



# **MERRIAM POLICE**

***"Proudly Serving Since 1951"***



# **2008 ANNUAL REPORT**



**The first class of the Merriam Citizens  
Academy**



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## **MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF**

Dear Council members and Merriam citizens,

One annual goal that I set for myself is to end each year with at least a slightly better police department than one we started with. Of course the better we become, the more difficult it is to show any significant improvement. In fact, the Merriam Police Department has reached a point that even small advancements are getting harder and harder to achieve. Now measurable accomplishments can only be attained when every member of the team pitches in and contributes by going above and beyond what is expected.

Coming as no surprise to me, once again this year each officer was willing to do exactly that. Along with maintaining their routine level of excellence, they were able to add two new components to our department. One greatly enhanced our effectiveness and the other was a public relations victory that improved our community policing initiative.

First was the Special Enforcement Unit (SEU) that we activated in January of 2008. This unit is a branch of the detective division and is designed to be proactive in the fight against criminal activity. While they specialize in illegal drug activity, they have been quick to supplement patrol operations whenever we detect criminal behavior patterns. For instance, when we experience an increase in the number of burglaries, robberies, thefts, etc, the SEU is quick to respond in the form of saturation patrols, covert surveillance or perhaps working with a confidential informant to identify a suspect. The list of their accomplishments in such a short time period is impressive. Please refer to the SEU highlights located elsewhere in this annual report for more details.

Then in the spring of 2008, we hosted the first annual Merriam Police Citizen's Academy. For ten weeks, sixteen citizens gave up one evening a week in order to meet with our officers and obtain an overview of our policies and procedures. I could not be more proud of the effort displayed by the officers that voluntarily gave up their own free time to be instructors for the academy. Equally enthusiastic was the effort given by the students. In the end, the citizens walked away with a better understanding of the complexities of our job and the officers left with a better understanding of our citizen's concerns. It was a fun experience and lasting friendships were formed. Bridging communication gaps this way enriches both the police department and those citizens that participated. It is my desire to continue holding this academy for years to come.

So there you have it. Once again the officers came through and made significant improvements in your police department. I have just touched on a couple new programs, but we cannot lose sight of the magnitude of work they routinely do annually. That is the purpose of this report. As you read through it, I hope you will gain the same sense of appreciation that I have for our police officers.

As always, I am available to answer any questions that you may have, or to address any concerns. Thank you again for allowing me the opportunity to be associated with the men and women of the Merriam Police Department.

Chief Bill Lietzke



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**DEPARTMENT ROSTER**

**Administration**

**Years of Service**

Chief Bill Lietzke	29
Captain Tim Burnett – Patrol Commander	26
Lieutenant Mike Daniels – Investigation Unit Commander	21
Lieutenant Darren McLaughlin— Administrative Support Commander	19

**Patrol Division Supervisors**

Sergeant Albert Jones – Shift Supervisor	25
Sergeant Todd Allen – Shift Supervisor	12
Sergeant Dan Kellerman – Shift Supervisor	24
Corporal Todd Sparks – Assistant Shift Supervisor	18
Corporal Troy Duvanel- Assistant Shift Supervisor	13
Corporal John Walton – Assistant Shift Supervisor	10
Corporal Jason Reynolds – Assistant Shift Supervisor	8

**Patrol Division**

Master Police Officer Larry Birt – DARE Officer	20
Master Police Officer Phil Lewis	6
Master Police Officer Jeremiah Waters	5
Police Officer Charlie Yocum	31
Police Officer Jeff Magee	21
Police Officer Gerry Eickhoff	17
Police Officer John DeMoss	5
Police Officer Wes Waller	3
Police Officer Nick Weiler	3
Police Officer James Browning Jr.	2
Police Officer Steven Wechsler	2
Police Officer Timothy Filson	2
Police Officer Charles Boyce	1
Police Officer Melinda Copeland	1

**Investigations**

Master Police Officer Mark Messbarger	7
Master Police Officer Chris Brokaw	7
Master Police Officer Shannon Bisel	7

**Civilian Employees**

Dave Thomas – Community Service Officer	21
Lisa Aldrich – Police Property Clerk	17
Karen Gibson – Police Records Clerk	15
Ronda Brumbaugh – Police Records Clerk	9
Monique VanMeerhaeghe—Community Service Officer	2

**Police Crossing Guards—Seasonal**

Cynthia Knapp- 11years, Doris Hillhouse – 6Years, Chris Angelino- <1year



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**POLICE DEPARTMENT STAFF**

**ADMINISTRATION**



Chief  
 William  
 Lietzke



Captain  
 Timothy  
 Burnett



Lieutenant  
 Mike Daniels



Lieutenant  
 Darren  
 McLaughlin

**Midnight Shift**



Sergeant  
 Dan Kellerman



Corporal  
 Todd Sparks



PO  
 John DeMoss



PO  
 James  
 Browning



PO  
 Charles  
 Boyce

**DAY SHIFT**



Sergeant  
 Al Jones



Corporal  
 John Walton



PO  
 Larry Birt



PO  
 Jeff Magee



PO  
 Charlie Yocum



PO  
 Melinda Copeland



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**POLICE DEPARTMENT STAFF**

**EVENING SHIFT**



Sergeant  
Todd Allen



Corporal  
Troy Duvanel



MPO  
Phil Lewis



PO  
Gerry Eickhoff



PO  
Wes Waller



PO  
Timothy Filson

**TRAFFIC UNIT**



Corporal  
Jason Reynolds



MPO  
Nick Weiler



PO  
Steve Wechsler

**COMMUNITY SERVICE OFFICER**



CSO  
Dave Thomas



CSO  
Monique  
VanMeerheaghe

**INVESTIGATION UNIT**



MPO  
Mark Messbarger



MPO  
Shannon Bisel



MPO  
Chris Brokaw



MPO  
Jerimiah Waters

**RECORDS UNIT**



CLERK  
Karen Gibson



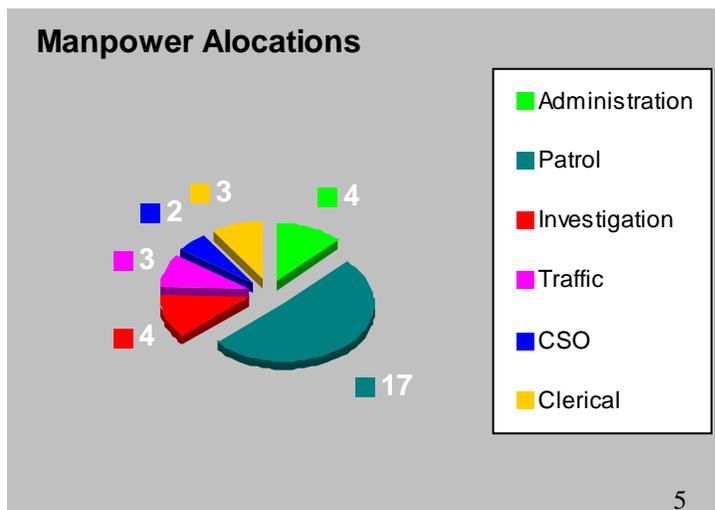
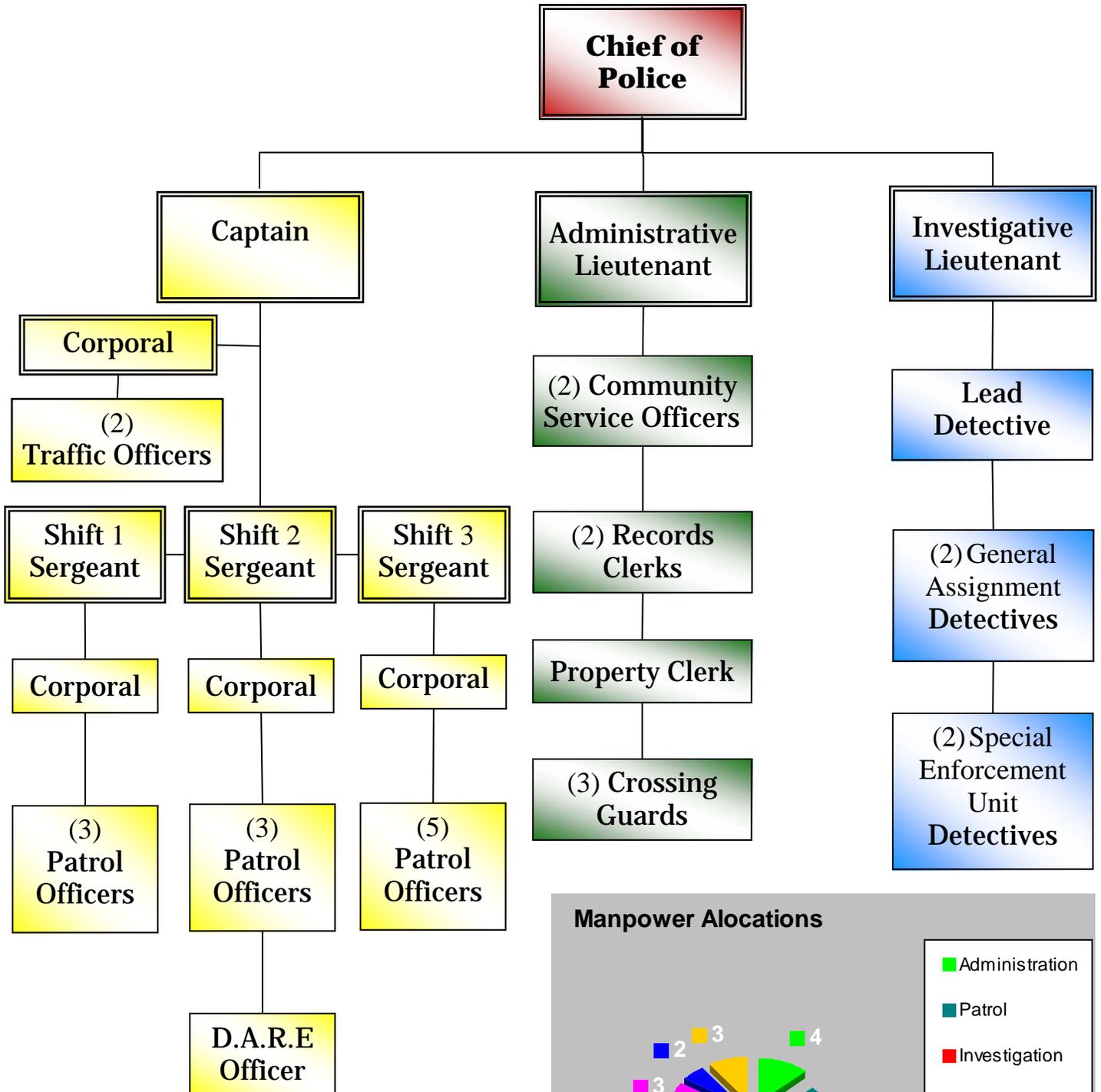
CLERK  
Lisa Aldrich



