



# ESTHERVILLE

## POLICE DEPARTMENT

## 2014 Annual Report

I am pleased to present you with my first annual report as your Chief of Police. First of all, I am very honored to have been chosen as the Chief of Police and I thank you and Mayor Billings for the opportunity to serve the city in this capacity.

2014 proved to be an event filled year for our police department.

### **Personnel Changes:**

In May, Officer Cory Danner was selected to become the Chief of Police in Arlington, Minnesota. This promotion shows that we have been training and preparing our officers to not only be the next supervisors within our agency, but to take over and broaden their professional experiences with other agencies both in Iowa and in other states. We are very proud of the training and experience that we give to our officers and believe that they are among the best officers in the state. You should be proud as well.

In June of 2014, I was selected by Mayor Billings to replace Chief Eric J. Milburn who planned to retire on August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2014.

On July 31<sup>st</sup>, we hired Officer Chase Lohnes to replace Officer Danner. Officer Lohnes is a graduate of Iowa State University and is from Council Bluffs. Officer Lohnes has been a great addition to the department and has done an outstanding job learning our systems.

Chief Eric J. Milburn retired following 35 years of service to the City of Estherville on August 22<sup>nd</sup> 2014. Chief Milburn's retirement will be a great loss to our department as he was an excellent mentor and very knowledgeable in police procedure and rules of law. He will be missed and we thank him for his service.

On August 25<sup>th</sup>, we hired Officer Rick Zalabowski. Rick was hired to fill the vacancy left by Chief of Police Eric J. Milburn's retirement. Officer Zalabowski was a 911 Communication Operator from Dickinson County, an EMT and member of the Arnold's Park/Okoboji Fire and Rescue Department. Rick has also proven to be an excellent

addition to our department and brings many public safety skills with him to assist our citizens.

In September, the Civil Service Commission started the promotion process for our officers to fill the open Command Positions. Sergeant Budach and Detective VanLangen were eligible candidates for the Captain's position. Both of these officers are extremely knowledgeable and have done a tremendous job for our department throughout their years of service. As of that date, making this decision was the hardest Law Enforcement decision that I have ever made. Following a tremendous amount of thought, Sergeant Paul Budach was promoted to the rank of Captain.

With the promotion of Sergeant Budach, a Sergeants position then became open. Detective VanLangen, was promoted to fill the position and earned the rank of Sergeant.

Detective VanLangen's promotion then opened the position of Detective. Officer Matt Hellickson and Officer Nathaniel Dunlavy became eligible to be promoted following an exam and oral interviews. Officer Matt Hellickson was promoted to the rank of Detective.

### **Police Reserves:**

Following re-implementation of the Estherville Police Reserves in 2013, they have had a very productive year. The police reserves have put forth a lot of time and effort into completing their state required training. They have had to attend on their own time to become certified reserves in the State of Iowa.

In 2014 a few of the projects that they have assisted our community with include; 4<sup>th</sup> of July Flight Breakfast, ELC Prom, Sweet Corn Days, Parade of Lights, Homecoming Week, Estherville Halloween Association Events, and worked alongside our officers on numerous cases and investigations.

We did have two reserves resign in 2014, but we were able to add another local resident to keep our reserve numbers at 6.

The police reserves logged the following hours:

Patrol – 861.5 Hours  
Training – 119 Hours  
Callout Hours – 82.5 Hours  
Meetings - 90

Without the dedication of these volunteer officers, the reserve program would not be possible.

The reserve force is a tremendous asset to our department. We, and the State of Iowa, ask a lot of these volunteers and they should be commended for their service to our community.

## **Canine:**

Max and Officer Reineke have had a productive year in 2014. The pair was called to assist officers on two separate Burglary cases where the suspect had fled the scene, one suspect was apprehended. They were also called to do article searches for our officers this year on three occasions. Max located all of the articles that the officers were looking for including a handgun in one case. The pair was also called in to assist with 18 Drug Investigations in 2014 and in every incident, they found either illegal drugs or paraphernalia.

Max and Officer Reineke continued to do several presentations throughout the year and were called on to assist agencies on four separate calls for assistance.

In November, Officer Matt Reineke received the Local Elks Award for his involvement in drug education and his efforts in drug enforcement. The award is named The Enrique Camarena Award and qualified Officer Reineke to be eligible for the National Award.

This pair of officers does an outstanding job and should also be commended for their expertise and professional services. They are praised highly in our area by other law enforcement agencies.

## **Training:**

Our officers attended 758 hours of training in 2014. 336 of those hours were training hours that we conducted within our agency. We also conducted a SART Training with the Emmet County Sheriff's Department as well as several other government agencies.

## **Community Involvement:**

SART (Sexual Assault Response Team) – In 2014, our department, in conjunction with the Emmet County Sheriff's Department, Emmet County Attorney's Office, CAASA, and Avera Holy Family Hospital completed our efforts to establish and set protocols for Sexual Assault Investigations. It was a project that took well over a year, but in October, we were able to put together training for all law enforcement in Emmet County, Emmet County Attorney's Office, CAASA Advocates, and Nursing staff that was held at Crossroads Community Church. The training was conducted by the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy, Iowa State University Police Department, Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation Crime Laboratory, and a professional Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner.

