

Since 1951

2003

Merriam Police

ANNUAL REPORT



The Merriam Police Department has eight marked police vehicles in its fleet. They include three Chevrolet Impalas, four Ford Crown Victoria's and one Ford Expedition.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Merriam Police Department 2003 Annual Report Highlights and Statistics

Message From the Chief	1
Mission Statement and Values	2
2003 Personnel Roster	3
Department Organizational Chart	4
Part One Crime Statistics	5
Reported Crimes	6
Sub-grid Crime Activity Maps	7 - 8
Critical Incidents of the Year	9 - 11
Administration Unit Report	12 - 13
Expenditure Report	14
Patrol Unit Report	15
Motor Vehicle Accidents	16
Traffic Enforcement Efforts	17
Investigations Unit	18
Animal Control Unit Update	19
Support Functions	20 - 23
Community Oriented Policing Update	24 - 25
Drug Forfeiture Report	26

D.A.R.E.



Message From The Chief

The subtitle of the 2002 Merriam Police Department's Annual Report was "A year of change." In 2003 that title could be changed to **A year in disarray**, due to the ongoing project to reconstruct City Hall and build a new facility for the police department.

All year long citizens and city employees have had to dodge trenches, boxes, temporary fences and construction equipment. The police department has endured indoor dust storms, floods and an occasional citizen walking through the employee only area lost and looking for help.

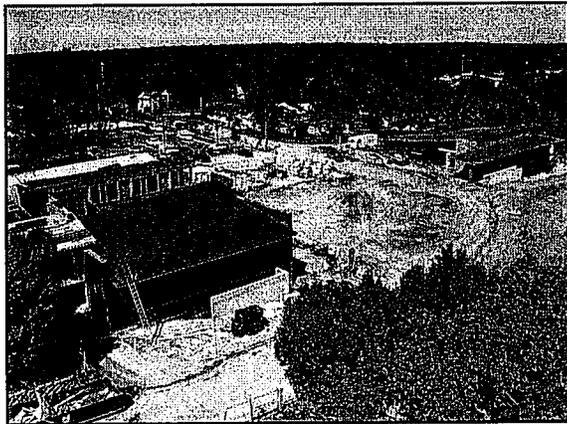
As the year came to an end, the new police facility was 90% complete, the parking lot was scheduled to be asphalted in January 2004 and moving dates in February 2004 were being set. Police employees are very eager to move into their first new stand-alone and up-to-date police facility. This five-year long project was been arduous but well worth the wait.

While the department dealt with the challenges listed above, the rest of the city went on operating as normal. The department still responded to traffic accidents, disturbances, alarms and other calls for service. Activity wise, the year was very similar to 2002. While the numbers of some types of crime went up in 2003, others went down. Officers kept themselves busy as usual writing traffic citations and making arrests. The department spent a majority of the year at full strength and luckily it got through another year without any serious injuries or lawsuits.

2003 was another good year. The department continues to enjoy fantastic support from Merriam citizens and elected officials.

I look forward to 2004 with great anticipation, and, as always, it has been a pleasure to be your chief of police.

Chief Kenneth Sissom



The aerial photograph on the left is of the Merriam City Hall property under construction during the summer 2003.

Photo courtesy of the Merriam Fire Department.

ORGANIZATIONAL VALUES

PARTNERSHIP:

We are committed to working in partnership with the community and each other to identify and resolve issues which impact the community, ourselves and other professional agencies.

DEDICATION:

We are committed to providing the highest quality of law enforcement service to the community with the goal of enhancing the quality of life within Merriam.

RESPECT:

We are committed to the respect of individual rights, human dignity and the values of all members of the community and the department.

INTEGRITY:

We value the adherence to the rule of law, to the Constitutions of Kansas and of the United States, and to utmost honesty. We are committed to nurturing the public trust by holding ourselves accountable to the highest standards of professionalism and ethics.

COMMUNITY:

We value working with Merriam's diverse community to ensure the safety and security of our neighborhoods. We are committed to the highest level of communication and cooperation with both the residential and business communities of Merriam in an effort to reduce crime and increase the feeling of security and well-being within the city.

EMPOWERMENT:

We are committed to empowering our employees and the community to resolve problems by creating an environment that encourages solutions that address the needs of the residential and business communities.

ORGANIZATIONAL GROWTH:

We value the creation of an environment which focuses on solving problems through teamwork, participation, cooperation and enthusiasm, fostered by decisive, professional leaders who support creativity and innovation.



MERRIAM POLICE DEPARTMENT MISSION STATEMENT

WE, THE MERRIAM, KANSAS POLICE DEPARTMENT, ARE A COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICE DEPARTMENT. WE ARE COMMITTED TO PROVIDING THE HIGHEST QUALITY OF POLICE SERVICES BY EMPOWERING OUR EMPLOYEES TO WORK CO-ACTIVELY WITH THE COMMUNITY TOWARD THE GOAL OF IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE WITHIN MERRIAM. WE PLEDGE TO MAINTAIN THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF RESPECT FOR AN INDIVIDUAL'S RIGHTS AND HUMAN DIGNITY. OUR PURPOSE IS TO PROVIDE SAFETY AND SECURITY FOR ALL PERSONS WITHIN THE CITY WITH RESPONSIVE AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES UTILIZING COMPASSION AND CONCERN. OUR MISSION IS ACCOMPLISHED WITHIN MORAL AND LEGAL STANDARDS THROUGH A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE COMMUNITY AND THE EMPLOYEES OF THE MERRIAM POLICE DEPARTMENT.

NOTE:

The Mission Statement and Organizational Values were developed by a committee of Merriam Police Officers with the assistance of a group of concerned Merriam citizens. This Mission Statement was adopted June 1993.

Merriam Police Department Employee Roster

As of December 31, 2003



ADMINISTRATION

Chief of Police Kenneth R. Sissom	24 years
Assistant Chief William R. Lietzke - Patrol Unit Commander	23 years
<u>Lieutenant Timothy J. Burnett - Investigation Unit Commander</u>	<u>21 years</u>
<i>Average Tenure = 23 Years</i>	

PATROL DIVISION SUPERVISORS

Sergeant Randy Davis - Shift Two Supervisor	22 years
Sergeant Albert Jones - Shift One Supervisor	22 years
Sergeant Mike Daniels - Shift Three Supervisor	16 years
Sergeant Darren McLaughlin - Special Assignment Supervisor	14 years
Corporal Dan Kellerman - Assistant Shift Supervisor	19 years
Corporal William T. Sparks - Special Assignment	13 years
Corporal Todd Allen - Assistant Shift Supervisor	7 years
<u>Corporal John D. Walton - Assistant Shift Supervisor</u>	<u>7 years</u>
<i>Average Tenure = 15 years</i>	

PATROL DIVISION LINE OFFICERS

Master Officer Larry Birt - DARE Officer	15 years
Master Officer Gerry Eickhoff	12 years
Police Officer Charles Yocum	26 years
Police Officer Jeff Magee	16 years
Police Officer Paul Oliver	2 years
Police Officer Mark Messbarger	2 years
Police Officer Chris Brokaw	2 years
Police Officer Shannon Goodnight	2 years
Police Officer Phillip Lewis	1 year
Police Officer Chad Hodge	1 year
Police Officer Philip Lofflin	1 year
Police Officer John DeMoss	<1 year
<u>Police Officer Trainee Jeremiah Waters</u>	<u><1 year</u>
<i>Average Tenure = 6.2 years</i>	

INVESTIGATIONS

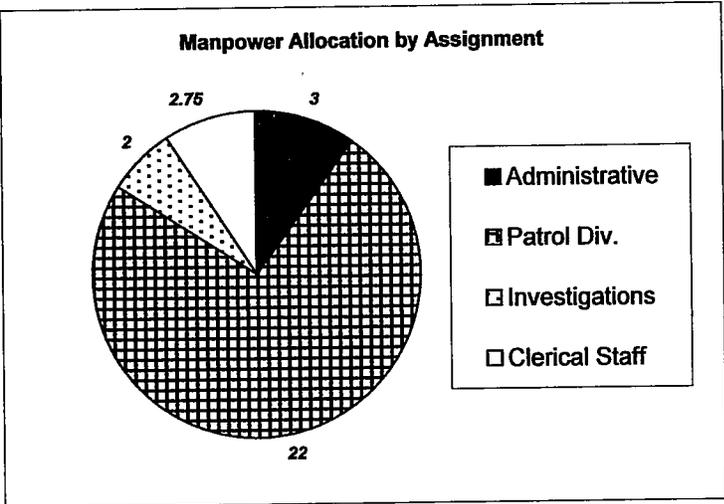
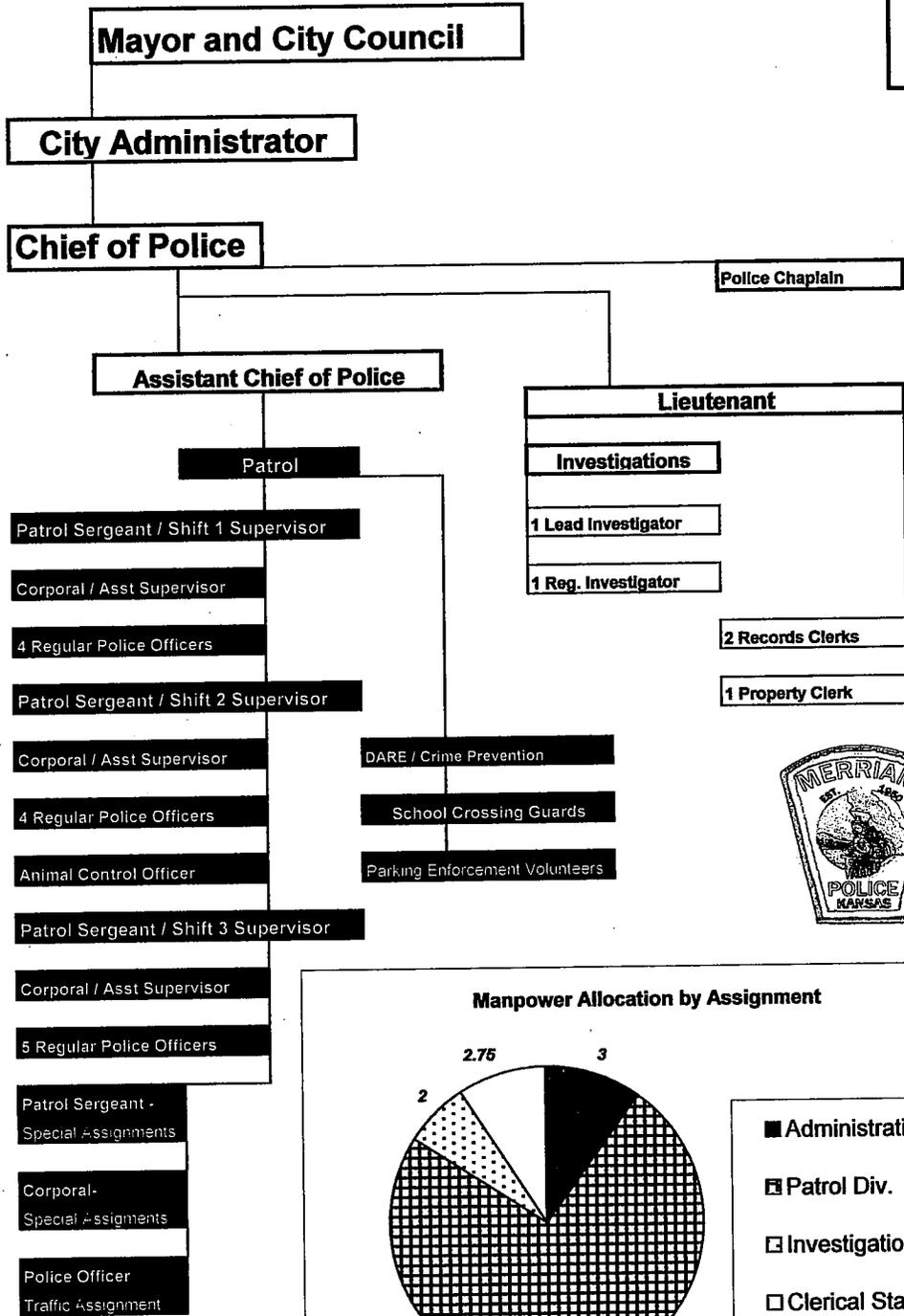
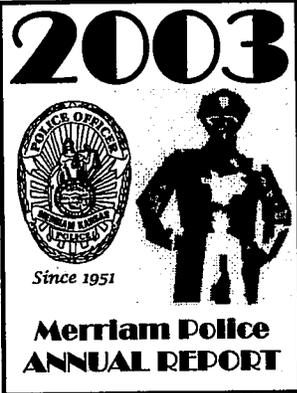
Master Police Officer Troy Duvanel - Lead Investigator	9 years
<u>Master Police Officer Jason Reynolds</u>	<u>3 years</u>
<i>Average Tenure = 6 years</i>	

CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES

Animal Control Officer Dave Thomas	15 years
Police Property Clerk Lisa Aldrich	11 years
Police Records Clerk Karen Gibson	10 years
<u>Police Records Clerk Ronda Brumbaugh</u>	<u>4 years</u>
<i>Average Tenure = 10 years</i>	

POLICE CROSSING GUARDS - Part Time Seasonal

Gene Wright - 11 years	Cynthia Knapp - 5 years	Pam Steeb - 4 years
Doris Benlon - 1 year	Rebecca Martin - 1 year	Jane Loza (Alt) - 1 year



Merriam Police Department Part-One Crime Statistics



INTRODUCTION:

Every since the mid 1800's police departments have been judged by their crime statistics. When the statistics are lower, then the theory is that the police departments are more effective. In reality, there are many factors that can alter crime statistics which can cause them to vary from year to year. The factors can include economic conditions, weather, incursion of drugs, gangs, organized crime, development of new businesses and the increase or decrease of law enforcement presence in the community.

Within the police department, we use statistics to develop patrol strategies for the coming year in hopes of reducing crime. While it is difficult to accurately predict crime statistics, one thing is certain — the statistics will vary from year-to-year. This is especially true for a suburban city like Merriam.

The collection of crime statistics is required by the Kansas Bureau of Investigation. The information collected is used for local, state and federal databases to compare rates with previous years to get a picture of the amount and types of crimes that are happening in a given area.

CRIME RATES TRENDS:

The overall part-one crime rate for Merriam was very similar to the rate in 2002. While most types of crimes remained stable, there were categories with notable changes. There were significant increases noted in thefts, and during the same year there were significant decreased noted in burglaries. The rest of the statistics were very similar.

These changes tend to imitate regional (Kansas City Metro-wide) trends. Theoretically, increased patrols and adequate staffing will improve statistics concerning property loss, but there are many other factors that can influence crime statistics.

PART ONE CRIMES IN 2003:

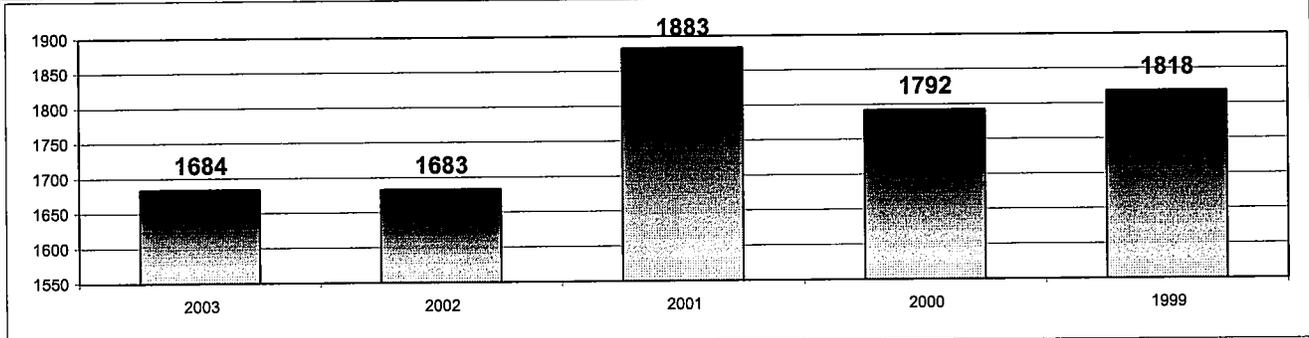
Each year, we report Part One Crimes to the Kansas Bureau of Investigation. Part One Crimes are those crimes that are the most serious or most commonly occurring crimes in America. The 2003 statistics have been compiled and there was less than one percent difference in these crimes, compared with the 2002 statistics. The Part One Crimes are listed below and a more complete breakdown of all crimes can be found on the following pages.

	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
MURDER	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
RAPE	7	5	7	6	9	6	5	4	6	8
ROBBERY	15	18	12	9	11	9	23	30	13	16
AGG. ASSAULT	28	27	18	37	31	23	26	32	20	26
BURGLARY	296	249	256	256	303	236	306	360	331	255
THEFT	364	429	429	431	376	454	490	403	342	427
AUTO THEFT	71	71	68	98	72	113	98	92	91	77
ARSON	5	7	3	5	4	3	2	4	8	7

Year	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Part-One Crimes	769	806	782	842	807	845	950	925	811	816
From Previous Year	+4%	+4%	-3%	+7%	-4%	+4%	+11%	-3%	-12%	+<1%

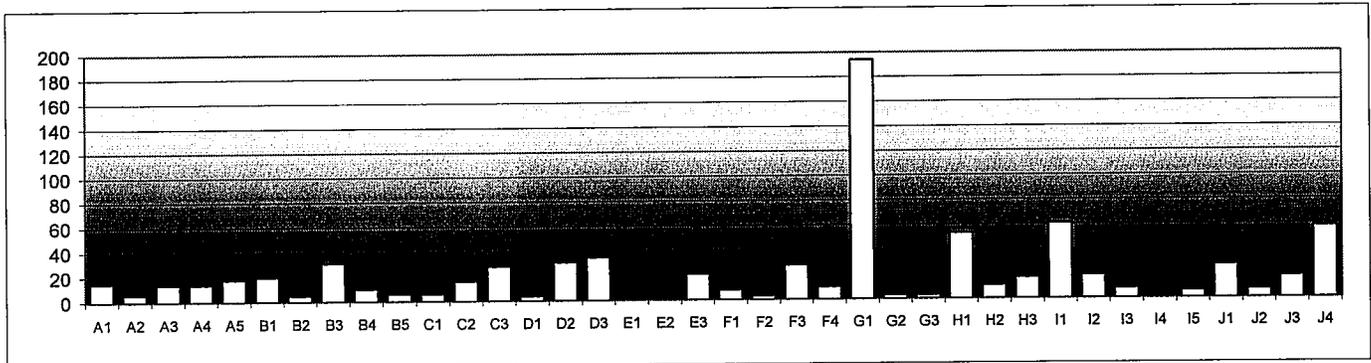
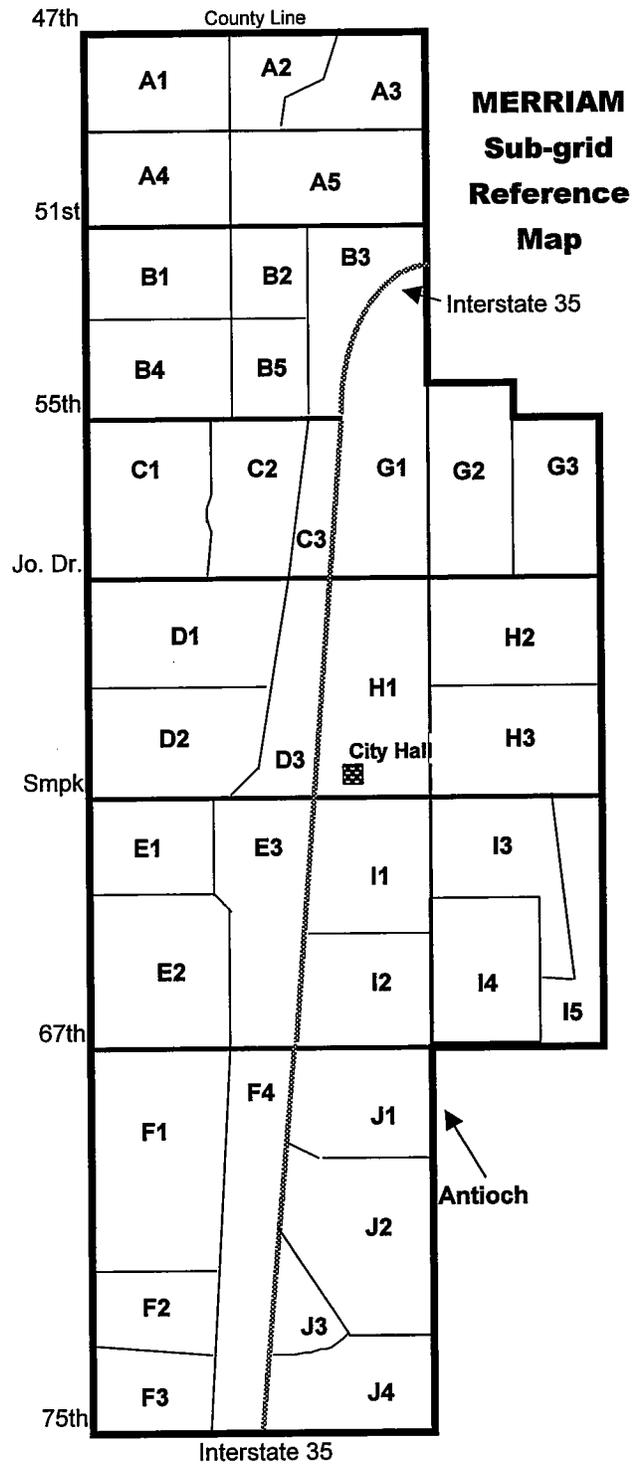
2002 REPORTED CRIMES IN MERRIAM, KANSAS