CLERK  
Ronda Brumbaugh



# ORGANIZATIONAL CHART





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**2008**

**BUDGET EXPENSE REPORT**

**INTRODUCTION:**

The police department budget is the largest within the city of Merriam. In 2008, the total police budget was **\$3,330,204**. This amount includes all projected costs of personnel, contractual services, commodities and capital outlay purchases. It also includes increases due to added compensation. During the 2008 budget year, the Merriam Police Department spent **\$3,008,866**, which represents **90%** of the approved budget. Of the total budget, **\$2,927,732 (87%)** is dedicated to employee salaries and benefits.

Below is a breakdown of expenditures by major categories as of December 31st, 2008.

**Personnel:** This budget item includes salaries, benefits, overtime costs, and other expenses.

Budgeted— **\$2,927,732**. Spent- **\$2,666,147**. Percent of budget spent— **91%**.

**Contractual Services:** This budget item includes utilities, equipment rental and repair, custodial services, travel, training expenses, and building maintenance.

Budgeted— **\$169,270**. Spent— **\$140,148**. Percent of budget spent— **82%**.

**Supplies and Equipment:** Included in this budget item is office equipment, police equipment and uniforms.

Budgeted- **\$161,002**. Spent- **\$139,273**. Percent of budget spent— **85%**.

**Capital Outlay:** This budget item includes all major purchases to include vehicles and equipment purchases over \$5,000.

Budgeted— **\$72,200**. Spent— **\$61,017**. Percent of budget spent— **84%**.

At the end of 2008 the police department was able to return approximately **\$323,619** to the general fund.





**MERRIAM POLICE**  
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**PATROL DIVISION:**  
**FACTS AND STATISTICS**

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**INTRODUCTION:**

When most people think about the police they commonly visualize a uniformed officer who is assigned to patrol. It is the most visible unit of the police department. It is also the largest unit with twenty officers (71%) assigned from a total of twenty-eight. Their primary duties are: respond to calls for service, patrol the neighborhoods and business areas looking for criminal activity, stop traffic violators and assist the public as needed. In addition to routine patrol duties the officers spend many hours each year at district court, municipal court, drivers license hearings, and attending training classes. The dedicated officers of the Patrol Division provide the primary function of the police department, which is highlighted below through calls for service and self-initiated activity.

**CALLS FOR SERVICE:**

The primary duty of any police department is answering the public's calls for service. A police officer must be ready to respond 24/7, 365 days a year. In 2008 the Merriam Police Department received **14,185** primary and backup calls for service. This is a minor decrease from 2007. The chart below represents a breakdown on the calls for service since 2002. Please note the fluctuation from year-to-year. Many factors affect the calls for service numbers and these factors may include but are not limited to; crime rate/trends, changes in our response to certain calls for service (example: theft of gasoline, non-injury private property accidents), increases in retail businesses, inclement weather, road construction, etc.

2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
15,600	15,997	15,753	14,412	15,630	14,342	14,185

**SELF-INITIATED ACTIVITY:**

After calls for service, the patrol officers spend the remainder of their time on self-initiated activity and routine patrol. Self-initiated activity includes, but is not limited to; traffic enforcement, business checks (convenience stores, banks, bars, etc.), building checks, occupied and unoccupied vehicle checks, pedestrian checks, park checks, motorist assists and surveillance of problem areas for criminal activity. During the year our officers had approximately **21,953** self-initiated patrol incidents.

**AN AVERAGE PATROL SHIFT:**

There are three shifts staffed by the patrol division:

- Shift 1/ Midnights: 11 p.m. - 7 a.m.**
- Shift 2/ Days: 7 a.m. - 3 p.m.**
- Shift 3/ Evenings: 3 p.m. - 11 p.m.**





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**PATROL DIVISION:  
FACTS AND STATISTICS**



The level and types of activities vary from shift to shift. The day shift has more business-related calls for service and traffic-related activity during the morning rush hour. The evening shift has the traffic-related activity during the afternoon rush hour, call activity affecting businesses, and domestic violence calls. The midnight shift has alcohol-related problems, heightened patrol for business burglaries, auto burglaries and routine patrol in our residential areas.

There are no two 8-hour patrol shifts that are the same. Officers must come to work prepared to handle many different types of calls and activities during their shift including: weather related events, traffic accidents, surveillance, responding to high stress calls (i.e., armed disturbances, armed robberies, domestic disturbances, etc.), investigating residential and business burglaries, felony and misdemeanor arrests, directing traffic and being involved in community meetings. In addition to these various types of calls they also must routinely complete reports to document the above activity. On average, over one-fourth of a patrol officer's regular shift is dedicated to writing police reports.

Officers not responding to calls for service or writing reports are responsible for patrolling their district to promote high visibility, proactively look for criminal activity, and developing rapport with citizens and the business community. The City of Merriam has 65 miles of streets within its 4.5 square miles. The city is divided into three districts for patrol: North, Center, and South. During 2008 patrol officers drove approximately 143,166 miles while patrolling the streets of Merriam. The reduction of patrol miles, as compared to past years, was a direct result of our efforts to reduce fuel costs in 2008.

**IMPORTANT PATROL FACTS FOR 2008:**

- Each officer will drive 34 miles per day.
- Each officer will answer on average 3.41 calls for service each day.
- Each officer will average 5.27 self initiated calls for service each day.
- Each officer will write 1 to 2 police reports each day.
- Daily each officer will make between 1 to 2 traffic stops.
- The police department writes, on average, 28 traffic tickets per day.
- The police department makes about 3.25 arrests per day (1,116 for the year).
- June was the busiest month in which we responded to 1,264 calls.



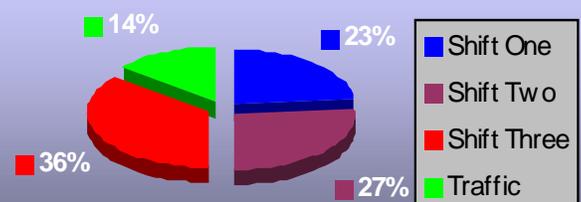
**Shift One: Midnight Shift**  
11:00 P.M.– 7:00 A.M.

