

*INDIANOLA
POLICE
DEPARTMENT
ANNUAL REPORT
2023*



INDIANOLA POLICE DEPARTMENT
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During 2023, the Indianola Police Department went through numerous personnel changes. We had five officers decide to seek employment elsewhere, which left us with 18 officers, out of our authorized strength of 24. We conducted two hiring processes to fill those open positions and I am happy to say we are now nearly fully staffed, with 23 officers. We are currently hiring to fill the 24th position and hope to be at full strength for the first time ever in early 2024!

March 13, 2023, Caleb Fullerton was hired. September 26, 2023, the police department hired Robbie Hurley, Nico Pelkey and Michael Babcock. September 29, 2023, Nyan Baker was hired. Finally, November 27, 2023, Joe Tegels was hired. Please help me welcome our newest officers to Indianola!

January 15, 2023, Sgt. Rick Largesse and Sgt. Justin Keller were promoted to the rank of Lieutenant. Lt. Largesse has over 20 years of service and oversees the investigations division of the police department. Lt. Keller has over 18 years of service and oversees the patrol division of the police department.

February 26, 2023, Officer Brad Metcalf and Officer Tye Sparks were promoted to the rank of Sergeant. Sgt. Metcalf commands the dayshift, and Sgt. Sparks commands the mid-shift. On September 10, 2023, Officer Devin Thomas was promoted to the rank of Sergeant. Sgt. Thomas commands the night shift.

I would like to highlight two of our new programs at the Police Department. Early in 2023, Officer Trey Nixon was chosen to be our K9 handler. We imported our K9 from Poland and Officer Nixon and our K9, "Kilo" attended training through Tree Town Kennels. Kilo hit the street on April 8th, 2023. Officer Nixon and Kilo have made a big impact on narcotics enforcement in and around Indianola. Officer Nixon's and Kilo's statistics are featured in this report. To date, the Indianola Police Department has raised \$36,937 in private donations and grants for the start-up cost of this program. Thank you partners!!

We believe we should also be educators when it comes to illegal narcotics. In early 2023, we brought the idea of bringing Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) back into the Indianola Schools. Our partnership with the district on this issue is a priority for 2024 and beyond. Officer Marshall was chosen as our DARE Officer, and in May of 2023 was certified as a DARE instructor. In January 2024, he started teaching 300 students at the 5th grade level in all four elementary schools. The DARE program is so much more than just educating on the dangers of illegal narcotics. DARE also teaches kids about making the right choices, bullying, and issues like vaping.

The motto states "To Protect and Serve." Part of the way we serve is through our non-profit, Indianola Police Department Community Outreach Program. (IPD COP). Some of the IPD COP events you will read about in this report include Elves in Blue, Thanksgiving meals, Christmas meals, and our partnership with local veterans. I once again want to thank all the individuals and organizations that donated to IPD COP.

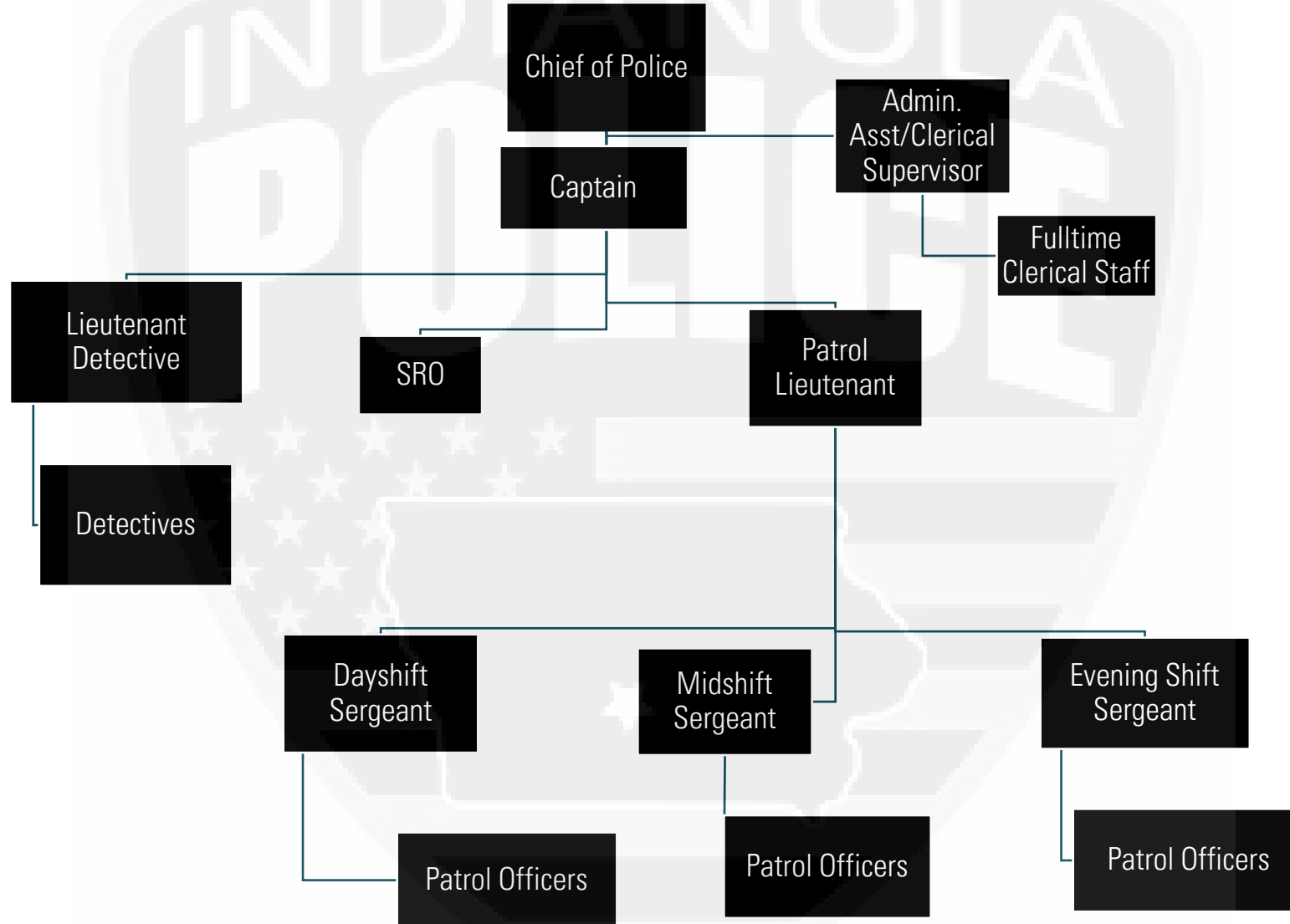
The state of your police department is strong. We look forward to serving this community and keeping Indianola a great place to live.

