



WEST HENNEPIN PUBLIC SAFETY

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

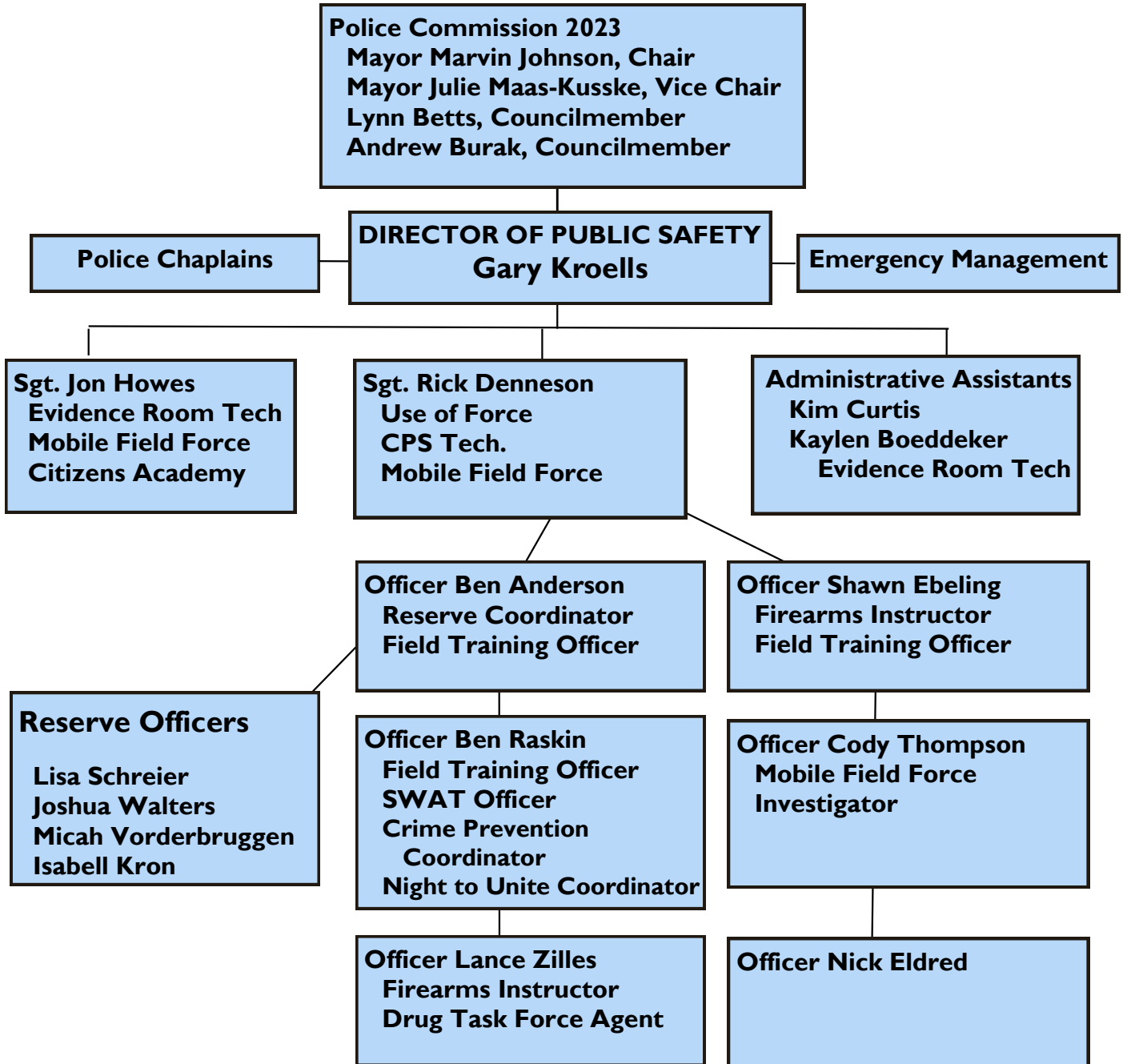


MISSION:

To protect and serve the citizens of Maple Plain and Independence in a professional and compassionate manner.



WEST HENNEPIN PUBLIC SAFETY



Serving our Community proudly with our core values:

Honor Courage Common Sense Respect & Dignity Loyalty Fairness Trust



WEST HENNEPIN PUBLIC SAFETY



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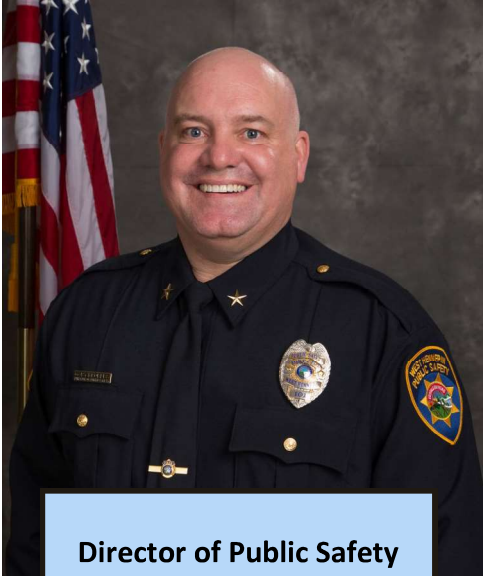
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WEST HENNEPIN PUBLIC SAFETY



DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



**Director of Public Safety
Gary Kroells**

As Director of Public Safety for the West Hennepin Public Safety Department (WHPSD), I am honored and privileged to submit the *2023 Annual Report*.

Although we enjoyed a mild winter in late 2023, I am thankful for the early spring of 2024 as I write this report. 2023 was another year of exceptional work and dedication by our police officers to our organization and the Maple Plain and Independence communities. Every day, your police officers stand up to evil in support of your safety. We are there for you. We want you to know we hear you and thank you for your support. West Hennepin Public Safety (WHPS) remains strong.

2023 presented us with significant challenges in maintaining a fully staffed police department. A seasoned officer of ten years resigned to pursue his career at a metro area police department closer to his home. Finding a replacement for him has been very challenging, and the position remained vacant at the end of 2023. The job market is fiercely competitive for police officers, with very few qualified candidates graduating from college to become police officers. Our officers worked many overtime hours to cover shifts to ensure our residents did

not see a drop in service or response time. I am very proud of the work that our officers performed.

To enhance our staffing availability, we have initiated a part-time police officer program, which involved recruiting three full-time police officers from neighboring agencies to work part-time at WHPS. We welcomed them to our team in late 2023, and their field training is scheduled for the first quarter of 2024. We are eagerly looking forward to the positive impact this program will have on our operations and the enhanced safety it will bring to our communities.

With the legalization of recreational marijuana in Minnesota in 2023, the legislature did not provide law enforcement and cities with clear guidelines regarding ordinances on public use, possession, sales, and growing of marijuana. However, our dedicated officers have continued to work closely with our cities to provide the necessary training relating to the laws on the legalization of recreational marijuana. This commitment ensures our community remains well-informed and safe in this evolving landscape.

We also saw our residents' access to social services improve as WHPS partnered with Hennepin County Behavioral Health and Hennepin County 911 Dispatch in a pilot program to have real-time access to a 911 Embedded Social Worker on mental health calls. The 911 Embedded Social Worker Program has been a tremendous asset for our officers. We look forward to continued partnership in the future.

We remain committed to providing compassionate, common-sense solutions to our citizens. While providing public safety services has challenges, we are committed to finding solutions for our citizens. We value your input and are always open to hearing your concerns and suggestions. Together, we can continue to make our community a safe and welcoming place.

As your Chief of Police, I welcome you to speak with me about any concerns or questions you may have. I can be reached directly at (763) 479-0500 or by emailing me at groells@westhennepin.com. My door is always open.



WEST HENNEPIN PUBLIC SAFETY



LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING

West Hennepin Public Safety (WHPS) remains committed to the highest standards of law enforcement training and professional development. Our strategic use of the ConfiTrek education management system and the integration of PATROL (Peace officer Accredited TRaining OnLine) courses ensure that each officer meets and significantly exceeds the training requirements mandated by the Minnesota Police Officers Standards and Training (POST) Board. Our rigorous live-fire training regimen, which includes four annual sessions for each officer, also exemplifies our commitment to training.

In 2022, WHPS began using ConfiTrek, a cloud-based law enforcement training compliance platform, managed by Administrative Assistant Boeddeker. This system has transformed how we track and manage our officers' training, ensuring that every officer completes the necessary continuing education credits for license renewal. The system's 24/7 accessibility and real-time notifications keep officers and command staff informed of training assignments, completions, and compliance status, significantly enhancing operational efficiency and accountability.



