

# Annual Report

2025



**River Forest Police Department**

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## Letter from the Chief

Dear Residents and Village Leadership,

I am pleased to present the River Forest Police Department's 2025 Annual Report. Throughout the year, our staff remained dedicated to providing professional service, strengthening community partnerships, and maintaining a safe environment for all who live, work, and visit River Forest. Across our Patrol, Investigations, and Administrative Divisions, officers responded to 11,349 calls for service and completed 1,300 reports, with activity increasing during the summer and early fall months.

Traffic safety remained a central priority. Officers conducted 3,735 traffic stops, issuing a combination of citations, warnings, and compliance notices to reduce hazardous driving and improve roadway conditions. Directed Patrol missions further supported safety around schools, major corridors, and neighborhoods with documented concerns.

The department invested heavily in technology and training to enhance readiness and effectiveness. Personnel completed more than 10,700 hours of training in areas such as crisis intervention, leadership development, emergency response, and legal updates. Significant equipment upgrades, including new pole-mounted radar units, the Skydio X-10 drone, and grant-funded GPS tracking and Taser 10 systems, have strengthened both officer safety and operational capabilities.

Community engagement continued to be a hallmark of our work. Officers led school programs, safety presentations, outreach events, and numerous community initiatives. The Vacation Watch Program saw strong participation again this year, with 210 requests and over 5,400 premise checks performed, underscoring the trust residents place in our department.

Looking ahead, we will continue embracing data-driven strategies, strengthening crime prevention efforts, and deepening collaboration with residents and community partners. Our mission remains clear: to provide professional, transparent, and community focused policing that supports a safe and welcoming River Forest.

Thank you for your continued support.

Respectfully,

**James Greenwood**

Chief of Police  
River Forest Police Department



# Welcome

The Police Department traditionally delivers a wide variety of law enforcement services to the community. The delivery of services is accomplished through the following divisions: Administration, Patrol, and Investigations. These divisions are comprised of uniformed patrol, criminal investigations, traffic law enforcement, motor vehicle crash investigations, training, parking enforcement, court prosecution of criminal offenders, juvenile programs, community relations activities, crime prevention programs, and school safety programs.

The Patrol Division is the largest and most visible component of the department, consisting of 20 uniformed patrol officers, a patrol commander, three sergeants (one per shift), and three corporals (one per shift, which is included in the 20 uniformed patrol). Marked patrol vehicles are used to patrol the community, and the Patrol Division provides continuous policing to the community 24 hours a day, every day of the year. Two officers are assigned as hybrid traffic/tactical officers, who address traffic complaints and crime patterns plus works closely with the Investigations Division.

The Investigations Division consists of one detective sergeant and one detective, both serving as plain clothes investigators. The detectives provide specialized services and investigations that patrol officers cannot accomplish due to the time required to investigate complex incidents and crimes.

The Administrative Division includes the police chief, deputy chief, support services sergeant, crime prevention/school liaison officer, records supervisor, community service officer, and 2 part-time personnel. This division provides support to both patrol and investigations by developing the department's objectives, promoting community policing strategies, operating budget oversight, and making program recommendations, which are aligned with the Village's and department's goals. This division is also tasked with fiscal monitoring, oversight of personnel and benefits, records management and maintenance of the department's technical equipment, and automated traffic enforcement administration.

2025



# Mission Statement

## DEPARTMENT VALUES

### Integrity

Integrity: firm adherence to a code of moral values; behavior characterized by honesty, uprightness and sincerity. Public trust can only exist with our integrity and respect for one another. The foundation of the River Forest Police Department is the high level of integrity of its employees.

### Commitment to Employees

The River Forest Police Department recognizes that its employees are vital to the successful delivery of police services. We believe we can achieve our highest potential by actively involving our employees in solving problems and improving police services. We support an organizational climate of mutual trust and respect.

### Community Partnership

Recognizing that police agencies were established as a result of society's voluntary limitation of personal freedoms, we encourage and expect the participation of the community in facilitating solutions to problems of mutual concern. We therefore solicit and support contributions from all members of this community regardless of their race, sex, creed, national origin or social status.

### Community Sensitive Policing

Department members shall uphold laws in an ethical, impartial, courteous, and professional manner while respecting the rights and dignity of all persons. We shall strive to achieve a balance between enforcement and community needs which reflects both the spirit and the letter of the law.

