

# **WOOSTER POLICE DEPARTMENT**

## **2022 Annual Report**

**Chief Matthew D. Fisher**

"Honor, Ethics, Integrity, and Pride"



## **WOOSTER POLICE DEPARTMENT**

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February 2, 2023

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 2022 Annual Report.

2022 saw positive changes at the Wooster Police Department. In November of 2022, Police Department staffing finally enabled us to re-institute the Community Impact Unit (CIU). This Unit brings with it 42 years of experience in Sgt. Mike Shonk, Ptl. Quinn McConnell, and Ptl. Shane Berry. They quickly developed information about the drug trade in the community and made several seizures and arrests. In two months, they seized over 5 ounces of methamphetamine, 15 grams of fentanyl, and 16 grams of cocaine. They served two search warrants and made 15 arrests.

We placed Ptl. Don Hall in the vacant Community Relations Officer position. Ptl. Hall continues to assist with our Honorary Junior Officer of the Month program with Wooster City Schools, our Citizens Police Academy, and our Stuff a Cruiser program, providing toys, clothes, and gifts for over 100 families, including 275 children. In addition, the Wooster Police Department was recognized in December by the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police and the Law Enforcement Foundation as the State of Ohio Police Agency of the Month for our work in community engagement.

The Wooster Police Department hired nine new officers in 2022. Officers King, Delaney, Simmons, Caskey, Covington, Schafer, Musselman, Sereika, and Killough have all proven to be positive additions to the force. In addition, Clerical Specialist Erin Smith joined our team and is often the first smiling face people see when they enter the Safety Services building. This leaves only two officer vacancies in the department.

In addition to hundreds of hours of advanced training, Wooster Police officers received over 1,008 hours of mandated Continuing Professional Training in areas such as Cultural Humility,



Diversity, Inclusion, Equity, Responding to Mental Health Crisis, Use of Force, Officer Wellness, Domestic Violence, and Responding to Sexual Assaults.

Our relationship with Wooster City Schools continues to be very strong, especially regarding the safety of children. Chief Fisher, Assistant Chief Rotolo, and Captain Lemmon serve on the Business Advisory Council School Safety and Security Committee. Captain Lemmon oversees the yearly safety drills throughout the Wooster City School District. Twenty-four exercises were completed in 2022, and Captain Lemmon and Chief Fisher attended strategic planning meetings for Wooster City Schools.

In 2022, the Detective Bureau, led by 65 years of experience between Det. Juan McCloud, Det. Bill Belcher, and Det. Gaetano Bremenour was down slightly in overall cases. However, they had two homicides that they investigated. The investigation of homicides takes up countless hours for all three detectives. In 2022, they also investigated cases ranging from missing persons to theft, robbery, arson, felonious assault, child abuse, and numerous sex crimes.

In April of 2022, Det. McCloud was named the Wayne County Children Services Law Enforcement Officer of the Year for 2021. Once again, this reflects how hard our detectives work to resolve child cases successfully.

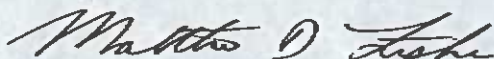
The Police Department handled 33,574 calls for service in 2022, increasing from 23,806 in 2021. The significant increase is primarily related to an emphasis put on proactive activity. As we emerged from the pandemic, we encouraged officers to be proactive in providing business security checks and traffic enforcement. As such, security checks showed an increase of 7805 calls between 2021 and 2022, and traffic stops increased by 2115 over the same period.

Traffic crashes rose from 414 in 2021 to 484 in 2022. These numbers are still lower than pre-pandemic levels, with 584 crashes in 2018.

The police department investigated two homicides in 2022. Part One Offenses (major crimes: homicide, rape, robbery, felony assault, burglary, and theft) showed an overall decrease of 18 percent from 918 in 2021 to 749 in 2022.

I continue to be grateful for the opportunity to lead the fantastic team of men and women who make up the Wooster Police Department. From our amazing clerical staff, to the men and women who answer thousands of calls for service, to our supervisors, everyone excels at their particular job and helps our agency, *Strive for Excellence*.

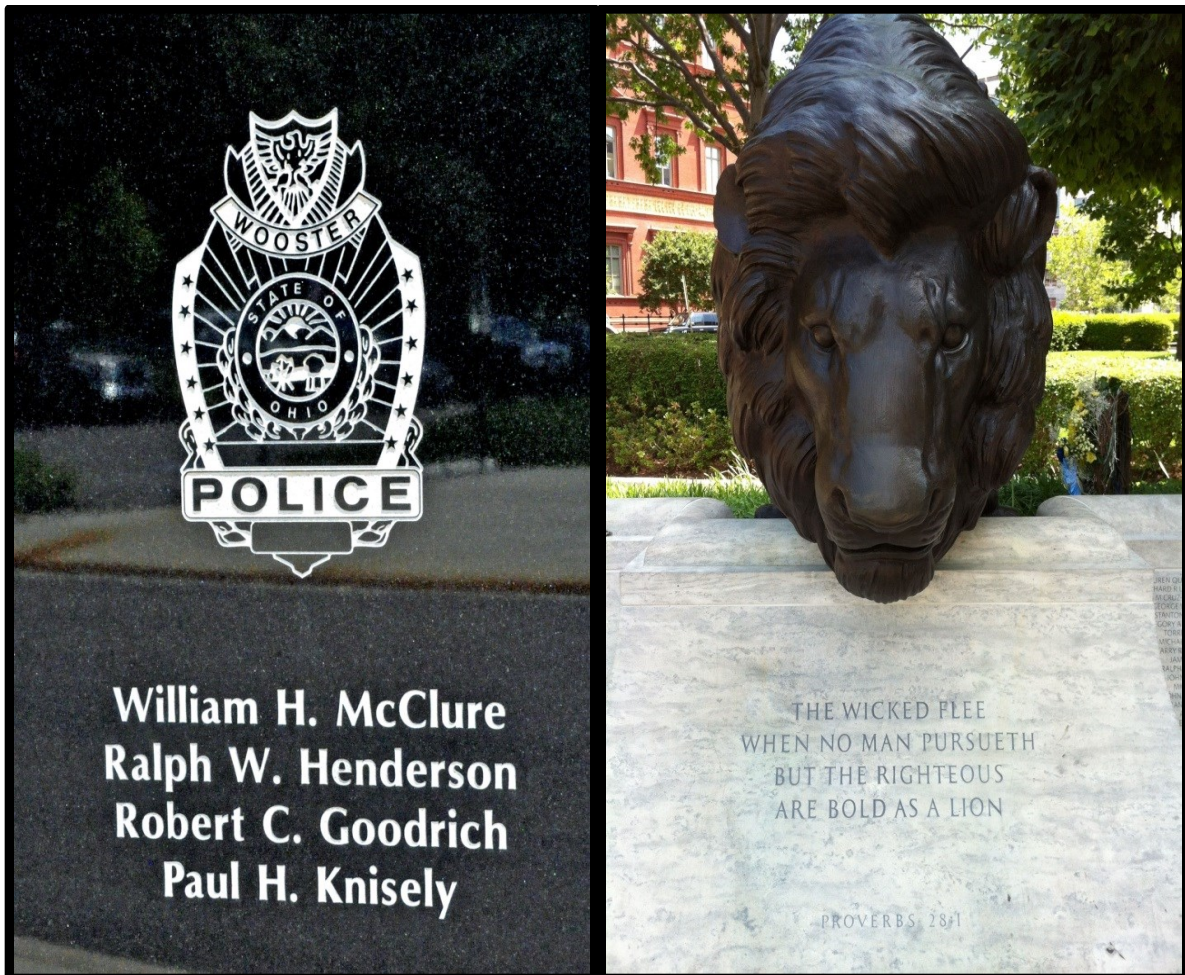
Respectfully,



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

## STRIVE FOR EXCELLENCE



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# **WOOSTER POLICE DEPARTMENT**

## **Mission Statement**

### **Strive for Excellence.**

A simple sentence, but one that should apply to all we do both at work and home. In interacting with the public, victims, witnesses, and suspects, we should strive for excellence. In our work, reports, investigations, testifying in court, and training, we should be striving for excellence. As role models and leaders in our community and as the most visible form of government, we should strive for excellence. In our dealings with each other and our families, we should always be striving for excellence.

