



# City of Buchanan Police Department

## 2023 Annual Report

This report was adopted from the Berrien County Sheriff's Office Annual Report

# Table of Contents

Mission, Vision, and Motto Statement .....	3
City of Buchanan Commission .....	4
Introduction .....	5
Retirees .....	6
Officer and Reserve Officer of the Year .....	6
Awards and Recognition .....	7
Community-Oriented Policing Events .....	8
Budget .....	10
Records Clerk .....	11
Enforcement and Crime Statistics .....	12
Training .....	14
School Resource Officer .....	15
Code Enforcement Division .....	16
Police/Fire Chaplains Corp .....	17
Police Reserve Officer Unit .....	18
Crossing Guard Program .....	19
In Memoriam .....	20
Conclusion .....	21





The **Mission** of the City of Buchanan Police Department is to provide quality services, safety and protection through professionalism, courtesy, integrity, and compassion to the citizens, visitors, residential and business stakeholders within the City of Buchanan through collaborative partnerships with our community.

The **Vision** of the City of Buchanan Police Department is to strive to be a leader in the law enforcement profession. This shall be accomplished by using community-oriented policing strategies, cutting edge technology, information systems, and collaborative efforts which provide opportunities to research, develop, and implement innovative strategies to our community that support effective and efficient proactive policing initiatives that reduce crime and protect life in accordance with local, state, and federal law. These community- and evidence-based initiatives will provide high quality, compassionate, and professional policing services to our community while at the same time champion our agency as one of the leading law enforcement agencies in Berrien County, the State of Michigan, and the entire country.

The **Motto** of the City of Buchanan Police Department is  
"Professionalism, Courtesy, and Integrity."



The City of Buchanan Police Department proudly submits the  
**2023 ANNUAL REPORT**  
to the City of Buchanan Commissioners

Their support for our mission and the staff of the City of Buchanan Police Department is greatly appreciated as we serve the citizens of the City of Buchanan.

Sean Dennison, Mayor

Mark Weedon, Mayor Pro Tem

Larry Money

Patrick Swem

Dan Vigansky

# INTRODUCTION

It is my sincere honor to present you with the City of Buchanan Police Department's 2023 Annual Report. The information and data included in this report is intended to provide you with an overview of our crime data and the Police Department's activities in 2023.

Our success this past year was due in large part to the dedicated support the Police Department continues to receive from our elected officials, businesses, and citizens. More importantly, the Police Department continues to strive effortlessly to police through a community-oriented lens while simultaneously upholding a commitment to public safety with unwavering "Professionalism, Courtesy and Integrity." Therefore, I greatly appreciate the tireless efforts of all our Police Department personnel who continuously exhibit our motto, mission, and vision on a daily basis.

On behalf of the personnel of the Police Department, thank you for your interest in our agency as you review the 2023 Annual Report. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or comments you may have.



Diana Selir, Administrative Professional



Harvey J. Burnett, Jr., PhD, LP  
Chief of Police



## **2023 RETIREES**



Lieutenant John Leonard  
23 years

## **OFFICER OF THE YEAR 2022**



In 2022, Administrative Professional Diana Selir was recognized for her outstanding service and professionalism; Officers Angela Baggett and Amy Bruce were Co-Officers of the Year as voted by their fellow officers; and Reserve Sergeant Jason Cullum was Reserve Officer of the Year as vote by his fellow reserve officers.



# **AWARDS & RECOGNITION**

On October 22, 2023, Officer Corey Reed and Reserve Sergeant Jason Cullum responded to an unresponsive male subject at 123 W. Alexander St. As officers arrived at the scene, they observed the son (Christian Fellows) of the unconscious male administering cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). Christian Fellows is also a firefighter cadet with the Buchanan City Fire Department. Officer Reed immediately utilized an automatic external defibrillator (AED) and took over performing CPR until medics arrived and transported him to a local hospital for further medical treatment. This individual survived. In appreciation for their outstanding service and dedication to the City of Buchanan by providing immediate lifesaving medical attention to a city resident, Officer Corey Reed, Reserve Sergeant Jason Cullum, and Firefighter Cadet Christian Fellows were awarded the City of Buchanan Police Department's Life Saver Award.



