

Norwalk Police Department 2023 Annual Report



Inspired Service  Community in Uniform

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Message from the Chief

The residents of the City of Norwalk have come to expect exemplary service from the police department. This expectation is the result of the continued excellent work that the men and women of the department accomplish each day. Our officers are expected to stand tall in the face of danger and hug a child in need sometimes during the same shift. This dichotomy of expectations is accomplished with an ease and professionalism that is second to none.

During the year, the department investigated the gruesome death of an infant child and handled the circumstances with empathy and dedication. Two individuals were charged with Murder in the first degree. In other accomplishments we added a second SRO position to help provide security and law enforcement liaison to the elementary schools within the city, we continued our outstanding slate of community policing programs, upgraded our equipment, and completed training to help intervene in active threat situations.

Our population continues to grow. As we approach 15,000 residents, the police department is growing as well. During the year we worked to fill our COPS grant positions which will lead to additional officers on patrol that can respond to emergencies. These are needed positions due to a regular increase in calls for police service. The department is working on plans to keep our residents and visitors safe in and around the new Norwalk Central Sports Campus and retail offerings. Our officers are dedicated, well trained and fully capable of handling any emergency that may arise.

It is a continued honor to serve Norwalk as your Chief of Police. I am appreciative of the hard work and dedication to duty displayed daily by each of our officers. All of us at the police department appreciate the on-going support from the community at large and the commitment from Mayor Phillips and the City Council to keep the department funded and staffed at a level that allows Norwalk to remain one of the safest cities in Iowa. The future of the City of Norwalk and the Norwalk Police Department is bright. We look forward to another great year in 2024.

Respectfully,

Greg Staples
Chief of Police



Mission & Values

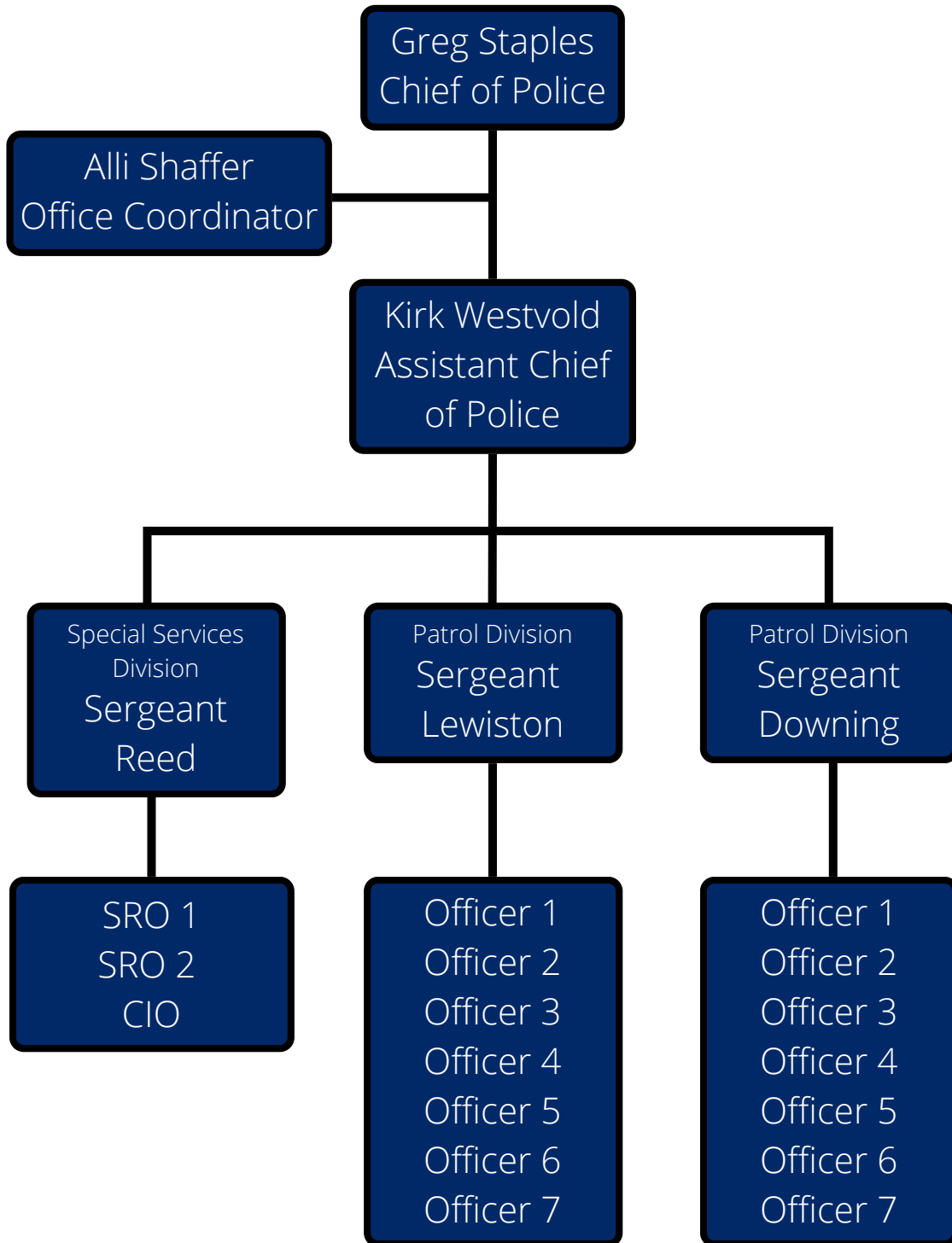
With commitment and resolve, the Norwalk Police Department will provide noticeable, professional and dedicated service through citizen focused efforts that solve problems, maintain public trust and produce a safe, prosperous community.

