

CALEDONIA POLICE



2022 Annual Report



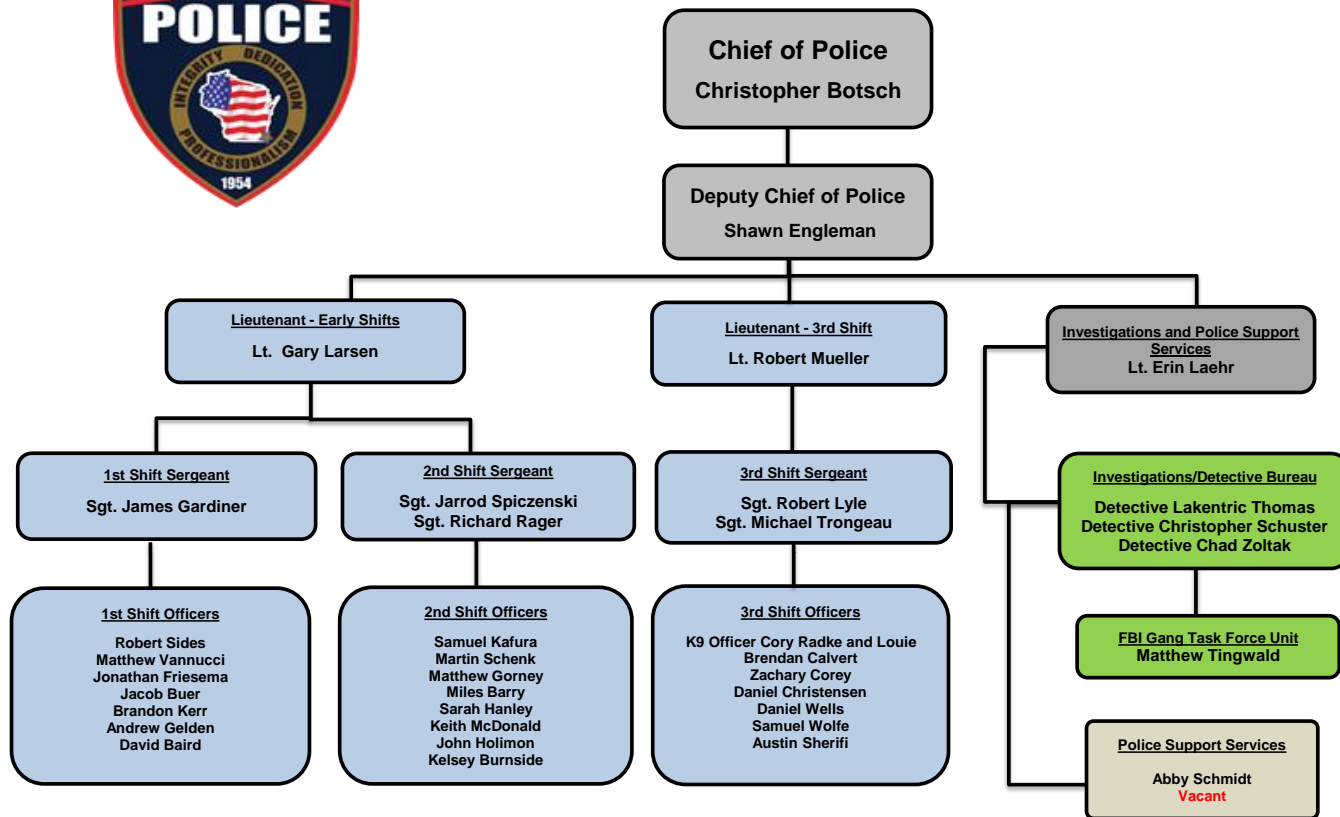
Christopher Botsch
CHIEF OF POLICE

Caledonia Police Department
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Caledonia, WI 53108
(262) 835 - 4423 Business Phone
(262) 886 - 2300 Non - Emergency

MISSION STATEMENT

"The mission of the Caledonia Police Department, through a cooperative effort with the community, is to impartially serve and protect all citizens with integrity, dedication, and professionalism."

Caledonia Police Department ORGANIZATIONAL CHART 2022



Your Police Department



Chief Botsch



Deputy Chief Engleman



Lt. Larsen



Lt. Mueller



Lt. Laehr



Sgt. Gardiner



Sgt. Lyle



Sgt. Spiczenski



Sgt. Trongeau



Sgt. Rager



Detective Thomas



Detective Schuster



Detective Zoltak



Officer Sides



Officer Vannucci



Officer Friesema



Officer Radke



Officer Buer



Officer Gelden



Officer Kerr



Officer Baird



Officer Calvert



Officer Kafura



Officer Schenk



Officer Gorney



Officer Corey



Officer Christensen



Officer Tingwald



Officer Wells



Officer Wolfe



Officer Barry



Officer Sherifi



Officer Hanley



Officer McDonald



Officer Holimon



Officer Burnside



K9 Louie



PSS Schmidt





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Acknowledgements

“Police officers put the badge on every morning, not knowing for sure if they’ll come home at night to take it off”

-Tom Cotton

This year's Annual Report continues our effort to provide an opportunity for our community to get to know the Caledonia Police Department, its employees, and some of the many tasks they do. Many of the employees were asked to write about a particular aspect of their assignment or provide some information that might be of interest to the community. On the left side of each article is a short bio listing their position, years of service, and past/current assignments and some of their duties. The articles, of course, do not cover all the duties of each employee of the Department, but they do give some idea of the varied assignments or duties of the employees of your Police Department.

We would like to thank each member of the Department for their dedication, cooperation, and contribution to this Annual Report.



Chief's Welcome



Chief Christopher Botsch

Position/Title:

Chief of Police

Length of Service:

26 Years/23years at
CAPD

Previous Experience:

- Officer, Beaver Dam

WEST ALLIS PD

- Officer
- Detective
- Captain of Administration
- Captain of Criminal Investigations Bureau
- Deputy Chief of Police Support Services Division
- Deputy Chief of Police Operations Division

Special Assignments/Training:

- Crisis Response Unit (SWAT)
- Evidence Technician
- Field Training Officer
- Defense and Arrest Tactics Instructor
- Associate Degree – Police Science
- Bachelor's Degree – Criminal Justice Administration
- Master's Degree – Human Services
- Certified Public Manager
- Northwestern University's School of Police Staff and Command

Village President Jim Dobbs
Village Trustees
Members of the Police and Fire Commission
Residents, Community Leaders, Business Owners, and Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is again my honor and privilege to present to you the Caledonia Police Department's Annual Report. This report is designed to share information and activities occurring throughout this past year.

Community outreach and engagement continued to be a focus of ours for 2022. Events included but were not limited to, Coffee with a Cop at Mocha Lisa's, Cones with Cops at Culvers, Community Care Day at Franksville Park, Treat and Great at Swan's Pumpkin Farm, Stuff the Squad at Jellystone, etc. We also held our 2nd annual Citizens' Police Academy and participated in numerous other less formal events.

To help with ongoing community engagement, we started a bicycle patrol initiative in May of 2022. Through grant funding and community donations, we were able to purchase police mountain bikes and train and equip (4) officers to begin our bicycle patrol unit. When staffing and conditions allowed, officers were deployed to selected locations to patrol and engage with our citizenry. The bicycle patrol was also utilized for special events.

Your Caledonia Police Department continues to be proactive in keeping our community safe and actively seeking out those who commit crime or wish to do our citizens harm. This year we handled approximately 20,000 calls for service, which resulted in approximately 485 felony charges and 971 misdemeanor charges. These investigations continue to increase in complexity and often require additional resources or extensive follow up to arrive at a successful conclusion.

Staffing continues to be a challenge for us. The Caledonia Police Department is understaffed compared to peer communities and requires additional officers to effectively serve the citizens of Caledonia.

With just 36 sworn officers, Caledonia has the lowest ratio of officers per population and officers per square mile amongst peer communities. CAPD currently staffs a typical shift with four patrol personnel, requiring each officer to patrol about 11.5 square miles – an area larger than many entire municipalities in Wisconsin. Additional staff resources would enable the Caledonia Police Department to augment its shift staffing to meet peak demand, commit the necessary resources to consistently perform more thorough investigations, and adequately patrol the Village while balancing proactive and reactive duties and having a greater presence in the community.

The Village Board and staff have worked diligently to address these staffing challenges in a fiscally prudent manner. However, the ability to increase funding to the extent needed is not possible. Because of state-imposed levy limits, Caledonia must gain approval from taxpayers through a referendum to increase the tax levy to fund additional staffing.

The Board made the decision to ask the voters, by way of a referendum, to decide if there should be an increase in public safety personnel. The referendum will be on the April 4th ballot. For more information about the referendum, please visit Caledonia-wi.gov/referendum.

We recognize the great relationship we have with our community, and we do not take that for granted. We thank you for taking the time to review our annual report, and we thank you again for your tremendous support.

