

2015

Annual Report



Vernon Hills

Police

Department

Village President

Roger Byrne

Village Trustees

Cynthia Hebda

Thomas Koch

Michael Marquardt

James Schultz

Jeanne Schwartz

Barbara Williams

Fire & Police Commission

Larry LaLuzerne

Richard Chiarello

Tom Quille

Village Manager

John Kalmar

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Vernon Hills at a Glance

The Village of Vernon Hills is located in central Lake County, approximately 35 miles north of downtown Chicago. The Village, which was incorporated in 1958, has 25,113 residents, and an estimated daytime population of 80,000.

The combination of good transportation and demographics, which include a wealthy and well-educated population, along with effective planning, has made Vernon Hills one of the most desirable areas of development in the Chicago metropolitan area. Vernon Hills is increasingly becoming a major employment center, as well as a major center of retail shopping in Lake County. The Village's retail base includes a large regional shopping mall, eight (8) shopping centers, and numerous freestanding retailers. Several corporations are headquartered in Vernon Hills and other major employers are situated in approximately 1,000 acres of office parks that are conveniently located adjacent to major roadways. In fall of 1996, the Village and the Regional Transportation Authority began operating commuter rail service to Vernon Hills.

Village and Department History

The Village of Vernon Hills began as an outgrowth of a small 125-house subdivision built by developers Quinn Hogan and Barney Loeb. Incorporated July 16, 1958, the Village grew from a few hundred residents to 5,600 during its first two decades. By 1980, the census reported a total of 9,827 people living in Vernon Hills. Today Vernon Hills is home to 25,113 people.

During the early years, the Village Hall and police headquarters were located in the lobby of a local motel. Most official business was conducted in the home of the Village Clerk until 1971, when trustees purchased two portable buildings that were located on Oakwood Road.

In 1965, the Police Department consisted of a group of Village Trustees serving as Deputies. By 1978, it had become a force of fifteen full-time officers and in 2014, the Vernon Hills Police Department consisted of an experienced, well-trained and dedicated group of seventy-four men and women who strive to provide the highest level of service possible to the community they serve.

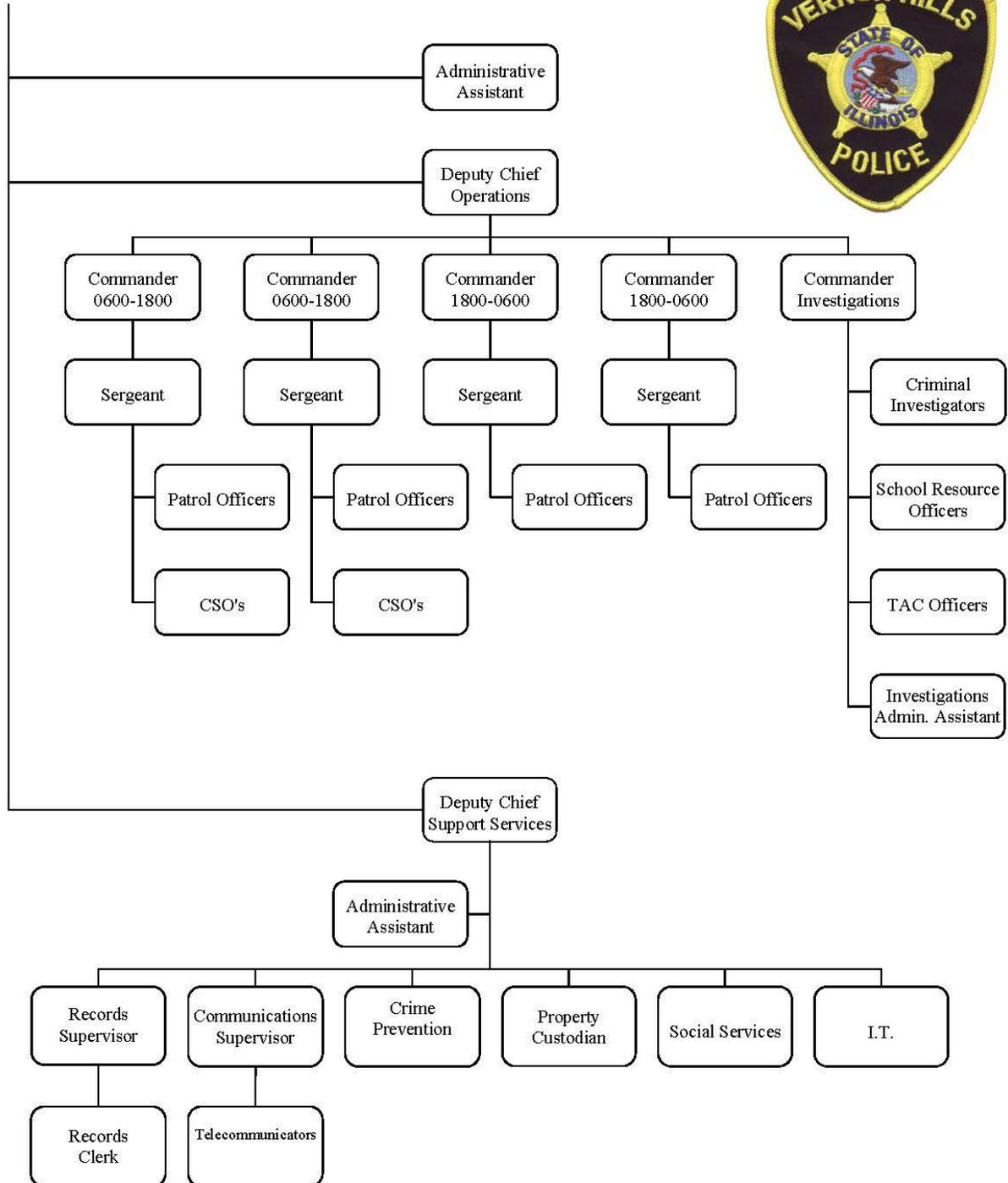
Vernon Hills Police Department

Mission Statement

The mission of the Vernon Hills Police Department is to consistently seek and find ways to affirmatively promote, preserve and deliver a feeling of security, safety and quality services to members of our community.

Vernon Hills Police Department Organizational Chart

Chief of Police



Patrol

The Patrol Section of the Vernon Hills Police Department represents the largest section of the agency, and is the core of the Operations Division.



