



# JOHNSTON POLICE DEPARTMENT 2011 ANNUAL REPORT



**“Building For The Future, While Serving You Today”**



**CITY OF JOHNSTON POLICE DEPARTMENT**

6221 Merle Hay Road  
P.O. Box 410  
Johnston, Iowa 50131



## **JOHNSTON POLICE DEPARTMENT**

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January 27, 2012

Honorable Mayor Paula Dierenfeld  
Johnston City Hall  
6221 Merle Hay Road  
Johnston, IA 50131

Dear Mayor Dierenfeld and Citizens of Johnston:

It is a pleasure to present the Johnston Police Department's 2011 Annual Report for your review. I strongly believe that our citizens and visitors have a right to know what law enforcement services and activities are provided to the community. This report reflects on the outstanding service that was provided to our community by the members of the Johnston Police Department.

I want to acknowledge the men and women of the department for their dedication, performance and professionalism. I also want to thank our elected officials, department heads, and the community for their support of the police department.

In 2011 many of our citizens accepted the invitation to step inside the police department to see firsthand the facility deficiencies that complicate our job on a daily basis. Those who weren't able to come to the police station were able to see an online video tour of the police station.

You will recall that more than 50 presentations were made to community and business groups. We are grateful to our citizens and business community for seeing the need and embracing the August 2<sup>nd</sup> Referendum, which passed with 82% approval. We are thankful too for your leadership and to the Citizens for a Safe Johnston Committee for their dedication in bringing about the successful referendum. To each of them we say, THANK YOU!!!

The new public safety facility will make our jobs easier and aid us in keeping Johnston a safe place to live, work and visit. My staff and I remain dedicated to providing the best possible law enforcement and community policing services to the community we serve. We look forward to serving the community in 2012 and beyond.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bill Vaughn".

Bill Vaughn  
Chief of Police

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## Mission Statement

### ***The Mission Statement of the Johnston Police Department***



***“The mission of the Johnston Police Department is to guarantee a peaceful community through the enforcement of state and local laws, impartially and without prejudice, and to uphold the constitution of the United States. We are committed to the protection of human life, individual rights and personal property through continuous and professional service in order to achieve a safe, healthy, and self-reliant community. The Johnston Police Department is committed to serving the needs of the citizens by providing a pro-active approach to law enforcement while maintaining the professionalism and partnership the community has come to expect.”***

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## History of the Police Department

Voters approved the incorporation of the city of Johnston on June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1969. Several months later Dennis McCarty was named as Johnston's first Chief of Police. During his tenure the Police Department swelled to four full-time Officers housed in several assorted locations in Johnston. In 1987 the Police Department was relocated to the former Hy-Vee building on Merle Hay Road where it remains at the back of city hall today. The four officers employed by Johnston in the early 70's grew to eight in 1997 and twenty-three sworn police officers today as the population has surged to over 17,000 residents.

As the city has grown, so has the amount of pressure that has been placed on both the police and fire services to maintain the high quality response to citizens needs. In early August the citizens of Johnston recognized the need to improve police and fire facilities. They demonstrated overwhelming support by approving a bond issue for the construction of a new Public Safety Facility to be constructed in the 6300 block of Merle Hay Road, and an Annex Fire Station to be built in the far west portion of Johnston along the NW 62<sup>nd</sup> Avenue corridor. A dramatic 83% of voters approved providing Public Safety workers in Johnston the proper tools to serve and protect the fast growing community. Please check frequently with the City of Johnston website for project updates at [www.cityofjohnston.com](http://www.cityofjohnston.com).

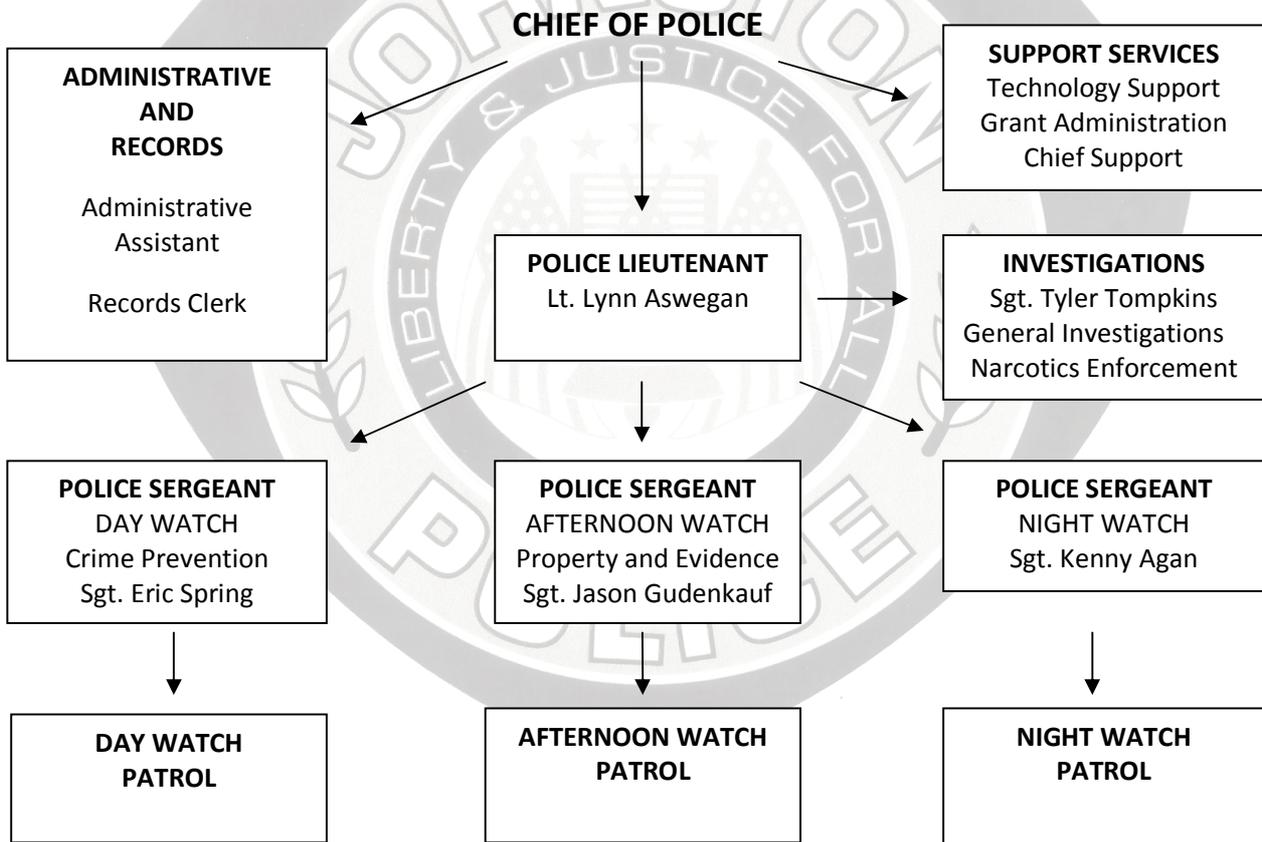


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## 2011 Personnel Listing

**CHIEF OF POLICE  
BILL VAUGHN**

### COMMAND STRUCTURE



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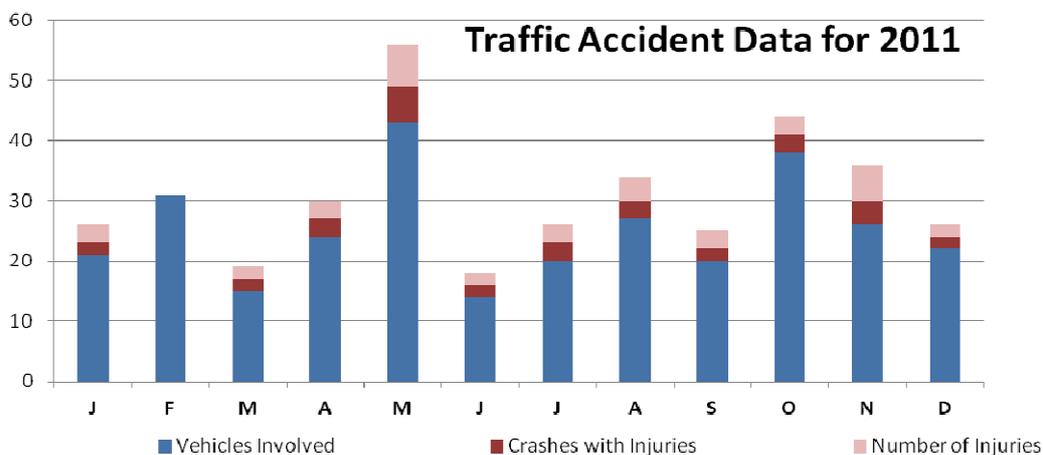
## Accident Investigations

### ***Accident Investigations: (A.I)***

A growing area means growing numbers of traffic accidents in Johnston. The Johnston Police Department currently has a number of officers trained in the area of traffic accident investigations. These investigators have the ability to often times reconstruct a car crash to help make the streets of Johnston safer by helping determine those areas where accidents can be prevented.

