

ST. FRANCIS POLICE DEPARTMENT

2023
ANNUAL REPORT



4058 St. Francis Blvd. NW
St. Francis, Minnesota 55070

www.stfrancismn.org

 Saint Francis - MN Police Department

763-753-1264



PREVIOUS POLICE DEPARTMENT / CITY HALL BUILDING



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OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Our Mission

The St. Francis Police Department is dedicated to provide fair and impartial police service to all persons through education and enforcement. The goal of the St. Francis Police Department is to provide a safer community through partnering with its citizens.

Core Values

We pledge to uphold the core principles in the Police Officer's Code of Ethics. We utilize this code as our moral compass guiding us to make proper choices.

Integrity

We will act with integrity, which means always doing the right thing legally, ethically and morally.

Respect

We respect all people without personal prejudice, bias, or favoritism.

Courage

We have moral courage and we do what is right even if the personal cost is high.

Trust

We will work to be trusted in the community, we will set a standard for always being truthful and fair.



*To Protect
And Serve*



Message from Chief Schwieger

On behalf of the City of St. Francis I am pleased to present the 2023 St. Francis Police Department Annual Report. In this report, you will see a summary of the police department operations including daily law enforcement activities and accomplishments as well as our commitment to community engagement.

The police department has a dedicated, professional staff of twelve sworn officers, five reserve officers, and two administrative clerical staff, all who are dedicated and work diligently to provide superior public safety services to the 8,300 residents of St. Francis. Despite the challenges of officer recruitment and retention, the department has a well-seasoned staff of officers who continue to dedicate themselves to the community. The department also welcomed Officer James Bolte in February of 2023 who has proven to be a great addition to the department.

The mission of the police department focuses on providing a fair and impartial service to all persons and maintaining a safe community through partnering with its citizens. A safe community takes all of us and by having a good relationship with members of the community, we can assure that St. Francis remains a great place to live, work, and visit.

The St. Francis Community can remain confident that their police department will be there in the time of need and will serve with integrity, respect, courage and trust. I am very proud and honored to work with the outstanding men and women that make up the St. Francis Police Department. Thank you for your support and we look forward to another year of providing quality public safety services to the St. Francis Community.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Todd Schwieger".

Todd Schwieger
Chief of Police
St. Francis Police Department

ADMINISTRATION



Sergeant Larson

Sergeant Larson has been with the St. Francis Police Department since 2006 and has served as a department sergeant for the past six years. He has many roles within the department including overseeing officer training and firearms instruction as well as the firearms armorer. Sergeant Larson has a passion for specialized training including active shooter and tactical training that he instructs for the department. He also oversees the department's field training for new officers and predatory offender registrations. Some of his day-to-day responsibilities at the police department are patrolling, supervising the officers, reviewing and approving officer's reports, viewing of body camera footage, and handling citizen's requests.



Sergeant Stemme

Sergeant Stemme has been with the St. Francis Police Department since 2005 and was recently promoted to Sergeant in July of 2023. Sergeant Stemme is one of the department's Field Training Officers and has a strong passion for traffic safety. He has coordinated the department's Toward Zero Deaths (TZD) program since 2007. Sergeant Stemme oversees the department Reserve Program, manages inventory, does scheduling for patrol, and conducts monthly log and report audits. Some of the day-to-day operations include patrolling, supervising officers, reviewing and approving reports, viewing body camera footage, handling citizen requests, and sending media reports.



Administrative Assistant Lori Roberts

Lori Roberts has been with St Francis Police Department records department since 2008 and the Administrative Assistant since 2013. Her responsibilities are keeping up with training, overseeing day-to-day operations, handling statistical data for crime reporting, responding to data requests, preparing the quarterly and annual reports, along with scheduling. Lori is also involved with helping facilitate community events throughout the year.

STAFF DIRECTORY

St. Francis Police Department consists of three command staff, one Investigator, eight licensed police officers and one support staff. In addition, there are five reserve officers and two chaplains.



**Investigator
Nathan Schwieger**



Officer Chris Bulera



Officer Amanda Dzuris



Officer Lyle Hearn



Officer Chase Hedges



Officer Derek Barck



Officer Gerry Chanthapanya



Officer James Bolte



**Sandy Hom
Records Clerk**



**Pastor Steve Brower
Chaplain**



**Pastor Timothy Vaughn
Chaplain**



New Officer In Training



**Reserve Captain
Rich Johnson**



**Reserve Officer
Richard Sieber**



**Reserve Officer
Brad Peterson**



**Reserve Officer
Blake Schwieger**



**Reserve Officer
Zachary Schwieger**

INVESTIGATIONS

The Investigations unit reviews and follows up on reports submitted by officers. The investigations unit also receives and reviews Anoka County Child Protection cases as well as Minnesota Adult Abuse Reporting Center cases. Other duties include conducting employment background checks for new hires, conducting surveillance, compliance checks, managing evidence, preparing and serving search warrants.

