



# WEST HENNEPIN PUBLIC SAFETY

## 2018 ANNUAL REPORT



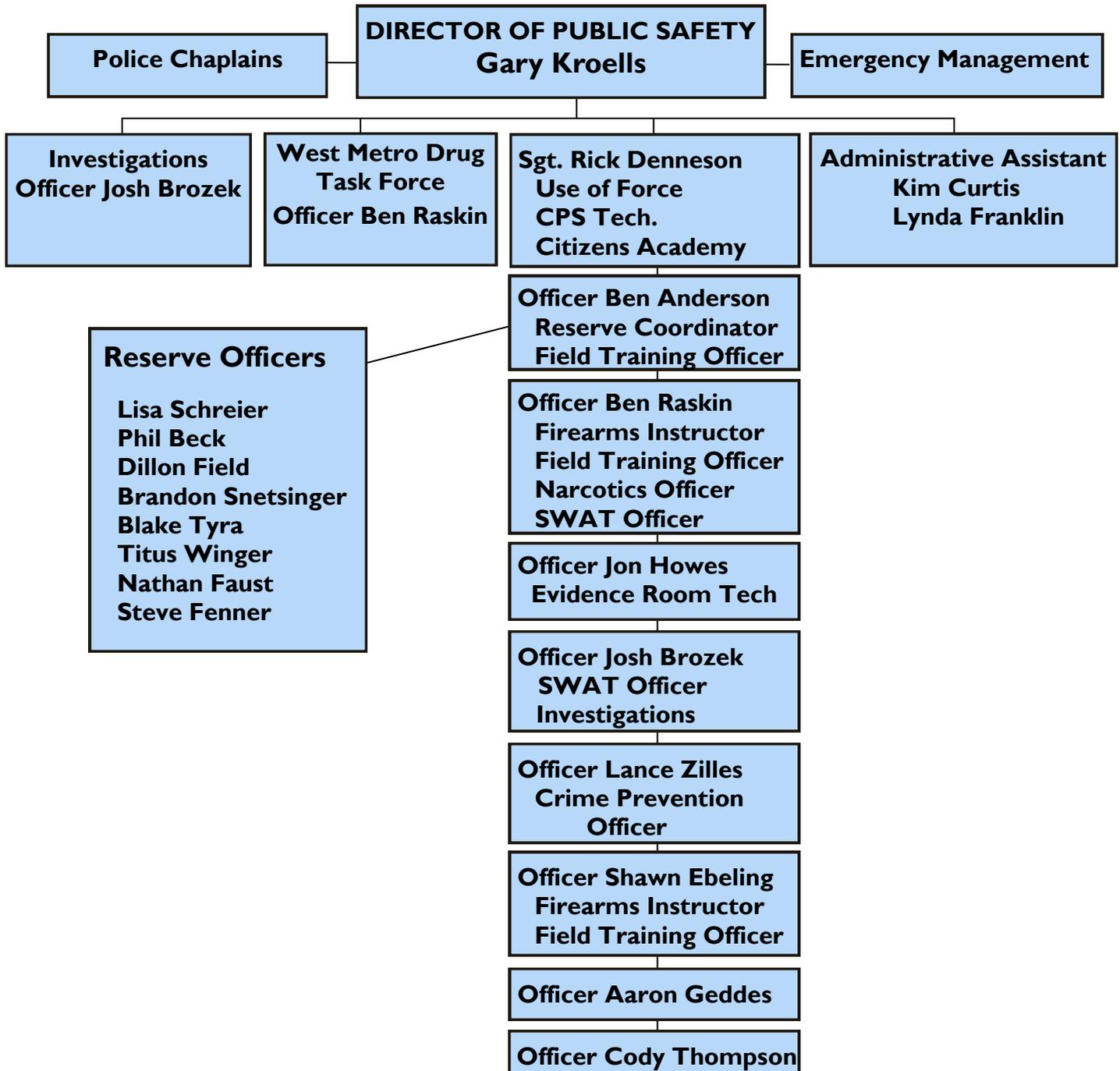
### MISSION:

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



# WEST HENNEPIN PUBLIC SAFETY

## WEST HENNEPIN PUBLIC SAFETY ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



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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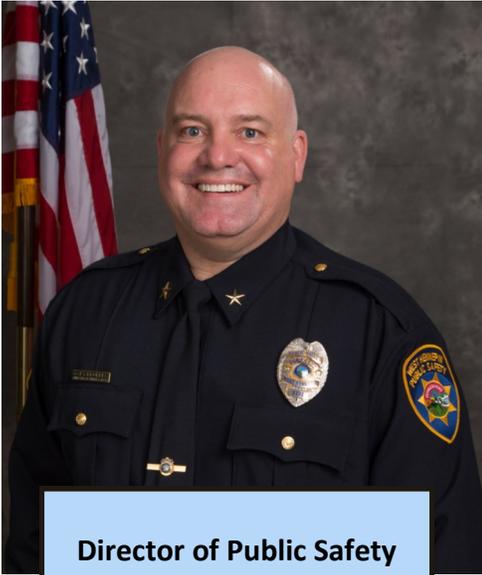
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# WEST HENNEPIN PUBLIC SAFETY

## DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



**Director of Public Safety  
Gary Kroells**

As Director of Public Safety for the West Hennepin Public Safety Department, it is my honor to submit the *2018 Annual Report*.

In this year's report, you will find information highlighting different areas of law enforcement, emergency management, community involvement, training and our volunteer programs. Our annual report reflects the commitment our staff continues to show towards our citizens and our community.

In 2018, I can say with confidence that our officers focused a lot of time on community involvement through education. By working side-by-side with our citizens, we continue to build trust and respect for each other. This trust has never been more evident in our community than it was in 2018. Not a single day went by without someone saying, "Thanks for your service" or "We appreciate your hard work." In return, our officers want to say "Thank you" to our citizens for your support of our agency.

West Hennepin will continue to search for effective and efficient ways to provide proactive police services to our citizens. Our interaction with the public and our citizens is paramount in our work toward the betterment of our communities.

The West Hennepin Public Safety Department, along with the Orono Police Department, spent time with some of our high school's students by co-hosting the Orono School's Forensics Field Trip at the Orono Police Department. This course puts local law enforcement in front of students to introduce them to law enforcement careers and to give them some hands-on exposure to law enforcement. The Forensics Field Trip is a great opportunity to engage with our school's officials and students to strengthen relationships while promoting future leaders in law enforcement. This course was highlighted by the Minnesota Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA) in the Winter 2018-19 edition of their magazine as an example to other law enforcement agencies. The "Wear the Badge" campaign, an initiative created by the MCPA, focuses on recruitment and retention of law enforcement officers in Minnesota.

I am proud to report the Highway 12 Safety Coalition is very strong and moving forward with MnDOT and Hennepin County DOT for intersection improvements for County Roads 92 and 90. The safety of all citizens along Highway 12 continues to be a top priority for our agency.

