



Mount
Vernon
IOWA

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Mark Winder, Chief of Police

Jim Moore, Mayor

Council:

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February Police Report

February Crashes

There were 8 crash reports made for the month of February. The crashes were located in the following locations: 1-Hwy 1 & 30 Roundabout East bound vehicle failed to yield, 2-Hwy 30 at the Casey's east driveway 3- 1st Street W & 10th Avenue SW 4- Hwy 1 & 30 roundabout-South bound vehicle failed to yield, 5- 910 1st Ave N parking lot 6- Hwy 1 & 30 roundabout both north bound 7- Hwy 30 & Virgil Drive 8- 13th Avenue SW & 8th Street SW-one vehicle improperly backing on the roadway.

Fraud / Scams

Criminals continue to find ways to commit various types of fraud. Recently we took a report from someone that was a victim to one of these scams.

A caller informed the individual that they over paid for something and asked for banking information in order to refund them. The victim provided bank account information and later discovered that their account had been emptied. Remember that you should never give out any of your personal information to anyone who calls you. If you have any doubt call the Mount Vernon Police at 319-895-6141.

DARE

Officer Gehrke completed the DARE programs with both 5th & 7th graders in the Middle School. The 5th grade Culmination Event took place Thursday April 2nd in the Middle School Auditorium. Essay winners from each of the classes were presented with an award and had the opportunity to read their essay to those in attendance.

Ragbrai

I have met with the Ragbrai committee and preparation for the event is on-going. Our Chiefs group with members from the Fire Department, Lisbon and Mount Vernon Ambulance, Lisbon Police Department and Mount Vernon Police met to discuss safety concerns for the event and begin putting together our Incident Action Plan (IAP) for the event.

Law Enforcement Drivers Training

Officer Daubs assisted with the Iowa Law Enforcement 260th basic class instruction for Pursuit Intervention Technique (P.I.T.) driving on March 11th at the Newton raceway. Students were instructed on use the maneuver for the purposes of ending a pursuit that presents imminent danger to the general public and the need to apprehend the suspect immediately to prevent imminent danger to human life.

I also attended the training and was able to complete the instruction for this specific maneuver.

Department Meeting / Taser Recertification

Officers (Full time and Reserves) of the department completed our annual Taser recertification in February. We also reviewed camera use including-In-car and Personal recorders and crime scenes. We reviewed our upcoming schedule of events and other administrative functions.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mark Winder
Chief of Police



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Police Department

Mark A. Winder, Chief of Police

Mount Vernon Police Department

Year 2014 Annual Report

Mark A. Winder
Chief of Police

Assaults by Type for Year

2014

Crimes Against People

Crimes against people are defined as offenses or crimes against an individual. These offenses are broken down into several categories determined by the seriousness of the offense. (i.e. Simple Harassment to class B Felony of Sexual Abuse 2nd) Included is a table detailing number of offenses for the year and percentages of those offenses as they relate to the overall category of crimes against people.

Harassment	11	21.56%
Simple Assault	9	17.64%
No Contact Violations	1	1.96 %
Child Endangerment	1	1.96 %
Assault/Officer/IWOA	7	13.72%
Simple Assault-Domestic	13	25.49 %
Domestic Assault w/Injury	2	3.92 %
Assault with Injury	2	3.92 %
Aggravated Assault	0	0.00 %
Indecent contact w/child	1	1.96 %
Statutory Rape	1	1.96 %
Sexual Abuse	3	5.88 %
Elderly Abuse	0	0.00%
Total	51	99.97%

This table includes those offenses reported to MVPD for investigation. It is important to mention that police officers responded to numerous other disturbances involving assaults of some type. However, no charges were filed at the victim's requested or the parties were gone prior to officer arrival. *(Such is the case in many bar related disturbances.)*

This table reflects the number of assaults and seriousness of the offense for the past five years.

