



ANNUAL REPORT

2021



Wickenburg Police Department

1980 W. Wickenburg Way
Wickenburg, AZ 85390

Non-Emergency: (928)684-5411
Fax: (928) 259-2416

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Town of Wickenburg

About Wickenburg, Arizona

Wickenburg lies in the foothills of the Bradshaw Mountains, along the banks of the Hassayampa River one hour from Downtown Phoenix.

Henry Wickenburg came to the area in search of gold. He was rewarded with the discovery of Vulture Mine (1863-1942), where over 340,000 ounces of gold and 260,000 ounces of silver were found. There are still relics around the area that stand as a tribute to these early adventurers, as well as a walking tour around Vulture City, which is adjacent to the present-day Vulture Mine.

Ranchers and farmers discovered the fertile flood plain of the Hassayampa River. The Hassayampa River Preserve lets you escape to a literal oasis with lush, streamside habitat that include many endangered birds and animals. Together, with Henry Wickenburg and the miners, they helped found the young community of Wickenburg in 1863. The Town of Wickenburg was incorporated in 1909.

To learn more about Wickenburg, it's wide-open spaces and why it's considered the roping capital of the world visit: <https://www.wickenburgaz.org>

Type of Government:

Council – Manager

Year Established:

1863

Land Area:

25.9 square miles

Population:

8660

Median Age:

60.6

Maricopa County Population:

4,734,447

Yavapai County Population:

245,080

State of Arizona Population:

7,640,796

*Stats per worldpopulationreview.com

Mayor, Council Members and Town Manager



Rui Pereira
Mayor



Kristi Henson
Vice-Mayor



Chris Band
Council Member



Kristy Bedoian
Council Member



BG Bratcher
Council Member



Rebecca Rovey
Council Member



David Stander
Council Member



Vincent Lorefice
Town Manager
(Jan. to Sep.)



Chief Les Brown
Town Manager
(Interim)

Message from the Chief of Police



As the Chief of Police, it is my pleasure to present the Wickenburg Police Department's 2021 Annual Report.

Throughout the past year, the members of the Wickenburg Police Department have worked tirelessly to identify and resolve the crime issues impacting our community, while adhering to our three principles of excellence; pride, valor and service. I am extremely proud of the professionalism and dedication shown by the members of our department. They work, 24/7, risking their lives every day and night in order to serve and protect our community and visitors alike.

Over the past three years, the Department has taken on the task of becoming a state accredited agency through the Arizona Law Enforcement Accreditation Program. This accreditation benefits all Wickenburg citizens by improving service quality and transparency. In July 2021, the Wickenburg Police Department became one of only 20 Arizona law enforcement agencies to become accredited and receive this four-year award. This required the department staff to re-write and adopt over 150 policies, to ensure compliance with best procedures and practices required as an accredited Arizona law enforcement agency.

Within this document are a number of additional accomplishments which are directly attributed to our department's partnership with our community members and with support from the Mayor and Council. The Wickenburg Police Department continues to strive to exceed community expectations, and as a professional organization, we will continue to build upon these successes.

The Wickenburg Police Department pledges to remain steadfast in its efforts to address crime and the trepidation of crime to keep Wickenburg one of the safest communities in Arizona. On behalf of the men and women of the Wickenburg Police Department, we want to thank you for the wonderful support shown by the staff, citizens, and elected officials of our community.

Les Brown
Chief of Police

Our Commitment to the Community

Vision

The Wickenburg Police Department will be the model of an innovative, community-oriented police department, a recognized leader in law enforcement in the state of Arizona.

We are committed to professional excellence in the delivery of comprehensive law enforcement services. Our core responsibility is to prevent and reduce crime. All department members have an obligation, a duty, to pursue those who commit crimes.

We recognize the value of all our employees and partners, from professional staff and sworn members, to the many citizens who volunteer, assisting us in fulfilling our mission. We remain committed to the further enhancement of these partnerships. We will continually strive to develop the skills of our members and effectively and efficiently manage our resources to deliver the highest level of service to the public.

Mission

Is to partner with our community in order to enhance a peaceful and valued quality of life wherein the public feels safe and secure from crime, social disorder, and circumstances, which compromise their safety and well-being.

Values

We shall strive for a public perception that views police as trusted leaders in the community. Central to this mission are the values that guide our work. Our decisions will help us to contribute to the quality of life in the Town of Wickenburg. Our values and integrity, including but not limited to the list below, are qualities of worth and as such, they are nonnegotiable:

- **Pride** - Self-respect that contributes to departmental success.
- **Service** - Commitment to prompt, professional and courteous service, unbiased and effective in response to community concerns.
- **Valor** - Strength of mind or spirit that enables a person to encounter danger with firmness, courage in defense of a noble cause.

The Department's **CORE** Values

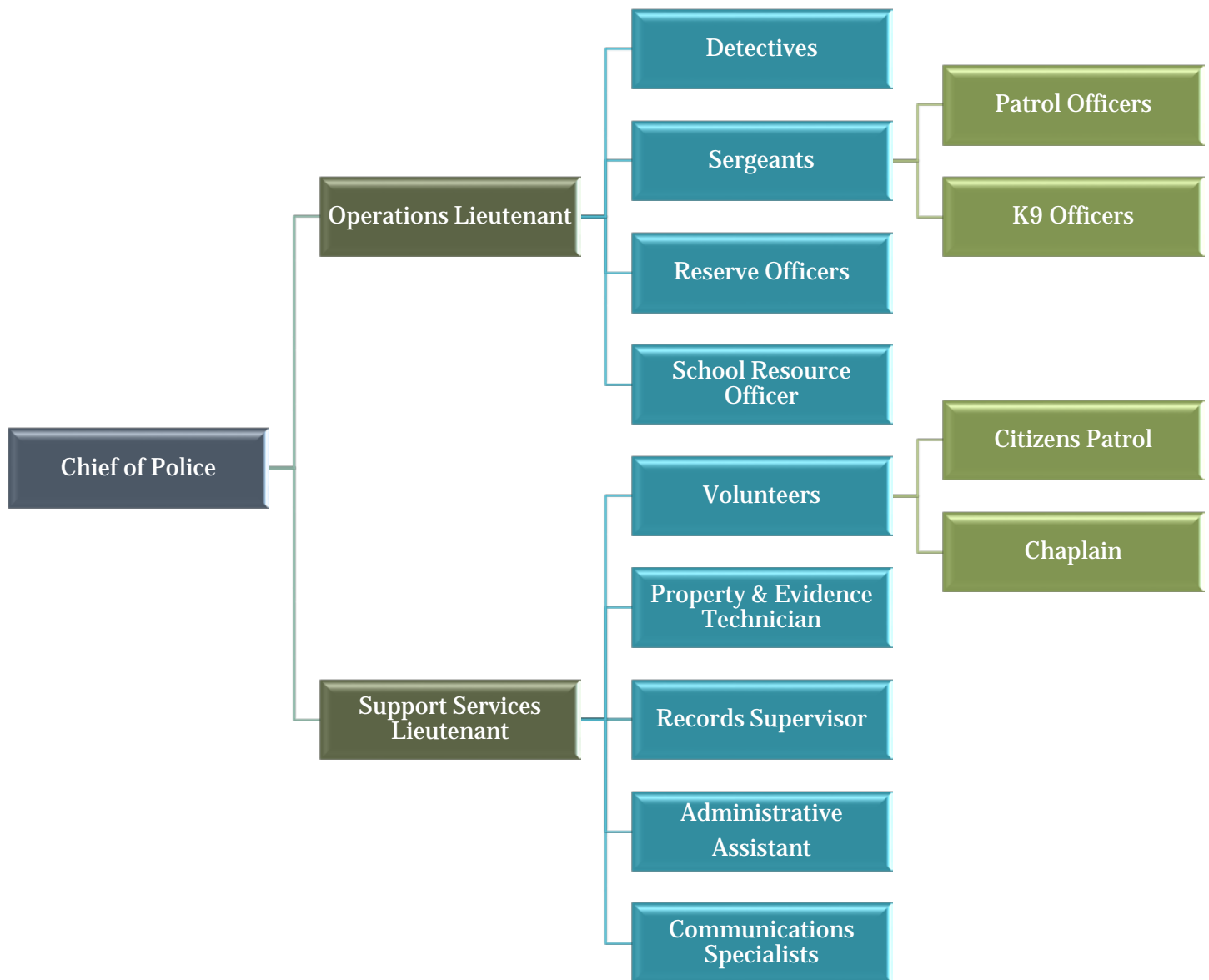
C – Contacts: Calls for service. This is the bread and butter of why we are here. Our public needs help, and we provide it. Also, with CONTACTS is focusing on traffic and drug issues, which are salient to us AND our community.

