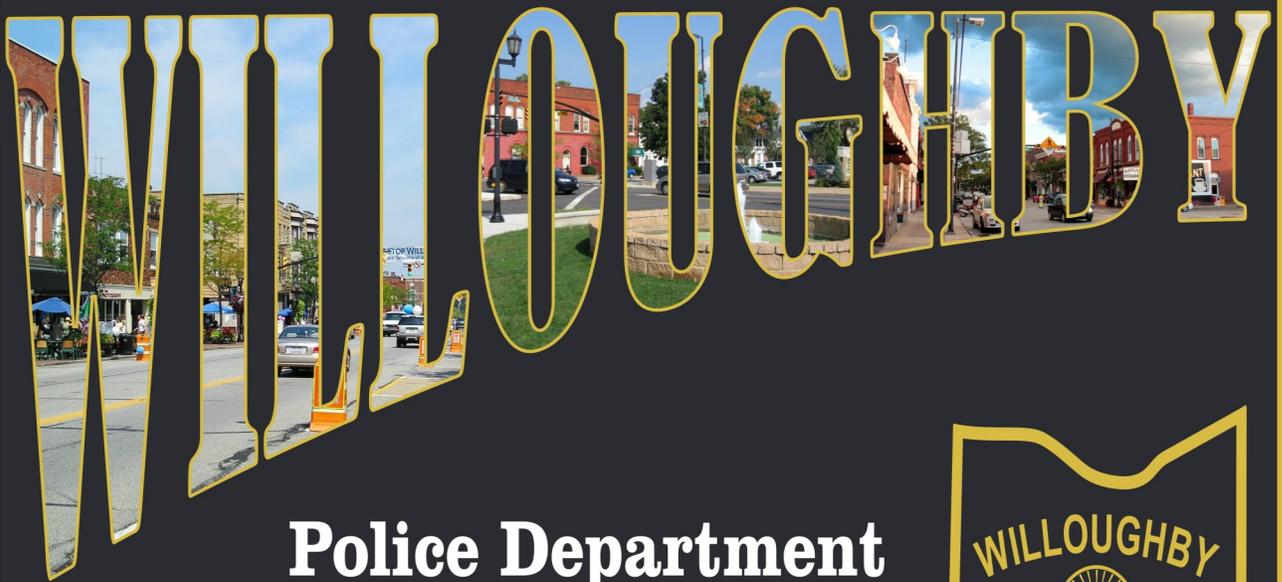


Willoughby Police Department

2018 Annual Report



Police Department 2018 Annual Report



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Mission Statement

The mission of the Willoughby Police Department shall be to provide a safe environment in which residents and non-residents can live and work. This mission shall be accomplished by the prompt but fair enforcement of local and state laws.

The Willoughby Police Department recognizes that it derives its authority from and is accountable to the community it serves. The department will continually strive to provide effective and efficient police service consistent with the community's needs and concerns.

We believe that the basic concerns of the citizens of Willoughby include a desire for peace, tranquility, and freedom from crime and disorder. The Willoughby Police Department's primary functions are the prevention of crime, the enforcement of laws in a fair and impartial manner and the apprehension of those who violate the laws.

We further believe that only through a coordinated police-community effort can public order and safety be achieved and sustained; therefore, we will actively encourage community support in a cooperative effort to achieve this mission.

VALUES:

Values are the core of our moral beliefs and self-worth. They are convictions that bond us together to accomplish specific tasks and objectives. They are what we share and believe. We, the members of the Willoughby Police Department, value:

Constitutional Rights

We shall uphold this country's democratic values as embodied in the Constitution and dedicate ourselves to the presentation of life, individual freedoms and justice for everyone.

Integrity

Integrity is the absolute honest and ethical personal behavior and performance of duty that must be the hallmark of every member of the department.

Professional Excellence

Recognizing the changing and diverse needs of the community, the Willoughby Police Department pledges to establish and maintain high performance standards to ensure public confidence and trust. Professional excellence is a direct result of progressive training, a positive attitude and personal commitment.

Commitment to Employees

The department recognizes that its employees are the vital component to the successful delivery of police services. We believe we can achieve our highest potential by actively involving our employees in problem solving and improving police services. We support an organizational climate of mutual trust and respect.

Community Partnership

Recognizing the fact that police agencies were established as a result of society's voluntary limitation of personal freedoms, we encourage and expect the participation of the community in facilitating solutions to problems of mutual concern. We therefore solicit and support contributions from all members of this community.

EXECUTIVE COMMENTS

We are pleased to present the Willoughby Police Department's 2018 Annual Report.

Through 2018, the Willoughby Police Department has for the most part, maintained its current staffing levels.

The Willoughby Police Department has undergone some changes in personnel this year. We welcomed new Patrolman, Kyle Dunphy, and communication operators, Kevin Brodzinski and Lisa Lesner.

During 2018, The Willoughby Police Department has subscribed to an online service to bring our activities to the public. It is a great addition to our social media activity and allows the public to search for activity throughout the city. Our records system uploads to the website daily. www.Crimereports.com

Vice crime remains a concern. Prostitution and its potential to be tied to human trafficking is remains a priority statewide. Instances of prostitution documented in our jurisdiction have not been tied to human trafficking. Due to the ongoing opiate epidemic our focus must be primarily on drug abuse. The heroin epidemic is not discriminate and is affecting people from all walks of life. The majority of our localized property crime is related to drug abuse. In addition, incidents of vehicles crashing due to overdosing drivers seem to be rising. Often the crash is severe and causes significant property damage. We can only consider it luck that there has not been more severe injuries to innocent drivers.

Patrol Officers and Detectives encounter heroin related cases continually. Drug related cases that can be worked back toward the drug dealer are pursued on a regular basis and often investigated with assistance from Lake County Narcotics Agency. Incidents of overdose have been a common occurrence throughout the county.



Most areas of Property Crime trends continue to rise from prior years. Generally, as some specific areas of property crime rise, others may decrease. Local larceny crimes such as theft from vehicles, shoplifting, burglaries, robberies, etc., more often seem to be driven by drug abuse.

Telecommunications Fraud and other forms of identity theft remain a constant concern that seems to grow nationally as advancements in technology are made. The origin of this type of activity are from inside and outside our country's borders and nearly impossible to trace. Our best tool to fight this activity is education. Our Community Involvement Officer works diligently to educate the public in addition to publishing warnings and stories on media resources. Despite our efforts, there always seems to be another victim available for the perpetrators. Senior citizens are often targeted by these individuals and we try to focus more of our efforts in their direction.



EXECUTIVE COMMENTS

I would like to say that as I approach my seven year mark as Chief, much has happened and there is still much to be done. The entire staff works together with the goal of operating in such a manner as to accomplish the mission of the department and better serve the community.

Closing the year with calls for service down from the prior year, our personnel are busier than ever due to the nature of calls and time spent has increased as trends change. Officers are engaged in more serious incidents which require more time and effort. Despite this, the Willoughby Police Department continues operations at a high level of professionalism. Willoughby Police Department launched an online public survey in 2014 which will remain active to monitor public opinion accurately. This survey is designed to poll the participant specifically based on his contact and interaction with Willoughby Police Department. To date, the overall results make me proud of our personnel and the job they are doing. No organization is without fault and our willingness to solicit feedback clearly shows our desire to hear criticism. Those with a complaint are much more likely to make comments and participate in a survey. To date our survey has reflected a very favorable opinion from the public, scoring 4.0 to 4.5 on a scale of 0 to 5 in most categories. Where some complaints are not constructive or not within our ability, some are constructive and show areas we could improve.

As a native of Willoughby, I have a personal interest in the success of this department and its effectiveness in carrying out its mission.

Administration

The administrative offices of the police department are responsible for developing, coordinating, and administrating the law enforcement programs of the Willoughby Police Department. Police administration plans, organizes, and directs the activities of the police division.

Analysis of operation costs, budget estimates, employee discipline, and training are also this section's responsibility.

This division prepares all employee records, payroll and purchases.

Patrol Division

Our Current Patrol Division Roster January 28, 2019

Lieutenant Randy Sevel, Patrol Commander

Lieutenant Phillip Smith Lieutenant Dan Pitts
Lieutenant Matthew Tartaglia Lieutenant John Begovic

Sergeant Pete Huth Sergeant George Lessick
Sergeant Ken Jordan Sergeant Toby Davis

Patrolman David Scott	Patrolman Michael Fitzgerald
Patrolman Joseph Putney	Patrolman Bruce Fedor
Patrolman Paul Sciarrino	Patrolman Travis Stevenson
Patrolman Matthew Jackson	Patrolman James Greig
Patrolman Chris Scozzie	Patrolman Jon Greig
Patrolman Matt Neath	Patrolman Gabriel Sleigh
Patrolman Brad Lampela	Patrolman Shane Rahz
Patrolman Jason Pitt	Patrolman Mike Sevel
Patrolman Laura Licursi	Patrolman Ross Shirey
Patrolman Brandon Zinner	Patrolman Kyle Bucher
Patrolman Kevin Rastall	Patrolman Kevin Crowley
Patrolman Dan Lastoria	Patrolman Kyle Dunphy

Service

The Patrol Division of the Willoughby Police Department continues its commitment to providing service and protection to citizens. The focus of patrol is to respond to crimes and calls for service. The Patrol Division is charged with preventing crimes as well as providing a number of ancillary services to the public. The department's reputation results from the framework comprised of the individual patrol officers, sergeants, and lieutenants.

Equipment

Patrol officers continue to deal with violent persons on a regular basis. This is the nature of the business. However, at times officers sustain injuries. The Willoughby Police Department seeks to protect its officers in many ways. One such protection is Body Armor. Nationwide, there has been an increase in officer deaths, particularly from firearms. This is of concern to every police agency and is prompting administrative action within our own department by stricter enforcement of the use of body armor. In 2011, federal mandates of 100% compliance by all departments requesting a subsidy to purchase body armor went into effect. In order to meet the requirement an agreement was made with the police union to amend the current contract to allow compliance. The officers' vests are now being replaced at expiration. A five year life is the industry standard.

Another method of protection is the TASER. TASER ECD's were purchased for officers in 2008. Though news media reports do not necessarily paint a positive picture, the TASER, a non-lethal electronic immobilization device provides an added measure of officer and public safety. This year's incidents showed no ill effects from the shock and prevented injury to officers. By using the TASER an officer may put an immediate end to an imminent physical confrontation. Willoughby Police Officers are well trained on use of the Taser and exercise superior judgment on the appropriateness of its deployment. Our defensive tactics instructors continue to conduct yearly re-certification programs. As the age of our original Tasers are increasing, we have started to replace them as needed.