**Shift Two: Day Shift**  
7:00 A.M.— 3:00 P.M.

**Shift Three: Evening Shift**  
3:00 P.M.—11:00 P.M.

**Traffic Unit:**  
Day or Evening Shifts as needed

**Call activity by shift**





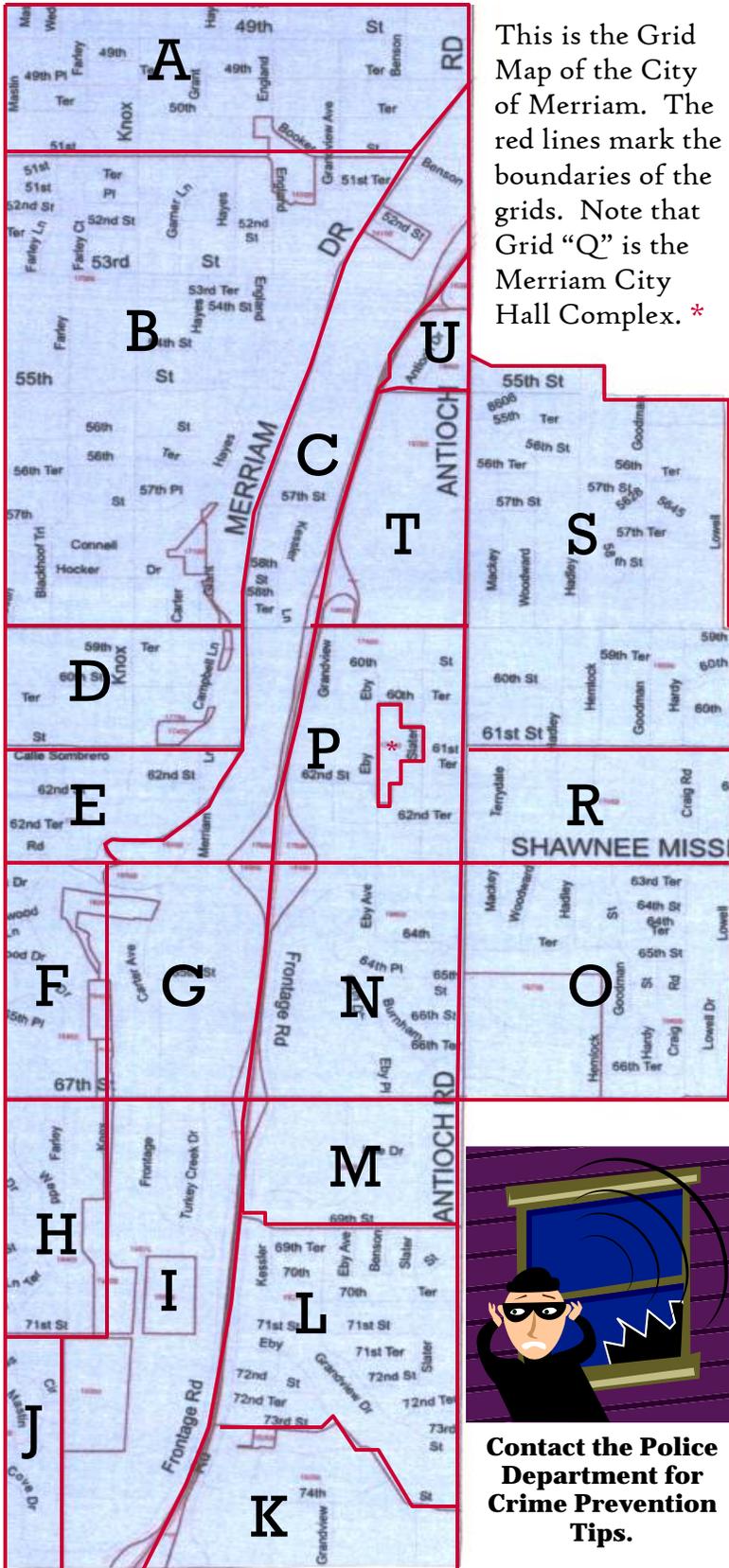
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**CRIMINAL ACTIVITY BY GRID**



This is the Grid Map of the City of Merriam. The red lines mark the boundaries of the grids. Note that Grid "Q" is the Merriam City Hall Complex. \*

The Merriam Police Department has divided the city into grids. This allows us to track the criminal activity and trends. The grids have been laid out to separate, as much as possible, residential from business areas.

The chart below will give you information on the number of criminal reports taken in each grid. Persons Crimes are all crimes against people. These include: assaults, batteries, sex crimes, and other miscellaneous crimes. Burglaries include all burglaries to businesses, homes and cars, along with thefts. Auto Thefts are the illegal taking of motor vehicles. Drug Crimes include all crimes involving controlled substances or drug paraphernalia. "Other" covers all crimes not listed in the previous mentioned categories.

Grid	Burglaries/ Thefts	Auto Theft	Person Crime	Drug Crimes	Other
A	31	8	28	7	29
B	46	14	35	5	34
C	41	11	5	6	27
D	5	3	6	2	2
E	20	7	5	3	21
F	3	0	3	0	2
G	12	3	4	1	5
H	8	1	4	2	6
I	19	2	2	2	2
J	24	3	16	6	16
K	16	5	11	2	5
L	24	3	29	2	28
M	12	5	3	2	7
N	67	2	22	10	35
O	9	0	6	1	8
P	28	2	18	2	16
Q	0	0	2	4	3
R	29	4	4	2	9
S	23	2	17	3	22
T	114	3	12	6	33
U	3	0	1	0	2



**Contact the Police Department for Crime Prevention Tips.**



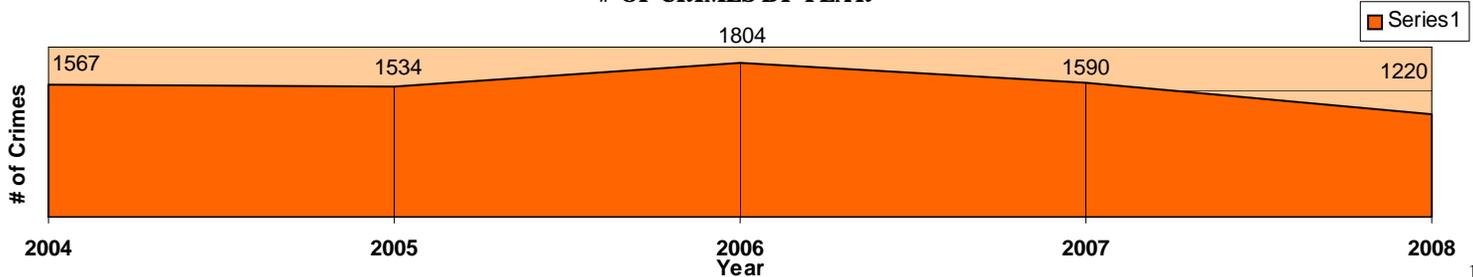
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**2008 REPORTED CRIMES**

TYPE OF CRIME	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	TYPE OF CRIME	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Aggravated Arson	0	1	1	0	0	Forgery	34	21	5	2	8
Arson	1	5	0	4	1	Furnishing Alcohol/Beer to Minor	2	1	6	12	8
Aggravated Assault	7	9	17	11	12	Gasoline Drive Off	91	75	3	3	0
Aggravated Battery	13	9	10	8	3	Habitual Traffic Violator	6	0	0	0	0
Aggravated Burglary	10	6	11	12	6	Harassment by Phone	30	20	39	40	29
Aggravated Sodomy	0	0	1	0	0	Murder / Manslaughter	0	2	0	0	1
Aggravated Indecent Liberties	7	4	2	6	3	Indecent Liberties with a Child	1	3	2	1	0
Aggravated Kidnapping	2	0	1	0	1	Indecent Solicitation of a Child	0	0	0	0	0
Aggravated Robbery	6	17	11	12	6	Identification Theft	11	12	9	19	20
Aggravated Sexual Battery	0	0	0	0	0	Intimidation of a Victim/Witness	0	1	1	0	0
Assault	13	7	5	3	5	Kidnapping	1	2	1	3	1
Attempted Murder	0	0	0	0	0	Lewd and Lascivious Behavior	6	4	5	2	1
Attempted Theft	5	3	0	13	5	Littering	9	2	2	1	1
Battery	118	94	126	104	102	Minor in Possession of Alcohol	35	13	19	25	7
Burglary to Auto	147	178	165	138	109	Obstructing Legal Process	24	31	10	5	12
Burglary to Business	26	16	22	20	12	Prescription Fraud	2	4	5	1	2
Burglary to Residence	36	30	55	49	40	Controlled Substance Possession	51	49	59	44	45
Burglary to Storage Area	13	7	0	2	21	Drug Paraphernalia Possession	14	16	10	18	9
Child In Need Of Care	28	25	54	28	40	Drug Possession / Intent of Sale	5	9	4	4	12
Child Abuse	1	1	0	1	0	Possession of Stolen Property	25	17	12	13	6
Computer Trespass	3	1	3	0	0	Possession of Tobacco/Minor	4	2	5	1	4
Counterfeiting	3	0	1	0	0	Prostitution	0	0	0	2	10
Criminal Damage - Felony	19	20	40	13	19	Rape	7	8	6	6	6
Criminal Damage - Misdemeanor	78	93	97	159	95	Robbery	4	3	7	4	2
Criminal Deprivation of Property	8	6	1	7	9	Sexual Battery	8	4	3	6	5
Criminal Discharge of a Weapon	1	1	3	0	16	Theft of Lost or Mislaid Property	69	120	34	8	25
Criminal Threats	20	25	28	17	15	Theft of Services	7	5	5	3	8
Criminal Trespass	16	12	8	5	7	Theft of Auto	97	90	100	103	60
Criminal Use of a Financial Card	19	22	16	19	21	Theft of Auto (Attempted)	5	12	0	17	17
Criminal Use of a Weapon	4	3	6	3	6	Theft - Felony	53	48	50	52	56
Cruelty to Animals	2	1	0	0	0	Theft - Misdemeanor	244	246	373	351	240
Disorderly Conduct	72	65	67	56	30	Violation: Court Protection Order	15	7	11	13	16
Escape From Custody	0	1	0	0	0	Worthless Check	5	1	2	4	0
Falsely Reporting a Crime	2	0	1	1	0	Other Crimes Not Listed Above	10	24	261	116	17
False Writing	9	20	3	19	8	Stalking	3	0	0	1	0
<b>TOTALS</b>							<b>1567</b>	<b>1534</b>	<b>1804</b>	<b>1590</b>	<b>1220</b>

