

Willow Springs Police Department

2021 Annual Report



Presented by:

Jim Ritz

Chief of Police

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WILLOW SPRINGS POLICE DEPARTMENT • 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

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Willow Springs Police Department
James Ritz
Chief of Police

Chief of Police Message

As Chief of Police for the Willow Springs Police Department, it is my pleasure to present to Mayor Melissa Neddermeyer and the Village Board, our 2021 Police Department Year in Review report. This report provides an overview of our department programs, activities, accomplishments, and statistics that highlight our departmental achievements in 2021.

Obviously, 2021 presented some unprecedented challenges not just to our department, but to our community residents. Despite these challenges, the members of the Willow Springs Police Department incessantly served our community with professionalism and compassion. As a department, we commit to embracing the highest standards of professional policing excellence and being transparent with those we serve. We encourage and support the exchange of information with our community in order to coordinate further department activities and continue to foster our community prevention and awareness programs.

The Willow Springs Police Department is committed to continual engagement with those we serve in a professional manner. The strength of our crime prevention and community-oriented policing initiatives begin with our residents who are active in their neighborhoods and with the Willow Springs Police Department. Our officers will always do their best to try and take the time to interact with our residents, engage citizens in positive ways, and strive to provide the highest quality of services that are expected and deserved.

As police chief, I take great pride in our department's commitment to excellence in law enforcement and our continuous delivery of professional services to the Village of Willow Springs. We share that common perspective with our community in continually building our community partnerships that focus on those who compromise our safety and our quality of life in our village. We will remain to be a "safety conscious" community while being devoted to achieving our mission through the continued support of our residents.

As a department, I would like to extend my sincerest admiration and thanks to those who serve, and to our neighborhood partners who are just as committed to the "spirit" of community growth and development while persistently building those positive relationships between our police department and our community.

In conclusion, I would like to thank our village board and residents for their continued support of our department as we aim to fulfill our community mission. The Willow Springs Police Department will continue to serve the village and each of you proudly within our core values of -- *Integrity, Courage, Excellence, Respect, Compassion, and Dedication.*

Thank you,

James Ritz



LAW ENFORCEMENT OATH OF HONOR

***On my honor, I will never betray my integrity,
my character, or the public trust.***

***I will treat all individuals with dignity and respect
and ensure that my actions are dedicated
to ensuring the safety of my community
and the preservation of human life.***

***I will always have the courage to hold myself
and others accountable for our actions.***

***I will always maintain the highest ethical standards and uphold the
values of my community, and the agency I serve.***





DEPARTMENT GOALS

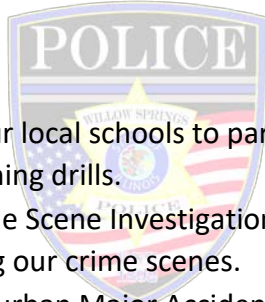
- *Protection of life and property*
- *Preservation of the public peace*
- *Enforcement of laws and ordinances*
- *Arrest of law violators and assembling competent evidence of the alleged violation.*
- *Promotion of respect and cooperation of all citizens for the law and those sworn to enforce it.*





2021 DEPARTMENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Thanks to the artistic design efforts of our department personnel, we welcomed a new Police Department Patch that symbolizes the history of the Willow Springs Police Department, our Village, the American Flag, and the Thin Blue Line colors in support of law enforcement.
- After a year-and-a-half mission of working with the Department of Justice and the Federal Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) our department was proud to accomplish our goal of again regaining full “Eligibility” status with the Equitable Sharing Program of the Department of Justice. Due to mismanagement and improper use of funds by previous administrations, our department was placed on a permanent “Ineligibility” status and unable to receive any federal funding or federal grant award consideration – this was a great, great, great department accomplishment.
- COVID Emergency Crisis Plan Policies were established to plan for mitigation and emergency response compliance, which created new department protocols in order to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 virus throughout the department. The department maintained and acquired the necessary Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), including face masks, protective gloves, hand sanitizer, vital disinfecting equipment, and personal temperature thermometers.
- By continuous review, and maintaining up-to-date Policies and Procedures, our department met all the requirements of the Federal Use of Force Policy and Reporting Act as adopted and signed by our past pro-law enforcement President of the United States of America. Our Use of Force Policy was reviewed, submitted, and approved through the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police. As a department, we are proud to say we were approved on our first policy submission, because our Use of Force Policies and Guidelines were current and in accordance with all newly enacted state and federal requirements.
- Revised numerous existing policies to meet the newly established changes to State of Illinois statutes in accordance with the newly enacted anti-law enforcement SAFE-T act.
- Implemented and adopted several new policies related to Cybersecurity and responding to Cybersecurity Critical Incidents in accordance with all Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) and LEADS required mandates.
- Promotion of two (2) department Corporals to the rank of Sergeant
- Promotion of one (1) police officer to the supervisory rank of Corporal
- Hiring of one (1) new full-time police officer
- Criminal Investigations Unit conducted several major investigations culminating in arrests, and/or arrest warrants being issued for of a number of offenders involved in serious felony and misdemeanor cases.
- We started our first ever Child Protective Safety Technician Community Program with our newly certified officer.



- Worked hand-in-hand with our local schools to participate and oversee their state mandated active shooter training drills.
- Put into operation a new Crime Scene Investigation (CSI) Team for our certified evidence technicians (ET) for processing our crime scenes.
- Became a member of the Suburban Major Accident Reconstruction Team (SMART).
- Purchased through equitable sharing funds -- at no cost to the village -- a new department unmanned air system "Department Drone" which is a tremendous and valuable department resource.
- Participated in the Special Olympics Illinois Coffee for Champions Event and raised over \$6700.00
- The Willow Springs Police Department teamed up with the Justice Police Department to take part in the Special Olympics Plane Pull event at O'Hare airport. Team Willow Springs/Justice was the second largest fundraiser team in the event raising almost \$6000.00 -- thank YOU for your support of our efforts.
- Attendance in very valuable training sponsored by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC).
- Started a new partnership with the Crisis Center for South Suburbia and their Domestic Violence Advocacy Program.
- Hosted our 3rd Annual Shop-With-A-Cop event that was a tremendous success.
- All full-time police officers being certified in Crisis Intervention Training
- Executed a successful Emergency Operations Plan for the annual four-day WillowFest event.
- Presented a Department Commendation at a Village Board meeting to our Special Olympics Team Captain Matt Szeszycki.
- Special thanks to Police Chaplain, Al Hernandez, who works with many police agencies, for donating so many brand new Christmas Toys for those who attended the first ever Willow Springs Winterfest, which was attended by so many – thank you.

OFFICER RECOGNITION

Congratulations and Special Recognition to our Department Members:

- Corporal Bob Jennings in celebrating his 20-year anniversary of service to the Willow Springs Police Department.
- Sergeant Jerry Jelinek on achieving his 15-year anniversary with the department.
- Promotions of Corporals Jerry Jelinek and Michael Jurak to the supervisory rank of Sergeant.
- Police Officer Ed McKinney being promoted to the supervisory rank of Corporal.



