

Willoughby Police Department

2021 Annual Report



DEDICATION

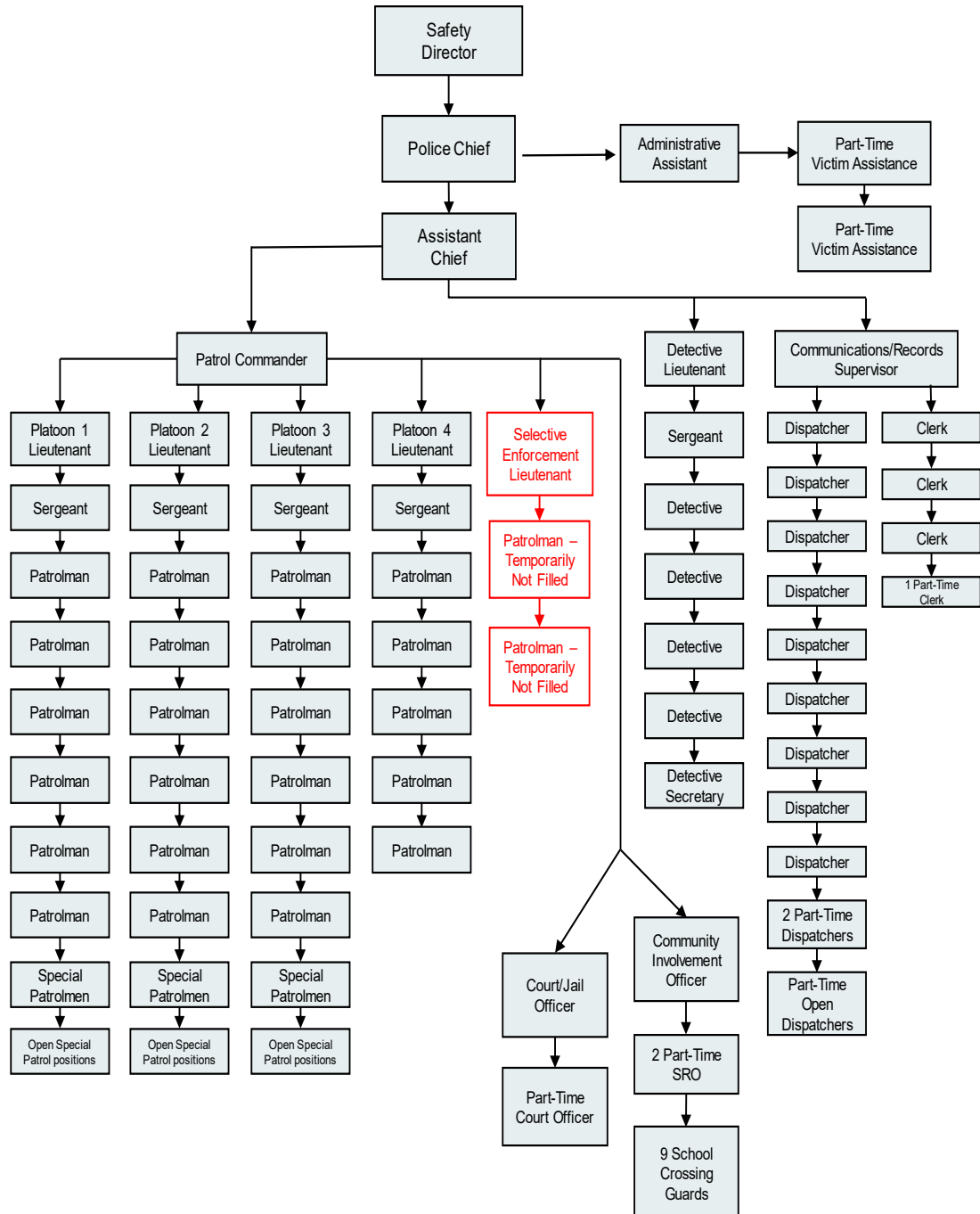
HONOR

SERVICE

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Willoughby Police Department Organizational Chart



March 2019

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 2021 Annual Report.

Our mission is to provide a safe environment for everyone to live, work, and play in our great City. Our values are our Constitutional Rights, Integrity, Professional Excellence, and Commitment to Employees. In order to provide a safe environment, we are constantly building on our police-community partnership, because without your assistance, we can't do our jobs to the best of our abilities. But in 2021, we decided to redefine and build upon our skills as police officers, dispatchers, and support staff. We made a commitment to develop, invest, train, and educate our members. To improve on our mission and values, we must invest in our number one asset: our people.

We've traditionally sent our members to schools and training throughout the State and sometimes nationally, depending on the level and field of training. But that process tends to be very individualistic. The trend in law enforcement has been to work as a team. When we see tragedies across the nation involving police officers, we can identify the root causes almost immediately: a lack of training and education as well as a lack of teamwork.

We watched a video recently of an incident that occurred in another state. Officers responded to a disturbance call involving a depressed individual. The first two officers on scene confronted the individual in the back yard and began deescalating the situation as they were most likely trained to do. The two officers were working together to resolve the problem. Minutes later, a supervisor arrived on scene and immediately attempted to take over the situation by yelling at the individual to comply with his orders. While the initial situation was progressing in a positive direction, the supervisor never attempted to learn from his officers and surroundings, and unfortunately his actions escalated the incident in a matter of seconds. Sadly, the incident turned fatal after the supervisor failed to understand and observe the situation because he didn't work as a team with his officers. The supervisor was most likely not trained in de-escalation techniques or in supervision or leadership principles.

Because of examples like this, our focus in 2020, 2021, and now beginning in 2022, is to invest in our people. For the beginning of this year, we've developed a continual departmental training program much like our brothers and sisters use in the Fire Department. We then asked our people; what type of training do we need as police officers and how much training should we receive? Our people wanted training in Policy & Procedures, Defensive Tactics, Firearms, Case Law, Building Searches, Traffic Stops, Less Lethal Options, Use of Force, and Police Driving. Our people then identified how much time each officer should spend learning these topics.

Once the model was in place, now it was time to implement it. Law enforcement is a unique career.



As a police officer, you are expected to be a problem solver for anything and everything. You're not expected to perform surgery for a life-threatening issue, but we are expected to recognize a health problem that someone is experiencing and get them the help they need or facilitate that help. We are also expected to learn and grow our problem-solving skills on the job.

For the community we serve, that on-the-job training isn't good enough. As being responsible and accountable, we're not satisfied with that answer.

As problem solvers, our next problem was how do we implement this new training program. The answer is that we must make time for it. We must create time for it. Why do we do this? Because every officer's life matters. Because everyone we serve matters. It's not good enough to "wing it" through a use of force situation. We can't just send a couple of officers into a building and "hope" they find the bad guy. We must develop our craft. We must become experts in our tasks and actions. We constantly must earn the respect of our community and make our citizens proud. We do this because we serve our community.

Our new continual departmental training program was designed to develop everyone's abilities, improve upon our shortcomings, reduce the mistakes, and provide the best service possible for our citizens. We're also investing in our people to protect our community. The areas of training were identified specifically to provide the officer with the best education, knowledge and experience needed to successfully complete his/her mission every day.



