

Penn Yan Police



2024 Annual Report

Mission Statement

It is the mission of the Penn Yan Police Department to provide effective law enforcement services for those who reside, work and travel through Penn Yan. The Penn Yan Police Department is committed to working with members of the community to enhance public safety and the quality of life in Penn Yan.

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A Message From the Chief

Dear Mayor Condella and Members of the Board,

I am pleased to provide you with an overview of our department's activities and accomplishments for the past year. As your Police Chief, I am deeply proud of the efforts our officers have made in ensuring the safety, well-being, and peace of our community. This letter highlights some of the key areas of focus and progress we've achieved in 2024.

Over the past year, our department has continued to work diligently to build stronger connections with our community. We have increased our community outreach programs including working with Keuka College and other area schools to offer internships for those interested in law enforcement. We have also attended job fairs and community events as a way to interact with the community and to promote the benefits of working in law enforcement. As with any year we have had our fair share of challenges. This year we faced several incidents of violent crime including murder. As unfortunate as these incidents are our staff has risen to the challenges and worked with our area partners to face the issues head on. Over the last several years we have placed an emphasis on enhancing our trainings and capabilities which has paid off. Today, law enforcement is charged with staying up to date on a wider range of issues than ever before. We recognize that having well trained officers is crucial for us to provide effective police services to the Penn Yan community.

It is an honor for me to lead this department and to work with the professional people who make up the Penn Yan Police Department. We are truly lucky to work in such a great community where we enjoy the support of the people as well as the board. Thank you!

Chief Thomas Dunham



Penn Yan Police

The Penn Yan Police Department currently has one lieutenant, three sergeants and seven full time road patrol officers. The department also utilizes three part time officers to cover shifts and assist in patrol functions. These officers work 24 hours a day 365 days a year responding to a variety of situations. Officers can be called upon to enforce laws, respond to emergencies, perform vehicle and traffic enforcement, conduct investigations and make arrests. Being a small department, our officers often have the opportunity to work in many different roles and can take on additional duties outside of patrol work.

This year the Penn Yan Police Department responded to **8,499** complaints.

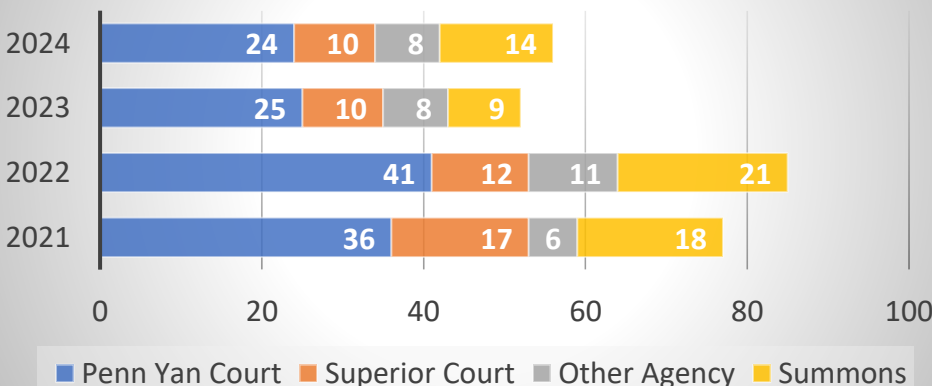


Road Patrol

Police patrol duties are essential for maintaining public safety and preventing crime in our community. Officers on patrol mainly utilize marked vehicles to ensure a visible presence. This visibility deters criminal activity and allows officers to respond quickly to emergencies or suspicious behavior. We are proud to report our average response time to an emergency situation is under one minute. Officers on patrol may be found gathering evidence, interviewing witnesses and suspects, and preparing reports for legal proceedings. They habitually engage with community members, offering support and building trust with residents, while also gathering information that could be useful in crime prevention efforts. While we responded to 8,499 calls this year not every call results in an arrest. This year we arrested a total of **406** people. The charges involved everything from criminal violations such as harassment to major crimes like assault and homicide.