- The Willow Springs Police Department welcomed the hiring of new full-time police officer Michelle Cipriani to our force.
- Congratulations to Detective Brian Kuratko on his retirement after his outstanding 30-year law enforcement career. The department will miss his great work.
- Sergeant Jerry Jelinek and Officer Matt Engel for earning their Traffic Crash Investigations certificates and graduation in the nationally recognized Northwestern University Accident Reconstruction Training Program and becoming members of SMART task force.
- Officers Sharon Soltis and Matt Engle earned their Evidence Technician training certifications and joining the newly formed CSI Unit along with Officers Michelle Cipriani and Detective John Piest.
- Officer Michelle Cipriani becoming our first ever certified Child Protection Safety Technician.
- Congratulations to our Special Olympics Team Captain, Matthew Szescicky for receiving a Willow Springs Police Department, Department Commendation for his dedication to our Special Olympics Illinois team efforts.
- The department recognizes our first FAA certified “un-manned air device” or Drone Pilot Mike Jurak, the department’s new Captain of Willow Springs Air!
- Officer Michelle Cipriani appointed as coordinator of our new Domestic Violence Advocacy Program
- Welcome our new part-time Records Assistant Genna Mirabile
- Chief Ritz receiving his BASSET Instructor training certification

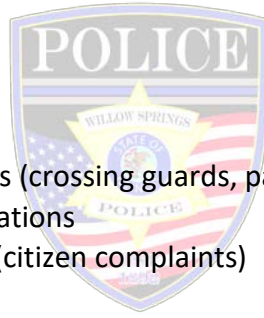
POLICE DEPARTMENT OPERATIONS

POLICE ADMINISTRATION:

The Willow Springs Police Department is led by Chief of Police James Ritz who has served in this capacity since 2018. Department Field Operations are led by Sergeant Jerry Jelinek, who has served the Willow Springs Police Department since 2006. Our Administrative Operations of the department is overseen by Sergeant Michael Jurak who has been serving the department since 2007.

The Office of the Chief of Police oversees all aspects of police department operations and provides leadership, direction, and vision to the members of the Willow Springs Police Department in fulfillment of the department’s overall mission. This office is responsible for departmental management, maintenance of professional standards, and administration of the police department budget.

Sergeant Jelinek who manages Department Field Operations is responsible for the following areas of operation:



- Patrol operations
- Part-time police officers, CSO's (crossing guards, parking, animal enforcement)
- Criminal and Juvenile investigations
- Internal Affairs management (citizen complaints)
- Sex offender registration
- Scheduling management
- Payroll management
- Special events, special assignments

Sergeant Jurak who oversees Department Administration is responsible for the following areas of operation:

- Department technology (computers, portable radios, body cams, taser management and reporting)
- Report Management Systems (RMS), LEADS, 911 Dispatch administration and Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) systems.
- Department training and professional development (NEMRT, On-line training, Police Law Institute, range qualifications, department weapons and ammunition)
- Use of Force review and mandatory reporting
- Specialized law enforcement applications (Live Scan, Critical Reach, ILETSB)
- Facility and building management
- Department Records and 9-1-1 dispatch services and management.
- Department medical and workman's compensation reporting

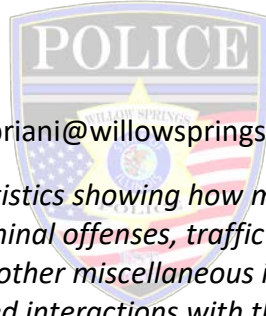
Patrol Operations:

Patrol is one of the most visible functions of the Department, and as they say the "Backbone" of a police department. Patrol officers are who the community sees first when responding to calls for service. Our patrol operations are divided into four (4), 12-hour shifts that are staffed 24-hours a day and seven days a week. Each shift is under the supervision of a police sergeant or corporal.

The patrol shift supervisors are responsible for the day-today policing assignments and calls for service requiring problem solving, traffic enforcement, and initiating neighborhood connections during their specific shifts.

Body-worn cameras were purchased for all officers in 2017. Officer Body worn cameras provide the ability to document and maintain officer accountability, citizen contacts, critical incident response, and serve as evidence in court proceedings. They also assist the police department in maintaining the highest level of departmental transparency in the event our actions, good or bad, are called into play or challenged.

The patrol division now has a Certified Child Safety Seat Technician. Those interested in having a child safety seat checked for proper installation, can call the Willow Springs Police



Department or send an email to mcipriani@willowsprings-il.gov to schedule an appointment.

Listed below are the Department Statistics showing how many calls for service our officers responded to or handled, such as criminal offenses, traffic crashes, alarm activations, disturbances, traffic complaints, and other miscellaneous incidents. Also included in the total calls are the numerous officer-initiated interactions with the community, open door/window and premise checks.

Criminal Investigations Unit:

Our Criminal Investigations Unit comprises assigned detectives who investigate some of our most demanding and challenging criminal cases. Criminal cases are thoroughly and precisely investigated in order to result in the successful prosecution of the offender(s).

Our detectives work in collaboration with local, regional, state, and federal law enforcement agencies and specialized task forces. Currently, we have one (1) detective assigned to the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), and three (3) other detectives/officers who are assigned as part of local task forces including; South Suburban Major Crimes Task Force (SSMCTF), and the Major Case Assistance Team (MCAT).

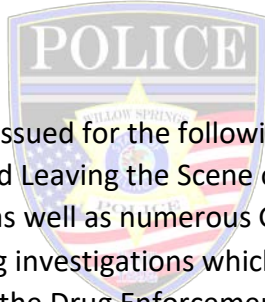
The detectives are also assigned to the Cook County Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force and work hand-in-hand with ICAC in an undercover capacity to identify child predators and individuals disseminating child pornography.

The Investigations Unit is also responsible for registering, re-registering, and tracking sex offenders who reside within the Village of Willow Springs. Our detectives are also liaisons to our local grade schools, Willow Springs School, Pleasantdale School, and Trinity Lutheran School. The unit also assists and provides active shooter training and drills, and our range qualifications and training to our department personnel.

Criminal Investigations Unit Detectives: Brian Kuratko (who retired), John Piest, Mike Prohaska and Mike Coppelillo.

Investigations Case Overview for 2021:

- The unit was assigned 51 cases (44 criminal) and made 12 custodial arrests with a total of 21 charges including Domestic Battery, Battery to a Police Officer, Aggravated Assault to a Police Officer, Violation of an Order of Protection, Criminal Trespass to Land, Criminal Trespass to Residence, Possession of Stolen Property, Unlawful Use of Credit Card, Criminal Damage to Property, Disorderly Conduct (filing of a false Police Report) and Leaving the Scene of a Property Damage Crash.

