



THE DAILY ASTORIAN

142nd YEAR, No. 147 THURSDAY, JANUARY 22, 2015 ONE DOLLAR



Daily Astorian file Astoria Police Officer Cory Gerig drives up 16th Street while patrolling the streets on a rainy Friday.

ASTORIA POLICE: BY THE NUMBERS

Police Chief Brad Johnston releases first public annual report in 23 years

By KYLE SPURR The Daily Astorian

jumped from 63 in 2011 to 89 in 2014.

For the first time in at least two decades, Astoria Police Department publicly released an annual report detailing statistics, completed projects and new programs.

Brad Johnston, appointed police chief in November after nearly 23 years with the Police Department, said annual reports used to be sent in a memo format along with budget requests to the Astoria City Council Budget Committee and not directly released to the public.

For years, Johnston said, he had the concept to compile a more detailed report and release it. Now as chief, Johnston completed that goal.

“It’s part of the process I want to give the community of openness and approachability,” Johnston said.

A telling aspect of the report is the dispatch statistics that show what types and how many calls the Police Department receives each year. Since 2011, dispatch received an increase in calls for disturbances, traffic complaints, motor vehicle crashes and forgery and fraud cases.

One of the other troubling increases was in the category of “Sick Person Cared For,” which are calls for mental health issues, Johnston said.

Calls for “Sick Person Cared For”



Brad Johnston



“That is a huge increase,” Johnston said. “It has been a downward trend that really took off this past year.”

On the street

The report highlights the roles of each division of the Police Department, including dispatch, records, investigations and the more well-known patrol division.

Astoria dispatch, one of two public safety answering points in Clatsop County, answered about 73,000 nonemergency calls and 13,000 calls to 911, resulting in a total of 44,500 calls for service to subscriber agencies, which include the Sheriff’s Office, Warrenton Police and area fire departments.

In 2014, the investigation division handled 167 cases.

Patrol division personnel — made up of 10 officers, two sergeants and a deputy chief — are the first responders and have at least two police officers on the streets every hour of every day.

Johnston said he talks to many people who have no idea of the size of his department. Some people think there are five or six officers on patrol at one time, when the number is two to three.

Astoria Police Department calls for service*

(Classification by APD dispatchers are preliminary.)

Call type	2011	2012	2013	2014
Traffic stop	3,289	2,799	2,845	2,540
Hang-up 911	928	963	1,360	1,451
Other all	1,161	1,284	1,115	1,126
Traffic cite	689	1,005	1,327	931
Disturbance	834	985	1,022	1,052
Suspicious circumstances	978	977	823	839
Property crimes	700	659	641	554
Interview, field	500	611	667	612
Traffic roads	849	455	395	322
Information	436	505	354	443
Traffic complaint	14	344	449	504
Dog/animal complaints	258	262	289	359
Motor vehicle accident	275	284	267	305
Assist other agency	42	290	358	371
Phone contact	—	120	322	451
Property found	186	195	213	253
Warrant arrest	203	188	209	212
Follow up entries	126	135	205	336
Alarm false	188	181	162	174
Miscellaneous	117	65	197	323
Assist rendered	375	79	115	104
Truck inspection	54	181	220	214
Welfare check	60	170	189	214
Abandon/junk	183	142	156	150
DHS referral	196	135	149	148
Warrant information	107	107	126	94
MVA, hit & run	115	97	97	119
Property lost	83	96	110	109
Forgery/fraud	55	58	111	144
Missing person	78	86	69	72
Trespass	3	45	76	171
Sick person cared for	63	52	44	89
Attempt to locate	34	62	68	68
Drugs (all)	62	63	58	24
Assorted other	346	480	512	458

*After further investigation, some calls may be formally categorized as something different than its initial classification. Source: Astoria Police Department Alan Kenaga/EO Media Group

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DUII dispute could end soon

District attorney will likely appeal ruling, just in case

By DERRICK DEPLEDGE The Daily Astorian

The Astoria Police Department formally changed its policy manual Wednesday afternoon, instructing officers to file misdemeanor drunken-driving citations in Circuit Court instead of the city’s Municipal Court.

Brad Johnston, the police chief and assistant city manager, took the swift action after the City Council voted Tuesday night to recommend the transfer of DUII prosecutions to Circuit Court.

The back-to-back moves could quickly end the long-running legal dispute between the city and Clatsop County District Attorney Josh Marquis, who has sought jurisdiction over the DUII prosecutions, arguing that Circuit Court offers a higher

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At Westminster show, 2 new breeds, bigger agility contest

By JENNIFER PELTZ Associated Press

NEW YORK — Eleven-year-old Emma Rogers is only six years older than her great Dane and half the size, but she’s set to square her dog in the ring at this year’s Westminster Kennel Club show.

At 80, Marge Yonda is looking forward to leading her standard poodle through the fast-paced agility competition — a pursuit Yonda took up when she stopped running marathons at 73.

There’s plenty of variety among the people, as well as the dogs, participating in American dogdom’s most prestigious event next month. It will feature two new breeds and a bigger lineup of dogs in an agility contest, which brought new dimension to the show last year and marked the return of mixed-breed dogs for the first time since its early years.

ONLINE

www.westminsterkennelclub.org

Emma will face much older handlers and show a dog over twice her weight, so big that Emma has to lift hard to position the legs of the Dane, named Joy. But Emma’s used to the double-takes and unfazed by the competition.

“With Joy, she’s easy — most of the time,” Emma said Wednesday after appearing at a news conference with her twin sister, Faith, and 17-year-old sister, Sophia, who also are showing dogs at Westminster. The Columbus, N.J., family’s pastime started with a suggestion from Joy’s breeder, and mom Kim Rogers soon came to see the benefits: “It teaches responsibility and winning and

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AP Photo/Bebeto Matthews

Chanel and Burberry, both cotons de tuler dogs owned by Justine Romano from Montville, N.J., pose during a press preview for the 139th Annual Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show, Wednesday in New York. Both will be presented as new breeds at Westminster Feb. 16-17.

