



PINGREE GROVE POLICE DEPARTMENT

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

Abstract

The Pingree Grove Police Department was founded in 2006 with the hiring of the first part-time Chief of Police. The agency has developed and grown into a full-time police department now serving over 10,000 residents and over 40 local businesses.

Chief of Police Christopher Harris
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LETTER TO THE VILLAGE PRESIDENT, BOARD OF TRUSTEES, BUSINESS COMMUNITY AND RESIDENTS

This 2023 annual report is centered on a review of accomplishments and continuing efforts to provide the highest level of service to the Village of Pingree Grove by the Police Department. Current challenges in law enforcement including recruitment and retention of officers and staff, officer wellness and morale, and increasing crime rates continue to impact the Pingree Grove Police Department. In light of these, the Police Department strives to train and equip officers to effectively respond to all types of incidents that can be prevalent in a fast-growing community like the Village of Pingree Grove.

I would like to acknowledge all of our police officers and office staff with my most sincere appreciation for providing outstanding service and attention to our residents and all of those who have needed police assistance. The mission statement of the Pingree Grove Police Department is to provide services with integrity and dedication, to preserve life, to enforce the law, and to work in partnership with the community to enhance the quality of life in the Village of Pingree Grove. The Pingree Grove Police Department strives to live out this mission statement each day in every police interaction.

In 2023, the Police Department continued to work towards stability and growth through hiring, training, succession planning, and department reorganization. We also continued in our philanthropic partnerships with community organizations such as Special Olympics of Illinois and the Shop With A Cop foundation. We built on community collaboration by participating in many exciting community events throughout the year such as the annual Touch-A-Truck, Independence Day celebration, annual tree lighting event, and the arrival of the Canadian Pacific Kansas City Holiday train.

I wish to thank Village President Amber Kubiak, Village Manager Andrew Ferrini, the Village Trustees, and the Village staff for their support and confidence as we work together to accomplish the vital mission of keeping our community safe. We look forward to continued collaboration and future growth together in Pingree Grove.

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher Harris
Chief of Police



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MISSION / VISION STATEMENT / CORE VALUES

Mission Statement

It is the mission of the Pingree Grove Police Department to provide services with integrity and dedication, to preserve life, to enforce the law, and to work in partnership with the community to enhance the quality of life in the Village of Pingree Grove.

Vision Statement

Through innovative thinking and goal setting, we are committed to delivering unparalleled service to our community. We will continue to strengthen community relationships and public trust while striving for excellence through employee development, self-discipline, and strong leadership.

Core Values

Integrity – We are committed to the enforcement of laws and the preservation of order and property. We are honest, truthful, and consistent in our words and actions, and therefore worthy of the public’s trust. We exercise discretion in a manner that is beyond reproach. We do not accept gifts or special considerations as a consequence of our office.

Professionalism – We treat the public and our colleagues with courtesy and respect. We understand that our appearance, words, and demeanor contribute to the public’s confidence in us. We are responsive to the community and deliver services promptly and efficiently.

Fairness and Impartiality – We act with fairness, restraint, and impartiality in carrying out our duties. We work with the community to continually understand and overcome cultural influences and unconscious biases. We understand that our actions, combined with the way we treat members of the community, contributes to our “legitimacy” in the eyes of the public.

Teamwork – We work together as one organization in carrying out the mission of the department; our respective units do not act as distinct “silos” from one another. As individual members of the department we are respectful to each other and work collectively to solve problems and serve the community.

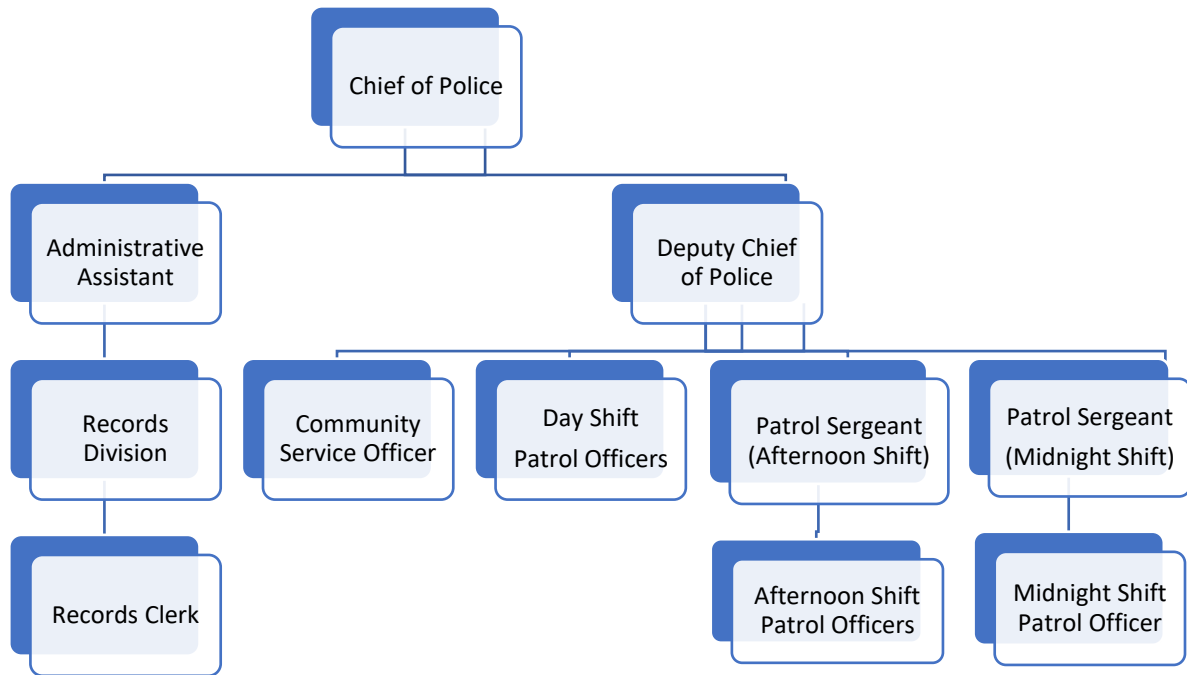
Efficiency – We keep abreast of standard procedures, legal issues, and innovative topics in modern policing through regular training. We exercise rigor in thinking strategically about identifying trends, exploring alternative solutions, and solving problems.

Advocacy and Empathy – We have compassion for victims of crime. As members of the community, we have respect for and promote the diversity of the community. We advocate for social and other supportive services for victims, youth, and others involved in the criminal justice system.



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POLICE DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE



The Pingree Grove Police Department currently has twelve (12) full-time sworn patrol officers, one (1) part-time patrol officer, and three (3) civilian staff. Below is the current list of police employees and their start date with the organization (*order in longevity*).

