ANNUAL REPORT 2015

Countryside Police Department



Joseph G. Ford
CHIEF OF POLICE

City of Countryside
Police Department
JOSEPH G. FORD
CHIEF OF POLICE

March 23, 2016

Mayor Sean McDermott
City of Countryside
5550 East Avenue
Countryside, IL 60525

Dear Mayor McDermott,

On behalf of the men and women of the Countryside Police Department, it is my honor and privilege to present the 2015 Annual Report to you and the esteemed members of our city council. This report will give the reader an overview of the Countryside Police Department as well as the steps our department is taking to continue the professional manner in which we serve our city and the public.

Policing around the country has seen its share of media attention and in most cases this was not very favorable towards police. Our officers continued to handle calls with aplomb and remained committed to our overall goal of public service. In 2015 our officers had contact with individuals on over 6,000 calls for service and over 2,400 traffic stops in addition to their everyday patrol functions. As a department we did not have one citizen complaint. In contrast, we received numerous letters of appreciation and gratitude from a multitude of individuals as well as businesses and other police agencies.

Law enforcement throughout the country has also been dissected by the public and media regarding use of excessive force by police. Countryside police officers made 325 arrests in 2015 and even though 4 of those offenders actively resisted arrest, our officers stayed within the parameters of our recently updated Use of Force policy and review criteria by using only the force necessary to effect the lawful arrest. Our success in this area is directly related to the selection of our officers during the hiring procedure, the ongoing training they receive, and most importantly the officers' ability to handle situations in a manner that defuses potential violence.

A key to the community/police relationship is transparency and our commitment to community involvement. One of our approaches has been through maintaining communication with the public via social media. On July 21, 2015 one Facebook post reached a total of 130,000 views with over 32,000 interactions which ultimately led to the identification of a deceased male subject who had been found in a retention ditch. We also post our weekly police blotter through Facebook and continually use it as a tool to communicate ongoing police events to the public. This along with our existing programs helps us maintain positive and valuable interactions with the public.

The officers and staff of the Countryside Police Department will continue to work within our core values; Integrity, Courage, Excellence, Respect, Compassion, and Dedication and remain proud to serve. I would also like to thank the city fathers and citizens for your continued support of our organization.

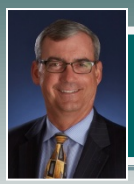
Regards,

Joseph G. Ford
Chief of Police

GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE

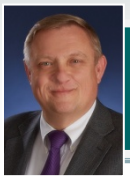
The Countryside Police Department is pleased to recognize Mayor McDermott and the entire City Council for their strong commitment to support the achievement of our mission. The leadership and vision of the Mayor and City Council, along with the Police Committee and the Board of Fire & Police Commissioners, are important factors in our collective efforts to ensure the safety and quality of life for the residents of Countryside.

CITY COUNCIL

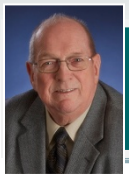


MAYOR
Sean R. McDermott

WARD 1

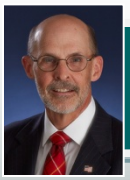


ALDERMAN
Jim Jasinski

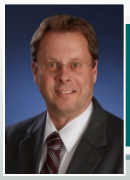


ALDERMAN
Robert Pondelicek

WARD 2

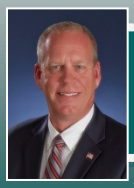


ALDERMAN
Tom Mikolyzk

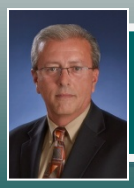


ALDERMAN
John Von Drasek

WARD 3



ALDERMAN
Mark Benson



ALDERMAN
Scott Musillami

Updated May 2015

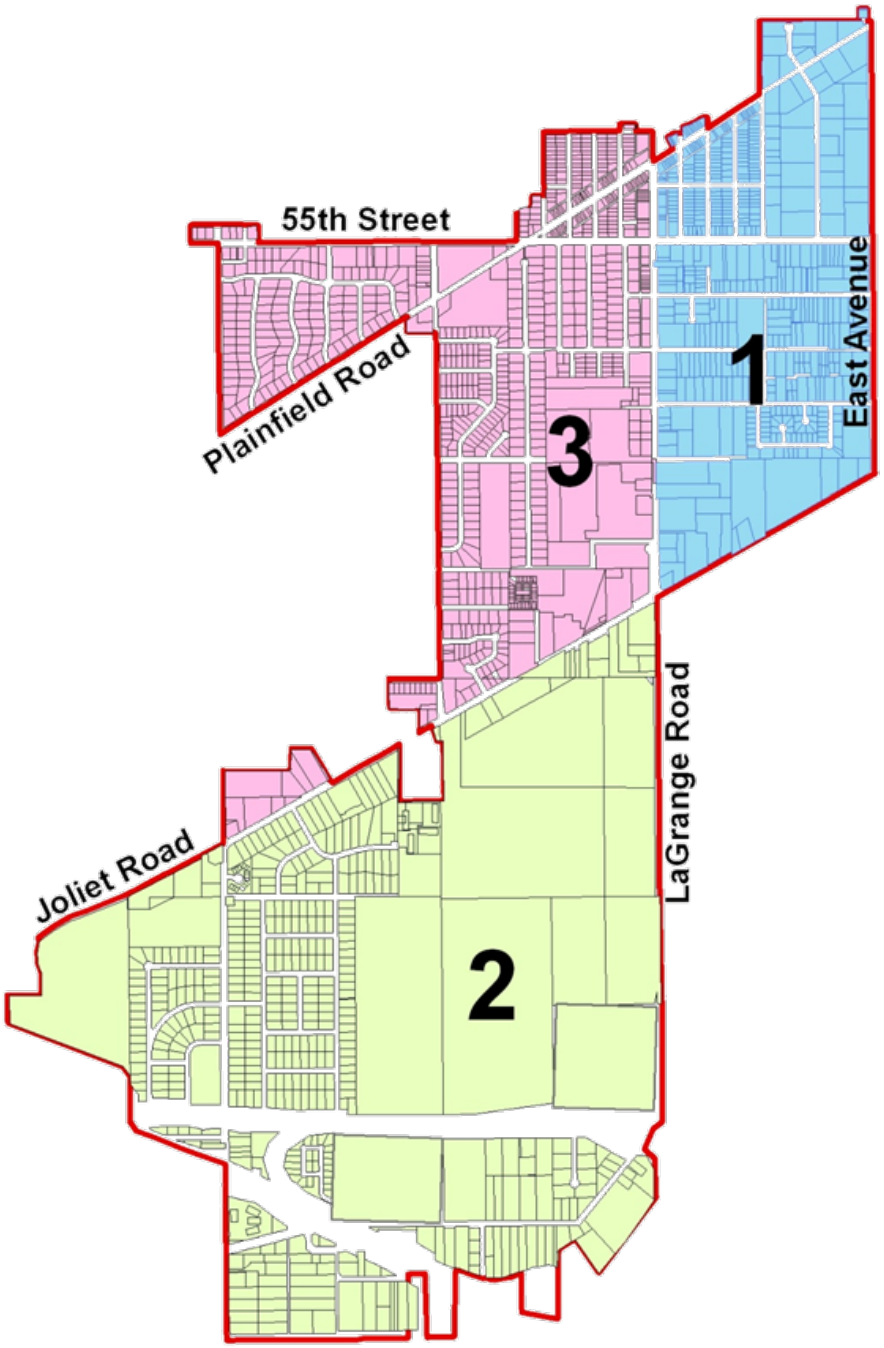
POLICE COMMITTEE

- Robert Pondelicek, ***Chairman***
- Mark Benson, ***Alderman***
- Tom Mikolyzk, ***Alderman***

BOARD OF FIRE AND POLICE COMMISSION

- Jerry Welch, ***Chairman***
- Mark Burdett, ***Secretary***
- Mary Louise Pisone, ***Commissioner***

COUNTRYSIDE POLICE DEPARTMENT BEAT MAP



INTRODUCTION

"Countryside Police Department - A Year in Review"

The Countryside Police Department is responsible for preserving the safety and well-being of the residents, businesses, and visitors of the City of Countryside.

The MISSION of the Countryside Police Department is to serve and protect the Countryside community, while building strong relationships based on mutual trust and respect.

We will carry out our mission with the highest level of professionalism, integrity, fairness, and excellence.

PERFORMANCE REPORT FOR 2015

- ***Commitment to Excellence***
    - Implemented a new 12 hour shift patrol schedule to help continue streamlining overtime needs and to preserve the health and well-being of our officers.
    - Hired two probationary officers from the police officer eligibility list which brought us to full manpower.
    - Increased department training by over 900 hours.
    - Made recommendations that led to the adoption of a Crime Free Housing ordinance, the establishment of the Crime Free Housing Program, and the hiring of a part-time Crime Free Housing Coordinator. The Crime Free Housing ordinance requires a residential rental license and the use of a Crime Free lease addendum for all rental properties in the City of Countryside with the goal of reducing crime and improving the quality of life in around rental properties.
    - Recommended a yearly review process, which includes a pay schedule, for the Community Service Officer (CSO) position in order to focus on retention of employees and awarding those who continue to work with our department. Employee retention produces a number of benefits including better service to our community, a familiarity with staff and function, assistance with training new CSO's, and reduced time in hiring and training replacements.
    - Purchased new Tasers for all officers to replace old Tasers that had become obsolete due to lack of availability of replacement parts and batteries.

- ***Strengthening Community Relations***
    - 17 students attended and graduated from our 4th Citizen's Police Academy, which was held from January 13, 2015 through March 31, 2015.
    - Continued the "Safe Riding Program" for the 3rd summer and held the police department's 3rd Annual "Shop With a Cop" program in December.
    - Offered a CPR class to Citizen's Police Academy students and alumni in March. The CPR class is a two-hour training and attendees receive a CPR certification that is valid for 2 years.

- Through participation in several Special Olympics fundraising events, we raised over $11,500.00 for Special Olympics
- Introduced the "We Call Police" program which is a simple form of community watch that enlists residents to be an extra set of eyes in our community.

- ***Increasing Department Professionalism***
  - Coordinated professional department photographs including group and individual photos.
  - Completed over 2,700 hours of continued education and training for both our sworn officers and civilian personnel.
  - Updated policies including: Taser Use and Deployment and the Use of Force policy. Created new policies including: Police Officer Involved Death/Serious Injury and Eyewitness Identification.

- ***Integrity and Transparency***
  - Completed and distributed the sixth annual report for the police department.
  - Continued to streamline and distribute our monthly statistical reports and added a police blotter to the police department website to provide weekly reports of arrests and criminal activity.
  - Opened a department Twitter account to assist in getting important information out to our community. This is in addition to our reverse 911, department website, email alerts, and department Facebook page.

- ***Fiscal Responsibility***
  - Reduced overtime costs from $169,085.00 in 2014 to $128,886.00 in 2015. This amounted to a 23% reduction in overtime costs to the City.
  - Reduced overall police expenditures by 9.6% for FY15.

DEPARTMENT INITIATIVES & GOALS FOR 2016

- Create a timeline for evaluation of policies and procedures to ensure all policies and procedures are reassessed at least every two years and not just when there is a change in legislation.
- Update the department records management system and integrate with CAD.
- Continue to conduct frequent analysis of crime trends and establish approaches to resolve problem areas.
- Continue to increase the professional development of our officers through training and mentoring opportunities.
- Conduct a community satisfaction survey to encourage involvement and assess opinions on police service quality.
- Provide 360 leadership evaluations to be completed by our officers with the goal of evaluating not just management but leadership on the part of police department supervisors.