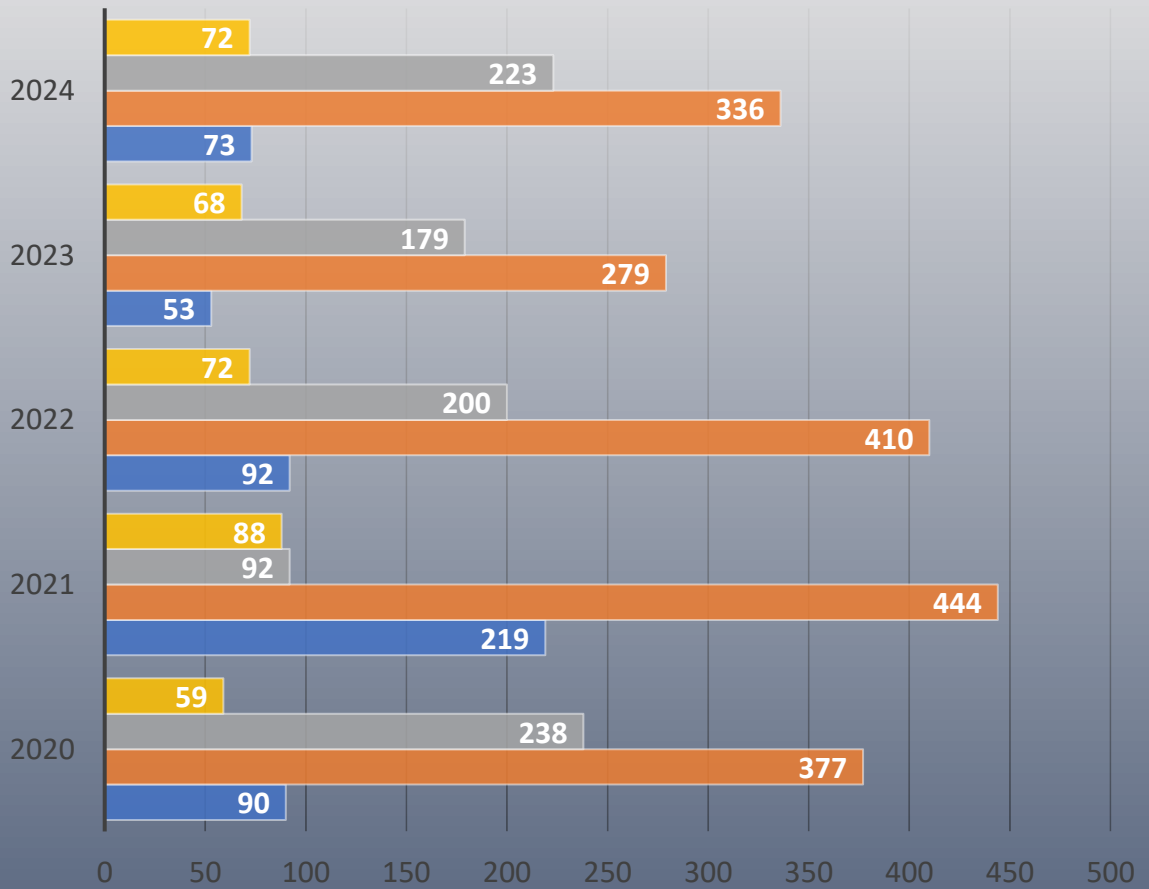
- Lock Outs: 157
- Property Checks/Foot Patrol: 779
- Open Doors: 35
- Sex Offender Verification: 83
- Assist Other Agency: 128
- Alarms: 106
- Special Details: 74
- Juvenile/Adolescent Complaints: 114
- Funeral Escorts: 10
- Mental Health Calls: 101
- Warrants: 56

Warrants



Arrest Statistics

Breakdown of Charges by Year



	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
■ Mental Health	59	88	72	68	72
■ Violations	238	92	200	179	223
■ Misdemeanor	377	444	410	279	336
■ Felony	90	219	92	53	73