As you review this report, I hope that you feel the same pride that I do in recognizing the accomplishments our department achieved in serving our citizens in 2018.

It is truly an honor and privilege to serve as the Director of Public Safety for the West Hennepin Public Safety Department. I hope that we have made a positive impact on your lives as we continue working hard for you in 2019 and beyond.



# WEST HENNEPIN PUBLIC SAFETY

## USE OF FORCE—TRAINING



**Sergeant Rick Denneson**  
Use of Force Instructor

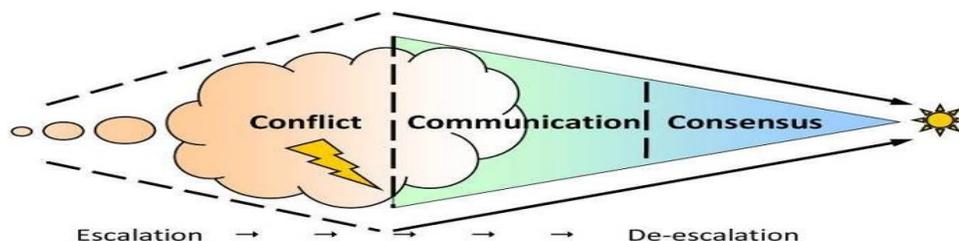
The West Hennepin Public Safety Department (WHPSD) utilizes an online training program called Patrol Online. This training program is facilitated by the League of MN Cities Trust. They publish online training sessions that our officers can complete on a computer in the office while on duty. These online modules cover all of the required MN POST Board objectives for use of force and also OSHA mandates on topics such as blood-borne pathogens, hazardous materials, confined space, hearing and respiratory protection, and other safety topics. Throughout the year, along with the computer classroom, we also have hands-on scenarios so that officers get real-life experience in dealing with situations. We use Simunition® guns that shoot paint rounds instead of real bullets to make the training as realistic as possible. We train annually on handcuffing techniques, chemical sprays, Tasers, expandable batons and hand-to-hand combat.

This year the Minnesota POST Board has added three training categories that are required for each officer:

- Implicit bias, community diversity, and cultural differences;
- Conflict management and mediation; and
- Crisis intervention and mental illness crises.

Officers from our agency have already begun to attend courses in these topics as part of the yearly mandate.

De-escalation has always been a part of our training whether it is hands-on or with firearms. Our officers train to calm people down, talk people down and to defuse a tense situation so that minimal force, if any, can be used to control a situation. Ultimately (and sometimes, unfortunately), the subject that we are dealing with is the one in control and we have to react in the best way to keep our officers and others safe.

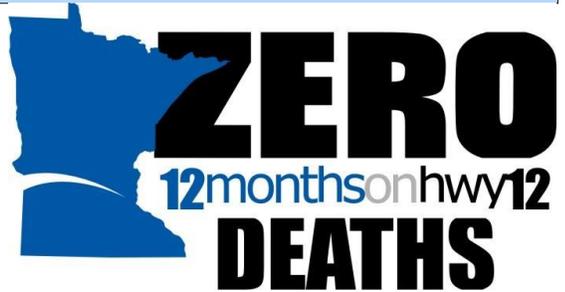




# WEST HENNEPIN PUBLIC SAFETY

## HIGHWAY 12 SAFETY COALITION

The Highway 12 Safety Coalition had a series of highs and lows throughout the 2018 calendar year. We worked tremendously hard to reduce fatality and serious injury crashes along Highway 12 by focusing on the four E's of reducing deaths and serious injury crashes. They are Education, Enforcement, Emergency Medical Services, and Engineering.



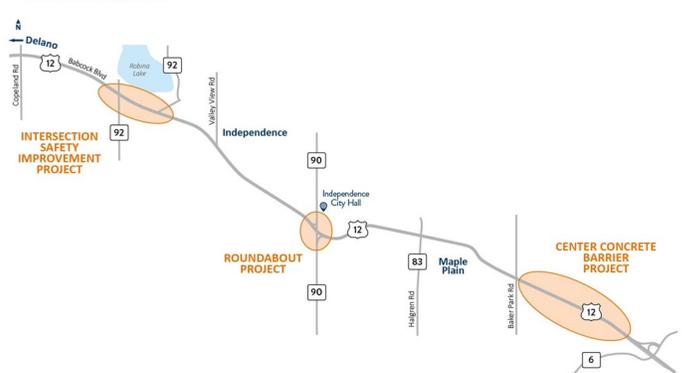
On December 1, 2015, we launched “Going 12 for 12”, a campaign to have zero fatality crashes on Highway 12 for 12 months. This was an aggressive goal but we are proud to announce that on October 2, 2018, we reached our goal and not a single person was killed on Highway 12 for over 12 months. We hosted a press conference at Independence City Hall to remind everyone that by working with each other, we can save lives along Highway 12.

Sadly, just four days later on October 6, a Bloomington resident was killed on Highway 12 near Valley Road in Independence when her vehicle crossed over the centerline and struck a semi-truck head-on. Our thoughts and prayers go out to this family and all of the families who have had family members killed in traffic crashes on Highway 12.

The West Hennepin Public Safety Department will continue to push for improvements on the highway, enforce traffic laws, educate drivers on the dangers of distracted driving, train our emergency medical providers on emergency procedures, and work with MnDOT and county engineers to find safety improvements along the highway. We will never give up the work it takes to save lives.

In October of 2018, MnDOT unveiled concept designs for intersection improvements at County Road 92 and County Road 90. The City of Independence hosted an open house and public involvement was outstanding. Staff members from MnDOT, Hennepin County and the City of Independence will continue to develop the safest and most efficient improvements along Highway 12. Community engagement is necessary to provide feedback to MnDOT. Look for announcements in the summer of 2019 to attend these open houses.

Highway 12 Projects  
Construction Planned 2021



WHPS recognizes that it takes “Everyone” to make our roads safer. Together we can make the highway safer for everyone traveling along the Highway 12 corridor.



# WEST HENNEPIN PUBLIC SAFETY

## WEAPON MOUNTED CAMERAS

In August of 2017, West Hennepin Public Safety (WHPS) was approached by Viridian Technologies, a Maple Plain-based business that manufactures laser sights for guns. However, they did not come to us to talk about laser sights, but rather a weapon-mounted camera system that they were developing. They were looking for a department to participate in a pilot program to use and evaluate the camera system. After several meetings and consultations with our city attorney on department policy for this piece of equipment, we agreed to participate in their pilot program.



In late 2017, three WHPS officers were assigned the INSTANT-ON® camera/laser/tactical light and used them for several months while on duty and in training. The cameras were used in several different environments: dark, light, cold, dirty, and on the training range. We were even able to mount the cameras onto our Simunition® training guns and record scenario-based training.

