

# ***CALEDONIA POLICE***

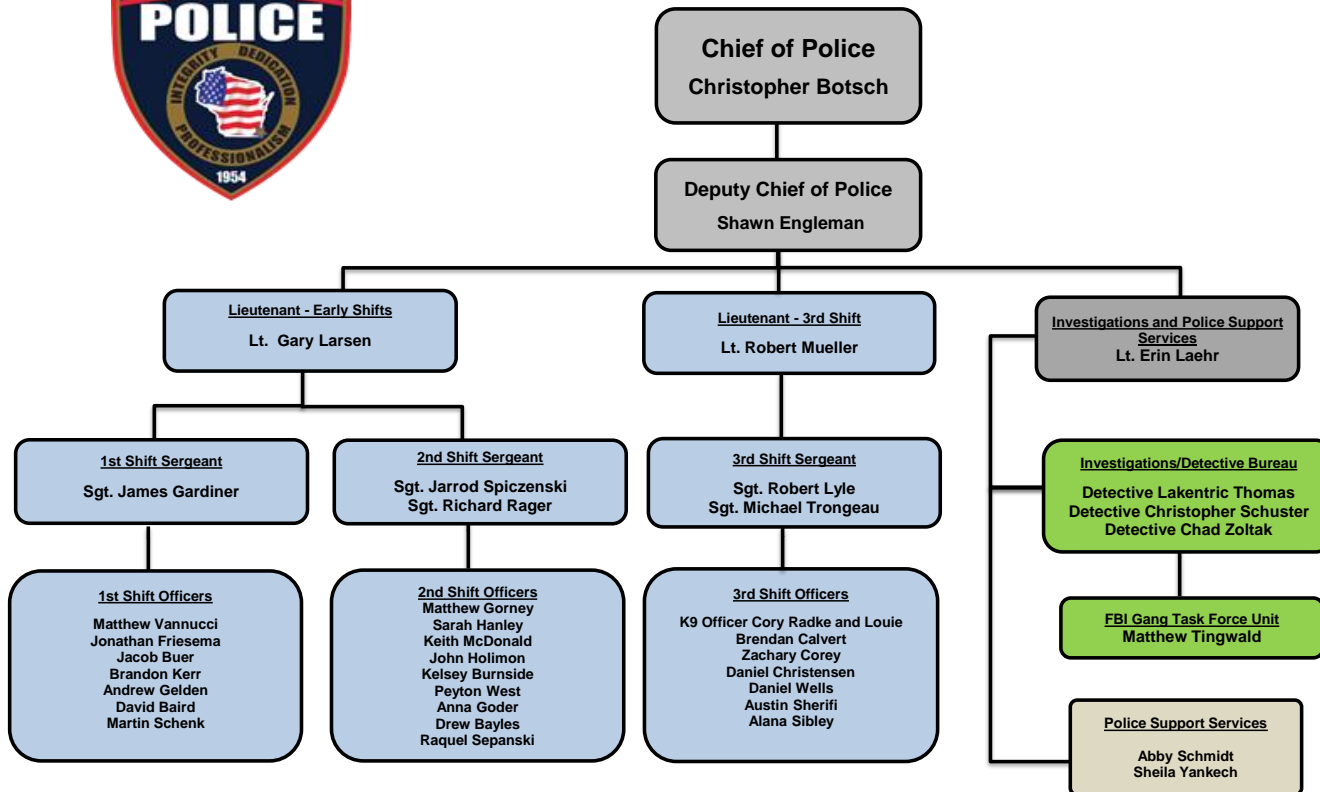


**Caledonia Police Department**  
**5045 Chester Lane**  
**Caledonia, WI 53402**  
**(262) 835 - 4423 Business Phone**  
**(262) 886 - 2300 Non - Emergency**

**Christopher Botsch**  
**CHIEF OF POLICE**

# ***2023 Annual Report***

# Caledonia Police Department ORGANIZATIONAL CHART 2023



# Your Police Department



Chief Botsch



Deputy Chief  
Engleman



Lt. Larsen



Lt. Mueller



Lt. Laehr



Sgt. Gardiner



Sgt. Lyle



Sgt. Spiczenski



Sgt. Trongeau



Sgt. Rager



Detective  
Thomas



Detective  
Schuster



Detective  
Zoltak



Officer  
Vannucci



Officer  
Friesema



Officer Radke



Officer Buer



Officer  
Gelden



Officer Kerr



Officer Baird



Officer  
Calvert



Officer  
Schenk



Officer  
Gorney



Officer Corey



Officer  
Christensen



Officer  
Tingwald



Officer Wells



Officer Sherifi



Officer Hanley



Officer  
McDonald



Officer  
Holimon



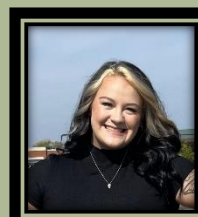
Officer  
Burnside



Officer West



Officer Goder



Officer Sibley



Officer Bayles



Officer Sepanski



K9 Louie



PSS Schmidt



PSS Yankech



\*Roster as of 12/31/23



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# Acknowledgements

***“Courage  
is not the  
absence of  
fear, but  
rather the  
judgment  
that  
something  
else is  
more  
important  
than fear.”***

***-James  
Hollingsworth***

This year's Annual Report continues our effort to provide an opportunity for our community to get to know the Caledonia Police Department, its employees, and some of the many tasks they do. Many of the employees were asked to write about a particular aspect of their assignment or provide some information that might be of interest to the community. On the left side of each article is a short bio listing their position, years of service, and past/current assignments and some of their duties. The articles, of course, do not cover all the duties of each employee of the Department, but they do give some idea of the varied assignments or duties of the employees of your Police Department.

We would like to thank each member of the Department for their dedication, cooperation, and contribution to this Annual Report.





# Chief's Welcome



**Chief Christopher Botsch**

**Position/Title:**

Chief of Police

**Length of Service:**

27 Years/4 years at  
CAPD

**Previous Experience:**

- Officer, Beaver Dam

**WEST ALLIS PD**

- Officer
- Detective
- Captain of Administration
- Captain of Criminal Investigations Bureau
- Deputy Chief of Police Support Services Division
- Deputy Chief of Police Operations Division

**Special Assignments/Training:**

- Crisis Response Unit (SWAT)
- Evidence Technician
- Field Training Officer
- Defense and Arrest Tactics Instructor
- Associate Degree – Police Science
- Bachelor's Degree – Criminal Justice Administration
- Master's Degree – Human Services
- Certified Public Manager
- Northwestern University's School of Police Staff and Command

Village President Tom Weatherston

Village Trustees

Members of the Police and Fire Commission

Residents, Community Leaders, Business Owners, and Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is again my honor and privilege to present to you the Caledonia Police Department's Annual Report. This report is designed to share information and activities occurring throughout this past year. This past year has been a great year for your Caledonia Police Department as we have a renewed focus, additional staff, and a new building on the horizon.

In 2023, we adopted the motto of "*Community Focused ~ Data Driven*," with the goal of highlighting our strong emphasis on community engagement and partnerships as well as highlighting our strategic use of data to more effectively utilize our resources to drive department programs and operations and to hold ourselves and others accountable. We are messaging this motto, both internally and externally, to emphasize and reinforce our commitment in these two areas.