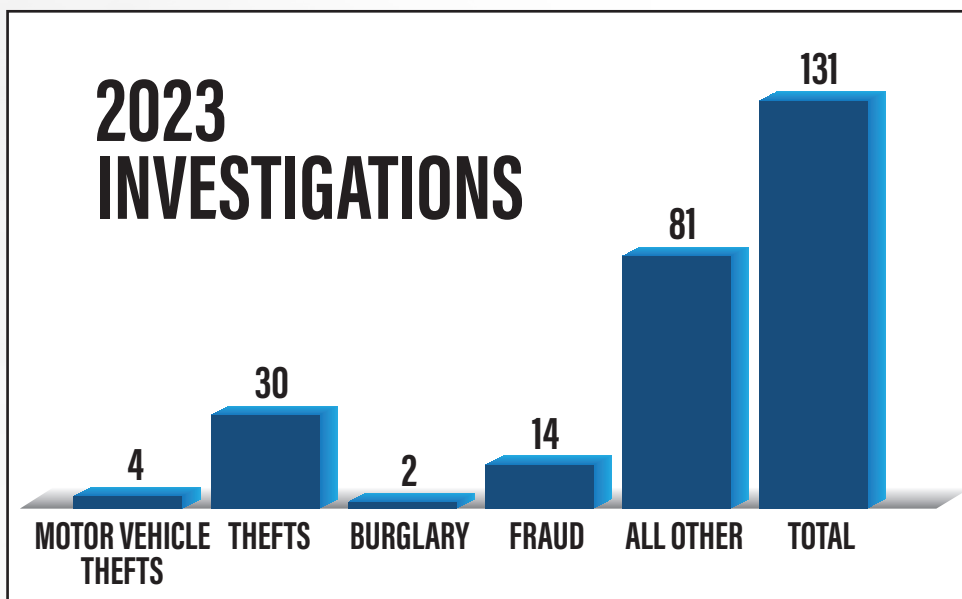
The investigations unit conducts evidence collection on scenes when needed. The unit processes scenes and collects evidence by taking photos, collecting DNA swabs and fingerprints. Evidence will be taken to the Midwest Regional Laboratory at the Anoka County Sheriff's Office where testing is performed. Collecting DNA from crime scenes has proven to be very successful in identifying a suspect.

Types of criminal cases investigated include felony forgery, identity theft, felony theft, burglary, motor vehicle theft, felony financial transaction card fraud and many others. The investigations unit also works with other agencies on multiple cases.

A standout case from 2023 involved a 2nd degree residential burglary in which multiple items were stolen along with firearms. The burglary also caused thousands of dollars of damage to the home. The investigations unit processed the burglary scene by taking photos, DNA swabs and video was obtained from homes and businesses of the surrounding area. After multiple search warrants, items from the burglary scene were successfully recovered and a matching shoe print was used to obtain a confession from the suspect. As a result, the suspect was convicted and is now serving multiple years in prison for the crime.

The investigation unit conducted compliance checks for tobacco and alcohol in 2023. All establishments where tobacco and alcohol are sold within the city were compliant with no violations found.

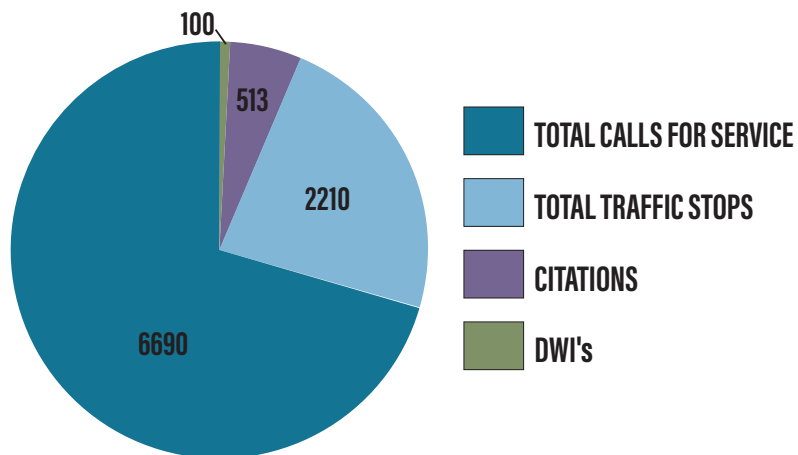
The investigations unit is also in charge of all evidence. Officers will turn over evidence to the investigations unit where it is recorded and placed in the secure evidence room.



