



# Annual Report 2017

WEST FARGO POLICE DEPARTMENT



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## INTRODUCTION BY CHIEF JANKE

It is my pleasure to release the police department's 2017 annual report. Our mission is straightforward – we strive every day to partner with our residents to protect, serve, and promote a high quality of life. To accomplish this mission, we operated in 2017 with a funded level of 54 sworn police officers and 13 civilian staff to serve more than 36,000 residents of this great city and more than 10,600 students of the West Fargo Public School District. If there is one word to describe 2017, it would be “change.” We changed the overall structure of the department, how we manage our personnel, equipment and programs, and how we interact with the public, to name just a few things.

When I accepted the honor to lead this department on July 17, 2017, I found a dedicated group of employees who wanted nothing more than to serve this city daily. Being an outsider, I immediately set out to conduct a thorough analysis of the entire department to determine how it could operate most efficiently and effectively with the taxpayer dollars we are entrusted with. At the end of that analysis, it was determined the City of West Fargo had seen incredible growth, but the police department's resources had struggled to keep up.

By way of example, the police department had been setting record highs for calls for service year after year, and 2017 saw another



record high with 27,164 calls for service. With the increased calls for service, our response times also increased by nearly 90 seconds, which is not an acceptable trend when we are talking about life or death situations. Additionally, illegal narcotics continue to impact our community and we continue to set record highs for narcotics violations. We also did not have a command structure in place to provide adequate supervision to a very young department. Therefore, in November, the city commission provided incredible support in

allowing our team to restructure the police department and hire seven new patrol officers. These additional resources will allow us to create additional lieutenant and sergeant positions to enhance supervision. They will also put more officers on the streets of West Fargo to respond to those calls for service and be more proactive.

We also realize the importance of communicating online with the community. Therefore, we have established a social media team that is diligently working to keep residents informed in real time via our social media platforms. I would encourage everyone to follow us on our Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram accounts where we will continue dedicating resources to keep the public informed.

I am thankful to the mayor, city commission, and city administrator for the support they have provided to give us the much needed resources to serve the residents of West Fargo. I am also thankful to the residents of West Fargo who partner with us to keep this community a safe and great place to raise a family. You have my commitment that this police department will continue to work with you every day to ensure this community remains a place where people are proud to call it “home.”

Thank you,  
Chief Heith Janke

## MISSION

The West Fargo Police Department has the responsibility to protect life and safeguard property in a highly effective and efficient manner and to engage the community in a collaborative crime prevention program.

## VISION

The West Fargo Police Department strives to be a highly trusted public service agency that all levels of the criminal justice system may use as a standard of law enforcement performance as a result of having developed and maintained a strong core of visionary leaders and exceptionally trained and motivated personnel.



I N T E G R I T Y

H O N E S T Y

T R U S T

C O M P E T E N C E

T E A M W O R K

R E S P E C T

S E R V I C E

B A L A N C E

# COMMAND STAFF



**Chief of Police**  
Heith R. Janke



**Assistant Chief of Police**  
Jerry K. Boyer

## Operations Division



**Patrol Lieutenant**  
Duane Sall



**Investigations Lieutenant**  
Gregory Warren

## Administrative Division



**Patrol Sergeant**  
Terry Styf



**Patrol Sergeant**  
Pete Nielson



**Patrol Sergeant**  
Patrick Hanson



**Patrol Sergeant**  
Adam Gustafson



**Patrol Sergeant**  
Jason Dura



**Patrol Sergeant**  
Randy Burkhartsmeier



**Investigations Sergeant**  
Derek Cruff



**Administrative Sergeant**  
Jason Anderson



**Office Supervisor**  
Chris Davidson



**Senior Police Clerk**  
Tracy Haugen

# PROMOTIONS & NEW HIRES



## PROMOTIONS

Sergeant Pete Nielsen

## NEW POSITION

Evidence Technician & Quartermaster Sari Supler



## NEW HIRES

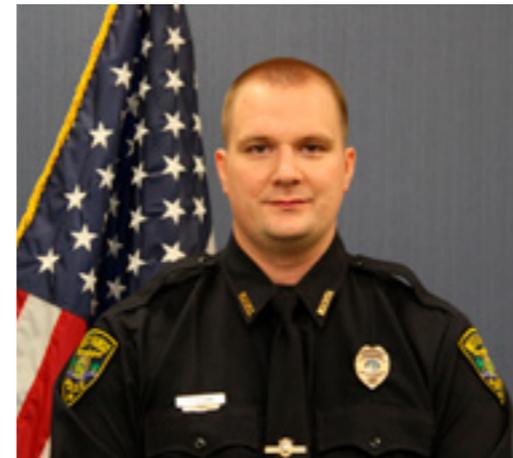
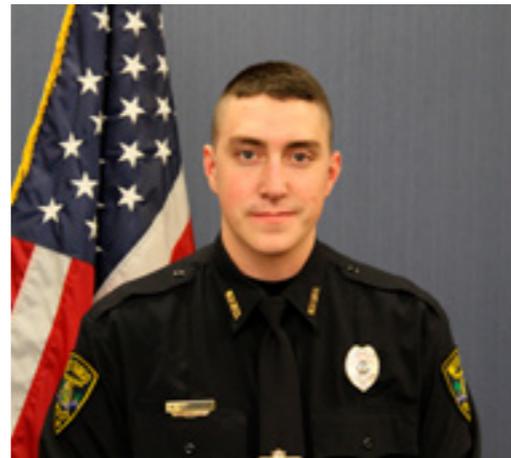
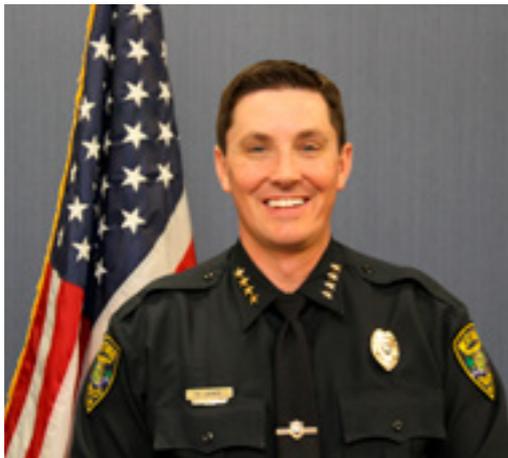
Police Records Kristy O'Keefe

