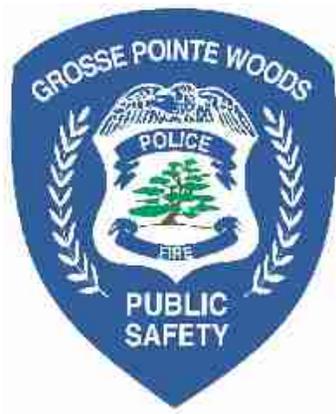


**City of Grosse Pointe Woods**  
**Department of Public Safety**  
**Annual Report**  
**2021**



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## CITY OF GROSSE POINTE WOODS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY



John G. Kosanke, Director  
20025 Mack Plaza  
Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236-2397

April 01, 2022

Dear Mayor and City Council:

On behalf of the members of the Department of Public Safety, I am proud to present the Annual Report for 2021 showing the crime statistics of the Grosse Pointe Woods Department of Public Safety. The information contained in this report reflects the combined efforts of all department members who have worked together to make the City of Grosse Pointe Woods a safe and welcoming community.

The ongoing Coronavirus pandemic continued to impact the department and the world in 2021. Restrictions eased by the end of the year as more people were either vaccinated or already exposed to the virus, allowing the return of more training and activities such as the annual Public Safety Open House. Operating at reduced staffing levels remained a problem when department members were either ill with or exposed to the virus. Healthy department members continued to pitch in to cover the increased workload during these times.

The department was aided by the Wayne County Emergency Management in Detroit which provided cleaning supplies and personal protective equipment for officers as well as masks and COVID test kits for distribution to residents. The Public Safety Department did its part to help the community with some members volunteering to assist at vaccination clinics held at Windmill Pointe Park in Grosse Pointe Park on April 06-07, 2021. The coordination of the two-day event, which resulted in the administration of 1,600 doses of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, was done by Recreation Supervisor Nicole Gerhart with very short notice.

Unfortunately, the virus did not deter criminals. An increase of 18% in overall crimes took place as the total of both index and non-index crimes rose from 446 to 525. Larceny continued to be the highest index crime reported with an increase from 73 crimes in 2020 to 107 in 2021. There was also one reported robbery compared to none in 2020. Auto theft statistics remained consistent with the prior year however the major index crimes of Aggravated Assault and Burglary each decreased by one crime. Criminal Sexual Conduct incidents were reduced from four in 2020 to one in 2021. There were no reports of Arson or Criminal Homicide.

A decrease was also reported in the non-Index crimes of Other Assaults and Weapons Laws. Intimidation/Stalking had its lowest statistic in five years with 12 reports. Fraud crimes were once again the highest non-Index crime with an increase from 94 in 2020 to 107 in 2021. Two Narcotics crimes were reported in 2021 compared to none in 2020. Increases were seen in the statistics for Damage to Property and D.U.I Arrests.

Auto theft reports remained consistent with 17 incidents, the same as the prior year. A significant increase was seen in Public Peace crimes which rose 60%. A dramatic drop in Retail Fraud was seen with a 55% reduction.

The department took delivery of a brand-new E-One ladder truck, officially put into service in June as the primary response truck for residential and commercial structure fires. The Engine 5 fire truck continues to be used for vehicle and dumpster fires, and other miscellaneous fires. The new ladder truck (L5) was an essential addition to the department's vehicle fleet enabling better service to the increased number of multiple-unit buildings within the city. It took two years for the new truck to be built as a result of COVID-19 issues and tariffs. The new truck replaced the department's 31-year old aerial truck. Department members spent several months training on the operations of the new L-5, which had been equipped with necessary items required for successful operation after its purchase. The new truck's camera capabilities will enable officers to put out fires without climbing to the top of the ladder.

The year began with a residential fire which lasted over eight hours and required assistance from our mutual aid partners. The number of actual fires decreased 12.5% from 24 in 2020 to 21 in 2021 with no serious injuries or fatalities. The number of fire runs also decreased 12% from 284 in 2020 to 249 in 2021. A significant increase was seen in the amount of fire damage, which topped out at an estimated \$1,000,000, the highest amount reported within the past five years. Fire inspections increased 60% as the two certified fire inspectors within the department worked hard to catch problems before they cause damage.

A decrease was also seen in the amount of ambulance runs, which dropped 6% from 1396 to 1307. The number of runs involving advanced life support also dropped 4% from 820 in 2020 to 784 in 2021.

A resolution for the adoption of the Wayne County Hazard Mitigation Plan took place in August. The approval of this resolution allows Grosse Pointe Woods the opportunity to apply for, receive or directly benefit from Hazard Mitigation project grant funds. One of the areas discussed with Wayne County in the past has been the alleviation of weather-related problems relating to potential loss of power in the Public Safety building, particularly in the Dispatch Center. The aging building generator was replaced earlier in the year.

Another topic discussed with Wayne County was the plan to replace five sets of fire gear each year, something the department has been doing for the past several years.

A third topic discussed with Wayne County was to use funds from the city's share of state fireworks funds for coordinating regional training with the Detroit Fire Department. Discussions are still ongoing with the Detroit Fire Department to include Grosse Pointe Woods in their yearly training programs.

In addition to the three topics listed, directors from area Grosse Pointe communities have been meeting to discuss creating joint K-4<sup>th</sup> grade education programs for fire safety. A project to replace or update mobile smokehouses used in open houses and elementary school programs is still in the works.

In an effort to build a stronger and safer community, the department partnered with Faith and Blue during the annual Public Safety Open House event held on October 3. Area churches were asked to advertise and support our community events. The connection between law enforcement professionals and their faith-based community is something that is needed now more than ever.

In another effort to build community relations, the department sent two officers to a 40-hour Crisis Intervention Training program in the City of Grosse Pointe. Area departments formed the first joint Crisis Intervention Team in the country. This enabled each department to be able to call on a trained individual from another department when they are needed to assist with a situation involving mental health first aid. In addition to the Crisis Intervention Training, the whole department became certified in First Responder mental health training.

An important new service was launched on November 30, 2021 when individuals anywhere in the Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods gained the ability to send text messages to 9-1-1. The service is a highlight of the Peninsula Fiber Network, LLC project approved in 2020. The new form of communication is critically needed in instances when someone who is unable to speak needs to report an emergency situation. Such instances can occur not only when someone is not physically able to speak but also when someone needs help during a home invasion or an encounter with an abusive partner.

Participation in the National Opioid Litigation Settlement was recommended to and approved by City Council in December, giving the city the opportunity to gain an estimated amount of over \$60,000 over the next eighteen years, assuming 100% participation in the settlement. The more subdivisions of a participating state which participate, the greater the amount of funds will be for that state. The settlement was reached over several years of negotiations with the three largest pharmaceutical distributors and one manufacturer which require the implementation of safeguards to prevent the over-prescription of opioids and to place restrictions on their marketing, sale, and distribution. Any funds received by the City would be used for First Responder training regarding drugs in addition to an expansion of training for schools, community support programs, and families.