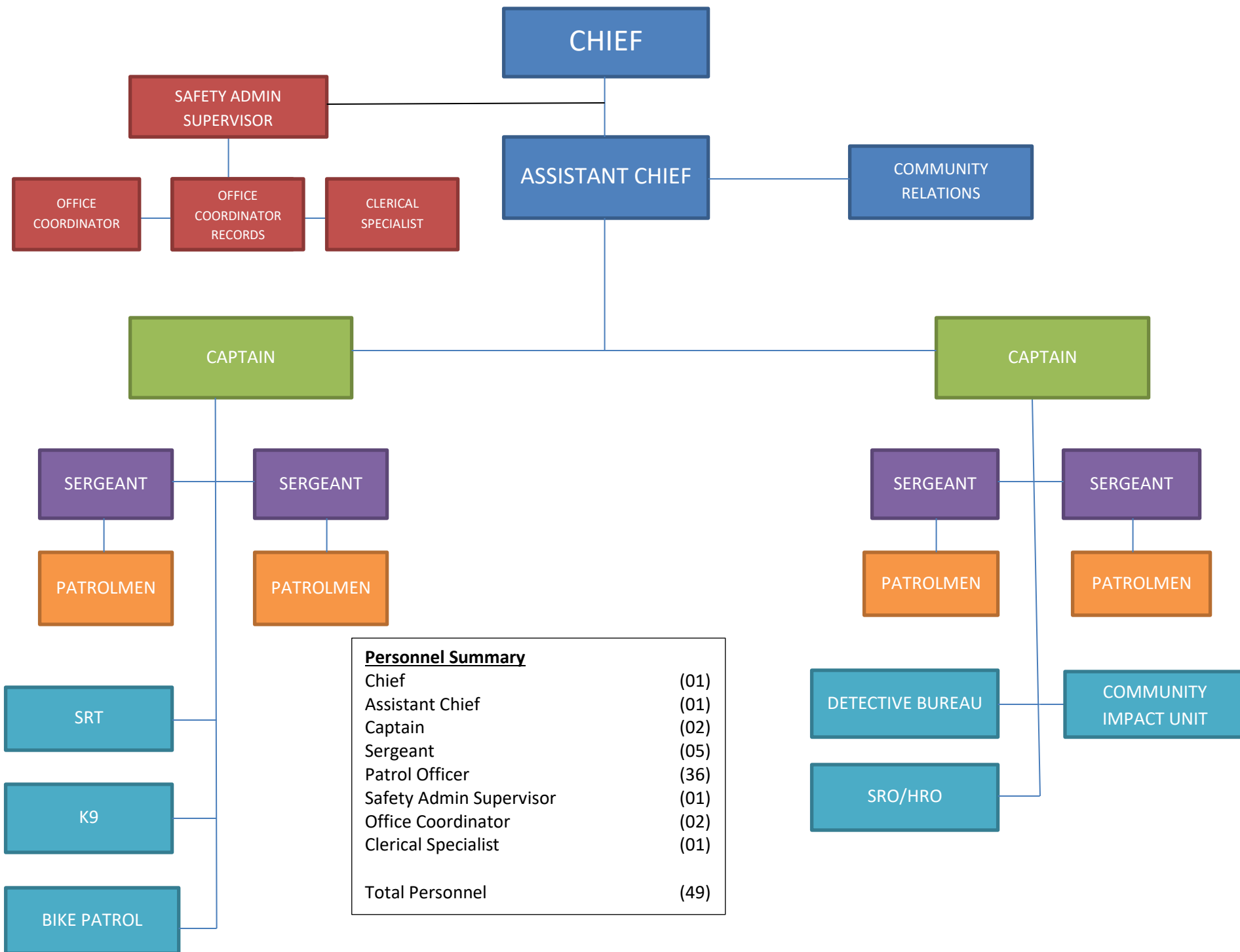
## **Values**

**Courage · Positive Attitude · Accountability · Honor ·  
Integrity · Pride · Humility**

We value a positive attitude and the courage to hold ourselves and others accountable.

We value honor and integrity in our interactions with everyone we encounter.

We value pride in our work, our efforts, and our behavior, but also the humility to look inward when we fall short.





# **2022 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
<b>SERGEANT</b>	Michael Shonk	Patrol / Supervisor
<b>SERGEANT</b>	Greg Kolek	Patrol / Supervisor
<b>SERGEANT</b>	Thomas Webber	Patrol / Supervisor
<b>SERGEANT</b>	Daniel Whitmore	Patrol / Supervisor
<b>PATROLMAN</b>	William Belcher	Detective
<b>PATROLMAN</b>	Shane Berry	Patrol
<b>PATROLMAN</b>	Gaetano Bremenour	Detective
<b>PATROLMAN</b>	Dustin Burnett	Patrol
<b>PATROLMAN</b>	Alexander Caskey	Patrol
<b>PATROLMAN</b>	Stacey Chuhi	Patrol
<b>PATROLMAN</b>	Michael Covington	Patrol
<b>PATROLMAN</b>	Patrick Delaney	Patrol
<b>PATROLMAN</b>	Michael Egbert	Patrol
<b>PATROLMAN</b>	Donald Hall	Patrol
<b>PATROLMAN</b>	Christopher Hartzler	Patrol
<b>PATROLMAN</b>	Robert Henderson	Patrol
<b>PATROLMAN</b>	Gina Iacco	Patrol
<b>PATROLMAN</b>	Nathan Jopeck	Patrol
<b>PATROLMAN</b>	Kyle Killough	Patrol
<b>PATROLMAN</b>	Ryan King	Patrol
<b>PATROLMAN</b>	Nathaniel Koch	Patrol
<b>PATROLMAN</b>	Juan McCloud	Detective
<b>PATROLMAN</b>	Quinn McConnell	Patrol
<b>PATROLMAN</b>	Joshua Miller	Patrol
<b>PATROLMAN</b>	Kyle Moss	Patrol
<b>PATROLMAN</b>	Jacob Mottayaw	Patrol
<b>PATROLMAN</b>	Maxton Musselman	Patrol
<b>PATROLMAN</b>	Connor Orr	Patrol
<b>PATROLMAN</b>	Nicholas Pagni	Patrol
<b>PATROLMAN</b>	Kagan Schafer	Patrol
<b>PATROLMAN</b>	Thomas Sereika	Patrol
<b>PATROLMAN</b>	Daniel Simmons	Patrol
<b>PATROLMAN</b>	Danielle Slichenmyer	Patrol
<b>PATROLMAN</b>	Marissa Smiraldo	Patrol
<b>PATROLMAN</b>	April Teichmer	Patrol
<b>PATROLMAN</b>	Jordan Telquist	Patrol
<b>PATROLMAN</b>	Joshua Timko	Patrol
<b>PATROLMAN</b>	Christopher Topovski	Patrol
<b>PATROLMAN</b>	Brian Waddell	Patrol
<b>PATROLMAN</b>	Megan Wasik	Patrol
<b>ADMIN. SUPERVISOR</b>	Melanie Rowland	Administration
<b>OFFICE COORDINATOR</b>	Sabrina Jentes	Administration
<b>OFFICE COORDINATOR</b>	Melissa Keener	Administration
<b>CLERICAL SPECIALIST</b>	Erin Smith	Administration



