

THORNTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

MONTHLY REPORT

February 2026



SPECIAL POINT OF INTEREST

Residents may occasionally notice Thornton Police squad cars driving through town with **steady red and blue lights on that are not flashing**. These are called **cruise lights**, and they serve a different purpose than emergency lights.

● **Cruise Lights**

Cruise lights are **steady (non-flashing) red and blue lights** used during routine patrol. Officers use them to:

- Increase police **visibility in neighborhoods and business areas**
- Help **deter criminal activity**
- Improve **safety during nighttime patrol**
- Let the community know officers are **actively patrolling the area**

These lights **do not mean a driver needs to pull over**.

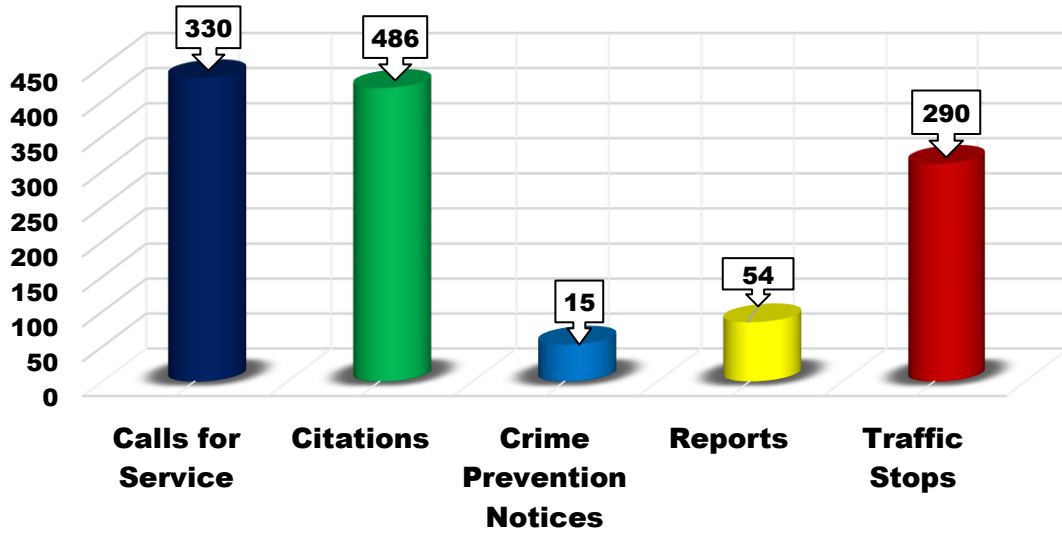
● **Flashing Red & Blue Lights**

When the red and blue lights are **flashing**, it means the officer is **responding to an emergency, conducting a traffic stop, or warning motorists of a hazard**.

When you see **flashing red and blue lights**, Illinois law requires drivers to **slow down, move over if possible, and yield to the police vehicle**.

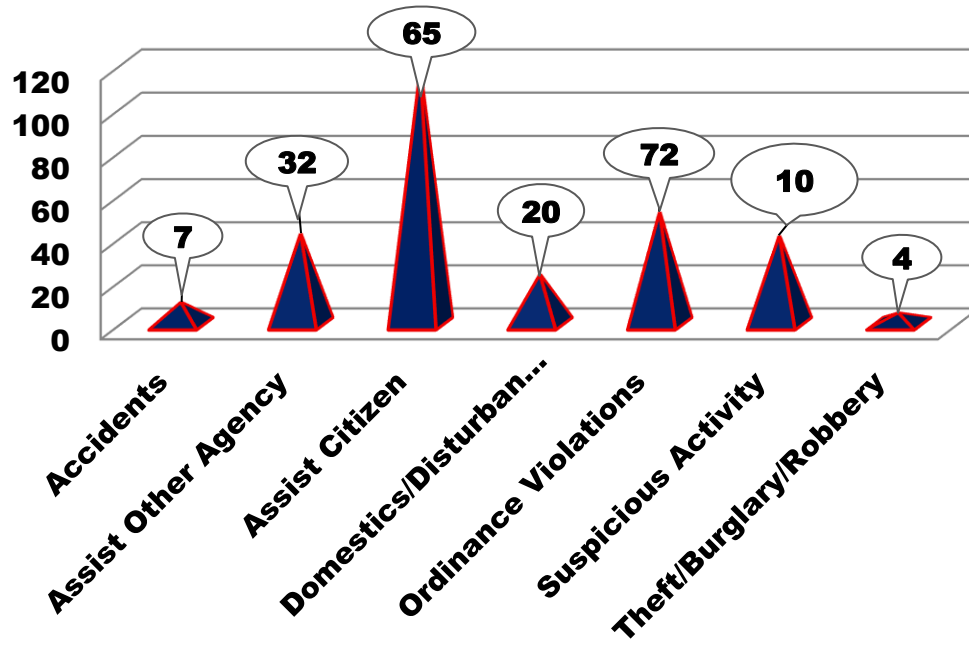
Our goal is to **increase safety, visibility, and proactive policing throughout the Village of Thornton**. Thank you for your continued support of the Thornton Police Department.

