
WAYNESVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

2021
ANNUAL
REPORT



www.waynesvillenc.gov

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

The men and women of the Waynesville Police Department and I are pleased to release our 2021 Annual Report. Our officers and civilian employees met the challenges of 2021 with a resolute attitude. The Mayor, the Board of Alderman and the citizens were very supportive of our agency. Your support made our jobs much easier and we are thankful to work for such a caring Town. The Annual Report provides data and information concerning your Police Department over the past year.

The police department staff persevered through extraordinary challenges during the year. We had several employees stricken with COVID-19 and others stepped up and covered their shifts. Everyone worked diligently to reduce property crimes, illegal drug sales, vehicle crashes and speed complaints. Also, our officers were able to participate in the Homelessness Task Force and have made a concerted effort to decrease homelessness by working together with non-profit organizations, businesses, citizens, church groups and judicial officials. Throughout 2021, they adapted and met the many issues with enthusiasm and a positive attitude. From these learning experiences, we have become a more efficient agency, which will allow us to perform at a high level as new difficulties arise.



I hope that you find our Annual Report informative and that it provides some understanding into the extraordinary work of our staff that I am fortunate to observe daily.

Citizens and merchants are encouraged to contact the Police Department at 456-5363 or my office at 456-8611. I have an open-door policy and I am willing to provide further information, listen to your ideas and concerns. Lastly, on behalf the Waynesville Police Department, we would like to convey our thanks for your continuous backing.

Sincerely,

David P. Adams
Chief of Police

MISSION STATEMENT

“Our mission is to provide a safe environment for all citizens through the collective contributions of the community. Pride and integrity reflect our dedication to community values”



STATEMENT OF VALUES

The Waynesville Police Department holds forth professional integrity as our most fundamental value.

PERSONAL INTEGRITY:

We have personal integrity. We are committed to the highest professional and ethical standards. We are truthful and sincere. We believe that integrity is the foundation for trust in the community.

PROFESSIONALISM:

We are professional. We are dedicated to providing quality service by being progressive, well trained, disciplined, and highly motivated employees. We will strive to actively obtain public input in the development of our policies and programs. We serve as role models for the community by projecting a positive image with a spirit of cooperation and teamwork.

RESPECT:

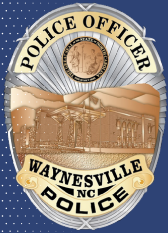
We are respectful. We are committed to protecting and preserving the rights of individuals as guaranteed by the Constitution. We treat everyone with dignity, understanding, and compassion in a way we want to be treated.

FAIRNESS:

We are fair. We deliver consistent service to all those in our community through understanding and non-prejudicial judgement. We are equally responsive to the needs of all people.

LOYALTY:

We are loyal. We are principled, accountable, and supportive. We support the mission, vision, and values of the Waynesville Police Department.

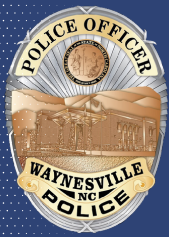


2021 OVERVIEW



In August, Brandon Gilmore was promoted to Assistant Chief. He served as the Patrol Lieutenant from 2019-2021. Brandon has served as a Waynesville PD Officer since November 1999. Also, Brandon serves as the SRT Commander and he is a Master K9 Trainer.





2021 OVERVIEW

Leadership Training



Leadership training was a priority in 2021. The year began by hosting FBI-LEEDA Leadership Training here in Waynesville. This nationally recognized training is led by Law Enforcement Professionals from all over the country with the mission of advancing “the science and art of law enforcement leadership and promote the exchange of information to improve law enforcement management practices through training, education, and networking among police professionals across the United States and beyond.” *FBI-LEEDA*

In January, The FBI-LEEDA Supervisor Leadership Institute was held in Waynesville where every front-line supervisor (Sergeants & Lieutenants) attended. Other agencies in the area also attended this training. Later that spring, The Command Leadership Institute was held and attended here in Waynesville. This training was the second in the “Trilogy” of training provided by FBI-LEEDA.

The WPD will be hosting the Executive Leadership Institute in 2022, completing the Trilogy.

This year, Lt. Chris Chandler completed the North Carolina Justice Academy (NCJA) Leadership Certificate Program (LCP). This included the completion of a minimum of 400-hours in leadership-based training that includes the NCJA Leadership Institute (120 hours), an additional 40-hour core requirement, and at least 240 hours of NCJA elective courses or a combination of electives with credited outside hours in leadership training.



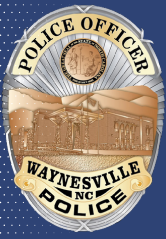
The following Officers received their Intermediate and Advanced Certificates from the North Carolina Criminal Justice Training & Standards Commission in 2021.

- Officer Ryan Griffin - Intermediate Certificate
- Senior Officer Embler - Intermediate Certificate
- Senior Officer Whitley - Advanced Certificate
- Detective Davis - Advanced Certificate



The Waynesville Police Department is committed to cultivating leaders within the Department. This is accomplished not only by attending leadership training but also applying the skills and knowledge gained from these courses and programs.





2021 OVERVIEW

WPD Spotlights

WPD Veterans

Led by Chief David Adams, the Waynesville Police Department is proud to recognize our Veterans of the United States Armed Services. We are honored to have these men as members of our team, and we are forever thankful for their service to our country.

- K-9 Officer Cam Gasperson – U.S. Marine Corps
- Master Officer Tim Carver – U.S. Air Force
- Detective Sam Holland – U.S. Marine Corps
- Chief David Adams – U.S. Army
- Senior Officer Derek Embler – U.S. Marine Corps



Additions To The Team



This year, in November, we welcomed Officer Richard Johnson to the Family. Officer Johnson is from South Georgia where he graduated from Georgia Southern. We are thankful he chose the WPD to call home and look forward to what he will bring to the team.