Police Support Specialist Nick Gomez

Chief of Police Heith Janke

Police Officer Travis Evink

Police Officer Anthony Coronato



57  
Total sworn  
WFPD officers  
in 2017

# AWARDS

## Outside Agency Recognition

- Reid Brady - Cass County State's Attorney Office
- Sadiyo Hassan - West Fargo High School
- Renata Selzer - Cass County State's Attorney Office
- Sergeant Matthew Thom - Stutsman County Sheriff's Office

## Completed Probation in 2017

- Austin Bagley
- Katie Blue
- Annie Burthold
- Jacob Danielson
- Taylor Melting
- Joseph Solberg

## 2017 Employee of the Year

- Gary Bommersbach

## 2017 Employee of the Quarter

- Quarter 1 - Kyle Johnson
- Quarter 2 - Travis MacLeod
- Quarter 3 - Amber Kassenborg
- Quarter 4 - Pete Nielsen

## 2017 Luther Family Ford Salute to Law Enforcement Recipients

- Travis MacLeod
- Michael Pietron



**Freedom Award**  
Jason Dura and Joe Solberg



**Employee of the Year**  
Gary Bommersbach



**Salute to Law Enforcement**  
Michael Pietron



**Salute to Law Enforcement**  
Travis MacLeod

# COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

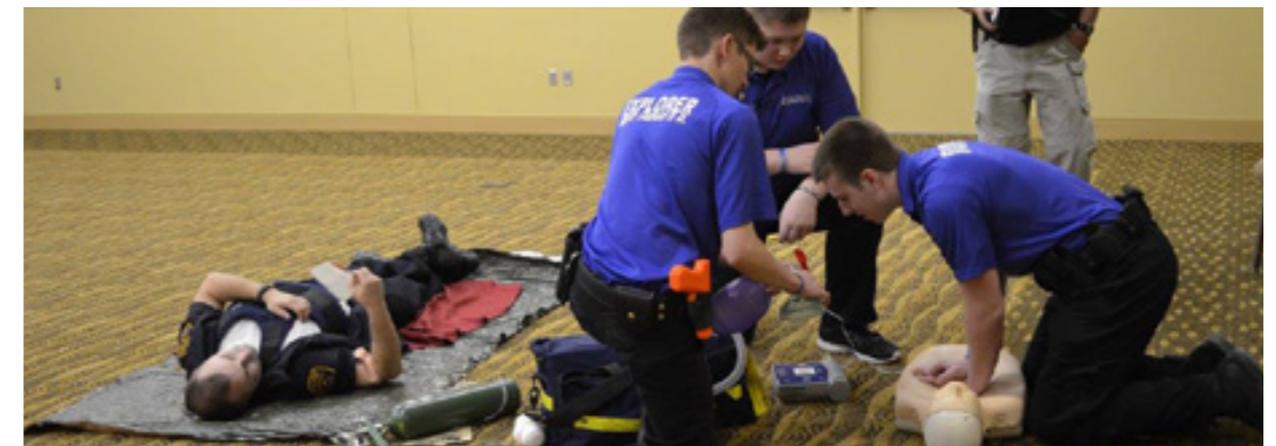


*Night to Unite - August 2017 - This free event works to strengthen neighborhood and community partnerships through educational displays, booths, food and outdoor fun.*

The West Fargo Police Department participates in and hosts a variety of community strengthening programs throughout the year.



