

# WICKLIFFE POLICE DEPARTMENT

## 2023 Annual Report



*Lt. Bush, Chief Ice, Lt. McCaffery*



*Lt. Bush, (retired) Lt. Valko, Chief Ice*



*Celebrating the Leadership and Dedication of Chief Randy Ice as he retires from the City of Wickliffe with over 35 years of service*

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

Mission Statement .....	1
Core Values .....	1
Letter of Introduction .....	2
Commendation Letters .....	6
Organizational Chart .....	16
Department Roster .....	17
Auxiliary Police Roster and Activity Report .....	18
School Guard Roster .....	18
Cash Sheet .....	19
Year End Report .....	20
Detective Bureau Report .....	21
Detective Bureau Summary .....	24
Police Activity Report .....	25
Arrests/Citations by Officer .....	26
Jail Report .....	27
Naloxone Report .....	27
Intoxilyzer 8000 .....	28
Accident Summary .....	29
School Resource Officer Report .....	31
Bicycle Patrol Unit .....	32
K9 Unit .....	33
Emergency Response Team (ERT) .....	35
Northern Ohio Violent Fugitive Task Force .....	36
Community Policing.....	37
Training .....	45
Schools and Seminars .....	47
Police Vehicle Inventory .....	49

### MISSION STATEMENT

To provide the public with effective and professional law enforcement while treating all people with dignity and respect.

### CORE VALUES

#### Honesty

Honesty is demonstrated over time and in a variety of situations. It is a series of behaviors that the officer has demonstrated over time that has gained the trust of others through establishing himself/herself as straightforward and sincere. This credibility has been developed through the absence of such counter-productive behaviors as: rationalizations, forgetfulness, and shading the truth. The officer is willing to admit fault and correct mistakes as quickly as possible.

#### Sense of Urgency

The officer assertively approaches tasks or situations with immediate action. A sense of urgency is demonstrated most obviously by the officer's prompt response to all calls for service. Officers should possess a sense of urgency about completing investigations, conducting follow-ups, returning phone calls, responding to pages, etc. The officer approaches all aspects of the job in an eager manner.

#### Attention to Detail

Attention to detail is demonstrated by a constant awareness to the myriad of variables that come into play due to the nature of the job. This attention to detail not only serves as a defense mechanism (e.g., recognition of the 10 deadly errors) but also drives the officer to strive for perfection in each task the officer performs. This attention to detail ensures that all tasks are completed correctly the first time; including filling out and completing forms and reports.

#### Team Oriented

A team-oriented individual realizes that each officer contributes to the group effort; however, it is the collective efforts of the members that assures the overall goals of the Wickliffe Police Department are achieved. The officer works with others as a team member and strives not for individual recognition but for the recognition of the group. Team players demonstrate this value by providing back-up and offering assistance to others without being told or asked.

#### Professionalism

The officer who exhibits professionalism does so by performing his/her duties in an exemplary manner for others to follow. By possessing this skill and experience, he/she has made a commitment to excellence. Specific traits that the professional officer demonstrates include punctuality, courtesy, politeness, compassion, respect for others, and projects a well-groomed and able image.

#### Adaptability

The adaptable officer can quickly adjust and perform job duties in extreme, unknown, and ever-changing conditions. This officer anticipates change and promptly adapts. Adaptability is characteristic of officers who are able to prioritize and handle many tasks simultaneously through the use of divided attention skills. The officer is able to compromise and follow through to the successful completion of a task.

#### Self-Discipline

The self-disciplined officer has an internal control system that allows him/her to function independently without constant supervision. This officer is accountable for his/her actions. The focused officer recognizes the job that needs to be done and does it well, regardless of how "unpleasant" it may be. He/she is not unduly influenced by outside factors which may be a detriment to job responsibilities. Self-discipline allows the officer to project the positive image of and respect for the department at all times.

#### Performance Driven

The officer is driven to work hard as evidenced by the quantity and quality of services provided to the public. The officer strives to stay busy throughout his/her shift; continually looking for ways to support the objectives of the department. The performance driven officer effectively uses traffic enforcement and criminal arrests to save lives and to protect the public.

#### Officer Safety

The safety conscious officer demonstrates a high level of awareness in every situation. Through this awareness the officer realizes the potential risks associated with the job (e.g., recognition of the 10 deadly errors). He/she is proactive so as to guard himself/herself, as well as others, from potential dangers. He/she is physically fit enabling the officer to meet the demands of the job. Officer safety is predicated on the willingness of an individual to improve his/her skills through training.

#### Leadership

A leader is someone who consistently exhibits the core values of this organization and is willing to take command of situations, when appropriate. Although leadership is expected of supervisors, every officer can demonstrate leadership by selflessly taking the responsibility to lead in difficult situations. Leadership is also the ability to stand up for what is right, alone if necessary, even when the decision is not "popular".



### LETTER OF INTRODUCTION

*Police Chief Bush*

I respectfully submit this volume of reports and activities transacted by the Wickliffe Police Department for the calendar year 2023.

The statistical reports, graphs, and charts contained in this annual report show the patterns of crime, incidents and other activities responded to by the police department this year. We track a series of 13 categories of serious crimes from year to year to compare crime trends in Wickliffe. When looking at the trends over the last 5 years, 2023 crime has stayed consistent or decreased; however, this year 5 categories experienced an increase from 2022: Rape/Sex was up from 7 to 11 cases, Assaults were up from 24 to 29 cases, Thefts increased from 142 to 181 cases, Vehicle Thefts increased from 18 to 50 and Domestic Violence increased from 51 to 58 cases. Categories which saw a decrease in activity include Weapons which were down 17%, Narcotics which decreased 28%, Burglary/B&E decreased 23%, and Fraud decreased 28%. Murder, Attempted Murder, and Robbery remained steady at zero. The largest increase was theft of vehicles. This has been a national trend due to the ease of which two car manufacturer's vehicle designs allowed their vehicles to be started without keys. This ease of theft was then made worse by the social media platform, TikTok, being used to demonstrate how to steal a car and then teens creating a TikTok challenge to steal the vehicles. Our department contacted both vehicle manufacturers and we were provided steering wheel locks (clubs), that we provided to our residents free of charge if they owned a Hyundai or Kia.



*Chief Ice celebrates his retirement of 35 years with his lovely bride (right) and his secretary (left)*

There were a number of significant incidents in 2023 and I will highlight a couple:

- In February, a tragic incident occurred at a residence on Ridgeview. An 18-year-old was making homemade fireworks when he accidentally caused an explosion in his garage. The explosion destroyed the garage, damaged surrounding homes, and tragically killed the young man. Detectives worked with many law enforcement agencies during the lengthy investigation and it was determined to be an accident.
- In June, a patrolman attempted to stop a motorcycle/dirt bike that we had numerous reports of reckless driving in the area of Ridgewick and along Euclid Ave. The driver was observed doing wheelies and weaving in and out of traffic and fled upon the officer attempting to stop him. This pursuit was eventually terminated for safety reasons. The next day another officer again observed the driver doing wheelies down Euclid Ave and driving recklessly. The officer attempted to stop him and he again fled. This pursuit was also eventually called off due to safety concerns when the driver drove the wrong way down a one-way street in Euclid. The driver was observed using his cell phone to videotape officers during these pursuits. Our detectives, searching social media, eventually identified the suspect and he was arrested at his residence on Ridgewick. He was charged with numerous felony fleeing charges and was convicted in Lake County Common Pleas. We are continuing to see the trend of the disrespect of law enforcement with the increase in these refusals to stop when being pulled over. Wickliffe officers were involved in 63 high speed motor vehicle pursuits with the majority of them being terminated due to the increased risk to the officer and the public. Every high-speed pursuit is investigated fully to bring the perpetrator to justice.



- In August, Officers responded to a Ridgewick condo for a report of a male discharging a handgun into the air and then retreating into the residence. The male refused to come outside when ordered to and a standoff ensued with the Western Lake County ERT responding. After approximately 5 hours the male eventually exited and was taken into custody. The male is currently in federal custody after being charged with federal weapons under disability.

The police department staffing saw significant change in 2023 with the retirement of 5 officers. In January, Det. Dondrea (28 years of service) and Det. Moreland (31 years of service) retired and took positions with the Lake County Narcotics Agency. In March, Patrolman Brenner retired after 31 years of service. Patrolman Shum retired in August after serving for 32 years and finally, after serving the City of Wickliffe for 35 years and leading the department as the Chief of Police for 16 of those years, Chief Randy Ice retired. All of these officers will be greatly missed. These retirements created the need for entry level patrolmen positions and the promotion to Sergeant, to Lieutenant, and Chief of Police. After the promotional process was completed, Det. Cook was promoted to Det. Sergeant and Sgt. Krivacic was promoted to Lieutenant. In October, I took over leading the department as the Chief of Police. Throughout the year we were continually recruiting and interviewing candidates for entry patrolman and we have been fortunate enough to hire 4 officers throughout the year. Patrolman Snyder was hired in January and has since completed his field training and is in solo patrol. Patrolman Ours was hired in February and was sent to the Tri-C Police Academy. He has since completed his field training and is in solo patrol. Patrolman Sieminski was hired in March, completed the field training program, and is currently in solo patrol. The Civil Service Commission decided to try the Lateral Entry process for patrolman and in October Patrolman Dodds, who came from the Eastlake Police Department, was hired. Ptl. Dodds was able to go through an abbreviated field training program and he is currently in solo patrol. We are presently two patrol officers short and are in the process of hiring. In late 2022 we completed fundraising for our K9 program and K9 Bane and his handler Ptl. Merrifield completed their first full year of service as a team. This program could not have been possible without the generous donations numerous people and businesses made, especially Truline Industries and their owner, Court Durkalski, who made a substantial donation.



*Detectives Moreland and Dondrea retire after a combined total of 59 years of service*



*Det. Sgt Cook, Chief Bush, Lt. Krivacic are sworn-in on September 25, 2023*

Funding for the day-to-day operations of the police department is through the cities safety fund which generates money through a voter approved levy and the general fund. Ninety-five percent of the money allocated to the police department from city council supports general operations and about five percent is used for equipment and technology needs of the police department. Financing the equipment needs of the police department is completed through two separate funding mechanisms; the capital improvement fund and the Law Enforcement Trust Fund. This year we purchased one marked Ford SUV police interceptor

and equipment to fully outfit this vehicle for road patrol. City Council approved the purchase to revamp the camera system throughout the police department, city hall, and in some of the parks. This equipment was ordered; however, due to production delays the project was just started in 2024. Additional items purchased through the capital improvement fund include computer upgrades, detective bureau equipment, and emergency response team equipment. The Law Enforcement Trust Fund was used for purchasing additional fitness equipment for the police department gym as well as training schools.

The Wickliffe Police Department continues to participate in regional teams in Lake and Cuyahoga Counties which provides our department with additional support skills while defraying the cost of these specialized skills. The Western Lake County Emergency Response team (SWAT) consist of police officers from Wickliffe, Willowick, Willoughby, Eastlake, Willoughby Hills, and Kirtland. This team was formed in 1988 with eight officers from Wickliffe and Willowick and now has an active compliment of over twenty officers who train once a month for eight hours. Additionally, the entire ERT participates in two weeks of training in the spring and fall to further solidify their consistent application of tactics needed to safely resolve dangerous situations. The Lake County Crash Reconstruction Team was formed in 2011 by Lieutenant Robert Gonzalez of the Eastlake Police Department to fill the need for more sophisticated accident reconstructions skills to accurately document serious accidents. Wickliffe currently has three officers assigned to the accident reconstruction team who are required to attend all training events and maintain their proficiency in accident reconstruction. Another regional team we participate in is the U.S. Marshals Northern Ohio Violent Fugitive Task Force. This team is tasked with finding and arresting fugitives who have warrants for their arrest in the



*Former SWAT members celebrate Ptl. Shum's retirement*



*Ptl. Shum and Chief Ice celebrate their retirements*



*Supporting one of our own*



# WICKLIFFE POLICE DEPARTMENT

## 2023 Annual Report



*Ptl. Snyder, Ptl. Ours, Ptl. Miozzi, and Ptl. Sieminski  
are sworn-in on January 23, 2023*

northern portion of Ohio. We have one detective assigned to the task force whose commitment is one day a week when needed. Our police department has benefited from our participation on this team as suspects who have committed serious crime in Wickliffe have been arrested by this task force.

In 2023 our community policing program was in full swing. We continued the Shop-With-A-Cop, working with the Wickliffe public schools to select a group of ten students who are taken on a Christmas shopping spree where they purchase gifts for family members. After a limousine ride to and from Target, the students return to the police department for a pizza party and wrapping of gifts with the help of police employees. Each

year A-1 Mr. Limo and Petti's Pizza donate their time and food for this event. Donations to purchase the gifts came from monetary donations from the Wickliffe Eagles and Truline Industries.

We look forward to 2024 and continuing our collaborative efforts to enhance public safety, strengthen community relationships, and foster a safer and more vibrant Wickliffe for all residents.