Christy Turner came to the Waynesville Police Department with over 20 years of similar experience with a law enforcement center in Florida. Christy immediately became an invaluable member of the telecommunicator team and is finally beginning to learn some of our mountain ways of doing things.

Jared Trull also began what we hope to be a long-term career with our telecommunications team. Jared was no stranger to us, having grown up with the Waynesville Police Department family with his mother Shelia Trull being our longest serving member of the telecommunications team. Jared learned to navigate the dispatch system very quickly and is certainly following in his mother's footsteps of being an excellent employee.

Retirements

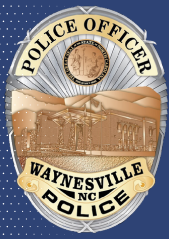
This year we said goodbye to valued and experienced members of the team. In March, we congratulated Telecommunicator Ricky Harris for over 25 years of service to this community. In his time with the WPD, Ricky became the leader of our Telecommunicator Team and always provided a consistent and calm voice while dispatching our officers to calls for service. We are thankful for his time and dedication to this department!



In August, we recognized and celebrated two decades of service to the Waynesville Police Department. On August 18th Detective Rob Skiver worked his last shift completing his career with the WPD. Det. Skiver's dedicated service and hard work had a tremendous impact on our community. Detective Skiver's hard work and thoroughness provided for many successful investigations and enforcement efforts.

Also in 2021, Sherri Lowe retired after over 25 years of service to the Waynesville Police Department. We certainly miss Sherri but fortunately, on occasion, Lowe has returned to work and help cover for dispatchers who had taken off. We wish her a happy retirement with her husband, retired Master Officer Eddie Lowe.



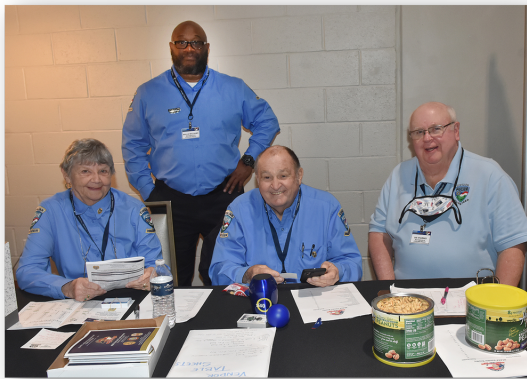


2021 OVERVIEW

Civilian Police Academy

The Civilian Police Academy continued to provide invaluable support and assistance to the WPD in 2021. Parades, street festivals, and other special events cranked back up as we entered 2021 and the CPA stepped up to serve and assist as they always do.

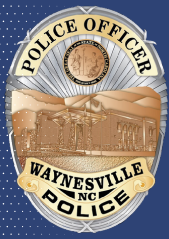
In May, the CPA served at the North Carolina Association of Chiefs of Police Annual Conference. As they have for many years, the CPA provided logistical support to the conference acting as multipurpose liaisons for any need that may arise during the conference. It is safe to say that this conference could not be the success that it is without their help.



In addition, The Civilian Police Academy played a vital role in the distribution of the COVID-19 Vaccine at the Haywood County Fairgrounds. Beginning in February and serving until April, the CPA demonstrated their dependability as well as their commitment to completing whatever mission is at hand. Their service at the Max Vax totaled 1200 hours of volunteer service to the citizens of Haywood County.

We are honored and proud to call these incredible servants part of the Waynesville Police Department.





2021 OVERVIEW

Equipment & New Resources



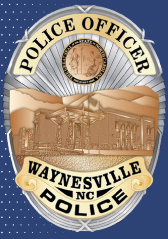
This year we were introduced to the less lethal BolaWrap. The BolaWrap deploys a Kevlar cord to temporarily wrap a subject and restrict mobility, which could prevent the escalation on the use of force continuum. The BolaWrap allows you to remotely restrain uncooperative subjects and buy some time to respond without higher use of force. Senior Officer Tyler Howell and retired Lt. Tim O'Neill went to the training and were awarded their instructor certificates. All officers at the Waynesville Police Department are now certified on the BolaWrap.



With the addition of the new speed board, we were able to collect data and adjust our speed enforcement based on accurate speeding information that the sign collected. The data collected showed the time and date that speeding vehicles passed, the number of vehicles that passed, top speeds, and average speeds. The ability to easily move the speed board and discuss with complainants the results from the data collected has proven vital.

This year the WPD launched a drone program with the goal of improving our response to a number of different incidents and events. This program is currently being led by Officer Howell who acquired his FAA License in June of 2021. The drone has already had an impact and has been deployed for a number of different incidents. This includes parades, street festivals, documenting crime scenes, and assisting with the documentation needed to track crime and other incidents. We look forward to seeing this program expand and what it will bring to this department.





2021 OVERVIEW

Community Engagement

This year, in May, the Waynesville Police Department hosted a blood drive in the training room at the WPD. We saw 35 donors for a total of 31 pints of blood. The blood collected went to help 93 hospitals with lifesaving transfusions. We enjoyed partnering with Blood Connections this year. We look forward to hosting them again in 2022.



THE BLOOD CONNECTION
Your Community Blood Center



This year the Waynesville Police Department partnered with the Waynesville Fire Department and the businesses in downtown Hazelwood to host the 1st annual Trick or Treat Halloween in Hazelwood. The street was closed and families were able to visit each business while filling their bags with candy. This was a huge success and we look forward to seeing it grow next year.

