

MAPLEWOOD PUBLIC SAFETY
ANNUAL REPORT
2023



MAPLEWOOD, MINNESOTA

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Director’s Report

Calling the Maplewood Public Safety Department “our department” is important to me. We all have ownership, from non-sworn community service officers (CSO) and fire cadets to our longest-serving members.

We pride ourselves on being family-friendly and building team comradery. We support the whole person through physical and mental fitness, professional development, and leadership tools to be successful.

“Maplewood does much more when it comes to accommodating a life outside of law enforcement,” said one police officer on a recent ride-along.

With that support comes high expectations. Front-line staff have an active role and are expected to generate ideas and input for our annual strategic plans. They help design, plan, and participate in community outreach events and serve as trainers for our professional development units.

When you have an ownership stake, you tend to work toward long-term outcomes, and everyone



Brian Bierdeman
Public Safety Director

rows in the same direction. You tend to go the extra mile, building accountability and trust among peers and supervisors. Most importantly, our community benefits from a more professional and engaged public safety department. When you treat your staff with dignity, respect, and show them you care, I believe that translates to how they will treat the community.

This philosophy is paying off in other ways. While agencies across Minnesota and the nation struggle to attract and retain staff, quality professionals aspire to work at Maplewood. We're on pace to hire new officers and new fire medics. All come highly qualified and ready to serve.

We continue to build the bench through the police CSO and fire cadet programs. Both allow our department to bring in people from diverse backgrounds, providing them with hands-on, paid experience while they attend school.

Thanks to grant funding the police department added a second auto-theft detective and established a traffic safety officer. We've continued to invest in officer health and safety, upgrading gym equipment, adding a wellness room, and grant-funded bullet-resistant armor.

The police department also launched an unmanned aerial vehicle unit (learn more on Page 4). It's been a valuable resource helping us more safely search for and apprehend people wanted in shootings and other violent felonies. It's been proven to reduce use-of-force incidents and locate missing and vulnerable people.

The fire department made a significant connection with our growing Karen community by hosting a bilingual event to improve general fire prevention and safety knowledge. They teamed up with our health department to provide food trucks with a one-stop inspection ahead of the busy summer season.

In the year ahead, we'll continue preparing for our fire training facility expansion to house police-fire-ems joint training. Because this benefits more than two dozen organizations across the east metro, including Century College, we're working with local legislators to secure state bonding dollars.

We'll also look to top 2023's community outreach, including participation in more than 100 events and 3000 hours of staff time.

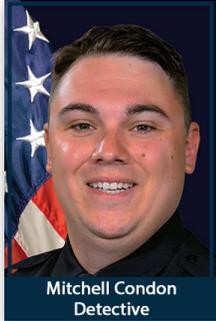
I'm proud of our department's work over the past year. We've built an organization with strong roots and support to serve our community well during day-to-day needs and critical incidents.

I continue to appreciate the city council's support and, most importantly, your support, feedback, and encouragement.



We had to get more creative and proactive about hiring and retaining talented people. Leaning on our ability to provide applicants with opportunities to work to their strengths, promote a family-first atmosphere, and cultivate strong city council, staff, and community support, we worked hard toward meeting our 2023 recruiting and hiring goals.

Promotions



New Hires



Promotions



New Hires



Successful first year for Maplewood's Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) unit

By Lt. Mike Dugas

A predator approached a Maplewood park with intentions of meeting a middle school girl he connected with through electronic media. Because of early intervention by the girl's mother, our police department deployed detectives, officers and a UAV unit to monitor the suspect at the meeting site and safely arrest him.



This is just one of many successful outcomes for Maplewood Police Department's UAV unit in 2023, its first year of operation. So far, 70 percent of operations involved locating suspects, many of them armed and wanted in homicides, shootings or other violent felonies. To date, none of the UAV apprehensions have resulted in the use of force, which has been a main thrust of the program.

UAVs allow officers to create a more coordinated, better informed plan in a variety of tense situations.

They've also been extremely valuable locating missing people or people in crisis, assisting in arson and serious or fatal crash investigations, and as a training tool for officers.

The unit has up to six FAA licensed and fully trained officers, with a goal of having one pilot available on every shift.

The state of Minnesota and City of Maplewood have put strict policies in place, that require the unit to report annually to the state about their use without a warrant and budgets. UAVs are not permitted to be weaponized or equipped with facial recognition. Departments are not permitted to randomly search or fly over areas where people would have an expectation of privacy.

Additionally, Maplewood provides an overview of each flight monthly on our website. We purchase UAVs that are available to the public, which are equipped with zoom, thermal imaging and live stream capabilities.

In Minnesota about 80 agencies report having drones. Active law enforcement UAV units in our area include the Ramsey County Sheriff's Office, Roseville Police, North St. Paul Police and Woodbury Police.

[maplewoodmn.gov/UAV](https://www.maplewoodmn.gov/UAV)

Several members of our department were awarded for their noble actions in 2023

Letter of Recognition awarded to Officers Connor Salchow, Ben Geiselhart, Joseph Pasdo, Jimmy Quirk, Amanda Weithorn for a Lifesaving response to combative suicidal patient.