In 2018, the West Hennepin Public Safety Department outfitted each officer with a weapon-mounted camera made by Viridian. We set up an evidence collection procedure for the data captured on the camera and we retain the footage whenever an officer draws his firearm for use in the course of his duties. This can be anything from searching a house or a building on an alarm, to a high-risk traffic stop, to making a high-risk arrest. These cameras are for the officer's and the department's protection to show what happened in these low frequency / high-risk situations.



The West Hennepin Public Safety Department was one of the first departments in Minnesota to equip every officer in the department with a weapon mounted camera.



# WEST HENNEPIN PUBLIC SAFETY

## WEST METRO DRUG TASK FORCE (WMDTF)



**Officer Ben Raskin**  
West Metro Drug Task  
Force 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. There are currently six agents assigned to the task force, which investigates narcotics-related criminal matters. Each member agency has at least one officer designated to the task force. A drug task force agent conducts long-term complex investigations, drafts and executes search warrants, conducts undercover operations and assists local law enforcement with critical incidents.



### West Metro Drug Task Force Agencies:

**West Hennepin Public Safety  
Department**

**Medina Police Department**

**Minnetrista Public Safety  
Department**

**Orono Police Department**

**Hennepin County  
Sheriff's Office**



# WEST HENNEPIN PUBLIC SAFETY

## WEST METRO DRUG TASK FORCE (WMDTF)

The year 2018 was very productive for the West Metro Drug Task Force (WMDTF). One hundred thirty-two (132) search warrants were executed, which led to 92 arrests and a total of 112 state and federal charges. The WMDTF seized 2 pounds of cocaine, 76 pounds of crystal methamphetamine, 85 pounds of marijuana and 64 guns.

The estimated street value of the narcotics seized by the WMDTF in 2018 is upwards of \$3.1 million. The pictures below are from significant search warrants that were executed.



**Pictured above are numerous firearms seized during a search warrant related to cocaine and marijuana sales.**



**Pictured above is approximately five pounds of methamphetamine. This case involved a drug trafficking organization working in Mexico and Minnesota.**



# WEST HENNEPIN PUBLIC SAFETY

## USE OF FORCE—FIREARMS TRAINING



**Officer Ben Raskin  
Firearms Instructor**

West Hennepin Public Safety (WHPS) conducts ongoing training throughout the year in the areas of use of force and firearms. We conduct a minimum of four live-fire firearms training sessions each year to ensure officers' proficiency with weapons and their appropriate application in different situations.

We continue to ensure officers are outfitted with the latest equipment and are up-to-date with current trends in the use of force and firearms technology.



As discussed in another section of this report, we participated in a trial of a weapon-mounted camera/laser/tactical light manufactured by Viridian Weapon Technologies. For several years already, our officer's weapons have been equipped with weapon-mounted lights. However, with new technology, a camera is now integrated into the light. WHPS began the trial in 2017 and, in 2018, we completed testing and evaluation of the weapon mounted camera. Later in 2018, we fully implemented the system and outfitted each sworn officer with the weapon-mounted camera system. We believe this system will provide greater transparency and detail in the event of an officer utilizing their firearm in the line of duty.



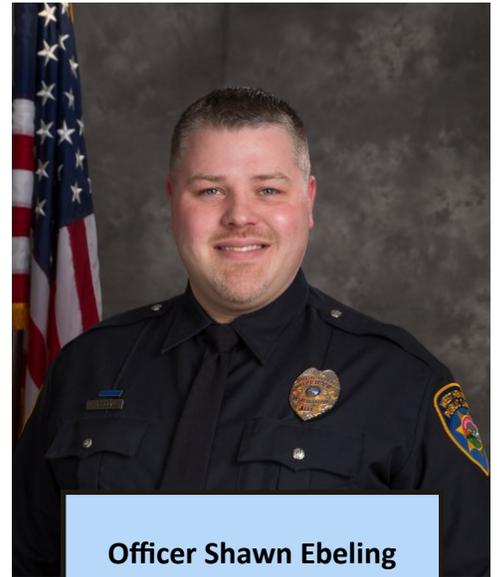
Image captured from a weapon mounted camera on the range.



# WEST HENNEPIN PUBLIC SAFETY

## USE OF FORCE—FIREARMS TRAINING

WHPS has for many years incorporated scenario-based, decision making, and de-escalation training into our use of force program and 2018 was no exception. Columbia Heights PD again provided us with access to their video simulation system called Laser Shot. We spent a week in March having officers rotate through simulations that put officers into life-like situations that require varying levels of force. Officers also learn and practice how to address the characters in the simulations by utilizing de-escalation techniques and application of varying levels of force up to deadly force. Following each scenario, our instructors debrief the scenario and review the actions the officer took to address the simulation. This provides a valuable training tool for officers to hone their skills in dealing with potential use of force scenarios and ensure we are using only enough force that is necessary to address a situation.



**Officer Shawn Ebeling  
Firearms Instructor**

We would like to thank the Delano Sportsmen’s Club for their continued support and cooperation with us by providing access to their range. We are grateful that in the past few years, they have asked us and other area law enforcement to join them in a social gathering with their members, providing an opportunity to meet and answer questions in a relaxed setting.



**Rescue scenario  
with officers using  
a body bunker**





# WEST HENNEPIN PUBLIC SAFETY

## RESERVE OFFICER PROGRAM



**Officer Ben Anderson  
Reserve Coordinator**

The West Hennepin Public Safety (WHPS) Reserves had another outstanding year in 2018. We provided several excellent training opportunities and a total of 1,938 hours were donated to WHPS and the cities of Maple Plain and Independence! Using a modest value of \$24.69 per hour (national 2018 formula), that is a value of \$47,849 to our communities for a very minimal cost. The on-going service provided by the WHPS volunteer reserve officers to our communities is absolutely invaluable.

WHPS was also very pleased when Reserve Officer Christopher Leonard was hired by the Buffalo Police Department as a licensed peace officer. Leonard expressed his thanks to the WHPS Reserve Program for helping him achieve his career goal of becoming a police officer. His experiences here at WHPS will undoubtedly help him in becoming a successful officer.

WHPS' dedication to the Reserve Officer Program was again evident with many training opportunities that included: responding to traffic emergencies, radio usage, handling medical emergencies, use of force, and certifications to use an ASP Baton, Mace and Taser. The reserves were also given guidance and training in personal budgeting and financial wellness.

The reserve officers participated in many community events including View Santa, Night to Unite, a Bicycle Rodeo, the Boo Market at Forkless Pizza, Party in the Park, the Maple Plain Fire Department Open House and many running and bicycling events. Reserves were also called out to respond to several large scale incidents to assist the WHPS officers.



