Willoughby Police Department

2019 Annual Report

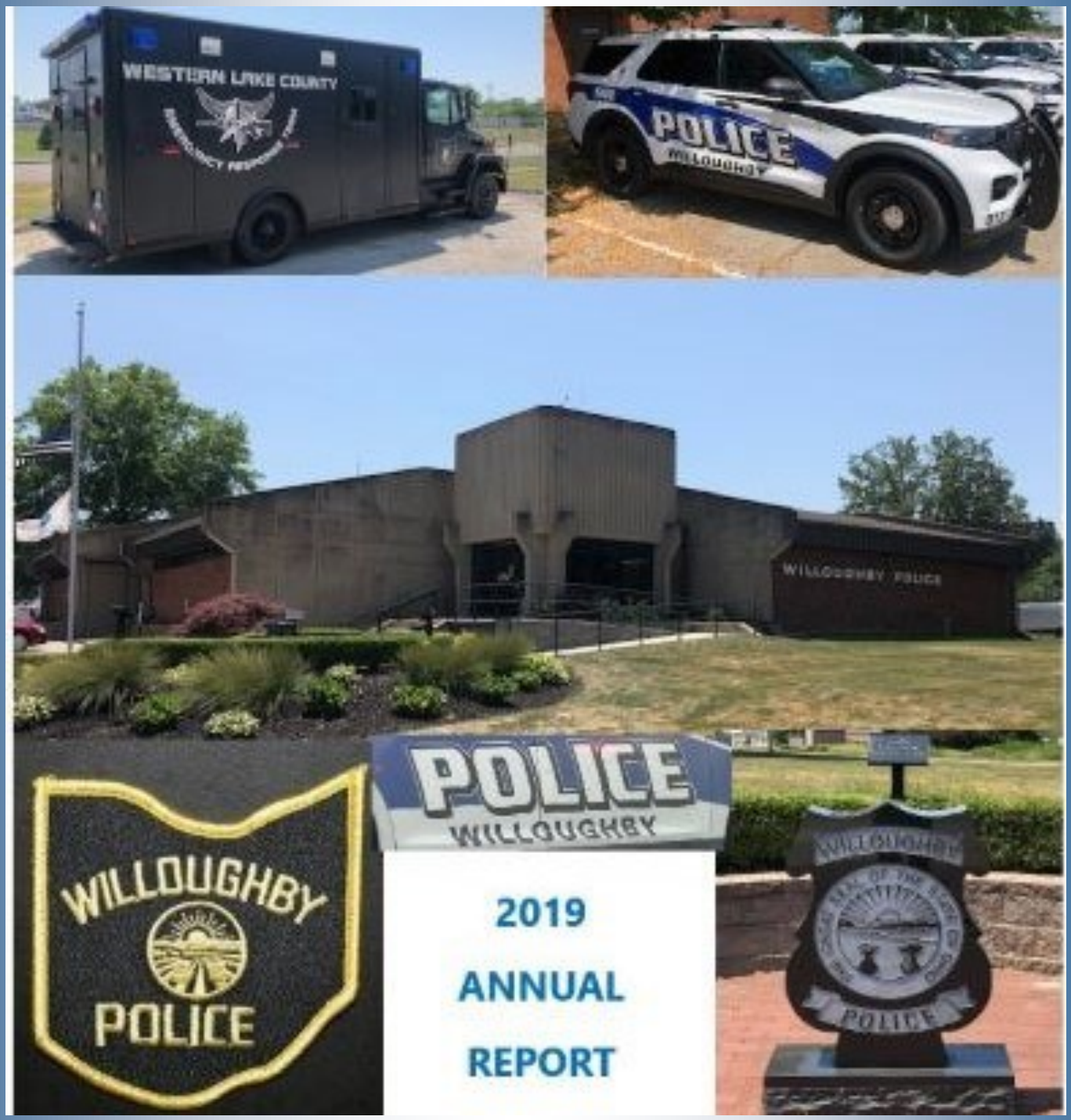
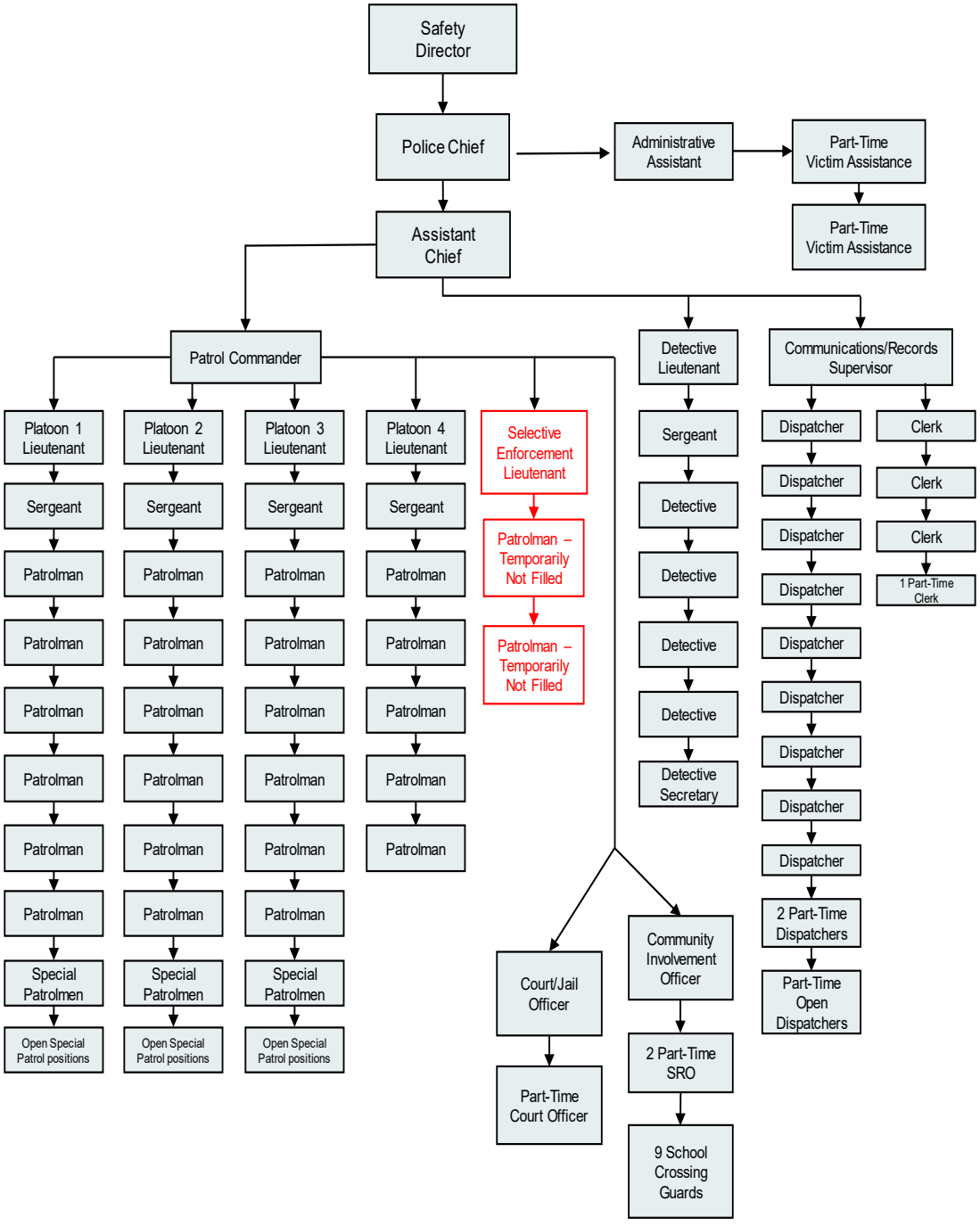


TABLE OF CONTENTS

Table of Contents ii
Organizational Chart iii
Mission Statement iv
Executive Comments v
Administration 1
Patrol Division 2
Awards Committee 5
Detective Bureau 7
Selective Enforcement Division 15
Special Police Division 16
K-9 Unit 17
Motorcycle Patrol 20
Bicycle Patrol Unit 21
Accident Investigations 22
Western Lake County Emergency Response Team 26
Fingerprint Lab 29
Honor Guard 30
Jail Facilities 31
Weaponscraft 32
Communications Center 34
Records Division 36
Records Division Statistics 37
Community Involvement 40
D.A.R.E. 44
Explorer Post 602 45
Police Athletic League 46
School Crossing Guards 47
Victim Assistance Program 48

Willoughby Police Department Organizational Chart



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 2019 Annual Report.

