

# Police department Web site offers crime information

From staff reports

With the click of a mouse, Lincoln residents can now check up on police activity in their neighborhoods.

Last week, police added a map-driven listing of incidents reported in the city broken down by police reporting district to its Web site.

Lincoln Police Chief Tom Casady said the Internet was a useful tool for police to communicate with the community.

"On an average day Lincoln police officers will be dispatched to about 400 incidents," Casady said in a statement. "(On the Internet) we can organize this information in a way that lets citizens check on trends in their own neighborhood."

A listing of calls to police in a specific area of Lincoln is available by clicking on an area of a city map.

The police Data Processing Unit and its manager, Clair Lindquist, created the new feature for the Web site.

"For most police departments, accomplishing something of this magnitude would require a six-figure grant and a year or two of consultants," Casady said. "For Clair, it was a Coke and a weekend."

Also available on the police Web site is a list of outstanding warrants, a daily call summary and a stolen items list as well as general information about the department.

The police site is located at <http://interlinc.ci.lincoln.ne.us>.

# Alcohol-related tickets double

East Lincoln target of project

By JOSH FUNK  
Senior staff writer

Lincoln Police handed out more than double the usual number of DWI tickets in March as part of a targeted enforcement project in the city's east end.

With St. Patrick's Day and state basketball tournaments, which bring thousands of visitors to town, police chose March to focus on alcohol offenses, especially drunken driving and underage drinking.

"We knew that in this month there were a lot of high-risk activities," Lincoln Police Sgt. Mike Bassett said.

Officers on the southeast and northeast teams prioritized alcohol enforcement, in addition to their regular duties.

In the east end of the city, police cited 102 people for driving while intoxicated, and 222 were cited city-wide, police said.

"We were surprised to see that many people behind the wheel drunk," said Bassett, who works with the southeast team.

Bassett said that more than 20 percent of those cited for driving drunk were underage, and many had open containers of alcohol with them.

Lincoln Police Chief Tom Casady said this year's numbers of alcohol offenses were the highest in recent memory.

"We're on a record pace this year," Casady said.

In their enforcement, police used undercover and uniformed enforcement in combination with education to impact alcohol violations.

To locate the house parties, police either used informants or followed the congested parking and steady stream of teen-agers.

Then undercover officers went

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Sgt. Mike Bassett  
Lincoln Police

into the parties and observed the operation before police broke it up.

"We were surprised how easily our officers could do this," Bassett said. "These people don't care about age or if they know the people."

At one party, where officers paid five dollars at the door, a 13-year-old girl was taking money at the door while running the party with her 16-year-old sister, Bassett said.

Police said the girls threw the party with 75 teen-agers while their mother was working a third-shift job.

When they broke up these parties police confiscated all the cash and alcohol as evidence and cited the party hosts for procuring alcohol for minors and maintaining a disorderly house.

Thirty-six minors were cited for possessing alcohol as part of the project in east Lincoln.

"The sheer volume and sheer numbers precluded us from enforcing all the violations we saw," Bassett said.

Police also worked with liquor stores to eliminate alcohol sales to minors.

Judging by the success of this enforcement, Bassett said officers would likely use similar techniques in the future.

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