

WOOSTER POLICE DEPARTMENT

2023 Annual Report

Chief Matthew D. Fisher

"Honor, Ethics, Integrity, and Pride"



WOOSTER POLICE DEPARTMENT

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January 23, 2024

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

Dear Mayor Reynolds,

I am pleased to present the Wooster City Council and you with the Wooster Police Department's 2023 Annual Report.

Through hours of diligent work, the Wooster Police Department Detective Bureau, consisting of Det. McCloud, Det. Belcher, and Det. Bremenour indicted four subjects from a homicide that occurred in 2022. They also handled an additional homicide in 2023. Amongst the investigation of the homicides, they also handled several rapes, child abuse calls, and runaway/missing person cases. Our detectives continue to work diligently on handling any cases involving children as victims. They have direct contact with ICAC, Internet Crimes Against Children. These cases that need investigation are provided directly from ICAC to our detectives. Our three detectives are also responsible for completing background investigations and CVSA exams on new police, WARCOG, and fire applicants.

Our Community Impact Unit officers completed one full year in the position. This unit consists of Sgt. Shonk, Ptl. McConnell, and Ptl. Berry. Their first complete year was very successful, in which they mainly handled drug investigations. They also were instrumental in helping with community initiatives such as the Five-O Cookout, Bike Rodeo, and Stuff a Cruiser. In conducting the drug investigations, they worked closely with federal agencies, Medway DEA, and other local jurisdictions. They were responsible for seizing 9.9 ounces of fentanyl, 4.3 pounds of methamphetamine, and 13 firearms. They also conducted 74 undercover buys, made 109 arrests, and executed 31 search warrants.

CRASE, or Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events, was taught to multiple organizations in Wooster, including the Montessori School, Wayne County Board of Developmental Disabilities, Unitarian Universalist Church, Wooster Citizen's Police Academy Session nine, Kids & Giggles, Seaman Corp., Wooster Ambulatory Care,

Wooster Chamber of Commerce - Safety Committee, Wayne County Children's Services, and Western Reserve Group. In total, over 500 community members received the training.

We continued our Honorary Junior Officer of the Month program with Wooster City Schools, our ninth session of Wooster Citizens Police Academy, and our Stuff a Cruiser program, providing toys, clothes, and gifts for over 100 families, including 286 school children.

In 2023, 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 School Threat Assessment, Arrest, Search and Seizure, Legal Updates, Ethics and Professionalism, Use of Force, the First Amendment, Trauma and the Brain, Impacting Narcotics in Ohio and several others. Officers were also provided advanced training on subjects such as Crisis Intervention, Active Shooter Response, MX 908 Drug Testing, public records, Ohio Case Law, etc. We also trained on our Use of Force Simulator, and the entire department received First Responder Health, Wellness, and Fitness training.

ALICE (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate) continues to be the standard active shooter response training for Wooster City Schools and Wooster Community Hospital. Our school resource officers, Ptl. Teichmer and Ptl. Timko provides this training to school personnel at the beginning of each school year. Our hospital resource officer, Ptl. Miller provides this training every month during orientation for all new hospital employees. To stay in compliance with state law, Capt. Lemmon and Det. Belcher assists Wooster City Schools with practice drills and how to respond to an active shooting situation. This provides all the school personnel with a refresher in protocol and allows them to ask questions about an active shooter response. Late in 2023, Ptl. Topovski provided half of our officers with updated training in our response to active shooters. This training will continue into 2024.

The Police Department handled 40,454 calls for service in 2023, increasing from 33,574 in 2022. The significant increase is primarily related to an emphasis put on proactive activity. As we emerged from the pandemic, we encouraged officers to proactively provide security checks and traffic enforcement. As such, security checks showed an increase of approximately 40% (11,501 calls in 2022 and 16,297 in 2023), and traffic stops increased by approximately 11% (4,546 in 2022 to 5,064 in 2023).

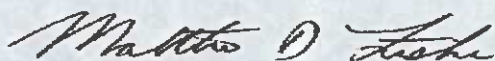
The top calls for service in 2023 included Security Checks: 16,297; Traffic Stops: 5064; Suspicious Activity/Persons: 2230; and 911 Calls: 1826. Traffic crashes dropped from 484 in 2022 to 457 in 2023.

The police department investigated one homicide in 2023. Part One Offenses (major crimes) showed a slight (8%) overall increase. Homicide, rape, and robbery all decreased, while felony assault, burglary, and theft increased. Felony assaults showed the highest increase of 42%, from 31 in 2022 to 44 in 2023.

Despite the nationwide struggle to hire police officers, we hired two new officers in 2023. Officers Paul Hill and Luke Frantz are welcome additions to our agency.

As I enter my thirteenth year of leading this organization, I am still amazed by the fantastic team of men and women who make up the Wooster Police Department. Everyone knows the importance of our role in our community, from our excellent clerical staff to the men and women who answer thousands of calls for service and have thousands of public interactions in a year. All this helps our agency live up to our mission statement and *Strive for Excellence*.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Matthew D. Fisher". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "M" and "F".

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.