■ Mental Health ■ Violations ■ Misdemeanor ■ Felony

Calls to Residential Complexes and Hotels

Hotels

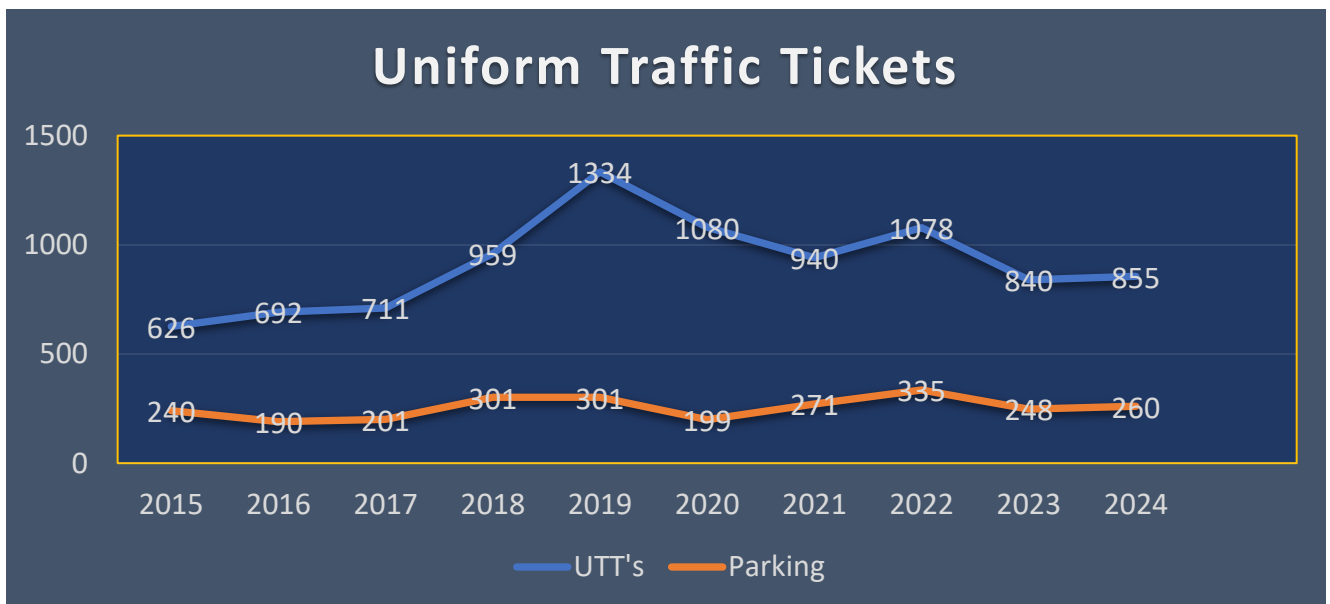
Mentally Ill Persons	2
Alarms	2
Domestics/Fights	5
Harassment	0
Assist Ambulance	0
Arrests	2
Juvenile Complaints	3
Deaths	0
Dog Complaints	2
Larcenies	0
Vehicle & Traffic	4
Miscellaneous Non-Criminal	56
Miscellaneous Criminal	0
Criminal Mischief	0
Check the Welfare	5
TOTAL	81

Complexes

Mentally Ill Persons	13
Alarms	5
Domestics/Fights	37
Harassment	23
Assist Ambulance	11
Arrests	11
Juvenile Complains	2
Deaths	2
Dog Complaints	7
Larcenies	5
Vehicle & Traffic	6
Miscellaneous Non-Criminal	153
Miscellaneous Criminal	4
Criminal Mischief	3
Check the Welfare	28
TOTAL	310

Vehicle and Traffic Enforcement

The primary purpose of PYPD enforcing traffic laws is to reduce crash-related injuries and fatalities and to keep our roadways and neighborhoods safe. Our just being out there and visible helps to serve as a deterrent and keep drivers safe on the roads. This year we also hired Michael Layton as part time parking enforcement officer to assist in enforcing the village's parking ordinances including two-hour parking in the business district. We have received several parking complaints with a variety of ideas on how best to work with the available parking in the village. We hope this position will give us a better idea of where problem areas are and how we can best tackle them to suit the village. In 2024 we issued **855 traffic tickets** and **260 parking tickets**. The police department collected \$6,995.00 in fines from parking tickets and \$35,959.25 for traffic tickets. We also impounded 14 vehicles and collected \$980.00 in impound fees.