O – Observation: This is all of our proactive patrols. Proactive work leads to positive citizen contacts AND crime identification and prevention. Also, think of OBSERVATION as observing YOUR safety and those of our team, and our policies and procedures.

R – Rapport: This is our community engagement. The police are the people, and the people are the police. Only the police have been given the honor and responsibility to be chosen BY THE PEOPLE to devote their time and energy to protecting the community. We are the public, do not forget that. These are not my words, rather Sir Robert Peels (founder of modern LE), but they hold true today. We will be active in being professional at all times, and build relationships with our citizens through quality service and community engagement opportunities (Coffee with a Cop, Explorers, Cops Who Care, etc.).

E – Excellence: We will strive for personal excellence in all we do: Our reputations, how we present ourselves (verbal and dress), our understanding of laws and policies, our reports, our proactivity. Remember our reputation is EVERYTHING. It is almost impossible to get it back once you have tarnished it with one serious event. Build a reputation as a “Go to” person for your profession, one that know their craft and excels.

Organizational Structure



Total Employees: 30

Commissioned: 20

Non-Commissioned: 10

Total Volunteers: 19

Reserve Officers: 2

Citizen's Patrol: 17

Community Engagement

Citizen's Patrol



The Wickenburg Citizen's Patrol is a volunteer branch of the Wickenburg Police Department consisting of 17 community members. In 2021, the Citizen's Patrol provided over 1414 volunteer hours. Members conduct vacation watch on homes, assist with traffic during high volume events, work on special projects, conduct fingerprinting, assist on patrol, and attend meetings and trainings. In addition, Citizen's Patrol members install and maintain the Medical Alert Program (MAP). The MAP allows people with medical problems to live alone with the benefit of a notification device that can contact the Wickenburg Police Dispatch if a medical necessity arises. The Citizen's Patrol is an invaluable asset to the Wickenburg Police Department and the community. If you are interested in becoming a Citizen's Patrol volunteer, please call 928-684-5411 or stop by the Wickenburg Police Department during normal business hours.



Community Engagement (Continued)

Cops Who Care



Christmas Giveaway



Easter Egg Hunt



39th Annual Car Show & Toy Drive

In 1982, a collection was taken by local Wickenburg officers that allowed the purchase of Christmas presents for 250 needy children. Following this event, in 1983 a charity was formally founded as Cops Who Care (CWC), a non-profit organization that was comprised of local and surrounding law enforcement officers of multiple agencies. Though Cops Who Care is commonly identified by members of the community as a police department program, it is actually a non-profit organization managed through the volunteer work of Department personnel and community members.

The 2021 board was comprised of Lt. Kenny Lutkiewicz, President; Officer Kris Pedroza, Vice President; Lt. Aaron Hadley, Treasurer; and citizen member Steve Blodgett, Secretary.

In 2021, Cops Who Care received \$26,054.58 in donations. With those donations, in partnership with the Wickenburg Community Action Program, over 235 families were provided Christmas gifts and other supplies. In total, 567 children from Wickenburg & surrounding communities were given approximately 1200 gifts.

Other events held included the 39th Annual Car Show & Toy Drive and the annual Easter Egg Hunt held at Coffinger Park. Cops Who Care was also able to provide multiple sponsorships including:

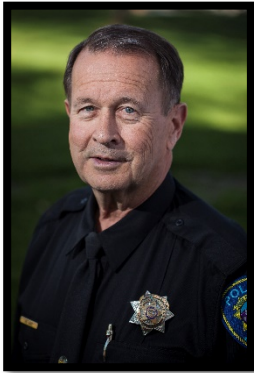
- Wickenburg AYSO
- Wickenburg Little League
- Wickenburg Christian Academy Basketball
- WHS's Future Business Leaders of America's Santa Fest
- Camp Imagination

None of this would be possible without the generous support and donations of the community. Anybody who is interested in supporting or volunteering for Cops Who Care can reach them at copswhocare@gmail.com.

The Cops Who Care board and volunteers wishes to express their profound thank you to the Wickenburg Community and its supporters; "Without our donors and supporters, none of what we do could be possible and we would like to say THANK YOU!" – Cops Who Care Board

Community Engagement (Continued)

School Resource Officer (SRO)



The Wickenburg Police Department has been staffed with a full-time School Resource Officer (SRO) since August of 2017. The position is funded through a federal grant awarded to the Wickenburg Unified School District, which was awarded for an additional three years in 2020, with the focus being at the Wickenburg High School though the officer is designed support all three-district schools located within the Wickenburg community when needed. The current SRO is Officer Joe Lahey, a 16-year veteran of the department, and he spends his days ensuring campus safety, awareness classes and more. In 2021, Officer Lahey was awarded the Law Related Education Officer of the Year by the Arizona Bar Foundation. Congratulations Officer Lahey, it is well deserved!

2021 LAW-RELATED EDUCATION OFFICER OF THE YEAR



Community Engagement (Continued)

Explorers



Explorer Post #1863 of the Wickenburg Police Department was originally founded in 2016 as a way to engage young adults who have an interest in law enforcement whether curiosity or as a possible career. The program is designed to develop a young adult's interest in helping their community in a positive manner. Participants are taught different police tactics, practices, expectations and more while given opportunities to volunteer and engage within the community. Explorer Post #1863 is always looking for new volunteers and participants, and anybody interested can reach out to the program director by calling or visiting the Wickenburg Police Department.



Coffee with a Cop

Coffee with A Cop began in 2011, in Hawthorne, California as a way for local police officers to increase interactions with their citizens. Now, in 2021, Coffee with A Cop events are taking place in all 50 states in numerous cities all over the U.S. These events are great opportunities to speak with your local officers in a relaxed setting and ask them a variety of questions whether it is something as simple as what their job entails to concerns one may have within the community.

The Wickenburg Police Department first began holding these events on November 22, 2016 and continues today with an event being held approximately every quarter with the venue rotated through the variety of local businesses.