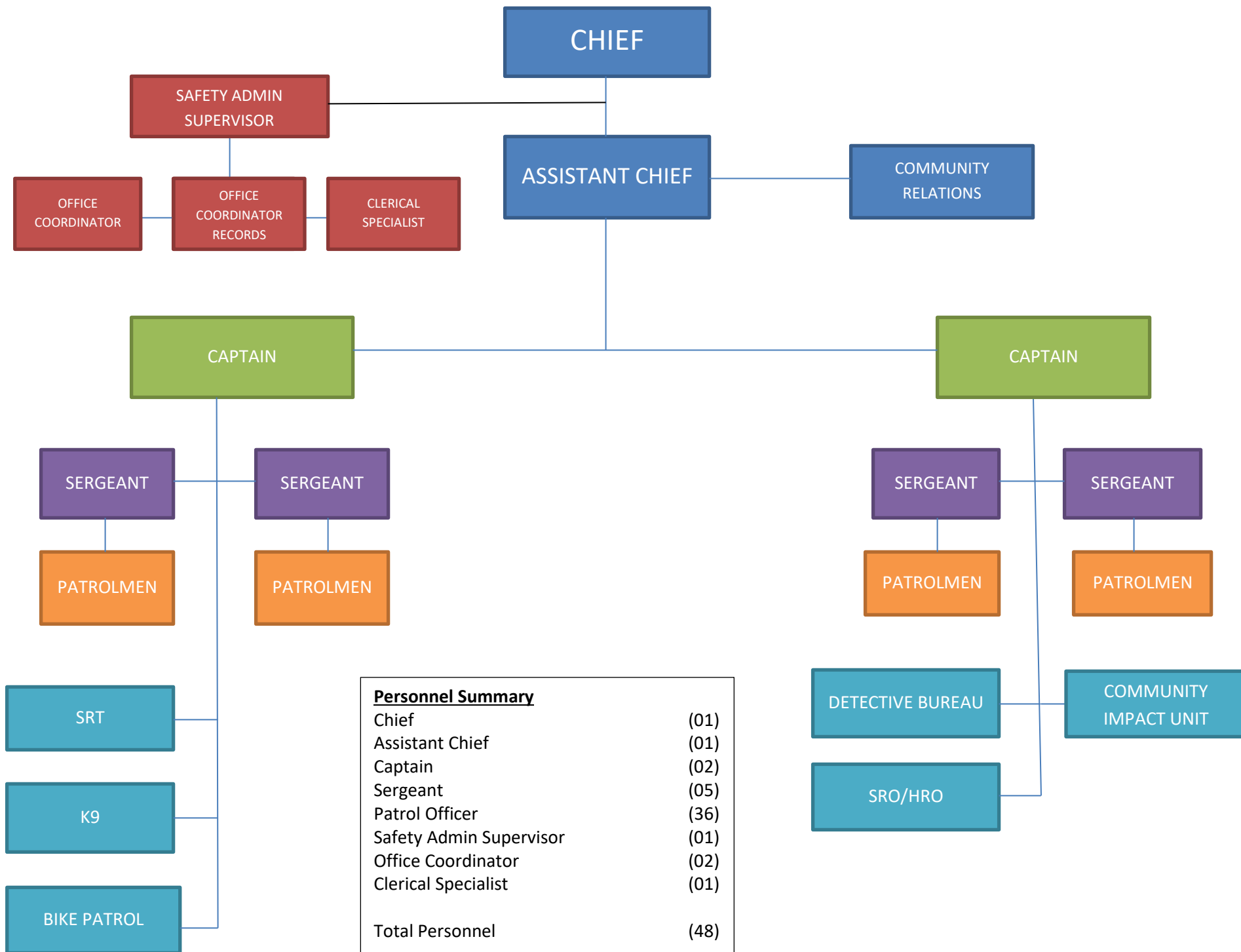
Values

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

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

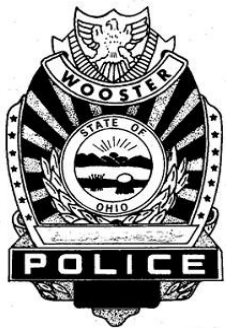
We value honor and integrity in our interactions with everyone we encounter.

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



2023 WOOSTER POLICE DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL

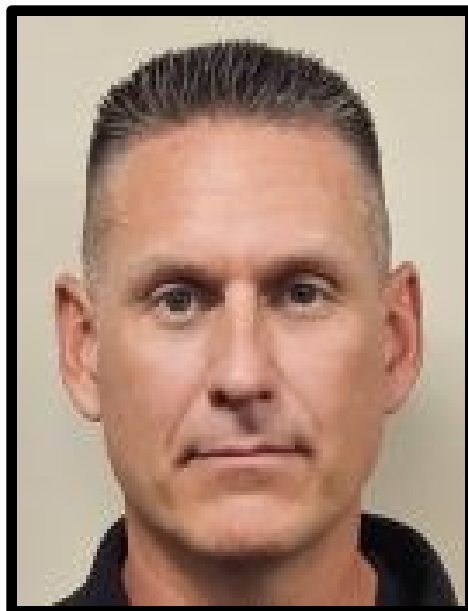
CHIEF	Matthew Fisher	Administration
ASSISTANT CHIEF	Scott Rotolo	Administration
CAPTAIN	Anthony Lemmon	Administration
CAPTAIN	Victor Nedoma	Administration
SERGEANT	Clint Bartolic	Patrol / Supervisor
SERGEANT	Michael Shonk	Patrol / Supervisor
SERGEANT	Greg Kolek	Patrol / Supervisor
SERGEANT	Thomas Webber	Patrol / Supervisor
SERGEANT	Daniel Whitmore	Patrol / Supervisor
PATROLMAN	William Belcher	Detective
PATROLMAN	Shane Berry	Patrol
PATROLMAN	Gaetano Bremenour	Detective
PATROLMAN	Dustin Burnett	Patrol
PATROLMAN	Alexander Caskey	Patrol
PATROLMAN	Stacey Chuhi	Patrol
PATROLMAN	Michael Covington	Patrol
PATROLMAN	Patrick Delaney	Patrol
PATROLMAN	Michael Egbert	Patrol
PATROLMAN	Luke Frantz	
PATROLMAN	Donald Hall	Patrol
PATROLMAN	Christopher Hartzler	Patrol
PATROLMAN	Paul Hill	Patrol
PATROLMAN	Robert Henderson	Patrol
PATROLMAN	Gina Iacco	Patrol
PATROLMAN	Nathan Jopeck	Patrol
PATROLMAN	Kyle Killough	Patrol
PATROLMAN	Ryan King	Patrol
PATROLMAN	Juan McCloud	Detective
PATROLMAN	Quinn McConnell	Patrol
PATROLMAN	Joshua Miller	Patrol
PATROLMAN	Kyle Moss	Patrol
PATROLMAN	Jacob Mottayaw	Patrol
PATROLMAN	Maxton Musselman	Patrol
PATROLMAN	Connor Orr	Patrol
PATROLMAN	Nicholas Pagni	Patrol
PATROLMAN	Kagan Schafer	Patrol
PATROLMAN	Thomas Sereika	Patrol
PATROLMAN	Daniel Simmons	Patrol
PATROLMAN	Danielle Slichenmyer	Patrol
PATROLMAN	April Teichmer	Patrol
PATROLMAN	Jordan Telquist	Patrol
PATROLMAN	Joshua Timko	Patrol
PATROLMAN	Christopher Topovski	Patrol
PATROLMAN	Brian Waddell	Patrol
PATROLMAN	Megan Wasik	Patrol
ADMIN. SUPERVISOR	Melanie Rowland	Administration
OFFICE COORDINATOR	Sabrina Jentes	Administration
OFFICE COORDINATOR	Melissa Keener	Administration
CLERICAL SPECIALIST	Erin Smith	Administration