In the pursuit of this mission, we will maintain value oriented service that emphasizes:

- **Accountability for our actions and in-actions**
- **Citizen-centric customer service**
- **The diversity of life experience among us**

We also encourage all members of the community to take an active role in the protection of life and property as together we work to make Norwalk the metro's most desirable place to live and work.

Organizational Chart



Crime and Activity Statistics

The below charts show the recent trends of the types of crimes reported in Norwalk and the demographics of those arrested in 2023. We are seeing significant increases in property crimes, but crimes against persons are remaining steady.

Crimes Against Person		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Change
Assault Offenses		37	28	32	43	37	-6
Sexual Assault Forcible		7	4	5	5	6	1
Sexual Assault Non-Forcible		0	0	1	0	0	0
Robbery		1	0	0	1	0	-1
Homicide		0	0	0	1	2	1
Subtotal		45	32	38	50	45	-5
Crimes Against Property		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Change
Burglary		15	9	6	6	16	10
Fraud / Forgery / Embezzle		35	31	28	30	45	15
Theft / Larceny		75	27	31	27	64	37
Motor Vehicle Theft		7	4	9	3	3	0
Property Damage		24	13	21	30	45	15
Subtotal		156	84	95	96	173	77
Total		201	116	133	146	218	72

The change listed in the right hand column is the change between 2022 and 2023

Arrests 2023

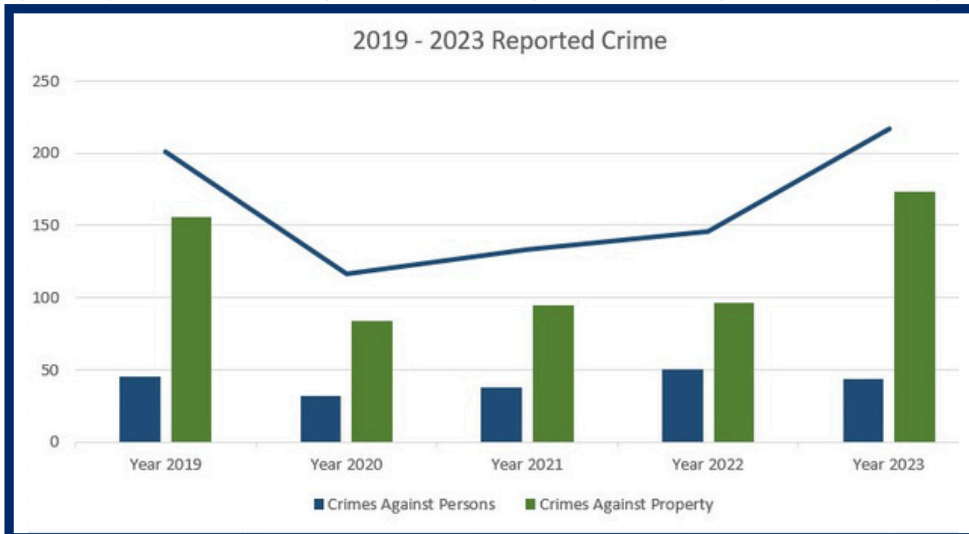
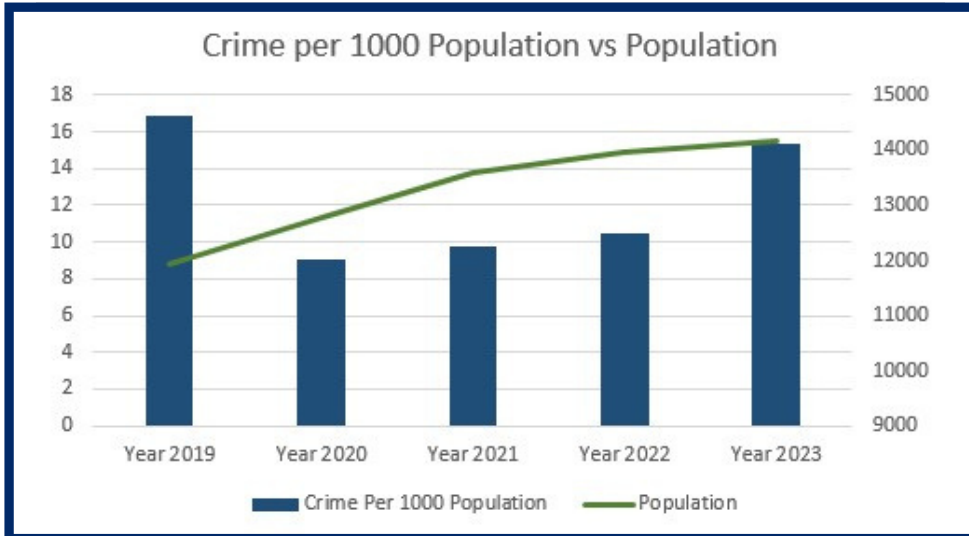
1st Quarter			2nd Quarter			3rd Quarter			4th Quarter		
GENDER			GENDER			GENDER			GENDER		
Male	32	71.11%	Male	36	81.82%	Male	42	64.62%	Male	39	65.00%
Female	13	28.89%	Female	8	18.18%	Female	23	35.38%	Female	21	35.00%
RACE			RACE			RACE			RACE		
White	40	88.89%	White	34	77.27%	White	56	86.15%	White	49	81.67%
Black	5	11.11%	Black	9	20.45%	Black	8	12.31%	Black	8	13.33%
Asian	0	0.00%	Asian	1	2.27%	Asian	0	0.00%	Asian	0	0.00%
Unknown	0	0.00%	Unknown	0	0.00%	Unknown	1	1.54%	Unknown	3	5.00%
ETHNICITY			ETHNICITY			ETHNICITY			ETHNICITY		
Hispanic	4	8.89%	Hispanic	5	11.36%	Hispanic	4	6.15%	Hispanic	5	8.33%
Non-Hispanic	38	84.44%	Non-Hispanic	39	88.64%	Non-Hispanic	56	86.15%	Non-Hispanic	42	70.00%
Unknown	3	6.67%	Unknown	0	0.00%	Unknown	5	7.69%	Unknown	13	21.67%
ADDRESS			ADDRESS			ADDRESS			ADDRESS		
Norwalk	17	37.78%	Norwalk	20	45.45%	Norwalk	27	41.54%	Norwalk	30	50.00%
Other	28	62.22%	Other	24	54.55%	Other	38	58.46%	Other	30	50.00%
Total	45		Total	44		Total	65		Total	60	

