

MORRO BAY

Police Department



2014

Annual Report

Excellence in Service





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Our Mission, Vision and Values

OUR MISSION is to provide the highest level of police services in partnership with our community.

VISION

Excellence in service.



ORGANIZATIONAL VALUES

We will be accountable to ourselves, the public and the law enforcement profession.

We will be open through our communication within the department and with the community of Morro Bay.

We will be ethical, honest and courageous, both on and off duty.

We will respect the rights and dignity of all people.

We will continue our commitment to innovation and creativity when problem solving.

We will practice fairness and consistency in our actions.

We will exemplify professionalism, excellence and high quality public safety services.

We will remain committed to teamwork within the department and with the community to maintain the finest public safety services on the central coast.

Law Enforcement Code of Ethics

AS A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER, my fundamental duty is to serve mankind; to safeguard lives and property; to protect the innocent against deception, the weak against oppression or intimidation, and the peaceful against violence or disorder; and to respect the Constitutional rights of all men to liberty, equality and justice.

I WILL keep my private life unsullied as an example to all; maintain courageous calm in the face of danger, scorn, or ridicule; develop self-restraint; and be constantly mindful of the welfare of others. Honest in thought and deed in both my personal and official life, I will be exemplary in obeying the laws of the land and the regulations of my department. Whatever I see or hear of a confidential nature or that is confided to me in my official capacity will be kept ever secret unless revelation is necessary in the performance of my duty.

I WILL never act officiously or permit personal feelings, prejudices, animosities or friendships to influence my decisions. With no compromise for crime and with relentless prosecution of criminals, I will enforce the law courteously and appropriately without fear or favor, malice or ill will, never employing unnecessary force or violence and never accepting gratuities.

I RECOGNIZE the badge of my office as a symbol of public faith, and I accept it as a public trust to be held so long as I am true to the ethics of the police service. I will constantly strive to achieve these objectives and ideals, dedicating myself before God to my chosen profession...law enforcement.



Message from the Chief

Organizational Chart

As in years past, I want to thank those who assisted me in the preparation of this annual report. I also want to thank the women and men who work at the Morro Bay Police Department for their dedication to our community and their pursuit of excellence in service.

2014 was a tremendous year. There were numerous acts by officers that led to successful investigations of crime, collaborative efforts with regionalizing dispatching services and dedication to our mission when we implemented new Support Services positions. A special thanks to our Police Volunteers and Explorers who volunteered their time and provided exceptional public safety services to our community.



The purpose of this report is to promote an understanding of the purpose, goals and accomplishments of the Morro Bay Police Department and our auxiliary units. It is important to communicate what we do so that our community can better understand how the members of this department prevent, detect and investigate crime.

This report contains budget information, crime statistics and data. It highlights reported criminal acts and investigations, our K9 and School Resource Officer program, and the contributions made by our Police Volunteers and Police Explorers. I want to thank you for taking the time to read our annual report and encourage you to download our mobile app to keep apprised of the work your police department is doing each day as they provide the highest level of police services in partnership with our community.

