



**WOOSTER POLICE  
DEPARTMENT  
2021 Annual Report  
Chief Matthew D. Fisher  
“Ethics, Integrity, and Professionalism”**



## WOOSTER POLICE DEPARTMENT

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February 3, 2022

The Honorable Mayor Robert Breneman  
City of Wooster  
538 North Market St.  
Wooster, Ohio 44691

Dear Mayor Breneman,

I am pleased to present to you and the Wooster City Council the Wooster Police Department's 2021 Annual Report.

2021 was another year of challenges as our community, like many others, continued to deal with the Covid-19 pandemic. However, despite being down a clerical specialist and six patrol officers, while having four at the police academy, all mixed with intermittent absences due to Covid-19, we continued to do our best to provide a high level of service to the citizens of the City of Wooster.

Despite the pandemic, we continued to engage the community we serve via social media and in person. We were able to safely, while socially distancing, continue our Honorary Junior Officer of the Month program with Wooster City Schools. Our Stuff a Cruiser program provided toys, clothes, and gifts for over 80 families, including 200 plus children. Officers Timko and Teichmer played a significant role in making Stuff a Cruiser a huge success.

2021 saw the retirement of several officers, including Matt Cruise, Ken Linz, and Mike Jewell. These officers all impacted our community in a variety of ways. Many people got to know Matt Cruise from his role as our Community Relations Officer, and everyone knew Ken Linz as our School Resource Officer. While those careers came to a close, some new careers began here at the Wooster Police Department with the hiring of five new officers. Nick Pagni and Megan Wasik began in February. In August, Chris Topovski and Kyle Moss were hired and sent to the Ohio State Highway Patrol Academy for their basic training. Lateral hire Gina Iacco joined our team in August.

2021 continued to be challenging as many in-person schools and training opportunities were canceled. The department continued its partnership with Virtual Academy to provide all officers with a virtual platform to conduct training. Among other topics, all officers received training in Racial Profiling and Implicit Bias.

Our relationship with Wooster City Schools continues to be very strong, especially when it comes to the safety of the children. Chief Fisher, Assistant Chief Rotolo, and Captain Lemmon all serve on the Business Advisory Council, School Safety and Security Committee. Captain Lemmon also oversees the yearly safety drills done throughout the Wooster City School District. Twenty-four school safety drills were completed in 2021.

In 2021 the Wooster Police Department Detective Bureau conducted over 100 background investigations for all City of Wooster and WARCOG employees. The Detective Bureau saves the City of Wooster thousands of dollars by completing these backgrounds in-house while providing an extensive investigation into each prospective employee.

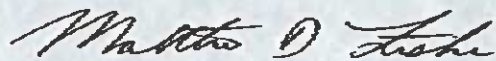
The Police Department handled 23,806 calls for service in 2021, increasing from 20,850 in 2020. The top calls for service in 2021 included: Security Checks: 3696; Suspicious Activity/Persons: 1984; Traffic Complaints: 1320; Citizen Assists/Welfare Checks: 1060; 911 calls (with no other disposition): 1059.

Traffic crashes rose slightly from 580 in 2020 to 632 in 2021. These numbers are slightly above pre-pandemic levels, with 573 crashes in 2019.

The Police Department investigated one homicide in 2021\*. Part One Offenses (major crimes: homicide, rape, robbery, felony assault, burglary, and theft) showed an overall increase of 16 percent from 788 in 2020 to 918 in 2021. (\*The single vehicular homicide occurred in the county, but the Wooster Police Department handled the criminal charges.)

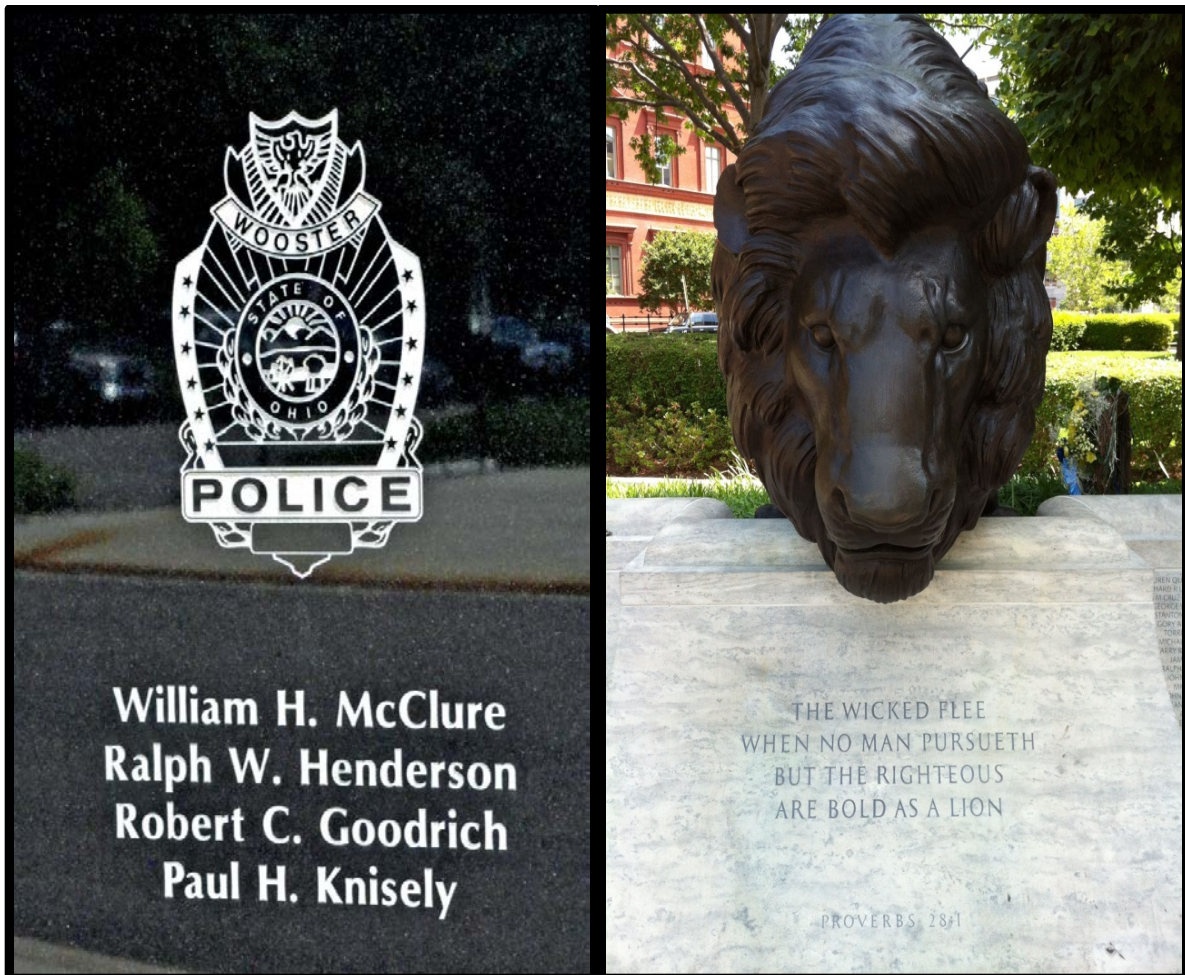
Hiring and retention continues to be top priority for our agency as fewer and fewer people look to a career in law enforcement. We will continue to make sure we are hiring the best candidates to represent the Wooster Police Department. I also need to recognize our outstanding clerical staff, who, despite being short a position for the majority of the year, rose to the challenge and continued to keep things flowing without disruption. As always, I am honored to lead such a great team of people who represent our agency and our city with distinction.