### Professionalism

Recognizing the changing and diverse needs of the community, the Department promotes and encourages a policy of professional and individual excellence, which is delivered and enhanced by continuing education and training. We realize fully that the expression of ideas is meaningless unless actively practiced. The integrity and professionalism demanded of members of the River Forest Police Department shall ensure the proper, lawful, and unbiased application of police powers.

# Organizational Chart



## Organizational Structure

River Forest Police Department's organizational structure is designed to create efficiency while accomplishing the mission and goals to provide the best possible service to the public. The Chief of Police is responsible for administering and managing the River Forest Police Department.

### Patrol

The River Forest Police Department Patrol Divisions primary goal is to provide prompt, professional service while ensuring public safety and order. Patrol handles daily operations, serving residents, businesses, and visitors. To maintain 24/7 coverage, Patrol operates three, eight and one-half hour shifts, consisting of three teams, with a Sergeant, a Corporal and Patrol Officers assigned to each shift. Responsibilities include responding to calls, enforcing traffic laws, patrolling neighborhoods, investigating complaints, making arrests, managing traffic, and engaging in community outreach.



## Records

The Police Records Division ensures records are accurate, accessible, and legally compliant, supporting law enforcement and public transparency. Staff serve as the first point of contact for the public, processing reports, managing payments and fines, and handling FOIA requests and legal inquiries. Records personnel redact sensitive content from reports and media, compile monthly statistics for the department and state, and manage administrative tasks such as solicitor permits, phone requests, and walk-in assistance.



## Administration

Police Administration involves planning, directing, and coordinating the activities of police personnel to maintain order and uphold the law. Administrators oversee recruitment, departmental budgets, resource allocation, and develop policies and strategies to address emerging crime trends. As effective police leaders, Police Administration aims to uphold justice, foster accountability, ensure officer wellness, demonstrate professionalism, and build community trust.



## Detective Unit

While most calls are handled by responding officers, some require further investigation. The Detective Unit conducts in-depth criminal investigations, including interviews, evidence analysis, and case preparation for court. The department has two full-time detectives trained to handle a wide range of crimes.



## Support Services Division

The Support Services Division includes an Administrative Sergeant, School Resource Officer, and a Community Service Officer. Department vehicles and Information Technology resources are managed by the group. The School Resource Officer teaches Too Good For Drugs classes in all of the grade schools in River Forest, The Community Service Officer serves as Court Liaison Officer and is the primary asset for handling animal complaints and parking enforcement. The Traffic Analyst is also assigned to the Support Services Division.



## Overview

The River Forest Police Department’s annual review of 2025 reflects a year marked by operational challenges and strategic opportunities. The department responded to 11,379 calls for service and completed over 1,300 reports, encompassing traffic enforcement, property crimes, and public order offenses. This analysis provides a comprehensive understanding of patterns that shaped policing priorities and offers insights to guide future strategies.