Through 2019, 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. Retiring were Lt. Blaine Sweitzer, Ptl. Jim Lessick, Det. Tom Bertone, Communications Officers Becky Robinson and Pete Gammiere. We welcomed new Patrolman, Jeremy Blackstone Jackson Hyams, and Alan Cole. John Begovic was promoted to Lieutenant, Toby Davis was promoted to Sergeant. New Communications Officers Francis Rivas, Tom Seymore, and Brian Griffith

During 2019, 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

Crime trends for 2019 have not changed significantly. Although in the forefront remains the opiate epidemic which generates numbers in drug arrests, drug overdoses, Crimes of violence, and property crimes, the data indicates that there is not a rise, but toward the latter part of 2019, we may be starting a decline. We hope this continues.

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

Closing the year with total calls for service comparable to 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. Since my time in this position began, public complaints are rare, and compliments are regular. For that, I am thankful to our personnel, and our citizens for always taking the time to express their appreciation.

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

I would like to say that my term as Chief is nearing its end. Since taking over mid-2012, we have experienced highs and lows. Good times and bad. I attribute all successes to all the personnel who work hard and take pride in the Department and the City. I sincerely thank all those who's help and support through difficult situations has allowed us to survive the worst situations and make us stronger and better afterward. As I author this commentary, the country is in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic, and reports say we should soon see light at the end of the tunnel. From the point of view of the Police Department, it appears most citizens are doing their parts to help control the spread and for those efforts I applaud. 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.

With only weeks remaining in this office, this will be my last Annual Report. It has been an honor and a pleasure to serve the community. I thank the men and women of the Willoughby Police Department past and present, for keeping it an agency all can be proud of. I also wish to thank everyone throughout the City of Willoughby personnel, career, elected, and appointed, for all the help, friendship, and support, through the years. Finally, I would like to thank the citizens of Willoughby for always stepping up and supporting the safety forces.

Thank You!

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 2019 Patrol Division Roster

Lieutenant Randy Sevel, Patrol Commander

Lieutenant Phillip Smith
Lieutenant Matthew Tartaglia

Lieutenant Dan Pitts
Lieutenant John Begovic

Sergeant Pete Huth
Sergeant Ken Jordan

Sergeant George Lessick
Sergeant Toby Davis

Patrolman David Scott
Patrolman Joseph Putney
Patrolman Paul Sciarrino
Patrolman Matthew Jackson
Patrolman Chris Scozzie
Patrolman Matt Neath
Patrolman Brad Lampela
Patrolman Jason Pitt
Patrolman Laura Licursi
Patrolman Brandon Zinner
Patrolman Kevin Rastall
Patrolman Dan Lastoria
Patrolman Jeremy Blackstone
Patrolman Walter Cole

Patrolman Michael Fitzgerald
Patrolman Bruce Fedor
Patrolman Travis Stevenson
Patrolman James Greig
Patrolman Jon Greig
Patrolman Gabriel Sleigh
Patrolman Shane Rahz
Patrolman Mike Sevel
Patrolman Ross Shirey
Patrolman Kyle Bucher
Patrolman Kevin Crowley
Patrolman Kyle Dunphy
Patrolman Jackson Hyams

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 2019, Willoughby Police Department officers made 101 Operating a Vehicle while Intoxicated arrests. The number is down from 117 in 2018.

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 2019. Willoughby Officers logged just over 2400 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.

2019 AWARDS COMMITTEE

The Awards Committee is comprised of several members from the Department. The Chairman is Lieutenant Randy Sevel with members Det. Lt. James Schultz and Lt. Phil Smith, Detective Greg Knack, Sgt. Kenneth Jordan and Ptl. Jon Greig and Communications Supervisor 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 2020, in order to issue awards for the year 2019. Employees will have a letter placed in their personnel files for being nominated as employees of the year in their respective categories

2019 Officer of the Year
Patrolman Jason Pitt

Patrolman Pitt was assigned to his current position as Court Officer in 2018. Patrolman Pitt does an exceptional job with his daily duties in the Jail. On days the jail does not have any prisoners, Patrolman Pitt will be seen backing up patrol, conducting traffic enforcement, and taking criminal reports. He has been a great asset to our department, always positive and willing to help. Patrolman Pitt reinvented the Court Officer position and works with well with all City and Court employees, attorneys and other agencies. Former prisoners have commented how Patrolman Pitt treats them with respect.

2019 Jason Gresko Memorial Award
Patrolman Dennis Corbett

Special Officer Dennis Corbett, a retired lieutenant, has been with our Department for many years, and is an asset to our Specials Division. He is a Squad Coordinator and we can always count on him to be available to help with any of the events in our City or even just the side details.

2019 Civilian Employee of the Year***
Chris Borstnik, Carla Gabele, Michelle Burnett, Roberta McMinn, Kevin Brodzinski & Sue Schilling

Due to the three vacancies in our Dispatch Center, the current dispatchers, Carla Gabele, Michelle Burnett, Robbie McMinn, Chris Borstnik, Kevin Brodzinski and Sue Schilling sacrificed personal time, vacations and worked many hours to help get through the manpower shortage. The dispatchers were also training three new dispatchers during this difficult time. Their efforts allowed the dispatch center to continue to operate in an efficient and effective manner.

Detective Bureau

2019 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 2019 was comprised of 1 Detective Lieutenant, 1 Detective Sergeant, 4 Detectives and 1 Detective Bureau Secretary. During the year 2019, the following personnel were assigned to the Detective Bureau:

Detective Lieutenant James Schultz
Detective Sergeant Derrick Stewart
Detective Greg Knack
Detective Charles Krejsa
Detective David Burrington
Detective Gabriel Sleigh
Detective Secretary Michelle Butchock

SECONDARY ASSIGNMENTS

Detective 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
Evidence Technician
VICE/Narcotics Investigator
Juvenile & Sex Crimes Investigator

Detective Charles Krejsa
Financial Crimes Investigator
Crash Reconstructionist Evidence Technician
Crime Scene Photographer
VICE/Narcotics Investigator
Computerized Voice Stress Analyzer

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

Detective Gabriel Sleigh
Juvenile & Sex Crimes Investigator
Burglary/B&E Investigator
VICE/Narcotics Investigator
Computerized Voice Stress Analyzer

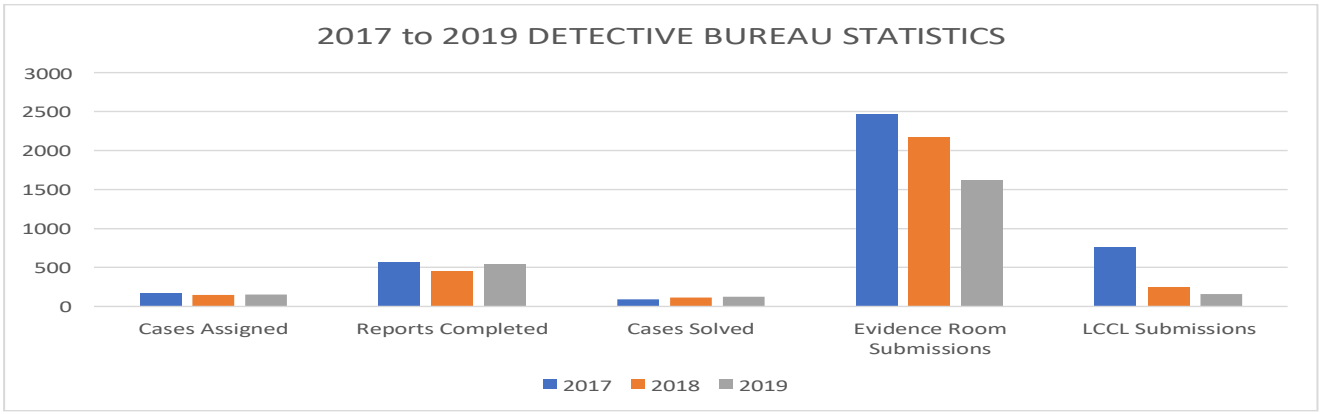
Pre-Employment Investigations//Computerized Voice Stress Analyzer Testing

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 three new officers in 2019.

