

CRIME REPORT 2013

*POLICE CHIEF DAVID WILSON
FOLEY POLICE DEPARTMENT*

ANNUAL REPORT FROM CHIEF DAVID WILSON

*I am very pleased to report something that Foley has not seen in 30 years. We had no murders in 2013 which marks four (4) consecutive years with no murders. The last time this happened four years in a row was 1983 when Foley had a population under 5,000 people. And though some murders are not preventable in my view, I can't help to think that some of the following factors contributed to this success, some of which range from crime fighting efforts by street officers, strong detective and undercover narcotic work, serious prosecution strategies, domestic violence crack down and follow-up, to neighborhood watch groups, citizen involvement in crime prevention and quality of life assistance programs we offer. We also experienced a decrease in robberies from last year and though one rape is too many we only had four with **no** increase from 2012. We saw 14 more aggravated assaults in 2013 than we saw in 2012. This category does, however, include domestic violence cases.*

*Our overall solve rate for the police department is impressive and I take time right now to applaud the men and women of our department. The solve rate in each category of Part 1 crimes is higher than the **average solve rate** for police departments throughout the state of Alabama in 2012. (2013 figures are being computed by the state and are not available yet). In some cases the solve rate was double or nearly triple the average clearances. We solved 88% of our robberies with the average solve rate being 38%. We solved 50% of our rapes with the average solve rate being 40%. We solved 84% of our aggravated assaults with the average solve rate being 45%.*

In 2013, we experienced an increase in burglaries. Some contributors to this continue to involve burglaries being driven by the desire to support drug habits, as well as some felons receiving a release from prison due to overcrowding and the felons returning to their old ways. Of our 111 burglaries we solved 40% of them as compared to the 14% average. We will continue to increase our neighborhood watch and business watch programs with citizen involvement and staying on top of felons returning from jail who do not fly straight.

*Another increase was thefts. We had 112 more thefts in 2013 than we did in 2012. Though thefts do contribute to our total crime index picture for Foley- most of our thefts were either shoplifting or thefts of items out of vehicles. The shoplifting in a retail driven city such as Foley is not uncommon but we have seen an **increase** in shoplifting. Shoplifting arrests are numerous and time consuming for the police officer. Overall, we do have a 59% solve rate on all thefts with the average solve rate being 24%. I think that most police departments in Baldwin County experience a wave of car burglaries in neighborhoods once or twice a year and we are no different.*

Neighbors calling in suspicious noises and sights are helping us with this problem. Other times citizens hear something or see something in the middle of the night and DO NOT call the police department. We need these extra sets of eyes out there and a simple phone call and we will check it out. Getting citizens to lock their vehicles and remove items of value from their vehicles is on-going but not very successful and as such contributes to this problem. I don't know of any police chiefs in Baldwin County that don't mutually comment on this great need for citizens to remove valuable items and make their vehicles less of a target of opportunity.

We also saw a good decrease in vehicle thefts with 19 in 2013 down from 29 in 2012, 28 in 2011, and 30 in 2010. We had a 58% solve rate on vehicle thefts as compared to the average of 22%.

With that being said on the overall picture, I will take shoplifting and car break-ins over violent crime any day. We will continue our strategies with our businesses and neighborhood watch groups to combat theft and do our best to keep the serious crime out of here.

As already mentioned, we have a very effective and dedicated police force that makes full use of team work, collaboration with other neighboring agencies and the talent and skill of street officers, detectives, narcotic officers and our criminal intelligence unit. Our police force made impressive arrest and solve rates in all areas of our Part 1 crime report as shown in this chart.

<i>CRIME</i>	<i># for 2013</i>	<i># Solved</i>	<i>% solved</i>	<i>Average solve rate or Clearance rate for State</i>
<i>Murder</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>
<i>Rape</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>50%</i>	<i>40%</i>
<i>Robberies</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>88%</i>	<i>38%</i>
<i>Aggravated Assault</i>	<i>49</i>	<i>41</i>	<i>84%</i>	<i>45%</i>
<i>Burglary</i>	<i>111</i>	<i>44</i>	<i>40%</i>	<i>14%</i>
<i>Theft</i>	<i>666</i>	<i>394</i>	<i>59%</i>	<i>24%</i>
<i>Vehicle Theft</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>58%</i>	<i>22%</i>

It takes all sections of our police department to get the job done and on behalf of the 90 men and women of the Foley Police Department, I thank you for your support and it is our honor to serve you.