EXECUTIVE COMMENTS

In order for our officers to make the best possible decisions in the field, they need to know our policies & procedures and recent case law. This knowledge will guide us when solving problems. When an incident might call for some level of force by the officer, our officers must be trained in those techniques that will best de-escalate an incident and/or bring it under control in a safe manner. We must give our officers the knowledge to defend themselves from attack, so we train them in defensive tactics. We provide training and education on less than lethal options because we must have other options available to resolve a non-deadly force incident.

We train in searching through buildings and in driving, because there are tactics available that allow us to do our job better and safer.

We train in each of these categories, and we will continue to improve in our training, because one mistake is one too many. Much of the national media focuses on the negative outcome of one of these police-related events. These outcomes are horrible and tragic, but news stories do not ever focus on the effect these events have on the police officers. The event that was described earlier involving the supervisor had a horrific ending. The reality was that none of the officers, nor the supervisor, woke up that morning thinking their lives would be forever changed. No one thought that a life was going to be taken that evening. And none of those police officers wanted to live with that result for the rest of their lives. It can not be undone, and they have to live with that mistake forever. This is not an acceptable risk worth taking.

This continual department training plan is just the beginning. We're providing consistent training and education to our dispatchers and support staff so they can provide the best service, make the best decisions possible, and work as a team. We're looking to provide more training and education to our part-time officers as well. This is an investment for today and for the future for the members of the Willoughby Police Department.

If there is anything that I can do to help the Willoughby Police Department provide the best possible service while keeping our people safe during their missions, I will do it. That is my promise. This is why we train and educate. Our community deserves the best so we will give them our very best.

Respectfully,

James Schultz
Chief of Police

Administration

The administrative offices of the police department are responsible for developing, coordinating, and administering 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 2021 Patrol Division Roster

Captain Phil Smith

Lieutenant George Lessick
Lieutenant Toby Davis

Lieutenant Ken Jordan
Lieutenant Chris Scozzie

Sergeant Pete Huth
Sergeant Mike Fitzgerald

Sergeant Jamie Greig
Sergeant Kevin Crowley

Patrolman Joseph Putney
Patrolman Paul Sciarrino
Patrolman Matthew Jackson
Patrolman Matt Neath
Patrolman Shane Rahz
Patrolman Mike Sevel
Patrolman Ross Shirey
Patrolman Kyle Bucher
Patrolman Dan Lastoria
Patrolman Jeremy Blackstone
Patrolman Walter Cole
Patrolman Ryan Gregorin
Patrolman Victoria Godfrey

Patrolman Bruce Fedor
Patrolman Travis Stevenson
Patrolman Jon Greig
Patrolman Brad Lampela
Patrolman Jason Pitt
Patrolman Laura Licursi
Patrolman Brandon Zinner
Patrolman Kevin Rastall
Patrolman Kyle Dunphy
Patrolman Jackson Hyams
Patrolman Casey Kraft
Patrolman Bill Bernakis
Patrolman Taylor Zana

Service

The Patrol Division of the Willoughby Police Department continues its commitment to providing service and protection to citizens. The Patrol Division has many wide ranging and varied responsibilities which include the following: protecting our citizens and visitors from harm and danger, the enforcement of criminal and traffic laws set forth by the City of Willoughby and the State of Ohio, investigation of criminal and suspicious activity, the prevention of crime, traffic crash investigation, providing first aid in medical situations until the Fire Department arrives, and the education of our citizens in crime prevention or the dangers of drugs and alcohol.

Promotions and Retirements

Assistant Chief Randy Sevel and Lieutenant Dan Pitts both retired in 2021 after long and distinguished careers with the Willoughby Police Department. We wish them a well-deserved and rewarding retirement.

As a result of these retirements, these officers assumed the following positions: Detective Lieutenant Matt Tartaglia was promoted to Assistant Chief, Lieutenant John Begovic was promoted to Detective Lieutenant, Sergeants Toby Davis and Chris Scozzie were promoted to Lieutenants, Patrolman Mike Sevel was promoted to Detective Sergeant and Patrolman Kevin Crowley was promoted to Sergeant. We definitely expect great things from all of our newly promoted officers.

Training and Equipment

Chief James Schultz continues to stress the importance of regular training and education for our officers as a way to provide better service to our residents and to lessen the chance of critical mistakes.

Lieutenant Toby Davis and Sergeant Mike Sevel are both RAIDER trainers and instructed our officers in these critical technique's multiple times in 2021. The RAIDER Training program exposes first-on-scene responders to the tactical skills necessary to operate successfully in the unique tensions of an active shooter setting – a hostile environment, populated by large numbers of civilians, with an active killer attempting to achieve the highest body count possible in the shortest amount of time. It is our sincere hope that a situation never occurs where these tactics will be necessary, but our department has the training and equipment to respond to it if needed.

Sergeant Mike Sevel and Patrolman Kyle Bucher are our department's less lethal instructors. In 2021, they provided all of our officers regular training in the deployment of our beanbag shotguns and Pepperball guns. Two incidents of note where these devices were used successfully in 2021: an armed suspect who was barricaded in a bedroom at an apartment complex and an armed male walking down a busy Euclid Avenue sidewalk. Both suspects were apprehended unharmed due to the training received in these less lethal devices.

Patrolman Ross Shirey and Patrolman Dan Lastoria are both our self-defense instructors and are trained in the Gracie Jiu Jitsu system, which emphasizes controlling a subject while on the ground in a way that minimizes the chances of injury to both the subject and officer. The Covid pandemic has unfortunately continued to hamper our self-defense instruction, as we all look for ways to avoid close contact with others as much as possible. It is our hope that we can resume our training as the pandemic abates in 2022.

Patrolman Kyle Bucher, Patrolman Joe Putney and Patrolman Allen Cole have all received specialized training in driving skills and tactics and are certified instructors. Driving a vehicle is one of the biggest hazards to a police officer and these officers will be providing training that will hopefully minimize this danger.

In addition to in-service training such as weapons qualification, self-defense, Taser certification, less lethal training, RAIDER training, and policy reviews, our officers attended numerous outside schools for a wide range of training totaling over 2,000 hours.

Activity

Assistant Chief Tartaglia was instrumental in the deployment of 10 Flock cameras throughout the city of Willoughby in 2021. Flock cameras are license plate readers that are tied into the National Crime Information center (NCIC), which is a law enforcement database that tracks warrants, stolen vehicles, missing persons, sex offenders, and many other categories. As Flock cameras read license plates, a photo is taken of the vehicle and plate. If the vehicle or owner is entered into NCIC in one of the categories described previously, officers are immediately alerted via MDT's, dispatch and even their cell phones. They are provided with the license plate, a vehicle description, the last known location of the vehicle, and a photograph of the vehicle.

In addition to alerting officers to criminal subjects entering our city, the Flock system is regularly used to investigate crimes after they have occurred. The camera system can be accessed to locate suspect vehicles that have fled the scene of thefts, robberies, assaults and other crimes. The Flock system can provide officers with the license plate of the suspect's vehicle, which significantly aids in the investigation of the case.