Staffing has been a significant challenge for us for the last several years, but we have made significant headway in 2023, with the passage of a public safety referendum. The Caledonia Police Department had been understaffed compared to peer communities and required additional officers to effectively serve the citizens of Caledonia. With just 36 sworn officers, Caledonia had the lowest ratio of officers per population and officers per square mile amongst peer communities. For 2023, CAPD staffed a typical shift with four patrol personnel, requiring each officer to patrol about 11.5 square miles – an area larger than many entire municipalities in Wisconsin.

The Village Board and staff have worked diligently over the last several years to address these staffing challenges in a fiscally prudent manner. However, the ability to increase funding to the extent needed was not possible.

Because of state-imposed levy limits, Caledonia needed to gain approval from taxpayers through a referendum to increase the tax levy to fund additional staffing.

The Board made the decision to ask the voters, by way of a referendum, to decide if there should be an increase in public safety personnel. The referendum was presented to voters on the April 4<sup>th</sup> ballot, and a request to fund 8 additional officers (and 6 additional fire fighters) was approved.

As of January 1, 2024, the Caledonia Police Department is authorized and budgeted for 44 sworn police officers. Additional staff resources will enable the Caledonia Police Department to augment its shift staffing to meet peak demand, commit the necessary resources to consistently perform more thorough investigations, and adequately patrol the Village while balancing proactive and reactive duties and having a greater presence in the community.

We also spent 2023 putting the finishing touches on the new Public Safety Building, with a move-in date in early 2024. The address of our new facility is 5045 Chester Lane, Caledonia, WI 53402. The move couldn't come fast enough, as our old facility continued to plague us with a multitude of problems, to include reoccurring flooding in the lower level. Our new facility meets industry standards and best practices and will assist us in providing progressive law enforcement services. A new police facility provides a safe and professional environment for staff and reduces our risk and liability in many areas. A new facility also projects a positive and professional image for the Police Department and the Village of Caledonia.

We are extremely thankful for all the support we have received in 2023, and we look forward with anticipation to all that we can accomplish together in 2024.

Respectfully,



Christopher Botsch  
Chief of Police





# Citizens Academy



**Lt. Robert Mueller**

**Position/Title:**

3<sup>rd</sup> shift Patrol  
Lieutenant

**Length of Service:**

- 19 years – CAPD
- 5 Years - DNR
- Promoted to Sergeant in 2011
- Promoted to Lieutenant 2018

**Special Training and Assignments:**

- Fleet Manager
- Evidence Technician
- Field Training Officer
- Field Training Supervisor
- Honor Guard
- Property Manager
- Leadership in Police Organizations
- Front Line Supervisor
- FBI LEEDA Command Supervision
- Incident Command
- FEMA Disaster Scenario
- General Law Enforcement Instructor
- Criminal Law Instructor

During 2023, the Caledonia Police Department hosted its 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Citizen's Academy. Attendees were given a first-hand in-depth view of various police functions such as emergency vehicle operations, criminal investigations, and use of force scenarios. This in-depth view provided a unique perspective from the officer's point of view into how the police department functions.

The goal of our Citizen's Academy is to establish and strengthen our relationship with the citizens and business community of Caledonia. This relationship provides a robust communication channel between the officers and citizens which is essential to our success as we continue to serve everyone in our community.

Graduates of our Citizen's Academy become part of a very select group of alumni who continue to support the police department through volunteer opportunities. We often look to the alumni group for support during community engagement events, drug take back programs, or as role-players during our in-house training programs.

As we look to 2024, we are excited to offer our 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Citizen's Academy. We are currently accepting applications which can be picked up at our new Public Safety Building located at 5045 Chester Ln Caledonia, WI 53402. For more information about applying for upcoming Citizen's Academies, please contact Lieutenant Robert Mueller at 262-835-4423 ext. 1031 or email [rmueller@caledonia-wi.gov](mailto:rmueller@caledonia-wi.gov).

**Reviews:**

*"I did this last year. Hands down the best time I had next to the Honor Flight I went on with my dad."* Gene Pagel, 2023 Citizen's Academy Graduate

*"I did this last year, and I HIGHLY recommend."* Abby Poznanski, 2023 Citizen's Academy Graduate





# Cops and Kids



**Officer Andrew Gelden**

**Position/Title:**  
1<sup>st</sup> shift Patrol Officer

**Length of Service:**  
• 9 Years

**Special Training and Assignments:**

- Humane Officer
- Department Honor Guard
- Evidence Technician
- CIT training
- Bike Patrol Office
- 2<sup>nd</sup> year Brazilian Jujitsu

**Education:**

- Bachelor's degree – Education/Human Development

Over my nine years in policing, I've embraced various roles and responsibilities. Transitioning from night to day shifts has shifted my approach, leading me to prioritize connecting with the community, especially in schools. By making regular visits, I've become a familiar and trusted presence for both kids and residents in the Village of Caledonia.

At schools like Olympia Brown and Gifford, I engage with students by offering fist bumps, high fives, and hugs. Initially met with curiosity, my presence has evolved into friendly greetings like "Hi Officer Gelden!" This positive interaction fosters trust and helps kids see officers as approachable allies in times of need.

At Olympia Brown, I'm privileged to be the officer students choose to have lunch with as a reward for good behavior. It's heartening to hear about their day and learn about their interests during these lunches. Occasionally, I try and bring in a special treat for the students like food from a business in Caledonia or a goodie bag with Caledonia Police swag.

Additionally, Deputy Chief Engleman and I have participated in community policing efforts, including reading stories to students during lunchtime at Gifford.

I'm grateful to Olympia Brown and Gifford for allowing me to cultivate these meaningful relationships with students and staff. Special thanks to Officer Sides for highlighting the importance and rewards of engaging with schools.









# Criminal Case Review



**Detective Lakentric Thomas**

**Position/Title:**

1<sup>st</sup> Shift Detective

**Length of Service:**

18 Years CAPD  
4 ½ years  
Whitewater PD

Promoted to  
Detective in 2017

**Special Training:**

- Certified Mobile Device Examiner
- SFST Instructor
- Basic Computer Evidence Recovery Training Examiner (BCERT)

**Memberships:**

ICAC Internet Crimes  
Against Children Task  
Force

On Monday, August 21, 2023, I reviewed a case assignment, from the ICAC Database website. I was assigned a Cybertip and reviewed the case file and downloaded the files. The downloaded files contained the Cybertip, a Charter Communications response to an administrative subpoena, and an image of suspected child pornography.

## **Cybertip #159766833**

I reviewed a cybertip from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC). NCMEC received the report on 4/03/2023. The incident type was identified as child images (unclothed). There was a Hash Match for the image, but the file was not reviewed by NCMEC. A total of one file was uploaded.

An email with an attachment photo was sent with a Yahoo email address. The email that was sent had an attached file image. The suspect in this incident was identified in the Cybertip.