Grand Totals

GENDER		RACE		ETHNICITY		ADDRESS		
Male	149	69.63%	White	179	83.64%	Hispanic	18	8.41%
Female	65	30.37%	Black	30	14.02%	Non-Hispanic	175	81.78%
Total	214		Asian	1	0.47%	Unknown	21	9.81%
			Unknown	4	1.87%	Total	214	
			Total	214				

Crime and Activity Statistics Continued

Shown here are crime trends in recent years. After a decline in criminal activity in 2020, crimes are once again trending upward.



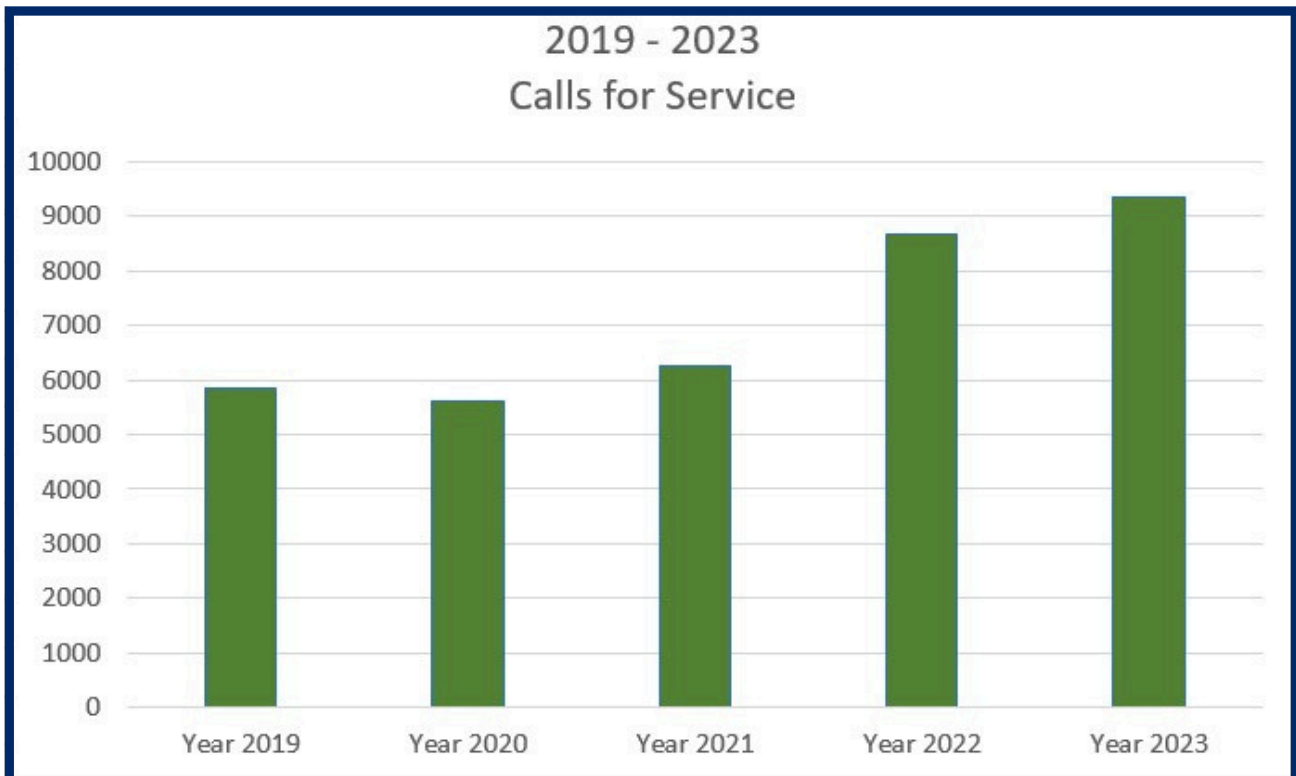
General Activity & Proactive Law Enforcement

We continue to see an increase in traffic enforcement and calls for service. The graphs below show our keys areas of interest. Norwalk officers tend to issue more written warnings than citations, as it is the belief that warnings are just as effective in traffic enforcement as citations.