Sergeant Jon Howes
Patrol Sergeant

WHPS officers actively participate in PATROL courses, leveraging this online platform to earn up to 60 credits annually across various critical topics, including use-of-force, autism awareness, crisis intervention, conflict management, implicit bias, and leadership skills. These courses, tailored to Minnesota's legal standards and case law, provide our officers with the knowledge and skills needed to navigate the complexities of modern law enforcement effectively. The convenience and flexibility of PATROL's online learning environment have been instrumental in our ability to maintain a highly trained and responsive force.

A cornerstone of our training program is the emphasis on practical, hands-on experience. WHPS conducts four live-fire training sessions annually, far exceeding the standard requirements. Live-fire training enhances officers' tactical skills, decision-making under pressure, and proficiency with service weapons. The rigorous nature of our live-fire training ensures that each officer is prepared to respond effectively and safely to critical incidents, thereby enhancing public safety and officer confidence.

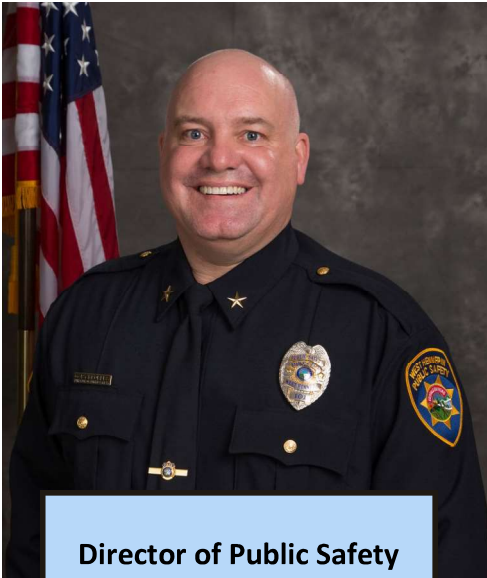
Each licensure cycle, WHPS officers greatly exceed the POST-required 48 hours of law enforcement-related continuing education every three years, with a minimum of 16 Minnesota POST-approved credits in specified categories. Our comprehensive training approach, combining ConfiTrek's tracking capabilities with PATROL's accredited online courses and extensive live-fire exercises, positions WHPS officers as leaders in law enforcement professionalism and readiness.



WEST HENNEPIN PUBLIC SAFETY



HIGHWAY 12 SAFETY COALITION



**Director of Public Safety
Gary Kroells**

After nine years as chair of the Hwy 12 Safety Coalition, Director of Public Safety Gary Kroells stepped down and took on the vice chair position. Delano City Administrator Phil Kern took over as chair to provide more representation to Wright County cities in the future.

I am incredibly proud of everything the Highway 12 Safety Coalition members have accomplished over the past nine years. It is nothing short of amazing. Our combined efforts to find solutions for a safer Highway 12 have saved countless lives.

We still have much work to do to finalize the redesign of the remaining 4.5 miles of Highway 12 between Delano and Maple Plain. Still, I am confident we can

continue to work together to find a solution that meets the safety needs of those traveling on Highway 12.

We have experienced too many tragedies on Highway 12. I am overwhelmed by everything the coalition has accomplished in the nine years since its formation. We will continue to advocate for safety improvements along Highway 12. We will never stop supporting the coalition's efforts and ensuring that the people's voices are heard.



Aerial views of the redesigned intersection, round-a-bout, and County Road 92 overpass at Highway 12





WEST HENNEPIN PUBLIC SAFETY



TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT

Since its inception in 1979, traffic enforcement has been one of the top priorities of West Hennepin Public Safety (WHPS), a priority set by Maple Plain and Independence residents. In 1978, a record high of 33,868 injury crashes with a record total of 50,332 total injuries from those crashes occurred in Minnesota. In 1980, there were 863 people killed in traffic crashes across the state. The cities of Maple Plain and Independence were not immune to these tragic crashes—not only on the outdated, winding, narrow Highway 12 but also on our county roads and city streets.

Our department, joined by the Minnetrista Public Safety Department, has received a traffic safety grant each year since 1995. The grant program was initially called "Safe & Sober" and was renamed "Towards Zero Death" (TZD) in 2003. Administered by the state, Safe & Sober/TZD is a federally funded program that gives WHPS extra funds to put officers on the street outside their regular shifts to take impaired drivers off the road. This program, along with legislative changes to impaired driving and seat belt laws and improvements in vehicle safety, has driven the number of severe and fatal crashes on a downward trajectory. Fatal crashes hovered around 400 in the last few years, with 2020 having a record low of 394 across the state.



Sergeant Rick Denneson
Patrol Sergeant

As a leader in traffic safety, WHPS has received awards from various organizations for our actions. The State of Minnesota recognized WHPS in 1999 and 2007 for its high level of enforcement activities. In 2016, Director Kroells was recognized as chair of the Highway 12 Safety Coalition, which is responsible for coordinating local, regional, and state-level efforts to secure funding for improvements on the Highway 12 corridor that runs through our cities.

Our department has long embraced the belief that education is essential to public safety. We have been instrumental in providing traffic safety talks, displaying a crash car, and holding a "mock crash" at the Orono High School during prom season with the Orono Police Department. For 20 years, our department has been one of few area agencies to host child safety seat clinics and assist parents with child car seat installation and use. Since 1999, our Citizens Academy has had separate classes on traffic enforcement and DWI enforcement to discuss impaired driving and traffic safety. We routinely use our social media outlets to post reminders about traffic safety and highlight traffic enforcement activities.

We also maintain a host of traffic enforcement and traffic safety equipment, such as radar units in each patrol vehicle, a laser speed measuring device, a portable speed trailer to highlight motorists' speeds in areas to gain compliance with the speed limit, and three portable speed signs that we rotate through neighborhoods to monitor speed and help us target enforcement times when complaints arise about traffic issues.

Since 1979, WHPS has consistently received recognition as a leader in traffic enforcement, not only for the work we do on the street but also for the role we have played with local, regional, and state agencies such as the Highway 12 Safety Coalition, the TZD program, the Office of Traffic Safety, and the Minnesota Department of Public Safety. We will continue this focus into 2024 because it is a priority for us to keep our communities safe, not only in their homes but also on our roadways.



WEST HENNEPIN PUBLIC SAFETY

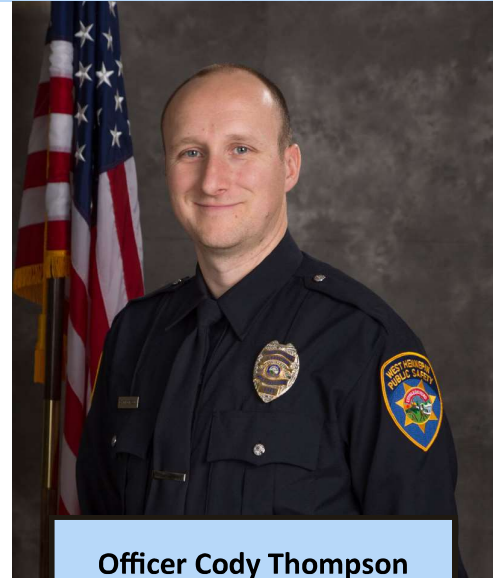


INVESTIGATOR'S REPORT—CASES OF INTEREST

West Hennepin Public Safety (WHPS) values the investigator position, considering it a crucial part of its officers' career development. One way to ensure this is to rotate the investigator position between experienced patrol officers every two to three years.

Officer Cody Thompson's assignment to investigations began in July 2023. He has been with WHPS since February 2017 and has been a licensed peace officer since 2006. Investigator Thompson's first six months were filled with investigating internet scams, phone scams, thefts, child protection reports, adult protection reports, burglaries, domestic assaults, and more!

Investigator Thompson reviews, follows up on, and submits criminal cases for charging to the Hennepin County Attorney's Office and the Maple Plain/Independence City Attorney. He has also assisted with hundreds of other reports and cases taken by patrol officers.