Respectfully,



Matthew D. Fisher  
Chief of Police  
Wooster Police Department

# HONORING OUR FALLEN



## **Our officers who made the ultimate sacrifice**

### **Patrolman William H. "Tip" McClure**

Died in the line of duty – December 30, 1886

### **Patrolman Ralph W. Henderson**

Shot in the line of duty – June 23, 1912

Died from the resulting wound – July 3, 1912

### **Patrolman Robert C. Goodrich**

Drowned during rescue efforts – July 5, 1969

### **Sergeant Paul H. Knisely**

Drowned during rescue efforts – July 5, 1969

# WOOSTER POLICE DEPARTMENT



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# **WOOSTER POLICE DEPARTMENT**

## **Mission Statement**

The Wooster Police Department is a committed partner with our community. Ethics, integrity and professionalism are the core values which lead us forward. These core values are the foundation upon which we base our mission.

We realize that our most important asset is our employees who strive to make our organization a premier law enforcement agency.

Our employees are dedicated to protecting and preserving life while providing fair and impartial law enforcement services to all.

It is these core values, dedication and community partnership that make our agency distinguished.

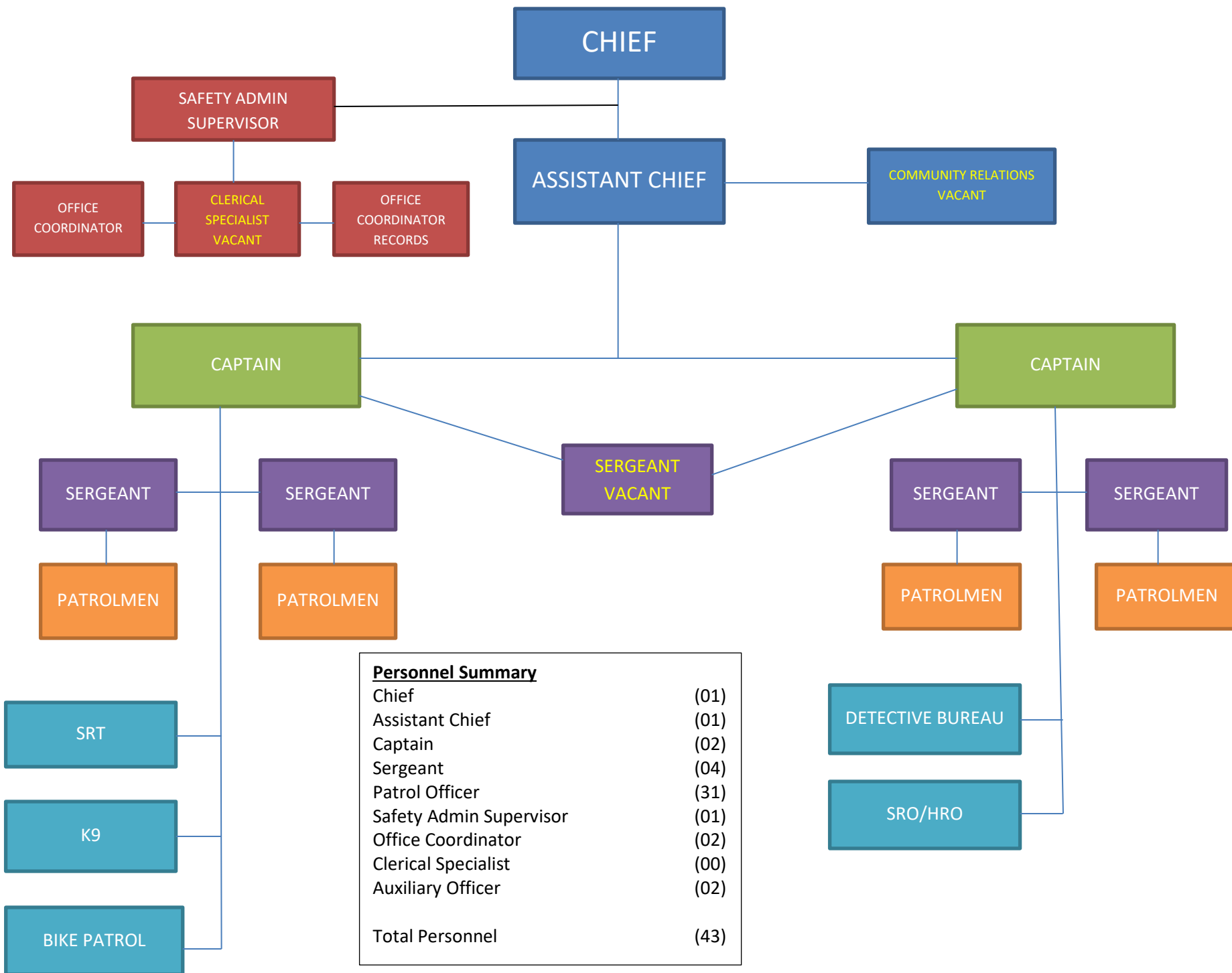
## **Values**

We value dignity and respect for all persons.

We value integrity and honesty as the basis for community trust.

We value excellence and professional growth.

We value the highest standards of moral and ethical conduct.



<b>Personnel Summary</b>	
Chief	(01)
Assistant Chief	(01)
Captain	(02)
Sergeant	(04)
Patrol Officer	(31)
Safety Admin Supervisor	(01)
Office Coordinator	(02)
Clerical Specialist	(00)
Auxiliary Officer	(02)
<b>Total Personnel</b>	<b>(43)</b>