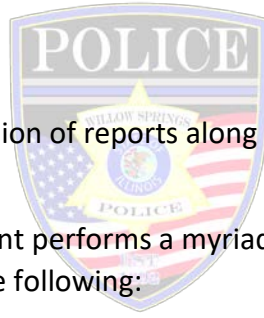


- Five (5) arrest warrants were issued for the following offenses: Aggravated DUI, Unlawful Use of a Weapon and Leaving the Scene of a Property Damage Crash. Seven search warrants were issued as well as numerous Grand Jury Subpoena's being issued.
- The unit initiated 2 major drug investigations which were turned over to our Agency's Task Force Officer detailed to the Drug Enforcement Administration.
- The unit responded to six (6) homicide investigations with the South Suburban Major Crimes Task Force and a majority of the 17 call outs with the Major Case Assistance Team. One case was also assigned by the Cook County State's Attorney's Office Internet Crimes against Children (ICAC) Task Force and was successfully closed by a Detective.
- Three (3) missing person's cases were investigated by Detectives including one which involved mutual aid from numerous surrounding agencies. Resources involved in that one included Cook County Forest Preserve PD and Cook County Sheriff's PD K9's, a Chicago Police Department Helicopter, Cook County Sheriff's PD Evidence Technicians and an Investigator from the Cook County Medical Examiner's Office.
- Four (4) death investigations were conducted and closed by the unit.
- Several cases are still under investigation including two separate Aggravated Battery's at the same liquor establishment location, two commercial Burglaries in which a suspect has been identified but no physical evidence recovered from either scene, an Armed Robbery in which unidentified DNA was recovered, an involved Cyberstalking case, and nine (9) Forgery cases stemming from a mail theft from our Willow Springs Post Office.
- Detectives also assisted the Nashville, Tennessee Police Department in administering a line-up to a resident who was the victim of a crime in their jurisdiction. The unit also tracked down and had an Order of Protection served for a resident to a subject who is currently on parole in Oklahoma.
- Three cases (3) initially investigated in Willow Springs were ultimately turned over to the FBI, United States Postal Inspectors and the Countryside Police Department. The Countryside case once completed will likely result in charges of filing a false police report through our agency.

Department Records and Administrative Services:

The Department Records and Administrative Services are managed by our LEADS Coordinator, Sharme Singer, and our Administrative Management Coordinator, Rose Hollman. Each provide such valuable support services to the department as they are responsible for all police department records and management.

Department records management and maintenance plays such an important role in our department functions and operations. Our Records Unit and Administration are responsible for providing all required and yearly crime reports as mandated by the FBI and the State of Illinois, the FBI's Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS), the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority (ICJIA), along with being responsible for our Illinois State Police LEADS audits, completing FOIA requests, and assists in the arrest and investigative process with vital



department information and submission of reports along with providing everyday assistance to the public.

Department Records and Management performs a myriad of jobs and functions on a daily basis that includes, but is not limited to the following:

- Maintaining all LEADS records and up-to-date audits as required by the Illinois State Police.
- Processing and maintaining all traffic and parking citations, arrest reports, traffic crash reporting, towed vehicles, keeping all crime related information and mandatory reporting documents, and overseeing local adjudication, and all 5th Municipal Court required reporting and records administration.
- Responding to requests through the Public Information Act, village licensing and background checks from other law enforcement agencies or the public, and handling all subpoenas and court records requests.
- Records and Support Services also work closely with the Justice Police Department Dispatch Center to assist with missing persons reports, stolen/towed vehicles, and lost or stolen property as reported or entered into law enforcement databases.

Evidence Technicians Unit:

Our new Evidence Technicians Unit consists of four (4) specially trained officers who are responsible for recovering, photographing, and processing crime scene evidence. Each of our Evidence Technicians completed their required certification courses and will continue to attend specialized training in the field of crime scene investigations and evidence technician courses of study each year.

Evidence Technicians: Police Officers; Sharon Soltis, Matt Engel, Michelle Cipriani, and Detective John Piest.

Evidence technician duties include:

- Documenting crime scenes through still photography, video, diagrams, and drawings.
- Identifying, collecting, and preserving trace evidence.
- Locating and preserving fingerprints or any crucial physical evidence including potential DNA.
- Processing death investigation scenes
- Crimes Against Person (Assault and Battery)
- Serious Motor Vehicle Accidents
- Burglaries (Residential/Business/Motor Vehicle)
- Field testing suspected illegal drugs
- Testifying in criminal and civil court proceedings

Community Service Officers (CSO):

Our department Community Service Officers provide valuable support to our day-to-day operations and our beneficial in assisting our police officers to allow them to be spend more time on street patrols and operations. CSO's also assist with village office related business functions, assist with our local adjudication hearings, assist with front desk coverage during daytime hours in answering non-emergency phone calls, assisting people with walk-in complaints or information, processing ticket or fine payments, overnight parking/vacation watch requests, along with handling parking enforcement and village code violations.

Our Department Community Service Officers are: Katlyn Cernicky and Sabrina Aguilar



POLICE/FIRE 911 EMERGENCY DISPATCH CENTER

The Willow Springs Police Department 9-1-1 emergency dispatch services are operated through the Justice Police Department Dispatch Center. The Justice Police combined dispatch center serves and operates as our 9-1-1 Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) and dispatch center for Police and Fire services for the Village of Willow Springs. The dispatch center is comprised of extensively trained telecommunications personnel who provide the highest-quality of professional services to our Willow Springs community.

The Justice Police Dispatch Center is a combined center who handles all emergency calls and non-emergency calls for police, fire, and paramedic services for the Village of Justice, the Village of Willow Springs for both Police and Fire, and also for the Village of Forest View for police and fire services.

The Justice Police Department Dispatch Center through their Report Management System (RMS), and their Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system maintains records of all incoming calls through 9-1-1 Emergency or non-emergency related calls they receive. Dispatchers are responsible for a number of duties related to 9-1-1 emergency services including, but definitely not all inclusive with the many tasks which our telecommunications staff handle:



- Dispatching of police and fire personnel, monitoring all police and fire radio related communications.
- The dispatch center manages all call-related records and data entry and management for all types of emergency and non-emergency related calls.
- Responsible for entering officer reports, entering vehicle information or involved with various types of calls or traffic stops.
- Professional communications with all callers, victims, witnesses, suspects, children, and especially individuals dealing with critical or extremely emotional events.
- Handling and entering reports involved with criminal arrests, tickets/citations issued, running LEADS, warrant and hot file requests, special watch requests, recording of and entering all warrants issued by the courts, and
- Submitting all the necessary reports and paperwork as required through the court systems along with meeting all of the Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS), and the State of Illinois mandated LEADS training and confidentiality requirements.





DEPARTMENT TRAINING

The Willow Springs Police Department's training mission is to develop the requisite skills, knowledge, and abilities of both our sworn and civilian employees to perform their jobs professionally and to the best of their abilities. Our department places a high priority on maintaining our mandatory in-service training initiatives as high-quality training is a well-established responsibility for all law enforcement agencies.

As part of our mandatory department training, our officers complete monthly training and receive training certificates from the Police Law Institute that covers a number of vital law enforcement areas along with legal and legislative updates all in accordance with state and federal yearly training requirements. Our officers also are required to take specific mandated training classes to maintain their law enforcement certification through the Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board (ILETSB). Through the ILETSB some training courses are required on a yearly basis, while some are required every two (2), or every (3) year time frames.

