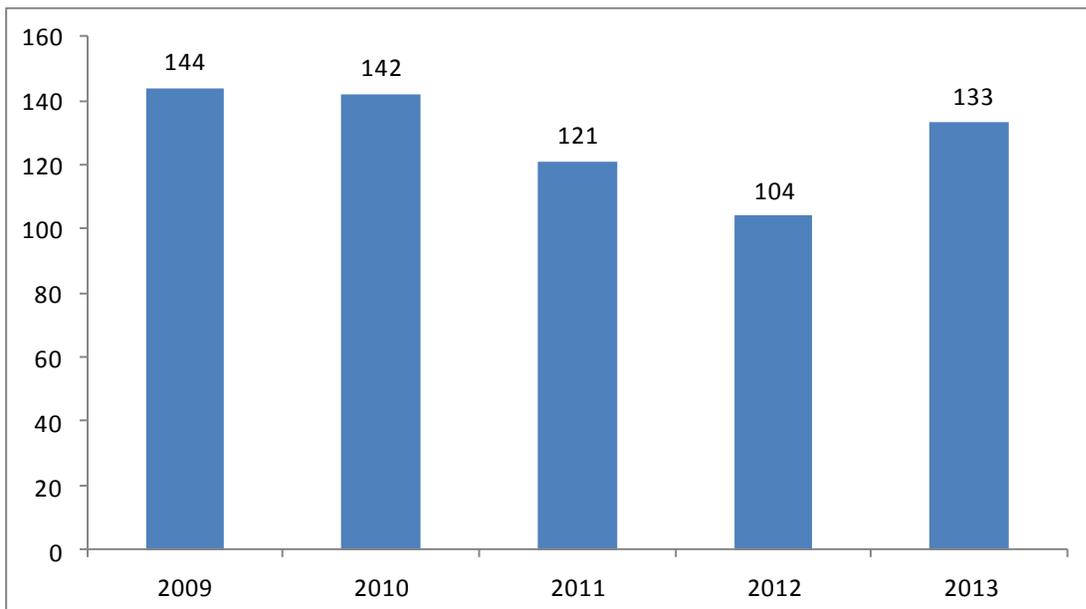
Officer Fred Bock retired in August after 13 years of service to the EPPD.



The top five intersections for crashes in 2013 were:

1. Hwy. 212 & I-494 (45 crashes)
2. Hwy. 212 & Prairie Center Drive (43 crashes)
3. W. 78th Street & Eden Prairie Road (42 crashes)
4. W. 78th Street & Mitchell Road (38 crashes)
5. Prairie Center Drive & Technology Drive (32 crashes)

Personal Injury Crashes 2009-2013



Investigations Division

The **Investigations Division** was led by Lt. Greg Weber in 2013. This division consists of the Criminal Investigations Unit, the School Liaison Unit and the Special Investigations Unit. There are two sergeants, 13 officers and two full-time civilian employees in the Investigations Division.