An administrative subpoena was sent to Charter Communications. The subpoena was for records associated with IP address on 3/28/23. Charter Communications responded with the subscriber information on June 15, 2023, for the suspect IP address. The IP address came back to an address in the Village of Caledonia.

## **Yahoo search warrant return**

On Monday, August 28, 2023, I reviewed an email from Yahoo. The email was in reference to a search warrant that I sent them for the account of the email address. Yahoo sent the results for the search warrant. The message with the child pornography was in the sent box and the inbox.

## **Knock and Talk at Suspected Residence**

On Thursday, November 2, 2023, I continued follow up for this investigation. Detective Schuster and I drove to a residence in Caledonia, for a knock and talk at the residence, reference this investigation.

I was able to identify that the suspect resided at the address in the Village of Caledonia together. The suspect confirmed that his email address was the Yahoo email address in question.

The suspect stated that he thinks he knows what this is about. He advised that he had some memory of the email sent in April. I told him the reason that I was there was that everything on the internet is monitored by someone. I told him that if something inappropriate is seen on the internet, it gets flagged. I told him that something he put on the internet was flagged and sent to the Wisconsin Department of Justice. I explained that this was an inappropriate image that was sent to the email of the suspect, by the suspect. The suspect sent the email to himself. I asked the suspect if he knew what I was talking about. He advised that he has a pretty good idea of what I'm talking about. I told him that he sent an email of a photo to himself. I told him that the photo got flagged as child pornography. I explained that was the reason I was at the residence.

I asked the suspect about the search terms that he used to find pornography. He explained the terms that he uses. Ultimately the terms that he used in searching led him to the image that he saved which got flagged as an inappropriate image.

I collected the laptop, cell phone, iPad, and flash drive for a search. I conducted a preview of the laptop and saw images of child pornography. The laptop was sent to Wisconsin Division of Criminal Investigation for a forensic download. The laptop is still being reviewed and criminal charges are pending in this matter.





# Criminal Case Review



**Detective Christopher Schuster**

**Position/Title:**

1<sup>st</sup> Shift Detective

**Length of Service:**

- 7 Years CAPD
- 11 years UW Milwaukee PD
- Promoted to Detective in 2020

**Special Training and Assignments:**

- Evidence Technician
- Domestic Violence Intervention Team
- Racine County Sexual Assault Response Team
- Management and Enforcement of Sex Offender Ordinance
- Professional Communications Instructor
- Traffic Grant Coordinator (UWMPD)
- Bike Patrol Team (UWMPD)
- Field Training Officer (UWMPD)
- UWMPD representative for LGBTQ union

For the past year, the Caledonia Police Department been investigating a residence in the village that was suspected of human trafficking, credit card fraud, prostitution, and the sale of illegal drugs. The resident that resided at the property had connections throughout the state of Wisconsin.

In a joint effort with the Brookfield Police Department, The Racine County Sheriff's Office, The Winnebago County Sheriff's Office, Outagamie County Sheriff's Office, The Walworth County Sheriff's Office and the FBI, the Caledonia Police Department was able to spearhead an investigation that led to a search warrant being executed on the individual's residence.

While executing the search warrant, the individual was taken into custody peacefully. The Caledonia Police Department seized 20.0 g of heroin and fentanyl, several items of drug paraphernalia, meth, meth manufacturing equipment, marijuana, stolen mail, stolen checks, and stolen ID cards. This investigation led to over 78 felonies being charged to the resident in Racine County. This case highlighted the teamwork of law-enforcement officers working together across the state of Wisconsin and culminating in a success story and getting dangerous drugs off the streets.



# Criminal Case Review



**Detective Chad Zoltak**

**Position/Title:**  
Detective

**Length of Service:**  
8 Years at CAPD

**Special Training and Assignments:**

- Drug Recognition Expert
- General Law Enforcement Instructor
- SFST Instructor
- Taser Instructor
- Intoximeter Operator
- Evidence Technician
- Crisis Intervention
- Peer Support

**Memberships:**  
Crowd Control Team  
DVI Team  
Arson Task Force  
Entry Team

## Case 23-19742

On December 17, 2023, Officer Gorney and Officer Holimon observed a stop sign violation and conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle at the HWY 31 and HWY 32 split. They approached the driver and identified him.

While speaking with the subject, Officer Holimon observed an uncased AR-15 style weapon in the back seat, and officers ordered the subject out of the vehicle. When he exited the car, officers also observed a loaded .357 magnum revolver on the driver's seat that the subject was sitting on.

Checks were conducted on the subject, and it was discovered he was a multiple time convicted felon. The subject was arrested, and a search of his vehicle was conducted. In total, two firearms were confirmed in the vehicle, a .300 black out caliber, "Ghost gun," pistol, the loaded .357 magnum revolver, ammunition for both weapons and 8.73 grams of cocaine.

Detective Zoltak then conducted, "Test Fires," on the .300 black out pistol and discovered the firearm had been modified to shoot fully automatic. Detective Zoltak then contacted a local ATF agent to have the suspect charged federally. In March 2024, the subject was federally indicted on weapons and drug charges stemming from this case.

This case is a great example of how a simple traffic violation can turn into a much larger case.



# Emergency Management & Incident Command System



**Sgt. Rick Rager**

**Position/Title:**  
2<sup>nd</sup> shift Patrol  
Sergeant

**Length of Service:**  
18 Years

- Promoted to Detective in 2015
- Metro Drug Unit 2016-2020
- Promoted to Sergeant in 2020

**Special Training and Assignments:**

- Defense and Arrest Tactics Instructor
- Handgun Instructor
- Active Shooter Management Instructor
- Tactical Response Instructor

Have you ever sat in a class and had no clue what they were talking about? “What is this foreign language the professor is speaking?” This is Emergency Management and Incident Command System to the untrained officer. During the summer of 2023, Lt Mueller, Sgt Trongeau, and I, Sgt Rager, attended Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) level 300 and level 400 courses. We were able to get our feet wet in the Emergency Management realm, we learned a small amount of the foreign language FEMA communicates, enough to at least carry-on a conversation. In each of the courses there were police officers from multiple jurisdictions, fire fighters, paramedics, and civilians wanting to start a career in Incident Management.

The level 300 course taught the student about the different forms needed to properly communicate during an emergency situation. This communication can be used at local or state level, but is mandatory at the federal level. If the disaster or significant event requires federal assistance, this is their only form of communication. Incident Command Form (ICS form) 201 is needed for Incident Briefings, ICS form 205 for radio use and protocol, ICS 206 form for Medical Usage and Needs, etc.; this is a small example of documents required to be completed for a natural disaster or event in which federal aid would be needed. They have booklets to guide the user on which form is needed to complete a certain task.

During the training sessions, students were taught by FEMA Master Instructors who travel the country. These master instructors volunteer for Team Rubicon, the Red Cross, and other private entity organizations. The instructors were the best of the best in their field. They shared stories of major disasters like Hurricane Katrina which devastated New Orleans in 2005 or assisting in September 11. Students of the class role played command positions to orchestrate the rescue of many disaster scenarios. Ultimately, the student left the training having a better understanding and confidence of the FEMA and Incident Command Process.