As always, department training and improved technology have always been two areas that I am consistently working to improve. Both areas were enhanced in 2021 with the addition of the intergovernmental training agreement for VirTra Training with our mutual aid partners in January as well as the approval of the Vector Solutions training platform in September and the implementation of Power DMS in October.

The department joined the five Grosse Pointe communities and Harper Woods in the training agreement which gives all members the opportunity to use a computerized simulator to learn de-escalation and other techniques for situations requiring quick actions. Having the same knowledge not only strengthens the unity between the area departments but it also is beneficial to residents and local businesses who depend on our services for their protection. The training was paid for in late 2020 with funds from the Drug Forfeiture account and equipment costs were split.

The approval of the three-year term with Vector Solutions gives department members 24/7 access to over 250 Law Enforcement training courses, 450 hours of Fire training, and over 250 hours of accredited online EMS continuing education courses. Vector Solutions is currently used by 110 departments in Michigan and Ohio, including Medstar, the Macomb County Fire Department, the cities of Harper Woods and St. Clair Shores, and the Village of Grosse Pointe Shores.

The implementation of a three-year term with Power DMS, a cloud-based solution, will provide employees with central access to all critical documents and the most current versions of policies and procedures. The use of Power DMS is a mandatory requirement for certification through the Michigan Law Enforcement Accreditation Program, a goal the department will be working towards in the near future.

Training for the Accreditation Program has already begun and an Accreditation Committee within the department has been formed. Although the 24-month process is quite rigorous, the achievement will strengthen our agency and decrease the city's cost for liabilities and insurance. Public confidence in accredited agencies is typically increased as the public is aware that those departments are operating with the highest level of standards and professionalism.

In addition to training and technology, improvements were also made by the purchases of new equipment and vehicles. Two new Ford Police Interceptor vehicles were purchased in September as replacements for well-used high-mileage vehicles within the department. Four new doors were installed in the Apparatus Bay area in the summer, replacing doors which were over 30 years old. The new energy-efficient doors will save money in the long run. In addition, the generator in City Hall was replaced, allowing the Public Safety room occupied by the old generator to be transformed into an evidence room and also a storage area for COVID supplies and flood clean-up kits.

Thirty body cameras and eight in-car video systems (including Cloud support) were purchased in January. The use of body cameras is widely used throughout the country to reduce citizen complaints and agency liability as well as to capture valuable evidence. The cameras were purchased for road patrol officers as well as Parking Enforcement, Animal Control, and Code Enforcement officers. The cameras are required to be worn during any citizen encounter.

Fifteen bulletproof vests were purchased in October to replace twelve auxiliary officer vests which were due to expire as well as three vests for Public Safety officers, one of which was for a new hire. The annual purchase of five sets of fire gear continued in 2021.

Ten Automatic External Defibrillators were purchased in 2021 to replace expired units throughout the City complex as well as in patrol cars. The medical devices are utilized to deliver electric shocks to someone who is experiencing sudden cardiac arrest. Other purchases included a portable speed radar sign purchased from drug forfeiture funds in October and a new washing machine for doing prisoner laundry in December.

The department was proud to announce the promotions of Mark Agnetti to the rank of Sergeant and Brian Conigliaro to the rank of Lieutenant in October. Lieutenant Conigliaro has been with the department for 21 years, including seven years as a Sergeant and Sergeant Agnetti has been with the department for 18 years. Both have served with the Special Response Team (SRT). We are fortunate to have two such outstanding men on our leadership team and are excited to see what improvements they will bring to the department.

We also welcomed the addition of new hires Public Safety Officer Douglas Copple, Records Clerk Kim Rupinski and Communications Dispatcher Meredith Williamson. All three bring with them experience and knowledge in their specific areas.

The retirement of Lieutenant David Gardzella at the end of June was the culmination of a 27-year career which greatly enhanced the department due to his strong leadership skills and wealth of knowledge. We wish him well in his new part-time position with the Department of Public Works.

With activities ranging from dealing with the aftermath of a torrential rainstorm which flooded the streets of the city and surrounding areas in late June to rescuing two stolen tortoises from a pet shop in August, our department members worked hard throughout the year. The June 25-26 rain event resulted in the loss of numerous personal belongings for an estimated 100 residents whose basements flooded during the seven inch rainfall which took place within a three-hour time frame. Clean-up kits were distributed in the Public Safety lobby and FEMA representatives toured damaged areas of the city.

I would be remiss not to mention the passing of Mayor Robert E. Novitke in March, 2021. Having served on City Council for 13 years before serving as mayor of the city for over 30 years, Mayor Novitke's influence on the city was substantial. It had been a pleasure and an honor to have known and worked with him on so many important projects. He will be greatly missed.

In closing, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to Mayor Arthur Bryant and members of Council for their continued support in helping to turn the department's aspirations for improvement into a reality. In addition, I would like to thank newly retired City Administrator/Police Commissioner Bruce Smith for his support throughout 2021 and new City Administrator Frank Schulte and Assistant City Administrator Susan Como for their support during the transition.

I would also like to thank the members of our Public Safety Department for their hard work and dedication and to Chaplain Matthew Swiatek for providing his guidance to them. The assistance and help provided by members of other departments within the city is also appreciated.

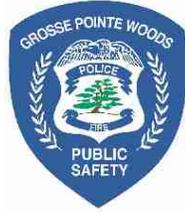
As we move into the future in 2022, my top priority will continue to be the safety and well-being of members of the community. I welcome suggestions from residents and business owners for improvements that can be made or for alerting us about problems which need resolutions. I will continue to work to the best of my ability to make this department the best that it can be.

Respectfully yours,

*John G. Kosanke*

John G. Kosanke, Director of Public Safety

# MISSION STATEMENT



*The Mission of the Grosse Pointe Woods Department of Public Safety is to continually strive to improve the safety and quality of life within our community. This will be accomplished through a broad based combination of traditional and innovative police, fire and emergency medical services while always protecting constitutional and basic human rights. All members of the Department will at all times stand accountable for their conduct.*



# INTRODUCTION



**Director of Public Safety John G. Kosanke**

Each year, the Grosse Pointe Woods Department of Public Safety prepares an annual report of crime statistics for the City of Grosse Pointe Woods, the Michigan Incident Crime Reporting (MICR), and the Federal Bureau of Investigation Uniform Crime Report (UCR). This data is compiled from offenses reported to the Department of Public Safety, monthly police reports, and individual crime incident reports.

The primary objective of this Annual Report is to provide a reliable set of criminal justice statistics for police administration, operations, and management. The localized study of crime data enables personnel to assess the influence of crime in areas, neighborhoods, and with people. Similarly, crime statistics permit analysis among neighboring jurisdictions and with those of similar populations and other characteristics. A broad examination of the crime data allows individuals to view the nature and movement of crime, underlying changes, and fluctuations throughout the City of Grosse Pointe Woods, the State of Michigan, and the United States.

The Department of Public Safety is committed to improving the reliability and validity of our crime reporting data. We are attempting to achieve this goal by a study and analysis of major crime indexes and understanding the impact of classification revisions mandated by the State. As a result, some offense categories have decreased, while others have increased. Our efforts are to provide a reporting system that will be more accurate, valid, reliable, and compatible with State and Federal standards.

# DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL

## Director of Public Safety

*John G. Kosanke*

### Police Commissioner

*Bruce Smith*

### Chaplain

*Pastor Matthew Swiatek*

### Lieutenants

*Brian Conigliaro*

*James Lefurgey*

### Lieutenant/DB Commander

*Keith Waszak*

### Sergeants

*Mark Agnetti*

*Anthony Chalut*

*Darrell Fisher*

*Walter Galat*

*Joseph Provost, Jr.*

*Brian Urban*

### Public Safety Officers

*Miles Adams*

*Steven Calabro*

*Douglas Copple*

*David Empson*

*Duncan Gill*

*Eugene Gunnery*

*Joseph Hazuka*

*Anthony Hojnacki*

*Neal Kapoor*

*Timothy Livingston*

*Jeffry Martel*

*Martin Mitchell*

*Matthew Muzia*

*Scott Nota*

*Jarod Smith*

*Michael Verbruggen*

*Dennis Walker*

### Detectives

*Kevin Bonk*

*Kyle Seidel*

### Detective/Traffic Safety Officer

*Ryan Schroerlucke*

### Communications Dispatchers - Full-Time

*Agnes Burcar*

*Patricia Czech*

### Communications Dispatchers - Part-Time

*Amber McNeil*

*Meredith Williamson*

### Confidential Administrative Assistant

*Claudette Darga*

### Code Enforcement

*Debbie Reed*

### Parking Enforcement - Part-Time

*Debra Fox*

*Carolyn Schefke*

### Records Department - Full-Time

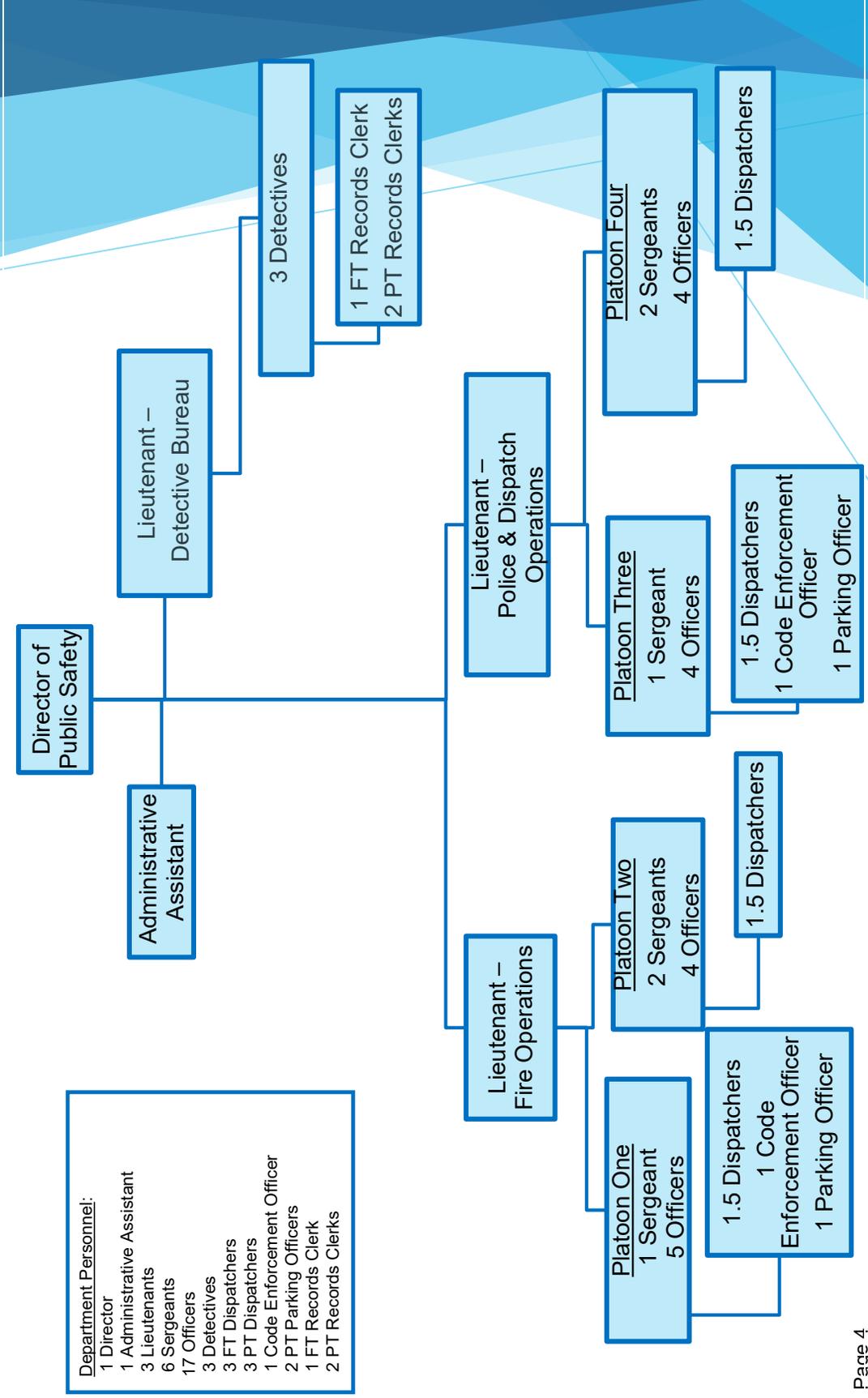
*Darlene Jepson*

### Records Department - Part-Time

*Kim Rupinski*

*Tina Verbeke*

# City of Grosse Pointe Woods Department of Public Safety Organization Chart 2021

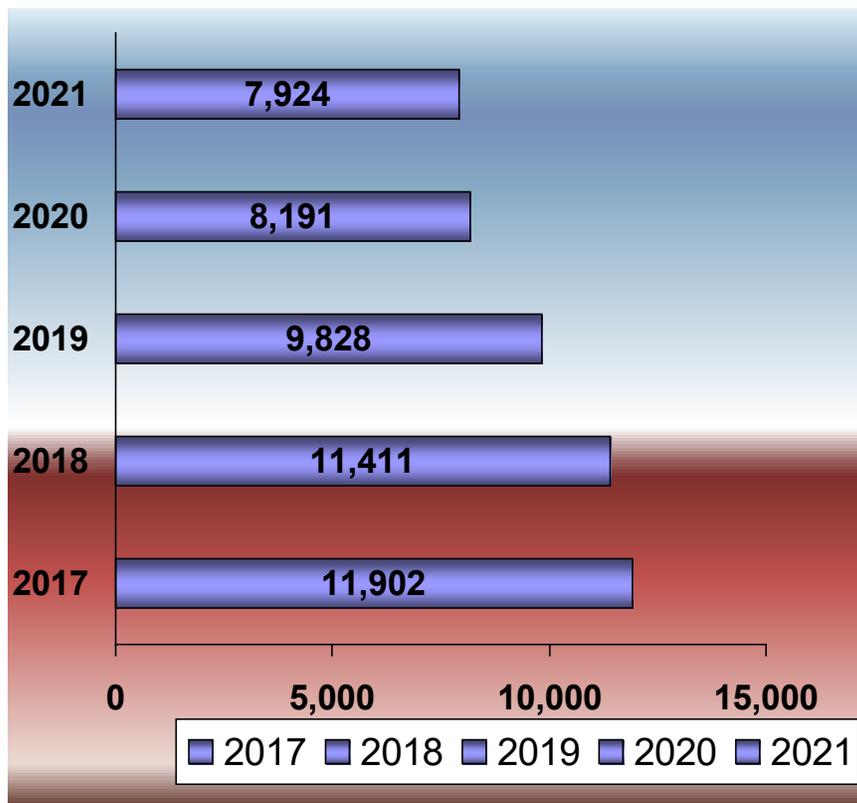


# TOTAL INCIDENTS 2017 - 2021

Since the utilization of CLEMIS, the department has been able to successfully capture a wide magnitude of crime statistics. This valuable resource continues to enhance department operations with its ease of use and impressive capabilities.

