

Windom Police Department

ANNUAL REPORT

2020

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

Dear Mayor and City Council Members:

2020 was a challenging year for the Windom Police Department. We were faced with a pandemic and had to make changes in our daily operations to respond to COVID 19. I believe we responded to this challenge.

Due to COVID19 and Governor Walz's Executive Orders, we began wearing masks when inside public places. There was also an emphasis on sanitizing our squad cars and work areas to limit the exposure of the virus. As of this writing, we as a nation are still battling the virus and it is my hope that it is eradicated in 2021.

Two new officers joined WPD in 2020. Rebecca McPeak and Isaak Paulson filled vacancies within the department. We are excited to have them on our staff and look forward to watching their progress.

Several of our officers received crowd control training this past year. This was due to the civil unrest in the Twin Cities. We also purchased several items of equipment to help us respond to unrest, should the need arise in Windom.

Officer Ryan Hillesheim was awarded "Honorable Mention" for the MN DPS All-Star Team. We are proud of his accomplishment.

I would like to thank the Mayor and City Council for their support. I would also like to recognize School Resource Officer Dana Wallace and Records Clerk Deb Nesseth for their assistance in creating this report.

Sincerely,



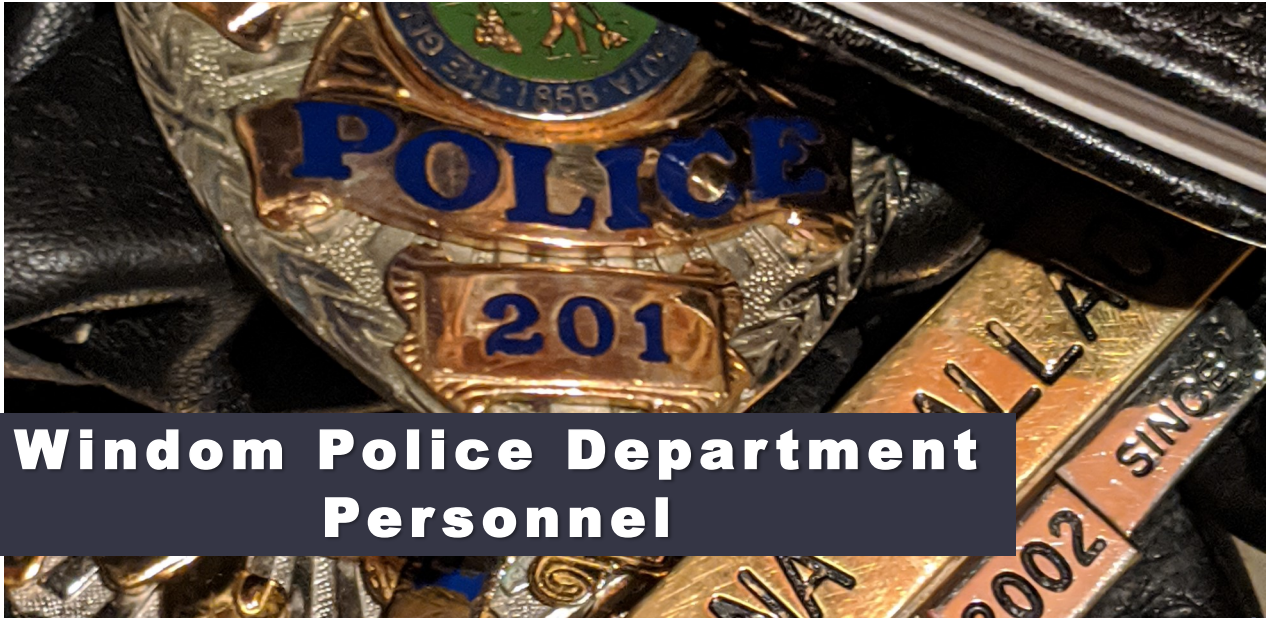
Scott Peterson, Chief of Police



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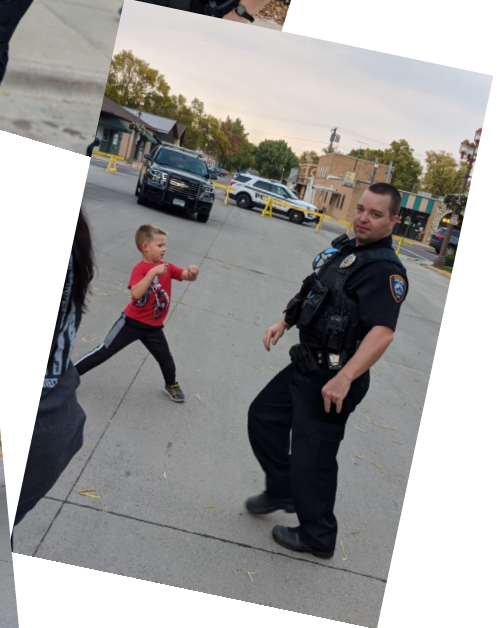
Windom Police Department Personnel

