



White Lake Township Police Department



Annual Report
2024

Chief of Police



To: Rik Kowall, WHITE LAKE TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR
Topic: 2024 ANNUAL POLICE ACTIVITY REPORT

Attached is the annual White Lake Township Police Department activity report for the calendar year of 2024.

The 2024 annual report showcases our continued efforts to create a safe and welcoming environment for all who live, work, and visit White Lake Township.

This annual report highlights the White Lake Township Police Department's ongoing commitment to maintaining a safe and secure environment for residents, visitors, and businesses. Our dedicated officers strive to provide exceptional service and enhance the quality of life within our community. We firmly believe that our success is a direct result of the strong partnerships we have forged with elected and appointed officials, businesses, and residents. We sincerely thank you for your unwavering support, which has made our department one of the finest in Michigan.

Sincerely,

Daniel T. Keller



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Letter from the Chief



In 2024, the Police Department continued our trend of keeping White Lake Township a safe and prosperous place to live and work. Based on per capita crime statistics, White Lake Township was named as the 15th safest city in the United States of America. This could not be done without the hardworking and dedicated people who fill the ranks of the Police Department. This year we had the pleasure of bringing on Officer Mikael Ziegler, Officer Timothy Terry, and Officer Kelsey Saunders into the sworn ranks of the agency. Officer Ziegler brings over ten years of experience as a Battle Creek Police Officer. Officer Terry graduated the academy at the end of the year but has served his country for the past fifteen years as a member of the United States Military. Officer Saunders is one of our youngest officers, having just graduated the academy and starting her career in law enforcement at the age of twenty-one. Additionally, we hired Lance Green and Jane Thompson as department Cadets. Lance will soon be off to the Oakland Police Academy to start his journey toward becoming a sworn member of the department. The year also brought about the close of a twenty-eight year career for Officer Ronald Rogowicz, who retired from the Police Department to pursue a part-time job as an officer for Schoolcraft College. Planning and construction were continued on the new public safety building, with 2024 being the home stretch, and shovels going in the ground at the ground-breaking ceremony. The Department's community engagement programs such as Citizens' Academy, Youth Academy, Open House, and Christmas events all took place and were extremely successful. We ended 2024 with final preparations for the agency's Michigan Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission On-Site Review. At the beginning of 2025, a team of assessors will be at the agency, evaluating us on 128 required standards which the Department has had to follow for the previous three years. If reaccreditation is recommended, this will be the third time that the agency has had this honor bestowed upon us. We are excited to begin 2025 and will continue to work with the community to keep White Lake safe, following our motto: One Team, One Fight!!!



Daniel T. Keller
Chief of Police





White Lake Township Police Department Sworn Personnel

Patrol Officers

Kevan DiClaudio	Shawn Kidle	Wade Swalwell	Steve Moore
Mathew Kas-Mikha	Jarrette Hinman	Steven Bohez	Brittany Lynch
Christopher Grosser	Natalie Uhazie	Frank Wright	Marcus Hunt
Isabella McCrum	Ann Demaray	Mikael Ziegler	Timothy Terry
Kelsey Saunders			

Shift Sergeants

Investigative Officers

School Officers

Sgt. Bradley Connell	Det. Jeffrey Sutton	T.E.A.M. Kyle Welling
Sgt. Gregory Gondek	Det. Jessica Snow	S.R.O. Ross Wagenmaker
Sgt. Thomas Sarasin	Det. Kristopher Mesaros	