The Patrol Section is the first to respond to emergency and non-emergency incidents. During 2015, the Department responded to 24,861 total calls for service. These calls for service range from animal and parking complaints, to serious criminal matters. Patrol Officers routinely conduct preliminary investigations of crimes, enforce traffic laws, and promote safety in Vernon Hills. To accomplish these tasks, officers have a variety of tools and special equipment at their disposal. Specialized evidence technician equipment allows officers to process crime scenes. Special-use vehicles, including unmarked cars and bicycles, aid officers in traffic enforcement activities, and patrol of the community's many parks.

Patrol Officers on the Vernon Hills Police Department work 12 hour shifts, either from 6 a.m. - 6 p.m., or 6 p.m. - 6 a.m. Each shift works as a team, sharing the same work schedule. Two teams are assigned to each 24 hour period. Additionally, there are officers who are permanently assigned to the 10 a.m. - 10 p.m. time slot as well as officers who are assigned to a 2 p.m. - 2 a.m. time slot. These officers supplement the regular teams during the busiest times of the day.



Investigations/TAC/SRO

The Investigations Section plays an extremely significant role in the Department's efforts to detect and apprehend offenders who commit crimes in Vernon Hills. The Investigations Section, a part of the Operations Division, is responsible for the follow-up investigations of crimes and the implementation of a variety of proactive measures to reduce and stop crime. Investigators process evidence at crime scenes and analyze patterns and information utilizing modern resources and techniques. The Investigations Section consists of an Investigations Commander and seven additional officers who function as non-uniformed investigators in various ways. Three of the investigators perform most of the follow-up investigations. Two serve as School Resource Officers (SROs - one is assigned full-time to the Vernon Hills High School and the other to the Hawthorn School District). Finally, two investigators function primarily as tactical officers. The tactical officers conduct proactive operations (sometimes undercover) and are also available to assist the Patrol Section when necessary. There is also one civilian assigned to the Investigations Section who functions as the Administrative Assistant and Crime Analyst.

The Investigations Section's work includes:

- Investigating major crimes, such as homicide, robbery, sexual assault, fraud and burglary.
- Investigating less serious offenses, such as theft, criminal damage to property and disorderly conduct.
- Conducting juvenile investigations in which specially trained investigators handle all cases involving victims or offenders under the age of eighteen.
- Handling Tactical Unit investigations that utilize plainclothes officers to target drug, gang and stolen vehicle offenses.
- Processing crime scenes and collecting evidence.
- Conducting pre-employment and liquor license background investigations.
- Obtaining search warrants and arrest warrants.

The Vernon Hills Police Department has been a part of the Lake County Major Crimes Task Force since its inception in 1992. The Task Force was formed in response to a mutual need to provide strong investigative resources and expertise to any participating agency. The Investigations Section currently has one officer assigned to the task force and is utilized in the following types of crimes: homicide, kidnapping (other than parental), police-involved shootings and exceptionally heinous crimes. In 2015, the Major Crimes Task Force was called in on thirteen cases.

In February, 2000, the Police Department joined the Illinois Child Exploitation Task Force. The Task Force was created in 1997 to combat the growing threat of child sexual predators that use the Internet to victimize children. Over 60 investigators and prosecutors from over 40 Illinois agencies work together to investigate and prosecute pedophiles who use the Internet to prey on children. The Investigations Section also has personnel assigned to: the Lake County Gang Task Force, Cook County Regional Organized Crime Task Force and the Crime Analysts of Illinois Association.

Communications



The Communications Section serves as the public safety answering point for all Vernon Hills Police and Emergency Medical Service calls. Since 2007, the Countryside Fire Protection District and the Vernon Hills Police Department have operated a “combined” police/fire dispatch center and together they interact with citizens when taking calls for service by phone or in person at the Police Station. In August of 2012, Libertyville Police joined our combined dispatch

center. In 2013, Lincolnshire Police also joined the center. The Telecommunicators are the vital link between citizens and the responders. Twelve full-time Telecommunicators, three part-time Telecommunicators, one Communications Supervisor, one Communications Deputy Supervisor and one C.A.D. / I.T. Coordinator staff the Communications Section, which operates 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

With 9-1-1 technologies, the Communications Section is able to determine the location of citizen calls through enhancements when citizens are using their home telephone and can assist citizens when they are mobile or using cellular phones.

In addition to the telephones and radios, Telecommunicators also monitor Village alarms, surveillance cameras, computers, the Emergency Warning System and Blackboard Connect.

Records

The Records Section is a very critical unit in our Department. It is staffed by two full-time and one part-time civilian employee. The Records Section manages all police documents, including the coordination, development, distribution, and retention of all police reports, as well as processing all citations and warrants.

Requests for police reports are made through this section, including copies of vehicle accident reports and reports documenting lost or stolen property. Parking citation payments are also made to the Records Section.



Crime Prevention

The Crime Prevention Unit (CPU) is the primary section for the Department's community relations and community education activities. Since June of 2013 the CPU has been staffed part-time by a retired police officer who had previous training and experience in the position. This individual serves as coordinator of events such as National Night Out, the Citizen's Police Academy, the Law Enforcement Exhibition and other community events. This position also serves as the Department's Public Information Officer.

National Night Out is an annual event sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch and hosted by police departments across the country. Each August, millions of people celebrate community/law enforcement partnerships, heightening crime prevention awareness and sending out a message to criminals, letting them know that neighborhoods are organized and are fighting back.



The Citizen's Police Academy is a 10-week course that allows residents to get an inside view of how the Vernon Hills Police Department operates on a daily basis. Topics covered include Patrol Operations, Traffic Stops, DUI and Firearms. This program has been running since 1994. However due to the renovation of the Police Facility, no CPA was conducted in 2015.

The Law Enforcement Exhibition has been an annual event since 2005. Each year, between 17 to 25 various law-related agencies have gathered at Westfield Hawthorn Mall to educate the community about the different tools used in law enforcement as well as the different programs and opportunities provided. On September 12 & 13, 2015, twenty-five agencies participated in the event.