2023 NEW HIRES



**Patrolman
Luke Frantz**



**Patrolman
Paul Hill**

Strive For Excellence

WOOSTER POLICE DEPARTMENT

BUREAU & DIVISION REPORTS

2023 ANNUAL REPORT





PATROL DIVISION

The Patrol Division is undoubtedly the heart and soul of the Wooster Police Department. At the end of 2023, 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



For the second year in a row, the Wooster Police Department Detective Bureau, consisting of Det. McCloud, Det. Belcher, and Det. Bremenour, had a slight decrease in the number of cases they handled. Even though the number of cases were down, they remained very busy with the investigation of a homicide from 2022. In 2023, they were able to indict four subjects from that homicide. They also handled an additional homicide in 2023. These types of investigations take countless man hours from all three detectives. Amongst the investigation of the homicides, they also handled several rapes, child abuse calls, and runaway/missing person cases. Our detectives continue to work diligently on handling any cases involving children as victims. They have direct contact with ICAC, Internet Crimes Against Children. These cases that need investigated are provided directly from ICAC to our detectives.

In an effort to keep our road patrol free for handling calls and providing patrol hours to our citizens, we have also tasked our detective bureau with serving out of town subpoenas, transporting criminal evidence to the crime lab in Richfield, managing our vehicle fleet, assisting in running drills for active shooter response, and completing investigations for our Human Resource Department. Our three detectives are also responsible for completing background investigations and CVSA exams on new police applicants, WARCOG applicants, and fire applicants. Several years back, we dropped our Detective Bureau from four detectives to three detectives. While keeping them busy, this seems to have worked well and provides an additional officer to be used in other areas.

Our three CIU (Community Impact Unit) Officers have completed one full year in the position. This unit consists of Sgt. Shonk, Ptl. McConnell, and Ptl. Berry. Their first complete year was very successful in which they handled mostly drug investigations. They also were instrumental in helping with community initiatives such as the Five-O Cookout, Bike Rodeo, and Stuff the Cruiser. In conducting the drug investigations, they worked closely with Federal Agencies, Medway DEA, and other local jurisdictions. They were responsible for seizing 9.9 ounces of Fentanyl, 4.3 pounds of Meth, and 13 firearms. They also conducted 74 undercover buys, made 109 arrests, and executed 31 search warrants. This was a very successful year for them and had a direct result in less drugs in our community. Moving forward with this unit is very important to the safety and security of our city.



BICYCLE UNIT



The Wooster Police Department Bicycle Unit consists of 7 members, including the unit supervisor, Daniel Whitmore.

Sergeant Daniel Whitmore
Sergeant Clint Bartolic
Patrolman Shane Berry
Patrolman Quinn McConnell
Patrolman Jacob Mottayaw
Patrolman Kyle Moss
Patrolman Daniel Simmons

The bicycle unit is utilized for patrol and special events, including the Heart and Ghouls race and the Fourth of July Fireworks. The bicycle unit was utilized as the sole patrol unit for the Fourth of July Fireworks celebration, being responsible for safety and security for the entire event.

Two new officers were added to the unit in 2023, Patrolman Moss and Patrolman Simmons. They will be attending training in the spring of 2024.





COMMUNITY RELATIONS

In 2023, we continued to “Strive for Excellence” with our community relations programs. In the beginning of the year, there was a focus on recruiting visits to various police academies and career fairs across the State of Ohio to promote the department and city in an effort to fill open road patrol positions.

Building relationships and trust is such a large component of a successful community relations program. Ptl. Hall, serving as the new Community Resource Officer, spent a couple of months going out and meeting with businesses and business owners all over the city, updating after hours emergency contacts and having conversations about community relations. It is simple conversations such as these that facilitate community involvement with our programs.