	Serving Since
Scott Peterson, Chief of Police	2011
Cory Hillesheim, Asst. Chief of Police	2009
Donna Marcy, Investigator	2001
Dana Wallace, SRO	2002
Louis Norell, K-9	2011
Devin Kopperud, HEAT	2014
Ryan Hillesheim	2019
Isaak Paulson	2020
Rebecca McPeak	2020
Debra Nesseth, Records	1986
Bruno, K-9	2019

Officers in the community



NIGHT TO
UNITE



STAY@HOME BIRTHDAY PARADES



VIRTUAL BIKE EDUCATION



Good Police Work in Action

Working Together

Officers work closely with partners such as the Des Moines Valley Health and Human Services and, by state statute, we share information regarding children in need of protection. A community tip to DVHHS along with information from the Cottonwood County Sheriff, led to a case where we found an infant in an apartment where meth and drug paraphernalia was found right next to the child. When officers entered the apartment, one of the occupants was using the infant as a shield as protection from the entering officers. As a result, 15 grams of meth and other drug paraphernalia were seized. The adults were charged with felony 2nd, 3rd and 5th degree Drug Possession and Child Endangerment

Officer Assaulted

A civil dispute over who had permission to drive a vehicle, almost turned deadly when the driver of the vehicle intentionally rammed the vehicle at his significant other and the responding Windom officer, who were standing on the front stoop. The vehicle only missed them by inches because the pillars on the front steps stopped the vehicles progress. After a struggle, the suspect was arrested for 1st degree assault of a Police Officer and 2nd Degree Assault with a dangerous weapon.

Stolen Firearms

When a neighboring county had a rash of burglaries, officers assisted with search warrants of several Windom residences. Numerous stolen items were recovered including seven firearms, weapons, coin collectibles, watches, swords, tools, drugs and drug paraphernalia. Three adults were arrested for various charges including possession and/or receiving stolen property, and drug crimes.



Officers at a Traffic Stop

100 MPH Pursuit and Crash

A benefit of working in small town area is we all work together to help of our local partner agencies. On a normally calm Sunday morning, a pursuit of a stolen vehicle was started by a State Patrol Trooper, traveling through Windom at speeds over 100 MPH. The lone Windom officer joined in to help the Trooper as the vehicle went to Bingham Lake out into the County and then finally ended up Mt Lake. County Deputies and Mt Lake squads came to assist as well. During the chase, officers were surprised when the passenger ejected himself out of the stolen car - while it was still moving. The suspect rammed a Mt. Lake squad car and eventually lost control in a ditch. Both the driver and passenger had existing warrants for their arrest, they were charged vehicle theft and fleeing in a motor vehicle.



Officers arrest driver on Highway 60

Good Police Work in Action

Drug Interdiction

Highway 60 has become a popular route for out of state drug sellers transporting their goods. A traffic stop for a minor traffic infraction of an out of state vehicle and good police work led to finding ½ lb of marijuana, several marijuana vaping cartridges and over \$2000 cash. The driver also had a felony warrant for their arrest. They were charged with 5th degrees drug sale and possession.

Traffic Investigations

Sometimes good investigations take time, interviews and multiple search warrants. One such example was the case of a 9 month investigation into an motor vehicle accident involving an intoxicated and reckless driver who failed to notify police of an accident that resulted in serious injuries to a passenger. These types of investigations are much easier to manage as Windom benefits from a full time Investigator. After all the interviews, search warrants and social media data analysis, the driver was charged for his crimes.



Community Tips

We always welcome a partnership with our community to help keep our community safe. A traffic stop after a community member reported a suspicious vehicle expanded into a drug seizure as officers searched the vehicle and found 76 grams of methamphetamine, over \$800 in cash, drug paraphernalia and marijuana inside the vehicle. One person was charged with 1st degree drug sales and 5th degree drug possession.