# **2022 NEW HIRES**



**Patrolman  
Ryan King**



**Patrolman  
Patrick Delaney**



**Patrolman  
Daniel Simmons**





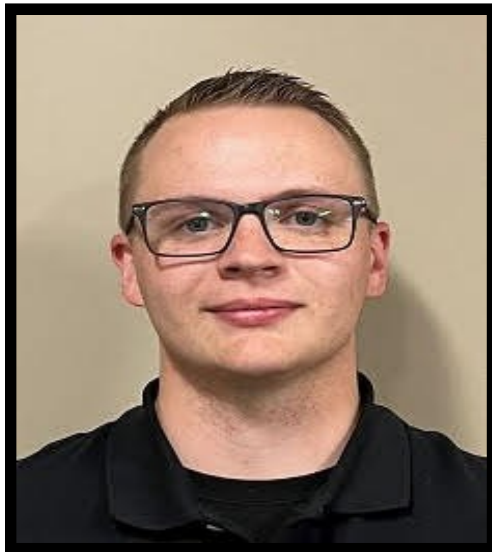
# **2022 NEW HIRES**



**Patrolman  
Alex Caskey**



**Patrolman  
Michael Covington**



**Patrolman  
Kagan Schafer**



# **2022 NEW HIRES**



**Patrolman  
Max Musselman**



**Patrolman  
Kyle Killough**



**Patrolman  
Tom Sereika**



**Administration  
Erin Smith**



# **WOOSTER POLICE DEPARTMENT**

## **BUREAU & DIVISION REPORTS**

### **2022 ANNUAL REPORT**





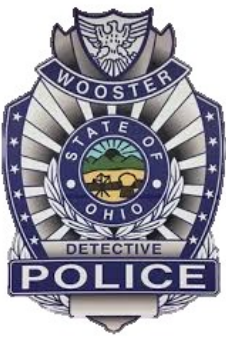
# PATROL DIVISION

The Patrol Division is undoubtedly the heart and soul of the Wooster Police Department. At the end of 2022, our Patrol Division consisted of two (2) captains, five (5) sergeants and thirty-six (36) 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 / COMMUNITY IMPACT UNIT**



The Wooster Police Department Detective Bureau is led by 65 years of experience between Det. Juan McCloud, Det. Bill Belcher, and Det. Gaetano Bremenour. In 2022, the Detective Bureau was down slightly in overall cases. However, they had two homicides that they investigated. The investigation of homicides takes up countless hours for all three detectives. In 2022, they also investigated cases ranging from missing persons to theft, robbery, arson, felonious assault, child abuse, and numerous sex crimes.

In an effort to bring successful resolutions to criminal investigations within our city and beyond, our detectives continue to have a strong working relationship with other agencies, including the FBI, Ohio Bureau of Investigations (BCI), Ohio Adult Parole Authority, National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, Wayne County Children Services, and the Wayne County Child Advocacy Center. Our Detective Bureau received a phone call from the Ohio Adult Parole Authority for assistance in investigating a child pornography case, because they were told we are the "guru" of these types of investigations. This is a compliment to the detectives who take crimes against children very seriously and pursue every avenue to prosecute those who hurt children. In April of 2022, Det. McCloud was named the Wayne County Children Services Law Enforcement Officer of the Year for 2021. Once again, this reflects how hard our detectives work to resolve child cases successfully. Aside from investigating criminal cases, the Detective Bureau was busy with conducting background investigations for police and city employees, transporting criminal evidence to the state crime lab every week, managing the department vehicle fleet, teaching and running drills for active shooter response, SRT training, conducting investigations training for new employees, providing court testimony for criminal investigations, and serving court subpoenas outside the city of Wooster. These activities made for another successful and productive year for the City of Wooster Detective Bureau.

In November of 2022, police department staffing finally enabled us to bring back the Community Impact Unit (CIU). This unit brings with it 42 years of experience in Sgt. Mike Shonk, Ptl. Quinn McConnell, and Ptl. Shane Berry. While new to this unit, they were able to quickly develop information relative to the drug trade in the community and make several seizures and arrests. While most of the work will be drug related, they will be tasked with helping to solve the "crime of the day" and whatever is most affecting our community. We look forward to what this unit can bring to our department and community in helping us all have a safer community to enjoy.





# K9 UNIT



Patrolman Nate Koch and his canine partner, Diadem, are the newest addition to the Wooster Police Department Canine Unit. Patrolman Koch and Diadem are also the only canine team currently assigned to the unit, and they work dayshift. Prior to serving the citizens of Wooster and Wayne County, Patrolman Koch and Diadem had to go through six weeks of extensive training in Columbus, Ohio. Patrolman Koch and Diadem completed their training and were certified as a dual purpose canine team by the Ohio Peace Officers Training Commission and The Office of the Attorney General on June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

Diadem, a one (1) year old German Shepherd, came to the United States from the Czech Republic. Diadem is a dual purpose canine trained in various fields such as subject apprehension, tracking, narcotics detection, and article searches.

Patrolman Koch and Diadem continue to train on a daily basis in order to better serve the community. Canine Diadem was deployed thirty-eight times from June 11<sup>th</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup> 2022 to assist the Wooster Police Department Patrol Division and Community Impact Unit, The Wayne County Sheriff's Office and Medway DEA with narcotic investigations, tracking of suspects and building searches. Patrolman Koch and Diadem also attended several community events to include Paws in the Park, Stuff the Cruiser, and Kids Day at Christmas Run Park. The team also participated in school events and presentations in the City of Wooster and Wayne County.

Patrolman Koch and Diadem look forward to another exciting and rewarding year working for the citizens of Wooster and Wayne County.





# BICYCLE UNIT



All officers that are members of the Wooster Police Department Bicycle Unit were on duty at the Fourth of July Fireworks. The bike unit was utilized as the sole patrol unit of the entire event.

## STATISTICS

- 22 personal contacts
- 1 traffic warning
- 1 traffic citation
- 2 calls for service
- 18.5 hours





# COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Our Mission Statement is to always STRIVE FOR EXCELLENCE in doing our job of serving the community. Going into 2022, the Community Relations position was still being handled by other officers stepping up to the plate in the absence of Community Resource Officer Matt Cruise, who retired in January of 2021. Ptl. Teichmer and Ptl. Timko, who are assigned as School Resource Officers, filled the void and maintained several valuable community relations events until this position was filled.