Chief of Police Brian Sher

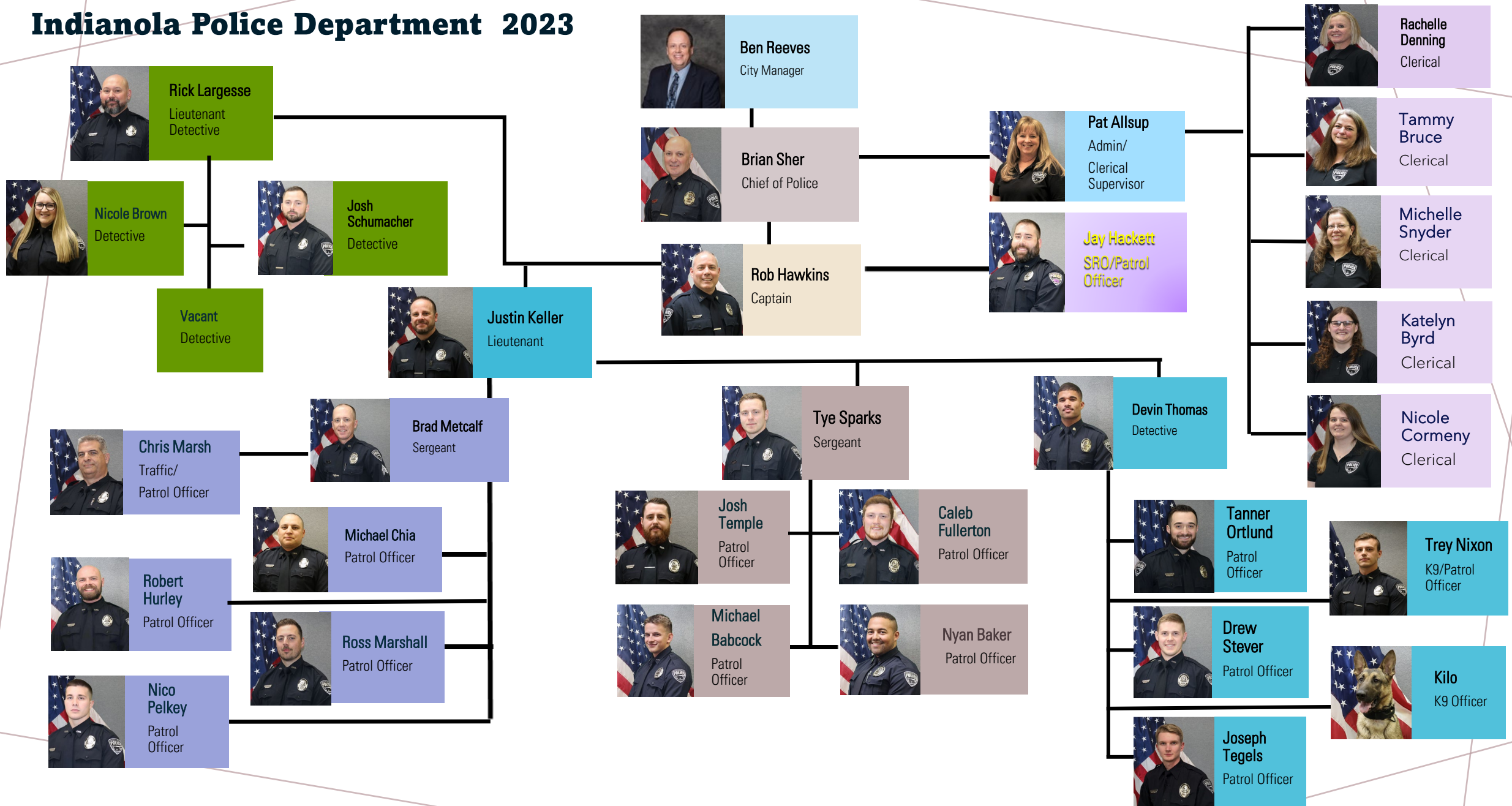


*MESSAGE
FROM
THE
CHIEF*

Indianola Police Department Organizational Chart 2023



Indianola Police Department 2023



DIVISIONS



The **patrol lieutenant** works Monday through Friday and supervises the activity of the Patrol Division. The three shifts have slightly different responsibilities and call loads. Dayshift has more traffic stops, accidents, and financial crimes reports whereas mid-shift and nightshift handle more alcohol-related incidents. All three shifts respond to many different calls for service including: traffic accidents, domestic disturbances, assaults, mental health issues, burglaries / burglar alarms, thefts, narcotic violations, criminal mischief etc.

