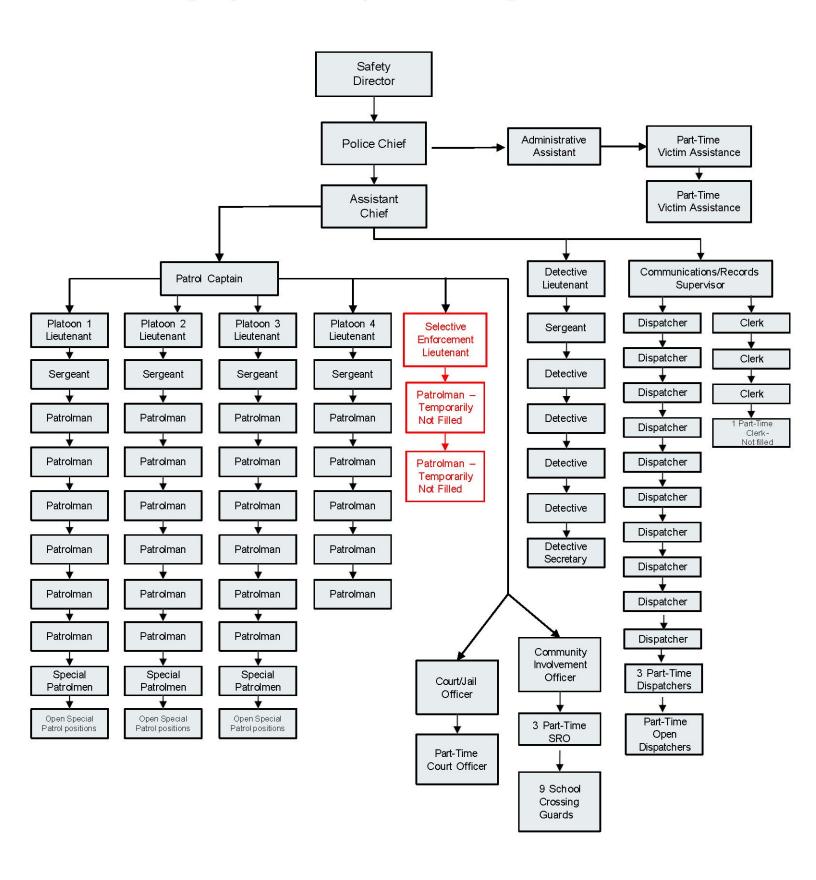
Willoughby Police Department 2022 Annual Report



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Willoughby Police Department Organizational Chart



Mission Statement

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

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

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

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

VALUES:

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

Constitutional Rights

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

Integrity

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

Professional Excellence

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

Commitment to Employees

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

Community Partnership

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

EXECUTIVE COMMENTS

We are pleased to present the Willoughby Police Department's 2022 Annual Report.

The mission of the Willoughby Police Department shall be to provide a safe environment in which residents and non-residents can live and work. The Willoughby Police Department recognizes that it derives its authority from and is accountable to the community it serves. We will continually strive to provide effective and efficient police services 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. 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.

Our values are the core of our moral beliefs and self-worth. They are convictions that bond us together to accomplish specific goals and objectives. They are what we share and believe. We value our country's constitutional rights, integrity, professional excellence, and commitment to our employees.

Our WHY is our service to others, our community. This is why we exist. We take ownership of our service. In order for us to provide better service each day, we have to invest in our greatest asset, our employees. Last year's Annual Report discussed our new plan to strategically invest in our employees so we can provide better service.

We created a strategic plan to invest in our employees and give them the tools needed to be successful and grow. Our first major focus was on Defense Tactics/De-escalation. Several officers were trained to be Defense Tactics Instructors. Several supervisors and the instructors were tasked with creating a curriculum and a monthly training program. This plan was presented and explained to all the supervisors who then carried out the plan for our Patrol and Detective Bureau Divisions.



Trust is paramount. The community trusts that its police force will serve and protect. The society trusts that a police officer will only use the amount of force necessary to apprehend person suspected a committing a crime. In order to accomplish this, a police officer must have outstanding problem solving and decision making skills. How do we train and educate a police officer to develop these outstanding skills? It takes time, effort, training, education, practice, patience, and experience to grow these skills.

Defensive tactics are not just "hands-on" techniques. It is the training, education, and practice in communication, decision making, problem solving, and use of force techniques to safely apprehend a subject. It develops the communication necessary to talk through or de-escalate an incident. It gives the police officer options to present to the subject. Defensive tactics help the police officer clarify to the person what we are asking, explain why we are it. and provide options cooperation to a reluctant subject, prior to any use of force.



EXECUTIVE COMMENTS

If all options fail, then the "last resort" could be the use of force. In order for a baseball pitcher to throw strikes, they must practice how to throw strikes and how to throw safely without injuring their arm. A football team learns, trains, and practices plays to be successful out on the field. But they train their bodies ahead of time so that they avoid injuries, be stronger and faster, and be more skilled at their positions out on the field. Why should police officers have the same mindset?

If all options fail, we are teaching our police officers how to successfully apprehend and take into custody a person who is suspected of committing a crime. Success is measured in completing the task and taking the person into custody. Success is also measured if the task was completed safely. Were any of the police officers, the subjects, or innocent bystanders injured using force? Our Defensive Tactics instructors are training our police officers on using and become proficient with techniques designed to avoid injuries. Most of the time, we can't predict if a person is going to resist or attack a police officer during a time when an arrest is being made. We can certainly train our officers to be able to avoid being injured if a person resists or attacks us, and we can teach our police officers how to safely use force to take that person into custody, hopefully without injury.

2022 was an incredible year for our community and the Willoughby Police Department. In May, the City of Willoughby brought back the Touch a Truck community event from the 1990's. We had great weather, an outstanding turnout from our community, and so much fun. Our community got to see police bike demonstrations, K9 demonstrations, the Lake County Bomb Squad Truck, our police cruisers and SWAT Truck, and meet many of our FINEST.

Each year, we create lists of our city's concerns, develop strategic plans to address those concerns, and carry out those plans with great success. Downtown Willoughby (DTW) is the "crown jewel" of our city. We had growing concerns about safety during the evening weekend hours. We started by developing a stronger relationship with the Downtown Willoughby Bar & Restaurant Association. Communication was a key to working through some of these concerns and developing ideas that both the police department and the bars and restaurants could do to create a safer atmosphere. We worked with our Building Department to get a better understanding of what activities were permissible at our DTW establishments. We increased our patrols in DTW, especially with our police bike units and foot patrol activities. Through a collaborative effort between police, community, businesses, and city government, we were able to create a safer and fun environment in DTW.

Our city's hotels were a growing concern for us. What once were excellent, inexpensive, temporary stays for out-of-towners have, over the past ten years, become unattractive and dangerous. Hotels take work to maintain a positive image. The buildings must be maintained inside and out. The grounds must be landscaped with cut grass and greenery. Security cameras are an investment in safety. Posting signs that discourage bad behavior are necessary. It is important to train your staff to recognize problems and dangers and then report those issues immediately to law enforcement. Maintaining competitive but efficient rates, providing well-kept amenities, and having a clean parking lot attract good customers. This attention to detail is a must.

For years, we had several hotels along a busy narcotic corridor not pay attention to detail. As law enforcement professionals, we've tried to work with our hotels and give them the tools needed to be successful and safe. At the beginning of 2021, Operation Safe Stay was created. Operation Safe Stay was a partnership for us and Federal, State, and Local authorities to make our hotels a safer place to stay. Federal grants were obtained to help fund the operation. Willoughby Police Officers and Detectives teamed up with their partners from the Lake County Sheriff's Office, Lake County Narcotics Agency, Mentor Police, and Wickliffe Police to identify criminal activity and arrest the suspects involved. Arrests were made on prostitution, human trafficking, drug possession, drug trafficking, assaults, weapon charges, disorderly conduct, and many other illegal activities. Our work is not done, and we will continue our efforts to protect our city from criminal activity.

We had so many other activities with our community in 2022. In August, we were in force at the National Nite Out event at Osborne Park. Just like our Touch a Truck event, children, parents, and residents could come meet our FINEST, sit on our police motorcycles, fly one of our drones, throw on a SWAT vest, and learn so much about their police department.

We had to say goodbye to K9 Loki, but we were so fortunate to welcome our newest addition, K9 Zaro. Patrolman Matt Neath protected our city with K9 Loki for the past eight years until it was time for Loki to retire. Patrolman Jackson Hyams and K9 Zaro begin a new, outstanding chapter in the Willoughby Police Department's K9 Program. K9 Zaro and all his training was made possible through 100% donations from so many great community businesses and residents. Thank you to city resident, Jeff Mitchell, and our outstanding community for your support and making this possible.

We had several officers and dispatchers resign in 2022, and we were able to hire some incredibly talented individuals to fill those positions. As always, we hired people who want to unselfishly serve and invest themselves in our community. Our people demonstrate the highest level of integrity, ownership, commitment, and sacrifice. These are people who you can be proud of because they are role models for Willoughby.

Sadly in 2022, we lost one of our finest, retired Lieutenant Jack Poshe. Lieutenant Poshe retired in 2015 after 35 years of service to our city. Lieutenant Poshe lost his long-time battle with cancer. He will never be forgotten.

We hosted our annual WPD Golf Invitational at Lost Nation Golf Course. All proceeds raised were donated to the Society of Mother Theresa Kitchen and the McKinley Outreach Center. We were extremely successful in our annual US Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots program. We had donation centers at the Willoughby Marc's and Target stores this year, and our residents did not disappoint. Our residents and visitors filled several police cruisers and our SWAT truck with all the donations they provided. Great job Willoughby!

