
Granite Falls Police Department

Annual Report: 2009





From the Office of the Chief of Police

Richard A. Bolick

Granite Falls Police Department

Granite Falls, North Carolina

I would like to extend my thanks to each of you for your hard work and support during 2009. This year has been a year of continued change and growth. I believe that together we have continued to make advancements and improvements in the services offered to the citizens and visitors of Granite Falls. I would also like to thank all of the town's employees and each department head for their support and assistance during the past year.

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

Technology plays such an important role for so many people and the department is part of the broader community fabric and is continually trying to learn new and effective ways to leverage information technology to enhance communications with the public. This focus is critical, as the timely flow of relevant information helps connect people working on shared public safety issues and supports the basic tenets of community oriented policing; partnering and problem solving.

As we strive to work together to reduce crime and improve the quality of life in Granite Falls, you will notice we will be providing regular updates of the latest law enforcement news and information on our new website found at www.granitefallspolicenc.us.



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

Mayor Barry Hayes, Town Manager Jerry Church, and Town Council

Listed below are the major additions during 2009:

One (1) 2009 Dodge Charger

One (1) Chevrolet Impala

Completed renovation of our training room

Launched new website

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 2009, officers attended training in the following areas:

DCI Certification and Re-Certification, ICS 100, Verbal Judo, Death Investigations, Police Law Institute, Robbery Response, Ground Fighting Tactics, SWAT Training, Officer Survival, Introduction to Traffic Investigation, Advanced Traffic Investigation, Telecommunicators Certification Course, RADAR Certification and Re-Certification, Intoximeter ECIR II, and Standardized Field Sobriety. We also have three officers enrolled in classes working toward completion of Associate Degrees.

In 2009, 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, Legal Update, Career Survival, Juvenile Minority Sensitivity, Drug Diversion for patrol officers, Police Officer Physical Agility Test, Law Enforcement Driving Training (Practical), Blood-borne Pathogens, and Haz-Mat Awareness Level Certification.



Patrol Division

The Patrol Division is divided into two 12 hour shifts each day, led by a Patrol Sergeant who is responsible for the supervision, evaluation, and discipline of the patrol personnel. The Patrol Sergeant reports directly to the Chief of Police. The Sergeant is the first line supervisors of the patrol officers on their respective shifts.

The uniformed Patrol Officers are the backbone of the entire department. It is their job to provide all aspects of police services to the community including taking calls for service and complaints, conducting criminal investigations, providing traffic enforcement and accident investigations, as well as patrolling the community to protect life and property and preserving peace and order.

One police officer is also assigned as the school resource officer. That officer maintains an office within Granite Falls Middle School and acts as a liaison between the school administration, students, and the police department. The following table provides a look into the number and types of calls fielded by our patrol division:

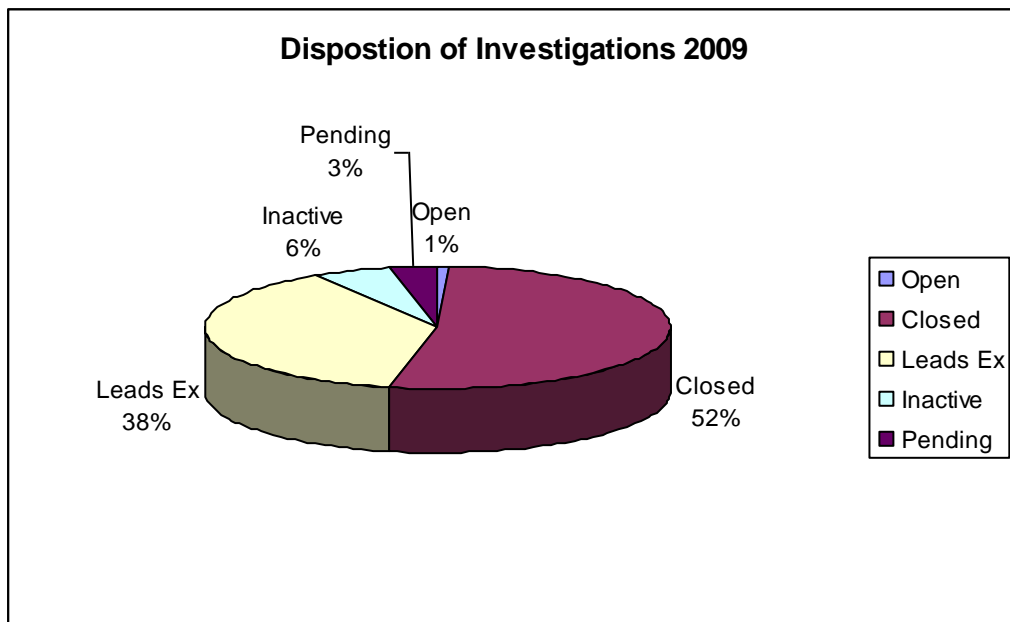


Item	2008	2009	Percent Change
Number of Calls Answered	26,135	27,408	+4%
Accidents Reported	283	248	-12%
Animal Complaints		151	
Assist Stranded Motorist	126	85	-32%
Check the Welfare	99	90	-9%
Business Checks	2,831	3,487	+23%
Special Checks	8,149	7,097	-12%
Residence Checks	408	329	-19%
Number of Misdemeanor Arrests	255	277	+8%
Number of Misdemeanor Offenses Charged	466	492	+5%
Number of Felony Arrests	56	34	-39%
Number of Felony Charges	86	55	-36%
Number of Criminal Papers Served	189	212	+12%
Number of Reports Taken	568	621	+9%
Number of Citations Issued	966	1,115	+15%
Number of Citation Charges	1,260	1,490	+18%
Number of Warning Citations	561	849	+51%
Number of Verbal Warnings	466	343	-26%
DWI Arrests	34	56	+64%
Alarms answered	468	434	-7%
Prowler	23	18	-21%
Suspicious Vehicle/Person	938	983	+4%
Open Door / Window	50	48	-4%
Breaking and Entering	69	80	+15%
Larceny	263	179	-31%
Damage to Property	62	63	+1%
Shoplifting	71	68	-4%
Domestic Disputes	193	161	-16%
Civil Disturbance	241	176	-26%
Fights in Progress	38	42	+10%
Assault	34	32	-5%
School Crossing	368	381	+3%



I. Investigative Case and Disposition Summary

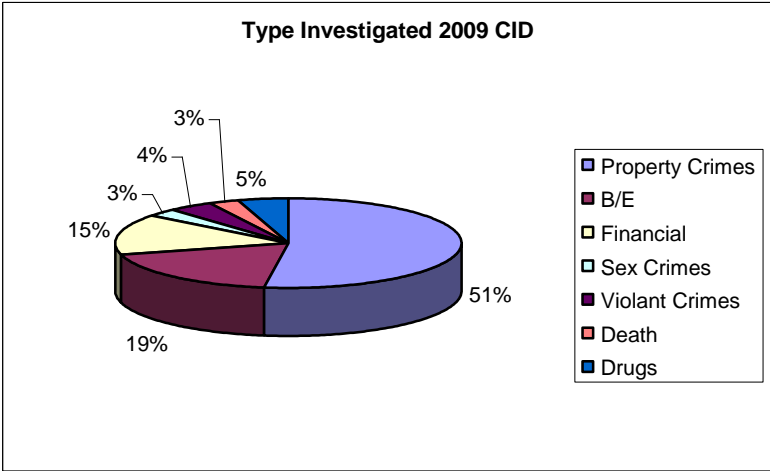
From January 1st 2009 to December 31st, 2009 the Criminal Investigations Division, which consists of two investigators, Lt. T. J. Bates and Sgt. R. D. Crosby investigated 188 Cases. As of January 18, 2010 103 (52%) of those investigations have been closed by arrest, or unfounded. Sixty nine (38%) of those cases were closed Leads Exhausted due to lack of evidence to support a suspect for prosecution. Seven (6%) are Inactive due to the possibility of new evidence leading to an arrest. Eight are pending Grand Jury Indictment, and one investigation is still active from 2009.