The annual kickball game at the Pigeon Community Multicultural Development Center on Pigeon Street took place in July this year. Every year officers from the WPD spend time with the kids attending their Summer Enrichment Program. Students attending this program engage in activities that are centered on an overarching theme such as science, math, music, character education, and global discovery. We love spending time at the PCMDC and look forward to this day every year.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Throughout the year, we are blessed with the support of our community and businesses. In 2021, we received numerous meals, snacks, cards, and letters of thanks from multiple people, churches, restaurants, and businesses. Logan's Gifts & Home Décor is just one of many. This year they provided the WPD with an incredible Thanksgiving meal for the entire department.



Conner Bridges was recognized in the summer of 2021 for his heroic actions that saved his grandfather's life. His quick thinking and brave response provided Fire, Police, and EMS to respond to his grandfather who he found unconscious, suffering from a life threatening medical emergency. Conner is a local hero, we are thankful for his bravery.



Haylen Bradley was recognized in the summer of 2021 for her heroic response when she observed that her neighbor had become trapped under a car when the jack had failed. Without her bravery, her neighbor, who was pinned under the car would not been able to call for help. Her actions on this day saved his life.



For many years the Waynesville Police Department has served during the United Way Day of Caring. This year provided an incredible opportunity to help one of our own. It was an honor to build this ramp for Retired Master Officer Eddie Singleton. Master Officer Singleton served this community for over 30 years and was someone that many looked up to. It was an incredible day, and we are thankful to be able to give back to one of our own.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



This is the 5th year of hosting Coffee with a Cop events at local coffee shops and restaurants. These events are a great opportunity to engage with the public, hear concerns, and talk about problem solving in the neighborhoods and streets here in Waynesville. It also provides a different atmosphere for engagement where Officers can be seen and encountered, face to face, as community members alongside those we serve. This, putting into action and reminding us that “the police are the public and the public are the police.” Sir Robert Peel

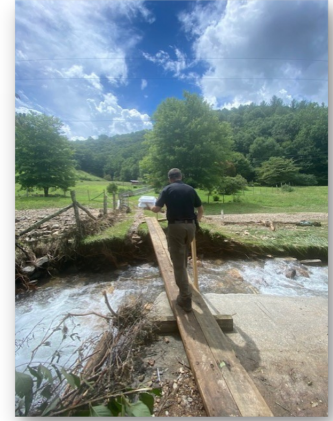


As 2021 attempted to return to normalcy with ballgames, street festivals, marathons, and parades the Waynesville Police Department enjoyed our role in assisting with planning, preparation, and execution of those events. Some of these events take several months to plan for and require, at times, the entire agency to assist. Challenges including traffic enforcement, crowd management, and security provide opportunities to adapt and learn with each event.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

In August our county was hit with devastating floods that impacted so many lives. Some of those lives were directly connected to the WPD including our Chaplain, Pastor Mark Tice, and his church East Fork Baptist Church. In the hours, days, and weeks after the flood, we were able to partner with Pastor Tice and others in the community to assist in Search and Rescue efforts, delivering meals, and cleanup. It was an honor to help in these efforts.

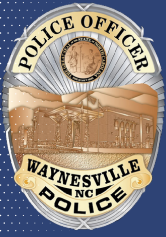


We are blessed to have Pastor Mark Tice as our Chaplain. His presence around the office and availability brings us the support and encouragement that we need. We are thankful that he takes time away from other obligations to make us a priority when we need him.



The Waynesville Police Department Honor Guard participates in numerous activities and events throughout the year. It was no different in 2021 as the Honor Guard presented colors and led the opening of the North Carolina Association of Chiefs of Police Annual Conference. Their activity also included leading the annual Christmas Parade and presenting colors at the Law Enforcement Memorial Service. Sadly, the Honor Guard represented the WPD at several funerals of officers killed in the line of duty in North Carolina and surrounding states.





2021 OVERVIEW

Patrol Division

Within the patrol division we have continued to work towards all of our agency goals while continuing our loyal and dedicated service to the citizens of Waynesville. Patrol officers continued their education efforts when classes were available. Officers attended classes that included FBI leadership classes, speed measurement (RADAR), Intoximeter, Standardized Field Sobriety Testing, Interview and Interrogation, and countless other classes. These classes not only give officers more training but also allow them the opportunity to obtain their Intermediate and Advanced Law Enforcement Certificates through the North Carolina Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Commission. Assistant Chief Gilmore hosted an in-house Patrol Techniques training in conjunction with Sgt Vanderday leading the instruction for a Report Writing class for those needing the training. Recognizing that moving forward training opportunities for Law Enforcement could be limited with the uncertainty of Covid-19, the Waynesville Police Department introduced a software program called Virtual Academy. This training allows officers to receive advanced training including short 15-minute "shift change" training topics up to two to three-hour web-based training. This continued training will enhance our officers' knowledge and skill set and will work in conjunction with regular in-class training that officers have been accustomed to.

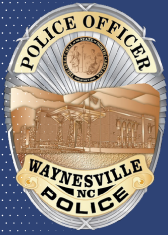


Officers participated in scenario-based training where the officer responded to a routine call and was met with gunfire. Training simulations were utilized and the exercise was designed to test the officer's response with retreating to cover and applying a training tourniquet. This type of training is instrumental to the lives of the officers in teaching them how to respond under pressure. We also were trained in the proper use of the Israeli wrap compression bandage for high-velocity trauma wounds or puncture wounds.

DISPATCH

WPD Telecommunicators dispatched over 22,000 calls for service last year. That comes to an average of 63 calls for service that are received, assessed, entered into the emergency dispatch system, and delivered to our Officers on the road daily. This number does not include the countless phone calls that are taken and the questions answered by our Telecommunicators. They are the voice of the department and a lifeline for our Officers.



