



2013 ANNUAL REPORT



**WHEAT RIDGE POLICE DEPARTMENT
2013 ANNUAL REPORT**

Contents

THE HISTORY OF WHEAT RIDGE LAW ENFORCEMENT

Progress: Where We've Been and Where We're Going.....1

How Things Have CHANGED.....2

Then and Now

**The HISTORY of Wheat Ridge Police Department's Shoulder Patch
Police Officers with 20+ YEARS OF SERVICE**

QUOTE FROM DANIEL BRENNAN, CHIEF OF POLICE.....3

WHEAT RIDGE POLICE DEPARTMENT'S POLICING PHILOSOPHY

Community support from law abiding citizens is critical in preventing and deterring crime.

COMMUNITY-ORIENTED & PROBLEM-SOLVING POLICING PROJECTS

East Wheat Ridge Project

East Wheat Ridge Cleanup Day4

Park and Trailhead Project

Increased Visibility to Address Safety

Trailhead Vehicle Trespasses

Park Sweeps/Assessments

Boyd's Crossing Project (I-70 / Kipling Corridor)

Property Type Specific Targeted Enforcement

TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT PROJECTS5

City-Wide

Colorado Highway 58 / I-70 Project

Negotiate 58 Campaign

DUI Enforcement

Distracted Driving

One Text or Call Could Wreck it All

Aware and Alive Program.....6

OPERATIONAL PLANS IN PLACE7

Coyote Management Plan

Emergency Management

COMMUNITY OUTREACH.....8

Christmas Crusade for Children

Hooked on Fishing

School Resource Officers

Child Safety Fair9

**Community/Officer Network for Crisis Emergency Referral Needs
(CONCERN) Program**

Participation in Community Non-Profit Programs

PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES TO GET INVOLVED	10
Explorer Program Reinstated	
<i>Officer Interaction with Youth</i>	
Volunteer Program & Volunteer Academy	
Citizen Police Academy	
Neighborhood Watch.....	11
KEEPING YOU INFORMED	
Early Warning Sirens	
Smart 911 Program	
Code Red	
POWR Network– <u>P</u>ublic & <u>P</u>olice <u>O</u>rganization of <u>W</u>heat <u>R</u>idge	
SECURE – <u>S</u>tandard <u>E</u>mergency <u>C</u>ontact <u>U</u>pdate and <u>R</u>esponse	
City of Wheat Ridge Website	
VOICE YOUR CONCERNS / SUGGESTIONS	12
Police Citizen Satisfaction Survey	
Professional Standards Unit (PSU) 2013 Summary	
Awards	
Employee-Involved Accidents	
Use of Force	
Pursuits / Eluding	
Hiring	
Complaints	
Early Warning System	
How to File a Complaint or Compliment	
LOOKING AT COMMUNITY CRIME	13
<u>S</u>trategic <u>A</u>nalysis <u>F</u>or <u>E</u>ffective <u>R</u>esponse - SAFER Wheat Ridge Program	
Crime Statistics	
Crime Fighting Efforts	
Motor Vehicle Thefts	
Thefts from Motor Vehicles	
Metro Auto Theft Task Force MATT	14
West Metro Drug Task Force (WMDTF)	
SIGNIFICANT INVESTIGATIONS / POSITIVE RESULTS.....	15
2013 Active Investigation Cases.....	16

THE HISTORY OF WHEAT RIDGE LAW ENFORCEMENT

The Good Ole' Days

- 1861-Wheat Ridge was almost exclusively a quiet farming community that supported Denver and nearby mining communities, with occasional thefts and cow poaching.
- 1880's-Wheat Ridge was not a "den of iniquity", but it did suffer from common problems of the times of the Denver area, *very much like it still does today* - large scale prostitution, gambling, and swindling. When run out of Denver, the crime rings ran south, spilling into Wheat Ridge.
- Early 1900's-Jefferson County Sheriff ordered all slot machines to be closed. This included three businesses in Wheat Ridge.

Over the years there were constant complaints to Jefferson County Sheriff's Office regarding cattle rustling, illegal gambling and other crimes. The limited resources of the Sheriff's Office kept the area from receiving any regular patrol.

- 1921-1930-The Ku Klux Klan was a major political and social organization. Their message of "strong law and order" struck a nerve in the old fashioned values of the common farmers, and the citizens were eager to support the Klan's new purported vision.
- 1916-Prohibition of all intoxicating liquor went into effect. The first arrest for making moonshine was in Wheat Ridge. Bootlegging became common.
- 1931-Undercover Jefferson County Sheriff and Denver Police officers raided a Road House in Wheat Ridge. Twenty-five arrests were made of organized crime conference members, who were fixing prices and determining liquor distribution in the Denver area. Prohibition was repealed four years later.
- 1950's- The population began to grow, and the residents began to request additional law enforcement protection. The Sheriff refused, citing lack of funding. An aging deputy, looking for a retirement job, started his own business. One hundred and fifty Wheat Ridge businesses paid him to make regular rounds, from dusk to dawn, seven days a week, to prevent crime and provide security.

