

City of DeWitt
Police Department
2024
ANNUAL REPORT



David Porter
Chief of Police

DeWitt Police Dept
1505 6th Ave
DeWitt IA 52742





DeWitt Police Department

David Porter, Chief of Police

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Letter from the Chief	Page 2
Mission Statement and Vision	Page 3
DeWitt Police Organizational Chart	Page 4
Annual Activity Report Summary	Page 5
CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS ACTIVITY	Page 6 - 7
<i>Calls for Service by month</i>	
<i>Criminal Case Breakdown</i>	
<i>Criminal Case Dispositions</i>	
<i>Arrest Summary</i>	
TRAFFIC ACTIVITY	Page 7 - 8
<i>Traffic Accidents by Month / Location</i>	
<i>Traffic Citations / Warnings</i>	
<i>Speeding Citations</i>	
<i>Citations / Warnings by Race</i>	
<i>Salvage Vehicle Inspections</i>	
COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT	Page 9 - 12
Monthly Recap Log	Page 13
Arrests	Page 14
Traffic Citations by Violation	Page 15
Non-Criminal Incidents	Page 16

Building Partnerships with Our Community to continuously improve the quality of life in DeWitt by reducing crime and the fear of crime.



DeWitt Police Department
David Porter ~ Chief of Police
1505 6th Ave., DeWitt, Iowa 52742
Phone: (563) 659-3145, Fax: (563) 659-3355

Dear City Administrator Lindner, Mayor Hassenmiller, Distinguished City Council Members and Citizens:

I am proud to present the Dewitt Police Department's 2024 Annual Report. This report highlights various accomplishments, initiatives, and programs involving the Dewitt Police Department's dedicated sworn and civilian members. It also includes a statistical review of reported crime, calls for service, traffic accidents and citations.

Our continued low crime rate compared to other Iowa communities is the direct result of an exceptionally dedicated and talented staff, and the high level of trust and involvement of our community members. It is also the result of our many collaborative partnerships with other law enforcement agencies on the federal, state and local levels.

In conclusion, I feel privileged to lead this great department, and appreciate the unwavering support you always provide. I hope that you find the enclosed report helpful and enlightening. If I can be of further assistance, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

David Porter

Chief of Police

Mission Statement

"The members of DeWitt Police Department are committed to providing excellence in service through the delivery of professional, courteous, and knowledgeable law enforcement and community services. Ensuring that all people are treated, fairly, impartially and with concern and compassion."