The department was provided a new alcohol breath testing instrument in 2010. The Intoxilyzer 8000 is being provided to each testing site within the State of Ohio. The instrument is fully integrated with the Department of Health and BMV. Its purpose is to streamline the processing of OVI offenders. In its seventh year at Willoughby Police Department, the inherent difficulties that come with a new device and new procedures are diminishing. The instrument, training, and supplies are all provided at no cost to law enforcement agencies. During 2018, Willoughby Police Department officers made 117 Operating a Vehicle while Intoxicated arrests. The number is down from 127 in 2017.

Training

Service and protection is also attained through training. In 2007, the Department embarked on an in-service training program making defensive tactics a large part of the curriculum. These programs continue to be taught by our own defensive tactics instructors as well as instructors from other agencies.

We continue to train our officers in all aspects of law enforcement. The state did not mandate any training hours for 2018. Willoughby Officers logged just over 3000 hours of additional schooling/training this year.

Activity

The Patrol Division continues its attention to downtown summertime crowds and activities particularly in coordination with special details assigned there. That teamwork was especially useful during the evening and night-time hours as well as during some special events that took place there. The police presence and discretionary use of arrest powers lends itself to a favorable image for those who visit and a prosperous downtown area for businesses located there.

In prior years, Willoughby Police Department assigned a specific detail for enforcement of inoperable and/or unlicensed vehicles throughout the residential, commercial, and industrial areas of the city keeping those areas relatively free of unsightly junk. For budgetary considerations that enforcement was limited primarily to complaint based assignment.

Officers continue to dig deep into routine reports and complete more detailed initial investigations. Officers expend hours of information gathering before reports are referred to the Detective Bureau. In many instances the officer completes the investigation, with or without Detective Bureau assistance, and is able to successfully close the case.

2018 AWARDS COMMITTEE

The Awards Committee is comprised of several members from the Department. The Chairman is Lieutenant Randy Sevel with members Lieutenants James Schultz and Phil Smith, Detective Greg Knack, Patrolmen Kenneth Jordan and Jon Greig and Communications Clerk Marlene Matteo. Any officer may submit a nomination for any award. The Committee reviews the nomination and its supporting evidence and may issue an award or refer the nomination to the Lake County Chiefs of Police Association.

The Lake County Chiefs of Police Association has determined all criteria. Their organization makes the decision of the following awards.

- ◆ **INJURY ON DUTY:** For injury sustained while in direct performance of their duty that results in serious physical harm to the nominee
- ◆ **COMBAT CROSS:** For an individual act of heroism at imminent personal hazard of life in combat with an armed adversary.
- ◆ **MEDAL OF HONOR:** For an outstanding act in the line of duty at imminent personal hazard of life with full knowledge of the risk involved.
- ◆ **DISTINGUISHED SERVICE:** For an outstanding act of Heroism in the line of duty at imminent personal hazard to life that does not meet the criteria of the Medal of Honor.
- ◆ **LIFE-SAVING:** For an act performed in the line of duty that through disregard of personal safety or prompt and alert action results in saving a life or valiant effort to that end.

The Committee can determine the recipients of the following awards:

- ◆ **EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE:** For any act or series of acts or programs that has long-term impact on furthering the interest, goals, and esteem of the department.
- ◆ **DEPARTMENTAL EXCELLENCE:** An investigation, arrest, or series of arrests that by its nature brings credit to the department and the law enforcement profession.
- ◆ **OFFICER OF THE YEAR:** For the person of the year in each department defined by that department.
- ◆ **EDUCATIONAL:** For achievement of a degree in law enforcement or related filed. The ribbon is for an Associate Degree. Bachelor's Degree would include one star. Graduate Degree would include two stars.

The Committee met in February 2019, in order to issue awards for the year 2018. Employees will have a letter placed in their personnel files for being nominated as employees of the year in their respective categories

2018 Officer of the Year Patrolman Mike Sevel



Patrolman Mike Sevel has been with the police department since 2013, and in that time has continued to improve his performance, takes pride in his work and strives for excellence. Patrolman Sevel's attention to detail is evident in his reports, investigations, arrests and court testimony. He continues to improve his skills by exploring new avenues for investigations and patrol related activities. He is a team player who is always willing to assist other officers, often times without being asked. Since Patrolman Sevel has been with our department, he's become a Field Training Officer, Raider Tactics instructor, Taser instructor and SWAT operator. Some of Patrolman Sevel's notable incidents include charging two subjects with cruelty to animals under Goddard's Law, assisting with the apprehension and interview of suspects involved in a robbery of a female, a shoplifting investigation at Giant Eagle identified the suspects as being involved in numerous thefts at local Giant Eagle stores and several agencies were able to charge the individuals.

2018 Jason Gresko Memorial Award Patrolman Randy Ricciardo



Randy has been with the department for over 25 years. He performs as a squad coordinator in the Specials division and also works as a part-time dispatcher. As part of his duties he has organized traffic control for many of the large downtown events, such as the Car Cruise, Arts Fest, Memorial Day Parade, Last Stop Willoughby and the tree lighting ceremony. Randy is a fixture at Willoughby Police Department and has always been available, reliable, and a pleasure to work with.

2018 Civilian Employee of the Year Communications Operator Chris Borstnik



Chris was hired in 2015 as a police dispatcher. Chris came from Willoughby Hills Police Department where he spent 10 years serving in the same position. Chris has consistently done an outstanding job for the citizens of Willoughby. Communications operator is often taken for granted but is a critical link and often the first contact someone has at a time of crisis. The communications operator is a critical source of information between the officer or fire department and the caller. They carry a great deal of responsibility on their shoulders. Chris performs his duties in a polite and professional manner at all times.

Detective Bureau

2018 Detective Bureau Staffing

The Detective Bureau positions are appointed within the Department. Officers that are selected to work in the Detective Bureau, whether as supervisors, detectives, or administrative assistant, are based on the person's investigative skills, personal strengths, job knowledge, and training. The supervisors and detectives work as a team on investigations, case management, and training.

The Detective Bureau staff for 2018 was comprised of 1 Detective Lieutenant, 1 Detective Sergeant, 4 Detectives and 1 Detective Bureau Secretary. During the year 2018, the following personnel were assigned to the Detective Bureau:

Detective Lieutenant James Schultz
Detective Sergeant Derrick Stewart
Detective Greg Knack
Detective Thomas Bertone
Detective George Lessick
Detective Charles Krejsa
Detective David Burrington
Detective Secretary Michelle Butchock

Secondary Assignments

Lieutenant James Schultz

Evidence/Property Room Management
Western Lake County Emergency
Response - Team Leader
Crash Reconstructionist

Detective Sergeant Derrick Stewart

Evidence/Property Room Management
Western Lake County Emergency
Response - Negotiator
Evidence Technician

Detective Greg Knack

Burglary/Robbery Investigator
Firing Range Instructor
Computerized Voice Stress Analyzer
Forensic Artist
Charitable Gambling Compliance
Evidence Technician
VICE/Narcotics Investigator
Juvenile & Sex Crimes Investigator

Detective Thomas Bertone

Juvenile and Sex Crimes Investigator
Crisis Negotiation Team
Crime Scene Photographer
Taxi Driver Licensing
Critical Incident Stress Debriefing Team
Evidence Technician
VICE/Narcotics Investigator

Detective Charles Krejsa

Financial Crimes Investigator
Crash Reconstructionist
Evidence Technician
Crime Scene Photographer
VICE/Narcotics Investigator

Detective David Burrington

Burglary/B&E Investigator
Evidence Technician
VICE/Narcotics Investigator
Computerized Voice Stress Analyzer

Pre-Employment Investigations

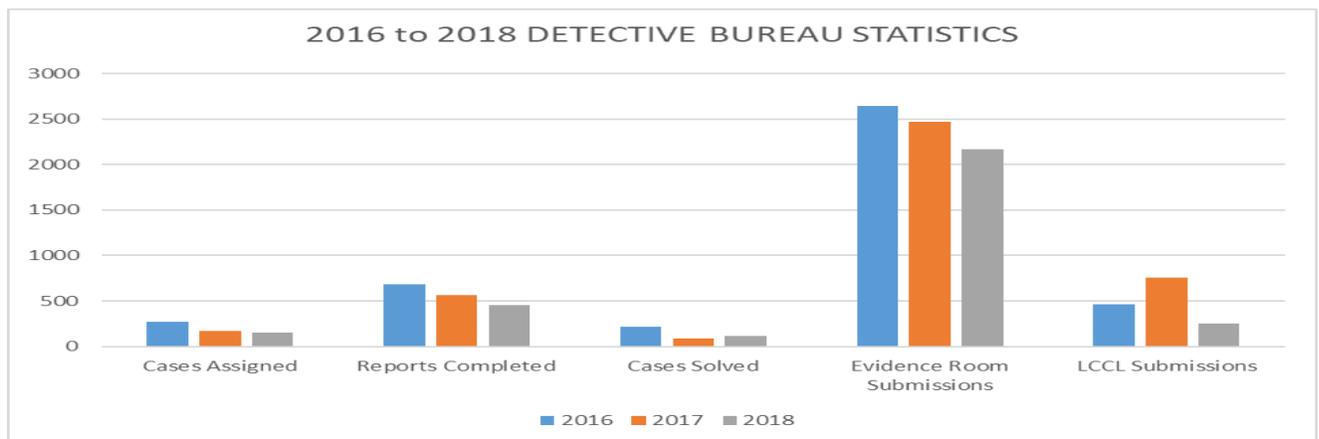
Computerized Voice Stress Analyzer Testing

The Detective Bureau has been responsible for conducting pre-employment investigations on all candidates for hire within the Willoughby Police Department. Background information is developed on each new candidate. Background investigations consist of contacting previous employers concerning the candidate's work history, financial history and credit checks of the candidate, criminal history checks, high school and secondary education, reference and neighborhood interviews, and personal interviews. Detectives also conduct a computerized voice stress analyzer test on each candidate to ensure the authenticity of their application.

Detectives were assigned ten (10) pre-employment investigations for full-time Police Officer candidates. The Department eventually hired one new officer in 2018.

There are many useful resources to assist a detective in determining the truthfulness of a suspect, victim, or candidate for hire. One of those tools available to our detectives is the Computerized Voice Stress Analyzer (CVSA). Though the results cannot be used as evidence in the prosecution of a crime, the CVSA test can assist a detective in determining if a subject is being truthful about his/her statements or it can assist in determining if the subject is being deceitful.

2016-2018 Statistics



Social Media

In 2011, the Willoughby Police Department established its own Facebook page and Twitter page. The Department's Facebook page has won consecutive awards in 2013 and 2014 for BEST OF WILLOUGHBY FACEBOOK page. These awards were voted on by the citizens of Willoughby and by the members of the HEART OF WILLOUGHBY.

The Department's goal with Social Media was to provide its fans with daily information on what is occurring in the City of Willoughby and to help provide a safe environment in which residents and non-residents can live and work. The Department has continued to strive to provide effective and efficient police service consistent with the community's needs and concerns. We believe that only through a coordinated police-community effort can public order and safety be achieved and sustained; therefore, we will actively encourage community support in a cooperative effort to achieve our mission.