Stopping at the Country Gentleman mom-and-pop grocery one night, Wheat Ridge's protector was shot in the head, through his car windshield, and died. His shooters were two Folsom Prison escapees engaged in holding up the store. The two were eventually arrested and sentenced to life in Canon City Prison, where they both died.

- Mid 1960's-Jefferson County Sheriff Deputies signed up to work off-duty in Wheat Ridge.
- August, 1969-the City of Wheat Ridge became incorporated. Jack Bramble became the Acting Chief of Police, with no pay and little recognition, working a full-time job at Coors, and patrolling at night. Ten Jefferson County Sheriff deputies contracted to become the first Wheat Ridge police officers.
- 1970-Ed Pinson became the first Chief of Police. Eight sheriff deputy recruits were attending the Jefferson County Sheriff's Academy. They were advised by the Sheriff that they all had the option of joining the Wheat Ridge Police Department, or resigning. All eight signed on, bringing the total sworn count to 19.

Today

Over the past 40 years, the Wheat Ridge Police Department has: had four police chiefs, been housed in five different locations and handled over ¾ million calls for service. Wheat Ridge has always been a product of the times and its surroundings. Just as today, the Denver area plays a big part in the formation of Wheat Ridge. The major crime concerns of the citizens in the early 20th century were vice-related. Today, the most common crimes are Robbery, Burglary, and Auto Theft.

Division Chief Jim Lorentz



1893 - Ernest Apel Farm, W. 45th Ave./Wadsworth Blvd.



1970 - 1st Municipal Building, in the basement of the bank, W. 38th Ave./Upham St.



1970 - 1st Police Academy Class

THE HISTORY OF WHEAT RIDGE POLICE DEPARTMENT'S SHOULDER PATCH



Late 1960s - Jefferson County Officers signed up to work off-duty in Wheat Ridge.



1969 - Wheat Ridge was incorporated. Still paid by the County, nine became the 1st officers.



1969 - Wheat Ridge was incorporated. The contract with the County was discontinued.



1975 - Additional patches ordered, but were not a good duplication. Became known as the "peanut patch".



2000 - New shape, and a stylized version of the City Seal, depicting mountains, plains, and wheat stalks.



2009 to present

The general theme of the current patch is to respect the history of the department over the past 40 years; and to incorporate features of previous police patches, with a new professional image, to signify positive changes. The word "Colorado" was added, which had been missing from the previous patch. It has a large, bold "POLICE" banner in the center and a stylized version of the Colorado State Seal, reminiscent of previous Wheat Ridge patches. "Est. 1969" appears in the center of the patch, to further acknowledge the history of the department. The City marketing logo appears at the top of the patch to represent the optimism of the future.

POLICE OFFICERS WITH 20+ YEARS OF SERVICE

Still Committed to Serving Our Community After All These Years

41 years of service	Division Chief Joe Cassa	30 years of service	Commander Dave Pickett
36	Commander Wade Hammond	23	Sergeant Mark Moellenberg
35	Commander Mark Cooney	23	Officer Larry Taggart
34	Sergeant Kevin Armstrong	22	Sergeant Jon Pickett
32	Officer Dave Piermattei	22	Sergeant Charles Gallegos
32	Officer Steve Berkowitz	22	Detective Cheri Ells
32	Officer J. J. Jones	21	Sergeant Tracy Wardell
31	Officer Mark Hester	20	Sergeant J. D. Jepkem
31	Officer Mark Slavsky		





QUOTE FROM DANIEL BRENNAN, CHIEF OF POLICE

“To successfully address the crime and quality of life issues in these neighborhoods, the police department must engage residents, business owners, and other stakeholders in a collaborative problem-solving effort that identifies the causes for these problems, and develops positive solutions to address them. I feel fortunate to have great partnerships in this endeavor, with the involvement of these community organizations. I am proud of the leadership and commitment displayed by members of the Wheat Ridge Police Department in initiating this important project.”

Daniel G. Brennan, Chief of Police

WHEAT RIDGE POLICE DEPARTMENT’S POLICING PHILOSOPHY

Community support from law abiding citizens is critical in preventing and deterring crime.