Patrol Division

Investigations Division

Administrative Division

Lt. Jeffrey Way

Lt. Matthew
Silverthorn

Lt. Matthew Ivory

Chief of Police

Daniel T. Keller





White Lake Township Police Department Civilian Personnel

Communications

Anna Cross

Kolleen Hendin

Helen Skaglin

Ivy Stogdill

Michelle Payne

Priscilla Gonzalez

Records

Rhonda Grubb

Shayna Levin

Cadets

Lance Green

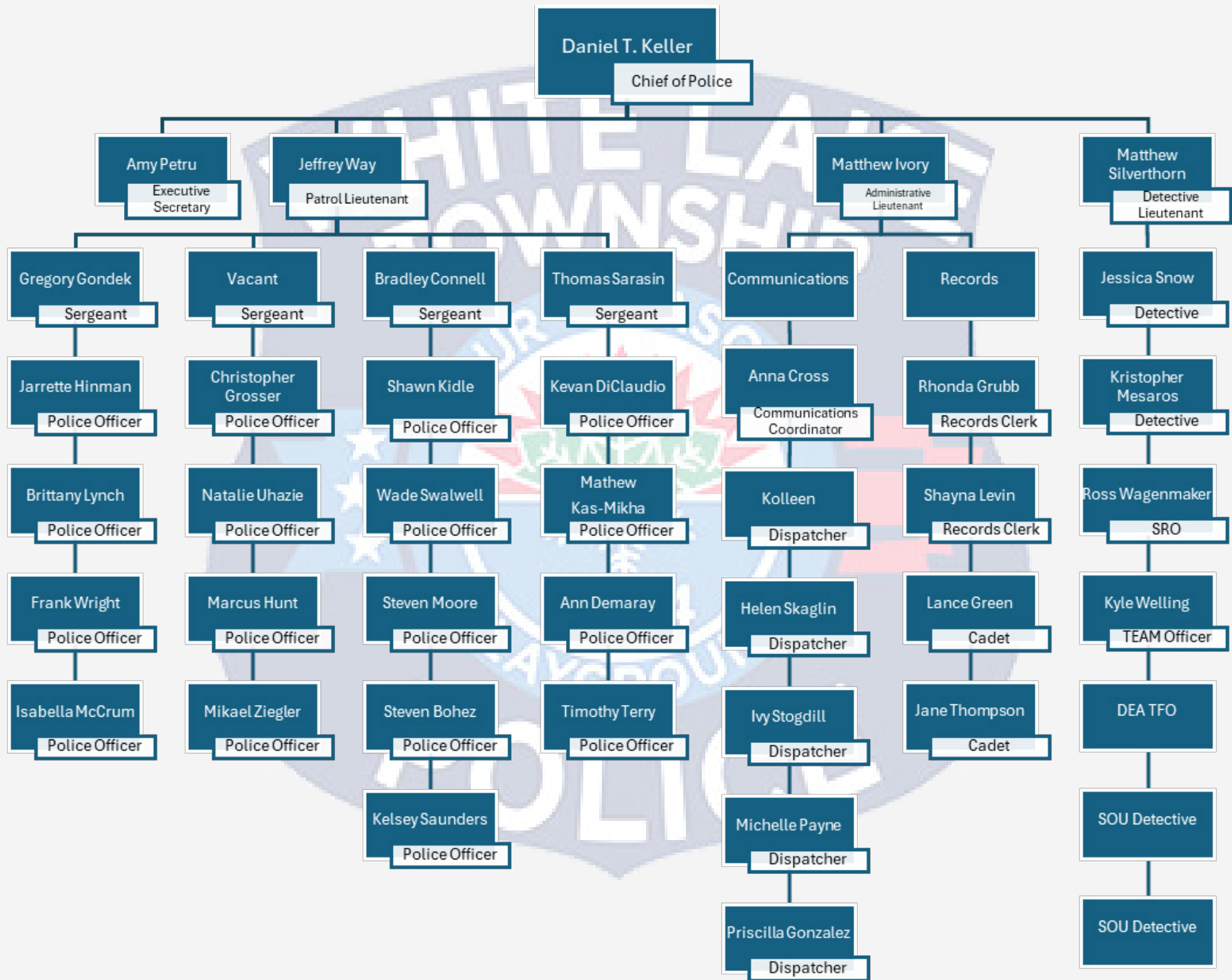
Jane Thompson

Executive Secretary

Amy Petru



Department Strength



Department Strength



New Officer
Mikael Ziegler



Retired
Officer Ronald Rogowicz



New Officer
Timothy Terry



New Officer
Kelsey Saunders



New Cadet
Lance Green



New Cadet
Jane Thompson



Patrol Division – Lieutenant Jeffrey Way



The White Lake Township Police Department's Patrol Division, the largest within the Department, is the cornerstone of our community's safety and well-being. Comprising 21 dedicated road patrol officers, the division serves a 37.18 square mile area, supporting over 31,000 residents and 150 local businesses. Handling approximately 27,000 calls-for-service annually, or about 74 daily, including traffic enforcement, the division's scope extends far beyond basic patrol duties.

In addition to responding to calls and investigating criminal activity, the Patrol Division is deeply committed to proactive community engagement, offering a wide array of programs:



- **PACT (Police And Community Together):** A subdivision HOA outreach program fostering collaboration between residents and law enforcement.
- **Vacation House Checks:** Residential house checks during extended vacancies, providing peace of mind to homeowners.
- **Focused Patrols:** Targeted patrols and enforcement in problem areas where suspicious or illegal activity has been reported.
- **DDACTS:** Data-driven patrols in specific areas to reduce traffic crashes, violations, and crime.
- **Radar Trailer Deployment:** Strategic placement of speed measurement devices in high-traffic or problem areas.
- **Community Policing Details:** Regular patrol officer checks of all subdivisions and residential areas within the township.
- **Business Watch Program:** Regular checks and walk-throughs of businesses, both during and after hours.
- **Neuro-Diverse Citizens Program:** Documented awareness of neuro-diverse residents, guiding officer response and actions.
- **CERT (Community Emergency Response Team):** Supplemental police and fire volunteer services, enhancing emergency response capabilities.
- **Police Explorers:** Youth police education, leadership development, and career preparation.
- **Youth Police Academy:** An annual summer program for early teens, providing insight into law enforcement.

The Patrol Division's dedication to high-quality policing and community outreach has contributed to White Lake Township's recognition as the 15th safest city in the United States by Visualcapitalist.com, based on Neighborhoodscout.com's findings of a 1 in 233 chance of being a crime victim. The Patrol Division remains committed to enhancing the safety and quality of life for all residents, businesses, and visitors of White Lake Township.