**The department responded to 7,924 calls for service in 2021.**

**The five-year average is 9,851 calls for service.**



# INDEX CRIMES BREAKDOWN

The National Crime Index is composed of selected offenses used to gauge fluctuations in the overall volume and rate of crime reported to law enforcement. Index Crimes are considered to be the most serious of all crimes reported.

## These include the violent crimes of:

- **Aggravated Assault**
- **Arson**
- **Auto Theft**
- **Burglary**
- **Criminal Homicide**
- **Criminal Sexual Conduct**
- **Larceny - Theft**
- **Robbery**

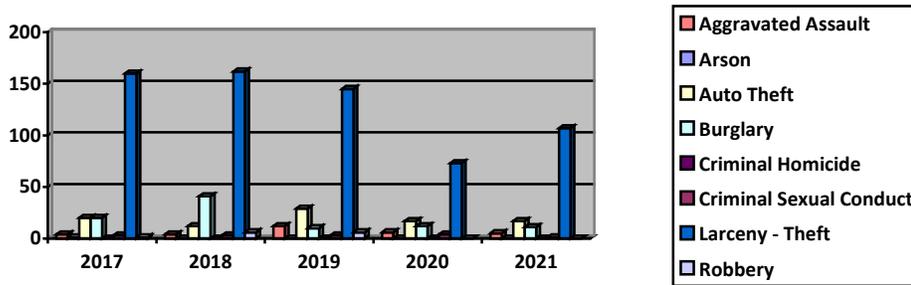
# NON-INDEX CRIMES BREAKDOWN

Non-Index offenses encompass all other reportable classifications outside those defined as Index Offenses. Only arrest data involving the Non-Index offenses are reported to the FBI.

## These include the crimes of:

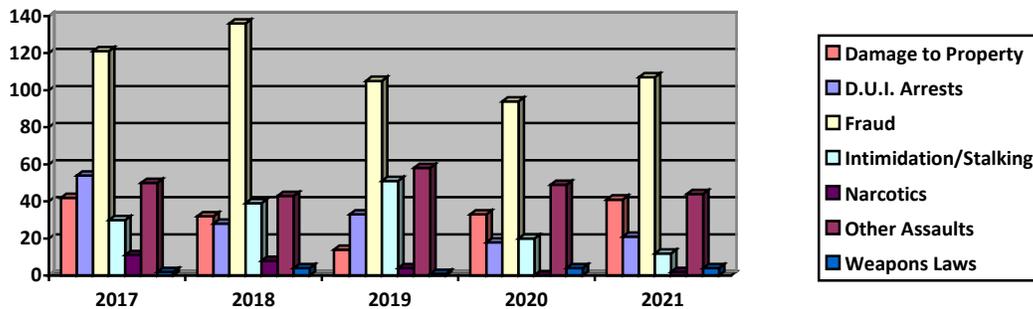
- **Curfew and Loitering Laws (persons under 18)**
- **Damage to Property**
- **Disorderly Conduct**
- **Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol**
- **Drug Abuse Violations**
- **Drunkenness**
- **Embezzlement**
- **Forgery and Counterfeiting**
- **Fraud**
- **Gambling**
- **Liquor Laws**
- **Offenses Against the Family and Children**
- **Other Assaults**
- **Prostitution and Commercialized Vice**
- **Runaways (persons under 18)**
- **Sex Offenses**
- **Stolen Property: Buying, Receiving, Possessing**
- **Weapons: Carrying, Possessing, etc...**
- **All Other Offenses**

# INDEX CRIMES TOTALS



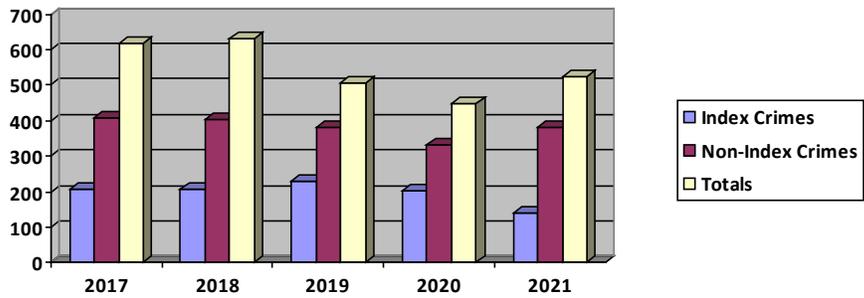
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Aggravated Assault	4	4	12	6	5
Arson	1	0	0	0	0
Auto Theft	20	12	29	17	17
Burglary	20	41	10	12	11
Criminal Homicide	0	0	0	0	0
Criminal Sexual Conduct	3	3	3	4	1
Larceny - Theft	160	162	145	73	107
Robbery	1	6	6	0	1

# NON - INDEX CRIMES TOTALS



	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Damage to Property	42	32	14	33	41
D.U.I. Arrests	54	28	33	18	21
Fraud	121	136	105	94	107
Intimidation/Stalking	30	39	51	20	12
Narcotics	11	8	4	0	2
Other Assaults	50	43	58	49	44
Weapons Laws	2	4	1	4	2

# CRIME TOTALS 2017 - 2021



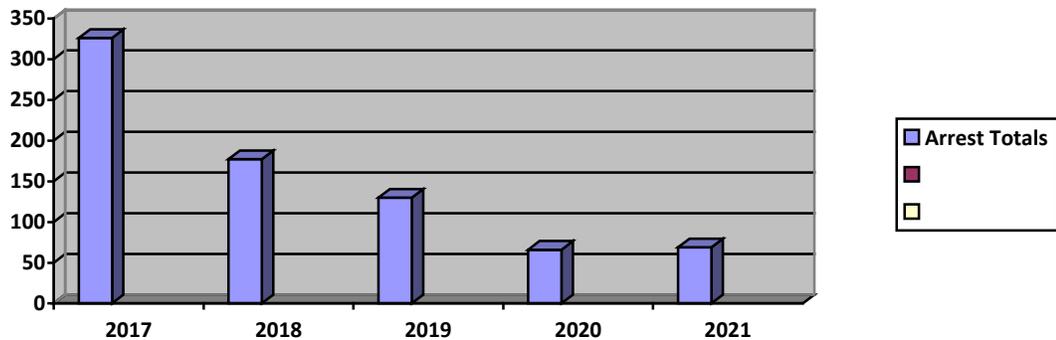
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Index Crimes	209	228	205	112	142
Non-Index Crimes	408	405	381	334	383
Totals	617	633	586	446	525

The 525 Index and Non-Index crimes reported in 2021 represents an 18 % increase from the 446 crimes reported in 2020. The five-year average is 561 Index and Non-Index crimes.