Amy Christey

Chief of Police



2014 Crime and Traffic Statistics

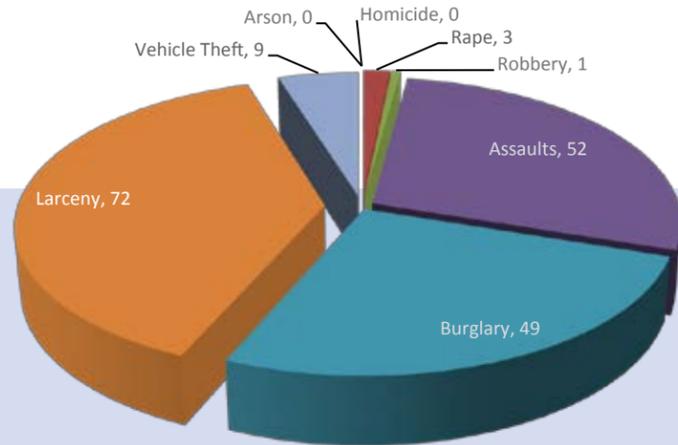
	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June
Calls for Service Reports & Citations	1108	951	1096	1103	1205	1197
Incident Reports	115	103	113	115	119	100
Citations-Admin	0	0	0	4	2	2
Citations-Parking	17	15	19	16	10	11
Citations-Warning	10	22	20	23	32	24
Citations-Traffic	6	0	1	15	9	4
Total	148	140	153	173	172	141
Arrests						
Adult	34	35	32	42	34	32
Juvenile	4	1	3	0	0	1
Total Arrests	38	36	35	42	34	33
Citations						
Adult	31	60	57	104	83	61
Juvenile	4	2	2	0	1	1
Total	35	62	59	104	84	62
Part 1 Crimes						
Homicide	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rape	0	1	1	0	0	0
Robbery	0	0	0	0	0	0
Assaults	3	3	5	3	6	5
Burglary	5	3	5	1	4	5
Larceny	10	6	3	1	4	8
Vehicle Theft	1	2	0	0	0	1
Arson	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	19	15	14	5	14	19
All Other Offenses						
Domestic Violence	3	0	1	2	2	2
Drunk In Public	5	8	8	8	7	9
DUI	1	3	2	4	3	4
Elderly	0	2	0	0	0	0
Forgery/Fraud	2	3	0	2	1	1
Narcotic Offenses	6	5	4	6	7	5
Sex Offenses	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vandalism/Graffiti	3	0	4	2	4	2
Warrants	7	8	11	4	3	2
Weapons	0	0	0	1	0	1
Total	27	29	30	29	27	26
Traffic Collisions						
Non-Injury Traffic Collisions	11	6	9	11	7	10
Injury Traffic Collisions	3	1	1	0	2	5
Fatal Traffic Collisions	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	14	7	10	11	9	15

SPICE / K2

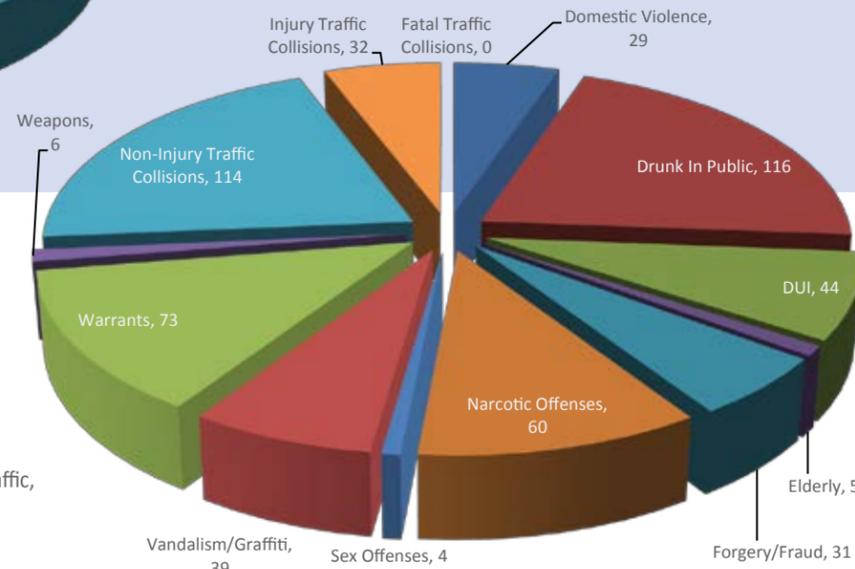


	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Totals
	1196	1232	951	1086	858	976	12959
	102	120	103	153	117	126	1386
	1	1	1	3	2	1	17
	22	12	10	7	7	3	149
	31	26	11	26	21	12	258
	0	2	4	3	17	9	70
	156	161	129	192	164	151	1880
	36	37	26	53	49	44	454
	1	3	2	2	0	0	17
	37	40	28	55	49	44	471
	77	60	57	81	71	56	798
	0	0	0	1	2	2	15
	77	60	57	82	73	58	813
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0	1	0	3
	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
	5	5	4	5	1	7	52
	3	4	7	6	2	4	49
	7	2	3	9	9	10	72
	1	2	0	0	0	2	9
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	16	13	15	20	13	23	186
	1	6	3	4	3	2	29
	9	10	7	12	18	15	116
	4	6	1	10	4	2	44
	0	1	1	0	1	0	5
	4	4	6	3	5	0	31
	4	2	3	6	3	9	60
	0	2	1	1	0	0	4
	3	5	1	5	6	4	39
	5	6	7	7	5	8	73
	0	2	0	0	1	1	6
	30	44	30	48	46	41	407
	7	6	14	12	10	11	114
	2	3	3	3	1	8	32
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	9	9	17	15	11	19	146