In an average year, the Investigations Division handles approximately 650 criminal case assignments. Cases can range from minor crimes to major crimes, such as homicide. The Division obtains over 400 arrest warrants per year. There are two full-time Detectives assigned to the Division. The Detectives handle court proceedings for arrested persons who are in custody. They also work with prosecutors throughout the court process of their investigation.



The School Resource Officer (SRO) and the Teaching Educating And Mentoring (TEAM) Officer are also assigned to the Division and function as Detectives in addition to their regular duties. The SRO spends time at both Lakeland High School and Harbor High School. In addition to regular school hours, the SRO attends sporting events and school dances. The TEAM Officer teaches a curriculum at all five White Lake elementary schools and keeps office hours at White Lake Middle School. The TEAM Officer and SRO both teach active shooter response through either ALICE or Run, Hide, Fight, to several schools and organizations.

A Detective is assigned to a DEA Task Force. The Task Force investigates local, state, and federal cases related to drug trafficking. A Detective is assigned to the Special Operations Unit (SOU). The SOU is comprised of Waterford and White Lake Detectives who investigate local crimes such as robbery, burglary, theft, and fraud. A second SOU position has been approved and will be added in 2025. The SOU is also able to assist Patrol at crime scenes where more personnel are required.

The Division maintains an on-call Detective that trained as an Evidence Collection Technician to respond to crime scenes at any time 24/7, when a Detective is not on duty.



Administrative Division – Lieutenant Matthew Ivory



The Administrative Division is comprised of the Communications Center, Records Bureau, Training, and Professional Standards.

The White Lake Township Police Department operates its own Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP), which is commonly known as the Communications Center. The Dispatch Center is a 24/7 initial point of contact for citizens with any issues related to police, fire, and EMS. The Communications Center is staffed by five full-time Communications Officers and one full-time Communications Coordinator.



The Records Bureau handles the hundreds of documents that run through the Police Department on a daily basis. The Records Department is staffed by two full-time Records Secretaries, Monday through Friday, from 7:00am to 5:30pm. The Records Secretaries process FOIA requests, gun permits, background check clearances, court paperwork, and provide Notary Public services.

The Training Unit is comprised of numerous in-house instructors, all of whom are full-time working employees who specialize in various aspects of law enforcement training. The training unit is overseen by the Administrative Lieutenant who tracks all department training and ensures compliance with State requirements for officer licensing.

Since 2018, the White Lake Township Police Department has been a Michigan Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission (MLEAC) accredited agency. Managed by the Administrative Lieutenant, the Department utilizes best practices within Department policy and provides yearly proofs to MLEAC that they are within compliance of the established 128 standards required to maintain State Accreditation.