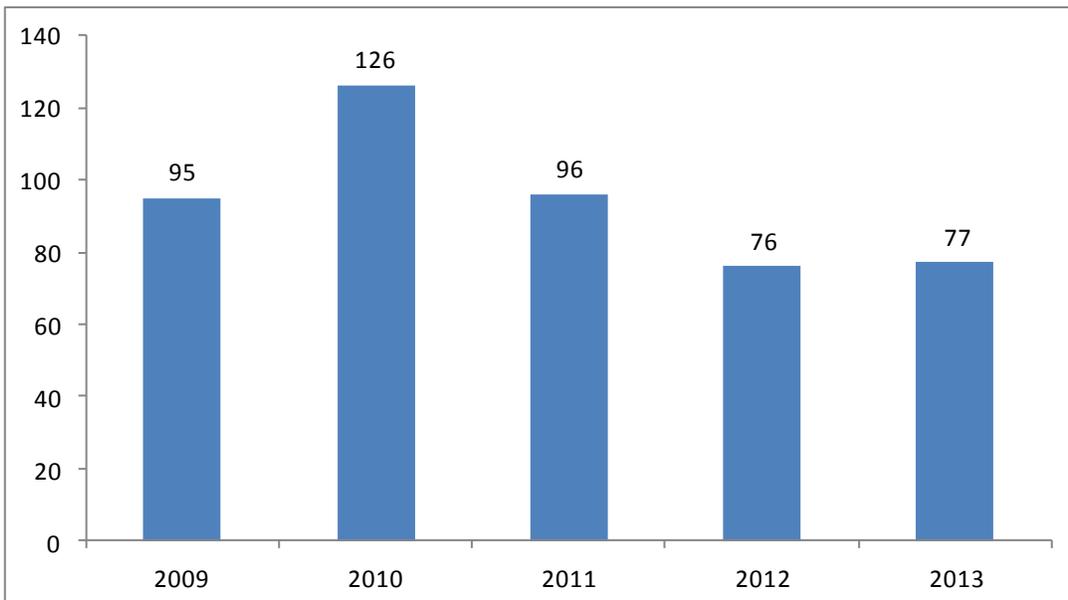
Lt. Greg Weber

On May 2, 2013, Eden Prairie resident Mandy Matula was reported missing and the main suspect in the case died the following day from a self-inflicted gunshot wound. During the next six months, the Eden Prairie Police Department worked closely with Mandy’s family and friends, members of the community and other law enforcement agencies to bring Mandy home. On Oct. 26, 2013, Mandy’s remains were found in a park in Stearns County. The Police Department joins Mandy’s family and friends in grieving her loss.



The Incident Command room used during the Mandy Matula investigation

Domestic Assaults 2009-2013



Investigations Division

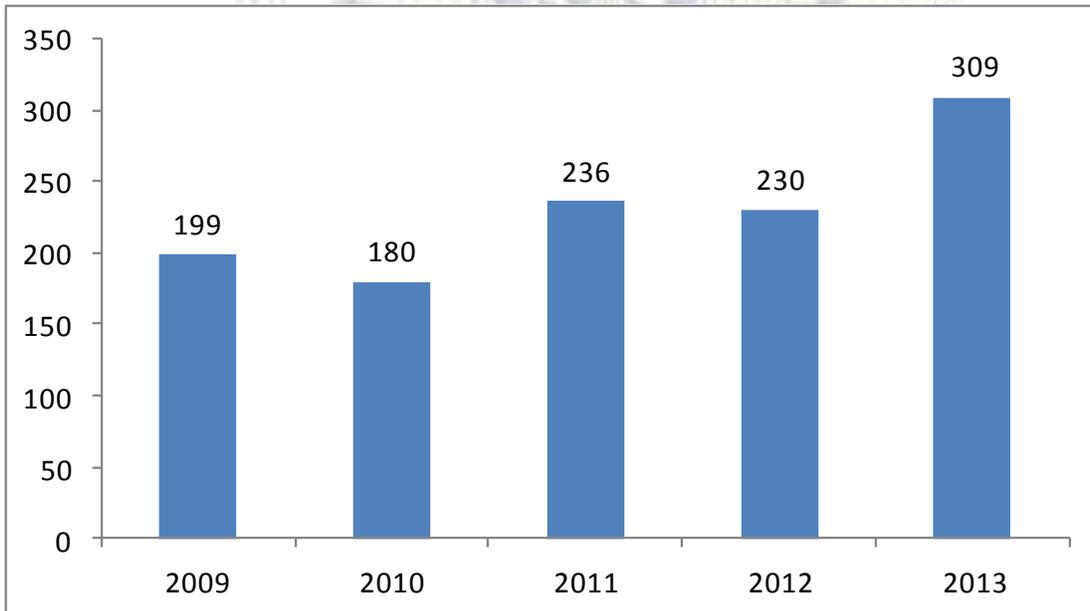
Investigations Division



Photo credit: Jeff Wheeler, Star Tribune

On Oct. 7, Eden Prairie investigator **Erica Coy** participated in a vigil to remember the victims of domestic abuse. The event took place at the Purgatory Creek Park Pavilion and was organized by Cornerstone, a domestic abuse victim advocacy organization.