The Criminal Investigation Division also made thirty (30) arrests, wrote twenty-three (23) citations, and gathered evidence that led to seventy-eight (78) Grand Jury indictments in 2009.

II. Incident Types Investigated

Of the 188 cases investigated by this division ninety-eight (98) (51%) of those cases were property crimes including larceny, damage to property, and arson. Thirty-five (35) (19%) were breaking and entering into a business or residence. Twenty-eight (28) (15%) were financial crimes including embezzlement, fraud, and counterfeit checks or currency. Five (5) (3%) were sex crimes cases including rape, statutory rape, sex offence, and indecent liberties with a minor. Eight (8) (4%) were violent crimes including assault with a deadly weapon, armed robbery, and kidnapping. Also nine (9) (5%) drug investigations and five (5) (3%) death investigations were conducted in 2009.



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A. Death Investigations

Of the five death investigations of unknown cause conducted by this division in 2009, three were due to accidental drug overdose, one was due to natural causes and one due to homicide. The homicide investigation into the death of Tony Myers on 12-28-09 is still active and ongoing.

B. Narcotics Investigations

Note* all drug seizures are a combination of GFPD and CCSO joint investigations. All drugs on this report were seized within the town limits of Granite Falls.

Marijuana seized 2,895 grams plus 11 marijuana plants located during Caldwell County Sheriff eradication.

Heroin seized- 15 dosage units (in cooperation with Caldwell County Sheriff Narcotics Unit). Two arrests by CCSO.

Crack Cocaine seized – 26.5 grams seized

Cocaine powder seized – 68.8 grams seized.

C. Armed Robberies

There were six armed robbery cases investigated in 2009. These cases ended with the arrest of nine people. Two people have been convicted in Caldwell County Superior Court and sentenced to five years in North Carolina Department of Corrections. One person filed a fictitious report and has been sentenced to three years supervised probation. Three people are awaiting trial and warrants have been issued for the arrest of a suspect who has not been located. Note* three robberies occurred at Tobacco to Go, (formerly Northside Superette) one occurred at a residence on Colonial Avenue and the last was a fictitious report at Hardees.

D. Embezzlement

2009 saw the end to a yearlong investigation into the partnership habits of Neal Anthony Thompson. Mr. Thompson was investigated and arrested for using over \$100,000.00 of partnership funds for personal use. Mr. Thompson is currently awaiting trial in Superior Court in Caldwell County.

E. Sex Offenses

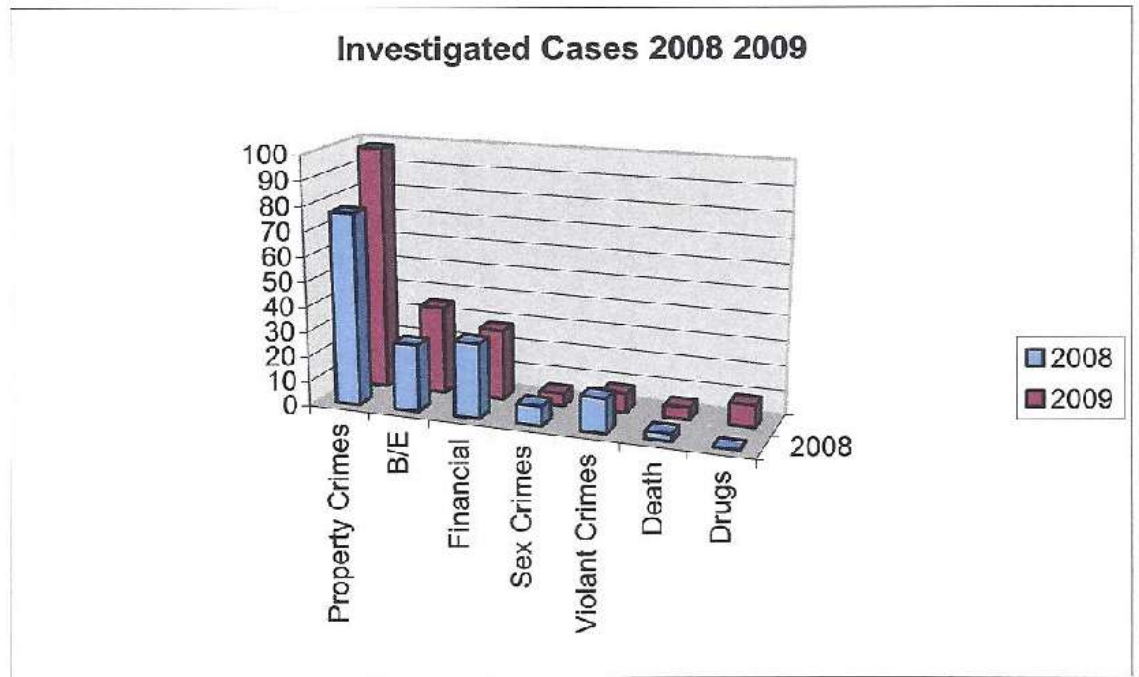
All sexual assault cases have been disposed of in Caldwell County Superior Court. Two cases ended in guilty convictions for a total of twenty-eight (28) years confinement to the North Carolina Department of Corrections. One case was not guilty by a jury in Caldwell County Superior court, two others were declared unfounded by the District Attorney's office of the 25th District.

