



Norton Shores Police Department

FY 2016 Annual Report

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Det. Jonathan Ginka Ofc. Jared Passchier Ofc. Shawn Stefanich Det. Ryan Pieske Ofc. Sara Trombley Ofc. Benjamin Visser

Ofc. David Hoffman Ofc. Daniel Gibbs Ofc. Scott VanWynen Ofc. Casey Leach Ofc. Bruce Morningstar Debra Strandberg Saquetta Chatman Collette Deblock

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ADMINISTRATION



The Norton Shores Police Department is under the command of Chief Jon Gale. The Chief of Police provides administrative control, establishes and implements policy relative to fiscal and operational control, personnel management, community relations and management of the agency's law enforcement accreditation program. The Department has the responsibility to provide the best law enforcement services possible to the community, at the least possible cost, by utilizing personnel and equipment in the most economical and efficient manner possible.

Emphasis for this agency has been on a community building campaign that promotes police-community relations which in turn makes our neighborhoods safer and a better place to live. Preventing and solving crime is a community effort. Our approach has been successful through such programs as National Night Out, Ride with Pride, Face the Book, Pizza with the Police, Public Safety Open House, Coffee with the Cops, and Operation Safe Exchange. These programs were enhanced and continue to grow as the support from the community becomes stronger.



Several challenges have been identified for the future of the department, which include technology and community relations. With the increased visibility nation-wide of body-worn camera systems, the agency is reviewing what is best for the officers and citizens of Norton Shores. Currently body-worn cameras are budgeted for FY2017. The department leadership will be cautious in ensuring that any programs in this segment of technology meet the goals and needs of the community.

Budget Expenditures:

In FY2016, the police department experienced many changes. The police garage and addition was completed. The garage addition has assisted the police department in saving engine idling time, gas mileage, response times, and evidence room efficiency. Employee lockers were added to store emergency gear in an area where it was easily accessible.

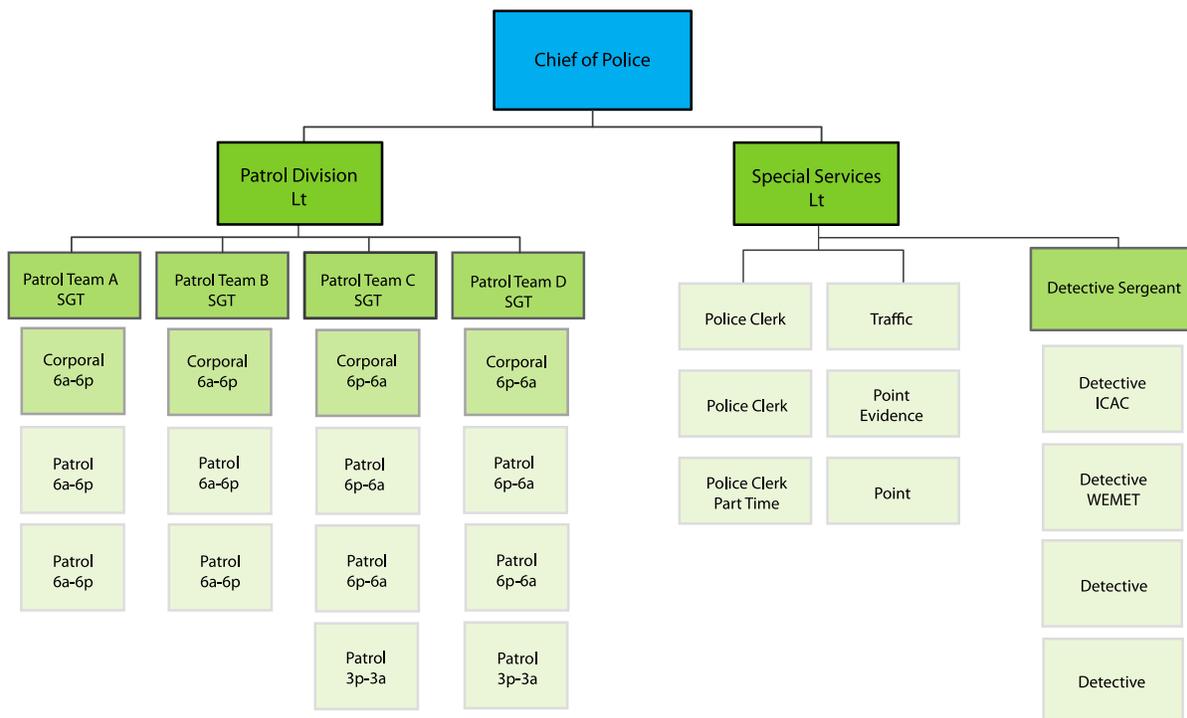


Also, in FY2016 the police department replaced ballistic vests for 22 officers. Video firearms training equipment was purchased to train officers on de-escalation methods. Officers are placed in simulated scenarios regarding shoot or don't shoot situations.