During the Caledonia Holiday Train 2023, Sgt Trongeau utilized the FEMA Incident Command Forms to structure and organize the event. Moving forward for planned events, the Caledonia Police Department will continue to use this command structure. Utilizing these forms for a planned event is an excellent time to practice in case a natural disaster and/or Federal Aid is needed.

Overall, two weeks of incident command and FEMA training transformed three supervisors to speak the language of the Federal Government.



# New Officer Perspective



**Officer Peyton West**

**Position/Title:**

2<sup>nd</sup> shift Officer

**Length of Service:**

1 years at CAPD

**Special Training and Assignments:**

- Intoximeter Operator
- Crisis Intervention

I always knew I wanted to pursue a career in criminal justice, but it wasn't until my post high school education that I realized law enforcement was the route I wanted to take. During that time, I spent a semester completing an internship with the West Allis Police Department and that even furthered my interest and solidified that this was the career I wanted to have. I began the academy in January of 2023 and was sworn in as a Caledonia police officer in April 2023. The academy was extremely eye opening and wasn't like anything I was expecting. Because of attending the police academy, I made many friends from several departments located around southeastern Wisconsin.

I began my field training in May of 2023, shortly after graduating the academy. I've always been a hands-on learner and I felt that I learned so much during the academy, but I very soon realized there was so much more to learn. During field training (FTO) I responded to a wide variety of calls. Each one of my field training officers taught me something different, but all of them made me feel like they wanted to see me succeed and I feel that that has made me become more ambitious and motivated to serve the community I represent. Field training was certainly no sunshine and rainbows though. This was my first real experience of shift work, holidays, and weekends on the job.

After approximately three months of FTO, it was time for me to be on my own. I was assigned to 3<sup>rd</sup> shift patrol, and honestly wasn't sure that it would be a good fit for me. While on 3<sup>rd</sup> shift for the remainder of 2023, I learned so much. Because of the great supervisors and the experienced officers that feel like family to me, I can go above and beyond while knowing I have support to lean on when needed.

Although I have had an enjoyable start to my career in law enforcement, everything will never be perfect. I was placed on 2<sup>nd</sup> shift in 2024, which ultimately wasn't where I wanted to be after I realized how much I enjoyed 3<sup>rd</sup> shift. However, I'm still happy to say the support from my coworkers has never changed and working as a team did not end. In this profession I've learned to be extremely adaptable, even when I don't want to be. Missing out on your weekend plans or events is something that became a reality for me.

During this last year, I was fortunate enough to attend crisis intervention training, A.R.I.D.E and intoximeter operator. These trainings are beneficial for myself and also helps me better serve the Village of Caledonia. From my coworkers, additional trainings and the citizens I serve, I have learned a lot this past year. I look forward to the next years challenges and hope for a rewarding career in law enforcement.



# K9 Program



**Officer Cory Radke**

**Position/Title:**  
3<sup>rd</sup> Shift/K9 Officer

**Length of Service:**  
11 Years

**Special Training and Assignments:**

- General Law Enforcement Instructor



**K9 Louie**

**Position/Title:**  
3<sup>rd</sup> Shift/K9 Officer

**Length of Service:**  
7 Years

**Special Training**

- Narcotics Detection
- Tracking
- Apprehension
- Article Searches

## **K9 PROGRAM:**

As many of you already know, the Caledonia Police Department K9 Unit is made up of a handler and my partner K9 Louie. As of 2023 we have been working together for 7 years. Throughout this time, we have definitely had our share of highs and lows.

## **STATS:**

In 2023, K9 Louie and I sniffed 84 vehicles, conducted 8 area searches, 3 tracks, 2 building searches, 2 school sniffs, and assisted with 1 search warrant. Throughout these deployments Louie had located numerous amounts of narcotics and assisted with locating numerous suspects.

## **EVENTS:**

K9 Louie and I have been a part of several events, mostly showing Louie off to the community. Some of the local events that Louie has been a part of include Racine Policeman's Ball, Shop With A Cop, Community Care Days (CAPD), Moose Lodge #437's annual meeting, and Cans For K9 Cops.

Most of the events are fundraisers geared towards supporting the local K9 Units/donations towards the K9 Unit. Without the communities' support and donations, the K9 Unit would most likely would not be able to exist.

## **K9 TRAINING:**

K9 Louie and I attend monthly training a minimum of 2 days a month. This is to keep K9 Louie's skills performing at a high level with every aspect of his job. His duties include narcotics detection, apprehension, tracking, and article searches. Every year there is a working conference "Wisconsin Law Enforcement Canine Handlers Association" (WLECHA). This is a 4-day working conference that allows K9 teams to see a wide range of scenarios along with a little competition.

I look forward to serving the community with K9 Louie and from the bottom of my heart, I want to thank everyone for their continued support.



# Police Support Services



**Abby Schmidt**

**Position/Title:**

Police Technician

**Length of Service:**

3 Years

1 ½ years  
Dispatcher for  
Pleasant Prairie  
Police Department

**Special Assignments:**

- Evidence Custodian
- Payroll
- Notary Public
- Maintain office supplies
- Accounts Payable
- CIB TIME Agency Coordinator
- NIBRS Certified

The police support services in our public safety building currently consist of two, fulltime, non-sworn personnel. Both positions are supervised by the Lieutenant of the Detective Bureau. Together, they are responsible for the following duties:

- Maintaining, depositing, and logging all incoming checks and currency that enter the police department. This may be for records requests, donations, and alarm billing to name a few.
- Handling accounts payable, payroll, invoicing, and logging all these items. The accounts payable would be for any incoming invoicing to the police department. Payroll consists of ensuring the scheduling and timecards match before submission to village hall. Invoices are generated from records requests or special assignments for our officers.
- Acting as a liaison between the police department, municipal and county courts.
- Verifying and processing citations, accident reports, driver condition reports, pursuit reports, and alcohol forms that have been turned in by sworn personnel.
- Inventorying and reordering, when necessary, office supplies and other needs of the police department when necessary.
- Handle all incoming phone calls that come directly to the police department along with any citizen walk in needs directing them to the proper staff as needed.
- Performing background checks for police investigations.
- Managing and compliance of State of Wisconsin motor vehicle crash reporting as well as uploading them for public access to [crashdocs.org](http://crashdocs.org).
- Processing and submitting criminal case packets to the appropriate agency.
- Disbursing incoming subpoenas.
- Coordinating and overseeing the Wisconsin TIME System training, recertification, and compliance for all personnel.
- Release reports, photos, bodycams, dashcams, and discovery packets in accordance with the open records laws.





# Social Media



**Sgt. James Gardiner**

**Position/Title:**

1<sup>st</sup> Shift Patrol  
Sergeant

**Length of Service:**

27 Years

- Promoted to Sergeant in 2015

**Special Assignments:**

- Evidence Custodian
- ATV Search and Rescue
- Crime Scene Photography
- Crisis Intervention Training
- LIDAR/RADAR Instructor

**Awards:**

- Lifesaving Award 2014
- Wisconsin Crime Prevention Practitioners Association Crime Prevention Officer of the Year 2020

“No one was happier than I was when I was told to once again provide my insights on the state of social media for the Caledonia Police Department.”