I serve our community and my department. We serve you. That is WHY we are here. If there is anything I can do to help the Willoughby Police Department better serve our community, I will do it. That will always be my promise. Our community deserves the best so we will give you our best.

#willoughbystrong

Respectfully,

James Schultz Chief of Police

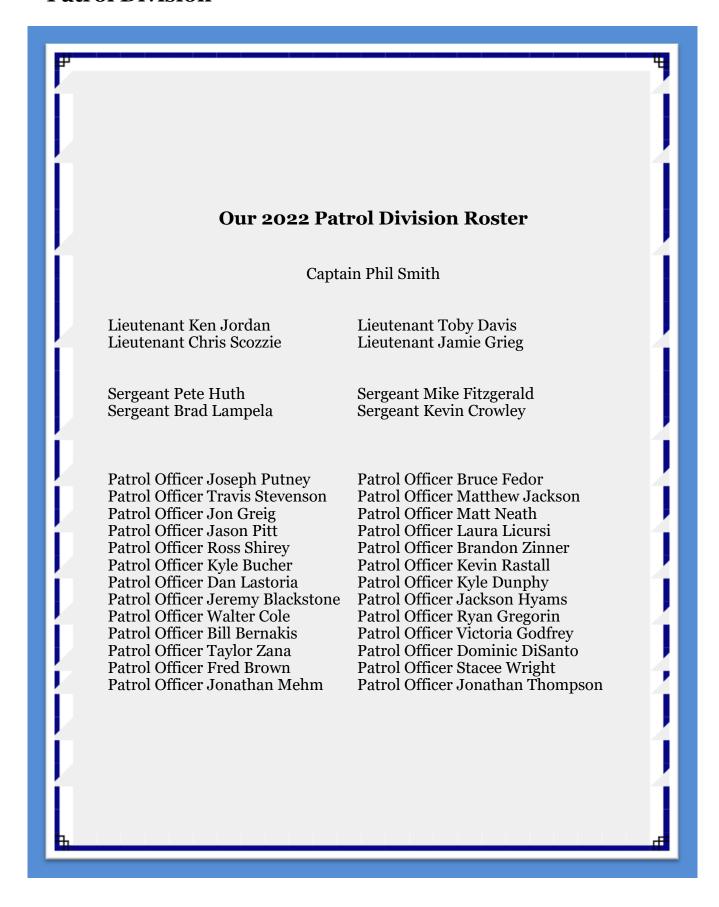
Administration

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

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

This division prepares all employee records, payroll and purchases.

Patrol Division



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

Lieutenant George Lessick, Detective Greg Knack and Patrol Officer Paul Sciarrino all retired in 2022 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: Sergeant Jamie Greig was promoted to Patrol Lieutenant, Patrol Officer Brad Lampela was promoted to Patrol Sergeant, and Patrol Officer Shane Rahz was promoted to Detective. In addition, the following people were sworn in as full-time police officers: Dominic DiSanto, Fred Brown, Stacee Wright, Jonathan Mehm, and Jonathan Thompson. Each of our newly hired officers bring at least several years of full-time experience from other police departments. We wish all of these officers the best of luck in their new positions!

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.

In 2022, a newly designed defensive tactics program was initiated under the direction of Detective Sergeant Mike Sevel and Sergeant Kevin Crowley. Throughout the course of the year, all officers were required to participate in six (6) two-hour training sessions in the department's training room. These sessions were conducted by our own certified defensive tactics instructors: Officers Jon Greig, Ross Shirey, Dan Lastoria and Taylor Zana. Willoughby officers learned stand-up control techniques, defenses against strikes, ground defense and control, and various other critical skills. The lessons learned in these sessions, in addition to reducing departmental liability, greatly reduces the chances of injury or death to both our officers and the public.

Also, all officers completed 32 hours of State mandated CPT training that covered a wide variety of topics such as use of force, mental health, domestic violence, legal updates, officer wellness, sexual assaults, and diversity, equity and inclusion.

In addition to in-service training which included 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.

Our department has reached out to our local businesses and apartment complexes regarding the potential use of privately owned Flock cameras to deter criminal activity and solve crimes on their property. As a result, Pine Ridge apartments installed two Flock cameras and the Willoughby Commons Plaza installed three Flock cameras. These cameras are tied into our system, allowing our officers and dispatchers full access. It is our hope that more private entities come on board.

Hotel interdiction continued to be a big focus for our patrol unit in 2022. Thanks to a continuing federal grant, we were able to delegate officers to target our hotels multiple days each month. In addition, our individual platoons have conducted their own operations at the hotels during their shifts. This has resulted in numerous arrests for prostitution, drug and weapon offenses, and warrant arrests.

Downtown Willoughby continues to grow and prosper as new establishments have opened their doors in 2022. In addition, the City held a variety of events throughout the year. As a result, the Downtown area continues to see a large influx of people looking for entertainment and food. While the vast amount of people coming to the Downtown area are law-abiding citizens and just looking to have fun, there are always random occurrences of disorderly conduct or criminal activity. In order to counter this, our department deployed random officer foot patrols and bike patrols several times each week for the majority of the year. In addition, we have officers who meet with the Downtown Bar Association members regularly throughout the year in order to discuss various problems and come up with workable solutions.

2022 AWARDS COMMITTEE

The Awards Committee is comprised of several members from the Department. The Chairman is Captain Phil Smith with members Lt. Kenneth Jordan, Sgt. Pete Huth, Det. Lt. John Begovic, Ptl. Jon Greig and Communications Supervisor Marlene Matteo. Any officer may submit a nomination for any award. The Committee reviews the nomination and its supporting evidence and may issue an award or refer the nomination to the Lake County Chiefs of Police Association.

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

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

The Committee can determine the recipients of the following awards:

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

The Committee met in February 2023, in order to issue awards for the year 2022. Employees will have a letter placed in their personnel files for being nominated as employees of the year in their respective categories

Medal of Honor & Lifesaving Awards: Patrolman Jackson Hyams

Ptl. Jackson Hyams was nominated for the Medal of Honor for his actions at a motor vehicle crash in October of 2022. A truck crashed into the side of a home and had caught fire. The passenger was trapped and was unable to get himself out of the vehicle. A gas line had also been ruptured and electrical lines were down on the ground in the immediate area. Without concern for his own safety, Ptl. Hyams entered the vehicle and attempted to rescue the passenger, but was unable to do so because the truck had collapsed around the person's legs. After eventually being overcome by smoke, Ptl Hyams had to back away from the area. He continued to battle the flames with fire extinguishers, but unfortunately was unable to save the passenger.

Ptl. Hyams was also nominated for a Lifesaving Award regarding his actions at another incident in October of 2022. Ptl. Hyams was dispatched to a residence where a male had attempted suicide by cutting his wrists. As blood was squirting profusely from one of the wounds, Ptl. Hyams applied a tourniquet to the male's arm, stopping the bleeding, even as the male struggled and fought with officers. Ptl. Hyams then rode in the squad to the hospital with Willoughby firefighters to make sure that they were safe.

Ptl. Hyams received the Medal of Honor and Life Saving Awards from the Ohio Police Chief's Association on Mach 1, 2023.

Exceptional Service Award: Detective Chuck Krejsa

Det. Charles Krejsa was nominated by Sergeant Mike Sevel for his investigation into the murder of infant Zachary Beasley by his father in May of 2020. The case finally went to trial in the early part of 2022, lasted roughly a week, and resulted in a conviction. As a death of a child is one of the most traumatic types of incidents for an officer, the trial and investigation took a huge toll on both Det. Krejsa, and the Prosecutors involved in the case. Det. Krejsa received a letter from Lake County Prosecutor Charles Coulson commending him for his hard work in the case.

Exceptional Service Award: Detective Dave Burrington

Det. Dave Burrington was nominated by Detective Lieutenant John Begovic for his investigation of a sex trafficking/promoting prostitution case. Det. Burrington, in cooperation with the FBI Sex Trafficking Unit and the Lake County Prosecutor's Office, investigated the sex trafficking of a young female by Justin Fossett. Over several months, Det. Burrington spent countless hours conducting interviews, obtaining search warrants, and analyzing the data. As a result of his investigation, Fossett was indicted on 11 counts of promoting prostitution

Exceptional Service Award: Patrolman Kyle Bucher

Ptl. Kyle Bucher was nominated by Lieutenant Chris Scozzie for his commitment to the department and to the public by consistently completing thorough follow ups and maintaining a positive and professional working relationship with both his co-workers and the public. Ptl. Bucher was particularly praised for his ability to defuse situations and avoid escalating conflicts with members of the public. Several various incidents were noted that involved Ptl. Bucher using his skills to de-escalate the situations.

Departmental Excellence Award: Patrolman Kevin Rastall

Ptl. Kevin Rastall was nominated by Sergeant Mike Fitzgerald and is receiving an award for Departmental Excellence. Ptl. Rastall was nominated for his exceptional undercover operations all year long at several of our hotels and in Downtown Willoughby. His work resulted in the following: 11 felony drug arrests, 11 prostitution arrests, 11 soliciting prostitution arrests, 2 pimping arrests, 4 miscellaneous arrests, multiple warrants, 22 misdemeanor citations, 3 weapons located, and 2 traffic citations. Ptl. Rastall also completed most of the booking paperwork, reports, and evidence submission for all of his arrests. In addition, Ptl Rastall routinely assists other officers without being asked, gladly answers questions related to crash investigations, and spends some of his free time involved in forensic mapping.