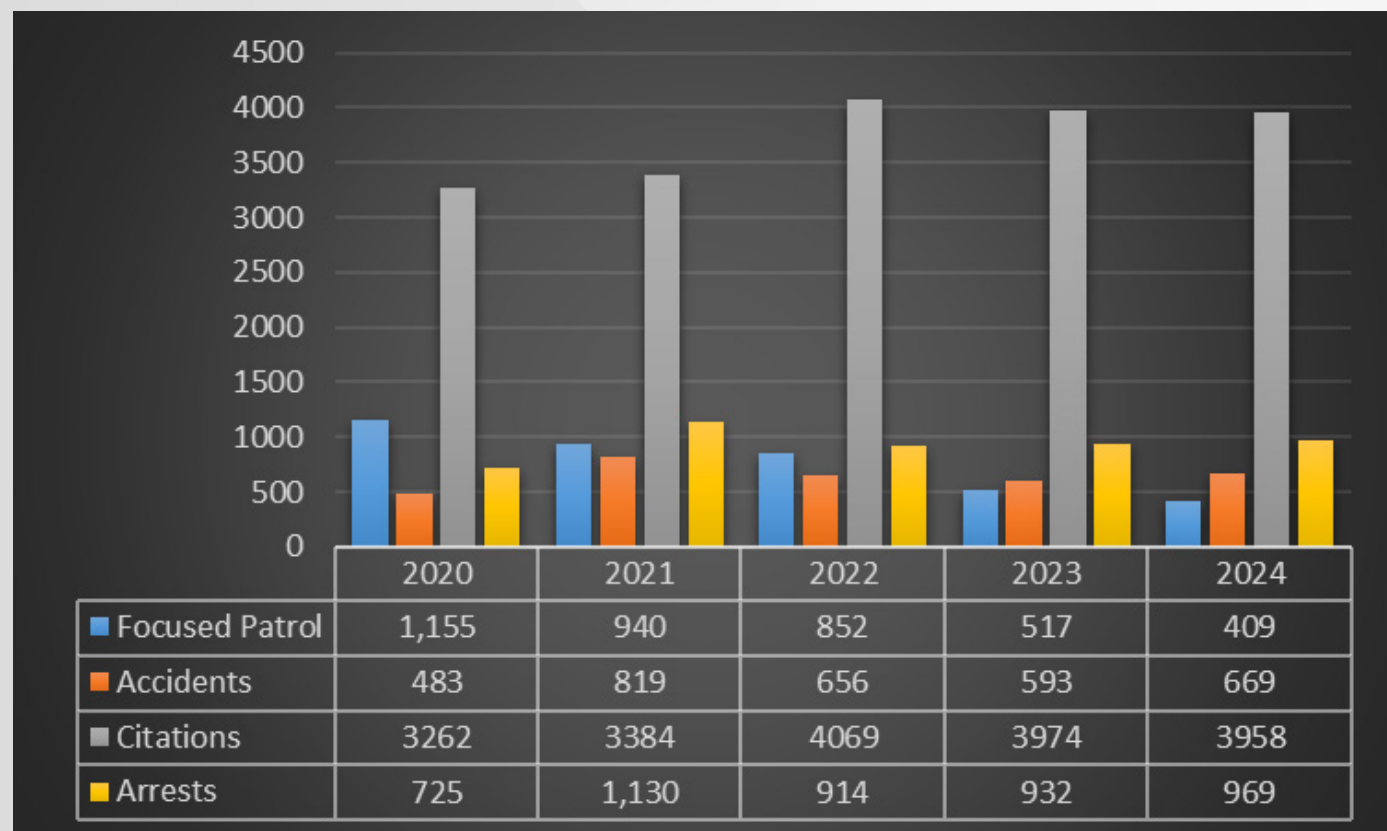
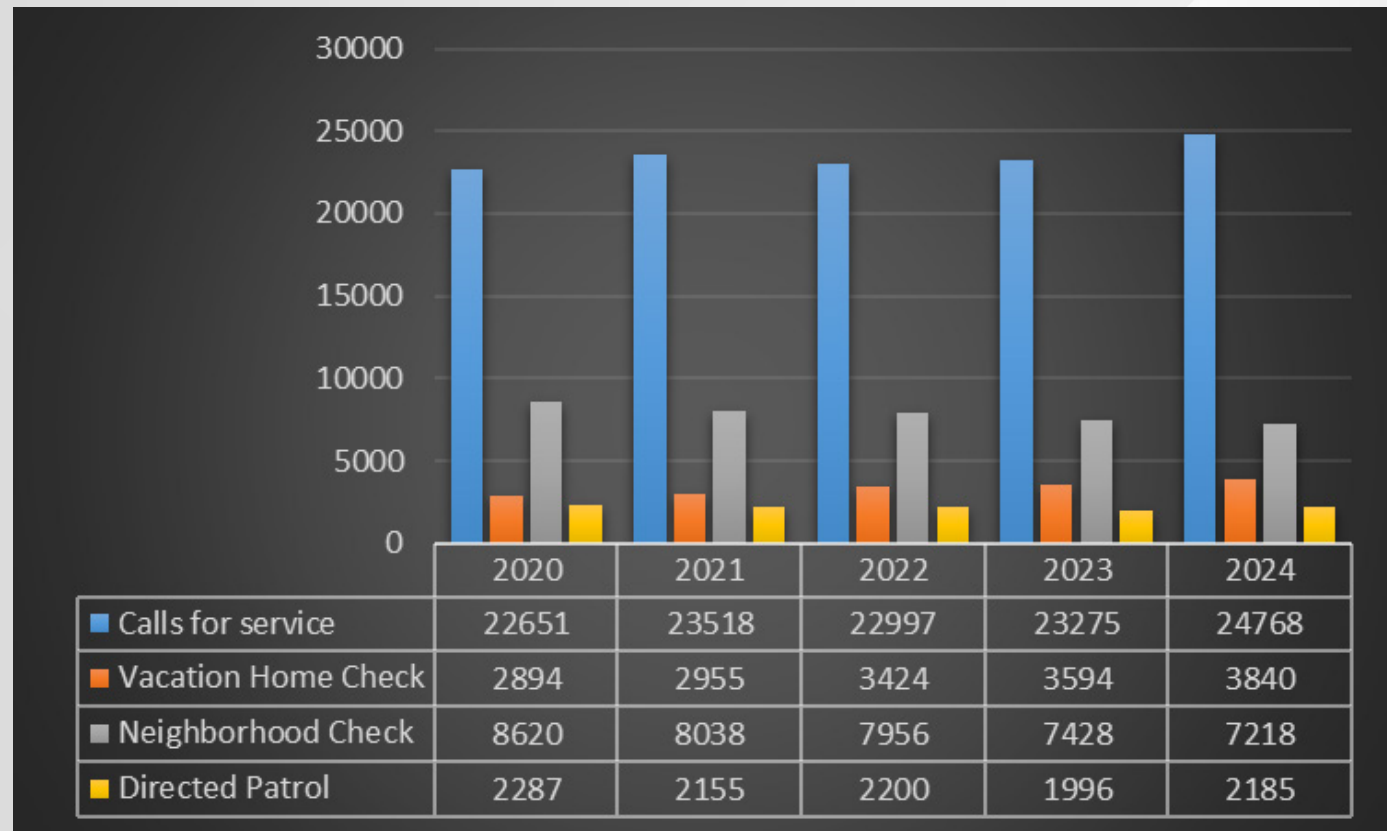


The Communications Division consists of one Communications Coordinator and five full-time dispatchers, operating 24/7 to facilitate constant communication between the citizens of White Lake and the Township's Emergency Services.