Flock cameras are located in many other cities in northeast Ohio, and are more are coming online at a rapid pace. Our department also has access to these cameras when conducting a criminal investigation, and we also allow other law enforcement agencies access to our cameras. This mutual cooperation solved many crimes in 2021. Of note was the arrest of several individuals involved in numerous and ongoing trailer and vehicle thefts in northeast Ohio.

Hotel interdiction continued to be a big focus for our patrol unit in 2021. Thanks to a continuing federal grant, we were able to target our hotels multiple days each week. We also conducted several successful larger-scale operations involving the Willoughby Detective Bureau, the Lake County Narcotics Agency and other local police departments. As a result of our efforts, a dramatic decrease in prostitution, drug activity and other crimes has been observed in our problem areas. Hotel interdiction will continue into 2022.

With the ongoing Covid pandemic and related work absences due to illness, manpower shortages due to long-term injuries of several of our patrolmen, combined with the aforementioned retirements, our patrol division encountered some unprecedented challenges in 2021. Patrolman Jason Pitt, our Jail Officer, stepped up and returned to road duty for several months in order to supplement manpower. In addition, many of our patrol officers worked a large amount of overtime, and were not able to take requested time off in order to make sure that the department was adequately staffed. It is expected that our manpower should be back at full strength sometime in the summer of 2022.

2021 AWARDS COMMITTEE

The Awards Committee is comprised of several members from the Department. The Chairman is Captain Phil Smith with members Detective Greg Knack, Lt. 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 field. 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 2021, in order to issue awards for the year 2021. Employees will have a letter placed in their personnel files for being nominated as employees of the year in their respective categories

Exceptional Service Award: Sergeant Mike Sevel and Patrolman Kyle Bucher

Both Mike and Kyle were recognized for the advancement of our less lethal program. Both officers received extensive training as less lethal instructors, and have set up a system where all of our officers receive regular training in the various weapons. Mike and Kyle inspected our current equipment and presented a plan to improve our department's readiness for a less lethal scenario. Pepperball weapons and projectiles were purchased and a plan devised for the deployment of them. Both officers also converted unused shotguns into less lethal beanbag shotguns and equipped each frontline patrol car with them.

Exceptional Service and Departmental Excellence Award: Patrolman Jon Greig

Jon was nominated for an Exceptional Service award for the purchase and implementation of our department's new service pistols in 2021. He conducted extensive research prior to the purchase, and is involved in training our officers in the use of the red dot sights.

Jon also was nominated for a Departmental Excellence Award by Sergeant Fitzgerald for his investigation involving an elderly woman being defrauded. Without his perseverance and quick actions, the victim would likely have lost \$50,000 to the scam

Departmental Excellence Awards: Sergeant Mike Fitzgerald and Patrolman Ross Shirey

Mike and Ross were nominated for Departmental Excellence Awards for their involvement in a standoff at an apartment complex on November 15, 2021. A disturbed male armed with a hatchet had barricaded himself inside a bedroom. Ross initiated dialogue with the suspect from the living room, and maintained the conversation for over 3 hours. Ross did an excellent job developing a rapport with the suspect, which allowed officers to develop and execute a plan to drive the male out of the bedroom unharmed.

Mike was on scene for the duration of the incident and maintained excellent command and control as he worked with Ross and with the various personnel who arrived on scene to assist. He allowed all officers involved the time needed to develop a plan that minimized the risk to our officers and resulted in the arrest of the suspect unharmed.

Departmental Excellence Award: Patrolman Matt Jackson

Our department received a compliment about Matt in 2021 from a very rare source, a defense attorney who had just lost a preliminary hearing that Matt testified in. However, the attorney was so impressed with Matt that he reached out to our department. He stated that Matt discussed the case as he experienced it, with honesty, kindness, integrity and compassion. He stated the facts while keeping the dignity of his client intact. The attorney called Matt's testimony "a breath of fresh air."

Matt is nominated for a Departmental Excellence Award for this, and for what he brings to this department every day. Officers regularly look to Matt as a leader and seek out his advice. But he is also open to the ideas of others and will listen to what they have to say. He also routinely works with the Detective Bureau regarding investigations that he is involved in. Matt comes to work each day with a positive attitude and always presents a positive image of our department to the public.



2021 Officer of the Year Patrolman Travis Stevenson

Travis was nominated due to his extensive work at our local hotels, with the Operation Stonegarden and on his own during his normal patrol. Travis amassed a large number of arrests that resulted from traffic stops of individuals frequenting the hotels. These stops resulted in many arrests for drugs, warrants and weapons offenses. Travis also assisted the Detective Bureau with several prostitution operations over the course of the year. Travis did all of this while still also handling the regular volume of calls in his zones.

In addition, Travis brings a positive attitude to work each day and is always willing to assist his coworkers. Travis can always be counted on by his supervisors to make the right decisions and he is certainly a positive influence to our newer officers. He is always one of our top performers each year with respect to initiated activity.



2021 Jason Gresko Memorial Award Patrolman Rick Myers

Rick was nominated for Special of the Year due to his continuous dependability and solid work effort shown throughout 2021. Rick regularly worked road patrol to assist our squads, which have been depleted due to manpower issues. He also worked the majority of the city special events and filled many open side-job details throughout the year. Rick gets along great with all members of our department and always conveys a positive image of our department to the public. Rick was also assigned to the position of Special Squad Coordinator in 2021.



2021 Civilian Employee of the Year Clerk Sue Schilling

Sue was nominated as Civilian Employee of the Year, she worked so hard during 2021 to “pick up the extra slack” in dispatch due to manpower issues. Sue is a hard worker who deserves to be given the proper recognition. Sue completed extensive prep work prior to the LEADS 2021 audit, then was extremely busy during the day of the audit. Sue helped keep our department in compliance. Sue has done whatever has been asked of her in order to keep our dispatch center staffed during a difficult year. She always has a positive attitude and is willing to help her coworkers with anything that is needed.

Detective Bureau

2021 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 2021 was comprised of 1 Detective Lieutenant, 1 Detective Sergeant, 4 Detectives and 1 Detective Bureau Secretary. The year 2021 had some changes to its personnel. Det. Lt. Matthew Tartaglia was promoted to Assistant Chief of Police in July. Det. Sgt. Chris Scozzie was in charge of the bureau until the end of 2021. Detective Charles Krejsa who works with the U.S. Marshal's Task Force joined them full-time while still working his cases for our bureau. During the year 2021, the following personnel were assigned to the Detective Bureau along with Ptl. Shane Rahz who was on light duty and assisted with the cases and backgrounds:

Detective Lieutenant Matthew Tartaglia
Detective Sergeant Chris Scozzie
Detective Greg Knack
Detective Charles Krejsa
Detective David Burrington
Detective Gabriel Sleigh
Ptl. Shane Rahz (light duty)
Detective Secretary Michelle Butchcock

The year 2021 was still reeling with the lingering effects of COVID -19. A vaccine was developed and administered to those who choose to receive it. The virus continued to mutate into different strains and was still causing issues with the way work and day to day life was handled. Although nothing as severe as when it was first hit. Still crime continued and our department handled whatever was thrown our way. The Detective Bureau joined with other area departments and the assistance of federal funding a program called StoneGarden. StoneGarden is a hotel interdiction program to deal with the drugs, human trafficking and other crimes at the area hotels. StoneGarden has been successful with keeping the crime down at the hotels and showing that local law enforcement agencies don't want this type of activity at their hotels.