JAM (Juvenile Action Meeting) – In the Spring of 2013, we were dealing with several very violent children within and outside of school. The children were particularly violent

and were assaulting students, staff and causing damage to property. I spoke with our Juvenile Court Officer in an attempt to find a way to deal with the children, who were between the ages of 5 and 12 years old. It was determined that there are services available in the juvenile court system for children 12 and older, but very little available for younger children.

In February 2014, key members of the community were identified as persons that may be able to provide assistance in dealing with these situations. Over 40 people attended a resource meeting to discuss what each group or business had to offer in dealing with these young children. The most valuable information came in the form of what each agency could and could not do. Meetings were held throughout 2014 with the final product of a Community Resource Guide and a Flow Chart to utilize for school administrators and law enforcement officers. The final touches to the JAM information will be completed in early 2015, but the system has been put to use and has proven to be effective. I would be happy to explain in more detail the JAM information if any of you would have any questions.

Estherville Lincoln Central Schools – We continue to have an outstanding working relationship with the ELC School District. As we have done for years, we continue to patrol the areas around the school buildings in the morning, at lunchtime, and after school.

Chief Milburn in 2013 began a security program that our officers would attempt to walk through each of the school buildings every day. This has proven to be an excellent project that we have continued in 2014. We have had very positive feedback from staff to students and have built some great relationships.

We continue to partner with the school doing job shadows, job interviews, safety talks, and many other projects throughout the school year. Officer Dunlavy continues to teach DARE to the 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Students. In 2014, he began an introductory unit to the DARE program in Kindergarten through 4<sup>th</sup> Grade. This has been very well received with both staff and students. He does an outstanding job representing our department in this program as we have received a tremendous amount of compliments.

#### **Other Involvements:**

We conducted another Citizens Academy in 2014 with 14 participants. This has been a great community policing project that allows our citizens to get an up-close and personal look at how our department operates. It also has built personal relationships between our officers and the public.

We have been involved in the LEIN (Law Enforcement Intelligence Network) for 30 years, MOCIC (Mid States Organized Crime Information Center), The Iowa Great Lakes Drug Task Force for 16 years, and conducted our last Drug Take Back Program in 2014. The Drug Take Back Program was a DEA sponsored event that allowed us to partner with Avera Holy Family Hospital to properly dispose of unused prescription medication. The program was terminated by DEA in 2014.

Our officers are associated with numerous civic events and activities, including; Coaching Youth Football, Wrestling, and Baseball; Iowa High School and Jr. High Rodeo, Iowa Lakes Community College Orientation Meetings, 2 Officers are members of Noon Kiwanis, we recently became involved with the Halloween Association Parties again. We participated in the Family Resource Fair at ELC High School. Several of our officers also donated their time to complete the siding on a garage and dugout that have been moved to our firing range. Without the officers volunteering their time, this project would not be finished yet.

The H.E.A.T. Tactical Team has been a major part of our department since 1998 when it was started by a group of area law enforcement administrators that found a need to have a tactical team but did not have enough personnel to have their own team. The H.E.A.T. team had 14 High Risk Callouts in 2014. The team recently added two more member County Sheriff's Departments and a Police Department. There are 23 Tactical Operators on the team that we can access at any time for any major incident. This team is a very well trained and is considered to be one of the best teams in the area.

We continue to partner with the Alcoholic Beverage Division of the State of Iowa to complete Tobacco Compliance Checks with all tobacco permit holders in the city. The police department has also continued to receive yearly grant funds through our participation in the STEP Program in association with the Governor's Traffic Safety Bureau. In 2014 we were awarded a grant to nearly fully fund a mobile vision camera for our police car. We have received grant funds from this program since 2002.

Our department continues to maintain relationships with the public through our social media effort on Facebook, Twitter, and Nixle. We are also attempting to get our Website updated in 2015.

I am sure that there are many other activities that we are involved in that I cannot recall for this report.

All of our officers contribute to the information contained in this report in their own different but necessary ways. They are an outstanding group of employees that I am proud to say that I am very proud of.

# 2014 Crime Statistics

<b>Category</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>
Accidents	160	137	158	162	162
Assault	55	45	21	31	60
Burglary	34	36	45	44	36
Criminal Mischief	68	89	61	61	79
Drug Arrests	46	31	67	30	23
Theft	95	104	76	54	133
Traffic Citations	592	400	464	395	469
Parking Citations	261	241	220	166	196
Warning Citations	93	85	294	392	368
Juvenile Arrests	67	30	29	19	*
Adult Arrests	537	488	493	354	371*
Calls for Service	4105	3804	4047	3516	3206

Unfortunately, in February 2014, we experienced our 1<sup>st</sup> Homicide since 1999. Many of our officers worked in excess of 24 hours on the case to make every effort capture the suspect. The suspect was captured the following morning and taken into custody without incident. Our agency also spent many investigative man hours following the initial call. In February 2015 an Emmet County Jury found the suspect guilty of Murder in the 1<sup>st</sup> Degree. Our officers were commended by the Attorney General's Office of the State of Iowa, the Emmet County Attorney's Office, and the family of the victim. Our police department worked with many agencies during the course of the investigation including; The Emmet County Sheriff's Department, the Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation, The Emmet County Attorney's Office, and the Iowa State Patrol.

It should be noted that the statistics that Chief Milburn used were from a database that is no longer in use. We are also in process of streamlining and having better documentation in regards to calls for service through dispatch. The \* star denotes records that are only partial or may be incomplete due to computer issues. I apologize for any inconvenience.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brent Shatto  
 Chief of Police  
 Estherville Police Department