

# SPD 2023 Annual Report



Christopher Domagalski, Chief of Police  
1315 N. 23rd Street, Suite 101 Sheboygan, WI 53081

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# Our Vision



For Sheboygan to be the safest community of its size in the United States.



# Our Mission

is to be the model of excellence in policing by working in partnership with the community and others to:

FIGHT crime, the fear of crime and disorder;

ENFORCE laws while safeguarding the constitutional rights of all people;

PROVIDE quality service to all our residents and visitors; and

CREATE a work environment in which we recruit, train and develop an exceptional team of employees.



# Our Values

INTEGRITY

TEAMWORK

LEADERSHIP

COMPETENCE

ACCOUNTABILITY

PROFESSIONALISM



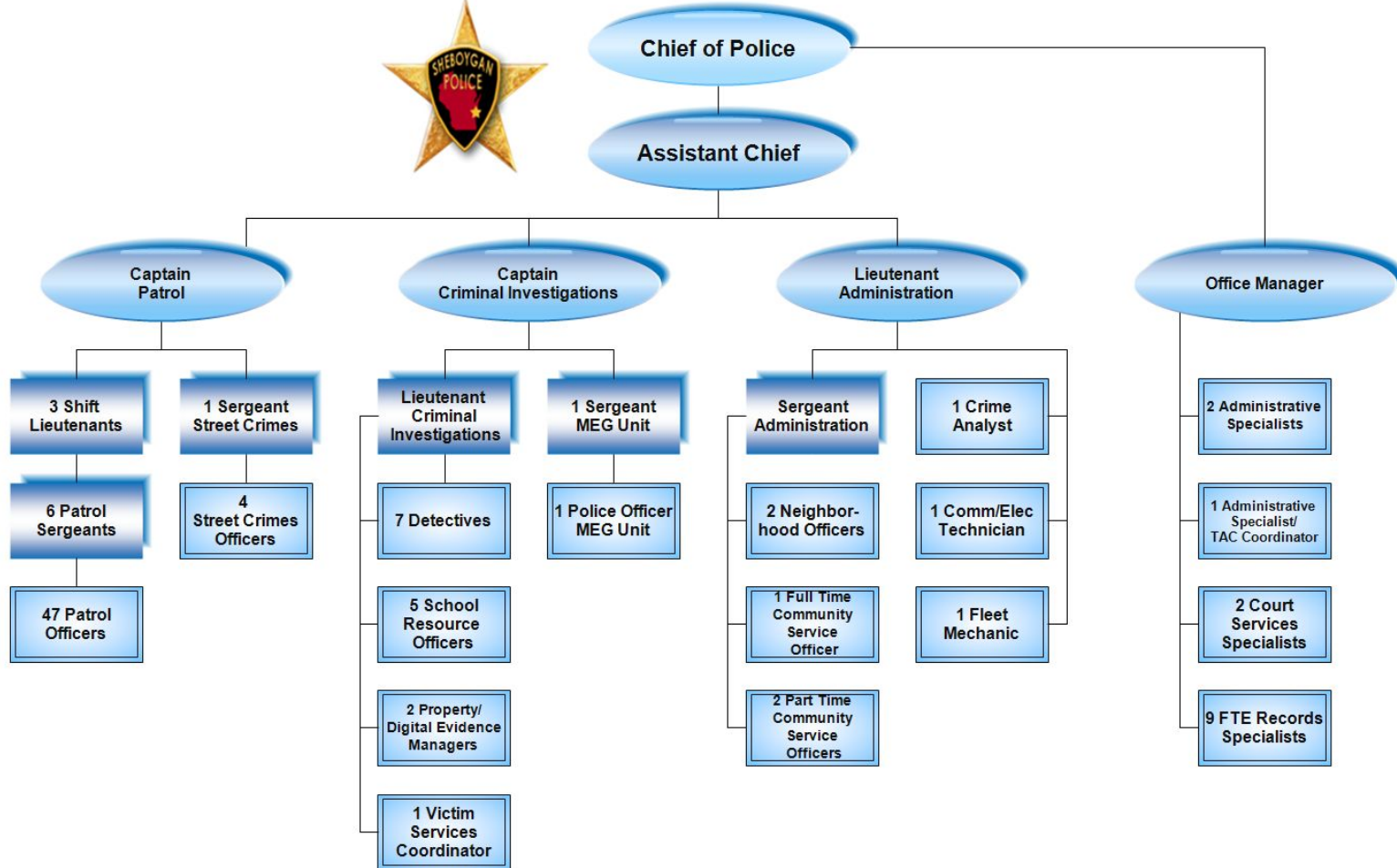


City of  
**Sheboygan**  
spirit on the lake.

Mayor Ryan Sorenson  
City Administrator Casey Bradley

| District | Wards     | Aldersperson            | District | Wards  | Aldersperson    |
|----------|-----------|-------------------------|----------|--------|-----------------|
| 1        | 1, 2      | Barb Felde              | 6        | 11, 12 | Dean Dekker     |
| 2        | 3, 4      | Roberta Filicky-Peneski | 7        | 13, 14 | Grazia Perrella |
| 3        | 5, 6      | Amanda Salazar          | 8        | 15, 16 | Zach Rust       |
| 4        | 7, 8      | Betty Ackley            | 9        | 17, 18 | Trey Mitchell   |
| 5        | 9, 10, 21 | Angela Ramey            | 10       | 19, 20 | Joe Heidemann   |

# 2023 Table of Organization





# POLICE & FIRE COMMISSION

## 2022-2023

President Andrew Hopp

Secretary Gerald Jones

Commissioner Jeanne Kliejunas

Commissioner Larry Samet

Commissioner Kristin Stearns





# Message from the Chief

The Sheboygan Police Department annual report is herein presented for your review. The report provides a snapshot of the Police Department's accomplishments, challenges and key activities.

2023 was a year of change for the department. The retirement of two of our senior Captains led to the reorganization of the executive staff, which included the addition of an Assistant Chief and the promotion of two new Captains to lead our major operational areas. We also saw two new officers assigned as Neighborhood Beat Officers and the hiring of a Victim Services Coordinator. All of these changes brought new perspectives, new energy and new ideas to adapt to the challenges we face.

During 2023 we continued to spend a large amount of our time and resources responding to community needs and impacts related to the mental health in the community. We continued to see that the availability of services for those in the community needing assistance with mental health and substance use disorders, did not always meet demand or connections were not made. A significant amount of our calls for service involved responding to check welfare calls, assists and complaints related to mental health or substance use issues. In partnership with the Sheboygan County and Elevate we began a Co-Responder program that puts a social worker in the car with an Officer 16 hours a day to provide increased resources focused on crisis calls. We believe that in the long term we will see stronger partnerships and better services provided to our residents, leading to less repeat callers and more time to focus on other community issues such as traffic enforcement and neighborhood disorder.

