

Annual Report 2024

MENOMONIE POLICE DEPARTMENT



Photo taken by Officer Cadalbert

Chief's Welcome

On behalf of the Menomonie Police Department (MPD), I'm pleased to present the 2024 Annual Report. As I finish my second year as your Police Chief I continue to recognize and appreciate the fact that I'm blessed to have the opportunity to work with such amazing officers and support staff at the Menomonie Police Department (MPD). Additionally, I have the pleasure and good fortune to work with a supportive Mayor, City Council, and City Administrator.



2024 was a successful year in many ways for the Department. The men and woman of the MPD continued to collaborate with the community to provide a safe and peaceful environment, while also protecting the liberties of all individuals. Community engagement remains at the forefront of our mission, vision, and values as we continue to offer professionalism and the highest level of service to community members.

While the department already engages in a number of successful community relations programs, we continue to look for new ways to connect with our community members. One new event this last year was the first annual police department sponsored ice fishing contest with area youth. We reached out to the community to find sponsors and the response was overwhelming. Each child who participated received one-on-one fishing tips and tricks from several local fishermen. They were also provided with new fishing equipment they could keep, as well as a lunch on the ice overlooking Lake Menomin. Everyone caught fish and had stories to tell, a fun time was had by all. As the ice fishing event came to a close, volunteers and sponsors inquired about hosting a second annual ice fishing event in 2025. Other notable community relations events held include National Night Out, The Dunkin Cop on a Rooftop - a fundraiser for Special Olympics, the Citizen's Academy, and Shop with a Cop for both Christmas and back to school. The Department looks forward to continuing to partner with the community in order to keep these events ongoing and successful.

Administration has many ongoing challenges to focus on. We do all we can to examine trends and keep the crime rate down, manage budgetary constraints, deal with recruitment and retention concerns, and work to ensure positive community relations. But I believe the biggest challenge we face in today's world of policing is the trauma our officers face on a daily basis and ensuring their wellness. The officers of MPD make quick decisions in high pressure situations and deal with trauma, day in and day out, leading to significant mental fatigue. As such, the Department continues to expand the officer wellness initiative established last year. This has been an exciting and necessary area to expand upon because when our officers are in a good place, the community they serve benefits. Making sure our personnel have mental health and wellness support is a priority of this administration. As part of that commitment to our staff, the Department contracted with Dr. Rachelle Zemlok, a nationally recognized speaker, to present in person to emergency responders in Menomonie and the surrounding area. This was made possible by a training grant awarded to the police department. As we close out the 2024 calendar year and look forward at officer wellness in 2025, we are consulting with a certified clinical trauma professional to conduct annual officer wellness checks for all staff and we are researching different officer wellness apps they can utilize on their own.

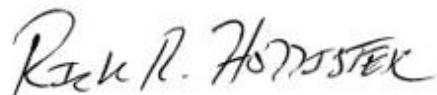
Chief's Welcome
(continued)

Another important component of officer wellness is preparedness. To achieve this goal, the Department continues to offer and send staff to several local and national trainings and conferences. Topics of training include leadership, specialized skill training to conduct complex investigations or respond to mass casualty incidents in the community, and active shooter training. The active shooter training in particular was resource intensive and required different phases of instruction over a two-year period. The training finished this year with a multi-jurisdictional field exercise for active shooter emergency response and incorporated all levels of emergency services. These types of training are necessary to provide our officers with the confidence and tools they need to properly respond to calls for service. Often times, when budgets are being finalized and money is tight, training is an area looked at to reduce or cut. It is my belief that from a risk management perspective, reducing allocated training funds is a detriment to our officers and it can cost millions of dollars in lawsuits. Spend money now to save money later.

Finally, an update on Project Hope, which is concluding its third year. Project Hope provides proactive youth and adult deflection programs, as well as substance abuse, mental health, and housing resources to people in our community. Currently, one sworn officer from the Menomonie Police Department and one deputy from the Dunn County Sheriff's Department have been dedicated to Project Hope. The initiative began when the Department received state and federal grant money; however, the federal grant was set to expire in 2024. We are pleased to share the Department wrote another federal COSSUP grant request and was recently awarded an additional \$995,275 in grant money. This grant will allow Project Hope to continue for three more years.

As we move into the 2025 calendar year, myself and the members of the police department would like to thank our community for their continued trust and support.

Sincerely,



Rick Hollister,
Chief of Police

In Loving Memory Officer Sam Miller



The Menomonie Police Department lost one of its own as a result of death by suicide in December of 2024. Sam Miller will be remembered as an officer who exemplified professionalism while treating everyone with kindness and respect. Sam brought a sense of humor and a warm personality to the department. He will be greatly missed.

About Us

WHO WE ARE

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Menomonie Police Department is to collaborate with the community to provide a safe and peaceful environment while protecting the liberties of all persons.

VISION

The vision of the Menomonie Police Department is to be recognized as a professional law enforcement agency that responds to the dynamic social needs of the public through innovative and collaborative efforts involving all community shareholders.

CORE VALUES

Honor
Integrity
Innovation
Professionalism





CHIEF OF POLICE

Rick Hollister

COMMANDERS

Chris King Brian Hagen

LIEUTENANTS

Matt Benrud	Chad Mroczenki
Michael Sampson	Andrew Brutlag

Kelly Pollock
Wade Schilichting



OFFICERS

Aaron Bergh	Michael Cadalbert
Jeff Small	Maxwell Gibson
Ryan Gilbertson	Grantham Curtis
Tyson Kahl	Ben Mayerchak
Tyler Ingebretson	Jordan Wold
Garrett Hackl	Brandon Scott
Heather Strathman	Dane Weiland

Scott Hoffman
Ben Pawlak
Mark Spaeth
Sam Miller
Adam Hackbarth
Emmer Shields
Jay Helixon

CIVILIAN STAFF

Katie Harshman
Meghan Cartmill
Bethany Hedlund
Lori Paulson
Jenn Tack
Kaitlin Fellenz

Goals and Projects

WHAT WE DID IN 2024 AND LOOKING AHEAD TO 2025

With the addition of new vehicles, the decision was made to update some of the squad graphics. The SUV-style squads now proudly display MPD's Core Values and the patch design that officers wear on their shoulders. (top photograph)



MPD partnered with the WI Department of Justice and Lexipol to bring Dr. Rachelle Zemlok to Menomonie for an event geared towards first responders and their families. Dr. Zemlok discussed the struggle that first responders can experience when transitioning between the job and home. She also presented strategies to create a healthy balance between work and home life and how departments and families can grow together. (middle photograph)



Detective Lieutenant Benrud graduated from the Wisconsin Command College which is put on by the University of Wisconsin - Madison and the Wisconsin DOJ. The program touches on a wide range of topics from leadership and problem-solving, to budgeting, employment law, and crisis management. (bottom photograph)



An updated department photograph was taken in the spring of 2024. This is not an easy task, as shift changes and on-going calls in the city do not wait. A print is proudly displayed in the business office conference room.