Officer Samir Dzaferagic can be contacted for further information about this program. He may be reached by telephone at (515) 252-1377 or by email at [sdzaferagic@police.ci.johnston.ia.us](mailto:sdzaferagic@police.ci.johnston.ia.us).

Johnston accident investigations in 2011:



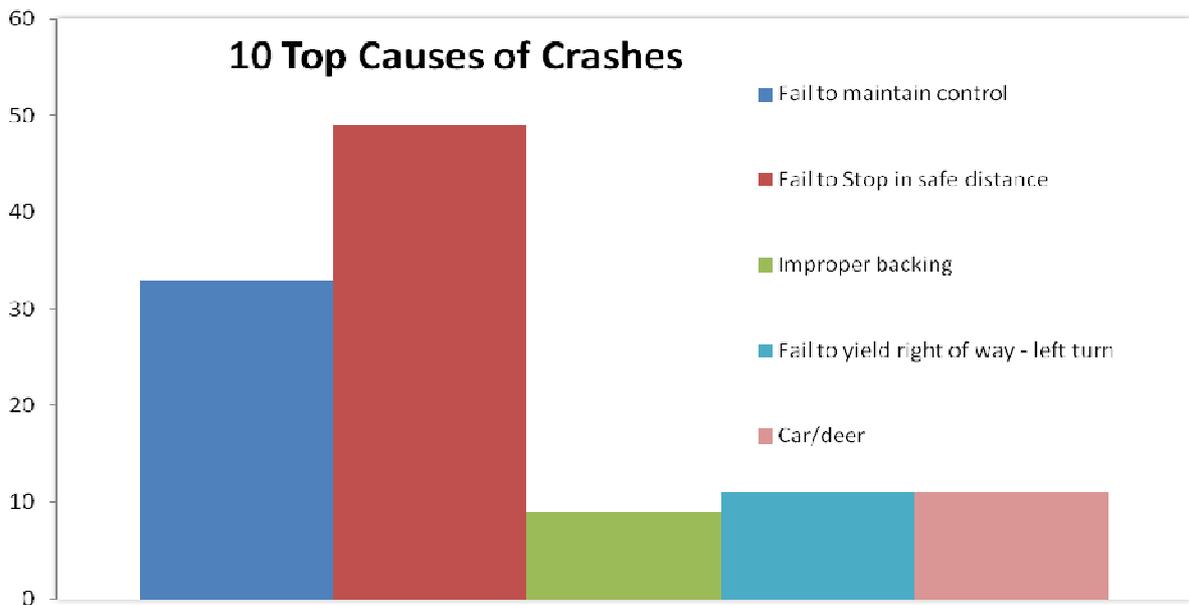
2011 lowest amount of crashes since 2005 (163 crashes) , and 29 fewer than 2010 (192)!

2011 showed 38 injuries vs. 70 persons in 2010, a 45% reduction

*Seven years since last traffic fatality in Johnston*

# 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

## Accident Investigations



### Top five (5) Accident Locations within Johnston

- 1) NW 86<sup>th</sup> Street - 29
- 2) Merle Hay Road - 28
- 3) NW 62<sup>nd</sup> Avenue - 25
- 4) NW Beaver Drive - 24
- 5) Birchwood Court/Pioneer Parkway (Tie) - 5



# 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

## Field Operations

### ***Speed Monitoring Trailer***

You may have noticed the department deploys a portable speed monitoring trailer that can be delivered to any Johnston neighborhood. The department sets up the trailer when complaints come in from residents that cars are speeding through a particular neighborhood.

The trailer is designed to make drivers aware of the speed they are traveling when driving through the city. When you see the trailer deployed, please be aware that it is in response to received complaints, and it is highly likely that enhanced enforcement efforts are in the area. During the summer months this unit is constantly deployed. If you have concerns about a particular speeding issue simply use this link to download a complaint form and simply drop it off at the police department.



<http://www.cityofjohnston.com/docs/documents/excessivespeed.pdf>

On the following page, you will find the exact deployment dates and locations in 2011.

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## Field Operations

### Speed Trailer Placement – 2011

#### April

4<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> – 5700 blk Foxboro Road  
13<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> – 9400 blk Newgate Drive  
20<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> – 5200 blk NW 62<sup>nd</sup> Avenue  
27<sup>th</sup> – 1<sup>st</sup> – 5300 blk NW 55<sup>th</sup> Avenue

#### May

4<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> – 6000 blk NW 100<sup>th</sup> Street  
11<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> – 6000 blk Foxboro Road  
18<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> – 6400 blk NW 86<sup>th</sup> Street  
25<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> – 8500 blk NW Beaver Drive

#### June

1<sup>st</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> – 6300 blk NW 97<sup>th</sup> Street  
8<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> – 5500 blk NW 93<sup>rd</sup> Avenue  
15<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> – 6300 blk Pioneer Parkway  
22<sup>nd</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> – 5700 blk Greendale Road

#### July

29<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> – 8500 blk NW Beaver Drive  
13<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> – 6600 blk Peckham Street

20<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> – 9400 blk Newgate Drive  
27<sup>th</sup> – 1<sup>st</sup> – 5300 blk NW 55<sup>th</sup> Avenue

#### August (School Zone Emphasis)

3<sup>rd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> – 5300 blk NW 62<sup>nd</sup> Avenue  
10<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> – 6400 blk NW 62<sup>nd</sup> Avenue  
17<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> – 5700 blk Foxboro Road  
24<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> – 6100 blk NW 93<sup>rd</sup>

#### September

1<sup>st</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> – 8400 blk NW 70<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
12<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> – 5700 blk Foxboro Road  
21<sup>st</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> – 5300 blk NW 55<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
28<sup>th</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> – 9400 blk Newgate Drive

#### October

5<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> – 6300 blk NW 100<sup>th</sup> Street  
12<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> – 6100 NW 93<sup>rd</sup> Street  
19<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> – 6000 blk Foxboro Road  
26<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> – 6300 blk NW 97<sup>th</sup> Street



# 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

## Field Operations

Aside from normal traffic enforcement programs conducted by the department, during the 2011 calendar year, 218 hours of overtime was paid for with GTSB funds. This extra patrol yielded the following results:

- 3 - Arrests for Operating While Intoxicated (O.W.I.).
- 7 - Additional contacts with suspected OWI suspects.
- 3- Arrests for public intoxication.
- 1 -Citation for having an open container of alcohol within a motor vehicle.
- 4- Arrests for possession of alcohol by persons under the legal age.
- 121 - Speeding citations were issued.
- 88 - Speeding warnings were issued.
- 1-Stop sign/traffic light citations were issued.
- 1 - Stop sign/traffic light warnings were issued.
- 10 - Seat belt citations were issued.
- 42- Assorted traffic citations were issued.
- 1 - Child safety seat citation was issued.



# 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

## Field Operations

### ***Investigations***

The investigations unit is comprised of one (1) Sergeant, and one (1) full-time detective. The detectives are responsible for following up on all case complaints that require extended investigation. The Sergeant also handles all call-out requests, reviews all police reports, and determines their investigative priority and assigns follow-up actions.

The investigation unit works closely with local, state and federal agencies including the Polk County Medical Examiner's Office, Fusion Intelligence Center, Department of Public Safety (DPS/DCI), Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms (ATF), United States Postal Inspectors (USPIS), Department of Human Services (DHS), Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) and the United States Secret Service. The unit also is an active participant in the Division of Criminal Investigations Internet Crimes against Children (ICAC) task force.

