



# WHEELING POLICE DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT

# 2024

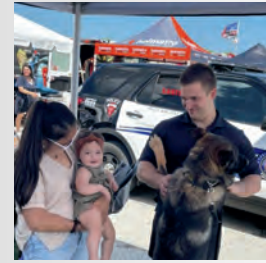


WE SERVE - WE PROTECT - WE CARE



# TABLE OF CONTENT

Download this report..... Page 3  
 Chief’s Message..... Page 4  
 Board of Trustees..... Page 5  
 Mission Statement & Values..... Page 6  
 The Police Department ..... Page 7  
 Department Goals & Accomplishments ..... Page 8-11  
 Performance Measures..... Page 12  
 Organizational Chart ..... Page 13  
 Authorized Personnel..... Page 14  
 Command Staff..... Page 15  
 Employee Roster..... Page 17-21  
 Promotions, Appointments, New Officers..... Page 22  
 The Patrol Division..... Page 24  
 Crime Statistics..... Page 25  
 Bike Unit..... Page 26, 27  
 K-9 Unit..... Page 28  
 Traffic Unit..... Page 29, 30  
 Review of Traffic Activities..... Page 31  
 Traffic Crash Analysis..... Page 32, 33



Regional Teams..... Page 34  
 Community Service Officers..... Page 35  
 Honor Guard..... Page 36  
 Mutual Aid..... Page 37  
 The Investigations Division..... Page 38  
 Investigations Division Case Analysis..... Page 39  
 NCNTF, MCAT..... Page 40  
 School Resource Officer..... Page 41-43  
 Evidence..... Page 44  
 The Administrative Services Division ..... Page 45  
 Officer Training..... Page 46-48  
 Recruiting & Records..... Page 49  
 Crime Analyst & Crime Prevention..... Page 50, 51  
 Social Services Division..... Page 52, 53  
 Citizens Patrol..... Page 55  
 Community Outreach Programs..... Page 56-92  
 “Pawfficer” Buddy..... Page 93



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the 2024 Annual Report**



## **Message from Chief James J. Dunne**

On behalf of the officers and staff of the Wheeling Police Department, I am proud to highlight the remarkable accomplishments detailed in this 2024 annual report, from our efforts to encourage diversity in hiring to our initiative to improve the efficiency of our field training program. Together, we have made significant strides in enhancing public safety and strengthening the bonds between the Department and the stakeholders of Wheeling.

This past year we worked diligently to complete the onboarding of fire and police dispatch services into the Northwest Central Dispatch System, which launched on January 9, 2025. This integration improved cooperation with neighboring communities while ensuring financial accountability, and would not have been possible without efforts put forth by our entire team.

Throughout 2024, our department remained steadfast in its dedication to uphold the highest standards of law enforcement while fostering collaboration and trust within our neighborhoods. Despite facing challenges brought on by the ever-changing legislation, our officers continued to demonstrate resilience and flexibility, working diligently to ensure the safety of our streets.

However, our efforts are just beginning; as Wheeling expands, we must evolve alongside it. Looking to the future, we stay dedicated to ongoing progress and innovation, ensuring we deliver the highest quality service and create a safer Village where everyone can thrive and succeed.

I invite community members to engage with us via our social media channels and participate in our programs and safety events, such as National Night Out, Cop on a Rooftop, Shop with a Cop, the Citizens Police and Fire Academy, Arrest Cancer, and Arrest Hunger. Our goal is to foster a culture that prioritizes safety, openness, and inclusivity, ensuring that everyone feels welcome.

# Village Trustees



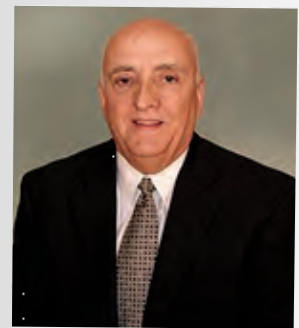
**Village President**  
Patrick Horcher



**Village Manager**  
Jon Sfondilis



**Village Trustee**  
Mary Papantos



**Village Trustee**  
Jim Ruffatto



**Village Trustee**  
Joe Vito



**Village Trustee**  
David Vogel



**Village Trustee**  
Mary Krueger



**Village Trustee**  
Ray Lang



**Village Clerk**  
Kathryn Brady

Deserving thanks for supporting our mission, the Wheeling Board of Trustees is the legislative branch of government that creates all village policy administered by the Village Manager. The Board of Trustees, along with the Village President, serve as the corporate authorities for the village.

# Department Mission

The mission of the Wheeling Police Department is to improve the quality of life for the citizens of the Village of Wheeling by the provision of the highest quality of police services.

The department will maintain respect for human rights, will promote integrity and courtesy, and work to build strong, effective, police/community partnerships.

# Organizational Values

## Partnership

We are committed to working on partnerships with the community and with each other to identify and resolve issues which impact public safety.

## Encouragement

We encourage participation and input from all levels of our organization and all individuals and groups in the Village.

## Integrity

We are committed to nurturing the public trust by holding ourselves accountable to the highest standards of professionalism and ethics.

## Dedication

We dedicate ourselves to professional law enforcement service through open system of communication, community partnerships, improved department management, enhanced operational procedures, and the utilization of problem solving methods and strategies.

**WE SERVE - WE PROTECT - WE CARE**

# POLICE DEPARTMENT




The Wheeling Police Department is a dynamic agency with 81 full-time equivalent employees, including 63 sworn officers and 18 civilian professionals. Tasked with maintaining public safety, the department handles a broad spectrum of responsibilities, from frontline operations in Patrol, Traffic, and Investigations, to vital support services like Records management and Crime Prevention. With a strong commitment to community-oriented policing, the department prioritizes collaboration with residents to deter crime, address public safety concerns, and foster a secure and thriving environment for everyone in the Village of Wheeling.

The Social Services Division is dedicated to supporting community members by providing essential resources and professional assistance. It offers a range of services, including social engagement, educational programs, and nutrition support for older adults through the Lunch at the Center Congregate Dining program. Additionally, the division facilitates access to public benefits, connects residents with vital community resources, provides crisis intervention as well as victim advocacy, and conducts outreach and educational initiatives. Through comprehensive case assessment and management, Social Services ensures all Wheeling residents receive the support they need. This division operates as part of a collaborative effort, with all municipal departments working in unison to enhance the well-being and quality of life within our community.


# Department Accomplishments




**STATED GOAL: Use the budget process to reflect the vision of this Strategic Plan.**

 Successfully managed the integration of fire and police dispatch services into Northwest Central Dispatch System, which went live on January 9, 2025. This integration enhanced collaborative capabilities with neighboring towns while maintaining fiscal responsibility.

**STATED GOAL: Promote and encourage diversity in hiring.**


 Provided educational and leadership opportunities for youth in the Village of Wheeling through the Student Leaders and Mentoring (SLAM) camp. The program focused on enhancing skills in communication, task management, leadership, and ethics, while also helping participants explore career interests, particularly in public safety.


 Updated the Police Recruitment Video with changes made to reflect current personnel.

 Initiated a police officer lateral entry program.


# Department Accomplishments


**STATED GOAL: Provide for succession planning so that others are ready, willing, and able to serve.**

 Enhanced the efficiency of the Field Training Program by creating an internal video database using body-worn camera footage. This allowed for more focused and practical training through real-world examples, with specific videos selected to support the development of probationary officers.


 Selected and trained a Police Department Investigator/ Evidence Technician in the proper identification and handling of critical evidence to increase expertise in arson investigation and evidence collection.


**STATED GOAL: Foster effective and cooperative relationships with community stakeholders.**

 Continued providing specialized services to older adults through the “Lunch at the Center Congregate Dining Program,” which exceeded grant expectations and led to a successful request for additional funding from Age Options.

 Assisted residents in accessing public benefits, connected them with vital community resources, provided crisis intervention and victim advocacy, while also conducting outreach and education.

**STATED GOAL: Enhance the Village’s cyber identity.**



 Added a QR code to business cards. The code directs users to Police Social Media Accounts and relevant resources.

 Increased social media presence to help build a strong brand and enhance community relationships.



# Department Goals



**IDENTIFIED GOAL: Use the budget process to reflect the vision of this Strategic Plan.**



-  Use the new Report Management System and Computer Aided Dispatch technology to streamline workflow, reduce the need for manual record keeping, help officers communicate, identify hot spots, and develop strategies and tailor plans to focus resources.
-  Use the front desk position to create a welcoming and accessible environment for all visitors to the police facility, ensuring they feel respected, assisted, and informed during their visit.

**IDENTIFIED GOAL: Promote and encourage diversity in Hiring.**



-  Supporting Wheeling's diverse community, we will continue the Student Leaders and Mentorship Development Camp. Hosted by WPD/WFD/ Social Services this program teaches ethics and values to students who are entertaining thoughts of a career in Public Safety.
-  Attend vocational recruitment fairs to actively engage with students, promote job opportunities within the department, and build a pipeline of qualified candidates. Focus on fostering relationships with diverse student populations, providing information about career paths, benefits, and the values of the organization, while also collecting resumes and conducting on-site interviews to identify top talent.

# Department Goals



## **IDENTIFIED GOAL: Ensure continued CALEA Accreditation Compliance**

-  Have accreditation files completed and up to date for inspection by the C.A.L.E.A. Accreditation Compliance Manager by June 28, 2025.
-  Ensure all time sensitive standards are completed thoroughly and on target.



## **IDENTIFIED GOAL: Ensure Training is credible and up to date**

-  Monitor all mandated Federal, State, C.A.L.E.A. and department-mandated training to ensure compliance and on time completion.
-  Plan and implement an all-hazard training exercise in collaboration with other Village Departments and/or community stakeholders to enhance preparedness and coordination.

## **IDENTIFIED GOAL: Provide for succession planning so that others are ready, willing, and able to serve.**

-  Assess the performance of the Field Training Program and make necessary adjustments to ensure alignment with the evolving demands of the law enforcement agency.
-  Provide training opportunities in law enforcement technology and tools to ensure the benefits provided by recently upgraded systems are realized.

## **IDENTIFIED GOAL: Records Unit Operations**

-  Provide training to all records clerks and CSOs on the revised responsibilities of the position to ensure staff effectively handle public interactions, with the aim of meeting and surpassing customer needs not only through empathetic customer service but also knowledge in specific policies and procedures.
-  Monitor the extended hours of records operations and evenly distribute tasks amongst staff to ensure equity and efficiency.

