

Darien Police Department

Annual Report

2023



Members of the Darien Police Department along with elected officials and staff of Darien understand that the police department’s primary mission to our community is service and safety. We take our oath to uphold the law and serve our community seriously. The means by which safety is ensured and service provided may be achieved by different methods including prevention, intervention and suppression strategies. These strategic decisions must be moral, ethical and within constitutional law.

Our philosophical approach is to resolve problems and provide service that is accomplished by a variety of means of which enforcement is only one of many options. We would rather problem-solve, implementing a long term resolution to the concern, than continual enforcement. We are data driven agency, whereby we analyze problems and implement a more permanent fix by working *with* the community not *for* the community, a partnership.

We categorize our work into three main functions; crime, crashes and concerns. We do our best to analyze crime and place manpower where and when it is most effective, matching calls for service with staffing. Driver safety is an important aspect of the duties we perform. Concerns may not be an obvious police function, but probably are the most time consuming and frequent police activities. Concerns include many matters such as homelessness, mental health, medical assistance, missing persons, animal control and many more.

CRIME

We started reporting crime using the National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS) this year. In prior years we used the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) system. NIBRS collects more data on crimes against persons, crimes against property, crimes against society and other incidents. Because previous years (prior to 2020) were not coded with NIBRS requirements it would be nearly impossible to compare longer time frames as we did with UCR where we looked back five, ten or twenty plus years.

Person Crime

The amount of crimes against persons increased in 2023 as compared to 2022 by 13.8%. There were 140 reported crimes against persons in 2023 up from 123 in 2022 or 17 more crimes.

<u>Category</u>	<u>YTD</u> <u>2023</u>	<u>YTD</u> <u>2022</u>	<u>YTD</u> <u>2021</u>	<u>YTD</u> <u>2020</u>	<u>1 Yr.</u> <u>Change</u>	<u>2 Yr.</u> <u>Change</u>	<u>3 Yr.</u> <u>Change</u>
Murder	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Sexual Assault	3	6	12	8	-50.0%	-75.0%	-62.5%
Sex Offenses	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Assaults	137	117	107	91	17.1%	28.0%	50.5%
Human Trafficking	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Kidnapping	0	0	2	1	0.0%	-100.0%	-100.0%
Total Person	140	123	121	100	13.8%	15.7%	40.0%

One of the three sexual assault incidents was cleared by an arrest. The other two were closed due to no viable leads that would be cause for an arrest.

A battery occurs when someone is physically harmed or physically provoked. An assault occurs when a person is in reasonable apprehension of receiving a battery. Assaults and batteries increased by 17%, 20 more assaults / batteries than what occurred in 2022. More than half, 73 of the assault and batteries (53%) were domestic motivated. Thirteen of the 137 assaults and batteries were situations of harassment where under the NIBRS guidelines are counted, but are not actually an assault or battery by statutory definition.

Of the 137 cases, 54 (39%) were cleared by an arrest, 24 (17%) were cleared by exception and 58 (42%) were closed as the leads in those cases were exhausted for a 57% clearance rate. Cleared exceptionally means that sufficient probable cause for an arrest was established and the offender was clearly identified, but matters outside the control of law enforcement an arrest could not be made.

Property Crime

Property crime saw an 18% decrease or 85 fewer crimes comparing 2023 to 2022. This was driven by a significant decrease in theft cases (89). There were four robberies reported in 2023 compared to none in 2022. Of the four cases two are closed – leads exhausted, one cleared by arrest and one pending. Darien residents witnessed a 21.7% decrease in burglary whether residential (12) or commercial (6). Ten burglaries were closed – leads exhausted, two were cleared by exception and six are still under active investigation. Motor Vehicle Theft saw a 9% increase or one more car stolen in 2023 than 2022. Ten cases were closed – leads exhausted, one cleared by exception and one cleared by arrest.

Category	YTD 2023	YTD 2022	YTD 2021	YTD 2020	1 Yr. Change	2 Yr. Change	3 Yr. Change
Robbery	4	0	3	4	0.0%	33.3%	0.0%
Arson	1	1	0	2	0.0%	0.0%	-50.0%
Extortion	10	0	1	6	0.0%	900.0%	66.7%
Burglary	18	23	27	30	-21.7%	-33.3%	-40.0%
Theft	134	223	171	183	-39.9%	-21.6%	-26.8%
MVT	12	11	17	8	9.1%	-29.4%	50.0%
Forgery	4	9	11	3	-55.6%	-63.6%	33.3%
Fraud	153	140	285	457	9.3%	-46.3%	-66.5%
Embezzlement	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Stolen Property	0	5	0	3	-100.0%	0.0%	-100.0%
Criminal Damage	50	60	54	49	-16.7%	-7.4%	2.0%
Bribery	1	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Total Property	387	472	569	745	-18.0%	-32.0%	-48.1%