Reading that without context, what was I thinking when I wrote that? You don’t know, do you? Most of the time people cannot tell what the writer was thinking when they write things. Was I being sarcastic or honest? With the addition of anonymous accounts and the lack of personal responsibility for what is said, the internet can/has become, as Obi- Wan said about Mos Eisley, “a wretched hive of scum and villainy”. People post what is on their minds without a care, others take personal ownership of things they do not own and get offended when people challenge their pre-conceived ideas and thoughts. Others are preying on unsuspecting victims and using social media as a steppingstone to contact people to scam them, attack them online, stalk someone or worse. Trying to thread my way through that can be a challenge.

So, what am I to do. Apparently my biggest “crime” is to use humor on the department’s page to spread a message of awareness. I have been accused of being swarmy, snarky, sarcastic, blunt, and funny all at the same time. Meh. The worst complaint about the humor is some people don’t find it funny. Others think it’s not the place. My goal is to get information to you. My message can be simple enough as “here is a lost pet” to “there is a sex offender moving here”. Obviously one can only be given in a serious manner and one I can use a picture of Ofc. Gelden. If I post something funny or at least entertaining, and you interact with it, then the algorithm used by Facebook will show other things from the page. Sort of like when you search on Google for a T-shirt and then you get ads or emails about shirts for sale. So many ways to protect yourself from this happening, but that is for another day.

My main goal is to interact with the public, a way for people to get a hold of us when they need answers. We can’t and don’t monitor the page 24/7, so there is a message requesting a call to dispatch or a self-help line for those trying to reach help when having a crisis.

There are other pages the community uses to communicate, and I do monitor them when I can. Caledonia Area Community Page, Franksville Community Page, Caddy Vista Neighborhood Watch, Racine County News/Scanner, and my favorite Caledonia Coyote Sightings are the ones most likely to have issues pertaining to the department.

The Department has used the Facebook page for a variety of reasons including:

- Active incidents in the community
- Traffic/road work issues
- Village Board vacancy
- Suspects/persons of interest
- Sex offender placement
- Community engagements by officers
- Scheduled events sponsored by the Department (Coffee/Cones with Cops, Community Care Day)
- Public safety referendum
- Department fund raisers
- Weekly department activity report
- and of course, Bridgney with box trucks and Ofc. Gelden and puppies.

So, for the past year how did we do? The metric Facebook uses is reach, defined as the organic or paid distribution of your Facebook content, including posts, stories, and ads. It also includes reach from other sources, such as tags, check-ins and Page or profile visits. This number also includes reach from posts and stories that were boosted. Reach is only counted once it occurs from both organic and paid distribution. This metric is estimated.

The department does not pay for posts to be promoted. So, every interaction is organic and driven by your reaction to it, whether it be a like, comment or share.

The page's 18, 720 account audience has remained steady with 65% female and 35% male. 61.2% of the accounts are in the zip codes for and surrounding the Village. Our total reach for the year was 1.2 million accounts (cumulative), up 76.8% from 2022.

Looking at this photo you can see three large spikes, each corresponding with posts that had a large reach. This is the reach from our page only. However, with shares the total audience was the inverse of what was shown.



The posts are:

- December 4<sup>th</sup> Holiday Train video reaching 359,000 accounts.
- Oct 13<sup>th</sup> Announcement the Holiday Train is returning reaching 246,000 accounts.
- July 30<sup>th</sup> Officers stopped out with a Lemonade Stand raising funds for Make-a-wish and the post reached 222,000 accounts.

The top two had higher numbers as they were shared more than others. Videos will always have more reactions than pictures and picture posts more than text only one.

Moving forward, we will continue to be using what has been working for us. Weekly updates, community engagement and special announcements allow us to reach you. Using younger, better looking than me (not a challenge) officers to post on Instagram/Reels is one of the things for 2024.

Stay Safe

Sgt. G.

#Turnedinontimeforextracredit

#dothisagainnextyear

#humorisasignofbeinghealthy



# Traffic Accidents



**Sgt. Robert Lyle**

**Position/Title:**

3<sup>rd</sup> shift Patrol  
Sergeant

**Length of Service:**

16 Years

Promoted to  
Sergeant in 2016

**Special Assignments:**

- Evidence Technician
- Crisis Intervention Trained
- Crash Investigations Level I
- Drug Recognition Expert
- Field Training Program Supervisor

When we talked about crash reporting data last, the year was 2021. We had looked at data from calendar year 2020 and discussed how there had been 396 crashes in the Village of Caledonia that year despite the significant reduction in traffic volume on the roadways. I won't mention why there was a reduction in traffic volume, but feel free to use your imagination.

Fast-forward to 2023's crash data. The numbers still aren't great, but it would be fair to say there's some silver-lining to point out. Calendar year 2023, our Village had 416 crashes reported. That is an average of just over 1 per day. This is still far too many crashes – BUT – when you consider that life is essentially back to normal, there are more cars on the road, business traffic is being added to the village, homes are being built, etc., it was only slightly higher than 2020. Of the 416 crashes, 79 of them were injury-related, and there was one fatality, which was a pedestrian struck during heavy snowfall.

Vehicles are being manufactured with more safety features than ever before. Traffic safety & education are a point of focus in our community. The Department of Transportation has taken steps to make roadway, signage, and visibility improvements at what are known problem areas. These are among the main reasons that crash data in our village is not astronomical.

With each crash report that we submit, data is mined from the reports by traffic safety experts at the local, state, and federal levels to determine where improvements are needed. These data points range from the type of roadway (concrete, asphalt, gravel, etc.) to the type of traffic control that was available during a particular crash (such as a "normal" stop sign versus a flashing stop sign or even a stop sign with high-visibility orange flags). Other improvements such as rumble strips along Highway 38, flashing yellow warning signs on the approach to our train bridges, and traffic standard (stop light) improvements all make a big difference.

The two leading causes of crashes every year are speed-related offenses and drunk driving. Unfortunately, this is likely to always be the case. In fact, there were about 150 drunk driving arrests made by your Caledonia PD in 2023. Another unusual trend was noted in 2023. Our agency submitted 22 “Driver Condition and Behavior Reports” to the DOT in 2023, which is the highest number of submissions since 2019. Of the 22 submissions, 16 of them involved an operator that crashed prior to coming in contact with law enforcement.

What’s a Driver Condition or Behavior Report you might ask? In simplest terms, it’s the system in place to report unsafe operators to the DOT, who then determines if a review of their driving privileges is appropriate. Most commonly, these reports are submitted for medical or age-related issues, but they extend far beyond that, such as for repeat drunk drivers or for someone who is a flat-out terrible driver. According to state law, “If the secretary has good cause to believe that a licensed operator is incompetent or otherwise not qualified to be licensed” the operator will be required to submit to examination, to include knowledge and/or skills tests to determine their driving eligibility. Hearsay or second-hand information is not accepted for these reports.