Traditional Policing Values

- Timely response to calls
- Thorough investigations
- Courteous customer service
- Accident investigation
- Recovery and return of property
- Crime scene processing
- Criminal apprehension
- Successful prosecution of offenders

and



Community Oriented Policing Ideals

- Partnerships with stakeholders in the community
- Problem solving
- Addressing issues of crime, social disorder, quality of life, and traffic
- Officers responsible for problems in specific areas of the community
- Analysis of data to determine trends and patterns
- Proactive responses emphasized to address quality of life issues, community safety and strategic resource allocation

COMMUNITY-ORIENTED & PROBLEM-SOLVING POLICING PROJECTS East Wheat Ridge Project

“When community members have safe places to ride bikes, walk in their neighborhoods, and ride public transportation, they are healthier.”

Molly Hanson, Live Well Wheat Ridge Coordinator

Neighborhoods are built on a sense of community and residents’ pride in their property and surroundings. Beginning in 2009, the City of Wheat Ridge the Wheat Ridge Police Department, Wheat Ridge 2020 and LiveWell Wheat Ridge, engaged in a project intended to improve the appearance of property, the safety of its residents, and the quality of life in your neighborhoods. This project has focused on the area between Harlan Street and Sheridan Boulevard because of its classic neighborhoods and proximity to the City of Denver.

The Wheat Ridge Police Department and its partners have recognized the importance of enhancing the partnership with the community to reduce crime and prevent neighborhood decline. In addition, we want to increase property value, provide healthy living choices, and attract new and law abiding citizens to our community. The revitalization project strives to reduce crime, improve quality of life, address traffic concerns, create a healthier community and to connect residents to community resources.

East Wheat Ridge Project Successes

“There is great power in neighborhoods when residents come together for a common goal.”

Britta Fisher, Executive Director Wheat Ridge 2020

Through grant dollars and funding from the city, research has been conducted and many community meetings have been held to obtain information on what should be done to accomplish these goals. The partnership has held cleanup days, provided bicycle patrols in the warm months, directed patrols to help with specific crime and traffic issues, and made a concerted effort to work with the community to address quality of life issues by cleaning up alleys and properties. The project so far has resulted in many successes, including a reduction in crime and improvements to public and private property.

Safe Greenbelt Project

Increased Visibility to Address Safety

In an effort to make visiting the Wheat Ridge Greenbelt a more enjoyable experience for all visitors, the Wheat Ridge Police Department began the Safe Greenbelt Project. The goal of this program is to take a proactive approach to reducing criminal activity in our City greenbelt, and to work with the community to gather information about suspicious activity, as well as solicit any input patrons may have on how to make our parks and greenbelt more enjoyable or safe. The local greenbelt and trailheads are a continual focus of increased proactive patrol by the Wheat Ridge Police Department. Officers patrol the Greenbelt on foot, bicycle and ATV. WRPD also works with area service providers to identify homeless camps along the Greenbelt in order to provide them with food, housing and other community resources.



Boyd’s Crossing Project (I-70 / Kipling Corridor)

Property Type Specific Targeted Enforcement

The Boyd’s Crossing Project is a Community Oriented Police project designed to decrease crime rates and improve quality of life issues along the I-70 / Kipling corridor. A full analysis of this area was conducted by Wheat Ridge Police, and resulted in a plan focusing on targeted enforcement, general property clean-up and the formation of Neighborhood Watch groups. The plan also includes targeted outreach and enforcement on area hotels / motels. Officers can provide hotels with a Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) inspection that helps the hotel managers to examine opportunities for crime prevention measures in and around their business. The program also focuses on multi-housing apartment communities by educating those communities about a Crime-Free Program designed to reduce criminal activity around their community. The Crime-Free Program provides training for property owners and managers, crime prevention surveys and education for residents.



TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT PROJECTS

City-Wide

- 1,625 accidents occurred in 2013
- 181 accidents involved injuries
- 2 accidents were fatal
- Over 8,000 traffic stops were made
- 5,039 traffic summonses were issued



Colorado Highway 58 / I-70 Project *Negotiate 58 Campaign*

In 2013, 12 serious motor vehicle accidents occurred on the interchange on the eastbound highway 58 exit on to eastbound I-70 in Wheat Ridge. Three of those accidents resulted in overturned semi-trucks. Although those numbers may seem low, there is a substantial concern by WRPD for that area. The accidents prove to be serious and greatly impact police staffing. They also close down the roadway for several hours each time an occurrence happens. In response to the problem, members of WRPD's Crime and Traffic Team (CATT) created the "Negotiate 58" campaign to educate regular motorists, as well as semi operators, of the dangers that the interchange poses. With the help of the local Coors Brewery, informational fliers were distributed to their beer truck drivers. The Colorado Department of Transportation will be adding large flashing "SLOW DOWN" signs as well



DUI Enforcement

*Nearly 30 people die every day from drunk driving –
That's one death every 48 minutes.*

- Over 200 hours of direct enforcement was performed by WRPD officers
- 176 DUI arrests were made as a result of these efforts



Distracted Driving

One Text or Call Could Wreck it All

U Drive. U Text. U Pay.