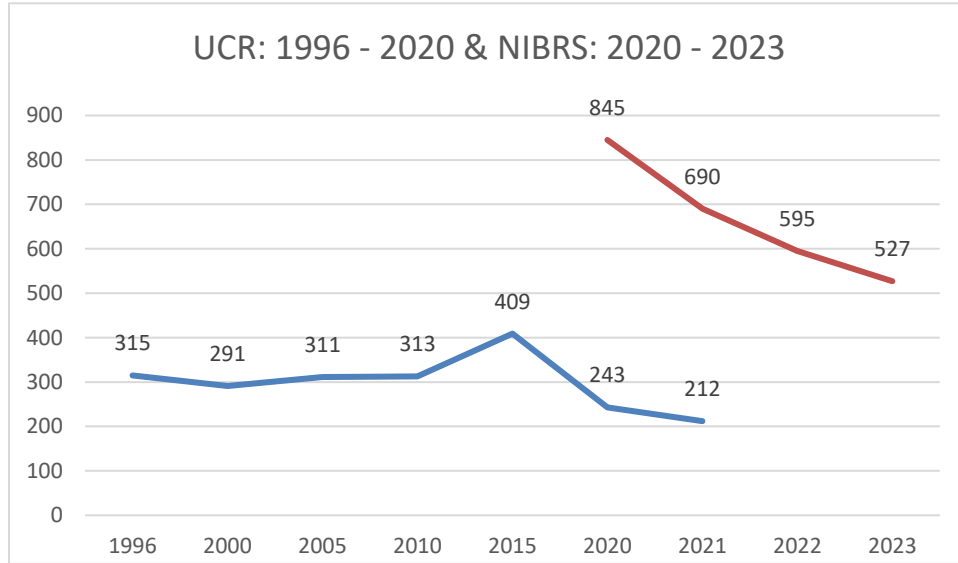
Retail theft accounted for 54 of the 134 thefts. An arrest was made in 33 theft cases, 77 were closed, six cleared by exception and 10 are still active investigations. Fraud, led by identity theft, (39) saw a 9.3% increase. Of the 153 cases of fraud 22 were cleared by an arrest.

Total Person & Property Crime

NIBRS counts more crime types and more sub-crimes than UCR. Trying to show total crime, Person plus Property crime as was done with UCR, shows an 11.4% decrease in crime comparing 2023 to 2022. In an effort to show crime over longer periods of time using two different systems

is impossible. However, I included a graph of crime from 1996 through 2021 (26 years) using UCR methodology of counting crime as well as 2020 through 2023 using NIBRS data. For a total of 28 years, we continue to drive down crime and make Darien a nice place to live.

Category	YTD 2023	YTD 2022	YTD 2021	YTD 2020	1 Yr. Change	2 Yr. Change	3 Yr. Change
Total Person	140	123	121	100	13.8%	15.7%	40.0%
Total Property	387	472	569	745	-18.0%	-32.0%	-48.1%
Total Crime	527	595	690	845	-11.4%	-23.6%	-37.6%



Societal Crime

A new category of crime being counted under NIBRS reporting rules is societal crime. Societal crimes decreased by 13.3% from 2022 to 2023. Forty-three of the 49 drug cases ended with an arrest, three are closed and three are pending. All ten of the weapon related offenses resulted in an arrest.

Category	YTD 2023	YTD 2022	YTD 2021	YTD 2020	1 Yr. Change	2 Yr. Change	3 Yr. Change
Drug	49	60	114	64	-18.3%	-57.0%	-23.4%
Pornography	3	3	8	5	0.0%	-62.5%	-40.0%
Gambling	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Prostitution	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Weapons	10	12	7	10	-16.7%	42.9%	0.0%
Animal Cruelty	3	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Total Societal	65	75	129	79	-13.3%	-49.6%	-17.7%

Other Crime

Another change from UCR to NIBRS includes a category of other offenses. There are a number of different crime types included in this group of offenses.

<u>Category</u>	<u>YTD</u> <u>2023</u>	<u>YTD</u> <u>2022</u>	<u>YTD</u> <u>2021</u>	<u>YTD</u> <u>2020</u>	<u>1 Yr.</u> <u>Change</u>	<u>2 Yr.</u> <u>Change</u>	<u>3 Yr.</u> <u>Change</u>
Bad Checks	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Curfew	1	1	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Disorderly Conduct	99	41	47	40	141.5%	110.6%	147.5%
DUI	87	67	80	53	29.9%	8.8%	64.2%
Family Offenses	9	140	65	83	-93.6%	-86.2%	-89.2%
Liquor Violation	20	9	7	5	122.2%	185.7%	300.0%
Peeping Tom	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
MRAI	0	1	1	3	-100.0%	-100.0%	-100.0%
Trespass	31	15	18	21	106.7%	72.2%	47.6%
All Other Crimes	170	217	221	122	-21.7%	-23.1%	39.3%
Total Other Crime	417	491	439	327	-15.1%	-5.0%	27.5%