Many times, these observations are made by citizens and reported to us while they’re happening, or officers see the unsafe driving themselves. A little-known fact, the report forms (which are publicly online via the DMV’s website as form #MV3141) can also be completed by citizens and even medical personnel. This is helpful especially if you have major concerns for a relative or friend that you feel is a danger to other motorists. Healthcare professionals even have the authority to have someone’s driving privileges immediately canceled without review.

There are some easy ways to reduce the number of crashes every year, as well as reduce the severity of injuries. Wear your seatbelt, slow down, and drive in a manner that will get you to your destination safely. Drive defensively, and never drive tired, impaired, or overly emotional. Remember, as a vehicle operator, you are responsible for every person in your vehicle! Treat their safety accordingly, and always make sure children are properly restrained in the correct safety seats. Lastly, if you’ve identified someone that may be at the point in life where operating a vehicle may no longer be a viable option, start those difficult talks and consider involving people they trust. By following these tips, you can help us keep your community safe.



# Traffic and Municipal Citations



**Lt. Gary Larsen**

**Position/Title:**

Early Shift Patrol  
Lieutenant

**Length of Service:**

27 Years

**Previous Assignments:**

- US Army Military Police 1984-1991
- Milwaukee County Sheriff's Deputy 1994-1996
- Detective Bureau (CAPD)
- Sergeant (CAPD)

**Special Training and Assignments:**

- Crime Scene Tech
- Arson Investigator
- Accident Investigator
- Field Training Officer
- Public Information Officer
- Racine County Traffic Safety Commission
- Member – IACP (International Association of Chiefs of Police)

**Education:**

- B.S. – UW-Milwaukee
- Northwestern University School of Police Staff and Command

The purpose of traffic and municipal citations is to promote safety on our roadways and keep an orderly society for us all to live in. When an officer starts their career, it is common for them to “feel bad” at times when writing tickets. Even seasoned officers feel that way at times. Hopefully the issued citation causes the individual to be more mindful of their action and future accidents or injury are avoided. Unfortunately, there are those among us who feel they don’t have to follow rules or refuse to follow rules. These individuals do not give thought that their actions may eventually hurt others.

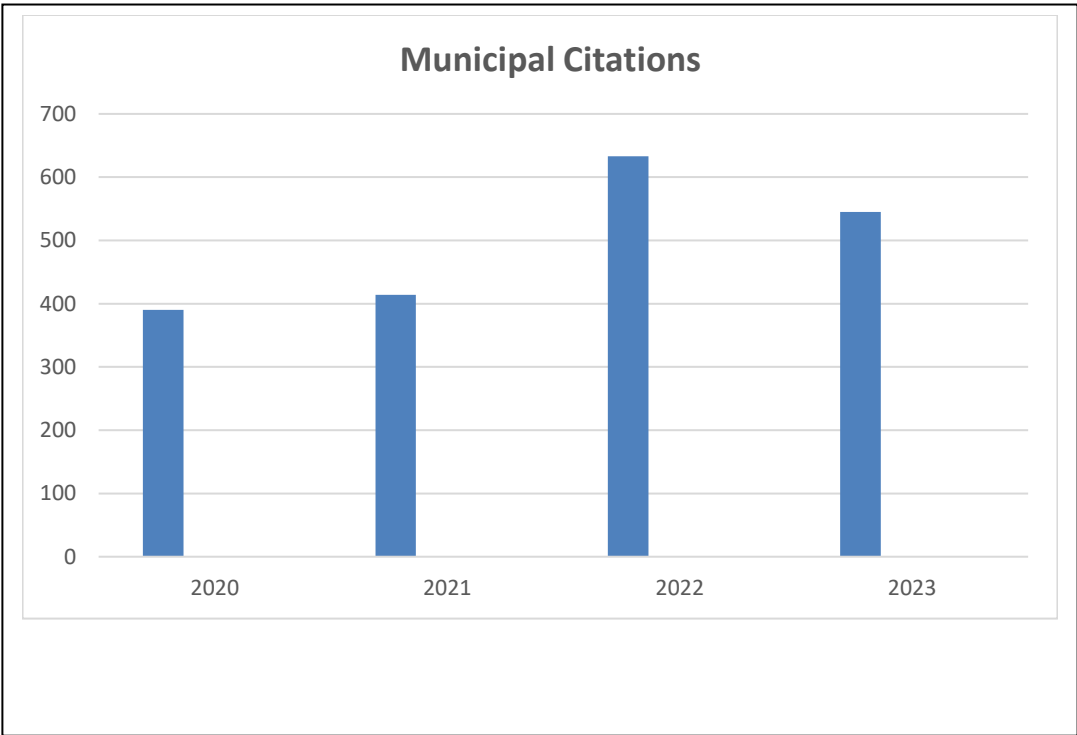
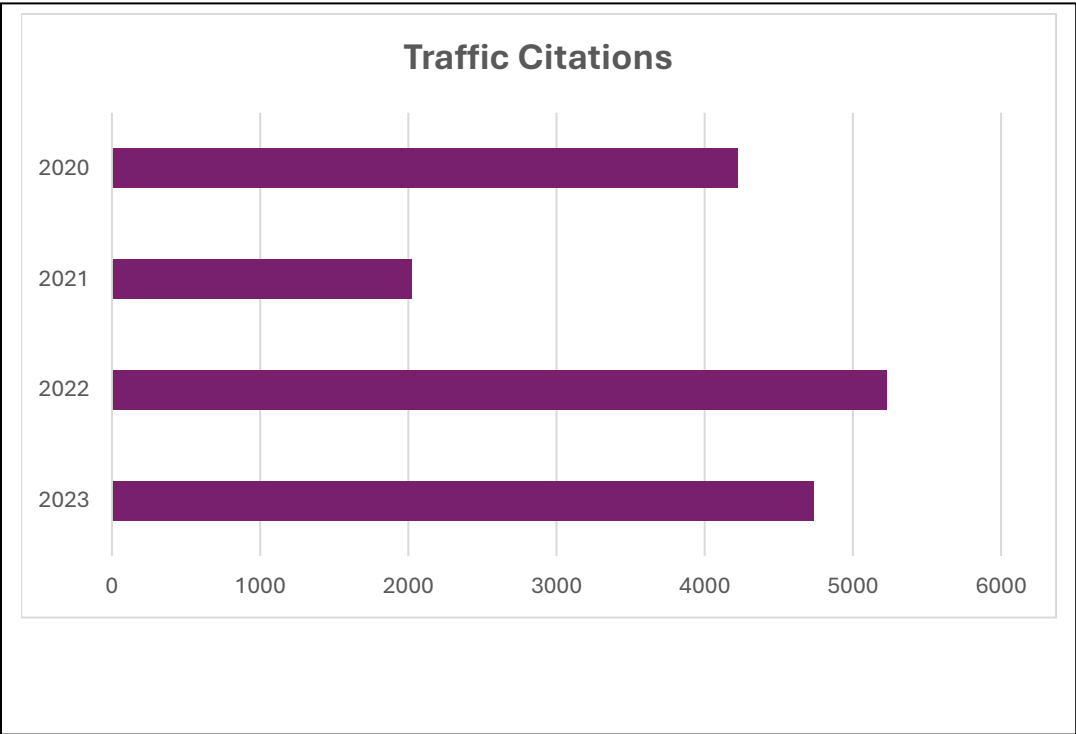
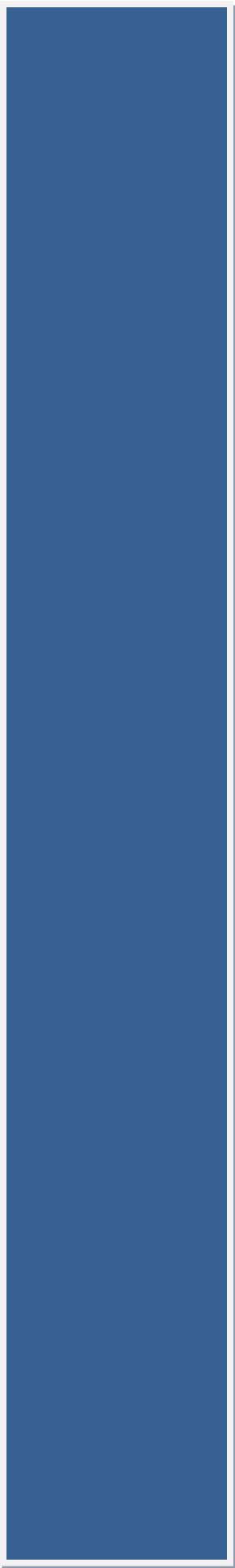
The officers of the Caledonia Police Department enforce violations while considering individual situations and are not out “looking to harass” our fellow citizens. In 2023, officers arrested 117 motorists for Operating While Intoxicated. They cited **1028** individuals for driver’s license violations. Many of these individuals do not have insurance. There were 416 accidents, 79 of which had injuries. Caledonia had one fatal accident in 2023.

