

City of Grosse Pointe Woods
Department of Public Safety
Annual Report
2024

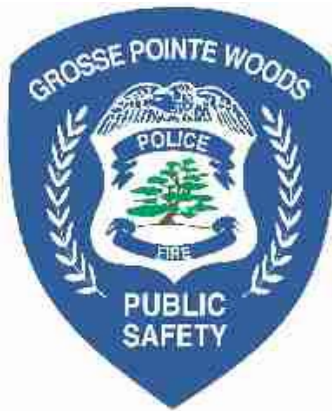
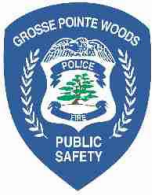


TABLE OF CONTENTS

Preface - Director's Letter

Mission Statement	1
Introduction	2
Department Personnel	3
Organization Chart	4
Total Incidents	5
Index Crimes Breakdown	6
Non-Index Crimes Breakdown	7
Index & Non-Index Crimes Totals	8
Crime & Arrest Totals	9
Moving & Meter Violations	10
Traffic & Pedestrian Accidents	11
Department Training	12
Fire Operations	13
Emergency Medical Services	14
Detective Bureau	15
Special Response Team	16-17
Auxiliary Unit	18
Crossing Guards	19
Honors & Awards	20
Officer & Supervisor of the Year	21
New Hires	22
School Resource Officer	23
Public Safety Open House	24-25-26
Drug Kiosk	27-28
Police Officer's Prayer	29

Annual Report 2024 compiled by Claudette Rose Darga



CITY OF GROSSE POINTE WOODS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY



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

March 1, 2025

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 2024 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.

Our department members work hard each day to keep the residents and businesses of this community safe and responded to 9,497 incidents in 2024. Despite their efforts, crime increased 20.5% in 2024 as the totals of both Index and Non-Index crimes rose from 511 to 616. The highest Index crime reported was Larceny with an increase in incidents from 120 to 146. Auto theft also increased from 34 to 59, of which 13 vehicles were stolen from the Ascension St. John parking lot. There were also increases in the Index crimes of Aggravated Assault and Burglary, which went up from 4 to 9 and 11 to 16, respectively. I am pleased to report a decrease in Criminal Sexual Conduct incidents from 8 to 4 as well as a decrease in Robberies from 4 to 1.

The highest Non-Index crime reported once again was Fraud with an increase from 97 to 111 incidents. Retail Fraud also increased from 13 to 22. Non-Aggravated Assaults decreased slightly from 47 to 46. Intimidation/Stalking incidents nearly doubled with an increase from 15 to 29. Malicious damage to Property incidents also increased from 29 to 36. Other increases were seen in Public Peace and Operating Under the Influence of Liquor or Drugs.

A change in the criminal justice system has caused certain crimes to no longer be considered arrestable offenses. Violations requiring court appearances are issued instead.

Although we work to the best of our ability to fight crime, I cannot stress enough how the public needs to do their part as well. A simple thing like remembering to lock a car door is essential in today's world.

The City continues to contract with Medstar for ambulance service. Total ambulance runs decreased from 1,385 to 1,258. The number of runs requiring advanced life support decreased substantially by 84% from 659 to 106. Kolby Miller, Chief Executive Officer of Medstar, has reported an average emergency response time of 4:34 minutes and an average non-emergency response time of 5:12 minutes. The highest category of ambulance requests was medical treatment for a sick person with a non-specific diagnosis, followed by falls, breathing problems, and chest pains.

The health and well-being of our community is a top priority for the Public Safety department. In my continued effort to find ways to make the community safer, a new method for the residents to safely dispose of unwanted drugs was introduced on January 25, 2024. Since its inception in our Public Safety lobby, the new drug kiosk has been replaced nine times and has eliminated approximately 297 pounds of pharmaceuticals, the equivalent of an estimated 135,000 pills.

The department previously had a drug disposal box with an opening resembling a mail slot. Officers assigned to empty the box frequently encountered needles and liquids which posed a hazard to their own health and safety. The new kiosk eliminates this problem because it utilizes activated charcoal to neutralize drugs and render them inert. In addition, the new system helps to prevent the contamination of drinking water from unwanted pills being flushed into the sewer systems.

The first of its kind in the State of Michigan, the new state-of-the-art kiosk was approved through a partnership that I established with the Rotary International Group after seeing one at a 2023 Grosse Pointe Sunrise Rotary Club meeting. The Rotary Group has an exclusive deal with the manufacturer to purchase the kiosks. The department is grateful to donors who purchased two of the nine kiosks we used in 2024. I am hopeful that other Public Safety Departments and public buildings such as hospitals and libraries will also obtain drug kiosks for their facilities so that more progress in the elimination of unwanted drugs can be made.

In February, the department announced that we will receive \$116,895.00 over 18 years as part of a nationwide \$725 million settlement between states and opioid manufacturers. The funds will be split among hundreds of municipalities. The money received by our department must be spent specifically on programs, training, equipment, and supplies which are in direct support of fighting the opioid crisis.

Fatal incidents involving opioid overdoses took place in our city in previous years. An arrest was made in Harper Woods in September by our officers and the FBI for a suspect who distributed drugs laced with fentanyl which killed three Grosse Pointe Woods residents in the summer of 2023.

Two major building improvement projects were completed in the department in 2024. Windows and blinds throughout the Public Safety area were replaced, making the building more energy efficient, and the locker room renovation project which began in early 2023 was completed. The final stages were the additions of epoxy floor coating, new entrance doors, and a mirror.

A major strain was put on the department's budget due to unexpected vehicle repairs. The most expensive were necessary repairs to the 2002 E-One fire truck which needed replacement of the front brake pads and brake shoes, an electrical system distribution box chassis, a bearing kit gearbox, a pump, muffler, and brake drums and rotors. Fortunately, the extensive damage on a patrol car involved in an accident was covered by an insurance claim.

In addition, in lieu of replacing our Code Enforcement vehicle, it was agreed to replace the engine.

Major purchases made in 2024 included a new hose and turnout gear dryer, a treadmill, and a French Fitness trainer. The department's hose dryer had been utilized for drying fire hoses for over fifty years. As parts were no longer available, replacement of the unit was necessary. Turnout gear needs to be washed after each fire run in order to remove the carcinogens. The Fitness trainer and treadmill were purchased to keep our officers in peak physical condition so that they can perform their duties to the best of their abilities.

The department made progress in its goal to go as paperless as possible in the past year with the introduction of a new ADORE software program from MdE, Inc. for maintaining FTO (Field Training Officer) records. Sergeant Mark Agnetti, who oversees the FTO program, has been enthusiastic about the positive changes this new system has brought to his duties. The ADORE program has the capabilities of uploading CLEMIS searches, tickets and videos within seconds.

In September, the department also became the first department in the city to convert from paper timesheets to electronic timesheets for payroll processing, further reducing the use of paper and saving time.

The year ended with Council approval in December for a License Plate Reader (LPR) project. LPR's have proven to be an effective tool for fighting crime. The readers capture license plates when a vehicle passes by. The information on the plate is used for investigative purposes to locate criminals. The device will also aid in locating missing persons. The LPR project was launched with the assistance of the Grosse Pointe Public Safety Foundation who will pay the initial cost of \$45,845.00 to install five LPR's to be used at main entrances to the city. After the first year, the department will be responsible for an annual Licensing Agreement, a Data Sim card plan, and an Investigative Data Platform. Estimated annual costs are \$9,700.00.