Scams

Another crime that is best handled by our full-time investigator, are fraud and scam crimes that sometimes involve complex banking records, coordination with other states or even other countries. This year, we had a large uptick in fraud and scam cases. For example, when one of our local senior residents, was scammed out of over \$16,000. Our investigator got involved the party was charged with Theft by Swindle and, in this case, the victim was able to recover their losses. Our senior citizens are some of the most vulnerable to these types of crimes as they are seen as more trusting and polite.

Often, there is not a positive outcome to scam cases reported to us, as many of them involve out-of-state/country scam rings and before we can get involved the money is already gone and can be hard to trace. These scams are difficult to prosecute and they can be devastating to our seniors and can leave them in a very vulnerable position leaving them in a very vulnerable position and embarrassed to report the crime.

Windom may be a small town, but our officers must still be prepared for any situation that happens in a big city but without all the extra resources, personnel and specialized units they have at their disposal. Windom is a relatively quiet and safe town where we tend to know our neighbors, but we still have to prepare and train for school shootings, drug smuggling on Highway 60, traffic stops that turn dangerous, pursuits, protests, and an increase in crisis mental illness calls.

Chief Scott Peterson has served since 2011 and is responsible for overseeing the entire department.

Assistant Chief Cory Hillesheim has served since 2009 and is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the department. He is our Crisis Intervention Training instructor.

Investigator Donna Marcy has served since 2001 She's been our full time investigator for the past two years and is a certified investigator by the BCA. She is responsible for investigations involving Gross Misdemeanors, Felonies along with child protection matters and vulnerable adult reports. She recently completed training on peer counseling.

Our officers serve in a variety of ways



ies along with child protection matters and vulnerable adult reports. She recently completed training on peer counseling.

School Resource Officer Dana Wallace has served since 2002 and has been assigned to the Windom Schools since 2013. She is a nationally certified School Resource Officer Practitioner and is our Conflict Resolution Instructor

K-9 Officer Louis Norell has served since 2011. His partner, Bruno, joined us in 2019. Louis also is our firearms and Pepper ball instructor.

Officer Devin Kopperud has been with us since 2014. He is our primary Field Training Officer. He is also our Taser, Less Lethal and Defensive Tactics instructor. He serves on the regional H.E.A.T. (High Risk Entry and Arrest Team). The past year, he completed his SWAT training at St. Cloud and is a full member of the H.E.A.T. team.

Officer Ryan Hillesheim joined us in 2019 .

Officer Isaak Paulson and Rebecca McPeak just joined us in 2020.

Legal Secretary Deb Nesseth has been managing our office since 1986. She does the hard work of keeping all the paperwork, and officers, organized.



News from the Field

This year was another year of personnel changes as we hired two, excellent, young officers, Officer Rebecca McPeak and Officer Isaak Paulson.



Officer McPeak was a Community Service Officer in Cottage Grove and graduate of Normandale Community College and Hennepin Technical School.

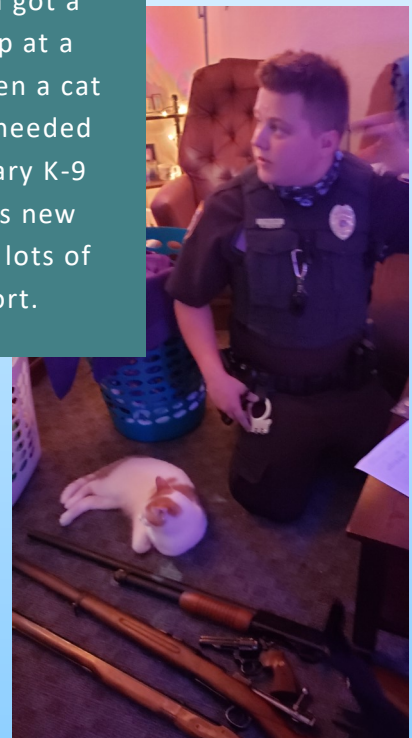
Officer Paulson, a local Windom graduate, is a graduate of Minnesota West and a Dispatcher prior to starting his career with us.

They both passed their FTO training periods earlier in the year and are both hard-working officers making a difference in our community.



In February, the Windom PD and the City Council presented Officer Ryan Hillesheim with a Lifesaving Award for saving the life of an 18-month old child who wasn't breathing

Officer Paulson got a little extra help at a crime scene, when a cat decided that it needed to be an honorary K-9 and decided his new partner needed lots of moral support.



