COUNTRYSIDE
Police Department



POLICE
COUNTRYSIDE
CHICAGO'S WESTERN GATEWAY

ANNUAL 2020 REPORT

Joseph G. Ford, CHIEF OF POLICE

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

March 24, 2021

Mayor Sean McDermott
City of Countryside
803 Joliet Road
Countryside, IL 60525

Dear Mayor McDermott,

On behalf of the Men and Women of the Countryside Police Department, it is my honor to present the City of Countryside Police Department 2020 Annual Report to you and the esteemed members of our City Council. In a year that experienced a Worldwide Pandemic along with several peaceful and some not so peaceful protests our officers stayed the course and continued with our mission of serving the residents and businesses. As you read though this document you will understand that we continue to move forward as a department and as a city.

This has certainly been a year of change as we were able to add three new officers. Due to the lateral transfer program that was instituted in 2020, the closing of police academies throughout the state due to COVID, did not hold us back from getting quality officers trained and on the street. We also promoted two new Sergeants as we continue to build on the future of this department.

The largest accomplishment was the transition to the Lyons Township Area Communication Center to handle our dispatch services. While change is never easy this move will save the City up to $100,000 annually and it greatly increased officer safety by implementing a more secure and reliable radio network. The radio system also enhanced our interoperability with local agencies which was a major concern with our previous dispatch center.

Another major change has been the replacement of our antiquated in-car camera system and the institution of body worn cameras. We as a city and police department take pride in being transparent in all that we do. These tools not only enhance our transparency but also open up a window to the great work and professional service our officers accomplish each and every day.

I would like to thank the city fathers and citizens for their continued support of our organization as we strive to fulfill our mission to the community. The Countryside Police Department will continue to serve proudly and work within our core values; Integrity, Courage, Excellence, Respect, Compassion, and Dedication.

Respectfully,

Joseph G. Ford
Chief of Police

CITY OF COUNTRYSIDE

The Countryside Police Department would like to thank 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 Board of Fire and Police Commissioners, are fundamental in our collective effort to ensure the safety and quality of life for the residents of Countryside.

Area:

2.88 square miles

Population:

5,895 (2010 Census)

Total Households:

2,511

9 parks, 9 hole golf course,

550 businesses, 2 Schools

Sworn Police Officers:

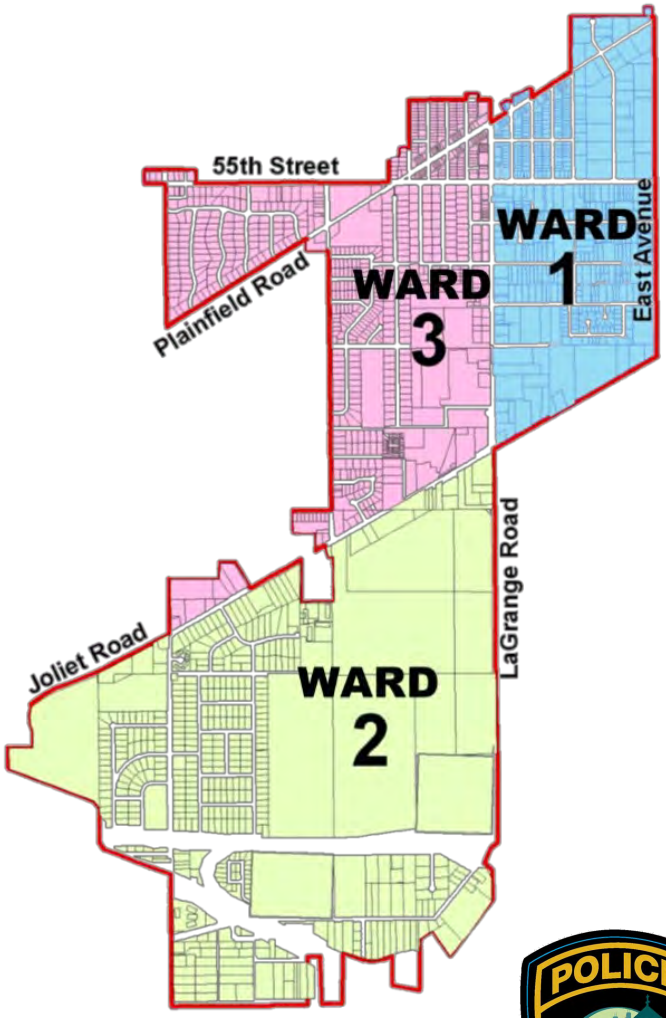
24

Civilian Police Personnel:

13

2020-2021 Police Budget:

$4,075,504





VALUES

INTEGRITY ★ COURAGE ★ EXCELLENCE ★ RESPECT ★ COMPASSION ★ DEDICATION

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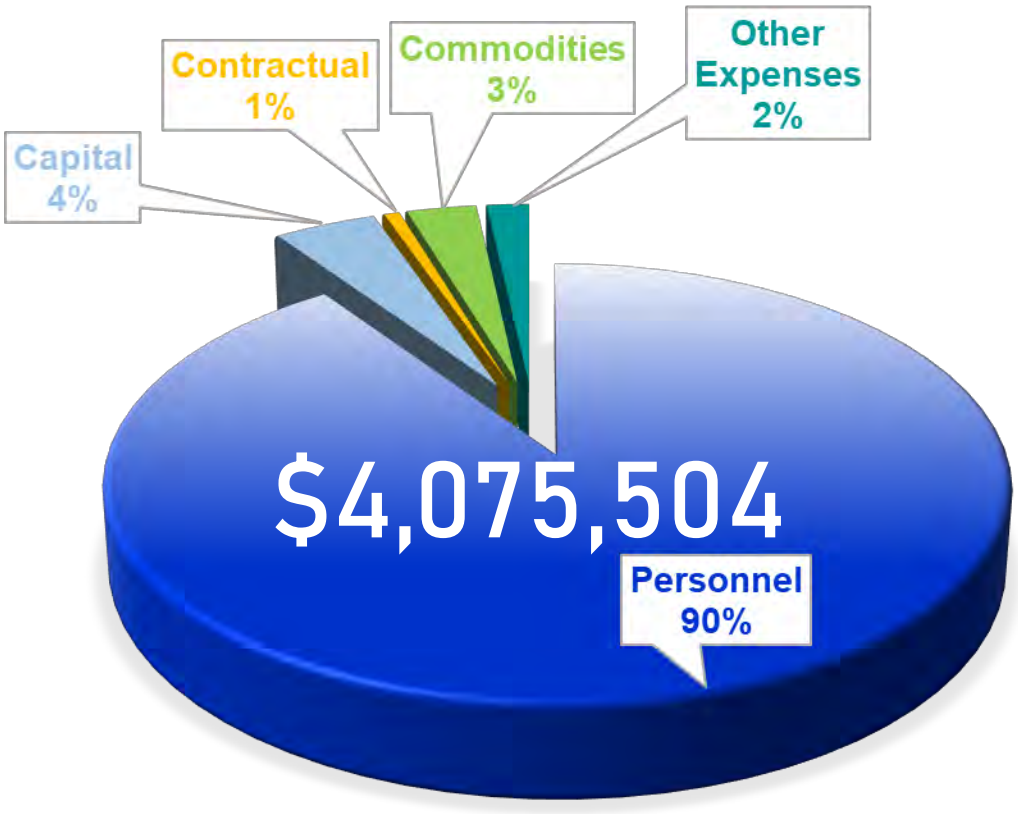
2020 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Transition to new dispatch center - Lyons Township Area Communications Center (LTACC).
  - Trained all employees on the new Computer Aided Dispatch and Records Management System. This is still a work in progress but due to planning and preparation our officers and supervisors were able to seamlessly transition over to the new platform.
  - Switched emergency radio networks from 800 MHz to the Starcom State-wide system. This greatly improved our emergency communication abilities which in turn improves citizen and officer safety.
- Implemented new technology which not only improves public service and safety but also streamlines workflow process.
  - Frontline Software is a web-based program that manages several of our existing programs i.e. House Watch, Overnight Parking, Directed Patrol, business Key holder, At-Risk-Residents, and also condition reports.
  - The BEAST Evidence management software. This allows for better tracking, storing, and disposal of evidence.
- Partnered with PropertyRoom.com to automate the auction requirements of property evidence and also police surplus.
- Continue to institute programs to improve officer wellness both mentally and physically.
  - Partnered with WeNeverWalkAlone which is a police to police peer support system to aid in dealing with stressors and/or mental health issues.
- Continue to address training needs of the department. Each year every officer must receive training in areas such as civil rights, constitutional law, cultural competency, procedural justice, and human rights. As a department our officers average over 2400 hours of training a year.
  - We have also certified all patrol officers and supervisors in Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Training.
- Completed one tobacco enforcement compliance check and multiple IDOT safe driving initiatives. Both are Grant funded programs which covers overtime and some expenses.
- Applied for and received an IDOT public safety grant for $37,488 which allowed us to replace our end-of-life in-car camera system.
  - Up-fitted all police vehicles with new hardware.
- Added three new patrol vehicles to the fleet, purchased in the 2019 budget.
- Implemented a body worn camera program for more transparency and officer safety.
- Updated our Conducted Energy Weapon (TASER) program and policy with the purchase of new, more efficient CEW's.

Accomplishments (cont.)

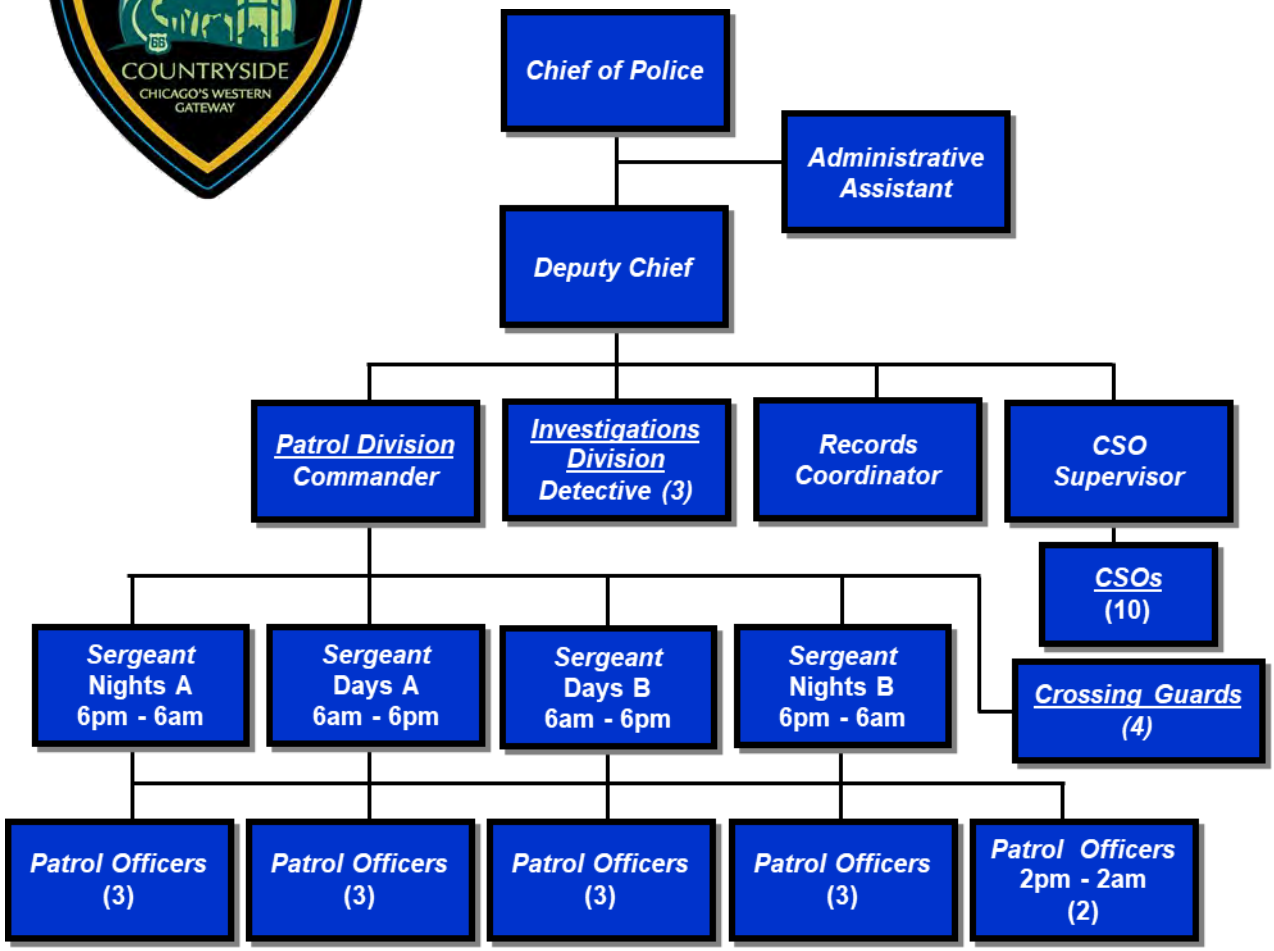
- Revised existing policy to meet the constant changes to State of Illinois statute and implemented new policies.
  - Completed the certification process for our Use of Force policy which became mandated by the Department of Justice.
- Assisted the Board of Fire and Police in revising the Board Rules and Regulations.
  - One major addition was the Lateral Transfer program for new hires.
- Added three new officers, 2 from the lateral program and one new cadet.
  - Of the three officers two were bilingual and the other is a Countryside resident.
- Promoted and trained two new supervisors and one new detective.
- Assisted in modifying or implementing new and existing city ordinances including the stop sign ordinance as well as strengthening the tobacco/vape ordinance.
- COVID Mitigation
  - Set policy and created orders in order to mitigate the spread of COVID throughout the department. To date there have been only 3 officers affected by the virus and none were traced to work.
  - Planned and facilitated two COVID testing sites with the CCDPH and one Flu vaccination site at the old municipal complex.
  - Maintained and acquired ample PPE and hand sanitizer during the extreme shortage.
  - Implemented a plan for COVID Mitigation compliance and enforcement.
- Protests and civil unrest
  - Instituted orders and scheduled overtime to protect businesses and citizens which deterred major incidents without using extreme methods of closing down business districts as other area municipalities had done.
  - Assisted neighboring departments in implementing planning and manpower for peaceful protests.
- Added the Water Department and Public Works to our City security plan adding cameras and access control.
- Negotiated a Memorandum of Understanding with the Drug Enforcement Administration to expand our Automated License Plate Reader Program while they expand their nationwide network.
  - This partnership saved the city over $60,000 in equipment and software licensing and will be used as a backbone for our program for years tom come.
- Presented multiple Life Saving Awards to officers for their efforts in the Opioid epidemic and also secured a new partnership for more Naloxone.
- Presented several department awards including: Merit, Life Saving, Honorable Mention, and Citizen Recognition.
- Hosted a modified Shop With a Cop with donations from local businesses.