Our police officers participate in several firearms and defensive tactics training programs throughout the year. In 2021, we experienced a large reduction in training hours due to the Covid-19 pandemic and associated mitigations that cancelled some range and training classes. On-line training courses were attended in limited number and our department ammunition supply was seriously impacted by the nationwide shortage and limited amount of ammo to purchase at highly increased prices due to the demands.

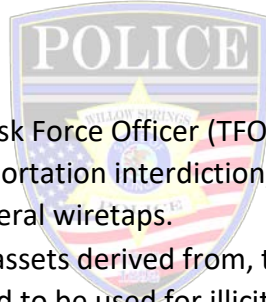
Topics requiring mandatory in-service training include and are not limited to:

Mandatory range qualifications, at least six (6) hours of use of force and de-escalation techniques, specific training on the laws concerning "stops, searches, and the use of force as noted in the 4th amendment, high risk traffic stops, constitutional and proper use of law enforcement authority, procedural justice, civil rights, human rights, reporting child abuse and neglect, cultural competency, including implicit bias and racial and ethnic sensitivity.

TASK FORCE AND MUTUAL AID ASSIGNMENTS

Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA):

- The DEA enforces the controlled substances laws and regulations of the United States and prosecutes in the criminal and civil justice systems of the United States. The Willow Springs Police Department began a partnership with the DEA in 2018 with their task force operations based out of the Chicago Field Divisions. We currently have one officer



assigned with the DEA as a Task Force Officer (TFO). The TFO's duties include: mobile and aerial surveillance, transportation interdiction, working in an undercover capacity in narcotics, and monitoring federal wiretaps.

- The seizure and forfeiture of assets derived from, traceable and evidentiary investigations and/or intended to be used for illicit drug trafficking directly benefits the Willow Springs Police Department.
- Based on successful investigations culminating in arrests and seizure of assets or property, the Willow Springs Police Department is eligible for a percentage of the currency or assets which can be used in our departments efforts to combat local narcotic problems.

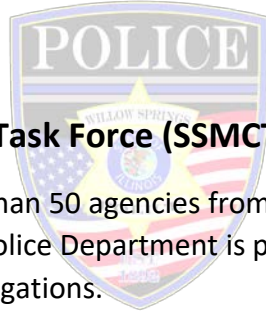
Case and Investigative Summary for our DEA task force officer's group in 2021:

- 47 Cases initiated
- 24 Arrests
- 8000 M-30 (Fentanyl Pills)
- 1300 Grams of Fentanyl Powder
- 2600 Grams of Heroin
- 1200 Grams of Cocaine
- 17000 Schedule II - IV pills
- 1 AK - 47 Rifle
- *The Willow Springs Police Department will be eligible for several of the asset forfeitures, including currency or assets which are pending in all of the initiated cases and arrests involved with the TFO's group.*

Major Case Assistance Team (MCAT):

- MCAT is a mutual aid organization comprised of investigators from 14 local jurisdictions including; Brookfield, Countryside, Forest View, Hodgkins, Indian Head Park, LaGrange, LaGrange Park, Lyons, McCook, North Riverside, Riverside, Stickney, Western Springs, and Willow Springs.
- In 2021, MCAT investigators were activated 17 times, which are detectives were able to respond to several of the call-outs in order to bring resolution to various criminal investigations that included a murder, shootings, narcotics, burglaries, and thefts. It is the mission of MCAT to work together to solve and reduce crime through the sharing of expertise, information, and the combining of resources.

Department MCAT Members: Detectives John Piest and Mike Prohaska



South Suburban Major Crimes Task Force (SSMCTF):

- SSMCTF encompasses more than 50 agencies from the 5th and 6th Districts of Cook County. The Willow Springs Police Department is part of the SSMCTF West Division and specializes in homicide investigations.

In 2021, SSMCTF detectives were activated on 6 separate occasions for homicide investigations.

Department SSMCTF Members: Detectives John Piest and Mike Prohaska, and Officers Matt Engel and Michelle Cipriani.

Illinois Law Enforcement Alarm System (ILEAS):

- The Willow Springs Police Department is also a member of ILEAS. The ILEAS task force was formed in 2002 in response to the September 11th attacks and is responsible for coordinating immediate statewide emergency mutual aid response by law enforcement agencies to a requesting agency should a community suffer any natural or man-made disaster. ILEAS is based in Urbana, IL and is the largest mutual aid organization in the United States

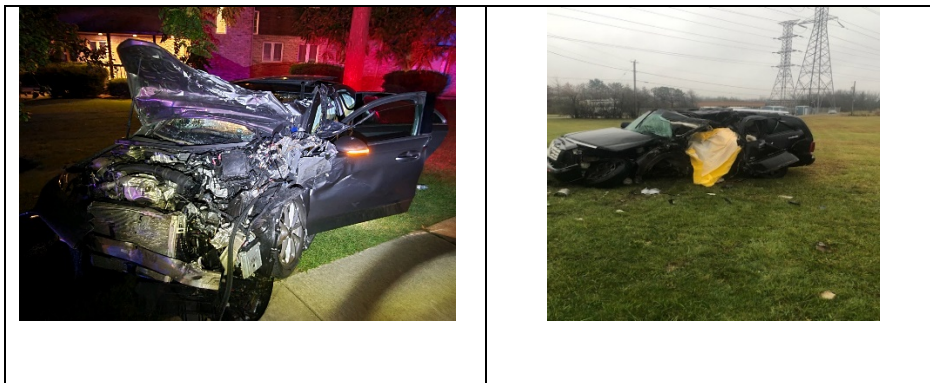
Suburban Major Accident Reconstruction Team (SMART):

SMART is comprised of police officers from member agencies that are specially trained in major crash reconstruction. These officers assist member agencies in the investigation of vehicle crashes involving substantial property damage, injury, and/or death. We currently have two officers, who just completed their State Certified Accident Reconstructionist through Northwestern University Traffic Program, and are assigned to the SMART team task force.

In 2021, our officers responded to 11 activations to assist member agencies with the reconstruction of major crashes.

Department SMART Team Members: Sergeant Jerry Jelinek, and Officer Matt Engel

Major Willow Springs Accidents of 2021





5th District SWAT Team:

The 5th District SWAT Team is comprised of specially trained officers from Alsip, Bridgeview, Bedford Park, Chicago Ridge, Countryside, Evergreen Park, Hickory Hills, Hodgkins, Palos Heights, and Willow Springs. These highly trained officers respond to high-risk situations including hostage/barricade subjects, armed offender situations, and high-risk search/arrest warrant services.

In 2021, 5th District SWAT officers responded to 3 Willow Springs activations.