VALUES

INTEGRITY ★ **COURAGE** ★ **EXCELLENCE** ★ **RESPECT** ★ **COMPASSION** ★ **DEDICATION**

CONTENTS

Letter to Mayor i

Government Structure ii

Countryside Police Department Beat Map iii

Introduction iv

Mission Statement vi

1. Organizational Component Summaries **1**
Organizational Chart 2
Office of the Chief 3
Administrative Services 3
Field Operations 5
Professional Standards 10

2. Program and Special Assignment Summaries **15**

3. Statistical Summaries **25**
Criminal Incidents 26
Calls for Service / Assists to Other Agencies / Alarm Calls 27
Citations Issued and Crashes 28

4. Budget: 2015-2016 ..... **29**

5. Department Recognition **33**
New to the Department / Promotions 34
Retirements / Service Anniversaries 35
Military Recognition 36
Educational Recognition 37
Awards 37
Letters from the Community 39
Letters from other Agencies 40

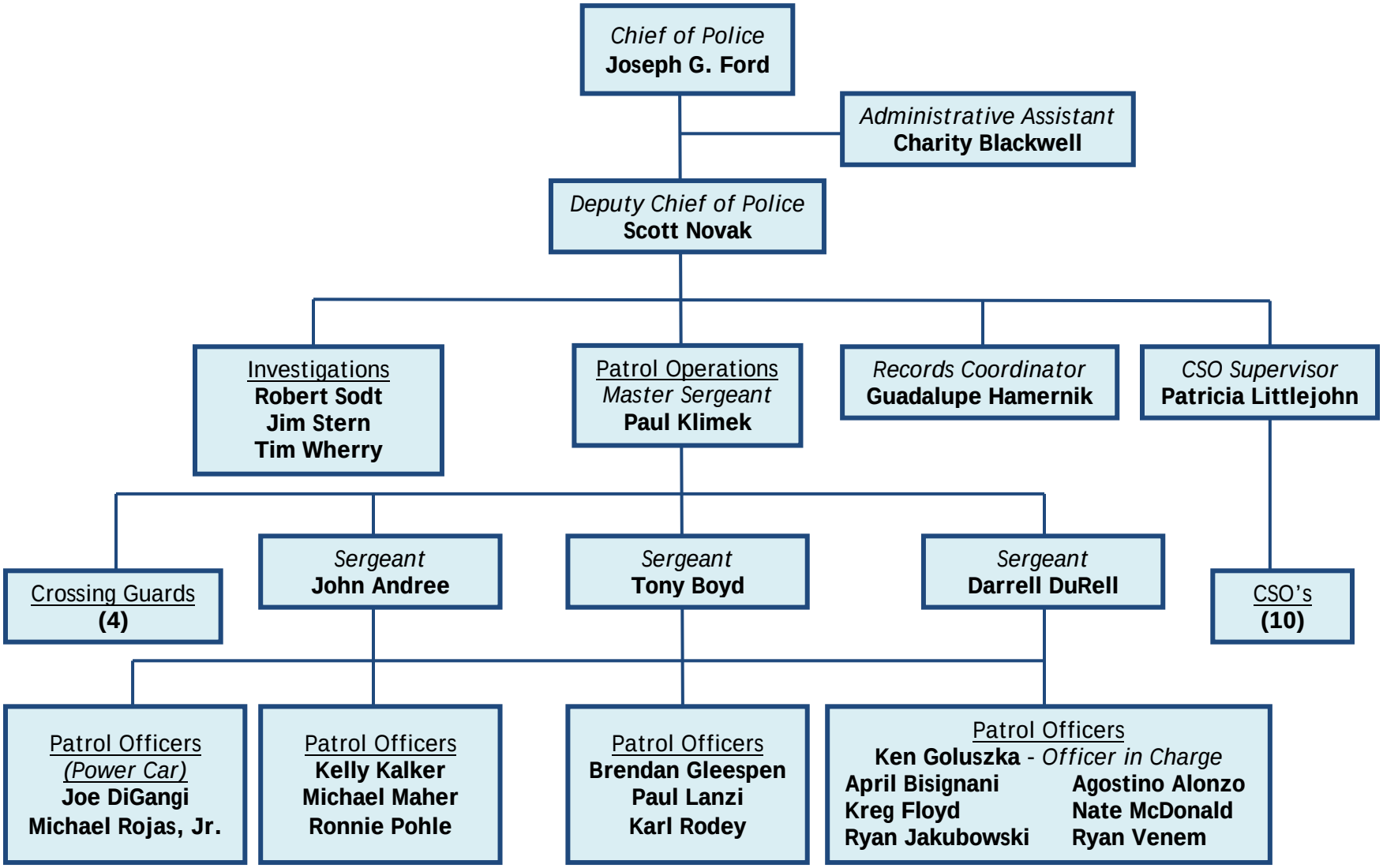
6. Community Events and Department Photos 41

On the Cover: 2015 Department Group Photo

Organizational Component Summaries 1

COUNTRYSIDE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Organizational Chart



Updated 10-01-2015

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF

The primary role of this office is to provide leadership, direction, and vision to the members of the Countryside Police Department in the fulfillment of its overall mission. This office is responsible for providing departmental management, maintenance of professional standards, and administration of the department's budget. The Office of the Chief consists of the Chief, Deputy Chief, Master Sergeant, and Administrative Assistant. The Countryside Police Department is led by Chief Joseph G. Ford who has served as Police Chief since 2013. Field Operations are led by Deputy Chief Scott Novak and Master Sergeant Paul Klimek. Deputy Chief Novak has served with the Countryside Police Department since 1993, with Master Sergeant Klimek serving since 2004. Providing support services for the Department since 2014 is Administrative Assistant Charity Blackwell.



CHIEF
Joseph G. Ford



DEPUTY CHIEF
Scott Novak



MASTER SERGEANT
Paul Klimek



ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
Charity Blackwell

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

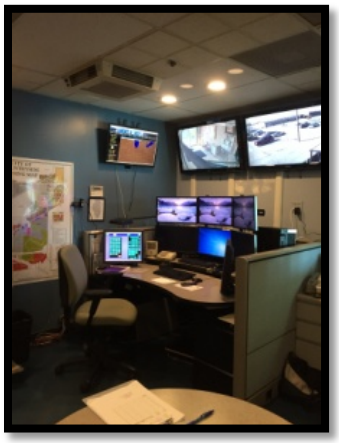
COMMUNICATIONS

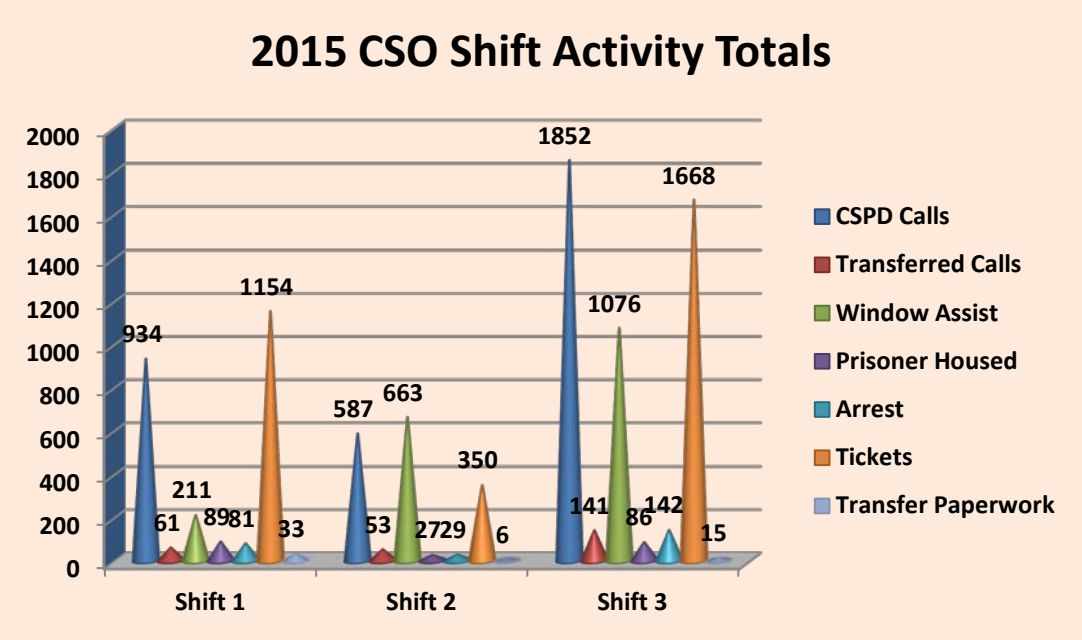


Community Service Officer Supervisor ***Patricia Littlejohn***, with the Department since 2007, and 10 part-time Community Service Officers (CSO's) maintain coverage at the front desk 24 hours a day, 365 days per year. CSO's are responsible for answering non-emergency phone calls, preparing arrest jackets, assisting walk-up traffic, data entry, processing ticket/fine payments, overnight parking/vacation watch requests, and monitoring in-house camera systems including prisoners, Ideal School playground, and Countryside Park.

Our CSO's received a total of 3,373 administrative telephone calls and handled over 1,900 window assists during the course of weekend and evening shifts in 2015.

CSO's are also responsible for logging their shift activity. The "CSO Shift Activity" chart on the next page, illustrates the activity logged by our CSO's during each shift. The totals for Shift 2 include activity logged by CSO's on Saturdays and Sundays only.





	CSPD Calls	Transferred Calls	Window Assist	Prisoner Housed	Arrest	Tickets	Transfer Paperwork
Shift 1	934	61	211	89	81	1154	33
Shift 2	587	53	663	27	29	350	6
Shift 3	1852	141	1076	86	142	1668	15
TOTAL	**3373**	**255**	**1950**	**202**	**252**	**3172**	**54**

■ In 2015, Community Service Officers Elizabeth Cordova and Anastasia Mock celebrated their 2 year anniversary, while Nicole Hervieux and Luis Calderon celebrated their one year anniversary.

Southwest Central Dispatch

Since October 2013, the Countryside Police Department has outsourced all dispatching services to Southwest Central Dispatch (SWCD) located in Palos Heights, Illinois. SWCD operates dispatching services for 16 area agencies including Countryside. SWCD is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) and their training program is certified by the Association of Public Safety Communications Officials (APCO) Project 33. Every SWCD employee is APCO Telecommunicator Certified, CPR certified, and licensed through the State of Illinois as an Emergency Medical Dispatcher. SWCD is also partnered with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

RECORDS DEPARTMENT



The Records Department is staffed by ***Guadalupe Hamernik***, who has been with the department since 2007. This department is responsible for the accurate reporting and archiving of all reports of criminal, non-criminal, and traffic activity handled by the Countryside Police Department. Official police reports and documents, ranging from parking citations to crash and arrest reports, are processed daily and archived by the records department.