PATROL ACTIVITIES



CALL BREAKDOWN

TOTAL NUMBER OF CALLS = 620
TOTAL NUMBER OF TRAFFIC STOPS = 290



Notable Incidents

- On February 1, 2026, at approximately 12:28 a.m., a Thornton Police Officer on patrol in the area of Margaret Street and Hunter Street heard the sound of a train braking abruptly. Upon approaching the railroad crossing, the officer observed a white Toyota Corolla that had been struck by a train on the tracks operated by Union Pacific Railroad. The train involved was Union Pacific Locomotive. The driver of the vehicle, exited the vehicle and approached the officer. The officer checked on the driver's condition and requested Thornton Fire Department and EMS to respond to the scene. The driver was placed in the patrol vehicle while emergency personnel responded. While speaking with the driver, the officer observed signs of possible alcohol impairment, including glossy eyes and a strong odor of alcoholic beverage. Thornton Fire personnel advised that the train engineer reported seeing someone possibly ejected from the vehicle. Officers and firefighters conducted a search of the crash area but did not locate any additional victims. The driver stated he was the sole occupant of the vehicle. Investigation revealed the Toyota Corolla had significant damage to the driver's side consistent with being struck by the train. The railroad crossing gates were down and warning lights were functioning properly. Evidence at the scene indicated the driver had driven around the lowered railroad crossing gates prior to the collision. The vehicle's airbags deployed and the vehicle was rendered inoperable. A child car seat was located in the rear passenger area, but no child was present during the incident. The driver was evaluated by Thornton EMS and transported to Ingalls Hospital for further medical evaluation. During the investigation, the driver admitted to EMS personnel that he had consumed alcohol. After being released from the hospital, officers later located the driver at his residence in Riverdale with assistance from the Riverdale Police Department and issued multiple citations. The vehicle was towed from the scene by Ray & Wally's Towing. The incident was documented with body-worn camera footage.
- On February 1, 2026, a Thornton Police Officer responded to Ray & Wally's Tow Yard in Lynwood to locate a Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) on a Yamaha ATV that had previously been towed on January 31, 2026. While inspecting the vehicle, the officer located the VIN on the frame and conducted a LEADS inquiry. The inquiry revealed the Yamaha ATV had been reported stolen out of Will County, Illinois in 2024 through the Will County Sheriff's Office. The stolen vehicle hit was confirmed by dispatch. The most recent registered owner was contacted and advised officers that the insurance company had previously paid out on the stolen vehicle. The ATV will remain in secure storage pending contact with the insurance company and further investigation. The incident remains under investigation by Thornton Police Patrol and Detectives.
- On February 5, 2026, Thornton Police Officers responded to Boz's Hot Dogs for a reported dog bite. Upon arrival, officers met with a female victim who sustained a bite to the face and had visible injuries to her nose. The victim reported she was bitten by a dog belonging to a Thornton resident while at the location. The victim declined EMS and chose to transport herself to the hospital for treatment. Officers later attempted to make contact with the dog owner at his residence. Contact was eventually made with the owner at the police department, where he stated the victim was feeding the dog through a window and placed her face near the animal when the bite occurred. The dog owner was advised of Cook County reporting requirements related to animal bites and requested to provide veterinary and vaccination documentation. The owner indicated he would provide the required paperwork. The incident remains under review by the Thornton Police Department.