Officers spent hundreds of hours conducting enforcement and education on the dangers of texting while driving.

“Sending or receiving a text takes a driver’s eyes off the road for an average of 4.6 seconds, the equivalent of driving blind at 55 mph for the length of an entire football field.”
U.S. Department of Transportation

Aware and Alive Program

*Inspired by personal tragedy, this presentation will change the way you drive.
A Sobering look at driving in a modern world filled with constant distraction.*

Don't Become Another Statistic...



Distracted driving has become an epidemic throughout the country. Statistics gathered nationally found that in 2011 3,331 people were killed in crashes involving a distracted driver, ranging from texting, talking to a passenger, controlling a navigation or radio system, grooming, eating, or watching a video.

Community awareness of the split second repercussions of such seemingly simple decisions must become a top priority in communities across the country.

Distracted Driving is Like Driving Blind

This program is an innovative approach to provide drivers with a sobering look at the realities that we face while driving in a world of constant distraction. This is a driver awareness program that provides citizens with a life changing presentation for all drivers that focuses on everyday distractions that can end in tragedy, authored by Wheat Ridge Police Department's own Corporal John Bowman.



Corporal John Bowman

Corporal Bowman incorporates his personal story of his daughter's fiancé being killed and his daughter being critically injured in a car accident, to help others avoid this type of tragedy. With the purpose of saving lives, Corporal Bowman takes a sobering look at distracted driving, drowsy driving, and the use of seatbelts and car seats. With this life experience and his experience as a driving instructor, he provides statistics, emotionally charged videos, and safe driving tips to promote an atmosphere which leads participants to become aware of their own weaknesses. The programs also helps participants to understand the mistakes of those driving around them, and of the habits and distractions that keep them from driving safely, being aware of their surroundings, and the impact they can have on the roadway and their own, or others' lives. In 2013, over 1,500 people viewed this presentation.

There are three basic types of distraction:

- Visual – eyes off road
- Manual – hands off wheel
- Cognitive – mind off driving

Texting while driving involves all three



You tell his mother you only looked down for a second.

Only you can decide to make a difference, and only you can decide to save a life!

Embrace Life – ALWAYS wear your seat belt!

OPERATIONAL PLANS IN PLACE

Coyote Management Plan

Safely Co-Existing with the Encroachment of Coyotes

The City of Wheat Ridge in cooperation with Colorado Parks and Wildlife developed a Coyote Management Plan. The purpose of the plan is to provide information on how to safely co-exist with coyotes. The plan includes a variety of educational pieces and techniques that have been proven to be successful in the management of human-coyote conflicts. The plan requires active participation from the community in utilizing proven methods to modify coyote behaviors. Public Safety is the main concern of the City of Wheat Ridge, and coyotes will be managed with human safety as the priority. Community Service Officers respond on all coyote-related calls to determine what type of event has occurred (an observation/sighting, an encounter/incident, pet attack or human attack, with a nuisance or dangerous coyote.



Emergency Management

City and Citizen Preparedness

WRPD engages in preparedness training year round not only within the city, but with multiple jurisdictions. We responded to one major weather issue in 2013, as a result of the storms in mid-September. Problems encountered included flooded basements, washed out trails and the potential for the need for a large dam release at Maple Grove Reservoir, which would have resulted in considerable flooding and danger to residents and first responders. As a result of this, meetings were held to mitigate the issue of flooding in the future.



Over 2013, the Wheat Ridge Police Department also updated our Emergency Operations Plan, purchased SMART Boards for the Emergency Operations Center and Command Van and increased our mapping capabilities for emergencies.

The department conducted an emergency hazmat / light rail exercise in conjunction with the Lakewood Police Department, local hospitals and the Senior Resource Center in the summer of 2013. Other emergency situation training included extensive work with Lutheran Medical Center.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Connecting with the Community

Christmas Crusade for Children

Dedicated to the memory of those officers who have fallen in the line of duty, and to the lives and futures of the children they sought to serve and protect, the Christmas Crusade for Children holds a very special place in the hearts of the Wheat Ridge Police Department. Our officers always relish the opportunity to go out on a shopping spree to brighten the spirits of children who would not otherwise receive a gift on Christmas morning. The program also helps to present law enforcement officers as positive figures in children's lives



Hooked on Fishing

Fish tales told here



The Police Department and the Colorado Parks and Wildlife partnered at Prospect Lake to provide thirty junior anglers in our community with wildlife education, fishing poles and demonstrations. More importantly, Hooked on Fishing give our neighborhood children a chance to get out in nature while learning to fish, interacting with our officers and having fun at the same time.