I would like to thank Mayor Sakacs and members of City Council for their continued support of the men and women of the Wickliffe Police Department. This support has been instrumental in enabling various projects and programs to flourish, ultimately contributing to the betterment of our community. A special thank you to retired Chief Ice for his leadership and guidance throughout the years. The entire department sends our best wishes to him and his family on this new chapter in their lives.



*Our first lateral transfer, Ptl. Dodds is sworn-in by Mayor Sakacs*

Congratulations and best wishes to our 2023 retirees



*Chief Ice*



*Det. Moreland*



*Det. Dondrea*



*Ptl. Shum*



*Ptl. Brenner*



*Disp. Hirz*



## WICKLIFFE POLICE DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM

To: Chief Ice  
From: Sgt. Sopko  
Ref: Commendations for the arrest of Dante Jordan  
Date: January 18, 2023

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Chief Ice,

I wanted to take a moment and recognize several officers and a dispatcher for their outstanding teamwork which resulted in the arrest of Dante Jordan. On the evening of 1/15/2023, a resident returned to their home at approx. 2000 hrs and found their house had been burglarized. **Ptl. Bischof**, **Ptl. Didona** and **Ptl. Rosen** investigated the crime and processed the scene. During the investigation, they obtained a detailed description of stolen items from the home and collected several pieces of evidence. One key piece of evidence that was recovered was a shoe print in the snow directly in front of the suspect's point of entry into the home. Upon researching the distinct tread pattern of the shoe, **Ptl. Rosen** was able to identify the exact type shoe that the suspect was wearing at the time of the burglary. **Ptl. Bischof** also spoke with a neighbor and obtained a description of a suspicious vehicle that was parked at the home during the exact time frame that the crime was committed.

At approx. 0432 hrs on 1/16/2023, **Ptl. Bischof** was patrolling the parking lot of a hotel in the city when he located a parked vehicle that was identical to the reported suspicious vehicle that was at the home during the time of the burglary. Upon viewing the interior of the vehicle, the officers observed in plain view some of the items that were reported stolen during the burglary. All of the night shift officers, including **Ptl. Ankuda**, were at the hotel for a lengthy amount of time in attempt to try and locate the suspect. **Disp. Johnson** did extensive research on the vehicle, which was registered to a business, and she was able to identify the owner of the business. Upon searching further, she found that Dante Jordan was the son of the business owner and that he currently had an outstanding arrest warrant for burglary. In addition, it was also learned that the same vehicle was believed to be involved in another recently burglary in a nearby city.

On the following dayshift, **Ptl. Smith** was assisting the detective bureau at the hotel. At approx. 1119 hrs on 1/16/2023, he observed Dante Jordan exit the hotel. Within seconds, a foot chase ensued and **Ptl. Smith** observed Jordan attempt to discard a firearm. **Ptl. Smith** was assisted by several officers, including **Ptl. Peacock**, in catching Jordan and taking him into custody. When Jordan was taken into custody, he was wearing the same distinct shoes that were worn at the time of the burglary. In addition, Jordan was also wearing a coat that was reported stolen during the burglary.

Upon further investigation, officers were able to locate all of the reported stolen items from the burglary. One of the main items that was stolen during the burglary, a video game system, was found in the possession of Jordan's female acquaintance who was with him at the hotel.

The arrest of this burglary suspect less than 24 hours after the crime occurred would not have been possible without all of the officers and dispatcher working together as a team. Each one of the officers and dispatcher did an outstanding job and I commend each of them on their teamwork, dedication and attention to detail.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Sopko', with a stylized flourish above it.

Sgt. Mark Sopko

[↩ Reply all](#) | [🗑 Delete](#) [Junk](#) | [▼](#) [...](#)

## Dasean Jenkins 22-01701



Coolick, James

Today, 9:59 AM

[↩ Reply all](#) | [▼](#)[Bischof, Ryan R.](#); [DiDona, Anthony](#); [Sopko, Mark](#); [Bush, Jonathon](#); [Ice, Randy](#) [✕](#)

Inbox

Ryan and Anthony,

I just got the Judgement Entry of Sentence for Dasean Jenkins, whom the two of you arrested after a traffic stop initiated by Ptl. Bischof for an equipment violation last August. After observing the violation, Ptl. Bischof followed the vehicle and observed some changes in driving behavior indicative of criminal behavior. After the initial stop, you both looked past the basis for the stop and found additional criminal indicators such as an open container of liquor, a cup filled with alcohol, and an odor of marijuana. After learning of an arrest warrant for the driver, Dasean Jenkins, you briefly questioned him about the alcohol and marijuana, giving you the probable cause needed to lengthen the duration of the stop and search the vehicle. Prior to doing so, you removed the passenger, Dasean's mother Tamika Jenkins, and questioned her. In doing so, you learned that there was a firearm in the car that Tamika had initially tried to claim as hers. After completing a search, you located numerous bags of narcotics and a loaded pistol. Instead of stopping there, arresting both and calling it a day, you continued your investigation by Mirandizing both and questioning each further. Because of this, you were able to obtain a confession from Dasean regarding the large amount of narcotics. Dasean and Tamika continued to say that the pistol belonged to her so you decided to bring her to the station to interview further. In doing so, you were able to obtain statements from her that the pistol actually belonged to her son Dasean who is prohibited from possessing a firearm. You also obtained DNA cheek swabs for potential physical evidence linking him to the weapon. Because of all your hard work, Dasean pled guilty by information, meaning he chose to settle the case without even going to the Grand Jury first. He pled to both counts, Possession of Cocaine F1 and Having Weapons Under Disability F3, and received a sentence of 8-12 years in prison.

This whole case started from a simple equipment violation and resulted in a convicted felon in possession of a gun and over 50 grams of cocaine receiving a lengthy prison sentence. Even more so is that there was no legal challenge to anything because of the diligent work you did in making sure all exceptions to the search warrant requirement and Miranda rules were satisfied and from taking the time to interview both occupants several times resulting in confessions.

Great job and keep up the good work!

**James Coolick**  
**Detective Lieutenant**  
**Wickliffe Police Dept**  
**w. 440-943-1234**  
**f. 440-943-7159**



## WICKLIFFE POLICE DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Chief Randy Ice  
**FROM:** Sgt. Robert Kuhse  
**DATE:** March 17th, 2023  
**RE:** Letter of Appreciation for Ptl Pecnik and Ptl Merrifield

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Chief Ice,

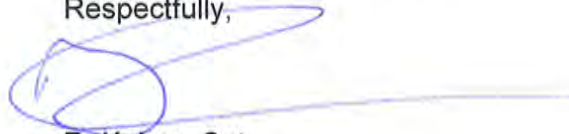
I would like to express my appreciation to Ptl Pecnik and Ptl Merrifield for their efforts involved in accomplishing the annual Preventive Maintenance Checks and Services (PMCS) on all of the department owned shotguns during the month of February 2023.

This was a new initiative I created in order to keep these weapons in peak operating condition. I advised Ptl Pecnik of this initiative and he volunteered to attend the shotgun armorers' course to assist in getting it accomplished. Ptl Merrifield was already a certified shotgun armorer but also volunteered to assist in this initiative.

During the month of February 2023 Ptl Pecnik and Ptl Merrifield completed PMCS on all 18 department shotguns. This was a time-consuming task as each shotgun took approximately 2 to 4 hours each to clean free of rust and carbon and to apply newly purchased parts/accessories to each gun. They were able to complete this task in conjunction with their regular patrol duties and assignments, displaying great time management skills. Without the assistance of Ptl Pecnik and Ptl Merrifield, utilizing their skills and experience, this initiative would not have been able to be accomplished.

I commend these officers for their willingness and effort to take on this new task and thank them for a job well done.

Respectfully,



R. Kuhse, Sgt.

cc: Lt. Bush  
Ptl Pecnik  
Ptl Merrifield



# Lake County Sheriff's Office

Sheriff Frank Leonbruno

104 East Erie St. Painesville, Ohio 44077 (440)350-5517 Fax: (440)350-5630  
email: [sheriffwebmaster@lakecountyohio.org](mailto:sheriffwebmaster@lakecountyohio.org) website: [www.lakecountyohio.gov/sheriffoffice](http://www.lakecountyohio.gov/sheriffoffice)

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April 12, 2023

Dear Chief Ice,

This letter is to personally recognize and request commendation for Officer Kristen Fitch of the Wickliffe Police Department.

On the evening of Tuesday April 11, 2023, Officer Fitch had contacted detectives from the Lake County Sheriff's Office to advise that she had located a vehicle we were looking for. The vehicle was parked unoccupied at the Fairbridge Inn and Suites hotel. She had evidently come across it during routine patrol and stayed in eyesight until detectives were able to arrive.

LCSO had put out a notice two weeks earlier looking for the vehicle with the most recent update being last Thursday, April 6<sup>th</sup>. The owner of the vehicle had been evicted and was moving around from couch to couch which prevented us from having any success in locating him. Officer Fitch obviously recognized the vehicle of interest after five days of inactivity which highlights her observational skills and attention to detail. Additionally, her willingness to assist a fellow law enforcement agency shows that she is a team player.

Officer Fitch's attention to detail reflect well on her and the Wickliffe Police Department. Please commend Officer Fitch for her assistance in this ongoing investigation.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "T. Corey Svagerko".

T. Corey Svagerko  
Detective #39  
Lake County Sheriff's Office  
104 E. Erie St.  
Painesville, Ohio 44077  
440-350-5883  
[csvagerko@lakecountyohio.gov](mailto:csvagerko@lakecountyohio.gov)



# WICKLIFFE

CAD Number

2310925

Date: 07/03/2023 Time: 15:31:24 Mrc: T Dispatchers: 0329 0329 CAD Call For Service

Location: 30188 EUCLID AV City: WICKLIFFE Zone: B Grid: B2 Agency: WK

Call Type: LOCKOUT Incident#: Accident#: EMS #: Fire #

Reviewed By: Disposition: ENTRY GAINED Strat Transport End Transport

Caller:

Common Name: TITLE BUREAU, LAKE CTY TITLE BUREAU #20

Caller: BERNICE

Caller Address: Phone

## Units / Times

Unit:	Dispatch:	Route:	Arrive:	Cleared:	Patient:	Leave:	Hospital:	In Service:	Quarters:	Badge1	Badge2:	Agency
0762	15:34:08	15:34:14		15:49:03						0147		WK

## Narrative

Vehicles Involved:

honda

1549hrs. entry gained / no damage

Ptl. Dan Sabruno

Dear Wickliffe Chief of Police:  
I wish to thank & commend Officer Dan who came to my assistance in Police car #762 yesterday, July 3 about 3:30 PM.  
I accidentally left my car keys in my 2010 Honda Insight and Officer Dan was very efficient & courteous as he successfully retrieved my keys.  
I am going to be 93 next week and have a good driver record, and I appreciate being treated with respect.  
Bernice





# Lake County Sheriff's Office

Sheriff Frank Leonbruno

104 East Erie St. Painesville, Ohio 44077 (440)350-5517 Fax: (440)350-5630  
email: [sheriffwebmaster@lakecountyohio.org](mailto:sheriffwebmaster@lakecountyohio.org) website: [www.lakecountyohio.gov/sheriffoffice](http://www.lakecountyohio.gov/sheriffoffice)

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Dear Chief Ice,

This letter is to personally recognize and request commendation to the Wickliffe Police Departments Officers and Detective Bureau.

On the morning of July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023, Officer Peacock responded to Weber Avenue for a lost dog report. The reporter, Melissa Kulchock, an employee of the Lake County Sheriff's Office, reported her seven-month old Beagle-Bulldog, Otis, was missing and Melissa and her family had searched the neighborhood with no luck. This search turned up no sightings of Otis.

On Sunday, July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023, a sighting was reported to Melissa on her Facebook posting which was shared throughout Northeastern Ohio. The sighting was at the Pet Supply Plus in Willowick, Ohio. There were numerous witnesses to the sighting and it was confirmed through witness statements that this dog was in fact found wondering the neighborhoods. Willowick Police Department was made aware of this sighting and made note of it.

Once Officer Peacock was made aware of the sighting, she went above and beyond to help not only a citizen of Wickliffe but an employee of the Lake County Sheriff's Office. Detective Cook continued the investigation due to Officer Peacock's scheduled days off. Detective Cook made contact with the female who previously spoke with employees at Pet Supply Plus and in turn retrieved Otis and returned him to Melissa and her family.

The family, friends and neighbors of Melissa are extremely grateful for the time and dedication the Wickliffe Police Department officers and detectives showed during the incident.

Officer Peacock and Detective Cook's willingness to help showed they are team players and followed what they took an oath to do. Please commend Officer Peacock, Detective Cook and all the officers who assisted with this investigation.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Det Steven Ross #22".

