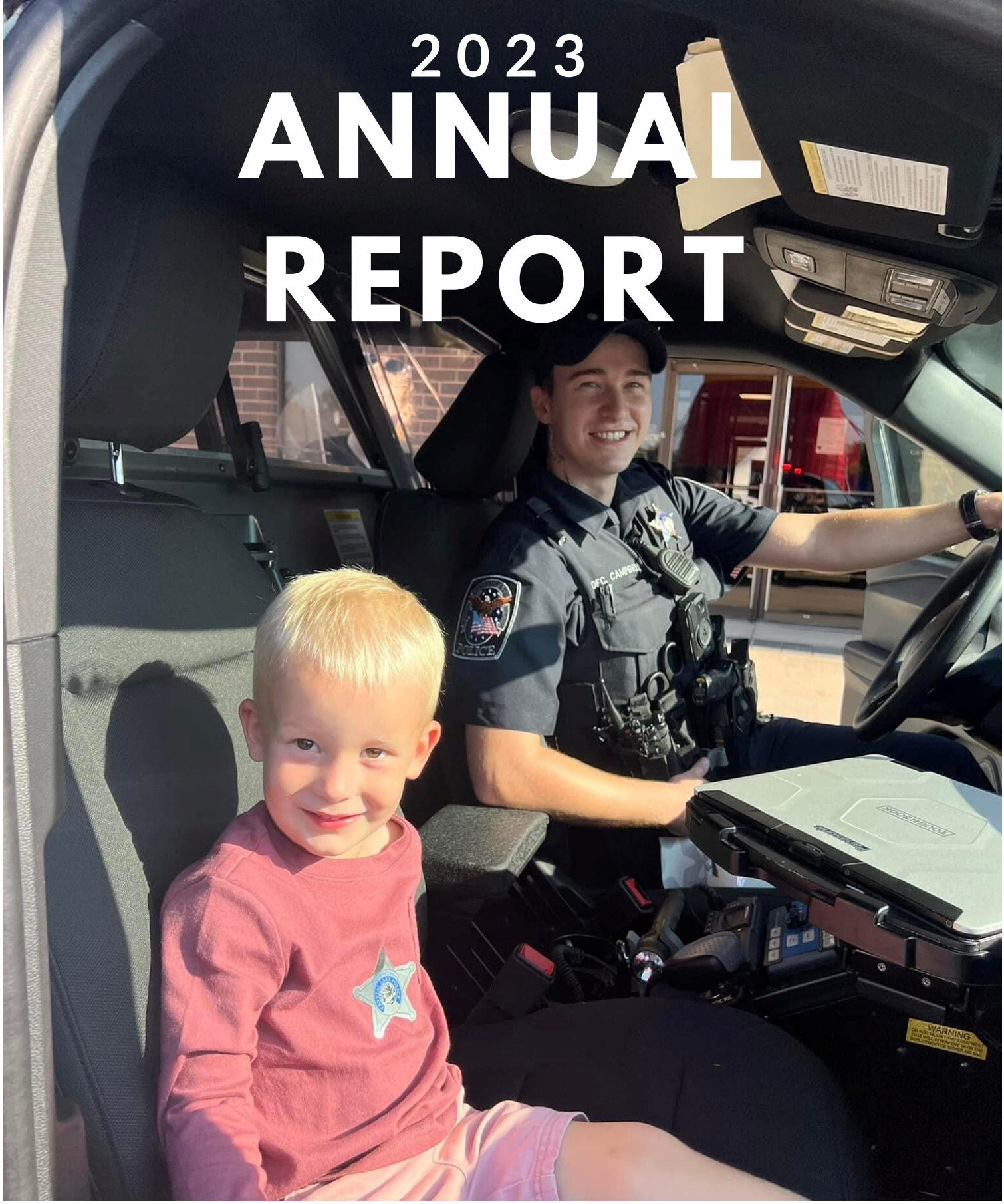
2023

ANNUAL REPORT



CRYSTAL LAKE POLICE DEPARTMENT


CRYSTAL LAKE
INCORPORATED
SEPT. 1914
POLICE

Eric Helm, City Manager
City of Crystal Lake

Dear Mr. Helm,

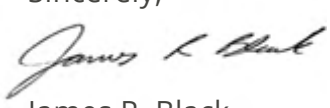
It is with great pleasure that I present the 2023 City of Crystal Lake Police Department Annual Report. I wish to first thank you again for your steady support as we have worked towards accomplishing our goals and objectives. With your support, we continue to fulfill our mission of providing the highest level of police service to the people who visit, live, and work in the City of Crystal Lake. Additionally, the Department will continue to pursue its goals and plan new and innovative ways to develop our staff in order to enhance the quality of services provided. We will build upon our existing partnerships while exploring opportunities to foster new ones, all in an effort to improve communication and demonstrate true transparency, ultimately making a safe community even safer.

While striving forward for future excellence, it is important to look back and review our previous activities. The calendar year 2023 resulted in numerous accomplishments, which will be discussed in further detail throughout this report. Some of our accomplishments include:

- Coordinated, hosted, or participated in several community events further strengthening our relationship with those in the community whom we serve. To increase safety during these events, the Department utilized Anti-Vehicle Barriers. Barriers were deployed for National Night Out, the Johnny Appleseed Festival, the Walk to End Alzheimer's, and the Festival of Lights Parade.
- Continued efforts to increase public education. Staff met with senior citizens to discuss potential scams as well as tactics to prevent exploitation. In addition, we conducted fourteen active shooter training sessions at various businesses.
- Enhancement of supervisory and management training for staff. The Department was able to send staff to the highly regarded Northwestern University Center for Public Safety Staff and Command training. Supervisory staff also completed advanced training on the Incident Command System.
- The Department successfully completed its fourth year of the four-year cycle maintaining its accreditation status through the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). The Department will go forth in front of the commission for reaccreditation in March 2024.
- Continued focus on traffic enforcement. Officers completed 264 hours of sustained traffic enforcement during ten separate campaigns, resulting in sixteen arrests. Officers saw a 32% increase in DUI-related arrests compared to last year.
- The Department continued participating with the McHenry County Police Social Worker Program to assist those in crisis. The Department has submitted 389 referrals to our assigned social worker for the year.

While these are just some highlights of our accomplishments, this Annual Report will provide additional explanation about our programs and initiatives. As we move forward into 2024 we will continue pursuing progressive law enforcement policies and programs. I look forward to working together with the City Council and City Staff to continue to provide a high level of public safety service. On behalf of the Department, I am proud to present our 2023 Annual Report. If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



James R. Black
Chief of Police

DEPARTMENT STAFF

Chief of Police
James Black

Deputy Chiefs of Police
Tom Kotlowski (Operations Division)
Rick Neumann (Administrative Division)

Commander of Investigations Unit
Scott Miller

Investigations Sergeant
Scott Koertgen

Training Sergeant
Al Sindaravicius

Management Analyst
Emily Henderson

Administrative Assistants
Eileen Baker
Shannon Jackson

Records Supervisor
Deborah Palmsiano

Commanders of Patrol Unit
Luke Behning
Ryan Coutre

Patrol Sergeants
Steve Renje
Mark Szumanski
Dan Porzezinski
Delmar Dade
Phil Lloyd-Mietus
Adam Munaretto
Jeremy Beasley
Jeff Mattson
Dave Eitel

DEPARTMENT STAFF

Patrol Officers

Sal Alfano
Jose Alvarez
Chris Burbach
Brian Burr (Retired)
Brian Campbell
John Cotter
Roberto Diaz
Jeidy Flores
Jesus Gonzalez
Richard Green (Resigned)
Charles Harris (Resigned)
Brian Harvat
Chase Horton
Thomas Jacobi
Brett Jensen
Lance Jones
James Keeble
Tyler Kendall
Justyn Koster
Krzysztof Krol
David Lang
Peter Lewandowski
Kurt Majzner (Retired)
Peter Marchese
Kelci McGrath
Dennis Meyer
Lucas Miller
Zachary Morse
Mateusz Muskala
Ingrid Pinto
Brian Rossow
Joe Sandora (Resigned)
Ryan Schack
Brendan Schumacher
Kimberley Shipbaugh
Matthew Smith
Thomas Soby
Joshua Stitt
Eric Stopka (Retired)
Joseph Thompson
Nate Tooley
Scott Torkelson
Dominika Wawrzyniak
Russ Will (Retired)
Justin Woolbright

Detectives

Ethan Berillo
Mike Maloney
Doug Meyer
Lisa Tietz
Jenn Zielinski

School Resource Officers

Dimitrios Boulahanis
Jason Duncan
Justin Rueff

Community Relations Officer

Kristiana Stolzman

Community Service Officers

Tim Carroll
Anthony Mucciante
Joe Hojnacki
Debbie Abraham (Terminated)

Property Control Officer

Gayle Young

Records Assistants

Inez Correa
Karen Heiss
Renee Miller
Leah Gesler
Barb Rowley


340
Summer Running
75
MILE CLUB
LAKE



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MISSION STATEMENT

The Crystal Lake Police Department is committed to providing the highest level of police services to the people who visit, live, and work in the City of Crystal Lake. By collaborating with our citizens, we will strive to enhance the quality of life by providing police services that cultivate public trust and are responsive to the needs of the community.

VISION STATEMENT

The men and women of the Crystal Lake Police Department will provide quality police services to the citizens we serve. We will work to enhance our existing partnership with our community to proactively address quality of life concerns, develop solutions, and effectively resolve problems while delivering unbiased professional services with respect and compassion.

CORE VALUES

Service: We are committed to providing quality, professional service to everyone. We will actively contribute to the welfare of our community and we genuinely care about improving the quality of life of those we serve.

Loyalty: We are proud of our Department and loyal to our Oath of Honor. We recognize that all members of the Department are an integral part of the organization and we treat each other with fairness and respect.

Excellence: We are committed to excellence in the services we provide, our personal performance, and professionalism.

Integrity: We obey the law and are committed to honesty and ethical behavior in all of our actions. We will accept individual responsibility for our actions and we are accountable for our decisions.

Respect: We are compassionate, caring, and we will treat all people with respect courtesy and respect. We are committed to justice, the equal treatment of individuals, and we will promote tolerance of diversity within our community.

Pride: We take pride in our achievements with regard to improving the quality of life within our community. Through merit displayed in our actions and conduct, we possess a dignified sense of character that reflects positively upon our organization and the community that we serve.