In addition to the responsibilities mentioned above, the CPU also had the following responsibilities during 2015:

- News Releases
- Media Liaison
- Station Tours
- Residential and Business Presentations and Displays
- Retail Newsletters
- Women's Self-Defense Class Coordinator
- Department's Website Contact
- BASSET Coordinator
- Public Relations at Summer Celebration
- Request and maintain various grants
- Various memberships in crime prevention-related organizations
- Coordinate Block Party Visits
- Coordinate VHPD posts on Facebook
- Contact for Department's cable television activity, including posts on the Cable Bulletin Board and Segments on the Monthly Village Cable Show "The Vernon Hills Update"

New Beginnings



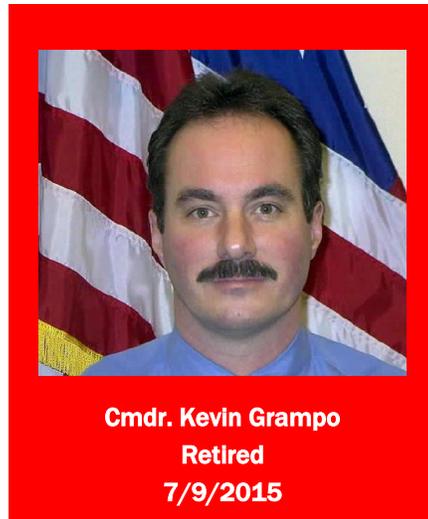
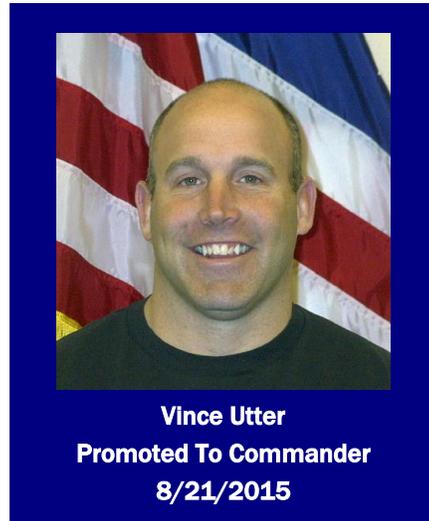
TC Olga Maldonado
4/20/2015



TC Lyndsay Lyon
5/18/2015



Officer Haley Lemmer
8/26/2015



Employment Anniversaries

We would like to recognize the following employees who celebrated continuous employment anniversaries with the Vernon Hills Police Department during 2015. Thank you for your years of dedication and commitment to public service.

Twenty Five Years of Service

Ofc. Jon Paret

Twenty Years of Service

Ofc. Rick Black

Ofc. Andy Jones

Communications Supvr. Ed Manke

Fifteen Years of Service

Chief Mark Fleischhauer

Ofc. Ken Berryhill Ofc. Santos Rodriguez

TC Lynn Ericksen CSO Lon Paulausky

Ten Years of Service

Sgt. Shannon Holubetz

Ofc. Jim Koch

Ofc. Stacy Seversen

Five Years of Service

TC Adam Duller

Those That Have Served With Pride

Past Chiefs

Larry Laschen (1973 - 1985)

Dave Schram (1985 - 1986)

Ralph Winkelhake (1987 - 1989)

Gary Kupsak (1989 - 1999)

Past Command Staff

DC John Kincaid (1976 - 2006)

DC Bill Price (1981- 2012)

Cmdr Gerald Storer (1974 - 2005)

Cmdr Drew McPhee (1980 - 2006)

Cmdr Bruce Blair (1987 - 2008)

Cmdr Mark Chandler (1980 - 2010)

Cmdr Kurt Rutz (1981 - 2012)

Cmdr Jack Rabey (1988 - 2012)

Cmdr Dianne Wesley (1986 - 2014)

Cmdr Kevin Grampo (1988 - 2015)

Cmdr John Briscoe (1990 - 2015)

Cpl John Taylor (1974 - 1999)

Sgt William Wagner (1972 - 1999)

Sgt Phil Zanello (1974 - 1999)

Sgt Joseph Eccles (1975 - 2000)

Past Officers

Harlan Wilson (1968-1969)

L.D. Prince (1971-1973)

Len Valles (1972-1980)

Bill Enzenbacher (1973-1974)

James Walwer (1973-1977)

Larry Oscar (1974-1975)

Steve Maak (1974-1978)

Mark Watry (1974-1984)

Tim Bradley (1974-1976)

Walter Byington (1975-1979)

Pete Petersen (1975-1989)

Joe Farmer (1976-1981)

Dan Sosnowski (1977-1979)

Kimball Christenson (1977-2005)

Dan Gottfried (1981-2006)

Richard Schur (1984-1996)

Charles Moran (1986-1989)

Floyd Epling (1989-1990)

Dan Bennett (1989-2003)

Bill Heelan (1989 - 2011)

Edward Herdrich (1990-1990)

Chris Thilmany (1991-1992)

Jesse Goldsmith (1991-2008)

Mike Kacich (1993-1994)

Tony Joseph (1993-1999)

Tracey Shutter (1995-1996)

Todd Thurmond (1996-1997)

Jason Matlock (1998-2002)

Joe Sassorossi (1999-2000)

Rob Dumay (1999-2000)

Gary Hammelman (2000-2000)

Dewey Louangaphay (2001-2001)

Jason Axelrod (2005-2006)

Eric Carstensen (2001-2009)

Oliver Cachola (2007-2010)

Mark Sosnoski (1999-2013)

Those Serving With Pride

Executive Staff

Chief Mark Fleischhauer (2000)

Deputy Chief Rick Davies (1980)

Deputy Chief Jon Petrillo (1993)

Commanders

Todd Williams (1993)

Pat Zimmerman (1997)

Jim Levicki (2001)

Vince Utter (2015)

Sergeants

Greg Slivka (1987)

Ward Feger (1991)

Jeff Cielak (1999)

Shannon Holubetz (2015)

Officers

Bob Lonergan (1989)

Ward Feger (1991)

Rick Black (1995)

Becky Foy (1997)

Mike Katzenstein (1999)

Andy Rheintgen (2000)

Joe Reyna (2001)

Stacy Seversen (2005)

Courtney Blaul (2006)

Don Smith (2013)

Chris Buhrmester (2014)

Bob Lynch (1989)

Ken Maier (1993)

Tad Spencer (1996)

Dan Mead (1999)

Dan Hill (1999)

Santos Rodriguez (2000)

Deanna Manke (2001)

Jim Brocks (2006)

Jen Weber (2008)

Rob Caselli (2013)

Haley Lemmer (2015)

Jon Paret (1990)