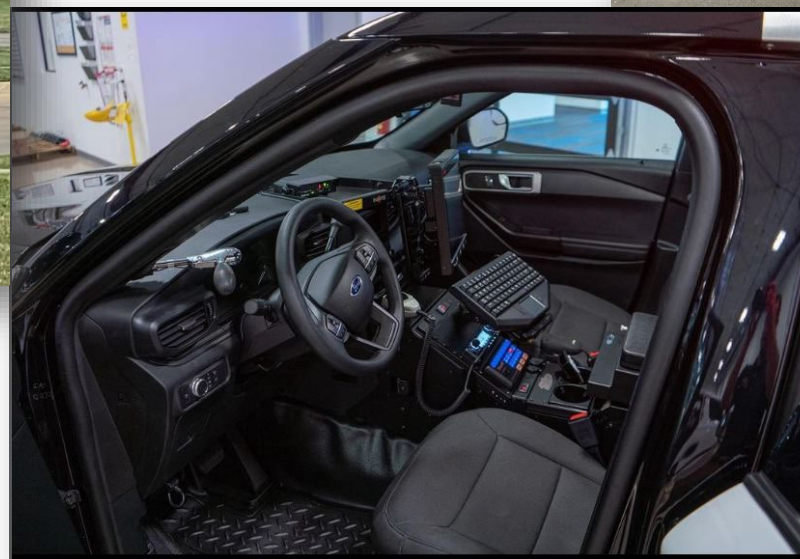


PATROL DIVISION:



The backbone and most visible part of the Indianola Police Department is the Patrol Division. There are three **patrol sergeants** that supervise the three shifts with 4 officers assigned to each by bid. 2023 was a bit of a challenge with all three Sergeants having been promoted in 2023. All three Sergeants quickly adjusted to their new role and took ownership of their shifts. Also, losing five officers during the year meant we ran under the normal four officers per shift for most of the year. Normally, we run a five days on, four days off schedule. In 2023, we had to go to a five days on, three days off schedule. Dayshift is 0630 – 1530, Mid shift is 1430-2330, and Night shift is 2200 – 0700.

Each officer's activity, either self-initiated or through being dispatched to a call, is a call for service. In 2023, the patrol division handled 12,573 calls for service. This number was down 3.65% from 2022. Again, we can contribute this to being short five officers for most of the year. One of the many highlights for patrol in 2023 was narcotics cases were up 19.9%. Even being down five officers, the addition of the K9 unit has made an immediate impact.





K9 OFFICER PROGRAM

In late 2022, Det. Brown and I gave a presentation to the Indianola City Council about the need of a K9 unit for the Indianola Police Department. The direction from the City Council was overwhelmingly in favor of establishing this program. In early 2023, myself and all three of the interested K9 handlers visited four K9 training facilities in Iowa and Minnesota. Tree Twon Kennels out of Forrest City, Iowa was chosen to be Indianola's training facility.

Once the training facility was established, we visited some K9's in the state of Iowa and viewed videos from K9's in Poland. Our goal was to find a K9 that had an aggressive drive but was also a very social dog and well behaved around people. We narrowed our search down to three K9's and were sent x-rays, videos and medical history of the K9's. We then conferred with local veterinarians, showing them the x-rays and medical histories.

We finally chose our new member to the police department, "Kilo". Kilo was born July 14, 2021 in Krzucz, Poland. He is a half German Shephard and half Belgian Malinois. Kilo has a strong drive, and great temperament.

The following stats are from April 8th, 2023-December 31st, 2023.

29 Deployments / 20 Alerts

Felonies (Gun/Drug): **13**

Misdemeanors: **19**

Drug Misdemeanors as a team: **29**

Drug Related Charges as a Team: **42**

Firearms Seized In Relation to Drug Activity/Felon in Possession of Firearm: **4**