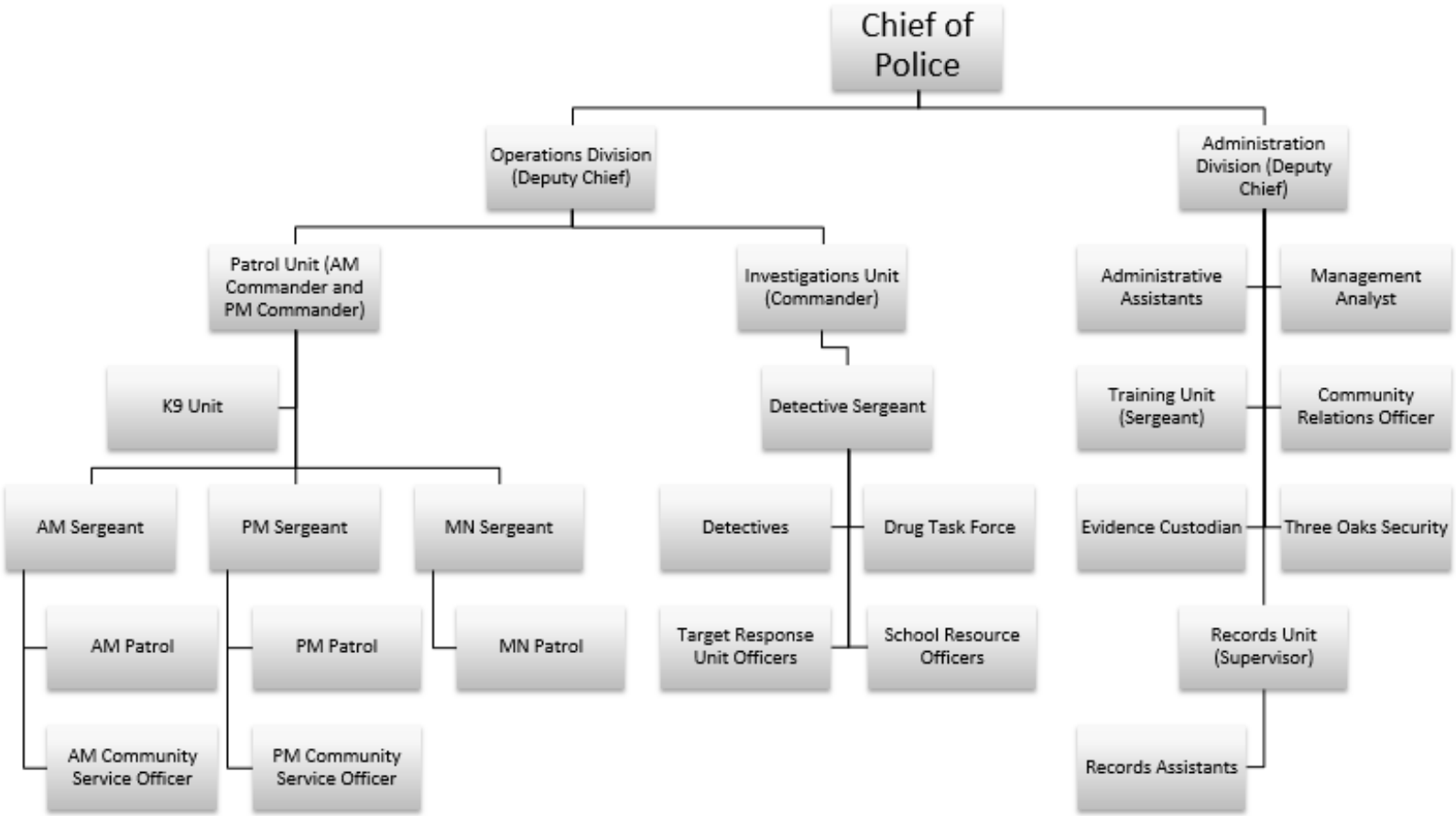
LAW ENFORCEMENT OATH OF HONOR

“On my honor, I will never betray my badge, my integrity, my character, or the public trust. I will always have the courage to hold myself and others accountable for our actions. I will always uphold the constitution, my community, and the agency I serve.”


BRINK
MARKET
STREET



ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

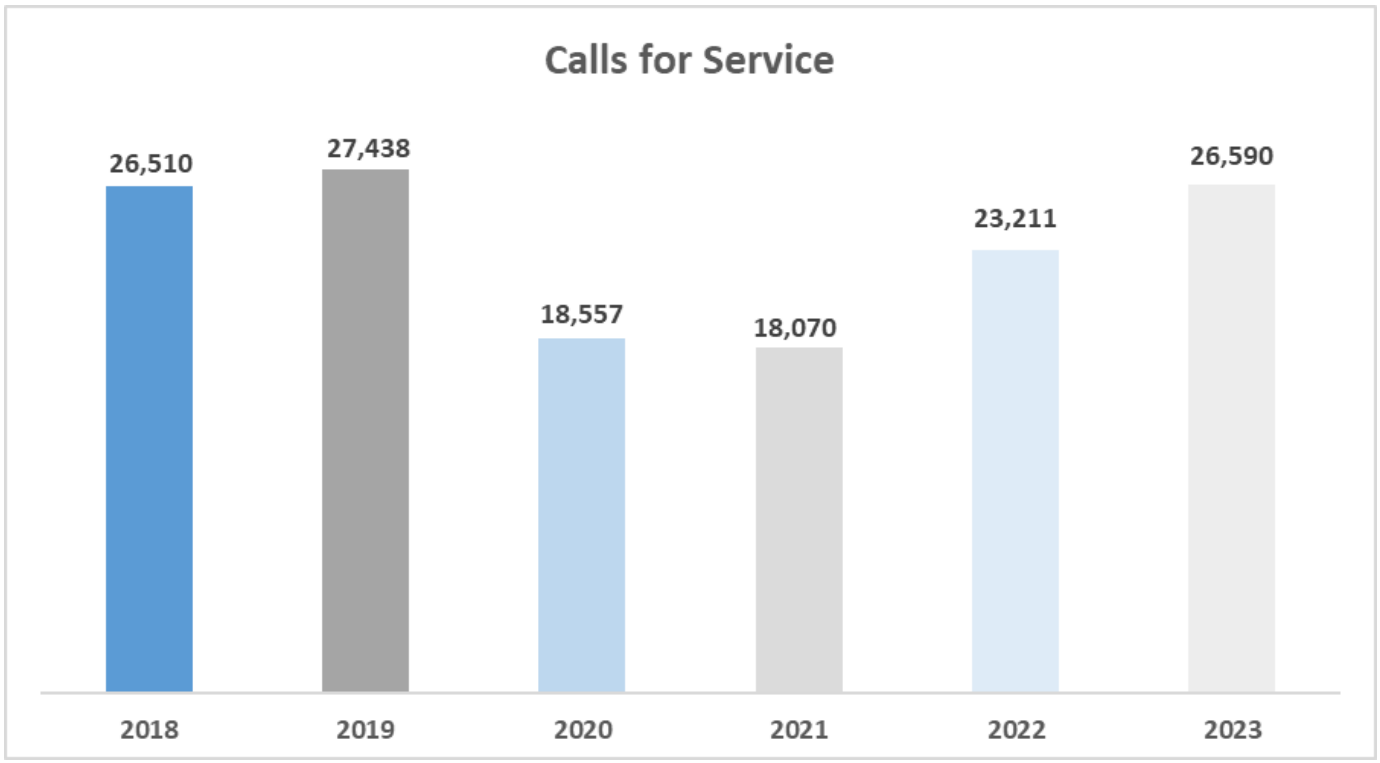



POLICE



PATROL UNIT

Patrol Unit is the largest and most visible Unit of the Police Department. The unit strives to provide excellent services while responding to the needs of the community. The unit includes thirty-six officers, two canine teams, nine sergeants, and two commanders. The unit is divided into three shifts, commonly referred to as Day Shift, Afternoon Shift, and Midnight Shift. Each shift overlaps to ensure officers are always available to respond to calls for service. The schedule of the officers provides for rotating days off while still protecting the City twenty-four hours a day. At least one sergeant is responsible for leading and directing each shift. Although primarily tasked with administrative responsibilities, the two Patrol Commanders are available to support and direct the patrol activities of the unit when needed. The commanders work alternating hours to increase their availability.



Each day officers assigned to the Patrol Unit may be asked to provide a wide variety of services in order to be responsive to our citizens. During 2023, the Police Department responded to 26,590 calls, which was an average of 73 calls per day. This was a 15% increase from 2022. Calls for service can include everything from citizen assists, traffic stops, reports of crimes in progress, medical assists, and parking complaints. While investigating criminal acts, officers in the Patrol Unit complete an initial investigation, which can include conducting interviews, collecting evidence, and arresting suspects. While not otherwise obligated, Officers work to prevent criminal acts and keep citizens safe by engaging in proactive activities such as traffic and parking enforcement and residential, business, and Three Oaks Recreational Area foot patrols.

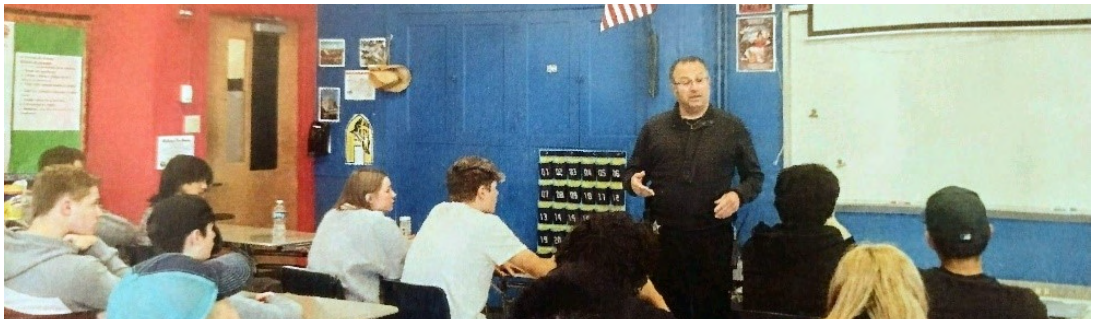


TRAFFIC SAFETY

Education

In 2023, the Police Department continued to focus on educating citizens and motorists about traffic safety and laws. The ultimate goal is to gain compliance with all traffic laws to increase traffic safety on our roadways. In striving to achieve that goal, the Department utilized diverse methods to include: monthly messages in the City of Crystal Lake's Newsletter, frequent traffic-related posts on the Department's Facebook page, presentations by School Resource Officers in the high schools, speaking with citizens and offering them educational pamphlets during community events, and deployment of the Department's speed trailer in specific areas and intersections with specific traffic safety messages for that area.

Another way our officers provide traffic safety education on a daily basis is by following up on all driving complaints where a complainant and suspect are identified. When enforcement is not warranted, an officer will speak with a suspected motorist(s) about the complaint that was received and will provide education about traffic laws and how to avoid similar complaints in the future. This includes speaking with parents about their child's driving behavior. The hope is that by making someone aware of their own or their child's driving behavior, it will lead to self-awareness and therefore an increase in compliance and overall traffic safety moving forward.



Engineering

The Department is represented on the City of Crystal Lake's Traffic Safety Committee by a Patrol Commander. The Committee studies traffic-related issues and decides appropriate courses of actions. Those traffic-related issues have included amending roadway engineering, positing additional signage, reviewing parking restrictions that may cause traffic congestion, conducting traffic studies regarding the amount of vehicles traveling on a roadway and the speeds at which they are traveling, initiating directed enforcement, and implementation of other traffic calming strategies. In 2023, the Department deployed its two Traffic Data Recorders, the speed feedback sign, and the speed trailer in multiple residential areas as a result of citizen complaints to the Committee and/or Department. The deployment of these resources allowed the Department to collect and study data, which resulted in a more direct and efficient use of Department resources when addressing traffic complaints. Additionally, through the Committee, the Police Department worked with the Engineering Department, utilizing their traffic/speed recorders at various locations in Crystal Lake. The cooperation between the two City departments allowed for efficient data sharing and a data-based problem solving approach.