Vehicle and Traffic Enforcement



Radar Speed Sign

This year the Penn Yan Police Department acquired a portable speed enforcement sign. We have utilized this sign around the Village in an attempt to slow traffic, visually alert drivers to their speed and as a data collection device. We have been able to utilize this information to target problem areas and enforce vehicle and traffic laws.

Speed Awareness

Radar speed signs instantly display a driver's speed, serving as a visual reminder of their current speed compared to the posted limit. This helps drivers become more aware of their actions and encourages them to reduce speed.

Traffic Calming

Radar speed signs act as a proactive measure to slow down speeding vehicles, especially in areas like school zones, residential neighborhoods, and high-risk areas where safety is a concern.

Data Collection

Our devices come equipped with data logging capabilities, allowing the collection of valuable traffic data, including speed trends and peak speeding times, to inform traffic management strategies.

Motorcycle Patrol

In late 2024 the Penn Yan Police Department re-introduced their motorcycle patrol. Officer Ken Eldridge is the first motor patrol officer in the department in almost 60 years. The department has a long history of motor patrol dating back to the 30s. We plan to utilize the motorcycle for traffic enforcement, community events, community outreach, parades and a variety of other details. We look forward to fully implementing motorcycle patrol in 2025.



Motor Patrol

Tickets: 3

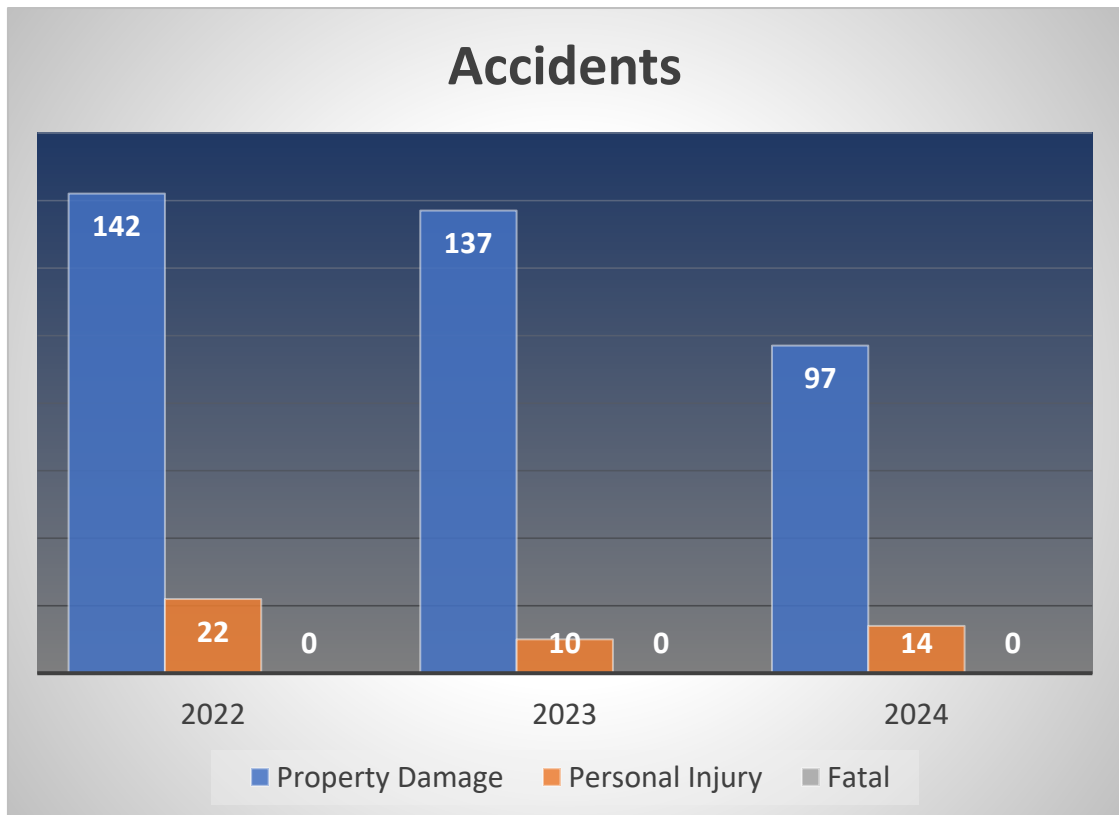
Community
Events: 2

Parades: 1



Motor Vehicle Accidents

This year officers were called to the scene of **162** motor vehicle accidents (MVA's). Having an officer at the scene of the accident can expedite the exchange of information between all parties involved and allow for proper documentation. While officers responded to 162 accidents, not every accident required an NYS MV104A accident report to be filed with the state. Some minor accidents such as a car sliding off the road due to weather may not need an accident report. This year we filed **111** accident reports with NYS. **97** of these involved property damage motor vehicle accidents and **14** involved personal injuries with **0** fatalities.



Criminal Investigations



Inv. Wayne Marsh

Homicides: 1
Burglary: 5
Att. Burglary: 1
Robbery: 1
Criminal Possession of
a Weapon: 1
Criminal Contempt 1st:
3
Grand Larceny: 3
Criminal Sale of