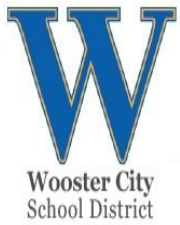
February and March provided multiple opportunities for our officers to take part in Right to Read activities. In May, we re-established our community walk in observance of National Peace Officers Memorial Day to recognize the 245 peace officers who had died in the line of duty in 2022.

In June, officers took part in the annual Special Olympics Torch Run and helped carry the torch from the Safety Center to the downtown square. Additionally, the first time since COVID, the Bike Rodeo was brought back, and we were able to give away 15 new bikes with the help of our community donors and provide new bike helmets to all participants through a community grant.

July brought us to the annual Five-O cookout held at Bowman Beverage. A hands on community event with our officers cooking and handing out food, drinks, goody bags and positive interactions. The event has grown so large that we have nearly outgrown the venue.

In September, we held our second annual Badges & Bobbers Kids Fishing Derby at Freedlander Park. The event grew significantly in year two. We were able to stock the pond with blue gill and catfish. The highlight of the day was the catch of a 15 pound carp by a seven year old boy. The social media posting of this catch brought attention from people and news outlets not only in the United States but across the world.

We closed out the year with a record breaking Stuff the Cruiser campaign in November and December. This toy and clothing drive provided Christmas to over 286 Wooster City School children.



SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER



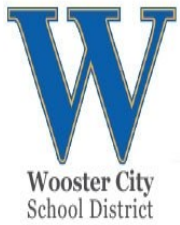
Ptl. Timko and Ptl. Teichmer are still serving the Wooster City School District as School Resource Officers. Both officers are incredibly active in the community, helping to host the 5-0 Cookout, the Fishing Derby, and the Stuff the Cruiser events. Both officers attended numerous online training sessions as well as a conference held by Ohio Police Juvenile Officers' Association. Both officers work closely with school administration to ensure the safety of the students and staff at all buildings. Prior to the school year beginning, both officers instructed school staff on the ALICE school safety principles.

Ptl. Teichmer is known by the high school students as Officer April. She has continued to hold her daily trivia contests in the halls between classes. The students look forward to these questions and enjoy the stickers or candy as prizes. Officer April continues to assist stocking the General's Closet and Pantry, so students can take needed clothing or food. @Officer_April is an Instagram page, which aims to educate and humor students. Officer April has been working with the Student Council on a variety of projects such as: volunteering with the department's Stuff the Cruiser Program, writing letters to elementary kids as 'Santa' and hosting various games during the lunch periods.



Ptl. Timko works at Edgewood Middle School. He works very closely with school administration on the safety and security of the school. He is also 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. Ptl. Timko also assists in coaching football at the Wooster High School. Ptl. Timko planned and organized a community event called Badges and Bobbers. Ptl. Timko uses fishing as a tool to connect police officers and the youth of our community. This year we were able to give away 80 brand new fishing poles and tackle boxes to kids in Wooster.





SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER



The Wooster Police Department works with Wooster City Schools to offer an Honorary Junior Police Officer program. This program recognizes one fourth grader at each of the four elementary schools each month. The students are selected based on their behavior, their actions, how they treat others, and how much effort they show. Each student is recognized at a school assembly with officers presenting this award. The student receives a letter from Chief Fisher, a custom yard sign, a t-shirt, a goody bag with Wooster Police gear, and gift cards from local businesses. This program increases officer recognition in the elementary schools, builds relationships with the students and gives the students something to strive for.

HOSPITAL RESOURCE OFFICER



The year of 2023 celebrated the 11 year anniversary of the Hospital Resource Officer program, which has been a collaborative partnership between the City of Wooster Police Department and the Wooster Community Hospital. Thanks to the combined efforts of both entities, the program continues to be successful and is a vital part of the physical and emotional security for the staff, patients, visitors, and properties of the Wooster Community Hospital Systems.

In January of 2023, the Wooster Community Hospital and Wooster Police Department agreed to add a second Hospital Resource Officer to full time status. Officer Maxton Musselman was selected and dedicated himself in service to the Wooster Community Hospital. In addition, the hospital continued to outsource several hours of daily extra duty coverage from the Wooster Police Department but ended its contract with the Wayne County Sheriff's Office.

Also in January of 2023, Officer Miller and several of the Wooster Community Hospital employees attended the “ENABLE” training, which is a Workplace Violence Response Program. While on site at the local Akron Summa facility, we studied their program and created contacts to help us build and implement a Wooster Community Hospital “ENABLE” program, in an attempt to combat workplace violence. Over the course of 2023, the team met on multiple occasions and discussed plans to establish and operate this program. Additionally, several other “Workplace Violence” programs and meetings were held throughout the year, in an attempt to update policies and procedures, as well as implement new standards for documentation and collaboration between the Wooster Community Hospital and Wooster Police Department.

Throughout 2023, Officer Miller continued to educate and deploy Verbal Judo (de-escalation) training, as well as ALICE (Active Shooter Response) to every new employee, through the Wooster Hospital’s orientation program. Notably documented by continual surveys, Officer Miller's training sessions 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 2023, Officer Miller conducted 14 Verbal Judo classes, which involved approximately 331 total employees. Additionally, he conducted 12 ALICE programs, which involved approximately 250

HOSPITAL RESOURCE OFFICER



employees of the Wooster Hospital. It should be noted, the two additional Verbal Judo classes were administered for special training events, by personal request. On March 14, 2023, Officer Miller educated approximately 48 doctors in the Art of Verbal Judo at a training seminar for the Doctoral staff of the Wooster Community Hospital. Additionally, he was also requested to educate approximately 33 of the local Fire and EMS professionals on May 27, 2023, at their annual EMS Symposium Training.