2022 Officer of the Year Detective Gabriel Sleigh

Det. Sleigh was nominated as Officer of the Year for his outstanding work in the Nadine Madger case. Nadine was brutally murdered in her Grove Avenue apartment in January of 1980. Numerous officers over the years have investigated this incident, however, it remained unsolved. In 2018, he began working with Parabon Nano Labs to try and identify the male suspect whose blood had been found on the victim's clothing. Using the family tree of the unknown male suspect, he developed Stephen J. Simcak as a potential suspect. Det. Sleigh obtained a DNA sample from a relative closely related to Simcak, and submitted this to Parabon. It was then determined that the killer had indeed been Stephen J. Simcak, thus solving a 42-year-old homicide cold case. Det. Sleigh was also recognized for his case regarding the longterm sexual assault of a 12-year-old girl by her mother's boyfriend. His investigation spanned over a year and resulted in the male being convicted and sentenced to 20 years in prison.



2022 Jason Gresko Memorial Award Patrolman Gerry Spradlin

Gerry Spradlin was nominated by Patrolman Dennis Corbett as the Jason Gresko Special of the Year. Gerry has served as an officer with our department for 42 years now. For much of this time he has overseen the Willoughby Explorers program, training and molding our future law enforcement officers. Jerry has a great relationship with all of these kids and learns their family situations, goals and aspirations. He also regularly attends various city events with the Explorers, providing traffic assistance and anything else that is needed. In addition, Gerry is a consummate professional and is always represents our department in a positive manner.



2022 Civilian Employee of the Year Administrative Asst. Kim Pintar

Kim Pintar was chosen as Civilian Employee of the Year for the many things that she does for this department on a daily basis. The following are just a few of the tasks that she is responsible for: researching and applying for various grants, the completion of our department's annual report, submission of payroll for all employees, keeping track of all paid time off earned and used, keeping track of various schools and making sure that the invoices are paid, and many other tasks. Kim also spent numerous hours implementing a new employee online scheduling system in 2022. She comes to work each day with a positive attitude, is well-liked by everyone, and is always willing to help anyone with whatever they may need.

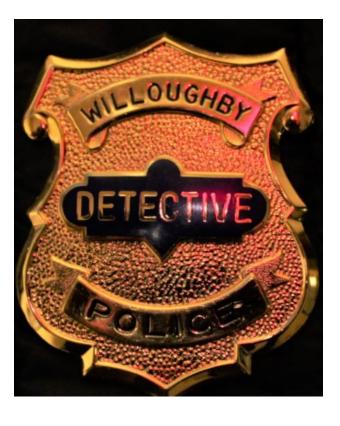
Detective Bureau

2022 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 2022 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.

Detective Lieutenant John Begovic
Detective Sergeant Mike Sevel
Detective Greg Knack (retired 03-2022)
Detective Charles Krejsa
Detective David Burrington
Detective Gabriel Sleigh
Detective Shane Rahz
Detective Secretary Michelle Butchock



SECONDARY ASSIGNMENTS

Detective Lieutenant John Begovic

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

Detective Sergeant Mike Sevel

Evidence/Property Room Management Evidence Technician Western Lake County Emergency Response Team Technical Crash Investigator

Detective Greg Knack (Ret'd 03-2022)

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—Team Leader

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 Evidence Technician Computerized Voice Stress Analyzer

Detective Shane Rahz

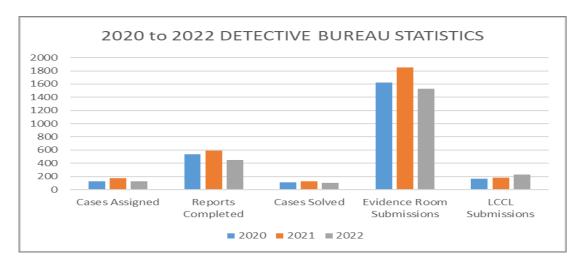
Juvenile & Sex Crimes Investigator Burglary/B&E Investigator VICE/Narcotics Investigator Financial Crimes Investigator Evidence Technician Drone Technician

Pre-Employment Investigations//Computerized Voice Stress Analyzer Testing

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

Detectives were assigned ten (10) pre-employment investigations for full-time Police Officer candidates and eleven (11) Dispatcher candidates. The Department eventually hired three (3) new full-time officers and three (3) dispatchers in 2022.

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.

Detective Bureau Cases 2022

#80-00292 Nadine Madger Homicide SOLVED – Sleigh, Burrington, Begovic, Sevel, Rahz and Krejsa

On Friday, January 11, 1980 at 1700 hours, Mark Madger returned home from work and located his wife, Nadine, stabbed to death inside their Willo-Grove apartment, 37519 Grove Avenue, Building 9, apartment 101. Nadine and Mark's infant son, Daniel, was inside the apartment at the time of the murder in his crib not far from where his mother's lifeless body laid. This incident has been an ongoing investigation since it happened. During the initial investigation a suspect's DNA profile was developed from a blood stain located on Nadine's shirt. Numerous suspects have been talked too, looked at, DNA tested and then cleared of involvement.

Since 2018, the Willoughby Police Department has been working with Parabon Nanolabs which specializes in genetic genealogy research. Parabon developed a suspect, Stephen Joseph Simcak, but needed DNA from him or a close relative. It was learned that Stephen Joseph Simcak had died in 2018 but did have a son, Stephen Edward Simcak. Stephen was contacted and asked to give a DNA sample which he agreed to. On April 28, 2022 a buccal swab was obtained from Stephen and then analyzed by the Lake County Crime Lab who determined that a kinship analysis of the buccal swab collected from Stephen strongly supported a parent and/or offspring relationship between Stephen and the contributor of the blood stain located on Nadine's shirt. Parabon confirmed the Lake County Crime Lab's results that they share a direct paternal line. A copy of Stephen Edward's birth certificate was obtained and confirmed that Stephen Joseph Simcak was his father. After Simcak was developed as the suspect background work was done on him. Family and friends talked to advised that Simcak was a heavy drinker until 1980 when he abruptly quit and could be mean when he drank. Simcak worked at Lincoln Electric and only called off once in 1980 which happened to be January 11. This fact was confirmed with records kept by Lincoln Electric. The Simcak family was informed of the findings of this investigation and that their relative was the killer of Nadine Madger. No connection of how, why or if Nadine and Simcak knew each other nor a relationship of any kind has been developed. The news of the killer being known hopefully has brought closure and peace to both Mark and Danny Madger.

#22-11187 Manslaughter – Krejsa, Burrington, Sevel, Begovic

On Thursday, April 14, 2022 at 2219 hours, Willoughby Dispatch received an E911 call advising a male was shot at 37343 Grove Avenue. The caller, Kevin Michael McCarthy, advised Willoughby Dispatch that he had just accidentally shot his friend, Christian Kilburg, and Christian was now dead. Kevin advised dispatch that he was outside of his apartment, unarmed, and waiting for responding officers. Kevin was located on the sidewalk on his knees with his hands behind his head. Kevin was given verbal commands to lay flat, which he did and then was secured. Kevin made excited utterances that what happened was an accident. Entrance was made into the apartment and the victim, Christian Kilburg, on the couch in the living room with a single gunshot wound to the head. The apartment was secured as a crime scene. During the course of conversations with McCarthy, he stated Kilburg was a lifelong friend and his current roommate. He was asked how the shooting happened, and if he had possibly been cleaning the gun. McCarthy said he didn't want to make any statements about the incident.

Inside the apartment a male was observed slumped back on the couch with blood all around the left side of his head in the living room. There was a small semi-automatic hand gun on the couch to the left of the victim. The hammer was cocked to the rear, and the safety was off, a red dot was seen indicating the weapon was armed. The victim had a spoon in his left hand, with ice cream on it. On the floor between the victim's legs, was a cup of ice cream. Lying on top of the ice cream, was another larger black semi-automatic handgun.

During the interview, Mr. McCarthy was awake, alert and oriented to his surroundings. Once in the interview room, he advises that he was "physically fine". He was able to answer questions and acknowledged that he had been drinking prior to this event but was not drunk or impaired by any other drug. He denied being intoxicated and that he was "straight." Alone in the interview room, Mr. McCarthy was observed crying and apologizing to "Pudge". Pudge is the nickname for the victim, Christian Kilburg. Mr. McCarthy was praying to God and reciting the Hail Mary. Throughout the interview, Mr. McCarthy describes Mr. Kilburg as his lifelong best friend and his "doppelganger. In January of 2021, they moved into Apartment 301 of 37343 Grove Avenue in Willoughby together.

After a night out, Mr. McCarthy and Mr. Kilburg return to their apartment where they sat on the couch and were eating their chicken tenders and ice cream. The couch is "L" shaped. Mr. McCarthy was seated to the left of Mr. Kilburg. He initially stated he was on the other half but later marked on the drawing that he was in the corner. At 2148 hours, Mr. McCarthy received a FaceTime call from a friend. During this time, Mr. McCarthy received a Springfield Armory 9mm handgun from Mr. Kilburg. The gun was not in a holster and did have a magazine. Mr. McCarthy stated that he never checked the firearm to see if it was loaded. He added that his firearm was located in Mr. Kilburg's vehicle because they were going out drinking. Mr. McCarthy stated that he and Mr. Kilburg "pull out guns." He added that they are just "goofing off." McCarthy stated they "always have guns out", "always pointing at each other" and "always goofing around." He later stated that they have pulled guns out under 10 times. McCarthy stated that Mr. Kilburg and him were pointing firearms at each other. He added that Mr. Kilburg pointed the gun at him first. McCarthy added that the firearm was in Mr. Kilburg's right hand. At 2205 hours, Mr. McCarthy points the firearm at Mr. Kilburg and pulls the trigger. The firearm discharges and Mr. Kilburg is struck on the left side of his head. The FaceTime call to their friend ends at this time.