School Resource Officers

In the Schools

The School Resource Officer (SRO) program is one of the most popular police department programs in the community. The Wheat Ridge Police Department provides three SROs to Jefferson County Public Schools located within the City of Wheat Ridge's jurisdiction, including seven elementary schools. The SROs foster a close working relationship with school administrators and their staff members. The SROs handle the majority of calls for service at all the schools, complete case filings on serious misdemeanor and most felony cases and are available to teach classes at the request of their assigned schools. The SROs also work closely with truancy intervention, anti-bullying, school safety protocols, peer counselors, and mediate administrative situations with students and their parents. SROs also work with members of the Crime Prevention Team in hosting Bike Safety Rodeos for elementary school students.



"Prom Night" Mock Disaster Training at Wheat Ridge High School

Child Safety Fair

Día de los Niños – Children’s Day

The Wheat Ridge Police Department is proud to sponsor the annual Children’s Day (Dia De Los Niños). The family friendly event is a great way for parents and children to meet members of our police department in a fun environment. Children’s Day includes free bike inspections, child ID kits and car seat check-ups. “We at the Police Department love opportunities like these to be involved with the families in our community” says Police Chief Dan Brennan, “Kids and parents alike can learn so much from events like Children’s Day and have a great time doing it.”



Community/Officer Network for Crisis Emergency Referral Needs (CONCERN) Program

Addressing Community Mental Health Needs

WRPD’s CONCERN Program is collaborative partnership between Jefferson Center for Mental Health Metro Crisis Services and Wheat Ridge Police to provide law enforcement with a 24/7 telephonic referral process and consultative resource for adults with mental illness. The program provides increased access to mental health and/or substance use services and follow up support for those adults. The idea came about in order to promote community collaboration in addressing the mental health needs of individuals who come in contact with our officers.



Participation in Community Non-Profit Programs

Employees are encouraged to participate in community charitable efforts



Torch Run for Special Olympics



St. Baldrick's



Mothers Against Drunk Drivers



Feed the Future Backpack Program

WRPD & THE COMMUNITY WORKING TOGETHER

Explorer Program Reinstated

Officer Interaction with Youth

The Wheat Ridge Police Department was proud to bring back our Explorer program for young men and woman in the community. Exploring is a career education program that gives young men and woman ages 14 ½ - 20 a firsthand experience on what it takes to start a career in law enforcement. The main goals of the program are not only designed to help teens choose a career in law enforcement, but more importantly to challenge them to transform into leaders and responsible citizens of their communities. Exploring can help prepare participants for a variety of law enforcement careers from police and correctional work to military and federal law enforcement.



Volunteer Program & Volunteer Academy

Police Department Volunteer Program Enhanced

The City of Wheat Ridge and the Wheat Ridge Police Department are committed to developing a partnership with the community. We recognize that citizen volunteers can be an important part of the organization and are a valuable asset. Volunteers serving in the Police Department are vital for us to provide a high level of service to members of the community. Volunteers are needed to support the Mission and Vision of the police department and become one of the “*exceptional people providing exceptional service*” within the organization. Volunteer positions give residents an opportunity to contribute to the Police Department, the City of Wheat Ridge and the community as a whole. Their service within the Police Department also gives them a much more personal and informed perspective on the Police Department, our personnel and the services the department provides.



Citizen Police Academy

The purpose of the Citizen Police Academy is to give people who live and/or work in the City of Wheat Ridge an opportunity to learn first-hand about the inner-workings of the Wheat Ridge Police Department. Police and civilian personnel will present lectures and demonstrations in order to give Citizen Police Academy participants an understanding of the Department's mission, practices, and operations.



Neighborhood Watch

Taking an Active Role in Making your Neighborhood Healthy and Crime-Free by Working with the Police Department

Neighborhood Watch is a group of citizens who have organized themselves with the goal of taking an active role in making their community healthy and crime-free. To accomplish this, the citizens work with law enforcement and other city resources. By building a problem-solving network that encourages citizens to form a bond to maintain their neighborhoods, both as a deterrent to crime and as a way to make the neighborhood a good place to live, residents solve their own problems. This is the basis of a strong community-policing program. The program operates through a communication chain that includes the Crime Prevention Team, block captains, and residents. Crime Prevention Officers, Community Services Officers, and other resources are also made available to help improve the quality of their communities. The Wheat Ridge Police Department assists our Neighborhood Watch groups by helping to coordinate activities and by providing safety training to the group.