F. Other Investigative Duties

This division was also responsible for three (3) background investigations for possible employment with this department, and one (1) professional standards investigation (unfounded, complainant admitted they lied in the report).

III. 2008-2009 Comparison

In 2009 the number of incidents investigated increased from 177 cases to 188 cases. While property crimes increased 27% (77 to 98 cases), Sex Crimes decreased 38% (8 to 5 incidents). Death investigations and financial crimes stayed consistent from 2008 to 2009.

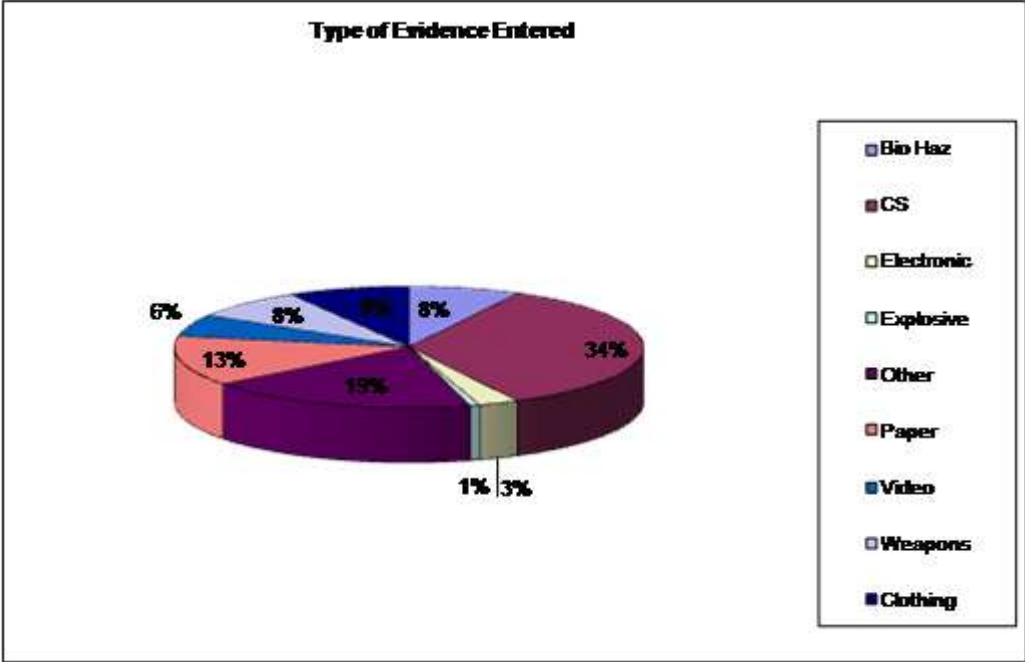


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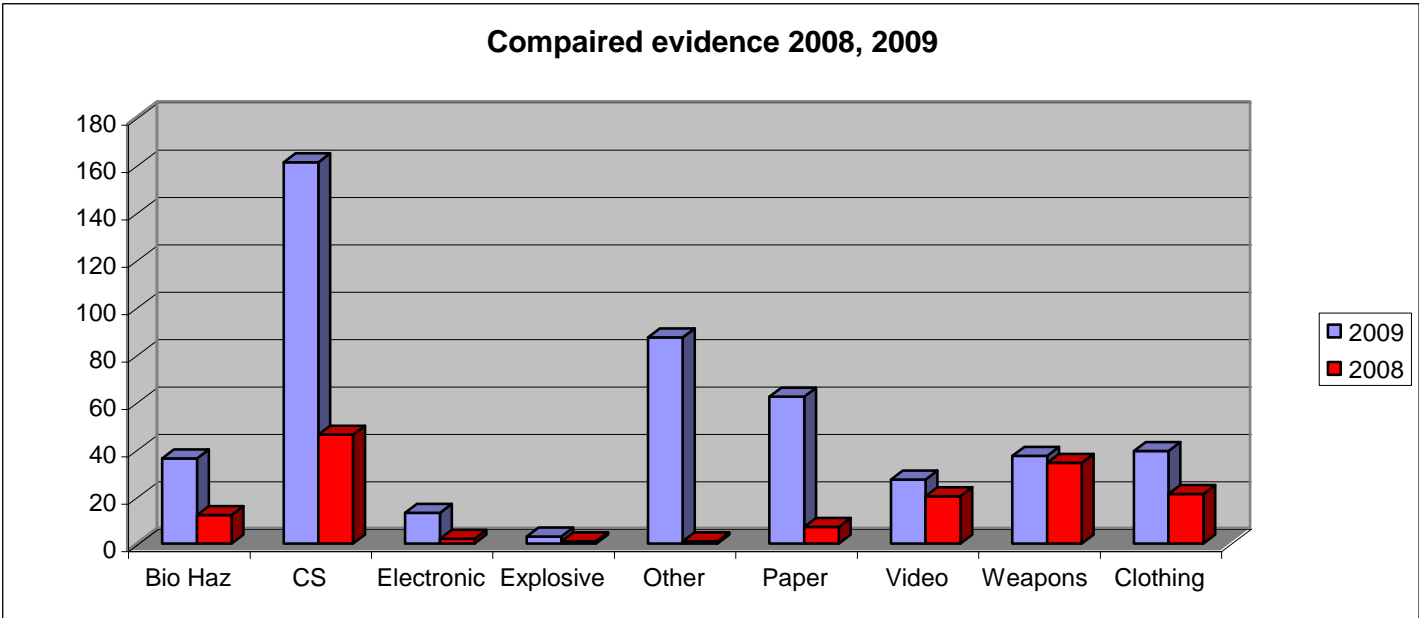


IV. Evidence

The Criminal Investigative Division is also in charge of all evidence processing and storage at the Granite Falls Police Department. All evidence collected by any Granite Falls Officer is cataloged and stored in secure storage at the Granite Falls Police Department. In 2009 the Granite Falls Police Department seized 465 pieces of evidence. Of that, 37 pieces have been sent to State Bureau of Investigations labs in Ashville and Raleigh, 88 pieces have been returned to their owners following court dispositions. Also 213 pieces have been destroyed by court order, although most of those were collect prior to 2009. Thirty two percent (32%) of the evidence seized was drug related (CS), while 13% was paper including forged documents and counterfeit checks.



The amount of evidence seized from Granite Falls Officers more than doubled from 207 items in 2008 to 465 items in 2009. There is also an increase in every type of evidence collected.





In 2009, Officer Sorensen and Officer Curtis resigned from the department. Officer Curtis remains on the reserve force. We were able to add two officers with previous law enforcement experience to our team. Drew Morris and Scott Wesson were hired and have both proven to be valuable assets to the Police Department and to the Town of Granite Falls.

Even with the shortage of officers and the required training and call volume our officers have continued to do everything in their power to make Granite Falls a better place to live. These men and women continue to do their job without complaints, even when they had to work shifts by themselves, answering every call. 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 profession.

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.