In 2023, Officer Miller was also requested to represent the Wooster Community Hospital, as well as the Wooster Police Department, on a newly established “Justice Involved SMI (Severe Mentally Ill) Team”. As a member of the team, Officer Miller participates in weekly problem solving conversations, attempting to reduce recidivism and better care for the local population of high utilizing individuals with severe mental illness. The group is comprised of multiple local social service agencies, including the Mental Health and Recovery Board, the Counseling Center, One-Eighty, the Wayne County Jail, and many more.

2023 also proved to be a year of growth and change for the HRO and Security Programs at the Wooster Community Hospital, as they introduced a new Director of Security, Ray McDonald. His passion and guidance over the HRO and Security Programs are evident in his hard work, professionalism, and dedication. Director McDonald and Officer Miller have been working side by side at creating better training opportunities for the HRO and Security staff, as well as better documentation and service to the staff, patients, visitors, and properties of the Wooster Hospital Systems.

Officer Miller continued in 2023 as an active member of the Wooster Hospital HERT (Hospital Emergency Response Team), which is an Emergency Response Team for large scale disasters, including, but not limited to HAZMAT chemical spills and natural disasters. Additionally, Officer Miller continued to assist the Wooster Community Hospital while working on several other committees, including the Emergency Preparedness Committee, as well as the Policy Review Committee, in an attempt to provide better safety to all.

As always, Officer Miller is looking forward to 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 Michael Egbert

Patrolman Christopher Hartzler

Patrolman Danielle Slichenmyer



SPECIAL RESPONSE TEAM

The Wooster Police Department Special Response Team (SRT) consists of eight 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 2023 Ohio Tactical Officers Association Conference and training in Sandusky, Ohio. The conference was held June 12th through June 16th. Team members received training in the following areas:

- Building Entries and Control Tactics for Patrol and Swat
- Hostage Rescue Overview
- Practical De-escalation for Patrol-Concepts, Tips and Techniques
- Police K9 Nutrition
- Barricaded Subject
- Critical Thinking in Condensed Time Frames for Commander and Team Leader Development
- Human Terrain Mapping and Behavior Pattern Recognition
- Fourth Amendment Updates
- Pepper Spray Instructor
- Less Lethal Impact Instructor
- Ohio Narcotics Intelligence Center
- Understanding Civil Liability and Qualified Immunity
- Operational Mission Planning
- Critical Incident Leadership for Patrol Operations
- Critical incident Debriefings and Lecture Series
- Legally Armed Civilians at Active Shooter Scenes
- Care Under Fire for LE



SPECIAL RESPONSE TEAM

The team was utilized on several occasions in 2023, the most notable, a North Buckeye St. warrant service in February of 2023. SRT members assisted several outside agencies along with the city's own Community Impact Unit on multiple occasions in 2023. All of the 2023 deployments were brought to a successful conclusion and resulted in the seizure of guns, narcotics, and currency.



ACTIVE SHOOTER RESPONSE

A.L.I.C.E. (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate) continues to be the standard active shooter response training for Wooster City Schools and Wooster Community Hospital. Our school resource officers, Ptl. Teichmer and Ptl. Timko, provide this training to school personnel at the beginning of each school year. Our hospital resource officer, Ptl. Miller, provides this training on a monthly basis during orientation for all new hospital employees. In an effort to stay in compliance with state law, Capt. Lemmon and Det. Belcher assist Wooster City Schools with practice drills and how to respond to an active shooting situation. This provides all the school personnel with a refresher in protocol and allows them to ask questions about active shooter response. Late in 2023, Ptl. Topovski provided half of our officers with updated training in our response to active shooters. This training will continue into 2024.

Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events



The ALERTRT (Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training) Center at Texas State University was created in 2002 as a partnership between Texas State University, the San Marcos, Texas Police Department and the Hays County, Texas Sheriff's Office to address the need for active shooter response training for first responders. In 2013, ALERTRT at Texas State was named the National Standard in Active Shooter Response Training by the FBI. The Wooster Police Department offers CRASE training free of charge to the public/private sector.

In 2023, the Wooster Police Department provided ten (10) CRASE training sessions with the total attendance being 501 people.

Montessori School

Wayne County Board of Developmental Disabilities

Unitarian Universalist Church

Wooster Citizen Police Academy Session 9

Kids & Giggles

Seaman Corp.

Wooster Ambulatory Care

Chamber of Commerce - Safety Committee

Wayne County Children's Services

Western Reserve Group



HONOR GUARD



The Wooster Police Department continues to maintain an honor guard team. During 2023, the Honor Guard participated in several funerals and events throughout the state. We attended the Thin Blue Line Community Walk and represented our department here in Wooster. We also had the honor to post guard at the funeral of retired police officer, Clyde Bunt, who passed away in late October.



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 better understand 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 21st 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 officer's perspective on the job
- Use of Force simulator

The Citizen's Police Academy has been a great opportunity to connect with our community.