The Grosse Pointe Public Safety Foundation also purchased a repeater at the cost of \$125,000.00 for installation at Grosse Pointe North High School in 2024. The organization previously funded the purchase of two repeaters at Grosse Pointe South High School in 2023. A repeater amplifies incoming signals and broadcasts them over a wider area, making it easier for officers to communicate with each other.

In a continuing effort to reduce Fraud and Identity Theft, I gave presentations to various senior groups, including the Grosse Pointe Sunrise Rotary Club meeting at the Ford House in March, the Lunch, Laugh, and Learn program at St. Michael's Episcopal Church in November and the Senior Holiday Social at the Assumption Cultural Center in December. Protecting our most vulnerable citizens from becoming crime victims has always been a top priority for me. Immediate action is recommended to those who think they may have been victims of a scam. Credit card companies should be notified and accounts should be closed or suspended.

Protecting families during their most vulnerable times became a priority for our detectives in the early part of the year when three breaking & entering cases took place during a two-week period in February. The crimes were connected to similar cases in other area cities where homes were ransacked while family members were attending a funeral. The suspect, who was arrested in March, confessed to 12 home invasions throughout metro Detroit. The suspect allegedly vandalized the homes after reading obituaries and attending estate sales. Lieutenant Detective Keith Waszak and Detective Miles Adams worked tirelessly with members of other departments in a team effort to capture the suspect.

The annual Public Safety Open House held on October 6th, 2024 was a well-attended community event. On hand were two K-9 dogs with their handlers, and representatives of the SRT team and the U.S. Coast Guard with their new mascot, Panda Bear. Opportunities to go inside a smoke house and to learn how to use a fire house were available. Our ladder truck, a scout car, and a Medstar ambulance were also on display. Educating the public on fire safety is of utmost importance, as evidenced by the family of five who were displaced from their home in November due to dryer lint that caught fire.

We continue to be grateful for our support staff of Auxiliary Officers who assist us with our community events such as the annual Open House as well as our Crossing Guards who are at their posts throughout the school year despite any inclement weather they might encounter.

The number of hours spent on training department personnel went up by a small percentage. Training continues to be a priority for keeping up with continuously changing technology and improvements.

Officer Andrew Smith was welcomed to the department in May 2024. As it has become increasingly difficult for Law Enforcement agencies to recruit a fully trained candidate, we were fortunate to have found a seasoned Public Safety Officer who also served in the United States Navy for four years, managing flight deck operations.

Two new dispatchers also joined the department. Former SERESA Dispatch Supervisor Sherry Frederick was hired in January and retired Macomb County Workforce Development Specialist Michael Zill was added in October. Dispatcher Zilli's position as the fifth full-time dispatcher in the department will eliminate a large amount of overtime created when a dispatcher is on vacation, ill, or otherwise unable to report for duty. Funding for his position comes from the 911 revenue received from the Conference of Eastern Wayne and prior year reserves. Dispatch coverage is essential for the department. In the past, officers frequently had to be taken off road patrol in order to cover the dispatch desk when necessary.

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 City Administrator Frank Schulte and Assistant City Administrator Susan Como for their support and guidance.

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 2025, 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. We look forward to being a part of the City's 75th Anniversary in 2025.

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

As of 12-31-2024

Director of Public Safety

John G. Kosanke

Chaplain

Pastor Matthew Swiatek

Lieutenants

Brian Conigliaro

James Lefurgey

Lieutenant/DB Commander

Keith Waszak

Sergeants

Mark Agnetti

Darrell Fisher

Walter Galat

Joseph Provost, Jr.