Officer Corey Reed



Reserve Sergeant Jason Cullum



Fire Cadet Christian Fellows

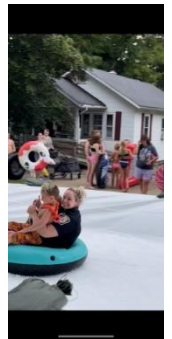
## **COMMUNITY-ORIENTED POLICING EVENTS**

The City of Buchanan Police Department was involved with the following community oriented-policing activities in 2023.

- **Polar Plunge** (February 2023). Our team played a vital role in the Southwest Michigan Polar Plunge raising \$125,543 for Michigan Special Olympics. *A League of Their Own* was the team theme.
- **Parenting & Coping with Loss Workshops at Buchanan SDA Church** (April 2023).
- **Buchanan High School Prom & Homecoming Dance** (April 2023/October 2023).
- **Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) Program** (May 2023). 96 Buchanan Middle School 5<sup>th</sup> grade students graduated from the 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> grade core curriculum program.
- **Coffee Chat with the Chief at Buchanan Area Senior Center** (May 2023).
- **Memorial Day Parade** (May 2023).
- **Red Bud Track & Trail Motorcross** (July 2023). Traffic control was provided for the event.
- **Niles Burn Run** (July 2023). Police personnel provided traffic control for the annual Niles Burn Run as bikers traveled their route through the city.
- **Thrill on the Hill** (July 2023). Police personnel provided various policing, traffic control, and community engagement activities during this event.
- **Berrien County Youth Fair** (August 2023). The Department's Reserve officers volunteered patrol duties to the annual Berrien County Youth Fair.
- **National Night Out against Crime** (August 2023). Over 300 people attended this annual Department hosted event that was held at McCoy Creek Park. This event was successful from the numerous food, money, and volunteer help donations from local businesses and citizens.
- **Annual 9/11 Memorial Service** (September 2023). The Department's Police/Fire Chaplains Corp coordinated the 9/11 memorial service.
- **Faith and Blue** (October 2023). In partnership with Buchanan Area Ministerial Association and Life Action Ministries, police personnel participated in the annual Faith and Blue by visiting many local churches, hosting a blood drive, and participating in various activities.
- **Buchanan District Library Pumpkin Jamboree** (October 2023).
- **Halloween Candy Checks** (October 2023). Police personnel provided Halloween candy checks to over 40 trick-or-treaters in front of the City Fire Department.
- **Active Threat Response Training for the Public** (November 2023). Police personnel provide active threat response training to employees of Red Bud Roots.
- **Thanksgiving Baskets** (November 2023). Thanksgiving baskets were provided to two families.
- **Shop With A Cop Program** (December 2023). Local donations supported Department police personnel, firefighters from Buchanan City, Buchanan Township, and Bertrand Township, and city hall staff shop with 21 children at the Walmart in Niles.
- **Holiday Patrols** (December 2023). Provided by the Department Reserve Unit.



# COMMUNITY-ORIENTED POLICING EVENTS



# **BUDGET**

The total Fiscal Year (FY) 2022/2023 operating budget for the Police Department was **\$1,325,986**. General fund budget expenditures totaled **\$1,241,001**.

The Police Department had one special fund budget in 2023, which had expenditures totaling **\$1,408.86** as follows:

## **Public Act 302 Training Fund - \$1,408.86 expended**

Two distributions (spring and fall) are received each year based on the number of full-time equivalent (FTE) MCOLES certified officers employed by the Police Department. These funds are used to provide training and purchase training equipment for certified officers.

## **Grants Awarded - \$0**

Applied to the Small Rural Tribal BWC Microgrant Program for \$55,050.50 to purchase new BWCs. Microgrant was denied.