SECONDARY ASSIGNMENTS

Detective Lieutenant

Matthew Tartaglia

Evidence/Property Room Management

Detective Sergeant Christopher Scozzie

Evidence/Property Room Management

Evidence Technician

Coordinator for the Department FTO's

Photographer

Technical Crash Investigator

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

U.S. Marshal's Violent Fugitive Task Force

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

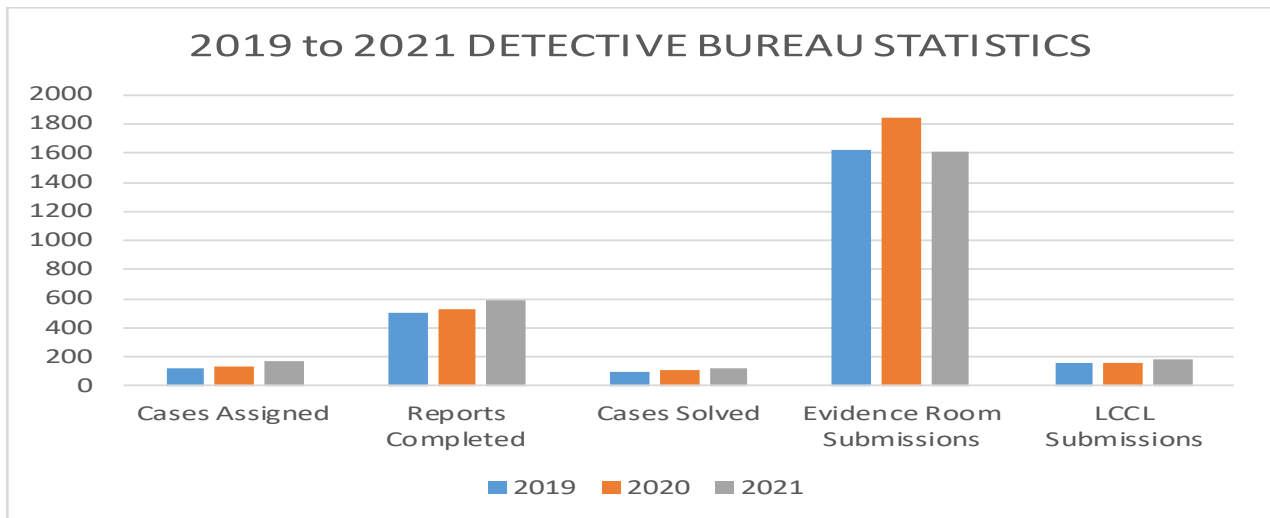
Computerized Voice Stress Analyzer

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 thirteen (13) pre-employment investigations for full-time Police Officer candidates. The Department eventually hired two full-time dispatchers and two part-time dispatchers in 2021.

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.



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.

The year 2020 proved some great challenges for not only our department but the world. In January 2020 the world was hit with a pandemic, a virus called COVID -19. We were placed on stay-at-home orders, mandated face mask wearing and social distancing. Businesses were closed and sadly some did not re-open due to the financial hardships created by the pandemic. In the midst of all this the Willoughby Detective Bureau coordinated plain clothes details that included members of the F.B.I., the D.E.A., the U.S. Marshal's Task Force and other area departments to provide protection for protests for the Black Lives Matter Movement (BLM). The use of audio, visual and aerial drones proved to be a great asset during the protests. We are happy to report there were no incidents at any of the protests that were conducted in Downtown Willoughby.

Detective Bureau Cases 2021

21-01035 Grand Theft/Embezzlement – Krejsa and Rahz

On Wednesday, January 13, 2021 at 0918 hours, the owner of Alternative Healthcare, 36200 Euclid Avenue, called reporting he believed an employee had been stealing money from his business. The employee had worked at the business for over 15 years running the day-to-day operations. While the employee was off sick the owner checked his bank account and believed it was off. After some further investigation he found a few checks that the employee had cashed to herself by using a rubber signature stamp. After looking back further in the books the owner realized this had been going on since 2015. In all there was a total of 597 checks written totaling \$294,779.49. This case was bound over to the Lake County Court of Common Pleas. The employee was charged with Grand Theft and Forgery both felonies of the 4th degree.

21-02445 B&E, Grand Theft, Possess Criminal Tools – Scozzie, Burrington, Sleigh and Rahz

On Thursday, January 29, 2021 at 0056 hours, officers responded to the area of Campbell Road for a report of two males stealing tools. The males took off in a blue Dodge Van with a North Carolina registration which was located shortly after unoccupied in a parking lot. Officers set up a perimeter with the assistance of Wickliffe and Willowick Police Departments. The two males were located running along the railroad tracks before being taken into custody and identified. Both males were from out of state and advised they were on their way to Florida to pick up the one male's daughter. One of the suspects advised they were just looking to make some money as he owns a mechanic shop that has been hurting since the pandemic happened. He advised they got a tip regarding a shipment of Snap-On Tools and decided to come to Willoughby. The owner of the truck that had the Snap-On Tools advised the tools taken were valued at \$30,000. During the investigation the suspects were tied to another B&E at the same location that had occurred a few months earlier. Using their cell phones Detectives were able to place them in the area at the time of the thefts not only here but in other locations thru out the eastern United States as well. Both males were charged in Lake County Court of Common Pleas with Grand Theft, a felony of the 4th degree, Breaking and Entering, a Felony of the 5th degree and Possession of Criminal Tools, a Felony of the 5th degree.



#21-12033 Attempted Robbery, Attempted Felonious Assault, Kidnapping, Simple Assault – Tartaglia, Sleigh, Burrington, Knack, Krejsa

On Tuesday, April 7, 2021 at 1256 hours, Dispatch started receiving calls regarding a male who ran into the middle of Euclid Avenue from the hospital jumping on cars. The suspect was seen getting into a vehicle and a short time later was located out beating a female in the roadway. The suspect was at the hospital with his parents seeking mental health assistance due to a drug abuse problem. While waiting to be seen the suspect became agitated and took off from the ER assaulting a security guard who was trying to get him back inside to get help. The security guard was worried due to the suspects state of mind, agitation and the threat he made to run into Euclid Avenue. The suspect jumped onto one vehicle and then opened the door of another asking for a ride. The female driver thought she was assisting this male and then once inside he began fighting her for control of the steering wheel striking her in the side of the face. The suspect and female continued fighting over the keys as the female was able to put the car in park. The driver's door opened and the female fell out striking her head on the street. The suspect ended up outside the vehicle and continued striking the female. Witnesses ran to assist the female and were able to detain the male until police officers arrived on scene. The suspect was charged with Kidnapping, a felony of the 1st degree, Robbery, a felony of the 2nd degree, Felonious Assault, a felony of the 2nd degree and Assault, a misdemeanor of the 1st degree. This matter was bound over to the Lake County Court of Common Pleas.

