

# EDEN PRAIRIE POLICE DEPARTMENT 2019 ANNUAL REPORT





**Chief Greg Weber**

**March 2020**

Dear Mayor Case and City Council Members:

I am pleased to submit the 2019 Eden Prairie Police Department Annual Report to you and the residents of Eden Prairie. This report contains a summary of the events and operations the Police Department undertook in 2019.

We responded to 50,909 calls for service which was down slightly from 52,278 in 2018. There were no homicides, but there was one fatal crash in 2019.

Mental health calls continue to increase. The number of medical-psychiatric calls increased from 177 in 2018 to 210 in 2019 and the number of suicide/suicide attempt calls increased from 129 in 2018 to 156 last year.

The number of opioid overdoses decreased from 24 in 2018 to 21 in 2019. A full list of statistics can be found on the last page of this report.

In 2020 we will concentrate on officer recruitment, which continues to be a challenge as the number of applicants is decreasing throughout Minnesota and the country.

We will also focus on apprehending impaired drivers as we received a grant to fund a full-time DWI officer from January-September 2020. Officer Chad Streiff will serve in that role.

Finally, we will look at the Department's facility needs as we continues to grow.

On behalf of the nearly 150 staff and volunteer members of the Police Department, I thank you for your continued support and look forward to serving you in the coming year.

**Chief Greg Weber**

# MISSION STATEMENT

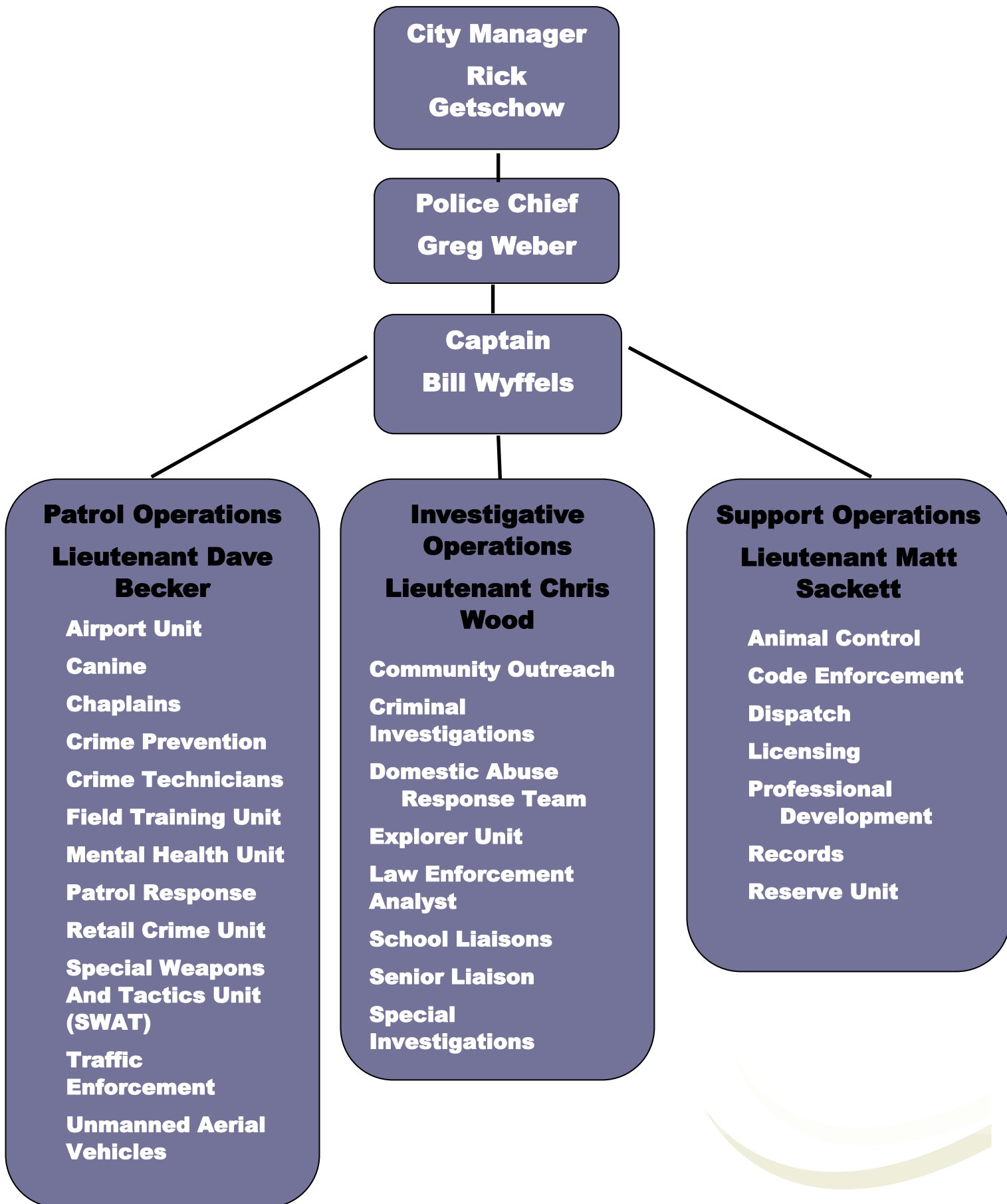
The mission of the Eden Prairie Police Department is to protect and serve the community of Eden Prairie through active and professional engagement.