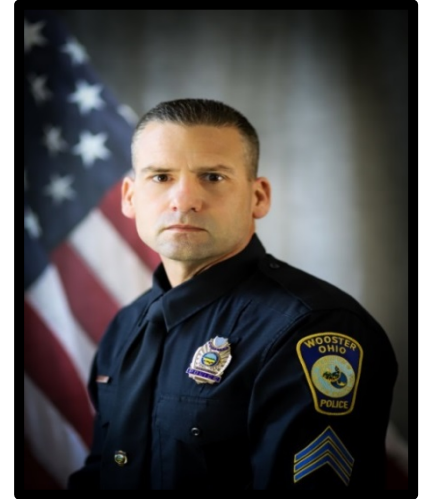


# 2021 WOOSTER POLICE DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL

<b>CHIEF</b>	Matthew Fisher	Administration
<b>ASSISTANT CHIEF</b>	Scott Rotolo	Administration
<b>CAPTAIN</b>	Anthony Lemmon	Administration
<b>CAPTAIN</b>	Victor Nedoma	Administration
<b>SERGEANT</b>	Clint Bartolic	Patrol / Supervisor / Bicycle Patrol / Defensive Tactics Instructor / Firearms Instructor
<b>SERGEANT</b>	Michael Shonk	Patrol / Supervisor / BolaWrap Instructor
<b>SERGEANT</b>	Greg Kolek	Patrol / Supervisor / Taser Instructor / FTO
<b>SERGEANT</b>	Thomas Webber	Patrol / Supervisor / Taser Instructor
<b>PATROLMAN</b>	William Belcher	Detective / CVSA Examiner / ALICE Instructor
<b>PATROLMAN</b>	Shane Berry	Patrol / Bicycle Patrol
<b>PATROLMAN</b>	Gaetano Bremenour	Detective / Bicycle Patrol / BolaWrap Instructor
<b>PATROLMAN</b>	Dustin Burnett	Patrol / Stop Stick Instructor
<b>PATROLMAN</b>	Stacey Chuhi	Patrol / Hostage Negotiator / FTO
<b>PATROLMAN</b>	Michael Egbert	Patrol
<b>PATROLMAN</b>	Donald Hall	Patrol / FTO
<b>PATROLMAN</b>	Christopher Hartzler	Patrol
<b>PATROLMAN</b>	Robert Henderson	Patrol / ASP Instructor / Hostage Negotiator
<b>PATROLMAN</b>	Gina Iacco	Patrol
<b>PATROLMAN</b>	Nathan Joppeck	Patrol
<b>PATROLMAN</b>	Nathaniel Koch	Patrol / FTO
<b>PATROLMAN</b>	Michael Kopacko	Patrol
<b>PATROLMAN</b>	Juan McCloud	Detective / Hostage Negotiator / CVSA Examiner
<b>PATROLMAN</b>	Quinn McConnell	Patrol / Bicycle Patrol
<b>PATROLMAN</b>	Joshua Miller	Patrol / Hospital Resource Officer / Taser Instructor / CIT Liaison
<b>PATROLMAN</b>	Kyle Moss	Patrol
<b>PATROLMAN</b>	Jacob Mottayaw	Patrol / Bicycle Patrol
<b>PATROLMAN</b>	Connor Orr	Patrol
<b>PATROLMAN</b>	Nicholas Pagni	Patrol
<b>PATROLMAN</b>	Johnathan Ruggeri	Patrol
<b>PATROLMAN</b>	Danielle Slichenmyer	Patrol / BolaWrap Instructor
<b>PATROLMAN</b>	Marissa Smiraldo	Patrol
<b>PATROLMAN</b>	April Teichmer	Patrol / Defensive Tactics Instructor / School Resource Officer
<b>PATROLMAN</b>	Jordan Telquist	Patrol / FTO
<b>PATROLMAN</b>	Joshua Timko	Patrol / School Resource Officer
<b>PATROLMAN</b>	Christopher Topovski	Patrol
<b>PATROLMAN</b>	Suzanne Trepal	Patrol / Hospital Resource Officer
<b>PATROLMAN</b>	Brian Waddell	Patrol / ASP Instructor
<b>PATROLMAN</b>	Megan Wasik	Patrol
<b>PATROLMAN</b>	Daniel Whitmore	Patrol / Firearms Instructor / Bicycle Patrol
<b>ADMIN. SUPERVISOR</b>	Melanie Rowland	Administration
<b>OFFICE COORDINATOR</b>	Sabrina Jentes	Administration
<b>OFFICE COORDINATOR</b>	Melissa Keener	Administration
<b>AUXILIARY OFFICER</b>	Charles Hardman	Patrol



# 2021 RETIREES



In 2021, Patrolman Matt Cruise, Patrolman Ken Linz, and Sergeant Mike Jewell all retired from the Wooster Police Department.

Patrolman Cruise was hired on April 8, 1992 and retired on January 29, 2021. Among other units and assignments, Patrolman Cruise served in patrol, as a detective, on the Honor Guard and just prior to retirement, our Community Relations Officer.

Patrolman Linz was hired on September 5, 1989 and retired on February 13, 2021. Patrolman Linz is among our most recognizable officers as he served as one of our School Resource Officers for over 25 years.

Sergeant Mike Jewell was hired on August 16, 1993 and retired on August 13, 2021. Sergeant Jewell also served in many capacities over the years and was a patrol supervisor since 2001.

We wish all of them well in their retirement!



# 2021 NEW HIRES



**Patrolman**  
**Gina Iacco**



**Patrolman**  
**Kyle Moss**



**Patrolman**  
**Nicholas Pagni**



# 2021 NEW HIRES



**Patrolman  
Christopher Topovski**



**Patrolman  
Megan Wasik**

**Welcome to  
the WPD  
team!**

# **WOOSTER POLICE DEPARTMENT**

## **BUREAU & DIVISION REPORTS**

### **2021 ANNUAL REPORT**





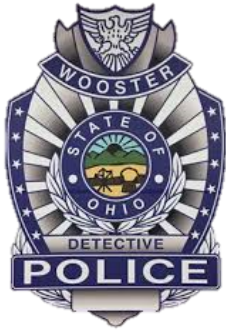
# **PATROL DIVISION**

The Patrol Division is undoubtedly the heart and soul of the Wooster Police Department. At the end of 2021, our Patrol Division consisted of two (2) captains, four (4) sergeants and thirty-one (31) officers. Several of the officers, in addition to being part of the Patrol Division, serve on the Bicycle Unit and Special Response Team (SRT); as well as Field Training Officers (FTO), Hospital Resource Officers (HRO), and School Resource Officers (SRO). These upstanding men and women brave the elements twenty-four (24) hours a day, seven (7) days a week, three hundred sixty-five (365) days a year, spending time away from their families to make sure we are safe while with ours. The officers assigned to this unit provide all of the essential law enforcement functions and community services. They have a wide range of knowledge and skills in order to perform these duties. The Department provides the most up-to-date equipment to assist them in their job performance and to help keep them safe. Training is provided on a continuous basis so officers can keep abreast of the most current and best law enforcement procedures and tactics. The Patrol Division collaborates with local, state and federal law enforcement agencies and strives to provide professional and world class service to the Wooster community.

The Patrol Division investigates calls for police service throughout the year which include, but are not limited to, welfare checks, downtown foot patrol, traffic stops, disorderlies, thefts and drug complaints. When criminal complaints need further investigation, they are returned to the initiating officer for follow-up. Once the criminal complaint is closed by the officer, the next step of the process begins; prosecution. The officers spend countless hours throughout the year working with the prosecuting attorneys, as well as appearing in court for their criminal complaints, until a disposition is handed down by the court and sentencing is complete.

A sincere thank you goes out to our Patrol Division for their hard work and sacrifices made. Their efforts do not go unnoticed. It is an honor and a privilege to have them as part of the Wooster Police Department.