# ARREST TOTALS 2017 - 2021

The five-year average is 153 arrests per year.

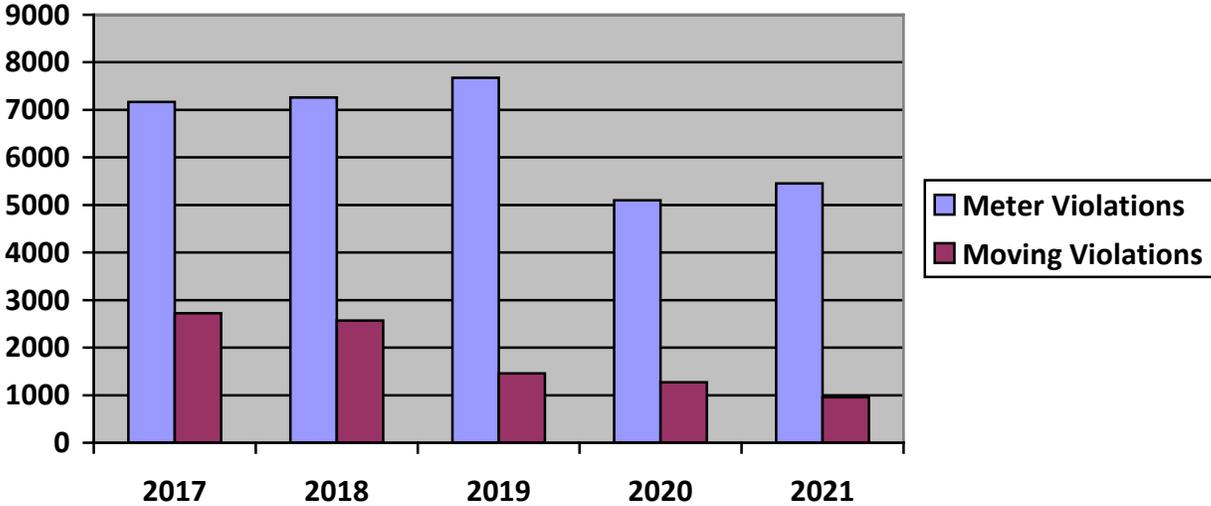
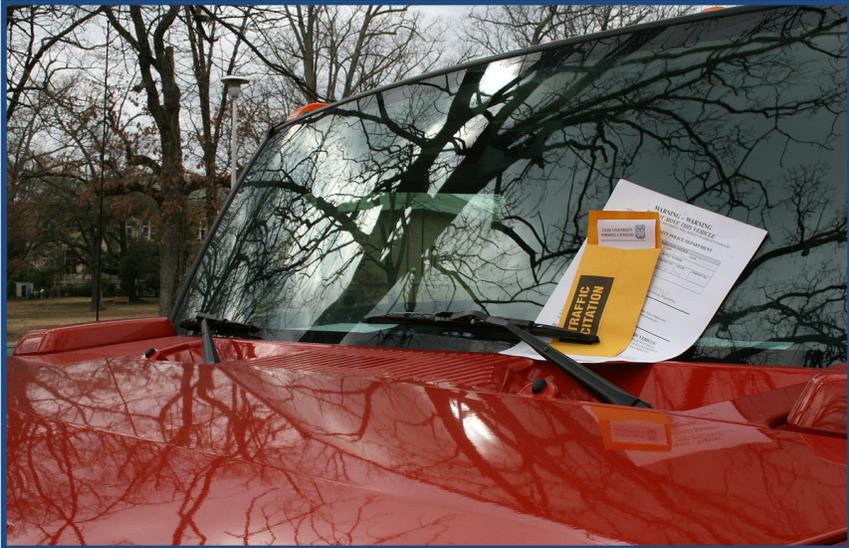
Arrests increased from last year by 4.50 %.



	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Arrest Totals	326	177	130	66	69

# MOVING AND METER VIOLATIONS

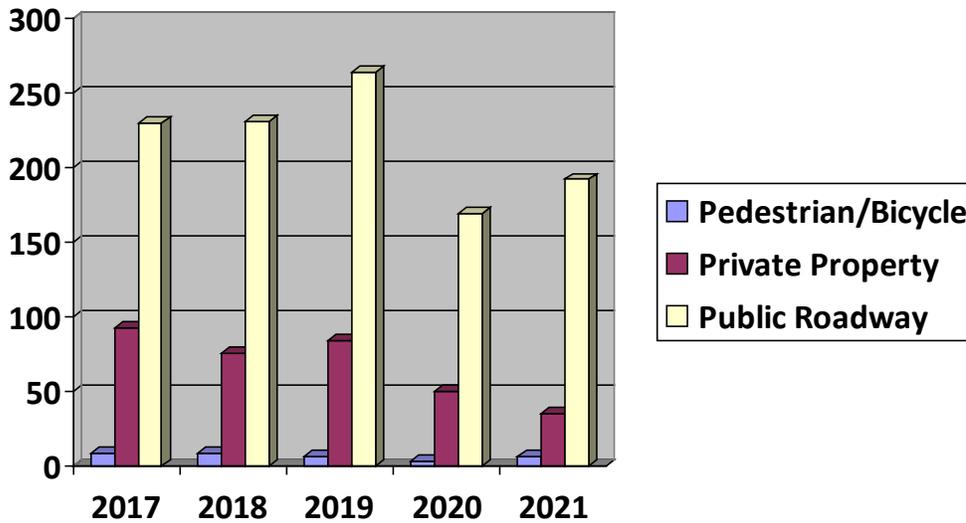
Using computers, updated radars, preliminary breath instruments, and mobile fingerprint readers in the patrol vehicles, the Public Safety Department continues to enforce traffic violations in the most effective manner possible.



	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Meter Violations	7164	7263	7674	5101	5456
Moving Violations	2724	2569	1461	1273	958

# TRAFFIC AND PEDESTRIAN ACCIDENTS

The statistics below include figures for private property accidents. The State of Michigan, for reporting purposes, does not include or record private property accidents. These types of accident reports are taken as a courtesy to citizens.