The Records Department is also responsible for:

- *Annual Records Disposal*
- *Accuracy of Arrest Jackets*
- *Compiling Monthly Reports*
- *Court Adjudication*
- *Freedom of Information Requests*
- *Local Citations / Collections*
- *Record Expungements*
- *LEADS Coordination*
- *Records Management System - Quality Control*
- *Subpoenas*

FIELD OPERATIONS

PATROL DIVISION

The Patrol Division is the largest component of the Countryside Police Department. This Division is responsible for responding to both emergency and non-emergency calls for service from the public, handling special assignments, and proactively addressing community concerns. Patrol Officers are responsible for protection of life and property, helping to maintain peace, order and safety to all, conducting preliminary investigations, enforcing the Illinois Criminal Code and traffic laws, as well as City Ordinances. The Countryside Police Department encourages Patrol Officers to take a proactive approach to interacting with the community and its residents. During 2015, Patrol Officers responded to 6,400 total calls for service regarding criminal offenses, traffic crashes, alarm activations, disturbances, traffic complaints, and other miscellaneous events.





In July 2015 Countryside Police Department implemented a 12-hour shift schedule which replaced the existing 8-hour shift schedule. Under the new schedule there is a 6AM to 6PM shift and a 6PM to 6AM shift which are both supplemented by a "power car" shift from 2PM to 2AM. Each shift is supervised by a Sergeant or Officer in Charge and our department provides continuous 24-hour police service. The traditional patrol units are also supplemented with officers trained to perform ancillary functions such as that of Evidence Technician, Field Training Officer, Elderly Services Officer, Bicycle Unit Officer, and DARE Officer.

Fleet

The Countryside Police Department has a total of 13 police vehicles in our fleet. Of the 13 units, 8 units are used for active patrol, 2 units are used for investigations, 2 units are administrative, and 1 is a seized vehicle used for undercover operations. Of the marked vehicles, one is outfitted for our Evidence Technicians and has been specifically equipped with the tools they would need for their specialty. A second vehicle is used primarily for our officers specifically trained in Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) and has all the specialized weaponry and protection essential for that role. Another vehicle also used in patrol is a fully marked motorcycle that can be used at special events.



Automated License Plate Reader



In December 2014, one of our patrol vehicles was equipped with an Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR). This IP-based license plate recognition system was purchased with forfeited funds to enhance patrol operations. While this technology is not new to policing, it is the first system deployed in our area. HD cameras, affixed to the roof of a police vehicle, capture license plates which are run against a database that instantaneously cross references multiple wanted vehicle lists as officers patrol the city. This seamless function assists officers in maintaining security in and around the City of Countryside. The unit is capable of plate capture across three lanes of traffic with up to 5,000 plate captures per minute. From May 2015 through December 2015, there were a total of 376 confirmed "hits" on the ALPR. Although not all "hits" are enforceable, our officers follow up on each one. A confirmed hit occurs when an officer manually confirms a "hit" as accurate, after receiving a "hit" notification on a plate that was scanned by the ALPR. Once a "hit" is confirmed, our officers can then determine the proper response on a case by case basis including, but not limited to making an arrest, issuing a citation, or issuing a warning. Some notable investigatory successes for the ALPR in 2015 include: (1) t*he identification of a credit card fraud offender through the photograph captured of him driving his vehicle on the way to commit the offense;* (2) *the identification of a car, including a photograph taken by the ALPR, of the vehicle used in a shooting in La Grange;* (3) *the identification of a car, including a photograph, of the vehicle involved in a hit and run crash;* (4) *the identification of a car that was reportedly involved in a case with a woman being held against her will at gun point, ultimately resulting in our agency assisting the Cook County Sheriff's Police Department with the arrest of a subject with felony warrants.*

INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION

The Investigations Division is a specialized unit staffed with law enforcement professionals who possess special skills and training, generally above that of a Patrol Division officer. These special skills allow investigators to handle follow-up investigations and investigate crime that is complex or geographically beyond the reach and control of Patrol Division officers. Based on their assignment and the opportunistic nature of criminals, investigators are on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week.



2015 Assigned Cases	
Homicide	**0**
Death Investigation	**5**
Sex Crimes	**2**
Burglary/Home invasion	**13**
Burglary to Vehicle	**2**
Theft	**23**
Battery/Assault	**2**
Weapons/Narcotics	**0**
Forgery/Fraud	**14**
Property Damage	**0**

In a typical police department the patrol officer responds to the initial call and takes the basic information for an investigator to follow up on. In order to better train our patrol officers in the skills associated with criminal investigation we have been assigning some cases back to the Patrol Division. With the guidance of our investigative division we can develop patrol officers into more well-rounded, efficient officers.

The investigative staff at Countryside Police Department is comprised of three investigators. Two investigators share the responsibility of conducting follow-up investigations, managing property and evidence, and augmenting the patrol division when needed. These investigators are also assigned to two mutual aid task forces, The Major Case Assistance Team (MCAT) and The South Suburban Major Crimes Task Force (SSMCTF).

In 2015, the Countryside Police Investigations Division reviewed 843 criminal cases. Of these 843 cases, 80 were assigned to investigators for follow-up. Investigators dedicated 299 man-power-hours to conduct these follow-up investigations.

Narcotics Currency Interdiction Task Force (NARCINT) / High-Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)

Our third investigator is assigned to the Chicago HIDTA Domestic Highway Enforcement Initiative through an interagency agreement with NARCINT. The HIDTA Unit is tasked with the investigation and interdiction of narcotics and money laundering related crimes throughout the State of Illinois. Our investigator focuses primarily on commercial motor vehicle interdiction for criminal activity, specifically targeting narcotics and currency traffickers. The HIDTA unit assists local, county, state, and federal police agencies with interview/interrogation, controlled delivery of illegal contraband and follow-up investigations.

In 2015, the HIDTA Unit generated $201,055.79 in seizure funds to the Countryside Police Department which are used to support our law enforcement efforts. This number reflects a significant increase from the funds generated in 2014. Disbursements of forfeiture funds can vary greatly from year to year depending on the seizing entity and the status of court proceedings. The timing of disbursements also varies on a case-by-case basis; but the timing between the seizure of currency and awarding of agency can take 12 months or longer.



EVIDENCE TECHNICIAN UNIT

The Countryside Police Department introduced an Evidence Technician Unit in 2011. The Unit consists of 4 specially trained officers who, in addition to regular patrol duties, are responsible for **recovering, photographing, and processing crime scene evidence**. The Evidence Technicians utilize sophisticated equipment such as digital photography and latent fingerprint development equipment to learn the identity of criminal offenders.

Evidence Technician Officers: Agostino Alonzo, April Bisignani, Ken Goluszka, & Jim Stern.

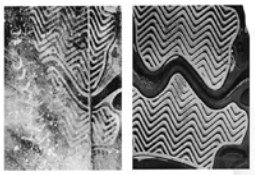
Our Evidence Technician Officers originally completed a 2-week, 80 hour certification course.



The Evidence Technician's duties include:

- Identifying, collecting, and preserving trace evidence
- Locating and preserving fingerprints
- Field testing suspected illegal drugs
- Documenting crime scenes through still photography, video, diagrams, and drawings
- Testimony in criminal court

The Evidence Technician Unit was called upon many times in 2015 to process crime scenes and serious motor vehicle crashes in Countryside. Some of the crime scenes that were investigated in 2015 include:





- Death Investigation
- Structure Fire
- Serious Motor Vehicle Accidents
- Burglary (Residential/Business/Motor vehicle)
- Crimes Against Person (Assault and Battery)





BICYCLE UNIT

The Countryside Police Department Bicycle Unit provides police patrols to areas that are inaccessible to vehicular patrol and makes officers more accessible to the public. The 2015 bicycle unit operated from May to September, with a special patrol on Halloween night. During the Halloween patrol, bicycle officers handed out candy to kids trick-or-treating through the streets of Countryside. In addition to their regular patrols, the unit also provided security at Concerts in the Park and other City related events.

The Bicycle Unit is a visible patrol asset that is tasked with making community contacts while on patrol. The Bicycle Unit Officers play a large part in our Safe Riding Program.



Bicycle Unit Officers:

- **Sergeant John Andree**
- **Sergeant Anthony Boyd**
- **Officer Agostino Alonzo**
- **Officer Brendan Gleespen**
- **Officer Paul Lanzi**
- **Officer Kelly Kalker**
- **Officer Nate McDonald**
- **Officer Karl Rodey**
- **Detective Jim Stern**

SCHOOL CROSSING GUARDS

The Countryside Police Department currently employs four part-time school crossing guards:

- **Ashley Benitez**
- **Ana Gonzalez**
- **Maria Gonzalez**
- **Maricruz Reyes**



The responsibility of each crossing guard is to ensure safe passage of students on their route to and from school. Each crossing guard is assigned a specific location.



The locations are:

- 7th Avenue at Plainfield Road
- 55th Street at Plainfield Road
- 58th Street at Francis Avenue
- In front of Ideal School on 58th Street

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

TRAINING

The coordination of training programs and opportunities for Department employees is the responsibility of ***Master Sergeant Paul Klimek.*** The Countryside Police Department conducts a variety of training throughout the year, including 1 hour each month online testing through Police Law Institute. Training is presented through classroom, printed materials, videos, online, and department communications. Officers also attend external classes and seminars. Training topics include: policy and procedures review, criminal law, local ordinances, and traffic law update. Additionally, many of our officers hold specific certifications.

The majority of the training is provided by IRMA and NEMRT. The Intergovernmental Risk Management Agency (IRMA) provides training videos and nationally accredited driving courses. These courses focus on helping officers to understand the safety and performance aspects of emergency vehicle operation. North East Multi-Regional Training, Inc. (NEMRT) provides our officers a wide variety of courses from refresher training to university-directed staff and command courses.

*Chief Ford and Deputy Chief Novak are required to complete 20 hours of training per year to remain in compliance with the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police. Both exceeded the requirements set by the IACP.

*232 hours of Officer McDonald's and of Detective Sodt's training hours were completed through SWAT training.

*480 of the training hours fulfilled by Officer Ryan Venem were hours completed while attending the police academy.

- Less than lethal training is conducted annually. Officers are instructed on the proper use of the baton, OC spray, and Taser.

2015 Training highlights

2,747 combined hours of department training.
An average of 114.5 hours of training per officer.

2015
Summary of Training Hours

Officer	*Hours*
Command Staff	
Ford*	55
Klimek	57.5
Novak*	34
Sergeants	
Andree	26.5
Boyd	50.5
DuRell	124.5
Detectives	
Sodt*	382.5
Stern	240.5
Wherry	82.5
Patrol	
Alonzo	101.5
Bisignani	129
DiGangi	98.5
Floyd	30.5
Gleespen	133.5
Goluszka	27.5
Jakubowski	50.5
Kalker	48.5
Lanzi	101
Maher	38.5
McDonald*	329.5
Pohle	34.5
Rodey	19.5
Rojas	54.5
Venem*	496.5
Total	***2747***

5th District SWAT Training

The Countryside Police Department has two officers assigned to 5th District SWAT. These officers participate in a minimum of 16 hours per month of training and a 40-hour block of skill set training every year. In 2015, this training amounted to over 464 hours with both officers combined. This level of training is consistent with the National Tactical Officers Association training guidelines.

Firearms Training

The Countryside Police Department has 4 State Certified Firearms Training Officers who are also State Certified Police Carbine/Rifle Instructors. These training officers conduct firearms training with all officers as well as annual firearms qualifications to maintain compliance with state law and improve the level of individual proficiency.