Personnel

During FY2016, the Department's authorized strength was maintained at 29 sworn and two non-sworn full-time personnel. In addition, the Department is authorized two part-time non-sworn clerical positions and five part-time non-sworn police cadets (see Appendix A for Department Roster).



New Employees

Officer Bruce Morningstar is a native of West Michigan, having lived in Allendale, Michigan. He graduated in 1996 from Grand Rapids Community College with an Associate's degree in Criminal Justice. He has also taken multiple courses through Grand Valley State University and Ferris State University. He has been a full time police officer for nineteen years and most recently as a Lieutenant for the Fruitport Township Police department.

Officer Bruce Morningstar was hired on August 10, 2015 and is currently assigned to the night shift road patrol.



The Department maintained the Police Cadet program for FY2016. The following are the police cadets hired for the 2016 season (Note: asterisk (*) indicates returning from the previous year).

Jessica Gaskin

Bree Carr

Antonio Flores

Gabrielle Depender*

Joseph Ingalls*

Law Enforcement Accreditation



On April 2, 2016, the Norton Shores Police Department was awarded its eighth consecutive Advanced Law Enforcement Accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA). The Department is one of only ten accredited law enforcement agencies in the State of Michigan and has been accredited since March 1993.

The Commission was established as an independent accrediting authority in 1979 by the four major law enforcement executive associations: the International Association of Chiefs of Police; the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives; the National Sheriffs' Association; and the Police Executive Research Forum. The Commission has 21 members – 11 of whom represent public safety agencies and 10 from the public and private sectors. The Commission was established for two reasons: to develop a set of law enforcement standards, and to establish and administer an accreditation process through which law enforcement agencies could demonstrate voluntarily that they meet professionally recognized criteria for excellence in management and service delivery. Over 900 public safety agencies throughout the United States, Canada, Mexico, Barbados, and Bermuda are enrolled in some stage of the CALEA process.



In a letter from Commission Chair Richard Myers and Executive Director W. Craig Hartley, Jr., stated the Department's reaccreditation "represents the culmination of Norton Shores Police Department's self-evaluation, concluded by a review from independent assessors and CALEA's Commissioners." The independent assessment was conducted November 30, 2015 through December 2, 2015.

The assessment report was reviewed by the Commission during a hearing with agency representatives on Saturday, April 2, 2016. The Commission unanimously approved the assessment team's recommendation to award the Department with reaccredited status, commending the Department for demonstrating a commitment to professional law enforcement.

The Department's accredited status is in effect for a period of four years, with the next independent assessment anticipated to be conducted in December 2019.

PATROL DIVISION

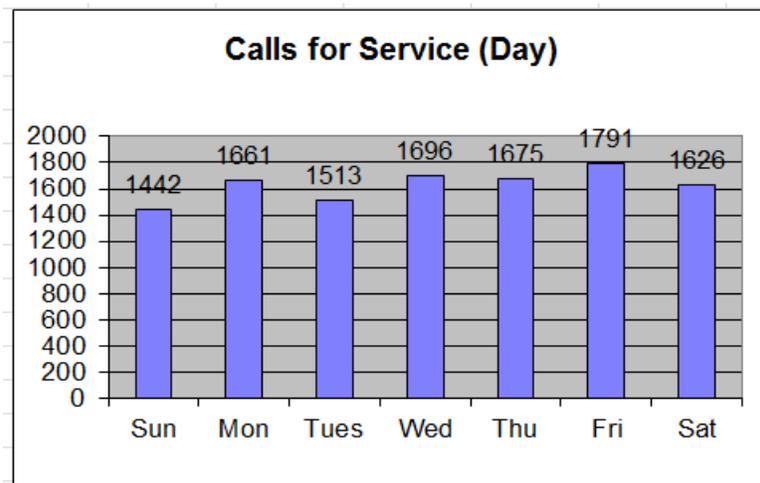


The Patrol function is under the command of Lieutenant Michael Kasher and consists of four sergeants, four corporals, and twelve patrol officers. Patrol is responsible for conducting crime prevention patrols, responding to calls for service, preliminary criminal investigations, traffic enforcement, and miscellaneous field services. Officers assigned to this function have the greatest contact with members of the community.