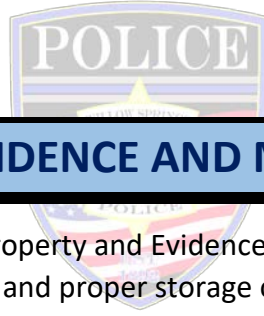
Department SWAT Team Member: Sergeant Michael Jurak

CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC EMERGENCY OPERATIONS

On March 11th, 2020 the World Health Organization declared a national emergency due to the Coronavirus pandemic. Based on this declaration, the Governor initially issued an emergency declaration for the State of Illinois – which carried over and impacted our department operations in 2021. Further executive orders followed that closed all non-essential businesses and schools. Those executive orders were followed by a series of over 80 more executive orders with varying mitigations.

In response to the emergency declaration, our department instituted personal protective equipment (PPE) orders and limited responses to non-emergency calls for service and ambulance requests with symptomatic patients. Some executive orders are still in effect as of this report. Our department mitigation compliance for the village primarily focused on education and community engagement rather than enforcement.

Public Awareness messages were posted and updated to keep our community up-to-date in response to our COVID Emergency Operations Plan.



PROPERTY EVIDENCE AND MANAGEMENT

Corporal Robert Jennings oversees Property and Evidence management for the department. He is responsible for the safekeeping and proper storage of all items logged into evidence including found property which comes into the department.

Additional responsibilities include the creation and submission of all court ordered evidence destruction and documentation and the management and maintenance of all property and evidence records.

Property Evidence Summary Report for 2021:

- Total items logged into evidence: 46
- Total incidents entered into evidence: 24
- Guns/Weapons inventoried: 7
- Death Investigations: 3
- Aggravated Battery: 1
- Armed Robbery: 2
- Taser Deployed: 1
- PCS/Drugs: 4
- Total items returned to owner/family: 10
- Total evidence destroyed or transferred to the department for use: 2
- 176 rounds of ammunition turned over to the department for use.

** Of the 10 items returned, two (2) guns were returned to Owner/Family*





2021 DEPARTMENT STATISTICS

OFFENSES: All			
Offense:	Attempted:	Completed:	Total:
120 - Robbery		1	1
13A - Aggravated Assault		1	1
13B - Simple Assault		8	8
220 - Burglary/Breaking and Entering		2	2
23C - Shoplifting		1	1
23D - Theft from Building		1	1
23F - Theft from Motor Vehicle		6	6
23H - All Other Larceny		4	4
240 - Motor Vehicle Theft		3	3
26A - False Pretenses/Swindle/Confidence Game	17	7	24
26D - Welfare Fraud	58		58
26F - Identity Theft	1		1
290 - Destruction/Damage/Vandalism of Property		22	22
35A - Drug/Narcotic Violations		1	1
520 - Weapons Law Violations		1	1
Totals:	76	58	134

TOTAL CALLS FOR SERVICE:

INCIDENT REPORTS 1467	CAD CALLS 14,310	TRAFFIC CRASHES 274	ALARM CALLS 99
WARRANT ARRESTS 15	LONG FORM ARRESTS 18	PREMISE CHECKS 10,214	ASSIST OTHER AGENCIES 150



TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT STATISTICS

TRAFFIC STOPS 919	TRAFFIC CITATIONS 539	LOCAL CITATIONS 1499
TRAFFIC WARNINGS 245	TRAFFIC ARRESTS 62	Administrative Tows/Impounds 87

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS UNIT STATISTICS

CASES ASSIGNED 51	SEARCH WARRANTS 7	ARREST WARRANTS 5
ACTIVE CASES 20	INVESTIGATIVE ARRESTS 12	TASK FORCE CALL-OUTS: SSMCTF: 6 MCAT: 17 ICAC: 1



ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (IDOT) TRAFFIC SAFETY GRANT

The Willow Springs Police Department was awarded a Traffic Safety Grant through the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) State of Illinois Occupant Protection and Driving While Impaired and Alcohol enforcement efforts are designed to enforce violations of particular Illinois traffic laws with special emphasis on occupant protection and safety, and impaired driving and alcohol related offenses.

In 2021, our enforcement campaign efforts were limited in participation in most of the grant campaigns due to the COVID-19 pandemic orders, and with some of our staffing shortages we experienced.

We conducted grant enforcement campaigns for the following holidays:

- *The four-(4) day St. Patrick's Day campaign resulted in 31 traffic citations being issued, 15 Occupant Protection citations, and 7 Alcohol/Impaired driving citations.*
- *For the five-(5) day Thanksgiving campaign, our officers issued a total of 69 traffic related citations, including 29 for Occupant Protection violations and 13 related to Alcohol/Impaired driving citations.*



DEPARTMENT USE OF FORCE

- Whenever a Willow Springs police officer is involved in an incident requiring the use of either deadly force or non-lethal force beyond the routine act of handcuffing, the department will conduct a review of that incident. The review assesses each incident

and determines the possible need for additional training, policy modifications, or to identify misconduct.

- In 2021, the Illinois Chiefs of Police Association certified the Willow Springs Police Department as being in compliance with the United States Department of Justice's use of force standards pursuant to President Trump's Safe Policing for Safe Communities Executive Order. Among other requirements, these standards require a ban on the use of chokeholds and ensure that the department's use of force policies adhere to all applicable federal, state, and local laws. The department is also a voluntary participant in the Federal Bureau of Investigation's national use of force database.

WSPD RECORDS MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (RMS)

Through the use of our Records Management System (RMS), our record keeping and reporting process is streamlined and operates efficiently allowing officers to accurately document people, places, and things when completing their written police reports. The RMS system also allows our department to document recovered property and evidence, maintain officer training records, track vehicle maintenance records, and manage our monthly adjudication proceedings.

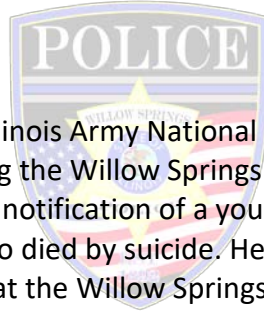
Our department also utilizes a computerized e-ticketing and e-crash reporting software that allows officers to complete accident reports electronically and in much less time saving valuable department resources. In addition, State of Illinois required crash statistics are compiled seamlessly in the system, and our personnel can conduct statistical reports of crash data, and our accident reports are made available to citizens and insurance companies online.

POLICE DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN



We would like to introduce you to our Police Department Chaplain --

Chaplain Robert (Bob) Geaschel. Chaplain Geaschel currently serves as Senior Pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church and School in Burr Ridge/Willow Springs. He began as Assistant Pastor in 1996. This marks his 25th year in pastoral ministry. Chaplain Geaschel is a graduate of Rock Valley College in Rockford, IL., Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, and Concordia Seminary in Saint Louis, MO. Chaplain Geaschel also graduated from the US Army Infantry Center and School at Fort Benning Georgia, and from the US Army Chaplain Center and School at Fort Jackson, South Carolina.



Chaplain Geaschel retired from the Illinois Army National Guard after 23 years of service, with one Combat Tour in Iraq. Since joining the Willow Springs Police Department, Chaplain Geaschel has assisted with the death notification of a young man involved in a single vehicle traffic accident, and a young man who died by suicide. He has attended a Christmas Shop-with-a-cop event and offered the prayers at the Willow Springs Community 9/11 anniversary service.