Vision Statement

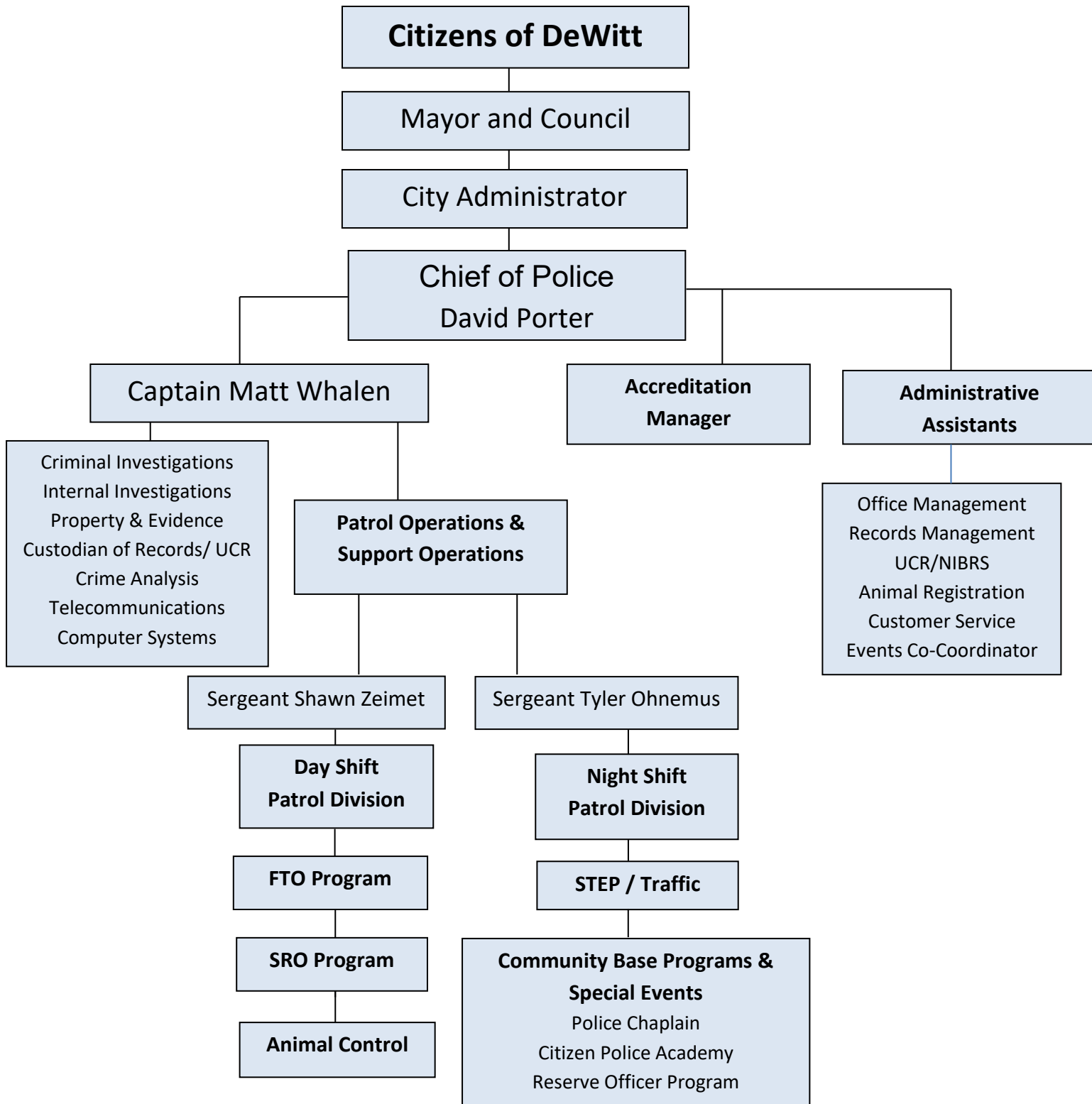
The DeWitt Police Department is committed to the development of strong community partnerships as a foundation, while promoting individual responsibility. Together we will work with our community partners and victims of crime to seek out and organize strategies that reduce crime and the fear of crime in our community.

As an organization we believe that taking pride and ownership in our community and working together through open and honest communication we can continue to make DeWitt a great community to live, work and visit. We also realize that we must and will hold ourselves to the highest standards of performance and ethical conduct in order to maintain the public trust.

To fulfill this vision the DeWitt Police Department will remain dedicated to providing a high quality work environment and the development of its members through professional leadership and training.

As we work towards this vision we do so remembering: Our greatest asset is our personnel; our greatest strength is our partnership with the community.

DEWITT POLICE ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



PATROL OFFICERS: Justin Witt, Nickolas Grant, Ryan Davison, Mark Schaller, Hannah McMeen

RESERVE OFFICERS: Cpt. Lee Penningroth, Ryan Edwards, Todd Malone, Loren Knudson, Brian Green, Devin Wagner