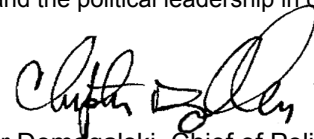
In spite of these challenges we still experienced a reduction in Part 1 crimes during 2023 of 828 reported crimes in comparison to 852 in 2022 and 841 in 2021. The 828 Part 1 crimes reported in 2023 represents a 51 % reduction from the 1,690 reported in 2012. We also continued to see a positive trend in accidents with 1,390 reported in 2023 in comparison to 1,418 in 2022.

During 2023 we invested in our community relationships by successfully holding a citizen's academy class, a Junior Police Academy, a Unity walk and a Community BBQ with BACO (Black American Community Outreach), National Night Out and numerous neighborhood events.

I remain grateful for the opportunity to work with the amazing sworn and professional staff of the Sheboygan Police Department. I am thankful for the inspiration they provide and the professionalism, competence and teamwork they have demonstrated during this past year. I am extremely proud of their work and the difference they make daily in our city. I am also thankful for the strong partnership and support we receive from all city departments and the political leadership in our city.

Finally, we are grateful and blessed to have the privilege to work in such an amazing community.

Sincerely,



Christopher Domagalski, Chief of Police

# SPD Budget

|                         | 2019<br>Adopted<br>Budget | 2020<br>Adopted<br>Budget | 2021<br>Adopted<br>Budget | 2022<br>Adopted<br>Budget | 2023<br>Adopted<br>Budget |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>Total<br/>Budget</b> | <b>\$12,396,543.00</b>    | <b>\$12,875,964.00</b>    | <b>\$12,907,179.00</b>    | <b>\$13,111,676.00</b>    | <b>\$13,582,624.00</b>    |

\*Due to changes to budget categories in recent years, only total budget numbers are now displayed.

# Internal Investigations



17 internal investigations were conducted in 2023. Of those investigations, 6 were initiated by the department, and 11 were citizen complaints.

## DEPARTMENT INITIATED INTERNAL INVESTIGATIONS BY YEAR

| INVESTIGATIVE FINDINGS | 2019      | 2020      | 2021      | 2022      | 2023     |
|------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|
| SUSTAINED              | 10        | 11        | 20        | 11        | 5        |
| NOT SUSTAINED          | 2         | 1         | 0         | 1         | 1        |
| UNFOUNDED              | 1         | 1         | 2         | 1         | 0        |
| EXONERATED             | 3         | 3         | 0         | 0         | 0        |
| NO FORMAL COMPLAINT    | 0         | 0         | 2         | 3         | 0        |
| <b>TOTAL</b>           | <b>16</b> | <b>16</b> | <b>24</b> | <b>16</b> | <b>6</b> |

Sustained = The allegation is supported by sufficient proof.

Not Sustained = The evidence is not sufficient to prove or disprove the allegation.

Unfounded = The allegation is false or otherwise not based on valid facts.

Exonerated = The incident that occurred or was complained against was lawful and proper.

# Internal Investigations



## CITIZEN COMPLAINTS BY YEAR

| INVESTIGATIVE FINDINGS | 2019      | 2020      | 2021     | 2022     | 2023      |
|------------------------|-----------|-----------|----------|----------|-----------|
| SUSTAINED              | 2         | 2         | 0        | 5        | 7         |
| NOT SUSTAINED          | 3         | 1         | 2        | 1        | 0         |
| UNFOUNDED              | 1         | 5         | 0        | 0        | 2         |
| EXONERATED             | 3         | 3         | 5        | 1        | 0         |
| NO FORMAL COMPLAINT    | 1         | 0         | 0        | 0        | 2         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>           | <b>10</b> | <b>11</b> | <b>7</b> | <b>7</b> | <b>11</b> |

Sustained = The allegation is supported by sufficient proof.

Not Sustained = The evidence is not sufficient to prove or disprove the allegation.

Unfounded = The allegation is false or otherwise not based on valid facts.

Exonerated = The incident that occurred or was complained against was lawful and proper.

# Use of Force



| USE OF FORCE BY YEAR              | 2019       | 2020       | 2021       | 2022       | 2023       |
|-----------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| DEADLY FORCE                      | 1*         | 1          | 0          | 0          | 0          |
| DISPLAY FIREARM                   | 75         | 72         | 51         | 80         | 75         |
| DISPLAY ELECTRONIC CONTROL DEVICE | 25         | 27         | 27         | 52         | 30         |
| DEPLOY ELECTRONIC CONTROL DEVICE  | 8          | 15         | 13         | 15         | 10         |
| EMPLOY ACTIVE COUNTERMEASURES     | 6          | 11         | 5          | 5          | 5          |
| APPLY HOBBLE DEVICE               | 5          | 7          | 6          | 4          | 10         |
| DEPLOY SPECIALTY IMPACT MUNITIONS | 0          | 1          | 1          | 4          | 0          |
| DEPLOY OLEORESIN CAPSICUM SPRAY   | 3          | 4          | 2          | 0          | 0          |
| DEPLOY IMPACT WEAPON              | 0          | 1          | 0          | 2          | 3          |
| CANINE BITE                       | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0          |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                      | <b>122</b> | <b>139</b> | <b>105</b> | <b>162</b> | <b>133</b> |

\*Task Force Officer Incident, Ashland, WI

# Search Warrants



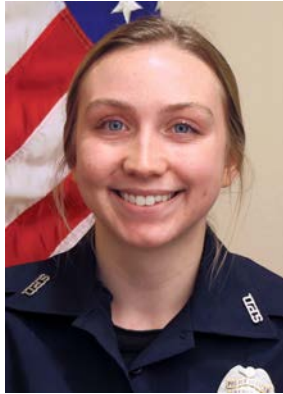
| BY YEAR      | 2019       | 2020      | 2021      | 2022      | 2023      |
|--------------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| January      | 10         | 8         | 4         | 4         | 6         |
| February     | 16         | 8         | 9         | 8         | 10        |
| March        | 18         | 5         | 5         | 10        | 10        |
| April        | 9          | 9         | 7         | 15        | 12        |
| May          | 21         | 16        | 5         | 11        | 1         |
| June         | 9          | 10        | 7         | 5         | 8         |
| July         | 8          | 6         | 7         | 2         | 9         |
| August       | 9          | 8         | 4         | 5         | 8         |
| September    | 6          | 4         | 5         | 4         | 5         |
| October      | 8          | 4         | 6         | 12        | 7         |
| November     | 10         | 4         | 3         | 13        | 10        |
| December     | 3          | 13        | 6         | 7         | 10        |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>127</b> | <b>95</b> | <b>68</b> | <b>96</b> | <b>96</b> |

Search Warrants are utilized to obtain evidence related to a criminal offense.

A search warrant is not only obtained for a person or place but can also be for records and digital data found on electronic devices.



