



Village of Woodridge

Police Department

2 0 2 3 D E P A R T M E N T A C C O M P L I S H M E N T S

The Village of Woodridge extends appreciation to the employees of the Police Department for their many contributions during 2023. This Certificate highlights just some of the accomplishments of the Police Department and is a reflection of the hard work and dedication of these employees.

❖ **Public Safety**

Our response to criminal activity continues to evolve. We continue to utilize time-honored techniques, including public education, proactive patrols, information sharing, and new technology. As a result, crime levels in Woodridge continue to remain low. Our dedication to public safety has resulted in the lowest span of Part 1 crimes in the modern history of the Village.

❖ **New Public Safety Building**

In October 2023, the Police Department opened its new 32,000 square foot Public Safety Building on Janes Ave. Approved in November 2020, with construction starting in 2021, the new building opened for business in October 2023.

❖ **Extra Patrols**

Officers completed 2,709 extra patrols in 2023. One of the core functions of the Woodridge Police Department is crime prevention to maintain a safe community. Patrols are a vital component in reducing crime. The elements needed to commit a crime are the offender's desire, opportunity, and a target/victim. While law enforcement cannot control an offender's willingness to perpetrate a crime, police patrol can create a deterrent to reduce the opportunity for a crime. The 2,709 extra patrols produced a visible police presence to deter criminal activity and develop an atmosphere of safety and security in Woodridge.

❖ **Updating Department Firearms**

In 2023, the Police Department updated all officer firearms to a newer handgun. The new firearms replace existing firearms that have reached end-of-life usefulness. Range personnel thoroughly reviewed available options to choose a firearm that works best for all department personnel.

❖ **New Employees**

The Woodridge Police Department hired several new employees in 2023. They include a new Management Analyst, three new full-time police officers, and three lateral police officers.

❖ **Metropolitan Emergency Response and Investigations Team (MERIT)**

MERIT is a county-wide task force that leads investigations into serious crimes, critical incidents, and other law enforcement endeavors. Since its inception, our Department has been a leader in this multi-agency approach to police response. We contribute two board members, four command personnel, three SWAT Operators, two Accident reconstructionists, and two Investigators.

❖ **Continued Use of the Social Worker Program**

In 2021, the Village of Woodridge began employing a social worker on a part-time basis. Due to the program's overwhelming success, the Village moved the position to a full-time position in 2022. The Social Worker program provides high-quality, accessible mental health and social services to children, adolescents, adults, and families.

❖ **Continued Implementation of the Frontline System**

First launched in 2018, the Woodridge Police Department Frontline system allows residents to request a vacation watch or overnight street parking. In 2023, Woodridge police officers conducted 307 vacation watches and 638 directed patrol (roll call) entries, responded to 491 animal calls and 266 condition reports (work orders), and processed 4,920 overnight street parking requests. Overnight parking complaints were significantly reduced due to a new Village Ordinance, educational efforts, and continued enforcement.

❖ **Community Outreach – National Night Out**

A primary mission for the Woodridge Police Department is community outreach. In 2023, we conducted several community roll calls, school safety programs, business active shooter training, meet and greets, and department walkthroughs. The Department also held the National Night Out Against Crime community event on August 1. The event is held yearly, and in 2023, it was estimated we had over 500 attendees.

The Village of Woodridge hereby extends appreciation to the Police Department for their vital services and exemplary dedication to the community.

Gina Cunningham, Mayor

Al Stonitsch, Village Administrator