Narcotics Arrests 2009-2013

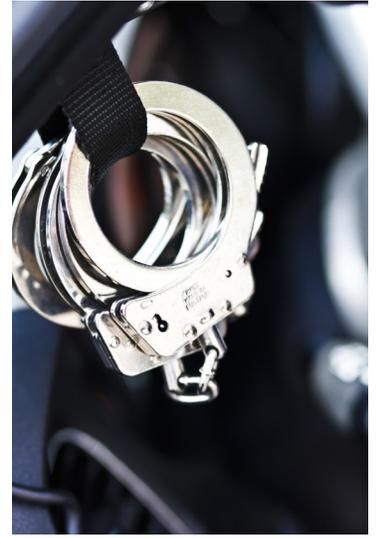


One reason for the increase in the number of narcotic arrests may be that EPPD officers were recently trained in drug interdiction and are now recovering more drugs during traffic stops. In addition, Eden Prairie has been affected by the increase of heroin use in the metro area.

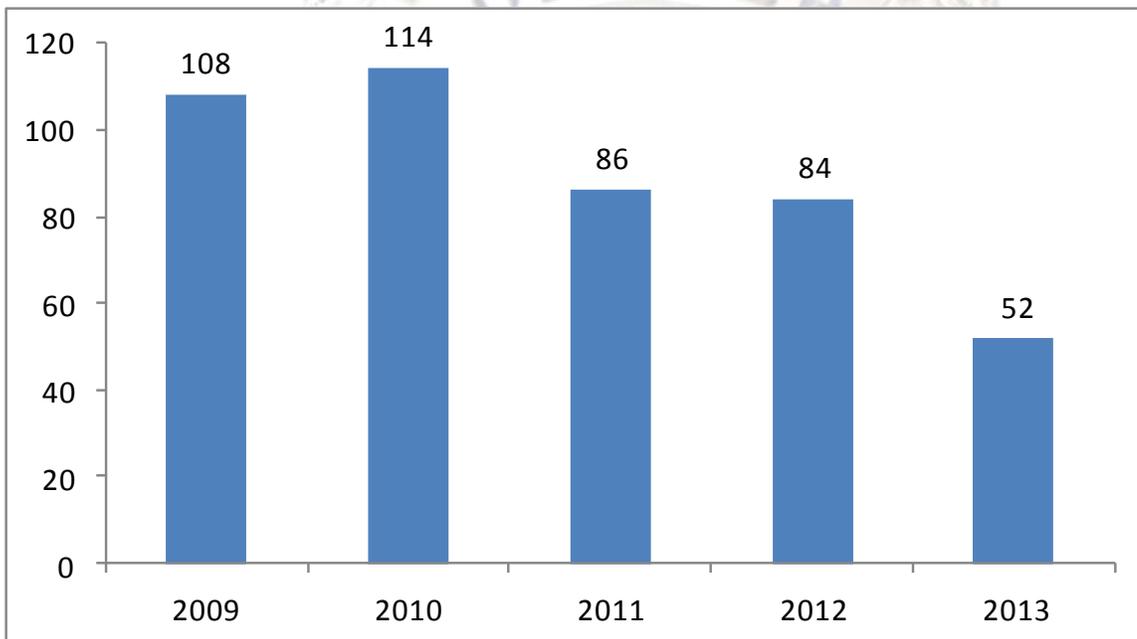
Investigations Division

Investigations Division

In late 2012 Eden Prairie and neighboring communities started to see a dramatic increase in business burglaries which appeared to be committed by the same suspect. Using video evidence, detectives identified a possible suspect who had just been released from prison. Investigations analysis predicted that the burglar would strike again on a Sunday between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. On Sunday Feb. 3, EPPD investigators were conducting surveillance on the suspect when he committed a burglary in Shoreview at 10:24 a.m. After a 4-mile pursuit, the suspect was arrested. He was suspected in nearly 70 business burglaries in the Twin Cities and is currently serving a lengthy prison sentence.



Residential Burglaries 2009-2013



The number of residential burglaries decreased significantly from 2012 to 2013. The decrease may be due in part to the EPPD's efforts to encourage residents to keep their garage doors closed, as open garage doors are a common entry for burglars. If officers see an open garage door while on routine patrol, they knock on the front door to notify the homeowner. In addition, west metro cities continue to share information with each other regarding burglary incidences and suspects, which has led to more arrests of prolific burglars.