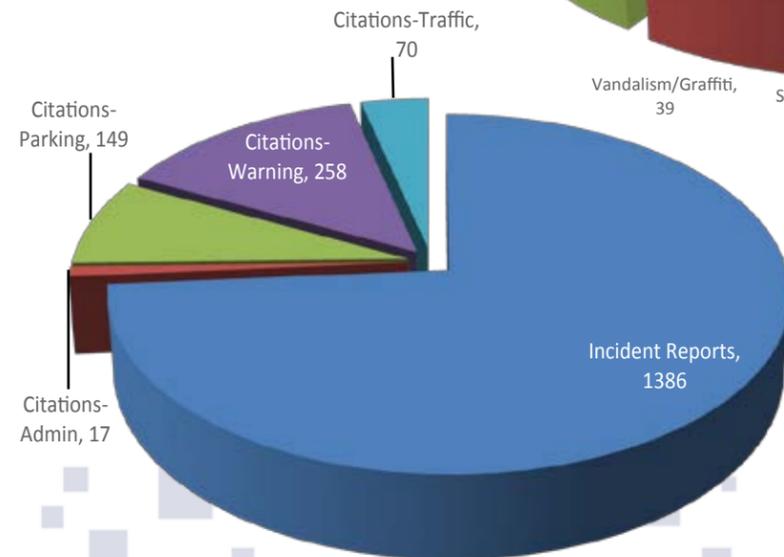
Part 1 Crimes



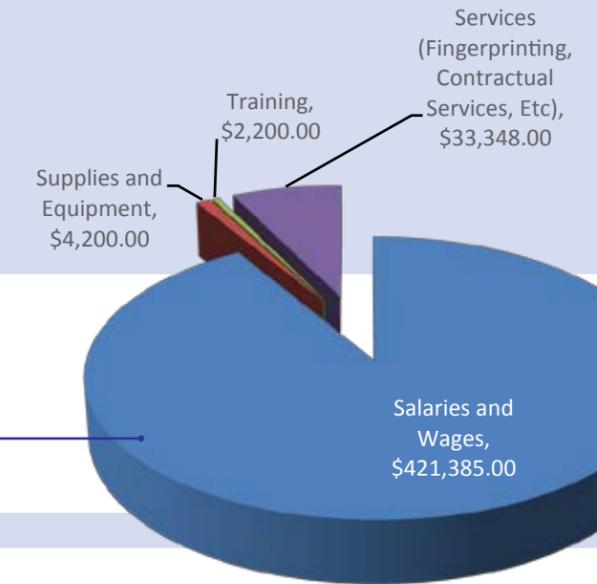
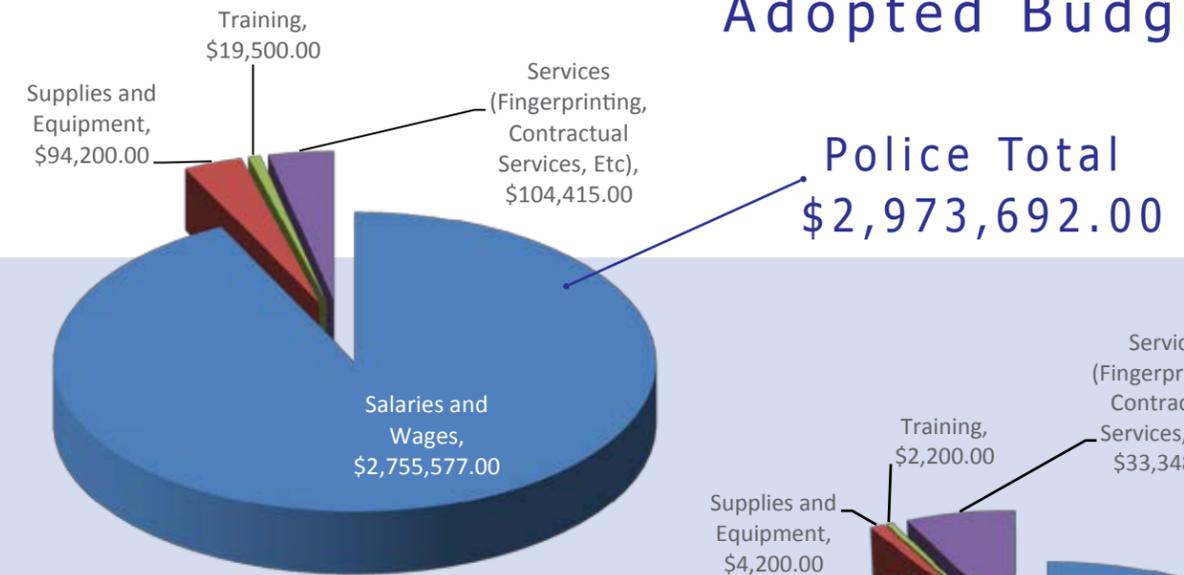
All Other Crimes