Investigators were assigned a total of 316 cases in 2011 which is an increase of 157 cases from 2010. These investigations covered a variety of felony and misdemeanor complaints detailed below:

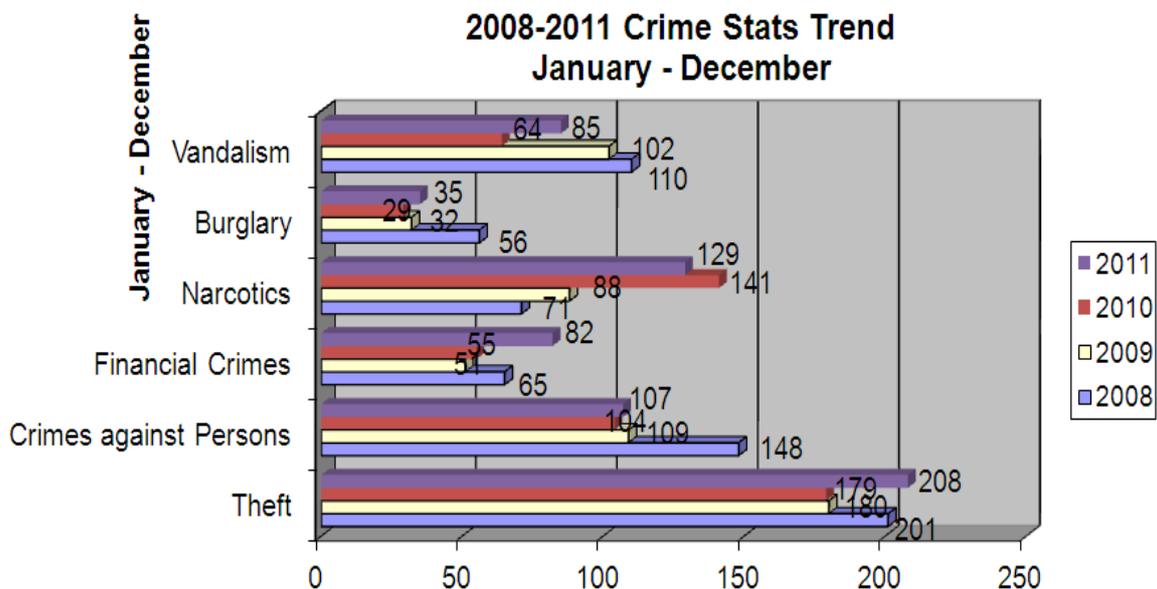
- Robbery (1)
- Burglary (24)
- Theft(s) (89)
- Assault(s) (8)
- Death Investigation(s) (10)
- Harassment (33)
- Fraud (61)
- Narcotics (3)
- Missing Person(s) (7)
- C.I.N.A (6)
- Criminal Mischief (31)
- Fire(s) (2)
- Child/Adult Abuse (4)
- Pornography/Sex Crimes (8)
- Animal Bite(s) (11)
- Outside Agency Assist(s) (2)
- Other (3)
- Domestic Assaults (4)
- Hit and Run Accidents (10)
- Child Enticement (1)
- Other (3)
- Assist other Agency (28)

# 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

## Field Operations

The investigators have also received specialized training in a number of areas including photography, evidence collection, interviewing and surveillance. In 2011 investigators also received over 400 hours of specialized training in the following subjects:

- Digital Evidence Investigations and Collection
- Law Enforcement Intelligence School & Conference
- Crime Scene Evidence Collection
- Missing & Abducted Children Investigations & Management



# 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

## Department News

### ***Johnston Police Lieutenant Graduates from the FBI National Academy in Virginia***

On September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2011 Johnston Police Lieutenant Lynn Aswegan joined 249 law enforcement officers from around the world by graduating from the FBI National Academy Program at Quantico, Virginia. The 246th Session of the National Academy consisted of men and women from 46 states, the District of Columbia, 28 international countries, three military organizations and five federal civilian organizations. FBI Director Robert Mueller was the principal speaker at the graduation.



Internationally known for its academic excellence, the National Academy Program, held at the FBI Academy, offers 10 weeks of advanced investigative, management, and fitness training for selected officers having proven records as professionals within their agencies. On average, these officers have 19 years of law enforcement experience and usually return to their agencies to serve in executive-level positions.

Only one half of one percent of all law enforcement officers are awarded the opportunity in their career to attend the academy. This is done in part due to criteria set forth by the FBI and various needs of local jurisdictions.

Training for the program is provided by FBI Academy instructional staff, Special Agents, and other staff members holding advanced degrees, many of whom are recognized internationally in their fields of expertise. A total of 45,031 graduates now represent the FBI National Academy since it began in July 1935. Of this number, approximately 27,519 are still active in law enforcement today.

# 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

## Department News

Anyone who's ever attended the National Academy knows all about the "Yellow Brick Road," the final test of the fitness regimen. It consists of a 6.1-mile grueling run through a hilly, wooded trail built by the U.S. Marines. Along the way, participants are challenged to climb over walls, run through creeks, jump through simulated windows, scale rock faces by rope, crawl under barbed wire in muddy water, maneuver across a cargo net and much, much more.

Those students who complete the arduous test receive an actual yellow brick to commemorate their achievement. (By way of history, the course became known as the Yellow Brick Road after Marines placed yellow bricks as markers at certain points to guide runners along the wooded trail. The overall fitness challenge at the National Academy began in 1981, and has evolved over the years. The tradition of awarding yellow bricks to students who complete the course started in 1988.)

"The the FBI National Academy was an amazing experience and certainly a highlight of my career," Aswegan said, "especially with the exemplary academic instruction, intense physical fitness training and networking opportunities I received."

Lieutenant Aswegan has been with the Johnston Police Department since 1986.



# 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

## Environmental Efforts

### ***E-85 Alternative Fuel Study***

As fuel prices have risen, and public concern over environmental issues has continued to strengthen, the Johnston Police Department has begun researching ideas and methodology to provide a budgetary savings and do our part in helping to protect the environment.

Staff is currently researching the practicality of using E-85 “Flex-Fuel” or other blended fuels during day-to-day patrol operations. The staff began the process of researching what other municipalities, both on a local and national level, have been doing with alternative fuels. What they discovered was although many other municipalities have dabbled with alternative fuels; very few have undertaken the process of actually tracking the results as they relate to their respective budgets.



With the delivery of two (2) new patrol vehicles in the fall of 2011 the department began tracking of budget costs by using the two identical vehicles. One is exclusively fueled with E-85, while the other is fueled as per normal procedures with standard E-10 gasoline. At the end of the study the department will report these results back to council along with a recommendation regarding the alternative fuel usage. We expect to conclude the study in early 2012.

As a portion of this testing, the department teamed with a popular Johnston organization, the *Iowa Corn Promotion Board*. They were approached with the idea of running a full test with E-85 alternative fuels in respect to the public safety community. For the first time a dedicated scientific examination is under way which could ultimately lead to answer the question of whether or not alternative fuels are a good idea for publically owned vehicles.

# 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

## Environmental Efforts

In September of 2011 the *Iowa Corn Promotion Board* issued this press release:



### Johnston, Iowa Police Department Gets the Green Light

Sep 29, 2011

SHARE  

The Johnston, Iowa Police Department is taking an environmental step forward and has purchased two Flexible Fuel Vehicles that can run on E85, which is 85% corn ethanol and 15% gasoline.

In a statement from the department, “With the ever-rising cost of fuel prices, and the growing concern over environmental issues, the Johnston Police Department will be trying a new approach this fall. In October, the department will be rolling out two new patrol cars that will be replacing ones at the end of their service life.”

With the new cars, the department will be testing alternative fuel use to gauge cost savings at the pump and environmental benefits from using a renewable fuel made from corn. Annually, a vehicle from the department adds 10,000 lbs of greenhouse gasses into the air. With E-85, this vehicle switch has the potential to show reduction of up to 70%.

“Ethanol made from corn has four E’s- environment, energy independence, economy, and engine performance,” said Shannon Textor, Iowa Corn’s Market Development Director. “This is more than new law enforcement vehicles; this is a switch to greener fuel that keeps 60 cents of every dollar in our local economy, keeps fuel dollars supporting domestically produced fuel, and ramps up engine performance on some of Iowa’s most important emergency vehicles.” The Iowa State Patrol and a few other local police departments have switched to Flexible Fuel Vehicles. For more information on ethanol, visit [www.iowacorn.org](http://www.iowacorn.org).

We want to thank the Iowa Corn Promotion Board for the enthusiasm for the project. We look forward to reporting the results later in 2012.

# 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

## Environmental Efforts

### ***Fuel Mileage Improvement Study – Battery Testing***



The department is experimenting with another new technology involving advanced automotive batteries to try and limit the amount of time officers are forced to leave a patrol car idling. With past practices it was considered more beneficial to leave cars idling at times while unattended to supply adequate power to the large amount of electronic equipment in today's patrol cars: cameras, computers, microphones, flashlights, radars, and an array of other equipment installed in the patrol fleet. If vehicles are allowed to idle they use fuel, if they sit not running but still in active duty, standard automotive batteries are in need of replacement after only a few months of service. Both have a negative impact on budgets and the environment.

With the delivery of the two new patrol vehicles in late 2011, each was equipped with new automotive battery technology. The new batteries allow these cars to be shut off for extended periods of time while in service, thus saving fuel consumption, greenhouse gas emissions, and standard battery replacement issues. In fact, we believe with the new technology, we will never have a need to replace them over the life of the patrol car. While they are more expensive to install initially, we anticipate a tremendous cost savings over the life of the patrol car. While this test is on-going we believe it will be a win-win situation for the budget and the environment. At times cars will still be forced to idle during inclement weather conditions and in those vehicle not equipped with the new technology, but we believe it is a positive step forward.