DeWitt Police Department

David Porter ~ Chief of Police

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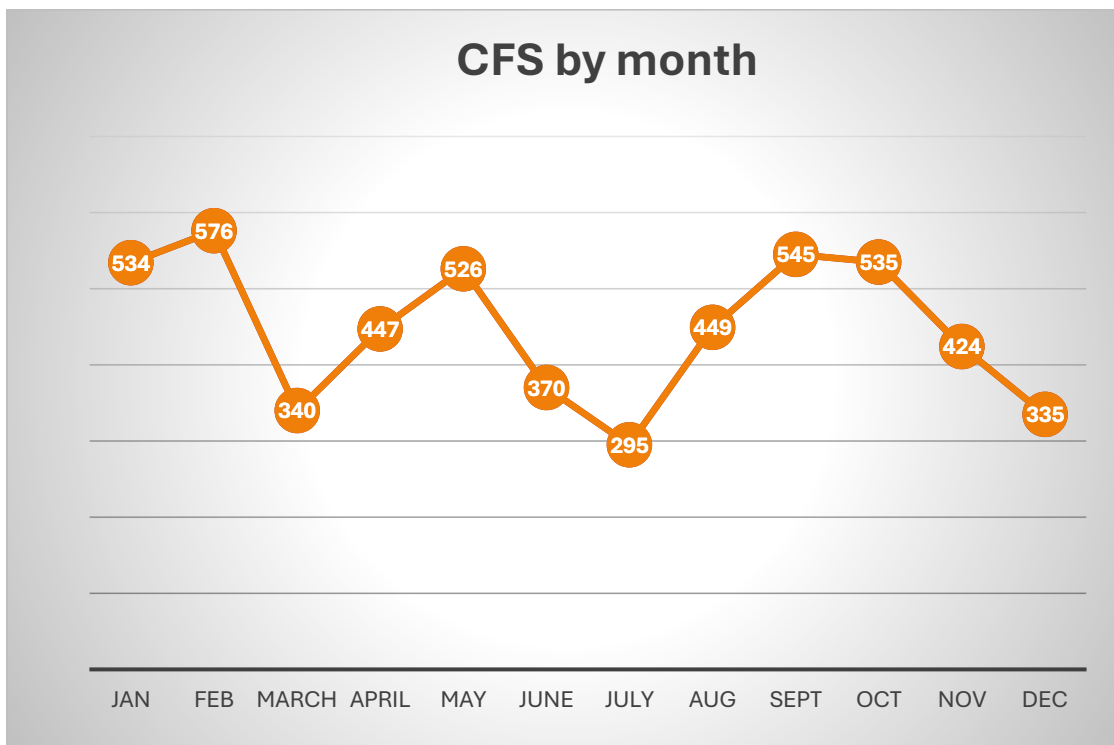
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To summarize and provide a snapshot view of the past year,

CALLS FOR SERVICE	5376
TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS	98
TRAFFIC CITATIONS	296
TRAFFIC WARNINGS	455
TOTAL CASES GENERATED	283
TOTAL CRIMINAL CASES GENERATED	203
TOTAL # OF PERSONS ARRESTED	Custodial arrests 41 Cited & Released 42
DOT SALVAGE VEHICLE INSPECTIONS	88
PARKING ENFORCEMENT	14
ANIMAL CONTROL (SHELTERED ANIMALS)	51
TOTAL DAYS SHELTERED	152
BUILDING CHECKS	8309
RESERVE OFFICER HOURS	568.75

Criminal Investigations Activity

DeWitt officers responded to 5376 calls for service in 2024. This averages out to be approximately 448 calls per month, or 15 calls per day. This represents a 10% decrease in direct calls for service (excluding business checks) from last year's total of 5974 calls for service. The month of February saw the highest number of calls with 576, followed by September and October both having 500+ as well.