Traffic Enforcement & Reports



Adopted Budget



General Fund-Police Department

Salaries and Wages	\$2,755,577.00
Supplies and Equipment	\$94,200.00
Training	\$19,500.00
Services (Fingerprinting, Contractual Services, Etc)	\$104,415.00
Subtotal	\$2,973,692.00

General Fund-Communications Department

Salaries and Wages	\$421,385.00
Supplies and Equipment	\$4,200.00
Training	\$2,200.00
Services (Fingerprinting, Contractual Services, Etc)	\$33,348.00
Subtotal	\$461,133.00

Total of all Police Funds	\$3,434,825.00
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Police Dispatching Service

50 Years of Service

On September 3, 2014, the Morro Bay Police Department commenced dispatching with the San Luis Obispo Sheriff's Office. The purpose for this move was to enhance and improve public safety responses through regionalization. Regionalized dispatching has provided enhanced coordination for multiple jurisdictional responses during emergencies, improved organizational efficiency through the employ of multiple dispatchers, and increased access for our community.



Now our officers have access to additional information through enhanced CAD (Computer Aided Dispatch) and MDC (Mobile Data Computers) technology. All of these systems, including increased staffing in dispatch, have increased access to information and enhanced public safety responses. Our community and officers experience quicker responses due to multiple dispatchers on duty who can field multiple calls. Moreover, regional dispatchers are not distracted by lobby traffic, records duties or other responsibilities.

Our community continues to benefit from face-to-face customer service Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Service is also available anytime by contacting dispatch or by using the call-box that is located outside of the police department.

The Morro Bay Police Department acknowledges our former dispatchers' dedicated service to our community and a special thanks to (retired) Dispatch Supervisor Pat Line, San Luis Obispo Sheriff's Dispatcher Tessa Brantley and Cal Fire Dispatcher Wendy Russell.

We are thankful Dispatcher Robbyn Smith has continued her employment with our department as our first Support Services Technician.



In honor of Morro Bay's 50th anniversary as an incorporated city, Chief Amy Christey authorized the 50th anniversary badge as the official department identification for this celebration year. The anniversary badge depicts the police department building in the center seal, which has been the police department's home for its entire 50 year history.

The badge also incorporates a star, surrounded by a police shield, with "50 years" displayed proudly over the star. The star is representative of the original police constable star-badge worn by law enforcement officials in the Morro Bay area prior to incorporation in 1964.

The police department began law enforcement service to Morro Bay during the 1965 calendar year; however the department chose to celebrate 2014 as our 50th in unity with the larger city celebration.

On January 1st, 2015, each badge was retained by individual department members, in recognition for their ongoing service to the community. The department thanks the Morro Bay Peace Officers' Association and the Morro Bay Police Volunteers, who shared in the production costs associated to this new badge, so that no public funds were spent in its creation.



Grace Poletti has the well-deserved title of Mom of the Morro Bay Police Department.

She has worked with the Caroling Cops program since 1986. She lends her support to the Emergency Vehicle Show, National Night Out, the Thanksgiving Community Dinner, the Harbor Festival Command Post, and to wherever her Police family needs her.

Grace also comes from a law enforcement family. Her husband, Bill Poletti, served 40 years as a reserve sheriff's deputy, and she has continued that legacy of service. We are grateful for the love and support she gives to our officers, their families and to our community.

Serving the MBPD

2014 The Year in Review

January 2014

Investigators worked an elder abuse case involving a 90 year old Morro Bay resident. This was a financial fraud case wherein the resident had paid the suspect nearly \$6,000 for services and merchandise. Investigators secured a search warrant which revealed evidence and ultimately led to the District Attorney's Office issuing an arrest warrant for the suspect.

February 2014

Officers received a report of a missing person/suicidal subject. MBPD, Morro Bay Harbor Patrol and California State Parks conducted a thorough search of the city and beaches. After a short time, officers located the missing person and provided the necessary mental health resources.

A search warrant for child pornography was served at a Morro Bay residence. During the search, investigators obtained evidence that the resident had been downloading and possessing child pornography, and a search of computer devices revealed thousands of unlawful images. The subject was arrested and is being prosecuted.