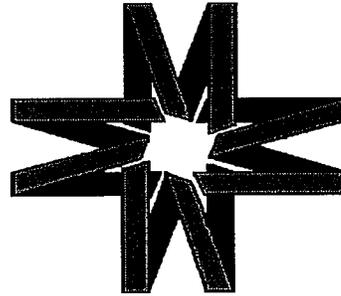
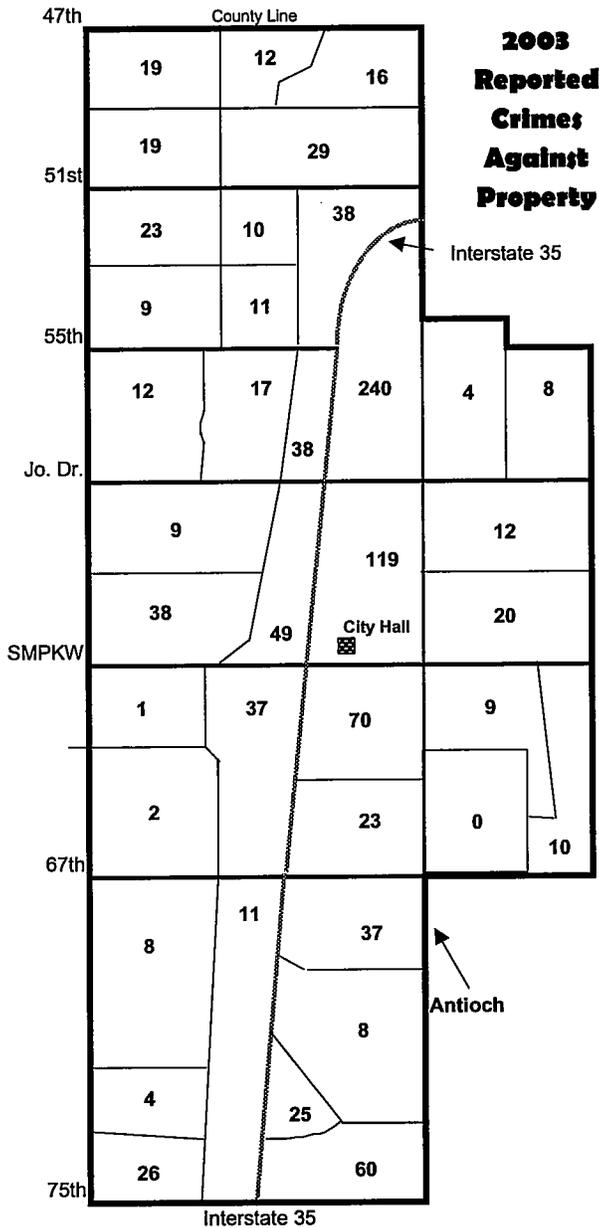
TYPE OF CRIME	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	TYPE OF CRIME	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Aggravated Arson	1	1	1	1	3	Forgery	289	196	90	75	27
Arson	2	2	3	7	4	Furnishing Alcohol/Beer to Minor	2	3	0	1	5
Aggravated Assault	9	14	19	2	11	Gasoline Drive Off	0	0	30	70	78
Aggravated Battery	14	12	14	18	13	Habitual Traffic Violator	16	8	0	0	9
Aggravated Burglary	4	11	12	9	11	Harassment by Phone	47	23	30	22	29
Aggravated Sodomy	1	1	0	1	0	Murder / Manslaughter	1	2	0	0	0
Aggravated Indecent Liberties	3	5	4	5	5	Indecent Liberties with a Child	1	0	0	1	2
Aggravated Kidnapping	1	2	0	0	0	Indecent Solicitation of a Child	2	1	2	0	0
Aggravated Robbery	6	15	20	10	10	Identification Theft	0	0	5	5	13
Aggravated Sexual Battery	1	0	0	0	0	Intimidation of a Victim/Witness	0	0	1	2	0
Assault	3	6	6	8	3	Kidnapping	0	2	5	1	0
Attempted Murder	1	0	0	0	0	Lewd and Lascivious Behavior	3	4	1	5	4
Attempted Theft	5	3	3	2	4	Littering	3	2	2	7	2
Battery	99	107	128	124	126	Minor in Possession of Alcohol	10	14	19	23	29
Burglary to Auto	162	209	269	257	149	Obstructing Legal Process	17	11	24	25	48
Burglary to Business	22	20	23	15	42	Prescription Fraud	9	6	3	1	1
Burglary to Residence	38	37	42	54	40	Controlled Substance Possession	77	31	44	43	73
Burglary to Storage Area	10	31	13	6	17	Drug Paraphernalia Possession	9	7	16	16	13
Child In Need Of Care	19	36	49	12	23	Drug Possession / Intent of Sale	4	4	1	3	9
Child Abuse	0	2	0	0	1	Possession of Stolen Property	13	23	35	20	18
Computer Trespass	1	2	1	0	0	Possession of Tobacco/Minor	4	0	3	16	4
Counterfeiting	0	3	6	3	8	Prostitution	1	1	2	0	12
Criminal Damage - Felony	30	28	42	33	57	Rape	6	5	4	6	9
Criminal Damage - Misdemeanor	111	81	122	87	83	Robbery	3	8	10	3	5
Criminal Deprivation of Property	2	0	12	13	12	Sexual Battery	7	7	4	1	1
Criminal Discharge of a Weapon	0	0	2	0	1	Theft of Lost or Mislaid Property	46	73	64	68	69
Criminal Threats	20	36	33	15	14	Theft of Services	11	13	4	6	8
Criminal Trespass	12	15	19	23	17	Theft of Auto	115	98	92	92	77
Criminal Use of a Financial Card	5	7	17	22	31	Theft of Auto (Attempted)	9	16	13	4	4
Criminal Use of a Weapon	4	2	3	0	4	Theft - Felony	86	66	67	82	59
Cruelty to Animals	2	0	1	0	1	Theft - Misdemeanor	369	411	335	261	265
Disorderly Conduct	43	46	71	52	68	Violation: Court Protection Order	13	11	9	10	20
Escape From Custody	0	1	0	0	0	Worthless Check	0	0	2	2	1
Falsely Reporting a Crime	1	0	1	0	1	Other Crimes Not Listed Above	7	11	28	32	24
False Writing	6	0	2	1	7	Open	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL OF CRIMES REPORTED PER YEAR							1818	1792	1883	1683	1684



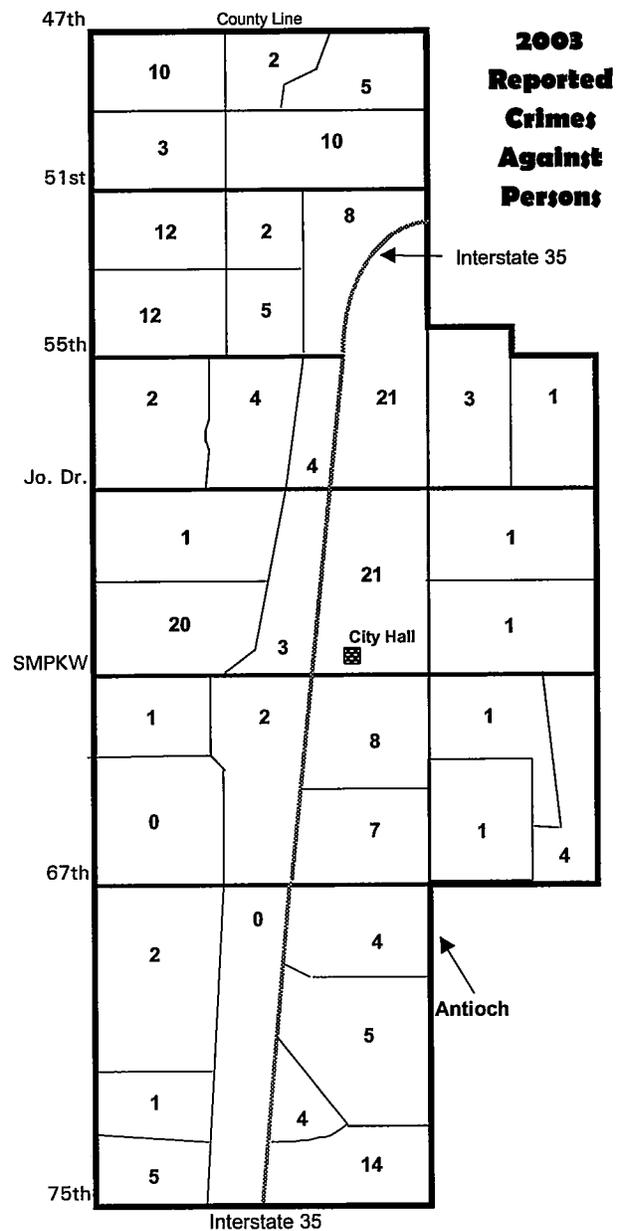
Part One Crimes / 2003
By Location

Grid	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
A1	18	15	21	22	15
A2	6	6	7	7	6
A3	10	10	18	18	14
A4	6	19	13	9	14
A5	13	35	24	18	18
B1	12	27	28	19	20
B2	4	9	2	10	5
B3	34	27	20	19	31
B4	4	3	11	6	10
B5	4	7	10	10	6
C1	14	8	5	13	6
C2	12	9	8	13	16
C3	23	25	22	17	28
D1	11	10	10	6	4
D2	45	38	43	32	31
D3	42	41	23	43	35
E1	2	1	1	0	0
E2	3	1	10	5	1
E3	52	41	47	25	21
F1	10	14	14	10	8
F2	6	2	3	9	3
F3	42	39	50	40	28
F4	18	24	5	13	10
G1	150	159	180	171	194
G2	6	10	13	19	3
G3	13	9	2	2	3
H1	86	71	68	50	53
H2	11	6	9	9	11
H3	37	28	25	13	17
I1	84	103	64	71	61
I2	29	30	16	15	19
I3	4	4	3	4	8
I4	0	0	0	3	1
I5	12	4	8	8	6
J1	14	24	26	13	27
J2	13	11	14	18	7
J3	19	31	46	17	18
J4	51	49	56	39	58





**City of Merriam, Kansas
Sub-Grid Maps**



These two Merriam maps illustrate crimes that were reported by victims in Merriam.