KEEPING YOU INFORMED

Early Warning Sirens

- Sirens are primarily used to warn residents who are outdoors when dangerous weather or a flash flood is approaching. The system can also be used to alert residents and motorists of chemical spills and other emergency situations occurring in the City of Wheat Ridge. Often times in a situation such as this, the City web site will contain pertinent information.



Smart 911 Program

- Smart911 allows you to create a Safety Profile for your household which will proactively provide details on your family and home that emergency dispatchers may need in order to send help in the event of an emergency. The information is associated with the resident's address via the Police Computer Aided Dispatch system

CodeRED

- The CodeRED system is used to send critical communications, from evacuation notices to missing child alerts to residents. Citizens can register online to receive emergency information via their telephone. CodeRED works by delivering a recorded emergency notification that is sent to a specified set of addresses in a specific geographic area



POWR Network– Public & Police Organization of Wheat Ridge

- The Wheat Ridge Police Department's P.O.W.R. Network is an email and text messaging-based notification program, where information (recent crimes, known suspect information, public notifications, etc.) from the Police Department is easily shared with citizens through this network. Citizens can sign up through the City of Wheat Ridge Website to receive these notifications.

SECURE – Standard Emergency Contact Uppdate and Response

- The SECURE program offers Wheat Ridge business owners a convenient and confidential way to provide after-hours contact information to help protect their assets. By utilizing the Emergency Contact Information located in the Online Tax and Licensing System, the Police Department can retrieve their S.E.C.U.R.E. information in the event of an emergency. The business owner will be notified immediately if there is a police response to their business.

VOICE YOUR CONCERNS / SUGGESTIONS

Transparency to the Community



You may report any comments, positive or negative, regarding police service

Police Citizen Satisfaction Survey

We Want to Hear from You

- Complete an online survey on the City website.
- Fifty surveys are mailed to residents with recent contact with WRPD each month.

Professional Standards Unit (PSU) 2013 Summary

Creating a High Level of Accountability and Performance for all Employees

- Accepts positive and negative comments regarding police services/employees.
- Investigates & maintains records on:
 - Commendations, Complaints, Use of Force, Employee-Involved Accidents, Early Warning System, Eluding/Pursuits
- Researches, recommends, develops/writes policy
- Tracks trends, corrects deficiencies, identifies training needs

Awards

# Employees Recognized	85
# Commendations	89
# Challenge Coins Issued	20

Employee-Involved Accidents

# EIAs	14
Preventable	7
Non-Preventable	7

Use of Force

# Incidents	19
Justified	19
# Animal Euthanasia	4

Pursuits/Eluding

# Pursuits	0
# Eluding	19
# Justified	19
Compared to 2012	25
Compared to 2011	30

Hiring

#People Applied to be P.O.	538
% Female Applicants	17%
% Male Applicants	83%
# People Applied to be ESS	205
% Female Applicants	67%
% Male Applicants	33%
# Emerg Svc Spec(ESS) Hired	4
# Females Hired	3
# Males Hired	1

- Six Police Officer Recruits attended / graduated from the Police Academy.
- Two (2) Officers Promoted to Sergeant.
- First Crime/Research Analyst hired.

Complaints

# Complaints	69
Biased-Based Related (2 Not Sustained, 1 Exonerated)	3
Compared to 2012	74
Compared to 2011	100
#Classified as Inquiry	21
Classified as Minor	38
Classified as Administrative	7
Classified as Major	3
# Disposition of Sustained	24
Disposition of Not Sustained	26
Disposition of Exonerated	5
Disposition of Unfounded	8

- The overwhelming majority of complaints are Minor investigations.

Early Warning System

- activates when an employee:
 - Receives 2 Sustained allegations within 1 year,
 - Receives 4 allegations within 1 year, or
 - Is involved in 4 Use of Force incidents within 1 year.

How to File a Complaint or Compliment

- Appear in person at the Police Department, 2900 W. 29th Avenue. Ask to speak with the Watch Commander
- Call the PSU Sgt. 303-235-2908
- Write the Police Department, 2900 W. 29th Avenue, Wheat Ridge, 80033

LOOKING AT COMMUNITY CRIME

Strategic Analysis For Effective Response - SAFER Wheat Ridge Program

Strategic Analysis For Effective Responses (S.A.F.E.R.) is a program implemented by the Wheat Ridge Police Department that allows for a structured forum for sharing information between our bureaus. This process will help the Police Department focus resources in areas of the community hit hardest by repeat crime. The S.A.F.E.R. program focuses on assessing crime patterns, locations of repeat police response and quality of life issues for the citizens of Wheat Ridge. Monthly meetings are attended by the Police Department's Management Team, representatives from various bureaus within the department, and others that are involved in current problem-solving efforts. Crime trends and patterns, quality of life issues, and traffic problems are identified.