March 2014

Officers investigated two separate commercial burglaries to local businesses on the waterfront street of the Embarcadero. Both businesses involved were burglarized when their entrance doors were forced open. Currency and other smaller retail items were taken. The total estimated loss to both businesses was over \$1000. Two weeks later, officers were investigating other, unrelated thefts and contacted a male and female staying at a local motel. During their investigation, officers located evidence that matched evidence recovered from the two commercial burglaries. Two suspects were arrested for Burglary and Possession of Burglary Tools and Possession of a Controlled Substance.

Officers investigated an assault with a deadly weapon. The suspect pressed a pellet gun against the victim's leg and fired one pellet, injuring the person. The investigation led to one arrest.

April 2014

Officers investigated a report involving a student who allegedly brought a gun and knife onto school grounds at Morro Bay High School. Officers conducted numerous interviews and determined the student had brought a gun and knife to campus the week prior. It was also determined one of the weapons was a replica gun, similar to the type of weapon MBPD officers carry. Subsequent searches revealed two replica weapons, and they were seized as evidence, along with the knife. The case was forwarded to the District Attorney's Office for prosecution.

May 2014

Investigators were tasked with locating and interviewing 23 alleged victims/witnesses regarding a possible sexual assault at a local daycare facility. This case was to have occurred years ago when the primary victim was 13. The investigation is ongoing as investigators continue to track down possible victims and witnesses.

Officers responded to a reported burglary at a restaurant located on the Embarcadero. The preliminary information was subject(s) had entered the closed business through an upstairs window where evidence was discovered. Officers learned that a large locked safe containing several thousand dollars in cash and checks had been taken. The evidence recovered at the scene provided few leads. However, in October, when officers responded to a disturbance call, they located evidence associated with this burglary and stolen property from another commercial burglary. The suspect was interviewed and admitted his involvement.

June 2014

Officers responded to a restaurant in North Morro Bay concerning a burglary to the business. During the investigation, officers learned an unknown subject(s) had accessed the business sometime during the nighttime hours. Officers learned the suspect(s) had stolen several hundred dollars. With the assistance of the Sheriff's Crime Lab, the evidence recovered was submitted to the Department of Justice lab in an attempt to identify the subject(s) involved in the commercial burglary. In March, 2015, the evidence identified a suspect. This investigation is ongoing, and officers are attempting to locate the suspect.

July 2014

Officers investigated a reported assault with a vehicle where the suspect allegedly attempted to run down the victim. Officers learned that the suspect collided with the front of the victim's vehicle and mailboxes. MBPD officers worked with officers from the California Highway Patrol, as they were also searching for the same suspect. Investigators located the suspect the next day, and he was arrested for the assault.

Officers responded to a reported bar fight involving numerous intoxicated subjects. When officers arrived, they separated the subjects and searched for evidence and interviewed witnesses. Officers discovered one victim who sustained a head injury, and one subject was arrested.

The United States Coast Guard and Harbor Patrol requested the assistance of MBPD for a report of four people in the water due to their water skiff overturning. The driver of the skiff was determined to be operating a vessel while intoxicated and was arrested. While at the scene of that incident, a MBPD patrol vehicle was struck by a passing car. Officers from the Highway Patrol responded and assisted with the accident investigation.

August 2014

Officers responded to numerous reports of gunshots being fired in North Morro Bay. During the investigation, officers learned that two large dogs had been fighting, and the owner attempted to separate the animals with the assistance of his adult daughter. The investigation determined that the owner had retrieved a firearm and subsequently shot one of the animals multiple times, killing it. The owner of the dog was arrested and the remaining dog was confiscated by County Animal Control.

The Police Department received numerous reports of local businesses receiving counterfeit bills. A total of five businesses in Morro Bay had reported receiving approximately a dozen counterfeit \$100 bills, and similar crimes had been reported in neighboring cities that were believed to be related. During the investigation, officers contacted a subject who attempted to pass counterfeit \$100 bills at a local business. The suspect was found to be in possession of counterfeit U.S. currency and Possession of a Controlled Substance. He was arrested without incident and booked into the San Luis Obispo County jail.

October 2014

Officers responded to a reported disturbance on Main St. During the investigation, Investigators located stolen property recently reported from burglaries in the area. This case netted the recovery of stolen hand tools, gas powered yard tools, computers, computer monitors and musical equipment. Investigators were able to seize and return property related to a San Luis Obispo Sheriff's Office theft case.