Officer Cody Thompson
Investigator





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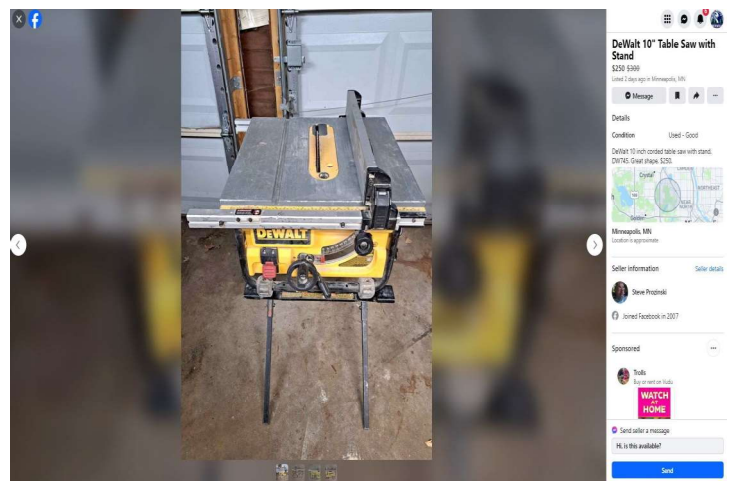
INVESTIGATOR'S REPORT—CASES OF INTEREST

In July 2023, Investigator Thompson received a phone call from Renville County deputies who were out on a traffic stop and had two individuals in custody on separate charges. The deputies located several pieces of mail from five Independence residences inside the suspects' vehicle. The residents were unaware that the suspects had stolen the mail over the weekend. One piece of mail contained a credit card that the suspects had activated, and one of the suspects had already made purchases with it. Renville County filed charges on the individuals for mail theft and possession of stolen property. Law enforcement agencies working together is the key to success!



In December 2023, a construction contractor reported to WHPS that a DeWalt table saw had been stolen from a job site in Independence. Over the weekend, the owner of the table saw searched Facebook Marketplace and located it for sale in the city of Robbinsdale. The owner advised that the table saw had several identifiable markings, which he described as proof of ownership.

WHPS officers contacted the seller and set up a meeting to purchase the table saw. Upon viewing it, the officer confirmed that it was the stolen item, and the “seller” was arrested for possession of stolen property.





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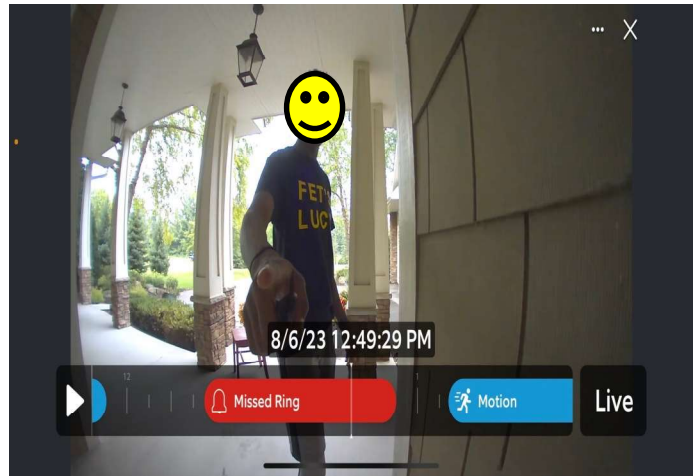
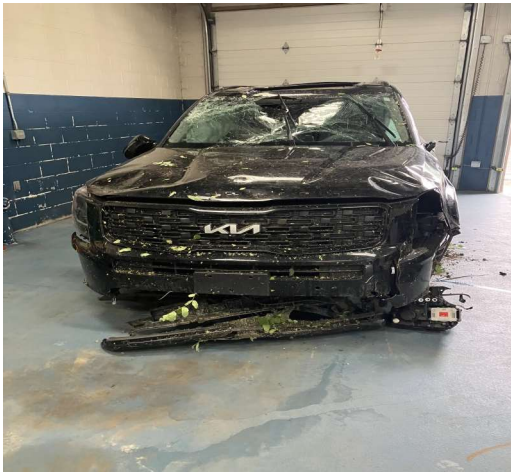


INVESTIGATOR'S REPORT—CASES OF INTEREST

On August 6th, 2023, WHPS received a call about a single-vehicle rollover on Highway 12 at Co Rd 90. The driver was reported limping and walking away from the crash.

Officers responded and discovered the vehicle had been reported stolen in a burglary in Minnetonka. Officers, two K-9 teams, and a drone searched the area to locate the suspect and check on his injuries; however, officers were unable to find the suspect at that time.

Officers conducting follow-up in the area obtained photos of the driver/suspect from a doorbell camera at an Independence residence. The 17-year-old suspect was identified from criminal analysis and previous law enforcement contacts.



On August 8th, the Hennepin County Sheriff's Office was alerted to a stolen SUV in Minneapolis. The driver fled on foot, but officers located and arrested him. The driver was found to be the same suspect from the WHPS case and was still wearing the same unique t-shirt he had worn two days earlier!

The suspect was charged as an adult and convicted in the WHPS case.

Photo courtesy of MN DOT traffic cameras 





WEST HENNEPIN PUBLIC SAFETY



INVESTIGATOR'S REPORT—COMMON SCAMS

West Hennepin Public Safety would like to remind its citizens about recurring scams. Below is a list of the most common ones.

Social Security or Identity Theft Scams: You receive an unexpected phone call or unsolicited email about a “problem” with your Social Security number, account, or benefits that you need to resolve immediately, or you will face arrest or other legal action. The scammer says you have to make a payment to receive assistance for an identity theft issue or in exchange for a Social Security benefit increase; this is a scam!

Family Emergency Scam: You receive an unexpected phone call or unsolicited email from an individual claiming to be a lawyer, law enforcement agent, hospital employee, or possibly even a family member—the individual requests financial help or information to help the individual out. Most of the time, they request financial help by wire transfer or gift cards. Contact the affected family member directly before providing any information or financial assistance.

Amazon Scam: You may receive an unsolicited call from someone stating they are a member of Amazon Customer Service. They may say your account is frozen and you need to purchase Amazon.com or other branded gift cards and ask you to provide the claim codes over the phone to remove the freeze on your account. Amazon will never call you to ask you to purchase gift cards to unlock your account or provide sensitive personal information like your Social Security number, tax ID, bank account number, or credit card information.

What can you do to protect yourself? Hang up and report it to the Social Security Office of the Inspector General online at <https://oig.ssa.gov>. Only provide personal or financial information to *verified* businesses or persons over the phone. Report suspicious phone calls to your law enforcement agency or file a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) at <https://www.ftc.gov/>. It's also a good idea to monitor your credit reports. Federal law gives you the right to get a free copy of your credit report every 12 months from each of the three nationwide credit bureaus. In addition, the three bureaus have permanently extended a program that lets you check your credit report from each once a week for free at AnnualCreditReport.com.





WEST HENNEPIN PUBLIC SAFETY



RESERVE OFFICER PROGRAM



**Officer Ben Anderson
Reserve Coordinator**

The West Hennepin Public Safety (WHPS) Reserve Officer Program had another productive year in 2023. The reserves supported our communities by riding with and assisting officers and helping at community events, donating 748 hours to WHPS and the cities of Maple Plain and Independence! The ongoing service the volunteer reserve officers provide to our communities is truly invaluable. Using the modest value of \$31.80 per hour (national 2023 formula), that is a value of \$23,786 to our communities for a minimal cost.

Our reserves have a variety of careers and personal backgrounds. We have reserve officers who work in non-law enforcement professions, some going to school to become law enforcement officers and some who have retired from their careers. But what unites them all is their shared commitment to serving their communities. Regardless of your experience or career,

if you are a citizen willing to volunteer your time to your communities, we encourage you to consider becoming a WHPS reserve officer. We provide training and uniforms, and you get to work with some of the most remarkable people in the world! Being a police reserve is not just a volunteer opportunity; it's a chance to grow, learn, and make a real difference in your community.

WHPS held many training events for the reserves. They had firearms and less-lethal weapons, tasers, pepper spray, traffic control, and use-of-force training. The reserves assisted with numerous community events, including the Orono Discovery Center Vehicle Fair, Maple Plain Fire Open House, Trunk or Treat, Liberty Triathlon, Tour De Tonka, Toys for Tots, and an annual favorite: View Santa.



Patches of Police agencies that have hired WHPS Reserve Officers



WEST HENNEPIN PUBLIC SAFETY



RESERVE OFFICERS IN ACTION



**Reserve Officer Schreier
deploying a taser**



**Reserve officers training at the
firing range**



**Reserve Officer Vorderbruggen at
traffic control training**



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VIEW SANTA 2023



Sgt. Denneson, Reserve Vorderbruggen, Reserve Kron, Reserve Walters, Officer Ebeling, Reserve Schreier, Chief Kroells and Officer Anderson with Santa in the Independence City Hall Atrium



View Santa returned to its usual route and longtime traditions for the 43rd year in 2023. Santa visited with children of all ages in the Independence City Hall Atrium, Veterans Memorial Park, and Cassia Haven Homes in Maple Plain. The reserves handed out bags of candy to children along the route and collected a trailer full of food for local food shelves. Thank you to all of our citizens who gave so generously!