Detective Steven Ross #22  
Lake County Sheriff's Office  
104 E. Erie St.  
Painesville, Ohio 44077  
[Sross@lakecountyohio.gov](mailto:Sross@lakecountyohio.gov)



# WILLOUGHBY HILLS POLICE DEPARTMENT

G. ANDREW GARDNER  
MAYOR/SAFETY DIRECTOR

MATTHEW A. NAEGELE  
CHIEF OF POLICE

35405 CHARDON ROAD ♦ WILLOUGHBY HILLS, OHIO 44094  
(440) 942-9111 ♦ FAX (440) 942-1355



July 17, 2023

Police Chief Randy Ice  
Wickliffe Police Department  
28730 Ridge Road  
Wickliffe, OH 44092

Dear Chief Ice:

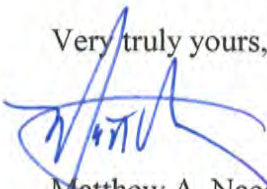
**Re: Officer Merrifield**

On behalf of the Willoughby Hills Police Department, I would like to thank you and Officer Nick Merrifield for his quick mutual-aid response on Thursday, July 13, 2023, to assist our officers with a search for a suicidal male on the I-90 exit ramp to SOM Center Road.

Upon arrival, Officer Merrifield assisted by coordinating with Willoughby Hills Police Sergeant Shannon Vachet in setting up a perimeter. Once the subject was located, Officer Merrifield assisted officers in approaching the subject and providing cover. The male was armed with a knife and began stabbing himself in the chest. Moreover, he told officers to shoot him. He was subsequently subdued with an electronic control device and taken into custody with the help of Officer Merrifield. Without his invaluable assistance, this situation could have ended much differently. I have since nominated the officers involved, to include Officer Merrifield, for an award through the Lake County Association of Chiefs of Police.

As a token of our gratitude, I have enclosed a WHPD challenge coin for you to forward to Officer Merrifield. Please extend our sincere thanks to him for coming to our aid during this dangerous situation. His professionalism and cooperation were greatly appreciated. Thank you again for your department's continued support. I remain

Very truly yours,

  
Matthew A. Naegele  
Chief of Police



# WILLOUGHBY HILLS POLICE DEPARTMENT

G. ANDREW GARDNER  
MAYOR/SAFETY DIRECTOR

MATTHEW A. NAEGELE  
CHIEF OF POLICE

35405 CHARDON ROAD ♦ WILLOUGHBY HILLS, OHIO 44094  
(440) 942-9111 ♦ FAX (440) 942-1355



July 17, 2023

Chief Larry Reik  
Lake County Association of Chiefs of Police  
35150 Lakeshore Boulevard  
Eastlake, OH 44095

To the Awards Board:

**Re: Letter of Recommendation ~ Chief's Association Medal**

It is with great pride, I submit Willoughby Hills Police Sergeant Shannon Vachet, Willoughby Hills Police Officer Richard "RJ" Harmon, and Wickliffe Police Officer Nick Merrifield for a Lake County Association of Chiefs of Police Awards Medal for their heroic actions while stopping an armed individual from stabbing himself. Support assistance was provided by Willoughby Hills Police Sergeant Ronald Parmertor.

On Thursday, July 13, 2023, at approximately 2:30 a.m., Willoughby Hills Police Officers responded to responded to the area of the I-90 east bound exit ramp to SOM Center Road. Dispatch received a 911 report that a suicidal male armed with a knife had exited his wife's vehicle, jumped over the guard rail, and ran down the hill into what can be described as a deep bowl with heavy brush and tree cover. Sgt Vachet requested mutual-aid assistance, and Wickliffe Officer Nick Merrifield responded to the scene. Officers set up a perimeter, rescue squad personnel were called to the scene, and a search for the individual began.

A short time later, the male was spotted trying to climb up the hill towards Sergeant Vachet. Sergeant Vachet observed at this time the male had multiple areas of clothing covered in his own blood. He was ordered to drop the knife, but stated he could not do that and was not going to be arrested. He was ordered several more times to stop coming towards officers with the knife, at which time the subject sat down near a bush and turned from officers. Sergeant Vachet steadily communicated with the individual throughout, in an effort to de-escalate the situation and keep the male calm.



The situation quickly turned as the male began to scream and repeatedly stab himself in the chest. At this time, Sergeant Vachet, Officer Harmon and Officer Merrifield closed the distance in an effort to intervene. Sergeant Vachet was armed less-lethal with a Taser while assisting officers covered. He was ordered several times to drop the knife and refused, telling officers to shoot him. The subject then stood up with the knife. Sergeant Vachet successfully deployed the Taser and the male threw the knife away. Officers moved in and took him into custody. He was assisted by all three back up and out of the bowl to the awaiting rescue squad. The male was subsequently transported for medical treatment and a psychological evaluation.

Despite the suspect's erratic and violent behavior, the officers involved not only handled the situation bravely, but treated the individual professionally throughout the contact. This situation may have ended much differently, had it not been for the coordinated efforts of the officers involved in this dangerous call.

The extraordinary manner in which Sergeant Vachet, Officer Harmon, Officer Merrifield, and Sergeant Parmertor performed their duties that morning demonstrates their enduring commitment to serving and protecting our community. Their outstanding efforts bring great credit upon themselves and their respective police departments, and sets a standard of excellence for all law enforcement officers to emulate. Again, I commend them for their heroic actions as I recommend them for a LCACP Medal.

Very truly yours,



Matthew A. Naegele  
Chief of Police



## **WICKLIFFE POLICE DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Chief Ice

**FROM:** Sgt. Peeples

**DATE:** 07/14/2023

**RE:** Commendation to Detective Cook, Ptl. Smith, and Ptl. Blair  
Ref: Coulby Park Vandalism Arrests

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Beginning in May of this year, the Coulby Park public restrooms have sustained thousands of dollars in damages as a result of multiple incidents of vandalism, arson, and criminal damaging. In response to these incidents, the Wickliffe Police Department initiated a special detail for officers in plain clothes to patrol the park during the evening and early morning hours in an attempt to catch the subjects responsible for these crimes. Although she did not know it at the time, observations made by Ptl. Meghan Blair while working the detail on June 5, 2023, did prove to be vital in catching the people responsible for these crimes.

On June 5, 2023, Ptl. Meghan Blair worked the plain clothes detail in Coulby Park and observed a gold colored SUV parked in the Coulby Park parking lot. Two male occupants exited the vehicle and entered the restrooms. A short time later, the males exited the restrooms and Ptl. Blair checked but found no damage or evidence of criminal activity. On June 6, 2023 while working an overtime shift on patrol, Ptl. Blair observed the same gold SUV in the Coulby Park parking lot just prior to another report of damage and a fire that had been started in the park. Witnesses who contacted the WPD to report this incident advised that the SUV that Ptl. Blair had observed was seen leaving the park after the fire was started.

On July 14, 2023 Ptl. Blair was on patrol and observed the same gold colored SUV that she had observed on the dates mentioned above. Based on her prior observations of this vehicle, Ptl. Blair and Ptl. Smith initiated a traffic stop with the vehicle to investigate. As a result of Ptl. Blair's observations and interviews performed by Ptl. Smith and Detective Cook with the two male occupants of the vehicle, both males admitted to being responsible for every incident and causing all of the damages to the park restrooms and other city owned property. Both males were arrested on felony charges.

Ptl. Blair's attention to detail and exceptional ability to retain and recall details from prior incidents exemplified her performance driven mindset and work ethic. When these incidents were being investigated, Ptl. Smith also showed to be performance driven with a sense of urgency while spending several hours obtaining video evidence and patrolling residential streets looking for the suspect's vehicle. Detective Cook showed adaptability, a sense of urgency, and a team-oriented approach when he delayed his work for the day of this arrest to focus on solving these crimes. Detective Cook's and Ptl. Smith's investigative and interview tactics also played a key role in solving this case. Ptl. Blair, Ptl. Smith, and Detective Cook were team-oriented in their approach to locate the suspects, obtain confessions, and bring justice to those responsible for these crimes.

I commend all of these officers for their efforts and professionalism in their relentless efforts to solve this ongoing investigation. They all exemplified the mission and core values of this department and I am honored to highlight their excellent police work.

Respectfully Submitted,

B. Peebles, Sergeant

Cc: Lt. Bush  
Ptl. Cook  
Ptl. Smith  
Ptl. Blair



# WICKLIFFE POLICE DEPARTMENT

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Chief Ice

FROM: Det. Lt. James Coolick

DATE: 07-18-2023

RE: Commendation for Vandalism Arrests

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Chief Ice,

I would like to commend Officer Smith and Officer Blair along with Detective Cook on their recent arrest of the two individuals responsible for multiple acts of vandalism at Coulby Park.

Beginning in May of this year and continuing into July, numerous acts of vandalism occurred at the public restrooms, gazebo, and baseball diamonds of Coulby Park. This vandalism caused the overnight closing of the bathrooms and thousands of dollars in damage.

Officer Smith took the initiative to seek out cameras which may have recorded the incident and was successful in obtaining numerous recordings of the individuals and a suspect vehicle. Officer Blair also recognized a suspicious vehicle which had been at the park just prior to one of these vandalism incidents.

On Friday July 14<sup>th</sup>, Officer Blair observed this same vehicle leaving the park and took the initiative to relay this information to other officers prior to traffic stopping it and beginning an investigation. Officer Smith heard this and assisted Officer Blair at the stop. Despite being lied to initially, Officer Blair and Officer Smith persisted in their interviews and were eventually able to obtain admissions of guilt from the two occupants regarding the vandalism.

The two individuals were conveyed to the police department where they were further interviewed by Detective Cook. During these interviews, both individuals confessed to Detective Cook and Officer Smith to all of the incidents including several acts of arson.

Without the persistence of Officer Smith's follow up, the keen observations and self-initiated activity of Officer Blair, and the interview and interrogation ability of Detective Cook, I believe these repeated acts of vandalism may not have been solved. I commend each of these officers for their actions along with their willingness to work together to achieve the result of numerous felony charges and those responsible for damaging city property being brought to justice.

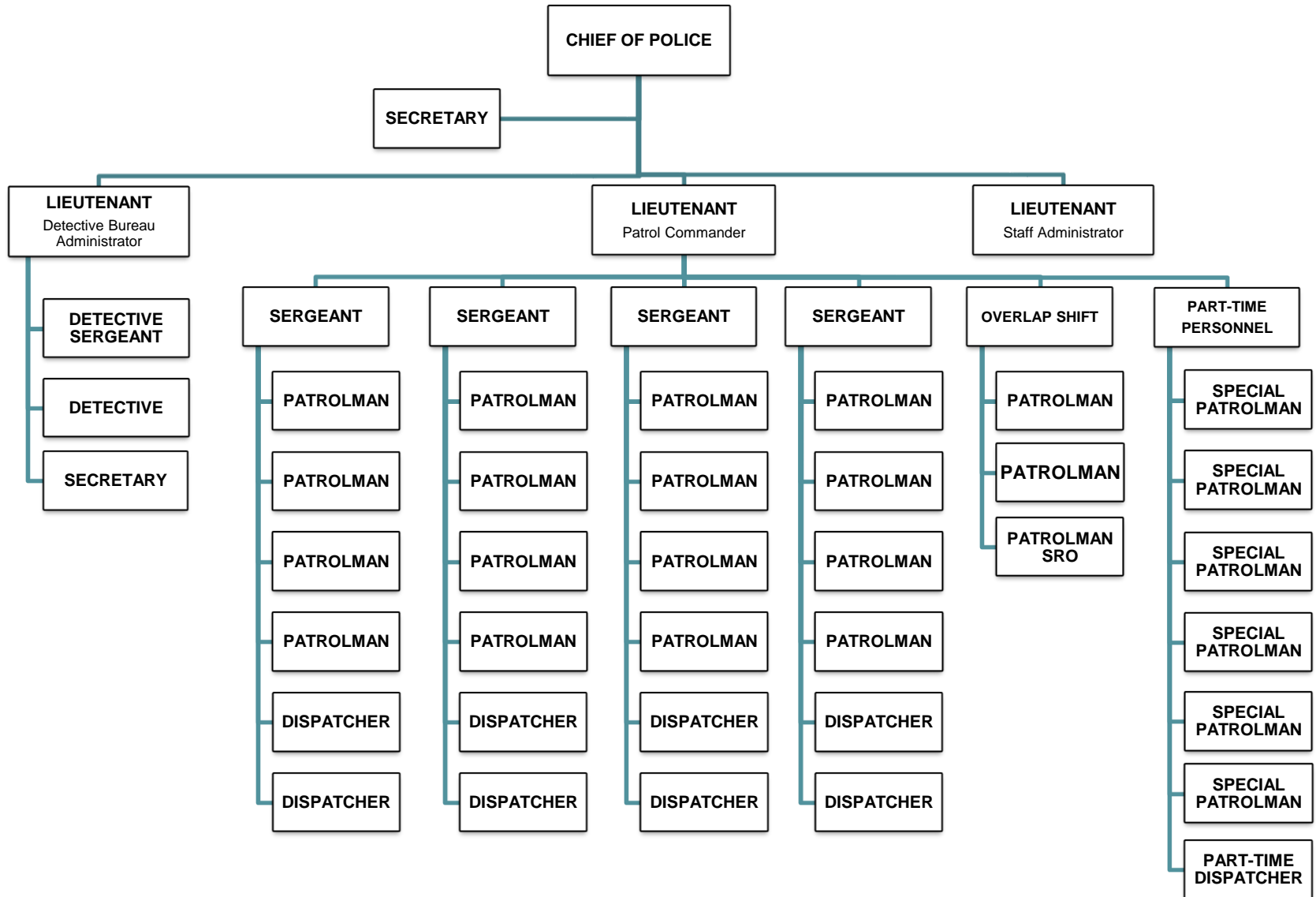
Cc: Lt. Bush  
Sgt. Peeples  
Det. Cook  
Ptl. Smith  
Ptl. Blair