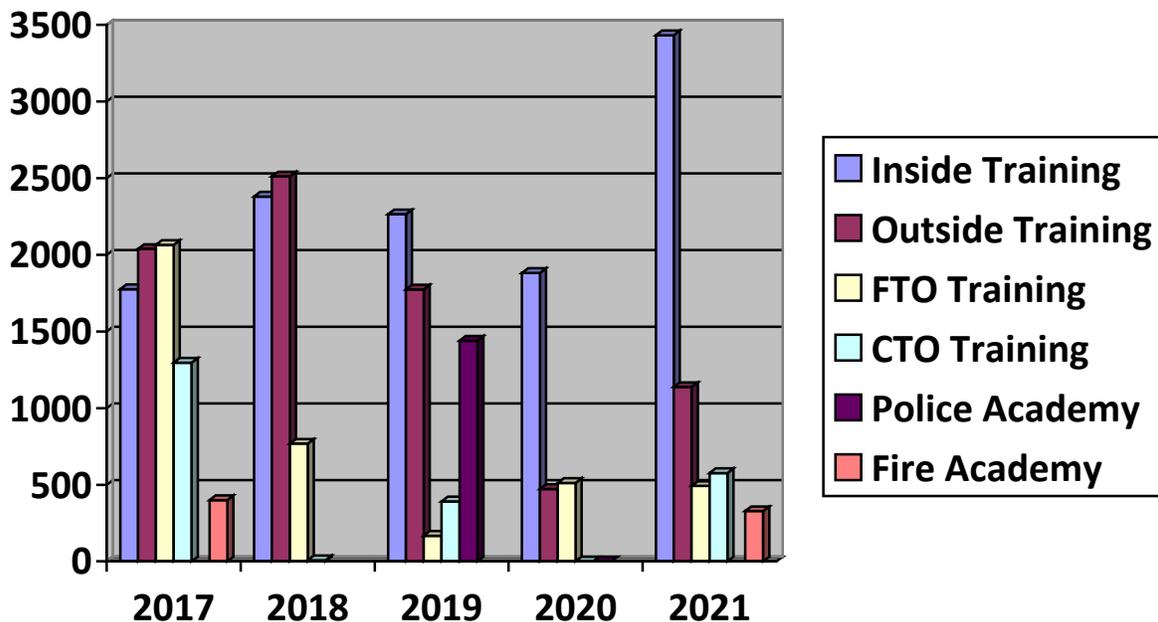
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Pedestrian/Bicycle	9	9	6	3	6
Private Property	93	76	84	50	35
Public Roadway	230	231	264	169	192

**There were no fatalities in 2021.**

# DEPARTMENT TRAINING

Members of the department work diligently with specialized rescue tools and fire equipment to train in preparation of any impending emergency. Members of the department attended 1,138 hours of Police and Fire training courses at local colleges and other training facilities in 2021 and participated in 3,432 hours of in-house training. An additional 328 hours of training was received at the Fire Academy by the department's newest officer. The department received a total of 4,898 hours of training in 2021.

In addition, 492 hours were spent training two new officers (Field Training Officer training known as FTO training) and 576 hours were spent training one new Communications Dispatcher (CTO training). The grand total of all department training in 2021 was 5,966 hours, a 108 % increase from the 2,867 total hours in 2020. The significant increase reflects the impact that the global pandemic had in 2020 as well as its continued impact on outside training in 2021.



# FIRE OPERATIONS

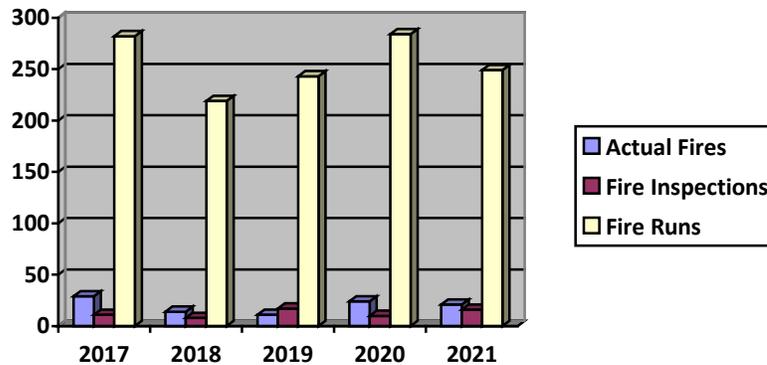
Our officers perform dual duties involving both police and fire and are quick to respond in either type of emergency situation. In addition to seven residential dwelling fires in Grosse Pointe Woods, our firemen also responded to one business fire, three vehicle fires, one dumpster fire and 72 electrical related/power lines down incidents in 2021. We also provided mutual aid assistance for five residential fires in Harper Woods and one residential fire each in Grosse Pointe Farms and Grosse Pointe Shores. Mutual aid was received by the department for nine residential fires.

The department has two certified fire inspectors who are primarily assigned to road patrol duties.



All totals listed below are estimated.

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Actual Fires	29	14	11	24	21
Fire Inspections	11	8	17	10	16
Fire Loss	\$45,500	\$827,500	\$73,600	\$366,150	\$1,255,000
Fire Runs	282	219	243	284	249



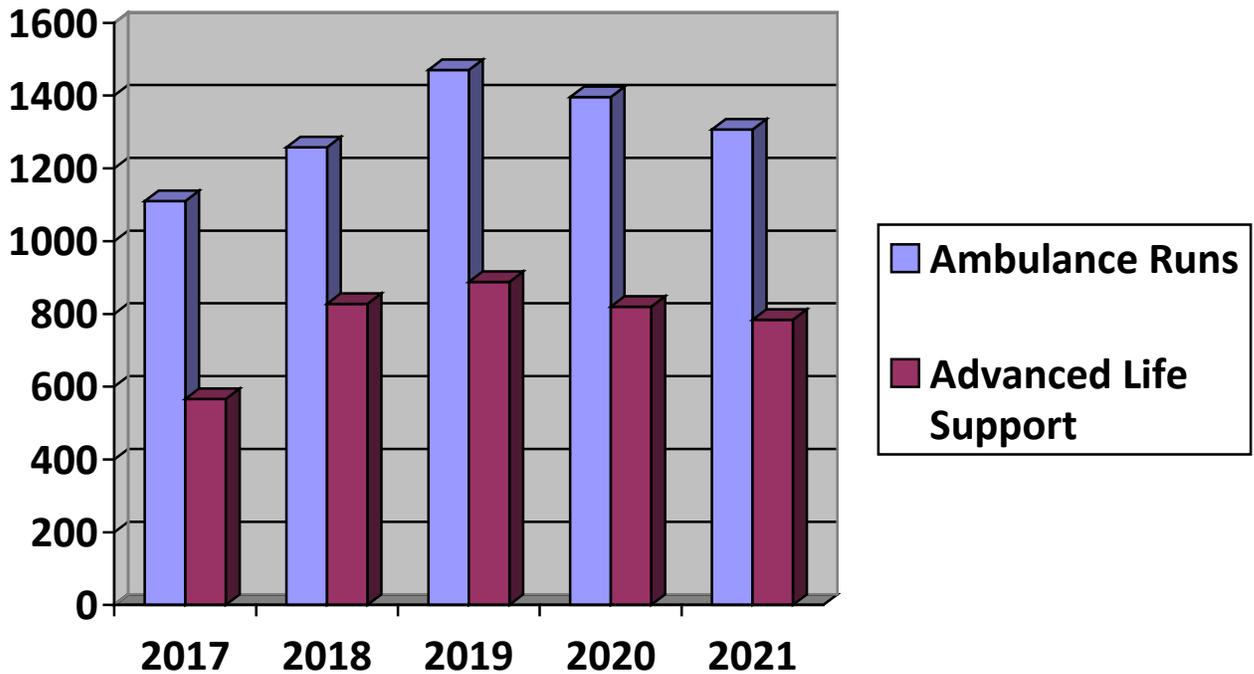
**There were no fatalities or serious injuries resulting from the 21 actual fires in 2021.**

# EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Public Safety officers respond to every ambulance run. All of our patrol vehicles are equipped with Automatic External Defibrillators.