Kyle Seidel

Brian Urban

Public Safety Officers

Steven Calabro

Douglas Copple

Trent Dara

David Empson

Duncan Gill

Eugene Gunnery

Joseph Hazuka

Mitchell Hendrix

Anthony Hojnacki

Neal Kapoor

Timothy Livingston

Christian Media

Matthew Muzia

Andrew Smith

Jarod Smith

Dennis Walker

Detectives

Miles Adams

Martin Mitchell

Ryan Schroerlucke

School Resource Officer

Jeffry Martel

Communications Dispatchers

Scott DeLisle

Sherry Frederick

Kristen Morano

Shelby Webb

Michael Zilli

Confidential Administrative Assistant

Claudette Darga

Code Enforcement

Debbie Reed

Parking Enforcement - Part-Time

Debra Fox

Chelsea Phillips

Records Department - Full-Time

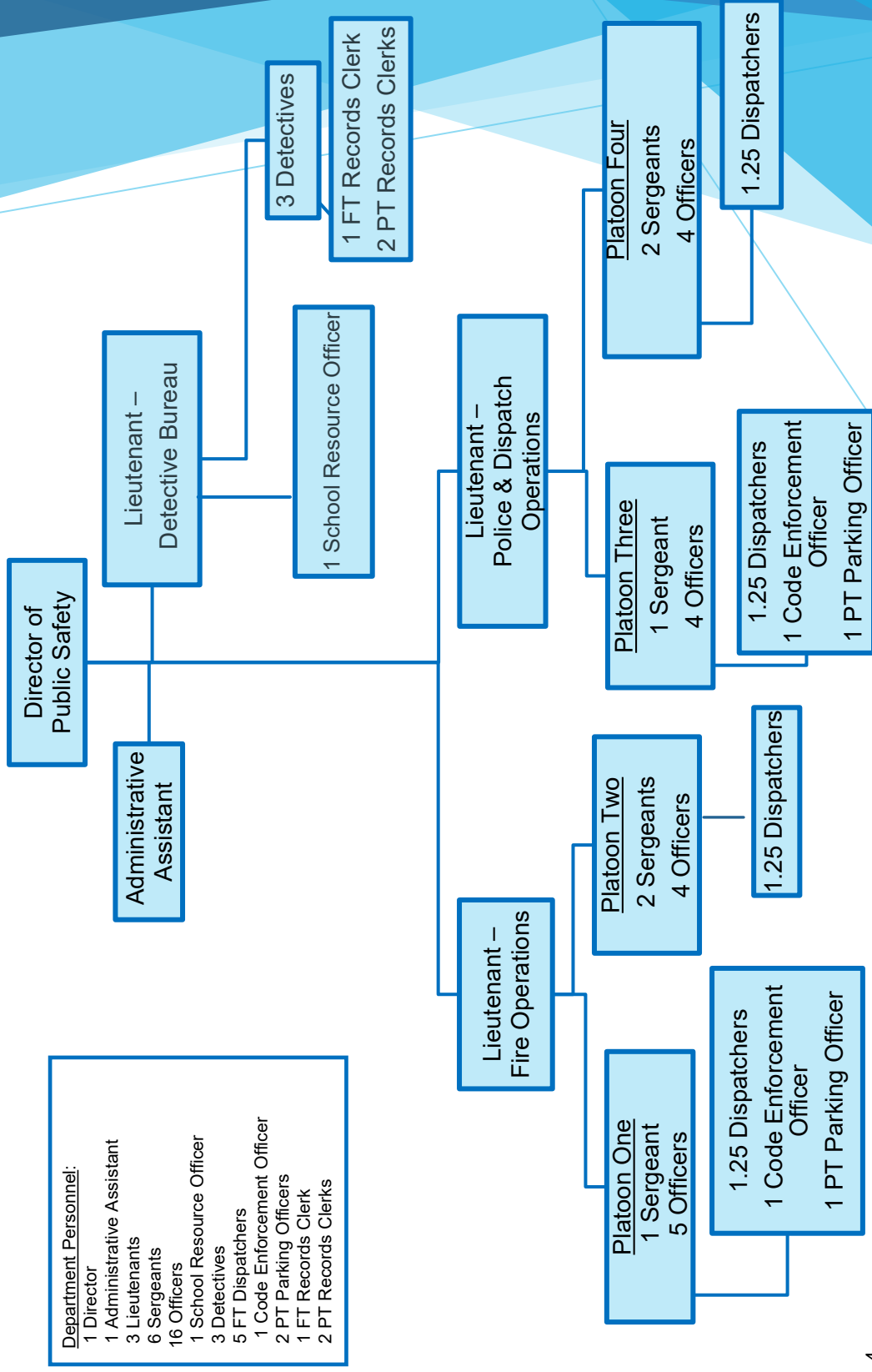
Darlene Jepson

Records Department - Part-Time

Kim Rupinski

Tina Verbeke

City of Grosse Pointe Woods Department of Public Safety Organization Chart 2024

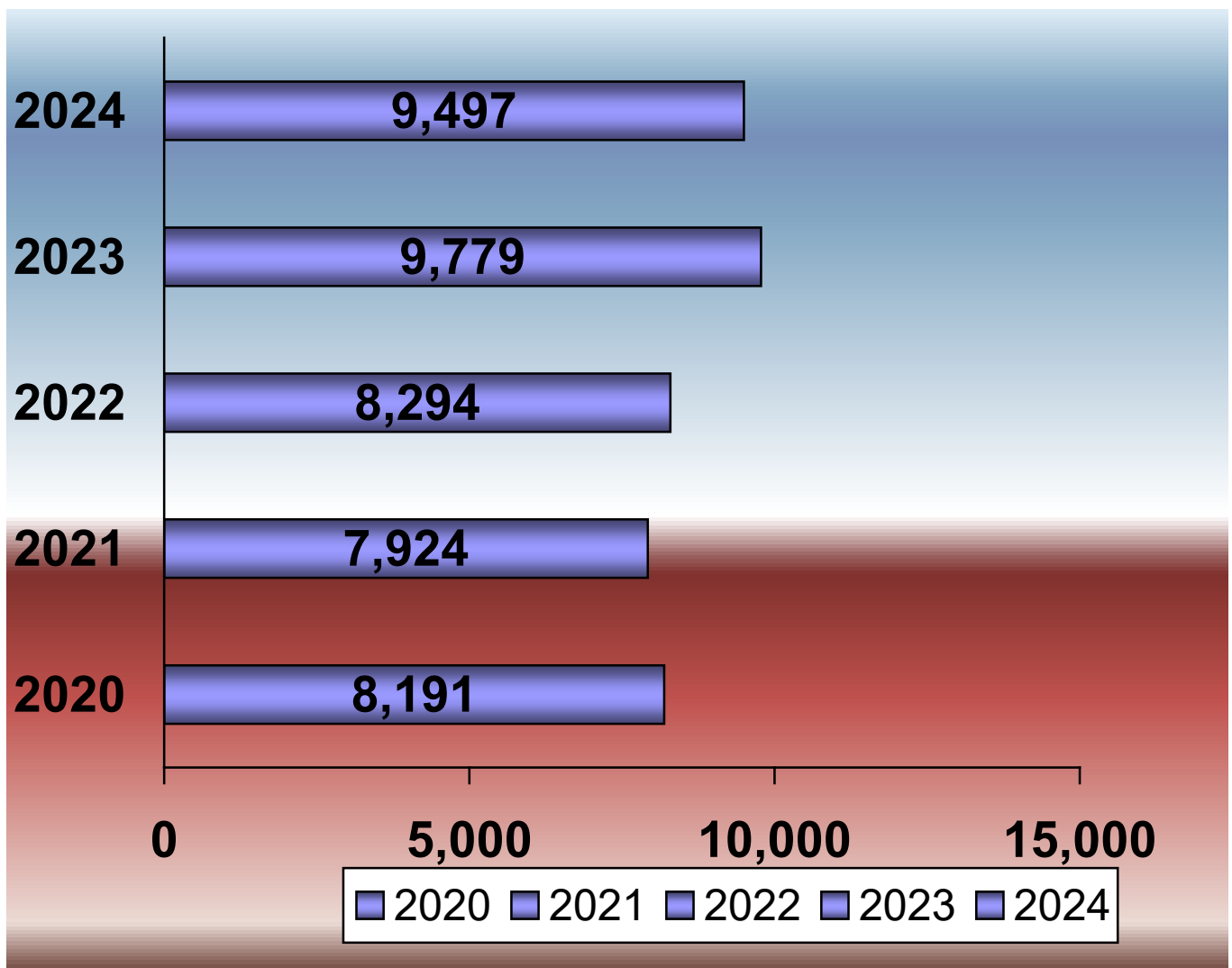


TOTAL INCIDENTS 2020 - 2024

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 9,497 calls for service in 2024.

The five-year average is 8,737 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**

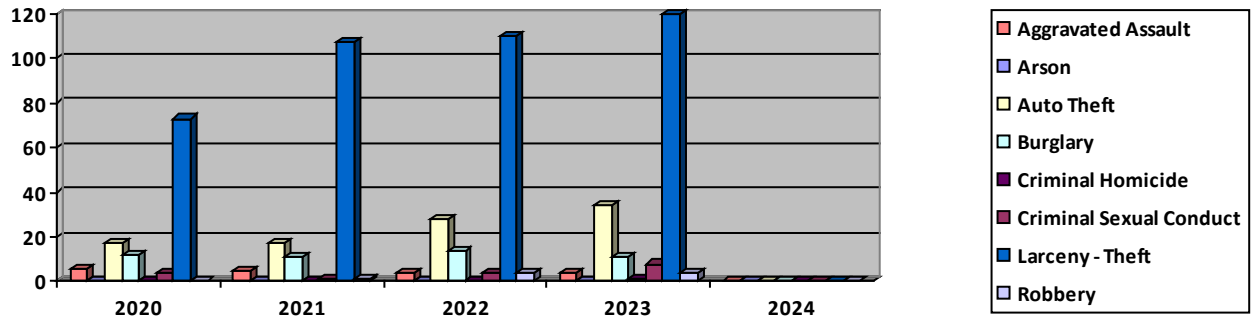
NON-INDEX CRIMES BREAKDOWN

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:

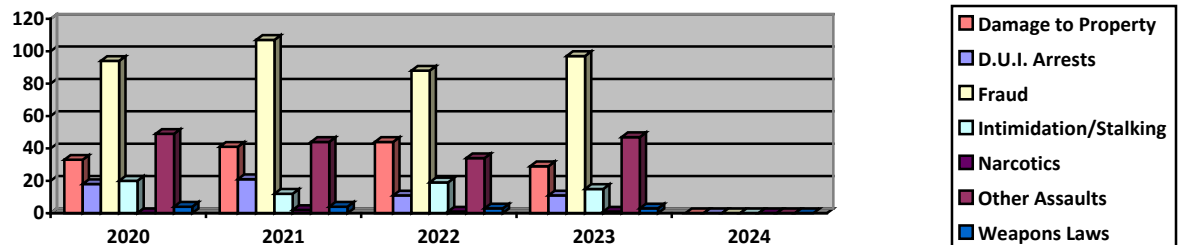
- **Curfew and Loitering Laws (persons under 18)**
- **Damage to Property**
- **Disorderly Conduct**
- **Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol**
- **Drug Abuse Violations**
- **Drunkenness**
- **Embezzlement**
- **Forgery and Counterfeiting**
- **Fraud**
- **Gambling**
- **Liquor Laws**
- **Offenses 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