Looking ahead to 2025:

- In 2024 the City of Menomonie contracted a company to conduct a space needs study to access the growth rate of Menomonie and the Police Department to plan for future development
- The new All Terrain Vehicle (ATV/UTV) ordinance changes will bring logistical and equipment changes to the department.
- Officers will be attending additional trainings to address the trends and needs in today's policing, including the very selective FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia.

VIPs

Bill Swannack and Jon Oakland serve the MPD in the Volunteers in Policing Program. Each week, they volunteer several hours of their time to help service our fleet of squad cars. They perform light maintenance and routine cleaning of our vehicles, identify potential service needs or safety concerns with the squads, and monitor garage supplies. Their efforts save officers many hours throughout the year; time which can be reinvested into providing for public safety.

Grants and Community Donations

EXPRESSING OUR GRATITUDE

The Menomonie Police Department strives to be a positive force in the community every day by collaborating with various community partners. The department could not do this without the generous donations given by community members and businesses that range from bringing snacks and uplifting words of kindness to large financial gifts that allows MPD to purchase necessary equipment without the need to pull funds from the citywide budget. In 2024, the department was humbled by accepting over \$110,000.

The Community Foundation has been a valuable partner in garnering monetary donations and grants that can be utilized for the Cops4Kids program. These funds directly impact the community by covering the cost of the Shop with a Cop events, partnering kids from the community with an officer and sending them shopping for school supplies and holiday gifts to build a positive and trusting relationship.

Det. Lt. Matt Benrud wrote a Wisconsin DOJ Grant for Ballistic Protection Equipment for a total of \$14,857. The grant equipped every one of MPD's patrol squad cars with a handheld mini shield and level IV ballistic plates with armor carriers. The department was also able to purchase three folding/collapsible shields and level IV ballistic plates with armor carriers for the investigators in the west wing. Lt. Schlichting also wrote and was awarded grant funds to assist with training expenses, while Officer Gibson arranged fundraising to go towards less-lethal (Taser) costs.

MPD would like to offer special thanks to our community partners listed below:

Wigen Family Trust

Lion's Club

Covia

Keyes Chevrolet

Culver's

Walmart

The Community Foundation and all of the generous donors that gave through this platform.

Thank you!



Notable Calls and Investigations

The Investigation Division Consists of:

Commander Hagen

Detective Lieutenant Benrud

Detective Lieutenant Mroczenksi

Youth Services Officer Small

Youth Services Officer Kahl

West Central Drug Task Force Inv. Gilbertson

M24-127 and M24-160 Fraud

In January, MPD received an online report from Citizen's State Bank regarding a male individual who had cashed or deposited numerous fraudulent checks at five different bank locations throughout Western Wisconsin, including Menomonie, Colfax, Hudson, Roberts, Woodville, and Elmwood totaling over \$11,000. The suspect was located in Black River Falls by Wisconsin State Patrol (WSP) and was issued multiple charges for Fraud Against a Financial Institution, Misappropriate ID Info to Obtain Money, and Uttering a False Check.

M24-373 Drug Related Death

Menomonie EMS and Police were dispatched to a residence for a male who was not breathing. The subsequent autopsy revealed the presence of Fentanyl in the male's system. Further investigation was completed by WCDTF and the individual suspected of supplying the substance(s) was arrested and charged with Delivery of Fentanyl, as well as other drug charges.

M24-663 Weapons Case

MPD was dispatched to a local convenience store for a report of 5-6 shots being fired in the semi-truck area of that location. Vehicles and citizens were evacuated while a lengthy negotiation took place, resulting in the peaceful surrender of the subject. The subject admitted to drinking and firing shots into the crowded area, and was placed under arrest for Recklessly Endangering Safety, Going Armed While Intoxicated, and Carrying a Concealed Weapon.

M24-1158 Robbery

Officers were called to a convenience store that had been robbed at knifepoint a few minutes prior. The employee reported a suspect came into the store, threatened them with a knife, and took money from the cash register before fleeing the area. An investigation was completed and through video surveillance and various Crimestopper tips, a suspect was arrested and charged with Armed Robbery, Carrying a Concealed Knife, and multiple drug related charges.

M24-1745 DISO/ WEAP/ DOWI

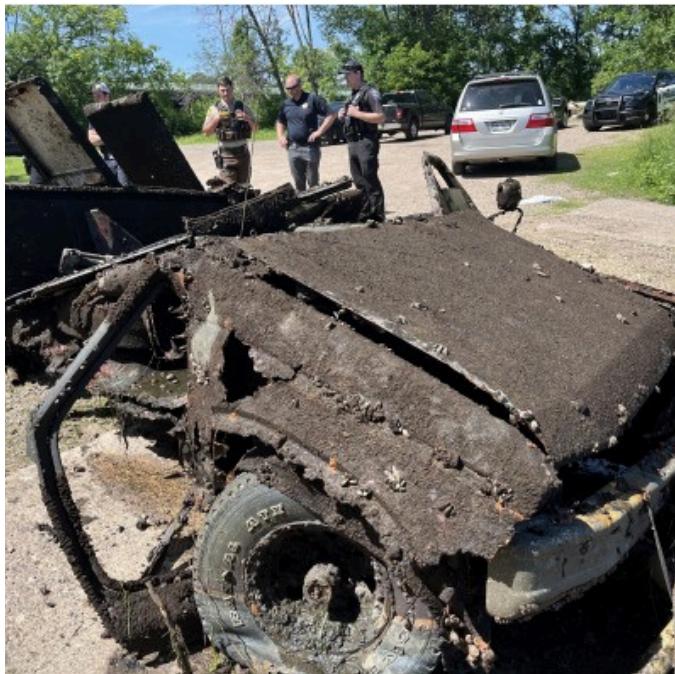
Officers responded to a disorderly incident involving multiple parties who dispatch advised had pulled out a firearm at the complainant. Officers identified the suspect and could detect a strong odor of intoxicants, as well as observing the male's eyes to be bloodshot and glossy. The suspect attempted the standardized field sobriety tests and was subsequently arrested for Operating a Motor Vehicle while Intoxicated (OMVWI) 2nd Offense, Going Armed while Intoxicated, Disorderly Conduct, and Possession of a Concealed Weapon. A female involved in the incident admitted she had provided the firearm to the suspect. The female was present during the entire altercation and initially lied to police when interviewed; she was arrested for Party to a Crime, Going Armed while Intoxicated, Disorderly Conduct, and Possession of a Concealed Weapon.