# 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

## Departmental Awards

### ***Exceptional Service – Detectives Hamilton and Tompkins***

In the fall of 2010 into the spring of 2011 the City of Johnston experienced a rash of robberies, attempts at robberies, and a home invasion. These types of crimes are not uncommon to our community, but to have three in a space of three months was unusual and disturbing.

Here is a quick overview of these incidents:

- At approximately 01:45 hours on October 26<sup>th</sup>, the Johnston Police Department was called to the 6800 block of Hemingway reference an armed robbery. Officers arrived on scene and met with four young adult victims who reported they were robbed at gunpoint by two individuals who had approached them on foot. The victims were not injured but reported that several of their personal items (cell phones, car keys, purses/wallets, etc) had been stolen from them.
- At approximately 03:16 hours on November 16<sup>th</sup>, the Johnston Police Department was called to 8610 Crescent Chase reference a home invasion. Officers arrived on scene and met with the 30 year-old female victim who reported she awoke to find male in her apartment with a handgun. The victim was not injured but reported that several items were stolen from her apartment.
- At approximately 01:15am on January 8<sup>th</sup> Johnston Officers were called to the 6400 block of NW 93<sup>rd</sup> Street regarding the armed robbery of a Papa Johns Pizza delivery driver. Officers responded to the scene and met with the 44 year-old victim who reported that he was dispatched by Urbandale Papa Johns to deliver a pizza order to an address in the 6400 block of NW 93<sup>rd</sup> Street. The victim reported that when he arrived and began to exit his vehicle he was approached by an unidentified male on foot that displayed a

# 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

## Departmental Awards

handgun and demanded money. A brief struggle ensued at the victim sounded his car horn and the suspect fled the area on foot. The victim was not injured and no money was taken.

The efforts of Detectives Tyler Tompkins and Travis Hamilton are greatly appreciated. With the aid of the Polk County Attorney's Office and area law enforcement Detectives Tompkins and Hamilton were able to identify, locate and arrest the four individuals responsible for the Oct. 26<sup>th</sup> armed robbery, the three individuals responsible for the Nov. 16<sup>th</sup> home invasion, and the two individuals for the Jan. 8<sup>th</sup> attempted armed robbery.

Crimes of this nature are incredibly dangerous and can create panic in the affected neighborhood/community. We are grateful for the superior investigative skill and dedication exemplified by Detectives Tompkins and Hamilton. Their efforts serve to make Johnston one of the safest communities to live, work and visit in the Metro.

On February 22<sup>nd</sup> of 2011 the Mayor and City Council awarded Hamilton and Tompkins Certificates of Appreciation for their prompt actions that have led to convictions in all three of these cases.



# 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

## Departmental Awards

### ***Officers Lowe and Nore – Certificates of Appreciation***

On June 20, 2011 the Mayor and Council awarded Officers Stephen Nore and Brad Lowe Certificates of Appreciation for their outstanding work concerning a commercial burglary to Manatts Concrete, 6333 NW Beaver Drive. This marked the third burglary to that business within a short span of time.

Officers promptly set up a perimeter and requested assistance from the Polk County Sheriff's K-9 Unit. Collectively they were able to contain, track and locate the suspect to an area near the concrete plant. The arrest of the suspect cleared up three burglary cases and eleven forgery cases and the recovery of numerous items of drug paraphernalia and needles that were in close proximity to small children.



# 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

## Departmental Awards

### ***Officer Lowe – Lifesaving Award***



On Oct. 10, 2011 Officer Brad Lowe responded to call for medical assistance at John Deere Financial in which a person had passed out in the parking lot. When Officer Lowe arrived he found the victim unresponsive and not breathing. Officer Lowe quickly assessed the victim and initiated CPR.

Medical authorities have substantiated that Officer Lowe's actions helped save the victim's life. After four minutes

without oxygen the body, heart and brain starts to suffer irreversible damage.

Officer Lowe, while administering CPR, was essentially providing the victim a heartbeat and breathing until the Johnston Fire Department arrived on scene.

Additionally, Officer Lowe prevented bystanders from administering an AED (defibrillation) attempt in wet conditions. This not only protected the victim from receiving a defibrillation that might have caused irreversible damage to the victim, but could have injured bystanders as the parking lot was wet and heavy rain was in the area at the time. Officer Lowe is credited for saving the life of the victim and protecting the bystanders from being injured by the deployment of the AED device in wet conditions.



# 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

## Community Relations



### ***Community Policing Philosophy***

The Johnston Police Department has adopted the philosophy that community problem solving begins with the formation of a partnership with the community. The police department and the citizens of Johnston can work together to solve crime related issues and keep Johnston a safe place to live and work. The department works together with the community in various neighborhood associations, hosting crime prevention activities and our many youth programs offered under the “KidPower” umbrella of programs. By working together we are better able to serve the citizens of Johnston which we are sworn to protect.

# 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

## Community Relations

### *Overview*

Over the course of the past several years there has been a growing trend in law enforcement around the country to change the way police interact with the public. The main focus of this new philosophy has been to get the police “out of the car”, and “into the community”. This new philosophy has been termed community oriented policing.

**Community Policing is comprised of three key components:**

- **Community Partnerships**  
Collaborative partnerships between the law enforcement agency and the individuals and organizations they serve to develop solutions to problems and increase trust in police.
- **Organizational Transformation**  
The alignment of organizational management, structure, personnel, and information systems to support community partnerships and proactive problem solving.
- **Problem Solving**  
The process of engaging in the proactive and systematic examination of identified problems to develop and rigorously evaluate effective responses.

The Johnston Police Department has been working hard for the past several years to develop programs to meet our community policing goals. Many of these will be discussed in this section, and all are accomplished in addition to an officer’s regular duty.

**BUILDING *Relationships*, SOLVING *Problems***

# 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

## Community Relations

### ***Crime Prevention Programs***

The department is providing new and innovative crime prevention programs to the community. The programs are a blend of standardized programs while adding in a few “tailored” pieces to fit the needs of Johnston. The department is dedicated to a proactive approach to community safety. Officers truly believe it is their job to help educate the public on ways to develop a safer community. They have also partnered with the Johnston Public Library and Johnston Community Education to provide several classes to adults and seniors. Here is just a sample of the Crime Prevention programs provided to the community in 2011.



- + (3) New “neighborhood watch” programs
- + “Kid Power” crime scene investigation camp for kids
- + Initiating a new bicycle registration program
- + “Busted in a good way” ice cream giveaway program for youths demonstrating good bicycle safety skills. [\(Special thanks to Van Dees Ice Cream for their continued support\)](#)
- + Bicycle Rodeo for youth
- + Bicycle Helmet giveaway programs
- + “Kid Pix” program, making child identification cards for parents to provide law enforcement information in the event of an emergency
- + Being “official” judges of the Johnston Cub Scouts Pine Wood Derby
- + Providing numerous tours of our facility to youth organizations
- + Computer and internet safety classes to seniors.

# 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

## Community Relations

### ***“Code 411” Program***

Beginning in the 2009 school year, the Johnston Police Department recognized the existing “D.A.R.E” program, while effective, was ready for updating and improvement. Officers, staff, and educational leaders from around the area developed a new and robust program to take the place of D.A.R.E.

The Code 411 program will help push crime and substance abuse prevention to new levels. The program provides new methods for officers to educate by presenting

young persons with “real-life” information affecting their community and demonstrating ways to avoid peer pressure and other factors that often lead them to poor decisions. Johnston 5<sup>th</sup> grade students now experience the refined education.

With the 2010-2011 school year we were able to reach out to students in all five elementary schools and graduated an amazing total of 510 students from the program.



# 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

## Community Relations

### ***Crime Free Multi-Housing Program***



The Crime Free Multi-Housing Program in Johnston is a state-of-the-art crime prevention program designed to reduce crime, drugs, and gangs on apartment properties. This program was successfully developed at the Mesa Arizona Police Department in 1992. The International Crime Free Multi-Housing Program has touched nearly 2,000 cities in 44 U.S. states, 5 Canadian Provinces, Mexico, England, Finland, Japan, Russia, Malaysia, Nigeria, Afghanistan, and Puerto Rico.

The Crime-Free Multi-Housing program has grown since its introduction in Johnston in 2010. In 2011 one additional apartment complex achieved full certification and during the latter portion of the year three (3) more complexes began working on the second phase of the three-phase certification process. As you drive through Johnston you will begin to see signage placed near the certified housing areas indicating they have taken the necessary steps to achieve certification.

Because this program has proven to be so successful in Johnston, Officer Steve Nore has joined Sgt. Eric Spring as the second certified instructor on the department. As with most special positions, this duty is also in addition to the officer's regular duty assignment.

For further information on the Crime Free Multi-Housing Program, please contact Sergeant Eric Spring at (515) 278-2345 days, or by email at [espring@police.ci.johnston.ia.us](mailto:espring@police.ci.johnston.ia.us).