#21-13642 Grand Theft Motor Vehicle, Aggravated Robbery and Attempted Aggravated Robbery – Tartaglia, Scozzie, Krejsa, Burrington, Sleigh

On Thursday, May 14, 2021, at 0010 hours, Willoughby Police Dispatch received a 911 call regarding an armed carjacking. The victim advised her vehicle was hit by a four-door black sedan and when she exited her vehicle 2 black males exited and took her Toyota RAV 4 at gunpoint. The victim's vehicle was driven away with the black sedan following. During the initial investigation it was learned that Mentor PD had attempted to stop a black Toyota Camry with no visible registration, now believed to be the suspect vehicle in this incident, which took off from them and was seen by other agencies traveling SR 2 westbound at approximately 130 MPH. The next day the victim's stolen Toyota RAV 4 was located unoccupied in East Cleveland. The Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation(BCI) was contacted to help process the vehicle due to the numerous stolen vehicles that had been taken in the area recently. BCI collected evidence from inside the victim's vehicle along with taking photos of the interior and exterior. These items were processed and analyzed by BCI and produced one suspect. At the end of 2021 this case along with other similar Grand Theft Motor Vehicle cases were still being investigated to identify additional suspects. Local Police agencies have been working together to stop the rash of car thefts happening in the area and find those who are responsible and charge them accordingly.



#21-13935 Attempted Grand Theft Motor Vehicle, Attempted Aggravated Robbery and Petty Theft from Auto – Tartaglia, Knack, Burrington, Sleigh

On Saturday, May 16, 2021 at 0230 hours, Willoughby Dispatch received a 911 call from a female at the Courtyard by Marriott, 35103 Maplegrove Road, who advised someone tried to break into her vehicle and then she heard gunshots. The victim advised she was staying at the hotel with her husband where they attended a wedding. She advised she and her husband got into an argument and she went out to her vehicle to sleep for the night. She was awoken by someone pulling on the door handles of her yellow Volkswagen Beetle. When she looked up a black male pointed a gun at her and told her to get out but she put her head down and that is when she heard the gunshots. She then see the male(s) run to a gray sedan and leave the area. The victim was not injured. Wickliffe Police advised on Monday May 18, 2021 that they had taken some juvenile males into custody after they broke into the Ganley Subaru Car Dealership in their city. Wickliffe Police believed these individuals were related to our incident. After interviewing Wickliffe's juvenile suspects it was determined they were involved in our incident. At the end of 2021 these juvenile suspects have yet to be charged due to the other incidents they are believed to be related too.

#21-32615, 21-32631, 21-32648, 21-32677, 21-33066 Grand Theft Motor Vehicles, Breaking and Entering – Tartaglia, Scozzie, Knack, Krejsa, Burrington, Sleigh, Rahz

On Thursday, October 14, 2021 at 0204 hours Willoughby Police Officers were involved with a pursuit of stolen vehicles. An officer on patrol noticed three(3) vehicles in a convoy traveling southbound down Lost Nation Road. While attempting to read the plates of the vehicles they fled. Two of the vehicles had just been reported stolen from our city. The pursuit was ended after speeds got to be excessive. One of the victim's was able to remotely track her vehicle showing it was sitting stationary in front of a Cleveland address. Cleveland PD was asked to check on the vehicle and when they pulled up they vehicle fled the area. The next morning the vehicle owner advised her stolen vehicle was moving again and was now at an address on St. Clair Avenue, in Cleveland. As Detectives in unmarked cars made their way to the location it was determined this was a Sunoco Gas Station that is frequented by area thieves to use stolen credit cards to make purchases. The victim's vehicle was located at a gas pump with one black male outside of the vehicle and another sitting in the passenger seat. Willoughby Detectives along with the assistance of the U. S. Marshal's Task Force approached the vehicle and took one juvenile male and one adult male into custody. A loaded hand gun was located under the right thigh of the adult male. Both suspects were transported back to the Willoughby Police Station for questioning. The victim's vehicle was towed back to Bay 4 to be processed for evidence. The suspects were questioned about the theft of vehicle(s) and after some time admitted which thefts they were involved with along with their friends. They gave specifics of houses and vehicles and locations. Not all the thefts were done in Willoughby and those agencies were contacted the next day. The juvenile male was charged with one count of Grand Theft Auto, one count Improper Handling of a Firearm, one count Burglary and one count of Fleeing and Eluding a Police Officer. He was transported to Lake County Juvenile Detention. The adult male was charged with Grand Theft Auto and Improper Handling of a Firearm. He was transported to the Lake County Jail. Both males are awaiting trials and local agencies are in the process of combining all the cases and bringing R.I.C.O. charges against the males and their associates as they are tracked down and charged.



Selective Enforcement Division

Currently not funded.

Special Police Division

2021

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 downtown community events Willoughby is known for throughout the year. This Division started 2021 with 20 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 Captain

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 typically 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. Unfortunately due to the Covid-19 pandemic, some events were cancelled in 2021.

The Division also provides School Resource Officer support 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. These positions have become increasingly important to ensure the safety of students, staff and visitors. Numerous school sessions were curtailed throughout the year due to Covid 19.

The Willoughby Explorer Post 602 is also supported by the Specials Division. Several of our 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 typically 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 Willoughby Police Dept, the Lake County Sheriff's Office, the Ohio Highway patrol, and numerous other police agencies.

The Special 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 2021 Willoughby Police Special Officers worked a total of 5889 hours for the City, 749 hours providing private security for outside jobs, and also hours donated for civic events.

Squad 1

Patrolman Dennis Corbett*
Patrolman Thomas Sherwood
Patrolman Steve Jevnikar
Patrolman Gary Betzler*
Patrolman Kyle Hosta
Patrolman Jack Beckwith*
Patrolman Joseph Kulnane

Squad 2

Patrolman Randy Ricciardo
Patrolman Jerry Spradlin
Patrolman Matthew Zarbock
Patrolman Rick Myers
Patrolman Chuck Popik
Patrolman Tom Dearden
Patrolman Michael Nogalo

Squad 3

Patrolman Kurt Keeper
Patrolman James Myers
Patrolman Timothy Kerzisnik*
Patrolman David Tambascio
Patrolman Chuck Deutsch
Patrolman Derrick Stewart *
Patrolman Thomas Trem

*Retired Full-Time WPD Officers

2021 K-9 Patrol Loki

Willoughby Police K-9 Loki has served with this Department for the last 8 years. Loki and his handler Patrolman Matt Neath are 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. During the 2021 year, this team completed over 190 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, Ashtabula City and RTA Police. This group continues to provide support and new ideas to help this K-9 Unit grow and become more efficient. Ptl. Neath is also 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 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 over 60 deployments this year and also assisted neighboring cities when requested. K-9 Loki assisted WPD officers after an individual fled several times from a traffic stop. Once the vehicle was stopped, Loki apprehended the still uncooperative driver. K9 Loki's help ensured that no officers were injured during the encounter. K-9 Loki and Patrolman Neath have also assisted WPD and the Lake County Narcotics with numerous stops and searches, related to the drug interdiction that has been ongoing at the hotels in the city.

Special Thanks

K-9 Loki and Ptl Neath would like to thank the residents of Willoughby, and especially DR. Joseph Doles for their continued support.