PATROL AND ACCIDENTS

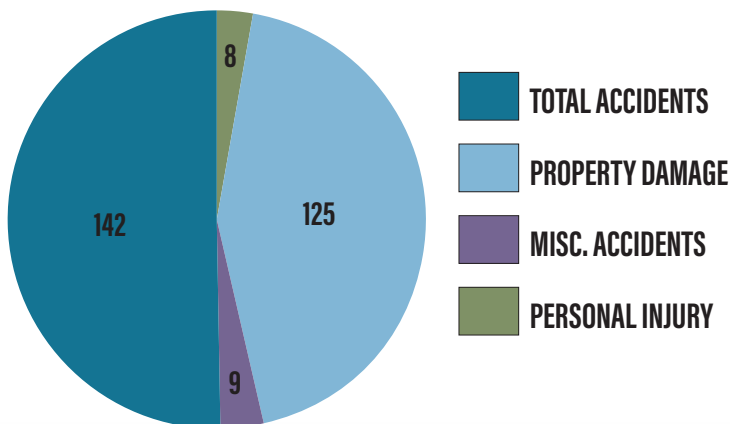
2023 Patrol

St. Francis Officers patrol 24 hours a day everyday, responding to approximately 7000 incidents per year. Of those incidents over 2000 were traffic related incidents with over 500 citations issued and 100 DWI arrests.



2023 Accidents

In 2023, there were 142 vehicle accidents within the city of St. Francis. Officers responded to 125 property damage accidents and 8 personal injury accidents and 9 personal injury.



2023 AVERAGE RESPONSE TIME

High Priority Call Type
5:11 minutes

Low Priority Call Type
6:17 minutes

BY THE NUMBERS (NOT ALL CRIMES ARE REPRESENTED HERE)

2022



6167
TOTAL CALLS FOR SERVICE

2023



6690
TOTAL CALLS FOR SERVICE



151
ARRESTS (JUVENILES INCLUDED)



17
DOMESTIC ASSAULT ARRESTS



513
CITATIONS



470
MEDICALS



421
DRIVING CITATIONS



179
ANIMAL/DOG COMPLAINTS



27
NOISE COMPLAINTS



21
PARKING CITATIONS



20
NEIGHBOR COMPLAINTS/DISPUTES



14
ATV/DIRT BIKE COMPLAINTS



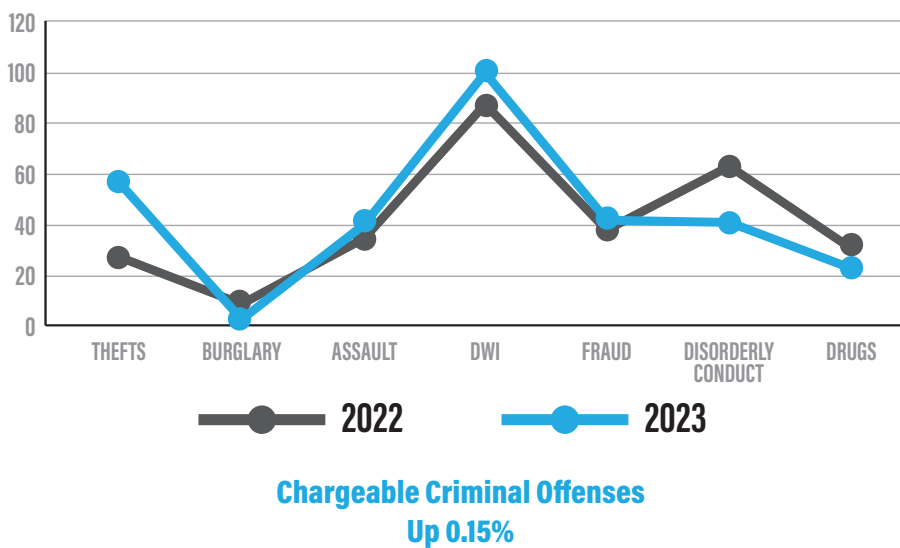
CRIME STATISTICS (2 YEAR TREND)

Our Crime Reporting System uses National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS) in accordance with the FBI and BCA reporting requirements. The offenses and their classifications are categorized by Part 1 & 2 offenses, and Part 3, 4 and 5 offenses.

The charts below illustrate 2022 and 2023 breakdowns in classifications.

PART 1 & 2 SERIOUS OFFENSES

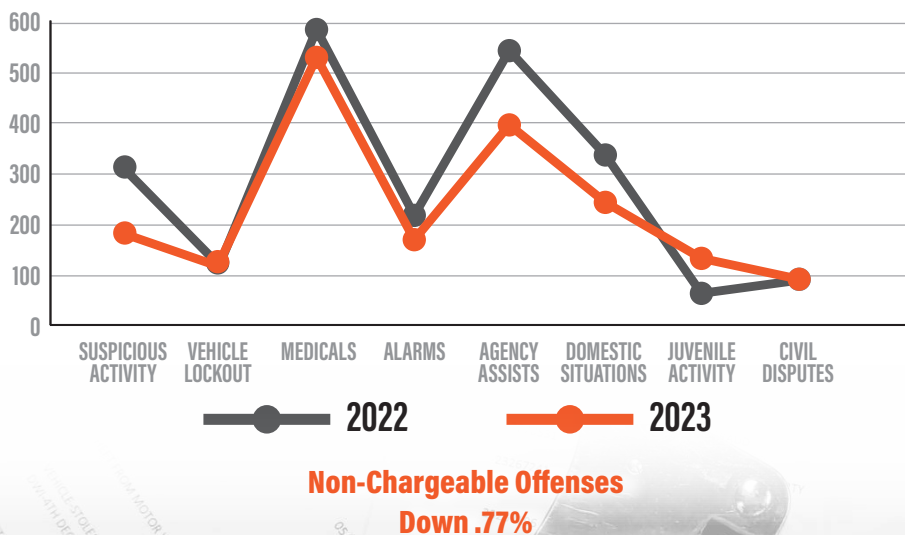
(Not all part 1 and 2 offenses are represented in these groups)