WOOSTER POLICE DEPARTMENT

STATISTICAL TABLES AND CHARTS

2023 ANNUAL REPORT



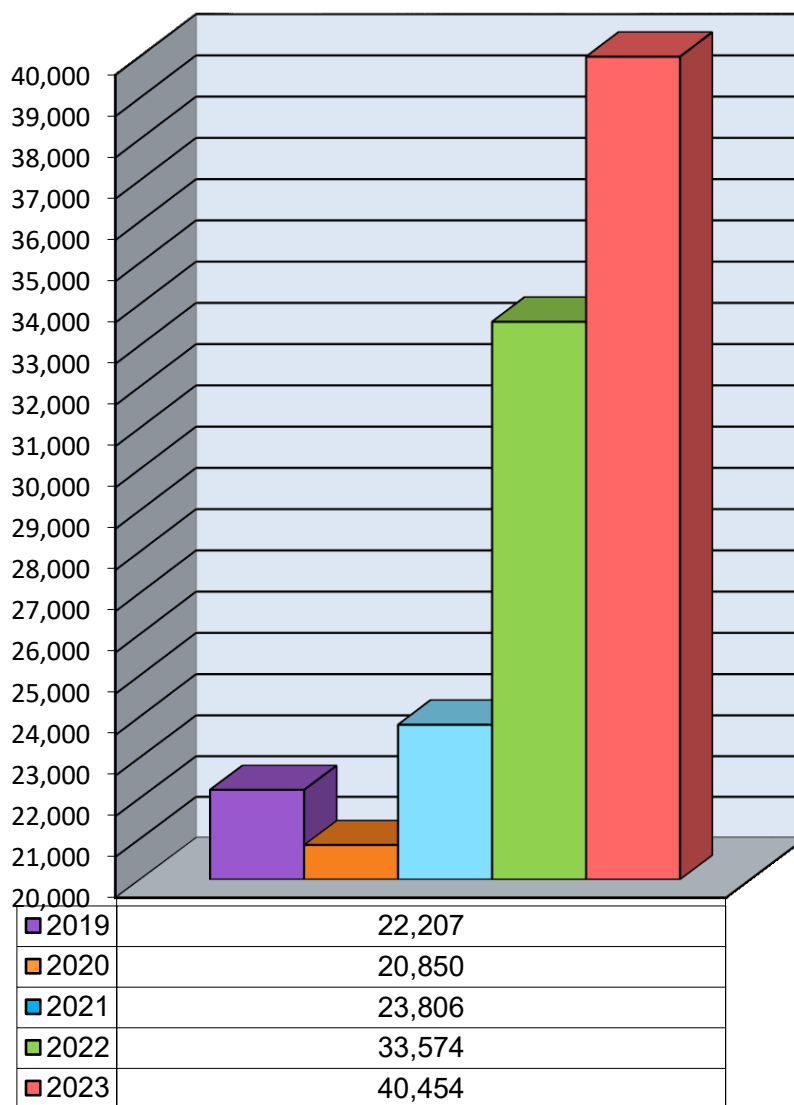
2023

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	2022	2023	CHANGE	PERCENT DIFFERENCE
911 Calls (no other disposition)	860	1826	966	112%
Abandoned / Disabled Vehicles	71	225	154	217%
Accidental Damaging	0	0	0	0%
Alarms	870	914	44	5%
Animal Complaints	364	535	171	47%
Arson	0	0	0	0%
Assist Citizens / Welfare Checks / Message Delivery	1003	968	-35	-3%
Assist Other Agencies (Parole, Counseling Center, Medical, Etc.)	492	473	-19	-4%
Attempted Suicide	6	4	-2	-33%
Bomb Threat	1	0	-1	-100%
Burglary	144	121	-23	-16%
CCW / Discharging Firearms	0	0	0	0%
Civil Disputes / Standby	400	492	92	23%
Computer Crime	0	0	0	0%
Counterfeiting	0	0	0	0%
Criminal Mischief / Vandalism	214	237	23	11%
Criminal Trespass / Refusal to Leave	928	749	-179	-19%
Death Investigations (Natural)	3	1	-2	-67%
Disorderly / Disturbances / Disrupting Public Service	877	1057	180	21%
Domestic Violence / Custody / Violation of Protection Orders	594	450	-144	-24%
Drug Violations	289	228	-61	-21%
Drunks	120	81	-39	-33%
Emotionally Disturbed Persons	406	534	128	32%
Escorts	6	5	-1	-17%
Extra Patrols	312	832	520	167%
Falsification / Obstructing	3	3	0	0%
Felony / Aggravated Assault	1	3	2	200%
Fire (car, house, building)	3	0	-3	-300%
Forgery / Bad Checks	280	292	12	4%
Gambling	0	0	0	0%
Impersonating an Officer	0	0	0	0%
Indecent Exposure / Other Sex Crimes	91	87	-4	-4%
Information	674	689	15	2%
Juvenile Complaints	175	196	21	12%
Kidnapping / Abduction	5	8	3	60%
Liquor Violations	0	0	0	0%
Littering	17	15	-2	-12%
Menacing / Threats / Harassment	545	599	54	10%
Miscellaneous	216	149	-67	-31%
Missing Person	215	197	-18	-8%
Murder	0	0	0	0%
MV Pursuits / Fleeing	0	0	0	0%
Nature Unknown	26	19	-7	-27%
Noise Disturbance	274	259	-15	-5%
Open Door / Window	0	0	0	0%
OVI Arrest	35	42	7	20%
Prisoner Transports	0	0	0	0%
Probation / Parole Violation	0	0	0	0%
Property Calls (found, lost)	281	362	81	29%
Rape / Gross Sexual Imposition	8	11	3	38%
Receiving Stolen Property	0	0	0	0%
Resisting Arrest	0	0	0	0%
Robbery	4	2	-2	-50%
School Bus Violation	0	0	0	0%
Search Warrants	6	10	4	67%
Security Checks	11501	16297	4796	42%
Simple Assault	180	168	-12	-7%
Suicide	0	0	0	0%
Suspicious Person / Activity	2085	2230	145	7%
Telephone Harassment	0	0	0	0%
Theft (general)	907	894	-13	-1%
Theft (motor vehicle)	59	50	-9	-15%
Traffic Complaint	1605	1186	-419	-26%
Traffic Crashes	758	716	-42	-6%
Traffic Detail	44	49	5	11%
Traffic Hazard	0	0	0	0%
Traffic Stop	4546	5064	518	11%
Vehicle Immobilization / Release	0	0	0	0%
Violation of Order	21	79	58	276%
Warrant Arrests	903	939	36	4%
Warrant Arrests Attempted	103	56	-47	-46%
Weapons Violation	43	51	8	19%
Zoning Violations	0	0	0	0%
TOTALS	33574	40454	6880	20%