# 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

## Community Relations

### ***Neighborhood Watch Program***



2011 also saw continued growth of Johnston's Neighborhood Watch Program with the addition of one new watch area, that being Green Meadows North.

Contact Officer Rich Kirkeby at (515) 252-1368, or by email at [rkirkeby@police.ci.johnston.ia.us](mailto:rkirkeby@police.ci.johnston.ia.us).

# 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

## Community Relations

### ***Drug and Alcohol Compliance Checks***

Johnston remains committed to keeping drugs and alcohol out of the hands of area youth. As part of this continued resolve we conduct random compliance checks throughout the city each year. Here are the results of those 2011 compliance checks:

- ✓ Random checks on all 30 licensed alcohol establishments (5 violations discovered)
- ✓ Random checks on all 13 tobacco permit holders (no violations discovered)

In addition to the checks the department also routinely conducts training to local retail employees on the latest changes to the Iowa law, and methods of detecting fraudulent identification cards. In 2011 thirty-two persons attended these training sessions. Additional retail employees were able to participate in on-line training sponsored by the State of Iowa.

For further information about these programs, contact Officer Rich Kirkeby at (515)252-1368 or via email at [rkirkeby@police.ci.johnston.ia.us](mailto:rkirkeby@police.ci.johnston.ia.us).



# 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

## Community Relations

### ***Miscellaneous Services***

The department also provides many other services for the community including:

- Fingerprinting services for Johnston residents. In 2011 they assisted 329 persons with this request.
- Child safety seat installation. We have Officers with specialized training to insure your safety seat is installed to the most current manufacturers' specifications. Officers installed 20 child safety seats in 2011.
- On a fee basis, the department also conducts salvage vehicle inspections for all persons living within Polk County. In 2011 we performed salvage/theft examinations on 215 motor vehicles.
- On request the department also performs security checks of your home while you are away on vacation.

All of these services are provided on an appointment basis on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays between noon and 1:00pm. Please call the police department during business hours at 278-2345 to schedule an appointment.



# 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

## 2011 Highlights

### ***Johnston Night with the Neighbors***



On September 18<sup>th</sup>, the department in cooperation with its crime prevention partners hosted the inaugural “Johnston Night with the Neighbors” outing. This program was designed to help bring the community closer together; building strong relationships that will last well into the future.

Attendees had the opportunity to meet current city council members and city staff, representatives from the police, fire and public works departments, as well as a special visit with “McGruff the Crime Dog”. Kids also got to enjoy library story time with staff.

The Green Meadows and Fruitland-Brennan neighborhood groups each designated a location within their respective neighborhoods to meet. At the gathering, neighbors were encouraged to have a get-to-know each other event to better be able to identify potential strangers in a neighborhood, and to help build an overall sense of community pride. The neighborhood groups then all converged at either the Simpson Barn or Crown Point for a few hours of food and beverages. A large portion of the time was designated to meet the Council Members, and the City staff. We certainly look forward to making this event even bigger and better in 2012!



# 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

## 2011 Highlights

### ***I.D. Me Program***

The Johnston Police have added a program to the department's internet web site that seeks the public's help in identifying persons of interest in regards to local case investigations. The program, titled **I.D. ME**, is used by the police department to post electronic images of persons or vehicles that the police department is attempting to locate and identify in regards to an investigation. A brief narrative will accompany the images that are posted that will describe the police department's interest in identifying those who are pictured, as well as information on who the public should call with any information they may have regarding the posted images. For more information regarding the ID ME program you can visit <http://cityofjohnston.com/departments/police/IDMe2.php> or contact Lt. Lynn Aswegan at 515-252-1363.



# 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

## 2011 Highlights

### ***Business Community Outreach Program***

In 2011 we reached out to our business community to update their after-hours contact information. Sergeant Jason Gudenkauf assigned each of our day and evening shift officers a series of businesses. It is the officers' responsibility to meet with and introduce themselves to their assigned business owners/managers. The program is intended to foster an ongoing relationship with our officers and their assigned businesses.

Officers provided crime prevention information to their respective businesses and via the Business ELERT Program and various brochures on a number of crime prevention topics. These topics include updates and pointers on Iowa's new gun laws and information on preventing credit card and check fraud. Patrol officers routinely check in with their assigned businesses. In the near future we will also be delivering information on how to handle an officer's response to a burglary or robbery alarm, and a checklist on the proper steps to use to better remember a person's appearance and description after a suspect has fled the property.

The goal of this program is to have a more personal relationship with our business owners/managers so that when we respond to a call for service, they will have already developed a relationship with our officers and they can feel better prepared when we respond.

For more information on this program, please contact Sergeant Jason Gudenkauf at (515)252-1375 or [jgudenkauf@police.ci.johnston.ia.us](mailto:jgudenkauf@police.ci.johnston.ia.us).

# 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

## 2011 Highlights

### **National “Take-Back-Drug” Initiative**

About 1 in 8 prescription drugs contain active ingredients that the federal government (DEA and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, including the Food and Drug Administration) limits in distribution and handles in a special, secure way. These drugs include narcotics (opiates) like *Vicodin*, *Percocet*, *OxyContin*, and *codeine* cough syrup; stimulants like *Adderall*, *Ritalin*, and *Dexedrine*; and sedatives and tranquilizers like *Valium*, *Xanax*, and *Ambien*.

On Saturday, April 28th from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., the Johnston Police Department in conjunction with the United States Drug Enforcement Agency

**Got Drugs?**



(DEA) and the Iowa National Guard partnered together to continue the “Take-Back-Drug” program started in 2011. Held

at Johnston City Hall, the public brought unused, unwanted or expired prescription drugs for safe disposal, no questions asked and at no cost to them. This was an opportunity to safely empty out your medicine cabinet of unneeded, unwanted, or expired prescription drugs.

In 2011 the departments held two of these events, and were able to collect an amazing *156 pounds* of unwanted prescription drugs. Having unused or old medicines in the house increases the risk of accidental poisoning or abuse. You help to safeguard your family’s health and safety when you dispose of these medications.

# 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

## 2011 Highlights

### ***Green Days Spaghetti Feed***

On June 18<sup>th</sup> in concert with the sixteen-year anniversary of Johnston's Green Days Celebration, the department held its first Spaghetti Feed luncheon. During the spaghetti feed the community was able to show support for a new public safety facility and to serve Johnston in other ways. We were also able to raise almost \$1,400 in free-will donations for the Youth Homes of Mid- America to assist the non-profit organization with its mission of supporting Iowa's youth. Over 500 people attended the feed and open house. Tours were given of the facility, officers provided families with take-home DNA kits to help protect children, and the Kid-Pix program was offered with identification cards handed out to over fifty families. In addition, officers provided free child safety seat inspections and a bicycle helmet exchange for the kids. Good times were had by all!



# 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

INSIDE THE JOHNSTON

PD



# 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

## 2011 Personnel Roster

**Chief of Police: Bill Vaughn**

**Patrol/Investigative Division(s) Supervisor, Lt. Lynn Aswegan**

### Patrol Division

Sergeant Kenny Agan

Sergeant Jason Gudenkauf

Sergeant Eric Spring

Officer Jon Alexander

Officer Erin Bush

Officer Jeremy Christensen

Officer Adam Criswell

Officer Samir Dzaferagic

Officer Zach Grandon

Officer Ryan Hanssen

Officer Brad Lowe

Officer Cale McClain

Officer Steve Nore

Officer Joe Siembieda

Officer Dan Steck

### Support Services Officer

Officer Scott Richmann

### School Resource Officer

Officer Jessica Jensen

### Crime Prevention Officer/Code 411 Instructor

Officer Rich Kirkeby

### Investigative Division

Sergeant Tyler Tompkins

Detective Travis Hamilton

Detective Bryan Townes

### Administrative Assistant/Records Clerk

Debbie Smith

Terrie Severin

# 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

## Patrol Division

### ***Division Overview***

The Patrol Division is the backbone of the Police Department. Under the direction of the lieutenant, and three sergeants, the Patrol Division is made up of the Uniform Patrol Unit and Specialty Operations Units. Each works closely with the other to serve Johnston residents.

The Uniform Patrol Unit currently has two patrol territories, as well as additional officers who act as rovers to ensure effective coverage for the City and to provide back-up for the territory cars. There are 3 separate shifts with a sergeant assigned to each shift.

The Patrol Unit is responsible for the initial response to all complaints or calls for service. The Unit operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Officers are responsible for the protection of life and property; helping to maintain peace, order and safety for all citizens, and routine patrol of neighborhoods and businesses as well as traffic enforcement. Select officers also perform additional duties such as Technical Accident Investigations (A.I.), Drug Recognition Experts (D.R.E.), Field Training Officers (F.T.O.) and a Bicycle/ATV Patrol Team. Each of these officer specialties will be addressed in the following pages.