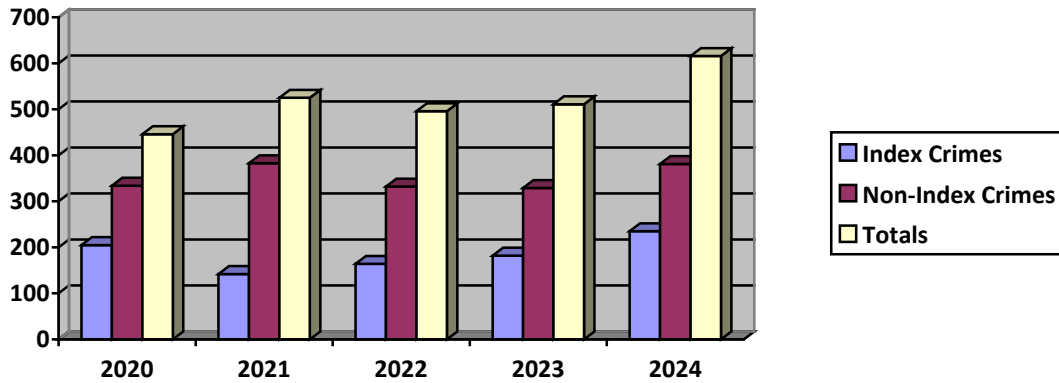
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Aggravated Assault	6	5	4	4	9
Arson	0	0	0	0	0
Auto Theft	17	17	28	34	59
Burglary	12	11	14	11	16
Criminal Homicide	0	0	0	1	0
Criminal Sexual Conduct	4	1	4	8	4
Larceny - Theft	73	107	110	120	146
Robbery	0	1	4	4	1

NON - INDEX CRIMES TOTALS



	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Damage to Property	33	41	44	29	36
D.U.I. Arrests	18	21	11	11	14
Fraud	94	107	88	97	111
Intimidation/Stalking	20	12	19	15	29
Narcotics	0	2	1	1	1
Other Assaults	49	44	34	47	46
Weapons Laws	4	2	3	3	0

CRIME TOTALS 2020 - 2024



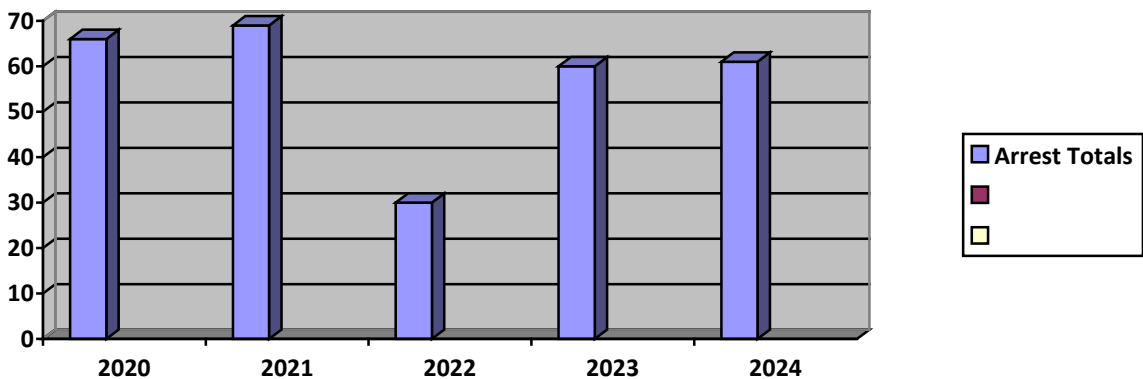
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Index Crimes	112	142	164	182	235
Non-Index Crimes	334	383	332	329	381
Totals	446	525	496	511	616

The 616 Index and Non-Index crimes reported in 2024 represents a 20.5 % increase from the 511 crimes reported in 2023. The five-year average is 519 Index and Non-Index crimes.

ARREST TOTALS 2020 - 2024

The five-year average is 57 arrests per year.

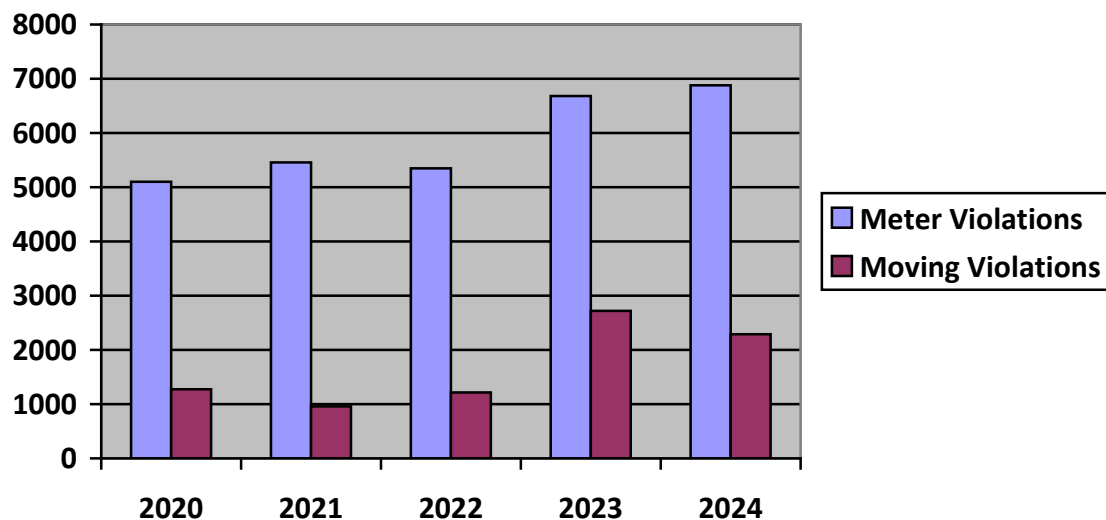
Arrests increased from last year by 1.5 %.



	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Arrest Totals	66	69	30	60	61