While conducting traffic stops, officers must be concerned for their safety. We rarely have knowledge of who we are stopping. Officers must consider their approach, observations of the behaviors they encounter from drivers and occupants of vehicles.

In 2023, officers encountered individuals with firearms while conducting traffic stops. Many have valid CCW permits, however 46 of the traffic stops firearms were located that were in violation. In one instance a passenger in a vehicle had been released from prison the same day and was already armed. In another stop, an armed passenger had an active warrant for a firearm violation in Milwaukee County. There were 16 stops that in addition to firearms, drugs were also located. In eight stops involving firearms, the operator was intoxicated. During one traffic stop, the vehicle contained four juveniles, all of whom were armed with pistols and a ski mask was also located in the vehicle.

Fortunately, all the traffic stops involving firearm violations ended well for the officers. Partly due to officers using good tactics and by the grace of God.







# By the Numbers



## Lt. Erin Laehr

### Position/Title:

- Lieutenant
- Detective Bureau Supervisor
- Police Support Services Supervisor

### Length of Service:

- 24 Years/21 years at CAPD
- Detective – 2013
- Patrol Sergeant - 2015
- Administrative Sergeant - 2016
- Lieutenant - 2019

### Special Training and Assignments:

- Certified Public Manager – UW Madison
- Command Leadership Institute
- Multidisciplinary Task Force
- Sexual Offender Predator Core Group
- General/Vehicle Contacts Instructor
- CIB TIME Agency Coordinator
- DOJ/CSA Local Agency Security Officer
- NIBRS Administrator
- Member IACP
- FBI LEEDA Command

### Awards:

- Commander's Silver Metal Award – VFW
- Chief's Leadership Commendation Pin 2017

The Village of Caledonia Police Department continues to report monthly crime data to the FBI through the National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS). NIBRS is an incident-based reporting system used by law enforcement agencies in the United States for collecting and reporting data on crimes. NIBRS was created in 2005 and was made mandatory for all law enforcement agencies in the United States by January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021.

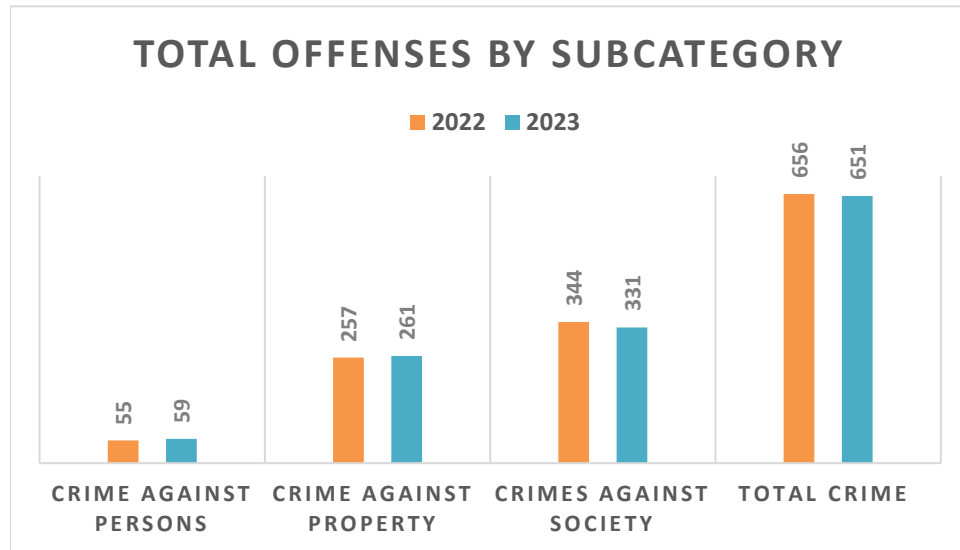
When used to its full potential, NIBRS identifies, with precision, when and where crime takes place, what form it takes, and the characteristics of its victims and perpetrators. Armed with such information, law enforcement can better define the resources it needs to fight crime, as well as use those resources in the most efficient and effective manner. NIBRS:

- **Provides greater specificity in reporting offenses.** Not only does NIBRS look at all the offenses within an incident, but it also looks at many more offenses than the traditional SRS does. NIBRS collects data for 52 offenses, plus 10 additional offenses for which only arrests are reported. SRS counts limited data for 10 offenses and 20 additional crimes for which only arrests are reported.
- **Collects more detailed information,** including incident date and time, whether reported offenses were attempted or completed, expanded victim types, relationships of victims to offenders and offenses, demographic details, location data, property descriptions, drug types and quantities, the offender's suspected use of drugs or alcohol, the involvement of gang activity, and whether a computer was used in the commission of the crime.
- **Helps give context to specific crime problems** such as drug/narcotics and sex offenses, as well as issues like animal cruelty, identity theft, and computer hacking.
- **Provides greater analytic flexibility.** Through NIBRS, data users can see many more facets of crime, as well as relationships and connections among these facets, than SRS provides.

## Caledonia NIBRS data highlights

In 2023, 651 total offenses were reported. 59 crimes against persons, 261 crimes against property, and 331 crimes against society. Case clearance rates for Group A crimes are currently at 60.16% which is higher than the national average of 27.9%. See chart at end of this article for comparisons from 2020 – 2023.

NIBRS also classifies total offenses by subcategory. Below are the comparisons by subcategory for 2022 and 2023.