Deputy Chief Jeffrey Pokorney – Hire Date: 02/04/2008
Chief of Police Christopher Harris – Hire Date: 04/07/2008
Administrative Assistant Sherry Misceovich – Hire Date: 05/04/2009
Records Clerk Paula Hercog – Hire Date: 08/17/2017
Patrol Officer Greg McCulloch --Hire Date: 07/02/2018
Patrol Officer (*Part-Time*) Eric Villanueva – Hire Date: 12/16/2019
Patrol Sergeant Martin Racila – Hire Date: 04/06/2020
Patrol Officer Daniel Charal – Hire Date: 10/18/2021
Patrol Officer Jack Ferron – Hire Date: 11/15/2021
Patrol Sergeant Riley Jensen – Hire Date: 01/18/2022
Community Service Officer Mackenzie Salazar – Hire Date: 07/14/2022
Patrol Officer Ryan Sears – Hire Date: 08/29/2022
Patrol Officer Nisa Santana – Hire Date: 09/09/2022
Patrol Officer Jeffrey Chandler – Hire Date: 11/14/2022
Patrol Officer Jonathan Garcia – Hire Date: 02/06/2023
Patrol Officer Blake Stewart – Hire Date: 09/18/2023
Patrol Officer Robert Jacobsen – Hire Date: 10/02/2023



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In 2023, the Pingree Grove Police Department had multiple changes in the Administrative Staff throughout the year.

Martin Racila was promoted to the rank of Sergeant in March 2023. He retired from the Hoffman Estates Police Department in 2016 after 25 years of service. Martin was sworn in as a part-time patrol officer in April 2020 and transitioned to full-time in December 2020.

Riley Jensen was promoted to the rank of Sergeant in July 2023. Riley worked for the City of Davenport, IA and the City of Crystal Lake, IL prior to being hired as a part-time officer in January 2022 and transitioned to full time in March 2022.

Christopher Harris was appointed to Chief of Police by the Village President in November 2023. Christopher started working in Pingree Grove in April 2008 as a part-time officer and transitioned to full-time in May 2012. He was promoted to Patrol Sergeant in 2015 and was then appointed Administrative Lieutenant in 2017. The Administrative Lieutenant position was reclassified to Deputy Chief of Police in May 2023 due to the job responsibilities.

Jeff Pokorney was appointed Deputy Chief of Police by Chief Harris in December 2023 to fill the vacancy of the position. Jeff started working in Pingree Grove in February 2008 as a part-time officer and then transitioned to full-time in October 2009. He was promoted to Patrol Sergeant in 2015 and is the longest member of the Pingree Grove Police Department.



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TOTAL DISPATCH NUMBERS GENERATED BY KANECOMM DISPATCH (KANE COUNTY DISPATCH CENTER)

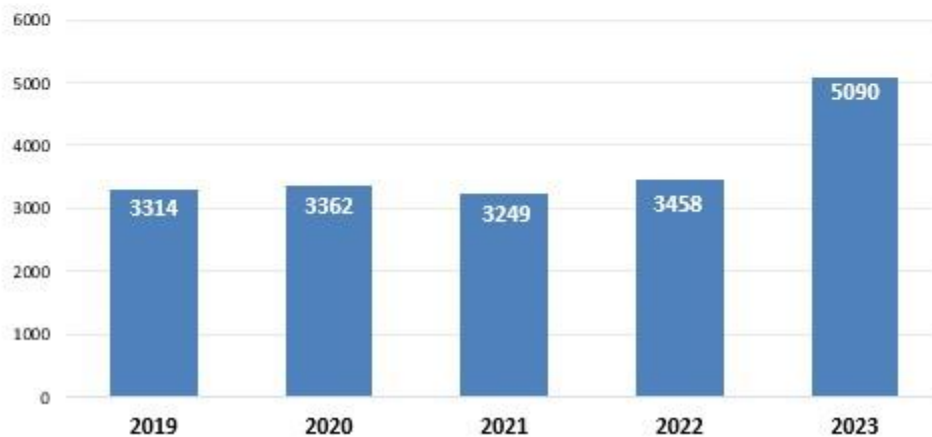
KaneComm

Kane County Emergency
Communications Center



Kane County Government Center
719 Batavia Ave, Building C
Geneva, Illinois 60134
Phone: (830) 232-8400
Fax: (830) 208-2047

Pingree Grove Police Department 5 Year Call for Service Trends



The Pingree Grove Police Department has seen a continuous increase in call volume over the past 5 years. Other than 2021 during the Coronavirus pandemic, officers have been responding to more and more calls for service. In 2023, officers responded to 1,632 more calls than the previous year. This may be due to the population increase and the rise in vehicular thru traffic throughout the community.



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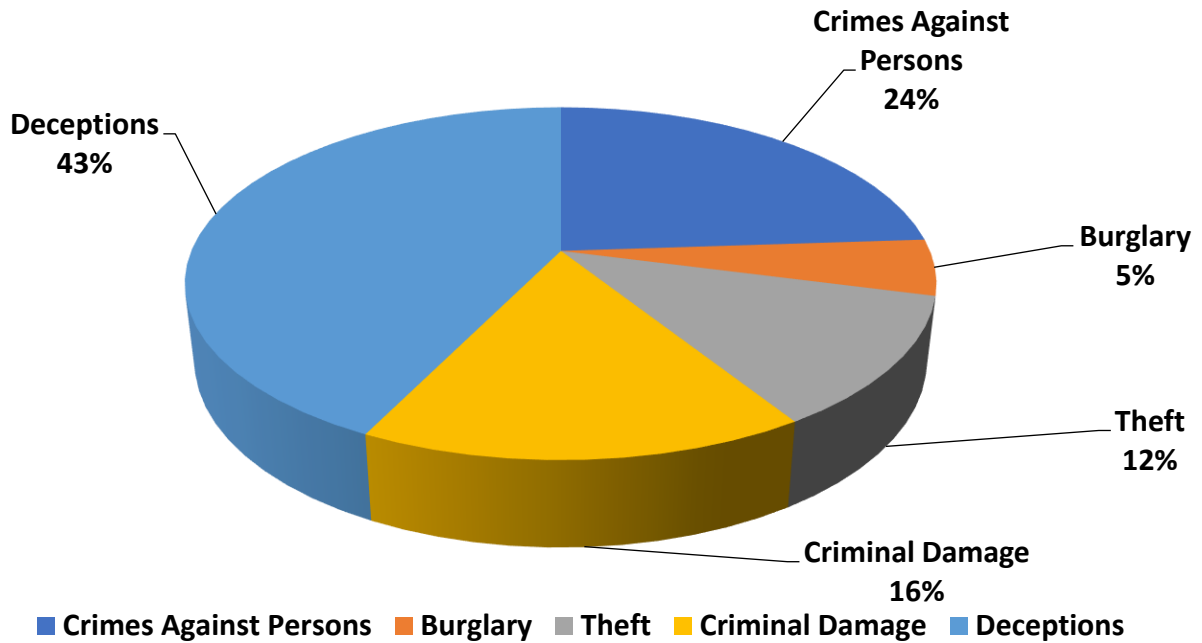
REPORTED CRIME CATEGORIES	2022	2023
CRIMES AGAINST PERSONS		
Homicide	0	0
Criminal Sexual Abuse	3	0
Robbery	0	0
Battery	25	21
Assault	0	0
Reckless Homicide	0	0
CRIMES AGAINST PROPERTY		
Burglary	0	0
Burglary to Residence	0	0
Burglary to Vehicle	6	1
THEFTS		
Felony	5	2
Misdemeanor	5	4
Retail Theft	2	1
Motor Vehicle Theft	2	2
CRIMINAL DAMAGE TO PROPERTY		
Felony	2	0
Misdemeanor	17	7
Arson	0	0
DECEPTIONS		
Deceptive Practice	19	14
Forgery	3	1
Theft of Labor / Service	0	0
All Other Deceptions	28	33
TOTAL CRIMES REPORTED	117	86