Dispatchers handle both emergency and non-emergency calls, coordinating Police, Fire, and EMS responses to service requests. In addition to dispatch duties, they perform clerical tasks such as warrant entries and cancellations, vehicle impounds, stolen property entries, sex offender verifications, scheduling vacation house checks, monitoring prisoners, and assisting officers with various tasks. As the first point of contact for visitors, dispatchers also answer inquiries related to police and non-police matters. In 2024, White Lake Dispatchers managed 7,810 911 calls, 23,061 non-emergency calls, and 188 Text-to-911 messages. They also dispatched 24,767 police calls and 3,345 fire calls for service.







The White Lake Township Police Department upholds a tradition of rigorous training for the officers. Our officers have completed core law enforcement competencies and received extensive advanced training.

Core Training:

Response to Resistance
Hazardous Materials Training
De-escalation
Mental Health
Legal Updates
Firearms
Ethics and Diversity
Taser Trainings

Advanced Training:

FTO Training
Firearms Instructor
Crisis Intervention
Run, Hide, Fight
Critical Incident Stress Management
Interview and Interrogation Techniques



Cadet Program



The White Lake Police Department Cadet Program offers a unique opportunity for individuals interested in a career in law enforcement to gain valuable experience and insight into the field. This program is designed for students and aspiring professionals who are dedicated to public service and committed to upholding the law. Cadets play a vital role in supporting the Department's operations and serving the community.

Program Overview:

The Cadet Program provides participants with a firsthand look at the daily operations of our Police Department. Cadets work alongside sworn officers, dispatchers, and records personnel, assisting with a variety of tasks and learning about the different facets of law enforcement. This program is a part-time opportunity, allowing cadets to balance their academic or other commitments while gaining practical experience.

Benefits of the Program:

Real-World Experience: Gain practical experience in a real-world law enforcement environment.

Mentorship: Work closely with experienced officers and other department personnel who serve as mentors and provide guidance.

Skill Development: Develop valuable skills in communication, teamwork, problem-solving, and leadership.

Career Exploration: Explore a potential career in law enforcement and gain a better understanding of the profession.

Community Service: Make a positive contribution to the community and learn about the importance of public service.

Networking Opportunities: Build connections with law enforcement professionals and other individuals interested in the field.

Preparation for the Future: Gain a competitive edge when applying for future law enforcement positions.

Responsibilities of a Cadet:

Cadet duties are diverse and designed to provide a well-rounded experience. These may include:

Assisting officers with administrative tasks.

Supporting dispatch operations.

Working with records and data entry.

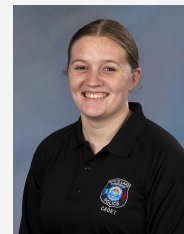
Community outreach and engagement.

Assisting with crime prevention initiatives.

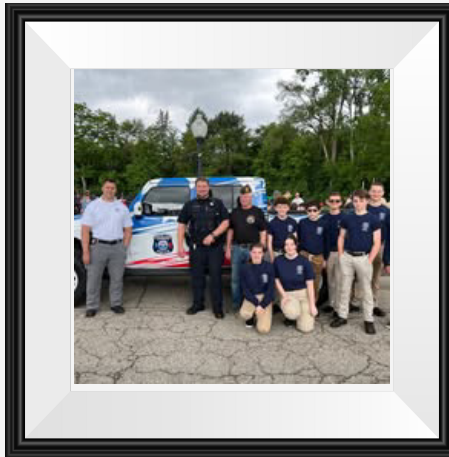
Maintaining police facilities and equipment.

Participating in ride-alongs with officers (when available and appropriate).

Observing and learning about various aspects of police work.



Explorer Program



In 2024, the White Lake Township Police Department continued its Police Explorer Program. Part of the Boy Scouts of America, the Explorer Program is designed to expose young people, ages 14 – 21, to law enforcement as a possible career option. The White Lake Township Police Explorers meet monthly to learn the various aspects of law enforcement, such as traffic stops, dispute resolution, building searches and traffic crash investigations. The Explorer Program is facilitated by members of the White Lake Township Police Department and currently consists of 20+ Police Explorers.

Throughout the year, White Lake Police Explorers actively contributed to the community, participating in key events like the Police Department Open House and Shop with a Cop. A significant highlight was their visit to the Oakland Police Academy's CREST center, where they experienced firsthand the professional training used by police recruits and officers across Michigan. This included exploring a simulated emergency services town and utilizing advanced firearms and driving simulators.





The T.E.A.M. program, a 10-week school-based initiative for fifth and seventh graders, focuses on law- related education. During the 2023-24 school year, over 700 students participated. Taught by Detective Kidle and Detective Welling, key topics explored included:

Crime in our community
Rules and laws
Staying safe
School violence
Drugs/vaping
Internet safety
Gun safety





Marking its sixth year in 2024, the White Lake Township Police & Fire Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) has become an indispensable asset to our community. CERT members provide vital support to police and fire departments, enhancing resident and community outreach efforts.