CPR Training

The Countryside Police Department has been committed to having its officers trained and certified in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) since the 1990's. At that time, department members primarily received their training from Pleasantview Fire Department. Sergeant Anthony Boyd became a certified CPR instructor with the American Heart Association in 2002 via his Air Force Reserve Unit where he was a flight medic and CPR instructor. In 2004, the City of Countryside purchased the necessary equipment to train its personnel in the use of automated external defibrillators (AEDs) and to administer CPR. All of our officers have AED's on patrol with them in the event of a cardiac emergency. The AED along with their training, best prepares our officers to save a life. Sergeant Boyd is the primary CPR instructor for the City and all City employees are trained and certified every other year.



Opioid Overdose Responder Training



In May 2014, all Countryside Police Officers received training for proper administration of the drug Naloxone. Naloxone is a drug that combats the effects of Opioid overdose when administered. Naloxone Antidote kits are attached to the AEDs used on ambulance calls. Sergeant Boyd received training in December 2013 to become an Opioid Overdose Educator and conducted the officer training. As part of an Overdose Prevention Program, Sergeant Boyd can also instruct parents and siblings of addicts in the administration of the antidote. This program is permissible under Illinois Law 20 ILCS 301/5-23 which was enacted to save the lives of those who overdose on any type of Opium derivative, specifically Heroin. There have been no Naloxone deployments to date but Heroin addiction is on the rise and we want our officers to be prepared.

TECHNOLOGY AND SUPPORT



The use of computers in police work has made all aspects of policing and law enforcement more efficient and also supplies our officers with the newest tools of the trade to carry out their duties. Our officers utilize a software program which enables them to be electronically dispatched to calls and also to track calls for service efficiently from their police vehicles. The Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) software alerts the officers when they are being assigned to a call and, with the click of a button, officers can notify dispatch that they are responding to or have arrived at a dispatched call. This software greatly reduces the amount of radio traffic and minimizes the amount of extra paperwork the officers are required to complete on a daily basis.

Our officers are also trained on a Records Management System (RMS) which has helped our department become more efficient in record keeping and documentation. The effectiveness of the RMS is greatly due to the ability of our officers to learn new and changing techniques. The use of this system has streamlined our reporting and investigative processes while simultaneously reducing our reliance on paper reports. Our data integrity and efficiency in reporting has also improved since implementing the RMS.

Our department also utilizes computerized accident reporting. This is cloud-based software that allows officers to complete accident reports electronically. There are several benefits to moving to a computerized accident reporting system. Our records section no longer has to compile State required statistics by hand as this is done seamlessly in the system. The system also allows our accident reports to be made available to citizens and insurance companies online, which reduces the number of window transactions and mailings our staff handles for accident reports. The greatest benefit is the backend software which allows staff to conduct statistical reports of crash data via the software.

INTERNAL AFFAIRS

To maintain the highest level of public confidence, the Countryside Police Department investigates all complaints thoroughly and impartially. While internal affairs is a necessary component of any professional police department, a key factor in measuring our officers' commitment to community policing is the number of citizen complaints received. No citizen complaints were filed against any of our officers in 2015. Our officers did receive a number of letters from the public thanking them for their actions and commitment to the community and public service.

IA#	Nature of Complaint	Disposition
2015-1	Squad Crash	Sustained/Written Reprimand
2015-2	Squad Crash/Performance of Duty	Sustained/Suspension
2015-3	Performance of Duty	Sustained/Counseling Letter
2015-4	Performance of Duty	Sustained/Counseling Letter
2015-5	Performance of Duty	Sustained/Counseling Letter

Source of Complaint

Administrative Policy	5
Citizen Complaint	0
Police Agency Complaint	0
TOTAL	**5**

Disciplinary Action

Counseling/Verbal Reprimand	3
Written Reprimand	1
Suspension	1
Termination	0
TOTAL	**5**

Disposition of Complaint

Unfounded	0
Proper Conduct	0
Sustained	5
Not Sustained	0
Policy Failure	0
TOT Another Agency	0
TOTAL	**5**

Definition of Dispositions

Unfounded - Allegation is not factual; did not happen.
Proper Conduct - The act of the department or officer was consistent with the agency procedures.
Sustained -The allegation is supported by sufficient evidence.
Not Sustained - There was insufficient evidence to prove or disprove the allegation.

Use of Force - 3 Use of Force incidents were investigated in 2015. Each incident was found to be within the prescribed guidelines of Countryside Police Department policies and procedures.

Program and Special Assignment Summaries 2

COMMUNITY POLICING PROGRAMS

D.A.R.E.

The Countryside Police Department's Drug Abuse Resistance Education Program (DARE) began in 1991. DARE officers are required to complete an 80-hour certification course. During the school year, **Officer April Bisignani** teaches the program to 5th Grade students from Ideal School. The DARE "Keepin' It Real" curriculum has a theme of making safe, responsible choices and teaches the students to handle a broad range of risks using self-control, effective communication skills, and identifying risks and consequences. Students practice the DARE Decision Making Model and learn how to apply it to real life situations.



The academic school year culminates with a DARE graduation ceremony. This is a special event that is attended by family, friends, and community members. The graduation ceremony for students of DARE Class #40 was held on April 17, 2015. The DARE program continues to be a valuable tool to connect with children in the community and provide them with the education necessary to keep them safe, make better decisions, and help them to succeed.

JUVENILE OFFICER PROGRAM

A juvenile officer is required to be involved in any investigation dealing with an offender under the age of 18. The position of Juvenile Officer encompasses many different duties and responsibilities. Juvenile Officers prepare the various paperwork and filings that go to Juvenile Court on each juvenile charged with a criminal offense. Officers in this unit are also involved with investigative follow-up on more serious crimes committed by juveniles. The Juvenile Officer acts as a liaison between our police department and the Department of Children and Family Services. Contacts are made between the two agencies, usually through the Juvenile Officer, and joint investigations are done when requested by the Department of Children and Family Services. The Juvenile Unit also acts to protect juvenile victims by referring them to agencies designed to assist them and their families.

Our juvenile officers work together with juvenile officers from other police departments as well as with the Cook County Juvenile Probation Division. We also participate in the Cook County Sheriff's "Second Chance" program. This program is designed for juveniles who have cases involving alcohol and other drugs. It is an educational program for both the juvenile and the parent or guardian. In the guise of keeping children out of the criminal justice system, programs like "Second Chance" are an alternative to traditional punishment.

Juvenile Officers:

- Sergeant John Andree
- Sergeant Tony Boyd
- Sergeant Darrell DuRell
- Detective Mark Battaglia
- Detective Robert Sodt
- Officer Agostino Alonzo
- Officer April Bisignani
- Officer Kelly Kalker
- Officer Paul Lanzi
- Officer Karl Rodey

"SHOP WITH A COP"

The Countryside Police Department "Shop With a Cop" program continued for its 3rd year in 2015. Each year this community program, organized by Officer Paul Lanzi, provides 10 children from Countryside an opportunity to interact in a positive way with Countryside Police Officers while shopping for holiday gifts. The children who are chosen to participate are those who can benefit from a little help during the holiday season. Each child is issued a $100.00 gift card to purchase gifts for themselves or for a family member.



On December 12, 2015 the children were chauffeured by Countryside police officers in squad cars to TJMaxx. After shopping, the children were returned to the police department where they wrapped their gifts and then enjoyed pizza for lunch with the officers. A valued collaboration between volunteers from Aging Well, officers' family members, police department and city hall staff and their family members all contributed to making this a memorable day for the children. Donations from the Countryside Business Association, TJ Maxx, Westfield Ford, and Ledo's Pizza continue to help make this program possible each year.



"TOMMY MOOSE"



Officers routinely respond to calls for service where children are involved and some may be frightened or confused. "Tommy Moose" can be offered to children to help them with overcoming fears or anxiety they may be experiencing during traumatic situations. Each "Tommy Moose" is bagged up individually and there are two stuffed "Tommy Moose" dolls inside each squad car ready to help provide a child with a little comfort and security.

SAFE RIDING PROGRAM



The Safe Riding program continued for its third summer in 2015. When officers "caught" kids practicing safe riding habits by wearing their bicycle helmets, they rewarded them with a coupon for one free small cone from our friends at Andy's Frozen Custard. The program ran from June 1st to August 30th and anyone caught "riding safe" received a coupon. Officers gave out over 31 coupons in 2015. A special thank you goes out to Andy's Frozen Custard for their continued support with this program.

ESO (ELDERLY SERVICE OFFICER) PROGRAM

The Elderly Service Officer (ESO) Program is sponsored by the Illinois Attorney General's Office and was developed to address the unique needs of the rapidly growing senior population. An ESO plays an active role in preventing and investigating crimes against older adults.

Officer April Bisignani became Countryside's first Elderly Service Officer in 2009. The ESO Program expanded and welcomed Officer Agostino Alonzo in September 2011, after he completed the required 40 hour training class, certified by the Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board. ESO's receive specialized training to understand the aging process, investigate elder abuse and neglect, recognize scams and fraud (including financial exploitation) against seniors, and effectively communicate with the elderly. Part of the assignment of an ESO, includes close work and active participation with our local senior advocacy program, Aging Care Connections, which offers assistance programs to local seniors that enable them to stay independent longer.



In cooperation with the Aging Care Connections Congregate Meals Program, which serves older adults (aged 60 and older) a healthy lunch at Salerno's Pizzeria, Officer Bisignani was invited to give a presentation on July 21, 2015 about scams and seniors. Seniors were provided information on the common types of scams, given tips on how to identify and report scams, and what steps to take if they fall victim to a scam.

On April 21, 2015 Officer April Bisignani presented a “Safe Driving for Seniors” seminar at City Hall for area seniors. She spoke with resident seniors about how aging affects driving and what seniors can do to keep driving safely.







ANNUAL LEAF RAKING FOR SENIORS DAY

During the Senior Leaf Raking Project on Saturday, November 7, 2015, we were able to assist 29 Countryside seniors with raking and clearing the leaves from their yards. This could not have been done without the assistance of community volunteers and police department staff. This program provides an opportunity to bring the youth and the elderly of our community together to help improve the quality of life in Countryside.



CRIME PREVENTION PROGRAMS

CRIME FREE HOUSING PROGRAM

The Crime Free Housing Program is our newest community policing and crime prevention program. The Crime Free Housing Program originated in 1992 with the Mesa, Arizona Police Department. Currently over 50 local Illinois communities have an operational Crime Free Housing Program. On November 11, 2015, the City Council approved ***Mark Battaglia*** as our first ever Crime Free Housing Coordinator, with the goal of reducing crime and preventing neighborhood degradation created by poorly operated and maintained rental properties. This program will provide the tools needed to strengthen our relationship with rental property owners and managers while helping to improve safety and security in and around rental properties. The heart of the program is the Crime Free Lease Addendum that is added to all leases/rental agreements and is signed by the tenant, every adult resident, and the owner/agent of the property. The Lease Addendum will hold the tenant responsible and subject to lease termination if they or their guests engage in any violation of Local, State, or Federal law when such activity constitutes a threat to public health or safety or which constitutes a breach of the peace. Landlords and property owners or managers will be required to attend a 4 hour training seminar which will educate them on the Crime Free Housing Ordinance, provide tips on screening rental applicants, and share state landlord/tenant laws.

BUSINESS WATCH

This program helps prevent businesses from becoming the victim of a crime. ***Over 240 local businesses are currently enrolled*** in this free program. It is offered to Countryside businesses to keep owners and employees informed of current crime trends and alerts. As part of the program, Crime Alerts are emailed to businesses to provide important and timely information about crime trends occurring in our area or at specific business types in nearby areas.