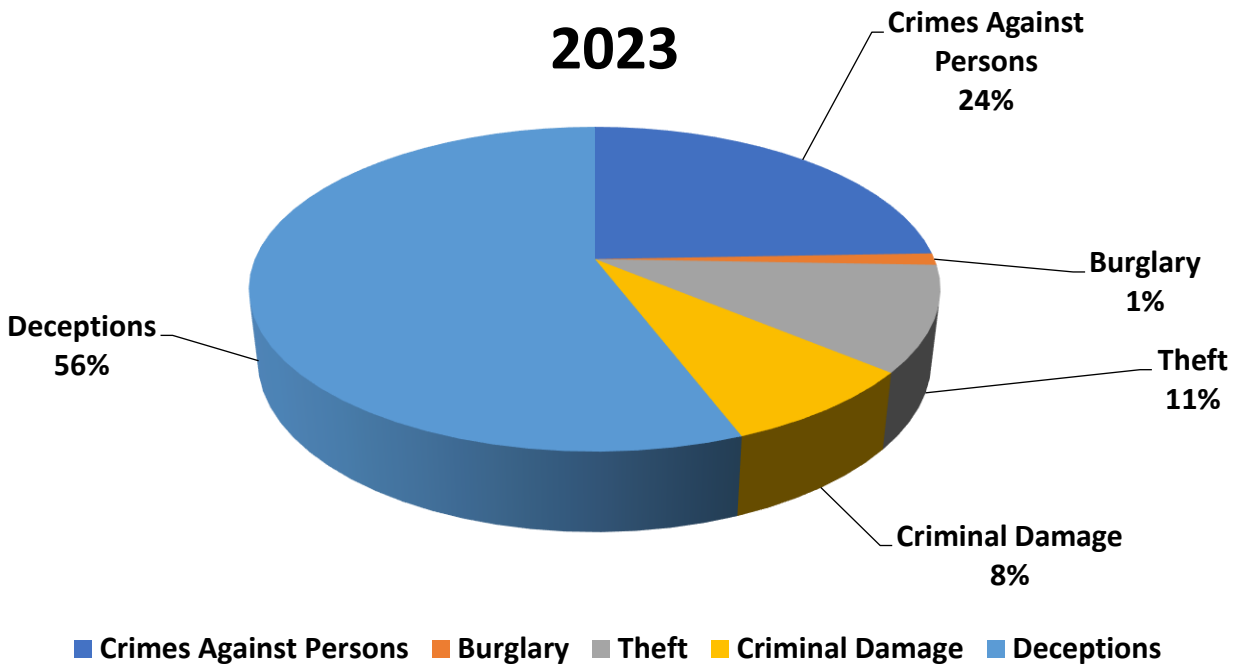
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REPORTED CRIMES COMPARISONS

2022



2023





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ARREST SUMMARY / TRAFFIC DATA	2022	2023
CRIMINAL ARRESTS		
Crimes Against Persons	16	18
Crimes Against Property	8	10
Crimes Against Society	37	92
Arrests for Outside Agencies	9	9
Juvenile Arrests	8	7
TOTAL CRIMINAL ARRESTS	78	136

TRAFFIC CITATIONS	2022	2023
From Accidents	76	84
Driving Under the Influence	15	23
Driving While Suspended	23	57
Insurance Violations	18	79
Other Traffic Citations	201	528
TOTAL TRAFFIC CITATIONS	333	771

TRAFFIC CRASHES	2022	2023
Fatal Crashes	1	2
Personal Injury	32	30
Property Damage	119	129
TOTAL CRASHES	152	161



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MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES	2022	2023
GENERAL INFORMATION		
Calls for Service	3,458	5,090
Miles Patrolled	68,755	75,502
Total Written Reports	1,096	1,014
Outside Agency Assists	44	40
Fire/Rescue Calls	30	28
Total Parking Violations	609	670
Vehicle Impound Fees	\$9,000	\$16,000