McCarthy was adamant that there was not an argument and that it was only a discussion. asked why guns were pulled out, he responded "Stupidity." When questioned again if there was an argument, he replied "No. Stupidity." Mr. McCarthy was asked if he placed or moved the gun that Mr. Kilburg had. He replied that he did not. When asked if his DNA would be on the firearm. He initially answered "No" but quickly followed up that they lived in the same house and they do touch each other's guns. During the interview, Mr. McCarthy was asked very specific statements. He noted it was an accident. He added that he did not know how the incident occurred and stressed that he did not intentionally shoot Mr. Kilburg. He added that he was unaware that the firearm was loaded. When asked if he checked the weapon to see if it was loaded, he replied "Obviously not." Mr. McCarthy was asked if intentionally shot him to kill him and he replied no. He was asked if he accidentally shot Mr. Kilburg and he nodded his head up and down indicting yes. Follow up interviews were conducted with family and friends about the relationship between Mr. McCarthy and Mr. Kilburg. Many of their friends advised that Mr. McCarthy and Mr. Kilburg regularly messed with their guns when drinking in a joking manner pointing them at each other and pulling the triggers. One friend advised he has left their apartment when they have done this because of how uncomfortable it made him feel.

This case was sent to Lake County Prosecutor's Office for review and possible charges. Mr. McCarthy was charged with Reckless Homicide, a Felony of the 1st degree, and right before the case went to Grand Jury, Mr. McCarthy changed his plea to guilty. Mr. McCarthy is currently awaiting his sentencing hearing.

#22-19923 Suspicion – Sevel and Begovic

On Tuesday, June 28, 2022 at 2242 hours, Officers were dispatched to the area of Laurelwood Hospital, 35900 Euclid Avenue, for a female in a hospital gown lying on the ground screaming. The female, identified as Briauna Mitchell, was on the phone and immediately ran to officers asking for help. She advised that her child was in the water and is now at the hospital. Mitchell was hysterical and crying, asking for help but unable to articulate what was happening. She said she needed to get back to the hospital with her child. Dispatch confirmed that Mitchell's child was at the hospital, and she walked out to get some air.

While speaking with Mitchell, her child's father, Ol Brou Gaston Brou, arrived on the scene, she ran to him, and he began comforting her. Brou advised he received a call from Mitchell about their child drowning, and they were at the hospital. He advised he believed this occurred at her apartments by Chick-fil-A but did not know the name of them. Mitchell then got into Brou's vehicle and pulled up to the ambulance doors at Lake West, where hospital staff was waiting for them. Hospital staff parked Brou's vehicle while others escorted the two inside.

Hospital staff advised Mitchell came to the hospital and was pounding on the ambulance doors to the emergency room. When the staff came outside to help her, she was holding her baby. They advised the baby threw up when she handed it to them. The baby had no pulse and was taken into room T₁, where staff began providing medical care. Mitchell was still standing outside of the hospital hysterical. saying she did not want to go inside. Mitchell was able to give her address as Cedarwood Apartments, 35124 apartment G103. Officers responded to the apartment to secure it. Mitchell said she and her child were the only people in the apartment. Mitchell was told several times that her child had passed away and seemed to be in denial. Mitchell could not be spoken to in detail about the incident due to her being extremely upset. While inside of the ER, several of the staff members that had worked on 1 year old, Amiri Brou. They advised that Mitchell had stated that she was giving Amiri a bath. She stated that she placed him in the tub and that she leaves the drain to the tub open and lets the water run, so the tub does not fill up. Mitchell stepped out of the bathroom for a few minutes, and when she returned, she saw that the tub was not draining and Amiri was submerged under the water. Mitchell then grabbed Amiri and ran out of the apartment only wearing underwear bottoms. She drove Amiri to the ambulance entrance of UH West and began pounding on the doors. The doctor reports indicated that they did not observe any signs of trauma on Amiri.

Upon completion of the case it was forwarded to Prosecutor Perez for review. Prosecutor Perez advised upon reviewing the case, he contacted Lake County Chief Assistant Prosecutor Karen Sheppert. And it was agreed that the case would be forwarded to the Lake County Prosecutors Office for review and presentation to the Grand Jury to determine if charges should be filed. Briauna Mitchell was charged with one count of Reckless Homicide, a Felony of the Third Degree.

#22-23902 Suspicious Fire – Burrington

On Saturday, July 30, 2022 at 1603 hours Sgt. Fitzgerald advised they had a suspicious fire at the Skylight Inn Hotel, 34600 Maplegrove Ext., in room #251. Per Willoughby Fire Lt. Iliano they were requesting Det. Dave Burrington be called to assist with the investigation. At this time there were no occupants found in room # 251, but it had some suspicious items located in the room to possibly make methamphetamine. The room had dark silt on all the walls and ceiling, along with all the furniture. Lt. ILIANO informed me that he had taken digital pictures of the scene. Upon entering the room, there was an open pack of lithium batteries face down located just inside the door. Several feet away by the bed was a single what appeared to be AA lithium battery laying by the first bed closest to the door. There was an open closet that had a black 'Pink' long sleeve shirt hanging. There was a table next to the closet that had a role of clear plastic possibly 1/4-inch tubing on it. The long dresser under the TV that was covered in black silt from the fire. There was a wallet on the left side of the dresser and next to this was a coffee filter that had been folded in half. There was also a piece of folded up foil on the ground just under where the wallet was located at. There was a glass just above the wallet and a glass vase in the center of the dresser that was knocked over with a rag next to it. On the right side of the dresser was metal container of 32 oz. Crown white gas camp fuel and next to this was a yellow funnel. There was a yellow plastic lid facing up that went to an open plastic bottle of drain cleaner that was located next to the yellow funnel. Behind the drain cleaner was a small butane lighter and a glass multi -colored pipe that based on training and experience is used the free base drugs. The heating and air condition unit was melted to the ground under the only window in the room. There was a melted plastic bottle with liquid in it on the left side of the window sill and an unknown plastic container in the southwest corner of this room on the floor next to the melted air conditioning unit.

It was obvious the occupants of this room were cooking methamphetamine when it caught fire. Due to the harmful chemicals used to make meth, contact was made with the Lake County Narcotics Agency. Narcotics sent an Agent to assist in cleaning this site up and to secure the evidence in this case due to the hazardous chemicals used to manufacture meth. Lake County Health Department and Willoughby Building Department were contacted as well and responded to the scene.

The room was found to be rented to Jedidiah Arshenovitz and a wallet located in the room during clean up belonged to Michael Seidner Jr. Warrants were obtained for Seidner's arrest in this case. Seidner was interviewed and admitted to cooking meth in the room when the room caught fire and advised that only he was responsible for this no one else.

Michael Seidner Jr. was charged with Manufacturing Meth (F2), Assembly of Drug Materials to Produce Meth (F3), Arson (F4), Criminal Damage (F5), and Vandalism (F5). Seidner agreed to a plea deal and pled guilty to Assembly of Drug Materials to Produce Meth and Arson and received 18 months of jail time for each charge.

#22-34889 Motor Vehicle Accident - Fatal - Krejsa, Rahz, and Sevel

On Monday, October 24th, around 1637 hours, police responded to State Route 2 east exit ramp at Vine St. for a motorcycle crash. On scene, a male wearing a motorcycle helmet, later identified as Devin Jazbec, was receiving chest compressions from a passerby in the grass, near the end of the concrete median wall. Willoughby Fire arrived on scene and took charge and began providing medical care to Jazbec.

The motorcycle was found up on the kickstand on the edge of the road just south of Jazbec. It did not have a visible registration and had to be identified by the vin number which was obstructed by a strap. Dispatch advised the 2019 Kawasaki returned to a male out of Berlin Heights. The height, weight and age did not match the operator of the bike, so a black backpack, located on the side of the roadway between the motorcycle and the concrete median wall, was searched for identification. Jazbec was transported to UH Lake West Hospital where he was pronounced deceased.

The evidence on the roadway consisted of two small areas. In the middle of the State Route 2 eastbound exit ramp to State Route 640 were approximately seven scratch marks on the concrete. Within the area were blue and white plastic pieces. It was unknown what caused these marks and what item the blue and white plastic came from. A search of the area failed to locate an object that would account for this evidence even though it was obviously very fresh damage. Approximately 100 feet east, a series of fresh scratch marks were located in the middle of the State Route 2 eastbound exit ramp to State Route 640. These marks are consistent with a bike sliding on the concrete. These scratch marks area approximately 20 feet in length. The end of the area was a tire mark where the bike came to its final rest. The left foot peg was located on the right berm slightly further east. The initial inspection of the motorcycle completed on scene showed that the Kawasaki Ninja ZX-10R had no license plate. All of the damage was to the top of the frame and left side. Contact damage with the roadway was observed to the left end of the clutch and handlebar. There was contact damage to the left side of the framed and gearshift lever. The left rear foot peg was missing. The frame on the left side appeared to have been punctured by the end of the left handlebar. The front tire had a deformity to the rim. Also, there was a mark on the front tire of this deformity. The mark was higher on the right side and lower on the left side. The mark was across the entire width of the tire.

