
The Belleville Beat

Belleville Police Department
Belleville, IL 62220

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From the Desk of Sgt. Don Sax

The Belleville Beat, January 2005, is focused on the Illinois State Police (ISP).

History:

On June 24, 1921, the 52nd General Assembly of the State of Illinois authorized the Department of Public Works and Buildings to hire a “sufficient number of State Highway Patrol Officers to enforce the provisions of the Motor Vehicle Laws.” The Illinois State Police was officially created in 1922 and today, comprised of sworn personnel and civilians totaling more than 3,000, is one of the most modern and efficient police organizations in the country.

Over the years, the Illinois State Police has continually changed in size and organizational structure to provide an increased number of services in the most efficient manner to the people of Illinois. These services are implemented by the Office of the Director through the Divisions of Operations, Forensic Services, Internal Investigation and Administration.

Since its inception, the Illinois State Police has fostered and served with a reputation for integrity, service and pride. Illinois State Police functions include protecting life and property, enforcing both criminal laws and motor vehicles safety laws, responding to emergencies and disasters and providing a myriad of diverse specialized services to both the public and the criminal justice community.

Additionally, each division within the Illinois State Police provides specific services. The Division of Operations’ services entail: aircraft support for enforcement and public assistance; vehicle investigations; underwater search and recovery operations; K-9 support for tracking and drug detection; presentations to the public on traffic safety and crime prevention; criminal investigations to detect and suppress the traffic of illicit drugs; develop strategic and tactical criminal intelligence data; investigate serious offenses; and apprehend fugitives. Operations also provides support to many county, municipal and federal enforcement agencies.

The efforts of both state and municipal police officers are supplemented by the Division of Forensic Services, providing crime scene services, polygraph services, background checks requisite to the purchase of firearms and strategically located crime laboratories. The Division of

Internal Investigation specializes in investigating alleged misconduct, corruption, conflict of interest and malfeasance within any agency under the jurisdiction of the governor. The Division of Administration is responsible for administrative support required by all department entities and the operation of the Illinois State Police Academy. This division centralizes the department's vast communications network, data processing, fiscal, logistical, personnel and research and development functions and provides state-of-art automatic fingerprinting identification. The Illinois State Police Academy provides training to cadets, in-service education to troopers and a basic curriculum to state, county and municipal agencies. The shoulder patch worn by the Illinois State Police is symbolic of the integrity, service and pride of the organization. The Illinois State Police trusts it will be displayed with dignity and honor in remembrance of the dedication of those officers who have served the citizens of Illinois.

You can learn more about the Illinois State Police by logging on to www.isp.state.il.us.

ISP Crash Reports:

The Illinois State Police (ISP), in conjunction with the State Treasurer's Office, has made the process of requesting ISP-handled traffic crash reports more convenient. The public may now request crash reports using either the ISP or Treasurer's Office websites through an Internet payment service called E-Pay.

"In keeping with Governor Blagojevich's commitment of making state services more readily available to the public, the E-Pay system was designed to expedite the process of receiving ISP crash reports. Individuals can now order a copy of the report via the Internet and make payment with a credit card, debit card, or e-check," said ISP Director Larry G. Trent.

Before implementation of E-Pay, the public had to request copies of traffic crash reports by mail or in-person and make payment in cash or check prior to the request being filled. E-pay will also help save personnel resources, simplify payment processing, and reduce processing costs.

The public is reminded the sites may be used to obtain reports of crashes handled by the Illinois State Police only. Accident reports handled by county and local agencies must be requested from the responsible jurisdiction.

The web address for the Illinois State Treasurer's E-pay program is www.illinoispay.com.