“Maple Plain and Independence residents give generously to local food shelves each year,” stated Director Gary Kroells. “It was another exceptional year with many people coming out to see and talk with Santa despite the cold temperatures.” The police reserves collected 1,437 pounds of food and \$745 in cash donations for the WeCAN food shelf!



WEST HENNEPIN PUBLIC SAFETY



ADMINISTRATIVE AND RECORDS DIVISION



**Administrative Assistant
Kaylen Boeddeker**

CONTACT US
1918 County Road 90
Maple Plain, MN

Office Hours
Monday-Friday
8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

(763) 479-0500

**For an emergency,
dial 911**



**Administrative Assistant
Kim Curtis**

The Administrative and Records Division of West Hennepin Public Safety comprises two administrative assistants with individual responsibilities. Kim Curtis is the Administrative Assistant/bookkeeper, human resources (HR) & benefits coordinator, and recording secretary. Kaylen Boeddeker is the Administrative Assistant/Terminal Agency Coordinator (TAC), National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) manager, and is the primary manager for the Records Division, including collecting and reporting data on crimes and submitting state-mandated records. Together, they provide a range of administrative and support services, including:

- Assist the public on the phone and at the front window with public information requests, issuing burn permits, Permit to Acquire applications, etc.
- Department bookkeeping: payroll, HR & benefits coordination, accounts payables/receivables, maintaining financial status reports, bank account maintenance & reconciliation.
- Maintaining employee training records.
- Transcription of interviews and data entry into case files.
- Preparation of case files for criminal prosecution and court records management.
- State-certified for transmitting reports to the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA).
- Preparing and transmitting monthly crime, property, and arrest reports to the BCA.
- Sending weekly media reports and press releases to local newspapers.
- Maintaining records and reporting to the Office of the State Auditor for assets forfeiture programs.
- Compliance with OSHA reporting requirements.
- Storage, retrieval, and disposal of records; completing local background investigation checks.
- Collect, process, disseminate, and maintain Department records following Federal and State Data Practices laws and record retention requirements.
- Criminal History Records Management.
- Updating suspense files for the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA).
- Linking criminal justice "suspense" records to the corresponding criminal history arrest records.



WEST HENNEPIN PUBLIC SAFETY

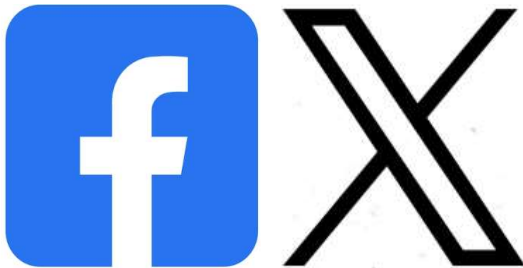


CRIME PREVENTION

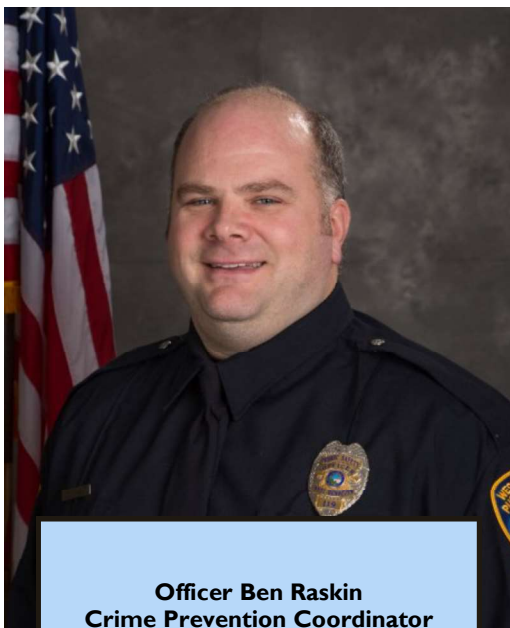
West Hennepin Public Safety (WHPS) officers work extremely hard to prevent crime, but we can't do it alone.

**Crime Prevention ...
Works with a Plan**

WHPS regularly receives tips from concerned citizens who may see something out of the ordinary or suspicious. We encourage you to call 911 while it is occurring so we can check it out. Some of the tips we receive lead to arrests, including drunk drivers, drug seizures, and damage to property crimes. Educating citizens with crime prevention information has assisted WHPS with making our area a better place to live, work, and play!



WHPS is committed to keeping our communities informed and engaged. We use social media platforms such as Facebook, X (formerly Twitter), and Neighbors/Ring Public Safety apps to quickly share crime alerts, law enforcement events, classes, and important notifications. Stay connected with us and be part of our efforts to make West Hennepin a safer place to live, work, and play!



Officer Ben Raskin
Crime Prevention Coordinator

WHPS successfully conducted the yearly alcohol and tobacco compliance checks, a crucial measure to ensure adherence to the law. We sent an underage decoy into alcohol and tobacco establishments within our jurisdiction, and we're pleased to report that all nine establishments passed the compliance checks!

In the coming year, we will again offer free alcohol and tobacco compliance training to the owners and employees of local establishments. We host two classes each calendar year at Independence City Hall: one in the spring and one in the winter.

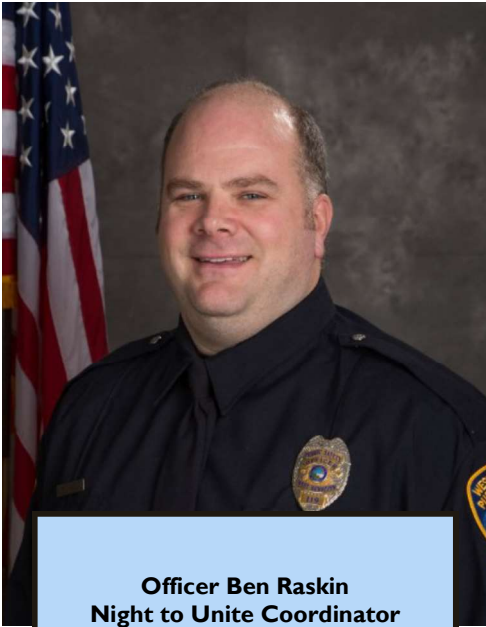
If you have any questions, concerns, or comments, please contact the WHPS office during business hours.



WEST HENNEPIN PUBLIC SAFETY



COMMUNITY PROGRAMS—NIGHT TO UNITE



Officer Ben Raskin
Night to Unite Coordinator

WHPS participated in the Night to Unite event on August 1st, 2023. Once again, we had perfect weather and an amazing turnout with our Maple Plain and Independence residents. Along with our public safety partner, Maple Plain Fire Department, we attended 14 parties! WHPS has been involved in the Night to Unite celebration since 2006.

We seek hosts in the City of Independence and Maple Plain each year to host neighborhood parties at their homes or street blocks. WHPS police officers, reserve officers, and Maple Plain firefighters enjoy participating in the event. If you would like to host a party in 2023, please get in touch with Officer Raskin or WHPS.

We look forward to gathering once again in 2024. Mark your calendars for Tuesday, August 6th.



Police/Fire and residents in the 2023 Night to Unite event





WEST HENNEPIN PUBLIC SAFETY



COMMUNITY PROGRAMS—CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY

West Hennepin Citizens Police Academy

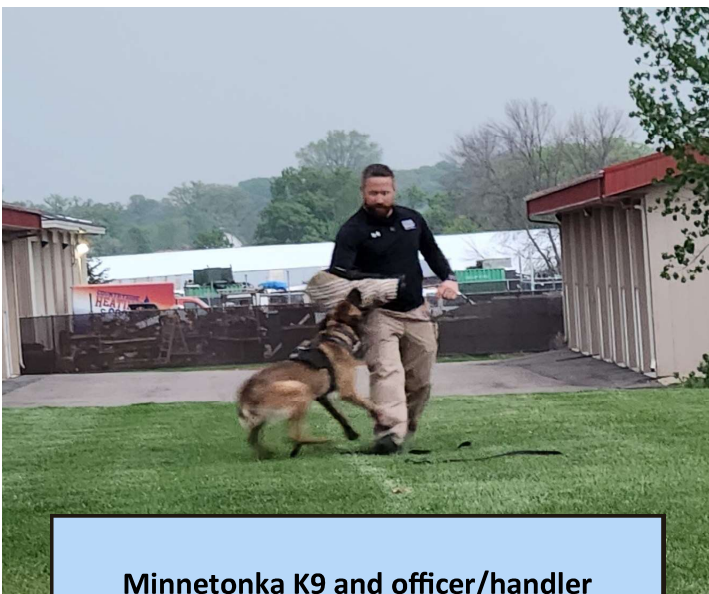
In the spring of 2023, the West Hennepin Public Safety Department (WHPSD) held its 22nd class of the Citizens Police Academy.