Andy Jones (1995)

Sharon Joseph (1997)

Arthur Fink (1999)

Ken Berryhill (2000)

Ken James (2001)

Jim Koch (2005)

Andrew Gillespie (2006)

Adam Boyd (2013)

Lindsey Laas (2013)

Support Services Serving With Pride

Administration

Assistant to the Chief Liz Koehl (1998)
Assistant to the Deputy Chiefs Andi Hoppe (1997)

Auxiliary Services

CAD/I.T. Coordinator Jim Dunning (2002)
Investigative Aide/Records Clerk Joy Logsdon (2007)
Part-Time Crime Prevention Kim Christenson (2013)

Community Service Officers

Jerry Niskanen (1984) Pat Hogan (1992)
Dave Roman (1996) Lon Paulausky (2000)
Irma Fierros (2012)

Communications

Supervisor Ed Manke (1995)
Deputy Supervisor Matt Kulig (2002)

Telecommunicators

Lynn Ericksen (2000) Jim Neuhaus (2002) Rick Fanella (2004)
Adam Duller (2010) Jeff Jamrok (2011) Sara Silliman (2011)
Eugene Travis (2012) James Parsons (2013) Joe Willems (2013)
Leanne DePauw (2013) Kelly Burns (2014) Thai Jamieson (2014)
Dave Kibitlewski (2014) Olga Maldonado (2015) Lyndsay Lyon (2015)

Part-Time Telecommunicators

Barb Cutro (2008)
Carmen Eddy (2008)
Margaret Cuson (2012)
Lisa Sandavol (2014)

Records

Clerk Jill Krueger (2014)
PT Clerk Lisa Straza (2012)

Physical Fitness Standards

The Vernon Hills Police Department encourages its employees to maintain physical fitness. Employees are tested bi-annually on a voluntary basis using a standardized test. The listed Department members achieved the Physical Fitness Standards in 2015.

Adam Boyd

Jeff Cielak

Rebecca Foy

Sharon Joseph

Joy Logsdon

Jim Neuhaus

Jon Paret

Jon Petrillo

Stacy Seversen

Pat Zimmerman



Regional Law Enforcement Commitments

Delivering professional service is an essential element in providing a better quality of life for our residents. To attain this goal, law enforcement agencies often need to pool their resources in multi-agency efforts. For many years, the Vernon Hills Police Department has been a member in numerous organizations in an effort to cooperatively share law enforcement resources. The following summary outlines the organizations to which we belong.

Lake County Gang Task Force

The Lake County Gang Task Force is a multi-jurisdictional law enforcement organization that meets to exchange information on gang-related issues occurring in member communities. Through the interaction, gang members and gang activity are identified and enforcement actions are planned. This task force has become a valuable resource that provides intelligence and a reaction force for communities experiencing gang activity.

We currently have all members of the Investigations Section assigned to the Lake County Gang Task Force. This organization is a huge asset during our Summer Celebration event. The sharing of information is ongoing throughout the Lake County area.

Lake County Chief of Police Association

This organization brings together Lake County law enforcement administrators for the purpose of improving police services. The Association's Training Committee is responsible for assessing training needs and translating them into programs.

Lake County Major Crimes Task Force

The Task Force was established by intergovernmental agreement in 1991 and became operational in February 1992. The purpose, as outlined in the agreement, reads as follows:

The purpose of the Lake County Major Crimes Task Force is to provide comprehensive investigation to member departments of the Task Force of major murder cases, police-involved shootings, non-parental kidnappings, and other exceptionally heinous offenses when requested to do so by the Chief of Police of member departments.

The Task Force provides Vernon Hills with investigative manpower, crime lab support and legal advice otherwise unavailable to an organization of our size. The Task Force has also been nationally recognized for its work in the resolution of a number of high profile homicide investigations.

Regional Law Enforcement Commitments

Northeastern Illinois Regional Crime Laboratory

The Department is a member agency of the crime lab. Evidence and contraband obtained by the police department is processed through the lab. Latent fingerprint submissions can be run through the crime lab AFIS (Automatic Fingerprint Identification System). The lab also trains our department's Evidence Technicians with basic and advanced courses.

Northern Illinois Police Alarm System (NIPAS)

The Northern Illinois Police Alarm System was established by an intergovernmental service agreement in 1983. The purpose as stated in the intergovernmental agreement reads as follows:

This agreement is made in recognition of the fact that natural occurrences or manmade occurrences may result in situations which are beyond the ability of the individual community to deal with effectively in terms of manpower and equipment resources on hand at a given time. Each community has and does express its intent to assist an affected community by assigning some of its manpower and equipment resources to an affected community as resources and situations allow. The specific intent of this agreement is to permit the Police Departments of each community to more fully safeguard the lives, persons and property of all citizens.

In the early 1990's, NIPAS developed the Mobile Field Force, a ready-reaction force capable of providing riot-equipped officers for a rapid, organized and disciplined response to civil disorder, crowd control or other tactical situations.

MILO Firearms Training System - Consortium

MILO is a firearms training system that incorporates laser weapons used in audio-video scenarios by the officers. These scenarios simulate "shoot/don't shoot" situations and record the officer's appropriate uses of force as well as their accuracy. The MILO firearms training system was purchased in a joint venture by six police departments who share ownership and use of the training equipment. This system provides a number of training scenarios that will enable the departments to expose personnel to situations/scenarios that were not available in the past. Several of the departments are using the equipment in their Citizen Police Academy training curriculums. The MILO firearm system is portable and travels to each of the departments on a predetermined schedule.

Additional Department Programs

VHPD Explorers



The Vernon Hills Law Enforcement Explorer Post 2911 provides youth in our community an opportunity to interact with the members of the Police Department. The goal of the interaction is to create a positive relationship between the Police Department and program participants.

Members of the Explorer Post meet bi-monthly and receive training in the various functions of the Department. Guest speakers, who provide a wide range of specialized knowledge and skills, present the training. The education an Explorer receives provides valuable insights into the daily operations of a police department. Several previous participants have gone on to become police officers after their experiences with the Explorer Post.

Explorers are called upon to ably demonstrate their knowledge and skills by participating in law enforcement-related activities including: traffic direction, crowd control and crime prevention functions. During 2015, the Explorers provided assistance with Summer Celebration, 4th of July parade/fireworks, high school sporting events, Brain Tumor Research Walk, GLMV Relay For Life, Ryan's Run, National Night Out, Law Enforcement Expo, and the Oktoberfest celebration.