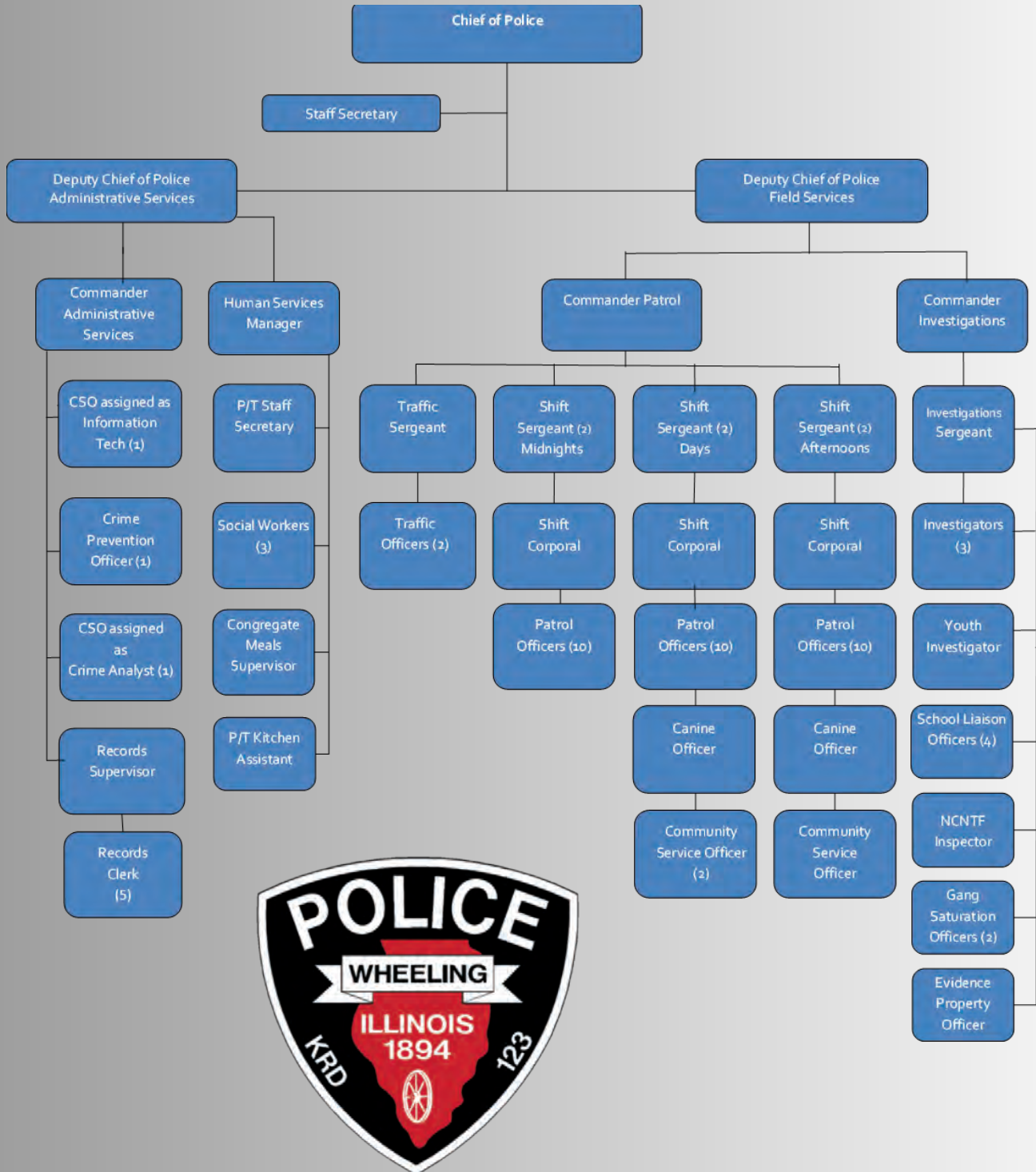
# PERFORMANCE MEASURES

KEY PERFORMANCE MEASURES/SERVICE INDICATORS	Target	Actual 2024	Actual 2023	Actual 2022
Stated Goal: <b>Ensure strong financial policies, practices, and public transparency</b> Type of Measure: <b>Effectiveness</b>				
Compliance with Mandatory CALEA Standards	100%	100%	100%	100%
Compliance with Non-Mandatory CALEA Standards	>80%	98.24%	98.24%	98.24%
Total Part 1 Crime Per 1,000 of Population	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total Part 2 Crime Per 1,000 of Population	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total Crime Per 1,000 of Population All Offenses (NIBRS)	N/A	68	44	35
Avoidable Accidents & Injuries	<6	4	4	4
Stated Goal: <b>Ensure strong financial policies, practices, and public transparency</b> Type of Measure: <b>Efficiency</b>				
Average Minutes from Call Received to Dispatch	<2 min.	2.7	2.17	1.78
Average Cost per Call for Service	N/A	\$453.44	\$461.20	\$485.31
Stated Goal: <b>Ensure strong financial policies, practices, and public transparency</b> Type of Measure: <b>Output</b>				
Average Calls for Service Per Officer/CSO	N/A	340	322	325
Accidents/Crashes Investigated	N/A	928	889	860
Total Calls for Service ---- Police Service	N/A	17,708	16,729	16,269
Clearance Rate: Part I Offenses Against Persons (Cases Assigned)	N/A	N/A	N/A	72%
Clearance Rate: Part I Offenses Against Property (Cases Assigned)	N/A	N/A	N/A	46%
Clearance Rate: All Offenses (Cases Assigned-Per NIBRS)	N/A	54%	58%	N/A
Stated Goal: <b>Foster effective &amp; cooperative relationships with community stakeholders</b> Type of Measure: <b>Effectiveness</b>				
Number of Social Services Clients Returning for Services within current year	10%	9%	9%	7%
Number of Meals served through the Congregate Dining Program	14,500	13,784	15,599	14,009
Stated Goal: <b>Maintain a sustainable multi-year financial, and capital plan.</b> Type of Measure: <b>Output</b>				
Total Cases per Social Worker *excluding the Information & Referral Quick Assists	N/A	318	291	235

\*A new National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS) has replaced the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) System and as such, our annual reports reflect the new reporting requirements.



# Organizational Chart



# Authorized Personnel

<i>AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL</i>	<i>FY 2025</i>	<i>FY 2024</i>	<i>FY 2023</i>
<i>Police Chief</i>	1	1	1
<i>Deputy Police Chief</i>	2	2	2
<i>Commander</i>	3	3	3
<i>Sergeant</i>	8	8	8
<i>Corporal</i>	3	3	3
<i>Officer</i>	46	46	43
<i>911 Communications Center Manager</i>	0	1	1
<i>Social Services Manager</i>	1	1	1
<i>Social Worker</i>	3	3	3
<i>Evidence/Property Officer</i>	1	1	1
<i>IT Tech</i>	1	1	1
<i>Radio Operator</i>	0	15	19
<i>Community Service Officer</i>	4	3	3
<i>Records Supervisor</i>	1	1	1
<i>Records Clerk</i>	5	4	4
<i>Staff Secretary</i>	1	1	1
<i>Congregate Meals Site Supervisor</i>	1	1	1
<b><i>TOTAL FULL-TIME</i></b>	<b>81</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>96</b>
<i>Radio Operator</i>	0	5	5
<i>Kitchen Assistant</i>	1	1	1
<i>Human Services Staff Secretary</i>	1	1	1
<b><i>TOTAL PART-TIME</i></b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>

# Command Staff



**James J. Dunne**  
Chief of Police



**Alan Steffen**  
Deputy Chief of  
Administrative Services



**Michael Conway**  
Deputy Chief of  
Field Services



**Joseph Kopecky**  
Commander  
Investigations Division



**James Borchardt**  
Commander  
Administrative  
Services Division



**Troy Musolf**  
Commander  
Patrol Division



**Shari Huizar**  
Social Services  
Manager



# Congratulations



During the Village Board Meeting on Monday, February 5, 2024, Corporal Dorann Swanson was promoted to the rank of Sergeant.

Since January 6, 1997, Sergeant Swanson has served the Village of Wheeling with distinction, acting as a role model for both male and female officers.



# SERGEANTS



**Christopher  
Higham**



**Michael  
Bieschke**



**John  
Abbio**



**Richard  
Giltner**



**Tom  
Pinedo**



**Dennis  
Bulanda**



**Rick  
Richardson**



**Dorann  
Swanson**

# CORPORALS



**Carl  
Messina**



**Bret  
Potter**



**Matt  
Lee**



# POLICE OFFICERS



**Adam Sherman**  
**Adrian Gonzalez**  
**Andrew Teichen**  
**Angela Kaehler**  
**Anthony Guzzarde**  
**Bianca Barone**  
**Brittany Vore**  
**Bryan Martorano**  
**Cameron Risner**  
**Dane Eimer**  
**Daniel Pawlus**  
**Dante Perez**  
**Derrick Bernabei**  
**Devin Ladesic**

**Edi Rodriguez**  
**Ian Hybert**  
**Ignacio Garcia**  
**Ignacio Oropeza**  
**Jordan Hudak**  
**Jorge Pizano**  
**Joseph Rundo**  
**Joseph Werderitch**  
**Julian Bahena**  
**Kasia Struga**  
**Katrina Smolarczyk**  
**Kelly Merrell**  
**Kevin Smith**  
**Laura Joschko**  
**Lukas Czapla**

**Martha Marquez**  
**Marcel Rebowski**  
**Michael Muñoz**  
**Nicholas Novak**  
**Piotr Akszterowicz**  
**Robert Czopek**  
**Robert Lundgren**  
**Shane Maurer**  
**Steven Camporese**  
**Steven Komin**  
**Sung Phil Kim**  
**Troy Swindle**  
**Tyler Courtney**  
**Viktoriiia Kuzmykha**





The Wheeling Police Department convened for its annual meeting, bringing together officers and staff to share important departmental updates, discuss key initiatives, and recognize outstanding achievements. During the event, numerous officers were honored with awards for their exceptional dedication, professionalism, and contributions to public safety.