Ptl. Teichmer and Ptl. Timko continued our strong partnership with Wooster City Schools via our Honorary Junior Police Officer of the month award. This monthly program recognizes 4<sup>th</sup> grade students that go above and beyond in their school and in their positive interactions with others. We continue to be very appreciative of the Wooster City Schools in helping facilitate this vital program that rewards students for being good role models in their school and community.

As the year progressed, we were still able to maintain other programs that our community supported and looked forward to. In May, officers spent time reading to the elementary school students. This was yet another opportunity for school age children to see police officers in an educational setting and in a different light. In June, several officers took part in the Law Enforcement Special Olympics Torch Run that began at the front doors of the Safety Center and was carried to the downtown square. In July, the very popular 5.0 cookout was held at Bowman Beverage. It was a record breaking turnout. In September, Ptl. Timko was awarded a grant for fish and tackle supplies for children and organized the 1<sup>st</sup> annual Badges & Bobbers event at Freedlander Park pond. Each child that attended the catch and release event received a free fishing pole and 70 piece tackle set.

Ptl. Hall was chosen as our new Community Resource Officer and began that assignment on November 7<sup>th</sup>. Our annual Stuff the Cruiser was held in November, and we had a record breaking number of 275 children signed up for the program. Multiple officers volunteered countless hours to make the event a continued success.

In December, our agency was recognized by the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police and the Law Enforcement Foundation as the state Agency of the Month for our work in community engagement programs that we do throughout the year. We look forward to bringing back the Bike Rodeo in 2023 along with maintaining and enhancing our other already established community relations events.





[www.oacp.org](http://www.oacp.org)

## **Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police Law Enforcement Foundation**

6277 Riverside Drive  
Dublin, Ohio 43017  
(614) 761-9479



[www.lef-oh.org](http://www.lef-oh.org)

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **For Immediate Release**

For more information, contact:

Chief Brandon Standley

Chair, Community Relations and Engagement Committee

Phone: (614) 599-1010

Email: [bstandley@ci.bellefontaine.oh.us](mailto:bstandley@ci.bellefontaine.oh.us)

## **THE OHIO ASSOCIATION OF CHIEFS OF POLICE AND THE LAW ENFORCEMENT FOUNDATION RECOGNIZES WOOSTER POLICE DEPARTMENT FOR THEIR COMMUNITY POLICING EFFORTS**

The Wooster Police Department was recently named the December 2022 "Agency of the Month" for their outstanding community policing efforts.

In 2018, the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police and the Law Enforcement Foundation formed a new committee named "Community Relations and Engagement" to work with agencies of all sizes and capabilities to highlight their positive work that's being done around Ohio each and every day.

In 2019, the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police and Law Enforcement Foundation Community Relations and Engagement Committee began a new program named "Sharing Ohio's Best" to help bring awareness to the amazing work that agencies do all over Ohio to promote positive policing.

The Community Relations and Engagement Committee compiles submissions from agencies and selects one each month to be recognized. Each agency is eligible. Typically, the committee focuses on creativity and how the program impacts the individual community. Recent programs that have been recognized include a teen driving course, programs to help the disabled, and programs focusing on community safety.

The Community Relations and Engagement Committee issued this statement “The Wooster Police Department has been selected as the December 2022 Agency of the Month for the Sharing Ohio’s Best program! The Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police’s Community Relations and Engagement Committee recently made the announcement to honor Wooster Police Department for their excellence in community policing. It is clear that the agency has made it a part of their normal operating procedures to keep their community involved in safety and education prevention for all ages. It is obvious that Chief Matthew Fisher and his team have taken community policing serious and implemented quality programming. Congratulations to Wooster PD for all their hard work!”

### **About the Wooster Police Department Community Relations Program**

The Wooster Police Department has adopted a community policing and problem-solving philosophy; wherein officers work proactively to eliminate situations and circumstances that lead to problems in the community.

Stuff the Cruiser – The City of Wooster Police Department, with the help from school administrators, assists hundreds of Wooster City School children with a toy & clothing drive every November through December to provide these kids a Christmas. Lowe’s also donates carbon monoxide detectors to provide to each of these families, in honor of Wooster Police Department Safety Administration Supervisor, Megan Keller, who along with her husband Cody and their dog, passed away November 8, 2017 from carbon monoxide poisoning.

Citizen’s Police Academy - This 5 month program is offered to give community members an opportunity to get a glimpse into the day-to-day reality of what life is like for a police officer. The class meets twice per month with nine sessions and a graduation for those who have completed the course. The academy is a national initiative with unique programs offered in cities across the country. The curriculum for the academy includes everything from listening to officer’s spouse talk about what their life is like, and experiencing a traffic stop from the police point of view, to intense topics, such as firearms, drug investigations, F.A.T.S. simulator and A.L.I.C.E.

Five-O Cookout - This is an annual community event that treats the community to free hotdogs, hamburgers and drinks. It serves as an opportunity for families to interact with our Officers out of uniform. The event includes an Officer Dunk Tank, face painting, WPD swag, handouts, and first responder vehicles to explore. The Wooster Fire Department also assists in this event.

Badges & Bobbers - This catch and release fishing derby was initiated in 2022 and provides kids 15 and under with a free fishing pole and door prizes. It is another way for the community to interact with us both in and out of uniform.

Honorary Jr Police Officer - This program, in partnership with the Wooster City Schools, recognizes students in the 4th grade for various attributes, such as leadership, kindness and doing well at school. Monthly award winners are recognized at an assembly where

they receive a letter from the Chief, a Wooster PD swag bag, and certificates for free pizza and McDonald's.

Cash for Christmas / Sgt Santa - This community initiative, in partnership with Wayne Savings Bank, provides cash to individuals that are stopped for a minor traffic violation and given \$100 to assist with the holidays. Sgt. Santa is sometimes a guest ride-along and presents the surprise. Sgt. Santa also makes appearances at other department community related events.

Bike Rodeo - The bike rodeo provides a safety course for young bike riders to establish riding and maneuvering skills. Officers are throughout the different areas of the course to help the young riders with tips and bike safety information. Each child is provided with a free bike helmet.

### **About Wooster Police Department**

Wooster Ohio is home to 26,540 residents is a lively hub for innovation, business, and entertainment. Over the last decade, the community has bonded closer together in rising above economic challenges, witnessed incredible revitalization in its downtown, and has welcomed several new employers and residents.

The Wooster Police Department strives to be a premier law enforcement agency by providing law enforcement services in an efficient and effective manner. The Wooster Police Department is a committed partner with the community. Ethics, Integrity and Professionalism are the core values which lead them forward. These core values are the foundation upon which they base their mission. They realize that their most important asset is their employees who strive to make their organization a premier law enforcement agency. Their 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 the agency distinguished.

### **About Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police**

The Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police, Inc. is a nonprofit organization dedicated to continuing professionalism and innovation among police executives in order to assure the continued success of the law enforcement community. Established in 1928, the Association is a fully staffed organization, offering a broad range of professional, educational and informational services.