Law Enforcement Post 2911 continues to prove itself a valuable tool in merging the law enforcement community with the youth who display an interest in the profession. Anyone over 14 years of age and under 21, with an interest in the program, may contact the Police Department for further information.



Beverage Alcohol Sellers and Servers Education and Training (BASSET)

BASSET is an acronym for Beverage Alcohol Sellers and Servers Education and Training. This is a 4-hour training program that all sellers and servers of alcoholic beverages within the Village of Vernon Hills must sign up for prior to selling or serving alcohol in the Village. Within 90 days of employment, all sellers/servers must complete the program. Topics of discussion include history, production, effects of alcohol, blood alcohol content, responsible serving of alcohol, history of dram shop laws, checking IDs, DUI and arrest process, alcoholism, local Village liquor code, refusing liquor service, pharmacology of alcohol and medical emergencies. The Village BASSET ordinance includes a mandate that an official from each liquor license establishment attend annual refresher training.



Vacation Watch

Residents have the opportunity to notify the Police Department when they plan to be away for vacation and have their home placed on a “special watch.” Area officers will randomly provide personal checks of the residence during the course of normal police patrols.

Liquor License Award Program



Each year as a show of appreciation, the Vernon Hills Police Department presents certificates to Vernon Hills liquor license establishments that had zero alcohol-related violations during the preceding calendar year. In 2015, the certificates were presented to 44 establishments that were violation-free in 2014.

Block Parties

Whenever possible, officers from the Department visit with residents at block parties. This is an opportunity for the officers to promote positive relations with residents of all ages. Officers visited 10 block parties in 2015.



“Some people choose not to donate their services because they believe that it somehow devalues them by ‘giving them away.’ In truth there is nothing that demonstrates the value of your skills more than putting them to good use for a cause you believe in.” Scott Allen



The following pages are dedicated to the men and women of the Vernon Hills Police Department, who donated their time and of themselves in the service of “community.”



Polar Plunge



After the 2014 Polar Plunge, when plungers had to jump into small pools because Lake Michigan was frozen over, everyone was hoping that the 2015 Plunge would be back to normal. Well, mother nature saw it differently.

The VHPD Frozen Copsicles had been getting geared up (and costumed up) for the big event at Fox Lake's Lakefront Park on Sunday, February 22. However as was the case in 2014, the organizers were forced to use the pools. Pistakee Lake was just too frozen to use. However they did pump the cold lake water into the pools. Don't

be misled, it was cold. In fact the temperature at plunge time was approximately 10 degrees and the wind made it even worse.

2015 was a record year for the Frozen Copsicles. The original goal of \$1,500 was easily surpassed, the 13member team raised a whopping \$3,230!!

Cops on the Rooftop

For four early morning hours on Friday, May 29, 2015, patrons at the Hawthorn Hills Shopping Center were greeted by Vernon Hills Police Officers and many other department employees in order to raise money and awareness for the Special Olympics of Illinois (SOIL). Those donating money for the cause received a coupon



for a free doughnut. Those who donated \$5 were treated to the sight of a "Munchkin Drop," where our officer "on the rooftop" dropped a Munchkin, hopefully into the mouth of a waiting cop on the ground. Those who donated \$10 or more received a travel mug and a coupon for free coffee.



Thanks to the beautiful weather and everyone's hard work, we hit yet another Department high and raised approximately \$2,215. This blew last years amount of \$1,750 right out of the water. It also brought our total from the eight years we have participated to approximately \$11,065!! We are truly amazed at the amount of people willing to donate to this cause. Thanks to all and a huge thanks goes out to Dunkin' Donuts, without whose cooperation this event would not be possible.



Sunday, June 7, 2015

Members of the Vernon Hills Police Department joined representatives from law enforcement agencies across Illinois in the annual Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics.

The Law Enforcement Torch Run is the single largest year-round fundraising vehicle benefiting Special Olympics Illinois. The annual intrastate relay and its various fundraising projects have two goals: to raise money and to gain awareness for the athletes who participate in Special Olympics Illinois (SOIL). The Law Enforcement Torch Run has raised more than \$31 million over 28 years while increasing awareness of Special Olympics Illinois athletes and their accomplishments. In 2013, the Torch Run raised more than 3.3 million.

There are twenty-three legs of the Torch Run throughout the state. The eighth leg started in Gurnee at 6:30 a.m. Shortly after 8:00 a.m., Vernon Hills runners took the torch at the intersection of Routes 21 & 60. The journey ended approximately three miles south at Route 22, where the torch was handed off for the next section of the trip. The journey ended approximately 31 miles south in Linclonwood, after joining up with another leg of the run in Niles.



“We’re proud to once again participate in this worthwhile endeavor,” said Mark Fleischhauer, Chief of Police. “Running a few miles to raise money is a small sacrifice to make for the athletes who take part in the Special Olympics.”

Jesse W. Goldsmith

Scholarship Memorial Fund



This scholarship fund was created to honor the life of Jesse W. Goldsmith and to honor two special students who are motivated to attend college and make a positive difference in the manner Jesse did.

On Wednesday, May 20, 2015, Cmdr. Williams and CPO Christenson traveled downstate to Hillsboro High School to celebrate the life of Officer Jesse Goldsmith by attending the Honors Night Assembly, where they presented Hillsboro High School seniors Jaicie Halleman and Tristan Sanford with the Jesse Goldsmith Memorial Scholarship. Jaicie and Tristan were each awarded \$1,000 to be used toward continuing their education. Congratulations, Jaicie & Tristan!

A week later on May 29, 2015, Officer Rodriguez and Clerk Logsdon also paid tribute to the memory of Jesse Goldsmith by attending the Vernon Hills High School Honors Day Assembly where they presented Vernon Hills High School seniors Adrianna Amidei and Steven Zhang with the Jesse Goldsmith Memorial Scholarship. Adrianna and Steven were each awarded \$1,000 to be used toward continuing their education. Congratulations, Adrianna and Steven!

Jesse is still missed each and every day by all at the Vernon Hills Police Department. Department members continue to manage and raise funds for this scholarship. If you would like to contribute to this educational cause, please contact Cmdr. Todd Williams at (847) 362-4449.