**Reserve Officer Tyra practices a baton strike at a self defense training session**



# WEST HENNEPIN PUBLIC SAFETY

## RESERVE OFFICERS IN ACTION

**Reserve Officer Faust pointing to evidence at a traffic crash.**



**Reserve Officer Fenner assisting a young bicycle rider navigate the Bike Rodeo Safety Course. The WHPS Reserves partnered with the Maple Plain Library and the Maple Plain Fire Department to host this event.**



**Reserve Officer Titus Winger having fun at a neighborhood party in Maple Plain.**



# WEST HENNEPIN PUBLIC SAFETY

## VIEW SANTA 2018 — A VERY SNOWY DAY



Left to right, standing: Sgt. Rick Denneson, Officer Jon Howes, Reserve Coordinator Officer Ben Anderson, Reserve Dillon Field, Reserve Blake Tyra, Reserve Steve Fenner, Reserve Lisa Schreier, Reserve Phil Beck, Reserve Nate Faust, Reserve Titus Winger. Seated in the sleigh: Santa!! This year it was truly a winter wonderland for View Santa in Maple Plain.



Firefighter Chris Doyle trying to improve his status on Santa's "nice list".



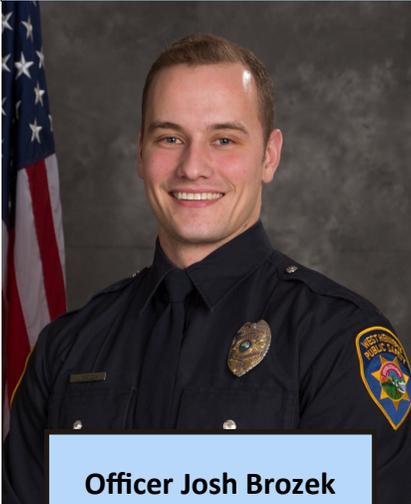
Reserve officers packing approximately 700 bags with candy and small gifts for View Santa to give to boys and girls in Maple Plain and Independence. Pictured: Reserves Schreier, Tyra, Faust, Fenner, Beck, Henthorne, Field, and Winger.

"This year was a great year with many people coming out to visit Santa and making donations to the local food shelf. The police reserves collected over 1,205 pounds of food and \$259.00 in cash donations," said Director Gary Kroells. "The West Hennepin Public Safety volunteer reserve officers have been hosting this event for 38 years and it is a very special program for our small communities".



# WEST HENNEPIN PUBLIC SAFETY

## LAKE MINNETONKA SWAT TEAM



**Officer Josh Brozek**  
Current SWAT member

West Hennepin Public Safety is a member of the Lake Minnetonka SWAT Team, a multi-agency SWAT team. It was formed in 2008 by West Hennepin Public Safety, South Lake Minnetonka Public Safety, Orono Police Department, Minnetrista Police Department, and the Wayzata Police Department. The team consists of 18 members and West Hennepin Public Safety currently has two officers on the team. The SWAT Team trains on a regular basis: 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 police department.



**Officer Ben Raskin**  
Current SWAT member

In 2018, the Lake Minnetonka SWAT Team was called out four times:

- June 18th: The SWAT Team assisted with a search warrant/felony arrest in Excelsior, MN. The warrant was for the arrest of a male who was alleged to be aggressive towards law enforcement and who was living in the basement of his parents' residence. The male stated he would shoot cops if they tried to arrest him. The SWAT Team made entry into the residence and located the male hiding in the laundry room behind a door. He was taken into custody without any physical harm done to officers or himself.
- August 9th: The Hennepin County SWAT Team requested the assistance of the Lake Minnetonka SWAT Team in executing a high-risk search warrant at an address in Medina. The property was known to have numerous outbuildings with an unknown number of people on site. Stolen vehicles were reported to be there along with subjects who were known to possess weapons. The SWAT Teams made entry onto the property and arrested five people without anyone being injured. Several stolen vehicles were recovered on the property.
- October 29: The SWAT Team was called in for a high-level entry in Mound to arrest a male suspected of stabbing a female in Carver County. The victim was in critical condition after being stabbed in the abdomen. The male was threatening the homeowner, stating he just stabbed a woman and that she would be next. The homeowner fled the house and called 911. It was unknown if the male still had a knife or any other weapons. The SWAT Team made entry into the home and took the male suspect into custody without anyone being harmed.
- November 17: The SWAT Team was called in to execute the arrest of a male in Wayzata who strangled his mother until she went unconscious. The male was known to carry knives and hatchets around with him. The SWAT Team made entry into the residence and took the male into custody without any harm being done to officers or himself. Further search warrants found a loaded .38 handgun and a large hunting knife in the subject's bed beneath the covers.





# WEST HENNEPIN PUBLIC SAFETY

## ADMINISTRATIVE AND RECORDS DIVISION



**Administrative Assistant  
Lynda Franklin**

**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 consists of two Administrative Assistants with individual responsibilities. Kim Curtis is the administrative assistant/bookkeeper, Human Resources (HR) & benefits coordinator and recording secretary. Lynda Franklin is the administrative assistant/Terminal Agency Coordinator (TAC) and is primarily responsible for managing the Records Division, which includes the submission of state-mandated records. Together they perform various 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 Purchase 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.
- 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 in accordance with 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.

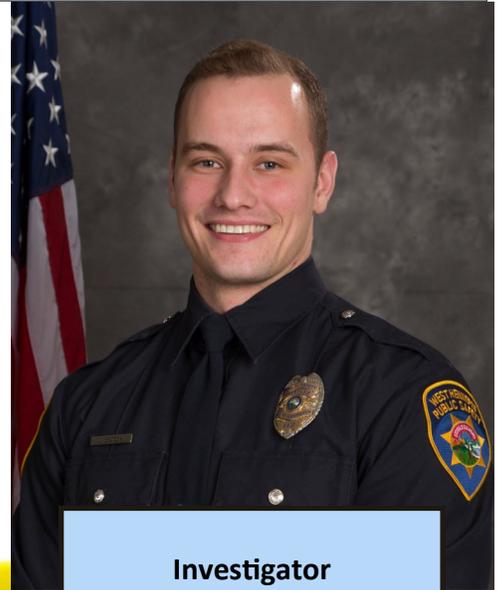


# WEST HENNEPIN PUBLIC SAFETY

## INVESTIGATOR'S REPORT—CASES OF INTEREST

The West Hennepin Public Safety Department strives to provide career development for its officers. Part of this process is to rotate the investigator position between experienced patrol officers every two years.

Officer Josh Brozek took over investigations in 2017 for the West Hennepin Public Safety Department and is in his second year. Officer Brozek assumed this position after three years of patrol experience and leadership.



Investigator  
Josh Brozek

**CRIME SCENE DO NOT CROSS**

### **Burglary and Stolen Antique Boat Items**

On February 1, 2018, West Hennepin Public Safety received a report of a burglary with the theft of items from a storage locker at the Independence Mini Storage. The storage locker contained antique boat items valued at \$4,600. The items were from local ships that sailed throughout the Great Lakes.