TRAFFIC SAFETY

Enforcement

The Department enforces the Illinois Vehicle Code daily to decrease vehicle crashes and the injuries associated with them as well as to increase the general safety of all citizens of the City. In addition to routine enforcement performed by Patrol Officers, the Department continued to participate in traffic enforcement efforts made possible by federal safety funds administered by the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT). Throughout the year, campaigns are scheduled when crashes involving impaired drivers and unrestrained occupants statistically occur the most. These campaigns coincided with messages from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) to include Fans Don't Let Fans Drive Drunk, Buzzed Driving is Drunk Driving, If You Feel Different, You Drive Different, Click It or Ticket, Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over, Drive High. Get a DUI, Buckle Up. Every Trip. Every Time, and Click It or Ticket. Additional campaigns addressed other safety concerns such as distracted driving and child passenger safety. In 2023, the Department participated in ten campaigns where Officers completed approximately 264 hours of sustained traffic enforcement. Of those 264 hours, 134 hours were focused on occupant protection, 82 hours were focused on impaired driving, 32 hours were focused on distracted driving, and 16 hours were focused on child passenger safety. 328 traffic stops were performed during those ten campaigns. 16 arrests were made during the campaigns including 10 arrests for DUI.

In 2023, the Department made 139 arrests for DUI-Alcohol, Drugs, or a combination of impairing substances. This was an approximate 32% increase in DUI-related arrests from 2022. This can be attributed to officers' dedication to keep the Crystal Lake roadways safe and a Department focus on having all officers complete Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement (ARIDE) training. Additionally, in 2023, all officers went through a 4-hour Standard Field Sobriety Tests (SFST) refresher training that was taught by in-house SFST instructors.

Since 1982, the Alliance Against Intoxicated Motorists (AAIM) has been providing various programs to bring awareness to the dangers of intoxicated driving. One such program is their annual DUI enforcement recognition awards. In 2023, the achievements of Officers Jose Alvarez, Joshua Stitt, and Detective Jenn Zielinski deserve recognition and will be submitted to AAIM for their outstanding DUI enforcement efforts.

Officer Jose Alvarez will receive the Chief's Distinguished Service Award for leading the Department in DUI arrests in 2023. It should also be noted that Detective Zielinski has received AAIM recognition multiple years in a row. In 2023, she transitioned roles from a Patrol Officer to a Detective. Despite that move and the added responsibilities of a Detective, she remained dedicated to impaired driving enforcement, volunteering to work IDOT impaired driving campaigns throughout the entire year.



Additional Traffic Enforcement Efforts

In 2023, in addition to the IDOT traffic enforcement efforts, the Department joined other police agencies in Illinois and across the Midwest United States to participate in other traffic safety campaigns. On July 26th, the Department participated in Speed Awareness Day. It was a combined statewide effort to address excessive speeding on roadways and the deadly impacts speeding has on traffic safety. In September, the Department participated in a week long safety effort intended to increase railway safety. All three patrol shifts participated in both of these campaigns.

The efforts of the Department have had a noted effect on changing the behavior of both drivers and passengers in vehicles. The seat belt compliance rate in the state of Illinois continues to be around 93%. A seat belt survey was conducted by the Department in December of 2023 where 100 motorists were observed at four different intersection within Crystal Lake. The results of that survey showed a seat belt compliance rate of 97% (which was a 2% increase in compliance from the survey results in 2022).

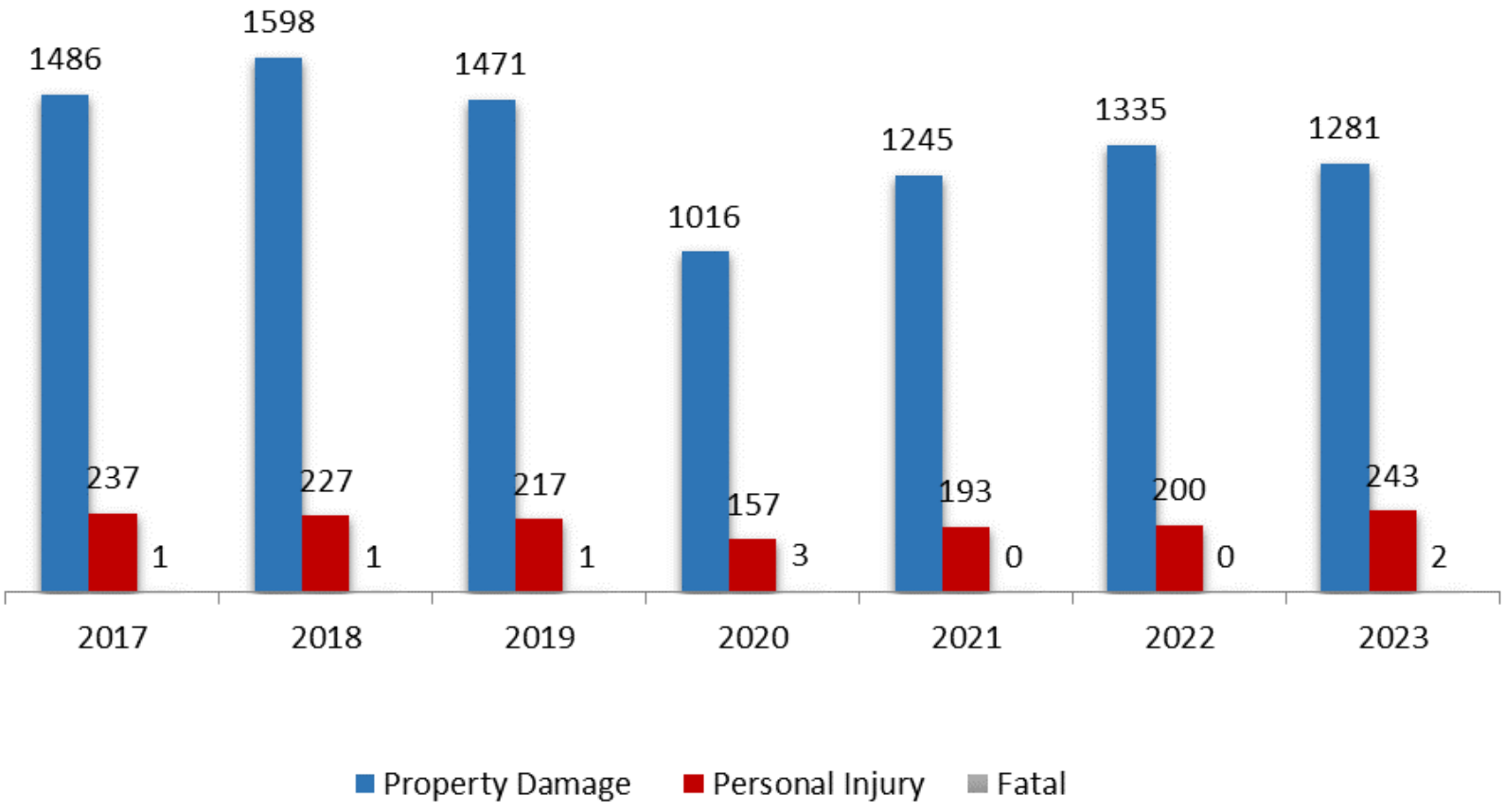




Additional Traffic Enforcement Efforts

The Department utilizes the AVRS electronic crash reporting system to document traffic collisions. The AVRS system data affords employees the ability to study crash data more competently. The analysis of the crash data typically results in determining geographic locations where more crashes are occurring. The Department can then establish a strategy to efficiently deploy resources with the objective of reducing preventable crashes at those locations.

The total number of traffic crashes increased in 2023 when compared to 2022. The Department also experienced a 21.5% increase in crashes that resulted in injury. The Accident Investigation (AI) Team investigated six crashes that resulted in serious injuries, and two crashes that resulted in a fatality. By comparison, the AI Team responded to three serious crashes in 2022, none of which resulted in a fatality.




CITY OF CRYSTAL LAKE, ILLINOIS
INCORPORATED SEPTEMBER, 1914
POLICE
CRYSTAL LAKE



2023 TRAFFIC SAFETY CHALLENGE

For the tenth consecutive year, the Department participated in the Illinois Traffic Safety Challenge. The Traffic Safety Challenge is a professional competition between law enforcement agencies of similar size and structure. The Challenge is a program coordinated by the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police (ILACP) Traffic Committee and supported by a NHTSA grant administered through the Illinois Department of Transportation, Bureau of Safety Programs and Engineering (BSPE), as well as funding from private entities. The Illinois Traffic Safety Challenge provides law enforcement agencies with an opportunity to contribute to the Illinois' Strategic Highway Safety Plan and have a significant impact on the reduction of crashes, deaths and associated injuries across the state.

The Challenge targets four distinct traffic safety priorities: occupant protection, speed, distracted driving, and impaired driving. The Department's involvement in the initiative included aggressive traffic enforcement throughout the year, comprehensive training for staff, and public education efforts (to include messaging on the Department's speed trailer, public service announcements, and numerous social media posts) resulting in a safer community. The Department's efforts are collected in a report and submitted for review. Because the Department was awarded first place in the category of 66-100 Municipal Sworn in 2022, we were placed in the Championship Class for 2023. Despite not placing in the Championship Class, the efforts of the Department continued to have a positive impact on traffic safety in the community.








City of Crystal Lake
Esther St



RAILROAD SAFETY

Throughout 2023, officers conducted frequent foot patrols at the two Metra train stops in Crystal Lake, as well as monitored the multiple railroad crossings throughout the city. This continued the partnership the Department has had with Union Pacific and Metra where railway safety issues are promoted and violations enforced to ensure the safety of commuters, railway employees, and first responders. In addition to routine patrols around the train stops and tracks, the Department participated in Rail Safety Week which was declared by Governor Pritzker to take place in Illinois from September 18th through the 24th. During that week, Patrol Officers, across all three shifts, made a concerted effort to enforce observed violations at train crossings and train stations. Officers also interacted with citizens commuting on the Metra trains, passing out educational material on how to remain safe around trains. Additionally, the Department's speed trailer was deployed around railroad crossings with rail safety messages.

Over the course of the year, as other railway safety concerns arose, the Department effectively communicated with Union Pacific and Metra to cooperatively address the concerns in a timely manner. These issues included well-being checks of people on or around the tracks, juveniles trespassing on Union Pacific equipment, assisting Metra conductors with unruly passengers, malfunctioning railroad crossing signals/arms, vehicles being stuck on the tracks, and subjects littering on/around the train depots.





CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS UNIT

The Criminal Investigations Unit (CIU) is comprised of six detectives, three school resource officers and a task force officer assigned to the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). The unit is supervised by a Commander and a Sergeant who have varying areas of responsibility for the daily and annual operation of the unit. While most calls for service are handled by the responding officers, many require additional and sometimes in-depth investigation, which falls under the responsibility of the Criminal Investigations Unit. Members of the unit are highly trained and are capable of managing complex criminal investigations from start to finish. Based on their training, experience and skills, Detectives are considered some of the most capable in the area. Collectively the Criminal Investigations Unit provide our community with the following specialties recognized by the State of Illinois: Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC), Forensic Interviewing, Sexual Assault Investigators, Lead Homicide investigators, Advanced Evidence Technician Techniques. Beyond the assignment of an investigator as a DEA Task Force Officer, the Criminal Investigation Unit supports surrounded jurisdictions by its involvement in several organizations. Members are assigned to the McHenry County Human Trafficking Task Force, Terrorism Liaison Officers Committee, McHenry County's Major Investigation Assistance Team (MIAT), Child Advocacy Center (CAC), and have a member seated on the McHenry County Juvenile Officers Association board.