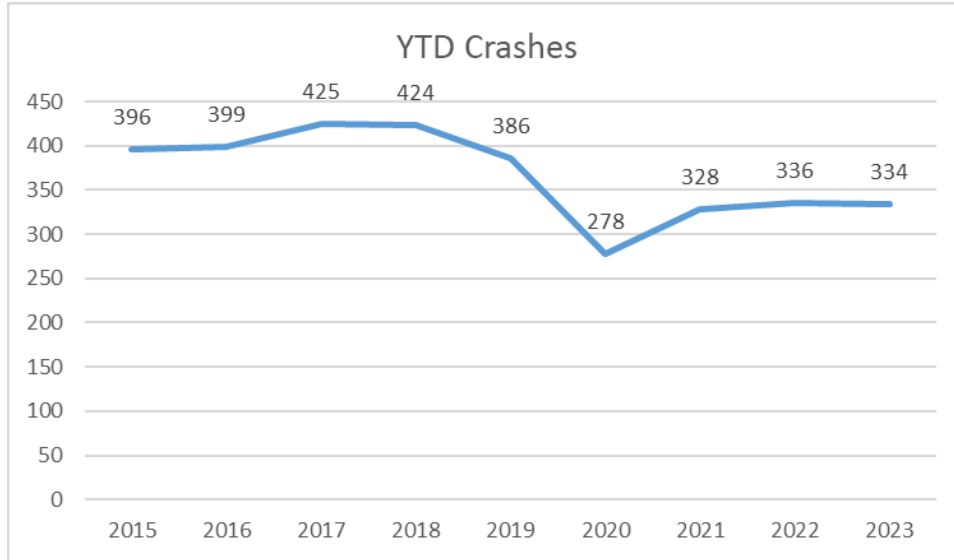
There were a few places, disorderly conduct and criminal trespass to property that saw significant increases 141% and 106% respectively. MRAI (from above table) means a Minor Requiring Authoritative Intervention. Such incidents as habitual runaways.

TRAFFIC

Crashes

The safety of the driving public is important to the Darien community. To determine the safety of the driving public the measure used is the frequency of crashes on public right-of-ways. Darien saw less than one percent decrease in accidents or 2 less crashes, on the public way in 2023 compared to 2022.

Public Way & Private Property Crashes						
	<u>YTD</u> <u>2023</u>	<u>YTD</u> <u>2022</u>	<u>YTD</u> <u>2018</u>	<u>1 Year</u> <u>Change</u>	<u>5 Year</u> <u>Change</u>	
No Injuries	265	289	357	-8.3%	-25.8%	
Injury	68	47	67	44.7%	1.5%	
Fatal	1	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	
Total	334	336	424	-0.6%	-21.2%	
Fatalities	1	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	
Hit & Run	20	34	35	-41.2%	-42.9%	
DUI	1	5	2	-80.0%	-50.0%	
Private Property	139	142	218	-2.1%	-36.2%	



There was one fatal crash in 2023 and injury crashes increased by 44.7%. Crashes due to impaired driving decreased by 80% or four less.

The top crash locations did not change much. Most of the crash locations from the prior year are on the list but maybe in a slightly different order.

Frequency of Crashes by Location					
Primary Street	Cross Street	2023 Crashes	2022 Crashes	5 Yrs Crashes	5 Year Average
Cass Avenue	75th Street	31	47	183	36.6
Lemont Road	I-55	27	16	50	10.0
Plainfield Road	75th Street	25	23	119	23.8
Plainfield Road	Clarendon Hills Road	15	8	69	13.8
Cass Avenue	Plainfield Road	14	23	97	19.4
Lemont Road	87th Street	13	23	108	21.6
Cass Avenue	S Frontage Road	11	5	39	7.8
Cass Avenue	N Frontage Road	10	5	43	8.6
Lemont Road	83rd Street	9	12	67	13.4
Clarendon Hills Road	67th Street	5	12	35	7.0
Cass Avenue	Hinswood Drive	5	8	24	4.8
Lemont Road	103rd Street	4	6	27	5.4
Lemont Road	Cheese Road	3	6	37	7.4

Roadways with higher collision rates regardless of cross street are:

Frequency of Crashes by Street				
Primary Street	2023 Crashes	2022 Crashes	5 Yrs Crashes	5 Year Average
Cass Avenue	72	71	349	69.8
Lemont Road	65	66	302	60.4
Plainfield Road	59	65	316	63.2
75th Street	33	31	151	30.2
Clarendon Hills Road	12	17	81	16.2
N Frontage Road	9	17	80	16.0

Traffic Enforcement

Officers continue to try to make Darien streets safe. To that end officers wrote over 3,800 traffic tickets for rules of the road violations (listed in the chart as “moving”). Rules of the road violations are typically those types of violations that cause accidents such as speeding, lane violations, stop sign violations, etc.