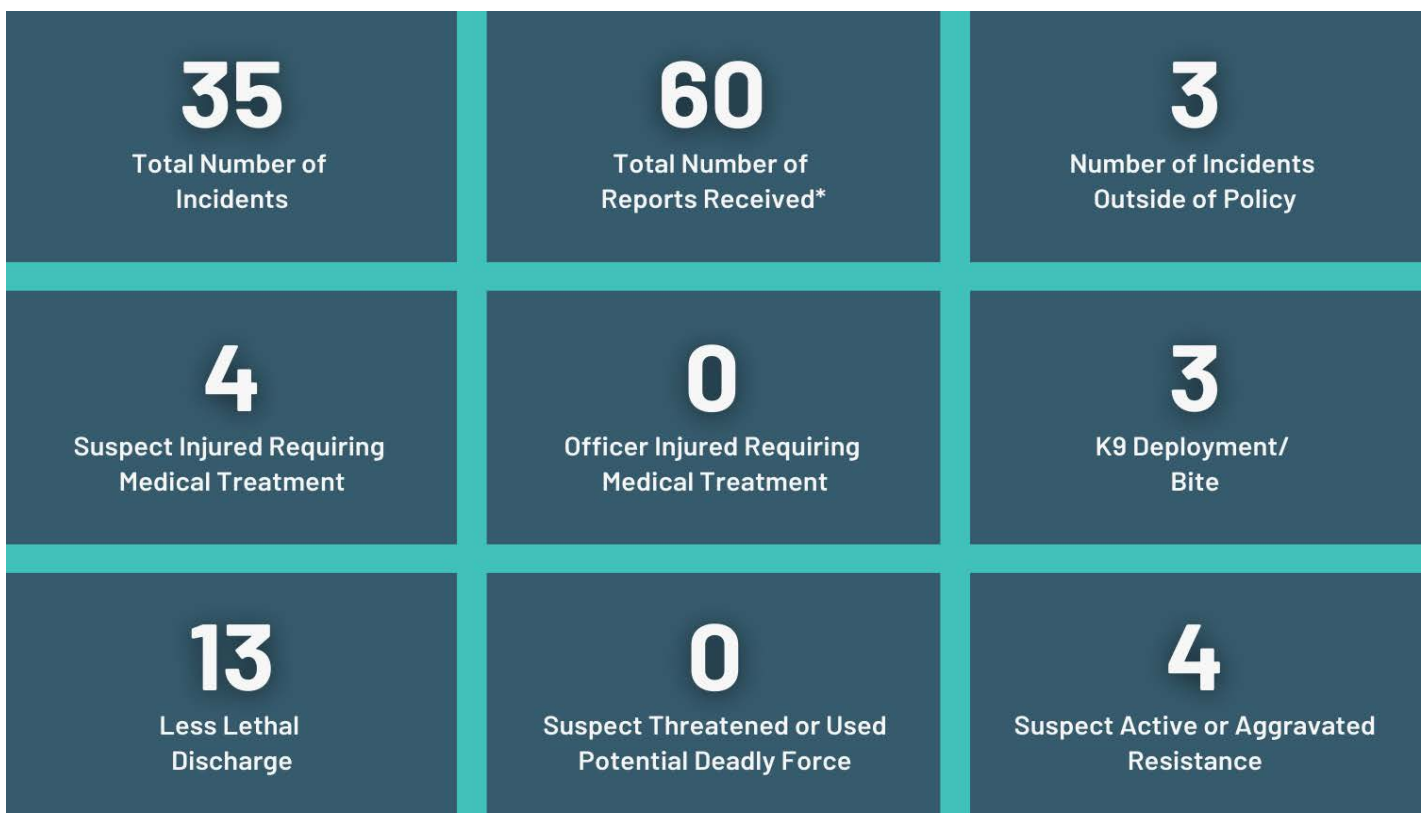
The main advertisement for this event is on the Wickenburg Police Department's Facebook page.



Citizen Complaints



Use of Force Overview



*More than one report can be received per incident

Patrol Unit

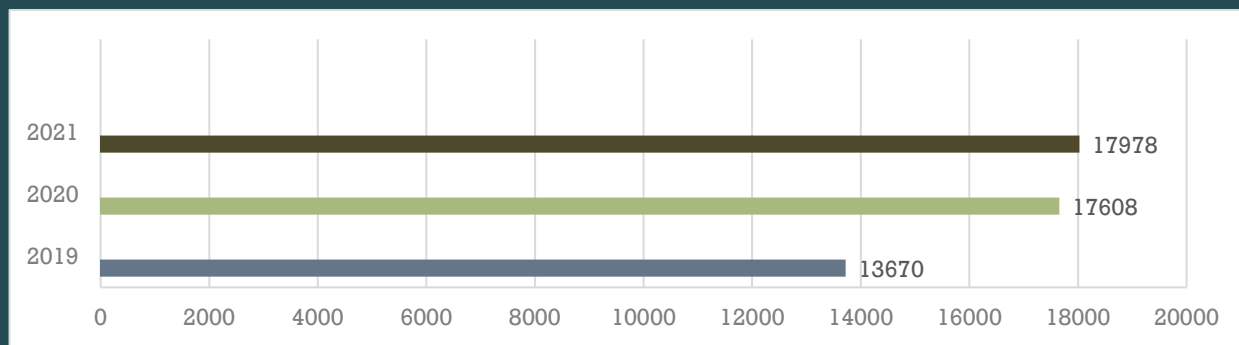
What we do...

- Prevent Crime and Apprehend Criminals
- Protect Life and Property
- Conduct Preliminary Investigations
- Enforce Traffic Laws
- Impaired Driver Enforcement Traffic Enforcement for Civic Functions
- Enhance the Quality of Life for Residents and Visitors
- Proactive Policing
- Business Checks
- Build Relationships with Members of the Community



The WPD's patrol operations is the largest section of the department making up 14 of the 20 sworn officers of the Department and almost half of the total of Department personnel. Our patrol officers are trained in a variety of skills that support the Department in its mission and offers services to the community that would normally come from separate specialized personnel in many other departments. In 2021, all SRT team members were made up of officers within the patrol unit.