Respectfully,



Christopher Botsch
Chief of Police



Community Policing



Officer Jacob Buer

Position/Title:

1st Shift Patrol Officer

Length of Service:

9 Years - CAPD

13 years total in law enforcement

Special Training and Assignments:

- Field Training Officer
- Evidence Technician
- ATV Search and Rescue
- Crisis Intervention Team
- Crowd Control Team
- ARIDE
- Bike Patrol Officer
- Intoximeter Operator

Education:

- BS – UW Whitewater – Sociology with emphasis in Criminal Justice

The Village of Caledonia Police Department takes pride in our efforts in community policing. Every year we strive to add new events to engage our citizens and strengthen the relationships between the police department and our community.

Over the last two years we have presented our annual Community Care Days/Touch-a-Truck event, which is our crowning community policing event. It is held at Franksville Memorial Park on the last Friday in August each year.

The Community Care Days/Touch-a-Truck event aims to bring the community together for family fun and to strengthen police and community partnerships. Numerous community and law enforcement agencies are on hand eager to talk about their organizations and show off their unique equipment. A bounce house is provided for children to enjoy as well as an opportunity to see how fast they can run using our radar speed trailer. Another very popular part of the day is when Flight for Life lands in the park.

Caledonia also participates in several other community events throughout the year including the following:

- Shop with a Cop which teams up officers with less privileged children who then shop for Christmas presents for them and their families.
- Coffee with a Cop which is hosted by a local coffee shop in an informal, non-threatening setting where citizens can meet with police officers over a cup of coffee and ask questions, voice concerns and make comments.
- Halloween Treat and Greet at Swan's Pumpkin Farm which takes place in October and allows children to decorate donated pumpkins, view a police car and chat with officers.
- Stuff the Squad takes place in December at Jellystone Camp Resort where citizens are asked to donate new or gently used clothes and toys which are then donated to a pre-selected charity.

- Cones with Cops is a mid-summer event where children and their families are invited to have an ice cream cone with an officer and check out our squad cars and equipment.

In addition to these events, officers regularly are on bike patrol, patrolling in neighborhoods and engaging with children and citizens alike. Officers also regularly visit our elementary schools to strengthen our bonds with area school children.

As our staffing increases, we hope to add more high-quality community policing events to our calendar in the future.







Bike Patrol



Officer Jon Frie sema

Position/Title:

1st shift Patrol
Officer

Length of Service:

16 Years

Special Assignments:

- Field Training Officer
- Bike Patrol Officer
- Honor Guard
- Firearms Instructor
- Department Armorer
- Vehicle Contacts Instructor
- Tactical Response Instructor

2022 saw the implementation of CAPD's first bike patrol unit. Through a generous grant from Firehouse Subs and the assistance of Trek Bicycle of Racine, CAPD was able to acquire four bicycles. We were also able to purchase additional equipment needed such as bike helmets, bike rack, lights, and equipment bags.

Four officers were selected to go through the International Police Mountain Bike Associations training and become certified IPMBA bike patrol officers. This training consisted of a week-long 40-hour training held at Waukesha County Technical College. This course taught officers how to safely and comfortably ride in traffic and off road. Officers learned how to jump curbs, go up and down stairs, and perform emergency maneuvers such as quickly dismounting the bicycle.

Why have a bike patrol unit you may ask? The bicycle is a great tool in helping with community-oriented policing. It has been shown that citizens are much more likely to engage with an officer on a bicycle vs a squad car.

Bicycles can be used in large events and can easily maneuver through large crowds to offer assistance where needed. Bicycles also have a "stealth factor" where they are silent and less noticeable than a patrol vehicle. Bike officers can often ride right up to a scene of a crime without being noticed.

Given the large geographical area of Caledonia, bike patrol officers are still assigned a squad car with bike rack. The bike is then deployed by the officer where it's needed.

In 2023, CAPD looks to expand the bike patrol unit by adding additional officers to the team. If you see a bike patrol officer in your neighborhood this summer, don't hesitate to come say hi and shake our hand.



Citizen's Academy



Lt. Robert Mueller

Position/Title:

3rd shift Patrol
Lieutenant

Length of Service:

- 18 years – CAPD
- 5 Years - DNR
- Promoted to Sergeant in 2011
- Promoted to Lieutenant 2018

Special Training and Assignments:

- Fleet Manager
- Evidence Technician
- Field Training Officer
- Field Training Supervisor
- Honor Guard
- Property Manager
- Leadership in Police Organizations
- Front Line Supervisor
- FBI LEEDA Command Supervision
- Incident Command
- FEMA Disaster Scenario
- General Law Enforcement Instructor
- Criminal Law Instructor

As part of the Department's Community Engagement initiative, the Citizen's Academy is an integral part of our effort to build legitimacy and trust with our community. Founded in 2020, the Citizen's Academy gives citizens and business members a transparent look into the daily functions of their police department.

The purpose of the Citizens' Police Academy is to establish and improve the relationship between the Caledonia Police Department and the citizens and business community of Caledonia. The program will give attendees the opportunity to ask questions and observe the police function in our Village. This two-way communication between the officers and the citizens will be an effective and successful way to accomplish the goals and objectives of the Citizens' Police Academy.

The Citizens' Police Academy is a nine (9) week program curriculum designed to give attendees a first-hand look at the police department's operations, and to allow attendees the opportunity to experience police work from the officer's standpoint. Some of the topics covered in the 2022 Citizen's Academy were:

- Defense and Arrest Tactics
- Emergency Vehicle Operation
- Firearms and Taser Demonstration
- Drug Trends
- Community Policing
- K9 Demonstration
- Criminal Investigations

Interest in the Citizen's Academy has been very high and those who've attended have a better understanding of the police function. Graduates go back into the community and become advocates for our department.

We keep in touch with past graduates and continue our relationship by offering them unique volunteering opportunities which keeps them engaged and connected with their police department.

Applications for the 2023 Citizen's Academy will be open later this month. Please look for the announcement on our social media outlets and the Village of Caledonia website www.caledonia-wi.gov



Citizens Academy Class 2022

“The police are the public and the public are the police.” – Robert Peel



Awards Ceremony



Deputy Chief Shawn Engleman

Position/Title:

Deputy Chief of Police

Length of Service:

- 23 Years/2 ½ years at CAPD

Previous Experience:

- Lieutenant/Detective Butler PD – 4 years

Two Rivers PD

- Officer – 2000
- School Resource Officer – 2001
- Lieutenant – 2006
- Professional Standards Lieutenant – 2014

Special Training and Assignments:

- Treasurer/Board of Directors, Wisconsin Crime Prevention Practitioners Association, Inc.
- Bachelor's Degree – Business Administration
- Certified Public Manager
- EVOC Instructor
- Criminal Law Instructor
- Field Training Officer

The Caledonia Police Department has established high standards of performance and professional conduct for its members. Those members whose actions, specific achievements and overall performance exceed Department expectations deserve special recognition in the form of a commendation or award. This year the department had its first awards ceremony which recognized several department employees including officers and civilians.

Chief Botsch appointed an Awards Committee, which consisted of Deputy Chief Engleman, Lieutenant Mueller, Sergeant Rager, Detective Thomas, Officer Sides, and PSS Schmidt,

The Awards Committee receives written nominations for established Department awards from the Deputy Chief. The Awards Committee reviews each nomination and makes a specific recommendation to Chief Botsch. The information considered by the Awards Committee includes, but is not limited to:

- Significant actions, achievements, or services that improved the Department's ability to accomplish its mission.
- Actions that clearly go beyond the norm, and as a result of the action, improved the Department's morale, discipline, or effectiveness.

Awards are issued at the sole discretion of Chief Botsch.

Any department member can nominate another for an award. The following are a list of the awards that were presented with the criteria for that award.

Letter of Commendation

Letter of Commendation is a higher-level commendation, often issued for either outstanding single action or outstanding performance over a sustained period of time. "Letter of Commendations" are issued on department letterhead and addressed to the recipient with a brief description of the action or service for which the commendation is issued.

Master's Degree

The Master's Degree pin is presented to sworn Department personnel who have obtained a Master's Degree from a recognized accredited college or university.

Drug Recognition Expert

The Drug Recognition pin is presented to sworn Department personnel who have completed the Drug Recognition Enforcement Program and received and hold a valid certification.

Exceptional Service Award (Civilian)

The Exceptional Service Award may be initiated by any supervisor to an employee for exceptional performance for specific duties related to their current assignment. Listed below are examples of (but not limited to) criteria for this award:

1. Demonstrated loyalty and dedication to the law enforcement profession and the Caledonia Police Department.
2. Demonstrated willingness and ability to set a professional example for peers.

Exemplary Officer Award

The Exemplary Officer Award is presented to members in appreciation and recognition for continued dedication and loyalty to the law enforcement profession and for consistent high-quality performance as a professional police officer. The Exemplary Officer Award should reflect a consistent year long, above-average effort. Off-duty conduct and/or Department discipline can be considered. Listed below are examples of, but not limited to, criteria for this award:

1. Demonstrated willingness and ability to set a professional example for peers and citizens alike.
2. Demonstrated loyalty and dedication to the law enforcement profession and the Caledonia Police Department.
3. The ability to consistently conduct investigations, make arrests and prepare reports that are above average in quality.
4. Constructive participation in professional and community service organization, which brings favorable recognition to law enforcement, the Village of Caledonia, and the Caledonia Police Department.
5. Demonstrated willingness and ability to provide constructive suggestions for improvements in Department policy, procedure, and operation.