DEPARTMENT BUDGET 2020 - 2021



BUDGET CATEGORY	AMOUNT BUDGETED
PERSONNEL	$3,684,044
CAPITAL	$174,500
CONTRACTUAL	$26,335
COMMODITIES	$118,815
OTHER EXPENSES	$71,810
TOTAL BUDGET	**$4,075,504**

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



ADMINISTRATION

Office of the Chief of Police



CHIEF
Joseph G. Ford



DEPUTY CHIEF
Scott Novak



COMMANDER
Paul Klimek



ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
Charity Mitchell

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 Commander Paul Klimek. Deputy Chief Novak has served the Countryside Police Department since 1993, with Commander Klimek serving since 2004. Charity Mitchell has provided administrative support for the department since 2014. The Office of the Chief of Police oversees all aspects of police department operations and provides leadership, direction, and vision to the members of the Countryside Police Department in the fulfillment of its overall mission. This office is responsible for departmental management, maintenance of professional standards, and administration of the police department budget.

Records Department

The Records Department is coordinated by Guadalupe Hamernik, who has been with the police 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.



RECORDS COORDINATOR
Guadalupe Hamernik

Records Department (cont.)

The Records Department is also responsible for:

Annual Records Disposal
Accuracy of Arrest Jackets
Compiling Monthly Reports
Local Court Adjudication
5th District Circuit Court
Subpoena Requests
Freedom of Information Requests
Local Ordinance Citations
Collections / IL Debt Recovery
Records Expungements
LEADS Coordination
Records Management System Auditing

Law Enforcement Records Management System (LERMS)

Through the use of an RMS, our record keeping and reporting process is streamlined and operates efficiently allowing officers to accurately document people, places, and things when completing their written police reports. The RMS also allows our department to document recovered property and evidence, maintain officer training records, track vehicle maintenance records, and manage our monthly adjudication proceedings.

Our department also utilizes computerized accident reporting software that allows officers to complete accident reports electronically. In addition, State required crash statistics are compiled seamlessly in the system, staff can conduct statistical reports of crash data, and our accident reports are made available to citizens and insurance companies online.

Administrative Adjudication

Administrative Adjudication (local court) for local ordinance violations, including building code violations, is held on the 3rd Wednesday of every month. ***In 2020, a total of 110 cases were heard in local court. 79 of these cases were local ordinance and 31 of the cases were building code.*** These cases were either cleared through fines and/or community service, or they were dismissed. A total of ***$40,093 in fines/cost was collected*** through parking, compliance, and local ordinance fines.

In 2020, 24 vehicles in total were impounded and $8,500 was collected in administrative tow fees.

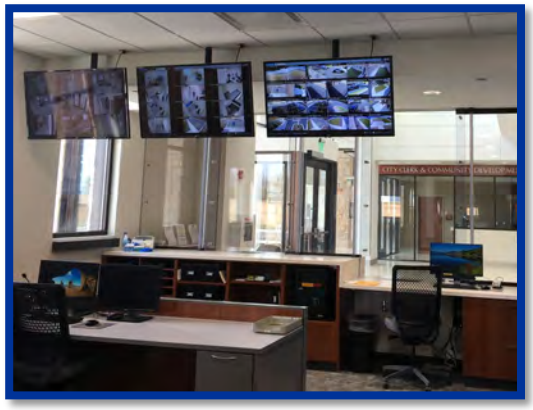
Community Service Officers

Community Service Officer Supervisor Patricia Littlejohn, who has been with the police department since 2007, and 10 part-time Community Service Officers (CSOs) maintain coverage at the front desk 24 hours a day, 365 days per year. CSOs 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 the video surveillance system including prisoners, cameras located at Countryside and Ideal Parks, and all cameras that cover the City of Countryside Municipal Complex, and the Water Department facility. The CSO Supervisor is also responsible for training new CSOs, processing bank deposits, maintaining all LEADS hot files, and assisting with adjudication hearings.



CSO SUPERVISOR
Patricia Littlejohn

The day-to-day support provided by CSO staff is instrumental in minimizing the office responsibilities of our officers allowing them to spend more time out of the department and on the street serving our residents.