With enhanced technology and equipment, the paramedics from Medstar can begin advanced lifesaving procedures and transmit reports to area hospitals before the patient arrives.

The 1,307 ambulance runs in 2021 represents a 6% decrease from the 1,396 runs in 2020 and the 784 runs involving advanced life support represents slightly more than a 4% decrease from the 820 advanced life support runs in 2020.



	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Ambulance Runs	1110	1258	1470	1396	1307
Adv. Life Support	566	828	888	820	784
% Adv. Life Support	51%	66%	60%	59%	60%

# DETECTIVE BUREAU

The Detective Bureau is the Criminal Investigation Unit for the Department. The detectives assigned to this unit are responsible for investigating all crimes committed against persons or property in the community. They are on-call 24-hours a day to respond to a crime scene. All detectives receive specialized training to develop and enhance their investigative skills including attending legal update training and meetings with detective bureaus from neighboring jurisdictions. The Detective Bureau is also responsible for monitoring businesses that possess a Michigan liquor license to ensure compliance with Michigan liquor laws.

The Grosse Pointe Woods Detective Bureau, which operates under the supervision of Lieutenant Detective Bureau Commander Keith Waszak, consists of seasoned detectives Kevin Bonk and Ryan Schroerlucke and Detective Kyle Seidel, who joined the team in April, 2020. The detectives are responsible for investigating crimes, collecting and preserving evidence, identifying perpetrators, interviewing witnesses, interrogating suspects, and preparing cases for successful prosecution.

In addition to criminal investigations, Detective Seidel also serves as the department's Youth Officer by overseeing crimes and violations by persons under the age of seventeen. Detective Seidel is a direct liaison with school administrators, teachers, and students and maintains an additional office in Grosse Pointe North High School.

Detective Schroerlucke's additional duties include responsibility for the Traffic Safety programs, overseeing crossing guards, conducting traffic and speed studies, and investigating traffic-related incidents. Detective Bonk has served as the department liaison for the Auxiliary unit for eight years.



Summary of Case Assignments

**93.50% of the 694 Criminal Cases assigned to the Detective Bureau in 2021 are closed.**

# SPECIAL RESPONSE TEAM (SRT)



The Special Response Team (SRT) is a specially trained law enforcement team currently comprised of 12 members of the five Grosse Pointe area departments and Harper Woods and one K-9. The team responds to potentially dangerous situations under the leadership of Grosse Pointe Farms Sergeant Frank Zielinski. The SRT executes search and arrest warrants, intervenes in hostage situations, works on counter-terrorism missions, provides perimeter security for high-profile events, and provides assistance in other high-risk situations.

The SRT team was activated four times in 2021, one of which was to assist with security at the annual Santa Claus parade. The first event took place at the end of August when they responded to an address in Burton, Michigan to conduct surveillance and gather intelligence for a fraud case totaling thousands of dollars. Eleven SRT members served a search warrant without incident with the assistance of Burton police detectives and a member of the Michigan State Police Emergency Services team.

In early November, the SRT responded to a barricaded gunman situation in Harper Woods. An adult female and adult child had fled the residence unharmed after a male was reported to have fired a long gun during a family argument. The SRT placed their armored vehicle on the front lawn and gave commands via a loudspeaker for the man to exit the residence. Within 45 minutes, the entire SRT team was on site. A Harper Woods detective spoke with the male inside the home for three hours via a cell phone with no resolution as the man expressed concern that he would be killed if he exited the house. It was learned that the man was in possession of a Siaga AK-47 and a 9mm handgun. Based on the statements the man had made, team leader Zielinski believed that the man would use violence if officers entered the home. Contact was made with the Detroit Police Department who sent their hostage negotiators to the scene. As a result, the man exited the residence without incident over one hour after the arrival of the negotiators.

In early December, the team was again activated to serve a search warrant in Detroit at the request of the Harper Woods Police Department. The residence was subject to search for electronics devices which had been used in a threat of violence against Harper Woods High School. Five residents of the home were detained by the SRT and turned over to Harper Woods detectives.

The SRT team completed 224 hours of training in 2021, an increase from the 176 hours in 2020. Monthly training dates were conducted throughout available training sites in the six cities and the metropolitan Detroit area. Training included monthly sniper qualifications, K-9 integration, building clearing, mechanical breaching/entries and an annual active shooter refresher. The team attended the annual Ohio Tactical Officers Association Conference in Sandusky, Ohio, the Michigan Tactical Officers conference, and the annual week-long training at a military facility near Grayling, Michigan. Valuable training techniques learned by the two Grosse Pointe Woods officers who are members of the SRT were able to be passed on to other department members.

# AUXILIARY UNIT



The Auxiliary Officers are pictured above on a day they were assisting the department with hose testing. Auxiliary liaison Detective Kevin Bonk is the second officer from the right.

The Police Auxiliary Unit is a vital resource for the department. Not only do they assist officers at community events such as the Public Safety Open House, but they also provide assistance at fire scenes, perform fire hose testing protocols, and perform other essential duties. The role of an Auxiliary Officer is to assist and supplement our officers in the prevention of crime, protection of life and property, disaster operations, suppression of criminal activity, and preservation of peace. The auxiliary officers are an indispensable part of our community and their help is greatly appreciated.

The Auxiliary Unit underwent 186 hours of training and devoted 367.50 hours of service to the City of Grosse Pointe Woods in 2021.

At the end of 2021, the Police Auxiliary Unit consisted of Captain Charles Thomas, Squad Leaders Evan Allemon and Mark Higgins, and Auxiliary Officers Ryan Allemon, Jose Carrion, Allen Herfi, Keith Kurtz, Patrick Kyc, John Mowatt, John Sabol, Joseph Shalla, and Anthony Wimbush. Detective Kevin Bonk has been the department liaison for the past eight years.

# CROSSING GUARDS

The parents of our community depend upon our Crossing Guard team for the safety of their children when walking or riding a bicycle on their route to school or home. No matter what the weather is, our team of dedicated guards is ready to guide and protect our children. We are deeply appreciative of their efforts.



Our Crossing Guard team has operated under the guidance and supervision of Detective Ryan Schroerlucke since 2015. At the end of 2021, the Crossing Guard team consisted of: Patricia Bradley, Kenneth Carter, Maureen Carter, Theodore Colborn, Frank and Renee Dicristofaro, Kathleen Guertin, Sharon Harden-Bullock, Karen Kaled, Dana Linsdeau, Debra Miller, Charlotte Monaghan, Jean Segodnia, Marjorie Warhurst, and William Westwood.