Chaplain Geaschel does fabulous work of integrating his services throughout the department and the community. Police Chaplains also provide comfort and counseling to members of the police department and their families when they have been involved in a critically stressful situation, or if they seek counseling for personal reasons, and also assisting the public and providing comfort and guidance during stressful situations

DEPARTMENT PROGRAM PARTICIPATION

Crisis Intervention and Domestic Violence Prevention Program:

Our Crisis Intervention and Domestic Violence Prevention Program was developed as an intervention and prevention initiative to support quality of life issues for the residents of Willow Springs. All community contacts that the police department is requested for service with involving issues related to mental health, domestic disturbance, substance abuse, and behavioral health crisis are screened and provided support by police department personnel. Police department staff who assist with this program receive specialized training in community crisis intervention support and our department coordinator of the program is a sworn officer and mental health specialist who is a Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor and Certified Addictions Counselor.

As a new initiative, we have partnered with the Crisis Center for South Suburbia who provides outstanding domestic violence outreach services to the community. Police Officer Michelle Cipriani will oversee this community outreach program that provides a 24-hour hotline for services with a Live Safe Patient Advocacy representatives who are trained professionals to provide immediate crisis intervention, support and resources to victims of domestic violence. The crisis center also provides domestic violence training to law enforcement personnel through specialized training classes or at daily roll-calls.

Areas of support provided by police department staff include in-person and telephone crisis intervention assessment and referral services to local mental health, substance use, and domestic/family violence service systems such as the Pillars Community Health Agency.

For the year 2021, our department made contact with over 25 families to provide assistance and crisis intervention support and resources. Here are some of the comments and feedback we received back from our community residents regarding our Crisis Intervention and Domestic Violence Program:



- *“With all of the bad news nowadays about police, people should know that we need you more than ever.”*
- *“Thank you officers for caring about our family”.*
- *“Everyone needs help sometimes. Thanks for the help.”*
- *“You know, it’s nice to see that the city people are trying to help us.”*

Special Olympics Illinois:

In 2021, the Willow Spring Police Department participated in the Special Olympics Illinois Coffee for Champions and their Plane Pull event at O’Hare International Airport. Special Olympics Illinois is a fabulous organization that unleashes the human spirit through the transformative power and joy of sport, every day around the world. Special Olympics Illinois is a not-for-profit organization offering year-round training and competition in 18 sports for more than 23,000 athletes with intellectual disabilities and over 13,000 Young Athletes ages 2-7 with and without intellectual disabilities. Special Olympics transforms the lives of people with intellectual disabilities, allowing them to realize their full potential in sports and in life. Special Olympics programs enhance physical fitness, motor skills, self-confidence, social skills and encourage family and community support.

Our department is proud to support such a great organization, that provides year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in a sharing of gifts, skills and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes and the community.

- Our fundraising efforts for the Coffee for Champions event raised almost \$6300.00
- For the Special Olympics Plane Pull event at O’Hare Airport, we combined our efforts with Justice Police Department for the event. Team Willow Springs/Justice was the second largest fundraiser team raising almost \$5600.00, which had over 50 teams registered. Special thanks go out to our team Special Olympian and team Captain, Matthew Szeszycki.
- At a Village Board meeting, Captain Matt was awarded a Willow Springs Police Department, Department Commendation for his tremendous contributions to our team and his devotion to Special Olympics Illinois.

In 2021, the Willow Springs Police Department raised almost \$12,000.00 for Special Olympics Illinois. Special Thanks to our Village Board and Community for supporting our departments efforts for Special Olympics.



Shop-With-A-Cop Program:

This year we hosted our 3rd Annual Shop-With-A-Cop program. This year we were joined by our friends from the Hickory Hills Police Department who wanted to see how we ran the program and how our kids participated in the event. Over ten-(10) deserving families had a wonderful time shopping, which made Christmas 2021 very memorable for the children. Special thanks go out to our local Walmart for all of their great support and assistance with making our Shop-With-A-Cop event such a tremendous success!

Each of the children were given \$100.00 gift certificates and then were surprised with a message from Santa Clause to also pick out a bike, which each of the kids were ecstatic and were jumping up and down with excitement. The families were then treated to lunch at our Community Center with the pizzas and treats provided by Nino’s restaurant who donated the great lunch for everyone. We look forward to hosting our 4th annual event next year.

Thanks to all of our community support, we raised \$3000.00 to provide some great toys, games, electronics, clothes, and bicycles to each of the children – and let’s not forget the great lunch serviced by Nino’s.



Video Surveillance Program:

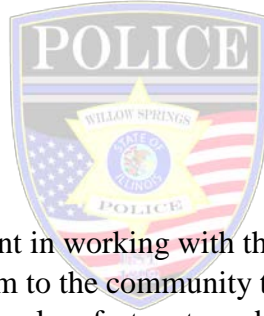
One of the goals of the Willow Springs Police Department, is to continually work in partnership with our community and to initiate programs for our residents and business constituents that enhance our crime fighting efforts while working with our community. For this purpose, one of the new programs we launched was our “Video Surveillance” program that allows participants who have video surveillance cameras or doorbell systems on their property to register with the Willow Springs Police Department, which provides us with an extra set of eyes and ears within the community to assist with investigations.

The Video Surveillance System Program can provide valuable investigative information on crimes that occur in close proximity to their residence or business. Information can be shared in real-time on the video systems or applications and residents can also share information in real-time, anonymously. Any video information we obtain has the potential to provide valuable assistance in our investigative process in order to obtain possible suspect information, locate potential evidence, or gather any valuable intelligence that is captured on the video system.

Prescription Drug Drop-off Location:

The Willow Springs Police Department partners with the Cook County Sheriff’s Office in the Prescription Drug Drop-off program. The Cook County Sheriff’s Office supplied our department with a secured collection container for unwanted medication. The Sheriff’s Office picks up the medication on a regular basis, incinerates the drugs, and recycles the containers. The collection box is located in the lobby of the police department.

This is a fabulous program which is used as an effective way to get unused pharmaceutical drugs off the streets and out of medicine cabinets.



Senior Safe Program:

The Willow Springs Police Department in working with the Willow Springs Seniors Club introduced the Senior S.A.F.E program to the community to assist our elderly residents. Our department deeply values those who are less fortunate and do not have family or friends to check in on their well-being on a regular basis.

We adopted this program which allows the police department to document personal critical information to assist those in need of police or medical assistance. When Willow Springs Police personnel are notified and respond to check on a senior's well-being and receive no answer or response at the residence, we are committed to making contact and communication with the resident. If all contact means are exhausted forced entry might have to be made into the residence.

The S.A.F.E program is designed for senior citizens who are age 60 and older, or for any village resident who requires any special assistance physically, or with individual mental health challenges. We strongly encourage those who need special assistance to complete the required forms and participate in our community-based program.