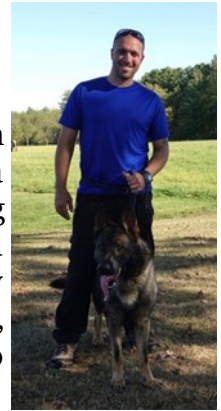
2021 K-9 Patrol Rex

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). Ptl. Zinner has also been certified as a Canine Evaluator through the State of Ohio.

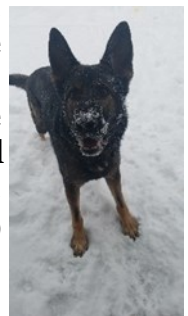


This team trains every day both on and off shift. Additionally, they have two in-service training days a month averaging 192 training hours a year. There are many different K-9's in this in-service training group. Willowick, Mentor, Fairport Harbor, Perry Village, RTA, and Ashtabula all train together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

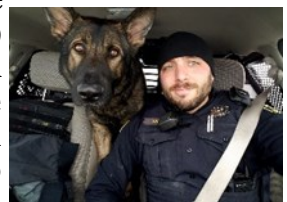
Service



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 4,500 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 hundreds of 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. This year K9 Rex was called to Mentor to locate a suspect who had assaulted a Mentor Officer and fled. K9 Rex tracked, located, and apprehended the suspect who was taken into custody by MPD.



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 2021, the Willoughby Police Department Motorcycle Unit consisted of four Motor Officers and two Police Motorcycles. Lt Daniel Pitts, Patrolman Brad Lampela, Patrolman Shane Rahz, and Special Officer Gary Betzler rode city owned, specially equipped, Harley Davidson Police Edition Road King Motorcycles. While Patrolman Lampela completed his Motor Officer training in May, Lt. Pitts retired in late 2021 and Patrolman Rahz was injured / on light duty. Officer Betzler consistently worked 3 to 4 days per week throughout the riding season. The motorcycles are either taken home or stored at the Willoughby Police Department after each shift is completed, and the Motor Officers are required to perform routine care and maintenance.

Although Motor Officers can be assigned a zone and handle routine calls for service, the Motor Officers are primarily used in handling traffic complaints in residential neighborhoods throughout the city. These traffic complaints were identified mostly via residents, 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 were for speeding violations.

As always, the Motor Officers escorted numerous parades and funerals throughout Northeast Ohio, but events were somewhat limited due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. Some of the functions that the officers attended in 2021 included the Mentor on The Lake Memorial Day Parade, two Willoughby neighborhood children's Fourth of July Parades, the Offshore Powerboat Association Boat Parade, Law Enforcement National Night Out, Hometown Hero's Day, Firefighter Tommy's Motorcycle Birthday Parade, and the Last Stop Willoughby Parade.



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 Captain Philip 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.

2021

In 2021, the Bicycle Patrol Unit was back in action, providing services for City events and the community.

- ♦ 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

2021

The Willoughby Police Department's Traffic Crash Investigation Unit (CIU) is responsible for investigating traffic crashes when it 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 is Crash Reconstructionist, Detective Charles Krejsa. The team's technical crash investigators are Detective Sergeant Christopher Scozzie, Patrolman Joseph Putney, Patrolman Travis Stevenson, Patrolman Brad Lampela, Patrolman Kyle Bucher and Patrolman Kevin Rastall.

In 2021, the Willoughby Police Department responded to 916 traffic crashes resulting in over 688 hours of investigation time. The number of crashes where an increase of over 5% from 2021. Of the 916 traffic crashes, 153 resulted in injuries which is also a 5% increase from the previous year. The Department had no fatal crashes but did investigate two crashes involving bicycles and four crashes involving pedestrians. Of the 916 crashes, 38 were alcohol related resulting in 13 injuries.

The Willoughby Police Department's Traffic Crash Investigation Unit (CIU) had no investigations in 2021.

2021 Crash Investigation Unit

Crash Reconstructionists

Det. Charles Krejsa

Technical Crash Investigators

Det. Sgt. Chris Scozzie

Patrolman Terrell Stevenson

Patrolman Joseph Putney

Patrolman Brad Lampela

Patrolman Kyle Bucher

Patrolman Kevin Rastall

Lake Crash Reconstruction Unit

The Willoughby Police Department has partnered with the Lake Crash Reconstruction Unit to assist in crash scene documentation and imaging of event data recorders. In turn, two Technical Crash Investigators have been assigned to the Unit to assist other agencies in their investigation.

The following is a summary of the Lake Crash Reconstruction Unit's 2021 investigations that the Willoughby Police Department's Traffic Crash Investigation Unit assisted in:

February 2nd, 2021-Lake CRU for Wickliffe Police Department (21-02858)

Officers assisted in the crash investigation where a work van rear ended a compact vehicle on State Route 2 westbound just west of East 305th Street. The vehicle had stopped in the roadway due to debris in the travel lanes.

March 2nd, 2021- Lake CRU for Eastlake Police Department (21-05785)

Officers assisted in the criminal investigation where a vehicle struck a pedestrian on Roberts Road during an alleged drug deal.

May 16th, 2021- Lake CRU for Wickliffe Police Department (21-13941)

Officers assisted in the crash investigation where a pickup truck drove off the road into the median of Interstate 90 near Bishop Road. An occupant riding in the bed of the truck was ejected from the vehicle.

December 1st, 2021- Lake CRU for Mentor Police Department (21-39002)

Officers assisted in the crash investigation where a Sport Utility Vehicle went left of center on Munson Road at Center Street striking another vehicle head on.

December 8th, 2021- Lake CRU for Madison Township Police Department (21-39738)

Officers assisted in the crash investigation where a vehicle went left of center on North Ridge Road near the 5300 block. The vehicle struck another car head on. The crash resulted in a fatality.

CARFAX

In 2021, the Willoughby Police Department partnered with CARFAX for Police. Carfax allows Officers, Dispatchers and Clerks unlimited investigative access to CARFAX Vehicle History Reports, Partial License Plate Search and VIN Alert to assist in investigations.

Lake County Public Safety UAS

The Willoughby Police Department has begun to utilize the Lake County Public Safety UAS team to assist in crash scene. This allows investigators an additional tool to more accurately and efficiently investigation crash scene.

Western Lake County Emergency Response Team 2021

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

There are five members of the Willoughby Police Department currently assigned to the Western Lake County ERT team. Lt. Toby Davis, Patrolman Jon Greig, Sergeant Mike Sevel, Sergeant Kevin Crowley, and Patrolman Dan Lastoria.

The ERT team conducted a total of 5 operations in 2021. In addition the ERT team conducted 8 hours of training per month and the sniper element of the team, which includes Sergeant Sevel and Patrolman Jon Greig, completed an additional 8 hours of training per month. Training days comprised of all facets of ERT operations. The ERT teams training consists of: room clearing procedures, 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, as well as the Ohio Tactical Officers Association Conference in Sandusky, Ohio.

The entire ERT team took part in a 3-day training session taught by NORSE Tactical instructors. Things learned during this training were room clearing techniques, procedures for movement on stairs when searching, large building searches, door breaching, vehicle take downs, and use of distraction devices. The team also completed a day of firearms training focusing on the rifle and pistol. NORSE Tactical also came to Willoughby on five other occasions to conduct one day training sessions as part of an ongoing sustainment and continuing education.



