

THE YEAR IN REVIEW 2005



Chief Philip Messer

For the third consecutive year, I am pleased to report that overall UCR Part I Crime in Mansfield continued to fall, down 12% from 2003. This is in no small part the result of an involved community.

As we strive to build trust by welcoming input and participation from the citizens of our community, it is our desire to become transparent in all of our interactions. Continued collaboration with our 47 Neighborhood Watch Associations and organizations such as the Community-Police Relations Board are vital to our progress. To further encourage police/community interaction the Division promotes the "Citizen Ride Along" and "Volunteers In Police Service Programs". During 2005 nearly 200 citizens participated in the Ride Along Program, while our volunteer Reserve and Auxiliary Officers provided over 3,000 volunteer hours in support functions to free full time officers for patrol duties. Youth interaction continues to grow with the expansion of Police Athletic League, Officer Phil, DARE, Explorer and Safety Town Programs.

The past year was certainly one of change. In an effort to free funding for additional street officers, it became necessary to reorganize and refine our organizational structure to become more efficient, coordinated and focused on our Mission. While one Captain and two Sergeant positions were eliminated, eleven officers were promoted to new positions and six new officers were hired.

During 2005 our Patrol Officers expanded the use of state of the art, Mobile Data Terminals bringing critical information technology including photographs to the field. Our Forensic Crime Laboratory, one of only five DNA Certified Laboratories in the State of Ohio, has increased identification of offenders in "no suspect crimes" with new technology. Increasing efficiency and implementation of new strategies is only the beginning. If we are to remain successful in our quest for safer neighborhoods, we must have the continued support of our residents.



1. Wynn hostage situation
2. Officer John Fuller
3. Mock Crash
4. Chief Messer & Safety Town graduate
5. Officer Bushong using a M.D.T.

PHOTOS 1-3 COURTESY OF THE
MANSFIELD NEWS JOURNAL