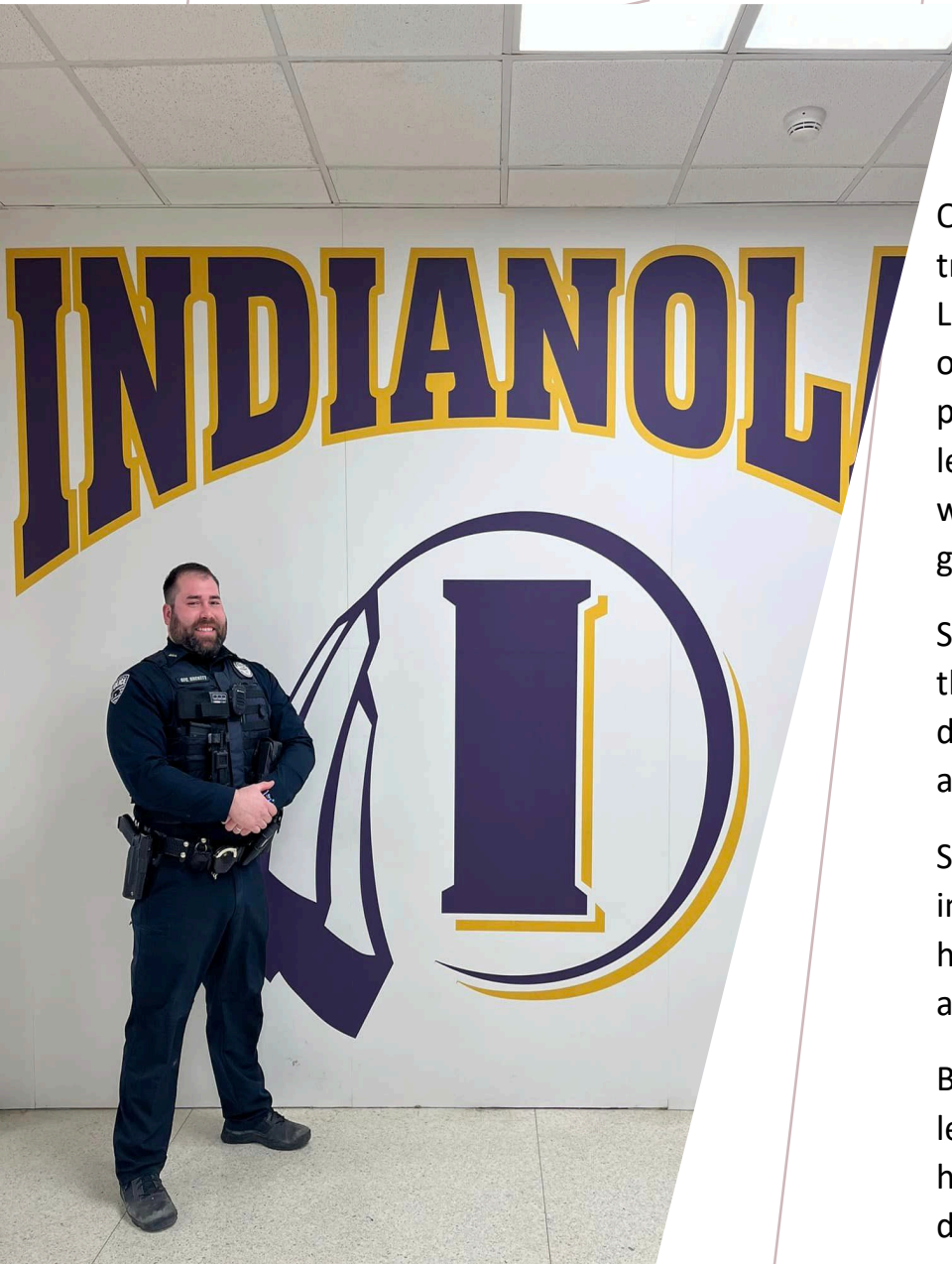
Total Meth Seized: **59.45g (2.08 OZ)**

Total Marijuana Seized: **110.30g (3.87 OZ)**

Total Drug Arrests as a team: **24**

Note: Drug Arrests are how many people have been arrested, drug charges are how many Citations were filed against the defendants.

As a team, Officer Nixon and Kilo have assisted Des Moines PD, Warren County Sheriff's Office, and Iowa State Patrol.



SRO -SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER

Officer Jay Hackett is in his fifth year as Indianola's School Resource Officer. SRO Hackett has been trained as an SRO and has attended advanced SRO training. In addition, he is an ALICE instructor (Alert Lockdown Inform Counter Evacuate) and a Defensive Tactics Instructor. SRO Hackett also plans and organizes most of our IPD COP events throughout the year. The Indianola Police Department's partnership with the Indianola Schools is strong and continues to grow. The goal is to have the safest learning environment possible for all students and staff. Officer Hackett has spent considerable time working with District staff and the department on planning for emergency events, as well providing guidance on a variety of issues related to safety.

SRO Hackett spends most of his time in the High School and Middle School, but he also spends time in all the elementary schools. His presence in the schools builds trust and relationships between the police department and both the staff and students. Almost every youth interaction leads off with a question about whether or not Officer Hackett is working!!

SRO Hackett responded to 544 incidents in 2023, which is up from 360 incidents in 2022. Of the 544 incidents he responded to, there were only 32 criminal charges filed. Some of the types of calls the SRO handles include harassment, motor vehicle accidents, assaults, parking issues and more. Most incidents are handled informally with students, parents, and school staff.

Beginning in January 2024, Officer Ross Marshall will be teaching the D.A.R.E. curriculum at the 5th grade level in all the elementary schools in the district. Officer Marshall is a certified D.A.R.E. instructor and has been with the department for 4 years. The curriculum covers topics such as substance abuse, decision making, peer pressure, consequences, bullying and more. By teaching on these topics prior to students moving to Middle School, it provides students with the knowledge, tools and awareness to make good choices.

DETECTIVE DIVISION

In January 2023, Sgt. Rick Largesse was promoted to Lieutenant, and was assigned to supervise the Detective Division of the police department. For most of 2023, there were two other detectives under Lt. Largesse,



Detective Nicole Brown and Detective John Schumacher. Det. Schumacher is assigned to the Warren County Drug Task Force. He primarily works narcotics cases, but he does help with general crime cases as well. Normally, the police department has a total of four detectives including the supervisor, and we hope to get back to that staffing level in 2024.

The detectives investigated 73 general crime cases in 2023. These cases often take a great deal of time, often these cases include subpoenas and warrants for information and evidence.

The detectives are responsible for all the evidence under the control of the police department and the evidence room. Another major responsibility of the detective division is the forensic examination of cell phones. The main role of the detectives is to follow up on general crime and narcotics cases that are generated by the patrol division. The workflow of cases starts with the patrol division and gets forwarded to the Detective Lieutenant. Once approved by the Lieutenant, the case is assigned to a detective to work.

The detectives investigate a variety of crimes including theft, criminal mischief, scams, robberies, burglaries, sexual assaults and death investigations.

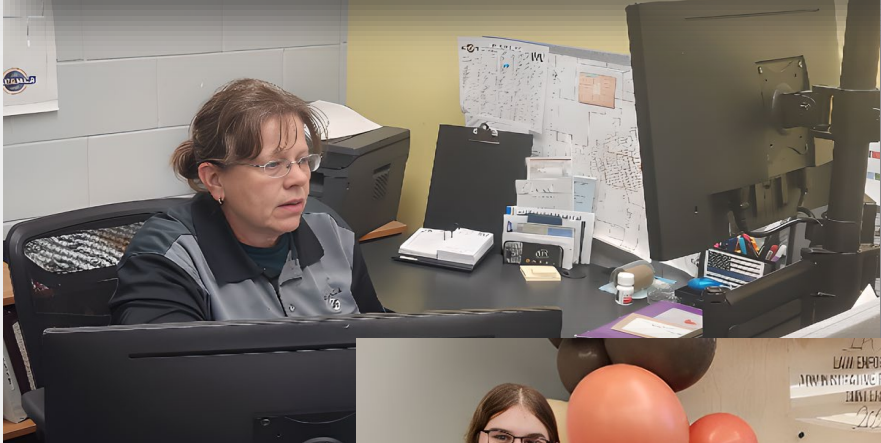
CLERICAL DIVISION:

The Indianola Police Department has six non-sworn civilian clerical staff. Administrative Assistant/Office Manager Pat Allsup oversees this division. Pat has over 20 years of experience with the Indianola Police Department. Pat manages five full-time employees. The clerical office is open 24 hours to help with needs of the citizens of Indianola and the Police Officers.