Their contributions range from volunteering at community events to responding to emergencies and participating in rigorous training exercises. These exercises include emergency management, response simulations, and light search and rescue operations. As part of FEMA's State of Michigan Region 2 Citizen Corps, White Lake CERT demonstrates a commitment to regional preparedness. With 34 dedicated volunteers, the team plays a crucial role in ensuring the safety and resilience of White Lake Township.

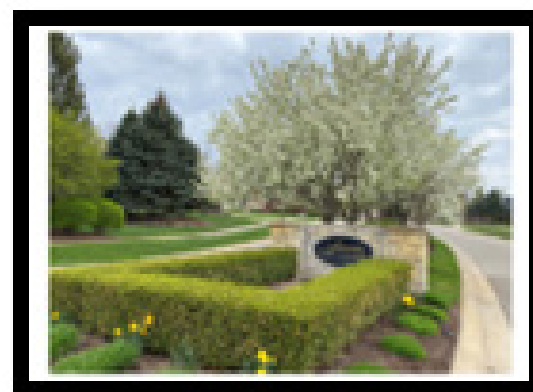
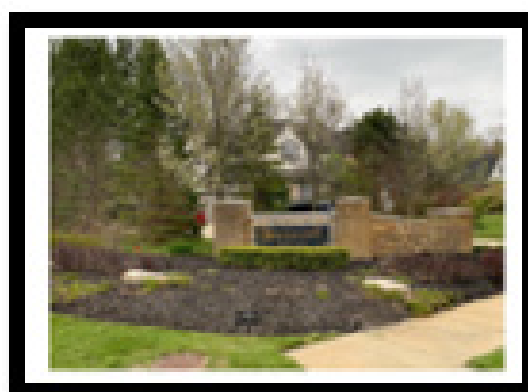
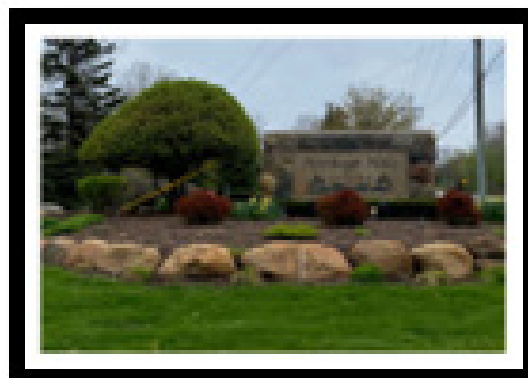
In 2024, White Lake CERT volunteers participated in various emergency preparedness training simulations as well as numerous community service events. During the calendar year 2024, White Lake CERT members participated in the White Lake Township Police Department's annual Shop With a Cop events at the White Lake Meijer and Walmart. CERT members also assisted with the Fisk Farm annual Christmas Tree Lighting, Halloween foot patrols, Fisk Farm Trunk or Treat, the White Lake Township Police & Fire Department Open Houses, and the Fisk Farm Rockin' the Farm events. White Lake CERT members received quarterly training session that focused on parking and traffic control, search & rescue/radio training, local drug trends training sponsored by Oakland Community Health Network, Interpersonal Skills training, and CPR & First Aid training. White Lake CERT volunteers are vital to the overall abilities of the White Lake Police & Fire Departments' high level of community service.

White Lake CERT looks to enter its 6th year of service even stronger, with additional trainings, as well as continuing its wide range of collaborative service efforts region wide.





The White Lake Township Police Department's "Police and Community Together" (PACT) program was created to improve communication with community leaders in White Lake. PACT assigns a liaison officer to each community leader, facilitating direct monthly contact. This program will allow the department to share timely updates on community programs, safety tips, and local concerns. It also provides a valuable channel for community leaders to share their concerns and information with the police. The Chief of Police and PACT liaisons attend each neighborhood association's annual meeting. Residents are also encouraged to follow the Department's Facebook page for additional community outreach.



White Lake Police Foundation



The White Lake Police Foundation, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, was established to enhance the well-being of our community. We aim to improve the lives of children and adults in White Lake Township by:

Promoting drug abstinence and crime prevention among youth.

Providing programs and events that enrich our community.

We believe in creating a safe and supportive environment where children can simply be children, free from the burdens of adult issues.

To achieve this, we offer valuable programs such as T.E.A.M., Citizens Academy, Open House, Youth Police Academy, Shop with a Cop, Adopt-a-Family, and more! Your generous support through our various fundraisers directly helps us make this vision a reality.



The White Lake Township Police Department successfully concluded another session of the Citizens Academy in 2024. This collaborative program, jointly organized with the Fire Department and the Township, offers residents a unique opportunity to gain valuable insights into local public safety operations. The 11-week academy features engaging three-hour sessions led by experienced professionals from each department.

Key topics covered include
Communications
Police Department Operations and Investigations
Patrol Tactics
Fire Department and Township Operations

The program also includes
A visit to the Oakland County Medical Examiner's Office
A tour of the Aviation Unit
A trip to the Gun Range

This comprehensive program aims to foster stronger community ties, enhance transparency between residents and public safety agencies, and promote a better understanding of local government operations.