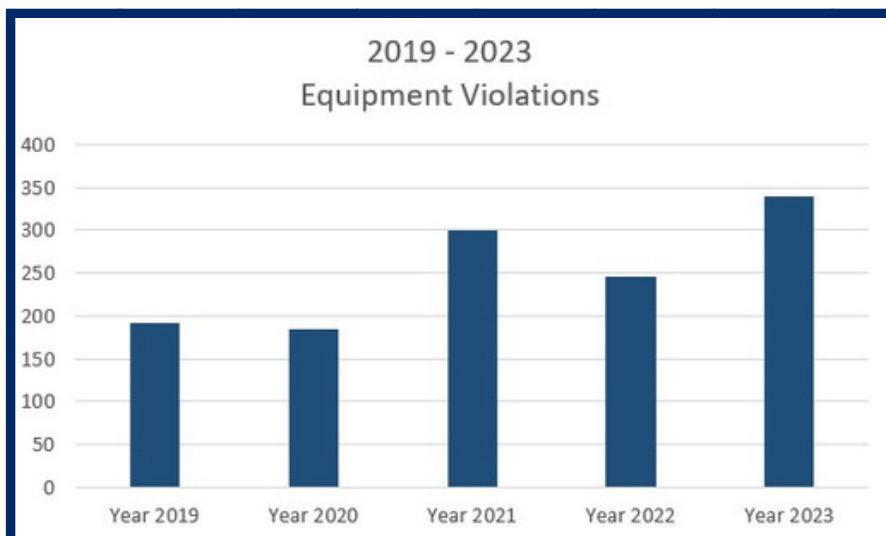
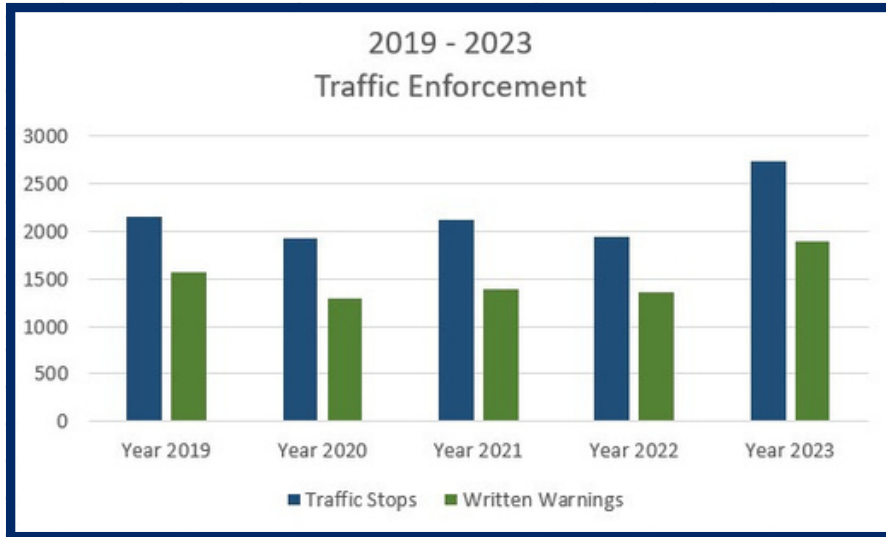
General Activities