November 2014

After a several month investigation, Investigators, in cooperation with San Luis Obispo Sheriff's Office, arrested a suspect for multiple counts of commercial burglary, possession of stolen property, forgery and other charges. The suspect was believed responsible for burglarizing the "Dutchman's Restaurant" in May of this year and recently breaking into "Antiques Etc." This resulted in well over \$5000 in losses. In both cases, the victim businesses suffered damage from burglar's forced entry.

At the time of his arrest, the suspect was also in possession of personal checks that were forged to his name, believed stolen from mailboxes throughout the city, along with other evidence used to forge additional checks. The suspect was implicated in additional criminal acts of larceny and additional charges were considered during the investigation.

The Morro Bay Police Officers Association, in collaboration with numerous community volunteers, hosted the annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner. More than 600 community members dined at the event and nearly 75 meals were delivered by members of the Police Officers Association.



December 2014

Investigators concluded a 5-year long investigation with the arrest of a 64 year old suspect for the murder of his wife. The victim, who was 62 at the time of her death in June of 2009, died under suspicious circumstances at the couple's residence in the 2400 block of Greenwood Ave. in Morro Bay.

Investigators pieced together physical evidence collected at the residence, statements, and witness testimony in order to identify the primary suspect. Investigators worked collaboratively with Investigators from the San Luis Obispo County District Attorney's Office, the San Luis Obispo County Sheriff Coroners, the California Department of Justice and the FBI. The suspect was booked into the San Luis Obispo County Jail on the charge of 1st Degree Murder.

Morro Bay Neighborhood Watch, Police Volunteers, Police Officers Association and numerous community members hosted the Annual Caroling Cops gift giveaway. This event occurred for three nights and distributed nearly 1000 gifts throughout Morro Bay.

Leadership Training

- o San Luis Obispo County Leadership
- o POST Executive Development
- o Leadership Challenge
- o Leadership Effectiveness
- o Women's Leaders in Law Enforcement
- o California Chief's Symposium
- o Field Training Officer Course
- o POST Supervisory Leadership Institute

Investigative Training

- o Child abduction intervention and resources
- o Homemade explosives
- o Sexual Assault
- o Canine Narcotics Training
- o Gang Investigation
- o Identity Theft
- o Domestic Violence
- o DNA Update

Advanced Training

- o Pursuit Tactics
- o Arrest and Control
- o Firearms
- o Bicycle Patrol
- o Critical Incident
- o Officer Safety
- o Property and Evidence Collection



School Resource Officer

On a daily basis the School Resource Officer (SRO) assigned to Morro Bay High School and Del Mar Elementary has numerous contacts and interactions with students, parents and school staff. The role of the SRO is very important in the school environment and functions as a liaison for the police department, as well as handles all calls for service, investigations and ancillary duties related to the schools.

The SRO greatly reduces the need for patrol officers to respond to the schools during school hours. The SRO assists school administrative staff on a daily basis with maintaining school safety and is essential in assisting staff with investigations, regardless of whether or not they warrant law enforcement. Additionally, the SRO enforces laws and acts as a resource to students and parents. The SRO is instrumental in assisting staff with parents and other school related issues.



DAILY DUTIES OF THE SRO

- Maintain a visible presence on campus and surrounding areas before school, during breaks/lunch, and after school.
- Assist with criminal investigations related to the schools.
- Respond to calls-for-service regarding juveniles and at the schools.
- Meet with parents and school staff as requested.
- Education programs and presentations for parents, students and teachers.
- Liaison between Morro Bay Police Department and Morro Bay High School and Del Mar Elementary.
- Attend all football games and other special events to ensure school safety.

SRO CASES AND INCIDENTS

- (2) Possession(s) of a weapon on school grounds
- Possession of marijuana on school grounds
- Sexual assault
- Petty theft
- Suspicious circumstances – threats of violence
- (2) Battery
- Vandalism
- Contributing to the delinquency of a minor
- Numerous traffic related warnings
- Numerous meetings with parents
- Intoxicated student
- Presentations – criminal justice system and seatbelt safety

Department K9 Program

K9 Officer Stephanie Pipan and her canine partner Xello are an important component of patrol. The use of a canine enhances readiness and responses. In 2014, our canine team participated in nearly 230 hours of training, which consisted of hard surface tracking, article searches, narcotics searches, apprehension and obedience. The team was very busy, as well, with assisting outside agencies on eight occasions, all which ended in successful finds.



K9 YEAR IN REVIEW

Over 30 searches of homes and businesses.

