



Sharing Ohio's Best Program

Recognizing Outstanding Community Policing



Agency of the Month

North Canton Police Department

November 2025

The North Canton Police Department supports its community and local businesses through various events held throughout the year.

Kona (Therapy/Community Canine)

Noticing a trend in wellness and community ambassadorship, the NCPD sought out adding a non-patrol canine as agency resource. In 2023, with the assistance of community support, Kona the Aussie-doodle joined our department and began training as a therapy canine.

He is partnered with SRO Phil Taylor, and spends a lot of his time walking the hallways in the schools — he is always happy to offer a friendly paw to students and adults alike! SRO Taylor has remarked about the positive change he has seen in students having the opportunity to interact with Kona and himself throughout the day. Kona is also available for call-out as needed by patrol to comfort individuals who are having a difficult time.

Since acquiring Kona, he has become an integral part of our Community Engagement Team. When not in school, Kona and SRO Taylor visit nursing homes, childcare centers, local businesses, and attend community events including "Koffee with Kona" and "Kones with Kona" Kona never fails to bring smiles and tail-wags wherever he goes!

Coffee with a Cop

The NCPD enjoys several variations of the "Coffee with a Cop" program. So far, they have conducted pop-up locations at the community YMCA, local parks, and coffee shops throughout the years, so you never know where they might show up next with a nice cup of joe (and maybe a pastry or two)

Bike Rodeo for Kids

In 2022, the NCPD reintroduced the annual NCPD Bike Rodeo. This event is geared towards teaching bike safety skills to young riders, along with helmet fitting. The rodeo features fun and friendly competition across three categories, with awards for the top three participants. To create an inclusive opportunity for family fun, they have added exciting extras like a face painting station, a poster contest, and complimentary hot dogs and chips provided by our sponsoring church. We also welcomed a special guest appearance from Kona Ice— coincidentally, our very first benefactor of Kona and our Therapy Dog Program. This event is all about building positive relationships with kids and their families while simply having fun in the community! Each year, they enhance the experience, whether it's adding music, local food trucks, a bicycle giveaway, an opportunity to test your bike skills in a challenging race versus the Police Chief and other City leaders.



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Bicycle Safety

Coupons for Helmet. Through the kind support of a local bicycle club and custard stand, officers have free custard cone coupons to reward young bike riders for biking safely and wearing helmets. This initiative not only promotes safe biking habits, but also creates a fun and positive way for kids and their families to engage with officers.

Department Tours

NCPD frequently hosts department tours for visitors of all ages, including families, school and scout groups, and community members participating in the City's new Civic Leadership Academy. They coordinate with scout groups to organize learning courses that help the scouts to earn different badges. Testing the lights and sirens on the cruisers is always a big hit for everyone!

Community Welcome Door Hanger Program

As part of the community outreach efforts, the Community Engagement Team monitors new City utility customer sign - ups to help identify new residents in our area. This allows the team to deliver a Welcome Door Hanger to new residents, which includes contact information for the department along with information on services offered and a few common ordinances.

Safety Town

Continuing the theme of youth safety, NCPD partners with another community group that hosts the long-standing Safety Town. Officers are regular guests, and enjoy the opportunity to interact with the children while providing safety talks and cruiser tours.

Neighborhood Block Parties

Throughout the summer, North Canton's neighborhoods will often host small cookouts and block parties where residents get permits to close down sections of their streets, creating a safe gathering space for everyone. Many residents are kind enough to offer open invitations, giving the NCPD team a chance to stop by and interact! These get- togethers are yet another opportunity for the police to be a positive presence in residents' day-to-day lives, and to help break down the barriers that cruiser patrols can create between law enforcement and the public.

National Night Out Participation

NCPD is fortunate to be in an area that does a combined event with other law enforcement agencies within county. This is truly an enjoyable event where adults and children have the opportunity to interact and ask questions in a fun atmosphere.

Fall Trunk or Treats

The North Canton community offers a wide variety of community events for all ages throughout the year, and fall is no exception –did someone say “trick or treat”? NCPD officers are glad to join in the local Halloween festivities with a cruiser trunk full of candy, NCPD swag, and other goodies! These events are a great opportunity for people of all ages to have positive interactions with the NCPD cruisers and officers behind the wheel.



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Shop with Safety Services

In a show of community camaraderie and holiday spirit, NCPD is proud to collaborate with other local emergency services agencies on an annual Shop with Safety Services event to bring a little cheer to local families during the winter holiday season. The local schools provide names of families in need, and with the support of internal and external donations, NCPD helps to take them shopping, checking off their holiday wish lists and treating them to lunch and a trip to the movies.