***"Evil is powerless if the good are unafraid." –President Ronald Reagan***



# DETECTIVE BUREAU



The Wooster Police Department Detective Bureau continues to be staffed by three dedicated Detectives in Det. McCloud, Det. Belcher, and Det. Bremenour. The year 2021 turned out to be an extremely busy year for these three. They saw a 15% increase in number of cases they handled. Some of those cases included vehicular homicide, rape, felonious assault, theft, drugs, missing persons, burglaries, and several types of sex crimes. The Detective Bureau continues to work closely with the Child Advocacy Center in investigating and prosecuting child sex crimes. Our Detective Bureau maintains positive relationships with outside agencies. In 2021, our detectives worked with Federal Agencies in the prosecution of individuals involved in crimes in our jurisdiction. They also assisted a South Carolina agency in the investigation of a cold case sex crime.

Due to the retirement of one road Sergeant, and the retirement of long time Det. Terry Heim (auxiliary), the three current detectives took on an increased work load. They conduct background investigations on all prospective City of Wooster employees. In 2021 with the amount of vacancies in the City, this was a large task. In 2021, the Detective Bureau conducted almost 100 background investigations. By not having to utilize an outside agency to do these background investigations, the Detective Bureau is able to save the City of Wooster thousands of dollars. Also with the retirement of others, the Detective Bureau is responsible for the transport of all evidence needing tested by the Ohio BCI crime lab in Richfield, Ohio. This occurs several times a month where a detective will take evidence to the lab to be tested, as well as return evidence that has already been tested. Det. Belcher has also taken on the responsibility of fleet maintenance. This involves almost daily contact with the City Maintenance garage, keeping track of mileage, and coordinating repairs of the departments' fleet of vehicles.

The Wooster Police Department Detective Bureau is dedicated to keeping the City of Wooster a safer place and providing a fair and impartial investigation for everyone. They are also willing to take on many different tasks in order to help the City of Wooster run efficiently.



# K9 UNIT



With mixed emotions, the Wooster Police Department saw the retirement of all three of their police canines. Canine Haro, Canine Lucky, and Canine Lex are all enjoying their retirement at home with their respective handlers. All three canine teams continued perfecting their skills and serving the community until the end of their tour of duty in 2021. Our future canine teams will have large shoes/paws to fill to keep up with the high level of service Canine Haro, Lucky, and Lex provided our community. The police department and community are thankful for the service provided by these canine teams and, we wish them the best in all their future endeavors.



**Ptl. Timko & K9 Haro**

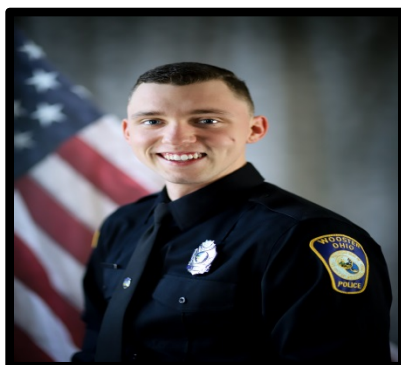


**Ptl. Festa & K9 Lucky**



**Ptl. Coe & K9 Lex**

Several patrol officers competed in the selection process to replace two of the Wooster Police Department's retired canine teams. After a rigorous selection process, please welcome the Wooster Police Departments' newest handlers, Officer Nathan Koch and Officer Michael Egbert. Officers Koch and Egbert are scheduled to be paired with canine partners in May of 2022.



**Ptl. Koch**



**Ptl. Egbert**





# K9 UNIT



K9 Haro retired in April of 2021 from the Wooster Police Department after 6 ½ years of service. Haro is a 9-year-old German Shepard who was imported from Slovakia in 2014. Haro was a dual-purpose police service dog, who was trained in narcotics detection, patrol work, obedience, agility, tracking, evidence search, area/building searches and handler protection.

Officer Timko and Haro completed their training and became state certified in May 2015. Haro was not only state certified, but he was certified with IPWDA (International Police Working Dog Association).

During Haro's years of service, he assisted and executed several K9 sniffs for the Wooster Police Department, Wayne County Sheriff's Office, Ohio State Highway Patrol, Medway DEA, Rittman Police Department, Doylestown Police Department and Adult Probation. Several of these K9 sniffs resulted in multiple narcotic seizures and suspect arrests.

Haro was also a great tracking dog. Haro was successful in tracking down several fleeing suspects and missing children during his years of service.

Haro was not only a working dog, but he enjoyed spending time with children at Wooster High School, Cornerstone/Kean/Melrose Elementary Schools and Edgewood Middle School. Haro spent time with students teaching them about his K9 work and all of the things that he and Officer Timko did together. Most of all, Haro just enjoyed being around people. K9 Haro also participated in several community events such as Stuff-A-Cruiser, Paws in the Park, 5-0 cookout and several other city of Wooster events.

Haro now lives with Officer Timko and his family, and he is enjoying the retired life! K9 Officer Haro and Officer Timko were honored to have served the city of Wooster and its residents for so many years.

Thank you!!!





# BICYCLE UNIT



The Wooster Bicycle Unit was utilized sparingly in 2021 due to manpower shortages. However, the unit was pro-active in downtown patrols, special events such as the Heart and Ghou/ Heart and Soul race and of course the Fourth of July Fireworks detail.

The Bike Unit conducted surveillance of the downtown area of the city on a daily routine basis making numerous interactions with the community.





# COMMUNITY RELATIONS

As we transitioned into 2021 we knew that our Community Relations Officer, Matt Cruise, would be retiring in January. Patrolman Cruise took our community relations division to new heights, and I think I can speak for our entire community when I say he will be missed. Nevertheless, despite the fact that we are still in the fog of COVID-19, our department had some major successes in regards to engaging the community we serve.

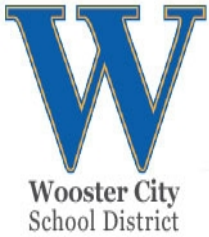
With the assistance of several officers, we were able to continue our strong partnership with the Wooster City Schools via our Honorary Junior Police Officer of the month Award. Over the years, this monthly program has been great, and we sincerely appreciate the Wooster City Schools for their unwavering support.

We were definitely glad to participate in a community program that is near and dear to us when we joined several other organizations at Reading Under the Lights. Also, our officers were able to mingle in the crowd and experience some level of “normalcy” during the 4<sup>th</sup> of July fireworks. As we moved into the early fall, we were ecstatic to put on one of our signature events, the 5.0 cookout at Bowman Beverage. During that event several individuals and families approached us to say how they look forward to this day every year. Everyone involved had a fantastic time.

Our department was also extremely pleased to do our annual Stuff the Cruiser event again this year. Our officers and their families, along with our Citizens Police Academy Alumni and others from the community, volunteered their time to be out in front of Wal-Mart soliciting donations and gift for kids in Wooster. This year was a huge success as we were able to provide gifts for 200 kids. Furthermore, due to the support of Lowes and others, we were able to continue our “Megan’s Memory,” program as we were able to provide carbon monoxide detectors to families who received gifts via Stuff the Cruiser.

Finally, our officers have continued to engage all segments of the community. Whether it was our downtown, in our business districts, at our schools, or in individual neighborhoods, our officers value the connections we make with those we serve.