Notable Calls and Investigations

Continued

M24-1373 Truck Found in Lake Menomin

A citizen reported to MFD that while using fishing imaging sonar they had located what looked like a vehicle submerged in Lake Menomin, just south of the boat landing. Together with the Dunn County Sheriff's Department and the Eau Claire County Township Fire Department, MPD was able to confirm that the item seen on the imaging tools was a vehicle. A local towing company was able to assist with the retrieval of the vehicle, which was believed to be a 1980's Ford truck. Other miscellaneous items were located with the vehicle, but the circumstances surrounding the vehicle and how it ended up in the lake are still unknown.



M24-1765 Drug Trafficking

MPD assisted the WCDTF and the Department of Criminal Investigations (DCI) with the apprehension of two subjects believed to be involved in the trafficking of Methamphetamine and Cocaine. Both subjects were taken into custody without incident and quantities consistent with the sale and delivery of the substances were seized from the individuals. Federal charges were issued by the State of Wisconsin for the Manufacturing/ Delivery of Methamphetamine and Cocaine.

M24-2239 Weapon Violation

During evening hours, MPD was alerted to an existing image that displayed a juvenile posing with a firearm, with text indicating that the juvenile had made concerning comments about shooting in the high school. After investigation, it was determined that no threats to the school or students were made. However, it was confirmed that the juvenile was in possession of a CO2 powered BB pistol while in the high school parking lot the week prior. The student was issued charges for Possessing a Dangerous Weapon at School.

M24-2775 Drug Related Death

A 911 call was placed in the early morning hours requesting EMS for an unresponsive male. A dose of Narcan was administered and the individual was brought to the hospital where he later passed away. The investigation is ongoing.

NIBRS

NATIONAL INCIDENT BASED REPORTING SYSTEM

Group A Offense Arrests	2014 10 Years Prior	2019 5 Years Prior	2023 1 Year Prior	2024
Murder	0	0	0	0
Sex Offenses	7	6	2	5
Robbery	2	1	1	1
Aggravated Assault	32	29	45	17
Simple Assault	87	54	31	51
Burglary	55	21	15	53
Theft	347	247	153	143
Motor Vehicle Theft	14	19	5	4
Arson	0	2	1	1

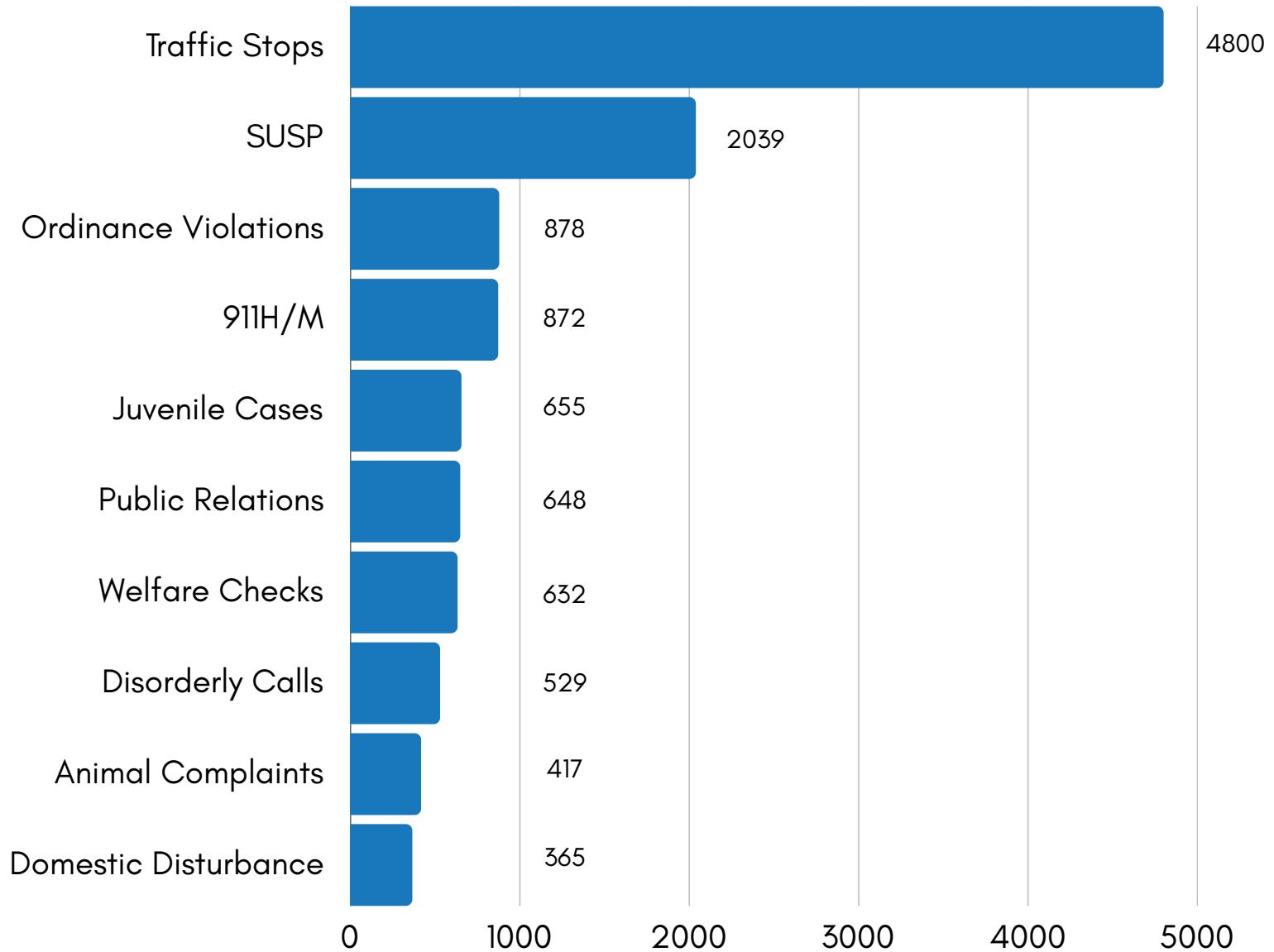
Group B Offense Arrests	2014 10 Years Prior	2019 5 Years Prior	2023 1 Year Prior	2024
Disorderly Conduct	NA*	77	56	48
Driving Under the Influence	92	87	79	87
Liquor Law Violation	NA*	105	86	64
All Other Offenses	NA*	309	229	255