Social Media



The Vernon Hills Police Department website is an extension of the official Village of Vernon Hills website. Since 2003, the domain names www.vhpd.com and www.vhpd.org have been directed to the Department site. The website contains a large amount of information pertaining to the Department, as well as information on safety and security, programs the Department conducts or sponsors, upcoming events, Police Department and neighborhood news.

There is a vast array of information available on the site, and the pages are continually checked and amended to insure the accuracy of the information and to prevent the site from becoming stagnant. New pages are developed and added as time allows or as the need arises.

During 2015, the Vernon Hills Police Department home page received over 12,100 page views. The "Weekly Arrest Summary" page received over 14,900 views.

After months of planning, in June, 2015 the Vernon Hills Police Department Facebook page was launched. (Prior to this time Department-related matters were posted on the Village Facebook page.) From the beginning, the Department

found it to be an extremely effective way to communicate with residents in a timely manner.

From mid-June through the end of 2015, approximately 140 posts were made on the Department's Facebook page. The posts topics included Department news and personnel matters, community events and safety & security issues.



(Many of these posts were shared on the Village page.)

To keep the page professional, a Social Media Comment Policy was created and is permanently posted on the Facebook page.

The Crime Prevention Unit is the Administrator of the Department's Facebook page. This insures not one consistency and appropriateness in the postings, but also that the posts do not violate privacy concerns or jeopardize any ongoing investigation.

Lake County Law Enforcement Exhibition

Twenty-six police and police-related agencies were on hand at Westfield Hawthorn Mall on the weekend of September 12 & 13, 2015 for the 11th Annual Law Enforcement Exhibition. Approximately 40,000 people came through the doors to see squad cars, police motorcycles, a Humvee, K9 demonstrations, a helicopter, and all kinds of police equipment. There were many activities for the kids and plenty of giveaways and information. New for 2015 was a



huge walk-in U.S. Army recruiting trailer.



The K9 demonstrations were led by Tops Training and Dogstyle, Inc. The demonstrations were performed by Ofc. Jonathan Meyers and Deutsch from Zion PD, Ofc. Dave Mahoney and Grizzly from Waukegan PD, Deputy Dwight Arrowood and Duke from the Lake County Sheriff's Office, and MEG Agent Donald Florence and his

partner Yaku.

One of the highlights on both days was a landing of an AIR-ONE police rescue helicopter. People kept their eyes to the sky as the helicopter came in from the northeast sky and landed in the lower level parking lot. It stayed on the ground approximately two hours so everyone had an opportunity to check it out.

Many of the agencies had Police Explorers on hand to not only help with their agency displays, but also to promote the Explorer programs.



Supporting Our Service Members and Veterans



Blue Line For The Front Line

The Blue Line for the Front Line is a continuing Department effort in which members have volunteered to support numerous initiatives involving current service members, as well as those who have previously served and now find themselves in need. In operation since 2003, activities have included ensuring that every Vernon Hills resident who has served in support of Afghanistan or Iraqi Freedom is given a proper “Welcome Home,” the sending of care packages to those serving in areas of conflict, supporting veterans through the Lake County Veteran’s Assistance Commission, as well as numerous other initiatives that directly support veterans in need and their families.

Financing for these programs is primarily conducted through private fundraising. To date, we are proud to state that 100% of every dollar collected has gone directly to those who have served, and to those in need.

During 2015, we provided clothing and meal vouchers for veterans in need, hosted a veteran’s fishing derby, and visited with the veterans at the VA Hospital during the holidays.

We are proud of those who have served, and proud to support those who may need assistance during these difficult times.

Operation Welcome Home

In November of 2007, the Villages of Vernon Hills and Libertyville started an initiative to ensure veterans returning home from overseas are welcomed home and recognized for their honorable duty. The program, named “Operation Welcome Home,” is an extension of the Blue Line For The Front Line effort, in which both towns have supported specific units deployed overseas and helped Veterans in need since 2003.

The Vernon Hills Police Department is honored to give our residents who have bravely served this country a proper welcome home.

To date, the men and women of the Vernon Hills Police Department have “Welcomed Home” 10 members of the community. Operation Welcome Home is funded by contributions from the public, generous donations from Westfield Hawthorn, Mike Golden, and restaurants such as Olive Garden and On The Border.

Helping Veterans in Need

The Veteran's Assistance Commission is a county-based program that serves veterans in need. Tasked with the mission of promoting the welfare of honorably discharged veterans of military service and their families, the VAC has general oversight of the distribution of emergency assistance.

Due to reduced funding from the Federal level, the Veteran's Assistance Commission asked the Vernon Hills Police Department if its members could coordinate a community-based program to help in providing approximately 125 to 150 pairs of winter gloves and/or winter coats to veterans in need. This effort is part of a veterans "Stand Down," in which veterans can receive access to medical and dental exams, obtain hair cuts, have access to counseling services, etc. As winter approaches, veterans with limited resources are provided with clothing and meal vouchers.

In the spirit of taking care of our own, the Vernon Hills Police Department teamed up with area police departments and their respective high school football programs, and coordinated a coat drive for new and gently used coats that are distributed to veterans during the Stand Down. Residents of The Park also provided warmth from the heart by knitting scarves for each veteran in need.

Mike Peck, Director of the Lake County Veteran's Assistance Commission stated that services were being provided to 335 veterans each month in 2012. By 2015, services are being provided to approximately 100 veterans each month. "The Stand Down efforts in Lake County were so successful in helping to reduce the number of homeless and at-risk veterans, we are now able to provide services on a more individualized, "as needed' basis." Veterans can now visit the Midwest Veteran's Coat Closet located in North Chicago throughout the year to receive weather appropriate clothing.



Jim Heier Fishing Derby - June 28, 2015



A good time was had by all! Many veterans fished this year, while some just enjoyed a beautiful day out. The weather was wonderful and there was plenty of great food. As always each Veteran received a goodie bag which included a shirt, a fishing hat, a winter hat, a blanket, playing cards, a toiletry bag and some tasty treats. This year the goodie bag was actually a duffle bag, which you can see pictured above.



Veteran's Hospital Visit

On December 14, 2015 thirteen members of the Vernon Hills Police Department and many family members traveled to the Captain James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center in North Chicago for the Department's 10th annual Visit with the Veterans holiday event.