*West Fest - September 2017 - The WFPD plays a role in the safety and fun of this community celebration each September.*



*Police Explorers - This program gives young adults with an interest in law enforcement a chance to experience the career and help them grow as responsible citizens.*

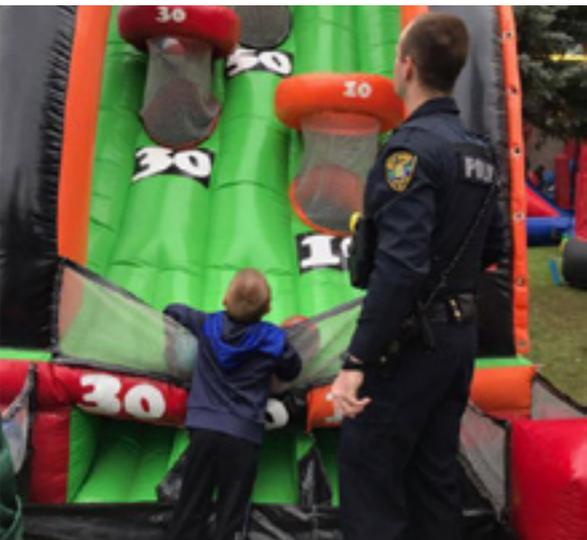


Community engagement through events, department tours, special programs, education, fundraising and more is a huge part of the job at the West Fargo Police Department.





Throughout the year, the West Fargo Police Department loves to interact with even the tiniest of fans.



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# PATROL DIVISION

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## PATROL DIVISION

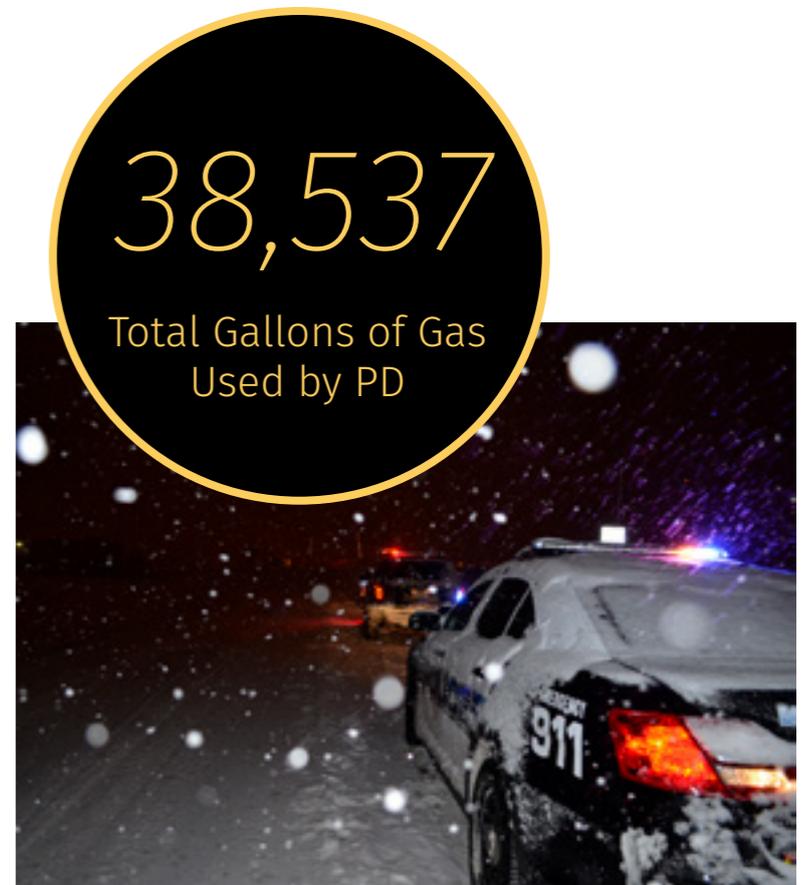
Patrol Officers respond to major and minor crimes and act as medical first responders. Requests for service range from something as simple as giving directions to responding to assaults and major incidents that can result in serious injury and death.

Within the patrol division, the officers take on extra responsibilities other than their patrol duties. These responsibilities include:

- Alcohol Compliance
- Bike Patrol
- Citizens Police Academy
- Drug Recognition Expert
- Internet Safety
- Ride-A-Long Program
- Internship Program
- SWAT
- Negotiations
- Bomb Squad
- Tobacco Compliance
- TRIAD
- Child Passenger Seat Inspections
- Truck Regulatory
- Explorers Post #281
- social media engagement
- and many other tasks.



**410,714**  
Total Miles Driven  
by PD in 2017



**38,537**  
Total Gallons of Gas  
Used by PD

# STATISTICAL OVERVIEW

## PERSONAL CRIMES

	2014	2015	2016	2017
<i>Homicide</i>	1	3	1	0
<i>Sex Crimes</i>	28	29	33	43
<i>Felonious Restraint/Kidnapping</i>	5	6	4	9
<i>Pornography</i>	2	6	9	20
<i>Robbery</i>	2	5	7	6
<i>Aggravated Assault</i>	45	39	35	36
<i>Simple Assault/Intimidation</i>	208	274	275	249
<i>Stalking</i>	7	5	7	5
<i>Weapon Law Violations</i>	15	25	38	30
<i>Missing Person/Runaway</i>	117	96	126	133
<i>Suicide/Attempted, Completed</i>	62	35	42	47
<i>Suicide Threat</i>	45	55	57	56
<i>Unattended Death</i>	17	23	13	20
<i>Other Personal Crimes</i>	827	1073	1156	947
<b>Total</b>	1381	1674	1803	1601

