

## YOUR SHERIFF:

TODD M. PURCELL



### Our Mission

"The Mecosta County Sheriff's Office is committed to preserving, promoting, and securing a feeling of safety and security for all our citizens through the delivery of the highest quality of law enforcement services."

### Our Values

#### *"Taking PRIDE in what we do"*

**P**rofessionalism---Whether in uniform or representing the office, be professional

**R**espect--- Treat others how you would like to be treated

**I**ntegrity--- Bottom line, do the right thing even when no one is looking

**D**edication--- When at work, always giving that 100%

**E**xcellence--- Always striving to be the best you can

### Sheriff's Office Services

- Road Patrol Division
- Detective Division
- Jail Division
- D.A.R.E. Program
- School Liaison
- Marine Division
- Community Corrections
- Animal Control Division
- Emergency Management Department
- Sheriff's Posse
- Dive and Hovercraft Teams

## Mecosta County Sheriff's Office

225 South Stewart Street  
Big Rapids, Michigan 49307

Phone: 231.592.0150

Fax: 231.796.5577

Jail – 231.592.0156

[www.co.mecosta.mi.us](http://www.co.mecosta.mi.us)

SEE IT - REPORT IT

[tips@co.mecosta.mi.us](mailto:tips@co.mecosta.mi.us)

# Mecosta County Sheriff's Office

Serving the Citizens of Mecosta County with professionalism and dedication.



*"Taking PRIDE in what we do"*

### Road Patrol Division

The Road Patrol Division consists of 22 full time sworn Deputies who are trained in all aspects of criminal investigation and are able to properly investigate any complaint assigned to them. Many Deputies have additional expertise in major crime investigations, interviewing techniques, traffic crash investigations, crime scene processing and other advanced police training methods. During their daily duties, Deputies respond to calls for service from citizens for such incidents as assaults, robberies, stolen property, civil disputes and suspicious persons or vehicles. Other routine duties include civil processing, property checks, warrant arrests and traffic enforcement. Two Deputies are assigned exclusively to the Detective Division to handle major investigations that require extensive follow-up.

The Road Patrol Division also oversees the department's Neighborhood Watch Programs that are active in several townships. Having good relationships with the communities across the county is a vital part in preventing and solving crimes in order to make Mecosta County a better place to live and work.



### Jail Division

The original Mecosta County Jail was built in 1893 and housed inmates until the current jail was built in 1965. The Old Jail is now a historical building, located directly across from the current jail, and is available to be rented out for meetings, events and tours. The jail expanded in 1986 and again in 2002 to hold its current capacity of 97 inmates, both male and female. The average daily population is 91 inmates and the county also receives funds to house 10 federal inmates. The Jail processes an average of 2,700 inmates a year, and serves an average of 82,000 meals a year. Support programs are provided to inmates for religious services, substance abuse and anger management in order to reduce recidivism and prevent inmates from re-entering the criminal justice system. The department has received 100 Percent Compliance Awards from the Michigan Department of Corrections by maintaining a clean, safe and secure facility.

### D.A.R.E.

The Mecosta County Drug Abuse Resistance Education Program continues to grow and has been a positive influence on the youth of Mecosta County. Deputy Joe Marshall has been the D.A.R.E. officer for the last eight years. He teaches the program to over 600 5th and 6th grade students in the county. The 9-week program focuses on techniques of peer pressure resistance, self management skills, self concept improvement and value decisions concerning respect for law enforcement and personal safety. The 9-week program culminates in a graduation ceremony with a guest speaker. Past guest speakers have been the Mecosta County Sheriff and former Detroit Tigers and Lions players. The students receive a graduation certificate and a t-shirt. Some students read a short poem or essay they have written.

### School Liaison

The Mecosta County Sheriff's Liaison program is a collaborative effort between the schools, community, students, parents and law enforcement. This program creates a safe school environment by having a certified Police Officer assigned to a specific school.

The goal of the School Liaison is to provide pro-active law enforcement by working with students in an effort to reduce crime, drug abuse, and violence in and around the school buildings and the school district.

Currently Mecosta County has two school officers, Deputy Joe Marshall and Deputy Darcy Balahoski. The Deputies work in the schools Monday thru Friday and attend most extracurricular activities.

### Marine Division

The Mecosta County Marine Division patrols ten primary lakes and also the Muskegon River as well as responding to smaller bodies of water based on the need from the community. They provide this service with twelve to fourteen seasonal employees, three primary boats, and two personal watercrafts. Funding for this division is provided in part by a Federal Grant administered by MDNR. They also provide instruction and certification for boater safety students in the Mecosta County Schools and two open classes in the area. The Marine Division also conducts the required Livery Inspections for all the marinas and businesses that rent boats in Mecosta County.

### Community Corrections

Community Corrections has been a department of

Mecosta County's criminal justice system since 1992. Community Corrections is a State and County funded program that encourages community punishment in place of jail time for non-violent offenders in certain offense categories.

Programs that are offered through Community Corrections are: residential services, jail work crew, community service placement, intensive day reporting, random PBT/drug screening for out of county clients and public/court ordered *LIVESCAN* fingerprinting.

### Animal Control

Generally the hours of work are Monday - Friday 9 to 5.

Just a few reminders: State law says;

- 1.) All Dogs over 4 months **MUST** have Rabies vaccination.
- 2.) All Dogs over 4 months **MUST** be licensed
- 3.) All Dogs must be provided proper food, water and shelter. Failure to do so could result in Charges of Animal Cruelty!

\*\*\*LAST BUT NOT LEAST\*\*\*

AT NO TIME IS YOUR DOG ALLOWED TO RUN AT LARGE OFF YOUR PROPERTY WITHOUT A LEASH.

### Emergency Management

The Office of Emergency Management exists to serve our community and prepare it for emergency and disasters, by working with first responders, government and non governmental agencies, and also the private sector industries. We maintain the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) as a central coordination point for planning and responding to major incidents and events. We also work to improve community relations and educate the public about hazards in our community.

### Posse

The greatest resource any community can have is its volunteers. The POSSE assists both the Sheriff's Office and community with providing support at special events and emergency scenes.

### Dive and Hovercraft Teams

The Dive team consists of Deputies from Mecosta County SO and Officers from Big Rapids DPS. They respond to calls for emergency and recovery in the county and assist other counties when requested. They also standby during water events like the Polar Plunge.

The Hovercraft Team is comprised of volunteers from the area that respond to emergencies on ice covered water and open water in the County of Mecosta.