2023 Notable Investigations

Residential Burglary

A residence on Harold Street was burglarized in early March of 2023, several items of jewelry were taken, to include the resident's late husband's wedding ring. A suspect was developed based on information shared between the Department and the McHenry County Sheriff's Office. By the conclusion of the investigation the offender was charged with residential burglary and the victim's 21 pieces of jewelry, including the wedding band, were recovered from a pawn shop in Arlington Heights.

Identity Theft / Fraud:

In early April of 2023 a resident's Chase Bank Account was debited a large amount of money by an unknown suspect using a fraudulent debit card scam. Video surveillance was obtained of the suspect conducting the transactions and was pivotal in obtaining their identification. A Critical Reach was disseminated to other law enforcement agencies throughout Illinois and investigators were able to ultimately reach out to over 10 different police agencies from Cook, DuPage, Kane and McHenry County linking the suspect to numerous thefts. Due to the prolific nature of this offender's crimes, the Illinois Attorney General's Office took over the prosecution of the case to aid in its multi-jurisdictional nature.



NOTABLE INVESTIGATIONS

Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM) and Sexual Exploitation of Children

In 2023, the Criminal Investigations Unit investigated 32 crimes falling under these categories. Some of these cases involved the use of the internet to sexually groom juveniles or intimidate them to send images of themselves to the offender. Many other investigations involved the possession, distribution or production of sexually explicit and abusive videos of young children. Some of these cases are reported directly to the Department, but many others are reported through “Cybertip” which is managed by the Attorney General’s Office and Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC). Department ICAC trained Detectives conduct follow up to determine if the reported offense falls within Crystal Lake’s jurisdiction. When this is determined a litany of search warrants and subpoenas are drafted in order to collect evidence and build a case to justify a residential search warrant. In conjunction with the legal process through the courts, more conventional investigative tactics are employed, such as background research and surveillance into any suspects who might be involved. The pre-arrest investigations culminate with the execution of a search warrant and typically the arrest of the suspect. During the search warrant, additional evidence in the form of electronics is collected and need to be analyzed by outside agencies, which is a time-consuming process. Due the dedication and time devoted to these heinous crimes; the Criminal Investigations Unit has a 92% closure rate related to these types of crimes.

Theft of Motor Vehicles

Multiple car burglaries and thefts of motor vehicles were reported to police during the month of March. These crimes effected Crystal Lake and surrounding agencies. After an investigation which lasted several months, a suspect was brought to justice with numerous charges for his various crimes. The investigation required a combination of tasks which included detail interviews of victims, witnesses, and suspects, hours of surveillance camera review, cell phone forensic exams, and cellular call detail records analysis. Additionally forensic processing of vehicles, jail call recording review and other electronic data retrieval were required to obtain multiple solid charges against the offender.



NOTABLE INVESTIGATIONS

False Police report

In August of 2023 a subject reported to the Department that her vehicle was stolen sometime the night prior. Further investigation yielded the vehicle to have been involved in a hit and run crash on a highway at approximately 1230am. The vehicle owner reported no one having access to her vehicle but herself. Interviews with neighbors confirmed that a male subject comes and goes from residence and that he Is seen driving the vehicle all the time. Video from a local convenience store was obtained showing the vehicle leaving the suspect's residence 45 minutes after she returned home from work. The driver appeared to be male.

The subject invoked her right to counsel and failed to cooperate further. Legal process into phone records indicated she was communicating with an acquaintance throughout the entirety of the night, specifically at the time of the crash on the night the vehicle was allegedly stolen. Location data on the acquaintance's phone pinged to the exact area of the crash at the time of the reported hit and run crash. This phone also pinged to areas where a license plate reader picked up the vehicle around the same time. The owner of the vehicle was charged with filing a false police report for motor vehicle theft and filing a false police report, both of which are felonies.

Financial Exploitation of the Elderly

In early 2023, an elderly female reported to the Department that she believed her caretaker of ten years was withdrawing small amounts of money from her bank account at various locations between 2022 and 2023l Through legal process, search warrants were drafted and submitted, ultimately determining after examination that over $36,000 was removed from her account without permission.

Search warrants executed on the victim's financial institution revealed numerous videos of the suspect withdrawing money on various days, alone and not with victim as was claimed. Based on bank statements and video surveillance obtained from Menards a suspect was developed. Another unknown female was also using victim's credit card to purchase various items for their own personal use. The suspect declined to be interviewed and was ultimately charged.



NOTABLE INVESTIGATIONS

Missing Person

An Elderly man with medial issues, dementia, was reported missing by his adult child who lived out of state after not talking to him for several days. Utilizing cell phone data, it was learned that the man had traveled to the area of Madison, WI, and appeared to be lost, as he had turned on and off of the interstate several times. The data showed the phone powered off a short while later. A multi-state Silver Alert was issued for the subject. After a search of the man's residence, mail containing older financial records was located. Upon serving legal process on the banking institution, documents showed the man was attempting to use an old bank account without funds, however the bank was able to share the location of the attempted transactions with Detectives. Communications with several out of state agencies indicated that the subject might be in Wyoming. Various Automated License Plate Readers in several states confirmed the subject's travel west. By the next day, it was reported that the subject's credit card was used in Washington State, near the Canadian Border. Detectives notified US Customs and Border Patrol Agents to make them aware that the missing subject may be in the area. Detectives received a call soon after advising that they were able to locate the man as he was attempting to cross the United States Border into Canada. He was taken to a local hospital and later united with family.

Manufacturing of Controlled Substance

In January of 2023 a distraught teen confided in a friend that her stepfather had videotaped her while exiting the shower due to finding a hidden camera. During the in-depth interview with Detectives, she revealed that her parents were growing psychedelic mushrooms, and her stepfather had several firearms in the house unlawfully. The victim's statements and depictions of illegal activity was sufficient enough to obtain a residential search warrant which was executed the next morning. The search revealed an extensive psychedelic mushroom grow, several firearms and the video camera and video of the juvenile. The mother and stepfather were charged with numerous offenses to include production of child pornography, possession of firearms with a revoked FOID, manufacturing of a controlled substance and endangering the health and life of a child, 21 individual counts total.



TARGETED RESPONSE UNIT

Members of the Targeted Response Unit (TRU) work to mitigate and resolve problems within the community which are reoccurring in nature and have more of a community care taking aspect to them. These issues include drug-related crimes, as well as problems that are not necessarily violations of criminal law, such as neighbor disputes, but may still have a negative impact on the residents in the community. TRU is comprised of two officers who report to the Commander of Investigations. These officers receive specialized training to aid their unit it its goals. The training topics include gang crimes, sex offender registration and compliance laws, surveillance techniques and narcotics investigations. Since many of their investigations are related to quality-of-life situations, TRU officers are accustomed to working with other City Departments including Community Development and Public Works. Taking a joint approach aid in a successful and permanent resolution for the community.

Registered Sex Offender Compliance

Currently the City of Crystal Lake has 37 residents who are registered sex offenders or violent offenders against youth. This is a 48% increase from 2022. One of TRU's primary responsibilities is to coordinate registration records and conduct address verification compliance checks. These checks are conducted quarterly, one being within two weeks of Halloween. The goal is to ensure registration information is accurate and individuals comply with all applicable state laws.

For various reasons the Illinois State Police can revoke or suspend a resident's Firearm Owner Identification (FOID) card. Additionally, the Circuit Clerk of McHenry County routinely issues Firearms Surrender/No Contact Orders, particularly when someone is charged with a domestic-related crime. TRU has been tasked with monitoring residents who are subject to the orders. This typically involves communication with the individuals to ensure they are abiding by said order. This local contact and notification process is an extra layer to the State's and County's efforts to fight gun and domestic violence.

TRU has adopted another responsibility within the last year which is directly related to pre-trial bond reform in Illinois. Much like the process for FOID revocations and suspensions, TRU members make contact with members of the community who have pre-trial restrictions placed upon them by the Courts. Many times, they coincide with firearms surrender orders, but can also involve many other restrictions for the defendant to adhere while waiting for their day in court.

The members of TRU are deputized as McHenry County Gang and Drug Task Force Officers, additionally they interact daily with the Criminal Investigations Unit and the assigned DEA Task Force Officer. By working closely, sharing information and aiding each other with various investigations has proven essential for servicing the community's needs.



TARGETED RESPONSE UNIT NOTABLE INVESTIGATIONS

In June of 2023 a former resident had traveling in Wisconsin and stopped by Wisconsin State Troopers. He was placed into custody for having a stolen firearm in his possession. Since the pistol was reported lost or stolen from a local sporting good's store, Wisconsin State Police Reached out to the Department. TRU was assigned to assist in getting to the bottom of the alleged stolen firearm since it was not matching up with any reported crimes. TRU worked remotely with the suspect and Wisconsin State Police and directly with the retail establishment. Ultimately, they were able to clear the suspect of any charges in short order and get his firearm returned to him prior to his returning to Florida.

TRU was assigned a neighbor dispute in May of 2023. Two neighbors were actively calling police on each other for various reason ranging from littering, trespassing and assault. Like many neighbor disputes which reach to the level of police involvement there are two versions of the story and then the truth. TRU is uniquely situated to be able to devote the time needed to successfully navigate these types of calls for service. Patrol Officers were instructed to direct all non-immediate calls related to the neighbors to TRU, so the totality of the situation can be monitored. Ultimately in this situation TRU officers were able to mediate and educate each of the neighbors which aided in their ability to keep the peace on their block.

In July of 2023 TRU was assigned a potential sex offender violation where a parent was attending his son's baseball games despite being a registered child sex offender. TRU officers attended a meeting with the parents of the team and league to explain the situation and answered questions. They also worked with other police departments to aid potential charges in their jurisdictions. Subsequent to a detailed investigation which included many interviews and research into property lines, the suspect was ultimately charged with violating his sex offender restrictions.

Working closely with the Department's DEA Task Force Officer, TRU officers were ultimately able to charge two subjects suspected of distributing psilocybin laced edibles. In June of 2023 two residents reported that they had adverse effects after eating an edible given to them by a subject at a local bar. Although the subject's real name was not known, the investigation eventually led to the person's true identity. At the culmination of the investigation in September, a search warrant was executed on the primary suspect's residence. The suspect and his roommate were ultimately charged with various drug offences to included manufacture and possession with intent to deliver cannabis and controlled substances.

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS

Since 1996 High School District #155 and the Department have successfully collaborated with integrating police officers into the school system. School Resource Officers (SRO) are specially trained individuals who are assigned full time to each of the three high schools in Crystal Lake. While classes are in session, officers are responsible for the documentation and investigation of all crimes committed on the property. The relationship between these unique officers goes beyond the standard law enforcement and safety function, they act as liaisons with administrators as well as mentors and role models for students. The SROs are also responsible for classroom presentations regarding specific law enforcement related topics, including but not limited to sexting and bullying, traffic laws, curfew, drinking and driving, drug awareness and prevention, social media and online safety.