Detective Bureau Cases 2018

1818641 Aggravated Bank Robberies – Burrington, Bertone, Krejsa, Knack, Stewart

On Monday, July 2, 2018 at 1430 hours, an employee at Fifth Third Bank, located at 5831 SOM Center Rd., contacted WPD dispatch to report they had just been robbed by a male wearing a motorcycle helmet and carrying a gas can. It was reported the male left on foot running towards Wendy's. Willoughby Police units responded to the scene, but the suspect couldn't be found. Witnesses reported that the suspect had ran across SR 91 to escape. Shortly, officers learned that the suspect had escaped in a white Lexus sedan parked on Parkview Lane, directly across from the bank.



This new information was broadcasted to area law enforcement agencies. Wickliffe Police units located the Lexus traveling on IR 90 westbound and exiting onto Euclid Avenue. Wickliffe Police units chased the suspect vehicle into Euclid, Ohio before losing it. Wickliffe Police was successful in obtaining a license plate to the vehicle. The vehicle's registration came back to a 30 year old Cleveland resident with a criminal history.

Detectives went to the male's address in Cleveland and waited for the vehicle to arrive. Approximately one hour after the robbery, South Euclid Police found the vehicle abandoned behind a residence on South Green Road near Monticello Boulevard. The suspects attempted to destroy evidence by lighting the Lexus on fire. While several detectives went to investigate the vehicle, other detectives observed one of the possible suspects return to the Cleveland address that they had been watching. The male was identified as a 38 year old Willoughby resident and possibly the suspect who entered the bank.



Detectives investigating in South Euclid located valuable video evidence of two suspects leaving the area of the abandoned vehicle and walking to several neighborhood stores in an effort to locate a ride out of the area. Detectives also located surveillance video in Willoughby documenting the arrival of the suspect Lexus, the suspect wearing the motorcycle helmet being dropped off and walking to the bank, and the suspect Lexus fleeing the area after the robbery.

After the vehicle was recovered, several items were still missing such as the motorcycle helmet, the gas can, and the suspect's clothing. Detectives went back to the South Euclid area the following day to retrace their steps. From the rear yard where the Lexus was abandoned, detectives observed the motorcycle helmet lying on top of a 2-story building. The helmet was recovered and sent to the Lake County Crime Lab for analysis. The helmet matched the one observed in the surveillance videos.

Several different investigative techniques were used to solidify the evidence and connect it to two suspects that had been identified. Detectives had tried to interview the one suspect who was found at the Cleveland residence and was thought to be the suspect who entered the bank, but he refused to talk. The second suspect had been identified as the driver of the Lexus, but he had not been located yet. Without a confession, detectives used fingerprint and DNA evidence, cell phone records, and surveillance videos to pinpoint these two suspects as responsible for the crimes at Fifth Third Bank



On Friday July 27, 2018, Willoughby Police Detectives along with members of the US Marshal's Violent Fugitive Task Force executed arrest warrants on the two identified suspects from the Fifth Third Bank robbery. Both of the suspects were charged for aggravated robbery, a felony of the 1st degree. The suspects are being held in jail awaiting their criminal trial dates.

1819483 Murder – Krejsa, Knack, Bertone, Burrington, Stewart

On July 9, 2018, at 2324 hours, Willoughby Police Dispatch received a 911 call from a friend of 58 year old Sam Pizzuto. Mr. Pizzuto resided at 37401 Arlington Drive and his friend had not heard from Mr. Pizzuto since July 4. Willoughby Police officers were dispatched to the same residence earlier in the day for a neighbor complaint concerning the pool hose that was left on and overflowing. Officers checked at the house, but they could not find Mr. Pizzuto.

When officers arrived at the house that evening, they began checking the doors and looking through the windows. One officer located a body lying inside a closet in the first floor bedroom. The body was identified as Mr. Pizzuto and he had been deceased for quite some time. An examination of the room determined that some sort of struggle occurred and that Mr. Pizzuto had been beaten to death. Detectives were called to investigate the scene. Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) had been contacted as well to process the crime scene.

That morning, detectives learned that Mr. Pizzuto's minivan had been scene at the Red Lobster in Mentor, Ohio several days earlier. Later that day, detectives located an individual who had been possessing the minivan for approximately a week in Wickliffe, Ohio. Detectives interviewed the male and learned that he had purchased the minivan on July 4 from another male and female. Detectives identified the two suspects and tracked them back to the Greyhound Bus Station in Cleveland, Ohio.

Within 24 hour of finding Mr. Pizzuto, detectives learned that Mr. Pizzuto was beaten to death and the male and female suspects stole Mr. Pizzuto's minivan and sold it to the Wickliffe male. From there, the suspects fled the area via a Greyhound Bus to Columbus, Ohio. Detectives traveled to Columbus in search of the two suspects. Within hours and with the assistance of the US Marshal's Violent Fugitive Task Force, the Franklin County Sheriff's Office, and the Whitehall Police Department, detectives were able to successfully apprehend the two suspects.

After months of continued investigation on this case, the incident is awaiting Grand Jury indictments.

1824062 Aggravated Robbery & Kidnapping – Burrington

On August 22, 2018 at 2201 hours, WPD dispatch advised officers of an armed robbery that just occurred in the area of Franklyn Commons along Euclid Avenue. The female caller advised the two black males had robbed her at gun point and ran southbound through the condo complex. The victim had been walking to walk at Panera Bread when the incident occurred. The suspects approached her from behind, grabbed her by the arms and dragged her behind a storage shed at Franklyn Commons. The males pointed a handgun at the victim and ordered her to give them her purse. After she gave them her purse, the males took off running.

A detective responded to the area and located a red Chevy Malibu turning onto Euclid Avenue from Harding Drive in Wickliffe, Ohio. The detective observed three passengers inside the vehicle that matched a similar description provided by the victim. Offices stopped the Chevy on Euclid Avenue and began interviewing the occupants. The victim was brought to the scene and identified two of the males as the ones who kidnapped and robbed her. Officers located a realistic looking BB handgun inside the Chevy. All three suspects were arrested and charged with robbery and kidnapping. Detectives learned that the suspects purchased the realistic looking BB handgun at Walmart in Eastlake, Ohio just moments before the incident. Criminal trials approach for all three suspects, two of which were 17 year old juveniles.



1831290 Discharging a Firearm/Disturbance – Krejsa

On November 3, 2018 at 2300 hours, Willoughby Police units responded to 34600 Maple Grove Ext., The Skylight Inn, for multiple calls of shots fired. One of the callers stated she had seen a male in a white ski mask running from The Skylight toward Pineridge Plaza. The caller reported seeing the male wearing the white ski mask running south along the west side of the motel. She believed she heard three to four gunshots. After hearing the shots, she looked out her window and saw the male running away. Officers located several shell casings lying in the drive at the Skylight Motel.

Officers also found that a white Jeep Cherokee had been struck several times by the gunfire. Surveillance video was secured from the motel. A review the video confirmed that one male was observed running from the scene with a mask over his face and a possible firearm in his hand. The detective assigned the case interviewed several witnesses and one person of interest in the case. As of this time, the only moments appeared to a possible drug rip-off or a robbery. The case is still being investigated.



1805207 Inducing Panic – Burrington

On 02-19-2018 at 2237 hours, a resident from Karen Isle Drive called to report that her teenage son had received texts from someone threatening a school shooting the next day. Officers and detectives learned that numerous students had been sending 3rd party text messages about someone planning a school shooting at Willoughby South High School. Officers identified the possible suspect, a 16 year student at South High. Officers interviewed the suspect who denied making the threats. Officers did locate an AR15 replica BB rifle in the suspect's bedroom.

A second possible suspect was identified in the case that evening. Officers and detectives learned that the 2nd suspect had sent out several messages through social media concerning shootings. Both suspects were involved in stolen property and heavy drug usage. The first suspect was identified as a suspect in a possible felonious assault and he was later charged with receiving stolen property and felonious assault.

1827777 Drug Trafficking/Search Warrant Execution – Burrington, Stewart

The Willoughby Police Department had received numerous complaints of illegal activity and drug trafficking at 1169 Garden Road. Several different investigations were conducted on the residence in 2017 and 2018. Willoughby Fire & Rescue had been called to the residence for several different overdoses, one resulting in the death of a female.

Detectives utilized several different investigative techniques to develop enough probable cause for a search warrant on the residence. An arrest warrant was issued for the residence, Adam Nevling, for permitting drug abuse. On October 22, 2018, the Western Lake County Emergency Response Team executed the search warrant at the residence. Adam Nevling and a second individual were arrested. Evidence was collected from the home. Detectives worked with the actual homeowner to keep Mr. Nevling from returning to the house. The house was sold six months later.



1801663 & 1801665 B&E's at the BP Gas Station and Clark Avenue Groceries – Burrington

On 01-17-2018 at 0708 hours, Willoughby Police officers were dispatched to Clark Avenue Groceries and the BP Gas Station for two breaking and entering's. Upon arrival at the Clark Street Groceries, it was discovered that the glass to the front door had been broken and was lying on the floor inside of the store. There was a broken off piece of concrete block sitting outside the front door. Officers entered the establishment and checked the interior. There was no one found inside. There were some "slim jims" knocked over on the counter, a cabinet door was left standing open and a bottle of wine was broken on the floor. There was a cash drawer below the counter that still contained cash.

Shortly after the Clark Street Groceries incident, an employee from the BP Gas Station at 4015 Erie Street called to report someone had broken into the store. The employee arrived to open the store and found the South side door window shattered. By looking in the window he could see that both registers had been tampered with and there was loose change scattered on the floor. He also noticed the safe was missing from under the counter.

Several detectives arrived on scene to assist with the investigations. Detectives noticed an area of urine in the fresh snow near the dumpster to the gas station. Officers and detectives reviewed the gas stations surveillance video and observed an SUV pull into the lot around 0520 hours. Three individuals, all with their faces covered and wearing gloves, exit the SUV which stopped next to the building and look through the store windows. One of the suspects walked away from the building off screen towards the dumpster. A short time later the male came back into view. It appeared that the suspect walked into the area where the urine was located. A sample was collected and sent to the Lake County Crime Lab (LCCL) for DNA testing. The three suspects then smash the window and gain entry into the store. The suspects stole cash from the lottery and register drawers. The store safe was also stolen which had contained cash from the prior day's sales.

Several weeks after the evidence was sent to the LCCL, detectives received word that the urine belonged to an 18 year old male, Marquez Daniel. Arrest warrants were issued for Mr. Daniel for B&E, Vandalism, and Possession of Criminal Tools concerning both incidents. At the time of this report, Mr. Daniel has not been apprehended yet. The investigation is continuing.



Selective Enforcement Division

Currently not funded.