The top map illustrates the number of "property" crimes, including burglaries, thefts, forgeries, frauds and vandalisms.

The bottom map illustrates the number of "persons" crimes, which include murders, rapes, robberies, assaults and batteries.

NOTE: Some minor crimes such as disorderly conduct are not represented on these maps.

Merriam's Top 10 Most Critical Incidents of 2003



INTRODUCTION:

Each year, officers of the Merriam Police Department respond to thousands of calls for service ranging from motorist assists and animal calls to aggravated assaults, rapes and deaths. This is the sixth year that the Annual Report has featured the "Top 10 Most Critical Incidents." These incidents are listed in chronological order as they occurred in 2003.

Date: 1/17/2003 **Time:** 14:30 **Offense:** CRIMINAL TRESPASS

Location: 5824 Antioch (Mattress Firm)

Narrative: A man, described as very mentally handicapped along with others from a group home were taken to Cinemark Theatre by his caregivers for an outing. Without provocation, he became violent and ran off. He made his way to the nearby Mattress Firm business in Town Center. Employees there could not communicate with the man and called the police. Merriam officers attempted to communicate with the man for several minutes trying to find out his identification and where he had come from. The group home employee responded and informed the officers that the man had only been in their care for three weeks and that he became violent one other time and it took five men to subdue him. As officers tried to get the man to leave he would not respond. Instead he seemed to be getting more agitated. Officers attempted to handcuff the stocky man but he started to fight. Due to his large physical size and apparent strength, it was decided that the departments Taser (electro-muscular disruption device) should be employed. The use of this device was very successful. The man faltered to one knee and allowed officers to handcuff him without further resistance or injury. The man was then taken to KU Medical Center. NOTE: This was the first actual use of the department's new Taser devices since they were implemented in 2002. They were used a total of five time in 2003 with continued success.

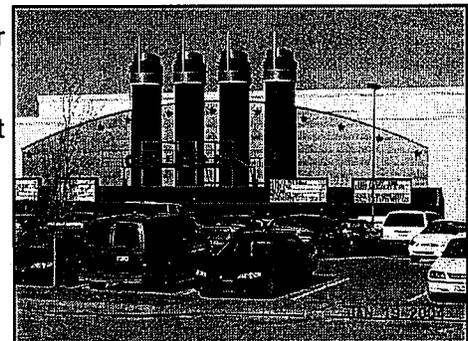
Date: 2/15/2003 **Time:** 21:54 **Offense:** BATTERY ON A POLICE OFFICER

Location: 5500 Antioch - Cinemark Theatres

Narrative: At approximately 9:30 on Saturday night, a fight broke out between a small group of juveniles in front of Cinemark Theaters. Within moments, other fights begin to occur and a large disturbance began. Off-duty Merriam officers were attempting to break up a disturbance between two groups of kids when one participant struck one of the officers on the left eye, causing a cut. The other officer called for help and all Merriam officers respond. As officers arrive the crowd is dispersed. During the process an on-duty Merriam officer is tackled by a juvenile and was arrested. An assist-the-officer was broadcast and within minutes officers arrived on the scene from Lenexa, Shawnee, Overland Park, Mission, Fairway and the Johnson County Sheriff's Office. The disturbance was quickly ended by this law enforcement presence. The theater management decided to close down the ticket window, canceling the last group of shows and the people were dispersed.

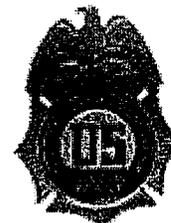
The media showed up after 10 p.m. but there was not enough time for a live report. They did take video and report it the next day on Channel 9. The noon announcement of the news story indicated the disturbance was racial in nature and that a full report would be broadcast at 10 p.m. On the 10 p.m. news the story line changed because another similar disturbance had occurred in Independence at the AMC Theaters where two more police officers were injured. The news story was about disorderly youths fighting and police officers getting hurt.

NOTE: This incident coupled with another incident later in the year



sparked a change in policy at the theatre. The second incident involved another disturbance, this time involving two girls. One was armed with a knife. One of the girls was stabbed in the face. A large gathering formed to watch the fight. It also occurred in the parking lot in front of the theatre. Cinemark, in cooperation with the Merriam Police Department began enforcing a no loitering policy for the area in front of the theatre. The plan was to reduce the crowds gathering in front of the theatre. A public education was conducted. Parents were urged to pick up their kids within 15 minutes after the conclusion of the movies to prevent the gatherings. This was successful and a reduction of gatherings and disturbances resulted.

Date: 2/18/2003 **Time:** 07:45 **Offense:** ASSIST OUTSIDE AGENCY
Location: 6601 E Frontage Rd - Fairfield Inn Hotel



Narrative: Merriam patrol units assisted a local DEA drug task force on a controlled drug delivery at the Fairfield Inn. A Kansas Highway Patrol trooper in Osage County earlier stopped a vehicle and located 130 pounds of marijuana. The suspect confessed and assisted the DEA task force in setting up a controlled delivery at the Fairfield Inn. The suspects were supposed to be three to four Hispanic males taking delivery of the marijuana. One of the suspects was detained and questioned. He advised that he was sent to get the vehicle containing the drugs and deliver the van to the other suspects in the Home Depot parking lot at Merriam Town Center. The task force had an agent dress up like the confidential informant who then drove the van to Home Depot. The other suspects were stopped at 5500 Antioch. All subjects were taken into custody by the task force assisted by the MPD without incident.

Date: 4/22/2003 **Time:** 15:00 **Offense:** METH LAB / DRUG ARRESTS
Location: 7200 block of Eby Drive (Georgetown Apartments)

Narrative: Apartment maintenance contacted the police department concerning a strong smell coming from an apartment in Georgetown. The resident agreed to allow officers to check. Inside they found remnants of a recently active methamphetamine lab. The smell was so strong that the apartment was uninhabitable. A couple had been cooking methamphetamine in the apartment. A 3-month-old daughter was found lying on the living room floor also breathing in all the fumes. The couple was arrested. The child was taken to JIAC and later released to an aunt. The DEA was called in to take lab samples. A private contractor was summoned to remove the hazardous chemicals found in the apartment. The apartment manager was told that no one could stay in the apartment until it was completely cleaned and made safe for habitation. The couple was charged with possession and manufacture of methamphetamines and child endangerment.

Date: 6/1/2003 **Time:** 18:51 **Offense:** SUICIDAL SUBJECT
Location: 8900 block of West 50th Terrace - Johnson County Mental Health Facility

Narrative: We got called about a mentally disturbed woman, 19 years of age, trying to cut her self with glass. When we arrived staff at the group home was fighting with her over a razor blade. A Merriam officer tried to handcuff her but the armed woman resisted violently. Officers were forced to use a Taser Unit to bring her under control. She complied immediately. She was taken into custody, transported to Rainbow Mental Health Unit at KU and her only injuries were from her cutting herself.

Date: 7/11/2003 **Time:** 00:58 **Offense:** AUTO VANDALISM & ARSON
Location: 9400 block of West 61st Street

Narrative: For several weeks prior to the above date, Merriam suffered a number of vehicle burglaries arsons and vandalisms along Merriam Drive at several businesses. It appeared that there was one group of persons involved in all incidents. On July 11th, a Merriam citizen heard glass breaking in the area and called the police. The noise came from a auto repair business and car lot where three suspects had entered a RV and then they broke out all the windows causing over \$500.00 in damage. An officer was in the area and also heard the vandalism. Other officers swarmed the area and three persons, a juvenile and two adults were arrested. They were later questioned about previous auto vandalism's plaguing the Merriam Drive area and two of the three confessed to all the incidents except one. They were later convicted on these crimes.

Date: 7/16/2003 **Time:** 00:43 **Offense:** FATALITY ACCIDENT

Location: 5400 block of Southbound Interstate 35

Narrative: A young female driver was southbound on I-35 and lost control hitting the Jersey Barrier in the 5400 block. She came to rest in the middle of the roadway and was hit two more times by other southbound I-35 traffic. She was ejected and died at the scene. Her passenger was transported to KU and was placed on life support. She later recovered. There were only minor injuries to the other driver's and passengers involved. Kansas Highway Patrol was called out to work the accident. It is believed that alcohol is an accident factor.

Date: 10/11/2003 **Time:** 13:00

Offense: UNATTENDED DEATH

Location: 7400 Antioch

Narrative: A 48-year-old female was found dead lying in the cemetery. People driving by on 75th Street noticed her body and called 911. She had been dead for up to 12 hours, but it is unknown what she was doing at the cemetery. There were no signs of 'foul play'. An autopsy later revealed that the woman died of "natural causes". The woman lived in the general area (Overland Park) and may have been taking a short cut through the cemetery when she had a heart attack.



Date: 10/11/2003 **Time:** 21:30 **Offense:** SUICIDAL SUBJECT

Location: 9800 W 62nd Terrace

Narrative: An adult male went into Skate World during the mid-evening and tells everyone to call the police because he is going to kill himself. No one believes him. He comes in again and tells them a second time someone is going to throw himself off the bridge. They believe him when someone goes out and sees him on the top rail of the bridge. The police are finally called. When they arrive the man is highly agitated and threatens to jump several times. He then jumps down onto the bridge deck and squares off with officers. Officers deploy the Taser. The man has on a big leather coat, which prevents him from getting a full electrical effect. The Taser strike does cause momentary disorientation. The man is able to climb back onto the rail and attempts to jump but officers are able to pull him from the rail and he falls to the deck. The man was very intoxicated and was injured in the scuffle with police. He was taken to KU for medical and psychiatric examination. NOTE: Bridge jumpers are extremely hazardous to contend with. There is always the chance that the officer will be pulled over with the suicidal person.

