



# Sharing Ohio's Best Program

Recognizing Outstanding Community Policing



Agency of the Month

## City of Waterville Police Department

October 2022



The City of Waterville Police Department has adopted a community policing and problem-solving philosophy; wherein officers work proactively to eliminate situations and circumstances that lead to problems in the community. Our department is highly visible in the community to attain this philosophy.

With our community growing, it is the mission of this department to further enhance and expand our department's community outreach to become a leader in community policing. Our community policing core values are best defined by the acronym, **F-I-R-S-T**.

**Fairness:** We treat all people impartially, with consideration and compassion. We are equally responsive to our fellow employees and to the community we serve.

**Integrity:** We are committed to the highest performance standards, ethical conduct, honesty, and truthfulness in all relationships. We hold ourselves accountable for our actions and take pride in a professional level of service to all.

**Respect:** We treat all persons in a dignified and courteous manner and exhibit understanding of ethical and cultural diversity, both in our professional and personal endeavors.

**Service:** We provide service in a courteous, efficient, and accessible manner. We focus on citizen needs and foster community-oriented policing through problem-solving partnerships with citizens.

**Teamwork:** We foster collaboration among our employees. We work in partnerships.

*Chief Joe Valvano, PELC  
City of Waterville Police Department*





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## Types of Patrol

We use various types of patrol to assist our duties and improve our community outreach. The standard type of patrol is through our police cruiser, which is commonly used for aggressive traffic enforcement to keep citizens safe. 78% of our patrol officers and sergeants are bike certified. The bike patrol gives us accessibility and adaptability for responses during festivals, as well as more direct contact with community members when driving through residential and business areas. We have recently purchased a golf cart that is fully marked. In many ways, the golf cart unit offers many of the same advantages as the bike patrol unit, as it assists patrol covering a larger area of ground than they can on foot. Both the bike patrol unit and golf cart unit allow community members to be more comfortable with approaching officers.

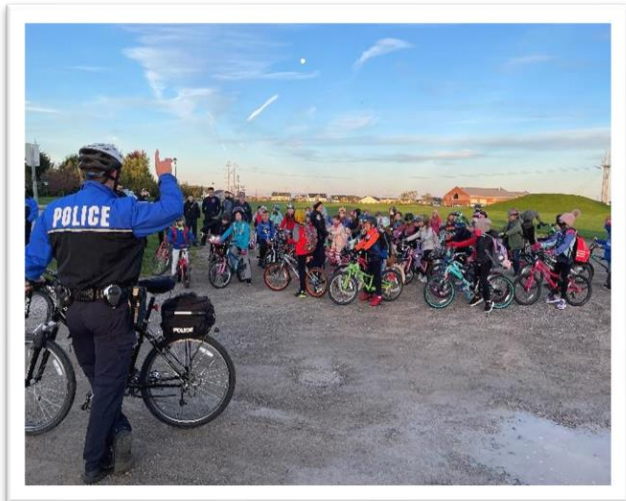






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## **Bike to School**

Bike to School is an event held during Fall and Spring when school is in session. Officers, students, and parents ride their bicycles to school. All participants involved start the bike route at a designated location and ride through the neighborhood to the Waterville Primary School. The program is very popular with multiple Bike to School events having tons of kids in attendance. Officers will also assist the kids with proper helmet wearing and bike safety. This is a great way for young students and their parents to get to know officers from the police department and build a positive community relationship.



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## Safety City

Safety City is an educational program organized to teach local youth about personal safety issues. Officer Newman organized Safety City 2022 for our local youth. Waterville police officers, Waterville firefighters and medics, teachers, and other members of different sectors in Waterville provide instructions regarding stranger danger, bus safety, fire safety, and more. This program runs for one week with a morning session running from 9:00am until noon and the afternoon session running 1:00pm until 4:00pm. The program has room for 60 students and was at maximum capacity for 2022. The learning concludes on Friday with a graduation for all the kids.







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## **Frontline House and Business Check Program**

The Waterville Police Department uses software that allows residents to register a house or business check from the comfort of their location. These can be submitted electronically on the City of Waterville website or by stopping in the police station for a paper copy.

Officers have this program in their in-car computers and it shows all active house and business checks. Every time an officer does a check, he has all of the information the house or business owner entered in the submission. If no issues are found, the officer clicks a button that the premise is complete without issue. If a problem is observed then they would make a note or contact the keyholder or emergency contact. If the person filling out the submission form entered in an email address then they will receive an email instantly with any notes every time the officer checks the property. This program provides our community a sense of safety and security.



## **Drug Take Back**

Drug Take Back is an event led by the Waterville Police Department that provides a means of disposing of prescription drugs at a convenient and safe location. Our department partners with the Waterville Fire Department and local nurses to collect the drugs and educate the general public.





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## Festivals

Roche de Boeuf, Boo to Do, Blues Brews & Brats, and other festivals held throughout the year allow our department to really interact with large numbers of the public. There are crafts, treats, inflatables, and live entertainment. Many of the youth even love to show off their costumes to our police officers...especially when they dress up as police officers!







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## Rescue Task Force Training

Rescue Task Force Training is an active shooter training simulation. Our department has worked with Whitehouse Police, Whitehouse Fire, Waterville Township Police, and members of the FBI in conducting these scenarios within the Anthony Wayne School District. We have a great working partnership with these departments and school district to better improve training and response to any situation. Tactics and information are always changing, and it is important for us to participate in these training sessions to better serve the community. We also work closely with the Anthony Wayne School District to review any concerns or safety issues with Waterville Primary School, as well as assist teachers with their respective active shooter training.