The use of the canine is beneficial with building searches because the canine will detect persons and/or contraband far quicker than his human partners.

Assisted in over 20 Narcotics Searches

Two successful Hard Surface Tracks of runaway juveniles:

In the fall of 2014, the canine team assisted patrol officers who were searching for a reported runaway. The juvenile had been missing for a couple of hours when the canine team arrived. As soon as Xello got a good track on the Hard Surface, he started tracking. Shortly after, the canine team located the juvenile near his residence.

In the winter of 2014, the canine team responded to assist with a search for a missing juvenile. It was reported that the juvenile had been missing for nearly one hour prior to the canine team's arrival. Upon arrival, Xello began sniffing the ground and led his handler to a nearby park. It was there the team located the juvenile who was reunited with her family.

Eight call outs with successful finds.

The canine team assisted the Sheriff's Office on several occasions with building and vehicle searches. Each time, the canine team located narcotics and paraphernalia which led to the arrest of the suspect.

The team assisted a police department during an in-progress burglary report. Xello conducted a building search, and the suspect was located and arrested.

The canine team assisted staff at the Federal Correctional Institution Lompoc with narcotics searches inside cells. Narcotics and paraphernalia were located inside the inmates living quarters.

Department Officers and Staff



Chief Amy Christey



Commander Bryan Millard



Sergeant Rick Catlett



Sergeant Jody Cox



Officer Sean Jessen



Officer Gene Stuart



K9 Officer Stephanie Pipan & Xello



Bonnie Johnson, Support Services Coordinator



Sergeant Susan Gomes



Sergeant Derrick Porter



Corporal Mark Martin



School Resource Officer Nicole Canby



Robbyn Smith, Support Services Technician



Police Chaplain Jim Berg



Not Pictured: Officer Luke Riddering; Tami Ponder, Property and Evidence



Senior Officer Dale Cullum



Senior Officer Robert Douglas Hufstetler



Detective Tony Mosqueda



Officer Maria Lomeli



Department Volunteers

Community Outreach



Rick Cobbs



Jan Gould



Susan Johnson



Ed Krovitz



John Lewan



William Peirce



Brenda Pool



Doug Riddell



Mike Tannler



Ken Vesterfeld



Beth Wordsworth



Jon Wordsworth



In 2014, the Morro Bay Police Department collaborated with several community based organizations, including the Police Volunteers, Explorer POST 43, Morro Bay Neighborhood Watch, Police Chaplains, Estero Bay Alliance for Care (EBAC), Morro Bay Rotary Club, Project Surf Camp, Project Lifesaver and San Luis Coastal Unified School District (SRO Program). Through these partnerships the department, and the Morro Bay Police Officer's Association, hosted the following community based events: Tip-a-Cop, National Night Out, Canine Walk-a-thon, Emergency Vehicle Show, Thanksgiving Dinner and Caroling Cops.

Morro Bay Police Volunteers

The Police Volunteers enhance the department's public safety delivery through providing a myriad of services. Our volunteers exemplify the department's mission statement and serve as community role models while inspiring others to engage in volunteer service.

In 2014, our Police Volunteers worked nearly 2900 hours providing proactive patrol, traffic control, administrative support, fingerprinting services, vehicle maintenance, special events, chaplain services, Caroling Cops, Project Lifesaver, school safety, training support and a variety of other public safety services.

Morro Bay Police Explorer Post 43

The Police Explorers contribute to the department through their volunteerism and youth leadership. In 2014, the Police Explorers assisted with Caroling Cops, the Emergency Vehicle Show, the annual Thanksgiving Dinner, the Canine Walk-a-thon, and with supporting MBPD at the numerous citywide events. Each of our Police Explorers exemplifies our mission of providing the highest level of police services in partnership with our community. During the 2014 annual awards, Police Explorer Deven Blair was recognized as the Explorer of the Year.



Not Pictured: Jack Arnold, Margaret Barrios, Ruben Barrios, Mel Brenneise, Meredith Fennacy, Leroy Fowler, Coral Hileman, Dean Hileman, Ian McKnight, Larry Padalino, Randy Ponder, Dean Reddell, Joan Sullivan and Shaun Rittenhouse

Annual Awards Ceremony

Police Chief Amy Christey, City Manager David Buckingham, and members of the Morro Bay City Council, presented the Morro Bay Police Department, Police Volunteers and Police Explorers, awards signifying exemplary public safety service in Morro Bay.