Citation Summary							
	<u>YTD</u> <u>2023</u>	<u>YTD</u> <u>2022</u>	<u>YTD</u> <u>2018</u>	<u>YTD</u> <u>2013</u>	<u>1 Yr.</u> <u>Change</u>	<u>5 Yr.</u> <u>Change</u>	<u>10 Yr.</u> <u>Change</u>
Moving Citation	988	1204	1339	1265	-17.9%	-26.2%	-21.9%
Moving Warning	2874	2802	1781	1274	2.6%	61.4%	125.6%
Total Moving	3862	4006	3120	2539	-3.6%	23.8%	52.1%
Non-Moving Citation	666	884	636	784	-24.7%	4.7%	-15.1%
Non-Moving Warning	1823	1928	953	921	-5.4%	91.3%	97.9%
Total Non-Moving	2489	2812	1589	1705	-11.5%	56.6%	46.0%
Total Warning	4697	4730	2734	2195	-0.7%	71.8%	114.0%
Total Citations	1654	2088	1975	2049	-20.8%	-16.3%	-19.3%
Total Actions	6351	6818	4709	4244	-6.8%	34.9%	49.6%
DUI Arrests	87	67	81	UNK	29.9%	7.4%	0.0%

Listed here are the category of violations:

Citation Summary by Category of Violation							
	<u>YTD</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>1 Yr.</u>	<u>5 Yr.</u>	<u>10 Yr.</u>
	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>Change</u>	<u>Change</u>	<u>Change</u>
Speed	2320	2656	1868	1648	-12.7%	24.2%	40.8%
Registration	1385	1373	599	663	0.9%	131.2%	108.9%
Stop Sign or Signal	676	550	433	443	22.9%	56.1%	52.6%
Equipment	512	634	457	394	-19.2%	12.0%	29.9%
Insurance	340	418	363	345	-18.7%	-6.3%	-1.4%
Lane	301	249	220	191	20.9%	36.8%	57.6%
License	238	305	190	184	-22.0%	25.3%	29.3%
Yield	175	82	66	63	113.4%	165.2%	177.8%
Signal	129	122	123	74	5.7%	4.9%	74.3%
Distracted	127	200	326	68	-36.5%	-61.0%	86.8%
Turning	78	77	40	33	1.3%	95.0%	136.4%
Other	27	67	66	65	-59.7%	-59.1%	-58.5%
Alcohol / Cannabis	25	51	8	3	-51.0%	212.5%	733.3%
Seat Belt	18	34	50	70	-47.1%	-64.0%	-74.3%

COMMUNITY CONCERNS

We track citizen concerns on various issues. See below chart for the locations residents informed us about regarding a situation and how we responded.

Citizen Concerns							
<u>Date</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Time (minutes)</u>	<u>Tickets</u>	<u>Warnings</u>	
12/28/22	Speeding	67th - Richmond to Clarendon Hills	114	2,765	13	36	
02/27/23	Speeding	1900 block Manning	34	72	1	0	
03/13/23	Speeding	Oldfield - N. Frontage to Washington	20	3,563	76	90	
03/21/23	Speeding	Bailey - Plainfield to N. Frontage	125	2,873	24	40	
03/21/23	Stop Sign	Cass & Hinswood	63	1,445	1	4	
03/21/23	Stop Sign	Cass & 71st St	24	442	0	1	
04/04/23	Speeding & No Left Turn	Lyman & Manning	115	2,268	8	55	
05/18/23	Speeding	Mystic Trace & Ripple Ridge	14	414	0	0	
05/22/23	Speeding	71st - Clarendon Hills to Cass	31	788	6	13	
05/27/23	Speeding	79th & Del	23	492	0	8	
06/06/23	Stop Sign	Exner & 71st	23	910	1	13	
07/09/23	Speeding	High - 67th to Plainfield	20	448	0	3	
07/13/23	Stop Signal	Clarendon Hills	80	2,708	20	117	
07/18/23	Speeding	Woodvale - 87th to Beller	15	368	0	2	
07/30/23	Speeding & Stop Signal	Cass & 75th	42	1,030	3	5	
08/14/23	Speeding	67th - Cass to Clarendon Hills	78	1,975	14	13	
09/05/23	Speeding	1019 Concord	23	751	2	3	
12/05/23	Speeding	Plainfield & Clarendon Hills	23	622	3	5	
12/16/23	Speeding	Lemont & 87th	16	423	1	1	

The police department responded to or was involved in 78 mental health incidents. Citizen assists were 121. We encourage the public to call when they see a suspicious person, vehicle, or incident. The police department responded to 578 such incidents. We responded to 332 Wellbeing Checks in 2023. One such thank you letter read,

“I’m able to send you this note because of your departments swift action to a request for a welfare check. The 2 officers that responded as sure as I’m sitting here now saved my life. I wasn’t able to afford any food and hadn’t eaten for 17 days. Your officers were the most professional and empathetic people I have ever met. Because of your officers and department I am now getting the help that I need to move forward and get my life back on track. I may not have a place to live coming up soon but at least I have a more positive outlook on life. You don’t always need to put yourself into a dangerous situation, it’s the simplest things that you do on a daily basis that saves the most lives like mine. Thank you”

Great partnerships with school districts. One such partnership resulted in a significant grant being awarded. Andrew S. Wise, Superintendent of Schools for Center Cass District 66 said in an e-mail,

“Thank you so much for the letter. Due to your continued support and partnership, and that of our other law enforcement and fire protection agencies, we were able to land a \$430,000 grant through the Department of Justice to improve our facilities and prevent school violence.

Our deepest appreciation and gratitude for all you do for us.”

We continue to monitor houses where people have advised us they are going to be out of town for an extended time. In 2023 we monitored 232 addresses where we physically conducted 1,311 house watches.