A male who did not witness the crash but stopped to help advised that Jazbec was breathing and then stopped. He advised he removed to motorcycle from the roadway and did so without any resistance from the bike. He also noted that he walked west along the exit ramp. He noticed an object that he described as a metal pipe containing a wire and plug lying in the middle of the road. He believed it was approximately 150 yards prior to crash scene. Mr. Smith stated he "kicked the pipe" off the road. After viewing surveillance video from local businesses it was determined that this metal pipe is what caused the abrupt stop to the motorcycle and then the crash.

#22-35527 Motor Vehicle Accident - Fatal - Krejsa and Sevel

On Saturday, October 29th, around 1052 hours, police responded to the area of 37710 Vine St. initially for a car fire; which was then upgraded to a crash with entrapment. Officers arrived on scene and observed a Ward's Landscaping dump truck into the northwest corner of the residence at 37722 Vine St. Passing motorists had stopped, broken the driver's side window, and began to extract the driver, Matthew Whelan. A passenger, later identified as Jayden Dietrich, was observed, trapped on the passenger side, as the damage from the crash was pinning him in by his legs. According to witnesses, the vehicle was observed traveling eastbound in the right lane, and went off the road, just west of Skiff St. It then swerved into the left lane, before striking a utility light pole in front of 37710 Vine St. The vehicle continued over the grass and across the driveway in between the houses, striking a natural gas line, and crashing into the house next door. The gas leak accelerated the fire and attempts to extinguish it were futile. The gas caused the fire to spread at such a high rate, it engulfed the truck in seconds, and prevented the extraction of Dietrich. The resident of the home, Tyler Sherman, fled from the side door and informed responders that no one else was inside. Willoughby Fire and other neighboring departments arrived and took control of the scene. The Lake County Accident Investigation Unit and the Fire Investigation Units were requested to assist with the investigation. Whelan was sitting on the curb with a blank stare and visible injuries to his face. He and Dietrich just left Ward's shop on E.367th in Eastlake and headed east on Vine St. Whelan cut his finger and bandaged it, just prior to leaving. He claimed the sight of his own blood caused him to pass out behind the wheel and caused him to crash. He denied being under the influence at the time. Whelan was eventually transported to Hillcrest Hospital.

Mr. Whelan stated that on Saturday October 29th, 2022, the arrived at Wards Law Care and landscaping, 1539 East 367th Street in Eastlake around 1000 hours. He added that Joey, Jayden and possibly Dino were also at the shop. Joey is Joseph Ebert and Jayden is Jayden Dietrich. It is unknown who Dino is at this time. Mr. Whelan stated that he has worked for George Ward "off and on" for the past six seasons. Mr. Whelan acknowledged that the cooler viewed in the security video was the "pet shop frog." He added that he brought the frog outside the building and then was attempting to splice an electrical wire with his knife when he cut his pointer finger on his left hand. Mr. Whelan addressed the injury and felt fine after the self-aid. Mr. Whelan stated that he entered the driver's seat while Mr. Dietrich entered the passenger seat. During the interview, Mr. Whelan stated he asked Mr. Dietrich to drive but he declined since he did not have a driver's license. Mr. Whelan recalled leaving the shop and traveling on East 367the Street before turning right onto Lakeland Blvd and right on Vine Street. He stated while passing Circle K Gas Station, 37032 Vine Street, Mr. Dietrich told Mr. Whelan that he looked pale and he should go to the Emergency Room. Mr. Whelan stated that he now intended to go up to Euclid Avenue and turn right to head to Hillcrest. It was later clarified that his intention was to go to Erie Street to head toward University Hospital Lake West Medical Center. Mr. Whelan does not recall anything after this moment until a bystander threw a brick through the driver's window to assist him from the vehicle. Mr. Whelan acknowledged that he has passed out on three previous occasions from the sight of his own blood. This usually occurs very quickly after an injury. This did not occur on this occasion so he believed he was okay to drive. Mr. Whelan added that he has been told he has syncope. In researching this, it possibly is Vasovagal syncope which occurs when you faint because your body overreacts to certain triggers, such as the sight of blood or extreme emotional distress. It may also be called neurocardiogenic syncope. The vasovagal syncope trigger causes your heart rate and blood pressure to drop suddenly. Mr. Whelan stated that he has no history of seizures.

The completed investigation was forwarded to the City of Willoughby Law Department for review. Prosecutor Richard Perez advised that Matthew Whelan should be charged with Failure to Control and Vehicular Homicide.

#22-40776 Child Neglect and Animal Cruelty – 1097 Cherokee Trail; Burrington and Begovic

On Friday, December 9, 2022, at 1352 hours, Ptl. DiSanto, was dispatched to 1097 Cherokee Trail to assist the Lake County Humane Society with a report of possible animal abuse. Lake Humane Society personnel, Megan Newkirk, advised she was contacted by the Willoughby Eastlake School System due to one of their students who resides at the listed address above, having a foul odor emanating from them. When the school inquired about the smell with the child, they reported due to the deplorable conditions of their home and numerous pets, she smelled of animal feces, urine, and other byproducts. Because of the possible animal neglect, the school system contacted the Lake Humane Society.

Approximately 10ft before reaching the front door, there was a strong odor of animal feces and nondiscernible unpleasant smells emanating from the residence, while Newkirk was at the door waiting for the resident, Gary Harrington, to answer. Newkirk also advised me she could smell a strong unpleasant odor emanating through the front door. Harrington and his girlfriend, Tiffany Faile, answered the door and were advised why Newkirk was there. Harrington admitted to owning four dogs but denied they lived in unsanitary conditions. Harrington voluntarily allowed Newkirk to visually inspect the dogs outside of the front door. It should be noted 3 of the 4 dogs presented by Harrington were covered in what appeared to be feces. When questioned about this by Newkirk, Harrington admitted the dogs were just recently covered in their own feces and were expected to be bathed once their 11-year-old child returned home from school. The feces on the dogs appeared to be mostly dry and crusty, along with unkempt fur, and long nails. Newkirk advised both Harrington and Faile the dogs appeared in need of immediate care and bathed, which they stated they would do. Newkirk took photographs of the dogs and asked if birds were also in the residence. Harrington stated no and denied Newkirk entry into the residence to check because they stated it was too dirty for visitors. Due to not gaining access to the inside of the residence, Newkirk advised them she would return the following Monday for follow up on the dogs condition, which they stated they understood.

The home is occupied by Gary Harrington, Tiffany Faile, and four minor children 12 years old and younger. An affidavit and search warrant was completed by Jeff Holland, the Attorney for the Lake Humane Society. In the affidavit, it is noted that school staff asked to see the bottom of the feet of one of the children involved because of the smell of feces emanating from the child. A layer of dog feces was seen on the bottom of the feet. Lake County Job and Family Services was also made aware of the search warrant. The assigned caseworker, Sarah Marrie, and her supervisor, Emily Walls, were advised of the details. Marrie provided her contact information and stated she would be there to check on the conditions in the home. Chris Loxterman, the Lake County General Health District Extended Housing Supervisor was also advised of the conditions from just standing outside the residence. He stated he had just received a call on the house today, and he would make arrangements to be there or have one of his co-workers be present when the search warrant was served. Megan Newkirk will also be on scene to take custody of any animals found in distress at the house. Chief Ungar, of the Willoughby Fire Department, advised they would have personnel on scene to assist if conditions inside the home require additional protective gear.

With the search warrant secured the agencies went to the residence. The front door was answered by Gary Harrington and his wife, Tiffany Faile. Harrington had a pair of black flip flops on and on top of the left one there was a piece of visible dog feces on it. They were advised of the search warrant and asked if their children were in the house. Both parties told us the children were all in school at this time. Harrington was asked to secure the four dogs in their cages to ensure everyone's safety. As we stepped inside with both of them, Faile started to clean up fresh dog feces in the dog cages but she was advised to stop for evidentiary reasons. The dogs were secured without incident. Upon entering the house, the foul odor was nauseating and overwhelmingly strong. The N-95 offered little if any protection from the rancid smell of urine and feces which was clearly visible on the hardwood floors.

The dog cages were wired steel cages with no dog pans in the bottom of them which meant the dogs would urinate and defecate directly onto the hardwood floors, which caused the odors to sink into the wood. There were flies located throughout this house by the hundreds. This was any obvious safety concerned due to the four minor children in this house. There was prior knowledge that some of the children have disabilities and behavioral problems.

After briefing and viewing of the interior of the residence themselves, the other agencies agreed on the numerous hazards. Lake County Health Department condemned the house from being lived in and advised Harrington and Faile were only allowed in to clean but were not able to sleep or have the children in the house. Lake County Job and Family Service advised they would be putting a safety plan in place to allow Harrington and Faile to retain custody of the children at another location possibly with family. Lake Humane Society removed five (5) dogs, one (1) rat and one (1) cat. It was agreed that both Harrington and Faile would each be charged with 4 counts Child Endangering and 4 counts of Animal Cruelty.

Selective Enforcement Division

Currently not funded.

Special Police Division

2022

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 2022 with 19 active officers and ended the year with 20. They are assigned to 4 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.

The Division also provides School Resource Officer support two 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.