## PROPERTY CRIMES

	2014	2015	2016	2017
<i>Burglary/Theft from Building</i>	141	154	146	90
<i>Shoplifting</i>	35	44	55	70
<i>Motor Vehicle Theft</i>	52	39	51	45
<i>Other Theft</i>	413	337	341	396
<i>Counterfeiting</i>	77	118	115	113
<i>Identity Theft</i>	36	70	48	54
<i>Vandalism</i>	150	179	141	135
<i>Other Property Crimes</i>	254	296	358	316
<b>Subtotal</b>	1158	1237	1255	1219

## DRUG CRIMES

	2014	2015	2016	2017
<i>Drug/Narcotic Violations</i>	204	221	329	355
<i>Drug Equipment Violations</i>	234	221	313	351
<i>Liquor Law Violations</i>	97	112	109	77

## TRAFFIC CRIMES

	2014	2015	2016	2017
<i>Driving Under Influence</i>	159	174	187	160
<i>DUI Refusal</i>	35	36	36	46
<i>Driving Under Suspension</i>	359	334	424	538
<i>Other</i>	143	151	161	153

## PATROL STAFF STATS

	2014	2015	2016	2017
<i>Citations Issued</i>	5043	5560	5880	5459
<i>Arrests</i>	1478	1576	1881	1906
<i>Accidents</i>	759	811	963	930
<i>Incidents</i>	21211	23446	26421	27164

# COMMUNITY SERVICE OFFICER

## 2017 CALLS FOR SERVICE

<i>Accident - Property</i>	1
<i>Animal Call</i>	318
<i>Assist Fire</i>	1
<i>Bicycle - Found</i>	24
<i>Bicycle - Theft</i>	3
<i>Community Oriented Policing</i>	1
<i>Field Contact</i>	1
<i>Fingerprints</i>	44
<i>Found Property</i>	40
<i>Impaired Driver</i>	1
<i>Impound</i>	20
<i>Loud Noise</i>	1
<i>Assist Medical</i>	2
<i>Parking Complaint</i>	414
<i>Assist Public</i>	14
<i>Suspicious Activity</i>	7
<i>Theft</i>	1
<i>Traffic Complaint</i>	9
<i>Traffic Stop</i>	1
<i>Vehicle Unlock</i>	164
<i>Welfare Check</i>	2
<i>Other</i>	77

Annie Burthold serves as community service officer for the West Fargo Police Department. She responds to calls for service including vehicle unlocks, animal calls and parking complaints. She also provides direction of vehicle maintenance, and delivers paperwork to various government agencies.

This position has evolved over time. Initially, the community service officer simply provided assistance to officers by taking calls for vehicle unlocks and animal calls. Now, the

community service officer has more responsibility and is an integral role the West Fargo Police Department.

CSO Burthold now completes investigations and reports on animal neglect, which allows for specific tracking and follow up on animal cases.

She also provides assistance to other city departments, such as code enforcement, to provide direction for residents in our city and enforcement of city ordinances to keep the City of West Fargo safe.



## K-9 DIVISION

In 2017, the West Fargo Police Department began its seventh full year with the K-9 unit. Officer Pete Nielson and Officer Ben Orr work as a team with K-9 Disco and K-9 ToSti respectively to provide added support and specialized assistance for the West Fargo Police Department and other area agencies.

In 2017, K-9 Disco was involved in two record-breaking, award-winning drug busts. The K-9 unit also participated in various community events, showcasing their skills for area fans.

132

Total deployments for  
K-9 Disco

117

Total deployments for  
K-9 Tosti

## RED RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL SWAT TEAM

The Red River Valley Regional Special Weapons and Tactics Team is made up of individuals from various regional entities, including the West Fargo Police Department. This highly skilled, specialized unit primarily focuses on high-risk assignments such as arrest warrants of dangerous suspects, hostage situations, high-risk search warrants, barricaded individuals who have threatened or may pose a risk to others and many other dangerous situations. The team is split up into three smaller teams that perform specific duties during assignments: The Breacher Team, The Less Lethal/Gas Deployment Team and The Sniper Team. The Breacher Team works to gain entry into secured or barricaded structures and rooms. The Less Lethal/Gas Deployment Team deploys less lethal means to uncooperative individuals when needed. The Sniper Team has the ability to provide precision lethal fire to protect innocent civilians and/or fellow law enforcement officers when necessary. The SWAT team also features a negotiation division.

In 2017, the SWAT team was deployed 9 times. Their use included assisting Morton County during the Dakota Access Pipeline protests, assisting U.S. Capitol Police in a high-risk search warrant situation regarding death threats against Senator Heitkamp, assisting Fargo Police with a barricaded subject, and creating peaceful resolutions for two suicidal individuals. The Red River Valley Regional SWAT Team spends numerous hours in training each month to prepare to handle these dangerous situations to the best of their ability.

9  
Total SWAT  
deployments  
in 2017



# INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION

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## INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION MAJOR CASES IN 2017

### Major Cases for Detective Danielson

**Check Fraud** - A suspect was writing checks from 8 different checking accounts after opening up a nonprofit and creating checking accounts under that business. The suspect had purchased 5 vehicles and wrote checks exposing the banks to a potential loss of nearly \$280,000. Information was gathered from banks and businesses with a seizure of approximately \$1200 and 2 vehicles. A search warrant was also executed. As of now, the suspect has pleaded not guilty by reason of insanity, stating that his mental illness caused him to manically spend money without control. The courts found he was criminally incompetent to stand trial for the cases and was hospitalized for his mental illness. The case is ordered to remain open for up to 20 years to deal with his illness.