# OF CRIMES BY YEAR



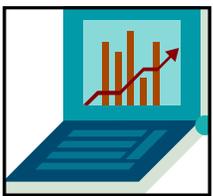


# ***PART ONE CRIME STATISTICS***

## **Part One crimes in 2008:**

Each year we report Part One crimes to the Kansas Bureau of Investigations. Part One crimes are those crimes that are the most serious and/or the most commonly occurring in America. The gathering of these numbers are required and used by federal, state and local jurisdictions to identify crime trends.

### **Introduction:**



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 out of the police department's control that can alter crime statistics from year-to-year. Common influencing factors include: a shift in economic conditions, weather, gang activity, new businesses, etc. Before determining the police department's effectiveness, it is important to understand what factors were at play and how they affected the statistics. While a downturn in criminal activity is always preferable, it may or may not be a direct reflection on the police department. Likewise, an active police department using all the proper crime reduction measures may suffer an increase in reported crime.

### **Crime Trends:**

Overall, there was a decrease in the number of Part One crimes in the majority of categories in 2008. Homicides increased from none in 2007 to one in 2008. Rapes remained at 2007 levels. All other part one crimes decreased from 2007 numbers.

CRIME	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
MURDER	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1
RAPE	9	6	5	4	6	8	3	8	13	6	6
ROBBERY	11	9	23	30	13	16	10	20	18	16	8
ASSAULTS*	31	23	26	32	20	26	20	9	27	125*	122*
BURGLARY	303	236	306	360	331	255	232	237	244	221	188
THEFT	376	454	490	403	342	427	420	526	467	414	345
AUTO THEFT	72	113	98	92	91	77	97	90	100	103	60
ARSON	4	3	2	4	8	7	1	6	1	4	1
Total by Year	<b>807</b>	<b>845</b>	<b>950</b>	<b>925</b>	<b>811</b>	<b>816</b>	<b>783</b>	<b>898</b>	<b>870</b>	<b>889</b>	<b>731</b>

\* This category was previously labeled "Aggravated Assaults" and only captured limited Part One crime information. In 2007 we added all assaults and batteries to this category. The number in 2007 and 2008 represents the new data which explains the very large increase over previous years.



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**OFFICERS AT WORK**

**INTRODUCTION:**

Each year Merriam Police Department officers respond to thousands of calls for service ranging from motorist assists to aggravated assaults, rapes and deaths. I'd like to share just a few examples of the various types of incidents the Merriam Police Officers handled in 2008.

**Officer Confronts man with an axe:**

On January 4th, 2008, PO Melinda Copeland observed two vehicles involved in a road rage incident in the 6500 block of East Frontage. One of the subjects, a 24 year old male exited his vehicle and threatened the other driver with an axe. He was taken into custody at gunpoint by PO Copeland. The suspect was found to be in possession, and under the influence, of methamphetamine. A switch blade knife was also found in his vehicle.

**Woman tries to commit suicide by jumping off bridge:**

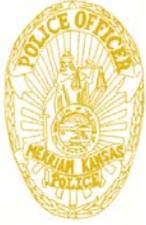
On December 26th, 2008, Sgt. Duvanel, Officer Jeff Magee, Officer Charles Boyce and Officer Wes Waller were dispatched to the bridge at 75<sup>th</sup> St. over I-35 on an attempted suicide. A 42 year old female with a history of mental problems climbed over a fence on the bridge and was attempting to jump onto the interstate below. Even though several passing motorists stopped and grabbed her prior to the officer's arrival, she was able to struggle free and fell about 20 feet. Luckily she landed just short of the interstate and only sustained non-life threatening injuries.

**Officers use a Taser on a man trying to commit suicide after he assaulted a woman:**

On March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2008, a man and woman that had been corresponding via the internet decided to meet in person. Apparently the romance didn't blossom and the female asked the male to leave. Taking the rejection poorly, the man produced a knife and threatened the woman. She and her 17 month old child were able to escape unharmed. Officers Phil Lewis and Wes Waller located the man behind the Penguin Pawn shop at 75th and Switzer. The man, still holding the knife, began cutting his wrist and refused commands to drop the weapon. The officers used their Taser to disarm the subject. He was subsequently treated for his minor self-inflicted injuries and taken to the Johnson County Jail.

**Merriam Officers assist the Overland Park Police in arresting a shooting suspects:**

On September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2008, officers from Overland Park were doing surveillance at the King's Cove apartments on some suspects involved in an earlier shooting incident that occurred in their city. When one of the suspects left the area, Merriam Officer Wes Waller was requested to stop the vehicle with Overland Park PD. Other Merriam officers also responded and checked the apartment and arrested another suspect. Because of our officer's quick response, both of these violent suspects were safely taken off the streets and into custody.



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## **OFFICERS AT WORK**

### **Merriam Officer sneaks up on car burglar:**

On May 13, 2008 at 12:01am, Cpl. Todd Sparks responded to a call of an auto burglary in progress in the 4900 block of Wedd. The caller saw a subject with a flashlight enter her neighbor's vehicle. At 12:03am, Cpl. Sparks arrived and positioned his vehicle at the end of the street. As he approached on foot, he saw a light inside the vehicle. Cpl. Sparks was able to walk up to the vehicle without the suspect seeing him. The suspect was ordered out of the car and was taken into custody. He had a screwdriver, a flashlight, and was wearing latex gloves. He was later linked to four other auto burglaries that were reported on May 12, 2008.

### **Road rage incident that results in gunfire goes through Merriam:**

On October 21, 2008 at 1:43am, Officer James Browning responded to a call of a rolling disturbance southbound on Interstate 35 near Johnson Drive. The calling party said the occupant of the vehicle chasing him had fired 4 to 5 shots at him. Officer Browning strategically positioned himself on I-35 at 67<sup>th</sup> Street to intercept the cars. The cars passed him and he caught up to them at 75<sup>th</sup> St. He activated his emergency equipment and proceeded after the vehicles. They continued south and exited onto 87<sup>th</sup> Street. They turned north onto Quivira where the vehicles stopped after one of the cars pulled in front of the other. One of the drivers then jumped out and ran towards the other car waving his hands wildly in the air. He was stopped at gunpoint and taken into custody immediately. It was determined that this road rage incident started with an accident between these two drivers. One of the drivers then pulled a gun and fired shots. A gun was recovered. It was determined that all the incidents occurred in Kansas City, Missouri. KCMO PD responded and took over the investigation.

### **Good police work ends major burglary ring:**

On December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2008, officers responded to Homestead Village to assist management in removing a group of people who had not paid for their rooms. The officers were first asked to check room #275 after finding that the occupants were gone and had apparently left some abandoned property behind. While looking in the room, Corporal Troy Duvanel recognized a computer that had been taken in a recent Merriam residential burglary. Officer Wes Waller then checked outside the room and located a stolen vehicle. Corporal Duvanel and Corporal Jason Reynolds then responded to room #271, which was linked to #275. Three people in that room were found to be in possession of marijuana. Further investigation revealed two more stolen cars parked outside. These three subjects were arrested immediately and a fourth subject was arrested later while trying to pay for room #275. The group was linked to other residential burglaries in the area including Overland Park, Bonner Springs, and Kansas City, KS. Over 400 pieces of property were recovered from the two hotel rooms.