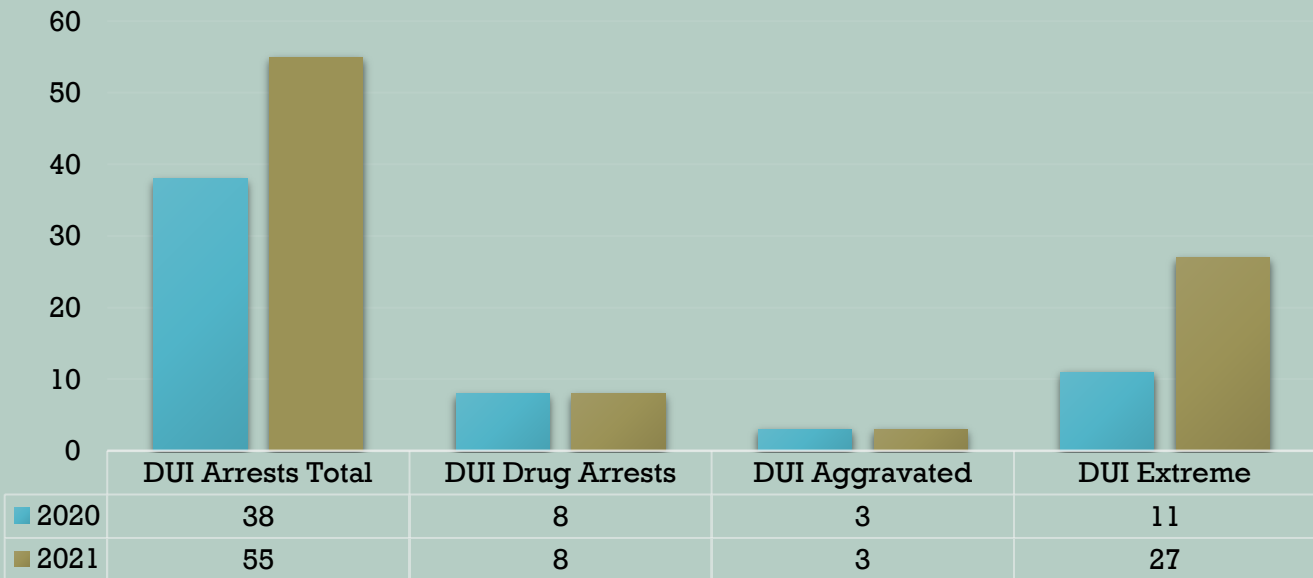
Calls for Service



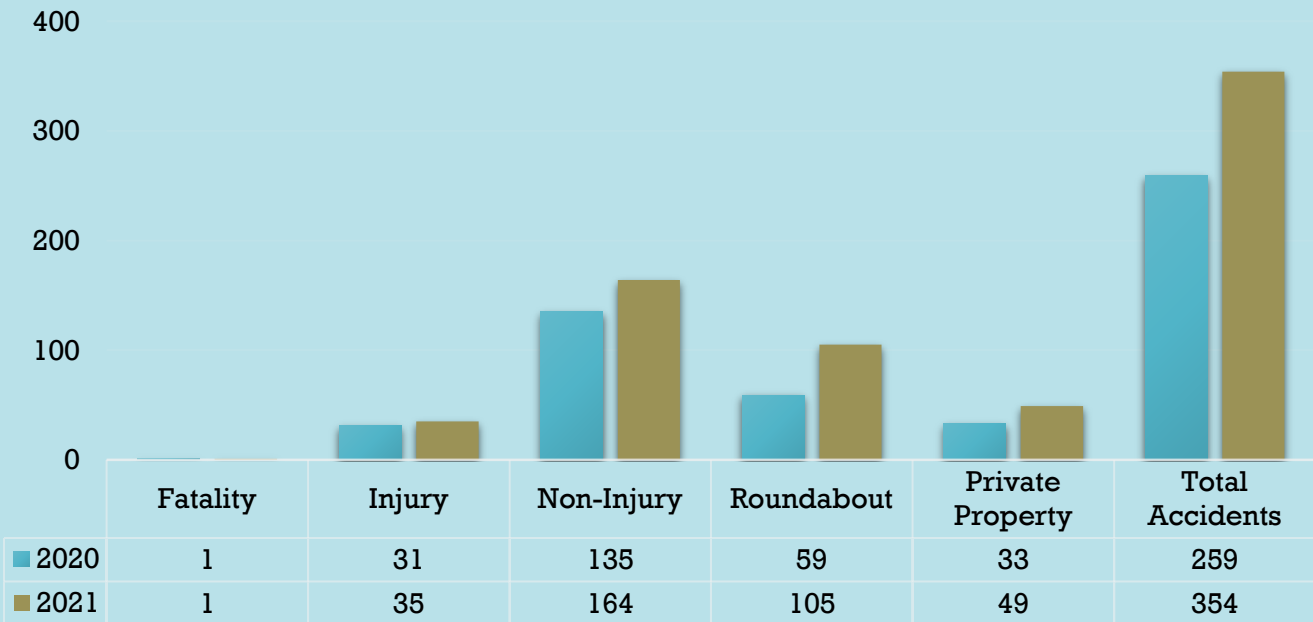
Data presented in this report was obtained through our records management software system. This data has been collected on a calendar year, is based on imprecise source data, subject to change and is for general reference only.

Patrol (Continued)