Further investigation located the items for sale on Craigslist and a possible suspect was determined. A meeting was arranged with the suspect to buy the potentially stolen items. An undercover officer met the seller and identified the items as being stolen and the person was taken into custody. A warrant was written and signed by a judge for the suspect's vehicle where the majority of the stolen property was recovered. The suspect was charged with two felony counts, receiving stolen property and possession of burglary tools, and one misdemeanor license violation.





# WEST HENNEPIN PUBLIC SAFETY

## INVESTIGATOR'S REPORT—CASES OF INTEREST

### Garage Burglary

On February 9, 2018, West Hennepin Public Safety received a call for a burglary in progress. A male had arranged to meet with the homeowner to look at tires that the homeowner had for sale. When the homeowner went inside the house, the suspect began going through the detached garage and loading items into his vehicle. The homeowner confronted the suspect and dialed 911. When the suspect realized that 911 was being called, he fled the scene.



Officers located the suspect in Watertown, MN, where he was taken into custody. The stolen items were recovered and later returned to the victim. The suspect was charged with Felony 3rd Degree Burglary.

### New Construction Burglary

On February 11, 2018, West Hennepin Public Safety received a report of the burglary of a new home under construction. The homeowner arrived to find a front-loading washer and dryer missing, valued at \$2,700. During the investigation, a latex glove was recovered in the driveway. The glove was collected as evidence and sent in to be analyzed for DNA.

DNA was found on the glove and a suspect was identified by utilizing a database which stores “known DNA” samples from individuals that have been involved in felonious crimes. The suspect was a known burglar with a long history of being in possession of stolen items. A search warrant was executed on the his home where the washer and dryer were recovered. A warrant was obtained to take a swab of the suspect’s DNA and it was compared to the DNA found in the glove, resulting in a match.



The suspect was charged with Felony Possession of Stolen Property.



# WEST HENNEPIN PUBLIC SAFETY

## INVESTIGATOR'S REPORT—CASES OF INTEREST

### **Second Degree Criminal Sexual Conduct**

On May 3, 2018, West Hennepin Public Safety (WHPS) received a call for a possible criminal sexual conduct (CSC) case involving a minor. WHPS received this report from a therapist, who is a mandated reporter and required by law to report any suspicion of child abuse or neglect. The therapist stated a male had called in asking to set up therapy for his family stemming from incidents involving sexual contact between himself and his daughter. Further investigation found that there were two victims; both were daughters of the suspect.

The children were interviewed by CornerHouse, an advocacy center that has interviewers that are specifically trained to interview children. After the interviews were completed there was enough evidence to draft a search warrant for the residence. The search warrant was executed and the suspect was taken into custody. The suspect was charged with two counts of 2nd Degree Criminal Sexual Conduct.

### **Weapon-Pointing Felony Assault**

On June 2, 2018, West Hennepin Public Safety received a call of a weapon-pointing incident that stemmed from a traffic altercation. The victim was following the suspect vehicle, described as a black Dodge Charger, and the suspect was alleged to be driving aggressively at speeds near 100 mph.

The suspect stopped at a stop sign and flashed a silver revolver at the victim. The victim was able to obtain the license plate of the suspect's vehicle. Investigators followed up with the registered owner of the vehicle who turned out to be the suspected driver. The suspect admitted to flashing a pistol at the victim. The pistol was determined to be a pellet gun.

The suspect was charged with Felony Terroristic Threats.





# WEST HENNEPIN PUBLIC SAFETY

## INVESTIGATOR'S REPORT—CASES OF INTEREST

### Stolen Vehicle

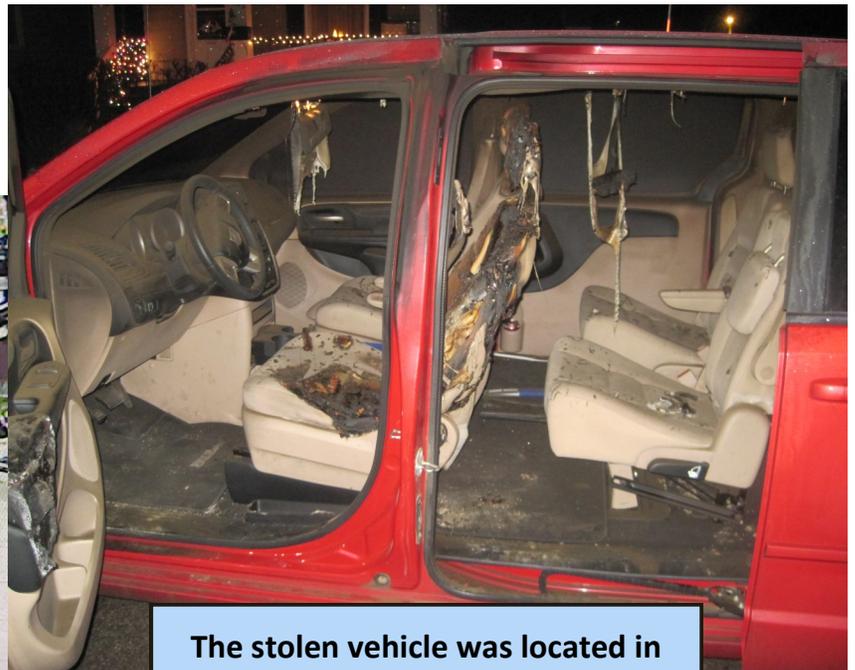
On December 11, 2018, West Hennepin Public Safety received a call for a vehicle stolen from Vinland National Center in Independence. An employee was preparing to transport two patients to appointments when the employee left the vehicle to go back inside the Center. When the employee went inside, the male suspect moved into the driver's seat and drove off in the vehicle. The other patient inside the vehicle asked to be let out and the suspect allowed him to exit the vehicle.

About two hours later, the vehicle was reported to be in Rogers, MN, at a gas station where it was called in as a suspicious vehicle. However, the vehicle was no longer at the gas station when local officers arrived on the scene.

On December 15, 2018, the vehicle was recovered in Duluth, MN. The vehicle had been set on fire and abandoned. The suspect was originally from Duluth. Using the surveillance video from the Holiday Gas Station in Rogers, MN, along with the second patient's witness statement, the suspect was charged with Felony Theft of a Motor Vehicle.



**Vehicle theft suspect inside the gas station in Rogers.**



**The stolen vehicle was located in Duluth after it was set on fire.**



# WEST HENNEPIN PUBLIC SAFETY

## CRIME PREVENTION



MINNESOTA CRIME  
PREVENTION ASSOCIATION

In October 2018, Officer Zilles attended the Minnesota Crime Prevention Association Conference in Duluth, MN. At the conference, Officer Zilles learned about new and upcoming issues occurring in various communities and how to help prevent those issues. Some of these issues were how to protect yourself from cybercrime, the opioid epidemic, and issues with social media.

Officer Zilles also attended Crime Free Multi-Housing training where he learned about landlord/tenant issues, the eviction process and proper ways to ensure a home is secure. This training is offered to police officers, rental property owners and managers of multi-housing units.