S.A.F.E. (Senior Awareness For Everyone) contact forms include; emergency contact information and telephone numbers, emergency information in the event the senior is ill or having a medical emergency and must be transported to the hospital for care. Responding officers can attempt to make contact with those listed on the form in order to determine the best possible response to the situation presented. In these types of situations, those listed as emergency contacts can be immediately notified and provide valuable and current medical history or vital medical information, which will assist emergency or hospital personnel.

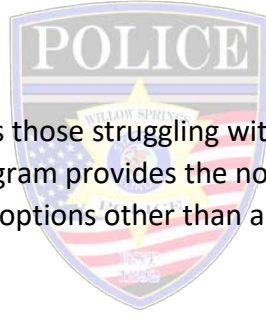
Our department Elder Service Officers are: Corporal Bob Jennings and Officer Michelle Cipriani.

Safe Passage Program:

With the current National Crisis taking place concerning the growing and growing opioid epidemic the Willow Springs Police Department started the Safe Passage Program. The goal of this successful program was to assist and have the privilege of helping individuals and their families who request help and support for opiate/opioid or substance abuse addiction.

Every community across this country is battling the misuse and overdoses related to the opioid epidemic. The staggering numbers continue to grow and these tragic deaths will continue to grow into 2022. From April of 2020 to April of 2021 over 100,000 deaths occurred because of the opioid epidemic and crisis taking place.

The purpose of our Safe Passage program is to provide hope to those battling the demons of opioid and substance abuse addictions, and to provide additional resources and information on recovery and treatment facility referrals for the families involved. The Willow Springs Police



Department program greatly benefits those struggling with addiction and mental health issues in our community. This valuable program provides the non-violent addict and those suffering from mental health issues additional options other than arrest and possibly jail time.

Autism Awareness Program:

The Willow Springs Police Department through our Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) program started a new community initiative to assist individuals with autism who experience difficult situations. Working with, and handling calls for service with those facing mental health issues is a top priority within our department and this outstanding program will enhance our specialized training to further recognize the signs of autism and effective ways to approach a person with autism spectrum involvement.

Autism is a bio-neurological developmental disability that generally appears before the age of 3. Program participation is totally voluntary for the families or caregivers of those with autism who can register with the Willow Springs Police Department. This valuable information allows us to inform our telecommunications center of a person's special needs, which allows our responding officers to be better prepared in knowing that someone will need special assistance.

The critical information that we receive in the Autism Awareness program provides such valuable information related to any special medical assistance or interactions that might assist the individual. For example, what triggers the person, what might calm the person down, or what hobbies the person partakes in. Any, and all information we have will tremendously assist our responding officers to effectively interact with the person without scaring them or escalating emotions at the scene.

Our department goal is to provide caring assistance to those individuals, and such critical information truly improves our responses to such calls for assistance.



LABOR AND MANAGEMENT RELATIONS

The Department enjoys an excellent working relationship with the two unions representing our sworn personnel in the police department. Successful contract negotiations were completed in April with the police sergeant's union, Illinois Council of Police (ICOPS) with a new three-(3) agreement being signed.

The current patrol officer collective bargaining agreement with their union, the Metropolitan Alliance of Police (MAP), was signed in 2020 and expires in 2023. There were no grievances filed by MAP in 2021.

Due to our excellent working relationships with our police department unions – ICOPS and MAP - there is little concern with labor/management relations as we enter into 2022 and beyond.







DEPARTMENT COMMEMORATION

Total Line of Duty Deaths 2021: 491 (55% increase from 2020)
Officers Murdered by Gunfire: 63
Illinois Law Enforcement Officer Killed: 9
 Source of Information: Officer Down Memorial Page

**PAYING HONOR IN MEMORY TO OUR ILLINOIS POLICE OFFICERS
 TRAGICALLY MURDERED/KILLED IN MAKING THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE
 IN 2021**

 <p><u>Sergeant Marlene Roberta Rittmanic</u> Bradley Police Department, EOW: Thursday, December 30, 2021 Cause of Death: Gunfire</p>	 <p><u>Deputy Sheriff Sean Riley</u> Wayne County Sheriff's Office EOW: Wednesday, December 29, 2021 Cause of Death: Gunfire</p>	 <p><u>Police Officer Tyler Timmins</u> Pontoon Beach Police Department EOW: Tuesday, October 26, 2021 Cause of Death: Gunfire</p>
 <p><u>Police Officer Ella Grace French</u> Chicago Police Department EOW: Saturday, August 7, 2021 Cause of Death: Gunfire</p>	 <p><u>Police Officer Brian Russell Pierce, Jr.</u> Brooklyn Police Department EOW: Wednesday, August 4, 2021 Cause of Death: Vehicular assault</p>	 <p><u>Police Officer Chris Oberheim</u> Champaign Police Department EOW: Wednesday, May 19, 2021 Cause of Death: Gunfire</p>



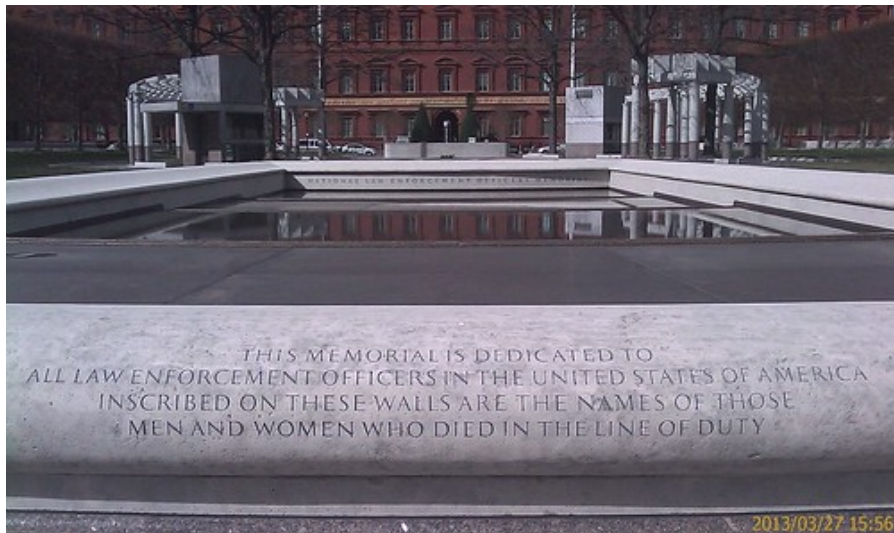
Lieutenant James Kouski
Hometown Police Department
EOW: Saturday, April 3, 2021
Cause of Death: Vehicular assault



Senior Master Trooper Todd Anthony Hanneken
Illinois State Police
EOW: Thursday, March 25, 2021
Cause of Death: Automobile crash