Community Service Officer Shift Activity

The totals below reflect CSO activity that occurred during the course of evening shifts Monday-Friday (11pm-7am, 3pm-11pm) and weekend shifts Saturday and Sunday. (11pm-7am, 3pm-11pm, 7am-3pm).

Countryside Police Department Calls	***2296***	***Tickets Entered***	***2083***
Transferred Calls/LTACC	***524***	***Transport Paperwork***	***38***
Window Assists	***1898***	***Overnight Parking Requests***	***1000***
Prisoners Housed	***126***	***Vacation Watch Requests***	***25***
Arrest Paperwork	***142***	***Dog Licenses***	***12***

9-1-1 Emergency Dispatch

The Countryside Police Department is pleased to announce that, as of August 24, 2020, emergency dispatch services for the residents and businesses of Countryside is being operated by the Lyons Township Area Communications Center (LTACC). LTACC is a combined dispatch center that is housed within the LaGrange Police Department. LTACC serves and operates as a 9-1-1 Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) and dispatch center for the Countryside, LaGrange, LaGrange Park, and Western Springs Police Departments. The Lyons Township Area Communication Center (LTACC) is a newly-consolidated dispatch center that opened on March 20, 2017, and is comprised of telecommunications personnel from the villages of LaGrange, LaGrange Park and Western Springs. These Dispatchers provide high-quality, professional service to the members of each communities.

As a member of LTACC, the City of Countryside now has access to SMART 911 which is a web-based software that interacts with our emergency dispatch center (LTACC). With Smart911 citizens can ***create a Safety Profile*** for their household that includes any information they may want 9-1-1 and response teams to have in the event of an emergency such as allergies, pets, emergency contacts, household information, medical history, and vulnerable needs. Information from the ***Safety Profile*** is automatically displayed to the 9-1-1 call taker during an emergency call, allowing them to send the appropriate response teams to the correct location with the right information. Responders can be made aware of many details they would not have known previously, so fire crews can arrive at a house fire knowing how many people live in the home and the location of bedrooms, EMS can be advised of allergies or specific medical conditions and police can have the photo of a missing child in seconds rather than minutes or hours.

While creating a Safety Profile, it is highly recommended that citizens also opt-in for ***"Alerts"***. The "Alerts" portion of "Smart911" acts as a mass notification system and allows the City of Countryside and the Countryside Police Department to notify citizens of vital information and emergency situations that may be occurring in their neighborhoods. By opting in for notifications, vital information can be received via text, email, and/or voice message. Citizens decide how much information they want to provide when they sign up. All information is optional and they have the ability to choose what details they would like to include. This information is stored on the Smart911 secure online system.

FIELD OPERATIONS

Patrol Division

The Patrol Division is the largest and most highly visible component of the Countryside Police Department. Employing 4 sergeants and 14 patrol officers, the primary responsibility of the Patrol Division is the protection of life and property. Patrol officers maintain peace and order, conduct preliminary investigations, and enforce traffic and criminal laws, as well as City ordinances. Patrol officers provide initial response to emergency and non-emergency calls for service. They handle special assignments, proactively address community concerns, and perform ancillary functions such as evidence technician, field training officer, elderly services officer, and bicycle unit officer.

The Patrol Division operates on a 12-hour-shift patrol schedule. Under this schedule, there is a 6AM to 6PM shift and a 6PM to 6AM shift. These shifts are supplemented by a 2PM to 2AM "power car" shift. Each shift is supervised by a sergeant or officer-in-charge and the department provides continuous 24-hour police service.



During 2020, patrol officers handled 10,389 total calls. These calls include response to calls for service such as criminal offenses, traffic crashes, alarm activations, disturbances, traffic complaints, and other miscellaneous incidents. Also included in the total calls are the numerous officer-initiated interactions with the community, open door/window and business/building checks.

Patrol Division (cont.)

The Countryside Police Department has a total of 12 police vehicles in service. 7 of these units are used for active patrol, 2 are used for investigations, and 3 are administrative. One marked vehicle is outfitted with evidence technician equipment and one is equipped with specialized weaponry and protection essential for SWAT officers.

All patrol vehicles are equipped with ***in-car camera systems*** and ***Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) software***. The in-car camera systems were upgraded in 2020 and provide several benefits including officer training opportunities, increased professionalism and performance, and most importantly the safety of our officers and citizens. CAD software alerts officers when they are being assigned to calls and, with the click of a button, officers can notify dispatch that they are responding to, or have arrived at a dispatched call. The CAD 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. In addition to this technology, one of the marked patrol units is equipped with an ***Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR)***. The ALPR captures license plate numbers which are run against a database that cross references wanted vehicle listings as officers patrol the city.

Body-worn cameras were purchased for all officers in 2020. Body worn cameras provide the ability to document and maintain officer accountability, citizen contacts, critical incident response, and serve as evidence in court proceedings. They also assist the police department in maintaining the highest level of departmental transparency in the event our actions, good or bad, are called into play or challenged.

The patrol division also has three Certified Child Safety Seat Technicians. Those interested in having a child safety seat checked for proper installation, can call the Countryside Police Department or send an email to carseat@countrysidepolice.org to schedule an appointment.

CERTIFIED CHILD SAFETY SEAT TECHNICIANS:

Sergeant Maher, Officer Bisignani, and Officer Kalker

Evidence Technician Unit

The Evidence Technician Unit consists of specially trained officers who, in addition to regular patrol duties, are responsible for recovering, photographing, and processing crime scene evidence. Our evidence technician officers complete an initial 2-week, 80 hour certification course and they continue to receive specialized training in their field throughout the course of each year.

EVIDENCE TECHNICIANS:
Sergeant Maher, Sergeant Stern, Officer Alonzo, Officer Bisignani, and Officer Rojas



Evidence technician 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 is called upon to process crime scenes and motor vehicle crashes in Countryside. Some of the crime scenes that our evidence technicians have investigated include: ***Death Investigations, Fire Investigations, Serious Motor Vehicle Accidents, Burglaries (Residential/Business/Motor Vehicle), and Crimes Against Person (Assault and Battery).***

Truck Enforcement Officers

Truck Enforcement Officers attend a 40 hour Basic Truck Weight Enforcement course certified by the Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board. Topics covered during the training include how to detect overweight and oversize vehicles, techniques for weighing and measuring, portable scale operation, legal issues and testimony, correct citation and bonding practices, CDL classifications, registration of trucks and trailers, and Illinois overweight and oversize permit laws.