Officer Gus Lopez



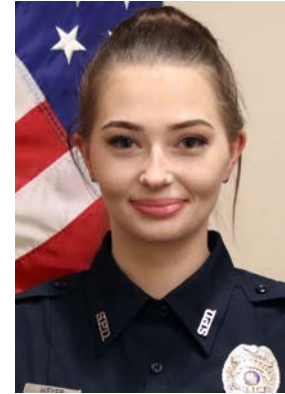
Officer Emily Ross



Officer Stacy Dowling



Officer Mitch Paap



Officer Alison Meyer

Ten new officers joined the SPD in 2023. Officers Gus Lopez, Emily Ross, and Stacy Dowling took the oath in January. Officers Mitch Paap and Alison Meyer were sworn in during March.

## NEW HIRES IN 2023





Officer Jared TenPas



Officer Nathan Rasimus



Officer Ryan Lefebvre



Officer Joe Toth



Officer John Wick

Officer Jared TenPas was sworn in during May. Officers Nathan Rasimus, Ryan LeFebvre, and Joe Toth took the oath in August. Officer John Wick was sworn in during December.

## NEW HIRES IN 2023



CSO Megan Little



CSO Grant VanEss



Court Services Specialist  
Shelly Jarvey



Victim Services  
Coordinator  
Britta West



CSO Brandon Wilterdink

Five civilian staff joined the SPD in 2023. We welcomed CSO's Megan Little, Grant VanEss, and Brandon Wilterdink, in addition to Court Services Specialist Shelly Jarvey and Victim Services Coordinator Britta West.

## NEW HIRES IN 2023



Detective Joel Clark



Sgt. John Rupnick



Captain Jim Veese



Detective Eric Edson



Property/Evidence Officer  
Henry Meller

We said goodbye to five dear friends as they retired from the Department. Detective Joel Clark retired in January with 29 years of service. Sergeant John Rupnick retired in March with over 29 years of service. Captain Jim Veese retired in April with over 31 years of service. Detective Eric Edson retired in June with over 30 years of service. Property/Evidence Manager Henry Meller retired in August with over 28 years of service with the City.

## 2023 RETIREES

# SPD K9 Unit

The SPD K9 Unit worked diligently in 2023 and our K9 teams were used 690 times. The uses included 577 vehicle sniffs, 11 demonstrations, 40 tracks, 4 school sniffs, 16 building searches for humans, and 28 area searches.

The K9s recovered 1491 ounces of Marijuana, 170 marijuana vaporizer cartridges, 34 grams of Cocaine, 639 grams of Methamphetamine, 2 grams of Heroin, 15.6 grams of Fentanyl, 30.5 grams of Ecstasy, 3.6 grams of psilocybin mushrooms, and 106 pieces of drug paraphernalia. In addition, 8 illegal firearms were located and \$12,938 in illegal monies was seized. 352 felony, misdemeanor, and ordinance arrests were made as a result of K9 sniffs.

The K9s assist officers in many different work-related needs that occur on the job. Their special skills include traffic stops, search warrants, tracks, school searches, and article searching. The Unit also provides community presentations highlighting skills and accomplishments. The K9 Unit helps locate not only persons hiding from apprehension, but also locates missing, vulnerable persons in Sheboygan and surrounding Counties.



Officer Heimerl  
and K9 Grimm

Officer Taylor  
and K9 Max





# ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION

## Assistant Chief Kurt Zempel

The Administrative Services Division is responsible for a variety of support services throughout the department. This includes documenting the training of all department members, recruiting and screening candidates to fill entry level Police Officer positions, managing the police facility, managing the offices of the Sergeant of Administration, Crime Analyst, Police Fleet Services, Radios and Communications, and the Volunteers in Police Service Corps.

The Sergeant of Administration is responsible for managing individual members' training, supervising the department's Beat Officers, Community Service Officers and School Crossing Guards, managing the department's parking enforcement and traffic functions, and coordinating the Sheboygan Police Citizens Academy.

The Crime Analyst specializes in data analysis and presentation and provides support to the entire department in the identification of trends, assessing solvability factors, and directing proactive crime prevention strategies.

The Police Fleet consists of 38 different motor vehicles. Our fleet manager is responsible for general maintenance and repairs of all vehicles. In addition, each year, the fleet manager is responsible for fitting newly purchased vehicles with necessary equipment to operate as a police car.

The primary responsibility of the Radio and Electronics Technician is working to support and maintain the Sheboygan County radio communications network. This involves radio service to over 300 mobile and portable radios that function within the City. In our role as a County partner in this project, our technician supports any radios on our county network. In addition, this office maintains the 911 emergency phone systems as well as all radio, paging and emergency alert equipment for the City of Sheboygan, and manages the city's telephone network. Working in conjunction with the IT department, the radio and communications technician maintains several communication and security networks throughout the city. In addition, this position manages mobile data systems for the police department and services and installs various electronic equipment systems.



# TRAINING AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT

In 2023, the department conducted **32** hours of in-service training to maintain the skills and knowledge of all officers on the following topics:

- Bi-annual Pursuit Training
- High Risk Vehicle Contacts
- Handgun and Rifle Qualifications
- Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging
- Local Community Resources
- Eviction Law
- Anti-Harassment Training
- Open Source Investigations
- Active Shooter Scenarios

In addition to in-service training, officers attended advanced courses or specialized schools offered outside the department. In total, officers received more than **7,260** hours of training were provided for sworn personnel, an average of 86 hours per officer.

All of the department's certified instructors attended 8 hours of training to evaluate and coordinate next year's training needs and topics for the department.

**4** members of the Police Department attended Leadership in Police Organizations courses.



**5** new officers hired in 2023 attended the 720-hour recruit academy.



The Administrative Services section oversees the Volunteers in Police Service program. V.I.P.S. provided a variety of support services until services were reduced for volunteer safety during the COVID-19 pandemic.

During 2023, VIP S donated over **481** hours

VIPS are led by Coordinator Penny Weber, who has been able to continue helping the Department by working remotely. Other members who volunteered during part of 2023 were Barb Strauss, Doug Strauss, Lee Ann VanderSande and Bill Young.

Volunteers also include our three current police department chaplains, Chaplain Michael Thomas, Chaplain William Bulson and Chaplain Kristin Berglund. The Sheboygan Police Chaplaincy program was developed to serve as a resource to provide spiritual and emotional support to members of the department, their families and members of the public.

## ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION





## CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION

### Captain Douglas Teunissen

The Criminal Investigation Division encompasses the Detectives, School Resource Officers, MEG Unit, the Property Manager and the Digital Evidence Manager. The Division is responsible for the more complex investigations including homicide, robbery, sexual assault, identity theft, forgery and burglary. 2023 brought change to the Criminal Investigation Division with Det. Eric Edson retiring at the beginning of June as well as our Property Manager, Henry Meller, in August.