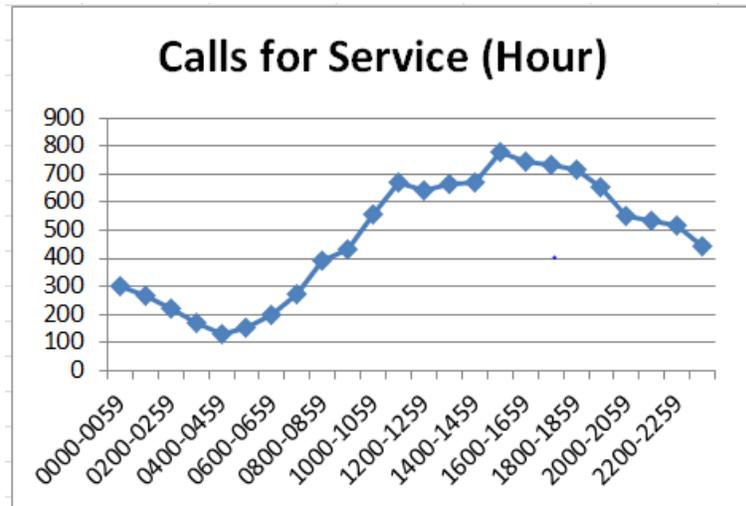
Calls for Service

During FY2016, the Police Department logged 21,384 dispatch events, including 13,100 calls for service, which is an increase of 2,692 calls for service as compared to FY2015 (10,408). Calls for service include all emergency / non-emergency calls for service and any officer-initiated activities (see Appendix C). Department personnel submitted 8,343 incident reports, which is an increase of 1% compared to FY2015 (8,222).

CALLS FOR SERVICE BY DAY OF WEEK FOR 2016



The following chart depicts, calls for service based on hour of day for FY2016



As depicted in the chart above, the Department receives the fewest number of calls for service in the early morning (3a-6a) hours. Calls typically increase during the afternoon (12p-6p) reaching a peak in the late afternoon or early evening hours. This pattern generally matches traffic flow volumes observed throughout the city.

Officers traveled a total of 300,850 miles while conducting patrol activities and responding to calls for service during this past year. This was a 10% decrease in traveled miles compared to last year's 331,759 miles. The Department continues to realize benefits from in-car computers and the availability of work stations at the City's fire stations which reduce travel costs.



Criminal Activity

Class A type crimes (more serious) were up slightly by 2% compared to last year. Class B type crimes were down by 7% for the fiscal year. Total crime is down by 2% for this fiscal year. See the below table for more information.

	Fiscal Year 2016		
	2016	2015	Chng
Group A Offense	1438	1406	32
Group B Offenses	974	1055	-81
TOTAL OFFENSES	2412	2461	-49

Group A Offense	2.3%
Group B Offenses	-7.7%
TOTAL OFFENSES	-2.0%

Non-Criminal Activity

The number of non-criminal incidents reported in 2016 (5,931) increased by 8% as compared to Fiscal Year 2015 (5,461). Non-criminal incidents comprised 71% of the Department's total incident reports.



Training

The Norton Shores Police Department is dedicated and committed to providing police officers, police supervisors, and staff with the best law enforcement training available. We strive to empower our offices to enhance quality of work, find solutions and make good decisions that will benefit the citizens of Norton Shores. Giving our officers training opportunities will help give them confidence, the skills and knowledge necessary to effectively do their job and ultimately help our police department succeed.

Uniformed police officers are given the responsibility by our City to protect the rights of citizens and enforce the laws of the City and State. Their daily policing should be based on democratic values. Those values ensure fair and impartial treatment of all individuals, sensitivity to racial, ethnic, sexual, gender and religious factors, with an awareness of cultural diversity and discrimination. Good and consistent training ensures that our officers reflect a respect for fundamental human rights, integrity and police codes of conduct. This past year all 29 officers, including command, went to Legal Update which is an eight hour class. The class covers new criminal and civil laws, search and seizure and how to best handle civil problems.

It is our job as leaders to support the officers and give them as much ongoing training as possible. From the time the officer is hired with our police department, we invest a minimum of 40 hours of training to each officer per year. The type of training covers a vast area involving all aspects of law enforcement; this can include both physical and/or class room study. This past year we had over 3,100 hours of training which equates to over 100 hours to each employee. The training ranges from firearms, use of force, defensive driving, legal updates, diving and under water recovery to forensics investigations and leadership courses where one command officer is receiving over 400 hours of education.