Assault Type	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Harassment	17	21	15	10	11
Simple Assault	6	10	7	8	9
Court Order Violations	2	2	2	1	1
Child Endangerment	1	1	0	3	1
Interference W/O Acts	1	3	2	9	7
Domestic	0	0	4	4	10
Simple Assault-DA	7	4	2	0	3
Domestic-with Injury	2	4	3	3	2
Assault with Injury	0	3	1	0	2
Aggravated Assault	1	1	0	1	0
Child Abuse/Fondling	1	5	0	0	1
Statutory Rape	1	0	0	0	1
Sexual Abuse	4	3	0	9	3
Armed with intent	0	0	0	0	0
Attempted Murder	0	0	0	0	0
Total	43	57	36	48	51

Property Crimes for the Year 2014

Theft Related Crimes

Theft related crimes, covers a variety of incident types and is the largest crime group reported. This group of crimes includes: *burglary* (defined as forced entry with theft, or criminal mischief, of property within that building); *forced entry to a vehicle* is also classified as a burglary; *theft from a building*, *motor vehicle theft*, *theft from a vehicle* (which includes unlocked vehicles in which property is taken), *shoplifting*, *forgery*, *fraud*, identity theft, *theft by check* (either NSF or against a closed account) and *miscellaneous theft* (which includes theft of yard ornaments, street signs, bicycles, and similar items that do not fit into one of the other defined categories).

Burglary/Attempted	3 (2 residence, 1 business)
Forgery/Counterfeit	2
Burglary of vehicle (attempted)	0
(Burglary)Theft from vehicle	7
Theft from building	17
Theft by gas drive off	12
Various fraud cases	4
Identity theft	2
Vehicle theft	1
Theft by check	2
Theft of vehicle parts	4
Shoplifting	7
Miscellaneous Theft/Attempt Burglary	16
Total	77

The total number of property crimes in Mount Vernon is slightly up with a total of 77 property crimes in 2014. The police department continues to assist our local businesses with theft prevention efforts.

In 2014, burglary cases and theft from vehicle cases continued to be the crimes that cause a largest dollar loss. This is often due to the damage caused during these types of crimes. These cases also take up a large amount of investigation time, including time to complete reports, dusting for prints, processing evidence, taking evidence to either DCI or Cedar Rapids Police Department for processing, and interviewing and obtaining statements from involved parties.

Criminal Mischief (Vandalism)

Criminal mischief includes those incidents most people would call vandalism. These types of crimes are the result of damage done to private or public property that results in damage of property, resulting in the loss of use or expense to repair the property. Types of incidents that fall into this are include, but are not limited to, damage to signs, car damage (i.e. vehicles scratched down the side, windows broken out, tires cut, antenna damaged), spray paint incidents and damaged bikes.

In total, these types of offenses rose slightly but remain relatively low. Previous high numbers of criminal mischief incidents were recorded in 1996 and 1998 at 107 incidents.

Offense	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Criminal Mischief	27	38	24	11	18

Drug Related Crime

Drug related crime covers those incidents where the primary case is drug related. (i.e.: traffic stop for speed and drug paraphernalia is observed in the vehicle, resulting in an arrest report as a result of the drug paraphernalia). Other drug related crimes may be included in other incidents, such as a traffic stop for OWI during which an illegal substance such as marijuana is discovered. In this case, the primary offense is an OWI and the marijuana possession (PCS) charge would be a secondary offense. These offenses are on the increase and could be a result of what has occurred in Colorado and other states that have legalized recreational use of marijuana.

Charge	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Possession of Controlled Substances (PCS)	21	19	16	21	24
Possession of Drug Paraphernalia (PDP)	11	4	7	21	29
OWI While Drugged	1	3	1	2	0
Attempt to Elude w/meth lab	0	0	1	0	0
Total	33	26	25	44	53

Alcohol Related Offenses for the Years 2010-2014

Alcohol related offenses are comprised of OWI, Possession under the Legal Age, Public Intoxication, and .02 Violations. A .02 violation refers to the law suspending driving privileges of those under the legal age of 21 who are stopped while driving a vehicle and have a blood alcohol level of .02 or greater but less than .08.