CID in 2023 participated in helping instruct our Fall and Spring Inservice, Citizen's Academy, Safety Town, two sessions of the Junior Police Academy, and provided members of the department with Evidence Technician and Interview and Interrogation Training. Community outreach was performed by members of the division throughout the year on the topics like Fraud, internet safety, human trafficking, school safety, and we performed 23 public service announcements conducted at WHBL on crime prevention topics. Additionally, CID provided in-service training in 2023 to both the Sheboygan Fire Department and Shoreline Metro.

The Criminal Investigation Division handled priority investigations. The investigations primarily were sexual assaults, exploitation of children, robbery, burglary, fraud, theft and overdose deaths. Supervision continues to monitor sex offender waivers and handled 48 applications for waivers in 2023. With the help of our SROs in the summer months of 2023 we completed a city wide audit of sex offenders to ensure that all persons living within the jurisdiction were compliant with our local ordinance and the rules of the WI DOC.

## Breakdown of the Cases Assigned to CID

|                          |            |
|--------------------------|------------|
| <b>Total</b>             | <b>328</b> |
| Cleared by Arrest        | 72         |
| Closed                   | 88         |
| Active                   | 22         |
| Inactive                 | 22         |
| Situation Resolved       | 109        |
| Unfounded                | 8          |
| Information Only (Intel) | 1          |
| Referred to Other Agency | 2          |
| Void                     | 2          |
| Other                    | 2          |

**Cleared by Arrest:** An investigation resulting in at least one arrest.

**Closed:** An investigation that is closed with no arrests.

**Active:** Currently assigned and under investigation.

**Inactive:** A case in which all current investigative leads have been exhausted, but will be reopened if new information is obtained.

**Situation resolved:** A case in which law enforcement assisted in resolving an incident, no arrests were made, and no additional investigation was anticipated.

**Unfounded:** A case reported to law enforcement but investigation revealed the incident did not occur as reported, deemed false or baseless.

**Information:** A report used to compile information, often criminal intelligence.

## Breakdown of Cases Assigned to School Resources Officers

|                          |     |
|--------------------------|-----|
| Total                    | 424 |
| Cleared by Arrest        | 319 |
| Closed                   | 9   |
| Active                   | 5   |
| Inactive                 | 12  |
| Situation Resolved       | 71  |
| Unfounded                | 2   |
| Information Only (Intel) | 2   |
| Referred to Other Agency | 0   |
| Void                     | 3   |
| Other                    | 1   |

**Cleared by Arrest:** An investigation resulting in at least one arrest.

**Closed:** An investigation that is closed with no arrests.

**Active:** Currently assigned and under investigation.

**Inactive:** A case in which all current investigative leads have been exhausted, but will be reopened if new information is obtained.

**Situation resolved:** A case in which law enforcement assisted in resolving an incident, no arrests were made, and no additional investigation was anticipated.

**Unfounded:** A case reported to law enforcement but investigation revealed the incident did not occur as reported, deemed false or baseless.

**Information:** A report used to compile information, often criminal intelligence.

Since 2008, the Sheboygan Police Department has partnered with the United States Marshals Service (USMS) by assigning an officer to their Great Lakes Regional Fugitive Task Force (Eastern District of Wisconsin). This assignment is staffed by Det. Ryan Walloch in 2023. The purpose of this assignment is to assist the USMS in locating and apprehending violent fugitives in and from our community. Last year, this partnership led to the arrests of 32 fugitives with ties to Sheboygan in three different states, and included seizures of firearms, narcotics, and currency.



**CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION**



The Sheboygan County Human Trafficking Task Force is a multidisciplinary team committed to empowering survivors of human trafficking through community education, prevention, and partnerships. They prioritize awareness and prevention when it comes to human trafficking. The Sheboygan Police Department supports the task force through participation, sharing their social media posts, engaging in outreach activities with the task force, and supporting them by helping to create their outreach materials.



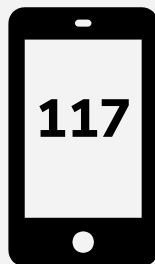
### Achievements for 2023

|   |      |
|---|------|
| Total number of media features            | 4    |
| Total number of team meetings held        | 13   |
| Total number of community presentations   | 24   |
| Total number of youths reached            | 500  |
| Total number of community members reached | 675  |
| Total number of social media followers    | 1550 |

The Task Force hosted the first Wear Blue Day event at City Hall on January 11, 2023 for Human Trafficking Awareness Day. This event encouraged community members to join us, wearing blue, to support prevention and awareness efforts. Over 60 professionals, citizens and elected officials joined us to show support for victims of human trafficking.

Technology and the ability to use technology is required within Law Enforcement in order to conduct investigations and share evidence with supporting agencies. Members of the Sheboygan Police Investigative Division are members of the WI DOJ ICAC (Internet Crimes Against Children) Task Force. Detectives handled 25 ICAC investigations in 2023 associated with Child Sexual Abuse Material. In 2023 we completed our project of refurbishing our computer lab with newer hardware. In 2024 we will be working on projects related to software upgrades. We plan to purchase AI software for redaction for the Digital Evidence Manager to create efficiencies related to the amount of time it takes to prepare Discovery and Open records requests for release. We have also purchased some industry leading digital intelligence and investigations software for our Crime Analyst and Detectives to increase our abilities to use technology to conduct investigations. Training on this software is scheduled to begin early in January 2024.

The Digital Evidence Manager, Cole Squire, is responsible for the storage of our digital evidence, compiling requests for discovery, and completing requests for open records requests received by the department.



117 Forensic Phone Downloads

## CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION

In September 2023, Zac Jensema was promoted to Property & Evidence Manager after Henry Meller retired. The Property and Evidence Manager assigned to CID is instrumental in managing items taken into possession by the SPD. In addition, those items are tracked as they are routed to and from supporting agencies like the State of Wisconsin Crime Lab. It is also their responsibility to return and purge items no longer needed for investigative purposes. In 2021 and 2022, the efforts to return and purge items was made a priority for the division with 17,885 items removed from the evidence/property storage locations and only 6,808 taken in. This project will remain a priority for the division until we are only housing those items still required for the investigation or prosecution of cases.

Total number of property & evidence items  
logged into the SPD property room

**2,897**

Total number of property & evidence items  
purged or returned

**3,999**



**169**

Items processed  
at the Crime Lab



**1,948** Pounds

Collected in the Prescription  
Drug Drop Off Box

**CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION**



Congratulations to Sgt. Michael Thielke, Lt. Sarah Blodgett and the Sheboygan County MEG Unit for your recognition as the IACP / Thomson Reuters, Excellence in Criminal Investigations Award winner at the 2023 International Association of Chiefs of Police Conference. This award recognizes exceptional innovation in managing and conducting criminal investigations with the goal of sharing information to advance the area and science of criminal investigations.