TEAM ACTIVATIONS

Eastlake PD- Barricaded Male

On January 3, 2021 the Western Lake County Emergency Response Team, along with Lake County West End Crisis Negotiators, responded to 1283 Hulett Drive in Eastlake in reference to a male who was barricaded in the home and had threatened his mother with a gun. On arrival, officers deployed around the residence. The male inside, Jefferey Gribble eventually came out after two and a half hours of negotiations. He was taken into custody without incident and transported away from the scene by Eastlake P.D.

Eastlake PD- Search Warrant

On February 23, 2021, the Western Lake County Emergency Response Team executed a search warrant for Lake County Narcotics Agency at a trailer (35755 Lake Shore Blvd #40) in Eastlake. The resident and subject of the search warrant, Thomas Totarella, was located inside the residence and taken into custody without incident. Willoughby Police Department officers Lt. Davis, Sgt. Sevel and Sgt. Crowley were present during the search warrant.

Willowick PD- Search Warrant

On March 3, 2021 The Western Lake County Emergency Response team executed a search warrant for the Lake County Narcotics Agency. During the search of the home a total of 8 people were located inside and secured without incident. The subject of the search warrant, Robert Kunsman, was one of the 8 located inside the house. Willoughby Police ERT members present were Lt. Davis, Sgt. Sevel, Sgt. Crowley, Ptl Greig, and Ptl Listoria.

Willowick PD- Search and Arrest Warrant

On April 1, 2021, the Western Lake County Emergency Response Team executed a search warrant at 372 E 322 ST Willowick OH for the Lake County Narcotics Agency. One of the residents, Nicholas Bencivenni, also had a felony warrant out for his arrest. The residents of the house were detained without incident and later turned over to LCNA and Willowick PD. Willoughby Police Department ERT members present were Lt. Davis, Ptl. Greig, Sgt. Sevel and Sgt. Crowley.

Wickliffe PD- Shooting

On Tuesday, June 1, 2021 The Western Lake County Emergency Response Team was requested for a shooting on Phillips Ave in Wickliffe, Ohio. There had been a shooting at 30210 Phillips Ave and it was believed the suspect had possibly fled into another home in the area. Members of the team searched two residences for the possible shooter. As the search was being completed it was learned that the shooter was in custody after Wickliffe had interviewed witnesses and the people inside 30210 Phillips. The shooter ended up being a resident of the home. Willoughby Police Department ERT members present were Lt. Davis, Sgt. Sevel, Sgt. Crowley, and Ptl Lastoria

1917800 – Wickliffe PD – Assist with executing a Search Warrant

On Wednesday July 3, 2020, 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, 2020, 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



2021 Members

Assistant Chief Tartaglia
Det. Lieutenant John Begovic
Lieutenant Ken Jordan
Sergeant Peter Huth
Patrolman Matthew Jackson
Patrolman Daniel Lastoria
Patrolman William Bernakis

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.

The Honor Guard provided ceremonial honors for Memorial Day and September 11th Services in 2021.

Jail Facilities

For the year 2021, the Willoughby Police Department City Jail housed 895 persons compared to 755 in 2020. 640 were males and 255 were females. Jail numbers still will be somewhat on the low end due to the Covid 19 Pandemic officers had been reducing public contacts and citations sometimes took place of a physical arrest. Some of the 755 arrested may have been cited and quickly released.

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. Most prisoners arrested for misdemeanor offenses are released on a personal bond per the Willoughby Municipal Courts bond schedule.

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,
Sergeant Mike Fitzgerald
Jail Administrator

Weaponscraft

2021 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. 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 2021, the unit consists of 12 in service instructors. Currently there is 1 Lieutenant, 2 Sergeants, 1 Detective, and 8 Patrolmen. 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. We also made several advancements in the area of less lethal. The Willoughby Police Department purchased 2 new Pepper Ball Guns and equipped each patrol vehicle with a less lethal shotgun. Officers had extensive training with both less lethal weapons and put the training and weapons to use with the apprehension of several suspects.

In 2015 the Willoughby Police Department upgraded our Patrol Rifles and we were able to purchase new Smith & Wesson M&P 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. Officers also had opportunities to train in firearms at the Lake County Range.

The indoor range is continually used, and always proves to be an excellent tool for weapons training and qualifications.

In 2021, the Willoughby Police Department researched and purchased a new weapons system. Still staying with the Sig Firearm, the police department switched caliber of bullet and firing platform. The new system gives officers higher capacity magazines and a Red Dot optics system. There will be cost saving with the new ammunition which will allow officers to train much more frequently.

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.

Each officer is required to attend the state qualification shoot, at least two other quarterly sessions, and one of the Simunition sessions each year. Along with handgun training, officers qualified with the AR-15, shotgun, less lethal shotgun, and pepper ball. Collectively, there were well over 200 individual courses of fire on the range and off site.

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.

Training

With the assistance of the entire Firearms Training Unit, The Willoughby Police Department initiated a new monthly training program. This program encompasses all forms of firearms training, less lethal training, and combat training. Officers will start the new year with an extensive training program. The scheduled training will give officers several training opportunities per month to accomplish the training goal.

The new training program will continue to keep Willoughby Police Officers on the leading edge of firearms training.

Submitted By:
Lt. Ken Jordan
Firearms Training O.I.C.

Kenneth F. Stafford, Jr. Communications Center



2021

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.

Responsibilities

The primary responsibility of our Dispatchers is to provide professional and responsive communications services to our public and our safety forces. In 2021, a total of 7 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 2021, a total of 65 stolen entries were made to these files with 32 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.

2021 Communications Personnel

Communications Supervisor
Marlene Matteo

Full-Time
Communications Operators

Carla Gabele
Michelle Burnett
Susan Schilling
Robbie McMinn
Christopher Borstnik
Kevin Brodzinski
Frances Rivas
Bryan Griffith
Tom Seymour
Asia Robinson

Part-Time
Communications Operators

Randy Ricciardo
Justin Falcone
Monica Patterson
Danette Perkins
Alyssa Cheraso
Kimberly Kaste

The Communications Center is manned by two dispatchers at all times. Our center consists of 9 full time and currently 5 part time dispatchers. Presently, we are short one full time dispatcher. Susan Schilling, a full-time records clerk, assisted with dispatching responsibilities during 2021.

In 2021, Willoughby dispatchers processed over 42,010 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

2021 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 **42,010** calls for service were generated by the public in 2021.

2021 Records Division Personnel

Clerical/Communications Supervisor
Marlene Matteo

Full-Time
Cheryl Stephens
Kim Thompson
Sue Schilling

Part-Time
Not currently staffed

Willoughby Police Department arrested persons resulting in a total of charges. With the physical arrest of 475 persons, the Records Division processed 368 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 \$35,432 in 2021.

The Records Division received and processed 341 warrants issued through Willoughby Municipal Court.