## Department Values

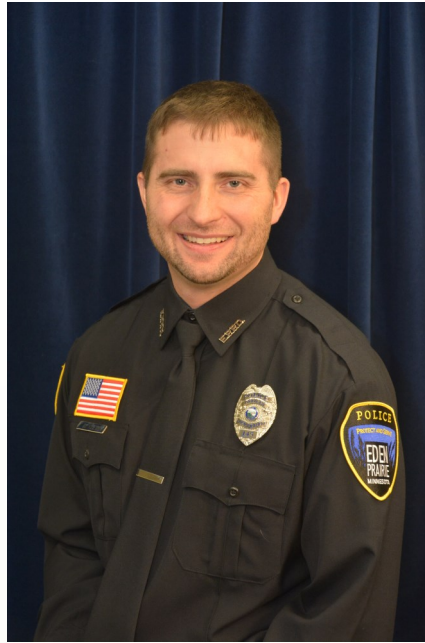
- ◆ Provide customized service to the community
- ◆ Exercise discretion and fairness in enforcement
- ◆ Build public trust in the Department
- ◆ Promote the professional development of its members

# 2019 Eden Prairie Police Department Organizational Chart





# NEW HIRES & PROMOTIONS



**Officer Kyle Klein was hired Feb. 17, 2019.**



**Officer Steven Nessler began working as an officer on August 31, 2019.**



**Records Technician Lindsay Yates started working for the EPPD on March 25, 2019.**



**Scott Mittelstadt was promoted to sergeant on June 22, 2019.**

# RETIREMENTS



**Det. Chris Millard retired in January 2019 after 28 years with the EPPD.**



**Sgt. Brent DuPont retired in July after serving Eden Prairie for 31 years.**



**Volunteer Coordinator Mark Krueger retired in April after 15 years of service.**



**K-9 Riggs retired after serving with Officer Scott Mittelstadt for six years.**

# PATROL DIVISION



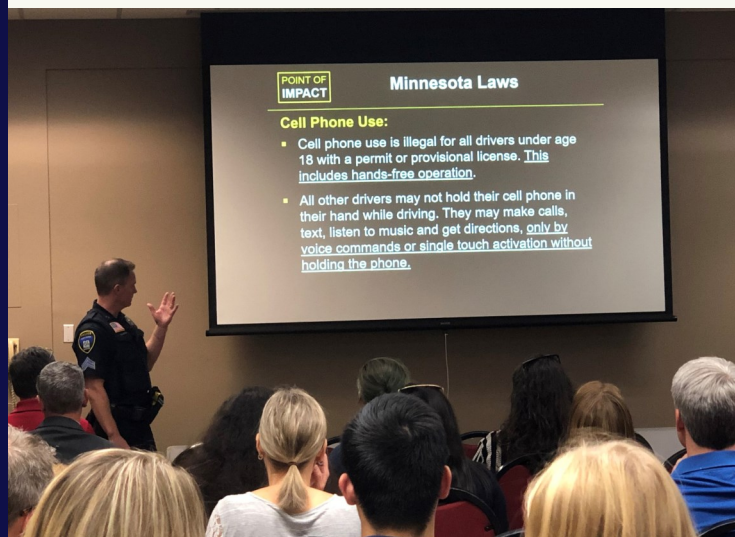
In 2019, Lt. Dave Becker led the Patrol Division which includes eight sergeants and 37 officers.

There are eight Patrol Units as well as the secondary Airport, Canine, Chaplain, Crime Prevention, Crime Tech, Field Training, Mental Health, Reserve, Retail Crime, Traffic and SWAT units.

In 2019, EPPD officers made 243 DWI arrests, a 14% increase over 2018. The Department works closely with the Minnesota Department of Public Safety's Towards Zero Deaths (TZD) program to conduct DWI details in Eden Prairie and our TZD partner communities.