WHPS has begun a new program to notify homeowners if they have left their garage door or vehicle door open or unlocked overnight. The officer will place a computer-generated printout inside the unsecured garage or vehicle notifying the homeowner of the issue. When possible, the WHPS officer will then secure the item that was left open.



**Officer Lance Zilles  
Crime Prevention Officer**



Officer Zilles conducted alcohol compliance training with the employees of McGarry’s Pub in Maple Plain.

The employees learned how to recognize intoxicated customers, the dangers of over-serving customers, the laws and regulations associated with serving to underage customers, how to spot a fake ID and much more.

This training is available free of charge to any local business that serves alcohol.



# WEST HENNEPIN PUBLIC SAFETY

## COMMUNITY PROGRAMS—CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY



Citizens Academy participants receive training in traffic stops and traffic enforcement

West Hennepin Public Safety held its 19th Citizens Police Academy (CPA) in 2018. Fourteen citizens that live or work in Independence, Maple Plain and surrounding communities participated in the annual eight-week course.

This course is designed to educate citizens on how the police department functions, to give them an opportunity to meet the West Hennepin officers and reserves and to learn more about their respective roles in law enforcement. Each year, the program forges new relationships between the police department and community members.

The course includes topics such as DWI enforcement, traffic enforcement, criminal and narcotics investigations, the Reserve Officer Program and the history of the department. One night is a demonstration by a police K-9 and his handler. Another night is a field trip to the Hennepin County 911 Dispatch Center where participants are able to speak with on-duty dispatchers and listen to actual incoming 911 calls. In another session, we use a video simulator that allows the students the opportunity to make use of force—deadly force decisions in a split second—just as they happen on the street in real life. One night includes participants role-playing as officers in mock traffic stops. They have the opportunity to see what it is like to walk up to a car that has been stopped for a traffic violation. In a later week, they “testify in court” before a Hennepin County judge.



Minnetonka K-9 Handler Joe Mace demonstrating a bite apprehension with

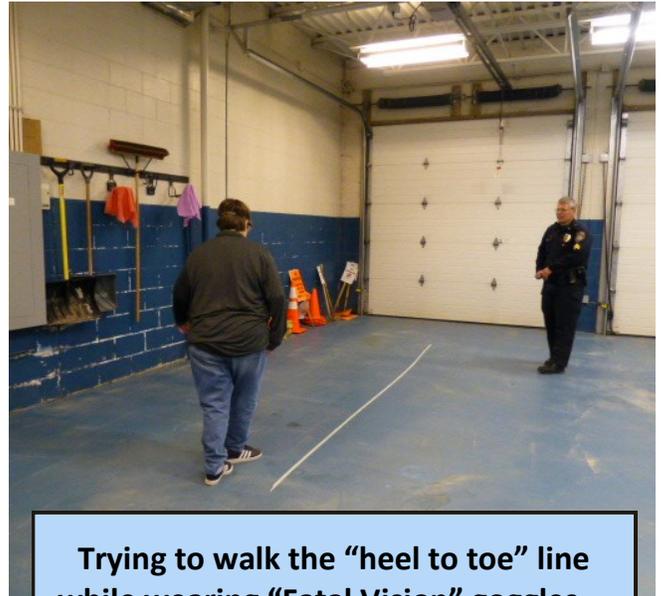


# WEST HENNEPIN PUBLIC SAFETY

## COMMUNITY PROGRAMS—CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY

There is some classroom time but we try to include a lot of “hands-on” experience, letting the participants get a feel for what it is like to do the job of a police officer.

The course has evolved over the past 19 years. One extra night was added, increasing the course from seven sessions to eight and some classes were changed to make them more interactive. The final evening of the academy concludes with a graduation ceremony where each participant is issued a CPA shirt and a framed certificate. Alumni from previous classes are invited back to share their experiences from their academy classes.



Trying to walk the “heel to toe” line while wearing “Fatal Vision” goggles—goggles that simulate being intoxicated.

The West Hennepin Citizens Police Academy is held annually in late winter.



Citizens Police Academy  
2018 Graduating Class



# WEST HENNEPIN PUBLIC SAFETY

## COMMUNITY PROGRAMS—NIGHT TO UNITE



**Officer Lance Zilles**  
Crime Prevention Officer

On August 7, West Hennepin Public Safety (WHPS) organized a Night to Unite event. WHPS has been involved in the Night to Unite celebration for 13 years, since 2006. Most of the police officers and several reserve officers, along with Maple Plain firefighters, participated in the event. There were eight hosts in the City of Independence with the parties being held at private residences. The City of Maple Plain organized a “Party in the Park” for their residents to come together and mingle. West Hennepin and Maple Plain Fire had the privilege of attending each of these parties and enjoying the great food and conversation provided by the residents of Independence and Maple Plain.

2018 Night to Unite  
Officer Zilles showing some of the equipment used by officers  
to young attendees in the City of Independence.





# WEST HENNEPIN PUBLIC SAFETY

## GUNS VS. HOSES SOFTBALL GAME



2018 Guns vs. Hoses softball game participants.

West Hennepin Public Safety and the Maple Plain Fire Department participated in the 2nd Annual Guns vs. Hoses softball game. West Hennepin Public Safety walked away with a victory for the second year in a row with a final score of 9-4. The City of Maple Plain arranged for an ice cream truck to be at the softball field during the game and provided free ice cream to the spectators. Members of the Maple Plain City Council announced the game play-by-play.

This year's softball game was about more than just the competition. Food and money donations were also collected for the local food shelf. West Hennepin Public Safety and Maple Plain Fire look forward to the 2019 softball game and will be practicing hard in the offseason.





# WEST HENNEPIN PUBLIC SAFETY

## ORONO HIGH SCHOOL FORENSICS FIELD TRIP



**Officer Ben Anderson  
Forensics Field Trip  
Instructor**

For several years now, West Hennepin Public Safety (WHPS) has partnered with the Orono Police Department (OPD) and the Orono High School (OHS) to bring a sense of awareness and education about law enforcement to many students of OHS during a day of hands-on learning.

The students who participate are enrolled in the OHS Forensic Science curriculum. Almost every OHS student chooses this class elective and the police departments enjoy sharing this day with the students.

WHPS and OPD officers, along with the Hennepin County Medical Examiner’s Office, present sessions on different areas of law enforcement. The topics include Crime Scene Examination, Traffic Stops, K-9 or Narcotics, SWAT Equipment Demonstrations and Use of Force. The classes have an added level of connection and excitement for the students as they not only listen to lectures but actually participate and try to fill the role of a police officer, with real role players and hands-on action. Students also have the opportunity to meet their local officers and ask any questions they may have about what we do or why we do it.

There are no other programs like it in the State of Minnesota and it is an incredible example of partnership between police departments, schools and the community which builds and fosters trust and awareness.