With a mission to enhance our profession through strong leadership, innovative programs and exemplary services, the Association's goals are: to serve its members; to increase the public's understanding of the role police play in maintaining our quality of community life; and to foster improvements in police education, practice and research.

### **About The Law Enforcement Foundation**

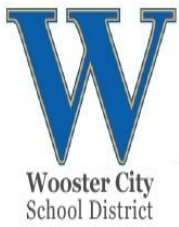
The Law Enforcement Foundation (LEF) is a 501(c)3 organization established in 1985 by members the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police (OACP). The mission was created



around creating safer communities through the continuing education of law enforcement executives, education to the children of the community through our trained DARE officers, and to educate law enforcement on special topics as trends indicate.

The Law Enforcement Foundation (LEF) is the only entity in Ohio certified to train Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) officers where officers are prepared to educate children and parents about drug abuse prevention, internet safety, bullying, decision-making skills, and personal responsibility.

The Law Enforcement Foundation is also the only entity to provide a three-tiered, executive-level management training for law enforcement, culminating in a Masters-level certification in law enforcement management.

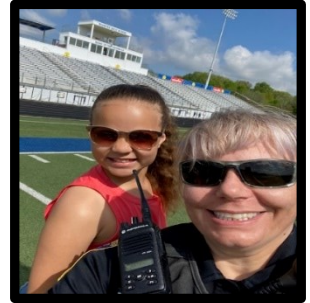


# SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER



Ptl. Timko and Teichmer are still serving as our School Resource Officers for Wooster City Schools. Both officers attended two conferences over the summer (OSROA and OPJOA) as well as attended several online classes.

Ptl. Teichmer works at Wooster High School. In 2022, she brought back the share cooler (it was dismissed during COVID) where students can place any unwanted unopened food inside for others to select; this reduces hunger and waste. She has also worked with several community members for donations of clothing for students in need. Additionally, she has organized two community service projects for students at the Wooster Hope Center and the Wooster PD Stuff the Cruiser event. Ptl. Teichmer, who the students call Officer April, maintains an Instagram page aimed at educating and humoring high school students. At the start of the 2022-2023 school year, Officer April started a daily trivia game. Students who answer the random trivia question of the day can win prizes ranging from stickers to candy to chips. This trivia is aimed at starting conversations with kids and breaking down barriers. The kids LOVE IT and will often go out of their way to answer the question!



Ptl. Timko works at Edgewood Middle School. He works very closely with school administration on the safety and security of the school. He is a board member for the Edgewood Middle School safety committee. Ptl. Timko is very active inside the school working with troubled youth and is a mentor with OHUDDLE. After school hours, Ptl. Timko coaches the Edgewood boys' 7th and 8th grade football team. In 2022, Ptl. Timko planned and organized a new community event called Badges and Bobbers. Ptl. Timko uses fishing as a tool to connect police officers and the youth of our community. Wooster Police Officers work side by side with kids, helping them bait, cast, hook and release fish all while bonding and learning that they are not so different from each other after all. Fishing teaches patience, ingenuity, preparation and humility. In the Badges and Bobbers program, cops and kids work and fish together which makes every day a good day. This year we were able to give away 60 brand new fishing poles and tackle boxes to kids in Wooster.



The Wooster Police Department works with Wooster City Schools to offer an Honorary Junior Police Officer program. This program recognizes one fourth grade student at each elementary school every month. The students are selected based on their behavior, their actions, how they treat others, and how much they try. Each student is recognized at a school assembly with officers presenting the award. The award is a letter from Chief Matthew Fisher, a custom made yard sign, a goody bag from the police department, and a free Papa John's Pizza! This program gives the students something to strive for each month and helps to build relationships with the students.



# HOSPITAL RESOURCE OFFICER



The year of 2022 marked the 10 year anniversary of the Hospital Resource Officer collaborative program between the Wooster City Police Department and the Wooster Community Hospital. Much to the combined efforts of both entities, the program has become a necessary and vital part of the physical and emotional security for the staff, patients, and visitors of the Wooster Community Hospital.

Unfortunately, in May of 2022, Hospital Resource Officer, Sue Trepal, resigned from her duties and role as a police officer and joined the ranks as a full time employee for the Wooster Community Hospital. With the lack of ability to fill the open position, the hospital continued to outsource coverage from the Wooster Police Department and Wayne County Sheriff's Office.

Throughout 2022, Officer Miller continued to educate and deploy Verbal Judo training and ALICE Active Shooter Preparedness to every new employee, through the Wooster Hospital orientation program. Additionally, Officer Miller received recertification training in both courses, as he was due to expire in 2022. Notably documented by continual surveys, Officer Miller's courses have been deemed the highlight of the Wooster Hospital orientation program. These safety and de-escalation courses offer proven strategies and methods to help maintain safety and composure when dealing with a potentially violent escalated person, as well as life threatening decision making skills, in an attempt to maximize safety and survivability to all. In 2022, Officer Miller conducted 12 Verbal Judo classes at the Wooster Community Hospital, which involved 229 total employees. Additionally, he conducted a total of 11 ALICE Active Shooter programs, which involved 224 total Wooster Hospital employees.

In addition, Officer Miller further assisted the Director of Home Health Nursing, who inquired about a "Scene Safety / In-Home Safety" course for her staff. In May of 2022, Officer Miller created a one hour program, which was administered to the Home Health Nursing Staff. The program included many simple, but tactical, safety driven thoughts and actions her staff could implement, in an attempt to reduce violence and increase safety while inside patient homes. This class, which included handouts, was administered to 22 staff members of the Wooster Hospital.

Additionally, Officer Miller also created and administered a "Transportation Safety" program for the Wooster Hospital transportation team. This topic, along with the above in home safety course, were a growing concern, as their staff is dealing much more frequently with severely addicted and mentally ill patients, who can be violent.





# **HOSPITAL RESOURCE OFFICER**



This 45 minute program was administered to 12 members of the Wooster Community Hospital Transport Team.

In August of 2022, Officer Miller also assisted and participated in a 2 day "BAD DAY" (HERT) Hospital Emergency Response Team Training, which included both a classroom and live scenario based training, which helped staff mentally and physically prepare for a disaster.

In 2022, Officer Miller furthered his education and attended the CIT international conference in Pittsburgh, in an attempt to collect the most current and vital information available, surrounding the topic of mental illness training. With this knowledge, Officer Miller educated many of the local Wayne, Holmes, and Ashland County Police Agencies on new emerging trends, surrounding law enforcement and mental health training. Additionally, encouraging and guiding them to provide better proper care for themselves and their staff, as we have learned the dangers of cumulative trauma exposure in our lives. Officer Miller further continued to assist the Wooster Hospital, working on several committees, including the Emergency Preparedness Committee, as well as the Policy Review Committee, in attempt to provide better safety to all.

As always, Officer Miller is looking for another exciting year to strengthen the relationships and partnerships within the Wooster Community Hospital Systems.