# PROMOTIONS

Sergeant Brian Conigliaro was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant in October, 2021.



Pictured above with his wife Misty and two daughters is Lieutenant Brian Conigliaro. After leading the department as a Sergeant for seven years, Sergeant Brian Conigliaro was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant in October 2021. A 21-year veteran of the department, Lieutenant Conigliaro has specialized in the areas of Active Shooter and firearms training and possesses extensive knowledge regarding ammunition. Prior to his promotion, he had served with the Special Response Team from 2001 to 2015.

In addition to his duties in our department, Lieutenant Conigliaro has also spent many years serving the United States Navy. He successfully moved up the ranks from the time he joined the U.S. Navy in 1992 and the U.S. Naval Reserve in 1996. Senior Chief Conigliaro was awarded with a Navy and Marine Corps Commendation medal in June 2020 for his meritorious service while serving as a Senior Listed Leader in the Security Department at Camp Lemonier in Africa and was acknowledged for his unswerving determination, wise judgement, and complete dedication to duty. His leadership was noted as being instrumental in the real world response to two natural disasters, one Hazmat, one weather, and five reported UAS sightings. He led a security team consisting of 169 Army, 65 Navy, 119 civilian contract personnel, five military working dog teams, two civilian physical security specialists, and one Anti-Terrorism Officer.

We are grateful to have someone with such a high caliber of attributes as a member of our Command Staff.

# PROMOTIONS

The department experienced one promotion to the rank of Sergeant in October, 2021.



Sergeant Mark Agnetti is pictured above on the day of his promotion with his family members, Mayor Arthur Bryant, Director John G. Kosanke, and members of the Grosse Pointe Woods City Council.

The success of Sergeant Mark Agnetti is proof that hard work pays off as he began studying for the promotional exam for the Sergeant position many months in advance of the testing date. His dedication to duty and careful attention to detail combined with his kind and compassionate nature will make him an excellent leader for the department.

Sergeant Agnetti has been with the department for 18 years and was a member of the Special Response Team from 2015-2020 prior to his promotion.

The department is looking forward to the improvements and new ideas that Sergeant Agnetti will bring in his new role as a member of the Command Staff.

# NEW HIRES

Three new members joined the department in 2021 – one new officer, one part-time Communications Dispatcher and one Records Clerk.



Pictured in front of Engine 5 is our newest Public Safety Officer, Douglas Coppel, who joined the department on September 5. Officer Coppel came to us with experience from the City of Taylor Police Department. His background includes an honorable mention from the Schoolcraft Police Academy in Firearms and Defensive Tactics. We are looking forward to having Officer Coppel on board for the future of our department.



Also joining the department in 2021 were part-time Communications Dispatcher Meredith Williamson (pictured above left) and part-time Records Clerk Kim Rupinski (pictured above right). Meredith's background includes extensive experience in Law Enforcement from the cities of Northville and Milford as well as service as a Youth Specialist from Oakland County Children's Village. Kim is a retired Wayne County department manager with several years of administrative experience. We are excited to have such qualified individuals joining our department.

# RETIREMENTS

One valued member of the department retired in 2021.



The retirement of Lieutenant David Gardzella on June 30, 2021 left a huge hole in the department. Not only did we lose a supervisor who led his platoon with class, dignity, and grace, but we also lost someone who possessed a wealth of knowledge regarding the department's in-car computers and other technical equipment. He consistently provided valuable guidance and support to the department's dispatchers in his role as their supervisor. Although he was humble about his many achievements, Lieutenant Gardzella's 27 years with the department included a promotion to the rank of Corporal in 2003, a promotion to the rank of Sergeant in 2010 and his final promotion to the rank of Lieutenant in 2018. He will always be missed not only for his stellar work ethics but also for his kind and gentle nature. We wish Lieutenant Gardzella continued success in his new part-time position with the Department of Public Works.

# PUBLIC SAFETY OPEN HOUSE

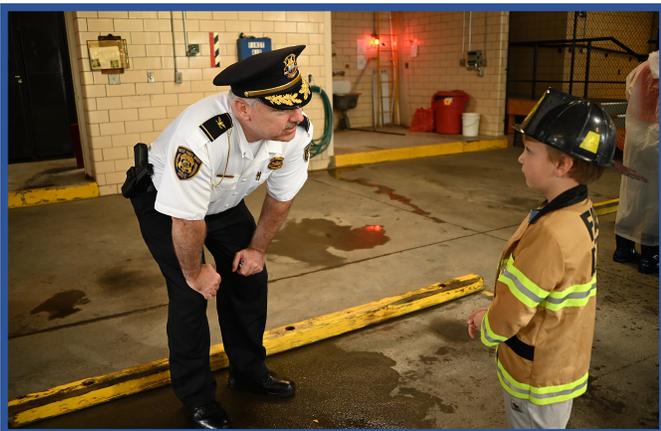


After being cancelled in 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic, the Public Safety Open House held on Sunday, October 3, 2021 was a welcome event for the community. Attendees had the opportunity to interact with Police, Fire and EMS personnel and to learn valuable safety tips.

A special appearance by “Coastie the Tugboat”, the animated robotic cartoon character accompanied by members of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Team, showed children how to be safe around boats and water. Coastie teaches children how to throw or reach something to a person in distress in the water rather than trying to go in to help them. The brightly colored robot, with the ability to talk, play music, and interact with the public, was a main attraction at the event.

Another popular highlight was the presentation made by the Harper Woods K-9 team of Officer Steven Johnson and his partner Kaiser. Other special guests included members of the Michigan State Police Bomb Squad, representatives from Medstar Ambulance, and Grosse Pointe Park Officer Thomas Card who assisted with the Smoke House.

The annual Open House event would not have been possible without the careful coordination of organizers Detective Kevin Bonk and Sergeant Joseph Provost. The hard work provided by Officers Jeffry Martel and Miles Adams also helped to make the event a success. In addition, the department is appreciative of the contributions made by Auxiliary Captain Charles Thomas, Squad Leaders Evan Allemon and Mark Higgins, and Auxiliary Officers Jose Carrion, Keith Kurtz, and Patrick Kyc, all of whom served to man various aspects of the event.



# HIGHLIGHTS OF 2021

Although the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic continued to cast a shadow over the world, there were bright spots in the department due to major improvements.



Director Kosanke received the first of his Coronavirus vaccinations in early January, giving him as much protection as possible so that he could continue his duties without disruption.



Pictured above left are department members training with the new 100' E-One aerial ladder truck. The rig is outfitted with many state-of-the-art features including a camera mounted at the top of the ladder, sending pictures to the control station at its base. This eliminates the need for a firefighter to be lifted up in a basket to direct water delivery.

Pictured above right are four new doors which were installed on the Public Safety apparatus bays at the south end of the Robert E. Novitke Municipal Center. The nearly 12 x 12-foot doors are highly energy efficient and provide increased security for the fire-fighting equipment and also for prisoner transfers. They replace the 30-year-old doors which were not insulated and periodically inoperable.

# POLICE OFFICER'S PRAYER