CALLS FOR SERVICE

DuComm continues to be a great partner managing calls for service. Police chiefs, for the most part, remained in charge of governance. DuComm receives funding from the Emergency Telephone System Board (ETSB). This helps defray a significant portion of the cost to operate the 9-1-1 center.

DuComm managed 6,707 citizen generated calls for service. A citizen generated call when a member of the public calls into DuComm whether dialing a 10 digit number or 9-1-1.

Calls for Service - Citizen Generated							
	<u>YTD</u> <u>2023</u>	<u>YTD</u> <u>2022</u>	<u>YTD</u> <u>2018</u>	<u>YTD</u> <u>2013</u>	<u>1 Year</u> <u>Change</u>	<u>5 Year</u> <u>Change</u>	<u>10 Year</u> <u>Change</u>
Shift 1	4167	3795	3711	4307	9.8%	12.3%	-3.3%
Shift 2	2540	2315	2286	2650	9.7%	11.1%	-4.2%
Total	6707	6110	5997	6957	9.8%	11.8%	-3.6%

The types of citizen generated calls for service fall into these general categories:

Calls for Service - Citizen Generated by Type					
	<u>YTD</u> 2023	<u>YTD</u> 2022	<u>YTD</u> 2018	<u>1 Year</u> Change	<u>5 Year</u> Change
Criminal	1854	1672	2315	10.9%	-19.9%
Citizen Assist	1364	1162	995	17.4%	37.1%
Accident	619	585	646	5.8%	-4.2%
Suspicion	578	496	491	16.5%	17.7%
Alarm	572	517	722	10.6%	-20.8%
Medical	490	399	287	22.8%	70.7%
Administrative	398	377	431	5.6%	-7.7%
Traffic	270	353	514	-23.5%	-47.5%
Animal	264	235	271	12.3%	-2.6%
Assist - PD	209	224	281	-6.7%	-25.6%
Assist - FD	58	44	59	31.8%	-1.7%
Missing Person	31	44	44	-29.5%	-29.5%
Total	6707	6108	7056	9.8%	-4.9%

DuComm operators managed 7,377 officer initiated calls for service. An officer initiated call for service can be created by an officer calling DuComm from his portable radio or creating a call for service utilizing the computer in his/her squad car. Officer initiated calls for service are proactive situations where officers are trying to accomplish goals of problem reduction.

Calls for Service - Officer Initiated							
	<u>YTD</u> 2023	<u>YTD</u> 2022	<u>YTD</u> 2018	<u>YTD</u> 2013	<u>1 Year</u> Change	<u>5 Year</u> Change	<u>10 Year</u> Change
Shift 1	3175	3531	8211	7909	-10.1%	-61.3%	-59.9%
Shift 2	4202	4128	5526	7072	1.8%	-24.0%	-40.6%
Total	7377	7659	13737	14981	-3.7%	-46.3%	-50.8%

The types of officer initiated calls for service fall into these general categories:

Calls for Service - Officer Initiated by Type					
	<u>YTD</u> <u>2023</u>	<u>YTD</u> <u>2022</u>	<u>YTD</u> <u>2018</u>	<u>1 Year</u> <u>Change</u>	<u>5 Year</u> <u>Change</u>
Traffic	5849	6017	4856	-2.8%	20.4%
Suspicion	331	382	458	-13.4%	-27.7%
Preventative Patrol	339	345	5449	-1.7%	-93.8%
Assist	281	293	169	-4.1%	66.3%
Criminal	251	240	297	4.6%	-15.5%
Administrative	160	208	1368	-23.1%	-88.3%
Citizen Assist	121	125	1077	-3.2%	-88.8%
Accident	45	49	63	-8.2%	-28.6%
Total	7377	7659	13737	-3.7%	-46.3%

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Officers and support staff are involved in the community in various activities totaling hundreds of hours. Many of those hours are voluntary – unpaid.

- St. Baldrick’s – fundraiser for children’s pediatric cancer: Deputy Chief Norton, Sergeant Lorek and Sergeant Kosieniak participated in St. Baldrick’s head shaving event at Bally Doyle’s in Downers Grove. The team raised thousands of dollars and we appreciate Bally Doyle’s contribution.
- Cop on a Rooftop – fundraiser for Special Olympics: This event was held at Dunkin Donuts 7532 Cass and included the following personnel Cachro, Dollins, Kosieniak, Liss, Lorek, Milazzo, Norton, Parris, Pastick, Rundell, Servin, Skweres, Stutte, Throm, Versis and Thomas. Approximately \$3,500 was raised and a couple of hundred people donated. Dunkin Donuts donated space and services – thanks to Dunkin Donuts.
- Westmont Squad Car Show: Westmont Police Department hosts this show to bring people together in a community event to see the different squad cars and for people to interact with the officers in a relaxed, fun setting. Officers Servin and Oplawski participated in the event with hundreds participating.
- Safety Village: Officers Somogye, Milazzo and Keough taught five classes of varying age students. Teaching children how to be safer in the community.