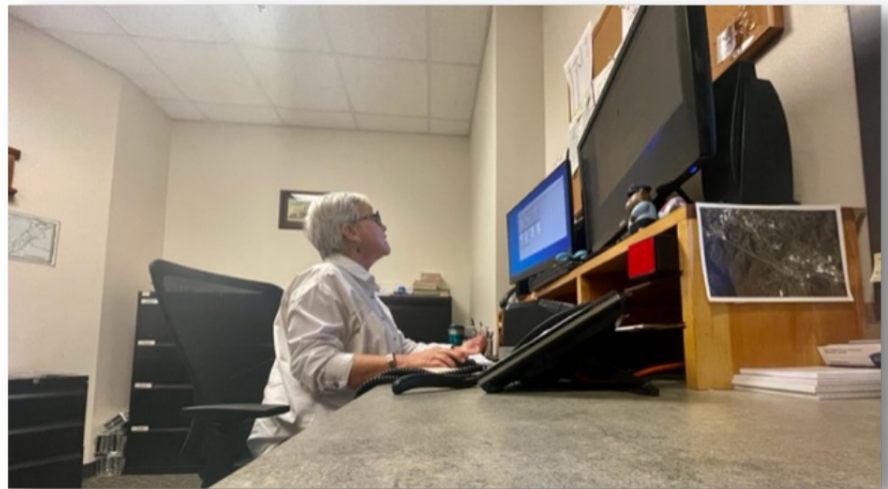


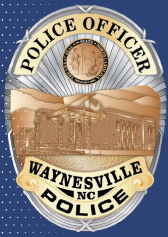
2021 OVERVIEW

Records Division

The Waynesville Police Department Records Division is responsible for the daily record keeping of police reports, to include Incident, Arrest, Motor Vehicle Accident, Citations, and many more. This task can be very daunting and extremely time consuming. The records clerk also ensures that every report is correctly uploaded to the database so they can be forwarded to the District Attorney's Office for review and prosecution. The process has become much more involved through the years and requires a tremendous attention to detail to maintain compliance with the Criminal Justice Information Services Division of the Uniform Crime Reports and the State of North Carolina Retention Laws.

The records clerk is also responsible for downloading the citations from the State maintained Brazos database and ensuring they correctly upload to the RMS system. Currently, our records department has only one employee, Patty Johnson. Several years ago, we determined the job was much too big for just one person and we are currently undergoing a hiring process to fill a part-time position within the department. Patty does an excellent job trying to keep the department's personnel on time with their reports.