2013 Crime Statistics

Vehicular Homicide	1
Attempted Homicide	2
Robbery	25
Burglary	228
Sex Assault	33
Aggravated Assault	55
Arson	12
Motor Vehicle Theft	199
1st Degree Criminal Trespass	273
Theft	779
Sex Offense Against Children	36
Simple Assault	203
Fraud/Forgery	248
Theft of Motor Vehicle Parts	28
Vandalism	280
Defacing Property	431
Weapons Possession	42
Prostitution	5
Drug Related	162
Domestic Violence	262
Domestic Disturbance	345
Disorderly Conduct	80
Missing Person	37
Runaway	114
Curfew	8
Alcohol	99
Detox	181
DUI Case Reports	176
Suspicion Case Reports	558
Suspicion CAD Reports	1,933
Code Enforcement	1,832
Animal Control	1,653
Parks Violation	19

Total Accidents	1,625
Property Damage Accidents	1,314
Injury Accidents	181

Crime Fighting Efforts

Total Calls For Service	32,483
Case Reports	13,988
Officer Initiated Case Reports	2,654
Computer Aided Dispatch Reports	9,485
CAD Traffic	9,010
Field Interviews	540
Traffic Summons	5,039
Adult Custody/Criminal Summons	1,609
Adult Physical Custody	1,132
Juvenile Custody/Criminal Summons	299
Juvenile Physical Custody	131
Community Service Officer Summons	87

Motor Vehicle Thefts

- 199 vehicles were stolen in Wheat Ridge.

Thefts from Motor Vehicles

- 273 Criminal Trespass offenses relating to vehicles occurred in the City
- Almost one-half of these vehicles were UNLOCKED, or windows cracked.
- The most common valuables taken were electronics, purses/wallets, and cash left in plain sight.

Metro Auto Theft Task Force (MATT)

- In July, MATT detectives responded on an auto theft in progress. The suspect was involved in a crime spree which involved 14 victims. He first stole two vehicles and attempted to ram Denver officers, then attempted a carjacking, in which he held onto the hood of the intended victim's vehicle for several blocks before falling off. He then stole another car, and proceeded to enter an occupied home and steal the keys to yet another vehicle. Next, he attempted to carjack more victims before succeeding in taking a car at knife point, after which citizens witnessed him trying to break into multiple vehicles. The suspect was finally contacted by the shoreline of Main Reservoir, ignoring verbal commands to surrender, and jumped into the water. Following a short swim, he was taken into custody.
- In July, the ring leader of an organized criminal enterprise specializing in the theft of several Hondas and Acura was sentenced to 20 years community corrections. Once stolen, the cars were chopped and the parts sold or reinstalled in street racer type vehicles. Several surveillance operations were conducted, which led to the identification of the suspect.



West Metro Drug Task Force (WMDTF)

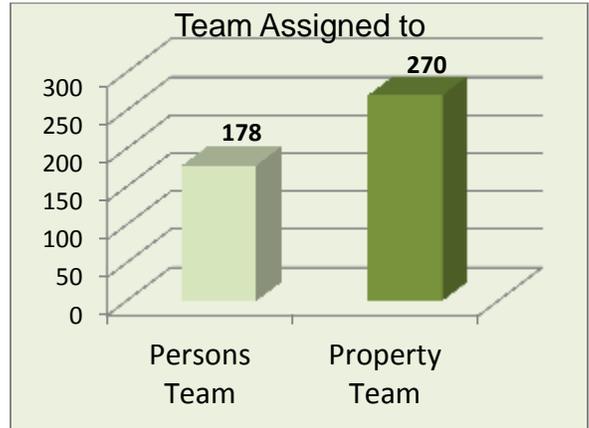
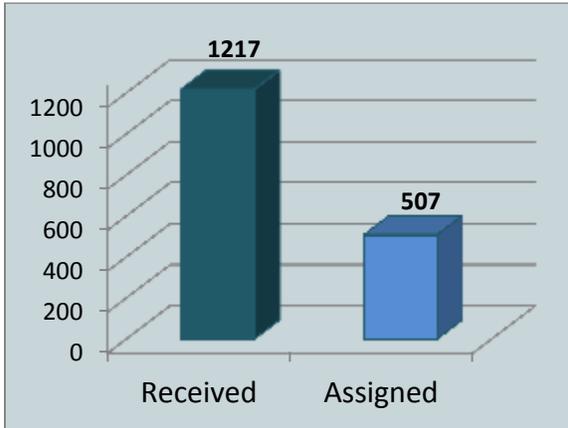
- **927 Investigations**
 - 6 Drug Trafficking Organizations
 - TREND IDENTIFIED - 40 “overnight mail” related investigations
 - Shipments of marijuana and related products to other states
 - Developed relationship with postal facilities
 - Education provided
 - Identification of “load packages”
 - Notification
 - Streamlined reporting procedures
 - Anticipated to continue to increase in 2014 and into years beyond
 - TREND IDENTIFIED – increase in the number of marijuana “grows” investigations
 - Anticipated to continue to increase in 2014 and into years beyond
 - Expected to have a significant negative impact on law enforcement resources
- **710 Arrests**
- **Seizures**
 - 13.43 kilos methamphetamine
 - 6.72 kilos powder cocaine
 - .85 kilos crack cocaine
 - 4.92 kilos heroin
 - TREND IDENTIFIED - 485% increase from 2012 (highest ever)
 - Increase in the use of “load vehicles” with manufactured “hides”
 - Elaborate, sophisticated designs with electronic switches and locking mechanisms
 - A significant concern, since it is readily available and affordable to younger high school age individuals.
 - 2.13 kilos hallucinogen
 - 197.17 pounds marijuana
 - 1,043 marijuana plants
 - 15 handguns
 - 3 rifles/shotguns
 - 5 assault weapons
 - \$593,222 in U.S. currency