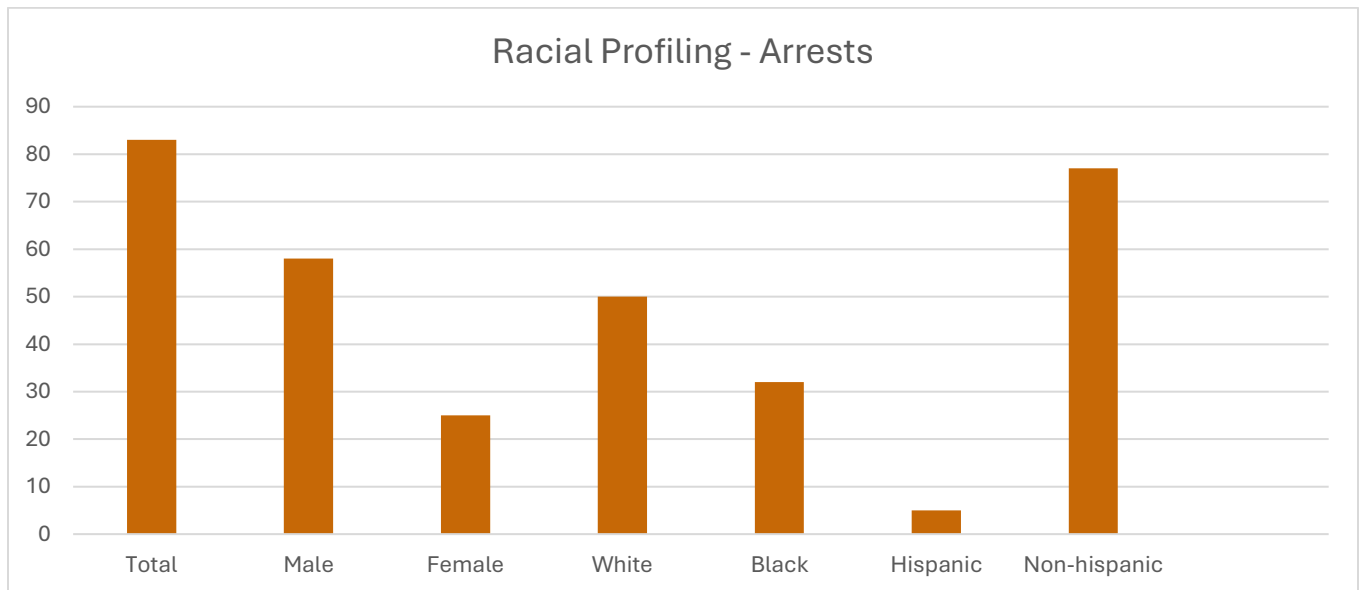


DeWitt officers logged 735 calls for service as building checks, most of which occurred with businesses after hours to ensure that they were secure, 8309 buildings in total.

The number of criminal cases generated in 2024 also decreased from 241 cases in 2023 to 203 cases in 2024. This represents a decrease of 16% from the previous year. However, I believe that both our calls for service as well as the number of criminal cases will very likely increase in the years ahead as the population in our community continues to increase.

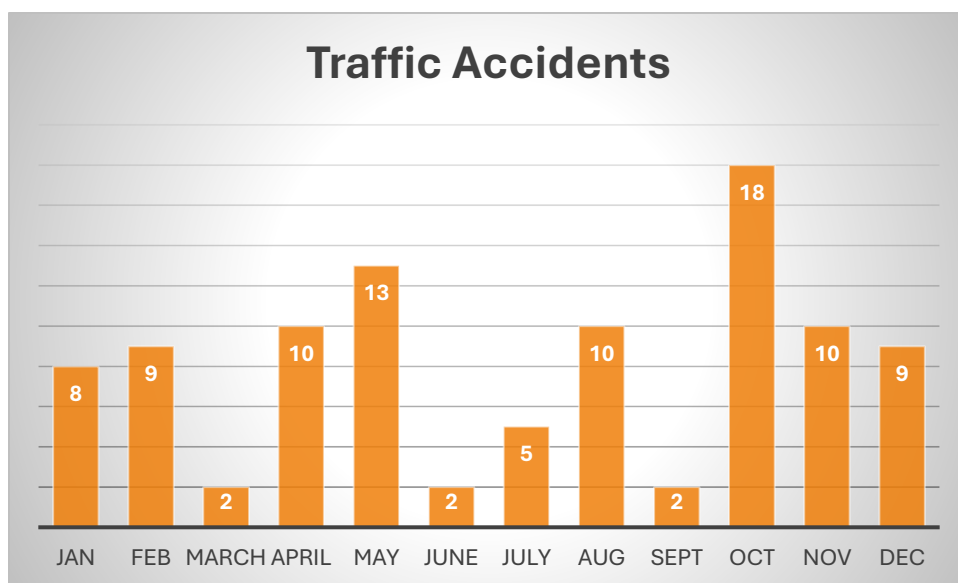
Of the 203 criminal cases that were created, 48 (23.65%) were cleared and closed. 57 cases (28.07%) were exceptionally cleared; either prosecution was declined, the case was referred to another agency, the victim was unwilling/unable to participate, or a warrant was issued in the matter. 63 of the cases (31.03%) are inactive / suspended, and 8 (3.94%) were unfounded. 1 case is under prosecutor review at the time of this report. Prosecution was declined in 21 of the 57 exceptionally cleared matters, which is equal to 36.84%.

