

# Milan Police Department

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## **Milan Police Department Receives Two Grants from Greater Milan Area Community Foundation**

The Milan Police Department recently received notice that we had been awarded two grants by the Greater Milan Area Community Foundation.

One grant is for the purchase of two new police mountain bikes to support the department's bike patrol program. The total award for this grant is \$2000.00. School Resource Officer Stacey Heams has been riding the bike on patrol for the last two summers. She researched and wrote this grant in an effort to begin replacing the aging bikes in our inventory. The bike patrol is an effective community policing tool in that it allows officers to engage the community in more personable and face to face encounters. In addition, bike patrols greatly assist in policing the various special events that are held in the community, and allow for more effective patrols in areas such as our parks, downtown, and business districts. Officers patrolling on bikes are also more able to surreptitiously observe people engaging in illegal activities and take appropriate enforcement actions.

The second grant was awarded to pay for two years worth of the annual maintenance and calibration fees required to house a drunk driving breath testing instrument at the Milan Police Department. Traditionally, the State provided not only the machines to police departments at no cost, but also covered the annual costs to maintain and calibrate these instruments. Older machines have been designated to be taken out of service and replaced by the newest models. The State reallocated the number and location of departments that would receive the new instruments at no charge, and because of our size, the Milan Police Department did not meet the new criteria. To purchase a new machine would have represented an initial cost of approximately \$8600.00, as well as annual certification and maintenance fees of \$1000.00 going forward. We approached the Michigan State Police, who oversee the program, and they agreed to provide Milan with a new machine at no cost if we agreed to cover all expenses related to annual calibration, repair, and maintenance going forward. This grant will cover those expenses for two years. This represents a collaborative effort between Milan, the State Police, and the Greater Milan Area Community Foundation. It insures that our ability to engage in efficient drunk driving enforcement remains strong in our community.

The Greater Milan Area Community Foundation has been an important partner in providing grant support to the Milan Police Department in such areas as DARE, our Reserve Officer Program, and the purchase of life saving equipment such as AED's in the past. This is another example of the foundation's commitment to working in partnership with the police department to enhance our ability to provide the best law enforcement services to our citizens. Without these grants, it would be highly unlikely for the police department to be in a position to purchase new bikes, or obtain the new data master instrument. We are truly grateful for the foundation's continued dedication and support to the police department's mission of community policing, public safety, and quality of life in this community.

*Gerard Scherlinck, Chief of Police*

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Mr. Christopher Wetzler, President of the Greater Milan Area Community Foundation, announced that his Board of Directors approved these grants on July 31, 2013.

The Greater Milan Area Community Foundation is a permanent and growing charitable community endowment that through a wide variety of grants and programs, serves to enhance the quality of life in our community now, and is committed to doing so long into the future. The Greater Milan Area Community Foundation, through its affiliation with the Community Foundation of Monroe County, manages charitable endowment funds established by caring families who want to give something back to their community. Revenue generated from these funds provides grants and scholarships to cultural, educational, and humanitarian programs exactly as donors intended.

*Gerard Scherlinck, Chief of Police*