# **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 at the 2022 Ohio Tactical Officers Association Conference and training in Sandusky, Ohio. The conference was held June 6<sup>th</sup> through June 10<sup>th</sup>; team members received training in the following areas:

- Plain Clothes Survival Tactics
- Critical Thinking in Condensed Time Frames for Officers
- Human Terrain Mapping and Behavior Pattern Recognition
- Barricaded Subject
- Understanding Qualified Immunity
- Raider Level 1
- Distraction Device Instructor
- Commander and Team Leader Development
- Pepperball Instructor
- Fourth Amendment Updates and Developments
- Critical incident Debriefings and Lecture Series

The team was utilized on several missions in 2022, the three most notable, an Elm St. warrant service in February, West Oak St. warrant service in June, and an E. Larwill St. warrant service in July. All of the 2022 missions SRT was involved with were brought to a successful conclusion and resulted in the seizure of guns, narcotics, and currency. In addition to planned missions, team members assisted on several active incidents, some involved the service of search warrants with outside agencies.



# **ACTIVE SHOOTER RESPONSE**

In 2022, there were some changes made to how we are dealing with our Active Shooter Response training within our community. The company responsible for the ALICE training program decided to only allow our department instructors to give presentations for organizations that are taxpayer funded. This limited our trainings to Wooster Community Hospital and Wooster City Schools. Ptl. Miller continued to provide training to new Wooster Community Hospital employees on a monthly basis. Ptl. Teichmer and Ptl. Timko provided ALICE training to Wooster City Schools. Capt. Lemmon and Det. Belcher assisted Wooster City Schools in conducting 4 drills at each of the 6 schools. This is done to stay in compliance with state law.

While we continue to see mass shootings across our country, we also continue to see the request for active shooter response training in our community. Chief Fisher felt that providing this training to our citizens is extremely important. In an effort to do this, Ptl. Hall became an instructor in CRASE. This is an acronym for Community Response to Active Shooter Events. This program was developed by Texas State University. This training can be provided free of charge to organizations in our community. While we certified our first instructor at the end of 2022, we already have trainings scheduled into 2023. We look forward to providing this service to our community members.





# HONOR GUARD



The Wooster Police Department continues to maintain an honor guard team. During 2022, we were able to build the team back up to eight volunteer officers.

Throughout the year, the Honor Guard participated in several funerals and events throughout the state. We attended the funerals of Deputy Matthew Yates of the Clark County Sheriff's Office as well as Deputy Daniel Kin of the Pickaway County Sheriff's Office. The team was also called upon to participate in the funeral for a local Veteran and former Wayne County Career Center Police Explorer, Eric Miller.

Finally, the Honor Guard had the privilege of presenting the flag during the opening ceremony for the Ohio Police Juvenile Officers Association Conference that was held locally in Wooster.



# 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 to understand better our jobs, our officers, and even our families. Some of the topics include:

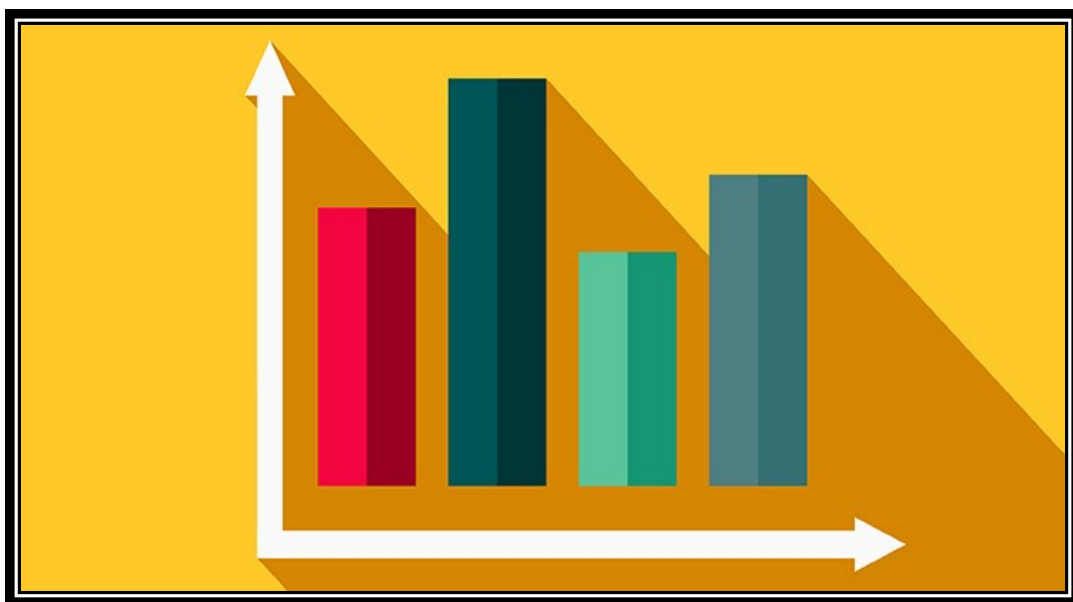
- A tour of our Safety Center
- Our hiring and field training process
- What it's like to be a law enforcement officer in the 21<sup>st</sup> century
- Taser demonstration
- SRT and bike patrol demonstration
- Drug investigations
- Homicide case study
- Lethality of the job
- Overview of Crisis intervention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

In 2022, we were able to hold a new class and invite the partially completed class from 2020 to come and finish the program. Both classes were folded together and graduated together.