The clerical office has a wide range of responsibilities. They are the first contact when a citizen walks into or calls the police department. They double and triple check the officer's reports and citations for correctness. Clerical also facilitates reports, paperwork and electronic evidence to the Warren County Attorney's Office, Clerk of Court, Juvenile Court Officers and others.

One of the biggest roles the clerical office does is compliance. The Indianola Police Department has many outside agencies that we report to. Fingerprints and criminal histories, NCIC system, the DCI, the FBI etc, all have reports that need to be filed, that must be done timely and accurately.

The clerical office is truly the backbone of the department with their unwavering support to the citizens and the officers!



UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEM (DRONE) PROGRAM

IPD launched its Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) program in June 2022. Since its inception, the Drone program has been useful in a variety of situations. Currently, the department has two drones. One is a DJI Matrice 30T with thermal capabilities, active track, laser range finder, cinematic video quality and 200x digital zoom. The Matrice has a top end speed of approximately 51mph. In July 2023, IPD acquired a second drone. This drone is a DJI Mavic 3, which is smaller than the Matrice, but it still has thermal image capabilities, tracking, and top-notch video quality.

During training and some actual air missions, both drones were operating at once. This enabled us to cover more area and give real time assistance to officers on the ground quickly. Our five (5) FAA Part 107 certified pilots logged 2,170 minutes (36.16 hours) of actual flight time between 45 training and real-world air missions. Almost all our UAS missions require some use of thermal imaging, and officers train on its use regularly. The drones can also be programmed to fly grid patterns to reduce the amount of actual piloting so that the pilot can focus on other tasks such as video review, thermal imaging and relaying information.



Unmanned Aircraft System (Drone) Program



The Indianola Police Department conducted **28** real world air missions, including attempts to locate missing subjects, wanted subjects, mental health subjects and trespassers. We also located illegal campsites, helped with city park mapping, city banking establishment assessments and aided the Indianola Fire Department with structure fire assessments. We were requested by outside agencies 9 times for various air missions. In October 2023, IPD pilots conducted continuous flight operations in the City for 5 hours utilizing both drones to locate a violent suspect in a stalking case. Officers were able to locate him using the drone and it ultimately led to his arrest without incident.

TRAINING 2023

During 2023, Indianola Police Officers conducted **2,407** hours of training. This is an increase of 826 hours of training from 1,581 hours of training in 2022. This number includes both in-house training as well as external training events. Every current officer exceeded the mandatory minimum 12-hour training requirements.



Internal Training Included:	External Training Included:	
Stop Stick Review Training Force on Force Defensive Tactics Open Mat Practical Pistol Range Days Patrol Rifle Trainings 40 mm Impact Munitions and NFDD Building Search and Threat Identification ASP/Taser/OC Certifications Drone In-Service Mental Health Crisis Negotiation and De-escalation OWI Review K9/Vehicle Searches	Child Death and Homicide Investigation ICAC Investigative Techniques Advanced Vehicle Contraband Concealment Trauma Informed Sexual Assault Response Supporting Heroes in Mental Health Cellebrite Certification Google Geofence Investigations Basic SWAT School Officer Internal Investigations Patrol Officer Response to Street Drugs	National School Safety Conference (NASRO) K9 Certification K9 DLE Certification & Seminar Interview and Interrogation DARE Officer Training Drug Interdiction Patrol Tactics in Rural Areas Peer Support LEIN School Tactical Warrant Service Effective Policing Skills and Tactics Basic Narcotics Investigations Crisis/Hostage Negotiation



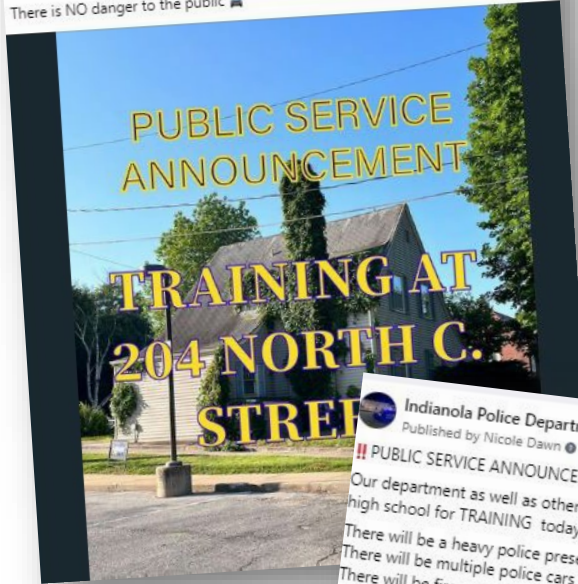
Our Officers train to an extremely high standard in order to be ready for the worst. The number of firearms training our department offers yearly is some of the most and arguably some of the best in the state. We take pride in preparing our Officers and providing them with all the necessary skills and equipment to ensure our community's safety.

Indianola Police Department
Published by Nicole Dawn · July 11 at 7:58 AM · 🌐

!! PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT !!

Our department will be utilizing the house at 204 North C. Street for TRAINING again today.