DUI

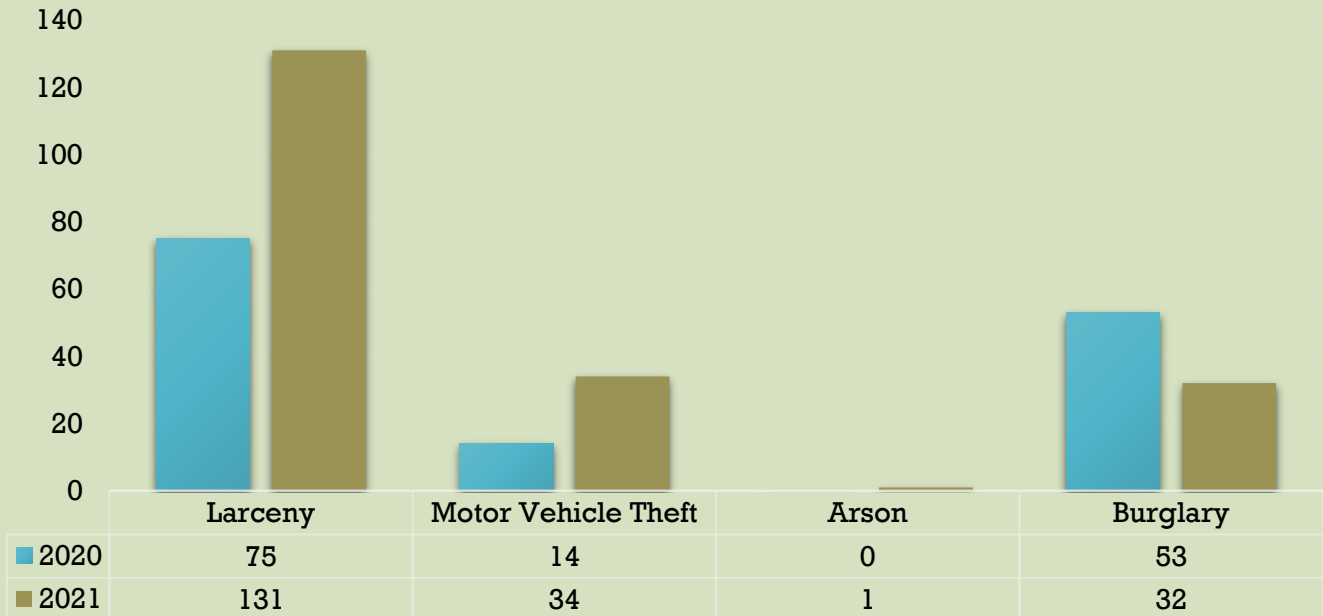


Accidents

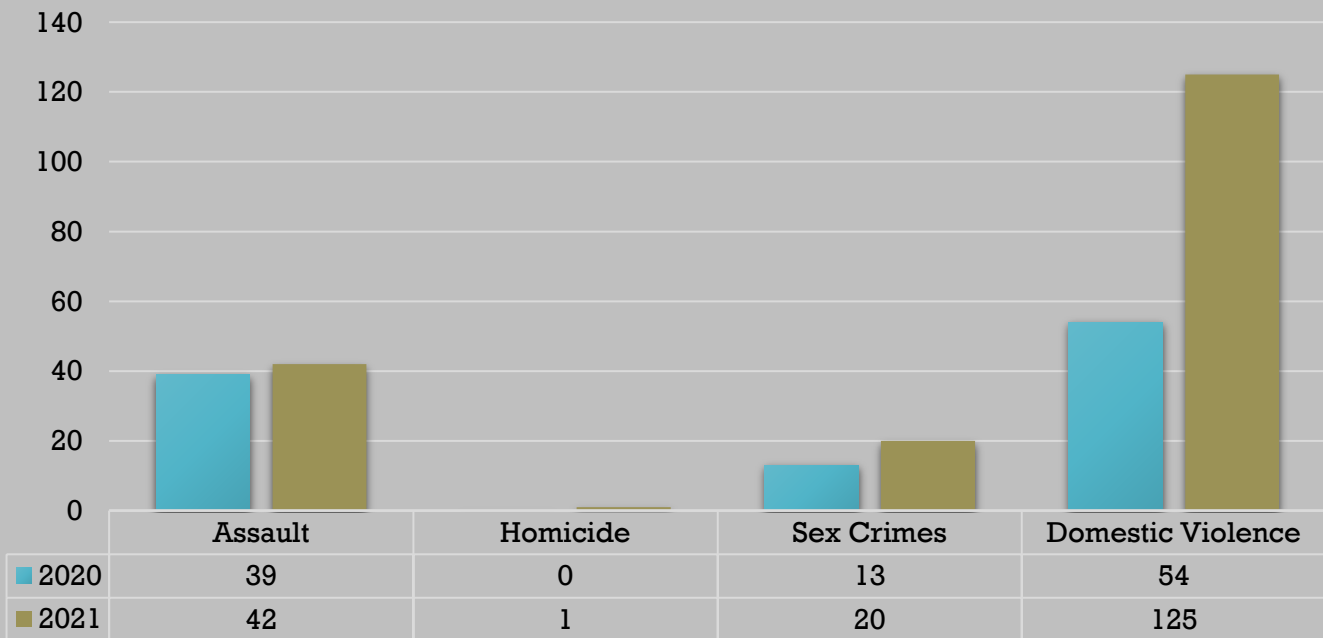


Patrol (Continued)

Property Crimes

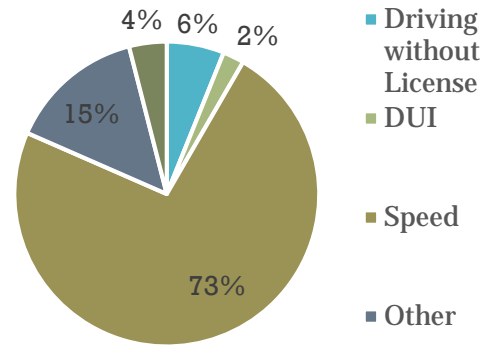
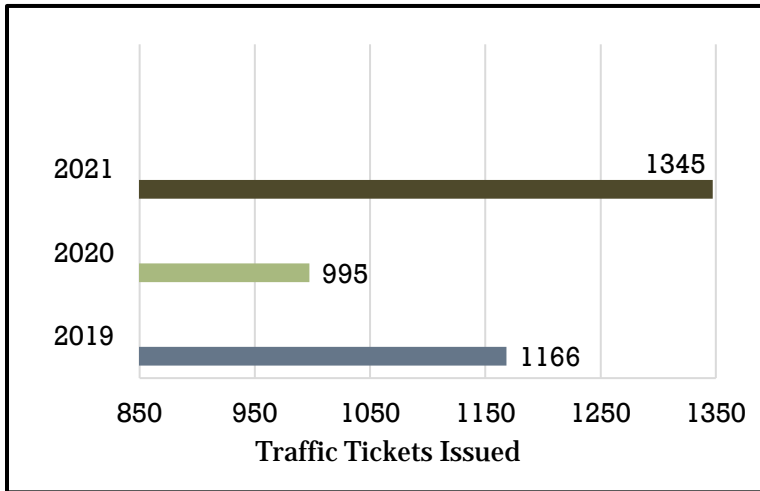


Violent Crimes

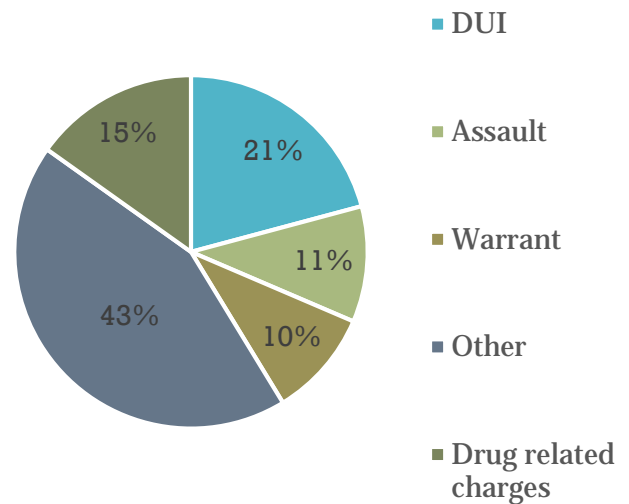
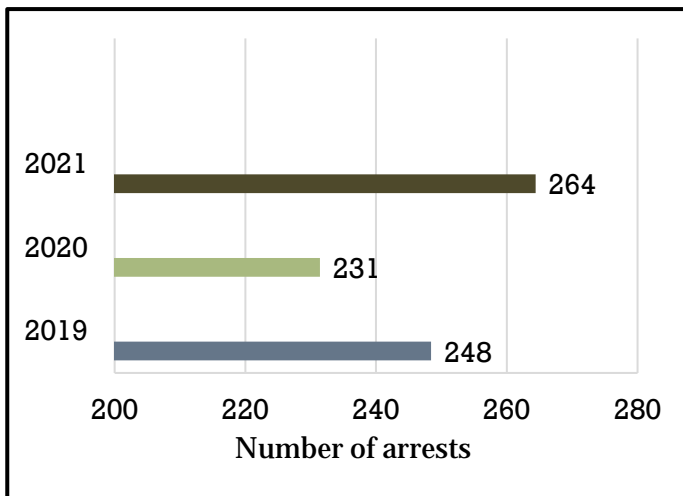


Patrol (Continued)

Traffic Tickets



Arrests



K9 Unit

The Wickenburg Police Department has maintained a K9 since 1996. Over the years, varieties of officers and K9s have protected the community. K9s provide a variety of functions including narcotic detection, suspect apprehension, building searches, tactical tracking, public demonstrations and community engagement (yes, you can pet them). The WPD currently has 2 K9s.