Controlled Substance:
2
Criminal Possession of
a Controlled
Substance: 8

A police investigator plays a crucial role in solving crimes by gathering evidence, conducting interviews, and analyzing information to piece together the details of criminal activity. They are responsible for following up on leads, examining crime scenes, collecting physical evidence, and ensuring that all investigative procedures comply with legal standards. Investigator Wayne Marsh often works closely with other law enforcement officers, and legal professionals to build a strong case. He also prepares detailed reports, presents findings in court, and is called upon to testify in various court proceedings. The main goal of any investigation is to determine if a crime has been committed, uncover the truth behind criminal incidents, apprehend suspects, and bring justice to victims.

School Resource Officer



SRO Terry Skelly

Officer Terry Skelly serves as the department's School Resource Officer. Terry works in all three schools serving as a liaison between the educational environment and law enforcement. SROs are trained to provide a safe and secure atmosphere for students, staff, and faculty, often by preventing and addressing issues such as bullying, substance abuse, and violence. Beyond their security role, SROs also engage in educational programs, teaching students about topics like law, safety, and conflict resolution. They are seen as mentors, offering support to students and building positive relationships within the school community. Their presence helps create a safer, more supportive learning environment.

Professional Development

Effective training in law enforcement is essential for ensuring officers are well-prepared to handle the diverse challenges they face in the field. Every law enforcement officer receives the initial basic academy training and then from there continued on the job training. Our training programs encompass both technical skills, such as firearms proficiency, crisis intervention, and traffic management, as well as interpersonal skills like communication and de-escalation techniques. Additionally, we undergo ongoing education on legal updates and ethical standards to keep officers informed on any relevant law changes. Many of our trainings are scenario-based, immersive, and realistic, fostering critical thinking and adaptability. Every officer in the department receives a minimum of four trainings a year. We strive to provide the best police services within a reasonable budget.