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.

2017-2019 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 2019

1905715 Aggravated Bank Robbery at Chase Bank – Burrington, Krejsa, Schultz, Stewart

On Wednesday, February 27, 2019 at 1749 hours, an employee at Chase Bank, located at 4850 Robinhood Drive, contacted WPD dispatch to report they had just been robbed by a white male blue work pants, a red nylon jacket and a blue 'beanie' style hat. It was reported the male left on foot in a southern direction towards Lowe's. Willoughby Police units responded to the scene, but the suspect couldn't be found. Witnesses reported the male was in his late 40's, 5ft 3in tall and had a scruffy beard. Surveillance video later obtained from the McDonald's drive thru showed the male walking from the Shell Gas Station to Chase Bank prior to the robbery. After the robbery, the suspect was observed running northbound from Chase Bank to the Shell Gas Station. It was learned that the suspect left as a passenger in a grey Pontiac sedan, possibly a Grand Prix. Dashcam video from cruiser 814 showed a grey Pontiac Grand Prix traveling northbound on Erie Street through the Mentor Avenue intersection.

In the course of one week, three banks had been robbed in Lake County; the Ohio Savings Bank in Wickliffe on Saturday, February 23, the Dollar Bank in Eastlake on Monday, February 25, and the Chase Bank in Willoughby on February 27. Detectives from Eastlake, Wickliffe, and Willoughby met on February 28 to discuss working together to identify and apprehend the suspect. In all three robberies the suspect had the same means of operation. He would enter the bank just before closing and walk up to a bank teller and he would demand cash. The male was persistent and demanded they hurry in each robbery. The male would then quickly exit the bank on foot. With the assistance of several other law enforcement agencies, Detective Krozcak from Eastlake Police learned that the suspect was Pasquale Cisternino, a 48-year-old Cleveland resident. After reviewing Pasquale's BMV photo, it appeared to match the suspect observed in surveillance stills from all three robberies.

Detective Krozcak had received information concerning Pasquale from his Parole Officer, Tara Randle (ODRC Division of Parole and Community Service). P.O. Randle advised "after reviewing the photos of the suspect, it appears that the suspect in those photos is Pasquale Cisternino, he is currently on supervision with Cleveland APA. He is on supervision for several Burglary and Robbery convictions. The last time he reported to the APA office was 02/11/2019 she believed he had on the black hat with the stripes as seen in the surveillance videos of the bank robberies. Also, the offender was on GPS through 02/19/2019, after that date he failed to charge the GPS monitor and connection was lost. He has since been unsuccessfully terminated from the GPS monitoring program. Detectives Knack, Krejsa, and Det. Lt. Schultz checked on the locations provided by P.O. Randle, as well as the City Mission on East 55th Street, several locations on East 79th Street and St. Clair Avenue, and numerous motels on Euclid Avenue without success.

On March 3, 2019 at 2054 hours Special Agent Mark Adams, of the Cleveland Office of the FBI and is also on the FBI Task Force, advised that after receiving a tip on Cisternino's whereabouts had him in their custody. S.A. Adams advised they had received a tip that Cisternino was hiding out at 6100 Hough Avenue in Cleveland. Upon checking this address Cisternino was located in the residence and taken into custody without incident. Cisternino was interviewed by the Detectives of the agencies involved in his arrest and after being advised of the physical evidence, DNA evidence along with witness accounts Cisternino confirmed that the male seen in the still photos was him. Pasquale Cisternino was charged with one count of Aggravated Robbery and his case was bound over to the Lake County Grand Jury for indictment along with additional Robbery charges thru Eastlake and Wickliffe Police Departments.

1907790 – Arson – Krejsa

On Saturday, March 23, 2019 Allen Baladad who resides at 1348 Indian Point Drive called and advised Willoughby Dispatch that she woke up and it appeared someone had tried to torch her front door. Upon officer's arrival contact was made with a visibly upset Allen Baladad and her sister, Angela Grk. While crying, Allen stated that she believed her ex-boyfriend 37yo, Willis Joyner tried to burn her house down. Baladad stated that she dated Joyner for approximately nine years and they had recently broken up. On Sunday, March 24,2019, Joyner showed up at the residence, uninvited and started banging on her first floor, bedroom window. Joyner pounded on the window so hard he shattered the outside pane, cutting his hand in the process.

The entry door on the west side of the residence there was an uncapped 5quart jug of Super-Tech 5w-30 motor oil laying on its side, about three inches from the door frame. The bottom base of the wood door frame was scorched and there were char marks going up the door, approximately eight inches. It appeared the suspect(s) laid down a section of "Bounty-Style" paper towels and lit it on fire. A partially singed portion of the paper towels was observed near the base of the door. The oil jug was a quarter of the way full and a large amount of oil was spilled on the concrete side walk. Allen indicated that the oil jug must have been removed from her unlocked unattached garage. The garage was checked further but no additional evidence was located. It was noted that the garage did not contain any other accelerants. An empty bottle of lighter fluid was located on the grill but Angela confirmed it had been empty, they just never threw away the bottle. While checking the rest of the property for damage another burn mark was located in the AstroTurf carpet on the front porch, directly underneath Allen's broken bedroom window. The burn pattern was about a foot in diameter and started about eleven inches away from the house. It appeared something was lit on fire in the center of the pattern and then fire spread about eight inches away from that object. Heat damage was observed approximately eight inches up the side of the house and the plastic siding was slightly singed and deformed from the heat.

Willoughby Fire was called and a request was made to have their Fire Investigation Unit(FIU) respond to the scene. FIU took several digital pictures of the scene. Fire Lt. Gamiere assisted in cutting away a large portion of the AstroTurf carpet as evidence. Lt. Gamiere also cut away another section from a different area as a standard.

A CCH for Joyner was completed and returned with fourteen-cycles which included several Domestic Violence charges, Vandalism and Intimidation of a Crime Victim. Allen stated that she would be willing to complete a controlled call to Joyner to help the investigation and requested extra checks on the property until she could obtain a Civil Protection Order against Joyner.

Willis Joyner came to the Willoughby Police Department for an interview. Joyner denied being in Willoughby or having anything to do with this incident. Joyner voluntarily submitted to buccal swabs being collected for DNA. Joyner voluntarily allowed Det. Krejsa to retrieve his phone records for the night of the incident. A subpoena was sought and granted by Lake County Common Pleas Judge Eugene Lucci for the Sprint records associated with Joyner's cell phone. All evidence collected at the scene along with the buccal swabs from Joyner were submitted to the Lake County Crime Lab for testing. The Lake County Crime Lab reports indicated that evidence submitted yielded less than the optimal quantity of human DNA for testing and that the item was potentially handled by several unknown individuals, therefore it is not possible to eliminate individuals unrelated to the crime, rendering the results ineligible for CODIS. This completed investigation was sent over to the Willoughby City Prosecutor, Rick Perez, to review for possible charges against Willis Joyner. Prosecutor Perez advised there was insufficient evidence linking Joyner to the fire therefore no charges would be filed.

1910576 – Fatal Accident – Krejsa and Schultz

On Sunday, April 21, 2019 at 1628 hours, Willoughby Dispatch received an E911 call that was being transferred from Central Dispatch with the caller stating she was located at 1080 Eaglewood Drive and a child was just ran over by a vehicle. Willoughby Fire Squad 1422 arrived on scene at 1631 hours and started treating the victim and then headed to Lake Health Hospital. Officers spoke with 32yo male, on scene who identified the victim as 2yo male. A pool of blood was observed and an orange tee shirt was lying in the dirt driveway. The vehicle that reportedly struck the victim was now parked on the south side of the property.

