

Investigations

Detective/Corporal Lynne Mark

In the Mason Police Department, the role of Detective/Corporal is to investigate any number of crimes—ranging from property crimes, burglaries, embezzlements, and other scams—to personal injury crimes and death investigations. The Department continues to work closely with other law enforcement agencies in the ever-expanding effort to solve crimes and arrest offenders crossing over jurisdictional boundaries. For crime scene investigations the Department utilizes the services of the Michigan State Police Crime Lab, as well as for forensics and polygraph exams of criminal suspects. During the investigation of sexual assaults, Sparrow Hospital's Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) program is relied upon for the forensics portion of the case, and the Capital Area Sexual Assault Response Team (CASART), for the aftercare treatment of the patient/victim. I am a member of the CASART committee and am extensively involved in the inception and use of these programs. Also, there are regular meetings of multi-county area law enforcement to discuss and coordinate investigations which may have the same methods of operation, or where a suspect resides in one area and breaks the law in another.



Here are a few of the more high-profile investigations of this past year which involved good preliminary work by Patrol Officers and Supervisors, as well as coordinated efforts with other law enforcement agencies.

1. Indecent exposure to a female child outside her residence: The child and her family knew where the subject had been hanging out, but didn't know who he was. The subject had previous contact with Mason police officers under an alias, and latent prints were obtained during that investigation. When the indecent exposure complaint was investigated, he provided yet a different name than he had previously. Subsequently, an AFIS (Automated Fingerprint Identification System) check was requested of the MSP Crime Lab. This resulted in the subject being positively identified as a fugitive wanted in Illinois on drug charges. Additional investigation found the suspect to be illegally in the United States via Mexico. Immigration Services then entered the investigation, and the suspect was turned over to them.
2. Attempted Abduction and Stalking: A juvenile female reported a subject tried to abduct her while she was walking alone after dark. The child ran to a house for assistance, and Mason Police Officers responded, assisted by Ingham County Sheriff Deputies. A Michigan State Police canine unit was summoned to assist in tracking the suspect, but he was able to elude searchers. The suspect was later identified by a citizen overhearing the description, then located and arrested. The suspect is a registered sex offender and on probation for a similar incident in

- Mason. With the assistance of the Ingham County Probation Department, the suspect was charged with probation violations to insure his captivity. The investigation continued, and searches were conducted, which resulted in charges being filed for Aggravated Stalking. The subject was sent to prison on the probation violation charges, and the current case is set for a Circuit Court trial in 2008.
3. Serial Home Invasion suspects caught: A Clinton County detective contacted the Mason Police Department, requesting assistance with surveillance of a car in the Mason area. The occupants of the car were suspects in a rash of home invasions. Driving an unmarked vehicle, I followed the car through Ingham County and into Livingston County to a residence where a burglary was committed as I watched. I summoned the local police and followed the suspects until they eventually were stopped by a Sheriff's Deputy. The ensuing investigation resulted in the solving of more than 50 home invasions in a 5-county area, as well as the recovery of thousands of dollars in stolen merchandise. This is an ongoing case, but again, exemplifies the working cooperation of Mason Police, other township police agencies, county sheriff departments, and the Michigan State Police.
 4. Embezzlement from an elderly person: A suspect was investigated when discrepancies appeared in the victim's banking statement. The investigation resulted in uncovering a case of embezzlement/fraud which had been going on for over 4 years and which involved over \$400,000 in cash. The suspect was charged, arrested, and pled guilty. He is currently in jail, and upon release will be on probation, in addition to having to pay back all the money. A second family member was charged and arrested, and is scheduled for trial in Circuit Court proceedings in 2008.
 5. Rapist Apprehended: In the early morning hours, a female victim called to report a vicious sexual assault upon her on the City's southwest side. Officers responded and identified a suspect who had fled the scene. At the time of this complaint he was already being investigated for theft and resisting arrest, with warrants pending. Although he was known to us, he still went into hiding and could not be located. Eventually it was discovered that the suspect was calling the victim's family in an effort to explain his actions. I used this to set up a scenario where the victim's father agreed to meet with the suspect, and I had recruited investigators from the Ingham County Sheriff's Department waiting for him to show up. When the suspect did so, he was immediately surrounded. He surrendered right away.