K-9 Update



This last year the K9 Unit continued to be a great asset to the Windom Police Department and also to multiple surrounding agencies. These agencies included Mt. Lake Police Department, Cottonwood County Sheriff's Office, Jackson County Sheriff's Office, State Patrol, BLR Drug Task Force, and Cottonwood County Drug Task Force. The team was used for a variety of purposes including tracking, drug de-

tection for traffic stops and search warrants, and assisting with potential violent incidents.

One of the incidents the team was deployed for was for a search warrant arrest for a suspect who had a history of being a violent domestic abuser, assaultive towards police, burglar, and drug user. The suspect was on parole from prison and suspect of violating conditions and violating a domestic abuse no contact order with the prior victim. Our agency had made several attempts to locate the suspect over several weeks.

After receiving a tip that the suspect was at his residence, a search warrant was issued to enter the home to make the arrest. Several announcements were made identifying the officers of their presence and asking the suspect to come out, but there was no response. After about a minute of no response and no noise being heard, Officer Norell announced that the K9 would be sent in and the suspect would be bitten if the suspect didn't come out. The suspect called out that he was going to surrender after hearing the K9 announcement. The suspect was peacefully arrested after he exited the home.

This incident shows how just the presence of the K9 Unit allows for de-escalating potentially violent scenarios and protecting officers from having to enter unknown areas that could be a safety risk.

~K-9 Officer Louis Norell



K-9 TEAM NUMBERS

- 20+ DEPLOYMENTS/
K-9 ASSISTS
- 2 SCHOOL SEARCHES
- 2 K-9 DEMOS

School Resource Officer Update

This is my 8th year as a School Resource Officer assigned to Windom Area Schools and what a year it was!

This year was a year of constant change and adjustment with the abrupt changes to distance learning.

I went from a full time SRO to a full time Patrol Officer who also did SRO duties.

One of the main things I did while kids were in distance learning was conducting home visits with kids who were having trouble with the change to virtual school. Sometimes, it was as simple as a friendly, morning wake up call, or taking the time to teach a guardian how to use the technology their young kids brought home. These visits were coordinated with the school administration to figure out the best ways to help all our students succeed.

All of my normal, in-person classes, switched to virtual classes beaming into the homes of the students or into the classrooms. With the help of the Windom Hospital, we created a humorous but informative bike safety video for the community along with the bike/helmet give-away.

I work with a great school staff and administration and I couldn't do this job without their great support! ~SRO Dana Wallace



Virtual DARE



5th graders teaching me to play the recorder



Bullying Lessons



Reading Time



Bike Giveaway



Notes from Officers

Officer Ryan Hillesheim

I love to see an active community. People going out to eat, people enjoying entertainment, people shopping, children playing on playgrounds, and people fishing are some of the few things that I love to see with an active community. However, Covid-19 put a damper on people "living". With government ordinance, communities such as the City of Windom became a "ghost town". The community was affected by the virus. People were getting sick and also the surrounding areas of the City of Windom; people were dying from the virus. Police Officers along with the rest of the general population were saddened by the outburst of the virus. The virus has made an impact on people's lives.

However, 2020 was also a good year for the City of Windom. I could not be happier with the citizens of City of Windom. There was very little of crime that has happened in the City of Windom compared around the world as we see on the media. Citizens within the City of Windom are extremely easy to work with as they support Law Enforcement.

I made an impact within the City of Windom. I have protected the streets from impaired drivers. I was honored as a DWI-Allstar in the year of 2020. I will continue to make a difference in the community; protecting and serving for the City of Windom.



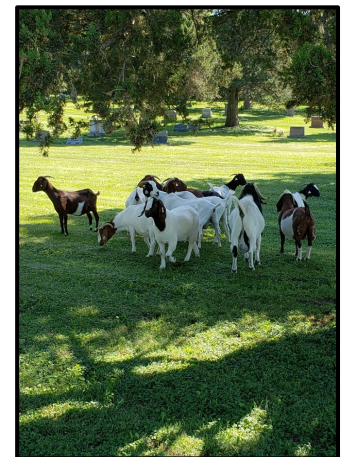
Investigator Donna Marcy

Wow, what a crazy year! Having a pandemic may have slowed things down a little in the business world, however, my case totals were over 250, which is still a significant amount and has kept me very busy.

Police Officers are essential and come to work each day, I believe, with the intent to make the communities they serve better than the day before. Officers take an oath that very few people in the general population would be willing to take. Even prior to the pandemic and George Floyd incident, I was involved in an assault from a member of our community. Thankfully, neither myself nor the suspect were injured, and my call for help was answered quickly. (A huge amount of thanks goes to Cottonwood County Dispatcher Dan Quade).

