



# Sharing Ohio's Best Program

Recognizing Outstanding Community Policing



Agency of the Month

## Bluffton Police Department

October 2023

The Village of Bluffton is situated in Allen County & Hancock County (Northwest Ohio) with approximately 4,200 citizens, Bluffton is home to the beautiful Bluffton University, extremely friendly Bluffton Hospital, and many strong growing businesses such as SRK, GROB, Autokinton, and Diamond Manufacturing, just to name a few. The local downtown business district offers everything a person could need and store fronts are always full and extremely supportive of local law enforcement. Bluffton has a lot to offer with well cared for local parks, pathways, and special events held year-round.

### ***National Night Out***

Lt. Mathew Oglesbee's deep passion, drive, and dedication for community-oriented policing has orchestrated this event. The event is made possible with the strong support of Bluffton & Pandora local businesses, community members, and the village council. The local support has provided nine years of success with this event.

National Night Out provides free swimming, hot dogs, chips, games, snow cones, popcorn, drinks, face painting, and more including fireworks to cap off the night. Lt. Oglesbee stated, "we bill this event as a leave your wallet at home event and there is no charge for anything that is provided".

### ***Our Community's Children***

Bluffton Police Department prides itself on building strong relationships with our youth in programs such as Safety Pup, Bike Rodeo, Career Days, and Drug use Prevention Programs with our new full-time School Resource Officer.

### ***Bike Rodeo***

Officer Hope Hannah has greatly improved all of these programs and is certified as a School Resource Officer, D.A.R.E. Officer. Officer Hannah brings amazing energy and the ability to connect with the local youth!

### ***Career Day***

Officer Hope Hannah spends several weeks covering safety topics in the local elementary school. Officer Hannah has been working on this program for over seven years building on their strong dedication to youth.



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Chief Burkholder spending time with the children and letting them try on body armor. The students always have exciting questions to answer.

## ***Safety Pup***

Officer Hope Hannah spends several weeks covering safety topics in the local elementary school. Officer Hannah has been working on this program for over seven years building on our strong dedication to youth.

## ***Drug Use Prevention Program***

Officer Hannah, Chief Burkholder, & Superintendent Greg Dennecker presented a check to build safer schools for equipment & safety materials.

## ***Dodge Ball and the Youth***

Officer Noble participates in a game of dodge ball with the youth at Bluffton's Family Recreation Center event.

The Bluffton Police Department enjoys helping with the special events held throughout the year. Whether it's leading parades, providing security, or having a conversation, we are here for you!

## ***Lions Club "Ride to Remember"***

A gracious donation was made in 2023 for a new woman's patrol bicycle from our local Bike Crazy store in town.

## ***Festival of Wheels***

The Bluffton PD provides the best security and enjoy conversations with the citizens.

## ***Educational Presentations & Department Resources***

Sgt. Hochstetler and K9 Officer Kato have been partners since 2017. They have impacted our community in a very positive way, and they are enjoyed by local organizations and in the schools. They both put on presentations for the Senior Citizens Center, High School, Lions Club, and other special events. The community is very grateful for our K9 program which started out funded by local businesses & citizens and now maintains funding through the Village of Bluffton.

## ***Fraud & Scam Alert Class***

The Senior Citizens Center & Maple Crest Living take part in Fraud and Scam Alert classes held by Chief Burkholder several times a year. The turnout is always wonderful numbers with several personal stories and questions shared amongst all.



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## ***Cruising With a Claus***

In November & December of 2021, Bluffton Jazzercise teamed up with the police department to collect toys for the local children to help provide them a brighter Christmas. "Cruising with a Claus".

## ***Police Unity Tour***

In the 2023 Police Unity Tour, Cpl. Rayle rode in honor of Officer Dominic Francis. Cpl. Rayle is the Police Bike Patrol Instructor. Cpl. Rayle received local support from business & citizens to make it possible to ride in this event.

## ***October Breast Cancer Awareness "Pink Project" & "No Shave November"***

The two community awareness programs that the police department takes pride in each year. Themonies collected by the officers go to support a local charity or a child in need of medical care.

## ***Dedication for Bluffton's Fallen Officers Memorial***

Special thanks to Mayor Johnson & Council members (Phil, Joe, Mitch, Dave, Ben & Jerry) for their support, along with all of the donations from local businesses and citizens of the community.

### **For More Information, contact:**

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