Name: Kai

Age: 3.5

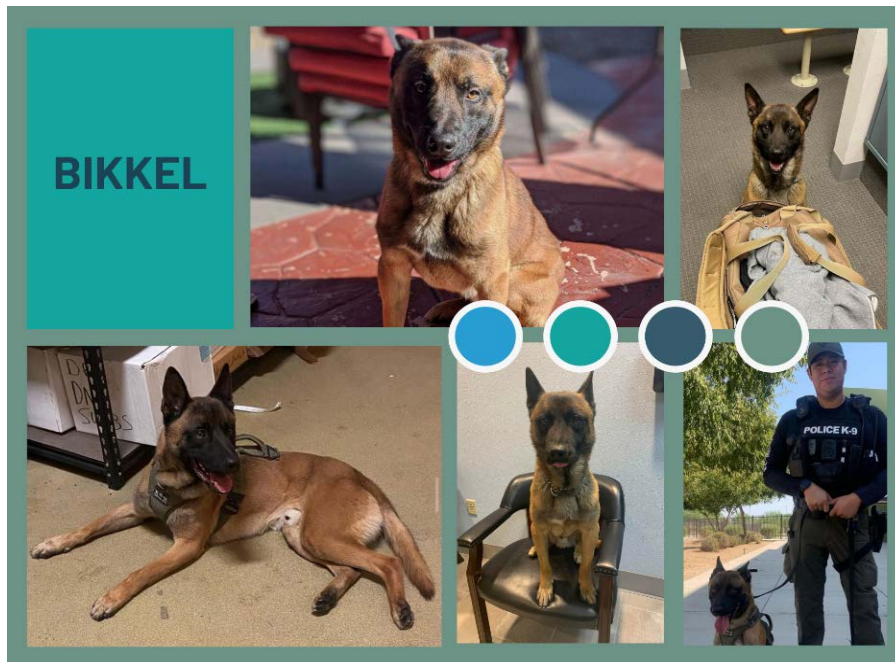
Breed: Belgian Malinois

Partner: K9 Officer J. Lemon

Donated by: Jay & Carol Mowat

2021 Facts:

- Graduated K9 Academy in January of 2021
- 11 deployments
- 4 detection alerts
- 2 people found
- Attended 43 trainings
- Logged over 276 training hours
- Caught an aggravated domestic violence suspect with national extradition warrant arrested during high risk stop



Name: Bikkel

Age: 4

Breed: Belgian Malinois

Partner: K9 Officer G. Fuentes

Donated by: Circle K- Grand Canyon Division

2021 Facts:

- 15 deployments
- 6 detection alerts
- 3 people found
- Attended 35 trainings
- Logged over 294 training hours
- Bikkel's handler G. Fuentes transferred to a Reserve position in October of 2021. He is currently partnered with Sergeant Z. LaJeunesse.

Investigations / Detectives

What we do...

- Primary, Follow-Up, and Supplemental Case Investigation
- Crime Scene Processing
- County Attorney Liaison
- Departmental Representative for Grand Jury



Calls for Service

856

Reports

202

New Cases

76

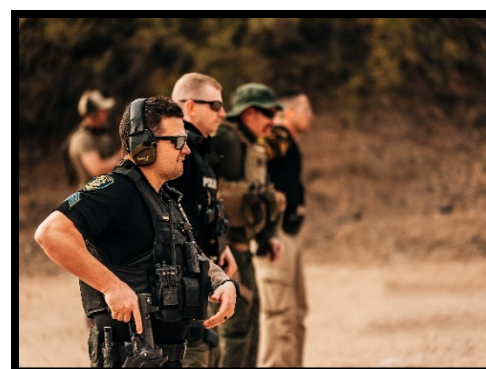
Ongoing Cases

44

Special Response Team (SRT)

What we do...

- Made up of members of the Wickenburg Police Department and Fire Department
- Trains for and responds to critical incidents or other high risk situations such as active shooter response, emergency hostage rescue, barricaded suspects, search warrant service, surveillance, and tracking operations
- Conducts monthly trainings to prepare for their assignment



To be a part of the team, candidates must pass a rigorous physical fitness test, and maintain this level of fitness for annual testing. After the fitness tests, potential members participate in a one-day screening that evaluates the candidate's physical fitness, mental toughness, decision makings, and firearms skills. Upon successful completion of the screening, members attend a basic 40 SWAT operator school, and then further advanced trainings.



Records Unit

What we do...

- Filing and Maintenance of Case Files
- Document Archiving and Security
- Public Disclosure and Records Requests
- Criminal Statistical Reporting
- Report Processing and Monitoring



Requests
Processed
914

Cases
Submitted
136

Files
Purged
98

Boxes
Purged
29

Property and Evidence Unit

What we do...

- Intake, processing and storage of evidence
- Transporting evidence to and from crime lab
- Transporting evidence to and from county attorney's office and the courts
- Disposing of items once they are no longer needed
- Coordinate and return items to citizens
- Processing of requests for video files