*In 2014 our department used UCR Reporting, which calculated this data differently, making it unavailable for this report.

Call Data

CFS- CALL FOR SERVICE

Officers Responded to a total of 17,861 Calls for Service in 2024. The top 10 call for service types were as follows:



Calls for Service are generated by citizens calling in to the Dunn County Communications Center, who then dispatch an officer to the call. Officers can also call in an incident over the radio or in their squad.

Depending on the type of call, a case number will be assigned and the officer will investigate or handle the call. If the case could require significant resources, the Investigations Bureau will then take on the case.

Throughout the process, resources can be offered to individuals, depending on the level of assistance that may be needed. MPD is very fortunate to have positive partnerships with many local organizations, such as Stepping Stones, the Bridge to Hope, Arbor Place, and many more that are able to step in and help community members as well.

Traffic Data

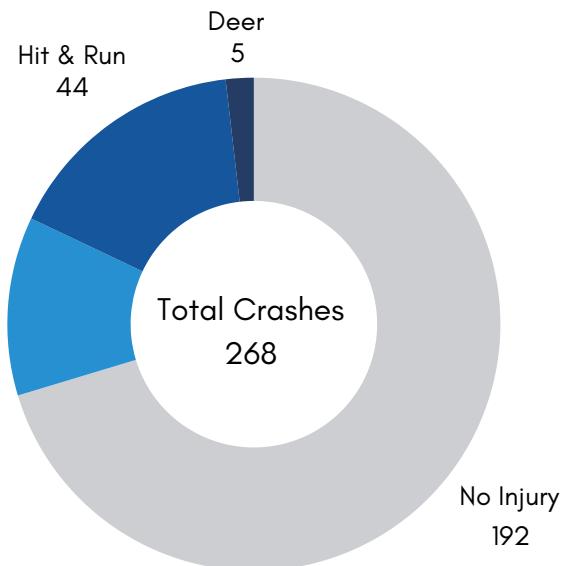
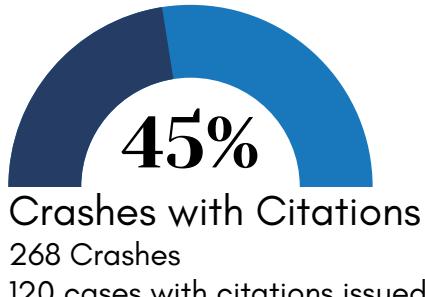
TRAFFIC STOPS, DOWI'S, CRASHES

Traffic stops make up the majority of calls that MPD handles, and traffic related incidents account for over 17,861 of our annual calls for service.