MOVING AND METER VIOLATIONS

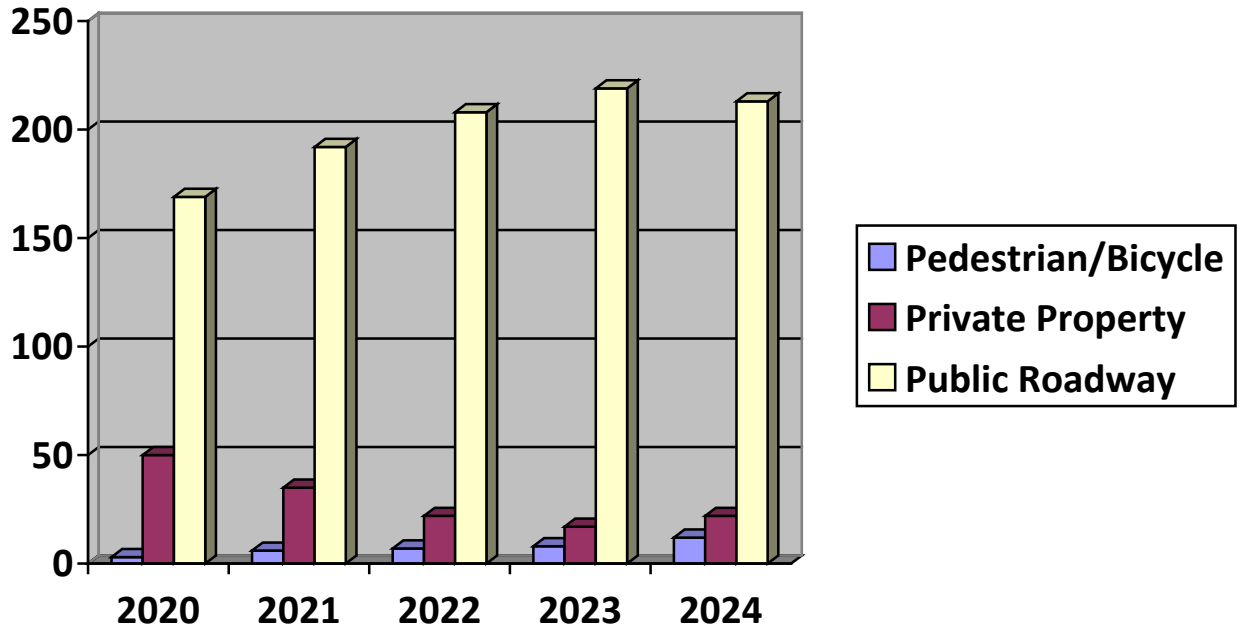
Using computers, updated radars, preliminary breath instruments, and mobile fingerprint readers in the patrol vehicles, the Public Safety Department continues to enforce traffic violations in the most effective manner possible.



	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Meter Violations	5,101	5,456	5,348	6,681	6,880
Moving Violations	1,273	958	1,215	2,720	2,289

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.



	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Pedestrian/Bicycle	3	6	7	8	12
Private Property	50	35	22	17	22
Public Roadway	169	192	208	219	213
Total Accidents	222	233	237	244	247

There were no fatalities in 2024.

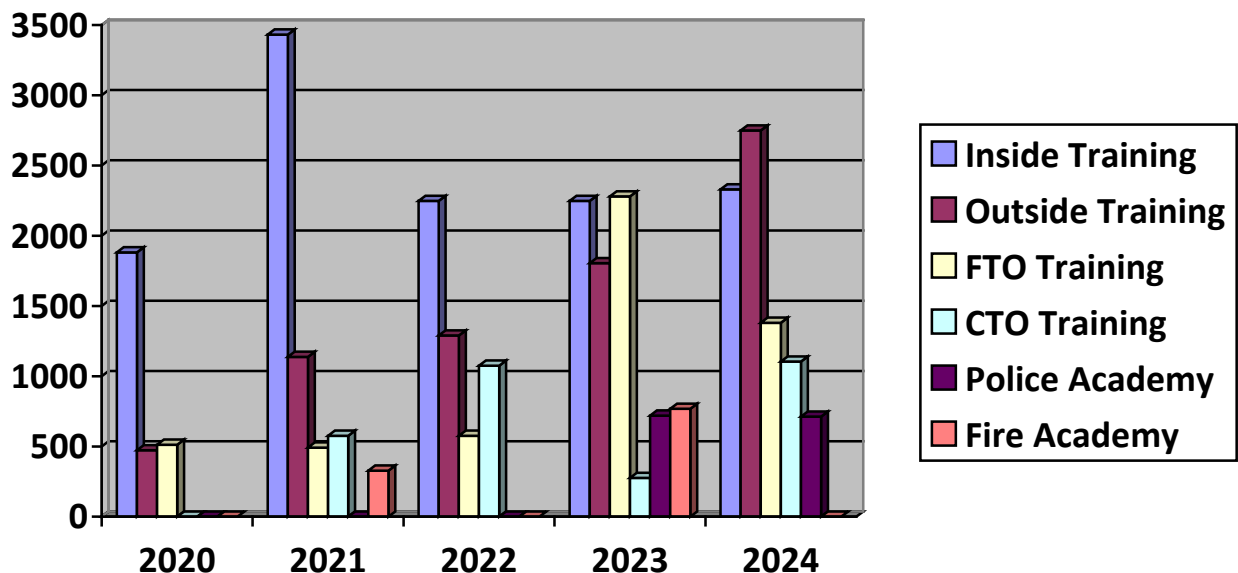
DEPARTMENT TRAINING

Members of the department work diligently with specialized rescue tools and fire equipment to train in preparation of any impending emergency. They also train to keep abreast of new technology, updated equipment, and changing laws. Members of the department attended 2,749 hours of Police and Fire training courses at local colleges and other training facilities in 2024 and participated in 2,330 hours of in-house training.

One new officer was sponsored by the department to attend the Macomb Police Academy in 2024 where he trained for 712 hours.

In addition, 1,380 hours were spent on FTO (Field Officer training) for two new officers hired in 2024 and 1,104 hours were spent training three new Dispatchers hired in 2024 (CTO training).

The grand total of all department training in 2024 was 8,275 hours, a 2% increase from the 8,097 total hours in 2023. The department values training and encourages employees to grasp the opportunity whenever possible to continually grow in knowledge.



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 one residential dwelling fires in Grosse Pointe Woods, our firemen also responded to one business fire, three vehicle fires, and six outdoor brush/dumpster fires. Mutual aid was received on the one residential dwelling fire. Included in the fire runs total are eight gas leak runs, thirty-three runs involving electrical problems, seven combustible spills and leaks, and seven runs involving chemical releases.

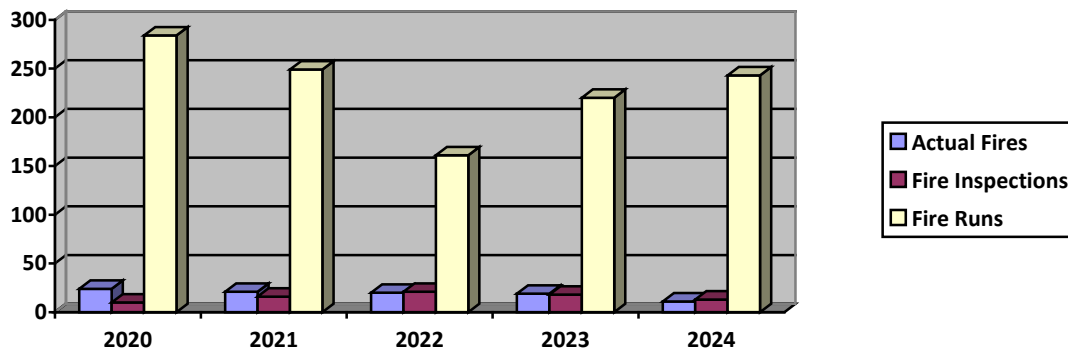
The department assisted with mutual aid on six residential fires in Harper Woods.

The department has two certified fire inspectors, one of which is primarily assigned to road patrol duties. The other certified fire inspector within the department, who is also a Plans Examiner, is our School Resource Officer.



All totals listed below are estimated.