Respectfully Submitted,



Lieutenant James Coolick

# WICKLIFFE POLICE DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATIONAL CHART 2023



**POLICE DEPARTMENT ROSTER**

as of December 31, 2023

<b><u>NAME</u></b>	<b><u>DATE OF HIRE</u></b>
Chief Bush	05/01/1995
Lieutenant McCaffery	12/11/1995
Lieutenant Coolick	08/30/2004
Lieutenant Krivacic	03/05/2001
Sergeant Sopko	06/08/2002
Sergeant Petric	10/10/2000
Sergeant Peeples	02/04/2008
Sergeant Kuhse	11/08/2007
Sergeant Cook	01/11/2011
Detective Fitch	07/16/2013
Patrolman Rosen	03/24/1998
Patrolman Regnier	03/05/2001
Patrolman Sabruno	06/08/2002
Patrolman Ankuda	06/27/2012
Patrolman Smith	08/01/2012
Patrolman Budzicki	01/14/2014
Patrolman DiDona	02/25/2014
Patrolman Merrifield	08/25/2016
Patrolman Heaton	02/06/2017
Patrolman Pecnik	04/28/2014
Patrolman Paull	03/04/2019
Patrolman Peacock	01/12/2021
Patrolman Thomas	01/25/2021
Patrolman Bischof	01/26/2021
Patrolman Blair	03/29/2022
Patrolman Snyder	01/24/2023
Patrolman Ours	02/02/2023
Patrolman Sieminski	03/13/2023
Patrolman Dodds	10/30/2023
Special Patrolman Valko	06/09/2014
Special Patrolman Nosse	05/29/2018
Special Patrolman Hanlon	10/08/2018
Special Patrolman Bender-Walker	04/15/2019
Special Patrolman Veri	10/26/2020
Special Patrolman Thompson	11/10/2022
Dispatcher Stein	12/11/1994
Dispatcher Horn	08/03/2003
Dispatcher Shaw	04/14/1998
Dispatcher George	02/17/2017
Dispatcher Turk	03/20/2017
Dispatcher Gordon	04/02/2018
Dispatcher Brzeski	06/25/2018
Dispatcher Johnson	03/02/2020
PT Dispatcher Hirz	04/24/2020
Secretary Lentine	05/19/1997
Secretary Miklus	04/28/2014



### AUXILIARY POLICE ROSTER AND ACTIVITY

<u>NAME</u>	<u>LENGTH OF SERVICE</u>
Auxiliary Lieutenant Stuck	32 years
Auxiliary Sergeant Savochka	15 years
Auxiliary Patrolman Kallay	13 years
Auxiliary Patrolman Townsend	13 years
Auxiliary Patrolman Koporc	9 years
Auxiliary Patrolman Hannus	Resigned 5/2/23
Auxiliary Patrolman Kron	1 year, 6 months

<u>AUXILIARY POLICE ACTIVITY</u>	<u>HOURS WORKED</u>
Auxiliary Meetings	82.0
Car Show	18.0
FEST	29.5
Homecoming Parade	6.0
I & A Hall	4.0
Memorial Day	12.0
Mt. Carmel Festival	45.0
Mt. Carmel Hall	4.0
Park Patrol Detail	48.0
Recreation B-Ball	13.0
Senior Center	10.0
Wickliffe High School Football	96.0
<b>TOTAL HOURS</b>	<b>367.5</b>



Architecture drawing of the new Wickliffe School District Campus

### SCHOOL GUARD ROSTER

<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NAME</u>
Ridge / Rockefeller	R. Might
Euclid / Rockefeller	J. Oaks
Rockefeller / School Campus	V. Hill
Lincoln / Ridge	L. Enschr
Rockefeller / Nehls / Buena Vista	C. Broda

**CASH SHEET  
FUNDS RECEIVED BY THE POLICE DEPARTMENT**

	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
Municipal Court Fines	152,072.46	120,077.92	130,634.39	113,250.03	83,974.56
Enforcement & Education Fines	506.00	634.00	460.16	1,538.70	2,090.31
Jail Recoupment Fees Collected	4,520.22	3,600.27	3,219.13	1,314.45	814.79
Drug Fines	3,246.16	7,361.84	5,955.00	17,886.51	20,953.39
Witness Fees	312.50	104.00	150.00	15.80	0.00
Parking Fines	21,495.00	13,890.00	13,665.00	16,000.00	16,135.00
Report/Photo Copies	22.00	38.00	16.00	9.00	6.00
Bicycle Licenses	4.00	2.00	1.00	35.00	2.00
Police Vehicles	Previously included in Miscellaneous Fees				6,549.90
Miscellaneous / Auction Fees	2,924.50	2,829.50	5,052.50	4,932.25	865.00
State Forfeited Funds	8,542.91	30,267.58	4,351.00	17,058.98	24,850.05
Federal Forfeited Funds	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Total Collected</b>	<b>193,645.75</b>	<b>178,805.11</b>	<b>163,504.18</b>	<b>172,040.72</b>	<b>156,241.00</b>



# CITY OF WICKLIFFE

## *Department of Police*

28730 Ridge Road • Wickliffe, Ohio 44092-2598  
Phone (440) 943-1234 • Fax (440) 943-7159

JONATHON J. BUSH  
CHIEF OF POLICE

January, 2024

Mayor Joseph Sakacs  
City of Wickliffe  
28730 Ridge Road  
Wickliffe, Ohio 44092

Dear Mayor Sakacs:

Listed below is the annual report for 2023 for the Wickliffe Police Department.

3,464	Police/Fire/EMS Calls Received on E911
1,803	Persons Arrested (including felonies, misdemeanors, and traffic)
	1,745 Adults
	58 Juveniles
415	Persons Housed in Wickliffe City Jail
770	Parking Tickets Paid
482	Animal Complaints
439	Accidents Investigated
16	Buildings Unlocked
309	Vehicle Lockouts
619	Alarms, False Alarms, and Accidental Alarms
17,470	Total Calls for Service

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathon J. Bush  
Chief of Police



### DETECTIVE BUREAU REPORT

*Detective Lieutenant Coolick*

The Wickliffe Police Department detective bureau is the criminal investigation division of the department and is responsible for follow-up investigations of felonies and certain misdemeanors. Detectives are scheduled Monday through Friday and are considered on-call at all other times. Some facets of the detective bureau are review and follow up investigations, preparing cases for court, grand jury preparation and testimony, intelligence gathering, evidence collection/crime scene processing, witness and suspect interviews, preparing investigative subpoenas and search warrants, drug investigations, forfeiture proceedings, and assisting in fingerprinting residents.

I was assigned as the officer-in-charge of the detective bureau in May of 2022. The detective bureau is normally comprised of a supervisor and three detectives as well as a property officer and detective bureau secretary. 2023 saw some changes in the bureau due to the retirement of two long-standing detectives at the beginning of the year. Due to the shortage in manpower from other retirements in the agency, the two detective spots were not immediately filled. Luckily, in July of this year we were afforded the opportunity to assign one officer to the detective bureau to fill one of the open spots. After a thorough interview and selection process was completed by numerous well qualified officers, Ptl. Fitch was selected for the open detective position. Det. Fitch hit the ground running in her new role and has been doing a great job. 2023 also saw some other changes in the bureau with the promotion of Det. Cook to the rank of sergeant. Congratulations Detective Sergeant Cook and Detective Fitch!

Also assigned to the detective bureau is Ptl. Valko who is the property officer and assists the bureau with the extensive amount of evidence and property management. Disp. Hirz and Sec. Miklus shared the responsibilities of the detective bureau secretary which include handling fingerprint and BCI files, managing and retaining media files such as dashcam and body-worn camera video, and preparing case files to assist in the prosecution of police department cases at both the municipal court and county common pleas court level. Disp. Hirz retired at the end of this year and we wish her the best in her retirement and thank her for her 26 years of service to the city of Wickliffe.

In 2023, the WPD detective bureau was involved in the investigation of over 110 criminal cases. The types of crimes investigated ranged from shootings, robbery, sexual assault, burglary, and drug trafficking as well as property crimes such as theft, fraud, and forgery. 90 of these cases were cleared either by arrest or by exceptional means, with a clearance rate of 80% which is well above the national average.

Some noteworthy cases worked on by the detective bureau in 2023 include:

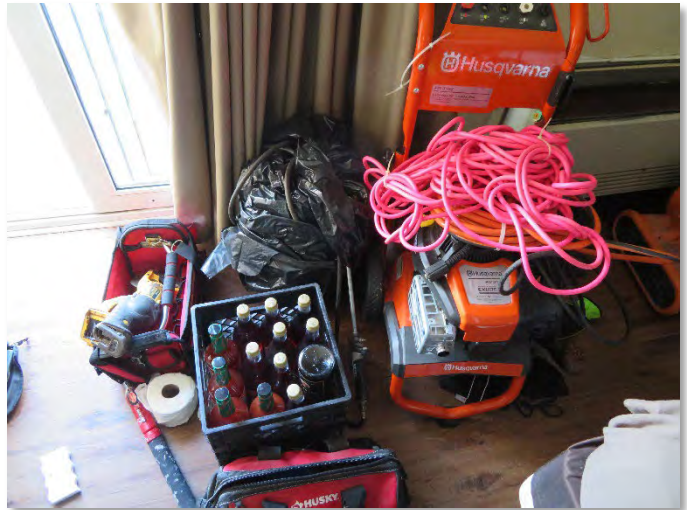
- On January 15<sup>th</sup>, patrol officers took a report of a residential burglary which occurred on Shaker Dr. The victim of this incident reported numerous items missing from his home including a PlayStation 5 gaming console. An alert neighbor reported to officers on scene that he had observed a suspicious vehicle in the area at the time of the burglary. Later that evening, an alert officer observed a vehicle matching that description at a nearby hotel and identified a potential suspect. Detectives responded to the hotel and arranged for surveillance of the vehicle in the lot. Video from the



*Detectives match the suspect's shoes to the shoeprints recovered at the residential burglary on Shaker Drive*

hotel was reviewed and the suspect was observed, along with an unknown female, carrying some of the stolen items. While still reviewing video, the suspect emerged and began walking to the vehicle. He was confronted by an officer and fled on foot. WPD officers and detectives gave chase and the male was ultimately captured after grabbing a firearm from his waistband and throwing it. The unknown female was also found in the hotel by detectives and was in possession of the stolen gaming console. After impounding the vehicle, detectives prepared a search warrant and were able to locate most of the stolen property inside. Detectives also found the shoes the male was wearing matched shoeprints recovered at the burglary scene. The male was interviewed by detectives who eventually admitted his involvement in the burglary. He was charged with numerous felonies and later pled guilty and was sentenced to prison.

- On January 31<sup>st</sup>, an alert detective observed a suspicious vehicle in the parking lot of a hotel. While checking on the vehicle, it was found to be entered stolen with the Eastlake Police Dept. While investigating, a suspicious male was spotted looking from a window toward the stolen car. That male denied knowledge of the vehicle and later left the hotel on foot. After impounding the vehicle, detectives reviewed video from the hotel and observed that same male parking the car earlier in the day. The male was later identified and his hotel room was searched. While doing so, numerous stolen items were found from multiple thefts and B&E's from nearby cities. Warrants were obtained for the male who was later arrested and interviewed by detectives who admitted to the thefts and stealing the car. The male later pled guilty to numerous felonies and was sentenced to prison.



*Stolen items from multiple thefts are found in a suspect's hotel room*

- On April 23<sup>rd</sup>, detectives were notified of a shooting which occurred at a hotel and seven individuals had been detained by patrol officers as part of the investigation. Detectives began interviewing all involved persons and were able to obtain permission to search the room where the shooting occurred. While doing so, detectives noted 43 items of evidence to include 15 shell casings, bullet fragments, bullet holes, ammunition and a handgun which was found underneath the bed. After processing the crime scene and collecting evidence, detectives returned to the police station and continued interviewing the detained individuals.



*Detectives mark evidence during an investigation of a shooting in a local hotel room*



The suspected shooter was identified and detectives spoke with him at length, who eventually admitted to the shooting. DNA evidence and gunshot residue evidence was collected and analyzed at the crime lab. The male was ultimately charged with several felonies, later pled guilty and was sentenced to prison.

- Some other items of note include a vandalism incident in June occurring at Our Lady of Mt Carmel Church in which a male had destroyed an outdoor Stations of the Cross display. While investigating the incident, detectives identified a possible suspect who was interviewed and admitted to the vandalism. The male was arrested and his case is pending trial. In July, a residential burglary of a home on E. 296<sup>th</sup> St was reported in which detectives were able to identify the suspect and obtain a warrant for his arrest. Also occurring in July were several reported acts of vandalism at Coulby Park. Detectives assisted patrol officers with this investigation which resulted in the arrest of two adults who were charged with several felonies and both later pled guilty. In October, detectives followed up on information received that a juvenile had stolen a firearm from an unlocked vehicle. A lengthy investigation was conducted which resulted in the recovery of the stolen gun and recommended criminal charges being sent to the juvenile court.