2023 CALLS FOR SERVICE



2023

PART I OFFENSES

	2022	2023	PERCENT DIFFERENCE
HOMICIDE	2	1	-50%
RAPE	26	17	-35%
ROBBERY	10	8	-20%
FELONY ASSAULT	31	44	42%
BURGLARY	68	71	4%
THEFT	612	666	9%
TOTALS	749	807	8%

2023

COMPARISON OF STOLEN PROPERTY

CATEGORY	2022	2023	PERCENT DIFFERENCE
CURRENCY / CREDIT CARDS / NEGOTIABLE / NON-NEG	\$ 376,072	\$ 1,834,070	388%
PERSONAL PAPERS / DOCUMENTS / OTHER PERSONAL	\$ 11,358	\$ 4,616	-59%
JEWELRY	\$ 9,775	\$ 11,253	15%
CLOTHING / FURS	\$ 10,697	\$ 13,515	26%
PURSES / WALLETS	\$ 10,695	\$ 8,967	-16%
HOUSEHOLD GOODS	\$ 14,770	\$ 10,218	-31%
ART OBJECTS / OTHER VALUABLES (COLLECTORS ITEMS)	\$ 10,064	\$ 2,845	-72%
COMPUTER EQUIPMENT	\$ 25,670	\$ 20,216	-21%
TV / RADIO / STEREO / CELL PHONES	\$ 38,756	\$ 56,255	45%
CD / AUDIO & VIDEO TAPES	\$ 80	\$ 1,058	1223%
SPORTS, CAMPING, HUNTING AND FISHING EQUIPMENT	\$ 6,707	\$ 13,028	94%
PHOTOGRAPHIC EQUIPMENT	\$ 689	\$ 100	-85%
OTHER EQUIP (FARM, LAWN, HEAVY CONST, MEDICAL)	\$ 60,827	\$ 15,139	-75%
TOOLS / BUILDING SUPPLIES	\$ 58,534	\$ 45,939	-22%
AUTO PARTS / AIRCRAFT PARTS	\$ 29,349	\$ 19,897	-32%
CONSUMABLE GOODS	\$ 14,360	\$ 22,861	59%
MEDICATIONS	\$ 1,575	\$ 496	-69%
PETS / ANIMALS	\$ 1,650	\$ -	-100%
SCHOOL SUPPLIES / OFFICE EQUIPMENT	\$ 2,220	\$ 2,570	16%
SERVICES	\$ -	\$ -	0%
AUTOMOBILES & OTHER VEHICLES (LAND, AIR, WATER)	\$ 329,254	\$ 482,242	46%
BICYCLES	\$ 18,153	\$ 19,310	6%
FIREARMS / FIREARM ACCESSORIES	\$ 5,332	\$ 6,170	16%
OTHER WEAPONS (SWORD, BB GUNS)	\$ 2,915	\$ 2,917	0%
MISCELLANEOUS / OTHER PROPERTY	\$ 27,451	\$ 122,485	346%
VIDEO GAMES	\$ 767	\$ 60	-92%
TOTAL LOSS	\$ 1,067,720	\$ 2,716,227	154%

*All percentages are rounded off.

2023 ARRESTS AND TRAFFIC CITATIONS

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
ARRESTS													
ADULT	105	114	84	98	92	90	99	111	111	90	87	98	1179
JUVI	2	5	7	3	2	2	1	5	4	4	5	1	41
ARRESTS BY GENDER													
FEMALE	23	28	24	16	29	17	25	29	30	33	25	25	304
MALE	84	91	67	85	65	75	75	87	85	61	67	74	916
TOTAL ARRESTS	107	119	91	101	94	92	100	116	115	94	92	99	1220
	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
TRAFFIC CITATIONS													
ADULT	96	96	80	72	78	58	91	97	96	87	82	84	1017
JUVI	6	4	4	1	5	1	1	6	4	6	3	2	43
TRAFFIC CITATIONS BY GENDER													
FEMALE	36	32	28	23	28	24	30	37	33	39	27	33	370
MALE	66	68	56	50	55	35	62	66	67	54	58	53	690
TOTAL CITATIONS	102	100	84	73	83	59	92	103	100	93	85	86	1060

2023

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	2022	2023
ASSURED CLEAR DISTANCE	99	101
CHILD RESTRAINTS	0	0
DRIVING UNDER INFLUENCE	67	81
DRIVING UNDER SUSPENSION	408	395
EQUIPMENT VIOLATIONS	9	16
EXPIRED OR MISSING VEHICLE PLATES	141	149
FAILURE TO CONTROL	92	78
FAILURE TO YIELD	103	119
FICTITIOUS PLATES	22	21
HIT / SKIP	6	20
IMPROPER LANE CHANGE	33	47
IMPROPER SIGNAL	10	14
IMPROPER TURN	3	12
JUVENILE PERMIT RESTRICTIONS	5	0
LOAD / WEIGHT VIOLATIONS	2	1
LOUD MUSIC FROM VEHICLE	0	0
NO OPERATORS LICENSE / EXPIRED LICENSE	301	337
PASSING	8	8
RECKLESS OPERATION	15	13
RIDE OUTSIDE VEHICLE	0	0
SCHOOL BUS VIOLATION	2	6
SEAT BELTS - DRIVER	6	5
SEAT BELTS - PASSENGER	3	3
SPEED	50	55
SQUEAL TIRES	3	2
STARTING / BACKING	29	42
TEXTING WHILE DRIVING	0	0
TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICE	60	60
WRONG WAY-ONE WAY	4	3
MISC. OFFENSES	27	32
TOTAL	1508	1620