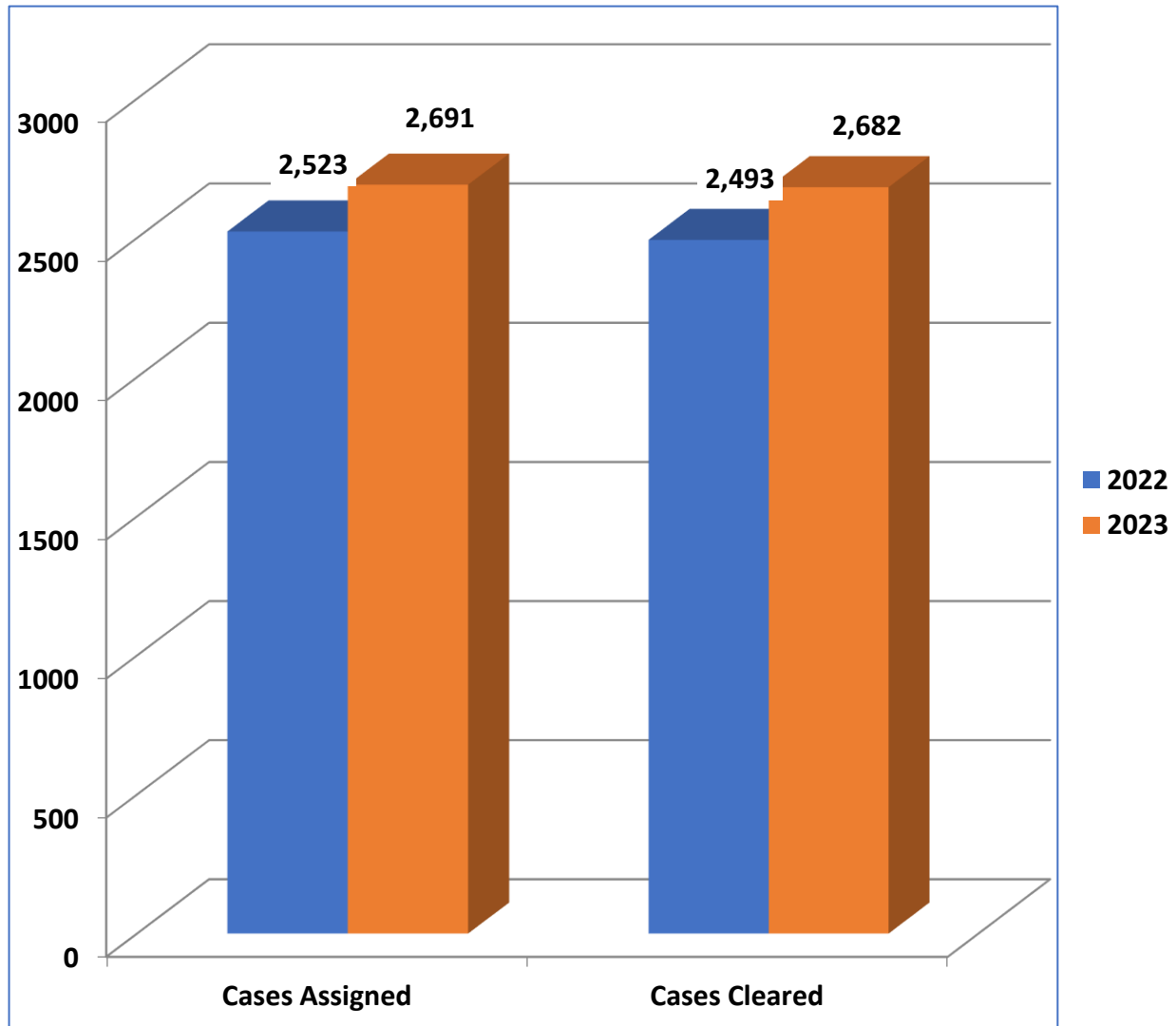
INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION	2022	2023
CASES ASSIGNED		
Felony Cases	90	30
Misdemeanor Cases	243	193
Non-Criminal Cases	2,190	2,468
TOTAL CASES ASSIGNED	2523	2691

CASES CLEARED	2022	2023
Felony Cases	76	20
Misdemeanor Cases	225	178
Non-Criminal Cases	2,192	2,484
TOTAL CASES CLEARED	2493	2682



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INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION YEARLY CASE COMPARISONS





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2023 CRIMINAL CASE REVIEW

In 2023 Pingree Grove Police Officers investigated 218 criminal complaints.

In January, officers were dispatched to a residence where a parent found a loaded handgun as well as parts of two additional guns in their 18-year-old son's bedroom. The offender was charged with multiple felonies.

In February, officers investigated a fraud where an elderly resident was tricked out of \$24,500.00 of his savings. Because of the amount of money being so significant, this case was referred to the FBI.

In March, officers investigated a report of a Criminal Sexual Assault of a 5 month old child. After a thorough investigation and forensic testing, it was determined that this alleged crime was unfounded.

In April, officers investigated another Criminal Sexual Assault where the 11 year old victim reported that he was sexually assaulted near the Community Garden. After a thorough investigation including DNA testing, this case was also unfounded.

Also in April, the Village of Pingree Grove became a victim when an unknown offender attempted to deposit two fraudulently created checks in the amount of \$32,500.00 and \$2500.00 respectively. An investigation of the origins of these two checks was conducted and it was determined that the checks originated out of state. Attempts to identify a suspect were unsuccessful. Fortunately, the Village suffered no financial loss.

June was a busy month for Pingree Grove Officers:

Officers responded to a hit and run crash that occurred in the parking lot of Minuteman Industrial. An investigation revealed that the offending vehicle left the roadway (Route 20) and struck a parked vehicle before re-entering the roadway westbound out of Pingree Grove. The driver was eventually located in DeKalb County and was subsequently charged with various offenses including Leaving the Scene of a Property Damage Crash and having a Revoked Driver's License.

Officers responded to Route 47, north of North Starks, for a Fatal Traffic Crash. An investigation conducted by Pingree Grove Officers and KCART determined that a vehicle heading north crossed into the southbound lane striking a northbound vehicle which caused another southbound vehicle to attempt to avoid the first crash and rolled over on the west side of Route 47. The driver of the northbound vehicle was killed on impact and it is believed that the crash was intentional.



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2023 CRIMINAL CASE REVIEW (CONTINUED)

Officers investigated an Animal Cruelty complaint where the complainant reported that his neighbor's dog appeared injured and emaciated. An investigation revealed that the dog was severely malnourished, had no water or food and was left outside without shelter. The dog was removed by Kane County Animal Control and was subsequently euthanized due to its condition. The dog's owner was cited for Cruel Treatment of an Animal.

In July, officers investigated an elderly resident who was duped in an online romance scam. The victim ultimately lost \$68,000.00 dollars over several months. An investigation revealed that the offender was outside of the United States and because this scam involved cryptocurrency, this case was referred to the US Secret Service for investigation.

In October, Officers investigated multiple Stolen Vehicles. During the course of the investigation, it was determined that a Pingree Grove resident had their vehicle stolen. While investigating this theft, officers recovered a vehicle stolen from Bartlett and additional Burglary to Autos and Trespass to Vehicles. This case is still under investigation as officers work with other agencies.

In November, officers investigated a retail theft which led to a hit and run crash. An investigation revealed that a juvenile from Lake In The Hills stole their parents vehicle and then picked up other juveniles who ultimately ended up in Pingree Grove. One of the juveniles stole items from the BP Amoco and another juvenile (driver) who while fleeing the scene backed into another vehicle. All parties were identified and the retail theft suspect was issued a local ordinance citation and the juvenile driver was arrested and issued citations for having No Driver's License and Leaving the Scene of a Crash.

Also in November, officers investigated the second fatal crash of 2023. An investigation conducted by Pingree Grove Officers and KCART revealed that the 16 year driver was speeding eastbound on Route 72, on the wet roadway, when he lost control of his vehicle and struck a westbound vehicle head-on. The 16 year old driver was ejected from his vehicle and subsequently died from his injuries. The other driver and her passenger (brother) were severely injured and to this date are still recovering.

In December, officers investigated a report of Child Pornography received from Hampshire Police Department's School Resource Officer (SRO). An investigation revealed that a 16 year old and a 15 year old who were once dating exchanged sexual pictures and videos with one another. Further investigation determined that these photos and videos were never exchanged with anyone else. Pingree Grove Officers along with the juveniles and their parents were brought together and agreed to handle this incident amongst themselves. Both juveniles were admonished to never do this again.