*A statue is damaged at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel's outdoor Stations of the Cross*



*The suspect in the OLMC vandalism case is interviewed by Det. Cook and Det. Lt. Coolick*

In addition to the above, detectives investigated other burglaries, assaults, sexual assaults, and felony thefts. Throughout the year, detectives routinely followed up on cases in which an individual failed to stop for patrol officers attempting a traffic stop which led to a brief vehicle pursuit. Detectives were able to make several arrests in these cases in the following days. The continued use of license plate reading cameras acquired by the city last year was a significant help in these types of cases and as well as many other criminal investigations.

In closing, I would like to thank Detective Sergeant Cook, Detective Fitch, Ptl. Valko, Secretary Miklus, and Dispatcher Hirz for their thoroughness, dedication, and continued diligent work in the detective bureau; Chiefs Ice and Bush for their support and leadership; and lastly Mayor Sakacs and the Wickliffe City Council for their continued support of the members of the detective bureau.



### DETECTIVE BUREAU SUMMARY

Prepared by Detective Bureau Secretary Miklus

TRENDS IN SERIOUS CRIMES					
TYPE OF CRIME	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
HOMICIDE/MURDER	1	0	1	0	0
ATTEMPTED MURDER	0	0	0	0	0
RAPE/SEX	21	20	19	7	11
ROBBERY	2	2	1	0	0
ASSAULT	20	30	41	24	29
BURGLARY/B&E	14	20	21	13	10
THEFT	165	162	160	142	181
VEHICLE THEFT	18	15	15	18	50
FRAUD	40	42	47	25	18
ARSON	1	1	0	0	1
WEAPONS	73	57	184	128	106
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE	59	46	47	51	58
NARCOTICS	744	373	597	660	472

DEPARTMENT INCIDENT TOTALS					
CRIME	COUNT	CRIME	COUNT	CRIME	COUNT
Aggravated Burglary	0	Escape	0	Property Damage	48
Aggr. Vehicular Assault	2	Family	69	Property Unlocked	20
Alarm	14	Firearms Seized	48	Prostitution/Soliciting	14
Animal	108	Fireworks	1	Receiving Stolen Property	11
Arson	1	Flee/Elude	56	Resisting Arrest	12
Assault	29	Forgery	8	Robbery	0
Assist (Other Dept)	122	Fraud	18	Robbery (Aggravated)	0
Attempted B&E	0	Harassment – General	61	Sex	11
Attempted Burglary	2	Hazards	3	Solicitors	10
Attempted Murder	0	Health & Welfare	111	Suicide	3
B&E	2	Inducing Panic	2	Suicide Attempt	4
Burglary	8	Juvenile	93	Suspicious	243
Business	24	Kidnapping	0	Tampering Evidence/Destroy	5
City Business	49	Littering	0	Telephone Harassment	6
Criminal Damage/Endanger	33	Menacing	5	Theft	131
Criminal Mischief	4	Mental	52	Theft (Auto)	50
Criminal Trespass	17	Missing Person	8	Unauthorized Use MV	14
Curfew	9	Murder	0	Use of 911 / Knowingly Abuse	1
Death	22	MVA	48	Utilities	2
Disorderly Conduct	37	Narcotics	472	Vandalism	7
Disorderly Intox	10	Obstruction/Falsification	47	Vehicle	28
Dispute/Disturbance	225	Open Container	105	Vehicle/Plates Recovered WPD	15
Domestic Violence	58	Parking	22	Violation TPO	4
DUI	75	Possession of Criminal Tools	3	Warrants	260
DUS	477	Property	109	Weapons	58

# POLICE ACTIVITY

## Annual Report 2023

	COMPLAINTS	ASSISTS	PARKING	MISD	FEL	MISD WAR	FEL WAR	OVI	WARNING	TRAFFIC	MILEAGE
SHUM	60	129	34	6	1	1	0	1	9	14	3985
ROSEN	148	102	118	17	7	12	4	1	62	31	8578
REGNIER	185	178	84	41	7	8	6	2	109	188	6365
SABRUNO	187	96	86	49	11	14	5	3	96	78	5677
ANKUDA	147	105	102	24	8	10	9	5	81	111	5832
SMITH	23	32	1	13	3	1	1	0	14	8	1268
FITCH	136	77	14	46	5	7	6	0	109	65	4888
BUDZICKI	165	196	134	42	5	15	3	0	100	61	6144
DIDONA	166	166	36	34	21	19	7	1	62	71	7086
MERRIFIELD	186	165	252	95	10	8	4	6	168	129	8329
HEATON	161	115	96	66	15	21	8	7	193	152	7838
PECNIK	151	103	126	39	6	15	7	3	122	100	6492
PAULL	214	175	96	65	14	9	7	4	158	159	7370
PEACOCK	226	146	74	74	32	23	7	5	98	112	10166
THOMAS	197	117	82	51	11	11	2	5	155	114	8308
BISCHOF	151	28	50	43	21	21	12	2	90	68	9103
BLAIR	222	163	128	64	14	14	6	4	115	102	8793
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SNYDER	186	122	71	40	9	19	1	7	225	116	7826
OURS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SIEMINSKI	68	20	46	12	1	6	3	1	52	26	4155
HANLON	90	141	0	0	3	12	1	0	26	126	7425
VERI	14	5	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	519
BRENNER	1	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	66
TOTALS	3084	2387	1630	821	204	246	100	57	2044	1833	136213

### ARRESTS/CITATIONS BY OFFICER

*Prepared by Dispatcher Brzeski*

OFFICER	CRIME TYPE				TOTAL
	Traffic	Misdemeanor	Felony	Warrant	
0130 – Ptl. Shum	15	6	1	1	23
0138 – Lt. McCaffery	0	0	0	0	0
0141 – Ptl. Rosen	32	17	7	14	70
0144 – Ptl. Regnier	190	41	7	14	252
0145 – Lt. Krivacic	0	0	0	1	1
0146 – Sgt. Sopko	0	0	0	0	0
0217 – Sgt. Petric	1	2	0	0	3
0147 – Ptl. Sabruno	81	49	11	19	160
0148 – Det. Lt. Coolick	0	8	4	0	12
0149 – Sgt. Kuhse	10	2	0	0	12
0150 – Sgt. Peebles	2	3	0	0	5
0151 – Det. Sgt. Cook	0	1	8	1	10
0152 – Ptl. Ankuda	116	24	8	19	167
0153 – Ptl. Smith	8	13	3	2	26
0155 – Det. Fitch	65	46	8	13	132
0156 – Ptl. Budzicki	61	42	5	18	126
0157 – Ptl. Didona	72	34	21	26	153
0158 – Ptl. Merrifield	135	95	10	12	252
0159 – Ptl. Heaton	159	66	15	29	269
0221 – Ptl. Pecnik	103	39	6	22	170
0160 – Ptl. Paull	163	65	14	16	258
0161 – Ptl. Peacock	117	74	32	30	253
0162 – Ptl. Thomas	119	51	11	13	194
0163 – Ptl. Bischof	68	43	21	33	165
0164 – Ptl. Blair	106	64	14	20	204
0166 – Ptl. Snyder	123	40	9	20	192
0168 – Ptl. Sieminski	27	12	1	9	49
0211 – Spl. Ptl. Veri	2	0	0	1	3
0221 – Spl. Ptl. Hanlon	126	0	3	13	142
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>1901</b>	<b>837</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>346</b>	<b>3303</b>



### JAIL REPORT

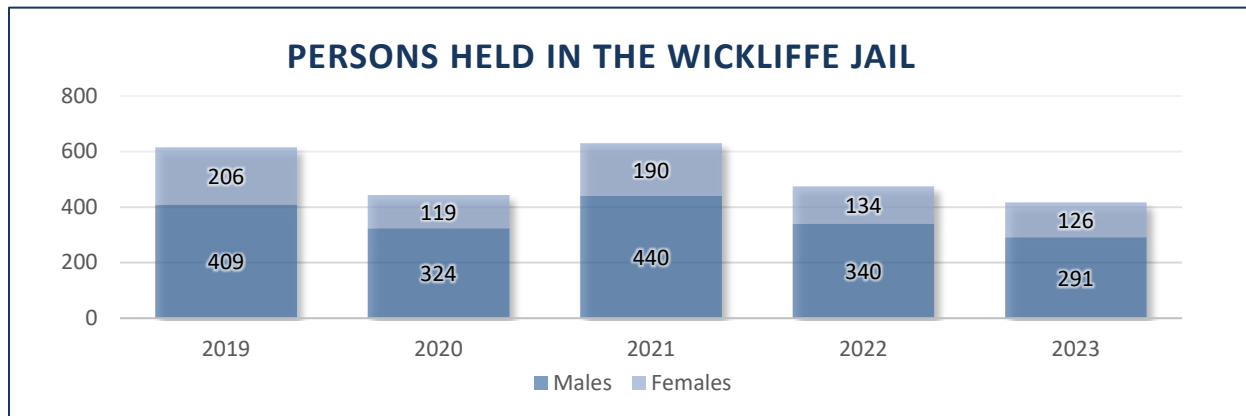
*Sergeant Peebles*

The Wickliffe City Jail is a twelve-day facility that consists of eight jail cells. Four of these cells are designated for male prisoners and two cells are designated for female prisoners. Two cells are designated for those prisoners who are under the influence of alcohol or narcotics, suicidal, security risks, or require an increase in surveillance. The jail does not hold arrested juveniles.

During 2023, the jail held 417 prisoners who were held on bond, waiting for arraignment or court appearances, or serving court ordered sentences. 150 of the prisoners were held on various felony charges and 267 prisoners were held on misdemeanor charges. Prisoners spent an average of 12.29 hours in the jail and the average daily population of the jail was 1.14 prisoners. 291 males and 126 females were housed in the jail during this period. The jail was inspected by the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections.

Per Wickliffe Police Policy, a jail officer is responsible for checking on the welfare of each prisoner every hour and provides for their needs. Prisoners are fed three times per day and can receive snacks between meals. Meals are purchased by US Foodservice, a provider of meals to other jail institutions and hospitals, and BJ Wholesale Club. Meals are prepared in the jail kitchen, which was renovated in 2022.

A video arraignment system is in place whereby prisoners “appear” before a Willoughby Court Judge from the jail office via a computerized teleconferencing system. A confinement expense reimbursement program has been instituted. Those prisoners who are able to pay can be ordered by the court to pay up to \$65.00 per day for their stay in the Wickliffe city jail. In 2023, Wickliffe received \$814.79 in jail confinement reimbursement fees collected by the Willoughby Municipal Court.



### NALOXONE REPORT

*Sergeant Peebles*

In 2017, in response to the overwhelming opiate addiction epidemic and overdose deaths, recently retired Chief Ice agreed to purchase Naloxone, commonly referred to as Narcan, for officers to use in combating opiate overdoses. When administered to persons overdosing on opiates, Narcan has the ability to counter the effects of the opiate. The City of Wickliffe and the Lake County Department of General Health District provided officers with the Narcan. After receiving training in the use of Narcan, officers began carrying it in their patrol cars. In 2023, Narcan was used 11 times by officers in an effort to save lives. The following officers administered Narcan to overdosing persons: Sgt. Sopko (2), Ptl. Rosen (2), Ptl. Paull (2), Ptl. Bischof (2), Ptl. Pecnik (1), Ptl. Blair (1), and Ptl. Sieminski (1).

**INTOXILYZER 8000***Patrolman Rosen*

In 2023, fifty-three (53) persons were arrested for an OVI offense. Of these, fifty (50) were suspected of being under the influence of alcohol and two (2) were suspected of being under the influence of a drug of abuse and one (1) was suspected of being under the influence of alcohol and a drug of abuse.

Drugs that were suspected due to either admission of the driver or presence of evidence suggesting specific drug usage included the following:

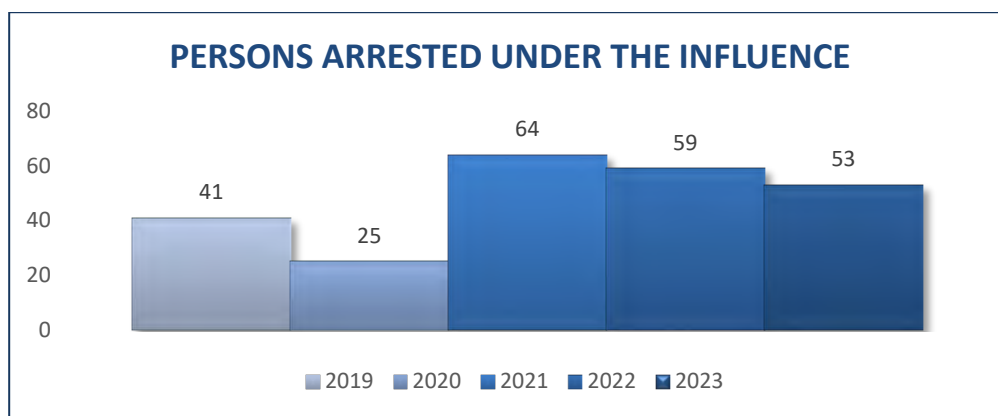
- Heroin: 1
- PCP: 2 (additionally, marijuana was also suspected in both instances)

For drivers believed to be under the influence of alcohol, a breath test is usually requested. If the driver is transported to the hospital for possible injuries, then a blood and/or urine sample is requested. If a driver is suspected of being under the influence of drugs, then a blood sample is requested. Under Ohio Law, drivers can refuse to submit a sample under most circumstances, although they may face a more severe sentence at Court. In 2023, of all OVI arrests, twenty-six (26) drivers submitted a breath, blood or urine sample and twenty-seven (27) refused for a refusal rate of 51%.