2021 OVERVIEW

Patrol Division



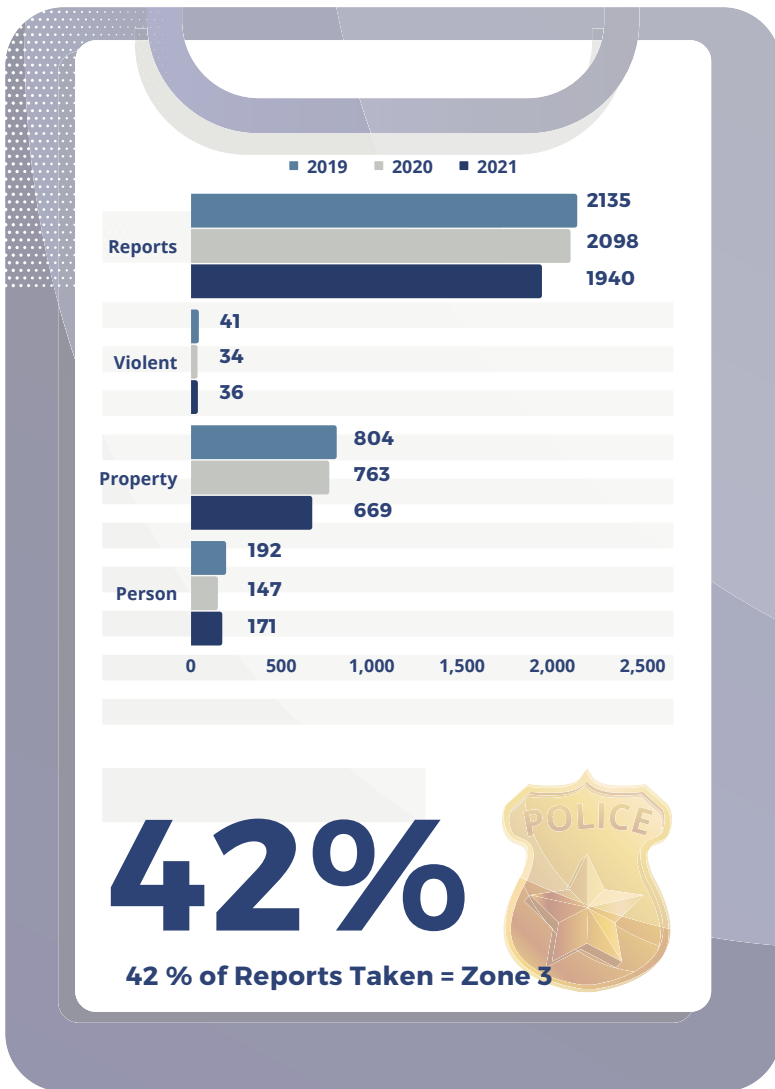
22,936

2021 Calls For Service

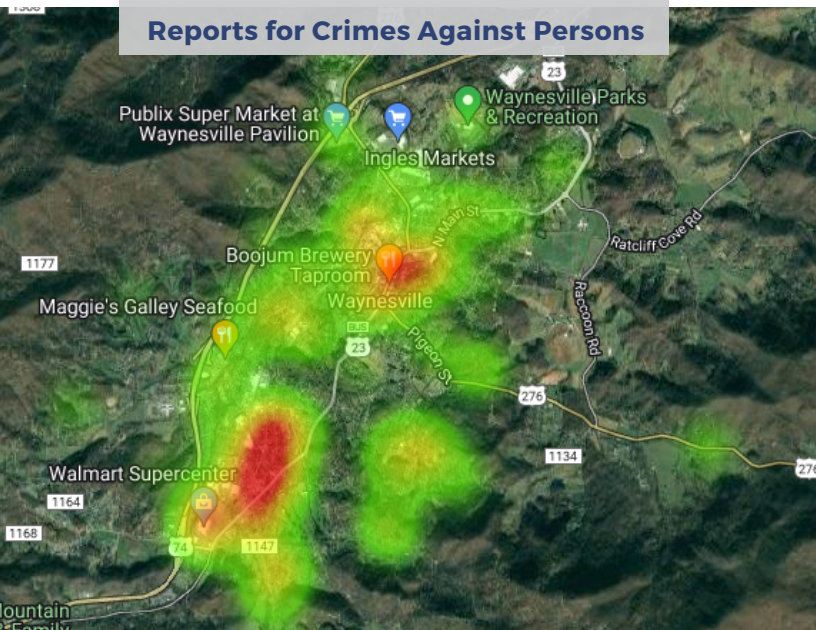
In 2021 Patrol responded to and dealt with 22,936 calls for service. That was down from 2020 (24,615). While responding to those calls for service Officers took 1,940 Incident Reports while answering 264 calls for traffic accidents. An interesting statistic to look at and consider is that 42% of reports taken were taken in Zone 3.

Zone 3 includes Town Center Loop (Walmart, Belks, & Best Buy) in addition to the Hazelwood/Allens Creek/Country Club area of town. Many of those reports could be attributed to shoplifting (381 total - throughout town) incidents occurring in that area. That said we did see a decline in shoplifting incidents for the first time in many years.

2021, provided for 36 reports of violent crime. That number was up from 34 in 2020. Below is a heat map for both crimes against the person as well as crimes against property.

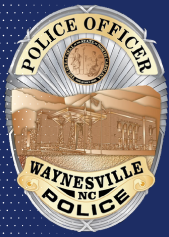


HEAT MAP:
Reports for Crimes Against Persons



HEAT MAP:
Reports for Crimes Against Property





2021 OVERVIEW

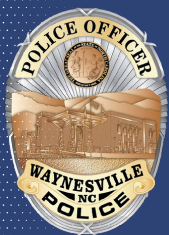
Patrol Division

Due to the increase of general motoring public, as well as a rise in vehicle chases within the county, Senior Officer Tyler Howell worked with Buncombe County Sheriff's Office and AB Technical College to develop an Advanced Law Enforcement Driver Training Course. This course utilizes the driving track at the AB Tech., Woodfin Campus, to ensure safety during both high and low speeds while operating a patrol car. Senior Officer Howell is a certified driving instructor through the North Carolina Justice Academy and developed the course which teaches officers advanced tactics and further advances their driving skills. This also provides a means for officers needing advanced driving training for their career advancements and an opportunity to receive that training locally instead of having to travel to Raleigh. Post-Covid, the N.C. Highway Patrol is no longer offering that to outside agencies. Senior Officer Howell also obtained a certification to perform the PIT maneuver (Precision Immobilization Technique). P.I.T. is a pursuit tactic by which a pursuing patrol car can force a fleeing suspect car to turn sideways abruptly, causing the driver to lose control and ultimately come to a stop. This capability was looked at as another alternative to end high-speed chases as quickly as possible.

In the past, we have only been able to deploy Stop Sticks to potentially end a vehicle pursuit. Although these are highly effective, it's oftentimes difficult to get ahead of a pursuit quickly enough to stop it. We were also running into issues of not being able to communicate with surrounding agencies to get assistance if a pursuit traveled into their jurisdiction. For obvious officer safety reasons, we realized that this was not a good practice, so we looked at other options to safely and effectively end vehicle chases. Lt. William Benhart and Sgt. Shaun Messer were able to get all Waynesville Police Department Officers Stop Stick certified as well. Stop Sticks are a vital tool in assisting with vehicle chases as. Stop Sticks are tire deflation devices that are thrown by officers and allow a slow release of air from tires rendering the vehicle disabled.



As part of their duties, Patrol completed 719 Security Checks on residences, businesses, and other locations in 2021.



2021 OVERVIEW

WPD K-9 Program

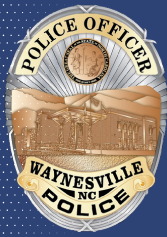
The Waynesville Police Department's K-9 Unit had a rough year with sicknesses and being down a K-9 on Patrol. However, the training with these K-9's continued as usual to ensure proficiency in each discipline for which the K-9 works. The Waynesville Police Department hosted the USPCAS certification again this year in August. This year we had approximately 24 patrol K-9's throughout North Carolina and South Carolina that attended the certification event and 45 detection K-9's.

K-9 Luke was diagnosed with an immune deficiency disorder that had him a little under the weather. Luke has had some tests and is now on medication for the issue and we hope moving forward K-9 Luke doesn't have anymore issues and continues to work for several years to come, being that he will be 8 years old in 2022.



Throughout 2021 the K-9 Unit deployed their K-9's a total of 174 times resulting in 110 alerts for narcotics. There was a combined total of 535.96 grams of narcotics located by the K-9's which resulted in 54 arrests being made. The K-9's were utilized 13 different times for incidents that involved tracking a fleeing suspect, recovering potential items of evidence and or searching areas within buildings or residences where a potential armed suspect may be concealed.