Our entourage (pictured below) visited with dozens of veterans. Not only did the veterans enjoy the company and conversation, but most of them were happy to receive a treat of cookies and candy.

The Medical Center visit is a simple, yet meaningful way for us to say thanks to those who have served our country and for the veterans to share their memories of service with the Department.



National Night Out

August 4, 2015 - at the 20th annual National Night Out - Over 1,000 people danced, jumped, played volleyball and other games and visited the Bookmobile for some good reads. Over 1,400 hot dogs and hamburgers were devoured, along with chips, drinks, and 600 ice cream bars. That's a lot of food!

We can't thank our sponsors enough for all the help they provided. Vernon Hills' Public Works team made the grounds look great - and kept them looking clean throughout the evening. Target provided volunteers, who assisted at our craft tables and carnival games. Mario Tricoli University provided some amazing face painters, and as always, the Citizen Police Academy Alumni did a great job helping out at the food table. The DJ (A-Z Entertainment) did a fabulous job getting everyone in a rockin' mood! Record-a-Hit provided some great inflatables. Fire Medic Tony Rodkey helped the kids get soaked with the fire department hose way out in the outfield.





During December of each year, the Vernon Hills Police Department participates in the United States Marine Corps' Toys for Tots program. The program was founded in 1947 by reservist Major William L. Hendricks. Initially, collection bins were placed outside Warner Brothers movie theaters. These efforts were so successful that in 1948, Toys for Tots was launched as a national campaign. Marine Reservists (frequently in their dress blue uniforms) would collect toys, and in 1991, the Secretary of Defense authorized the creation of a non-profit charity. In 1995, the Secretary of Defense approved Toys for Tots as an official mission of the Marine Corps Reserve.

Noting that many communities do not have a local Marine Corps Reserve presence, the Commander of Marine Forces Reserve authorized other local organizations to fill the gaps in toy collection and distribution.

The men and women of the Vernon Hills Police Department are proud to be part of this effort, which collects toys for children whose parents cannot afford to buy gifts for the holidays.



Angel Tree Holiday Gift



For the fifteenth straight year, the Department participated in the Salvation Army's Angel Tree program. Department employees who volunteer to participate are given information on an anonymous needy child in Lake county and purchase gifts out of their own pockets. The gifts are then delivered by the Salvation Army. In 2015, twenty-six children had gifts to open during the holidays.



Departmental Commendation

An award granted to any member for an outstanding act or achievement which brings credit to the Department, and which involves performance above and beyond that required by the member's basic assignment, and/or demonstrates individual initiative, for solving a serious crime, or apprehending a criminal in the act of committing a crime.

The personnel listed below received Departmental Commendations

Cmdr. Zimmerman	Sgt. Feger(2)	Sgt. Slivka	Ofc. Berryhill
Ofc. Caselli	Ofc. Gillespie(2)	Ofc. Hill	Ofc. Koch
Ofc. Maier	Ofc. Manke	Ofc. Paret	Clerk Logsdon

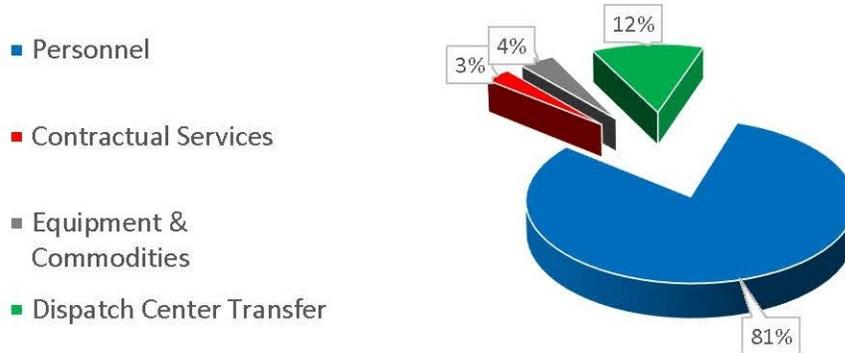
Honorable Mention

An award granted to any member for outstanding police work such as singularly solving a serious crime, or for individual initiative in apprehending a criminal in the act of committing a crime.

The personnel listed below received Honorable Mentions

Ofc. Caselli	Ofc. Foy	Ofc. Jones(2)	Ofc. Katzenstein
Ofc. Lonergan	Ofc. Maier	Ofc. Rheintgen	Ofc. Rodriguez
Ofc. Seversen	TC Fanella	TC Jamieson	Clerk Logsdon

Vernon Hills Police Department 2015 Budget



Expenditure	Amount
Personnel	\$ 8,464,020
Contractual Services	\$ 304,737
Equipment & Commodities	\$ 406,243
Dispatch Center Transfer	\$ 1,293,200
Total	\$ 10,468,200

Personnel Police Department Authorized Strength

- | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1 Communications Supervisor | 4 Community Service Officers |
| 1 Deputy Communications Supervisor | 1 Property Custodian |
| 12 Telecommunicators | 2 Administrative Assistants |
| 3 Part-Time Telecommunicators | 1 Investigative Aide/Records Clerk |
| 1 Records Supervisor | 1 C.A.D./I.T. Coordinator |
| 1 Records Clerk | 1 Part-Time Crime Prevention |
| 1 Part-Time Records Clerk | 1 Part-Time Social Services |

31 Civilian Employees

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| 1 Chief | 2 Deputy Chiefs |
| 5 Commanders | 4 Sergeants |
| 31 Police Officers | |