Ten citizens who live or work in or around the community participated in the eight-week academy. They attended one night each week to learn about the WHPSD, its officers and reserves, and their duties.

The participants were immersed in a variety of law enforcement topics, including the use of force, investigations, narcotics, traffic and DWI enforcement, court proceedings, and K-9 officers. They had opportunities for hands-on training, such as simulating a traffic stop and interacting with a driver, and visiting the Hennepin County 911 Dispatch Center in Plymouth to listen to real 911 calls.

The academy is a welcoming platform for all community members to meet and engage with the WHPSD officers. It provides a unique opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of their roles through lectures, open discussions, and hands-on sessions. Almost all of the officers actively participate in teaching the classes, ensuring a comprehensive learning experience.

The Citizens Academy is held annually at the WHPSD. If you are interested in attending, contact the office during business hours.



Minnetonka K9 and officer/handler demonstrating K9 apprehension training



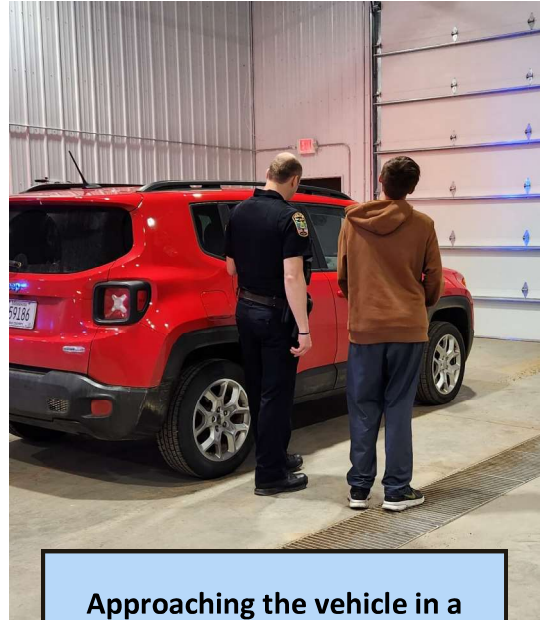
WEST HENNEPIN PUBLIC SAFETY



COMMUNITY PROGRAMS—CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY



Experiencing the FireArms Training Simulator (FATS)



Approaching the vehicle in a mock traffic stop



CLASS OF 2023



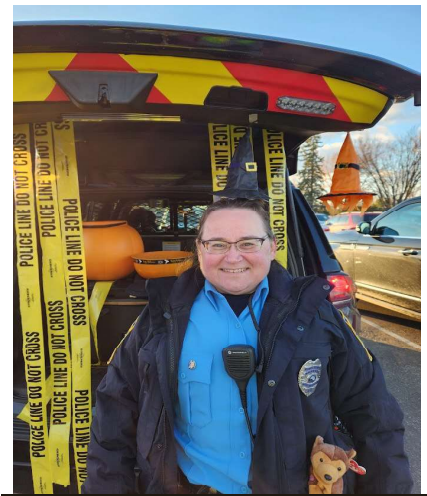
WEST HENNEPIN PUBLIC SAFETY



EVENTS OF THE YEAR 2023



**Ribbon cutting for the new shared storage building
March 1st, 2023**



**Reserve Schreier on
Halloween in Maple Plain**



**Officer Raskin and Firefighter Jessi
Heitz at Trunk or Treat in Maple**



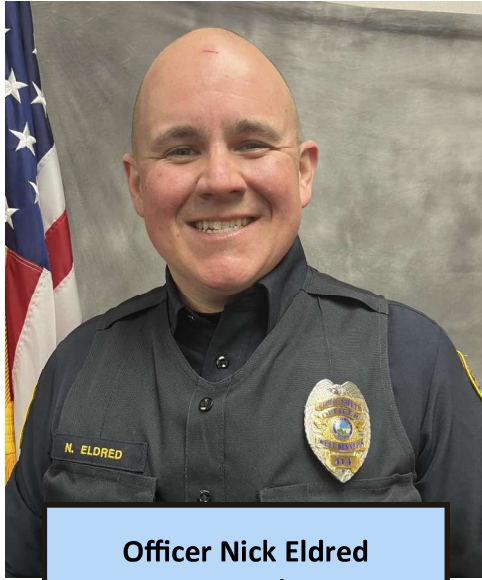
**Air Care landing at the
Maple Plain Fire Department Open House**



WEST HENNEPIN PUBLIC SAFETY



NEW EMPLOYEES



Officer Nick Eldred
Patrol

On Feb 22, 2023, Officer Nick Eldred joined the West Hennepin Public Safety Department. We feel fortunate Officer Eldred joined our team after working at the Wright County Sheriff's Department for over 18 years.

Welcome, Officer Nick Eldred!



Reserve Isabell Kron
Reserve Officer

Reserve Officer Isabell Kron joined the West Hennepin Public Safety Department on October 19, 2023. Reserve Kron also serves in public safety as a full-time paramedic for CentraCare in Monticello.

Welcome, Reserve Officer Kron!



WEST HENNEPIN PUBLIC SAFETY



USE OF FORCE—FIREARMS TRAINING



Officer Shawn Ebeling
Firearms Instructor

This year, West Hennepin Public Safety (WHPS) continues to prioritize the proficiency and preparedness of our officers. We do this not just for our officers but for our community. We are committed to maintaining high training standards through comprehensive use-of-force and firearms training programs. These standards ensure that our officers, an integral part of our community, are well-equipped to serve with professionalism and restraint.

Training Overview: WHPS conducts firearms and use-of-force training sessions staggered throughout the year, with at least four live-fire firearms training sessions. The live-fire sessions consist of scenario-based training to ensure officers' proficiency with weapons and the appropriate application of force in various real-life situations. Officers also complete several hours of training annually on the use of force and the use of deadly force, further supported by

our partnership with the League of Minnesota Cities through the "Peace Officer Accredited TRaining OnLine" (PATROL) program. This program offers an in-depth review and training on case law, legal aspects, and practical application of use-of-force and de-escalation methods.

Equipment and Force Options: WHPS equips each officer with multiple force options, including a handgun, a rifle, chemical spray, an expandable baton, a TASER™, and access to a 40mm less-than-lethal launcher in each squad car. This 40mm launcher, capable of deploying kinetic impact projectiles, pepper spray, or distraction devices, allows officers to respond more safely to violent encounters by providing greater distance and time to de-escalate volatile situations.

Specialized Training: Our training regimen includes a full range day dedicated to low-light/no-light conditions and inclement weather training. This specialized training is crucial as our officers serve our community around the clock, and these conditions present unique challenges. Training under these circumstances ensures our officers are skilled in utilizing all their tools, including various light sources and tactical approaches, for effective night and inclement weather operations.



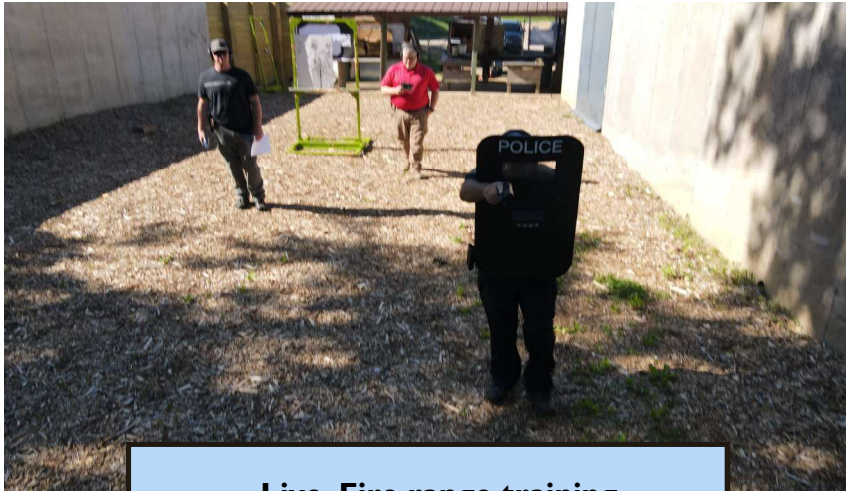
Inclement weather



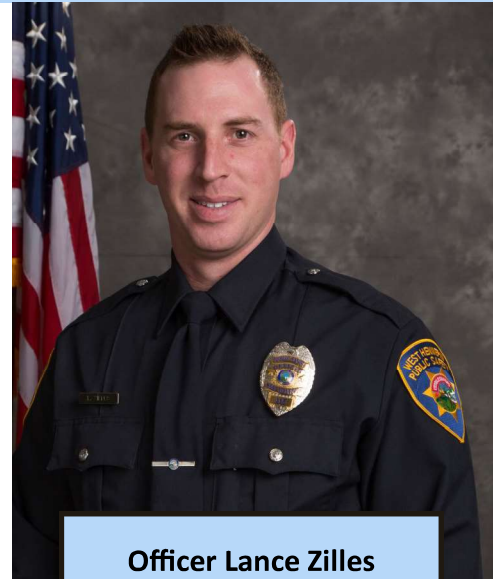
WEST HENNEPIN PUBLIC SAFETY



USE OF FORCE—FIREARMS TRAINING



Live-Fire range training



Officer Lance Zilles
Firearms Instructor

Officers also receive training with protective equipment such as masks, ballistic shields, and body armor. This training involves varying scenarios that require officers to use different combinations of tools and equipment to ensure their safety and the public's safety and to mitigate injury.