There will be a heavy police presence at times.
There will be multiple police cars in the area.
There will be firearms drawn at times.
There is NO danger to the public 🚓

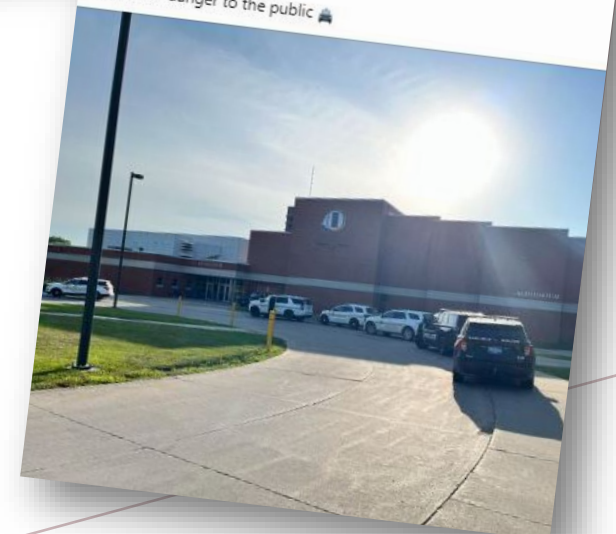


Indianola Police Department
Published by Nicole Dawn · July 26 at 7:52 AM · 🌐

!! PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT !!

Our department as well as others from Warren county will be using the Inc high school for TRAINING today.

There will be a heavy police presence at times.
There will be multiple police cars in the area.
There will be firearms drawn at times.
There is NO danger to the public 🚓





STATISTICS OVERVIEW:

On the following page you will see the police department's statistics comparing last year to the prior two years. I want to highlight some of the percentage differences between 2022 and 2023. As you can see, traffic enforcement was down in 2023. Written traffic warnings and citations were down by 13.95% (692). OWI arrests were down from 54 in 2022 to 31 in 2023. Finally, parking citations were down from 636 to 531. During 2023 we lost 5 officers and had to hire their replacements. The new officers go through a 10-week field training program in the same patrol vehicle as the training officer. During this this field training period, all aspects of the police department are being taught, and traffic enforcement is only one small aspect of the training. These are still solid numbers, even though they were a decrease from 2022.

Fraud cases were up by 23.89%. Most of this is due to new and innovative ways of internet fraud. Unfortunately, a lot of these investigations hit a dead end very quickly as the fraud often occurs out of the United States.

Controlled substance cases were up 22.15%. With the addition of the K9 team and a fulltime narcotics investigator we were able to concentrate more on narcotics enforcement in 2023. As the country's border remains porous, and our enforcement efforts become more prevalent, I do not foresee the number of controlled substance arrests going down. Hopefully, with DARE in our schools again, in time, these numbers will reflect the education and prevention we are providing.



STATISTICS:

Type of Call	2021	2022	2023	% Diff 22/23
Calls for Service	12628	13041	12573	3.59%
Incident Reports	1806	1677	1669	-0.48%
Traffic Enforcements	5094	5552	4620	-16.79%
Controlled Substance Cases	154	158	193	22.15%
Vehicle Accident Responses	397	362	397	9.67%
Arrests	565	608	595	-2.14%
Assault	57	90	70	-22.22%
Burglary	94	46	46	0%
Burglary- Alarms	109	124	140	12.90%
Sex Abuse	35	38	35	-7.89%
Theft	300	341	356	4.40%
Domestic Disturbance	169	185	171	-7.57%
Criminal Mischief	133	102	96	-5.88%
Arson/Fire	5	3	0	-100%
Robbery	0	0	2	100%
Fraud/Forgery	101	113	140	23.89%
Trespass	150	154	153	-0.65%
Drone		40	45	12.50%

STATISTICS:

Traffic Enforcement

Citations/Warnings	3411	4602	3960	-13.95%
OWI	56	54	31	-42.59%
Parking Tickets	736	636	531	-16.51%

Motor Vehicle Accidents

Property Damage	298	262	271	3.44%
Personal Injury	27	20	20	0%
Hit and Run	62	66	37	-43.94%
Unknown Injury	1	3	12	300%
Car vs. Deer	9	11	6	-45.45%
Fatality	0	0	0	0%

Detective Cases

Detective Investigated	102	107	73	-31.78%
ICAC	15	18	13	-27.78%

K9 Responses

39

SRO

Calls for Service	392	360	544	51.11%
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INTERNAL RECOGNITIONS – LETTERS OF COMMENDATION

In 2021 a program was implemented to internally recognize the achievements of officers and clerical staff that go above and beyond. 2023 was no exception to some of the great work employees exhibited. Pictured are some of the staff that received letters of commendation for exceeding expectations.



COMMUNITY

FEBRUARY

American Legion /IPD breakfast Feb.
18th, 2023

Come Join the
American Legion 165
Veterans
&
Indianola Police
Department



Biscuits & Sausage Gravy Breakfast
Free will offering
On: February 18th
From: 7am – 10am
105 W. 1st Ave., (Across from the Indianola Post Office)