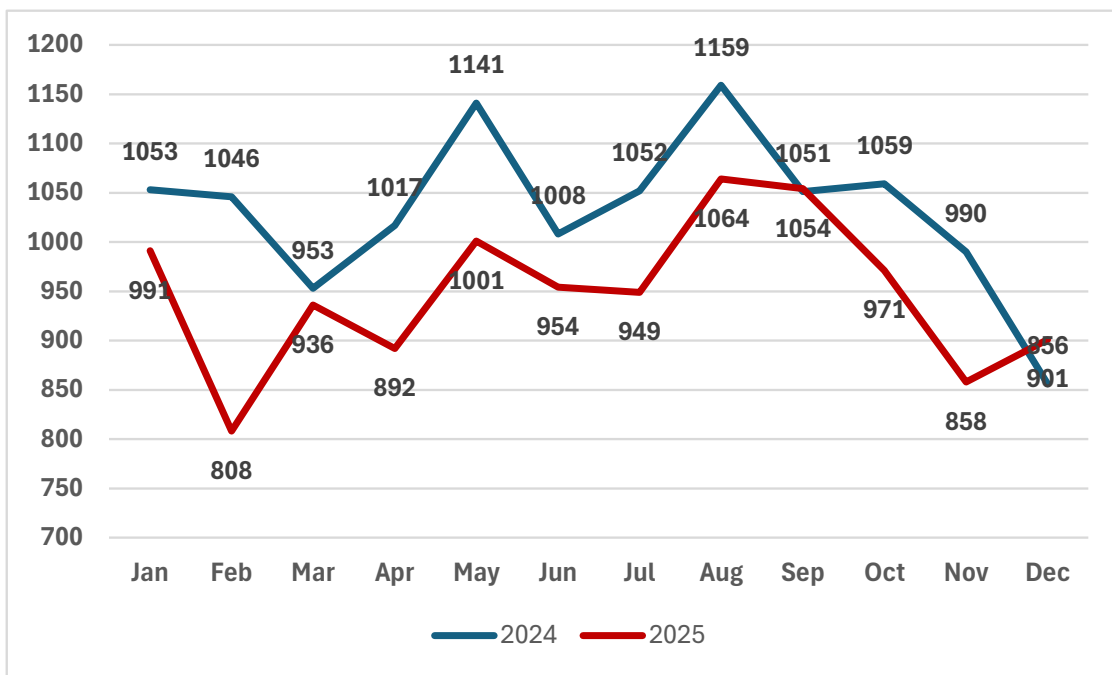
## Key Trends in Calls for Service

In 2025, the River Forest Police Department responded to 11,379 calls for service, an 8% decrease from the 12,385 calls received in 2024. Overall call activity followed familiar seasonal patterns, with the busiest period occurring in late summer. August and September remained the peak months in both years, while the lowest call volume shifted from December in 2024 to February in 2025.

Despite the overall decline, call levels throughout 2025 were more stable, with smaller swings between the busiest and quietest months compared with the previous year. All four quarters saw modest reductions, with the most notable decreases occurring in the first half of the year. Activity slowed sharply in February but began to stabilize by late summer, with September and December showing slight increases compared with the same months in 2024.

These trends suggest that while demand for police services softened somewhat in 2025, community needs remained consistent in their timing, allowing the department to maintain strong service delivery and direct resources strategically during peak periods. The continued concentration of calls in late summer will help guide staffing and operational planning as the department works to meet the community’s expectations for safety and responsiveness.

### Calls for Service-2025 vs 2024



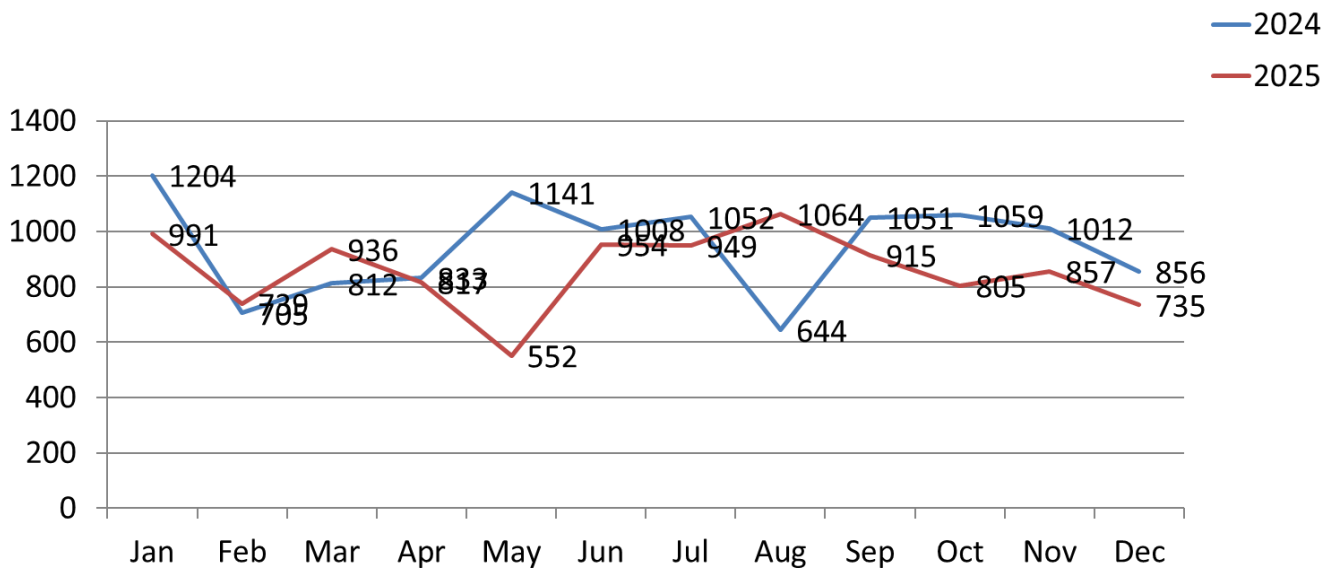
## Key Trends in Reporting

Report activity was not evenly distributed throughout the year. The summer months, particularly August, recorded the highest volume of cases, followed closely by October. This seasonal surge suggests a correlation between increased community mobility and social activity during warmer months. In contrast, November and December saw a decline in incidents, indicating cyclical trends that can inform resource planning.