The average breath alcohol content (BAC) from all drivers who submitted a sample was .181. The range of BAC was from .126 to .260. The average age of all OVI offenders was 41.

The breakdown of measured BAC from the drivers who submitted a breath sample are:

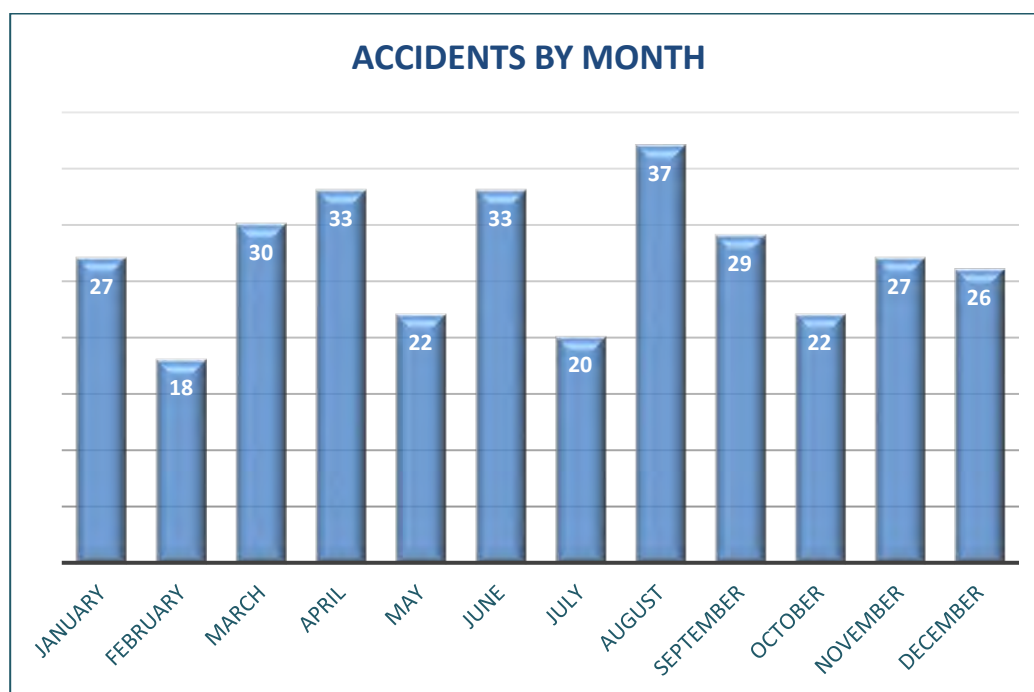
.000 - .0799 = 0  
.08 - .169 = 9  
.17 - .239 = 13  
.24 and above = 2



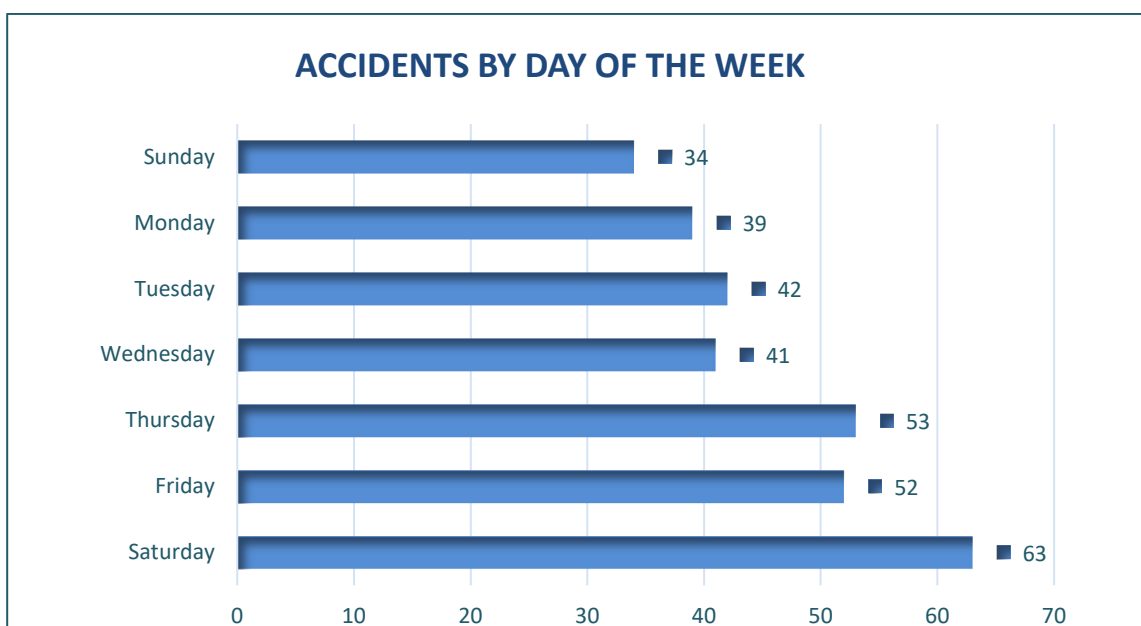
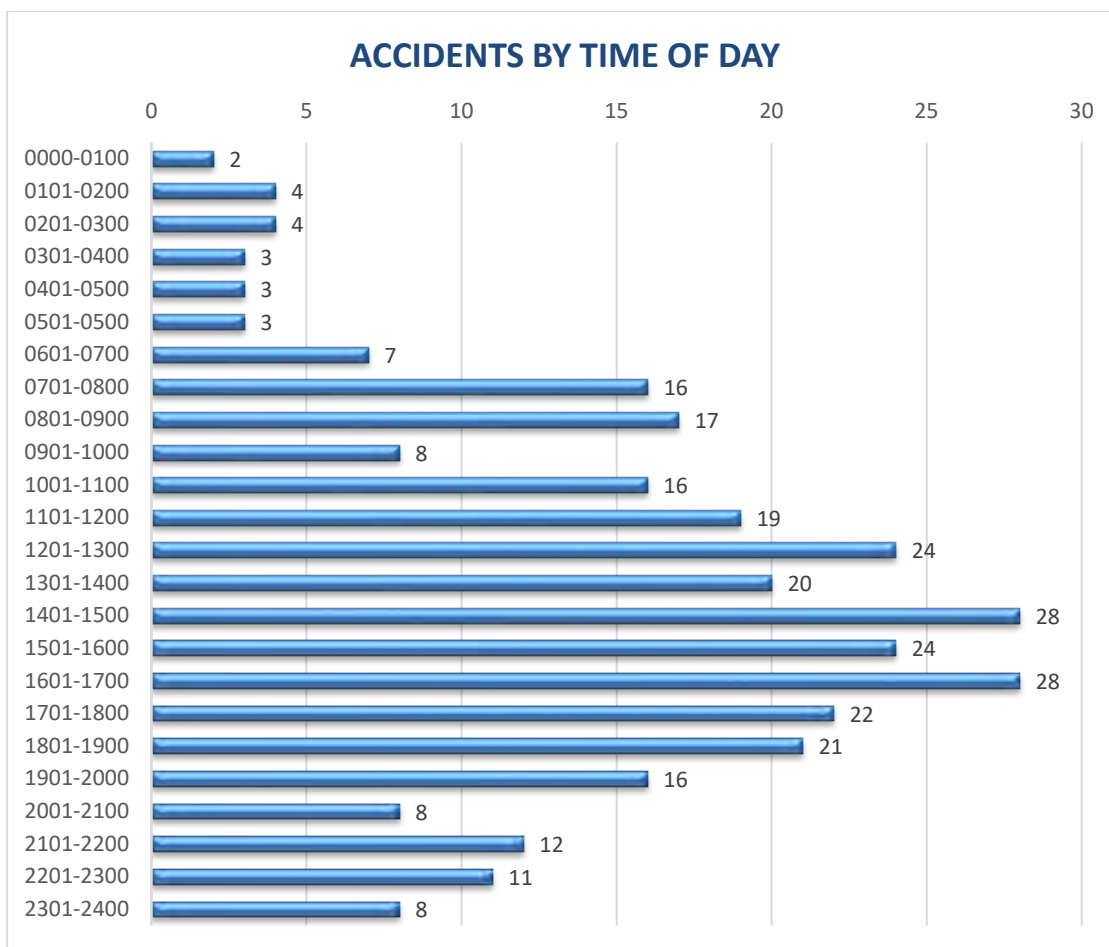
### ACCIDENT SUMMARY

*Prepared by Dispatcher Johnson*

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Accidents/Public Street	366	327	295	300	341	324
Accidents/Private Property	30	54	45	37	48	46
Hit Skip Crashes	27	26	27	24	31	30
Personal Injury	99	86	87	56	90	74
Pedestrian	6	1	1	2	1	1
Pedestrian Injury	6	1	1	0	0	0
Pedestrian Fatal	0	1	0	0	0	0
Driver/Passenger Fatal	1	0	1	0	0	1
Drivers Arrested	206	186	147	170	177	145
Drivers/Consumed Alcohol	14	10	14	24	20	13







**SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER REPORT***Patrolman Smith*

In 2023, the Wickliffe Police Department continued its coordination efforts with the Lake County Juvenile Court, Prosecutor's Office, and the Wickliffe City Schools. The School Resource Officer (SRO) handled numerous types of calls for service ranging from assaults, harassments, mental health, alcohol and drug usage to theft.

The SRO program is best summed as follows: if the courts, schools and police form a triangle, then the SRO is at the center of the triangle. The SRO's purpose is to facilitate communication between these three groups. The following are some examples of how the relationship benefits all three organizations in the triangle. If an administrative investigation reveals criminal activity in the school, that principal contacts the SRO. The SRO can then access police resources to conduct the investigation. The SRO knows the standard conduct required to prosecute a juvenile criminally and can advise the principal if such conditions are met. Another example is if an investigation starts off of school grounds, it may lead to the discovery of inappropriate activity that had occurred in the school. In some instances, school administrators are better equipped to handle such problems that do not require police action.

This current school year has been a big change for the community. The Wickliffe School District built a brand-new school, which holds all grades from preschool to 12th grade and was opened in the fall of 2023. All students and staff are now held in one large building, which is now the Campus of Wickliffe. The SRO's presence in the school serves as a deterrent to crime and as a resource to students and staff for non-criminal issues. The SRO has the ability to interact with students in ways that an officer might not have been able to do as part of their daily patrol activities.

Wickliffe officers and the Campus of Wickliffe continued to work together and hold events for the students and children of the community. The SRO and Community Policing Office once again participated in Trunk-or-Treat during Halloween where they interacted with the children and the community while passing out candy. Wickliffe officers also continued the Shop-with-a-Cop program where selected students from the Campus of Wickliffe were chosen to go to Target with Wickliffe Police officers to shop for gifts for their families for Christmas. The children enjoyed themselves and it was a great success. In the Spring of 2023, the Wickliffe P.D. and Wickliffe F.D. held their first Police vs Fire basketball game for the closing ceremonies of the Wickliffe Schools. It was a great event for the community to watch and interact with their first responders.

The men and women of the Wickliffe Police Department would like to show their appreciation to Chief Ice and Chief Bush, Mayor Sakacs, City Council and the school's administrators, teachers, staff and students.



*Ptl. Smith, Det. Fitch, Ptl. Snyder, and Ptl. Paull talk with students*



*Ptl. Smith participates in an art project*

### BICYCLE PATROL UNIT

*Sergeant Peeples*



*Ptl. Heaton and Ptl. Pecnik participated in the Memorial Day parade*

The Wickliffe Police Department Bicycle Patrol Unit consists of specially trained officers in urban mountain bicycle patrol. In 2022, Patrolman Heaton was added to the WPD Bike Patrol Unit. Two new officers, Ptl. Ankuda and Ptl. Peacock were added to the WPD Bike Patrol Unit in 2023. The bicycle patrol assignment is an additional duty for patrol personnel. Each bicycle patrol officer attends a 40-hour training class and is IPMBA (International Police Mountain Bike Association) certified. Officers are trained in riding bicycles over rough terrain, including on stairways, steep inclines, in confined spaces, at night, and under adverse weather conditions. Officers are adept at riding in crowds at special events and maneuvering at very slow speeds. Officers also practice quick dismounting techniques, which are necessary when overtaking someone fleeing from police, and then making an apprehension. In 2022, the WPD Bike Patrol bicycles were outfitted with new headlights, taillights, emergency lights, and sirens.

