

EDEN PRAIRIE POLICE DEPARTMENT 2020 ANNUAL REPORT





Chief Greg Weber

April 2021

Dear Mayor Case and City Council Members:

I am pleased to submit the 2020 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 2020.

2020 was a year full of challenges as both the pandemic and civil unrest impacted the department's operations and our residents. I am proud of the work our staff did to rise to these challenges while meeting our residents' service expectations. Though I hope we never have to experience the adversity we faced this year, I wouldn't trade the opportunity I had to observe the endurance, commitment and teamwork displayed by your police department during these difficult days.

We increased our transparency by publishing the department's policy manual on our website along with our responses to recommendations from the President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing, Minnesota's Deadly Force Encounters Working Group and 8 Can't Wait.

We responded to 40,564 calls for service which was down from 50,870 in 2019. There were no homicides, but there were two fatal crashes in 2020.

A full list of statistics can be found on the last page of this report. Please note that mid-way through 2020 we were required by the state to switch reporting systems and as a result, some of our statistics are not an apples-to-apples comparison with previous years.

On behalf of the nearly 150 staff and volunteer members of the Police Department, I thank you for your continued support and we all 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

2020 Eden Prairie Police Department Organizational Chart

City Manager
Rick
Getschow

Police Chief
Greg Weber

Captain
Bill Wyffels

Patrol Operations
Lt. Matt Sackett

Airport Unit

Canine

Chaplains

Crime Prevention

Crime Technicians

Field Training Unit

Mental Health Unit

Patrol Response

Retail Crime Unit

**Special Weapons
And Tactics Unit
(SWAT)**

**Traffic
Enforcement**

**Unmanned Aerial
Systems**

**Investigative
Operations**

Lt. Dave Becker

Community Outreach

**Criminal
Investigations**

**Domestic Abuse
Response Team**

Explorer Unit

**Law Enforcement
Analyst**

School Liaisons

Senior Liaison

**Special
Investigations**

**Support
Operations**
Lt. Chris Wood

Animal Control

Code Enforcement

Dispatch

Licensing

**Professional
Development**

Records

Reserve Unit

NEW HIRES

New officers spend 3-4 months in field training before patrolling on their own.



Officer Thor Carlson started in Eden Prairie May 9, 2020.



Officer Jack Welter started as an officer with the EPPD Aug. 29, 2020.



Officer Gena Abramovich started working for the EPPD Sept. 14, 2020.



Officer Josh Mulvaney's first day with the EPPD was Nov. 23, 2020.

PROMOTIONS & RETIREMENTS



Bryan Dean was promoted to sergeant May 23, 2020, after serving as an officer since 2011.



Sgt. John Wilson retired in April 2020 after 19 years with the EPPD.



Reserve Supervisor Brett McMahon retired in February 2020 after volunteering with the Reserve Unit for 20 years.



Chaplain Nolana Holloway retired after four years of volunteer Chaplain service.

PATROL DIVISION



In 2020, Lt. Matt Sackett led the Patrol Division, which includes eight sergeants and 37 officers.

There are eight Patrol Units as well as the secondary Airport, K 9, Chaplain, Crime Prevention, Crime Tech, Field Training, Mental Health, Reserve, Retail Crime, Traffic and SWAT units.

In 2020, EPPD officers made 260 DWI arrests, up from 238 in 2019. The Department received funding from the Minnesota Department of Public Safety for a full-time DWI officer, a position filled by Officer Chad Streiff. The grant was renewed through Sept. 30, 2021. In 2020 Officer Streiff made 128 DWI arrests including four Hat Tricks (three DWI arrests in one shift), a Grand Slam (four DWI arrests in one shift) and an Ace (five DWI arrests in one shift).



The Eden Prairie Crime Prevention Fund provided funding for trading cards the EPPD's two K-9 teams can hand out while they're on patrol and at community events. In addition the Crime Fund purchased bulletproof vests for the dogs.

PATROL DIVISION

On Nov. 5, 2020, officers attempted to pull over a vehicle for excessive speed. The vehicle fled and eventually crashed near a wildlife refuge where two occupants fled on foot. One occupant was apprehended immediately and the second fled into a dense marshy area. Officers Brandon Carlston, Matt O'Rourke and Spencer Barrie, along with K-9 Jax, went into the marsh which was thick with 7-foot high reeds. Equal to their obligation to apprehend the suspect was their concern that the suspect may be experiencing hypothermia due to the weather conditions. The officers and Jax found the suspect stuck in waist-deep mud and soon become stuck themselves. After 90 minutes in the cold, wet elements, the officers, Jax and the suspect made it safely to dry land. The officers and K-9 received the Award of Valor for risking their lives to help save the life of the suspect who would not have made it out of the marsh without their help.



In May the EPPD was honored to have Paul Savereide come to the Police Department and play "Amazing Grace" in the rain as a tribute to Law Enforcement Memorial Day.

INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION



Lt. Dave Becker led the Investigations Division in 2020, 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.

In 2020 Detective Mark Gustad and Analyst Ryan Kapaun received three awards for their work on a home invasion burglary case that took place on Oct. 6, 2018. In that case, one of the home's residents died of a heart attack during the burglary.

They quickly realized that similar burglaries had occurred in other communities and took the lead on a regional investigation. After several weeks of extensive investigative work they arrested four people for 20 burglaries and home invasions.

As a result of their incredible work, Det. Gustad and Analyst Kapaun received the following awards: 1) 2020 U.S. Attorney's Office Award For Excellence; 2) Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms Honor Award ; and 3) Minnesota Chiefs of Police Association's Distinguished Service Award.



Det. Mark Gustad



Analyst Ryan Kapaun

INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION

Before the pandemic, students from the TASSEL (Teaching All Students Skills for Employment and Life) transition program at EPHS visited the department to sell coffee and homemade greeting cards to fundraise for their programming. EPPD School Liaison officers work with TASSEL students to develop relationships and talk about personal safety.



The EPPD liaisons weren't able to do most of their usual community events during the pandemic, but they did manage to find creative ways to meet with residents. In September officers had the opportunity to hand out sports equipment to Eden Prairie kids that was donated by Scheels and Comcast to the Eden Prairie Crime Prevention Fund.



Both the number of motor vehicle thefts and thefts from motor vehicles increased from 2019 to 2020. The theft of catalytic converters contributed to the increase. In 2019, there were eight reported thefts of catalytic converters; in 2020 there were 55. Thieves steal catalytic converters for the precious metals they contain which can be sold for cash. In the fall of 2020 the EPPD arrested a suspect who stole three converters on two separate occasions from commercial vehicles parked at an Eden Prairie business.

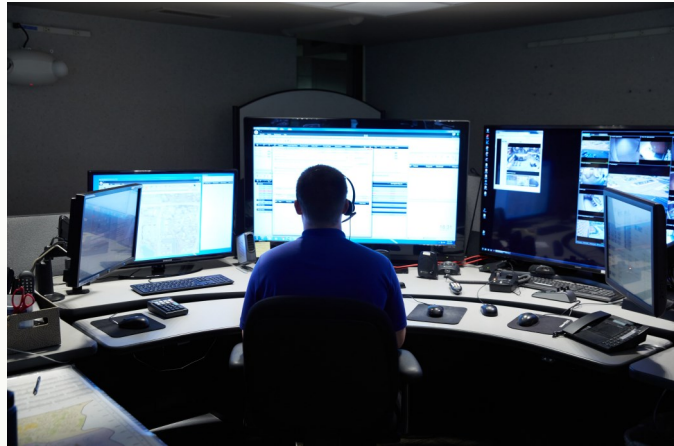
SUPPORT DIVISION



Lt. Chris Wood led the Support Division in 2020, which includes the Records, Dispatch, Professional Development, Support Operations, Community Service, Animal Control, Licensing and Code Enforcement units.

The Licensing Unit processed 1,029 applications for permit-to-purchase a handgun in 2020, a 230% increase over the number of permits processed in 2019.

In 2020 Eden Prairie Dispatchers answered 40,564 calls for service ranging from death investigations (57) to medicals (2,250) to identity theft (201).



In 2020 we focused on mental health by rolling out a program called Check-Up from the Neck Up. As part of the program, all EPPD staff, both sworn and civilian, met individually with a professional who specializes in understanding the emotional toll of working in law enforcement. We believe that mental wellbeing exercises can reduce emotional injuries and allow us to recover from emotional injuries more quickly.



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 Unit Color Guard at the Eden Prairie Veterans Memorial on Memorial Day. In 2020, Reserve Officers contributed 2,665 hours of volunteer service to the community.

New Reserve Officers

Three new Reserve Officers started in 2020: Leticia Stanley, Nathan Paulnock and Nicholas Carvara.



EXPLORERS & CHAPLAINS

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.



The Explorers were unable to participate in competitions this year due to the pandemic but did meet virtually twice a month and volunteered at Feed My Starving Children in October.



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 2020, chaplains were called out 16 times.



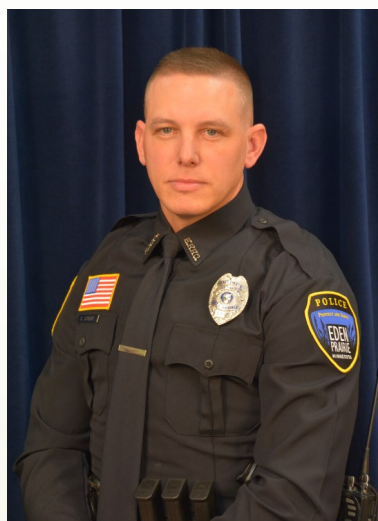
AWARDS



Officer Elizabeth Stroner 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 Records Technician Lindsay Yates with the Civilian Employee of the Year Award for her tremendous work ethic, positive attitude and exceptional customer service skills.