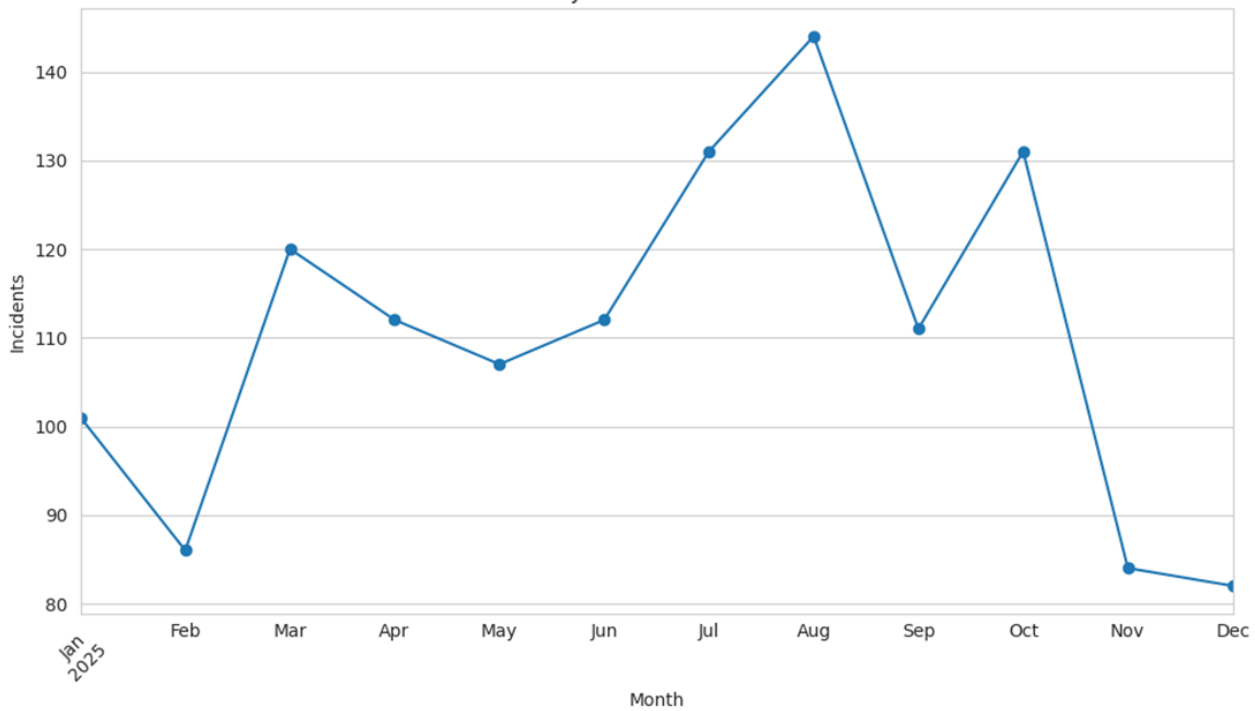
Traffic-related offenses dominated the caseload, with suspended or revoked driver's license violations accounting for nearly one-third of all incidents. Driving under the influence remained a significant concern, concentrated during evening hours and weekends. These patterns underscore the department's ongoing commitment to roadway safety and impaired driving prevention.

Property crimes, including retail theft and burglary, persisted as notable challenges. Retail theft occurred consistently across months, impacting local businesses and requiring coordinated prevention strategies. Burglary and criminal damage incidents, while less frequent, demanded investigative resources and community engagement to maintain public confidence.