Effective training is the backbone of good decision making, whether written, spoken, informal or formal. Officers being trained and educated in multiple different areas can lead to understanding others, sending and receiving verbal and non-verbal messages and embracing different cultures. Good training in which the Norton Shores Police Department practices ensures skills that are used to breach cultural barriers and bridge gaps between people. The officers and command staff were sent to an eight hour class that was titled Policing in the 21 Century. This training was held at Grand Valley University and it focused on issues such as ethics, cultural diversity and how to better hire, train and maintain good officers. The department also sent four officers to an eight hour class titled Arresting Communications held at Kalamazoo Valley Community College. This training was to help officers understand and enhance their communications skills with people from different cultures, races and economic backgrounds.

Our police officers must know how to assess risk situations and be able to take precautionary actions in their duties using proper judgment based on common sense and avoiding carelessness. By training and being prepared we are able to do this. Due to the nature of police work, officers are often exposed to incidents or situations that cause stress, which can take a toll on their ability to make sound decisions. Officers need to know how to approach decision making while under stress, as well as how to manage stress effectively. Our commitment to continuous training throughout the 2015-2016 year assisted and prepared our officers and staff to handle citizens and stressful situations in the effort to help and assist the public we serve. We will continue our proud tradition of training and educating our officers to ensure that they are well prepared and equipped to handle any kind of situation.



SPECIAL SERVICES

The Special Services function is under the supervision of Lieutenant Brandon Poel. This unit includes the Records Bureau, which staffs two full time and one contracted part time clerk. The Problem Oriented Intelligence-led Neighborhood Team (POINT) has two officers assigned to the team, which their main function is community relations. The Detective Bureau, under supervision of Detective Sergeant Marc Vanderstelt includes four detectives, the Traffic Unit, which currently has one assigned officer and the Police Cadet Unit.

Problem Oriented Intelligence-led Neighborhood Team

The Problem Oriented Intelligence-led Neighborhood Team (POINT) is authorized two officers. The team is responsible for providing crime prevention and school resource programs, coordination of the Sex Offender Registration program, providing assistance to the Detective Bureau with investigations and evidence room

During FY2016, the team worked with the Neighborhood Watch groups in the Windflower Bay subdivision and Norton Shores Estates. Officers attended meetings, acting as the Department's liaison in order to provide timely crime awareness and prevention information. In August 2015, both neighborhoods held National Night Out block parties encouraging residents to interact with each other and with the Police Department. Every year more people attend these events to bring neighborhoods closer together to provide for a safe place to live.



POINT officers facilitated alcohol awareness activities at the Mona Shores High School in conjunction with Muskegon Alcohol Liability Initiative (ALI), the Mona Shores Public Schools and other local agencies. The program included the delivery of alcohol vendor training packets to all liquor establishments, completion of a decoy "buy" operation, and management of the "Face the Book" campaign's Facebook page. In April of 2016 POINT Officers were able to bring in national speaker Dave Easterbrook. Mr. Easterbrook spoke with the high school students about Ashley's Dream. The program was about drinking and driving prevention and was very well received by the students and staff. In addition, POINT officers implemented a billboard contest involving five high schools within Muskegon County. The contest encouraged students to actively participate in the education of the dangers of underage drinking and drunk driving. Students from Oakridge High School were selected as the winning school and their poster was displayed on a billboard on Seaway Drive.

During FY2016, the team expanded the award winning “Ride with PRIDE” Program, an incentive based program encouraging positive behaviors, safe driving and abstinence from alcohol and drug use to K-12 schools in the Mona Shores School District. This program was in partnership with Ramos and Son’s Towing and Auto Body, Mona Shores Public Schools, Nexes Realty, Muskegon Alcohol Liability Initiative, Realistic Photography, Whippi Dip, Barnes and Noble, and Mercy Health. Alcohol prevention and safety activities were conducted throughout the year, with the finale being the presentation of a Honda Accord donated by Ramos and Son’s Towing and a new moped donated by Nexes Realty to eligible students at the high school. The finale at the middle school was conducted on a separate day with the grand prizes being longboards donated by Realistic Photography.

Each elementary held their own finale as well with each school giving away two bicycles donated by Mercy Health, free ice cream cones to all students donated by Whippi Dip, and twelve books given away at each school donated by Barnes and Noble. The names of ten students, who had signed a pledge and were successful in abiding by the program’s rules, were drawn at random for the chance to win the car and ten were drawn for the moped at the high school. During the school’s PRIDE assembly, each finalist drew a key; however, only one would unlock the car and moped. The same concept was used at the middle school however ten finalists from each grade were chosen and one person from each grade was selected to win a longboard donated by Realistic Photography. The elementary schools drew names at random for those who signed the pledge for the numerous prizes given out.