Investigations Division

Support Division



Lt. Bill Wyffels

In 2013 the **Support Division** was led by Lt. Bill Wyffels and consists of the Records, Dispatch, Professional Development, Support Operations, Community Service/Animal Control, Licensing, Code Enforcement, Chaplain, Retail Crime and Airport Units. There are three sergeants, two supervisors and 24 civilians in the Support Division.

In March, **Dispatch Supervisor Lisa Vik** was awarded the City of Eden Prairie's Scott H. Neal Award for Excellence in Leadership for her leadership in managing the Dispatch Center for the past 12 years.

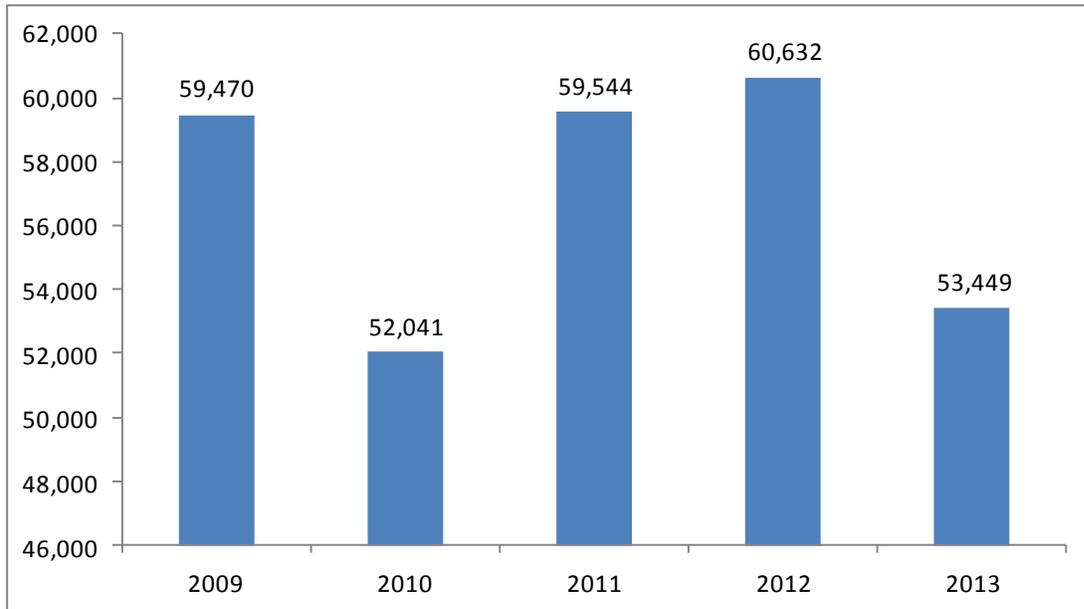


In May **Records Supervisor Sandy Mitchell** received the Excellence in Service Award from the Minnesota Law Enforcement Assistants Association for her efforts at ensuring the Eden Prairie Police Department's smooth transition from an old records system to a new one.