Applied to the Department of Justice for a three-year FY23 COPS Hiring Program for \$125,000 to hire a new officer. Grant was denied.

Buchanan Community Schools (BCS) was awarded a \$121,712 School Resource Officer (SRO) Grant Program from the MSP Grants and Community Services Division, Office of School Safety, to hire an SRO for the school district for the next three-years. This is a 50% matching grant. BCS and the Police Department each pay approximately 25% of the SRO's salary to meet the conditions of the grant.

## **Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) - \$57,738.94 expended**

The Police Department developed a six-year CIP2023-2028 for major capital improvement purchases. The following CIP purchases were expended in 2023.

New Patrol Vehicle – purchased a new 2023 Dodge Durango Pursuit vehicle for \$45,907.

Laptop Computers – purchased two (2) new laptop computers for patrol vehicles for \$3,478.54.

Radio Equipment – purchased a new 800 MHz radio for a new patrol vehicle for \$2,047.40.

Equipment for New Patrol Vehicle – purchased emergency light bar, etc. for \$6,306 [Please note that the installation of the equipment was not completed until 2/6/2024.]

# **RECORDS CLERK**

The Records Clerk provides many services to both the public and other law enforcement agencies. The Records Clerk is responsible for preparing and maintaining all police reports, traffic citations, issuance of peddler permits, and other required documents for the Police Department.

Staffing for the Records Clerk consists of one (1) full-time employee who also services as the Police Department's Administrative Professional.

Services provided to the public include issuing licenses to purchase handguns, issuing peddlers permits and parking permits for city residents living in the downtown (C-3 area), and the release of records and reports under the Michigan Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) of 442 of 1976. In 2023, the Records Clerk fulfilled a total of 173 FOIA requests.

Crime data for the City of Buchanan Police Department is entered into the TIMS Record Management System by the reporting/investigating officers and Records Clerk. This information is sent daily electronically from our TIMS system to the State of Michigan for crime analysis, who then forwards this data to the FBI. The FBI utilizes this data for their annual crime publication.

The implementation of this modern technology has provided the Police Department with the capability to capture a variety of information on various types of crime. Additionally, this has helped our department to remain on the cutting edge of law enforcement reporting and procedures.



Diana Selir, Records Clerk

# **ENFORCEMENT AND CRIME STATISTICS**

The City of Buchanan Police Department consists of 5 patrol officers (including a sergeant), who patrol the 4 square miles that make up the City of Buchanan. The officers are committed to fulfilling the Department’s mission and vision through professionalism, courtesy, and integrity. Their willingness to face dangerous situations and dedication towards keeping the citizens, businesses, visitors, and properties safe in the City of Buchanan is commendable.

The City of Buchanan Police Department provides 24-hour police services, primarily being responsible for the investigation and prevention of criminal activity. Officers also enforce traffic laws and respond to emergencies that occur within the city.

Throughout 2023, the Police Department patrolled approximately 35,716 miles, made 27,460 property checks, conducted 312 traffic stops, made 95 misdemeanor arrests, 26 felony arrests, and issued a total of 61 traffic citations. There were also 176 parking citations issued. A total of 20 citations were issued for non-traffic offenses such as peddling without a permit, littering, etc.

The City of Buchanan Police Department responded to and investigated a total of 3,315 calls for service. This total is lower than the 2022 statistics where officers responded to 3,456 calls for service but slightly higher than the 2021 statistics where officers responded to 3,130 calls for service.

The City of Buchanan Police Department responded to and investigated a total of 2,373 non-crime reporting calls for service and are detailed in the following table. The Department also had 21 submissions resulting in 101 analyses to the Berrien County Forensic Laboratory.