Below is the comparison of Crime Clearance Rates from 2020 – 2023





# Fleet Maintenance



**Officer Jacob Buer**

**Position/Title:**  
1<sup>st</sup> Shift Patrol Officer

**Length of Service:**  
10 Years - CAPD

14 years total in law enforcement

**Special Training and Assignments:**

- Field Training Officer
- Evidence Technician
- ATV Search and Rescue
- Crisis Intervention Team
- Crowd Control Team
- ARIDE
- Bike Patrol Officer
- Intoximeter Operator
- Fleet Coordinator

**Education:**

- BS – UW Whitewater – Sociology with emphasis in Criminal Justice

The Caledonia Police Department utilizes a variety of vehicles to uphold public safety and support officers in their patrol and investigative duties. Presently, the department's fleet comprises 19 police vehicles, with one squad currently undergoing replacement due to damage.

Our current fleet comprises 12 marked patrol units and 7 unmarked units serving various functions within Patrol, the Detective Bureau, Training, and Administration. Additionally, one vehicle, a marked International 4000 series, has been repurposed from the Caledonia Fire Department to serve as a crime scene processing vehicle for critical incidents.

Due to supply chain issues, we did not receive all the squads we ordered for 2022. However, in 2023, we received 5 new Ford Explorer Police Interceptors for patrol, each equipped with emergency equipment and were integrated into our existing fleet.

Each new Ford Explorer Police Interceptor costs approximately \$40,000, with an additional \$15,000 for upfitting, including emergency lighting, sirens, protective dividers, gun locks, and storage compartments. Furthermore, approximately \$15,000 in supplementary equipment, such as camera systems, radio, computer, and radar units are installed.

Management of the department's fleet is essential to the everyday operations of the Caledonia Police Department, ensuring the functionality and readiness of squads for officers.

**As of 2023, the current fleet includes:**

- 1 - 2016 Ford Explorer K9
- 1 - 2020 Ford Explorer Police Interceptor
- 3 - 2021 Ford Explorer Police Interceptors
- 6 - 2023 Ford Explorer Police Interceptors
- 1 - 2020 Ford F-150
- 1 - 2023 Dodge Charger
- 1 - 2019 Dodge Charger
- 3 - 2017 Dodge Chargers
- 1 - 2007 International 4000 Series Command Vehicle
- 1 - Ford Explorer police interceptor that was totaled and awaiting replacement

Frontline squads typically accumulate between 45,000 to 55,000 miles annually. Based on historical data indicating a significant increase in maintenance costs beyond 100,000 miles, squads approaching this threshold are prioritized for decommissioning and replacement, typically around 115,000 miles or approximately every two to three years.

Retired squads are stripped of all law enforcement-related equipment and auctioned through the Wisconsin Surplus auction. The money from these sales is then allocated to the Village's General Fund.





# Virtual Reality Training



**Sgt. Mike Trongeau**

**Position/Title:**

3<sup>rd</sup> shift Patrol  
Sergeant

**Length of Service:**

11 Years

Promoted to  
Sergeant in 2019

**Special Assignments:**

- Instructor at Gateway Technical College
- Defense and Arrest Tactics Instructor
- Tactical Response Instructor
- Taser Instructor
- Law Enforcement Physical Fitness Instructor

For a law enforcement officer to maintain a level of proficiency, training is an absolute must. Agencies are responsible for ensuring that the officers they employ are capable of handling a multitude of situations, often times having to make split-second decisions with very little information. Many barriers sometimes exist for agencies when trying to implement quality training. Fortunately, advances in technology have helped curb some of these barriers.

Virtual Reality (VR) training has become a very cost-effective method for law enforcement agencies to provide quality, immersive training to their officers. In June of 2023, Inveris Training Solutions completed the installation/setup of Caledonia's first ever virtual training system. Several other manufacturers were explored, but this system seemed to provide the best capabilities in which we were looking for. This system is very similar to the Meta Quest VR headsets that are available at many retailers, however it is equipped with several additional options.

The instructor conducting the training for an officer has the ability to create various scenarios, ranging from mental health crisis to active shooter response. The possibilities are nearly endless and allow instructors to have the scenarios be as involved as their imagination, and reality, will take them. Small details all the way down to a person's hair color, demeanor, and speech patterns can be altered to customize the scenario.





Officers are able to be exposed to several repetitions of a training cycle, which improves muscle memory and reaction times. Improving these types of skills increases the likelihood an officer will perform in an exemplary manner in a real-life situation. In previous methods of scenario training, real-life role players were used. As one can imagine, repeated scenarios with real-life role players inevitably lead to fatigue and a diminished return on the training.

The use of VR training also greatly reduces the likelihood of injury to the officers participating in it. While this type of training is never going to be a replacement for real-life scenarios, it has the advantage of multiple repetitions being possible with less of a toll on the officer and the role players. As previously mentioned, more repetitions of a skill are likely to lead to increased confidence and competence.

Officers are able to train in a relatively small space with the VR system and the need for additional personnel to staff a scenario-based training is greatly reduced. Finding a training venue has been a problem for many agencies that do not have the luxury of their own training center, which is often the case for smaller-sized agencies. The VR system can be set up in most conference rooms or similar spaces, therefore reducing the need for a large venue.



VR training has also evolved to the point where the instructor can utilize different viewpoints to track where the officer focused their attention in a particular scenario. The system has the capability to analyze where the eyes were actually looking in a particular environment and can also assess reaction times. This was certainly possible before, but the accuracy of it is far beyond what the human eye can assess.

One of the last achievements that VR training has made for law enforcement is the ability to expose citizens to some of the situations that law enforcement has to encounter. We have used the VR system to expose members of our Citizen's Academy to various scenarios, which previously had to be replicated by using real role players. That dynamic was not fully immersive and always had the possibility of injury, which is not ideal.

This system has the possibility to be a great tool for all law enforcement training for the future. Again, it does not replace hands-on training and real-life scenarios, but it certainly improves an agency's training capabilities. A highly trained officer is a competent officer, which is what every community needs and deserves to have to protect them.





# Picture Pages

## Shop with a Cop





## Interacting with our Furry Friends



## Support from the Community

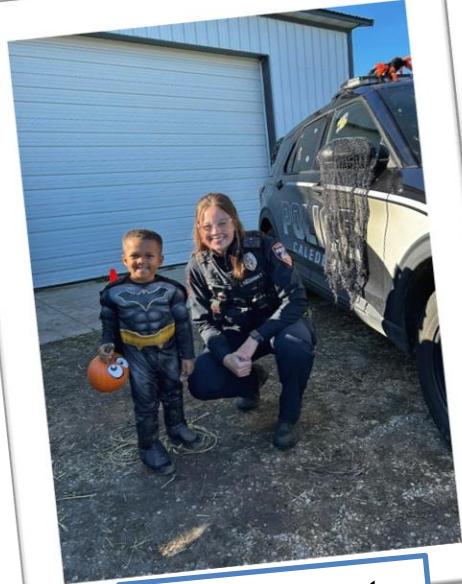




# Community Policing



Treat and Greet



Treat and Greet



Cones with Cops







Lemonade!



Trunk or Treat



**Community Care Day/Touch a Truck**