I know I am not the only Officer that has been assaulted this past year in Windom. Their stories are not for me to tell, but the dangers we face should be made known... and most often we are facing dangers while working alone. I believe there is a huge amount of support in this community for Law Enforcement and for this I thank you. We are here for you and will be ever ready to answer our next call.

One of my most unusual calls of the year came on July 16th at 1030. A herd of goats was wondering around in Lakefield Cemetery. We were eventually able to find the owner of the goats, who called to the goats "get over here". The goats then followed the owner all the way home!



Have a magnificent year!

Keen observers of the Police Department noted that our newest squad car looks a lot different this year. We leased a new Ford F150 Police Responder®, a pursuit rated, purpose-built police truck, for patrol. This replaces our 2015 Ford Explorer.

All our patrol squads are rotated every four years. The new truck allows officers to be higher up making it easier to see traffic violations such as cell phone violations, it handles our brutal winter conditions better, we can haul around the speed trailer, allows quick access to equipment with the split rear seat compartment and it is easier to transport lost bikes and large equipment.

The truck has a 3.5L Ecoboost engine and it is more comfortable for the officers to spend in on a patrol shift.



The Windom Police Department continued its partnership in 2020 with the Southwest Co-Op in providing foot patrols for the Alternative Learning Center.

Officers spend approximately 30 minutes per day at the school. As part of this process, we can build relationships with students and staff. The patrols have resulted in a diminished amount of calls to the school..

The City of Windom is reimbursed by the school for the time spent there. We hope to continue this partnership in the future.

Records Report

DATA & TRENDS

2020

We had another eventful year with Police records. The department has been able to get comfortable using the new MN National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS). The FBI had set a firm date of January 1st, 2021 for all agencies in the United States to be transitioned to the NIBRS-only data collection. The process involves the officer's first-hand information that they get at the scene of a crime to include in this report that goes to the National Based Reporting System. This accurate and complete crime information helps provide criminal justice partners information they need to do their jobs and ultimately can help make communities safer.

There is no doubt that COVID-19 make a difference at our jobs for the Windom Police Department this year. We had lower numbers of some crimes and activity, including school crime because of schools' distance learning for several months in 2020. Our accident numbers, some months, were the lowest they've ever been in over five years due to the Governor's Emergency Executive Order to stay home. We experienced, in the spring, two accidents in Windom the whole month of April, 2020. We did have an increase in Permits to Purchase Handguns, a five-year high in 2020.

Because of COVID-19 safe distancing concerns, I spent time working in our Records Room in the basement, which has very productive results. I cleaned out a decade of records, resulting in 57 storage boxes and 10 years of case file data being shredded.

Lastly, I want to wish the best of luck to Kristi Meyeraan, formally with the Cottonwood County Attorney's Office and the Windom City Attorney's Office, as she continues her professional career. Our Department's working relationship with Kristi over the years was very helpful and beneficial, and we appreciated the assistance she provided to our officers and administrative staff.

Sincerely,



Deb Nesseth, Legal Secretary



The screenshot shows the 'Mobile CAD' interface. At the top, it says 'On Duty' and 'Cottonwood (Personal)'. Below this is a table of incident details:

Call Time	CAD Unit	#	Incident Code	Inter
06/27/20 21:17	111	6025	TRAFFIC STOP	Inter
06/27/20 21:10		4069	Public Assist	ASHLE
06/27/20 21:08	30	4069	ASSIST-AGEN...	Inter
06/27/20 20:55	386	4067	PATROLS	Inter
06/27/20 20:47	74, 79	6023	DRIV COMPL	Inter
06/27/20 18:31	JFD	4061	INFORMATION	76748

Below the table, there is a section for 'On Duty 1 (Personal)' with a table of personnel status:

Personnel	Agency	CAD Unit	Status	D
Hillesheim, ...	WPD	2097	On Duty	(507) 2
Wallace, ...	WPD	201*	On Duty	(507) 8