The Sheboygan County Multi-Enforcement Group investigated methamphetamine and fentanyl trafficking in a tri-county area in Wisconsin. The investigation ended up targeting and international drug trafficking operation with leadership in Mexico. The investigation resulted in the seizure of kilos of meth and tens of thousands of fentanyl pills and the dismantling of an organization posing great danger to a tri-county area.



**CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION**

In March of 2023 Sarah Blodgett was selected as Woman Police Officer of the Year by the Wisconsin Association of Women Police. Lieutenant Blodgett was nominated for the outstanding leadership she demonstrated as the Commander of the Sheboygan County MEG Unit. She is an amazing role model who has strengthened relationships and increased teamwork.

Michael Thielke was recognized at the Wisconsin State Assembly as a recipient of the 2023 Hometown Hero Award. State Representative Amy Binsfield and Terry Katsma commended his bravery and service to the community. Sergeant Thielke has made extraordinary efforts to combat narcotic distribution which likely has saved many lives.



**CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION**



## VICTIM SERVICES COORDINATOR

2023 saw the SPD receive an award from the International Association of the Chiefs of Police to create a new position for a Victim Services Coordinator. The role of the Victim Services Coordinator (VCS) is to be a support for victims of any types of crime. The VCS is an advocate that can offer victims emotional support and safety planning, information about the justice system, help connecting to resources and can guide victims through paperwork. Through supportive conversation, the VCS can help identify unmet needs and work with the victim to find local or national organizations for support. Ultimately, the VCS is working alongside others to provide support and explain rights to victims. After a competitive search to fill this position, in October, Britta West was chosen to be our first ever VCS and has already attempted, or has contacted, 60 crime victims to offer services to them by the end of 2023.

# THE MEG UNIT

The Sheboygan County MEG Unit continued to address narcotic sales and distribution. In addition to arresting offenders, significant amounts of narcotics were seized during the investigations. The street value of these narcotics is great but the true value was not allowing these narcotics into the hands of users.

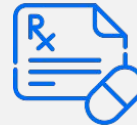


## Illegal Drugs Seized

5.2 lbs. of marijuana, 5.14lbs of meth,  
195g of fentanyl, 3.28 lbs. cocaine

24

Community Talks about Drug Awareness & the Opioid Crisis



2,920.40

Pounds

National Prescription Drug Take Back Campaign



## PATROL DIVISION

### Captain Joel Kuszyński

The Sheboygan Police Department's patrol division is responsible for responding to calls for service from the community, providing uniformed patrol in marked squad cars to help deter crime and enforce traffic laws, and to work collaboratively with neighborhoods to resolve ongoing crime and quality of life problems. The division provides around-the-clock police services with a staff of approximately 60 police officers and supervisors. Patrol officers and supervisors are also assigned a group of neighborhoods in the city where they are responsible for monitoring ongoing problems and building relationships with residents, stakeholders and other service providers to help improve quality of life in neighborhoods.

All members of the patrol division are encouraged to be proactive in addressing crime, traffic, and disorder problems that arise throughout the city and in their assigned neighborhoods. This includes promoting methods for residents and businesses to prevent victimization by caring for and securing their properties, using exterior lighting at night, and engaging in safe driving practices. All officers in the patrol division are responsible for monitoring their assigned areas for public safety trends and threats, and then use education, collaboration and enforcement strategies to help resolve them.

In 2023, the patrol division utilized social media in partnership with increased enforcement to address conditions and behaviors that lead to traffic crashes, crime and other quality-of-life problems. The department focused on a different topic each month utilizing social media to educate the public about violations that contribute to crashes, how to keep your property safe from theft or burglary, or school safety tips. At the same time, officers were out in the community spreading the same awareness and education message and paying attention for those same behaviors. This helped us maintain reported crashes in the city below our goal of 1,500 for the fourth year in a row and also contributed to historically low property crimes. We appreciate the support of our residents in helping to prevent crimes and crashes!



Neighborhood officers coordinated our annual spring clean-up project with city building inspection, focusing on blighted properties in Sheboygan's most at-risk neighborhoods. These neighborhoods are identified through visual assessments of property conditions conducted by the building inspection department, as well as calls for police service involving crime and disorder problems. The officers work with building inspection to address the conditions in neighborhoods that tend to contribute to physical disorder, social disorder, and crime.



Neighborhood officers again used Sheboygan's favorite sausage to bring neighbors and community members together to help improve the resilience and familiarity in Sheboygan's neighborhoods. "Brat with a Cop" pop-up barbecues have become a popular way to connect officers with residents to identify problems.



Members of the department and their families again worked with Black American Community Outreach to coordinate grilling and serving food at Sheboygan's Juneteenth Day celebration at Kiwanis Park.





In August, the Sheboygan Police Department, City of Sheboygan, and Black American Community Outreach hosted the 4th annual Community Barbecue and Walk for Unity. We gathered at Fountain Park and carried ribbons with messages of unity and peace to Peace Park, where they were tied to the unity tree. Back at Fountain Park there was food, games and information from our great community partners. Thanks to all who made it a great event!



Members of the patrol division again supported the annual City of Sheboygan Landlord Training Program, which helps landlords learn how to support vibrant neighborhoods through responsible rental practices.



Our Neighborhood Beat Patrol officers and other volunteers from City departments hosted the 7th annual “Operation Blue Santa” which provided a holiday dinner, presents and photos with Santa to six Sheboygan families, as well as a ride through “Making Spirits Bright” on the Shoreline Metro trolley.





In 2023, Officer Alicia Kegler and Officer Kimberly Yang were selected to take on the role of Beat Officer. Both officers bring a strong commitment to community policing to the position. On a daily basis they spend time in local schools, playgrounds, parks or simply just walking the beat to build relationships with children and families in their assigned areas.

## NEIGHBORHOOD BEAT OFFICERS

The Beat Officer Position was created in 2016 and consists of two officers specifically assigned to identified neighborhoods on the North and South side of the city. The Beat Officers engage in outreach activities to build relationships, form partnerships, identify and solve problems. Beat Officers develop plans and activities that decrease the impact of problems within the neighborhood, leading to a decrease in crime and an increase in social cohesion and collective efficacy within the Neighborhood. By working in a collaborative manner with Neighborhood Associations, community members and organizations, City Planning and Development, and Building Inspection, they develop solutions that are specific to the neighborhoods that they are assigned to. Beat Officers address quality of life issues, focusing on voluntary compliance. With the assistance of DPW and city residents, 50.61 tons of garbage and large items were collected and disposed of throughout the city at Neighborhood Clean-ups. In addition to focusing on Neighborhoods, Beat Officers work collectively with other citizens and organizations to create positive outcomes within our community.