- Sergeant Lorek and Officers Hellmann and O'Brien honored WWII vet Al Pervis at his home for his 100th birthday.
- National Night Out (NNO): This event was held at Westwood Park. There were numerous vendors and giveaways. NNO is a chance for the public to interact with each other and the police. Officer Milazzo and canine Axle performed a K9 demonstration. Approximately 300 people came out for the event. This year we assisted Versiti with a blood drive and Camille Piazza, Senior Account Representative for Versiti Blood Center of Illinois, stated in an e-mail:



As you probably already know, Tuesday's blood drive was a HUGE success. The team registered 16 donors; only three were deferred and they collected 14 units. Because of you, your team and the generous donors - myself included – up to 42 lives were saved! Of the donors - 13 were NEW to Versiti! THAT is outstanding. Thank you!

We are so grateful for you all and your “community”. Working with you all is a pleasure! Thank you for your partnership. It means a lot!

- Coffee with a Cop: McDonald’s at 809 Plainfield Road were our very gracious hosts. Several officers participated though only approximately ten people came out to have a conversation with us. We appreciate McDonald’s partnership.
- Faith in Blue: Several officers participated in this event held at Our Lady of Peace 709 Plainfield Road. Raffles, balloon art, pumpkin decorating, live entertainment and a K-9 demonstration. A great thanks to Our Lady of Peace.
- Movember - fundraising event for prostate and testicular cancer. Officers Cachro, Glomb, Jump, Kano, Keough, Kosieniak, Liss, Lorek, Noga, Norton, O'Brien, Milazzo, Parris, Pastick, Rumick, Rundell, Simek, Skweres, Somogy participated earning \$1035.
- Shop with a Hero: We, along with members of the Darien-Woodridge Fire Department, shop with kids from the community for Christmas presents. This year we had 23 children participate along with their families. We had breakfast together and shopped at Wal-Mart who provided a grant. With Wal-Mart’s grant and other donors (Lion’s Club & individuals) we were able to spend \$140 per child and Dunkin Donuts provided gift cards. Norton, Dollins, Oplawski, Rumick, Somogy and Kosieniak participated. In total about 70 people were involved.
- Blessing Tree: Officers Milazzo, Rundell, Pastick, Giza, Kano and Sergeant Liss participated in assisting Our Lady of Peace church to deliver presents to several families.

This year the Indian Prairie Public Library (IPPL) through Marquitta Harris, IPPL's Outreach Strategist, initiated a "Safety Conversations" program held the first Wednesday of the Month.

September:	General Safety	Led by Deputy Chief Norton
October:	Common Scams	Led by Detectives Dollins, Stutte & Skweres
November:	Holiday Tips	Led by Deputy Chief Norton
December:	Personal Safety	Led by Deputy Chief Norton & Officer Rundell

Other conversations were conducted as well including one at the police department organized by Meldinda Nowak a resident of Darien. Chief Thomas, Deputy Chief Norton and Sergeant Skweres participated. Resident Mary Travis initiated a general safety / senior safety event at Myers Commons. Carriage West HOA had a safety event. Janice Bottger of Darien Women's Club hosted an event.

We have increased the number of people following the police department on Twitter and other social media platforms. We hope to get a public service message out once a month and continue notifying the public about issues that occur, such as road closures.

HONOR

We continue to conduct our due diligence to hire the personnel with high moral and ethical character. Officer candidates must pass a rigorous hiring process that includes: application, orientation, physical fitness test, written test, structured oral interview, polygraph examination, psychological examination, background investigation, medical examination and drug test. Once hired the officer must attend and pass a sixteen week basic academy, sixteen week intensive field training and evaluation program and one year of probation. We are confident that we have done our best to hire people with strong values and principles. Once hired we train personnel to a high level of competence and continue to train personnel. We are dedicated to insure personnel are very competent in the handling of police and service duties.

Recognition

There were 33 letters of appreciation from citizens or other police departments to our officers. Additionally other awards were earned in 2023. Of particular note:

- Sergeant Austin Jump received a Letter of Commendation for his actions managing a suicidal / homicidal subject. The subject, armed with a shotgun, was threatening his wife and three small children. Sergeant Jump established incident command then secured a perimeter utilizing surrounding police agencies, secured a radio channel and contacted MERIT SWAT. He then led a small extraction team to take the family out of the house without any harm to any parties involved. Negotiations began with the suspect and he surrendered without incident.
- Officers Nelson Servin and Maciej Cachro earned a Lifesaving Award. On May 3, 2023 Officers Servin and Cachro responded to a cardiac arrest incident where the victim was not conscious and not breathing. Officers conducted CPR and other lifesaving measures until the fire department could arrive. Fire personnel advised the officers' quick actions were critical in the effort to revive the patient.