Open House



The White Lake Police Department recently hosted its annual Open House in June. This highly successful event welcomed over 1200 White Lake residents for a day of exciting activities. These fun activities included fun filled police car rides, a dunk tank, a rock-climbing wall, informative station tours, fun face painting, and much more, there was something for everyone. A special thanks to all who attended, and to the generous sponsors and dedicated volunteers. Your support truly makes White Lake Township an exceptional place to live, work, and play!



Youth Police Academy

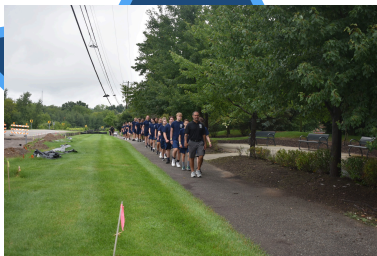


Building on a strong tradition of community engagement, the White Lake Township Police Department is already making plans for its 2025 Youth Police Academy (YPA). The YPA, which successfully completed its twelfth session in 2024, has been a valued program since its inception in 2008, with only a few brief interruptions.

Designed for young people in or around 7th and 8th grade, the YPA offers a unique opportunity to explore the world of law enforcement. Whether aspiring to a career in policing or simply curious about its daily operations, participants gain invaluable insights during this week-long summer program, typically held in late July.

The academy provides hands-on instruction led by White Lake Township Police Officers, Sergeants, Detectives, and the Chief of Police. Cadets delve into practical skills such as Crime Scene Investigations, Defensive Tactics, Driving, and Traffic Stops. More importantly, they learn the core principles of Leadership, Teamwork, Physical Fitness, Decision Making, and Integrity, all crucial to effective law enforcement.

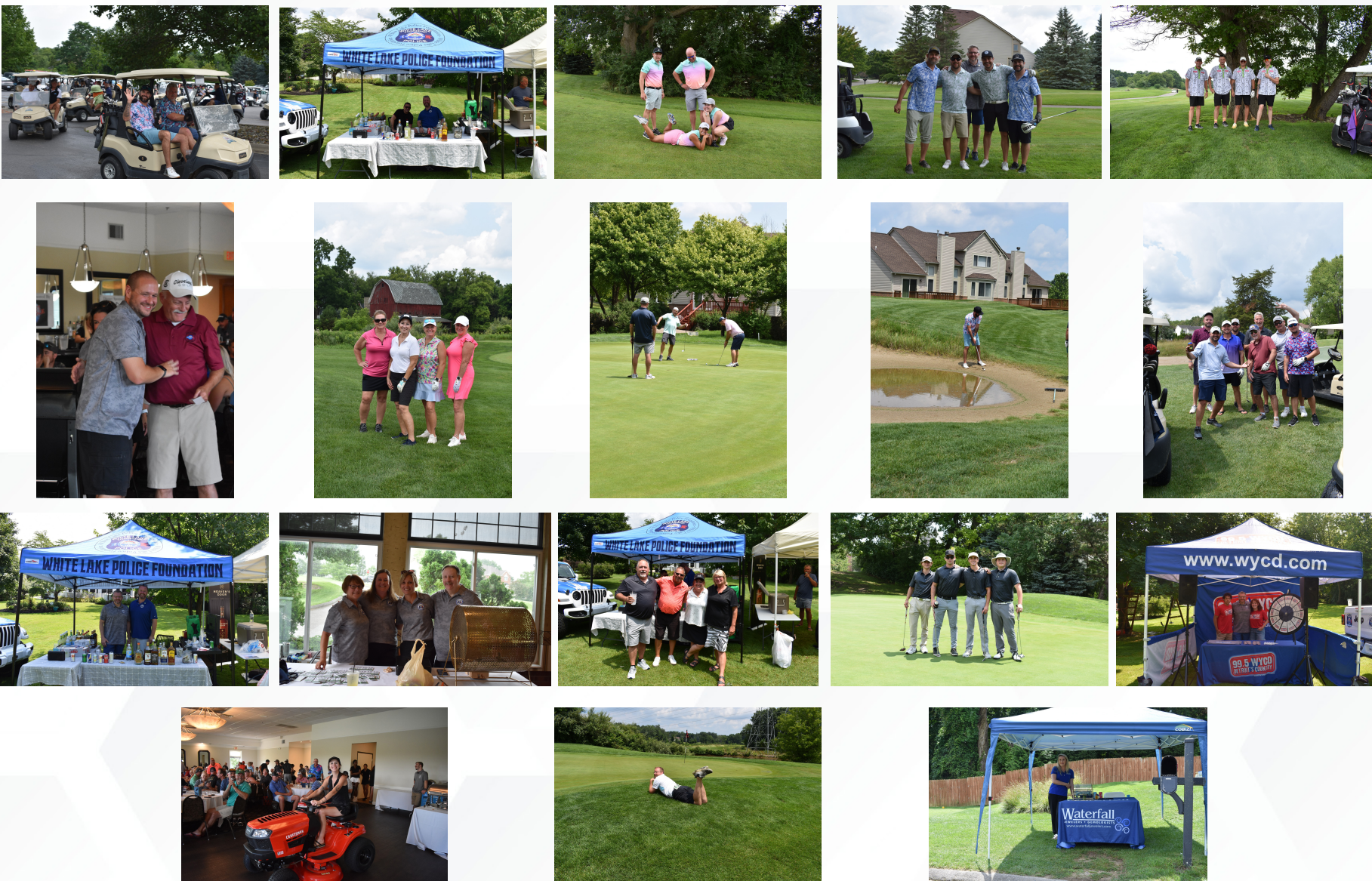
The program's immersive experience is further enhanced by an opening trip to the Walled Lake Outdoor Education Center and a culminating graduation ceremony. As we prepare for the 2025 YPA, we look forward to continuing to inspire and educate the next generation of community leaders.