Initial statements indicated, that the 32yo male and his father were working on a 2006 Red Chevy 1500 pickup truck, while it was parked in the driveway. At one point, while working on the truck, the 32yo male had to shoo all of the kids away because they were getting in the way and playing on and around the vehicle. After working on the truck, the father entered the house and told the 32 yo male to move the truck to another section of the yard. The 32yo male entered the truck and backed it out of the driveway with the tail gate facing south. After backing up, someone started screaming and that is when the 32yo male driver saw the 2yo male laying the driveway. At that point a family member got on the phone and contacted E911. While speaking with the 32yo male driver in the driveway he was obviously distraught, visibly crying and repeating, "This can't be real". The 32yo male driver advised he hadn't been drinking and wasn't impaired in any way. No odor of alcohol was detected on the male by officers and he agreed to willingly provide both a urine and a blood sample. The male was transported to Lake Health Hospital for those samples to be collected as evidence. The Crash Investigative Unit (CIU) was called to the scene for further investigation. While officers were on scene it was learned that the child had been pronounced dead upon arrival at Lake Health Hospital.

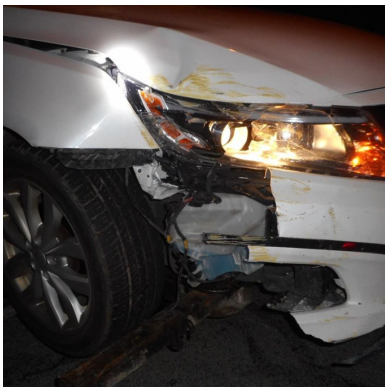
The blood and urine samples from the 32yo male driver were sent to the Lake County Crime Lab for analysis and their reports stated there was no sign of ethanol and/or drugs of abuse in either sample. At the beginning of 2020, the case was sent to the Willoughby Law Department for review. The City Prosecutor advised that there was no criminal culpability and that no charges would be filed in the incident.

1916341 – Aggravated Vehicular Assault and OVI – Krejsa

On Thursday, June 19, 2019 at approximately 0220 hours Officer Dunphy located a disturbance on Kirtland Rd. at the driveway to the Kirtland County Club involving Kelsi A. Pekarcik and Cara Enricco-Caruso. Officers reported while they were on patrol heading east on Kirtland Road they observed a white sedan driving abnormally near the driveway to the Kirtland Country Club located at 39438 Kirtland Road. Brake lights could be seen off the side of the road in the driveway of the country club, but the vehicle was facing east, not south as would be expected for that driveway nor is the club is open during these hours. Approaching the driveway there appeared to be a person on all fours crawling from North to South across the roadway and simultaneously the sedan pulled away heading East on Kirtland Road. The female victim, Cara Enricco-Caruso, who was crawling gained her footing and made her way to a large duffel bag, and appeared to be stuffing items back inside of it. At the same time the sedan braked, and then began to rapidly reverse, stopping only a few feet from the Willoughby PD unit. The driver of the sedan, Kelsi Pekarcik, exited the vehicle and approached the WPD unit. Cara was visibly injured and bleeding. The 2 women were separated and Cara was instructed to sit inside the cruiser passenger seat while officers spoke with Kelsi. Kelsi admitted that she had been drinking earlier in the night and believed she'd had "two bud-lights." While speaking with her officers observed she was slurring her speech, repeating herself frequently, had glassy eyes, and a strong odor of an alcoholic beverage was emanating from her breath.

Kelsi was asked how the other woman, Cara, had ended up on the side of the road with Kelsi driving away. She advised that Cara had fallen out of the vehicle after Cara had struck her on the side of her head with a bottle. Kelsi had a lump and small cut on the right side of her forehead. Throughout the night Kelsi changed her story several times regarding both her injury and how Cara ended up outside the vehicle. Kelsi was taken into custody for suspicion of OVI and returned to the station. The Crash Investigative Unit (CIU) was called to the scene for further investigation and assistance. Willoughby Fire was called to transport Cara to Lake West Hospital. Cara was taken to room T2 for multiple wounds to her legs, arms and face. There were large scrapes on her right foot and leg. The toenails on her right foot were broken and bleeding. There was a bloody scrape to her left knee and her right elbow. Cara had a piercing in both cheeks on her face which were now bloody. Cara told officers that Kelsi had struck her with the vehicle multiple times. Cara's injuries did appear to be consistent with someone being struck by a vehicle. Additionally, Cara's mother, Autumn Encricco, and her sister Caitlynn Enricco-Caruso told police that Cara had called Autumn, and could be heard screaming in fear and shouting "you hit me, you really ran me over" and "I'm hurt, I'm bleeding" "you can't leave me here" They also heard Kelsi yelling back saying "I didn't hit you on purpose" and "you were in my way." The call disconnected at 0220 am. On the dash-camera footage from the first patrol vehicle on scene, Cara can be seen ending a phone call at almost this exact time. Cara was uncooperative during her initial interview at the hospital and would not give details of what had transpired that night. Cara then came to the Willoughby Police Department a few days later for a follow up interview and advised she was not truthful with officers the night of the incident because she didn't want to get Kelsi in trouble but Cara now states she was "pretty sure" Kelsi intentionally ran her over when she was lying on the ground.

Kelsi Pekarcik was charged with Aggravated Vehicular Assault, a felony of the second degree, OVI a Misdemeanor of the First Degree, Driving under an OVI suspension a Misdemeanor of the First Degree, and improper backing a Minor Misdemeanor.



1927497 – Simple Assault – Burrington and Sleigh

On Wednesday, October 2, 2019 at 2223 hours Willoughby Police were called to the ER of Lake West Hospital for a 14yo female assault victim. The 14yo victim advised that she was at the home of a friend visiting when a juvenile male friend showed up and asked her to step outside to talk. Once outside the victim advised she was attacked by a juvenile female who is only an acquaintance. The suspect female punched the victim in the back of the head and then grabbed her by the hair tossing her to the ground. The victim advised she didn't remember much after that other than two (2) other individuals jumping in on the physical assault by punching and kicking her. The assault was recorded by a few people who had witnessed the assault. A portion of the assault was sent to the victim who was able to show it to Detectives Burrington and Sleigh. Detectives Burrington and Sleigh were able to get positive identification of the four (4) individuals involved in the incident.

While conducting interviews with the suspects and viewing more phone video it was found that the same group of juvenile suspects had assaulted a juvenile female in Mentor earlier in the day. Mentor PD was advised of the ongoing investigating from our incident and assisted them with names of suspects. All of the juvenile suspects were interviewed and provided written statements to complete.

The 14yo female victim was diagnosed with a concussion, bruising and some scrapes. A copy of her medical record was provided and sent with the completed report to the Lake County Juvenile prosecutors for review and a request to charge the four (4) juvenile suspects with Felonious Assault and two (2) of the four with an additional charge of Entering an Occupied Structure. We are still awaiting action by the Juvenile Court.

1927655 and 1930448 – Theft – Burrington, Sleigh, Knack and Stewart

On Friday, October 4th, 2019 at 1327 hours T.J. Maxx called and reported a theft that had just occurred involving a black male and black female who quickly exited the store carrying merchandise they did not purchase. The two (2) suspects fled in a white Volvo SUV bearing an Ohio Temporary Tag. The Volvo listed to a Cleveland resident. After reviewing video footage of the theft and Loss Prevention had time to establish what items were taken from the store it was reported that the black male stole $205.94 in clothing and the black female stole $207.90 in clothing. A phone number was located for the suspect vehicle Volvo owner and attempts to make contact with her were not successful. Detectives Burrington and Stewart made a trip down to the listed address of the suspect Volvo owner where a business card was left to have her make contact with Detective Burrington.

The owner of the vehicle called and advised that a male friend she knows as 'La' from a bar asked to borrow her vehicle and she had lent it to him. She states she does this often for friends but was not aware what he was using the vehicle for nor did she have any involvement of the thefts. After reviewing her BMV photo it was determined the vehicle owner was not the female seen stealing from T.J. Maxx.