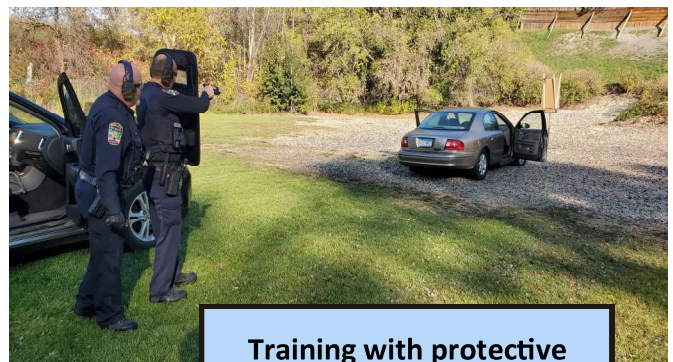
Acknowledgments: We thank the Delano Sportsmen's Club for their continued support and cooperation by providing access to their shooting range and facilities. This partnership is invaluable to our training program and the overall preparedness of our officers.

DELANOSPORTSMENSClub.COM

OFFICIAL WEBSITE OF THE DELANO SPORTSMEN'S CLUB



Conclusion: Our department is committed not only to maintaining high training standards but also to continuously improving our firearms and use-of-force training programs. We strive to ensure that each officer has the knowledge, skills, and judgment to serve our community with integrity, respect, and professionalism. Our dedication to fostering a culture of accountability, transparency, and continuous learning is a testament to our commitment to meeting the evolving challenges of modern policing and providing the best possible service to our community.



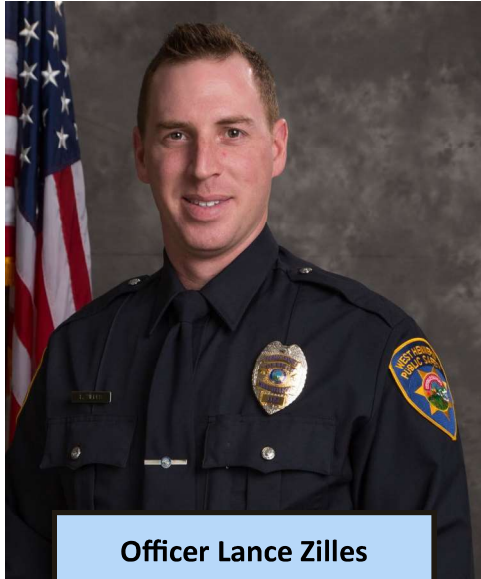
Training with protective
equipment



WEST HENNEPIN PUBLIC SAFETY



WEST METRO DRUG TASK FORCE (WMDTF)



Officer Lance Zilles
WMDTF Agent

The West Metro Drug Task Force (WMDTF) is a joint task force created to combat narcotics in western Hennepin County and the Twin Cities metro area. The WMDTF was established in 2003 with the cooperation of West Hennepin Public Safety, Medina Police Department, Minnetrista Public Safety, Orono Police Department, and the Hennepin County Sheriff's Office. In 2023, the South Lake Minnetonka Police joined the WMDTF. Each member agency has at least one officer designated to the task force.

The task force consists of six agents who investigate narcotics-related criminal matters. A drug task force agent conducts long-term complex investigations and undercover operations, drafts and executes search warrants, and assists local law enforcement with critical incidents.

In July 2023, Officer Lance Zilles took over the WMDTF position for West Hennepin Public Safety.



- West Metro Drug Task Force Agencies:**
- West Hennepin Public Safety Department
 - Medina Police Department
 - Minnetrista Public Safety Department
 - Orono Police Department
 - South Lake Minnetonka Police Department
 - Hennepin County Sheriff's Office



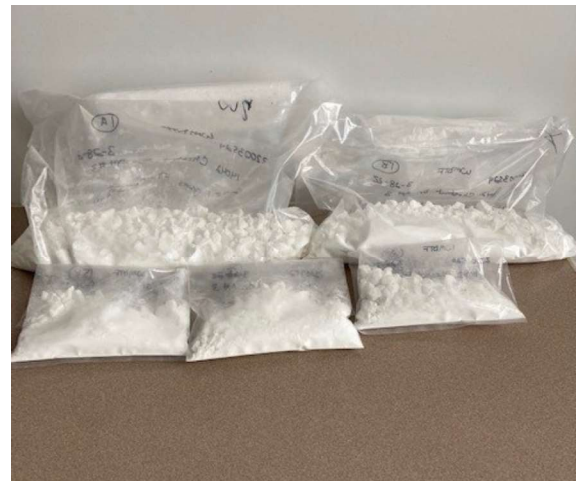
WEST HENNEPIN PUBLIC SAFETY



WEST METRO DRUG TASK FORCE (WMDTF)

2023 was very productive for the WMDTF. The task force agents executed 183 search warrants, made 288 arrests, had 191 state criminal charges and 12 federal indictments, and seized \$442,555 in cash and 139 firearms. The executed search warrants resulted in the seizure of 83,580 grams of marijuana, 18,290 grams of cocaine, 20,031 grams of methamphetamine, 361 grams of heroin, 21,350 fentanyl pills, and 4,722 grams of fentanyl powder.

The pictures below are from significant search warrants that were executed.





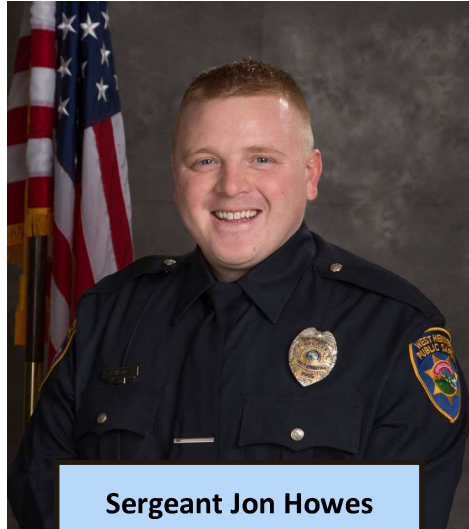
WEST HENNEPIN PUBLIC SAFETY



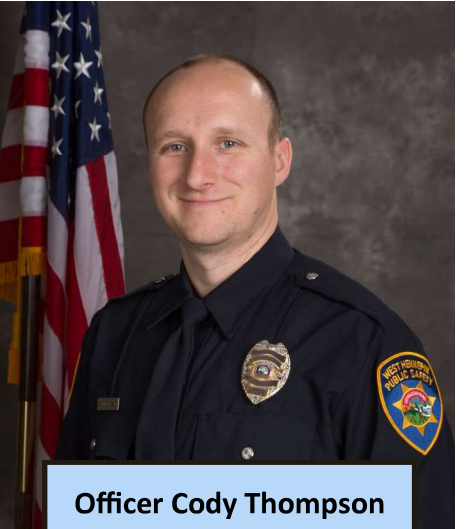
WEST COMMAND MOBILE FIELD FORCE



Sergeant Rick Denneson
Mobile Field Force



Sergeant Jon Howes
Mobile Field Force



Officer Cody Thompson
Mobile Field Force

The West Command Mobile Field Force (WCMFF) is made up of representative officers from 27 suburban law enforcement agencies in suburban Hennepin County. The mission of this collaborative team is to provide a rapid deployment of highly trained law enforcement personnel to preserve life, ensure public safety, protect property, and maintain quality of life throughout Greater Hennepin County. This team of officers, and all of the agencies they represent, are very committed to working hard to protect lawful first amendment protests and demonstrations, while ensuring those gatherings remain non-violent and safe for those in attendance.



WCMFF is a specially trained team of officers capable of responding to incidents of member agencies in which large numbers of people require management for public safety reasons and to protect First Amendment rights and peaceful protesting.