Items
Impounded
1846

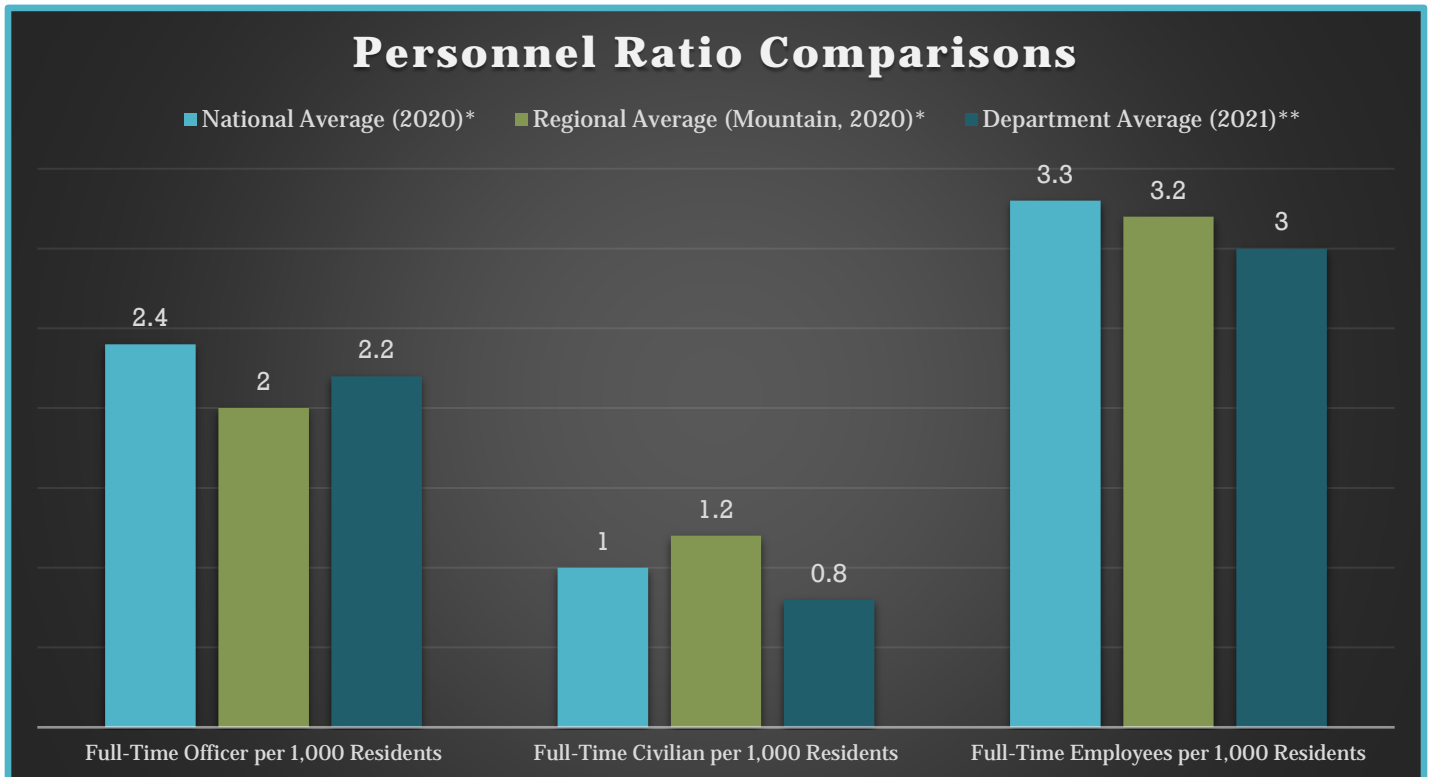
Guns
Impounded
40

Money
Impounded
\$3052

Public Requests
Completed
740

Items
Disposed
1348

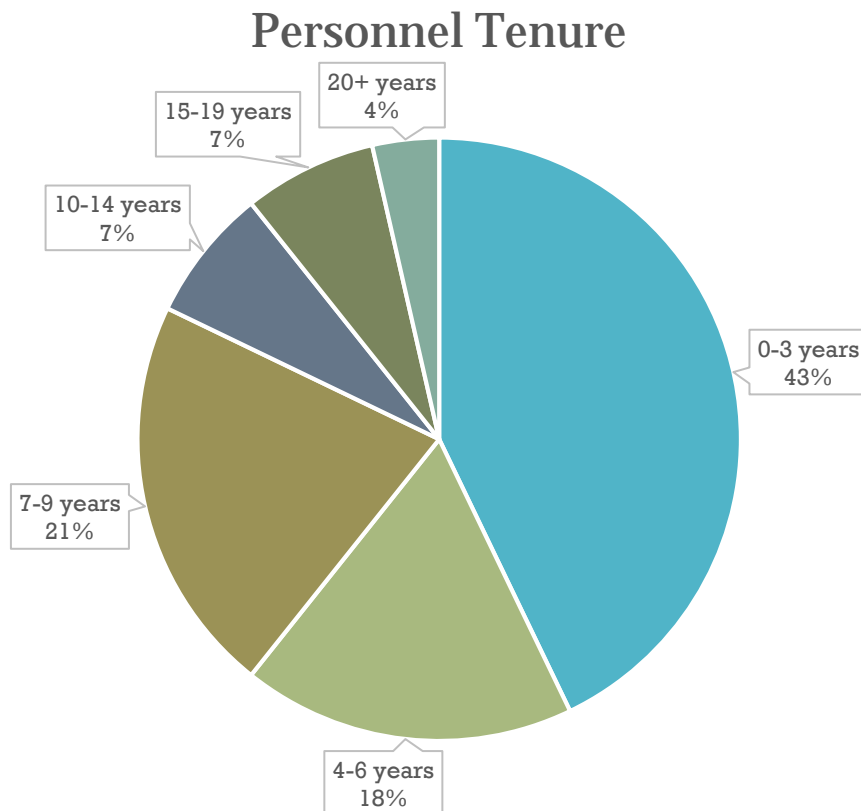
Personnel Trends



*National and regional data gathered on FBI Crime Data Explorer.

**Based on numbers reported to FBI on Nov. 1, 2021.

*Mountain Region includes AZ, CO, ID, MT, NM, NV, UT, and WY



New Police Headquarters

The Wickenburg Police Department is proud to present their new station and headquarters located at 1980 W. Wickenburg Way. The facility, originally housing a bank, was purchased in October of 2019 for \$1 million, which included the structure and three adjoining acres. With remodel beginning in the summer/fall of 2020, the remodel of the facility was completed in early 2021 with the Department moving into the new location in February 2021.

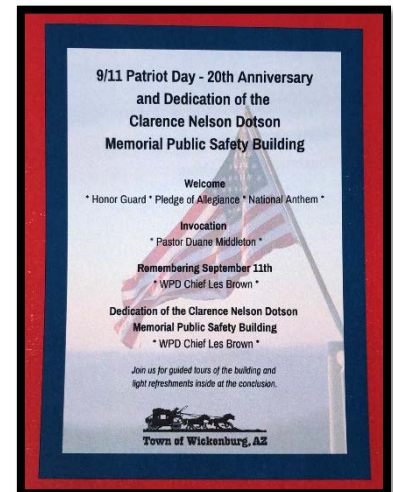


Some of the features of the building included the utilization of the old bank vault for an up-to-date property and evidence storage system, a designated patrol work area, a new training room, and an up-to-date records storage system. Then Phase II of the building construction, which includes a new holding facility and communications center, started in late 2021 with an expected finalization in the late summer / fall of 2022.

9/11 Memorial Event

On Saturday, September 11, 2021, the Town of Wickenburg hosted a memorial event and dedication at the Wickenburg Police Department to honor and remember the victims of the September 11th attacks 20 years prior. The solemn and emotional event was open to the public and attended by many within the community. From new Wickenburg residents to AirEvac personnel to Wickenburg Town Council members.

The Glendale Police Department's Honor Guard ceremoniously presented the colors of the American and Arizona State flag and at the conclusion of the event, the Wickenburg Fire Department, after a moment of silence, rang the bell to honor all of the victims lost. The event was a gracious and sincere event that captured the emotions that were felt by so many on that fateful day 20 years prior.



The Wickenburg Police Department wishes to thank the following:

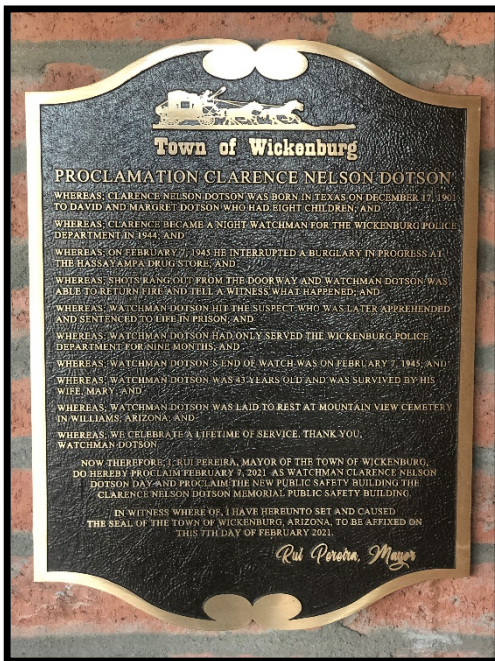
All Visitors Who Attended the Event
Glendale Police Dept. Honor Guard
AirEvac Personnel
Wickenburg Fire Department
Tonya Forbrook



Clarence Nelson Dotson Memorial Public Safety Building

On Saturday, September 11, 2021, the Municipal building standing at 1980 W. Wickenburg Way was officially presented the proclamation by Mayor Rui Pereira that states that the building was to be named the Clarence Nelson Dotson Memorial Public Safety Building.

Clarence N. Dotson is the only member of the Wickenburg Police Department to have died in the line of duty. Clarence had been working as a night watchman for the Wickenburg



Police Department for approximately 9 months when he was killed on February 7, 1945 after interrupting a burglary in progress at the previously standing Hassayampa Drug Store. Shots were exchanged between Clarence and the suspect both suffering injuries. With great sadness, Clarence N. Dotson succumbed to his injuries after advising a witness what had taken place. The suspect was eventually found on a commercial bus, apprehended by its driver, and then later sentenced to life in prison.