Still photos from T.J. Maxx were saved and placed on the Willoughby Police Department Facebook page seeking the public's assistance in identifying the male and female. A Cuyahoga County Adult Probation Officer called advising he received an anonymous tip identifying the male as Jermaine Shamar Mabrey. After viewing the photos, himself and having dealings with Mabrey from past arrests the parole officer also positively identified the male in the WPD Facebook post as Mabrey. Also Sgt. Joe Respondek, of the University Heights Police Department, contacted Det. Burrington and advised that same suspect is wanted in 2 incidents at their city's Macy store. Sgt. Respondek advised in one incident Mabrey stole

$2,500 in merchandise and then on a second incident had taken $500 in merchandise. Sgt. Respondek advised he was seeking warrants for Mabrey's arrest. Willoughby Judge Marisa Cornachio was advised of the details of this investigation and signed a theft warrant for Jermaine Shamar Mabrey. Mabrey was arrested at his probation officer's office and interviewed regarding the thefts in both University Heights and Willoughby. Mabrey admitted to the thefts without any prompting. Mabrey stated he has mental issues and has been diagnosed with depression and bipolar disorder which he receives disability for but when he runs low on money he would steal clothes and sell them on the streets. Mabrey was asked about the female with him and he advised he does not know her and they had met that day when they went to steal the merchandise. Mabrey was charged with one count of theft.

On Saturday, November 2, 2019 at 1635 hours T.J. Maxx called to report another theft where two (2) younger black females ran out of the store carrying a lot of clothing still on hangars. The suspect females are seen getting into a black vehicle with NY registration. After Loss Prevention viewed the video surveillance they were able to determine that the female suspect wearing a red jacket stole $662.69 worth of clothing and the suspect female wearing the purple coat stole $275.87 worth of clothing. The NY registration returned to Enterprise Rent a Car on a black 2019 Toyota Camry. Enterprise Rental advised that Karen Coleman had rented the vehicle in October and it was due back. Det. Burrington and Sleigh arrived out at Coleman's address she provided to Enterprise but she was not home. Her brother advised she had left to return her rental vehicle. A business card was left with the brother to have Coleman call. When Detectives arrived out at Enterprise and they were advised Coleman was there within the hour dropped the vehicle and left. Video surveillance from Enterprise was viewed showing Coleman there alone dropping the vehicle off but the Enterprise Agent advised when Coleman picked the vehicle up she had a younger black female with her. The Enterprise Agent pulled up the video from the day the rental was picked up and the younger black female with Coleman is the suspect female wearing the red jacket seen running from T.J. Maxx.

Still photos of the two (2) female suspects were placed on the Willoughby Police Department Facebook page seeking assistance from the public with identifying the females. Approximately twenty-two (22) phone tips were received from the Facebook post. The suspects were identified as Son'cerey Robinson aka Sunny and Laterria Law. Robinson had only one prior conviction for theft and completed the first offender program. Law had an extensive CCH thru multiple states that included numerous theft charges. Attempts to contact Coleman again went without any reply. Detectives Burrington, Sleigh and Knack at different times had paid visits to the addresses listed for Robinson and Law with no luck in locating either female but the still photos were shown to the apartment leasing agents and neighbors who again identified the females. Son'cerey Robinson and Laterria Law were arrested and charged with one count of theft.

The still photos of all three suspects were sent out thru email to the Cuyahoga County Crime Strategies along with their modus operandi incase any other agency had similar incidents involving our suspects. Thru that email it was learned that this was a ring of thieves who most times do not even know each other and just go the stores steal what they can and sell it either on the streets or thru social media sites to supplement their incomes.

Selective Enforcement Division

Currently not funded.

Special Police Division

2019

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 21 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.

Squad 1
Patrolman Dennis Corbett*
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 Chuck Deutsch*
Patrolman Sarah Steigerwalk

Squad 3
Patrolman Kurt Keeper
Patrolman James Myers
Patrolman William Bernakis
Patrolman Timothy Kerzisnik*
Patrolman David Tambascio
Patrolman Mellissa Kelly
Patrolman Maryann Osborne

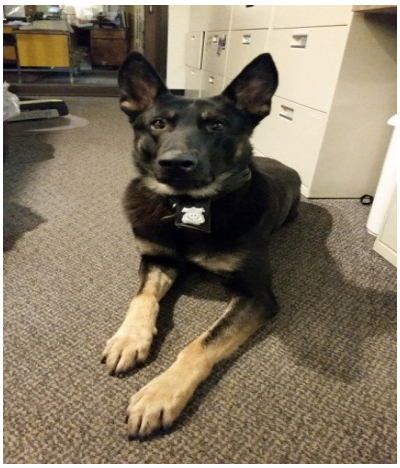
*Retired Full-Time WPD Officers

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 2019 Willoughby Police Special Officers worked a total of 7036 hours for the City, 922 hours providing private security for outside jobs, and 18 hours donated for civic events.

2019 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 City. This group continues to provide support and new ideas to help this K-9 Unit grow and become more efficient. Ptl. Neath has also been certified as a Canine Evaluator through the State of Ohio.

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, conduct a live demonstrations for the Willoughby-Eastlake School district D.A.R.E. classes. During these demonstrations, K-9 Loki located hidden narcotics that were placed in the room.

K-9 Loki and Patrolman Neath have assisted the department by conducting numerous narcotics searches, and tracks for suspects. K-9 Loki and Patrolman Neath had 56 deployments this year and also assist neighboring cities when requested. K-9 Loki assisted Eastlake PD with the tracking of a burglary suspect. K9 Loki was able to track the path of the suspect, locating stolen merchandise and clothes/tools used by the suspect. K-9 Loki tracked to the area where the suspect had been hiding inside of a vehicle. The suspect was wanted in connection with numerous burglaries from Lake County to the Toledo area. K-9 Loki and Patrolman Neath have also assisted the Lake County Narcotics with numerous stops and searches.

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

2019 K-9 Patrol Rex

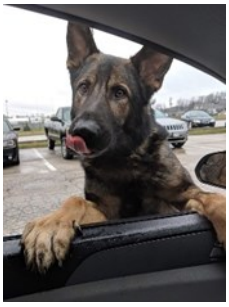
Willoughby Police K-9 Rex was born April 10th, 2016 in Germany. K-9 Rex and his handler, Patrolman Brandon Zinner were put into service on November 10th 2017. K-9 Rex is currently certified through the State of Ohio, as well as the National Association for Professional Canine Handlers.

Training

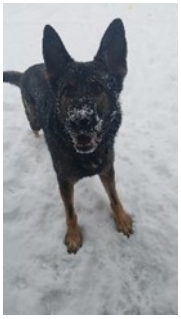
K-9 Rex and Ptl. Zinner are continuously training to improve their skillset in order to have the greatest impact on the community as possible. To become a K-9 team, K-9 Rex and Ptl. Zinner had to undergo a rigorous 6 week training program at Shallow Creek Kennels, in Sharpsville, PA. This team is required 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.

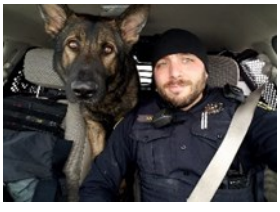
Service



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 4,000 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 200 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 2019, the Willoughby Police Department Motorcycle Unit still uses two Police Motorcycles. Lt Daniel Pitts, Patrolman Shane Rhaz and Special Officer Gary Betzler ride city owned specially equipped Harley Davidson Police Edition Road Kings. Officer Betzler rides a 2001 Harley Davidson and Lt. Pitts and Patrolman Rhaz share a 2001 Harley Davidson. Lt. Pitts and Patrolman Rhaz 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.

Additionally, complaints were noted through the city website address and the E-Gov function. In addition to the traffic complaints, the motor officers also handled many TTA's (Target Traffic Area). Numerous citations were issued while handling these complaints; a majority was for speeding violations.

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 2019 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.

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.

2019

In 2019, 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

2019

The Willoughby Police Department's Traffic Crash Investigation Unit (CIU) investigated one fatal crash and one felonious assault in the City of Willoughby in 2019.

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, Detective Lieutenant James Schultz and Detective Charles Krejsa. The team's technical crash investigators are Patrolmen Terrell Stevenson, James Davis, Joseph Putney, and Christopher Scozzie.

