
Granite Falls Police Department

Annual Report: 2007



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From the Office of the Chief of Police

Richard A. Bolick

Granite Falls Police Department

Granite Falls, North Carolina

As the Police Chief, it is my profound honor and privilege to work side-by-side with the men and women of the Granite Falls Police Department. Through their time and talents, their dedication to duty, dignity in their work and their unqualified commitment, they provide the utmost quality of service to our community. As a department, we are proud of the spirit of cooperation within our community and we are committed to working together to make certain that our community is a safe and pleasant place to live and work. The officers of the Granite Falls Police Department are dedicated to the highest levels of integrity and professionalism and pledge to continue to work with the community to solve problems of concern to the citizens of Granite Falls.

I would like to thank all of the department heads for their un-ending support and willingness to help with any requests we may have. I would also like to thank the Mayor, Council, and Town Manager for all they do in support of the town and the police department.

This annual report will give you a glimpse into the activities performed by the dedicated men and women of the Granite Falls Police Department.



Annual Report: 2007

*Improving the quality of life of all citizens
by providing a safe and secure environment*

Mayor Barry Hayes, Town Manager Linda Story, and Town Council

Listed below are the major additions during 2007:

Two (2) 2007 Dodge Charger patrol units

*Eight (8) Motorola 1500 800 MHz mobile radios to become compliant with
the NC statewide interoperability plan*

Two (2) Digital In-Car Cameras

The Granite Falls Police Department continues to strive to obtain the highest degree of professionalism and to meet or exceed all requirements set out by the Town of Granite Falls, the State of North Carolina and the Federal Government of the United States. The Granite Falls Police Department is determined to improve the service to the people of Granite Falls by providing training for our officers in many specialized areas. During 2007, officers attended training in Traffic Crash Investigations, Radar operator and recertification, Officer Survival, Internal Affairs, Specialized Driving Instructor, First Line Supervision, Taser Instructor, Basic S.W.A.T, Drug Interdiction, Alco-Sensor, Intoxilyzer 5000, Intox EC/IR II, and Missing and Exploited Children Seminar.

In 2007, the North Carolina Training and Standards required that every sworn officer complete a minimum of 24 hours of training in specific areas. The required topic areas were: Firearms, Domestic Violence, Juvenile and Minority Sensitivity Training, Special Populations, Legal Updates: Case law, Handcuffing Refresher, Hazardous Material and Blood Borne Pathogens, and Combat Shooting.

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In 2007 our K-9 program really got off the ground. After losing our first handler our outlook on the future of the K-9 program was bleak. On May 10, 2007, Officer Morrison accepted the position of K-9 handler. Since then he and Ramsey have developed a great working relationship. On September 20, 2007 Ramsey and Morrison received a national certification by the North American Police Working Dog Association (NAPWDA). This certification is in the areas of obedience, tracking, and narcotic detection for marijuana, cocaine, heroin, and methamphetamine. Morrison and Ramsey will be required to recertify annually to retain this certification.

Thanks to the hard work and dedication of Morrison and Ramsey, our K-9 program is being noticed throughout Caldwell County. The Caldwell County Crimestoppers presented Ramsey with a badge as a token of appreciation for his hard work. Since being certified Ramsey and Morrison have been called upon by our department for drug searches and demonstrations but also have been requested to assist the Caldwell County Sheriff's Office on two occasions. Both activations resulted in cocaine being seized and suspects being arrested. Below is a listing of some of the K-9 team's activities in 2007:

Total Training Hours for Ramsey/Morrison team: 120 hours since May 10, 2007. The team trains with Lenoir Police Department and Caldwell County Sheriff's Office.

North American Working Dog Association Certification: September 20, 2007

Narcotic finds: These numbers are from September 20, 2007 till the end of the year. The dollar amounts are based on the guidelines set forth by the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation.