SIGNIFICANT INVESTIGATIONS / POSITIVE RESULTS

- At the end of 2012, a horrific murder was committed. The victim had been stabbed over 30 times. Multiple detectives worked throughout 2013 on this investigation. Sufficient information was eventually developed on the victim's girlfriend's current boyfriend, and he was subsequently arrested. The trial ended in a First Degree Murder conviction.
- Detectives investigated a stabbing that took place at a local motel. The 40-year-old male victim was found suffering from life-threatening stab wounds. Two days later, detectives found the female suspect had stolen the male's vehicle, and was located in Pueblo. The suspect was held on suspicion of criminal attempt of First-Degree Murder, with a \$250,000 bond. The suspect was convicted of Attempted Murder.
- In June, officers responded on a report of an assault. Officers found a 41-year-old male who had been stabbed multiple times in the upper torso, including the face, neck, and chest areas. The two suspects, upon returning to the scene, were arrested and held on charges of Criminal Attempt, First Degree Murder. The victim underwent multiple surgeries.
- Leann "Annie" Meyer was last seen February 23; her remains were found in Park County on July 4; roommate, Melissa Miller, was arrested July 15, when she confessed to the murder. Miller pled guilty to 2nd Degree Murder, and was sentenced to 20 years.
- Investigators combed a stretch of Clear Creek trail in search of a known sex offender wanted on a warrant for failing to register and with a long criminal record, accused of chasing and stabbing a woman and her toddler son. The woman stated the male, whom she identified, jumped from the bushes, chased and then stabbed them. The woman was cut on her legs and the boy suffered puncture wounds to his abdomen. Three weeks into the investigation, detectives discovered that the female was a witness in a rape case against the male, and she was attempting to frame him, and had in fact stabbed her son herself. The female was arrested on charges of Child Abuse Resulting in a Serious Bodily Injury, and held on a \$100,000 cash only bond. She later pled guilty to stabbing the child.
- The Wheat Ridge Intel/Vice detective joined a group of investigators, creating the Colorado Trafficking and Organized Crime Coalition. The group conducted several undercover operations targeting Asian massage parlors and spas throughout the year, which are believed to be involved in not only prostitution, but also human trafficking crimes. Four arrests for prostitution were made, and the investigation continues. During the latter part of 2013, after a second undercover operation and several other enforcement actions, the main massage parlor being focused on eventually shut down.
- A Jefferson County Grand Jury indicted eight members of an alleged theft ring on 127 counts. The accused were charged with operating a theft ring for over a year, and stealing more than \$114,000, after breaking into 42 businesses in Wheat Ridge, Lakewood, and Arvada. Members of the organization burglarized convenience stores and liquor stores; stealing cigarettes, liquor and other merchandise. Defendants were charged with violating Colorado's Organized Crime Control Act (COCCA) along with theft, burglary, and criminal mischief.

2013 Active Investigation Cases



Average Case Loads

Property Team Detective

41 cases worked per year
30 cases filed per year
3.5 new cases per month

Persons Team Detective

54 cases worked per year
30 cases filed per year
4.5 new cases per month



“The most difficult crime to track is the one which is purposeless.”