West Hennepin Public Safety has committed three officers to WCMFF Platoon 6 with Sgt. Rick Denneson assigned as squad leader and Sgt. Jon Howes and Officer Cody Thompson as operators.



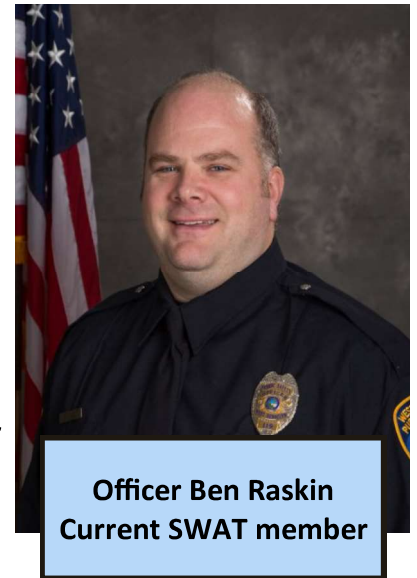


WEST HENNEPIN PUBLIC SAFETY



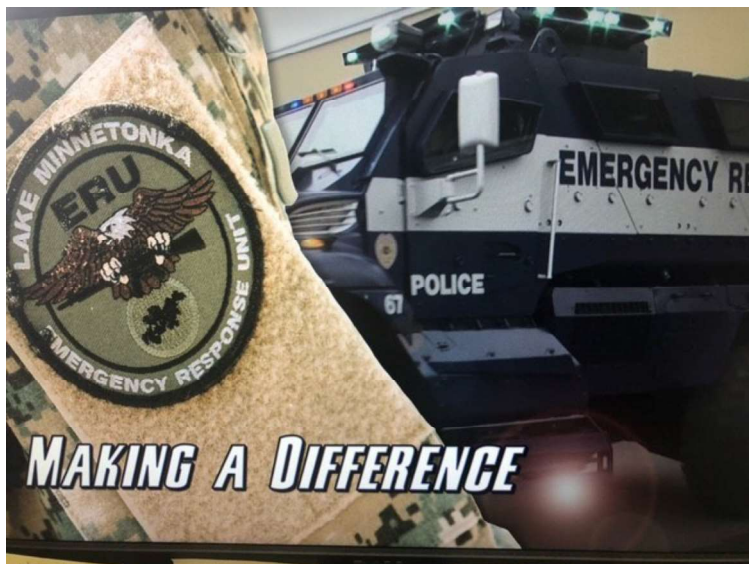
LAKE MINNETONKA SWAT TEAM

West Hennepin Public Safety (WHPS) is a member of the Lake Minnetonka Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) Team, a multi-agency SWAT team. It was formed in 2008 by the West Hennepin Public Safety Department, South Lake Minnetonka Police Department, Orono Police Department, Minnetrista Police Department, and Wayzata Police Department. The team consists of eighteen members and WHPS has two positions on it. The SWAT Team trains regularly: learning new techniques, devices, tools, and tactics to handle high-risk situations. They also assist other SWAT teams on mutual aid agreements. WHPS is thankful to participate in a unit like this that could not be funded by a single department.



Officer Ben Raskin
Current SWAT member

Lake Minnetonka SWAT team participates in a yearly training at Camp Ripley where numerous teams from throughout the state come together to train. Every year, three teams are chosen to host the training. This year, our team was one of the hosting teams. The hosting teams are responsible for organizing the training and coordinating with each team for scheduling. The scenarios are larger based scenarios that often include multiple buildings and ten or more actors, which helps the teams practice in situations where team security and scene safety are a concern. It was a very successful event.



The trainings can include many different variables from large-scale active shooters, armored vehicle training/course work, hostage rescue, large crowd control during a critical incident and much more. The training is vital in preparing teams for large-scale incidents that many teams are not able to train for during their monthly training.

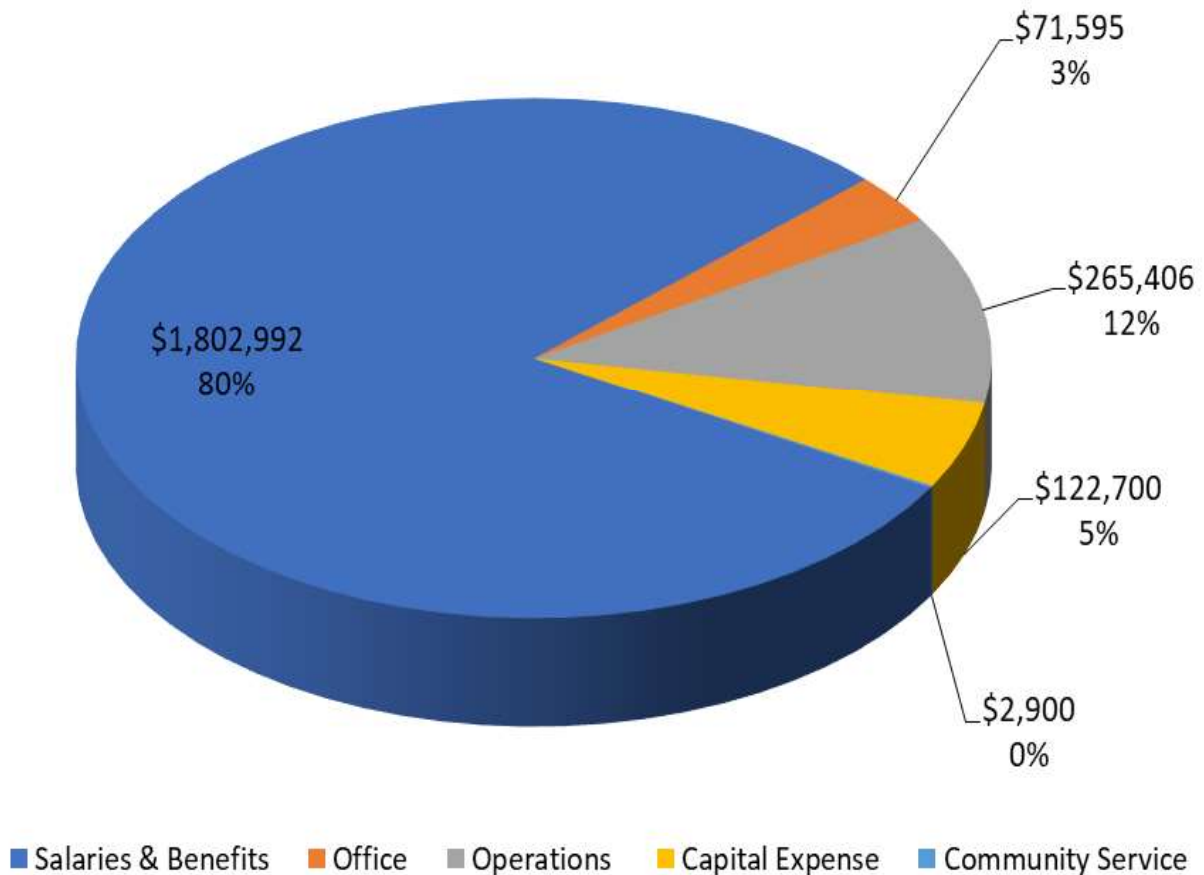


WEST HENNEPIN PUBLIC SAFETY



FINANCIAL SUMMARY: 2023 BUDGET

2023 Budget Total \$2,283,107



The personnel section accounts for 80% of the overall budget. It includes health and dental benefits, overtime, PERA contributions and medical disability insurance that West Hennepin is mandated to pay. The remaining funds are allocated to office supplies, police department operating costs, capital expenses and community service programs.