Marijuana – 45.1 grams = \$239.00

Cocaine (powder) – 112 grams = \$14,000.00

Cocaine (crack) – 4 grams = \$1,600.00

Alprazolam (Xanax) – 101 dosage units = \$505.00

Hydrocodone – 5 dosage units = \$25.00

Drug paraphernalia – 8 items

Firearms – 1 (.22 caliber handgun)

U.S. Currency - \$1,163.00 (two cases under the jurisdiction of the Caldwell County Sheriff)

Community Demonstrations: These demonstrations have served to familiarize the community with Ramsey. The Lenoir News Topic also printed an article on Ramsey in October 2007.

Granite Falls Elementary 1st grade students

Dudley Shoals Elementary 1st grade students

Granite Falls Middle School EC Program

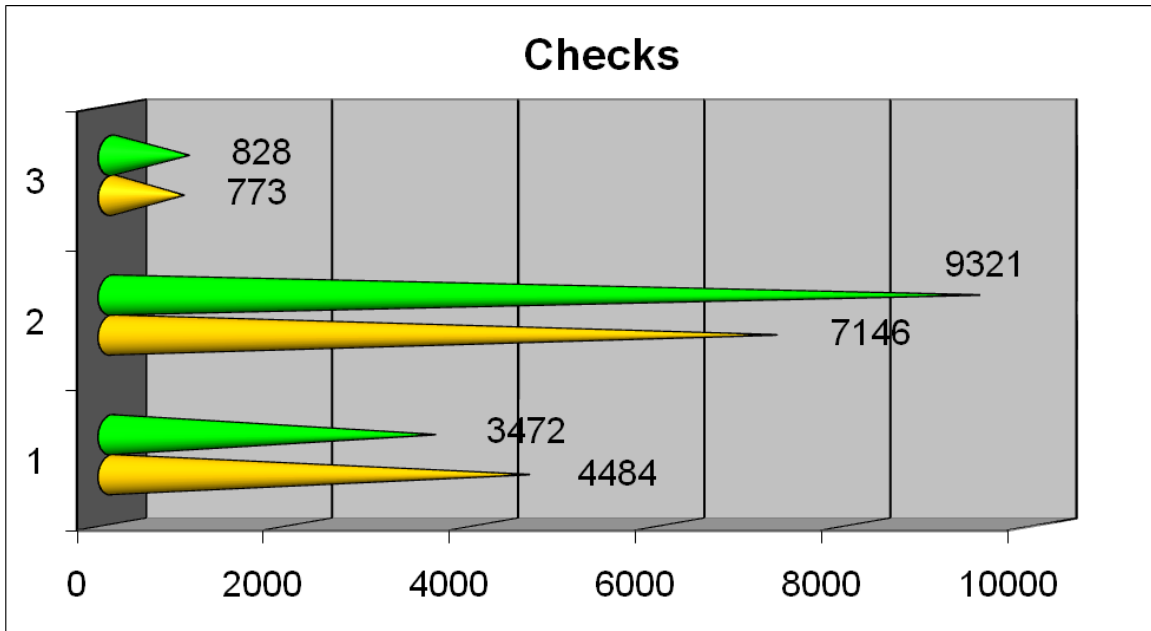
Countryside Daycare

Girl Scouts of America

Item	2006	2007	Percent Change
Telephone Calls	17,620	18,291	+4%
Number of Calls Answered	26,730	28,654	+2%
Accidents Reported	192	186	-4%
Amount of Property Damage	\$530,610	\$544,945	+3%
Funeral Escorts	43	38	-12%
Assist Stranded Motorist	179	205	+15%
Check the Welfare	77	84	+9%
Business Checks	4484	3,472	-23%
Special Checks *	7146	9,321	+30%
Residence Checks **	773	828	+7%
Juveniles Referred to Court	0	2	
Juveniles Referred to Parents	6	3	-50%
Patrol Vehicle Mileage	178,543	189,507	+6%
Gallons of Gasoline Used	11,329	12,224	+8%
Number of Misdemeanor Arrests	274	298	+9%
Number of Misdemeanor Offenses Charged	425	566	+33%
Number of Felony Arrests	32	39	+22%
Number of Felony Charges	57	72	+26%
Number of Criminal Papers Served	153	234	+53%
Number of Reports Taken	608	566	-7%
Number of Citations Issued	781	1,863	+139%
Number of Citation Charges	950	2,299	+142%
Number of Warning Citations	622	784	+26%
Number of Verbal Warnings	402	499	+24%
Underage alcohol charges		30	First time reported
DWI Arrests	40	54	+35%
Alarms answered	478	426	-11%
Prowler	21	35	+67%
Suspicious Vehicle/Person	1074	982	-9%
Open Door / Window	100	79	-21%
Breaking and Entering	94	63	-33%
Larceny	172	208	+21%
Damage to Property	113	64	-43%
Shoplifting	25	53	+112%
Domestic Disputes	100	93	-7%
Civil Disturbance	218	218	0
Fights in Progress	38	56	+53%
Assault	22	32	+45%
Hold to Sober	14	20	+43%