<b>Non-Crime Reporting Calls for Service Statistics</b>	
Juvenile Issues (including Incurable & Truancy)	57
Property Damage Accidents	77
Private Property Accidents	39
Abandoned Vehicles	14
Alarms	194
Civil	146
Suspicious Situations	358
Lost & Found Property	92
Medical Assists	482
General Assists & General Non-Criminal Assists	874
Natural & Accidental Deaths	9
Missing Persons	9
Death by Suicide	2

## **ENFORCEMENT AND CRIME STATISTICS**

The City of Buchanan Police Department submits its crime data to the State of Michigan, who in turn, forwards this data on to the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) which is compiled each year in the annual Crime in Michigan and Crime in the United States Reports. The FBI Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program divides crimes into two groups, Part I and Part II. Part I offenses are the most serious crimes that occur regularly and are often reported to the police. The UCR data from Part I offenses provide a measure of the level and scope of crime occurring throughout the local community and the nation. The following table provides the Police Department statistics for serious offenses that are identified as Part I crimes according to the FBI uniform crime reporting system.

<b>Part I Offenses</b>	
Murder & Nonnegligent Manslaughter	0
Criminal Sexual Conduct/Forcible Rape	6
Robbery	4
Aggravated Assault	9
Burglary (Breaking & Entering)	10
Larceny (Theft)	99
Motor Vehicle Theft	5
Arson	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>219</b>



<b>Part II Offenses</b>	
Non-Aggravated/Simple Assault	86
Forgery & Counterfeiting	0
Fraud	30
Embezzlement	1
Stolen Property	4
Damage to Property	39
Retail Fraud	20
Violation of Controlled Substance Act	5
Sex Offense (Other)	7
Obscenity	3
Offense against the Family & Children	10
Liquor Law Violations	3
Drunkenness	2
Weapons Offense	10
Operating While Intoxicated	6
Disorderly Conduct	14
All Other (i.e., Obstructing, Public Peace, Trespass, Vagrancy, etc.)	280
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>520</b>

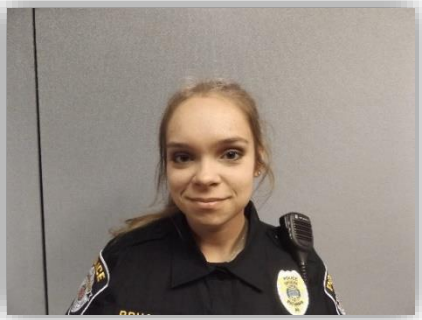
# **TRAINING**

The City of Buchanan Police Department highly values training for all personnel. The goal of training is to improve efficiency, broaden the knowledge of the officer/employees, to correct behavioral inadequacies, and to correct performance deficiencies. Subject matter can run from technical information to career advancement. In 2023, officers from the City of Buchanan Police Department completed 479.5 aggregated hours of training. Listed below are the trainings that department personnel attended.

- Duty to Intervene
- Evidence Room Management
- Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police Winter Professional Development Conference
- Teaching, Education and Mentoring (T.E.A.M.)
- School Resource Officer Training
- Basic Crime Scene Investigation
- Advanced Crime Scene Investigation
- Legal update
- Homeland Security Conference & Expo – School Resource Officer Track
- Firearms Instructor
- Basic Active Shooter Level 1
- Preliminary Breath Test Operator
- Preliminary Breath Test Calibrator
- Intoxilyzer 9000
- Deaf & Hard of Hearing Training from Law Enforcement
- Cultural Competence Workshop
- Behavioral Health Crisis
- Behavioral Health Emergency Partnership (In-Service)
- Identifying and Intercepting School Violence through Leakage
- Fundamentals of Realistic De-Escalation
- Conducting Pretext Phone Calls in CSC Investigations
- The Job Isn't Dead
- Department of the Attorney General Conducting Abuse & Neglect Investigations
- Annual Michigan Association of Hostage Negotiators Conference
- De-Escalation for Law Enforcement
- Leading When It Hits the Fan (First- and Mid-Level Supervisors)
- Bloodborne and Airborne Pathogens & PPE Use
- Proper Use of Breaching Tools
- Firearms Training & MCOLES Annual Qualifications



# SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER



Officer Amy Bruce, School Resource Officer



The City of Buchanan Police Department, in partnership with Buchanan Community Schools (BCS), entered a memorandum of understanding to provide a school resource officer (SRO). BCS was awarded a three-year grant from the MSP School Resource Officer Grant Program to help fund this position.