**BANK THE BLUE'S**  
First Annual  
**16" Softball**  
TOURNAMENT FUNDRAISER



The Wheeling Police Department's Softball team took part in the inaugural Bank the Blue softball tournament fundraiser. The event aimed to support Illinois Law Enforcement Mental Health Treatment and Training Programs.



## Records



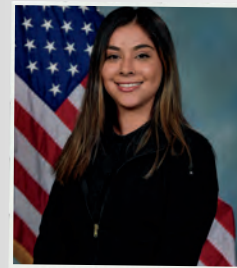
Katherine Whitehead  
Records Supervisor



Kristina Maldonado  
Records Clerk



Margaret Steurer  
Records Clerk



Yasmine Delgado  
Records Clerk

## Community Service Officers



Anthony Reyes  
Community Service Officer



Victoria Velazquez  
Community Service Officer



Jacek Trzebunia  
Information Technology



Veronica Salazar  
Crime Analyst



Mike Kelly  
Evidence Property Officer

## Social Services



Miriam Mayorga  
Police Social Worker



Yuritzi Garduno  
Police Social Worker



Orlando Pabon  
Police Social Worker



Diana Murillo  
Social Services  
Staff Secretary

# Promotions



Corporal Dorann Swanson  
Promoted to the position of  
Sergeant-February 2024

# Assignments



Officer Laura Joschko  
Assigned to position of  
Crime Prevention Officer-  
October 2024



Officer Kevin Smith  
Assigned to the position  
of Investigator -  
November 2024

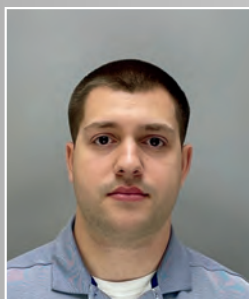
# NEW OFFICERS

**April 2024**



Adrian Gonzalez  
#152

**April 2024**



Robert  
Lundgren  
#146

# RETIREMENTS

**June 2024**



Christina Lascola  
Records Clerk



# LAW ENFORCEMENT

# TORCH

# RUN



# SPECIAL OLYMPICS ILLINOIS 2024



Officers were proud to participate in the Special Olympics Torch Run



# THE PATROL DIVISION

The Wheeling Police Department’s Patrol Division consists of multiple specialized units, including the Patrol Unit, Traffic Unit, K-9 Unit, and Community Service Officers. This division operates under the supervision of six Sergeants and three Corporals, overseeing a team of 31 Patrol Officers, 2 K-9 Officers, and 2 Community Service Officers.

The Traffic Unit, led by a Sergeant, is staffed by two dedicated officers, while overall leadership and strategic oversight of all units fall under the Patrol Commander’s responsibility.

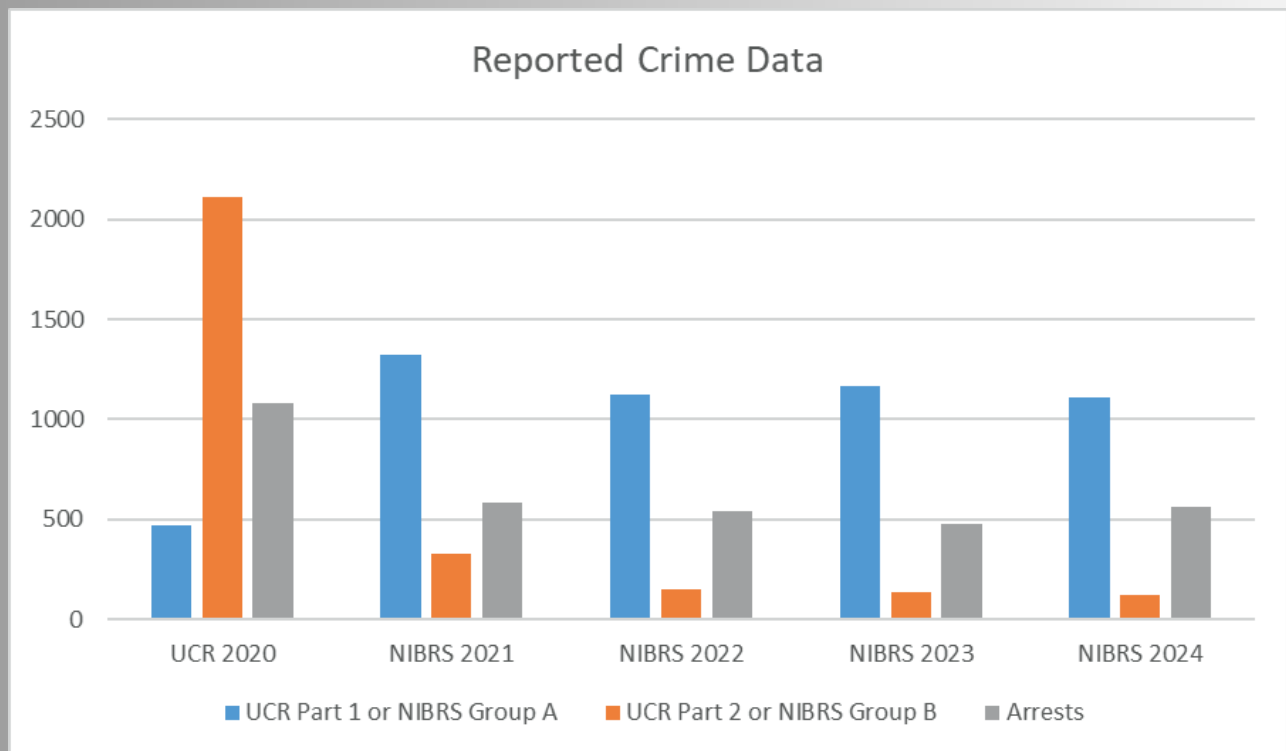
Operating around the clock, 365 days a year, the Patrol Division ensures comprehensive police services for the Village of Wheeling. Officers respond to both emergency and non-emergency calls, safeguard lives and property, maintain public order, conduct preliminary investigations, and enforce traffic laws, criminal statutes, and municipal ordinances. Sergeants and Corporals provide essential leadership and support to officers in their daily duties. To maintain seamless service, the division functions across three shifts, ensuring continuous coverage for the community.

<b>Midnight Shift</b>	<b>Day Shift</b>	<b>Afternoon Shift</b>
11:00 p.m. to 7:30 a.m.	7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.	3:00 p.m. to 11:30 p.m.

YEAR	CALLS FOR SERVICE	ANNUAL CHANGE
2020	15,956	-10%
2021	16,208	1.70%
2022	16,269	0.3%
2023	16,729	2.8%
2024	17,708	5.9%

# CRIME STATISTICS

In 2024, the Wheeling Police Department continued to respond to a wide range of calls for service, including criminal offenses, traffic accidents, disturbances, traffic complaints, special watches, and various other incidents. Patrol Officers remained the primary responders for the majority of these calls, reinforcing their essential role in managing and addressing a wide array of situations throughout the year. The National Incident-Based Reporting System collects data from law enforcement agencies across the nation. NIBRS categorizes crimes into Part A, which are more significant offenses. And Part B, less serious offenses.



# BIKE UNIT





The Wheeling Police Department’s Bike Patrol Unit continues to serve as an effective tool for community engagement, allowing officers to patrol the village in a more approachable and interactive manner.

Throughout 2024, the unit maintained regularly scheduled weekend shifts from early spring through early fall, with additional deployments for special events and community activities. Over the year, officers dedicated a total of 262 hours to bike patrol, reinforcing their commitment to proactive policing and public safety.

The Bike Patrol Unit played an active role in several key events, including:

- National Night Out
- Coffee with a Cop
- Rock the Runway
- National Take Back Drug Day at Walmart
- Halloween festivities

By participating in these events, the Bike Patrol Unit continues to strengthen relationships with residents while enhancing safety and visibility throughout the community.

## Active Bicycle Officers

Sgt. Bulanda	Ofc. Smolarczyk	Ofc. Akszterowicz	Ofc. Courtney
Sgt. Richardson	Ofc. Munoz	Ofc. Novak	Ofc. Rundo
Sgt. Abbio	Ofc. Maurer	Ofc. Swindle	Ofc. Vore
Sgt. Swanson	Ofc. Bernabei	Ofc. Risner	Ofc. Marquez
Ofc. Czapla	Ofc. Smith	Ofc. Hybert	



# K-9 UNIT



In 2024, the Wheeling Police Department's K-9 Unit continued to enhance its capabilities with Officers Guzzarde and Locke, along with Officer Czopek and Kane. Both K-9 teams, having undergone extensive training, remain certified in narcotic detection, tracking, and apprehension. Their ongoing dedication and expertise make them indispensable assets to the department and the community. Throughout the year, these teams have played a crucial role in supporting patrol operations, assisting with investigations, and ensuring public safety in the Village of Wheeling.





# TRAFFIC UNIT

Ensuring the safety of Wheeling’s roadways for both residents and commuters remains a top priority for the Patrol Division. Leading this critical effort is Sergeant Dennis Bulanda, who oversees the Traffic Unit. As of January 2024, the unit consists of the Traffic Sergeant and two dedicated Traffic Officers.

The Traffic Unit remains committed to professional and effective traffic enforcement, utilizing a strategy that balances education with targeted enforcement. Through these proactive efforts, the unit plays a vital role in enhancing roadway safety for those who live and work in Wheeling. Their dedication underscores the department’s ongoing commitment to maintaining a secure and well-regulated traffic environment.

ACTIVITY	2023	2024	DIFFERENCE	% CHANGE
TRAFFIC STOPS	13,683	16,608	+2,928	+21.3%
DUI ARRESTS	74	78	+4	+5.4%
TRAFFIC ARRESTS	591	890	+299	+50.5%
TRAFFIC CITATIONS	5,121	5,782	+661	+12.9%
COMPLIANCE CITATIONS	2,326/3,651	4,476	+1,113	+33.0%
WRITTEN WARNINGS	7,573	8,429	+856	+11.3%
VERBAL WARNINGS	259	181	-78	-30.1%
PARKING CITATIONS	3,895	4,528	+633	+16.2%

In 2024, the Wheeling Police Department's Traffic Unit and Patrol Division demonstrated a significant increase in enforcement activity,

reinforcing the department's commitment to roadway safety and compliance.