Field Training Officer

The Field Training Officer pin is presented to sworn Department personnel who have attended an approved field training program and have been assigned to instruct officer as a F.T.O.

Traffic Safety Award

The Traffic and Safety Award is presented to Department personnel who through traffic enforcement, education and/or engineering have demonstrated a consistent high level of performance that focuses on making Caledonia a safer environment for pedestrians, bicyclists, and vehicle operators.

Military Service

The Military Service pin is presented to Department personnel who have previously or currently serve in a branch of the United States military or National Guard.

Unit Citation

The Unit Citation is presented to Department personnel who, through a cooperative effort, perform a highly creditable police accomplishment.

Life Saving Award

The Life Saving Award is presented to Department personnel in appreciation for the prompt and unselfish act of rendering aid and assistance to a fellow citizen that resulted in the saving of a life.

The awards were presented on October 27, 2022, at Village Hall.

The following is the breakdown of the awards presented:

- (22) Letter of Commendations
- (1) Exemplary Officer Award
- (2) Outstanding Police Service Awards
- (2) Field Training Officer pins
- (1) Military Service Pin
- (1) DRE (Drug Recognition Expert) pin
- (15) Unit Citation Awards
- (1) Exceptional Service Award
- (1) Traffic Safety Award
- (1) Life Saving Award

Overall, the awards ceremony was a great success and attended by many family members and friends. We hope to expand the ceremony and make it an even greater success for 2023.



Drug Take Back



Sgt. Jarrod Spiczenski

Position/Title:

2nd shift Patrol Sergeant

Length of Service:

- 10 Years
- Promoted to Sergeant in 2016
- US Air Force Military Police - 4 years

Special Training and Assignments:

- Evidence Custodian
- Department Honor Guard

Education:

- Community College of the Air Force AAS Criminal Justice
- Arizona State University BA Organizational Leadership (Summa Cum Laude)

Visitors of the Caledonia Police Department may have noticed a large, green metal box that closely resembles a library after-hours book drop off box located along the wall just inside the public entrance to the department. This box does not collect borrowed copies of Dostoevsky's *Crime and Punishment*, but rather, thousands of unused and leftover prescription pills and other potentially dangerous medicines. With the rise in overdose-related deaths involving prescription drugs in the past two decades, the prescription drug collection bins have likely prevented those death numbers from being higher.

The Caledonia Police Department has participated in the Wisconsin Department of Justice's Dose of Reality campaign for the past several years. The Dose of Reality public takeback events occur twice a year in April and October. Our department will box up the prescriptions taken from these events and transport them to the Southeastern Wisconsin collection point. From here, the Department of Justice will fill a semi-trailer with the boxes collected and they will go to another location to be destroyed. In 2022, eleven boxes full of prescription drugs weighing approximately 20 pounds each were taken in by our department and disposed of at these DOJ events.

Although there are the state-wide take back events in April and October, one may bring in their unwanted prescription drugs at any time. Our lobby is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. There are instructions for dropping off the prescription drugs and our department has plastic baggies if needed. Our department would be happy to assist anyone with questions and if a drop off is made during normal business hours, a police support services staff member will assist anyone needing help with their drop off. The Caledonia Police Department is committed to collaborating with the public and Department of Justice's effort in reducing the number of overdose-related death or injury in Wisconsin. If you have any questions, please refer to the Dose of Reality website (<https://dhs.wisconsin.gov/opioids/index.htm>) or you may contact our department's non-emergency phone number.



New Officer Perspective



Officer Sarah Hanley

Position/Title:
2nd shift Patrol Officer

Length of Service:
1 Year

Special Assignments:

- Intoximeter Operator
- A.R.I.D.E.
- Crisis Intervention Training

I started with the Caledonia Police Department in January of 2022. My prior experience working with Community Corrections as a Probation and Parole agent led me to want to pursue a career in law enforcement. Prior to working in Community Corrections, I also worked for Wisconsin Community Services doing pre-trial supervision and GPS/alcohol monitoring. These prior experiences gave me an overall understanding of the criminal justice system; however, did not fully prepare me for the role as a police officer.

A few days after being sworn in, I began the Police Academy at Gateway Technical College which allowed me to learn the foundation of becoming a police officer and was full of new experiences. From learning the phonetic alphabet to experiencing "riding the lighting" of a Taser. From learning how to de-escalate subjects in crisis to operating a squad car in emergent situations. From learning Wisconsin State Statutes and Case Law to learning how to perform CPR and use an AED. My academy class encompassed students from multiple agencies who I was able to create life-long professional relationships with. Upon graduating from the Police Academy in May of 2022, it was emphasized that I have now joined a new family and that would be the family of law enforcement officers. Being the first member of my family to pursue a career in law enforcement, it was reassuring to know that I would have others to lean on and have my back each day.

In May of 2022, I began my Field Training Program which pushed me to step out of my comfort zone. During the approximately three months of field training, I was exposed to many different types of calls that I may have to face day to day; however, each day and each call brings its own uniqueness. With that being said, I was taught to trust my instincts and that safety is paramount. I had to learn the realities of shift work and working a rotating schedule which is something I was not use to. Additionally, it allowed me to create a bond with my coworkers and learn how to work closely which each other as a team.

In the past year, I have been given the opportunity to work with the Village of Caledonia community in multiple community engagement events and has made me proud to work in this community. I have also been provided the opportunity to attend multiple training events which has allowed me to become a better and more well-rounded officer. I have enjoyed the challenges this past year has presented to me and I am looking forward to what this career has in store for me.





Social Media



Sgt. James Gardiner

Position/Title:

1st Shift Patrol
Sergeant

Length of Service:

26 Years

- Promoted to Sergeant in 2015

Special Assignments:

- Evidence Custodian
- ATV Search and Rescue
- Crime Scene Photography
- Crisis Intervention Training
- LIDAR/RADAR Instructor

Awards:

- Lifesaving Award 2014
- Wisconsin Crime Prevention Practitioners Association Crime Prevention Officer of the Year 2020

When I was tasked with this assignment over a month ago, I wondered how could I be the lucky one that gets to write the article on Social Media?

I also realized, why not me. After all, I did start the department's Facebook page in August of 2011. Like it or not, social media is here with us until something better comes along. And like most services there is profit to be made on it. We are not making any money off it; in fact, I would much rather be out in the community instead of trying to create content that is enjoyed by some and hated by others.

Department's Use of Social Media

We have used social media for several reasons. We can advise the public of a crime or safety issue in a timely manner. We have used it to request help in identifying a person or vehicle. We have used it to report what is going on in the community. While we have multiple members of the department with access to the Facebook page, I have been tasked with being the primary point of contact. This means I receive and send messages and create content.

Reaction to the department

In 2020 Ofc. Radke was caught on his body camera entering a housefire and rescuing a dog inside. The worldwide recognition of his heroic act was impressive. We were able to see the video posted on platforms across the globe and received messages of support and complimenting him on his bravery.

In 2021, the exact opposite occurred. A traffic stop where evidence of drug use was found on juvenile passengers was located. One of the officers took an empty corner cut baggy, often used in the transport of drugs, and threw it back into the car. A passenger in the car caught the act of throwing the empty baggy in the car and implied the officer was planting evidence. He posted a few seconds long clip of the interaction.

The department was able to release several different body camera views of the very lengthy interaction to show “the rest of the story”. In fact, no one went to jail for drugs and the driver only received a moving violation citation. At that point we were behind the curve on the outrage that followed. Hundreds of messages were directed at the department and that specific officer. Even with the truth being shown, critics of law enforcement worldwide wanted to have their say. Emails, phone calls, Facebook messages calling for different retributions were received. Of the 300+ messages I received; none were from Caledonia. 6 people also sent messages saying they had made a mistake in judging us without the entire interaction being known.

The support we have received from the residents of the village has been heartwarming. I have met people and been told how much of a fan they are of the page. My mother also enjoys the attention. The person most receptive of the attention, however, is Ofc. Gelden. I do not go out of the way to feature him and dogs, he will send me the photos and yes, he does “ham it up” for the camera. The goal of these interactions is not to shame the owner, but to show the community the need for licensing and caring for their pets.

Community Engagement

I have been doing a “weekly roundup” for the past 2 years to show the community what we are doing for them around the clock. I go through call sheets and reports and then condense what happens in those situations. The hashtags are all me, and I can only blame my father for my sense of humor, my high school writing teachers for their encouragement and myself for the “sass” I have been accused of having. The last thing I want people to think is that every day for us is the same. It's not. Being a police officer means both being proactive and reactive. Writing can be rewarding, but I would prefer to be out in the community. I do enjoy this job and it is still learning and challenging to me. With social media, I have made multiple contacts within the community and interact with them, using them when I need help understanding or investigating something. They, in turn, also contact me when they would like information on complaints or information I may have.