- On February 8, 2026, at approximately 10:01 p.m., Thornton Police responded to a residence in the 800 block of Chicago Road for a report of a suspicious subject. The resident reported that an unknown male arrived at the residence driving a white Genesis-style vehicle and asked for a person named "Katrina." After being told no one by that name lived at the address, the subject left the area. The resident later observed the same vehicle return and the male approach the front door again before leaving without further incident. A second male was reportedly seated in the passenger seat during the encounter. The resident recorded video of the vehicle and subjects, which will be provided to the police department and attached to the case file. Officers documented the incident and no further activity was reported.
- On February 9, 2026, Thornton Police Officers responded to the 300 block of N. Hunter Street for a report of threats involving a male allegedly being followed by another individual in a pickup truck who was reported to have a firearm. Upon arrival, officers observed a black Dodge Ram matching the description pull into a driveway in the area. Officers spoke with the driver of the vehicle, who stated that an individual had approached the residence to serve court paperwork and a verbal dispute occurred. Officers also spoke with the individual attempting to serve the documents, who stated he was an officer of the court serving legal paperwork when a confrontation took place and the paperwork was torn up. Both parties declined to pursue criminal charges at the time. Officers documented the incident and cleared the scene without further incident.
- On February 16, 2026, while conducting stationary radar speed enforcement in the 500 block of Chicago Road, a Thornton Police Officer observed a vehicle traveling southbound at a high rate of speed. A handheld radar unit confirmed the vehicle was traveling 50-mph in a 35-mph zone. When the officer attempted to conduct a traffic stop near Eleanor Street and Hunter Street, the vehicle, a Honda CR-V, failed to stop and continued driving westbound. The vehicle then turned northbound onto Williams Street and continued without stopping. The officer notified dispatch that the vehicle was refusing to stop. Based on department pursuit policy and the fact the violation was traffic-related, the on-duty supervisor ordered the pursuit terminated. The pursuit was discontinued in the area of 173rd Street and State Street. Officers were unable to identify the driver, though two adult occupants were observed in the front seats. No further action was taken.
- On February 19, 2026, at approximately 10:32 p.m., Thornton Police Officers responded to The Quarry Restaurant for a noise complaint from a nearby resident. Officers met with the complainant and conducted sound level measurements in accordance with Village Ordinance 10-7-5-9. Using a department-issued sound level meter, officers recorded a highest reading of 55 decibels from approximately 50 feet away and 62 decibels on the sidewalk near the establishment, both of which were below the 70-decibel limit established by ordinance. As the sound levels were within allowable limits, no enforcement action was taken. The incident was documented and recorded on body-worn camera.
- On February 24, 2026, a Thornton Police Officer was approached by two individuals in separate vehicles while parked at Homewood Storage. The individuals reported they had been involved in an altercation that began in Cedar Lake, Indiana and continued until they arrived in Thornton. Both parties provided conflicting accounts regarding vehicle damage and the events leading up to the incident. During the investigation, both individuals stated the incidents occurred in Indiana. Officers advised the parties that any criminal complaints or reports would need to be filed with the Cedar Lake Police Department. The vehicle was released to its owner, and one of the individuals was provided a courtesy ride to Harvey. No further police action was taken by Thornton Police.

- On February 28, 2026, at approximately 2:58 a.m., Thornton Police Officers responded to the 200 block of Brownell Avenue for a report of a suspicious vehicle. The caller reported a dark-colored vehicle had been parked in front of the residence for approximately 10–15 minutes and that individuals were seen running from the vehicle toward the nearby forest preserve. Upon arrival, officers located a black 2012 Chevrolet Impala with Iowa registration that appeared abandoned and heavily damaged on the front passenger side, including significant tire damage and a cracked windshield. Officers searched the surrounding area but were unable to locate any individuals associated with the vehicle. During the investigation, officers conducted a traffic stop on a nearby vehicle that was driving in the area; however, officers were unable to confirm any connection to the suspicious vehicle and the occupants were released. Parking citations were issued for Abandoned/Wrecked/Inoperable Vehicle and Expired State Registration, and the vehicle was marked for tow pending removal. The incident was documented and recorded on body-worn camera.
- While conducting a traffic stop, a Thornton Police Officer observed a silver Chevrolet Impala traveling westbound on Margaret Avenue at a high rate of speed and nearly striking the officer. The officer disengaged from the original stop and attempted to stop the vehicle after pacing it at approximately 55-mph in a 35-mph zone. When the officer approached the vehicle during the attempted stop at Ridge Road and Parnell Avenue, the driver abruptly accelerated and fled. During the pursuit, the driver drove recklessly, crossing into oncoming traffic lanes, disregarding traffic signals, and forcing multiple motorists off the roadway while traveling through the Ridge Road corridor. Due to the significant risk to public safety, the officer eventually lost visual contact with the vehicle after it turned southbound onto Center Avenue. The vehicle information was broadcast to surrounding agencies through ISPERN, and the registration plate was later determined to be an Illinois State Auction tag. The vehicle has been entered into the Flock Safety camera system, and if located will be seized pursuant to Article 36 of the Illinois Criminal Code. The incident remains under investigation by the Thornton Police Department.

The Thornton Police Department assisted the following agencies from either patrol, SSERT, SMART or SSMCTF: Glenwood PD, Illinois State Police, South Holland PD, Sauk Village PD and Riverdale PD.