2021 OVERVIEW

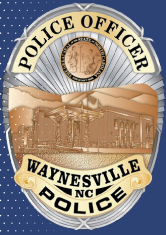
WPD Special Response Team

The Waynesville Police Department's SRT Team focused on catching up on training that was missed during 2020 when the pandemic hit. Although the team was busy in 2020 with deployments, coordinating group training became difficult at times. Throughout the year we logged as a team over 100 hours of training involving various disciplines. The team worked on building/room clearing and movements, vehicle takedowns for drug operations or buy bust, and proficiency with firearms at the range. We also included officer rescue drills which involves rescuing an officer should they get shot in an active scene and simunition training. We brought in outside instruction two different times throughout the year to give us a different perspective and evaluate the team operationally. The Waynesville SRT Team was able to travel back to Swat Round Up this year. The event was cancelled in 2020 for Covid-19 but this year the training returned. There were 6 officers from the team that attended the training, and they had an excellent week training and competing with other teams throughout the country.



With the assistance of Doctor John Mason, we worked to forge a relationship with EMS and Fire to address the need for a highly trained Tactical Medic. This position would be deployed with the SRT team on any call out scenario should a shooting situation occur. The lack of this resource was recognized by Dr. Mason, and he was instrumental in bridging the gap between the medical profession and Law Enforcement to make this a reality in the future. The SRT Team also made purchases that were much needed and a huge asset for the team. Our previous entry vest was outdated and expired. These vests weighed on average about 50-60 pounds with the extra gear attached. With new technology in the industry, we purchased our new vest that weigh less than 20 pounds with the additional gear. We also updated our holsters that we carry for the SRT Team. We were able to purchase lights for our handguns the previous year for the entire department. However, the SRT Team's holsters were not capable of carrying a handgun with a light attached. We purchased the new holsters that gave us the capability to carry the light attached to the handgun, thus giving the officers an option to utilize their handgun at night when often many of the callouts occur. There were two notable callouts involving the SRT Team where approximately 4 kilos of meth and approximately \$20,000 dollars cash was seized, as well as another incident the team was utilized to assist in apprehending a murder suspect that had fled to a residence on East Street.

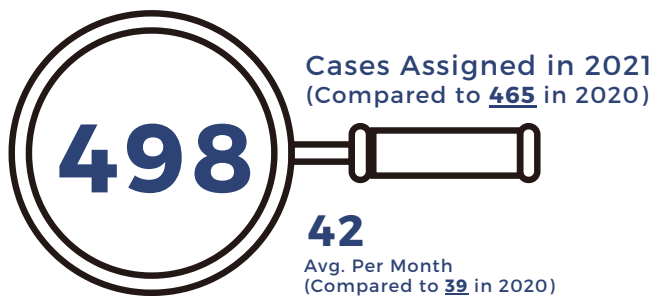




2021 OVERVIEW

Criminal Investigation Division

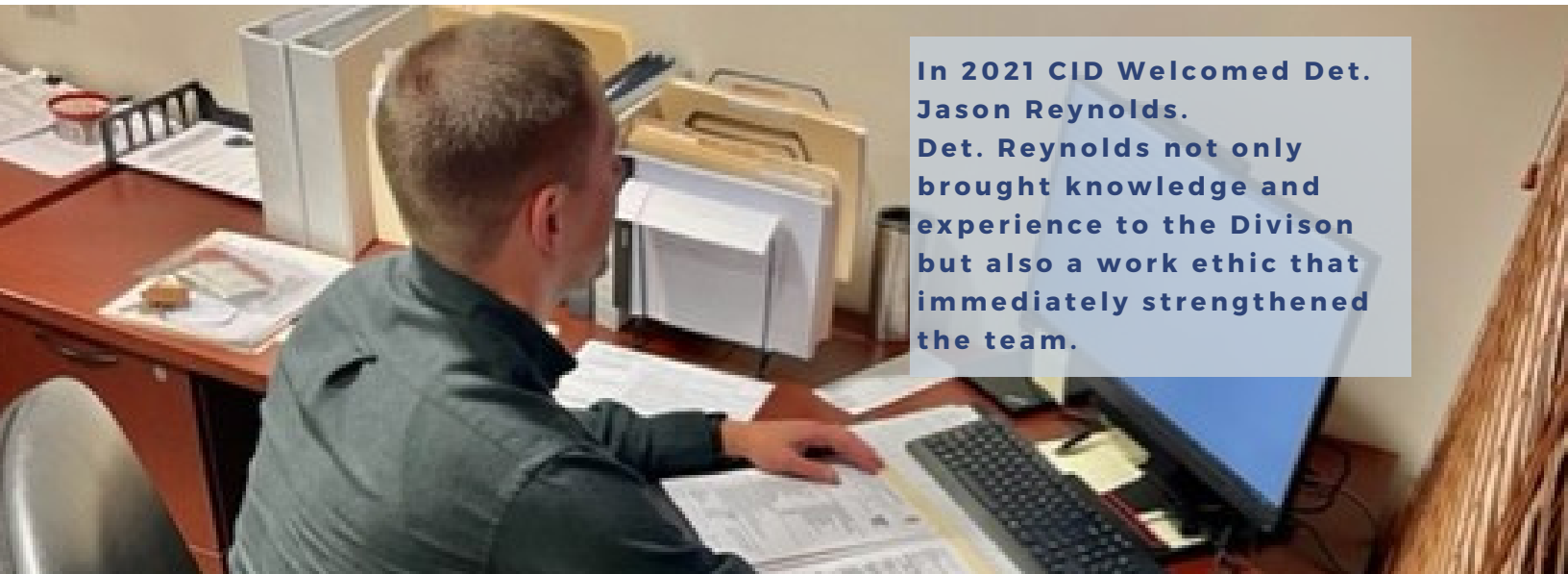
As we entered 2021, The Criminal Investigations Division looked to continue and improve the response to victims and the crimes that had been afflicted them. In 2020 while the pandemic was in full stride, the caseload for the division grew to 465 with an average of 39 cases being assigned per month. That increase continued into 2021 with 498 cases being assigned, averaging 42 cases per month. This, while working with one less Detective in the Division for several months. Unfortunately in May, Det. Faulkenberry left the Department to pursue another career. This was not only a loss of a Detective but also years of experience and knowledge that the Division lost.