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Actual Fires	24	21	20	19	11
Fire Inspections	10	16	121	18	13
Fire Loss	\$366,150	\$1,255,000	\$413,400	\$51,910	\$356,000
Fire Runs	284	249	161	220	243



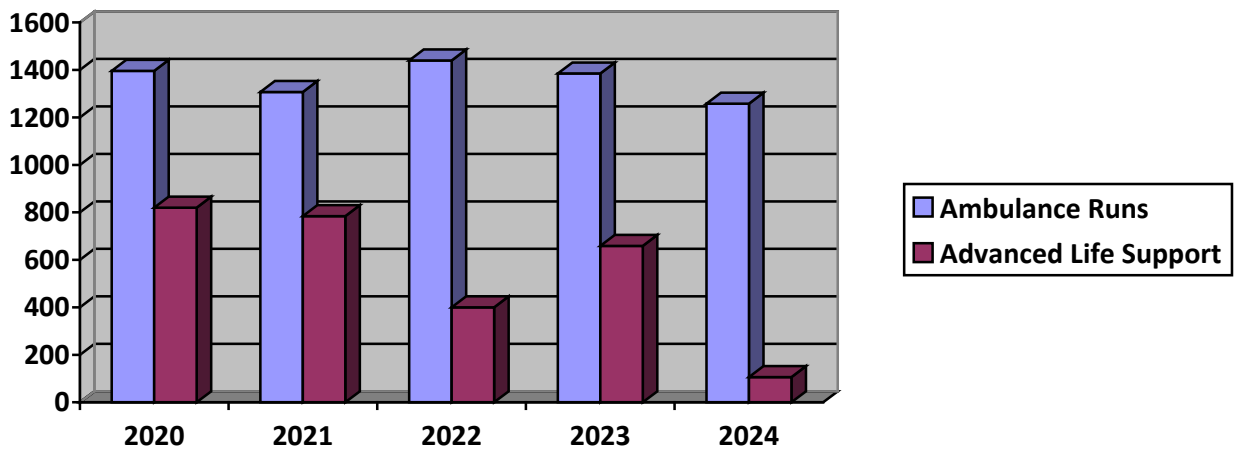
There were no fatalities or serious injuries resulting from the 11 actual fires in 2024.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Public Safety officers respond to every ambulance run. All 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 average emergency response time by Medstar was 4:34 minutes in 2024.

The 1,258 ambulance runs in 2024 represents a 9% decrease from the 1,385 runs in 2023. The total number of runs includes 404 runs which were cancelled en route, at the scene, or refused by the patient. The 106 runs involving advanced life support represents a substantial decrease of 84% from the 659 advanced life support runs in 2023.



	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Ambulance Runs	1,396	1,307	1,440	1,385	1,258
Adv. Life Support	820	784	400	659	106
% Adv. Life Support	59%	60%	27%	48%	8%

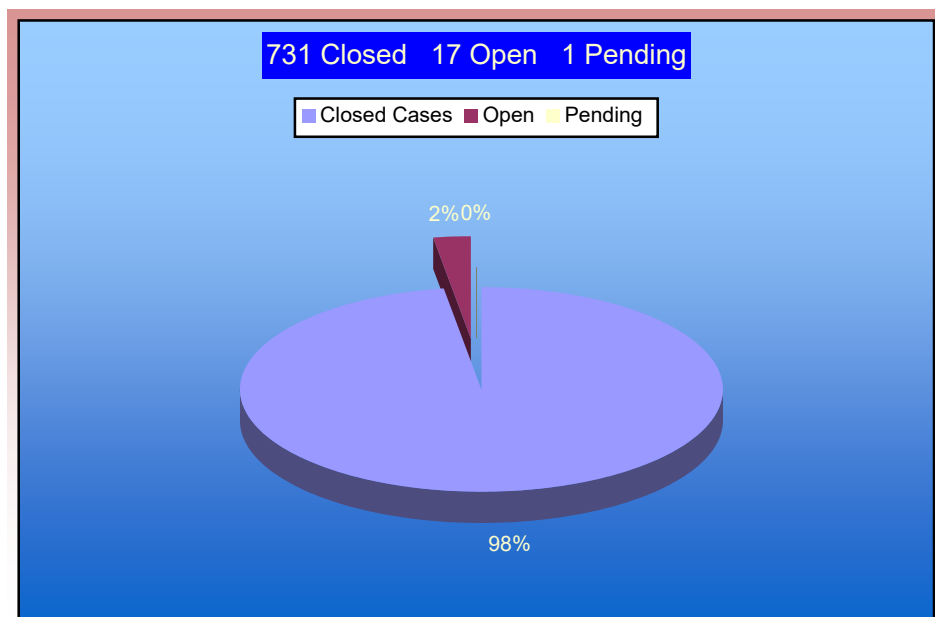
DETECTIVE BUREAU

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 detectives are responsible for investigating crimes, collecting and preserving evidence, identifying perpetrators, interviewing witnesses, interrogating suspects, and preparing cases for successful prosecution.

The Grosse Pointe Woods Detective Bureau, which operates under the supervision of Lieutenant Detective Bureau Commander Keith Waszak, consists of seasoned detectives Miles Adams and Ryan Schroerlucke. Officer Martin Mitchell re-joined the Detective Bureau in March 2024, after previously having worked as a detective from 2007 to 2010.

When not assigned to his primary duties as the department's School Resource Officer, Jeffry Martel also works in the Detective Bureau. In addition, SRO Martel is responsible for overseeing the crossing guards and is the direct liaison with public school administrators, teachers, and students. Detective Martin Mitchell serves as the alternate SRO when necessary and is also the direct liaison for the private schools.

Detective Adams is responsible for Traffic Safety programs, for which he conducts traffic and speed studies, and investigates traffic-related incidents.



Summary of Case Assignments

98% of the 749 criminal cases assigned to the Detective Bureau in 2024 are closed.

SPECIAL RESPONSE TEAM (SRT)



The Special Response Team (SRT) is a specially trained law enforcement team comprised of twelve members (two from each city) of the five Grosse Pointe area departments and Harper Woods. A new Mutual Cooperation Agreement was drafted and adopted by the heads of each of the participating departments in 2024. The new agreement clearly identifies the collaborative efforts and responsibilities of each department. Funding for the replacement of the team's 1986 Gunman bread truck was secured from the six cities in 2024.

With the new leadership of Grosse Pointe Farms Sergeant Timothy Harris who replaced retired Team Leader Lieutenant Spina, came new training procedures from U.S. Navy SEAL Matt Johnson of Michigan Civil Defense, who has trained 45 tactical teams from across the State of Michigan. New members of the SRT also receive valuable training on tactics and firearm proficiency from Grosse Pointe Woods Officer Duncan Gill who was appointed as Assistant Team Leader due to his leadership abilities and dedication.

The SRT executes search and arrest warrants, intervenes in hostage situations, works on counter-terrorism missions, provides perimeter security for high-profile events, and assistance in other high-risk situations. The SRT team was activated ten times in 2024, using drone technology in many of the incidents.

SPECIAL RESPONSE TEAM (SRT)



The team was called into action three times in February 2024. All the incidents took place in Detroit. The first incident involved the apprehension of two armed carjacking suspects, one of which had made social media statements that he was willing to shoot police. The second incident was the arrest of an armed robbery suspect who was squatting inside a vacant home. Detectives from Grosse Pointe City and Grosse Pointe Woods requested the assistance of the SRT for the third incident involving the arrest of a suspect wanted for numerous home invasions throughout the Grosse Pointe area.

Due to Detroit's SRT team already being activated in March, the Eastern Wayne County SRT was requested to assist with a suspect wanted for animal abuse and possible possession of weapons. Although the suspect was not at home, several sick and undernourished dogs were removed by Animal Control.

Harper Woods detectives requested assistance in June for a search/arrest warrant for a suspect wanted for numerous vehicle thefts. The suspect had made previous threats of harming police officers. Upon the arrest of the individual, four minors were located inside the home. Child Protective Services was called when it was discovered that one of the children had a broken left arm which was improperly treated and infectious.