One thing we were not able to do in 2021 was our Citizen’s Police Academy; however, we’re happy to report that we have one scheduled for 2022.



# SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER



2021 was a year of changes for the School Resource Officers at Wooster Police. Ptl. Ken Linz retired with 32 years of service with most of those years being served at Wooster High School and Edgewood Middle School. Ptl. Linz and his work impacted thousands of kids who attended Wooster City Schools. His patience, humor, and compassion will be hard to replace.

With COVID-19 still impacting the world, we had a small ceremony and a virtual ceremony to celebrate the retirement of Ptl Linz. We wish Ken well with his retirement!

Ptl. Josh Timko was assigned the SRO position at Edgewood Middle School in April 2021. Ptl. Timko is a mentor with the O’Huddle program, where he mentors students on a weekly basis. Ptl. Timko has recently completed his ALICE instructor certification and is excited to assist and coordinate safety drills and protocols at Wooster City Schools.

Ptl. April Teichmer continues to serve at Wooster High School. Ptl. Teichmer is serving on the board of Ohio Police Juvenile Officer Association and is working on hosting a conference in Wooster this August.

Extracurricular activities and events are slowly being brought back to the school. We are hoping this spring that we can host some fun events for students!





# HOSPITAL RESOURCE OFFICER



The year 2021 continued to be a challenge with the constant highs and lows of COVID-19 and now with the new strands of the virus among us. Wooster Community Hospital and the Wooster Police Department continue to strive in having a healthy work environment for all employees. Hospital Resource Officers (HRO) Miller and Trepal continue to have limited contact at the police department in attempts to keep other officers safe since both officers work in the hospital.

The added police coverage that was implemented in 2019 to provide 36 additional hours has continued and the Wayne County Sheriff's Department has continued to provide their time to help since 2020. There were additional temporary hours added this year due to injury and personal illness, which both Wooster Police and the Wayne County Sheriff's department helped provide coverage for the hospital during those times. This has continued to create a strong community relationship as well as a social bond, between all three agencies.

Officers Miller and Trepal continue to provide safety and security to the staff, patients, and visitors of the Wooster Community Hospital, Health Point, Milltown Professional Building, Beall Professional Building, and Bloomington Internal Medicine. Officer Miller has continued to educate staff on Verbal Defense and Influence/Verbal Judo Training, which teaches strategies and methods to help maintain safety and composure when dealing with a potentially violent escalated person. Both Officer Miller and Trepal continued to educate staff on the principles of ALICE training, which teaches new staff members what to do during an active shooter situation. Officer Miller and Trepal continue to strive to maintain order and protection for the hospital staff even during the continued pandemic.

Officer Miller is still involved with the National Alliance of Mental Illness (NAMI), MOCA House and Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Committee, which provides training and education regarding the process and placement of someone that met the requirements of the Emergency Admission form. The impact of this training throughout our communities continues to have a huge impact on the hospital, since most of the surrounding Police, Fire/EMS, and Social Service agencies use WCH as a drop off point for their Emergency Admission patients. This training and affiliation with this organization has created a more fluid and safe process, which creates the best patient experience.

Officer Miller and Trepal continue to strive to do their very best with their interactions with all patients including: suicidal, homicidal, mental health, intoxicated, overdosed and substance abuse patients that have and continue to visit Wooster Community Hospital.

# **SPECIAL RESPONSE TEAM**



## **COMMANDER**

Captain Victor Nedoma

## **TEAM LEADER**

Sergeant Clint Bartolic

## **OPERATORS**

Sergeant Greg Kolek

Sergeant Tom Webber

Patrolman Gaetano Bremenour

Patrolman Christopher Hartzler

Patrolman Michael Egbert

Patrolman Nathan Koch

Patrolman Danielle Slichenmyer





# **SPECIAL RESPONSE TEAM**



The Wooster Police Department Special Response Team (SRT) consists of nine members, including the SRT Commander. Members are specially trained and equipped to respond to the community's most critical needs under a variety of circumstances. The types of situations where the team would be activated include; high-risk warrant service, barricaded/armed subjects, hostage situations and civil unrest. The Special Response Team works with state and local law enforcement agencies striving to provide the best possible resolution to all types of critical incidents.

Officers who express an interest in becoming a member of the Special Response Team must apply for the position. Team member selection is based on several criteria, including; experience, physical fitness, firearms proficiency, disciplinary record, and an interview process. Once selected, the officer must attend a basic 40 hour SWAT/SRT school in order to be considered for deployment.

The Special Response Team was able to train on a monthly basis in 2021. The COVID-19 pandemic did not adversely affect the team's attendance of the 2021 Ohio Tactical Officers Association Conference and training in Sandusky Ohio. The conference was held June 7<sup>th</sup> through June 10<sup>th</sup>; team members received training in the following areas.

- UAS drone familiarization for public safety
- Street combatives, and violent encounters
- Defense Technology chemical agent munitions instruction
- Tactical Emergency Medical Support
- Hostage rescue overview
- Search warrant planning
- Close quarter engagement principles

The team was utilized on a barricaded subject at an East Smithville-Western Rd. address, and assisted in bringing the incident to a successful conclusion.

Over the last year, the Wooster Police Department SRT continued to train in collaboration with the Orrville Police Department. Our agencies continue to strive towards being a multijurisdictional team, pooling our resources to better serve the community.





# AUXILIARY UNIT

The Auxiliary Unit of the Wooster Police Department provides additional manpower when needed. Over the years, this unit has supplemented patrol, the detective bureau, traffic and extra duty details.

During most of 2021, the Auxiliary Unit consisted of Sergeant Terry Heim and Officer Charlie Hardman. Both of these men are retired full time law enforcement officers, yet they continue to serve. Between the two of them, they have decades of experience.

However, as of November, Terry Heim officially retired from this unit and law enforcement. Terry joined the auxiliary unit after he retired in 2010. His contributions to this department, our officers, and our city are immeasurable and we wish him well in his retirement.



**Auxiliary Sergeant Terry Heim**





# **ALICE**

The year of 2021 saw a very slow year for the request of ALICE presentations. This was most likely due to the pandemic. We still worked very close with Wooster Community Hospital as well as Wooster City Schools. Hospital Resource officer, Officer Miller, presented at the hospital on 12 different occasions covering orientation for new hospital employees. Det. Belcher and Capt. Lemmon presented at Wooster City Schools for all new employees. In keeping in line with the Ohio Revised Code, Det. Belcher and Capt. Lemmon also assisted in conducting 24 drills for Wooster City Schools. This consisted of 4 drills at each of the 6 schools. The incoming Superintendent, Gabe Tudor, is dedicated to the safety of students and carried on the importance of conducting these drills on a regular basis.

Going forward, all 5 ALICE Instructors are dedicated to doing these presentations when requested in an effort to keep our community safe. The company responsible for the ALICE protocols is improving the training and requiring all instructors to update their certifications. We will also be looking at certifying additional instructors.



# HONOR GUARD



The Wooster Police Department continues to maintain an honor guard team. We currently have a team of five volunteer officers serving in this capacity.