Impact for the past year.

The posts with the most reach for the past year were both posts made where we wanted to identify people. Devon's shoplifting escapade in November reached close to 225,000 people. The identity of the subject using a stolen credit card from July reached over 206,000 different people. Some of the comments on that post.....were interesting to say the least.

Her identity was known to us rather quickly and even after I edited the post to advise that, the sharing and re-sharing resulted in multiple people contacting us.

Our reach is only 16,600ish followers with 65% female and 35% male. That may explain Ofc. Golden's popularity. Our reach is 171,000 with 46.3% of them being in Caledonia and surrounding communities.

Future for the department

For now, Facebook is easiest and most helpful platform for us to stay in contact with the community. Twitter is, for a lack of a better term, "a wretched hive of scum and villainy", and yes that is a movie reference. I don't have the looks, talent or creativity for Instagram or Snapchat. I am avoiding Tik Tok at all costs.

Stay Safe,

Sgt. G.

#Iturndthisinlateforhalfcredit

#bettertobegforgivenessthanaskpermission

#DeputyChiefEnglemandoesOKontheroundups



Humane Officer



Officer Andrew Gelden

Position/Title:
1st shift Patrol Officer

Length of Service:
• 8 Years

- Special Training and Assignments:**
- Humane Officer
 - Department Honor Guard
 - Evidence Technician
 - CIT training
 - Bike Patrol Office
 - 2nd year Brazilian Jujitsu

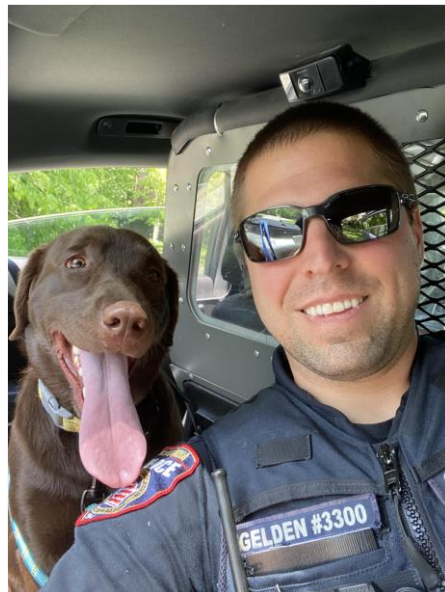
Education:

- Bachelor's degree – Education/Human Development

The Humane Officer Program is a vital component of the Caledonia Police Department, serving to promote safety, welfare, and well-being of animals within the community. This will outline the importance of the humane officer program to the citizens of Caledonia and how such a program fosters a safer community.

The humane officer program provides an avenue for citizens to report animal abuse or neglect, thereby ensuring that animal welfare is protected. Citizens can report animal abuse or neglect to the humane officer who is specially trained to investigate such complaints. Through this program, the community is assured that any animal that is being mistreated is identified and receives the necessary care and attention required.

Another thing the humane officer program promotes is public safety by dealing with potentially dangerous animals that are either being neglected or are out of control. In cases where an animal poses a threat to public safety, the humane officer has the power to remove such animals from the community, ensuring that citizens are safe from harm. The program also works to prevent animal attacks by identifying aggressive animals and taking the necessary measures to keep them from harming others.



The humane officer program works to promote responsible pet ownership, which contributes to a safer community. The program works with pet owners to ensure that they are aware of their responsibilities as pet owners, including providing adequate food, shelter, and medical care for their pets. By promoting responsible pet ownership, the program helps to prevent animal neglect and abuse, which ultimately contributes to a safer and more caring community.

The humane officer program collaborates with other agencies to provide education on animal welfare issues. By working with local schools, community groups, and other agencies, the program helps to raise awareness of the importance of animal welfare and the role that citizens can play in ensuring that animals are protected from harm.

Finally, the Humane Officer Program helps to foster community involvement and engagement. By working closely with citizens, the program helps to promote a sense of community, as people come together to protect the welfare of animals. The program provides an opportunity for citizens to participate in community service activities, such as volunteering at local animal shelters, thereby fostering a sense of responsibility and care for the community.

In conclusion, the Humane Officer Program is a vital component of the Caledonia Police Department, contributing to a safer and more caring community. The program ensures that animal welfare is protected, promotes public safety, promotes responsible pet ownership, provides education on animal welfare issues, and fosters community involvement and engagement. As such, the program is an essential element in building a safer, more caring, and more inclusive community.





K9



Officer Cory Radke

Position/Title:
3rd Shift/K9 Officer

Length of Service:
10 Years

Special Training and Assignments:

- General Law Enforcement Instructor



K9 Louie

Position/Title:
3rd Shift/K9 Officer

Length of Service:
6 Years

Special Training

- Narcotics Detection
- Tracking
- Apprehension
- Article Searches

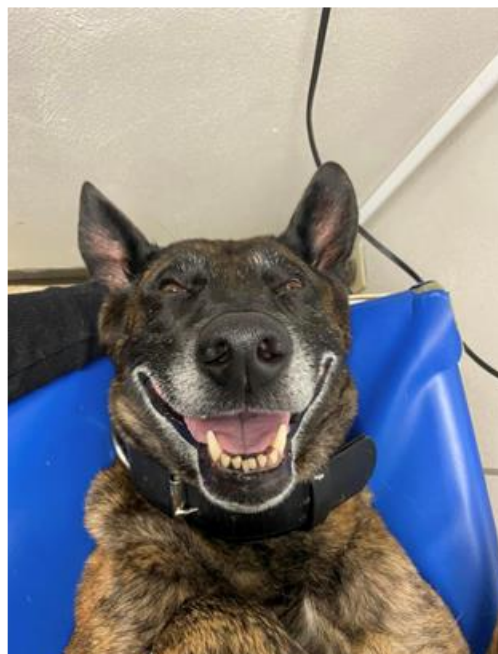
Caledonia Police Department K9 Unit

First off, I would like to thank the community as a whole for their continued support.

It's been another year and like everyone else, K9 Louie is getting older. In July 2023 Louie will be turning 9 and I have realized that his body is starting to slowly break down. I would like to thank North Shore Animal Hospital for continued care keeping Louie as healthy as possible. Although it is a very hard task with a high drive dog with ABSOLUTELY ZERO SELF PRESERVATION!

The K-9 unit is run off donations and our community's support shows. One major community event is the Policeman's Ball that is organized by S.O.L.E. (Support Our Law Enforcement). The Policeman's Ball is an annual event in the Fall that fundraises for several areas within the Police Department. One of the most notable areas is the K9 Unit (I may be a little bias). The list of other events and community members that donate to the K-9 unit grows each year.

We have purchased equipment and a lot of toys to assist Louie with continued training.





RACINE COUNTY K9 5K



RACINE COUNTY
K9-5K
5Kevents.org



5Kevents.org
ENDURANCE EVENTS

MOOSE
LODGE 437

Saturday, April 23, 2022 - 9 am Start
SUPPORTING RACINE COUNTY AREA K9-UNITS

DISTANCE: 5K or 1 Mile
Run or Walk - Dogs are Welcome

Racine Moose Lodge 437, Caledonia, WI
www.5Kevents.org

Event Website: 5th Annual K9 5K - www.K9.5K.run



Field Training



Sgt. Robert Lyle

Position/Title:

3rd shift Patrol
Sergeant

Length of Service:

15 Years

Promoted to
Sergeant in 2016

Special Assignments:

- Evidence Technician
- Crisis Intervention Trained
- Crash Investigations Level I
- Drug Recognition Expert
- Field Training Program Supervisor

Here is a brief look at our field training process. A major difference between today's training standards versus the "old days" is the requirement for an officer to attend the police academy. Depending on how long ago you were hired, your "police academy" may have been structured as college classes, and certain classes had prerequisites before you could take them.

Small police agencies typically did not have the latitude to hire an officer and send them to the academy. The academy lasts several months before the field training process would begin. Thus, an agency was committing to hiring an officer who would not be ready to perform solo patrol duties for approximately 8 months. When small agencies need officers, they typically need them quickly.

Our department has had to grow to accommodate the community which we serve. For several years now, our Police Administration has recognized there is great value in hiring recruit officers with the intention of sending them to the police academy. Investing in the personnel which we expect to serve our community for years to come is a great strategy.

When a recruit officer is hired, they enter our Field Training Program. Most agencies differ in this regard. Each agency sets their own standards for how recruit officers are trained (and for how long). Additionally, there are many different training methodologies for agencies to deploy. The "San Jose" model, which has been validated for several decades, is still the core of our training program at CAPD.

Currently, we have 10 active Field Training Officers (FTOs). The program is directly supervised by a Sergeant who previously served as an FTO, with oversight by Police Administration. Effective FTOs embrace their responsibility to develop a recruit officer into someone who contributes to our department in the most effective ways. They are selfless in training and understand the value they produce by teaching a recruit officer how to be an effective officer.