Squad 1

Patrolman Dennis Corbett* Patrolman Jerry Spradlin Patrolman Dave Tambascio Patrolman Gary Betzler* Patrolman Derrick Stewart*

Squad 2

Patrolman Tom Sherwood Patrolman Randy Ricciardo Patrolman Kyle Hosta Patrolman Jack Beckwith* Patrolman Tom Trem*

Squad 3

Patrolman Kurt Keeper Patrolman James Myers Patrolman Chuck Popik Patrolman Chuck Deutsch* Patrolman Michael Nogalo

Squad 4

Ptatrolman Rick Myers Patrolman Steve Jevnikar Patrolman Tom Dearden Patrolman Joe Kulnane Patrolman George Lessick*

*Retired Full-Time WPD Officers

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 Deptartment, 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 2022 Willoughby Police Special Officers worked a total of 7994 hours for the City, 510 hours providing private security for outside jobs, and also hours donated for civic events.

2022 K-9 Patrol Loki

Willoughby Police K-9 Loki has served with this Department for the last 9 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 2022 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

After a very successful career, K9 Loki retired on November 1st, 2022. K9 Loki assisted in the arrest and conviction of countless drug offenders and violent criminals. K9 Loki also assisted in the seizure of illegal narcotics, paraphernalia and money used in the sales of illegal narcotics. K9 Loki and Ptl Neath's perseverance and training made them a successful team. K9 Loki's presence will be missed within the department, but he will spend his retirement with Ptl. Neath and his family.

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.

2022 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. 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 s in-service training group. Willowick, Mentor, Perry Village, RTA, and Lake County Sheriffs Office 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 4,900 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.

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 the Willoughby Police K9 Foundation to include Candice Zinner, Dr. Joseph Doles, Seamus Coyne, and David Bartulovic continued support of the Willoughby K-9 Unit.



2022 K-9 Patrol Zaro

On May 3rd, 2022 Zaro was selected as the Willoughby Police Department's newest police K-9. Zaro is a German Shepherd from Slovakia. He was born on January 23rd, 2021. Zaro and his handler, Patrolman Jackson Hyams, began a six-week canine handler course at Shallow Creek Kennels in Pennsylvania on June 20th, 2022, and started serving the city of Willoughby on August 1st, 2022.



Training

K-9 Zaro and Patrolman Hyams completed 300 hours of training while at Shallow Creek Kennels, where they were certified through the State of Ohio and the North American Police Work Dog Association. The two continue to train on a biweekly basis with K-9 teams from Eastlake, Mentor, Perry Village, Wickliffe, Willowick, Lake County Sheriff's Office, and the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority Police Department. In addition to this biweekly training, K-9 Zaro and Ptl. Hyams find time to train every day during their shift and while off duty to continue to grow as a team.



Service

K-9 Zaro is a dual-purpose patrol dog, and assists officers with narcotics detection, area searches, article searches, building searches, tracking, and criminal apprehension. During Zaro's time on the road he has had multiple deployments, both for the Willoughby Police Department and other nearby agencies.

In addition to these responsibilities at work, K-9 Zaro and Patrolman Hyams enjoy engaging with the community. The team has been present at city events, and has conducted K-9 demonstrations for the public. K-9 Zaro and Patrolman Hyams, along with K-9 Rex and Patrolman Zinner, also conduct demonstrations for the Willoughby-Eastlake School district D.A.R.E. classes.

Special Thanks

K-9 Zaro and Ptl. Hyams would like to thank the Willoughby Fraternal Order of Eagles, the Willoughby Elks Lodge, Jeffrey Mitchell, and all of those who have generously assisted with the funding to make Zaro the Willoughby Police Department's newest dog. They would like to thank Dr. Joseph Doles and the staff at the Pet Hospital of Willoughby for their care of Willoughby's K-9 unit. K-9 Zaro and Ptl. Hyams would also like to thank Candice Zinner, Seamus Coyne, Dr. Joseph Doles, and David Bartulovic of the Willoughby Police K-9 Foundation for their support.



Motorcycle Patrol

In 2022, the Willoughby Police Department Motorcycle Unit consisted of three Motor Officers and two Police Motorcycles. Sergeant Brad Lampela, Detective Shane Rahz, and Special Officer Gary Betzler rode city owned, specially equipped, Harley Davidson Police Edition Road King Motorcycles. Officer Betzler consistently worked 3 to 4 days per week throughout the riding season, while Sergeant Lampela worked when time allowed on shift. 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. The events the Motor Officers attended in 2022 included the Willoughby Touch a Truck event, the Breckenridge Centennial Parade, the Cleveland Firefighters Memorial Run, the Willoughby Memorial Day Parade, the Back the Blue Motorcycle Run – Eastlake, the Back the Blue Motorcycle Run – Cleveland, the Lake County Yacht Club Children's Parade, the Great Lakes Offshore Powerboat Racing Association Boat Parade – Eastlake, the Travis Mills Foundation Escort to Manikiki, Law Enforcement National Night Out, the Last Stop Willoughby Parade, and the Gray Riders Dice Run.







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 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.

2022

In 2022, three officers received training and were certified as bike patrol officers.

The Bicycle Patrol Unit provided services for the following City events :

- 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

2022

The Willoughby Police Department's Traffic Crash Investigation Unit (CIU) is responsible for investigating traffic crashes when it involves a fatality, potential lifethreatening 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 Patrolman Joseph Putney, Patrolman Travis Stevenson, Patrolman Kyle Bucher and Patrolman Kevin Rastall.

In 2022, the Willoughby Police Department responded to 1014 traffic crashes resulting in over 723 hours of investigation time. The number of crashes where an increase of over 10% from 2021. Of the 1014 traffic crashes, 145 resulted in injuries which is a slight decrease from the previous year. The Department had three fatal crashes and investigated another serious injury crash. The Willoughby Police Department also investigated seven crashes involving bicycles and four crashes involving pedestrians. Of the 1014 crashes, 36 were alcohol related and 48 involved distracted driving.

2022 Crash Investigation Unit

Crash Reconstructionist

Det. Charles Kreisa

Technical Crash Investigators

Patrolman Terrell Stevenson Patrolman Joseph Putney Patrolman Kyle Bucher Patrolman Kevin Rastall

The Willoughby Police Department's Traffic Crash Investigation Unit (CIU) had no investigations in 2022.

#22-34889 - Fatal Crash - State Route 2 eastbound exit ramp to State Route 640 (Vine Street)

On Monday, October 24th, 2022 at 1637 hours, the Willoughby Police and Fire Departments responded to the area of State Route 2 eastbound exit ramp to State Route 640 (Vine Street) for a crash involving a motor cycle. Initial callers reported the rider was walking around after the crash prior to collapsing. A passerby had begun CPR.

The investigation revealed 33year old, Devin Jazbec was operating 2019 Kawasaki ZX-10R eastbound on State Route 2. Mr. Jazbec entered the exited ramp to State Route 640 (Vine Street) when he struck a large metal piece of an exhaust pipe resulting in the motorcycle front wheel to lose contact with the pavement. Mr. Jazbec was then ejected over the handlebars of his motorcycle. Mr. Jazbec was transported by the Willoughby Fire Department to University Hospital Lake West Medical Center in Willoughby where he was pronounced deceased. An Autopsy completed by the Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner's Office noted that the cause of death was listed as blunt force trauma to the chest. The manner of death was ruled as an accident.

Investigators reviewed surveillance video from area business as well cameras from Ohio Department of Transportation but were unable to determine the source that resulted in the metal exhaust pipe being in the lane of travel.

#22-35527 - Fatal Crash - 37722 State Route 640 (Vine Street)

On Saturday, October 29th, 2022 at 1052 hours, the Willoughby Police and Fire Departments responded to the area of State Route 640 Vine Street near Skiff Street for a crash involving a landscaping truck into a residence.

Investigation revealed that 27-year-old Matthew Whelan was operating a 2006 Chevy Silverado 3500 that was traveling east on State Route 640 (Vine Street) from St. Clair Street towards Skiff Street. Just west of the Norfolk and Southern bridge overpass, the vehicle appears to travel off the right side of the roadway before returning to eastbound Vine Street. Just east of Skiff Street, the Chevy abruptly swerves from the left lane off the right side of the road at 37710. It strikes a utility pole before it continues east where is strikes a series of large rocks that were surrounding a gas meter at 37716 Vine Street. The Chevy continues traveling east where is crashes into the northwest corner of 37722 Vine Street. As a result of the crash, the landscaping truck as well as 37722 Vine Street caught fire.

Bystanders and witnesses were able to free Mr. Whelan from the truck. Attempts to free the 22-year-old passenger, Jayden Dietrich were unsuccessful and he was pronounced deceased at the scene as a result of the fire.

An Autopsy completed by the Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner's Office noted that the cause of death was listed as smoke inhalation and thermal injury. The manner of death was ruled as an accident.

Mr. Whelan was charged with failure to control and vehicular homicide.

#22-35995 - Injury Crash - State Route 2 eastbound

On Tuesday November 1st, 2022 at 1807 hours, the Willoughby Police and Fire Departments responded to the area of State Route 2 eastbound at the Lost Nation Road exit ramp for an injury motor vehicle crash. The crash occurred between a sedan and a motorcycle.

The initial investigation indicates that a 2018 white Ford Fusion traveling west to east from State Route 640 (Vine Street) toward Lost Nation Road in the right lane of State Route 2. The black 2007 Harley-Davidson FXDB was also traveling on State Route 2 from State Route 640 (Vine Street) toward Lost Nation Road at a high rate of speed. A collision occurred on the exit ramp of State Route 2 eastbound at Lost Nation Road. Contact damage on the Ford was on the right rear quarter panel, right rear tire and right rear door. Contact damage on the Harley-Davidson was to the front tire area. Roadway evidence showed that the right rear tire of the Ford was punctured upon the collision and became flat. The Harley-Davidson appeared to be re-directed to the right where is struck the guardrail. The operator of was ejected from the motorcycle and slid along the concrete until coming to final rest along the south curb. The Harley-Davidson slid along the pavement until coming to rest east of the operator in the exit lane. The Ford continued to drive west to east until coming to a stop on the right berm east of final rest of the motorcycle.