The biggest increase that we saw in 2021 was in the area of Child Abuse Investigations. In 2020, we investigated 68 cases that year. In 2021, that number jumped to 85 total. Many of those cases were involving child on child offenses that were found or revealed after school started back in 2021. Det. Shell leads this element of our Division, investigating and leading a majority of the cases involving child victims. Her and others' hard work resulted in 66% clearance rate for those cases.

These cases are not only emotionally stressful but oftentimes, even though a suspect has been identified and at the time confessed, a criminal charge may not be the result. This would be the result in many of the Child on Child cases where we work with advocacy organizations and other support services to get these individuals the assistance they need.

Where we saw a significant increase in larceny and breaking and entering cases in 2020, those numbers looked a little different in 2021. In 2020 we investigated a total of 156 larceny cases. In 2021, that dropped to 116. Even though that number was down the number of breaking and entering cases went from 78 (2020) to 100 in 2021. That includes both B&E of Residence or Businesses as well as B&E's of Vehicles. In total, Crimes against property made up 46% of all cases assigned in 2021.



In 2021 CID Welcomed Det. Jason Reynolds. Det. Reynolds not only brought knowledge and experience to the Division but also a work ethic that immediately strengthened the team.



2021 OVERVIEW

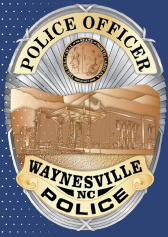
Criminal Investigation Division

Other highlights of the year include the unfortunate murder of Jesse Martin on June 15th of 2021. Martin was gunned down in the street on Scates Street near Railroad Street just before dusk. The quick response of Officers together with Detectives were able to track down the suspects and take them into custody. Several eyewitnesses were able to provide information and descriptions that helped paint the picture of what happened on this evening. The scene was processed by CID while Search Warrants and Interviews were conducted. This resulted in the charging of two brothers with the murder of Jesse Martin. As 2021 ends, this case is still waiting to go to court.

Another highlight of the year was the closure of several cases due to fingerprints collected from the scenes of breaking & enterings. One of which occurred in July, when the victim returned home to find her home had been broken into. The scene was processed and fingerprints were collected. After the prints were examined by Sgt. Vander Day, our resident fingerprint analysis expert, they were sent to the crime lab who then provided us with a match. In the fall those results came back and we were able to charge Chad Warner with breaking into the home. This was one of three cases solved this year off of fingerprints collected from the scene. The others charged were Charles Otis Brooks and Timothy Cagle.

In addition, Detectives interrupted a ring of thefts and breaking and enterings that had been occurring all over town. In September, Detectives found a location on a deserted road off of Shingle Cove where several items of stolen property were located. This led to identifying and charging Jonathan Burnette and Jonathan Davis.





2021 OVERVIEW

Criminal Investigation Division

One of the many partnerships that we value is our relationship with KARE (Kids Advocacy Resource Effort). Throughout the year our Detectives work with KARE as we investigate and interview children who have been victimized by physical and sexual abuse. In 2021, CID conducted over 50 Forensic Interviews of victims at the KARE House. Without their assistance, these cases could not be investigated to their fullest.



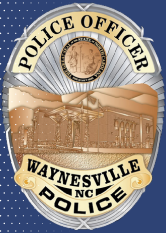
In 2021 we welcomed Stacey Rubio to the Division as our Evidence Technician. Stacey had previously worked in Records. Her experience and hard work has made a noticeable difference to our division and evidence room. She has spent hours going through the evidence room shelf by shelf and box by box and researching the disposition for each item to determine what can be destroyed, held, or otherwise disposed of. Stacey has made significant gains in reducing our backlog of evidence.

Stacey is an invaluable resource to this department and we are thankful for her hard work.

The following are the roles, responsibilities, and benefits of having an evidence technician:

- Accurately logging evidence as it comes in and goes out to ensure proper chain-of custody
- Submitting and transporting evidence to and from the State Crime Laboratory for Analysis
- Assists investigators in executing Search Warrants and collecting evidence on crime scenes
- Ensuring officers have proper evidence packaging and processing supplies
- Reviews and approves officers' laboratory submission requests in Forensic Advantage and download and file all lab reports
- Empty the drug drop box, securing the contents, and packaging them for disposal at the State Bureau of Investigation
- Educate and update officers on the rules of evidence and laboratory submission procedures
- Research evidence dispositions and arrange for the disposal of evidence no longer needed for court
- Returning property to its rightful owner





2021 OVERVIEW

TAC Unit

In 2021, Tactical Anti-Crime Unit led by Sgt. Schick continued to assist the agency in a variety of ways: assisting Patrol with calls for service during times of high call volume, working with businesses to review safety and security protocols, and addressing problem locations in neighborhoods. The TAC Unit is also an incredible asset to Detectives as they help run down leads, gather information, and partner with the Narcotic Detectives.