# **WOOSTER POLICE DEPARTMENT**

## **STATISTICAL TABLES AND CHARTS**

### **2022 ANNUAL REPORT**



# 2022

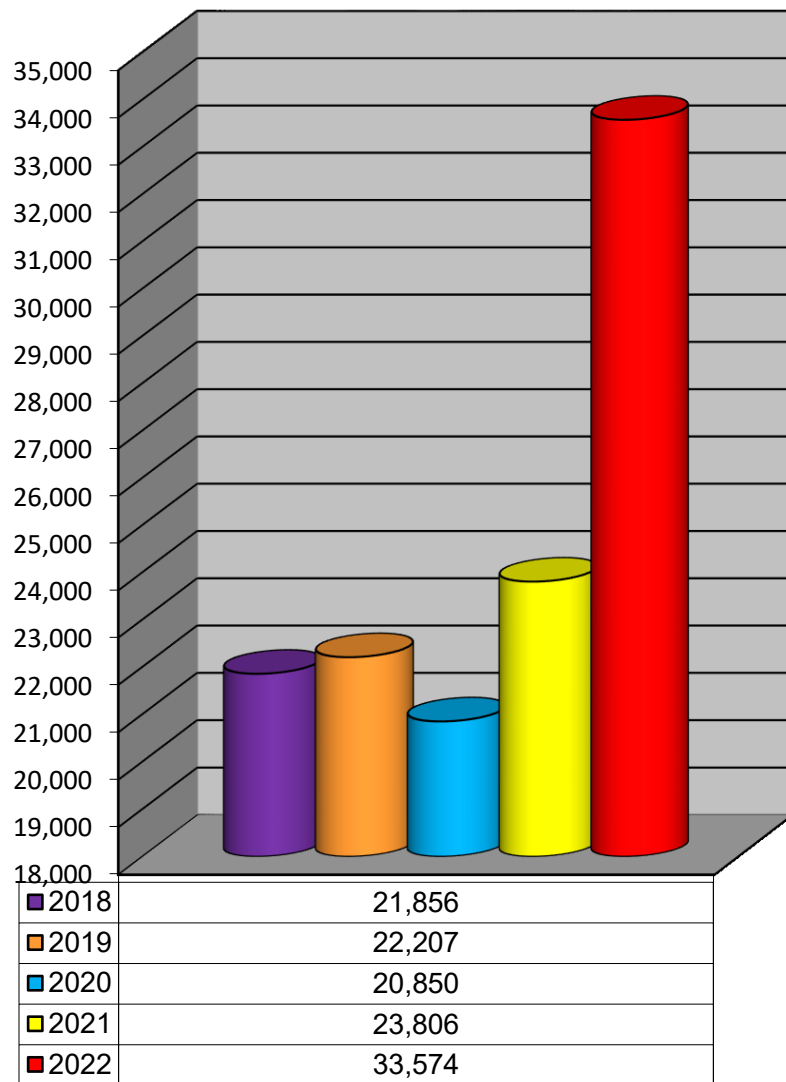
## CALLS FOR SERVICE BY CATEGORY

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	2021	2022	Change	Percent of Change
911 Calls (no other disposition)	1059	860	-199	-19%
Abandoned / Disabled Vehicles	60	71	11	18%
Accidental Damaging	0	0	0	0%
Alarms	822	870	48	6%
Animal Complaints	378	364	-14	-4%
Arson	0	0	0	0%
Assist Citizens / Welfare Checks / Message Delivery	1060	1003	-57	-5%
Assist Other Agencies (Parole, Counseling Center, Medical, Etc.)	573	492	-81	-14%
Attempted Suicide	3	6	3	100%
Bomb Threat	0	1	1	100%
Burglary	209	144	-65	-31%
CCW / Discharging Firearms	0	0	0	0%
Civil Disputes / Standby	458	400	-58	-13%
Computer Crime	0	0	0	0%
Counterfeiting	0	0	0	0%
Criminal Mischief / Vandalism	220	214	-6	-3%
Criminal Trespass / Refusal to Leave	954	928	-26	-3%
Death Investigations (Natural)	4	3	-1	-25%
Disorderly / Disturbances / Disrupting Public Service	1143	877	-266	-23%
Domestic Violence / Custody / Violation of Protection Orders	564	594	30	5%
Drug Violations	346	289	-57	-16%
Drunks	79	120	41	52%
Emotionally Disturbed Persons	508	406	-102	-20%
Escorts	2	6	4	200%
Extra Patrols	280	312	32	11%
Falsification / Obstructing	3	3	0	0%
Felony / Aggravated Assault	1	1	0	0%
Fire (car, house, building)	0	3	3	300%
Forgery / Bad Checks	420	280	-140	-33%
Gambling	0	0	0	0%
Impersonating an Officer	0	0	0	0%
Indecent Exposure / Other Sex Crimes	64	91	27	42%
Information	466	674	208	45%
Juvenile Complaints	132	175	43	33%
Kidnapping / Abduction	4	5	1	25%
Liquor Violations	0	0	0	0%
Littering	13	17	4	31%
Menacing / Threats / Harassment	611	545	-66	-11%
Miscellaneous	201	216	15	7%
Missing Person	191	215	24	13%
Murder	0	0	0	0%
MV Pursuits / Fleeing	0	0	0	0%
Nature Unknown	43	26	-17	-40%
Noise Disturbance	297	274	-23	-8%
Open Door / Window	0	0	0	0%
OVI Arrest	19	35	16	84%
Prisoner Transports	4	0	-4	-100%
Probation / Parole Violation	1	0	-1	-100%
Property Calls (found, lost)	343	281	-62	-18%
Rape / Gross Sexual Imposition	26	8	-18	-69%
Receiving Stolen Property	0	0	0	0%
Resisting Arrest	0	0	0	0%
Robbery	10	4	-6	-60%
School Bus Violation	0	0	0	0%
Search Warrants	4	6	2	50%
Security Checks	3696	11501	7805	211%
Simple Assault	182	180	-2	-1%
Suicide	1	0	-1	-100%
Suspicious Person / Activity	1984	2085	101	5%
Telephone Harassment	0	0	0	0%
Theft (general)	985	907	-78	-8%
Theft (motor vehicle)	81	59	-22	-27%
Traffic Complaint	1320	1605	285	22%
Traffic Crashes	632	758	126	20%
Traffic Detail	10	44	34	340%
Traffic Hazard	0	0	0	0%
Traffic Stop	2431	4546	2115	87%
Vehicle Immobilization / Release	0	0	0	0%
Violation of Order	14	21	7	50%
Warrant Arrests	715	903	188	26%
Warrant Arrests Attempted	124	103	-21	-17%
Weapons Violation	56	43	-13	-23%
Zoning Violations	0	0	0	0%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>23806</b>	<b>33574</b>	<b>9768</b>	<b>41%</b>



# 2022 CALLS FOR SERVICE



# 2022

## PART I OFFENSES

	2021	2022	PERCENT DIFFERENCE
HOMICIDE	1	2	100%
RAPE	32	26	-19%
ROBBERY	4	10	150%
FELONY ASSAULT	43	31	-28%
BURGLARY	108	68	-37%
THEFT	730	612	-16%
TOTALS	918	749	-18%

# 2022

## COMPARISON OF STOLEN PROPERTY

CATEGORY	2021	2022	% Difference
CURRENCY / CREDIT CARDS / NEGOTIABLE / NON-NEG	\$ 448,375	\$ 376,072	-16%
PERSONAL PAPERS / DOCUMENTS / OTHER PERSONAL	\$ 10,415	\$ 11,358	9%
JEWELRY	\$ 61,618	\$ 9,775	-84%
CLOTHING / FURS	\$ 8,189	\$ 10,697	31%
PURSES / WALLETS	\$ 5,840	\$ 10,695	83%
HOUSEHOLD GOODS	\$ 26,924	\$ 14,770	-45%
ART OBJECTS / OTHER VALUABLES (COLLECTORS ITEMS)	\$ 35,323	\$ 10,064	-72%
COMPUTER EQUIPMENT	\$ 16,783	\$ 25,670	53%
TV / RADIO / STEREO / CELL PHONES	\$ 47,679	\$ 38,756	-19%
CD / AUDIO & VIDEO TAPES	\$ -	\$ 80	80000%
SPORTS, CAMPING, HUNTING AND FISHING EQUIPMENT	\$ 1,015	\$ 6,707	561%
PHOTOGRAPHIC EQUIPMENT	\$ 4,201	\$ 689	-84%
OTHER EQUIP (FARM, LAWN, HEAVY CONST, MEDICAL)	\$ 10,605	\$ 60,827	474%
TOOLS / BUILDING SUPPLIES	\$ 83,688	\$ 58,534	-30%
AUTO PARTS / AIRCRAFT PARTS	\$ 62,837	\$ 29,349	-53%
CONSUMABLE GOODS	\$ 12,052	\$ 14,360	19%
MEDICATIONS	\$ 3,158	\$ 1,575	-50%
PETS / ANIMALS	\$ 150	\$ 1,650	1000%
SCHOOL SUPPLIES / OFFICE EQUIPMENT	\$ 2,292	\$ 2,220	-3%
SERVICES	\$ -	\$ -	0%
AUTOMOBILES & OTHER VEHICLES (LAND, AIR, WATER)	\$ 479,501	\$ 329,254	-31%
BICYCLES	\$ 17,240	\$ 18,153	5%
FIREARMS / FIREARM ACCESSORIES	\$ 6,030	\$ 5,332	-12%
OTHER WEAPONS (SWORD, BB GUNS)	\$ 716	\$ 2,915	307%
MISCELLANEOUS / OTHER PROPERTY	\$ 7,354	\$ 27,451	273%
VIDEO GAMES	\$ 110	\$ 767	597%
<b>TOTAL LOSS</b>	<b>\$ 1,352,095</b>	<b>\$ 1,067,720</b>	<b>-21%</b>

\*All percentages are rounded off.