RECORDS AND STATS

Crimes and Arrests **13**

Top Call Types **14**

Traffic Related **15**

Calls for Service/10
Year Trends **16**



Criminal Cases Adult Arrests Juvenile Arrests 2020 Criminal Cases - Adult Arrests - Juvenile Arrests			
38	27	2	Assault (All Degrees) & Threats of Violence
10	1		Burglary
27	6		Check Fraud, Issuance of Dishonored Checks, Theft by Swindle, Forgery, Identity Theft, etc.
20	8		Crimes Against Administration of Justice (Including Obstructing Legal Process, Falsely Reporting a Crime, False Name to Police Officer, Sex Offender-Fail to Change Address, Release Order Violation, Violation of Protection Order, Harassment and Danco Order, Probation Violation, etc.)
7	5		Crimes Against Family (Malicious Punishment of a Child & Child Endangerment)
2	1		Crimes Against Government (Intent to Escape Tax)
39	1		Criminal Damage to Property (All Degrees)
10	7	1	Disorderly Conduct
47	40	2	Drug Violations (Including Possession Small Amount of Marijuana and Possession Drug Paraphernalia, Controlled Substance Possession, Controlled Substance Sale, all degrees, etc.)
3		3	Emergency Powers Violations
1	1		Escape-Fleeing an Officer not with Motor Vehicle
14	1		Harassing Communication/Interference with 911 Call, Disturbing the Peace & Stalking
39	49		Liquor Violations (Including DUI's, Misd., Gross & Felony, Minor Consumption, Underage Drink & Drive, Open Bottle & Disruptive Intoxication, etc.)
6	1		Property-Other (Including Property Offenses, Disturbing the Peace, Trespass, etc.)
11	11		Receiving Stolen Property
7	1	2	Sex Offenses (Criminal Sexual Conduct-all degrees, Child Pornography)
1	1		Tampering with Motor Vehicle
		1	Terroristic Threats
71	3		Theft (All degrees)
2	1		Theft (Shoplifting)
5			Theft (Vehicle)
3			Recovered Vehicles
77	46		Traffic-Misdemeanor / Gross Misdemeanor Traffic & Hit & Runs
1	1		Unlawful Burning
2	1		Weapons-Transporting Loaded Firearms & Reckless Handling of Dangerous Weapons
3			Weapons-Fireworks-Discharging
25		4	Juvenile Violators/Runaways
1		1	Tobacco Violations
		6	Traffic (other than simple Juvenile Traffic Incidents)
472	213	22	

*Arrests Data - Represents the number of arrest charges per offense, not the number of individual cases (ex. One person charged with three offenses would count as three arrest charges)



Top 5 Criminal Cases 2020

- 77 -Traffic Violations (Misd, GM, H+R)
- 71- Theft
- 47 - Drug Related
- 39 - Criminal Damage to Property
- 38 - Assaults

Top 5 Adult Arrests 2020

- 49 - Liquor Violations
- 49 - Traffic Violations (Misd,GM, H+R)
- 40 - Drug Related Offense
- 27 - Assaults/Terroristic Threats
- 11 - Receiving Stolen Property

Top 3 Juvenile Arrests 2020

- 6 - Juvenile Traffic
- 4- Juvenile Runaway
- 3- Emergency Powers Violation

We saw a substantial increase in drug and liquor violations and theft crimes.

A sizeable decrease in assaults, fraud, crimes against the administration of justice, and disturbing the peace crimes.

Top 5 Criminal Cases 2019

- 77 -Traffic Violations (Misd, GM, H+R)
- 66 -Assault/Terroristic Threats
- 58 -Fraud, Forgery, Theft by Swindle
- 51 -Theft
- 32 - Liquor Violations

Top 5 Criminal Cases 2018

- 96 -Traffic Violations (Misd, GM, H+R)
- 57- Liquor Violations (DUI's, etc)
- 50 - Drug Related
- 47 - Assaults/Terroristic Threats
- 42 - Criminal Damage to Property

Top 5 Adult Arrests 2019

- 43 -Fraud, Forgery, Theft by Swindle
- 38 -Traffic Violations (Misd, GM, H+R)
- 32 -Assaults/Terroristic Threats
- 28 -Liquor Violations (DUI's, etc)
- 19 -Drug Related Violations

Top 5 Adult Arrests 2018

- 57 - Traffic Violations (Misd,GM, H+R)
- 57 - Drug Related Offense
- 45 - Liquor Violations (DUI's, etc)
- 24 - Assaults/Terroristic Threats
- 16 - Crimes against the Administration of Justice

Top 3 Juvenile Arrests 2019

- 15 -Assaults
- 9 -Drug Related Offenses
- 6 -Disorderly Conduct

Top 3 Juvenile Arrests 2018

- 14 -Liquor Violations ((DUI's, Underage)
- 6 -Disorderly Conduct
- 4 -Sex Offenses