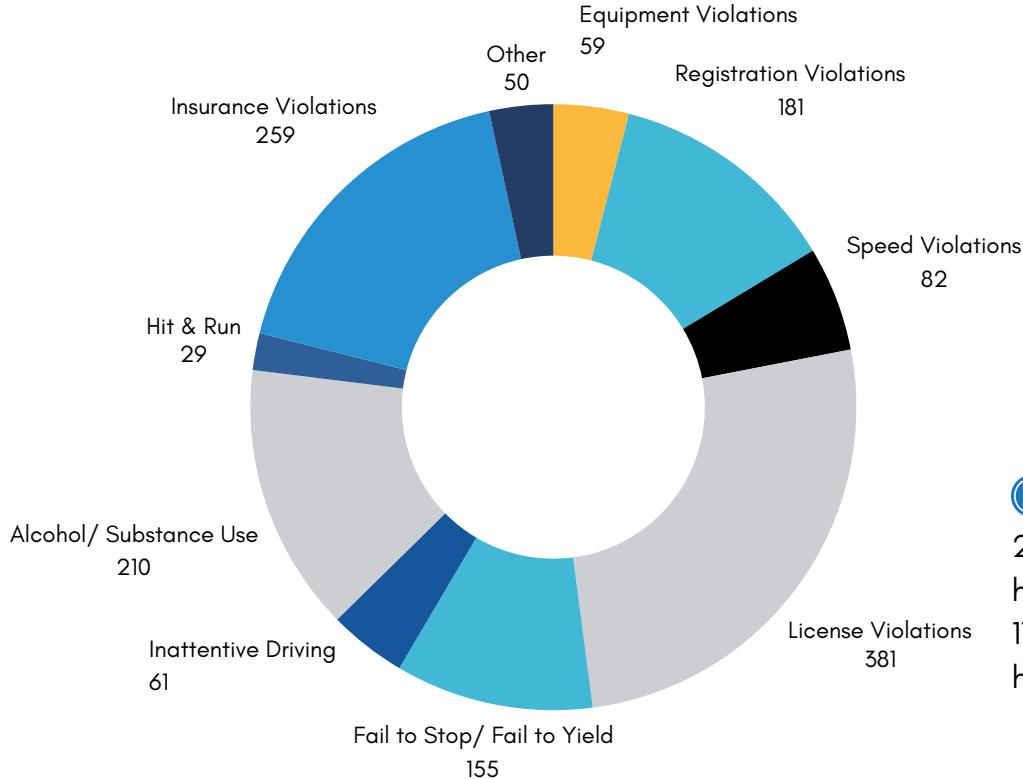
Traffic Crashes



9 crashes involved a Bike/ Pedestrian



Traffic Citations

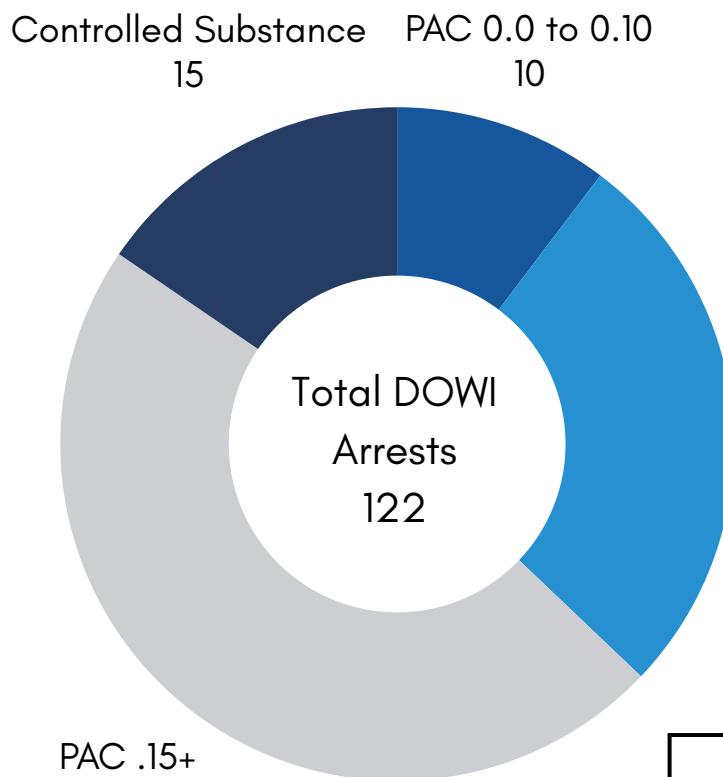


2731 stops occurred in the evening hours (6p to 5a)

1771 stops occurred during daytime hours (6a to 5p)

Driving Under the Influence

The legal limit to drive in Wisconsin is 0.08. Roughly half of drivers cited for OWI by MPD were double the legal limit.

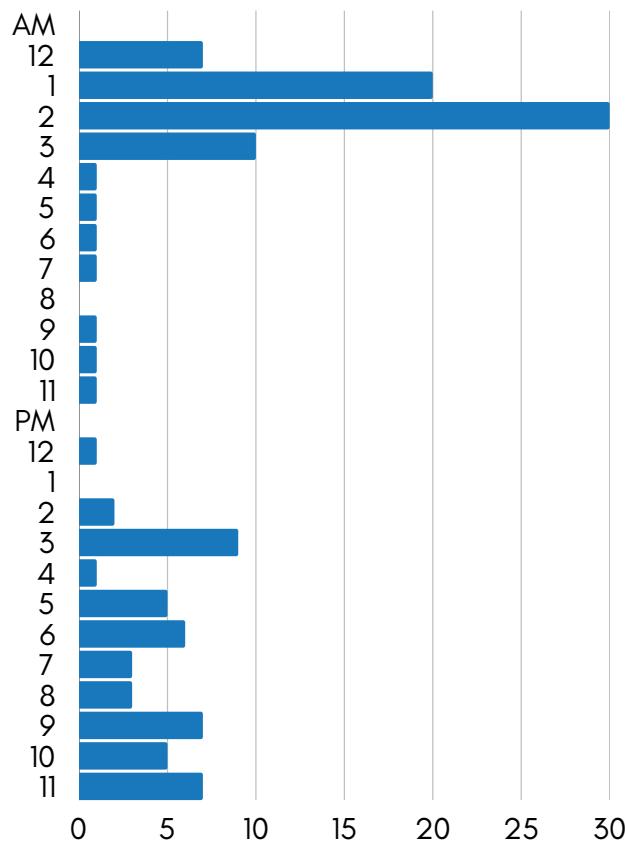



7 of these drivers were under 21
1 driver was a juvenile (under 18)

PAC 0.10 to 0.14
26

*Not all blood results have come back from the lab as of January. These are not included in the PAC data

DOWI Arrests by Hour



Recurrence	Drivers	With Passenger under 16
OWI 1st	77	3
OWI 2nd	8	3
OWI 3rd	7	
OWI 4th	4	
OWI 5th or 6th	6	
OWI 7th, 8th, or 9th	2	
OWI 10th +	1	
Violate Absolute Sobriety	1	
Operate with Controlled Substance	15	