Support Division

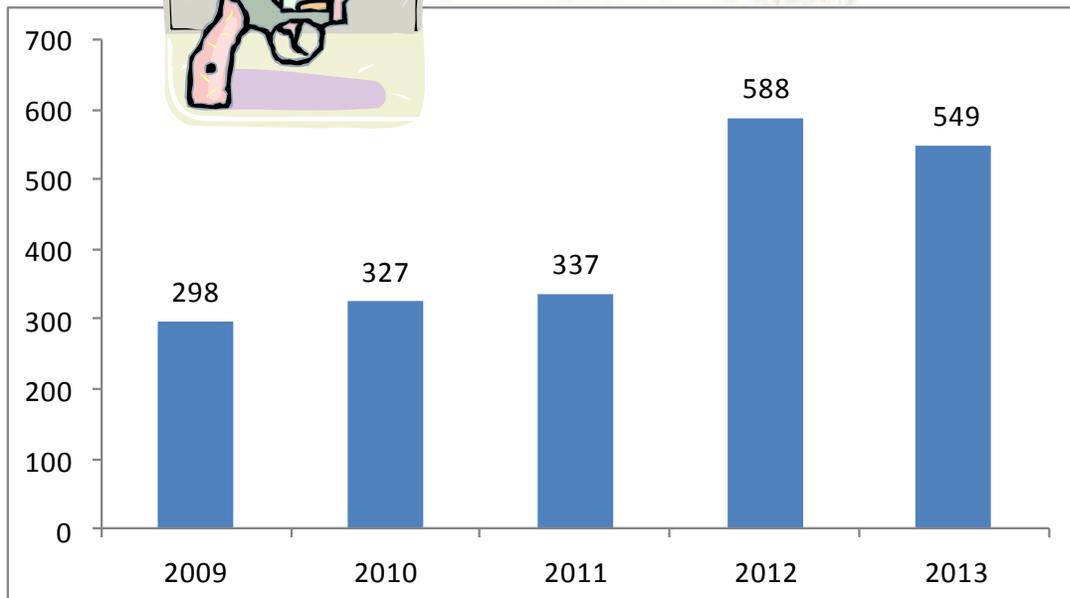
Support Division

Total Calls for Service 2009-2013



Total calls for service encompasses both proactive and reactive calls, including traffic stops. The complexity of the Department's call load in 2013 tied up many of the Department's resources which meant officers had less time for traffic enforcement. That, in turn, led to fewer calls for service.

Gun Permit Applications 2009-2013



Support Division

Volunteers

The Eden Prairie Police Department relies on its three volunteer programs (Reserves, Explorers and Chaplains) to assist department members with traffic direction, security at special events, requests for service at both emergency and non-emergency incidents, and, in the case of the Chaplains, spiritual guidance in times of trauma and tragedy.



New Reserve graduates **Christine Rosen** and **Mark Stang**, along with **Lt. Jim Morrow**, **Deputy Chief Jim DeMann**, **Chief Rob Reynolds** and **Sgt. Tom Lowery**.



EPPD Chaplains **Paul Nelson**, **Jac Perrin**, **Tim Power** and **Don Odens** at the annual Chaplain Chili Feed.



EPPD Reserves practice defensive tactics

Volunteers



Explorers are young adults ages 14-21 who are interested in a possible career in law enforcement. The **Edina/Eden Prairie Explorer Post** competed in two state conferences in 2013 and took home several awards including 1st-Place honors in Traffic Stops, and 2nd-Place trophies in First Aid and Crime Scene Investigation.



Officer Carter Staaf and **Reserve Officers Paul Lentsch, Boyd Hesdorffer** and **Loren Moriearty** brought truckloads of toys to KARE11 in December for Toys for Tots.

Volunteers

In 2013 the EPPD held two **Citizens Academies**, one traditional and one specifically created for senior citizens. Both academies were six weeks long and were designed for Eden Prairie residents and those who work in Eden Prairie to gain first-hand experience and behind-the-scenes knowledge about the EPPD. Academy students learned about traffic enforcement, use of force, DWI enforcement, Dispatch, the Crime Tech Unit, the Emergency Response Unit and Investigations.



Senior Citizens Academy students with **Officer Jenny Schnickel, K-9 Jace, Officer Carter Staaf and Sergeant Chris Wood.**

Senior Citizens Academy students learned about use of force at the South Metro Training Facility



Last year's **Eden Prairie Night to Unite** in August was hampered by a major storm that rolled through the City. Despite the inclement weather, Eden Prairie had a record 151 neighborhood parties and collected nearly 8,000 pounds of food for PROP (People Reaching out to Other People).



The neighborhood that collected the most food was **Round Lake Road**. For their efforts, they earned an ice cream social with the Police and Fire Departments. At the ice cream social (above) are **Officer Elizabeth Stroner**, Round Lake Road neighborhood block party leader **Jean Ekholm, McGruff** and **Deputy Chief Jim DeMann**.



The **2013 Open House** was a great opportunity for residents of all ages to meet EPPD staff, climb in police vehicles and try on police equipment. Above, **Officer Nate Eichman** explains Emergency Response Unit equipment.



Lt. Greg Weber and a young Open House visitor.

2013 Officer of the Year

At the Department's Annual Meeting in November, **Officer Travis Brown** was named the 2013 Officer of the Year by his peers. Officer Brown has been an officer in Eden Prairie since 2010 and during his tenure has served as a Patrol Officer and Use of Force Instructor. Officer Brown was selected to receive this award for his positive attitude, his commitment to traffic enforcement and his leadership skills as an instructor.