Special Police Division

2018

The Division supports the road Patrol Division providing additional manpower for patrol of the city streets, traffic control and security for parades and the many changing downtown community events Willoughby is known for throughout the year.

This Division had 19 active officers and ended the year with 20. They are assigned to 3 Squads of fulltime patrol officers. Each Squad is assigned a Lieutenant and a Sergeant and all are under the command of the Patrol Commander.

Programs supported by this Division are the House Check Program and the Vehicle Inspection Programs, which are ongoing and weekly throughout the year. The Willoughby community events and programs supported are the YMCA 5k Run, Easter Egg Hunt, Opening Day Baseball, Rib Burn Off, Memorial Day Parade, Classic Car Cruise, Fourth Of July Fireworks, Arts Fest, Last Stop Willoughby Parade and event, Halloween Trick or Treat, and the Holiday Tree Lighting with Santa to close off the year.

The Division also provides School Resource Officer support to 2 schools in the city, Willoughby South High, and Willoughby Middle School. Officers provide high visibility, security and an approachable presence that opens to better communication between the students, teachers, and staff. Due to recent events across the country, these positions have become increasingly important to ensure the safety of students, staff and visitors.

The Willoughby Explorer Post 602 is also supported by the Specials Division. Several of the officers supervise the post which is part of the Boy Scouts of America. The post has boys and girls in its program which is oriented towards future law enforcement careers. The explorers participate in supervised offsite events and competitions, patrol ride-alongs, camping, assisting with community events, and training seminars. Many past Explorer's have gone on to careers with Lake County Sheriffs Office, the Ohio Highway patrol, and numerous other police agencies.

The Division also supports the Willoughby Police jail facility, with a court officer who works between the jail and Willoughby Municipal Court providing security in court, transporting prisoners, booking, fingerprinting and other jail needs.

During 2018 Willoughby Police Special Officers worked a total of 6239 hours for the City, 922 hours providing private security for outside jobs, and 34 hours donated for civic events.

Squad 1

Patrolman Carmen Frederico
Patrolman Thomas Sherwood
Patrolman Steve Jevnikar
Patrolman Gary Betzler*
Patrolman Kyle Hosta
Patrolman Kelsey Johnson
Patrolman Tom Dearden

Squad 2

Patrolman Randy Ricciardo
Patrolman Jerry Spradlin
Patrolman Matthew Zarbock
Patrolman Chuck Popik
Patrolman Rick Myers
Patrolman Dennis Corbett*
Patrolman Chuck Deutsch*

Squad 3

Patrolman Kurt Keeper
Patrolman James Myers
Patrolman William Bernakis
Patrolman Timothy Kerzisnik*
Patrolman David Tambascio
Patrolman Mellissa Kelly

*Retired Full-Time WPD Officers

2018 K-9 Patrol Loki

Willoughby Police K-9 Loki is into his sixth year with this Department. Loki and his handler Patrolman Matt Neath. K-9 Loki is certified through the State of Ohio, as well as the National Association for Professional Canine Handlers.



Training

K-9 Loki and Patrolman Matt Neath continuously strive to make a positive impact on the community. In addition to a week long training seminar in Alpena, Mi, this team also completed over 80 hours of training. K-9 Loki and Patrolman Neath consider themselves lucky to be a part of a training group consisting of units from Willowick, Mentor, Fairport Harbor, Perry Village., RTA and Ashtabula. This group has welcomed K-9 Loki and Patrolman Neath and continue to provide support and new ideas to help this K-9 Unit grow and become more efficient.

Service

K-9 Loki and Patrolman Neath strive to be an active team in the community by making public appearances at city functions and festivals. K-9 Loki and Patrolman Neath, along with K-9 Rex and Patrolman Zinner, conducted a live demonstration at Working Dog Weekend at the Lake County Farmpark. During this demonstration, K-9 Loki apprehended a fleeing "suspect." This K-9 Unit has also made appearances at all of the Willoughby Schools throughout the school year.

K-9 Loki and Patrolman Neath have assisted the department by conducting numerous narcotics searches, and several tracks for suspects. K-9 Loki and Patrolman Neath have also assisted the US Marshalls Violent Fugitive Task Force, aiding in the apprehension of several wanted felons.

Special Thanks

K-9 Loki and Ptl Neath would like to thank the Willoughby Lodge of the Fraternal Order of Eagles for their generous donation. Without them and their donation, K-9 Loki would not be with the Willoughby Police Department. They would also like to thank DR. Joseph Doles for his continued support of the Willoughby K-9 Unit

2018 K-9 Patrol Rex

Willoughby Police K-9 Rex was born April 10th, 2016 in Germany. K-9 Rex and his handler, Patrolman Brandon Zinner were put into service on November 10th 2017. K-9 Rex is currently certified through the State of Ohio, as well as the National Association for Professional Canine Handlers.



Training

K-9 Rex and Ptl. Zinner are continuously training to improve their skillset in order to have the greatest impact on the community as possible. To become a K-9 team, K-9 Rex and Ptl. Zinner had to undergo a rigorous 6 week training program at Shallow Creek Kennels, in Sharpsville, PA. This team is required to get recertified through the State of Ohio each and every year. Additionally K-9 Rex and Ptl. Zinner also certify through a national organization as well, (National Association for Professional Canine Handlers).

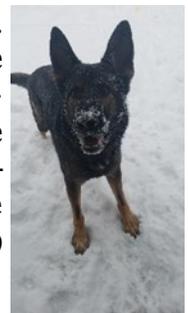


This team trains every day both on and off shift. Additionally, they have two in-service training days a month averaging 192 training hours a year. There are many different K-9's in this in-service training group. Willowick, Mentor, Fairport Harbor, Perry Village, RTA, and Ashtabula all train together pushing our teams to have continuous growth. The K-9 team also attends a week long training seminar each year in Alpena, Michigan.

Service



Community involvement is an important aspect of the K-9 Unit. K-9 Rex and Ptl. Zinner attempt to remain active within the community by making public appearances at city functions, festivals, as well as all the schools within the city, throughout the year. K-9 Rex has also developed a large following on social media. K-9 Rex has his own Facebook account (K9 Rex) where 2,960 people follow him and get to see photos and videos of K-9 Rex working, playing, or relaxing at home.



K-9 Rex and Ptl. Zinner have many responsibilities within the city. One of the teams primary tasks is to conduct narcotics searches, where K-9 Rex has done over 130 Vehicle Sniffs. Not only has K-9 Rex been utilized by the Willoughby Patrol, but also the Willoughby Detective Bureau, Lake County Narcotics Agency, surrounding Local Municipalities, and the Ohio State Patrol.



K-9 Rex and Ptl. Zinner have also conducted numerous tracks for suspects, Felony Traffic Stops, Perimeter Security, Business Checks, and Alarms. K-9 Rex has also aided in the apprehension of several wanted felons.

Special Thanks

K-9 Rex and Ptl. Zinner would like to thank the Willoughby Rotary Club for their generous donation. Without them and their donation, K-9 Rex would not be with the Willoughby Police Department. They would also like to thank DR. Joseph Doles of The Pet Hospital of Willoughby, for his continued support of the Willoughby K-9 Unit.



Motorcycle Patrol

In 2018, the Willoughby Police Department Motorcycle Unit continued the use of two Police Motorcycles. Sergeant Daniel Pitts and Patrolman Shane Rahz and Special Officer Gary Betzler ride city owned specially equipped Harley Davidson Police Edition Road Kings. Officer Betzler rides a 2001 Harley Davidson and Sgt. Pitts and Patrolman Rahz share a 2005 Harley Davidson. Sgt. Pitts and Patrolman Rahz are currently assigned to a squad and Officer Betzler works 3 to 4 days per week. The motorcycles are generally taken home after each shift is completed and the officers are required to perform routine care and maintenance.

The motor officers are primarily used in handling traffic complaints in residential neighborhoods, although they can also still be assigned a zone and handle routine calls for service. The motor officers still respond to traffic complaints in the city. These traffic complaints were identified mostly via residents or passing motorists or were called in through the communications center.

As always, the motor officers escorted numerous parades and funerals throughout Northeast Ohio, for local service men and fallen officers. Some of the functions that the officers attended in 2015 included the Willoughby Memorial Day Parade, Willoughby Labor Day Parade, Mentor on the Lake Labor Day Parade, Docs Deepwood Run, Mark Lacheo Memorial Run for Juvenile Diabetes, Willoughby-Eastlake City Schools Career Day, Last Stop Parade, Rally for the troops run, Firefighters Memorial Ride, COPS Ride, Never Forget 9/11 Run.

With all of the changes occurring in the city and numerous retirements in the police department, Sgt. Pitts is still able to ride on his assigned motorcycle. Patrolman Rahz works a majority of his shifts, weather depending, on the Police Motorcycle

The Willoughby Police Department plans on continuing the use of the police motorcycles as it has been proven time and time again, to be an effective tool, not only in traffic enforcement and keeping our roads safe, but also as a great way to keep in touch with the community.



Bicycle Patrol

The Willoughby Police Bicycle Patrol consists of many of our full-time and several part-time officers of varying ranks within the Department. Each of the bike patrol officers successfully completes 32-40 hours of specialized training in urban mountain bike patrol prior to joining the unit. The officer in charge of the Bike Patrol Unit is Lieutenant Phillip Smith.

Our new police bicycles were put into service at the beginning of the 2012 bike season. Our fleet of 6 bikes is maintained by Patrolman Bruce Fedor. Patrolman Fedor designed and donated the police decals on the new bikes. Patrolman Fedor is a certified police bicycle techniques instructor and is tasked with the training all of our bike officers.

Our police bicycle patrol is an extremely useful and effective form of law enforcement. Bikes are economical and practical regardless of our size or type of terrain that we patrol. An officer who rides a bicycle has unique abilities to see crime, stop crime, and/or arrest offenders in ways that are often more difficult in a patrol car.

Mobility is a primary benefit of bike patrol. A patrolling officer can travel through crowds, yards, parks, over sidewalks, pathways, into narrow passageways and easily jump curbs. During festivals and special events, a bicycle patrol is an excellent way to enforce crowd control. The officer can quickly be mobilized from anywhere in the crowd, and is then able to cover much more distance than if he or she were on foot. Additionally, in crowded situations, there is less danger or injury to pedestrians or other motorists from a bicycle if contact should occur.



Maneuverability gives an officer the capability to ride up to individuals in a personal, non-threatening manner. The size and appearance of a patrol car are not as 'friendly' as a police bike. A bike-riding officer can become a powerful influence in developing positive relationships with people who live and work in the community he patrols. The bicycle can be especially effective in building trust with children who may be interested in it, and its equipment. This trust and accessibility can encourage citizens to be less apprehensive about approaching law enforcement officers in times of need, or with information and tips.