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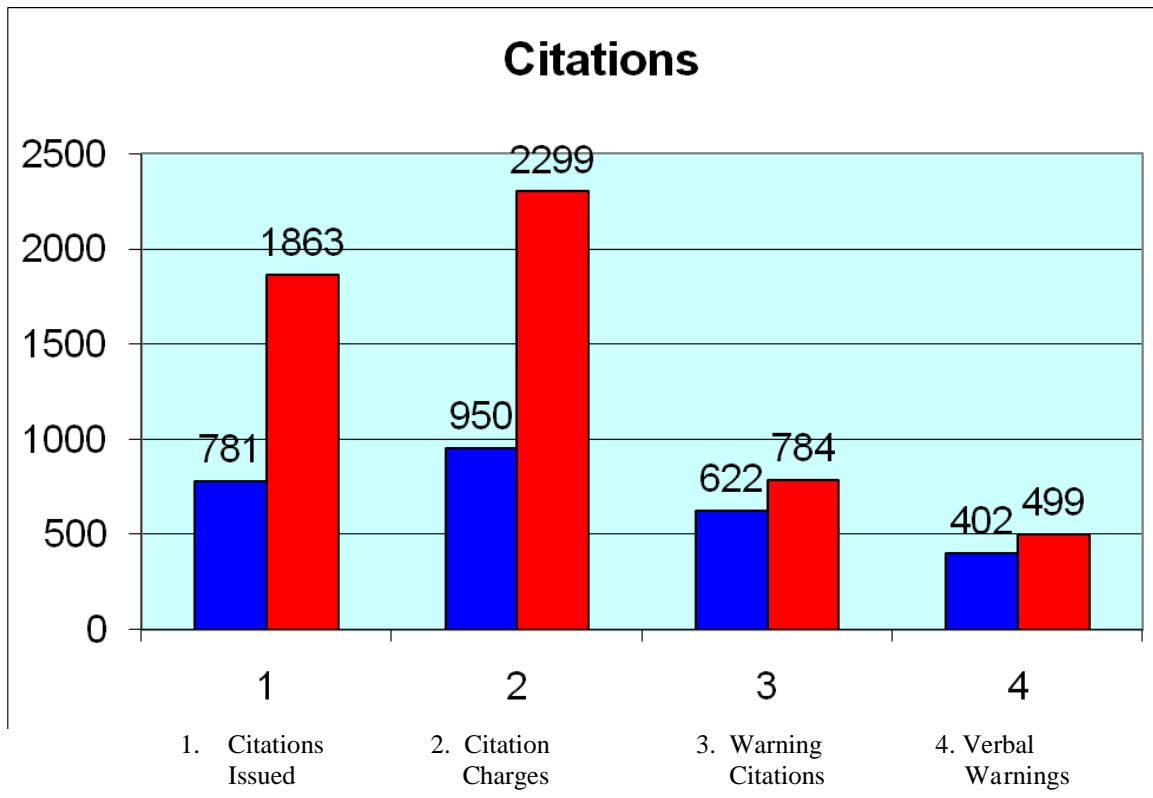




Yellow represents 2006

Green represents 2007

1. Business checks
2. Special checks
3. Residence Checks



Two divisions that often go overlooked are the investigative division and the reserve officers. We currently have one detective, Sgt. Adams, who serves the town in a number of capacities. Detective Adams is in charge of all felony and serious misdemeanor investigations. He is our crime scene technician as well as the evidence custodian. The investigative role is one that requires continuous study to remain current on laws of evidence, rules of search and seizure, and investigative techniques. It also requires a person that is “approachable” and someone that can communicate well with diverse groups of people. For example in a matter of minutes he could go from speaking to an elderly citizen who was a victim of identity theft straight to speaking with a life-long criminal who feels they can manipulate the system.