In total throughout the year there were 83 arrests. 41 of the arrests (49.4%) were custodial and 42 suspects (50.6%) were cited and released.

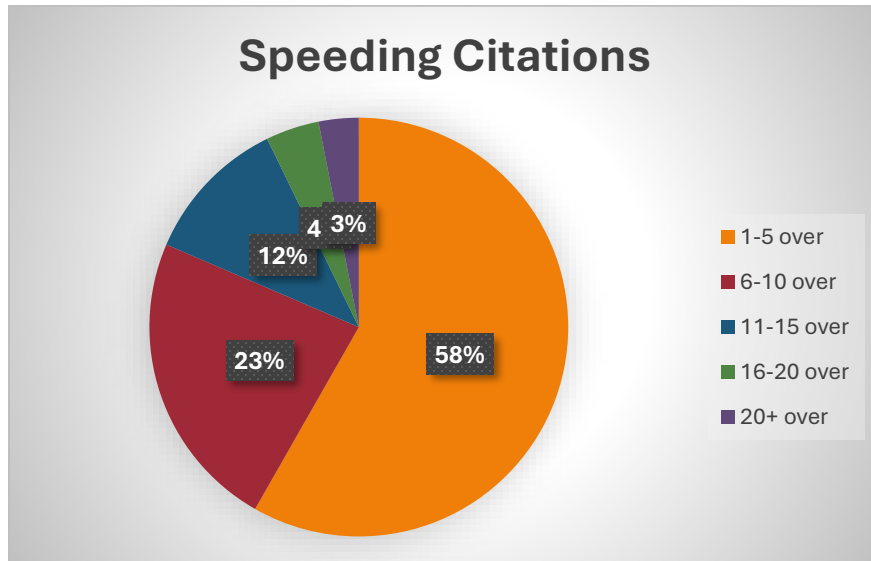


TRAFFIC

The DeWitt Police Department investigated 98 traffic accidents in 2024, which represents a decrease of 6.67% from the 105 accidents reported in 2023. The majority of those accidents took place on 11th St (23 occurrences), while the various ramps and Highway 30 E had a combined 15, and 8 were reported as off the roadway.

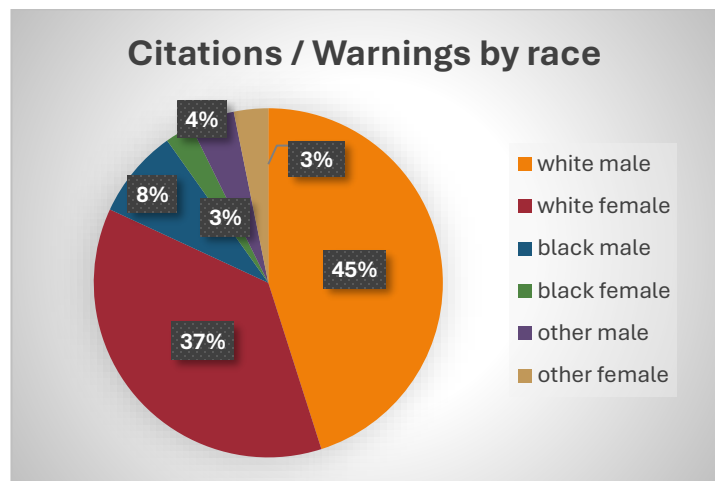


Officers issued 296 traffic citations, (increase of 42%) and wrote 455 written warnings (down 35.09%) this past year. Of the 296 citations that were issued 194 (65.5%) were written for speeding violations, primarily for 1-8 mph over the posted speed limit.