2018

In 2018, the Bicycle Patrol Unit logged many miles, participating in the following activities:

- ◆ Neighborhood Patrol
- ◆ Downtown Willoughby Patrol
- ◆ Downtown 5K Run
- ◆ Classic Car Cruise-In
- ◆ Fourth of July Fireworks
- ◆ ArtsFest
- ◆ Oktoberfest
- ◆ Parks Patrol
- ◆ Halloween Patrol
- ◆ North Willoughby 5k Run

Accident Investigations

2018

The Willoughby Police Department's Traffic Crash Investigation Unit (CIU) did not investigate any fatal crashes in the City of Willoughby in 2018. The Mentor Police Department requested the assistance of the CIU on the fatal crash of Patrolman Mathew Mazany on June 24, 2018.

The Traffic Crash Investigation Unit is called out when a traffic crash involves a fatality, potential life threatening injuries, unusual circumstances, and any other time the Officer in Charge of the shift determines a crash may need expert investigation. The CIU often assists patrol officers with crash investigations throughout the year.

Officers assigned to the Traffic Crash Investigation Unit are crash reconstructionists, Lieutenant Blaine Sweitzer - Officer in Charge, Detective Lieutenant James Schultz, and Patrolman Charles Krejsa. The team's technical crash investigators are Patrolmen Terrell Stevenson, James Davis, Joseph Putney, and Christopher Scozzie.

2018 Crash Investigation Unit

Officer-in-Charge

Lieutenant Blaine Sweitzer

Crash Reconstructionists

Det. Lieutenant James Schultz

Patrolman Charles Krejsa

Technical Crash Investigators

Patrolman Terrell Stevenson

Patrolman James T. Davis

Patrolman Joseph Putney

Patrolman Christopher Scozzie

Training

The Crash Investigation Unit officers' conduct yearly in-service training. The training includes classroom instruction and field exercises consisting of mock traffic crash scenes. These hands-on scenarios keep the officers skills current with technical forensic mapping applications and comprehensive field investigations.

The CIU forensically maps crash scenes with an instrument called a 'Total Station.' A 'Total Station' is a multi-purpose electronic surveying instrument capable of measuring horizontal distances, slope distances, angles, vertical height differences, three-dimensional coordinates, and a number of other positional features at a crash scene. The total station accurately measures the roadway, vehicles, tire marks, all evidence, and much more at a crash scene. The measured data is recorded into the internal memory and downloaded to a computer mapping database software, which in turn utilizes the data to draw a scale drawing of the crash scene.

As a department, there were 731 traffic crashes reported in 2018 involving 1257 vehicles. Of the 731 traffic crashes, 172 were injury crashes (24%). Of the 731 crashes, 46 were alcohol related (6%).

The following is a summary of the Crash Investigation Unit's 2018 investigation:

1817808 Assist Other Agency – Sweitzer, Krejsa, Davis, and Scozzie

On Sunday, June 24, 2018 at approximately 0127 hours, the Mentor Police Department contacted WPD Dispatch and requested the Willoughby Police traffic crash investigation unit be called in to assist with a fatal traffic crash on SR 2 eastbound, east of SR 306. Upon arrival, Mentor Police officer in charge of the scene, Officer Paul Balongie, instructed the officers on what had occurred and that the MPD wanted the crash scene documented.

Two Mentor police cruisers had been parked on the right (south) shoulder of the roadway on a traffic stop of a third vehicle. The two Mentor Police cruisers had been investigating a traffic violation when an unknown vehicle drove to the right of the edge line and struck Officer Mazany and one of the cruisers. The suspect vehicle fled the scene. Mentor and Willoughby Police officers later located the suspect and vehicle involved. The CIU documented the crime scene with a total station.

Willoughby
Traffic Accidents
01/01/2018 Through 12/31/2018

Crashed Occured	731
Vehicles Involved	1257
Injury Accidents	172
Injured Persons	233
Alcohol Related	46
Alcohol Related Injuries	31
Alcohol Related Fatalities	0
Pedestrian Related crashes	9
Fatal crashes	0
Fatalities	0
Private property crashes	62
Hit skip crashes	48
Hit skip crashes solved	37
Crash Related citations	426
Bicycle Injuries	4
Bicycle Fatalities	0
Motorcycles	6
Motorcycles Fatals	0
Seat Belt used %	0.9357

Western Lake County Emergency Response Team 2018

The Western Lake County Emergency Response Team is a multi-jurisdictional volunteer team comprised of specially trained full time police officers from the cities of Eastlake, Kirtland, Waite Hill, Wickliffe, Willoughby, Willoughby Hills, and Willowick. Officers appointed to the tactical team must annually complete a rigorous physical agility and firearms proficiency test. Tactical team members/Crisis Negotiation team members are on call and are required to respond to a critical incident 24 hours a day. They must be prepared to respond immediately to a call for team activation. The team is called upon by the seven member cities to respond to critical incidents such as hostage situations, barricaded subjects, suspect search, high risk arrest and search warrant service. The combined population of the member municipalities is approximately 87,000 residents within a 67 square mile area of operation.

TACTICAL TEAM

Detective Lieutenant James Schultz is the lead ERT member for Willoughby. Other Willoughby officers that are on the team include Patrolman Toby Davis, Patrolman Jon Greig, and Patrolman Mike Sevel. Lieutenant Matthew Tartaglia retired from the team in August of 2018 after 15 years. Patrolman Kevin Crowley, who was appointed to replace Lieutenant Tartaglia, competed against four other officers by going through a rigorous physical fitness test, a physical agility exam, and interviews with the Team Command Staff and the Team itself.

The ERT team conducted a total of 5 operations in 2018. In addition, the ERT team conducted eight hours of training per month with the sniper element of the team training 16 hours during the month. Training days comprised of all facets of ERT operations. The ERT teams training consists of: slow suspect searches, rapid deployment drills, active shooter drills, pistol and rifle shooting drills and training, chemical munitions training, and numerous tactical procedures. Team members also attend numerous training sessions each year including team leadership, hostage rescue, tactical procedures, and the National Training Officers Association Tactical Conference in Louisville, Kentucky.

The entire ERT team took part in a 5 day training session in September in Willoughby and Ashtabula. Instructors from NORSE Tactical traveled to Willoughby to train the team for the 2nd year in a row as part of continuing education. The team completed one day of extended firearms training in pistol and rifle familiarization. The other four days were dedicated to Close Quarter Combat Training.



TEAM ACTIVATIONS

1806696

On March 6, 2018, the ERT Team was activated for a barricaded gunman at a trailer home at 1854 Perth Road in Madison, Ohio. ERT Team established a command center near the crime scene. ERT members then established a perimeter around the trailer home and attempted to make contact with the suspect until CNT Negotiators could respond. CNT Negotiators continued the negotiation process. After several hours, the suspect voluntarily surrender into police custody without further incident.

1815277

On Wednesday May 30, 2018 at approximately 0445 hours, The Western Lake County Emergency Response Team was requested to respond to 139 Azalea Drive in Mentor by the Mentor Police Department. Mentor Police had requested assistance with a barricaded gunman inside the residence. The male in question, Ronald Capristo, was taken into custody without incident at approximately 0636 hours.

1822485

On August 7, 2018 at 0630 hours, ERT members responded to Eastlake Police at the request of Lake County Narcotics, to serve a search warrant with the Lake County West Emergency Response Team. After a briefing at Eastlake Police, the ERT teams responded to the search warrant address location of 1055 East 332nd Street, to serve the warrant. We responded along with members of Lake County Narcotics and Eastlake Police. The warrant was served without incident and three individuals were detained by Eastlake Police and Lake County Narcotics agents. The three individuals that were found inside the residence were: Tyler Louis Correll, Jonathan P. Workman and Taylor A. Brucks. The ERT team cleared the location and the house was left in the control of Lake County Narcotics.

1823322

On Tuesday August 15, 2018 at 0948 hours, the US Marshal's Northern Ohio Violent Fugitive Task Force was attempting to apprehend a wanted felony suspect staying at the Day's Inn in Willoughby, Ohio. As they attempted to make service of the warrants, the suspect barricaded himself inside the motel room with a female hostage. US Marshals contacted the ERT Team and requested their assistance in the incident. As the ERT Team arrived, the suspect had voluntarily gave up and was taken into custody without further incident.

1830046 (1827777)

On Monday October 22, 2018 at approximately 0830hrs. The Western Lake County Emergency Response Team and the Willoughby Police Department Detective Bureau served a narcotics search warrant at 1169 Garden Rd. The resident, Adam Nevling and David Takacs were detained upon service of the search warrant. Nevling was eventually transported to WPD.

The Willoughby Police Department had received numerous complaints of illegal activity and drug trafficking at 1169 Garden Road. Several different investigations were conducted on the residence in 2017 and 2018. Willoughby Fire & Rescue had been called to the residence for several different overdoses, one resulting in the death of a female.

Detectives utilized several different investigative techniques to develop enough probable cause for a search warrant on the residence. An arrest warrant was issued for the residence, Adam Nevling, for permitting drug abuse. On October 22, 2018, the Western Lake County Emergency Response Team executed the search warrant at the residence. Adam Nevling and a second individual were arrested. Evidence was collected from the home. Detectives worked with the actual homeowner to keep Mr. Nevling from returning to the house. The house was sold six months later.



Fingerprint Lab

EVIDENCE TECHNICIANS

Willoughby Patrol Officers and Detectives are trained in the processing and collection of forensic evidence. Officers receive either local training or by the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy. Depending on the case, officers first obtain digital images of the scene prior to any processing. The most common form is the processing of latent prints using fingerprint powder and a brush. Most recently, a great emphasis has been placed on the collection of possible Touch DNA. Officers are trained to use sterile water along with a sterile swab and swab areas that appeared to have been touched. Officers also collect DNA standards from victims/complainants for either elimination or identification. It should be noted that when a felony arrest is made, officers are required to obtain a DNA standard from the arrested party. These DNA standards are then forwarded to the Ohio BCI (Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation) Laboratory. The subjects DNA profile is then entered into the CODIS (Combined DNA Index System) Database.

Officers also process crime scenes for prymark impressions, blood stain collection and shoe impressions.

Officers carefully package all evidence. The evidence is then returned to the Willoughby Police Department and subsequently entered into evidence. The evidence will either be stored at the Willoughby Police Department evidence room and/or forwarded to the Lake County Crime Lab for analysis.

Willoughby Police Department patrol units contain both Fingerprint and Touch DNA kits. Officers are required to process any scene or item that may contain possible forensic evidence for suspect identification and prosecution.

Over the past few years, a growing number of cases are being cleared at the Willoughby Police Department due to the advancements of DNA and fingerprint databases.

Honor Guard



2018 Members

Lieutenant Tartaglia
Lieutenant Daniel Pitts
Lieutenant John Begovic
Sergeant George Lessick
Sergeant Peter Huth
Sergeant Ken Jordan
Det. Sg. Derrick Stewart
Patrolman Matthew Jackson
Ptl. Daniel Lastoria

The Willoughby Police Department Honor guard was formed in 1994 and at its inception consisted of nine officers. Today we have 9 officers who donate their time to participate in parades, funerals and other civic events.