Just after midnight on New Year's, officers responded to a person attempting suicide. She had cut herself multiple times.

When he went into the house, Officer Salchow saw the person in crisis being restrained by her parents. He got enough control of the situation to apply a tourniquet to the main wound. Officer Geiselhart then arrived to help apply a second tourniquet. Other arriving officers were able to apply bandages to additional cuts.

Medics arrived and officers assisted in moving the female into an ambulance and off to the hospital. Medics commended officers for their exemplary wound treatment and professionalism during this incident. The quick response, teamwork and effective medical care provided during this incident resulted in a successful outcome.

Special Commendation Medal Award to Officers Connor Salchow and Jimmy Quirk and Sergeants Joseph Demulling and Brian Tazzell. - Assist to North St. Paul Police Department.

Through quick action and teamwork, Maplewood officers safely rescued a seven-year-old boy from a potential hostage situation.

During the April 2023 incident, Maplewood Officers arrived to assist North St. Paul Police. They were responding to a man believed to have shot at his wife. At least six people in the house at the time of the shooting made it out safely, leaving the armed suspect in the basement and the boy upstairs.

Officers Connor Salchow and Jimmy Quirk and Sergeants Joseph Demulling and Brian Tazzell devised and executed a plan to enter the house and recover the child. Other Maplewood staff maintained a perimeter and assisted with Unmanned Aerial Vehicle coverage.

Police actions in this incident embody the professional demeanor expected of the department and the community.

Baby girl successfully delivered in route to the hospital

This past summer Maplewood medics responded to a young female resident who suddenly started having contractions at home. The female was unable to reach family and had no way of getting to the hospital. Maplewood Fire and EMS recognized that birth was imminent

and transported the patient to a local hospital. While on the way, medics assisted with the delivery of a healthy baby girl. Both mother and baby were transferred to a local hospital successfully. The responding Maplewood medics -- Captain Jordan Wardell and Firefighter - Paramedic Andy Bauman received a pink stork pin for their assistance delivering the baby girl.

The following members of the Maplewood Fire-EMS Department received a Lifesaving Award:



Improving fire safety and prevention in refuge communities

Diversifying our workforce and creating opportunities to engage our community have been critical to our department's success.

We expanded in two significant areas in 2023. First, the Fire-EMS Department promoted another Fire/EMS Cadet to full time Firefighter/EMT. The program gives dedicated, hardworking people a chance to learn about firefighting and emergency medicine while pursuing their studies. It's geared toward people underrepresented in the profession.

Fire Marshal Jerry Novak also led an effort to strengthen our service and bond to the Karen community, especially in the area of fire safety and prevention. For those not familiar, the Karen people started coming to Minnesota in the early 2000's to escape a civil war in Myanmar, according to the Minnesota Department of Human Services. Nearly 20,000 Karen people call Minnesota home, with most living in Ramsey County and some in rural towns such as Austin, Albert Lea and Marshall.

The department worked with the Karen Origination of Minnesota (KOM) to set up a neighborhood barbeque, as we've done in past years. This year, we added to the outreach with staff handing out fire safety sheets translated into Karen and back-to-school supplies. KOM provided a translator to help administer surveys for our staff to get a better idea of resources that would make their living spaces safer.

To further enhance the profession, Fire Marshal Novak presented the blueprint for this work with the Karen community at the annual Minnesota State Fire Chief's Conference in Duluth. Also, at the conference, Captain Brad Davison presented his work on the value of the Fire Department's Cadet program.

In addition to these efforts, Firefighter-Paramedic Ken Powers and Captain Jordan Wardell completed outside coursework to earn their Emergency Management Certificate, growing the department's Community Risk Reduction program.



Quality Assurance and Quality Improvement

A second set of eyes is always helpful when working to improve or assure quality on the job. This year our Fire-EMS department formalized this by adding a one-on-one peer review component to our Quality Assurance and Quality Improvement (QA/QI) program.

The QA/QI committee pulls five EMS patient care reports for review. The peer reviewer then sits down with each paramedic and EMT to highlight what the person is doing well and where there are opportunities to grow. These reviews have been critical to improving our quality of care.

In addition, the QA/QI program also ensures we're maximizing technology. One such component is a software called FirstWatch. It sifts through all the calls looking for a variety of data points to help us track trends and ensure procedure is being followed. A smaller subset of calls are then reviewed by our Regions Medical Directors and the Fire-EMS staff.

Our Regions Medical Directors also have active involvement in ongoing training and follow ups after critical calls. It allows our providers to ask questions and receive important feedback. All of these components help to continually move our care forward to help ensure the best outcome for our patients.