The “Ride with PRIDE” program has been presented statewide and nationally to other police departments and school administrators. The program is gaining notoriety and several school and police agencies have committed to it for 2016/2017. POINT officers have had meetings with Oakridge staff who will implement the program in the fall of 2016.

POINT officers maintained a close partnership with Mona Shores Public Schools providing school safety advice for all school buildings. Officers assisted in several “lock-down” drills and provided training to faculty members in regards to school safety procedures. Safety advice was also shared this year with multiple local businesses with the most notable being Maranatha who trained over 150 of their employees and volunteers on lock down procedures. POINT officers coordinated the Department’s presence on the social media websites of Facebook, Nixle, YouTube and Twitter in an effort to provide the community with information regarding crime, crime prevention and other community advisories. The department Facebook page has over 2600 people following and continues to grow every day informing our citizens about current events in Norton Shores.

Starting in the Fall of 2015 POINT officers started the Community Cop Talk Program. It began with Pizza With the Police at Greek Tony's and later expanded to Coffee with the Cops at Goober's Bakery. The program was put in place so community members could have the opportunity to discuss issues and learn more about their local police officers in a more relaxed setting. The plan is to expand the program to other local businesses.



Evidence Room

The evidence custodian and supervisor responsible for management of the property/evidence room continue organizing and purging of the new evidence room. Updated forms and new training videos produced by the POINT Division continue to assist with this process.

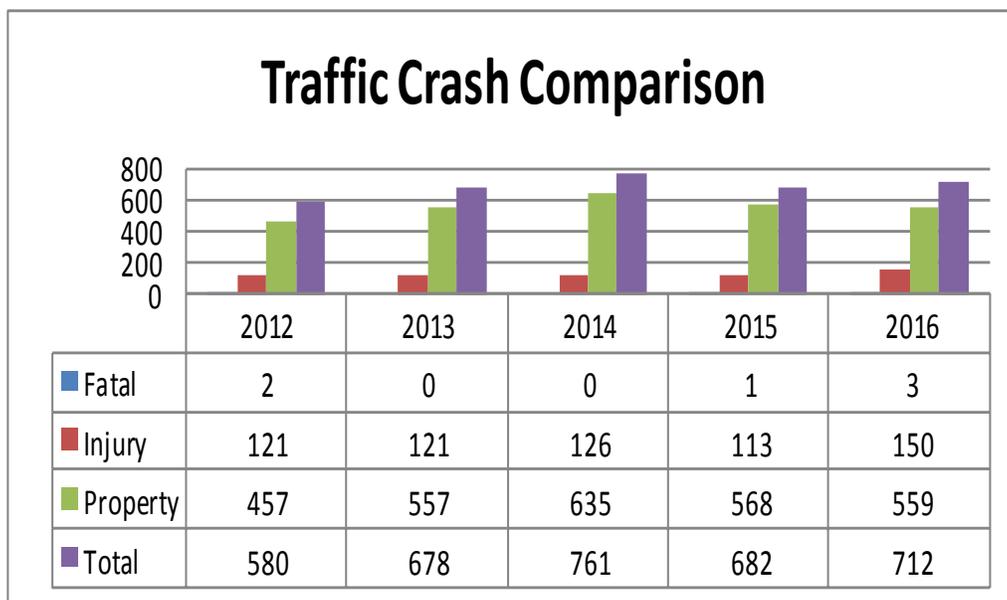
The evidence room has now become much more manageable and a request for FY 2017 was approved to implement a part time evidence custodian and free up full time officers to engage in the community more.



Traffic

Traffic Crash Summary

There were a total of 712 traffic crashes reported during FY2016, which is an increase of 4.3% from the previous year FY2015 (682). Over the past five years, the City of Norton Shores has averaged 682 traffic crashes per year. The following is a breakdown of the crashes based on severity:



Most crashes involved passenger vehicles; however, the Department also policed 22 commercial vehicles, 11 motorcycles, 2 emergency vehicles, 3 pedestrian and 5 bicycle crashes. There were no school bus related crashes this past year. There were also 44 car versus deer crashes, which is an increase of 4% from the previous year, when 46 crashes occurred.

Of the 712 total crashes, at least one person was injured in 150 incidents, which is 21%. The number of injuries increased from the previous year (113). The average number of injury crashes for the last five years is 126, or 18.5%.