TRUCK ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS:
Commander Klimek
Sergeant Maher
Detective Venem
Officer Rojas

Truck enforcement is instrumental in maintaining the safety of our roads and reducing the maintenance costs due to deterioration of roads caused by excessive truck weights.

Juvenile Division

The involvement of a juvenile officer is required in any investigation dealing with an offender under the age of 18. The assignment of juvenile officer encompasses many different duties and responsibilities. Juvenile officers prepare the various paperwork and filings that go to Juvenile Court for each juvenile charged with a criminal offense. Officers in this unit are also involved with investigative follow-ups 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 (DCFS). Contacts are made between the two agencies, usually through the juvenile officer, and joint investigations are conducted when requested by DCFS. The Juvenile Unit also acts to protect juvenile victims by referring them to agencies designed to assist juveniles 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 which is designed for juveniles who have cases involving alcohol and other drugs. This educational program is for both the juvenile and the parents or guardians involved. 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 DuRell, Sergeant Maher, Sergeant Sodt, Officer Alonzo, Officer Batzel, Officer Bisignani, Officer Cerny, Officer Kalker, and Officer Lanzi

Bicycle Unit

The Bicycle Unit provides police patrol in areas that are inaccessible to vehicular patrol and makes officers more visible and more accessible to the citizens of Countryside. The 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 regular patrols, the Bicycle Unit also provided security at Concerts in the Park and other City related events throughout the year.

***BICYCLE UNIT OFFICERS:* Sergeant Stern, Officer Alonzo, Officer Gleespen, Officer Kalker , Officer Lanzi, Officer McDonald, and Officer Venem**

Crossing Guards

The Countryside Police Department has 4 school crossing guards. The responsibility of each crossing guard is to ensure safe passage of students on their route to and from school.

The school crossing locations are: 7th Avenue at Plainfield Road, 55th Street at Plainfield Road, 58th Street at Francis Avenue, and in front of Ideal School on 58th Street

Investigations Division

The Countryside Police Department Investigations Division employs three detectives who possess special skills and training to perform case follow-ups and investigate crime that is of a complex nature or geographically beyond the reach and control of Patrol Division officers. Two of the detectives in the Investigations Division share the responsibility of conducting follow-up investigations, managing property and evidence, and augmenting the patrol division when needed. These two detectives are also assigned to the Major Case Assistance Team (MCAT) and the South Suburban Major Crimes Task Force (SSMCTF). Based upon their assignments and the opportunistic nature of criminals, our detectives are on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Examples of cases that are assigned to detectives include: **Death Investigations, Sex Crimes, Burglaries/Home Invasions, Burglaries to Vehicle, Thefts, Batteries/Assaults, and Forgeries/ Fraud.**

In 2020, the Investigations Division reviewed 1,144 criminal cases. Of these 1,144 cases, 117 cases were assigned to detectives for follow-up. Throughout the course of the year, these investigations resulted in 15 arrests and 68 suspended cases (due to lack of evidence). 20 cases are still being actively investigated.

Our third detective is assigned to the Chicago High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) Domestic Highway Enforcement Initiative through an interagency agreement with the Illinois State Police Narcotics and Currency Interdiction Task Force (NARCINT). The HIDTA Unit investigates narcotics and money laundering related crimes throughout the State of Illinois. Our detective focuses primarily on commercial motor vehicle interdiction to target narcotics and currency traffickers.

In 2020, the NARCINT/HIDTA Unit seized $14,036,767.00 in US Currency and other assets. The currency and assets were all submitted for forfeiture where the court determines whether or not to declare the funds as forfeited. The City of Countryside receives a percentage of any funds that are declared by the court as forfeited.

2020 HIDTA ACTIVITY STATISTICS

228	**Cases**
27	**Arrests**
28	**Firearms seized**
13	**Search warrants**
5	**Vehicles seized**

NARCOTICS SEIZURES

Heroin	**31,732 grams**	**Oxycodone**	**590 pills**
Cocaine	**79,081 grams**	**PCP**	**3,000 grams**
Meth	**18,501 grams**	**Xanax**	**272 grams**
MDMA	**14,492 grams**		
Marijuana	**990,830 grams**		
THC Oil/Edibles	**70,627 grams**		
Alprazolam	**2,330 pills**		
Heroin/Fentanyl	**5,000 grams**		

Mutual Aid Assignments

5TH District SWAT - The 5th District SWAT Team 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 2020, 5th District SWAT ***officers responded to 1 activation.***

Major Case Assistance Team (MCAT) - MCAT is a mutual aid organization comprised of investigators from 14 local jurisdictions including; Brookfield, Countryside, Forest View, Hodgkins, Indian Head Park, LaGrange, LaGrange Park, Lyons, McCook, North Riverside, Riverside, Stickney, Western Springs, and Willow Springs. In 2020, MCAT investigators were ***activated 4 times*** to bring resolution to various criminal investigations that included a murder, shootings, narcotics, burglaries, and thefts. It is the mission of MCAT to work together to solve and reduce crime through the sharing of expertise, information, and the combining of resources.

South Suburban Major Crimes Task Force (SSMCTF) - SSMCTF encompasses more than 50 agencies from the 5th and 6th Districts of Cook County. The Countryside Police Department is part of the SSMCTF West Division and specializes in homicide investigations. In 2020, SSMCTF detectives were ***activated on 3 separate occasions***.

Suburban Major Accident Reconstruction Team (SMART) - SMART is comprised of police officers from member agencies that are specially trained in major crash reconstruction. These officers assist member agencies in the investigation of vehicle crashes involving substantial property damage, injury, and/or death. We currently have one officer, who is a State Certified Accident Reconstructionist, assigned to SMART. In 2020, our officer responded to ***4 activations*** to assist member agencies with the reconstruction of major crashes.

Illinois Law Enforcement Alarm System (ILEAS) -

The Countryside Police Department is also a member of ILEAS. ILEAS was formed in 2002 in response to the September 11th attacks and is responsible for coordinating immediate statewide emergency mutual aid response by law enforcement agencies to a requesting agency should a community suffer any natural or man-made disaster. ILEAS is based in Urbana, IL and is the largest mutual aid organization in the United States. In 2020, ***officers responded to 1 ILEAS activation***.

Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) Traffic Safety Details

Traffic safety details, funded by an I.D.O.T. Traffic Safety Grant issued by the State of Illinois, are enforcement efforts designed to detect violators of Illinois traffic laws with special emphasis on alcohol and occupant protection. In 2020, our officers conducted 9 special enforcement details including: ***Super Bowl, 4th of July, Labor Day, Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Christmas/New Year's Holidays.***





During 2020 IDOT Traffic Safety Details our officers issued a total of 287 citations including:

135 seatbelt, 2 carseat, 9 suspended/revoked driver's license, 4 uninsured motorist, 66 speeding, and 11 distracted driving. In addition, 1 criminal arrest and 6 traffic arrests were made.

State of Illinois Tobacco Enforcement Program

In 2020, our officers conducted 1 round of tobacco compliance checks on the 17 Countryside businesses with tobacco licenses.

All 17 businesses were in compliance.

These checks are conducted in cooperation with the Illinois Department of Human Services. Through the State of Illinois Tobacco Enforcement Program, our department receives grant funding to conduct retail education and enforcement initiatives. This State 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.



**** PLEASE NOTE Due to COVID-19 and the transition to a new dispatch center and records management system in mid-2020 the statistical data throughout this report may differ slightly from past years.***

2020 Statistics

Calls for Service	Parking Citations Issued	Alarm Calls	*Long Form Arrests	Traffic Citations Issued
10,389	**583**	**507**	**66**	**513**
Accidents (incl. Hit & Run)	Traffic Stops	Traffic Arrests	Business Checks	Vehicle Impounds
429	**1300**	**21**	**1627**	**24**
Training Hours	Local Ordinance Arrests	Open Door/ Window	Warnings Issued (Written)	Assist Other Agency
1275	**55**	**75**	**727**	**1163**

*Long form arrests include felony arrests, misdemeanor arrests, and warrant arrests.

Part I and Part II Crimes

PART I CRIMES	2019	2020
Homicide	0	0
Criminal Sexual Assault	3	0
Robbery	7	1
Aggravated Battery/Assault	2	5
Burglary	16	24
Theft	166	131
Motor Vehicle Theft	8	14
Arson	0	0
Human Trafficking	0	0

Part II Crimes	2019	2020
Battery/Domestic Battery/Assault	68	65
Deceptive Practices	39	110
Criminal Damage to Property/Defacement	51	40
Deadly Weapons	2	0
Sex Offense (Public Indecency)	1	1
Drug Offenses	53	6
Resisting/Obstructing Arrest	9	5
Disorderly Conduct	22	33
Warrant Arrests	26	8
Unlawful Visitation Interference	4	4
Driving While Intoxicated	36	6
Driving on Suspended/Revoked or No DL	44	14

The Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program divides offenses into two groups, Part I and Part II crimes. Each month, participating law enforcement agencies submit information on the number of Part I offenses that become known to them; those offenses cleared by arrest or exceptional means; and the age, sex, and race of persons arrested for each of the offenses. Contributors provide only arrest data for Part II offenses. The UCR Program collects data about Part I offenses in order to measure the level and scope of crime occurring throughout the nation. The program's founders chose these offenses because they are serious crimes, they occur with regularity in all areas of the country, and they are likely to be reported to police.

Arrest Summary & Comparison

The data on this page represents **arrests** for **selected** violations of Illinois Compiled Statutes as well as **Local Ordinance Violations.**

CRIMINAL OFFENSE	2020	2019	2018
Aggravated Assault / Aggravated Battery	4	0	0
Disorderly Conduct	1	4	14
Armed Robbery	0	1	1
Assault / Battery	11	11	14
Burglary from Motor Vehicle	3	1	0
Burglary Commercial/Non-Residential	3	2	1
Contributing to Delinquency of Minor	0	0	0
Criminal Damage to Property/Damage to Vehicle/Defacement	5	2	6
Criminal Trespass to Real Property/ Residence/Vehicle	5	5	8
Domestic Battery	5	7	4
Drug Offenses	18	56	85
Endangering Life / Health Child / Neglect	2	3	4
Fraudulent Activity	2	12	16
Harassment by Phone / Electronics	0	1	2
Obstructing Justice/Resist/Obstruct Officer	4	6	12
Retail Theft	22	60	66
Theft under $500 / Theft over $500	7	6	14
Warrant Arrest	5	30	37
TRAFFIC OFFENSE	**2020**	**2019**	**2018**
Driving Under the Influence	6	36	15
No Driver's License	7	9	22
Suspended/Revoked DL	7	35	61

TRAINING

Training for the Countryside Police Department is coordinated by Commander Klimek. Police department employees participate in a variety of training throughout the year, including 1 hour each month of online testing through the Police Law Institute. Training programs are presented through classroom instruction, printed materials, videos, online instruction, seminars, and departmental communications. Training topics have included: ***policy and procedure review, criminal law, local ordinances, and traffic law updates*.** The majority of department training is provided by the Intergovernmental Risk Management Agency (IRMA) and North East Multi-Regional Training, Inc. (NEMRT). IRMA provides training videos and nationally accredited driving courses. NEMRT provides our officers a wide variety of courses from refresher training to university-directed staff and command courses.

- ***1,275 combined hours of department training*** were completed. Typical training hours, including monthly 5th District SWAT and SSMART training were impacted by COVID-19 restrictions. 560 of the training hours for 2020 were completed by one of our new officers through his attendance at the Police Academy. Officers were still able to complete monthly online training as well as Fall range training.
- The Chief and Deputy Chief both completed the ***20 hours of training required annually*** by the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP).
- ***Less Than Lethal Training and Defensive Tactics Training*** are conducted annually. On these training days, officers are instructed on the proper use of the baton, OC spray, Taser, and special tactics, to maximize their skills in protecting themselves and others during arrest and restraint.
- ***In accordance with the State of Illinois Police and Community Improvement Act,*** officers receive annual training in use of force and criminal law. The act also requires officers to complete training in civil rights, constitutional and proper use of law enforcement authority, cultural competency, procedural justice, and human rights.

CPR / AED / Opioid Overdose Training

- All Countryside police officers are trained and certified in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and in the use of automated defibrillators (AEDs). Each officer on patrol has an AED with them in the event of a cardiac emergency.
- All officers have also received training in the proper administration of Naloxone. Naloxone kits are carried along with the AEDs in each patrol vehicle.

Training (cont.)