The field training process consists of 3 training phases. A standard training phase is 1 month with the same FTO. Upon completion of Phase 1, Phase 2 begins with a different FTO. This process is repeated for Phase 3. This provides 3 months of continuous training with 3 different FTOs. The FTO and recruit officer share the same squad car. The recruit officer is able to experience differing policing styles and

service calls. Often, the recruit officer trains on a different shift for each training phase.

Time spent in training can be adjusted to be longer (or in some cases shorter for more experienced officers) when appropriate. Each phase of training calls for an increasing percentage of job duties performed each day to gradually shift toward the recruit officer. By the end of Phase 3, a successful recruit officer is completing most or all the workload to an acceptable standard.

Upon completion of Phase 3, the recruit officer may move into a "Shadow" phase. This allows the officer to get acclimated to performing job duties in their own squad car without an FTO always present in the car. An officer is assigned to show up at every call to ensure a proper level of service.

The San Jose model provides a set of 29 Standard Evaluation Guidelines (SEG). The FTO uses these 29 guidelines to evaluate an officer's performance daily. These SEGs help us to identify specific areas of training that a recruit may need to improve. They also help us to recognize where they are excelling. A few examples of the SEGs are exactly things you might expect: Criminal Statutes & Ordinances; Department Policies; Driving Skills; Officer Safety Skills; Situation Management; Report Writing, Investigative Skills; Relationships with Citizens, to name several.

Evaluating an officer's performance in these 29 SEGs is based on a 1 - 7 scale. A "1" is the lowest standard, and "7" is the highest standard. The entire day is then considered and marked as "Satisfactory" or "Unsatisfactory." This is recorded on a Daily Observation Report (DOR) form. Simply put, our intent is to determine the quality of work recruits are performing. These DORs help us determine if a recruit officer is on track to advance through training and move onto solo patrol.

If you talk to any police officer across the US, they'd agree there's no way to teach a new officer everything they need to know in 3 months. Law enforcement is a career of ongoing development. It is often said that it takes an officer a couple years at minimum to begin feeling comfortable working through most service calls. Every day is different. No two service calls are the same.

A main goal of field training is to combine an officers' police academy experience (or prior police experience), with ongoing education and on-the-job training. By doing this, recruit officers gain the confidence to work through each police contact and apply what they've learned. Tying this all together can be a very difficult task, and one that an FTO works very hard to accomplish.

With work ethic, repetition, and their own dedication to learning the profession, recruit officers eventually find out if this profession is truly for them. The training experience can be stressful, challenging, and rewarding all at the same time. At the conclusion of field training, a successful recruit won't have all the answers. They will have the knowledge, skills, and ability to find them.



EVOC



Officer Branden Kerr

Position/Title:

1st shift Patrol
Officer

Length of Service:

8 Years

Special Assignments:

- Field Training Officer
- Emergency Vehicle Operations Instructor
- Intoximeter Operator
- A.R.I.D.E.
- Crisis Intervention Training
- Scenario Instructor
- Firearms Instructor

EVOC training helps ensure the safe operation of emergency vehicles: Emergency vehicle operations and control training teaches officers how to handle their vehicles in emergency situations, including high-speed driving, tight turns, and evasive maneuvers. This training helps officers to develop the skills necessary to respond to emergencies quickly and safely, reducing the risk of accidents and injuries to both the officers and the public.

EVOC training enhances the professional image of the police department: Emergency vehicle operations and control training also helps officers to develop the necessary skills to operate their vehicles in a professional manner. This enhances the image of the police department and instills trust and confidence in the community. Furthermore, officers who have completed an EVOC training program are better equipped to handle challenging driving scenarios and can respond to emergencies with greater efficiency and effectiveness.

EVOC training keeps officers updated on changing regulations and technology: Emergency vehicle operations and control training is also important because it helps officers to stay up to date with the latest regulations and technologies. This is critical, as regulations and technologies are constantly evolving, and officers must be prepared to use the latest equipment and techniques to respond to emergencies effectively. Furthermore, regular EVOC training helps officers to maintain their skills and stay prepared for any situation that may arise.

We have been fortunate to have the use of the Batten Airport to set up our EVOC training. The large area provides us many options to set up multiple practice courses as well as a large area to do pursuit driving and integrate scenario training.



Active Shooter Training



Sgt. Mike Trongeau

Position/Title:

3rd shift Patrol
Sergeant

Length of Service:

10 Years

Promoted to
Sergeant in 2019

Special Assignments:

- Instructor at Gateway Technical College
- Defense and Arrest Tactics Instructor
- Tactical Response Instructor
- Taser Instructor
- Law Enforcement Physical Fitness Instructor

In today's day and age, it is unfortunate to say that all law enforcement agencies must regularly train for an Active Shooter, Active Threat, or any other type of Mass Killing. There was a time when Caledonia Police officers trained active shooter once every two or three years. Now with the continued threats that have plagued this country, we must stay sharp in our skills and train for the possibility that an evil doer may choose our community as their target.

To prepare officers with the Caledonia Police Department for such an incident, instructors with the department develop a variety of topics that officers learn about. Officers train frequently on tactics for responding to and addressing an active threat, but also on how to manage such a scene. Table-top exercises have been a great tool in gaining confidence in how to effectively manage a scene such as this.

The coordination of resources in the wake of such a tragic event is just as crucial as the elimination of the threat. Responding to a chaotic and terrifying scene such as an Active Shooter requires officers to do far more beyond just stopping the person doing the killing. It requires a coordinated and calculated response from not only Police and Fire personnel, but several outside entities as well. It is important for first responders to these types of incidents to be familiar with the response protocols, as to preserve life as much as possible.

Multi-agency Training

In October 2022, Caledonia Police Department, Mount Pleasant Police Department, Caledonia Fire Department, South Shore Fire Department, Racine Fire Department, Raymond Fire Department, Tichigan Fire Department, and the Racine County Communications Center combined efforts to complete a unified active shooter training session. This is the 3rd annual training event like this that has been undertaken by these agencies. The training venue has changed each year, with this year's event taking place at Racine Bible Church, 12505 Spring St, in Mount Pleasant. Finding a venue to host such a large-scale event has been a challenge every year, so we are beyond grateful to the congregation and staff of the Racine Bible Church for allowing us to use their facility.



Sgt. Rick Rager

Position/Title:

2nd shift Patrol
Sergeant

Length of Service:

17 Years

- Promoted to Detective in 2015
- Metro Drug Unit 2016-2020
- Promoted to Sergeant in 2020

Special Training and Assignments:

- Defense and Arrest Tactics Instructor
- Handgun Instructor
- Active Shooter Management Instructor
- Tactical Response Instructor

This large scale, multi-agency event is something that your local law enforcement agencies hope to vastly expand in the years to come. Planning has already begun to facilitate a county-wide active shooter preparedness initiative.

Rescue Task Force

During the training session, the overall objective is for Police and Fire personnel to work together as effectively and efficiently as possible to save the wounded inside. The first priority for any officer responding to an Active Shooter is to stop the suspect from harming anyone else. Officers are trained to move past wounded persons in order to accomplish that objective. Once that objective is completed, officers create a semi-safe space for a Rescue Task force team to enter and begin treating any wounded persons.

This Rescue Task Force team consists of 2-3 fire/rescue personnel, who are paired with law enforcement officers who provide security for them. This team moves quickly through the semi-safe zone and performs triage and initial treatment of injuries. Fire/Rescue personnel assigned to a Rescue Task Force are outfitted with ballistic protection, similar to that of law enforcement.

These training sessions show the strengths and weaknesses of each department, officer, and overall response of police and fire. Without strong leadership and communication, a large scene can and will become completely chaotic.

Training Staff

The Caledonia Police Department has (3) officers who are certified as Tactical Response Instructors by the Wisconsin Law Enforcement Standards Board. Sergeants Rick Rager and Mike Trongeau, as well as Officer Jon Friesema, lead our training program in this topic. We also have several officers who have various levels of military service, whose expertise also aids in our training program.

Conclusion

The Caledonia Police Department recognizes the need to have highly training personnel that are not only willing to respond to something as horrifying as an Active Shooter but are highly competent to do what needs to be done. We sincerely hope that all this training is never used in real-life. If that day should present itself, the local law enforcement agencies around this community will be well-prepared to handle the situation.



Criminal Case Review



Detective Lakentric Thomas

Position/Title:
1st Shift Detective

Length of Service:
17 Years CAPD
4 ½ years
Whitewater PD

Promoted to
Detective in 2017

Special Training:

- Certified Mobile Device Examiner
- SFST Instructor
- Basic Computer Evidence Recovery Training Examiner (BCERT)

Memberships:
ICAC Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force

On 11/05/2022, at approximately 1825, Officer Schenk, was assigned uniform patrol, and in marked squad 217. Officer Schenk was dispatched to a report of a civil trouble at Pick N Save (5111 Douglas Avenue, Village of Caledonia). The complainant reported that her husband damaged a vehicle in the parking lot and left in a car.

It was determined that there was evidence for criminal charges for the husband (the suspect) for domestic abuse disorderly conduct, criminal damage to property, stalking and a GPS device violation. The suspect was located and transported to the Racine County Jail. Charges were issued in this matter.