AODA Data

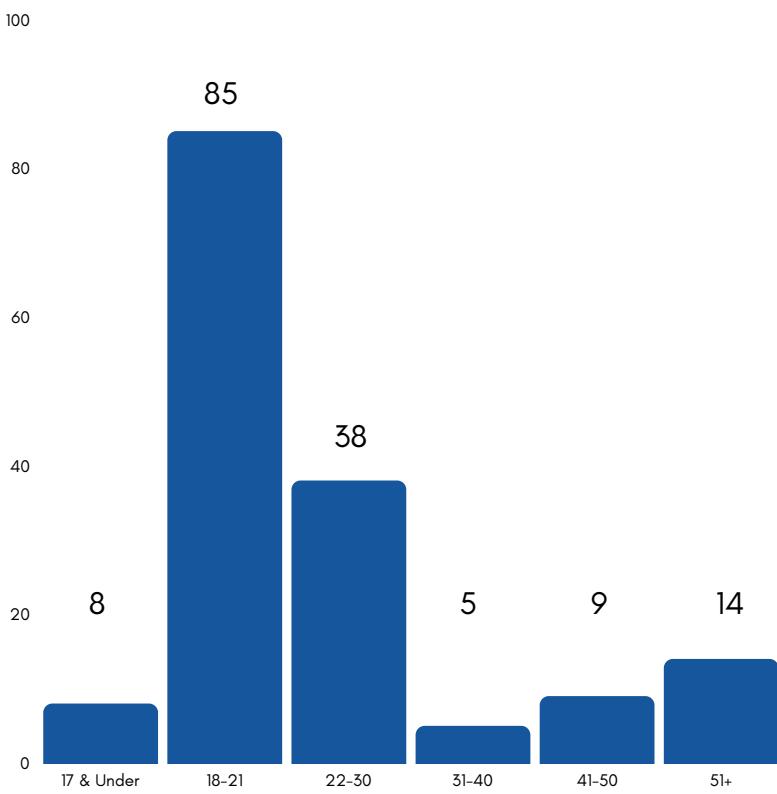
ALCOHOL AND DRUG CASES

Alcohol Related Charges

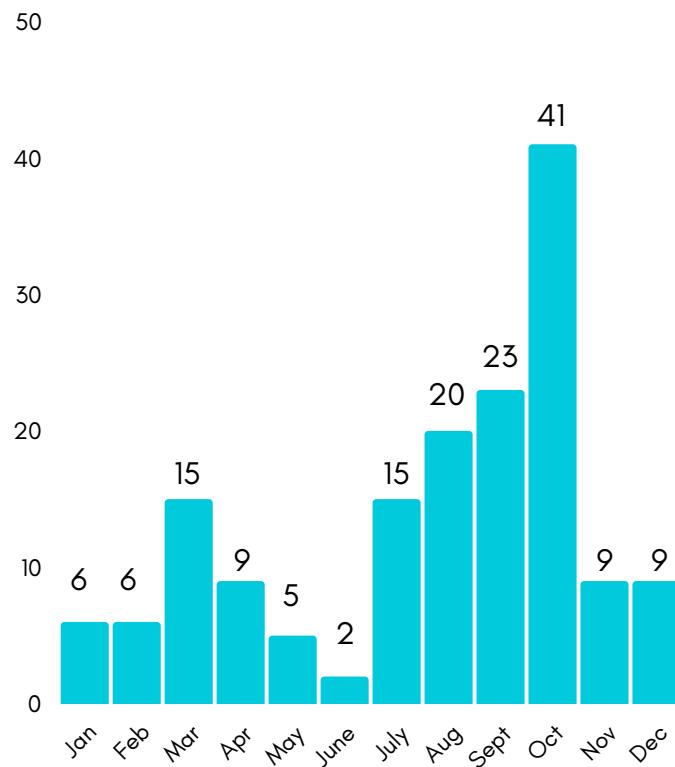
Number of Liquor Law Violations

Violation	Underage	Open Container	Public Intoxication	ID Violation	Public Urination/Vomiting	Other
	64	25	24	15	25	7
Fine Amounts	\$263.50 (1st) \$389.50 (2nd) \$515.50 (3rd)	\$175.30	\$389.50 (1st) \$641.50 (2nd)	\$515.50	\$263.50	

Number of Violations by Age



Number of Violations per Month



AODA Data

ALCOHOL AND DRUG CASES

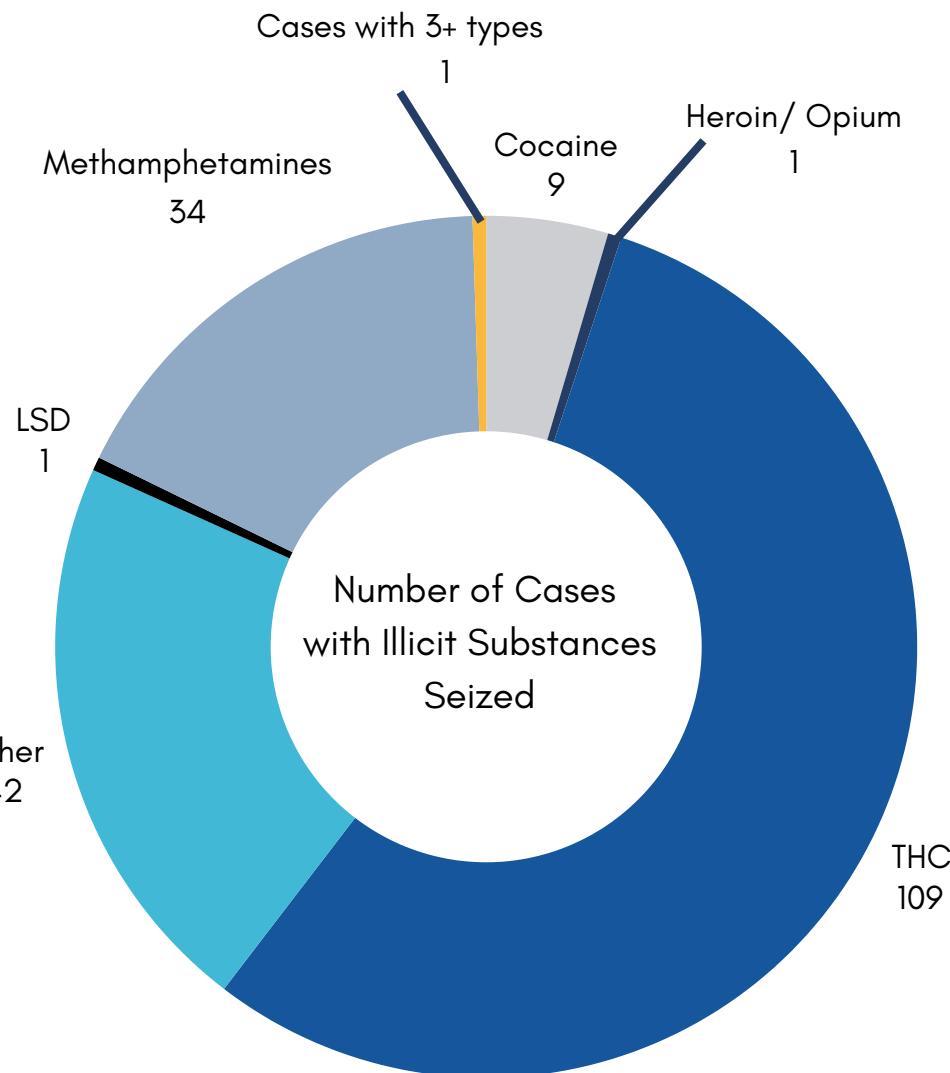
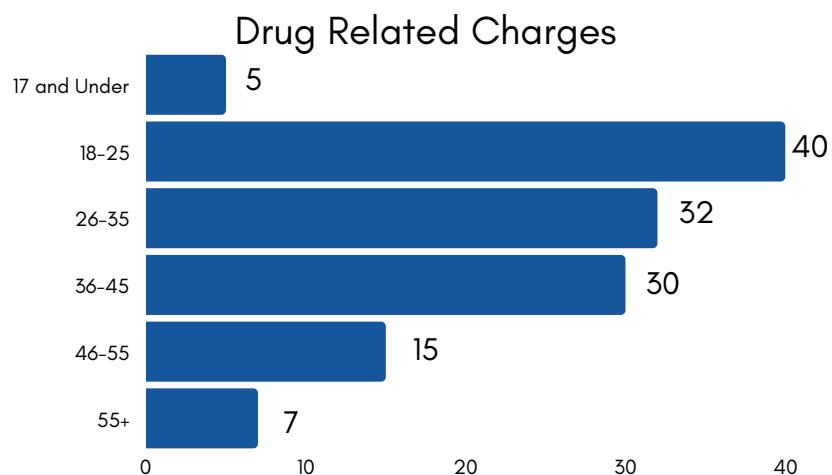
Drug Related Cases