- Traffic Stops saw a 21.3% increase from 13,683 in 2023 to 16,608 in 2024, indicating a heightened presence, proactive enforcement efforts by officers and increased focus on traffic safety.
- DUI Arrests experienced a modest increase of 5.4%, reflecting ongoing vigilance in detecting and removing impaired drivers from Wheeling's roadways. While the change is not drastic, it signifies consistent enforcement efforts in addressing this critical public safety issue.
- Traffic Arrests surged by 50.5%, marking the most significant increase among all categories. This suggests a more aggressive approach to enforcing traffic violations.
- Traffic Citations rose by 12.9%, aligning with the increased number of traffic stops. This increase indicates a focus on holding violators accountable through citations rather than warnings alone.
- Compliance Citations saw a 33.0% increase, highlighting enhanced enforcement efforts to ensure vehicles and drivers meet legal standards.
- Written Warnings increased by 11.3%, suggesting that while citations rose, officers also continued to use warnings as an educational tool to encourage voluntary compliance.
- Verbal Warnings, however, declined by 30.1%, which may indicate a shift toward more formalized documentation of violations through citations and written warnings rather than discretionary verbal warnings.
- Parking Citations increased by 16.2%, reflecting greater enforcement of parking regulations throughout the village.

Overall, the data suggests a more proactive and structured enforcement strategy in 2024, with a focus on increasing compliance through citations and arrests rather than verbal warnings. The significant uptick in traffic-related enforcement underscores the department's ongoing efforts to enhance road safety and reduce violations.



# Review of Traffic Enforcement Activities

The Wheeling Police Department continues to implement a data-driven approach to addressing traffic-related concerns within the community. By analyzing crash data, citizen complaints, and traffic studies, the Traffic Unit identifies areas in need of enhanced enforcement. These locations are designated as Selective Traffic Enforcement Zones, where resources are concentrated to mitigate crashes and address public safety concerns.

To bolster enforcement efforts, the Traffic Unit leverages Sustained Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) grants from the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT), allowing for targeted enforcement during both major holidays and non-holiday periods.

Recognizing the importance of a collaborative approach, the department integrates Patrol Officers into traffic enforcement initiatives as needed. Additionally, the Crime Prevention Unit plays a key role in public education by disseminating traffic safety messages through social media platforms, ensuring community awareness and engagement.

Further supporting these efforts, the Traffic Unit strategically deploys portable speed monitoring displays in high-crash areas or locations with recurring citizen complaints. These displays are periodically relocated to maximize their effectiveness in promoting speed awareness and compliance.

This multifaceted and proactive strategy reflects the department's continued commitment to enhancing roadway safety and responding to community concerns with targeted enforcement and education initiatives.

# Traffic Crash Data Analysis

TRAFFIC CRASHES	2023	2024	DIFFERENCE	% CHANGE
FATAL TRAFFIC	3	2	-1	-33.3%
PERSONAL INJURY	132	134	+2	+1.5%
PROPERTY DAMAGE	753	811	+58	+7.7%
TOTAL CRASHES	889	947	+58	+6.5%
CRASH SUBCATEGORIES				
MUNICIPAL VEHICLE	5	13	+8	+160.0%
HIT AND RUN	183	153	-30	-16.3%
PRIVATE PROPERTY	150	138	-12	-8%
ALCOHOL RELATED	17	25	+8	+47.0%
PEDESTRIAN	11	12	+1	+9.0%

The data from 2023 to 2024 reveals noteworthy trends in traffic crashes within the Wheeling community. A positive shift occurred in fatal traffic incidents, which decreased from 3 in 2023 to 2 in 2024. However, personal injury crashes saw a slight increase of 1.5%, rising from 132 to 134. Property damage incidents continued their upward trend, increasing by 7.7%, from 753 in 2023 to 811 in 2024. As a result, the total number of crashes rose by 6.5%, from 889 to 947.

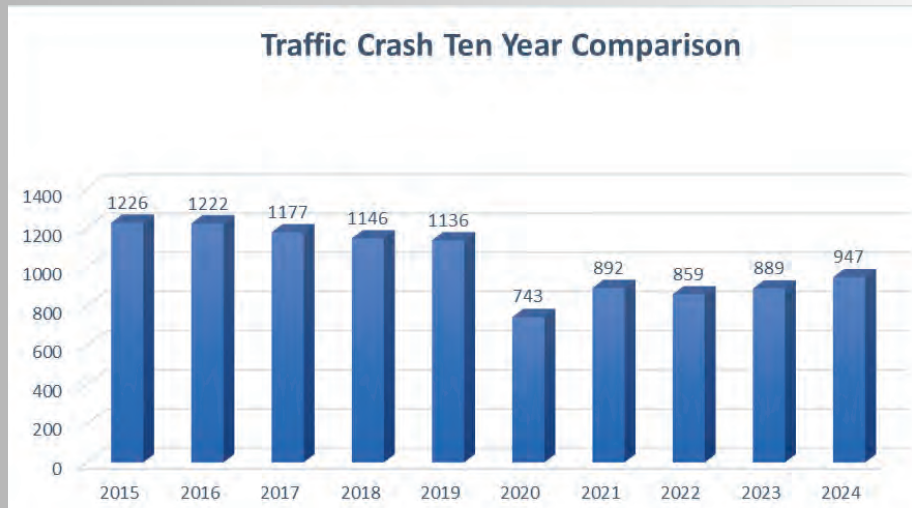
Examining specific crash subcategories:

- Municipal vehicle incidents increased sharply by 160%, rising from 5 to 13, warranting further analysis.
- Hit-and-run cases saw a notable decline of 16.3%, dropping from 183 to 153, indicating potential improvements in enforcement or reporting.
- Private property incidents decreased by 8.0%, from 150 to 138, suggesting improved parking lot safety or driver awareness.
- Alcohol-related crashes surged by 47.0%, climbing from 17 to 25, highlighting a growing concern that may require enhanced DUI enforcement and public awareness efforts.
- Pedestrian-involved crashes increased slightly by 9.0%, from 11 to 12, emphasizing the need for continued pedestrian safety initiatives.

These statistics provide a comprehensive overview of the evolving traffic crash landscape in Wheeling, emphasizing both areas of improvement and aspects requiring continued attention in 2024.

## Traffic Crash Data Analysis

The graph illustrates the total number of traffic crashes over the past decade. While an increase was observed in 2024, with crashes rising from 889 in 2023 to 947 in 2024 (+6.5%), the overall crash count remains relatively stable compared to historical figures. This



can be attributed to a combination of factors, including traffic enforcement efforts, infrastructure improvements, and changing traffic patterns within the Village.

Despite consistently high traffic volume—especially on Dundee and Lake Cook Roads—the data suggests that strategic enforcement initiatives and public awareness campaigns continue to play a role in mitigating crash severity and frequency. However, the rise in property damage and alcohol-related crashes underscores the need for ongoing education and enforcement measures.

As Wheeling continues to experience heavy daily traffic, the department remains committed to analyzing trends, adapting enforcement strategies, and implementing safety initiatives to promote roadway safety and reduce crashes in the future.

### Crash Causation

CRASH CAUSATION	2023	2024	DIFFERENCE	% CHANGE
Failure to reduce speed	298	304	+6	+2.0%
Failure to yield	187	214	+27	+14.4%
Following too closely	110	144	+34	+30.9%
Improper lane usage	80	108	+28	+35%
Improper backing	80	76	-4	-5%

The top five causations of crashes remained the same for 2024 as compared to 2023. There were increases in four of the five categories with the largest increase being for following too closely, and the only decrease being for improper backing.

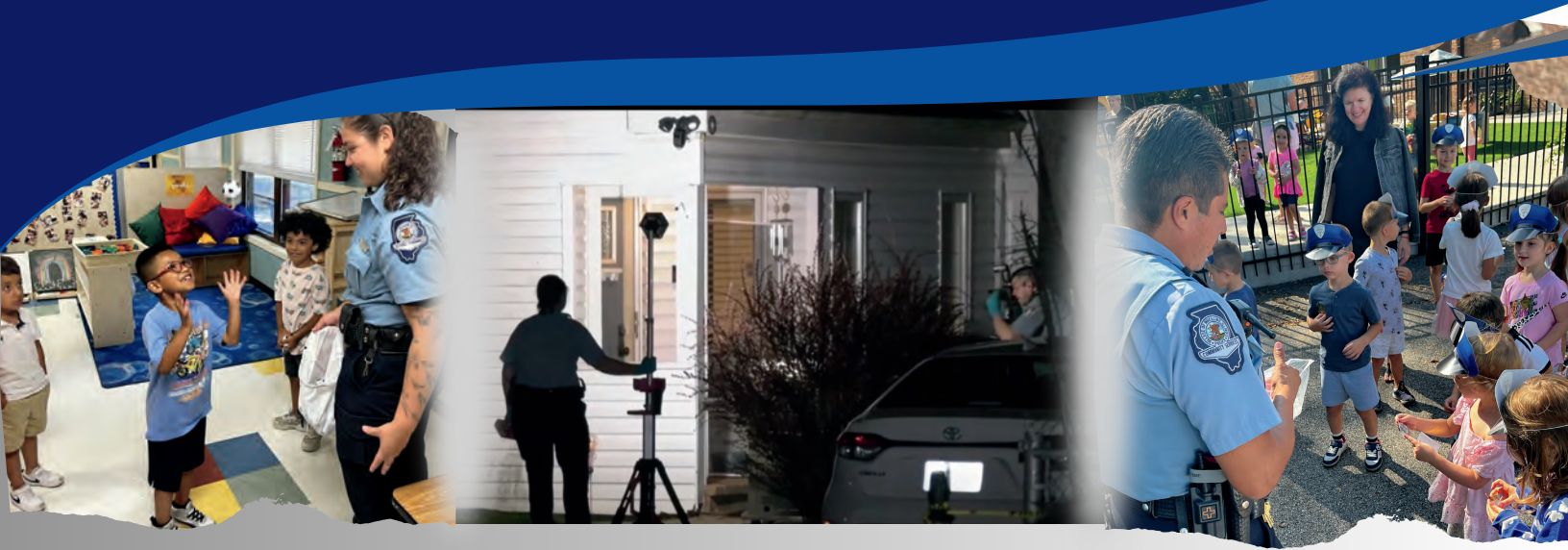


## Regional Teams

The Wheeling Police Department remains committed to regional collaboration through its active participation in various law enforcement organizations. In 2024, the department continued its involvement with the Northern Illinois Police Alarm Service (NIPAS) Emergency Services Team (EST), the NIPAS Mobile Field Force, and the Major Case Assistance Team (MCAT), including its specialized division, MCAT STAR (Serious Traffic Accident Reconstruction).