**Sexual Abuse** - Sexual abuse was reported to the West Fargo Police Department and ultimately 3 juvenile females were interviewed forensically. Two of these individuals disclosed being victims of or witnesses to sexual abuse. The suspect was interviewed and a polygraph was attempted, however, no cooperation was received. The prosecution of this case is delayed due to numerous stories being told by the 3 juveniles. Attempts to close this gap to pursue criminal charges remain active and hopes of criminal charges remain. The suspect has left the area and is believed to be living in South Dakota at the present time.

### Major Cases for Detective Manecke

**Check Fraud** - Detective Manecke worked a check fraud case leading to the arrest of many individuals. This check fraud scam included individuals starting accounts at multiple banks and writing checks with no money in the accounts. One of the suspects is a well-known criminal to the WFPD. This conviction should send the suspect back to prison.

### Major Cases for Detective Wuollet

**Attempted Murder** - Patrol officers responded to a female who was seen hanging out of a second-story apartment window, bleeding heavily. A male was detained and brought in for questioning. The victim was taken to the hospital with a gunshot wound to her face and hand. The investigations team was called out to process the crime scene and interview the suspect. The crime scene was throughout the apartment where a gun, multiple spent bullet casings and live rounds were recovered among large amounts of blood splatter on the walls and floor. The suspect admitted to shooting the victim but claimed self-defense. The suspect is also suspected of homicide in another state, with the case still pending. A long investigation and six-month recovery of the victim ensued. The suspect was sentenced to 20 years, and the victim has lifelong effects from the injury and a bullet still lodged in her chest.

**Burglary** - A West Fargo bar was burglarized and an estimated amount of \$20,000 taken. Several safes, cash registers and coin machines were broken into and the recording equipment was damaged so only video from one area of the bar could be obtained. A person of interest was identified. A search of the suspect's residence was performed, which revealed the same clothing as well as equipment taken from another burglary committed in the county, and tools used to commit the burglary in West Fargo. Ultimately, thanks to several agencies and search warrants of phone records, the suspect was charged with burglary. However, the case is still pending. The suspect had fled to Arizona and was found to have committed another burglary in Nebraska. Metro Street Crimes and the United States Marshal Service were brought in to assist in locating him in Arizona where he was arrested and is currently incarcerated in Nebraska awaiting trial. He has several pending cases in ND and charges are still being filed.

## INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION MAJOR CASES IN 2017

### Major Cases for Detective Birrenkott

**Gross Sexual Imposition** - A 5-year-old female child reported being sexually assaulted numerous times by 11-year-old and 14-year-old males. The 11-year-old male confessed and he and the older male were arrested and charged with multiple counts of gross sexual imposition.

**Burglary** - Two burglaries at separate locations with the same victim were reported, totaling a theft of \$20,000 worth of tools. The tools were recovered and were eventually returned to the owner. A confession from the suspect and the investigation led to the conviction of the suspect, who was also responsible for thefts in Cass County and the City of Fargo, and was on probation for previous burglaries in Richland County.

### Major Cases for Detective Runcorn

**Overdose** - This detective responded to a possible overdose of fentanyl. Upon arrival, one individual was being transported to the hospital and another victim had died from fentanyl exposure. The two were attempting to divide the drug into individual doses and were exposed. The drug case was transferred to the Drug Task Force and Drug Enforcement Agency.

**Sexual Abuse** - A suspect was reported to the WFPD for criminal trespassing. Further investigation led to the discovery of continuous sexual abuse of a minor. It was also discovered that the suspect got the victim pregnant, however, complications of the pregnancy resulted in the loss of the baby. The suspect was charged and subsequently convicted. He will face jail time and have to register as a sexual offender.

## EVIDENCE PROCESSING

Evidence processing decreased slightly for the Investigations Division in 2017, with only 602 pieces of evidence being brought to the evidence room. The pieces of evidence are then stored, processed or sent to the state lab for further testing before trial.

This year was a year of great change for the evidence team. In July, Sari Supler was given the additional duties as the part-time Evidence Technician to free up investigators for their other duties. Under this new role, Supler conducts

audits, maintains the flow of evidence, ensures the proper handling of items and processes evidence. The evidence room also received upgraded shelving to better utilize the space given and to ensure proper organization.



# STREET CRIMES

The West Fargo Police Department participates in the Fargo-Moorhead Area Street Crimes Unit. This unit is made up of officers from area agencies to identify, track and apprehend gang members and their associates. The Street Crimes Unit also assists in locating and apprehending suspects with cases that span multiple jurisdictions.