Officer Chad Streiff (pictured above, right) made 73 DWI arrests in 2019 and earned two Hat Tricks for making three DWI arrests in one shift. The Department received funding for a full-time DWI officer for the first nine months of 2020, which should lead to an increase in the number of DWI arrests.



In September the EPPD offered a free class for teen drivers and their parents on how teens can stay safe on our roadways.



# PATROL DIVISION



Lions Club President Gary Watkins presenting a check for the K9 program to Crime Prevention Fund President Lisa Toomey and EPPD Captain Bill Wyffels.



In 2019, two new K9s joined the EPPD. K9 Gus (pictured at left) attended K9 school in the spring and joined Officer Nate Eichman on the street in June.

K9 Jax (pictured below) began working on the street in November after attending school this fall.

Both K9s are from Slovakia.



Gus and Jax were purchased with funding from the Eden Prairie Crime Prevention Fund which received generous donations from Comcast, the Eden Prairie Lions Club and the family of the late Dr. John Wright, a veterinarian who was instrumental in starting Eden Prairie's K9 program in 1981.



# INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION



Lt. Chris Wood led the Investigations Division in 2019, which includes two sergeants, 13 officers and two civilian employees.

The Investigations Division oversees the Criminal Investigations, Domestic Abuse Response Team, Explorers, Law Enforcement Analyst, School Liaison, Senior Liaison and Special Investigations units.

## Major cases

In August 2019, two people called Dispatch claiming they had been robbed and stabbed on a walking path in Eden Prairie. Ten days later, Dispatch received another call of a robbery and stabbing in the same location. When detectives began to investigate the allegations, they realized the cases were similar to one that took place in 2015. They spent 12 hours interviewing the victims, who eventually admitted that the robberies had been faked in hopes that they would lead to successful applications for U-Visas which would allow them to stay in the country legally. Using forensic evidence, detectives determined that the “victim” in the 2015 robbery was actually the ringleader of the 2019 robberies. The ringleader charged the victims \$1,000 each for her help and cut each victim with a box cutter to present as injuries. The ringleader was arrested and charged with one count of felony theft.



On October 6, 2018, two men broken into an Eden Prairie home and threatened the homeowners with a handgun. The men stole \$50,000 in cash and during the burglary, one of the homeowners had a fatal heart attack. As Eden Prairie detectives began investigating the case, they realized that similar burglaries had occurred in other communities in the Midwest. Eden Prairie investigators took the lead in coordinating a 15-agency effort that included the U.S. Department of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms. After several weeks of extensive investigative work that included surveillances, electronic analysis and multiple search warrants, detectives identified four suspects whom they arrested. In December 2019 the suspects were sentenced to 30 years, 20 years 10 years and five years respectively.

# INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION



**In June, EPPD school liaison officers worked with firefighters and parks and recreation staff to host the 29th annual Safety Camp at Riley Lake Park. One hundred and forty-seven campers rotated through various activities, including personal safety, bullying prevention, power line safety, internet safety, animal safety, bike safety, fire safety, street maintenance safety and aquatics safety.**



**Last summer EPPD officers joined firefighters, parks and recreation staff, and Eden Prairie Library staff for the City's second series of Pop-Up Splash Pad events at city parks. At the free events, neighbors could play yard games and shoot hoops with officers, spray a firehose and check out a library book. Three Pop-Up Splash Pad events are scheduled for summer 2020.**

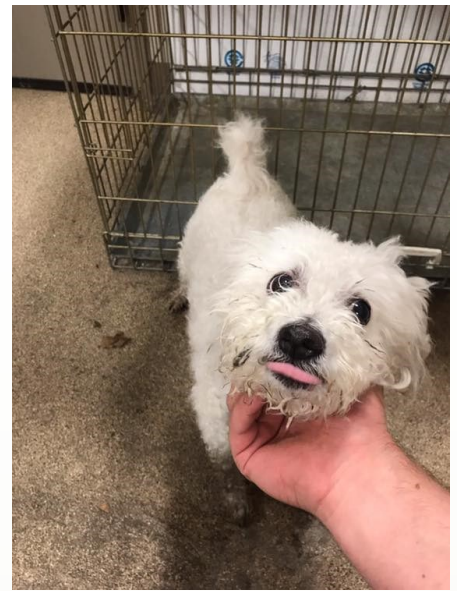


# SUPPORT DIVISION



Lt. Matt Sackett lead the Support Division in 2019, which includes the Records, Dispatch, Professional Development, Support Operations, Community Service, Animal Control, Licensing and Code Enforcement units.