Considered to be the first line of defense in protecting students and staff, SROs are integral partners in the development and facilitation of their assigned school's lock-down, evacuation and emergency preparedness programs. The SROs also assist District #47 with their state mandated lock-down drills. SROs have varied responsibilities outside of the normal school day, such as attending home sporting events and other extracurricular activities. Additionally, they facilitate the Department's alcohol and tobacco compliance programs and are called upon to assist the CIU until on major crimes.









SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS

Alcohol and Tobacco Compliance Checks

With the goal to ensure retailers abide by state law pertaining to the sales of alcohol and tobacco products and for the health and safety of our youngest community members, the Department conducts several compliance checks throughout the year. Many of these checks are focused around annual events such as Homecoming and Prom. The operation of these compliance checks is conducted primarily by School Resource Officers. The Department conducted 43 tobacco compliance checks and 186 alcohol compliance checks in 2023. Additionally, if a complaint from the community is directed towards a specific vendor, a targeted check is conducted. In 2023 there were 15 citations for sale of alcohol and none for sale of tobacco.




BRAVO PRIMO
WARNING



K9 TEAM



In 2023, the K9 team, consisting of Officer Schack and canine Zeus, completed their fifth full year on patrol together. Over the course of the year, Officer Schack deployed Zeus nearly 100 times for exterior vehicle sniffs for the odor of narcotics, searches of residences for narcotics, tracks for missing persons or suspects of crimes, area searches for people, and public demonstrations. Through their hard work at K9 training, Officer Schack and Zeus continued to be recognized as one of the most effective narcotic detecting K9 teams in the area, frequently being requested by other law enforcement agencies (both local and federal) to assist with their narcotics investigations. As a result of Zeus being deployed in a narcotics-detecting role, numerous felony narcotics arrests were made and controlled substances were seized. Additionally, Officer Schack worked with school administrators in school districts 47 and 155 to utilize Zeus to sniff for the odor of narcotics in multiple schools during school searches in 2023. Officer Schack and Zeus also assisted local police agencies/school districts during school searches in their respective jurisdictions.

Beginning in early 2023, the decision was made to add an additional canine to the Department's K9 program. After assessing the needs of the community as well as the Department, a Golden Retriever, which the Department named Cruise, was chosen as the new canine. After an interview process, Officer Schumacher was chosen to be Cruise's handler. The new K9 team went through an intensive 8-week training course where Cruise learned obedience, narcotics detection, human tracking, and article searches. After obtaining multiple certifications through the State of Illinois and the American Kennel Club, Officer Schumacher and Cruise began patrolling Crystal Lake together at the end of November. In just one month, Cruise was deployed by Officer Schumacher 8 times for exterior vehicle sniffs for the odor of narcotics, school searches, a track for a missing person, and public demonstrations.

Zeus and Cruise were utilized by the Department in 2023 to educate the community about their role within the agency and how they assist officers during public demonstrations. Cruise was introduced to the Crystal Lake community at the Department's National Night Out, held in downtown Crystal Lake, in August. He and his handler interacted with the public while Officer Schack and Zeus performed a complete demonstration for a large variety of citizens. Later in 2023, Cruise interacted with students during classroom visits and both Zeus and Cruise attended a Christmas-themed event at a local business. Public demonstrations continue to be a rewarding experience for both the community and our K9 teams.








Running
POLICE


HALLOWE'EN



TRAINING UNIT

The Department's Training Unit has been ensuring members are meeting state mandates and receiving the highest quality and standard of instruction, while inspiring individuals to be passionate to provide excellence in policing services. Each training incorporates innovative and contemporary training, which ensures all members are trained above the required standards. The Department Training Unit provides varying training opportunities for individuals in various formats from reading material, hands-on defensive tactics, high-risk traffic stops, active shooter, and an emphasis on de-escalation, mental health, and more. Training conducted also involved incorporating scenario-based training.

The Department conducted over 8,000 hours of training in a vast array of topics, including training opportunities for Northern Illinois Police Alarm System (NIPAS), where skills are developed and refined, involving building clearing, active shooter threats, barricade subjects, First Amendment assemblies, and mass casualty events. The Training Unit enhances our staff's abilities in order to provide exceptional police services to our community with integrity and preparedness for unforeseen events.





TRAINING UNIT

Basic Academy and Field Training

The Department utilized Suburban Law Enforcement Academy at College of DuPage in order to certify officers through the Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board (ILETSB). Newly hired Officers were challenged mentally and physically during each academy's 640-hour curriculum (16-week course). Some topics covered during the academy are De-Escalation, Crisis Intervention, Stress Management and Officer Wellness, Civil Rights, Civil Liabilities, Active Shooter, High-Risk Stops, Firearms, Investigations, Court Room Testimony, Emergency Vehicle Operations, and Patrol Tactics. In total, five Officers graduated from Suburban Law Enforcement Academy in 2023.

Following their graduation from the academy, these officers are required to participate in a nationally recognized 16-week field training model. Utilizing the Field Training Officer-Sokolove model, newly graduated officers are taught to work within the guidelines of internal policies and laws to mitigate problematic situations. Officers must complete the program in its entirety, including a 17-page checklist of essential duties. Officer Horton and Officer Thompson have successfully completed their field training and began their solo patrol. Officer Diaz and Officer Muskala graduated from Suburban Law Enforcement Academy and were in the beginning phases of field training. Our lateral transfer program has drawn several Officers from other Departments, where they bring experience and value to our Patrol Unit. Officer Woolbright, Officer Jensen, and Officer Cotter II have joined us from other local Police Departments.







TRAINING UNIT

Supervisory Development

The Department continues to strive for excellence in providing advance training for our supervisory employees. This year, Sergeant Mattson and Sergeant Eitel were promoted to Sergeants. Sergeant Beasley, Sergeant Mattson and Sergeant Sindaravicius attended the two-week course in Supervision of Police Personnel through Northwestern University, which continues to provide them necessary and essential skills to continue to be effective leaders. At this time, all Sergeants have successfully attended this course and look forward to future Staff and Command Courses through Northwestern University.

Sergeant Koertgen, as part of his supervisory development, attended and graduated from School of Police Staff and Command through Northwestern University. This involved 400-hours of leadership development, which also prepared him to thrive and be successful in the middle and upper management positions. The extensive course included courses on leadership, project management, statistics, budgeting and other related topics. Commander Coutre is currently attending and scheduled to graduate from the class in January 2024. The Department remains committed to sending at least one supervisor through this intensive program per year.

In addition, Sergeant Mattson and Sergeant Sindaravicius completed a one-week course for Incident Command System 300 and 400, which involves the National Incident Management System and every facet of governmental agencies working together to stabilize, acquire and manage resources, and resolve critical and mass incidences. Sergeant Munaretto also completed Incident Command System 400.





TRAINING UNIT

Mental Health and Crisis Incidents:

The Department has continued to train extensively when it comes to mental health. The Department continues to train on a regular basis due to receiving ongoing calls for service involving mental health, which impact victims, suspects, and the community as a whole. The Department continues to provide and emphasize various resources available to individuals or their family members when mental health is involved. Officers of the Department are committed to assisting those in need of mental health assistance and to treat all individuals fairly, with dignity and respect. Each year, the Department makes a strong effort and focus on ensuring Officers attend multiple courses throughout the year to support this objective. In these courses, Officers continue to learn, refine, and polish their de-escalation techniques, which assist them in tailoring their response to calls for the optimal outcome. Some of the courses covered this year included: Mental Health Awareness, Trauma Informed Response to Sexual Assaults, Officer Stress Management, Child Abuse Awareness for Patrol, and De-Escalation Strategies for Safe Street Encounters.

In being committed to providing the highest of standards in addressing mental health and crisis incidents, Detective Zielinski, continues maintain her certifications as a social worker and shares her vast knowledge with Department personnel. In addition, Detective Zielinski continues to maintain her certification through the Illinois Training and Standards Board as an Instructor through Northeast Multi-Regional Training (NEMRT). With Detective Zielinski's knowledge and experience, a Tactical De-Escalation course was developed, submitted for approval, and certified through NEMRT and ILETSB. This allowed for all sworn Department personnel to meet required state mandates.

In addition, Department personnel completed Autism: A Guide for First Responders through Blue Bridge, which involved hours of learning about individuals having to live with Autism and recognizing various signs and key phrases an individual may use when interacting. This allows for Department personnel to be more aware and tailor their interactions with individuals having autism.

Finally, the Department continues its participation in a McHenry County-wide program titled Police Social Workers, where trained and licensed social workers continue to follow-up with individuals who experienced or were in need of mental health assistance. Their assistance in follow-up with community members continues to be a positive impact on individuals and families in our community.



TRAINING UNIT

Constitutional Rights and Response to Resistance

The Department recognizes the need for officers to continue to develop, refine, and polish their strong command of constitutional knowledge surrounding use of force within policing. Officers of the Department continue to train with lethal and non-lethal tools, including receiving legal updates through multiple sources. Training ranges from scenario-based training to legal reviews, table-top exercises, and discussions. Such training may include, but is not limited to, exposure to various threats, recognizing when a specific tool is needed and the need to de-escalate. Some training stems from actual incidents or recreated incidents in scenario-based trainings.

This blend of training assists officers to ensure they are able to recognize the tools needed on a case-by-case basis, operate with the safest and current recommended protocols, and protect the community and themselves from harm. In 2023, some of the attended training included: Defensive Tactics, De-Escalation and Smarter Policing, Use of Fore Legal Reviews, High Risk Traffic Stops, Active Shooter, monthly legal updates through Police Law Institute and Law Enforcement Training, LLC.

While continuing to provide the highest of standards for response to resistance training, Detective Harvat successfully completed a Realistic De-Escalation Instructor Course through Force Science, Expandable Baton and Oleoresin Capsicum (Pepper Spray) Instructor Training, and a 40-hour extensive Firearms Instructor Course. Officer Torkelson continued to be a successful instructor within the Department, completing a Handcuffing Instructor Program and Expandable Baton Instructor Course. Officer Stolzman successfully completed the Enhanced ALICE Instructor Certification and Tactical Trauma and Shock Management Instructor Course, which assists her in providing safe and best practices during active shooter incidences. Officer Morse is working on becoming a Defensive Tactics Instructor in order to instruct alongside Officer Torkelson and Sergeant Munaretto.





TRAINING UNIT

Constitutional Rights and Response to Resistance

Officer Schack, Officer Tooley, Officer Burbach, and Sergeant Sindaravicius have successfully applied through NEMRT and were approved by ILETSB to be certified instructors, which assists in developing and training Department personnel in various topics to ensure all Department personnel are compliant with State of Illinois Law Enforcement mandates. Detective Harvat, Officer Miller, Officer Torkelson, and Officer Stolzman have submitted their applications and are pending review and approval.