WEST HENNEPIN PUBLIC SAFETY

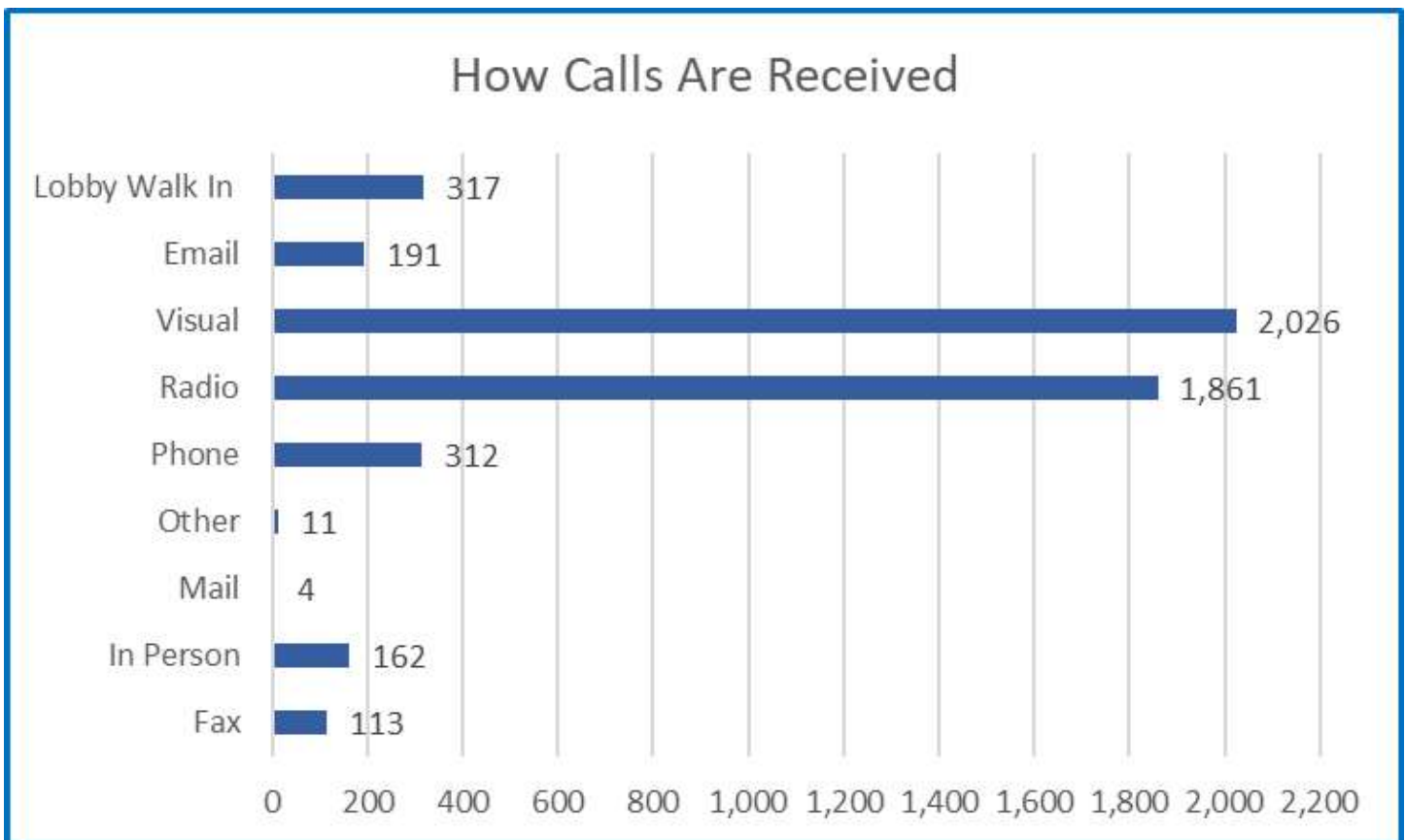


2023 ACTIVITY REPORT

In 2023, the West Hennepin Public Safety Department handled 4,461 incident complaint reports for the cities of Independence and Maple Plain, with 3,025 incidents occurring in Independence and 1,436 occurring in Maple Plain.

Incident complaint reports include:

- 1,883 Traffic Stops and Traffic related offenses
- 84 Criminal Investigations
- 128 Property Damage Crashes
- 31 DWI Arrests
- 10 Personal Injury Crashes
- 0 Fatality Crashes

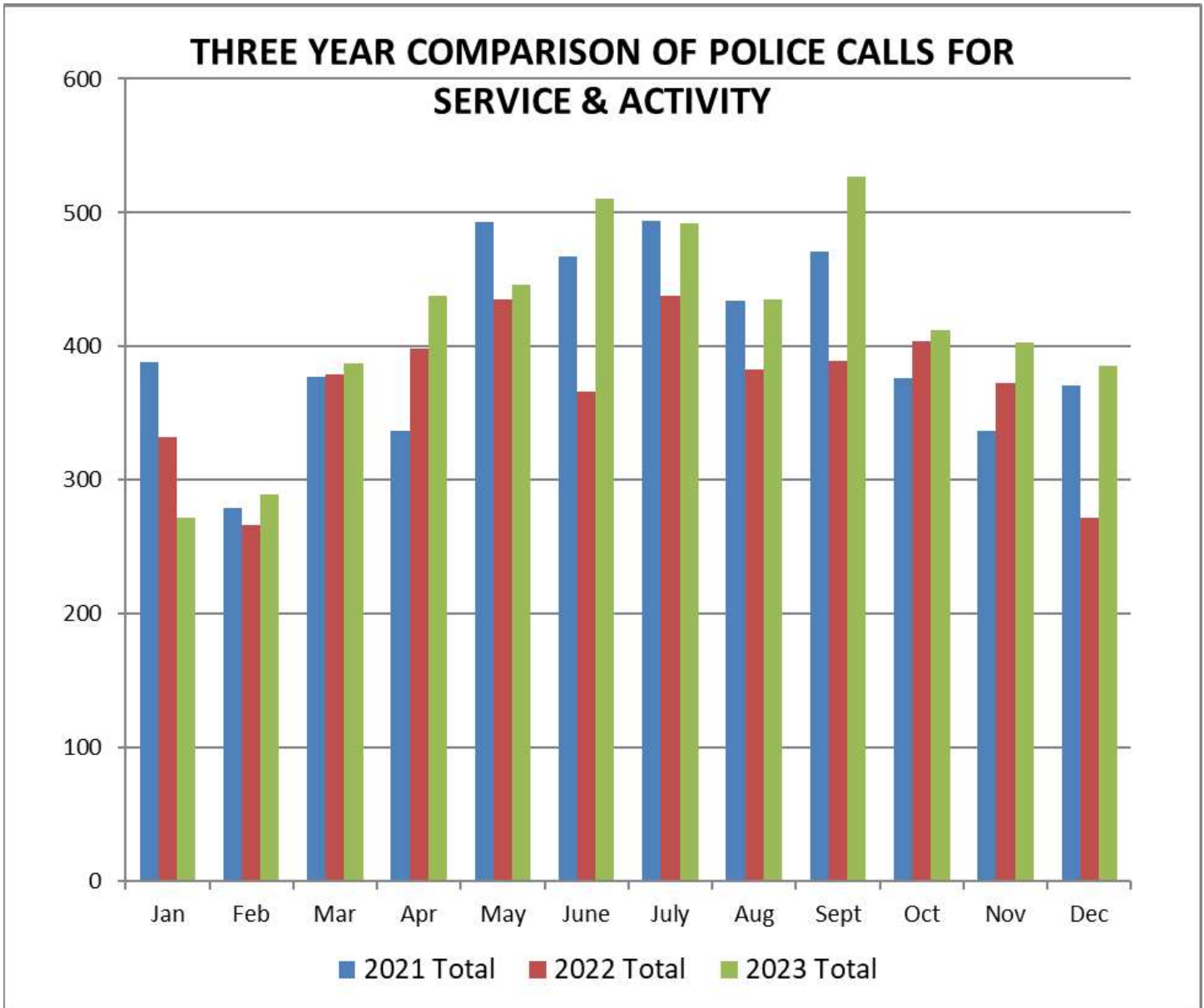




WEST HENNEPIN PUBLIC SAFETY



2021-2023 Call Activity Report



West Hennepin Public Safety Department call activity per month for the past three years, 2021-2023



WEST HENNEPIN PUBLIC SAFETY



ACTIVITY REPORT: Comparing 2022 versus 2023

Offense	2022	2023
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City Of Independence

Criminal	62	50
Traffic	948	1165
Part III	42	55
Part IV	373	393
Part V	1,251	1,362

Total City of Independence	2,676	3,025
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City Of Maple Plain

Criminal	44	37
Traffic	272	502
Part III	18	30
Part IV	241	314
Part V	568	553

Total City Of Maple Plain	1,143	1,436
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Grand Total Both Cities	3,819	4,461
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TZD	135	394
Other ICRs	280	313
Total ICR Reports	4,234	5,168

How Received

Fax	86	113
In Person	154	162
Mail	10	4
Other	12	11
Phone	327	312
Radio	1,738	1,861
Visual	1,407	2,026
Email	204	191
Lobby Walk In	268	317
Total	4,206	4,997



WEST HENNEPIN PUBLIC SAFETY



FAREWELL – OFFICER JOSH BROZEK



After ten years of dedicated service to the West Hennepin Public Safety Department, Officer Joshua Brozek left our organization to continue working as a police officer for the Airport Police Department. West Hennepin Public Safety Department and our citizens thank him for his outstanding work as a patrol officer, investigator, SWAT Operator, and Drug Task Force Agent. His presence as an officer will be missed in our community.