Date: 11/9/2003 **Time:** 00:31 **Offense:** POLICE PURSUIT / FATALITY

Location: Interstate 35 / Kansas City, Kansas

Narrative: Overland Park PD put out an attempt to locate for suspects in an aggravated assault that had just occurred at a bar in their old down town area. They said persons who fled the area in a vehicle had just fired 10 to 15 rounds in to the bar. A patrol sergeant was near I-35 and Johnson Drive when the suspect vehicle drove by him in excess of 80 mph. He attempts to catch up to the car and does so as it takes the ramp for NB I-635. He activates his lights and the car begins to pull over at Merriam, when the passenger throws a gun out the window. The driver then takes off. The sergeant activates his siren, and the car pulls over again at the bottom of the ramp at Shawnee Dr. A Mission PD car is pulled up to assist and they prepare to conduct a felony stop on the car, when it takes off again up the ramp. Before they can start out after it the car has gone east on Shawnee Dr and has disappeared. Checking in the area they find the suspect car, seriously wrecked, as they approach 34th Street, next to the Maple Hill cemetery. There were three people in the car. The male passenger in the front seat was ejected and had obvious serious injuries. The female driver was trapped in the car also with serious injuries. The third passenger was in the back seat and only appeared to have a broken arm. The two seriously injured were taken immediately to KU Med where the passenger and driver were pronounced dead. The other was also transported to KU Med and was in stable condition. The gun was recovered and released to OPPD. KCK PD worked the accident. NOTE: An administrative investigation of this pursuit was conducted by department policy. The sergeant was found in compliance with the department's strict pursuit policy.

Merriam Police Department Administration Unit



Introduction:

The Administration Unit of the Merriam Police Department is responsible for a variety of different and important functions of the department. There are three persons assigned to this unit. Chief Kenneth Sissom, Assistant Chief Bill Lietzke and Lieutenant Tim Burnett, all veteran officers with over twenty years of service.

☛ The Police Chief's primary duty is the overall responsibility of the department. He works as the liaison with all elected officials, community leaders and residents. He is in charge of the budget and all department spending. It is his job to manage issues involving department liability and risk management. He also makes final decisions concerning employee hiring and terminations.

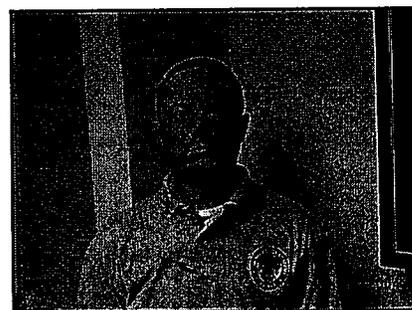
☛ The Assistant Chief of Police is second in command and takes the helm whenever the chief is out of the office. He is also the commander of the patrol unit which includes all uniformed personnel, animal control and school crossing guards. This responsibility takes up a majority of his time. To be successful, he must be familiar with contemporary police tactics and operations. He is also responsible for handling citizens' complaints, internal affairs, department training, and manpower allocation.

☛ The Lieutenant is responsible for overseeing the front office function and its three full-time clerical employees. The position requires close supervision and an above average level of legal knowledge concerning public records, property and evidence management, and community relations. He is also the direct supervisor over the department's two investigators and is a member of the Kansas City Metro Squad.

2003 Personnel Report: The most critical function of the administrative division is personnel. Maintaining staffing levels is important to ensure high quality service delivery. It is frequently a challenge to remain at full strength each year. The success of the department depends on having enough persons to do the job. 2003 was a good year in this respect. Eight officers were hired during the two years preceding 2003. They were all replaced and at the beginning of the year we were at full strength. In 2003 only one officer left the department and he was quickly replaced by a part-time employee (see below). At the end of the year the department was again at full strength.

New Employees in 2003:

In November, Officer Jay Fletcher left employment with the police department. At that time a hiring process had been completed and one of the finalist was offered a job. The new employee, Jeremiah Waters, started as a police officer trainee in early December. Jeremiah Waters first came to the department in late spring 2003, as a college intern. He had been a student with South Eastern Missouri State University in Cape Girardeau, Missouri where he was completing his Bachelors Degree in Criminal Justice. He is originally from New Jersey and was interested in locating in the Johnson County area to be near his fiancée who is from this area. After completing his internship with the police department, Jeremiah Waters graduated and began looking for employment. The MPD decided to hire him to assist with moving into our new police facility, which was scheduled in late fall of 2003. It was at this time that an opening came about and he was offered a job.



PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS:

Another function assigned to the administrative unit is professional standards. This function is assigned to the assistant chief who conducts internal investigations of department personnel when necessary. He is also charged with making sure that proper procedures are followed by all officers. During 2003 a complete revision of the department's Standard Operating Procedure Manual was conducted. These changes will be put into effect and distributed during the first quarter of 2004. There are four aspects of routine police work that the Merriam PD tracks and investigates. They are:

☞ **Officer Complaints:** When a citizen makes an official complaint against an officer it is documented and investigated by the officer's supervisor. If the complaint is serious in nature or can not be resolved by the supervisor, it is forwarded to the office of the assistant chief. He conducts the investigation and forwards the results of this investigation, with a recommendation to the police chief. During 2003 there was one serious officer complaint that was investigated. It was completely internal and did not involve any outside citizen complaints. The investigation resulted in disciplinary actions.

☞ **Vehicle Pursuits:** The department has a very strict vehicle pursuit policy. When an officer engages in a pursuit it is closely monitored by the on-duty supervisor. They have direct authority to discontinue a pursuit at any time. ALL vehicle pursuits are investigated by the on-duty supervisor and the assistant chief to make sure they are in strict compliance with written department policy.

During 2003, there were four police pursuits in which Merriam officers were involved. Each pursuit was carefully scrutinized to see if it was in compliance with department policy. In those cases where it was found that the officers were not in compliance, the officers received counseling and/or retraining. One pursuit ended up with a double fatality, after the pursuit was terminated. It was investigated and it was determined that the pursuit policy was followed properly.

☞ **Foot Pursuits:** In 2002 a Foot Pursuit policy was created that strictly regulates police officer foot pursuits. Foot pursuits have proven to be high risk activities for police. This is due to the extreme physical exertion that occurs and due to the aggressive nature of the suspects being chased, there is usually a physical confrontation at the termination of the pursuit, when an offender is captured. Because of these reasons, each MPD involved foot pursuit is carefully reviewed by the shift supervisor and then the unit commander to see that all aspects of the procedure have been followed.

☞ **Use of Force Incidents:** As with pursuits, officers are required to report all use of force incidents. A specific report is used that details the circumstances that led up to the force incident. It also documents the amount of force used and the results. All of these reports are reviewed by the on-duty supervisor and forwarded to the administrative division where they are reviewed by the assistant chief and ultimately the chief of police.

During 2003 there were 38 incidents where an officer had to use force to effect an arrest. This is a 63% increase over 2002. This significant increase is primarily due to the addition of a new less-than-lethal-force tool. In 2002 the department deployed electro-muscular disruption devices called a Tasers. The use of force policy was changed. Each time that an officers uses or threatens to use this new Taser device, it is considered a use of force incident. This incidents along with all others are critiqued to make sure the proper procedures are being followed. In spite of the increase the number of use of force incidents in Merriam is extremely low when it is compared to the fact that the department made 1,577 arrests. Below is a breakdown on the 38 use of force incidents that were reported in 2003.

USE OF FORCE INCIDENT IN 2003

☞ *The most common incidents involving use of force are connected with misdemeanor arrests.*

☞ *The offenders are injured in only 16% of use of force incidents during 2003.*

☞ *Drugs and alcohol are involved in at least 53% of the use of force incidents in 2003.*

☞ *Race of the offender: White = 66%, Black = 34%, Other = 0%.*

☞ *Gender of offender: Male = 82%, Female = 18% Largest age group is 19 to 30 (48% of incidents).*

☞ *Police weapons and number of incident of use in 2003:*

Firearms = 0, Baton = 1, OC Pepper Spray = 2, Taser = 5

Annual Budget Expenditure Report

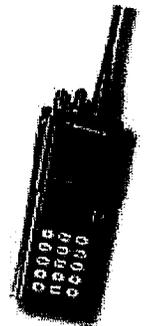


INTRODUCTION:

The budget of the police department represents the largest of all the different departments of the city. In 2003, the total police department budget was \$2,455,996. This amount includes all projected costs of personal services, contractual services, commodities and capital outlay purchases. It also includes increases due to added compensation. Of the total budget, over 87% (\$2,138,430) is dedicated to employee salary and benefits. Below is a breakdown of expenditures by major category.



These items represent a small sample of the updated equipment needed to respond to traffic violations, crimes and other police emergencies.



During 2003, the Merriam Police Department spent \$2,262,166 which represents 92.1% of the approved budget. Below is a breakdown by section:

PERSONAL SERVICES

Budgeted = \$2,138,430 Spent = \$1,993,791 or 93.2%

CONTRACTUAL SERVICES

Budgeted = \$97,555 Spent = \$91,374 or 93.7%

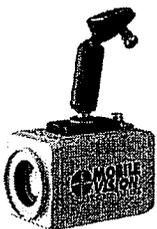
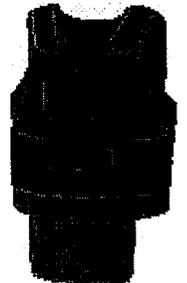
COMMODITIES

Budgeted = \$155,511 Spent = \$120,035 or 77.2%

CAPITAL OUTLAY

Budgeted = \$64,500 Spent = \$56,966 or 87.9%

Of the total 2003 Budget, approximately \$193,830 was returned to the fund balance to carry over to 2004.



Patrol Division Report



INTRODUCTION:

Patrol is the largest and most visible unit of the police department. Twenty officers or 76.9% of the commissioned force are assigned to patrol the streets, respond to calls for service and proactively enforce federal, state and municipal laws within the city limits. In addition to routine patrol duties, these officers spend a lot of time each year going to court trials and hearings, and attending training classes. The majority of the police department's work is done by these dedicated officers.

CALLS FOR SERVICE: The primary duty of any police department is answering calls for service. A police officer must be ready to respond 24-hours a day. In 2003, the Merriam Police Department received 16,000 primary and backup calls for service. This is a 2.5% increase in the number of calls handled in 2002. There is a chart below that represents a breakdown of the number of calls for service by year for the past five years. Please note the fluctuation from year-to-year. There are many factors that could attribute to this fluctuation. They include overall crime rate, increase in retail businesses, inclement weather, road construction, etc.