The honor guard participated in multiple community events during 2021. We joined other law enforcement agencies and first responders at the Wayne County Fairgrounds 9/11 flag dedication. There, we participated in the ceremony honoring the victims of 9/11 and the heroes who served that day.

In addition, we assisted in the calling hours for longtime friend and supporter of the department, Mark Lehman. Mark was a friend to all the members of our department and it was an honor to be part of his service.

We continued to support our annual Stuff the Cruiser event, as well as helped to pass out these gifts to needy families.



# RECRUITMENT TEAM

In the beginning of 2021, the department was able to hire four officers. These new officers were hired from the test that was given in December of 2020 that stemmed from the teams' initial recruitment efforts.

The Wooster Police Department then gave a lateral test where we obtained two additional hires. Officers throughout the department and team advertised this test through social media.

In September 2021, another new hire test was given. The department received 35 applications and was able to hire two more officers.

Although, the team was able to meet with cadets at the Wayne County Career Center and Stark State College Police Academy they were limited to present elsewhere. Due to a rise in COVID-19 at the time, many facilities were not allowing visitors and many academies were just getting started.

One of the new recruits is in the academy at Stark State and will be finished in May 2022 and the other will be starting the Ohio State Patrol Academy in February 2022.

The recruitment team is hoping to be able to reach more potential candidates in the 2022 year!

**WOOSTER P.D.**  
**JOIN OUR TEAM!**

**Why Wooster?**

- Multiple openings for Patrol Officer
- Top ranked city in Ohio to reside (Money Magazine 2017)
- New building with state-of-the-art workout facility
- Base Salary up to \$75,303
- Opportunities for specialized units: Special Response Team, K9, School Resource, Community Resource, Hospital Resource, Bike Patrol, Detective Bureau and more!
- Twelve hour shifts - every other Friday, Saturday and Sunday off!
- Visible tattoos permitted (beards permitted four months out of the year)
- Outer vest carriers

**Benefits**

- Vacation, compensatory, sick and personal time off
- Tuition reimbursement
- Eleven paid holidays
- Medical, dental and vision insurance
- Police and Fire Pension
- Yearly clothing allowance plus all equipment and uniforms provided upon hire

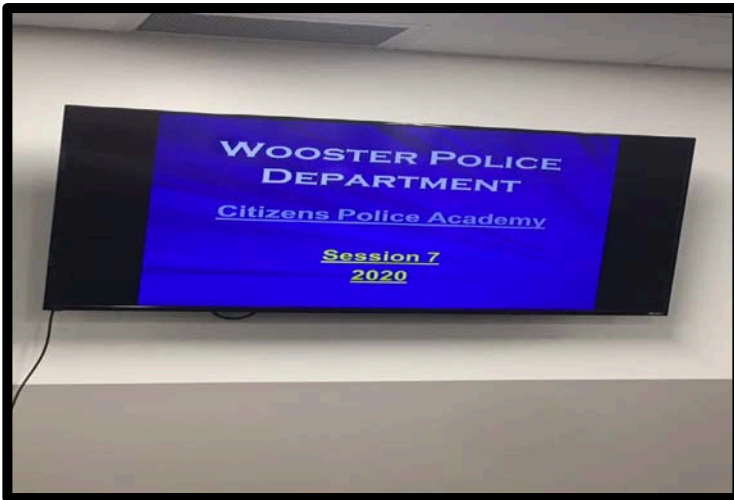
**How to Apply:**

- <https://www.woosteroh.com/police>
- Applications due September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at NO COST
- Testing on Saturday 9/25/21 and 9/26/21 at 9:00am
- Questions? Email: [WPDrecruiting@woosteroh.com](mailto:WPDrecruiting@woosteroh.com)

**CITY OF WOOSTER SAFETY CENTER**



# WOOSTER CITIZEN'S POLICE ACADEMY



Since 2014, the Wooster Citizen's Police Academy has provided a way for those we serve to "walk in our shoes" and see what it's like to be a police officer. Each three-hour session twice a month between January and May is designed to allow participants the opportunity to gain a better understanding of our jobs, our officers, and even our families. Some of the topics include:

- A tour of our Safety Center
- Our hiring and field training process
- What it's like to be a law enforcement officer in the 21<sup>st</sup> century
- Taser demonstration
- SRT and bike patrol demonstration
- Drug investigations
- Homicide case study
- Lethality of the job
- Overview of Crisis intervention training
- Traffic stops
- What it's like to be the spouse of a police officer
- A female police officers perspective on the job
- Use of force simulator

Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we could not host a class in 2021. We are looking forward to starting a new group in this informational class in 2022.

# **WOOSTER POLICE DEPARTMENT**

## **STATISTICAL TABLES AND CHARTS**

### **2021 ANNUAL REPORT**



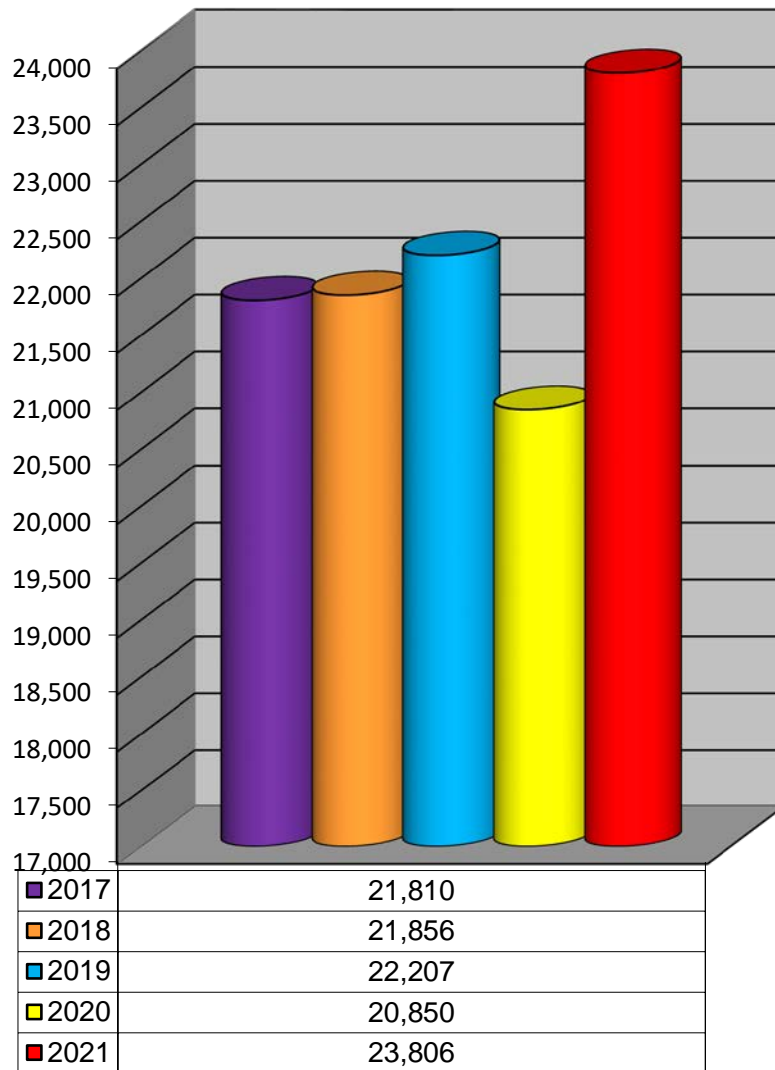
# 2021

## CALLS FOR SERVICE BY CATEGORY

The Calls for Service section shows the number of calls received by the Wooster-Ashland Regional Council of Governments Dispatch which occurred within the city limits. Dispatchers, based on the information received, categorize the call prior to dispatching officers. While useful, the information can be misleading because oftentimes the call for service can end up later being classified differently than dispatched.