	<i>Jan. - March</i>	<i>April - June</i>	<i>July - Sept.</i>	<i>Oct. - Dec.</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
<b>Gang Education Hours</b>	0	7	0	15	<b>22</b>
<b>Assist Other Agency</b>	10	14	6	6	<b>36</b>
<b>Training Hours</b>	106	134	135	11	<b>386</b>

	<i>Jan. - March</i>	<i>April - June</i>	<i>July - Sept.</i>	<i>Oct. - Dec.</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
<b>Gang Arrests</b>	21	32	25	21	<b>99</b>
<b>Non-Gang Arrests</b>	69	69	115	31	<b>284</b>
<b>Non-Criminal Citations</b>	4	9	8	1	<b>22</b>
<b>Street Crime Search Warrants</b>	4	5	6	17	<b>32</b>
<b>Marijuana Seizures</b>	1077 g	471 g	27 g	45 g	<b>1620 g</b>
<b>Meth Seizures</b>	11 g	41 g	289 g	21 g	<b>362 g</b>
<b>Cocaine Seizures</b>	10 g	0 g	14 g	9 g	<b>33 g</b>
<b>LSD</b>	0	0	0	13	<b>13</b>
<b>MDMA</b>	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
<b>Pills</b>	32	99	9	2	<b>142</b>
<b>Heroin</b>	1 g	150 g	0	0	<b>151 g</b>
<b>Felony Paraphernalia Seizures</b>	38	5	25	0	<b>72</b>
<b>Misdemeanor Paraphernalia Seizures</b>	30	43	5	4	<b>82</b>
<b>Cash Seizures</b>	\$3827	\$12153	\$3890	\$1700	<b>\$21,570</b>
<b>Gun/Dangerous Weapon Seizures</b>	3	1	2	0	<b>6</b>
<b>Vehicle Seizures</b>	2	0	0	0	<b>2</b>
<b>Crime Reduction Details</b>	1	1	3	1	<b>6</b>
<b>Gang Members Identified</b>	32	16	19	4	<b>71</b>

# AREA DRUG ENFORCEMENT AND TRENDS

## CASS COUNTY DRUG TASK FORCE

Detective Shane Orn finished his fifth and final year in his rotation at the Cass County Drug Task Force. During his time, he initiated 30 cases and assisted on many others. His cases included items like possession of marijuana with intent to deliver, possession of methamphetamine with intent to deliver, possession of drug paraphernalia among others.

One of TFO Orn's most notable seizures came in October 2017. Through combined investigation of the Cass County Drug Task Force and the

Department of Homeland Security, a male suspect was identified and later admitted to possessing nearly 9 ounces of meth and over 19 ounces of synthetic marijuana in his vehicle. The male was later associated to an ongoing Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) case and is still under investigation.

Another notable seizure was in June 2017. TFO Orn prepared a search warrant for a residence in West Fargo for possible narcotics sales. During that search, \$21,000 and over 10 pounds of marijuana were located.

## DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION

The Drug Enforcement Administration Task Force (DEA TFO) officer did not initiate any cases in 2017 due to ongoing cases from 2016. The DEA TFO currently has 5 active DEA investigations. The DEA TFO also initiated 7 Cass County Drug Task Force Cases.

Case highlights for 2017 include a meth trafficking case that has been active since 2016. Over \$150,000 and

over 100 pounds of meth have been seized in that case to date. Seizures for that case also include 12 pounds of heroin and 6 pounds of fentanyl pills. People have been indicted across the state of North Dakota and California for their involvement in the conspiracy. There are still more indictments to come and still more targets being identified.

## AREA DRUG TREND FINDINGS

The West Fargo Police Department, along with Detective Orn, continue to receive numerous tips of suspicious activity and complaints of suspicious odors. The public is encouraged to continue to call the police department if something is suspicious or seems out of place. It is important to note also that sometimes investigations can be complex and take weeks, months or even years to complete.

In 2017, Detective Orn observed that the fentanyl and heroin overdoses had slowed since 2016, however heroin and fentanyl still present a major problem in the Fargo-Moorhead area. Orn also observed that other drugs, such as methamphetamine, were making a comeback. According to Orn, the price of methamphetamine had gone down significantly, making the drug more accessible. The amounts of methamphetamine being seized are some of the highest amounts seen in the metro area. Dealers in the area with connections to source states (Arizona, Texas and California) continue to be a primary issue with methamphetamine. Connections in those states are often tied to Mexico-based drug trafficking organizations.

Recent seizures in the state have shown that I-94 is a very active drug corridor for methamphetamine, marijuana and heroin. Drugs are being transported by West Coast-based drug trafficking organizations using I-94 to get to cities such as Minneapolis, Chicago, Detroit and Milwaukee.

# SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS

## 2017 INCIDENTS REPORTED

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<i>Kindergarten Center</i>	25	13	19	16	14
<i>LE Berger Elementary</i>	32	46	27	23	38
<i>South Elementary</i>	24	21	25	27	19
<i>Eastwood Elementary</i>	50	52	17	14	27
<i>Westside Elementary</i>	35	51	23	24	21
<i>Aurora Elementary</i>	22	32	25	24	29
<i>Freedom Elementary</i>	33	27	1	15	14
<i>Legacy Elementary</i>	x	x	10	16	13
<i>Brooks Harbor Elementary</i>	x	x	x	x	5
<i>Cheney Middle School</i>	64	51	46	48	64
<i>Liberty Middle School</i>	26	45	32	45	56
<i>West Fargo High School</i>	141	135	138	143	149
<i>Sheyenne High School</i>	58	54	78	72	105
<i>Community High School</i>	7	3	3	2	46
<b>Total</b>	<b>517</b>	<b>530</b>	<b>444</b>	<b>469</b>	<b>600</b>

The West Fargo Police Department has partnered with the West Fargo School District for the School Resource Officer (SRO) program since 2005. The team is currently made up of 5 officers.