The Willoughby Police Department issued 1,420 parking citations which were entered into the CAD system throughout 2021. Parking ticket receipts processed by the Records Department totaled \$14,840.00

2021 Record Room Statistics

F.B.I Uniform Classification

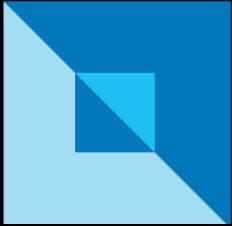
Part I, Actual Offenses	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>
Criminal Homicide	0	0
Forcible Rape	0	5
Robbery	4	7
Aggravated Assault	6	16
Burglary	35	33
Larceny/Theft	307	294
Auto Theft	28	33
Arson	2	1
Total Part 1 Actual Offenses	382	389

Traffic Arrests-Adult & Juvenile

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>
Vehicular homicide	0	0
Hit-Skip	29	3-
DUI & Physical Control	88	79
Reckless Operation	34	30
Lane Usage Violations	37	39
Weaving Course/FTC	42	7
Left of Center	0	1
Failure/Yield Right of Way	47	75
Stop Sign	6	25
Traffic Signals	91	64
Assured Clear Distance	154	139
Speed	529	552
Seat Belt	23	13
Equipment Violations	88	0
License Plate Violations	212	386
Unlicensed Junk Vehicles	2	0
Operator License Required	45	118
Other Traffic Violations	<u>166</u>	<u>519</u>
Total Traffic Arrests	2028	2137

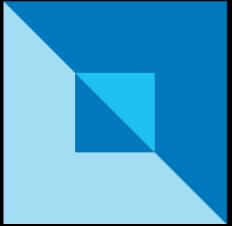
Other Arrests-Adult and Juvenile

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>
Aggravated Murder	0	0
Robbery	6	5
Aggravated Assault	7	13
Simple Assault	36	50
Arson	1	1
Breaking & Entering	15	18
Larceny	79	76
Auto Theft	8	8
Forgery & Identity Theft	7	10
Fraud	9	9
Stolen Property	10	10
Criminal Damaging	17	15
Dangerous Drugs	183	259
Other Sex Offenses	3	6
Domestic Violence	40	28
Liquor Violations	19	25
Obstructing Police	10	14
Escape	1	1
Probation Violations	270	376
Weapons Violations	22	32
Disorderly Conduct	62	94
Intoxication	38	41
Other	133	190
Total Other Arrests	968	1280
Total Arrests	1941	3417



2021 Record Room Statistics

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>
Police Calls for Service	35,240	42,010
Emergency Calls Dispatched	2933	3,733
<u>Emergency Calls Investigated</u>		
Deaths	33	41
Suicides	2	7
Attempted Suicides	18	14
Mental Illness	<u>91</u>	82
Total Emergency Calls Investigated	144	144
<u>Animal Investigations</u>		
Cruelty to Animals	0	0
Animals at large	69	4
Animal Noises	16	0
Animal Bites	0	4
Other Animal Complaints	<u>282</u>	<u>370</u>
Total Animal Investigations	467	450
Lockouts	753	743
Missing Persons	34	36
<u>Alarms</u>		
Alarms	1402	1455
Alarms, Test	128	201
 Total Number of Alarms	 1530	 1656



2021 Record Room Statistics

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>
Money Escorts & Other Public Assists	558	762
Mutual Aid	549	720
Solicitor Complaints	54	54
Fireworks Complaints	140	60
Open Buildings	144	46
Disturbance, General	1216	1431
Disturbance, Noise	214	0
Disturbance, Unwanted Guest	81	0
Disturbance, Trouble with Customer	59	81
Suspicion, General	1557	1402
Suspicion, Person	307	347
Suspicion, Vehicle	493	536
Juvenile-Runaways & Curfew Violations	6	2
Fingerprinting (Court Order)	86	89

Receipts	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>
Parking Ticket Receipts	8835	14840
Other Receipts:		
Taxi Licenses	0	0
Accident & Crime Report Copies	28.15	23.90
Other Services	385	245
Total Other Receipts	416	268.90
Total Receipts	\$,9667.00	\$17,529.90

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.



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.

2021 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 2021, 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. Community Involvement assumed responsibilities for the Willoughby Law Enforcement Explorers Program. The entire curriculum for the program was re-evaluated and in need of updating. A new curriculum was developed and implemented along with improved law enforcement literacy of active members. A three hundred percent increase in membership resulted from the extensive improvements.

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.

Medicinal Marijuana Forum – The community is offered an informational forum on influences legalized marijuana may have in the teenage community. The objective is to educate parents on 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 which are facilitated by Community Involvement.

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

Scams – A considerable increase in the number of scams was evident as the year progressed. In an effort to combat this, the Community Involvement department took several measures to get the message out regarding these scams and prepare individuals to recognize a scammer, reducing the likelihood of becoming a victim. Videos, remote conferences and informational literature were created to spread the word to as many individuals as possible, particularly the senior population.

Zoom – Community Involvement continually adapts and changes programs according to the needs of the community. The year 2021 was no exception. In order to adhere to specified guidelines, many programs had to be temporarily discontinued, however in the spirit of adapting, many educational presentations were provided to the public via video conferencing.

College digital media – A program presented to college students via video conferencing aimed at educating them on measures they can take to monitor their digital footprint and ensure they are making wise decisions when utilizing various media devices. The program was well received and slated to be utilized regularly in the future.

New Programs introduced in 2021

Walk With A COP – Community members were invited to take a stroll with an officer through the park to discuss issues of the day, Police Department functions or any other topic they wished to discuss.

Northern Career Institute – A program was developed for students attending Bridges to Success focusing on current challenges faced by teenagers.

Community Bike Project – Teaming with the Northern Career Institute students, the Police Department donated bikes from property that will be re-conditioned and given to those in need in the community.

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



2021 marks the 36th 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 2021 school year, Sergeant Pete Huth and Lieutenant Ken Jordan, taught classes totaling approximately 220 students.

Grant Elementary	5 th Grade	125 Students	Sergeant Huth
Edison Elementary	5 th Grade	112 Students	Lieutenant Jordan
South High	High Sch.	150 Students	Lieutenant 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.

Lieutenant 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.

Det. Dave Burrington and Ptl. Ross Shirey completed the 2 week DARE Instructor Course in 2021.

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.



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 200 hours of community service and 220 hours of training in 2021.

Training

Training topics covered in 2021 included Search and Rescue, Traffic Stop Scenarios, Drug Awareness, Domestic Violence, K9, Bombs and Explosives, Less than Lethal, Civil Disorders, Psychology of the Police Encounter, Police Ride-Alongs, Lake County Sheriff's office. 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

In 2021, Gracie Brunnet was awarded a perfect attendance ribbon along with Explorer of the Year Honors, State Competition ribbon and was promoted to Sergeant., Russel Bittner was awarded a State Competition ribbon, Nicolas Hensen was awarded a State Competition ribbon, Christian Marn was awarded a State Competition ribbon and Law Enforcement Services ribbon, Jasiah Morgan was awarded a State Competition ribbon, Noah Walter was awarded a State Competition ribbon, Eric Wood was awarded a Law Enforcement Services ribbon, Ella McCoy was awarded a Law Enforcement Services ribbon and Travis Gumm was awarded a Law Enforcement ribbon. 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

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.

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

Victim Assistance

2021

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 through the court system, with immediate crisis counseling, and referrals to other agencies. In 2021, the advocates were called to assist families for deaths involving suicide and drug overdoses with support and referrals as well as notifications. They also assisted those involved with domestic violence, stalking, assault, sexual assault, 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): Captain Smith 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.