Golf Outing



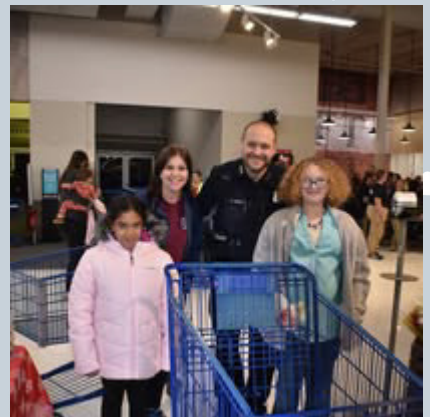
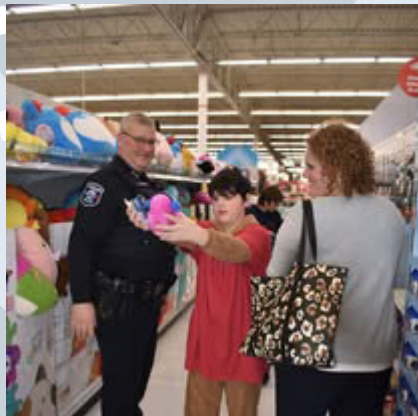
The annual White Lake Police Foundation golf outing, held each July, attracts 64 teams across two courses. This premier fundraising event raised over \$40,000 in 2024, supporting vital community programs. These programs include TEAM expenses, Shop with a Cop, Open House, Youth Police Academy, Citizens Academy, and more.



Shop With a Cop



Shop with a Cop was once again a resounding success this year, solidifying its position as one of our most popular annual events. Thanks to the generous support of Meijer and Walmart, we were able to provide over 80 students with the opportunity to participate. Each student received a \$150 gift card to purchase Christmas presents for themselves and their loved ones.

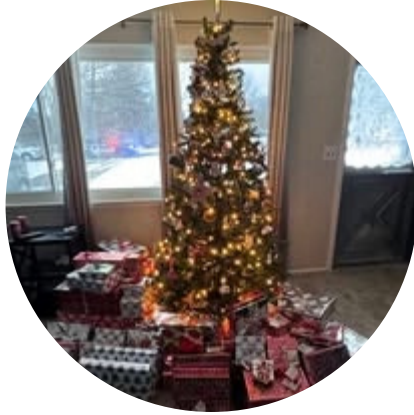


Adopt a Family



White Lake Township Police Department Showcases Community Spirit with "No Shave November"

The White Lake Township Police Department recently concluded their annual "No Shave November" campaign, raising funds for a family facing significant hardship. This year, the campaign supported a mother battling multiple brain tumors. The surgeries had left her unable to work or drive, creating immense challenges for her family. Her 3 children, all Huron Valley Schools students, stepped up to help their mom. To show their support and raise funds, officers paid to forgo shaving throughout November, while the department also sold paper beards to community members. This marks the sixth consecutive year the Department has adopted a family during the holiday season, highlighting their ongoing commitment to supporting those in need within the community.



Community Support



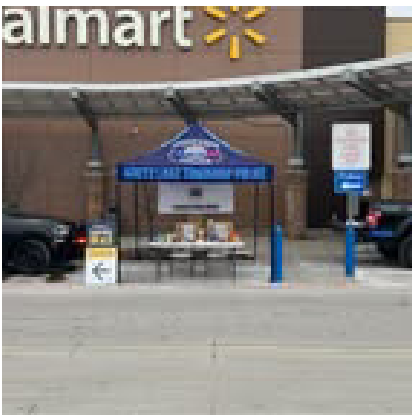
We are incredibly grateful to the wonderful White Lake community for their continued support and generosity.



Community Events & Engagement



Our Officers are dedicated to serving our community through active engagement in various events, activities and programs, including R.A.D. training, Wreaths Across America, Special Olympics, food drives, Santa's Vault and much more. We take pride in fostering positive relationships with all citizens of White Lake Township.





IT IS THE MISSION OF THE
WHITE LAKE TOWNSHIP
POLICE DEPARTMENT
TO SERVE OUR CITIZENS
WITH PROFESSIONALISM,
COURAGE, AND INTEGRITY. TO
HOLD THE QUALITY OF LIFE,
PRESERVATION OF SAFETY,
AND PROTECTION OF
PROPERTY IN THE HIGHEST
REGARD.