Through these partnerships, the department designates one or more officers to serve on these regional teams. This reciprocal arrangement ensures that Wheeling officers are both contributing to and benefiting from specialized resources in critical situations, including crowd control, high-risk operations, and the investigation of major crimes or serious traffic crashes. These collaborations enhance the department's overall effectiveness and reinforce its dedication to public safety.

# Community Service Officers



In 2024, the Patrol Division continued to benefit from the dedicated support of two full-time Community Service Officers (CSOs), who play a vital role in handling a wide range of responsibilities. Their duties include enforcing parking regulations and local ordinances, managing traffic control, and responding to animal-related calls.

To enhance their effectiveness, the CSOs have received additional training, allowing them to serve as Evidence Technicians. This expanded skill set enables them to provide critical support in processing evidence while maintaining their primary responsibilities. Their versatility and dedication make them an integral part of the Patrol Division, contributing significantly to the department's overall operations and community service efforts.



**Richard Giltner  
Bret Potter  
Steven Komin  
Derrick Bernabei  
Andrew Teichen  
Katrina Smolarczyk  
Dane Eimer  
Carl Messina**



The Wheeling Honor Guard, established in 2007, consists of eight dedicated sworn police officers drawn from various divisions within the department, including first-line supervisors, patrol, and investigations. This team represents the department at a variety of community events, including ceremonies, parades, and special occasions held within Wheeling. Additionally, the Honor Guard honors the memory of departed department members by attending memorial services at the request of the respective family, ensuring that the legacy of those who served is respectfully acknowledged.



# Mutual Aid

## ILEAS

Illinois Law Enforcement Alarm System (ILEAS) is a statewide mutual aid system based on available resources. When an agency faces a crisis, the incident commander can contact the ILEAS dispatch center to explain the type of support their agency requires. The telecommunicator will then input the request into the system, generating an alarm card for the particular incident. Following that, the telecommunicator can begin processing the necessary requests, sending the required resources to the affected agency.

## MABAS/ UASI-DSHEM

Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS) of Illinois serves local fire agencies, MABAS Divisions, State of Illinois departments, and Cook County Urban Area Security Initiative—Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (UASI-DHSEM) by providing a systems based resource allocation and distribution network of robust traditional and nontraditional fire, EMS, rescue, and special operations teams for emergency and sustained response within and outside of the State of Illinois.

UASI-DHSEM was developed to enhance the safety and security of Cook County by working to prevent, protect against, mitigate the effects of, respond to, and recover from all incidents, both man-made and natural, through a whole community, all hazards approach. UASI-DHSEM works for the more than five million residents of the second largest county in the United States. Cook County is vulnerable to many hazards from extreme weather to terrorist attacks. We have a fundamental responsibility to do all we can to ensure the safety of our community.

MABAS and UASI-DHSEM have become partner agencies and together design and establish capability based systems to serve the high density, urban areas of the county and state.





# THE INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION

The Investigations Division of the Wheeling Police Department is responsible for a range of key functions within the department. Its primary role is to conduct follow-up investigations on selected offenses. Reports filed by the Patrol Division are reviewed by the Investigations Sergeant, who assesses the need for further investigation based on factors such as solvability, available manpower, resources, and the likelihood of a successful resolution, drawing on past experience. In addition to this core responsibility, the Investigations Division also carries out several other important duties, including quarterly and annual compliance checks for registered sex offenders, background investigations for all prospective village employees, and compliance checks at establishments that sell alcohol and tobacco.

In 2024, the Investigations Division of the Wheeling Police Department was staffed by 14 employees. The team included one Commander, one Sergeant, four detectives, four School Resource Officers (SROs), one officer assigned to the North Central Narcotics Task Force (NCNTF), two Gang Suppression Officers, and one Evidence Custodian. Commander Kopecky oversees the division, while Detective Sergeant Bieschke is responsible for managing the day-to-day operations of the unit. The detectives work 10-hour shifts with fixed days off, following a Monday through Friday schedule. These shifts cover both daytime and nighttime hours. Additionally, a detective is on call 24/7 to ensure continuous coverage.

# INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION CASE ANALYSIS



In 2024, the division investigated 374 cases. Below is a breakdown of those cases:

**(22%)** Suspended / Open: Encompasses cases where all the leads have been exhausted, however a possibility of developing new leads exists and cases being actively investigated.

**(24%)** Closed: Often cases are closed when no investigation is required, or all investigative efforts have come to a logical conclusion.

**(37%)** Arrest: An adult has been arrested (or a juvenile petitioned, cited, or station adjusted), charged or has been released without charges for the offense reported.

**(14%)** Closed Exceptionally: Exceptional clearances are reports in which an offender has been identified, and the elements of a crime have been met to charge the person; however, the offender will not be prosecuted by the Wheeling Police Department.

**(3%)** Unfounded: Investigation determines the case to be false or baseless, in that, there are no facts to substantiate the allegation in the report.

\*The above categories do not take into account cases which were referred to the appropriate jurisdiction for prosecution.



## **North Central Narcotics Task Force (NCNTF)**

North Central Narcotics Task Force (NCNTF) is a multi-jurisdictional law enforcement task force comprised of officers from surrounding police agencies. The NCNTF frequently works in conjunction with other drug task forces, Metropolitan Enforcement Groups (MEG), and with law enforcement officers from federal, state, county, and municipal agencies. Wheeling PD continues to staff a full-time position/officer with the North Central Narcotics Task Force.

## **Major Case Assistance Team (MCAT)**

The Major Case Assistance Team (MCAT) is a multi-jurisdictional organization that offers investigative, forensic, and surveillance support to member police agencies in the investigation of homicides, attempted homicides, serial crimes, officer-involved deaths, and other major criminal events.

The MCAT Serious Traffic Accident Reconstruction (STAR) Team is activated for serious traffic accidents that result in death or involve situations where death is imminent.

Currently, MCAT includes 24 police agencies from the northwest suburbs of Chicago. The team is composed of highly trained investigators, evidence technicians, surveillance officers, and certified accident reconstructionists, all drawn from the member departments.

In 2024, MCAT had a total of 26 activations. Wheeling had 3 activations: 2 major crash investigations and 1 homicide.



Officer Smolarczyk received acknowledgment from High School District 214 tonight for administering life-saving CPR to a bus driver. We are honored to have her as one of our dedicated School Resource Officers!



# SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS

The School Resource Officer (SRO) Program is specifically designed to build and maintain relationships with students, faculty, and parents within schools. Serving as educational liaisons between the educational institutions, the community, and the police department, SROs play a crucial role in fostering a positive and supportive environment. SRO's Smolarczyk and Camporese were assigned to Wheeling High School in 2024.

SRO Czapla is now assigned to London Middle School, while SRO Ladesic takes on responsibilities at Holmes Junior High. This expansion underscores the department's commitment to enhancing safety, building positive relationships, and supporting the well-being of students in the community.





# EVIDENCE/PROPERTY

One civilian (Evidence / Property Officer), staffs the Evidence Room. The position of Evidence / Property Officer is a specialized position appointed by the Chief of Police. The Evidence / Property Officer is responsible for the receipt, recording, custody, security and disposition of all lost property, evidence and contraband coming within the custody of the Wheeling Police Department. It is the policy of the Wheeling Police Department to strictly inventory all property which comes into the department's control to protect the integrity of the evidence room.

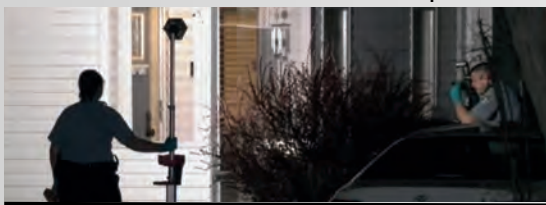
In 2024, 1,475 items were submitted into evidence under 602 different cases.

Additionally, items submitted to the Northern Illinois Regional Crime Laboratory (N.I.R.C.L.) totaled 184, items transferred to other agencies totaled 16, items destroyed by a destruction order totaled 451, and items returned to the owner totaled 239.

# EVIDENCE TECHNICIANS

The Wheeling Police Department has specially trained evidence technicians who respond to calls for service which involve the need to identify, document, collect and preserve physical evidence. They use digital imaging, digital recordings, and diagrams to document the conditions present on specific calls for service. Crime scene processing is highly technical and demands precision to ensure the successful investigation and prosecution of the offender. Physical evidence often proves crucial for apprehending and prosecuting individuals responsible for criminal acts. With advancements in science, areas like chemical fingerprint processing, microscopic analysis, and DNA testing require specific knowledge and training for police officers conducting investigations. Evidence Technicians not only collect evidence but also take responsibility for packaging it correctly. This ensures that when sent to the Northeastern Illinois Regional Crime Laboratory for further analysis, the evidence is preserved properly and securely.

Newly appointed Evidence Technicians undergo extensive formal training to achieve state certification in their position. This comprehensive training ensures that they acquire the necessary skills and knowledge to effectively carry out their responsibilities. Additionally, they actively engage in continuing education training classes in order to remain up to date on new trends and procedures.



**Total E.T. jobs: 168**

**Photos only: 90**

**Scenes w/ fingerprints: 14**

**AFIS quality: 11**



# THE ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION

The Administrative Services Division is composed of nine full-time professionals responsible for five key areas: Law Enforcement Accreditation, Records, Training, Crime Prevention, and Information Technology. Commander Jim Borchardt leads this division, ensuring efficient operations and strategic oversight.

A crucial component of the division is Law Enforcement Accreditation, governed by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA®), established in 1979. CALEA® aims to strengthen crime prevention and control, enhance service efficiency, foster collaboration within the criminal justice system, and build public trust in law enforcement policies and practices.