The month of August saw an incident involving a suicidal Harper Woods male in possession of a long gun. An MRAP vehicle was stationed on the front lawn and commands were given over the PA system for the man to exit his home until he was taken into custody without incident.

The MRAP vehicle was utilized again in September when a convicted Harper Woods felon known to have a weapon refused to exit his home. Just before tear gas was going to be deployed, the suspect threw his weapon out of a side window. The suspect exited his home after a lengthy standoff but did not obey repeated requests to leave his Pitbull inside. The dog was shot as it charged the officers while the suspect was being arrested.

The SRT was back in Detroit in October for the arrest of a wanted felon involved in an active auto theft group which had struck the Grosse Pointe area and other cities in eastern Wayne County.

A career felon wanted for breaking into a Grosse Pointe restaurant/bar was arrested in Detroit after the SRT breached the front door of his home in December.

SRT members Duncan Gill and Neal Kapoor gained much knowledge and experience from their SRT training and call-outs which they were able to pass on to their fellow Grosse Pointe Woods officers.

AUXILIARY UNIT



Pictured above from left to right in the back row are Auxiliary Captain Charles Thomas and Auxiliary Officers Allen Herfi, John Sabol, Anthony Wimbush, and Joseph Shalla. Pictured from left to right in the front row are Auxiliary Officer Ryan Allemon, Squad Leader Evan Allemon and Auxiliary Officer Jose Carrion. Pictured below from left to right are Department Liaison Sergeant Joseph Provost, Squad Leader Mark Higgins and Auxiliary Officer Patrick Kyc.



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 and Music on the Lawn, but they also help 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.

Under the continued leadership of department liaison Sergeant Joseph Provost, the Auxiliary Unit underwent 151 hours of training and devoted 400 hours of service to the City of Grosse Pointe Woods in 2024.

At the end of 2024, 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, Patrick Kyc, John Sabol, Joseph Shalla, and Anthony Wimbush.

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.



Pictured from left to right in the back row are Crossing Guards Karen Kaled, Dana Linsdeau, Mary Moore, Nicole Guswiler, Charlotte Monaghan, Paul Siewert, Kenneth Carter, and Roger Lanyon.

Pictured from left to right in the front row are Crossing Guards Renee DiCristofaro, Maureen Carter, School Resource Officer Jeffry Martel, Kathleen Guertin, and Frank DiCristofaro.

Not Pictured: Tatiane Kotaran, Catherine Nicolli-Staples, and Jean Segodnia.

HONORS & AWARDS



Pictured above from right to left are Officer Eugene Gunnery with Director John G. Kosanke and Officer Matthew Muzia. From left to right in the group picture holding awards are Officer Gunnery, Sergeant Walter Galat, Officer Dennis Walker, Sergeant Joseph Provost, and Detective Ryan Schroerlucke along with Mayor Arthur Bryant and Council members.

Two officers from the Grosse Pointe Woods Department of Public Safety received citations from the Lakeshore Optimist Club of Grosse Pointe at the 41st annual Respect for Law Program held at the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club on May 01, 2024.

Officer Eugene Gunnery was presented with an award for delivering a baby in October 01, 2023. The two-pound baby made his entrance just as Officer Gunnery arrived at the scene. The child did not appear to be breathing. With quick thinking and fast action, Officer Gunnery used a turkey baster to suction fluids from the infant's mouth until Medstar ambulance employees arrived and took over.

Twenty-year department veteran Officer Matthew Muzia received a citation for his sole effort in saving the life of an elderly choking victim at Sunrise Senior Living Center on August 03, 2023. Upon arrival at the scene, he found staff members attempting to perform the Heimlich maneuver while the resident was sitting in his wheelchair. Officer Muzia immediately had the staff assist him with getting the resident out of the wheelchair so that the procedure could be performed properly. The patient regained consciousness after Officer Muzia successfully cleared the patient's airway of obstruction with the administration of multiple abdominal thrusts.

Officer Gunnery was presented with a Life Saving award for his achievement at a Council meeting on May 20th. Also presented with a Life Saving award was Sergeant Walter Galat for a 2022 incident at the Rivers during which he helped to save the life of a resident who was not breathing and did not have a pulse. Officer Muzia also received a Life Saving award for the 2023 choking incident but was not present at the meeting.

Sergeant Joseph Provost, Detective Ryan Schroerlucke and Officer Dennis Walker received department citations at the Council meeting for their actions after an armed bank robbery took place in March 2023.

OFFICER AND SUPERVISOR OF THE YEAR

The recipient of the 2024 Officer of the Year Award is Detective Miles Adams, pictured below on the right, and the recipient of the 2024 Supervisor of the Year Award is Lieutenant Detective Keith Waszak, pictured below on the left.



When a suspect began targeting the homes of vulnerable families in multiple cities throughout Macomb, Oakland, Washtenaw, and Wayne counties who were attending funeral services for their loved ones, Detective Lieutenant Waszak and Detective Miles Adams immediately sprang into action with a plan to prevent the burglaries from happening. The detectives worked tirelessly around the clock for six days until the suspect was apprehended at his Detroit home on February 27, 2024 by the Eastern Wayne County Special Response Team (SRT). In March 2025, the suspect was sentenced to up to ten years in prison after pleading guilty to five cases.

The suspect planned his criminal activities by reading obituaries and attending estate sales to scope out items inside the homes. In some cases, the suspect pretended to be doing yard work on the property before breaking in to the home. Lieutenant Detective Waszak and Detective Adams were the primary investigators on the case along with two Grosse Pointe City detectives. In a team effort, all four were assisted by officers from Grosse Pointe Farms, Grosse Pointe Shores, and State of Michigan partners in the complex, detailed, and thorough investigations.

Lieutenant Waszak has been with the department for 25 years during which time he was promoted to the rank of Sergeant in 2010 and to the rank of Lieutenant in 2014. He was permanently assigned to the role of Detective Bureau Commander in 2019, a role which he had previously been appointed to while also supervising road patrol. He is a previous recipient of the Officer of the Year award in 2018 and has received numerous other accolades for his achievements. In addition to his detective duties, Lieutenant Waszak has also implemented various electronic platforms for the department. He is well respected throughout the department for his outstanding work ethics, dedication, and commitment.

Detective Adams joined the Detective Bureau in 2022 at which time he also became responsible for School Liaison duties prior to the appointment of our School Resource Officer. Detective Adams is a seven-year veteran of the department. The work done by Detective Adams was instrumental in the investigation of the suspect dubbed by local media as the “Obit Bandit”. In addition to investigating the crime scenes, he collected evidence, did interviews, and worked in collaboration with neighboring jurisdictions. Detective Adams also spent fifteen months on the investigation of a Harper Woods resident who was arrested in September 2024 for distributing drugs laced with fentanyl which killed three Grosse Pointe Woods residents in June 2023.

We are proud of the outstanding efforts of both Lieutenant Detective Keith Waszak and Detective Miles Adams in working to the best of their abilities to keep our communities safe.

NEW HIRES

Three new employees joined the department in 2024 – one Public Safety Officer and two full-time Dispatchers.



Officer Andrew Smith is pictured on the top row with Director Kosanke. Dispatchers Sherry Frederick and Michael Zilli are pictured below.

Officer Andrew Smith was welcomed to the department in May 2024. A former Public Safety Officer at Beverly Hills, he was also employed with the St. Clair County Sheriff's Office as a Corrections Deputy and as a Road Patrol Deputy. Officer Smith also served in the U.S. Navy for four years.