Employee of the year was Support Services Coordinator Bonnie Johnson. Ms. Johnson was nominated for her service to the community, going above and beyond the call of duty to assist members of the public including members of the Morro Bay Police Department each and every day. Her commitment to Morro Bay is commendable and Ms. Johnson has demonstrated exemplary service in supporting the Police Department and Morro Bay.



Officer Maria Lomeli received the Excellence in Service award. Officer Lomeli investigated a property theft

wherein she provided exceptional customer service and recovered the stolen property. A community member said this about Officer Lomeli: "Officer Lomeli handled my case from start to finish, and I wanted you to know that this is the best of the best of your front line officers. Officer Lomeli was professional, personable, dedicated and highly informative."



Sergeant Jody Cox, Detective Dale Cullum and Officer Gene Stuart received the Investigation of the Year award for their collaborative efforts with solving multiple commercial burglaries. Officer Stuart found the key piece of evidence during a traffic stop. This led Sergeant Cox and Detective Cullum to the suspects. The team developed leads, analyzed numerous pieces of evidence, conducted lengthy interviews, which netted arrests for multiple commercial burglaries, forgery and stolen property.



Police Volunteer of the Year was Bill Peirce. Mr. Peirce was presented this award for his outstanding service as a Police Volunteer by stepping in to help, proactive patrol, responding to call-outs, and assisting at community events. Mr. Peirce has proven his interest in the welfare of Morro Bay by providing exceptional volunteerism and assisting the Police Department in accomplishing its Mission, Vision and Goals.



The Chief's Commendation is awarded to police officers for the highest level of performance above and beyond the typical duties of the employee. This commendation also signifies each of the recipients' true commitment to the Vision, "excellence in service."



Several officers received one or more Chief's Commendations: K9 Officer Stephanie Pipan netted the most arrests for DUI in 2014. School Resource Officer Nicole Canby and Senior Officer Robert Hufstetler displayed professionalism and exceptional performance when dealing with an extremely combative arrestee. Senior Officer Derrick Porter and Sergeant Jody Cox were recognized for their exceptional efforts detaining a highly delusional subject who was in possession of loaded firearms. Detective Dale Cullum, Senior Officer Robert Hufstetler and Officer Tony Mosqueda conducted an exceptional investigation of an armed robbery. Senior Officer Robert Hufstetler, Senior Officer Derrick Porter, Corporal Mark Martin, Detective Dale Cullum and Sergeant Jody Cox were recognized for their exceptional investigation of numerous thefts from vehicles.



Certificates of Appreciation were awarded for an outstanding act or service that aids the Police Department in carrying out its Mission, Vision and Goals within the community. The following Police Volunteers received a certificate of appreciation: Ken Vesterfelt for his commitment to public safety in Morro Bay, exemplified by weekly proactive patrols; Susan Johnson for her commitment to the department and Morro Bay, exemplified by her consistent administrative support and fingerprinting services; and Mel Brenneise for his exceptional efforts serving as the "heart and soul" of the annual Caroling Cops trolley for more than 18 years.



Explorer of the Year was Deven Blair. Deven was nominated for his service as a Police Explorer where he volunteers his time assisting Morro Bay Police Department with providing exceptional public safety services. Deven has proven his commitment to the Morro Bay community by assisting members of our community with daily tasks and his been recognized as a very helpful person who is making a difference in our community.



The Morro Bay Police Department held our annual awards ceremony on April 1, 2015. During the ceremony, each of our officers and Police Volunteers wore mourning bands in remembrance of San Jose Police Officer Michael Johnson who was fatally wounded while serving his community.

On Tuesday, March 24, 2015, Police Officer Michael Johnson was shot and killed as he and other officers responded to a suicide threat. San Jose Police Officers had received a call regarding a man who was reportedly drunk and was possibly having thoughts of hurting himself. As officers approached the building, the man stepped onto the balcony and opened fire without warning, fatally wounding Officer Johnson. Other officers returned fire and provided aid to Officer Johnson.

Officer Johnson had served with the San Jose Police Department for 14 years.





The Morro Bay Police Department is committed to providing an open and two-way communication link between the department and the community.

We now offer a mobile app that provides the perfect way for you to receive notifications of critical information immediately to your mobile device. You can also receive bulletins about missing persons, stolen vehicles, traffic incidents and other items of interest.



The Morro Bay Police Department App allows you to easily submit tips (anonymously if desired), send comments, send photos and place *non-emergency* calls to the department with the touch of a button.

Look for our app in your smart phone's app store, or scan the QR code.



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