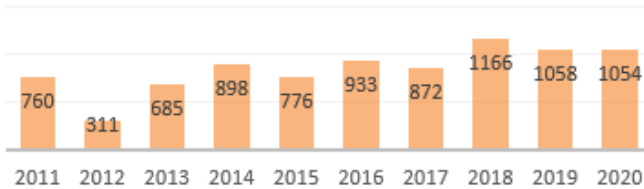
2020	Citations	2019
146	Moving Tickets	148
33	Non-Moving Tickets	3
875	Warnings (Verbal/Written)	907
1054	Total Warnings and Tickets	1058

2020	Driving Under Influence	2019
22	Misdemeanor	7
9	Gross Misd/Felony	14
31	Total DUI's	21
0	Underage Drink/Drive	0

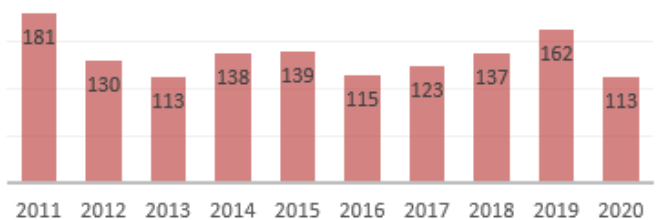
2020	Accident/Injuries	2019
113	Total Accidents	162
4	Persons Injured	7
0	Fatalities	0



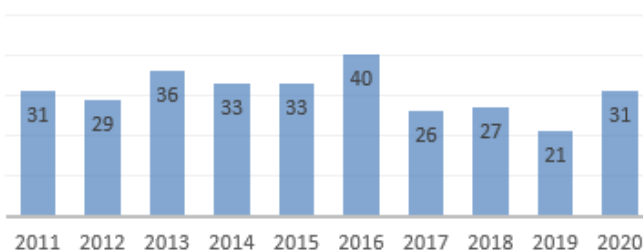
10 yr Total Traffic Citations and Warnings



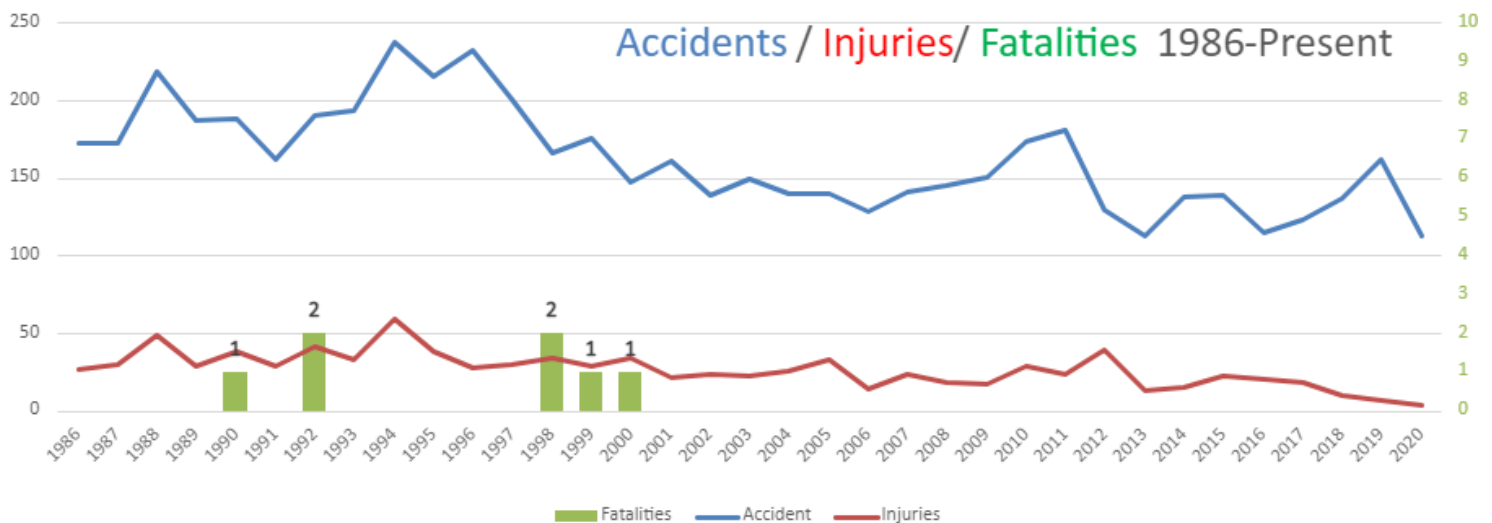
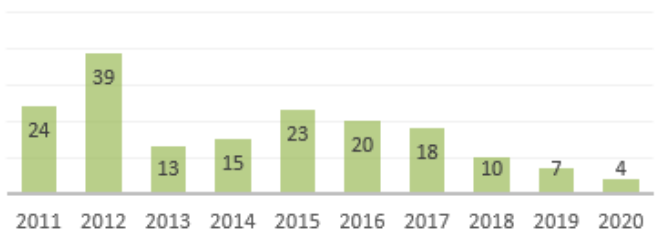
10 yr Total Accidents