A change in 2021 included the addition of the two Narcotic Detectives coming under the command of Sgt. Schick. This change provided the opportunity for better information flow and cohesiveness in addressing the drug problems in Waynesville.

The trend throughout the Department saw a decrease in certain areas while we saw a positive increase in others. The TAC Unit made 230 arrests in 2021 (386 Misd. Charges/197 Felony Charges). That number was a decrease from the year before when 300 arrests were made. In addition, 478 traffic citations were issued along with 667 written warnings.

One of the goals of 2021 was to increase the number of Community Contacts made by the Unit. These contacts require face-to-face contact with community members, business owners, and concerned citizens in town. In 2020, the TAC Unit made 296 community contacts. That number jumped to 430 in 2021, accomplishing the desired goal. In doing so, the TAC Unit led in helping update business emergency contacts throughout town. This undertaking took approximately three months but in doing so they were able to update our system and provide much-needed info to the Department.

The day-to-day duties, of the TAC Unit also includes hours conducting surveillance and documenting intelligence regarding specific problem locations and problem people in town. Working alongside the Narcotics Detectives they respond to community complaints and intel gathered by Officers in the Department. In addition, they assist in gathering factual data regarding the homeless/unsheltered/vagrant issue in town. The roles and responsibilities of this unit are multifaceted and provide the ability to invest time and energy into solving community problems that have an impact on the entire department.



2021

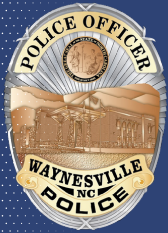


230
ARRESTS

478
CITATIONS

667
WARNINGS

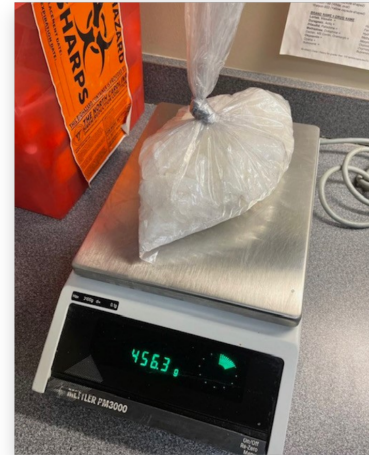
430
COMMUNITY
CONTACTS



2021 OVERVIEW

TAC Unit

Addressing the drug issues in our town is just one of many objectives of the TAC/Narcotic Unit. One of the goals of 2021 was to strengthen working relationships with other agencies in regard to the fight against our county's drug problem. As the year moved forward and the new structure of TAC combined with Narcotics continued to form this also continued to evolve. As the year reached an end our Narcotic Detectives, along with TAC worked together with the Haywood County Sheriffs Office Narcotic and CSU Units to seize 1 pound of meth in a traffic stop on I-40. This seizure of illegal drugs was one of many that had been stopped and seized, coming into our community in 2021. We look forward to 2022 and seeing more of the same results while working with our other Law Enforcement Agencies in Haywood County.



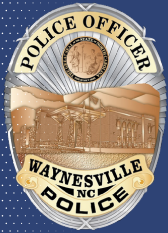
One of the most tragic byproducts of this issue is the number of Overdose cases the WPD deals with in a year's time. WPD Officers have been carrying Narcan since 2017. In that time, it would be safe to say that 100's of lives have been saved by the deployment of Narcan by first responding officers. Below is a snapshot of what 2021 looked like in regard to overdoses in Waynesville. As you will see we saw a significant jump in overdose response from 2020 to 2021.

Two of the Overdose fatalities are currently being investigated, hoping to identify and prove who provided the subject with the fatal dose that took their life.

OVERDOSE RESPONSE

Fentanyl / Opioid





2021 OVERVIEW

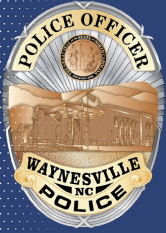
School Resource Officer

Our School Resource Officers experienced their own set of challenges as schools continued to adjust to COVID-19. In the spring of 2019, Athletic events started back for the first time in almost a year with limits on attendance and adjusted regulations. Our SRO's not only assisted in helping with the events here in Waynesville but they also helped with other school events throughout the county. It was a unique year where we saw two Pisgah / Tuscola football games within six months of each other.

Shining Rock opened up their new building this year as well. This presented some issues and obstacles with traffic on 276 as well as traffic flow around the school property. As we enter 2022 and complete the first full year in the new building we continue to evaluate and adjust our role at the school. Officer Reeves, who is assigned to Shining Rock also helps respond to Haywood Christian Academy as well. Although they do not have a full-time SRO, we still provide them with assistance and support when needs arise.



Waynesville Middle School, while school is in session is like having a town within a town. This year, on top of the 800 plus students on campus, Central Haywood High School also found a temporary home on the campus of WMS. This is all left to the hands of Officer Clancy to evaluate and monitor. As always Officer Clancy not only does a tremendous job he plays an invaluable role in assisting the Criminal Investigations Division and Department as a whole, with child abuse investigations as well as all other Juvenile investigations that arise.



2021 ANNUAL REPORT

In Conclusion...

As we transition into 2022 changes will continue to take place at the Waynesville Police Department. For the first time in over 25 years, the color scheme of our Patrol Cars will continue to phase into a new and fresh look. If you look closely we tried to carry over some of the old with the new with the subdued stars and stripes providing a background for the middle of the car. We are excited about this change as we move forward transitioning the entire fleet over to the new look.



As always we are incredibly thankful and blessed to serve in this community. Serving the Town of Waynesville provides many challenges. However, those challenges are made easier with knowing the treasure that this place is to us and so many. As we enter into 2022 and beyond we set our sights on doing all we can to provide the level of service and protection that the citizens, visitors, and friends of this Town deserve.