Traffic Related	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Change
Traffic Stops	3,421	2,153	1,921	2,124	1,934	2,734	800
Moving Violations	848	520	328	416	385	426	41
<i>Speeding</i>	709	421	255	335	313	346	33
<i>Impaired Driving</i>	40	39	31	42	34	46	12
Equipment / License Citations	365	191	184	299	245	339	94
Occupant Protection	38	14	7	9	8	14	6
Written Warnings	2,672	1,571	1,295	1,393	1,353	1,898	545
Crash Investigations	80	104	84	105	101	110	9
General Activities							
Public Service Calls	1,044	1,094	1,203	1,274	882	882	0
Calls For Service	5,633	5,844	5,611	6,242	8,308	9386	1,078

The change listed in the right hand column is the change between 2022 and 2023

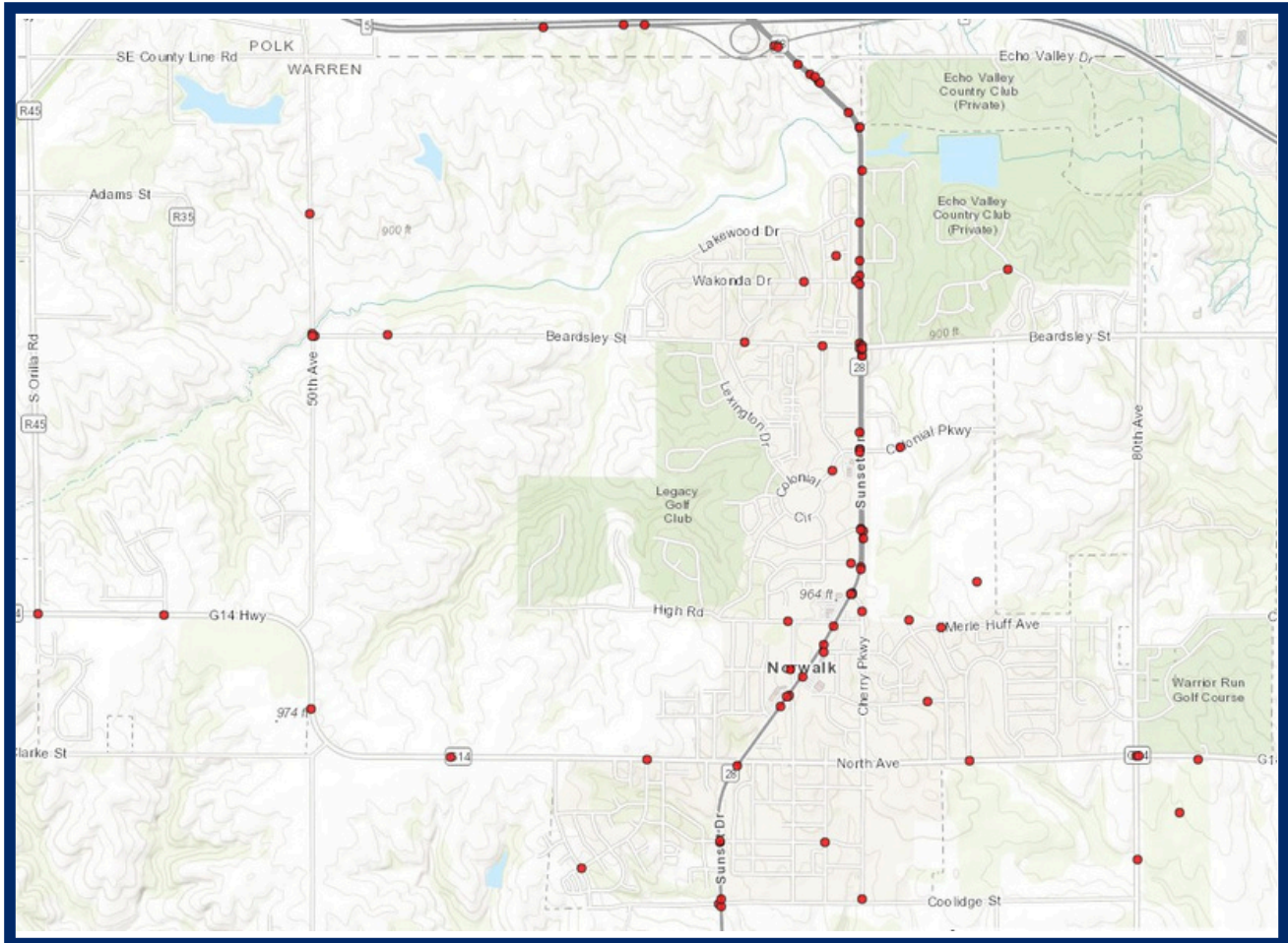


Traffic Enforcement



Traffic Enforcement Continued