Officer Chad Streiff received the Labor Management Team's Officer of the Year Award for his commitment to drunk driving prevention, education and enforcement.

Several EPPD staff members received Commendation Awards throughout the year. Officers Matt Mohn and Tony Behl received a Commendation for their rescue of a man who was drowning in a car that had overturned in a pond last March. Officer Chad Streiff was awarded a Commendation for rescuing a toddler and an adult from a car that was sinking into a pond in March. Sgt. Bryan Dean, Officers Brianne Lesnau, Matt Schmidt, Juliette Glynn and Matt O'Rourke, along with CSO Louis Diethelm, Assistant Fire Chief Ward Parker, Assistant Fire Chief Kurt Buchanan, Fire Prevention Specialist Jeff Carrane and Training Captain Kim Cox received Commendation Awards for their work in responding to a house fire in July where a man was trapped on a deck.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Although we weren't able to participate in most of our traditional community outreach activities in 2020, we did manage to hold a few events during the holiday season. First, with a generous donation from the Eden Prairie Crime Prevention Fund, each officer received \$50 in cash to give to someone they came across in the community. It was a great way to connect with our residents during a difficult holiday season. In addition, we collected Toys for Tots and delivered them to the Salvation Army. We also started a program called Holidays with Heroes (replacing Shop with a Cop) along with our peers at the Fire Department and the Eden Prairie Crime Prevention Fund to help 10 kids and their families shop for gifts.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

In early March we helped host the Special Olympics Polar Plunge at Riley Lake where 783 plungers raised \$171,643 for Special Olympics Minnesota.



In October, our Police Officers, Community Service Officers, Reserves and Explorers had the opportunity to participate in the City's Boo Drive-Thru at Miller Park along with the Park and Rec and Fire Departments. The 210 families who had pre-registered for the event drove through the parking lot to pick up treats, play games and win prizes.



2019-2020 EPPD Statistics

Part I Crimes (Formerly Person Crimes)	2019	2020
Homicide	0	0
Rape (Formerly Criminal Sexual Conduct)	36	36
Robbery	14	9
Aggravated Assault (Formerly Felony Assault)	26	23
Residential Burglaries	47	44
Non-Residential Burglaries	31	22
Larceny/Theft (Formerly Theft)		
Shoptlifting	243	285
Theft from Building*		38
MV Tampering (Theft from MV & Theft of MV Parts)	136	229
All Other Larceny*		331
Motor Vehicle Theft	23	63
Arson	3	5
Human Trafficking		
Commercial Sex Acts*		0
Involuntary Servitude*		0

Part II Crimes	2019	2020
Assaults-Other (Formerly Non-Felony Assaults)	47	62
Financial Theft		
Embezzlement*		1
Identity Theft	203	201
Counterfeiting/Forgery	40	59
Bad Checks (Formerly Theft by Check)	4	8
Fraud	256	229
Stolen Property*		49
Vandalism/Damage to Property*		494
Weapons	6	27
Prostitution	14	0
Sex Offenses (Not Rape or Prostitution)*		1
Drug Abuse/Narcotics (Formerly Narcotics)	272	182
Crimes Against Family & Children	7	12
Property Damage/Vandalism	235	222
Liquor Laws*		28
Fleeing Police		
Vehicle*		26
Foot*		12

* new offense code

Note: Mid-way through 2020 we were required by the state to switch reporting systems and as a result, some of our statistics are not an apples-to-apples comparison with previous years.

Traffic Related	2019	2020
Fatal Vehicle	1	2
Personal Injury Crash	100	68
Driving While Impaired	238	260
Property Damage Crash	955	556
Hit and Run	196	143
Written Warnings	9,106	3,463
Driver's License Violations	991	755
Equipment Violations	493	255
Parking Violations	177	188
Moving Violations	2,214	1,770
Total Traffic Citation Violations	3,875	2,968

Selected Calls for Service	2019	2020
Animal Control	1,378	1,127
Medicals	2,719	2,250
9-1-1 Hang-Ups	5,375	5,052
Alarms (False)	1,449	1,250
Suspicious Activity	2,134	2,145
Death Investigations	34	57

Total Calls for Service	2019	2020
	50,870	40,546

Juvenile Status Offenses	2019	2020
Juvenile-Alcohol	3	13
Juvenile-Runaway	22	17
Juvenile-Curfew	6	3
Juvenile-Tobacco Use	41	10
Total	72	43

Other Offenses	2019	2020
Domestic Assault	67	48
Harassing Communication	10	20
Interfering with 9-1-1 Calls	9	3
Underage Drinking Age 18-21	33	41
Underage Drinking & Driving	6	16