14 Calls for Service involving an overdose



3 Calls for Service where Officers administered Narcan



Property Crime Data

CRIMINAL DAMAGE, THEFT, AND FRAUD

Total number of cases in 2024 by property loss type

Theft	Motor Vehicle Theft	Burglary	Robbery	Fraud	Criminal Damage
188	6	12	1	23	56

Total Value of Property Stolen in 2024

\$231,577.12

Total Value of Property Recovered in 2024

\$21,406.19

Total Value of Property Damaged in 2024

\$51,079.38



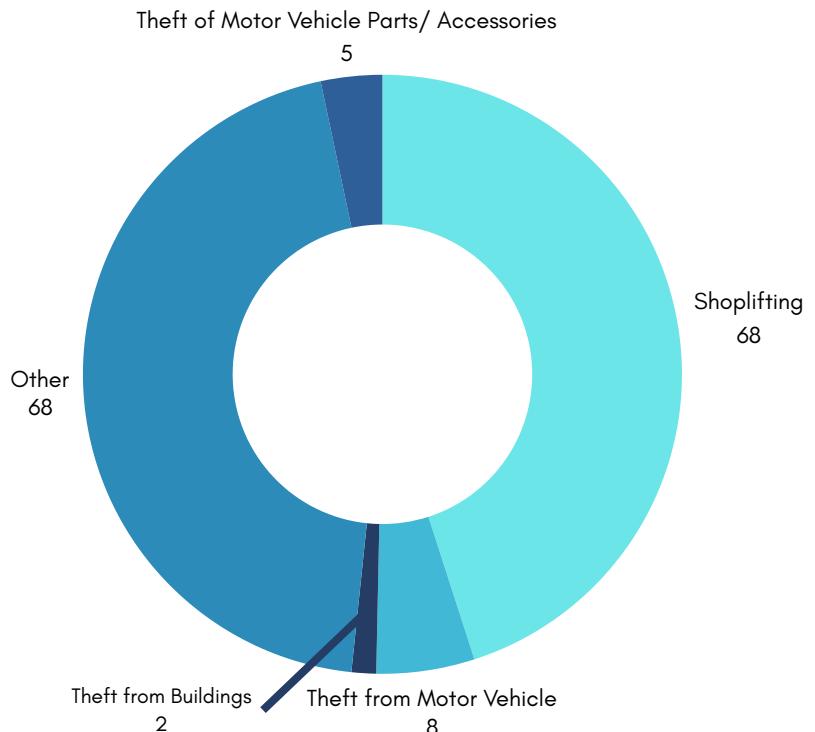
42 Thefts occurred at a residence

128 Thefts occurred at a commercial or public property



123 Thefts occurred during the day (6 AM to 6 PM)

47 Thefts occurred during the night (6 PM to 6 AM)



Project Hope

2024 was a year of growth and expansion for Project Hope. The mission of proactively identifying and engaging individuals who struggle with substance use disorders and mental health continues through the efforts of the Youth Review Team (YRT) and Quick Response Team (QRT). While the YRT is spearheaded by MPD Youth Service Officers, The QRT is led by the Behavioral Health Officers (BHO's) of MPD and the Dunn County Sheriff's Office (DUSO). The QRT is responsible for conducting the initial outreach and the BHO's will follow-up with ongoing engagement. Our goal is to support and assist the community member as they move toward recovery.



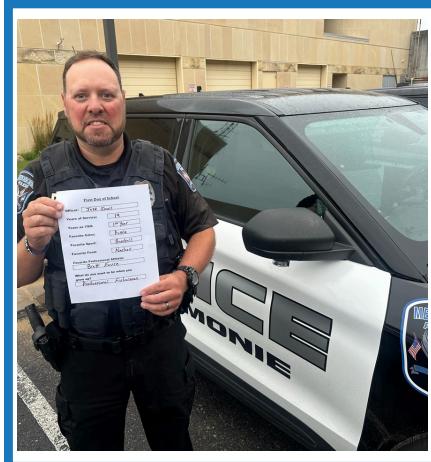
Individuals who may benefit from outreach are identified through a variety of methods. One approach involves reviewing law enforcement and EMS calls for service, enabling officers to identify individuals in need of assistance. Officers may also refer individuals directly to BHOs. Additionally, individuals have the option to self-refer to BHOs through direct communication or by visiting designated locations, including the MPD office, the DUSO Office, or the Menomonie Fire Department. This latter method is part of the Angels of Red Cedar initiative. Furthermore, MPD has implemented the Officer-Led Diversion program, which allows low-level charges to be held in abeyance while individuals are connected to appropriate services, education, and treatment. In 2024, a total of 105 individuals were identified for engagement, with BHOs successfully connecting with all but 27 of them. Throughout the year, more than 379 client interactions or attempted interactions were recorded, though this number is likely an underrepresentation, as not all interactions are documented. Notable successes include the use of grant funding to assist multiple individuals in securing housing or temporary shelter, as well as the successful enrollment and completion of substance use treatment by three individuals. Additionally, we were able to connect with well over 300 people at various community events, distribute Narcan, and promote harm reduction practices. The program also fostered partnerships with several community organizations and provided grant support to the Kaleidoscope Center, enabling an expansion of their operating hours. Furthermore, positive interactions with homeless individuals at the Cairn House shelter were a significant aspect of the outreach efforts.