In addition, Officer Lang, who is a member of the Northern Illinois Police Alarm System (NIPAS) Emergency Services Team, completed an extensive week-long Sniper School, which he is actively using while assisting local agencies when called-upon. Officer Lang, who is also a certified instructor through ILETSB, along with Officer Burbach, developed a Rapid Deployment and Response course for active shooter incidents. With coordinated efforts, the Department and Crystal Lake Fire Rescue Department participated and trained in a Rescue Task Force training at local schools during Spring Break. The training was well-received, and Officer Lang continued to provide in-person presentations to Crystal Lake Fire Rescue for those who were unable to attend the in-person training. The Department looks forward to working in future training opportunities with Crystal Lake Fire Rescue to ensure our efforts to save as many lives as possible is mutually successful.

Finally, Sergeant Munaretto and Officer Torkelson continue to provide Ground Fighting Control Tactics program training to our sworn employees. Defensive Tactics training is an important component to the curriculum within the Department, as officers learn how to mitigate strikes and attacks, while protecting themselves and reducing the likelihood of sustaining injury to themselves and a potential suspect.

Internship Program

The Department's Internship Program is an important component of the Training Unit and the Department as a whole. Interns are carefully selected from multiple area universities and colleges, to spend a semester rotating through all the units of the Department. This program requires direct mentoring on a daily basis by veteran officers, allowing the interns to learn and network within the industry. Many current and former officers began their careers through an Internship Program. The Department hosted one internship opportunity from Illinois State University. Officer Alfano, Officer Stolzman, and Sergeant Sindaravicius, along with other officers visited over seven universities, colleges, and technical schools in recruitment efforts and internship opportunity efforts. An additional internship opportunity is planned for an individual attending Western Illinois University in 2024 to assist them in graduating.



TRAINING UNIT

Citizen Police Academy

The Department held its Citizen Police Academy in the Spring of 2023. Community members participated in a 12-week program, where they learned about topics including, but not limited to, traffic stops, criminal law with McHenry County State's Attorney Patrick Keneally, driving under the influence, response to resistance, K9 program, investigations, major motor vehicle accidents, evidence collecting, and some scenario-based training. Individuals who successfully attended all the classes and are of good mortal aptitude, completed a ride-along with a shift of their choice. Once completed, individuals were provided an opportunity to become Department Volunteers. Volunteers assist the Department in events such as Drug-Take back, National Night Out, and Parades with exterior traffic control.





Ride-Along Program

The ride-along program is an opportunity for potential hires, residents, students, and family members to spend a shift riding with an officer on patrol. The ride-along program provides an experience and insight on a firsthand basis at the admirable policing services occurring on a daily basis. This opportunity also supports the Department's community policing principles, while being transparent and building strong relationships with the community. In 2023, the Department had seventeen ride-along participants.


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POLICE SOCIAL WORKER PROGRAM

Our Department continued to participate in the McHenry County-wide Police Social Worker Program. The program employs trained and licensed social workers to provide support services to individuals and families that come to the attention of the Department. The program provides adults, juveniles, and families with short-term counseling options, intervention, assessment, referrals, and services for the resolution of individual, family, and community problems. In 2023, the Department completed 389 referrals for those in need of assistance.

A program benefit is that it provides 24-hour on-call coverage to respond whenever necessary. Additionally, the social workers in the program can provide training in topics such as: mental health first aid, Crisis Intervention Team, de-escalation, duty to intervene, trauma-informed response to incidents, substance abuse, peer support, resources in the county, involuntary petitions, and communicating with people of all ages.





McHENRY COUNTY
PSW
POLICE SOCIAL WORK



RECORDS UNIT

The Records Unit is under the command of the Deputy Chief of Administration and staffed by three full-time clerks, two part-time clerks, and one supervisor. The Unit is staffed Monday – Friday, 0800 – 1700 hours.

The Records Unit is responsible for non-emergency phone calls and citizens arriving at the police department seeking assistance. The Records Unit also processes and maintains all police reports, citations and other documents required for court proceedings or public dissemination. Other duties include Freedom of Information (FOIA) requests, fulfilling subpoenas, expungements and various background check requests.

Records continues to remain up to date with the National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS) as the Department remains certified with the State. The current Records Management System (RMS) is Central Square which has field-based reporting that enables all data from reports generated in the field to be sent into RMS. The RMS is utilized for looking up information and used for internal or State statistical reporting. AVRS is an automated accident reporting system that has online report downloads for citizens and insurance companies. The Records Unit was trained in a new program, Quicket, an automated program for traffic citations issued by officers which then transmits data to the McHenry County Courthouse for prosecution of the offense cited and to the State of Illinois for statistical purposes. The Department also uses Quicket for parking citations.





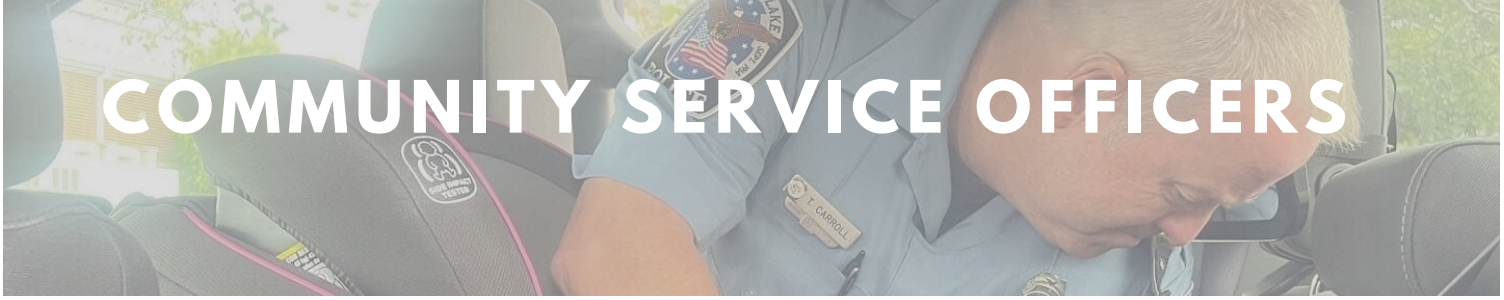
SAFETY/TRAINING COMMITTEE

The goal of the Department Safety and Training Committee is to create a safe and healthy workplace for all employees through awareness, training, and employee involvement. The committee consists of sworn and non-sworn members representing the Administration, Patrol Unit, Criminal Investigations Unit, and Records Unit. The committee utilizes risk management procedures to identify areas within the Department where improvements can be made. The 2023 goals and objectives of the Police Department Safety Committee were:

- Provide monthly education on safety related topics to Department employees.
- Conduct quarterly firearms training and qualification for all sworn personnel.
- Decrease the amount and severity of injuries to employees.
- Reduce the amount of incidents involving damage to property and equipment.
- Conduct inspections and serviceability checks on all Department firearms.
- Continue the process of certifying instructors through ILETSB and NEMRT.

The committee meets monthly to discuss safety and training related topics, such as positive/negative behaviors and practices, incidents involving loss of personnel due to injury, incidents involving property damage, and training issues that will likely reduce incidents among employees. The incidents involving injury or property damage are reviewed in order to determine causes and contributing factors. The totality of circumstances are then considered to establish whether the incident was preventable. The incident reviews result in identifying any trends or patterns, which allows the committee to develop recommendations for workplace improvements or practices. Those modifications will potentially reduce or eliminate such events from repeatedly occurring. In 2023, the Department Safety and Training Committee reviewed twenty incidents. There were fourteen reported injuries with five occurring during the arrest of a resistive or combative subject, and four occurring during academy training. There were also six reported property damage incidents. The rate of occurrence for reported injury incidents in 2023 increased from those in 2022, however; reported property damage incidents remained the same. Additionally, in order to promote safety and awareness a monthly safety message is created and disseminated to members of the Department.

Incidents Reviewed					
2018	**2019**	**2020**	**2021**	**2022**	**2023**
14	**15**	**5**	**11**	**15**	**20**



COMMUNITY SERVICE OFFICERS

Community Service Officers

Community Service Officers (CSOs) are civilian employees who are assigned to the Patrol Unit. CSOs are not sworn officers and do not have the authority to effect an arrest, but they are valuable assets to the Department. The CSOs routinely assist the Patrol Unit with a variety of calls that would otherwise require an officer's attention and time. These calls include but are not limited to private property traffic crash reports, animal complaints, vehicle lockouts, commuter parking enforcement, pay-stall collections, and banking. Additionally, they inspect child safety seats for proper installation, conduct fingerprinting services for fee applicants (liquor license holders, taxicab drivers, etc...), and assist officers with prisoner processing duties. CSOs fill a critical role by assisting patrol officers in the field directing traffic at roadway crash scenes.

During 2023, CSOs handled 1,223 calls for service and assisted on many more. They also issued 1191 parking citations.

Accreditation

The Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) continues to serve as the premier credentialing association for public safety agencies and providing accreditation services for law enforcement organizations, public safety communication centers, public safety training academies, and campus security agencies. The standards are communicated through a board of 21 commissioners, representing a full spectrum of public safety leadership. The voluntary CALEA Accreditation is the GOLD Standard for Public Safety Agencies and represents a commitment to excellence. Approximately 5% of all law enforcement agencies nationwide are accredited through CALEA. The Department was last accredited in 2020. In 2023, the Department successfully completed proofs of compliance for year four of the Department's four-year re-accreditation cycle. The Department completed the CALEA on-site in October and will present in front of the Committee for Re-Accreditation in March 2024.