Statistics are closely monitored for any evidence of potential racial bias in officers when issuing citations and warnings. Percentages in 2024 reflect 82% of the defendants were Caucasian, 11% were African American, and 7% were of another race such as Indian or Asian.

	2020 Census
Population of IA	3,190,369
Population of DeWitt	5514
Male Population of DeWitt	46.9%
Female Population of DeWitt	53%
White	96.6%
African American	0.1%
Asian	1.3%
Hispanic	4.9%
American Indian/Alaska Native	0.0%



There was a total of 102 salvage vehicle inspections completed in 2024, 88 of which passed inspection and in turn contributed \$3520 to the city's General Fund budget.

Community Involvement and Activities

Community involvement continues to be a focus for the DeWitt Police Department and in 2024 we had several occasions to attend and sponsor various events and activities in an effort to proactively build positive relationships within the community. We have been able to provide outreach in a variety of settings.



In 2024, we partnered for the 2nd time with DeWitt Chamber and Development Company to present our **Police Night Out** in conjunction with their weekly Tunes in Town event. Police Night Out (PNO) is a unique crime/drug prevention event held each year on the first Tuesday in August. Many local businesses and individuals donate goods, time and money to create a successful event. PNO has proven to be an effective, inexpensive, and enjoyable program to promote neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships in our quest to continue to build relationships with all members in our community. Informational tables for various services were set up throughout the park and the local Boy Scouts were on hand to prepare the food. The Police Department provided refreshments and activities such as bounce houses, games, emergency service vehicles to examine, face painting and balloon animals.



Police Night Out Sponsors

<u>Gold (\$500-above)</u>	<u>Bronze (\$100-\$249)</u>	<u>Partner (\$20-\$99)</u>	<u>Other</u>
Cups & Cones	A Storybook Ending	Anderson Sand and Gravel	Boy Scouts
	Cross roads Inspired	Custom Wood Creations LLC	Car Freshener
<u>Silver (\$250-\$499)</u>	DeWitt Family Dentistry	DeWitt Lanes	Cups & Cones
1st Gateway Credit Union	Edward Jones	DeWitt Memorial Co.	DTM
Eastern IA Light & Power	Hall of Fame	Kunau Implement	GTN Self Storage
Liqui-grow	Hansen Monuments	McGimpsey Trucking LLC	Guardian Glass
MJ's East/Mac's Express	Yoerger Ent.	Meant To Be Flowers	Kwik Star
Necker's Jewelers		Plasti Paint	Mezcal
Paul Seffington Mem. Race		P&K Equipment	MJ's East
Schultz Funeral Homes		Cindy's Tropical Shaved Ice	Simba's Dog Palace

Shop With A Cop



Each year for the holiday season, we recognize a small portion of the youth community by inviting them to participate in our annual Shop with a Cop program. We invite the children to the Community Center for breakfast and to be paired with an officer before they go to Theisen's to select gifts for themselves and family members. Once the shopping is completed the group returns to the Community Center for pizza and games while their gifts are wrapped by the volunteers. Proceeds for this event were funded by Theisen's More For You Community Grant as well as individual donations, and the DeWitt Police Foundation. The Citizen's Police Academy members, Officers and Reserves volunteered their time to help with the event.



Other Activities from 2024

The School Resource Officer provided by the Police Department plays an integral role in providing and maintaining a safe and healthy school environment, and as such is designated to be present within the local schools on a full-time basis during the school year.



The Police Department sponsored a table at the local Farmers Market again this past spring.

Lunch with an Officer was one of the prizes for the Silent Auction at the St. Joseph's Blue and Gold Bash in 2024. The winning recipient rode in a squad car and had lunch at Mezcal and ice cream at Cups N Cones with Officer Grant.