Sausage patties donated by Osceola Foods
Hormel Foods Corporation



COMMUNITY

FEBRUARY



Caberet After Party –at HyVee
Feb. 17th, 2023



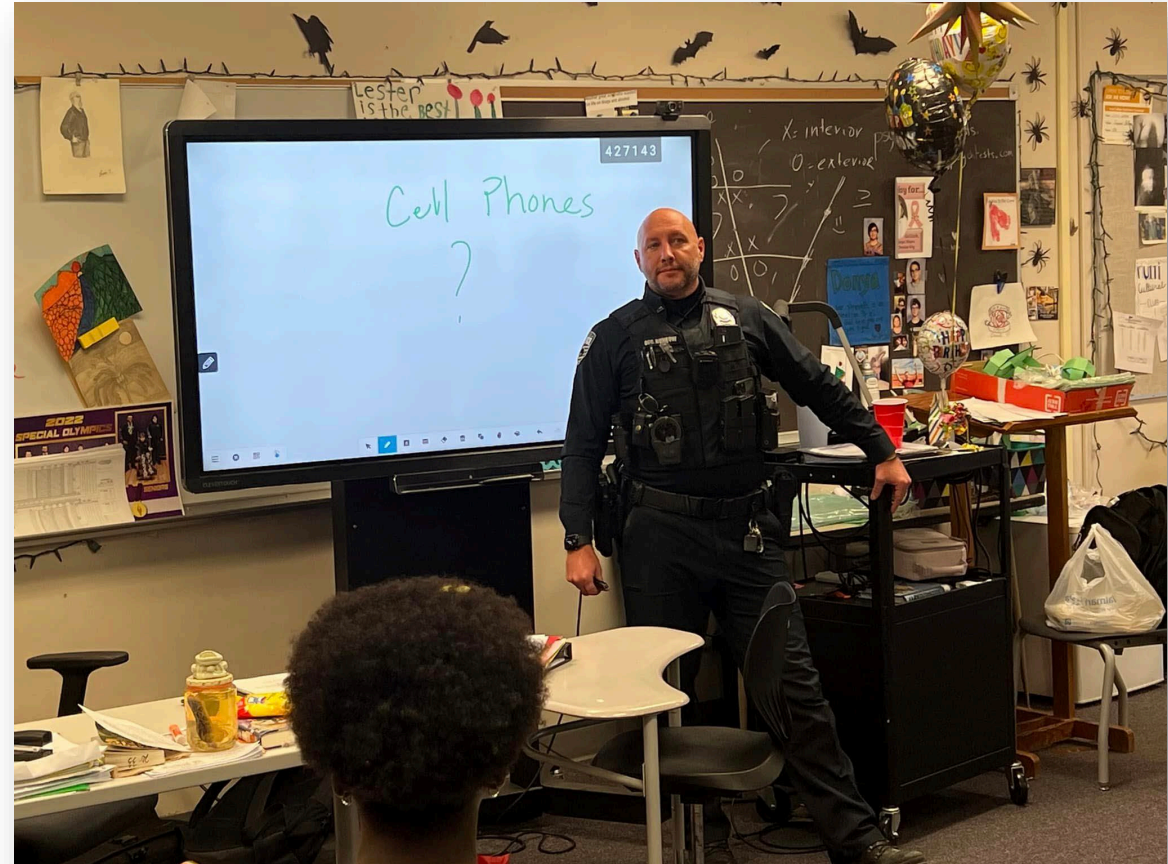
COMMUNITY

FEBRUARY

SRO Appreciation Day Feb. 15th, 2023



Internet Safety—at Indianola High School
Feb. 17th, 2023



COMMUNITY

MARCH

DMACC Career Fair Mar. 21st, 2023



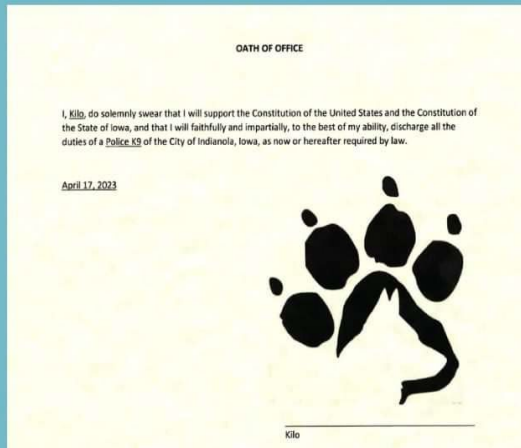
K9 Kilo – Oath of Office April 17th, 2023

Special Olympics April 12th, 2023

Oath of Office K9 Kilo

On April 17, 2023, at the Indianola City Council meeting, K9 Kilo was sworn in.

During Kilo's first week on the job, he was able to help seize narcotics off the streets of Indianola!



COMMUNITY

Granny Ball Pacemakers vs. Peacemakers April 14th, 2023

APRIL

FREE-WILL ADMISSION
ALL PROCEEDS GO TO INDIANOLA PD'S K9 UNIT

GRANNY LEAGUE
BASKETBALL GAME

FRIDAY
APR
14

INDY **PACEMAKERS**

INDIANOLA POLICE DEPARTMENT
PEACEMAKERS

VS

DOORS OPEN AT 5:00 PM, GAME STARTS AT 6:00 PM
INDIANOLA HIGH SCHOOL NORTH GYM



COMMUNITY

JULY

National Balloon Festival/ Warren Co. Fair
Aug. 4th – 6th, 2023



K9 Officer Kilo Birthday July 14th, 2023





COMMUNITY

AUGUST

Hinterland Music Festival Aug. 4th – 6th, 2023



Warren Co. Health & Safety Fair Aug. 14th, 2023



COMMUNITY

AUGUST

International Dog Day Aug. 26th, 2023



Body Armor vest donation
from Vested Interest in K9's Aug. 24th, 2023



Sgt. Scott Dwyer Retirement 26 yrs service

–Sept. 7th, 2023

Congratulations Sergeant Scott Dwyer on your retirement!