1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
16,629	18,824	16,757	16,781	15,600	15,997

AN AVERAGE PATROL SHIFT:

There are three different shifts being operated by the patrol division. The day shift runs from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m., the evening shift is from 3 p.m. to 11 p.m. and the midnight shift operates from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. Each shift has a different activity level and type — the day shift has more traffic related problems, the evening shift has more disturbances and retail thefts and the midnight shift has the majority of business and auto burglaries and more problems related to alcohol use.

When an officer is not answering a call for service they are responsible for patrolling their district to promote high visibility and to prevent or detect crimes. The City of Merriam has 65 miles of streets within its 4.5 square miles. During 2003, patrol officers drove approximately **147,500** miles while patrolling the city streets of Merriam.

There are no two 8-hour patrol shifts that are the same. Each will have different types of calls and varying degrees of activity. Each police officer must come to work prepared to handle many different types of calls and activities, from traffic accident investigations to conducting surveillances, working burglaries, making arrests, directing traffic and being involved in a community meeting.

During the course of a year many police reports are written to properly document suspicious activity, criminal acts or accidents. On the average over one-fourth of

a district officer's regular shift is dedicated to writing police reports.

All police reports are now being written on computers, either in the station or on one of the department's six in-car laptop computers. In the past the officer would handwrite the report and then a records clerk would later type the data into the records management system. This duplication has been eliminated with the new system.

OTHER PATROL FACTS FOR 2003:

The average officer drives 33.9 miles during their 8-hour shift.

During an average shift the patrol officers will handle 4 calls for service each.

Each patrol officer will be expected to write between 1 and 2 reports per shift.

During an average day patrol writes 22 traffic citations and makes 4 arrests.



Motor Vehicle Accidents Statistics and Locations



INTRODUCTION:

One of the fundamental duties of any police department is to investigate motor vehicle accidents. The City of Merriam has 65 miles of roadway within its borders; of that, roughly 3 miles consist of interstate highway. According to the last study by the County Economic Research Institute, Inc. (CERI), "An average of 142,630 vehicles pass along Interstate 35 (both northbound and southbound) south of the interchange at 75th Street on an average weekday. This is the highest traffic volume at any location in the county." Also listed in the same study is the intersection of Shawnee Mission Parkway and Antioch. Over 50,000 cars use this intersection on an average weekday.

With the types of roadways that run through Merriam, coupled with the high number of businesses and general drive-through traffic, the problem of traffic accidents is a full-time challenge. In fact, a study conducted by the Kansas Department of Transportation indicated that the City of Merriam has the highest per capita accident rate of any city in the State of Kansas. In 2002 the Merriam Police Department took a much more aggressive approach to traffic enforcement, writing 5% more traffic citations. The aggressive approach continued in 2003.

There are many studies that indicate that increased traffic enforcement has a direct correlation in the number of traffic accidents. When more tickets are issued, the accidents are reduced. While it would be difficult to prove this theory here in Merriam, the number of accident in 2003 were 3.2% less than in 2002.

Accident investigation on the Interstate can be one of the most dangerous "routine" activities in which a Merriam officer can engage.

In November Officer Charles Yocum was directing traffic at the scene of an accident when his patrol car was slammed into by a passerby.

No one was injured. The patrol car suffered over \$3000 in damage.



TOP TEN ACCIDENT LOCATIONS IN MERRIAM IN 2003

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1st. Shawnee Mission Parkway at I-35 — 41 accidents. | 6th. 75th Street at East Frontage Road — 18 accidents |
| 2nd. Shawnee Mission Parkway at Antioch — 29 accidents. | 7th. I-35 at Johnson Drive — 15 accidents. |
| 3rd. Shawnee Mission Parkway at Eby — 26 accidents. | 8th. Shawnee Mission Parkway at Mastin — 13 accidents |
| 4th. I-35 at 75th Street — 23 accidents. | 9th. I-35 at 67th Street — 12 accidents. |
| 5th. 75th Street over I-35 — 20 accidents. | 10th. Johnson Drive at Merriam Drive — 11 accidents. |

2003 ACCIDENT FACTS

- 9 state accident reports written.
- 2 or 19.3% accidents involved some injuries. This is 11.4% less than in 2002.
- There were 17 alcohol related accidents.
- Hit & Run accidents were investigated.
- There were 53 additional private property/minor accidents reports taken.
- There was one fatality accident. It occurred July 16, 2003, on I-35 in the 5400 block. It was alcohol related.

NOTE: The Kansas Highway Patrol works many accidents on I-35 each year. The above statistics do not reflect any of the accidents investigated by the Highway Patrol.

Traffic Enforcement Efforts



INTRODUCTION:

Traffic enforcement has always been a large part of the everyday duties of a Merriam police officer. Statistics and studies have shown that in areas where there is more traffic enforcement, there are also fewer accidents. Other recent studies have also shown that crime rates in general will decrease when officers are out stopping motorist violators. Many high profile cases like the bombing of the Federal Building in Oklahoma City were solved by an officer making routine traffic stops. In 2003, the number of traffic stops was very similar to 2002. Traffic stops and citations are important because they reinforce vehicle law compliance and increase traffic safety.

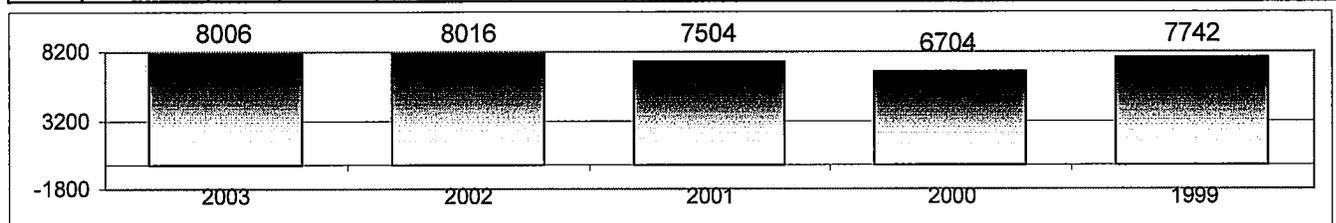
In 2003, a special effort was undertaken as a result of citizen complaints and the frequency of accidents. Certain areas were targeted for intense enforcement. These areas included Johnson Drive, both east and west of I-35, the interstate highway and along Merriam Drive.

The chart listed below illustrates the level of enforcement activities in Merriam.

TRAFFIC STANDARDS:

For the past six years there has been a minimum traffic violation standard in existence. Each officer is expected to write at least two tickets per shift and 50% of the tickets written should be for moving violations. This standard was adopted in conjunction with the community-policing philosophy. Traffic complaints are very commonly heard at neighborhood gatherings throughout the city. They routinely request speed and other traffic enforcement.

	Assorted Speeding	Stop Sign	Drunk Driving	No Insurance	Expired No Tags	No Drivers License	All Traffic Signal	No Seat Belts	Assorted Parking	All Others	Monthly Totals
JAN	324	12	20	165	56	49	52	35	17	68	798
FEB	235	14	17	128	42	38	27	47	13	47	608
MAR	248	5	18	110	34	41	20	29	15	48	568
APR	233	20	13	139	44	46	33	47	18	58	651
MAY	296	26	12	138	49	58	29	85	20	72	828
JUN	184	13	9	112	34	31	22	49	26	66	546
JUL	222	11	14	115	47	40	21	68	14	50	602
AUG	285	17	18	176	63	59	30	91	23	75	837
SEP	263	10	21	145	68	56	21	86	11	62	744
OCT	272	15	13	150	51	65	24	56	22	49	717
NOV	228	14	20	124	52	53	19	35	18	53	566
DEC	159	8	8	119	59	37	32	34	9	76	541



MPD Investigative Unit Report



INTRODUCTION:

The investigations unit is comprised of three full-time investigators; The two primary investigators hold the rank of Master Police Officer. A third investigator is a regular police officer on loan from the Patrol Division. Lieutenant Tim Burnett is the Investigations Unit supervisor. He assigns cases, takes the lead in serious investigations and is responsible for the day-to-day unit operations.

The lead investigator is assigned to the unit as part of his or her regular duty. They hold this position until reassigned. More permanency in the position allows the officer to become proficient in all types of criminal investigations. They are also able to gain close working relationships with other agency investigators, which makes his or her job more effective. The second officer is assigned from the patrol division. They will work in investigations for one to three years. This opportunity gives some latitude in the police officer's job assignment and helps to train them to be more proficient in their patrol assignments, once returned to that unit. All officers assigned to this unit are required to be reliable, independent, available for call out. There is very little supervision of their daily activities due to the nature of their assignment.

In addition to the three full-time investigators, there is a group of dedicated officers trained as evidence technicians. They work normal patrol shifts. If a crime is reported that requires evidence recovery, these specially trained officers are called to assist. This keeps us from calling out investigators and reduces overtime. It also helps by cross-training officers in different skill areas.

2003 Call-Out Teams

- 1 - Cpl. Todd Allan & MPO Jason Reynolds
- 2- MPO Troy Duvanel & PO Mark Messbarger
- 3 - Cpl. Darren McLaughlin & MPO Todd Sparks
- 4 - Cpl. Dan Kellerman & Cpl. John Walton

Many routine crimes throughout the year (2003) were fully investigated by patrol and did not require assignment by the Investigations Unit. These numbers are not reflected below.

	<u>2003</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>1999</u>
Total Assignments:	302	262	360	355	413
Burglary	70	59	68	62	58
Theft	51	36	58	67	89
Forgery	12	17	14	59	75
Theft (auto)	22	18	22	32	22
Robbery	11	12	21	22	7
Battery	15	15	30	13	28
Felony Sex Offenses	19	14	10	12	13
CDP	18	5	17	9	14
Criminal Threat	6	1	10	9	12
Harassment by Telephone	4	5	10	4	16
Unattended death	8	12	12	6	5
CINC	5	6	14	5	6
Hit & Run	1	1	3	4	2
Kidnapping	0	1	2	3	0
Arson	3	1	0	1	1
Assault	3	1	10	3	3
Credit Card Fraud	17	0	0	0	0
All other	37	31	59	44	62



Animal Control Unit Statistics



INTRODUCTION:

The function of animal control has been a responsibility for the Merriam Police Department for many years. The Merriam Police Department has one full-time employee that is assigned to take care of animal related problems. Handling these problems requires special training and equipment. It is a difficult and technical job requiring special skills and the desire to work with animals. The department's current animal control officer has over 20 years of municipal animal control experience.