# 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

## Patrol Division

### ***Drug Recognition Experts: (D.R.E.)***

The Drug Recognition program was first conceived in the early 1970s by members of the Los Angeles (CA) Police Department as a means to detect and successfully prosecute persons who were operating motor vehicles while under the influence of drugs other than alcohol. The DRE program is now an international program used by law enforcement agencies to reduce the incidence of drug impaired driving. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, in 2010 over 30% of drivers involved in a fatal crash had alcohol or drugs in their system at the time of death.



The Johnston Police Department has been involved in the DRE program since its Iowa introduction in 1992. Besides detecting the drug impaired driver, qualified DREs are certified to educate state and local educational professionals on the signs and symptoms of the drug impaired student in order to make schools a better and safer learning environment. In the past years DREs from the Johnston Police Department have also been called to testify in drug impaired driving cases throughout the State of Iowa.

There are currently two DREs on the Johnston Police Department; Detective Travis Hamilton, and Officer Jessica Jensen, and currently approximately 108 specially trained DREs serve state-wide.

Because of the specialized training involved in the program, officers are frequently called upon to assist local law enforcement agencies with assistance in



# 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

## Patrol Division

Identifying the drug impaired driver. Johnston DREs also provided classes to local educators in the identification of the drug impaired students.

Persons seeking information about the DRE program or drugs and the type of impairment they can produce are encouraged to call Officer Jessica Jensen with the Johnston Police Department at (515) 278-2345, or send her an email at [jjensen@police.ci.johnston.ia.us](mailto:jjensen@police.ci.johnston.ia.us).



# 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

## Patrol Division

### ***Field Training Officers (F.T.O.)***

The Johnston Police Department trains new officers both before and after they have completed basic training at the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy. Field Training Officers (FTO's) serve as the first step for new recruits during a 12 week training orienting them to internal policy and procedure, criminal law, state codes, police patrol operations, and community awareness through an intensive one-on-one oversight program. The training ensures that the probationary officer is ready to operate on his or her own.

The department currently has seven (7) dedicated Field Training Officers with a sergeant designated to oversee the entire program. If you see two officers in one patrol car, chances are one of them is currently taking part in our Field Training Program.

Sergeant Eric Spring can be contacted for more information about this program. He can be reached at (515) 278-2345 his email at [espring@police.ci.johnston.ia.us](mailto:espring@police.ci.johnston.ia.us).



# 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

## Patrol Division

### ***Bicycle Patrol/ATV Unit***

In the late 1990's the City of Johnston began a population explosion from around 8,000 in 1998 citizens to the present total of over 17,000 persons. Along with this growth came 24 miles of recreational trails connecting Johnston to inter-urban trail systems throughout the Des Moines Metropolitan area. By the year 2025 plans are in the works to construct an additional 29 miles of trails.



In 2005 the Johnston Police Department partnered with several area corporations and was able to fund a Bicycle Patrol Unit. This unit consists of nine officers who have received several hours of specialized training in the area of police patrol operations and techniques while patrolling the city on bicycle or ATV. While only a few selected officers have received the special bicycle training, all are trained to safely operate the department's ATV. The unit has proven to be very successful and quickly learned that not only could they patrol hard to access areas during the day, it was also effective in night patrol operations in neighborhoods where stealth was key to effective law enforcement. During the warmer periods in 2011, officers logged over seventy (70) hours of ride time patrolling the recreational trails in Johnston.

# 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

## Field Operations

### *Division Overview*

Field Operations represent those individual specialities within the Uniformed Patrol Division that tend to lie outside the standard “norm” of just our daily standard police patrols. These operations include activities of the School Resource Officer (SRO), animal control operations, special traffic enforcement programs sponsored by the Governors Traffic Safety Bureau, and many others. These programs will be better defined as you move forward in the following pages.



# 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

## Field Operations

### ***Animal Control Operations***

The Police Department does not have a designated officer or unit that handles animal control complaints. Patrol officers are responsible for responding to all animal control issues.

If the complaint involves an animal at-large, patrol officers respond to the location, secure the animal in their police car and transport it to the public works facility where it is placed in a secured in-door climate controlled building and provided food and water. The animal is held at that location for up to three (3) days. Public Works personnel care for the impounded animals during the work day/week. Patrol Officers conduct regular checks on the impounded animals whenever Public Works personnel are not available (nights, weekends and holidays). If an owner has not been located or claimed the animal within three days, the animal is turned over to the Animal Rescue League (ARL). Animals that are diseased, injured, aggressive or less than 10 weeks of age are immediately turned over to the ARL and are not held at our facility. A total of sixty-two (62) canines, thirty-two (32) felines, one rabbit (domestic), one chicken (domestic), and one pigeon (also domestic) were impounded in 2011.

Animal bite complaints are investigated by the Police Lieutenant. Upon completion of the investigation the Lieutenant submits a recommendation to the Chief of Police and City Administrator if the animal's actions warrant being declared a vicious animal. In 2011 a total of eleven (11) animal bite complaints were investigated and two (2) canines were declared vicious animals.

If the complaint involves a deceased animal on public property the patrol officers complete a pick-up order and forward the information to the Public Works Department who responds to the location to collect the animal carcass and ensures that it is properly disposed of.

# 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

## Field Operations

The City of Johnston also maintains information, including photographs, on animals that have been picked up. This information is available on the city web site. You may reach this information by navigating to [www.cityofjohnston.com](http://www.cityofjohnston.com) and clicking on the "lost pets" link on the left side of the page, you will be re-directed to the "Safely Home" Facebook page created to reach out to the public for notification of a recovered animal.



Parks
Police
Public Works
Utility Services
<b>City Code</b>
<b>Mayor /City Council</b>
<b>Boards/Commissions</b>
<b>Lost Pets</b>
<b>Documents/Forms</b>
<b>Employment</b>
<b>Public Education</b>
<b>Senior Citizens</b>
Email Lists



### NW 62nd Avenue Improvement Project Underway

NW 62nd Avenue from NW 86th Street to Meadow Crest Drive will be under construction beginning September 2011 with a completion date of December 2012. The project includes pavement widening and reconstruction, bridge construction, and intersection improvements to widen the existing two-lane road to a four-lane divided roadway. Roundabouts will be installed at the following intersections with NW 62nd: Pioneer's Beaver Creek Campus, South Drive, Pioneer's Carver Entrance, and Pioneer Parkway.

[Click here for project updates.](#)

Please visit this link to see presentation slides on modern [roundabouts](#).

# 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

## Field Operations

### ***GTSB Funded Traffic Programs***

The Johnston Police Department has received federal funding through grants administered by the Iowa Governor's Traffic Safety Bureau (GTSB) for the purpose of improving traffic.

The funding received over the years has provided the police department with equipment, training and overtime funds. The equipment that has been purchased with GTSB funds over the years includes preliminary breath testing instruments, video recording equipment, and radar units for the department's fleet of patrol vehicles. A portion of the funding has also been used to provide citizens with a child seat safety seat installation clinic at the annual Green Days celebration in Johnston.

For the federal fiscal year 2011, which runs from October 2010 to September 2011, the Johnston Police Department received grant funds for the purchase of a radar unit and three preliminary breath testing instruments as well as commodities to be used to educate the public about traffic safety. Part of the funding also provided advanced training to selected officers and overtime for increased traffic enforcement.

Despite a growing population and a greatly increased road use rate since 1996, the City of Johnston has maintained a fairly low overall traffic crash rate, lessened the overall severity of crash injuries, and has had no traffic fatalities since 2004. This is a fact that all Johnston citizens can be proud of.



# 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

## Field Operations

The investigations unit monitors all registered sex offenders who list a residential address within the city limits of Johnston. Monthly updates are conducted and email notifications are sent out to various community groups and organizations, as well as posted in the public lobby of the police department and on the Police Department's "Facebook" page. Investigators conduct random and unannounced physical checks on the registered sex offenders where they take a current photograph of the sex offender and collect updated employment, phone and vehicle information. In 2011 four (4) registered sex-offenders resided in Johnston.

In June the department purchased specialized surveillance equipment to enhance the investigators "covert" surveillance capabilities. Since its deployment, it has been placed into use nineteen (19) times for assorted investigative functions.

The investigations unit also continued to proactively take part in the department's community outreach initiatives by providing twenty (20) classroom hours of instruction to the public which focused on awareness and prevention of commonly reported criminal activity. The department disseminated a total of twelve (12) E-LERTS in 2011 that notified the public on activity of concern that was taking place in and around the community.

In November the investigation unit launched an Internet program entitled "ID ME" that was added to the police department's web site. The ID ME program is used to solicit the public's help in identifying persons of interest in regards to local case investigations and is used by the police department to post pictures and video of persons or vehicles that the police department is attempting to locate and identify in regards to an investigation. It also includes a brief narrative describing the police department's interest in identifying those who are pictured. A total of three (3) cases were posted on the ID ME site in 2011.