FLEET WATCH

This program utilizes public works and utility workers as an "extra set of eyes" in the community. The Police Department trains these workers to be alert for any suspicious activity. They are encouraged to take note of important information that may assist officers in the event of a crime. All City of Countryside Public Works employees were trained and have joined Fleet Watch.



WE CALL POLICE



"We Call Police," is a simple form of community watch which enlists Countryside residents to be an extra set of eyes in the community. The program features a window sign that displays "We Call Police" on the front and incorporates a person/vehicle description and identification chart on the back to help provide callers with important contact and descriptive information that will be useful when reporting an incident to the police department. The window signage has a dual purpose. It sends a message to potential criminals to go elsewhere and also notifies police that they have a partner in that residence.

CITIZEN'S POLICE ACADEMY

In January 2015, the Countryside Police Department offered its 4th Citizen's Police Academy. The Citizen's Police Academy is a 12-week program designed to provide our residents with a better understanding of police department functions as well as insight into law enforcement techniques. Classes are geared to assist citizens in understanding laws and police practices within our city. The program is open to anyone 18 and over who works or resides in the City of Countryside. The curriculum includes weekly presentations about: criminal and civil law, crime prevention, juvenile law, evidence, traffic stops, DUI enforcement, use of force, investigations, gangs and drugs, scams, and confidence crimes. The academy also provides an opportunity for students to get to know the men and women who protect their community. The Academy concluded on March 31, 2015 with a graduation ceremony and was an overwhelming success.



Citizen's Police Academy
Class of 2015

SOCIAL MEDIA

In addition to a department website, the Countryside Police Department maintains a Facebook page and a Twitter account as a means of communicating important information and interacting with the public. The use of social media in law enforcement and community policing can provide several benefits including the ability to:

- share crime alerts and safety tips with the public
- promote public safety and awareness
- interact positively with the community
- spread information quickly to help catch criminals or find missing persons
- notify the public of emergencies, or special events and programs
- aid in crime prevention strategies and ongoing investigations

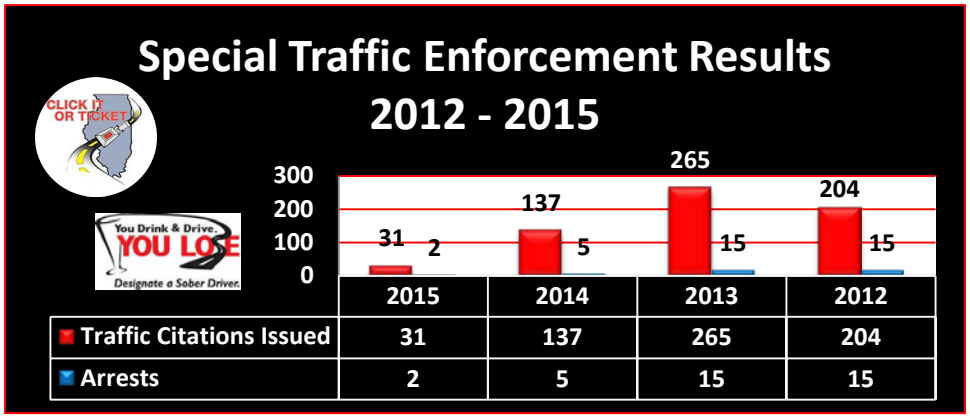
In 2015, one particular Facebook post, for example, reached over 130,000 views due to multiple shares and resulted in the location of family members and the eventual identification of a man who had been found unresponsive in a retention ditch.

SPECIAL ENFORCEMENT PROGRAMS

The Countryside Police Department participates in the following special enforcement programs through funding provided by grants issued by the State of Illinois. To qualify for a grant, our department is required to complete a detailed application and follow strict guidelines.

"CLICK IT OR TICKET" AND "YOU DRINK YOU DRIVE YOU LOSE."

These programs, funded by an I.D.O.T. Traffic Safety Grant, are enforcement efforts designed to detect violators of Illinois traffic laws with special emphasis on alcohol and occupant protection. In 2015, the Countryside Police Department conducted **2** special enforcement details during the Thanksgiving and Christmas/New Year's Holiday periods. During these details, our officers issued a total of **31 traffic citations;** including 9 seatbelt violations, 2 child safety seat violations, and 2 uninsured motorist violations. In addition, **2 narcotics arrests were also made**. The graph below reflects a significant decrease in citations and arrests in 2015 as compared to previous years, because **4** special enforcement details were conducted in 2012, 2013, and 2014.



TOBACCO ENFORCEMENT

The Countryside Police Department's Tobacco Enforcement Program is currently supervised by Officer Agostino Alonzo who is a State Certified Tobacco Enforcement Officer. This program is operated in cooperation with the State of Illinois Liquor Control Commission's "Kids Can't Buy 'Em Here" program. Through this program, the State awards funding to participating communities to conduct retail education and enforcement initiatives. This program helps support community-based efforts through the distribution of tobacco retailer kits and the completion of retailer compliance checks. The compliance checks are designed to educate retail establishments and eliminate the illegal sale of tobacco to minors in our community.

In 2015, our department conducted 3 rounds of compliance checks at Countryside businesses with current tobacco licenses. **There were 4 violations found in all.** Local Ordinance Citations were issued for those violations. All other businesses checked were found to be in compliance with State Laws regarding the sale of tobacco to minors. It should be noted that no violations were found in the 2nd round of compliance checks, which is a credit to our businesses and to the program.

SPECIAL ASSIGNMENTS

MUTUAL AID ASSIGNMENTS

When smaller police agencies, like Countryside, are exposed to major crimes or large scale incidents, their resources are quickly drained. To offer the highest quality of police service to our residents, the Countryside Police Department participates in the following mutual aid groups:

South Suburban Major Crimes Task Force (SSMCTF)

The South Suburban Major Crimes Task Force is made up of more than 50 municipalities from the 5th and 6th Districts of Cook County. The SSMCTF investigates major crimes including homicide, non-parental kidnapping, and other heinous, high profile forcible felonies. In 2015, investigators were activated on 9 separate occasions for homicide investigations. Deputy Chief Novak and our investigators dedicated 324 hours to the investigation and resolution of those cases.

5TH District SWAT

This unit is comprised of specially trained officers from Alsip, Bridgeview, Bedford Park, Chicago Ridge, Countryside, Evergreen Park, Hickory Hills, Hodgkins, and Palos Heights. These officers respond to high risk situations including hostage/barricade subjects, armed offender situations and high risk search/arrest warrant service. In 2015, 5th District SWAT Officers responded to 5 callouts; 4 for execution of high risk search warrant, 1 for barricaded subject.

Major Case Assistance Team (MCAT)

The Major Case Assistance Team is a mutual aid organization comprised of investigators from 13 local jurisdictions including; Brookfield, Countryside, Forest View, Hodgkins, Indian Head Park, LaGrange, LaGrange Park, Lyons, McCook, North Riverside, Riverside, Stickney, and Western Springs. **This unit is under the direction of Deputy Chief Scott Novak and involves a combined effort from our investigators.**

In 2015, MCAT Investigators were **activated 14 times** and dedicated **125 hours** for various criminal investigations that included: shootings, narcotics, burglary, and theft investigations. It is the mission of MCAT to work together and assist one another to solve and reduce crime by the sharing of expertise, information, and the combining of resources.

Illinois Law Enforcement Alarm System (ILEAS)

The Countryside Police Department is a member of the Illinois Law Enforcement Alarm System (ILEAS). This group is based in Urbana, Illinois and is the largest mutual aid organization in the United States. ILEAS is responsible for coordinating statewide mutual aid responses as needed.

3 Statistical Summaries

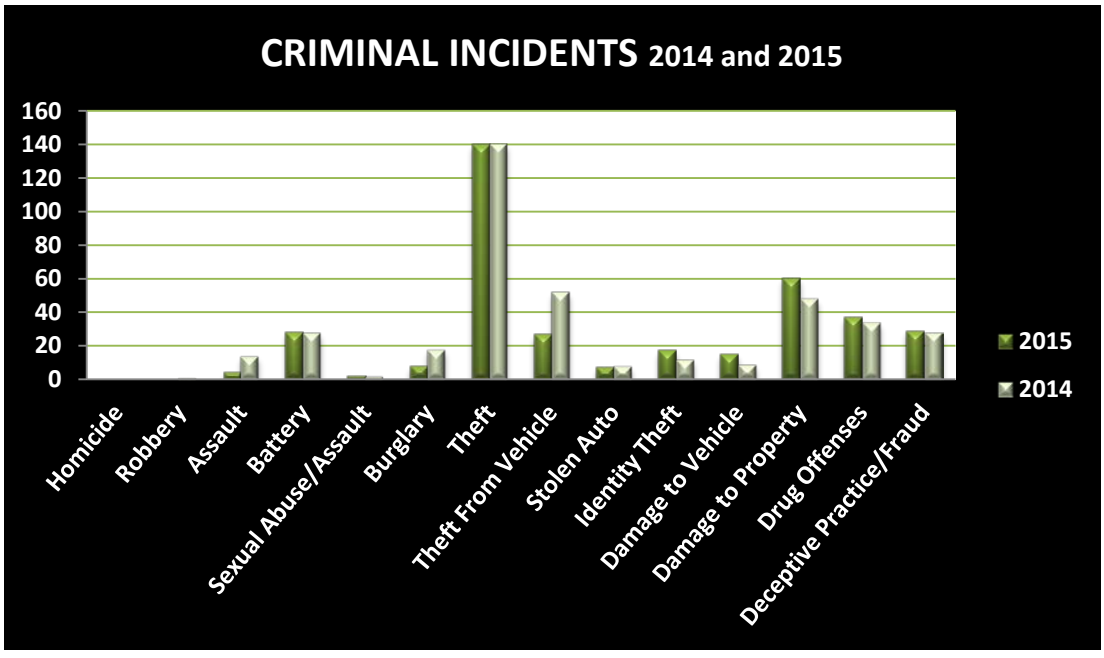
CRIMINAL INCIDENTS

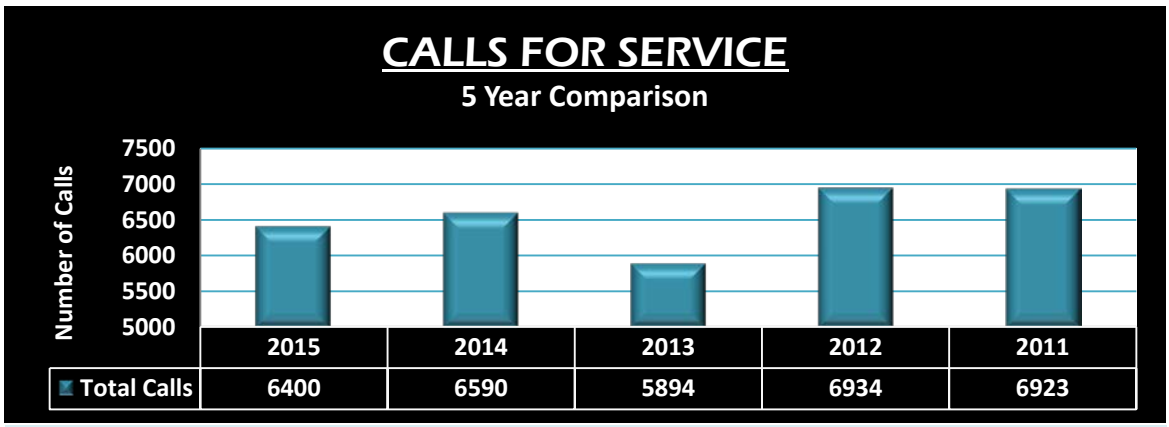
This report of criminal incident statistics is a summary and is meant to highlight particular categories of crime. It does not include ***all*** categories of criminal incidents that occurred in 2015. This chart shows a decrease in 2015 from the previous year.