## INFORMATION SERVICES DIVISION

Cassandra Wohlgemuth

Information Services at the Sheboygan Police Department consists of the following positions:

1 Office Manager, 2 Administrative Specialists, 1 Administrative Specialist/Time Agency Coordinator, 2 Court Services Specialists, 7 Records Specialist Clerks, 1 PT Records Specialist Clerk, 1 LTE (limited term employment) Records Specialist Clerk.

The civilian staff are the foundation of the department and provide support to all levels of the department. Without their competence, leadership and attention to detail, processes and service to our citizens would come to a halt. The civilian staff is very proud to provide excellent service to the department and citizens of Sheboygan.

The following slides contain statistical data compiled by the Crime Analyst.



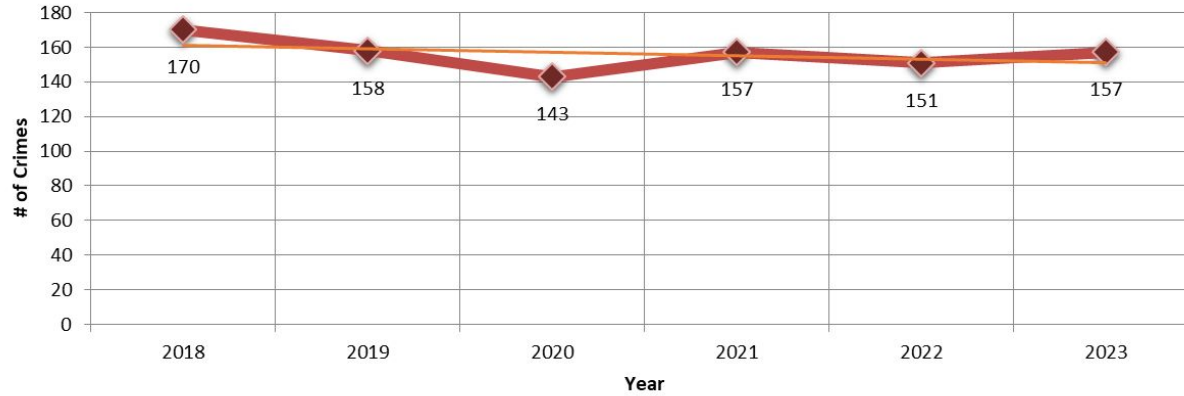
**23,024**

Total number of law incident complaints for the  
City of Sheboygan Police Department in 2023

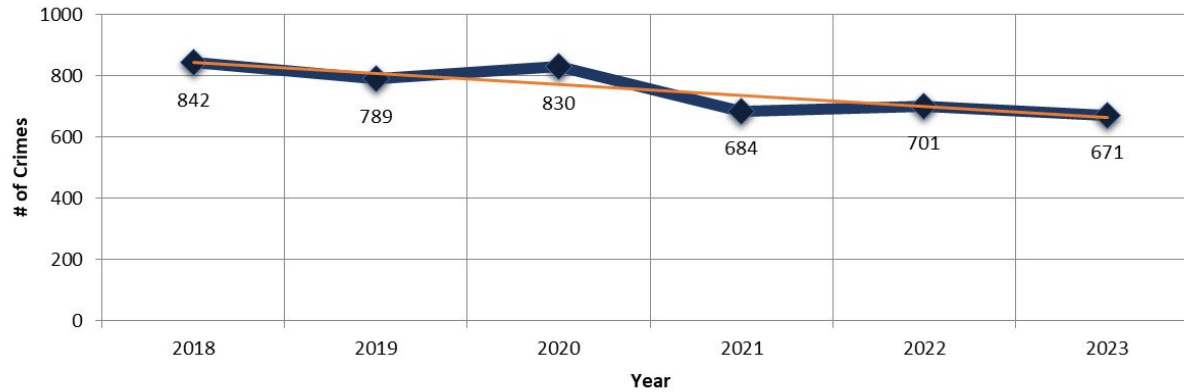
| Part I Crimes             |              |            |            |            |            |                         |            |
|---------------------------|--------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|------------|
|                           | 2018         | 2019       | 2020       | 2021       | 2022       | 2018-2022<br>5 Yr. Avg. | 2023       |
| <b>Homicide</b>           | 0            | 1          | 2          | 1          | 0          | 1                       | <b>0</b>   |
| <b>Rape</b>               | 14           | 33         | 20         | 39         | 30         | 27                      | <b>32</b>  |
| <b>Robbery</b>            | 10           | 10         | 14         | 5          | 11         | 10                      | <b>8</b>   |
| <b>Agg. Assault</b>       | 146          | 114        | 107        | 112        | 110        | 118                     | <b>117</b> |
| <b><i>Violent</i></b>     | <b>170</b>   | <b>158</b> | <b>143</b> | <b>157</b> | <b>151</b> | <b>156</b>              | <b>157</b> |
| <b>Burglary</b>           | 90           | 89         | 96         | 82         | 65         | 84                      | <b>65</b>  |
| <b>Theft</b>              | 719          | 678        | 689        | 563        | 597        | 649                     | <b>585</b> |
| <b>MV Theft</b>           | 25           | 19         | 35         | 34         | 29         | 28                      | <b>19</b>  |
| <b>Arson</b>              | 8            | 3          | 10         | 5          | 10         | 7                       | <b>2</b>   |
| <b><i>Non-Violent</i></b> | <b>842</b>   | <b>789</b> | <b>830</b> | <b>684</b> | <b>701</b> | <b>769</b>              | <b>671</b> |
| <b>Total Part I</b>       | <b>1,012</b> | <b>947</b> | <b>973</b> | <b>841</b> | <b>852</b> | <b>925</b>              | <b>828</b> |

In 2017, the SPD transitioned from reporting crime in the Uniform Crime Reporting format to the National Incident-Based Reporting System Format. The NIBRS reporting includes up to 10 offenses per incident, provides detail on the context of crime, improves understanding on multi-offense incidents and collects data on 52 crimes across 24 offense categories.