Clarence N. Dotson was laid to rest at Mountain View Cemetery in Williams, AZ and was survived by his wife Mary and extended family. On September 11,

2021, Clarence's extended family attended the event and were present as the building was named in his honor.

The plaque reading the proclamation sits by the front doors of the building presenting and telling the story of the man who died serving his community. It is with great honor that we work from a building bearing his name.



Training

Listed below are trainings completed by sworn and professional staff. Trainings are tailored to the individual needs of the person and based upon Department needs and current assignments.

- Annual Firearms Qualifications (handgun, rifle, and less-lethal munitions)
- Decision-Making Qualifications
- Taser Training & Annual Taser Certifications
- Annual SWAT & Monthly SRT In-Service Training (SRT Members Only)
- General Instructor School
- AZDPS Commercial Vehicle Inspector Certification
- AZPOST Field Training Officer Course
- Defensive Tactics
- 40 Hour Drug Investigation Course (HIDTA)
- Advanced Forensic Interview of Children Training
- Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) Training
- Property & Evidence Management
- Monthly K9 In-Service Training
- AZ Tactical Officer Association Team Leader School (2 Attendees)
- NTOA Team Leader Development
- NTOA Team Commander Development
- AZPOST Basic Leadership Academy (5 Supervisors Attended)
- WPD Rifle Operator Class (3 Attendees)
- AZPOST 7 Principles of Policing Training
- MCAO Constitutional Law, Mental Health, Use of Force Training
- Maricopa County Attorney's Office Criminal Charging Course (Records Unit)
- ALEAP Accreditation Conference
- AZLERMA Conference (Records Unit)



**ARIZONA TACTICAL
OFFICERS ASSOCIATION**



Wickenburg Police Department Becomes Accredited

In 2018, the Wickenburg Police Department started its journey to earn its initial accreditation. To become accredited the Wickenburg Police Department had to show proofs of 174 standards that includes both a written directive and proof(s) that directives are followed day to day. To be successful, the Department undertook an in-house review, evaluation and often re-write of each policy. This task saw the Department's policies go from a scattered 180 policies to an organized 115 policies including many new policies.

The Department completed their on-site evaluation in May of 2021, which was presented to the Arizona Law Enforcement Accreditation Program committee and the Arizona Association of Chiefs of Police Board for approval in July of 2021. Upon presentation of the report, the Wickenburg Police Department was granted initial accreditation!

Accreditation is an extraordinary achievement for all staff within the Department as it is a large undertaking requiring a complete team effort. Accreditation demands a higher standard and commitment for best practices within the law enforcement field.


The Wickenburg Police Department will continue to strive for improvement and growth and prepare for our re-accreditation, which is due in July of 2025.

Special Thanks to the Following:

Kevin Rhea, ALEAP Program Manager
Kingman Police Department
Lt. Marco Santana, San Luis PD
Com. Jeffrey Kirkham, Apache Junction PD
Lt. Amy Sloane (Retired)
Jeana Johnson
Lt. Kenny Lutkiewicz



Accomplishments & Highlights

- Moved into Our New Building & Started Phase II of New Police Facility
- Earned Accreditation Through AZ Law Enforcement Accreditation Program
- Set Up & Established A New Personnel Early Warning System with  GuardianTracking
- Obtained 2 Police Vehicles Through GOHS Grant
- Hosted Law Enforcement Agencies for DUI Wet Workshop
- Sergeant LaJeunesse (Pictured) Received A MADD Award and Stopped A DUI Driver on the Same Night
- Officer Lemon and K9 Kai Completed K9 Academy



Short Term (5-Year) Department Goals

- Complete Upgrade to Communication System
- Complete Phase II of Police Holding & Communication Center
- Hire Additional Personnel for Increased Minimum Staffing, Efficiency & Public Service
- Install Two License Plate Readers to Assist in State & National Alerts and Transient Crime Apprehension
- Convert to a Complete Digital Record Keeping System

Awards

Officer of the Year		
Aaron Urlaub, Sergeant		
Civilian of the Year		
Ezra Boone, Communications Specialist		
Life Saving Award		
Zach LaJeunesse, Sergeant	George Weaver, Officer	
On September 21, 2021, Sergeant LaJeunesse was off duty and with family members traveling down Vulture Mine Rd in Wickenburg, AZ. While driving, Sergeant LaJeunesse spotted a bicyclist lying in the middle of the road. At first, Sgt. LaJeunesse believed it to be an individual who had crashed their bicycle and injured but then found the individual unresponsive with minimal breathing. Sgt. LaJeunesse immediately began life saving measures and began Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR). On-duty officers eventually arrived on scene and able to administer shocks from an AED. Efforts by the officers allowed the patient to be resuscitated and transported to a hospital. Without Sgt. LaJeunesse ‘s action, it would not be reasonable to expect that the patient would have survived.	On June 26, 2021, Officer Weaver was off-duty and with family members at the Arrowhead Mall in Glendale, AZ. While at the mall a large piece of decorative glass that was installed in the roof trusses had broken. A piece of the glass fell approximately 30ft and struck a by-stander in the head and facial area. Video attained by local news outlets clearly shows Officer Weaver, along with two other citizens, approaching the victim and rendering immediate first aid. Officer Weaver stayed on scene until emergency medical personnel arrived and the victim was transported to a hospital. Based on the victim’s severe injuries, had Officer Weaver not stopped to assist in aid, it would not be reasonable to expect that the victim would have survived.	
Chief’s Commendation Award		
Kristopher Pedroza, Officer		
Firearm Proficiency Award		
Master Proficiency	Expert Proficiency	
Lee Cox	Josh Boone David Ceimo Brandon Dalley Gabe Fuentes Aaron Hadley	Jared Loesing Ken Lutkiewicz Kris Pedroza Aaron Urlaub George Weaver
Volunteer of the Year		
Gary Getch, Citizen Patrol		

Promotions – New Hires

Promotions

Aaron Hadley
Sergeant to Lieutenant

Jared Loesing
Patrol Officer to Sergeant

Brittany Grebin
Comm. Specialist to Comm. Supervisor



Lieutenant Aaron Hadley



Officers Nate Amavizca and Chris D'Orazio

New Hires

Nate Amavizca
Patrol Officer

Chris D'Orazio
Patrol Officer

Candice Calvert
Administrative Assistant

Kelly Castro
Communications Specialist

Retirements

Amy Sloane Support Services Lieutenant



Amy Sloane retired on February 12, 2021 after 21 years of service. Lieutenant Sloane began her employment with the Wickenburg Police Department in 2014 after 14 years at the Oro Valley Police Department. Lt. Sloane has been instrumental in the success and operations of the department. She set a great example with her dedication and hard work. The Wickenburg Police Department family would like to wish her a wonderful retirement...she's earned it!



Lee Cox Reserve Officer



Lee Cox started with the Police Department as a dispatcher while attending the Glendale Law Enforcement Training Academy. He graduated from the academy and began working as a patrol officer for the town. During his time as a patrol officer, he served as a K9 handler for "Lizzie", a firearms instructor, and our armorer. He retired from full time and stayed with us as a reserve officer and currently works at the Municipal Airport.



Department Pictures