- ***Firearms Training*** - The Countryside Police Department has 4 State Certified Firearms Training Officers who are also State Certified Police Carbine/Rifle Instructors. These officers conduct firearms training and annual firearms qualifications with all officers to maintain compliance with State law and improve the level of individual proficiency. Twice a year, officers complete their pistol and rifle training and qualification courses.









Mental Health First Aid Training

- In December 2017, the Countryside Police Department "took the pledge" to participate in the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) "One Mind Campaign". As part of this campaign, our department set a goal to establish a partnership with one or more community mental health organizations, develop and implement a policy addressing police response to persons affected by mental illness, train and certify 100% of our officers in mental health first aid, and provide Crisis Intervention Team training to a minimum of 20% of our officers. In February 2019 our department received a Certificate of Completion from IACP for fulfilling the goals of the One Mind Campaign Pledge.

Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Training

- Crisis Intervention Team training is a State certified 40-hour training course that provides specialized training to allow officers to respond effectively to incidents that may involve an individual facing a mental health crisis. All patrol officers and sergeants have completed this 40-hour training.

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

Internal affairs is a necessary component of any police department. In the event of a complaint, administration conducts a thorough and impartial investigation. One key factor in measuring the commitment our officers have to the community and to public service is the number of citizen complaints received throughout the year. In 2020, only one citizen complaint was filed. This complaint was unfounded and our officers continue to receive many compliments from citizens throughout the year.

IA#	Complaint Type	Disposition	Disciplinary Action if Complaint was Sustained
2020-1	Administrative Policy	Sustained	Counseling Letter
2020-2	Administrative Policy	Sustained	Written Reprimand
2020-3	Administrative Policy	Sustained	Counseling Letter
2020-4	Outside Agency	Unfounded/Proper Conduct	N/A
2020-5	Citizen Complaint	Unfounded	N/A
2020-6	Administrative Policy	Sustained	Written Reprimand

Definitions 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 Incidents

5 incidents involving use of force occurred in 2020 and 0 complaints were made. Even though no complaints regarding use of force were made, each use of force incident was reviewed through department-initiated investigation and all were found to be within the prescribed guidelines of Countryside Police Department policies and procedures.

PROGRAMS AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

Unfortunately ***Citizen's Police Academy (CPA), Junior Police Academy (JPA), the "Safe Riding Program", and Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics Illinois*** were all postponed due to the Global Pandemic but we plan to continue with these programs in 2021 as government restrictions are lifted.

While the traditional ***Shop With a Cop*** was cancelled this year due to the pandemic, we were able to put a modified version together for a few families. With donations from Autobarn of Countryside, Westfield Ford, the Rotary Club, and some donations from police staff, we were able to bring dinner and gifts to three families.

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. The ESO plays an active role in preventing and investigating crimes against older adults. Elderly Service Officers (ESOs) attend an intensive 40 hour training program sponsored by the Illinois Attorney General's Office. ESOs are trained in the areas of: ***The aging process, investigation of elder abuse and neglect, scams and fraud (including financial exploitation), and effective communication with the elderly***. ESOs work with our local senior advocacy program, Aging Care Connections, and are members of the Aging Care Connections, which offers assistance programs to local seniors that enable them to stay independent longer.

ELDERLY SERVICE OFFICERS: **Officer Alonzo and Officer Bisignani**

Business Watch Program

This program helps to build partnerships with local businesses and promotes community awareness. Over 250 local businesses are currently enrolled in this free program. Business Watch keeps business owners and their employees informed of current crime trends. Relevant "Crime Alerts" are emailed to businesses to provide important and timely information about crime trends occurring in the area or at specific business types in nearby areas.

Crime Free Housing Program

This program was instituted in 2015 in order to reduce crime through regulations that require the building owners to be licensed annually and also requires owners/managers to maintain appropriate records. It also establishes a relationship between the owners/managers with our City through the Crime Free Housing Officer. A major benefit of the program is an open line of communication between property owners/managers and the City of Countryside to rectify issues and assist property owners when dealing with rental properties.

Landlords and property owners/managers are required to attend a 4 hour Crime Free Rental Housing training seminar which educates them on the Crime Free Housing Ordinance, provides tips on screening rental applicants, and shares State landlord/tenant laws. 1 seminar was held in 2020.

At 2020 year-end, 235 multi-family and single family rental properties have been identified (15 new units were identified in 2020) through our Crime Free Housing program. Currently, owners/managers of 200 rental properties have successfully completed the required 4 hour training or are exempt from attending due to immediate family living at the property or they have been certified by another department.

"We Call Police"

This 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.



Fleet Watch - This program utilizes public works and utility workers as an "extra set of eyes". The Countryside 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 participate in Fleet Watch.

Service Observation Cards

A form of "Lock-it-or-Lose it", this program reminds people of simple actions that can be taken to deter criminal activity. While officers are conducting preventative patrol, they often times notice conditions such as an open garage door, open car door, or insufficient lighting that may pose a threat to personal property. Our officers may leave a card indicating the condition they viewed and suggest some security measures that can be taken. In 2020, our officers located ***82 open doors*** and when possible, contacted the homeowner or business owner directly. In the event contact could not be made, a card was left and our officers attempted to secure the open door.



COUNTRYSIDE POLICE DEPARTMENT
SERVICE OBSERVATION CARD

DEAR RESIDENT / BUSINESS OWNER,

WHILE ON PREVENTIVE PATROL IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD, I NOTICED A CONDITION WHICH IN MY EXPERIENCE MIGHT POSE A THREAT TO YOUR PROPERTY. PERSONS WITH UNLAWFUL INTENTS OFTEN LOOK FOR INVITING CONDITIONS PRIOR TO SELECTING A TARGET FOR THEIR CRIME. SOME OF THE MORE COMMON CONDITIONS MARKED ON THE BACK OF THIS CARD WERE NOTED TO BE PRESENT ON YOUR PROPERTY.

PLEASE JOIN ME IN MAKING COUNTRYSIDE A SAFER COMMUNITY IN WHICH TO LIVE. SHOULD YOU WISH TO DISCUSS THIS OR ANY OTHER SECURITY MEASURE WITH ME, PLEASE CONTACT ME AT 708-352-2171.

Other programs and initiatives in which the Countryside Police Department offers or participates include:

Internet Purchase Exchange Location where citizens making online transactions that require a meet-up can use the Countryside Police Department lobby as a safe meeting spot for the exchange of internet purchases. The Police Department lobby is under 24 hour video surveillance and there is an emergency phone located in the lobby that will automatically connect callers with a 911 dispatcher.