# 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

## Field Operations

### ***Mid-Iowa Narcotics Enforcement Task Force (MINE)***

Since February 1992 the police department has been an active participant in the Mid-Iowa Narcotics Enforcement Task Force (MINE). The police department has one (1) detective assigned full-time to the task force. Investigations are conducted throughout central Iowa including Polk, Dallas, Warren, Jasper, Poweshiek and Marion Counties on activity involving narcotics and prostitution. The task force opened five hundred forty two (542) case investigations in 2011. Of these, thirty-seven (37) of which were initiated by the Johnston Police Department.

The task force is comprised of thirty (30) sworn officers from nineteen (19) different agencies including the Polk County Sheriff's Office, Jasper County Sheriff's Office, Dallas County Sheriff's Office, Warren County Sheriff's Office, Poweshiek County Sheriff's Office, State of Iowa DNE, Urbandale Police Department, West Des Moines Police Department, Johnston Police Department, Clive Police Department, Des Moines Police Department, Ankeny Police Department, Indianola Police Department, Grinnell Police Department, Knoxville Police Department, Newton Police Department, Pella Police Department, Drug Enforcement Agency and the Iowa National Guard.



The Task Force operates under a Board of Directors comprised of Commanders, Sheriffs and Police Chiefs from the participating agencies. A police Captain serves as the task force commander along with two Sergeants who oversee daily activities and investigations. The task force works closely with local, state and federal agencies including the Fusion Intelligence Center, Department of Public Safety (DPS/DNE), Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms (ATF), Department of Justice (DEA) and the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI).

# 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

## Field Operations

The task force investigator has received specialized training in a number of areas including:

- DEA Drug Investigations School
- Money Laundering Investigations Training
- Conspiracy Investigations
- Tactical Entry
- Clandestine Tactical Entry
- Highway Drug Interdictions
- Clandestine Laboratory School
- Executive Leadership Training
- Task Force Commander and Leadership Management Training
- Safeguarding Privacy, Civil Rights & Civil Liberties
- Criminal Intelligence Operations
- Interview and Interrogation Training



# 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

## Field Operations

The statistics compiled by the Mid-Iowa Narcotics Enforcement Unit during 2011 are impressive. When one considers the total amount of illegal drugs this unit kept off the streets of the Polk County area, it's pretty easy to see they are a vital force in keeping crime off the streets.

- + Detectives served more than five-hundred (500) search warrants, and opened more than five-hundred (500) new investigations. From these investigations:
  - ✓ More than 335lbs and over 366 live marijuana plants were seized.
  - ✓ More than 40lbs of methamphetamine was kept off the streets.
  - ✓ Over 100lbs of materials used in the manufacture of methamphetamine were eliminated.
  - ✓ 22 illegal methamphetamine manufacturing labs were eliminated.
  - ✓ Over 17lbs of the synthetic marijuana substance "K-2" were prevented from reaching the streets.
  - ✓ 86 Guns were removed from public danger.
  - ✓ 22 children were removed from drug exposure environments.
  
- + As a result of these seizures:
  - ✓ 467 persons were arrested.
  - ✓ 912 felony charges were filed.
  - ✓ 374 misdemeanor charges were filed.

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# 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

## Field Operations

### ***School Resource Officer***

The School Resource Officer is one of our most important connections to the community and our young people. Beginning in the 2007 school year, the Johnston Police Department began an expansive partnership with the Johnston Community School District to provide a full-time police officer to act in the capacity as a deterrent to school policy violations, criminal activity, and the prevention of school violence.

This lone officer serves the law enforcement needs of nearly 3,000 students within the high school and two middle schools. The total student population is over the 6,000 making the Johnston Community School District the 13<sup>th</sup> largest district in the State of Iowa. Students in grades eight through twelve now have direct and onsite access to a law enforcement officer whom is specifically trained to handle all types of school related issues. During the 2010/2011 school year, the School Resource Officer handled upwards of 500 incidents ranging from minor school policy violations to criminal investigations. Officer Jessica Jensen serves as the School Resource Officer for the department replacing Kenny Agan who received a promotion to Sergeant earlier this year and was reassigned to the patrol division. Officer Jensen may be reached at (515) 278-2345 or via email at [jjensen@police.ci.johnston.ia.us](mailto:jjensen@police.ci.johnston.ia.us).



# 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

## Field Operations

### ***Suburban Emergency Response Team (SERT)***

In 2007 the Johnston Police Department teamed up with the other metropolitan Police Departments from West Des Moines, Urbandale, Clive, and Altoona to create a team of specially trained officers to handle special threat situations. In early 2010 the Dallas County Sheriff's Department and the Ankeny Police Department also joined the Suburban Emergency Response Team or SERT.

#### **SUBURBAN EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM**



\*\*\*EXPETO\*\*\*EVERBERO\*\*\*DOMINOR\*\*\*



An Urbandale Police Sergeant supervises the team and two Johnston officers are assigned. Officers work normal duty assignments, and are on 24-hour call out status. In the event of a dangerous situation they are able to respond with equipment and specialized training capable of supervising, staffing, and controlling an incident.

The response team has historically been used to serve high-risk search warrants, to respond to armed subjects who may be in a fortified location, to carry out dignitary protection details, to monitor special events and to conduct searches. This unit also serves as a ready response for issues of civil disorder and can be deployed for special events. In short, the team handles incidents which carry with them the potential for high-risk through the utilization of tactics and equipment that lessen the chances of serious injury or death.

In 2011 the SERT Team was activated eleven (11) times. Ten of these times were a mutual aid request from the MINE unit on high-risk warrant services, the final for a barricaded subject who eventually surrendered to law enforcement without incident.

# 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

## Field Operations

### ***Officer Training***

The police department's training curriculum includes an annual 16 hours of instruction on a variety of mandatory topics such as CPR, hazardous materials, blood borne pathogens, incident command, legal updates, workplace harassment, ethics, diversity and firearms training. By participating in the in-service training it



allows departments to fulfill each officer's mandatory yearly training requirements as required by law. Newly sworn officers are also required to attend thirteen (13) weeks of training at the Iowa Law Enforcement academy followed by twelve (12) weeks of field training instruction. In 2011 the police department graduated two (2) officers from the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy.

In October of last year the department joined efforts with the Urbandale Police Department to combine resources and develop a joint in-service training curriculum focusing on the training needs of our specific departments.

The cost savings to both communities was tremendous. By running the training over several different dates, we were able to utilize certified instructors from both departments and minimize overtime-expenses normally incurred with these types of department wide training.

# 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

## Field Operations

The Johnston Police Department has several officers who have received instructor certification in a variety of topics including defensive tactics, drug recognition, field sobriety, ASP restraint, less lethal munitions, oleoresin capsicum (mace), weapons armory, pursuit intervention, bike patrol, radar operation and firearms. These certifications have allowed the department to provide over 150 hours of in-house training in 2011.



The police department works closely with other agencies and training entities to provide additional training for the officers. Those entities and agencies include the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI), Iowa Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA), Midwest Counterdrug Training Center (MCTC), Iowa Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), National White Collar Crime Center (NW3C), Iowa Department of Public Safety (DPS), National Association of Field Training, US Department of Justice, Iowa Crime Prevention Association, US Department of Homeland Security, Fire Service Training Bureau, National Association of School Resource Officers (NASARO), High Tech Crime Institute (HTCI), Fox Valley Technical College and Northwestern University. In 2011 the department utilized these organizations to obtain over 1,800 hours of instruction in a variety of law enforcement related training.

This year's training was a focus to provide leadership development education to the departments command staff. This effort included sending two of our Sergeants to the 3-day Simon Wiesenthal Center's Leadership Training program in Los Angeles in March, followed by the Centers 3-day Diversity Training program in April. The department also sent our Lieutenant to Virginia in July to attend the FBI's 10-week National Training Academy. (Read more about Lt. Aswegan's FBI training on page 64)

# 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

## Support Services Division

### *Division Overview*

The Support Services unit carries out tasks to support the mission of both the uniformed patrol and field operations divisions of the department. The unit is comprised of both sworn officers and civilian employees. The vast array of duties, range from meeting the public in our reception area, maintaining and disseminating records as required by law and policy, maintaining custody of evidence, to ensuring the department's patrol fleet is operational at all times.

The technology component of the division is also responsible for maintaining the functionality of all computer, software, telephone, and radio systems. Support Services is responsible for grant writing and management, digital evidence collection and security, supporting technical investigations involving complex technologies, keeping abreast of current technological developments, and ensuring the department's compliance with established City of Johnston purchasing policies.