First Central State Bank partnered with the DeWitt Police Department to host the annual Taco Tuesday event as a fundraiser for the DeWitt Police Foundation. On June 4th over 175 citizens enjoyed lunch and conversation with police department staff while supporting our Foundation

In July, several members of the department spent 2 hours at Cups N Cones, greeting and engaging with the public for our 3rd annual Cops N Cones event. A portion of the proceeds from the night was then donated back to the Police Foundation.



- Squad cars and emergency vehicles were on scene at the Dolly Parton Imagination Library Touch a Truck event held at CDHS.
- Officers were on scene at Genesis Hospital Trunk or Treat
- SRO Witt taught the 2nd graders at Ekstrand Elementary about bike safety and tested out their skills at the annual Bike Rodeo. Students also registered their bikes with the PD.
- A lead car and traffic control was provided for the 4th of July parade as well as the Lighted Christmas parade.

MONTHLY RECAP LOG

2024													
	<u>Jan</u>	<u>Feb</u>	<u>March</u>	<u>April</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>Aug</u>	<u>Sept</u>	<u>Oct</u>	<u>Nov</u>	<u>Dec</u>	<u>TOTALS</u>
Incidents/Calls for Service	534	576	340	447	526	370	295	449	545	535	424	335	5376
Traffic Accidents	8	9	2	10	13	2	5	10	2	18	10	9	98
Citations	7	30	20	32	27	35	17	17	28	53	34	18	318
Warnings	5	53	30	56	49	52	11	23	25	71	60	20	455
Parking Enforcement	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	4	0	7	0	0	14
Arrests	4	6	8	6	8	5	5	15	7	6	8	5	83
By Citation	1	3	5	3	2	5	1	7	4	4	5	2	42
Custodial/On View	3	3	3	3	6	0	4	8	3	2	3	3	41
Building Checks	173	278	530	876	890	555	390	972	1213	882	866	684	8309
Community Policing	12	5	1	7	11	16	12	13	24	16	3	5	125
Reserve Total Hours	59.25	58	50	34.5	33	17.5	78.25	32.75	45.75	57.5	51	51.25	568.75
Cases Generated	16	29	23	25	25	17	30	23	30	29	18	18	283
Criminal Cases Generated	12	20	15	19	11	11	23	18	23	24	13	14	203
Animal Control													
# of animals	2	7	3	1	2	3	2	6	4	10	8	3	51
# total days	18	16	40	-	12	-	2	20	1	12	5	26	152
Returned to Owner	-	5	-	1	1	3	1	3	2	9	1	1	27
Adopted	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	1	5
BEJAZE	2	1	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	5	1	13

ARRESTS 2024

Warrants	10
Operating While Under The Influence	7
Theft	8
Interference With Official Acts	2
Driving Offenses (Driving While Barred, Fail to Provide Insurance, Reckless Driving, Fail to Report Accident, Fail to Register)	3
Criminal Mischief	6
Alcohol Offenses (inc. Public Intox)	8
Assault	5
Weapon	4
Contempt	3
Domestic Abuse, including w/weapon	2
Minor Using or Possessing Tobacco / Vape	19
Other (Forgery, Providing Tobacco to Minor, Poss of Burglar Tools, Violation of PO, Identity Theft, Poss of Stolen Prop, Disarming Police Officer)	2
Burglary	1
Disorderly Conduct	4
Trespass	3
Harassment	2
Possess / Purchase alcohol under 18	1
Child Endangerment	1
Drug Related (Arrests, Possession, Distribution, Drug Paraphernalia)	11
Total Arrest Charges <i>*Number Represents Both Individual Charges and Those With Multiple Charges</i>	102
Total Number of Persons Arrested	83