At a City Council meeting in November, three civilians received Letters of Recognition for their role in helping to save the life of **Sally Dougherty** who collapsed in the parking lot of an Eden Prairie business in October. **Allison Deme, Ann Koehler and Mikaela Stekly** performed chest compressions and rescue breaths on Ms. Dougherty prior to the arrival of emergency responders. Also on hand at the City Council meeting were the three officers who responded to the call: **Officer Cory Sinon, Officer Matt Mohn and Sgt. John Wilson.**

Photo above from the City Council meeting: Officer Sinon, Sally Dougherty, Allison Deme, Mikaela Stekly, Ann Koehler, Officer Mohn and Sgt. Wilson.

Awards



At last fall's Minnesota Tactical Officers Association Training Conference, Eden Prairie's **Emergency Response Unit** received several honors including Top Team; Top Sniper Award for **Officer Ron Henke**; 2nd Place in the Top Gun exercise for the team of **Sgt. Jerrad Biggar, Detective Chris Millard and Officers Matt Mohn, Carter Staaf and Jess Irmiter**; and 3rd Place in the Iron Team exercise for the team of **Sgt. Chris Wood and Officers Travis Serafin, Nate Eichman, Carter Staaf and Jess Irmiter**.



At a City Council meeting in May, Police Chief Rob Reynolds gave a Commendation Award to civilian **Richard Lane III** who came to the aid of an EPPD officer who was struggling with a man he had pulled over during a routine traffic stop that turned violent. Mr. Lane is pictured above with **Chief Rob Reynolds** and **Lt. Jim Morrow**.



For the third time in the past six years, **Officer Todd Groves** was named to the Minnesota DWI All-Star Team by the Minnesota Department of Public Safety for having one of the highest number of DWI arrests in Minnesota in 2012. Officer Groves made 89 DWI arrests that year.

Awards



2013 Statistics

Person Crimes	2012	2013
Homicide (includes attempts)	0	3
Criminal Sexual Conduct	24	22
Robbery	3	7
Felony Assault	41	48
Non-Felony Assault	30	38
Domestic Assault	76	77
Disorderly Conduct	64	61
Harassing Communication	17	15
Crimes Against Families	28	20
Interfering with 9-1-1 Calls	15	8
Kidnapping/False Imprisonment	1	0
Total	299	298

Property Crimes	2012	2013
Residential Burglaries	84	52
Non-Residential Burglaries	28	35
Theft	501	426
Theft from Vehicle	224	226
Vehicle Theft	32	44
Motor Vehicle Tampering	326	332
Financial Theft		
Identity Theft	144	170
Forgery/Counterfeiting	21	29
Theft by Check	6	0
Credit Card Fraud	38	42
Shoplifting	208	251
Property Damage	332	257
Arson	8	3
Negligent Fires	0	0
Total	1,952	1,867

Other Crimes	2012	2013
Crimes Against Government	84	88
Gambling	1	0
Narcotics	230	309
Underage Drinking Age 18-21	46	26
Underage Drinking & Driving	17	10
Weapons	16	9
Fleeing Police	17	13
Miscellaneous	118	104
Total	529	559

Traffic Related	2012	2013
Fatal Vehicle	0	1
Personal Injury Crash	104	133
Driving While Impaired	311	320
Property Damage Crash	913	1,033
Hit and Run	199	198
Driver's License Violations	777	743
Equipment Violations	962	754
Parking Violations	157	147
Moving Violations	5369	3,309
Total Traffic Citation Violations	7,265	4,953

Warnings-Written 13,411 10,233

Selected Calls for Service	2012	2013
Animal Control	1,416	1,488
Medicals	2,637	2,641
9-1-1 Hang-Ups	4,319	4,329
Alarms (False)	1,831	1,812
Suspicious Activity	1,880	1,904

Total Calls for Service	2012	2013
	60,632	53,449

Juvenile Status Offenses	2012	2013
Juvenile-Alcohol	20	13
Juvenile-Runaway	84	63
Juvenile-Curfew	17	6
Juvenile-Tobacco Use	14	17
Total	135	99