PART 1 & 2	2022	2023
Thefts	27	57
Burglary	9	3
Assault	35	40
DWI	88	100
Fraud	39	42
Disorderly Conduct	63	41
Drugs	31	23

PART 3, 4 & 5 LESS SERIOUS OFFENSES

(Not all part 3, 4 and 5 offenses are represented in these groups)



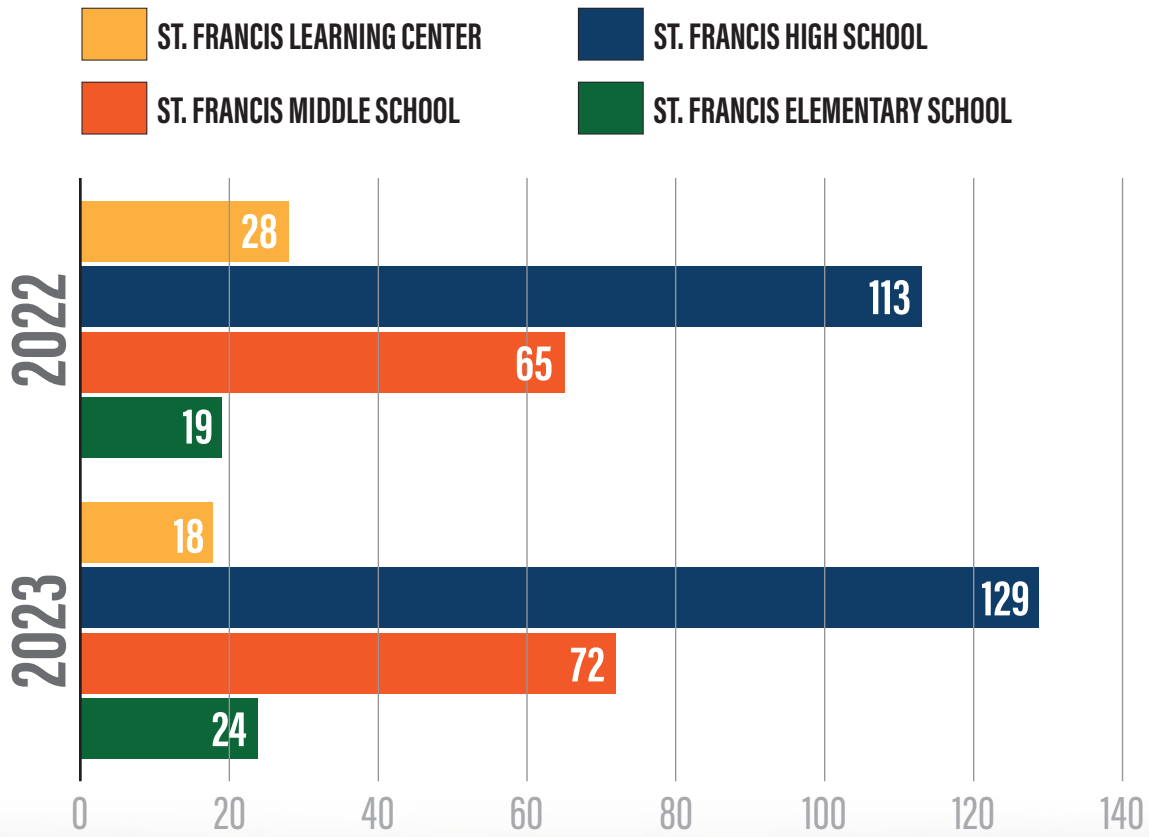
PART 3, 4 & 5	2022	2023
Suspicious Activity	260	163
Vehicle Lock Out	98	99
Medicals	503	470
Alarms	177	147
Agency Assist	469	347
Domestic Situations	282	212
Juvenile Activity	44	111
Civil Disputes	74	74



ST. FRANCIS SCHOOL STATISTICS



CALLS FOR SERVICE





MISSION STATEMENT
 Our mission is to create a culture for which traffic fatalities and serious injuries are no longer acceptable through the integrated application of education, engineering, enforcement, and emergency medical and trauma services. These efforts will be driven by data, best practices, and research.