On Tuesday, November 8, 2022, I (Detective Thomas) downloaded the phone of the suspect, looking for evidence to support the criminal charges. I began to review the content on the device. I was able to show that the suspect was the owner of the device. I observed self-portraits of the suspect on the device. I was able to identify the suspect from his booking photos with the Racine County Jail. I reviewed the text messages, photos, web history, web bookmarks, and installed applications. I was able to find evidence in this case inside the web history and web bookmarks. I tagged 210 items related to Family 1st GPS tracking. Family 1st login at http://www.tracking.family1st.io/gpstracking/client_login.htm? This website was booked marked in the web bookmarks, and the device logged into this website multiple time on 11/5/22. The website was opened every day in November. This website was opened by the device owner multiple time in the past 3 months. Family 1st GPS Tracking is web domain for a GPS Tracker. This was the significant information that I found on the device to support the GPS criminal charge.

The case is currently making its way through the court process.



Criminal Case Review



Detective Christopher Schuster

Position/Title:

1st Shift Detective

Length of Service:

- 6 Years CAPD
- 11 years UW Milwaukee PD
- Promoted to Detective in 2020

Special Training and Assignments:

- Evidence Technician
- Domestic Violence Intervention Team
- Racine County Sexual Assault Response Team
- Management and Enforcement of Sex Offender Ordinance
- Professional Communications Instructor
- Traffic Grant Coordinator (UWMPD)
- Bike Patrol Team (UWMPD)
- Field Training Officer (UWMPD)
- UWMPD representative for LGBTQ union

On January 9, 2015, the Caledonia Police Department responded to a residence in the Village of Caledonia for a report of a sexual assault. The responding units were advised that the sexual assault had occurred 5 days earlier and the suspect was no longer on scene.

The victim who was 23 years old at the time reported that she had gone on a date with an individual that she only knew by a first name. The victim stated that she met the suspect on an online dating website and that they agreed to go for dinner at a restaurant in Racine.

The Victim reported that she did not feel well on the day of the date and the suspect and her decided to eat the dinner as take out in the victim's residence. After the victim and the suspect ate, the suspect sexually assaulted the victim.

The victim advised officers that she had gone to the local hospital for Sexual Assault Nurse Examination (SANE) and the evidence collected from that examination was later brought to the CAPD. The responding officers collected some evidence from the victim's apartment.

Follow up investigations into the suspect's identity yielded no leads and Detectives could not locate any video footage from the restaurant. The DNA evidence collected from the SANE kit was transported to the Crime Lab in Milwaukee. The DNA was entered into the national database CODIS (Combined DNA Index System) and no hits were identified.

The case status was changed to Dormant as no leads or suspects were developed. In March of 2022, CODIS reported a hit on the DNA sample from SANE kit submitted to the Crime lab in 2015. The suspect was identified as a resident of Chicago, IL, who had an extensive criminal history, and was on supervised release via Illinois Probation and Parole.

The victim was shown a photo array including the suspect and was able to identify the suspect as the individual who had sexually assaulted her. The case was forwarded to the Racine County District Attorney's Office and a warrant was drafted for the suspect. The assistance of the Chicago Police Department was requested, and the suspect was later arrested, and turned over to the Racine County Sherriff.

A warrant was drafted for the suspect's DNA and executed on him. The DNA sample taken with the warrant was compared and confirmed to be the DNA in the SANE Kit. This case is still pending and working its way through the court process.



Criminal Case Review



Detective Chad Zoltak

Position/Title:
Detective

Length of Service:
7 Years at CAPD

Special Training and Assignments:

- Drug Recognition Expert
- General Law Enforcement Instructor
- SFST Instructor
- Taser Instructor
- Humane Officer
- Intoximeter Operator
- Evidence Technician
- Crisis Intervention

Memberships:
Crowd Control Team
DVI Team

On 04/17/2022 Officer Corey conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle for expired registration on HWY 31. During the traffic stop the operator was identified and was removed from the vehicle due to the odor of marijuana. A probable cause search was conducted on the vehicle due to the odor of marijuana. A loaded firearm was located in the glove compartment along with multiple bags of marijuana and \$1600.00 in cash. The suspect, the lone occupant of the vehicle denied ownership of the firearm and denied possessing it. The suspect was already a convicted felon and arrested for felony possession of marijuana and possession of a firearm by felon.

Detective Zoltak then conducted a "Test Fire," on the firearm in which two rounds were fired from the seized firearm. The test fired cartridges were then sent to the Racine Police Department to be run through N.I.B.I.N. which stands for the National Integrated Ballistic Information Network that is provided by the ATF (Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives). This program allows Police to check firearms that are seized during criminal investigations via the unique imprints on fired shell casings to match shell casings to different firearms and crime scenes.

After the two test fired cartridges were submitted, the NIBIN check showed that the firearm seized in this case was used in two separate unsolved shootings in the City of Racine on November 27, 2021. All that was able to be collected from these two scenes were the fired shell casings.

Detective Zoltak then contacted the ATF and requested federal charges be issued on the suspect. Through a cooperative effort between the Caledonia Police Department and the ATF the suspect was federally indicted on Federal Gun and Drug Charges.

Detective Zoltak also had the Wisconsin State Crime Lab in Milwaukee conduct DNA testing from Swabs taken from the firearm seized in this case, and DNA swabs taken from the suspect. The DNA analysis showed that the suspect's DNA was present on the firearm, thus proving beyond a reasonable doubt that the suspect had possessed the firearm.

Ultimately in October 2022, the suspect was sentenced to four years in federal prison. With the use of the NIBIN technology and DNA analysis; Caledonia Police and Racine Police Department were able to identify a suspect and weapon used in multiple shootings in the City Of Racine. Furthermore, without this technology the weapon seized in this case would have never been connected to the two unsolved shootings.

This case was the very first, "Success," of the NIBIN program being used at the Caledonia Police Department. Since this case the Caledonia Police Department has identified multiple crime weapons from seized firearms in shooting cases from Milwaukee, Racine, and Zion Illinois.



By the Numbers



Lt. Erin Laehr

Position/Title:

- Lieutenant
- Detective Bureau Supervisor
- Police Support Services Supervisor

Length of Service:

- 24 Years/20 years at CAPD
- Detective – 2013
- Patrol Sergeant - 2015
- Administrative Sergeant - 2016
- Lieutenant - 2019

Special Training and Assignments:

- Certified Public Manager – UW Madison
- Command Leadership Institute
- Multidisciplinary Task Force
- Sexual Offender Predator Core Group
- General/Vehicle Contacts Instructor
- CIB TIME Agency Coordinator
- DOJ/CSA Local Agency Security Officer
- NIBRS Administrator
- Member IACP
- FBI LEEDA Command

Awards:

- Commander's Silver Metal Award – VFW
- Chief's Leadership Commendation Pin 2017

The Village of Caledonia Police Department continues to report monthly crime data to the FBI through the National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS). NIBRS is an incident-based reporting system used by law enforcement agencies in the United States for collecting and reporting data on crimes. NIBRS was created in 2005 and was made mandatory for all law enforcement agencies in the United States by January 1st, 2021.

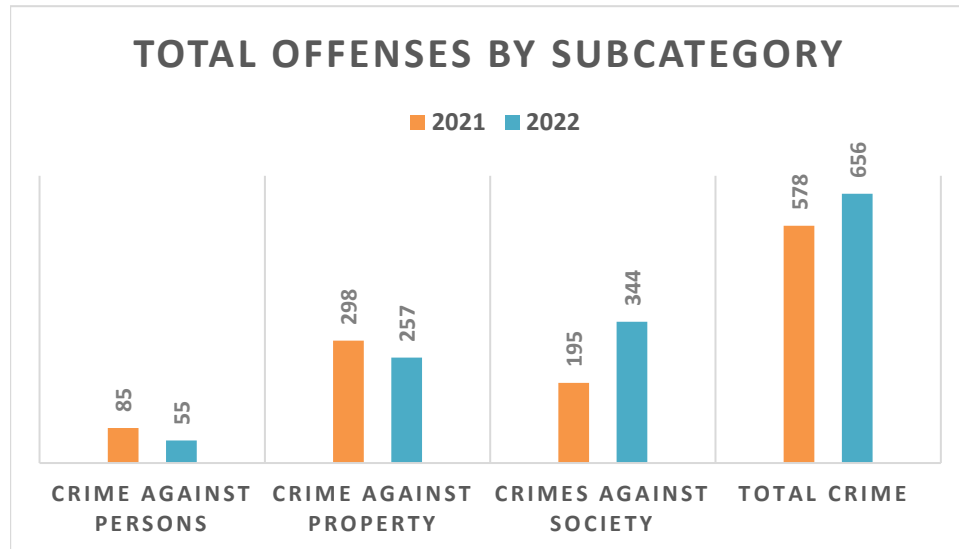
When used to its full potential, NIBRS identifies, with precision, when and where crime takes place, what form it takes, and the characteristics of its victims and perpetrators. Armed with such information, law enforcement can better define the resources it needs to fight crime, as well as use those resources in the most efficient and effective manner. NIBRS:

- **Provides greater specificity in reporting offenses.** Not only does NIBRS look at all of the offenses within an incident, but it also looks at many more offenses than the traditional SRS does. NIBRS collects data for 52 offenses, plus 10 additional offenses for which only arrests are reported. SRS counts limited data for 10 offenses and 20 additional crimes for which only arrests are reported.
- **Collects more detailed information**, including incident date and time, whether reported offenses were attempted or completed, expanded victim types, relationships of victims to offenders and offenses, demographic details, location data, property descriptions, drug types and quantities, the offender's suspected use of drugs or alcohol, the involvement of gang activity, and whether a computer was used in the commission of the crime.
- **Helps give context to specific crime problems** such as drug/narcotics and sex offenses, as well as issues like animal cruelty, identity theft, and computer hacking.
- **Provides greater analytic flexibility.** Through NIBRS, data users can see many more facets of crime, as well as relationships and connections among these facets, than SRS provides.