According to the National Association of School Resource Officers (NASRO), the SRO is a judiciously selected, specially trained, and properly equipped full-time law enforcement officer who has sworn law enforcement authority. SROs are trained in school-based policing and crisis response and are assigned by the employing law enforcement agency to work in the school using community-oriented policing concepts. In fact, school-based law enforcement is an essential component of community-oriented policing. Therefore, the purpose of the SRO is to build positive and trusting relationships between local law enforcement and students. This is within the scope of our Police Department’s mission and vision.

During the academic school year from late August to early June, our SRO assists BCS with crisis prevention and school safety, is visible, provides resource support to students, parents, and teachers, investigates crimes affecting the school district, but is not involved in enforcing school discipline.

The SRO is required to provide a monthly report on their on- and off-campus activities to the Police Department and BCS Superintendent. For 2023, the SRO logged 225.2 hours in on- and off-campus investigations and 300.3 hours in various student engagement activities. The SRO also completed the 40-hour NASRO SRO Basic Training course and the 40-hour MSP Teaching, Educating, and Mentoring (T.E.A.M.) training.



# CODE ENFORCEMENT DIVISION



Jason Cullum, Code Enforcement Officer

The City of Buchanan Police Department employs one (1) full-time code enforcement officer who is responsible for proactively conducting on-site inspections throughout the city to determine compliance with local and state codes, ordinances, and standards pertaining to health, welfare, and safety. The code enforcement officer investigates potential violations, follows established procedures for achieving abatement and compliance where warranted, maintains related records, and performs other related duties.

In line with the Police Department's mission and vision, citizens can contact the code enforcement officer to ask questions or report a property that is of concern. For 2023, the Code Enforcement Division investigated 355 ordinance violations.

The City of Buchanan has adopted the 2021 *International Property Maintenance Code* which is utilized for code enforcement.



# **POLICE/FIRE CHAPLAINS CORP**

Members of the Chaplains Corp are ordained clergy who volunteer their time to both, the City of Buchanan Police Department and City of Buchanan Fire Department. Our police/fire chaplains provide spiritual support and guidance to Police and Fire Department personnel and their families, and to the citizens of Buchanan.

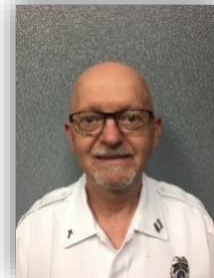
In 2023, the four chaplains who are members of the Chaplain Corps are on-call 24 hours a day. Chaplains also spend time in training, ride-alongs with officers, planning ceremonial events (i.e., the annual 9-11 Memorial Service), and helping with major community events. Most of the callouts that chaplains are involved with include the death of someone in the community, providing comfort and spiritual support for the families of those who have died, and partnering with officers to make death notifications.

During ride-alongs, chaplains have an opportunity to become better acquainted with officers while observing first-hand some of the stressors that they experience daily.

All our chaplains must complete at minimum the International Conference of Police Chaplain's Basic Credential training requirements.



Chief Chaplain Dave Spurlock



Chaplain David Sedlacek



Chaplain Paul Ratsarasaotra



Chaplain Brandon Bishop

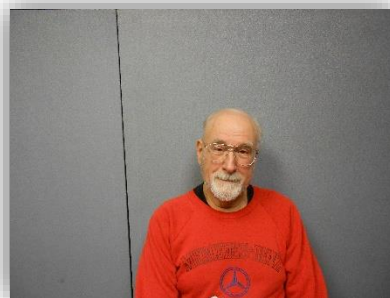
# **POLICE RESERVE OFFICER UNIT**

The City of Buchanan Police Department's Reserve Officer Unit is comprised of 20 members who volunteered a total of 2,2037 hours in 2023 serving the citizens and businesses of the City of Buchanan alongside full-time sworn MCOLES certified officers. For instance, The Reserve Officer Unit volunteered 272.50 hours for the 2023 Thrill on the Hill event.