- **Todd Pearson - West Fargo Elementary Schools**
- **Trent Stanton - Cheney Middle School**
- **Wes Christianson - Liberty Middle School**
- **Rhonda Jorgenson - Sheyenne High School**
- **Jason Balvik- WFHS & Community High**

The role of an SRO is threefold - educator, informal counselor and law enforcement officer. Each Student Resource Officer is required to undergo training with the National Association of School Resource Officers (NASRO). In 2017, there were 600 incidents managed by SROs. This increase in incidents is due in part to the rapid growth of the district.



## OFFENDER REGISTRATION PROGRAM

There are currently 46 offenders registered with the West Fargo Police Department. Since 2009, each West Fargo police officer has at least one registered offender assigned to them for the purpose of monitoring their compliance. The Offender Registration Program has grown substantially since it was first initiated. It requires daily activity and the required assistance of the patrol division and the police clerks to effectively monitor each offender. The police clerks communicate with the state offender registration unit in Bismarck for updates to each offender's file and to make sure all information is sent in a timely manner. The clerks also verify monthly updates are being done by the assigned officers. The collaboration of the West Fargo Police Department as a whole is what makes the Offender Registration Program successful in its implementation.

46

Total offenders registered with WFPD

## INTERNET CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN

11

Total Internet Crimes Against Children tips reported

In 2017, the West Fargo Police Department received 11 Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) cyber tips. From these tips, the WFPD was able to produce five workable cases. Cyber tips included possession of child pornography, distribution of child pornography, sextortion and luring a minor by computer. The cyber tips were investigated by two of WFPD detectives trained in handling these sensitive cases. In 2017, WFPD ICAC detectives also conducted a proactive operation that led to an arrest and conviction for luring a minor by computer. Additionally, the WFPD worked a proactive operation with the Fargo Police Department which led to multiple arrests in 2017.

## CRIME FREE MULTI-HOUSING PROGRAM

The West Fargo Crime Free Multi-housing Program is offered through free training for West Fargo rental property management and staff. After partaking in the training, the Crime Free Housing Coordinator will conduct background checks on potential residents and notify the trained rental property management when tenants or visitors commit certain offenses on the property. The offenses include noise complaints, prostitution and indecent exposure, assault, disorderly conduct or peace disturbances, minor possessing or consuming alcohol, providing alcohol to minors, public nuisances, possession of controlled substances, conduct relating to the need for protection services, delinquency of a minor, terrorist threats, criminal damage to property, burglary and robbery.



	<i>Incidents Reported</i>	<i>Background Checks Performed</i>
January	83	141
February	78	158
March	73	199
April	92	263
May	87	186
June	99	137
July	96	87
August	133	190
September	76	189
October	98	190
November	70	169
December	82	124
<b>Total</b>	<b>1067</b>	<b>2033</b>



## RED RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL BOMB SQUAD

In 2017, the Red River Valley Regional Bomb Squad responded to 32 calls. Many of these calls were recoveries of explosives, powders and chemicals. During the year, the bomb squad responded to two suspicious packages and two bomb threat calls.

The team is made up of medics, officers and deputies from Sanford Lifelight, FM Ambulance, West Fargo Police Department, Fargo Police Department, Moorhead Police Department, the Cass

County Sheriff's Office and the Clay County Sheriff's Office.

The year 2017 began and ended with assisting NDSU with the disposal of chemicals. In February, the bomb squad was called to assist with the disposal of crystalized tetrahydrofuran. In December, they assisted NDSU in the disposal of picric acid, potentially dating back to the 1940s. Both chemicals were disposed of by explosive detonation.