Professional Development

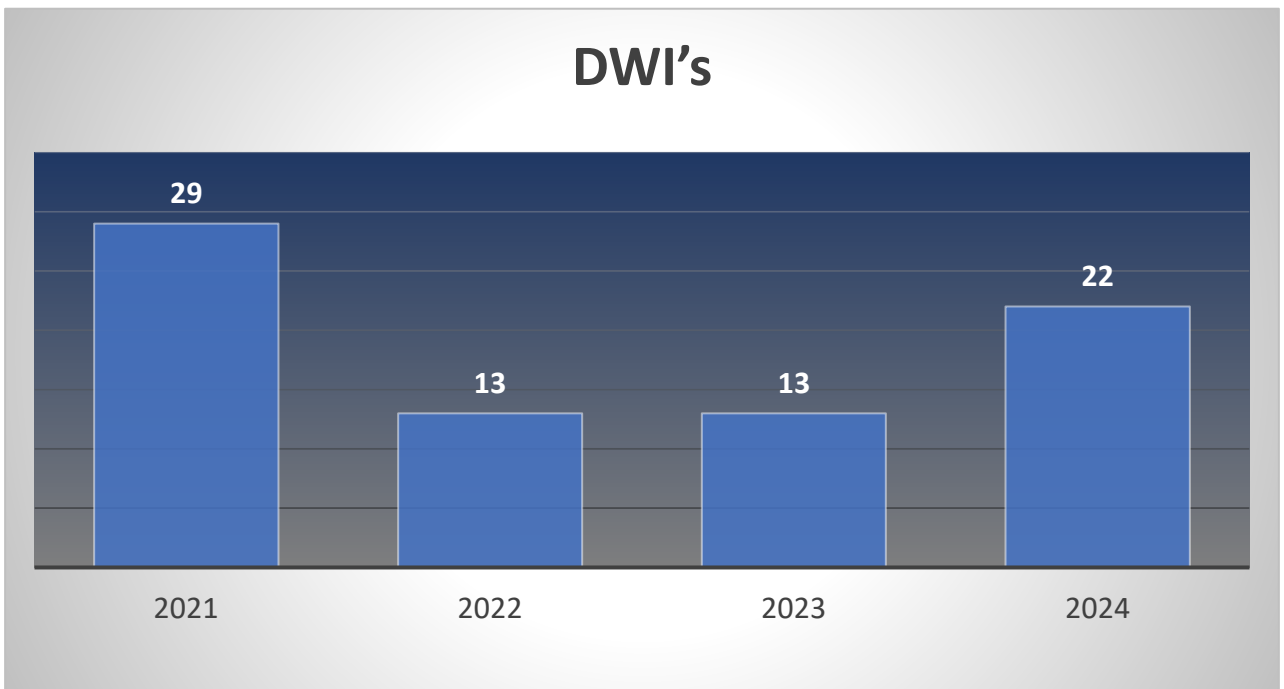


Instructors:
Dunham
Hamm
Marsh
Zebrowski
Eldridge



Stop DWI

STOP DWI (Driving While Intoxicated) enforcement refers to a series of law enforcement initiatives aimed at reducing drunk driving and its associated dangers. These efforts include targeted checkpoints, increased patrols, and public awareness campaigns designed to deter individuals from driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs. We also take part in bi-annual victim impact panels. A Victim Impact Panel (VIP) is a program where individuals affected by crimes related to impaired driving, share their personal stories with offenders. The purpose of a VIP is to give a human face to the consequences of criminal behavior, helping offenders understand the profound emotional, physical, and financial toll their actions have on victims and their families. During the panel, victims or their family members speak about how the crime has impacted their lives, offering a powerful message about responsibility, regret, and the lasting effects of their decisions. Our overall goal is to reduce the number of people driving drunk and to educate those who do about the impacts of their decisions.



Confidential Assistant/Records

Kristy Pedder serves as the department's sole confidential assistant, dispatcher, FOIL officer and records clerk. Kristy handles a range of administrative and supportive duties including:

- **Record Management:**

- Maintain and update police records, including reports, citations, warrants, arrest records, and case files.
- Ensure records are properly filed and stored, either physically or electronically, according to department protocols.
- Retrieve and provide access to records upon request, while ensuring compliance with privacy laws, FOIL law and department policies.

- **Data Entry & Filing:**

- Enter, update, and review data in the department's records management system.
- Organize and maintain both digital and physical files.
- Ensure the accuracy and completeness of records.

- **Customer Service:**

- Assist the public, officers, and other personnel in accessing records and information.
- Respond to requests for public records, maintaining confidentiality and following legal guidelines.

- **Compliance & Reporting:**

- Ensure that records are in compliance with local, state, and federal regulations.
- Prepare and compile reports as needed for various department units or government entities while ensuring timely record retention and disposal in compliance with department policies and legal requirements.

- **Communication:**

- Communicate with and dispatch police officers
- Coordinate with external agencies or other law enforcement bodies regarding the sharing of records or case information.