- 409 traffic fatalities in 2023 versus 444 in 2022
 - 23 fatalities in Anoka County, which ranks as the second deadliest in the state
 - 27,197 statewide DUI arrests compared to 25,136 last year
 - Anoka County total DUI arrests 1637
 - SFPD stats: DUI Arrests 100, Speed Citations 146, Seat Belt 32
- SFPD used 242 hours of TZD overtime for these enforcements**

Drug-impaired driving is a problem on America's highways. Like drunk driving, drugged driving is impaired driving, which means it is dangerous and illegal in all 50 States, Puerto Rico, and Washington, D.C. Whether the drug is obtained legally or illegally, driving while impaired poses a threat to the driver, the vehicle passengers, and to other road users.

NHTSA wants to spread the word about drug-impaired driving and to remind all drivers: *if you are impaired by drugs and thinking about driving, pass your keys on to a sober driver.*



In 2023 through December 17, there were 388 traffic-related deaths on Minnesota roadways. This is 11 percent less than at this time last year (437) and 19 percent less than 2021 (480), but more than each of the previous four years.

- Alcohol-related deaths are about 33 percent lower than each of the last two years and lower than any of the previous four years.
- Speed-related deaths are 17 percent less than last year, 38 percent less than in 2021 and 10 percent less than in 2020, but 48 percent more than in 2019 and 27 percent more than 2017.

Unbelted deaths are 9 percent less than last year, 29 percent less than in 2021 and 22 percent less than in 2020, but 13 percent more than in 2019.

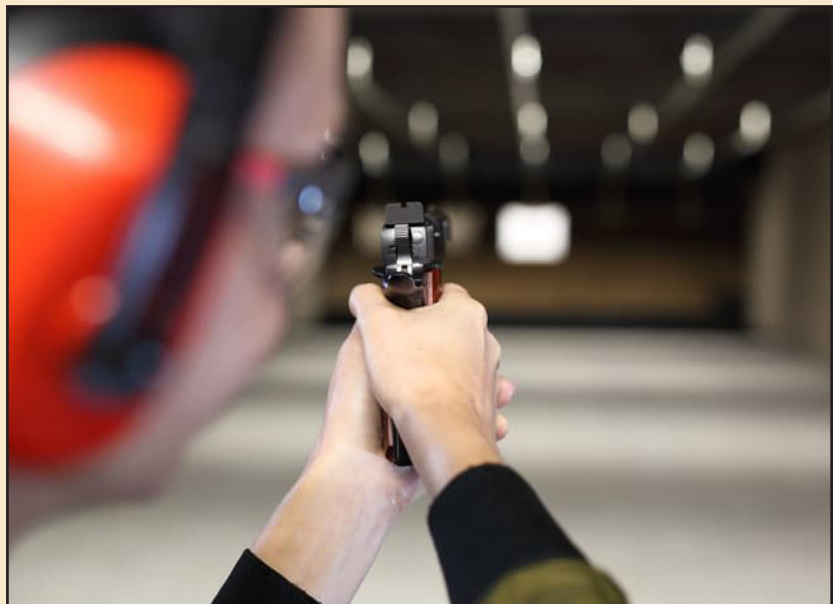
2023 POLICE TRAINING

The past year the officers of the police department put in 526 hours of training and continuing education. The officers need 48 hours of continuing education training every three years to renew their peace officer license. The majority of the training attended by the officers is mandated by the state which includes use of force, firearms, and first aid.



Officer Hedges joined Officer Hearn as the department's use of force instructor after completing over 40 hours of training. Each officer received eight hours of UOF in 2023.

Officer Barck completed over 40 hours of firearms training this past fall and became certified as a firearms instructor for handgun and rifle. He joins Sergeant Larson as the department's firearms instructor. The officers trained and qualified several times over the past year in firearms.

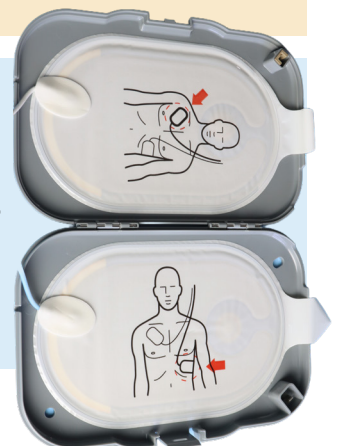


Officer Gerry Chanthanpanya joined the North Command Mobile Field Force unit. This unit is comprised of officers from all Anoka County agencies. Officers train quarterly and specialize in restoring and maintaining public order by safeguarding public safety, property, and the constitutional rights of all.

Sergeant Stemme attended leadership training this past fall which he attended the Supervisor Leadership Institute training that was presented by the FBI LEEDA training. The training was a weeklong training covering topics from leadership techniques, personality diagnostics, mentoring, and risk management. He also attended the training Command and Control for Supervisors. This training went over leadership styles and taking control of scenes out in the field. Congratulations Sergeant Stemme on your promotion.



EMR (Emergency Medical Responder) Officer Bulera and Officer Bolte attended EMR training in September 2023. This training is more encompassing/advanced lifesaving skills.



Welcome Officer Bolte!