COMMUNITY

SEPTEMBER

Cookout sponsored by Country Financial

–Sept. 1st, 2023



National Police Women's Day

–Sept. 12th, 2023

COMMUNITY

Public Safety Open House

—October 12th, 2023

Public Safety Open House

October 12th, 2023 from 5:30PM – 7:30PM

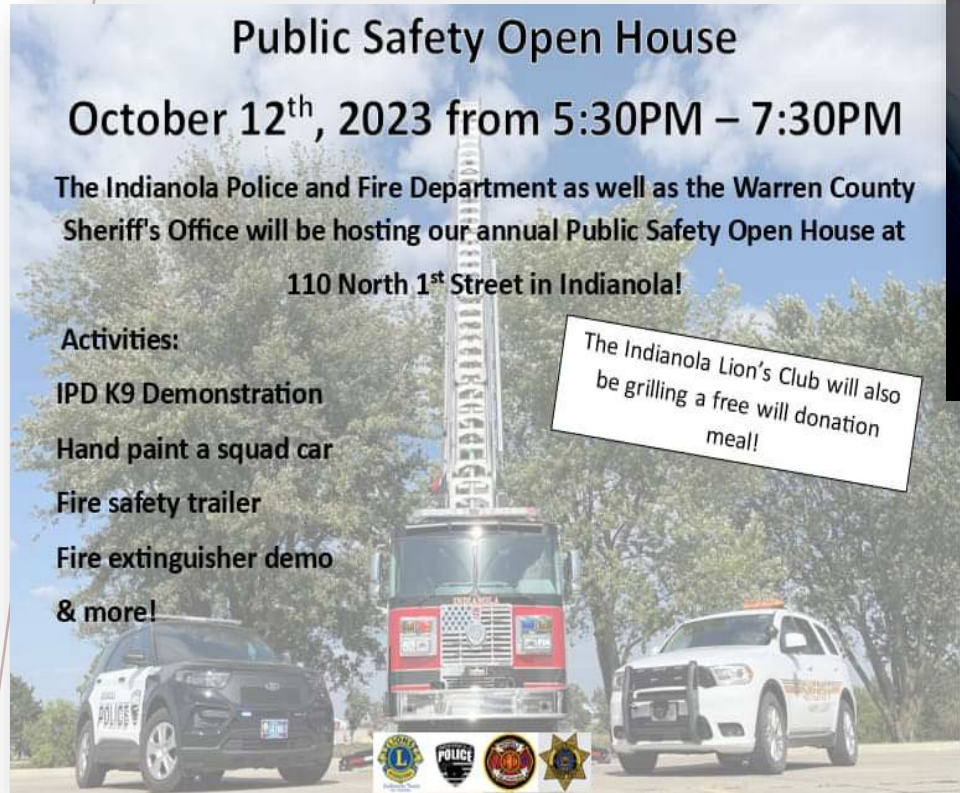
The Indianola Police and Fire Department as well as the Warren County Sheriff's Office will be hosting our annual Public Safety Open House at

110 North 1st Street in Indianola!

Activities:

- IPD K9 Demonstration
- Hand paint a squad car
- Fire safety trailer
- Fire extinguisher demo
- & more!

The Indianola Lion's Club will also be grilling a free will donation meal!



October



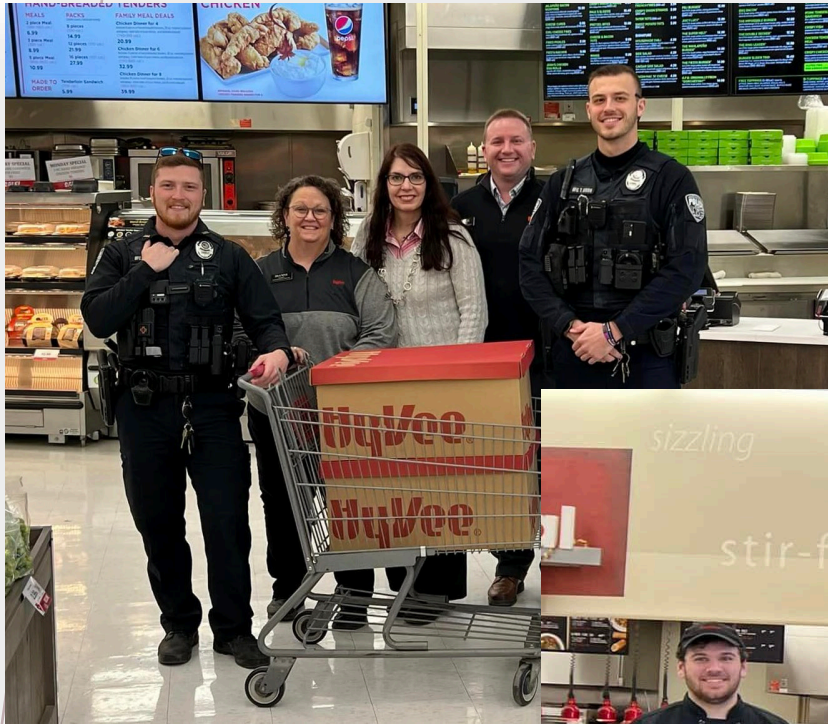
COMMUNITY

Breast cancer awareness month—October 2023

October

National Coffee with a Cop— The Village October 4th, 2023





Thanksgiving Meals—November 11th , 2023



COMMUNITY

DECEMBER

Elves in Blue – Walmart Dec. 12th, 2023



COMMUNITY

Elves in Blue – Walmart Dec. 12th, 2023

DECEMBER



COMMUNITY

DECEMBER

CHRISTMAS MEALS DEC. 22ND, 2023



EMPLOYMENT HIGHLIGHTS

Sgt. Rick Largesse promoted to Lieutenant.

Sgt. Justin Keller promoted to Lieutenant.

Officer Brad Metcalf promoted to Sergeant.

Officer Tye Sparks promoted to Sergeant.

Officer Devin Thomas promoted to Sergeant.

Officer Trey Nixon was assigned as the K9 handler.

Officer "Kilo" hired by the Indianola Police Department.

Officer John Schumacher was assigned to the Detective Division.

Officer Marshall was assigned as the DARE Officer.

Clerical Nicole Cormeny went from a part time employee to a fulltime employee.

The following officers no longer work at the Indianola Police Department during 2023:

Luke Buhrow

Jennifer Williams

Jon Scott

Zac Ewing

Scott Dwyer -Retired

The following officers
were hired in 2023:

Caleb Fullerton

Robert Hurley

Nico Pelky

Michael Babcock

Nyan Baker

Joe Tegels