The following intersections had the highest number of crashes during FY2016:

Rank	Location	Crashes
1	HARVEY ST @ STERNBERG RD	44
2	GRAND HAVEN RD @ PONTALUNA RD	20
3	HENRY ST @ NORTON AVE	16
4	AIRLINE RD @ AIRLINE/S US 31 RAMP	14
5	GETTY ST @ SHERMAN BLVD	14
6	SEAWAY DR @ SEMINOLE RD	12
7	GRAND HAVEN RD @ STERNBERG RD	11
8	HARVEY ST @ INDEPENDENCE	11
9	HENRY ST @ SEMINOLE RD	10
10	GETTY ST @ SEAWAY DR	10
11	S US 31 @ W I96	10
12	NORTON AVE @ SEAWAY DR	9
13	BROADWAY AVE @ HENRY ST	9
14	N US31/STERNBERG RAMP @ STERNBERG RD	9
15	AIRLINE/S US31 RAMP @ AIRLINE/S US31 RAMP	9
16	SEAWAY DR @ GETTY ST	9
17	N US31 @ AIRLINE/N US31 RAMP	8
18	E I96 @ S US31	8
19	S US31/STERNBERG RAMP @ STERNBERG RD	8
20	S US31 @ HILE RD	7

The top 20 crash intersections remained consistent from previous years. For the fourth consecutive year Harvey Street @ Sternberg Road was the top crash intersection with 44 crashes. This is an increase of 10 crashes from the previous year. Grand Haven Rd @ Pontaluna Rd (20) and Henry St @ Norton Ave (16) remain the #2 and #3 crash intersections. Airline Rd @ Airline/S US31 Ramp jumped back up to #4 this year. Last year it was uncharacteristically low at #10 on the list. The rest of the intersections remained relatively consistent compared to past years.

Traffic Enforcement Summary

The Police Department issued a total of 2,838 traffic citations during FY2016, which represents a decrease of 14.4% from the previous year (3,318). This figure represents the total number of traffic violations, not the number of actual citations. There were also 220 parking citations issued this past year (FY2016) which is a 7.5% decrease when compared to FY2015 (238).

The Department has joined with other area agencies in an attempt to reduce the number of crashes by participating in several national safety programs such as “Click It or Ticket”, “You Drink, You Drive, You Lose” and “High Visibility Enforcement”. The Michigan Office of Highway Safety Programs has provided the funding necessary to cover the overtime expenses for officers participating in these safety programs. These programs seem to be having a positive effect on the traffic crash statistics.

The chart below represents the most common violations:

	FY2014	FY2015	FY2016
No Proof of Insurance	740	515	383
Speeding	830	569	643
Driving on a Suspended Operator’s License	211	230	220
Expired Plate	303	290	253
No Operator’s License on Person	112	75	84
Fail to Stop in Assured Clear Distance	225	195	173
Seatbelt Violation	369	173	124
Improper Plate	81	67	70
Expired Operator’s License	38	23	19
Defective Equipment	656	441	259
Fail to Yield Right of Way	159	87	70
Red light/stop sign	NA	NA	214

Records Bureau

The Records Bureau provides administrative support to the entire Department and is staffed by one part-time and two full-time records clerks. The Bureau is responsible for maintaining all law enforcement records, including reports, citations, warrants, and subpoenas. In addition, the bureau provides computer support and serves as the Department's Law Enforcement Information Network (LEIN) Terminal Coordinator.

This fiscal year the Records staff submitted 164 incident reports and 708 supplemental reports for walk-in or telephone complaints which did not require the presence of a sworn police officer. In addition to processing all felony and misdemeanor warrants, the following tasks were performed by the Records staff:

- Quarterly registration of 84 sex offenders residing in the city of Norton Shores.
- Processed 1230 handgun registrations for citizens of the city, including criminal records checks and entry of the weapons into the Automated Pistol Reporting System.
- Provided information to victims of crime.
- Registered 40 bicycles.
- Provided tours of the Police Department for school age children.
- Registered 80 participants for the Norton Shores Hunter Safety Program.
- Prepared 1287 case files for officers to be used during court appearances.
- Processed LEIN paperwork for 206 impounded or abandoned vehicles.
- Processed 60 personal protection orders.
- Processed 576 misdemeanor arrests.
- Processed 145 felony arrests.

Police Cadet Unit

In its fifth year, the Police Cadet program continues to be a benefit to the citizens of Norton Shores. The police cadets received training provided by Lieutenant Brandon Poel and POINT Officer Jared Passchier. The primary mission of the police cadet team is to act as ambassadors for the City by providing information to park visitors, enforcing park rules (City ordinances) and assisting Police Department personnel as requested.

Cadets seek to obtain voluntary compliance with park rules prior to issuing citations. The most common violations involve owners walking dogs in the park off-leash or bringing dogs onto the beach. Due to the activity of the Police Cadet team, there has been a sharp decrease in cases of underage drinking and ordinance violation within the parks.