The operator of the Harley Davidson, 35-year-old Sergey Potapenko, was seriously injured in the crash. He was transported to Hillcrest Hospital in Mayfield Heights with facial injuries, arm injury and a leg injury. Interviews were completed with the numerous witnesses of the crash. Witnesses noted that the Mr. Potapenko was operating the bike in the reckless manner. He was later charged with operating within marked lanes and OVI.

#22-40228-Fatal Crash - 38430 Westminster Lane

On December 4th, 2022 at 1747 hours, the Willoughby Police and Fire Departments responded to Westminster Lane for a report of a pedestrian struck by a vehicle. A male was located lying in the roadway on Westminster Lane within the Piccadilly Square intersection. The male was not speaking and appeared to be unconscious. The male was later transported to University Hospital Lake West Medical Center in Willoughby by the Willoughby Fire Department. He was later transferred by helicopter to the Main Campus of University Via University Hospital AirMed.

Investigations later learned that an 18-year-old female was operating a 2007 Ford Econoline van on Westminster Lane. The driver exited the van but failed to place the vehicle in park resulting in the van continue to roll forward. The front seat passenger, 68-year-old Nicholas Prodonovich exited the vehicle and attempted to physically stop the forward movement of the Ford Econoline van. As a result, the van knocked Mr. Prodonovich to the ground and traveled over him.

An Autopsy completed by the Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner's Office noted that the cause of death was listed as acute respiratory failure due to cerebral infarction and blunt impact(s) to the head with traumatic brain injury. The manner of death was ruled as an accident.

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 2022 investigations that the Willoughby Police Department's Traffic Crash Investigation Unit assisted in:

September 28th, 2022 -Lake CRU for Painesville Police Department (22-31688)

Officers assisted in the crash investigation where a 10-year-old on a bicycle was traveling north on Elm Street in Painesville when he was struck by an eastbound train. The juvenile passed away as a result of his injuries.

CARFAX

Since 2020, 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 scenes. This allows investigators an additional tool to more accurately and efficiently investigation crash scene.

Western Lake County Emergency Response Team 2022

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, firearms proficiency test, as well as a scenario based 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, Sgt. Mike Sevel, Ptl Jon Greig, Sgt Kevin Crowley, and Ptl. Dan Lastoria. At the end of the year, Ptl Jon Greig retired from the team after serving as an operator and sniper for 10 years. A special thank you to Ptl Jon Greig for his dedication and efforts. His position will be filled this upcoming year following a series of physical agility tests, scenario-based interview, and a team interview with potential candidates interested in becoming a member of the team.

The ERT team conducted a total of 6 operations in 2022. 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 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- Search Warrant

On April 27, 2022 The Western Lake County Emergency Response Team executed a search warrant at 1115 E332nd St in Eastlake. The resident and subject of the warrant, Alan Glavic Jr. was located inside the residence and taken into custody without incident. The rest of the house was cleared, secured and turned over to Eastlake Pd and Lake County Narcotics Agency. Willoughby Police ERT members present were Lt. Davis, Sgt. Sevel, Sgt. Crowley, Ptl Greig, and Ptl Lastoria.

Eastlake PD-Search Warrant

On May 31, 2022 The Western Lake County Emergency Response Team executed a search warrant at 34169 Roberts Rd in Eastlake. The subject of the warrant was Nicholas Ryan. The residence was cleared without incident and the scene was turned over to Eastlake Pd and Lake County Narcotics Agency. Willoughby Police ERT members present were Lt. Davis, Sgt. Sevel, Sgt. Crowley, and Ptl Lastoria.

Eastlake PD- Search Warrant

On June 17, 2022 The Western Lake County Emergency Response Team executed a search warrant at the Fairbridge Motel, 116 Forest Drive Unit D, in Eastlake. The subjects of the warrant were Thomas Sutton, Daniel McCall, and William Corby. The residence was cleared and secured without incident and the scene was handed over to Eastlake PD and the Lake County Narcotics Agency. Willoughby Police ERT members present were Lt. Davis and Sgt. Crowley.

Wickliffe PD-Search Warrant

On June 24, 2022 The Western Lake County Emergency Response team executed a search warrant at 28600 Rigehills Dr. Unit 308 in Wickliffe. The subject of the warrant was a Ralph Edward Dykes. The search warrant was executed and the scene was secured without incident. The subject of the warrant was located in the room and taken into custody. The scene was turned over to Wickliffe PD and Lake County Narcotics Agency. Willoughby Police Department ERT members present were Lt. Davis and Sgt. Crowley.

Willoughby PD- Search Warrant

On September 7, 2022 The Western Lake County Emergency Response Team executed a search warrant at 38860 Commanche Trail in Willoughby for narcotics sales. The subjects of the warrant were Devon Brooks, Michael Minello, Mercedes Bradvica, and William French. During the execution of the warrant all subjects were located in the home and secured. The house was cleared without incident and turned over to the Lake County Narcotics Agency. Willoughby Police Department ERT members present were Lt. Davis, Sgt. Sevel, Sgt. Crowley, Ptl Jon Greig and Ptl Lastoria.

Eastlake PD- Search Warrant

On October 20, 2022 The Western Lake County Emergency Response Team executed a search warrant at 1366 E. 345th St in Eastlake. The subjects of the warrant were Stephen Baker, Jessica Elliot, Maurice Wilson, and William Rusbasan. During the execution of the warrant three subjects were encountered and detained. The rest of the residence was cleared without incident. The scene was turned over to Eastlake PD and Lake County Narcotics Agency. Willoughby Police ERT members present were Lt. Davis, Sgt. Sevel, Sgt. Crowley, and Ptl Lastoria

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



2022 Members

Assistant Chief Tartaglia Lieutenant Ken Jordan Det. Lieutenant John Begovic Det. Sergeant Mike Sevel 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 8 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, September 11th services, and several funerals in 2022.

Jail Facilities

For the year 2022, the Willoughby Police Department City Jail housed 493 persons compared to 895 in 2021. 329 were males and 164 were females. Jail numbers still will be somewhat on the low end due to the Covid 19 Pandemic and surrounding agencies not picking up due to illness of the prisoner or manpower issues. Some of the 493 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 Jason 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. Ptl Pitt will always assist with road duties when he is not busy in the jail.

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. Several minor changes were suggested.

Respectfully Submitted, Sergeant Mike Fitzgerald Jail Administrator

Weaponscraft

2022 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 to provide the best training possible to the members of the Willoughby Police Department.

In 2022, the unit consists of 12 in service instructors. Currently there are 1 Lieutenant, 2 Sergeants, 1 Detective, and 8 Patrolmen.

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 has a total of three (3) 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 15's 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 allows 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.

The Firearms Training Unit conducted seven range programs on the indoor pistol range. Each consisted of a new type of shooting program. The first range is customarily the State of Ohio requalification shoot on the indoor range. Officers create different shooting scenarios for each range. This allows creative fresh ideas and new tactics to be introduced. Each squad and the specials division have the opportunity to participate in all ranges.

Each officer is required to attend the state qualification shoot. 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 up to date 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



2022

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.

2022 Communications Personnel

<u>Communications Supervisor</u> Marlene Matteo

Full-Time
Communications Operators
Carla Gabele
Michelle Spehar
Christopher Borstnik*
Kevin Brodzinksi*
Tom Seymour
Frances Rivas
Bryan Griffith
Asia Robinson
Kimberly Kaste
Kristin Kahley
Kiersten Jaggie
Lindsey Dieterich

Part-Time
Communications Operators
Alyssa Cheraso
Bart Eland
Monica Patterson *
Danette Perkins
Randy Ricciardo

*resigned position in 2022

Responsibilities

The primary responsibility of our Dispatchers is to provide professional and responsive communications services to our public and our safety forces. In 2022, a total of 11 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 2022, a total of 58 stolen entries were made to these files with 23 of these items being recovered. These entries are complex and accuracy is essential as they are audited every 3 years. Our dispatchers do an excellent job with all the entries in LEADS.

The Communications Center is manned by two dispatchers at all times. Our center consists of 10 full time and currently 4 part time dispatchers. Due to two full time resignations, Susan Schilling, our full-time records clerk, who possesses 31 years of dispatch experience, assisted with dispatching responsibilities.

In 2022, Willoughby dispatchers processed 3,292 911 calls included in the total of 43,523 phone calls for service that generated a police or fire response. In addition to these calls for service, our dispatchers handled many 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

2022 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 Children Services and Willoughby County Municipal Court. Further tasks include processing all traffic and criminal arrests with associated fingerprints. Along with the arrests, clerks must reports pertaining to 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 **43,523** calls for service were generated by the public in 2022.

2022 Records Division Personnel

Clerical/Communications Supervisor Marlene Matteo

<u>Full-Time</u> Cheryl Stephens Kim Thompson Sue Schilling

<u>Part-Time</u> Not currently staffed

Willoughby Police Department arrested **2,762** persons resulting in a total of **3,806** charges. With the physical arrest of **566** persons, which shows a 16% increase over 2021 physical arrests. The Records Division processed **475** 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 **\$57,600** in 2022.

The Records Division received and processed **459** warrants issued through Willoughby Municipal Court.

The Willoughby Police Department issued **1216** parking citations which were entered into the CAD system throughout 2022. Parking ticket receipts processed by the Records Department totaled **\$14,395**.