# WEST HENNEPIN PUBLIC SAFETY

## ORONO HIGH SCHOOL FORENSICS FIELD TRIP



**WHPS Officer Aaron Geddes working with a student on her traffic stop approach.**

**OPD Officer Susan Schultz demonstrating Field Sobriety Tests.**



**WHPS Sgt. Rick Denneson instructing students on use of force and what they may experience as a law enforcement officer.**

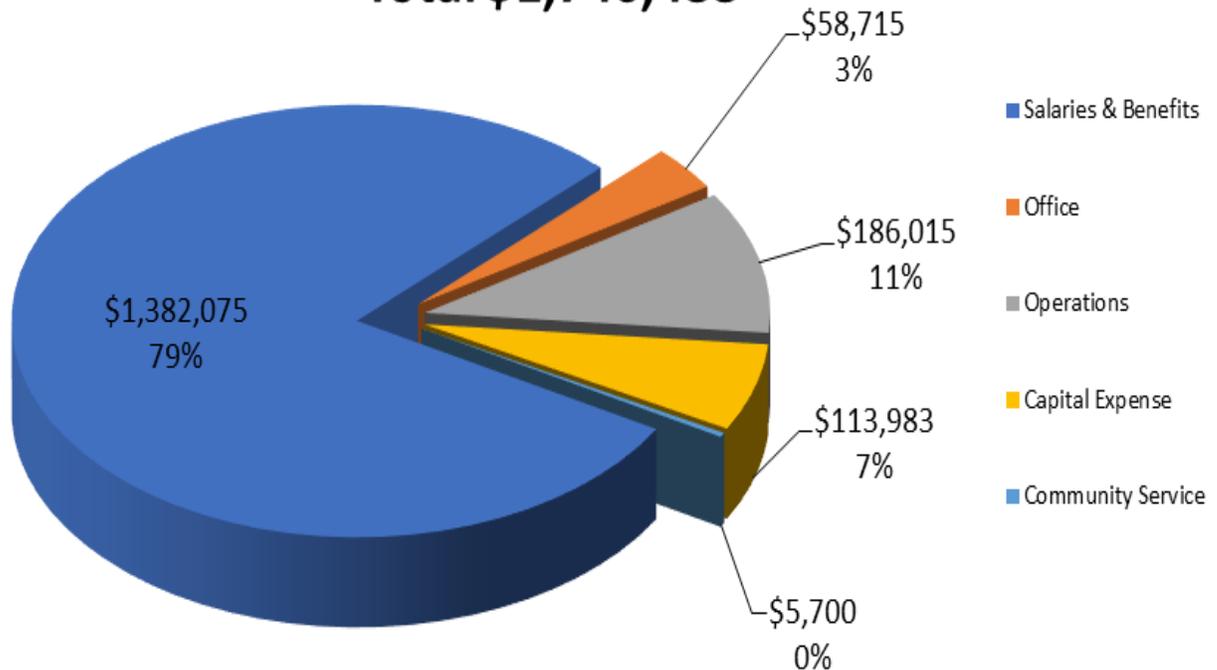


# WEST HENNEPIN PUBLIC SAFETY

## FINANCIAL SUMMARY: 2018 BUDGET

2018 Annual Budget \$1,746,488

### 2018 Budget Total \$1,746,488



As indicated above, 79% of the West Hennepin Public Safety Department budget is dedicated to the salaries and benefits for the ten full-time licensed police officers and the two full-time administrative assistants. The remaining funds are allocated to office supplies, police department operating costs, capital expenses and community service programs.



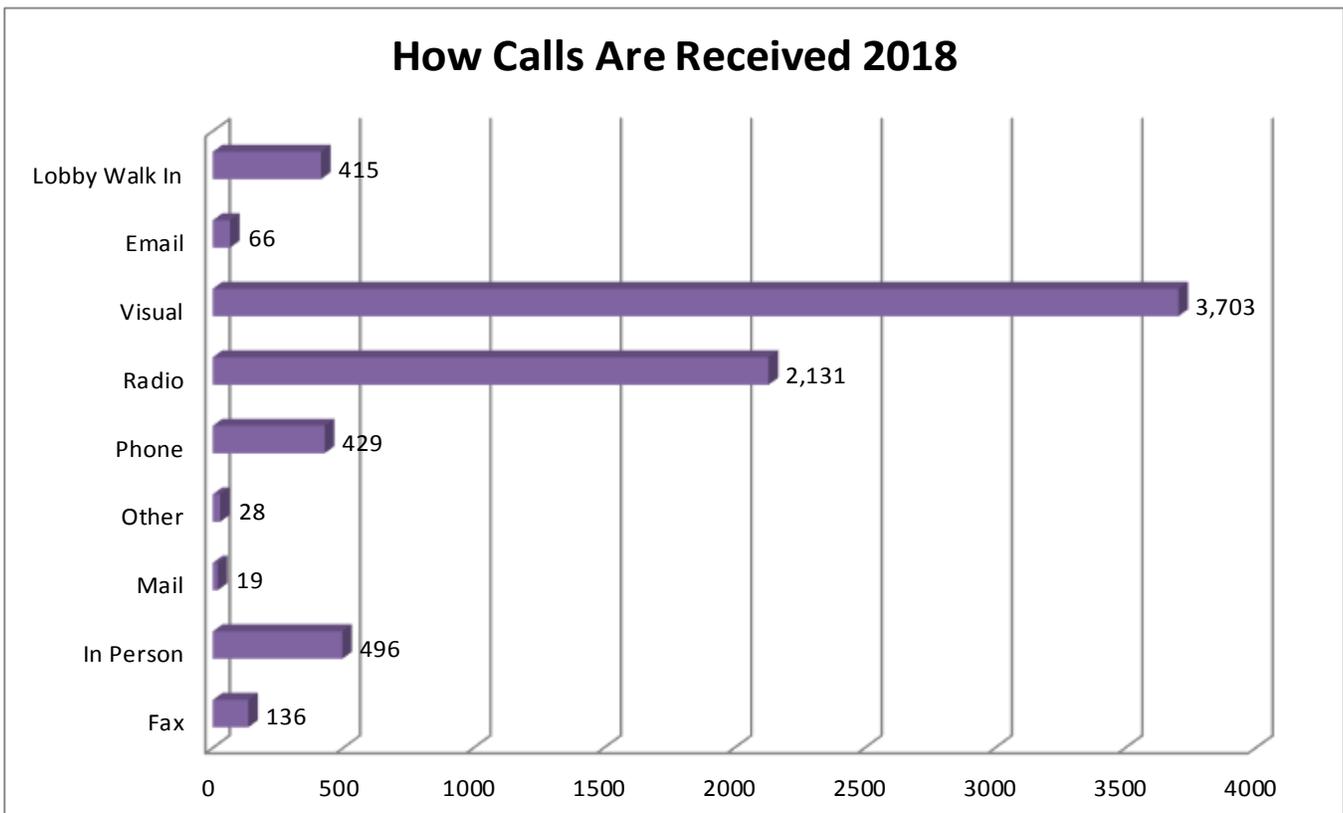
# WEST HENNEPIN PUBLIC SAFETY

## 2018 ACTIVITY REPORT

In 2018, the West Hennepin Public Safety Department handled 7,423 incident complaint reports for Independence and Maple Plain, with 3,997 incidents occurring in Independence, 2,913 occurring in Maple Plain and 513 “Toward Zero Deaths” initiative contacts and agency assists.