TRAFFIC CITATIONS BY VIOLATION

Violation	Total
Auto Speeding < 55 (16 -20 over)	2
Auto Speeding 55 < (20 mph+)	1
Auto Speeding > 55 (6-10 over)	41
Auto Speeding > 55 (16-20 over)	7
Auto Speeding > 55 (20 mph+)	3
Auto Speeding 55 or < (1-5 over)	16
Auto Speeding 55 or < (11-15 over)	3
Careless / reckless Driving	1
DUS - Driving while license denied, susp, cancelled or revoked	5
Expired DL	1
Dark Window / Winshield	5
Failure to maintain control	2
Failure to maintain registration plate	3
Failure to maintain safety belts	8
Failure to obey stop sign & yield right of way	3
Failure to obey traffic control device	1
Failure to yield upon entering through highway	2
Failure to yield upon left turn	4
Failure to carry registration card	3
Failure to maintain control	1
Failure to obey stop sign	5
Failure to provide proof of financial liability	1
Failure to provide proof of financial liability - accident	1
Failure to secure child	1
Graduated Driver's License violation	1
Improper lane change	2
Improper use of lanes	1
Improper use of registration	1
Leaving scene of accident - property damage only	1
Motorcycle / Moped license violation	1
No Drivers License / Valid Drivers License	13
Operating non-registered vehicle	9
Operation w/o registration or registration card/plate	5
Registration violation	2
Speeding > 55 (1-5 over)	95
Speeding > 55 (11-15)	19
Speeding 55 or under zone (6-10 over)	2
Speeding 55 or under zone (21+ over)	1
Speeding over 55 zone (1-5 over)	2
Speeding over 55 zone (6-10 over)	2
Speeding over 55 zone (21+ over)	1
Spilling loads on highway	2
Unsafe entry onto sidewalk or roadway	2
Vehicles fail to respond to steady red signal	1
Violation of conditions minor's school permit / license	2
Violation of conditions of restricted license	1
Violation - Financial Liability - Coverage/Accident	10

NON CRIMINAL INCIDENTS		NON CRIMINAL INCIDENTS (continued)	
911 HANG UP/OPEN LINE	20	DEATH NOTIFICATION	
ABANDON/DISABLED/BROKEDOWN VEHICLE	47	SPECIAL EVENTS	5
ACCIDENT-PERSONAL INJ/PROP DAMAGE/ANIMAL	107	LOST PROPERTY	14
ADMINISTRATIVE/PHONE MESSAGE	119	LOST/MISSING CHILD/ADULT	4
ALARMS	63	MEDICAL/MED. ALARM/FALLS	246
ANIMAL COMPLAINT	189	MENTAL SUBJ / SUICIDE	11
ATTEMPT TO LOCATE	4	MEETING / INTERVIEW	47
BUSINESS CHECKS/FOOT PATROL/ BAR CHECK	748	NEIGHBOR COMPLAINTS	17
CHECK AREA	88	NO TRESPASSING NOTICES	33
CHECK WELFARE	76	NOISE COMPLAINT	48
CITIZEN ASSIST/STAND BY	53	OFFICER ASSIST/MUTUAL AID	37
CIVIL MATTER	47	OFFICER INFORMATION	107
CODE ENFORCEMENT/ORDINANCE VIOLATION	69	PARKING PROBLEM	44
COMMUNITY POLICING	115	PROPERTY & EVIDENCE	11
DISTURBANCES	86	RECKLESS DRIVER	69
EXTRA PATROL	229	RECORDS CHECK	33
FINGERPRINT REQUESTS	45	REPORT REQUESTS / FOIA	81
FIRE/EXPLOSION/ILLEGAL BURN/EMD	62	RUNAWAY	8
FIREWORKS	5	SALVAGE VEHICLE INSPECTIONS	88
FOLLOW UP INVESTIGATION	287	SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES	85
FOUND PERSON	2	SUSPICIOUS PERSON	6
FOUND PROPERTY	37	SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE/OUT WITH VEHICLE	48
CHILD ENDANGERMENT	4	TRAFFIC CONTROL/ROAD HAZARDS	38
SCHOOL CHECKS	498	TRAFFIC STOP	671
JUVENILE PROBLEM	91	WARRANT CHECKS	9