# 2022 ARRESTS AND TRAFFIC CITATIONS

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
<b>ARRESTS</b>													
ADULT	87	75	99	101	89	92	104	130	107	97	95	99	<b>1175</b>
JUVI	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	4	0	3	4	4	<b>21</b>
<b>ARRESTS BY GENDER</b>													
FEMALE	17	17	27	31	11	27	23	33	26	19	83	28	<b>342</b>
MALE	71	58	73	71	79	66	82	101	81	81	16	75	<b>854</b>
<b>TOTAL ARRESTS</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>1196</b>
	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
<b>TRAFFIC CITATIONS</b>													
ADULT	85	78	73	93	90	90	77	93	71	85	80	92	<b>1007</b>
JUVI	3	5	1	2	3	3	2	3	2	3	5	1	<b>33</b>
<b>TRAFFIC CITATIONS BY GENDER</b>													
FEMALE	34	20	29	35	35	43	31	26	32	31	37	34	<b>387</b>
MALE	54	63	45	60	58	50	48	70	41	57	48	59	<b>653</b>
<b>TOTAL CITATIONS</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>1040</b>



# 2022

## 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.

VIOLATION	2021	2022
ASSURED CLEAR DISTANCE	96	99
CHILD RESTRAINTS	0	0
DRIVING UNDER INFLUENCE	28	67
DRIVING UNDER SUSPENSION	396	408
EQUIPMENT VIOLATIONS	2	9
EXPIRED OR MISSING VEHICLE PLATES	45	141
FAILURE TO CONTROL	88	92
FAILURE TO YIELD	83	103
FICTITIOUS PLATES	29	22
HIT / SKIP	18	6
IMPROPER LANE CHANGE	21	33
IMPROPER SIGNAL	1	10
IMPROPER TURN	1	3
JUVENILE PERMIT RESTRICTIONS	1	5
LOAD / WEIGHT VIOLATIONS	0	2
LOUD MUSIC FROM VEHICLE	0	0
NO OPERATORS LICENSE / EXPIRED LICENSE	162	301
PASSING	2	8
RECKLESS OPERATION	9	15
RIDE OUTSIDE VEHICLE	0	0
SCHOOL BUS VIOLATION	4	2
SEAT BELTS - DRIVER	5	6
SEAT BELTS - PASSENGER	0	3
SPEED	52	50
SQUEAL TIRES	1	3
STARTING / BACKING	36	29
TEXTING WHILE DRIVING	1	0
TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICE	48	60
WRONG WAY-ONE WAY	4	4
MISC. OFFENSES	7	27
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1140</b>	<b>1508</b>

# 2022 TRAFFIC CRASHES

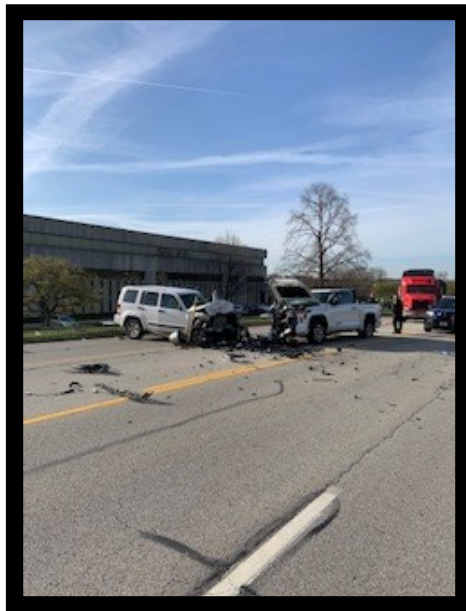
OFFICIAL					
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
JAN	54	48	39	39	39
FEB	33	39	42	28	45
MAR	63	33	29	35	45
APR	40	39	19	29	35
MAY	47	57	33	30	54
JUN	46	42	31	39	45
JUL	41	39	31	30	45
AUG	46	61	24	35	34
SEP	53	40	38	35	32
OCT	65	66	30	55	45
NOV	54	54	33	31	39
DEC	42	55	50	28	26
TOTALS	584	573	399	414	484

COURTESY					
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
JAN	1	2	1	2	2
FEB	3	2	1	3	3
MAR	1	4	1	1	3
APR	3	1	0	0	0
MAY	3	1	1	1	1
JUN	1	5	1	2	1
JUL	3	0	2	4	0
AUG	3	5	0	1	3
SEP	0	0	0	4	2
OCT	3	4	4	2	0
NOV	3	2	1	2	4
DEC	1	2	1	3	2
TOTALS	25	28	13	25	21

PERSONS INJURED					
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
JAN	14	7	10	11	9
FEB	6	11	6	4	5
MAR	7	8	1	8	7
APR	5	9	3	3	6
MAY	7	12	11	6	7
JUN	10	14	6	9	12
JUL	8	8	6	9	13
AUG	15	17	10	3	4
SEP	8	9	2	11	7
OCT	13	7	13	13	12
NOV	9	8	7	10	3
DEC	6	16	4	9	5
TOTALS	108	126	79	96	90
Fatal	0	1	0	1	1

PEDESTRIANS INJURED					
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
JAN	1	0	1	1	1
FEB	0	1	1	0	0
MAR	2	1	1	0	1
APR	0	1	0	0	0
MAY	0	0	1	0	1
JUN	3	0	0	1	0
JUL	1	0	0	1	1
AUG	0	1	0	0	1
SEP	1	1	0	1	1
OCT	0	0	0	3	2
NOV	2	3	1	0	0
DEC	2	3	0	1	0
TOTALS	12	11	5	8	8

# EVERY CRASH TELLS A STORY





# TRAINING

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 the 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.

In 2022, in addition to hundreds of hours of advanced training, our officers received over 1,008 hours of mandated Continuing Professional Training in areas such as Cultural Humility, Diversity, Inclusion, Equity, Responding to Mental Health Crisis, Use of Force, Officer Wellness, Domestic Violence, and Responding to Sexual Assaults. Our department also has implemented policy and roll call training into our daily operations via Lexipol. Also, several of our command and supervisory staff received leadership development training via the FBI National Academy, the FBI LEEDA program, the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police, and Leadership Wooster. Moreover, during 2022 we provided advanced training to officers on subjects such as Crisis Intervention Team training, Force Science Institute, ALICE instructor, Advanced Patrol Tactics, Bridges out of Poverty, MX 908 Drug Testing Machine training, Public Records, Ohio Case Law, and others. We also trained on our Use of Force Simulator, and two officers each completed 737 hours of basic peace officer training.

In addition to the snapshot provided, our sworn officers completed all required training on firearms, Tasers, etc, and reviewed our response to resistance policies. Our department will continue to provide excellent service through well-trained peace officers into 2023 and beyond.