As a department, there were 669 traffic crashes reported in 2019 involving 992 vehicles. Of the 669 traffic crashes, 142 were injury crashes (21%). Of the 669 crashes, 35 were alcohol related (5%).

2019 Crash Investigation Unit

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.

The following is a summary of the Crash Investigation Unit's 2019 investigations:

1910576 – Fatal Accident – Krejsa and Schultz

On Sunday, April 21, 2019 at 1628 hours, Willoughby Dispatch received an E911 call that was being transferred from Central Dispatch with the caller stating she was located at 1080 Eaglewood Drive and a child was just ran over by a vehicle. Willoughby Fire Squad 1422 arrived on scene at 1631 hours and started treating the victim and then headed to Lake Health Hospital. Officers spoke with 32yo male, on scene who identified the victim as 2yo male. A pool of blood was observed and an orange tee shirt was lying in the dirt driveway. The vehicle that reportedly struck the victim was now parked on the south side of the property.

Initial statements indicated, that the 32yo male and his father were working on a 2006 Red Chevy 1500 pickup truck, while it was parked in the driveway. At one point, while working on the truck, the 32yo male had to shoo all of the kids away because they were getting in the way and playing on and around the vehicle. After working on the truck, the father entered the house and told the 32 yo male to move the truck to another section of the yard. The 32yo male entered the truck and backed it out of the driveway with the tail gate facing south. After backing up, someone started screaming and that is when the 32yo male driver saw the 2yo male laying the driveway. At that point a family member got on the phone and contacted E911. While speaking with the 32yo male driver in the driveway he was obviously distraught, visibly crying and repeating, "This can't be real". The 32yo male driver advised he hadn't been drinking and wasn't impaired in any way. No odor of alcohol was detected on the male by officers and he agreed to willingly provide both a urine and a blood sample. The male was transported to Lake Health Hospital for those samples to be collected as evidence. The Crash Investigative Unit (CIU) was called to the scene for further investigation. While officers were on scene it was learned that the child had been pronounced dead upon arrival at Lake Health Hospital.

The blood and urine samples from the 32yo male driver were sent to the Lake County Crime Lab for analysis and their reports stated there was no sign of ethanol and/or drugs of abuse in either sample. At the beginning of 2020, the case was sent to the Willoughby Law Department for review. The City Prosecutor advised that there was no criminal culpability and that no charges would be filed in the incident.

1916341 – Aggravated Vehicular Assault and OVI – Krejsa

On Thursday, June 19, 2019 at approximately 0220 hours Officer Dunphy located a disturbance on Kirtland Rd. at the driveway to the Kirtland County Club involving Kelsi A. Perkarcik and Cara Enricco-Caruso. Officers reported while they were on patrol heading east on Kirtland Road they observed a white sedan driving abnormally near the driveway to the Kirtland Country Club located at 39438 Kirtland Road. Brake lights could be seen off the side of the road in the driveway of the country club, but the vehicle was facing east, not south as would be expected for that driveway nor is the club is open during these hours. Approaching the driveway there appeared to be a person on all fours crawling from North to South across the roadway and simultaneously the sedan pulled away heading East on Kirtland Road. The female victim, Cara Enricco-Caruso, who was crawling gained her footing and made her way to a large duffel bag, and appeared to be stuffing items back inside of it. At the same time the sedan braked, and then began to rapidly reverse, stopping only a few feet from the Willoughby PD unit. The driver of the sedan, Kelsi Pekarcik, exited the vehicle and approached the WPD unit. Cara was visibly injured and bleeding. The 2 women were separated and Cara was instructed to sit inside the cruiser passenger seat while officers spoke with Kelsi. Kelsi admitted that she had been drinking earlier in the night and believed she'd had "two bud-lights." While speaking with her officers observed she was slurring her speech, repeating herself frequently, had glassy eyes, and a strong odor of an alcoholic beverage was emanating from her breath.

Kelsi was asked how the other woman, Cara, had ended up on the side of the road with Kelsi driving away. She advised that Cara had fallen out of the vehicle after Cara had struck her on the side of her head with a bottle. Kelsi had a lump and small cut on the right side of her forehead. Throughout the night Kelsi changed her story several times regarding both her injury and how Cara ended up outside the vehicle. Kelsi was taken into custody for suspicion of OVI and returned to the station. The Crash Investigative Unit (CIU) was called to the scene for further investigation and assistance. Willoughby Fire was called to transport Cara to Lake West Hospital. Cara was taken to room T2 for multiple wounds to her legs, arms and face. There were large scrapes on her right foot and leg. The toenails on her right foot were broken and bleeding. There was a bloody scrape to her left knee and her right elbow. Cara had a piercing in both cheeks on her face which were now bloody. Cara told officers that Kelsi had struck her with the vehicle multiple times. Cara's injuries did appear to be consistent with someone being struck by a vehicle. Additionally, Cara's mother, Autumn Encricco, and her sister Caitlynn Enricco-Caruso told police that Cara had called Autumn, and could be heard screaming in fear and shouting "you hit me, you really ran me over" and "I'm hurt, I'm bleeding" "you can't leave me here" They also heard Kelsi yelling back saying "I didn't hit you on purpose" and "you were in my way." The call disconnected at 0220 am. On the dash-camera footage from the first patrol vehicle on scene, Cara can be seen ending a phone call at almost this exact time. Cara was uncooperative during her initial interview at the hospital and would not give details of what had transpired that night. Cara then came to the Willoughby Police Department a few days later for a follow up interview and advised she was not truthful with officers the night of the incident because she didn't want to get Kelsi in trouble but Cara now states she was "pretty sure" Kelsi intentionally ran her over when she was lying on the ground.

Kelsi Pekarcik was charged with Aggravated Vehicular Assault, a felony of the second degree, OVI a Misdemeanor of the First Degree, Driving under an OVI suspension a Misdemeanor of the First Degree, and improper backing a Minor Misdemeanor.

Willoughby Traffic Accidents

01/01/2019 Through 12/31/2019

Crashed Occured	669
Vehicles Involved	992
Injury Accidents	142
Injured Persons	181
Alcohol Related	35
Alcohol Related Injuries	24
Alcohol Related Fatalities	0
Pedestrian Related crashes	3
Fatal crashes	1
Fatalities	1
Private property crashes	66
Hit skip crashes	46
Hit skip crashes solved	36
Crash Related citations	414
Bicycle Injuries	0
Bicycle Fatalities	0
Motorcyles	0
Motorcyles Fatals	0
Seat Belt used %	1.0000

Western Lake County Emergency Response Team 2019

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. 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 4 operations in 2019. 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 New Albany, Indiana at the NORSE Tactical Inc. facilities. Instructors from NORSE Tactical trained the team for the 3rd 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. NORSE Instructors traveled to Willoughby 5 other times in 2019 to conduct individual training sessions with the team.

TEAM ACTIVATIONS

1904732 – Wickliffe PD – Assist with executing a Search Warrant

On Monday, February 18, 2019, the Western Lake County ERT team assisted the Wickliffe PD with executing a search warrant at a residence, 1450 Bellview Street, in their city. The search warrant was a narcotics search warrant for suspected methamphetamine use at 1450 Bellview Street. The search warrant was carried out without incident. Willoughby PD ERT members present were Sgt. Davis, Ptl. Jon Greig, Ptl. Sevel and Ptl. Crowley.

1900711 - Wickliffe PD - Barricaded Male

On Friday March 22, 2019 at 0953 hours, the Western Lake County Emergency Response Team was called to 30085 Regent Road, Wickliffe, Ohio for a male identified as Steven J. Bator barricaded in his residence after assaulting Timothy S. Fisher. Fisher was bleeding from his head when he ran to the neighbor's house stating he had been assaulted by Bator and requested Wickliffe Fire and Police be called for assistance. Bator was barricaded in the northeast bedroom of the residence and advised he had a gun in the room with him. Bator stopped communicating with officers but occasionally made noise within the room. Around 1010 hours officers heard what sounded like prescription pills being shaken in a pill bottle as if they were being poured out. Fearing Bator would attempt to overdose it was decided that ERT would introduce a chemical agent into the room.