In May, the bomb squad was called to a residence

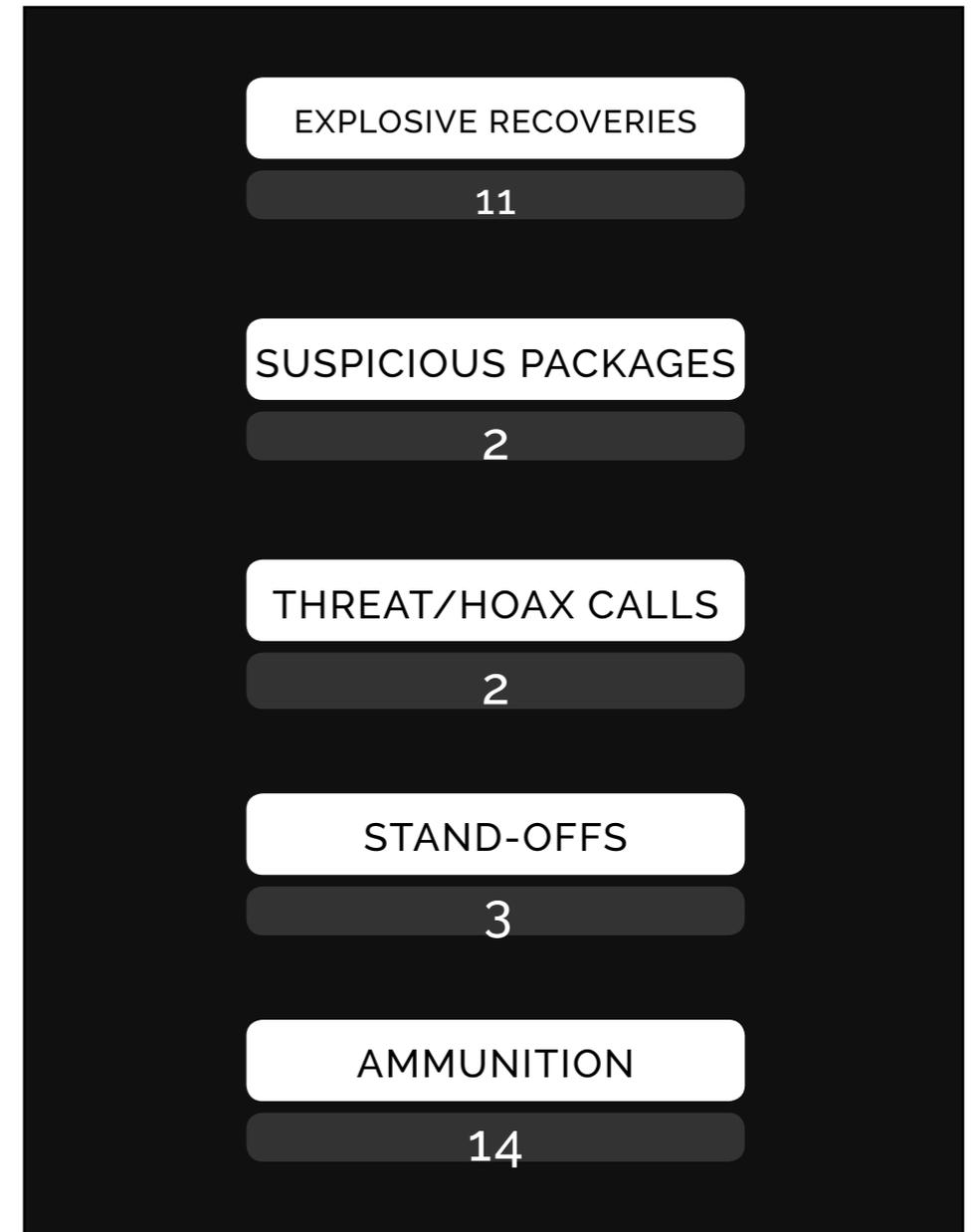
and took custody of 1.3-grade fireworks and flash powder. The caller's father had collected the items, but had passed away. Those powders were disposed of throughout the summer.

In November, the squad recovered old military devices designed for booty traps. These devices were at least 40 years old and unstable. The product was turned over to the military for disposal.

A Fargo Police Department member left the squad in 2017 and will be

replaced in 2018 with Jacob Rued from the Fargo Police Department. Rued will go through extensive training in 2018 to prepare to attend the Hazardous Devices

School in 2019. Other members remain dedicated to the success of the Bomb Squad's mission to protect our communities from the dangers of energetic materials.



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# ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION

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## ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION

The Administrative Division includes a number of civilian employees who perform various essential tasks for the department. These civilian employees serve as police chaplains, transcriptionists, police support specialists, records specialists, an office supervisor and a quartermaster/evidence technician.

### POLICE CHAPLAINS

The responsibility of police chaplains is to provide emotional support to officers and the citizens they serve. These volunteers are always on-call to support officers and their victims they come in contact with.

### TRANSCRIPTIONISTS

The transcriptionists work to transcribe digital reports and interviews. They prepare correspondence, proofread, edit, file and input data.

### QUARTERMASTER

The quartermaster oversees the police department's equipment, issues equipment and supplies to personnel, purchases new equipment and maintains inventory records. The West Fargo Police Department's quartermaster also serves as an adviser for the West Fargo Police Explorers, department historian and evidence technician.

### POLICE SUPPORT SPECIALISTS

Police support specialists are entrusted with customer service for the department. They assist the public on the phone and in person with bike licensing, pet licensing, ticket payments, fingerprinting, vacation house watch requests, CodeRED messaging, offender registrations, State Teletype System updates and more during the open lobby hours.

### POLICE RECORDS SPECIALIST

A record specialist is tasked with conducting criminal background checks, routing reports to various agencies and scanning reports into the Records Management System. This individual also determines what information can be released from records in accordance with North Dakota Open Records Law.

### OFFICE SUPERVISOR

The office supervisor is responsible for approving task guidelines, schedules, staff reviews and the supervision and training of support specialists. The senior police support specialist serves as the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) validation officer who is responsible for verifying the accuracy of police records in NCIC.

602

Total Pets  
Licensed

27

Total Car Seat  
Checks Performed

1364

Total Sets of  
Fingerprints  
Recorded

## THANK YOU

Thank you for taking the time to review our highlights from 2017. We look forward to many more great years serving and engaging with the West Fargo community.

Stay informed and engaged with us online at

[www.westfargopolice.com](http://www.westfargopolice.com)



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