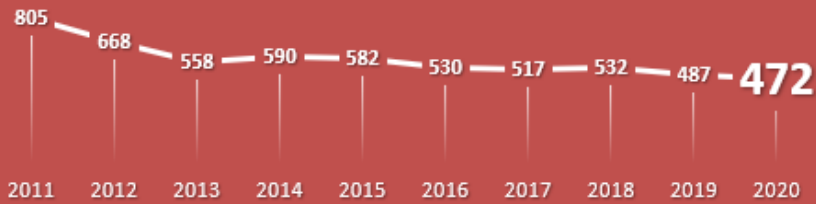
10 yr DUI Arrests



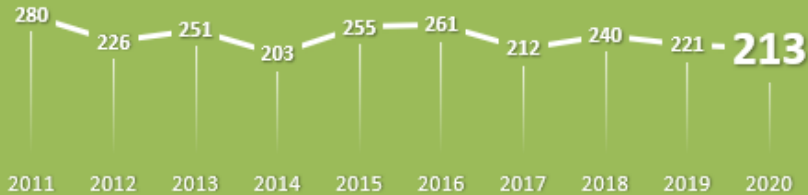
10 Yr Persons Injured in Motor Vehicle Accidents



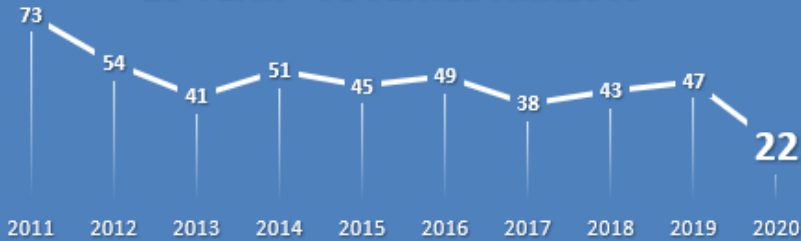
10 YEAR - TOTAL CRIMINAL CASES



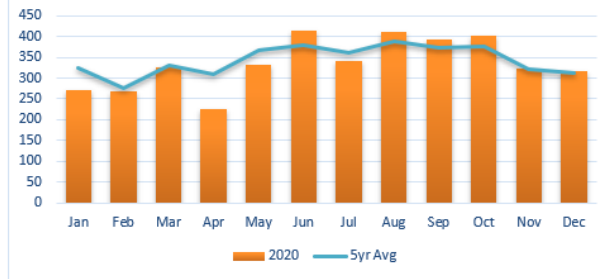
10 YEAR - ADULT ARRESTS



10 YEAR - JUVENILE ARRESTS



Police Service Calls by Month compared to 5 year average



A major decrease in juvenile crime, especially Assaults, can be attributed to the large portion of the year with no in-person learning.

Other Police Activity

Misc. activity that the officers have made reports on.

	2020	Change	2019
Ambulance Assists	272	59	213
Assist Other Agency	52	-65	117
Concern for Welfare	85	-10	95
Dogs/Cats Impounded	28	-17	45
Disturbances	104	27	77
*Domestic Disturbances	72	17	55
Funeral Escorts	52	-2	54
False Alarms	45	-8	53
Lost/Found/Recovered Property	36	9	27
Mental (Inc. Suicidal, etc)	20	4	16
Miscellaneous (Includes Informational Calls, Exchange of Information with other Depts, etc)	260	1	259
Missing, Lost or Runaways	41	15	26
Prowlers, Suspicious Persons/Activity Window Peepers, etc.	198	1	197
Public Assists/Misc. Public	194	-54	248
Traffic- Hit and Run Accidents	32	2	30
Vacation Home Requests	4	2	2

10% decrease
in total Calls for
Service vs last year

Yearly Calls for Service



All records are correct as of Dec 31, 2020
Records and Data Collection: Deb Nesseth
Editing and Design: Dana Wallace