- Officer Nick Nelson earned a Lifesaving Award. On July 19, 2023 he responded to a neighboring jurisdiction to assist with several subjects overdosing on an unknown substance. Officer Nelson observed a subject going in and out of consciousness and a low pulse rate. He administered two doses of Narcan and continued to assess the subject before medics could treat the subject.
- Sergeant Steve Liss earned the Honor Award. On April 3, 2023 officers responded to a report of a woman who had been stabbed and the offender had fled the scene. Sergeant Liss arrived on scene where the victim was being treated and checked the adjacent area. He located the offender and the offender, armed with two large knives, yelled repeatedly “Kill me!” Sergeant Liss was able to de-escalate the situation. He and other officers peacefully took the offender into custody without further incident.
- Officers Tony Hruby, Nelson Servin, Maciej Cachro and Paulina Noga all earned recognition in 2023 from the Alliance Against Intoxicated Motorists (AAIM) for their exceptional DUI enforcement efforts in 2022.
- Officer Hruby was recognized in 2023 by Mothers Against Drunk Drivers (MADD) for his 2022 DUI enforcement as he was the top DUI enforcement officer on the department.

Discipline

We want to make sure we are honorable and continually earn the public’s respect and trust as we respect and trust the public. Therefore we do not shy away from investigating complaints against personnel. We have well trained and strictly vetted officers who understand and live by their oath of office and oath of honor which states,

“On my honor, I will never betray my integrity, my character or the public trust. I will always have the courage to hold myself and others accountable for our actions. I will always maintain the highest ethical standards and uphold the values of my community, and the agency I serve.”

From January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023, Darien Police Department received over 14,000 calls for service. Amongst these incidents, officers made over 7,500 traffic stops and engaged in over 440 arrests.

Darien Police Department received nine citizen generated complaints in 2023. Each of these complaints were thoroughly investigated.

- One incident the officer was exonerated (alleged acts occurred but were justified).
- Five incidents were unfounded (the alleged act did not occur).
- Two incidents were sustained (the alleged act occurred and was not within policy). One officer received Shift Level Counseling and the other received a Written Reprimand.

Administrative Reviews

The Darien Police Department utilizes a formal administrative review procedure for use of force incidents, pursuits, deployment of stop sticks and other unusual occurrences. Stop sticks are a tool to flatten a fleeing vehicle’s tires to force it to stop before the car causes injury to others. A sergeant who was not directly involved in the incident is tasked with reviewing the incident to determine whether the officer’s actions were within department policy and state laws. These

investigations are deemed to be “in compliance” or “not in compliance” by the investigating supervisor. When an incident is deemed to be not in compliance a performance complaint investigation is conducted.

Vehicle Pursuits

In 2023 Darien PD officers were involved in one pursuit with one officer being involved in that incident. This incident was reviewed and the officer was found to have violated department policy and a performance complaint was drafted and investigated.

Use of Force

In 2023 Darien officers were involved in 25 incidents where use of force was used. Of these 25 incidents 47 officers deemed it necessary to use force during the course of their duties. Each incident and the actions of the officers involved were reviewed by an uninvolved supervisor. In all 25 instances involving 47 officers, the officers’ actions were found to be in compliance with policy.

Again, these use of force incidents were reviewed by an uninvolved supervisor. Elements governed by the SAFE-T Act such as, (1) Duty to Render Aid, (2) Duty to Report and (3) Duty to Intervene are reviewed, among other issues. In all cases, officers were in compliance with the new requirements. Darien Police Department has held these elements of review for several years prior to the law requiring such a review.

Officers used verbalization skills, empty hand control, intermediate weapon control/defense and firearms during the year. Intermediate weapon control or Tasers, were pointed at subjects on four occasions. Only one of those incidents did an officer deploy the Taser. There were two incidents when officers needed to deploy his/her firearm to gain compliance. In both incidents, compliance was gained without firing a weapon. The reasons for using force included: making an arrest, prevent an escape, defending another, defending oneself and prevent a violent crime.

Officers responded to over 14,000 calls for service and made 440 arrests. Force was utilized in 25 situations for the year 2023.

Training

We are continuing our 40 hours continuing education program. In 2023 we taught 7 hours of firearms, 3.5 hours rescue techniques, 3.5 hours dedicated to defensive tactics, 3.5 hours of traffic management, 3.5 hours emergency vehicle operations, 3.5 hours of high risk traffic stops and 3.5 hours of CPR and First Aid. We instructed personnel on VIN information and cannabis enforcement. Many of these topics are required certifications and others are mandated by the SAFE-T Act.

In addition to the new 40 hour continuing education program, there were a total of 3,679 training hours completed by 33 officers attending 568 training courses. Notable classes included Northwestern Staff & Command, Lead Homicide Investigator, Animal Control, Immediate Trauma Care Instructor, Managing and Supervision of the Investigative Unit, High-Risk Warrant Service, Crisis Intervention, Shoot House Instructor, Acting Officer in Charge, Unmanned Aerial

Systems (Drone), Critical Incident Table Top, Basic Field Training Officer School and many others.

PERSONNEL

Retirements

Steve Highland retired on December 31, 2023 from his position as a Records Clerk. Steve started his career with the department on February 27, 2006 as an Auxiliary Officer. He also served as a Community Service Officer. We appreciate Steve's commitment to the City of Darien and the Darien Police Department in particular and we wish him the best in retirement.



New Hires

Jonathan Silkaitis was hired on February 13, 2023 as a Community Service Operator (CSO). Jon has previous experience working as a CSO with the Bellwood Police Department. He is an Eagle Scout. His commitment to service is an asset to the police department.

