

2009 ANNUAL REPORT

JANUARY 18, 2010

CHIEF'S MESSAGE...REFLECTIONS

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Police Chief Randy Boelddt

As I approach my 20 year anniversary as Police Chief for the Village of Elkhart Lake, I can't help but reflect back over the years.

I began my career with the Village of Elkhart Lake on May 1, 1990. At the time of my appointment I had no idea what it took to be a small town Police Chief. I had never owned a computer; never been responsible for a budget (other than my personnel checkbook); and, I had never had employees reporting to me.

I had worked my entire law enforcement career on third shift, working in the dark and not necessarily dealing with the nicest of people. But low and behold, I came to Elkhart Lake and how shall I say, saw the light of day.

Initially I felt like I was living in a fish bowl. After years of pa-

trolling the entire county, I found the village limits to be very confining. It also seemed odd to me that people would smile and wave, like they were actually happy to see me.

As I grew accustomed to this new environment, the community faced a set back. First, the hardware store closed, then the doctors office, and finally the pharmacy. I began to wonder if I had made a mistake by coming to Elkhart Lake, was this a dying community?

It didn't take long for my questions to be answered as negotiations began for the construction of a new resort. As discussions progressed, it became obvious that the developers vision for the resort was not fully embraced by the entire community. But, after years of compromise and perseverance, the Osthoff Resort was finally built on the grounds of the former Harrand Camp.

Along with the resort, came a new breath of fresh air. The Village Board now had the resources to improve the community and make it even more beautiful than it already was. Our "new" Elkhart Lake was suddenly more attractive to busi-

nesses and tourists alike. Yes, it appeared I made the right decision after all.

Over the years there have been other law enforcement opportunities but never once have I considered leaving Elkhart Lake. You see, I truly fell in love with this quaint little community and everyone in it.

It's true that our summer season can be challenging, trying to find and then train additional part-time staffing; but I have always met the challenge, having trained 56 employees along the way.

I have also been blessed to work with a Village Board that has consistently shared the same vision and law enforcement philosophies and one which has allowed me to run the department without micromanagement.

With that being said, I want to thank the Village Board and all the residents of Elkhart Lake for a great 20 years. I look forward to serving you into the future and meeting the challenges that lie ahead

Respectfully,

Randy Boelddt

**" By three methods we may learn wisdom:
First by reflection, which is noblest;
Second, in imitation, which is easiest; and third by experience, which is the bitterest.
— Confucius —**

“ELKHART LAKE MAN CHARGED FOR MARIJUANA GROW LAB”

APRIL 29, 2009 SHEBOYGAN PRESS



Marijuana Grow Operation

On April 24, 2009 the Elkhart Lake Police Department received a phone call reporting a marijuana growing operation in Apartment 2, 94 West Rhine Street.

Officer Meeusen responded to that

location and was able to gain enough information to apply for a Search Warrant.

Seized during the execution of the Search Warrant were 17 marijuana plants ranging in height from three to five feet and another 31 plants that were several inches in height. All of the plants had been surrounded by tin foil and had grow lights suspended over them to aid in their growth.

As a result of this investigation Andrew Thaldorf was charged with two felonies for the manufacturing of THC and maintaining a drug trafficking place / possession with intent to deliver a controlled substance near a park.

“WOMAN DIES DURING ELKHART LAKE TRIATHLON”

JUNE 13, 2009 SHEBOYGAN PRESS

On June 13, 2009 54 year old Julia Silletti drown while participating in the annual Elkhart Lake Triathlon.

Ms Silletti was participating in her first triathlon and was just finishing the swim portion of the event when observers noticed that she was in distress, standing in the water near shore. Ms Silletti was helped to shore where she collapsed.

Paramedics, First Responders, and a doctor who was participating in the event, all administered life saving techniques immediately following her collapse. Ms Silletti was transported to St. Nicholas Hospital where she was later pronounced dead.

“ELKHART LAKE MAN GETS 25 YEARS FOR SEX CRIMES”

JUNE 26, 2009 SHEBOYGAN PRESS

Richard Schamberger was sentenced to 25 years in prison after pleading guilty to 10 of the 22 sexual assault charges that were levied against him a year earlier.

“POLICE ID MAN INJURED IN ELKHART LAKE COLLISION”

“OHIO MAN, 50 WAS VACATIONING IN AREA”

JULY 12, 2009 SHEBOYGAN PRESS

On July 10, 2009 the Elkhart Lake Police Department was dispatched to the Osthoff Resort for a boating accident that occurred on Elkhart Lake.

The investigation determined that Hugh Walsh was sailing a 12' Butterfly sailboat when his boat was struck by a 19' Crownline powerboat with a 190 HP inboard/outboard motor driven by Brian Kaufman. The impact from the crash cut the sailboat in half.