Criminal Incidents	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
Homicide	0	0	0	0	0
Robbery	0	1	4	1	1
Assault	4	14	8	4	3
Battery	28	28	31	33	40
Sexual Abuse/Assault	2	2	1	5	5
Burglary	8	18	11	20	20
Theft	140	140	134	130	117
Theft From Vehicle	27	52	48	75	64
Stolen Auto	7	8	10	11	10
Identity Theft	17	12	6	7	16
Damage to Vehicle	15	9	27	35	36
Damage to Property	60	48	41	68	40
Drug Offenses	37	34	26	33	33
Deceptive Practice/Fraud	29	28	31	50	35
TOTAL	**374**	**394**	**378**	**472**	**420**

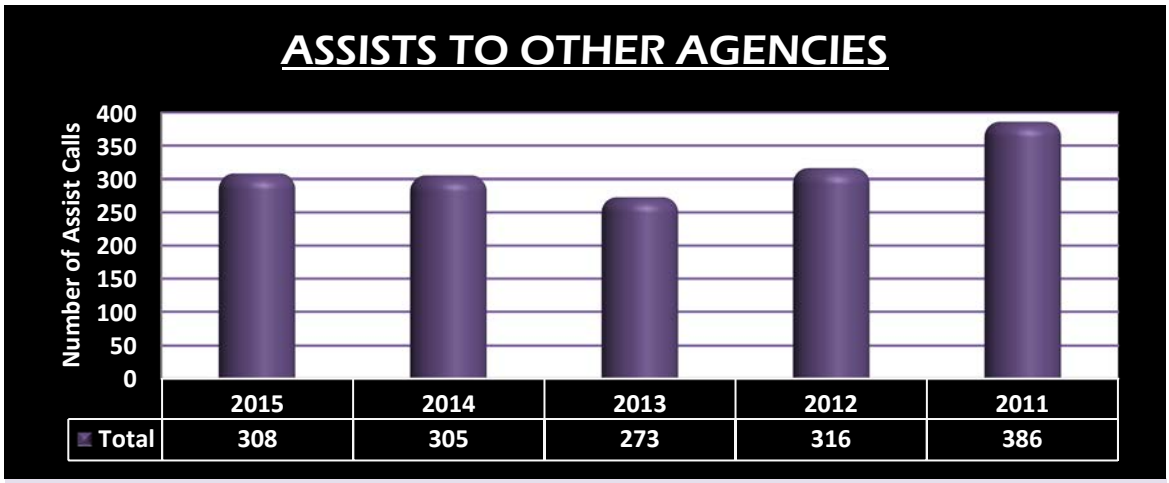
CRIMINAL INCIDENTS EXPLAINED

In 2015, our department responded to 6,400 calls for service which is a 2.8% decrease from the previous year. We experienced a reduction in burglaries and theft from vehicle and an increase in identity theft, damage to vehicle, and damage to property from 2014.

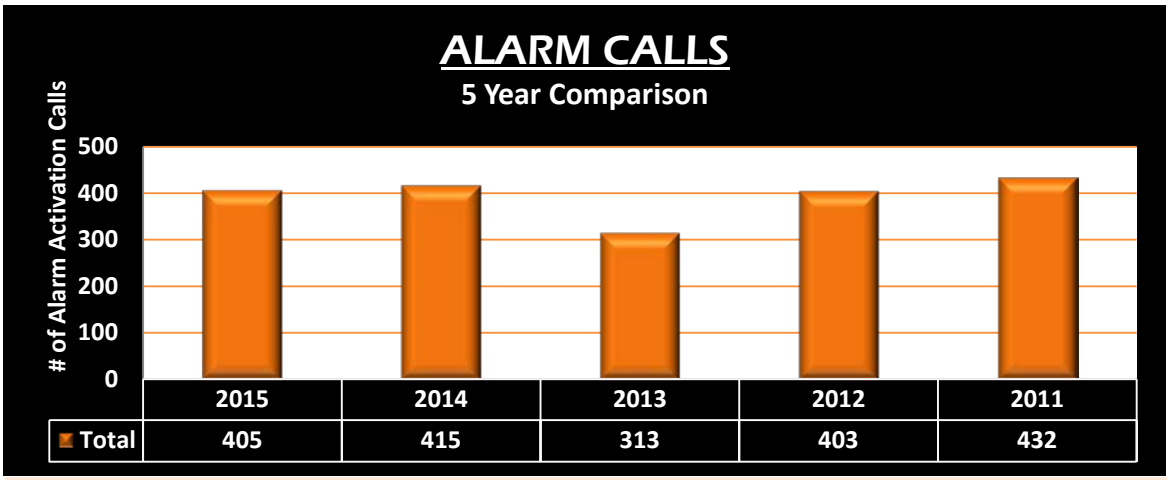




In 2015, calls for service decreased by 2.8%.



This chart captures the number of officer assist requests received from neighboring departments and mutual aid callouts. There were 3 more callouts in 2015 from the previous year. These numbers include assists made by our officers to the South Suburban Major Crimes Task Force, MCAT, and 5th District SWAT.

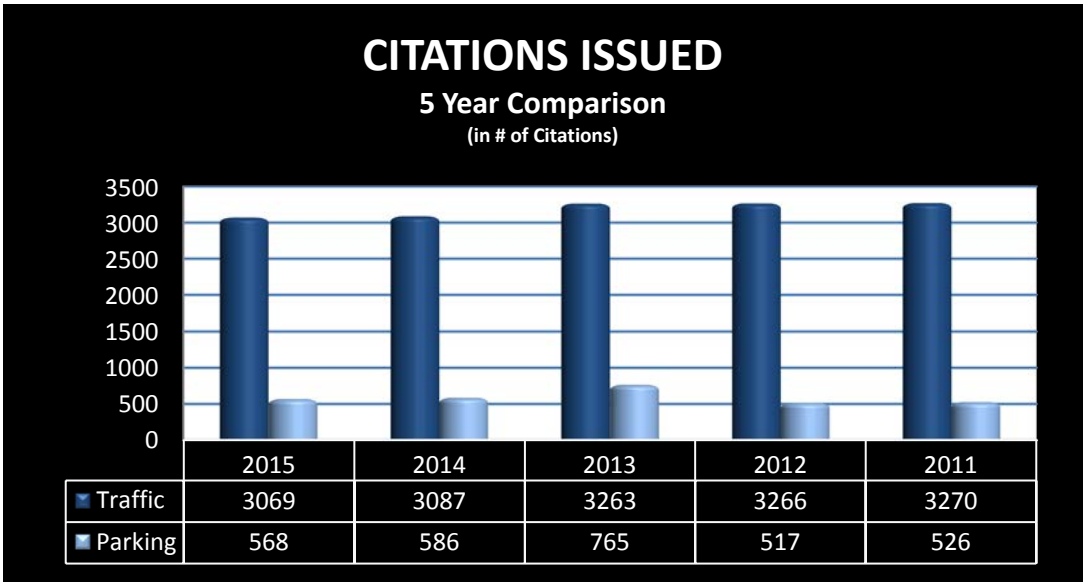


This chart captures the number of business, residential, and hold-up alarms that our officers respond to each year. There was a decrease in alarm call responses in 2015 compared to the previous year.

CITATIONS ISSUED and CRASHES

ISSUING CITATIONS

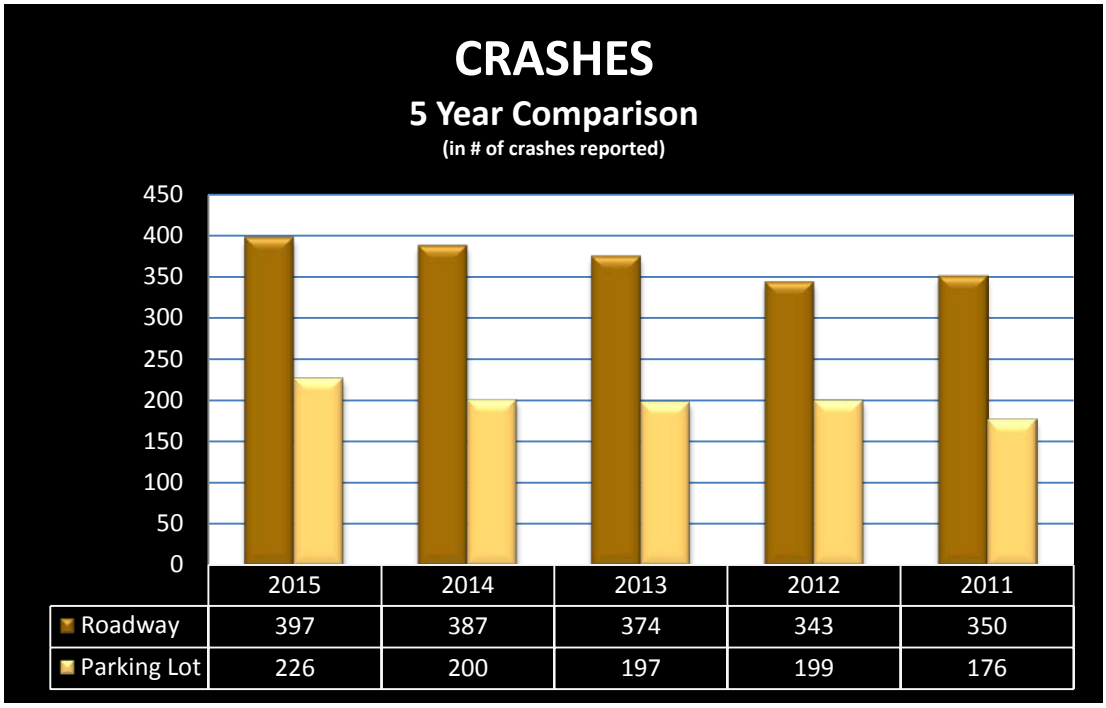
Patrol Officers made **2,448 traffic stops** in 2015. This chart shows a decrease in traffic and parking citations issued in 2015 as compared to previous years.



	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
Traffic	3069	3087	3263	3266	3270
Parking	568	586	765	517	526

CRASHES REPORTED

This chart illustrates roadway and parking lot crashes. There was a 2.5% increase in roadway crashes in 2015 as compared to 2014, and parking lot crashes showed a 13% increase from 2014.