We hired Records Clerk Haley Gerstein on November 6, 2023 replacing Steve Highland. Haley has police records experience working with the Clarendon Hills Police Department. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminal Justice from Lewis University in May of 2023. She is a valuable addition.

Assignments

Officers Kano, Versis, Servin and Dlugopolski were assigned as Drone Operators and Sergeant Nick Skweres is the Drone Team supervisor.

Officer Keith Keough was assigned as a negotiator for the MERIT Crisis Negotiation Team.

Sergeant Nick Skweres completed his service as the Investigations Division sergeant and transferred back to patrol.

Sergeant Mike Lorek was transferred into the Investigations Division to lead that unit. The position is also responsible for Professional Standards, which includes internal affairs and training. The position handles numerous administrative functions as well.

Promotions

No promotions were made during 2023.

PARTNERSHIPS

Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Task Force

The officer assigned to the DEA task force has done a great job being involved in major drug cases in and around the DuPage County area making numerous arrests, taking large amounts of drugs off the streets and seizing \$579,835.63 in cash drug dealers would have profited from their illegal activities. Actions included:

- Type and amounts of Drugs Seized
 - Cocaine 73,155.36 Grams
 - Heroin 15,918.31 Grams
 - Methamphetamine 98,500.63 Grams
 - Fentanyl 40,993.40 Grams
 - Marijuana 240,757.86 Grams
- Cases 22
- Arrests 33

DuMEG

There are numerous functions and attempts to curtail the ills of narcotics through enforcement, education and seizing of funds that were gained through illegal operations.

DuMEG conducted 333 cases with 188 arrests, seized 92 weapons and numerous drug varieties with a street value of nearly \$16 million. None of the operations were within Darien.

MERIT

The Darien Police Department is a partner with the Metropolitan Emergency Response and Investigations Team (MERIT). We used MERIT on one occasion in 2023. The Drone Team and Major Crash Reconstruction Team responded to help investigate a serious crash.

ORGANIZATION

Generally

Our Patrol Division provides complete police coverage throughout the city throughout the year.

Our Investigative Division includes, detectives, a School Resource Officer (SRO) and an officer assigned to the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA).

The detective unit investigates criminal offenses, fatal / near fatal accidents, missing persons as well as other issues.

Our SRO is not in the school to arrest offenders, though he can, most of his day is spent on positive interactions with students.

Canine Unit

In 2023, the Darien Canine Unit responded to a total of 53 calls for service. Of the 53 calls for service, 15 were generated within Darien, 13 to assist a federal agency, 3 to assist a state agency and 32 local agencies. The Canine Team was responsible for:

• Cannabis	26 Alerts	250.4 Kilograms Seized
• Methamphetamine	0 Alerts	0.0
• Heroin	8 Alerts	15.5 Kilograms Seized
• Cocaine	2 Alerts	870.1 Grams Seized
• Drug Paraphernalia	4 Alerts	4 Items Seized
• Firearms	6 Alerts	6 Guns Seized
• People Searches		10
• Building Searches		3
• Evidence Searches		6
• Currency Seized	6 Alerts	\$393,953.00

Juvenile Matters

The Peer Jury program, an alternative to juvenile court, is designed for first time offenders who committed a non-serious offense. High school juniors are selected for a two year term to participate as jurors in the program. We utilized Peer Jury once in 2023 which stemmed from a battery. The individual successfully completed the process which included four hours of community service.

There were eight cases of Missing Juveniles / Runaways and in each case the individual was located and returned.

Numerous officers are trained as juvenile specialists to help underage persons are led away from crime and issues that would harm them.

Evidence

The annual audit of the evidence / property storage room was conducted. The audit showed all items were properly logged and accounted for with no discrepancies. There were 1,116 items either returned to the rightful owner or destroyed by court order.

There were 645 pieces of evidence collected in 2023 of which 118 items sent to the lab for analysis.

Several years ago we implemented a prescription drug turn-in program. This year we collected 238 pounds of narcotics, which were destroyed.

ADMINISTRATION

Building & Grounds

We provided two clerks with new desks moved from the sergeants' office after the number of sergeants were reduced in 2022.

Equipment & Technology

All new Axon Tasers 7 were purchased through Equitable Sharing Funds (ESF). ESF are funds made available through seizures of cash of drug dealers.

Body Worn Cameras were purchased with ESF saving taxpayers significant money. BWCs were mandated by 2025 so we're ahead of schedule. Along with the BWC we acquired Evidence.com software to manage digital evidence.

Drones were added to our ability to fight crime and after training and licensure we'll implement their use. Drones were purchased through ESF.

We purchased 40MM less lethal launchers and munitions. These items were purchased through ESF.

We purchased 10 new Automatic External Defibrillators (AED). AEDs were purchased through City funds. We've documented many lifesaving events by having in our squad cars AEDs.

We purchased a new Fingerprint Scanner. The new Fingerprint Scanner was purchased through ESF. This mobile device will assist in identifying subjects on the street and file an arrest via fingerprints without having to take the individual into custody, fingerprint him/her at the police department and release them.