The Wheeling Police Department participates in CALEA's Advanced Law Enforcement Program, a prestigious initiative designed for agencies committed to demonstrating professional excellence in both operational and administrative capacities. This program equips agencies to address critical issues such as community engagement, personnel management, and public safety.

By voluntarily pursuing CALEA accreditation, the Wheeling Police Department demonstrates its unwavering commitment to maintaining the highest professional standards. Through continuous review, evaluation, and policy refinement, the department ensures it remains at the forefront of modern law enforcement practices.





## OFFICER TRAINING

The Wheeling Police Department remains dedicated to ensuring its officers receive the highest level of training to serve the community effectively and uphold public trust. In full compliance with state legislation and the Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board (ILETSB), officers successfully completed all mandated training. The agency's annual training mandates incorporated the following areas: Crisis Intervention, Officer Wellness and Mental Health, the Firearms Restraining Order Act, Firearms Qualifications, and Legal Updates.

As a CALEA-accredited agency, the department upholds the highest national standards for law enforcement professionalism and accountability. Recognizing the importance of continuous improvement, the department has invested in specialized training programs that not only enhance officer preparedness but also allow for cost-effective in-house training. This strategic approach enables the department to develop its own instructors, ensuring that critical skills and knowledge are reinforced throughout the agency.

To meet the evolving demands of modern law enforcement, officers receive ongoing instruction in Emergency Medical Response, Use of Force, Defensive Tactics, and Taser deployment. A combination of classroom-based learning and real-world scenario training ensures compliance with Illinois' rigorous standards. Additionally, officers participate in legal education courses through the Police Law Institute (PLI) to remain informed on changes in laws and best practices.

Through these efforts, the Wheeling Police Department reaffirms its unwavering commitment to professionalism, accountability, and the safety of the residents we proudly serve.

In 2024, the Wheeling Police Department strengthened its ranks by adding two highly qualified officers to the force. Recognizing the immense value of prior law enforcement experience, one of these officers was a lateral hire who brought valuable skills and firsthand knowledge from his time at the Glenwood Police Department. The second officer, while hired through our new police officer candidate process, also had previous policing experience, ensuring a seamless transition into his new role. Hiring officers with prior experience allows our department to maintain a high level of professionalism, reduce training time, and enhance public safety through the expertise these officers bring to the community.





The Wheeling Police Department took part in LEAD (Law Enforcement Action in Democracy) training to enhance their response to hate crimes, bias, and the balance between individual rights and societal protection. This certified LEAD training program by the Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board (ILETSB) helps police departments uphold the Shared Principles of Policing outlined by the NAACP.



Personnel participated in a training exercise in Arlington Heights, facilitated by the Joint Emergency Management System (JEMS). The exercise brought together municipalities from the northwest suburbs, working collaboratively to manage a simulated critical incident.

# Congratulations!



In 2024, Sergeant Tom Pinedo, Sergeant Dennis Bulanda, and Sergeant Rick Richardson successfully graduated from Northwestern University's School of Police Staff and Command. They completed an intensive ten-week program designed to enhance their administrative and leadership skills, preparing them for more effective supervision and management in law enforcement.

# RECRUITING



The Village of Wheeling is devoted to fostering equal employment opportunities and ensuring a hiring process free from any form of discrimination. The police department strives to attract a workforce that represents the rich diversity of the community it serves.

As part of this effort, the department actively participates in career fairs at colleges and universities across the Chicagoland area. These initiatives focus on broadening the applicant pool by encouraging individuals from varied backgrounds, particularly women and minorities, to pursue careers within the department. The ongoing goal is to recruit skilled professionals while addressing the need for greater representation of underrepresented groups.

# RECORDS

The Records Unit is tasked with varied responsibilities, encompassing the preparation and dissemination of reports, record maintenance, and handling public interactions. It holds the responsibility for supervising the administration and maintenance of all departmental records, covering criminal histories, arrest records, police reports, traffic citations, and the compilation of statistical data.



# CRIME ANALYST

The position of the Crime Analyst is essential for enhancing the communication of crime-related information, with a focus on producing daily, weekly, and monthly crime bulletins. This role involves the careful synthesis of intelligence data derived from crime patterns, along with actively monitoring social media platforms to gather relevant insights. By effectively sharing this information with specialized units within the Wheeling Police Department, the Crime Analyst plays a key role in optimizing the allocation of department resources in a targeted and efficient manner.

As the landscape of law enforcement evolves in response to increasing domestic terrorism, the Crime Analyst adapts and collaborates with critical partners such as Homeland Security, the State Terrorism Intelligence Center (S.T.I.C.), and the Crime Prevention Intelligence Center (CPIC). Through this collaboration, the Crime Analyst helps interpret and transmit valuable intelligence information that supports informed decision-making within the department.

The Crime Prevention and Information Center (CPIC) in Chicago operates as a vital hub for collecting, processing, analyzing, and disseminating information and intelligence related to crime and hazards. This center promotes collaboration among local, state, and tribal governments while placing a strong emphasis on safeguarding individuals' civil liberties and privacy throughout the intelligence-gathering process. Managed by the Deployment Operations section of the Chicago Police Department (CPD) and located within the Public Safety Headquarters building, CPIC is staffed by a diverse group of professionals, including members of the CPD, the FBI, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, and the Illinois State Police.

Representatives from various suburban law enforcement agencies also participate on a rotational basis, enriching the collaborative efforts. The Crime Analyst from the Wheeling Police Department actively engages with colleagues at Chicago's Crime Prevention Intelligence Center, further strengthening partnerships that contribute to more effective crime prevention and response strategies. This cooperative approach enables law enforcement agencies to work together toward a safer community for all.

# CRIME PREVENTION

The Wheeling Police Department is committed to building strong relationships with the residents and business of the Village of Wheeling. Through our Crime Prevention Unit, we create and execute programs focused on reducing crime-related issues and improving the overall quality of life for our community.

To accomplish these goals, we proactively form partnerships within our community and focus on public education regarding current crime trends and proven prevention methods. The units aim is to break down the barriers between law enforcement and the community, encourage open communication, and enhance safety and security. Through trust-building and ongoing dialogue, we strive to create a safer, more secure environment for everyone.

In 2024, the Crime Prevention Unit hosted another successful session of its youth program, Student Leaders and Mentorship (S.L.A.M.). This program successfully saw high school students become mentors to middle school students. All students were given an inside look into the public safety field and learned conflict resolution, communication, and leaderships skills.

Our department actively uses various social media platforms to enhance communication and transparency with the community. These tools help us share important information and safety tips from both the Police and Fire Departments, offer updates on current investigations, and gather input and feedback from the community on relevant matters.

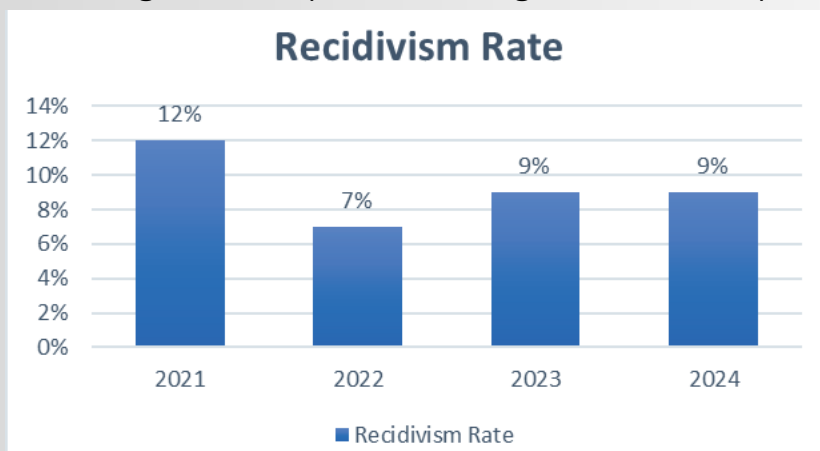


# SOCIAL SERVICES

The Division of Social Services incorporates three police social workers providing many services including assessment, case management, community linkage, court advocacy, crisis intervention, information and referral, short-term counseling, tangible basic needs, and victim services. Our Police Social Workers are funded in several ways. The Federal Victims of Crime Act, distributed through the Illinois Criminal Justice and Information Authority, funds two of the Police Social Work positions. These positions focus their services to victims of crime in Wheeling. Over the past 22 years, the Village of Wheeling and Wheeling Police Department has received more than \$1,842,970 to fund victim services in Wheeling. There is a third Police Social Worker position that specializes in working with Older Adults. This position has been funded by the Village of Wheeling since 1991, demonstrating an understanding of the need for such services in the Village of Wheeling.

All professional staff are a part of an on-call rotation to provide 24/7 crisis intervention and consultation to emergency personnel. During 2024, staff responded to 240 crises overall, with 62 occurring after-hours. The most frequent after-hours calls are for domestic calls. While the majority during working hours are either elder issues or mental health cases.

Clinical supervision is provided to all professional staff by the Social Services Manager to ensure professional and ethical standards are followed in providing services and to encourage staff to pursue the highest licensure possible within their profession.