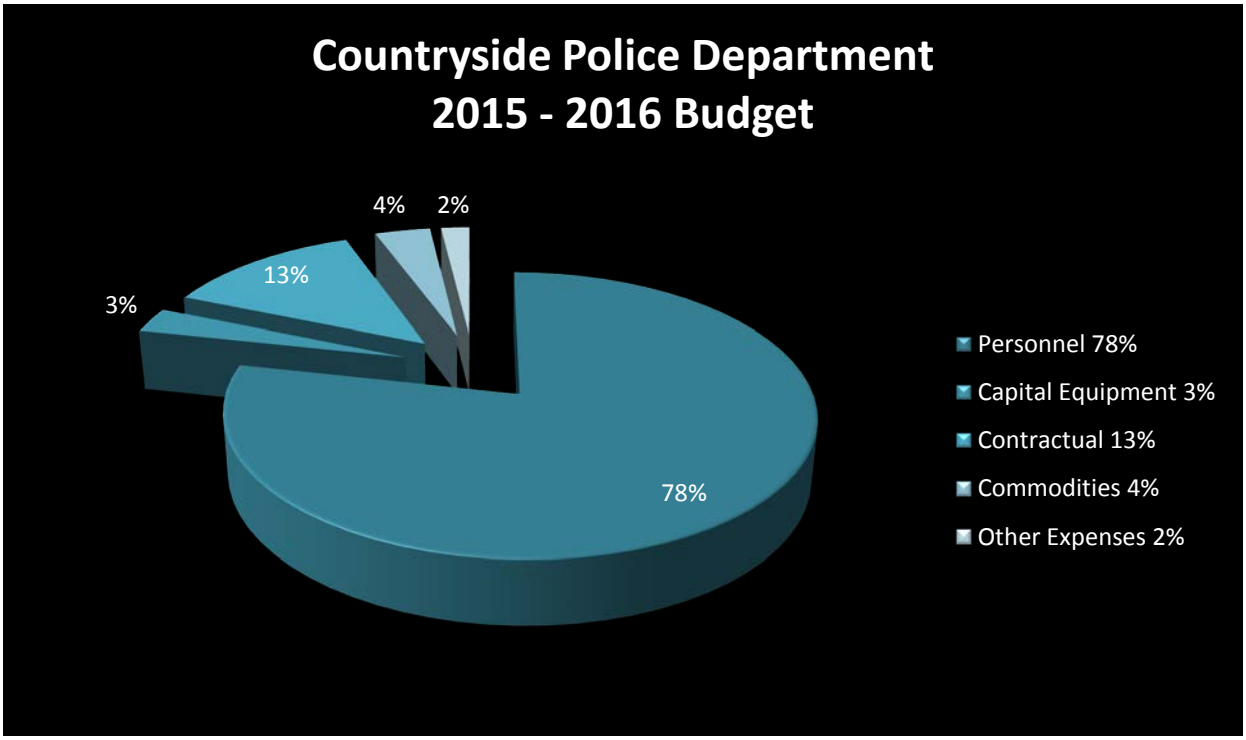
	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
Roadway	397	387	374	343	350
Parking Lot	226	200	197	199	176

Budget 2015 - 2016 4

COUNTRYSIDE POLICE DEPARTMENT 2015 - 2016 BUDGET DETAIL

DESCRIPTION	CATEGORY	FUND	BUDGET
Salaries Full-time	Personnel	Corporate	$2,352,072
Salaries Part-time	Personnel	Corporate	$95,660
Overtime	Personnel	Corporate	$180,000
Overtime	Personnel	Drug Forfeiture	$20,000
Buybacks/Other Benefit	Personnel	Corporate	$200,000
Social Security Tax	Personnel	Corporate	$174,957
Medicare Tax	Personnel	Corporate	$42,521
Health Insurance	Personnel	Corporate	$418,032
Other Insurance	Personnel	Corporate	$23,672
Employee Assistance	Personnel	Corporate	$600
IMRF	Personnel	Corporate	$34,403
Employee Physicals	Personnel	Corporate	$1,000
		TOTAL PERSONNEL	**$3,542,917**
Operating Capital	Capital Equipment	Corporate	$1,800
Operating Capital	Capital Equipment	911	$10,000
Operating Capital	Capital Equipment	Drug Forfeiture	$121,400
		TOTAL CAPITAL EQUIPMENT	**$133,200**
Labor Negotiations	Contractual	Corporate	$150,000
Cellular	Contractual	Corporate	$5,500
Contractual/Consulting	Contractual	Corporate	$13,265
Software Maintenance/License	Contractual	911	$5,420
Telephone	Contractual	911	$29,000
Contractual Services	Contractual	911	$387,000
		TOTAL CONTRACTUAL	**$590,185**
Uniform Allowance	Commodities	Corporate	$24,300
Uniform Allowance	Commodities	Drug Forfeiture	$6,200
Subscriptions	Commodities	Corporate	$4,000
Office Supplies	Commodities	Corporate	$7,000
Operating Supplies	Commodities	Corporate	$13,500
Fuel	Commodities	Corporate	$75,000
Operating Supplies	Commodities	Drug Forfeiture	$32,000
Crime Prevention Materials	Commodities	Drug Forfeiture	$5,000
		TOTAL COMMODITIES	**$167,000**
Maintenance - Equipment	Other	Corporate	$11,000
Maintenance - Motor Vehicle	Other	Corporate	$18,000
Conference & Travel	Other	Corporate	$1,750
Training & Meetings	Other	Corporate	$9,850
Professional Development	Other	Drug Forfeiture	$14,225
Tuition Reimbursement	Other	Corporate	$11,920
Memberships & Licenses	Other	Corporate	$4,000
Legal Notices	Other	Corporate	$0
Maintenance - Equipment	Other	911	$7,000
Maintenance - Equipment	Other	Drug Forfeiture	$8,400
		TOTAL OTHER	**$86,145**
TOTAL 2015 - 2016 BUDGET			**$4,519,447**

COUNTRYSIDE POLICE DEPARTMENT 2015 - 2016 BUDGET SUMMARY



BUDGET CATEGORY	AMOUNT BUDGETED
Personnel	$3,542,917.00
Capital Equipment	$133,200.00
Contractual	$590,185.00
Commodities	$167,000.00
Other Expenses	$86,145.00
TOTAL BUDGET	**$4,519,447.00**

Department Recognition 5

New to the Department



Officer Ryan Venem was sworn in by Mayor McDermott on June 24, 2015. Officer Venem graduated from the Suburban Law Enforcement Academy on September 24, 2015.



Officer Michael Maher was sworn in by Mayor McDermott on June 24, 2015. Officer Maher came to Countryside with 4 years of prior police experience.

Promotions



Sergeant Paul Klimek was promoted to Master Sergeant on June 8, 2015. He joined the Countryside Police Department on July 6, 2004 and holds a Master's Degree in Public Safety Administration from Lewis University.



Detective Darrell DuRell was promoted to Sergeant in June 2015. He was sworn in by Mayor McDermott on June 24, 2015. Darrell was assigned to the investigations division for over 6 years and has been with the Countryside Police Department since May 5, 2003.



Officer Jim Stern was promoted to Detective on June 8, 2015. Jim has been with the Countryside Police Department since January 3, 2007. He serves as one of our Evidence Technicians and is also assigned to the Bicycle Unit.



Officer Robert Sodt was promoted to Detective on August 31, 2015. Robert joined the Countryside Police Department on September 1, 1999. Robert serves as a Range Officer, is a trained Juvenile Officer, and was a member of 5th District SWAT.

Retirements



Master Sergeant John Mikel retired on May 23, 2015. He served 27 years with the Countryside Police Department. During his time with the department he also served as a Field Training Officer and a Firearms Instructor/Range Officer.





Detective Mark Battaglia retired from the Countryside Police Department on July 4, 2015 after 30 years of service. During his time with the department he was assigned to the investigations division for 13 years and also served as a Juvenile Officer and Evidence Technician.

Service Anniversaries



Detective Mark Battaglia
30 YEARS





Officer Ronnie Pohle
20 YEARS

Military Recognition



Officer Kelly Kalker is a member of the United States Army Reserve Military Police. Officer Kalker has been deployed 4 times. During her last deployment, to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, Officer Kalker was awarded the Army Commendation Medal, the Military Outstanding Volunteerism Award, and the Good Conduct Medal.

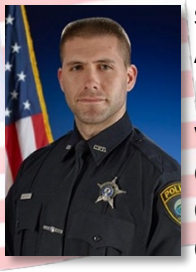


Officer Ryan Venem is a member of the United States Marine Forces Reserve. He served in the United States Marine Corps from 2008 until 2014 where he held the rank of Sergeant E-5. Officer Venem served 3 tours in Afghanistan and was a part of VMU-1. His primary specialty was Unmanned Aircraft System Operator and he received several recognitions during his service.

We proudly recognize the following employees for their contributions to past military service:



Sergeant Anthony Boyd retired from the United States Air Force in April of 2009 after 25 years of active and reserve service. Sergeant Boyd was a member of 932 Aero Medical Evacuation Squadron (AES) and served as an Aero Medical Specialist (Flight Medic).



Officer Brendan Gleespen served in the United States Army from 1998 to 2006. He held the rank of Sergeant. He was deployed 3 times - the last deployment was in Iraq. Officer Gleespen received the Combat Action Badge and won NCO of the year in 2005.



Officer Michael Maher served in the United States Army National Guard from 2004 to 2013. He held the rank of Sergeant E-5 and was an Infantry Team Leader. He served tours of duty in Afghanistan and Iraq and was part of the 1/178th Infantry.



Officer Karl Rodey served in the United States Air Force from 1977 to 1987. He held the rank of E-5 Staff Sergeant and worked in law enforcement. During his service, Officer Rodey served in Granada/Antigua, protecting the U.S. Embassy.



Detective Robert Sodt served in the United States Army National Guard from 1994 until 1999. He held the rank of Specialist and was part of the 933rd Military Police.

Educational Recognition

Earned Degrees

Degrees held by Countryside Police Department sworn officers and full-time civilian employees:

Master's Degree - 3

Bachelor's Degree - 7

Associate's Degree - 7



Degrees in Progress

The following sworn officers are working toward completion of their Bachelor's Degrees: **Deputy Chief Scott Novak, Officer Kreg Floyd, and Officer Ryan Venem**

Awards



Special Recognition

Outstanding Elderly Service Officer
On September 16, 2015 Officer April Bisignani received special recognition from Attorney General Lisa Madigan for outstanding service to older citizens. Chief Ford and Officer Bisignani attended a luncheon in Champaign, IL where Officer Bisignani was presented with a certificate for her service.



Honorable Mentions

Officer Joseph DiGangi - On Wednesday, November 11, 2015 at 1720hrs, Countryside police officers responded to a radio dispatch from the La Grange Police Department regarding a missing, special needs child who had exited her bus at the wrong location and had not returned home. Upon receiving case facts and a description of the child, Countryside police officers, including Officer DiGangi, conducted a search of the Countryside jurisdiction in an attempt to locate the missing child. After approximately 15 minutes, Officer DiGangi observed a person matching the description. Officer DiGangi made contact with the individual, confirmed she was the missing juvenile, and ultimately reunited her with the La Grange Police.

HONORABLE MENTIONS (CONT.)

Officer Karl Rodey - On November 11, 2015, Officer Rodey was conducting routine patrol when he recognized a dog previously identified by Cook County Animal Control as a vicious animal. The dog was walking off-leash in front of a residence where Countryside Police Department had received numerous animal complaints. Officer Rodey spoke with the caretaker of the dog and informed him that due to the vicious classification of the dog, a muzzle and leash were required. Officer Rodey proceeded to take the animal into custody and transported it to the Chicago Ridge Animal Welfare League. Due to the actions of Officer Rodey, a vicious dog was removed from the streets of Countryside possibly saving another citizen from being involved in an animal attack.