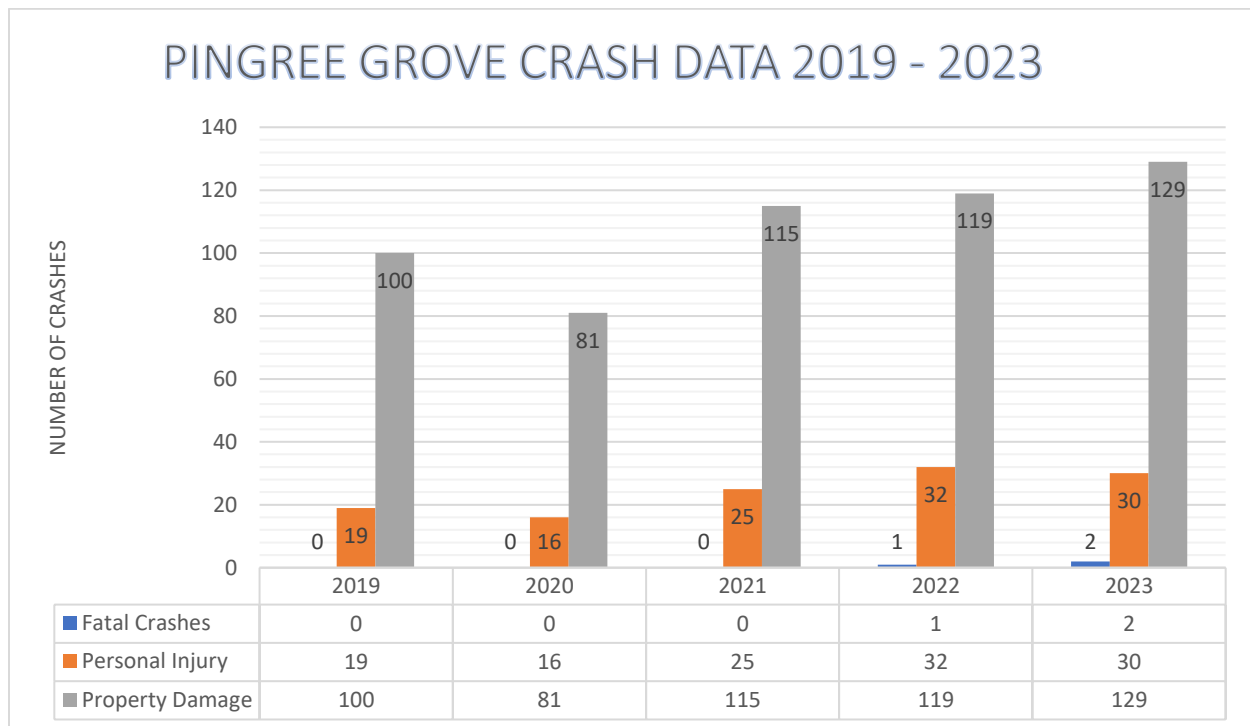


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VEHICLE CRASH STATISTICS

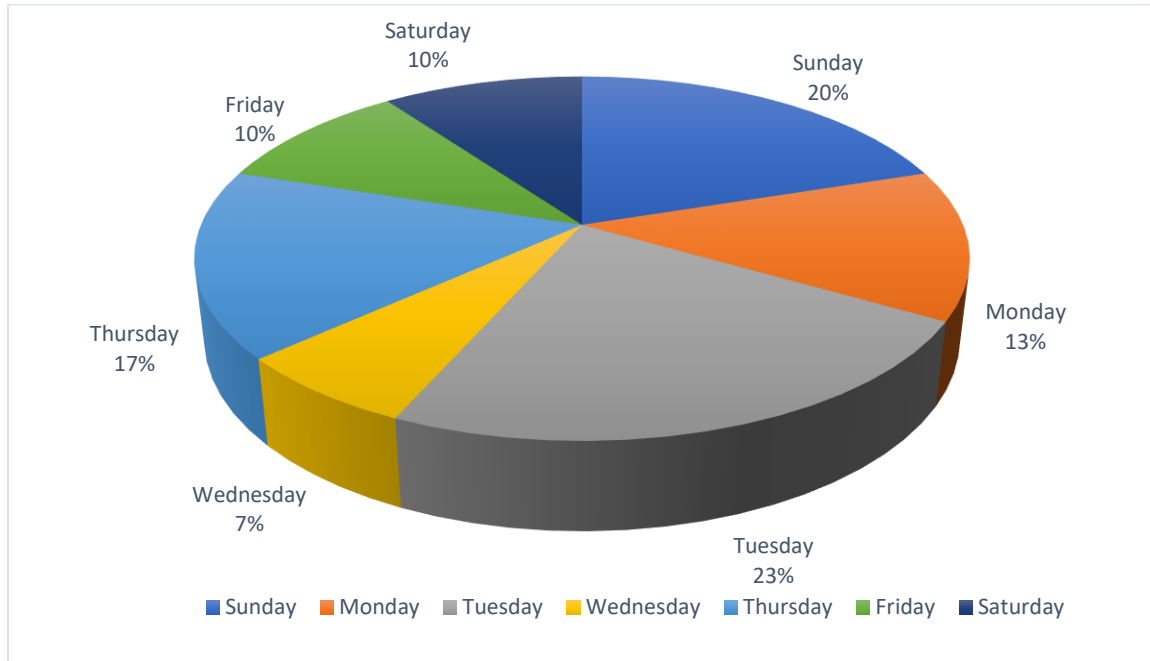
In 2023, there were 161 motor vehicle crashes reported to our police department while in 2019, only 119 crashes were reported. This is more than a 35% increase over the past five years. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) published 19,515 people died in motor vehicle traffic crashes in the first half of 2023. This is a 3.3% decrease from the 20,190 fatalities in the first half of 2022. For the first nine months of 2023, the NHTSA estimates that 30,435 people died in motor vehicle traffic crashes, which is a 4.5% decrease from the first nine months of 2022. The NHTSA also notes that vehicle miles traveled increased in the first half of 2023, by 35.1 billion, which is about 2.3 percent higher than for the same time last year.



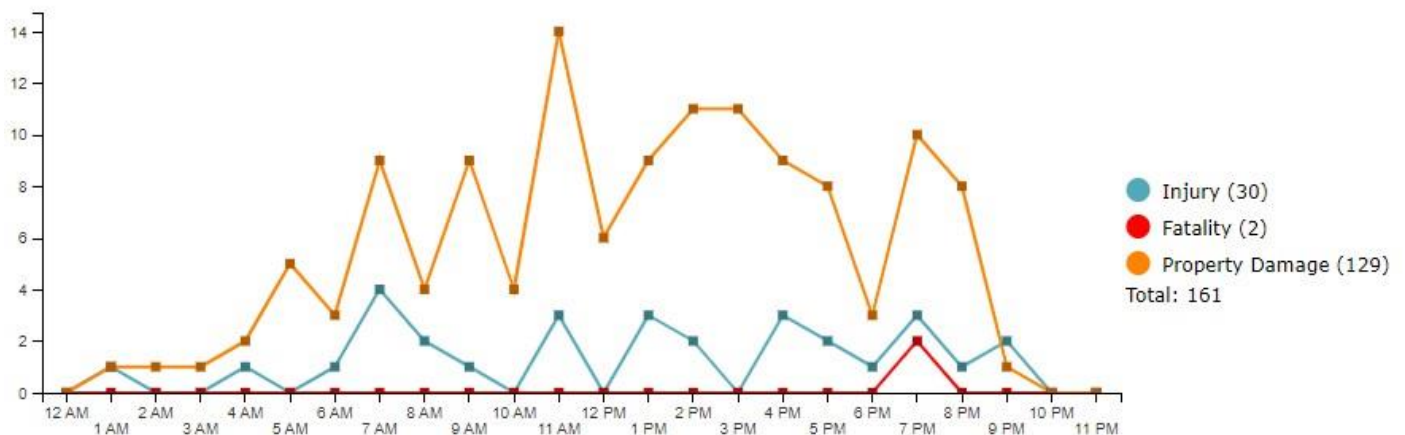


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CRASH PERCENTAGES BY DAYS OF THE WEEK