ACO ACTIVITY SUMMARY:

During 2003, the Animal Control Officer received 1,376 requests for service. This number does not include 124 calls that were handled by the patrol officers during those times when the animal control officer was not on duty. The total number of animal calls received in Merriam in 2003 were 1,500. This activity level has remained very constant over the past couple years.

In 2003, Officer Thomas was assigned to many other functions that are not necessarily animal control related. They include filling-in as school crossing guard, directing traffic and working in the police department's front office, answering the telephone or helping out at the front window. The Animal Control Officer also helps out in the Municipal Court, serving as Municipal Court Bailiff during his normal work shift and during one evening a week.



A complete listing of Animal Control Statistics is listed below

	<u>2003</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>1999</u>
SERVICE REQUESTS	1376	1352	1361	1409	1403
ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS	172	181	183	212	215
ANIMAL IMPOUNDS	186	205	171	197	204
INVESTIGATIONS	803	783	794	822	846
ALL REPORTS	503	547	593	703	698
MILES DRIVEN.	6,427	7,133	6,937	8,274	9,213

Other Animal Control Facts:

- ?? During 2003, Merriam residents registered 561 dogs and 148 cats with the office of the City Clerk. This represents a 8% decrease in registered dogs from 2002 to 2003.
- ?? The costs to impound and board animals picked up by Animal Control has increased from \$9,679 in 1999 to \$16,849 in 2003, representing a 42.5% increase in costs. This is due to cost increases imposed by our animal shelter, Animal Haven.
- ?? All stray animals picked up by animal control are taken to Animal Haven, located at 9800 W. 67th Street. Their hours are Monday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., and weekends from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. They can be called at 913-432-7548.
- ?? The animal control officer is on duty from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., weekdays. All animal calls received at other times are handled by police officers or neighboring city animal control officers.

Support Functions



INTRODUCTION: In addition to responding to calls for service, investigating crimes, enforcing traffic laws and working traffic accidents, the Merriam Police Department is involved in a number of other functions that directly impact and help to serve the public. A synopsis of these services are listed below:



POLICE TRAINING – The State of Kansas mandates that each police officer receives a minimum of 40-hours of in-service police training. Much of this training is conducted by department certified officers. In 2003, MPD officers received training in firearms proficiency, defensive tactics, use of less-than-lethal weapons and Homeland Security. All department training officers receive their training certification by attending reputable outside training conferences.

RECRUIT TRAINING – There are three training officers and supervisor that are responsible for all new-recruit training. The total program is fourteen weeks in length. The recruit is given one-on-one training and supervision throughout this tough training. Officers must successfully complete this program in order to survive the probation period. In 2003 only one recruit was trained by this unit.

DRUG ABUSE RESISTANCE EDUCATION (DARE) – Master Police Officer Larry Birt completed his 12th year as the department's DARE Officer. He ended the 2002/2003 school year with four schools and started the 2003/2004 school year with only

three schools. The Shawnee Mission Public School System closed down West Antioch School at the end of the 2003 school year. During 2003 the DARE Program was restructured. An updated curriculum was introduced in each school. During this same year the DARE officer was reassigned to the Patrol Division. In this new assignment, the DARE officer works a normal patrol district and conducts his DARE classes during his regular work shift. While this causes the officer to spend less time in the schools it maximizes his effectiveness as a police officer.

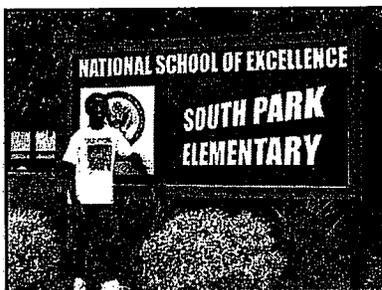
The Merriam Police Department remains true to the DARE mission.

2003 DARE Facts:

—DARE is taught in 53 different classrooms in the four Merriam schools.

—Every student in each Merriam school is exposed to some facet of DARE instruction.

—In 2003, 155 sixth grade



students have become DARE Graduates.

—In Kansas, DARE is taught by 253 certified officers from

122 agencies across the state.

—Statewide, more than 132,000 students were taught in 2003.

SPECIAL WEAPONS TEAM –

The Merriam Police Department formed a team of 9 officers in 2000 that were specially trained and equipped to respond to high-risk calls that need a special approach. A high level of training has continued through 2003 to make sure they are equipped and ready to handle armed situations, catastrophes, crowd control, and other situations. In 2003 the emerging threat of terrorism and weapons of mass destruction played an important part in SWAT training. The SWAT officers are also expected to retain a higher than average level of physical fitness and firearms proficiency skill.

BIKE PATROL FUNCTION –

During the temperate seasons certain specially trained officers were assigned to patrol specific high-risk areas of the city on patrol bicycles. These areas include schools, parks and high crime area. This has proven to be a crime deterrent and a good community-policing tool.

CROSSING GUARD UNIT –

There are five school-crossing locations within the city. Part-time uniformed employees assist school children crossing the streets at these locations twice per day (one-hour in the morning and one-hour in the afternoon). This unit, supervised by the Assistant Chief, is responsible for child pedestrian

safety. These guards also assist the department during the Turkey Creek Festival.

PARKING ENFORCEMENT – Because of the large number of retail businesses, coupled with the existence of the Shawnee Mission Medical complex, the city of Merriam has many handicapped parking spaces and fire lanes. A volunteer program was set up in 2000 to give patrol some assistance in enforcing these areas. During 2003, John Willits, a former police reserve officer, worked for the MPD as a non-paid volunteer. He was assigned to work with the police department to help enforce handicapped and fire-lane parking violations throughout the city. He worked a few hours each week checking parking lots for these violations. Vehicles found in violation were ticketed. When a driver/owner of the vehicle could be located a verbal warning was given.

Parking Enforcement Facts:

- In 2003, 72 citations were issued along with 64 warnings.
- 46 of the 72 were written in the Shawnee Mission Medical Complex,
- 15 were written in Merriam Town Center.
- The remaining nine were written in other areas.
- Of the 72 citations, 53 were for handicapped violations and 19 were fire lane citations.

CHAPLAINCY PROGRAM – The department has a chaplaincy program in place. The chaplain, Mike Jacob, is a local chaplain and Merriam resident who works at the Shawnee Mission Medical Center. He volunteers his time to offer spiritual guidance to police employees. One of his primary responsibilities is to assist officers with death notifications and with dealing with grieving citizens. He

is also the chaplain for the Fire Department.

DOCUMENT ARCHIVAL – In late 2000, the city purchased state-of-the-art Laserfische archival equipment to be used to electronically store city official documents. This includes all police reports. In 2003, the department archived an estimated 6,100 reports. The goal of this program is to reduce file storage needs and be able to archive these documents in a storage medium that does not degrade with years of storage.

EVIDENCE TECHNICIANS – The MPD has a group of 8 officers who have received special training in evidence collection and processing. These trained technicians are assigned to the Patrol Unit and are utilized while on duty to keep off-duty investigators from having to be called out. This has reduced overtime in 2003. These officers can also be called out on serious crimes to work as a team of investigators or in cases where there is a large or complex crime scene, for maximized effectiveness.

EVIDENCE MANAGEMENT – One of the police clerks is assigned as a civilian employee to be in charge of the department's recovered property and evidence custody. As property custodian they are responsible to properly log, computerize and store all recovered property and evidence. They are responsible for the safety and security of this evidence and must be available to respond to municipal and district court to testify concerning evidentiary chain of custody. The property custodian is responsible for destroying evidence when it is no longer needed for court, disposing of other property by appropriate means and seeing that property is returned to the lawful owners.

HOUSE WATCH PROGRAM – Each year, a number of vacation-

ing Merriam residents will register their homes with the police department for extra patrol. The Merriam House Watch Program is a crime prevention program that is designed to reduce house burglaries and give extra piece of mind to citizens while they are away from home. The citizen completes a simple form and officers spend designated time checking these residences while the owners are away. There were 39 house watch requests in 2003.

POLICE RIDE-ALONG PROGRAM – This is a community relations program that allows citizens to ride with a police officer on his or her normal patrol shift. The citizen signs up for 2, 4, 6 or 8 hours on any desired shift. They must complete a simple form and a brief records check is made before authorization is given. The patrol shift supervisors coordinate with the citizens to schedule their ride-along visits. Persons under the age of 15 must have a responsible adult with them on the ride-along. Advanced notice is required. In 2003, there were 56 ride-along requests. This is a 10% increase over the previous year.

ALARM ORDINANCE – Each year hundreds of business and residential burglar and robbery alarms are received by the MPD. As a result a city ordinance was adopted that regulates these alarms. When too many alarms are received the alarm owners can be fined.

The purpose of the ordinance was to make these alarm owners more responsible for their equipment. One officer is assigned to keep track of the alarms that are received. Bills are sent out for having too many false alarms and this officer works with the alarm owners to reduce the incidents of false alarms.

There were 563 false burglary, robbery and fire alarms in Merriam

in 2003. The top ten locations with the most false alarms in 2003 are listed below:

- #1 Georgetown Apts. - 23
- #2 Home Depot - 22
- #3 Morrill & Janes Bank - 16
- #4 CarMax - 15
- #5 Resident (DM) - 14
- #6 Safehome—12
- #7 SMMC - 11
- #8 Handyman Connection - 11
- #9 Seaboard - 10
- #10 Homestead Village - 10

Alarm Ord. Facts:

- In 2003 there were 13% more false alarms than in 2002.
- 521 individual businesses and homeowners registered their alarms with the city.
- The city collected \$11,832 in alarm fines, representing a 29% increase over 2002.

FINGERPRINT SERVICES – The MPD provides fingerprint services for all Merriam citizens and businesspersons during normal business hours. Several times a year, individuals need their fingerprints taken for financial bonds, insurance business and other reasons. An on-duty officer or investigator completes this service by appointment.

OPERATION NIGHTLIGHT – Corporal Todd Allen is assigned to be involved with Operation Nightlight. This is a county-wide program where police officers and juvenile probation officers are paired up to make unscheduled visits at homes of juveniles that are on strict residential probation. One or two nights a month the officer will check on Merriam youths that are involved in this program in cooperation with the Juvenile Court.

INTERN PROGRAM – The MPD is on the college intern lists at a num-

ber of area universities in an effort to attract college interns. These non-paid volunteer interns work or observe the various aspects of the department. The department gets their free labor for statistical studies, clerical duties, etc. The intern gets the experience and college credit.