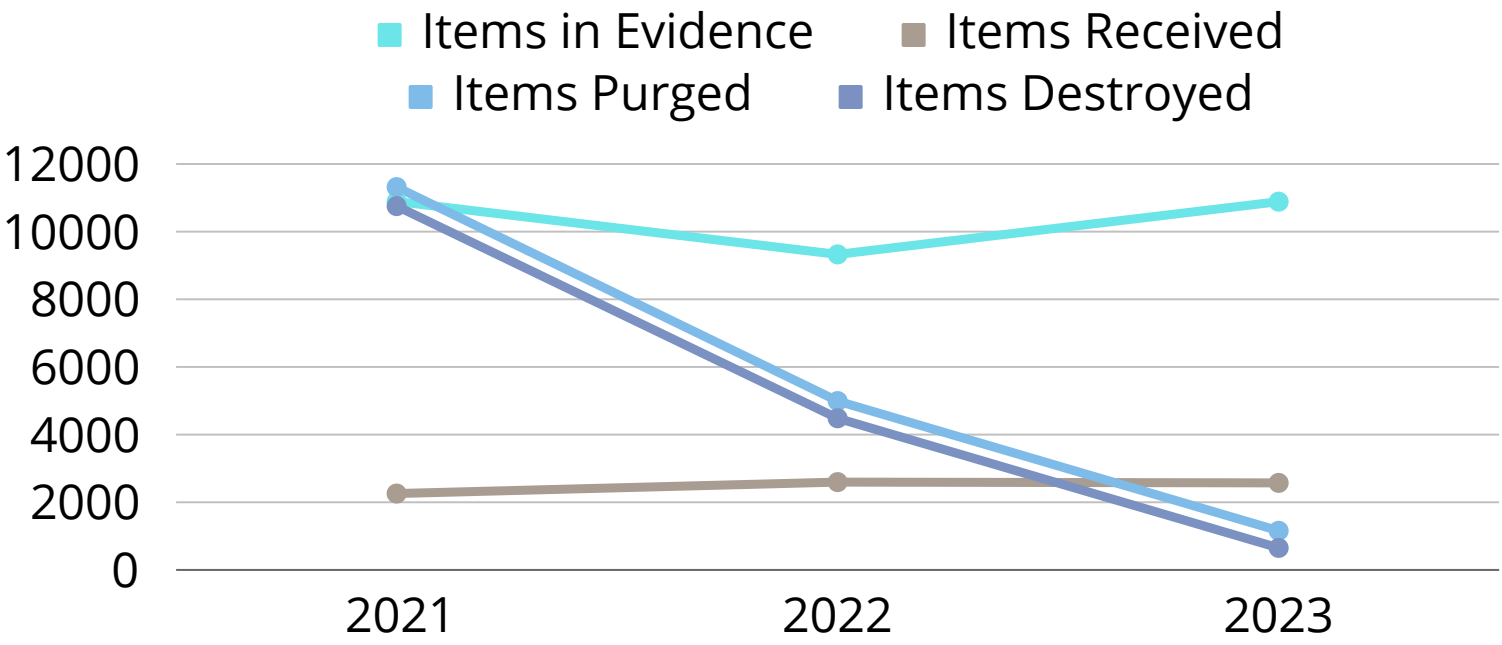




PROPERTY AND EVIDENCE UNIT

The Department's Evidence and Property Unit is an integral part of the overall agency operations. The Evidence Unit is staffed with one full time Property Control Officer. The Property Control Officer is responsible for managing the Department's evidence room where all evidence seized, received, or found by officers is securely maintained. The total number of items being stored in evidence rose from 9,327 in 2022 to 10,886 in 2023. The Department received 2,573 items in 2023. The number of items purged from evidence decreased from 4,992 in 2022 to 1,157 in 2023.

The Property Control Officer guarantees the property is properly labeled, packaged, and placed in a secure location until it is released or disposed of in accordance with State and Federal Laws and Department policies. The Property Control Officer also collaborates with the States Attorney's Office, Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms, labs in Rockford and Chicago, and many other outside vendors. In addition to managing the evidence room, the Property Control Officer also handles hundreds of requests from officers, submits necessary reports, and assists the Records Unit in fulfilling subpoena and FOIA requests.



Outside Agency Evidence Requests		
2021	**2022**	**2023**
473	**553**	**776**



COMMUNITY RELATIONS

The Department's Mission Statement and Core Values creates an important guidance between the interaction and communication with residents, businesses, schools, and the Department. The Police Community Relations Officer (PCRO) continued to maintain those values and played an important role within the community. The PCRO provided guidance to the community that would enhance the professional service and quality of life to those we serve.

The PCRO is responsible for the Volunteers in Police Services (VIPs) program as well as the Citizen's Police Academy. The PCRO provides drug presentations, safety presentations, and tours of the facility for our schools or local groups. The PCRO continued visiting elementary schools in District 47 to read a book to a class that was selected by the students and staff.

Our PCRO continues to be an active member of the McHenry County Suicide Prevention Task Force, McHenry County Safe Kids Coalition, McHenry County Police Charities, McHenry County Substance Abuse Coalition, McHenry County Latino Leadership Network and The Task Force on Aging. The PCRO is the primary liaison between the Crystal Lake CrimeStoppers board and the Department. This past year, the PCRO joined the Early Childhood Network. The Early Childhood Network helps identify the needs of families in our communities to support early childhood care and needs.





SPECIAL EVENTS

Career Fairs

Throughout 2023, the PCRO participated in 14 job fairs, where we shared internship details, distributed job information, and addressed inquiries about the process of joining our department.

Coffee with the Chief

The Coffee with the Chief program returned in 2023. Chief Black hosted two events which included topics such as general conversations regarding new laws, policies, and information introduced during the pandemic as well as an informative introduction of the Police Social Worker Program. In both events, each drew a crowd of 15 people. We successfully collaborated with Sweet Rosie's, a new bakery entering our community. This partnership not only strengthened local ties, but also added a sweet touch to our commitment to community engagement.





Back-to-School Backpack Program

On July 29, the Department hosted its 8th annual Back-to-School Backpack event. The event was designed to assist parents or caregivers with relieving the financial stress and burden associated with purchasing backpacks and school supplies. The Department, in partnership with Crystal Lake School District 47, Round Lake Beach Meijer, Sam's Club, Target, and Home State Bank were able to provide the basic necessities including backpacks, to 80 selected students from District 47.



SPECIAL EVENTS

Common Scams with Senior Citizens

In the past year, the PCRO proactively addressed community safety by conducting five scam talks at senior homes and businesses. We extended our reach by extensively discussing the topic on social media, through newsletters, and hosting a Coffee with the Chief event. These efforts reflect our commitment to educating seniors on recognizing and preventing common scams.

Car Show

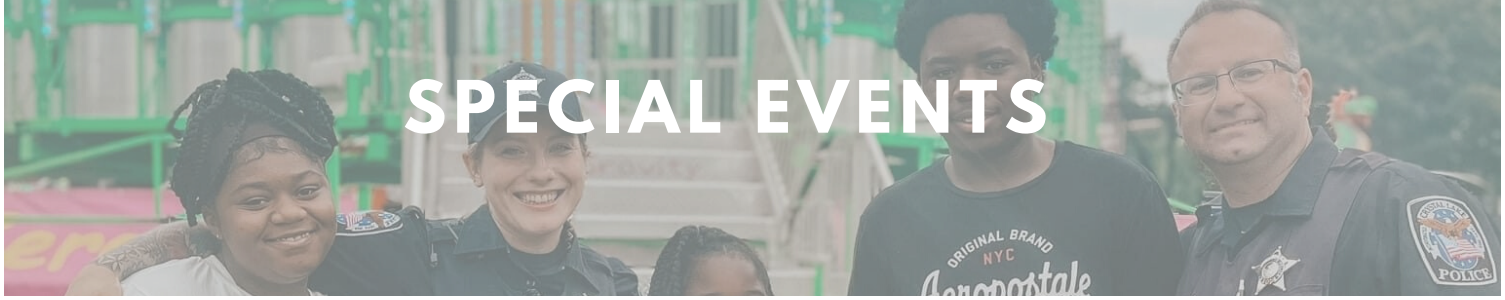
On October 1, the PCRO teamed up with Crystal Lake Cars and Caffeine for a car show, drawing in over 70 cars. The event successfully raised nearly $3,000.00 for two incredible charities, McHenry County Police Charities and Lakeside Legacy.

Active Shooter Training

In 2023, the PCRO conducted fourteen active shooter training sessions at various businesses. The PCRO provided three walkthroughs, offering valuable advice on Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED).







National Night Out

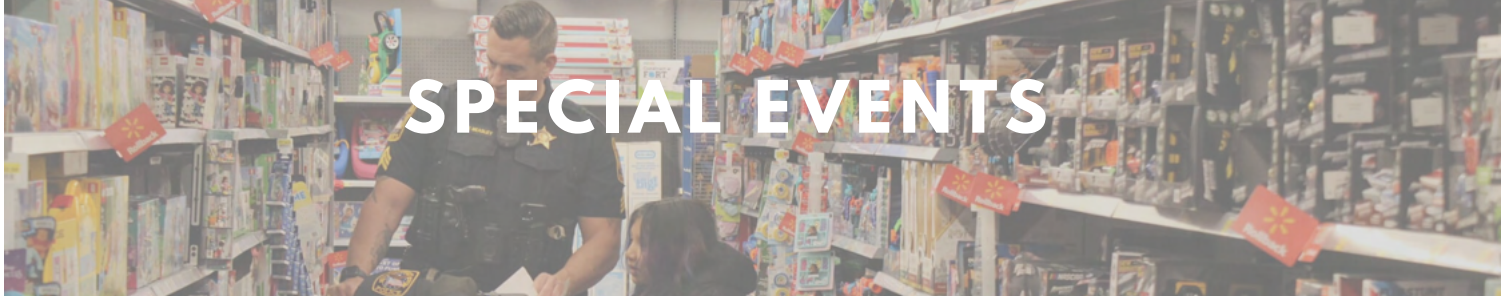
On August 3rd, the department hosted National Night Out in downtown Crystal Lake. This year's National Night Out was one of our largest attended events with over 40 businesses/organizations attending as well. The event continues to connect the community to local shops and restaurants as well as provide the opportunity for the community to interact with officers in a fun and crime free environment. The Department provided carnival games, K9 demonstrations, the opportunity for children to paint their handprint on a squad car, touch-a-truck, and so much more. After the event, the squad car was displayed in front of City Hall for the public to view.











SPECIAL EVENTS

Toys for Tots

The Department gathered nearly 1,000 toys in total for Toys for Tots this year. On December 2nd, we partnered with Marvin's Toy Store and McHenry Marines for a special event, collecting nearly 150 toys within 3 hours.



Shop with a Cop

On December 3rd, the Department participated in Shop with a Cop. Officers were given the opportunity to spend the morning with a child from our community to shop for gifts for Christmas. After shopping at Walmart, breakfast was provided by volunteers at Glacier Ridge Elementary School.









Public Education

Public education is an important component of public safety. We have continued to employ multiple avenues in which to provide the education to arm our citizens against becoming a victim as well as keeping themselves and their families safe. As summer drew to a close and back-to-school season was in full swing, public service announcement videos and posts were shared reminding citizens to safely share the road with school buses, pedestrians and bicyclists.

During the year, twelve articles submitted by the Department were published in the City's newsletter for the purpose of raising awareness and educating the public on the following:

- January: Happy New Year Message, Polar Plunge, Tip 411 Program, Citizen Police Academy Application.
- February: Polar Plunge, Citizen Survey, Super Bowl safety message.
- March: Citizen Survey, Coffee with the Chief, St. Patrick's Day Safety.
- April: Polar Plunge appreciation message and distracted driving awareness month message.
- May: Citizen Survey, Mental Health awareness, Cop on a Rooftop, Coffee with the Chief, and National Police Week.
- June: National Night Out and Car Show.
- July: National Night Out, City Ordinance for Leashing of a dog, and Information on Ruse Burglaries.
- August: Information regarding the restriction of golf cart use in Crystal Lake and Back-to-School safety tips.
- September: Coffee with the Chief, Child Passenger Safety Week, and appreciation message for National Night Out.
- October: Halloween Safety and Parking ordinance.
- November: Toys for Tots and Thanksgiving Safety.
- December: National Impaired Driving Prevention Month, Toys for Tots, and Holiday Safety Tips.





SPECIAL EVENTS

Special Event: Barriers

Due to tragic events around the world involving vehicles driving into crowds of people (intentionally and unintentionally), in 2022 the Department began researching different options on how to increase the safety of participants and attendees of special events held in the City of Crystal Lake. In 2023, the Department purchased eight Archer 1200 Anti-Vehicle Barriers from Meridian Rapid Defense Group. Once received, those barriers were deployed for National Night Out, the Johnny Appleseed Festival, the Walk to End Alzhiemer's, and the Festival of Lights Parade.