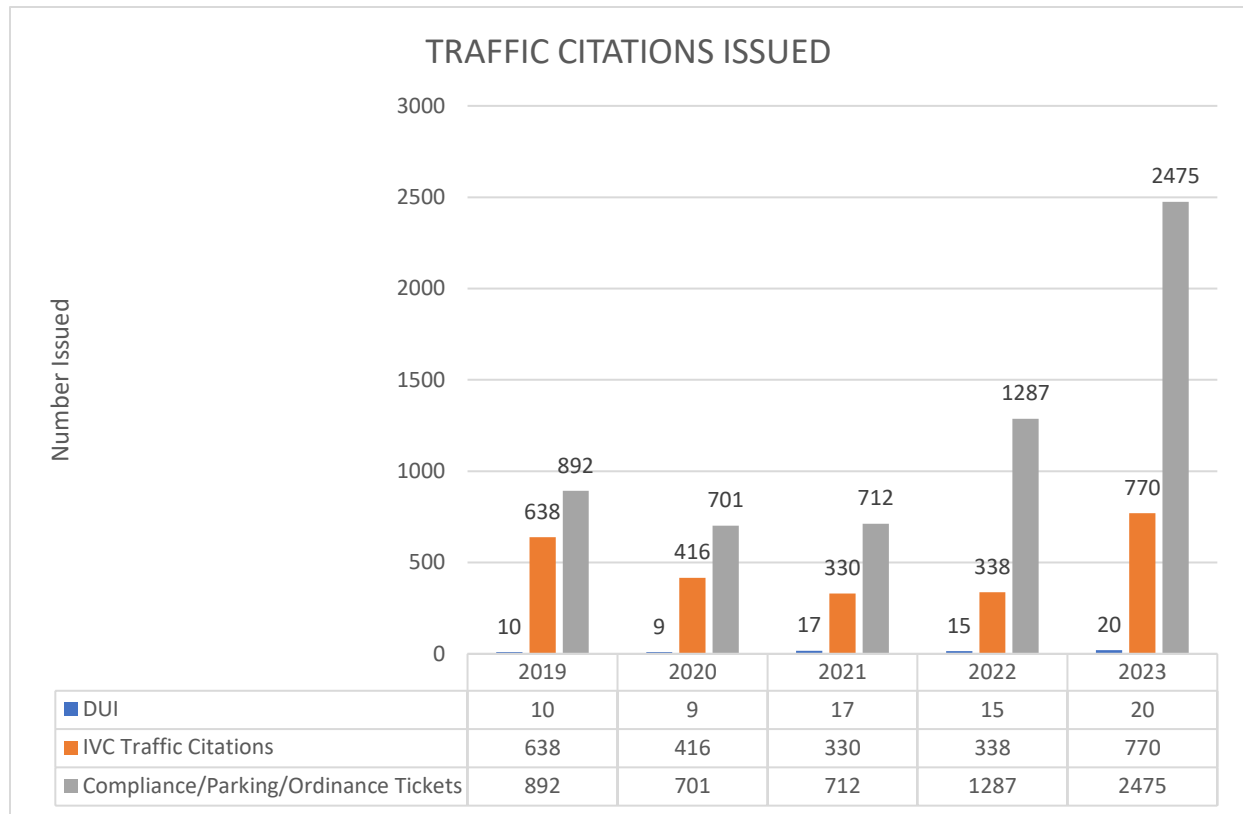
CRASH PERCENTAGES BY TIMES OF THE DAY





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Types of Calls between 01/01/2023 - 12/31/2023

9-1-1 Hang-up	42	Fraud	14
Alarms (Business)	6	Harassment	19
Alarms (Residential)	14	Juvenile Complaints/Problems	39
Animal Complaints	104	Lockout (Vehicle/Residential)	53
Assist Citizen	372	Motor Vehicle Thefts	2
Assist Fire Department/Ambulance	172	Motorists Assists	170
Assist Other Police Department	172	Noise Complaints	48
Battery (simple)	8	Parking Complaints	107
Burglary (Residential)	2	Retail Theft	14
Burglary (Vehicle)	1	Sexual Assaults	0
Check Welfare (Person)	99	Solicitor Complaints	18
Criminal Damage to Property	32	Suicide/Threat	9
Custody Issue/Dispute	12	Suspicious Activity/Incidents	140
Death Investigations	7	Suspicious Person/Vehicle	78
Disturbances	14	Thefts	14
Domestic Disturbance (non-arrest)	88	Trespass to Vehicle (entry only, no theft reported)	2
Domestic Battery Arrests	11	Trespass to Land	1
Driving Under the Influence	10	Warrant Arrest	22



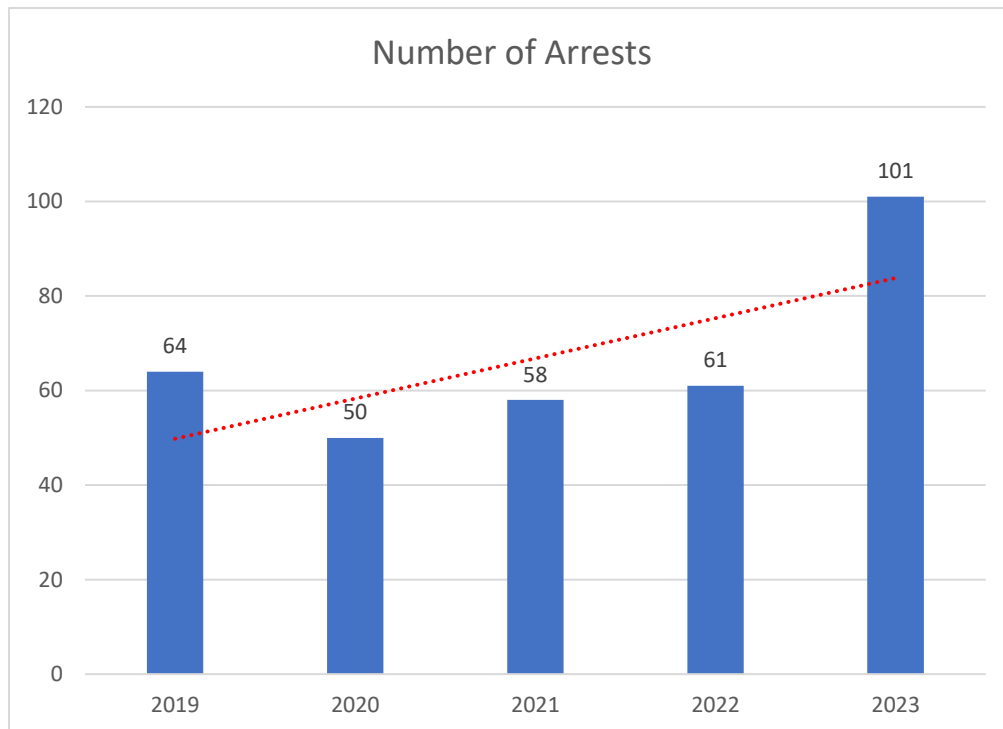
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ARRESTS