INVESTIGATIONS

The Investigations function is under the supervision of Sergeant Marc Vanderstelt. The function includes the Detective Bureau which consists of two officers assigned as detectives. In addition, two officers are assigned to specialized groups. One officer is assigned to the West Michigan Enforcement Team (WEMET) addressing regional drug and vice crimes. The other officer is assigned to the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force (ICAC) operating at the Michigan State Police Computer Crimes Unit.

Detective Bureau

Members of the unit are responsible for follow-up investigations and the collection, processing, and proper storage of evidence. In addition, personnel cooperate with other agencies on special investigations or organized crime, fraud, internet crimes, narcotics, etc.

During FY2016, Investigations personnel were assigned 141 new cases, assigned to the following personnel:

Detective Sergeant Vanderstelt.....	30
Detective Neher	52
Detective Swanker	52
Detective Sinclair	06
Detective Pieske.....	01

The status of the 141 cases that were assigned are as follows;

Open/Active.....	9
Closed by Arrest.....	34
Prosecution Denied.....	14
Victim Refused to Prosecute.....	7
Death of Offender.....	0
Juvenile - No Custody.....	2
Warrant Issued.....	2
Inactive.....	34
Closed.....	39

Major Activities

The Detective Bureau has investigated the following noteworthy major crimes over the past year:



July 2015: The Detective Bureau joined the Muskegon County Major Crime Task Force in investigating a homicide that occurred in the City of Muskegon Heights. Detectives from Norton Shores assisted by interviewing witnesses, identifying a suspect and conducting surveillance at the suspect's home and ultimately locating the weapon used in the murder.

September 2015: The Detective Bureau investigated a robbery that occurred at Seaway Liquor, located in the 700 block of W. Summit Ave. The Detectives received a Silent Observer tip identifying the offender in the robbery. Detectives investigated the suspect and determined that they were arrested by Michigan State Police six days after the robbery and the weapon used in the robbery was located. The offender was questioned by detectives and admitted to the robbery. The offender is currently serving his jail sentence.

November 2015: The Detective Bureau investigated a burglary that occurred in the 1200 block of E. Sternberg at Spotless Auto Lube and Car Wash. When the owner of the business watched the surveillance video of the burglary, he recognized the walk of the subject as a previous employee. At the time of the burglary there was snow on the ground and tire impressions were located. Detectives located the previous employee's vehicle and compared the tire tread with the tread impressions located on the scene and they appeared to match. A search warrant was conducted at the suspect's residence and items affiliated with the burglary were seized. The suspect was arrested and is currently serving his sentence for burglary.

January 2016: The Detective Bureau investigated an embezzlement that occurred in the 6000 block of Norton Center Dr. The investigation found the receptionist/book keeper stole more that \$600,000.00 from the machine shop between 2007 to 2015. The offender was arrested, tried and is currently serving their sentence.

February 2016: The Detective Bureau investigated an embezzlement from a local school located in the 400 block of Ellis Rd. The investigation uncovered more that \$200,000.00 taken by the bookkeeper of the school since March of 2009. The offender confessed to the embezzlement, was arrested, and is currently serving their sentence.

March 2016: The Detective Bureau conducted a joint investigation with Muskegon Police Department, Muskegon County Sheriffs Department, Roosevelt Park Police Department, and Fruitport Township Police Department on a series of armed robberies that occurred in all of the jurisdictions. The offender was identified after he fled an armed robbery in the City of Muskegon. Evidence was located on the suspect and in their vehicle that linked him to the two armed robberies in Norton Shores. The offender admitted to all seven of the armed robberies and is currently serving their sentence for the crimes.

April 2016: The Detective Bureau investigated a burglary at a gun shop located in the 3100 block of Fairfield St. Several articles of evidence were collected and fingerprints were located on one of the items. The prints were run through AFIS and a match was determined. The offender was arrested and is currently serving their sentence.

West Michigan Enforcement Team

The Norton Shores Police Department has one detective assigned to the West Michigan Enforcement Team (WEMET), a regional “concept team” assigned to investigate the trafficking of narcotics. The detective conducts undercover investigations with officers assigned to WEMET from other area agencies. WEMET is under the direction and control of the WEMET Board of Directors, of which City Administrator Mark Meyers is a member, and the WEMET Operations Board, of which Chief Gale is a member. WEMET is supervised on a daily basis by the Michigan State Police.