The Honor Guard provides customary full military-style ceremonial honors for Line-of-Duty deaths, retired officers, city officials and other employees. Since the inception of the Honor Guard, we have performed ceremonial honors for several police officers, retired officers and city officials.

In 2018, the Honor Guard members participated in the following functions:

- ◆ In May, members of the Honor Guard conducted the gun volley at the Cleveland Police Memorial day ceremony.
- ◆ The Honor Guard marched in the Willoughby Memorial Day Parade. They also participated as the rifle team which conducted the gun volley for the ceremony at Sharpe Cemetery.

Jail Facilities

For the year 2018, the Willoughby Police Department City Jail housed 640 persons in 2018 compared to 728 in 2017, an decrease of 12%. 428 were males and 212 were females.

Inmates can be housed in the Willoughby City Jail for up to 12 days, but are generally released after posting bond or being arraigned in the Willoughby Municipal Court.

The day-to-day operations are handled by Patrolman Lessick, who is the Willoughby Police Department's Court Officer. The following are only a few of Patrolman Lessick's responsibilities:

- Willoughby Municipal Court liaison;
- Daily prisoner transports;
- Obtaining probable cause warrants;
- Weekly jail inspections;
- Prisoner monitoring;
- Policy and Procedure review;
- Working with in-house clerical staff.

As noted above, Patrolman Lessick's duties do not only include the processing of approximately 12 prisoners per week; Patrolman Lessick has numerous other duties, which make the day-to-day operations run smoothly.

The Willoughby City Jail also underwent a comprehensive annual inspection of the physical state of the jail and accompanying policies. An inspector from The Ohio Department of Corrections completed a thorough evaluation, which resulted in compliance with the Ohio Revised Code.

At the end of 2018, Ptl. James Lessick ended his 31-year career with the Willoughby Police Department, with his eyes set on retirement. After a comprehensive interview process, Ptl. Jason Pitt was selected as the new Court Officer for the Willoughby Police Department. Since his new appointment, Ptl. Pitt has hit the ground running and will continue to deliver exceptional service in his duties.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lieutenant Matthew Tartaglia
Jail Administrator

Weaponscraft

2018

Now more than ever, firearms training has becoming one of the most important aspects of Law Enforcement. In the light of recent events occurring around the nation and in Northeast Ohio, it has become quite evident that training and equipment are key factors for every Law Enforcement Agency. As in the past years, the Willoughby firearms training unit continues to seek ways in order to provide the best training possible to the members of the Willoughby Police Department. In 2018, the unit consists of 13 in service instructors. Currently there are 2 Lieutenants, 2 Sergeants, 3 detectives, 5 patrolmen and the Chief of Police. Each platoon generally has at least one range officer assigned to keep training current. Of the range officers there are 6 certified Sig Sauer pistol armorers, 2 certified Remington shotgun armorers, and 2 certified M16/AR15 armorer. One range officer is certified in less-lethal and specialty impact devices and another in OC (Oleoresin Capsicum or Pepper Spray) propellants. One officer maintains records, three maintain the indoor range, and one maintains inventory. With the several changes and retirements that have been taking place over the last couple of years within the police department, the training unit continues to grow and add new range officers.

Our instructors continually look for new challenges for officers to better prepare them for deadly force encounters. The new state mandates have been taking place over the last several years, including a new Rifle course that was also implemented became mandatory for all agencies across the state. We continue to use Simunition FX scenario based training, as well Airsoft gun training.

In 2015 the Willoughby Police Department upgraded our Patrol Rifles and we were able to purchase new Smith & Wesson MMP 223 Caliber Rifles for all front line patrol units. With the Lake County Outdoor Range undergoing some renovations, we were able to put together a small area for an outdoor range within the City limits. This area was created off of Pelton Road at the old "Shredder" plant. We were able to put together a small enough area that gave us just enough room in order to complete the State standards for qualification. This allowed a majority of officers to qualify easily within the parameters of their regular shift.

The indoor range continually proves to be an excellent tool for weapons training and qualifications. Maintenance programs are in place to help insure weapons are maintained in good working order.

As always, the Firearms Training Unit conducted four quarterly programs on the indoor pistol range. Each quarter consisted of a new type of shooting program. The first quarter is customarily the State of Ohio requalification shoot on the indoor range, and the other three are left to each range officer to create. This allows creative fresh ideas and new tactics to be introduced. Each squad and the specials division has the opportunity to participate four times each quarter. In the wake of several documented shootings that have been taking place nationwide, the days of standing still and shooting at a solid-colored silhouette that doesn't move or shoot back, doesn't prepare the officer for life-and-death combat. Shooting on the move, suppressive fire and team tactics are now being practiced regularly in order to prevail in combat against aggressive and determined adversaries. Combat-style shooting courses that include such skills as one-handed shooting, and weapon manipulation to replicate injured officer scenarios are now being taught to our officers.

Training

A Nationwide program called “Below 100” was introduced in 2013. This program focuses on reducing the number of in the line of duty deaths to fewer than 100 per year. 128 officers were killed in 2015, 39 officers were killed as a result of gun fire. Range programs for 2015 held were as follows:

- ⇒ **First Quarter/State Qualification Shoot:** This was our standard shoot as filed with the State of Ohio Peace Officers Training Council. The shoot consists of a combination of close quarters, mid range combat, multiple target, barricade, low light, weak hand, distance, move-and-shoot exercises, and shotgun qualification.
- ⇒ **Second Quarter:** Exercises in moving and shooting, ambush drills, and rapid target identification.
- ⇒ **Third Quarter:** Multiple target acquisition ambush drills from a seated position, rapid threat evaluation, sight alignment and speed loading drills, Shot Gun transitioning drills and reload drills.
- ⇒ **Fourth Quarter:** Patrol rifle drills utilizing the AR-22 and transition drills, pistol reload drills, moving and shooting drills with reloads.

Each officer is required to attend the state qualification shoot, at least two other quarterly sessions, and one of the Simunition sessions each year. Collectively, there were well over 200 individual courses of fire on the range and off site.

The Chief’s Trophy was once again brought back in 2015. The shoot consisted of the officer starting with a holstered weapon and 2 full pistol magazines. The officer begins by shooting at a clay pigeon that is suspended from a string at 30 feet. Once the pigeon was broken, the officer then moves over to the next lane and knocks over a bowling pin at the 50 foot mark. After that is completed, the officer moves to the next lane and neutralizes 2 additional OPOTA targets from 20 and 30 feet. Once those tasks were completed, the officer then transitioned over to the AR-22, and engaged a bullseye target at 50 feet with 5 rounds from the standing position, 5 rounds from the kneeling position, and 5 rounds from the prone position. The officer has 1 minute to complete the shoot. Final score goes the highest total points on the bullseye target with the tie breaker being completed in the shortest time.

We as firearm instructors know the importance of our position and we as a unit are always looking for ways to improve training, either by attending schools or learning from real life situations. The goal of the firearms training unit is to provide our officers with the most updated information, equipment, and training possible, to create a clean and safe training facility, to foster confidence and ability in all officers. It is paramount that proper training is afforded to all officers of the Willoughby Police Department because the cost of falling short in this area is unacceptable. To this end the unit solicits suggestions from all units and members of the Willoughby Police Department.

Submitted By:

Sgt. Dan Pitts
Firearms Training O.I.C.

Kenneth F. Stafford, Jr. Communications Center



2018

Willoughby Police and Fire Dispatchers play a vital role in police and fire operations. Typically “first on the scene” our dispatchers are trained in providing a wide range of pre-arrival instructions ensuring the safety of the caller as well as police and fire responders. Our communication staff works closely with police and fire responders to ensure the best outcome in every situation.

After 31 years with the City of Willoughby, Dispatcher James Shaw retired. Dispatcher Danette Perkins resigned in April to relocate to the east coast for her husband’s new job.

Responsibilities

The primary responsibility of our Dispatchers is to provide professional and responsive communications services to our public and our safety forces. In 2018, a total of 18 Temporary Protection Orders issued by the court were entered into LEADS (Law Enforcement Automated Data System). Stolen vehicles, license plates, guns, and serialized property are also entered into LEADS. In 2018, a total of 72 stolen entries were made to these files with 18 of these items being recovered. These entries are complex and accuracy is essential as they are audited every 3 years. Our dispatchers do an excellent job with all the entries in LEADS.

2018 Communications Personnel

Communications Supervisor
Marlene Matteo

Full-Time
Communications Operators

Carla Gabele
James Shaw—retired
Peter Gammieri
Brigitte Smalley
Becky Robinson
Michelle Burnett
Robbie McMinn
Danette Walker—resigned
Christopher Borstnik
Kevin Brodzinski
Lisa Lesner

Part-Time
Communications Operators

Randy Ricciardo
Justin Falcone
Monica Patterson

The Communications Center is manned by two dispatchers at all times. Our center consists of 9 full time and currently 4 part time dispatchers.

In 2018, Willoughby dispatchers processed **36,673** calls for service that generated a police or fire response. In addition to these calls for service, our dispatchers handled thousands of other wide ranging miscellaneous calls offering direction to our residents and businesses. The communications staff handles all after-hours and weekend non-emergency calls as well as walk-in traffic to our lobby.

The communication staff is also responsible for monitoring the jail cells and booking area. Our dispatchers have prevented hangings, spotted hidden contraband and monitored the safety of our police officers while processing prisoners in and out of the cells. Our dispatchers also monitor the exterior of the building and our parking lot. These camera monitors are often used to view the Skateboard Park and the Willoughby Pool pavilion.

Equipment

Our Communications Center uses a computer aided dispatch system (CAD) designed by TAC Computers. This system is used to process and record all calls for service. The data entered by the dispatchers into this system is communicated to field units via their Mobile Data Terminals (MDT). In addition to tracking the times and calls for service, CAD also provides immediate call history at a location. Alerts and special attentions on persons and locations are also entered. This feature is especially beneficial to responders as they prepare for arrival.

Training

Willoughby dispatchers prove their abilities on a daily basis. They possess an understanding of the current laws, rules and techniques, of both fire and police operations. The personal knowledge of residents and businesses as well as their awareness to crime trends in our area, proves beneficial in many ways. Our Dispatchers have a wide variety of specialized training and receive an average of 24 hours of continuing education each year.

RECORDS DIVISION

2018 Records Division Staffing

Under the direction of the Clerical/Communication Supervisor, the Records Division is comprised of 3 full-time clerks and 1 part-time clerk.