There are those times where it is inevitable that an arrest needs to be made. When this occurs, officers are taken from other calls in order to transport prisoners, process arrestees, and in some cases, wait for a response from our State's Attorney's Officer to approve higher felony charges.

In 2023, there were a total of 101 arrests which includes traffic and criminal law offenses. Reports of arrests were down from previous years which may be attributed to the COVID-19 pandemic. The increase in arrests also is contributed by the number of full-time officers we have compared to previous years.



Aggravated Battery
Animal Cruelty
Battery
Criminal Damage to Property
Criminal Sexual Assault
Criminal Trespass to Residence
Criminal Trespass to Vehicle
Domestic Battery - Bodily Harm
Driving Under the Influence
Driving While License Suspended/Revoked

Drug Possession
Illegal Transportation of Alcohol
No Valid Illinois Driver's License
Possession of Controlled Substance
Resisting Peace Officer
Suspended Registration for Non-Insurance
Unlawful Possession of Firearm w/o FOID
Unlawful Use of Weapon
Violation of Orders of Protection
Warrant Arrest



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POLICE DEPARTMENT FLEET



NUMBER	YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	COLOR	ASSIGNED	MILEAGE
#105	2016	Ford	Explorer	WHITE	Patrol	100,107
#111	2019	Ford	Explorer	WHITE	Patrol	108,529
#112	2021	Ford	Explorer	WHITE	Supervisor/Patrol	20,378
#113	2021	Ford	Explorer	WHITE	Patrol	34,012
#114	2023	Dodge	Durango	WHITE	Patrol	3,884
#115	2023	Dodge	Durango	WHITE	Patrol	4,569
#116	2023	Dodge	Durango	WHITE	Supervisor/Patrol	1,401
#100	2023	Dodge	Durango	BLACK	Chief	6,000
#117	2023	Dodge	Ram1500	WHITE	DUI / CSO	700

Over the past two years, the Police Department has increased their fleet significantly. The department had been utilizing many older vehicles with high mileage and repair costs. The addition of newer vehicles has allowed older vehicles to be taken out of the daily rotation and repurposed for court or training purposes. As new vehicles continue to be purchased, additional older vehicles will be rotated out of the fleet. This ultimately keeps the maintenance on these vehicles lower which contributes to fewer repair costs.

Recently, police vehicles have been manufactured by Dodge. This is a new change as previous vehicles were made by Ford. At the time of purchase, the Dodge vehicles were more readily available, so the decision was made to switch vehicle manufacturers. A fleet of similar vehicles is always best so the police department will continue to purchase Dodge vehicles for future fleet needs. A Dodge Ram pickup truck was recently purchased for a dual purpose. This Ram not only acts as a patrol vehicle but is also used by our civilian community service officer for transportation of large items such as bicycles, car parts, and other items that are too large to fit in a standard patrol vehicle.



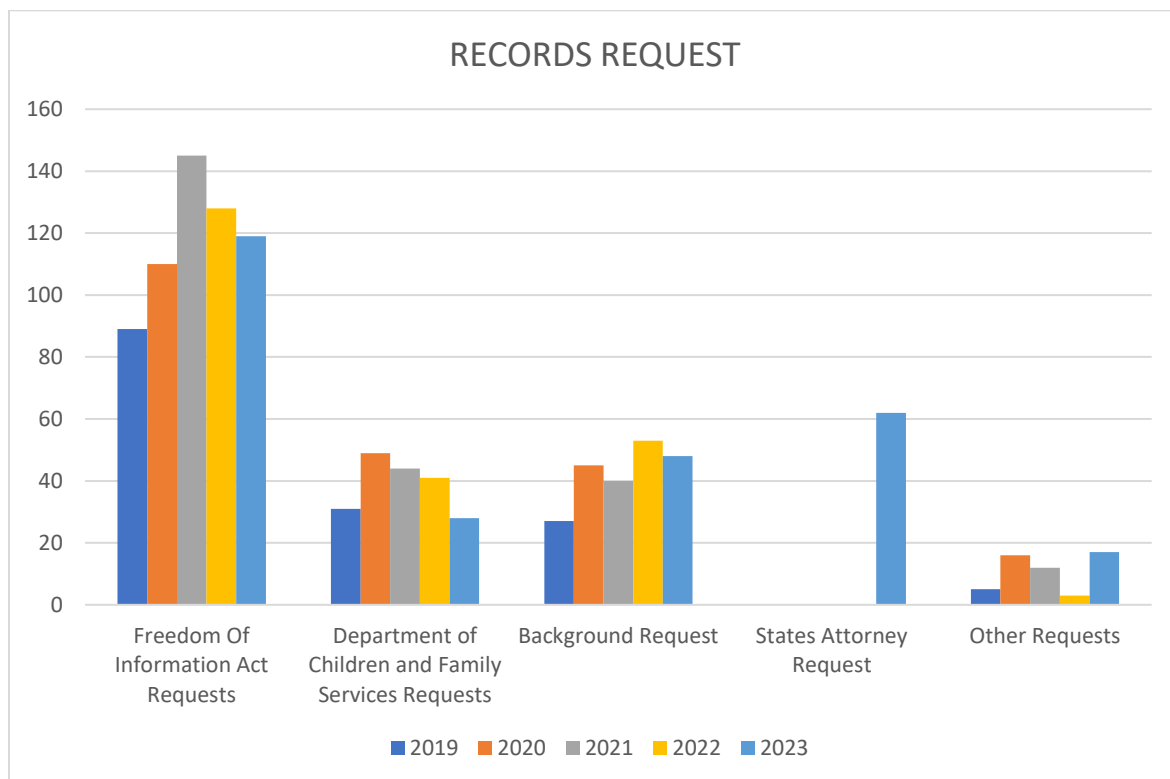
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RECORDS REQUEST

Not only are our police officers busy with call volume, investigations, and arrests, our Records Staff is continuously busy with data entry, gathering information for officers when needed and handling requests from the courts regarding upcoming cases. This does not consider the incoming Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests, requests from the Department of Children and Family Services, Background requests, additional requests from the State's Attorney's Office and other requests received throughout the year.