We welcomed Officer James Bolte on February 27, 2023. James came to us from the Wright County Sheriff's Office where he served for approximately 2½ years. His law enforcement experience will undoubtedly help him to serve this community. James grew up and attended school in St. Francis and will now have the opportunity to serve and contribute to his hometown. We are pleased that James has joined our department and we know he will be a great addition to the St. Francis team!

FACILITIES AND OPERATIONS



Holding Cells



**DMT MACHINE
(Breath Test Machine)**



Squad Computer

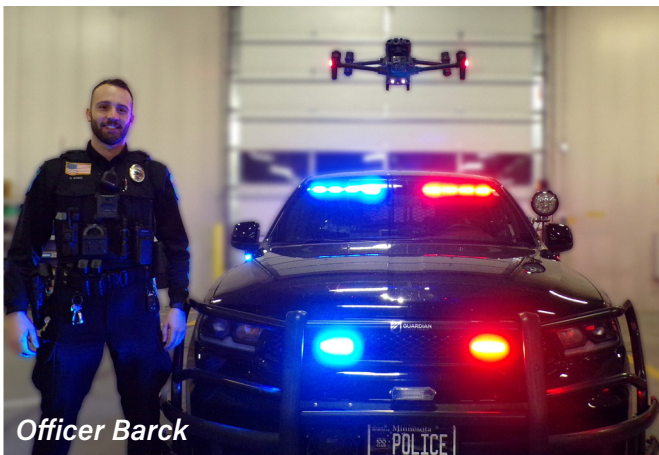


SPECIAL CERTIFICATION



DRONE - UAV In 2023 the department began to look for ways to expand its public safety capabilities to better serve the St. Francis Community. The decision was reached to begin the process of implementing a UAV (unmanned aerial vehicle) program. The implementation of the UAV was a long process that included research/testing of the equipment, policy, legal review, public comment, City Council approval and finally implementation.

With the department's forfeiture funds, the Matrice 30T by DJI was purchased. It has the capabilities of flying over 50 mph and has a wide optical zoom camera with thermal imaging. Officer's Chris Bulera, Amanda Dzuris, Chase Hedges, and Derek Barck were certified as UAV operators after passing the FAA 107 certification exam. Becoming an FAA certified UAV operator involves a rigorous process which involved the officers dedicating time to attend training, studying and taking the FAA licensing exam. This was a great accomplishment for these officers and the department UAV will serve as a valuable tool for the community. The department's UAV has been used several times over the last year and assisted in locating a missing person on the Rum River.



Officer Barck



Officer Bulera



Officer Hedges and Officer Dzuris



WELLNESS PROGRAM

Police Officers and other first responders face unique threats and stresses that can have a direct impact on their safety and well-being. Numerous studies have been conducted which show first responders are at higher risk than the general population of developing post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) as a work-related injury or condition. It's been estimated that 400,000 first responders in the US have at least some symptoms of PTSD. Employee wellness programs can be key to reducing stress related incidents, on-duty injuries and medical retirements, as well as preventing officer suicides.

The department has implemented a wellness program that supports physical and mental health amongst all employees by providing its members with proactive wellness resources, critical incident response, and follow-up support. Police department employees have access to an onsite fitness area and receive periodic training in areas including mental health and stress reduction, physical health and disease prevention, sleep, and nutrition. The police department is committed to supporting the mental and physical health of all its employees by providing them with resources that will help ensure stability and longevity in the personal and professional lives of each employee.



RESERVE VOLUNTEER UNIT

The St. Francis Reserve Unit is a volunteer organization committed to assisting the Police Department and the St. Francis community with a wide variety of tasks and assignments. New reservists are schooled through the Anoka County Police Reserve Academy, including training in police skills, tactics, and other duties. The Reserve Unit has been in existence for approximately 40 years.

The St. Francis Reserve Unit is powered of men and women who volunteer their time and effort to help make St. Francis a safe and enjoyable community in which to live, work and play.



The Reserve Officers assist the St. Francis Police Department with both police related and civic duties. The Police Reserve Unit is currently looking for adult volunteers 18 years of age or older. It is not only an excellent opportunity for students who are pursuing law enforcement as a career, but for any citizen who is interested in volunteering to help the Police Department. If you want a fun, challenging and rewarding way to give back to your community, become a Reserve Officer. All training, uniforms and equipment is provided by the St. Francis Police Department.

The statistics are listed below of all the daily duties that the St. Francis Police Reserve Unit assists with, not only the community, but also the St. Francis licensed police officers. The St. Francis Police Reserve Unit also takes part in community outreach events, such as Pioneer Days, Cone with Cops, Winning with Cops and Night to Unite.

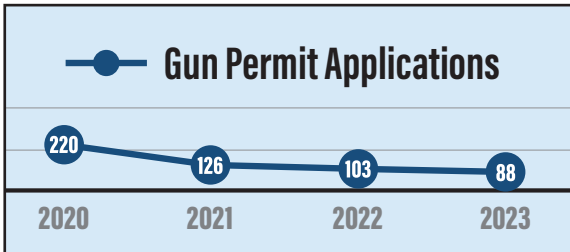
The St. Francis Police Reserve officers are trained in Use of Force and First Aid CPR. St Francis Police Reserve Unit volunteered a total of 773.15 hours for 2023.