2025



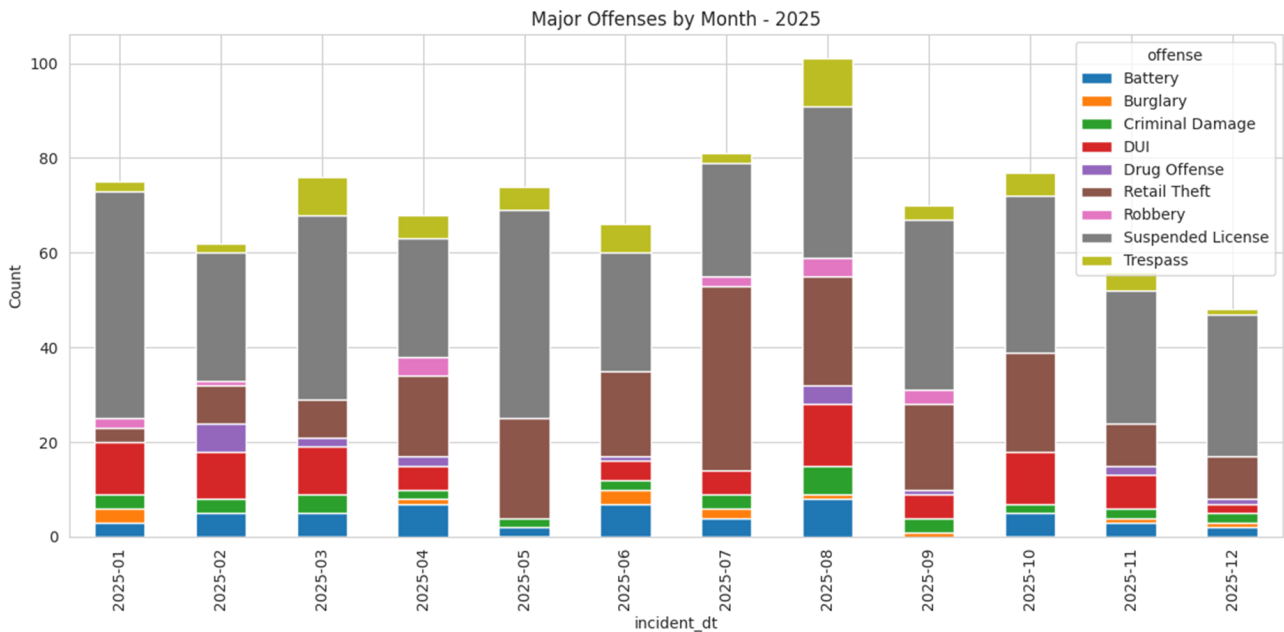
## Monthly Incident Trend-2025



The line chart shows a clear late-summer uptick peaking in August, with another high point in October, and a taper into November–December.

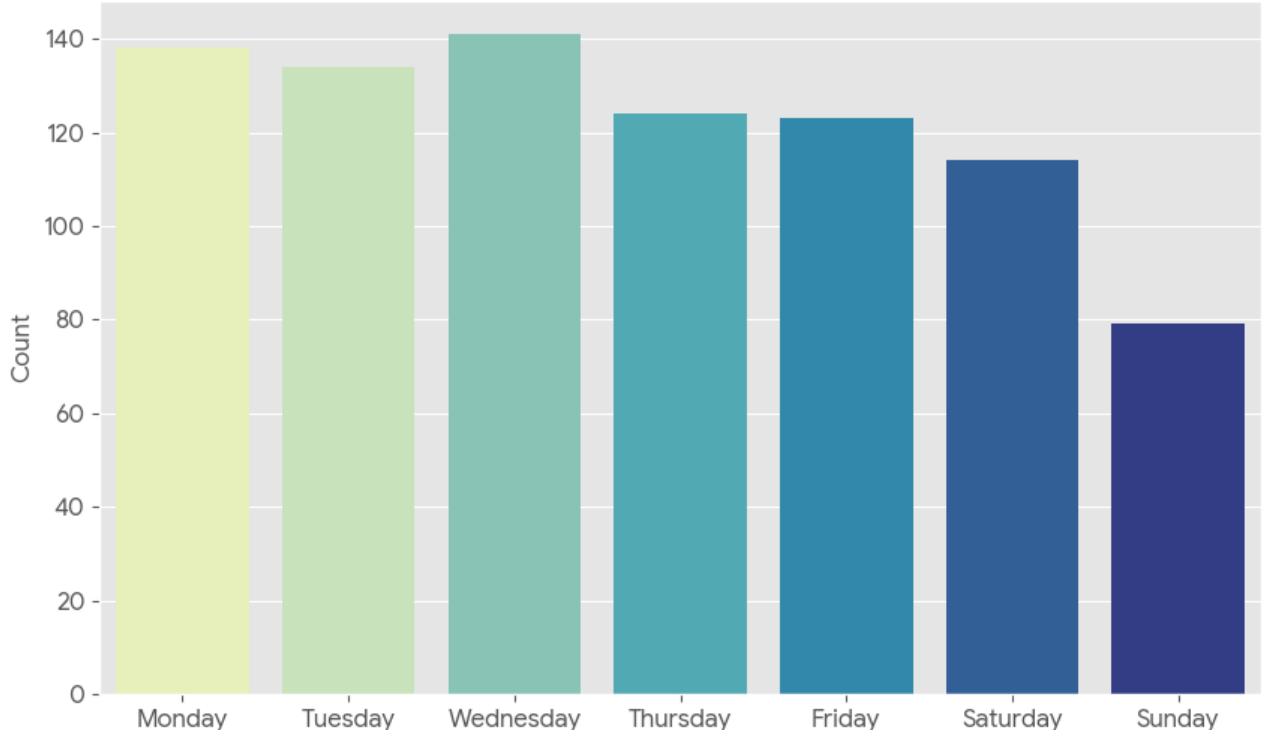
The late-summer peak suggests staffing emphasis on weekend evenings in August–October could be valuable—especially for traffic enforcement and theft prevention around commercial corridors..