A FOIA request can be submitted to an agency to request copies of agency records. This has become more well known as a way to gather information on reports in our community. We have seen a dramatic increase in FOIA requests in the past few years. These reports take time as personal information such as dates of birth, phone numbers, social security numbers, and other sensitive information that needs to be redacted. Also, any juvenile information including names, addresses and statements need to be removed from any report unless a specific exemption has been noted. These can take anywhere from an hour to days to find and gather this information, redact the sensitive information, and then have a second person verify that all of the sensitive information was found and removed.





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POLICE AND COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

The Pingree Grove Police Department strives to be part of the greater community and values community collaboration. It is crucial for our officers and staff to be part of the community as a whole and present at community events. To this end, we participate in multiple events throughout each year and are always looking to participate in new events in the future. This past year, we participated in the following community events :

- Events Committee Annual Touch-A-Truck – May 6, 2023
- Kane County Police Memorial – May 16, 2023
- Cop On Rooftop for Special Olympics of Illinois – May 19, 2023
- Pingree Grove Police Safety for Seniors Presentation – May 24, 2023
- Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics – June 3, 2023
- Events Committee Annual Independence Day Celebration – July 7 & 8, 2023
- Shop With A Cop Annual Golf Outing – July 14, 2023
- Carillon Car Club Annual Car Show – July 15, 2023
- Culvers Tip-A-Cop for Illinois Special Olympics – July 25, 2023
- Pingree Grove Police National Night Out – August 1, 2023
- Cambridge Lakes Charter School Active Shooter Presentation – August 24, 2023
- Huntley Public Library w/ Culvers of Huntley Cone With A Cop – August 24, 2023
- Hampshire High School Shout Out to the Whip-Purs Sports – September 6, 2023
- Special Olympics of Illinois Annual Golf Outing – September 21, 2023
- Cambridge Lakes Charter School Harvest Fest – October 21, 2023
- Canadian Pacific Kansas City Holiday Train – November 26, 2023
- Events Committee Annual Tree Lighting – December 2, 2023
- Shop With A Cop Dundee Township Shopping Event – December 9, 2023



National Night Out



Cop on Rooftop for Special Olympics



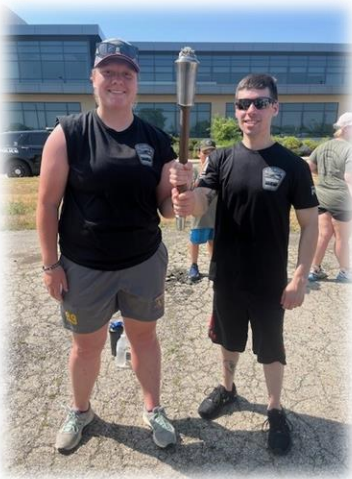
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Kane County Police Memorial



Charter School Harvest Festival



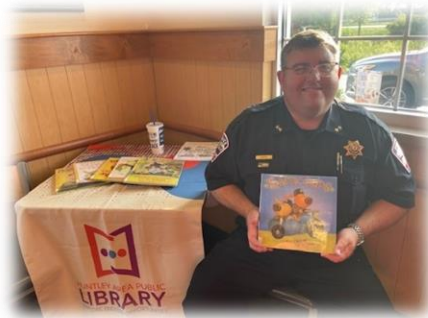
Special Olympics Torch Run



Shop With A Cop Annual Shopping Event



Shout Out to the Whip-Purs



Cone With A Cop Reading Event



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BODY WORN CAMERAS AND IN CAR CAMERAS

In January of 2023, the department successfully implemented Body Worn Cameras for all sworn officers. These cameras are worn daily by all officers when responding to calls or having citizen contact which could potentially lead to an investigation. Each week, footage from each camera is reviewed by supervisors and is submitted to the Illinois Law Enforcement Training Standards Board. The cameras have not only increased transparency and public trust but have been a valuable tool in providing enhanced evidence in both traffic and criminal prosecutions. By implementing body worn cameras in 2023, the department is several years ahead of the state-mandated implementation deadline of 2025.

New In Car Cameras were made operational in 2023 and are synced with the body worn cameras. These cameras are installed inside each of the patrol vehicles. They record traffic stops and officer interactions. The footage from the in car cameras is reviewed weekly along with the footage from the body worn cameras.





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POLICE DEPARTMENT TRAINING

Providing frequent and effective training remains a top priority of the Pingree Grove Police Department. Continued training is essential for providing officers with the tools necessary to successfully navigate an everchanging career field. Additionally, state-mandated training requirements continue to expand as legislators emphasize the importance of continued law enforcement training. The department is pleased to report that in 2023, the department closed out the year in 100% compliance with all state-mandated training.

In 2023, officers received over 2,500 hours of in-service training which included Law Review, Range Training, Less Lethal Training, Hazardous and Bloodborne Pathogen Training, CPR, AED and First Aid, and other various applicable specialties.

Some of the specialized training attended by officers included Supervision for Police Personnel, Investigative Skills, Crime Investigation, Tactical Pistol/Rifle Training, Firearms Training Course, Police Report Writing, Leadership Courses, Defensive Driving, Taser Instructor, and numerous other law enforcement related fields.





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EVERBRIDGE NOTIFICATION SYSTEM

The Everbridge mass notification system was implemented in the Village of Pingree Grove in 2023. This system allows village and police administration staff to provide critical information directly to community residents as emergencies happen. The alerts provide information on where to go, what to do and how to stay informed through text message, email, cell phone, home phone or work phone. Residents have been encouraged to sign up for the Everbridge notifications as this is an important way to stay informed and connected in the Village of Pingree Grove especially in emergency situations.



<https://member.everbridge.net/index/311715841441955>



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PRESCRIPTION MEDICATION DROP OFF

The Pingree Grove Police Department recognizes the societal abuse of prescription medications and the need for residents to dispose of those medications in a safe and proper manner. They also recognize that the improper disposal of medications is harmful to the environment.

Expired and unwanted prescription medications can be turned into the Pingree Grove Police Department by anyone- resident or nonresident- and placed into the Prescription Drug Return Collection Box which is located in the lobby area.

The Police Department will accept prescription medication in the original container or loose prescription medications. Over the counter medications and vitamins are not accepted.

The Police Department will not accept needles, sharps, thermometers, bloody or infectious waste, medications from businesses or clinics, hydrogen peroxide, aerosol cans or inhalers, ointments, lotions or liquid medications.

We encourage everyone to stop by and drop off what they have so it can be disposed of correctly.