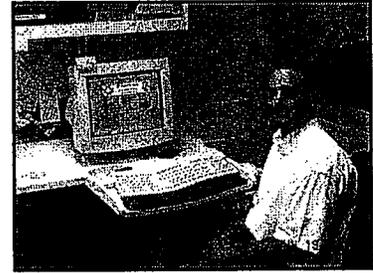
In 2003, Jeremiah Waters, a senior from Southeast Missouri State University, worked as intern during the Spring and Summer of 2003.

NOTE: Mr. Waters was later hired as a police officer trainee in December 2003.

EXPLORER UNIT – During the fall, 2003, the MPD sponsored a Law Enforcement Explorer Post. Explorers are a group of youth between 14 and 20 years of age that are interested in the field of law enforcement. The group met twice per month to learn about law enforcement and public service. In return these Explorers assisted during events that required crowd management or traffic control. The Explorers Program is affiliated with Boy Scouts of America. Chief Ken Sissom is the Unit Coordinator and is being assisted by Officer Philip Lofflin, a former police explorer.

The post receives a different topic of training at each meeting. It is instructed in a police academy style which makes it both interesting and informative. It is hoped that the department may be able to someday hire from this group of young people.

CRIME PREVENTION – The department's crime prevention specialist, Officer Larry Birt, has managed a program that encourages people to have their home or business checked in an effort to target harden them from burglars and other criminals. An appointment is set up with the officer. He meets with the resident, business owner or manager, and makes a full assessment of the building. A full

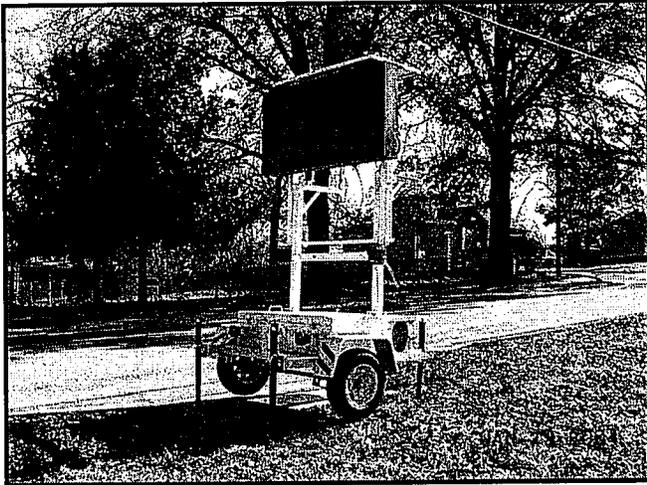


written report of findings is provided with suggestions for improvement. This service is done free of charge.

TRAFFIC COUNTS – The MPD operates a radar equipped traffic speed and vehicle counter. This device is placed in areas where there are traffic complaints or accidents. The information is studied and used to increase enforcement and determine the scope and time or day of the traffic violation problem. Citizens having a problem with speeders in their neighborhood should call police patrol commander's office at 913-322-5588 and request extra traffic enforcement.

SPEED AWARENESS — During 2003, the Merriam Police Department acquired a radar trailer that helps to make motorists aware of their speeds through the use of an internal radar. This trailer is special because it is equipped with a sign board that projects a message to motorists. This device was used at several areas throughout Merriam. All indications are that citizen satisfaction is very high and there is noted success in slowing down motorist in neighborhoods without increasing manpower. The signboard was used several times for non-traffic public awareness as well.

NOTE: In 2004 a second radar trailer will be purchased to increase exposure.



This is a photo of a Kustom Electronics SMART Radar Equipped Sign Board. It was purchased in 2003 to assist with traffic speed control and to notify residents and motorists of upcoming events, road construction or other important messages or conditions.

This piece of equipment saw service in several areas throughout Merriam.

It is seen in this photo setting in the 6200 block of Grandview Street where a 25 MPH speed limit is in effect.

This is a common speeding complaint area.



Community Oriented Policing Efforts



INTRODUCTION:

In 1992 a decision was made to change the style of policing in Merriam. For the past ten years the police department has been involved in the transition towards Community Policing. This contemporary philosophy helps to get the community more involved in the policing process. Each year the Merriam Police Department is involved in a number of activities that are designed to bring officers closer to a larger number of citizens. The results include greater cooperation among citizens and the police. This closer relationship helps to foster greater public confidence which improves their quality of life. Below listed is a report of some of the community policing that is being conducted in the city of Merriam in 2003.

COMMUNITY POLICING EFFORTS:

The Community Policing philosophy is supported at every level of the Merriam Police Department. Each employee has been trained and is familiar with this philosophy. Each employee is encouraged to look for ways for the department to improve its interaction with the public. This empowerment makes the department more effective. In addition to the overall practice by employees, the Merriam Police Department engages in a number of specific efforts that promote and support the philosophy of Community Policing.

COMMUNITY INTERACTION:

During 2002, members of the police department interacted with a number of residents to facilitate communication and partnership. Throughout the year officers attended business and neighborhood meeting so reinforce the department's Neighborhood Watch philosophy. Meetings were held in the following neighborhoods:

- April 4 — Chief Ken Sissom met with several parents at South Park Elementary School to discuss their concerns about an area motel and drug activity there.
- June 8 — Three officer attended the South Quaker Creek neighborhood picnic. Neighborhood crime issues were discussed.
- July 1 — Sgt. Mike Daniels and Investigator Jason Reynolds met with a number of Merriam Drive business owners about the rash of recent auto related vandalism.
- August 16.— Day shift officers attended a neighborhood meeting on Connell Drive in the 5700 block.
- September 6 — Evening shift officers attended a neighborhood picnic on the corner of 47th Terrace and Slater. Area crime issues were discussed.
- September 13 — A neighborhood picnic in the West Vernon Place Homes Association area was held in the early evening. Evening shift officers attended the event and met with residents.
- September 13 — Another evening meeting on this date was held on Grandview in the 7200 block. Officers again met with area residents.
- September 27 — Evening shift officers met with residents in the 9700 block of West 51st Terrace & Place for an informal picnic. Area problems were discussed.
- September 28 — A block party was held in the 69th Terrace and Switzer area and officers were invited. The evening shift turned out and met with residents there.

Annual Drug Forfeiture Report



INTRODUCTION:

This is a reoccurring feature of the Annual Report. On October 27, 2000, former Kansas Attorney General Carla J. Stovall sent a letter to all police departments in the state to inform them that they are required to file an annual report concerning state all asset forfeiture proceeds that were received or spent during the past year.

In her letter the Attorney General cited K.S.A. 60-4117 (d)(2) which states that "an agency shall compile and submit annually its special law enforcement trust fund report to the entity that has budgetary authority over such agency."

According to state law the following information must be included in this "annual report":

A) The type and approximate value of the forfeited property received; B) The amount of any forfeiture proceeds received, and C) How any of those proceeds were expended.

While the amount in Merriam's Special Law Enforcement Trust Fund is listed in each Monthly Finance Report that is distributed to the City Council, the specifics concerning what the money is spent on and other particulars are not listed in this report.

In order to ensure that the Merriam Police Department stays in conformance with K.S.A. 60-4117, this section will be included in all future annual reports. Any questions concerning specific details should be directed to the Finance Department in the Administrative Services Department.

Drug Forfeiture Activities in 2002:

On January 1, 2002, there was approximately \$2,315 in the Merriam Special Law Enforcement Trust Fund.

During 2003 the Merriam Police Department received \$15,232 from drug forfeitures or drug taxes and \$181 in account interest — total = \$15,413.

During 2003 the following purchases or expenditures were made with funds from the Special Law Enforcement Trust Fund:

- A. \$1,244.99 was paid out in legal expenses to local attorneys and the prosecutors office.
- B. \$216 was paid out to cover DARE workbooks used in DARE classes.
- C. \$331.99 was used to purchase an additional service shotgun for patrol when a vehicle was added to the fleet.
- D. \$700 was used to subscribe to LEADs Online, an internet based pawn shop monitoring system.
- E. \$190 was spent to equip the SWAT Team with protective equipment.
- F. \$334 was used to purchase a standard refrigerator for the property room to store certain drugs.
- G. \$1,726 was spent to purchase two additional Taser units with holsters.

- H. \$304 was used to purchase a portable laptop printer for use in the field.
- I. \$1,558 was used to purchase tactical flashlights for all patrol officers.
- J. \$141 was paid out on tow charges to tow a vehicle that is being seized from a drug dealer.
- K. \$2,986 was expended from this fund to pay the 10% Law Enforcement Block Grant's matching funds for 2003. The department received the 2003 LLEBG grant for \$10,024. All monies from this grant, including the match money was spent in 2003 to purchase nine tactical barricade vests.

During 2003, one vehicle was seized by the police department. It will go through forfeiture procedures in coordination ABC Unit of the State of Kansas. The vehicle will be sold and the city should receive approximately 75% of those proceeds once they have cleared the court process.

An additional \$4,000 (estimate) was pending and will be deposited in January 2004.

Credits with carryover	\$17,546
Debits	\$9,732
Account Carryover (1/1/2004)	\$7,814

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT AGAINST CRIME—2003: On August 5, 2003, the Merriam Police Department sponsored its 11th National Night Out Against Crime event in Merriam. This year Merriam officers were at eight different locations within the city. The purpose of these events is to promote police interaction with the various neighborhoods. We encourage the discussion of problems or concerns in these neighborhoods and provide crime prevention education as well. This event typifies our department's commitment to Community Policing as a philosophy. We received generous business donations from Sonic, the Doughnut Factory and the Kansas City Ice Cream Company, which were enjoyed at each event.

The various locations of each meeting are listed below:

- 1) *SWITZER MEADOWS HOMES ASSOCIATION AREA* (Event Location: 48th and Perry Lane Intersection)
- 2) *SOUTHPARK NEIGHBORHOOD AREA* (Event Location: Mt. Olive Baptist Church)
- 3) *OVERBROOK HILLS / BROOKHAVEN TOWNHOUSES AREA* (Event location: Overbrook Playground)
- 4) *SOUTH QUAKER CREEK NEIGHBORHOOD GROUP* (Event Location: On Hardy Street at 61st Street)
- 5) *SUNFLOWER TOWERS APARTMENT COMPLEX* (Event Location: Building Large Meeting Room)
- 6) *EDELWEISS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION AREA* (Edelweiss Clubhouse)
- 7) *ANTIOCH HILLS HOMES ASSOCIATION AREA* (Event Location: Quail Creek Park Playground Area)
- 8) *NEW MILBURN WEST HOMES ASSOCIATION AREA* (Event Location: 69th Terrace and Grandview)

Nearly 200 Merriam residents were involved in the 2003 National Night Out Against Crime event. Below are some photo's taken during this years event.