Police Department Reserve Officers are required to complete a 72-hours basic reserve officer training academy over 12 weeks. This training prepares the reserve recruit to work with other law enforcement agencies. The academy is a combination of lecture and hands-on training, including criminal law, defensive tactics, traffic stops, ethics, critical incident stress, and firearms which are taught by top instructors in the law enforcement community.

The activities that the Police Reserve Unit participates in support the mission and vision of the Police Department by providing dedicated, professional service in a variety of law enforcement assignments. City of Buchanan Police Department Reserve Officers can be found performing various assignments to include providing security at BCS sports and special high school events, ride-alongs with patrol officers, traffic control for special events, property checks, holiday patrols, support activities for large scale incidents, participate in various community-policing events, and Berrien County Youth Faith foot patrol.

The Police Reserve Unit has an established chain-of-command that consists of a unit commander (Reserve Lieutenant), a quartermaster, a secretary/treasurer, three squad leaders (Reserve Sergeants), and three squad assistant leaders (Reserve Corporals). One full-time officer is assigned as the Officer-In-Charge of overseeing the unit.



The above pictures: Shop with A Cop 2023 (left), Reserve Lieutenant Richard Wonacott (middle), and Reserve Corporal Sweet C Robinson (right)

# CROSSING GUARD PROGRAM



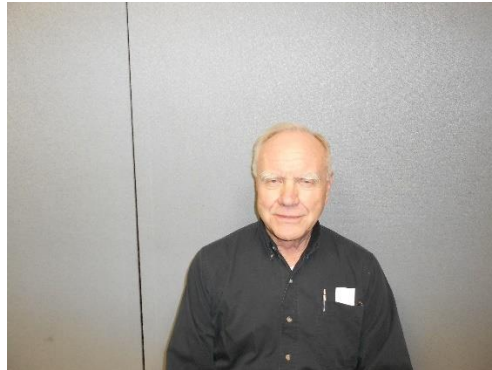
Crossing Guard Fran Morley

The City of Buchanan Police Department, in partnership with Buchanan Community Schools, employs four (4) full-time and three (3) substitute crossing guards. The Crossing Guard Program provides adequate child pedestrian safety and facilitates safe passage of children across dangerous street intersections while they are walking to and from school in the City of Buchanan. All crossing guards receive required annual training prior to the school year beginning. For 2023, our crossing guards worked a total of 2,314 hours.





# **IN MEMORIAM**



Dick Mann  
Reserve Lieutenant and Code Enforcement Officer

In 2023, the City of Buchanan suffered the unexpected loss of its longtime Reserve Unit Commander and Code Enforcement Officer. Reserve Lieutenant Dick Mann passed away on April 15, 2023. Reserve Lieutenant Mann served the City of Buchanan Police Department for 52 years and the Berrien County Sheriff's Office for 54 years. In addition, to commanding the Police Department's Reserve Unit, he also served as our part-time code enforcement officer.





# CONCLUSION

As Chief of Police, I am proud of the professionalism, hard work, and dedication of my personnel as they continue to serve the citizens and businesses of the City of Buchanan. The men and women of the City of Buchanan Police Department continue to exemplify our mission and vision as summarized in our motto, "Professionalism, Courtesy, and Integrity."

This annual report encapsulates in summation the activities of our Police Department. After reading this annual report, I hope that you are as appreciative as I am of the way our personnel serve our city. We will continue to explore ways to improve the quality of service that we provide to keep the City of Buchanan as a safe and "nicest place in American" to live, work, and visit.

In closing, I greatly appreciate all the support and appreciation we receive from our community. I will continue to strive to fulfill the mission and vision of our Police Department as I work with our community members and law enforcement partners to maintain that support and cultivate public trust.

Respectfully submitted,