Responsibilities

The Records Division is responsible for a myriad of duties to include maintaining accurate and efficient records, and the dissemination of police reports to the public and other criminal justice agencies. These include the City Prosecutor, Lake County Children Services and Willoughby Municipal Court. Further tasks include processing all traffic and criminal arrests with associated fingerprints. Along with the arrests, clerks must update reports pertaining to criminal investigations and complaints, ensuring that cases are cleared following Uniform Crime Reporting guidelines established by the FBI. Many of these tasks are completed by utilizing the Records portion of the CAD (Computer Aided Dispatch System) police reports. Clerks are also responsible for fulfilling numerous public records requests. Our Clerks also serve as Deputy Clerks for Lake County Juvenile Court. Front desk operation is a vital part of this Department as clerks are often the first point of contact with our citizens.

The three basic types of reports that the clerical staff process include: **OFFENSE** reports, **INCIDENT** reports, and **TRAFFIC CRASH** (accident) reports. An offense report is defined as a violation of the criminal code. An incident report is used to record non-criminal calls for service. Traffic crash reports are accidents that are recorded on a prescribed form (OH-1) for the State of Ohio, Department of Public Safety. The Willoughby Police Department now uploads all OH-1 crash reports online. These crash reports are available at www.willoughbyohio.com/police.

A total of **36,673** calls for service were generated by the public in 2018.

Willoughby Police Department arrested **2761** persons resulting in a total of **3914** charges. With the physical arrest of **812** persons, the Records Division processed **545** sets of fingerprints on Live Scan which were then transmitted to the Bureau of Criminal Investigation and to the Lake County Crime Lab. The Records Division processed and receipted bond money as an agent of the Willoughby Municipal Court totaling **\$111,853** in **2018**.

2018 Records Division Personnel

Clerical/Communications Supervisor
Marlene Matteo

Full-Time
Cheryl Stephens
Kim Thompson
Sue Schilling

Part-Time
Gwen Thomas

The Records Division received and processed **744** warrants issued through Willoughby Municipal Court.

The Willoughby Police Department issued **2021** parking citations which were entered into the CAD system throughout 2018. Parking ticket receipts processed by the Records Department totaled **\$20,620**.

2018 Record Room Statistics

F.B.I Uniform Classification

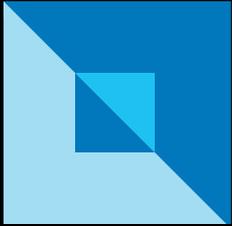
Part I, Actual Offenses	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>
Criminal Homicide	0	1
Forcible Rape	1	2
Robbery	18	8
Aggravated Assault	9	11
Burglary	35	58
Larceny/Theft	471	377
Auto Theft	11	16
Arson	0	2
Total Part 1 Actual Offenses	545	475

Traffic Arrests-Adult & Juvenile

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>
Vehicular homicide	0	0
Hit-Skip	35	30
DUI & Physical Control	129	117
Reckless Operation	29	26
Lane Usage Violations	71	63
Weaving Course/FTC	79	92
Left of Center	4	1
Failure/Yield Right of Way	58	88
Stop Sign	21	19
Traffic Signals	97	68
Assured Clear Distance	167	170
Speed	740	493
Seat Belt	39	23
Equipment Violations	134	64
License Plate Violations	327	232
Unlicensed Junk Vehicles	0	0
Operator License Required	67	48
Other Traffic Violations	<u>100</u>	<u>140</u>
Total Traffic Arrests	2428	1950

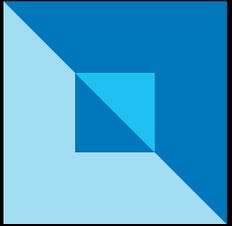
Other Arrests-Adult and Juvenile

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>
Aggravated Murder	0	1
Robbery	16	14
Aggravated Assault	9	10
Simple Assault	33	53
Arson	1	1
Breaking & Entering	15	7
Larceny	154	169
Auto Theft	3	4
Forgery & Identity Theft	31	24
Fraud	15	19
Stolen Property	39	27
Criminal Damaging	16	11
Dangerous Drugs	412	400
Other Sex Offenses	10	1
Domestic Violence	46	51
Liquor Violations	47	41
Obstructing Police	43	27
Escape	2	0
Probation Violations	646	660
Weapons Violations	11	15
Disorderly Conduct	163	93
Intoxication	124	88
Other	433	248
Total Other Arrests	1836	1715
Total Arrests	4697	3914



2018 Record Room Statistics

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>
Police Calls for Service	38,812	36,673
Emergency Calls Dispatched	3817	3624
<u>Emergency Calls Investigated</u>		
Deaths	29	27
Suicides	10	4
Attempted Suicides	30	28
Mental Illness	<u>66</u>	<u>106</u>
Total Emergency Calls Investigated	135	165
<u>Animal Investigations</u>		
Cruelty to Animals	0	0
Animals at large	225	233
Animal Noises	67	48
Animal Bites	0	0
Other Animal Complaints	<u>254</u>	<u>299</u>
Total Animal Investigations	546	580
Lockouts	1085	1069
Missing Persons	50	51
<u>Alarms</u>		
Alarms	1530	1163
Alarms, Fire-False	101	110
Alarms, Fire-Active	64	90
Alarms, Test	195	161
Alarms, Malfunction	23	26
Alarms, Accidental	8	4
Alarms, Auto	<u>16</u>	<u>14</u>
Total Number of Alarms	1937	2038



2018 Record Room Statistics

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>
Money Escorts & Other Public Assists	602	914
Mutual Aid	900	609
Solicitor Complaints	84	107
Fireworks Complaints	53	44
Open Buildings	86	60
Disturbance, General	882	820
Disturbance, Noise	329	309
Disturbance, Unwanted Guest	115	79
Disturbance, Trouble with Customer	141	100
Suspicion, General	1758	1556
Suspicion, Person	411	326
Suspicion, Vehicle	615	482
Juvenile-Runaways & Curfew Violations	21	44
Fingerprinting (Court Order)	101	92

Receipts	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>
Parking Ticket Receipts	\$25,460	\$20,620
Other Receipts:		
Taxi Licenses	0	0
Accident & Crime Report Copies	\$78.70	\$71.20
Other Services	<u>\$980</u>	<u>\$600</u>
Total Other Receipts	\$1058.70	\$671.20
Total Receipts	\$26,518.70	\$21,962.40

Community Involvement

The Willoughby Police Department prides itself in establishing partnerships with residents and businesses within the city. Included in the police department's table of operations is a full time Community Involvement Division. The division is dedicated to crime prevention initiatives as well as offering educational opportunities for various populations within the city.

Community Involvement continually creates and implements programs based on the needs of the community. These programs are continually evaluated and adapted according changes or trends in and around the community.

The goal of Community Involvement is to foster crime prevention and safety, ultimately enhancing the quality of life for those who reside in, work in or visit Willoughby. Through our education and crime prevention efforts, the community benefits with a lower crime rate and a stronger sense of community.

Community Oriented Policing has been a long-standing tradition of the Willoughby Police Department. Community involvement is a vital component in this approach to law enforcement.



YMCA Aftercare Program

The Community Involvement Division is staffed by one full-time officer. Patrolman Bruce Fedor is assigned as the current Community Involvement Officer.

2018 Initiatives

Business – Crime prevention education is provided to any business within the city. Training includes, but is not limited to response to a violent intruder, crime prevention measures, recognizing criminal activity, fostering a safe working environment and crime prevention through environmental design

Schools - The community Involvement Unit is responsible for training faculty and staff on responding to incidents within the school system. Ptl. Fedor is a certified A.L.I.C.E. instructor.

Banks – Bank employees receive training from Willoughby police in response to a bank robbery and measures to take to reduce probability of bank robberies.

Pre-school and Day Care Centers – Community Involvement works closely with day care and preschool facilities throughout the city to establish a safe environment for workers and children. Assistance is provided to guide in development of safety plans and response to incidents. Security assessments are offered to each of these facilities.

Juvenile Diversion – The goal of the program is to empower youth by assisting them in making positive changes and taking responsibility for their choices through community service and structured activities. Among the activities a participant in the program may participate in are social media responsibilities, anger control and general social responsibilities. The Diversion program aims to reduce the recidivism rate among at-risk youth and help them help themselves. Participants are generally first time offenders committing minor offenses. By participating in the program, juveniles agree to complete the program in lieu of charges being filed through the Lake County Juvenile Court. Mike Fitzgerald and Bruce Fedor are the active Diversion Officers. In 2018, no juveniles participated in diversion program.

School Programs – A wide variety of presentations and activities are performed at each school in the district. With the guidance of school administrators and teachers, programs aimed at grade specific students are implemented in classrooms. These programs span first through grade twelve. Topics presented include social media responsibility, cyber bullying, social responsibility and being safe, drug education and safe driving. The topics are continually evaluated and adapted according to current trends among youth.

A highly requested drug education program is presented to high school students enrolled in health class. The program includes recovering addicts sharing their experiences with the students.

Random seatbelt and cell phone checks are conducted at the high school as students dismiss for the day. Students wearing a seatbelt or who have cell phone out of reach are rewarded with various gifts.

Upon request, child ID kits are provided to students and fingerprints are taken by an officer for ID kit.

Pre-school and Day Care Programs – The Community Involvement Division regularly conducts visits and programs at each facility in the city. Children attending these facilities have the opportunity to interact with a police officer and learn safety tips.

Senior Programs – Educational programs are regularly presented to the senior population at senior living facilities and the Willoughby Senior Center. Topics include avoiding scams, safe winter driving, personal safety, senior self defense and what a police officer does.

Community Education Programs – A wide variety of presentations designed to educate members of the community are offered throughout the year. By tracking current trends in crime, population specific programs are also created and presented in an effort to reduce the number of victims of crimes. General safety, driving safety, Medicare scams, general scams, internet safety, identity theft protection are just a few of the topics offered. The Community Involvement Division, with the help of other divisions, participates in a variety of presentations designed to educate and partner with citizens and various civic groups and organizations. Assist interested residents in starting and maintaining a block watch program, Requests and topics are ongoing and are updated according to current trends.

Security Assessments - Any business or resident of Willoughby is offered a free security assessment of their property. The Assessment assists in identifying any security weaknesses and measures that can be taken to increase property safety and reduce the likelihood of criminal activity.

Safety Town – In partnership with the Parks and Recreation Department, the National Safety Town Program is taught annually in June to children about to enter kindergarten. Certified civilian instructors and police officers offer instruction on traffic safety, bike safety, stranger safety, fire safety and school bus safety, among other topics. Participants in Safety Town receive bicycle helmets at no cost courtesy of the Willoughby Police Department.

Bike Rodeo – An annual event highlighting the importance of wearing a helmet and how to operate a bicycle safely. Participants can tackle numerous obstacle courses on their bikes as well as decorate their bike, play games and create their own piece of artwork. Prior to the bike rodeo even, a program is presented at the elementary schools for third graders. The program offers bike safety tips and the importance of wearing a helmet when operating a bike.

Coffee With A COP – Implemented at various locations throughout the city on a regular basis. The goal of the program is to interact with members of the community in an open forum encouraging dialogue with members of the Police Department to improve community relations and the effectiveness of the Police Department.