In 2007, our department investigated the same crimes that larger municipalities encounter. Below is a list of the types of felony cases we investigated last year:

Rape
Breaking and/or Entering
Larceny
Forgery
Obtaining property by False Pretense
Controlled Substance Violations including Possession with Intent to Sell/Deliver
Indecent Liberties with a Child
Assault

Below is the list of the number of cases investigated in 2007 by Sgt. Adams (does not include assistance provided for traffic investigations):

Misdemeanor Criminal Cases: 135
Felony Criminal Cases: 60
Missing Persons: 11 *note: all missing persons were located alive*
Professional Standards: 2

In 2007, twenty-four (24) persons were arrested or have indictments pending from felony investigations. In ten (10) cases the victim declined prosecution.

Of the indictments that were served, there were 3 jury trials held in Superior Court during 2007. All three cases resulted in guilty verdicts. Below are the cases that were tried:

- | | | | | |
|----|------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 1. | Charge: Rape | Verdict: Guilty | Sentence: 18-25 years | Trial length: 3 days |
| 2. | Charge: Assault | Verdict: Guilty of lesser offense | Sentence: 60 days | Trial length: 2 days |
| 3. | Charge: Statutory Rape | Verdict: Guilty | Sentence: 16-18 years | Trial length: 6 days |

A large majority of detective work is preparing a case for submission or for trial. In 2007 Detective Adams spent 105 hours on surveillance, 4 hours to 80 hours with an average of 16 hours per case conducting interviews, and following leads. Each case has required information that must be submitted to the District Attorney’s Office and guidelines how it should be submitted. Adams spent between 3 and 50 hours per case preparing these submissions with an average of 9 hours per case.

Detective Adams also serves as the evidence custodian and is responsible for all evidence that is being held for trial. In 2007 Detective Adams received 1,786 items of evidence to be held for court.



During 2007, we had a total of 11 Reserve Officers working for the Granite Falls Police Department. Two of those officers were hired in full time positions when those came available and one left the department. Of the current 8 Reserve Officers, 3 are officers that retired from the Granite Falls Police Department. Our reserve force is a non-paid division, with the exception of Sgt. Yambor who is the senior reserve officer. He is paid for 16 hours per month. Each officer is required to work a minimum of 8 hours per month and attend all the mandatory training in order to retain their law enforcement certification. The reserves have gone well above the minimum requirements and have served a vital role in filling in for officers on vacation or out sick and saving the time overtime costs. The below figures are calculated on a beginning rookie salary even though most of the reserve officers are seasoned veterans.

Total number of hours worked by reserves in 2007: 1,255.30

Total number of hours subtracted due to compensation: 192.00

Total of non-paid hours: 1,063.30

Starting hourly rate for full time patrolman: \$11.22 per hour / \$24,500 annually

Reserve officer non-paid hours save the Town of Granite Falls: \$11,930.22



The above illustrations are just a glimpse of the day to day activities of the Granite Falls Police Department. There is so much more that the officers do that is difficult to report in a table or graph. For example, out of 8,760 hours in a year, the officers had 8,118 hours of action. That means they were logged on some activity for the town for nearly 93% of the available hours in a year. I feel that this shows how much is being asked of each officer, and how much time and dedication they are putting into their job in order to make a difference in the lives of the people they contact each day. What this table cannot show is the amount of heart and dedication each officer puts into their job each day.

Again, let me say what a privilege and honor it is to serve as the Chief of Police for the Granite Falls Police Department. In conclusion I would like to thank the Mayor, the Town Manager, and the Town Council, but most of all the men and women of the Granite Falls Police Department who have dedicated their lives to the service to the Town of Granite Falls and its visitors.

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Ritch Bolick
Chief of Police