In 2019, community service and animal control officers responded to 1,378 animal control calls. Of those, 26 calls were for animal bites, 116 were for barking dogs and 318 calls were for dogs at large.



In October, 20 students graduated from the 2019 EPPD Citizens Academy. During their six-week class, participants learned the ins and outs of traffic enforcement, use of force, DWI enforcement, 911 dispatching, K-9, the SWAT team and investigations.

Citizens Academy is sponsored by the Eden Prairie Crime Prevention Fund.



In 2019, Eden Prairie Dispatchers answered 50,909 calls for service ranging from death investigations (34) to structure fires (36) to driving complaints (537).

# SUPPORT DIVISION



**In November, the Records Unit conducted a mandatory inventory of the Property Room to ensure all evidence is accounted for. It took 78.5 hours and involved 17,555 items.**

**At left is Property Room Technician Kyle Duchschere, scanning evidence.**



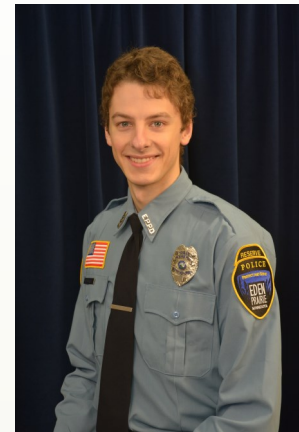
**In June, the Support Division organized City of Eden Prairie employees to run three miles through the City carrying the Minnesota Special Olympics torch. Our staff received the torch from the Minnetonka Police Department and handed it over to Special Olympic athletes several miles later. Throughout the day, the torch made its way to the University of St. Thomas, where the 2019 Special Olympics Summer Games took place.**



# RESERVES

Four new Reserve Officers started in 2019: Michael Korus, Nicholas Berg, Rosanna Motta and Cole Pixley.

## New Reserves



## Reserve Retirees

Three Reserve Officers retired in 2019: Jim Burkhardt, 29 years of service; Brad Starr, 20 years of service; and Gale Ward, six years of service.



# RESERVES

EPPD Reserve Officers are adult volunteers who assist sworn officers by performing community service tasks and non-criminal police functions.

Reserve Officers also assist in natural disasters and other emergencies that require additional personnel.



**Reserve Officers deliver Toys for Tots, help with wildlife and even put out fires!**



**In 2019, Reserve Officers contributed 2,993 hours of volunteer service to the community.**



# CHAPLAINS

The EPPD's volunteer chaplains provide emotional and spiritual care to community members and public safety responders. Chaplains take turns being on-call for the Department.

In 2019, chaplains were called out six times.



The EPPD welcomed Chaplain Deanna Bassett in 2019.



Chaplain Sharon Predovich retired in March 2019 after serving as a chaplain for 11 years.



Chaplains Bruce Goodwin, Paul Nelson, John Brecount, Jake Reiter and Jim Erickson at last summer's Chaplain BBQ, during which the chaplains cook a meal for Department staff.



# EXPLORERS

Police Explorers are young people ages 14-21 who are interested in law enforcement.

Explorers gain working knowledge through hands-on experience, including weekly meetings and training sessions.

In 2019, the Explorers assisted with 30 community events.

In 2019, the Explorers competed in two state competitions. They received numerous awards, including 1st Place awards in Crime Scene Search, Hostage Negotiation, White Collar Crime and Burglary Investigation.





# AWARDS



Dispatcher Kristi Breunig received the Chaplain Tim Power Award, named in honor of Father Tim Power who served as a Police and Fire Department Chaplain for 24 years before his death in 2016.

The award recognizes an employee who provides consistent care for people in the Department and community and is awarded by the Chaplain Unit.

The Labor Management Team awarded Licensing Technician Christy Weigel with the Civilian Employee of the Year Award for her exceptional customer service and expertise.



Detective Mark Gustad received the Officer of the Year Award for his work ethic and commitment to solving challenging crimes including the October 2018 home invasion burglary and homicide.

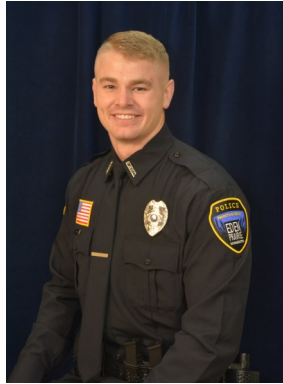


City Attorney Ric Rosow, who retired at the end of 2019, received a Commendation for the many years he provided valuable legal counsel to the Department.