At about 1104 hours, Wickliffe Sgt. Jim Coolick (SWAT) fired one 37 mm CS gas projectile and one 37 mm OC gas projectile into the bedroom through the window on the east side of the house. SWAT officers could hear Bator coughing but he continued to refuse commands to exit the bedroom. Willoughby Lt. Jim Schultz (SWAT) advised he could hear Bator moving furniture and suspected he was blocking the bedroom door. At about 1115 hours, Sgt. Coolick and Willowick Sgt. Daubenmire (SWAT) broke out a section of the east bedroom window, and Sgt. Coolick tossed a handheld CS gas grenade into the room. Bator still did not exit. At about 1128 hours, Sgt. Coolick, Sgt. Daubenmire and Willowick Ptl. Chris Olup (SWAT) broke out the rest of the bedroom window and used a ballistic shield to look into the room. Sgt. Daubenmire could see Bator laying on the floor in the room, and he covered him with his firearm until Lt. Schultz and other SWAT officers at the bedroom door could force their way into the room and take Bator into custody. In doing so, Bator resisted arrest and had to be forcibly handcuffed and restrained.

SWAT officers brought him out of the home and placed him onto a fire department cot, as paramedics were standing by in the driveway of the house. Ptl. Pecnik rode in the rescue squad with EMS personnel, as Bator continued to scream and be uncooperative. Ptl. Pecnik stood by at Lake West Hospital as Bator was treated. Bator will be charged with Felonious Assault (due to serious injuries sustained by victim Timothy Fisher) and Obstructing Official Business with Risk of Harm. Additionally, Bator was wanted on a failure to appear warrant related to an earlier domestic violence incident in Wickliffe.

After Bator was taken to the hospital, Ptl. Regnier and Lt. Pat Hengst stayed on scene at the house and photographed the interior and exterior. Both Timothy Fisher and his father signed consent forms allowing us to search the house for evidence related to the incident were several items were recovered.

Finally, Mr. Fisher was advised of the issues related to chemical agent contamination inside the house and the broken bedroom window. The ERT team cleared the house at about 1240 hours.

1917800 – Wickliffe PD – Assist with executing a Search Warrant

On Wednesday July 3, 2019, the Western Lake County ERT team assisted the Wickliffe PD with executing a search warrant at the Plaza Motel, 29152 Euclid Ave, Wickliffe, OH 44092, room #5. Two individuals were taken into custody without incident. Willoughby PD ERT members present were Lt. Shultz, Ptl. Jon Greig and Ptl. Crowley.

1926634 – Wickliffe PD – Assist with Drug Raid

On Tuesday September 24, 2019, the Western Lake County ERT team assisted the Wickliffe PD with a drug raid at 1045 Lloyd Rd, Wickliffe, OH 44092. Three individuals were taken into custody without incident. Willoughby PD ERT members present were Lt. Schultz, Sgt. Davis, Ptl. Sevel and Ptl. Crowley.

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

2019 Members

Lieutenant Tartaglia
Lieutenant John Begovic
Sergeant George Lessick
Sergeant Peter Huth
Sergeant Ken Jordan
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 7 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 2019, the Honor Guard members participated in the following functions:

- In May, members of the Honor Guard traveled to Washington DC to participate in the National Police Memorial 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.
- The Honor Guard provided a gun volley for retired Willoughby Police Officer Terry Thompson.
- The Honor Guard lent its services to Madison Police Department for the funeral service of one of their fallen officers.

Jail Facilities

For the year 2019, the Willoughby Police Department City Jail housed 510 persons compared to 640 in 2018, a decrease of 20%. 346 were males and 164 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 Pitt, who is the Willoughby Police Department's Court Officer. The following are only a few of Patrolman Pitt'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 Pitt's duties do not only include the processing of approximately 10 prisoners per week; Patrolman Pitt 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.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lieutenant Matthew Tartaglia
Jail Administrator

Weaponscraft

2019 Firearms Training Unit

Firearms training is a critical aspect of law enforcement. Police officers must be able to use handguns, rifles and shotguns under extraordinary stress and the only way to ensure superior performance is, excellent training. Now more than ever, firearms training has becoming one of the most important aspects of Law Enforcement. According to FBI statistics, in 2019, there were 435 documented "Mass" shootings across the country. In those shootings, 517 lives were lost and 1,648 people were wounded 9 of the shootings occurred at a school or university, 2 were at a place or worship. There was an average "Mass" shooting that occurred every 2 weeks in 2019, and about half of those are family related. About 3 out of 4 guns involved were handguns. Many mass killers do not face prosecution. About a quarter commit suicide after the crime, and others are killed by police. Still more are deemed incompetent due to mental illness. When cases do go to trial, they can often take years because of the death penalty or other complications. 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 2019, the unit consists of 12 in service instructors. Currently there are 2 Lieutenants, 2 Sergeants, 1 detective, 6 patrolmen and the Chief of Police. 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 in place now, during the last several years,

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. We are still able to use, with heavy restrictions, a small area for an outdoor range within the City limits. This area was created off of Pelton Rd at the old "Shredder" plant. This still allows a majority of officers to qualify easily within the parameters of their regular shift.

The indoor range is continually used, and always proves to be an excellent tool for weapons training and qualifications. Our current handguns were purchased in 2015, and are still in operation with no issues.

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 have 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 standard practice, and implemented 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. 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. **134 officers were killed in 2019**, **47 officers were killed as a result of gun fire**.

Training

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 shoot was conducted once again. The course was created by Ptl. Mike Fitzgerald and after several officers attempted to win the coveted trophy, Ptl. Kevin Crowley came out on top, besting all those who participated. Ptl. Crowley received a trophy, and a small cash prize, while attending lunch sponsored by the Rotary Club.

As always, 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:

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

Kenneth F. Stafford, Jr. Communications Center

2019

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.

2019 Communications Personnel

Communications Supervisor
Marlene Matteo

Full-Time
Communications Operators
Carla Gabele
Peter Gammiere
Brigitte Smalley
Becky Robinson
Michelle Burnett
Robbie McMinn
Christopher Borstnik
Kevin Brodzinksi
Lisa Lesner
Frances Rivas
Bryan Griffith
Tom Seymour

Part-Time
Communications Operators
Randy Ricciardo
Justin Falcone
Monica Patterson
Karrie Horn
Danette Perkins
Lisa Lesner

During 2019, longtime dispatchers Pete Gammiere and Becky Robinson retired after many years of service to the police department. We welcome new dispatchers Frances Rivas, Bryan Griffith and Tom Seymour. They were hired in 2019, have succeeded with their training and are all doing a wonderful job.

Responsibilities

The primary responsibility of our Dispatchers is to provide professional and responsive communications services to our public and our safety forces. In 2019, a total of 22 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 2019, a total of 49 stolen entries were made to these files with 22 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.

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 2019, Willoughby dispatchers processed **35,240** 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 date 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

2019 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 **35,240** calls for service were generated by the public in 2019.

Willoughby Police Department arrested **2,441** persons resulting in a total of **3,441** charges. With the physical arrest of **570** persons, the Records Division processed **414** 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 **$42,524** in **2019.**

2019
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 **429** warrants issued through Willoughby Municipal Court.

The Willoughby Police Department issued **1,750** parking citations which were entered into the CAD system throughout 2019. Parking ticket receipts processed by the Records Department totaled **$21,275/**.