2023 St. Francis Police Reserve Stats

DUTIES	AMOUNT	DUTIES	AMOUNT
HOUSE CHECKS	72	PERSONAL INJURY ACCIDENTS	8
PARK CHECKS	514	AGENCY ASSISTS (SFPD)	10
BUSINESS CHECKS	77	AGENCY ASSISTS (SFPD)	19
EXTRA PATROLS	12	AGENCY ASSISTS (OTHER LAW ENFORCMENT AGENCIES)	0
MOTORIST ASSISTS	4	TRANSPORTS (JUVENILE MALES)	5
VEHICLE LOCKOUTS	12	TRANSPORTS (JUVENILE FEMALES)	4
ANIMAL CALLS	3	TRANSPORTS (ADULT MALES)	6
DETAILS	0	TRANSPORTS (ADULT FEMALES)	8
DISPATCHED CALLS	25	SINGLE PERSON CAR PATROL	36
SELF-INITIATED CALLS	10	2 PERSON CAR PATROL	15
PROPERTY DAMAGE ACCIDENTS	0	PATROL HOURS	265.81

ADDITIONAL POLICE SERVICES

GUN PERMITS Applicants can mail or drop off their Permit to Purchase applications anytime. If it is outside office hours you may use the secure drop box in the vestibule of the police department. We only process applications for St. Francis residents.



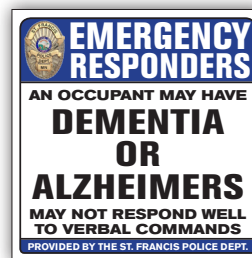
The legislature made changes to gun laws effective August 1st, 2023, and one being law enforcement now has thirty days to conduct the background check to issue or deny versus seven business days. Another significant addition to the reform was Private Party Transfers. Please call our office staff at 763-753-1264 for any questions regarding these processes.

St. Francis Police Department processed 88 permits in 2023. There were 83 permits approved and five permits were denied.

FREE DOG LICENSE DAY Dog licenses are required for all dog owners who live within the city. The registration aids us for purposes of lost/found dogs and encourages citizens to vaccinate. The term of the dog license equals the term of the rabies vaccination. Once a year we offer free licenses to residents. This event is held on the 1st Saturday in May.



EMERGENCY DOOR DECAL The Emergency Decal Program is to assist police, fire, and paramedics in responding to certain calls for service. These decals alert responding personnel to correct treatment and proper care. These decals are free and are located in our police lobby for the public.



PRESCRIPTION DRUG TAKEBACK Drug takeback program options are the best way to safely dispose of unused or expired prescription and non-prescription (OTC) medications. The St. Francis Police Department is one of 11,000 sites nationwide where unused medications can be dropped off. The National Prescription Drug Take Back Program aims to provide a safe, convenient, and responsible means for disposal while also educating the public about potential abuse of medications. The police department also participated in National Drug Takeback Events in April and October. The police department collected 368 pounds of prescription drugs in 2023.

CAMERA REGISTRATION

The St. Francis Police Department wants to collaborate with residents and business owners who have video surveillance on the exterior of their homes or business. You might have a multi-camera system or a simple doorbell camera at your front door. No matter your level of surveillance, your participation in this program will help the police department in the event of a crime in your area. If you choose to participate, you may register your camera system with the police department on our website at <https://www.stfrancismn.org/police/webform/camera-registration>.



FINGERPRINTING

We offer fingerprinting services to the public. A majority of fingerprints requests are for employment purposes. We do not fingerprint for criminal purposes. No appointment is needed, however we recommend Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday from 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Naloxone

, also known as Narcan, is a drug that can reverse an opioid overdose. Naloxone can be administered either through injection or nasal spray. Effective August 1st, 2023, all peace officers in the state have been required by the Minnesota Legislature to carry Naloxone.

All St. Francis Police Officers and Reserve Officers were trained in the use of Naloxone and began carrying doses for use on patients in the field. Naloxone was used by St. Francis officers on multiple occasions in 2023 which contributed to saving the lives of two individuals.





SPOTLIGHT ON COMMUNITY

The St. Francis Police Department works hard to build strong relationships with the community by engaging in several community events throughout the year. We strive to create trust and build relationships with the people who reside in the city of St. Francis. Our mission is to improve trust, strengthen relationships, create open lines of communication, and address relevant issues in the community.



CITIZENS ACADEMY The Citizens Academy offers local citizens a unique insight into everyday law enforcement. The program is six weeks of classroom in a hands-on setting. A wide variety of topics are covered such as 9-1-1 Dispatch, Use of Force tactics, felony traffic stops and a brief overview of state and federal statutes. Also included is a tour of the police department and squad cars.