Offense	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
OWI	18	22	27	20	23
.02	0	1	0	0	2
PULA	10	11	16	9	10
Public Intox/urination	32	22	20	19	21
Totals	60	56	63	48	56

Police Activity Summary for the Year 2014
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Officers had 4451 observed trips for the year. These are traffic stops, building checks, parking tickets, house checks, etc. This reflects officer initiated activity.

The department completed 341 incident reports, 73 accident reports, responded to over 107 crashes, and had 119 arrests for the year.

Other related activity:

Theft: 64	Alarm / Open doors: 78
Burglary: 7	Felony Arrests: 7
Assault: 19	Misdemeanor arrests: 86
Criminal Mischief: 14	OWI arrests: 23
Juvenile: 64	Towed vehicles: 40
Juvenile with tobacco: 0	Assist Agency: 602
Motor Vehicle Collisions: 107	Suspicious vehicles: 74
Public assists: 5452	Animal: 88
Warnings: 867	Disturbances: 176
Moving violations: 193	Administrative time: 2,708 hrs.
Non-moving violations: 64	Investigative time: 508 hrs.
Parking violations: 238	Cornell related 130 hrs.

Department Staffing / Community Growth

Our Police Department is primarily located within City Hall at 213 1st Street NW in Mount Vernon however the department uses two other structures for evidence, records and property storage. When City Hall was built in 1988 the department consisted of 4 fulltime officers and 4 reserve officers and was designed to house 4 officers. The department currently consists of six full time officers and six reserve officers. The staff consists of one Chief of Police, one Sergeant and four Patrol III Officers. The department has been at the current staffing levels since 1997 while our community has grown considerably both in area patrolled and in population.

One of the two structures being used is the Old Fire Station located to the west of City Hall. The old station is being used primarily as garage space for our three patrol units. The structure provides a secure/temperature controlled environment that has helped to reduce costly vehicle repairs and damage to electronic equipment within each of the three patrol vehicles. Items include, mobile data computers, printers and AED's (Automated External Defibrillators).

In 2000, the census for Mount Vernon reflects a population of 3,390 compared to the 2010 census that shows our population at 4,506. The 2000 census included 987 Cornell College students and the 2010 census included 1191 Cornell students. This is an increase of 1,116 individuals during the 10 year period and includes an additional 204 Cornell students.

During that time period we have had developments in several areas of town that include:

- 1) Stone Brook – located west of the New High School in the South West quadrant (Approximately 100 homes)
- 2) Wolfe Martin addition – located in the North East quadrant of our community (approximately 45 homes)
- 3) Candlestick Drive – Addition that includes about 13 homes NE quadrant
- 4) Hill View Drive – the extension of Oak Ridge Estates – SE quadrant (approximately 29 homes)
- 5) Meadow Brook addition – located in the South West quadrant (approximately 33 dwellings)
- 6) Cornell College has added two significant housing facilities – Russell Hall and New Hall dorms located in the South West quadrant on the campus of Cornell College.

D.A.R.E

In 2014, Officer Todd Gehrke facilitated both the 5th and 7th grade D.A.R.E programs at Mount Vernon Community Middle School. In 5th grade, students are instructed on core topics including consequences of drug use, self esteem issues, decision making skills, and peer pressures students encounter and how to deal with that pressure. It also includes conflict resolution, how to refuse drug offers, alternative choices to drug use, and other skills needed to live a drug and violence free lifestyle.

The focus of the Mount Vernon 7th grade D.A.R.E. program is similar to that of the core program used in 5th grade. The 7th grade class acts as a refresher to aid students in preventing or postponing the first, or future, use of drugs or alcohol by the student. These lessons cover many of the same areas as the core program, however they are more in-depth and give the students an opportunity to discuss real situations they may have encountered.