### **Overdose leads to prosecution of a drug dealer for murder:**

On December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2008, officers received a tip about a dead body at a local hotel. Sgt. Todd Allen and officers Charlie Yocum and Larry Birt found a 42 year old female deceased in a hotel room in the 5000 block of Merriam Drive. An autopsy revealed she had overdosed on heroin. A follow up investigation revealed the person who sold her the illegal drug is a known heroin dealer. Det. Chris Brokaw coordinated with the DEA and the Federal Prosecutors Office to secure federal charges against this suspect for contributing to her death.



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## **ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES**

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### **INTRODUCTION:**

The Administrative Unit of the Merriam Police Department is responsible for a variety of different and important functions of the department. There are four officers assigned to the unit: Chief William Lietzke, Captain Timothy Burnett, Lieutenant Michael Daniels and Lieutenant Darren McLaughlin. These veteran officers have a combined total of over ninety years of police experience between them.

**Chief of Police:** William Lietzke'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 department liability and risk management. He also makes the final decision concerning employee hiring and termination.

**Captain:** Tim Burnett is the commander of the Patrol Unit which is made up of uniformed officers. Manpower allocation and scheduling are his primary responsibilities. He must be familiar with all the current laws as well as contemporary police tactics and operations. He is also responsible for investigating all citizen complaints on officers, internal investigations and all use of force incidents. He is also a current staff officer (Officer-in-Charge) for the Metro Squad and the Johnson County Officer Involved Shooting Investigation Team.

**Investigation's Lieutenant:** Mike Daniels is directly responsible for supervising the Investigations Unit. He reviews all written reports and assigns cases to the detectives based on available leads. Cases followed-up by the uniformed officers are also managed through his office. He is the supervisor of the Special Enforcement Unit and is in charge of many of the departments special events. He is also a current staff officer (Lead) for the Metro Squad.

**Administrative Lieutenant:** Darren McLaughlin supervises the police department's civilian staff which includes three clerical personnel, two community service officers and three school crossing guards. He is also in charge of all the department's training, records management systems and the property/evidence room.

**Personnel Update:** The most critical function of the administrative division is personnel. Maintaining staffing levels is important to ensure the high quality of service that the Merriam citizens deserve and have come to expect. In 2008 Officer Melinda Copeland left the Police Department for personal reasons. Sgt. Al Jones retired in December of 2008. CSO Monique VanMeerhaeghe left us to take a position as a court clerk in Fairway. We will miss their experience and service to the citizens of Merriam. One officer was hired in 2008.



## **ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES**

**Professional Standards:** Another important function of the Administrative Unit is professional standards. This function is primarily the responsibility of the captain, who conducts internal investigations of department personnel when necessary. The captain is also responsible for ensuring officers follow proper procedure and all department rules and regulations. There are four main aspects of routine police work that the Merriam Police Department tracks and investigates: officer complaints, vehicle pursuits, foot pursuits, and use of force incidents.

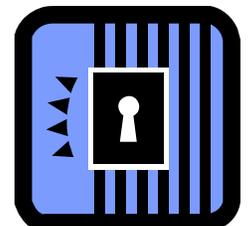
**Officer Complaints:** When a citizen makes an official complaint against an officer it is documented and investigated by the officer's supervisor. If the complaint is serious in nature or can not be resolved by the supervisor it is forwarded to the captain for further investigation. Once the investigation is complete it is forwarded to the Police Chief as founded or unfounded. If the complaint is founded the captain recommends the appropriate disciplinary action to be taken for the officers actions. During 2008 there were **two** official complaints that were investigated. **One** was unfounded and **one** was substantiated which resulted in disciplinary action and training for the officer.

**Vehicle Pursuits:** The department has a very strict vehicle pursuit policy because of the dangers associated with this type of driving. When an officer engages in a pursuit the on-duty supervisor closely monitors this incident. The officer has the direct authority to discontinue a pursuit at any time and the supervisor may direct the officer to end the pursuit. All vehicle pursuits are investigated by the on-duty supervisor and reviewed by the captain to ensure all policies and procedures were followed. During 2008 there were only **five** pursuits.



**Foot Pursuits:** In 2002 a foot pursuit policy was created that strictly regulates police officer foot pursuits because they have proven to be a very high-risk activity for officers. This is due to the extreme physical exertion that occurs and the fact that most foot pursuits occur at night when obstacles are difficult to see. In addition, most people running from the police are violent and combative when captured. Because of these reasons, each foot pursuit is carefully reviewed by the shift supervisor and the captain to ensure all policies and procedures were followed. There were only **two** foot pursuits in 2008.

**Juvenile Intake and Assessment Center:** In 2008 the Merriam Police Department took **29** juveniles to the Juvenile Intake and Assessment Center. By estimates, this saved the department around **94** man-hours by allowing JIAC to process juveniles that are runaways or who have committed criminal acts.



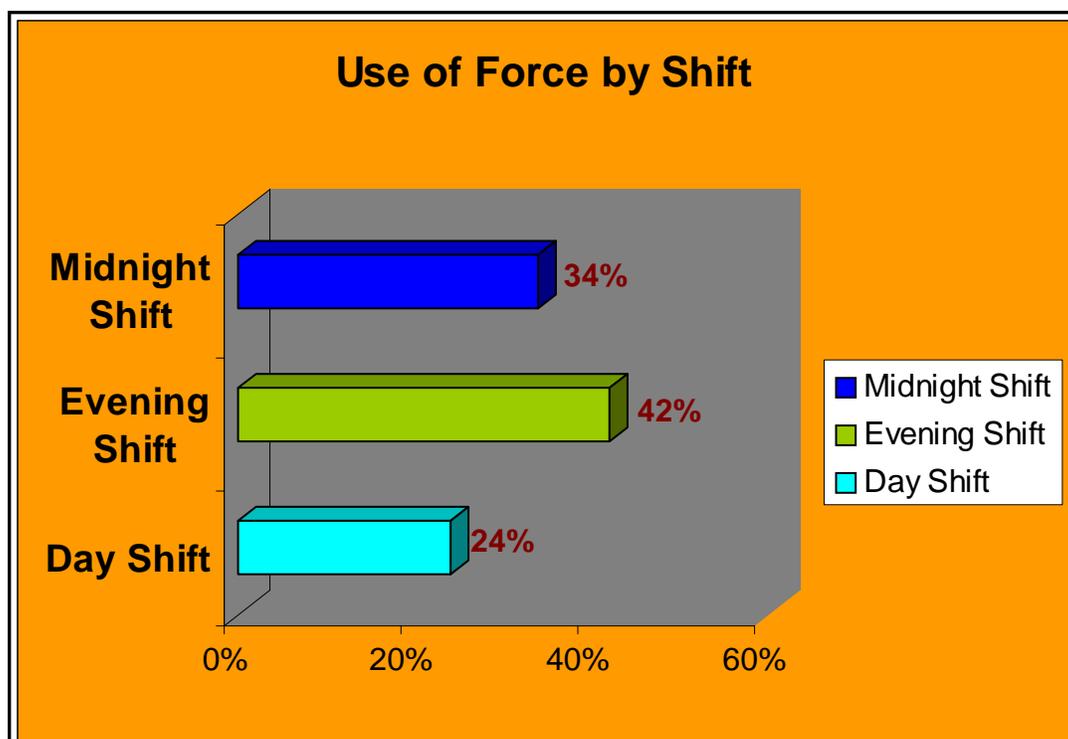


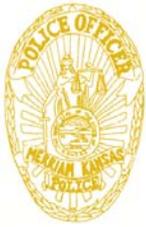
## ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

**Use of Force Incidents:** All use of force incidents must be reported and are reviewed by Patrol Commander. A specific report is used that details the circumstances that led up to the use of force, the amount of force used and the results. It is the responsibility of the Patrol Commander to ensure that no more force than was necessary to effect an arrest was used by the officer. Use of force reports are prepared each time an officer makes non-routine body contact with a subject during an arrest or whenever an officer points a weapon at an individual and issues verbal commands. During 2008 there were **38** incidents where an officer deemed it necessary to use force to make an arrest. This number is up **14%** from last year. The number of use of force incidents in Merriam is extremely low considering the number of arrests (**1,116**) the officers made during the year. Highlighted below is specific information related to the use of force incidents in 2008.