SAFE AT HOME

Officer Hearn instructs a Safe at Home class for children ages 9-12 teaching safety and accident prevention.



CONE WITH A COP August 2023 Cone with Cop is one of many events to connect with the community. Enthusiastic kids are excited to connect with police and enjoy free cones! Thank you to St. Francis Dairy Queen for your generosity again this year.



COFFEE WITH A COP New in 2023 we implemented Coffee with a Cop every third Wednesday of the month and what great response it has had. Occasionally throughout the year we plan morning coffee with residents to discuss concerns, questions and create camaraderie with citizens of St. Francis and the surrounding area. Thank you KEFI Hideaway Kafe for welcoming us!

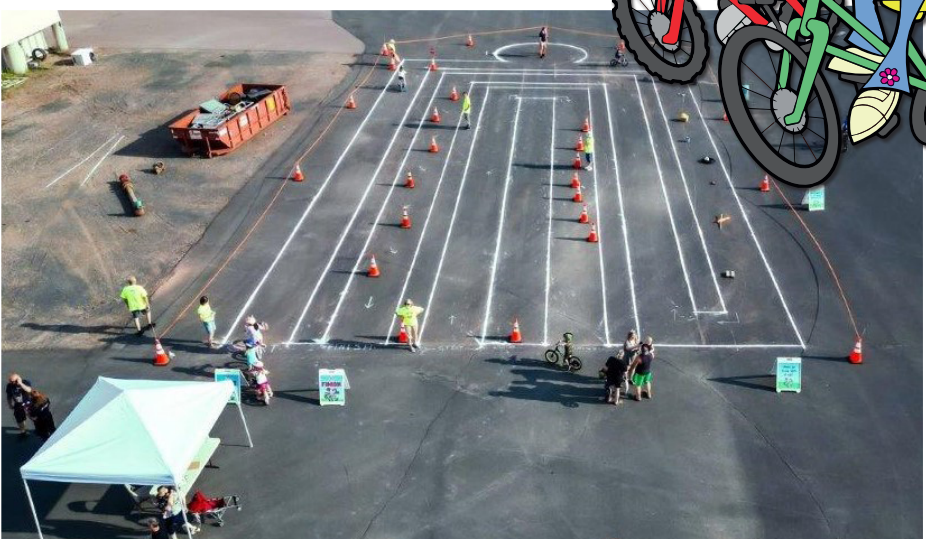


WINNING WITH COPS Winning with Cops is a program designed for law-enforcement to have positive interactions with children of special needs and foster a positive relationship before a medical or mental health crisis. By creating a positive interaction during social functions, such as dinner and a movie, dances and best of all, bowling, it allows us to build trust. This program started out small, but has continued to grow, and our last dinner and bowling event was the largest attended yet. We look forward to more events next year.



ANNUAL BIKE RODEO The Bike Rodeo is a fun and educational event to institute safe bicycle riding. The bike course teaches riders awareness of surroundings and remaining in control of their bicycle within several different scenarios. Our 7th Annual Bike Rodeo was nothing short of successful once again with very generous donations from local businesses. This year we raffled off six bikes and t-shirts. Food donations were compliments of County Market and Kwik Trip. Minne-ScoopTa was here with their ice cream truck to accompany our hot dogs and chips. A special thank you to all our volunteers from the community for all their hard work making this event epic.





NIGHT TO UNITE St. Francis Police Department participates annually in the Night to Unite event which focuses on crime prevention and it has evolved into a popular night for community bonding. Once again, our event at Community Park emerged successful. The Life Link helicopter landing is always a favorite as well as the dunk tank. Kids participated in dunking police officers as well as St. Francis Council members.

The Ambassadors, St. Francis Fire Department, St. Francis Public Works, City Hall, Lions, petting zoo and a food truck all made this event possible and successful.





VISIT FROM SANTA The Christmas season was a spectacular time here at the St. Francis Police Department in 2023. The Police Department's Officers and Staff put several hours into preparing the visit for Santa. We are proud to report a record setting attendance to visit Santa. Once again, we collected toys for the Toys for Joy Foundation in December. Thank you for all the generous donations from our community.







NEW BUILDING ESTABLISHED IN 2012



Acknowledgements

Mayor

Joe Muehlbauer

City Council Members

**Sarah Udvig, Robert Bauer,
Kevin Robinson and Crystal Kreklow**

City Administrator

Kate Thunstrom

Thank You

1st Baptist Church St Francis - Volunteers for Bike Rodeo

Children's Hospital - Free helmets for kids

County Market - Donations

Dairy Queen - Cone with a Cop

KEFI Hideaway Kafe - Coffee with Cop

Kwik Trip - Donations

Life Link - Night to Unite

Minne - Scoopta - Bike Rodeo

Open Box Buys - Donating four bicycles

Petting Zoo to You - Night to Unite

Ramsey Cycle - Donating two bicycles

Tasty's Pizza Bowl and Bar - Winning with Cops