Police Officer Bike Program

During 2014, a bike mounted officer was used for a few events, including patrol shifts during Heritage Days. The bike was not as widely used as intended, however the police department still believes this is a great tool. There currently are three certified bike officers. The department is anticipating greater use of this asset in the years ahead.

Training Instructors

The Mount Vernon Police Department continues to have members trained as instructors for various applications. For instance, Officer Daniel Daubs is the department firearms instructor.

Deadly Force and the Use of Firearms are two of the biggest areas of liability faced in law enforcement. Having a certified instructor has provided the opportunity to perform additional training in these areas that may not have been provided otherwise. Weapon proficiency and safety in these areas should improve with the increased number of hours spent in weapons-related training. This past year the department was able to train more frequently at the range to gain firearms proficiency. Additional funding in the training budget made this possible.

Officer Rod Kelley is a certified Taser instructor for the department, conducting Taser certification for members of the Mount Vernon Police Departments.

Officer Willie Daubs is the department's Precision Driving instructor, providing training to various members of the department. Officer Daubs also spends time with newly hired officers instructing them on vehicle operations within the guidelines of department policy. Topics include non-emergency, emergency and pursuit driving.

Officer Todd Gehrke is a certified instructor for the R.A.D. (Rape, Aggression, and Defense) program. Officer Gehrke holds two courses annually when time allows. The training and instruction have been well received by those participants. Gehrke is also a certified TIPS (Training for Intervention Procedures) trainer and conducts annual trainings for area business's serving and selling alcohol related beverages. His certification to train TIPS is the result of the department's ongoing partnership with the Mount Vernon Community School District's Federal grant projects. The department has participated for several years with the school and other surrounding rural Linn County school districts on the DFC (Drug Free Community) grant. This is for environmental changes (such as signage) within the participating communities.

Chief Winder and Officer Todd Gehrke attended ALICE (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter and evacuate) training and are ALICE instructors. The department conducts In-Service training with the Mount Vernon School District staff and Cornell College staff when requested. Training and review of practices and procedures within the school for emergency issues is ongoing.

Drug Recognition Expert

Sergeant Doug Shannon has been a Drug Recognition Expert since March 2003. Since that time, Shannon has assisted several area agencies and officers with case preparation of drug impaired drivers.

Hazardous Material Training

Officer Steve Moel is a certified in the area of hazardous materials that relate to Meth Lab evidence, crime scenes and removal of related items.

National Incident Management System (NIMS)

Members of the department completed the National Incident Management System (NIMS) ISO-100, 200 and several have the NIMS 300, 400, 700 and 800 courses completed.

Certified Safety Seat Belt Technician

Officer Gehrke is certified as a Seat Belt Technician trained in the proper usage and installation of child safety seats. The department conducts safety seat belt checks as requested. Previous years witnessed the department working with Lynch Ford to hold events highlighting proper safety seat installation and use. Members of the community can call anytime to set up an appointment with Officer Gehrke to assist them in proper child seat installation and usage.

Community Efforts to Reduce Underage Drinking & Related Issues

Chief Winder has been working with the Dean of Students at Cornell College to address under age drinking. Discussion focus on the problems associated or attributed to under age drinking, as well as focusing on behavior of Cornell students in general. The information exchange has been very helpful to Cornell and the police department in attempts to reduce problems in the community. This information exchange began about 7 years ago with several discussions which included business owners and students, with the goal being to make all parties aware of the issues that arise from underage drinking such as vandalism and thefts associated with that behavior.

School and Community Grants

Chief Winder, Sgt. Shannon and Officer Gehrke attended and continue to attend various meetings the DFC (Drug Free Community) grants facilitated by the Mount Vernon Community School District. The police participate with in-kind contributions by providing school training, TIPS trainings, attending meetings and holding Community Drug Drop off events. Chief Winder is a member of the RC Rail (Rural Communities Rising Above the Influence in Linn)

Police officer's meet with coalition members to discuss various community safety, prevention and substance abuse related issues. These grant projects have funded officers attending out-of-state law enforcement trainings in Texas, California and Washington DC.) These have been the direct result of the department's collaboration with the Mount Vernon School District grants.