### *Administrative/Records*



The Johnston Police Department currently employs one full-time administrative assistant, and one part-time records clerk. The area is staffed Monday-Friday from 8:00am to 4:00pm. They are responsible for many tasks including:

- Front Desk Service Requests
- Releasing Impounded Vehicles
- Scheduling Fingerprint Appointments for Johnston Residents
- Processing Traffic Citations and Accident Reports
- Completing Criminal Records Checks
- Answering and Directing Telephone Calls
- Processing Records Requests

# 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

## Support Services Division

### ***Property and Evidence***

The property and evidence section of the support services division is under the control of one sworn Police Officer, and one Police Sergeant, and overseen by both the Police Lieutenant and the Chief of Police. Both the officer and the sergeant are trained evidence-handling specialists and are responsible for the logging in, chain of custody, safekeeping, and release or court ordered destruction of each piece of property or evidence that is collected. All of these tasks are completed in *addition* to the officer's regular assigned duties. The Johnston Police Department has thousands of items of evidence to control and works meticulously to insure the integrity of each and every item. It is the policy of this department to ensure all property and evidence is handled in strict accordance with the Code of Iowa, and each piece is routinely audited to ensure this compliance.



Here is a small sample of the more than 1,000 items entered into evidence in 2011:

- *Over 130 Drug/Drug Paraphernalia Entries*
- *121 Lost and Found Property Incidents*
- *29 Firearms/Ammunition Entries*
- *70 Entries for Miscellaneous Tools*
- *20 Lost/Stolen Bicycles*
- *Over 25 Alcohol Type Items*
- *52 Cellular Phones or Handheld Electronic Items*
- *213 Jewelry Items*

# 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

## Support Services

### ***Crime Scene Investigations***

Beginning several years ago, the department began to see an increasing need to have officers specifically trained to handle evidence collection and documentation of items vital to investigations at the scene of a crime or incident. Due to budget limitations and the need for timely collections, departments across the state could no longer rely on state agencies alone to assist in the event of a major crime. New technologies have emerged that have caused evidence often overlooked years ago to become valuable pieces of information that can be used to prosecute crimes.

Officer Kirkeby led the department's effort to bring many of these newer technologies to the department and today is responsible for training other members of the department in the various techniques of proper evidence collection. In the fall of 2011 two officers went through a vigorous application and selection process. Officers Lowe and Grandon are now undergoing instruction by Officer Kirkeby in the areas of technological resources the department currently has in its inventory. These officers will also be attending various outside training courses in the upcoming months as practical funding allows.

A few of these items include:

- Advanced Photographic Equipment
- Static Dust Print Lifters
- Alternative Light Sources
- Thermal Imaging Equipment
- DNA Collection Utensils
- Fingerprint Collection Equipment



# 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

## Support Services Division

### ***Technology***

Great strides have been made in the area of advanced technology in the private sector and in the realm of public safety.

Police radio communications have advanced to the point where officers literally have the ability to communicate locally, state wide, and in some cases nationwide. Technology means that officers can easily spot criminal activity at



night. Officers have at their disposal a vast array of both night vision and thermal imaging devices that allow them to see into the darkness. Advances have been made in the area of video monitoring of known criminal activity and the ability to forensically enhance those video captures to bring criminals to justice.

Inside patrol vehicles officers now employ laptop computers that allow them to be electronically dispatched to calls for service and the ability via global positioning systems (GPS) to be directed to their destinations. Cars have in car cameras that allow them to record both audio and video footage of contacts with the public in an effort to protect the constitutional rights of both the public and the officer. All officers also have specialized software that allows them to clearly see images of Johnston with the stroke of a computer key. This ability allows the officer to have access to the layout and terrain on each call they are dispatched to in an effort to serve Johnston in the most efficient and safest way possible.

# 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

## Support Services Division

### Video Forensics

One area in particular where the Johnston Police Department leads the field is in the area of video forensics. In 2006 the police department applied for, and was awarded a federal equipment grant giving the department several thousands of dollars worth of specialized computer equipment along with the training to forensically enhance digital and analog videos to assist with the identification and prosecution of persons suspected of crimes. The department not only utilizes this equipment for its own investigations, but for agencies around the metropolitan area. In 2011 specially trained officers used this equipment to analyze thirty-three video images for area agencies that resulted in the arrest of several suspects.

The department was also awarded a federal grant in early 2009 for the deployment of an advanced thermal imaging system. A thermal imager enables law enforcement personnel to see heat signatures of objects, people and other sources. It detects extremely small differences in temperature, so officers can readily distinguish people from their immediate surroundings. Needing no light to operate, the thermal imager generates high-quality images on the darkest nights, even through smoke and fog. While darkness and camouflage can defeat night vision equipment, suspects cannot hide from a thermal imager. Their own body heat gives them away.



(Officer Criswell's Thermal Profile)

# 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

## Department News

### ***Retirements***

The Johnston Police Department said goodbye to longtime Sergeant Craig Porter in April. Sergeant Porter began his career in law enforcement by joining the Urbandale Police Department in 1971 after leaving the military. In 1975 Craig joined the Johnston Police Department where he remained assigned to the patrol division until his retirement.



Porter was a pioneer in the development of a new classification of police officers from around the world specifically trained in detecting drivers under the influence of drugs. These officers, called Drug Recognition Experts (DREs) are called upon world wide on a daily basis to offer their unique expertise in detecting and prosecuting these impaired drivers.

Craig Porter was directly responsible for the training of hundreds of DREs officers. Porter also traveled the state teaching educational professionals within Iowa's many schools districts how to detect students under the influence. This program, called Drug Impairment Training for Education Professionals (DITEP), is intended to provide school administrators and nurses with a systematic approach to recognizing and evaluating individuals in the academic environment who are abusing or impaired by drugs, both legal and illegal, in order to provide early recognition and intervention.

Craig's expertise in these areas will be greatly missed, and we wish him the best in his retirement.

# 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

## Department News

### **Promotions**

After a long and careful process that included written exams, oral interviews, and much scrutiny, Officer Kenny Agan was promoted to the rank of Sergeant and placed in command on the overnight shift to replace Sergeant Porter.

Sgt. Agan began his law enforcement career by enlisting in the United States Army as a Military Police Officer in 1987. In 1996 Sgt. Agan left the military to begin his civilian law enforcement career with the Ankeny Police Department. In



2006 Sergeant Agan joined the Johnston Police Department and in 2007, became the departments first School Resource Officer, a capacity he continued until his recent promotion. Sgt. Agan is also a member and instructor of the JPD Bike Patrol Unit. Voicemail for Sergeant Agan can be left at (515) 252-1362.

The department looks forward to watching his leadership ability grow as the department moves toward the future.

# 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

## Personnel Activity

### **Promotions**

In July Tyler Tompkins was promoted to the rank of Detective Sergeant. Under the supervision of the Chief of Police and the Lieutenant, Sgt. Tompkins will be able to take a hands-on role in the leadership of the Investigative Division.

Sergeant Tompkins began his career working part-time for the Johnston Public Works Department where he developed a passion for law enforcement. In 2003 Tompkins joined the Police Department where he served in the Patrol Division until transferring to the Investigative Division in 2005.

Sergeant Tompkins continues to demonstrate a passion for serving the Johnston community.

You can contact Sergeant Tompkins at [ttompkins@police.ci.johnston.ia.us](mailto:ttompkins@police.ci.johnston.ia.us) or by telephone at (515) 252-1367.



# 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

## Department News

### ***File Server Replacement***

In early 2011 the Johnston City Council approved a budget request from the department to fund the replacement of it's main computer server at a cost of \$9,600.00 which included technical support and data transfer from the old computer system. The existing system was approaching nine years old, which is somewhat antique in todays computing world

The computer server serves as the backbone of the computing power of the police department. Without this file server all client computers within the Johnston Police network are useless as they are all tied into this central hub. A few of the roles this server accomplishes for the department are as follows:

- Electronic mail and internet access to all officers and workstations. Without a central file server we have no communication to the outside world, including the mail servers housed at City Hall.
- Electronic storage of all digital media captured by the departments seven (7) in-car cameras. It is vital this storage be maintained as it is considered evidence in many ongoing criminal prosecutions.
- Electronic storage of all digital images taken by officers and detectives since 2006.
- Access to the "INCODE" software used for financial records management used by the City of Johnston.
- Software management of "TraCs" software. This software is installed in all PD computers under agreement with the Iowa Department Transportation. This software serves as the only motor vehicle accident reporting avenue to the State as well as allowing officers to electronically issue and transmit traffic citations to the court. It also enables Administrative Staff to electronically forward crime statistics to the State of Iowa and on to the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

# 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

## Department News

- Storage for all reports, mailings, and correspondence generated by the police department.
- Anti-virus software management for all client computers within the police department network. This saves many hours of labor by allowing the tech to handle all computers from one destination.

In the middle of October, support services began making this transition. We are happy to report we are now running modern computing equipment making our service to the community run much more efficiently.