National Night Out – An annual event the first Tuesday in August promoting community spirit and crime prevention awareness. The event is held at the municipal pool on Euclid Avenue.

Dog Walker Watch - The program trains residents on crime prevention measures that can be taken while on a routine walk with their dog. This program offers an extra set of “eyes and ears” for the Police Department.

Other Programs – The Community Involvement Officer is regularly requested by various associations and groups to speak at seminars, trainings, programs, meetings or educational offerings. These public speaking events offer the opportunity to promote the City of Willoughby and the Police Department.

Training – The Community Involvement Officer is a certified Crime Prevention Specialist, Distracted Driving instructor, A.L.I.C.E. instructor, CPR/AED/First Aid instructor, RAIDER instructor and Police Mountain Bike Instructor. Active board member for two years for the Ohio Crime Prevention Association. The Community Involvement Officer works closely with School Resource officers to implement safe practices while performing their duties. CIO oversees school crossing guards.

New Programs introduced in 2018

YMCA Aftercare – Lake County YMCA offers aftercare programs throughout school districts for students after school each day. Each aftercare program in the Willoughby-Eastlake school district was visited by the Community Involvement Division and worked with the children on coping with, preventing and understanding bullying.

House of Worship – A program was initiated in previous years addressing issues confronted by houses of worship. In 2018, the program was re-evaluated and adapted to current needs and requests of these institutions. Numerous houses of worship within the City of Willoughby were provided training and information regarding implementation of security measures to reduce incidents of crime. Additionally, violent intruder education was offered as a part of the program.

Role of Police in the Community – Numerous requests were received from citizens and community groups regarding responsibilities of police officers in the community. A program was created and presented to various members of the community offering insight into the daily tasks performed by police officers.

Citizens Police Academy – A curriculum was developed for citizens to participate in activities similar to those encountered by police officers. The academy spanned five weeks and included topics such as traffic stops, criminal investigation, defensive tactics, use of force and decision processes. The goal of the program is to educate citizens on police functions and to provide a deeper understanding of the job, skills and abilities required of the modern-day law enforcement officer, ultimately producing a more informed citizen.

Teen Driving Workshop – The workshop was offered to soon-to-be or new teen drivers. Teens along with their parents attended the workshop where they were instructed on safe driving practices, the hazards of distracted driving and tips on what they may encounter when driving. In addition, they participated in a practical exercise honing maneuverability skills.

Explorers – Community Involvement assumed responsibilities for the Willoughby Law Enforcement Explorers Program. The entire curriculum for the program was re-evaluated and in need of updating. A new curriculum was developed and implemented along with improved law enforcement literacy of active members. A three hundred percent increase in membership resulted from the extensive improvements.

The Community Involvement Division is a member of the Ohio Crime Prevention Association, Ohio Police Officer's Juvenile Association, International Police Mountain Bike Association, Lake County Crime Prevention Task Force, Lake County Safe Communities and Safe Kids

Drug Abuse Resistance Education



2018 marks the 35rd year for the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) Program. This program makes use of the “Facilitation Method” of instruction, which was designed by professionals in the field of education. This curriculum places an emphasis on decision-making, enabling students to define a problem or situation, assess their choices in addressing the problem, make a response and evaluate whether or not the response was correct.

This program is well received by teachers, students, and parents within individual schools and is taught by the Willoughby Police DARE officers who are trained and certified by the National DARE Association. Classes included visits from role models, other police officers, and Willoughby K-9’s Loki and Rex.

Two officers from the Patrol Division teach the program to each fifth-grade class in the public schools within the city of Willoughby. During the 2018 school year, Sergeant Pete Huth and Sergeant Ken Jordan, taught 12 classes totaling approximately 280 students.

Grant Elementary	5 th Grade	4 classes	Sergeant Huth
Edison Elementary	5 th Grade	5 classes	Sergeant Jordan
School of Innovation	5 th grade	3 classes	Sergeant Jordan

Classes are 1 hour per week for 14 weeks or more and a graduation ceremony completes the program. During the course, students learn how to resist drugs and violence, how to build self-esteem, the consequences of the choices they make and actions they take, the 9 ways to say no and how to stay in charge, how to avoid peer pressure, the effects of the media, and how to deal with stress. Many students and guests attended the 2018 Graduation Ceremony to show their support for the D.A.R.E. Program.

Sergeant Jordan also taught a two-day Drug Education Program to every Health student at Willoughby South High School. The class talks about drug problems and concerns facing teens in our community.

Explorer Post 602



The Willoughby Explorer program has existed for over 30 years. The program provides law enforcement training for individuals between ages of 14 and 20. Members of our post receive valuable experience not only in law enforcement, but leadership and life skills as well. In 2018, the Community Involvement Division of the Police Department assumed responsibility of the program. The curriculum and overall structure of the program was evaluated and determined to be in need of updating. Extensive effort was put forth on these

updates and the improvements are continuing. A curriculum mirroring that of OPOTA was developed. In addition, many new experiences were offered to members including visiting other law enforcement entities, increasing community minded experiences and enhancing the role of each member of the post. In 2018, explorers had to opportunity to speak with and receive information from officers with Ohio Watercraft Division, rangers with the Lake County Metroparks, an officer with ODNR Wildlife Division and a representative from the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation.



The enrolment in the program increased over three hundred percent after updates and continues to receive inquiries regarding membership.

Activities

The post has regular meetings twice a month throughout the year. In addition to receiving law enforcement training, explorers have the opportunity to participate in other law enforcement activities including riding with officers, observing dispatch activities and assisting with various events throughout the year. The post completed 302 hours of community service and 202 hours of training in 2018.

Training

Training topics covered in 2018 included building searches, search and seizure, subject control, ride-along training, domestic violence, crime scene, and photography. All training involves classroom presentations, hands on learning applications and testing of information retention. Explorers have the opportunity to achieve certificates for various accomplishments during their membership as well as the opportunity for being assigned post leadership roles.

Members who pursue a law enforcement career following their participation in the Willoughby Explorer Program acquire positions at a higher rate as a result of their experience with the post. A large percentage of participants go on to a law enforcement career.

Post News

At the Law Enforcement Explorers state competition, our post earned first place in traffic stop category. In addition, in 2018, Jasiah Morgan was promoted to sergeant and earned Explorer of the year honors. The Willoughby Explorer program was recognized by the Lake Erie Council Boy Scouts of America as one of the top posts. The program continues to be an asset for the department and members are proud to be associated with the Willoughby Police Department.

Police Athletic League—PAL

Beliefs

The Willoughby Police Department firmly believes that young people are more likely to respect and obey the law if its enforcers are regarded as friends not adversaries. This is why PAL utilizes activities to bring officers and adolescents together. PAL's programs further mutual trust, respect, and camaraderie between law enforcement and the juvenile population. Youth who participate in PAL are off the street, out of trouble, and out of the juvenile justice system. Today, some children and teenagers face adult-sized problems such as drug abuse, violence, and dysfunctional family lives. PAL helps young people overcome some of the difficulties of growing up so they can become productive, law-abiding citizens.

Programs

The Willoughby Police Athletic League was not active in 2018.

WHAT IS PAL

The Police Athletic League (PAL) is a recreation oriented juvenile crime prevention program that relies heavily on athletics and recreational activities to tighten the bond between police officers and adolescents in the community. First incorporated in the early 1930's, PAL has a long history of developing bonds between cops and kids.

The Police Athletic League is based on the belief that children, if reached early enough, can develop a strong, positive attitude regarding police officers in their journey through life toward the goal of adulthood and citizenship.

A PAL program brings youngsters under the supervision and constructive influence of a responsible law enforcement agency and expands public awareness about the role of a police officer. That role is the positive reinforcement and support of the responsible values and attitudes instilled in young people by their parents.

Studies show that if a youngster responds to a police officer in a positive way on the ball field or in the classroom, he or she will very likely come to respect the laws that a police officer enforces. Such benefit to the youngsters and to the neighborhood and business community in which they grow up is virtually immeasurable.



School Crossing Guards

A crossing guard is a traffic management specialist who is stationed on busy roadways adjacent to our elementary schools. Their primary objective is to temporarily stop the flow of traffic allowing pedestrians to cross intersections safely. On many school days, both elementary schools experience a high volume of vehicular traffic onto school property. This presents a challenge for the Crossing Guards, however they have successfully met the challenge and ensure the safety of the school children.

The school crossing guards are an integral part of the Willoughby Police Department. They are organized as a part of the Community Involvement Division and coordinated by the Community Involvement Officer. They perform a vital service, ensuring that our school children travel safely to and from school each day, regardless of the weather.

Over the years, they have become part of the overall school communities, contributing to the character and development of the children by the quality of their interaction with students. Crossing guards work closely with the student staffed safety patrol teams. Long lasting bonds are formed which extend beyond the elementary years. Many adults still fondly recall the service, friendliness and guidance of their former crossing guards.

Prior to being hired, all crossing guards must first successfully complete a pre-employment background screening. This ensures a good fit to all aspects of the position. As a group, our crossing guards have accumulated many decades of service and experience. Their continued success and dedication are self-evident.

Willoughby Police Department Crossing Guards

Edison Elementary School

Joe Papaleo
Mary Baggot

Grant Elementary School

Sue Carr Darlene Smith
John Wozniak Bert Gillette

Substitutes

Marietta Hrach Ken Schmitt

Victim Assistance

2018

The Victim Assistance program received funding from Victims of Crime Assistance (VOCA). The Willoughby Victim Assistance Program currently employs 2 part-time advocates: Director Kathy Fellows and Advocate Susan Hodali. The advocates assisted over 844 victims and witnesses through the court system, with immediate crisis counseling, and referrals to other agencies. In 2018, the advocates were called to assist families for death investigations and notifications, those involved with domestic violence, stalking, assault, sexual assault, and suicide as well as elder abuse, financial crimes and theft. Among those served were victims with disabilities, those who were homeless, had mental health issues as well as veterans. The program also supports equal access for all people, regardless of religion, ethnicity, or gender.

Organizations

Community Alliance Law Enforcement Mental Health Services (CALMHS): Chief Beckwith and Director Kathy Fellows are members of this committee. The committee works to provide collaboration between the mental health and the criminal justice systems. The CALMHS committee works to improve services available to individuals with mental health problems.

Northeast Ohio Victim Assistance Task Force: The Willoughby Victim Advocates belong to this organization with other advocates in the Lake, Geauga, and Ashtabula counties, as well as state and federal advocates.

Ohio Domestic Violence Network: This organization is a coalition of domestic violence programs, supportive agencies, and concerned individuals working toward the elimination of domestic violence. Director Kathy Fellows is a member of this organization.

Ohio Victim Witness Association: Director Kathy Fellows is a member of this organization. This is a statewide advocacy organization that is committed to establishing equality of rights and fair treatment for all victims and witnesses.