2022 Record Room Statistics

F.B.I Uniform Classification

Part I, Actual Offenses	2021	2022
Criminal Homicide	0	0
Forcible Rape	5	11
Robbery	7	10
Aggravated Assault	16	9
Burglary	33	21
Larceny/Theft	294	296
Auto Theft	33	27
Arson	1	2
Total Part 1 Actual Offenses	389	376

Traffic Arrests-Adult & Juvenile

	<u>2021</u>	2022
Vehicular homicide	О	1
Hit-Skip	30	28
DUI & Physical Control	79	88
Reckless Operation	30	25
Lane Usage Violations	39	62
Weaving Course/FTC	67	73
Left of Center	1	5
Failure/Yield Right of Way	75	73
Stop Sign	25	28
Traffic Signals	64	95
Assured Clear Distance	139	103
Speed	552	643
Seat Belt	13	24
Equipment Violations	0	0
License Plate Violations	386	460
Unlicensed Junk Vehicles	О	0
Operator License Required	118	106
Other Traffic Violations	519	<u>500</u>
Total Traffic Arrests	213 7	2314

Other Arrests-Adult and Juvenile

	<u>2021</u>	2022
Aggravated Murder	0	0
Robbery	5	4
Aggravated Assault	13	8
Simple Assault	50	38
Arson	1	1
Breaking & Entering	18	2
Larceny	76	87
Auto Theft	8	6
Forgery & Identity Theft	10	13
Fraud	9	12
Stolen Property	10	11
Criminal Damaging	15	8
Dangerous Drugs	259	296
Other Sex Offenses	6	44
Domestic Violence	28	40
Liquor Violations	25	25
Obstructing Police	14	21
Escape	1	0
Probation Violations	376	412
Weapons Violations	32	46
Disorderly Conduct	94	95
Intoxication	41	31
Other	190	247
Total Other Arrests	1280	1447
Total Arrests	3417	3761

Record Room Statistics

Calls for Service: Other Kirtland Willoughby Total Calls for Service	2021 2056 7957 31,997 42,010	2022 971 12,209 30,343 43,523
10141 04115 101 801 1100	4-,010	TU;U-U
Emergency Calls Dispatched (Other/Kirtland/Willoughby)	3733	3299
Emergency Calls Investigated		
Deaths	41	41
Suicides	7	4
Attempted Suicides	14	24
Mental Illness	<u>82</u>	84
Total Emergency Calls Investigated	144	153
Animal Investigations		
Cruelty to Animals	0	2
Animals at large	4	10
Animal Noises	0	0
Animal Bites	4	5
Other Animal Complaints	<u>442</u>	<u>524</u>
Total Animal Investigations	450	541
Lockouts	743	754
Missing Persons	36	27
Alarms		
Alarms	1455	1654
Alarms, Test	201	246
Total Number of Alarms	1530	1656

Record Room Statistics

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>
Money Escorts & Other Public Assists	762	750
Mutual Aid	720	672
Solicitor Complaints	54	71
Fireworks Complaints	60	105
Open Buildings	46	45
Disturbance, General	1431	1010
Disturbance, Noise	0	0
Disturbance, Unwanted Guest	0	0
Disturbance, Trouble with Customer	81	0
Suspicion, General	1402	1167
Suspicion, Person	347	363
Suspicion, Vehicle	536	404
Juvenile-Runaways & Curfew Violations	2	15
Fingerprinting (Court Order)	89	85
Receipts	<u>2021</u>	2022
Parking Ticket Receipts	\$14,840	\$14,395
Other Receipts:		
Taxi Licenses	0	0
Accident & Crime Report Copies	\$23.90	\$18.60
Other Services	<u>\$245.00</u>	<u>\$455.00</u>
Total Other Receipts	\$268.90	\$473.60
Total Receipts	\$17,529.90	\$14,868.60

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 The department continually receives positive feedback from the community regarding outreach The police department programs. commits to maintaining a full time Community Involvement Division. The division is dedicated to crime prevention fostering initiatives well as as 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.

2022 Initiatives

<u>Pre-school and Day Care Centers</u> – 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.

<u>Juvenile Diversion</u> – 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.

<u>School Programs</u> – 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.

<u>Business</u> – 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

<u>Schools</u> - 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.

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

<u>Pre-school and Day Care Programs</u> – 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.

<u>Senior Programs</u> – 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.

<u>Community Education Programs</u> – 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.

<u>Security Assessments</u> - 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.

<u>Safety Town</u> – 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.

<u>Bike Rodeo</u> – 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.

<u>Coffee With A COP</u> – 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.

<u>National Night Out</u> – 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.

<u>Dog Walker Watch</u> - 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.

<u>House of Worship</u> – 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.

<u>Role of Police in the Community</u> – 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.

<u>Citizens Police Academy</u> – 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.

<u>Teen Driving Workshop</u> – 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.

<u>YMCA Aftercare</u> – 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.

<u>Explorers Program.</u> 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.

<u>Training</u> – 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.

<u>Medicinal Marijuana Forum</u> – 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.

<u>Library Story Time</u> –A Willoughby officer is invited to read a story and interact with children once a month at the Willoughby Public Library.

<u>Internships</u> – Annually, select college and high school students are offered internship opportunities which are facilitated by Community Involvement.

<u>Family Movie Night</u> – The WPD along with Parks & Recreation sponsor outdoor movie presentations throughout the summer.

<u>Scams</u> – 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.

<u>Zoom</u> – Community Involvement continually adapts and changes programs according to the needs of the community. The year 2022 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.

<u>College digital media</u> – 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.

<u>Walk With A COP</u> – 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.

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

<u>Community Bike Project</u> – 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.

New Programs introduced in 2022

<u>Basketball Skills Competition</u> – In coordination with the Parks and Recreation Department, youth in the community were invited to test their basketball skills and participate in a skills competition at the Senior Center gym. The competition offered and opportunity for officers to interact with youth from the community in a fun and interactive environment.

<u>4th Grade Electronic Media Responsibilities</u> – Elementary school students were provided information regarding responsible social media use and effects resulting from sharing inappropriate content.

<u>Activities with Police</u> – In coordination with the Senior Center, officers participated in various events with the members of the center which included singing Christmas carols, grilling with police and a tour of the police department. Future events are planned for to continue a positive relationship with the Police Department.

<u>Police Recruitment</u> – The Community Involvement Division conducted a recruitment campaign throughout the year visiting various police academies and job fairs promoting law enforcement careers and positions with the Willoughby Police Department

<u>Toy/Food Drive</u> – Officers stationed at two retail establishments in the city and collected generous donations of toys, food items and money. The toys were donated to Toys for Tots. Food and monetary donations were provided to the McKinley Outreach Center of Willoughby

<u>Apartment Complexes</u> – Partnering with the various apartment facilities within the city, information was shared regarding maintaining a safe environment for residents and facilitating measures to address issues that compromise the quality of living for the residents. Regular contact with leasing employees helped establish a healthy relationship with the Police Department.

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



2022 marks the 37th 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, Respond to the problem and Evaluate whether or not the response was correct/positive.

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 Rex and Zaro.

Three officers from the Patrol Division teach the program to each fifth-grade class in the public schools within the city of Willoughby. During the 2022 school year, Sergeant Peter Huth, Lieutenant Ken Jordan, and Patrolman Ross Shirey taught classes totaling approximately 250 students. Detective David Burrington is also a certified DARE instructor and assists when needed.

Classes are 1 hour per week for 14 weeks or more and a graduation ceremony which 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, resistance strategies and communication styles, 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.

Edison Elementary 5th grade taught by Lieutenant Jordan. South High School health classes taught by Lieutenant Jordan. Grant Elementary 5th grade taught by Sergeant Huth. SOI 5th grade taught by Patrolman Shirey.

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 curriculum and overall the program. 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 continuing. A curriculum mirroring that of OPOTA is implemented along 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 315 hours of community service and 264 hours of training in 2022.

Training

Training topics covered in 2022 included: Civil Unrest; CPR/AE; Lake County Narcotics; Night Traffic Stops; Surveillance; Burglary; Civil Disorders; Range Safety; Interview and Interrogation; Police Ride-Along; Open House; and Community Relations

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 2022, Gracie Brunnet received the following awards: perfect attendance, Explorer of the Year Honors, community service, state competition, service training and was promoted to Lieutenant. Nicolas Hensen was awarded service training, community service and was promoted to sergeant. Travis Gumm was awarded a State Competition ribbon as well as service training and range awards. Noah Walter was awarded a State Competition ribbon and service training ribbon. Eric Wood was awarded a service training and state competition 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

The crossing guards are stationed on busy roadways adjacent to Their primary elementary schools. objective is to direct the safe travel of students walking to school across intersections. Both Edison and Grant Elementary experience a high volume of vehicular traffic onto school property during arrival and dismissal. crossing guards ensure the safety of the school children during these periods. In addition, they provide an important link with the Police Department. providing information and insight regarding daily operations of traffic flow and pedestrian activity.

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 weather conditions.

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 preemployment 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
Crystal Pullen

Victim Assistance

2022

The Victim Assistance program received funding from Victims of Crime Assistance (VOCA) and (SVAA). This past year saw the funding severely cut to all recipients. In spite of the this, the program continued to advocate for the victims. The Willoughby Victim Assistance Program currently employs 2 part-time advocates: Director Kathy Fellows and Advocate Susan Hodali. The advocates assisted over 900 victims and witnesses though the court system, with immediate crisis counseling, and referrals to other agencies. In 2022, the advocates were also 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.