2019
Record Room Statistics

F.B.I Uniform Classification

Part I, Actual Offenses	2018	2019
Criminal Homicide	1	0
Forcible Rape	2	5
Robbery	8	10
Aggravated Assault	11	0
Burglary	58	34
Larceny/Theft	377	307
Auto Theft	16	19
Arson	2	3
Total Part 1 Actual Offenses	475	378

Traffic Arrests-Adult & Juvenile

	2018	2019
Vehicular homicide	0	0
Hit-Skip	30	32
DUI & Physical Control	117	159
Reckless Operation	26	32
Lane Usage Violations	63	70
Weaving Course/FTC	92	84
Left of Center	1	6
Failure/Yield Right of Way	88	87
Stop Sign	19	26
Traffic Signals	68	91
Assured Clear Distance	170	154
Speed	493	529
Seat Belt	23	23
Equipment Violations	64	88
License Plate Violations	232	212
Unlicensed Junk Vehicles	0	2
Operator License Required	48	45
Other Traffic Violations	140	166
Total Traffic Arrests	**1950**	**2028**

Other Arrests-Adult and Juvenile

	2018	2019
Aggravated Murder	1	0
Robbery	14	3
Aggravated Assault	10	0
Simple Assault	53	60
Arson	1	0
Breaking & Entering	7	14
Larceny	169	119
Auto Theft	4	2
Forgery & Identity Theft	24	11
Fraud	19	10
Stolen Property	27	14
Criminal Damaging	11	13
Dangerous Drugs	400	241
Other Sex Offenses	1	4
Domestic Violence	51	45
Liquor Violations	41	32
Obstructing Police	27	33
Escape	0	1
Probation Violations	660	436
Weapons Violations	15	11
Disorderly Conduct	93	118
Intoxication	88	66
Other	248	177
Total Other Arrests	1715	1236
Total Arrests	3914	3441

2019
Record Room Statistics

	2018	2019
Police Calls for Service	36,673	35,240
Emergency Calls Dispatched	3624	3210
Emergency Calls Investigated		
Deaths	27	29
Suicides	4	4
Attempted Suicides	28	22
Mental Illness	106	111
Total Emergency Calls Investigated	**165**	**166**
Animal Investigations		
Cruelty to Animals	0	0
Animals at large	233	256
Animal Noises	48	64
Animal Bites	0	0
Other Animal Complaints	299	370
Total Animal Investigations	**580**	**690**
Lockouts	1069	947
Missing Persons	51	63
Alarms		
Alarms	1163	1577
Alarms, Fire-False	110	42
Alarms, Fire-Active	90	94
Alarms, Test	161	246
Alarms, Malfunction	26	14
Alarms, Accidental	4	5
Alarms, Auto	14	11
Total Number of Alarms	**2038**	**1982**

2019
Record Room Statistics

	2018	2019
Money Escorts & Other Public Assists	914	976
Mutual Aid	609	586
Solicitor Complaints	107	71
Fireworks Complaints	44	46
Open Buildings	60	87
Disturbance, General	820	850
Disturbance, Noise	309	346
Disturbance, Unwanted Guest	79	101
Disturbance, Trouble with Customer	100	100
Suspicion, General	1556	1325
Suspicion, Person	326	399
Suspicion, Vehicle	482	567
Juvenile-Runaways & Curfew Violations	44	4
Fingerprinting (Court Order)	92	110

Receipts	2018	2019
Parking Ticket Receipts	$20,620	$21,275
Other Receipts:		
Taxi Licenses	0	0
Accident & Crime Report Copies	$71.20	$28.15
Other Services	$600	$2,925
Total Other Receipts	$671.20	$2,953.15
Total Receipts	**$21,962.40**	**$24,228.15**

Community Involvement

The Willoughby Police Department prides itself in establishing partnerships with residents and businesses within the city. Integral to the operations of the police department is enforcement of the law, however our vision is to establish a collaborative effort to sustain the strong community in which Willoughby has become. The department continually receives positive feedback from the community regarding outreach programs. The police department commits to maintaining a full time Community Involvement Division. The division is dedicated to crime prevention initiatives as well as fostering collaboration within the community. Educational and public relations opportunities are offered 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 division encourages community input and insight on how better the department is able to serve the community as a whole.

YMCA Aftercare Program

The goal of Community Involvement is to enhance the quality of life for those who reside, 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 Involvement is a vital component in the success of Community Oriented Policing. The Willoughby Police Department has a long-standing history of embracing this philosophy, deploying an evolved approach to law enforcement to better serve the Willoughby community.

The Community Involvement Division is currently staffed by one full-time officer.

2019 Initiatives

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. Juveniles in the program are advised on social responsibilities and coping with adversity. 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 2019, one juvenile participated in diversion program completing 10 hours of community service.

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 topics are implemented in classrooms. These programs span first through twelve grades. 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. One successful and frequently requested program educates youth through recovering addicts sharing their experiences.

Teen drivers are regularly monitored during dismissal and educated on distracted driving and seatbelt use.

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

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. Patrolman 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 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.

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 our 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.

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.

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.

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.

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 2019

Medicinal Marijuana Forum – The community was invited to join an informational forum on influences legalized marijuana may have among the teenage community. Attendees had the opportunity to see products that have been found in the possession of teenagers. In addition, they were shown other paraphernalia associated with marijuana use enabling them to identify similar items should they discover them in their child's possession. The goal of the forum is to educate individuals, especially parents, early detection and drug abuse prevention.

Library Story Time – The Willoughby Police Department was invited to read to children once a month at the Willoughby Public Library.

Internships – Annually, select college and high school students are offered internship opportunities at the department. Community Involvement is responsible for maintaining and implementing the internship program.

PAL Family Movie Night – The Willoughby PAL program along with Parks & Recreation sponsored a family movie night. Three outdoor movies were presented throughout the summer.

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

2019 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 2019 school year, Sergeant Pete Huth and Sergeant Ken Jordan, taught classes totaling approximately 220 students.

Grant Elementary	5th Grade	125 Students	Sergeant Huth
Edison Elementary	5th Grade	112 Students	Sergeant Jordan
South High	High School	150 Students	Sergeant Jordan
School of Innovation	5th grade	75 Students	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. 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 is implemented along with exploration of various law enforcement careers. In 2019, explorers had to opportunity to speak with and receive information from deputies with Geauga County Sheriff's Department, members of the Lake County Emergency Response Team and an agent with the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation.

Seven new members joined the post in 2019.

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 159 hours of community service and 332 hours of training in 2019

Training

Training topics covered in 2019 included search and rescue, traffic stops, accident investigation, firearms, subject control, report writing, drug awareness crisis intervention and criminal justice. All training includes 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

Our post had four members participate in the state Law Enforcement Explorers Competition. In addition, in 2019, Explorers Christian Marn and Daniel Rago earned a perfect attendance award. Eric Wood and Travis Gumm obtained a tenure award. Jasiah Morgan earned an award for completing 100 hours of community service. The Lake Erie Council Boy Scouts of America continues to recognize our explorer as one of the top posts in the area. 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

Objective

The Willoughby Police Department functions as a law enforcement entity, however strives to develop relationships within the community that foster cooperation and unity. PAL implements events and activities designed to bring officers and the community together. Specifically, PAL helps the department establish interactions with youth, building respect and trust. Individuals participating in PAL obtain a sense of community and the importance of working together to reach a common goal. PAL assists and encourages youth in navigating the process of growing into productive members of the community.

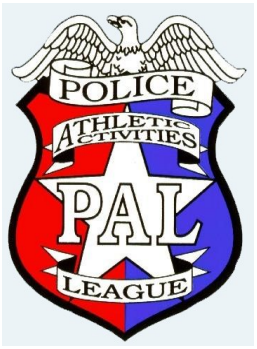
Programs

In 2019, PAL sponsored family movie night in downtown Willoughby designed to promote families and community spirit.

WHAT IS PAL

PAL originated as a recreation focused crime prevention program reaching out to youth and families within the community. Through implementation of various innovative programs, the police department is presented the opportunity to increase public interaction outside regular duties. PAL enables officers to have a positive impact in the city beyond the scope of law enforcement.

Over the years, PAL has evolved from an athletic based program into a more diverse, inclusive entity, expanding the reach of the police department. Willoughby's PAL program will continue to provide constructive cooperation for youth and families in the community and develop new programs as needs arise.



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.

In 2019, longtime guard Bert Gillette retired his post and was replaced by Marietta Hrach. Jackie Burk was hired as a substitute guard. Bert was a very dedicated guard and will certainly be missed. He has since retired to Florida.

Willoughby Police Department Crossing Guards

Edison Elementary School
Joe Papaleo
Mary Baggot

Grant Elementary School
Sue Carr Darlene Smith
John Wozniak Marietta Hrach

Substitutes
Jackie Burk Ken Schmitt

Victim Assistance

2019

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 960 victims and witnesses though the court system, with immediate crisis counseling, and referrals to other agencies. In 2019, 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.