Officers Paul Lanzi and Joseph DiGangi - On August 11, 2015, Officer DiGangi performed a traffic stop on a vehicle that had two equipment violations. Officer DiGangi discovered that the driver of the vehicle did not have a driver's license. Officer DiGangi also detected the odor of burnt cannabis coming from inside the vehicle. While Officer DiGangi was conducting the traffic stop, Officer Lanzi arrived on scene to assist. During a search of the vehicle, Officer DiGangi and Officer Lanzi located a loaded revolver inside a duffel bag. The subject explained that the duffel bag, which contained his birth certificate and social security card, was his. Subject also admitted to being a member of the Latin Kings street gang. Subject was arrested and charged with Unlawful Use of a Weapon and Driving Without a License. The vehicle he was driving was impounded. Due to the actions of these officers, a gun that was illegally possessed by a gang member was taken off the street.

Officer Kreg Floyd - On July 4, 2015, Officer Floyd was on routine patrol when he observed a subject behind Ultra Discount Nutrition standing next to a black Lincoln, wearing a hooded jacket and gloves holding a black garbage bag. Officer Floyd made a U-turn and proceeded back to the location at which point the suspect was driving away from the scene. Officer Floyd stopped the vehicle and identified the driver as the same subject he had previously viewed behind the business. While speaking with the driver, Officer Floyd observed gloves, the black garbage bag, two mallets, an ax, and a medicine bottle containing suspect cannabis. The subject was arrested and a search of the vehicle revealed multiple dietary supplements that were positively identified by the store owner as being taken in the burglary. Officer Floyd's actions led to the arrest of a burglary suspect and the recovery of $8,752.00 in merchandise.

Officer April Bisignani - On May 26, 2015, Officer Bisignani was dispatched to assist LaGrange Police Department with locating an elderly subject who had told her therapist she was going to check herself in to a hotel and take Xanax and alcohol. While en-route to check local hotels for the subject, Officer Bisignani received information from Southwest Central Dispatch that the subject's phone had hit off a cell tower in the area of Plainfield and Willow Springs Road. Officer Bisignani checked the area with negative results. Upon inquiring with an employee of Best Western, Officer Bisignani learned that the subject was a registered guest and proceeded to the room with management. The subject was located without incident and found to be in possession of enough Xanax pills to end her life. Officer Bisignani's actions very possibly saved a person's life that day.

Honorable Mention

Letters from the Community

These are excerpts from a few of the letters we received in 2015 from residents or businesses in the community.

To: CSO Cordova

When I was in an accident on February 19, 2015, the police officer was very helpful, but when I started filling out the accident report I needed help. I went to the police department and Liz Cordova, Community Service Officer, helped me fill out the report, made a copy for me to keep. She was polite and very understanding, a credit to our community…in the City of Countryside I'm always treated with respect and compassion. Liz did that, treated me like a person and helped me through a confusing time. Thank you."

To: Officer Goluszka

"I was in a car accident…my 3 grandkids were with me. The officer that responded, Officer Goluszka was very kind and spoke compassionately. He was also helpful in helping me understand what the next steps were and pointed me in the right direction…Thank you Officer Goluszka."

To: Master Sergeant Klimek and Officer Jakubowski

(regarding a traffic stop) "…the two officers on the scene were incredibly professional. My goal is to become a police officer and the gentlemen involved in the traffic stop seemed like good examples of the type of police officer I want to be. If the two involved are any sign of the department as a whole, then Countryside PD is doing something very right."

To: Officer Rodey and Officer Venem

"…my sister-in-law…had locked her keys in her car, and was ready to break the window…both of the above listed officers responded and worked to open the door. I wish to offer my sincere appreciation for their diligence in this matter. They were professional and understanding. They went beyond what was expected. Please tell them thank you."

To: Officer Alonzo and Officer Goluszka

(regarding wife's keys locked in trunk) "One officer gained access to the car, but they were unable to get the trunk opened. Officer Goluszka then took her to our residence to obtain another set of keys for her car, while the other officer stood by her vehicle…She was extremely impressed with their demeanor and professionalism…You can be proud of your staff, they are all number one in our book!"

To: Countryside Police Department

"I would like to thank you for the opportunity given to me by attending the Police Academy for citizens, the knowledge that I received is not in a book, the law officers were not only excellent educators but gentlemen, every session was interesting and officers answered every question with pride in their work. I also want to thank the officers for their bravery and putting their life on the line to protect others."

Letters from other Agencies



These are excerpts from a few of the letters we received from other agencies in 2015.

Master Sergeant Paul Klimek: "I would like to thank Sergeant Klimek for his assistance on April 12, 2015. Sergeant Klimek responded to our department's request for assistance at a traffic stop which involved a subject, which later resulted in a DUI arrest. The Countryside Police Department is made up of many dedicated individuals who are willing to assist neighboring communities when needed."

Chief Pamela Church -Western Springs Department of Law Enforcement Services

Deputy Chief Scott Novak, Detective Robert Sodt, and Detective Jim Stern (MCAT callout): "The intent of this letter is to thank you and the entire Major Case Assistance Team for their assistance…the Riverside Police Department had experienced a cartage theft in which a suspect had followed a cigarette truck from Chicago to Riverside and burglarized that truck as the driver was making a delivery…after only 30 minutes of surveillance at an address in Chicago, MCAT detectives were able to make an arrest of the suspect without incident."

Chief Thomas Weitzel - Riverside Police Department

Detective Jim Stern: "I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge Investigator Jim Stern for his exceptional commitment and cooperation while working with the Marmaxx National Task Force. Investigator Stern was instrumental in bringing an organized retail fraud investigation to a successful conclusion…without his dedication and diligence this success would not have been possible."

Manager of National Investigations - The Marmaxx Group National Task Force

Sergeant Boyd, Officer Gleespen, Officer Lanzi, Officer Rodey, and Officer Venem: (regarding response to subject in full arrest) "While [Pleasantview Fire Protection District] was enroute, the units were told that it was a full arrest with CPR in progress. Upon arrival they found Countryside police officers doing CPR and that they had applied the AED and delivered a shock to the patient. Officer Paul Lanzi took over CPR…and Officer Ryan Venem prepared the AED [other officers were on the scene]…the patient would have never made it to the cath lab without the outstanding efforts from all involved."

Captain Argast, EMS Coordinator - Pleasantview Fire Protection District

Countryside Police Department and Officer Bisignani: "I would like to thank you for allowing an officer from your department to participate in our National Night Out program and festivities on August 4th. Having officers from other communities represented at the program demonstrates a united effort in policing and crime prevention."

Sgt. Felix Hernandez, NNO Coordinator- La Grange Park Police Department

Community Events and Department Photos 6

COMMUNITY EVENTS

SPECIAL OLYMPICS FUNDRAISERS

Every year the Countryside Police Department participates in fundraising campaigns in support of Special Olympics Illinois.

"Cop on a Rooftop"

Countryside Police Officers stood on the rooftop of Dunkin Donuts at 55th and La Grange Road for 9 hours on May 29, 2015 and raised **$3,032.00.** Officers, staff, and City officials also volunteered for the cause by accepting donations and selling Special Olympics shirts, hats, and novelties during the event.



"Beards for a Cause"

For the 2nd year, Countryside police officers with donations of $100.00 or more grew playoff beards in support of Special Olympics and our Chicago Blackhawks Stanley Cup Playoff run. This year, with additional donations from several local businesses and community members, officers were able to raise **$3,545.00** for Special Olympics, which is over 2 times the amount raised during the 2014 Beards for a Cause fundraiser.







Harley-Davidson Raffle Tickets



The Countryside Police Department also helped by selling **$300.00** in raffle tickets for the Kane County Chiefs of Police Association's annual Harley-Davidson Raffle to benefit the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics Illinois. The Kane County Chiefs of Police Association held the raffle on October 16, 2015 and the Grand Prize was a new 2015 HD Street Glide.



Texas Roadhouse Benefit Lunch

On Friday, July 31, 2015 Texas Roadhouse hosted their free benefit lunch in support of Special Olympics. Lunch included a non-alcoholic beverage, pulled pork sandwich, corn, fresh baked bread, and honey cinnamon butter. Countryside Police Officers and Texas Roadhouse staff served the lunch from 11am to 2pm. Patrons simply left donations at their tables with 100% of the proceeds benefiting Special Olympics. This event raised **$4,674.00**.













IDEAL SCHOOL HALLOWEEN TOUR - October 30, 2015

Each Halloween, Countryside police officers escort Kindergarten and First Grade students from Ideal School to the Police Department and City Hall. Administrative staff dress up for the event and hand out candy while the children get a tour of the Police Department and City Hall.



























"SHOP WITH A COP" - December 12, 2015





















DARE PIZZA PARTY AT IDEAL SCHOOL- May 29, 2015

















CHRISTMAS STOCKINGS

The 5th grade DARE class made Christmas stockings for the seniors at the Countryside Senior Apartments. Officer Bisignani is pictured here with a few of the residents.







SUMMER SCHOOL READING

Officer Bisignani reading to summer school students at Seventh Avenue Elementary School.





Officer Bisignani working the DARE Table at **Countryside Carnival** on July 19, 2015

CPR CLASS - March 26, 2015

Sergeant Boyd and his colleague taught a free two-hour CPR class to 17 students, who all received their CPR Certification that is valid for 2 years.



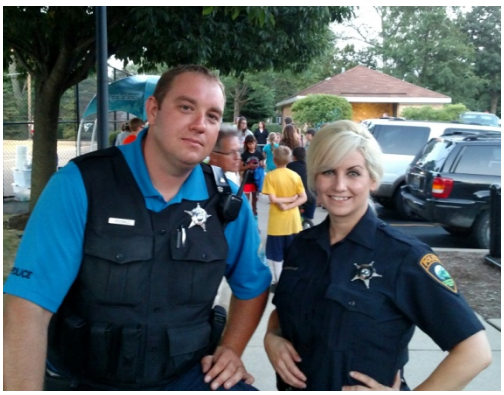




CONCERT IN THE PARK



At the June 4, 2015 ***Concert in the Park,*** CJ Wilson Mazda presented a $4,020.00 check to the Countryside Police Department for the purchase of new bulletproof vests for our police officers.



Officer McDonald on bike patrol and Officer Bisignani representing the Aging Well Community Action Team at ***Concert in the Park*** on August 6, 2015

DEPARTMENT PHOTOS

RANGE DAY - April 2015





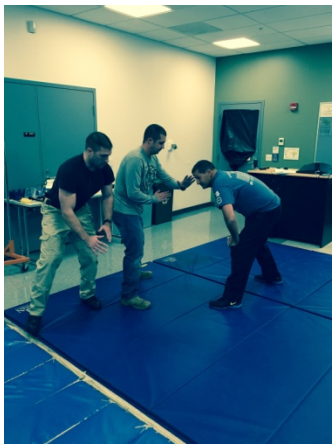






DEFENSIVE TACTICS - October 2015







HOLIDAY DINNER & DEPARTMENT PHOTO SHOOT - December 1, 2015





















Outside the Chief's window, Officer Kalker and Officer Pohle recording the identifying numbers from an injured pigeon.



Deputy Chief Novak, Detective Stern, and Detective Battaglia attended the Illinois Police Officer's Memorial service on May 7, 2015 in Springfield, IL.



At the Suburban Law Enforcement Academy graduation on September 24, 2015 Officer Venem received the George Graves award for being selected as the most distinguished recruit by his follow officers in the class. Pictured from the left, are Fire and Police Commissioner Mary Lou Pisone, Chief Ford, Officer Venem, Deputy Chief Novak and Fire and Police Commissioner Mark Burdett.



Thank you for visiting!!