The map shown below depicts the vehicle accident locations across town in 2023. Intersections continue to be hot spots for vehicle collisions.

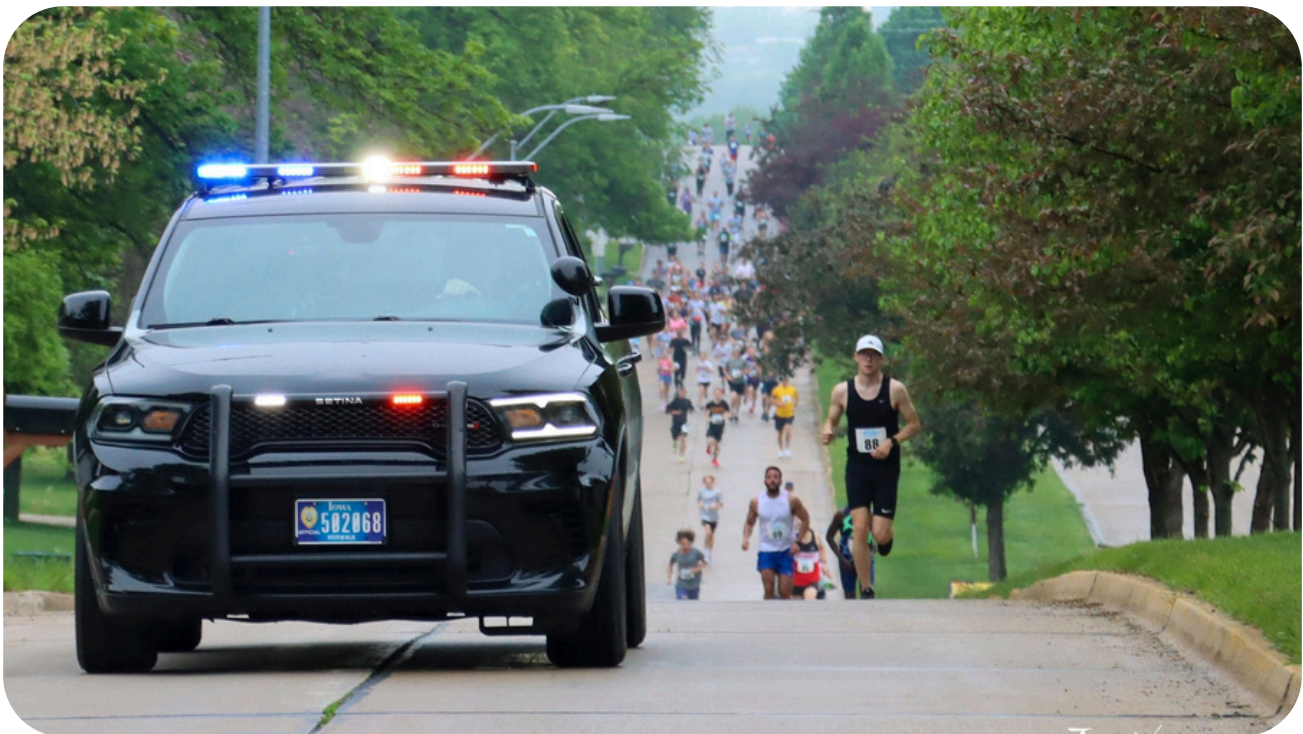


Annual Training

Officers completed Crisis Intervention Training Certification (CIT) in 2023, a department training goal that began in the beginning of 2022. All new Officers will complete this training after being certified for solo patrol. Officers with the department also receive annual active shooter response training. In 2023 several officers with the department participated in the 2nd annual Westcom RAID Training held in West Des Moines, and the 1st Warren County Active Shooter Training held at the Indianola High School. Officers received an update on precision driving in 2023.