- **Clerical Support:**

- Perform routine clerical tasks such as answering phones and scheduling appointments.
- Handle incoming and outgoing correspondence, including discovery material for court cases and public information requests.



Hirings and Promotions



Sergeant Corey Grace

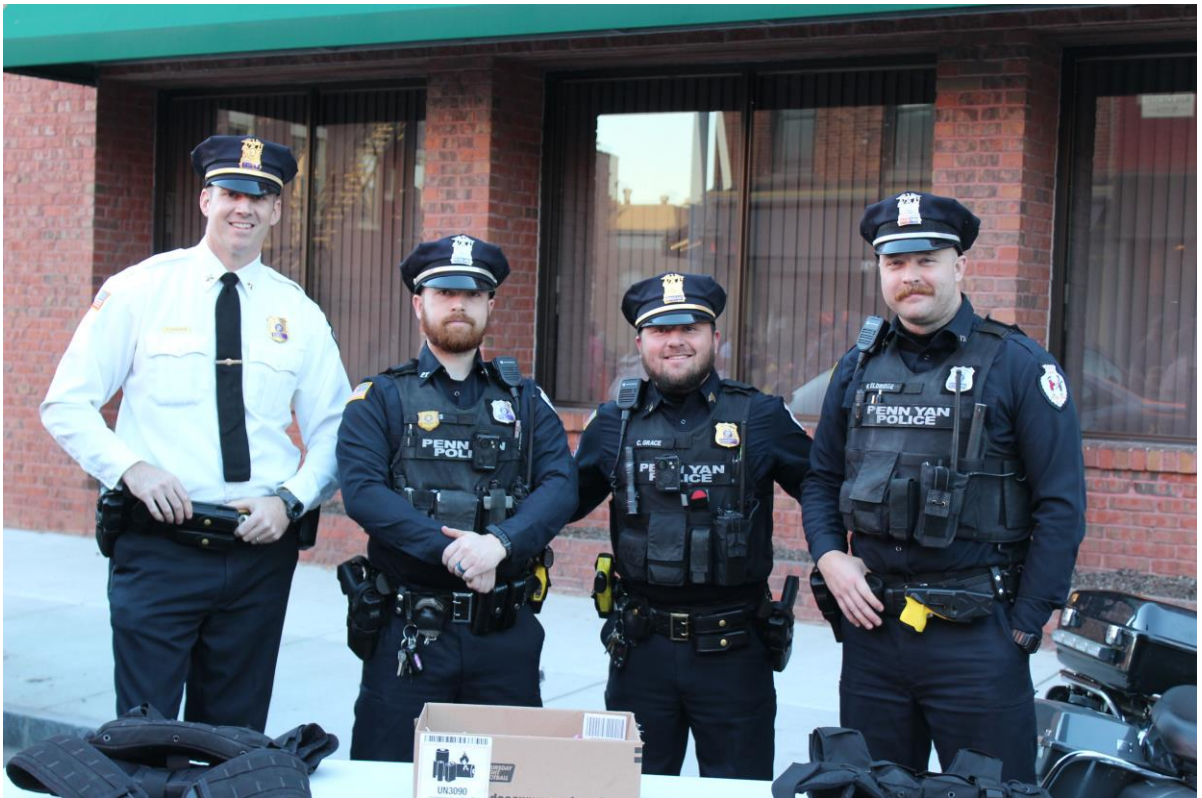
Corey Grace was promoted to sergeant in 2024. Sergeant Grace is a Penn Yan native who graduated from Penn Yan Academy in 2013. He went on to attend Finger Lakes Community College and Morrisville State College where he studied Criminal Justice. Corey was hired at the Penn Yan Police Department in 2018 after he completed his police basic training at the Finger Lakes Law Enforcement Academy in Canandaigua.

Officer Wesley Hines

The Penn Yan Police Department is proud to announce the full time hiring of Officer Wes Hines. Wes has worked for the department in a part time capacity since 2019 and has full time experience as an officer in Watkins Glen. Wes is originally from South Carolina and moved to the area after high school. Wes attended college at Genesee Community College and is a graduate of the RPTA Police Academy in Batavia. We congratulate Wes on this achievement and wish him the best.