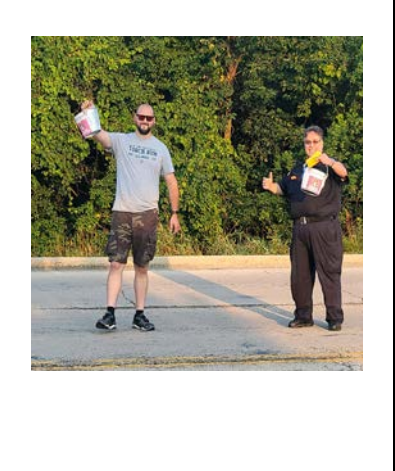
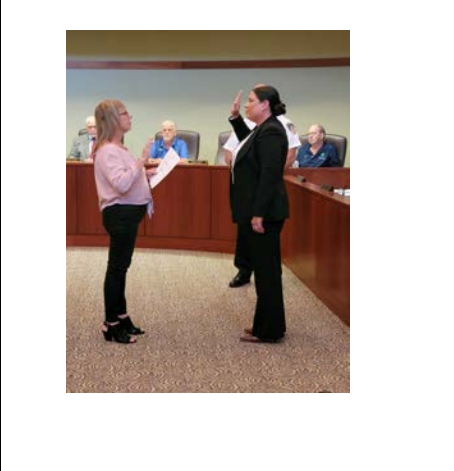
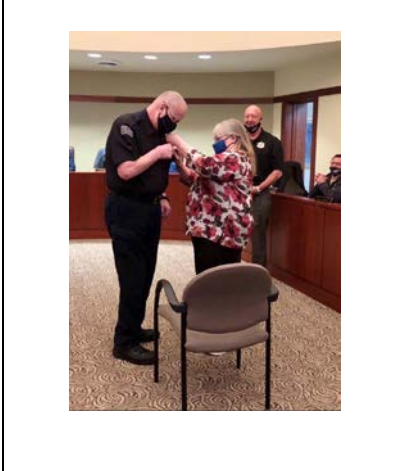
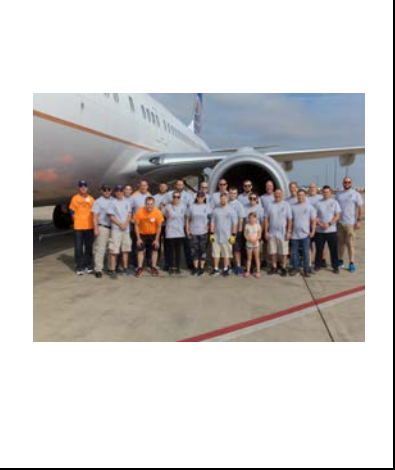
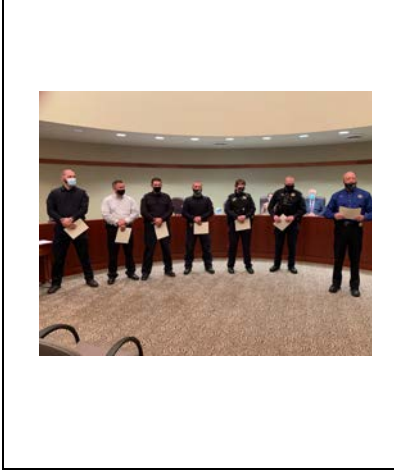
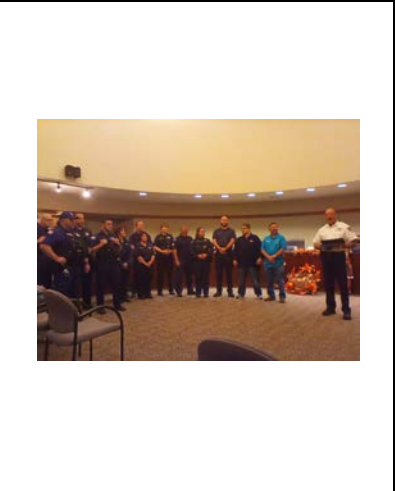
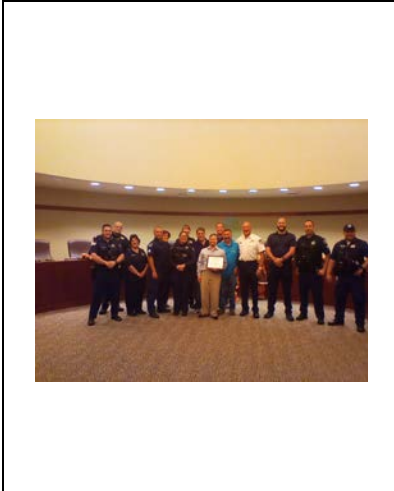


Police Officer Gary Hibbs
Chicago Heights Police Department
EOW: Friday, March 12, 2021
Cause of Death: Assault

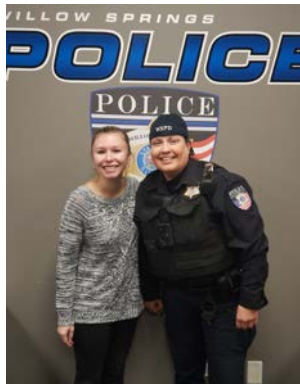




DEPARTMENT MEMORABLE EVENTS IN 2021









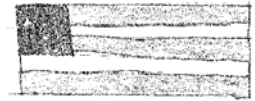
SOME SPECIAL LETTERS FROM OUR GRADE SCHOOL STUDENTS



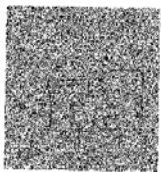
Thank for being here
 for us all and not giving up.
 It really doesn't seem like we
 appreciate you but we all do,
 with all the protes and looting.
 I love you all and please be
 safe out there. I think about all
 of the police officers and pray
 of you all at all times. Keep doing
 what your doing what you are
 doing & never give up!

Love,
 Just an ordinary
 6th grader.

How some is a letter
 and I want to say thank
 you for your services...
 and everything you do
 for us.



Thank you for
 your -Service-



-JT

Thank you for service

all the
 love
 and
 support

Thank you so much for helping
 us all out I really want you
 to know that we love you
 with all of our hearts and we
 really will appreciate you. Please
 be safe out here I know I don't
 know much about being a cop
 because I am only 10 years old
 but I do know the dangers that
 it can indicate. I pray for you
 all. You guys are the best. With
 ought you we wouldn't be
 as good. Please be carefull.
 Love you all.

Love,
 one ordinary
 6th grade Girl ♡



POLICE DEPARTMENT MISSION STATEMENT

The Willow Springs Police Department is a dedicated, committed, and diverse group of professionals who are committed to the community in making the Village of Willow Springs a safe and desirable place to live, work, and visit. Our mission is to partner with the community to solve problems, enforce the laws, and improve public safety that is fair, impartial, transparent, and consistent with the core values that the members of the Willow Springs Police Department display and demonstrate through integrity, professionalism, and teamwork and communication.

James D. Ritz
Chief of Police

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR HAVING SUCH A SUPPORTING COMMUNITY – THANK YOU!

To the “Adopt-A-Police-Department Program Committee, to the Willow Springs Lions Club, and for all the packaged treats and cookies and cakes, hand-written notes, to several catered meals from local restaurants, our department personnel are truly grateful for all the generosity that our residents and businesses have showed us throughout 2021!