### Annual Violent Crime

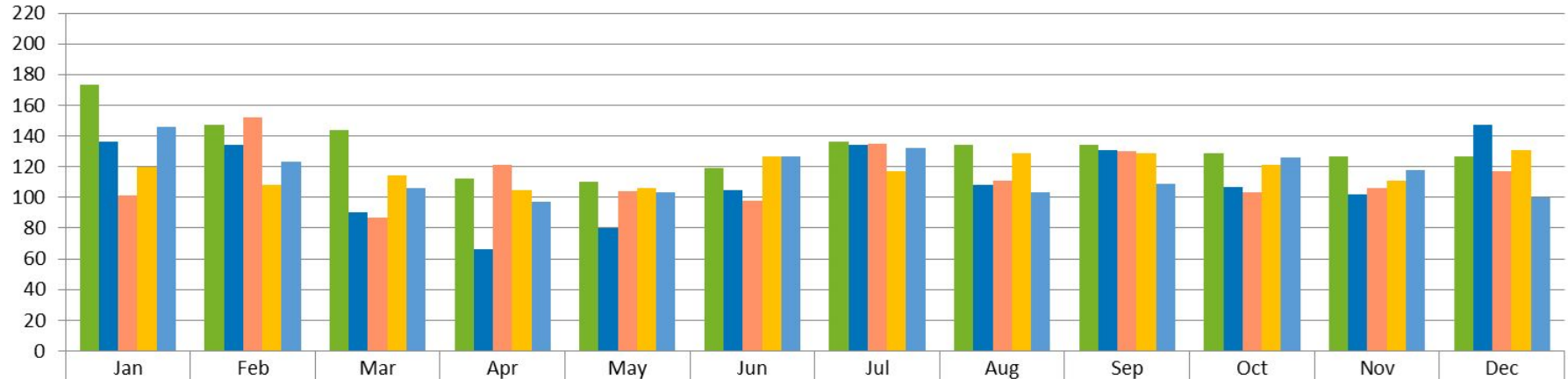


### Annual Non-Violent Crime



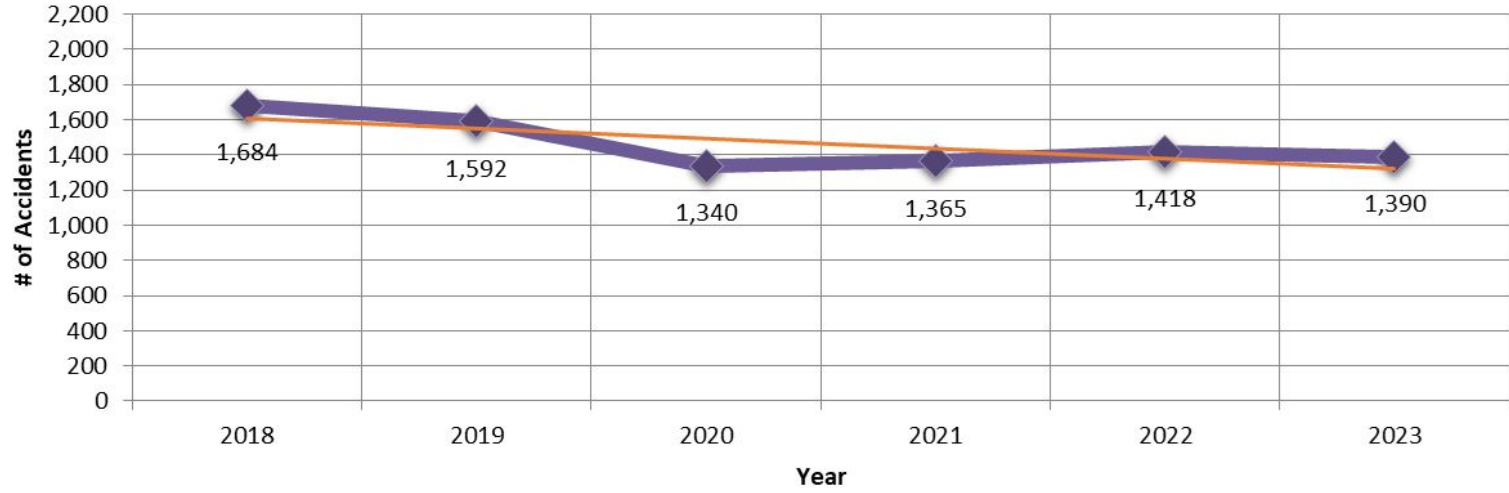
# Traffic Accident Data

|                   |       |                   |       |                   |     |                |     |
|-------------------|-------|-------------------|-------|-------------------|-----|----------------|-----|
| <b>2022 Total</b> | 1,418 | <b>2023 Total</b> | 1,390 | <b>Difference</b> | -28 | <b>Percent</b> | -2% |
|-------------------|-------|-------------------|-------|-------------------|-----|----------------|-----|



|        | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|--------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| ■ 2019 | 173 | 147 | 144 | 112 | 110 | 119 | 136 | 134 | 134 | 129 | 127 | 127 |
| ■ 2020 | 136 | 134 | 90  | 66  | 80  | 105 | 134 | 108 | 131 | 107 | 102 | 147 |
| ■ 2021 | 101 | 152 | 87  | 121 | 104 | 98  | 135 | 111 | 130 | 103 | 106 | 117 |
| ■ 2022 | 120 | 108 | 114 | 105 | 106 | 127 | 117 | 129 | 129 | 121 | 111 | 131 |
| ■ 2023 | 146 | 123 | 106 | 97  | 103 | 127 | 132 | 103 | 109 | 126 | 118 | 100 |

# Annual Traffic Accidents



# COMMUNITY OUTREACH

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Partnering together to make our City  
the best it can be.





The Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run is an effort to increase awareness and raise funds for Special Olympics of Wisconsin. The Torch Run made its way through the north side of Sheboygan on June 8th, 2023. Participants then continued on to the Kohler Police Department and the Sheboygan Falls Police Department.



LAW ENFORCEMENT  
**TORCH RUN**<sup>®</sup>  
FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS

# 2023 Citizen Academy



March 14th, 2023 marked the beginning of the 27th Annual Citizen Academy. 23 citizens participated in this 11 week academy, which provides citizens with an opportunity to gain knowledge and a better understanding of the vision, values, goals, and operations of the Sheboygan Police Department. The Citizen Academy is designed to be interactive through lectures, demonstrations and practical exercises. Participants are exposed to many areas of police work including the hiring process, current department initiatives, police investigations, use of force, and the legal system.





# 2023 Junior Police Academy



In 2023, the SPD hosted two Junior Police Academy (JPA) sessions. JPA is taught by our School Resource Officers and supported by other members of the department. JPA builds partnerships with pre-teen and adolescent students, motivating them to be responsible, involved citizens. It transforms the instructor from “police officer” to “mentor.” Graduates had a chance to experience mock crime scenes, collect evidence, conduct simulated traffic stops, and learn arrest and defensive tactics. We also want to thank the Sheboygan County Sheriff’s Office for supporting us by having their Drone Team present and providing a tour of their armored vehicle.

# Safety Town 2023



In June, The Sheboygan Service Club partnered with the Sheboygan Police Department in hosting the 2023 Safety Town. Safety Town is a safety education program. It teaches safety awareness and accident prevention in a fun, hands-on setting.

There were 95 kids over the 2-week program. We saw presentations from the police department, fire department, Dr. Dan Opel, and the health department. We learned about gun safety, stranger danger, pet safety, swimming safety, and many others. All the kids graduated from the program with a personalized safety town license and a head full of knowledge.





# Neighborhood Events



Throughout 2023, officers were able to meet many of our neighbors during neighborhood clean ups, Coffee with a Cop, and many other community events.