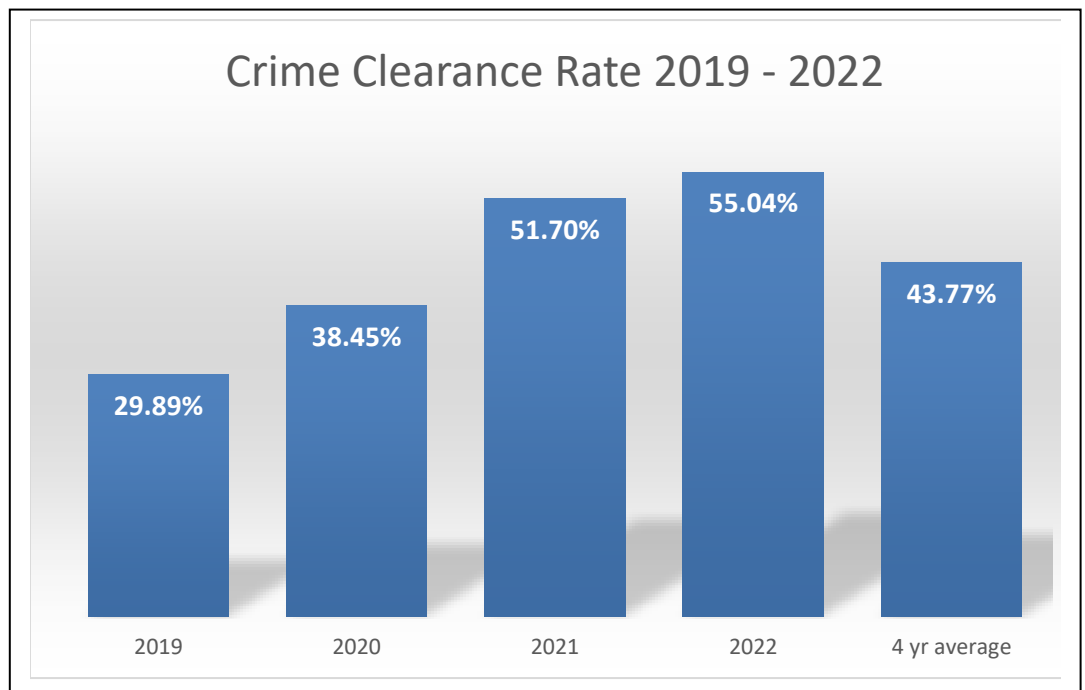
Caledonia NIBRS data highlights

In 2022, 656 total offenses were reported. 55 crimes against persons, 257 crimes against property, and 344 crimes against society. Case clearance rates for Group A crimes are currently at 55.04% which is higher than the national average of 27.9%. See chart at end of this article for comparisons from 2019 – 2022.

NIBRS also classifies total offenses by subcategory. Below are the comparisons by subcategory for 2021 and 2022.



Below is the comparison of Crime Clearance Rates from 2019 – 2022





Calls for Service



Deputy Chief Shawn Engleman

Position/Title:

Deputy Chief of Police

Length of Service:

- 23 Years/2 ½ years at CAPD

Previous Experience:

- Lieutenant/Detective Butler PD – 4 years

Two Rivers PD

- Officer – 2000
- School Resource Officer – 2001
- Lieutenant – 2006
- Professional Standards Lieutenant – 2014

Special Training and Assignments:

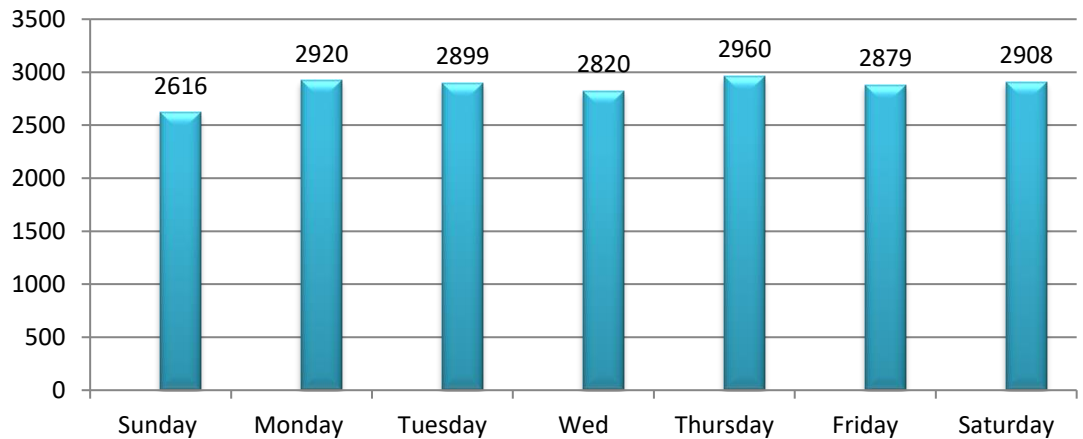
- Treasurer/Board of Directors, Wisconsin Crime Prevention Practitioners Association, Inc.
- Bachelor's Degree – Business Administration
- Certified Public Manager
- EVOC Instructor
- Criminal Law Instructor
- Field Training Officer

The following graphs represent the number of calls for service that were handled by the Caledonia Police Department in 2022. The first graph shows calls by day of the week and the second graph shows calls by time of the day.

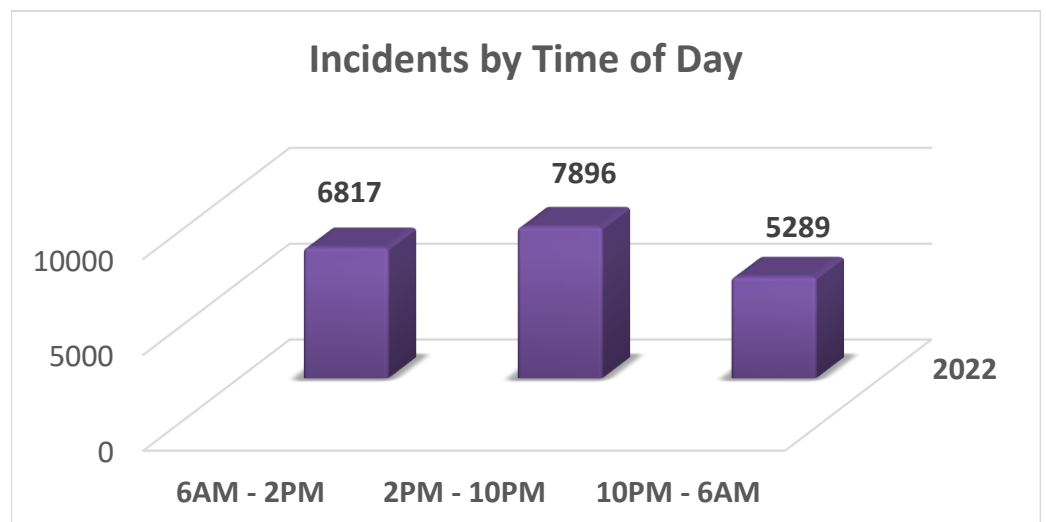
Items of note for 2022:

- **20,002** calls for service in 2022
- **Thursdays** have the most calls for service
- **2nd shift** has the most calls for service

Calls for Service by Day of the Week



Incidents by Time of Day





New Public Safety Building



Chief Christopher Botsch

Position/Title:

Chief of Police

Length of Service:

26 Years/3 years at CAPD

Previous Experience:

- Officer, Beaver Dam

WEST ALLIS PD

- Officer
- Detective
- Captain of Administration
- Captain of Criminal Investigations Bureau
- Deputy Chief of Police Support Services Division
- Deputy Chief of Police Operations Division

Special Assignments/Training:

- Crisis Response Unit (SWAT)
- Evidence Technician
- Field Training Officer
- Defense and Arrest Tactics Instructor
- Associate Degree – Police Science
- Bachelor's Degree – Criminal Justice Administration
- Master's Degree – Human Services
- Certified Public Manager
- Northwestern University's School of Police Staff and Command

The current police facility was constructed in the early 1960's with an expansion occurring in approximately 1981. The main portion of the facility is now over 60 years old, while the newest section is just over 40 years old. The needs and expectations for law enforcement have changed significantly when compared to the early 1960's and the early 1980's. While there have been some limited updates along the way, our current facility no longer meets the needs of modern professional policing.