The Bicycle Patrol Unit provides a more proactive approach in utilizing officers for specialized patrol in problem areas of the city for crime prevention, detection, and enforcement. In addition, the bike patrol officers provide additional public relations with residents in city parks, neighborhoods, and businesses throughout the city. The Bike Patrol Unit offers a more covert form of patrol

to locate criminal activity, but is also a more approachable form of patrol, enhancing a more personal and casual relationship between the community and the police department. In 2023, bike patrol officers assisted with ceremonies, parades, The FEST, the annual Wickliffe Police Bike Rodeo, and offered a higher police presence during Halloween Trick-or-Treating.

Special thanks to retired Chief Ice, current Chief Bush, the bicycle officers who rode during 2023, Mayor Sakacs, and City Council for their continued support to this program.



### CANINE UNIT

*Patrolman Merrifield*

K9 Bane celebrated his first full year with the Wickliffe Police Department in November 2023. He is a 3-year-old Belgian Malinois, born in the Slovak Republic, and is trained in narcotic odors as well as patrol tactics, which include human or article search, tracking and suspect apprehension. As his handler, it is my responsibility to continue his ongoing training, to control him on his deployments during working hours, and to care for him when he is off duty.

Throughout the last year, Bane has been utilized not only by our police agency, but by our neighboring agencies as well. Throughout 2023, Bane logged a total of 75 deployments which included vehicle sniffs for narcotics and patrol work. Bane was responsible for the arrest of a total of 20 suspects throughout his deployments. Some of Bane's notable deployments were as follows:

- On January 16th of 2023, Bane and I responded to the area of Dollar General on Euclid Ave for a report of a male and female who had shoplifted from the store. Officers arrived on scene and took the female into custody, but the male was reported to have fled on foot. The male was observed running south through the previous Wickliffe Middle School football field, but quickly ran out of view. I brought Bane to the nearest backyard where I saw the male and began tracking him across the field. Bane led me to a fenced area that had a small ladder propped against it. Based on Bane's alert, I called for other officers to check the adjacent fenced-in yards where the male was then located. He was taken into custody, and it was discovered that the male had an active felony homicide warrant with a nearby County.
- On April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023, Bane and I were called to assist Euclid PD with a report of an aggravated robbery and the armed suspect had fled into the woods behind the Lakeland Towers. Euclid PD officers set up a perimeter around the woods and waited for us to arrive to attempt to track the suspect. Upon our arrival, Bane and I tracked the suspect for over 300 yards before I observed him showing a high interest in a large tree at the top of a hill. As we approached the tree, I observed a foot move from behind the tree and immediately started to give commands. I advised the suspect I would release Bane if he did not surrender, and the male quickly stepped from behind the tree and laid down to be taken into custody. During this deployment I realized that Bane is not only valuable in locating suspects, but he is also extremely valuable in having a suspect surrender without the need for officers to approach or use force, leading to a safer outcome for all officers involved.



*K9 demonstration at the former Middle School*



- On October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023, Bane and I were called to assist a Wickliffe officer during a traffic stop. Bane was deployed for a free air sniff around the vehicle and indicated to the presence of narcotics. This indication led to the arrest of both the driver and passenger for the possession of narcotics and drug paraphernalia.
- On November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023, Bane and I were called to assist Willoughby PD on a traffic stop with a vehicle that was observed leaving a residence which was being monitored in a narcotics investigation. Upon our arrival, Bane was deployed for a free air sniff around the vehicle and indicated to the presence of narcotics. During a search of the vehicle, multiple scales with white powder residue were located as well as a loaded handgun. It was later learned that the passenger had concealed 10grams of cocaine on his person and attempted to dispose of the items at the Willoughby PD jail.

Bane has shown that the use of a police K9 for the City of Wickliffe has been instrumental in multiple arrests that would otherwise not have been possible.

#### Training Schools Attended

- E-Collar Without Conflict
- Police Canine Legal Update
- Re-certification through the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy in narcotics and patrol tactics
- High Threat K9 Patrol Tactics
- K9 Medical Trauma / Critical Decision Making

A sincere thanks to retired Chief Ice, current Chief Bush, Mayor Sakacs, City Council, and the members of the police department for their continued support and encouragement of the K9 program. I look forward to continuing to advance Bane in his training and show the need for the K9 program within the department.

<b>K9 BANE'S ACTIVITY SUMMARY</b>		
<b>ACTIVITY</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
Arrests	2	20
Article Searches	0	4
Building / Area Searches	0	3
Crowd Control	0	0
Demonstrations	6	6
Narcotic Searches	8	65
Tracking	1	4

### EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

*Detective Sergeant Cook*



The Wickliffe Police Department is a participating member of the Western Lake County Emergency Response Team (ERT). This regional SWAT team is currently comprised of 18 police officers representing six different agencies. The assigned officers are volunteers who perform the duties of the team in addition to their regular assignments. The ERT provides services to approximately 86,000 residents in the cities of Wickliffe, Willowick, Willoughby, Willoughby Hills, Eastlake, Kirtland, Waite Hill, Timberlake, and Lakeline.

The primary duty of the team is providing timely and appropriate responses to high risk and volatile situations that require the specialized training, equipment, capabilities and experience of the team. Team members train monthly as well as an additional week of specialized training in close-quarter tactics and high-risk operations such as warrant services, barricaded subjects and hostage rescue.



*SWAT team responds with the MRAP to the scene of a barricaded suspect*

In 2023 Wickliffe PD officers Det. Lt. Coolick and Sgt. Kuhse retired from the team after a combined 24 years of service. Currently representing the City of Wickliffe on the team are Det. Sgt. Cook, Ptl. Paull, and Ptl. Heaton. In addition to the tactical component of the team, there are several police negotiators who are specially trained officers in providing peaceful resolutions to high stress and dangerous situations. Representing the City of Wickliffe as negotiators are Lt. McCaffery, Sgt. Sopko, Sgt. Peeples, Det. Fitch and Ptl. DiDona.

The ERT was utilized six times in 2023. The first incident involved a nighttime callout for an intoxicated male who had been involved in a domestic violence incident and was barricaded inside of his home with several firearms and his 6-year-old son. A second incident occurred in Wickliffe when a male

discharged a firearm outside of his home and proceeded to barricade himself inside. ERT members responded and after several hours, the male was taken into custody without incident. Another incident occurred in the city of Mentor and the Western Lake County ERT was deployed to assist Mentor PD with an active shooter at a trailer park in their city. Three of the remaining incidents involved the service of high-risk search warrants. These warrants were all completed at the request of the investigating agency and involved the illegal trafficking of drugs at the target location. The use of the ERT in these circumstances is based on a higher threat level as determined by various factors such as a history of violence, known weapons present, prior criminal history, etc. Each of these incidents were resolved tactically and without injury to anyone involved.

In closing, I would like to thank Mayor Sakacs, the Wickliffe City Council, and Chief Ice and Chief Bush for their continued support which allows members of the ERT to provide the residents of western Lake County with the best possible tactical services.

### U.S. MARSHAL'S NORTHERN OHIO VIOLENT FUGITIVE TASK FORCE

*Detective Sergeant Cook*



The 2023 U.S. Marshal's Northern Ohio Violent Fugitive Task Force was led by Deputy U.S. Marshal Erica Strnad. The task force is comprised of Deputy U.S. Marshals, Ohio Adult Parole officers, and various officers from police departments throughout Lake, Geauga, and Ashtabula Counties.

I have been assigned to the Painesville division of the task force since May of 2022.

The purpose of this task force is to apprehend violent fugitives, suspects with felony warrants, and suspects with violent/serious misdemeanor warrants that originate from Lake, Geauga, or Ashtabula County. The task force can also be called out for serious incidents that require the expeditious apprehension of the suspect(s) involved.

In 2023, the task force made numerous arrests in which the suspects were wanted for a variety of violent crimes, including homicide, felonious assault, rape, and drug trafficking. Many of these offenses originated within the City of Wickliffe or its surrounding agencies.

I would like to thank Mayor Sakacs, Wickliffe City Council, Chief Ice and Chief Bush for their support of this task force.



*Task Force firearms training*



### COMMUNITY POLICING

*Patrolman DiDona*



*Annual Bike Rodeo*

The motto of the community policing program for 2023 was "The police are the public and the public are the police." This is a quote by Sir Robert Peel who is widely known as the father of modern policing and whose core principles are still taught around the world today. This year we focused our attention on crime prevention as well as community outreach. I had the opportunity to attend a crime prevention conference which concentrated on observing and understanding crime trends to effect proper proactive measures. Moving forward, the Wickliffe Police Department will prioritize location/opportunity as a means to achieve the desired result which is to minimize risk to our residents. We intend to educate the public of preventive steps necessary to reduce/prevent the opportunity of a potential

crime. Feedback and cooperation with the members of our community is paramount to the success of our goals here at the police department.

Throughout the year this program hosts and is part of several community outreach programs and events. We have continued to organize our blockwatch meetings as well as *Coffee with A Cop* events. These interactions allow our citizens to have more involved and nuanced discussions with police department personnel. At the blockwatch meetings we discussed situational awareness, safety measures and common scams. We also had several guest speakers and presenters at our meeting and this year we were fortunate to have many people volunteer their time. At our first blockwatch meeting, James Cain, Chairperson for the City of Wickliffe Civil Service Commission, spoke at length in regards to his duties as a chairperson as well as the functions of the Civil Service Commission. Residents were interested in the recent changes to the Civil Service Commission as it related to lateral transfers to the police department. At that same meeting, Officer Merrifield led a presentation with his partner, K9 Bane. Officer Merrifield was happy to show off Bane's skills in the field in regards to search and seizure. Couchland Coffee hosted our *Coffee with a Cop* meet-and-greet this year. Attendees spoke with several officers who fielded questions from



basic measures to prevent crime to the main topic of discussion which was Ohio Issue 2 (marijuana legalization initiative).

In the warmer months, the program focuses on a more active approach to community relations. We have several functions which focus on children's safety. Officers attend summer camps and safety towns along with hosting the Bike Rodeo and Dive-In movies nights. In these interactions, officers discuss safety with the youth in our community. Topics of discussion include; stranger danger, situational awareness, calling 911 in an emergency, bicycle safety, pool safety and a general explanation of the roles of a police officer. These events are a major focus of the community policing program and some of the more fun and lighthearted interactions we get to have. As much fun as the kids get to have, the officers who volunteer their time are just as excited to connect with the attendees.



*Dive-In Movie Event at Coulby Pool*

Many of the WPD officers have formed and maintained relationships with members of the community. Some of these relationships were shaped from events we are very much appreciative to have attended and participated in. This year, we were able to maintain contact with our friends at Broadmoor School, Miracle League of Lake County and Heroes Helping those with Special Needs. We again received an invitation to the Miracle League local heroes all-star game. Officers donned their baseball jerseys and cheered for our teammates and friends. Our program also joined with Heroes Helping those with Special Needs and co-hosted a skate with a cop event at United Skates of America. A few officers tried their best not to fall on the rink and Officer Merrifield brought Bane along to say hi to all in attendance. For the Special Olympics Torch Run, the participants jogged the two-mile trek with ease as a few of our friends from the Miracle League cheered them on and organized a playlist for the hike.

At the end of the year the department hosted the annual holiday blockwatch meeting. Attendees enjoyed pizza, salad, sub sandwiches and Biggby Coffee as they sat and listened to our presenters. Officer Smith, SRO for Wickliffe City Schools, and Leah Reese, Service Coordinator for the Family Resource Center of Wickliffe, provided information for their respective positions. Residents in attendance also received a handout with a comprehensive list of common scams.

This program is a vital resource for the community as well as the police department. As much as the residents in this community need the police department, we rely on them as well. We will continue to strive to maintain a relationship with our residents as well as the surrounding communities in an effort to educate and build a partnership. Throughout the year of 2023, many residents and businesses volunteered and donated to the many events and presentations we are affiliated with and we appreciate your contributions.

Thank you, retired Chief Ice and current Chief Bush, and all the department personnel who helped make this year successful. Thank you Mayor Sakacs and City Council for your support and presence at many of our activities throughout the year.

# WICKLIFFE POLICE DEPARTMENT

## 2023 Annual Report

### SERVING LUNCH AT THE SENIOR CENTER



### MIRACLE LEAGUE





# WICKLIFFE POLICE DEPARTMENT

## 2023 Annual Report



*Sgt. Kuhse supervisors Ptl. Ours and Ptl. Sieminski's  
taser training and certification*



*Officers demonstrate defensive training equipment  
donated by the Willoughby Elks*

### POLICE VS FIRE BASKETBALL GAME





### TORCH RUN





# WICKLIFFE POLICE DEPARTMENT

## 2023 Annual Report

### SHOP WITH A COP



*Ptl. Peacock*



*Det. Sgt. Cook*



*Ptl. Merrifield*



*Ptl. Smith*



*Sgt. Sopko*



### SHOP WITH A COP





### MEMORIAL DAY PARADE / CEREMONY



*Officers attend Memorial Day Ceremony*



*Det. Sgt. Cook and family*



*Dispatcher Brzeski and family*



*Ptl. DiDona and daughter*



*Ptl. Pecnik leads the Memorial Day parade*

### TRAINING

*Lieutenant McCaffery*

In 2023 the Wickliffe Police Department continued to focus on training its officers and dispatchers so they provide the most professional and capable services possible to the community. The Patrol Division completes a core of courses essential to the patrol function. This core includes: The Reid Technique of Interview and Interrogation; Emergency Vehicle Pursuit and Response Training; Street Survival; Firearms, Arrest, and Survival Tactics (F.A.S.T.); Radar/Laser Certification; Criminal Patrol/Drug Interdiction; and Counter Ambush Tactics for Law Enforcement. Additionally, Officers are encouraged to find elective training courses based on department needs and officer specialization.