COSSUP Grant

Project Hope was initially funded in substantial part by a three-year Federal Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Abuse Site-based Program grant (COSSUP) in the amount of \$584,202 that expired in September, 2024. This funding helped develop the first two phases of Project Hope (Phase 1-Youth Interventions and Phase 2-Adult Interventions). With the first two phases now well established, Phase 3, Substance Use and Mental Health Disorders, was set to kick off. However, with the COSSUP grant expiring in September, the necessary funding to further expand Project Hope was not yet in place. Several Federal and State of Wisconsin grant opportunities were explored, including another Federal COSSUP grant that would not only allow us to continue building Phases 1 and 2, but to expand into Phase 3 as originally intended. In late November, MPD was notified that they were awarded a new COSSUP grant in the amount of \$995,275! This funding will allow MPD to on-board a Project Manager and Social Worker to partner with BHO Bergh, enhance collaborations with other community organizations, and expand our peer support, deflection, and diversion efforts.

Youth Services

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS EARLY



My name is Jeff Small and I am the Youth Services Officer (YSO) assigned to the Menomonie Middle School. I have been with the Menomonie Police Department for almost 20 years and have also served the department as a Patrol Officer, Field Training Officer, tactical team member, and as an evidence technician.

In my role as a YSO, I strive to provide a safe environment for students, staff, and visitors at the middle school and all schools in the district. I provide a visual presence by walking the inside and outside of the buildings, as well as frequently checking the doors to make sure the buildings are secure. I also assist the administrative staffs at the schools with conducting fire drills, active threat trainings, and with behavioral issues that are more than the normal minor missteps that kids make.

In my daily role at the schools, I try to interact with the kids as much as possible and to be a positive role model for them. I often eat with them at lunch and spend time with them during their recess periods playing catch and shooting hoops. At the beginning of the year, I spoke with each grade about my role at the school and behavioral expectations for them. I feel that I have already developed many positive relationships with the kids and that they trust me to come to me with their concerns. I have two middle school aged children of my own which has helped me relate to the kids at the Middle School and the elementary schools as well. I look forward to continuing to develop as a Youth Services Officer and to continue building relationships with the kids—I have already found it to be tremendously rewarding!

My name is Tyson Kahl and I am the new Youth Service Officer (YSO) assigned to the Menomonie High School (MHS). I have been with the Menomonie Police Department for seven years. As the YSO for MHS, a typical day for me is working with young individuals, to provide guidance, support, and services that encourage development. With new programs at Menomonie Police Department, I can help educate students by assigning them an Advent E-Learning online course instead of always writing a ticket. As a new YSO, my main focus is building relationships with the youth in the Menomonie School District Area. I feel like I can better connect with the students because I'm a graduate of Menomonie High School and had some of the same teachers as the students. Also, being closer to their age I can relate to their challenges and experiences. I feel that it is critical for students to have a positive role model for them to look up to, and is something I strive to be every day. Go Mustangs!!!





Awards Ceremony

ACKNOWLEDGING THE EFFORTS
OF OUR OFFICERS



The Menomonie Police Department Awards Ceremony was held to honor the officers who have gone above and beyond in their actions during the year. Officers and Firefighters were honored and thanked for their decisive actions during the Officer Involved Shooting that occurred in January of 2023. Several other officers were honored for their life saving measures and courageous acts throughout the year.

- Officer Kahl received a Life Saving Award for administering CPR to an individual in cardiac arrest.
- Officer Gibson received a Life Saving Award for administering Narcan and doing CPR for an individual that had overdosed.
- Officer Wold received a Letter of Recognition for his quick thinking and actions during a call involving a suicidal individual and a gun.
- Officer Small, Officer Hoffman, Officer Wold, Officer Mayerchak, Officer Curtis, Officer Scott, Officer Gilbertson and Lt. Sampson were presented with Military Service Ribbons and recognized for their military service.
- Officer Gibson, Officer Kahl, Officer Cadalbert, Lt. Sampson, Deputy Blum, and UW Stout Officer Kinblom were presented with Valor Awards for their heroic actions during the Officer Involved Shooting.
- Letters of Recognition were presented to Menomonie Fire Department for their actions on the night of the Officer Involved Shooting. We are proud to work alongside our Fire and EMS Responders, and are grateful for their actions that evening.

Giving back to the community



The Menomonie Police Department would like to thank everyone who helped with the 2024 MPD Ice Fishing Event. Five local kids got to try their hand at jigging, tip-ups, and pulling in some nice fish. Hot dogs, chips, homemade bars, and toasty hot chocolate helped make it a memorable time for all. The kids were able to take home ice fishing swag donated by the sponsors. Thank you to all who donated and/or volunteered!



Twice a year the American Red Cross hosts a Battle of the Badges blood drive as a friendly competition between Menomonie Police and Fire Departments. The community is welcome and employees are encouraged to donate on- or off- the clock.



MPD has been involved in National Night Out since 2014. This event, which is held annually on the first Tuesday in August, is a family friendly event with vendors, community businesses, and various other organizations coming together to promote building relationships in the community.



Our officers took part in many different events throughout the city this year. Including:

Flag Day

Wear Denim Day - Sexual Assault Awareness Month (right)

Winterdaze Parade

Community Cookout

MHS Homecoming Parade and school sporting events

Trunk-or-Treat

Leadership Menomonie

UW-Stout Wellness Fair

Cop on a Rooftop - Special Olympics

Shop with a Cop, and so many more.



When you see us out at various events, please come say hello!