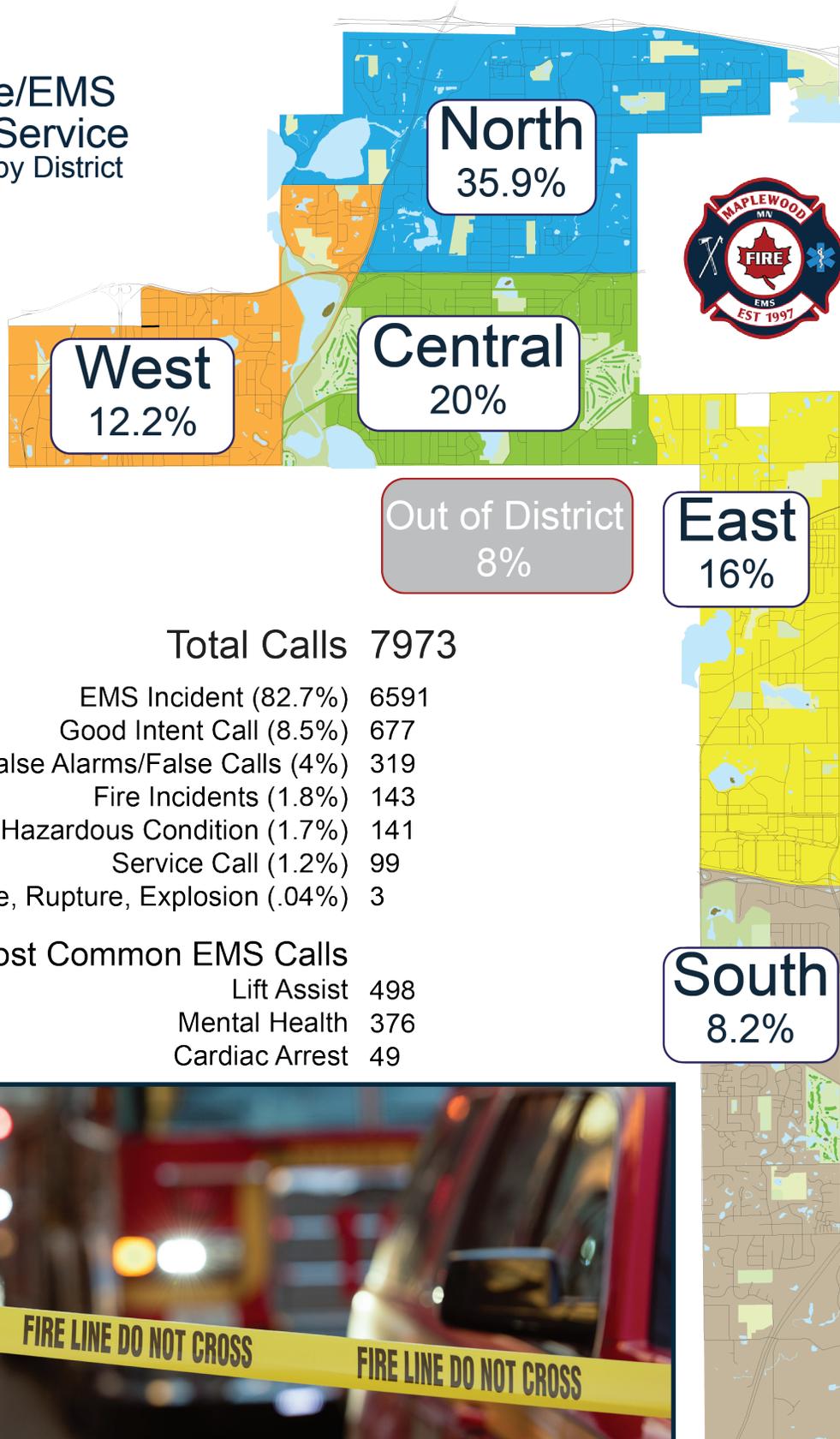


2023 Offense Stats

Percentage Change from 2022

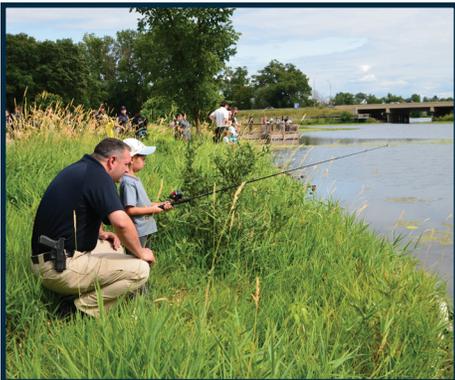
Robbery	40	↓ 13%
Aggravated Assault	89	↑ 12.7%
Burglary	130	↓ 37.8%
Larceny	639	↑ 2.4%
Theft from Auto	313	↓ 60.5%
Motor Vehicle Theft	159	↓ 51.5%
Arson	12	↑ 200%
Fraud	180	↓ 18.6%
Criminal Damage	373	↓ 57.5%
Narcotics	157	↑ 15.4%

2023 Fire/EMS Calls for Service Percentage by District



Community Outreach

More than 100 community outreach events and 3,300 hours engaging with the community in 2023



- Skating with Public Safety
- Cop on a Rooftop
- Bike Rodeo
- Touch a Truck
- Light it Up
- Putt Putt with Public Safety
- Fishing with Friends
- Celebrate Summer
- Light it Up
- National Night Out
- Neighborhood Grillouts
- Fire Department Open House
- Trunk or Treat
- Santa Parade



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