The Department’s WEMET undercover detective assisted in investigating 216 complaints of possessing and distributing narcotics in the Muskegon County area. Over 30% of those cases were within the city of Norton Shores. The undercover WEMET detective investigated these noteworthy cases that occurred in Norton Shores:

September 2015: The WEMET Detective investigated a Heroin overdose death that occurred in the 1100 block of E. Sherman Blvd. During the investigation, the detective determined the drug dealer who delivered the heroin to the victim. When the dealer was interviewed, they admitted to selling the heroin to the victim. Charges were pressed for delivery of heroin causing death.

January 2016: The WEMET Detective conducted a search warrant in the 1400 block of Norwich Av after a package of MDMA (ecstasy) was delivered to the home owner. It was learned that the owner has been ordering illegal narcotics online. During the execution of the warrant, several mushroom colonies, over 108 grams of MDMA, and hundreds of empty capsules that the offender was filling with the MDMA to sell were found. An analysis of the offender’s cell phone and computer located several other suspects in Muskegon County that are involved in the international package of illegal narcotics. All suspects have been investigated and are currently facing indictments in the federal court system.

April 2016: The WEMET Detective investigated a heroin overdose investigation that took place in the area of Broadway and Getty. The driver of a vehicle was found slumped over in the driver’s seat of their vehicle. A quantity of heroin was located inside the vehicle. The suspect was questioned and admitted to using heroin before they started driving and admitted the heroin found in the vehicle belonged to them. The suspect was arrested for possession of heroin.

Internet Crimes Against Children

The Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) task force operates out of the Michigan State Police District 6 Headquarters in Rockford, Michigan. The Detective in ICAC conducts forensic examinations of computers and electronic equipment (cell phones, tablets, etc.) at the Rockford location four days per week. The other day is spent at Norton Shores Police Department. The on-the-job training provided at the Rockford location provides valuable experience in this complex and developing field of investigation. The ICAC position was suspended in February of 2015 but was reevaluated in the fall of 2015 and Detective Pieske was selected as the new ICAC Detective in October 2015.

The Detective in ICAC has assisted many area police agencies with investigations involving child sexually abusive material and child pornography. At both locations, he utilizes specialized equipment and software programs to conduct forensic examinations of electronic media. The evidence retrieved provides agencies with sufficient probable cause to obtain arrest warrants. Listed below are some noteworthy investigations the ICAC Detective investigated this year.

December 2015: The ICAC Detective assisted in execution of a search warrant in the 1700 block of Hudson St in the City of Muskegon. The search warrant produced Child Sexual Abusive Material (CSAM). The offender admitted to searching the internet looking for CSAM. The offender is currently serving for their crime.

January 2016: The ICAC Detective assisted in execution of a search warrant in Sparta, MI. ICAC completed examinations of numerous devices seized and located evidence of CSAM. The investigation led to an additional offender living in Norton Shores. Both parties have been sentenced for their crimes.

March 2016: The ICAC Detective assisted in execution of a search warrant in the 2100 block of Duck Lake Rd in Whitehall. The search warrant stemmed from a tip from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) that was originally reported by Google. Google reported a user had uploaded child sexually abusive material (CSAM) to Google Plus storage. The offender was interviewed and confessed to searching for and saving CSAM. Several electronic items were seized under the search warrant. Evidence was located during examinations of the devices. A six count felony warrant was issued (three counts of possession of CSAM and three counts of using a computer to commit a crime).

April 2016: The Detective from ICAC assisted the City of Muskegon Police Department and the Muskegon County Violent Crimes Task Force in analyzing several electronic devices related to the recent homicide investigations within Muskegon County. The assistance lead to locating the suspects in the crime and obtaining arrest warrants.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Norton Shores Underwater Recovery Team

The Norton Shores Underwater Recovery Team (aka Dive Team) is comprised of members of the Police and Fire Departments. The team responds to all water emergencies within Norton Shores and also to any calls for assistance from neighboring communities. The Police Department has two members assigned to the team as certified divers. This past year the entire team was able to attend a certified training for underwater search and rescue.



Honor Guard

The Police and Fire Departments have partnered to create the Norton Shores Honor Guard. The team includes four members from the Police Department and three from the Fire Department. Upon request, the Honor Guard will make appearances to present or retire the National Colors (flags) during public relations events or parades, represent the City during times of mourning, or represent the City at funeral services for public safety members who gave the ultimate sacrifice.

Hunter Safety Program

The Police Department continues to provide hunter education to over 150 children and adults each year. This program is provided free of charge and is held twice a year. Volunteers for this program include current and retired police, fire, and city employees and other volunteers from the community. This program is regarded as one of the premier programs in the state. We have students attempting to sign up for the program from all over Michigan. Equipment for this program has been donated by community members and local hunting/fishing organizations, including a new equipment trailer.