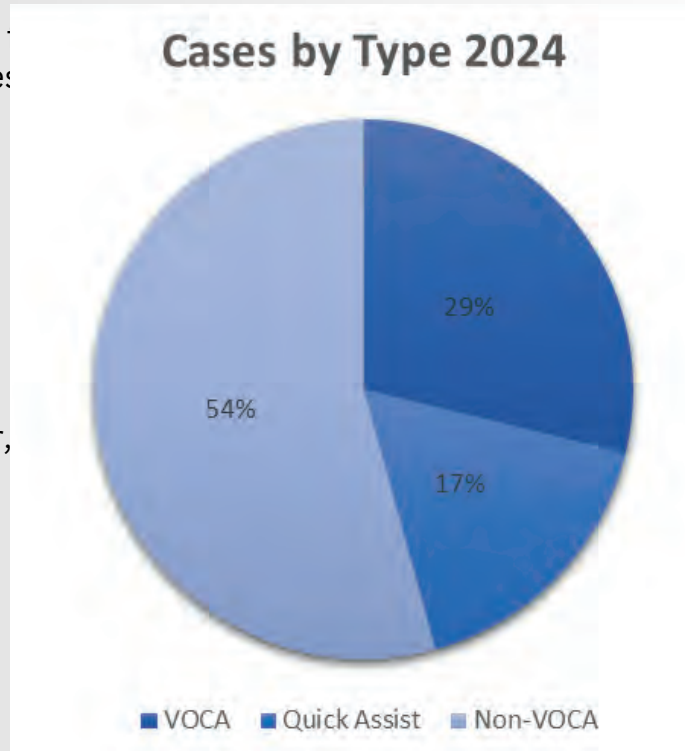
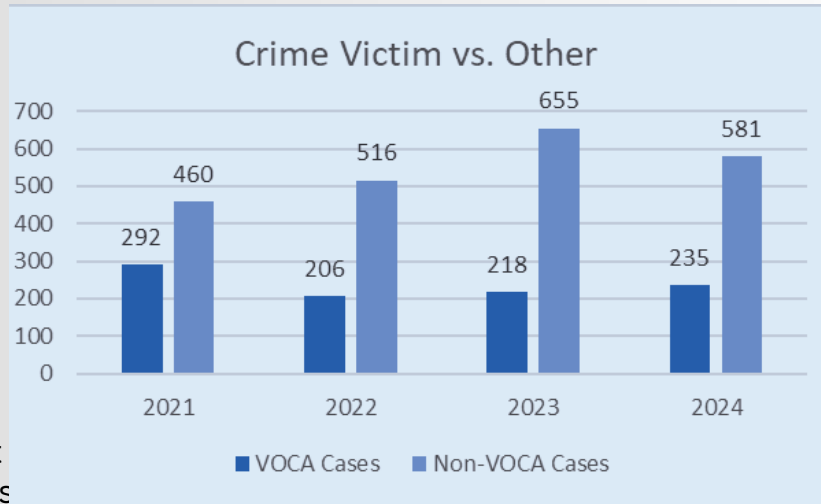
# SOCIAL SERVICES

During the past year, we received 802 referrals from Police and Fire. Police provided the vast majority with 70% of the referrals. Fire Department response companies provided 30%. Domestic situations are the most often referred followed by elder situations.

Our Social Service providers worked 954 cases during 2024. We divide these into three categories. The first falls under services to victims of crime, as funded by VOCA (Victims Of Crime Act).

VOCA cases made up 29% of the cases overseen in 2024 yet account for 85% of the services provided. This is consistent with the needs of victims of crime generally requiring more effort than other types.

In 2024 there were 235 cases qualifying for VOCA. Another category of cases includes cases concerning older adults, mental health, juvenile cases, and those in need of basic assistance. During 2024, social services worked on 581 cases. Finally, the last type of case is our quick assist cases. These cases include one single contact with the resident where no other services are necessary. This could be a referral to a mental health provider, to housing resources, or any other brief request. There were 138 quick assist cases in 2024, where information and referrals are shared, and the client/resident was only seen once.





**We collaborated with the Children's Advocacy Center to raise awareness during Child Abuse Prevention Month. Our pinwheel garden symbolized our dedication to amplifying children's voices and bringing attention to this important issue.**



CITIZENS



PATROL

**This program consists of Wheeling residents who have completed the Citizens Police and Fire Academy offered by the Wheeling Police Department. These dedicated volunteers generously offer their time to provide community service, acting as “extra eyes and ears” for the police department. Along with conducting monthly patrols, they also help with traffic direction and pedestrian management during special events.**



# Community Outreach Programs

Citizens Police and Fire Academy  
 Citizens Patrol Program  
 Community Charity Fundraisers  
 Community Crime Watch Meetings  
 Cop on a Rooftop  
 National Night Out  
 National Walk & Bike to School Day  
 Neighborhood Watch  
 Latino Outreach  
 Wheeling Police Unity Foundation Liaison  
 NWSRA/PURSUIT



Neighborhood Mediation  
 Residential Security Surveys  
 Recruiting  
 Senior Citizen Outreach Programs  
 Shop With The Cops  
 Student Leaders and Mentorship (SLAM)  
 Social Media  
 Speakers Bureau  
 Station Tours  
 Wellness Fairs  
 Wheeling Helping Hands Committee Liaison  
 Wheeling Police Crime Prevention Network  
 Wheeling Safe Communities Program

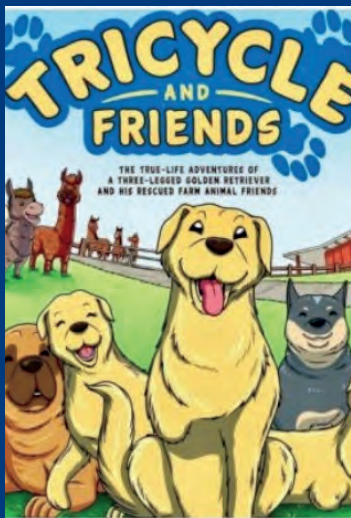


Carniceria Jimenez hosted an “Arrest Hunger” event to support Wheeling Township’s food pantry, collecting much-needed donations for local families in need. Thanks to the generosity and partnership of store manager Patricio Bedolla, the event successfully helped restock the pantry, ensuring essential food supplies were available for the community.

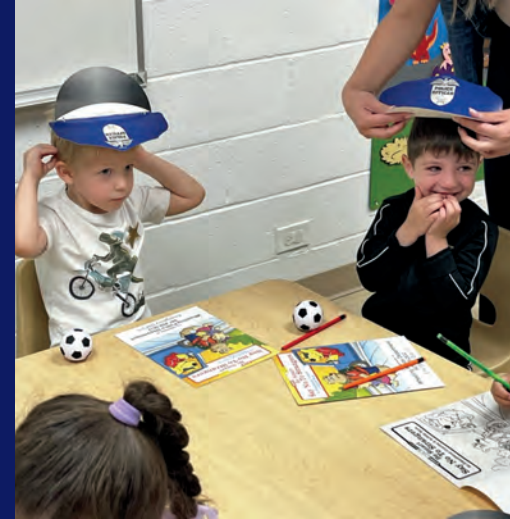




Former Wheeling Police Officer and children’s book author, Lester Aradi, donated copies of his work “Tricycle and Friends” to our social services unit. Lester began his career as a Wheeling Police Officer in 1974 before moving to the Buffalo Grove Police Department where he rose to the rank of Deputy Chief of Police. In 2001 Lester was named Chief of Police for the Village of Largo, Florida, serving until his retirement in 2010. The Aradi family then moved to north Georgia where he and his wife Diane, opened a rescued animal sanctuary.



“Tricycle and Friends” tells the true story of a three-legged Golden retriever arriving at its new home and interacting with the rest of the rescued animals. Through story and pictures, it addresses topics such as adoption, bullying, dealing with physical challenges, death of a companion, and friendship.



Sergeant Giltner and Officer Struga embarked on a mission to inspire the next generation of leaders by nurturing a positive relationship between law enforcement and the community from a young age.





The Wheeling Police Department participated in the community event at the Wheeling Park District's Hippity Hoppity Bunny Trail.



Ride to school in a Police Car



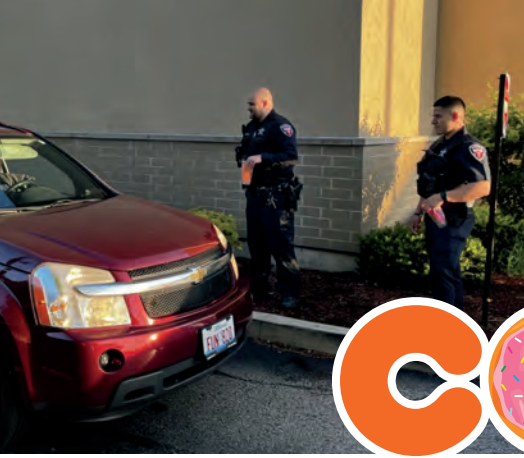


Thanks to Heartland Animal Shelter and the Greater Wheeling Area Chamber of Commerce & Industry, six of our squad cars are now equipped with pet microchip scanners to help swiftly reunite lost pets with their owners.

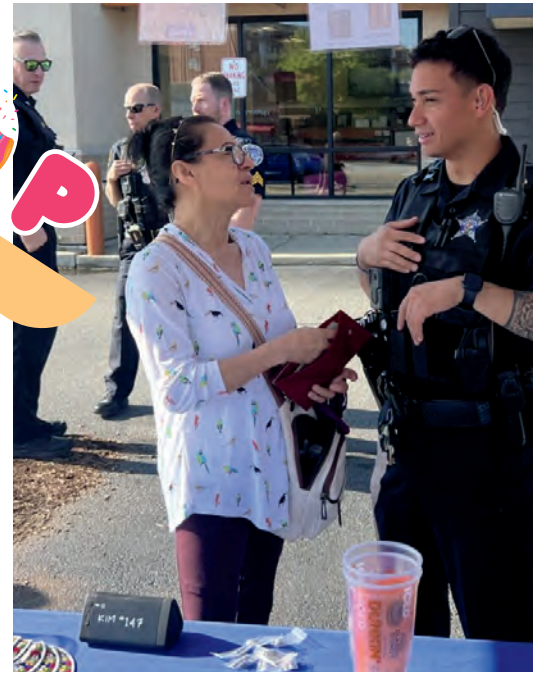


We were the fortunate recipients of a generous flower donation from Inspire Through Flowers! This kind gesture brought beauty and positivity to our department.