Community Services

The Police Department has a broad area of responsibility within the community and responds to a variety of calls for assistance. During 2014, the department responded to medical calls for assistance in Mount Vernon, as well as emergency medical calls requested in the rural area around Mount Vernon and Lisbon. Officers respond to calls for assistance, often when individuals have fallen and need assistance getting back on their feet or to a chair. Officers assist with minor injuries, cuts and bruises, offering a calm voice and sincere concern for an individual to help resolve what may seem to be a major crisis for the individual involved.

Police officers respond to the report of a deceased individual - checking for signs of life - and investigating to assist the Coroner in determining the cause of death. In these situations, Officers have the unwanted task of making many of the notifications to friends and family. Mount Vernon police officers respond to serious highway vehicle crashes in and around Mount Vernon which often result in serious injury and occasionally death of the driver or a passenger. (Sometimes these deaths include personal close friends.)

Police officers assist the Mount Vernon Fire Department at fire-related calls by handling traffic control, evacuations and providing any other assistance requested.

The Department responds to calls to assist those who have locked keys in a vehicle or have been locked out of their home, assisting however possible. Additionally, the Department performs regular house checks for those leaving town for extended periods of time. Officers perform regular building checks of business locations and school buildings.

Police officers respond to domestic related arguments and, from time to time, have to explain to small child that everything will be alright when most often it is just the beginning of the problems children may witness.

The Department assists the Community Development Group with many events held within the community throughout the year, including Heritage Days, chalk the walk and occasionally Ragbrai. Officers provide traffic control, security at dances, and maintain high visibility for the safety of those attending such activities.

Other activities include:

- Holding various training for businesses in the area of NSF / Closed account checks, alcohol and cigarette sales;
- Making recommendations, when requested, about security features for home and businesses;
- Providing assistance with animal related problems within the community;
- Assisting with the identification of lighting, signage and other safety issues and forwarding those concerns to City Hall for repairs or installation;
- Acting as a sounding board for someone when they have not received the response or result they were seeking in a City or other personal matter;

Additionally, the Department performs routine patrol around schools, businesses and homes to reduce crime and lesson the opportunity for someone to commit a serious crime. Officers issue traffic citations to correct inappropriate driving behavior, as established by society, to reduce the chance of injury or death associated with vehicle crashes, and to reduce costs incurred during those crashes.

The police department is the avenue for those to use when they have been criminally victimized. Officers investigate criminal activity, identify those associated with it, and charge those individuals involved when certain criteria is met. The department becomes the agency responsible for forwarding charges and reports to the County Attorney, and City Attorney when necessary, to resolve an incident.

Department Technology Changes

During the last 3 years the State of Iowa has made several changes to increase efficiency's by cutting down on duplication of some tasks. Some of those changes include use of Trac's – software program for crash reporting, citations, complaints and OWI processing. Included in the change is the use of in-car mobile computers, scanners and printers that provide the tools necessary for officers to complete tasks of the job. This advancement however comes with a cost of hardware, software and support.

Body camera's and in-car video advancements also have added to the cost of providing service to our community. High profile incidents across the country have changed the way many departments report and document contacts with violators and others that we have contact with during patrol. The hardware and back end support are costs that have made an impact on our department budget however I believe supporting this new technology is in the best interest of our community.

Chief of Police Summary

This report has outlined a variety of calls and services Police Officers provide for the community of Mount Vernon. This report is not completely inclusive as the next unique incident requiring intervention is just around the corner at any given time.

While time restraints make it impossible to put in writing all of the calls for service and various incidents officers respond to during the course of a year, as Chief of Police, I am hopeful this information will provide insight to the department's activities for the year 2014.

All of these activities are carried out or performed to maintain order, build positive relationships and provide a safe environment for everyone within the community of Mount Vernon.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark A. Winder

Chief of Police