Community Events and Outreach



Community Events and Outreach



Community Events and Outreach



In the News

Penn Yan man admits to threatening, menacing person with knife at local business

A Penn Yan man was arrested for menacing and harassment following a reported altercation in a parking lot. Erik B. Hoyt, 26, was taken into custody on October 12 after allegedly threatening a person with ... more



Two face 38 charges after multi-county crime spree across Schuyler, Steuben, and Yates

Steuben County Sheriff Jim Allard announced the arrests of Dale M. Sutton and James R. Lisefski following an extensive eight-month investigation involving multiple law enforcement agencies across four counties. The duo faces 38 charges, including ... more



6 months ago / Staff Report

Penn Yan police investigate suspected murder-suicide in village

Police are investigating a suspected murder-suicide involving a couple on Franklin Street in the Village of Penn Yan. Michael Personale and Ashley Manaco were found dead in their home, with Personale suffering multiple gunshot wounds ...



Dundee man faces serious charges for methamphetamine sales

Authorities say a Dundee man was taken into custody in Penn Yan following the sale of drugs in the village. Elwood Teeter Hilligus Jr., 47, of Dundee, was arrested Monday morning on charges of criminal ... more



Branchport man faces multiple arrests in two days: Accused of sexually assaulting victim in front of child

Police took a 38-year-old Yates County man into custody after a domestic incident where he choked a person, held them down, and then subjected them to unwanted sexual contact all in front of a child ... more



Dresden woman arrested after late-night stabbing in Penn Yan

Penn Yan Police arrested a Dresden woman after a late-night stabbing on Keuka Street. Tiffany P. Jensen, 33, is accused of stabbing the victim, resulting in serious injuries. Jensen was charged with second-degree assault, a ... more



Officer of the Year



Officer Wesley Hines

Every year members of the police department select one officer to receive the Penn Yan Police Department's Officer of the Year Award. Each member of the department votes on who they feel has exceeded the duty requirements of his or her position and has demonstrated a distinct pattern of community service coupled with professional achievement. Officers may also consider specific acts of heroism or incidents where an officer went above and beyond the call of duty. This year, I am proud to announce Officer Wesley Hines was selected by his fellow officers as the 2024 Officer of the Year.

Goals for 2025

For the upcoming year, our police department has outlined several key goals that will guide our efforts to enhance public safety, improve community relations, and support our officers in their critical roles. These goals reflect our ongoing commitment to serving and protecting the community while adapting to emerging challenges in law enforcement.

1.Enhance Community Policing and Engagement: We will strengthen our community outreach programs and continue to build on partnerships with local organizations, schools, and residents. We aim to create more opportunities for direct interaction between officers and community members to foster trust, improve communication, and address concerns before they escalate into larger issues.

2.Expand Officer Training and Professional Development: We will continue to invest in comprehensive training programs that focus on de-escalation techniques, mental health crisis intervention, and advanced investigative skills. Ensuring our officers are well-prepared for a range of situations will help improve outcomes and strengthen community trust.

3.Review Technology and Equipment: Our department will review grant opportunities and work with the board to implement necessary technology, such as body cameras, tasers and traffic/parking cameras. These tools will improve transparency, accountability, and our ability to effectively investigate and respond to incidents.

4.Support Officer Wellness and Retention: We will prioritize the mental health and overall well-being of our officers through wellness programs, stress management resources, and peer support systems. Retaining a healthy, motivated, and well-supported team is essential for maintaining a high level of service and professionalism.

5.Strengthen Collaboration with Partner Agencies: We will continue working closely with neighboring law enforcement agencies, emergency services, and local government officials to improve inter-agency cooperation, share resources, and address regional challenges collectively.

By focusing on these key goals, we aim to provide safer, more resilient communities, improve the quality of life for residents, and ensure that our officers have the tools, resources, and support they need to perform their duties effectively.



Penn Yan Police Department
111 Elm Street
Penn Yan, NY 14527