The department was fortunate to hire Sherry Frederick as a full-time Communications Dispatcher in January 2024 as her background includes 17 years as a dispatcher with the City of Sterling Heights and 9 years with SERESA (the South East Regional Emergency Services Authority) for a total of 26 years of experience. Ms. Frederick retired from SERESA as a Dispatch Supervisor with duties including creating and overseeing the training program. She is currently a Dispatch Training Instructor at Oakland Community College.

Although Michael Zilli does not have the dispatch experience that Ms. Frederick does, we are confident that he will also be a great asset to the department and that his abundant enthusiasm and attention to detail will positively impact his dealings with the public. Mr. Zilli retired from Macomb County with 32 years of experience as a Career Planner and joined our department in October 2024.

We wish all three of our new employees the best of luck in their new positions.

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER

Jeffrey Martel



School Resource Officer Jeffrey Martel has maintained a busy schedule since his appointment to the position in July 2023 when the City of Grosse Pointe Woods entered into a cooperative agreement with the Grosse Pointe Public School System.

In addition to his security duties at Grosse Pointe North, where he maintains an office, SRO Martel has taken groups of students on tours of the Public Safety Department and has spoken at school events, helping to educate our youth on safety issues and showcasing his talents as a gifted public speaker. Along with other officers from the department, SRO Martel also provides security at school sporting events and special activities.

SRO Martel graduated from the week-long Teaching, Educating and Mentoring (T.E.A.M.) School Liaison Program hosted by the Michigan State Police in September 2024. Training topics included school safety, bullying and harassment, cyber-crime, and social media use.

In the event of Officer Martel's absence, Detective Martin Mitchell has been assigned as the department's alternate SRO. Detective Mitchell also serves as the SRO for the private schools.

Department records have shown that having SRO Martel stationed at the school has significantly reduced the number of school incidents that our officers respond to.

PUBLIC SAFETY OPEN HOUSE



Photo Credit: Sergeant Brian Urban

Beautiful sunny weather helped to attract a steady stream of visitors to the annual Public Safety Open House on Sunday, October 06, 2024. Attendees had the opportunity to interact with Public Safety personnel, meet Director John G. Kosanke, and learn valuable safety tips.

The department was fortunate to have the participation of two K-9 teams, Harper Woods Officer Steven Johnson and his partner Kaiser, and Grosse Pointe Farms Sergeant Tim Harris and his partner Rocco.

Sergeant Harris did double-duty by also joining fellow Eastern Wayne County Special Response Team (SRT) members Neal Kapoor of Grosse Pointe Woods, Officer Colin Roden of Grosse Pointe Farms, and Officer Robert Saleski of Grosse Pointe City at the display of the SRT's armored vehicle.

A special presentation was made by members of the Medstar EMS crew who demonstrated the process of transporting patients into their ambulance. The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Unit was also on hand with their new mascot, Panda Bear, to present important information on water safety. A representative from CARE of Southeast Michigan also had a table filled with pamphlets and information on the services they offer.

The hard work and efforts of Harper Woods Officer Eddie Tujaka in bringing the Smoke House to the event was greatly appreciated. The Smoke House was manned by SRO Jeffrey Martel and Detective Martin Mitchell who guided several groups of children in and out. Another popular area of the event was the fire hose training presented by Officer Joseph Hazuka.

Special thanks go to event organizer Sergeant Joseph Provost, Grosse Pointe Woods Detectives Miles Adams and Ryan Schroerlucke and Officer Jarod Smith. We are appreciative of Auxiliary Squad Leader Mark Higgins, and Auxiliary Officers Jose Carrion, Patrick Kyc and Ryan Shalla who also volunteered their time. The event was photographed by Public Safety Administrative Assistant Claudette Darga (aka Daisy the Dalmatian.)

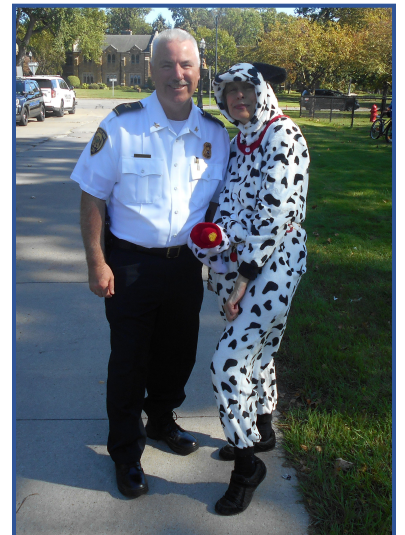
PUBLIC SAFETY OPEN HOUSE



PUBLIC SAFETY OPEN HOUSE



SRT vehicle photo by Director John G. Kosanke



DRUG KIOSK



Pictured above are members of the Rotary Club Action Group for Addiction Prevention and the Rotary Club of Grosse Pointe Sunrise at the Medicine Safe Disposal Kiosk Dedication Ceremony on January 25, 2024.

When Director John G. Kosanke first saw a state-of-the-art drug disposal kiosk at a 2023 meeting of the Grosse Pointe Sunrise Rotary Club, he immediately knew that he had to get one for the department. Grosse Pointe Woods had just experienced the second multi-overdose situation in three years. The secure see-through drug disposal box is available for public use in the lobby of the Department of Public Safety 24 hours a day, seven days a week. It replaces a drug disposal box previously available in the lobby which had become a concern as needles and liquids were frequently disposed of, causing safety concerns for officers who emptied it.

The new drug kiosk utilizes activated charcoal to neutralize drugs, including liquids and illegal drugs, which are poured into it. Not only is the new system safer for officers, but it also prevents drugs from contaminating drinking water as a result of flushing pills down the toilet. Studies have shown traces of drugs, both legal and illegal, found in local waterways such as the Detroit River and Lake St. Clair.

The drug kiosk is the first of its kind in the State of Michigan.

DRUG KIOSK



Pictured on the top left are Grosse Pointe Woods Mayor Arthur Bryant and Public Safety Director John G. Kosanke with a rotary club member.

The new drug kiosks are approved through a partnership which Director Kosanke initiated with the Rotary International Group. The kiosks are purchased through an exclusive deal that the Rotary Group has with the manufacturer. Once the container inside the drug box is full, the Public Safety Department sends it to a facility in Arkansas to be incinerated. The container is replaced with a new one and the process continues to repeat.

The new drug kiosk has proven to be popular with residents as evidenced by the 297 pounds of pharmaceuticals disposed of in 2024. An estimated 135,000 pills were contained in the nine bottles used.

Director Kosanke is hopeful that other departments and public facilities such as libraries and schools will also participate with the Rotary's program. As the number of kiosks increase, the number of overdose deaths will decrease as there will be less access to unwanted, expired, or dangerous drugs in medicine cabinets in homes.

Larry Kenemore, the North American chapter leader of Project SMART, which was developed for local rotary clubs by the Rotary Action Group for Addiction Prevention, would like to see similar results for the opioid crisis as the Rotary achieved in their efforts to largely eradicate the polio epidemic. That project began in 1979 and has now reduced polio cases by 99.9%.

POLICE OFFICER'S PRAYER



A Policeman's Prayer

Lord, I ask for courage;
Courage to face and conquer
my own fears...
Courage to take me where
others will not go.
I ask for strength;
Strength of body to protect others...
Strength of spirit to lead others.
I ask for dedication;
Dedication to my job to do it well...
Dedication to my community to keep it safe.
Give me, Lord, concern;
For all those who trust me...
And compassion for those who need me
And, please, Lord, through it all;
be at my side.