CALL TYPE	2020	2021	Change	Percent of Change
911 Calls (no other disposition)	1243	1059	-184	-15%
Abandoned / Disabled Vehicles	60	60	0	0%
Accidental Damaging	0	0	0	0%
Alarms	975	822	-153	-16%
Animal Complaints	363	378	15	4%
Arson	1	0	-1	-100%
Assist Citizens / Welfare Checks / Message Delivery	839	1060	221	26%
Assist Other Agencies (Parole, Counseling Center, Medical, Etc.)	535	573	38	7%
Attempted Suicide	6	3	-3	-50%
Bomb Threat	0	0	0	0%
Burglary	210	209	-1	0%
CCW / Discharging Firearms	1	0	-1	-100%
Civil Disputes / Standby	408	458	50	12%
Computer Crime	0	0	0	0%
Counterfeiting	0	0	0	0%
Criminal Mischief / Vandalism	289	220	-69	-24%
Criminal Trespass / Refusal to Leave	661	954	293	44%
Death Investigations (Natural)	3	4	1	33%
Disorderly / Disturbances / Disrupting Public Service	984	1143	159	16%
Domestic Violence / Custody / Violation of Protection Orders	474	564	90	19%
Drug Violations	342	346	4	1%
Drunks	88	79	-9	-10%
Emotionally Disturbed Persons	584	508	-76	-13%
Escorts	5	2	-3	-60%
Extra Patrols	183	280	97	53%
Falsification / Obstructing	1	3	2	200%
Felony / Aggravated Assault	0	1	1	100%
Fire (car, house, building)	0	0	0	0%
Forgery / Bad Checks	301	420	119	40%
Gambling	0	0	0	0%
Impersonating an Officer	0	0	0	0%
Indecent Exposure / Other Sex Crimes	70	64	-6	-9%
Information	366	466	100	27%
Juvenile Complaints	164	132	-32	-20%
Kidnapping / Abduction	5	4	-1	-20%
Liquor Violations	0	0	0	0%
Littering	16	13	-3	-19%
Menacing / Threats / Harassment	622	611	-11	-2%
Miscellaneous	188	201	13	7%
Missing Person	196	191	-5	-3%
Murder	0	0	0	0%
MV Pursuits / Fleeing	0	0	0	0%
Nature Unknown	39	43	4	10%
Noise Disturbance	427	297	-130	-30%
Open Door / Window	5	0	-5	-100%
OVI Arrest	19	19	0	0%
Prisoner Transports	7	4	-3	-43%
Probation / Parole Violation	6	1	-5	-83%
Property Calls (found, lost)	272	343	71	26%
Rape / Gross Sexual Imposition	10	26	16	160%
Receiving Stolen Property	0	0	0	0%
Resisting Arrest	0	0	0	0%
Robbery	9	10	1	11%
School Bus Violation	0	0	0	0%
Search Warrants	1	4	3	300%
Security Checks	2169	3696	1527	70%
Simple Assault	175	182	7	4%
Suicide	0	1	1	100%
Suspicious Person / Activity	1976	1984	8	0%
Telephone Harassment	0	0	0	0%
Theft (general)	984	985	1	0%
Theft (motor vehicle)	69	81	12	17%
Traffic Complaint	1211	1320	109	9%
Traffic Crashes	580	632	52	9%
Traffic Detail	2	10	8	400%
Traffic Hazard	0	0	0	0%
Traffic Stop	1873	2431	558	30%
Vehicle Immobilization / Release	0	0	0	0%
Violation of Order	82	14	-68	-83%
Warrant Arrests	545	715	170	31%
Warrant Arrests Attempted	151	124	-27	-18%
Weapons Violation	55	56	1	2%
Zoning Violations	0	0	0	0%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>20850</b>	<b>23806</b>	<b>2956</b>	<b>14%</b>

# 2021 CALLS FOR SERVICE



# 2021 PART I OFFENSES

	2020	2021	PERCENT DIFFERENCE
HOMICIDE*	0	1	100%
RAPE	22	32	45%
ROBBERY	13	4	-69%
FELONY ASSAULT	39	43	10%
BURGLARY	103	108	5%
THEFT	611	730	19%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>788</b>	<b>918</b>	<b>16%</b>

\*The single vehicular homicide occurred in the county, but the Wooster Police Department handled the criminal charges.



# 2021

## COMPARISON OF STOLEN PROPERTY

CATEGORY	2020	2021	% Difference
CURRENCY / CREDIT CARDS / NEGOTIABLE / NON-NEG	\$ 242,473	\$ 448,375	85%
PERSONAL PAPERS / DOCUMENTS / OTHER PERSONAL	\$ 2,156	\$ 10,415	383%
JEWELRY	\$ 60,086	\$ 61,618	3%
CLOTHING / FURS	\$ 5,749	\$ 8,189	42%
PURSES / WALLETS	\$ 5,702	\$ 5,840	2%
HOUSEHOLD GOODS	\$ 14,129	\$ 26,924	91%
ART OBJECTS / OTHER VALUABLES (COLLECTORS ITEMS)	\$ 18,420	\$ 35,323	92%
COMPUTER EQUIPMENT	\$ 12,020	\$ 16,783	40%
TV / RADIO / STEREO / CELL PHONES	\$ 21,065	\$ 47,679	126%
CD / AUDIO & VIDEO TAPES	\$ 118	\$ -	-100%
SPORTS, CAMPING, HUNTING AND FISHING EQUIPMENT	\$ 1,583	\$ 1,015	-36%
PHOTOGRAPHIC EQUIPMENT	\$ 200	\$ 4,201	2001%
OTHER EQUIP (FARM, LAWN, HEAVY CONST, MEDICAL)	\$ 37,534	\$ 10,605	-72%
TOOLS / BUILDING SUPPLIES	\$ 46,121	\$ 83,688	81%
AUTO PARTS / AIRCRAFT PARTS	\$ 8,218	\$ 62,837	665%
CONSUMABLE GOODS	\$ 10,783	\$ 12,052	12%
MEDICATIONS	\$ 393	\$ 3,158	704%
PETS / ANIMALS	\$ -	\$ 150	0%
SCHOOL SUPPLIES / OFFICE EQUIPMENT	\$ 1,376	\$ 2,292	67%
SERVICES	\$ -	\$ -	0%
AUTOMOBILES & OTHER VEHICLES (LAND, AIR, WATER)	\$ 180,650	\$ 479,501	165%
BICYCLES	\$ 28,048	\$ 17,240	-39%
FIREARMS / FIREARM ACCESSORIES	\$ 7,585	\$ 6,030	-21%
OTHER WEAPONS (SWORD, BB GUNS)	\$ 1,877	\$ 716	-62%
MISCELLANEOUS	\$ 14,392	\$ 7,354	-49%
VIDEO GAMES	\$ 169	\$ 110	-35%
<b>TOTAL LOSS</b>	<b>\$ 720,847</b>	<b>\$ 1,352,095</b>	<b>88%</b>

\*All percentages are rounded off.