Kaufman indicated that he had been distracted by two small children in the boat and didn't see the sailboat until it was too late. He was cited for failure to yield to the sailboat.

Hugh Walsh sustained 12 broken ribs and a punctured lung in the crash. He was initially treated at St. Nicholas Hospital and later transported to Froedtert Hospital in Milwaukee.



Hugh Welsh sailboat

“SUICIDAL ELKHART LAKE MAN ARRESTED AFTER STANDOFF WITH SWAT TEAM”

— JULY 24, 2009 SHEBOYGAN PRESS —

On July 23, 2009 Officer Meeusen received a phone call from a man who was concerned about the welfare of his friend who lives on Carriage House Lane in Elkhart Lake. He told officer Meeusen that his friend was despondent and said that he would not be able to golf the next morning, because he wasn't going to be alive.

Officer Meeusen responded to the residence and observed the despondent 61-year-old male inside the residence with a handgun. Officer Meeusen began to step away from the residence when a gunshot rang out.

The Sheboygan County Swat Team was called for assistance as well as Chief Boeldt who was familiar with the indi-

vidual.

The situation ended when the 61-year-old came out onto his deck and he was subdued with the utilization of a Taser.

The man was then transported to Memorial Hospital and held under an Emergency Detention

“MAN, WOMAN FACE BURGLARY CHARGES IN ELKHART LAKE”

— AUGUST 26, 2009 SHEBOYGAN PRESS—

On August 19, 2009 the Elkhart Lake Police Department received a report of suspicious circumstances that had occurred over night in Victorian Village. As a result of the investigation, it was determined that a burglary had actually occurred at 273 Victorian Village Drive, Unit B.

Taken in the burglary was approximately \$20,000 worth of household, sporting

goods, TV, and stereo equipment.

Investigation led officers of the Elkhart Lake Police Department to Milwaukee where a Search Warrant was executed and many of the stolen items were recovered. Other information was obtained during the search which led officers to a second residence in the Milwaukee area, where more of the sto-

len items were recovered.

As a result of the investigation Matthew Kovak, age 21, and his girlfriend, Lauren Wolf, age 19, both from Milwaukee, were arrested and charged with burglary and three counts of theft. Both have pled guilty to the charges and are waiting for sentencing in early January.

The real man smiles in trouble, gathers strength from distress, and grows brave by reflection.

— Thomas Paine

CALLS FOR SERVICE

In 2009, the Elkhart Lake Police Department handled 673 calls for service. This figure is up approximately 13% from the 595 calls handled in 2008.

The seriousness of the calls also seemed to be more severe. As an example, our department had a second gun call when a patron of

Siebken's Tavern dialed 911 reporting a man with a gun inside the tavern. This case ended peacefully when 26-year-old Aaron Potts turned the weapon over to the responding police officer. Aaron was subsequently charged with carrying a concealed weapon and disorderly conduct.

Likewise, in addition to the triathlon drowning, there was a second drowning that occurred on September 19th at Victorian Village. In that case 46-year-old, Kelly Bingham of Jones, OK had just swam to shore with a friend from a nearby pontoon boat. Once at shore this friend left the water and Kelly began doing

the backstroke back out into the lake. The next time they saw Kelly, she was floating in chest deep water. A member of Water Sports pulled Kelly to shore and members of the Elkhart Lake First Responders and Part-time Police Officer Wischki began resuscitation efforts.

Kelly was transported to St.

CALLS FOR SERVICE

Nicholas Hospital where she was pronounced dead. Sheboygan County Coroner Leffin ruled the death, accidental drowning.

As the chart to the left indicates, criminal calls increased by approximately 8% in 2009. Our busiest day of the week was Sunday, followed by Saturday, which might be a surprise to many. As one would expect our busiest months were the summer months of August, July, and June, followed by September.

Type of Call	Number of Calls	Calls by Day of The Week	Number of Calls
Assist	53	Monday	85
Boating	4	Tuesday	79
Criminal	120	Wednesday	99
Ordinance	153	Thursday	90
Service	252	Friday	93
Traffic	91	Saturday	110
Total Calls	673	Sunday	117

Calls by Month	Number of Calls
January	34
February	30
March	40
April	48
May	50
June	79
July	98
August	105
September	69
October	52
November	33
December	35

ARRESTS

In 2009, the Elkhart Lake Police Department issued 479 charges against various offenders. These charges include felonies, misdemeanors, traffic, and ordinance violations. 438 of the 479 charges were returnable in our Municipal Court, with the remainder being criminal charges returnable in Circuit Court.

The department issued 245 traffic related charges and 367 warnings for traffic violations. Included in the traffic charges were 10 drunk driving charges. The following table illustrates the age, gender, offense number and blood alcohol content for each of the violations.