Incident complaint reports include:

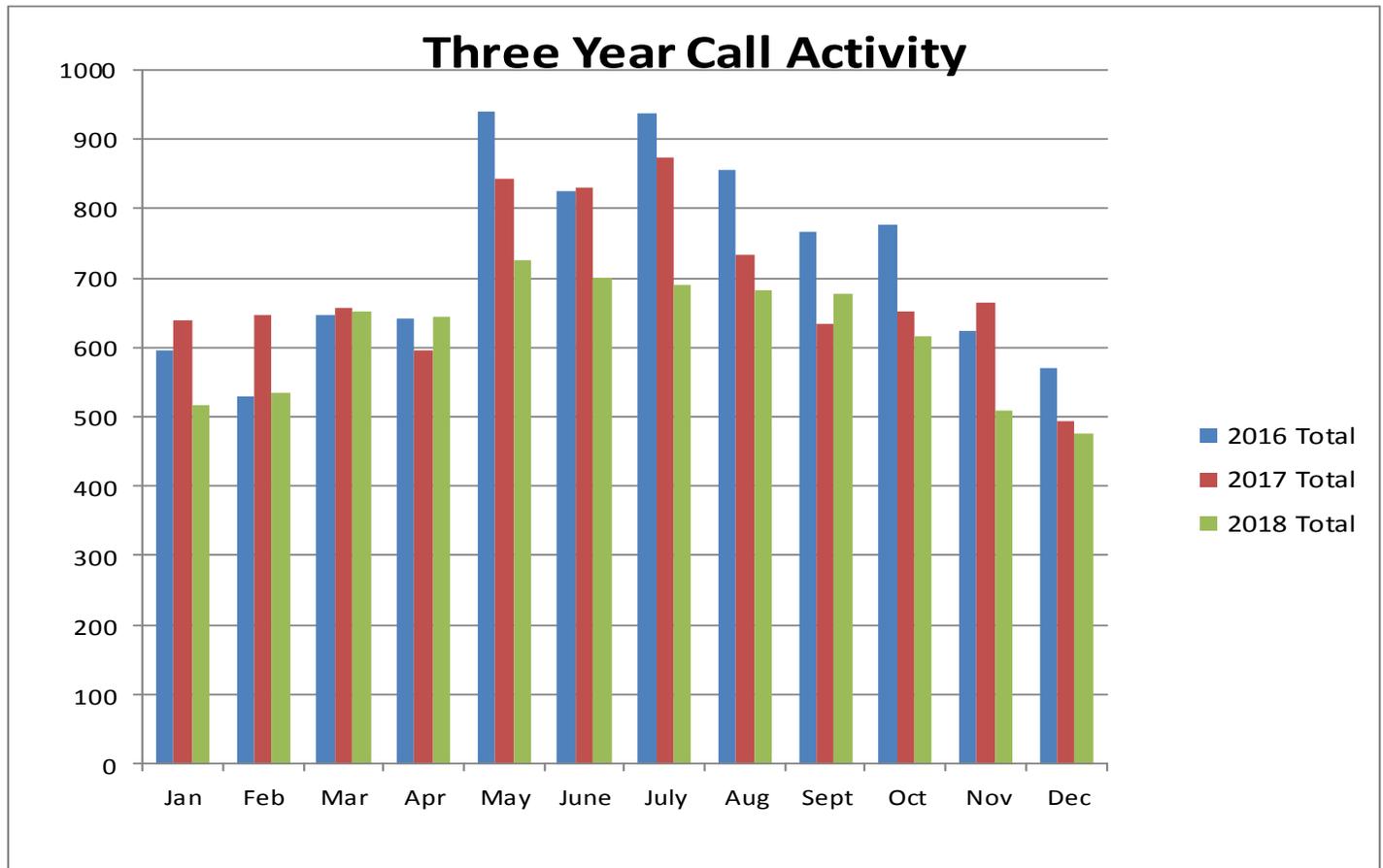
- **3,086 Traffic Stops and Traffic-related offenses**
- **189 Criminal Investigations**
- **200 Property Damage Crashes**
- **50 DWI Arrests**
- **23 Personal Injury Crashes**
- **1 Fatality Crash**





# WEST HENNEPIN PUBLIC SAFETY

## 2016-2018 Call Activity Report



**West Hennepin Public Safety Department call activity per month for the past three years, 2016-2018**



# WEST HENNEPIN PUBLIC SAFETY

## ACTIVITY REPORT: Comparing 2017 versus 2018

Offense	2017	2018
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### City Of Independence

Criminal	123	120
Traffic	1,911	1,792
Part III	94	82
Part IV	318	372
Part V	1,786	1,631

<b>Total City of Independence</b>	<b>4,232</b>	<b>3,997</b>
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### City Of Maple Plain

Criminal	65	61
Traffic	1,175	1,028
Part III	68	50
Part IV	203	267
Part V	1,578	1,507

<b>Total City Of Maple Plain</b>	<b>3,089</b>	<b>2,913</b>
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<b>Grand Total Both Cities</b>	<b>7,321</b>	<b>6,910</b>
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TZD	292	204
Other ICRS	653	309
<b>Total ICR Reports</b>	<b>8,266</b>	<b>7,423</b>

Mileage	145,473	145,314
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### How Received

Fax	136	136
In Person	338	496
Mail	19	19
Other	48	28
Phone	367	429
Radio	2,203	2,131
Visual	4,614	3,703
Email	68	66
Lobby Walk In	473	415

<b>Total</b>	<b>8,266</b>	<b>7,423</b>
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# WEST HENNEPIN PUBLIC SAFETY

**FAREWELLS –RESERVE OFFICER LEONARD, RESERVE OFFICER STRAND**



**Chief Gary Kroells and Reserve Officer Jeff Strand**



**Reserve Coordinator Ben Anderson and Reserve Officer Chris Leonard**



**Officer Chris Leonard being sworn in at the Buffalo Police Department**

West Hennepin Public Safety (WHPS) had two reserve officers leave us this year. Reserve Officer Jeff Strand retired after six and a half years of dedicated service with WHPS. He began serving with us after retiring from General Mills and assisted with many events and work details over the years.

After two years of dedicated service to WHPS, Reserve Officer Chris Leonard resigned to begin his career with the Buffalo Police Department as a police officer. WHPS is very proud of all of the people who have “graduated” from our Reserve Officer Program to become sworn police officers. We wish Officer Leonard the very best in his career!

**Thank you both for your dedicated service.**