# 4th Annual Unity Walk & Community BBQ



The Sheboygan Police Department was proud to be a part of the 3rd annual "Unity Walk" in partnership with Black-American Community Outreach and the City of Sheboygan - City Hall. Thanks to everyone who showed up and made it a great event!





# 2023 Cops and Bobbers



Sharing the fun of fishing turns strangers into friends in just a few hours!

We sure made lots of friends this year at our annual Cops and Bobbers fishing trip. 32 children and their parents joined us in July for a great morning of fishing. We are so grateful to our awesome community partners that make this event possible each year. We could not do it without you!





# 2023 Cop on a Rooftop



Representatives from the Sheboygan Police Department, the Wisconsin State Patrol, the Sheboygan County Sheriff's Office and other local law enforcement agencies helped raise money for Special Olympics of WI at the 11th Annual Dunkin' Cop on a Rooftop event.

**COP ON A ROOFTOP**

# Supporting the Schools



Beat Copy Alicia Kegler was joined by a special helper at the Wilson School Fall Fest.

Officer Dekker McCabe joined the Boys and Girls Clubs of Sheboygan County for their Field Day Longfellow Elementary. The dunk tank was a popular activity!





# SPD, Hmong Mutual Assistance Association of Sheboygan and Safe Harbor - Circle Conversation on Domestic Abuse and Sex Assault



The Sheboygan Police Department partnered with the Hmong Mutual Assistance Association of Sheboygan and Safe Harbor in hosting a circle conversation to discuss domestic abuse and sexual assault within the Hmong community. Officer Kim Yang lead this important discussion and the event was inspiring and encouraging for all who participated.

## 2023 Shop with a Cop



Members of the Sheboygan Police Department volunteered their time to participate in the 26th annual Shop with a Cop program. Officers Heimerl (and his K9 partner Grimm), Yang, Hang, and Meyer, Detectives Kehoe and Danen, along with Lt. Blodgett and Chief Domagalski shared a meal and helped children shop for gifts.



# 7th Annual Operation Blue Santa



The SPD hosted the 7th Annual Operation Blue Santa. With the help of other City Departments and our sponsors, we were able to assist 6 families and 24 children! They played games, colored, and read stories with officers and volunteers. Woodlake Market provided a wonderful dinner and Blue Santa distributed gifts for all the kids. The night finished off with a trolley ride through Rotary Making Spirits Bright!

# Celebrating Success

**The 2023 Sheboygan Police  
Benevolent Association  
Service Awards**



# 2023 Sheboygan Police Benevolent Association Service Awards



The Service Awards recipients were nominated by fellow officers, supervisors and civilian co-workers. They represent those who strive to go above and beyond what is expected of them by their peers and the public. These men and women...our co-workers, friends and family members...did not ask to be put in heroic situations, but rather found themselves in circumstances that allowed them to demonstrate the qualities of a hero.



## Police Officer of the Year:

Presented to an officer for exemplary service to the community, which involves performance and achievement above and beyond that which is required by an officer's basic assignment.



Detective Brandon Kehoe

## Civilian Employee of the Year:

Presented to a non-sworn employee for exemplary service to the community, performance and achievement above and beyond that which is required by the employee's basic assignment.



Record Specialist  
Beth Gruenke



# 2023 Sheboygan Police Benevolent Association Service Awards

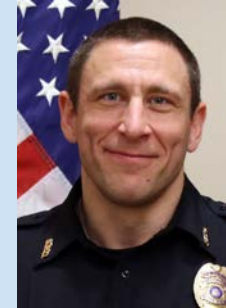


## Meritorious Service Award:

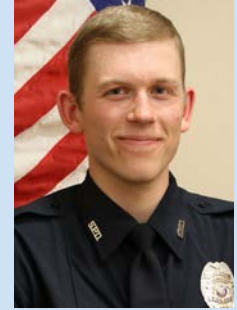
Presented to an officer for exceptional performance of outstanding service on behalf of the department, while carrying out an act of great responsibility, or of critical importance to law enforcement.



Officer Kim Yang



Sergeant Mike Thielke



Officer Jordan Stoelb



Officer Isaiah Trussell

## Community Engagement Award:

Presented to an officer who demonstrates outstanding performance in community outreach and engagement, and recognizes initiatives that show potential for long-term impact on the community and its relationship with the Sheboygan Police Department.

## Citizen's Distinguished Service Award:

Presented to individuals, who are not members of the police department, who through courageous acts of bravery and/or personal risk have assisted in apprehending a criminal, aiding an officer during a critical incident, or who demonstrated exceptional cooperation with the department in the accomplishment of its mission.

**Not pictured:**

Dawn Mervyn

# Thank you

For your support in 2023

Miesfeld's

Tietz's Piggly Wiggly

Art's BBQ

Festival Foods

Black American Community Outreach

McDonald's

Friends of Peace Park

Modern Woodmen of America

Meijer

Lost Sheep Yarn Shop

Woodlake Market

Stephanie Myla Photography

Shoreline Metro

Chris's Bait and Tackle

Jimmy John's

Local UAW 833

Rooster Gobblers

O'Callaghan's

The Wharf

Sheboygan Fire Department

Hmong Mutual Assistance Association

Sheboygan County Veterans Services

City of Sheboygan Department of Public Works

Sheboygan Neighborhood Associations

Sheboygan County Health & Human Services

Sheboygan Countywide Crime Stoppers

Sheboygan County Sheriff's Department

Sheboygan Police Benevolent Association

# Thank you



## For your support of the SPD K9 Fund

Dowsky's Raw Dawg

Sheboygan Animal Hospital

Healthy Paws

Lenny Johnson

Dennis and Kay Runge

Sheboygan Neighborhood Pride

Brett's Towing and Auto Repair

Pamela Oehldrich

Ballhorn Chapels and Crematory

Sheboygan Animal Hospital



David Bongel

Michael Burch

Noreen Maass

Theodore Bergstrom

Colin Sweet Memorial Fund

Vincent and Kathleen Shircel

UAW Local 833

Sargento Foods

Merry Heimerl

Healthy Paws Veterinary Clinic

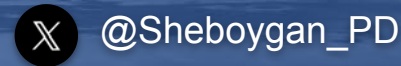


# SPD 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

The Sheboygan Police Department's 2023 Annual Report was produced by Cassandra Wohlgemuth and Cal Stoffel.

Special thanks to all those who submitted information to make this report possible and to Detective Paul Olsen for many of the beautiful photos.

Sheboygan Police Department  
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Sheboygan, WI 53081  
sheboyganpolice.com



The SPD utilizes the following social media venues to disseminate information to the public; Nixle, X, Nextdoor, Facebook and YouTube. Nixle is a community information system that is available via email, your cell phone via text message, and over the web via X and Facebook.