Police Fleet Status

Shop	Year & Make	2023 Miles	Total Miles
134	2017 Ford SUV	1,579	136,524
136	2017 Ford SUV	9,376	161,042
137	2017 Ford SUV	18,965	90,797
138	2019 Ford SUV	17,674	103,984
139	2019 Ford SUV	11,643	97,953
142	2021 Chevy Tahoe	24,427	52,627
143	2021 Dodge SUV	16,601	55,962
144	2021 Chevy Tahoe	36,928	61,783
145	2023 Dodge SUV	91540	9,595
146	2023 Ford SUV	10,245	10,267
147	2023 Chevy Tahoe	5,441	5,466



Community Outreach

Norwalk Officers participate and attend many community engagement events throughout the year.

- The Limitless Youth For Excellence program (LYFE) continued in 2023. There were four events where Norwalk students participated in playing games, planting trees at local parks, tie dyeing t-shirts and attending the Warren County Fair! These events continue to be great mentoring opportunities between officers and Norwalk youth.
- Norwalk Police Officers continue to visit various Front Porch Norwalk host sites and interact with community members during these scheduled events. They enjoy interacting with community members and answering questions.
- The 21st Annual Youth Activities / DARE golf tournament took place in July at Shady Oaks Golf Course in Ackworth. It was another fun and successful year with over \$8,000 raised. All proceeds go towards funding DARE and youth activities in Norwalk and Warren County.
- The Citizen's Police Academy led primarily by Sergeant Reed and Officer Haller resumed after a short few years break. Six Norwalk residents participated and learned what the day to day life of a Norwalk Police Officer is like.
- Sergeant Lewiston and Officer Dunlop hosted RAD training in December for five Norwalk residents. They learned basic self defense skills to keep them safe.
- Our annual fundraiser, Cops with Carts, took place at the beginning of December. This fundraiser helps raise food and monetary goods for the local food pantry. This year the community filled 8 police cars with food. Another several thousand dollars was raised cash donations to purchase additional fresh items. All donations went to the Norwalk Area Food Pantry to help restock their supply and to help community members in need.



Professional Standards

There were no formal complaints filed against any Norwalk Police Department Officer in 2023. During the 2023 Annual Awards Banquet, many officers were recognized and awarded for their service throughout the year.

- Officer Hutchinson was awarded the Officer Positivity Award for his optimism and willingness to help others.
- Officer Alcorn was awarded Community Policing Excellence for his extensive work managing the speed studies that are conducted across town.
- Officer Palmer was awarded Traffic Enforcement Excellence for his dedication to patrol.
- Officer Haller was awarded Top Shot for his high scores during firearms qualifications.
- Officer Jackson was awarded OWI Excellence for having the most Operating While Intoxicated arrests during the year. He was also awarded Top Cop for recording the highest physical fitness scores in the department.
- Officer Hepperly was awarded Officer of the Year. He was voted on by his peers to receive this award for successfully transitioning to a new assignment, providing leadership and serving as a resource for other officers.

The Norwalk Police Department is proud of all members for their dedication to policing and work they do to serve the City of Norwalk.

Personnel

One new officer was hired in 2023. Officer Cork comes to the Norwalk Police Department from Alabama, where he had previously completed a law enforcement academy in Tuscaloosa. Officer Cork graduated from the Western Iowa Tech Law Enforcement Academy on November 17th. He began field training shortly after graduation to be completed in the early months of 2024.



Out & About



Contact Us



Dial 9-1-1 in an emergency

Non-emergency Dispatch:
515-222-3321

Police Department:
515-981-0666



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