2023 TRAFFIC CRASHES

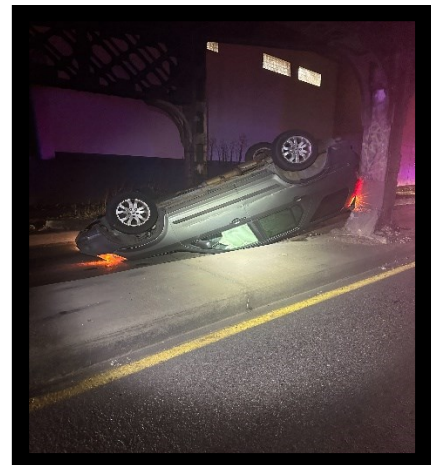
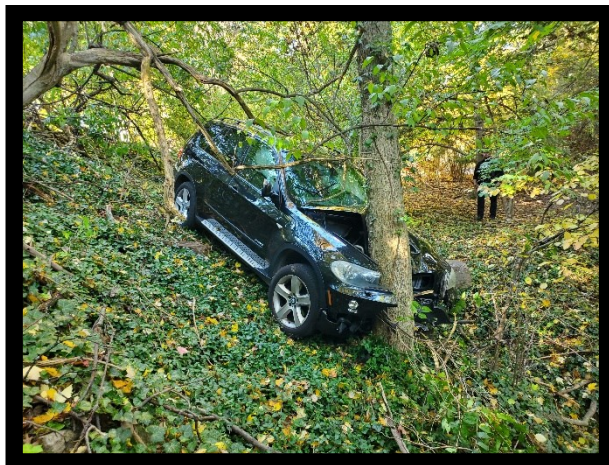
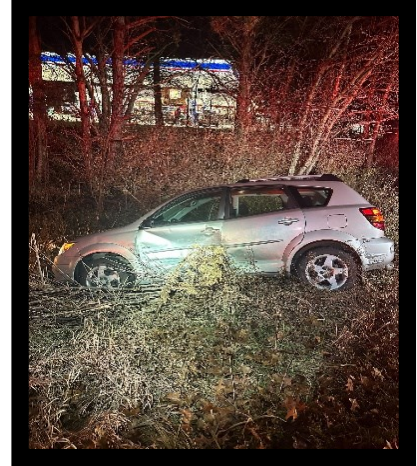
OFFICIAL					
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
JAN	48	39	39	39	45
FEB	39	42	28	45	31
MAR	33	29	35	45	31
APR	39	19	29	35	31
MAY	57	33	30	54	37
JUN	42	31	39	45	31
JUL	39	31	30	45	33
AUG	61	24	35	34	49
SEP	40	38	35	32	50
OCT	66	30	55	45	41
NOV	54	33	31	39	43
DEC	55	50	28	26	35
TOTALS	573	399	414	484	457

COURTESY					
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
JAN	2	1	2	2	1
FEB	2	1	3	3	4
MAR	4	1	1	3	3
APR	1	0	0	0	1
MAY	1	1	1	1	1
JUN	5	1	2	1	2
JUL	0	2	4	0	3
AUG	5	0	1	3	4
SEP	0	0	4	2	6
OCT	4	4	2	0	1
NOV	2	1	2	4	2
DEC	2	1	3	2	0
TOTALS	28	13	25	21	28

PERSONS INJURED					
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
JAN	7	10	11	9	4
FEB	11	6	4	5	6
MAR	8	1	8	7	2
APR	9	3	3	6	9
MAY	12	11	6	7	8
JUN	14	6	9	12	4
JUL	8	6	9	13	4
AUG	17	10	3	4	9
SEP	9	2	11	7	12
OCT	7	13	13	12	8
NOV	8	7	10	3	8
DEC	16	4	9	5	4
TOTALS	126	79	96	90	78
Fatal	1	0	1	1	0

PEDESTRIANS INJURED					
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
JAN	0	1	1	1	0
FEB	1	1	0	0	0
MAR	1	1	0	1	0
APR	1	0	0	0	1
MAY	0	1	0	1	0
JUN	0	0	1	0	1
JUL	0	0	1	1	0
AUG	1	0	0	1	2
SEP	1	0	1	1	1
OCT	0	0	3	2	0
NOV	3	1	0	0	2
DEC	3	0	1	0	0
TOTALS	11	5	8	8	7

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 2023, 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 School Threat Assessment, Arrest, Search and Seizure, Legal Updates, Ethics and Professionalism, Use of Force, the First Amendment, Trauma and the Brain, Impacting Narcotics in Ohio and several others. Our department also has implemented policy and roll call training into our daily operations via Lexipol. Additionally, 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 2023, we provided advanced training to officers on subjects such as Crisis Intervention Team training, Active Shooter Response, MX 908 Drug Testing Machine training, Public Records, Ohio Case Law, and others. We also trained on our Use of Force Simulator, and one officer completed over 740 hours of basic peace officer training. Finally, the department received First Responder Health, Wellness, and Fitness 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 2024 and beyond.