# AWARDS



In January 2019 Officer Nate Eichman received a Commendation for his assistance to the Edina Police Department during a pursuit and foot chase that occurred in 2018. Officer Eichman subdued the suspect who was threatening and advancing towards two Edina officers. The Edina Police Department nominated Officer Eichman for the award stating that his actions likely prevented injuries to their officers and the suspect.



Officer Jayden DeVilbiss received the Mayor Jean L. Harris Award for Community Service for his work as a volunteer wrestling coach for Shakopee High School.



In September, the Department's SWAT team received Top Gun honors at the Minnesota Tactical Officers Association annual conference at Camp Ripley. The Top Gun award is given to the team that receives the highest scores on a variety of firearms proficiency exercises.



In 2019, EPPD Records Supervisor Cesar Munoz, Lt. Matt Sackett and Sgt. John Wilson earned the Trilogy Award from the FBI Law Enforcement Executive Development Association for completing three weeklong courses in Supervision, Command and Executive Leadership.



# COMMUNITY OUTREACH

In July the EPPD and the city's Human Rights and Diversity Commission held their first-ever Kickin' it with the Cops event at Edenvale Park where kids played soccer and basketball with officers.



Eden Prairie's annual Night to Unite event in August included residents from 185 neighborhoods (a new record!) who collectively donated 9,179 pounds food for PROP (People Reaching Out to People).



In July officers teamed up with a non-profit organization called Let's Go Fishing to take nineteen Eden Prairie kids fishing on Lake Riley. In addition to catching (and releasing) 196 fish, the event was a great opportunity for our officers to connect with kids on a beautiful summer night.

# COMMUNITY OUTREACH

## Open House



**In October, visitors attended the Public Safety Open House at Fire Station 1 where they could dust for fingerprints, operate our remote-controlled SWAT robot and drive our Pedal Kart.**





# COMMUNITY OUTREACH



**EPPD staff filled squad cars full of gifts for Toys for Tots that were generously donated by Eden Prairie residents. The officers drove to the KARE11 studios in Golden Valley, along with law enforcement agencies from throughout the Twin Cities, where they gave the gifts to the U.S. Marine Corps Reserves for distribution to kids who would not otherwise receive holiday gifts.**



**In December, 13 EPPD officers, staff and family members volunteered their time for the Department's fifth annual Shop with a Cop event. The officers partnered up with 13 children for an afternoon of shopping followed by a pizza party at Davanni's.**

**The event is sponsored by the Eden Prairie Crime Prevention Fund with donations from Byerly's and Davanni's.**

# 2018-2019 EPPD Statistics

<b>Person Crimes</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>
Homicide (includes attempts)	1	0
Criminal Sexual Conduct	39	36
Robbery	7	14
Felony Assault	17	26
Non-Felony Assault	124	91
Domestic Assault	72	67
Disorderly Conduct	59	39
Harassing Communication	15	10
Crimes Against Families	5	7
Interfering with 9-1-1 Calls	11	9
Prostitution	16	7
Human Trafficking	0	4

<b>Property Crimes</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>
Residential Burglaries	55	47
Non-Residential Burglaries	26	31
Theft	804	616
Theft from Vehicle	186	36
Motor Vehicle Theft	25	23
Motor Vehicle Tampering	243	234
<b>Financial Theft</b>		
Identity Theft	232	203
Forgery/Counterfeiting	29	40
Theft by Check	12	4
Fraud	248	256
Shoplifting	323	243
Property Damage	202	235
Arson	9	3

<b>Other Crimes</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>
Crimes Against Government	4	9
Narcotics	299	272
Underage Drinking Age 18-21	36	33
Underage Drinking & Driving	6	6
Weapons	12	6
Fleeing Police	24	21

<b>Traffic Related</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>
Fatal Vehicle	1	1
Personal Injury Crash	104	100
Driving While Impaired	214	238
Property Damage Crash	1,060	955
Hit and Run	200	196
Written Warnings	9,875	9,106
Driver's License Violations	1,090	991
Equipment Violations	357	493
Parking Violations	267	177
Moving Violations	2,891	2,214
<b>Total Traffic Violations</b>	<b>4,605</b>	<b>3,875</b>

<b>Selected Calls for Service</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>
Animal Control	1,441	1,378
Medicals	2,794	2,719
9-1-1 Hang-Ups	3,897	5,375
Alarms (False)	1,165	1,449
Suspicious Activity	2,135	2,134
Death Investigations	57	34

<b>Total Calls for Service</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>
	52,278	50,870

<b>Juvenile Status Offenses</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>
Juvenile-Alcohol	11	3
Juvenile-Runaway	32	22
Juvenile-Curfew	5	6
Juvenile-Tobacco Use	48	41
<b>Total</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>72</b>