43 Sworn Officers

Annual Crime Statistics

Part I Crimes

Homicide
Burglary to Auto
Aggravated Battery
Arson

Burglary
Robbery
Theft

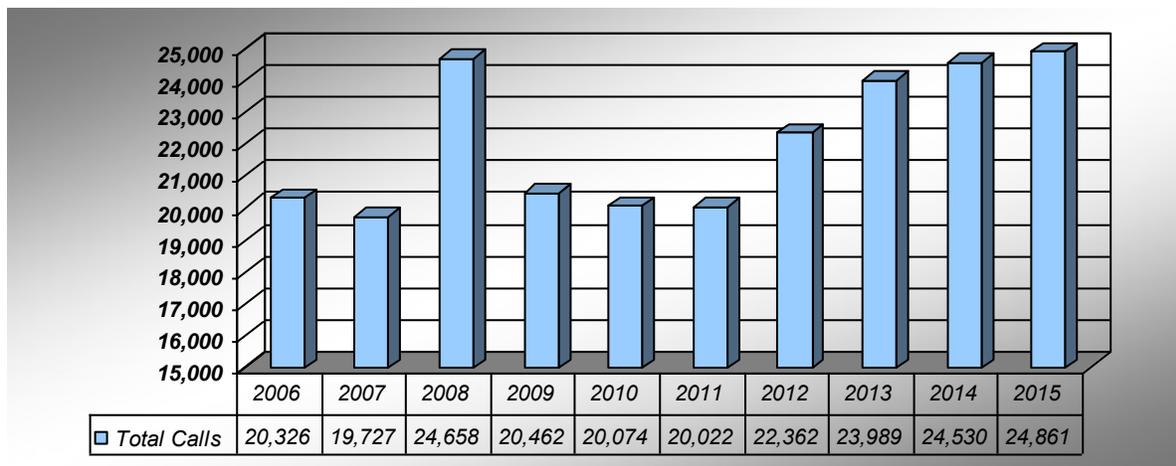
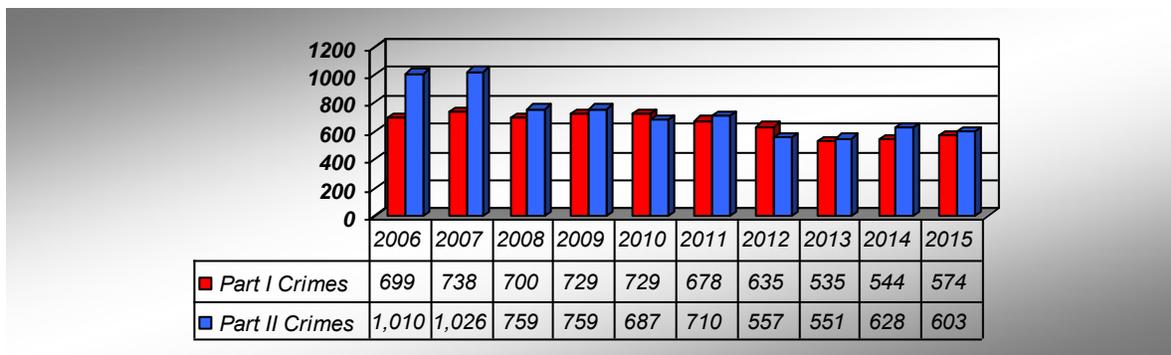
Criminal Sexual Assault
Motor Vehicle Theft
Aggravated Assault

Part II Crimes

Simple Assault
Hypo-Syringes/Needles Act
Liquor Control Act
Criminal Trespass
Kidnapping
Warrant Arrests

Controlled Substances Act
Criminal Damage
Interference With Officers
Sex Offenses
Fireworks
Violation Order of Protection

Simple Battery
Deceptive Practice
Disorderly Conduct
Weapons Offenses
Cannabis Control Act
Offenses Involving Children



Administrative Review Process

The Vernon Hills Police Department and its officers are dedicated to serving the citizens and business community and providing the best service possible. We realize that during the course of carrying out our duties, not everyone will be completely satisfied with the performance of our employees. It is the policy of the Department to thoroughly investigate all complaints made against Department members and/or Department policies and procedures, including anonymous complaints. The investigations include alleged or suspected violations of laws, ordinances or Department rules, regulations, policies, procedures or orders (both written and verbal).

Complaints are generally categorized as either Class I or Class II complaints. The type and nature of a complaint will determine whether it will be handled and resolved at the Watch Commander level (Level II complaints), or will be referred to the appropriate Deputy Chief for the initiation of a formal Administrative Review process (Level I complaints). Examples of Class II complaints include: failure to take appropriate action, poor demeanor, tardiness, and insubordination. Examples of Class I complaints include: brutality, misuse of force, criminal misconduct, allegations of corruption and racial profiling.

Upon completion of the investigation, the person(s) initiating the complaint against the department member will be notified of the disposition of their complaint. All of the investigations will be classified into one of the following categories:

- ◆ **Unfounded** – The act(s) or omission(s) complained of did not occur or did not involve Vernon Hills police personnel.
- ◆ **Exonerated** – The act(s) or omission(s) complained of did occur, but were justified, lawful and proper.
- ◆ **Not Sustained** – There is insufficient evidence to clearly prove or disprove the allegation(s) made against the employee.
- ◆ **Sustained** – There is sufficient evidence to clearly prove the allegation(s) made against the employee.
- ◆ **Policy Failure** – The allegation(s) did occur, however, because the officer was acting in accordance with Department policy, the policy is inadequate or inappropriate.

Class I Complaints

During 2015, there were 5 Class I complaint filed against department members that were investigated by the office of the Deputy Chief:

- ◆ 1 was unfounded
- ◆ 1 was not sustained
- ◆ 3 were sustained

Class II Complaints

During 2015, there were 10 Class II complaints investigated involving department members:

- ◆ 4 were unfounded
- ◆ 5 were not sustained
- ◆ 1 was sustained

Use of Force

Human life is immeasurable in our society. The Vernon Hills Police Department recognizes and respects the value of each human life. Police officers have been delegated the awesome responsibility to protect life and property and apprehend criminal offenders. During the course of their duties, police officers must frequently employ the use of force to affect arrests and ensure public safety. The Vernon Hills Police Department employs a use of force continuum and our officers may only use that level of force necessary for the lawful performance of their duties. The range of options includes physical force, electronic control weapons, pepper spray, baton, and deadly force.

The Vernon Hills Police Department requires all employees to complete a Use of Force report whenever the level of force used exceeds verbal persuasion. All Use of Force reports are thoroughly investigated up through the chain of command to the Chief of Police.

During 2015, there were thirteen documented incidents in which officers of the Vernon Hills Police Department used force or weapons, which is one less than 2014. Listed below are the different types or combinations of Use of Force that occurred this year.

- ◆ Taser
- ◆ Physical Restraint/Strike/Taser
- ◆ Physical Restraint/Taser
- ◆ Physical Restraint/Take-Down
- ◆ Physical Takedown
- ◆ Physical Restraint/Strike
- ◆ Physical Restraint/Take-Down/Strike
- ◆ Physical Restraint

All incidents were thoroughly investigated and in each case, the officer's actions were found to be proper and within Department guidelines. No serious injuries resulted from any of these incidents.