Within the communications division, we maintain a core of updated training and techniques essential to the dispatching function. It includes: Law Enforcement Dispatch, Fire Service Dispatch, Emergency Medical Dispatch, Hazardous Materials Response, Suicide Intervention, Domestic Violence Intervention, and 9-1-1 Liability. We have incorporated computer-based training for biennial re-certifications in Law Enforcement, Fire Service, and Emergency Medical dispatch. This has proven to be cost-effective and less disruptive to manpower scheduling, while still providing the most up to-date training material available.

The Continuing Professional Training (CPT) requirement, established by the Ohio Peace Officer Training Council and the Ohio General Assembly, requires all full-time and part-time police officers to complete a set number of hours of annual professional training. This year the state of Ohio mandated that officers attend 24 hours of courses of which 2 hours are for school violence, 3 hours of search and seizure law and 3 hours of legal updates were mandatory. The remaining mandated hours were in verbal judo, de-escalation techniques, officer wellness, criminal patrol, ethics and leadership. The average number of hours of training that members of the Wickliffe Police Department attended; to include all officers, dispatchers and support staff, in 2023 was 65 hours.

Other training highlights for the 2023 year include: Det Sgt. Cook, Det. Fitch and Ptl. Budzicki attending Physical Surveillance Training; K9 Officer Merrifield attending courses on K9 Case Law and High Threat K9 Patrol Tactics; SRO Smith attending the Ohio Police Juvenile Association Conference; Ptl. Ankuda and Ptl. Peacock completing the IPMBA Basic Police Cyclist Course; Ptl. Paull and Ptl. Heaton were assigned to the Western Lake County ERT and attended SWAT1 course; Ptl. Pecnik became an armorer after attending the Remington, Glock and AR15 Armorer courses; Ptl. Ankuda and Ptl. Heaton became FTO's after attending the FTO Instructor School; Ptl. Heaton completed the Advanced Driving Instructor Course; Ptl. Bischoff completing the week long Gracie Jui-jitsu Survival Tactics Instructor's Course; Det. Fitch attending the Certified Voice Stress Analyzer Examiner's Course and Chief Bush attending the FBI LEEDA Executive Leadership Institutes Course. Sgt. Kuhse completed a First Line Supervisor Training Course and Sgt. Peeples completed Police Executive Administrative Leadership School over a 3 week period. Chief Ice attended the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police Conference; Chief Bush attended the FBI NAA Training Conference; and Sgt. Sopko, Sgt. Peeples and Ptl. Didona attended the Midwest Negotiator's Conference. Due to their diligent work ethic, Det. Fitch and Ptl. Peacock were picked to attend the week long Street Cop Conference in Nashville, TN by supervisors of the WPD.

During 2023, 29 full-time police officers, 3 part-time officers, and 8 full-time dispatchers, along with 2 administrative assistants attended training schools or seminars to update or enhance their skills and knowledge in various disciplines. During 2023, officers and staff attended these schools and seminars totaling two thousand eight hundred and fifteen (2,815) hours of continuing education.

On behalf of the Wickliffe Police Department, I would like to thank Chief Ice, Chief Bush, the Mayor, and City Council for their recognition to the importance of having highly trained and professional police officers and their support in allocating the funds necessary to maintain and continually improve the Wickliffe Police Department.



### ACTIVE KILLER TRAINING AT THE NEW WICKLIFFE SCHOOL CAMPUS



# WICKLIFFE POLICE DEPARTMENT

## 2023 Annual Report

### SCHOOLS AND SEMINARS

LOCATION	COURSE NAME	ATTENDEES
CPT Instruction	Arrest, Search & Seizure Criminal Patrol Crucial Conversations Ethical Leadership	Legal Updates Officer Wellness School Safety Verbal Judo
Amherst, OH	TASER Energy Weapons Instructor Certification	Ice, Bush, McCaffery, Coolick, Krivacic, Sopko, Petric, Peeples, Kuhse, Cook, Fitch, Rosen, Regnier, Sabruno, Ankuda, Smith, Budzicki, DiDona, Merrifield, Heaton, Pecnik, Paull, Peacock, Thomas, Bischof, Blair, Sieminski, Valko, Nosse, Hanlon, Bender-Walker, Veri, Thompson
Amherst, OH	TASER Energy Weapons Instructor Certification	Coolick, Kuhse
Avon Police Dept.	Ohio Canine Officer Legal Update 2023	Merrifield
Bath, OH	Gracie Academy Instructor	McCaffery, Bischof
Canton PD, MI	Body Language for Law Enforcement	Bischof
Canton PD, MI	Unmasking Facial Expressions	Bischof
Canton, OH	E-Collar Without Conflict for Working Dogs	Merrifield
Cleveland, OH	Active Threat Incidents	Krivacic
Cleveland, OH	Intro to Communication Tech and Crypto 101	Budzicki
Cleveland, OH	Labor Law & Law Arbitration	Bush, McCaffery
Cleveland, OH	Street Survival	Paull, Blair
Cleveland Metroparks	PEALS / Police Executive and Administrative Leadership School	Peeples
Columbus, OH	AR15 / MA Armorer Course	Pecnik
Columbus, OH	Chief's In-Service & Annual Conference	Ice
Columbus, OH	Midwest Crisis Negotiators Conference	Sopko, Peeples, DiDona
Columbus, OH	Remington Model 870 Shotgun Armorer Course	Pecnik
Denver, CO	FBI Conference	Bush
Edinboro, PA	Alice Instructor Training Certification	Smith
Fairview Park PD	Field Training Officer	Ankuda, Merrifield
Fairview Park PD	Public Records Law and Records Retention	McCaffery
Findlay, OH	Ohio Police Juvenile Officers Association Conference	Smith
Geauga County SO	Emergency Vehicle Response Driving, Stop Stick and Stinger Tire Training, Refreshers	Krivacic, Ankuda, Heaton, Pecnik, Paull, Peacock, Thomas, Bischof, Blair
Geauga County SO	Emergency Vehicle Response Driving, Stop Stick Stinger Tire Training	Snyder
Holden Arboretum	Glock Armorer's Course	Pecnik
Independence, OH	Criminal Investigation Techniques	Budzicki
Jeffersonville, IN	SWAT Level 1 Course	Heaton, Paull
Jeffersonville, IN	Tactical Training Sustainment / SWAT	Cook, Heaton, Paull
Kent State	Basic Police Academy	Ours
Lebanon, OH	Physical Surveillance	Cook, Fitch, Budzicki
Mason, OH	Ohio International Assn for Identification Training	Nosse
Nashville, TN	Street Cop Conference	Fitch, Peacock
Newburgh Hts, OH	First Line Supervision	Kuhse

# WICKLIFFE POLICE DEPARTMENT

## 2023 Annual Report

### SCHOOLS AND SEMINARS

LOCATION	COURSE NAME	ATTENDEES
OPOTA / London	Advanced Driving Instructor	Heaton
OPOTA / London	Advanced Dynamic Vehicle Operations	Bischof
Painesville, OH	FBI-LEEDA Executive Leadership Institute	Bush
Painesville, OH	High Threat K9 Patrol Tactics	Merrifield
Parkersburg, WV	Managing Property and Evidence in Law Enforcement	Valko
Parma, OH	The Adaptive FTO	Heaton
PowerPhone / online	Bullying and Harassment in the Dispatch Center	George
PowerPhone / online	Emergency Medical Dispatch with CPR	George, Turk
PowerPhone / online	Fire Service Dispatch Certification	Horn, Shaw, George, Turk
PowerPhone / online	Law Enforcement Dispatch Certification	Horn, Shaw, George, Turk
So. Euclid, OH	CVSA Examiner Course	Fitch
So. Euclid, OH	CVSA Recertification Course	McCaffery, Cook
Springfield, OH	Physical Fitness Specialist	Ankuda
Streetsboro, OH	Advanced Law Enforcement	Turk, Johnson
Tri-C	Police Urban Mountain Bicycle Course	Ankuda, Peacock
University Circle PD	Introduction to Crime Prevention	DiDona
Walton Hills, OH	Interdiction Mastermind	Bischof
Wickliffe School District Campus	Active Killer Training	Krivacic, Sopko, Peeples, Kuhse, Cook, Fitch, Rosen, Ankuda, Budzicki, DiDona, Merrifield, Heaton, Pecnik, Paull, Peacock, Thomas, Bischof, Blair, Snyder, Ours, Sieminski, Dodds
Wickliffe PD	Adult and Pediatric First Aid/CPR/AED Certification	Ice, Bush, Coolick, Krivacic, Sopko, Petric, Kuhse, Cook, Rosen, Regnier, Sabruno, Ankuda, Smith, Fitch, Budzicki, DiDona, Merrifield, Heaton, Pecnik, Paull, Peacock, Thomas, Bischof, Blair, Snyder, Valko, Nosse, Hanlon, Bender-Walker, Veri, Thompson, Stein, Horn, Shaw, George, Turk, Gordon, Brzeski, Johnson
Wickliffe PD	GST Training Modules (Instructors: Lt. McCaffery and Ptl. Ryan Bischof)	Petric, Peeples, Cook, Fitch, Rosen, Ankuda, Smith, Budzicki, DiDona, Merrifield, Heaton, Pecnik, Paull, Peacock, Thomas, Blair, Snyder, Ours, Sieminski
Wickliffe PD	Pepperball Operator Certification	Krivacic, Sopko, Petric, Peeples, Shum, Rosen, Regnier, Ankuda, Fitch, Budzicki, DiDona, Merrifield, Pecnik, Peacock, Thomas, Bischof, Blair, Miozzi, Snyder, Nosse
Wickliffe PD	TASER X26P User Certification Course	Snyder, Ours, Sieminski
Wickliffe PD / online	First Aid/CPR/AED Instructor	Peeples
Wickliffe PD / online	LEADS TAC In-Service	Krivacic
Wickliffe PD / online	Notary Renewal	Shaw, Gordon, Lentine
Wickliffe PD / online	Ohio Attorney General's Search Warrant Preparation	Coolick
Wickliffe PD / webinar	Google Geo Fencing Webinar	Cook
Wickliffe PD / webinar	Tracking Cell Phones GPS, WIFI, Cell Sites, & SLR	Coolick
Willoughby PD	Street Crimes	Merrifield, Bischof
Willoughby Hills, OH	2023 Criminal Patrol Drug Interdiction	Merrifield, Pecnik, Bischof
Youngstown, OH	Field Training Officer	Heaton

**WICKLIFFE POLICE DEPARTMENT  
POLICE CAR INVENTORY**

December 31, 2023

<b>CAR #</b>	<b>ASSIGNED TO</b>	<b>MAKE</b>	<b>MODEL</b>	<b>COLOR</b>	<b>YEAR</b>	<b>MILEAGE</b>
750	CHIEF	FORD	F-150 P/R 4X4	WHITE	2020	49,195
705	K9	FORD	INTERCEPTOR SUV	WHITE	2022	17,523
751	DET. BUREAU	CHEVROLET	IMPALA	GRAY	2016	50,548
752	SCHOOL CAR	CHEVROLET	IMPALA	TAN	2010	84,759
753	DET. BUREAU	FORD	FUSION	SILVER	2018	24,880
754	PATROL	DODGE	CHARGER	WHITE	2019	90,802
755	PATROL	FORD	INTERCEPTOR	WHITE	2017	74,647
756	PATROL	FORD	INTERCEPTOR SUV	WHITE	2019	93,357
757	PATROL	FORD	INTERCEPTOR	WHITE	2017	92,307
758	PATROL	FORD	INTERCEPTOR SUV	WHITE	2019	94,405
759	SRO	FORD	INTERCEPTOR SUV	WHITE	2017	90,714
760	LIEUTENANTS	CHEVROLET	TAHOE	BLACK	2020	12,811
761	PATROL	FORD	INTERCEPTOR SUV	WHITE	2022	26,548
762	PATROL	FORD	INTERCEPTOR SUV	WHITE	2020	60,678
763	SWAT TEAM	CHEVROLET	E25 VAN	WHITE	2011	12,459
764	SERGEANTS	DODGE	CHARGER	WHITE	2019	39,776
765	PATROL	CHEVROLET	TAHOE	WHITE	2020	80,155
766	UNDERCOVER	FORD	FUSION	BLACK	2010	69,560
767	PATROL	FORD	INTERCEPTOR SUV	WHITE	2020	57,604
768	DET. BUREAU	DODGE	RAM 1500	GRY	2020	18,284
769	JAIL	FORD	TRANSIT	WHITE	2018	26,704
N/A	SCHOOL CAR	FORD	F-150	SILVER	2022	4,581
MC-1	TRAFFIC	HARLEY	FLHP	WHITE	2010	5,998