# 2021 ARRESTS AND TRAFFIC CITATIONS

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
<b>ARRESTS</b>													
ADULT	92	74	116	69	73	84	72	88	123	84	81	101	<b>1057</b>
JUVI	1	0	2	1	0	2	0	1	0	1	0	1	<b>9</b>
<b>ARRESTS BY GENDER</b>													
FEMALE	31	19	33	10	25	19	23	29	36	14	10	23	<b>272</b>
MALE	62	55	85	60	48	67	49	60	87	71	71	79	<b>794</b>
<b>TOTAL ARRESTS</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>1066</b>
	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
<b>TRAFFIC CITATIONS</b>													
ADULT	71	62	54	57	55	60	82	63	58	74	56	70	<b>762</b>
JUVI	3	1	4	1	0	2	1	1	2	1	2	2	<b>20</b>
<b>TRAFFIC CITATIONS BY GENDER</b>													
FEMALE	27	21	24	22	20	27	30	20	19	30	20	22	<b>282</b>
MALE	47	42	34	36	35	35	53	44	41	45	38	50	<b>500</b>
<b>TOTAL CITATIONS</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>782</b>

# 2021

## TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT SURVEY

The following is a breakdown of the traffic charges filed in the Wayne County Municipal and Juvenile Courts by the Wooster Police Department during 2021.

<b>VIOLATION</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
ASSURED CLEAR DISTANCE	100	96
CHILD RESTRAINTS	0	0
DRIVING UNDER INFLUENCE	49	28
DRIVING UNDER SUSPENSION	410	396
EQUIPMENT VIOLATIONS	8	2
EXPIRED OR MISSING VEHICLE PLATES	50	45
FAILURE TO CONTROL	83	88
FAILURE TO YIELD	79	83
FICTITIOUS PLATES	15	29
HIT / SKIP	13	18
IMPROPER LANE CHANGE	17	21
IMPROPER SIGNAL	13	1
IMPROPER TURN	4	1
JUVENILE PERMIT RESTRICTIONS	2	1
LOAD / WEIGHT VIOLATIONS	1	0
LOUD MUSIC FROM VEHICLE	0	0
NO OPERATORS LICENSE / EXPIRED LICENSE	142	162
PASSING	1	2
RECKLESS OPERATION	5	9
RIDE OUTSIDE VEHICLE	0	0
SCHOOL BUS VIOLATION	1	4
SEAT BELTS - DRIVER	6	5
SEAT BELTS - PASSENGER	2	0
SPEED	19	52
SQUEAL TIRES	0	1
STARTING / BACKING	30	36
TEXTING WHILE DRIVING	0	1
TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICE	41	48
WRONG WAY-ONE WAY	5	4
MISC. OFFENSES	10	7
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1106</b>	<b>1140</b>

# 2021 TRAFFIC CRASHES

OFFICIAL					
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
JAN	58	54	48	39	39
FEB	43	33	39	42	28
MAR	45	63	33	29	35
APR	53	40	39	19	29
MAY	53	47	57	33	30
JUN	43	46	42	31	39
JUL	40	41	39	31	30
AUG	43	46	61	24	35
SEP	45	53	40	38	35
OCT	47	65	66	30	55
NOV	54	54	54	33	31
DEC	63	42	55	50	28
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>587</b>	<b>584</b>	<b>573</b>	<b>399</b>	<b>414</b>

COURTESY					
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
JAN	2	1	2	1	2
FEB	1	3	2	1	3
MAR	5	1	4	1	1
APR	0	3	1	0	0
MAY	1	3	1	1	1
JUN	2	1	5	1	2
JUL	4	3	0	2	4
AUG	2	3	5	0	1
SEP	4	0	0	0	4
OCT	2	3	4	4	2
NOV	2	3	2	1	2
DEC	3	1	2	1	3
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>25</b>

PERSONS INJURED					
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
JAN	17	14	7	10	11
FEB	8	6	11	6	4
MAR	8	7	8	1	8
APR	15	5	9	3	3
MAY	11	7	12	11	6
JUN	6	10	14	6	9
JUL	8	8	8	6	9
AUG	9	15	17	10	3
SEP	10	8	9	2	11
OCT	10	13	7	13	13
NOV	11	9	8	7	10
DEC	10	6	16	4	9
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>96</b>
Fatal	1	0	1	0	1

PEDESTRIANS INJURED					
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
JAN	1	1	0	1	1
FEB	0	0	1	1	0
MAR	0	2	1	1	0
APR	0	0	1	0	0
MAY	2	0	0	1	0
JUN	0	3	0	0	1
JUL	0	1	0	0	1
AUG	1	0	1	0	0
SEP	1	1	1	0	1
OCT	4	0	0	0	3
NOV	1	2	3	1	0
DEC	2	2	3	0	1
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>8</b>

# EVERY CRASH TELLS A STORY





# **TRAINING DURING A PANDEMIC**

Providing professional law enforcement services to the community is a complex task. The duties of a police officer are challenging and constantly changing. The constant interaction between the police and community creates many opportunities, but also exposes the potential for liability. A well-educated, experienced police officer will increase our chances for success, while limiting our potential exposure to liability.

At the beginning of 2021 we were still in the fog of the COVID-19 Pandemic and were trying to balance the health and safety of our officers as well as our continuing training needs. As we all know, 2021 was a roller coaster as it pertained to the pandemic. We went through periods of time where the data showed less positive cases of COVID as well as times where the numbers hit record levels. Throughout the year, we kept a close eye on what was going on and we were able to ensure our officers received quality training throughout the year.

Our department already has built in policy and roll call training incorporated into our daily operations via Lexipol. We also continued our partnership with Virtual Academy and utilized their platform to provide our annual Implicit Bias training. We were definitely lucky to have these virtual platforms to train; however, when the conditions were safe, we were able to conduct and attend in-person training. We had Paul Butler come back to train even more staff members on “Leadership for Life,” and several of our command and supervisory staff received leadership development training via the FBI National Academy and FBI LEEDA programs. Moreover, during 2021 we were able to provide advanced training to officers on subjects such as defensive tactics, Reid Interview and Interrogation, Emergency Operations Driving, Exploring Violent Offenders, Basic School Resource Officer Certification, The Smart Street Cop and others. We also trained on our Use of Force Simulator.

In addition to the snapshot provided, our sworn officers also completed all of our required training on firearms, Taser, etc. and made sure we reviewed our response to resistance policies. Overall, despite the lingering challenges of the pandemic, our department will continue to provide excellent service through well trained peace officers.