### Use of Force Incidents for 2008

⇒ Service weapon pointed at individual	25
⇒ Taser device pointed at someone	0
⇒ Service weapon discharged on-duty	0
⇒ Taser device used on individual	4
⇒ Empty hand control techniques used	9
⇒ Lateral vascular neck restraint used	0
⇒ OC pepper spray used	0
⇒ Collapsible baton used	0



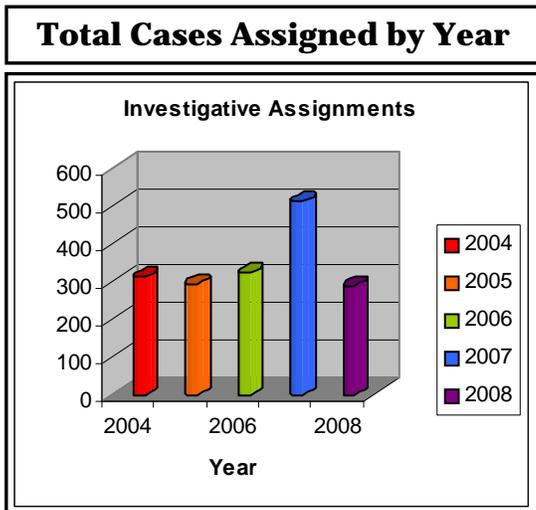


# INVESTIGATIONS UNIT

## INTRODUCTION:

In 2008 the Investigations Unit was reorganized and staffed with four detectives. Two detectives were assigned to general investigations, investigating crimes against persons and crimes against property. The other two detectives were assigned to the Special Enforcement Unit to conduct proactive investigations. The general assignment detectives investigated **230** cases. The detectives assigned to the Special Enforcement Unit assisted these two detectives by investigating **17** cases involving crimes against person or property crimes.

The general assignment detectives had a clearance rate of **28%** which means that they solved **64** of the **287** cases they investigated.



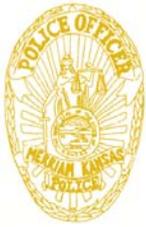
**Type of Cases Assigned by Year**

Year	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Homicide	0	2	0	0	1
Burglary	53	49	53	65	39
Theft	53	54	77	135	98
Forgery	27	25	24	19	3
Auto Theft	17	13	26	79	25
Auto Burglary	*	*	*	16	10
Identity Theft	*	*	*	23	16
Robbery	7	20	11	14	8
Battery	20	14	17	13	17
Felony Sex Offenses	23	22	9	20	15
Criminal Damage	10	11	19	57	12
Criminal Threats	12	7	5	10	6
Phone Harassment	8	8	12	11	9
Unattended Death	4	6	8	12	5
Child Cases (CINC)	4	10	8	10	15
Kidnapping	2	1	2	0	2
Arson	0	1	1	0	0
Assault	3	5	9	4	4
Credit Card Fraud	16	9	8	3	2
All Others	52	28	34	19	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>312</b>	<b>294</b>	<b>323</b>	<b>510</b>	<b>287</b>



This picture was taken during the investigation of the death of a person walking on the train tracks. He was struck and killed by the train.

**\* indicates these numbers are not available**



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**SPECIAL ENFORCEMENT UNIT**

**INTRODUCTION:**

In 2008 the Investigations Unit was reorganized and staffed with four detectives. Two detectives assigned to do general investigations and two detectives assigned to the Special Enforcement Unit to conduct pro-active investigations. These two detectives utilized investigative techniques such as surveillance, the use of informants and undercover operations to investigate crimes.

The Special Enforcement detectives were assigned **73** cases to investigate. They were able to solve **21** of those cases for a clearance rate of **29%**. These cases were investigated using eleven search warrants, twenty-seven drug buys, seven surveillance teams and two buy/busts operations. From these investigations criminal cases were filed in federal, state and municipal court. The detectives were also part of 14 joint operations with other law enforcement agencies. Four asset forfeiture cases were filed resulting in \$31,940 in cash and a 1994 Chevy Z71 four wheel drive truck being forfeited to the Merriam Police Department.



Marijuana Grow Operation in a basement of a home in Merriam.



Black Tar Heroin bought by our undercover officer.



Several Hundred dollars seized during a search warrant at a Merriam residence. The resident was charged with selling illegal drugs.



Methamphetamine found during a search warrant.



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## **MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENTS**

### **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, including approximately 3 miles of interstate highway. According to data provided by the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) the portion of Interstate 35, just north of 75<sup>th</sup> Street, is the busiest section of highway in the State of Kansas. KDOT estimates that over one hundred thousand cars drive through the city each day during a normal workweek.

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 control and accident investigation is a full-time challenge. 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. In 2002, the department began a more aggressive approach to traffic enforcement, which eventually led to the creation of our Traffic Enforcement Unit in 2005.

### **2008 ACCIDENT FACTS**

- There were **587** motor vehicle accidents reported to the State of Kansas by the Merriam Police Department. These were accidents with total damage over \$1,000 or that involved an injury.
- Of this total **77** of the accidents involved some level of personal injuries. This is a **30%** decrease from 2007.
- There were **30** accidents which were determined to be alcohol related. This equates to approximately **5%** of the total.
- Hit-and-run accidents reported and investigated in 2008 totaled **112**, which is a slight decrease from 2007.
- There were **31** private property and /or minor accident reports taken in Merriam. This figure is a major decrease from 2007.
- There was only one reported fatality accident in Merriam. It occurred at 67th and Carter. Alcohol was a factor in this accident.
- Overall, the city experienced a **16% decrease** in the number of accidents as compared to 2007.



**NOTE: The above statistics do not include accidents reported to KHP that occurred on I-35.**



# MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENTS

## TOP TEN ACCIDENT LOCATIONS IN MERRIAM FOR 2008

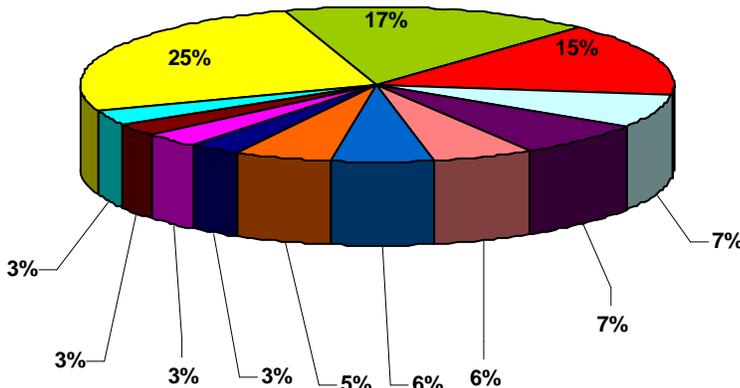
◆ Shawnee Mission Parkway and I-35	78
◆ 75th and I-35	52
◆ Johnson and I-35	46
◆ 67th and I-35	22
◆ Shawnee Mission Parkway and Eby	22
◆ Antioch and I-35	17
◆ Shawnee Mission Parkway and Antioch	17
◆ 75th and E. Frontage	16
◆ Johnson and Slater	9
◆ Shawnee Mission Parkway and Hadley	9
◆ Shawnee Mission Parkway and Slater	9
◆ 75th and Kings Cove Dr	9



Fatality Accident at 67th and Carter. There was a child in the car that survived due to being properly seat belted in. Unfortunately the driver did not survive. Alcohol was a factor.

### Top Accident Location Breakdown

■ Shawnee Mission Parkway and I-35	■ 75th and I-35
■ Johnson and I-35	■ 67th and I-35
■ Shawnee Mission Parkway and Eby	■ Antioch and I-35
■ Shawnee Mission Parkway and Antioch	■ 75th and E. Frontage
■ Johnson and Slater	■ Shawnee Mission Parkway and Hadley
■ Shawnee Mission Parkway and Slater	■ 75th and Kings Cove Dr



Driver dies of heart attack while driving on Johnson Dr. The jeep struck the bridge over Turkey creek and flipped several times before coming to a rest in the intersection at Merriam Dr. No one else was injured in the accident.



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**TRAFFIC UNIT**  
**ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS**

**INTRODUCTION:**

In 2008 the Traffic Enforcement Unit focused on enforcing traffic laws in high accident areas and participated in several State of Kansas grant initiatives to enforce seat belt laws and DUI enforcement. Members of the Traffic Enforcement Unit organized DUI check point in the 5700blk of Merriam Dr. During the course of the night, 158 drivers were contacted. The check point resulted in 8 people being arrested for DUI, 1 for a drug offense, and 3 others for other assorted violations. Additionally, they participated in 2 additional checkpoints in the Johnson County Metro area. They also took part in several Operation Impact days in which a saturation enforcement action was undertaken by area law enforcement agencies to enforce those traffic violations that are the leading causes of accidents.

Traffic Stops	2,000
Moving Violations	1,876
Non-Moving Violations	1,622
Total Tickets Issued	3,498
Driving Under the Influence Arrests	59
Speeding	915
Other Moving Violations	1018
Seat Belts	721
Accident Reports	203
Shifts Worked	205
Miles Driven	16,266



Merriam Police Officers taking part in emergency driving training in the rain.