Additionally, the Department worked with Meridian to utilize an Archer Beam Gate System for the duration of the Lakeside Festival. The feedback received from citizens when seeing the anti-vehicle measures being deployed was overwhelmingly positive. The Department will continue to explore additional security measures for special events so attendees can enjoy their time at the events, knowing the Department is focused on the safety of everyone there.






BENEDICT'S LA STRATA
NO
OFC. KEEBLE



Department Commendation

Awarded to any member of the Department for duties performed in an exceptional manner which brings credit to the employee and the Police Department.

Officer Nathan Tooley

After having contact with a male subject, Officer Tooley identified inconsistencies in his reason for traveling on foot on Northwest Highway, causing an obstruction in traffic. Recognizing that the male subject was not from the area and headed toward a retail business where numerous retail thefts have been committed in the past, Officer Tooley took the initiative to conduct a business patrol and meet with the business employees. Upon doing so, Officer Tooley observed the male subject inside the business. Shortly after, multiple businesses contacted the Department to report delayed retail thefts, providing a description of a suspect that matched the previously encountered male. The subject was later apprehended giving closure to multiple offenses which occurred that day. Officer Tooley's experience led to the development of valuable skills and knowledge that contribute to his success.

Officer Joshua Stitt

Officer Stitt investigated a weapons offense at a business on Northwest Highway. A therapist reported that their patient admitted to carrying Molotov cocktails into the business with the intent on carrying out a hate crime. Recognizing the seriousness of the offense, Officer Stitt thoroughly investigated the complaint. He identified the suspect, conducted multiple interviews, reviewed surveillance footage, and then collaborated with several Police Departments. Officer Stitt obtained a confession from the suspect and corroborated the confession with video evidence from inside the business. Officer Stitt's in-depth investigation stemmed from minimal information. He accepted the complaint as credible and immediately took action. The resolution of this incident showed Officer Stitt's dedication to service and commitment to provide excellent public service.



Department Commendation

Officer Thomas Soby

Officer Soby investigated a runaway juvenile. Upon locating the juvenile, Officer Soby recognized she was apprehensive about providing information. Thinking outside the box, Officer Soby provided paper and a pen to the juvenile, and suggested she take time to write down what happened. The juvenile proceeded to write numerous pages of notes detailing her victimization of sexual assault by a family member which had occurred over the past several years. A safety plan was set into motion for the juvenile. The family member was subsequently charged with Aggravated Criminal Sexual Abuse. The case is ongoing. Officer Soby provided unconventional means to allow a juvenile a method to communicate years of information that may have never been reported to the proper authorities. His ability to improvise should be commended.

Officers Jesus Gonzalez and Justyn Koster

Officers Gonzalez and Koster were called to check on a suicidal female. The suicidal female was located and armed with a knife. She immediately confronted Officers. Officers Gonzalez and Koster drew their firearms and began attempting to negotiate with the female. The female refused to surrender, exited into a nearby hallway and engaged Officers. Officer Gonzalez transitioned to his Taser and deployed it. The effective Taser caused the female to fall to the ground. Gonzalez and Koster removed the knife from the female then used de-escalation techniques to speak calmly with her. Officer Gonzalez and Officer Koster showed great restraint against using deadly force on the female and were successful in de-escalating a volatile situation allowing the female to get the help she needed.

Officers Brendan Schumacher, James Keeble, Tyler Kendall, and Justyn Koster

In 2023 while the line of duty, the above Officers successfully administered a dose of NARCAN to a patient who was overdosing. NARCAN is a medication supplied to the Department in the event they encounter a subject overdosing from an Opioid, such as heroin, morphine, and prescription pain medications, which cause respiratory failure. The administration of NARCAN by the above Officers quickly reversed the effects of an Opioid overdose.



DEPARTMENT AWARDS

Chief's Distinguished Service Award

Awarded to any member of the Crystal Lake Police Department for outstanding police-related accomplishments distinguished by the individual's performance of his or her duties above and beyond normal or routine, and resulting in improved Department administration, operation, or savings in operational costs, thereby contributing to a more efficient and effective police service.

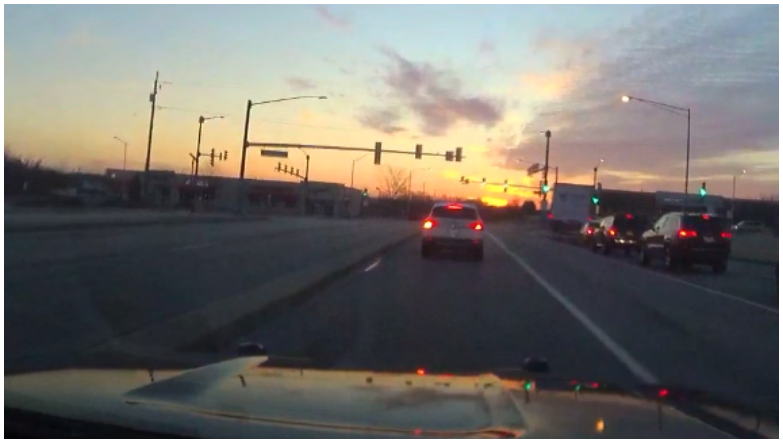
Management Analyst Emily Henderson

For determination, ingenuity, and willingness she demonstrated while assigned as the Department's Management Analyst. Emily's work resulted in meeting the standards necessary to guide the department toward re-accreditation through CALEA. This included routinely reviewing and updating our policy manual. Additionally, Emily served as a Department Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) officer by managing and coordinating the increasing amount of FOIA requests, of which most included video redaction. Even with her assigned workload, Emily consistently welcomed additional tasks to assist the Department with achieving its goals and objectives.

Traffic Enforcement

Traffic Enforcement is an important component of our participation in the Illinois Traffic Safety Challenge, therefore these officers are recognized with the Chief's Distinguished Service Award for their efforts related to traffic safety.

- Officer Jose Alvarez for leading the Department in DUI Arrests.
- Officer Brian Rossow for leading the Department in Seat Belt Citations.
- Officer Kimberly Shipbaugh for leading the Department in Speeding Citations.
- Sergeant Daniel Porzezinski for leading the Department in Distracted Driving Citations.




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Lifesaving Awards

Officers Dave Lang, Joseph Thompson, and Sergeant Delmar Dade

Officers were dispatched to a residence for a male subject who intentionally cut his throat in an attempt to commit suicide. Officers entered the home but the patient was locked inside a bedroom. Officer Lang utilized a tactical hammer to gain entrance into the room. The suicidal male refused any medical aid from the Officers, indicating he wished to die. Officer Lang, Thompson, and Sergeant Dade remained calm and with proper de-escalation, took the male into custody. Medical aid was rendered, and the male subject survived the traumatic injuries. The Officer's training and experience, tactical preparedness, calmness assisted them in successfully ensuring the subject received the appropriate medical treatment, leading to the saving of his life.

Officers Jesus Gonzalez, Brian Campbell, Thomas Soby, and Sergeants Delmar Dade and Jeff Mattson

Officers were dispatched to a residence for a suicidal male who notified his girlfriend of his intent to hang himself. Upon arrival, Officers observed the suicidal male in the midst of the suicide attempt. Officers forced entry into the garage, then worked together save the subject's life. The subject survived the attempt and was transported to a local hospital. The Officers used excellent judgment for entering the premise under exigent circumstances, followed by terrific team work that led to the successful live saving effort.








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2022/2023 COMPARISON

RECORDS UNIT			
Operating Indicators By Function	2022	2023	Change
Incident Reports Processed	5871	5742	-2.20%
Crash Reports Processed	1535	1526	-0.59%
Supplemental Reports Processed	2538	3163	24.63%
Temporary Detention Reports	535	546	2.06%
Subpoenas Processed	136	191	40.44%
Freedom of Information Act Requests	834	1099	31.77%
Expungements	38	44	15.79%
CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS UNIT			
Operating Indicators By Function	2022	2023	Change
% Cases Cleared	53%	61%	15.09%
Total Cases Cleared	201	372	85.07%
Total Cases Assigned	378	226	-40.21%
-Missing Juveniles	6	7	16.67%
-Burglary - Residence	3	7	133.33%
-Burglary - Vehicle	15	12	-20.00%
-Burglary - Commercial	15	11	-26.67%
-Criminal Damage Property	13	13	0
-Armed Robbery / Robbery	5	2	-60.00%
-Criminal Sexual Abuse/Assault Cases	60	80	33.33%
-Death Investigations	19	16	-15.79%
-Homicide (incl. Drug Induced)/Attempted Murder	4	4	0
-Stolen Vehicles	17	21	23.53%
-Theft Cases	65	80	23.08%
-Financial Crimes	36	36	0
Sex Offender Verifications	77	94	22.08%
Sex Offender Violations	2	7	250.00%
Background Investigations	66	41	-32.89%



2022/2023 COMPARISON

EVIDENCE UNIT			
Operating Indicators By Function	2022	2023	Change
Number of items in Evidence	9327	10886	16.71%
Items of Property Received	2596	2573	-0.89%
Items of Property Purged	4992	1157	-76.82%
- Items Destroyed	4483	651	-85.48%
- Items Returned to Owner	323	346	7.12%
- Items Auctioned	40	50	25.00%
- Items Donated	96	43	-55.21%
- Items Turned Over to Another Agency	101	31	-69.31%
- Items Turned Over to Finance	45	36	-20.00%
PATROL UNIT			
Operating Indicators By Function	2022	2023	Change
Warrants Served	63	59	-6.35%
Calls for Service	23211	26590	14.56%
Online Reports	92	70	-23.91%
Arrests of Suspended/Revoked Driver's	87	143	64.37%
Arrests of Driver's with No Valid Driver's License	66	111	68.18%
Traffic Citations Issued	3641	4456	22.38%
Warning Citations Issued	3652	5432	48.74%
Traffic Stops	6425	8481	32.00%
Arrests (Adult total)	710	816	14.93%
Arrests (Juvenile total)	66	83	25.76%
DUI Arrests	105	138	31.43%
Drug Offenses	190	135	-28.95%
Vehicles Impounded (Administrative)	170	210	23.53%
Police Directed Tows	635	788	24.09%
Ordinance Citations Issued	390	330	-15.38%
Parking Citations Issued	3160	3754	18.80%



2022/2023 COMPARISON

TRAFFIC CRASHES REPORTED - INVESTIGATED			
Operating Indicators By Function	2022	2023	Change
Total Crash Reports Taken	1535	1526	-0.59%
Property Damage Only	1335	1281	-4.04%
Personal Injury Crashes	200	243	21.50%
Private Property Crashes	387	395	2.07%
Hit and Run Crashes	49	50	2.04%
Fatalities	0	2	200.00%
A-I Crashes Investigation	3	8	166.67%
COMMUNITY RELATIONS			
Operating Indicators By Function	2022	2023	Change
Community Presentations	47	119	171.43%
Car Seat Installations	26	31	19.23%
Car Seat Check Events Hosted	0	0	--
TRAINING UNIT			
Operating Indicators By Function	2022	2023	Change
Total Training Hours	9264	8328	-10.00%
Patrol Officer Recruits Trained	12	6	-50.00%
Internships	3	1	-66.67%
Hosted Outside Training	5	9	80.00%
Ride Alongs	9	17	88.89%


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