Prescription Drug Drop-off Location which is an effective way to get unused pharmaceuticals off the streets and out of medicine cabinets. The Cook County Sheriff's Office supplied our department with a secured collection container for unwanted medication. The Sheriff's Office picks up the medication on a regular basis, incinerates the drugs, and recycles the containers. The collection box is located in the lobby of the police department.

Ring Neighbors App which is yet another way to communicate with our residents and to share important information and updates that can help enhance safety within our community. Information can be shared in real-time on the Neighbors by Ring App and, since the Ring App is free and can be used by anyone even if they don't own a ring device, residents can also share information in real-time, anonymously.

Department Awards

The Countryside Police Department's Awards and Recognition Program, provides recognition for exemplary service by Countryside Police Department personnel as well as for citizens who have gone above and beyond. The following Department Awards were presented in 2020:

Meritorious:

Officer Brendan Gleespen
Detective Ryan Venem

Life Saving:

Sergeant Robert Sodt
Sergeant Jim Stern
Officer Chris Batzel
Officer Juan Cahue
Officer Brendan Gleespen
Officer Kelly Kalker
Officer Paul Lanzi
Detective Ryan Venem

Honorable Mention:

Sergeant Darrell DuRell
Sergeant Robert Sodt
Officer April Bisignani
Officer Michael Rojas

Citizen Recognition Awards:

Bridget Flynn
Shannon Flynn
Kevin Klincik

Service Awards

The following employees received service awards for completing years-of-service milestones in 2020.

Five Years-of-Service:

Sergeant Michael Maher
Detective Ryan Venem
Crime Free Housing Coordinator Mark Battaglia
Crossing Guard Maricruz Reyes

Employee Years of Service

25-29 Years

Sergeant John Andree^
Deputy Chief Scott Novak
Sergeant Tony Boyd^

20-24 Years

Sergeant Robert Sodt

15-19 Years

Detective Joe DiGangi
Detective Tim Wherry
Sergeant Darrell DuRell
Officer Nate McDonald
Commander Paul Klimek
Officer Kelly Kalker
Officer April Bisignani

10-14 Years

Officer Agostino Alonzo
Officer Brendan Gleespen
Sergeant Jim Stern
Records Coordinator Lupe Hamernik
CSO Supervisor Patricia Littlejohn

5-9 Years

Officer Ryan Jakubowski
Officer Paul Lanzi
Chief Joe Ford
Crossing Guard Maria Gonzalez
Officer Mike Rojas
CSO Nicole Hervieux
Administrative Assistant Charity Mitchell
Detective Ryan Venem
Sergeant Michael Maher
Crossing Guard Maricruz Reyes
Crime Free Housing Coordinator Mark Battaglia

0-4 Years

CSO Bob Benes
CSO Joanne Hernanadez
Officer Christopher Batzel
Officer Connor Rinehart
Officer Kevin Cerny
CSO Kayla Garcia
Crossing Guard Barbara Gleespen
CSO Sandy Esparza-Hall
Officer Gage Brunke*
CSO Clara Stoneking*
Crossing Guard Elizabeth Kasprzak*
Officer Juan Cahue*
Officer Maciej Kuklinski*
CSO Joel Oyola*

^ retired in 2020
* hired in 2020

Military Service Recognition



Sergeant Anthony Boyd *retired from the United States Air Force in April of 2009 after 25 years of active and reserve service.*

Officer Brendan Gleespen *served in the United States Army from 1998 to 2006.*

Officer Kelly Kalker *is currently a member of the United States Army Reserve Military Police.*

Sergeant Michael Maher *served in the United States Army National Guard from 2004 to 2013.*

Officer Connor Rinehart *served in United States Marine Corps from 2009 to 2013*

Sergeant Robert Sodt *served in the United States Army National Guard from 1994 until 1999.*

Detective Ryan Venem *served in the United States Marine Corps from 2008 until 2017.*

Retirements

Sergeant John Andree	*Retired May 16, 2020*	***28 years of service***
Sergeant Anthony Boyd	*Retired May 30, 2020*	***26 years of service***

Promotions

*Detective Robert Sodt was sworn in as **Sergeant** on May 15, 2020 .*

*Officer Michael Maher was sworn in as **Sergeant** on October 5, 2020.*

*Officer Ryan Venem was assigned as **Detective** with the Investigation Division on December 14, 2020.*

New Patrol Officers

Officer Gage Brunke	***Sworn in July 15, 2020***	*Police Academy Graduate*
Officer Juan Cahue	***Sworn in September 9, 2020***	*Lateral Transfer*
Officer Maciej Kuklinski	***Sworn in November 4, 2020***	*Lateral Transfer*

PHOTOS

Before COVID-19

Boy Scouts receiving a tour, from Officer Bisignani, of the new police department in January.





Entenmann's brought baked goods for Law Enforcement Appreciation Day in January.

*Throughout the pandemic and during the social unrest in 2020, the members of the Countryside Police Department experienced such an out pouring of support from businesses, residents, and community organizations. The photos below represent only a fraction of the many "**THANK YOUs**" and kind gestures received. There were those who took a moment to simply write a thank you letter, those who dropped off meals or baked goods, those who called just to say thank you, and those who dropped off much needed PPE. Words cannot express how fortunate and proud we are to serve an absolutely amazing community!*



A personally delivered Thank You.



Lunch!!



A donation of homemade masks.



A donation of tool kits.



More Lunch!!

DEPARTMENT PHOTOS



Mayor McDermott swearing in Officer Cahue.



Mayor McDermott swearing in Officer Kuklinski.



Mayor McDermott swearing in Officer Brunke.



Mayor McDermott swearing in Sergeant Sodt.



Mayor McDermott swearing in Sergeant Maher.



Deputy Chief Novak - Keynote speaker at 911 ceremony

DEPARTMENT PHOTOS



Sergeant Andree receiving a retirement badge.



Detective Venem receiving an award.



Sergeant DuRell, Officer Bisignani, and FFPM Klincik receiving awards.



Sergeant Stern and Officer Rojas receiving awards.



5th District SWAT Training in the old Countryside Police Department.

IN MEMORY



PATROLMAN
JOSEPH R. JANKOVSKY
Countryside Police Department
from July 12, 1973 to
End of Watch:
Saturday, April 6, 1974



K-9
DAGO
Countryside Police Department
End of Watch:
Friday, August 4, 2006