**TEU Traffic Statistics for 2008:**



**Traffic Crashes - # 1 Killer of Teens**

47 teens died in motor vehicle crashes during 2007

Kansans finally seem to be getting the message: slow down, buckle up, and never drive if you've been drinking. That is the encouraging news from the Kansas Department of Transportation. Preliminary records indicate 384 fatalities for 2008, down from 416 in 2007, which would set an all-time low.



6.15% of Fatalities in 2007 were not wearing their seatbelts.



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**PATROL: TRAFFIC  
 ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS**

**INTRODUCTION:**

Traffic enforcement has always been a large part of the everyday duties of a Merriam officer. Statistics and studies have shown that in areas where there is more traffic enforcement, there are also fewer accidents. Recent studies have also shown that crime rates in general may decrease when officers are out stopping motorists violating the traffic laws. Many high profile cases like the bombing of the Federal Building in Oklahoma City were solved by an officer making routine traffic stops. In 2008, Merriam officers made **6,509** traffic stops, issued **6,006** moving violation tickets and **4,295** non-moving tickets (total numbers including the Traffic Unit). This represents a **10%** decrease in the number of traffic stops and a **1%** decrease in tickets issued in 2007.

**TRAFFIC STANDARDS:**

For the past nine years there has been a minimum traffic standard in existence. The standard for each patrol officer is to write two tickets per eight-hour shift. Traffic officers have a standard of eight tickets in an eight-hour shift. Fifty percent of the tickets issued should be for a moving violation. This standard was adopted in conjunction with the community-policing philosophy. Traffic complaints are commonly heard at neighborhood gatherings throughout the city. Citizens routinely request speed and other traffic enforcement in their neighborhoods.

**2008 Traffic Citations**

- ◆D.U.I. 133
- ◆Speeding 2,257
- ◆Inattentive driving 147
- ◆Traffic light 227
- ◆Stop sign 139
- ◆No insurance 1,464
- ◆Seat belt 1,053
- ◆Drivers license violations 927
- ◆Expired/illegal tag 752
- ◆Parking 112
- ◆All others 2,986



The driver of the car was intoxicated. He hit a construction trailer and a tree. The driver was injured in this accident.

**Court Statistics**

	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>
<b>Total Filings:</b>	8,585	8,652	9,958	10,641	10,867	<b>10,159</b>
<b>Fines Collected:</b>	\$631,327	\$747,116	\$835,280	\$881,930	\$912,467	<b>\$1,032,667</b>



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**COMMUNITY SERVICE OFFICERS**

**INTRODUCTION:**

The Community Service Officers are non-sworn members of the police department. Their job is to assist the public with various police-related functions that do not necessarily need to be performed by law enforcement officers. The CSO staff is comprised of Dave Thomas and Monique VanMeerhaeghe.

**DUTIES:**

CSO's are assigned to many different tasks. They are "jack-of-all-trades." They must be able to cover school crossings, perform records management functions, civilian fingerprinting, and routine walk-in reports. They are also responsible for court security and bailiff duties. They can assist patrol with traffic control needs, motorist assistance, and other support functions. Their number one responsibility is animal control. This includes picking up strays, enforcing animal control ordinances, and helping control nuisance animals.

Last year the Merriam Police department impounded 203 stray animals; 73 cats and 130 dogs. None of the impounded cats were reclaimed and only 77 of the impounded dogs were claimed by owners.

Please remember to have your pets licensed. Not only is it required by law, it will also help the police department to return your lost pets to you. Please call 322-5560 for information on registering your pets, or go to the below listed website for additional information:  
[www.merriam.org/MPD/Animal-Control/pet-registration.htm](http://www.merriam.org/MPD/Animal-Control/pet-registration.htm)

The following is a list of the average calls/activities per month of the two CSO's .

- ◆ Answer 29 animal control calls.
- ◆ Write 8 animal control related reports.
- ◆ Confirm 6 warrants.
- ◆ Serve 3 warrants.
- ◆ Answer 156 phone calls.
- ◆ 28 hours per month in court related duties.
- ◆ Take 7 walk-in police reports.
- ◆ Perform 16 civilian fingerprint requests.



In addition to these activities, the CSO's are also required to attend various training classes throughout the year. These include but are not limited to: Taser, CPR/AED, Animal Control Conference, handcuffing, and records management training.



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**COMMUNITY  
SERVICE AND SUPPORT**



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**INTRODUCTION:**

In addition to responding to calls for service, investigating crimes, enforcing traffic laws and investigating 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 are listed below.

**DRUG ABUSE RESISTANCE EDUCATION (D.A.R.E.):**

Master Police Officer Larry Birt completed his 15<sup>th</sup> year as the department's D.A.R.E. officer. During 2008, the D.A.R.E. Program was offered in both Merriam schools. While Officer Birt is the D.A.R.E. officer, he is also assigned to work in a regular patrol unit when not in the classroom. 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 D.A.R.E. mission.

**SPECIAL WEAPONS AND TACTICS (S.W.A.T.):**



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 2008 to make sure they are equipped and ready to handle armed and other high risk situations. The S.W.A.T. officers are also expected to retain a higher than average level of physical fitness and fire-arms proficiency skill.

**CROSSING GUARD UNIT:**

There are three school-crossing locations within the city. Part-time 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 Lt. McLaughlin, is responsible for child pedestrian safety. The crossing 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 2008 John Wil-lits, a former reserve police officer, worked with the Merriam Police Department as a non-paid volunteer. He is assigned to work with the police department to help enforce handicapped and fire-lane parking violations. Vehicles found in violation were ticketed. If anyone is interested in volunteering for this, please contact Captain Burnett at 913-322-5589.





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**VOLUNTEER CHAPLAIN PROGRAM:**

Chaplain Mike Jacob volunteers his time to assist our officers with death notifications 24 hours a day, seven days a week. He also assists the officers by providing support to grieving family members at accident and crime scenes. In addition to these critical duties, he offers spiritual guidance to police employees and routinely rides with the officers during their patrol shifts. Mike is a Chaplain at Shawnee Mission Medical Center and a Merriam resident.

**EVIDENCE TECHNICIANS:**



The Merriam Police Department has officers who have received special training in evidence collection and processing. These trained technicians are assigned to the Patrol Division and are utilized while on duty. This has helped reduce overtime in 2008. These officers can also be called out on serious crimes to assist the detectives.

**EVIDENCE MANAGEMENT:**

One of the police clerks is assigned to help manage the department's recovered property and evidence. As property custodian, she is responsible to properly log, computerize and store all recovered property and evidence. She is also 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 seized property by appropriate means and seeing that property is returned to the lawful owners.

**HOUSE WATCH PROGRAM:**

Each year, a number of vacationing 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 peace of mind to the citizens while they are away from their homes. The citizen completes a simple form and officers spend designated times checking these residences while the owners are away. In 2008, 69 Merriam citizens took advantage of this program.



**POLICE RIDE-ALONG PROGRAM:**

This is a community relations program that allows citizens to ride with a police officer during their normal shift. A citizen signs up to ride for 2, 4, 6, or 8 hours on any desired shift. They must complete a form and a brief records check is made before authorization is given. The patrol shift supervisor coordinates with the citizen to schedule their ride-along visit. Persons under the age of 15 must have a responsible adult with them on the ride-along. Advanced notice is required. In 2008, there were 37 ride-along requests.



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**FINGERPRINT SERVICES:**

The Merriam Police Department provides fingerprint services for all Merriam citizens and business persons during normal business hours. Several times a year, individuals need their fingerprints taken for financial bonds, insurance business and other reasons. A Community Service Officer completes this service by appointment for a fee. Please call 913-322-5560.

**OPERATION NIGHTLIGHT:**

Merriam police officers participate in Operation Nightlight. This is a county-wide program where the 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, to ensure their compliance.

**INTERN PROGRAM:**



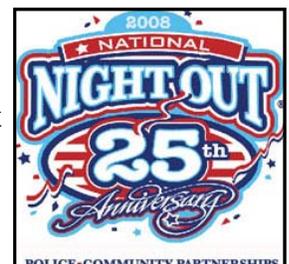
The Merriam Police Department is on the college intern list at a number of area universities in an effort to attract college interns. These non-paid volunteer interns work with the clerical staff, and patrol officers to observe the various aspects of police work. The department gets their free labor for statistical studies, clerical duties, etc. The intern gets the experience and college credit.

**CRIME PREVENTION:**

The department's crime prevention specialist, Master Police Officer Larry Birt, manages a program that encourages people to have their home or business checked in an effort to protect them from criminal activity. An appointment is set up with the officer and 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. There is no fee for this valuable service.

**NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH AND NATIONAL NIGHT OUT AGAINST CRIME:**

The Merriam Police Department believes crime prevention is a team effort. We encourage the cooperation of police and the citizens to work together. A neighborhood watch area is a group of citizens working together to help identify specific crime problems in the area in which they live. When they observe suspicious activity, they notify the police. If you want to set up a neighborhood watch, contact the Merriam Police. The National Night Out Against Crime is a national effort to get the citizens of a community and their police department together to discuss crime problems and solutions. We gladly participated in this successful program in 2008 and we look forward to seeing everyone again in 2009.





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**TRAFFIC COUNTS:**

The Merriam Police Department operates a radar equipped traffic speed and vehicle counter. These devices are 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 of day of the traffic violation problem. Citizens having a problem with speeders in their neighborhood should call the patrol commander's office at 913-322-5589 and discuss options to resolve the speed violations.



**ALARM ORDINANCE:**

Each year hundreds of business, residential, and robbery alarms are received by the Merriam Police and Fire Departments. 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 alarm ordinance is to make these alarm owners more responsible for their equipment. One officer is assigned to keep track of the alarms that are received. Invoices are sent out for those that have too many false alarms. The Police Department also works with the alarm owners to find ways to reduce the incidents of false alarms. There were **264** reported false alarms in Merriam in 2008. The City of Merriam collected **\$3,540** in false alarms fines in 2008.

**POLICE OFFICER VOLUNTEERISM:**



Police officers are driven to serve their communities. They serve both on and off the job. The members of the Merriam Police Department have volunteered collectively over **600** hours of their time during 2008. They help worthwhile causes like Special Olympics, American Cancer Society, American Red Cross and others. Some spend time teaching Sunday school and coaching basketball at their churches. Others work with the Boy Scouts, put up flags for veterans, volunteer at elementary schools and coach youth sports.

The Merriam Police Department has been involved in the Law Enforcement Torch Run for twenty-four years. The Law Enforcement Torch Run is a series of runs that end in Wichita for the start of the Special Olympics summer games. This tradition started in Wichita Kansas and is now done in all 50 states, provinces in Canada, Europe, Africa, China and Japan. The Merriam Police Department participates in events like the Polar Bear Plunge, Cops on Top at Krispy Kreme, Popcorn Standoff at Cinemark, and the Torch Run itself throughout the year to raise money and awareness for Special Olympics.





## **CITIZEN'S POLICE ACADEMY**

In 2008, the Merriam Police Department introduced our first Citizen's Police Academy. We had two main objectives for this program. The first was to familiarize the citizens with the complexities of the officer's work environment. The amount of training each officer receives, and is required to stay current with, was indeed eye opening for some of the students.

The second goal was to become acquainted with each other. The police department can better serve the citizens when they have a better understanding of their perspective and concerns. Likewise, the citizens feel more comfortable working with the officers when they get to know them on a personal level.

The 2008 Citizens Police Academy class started April 2, 2008 and ran through May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2008. Each of the Wednesday night sessions lasted for three hours. The following is a list of classes that were given:

Familiarization of Police Equipment	Firearms Training
Basic Patrol Procedures	SWAT Team Demonstration
Traffic Stops	Accident Investigation
How Radar/Lidar works	TASER Training
Drug Enforcement	DUI Training
Search/Seizure	DARE overview
General Investigation Procedures	Tour of the Johnson County Adult Detention Center
Domestic Violence	Defensive Tactics Training
Use of Force Training	

These classes consisted of more than just watching videos and listening to lectures. Over half of the classes were actual hands-on training. The students went to the firearms range to shoot handguns, shotguns, and even fully automatic rifles. They learned and practiced defensive tactics and some even braved getting a shock from a Taser. In addition to all the classes, and probably the most informative, the students were able to ride with a police officer during an actual police shift. This gave them a better perspective on what they had learned and exactly how it is applied. The next page contains photographs of some of the training. It illustrates just how varied the training was. Also, if you look closely enough you might also pick out a smile or two from the students and officers instructing them.

This program was such a success, we will be offering it again in 2009. Go to the Merriam Police website, <http://www.merriam.org/MPD/> for more information or to sign up.



**MERRIAM POLICE**  
*"Proudly Serving Since 1951"*

2008  
Annual  
Report

**MERRIAM**  
*Just right.*

**CITIZEN'S POLICE ACADEMY**





# POLICE TRAINING UPDATE

## INTRODUCTION:

The State of Kansas requires all police officers to complete a state sponsored police academy with a minimum of **560** hours of instruction. The Merriam Police Department also requires any new officer to complete a field training program consisting of **480** hours of additional instruction. Thereafter, every certified officer is required to attend a minimum of **40** hours of training per year. Throughout 2008 the Merriam Police Department offered a variety of training classes for its officers and civilian staff to attend. Listed below are examples of some of those courses.

### Defensive Tactics:

- ◆ Ground Fighting
- ◆ Use of Force Situational Training
- ◆ Winning a Use of Force Encounter
- ◆ Pressure Point Control Tactics

### Detective Training:

- ◆ Child Sex Abuse
- ◆ Sex Abuse and Strangulation Cases
- ◆ Death /Homicide Investigation
- ◆ Informant Development
- ◆ Undercover Drug Investigations
- ◆ Narcotic Investigations



### S.W.A.T. Training:

- ◆ Barricaded Suspects
- ◆ Vehicle Assaults
- ◆ Firearms Training
- ◆ Advanced Tactical Operations
- ◆ Mobile Active Shooter
- ◆ Search Warrants
- ◆ Firearms Training
- ◆ Specialty Munitions
- ◆ Legal Issues for Tactical Operations
- ◆ Hostage Rescue

### Supervisor Training:

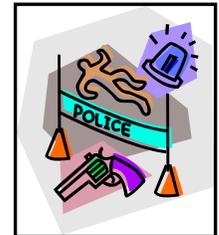
- ◆ Liability Seminar
- ◆ Risk Management
- ◆ Hot Topics for Law Enforcement Administrators
- ◆ Unacceptable Employee Behavior
- ◆ Law Enforcement Operations

### Traffic Safety Training:

- ◆ Child Car Seat Safety Training
- ◆ Doppler Radar and Lidar Training
- ◆ Transportation Safety Conference

### Patrol Training:

- ◆ I-Leads Records Management System
- ◆ Domestic Violence Training
- ◆ Search and Seizure Training
- ◆ CPR
- ◆ DUI
- ◆ Mobile Active Shooter
- ◆ Spanish for Law Enforcement
- ◆ Pursuit
- ◆ Trace Evidence
- ◆ Emergency Vehicle Operation Course



### Community Service Officer Training:

- ◆ Computer Training
- ◆ Animal Control Conference
- ◆ Use of Force

### Firearms Training:

- ◆ Handgun Skills and Qualification
- ◆ Rifle Skills and Qualification
- ◆ Shotgun Skills and Qualification

**Every Merriam police officer received on average **76** hours of training in 2008. Every officer assigned to S.W.A.T. received on average an additional **53** hours of specialized training.**



# DRUG FORFEITURE REPORT

## INTRODUCTION:

According to K.S.A. 60-4117, law enforcement agencies are required to report the status of their Special Law Enforcement Trust Fund in an "annual report." The report must include the type and approximate value of the forfeited property received, the amount of any forfeiture proceeds received, and how any of those proceeds were expended.

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

## DRUG FORFEITURE ACTIVITIES IN 2008:

On January 1, 2008, there was approximately **\$43,727** in the Merriam Special Law Enforcement Trust Fund.

During 2008, the Merriam Police Department received **\$44,443.97** from drug forfeitures and/or drug taxes. The account earned **\$773.04** in interest.

There was a reimbursement to the Merriam Special Law Enforcement Trust Fund in the amount of **\$1,730.11**. This was a grant reimbursement for the purchase of personal body armor.

During 2008, the following purchases or expenditures were made with funds from the Special Law Enforcement Trust Fund:

SWAT Equipment	\$13,337.13
Range Equipment	\$495.66
Range Trailer	\$5,324.67
Special Enforcement Unit Equipment	\$7,489.79
Drug Enforcement Investigation Account	\$5,984.00
Traffic Unit Equipment	\$282.55
Cabinets for Traffic Office	\$320.00
Patrol Bullet Proof Vests	\$3,400
Patrol Training Equipment	\$1,361
Attorney Fees	\$460.57
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$39,227.49</b>



Money and guns seized from a Marijuana grow operation in Merriam.

**NOTE:** The total money seized minus the total money paid out does not balance. This is because some of the seized money was split with other Law Enforcement Agencies that assisted us with in some of the investigations. In 2008 we paid **\$15,582.00** to assisting agencies.

## ACCOUNT CARRYOVER:

As of 01/01/2009 = **\$33,361.48**