# COP ON A



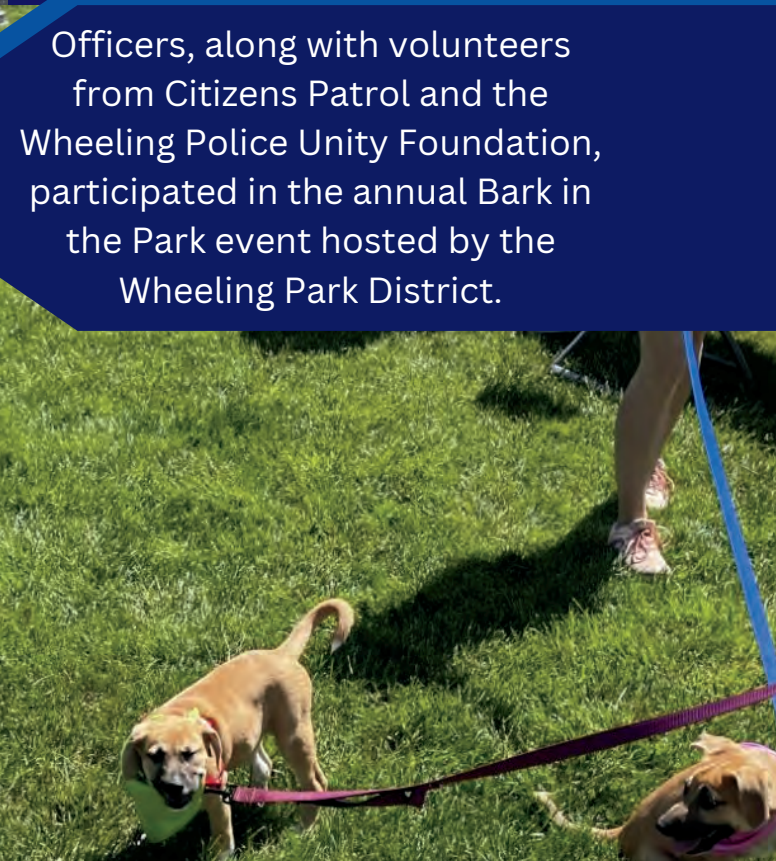
The Wheeling Police Department raised \$4,000 for Special Olympics at our annual "Cops on a Rooftop" event.





Officer Kim, Officer Guzzarde, and Citizens Patrol members attended the 25th Annual First Responder's Expo.





Officers, along with volunteers from Citizens Patrol and the Wheeling Police Unity Foundation, participated in the annual Bark in the Park event hosted by the Wheeling Park District.





**Officer Czaplak and Officer Hybert took part in Tarkington Elementary School's Career Day.**





**School Resource Officer Ladesic participated in field day at Holmes Middle School .**



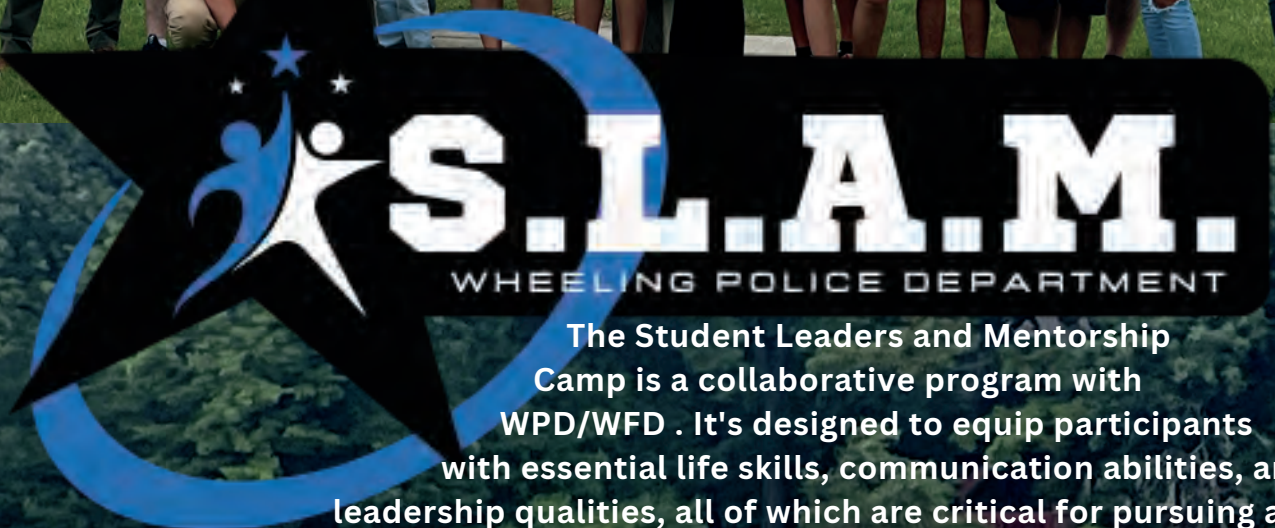


Officer Teichen and Corporal Potter visited Children's Land.



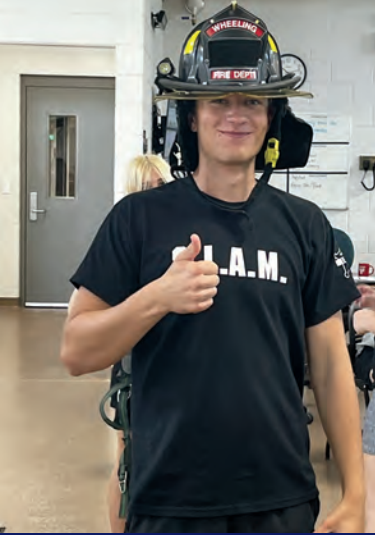


Wheeling Police Officers made a visit to the children at Kindercare.



The Student Leaders and Mentorship Camp is a collaborative program with WPD/WFD . It's designed to equip participants with essential life skills, communication abilities, and leadership qualities, all of which are critical for pursuing a career in public safety.



















# SUMMER *Celebration '24*

Omni4all invited the Wheeling Police Department to their annual summer celebration event in Prospect Heights.





Wheeling Police Officers joined Tarkington Elementary School students as they walked, biked, and scooted their way to school during their annual Walk and Roll to School Event.





Officers had a great time interacting with residents at Lexington's block party.





Corporal Lee and Officer Rodriguez thoroughly enjoyed engaging with the Cedar Run community during an entertaining bingo night!







# SoundGarden+

LEARNING CENTER

CSO Reyes and Officer Kim met with enthusiastic police recruits at the Sound Garden Learning Center.





Wheeling Police Officers greeted students at Twain Elementary School during World Smile day.





The Wheeling Police Department partnered with Bear Family McDonald's to raise \$2,000 for the Northwest Community Hospital's Cancer Patient Assistance Fund.





# TRUNK OR TREAT

Harper College





# TOYS FOR TOTS

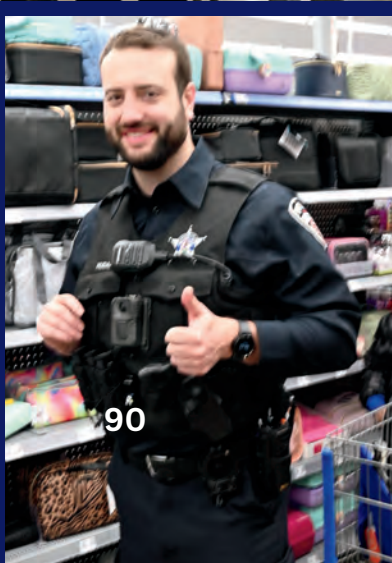
At our annual Toys for Tots event, the compassionate residents and businesses of Wheeling came together to donate gifts. This gathering showcased a wonderful display of generosity and community spirit.



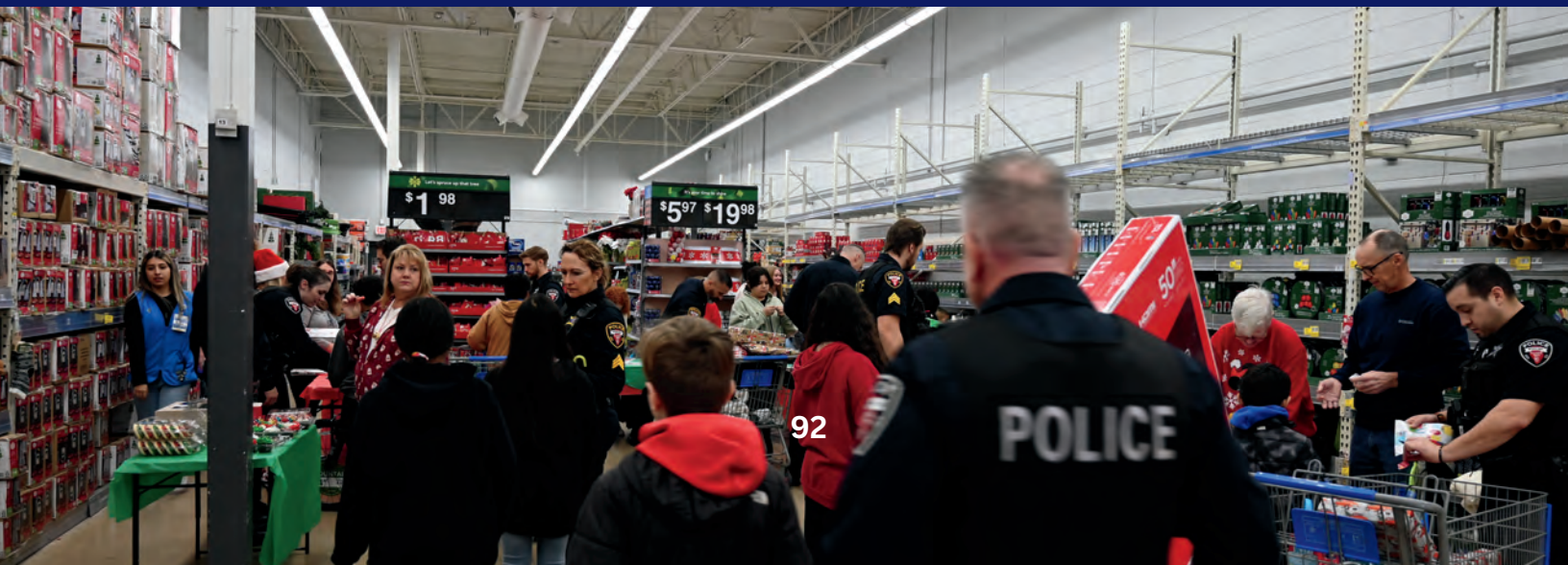


# SHOP WITH A COP











**“Pawfficer” Buddy - a 2 year old, Labrador retriever and terrier mix joined our department in November as our new emotional support animal for police officers, staff, and community members.**



Looking back on 2024, the Wheeling Police Department has made significant strides in strengthening community ties, enhancing public safety, and maintaining the trust of our residents. From innovative outreach programs to successful crime prevention efforts, we've remained dedicated to serving and protecting the Wheeling community with integrity and commitment. As we move into 2025, we are excited to continue building on these successes, ensuring a safer and more connected community for all. Thank you for your ongoing support as we work together to make Wheeling a better place to live, work, and visit.

Warmest regards,  
Chief James J. Dunne