In the late spring of 2020, our police department experienced flooding in the lower level. Upon further inspection, we discovered significant issues with water and mold in the affected areas. The major issue was determined to be a long-term water intrusion in the foundation walls. To remove the mold and expose the foundation walls for inspection, much of the drywall in parts of the basement had to be removed. The entire lower level remained in disarray and has been mostly unusable since that time. The affected area includes office space, locker rooms, and restrooms. The estimated cost to remediate and repair the water intrusion issue was expected to be between \$50,000 and \$150,000.

In addition to the water intrusion issue, there are a host of other maintenance and repair issues throughout the facility. While the building needs general maintenance and repair, the repairs do nothing to address the space needs that exist for the police department, nor do they address ongoing safety issues.

When the building was built in the early 1960's the Department only had a handful of part time police officers. When the addition was built in the early 1980's, staffing had increased to about 17 full time officers. Today, the police department is staffed with 36 sworn personnel along with additional clerical staff. Quite simply, we have outgrown our current facility.

In reviewing all available options, it was decided to explore the construction of a new police facility. A new police facility will provide a safe and professional environment for staff, and it will reduce our risk and liability in many areas.

We later hired FGM Architects to help us conduct a space needs analysis. FGM Architects utilized internal and external data to project the growth of our community, and the corresponding needs of our police department, to design a building that would serve us well now and into the future.

During this same timeframe, it was determined that the Fire Station #12 (5 Mile and Douglas) was also nearing its end of life. Constructing a joint police and fire Public Safety Building would allow us to share space (i.e. lobby, training room, etc.) and be a more cost effective option in the long term.

FGM Architects continued as the architect, and we later hired Riley Construction as the Construction Manager for the project.

The construction for the new Public Safety Building began in late summer of 2022 with an anticipated completion date in January of 2024.

It has taken a great deal of time and effort to get us to this point, and there is a ton of work that remains. However, it will most certainly be worth it. Our new facility will meet industry standards and best practices and assist us in providing progressive law enforcement services. A new police facility will provide a safe and professional environment for staff, and it will reduce our risk and liability in many areas. A new facility will also project a positive and professional image for the Police and Fire Departments and the Village of Caledonia.

Respectfully,



Christopher Botsch
Chief of Police



Picture Pages

Shop with a Cop

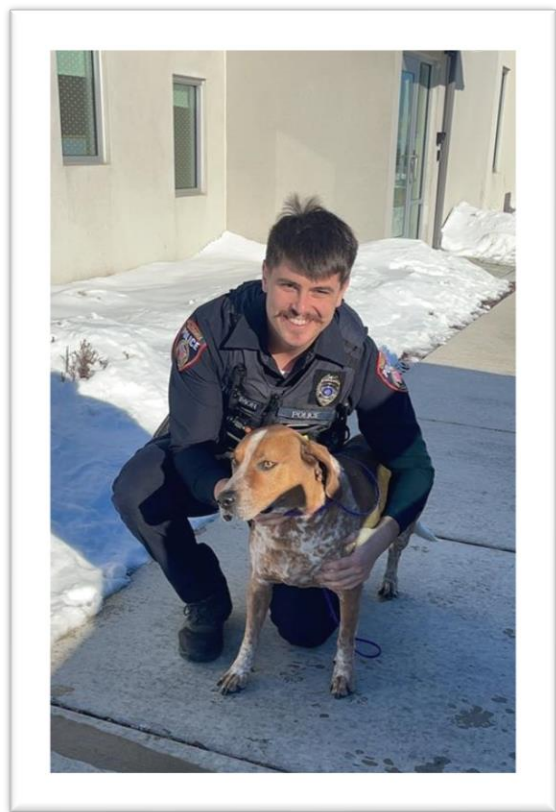
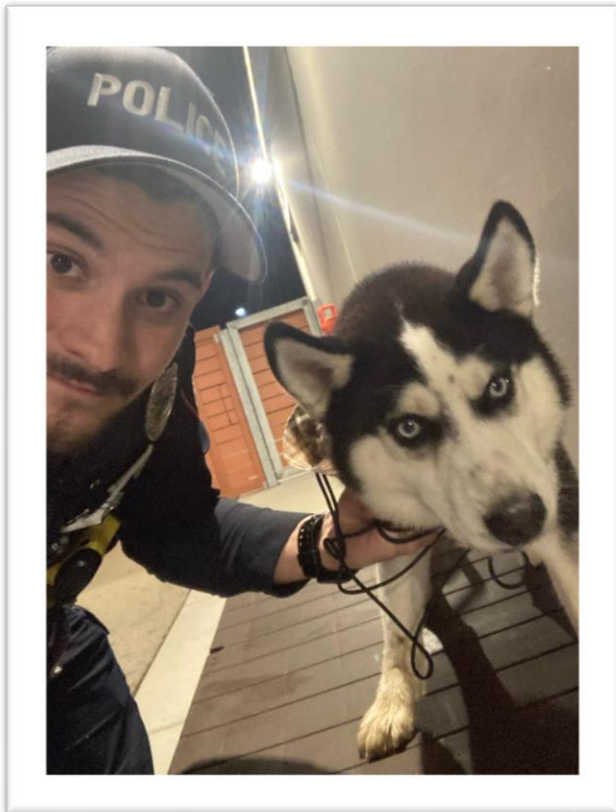




He's a mean one!



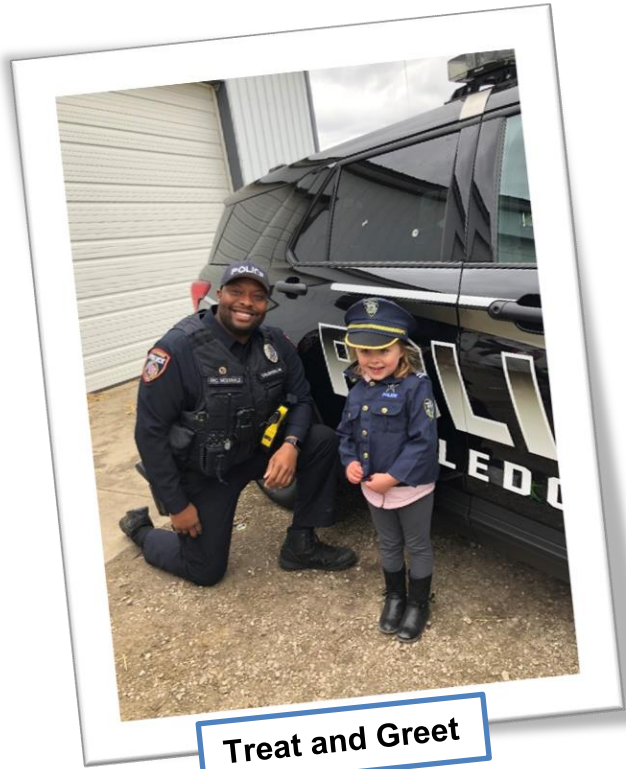
Interacting with our Furry Friends



Support from the Community



Community Policing



Treat and Greet



Basketball Game



Cones with Cops





Visit with a friend!



Memorial Day



Stuff the Squad





Retirement of Officer Rob Sides



Officer Robert Sides

The end of 2022 we wished Officer Rob Sides a farewell as he retired after 28 years of service. Officer Sides began with the Caledonia Police Department on November 14, 1994. Prior to coming to Caledonia, Officer Sides worked as a patrolman for the Stanley Police Department and as a Reserve Deputy for the Chippewa County Sheriff's Office.

With 28 years at CAPD, Officer Sides left our department as our most tenured employee, and he has certainly made the most of his time in Caledonia. Officer Sides values relationships and makes the time and takes the effort to cultivate and maintain them. He is a friendly face to all who know him, and his name has become synonymous with the police department and the Caledonia community.

Officer Sides is well-respected by his co-workers and supervisors. He has been a solid officer and shift commander, and his hard work and zest for the job have carried through to everything from helping to maintain the fleet to shaking down the Village Administrator and Finance for funding for police equipment. Officer Sides' strong work ethic resulted in him working a ton of overtime, often working long hours at undesirable times. Him voluntarily signing up for overtime often ensured that other officers weren't ordered to do so.

Officer Sides maintained a great relationship with Village staff outside of the PD. He knows everyone, and they know him. This has helped him to better coordinate resources to be more effective in all he does.

Officer Sides has had a tremendous impact on our community, most notably with the kids at Gifford and Olympia Brown. He is known by practically every child in Caledonia and many beyond our borders. We have received countless emails and letters on the great work or a positive interaction with "Officer Sides." It is apparent that Rob's care and passion for our school age children is real and genuine.

Officer Sides' will be greatly missed by his co-workers and citizens alike. We all wish him the best in his retirement.