As shown, the average blood alcohol content (BAC) of the violations was .186%, up from .174% in 2008. The average age of the offenders was 32 years of age, also up from the age of 29 from 2008.

The penalty for first offense drunk driving carries the punishment of a fine (The higher the BAC, the higher the fine.) and a mandatory six month revocation of their



Age	Gender	Offense	Reading
21	Male	1st	.11
22	Male	1st	.24
23	Male	1st	Refusal
29	Male	2nd	.25
27	Male	3rd	.16
44	Female	1st	.13
34	Male	2nd	.22
42	Male	4th	.18
57	Female	1st	.21
21	Male	1st	.18

drivers license. Once convicted, the offenders are eligible to obtain an occupational license immediately.

If the violator refuses to take the BAC test (one in 2009) they are not only charged with drunk driving and the associated penalties, but there is also a mandatory one year revocation of their drivers license and they are not eligible to obtain an occupational license for 30 days.

The department also issued 39 drug charges for various offences which included: 19 possession of drug paraphernalia; 15 possession of marijuana; 1 possession of psychogenic mushrooms; 1 possession of cocaine; 1 manufacture THC; 1 maintain a drug house; and 1 for possession of controlled substances near a park.

It should also be noted that the burglary that occurred in 2009 was drug related.



Charges that pass through the Elkhart Lake Municipal Court are restricted to ordinance and other non-criminal traffic matters. All other, more serious violations are heard in Circuit Court.

Here in Elkhart Lake, court is held once a month on the second Tuesday. On the initial court date, defendants have the ability to plead in to the charge, or to enter a not guilty plea. If they plead in to the charge, the judge will assess a fine immediately. (Typically, the judge will give the person up to 60 days to pay the forfeiture.) If they enter a not guilty plea, they meet with the Prosecuting Attorney and try to resolve the matter. If they are unable to reach an agreement, the matter is scheduled for trial the following month. All the

trials are held before the judge since there are no jury trials in Municipal Court.

Since the courts inception in 2000, violators have failed to pay on 268 tickets, with a total amount due the court of \$54,940.69.

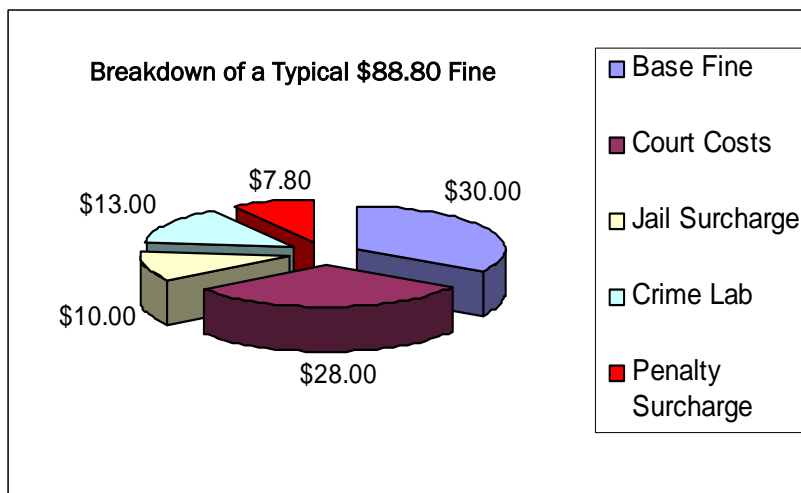
A number of different tactics are utilized to collect the unpaid fines, such as an Income Tax Refund Intercept, suspending a violators drivers' license, garnishments, and the utilization of a collection agency.

The Court currently has \$19,877.09 on file with H.E. Stark Collection Agency of Madison. Historically, the collection agency has collected \$2,653.22 in past due fines for the Court based on 18 citations. Likewise, \$27,680.15 is on file in the Tax Refund Intercept Program. Other actions have been taken against the offenders who owe the balance of \$7,383.45 as an incentive to get them to pay. (Such as suspending

their drivers license.)

Funding from a typical ticket is allocated to five different funds. The chart below illustrates the breakdown of a typical \$88.80 ticket. The Jail Surcharge, Crime Lab Fee and Court Costs remain constant for all tickets. The base fine increases with the severity of the violation and the penalty surcharge also varies, since it is 26% of the base fine.

Of the \$28 per ticket collected in court costs, the state of Wisconsin receives \$5 and the other \$23 goes toward our Municipal Court expenses. Expenses include items such as salaries, benefits, and continuing education. The 2009 court budget numbers are not complete at the time of this report, but it is anticipated that revenue collected from court costs will exceed expenditures by approximately \$2,200. This combined with the profit from 2008 should easily pay for a court software update coming in 2010.



Each of us is here for a brief sojourn; for what purpose he knows not, though he senses it. But without deeper reflection one knows from daily life that one exists for other people.

— Albert Einstein —