## Major Incidents by Month



Retail theft is a steady contributor month-to-month; targeted store partnership strategies (e.g., coordinated reporting, camera coverage, offender interdiction windows) may help flatten the curve.

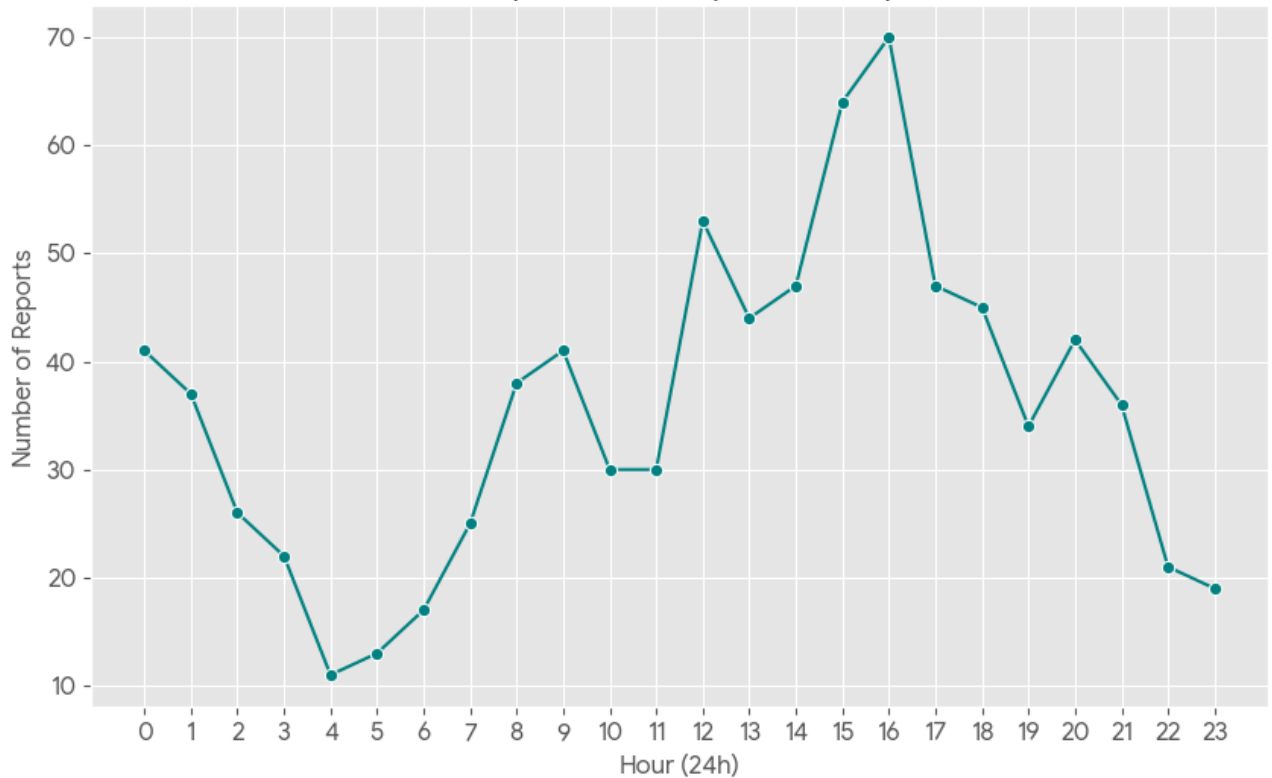
### Incidents by Day of Week



Shows the busiest days for generating unique reports.

### Incidents by Hour of Day

Illustrates the peak times for incident reporting throughout a 24-hour period.



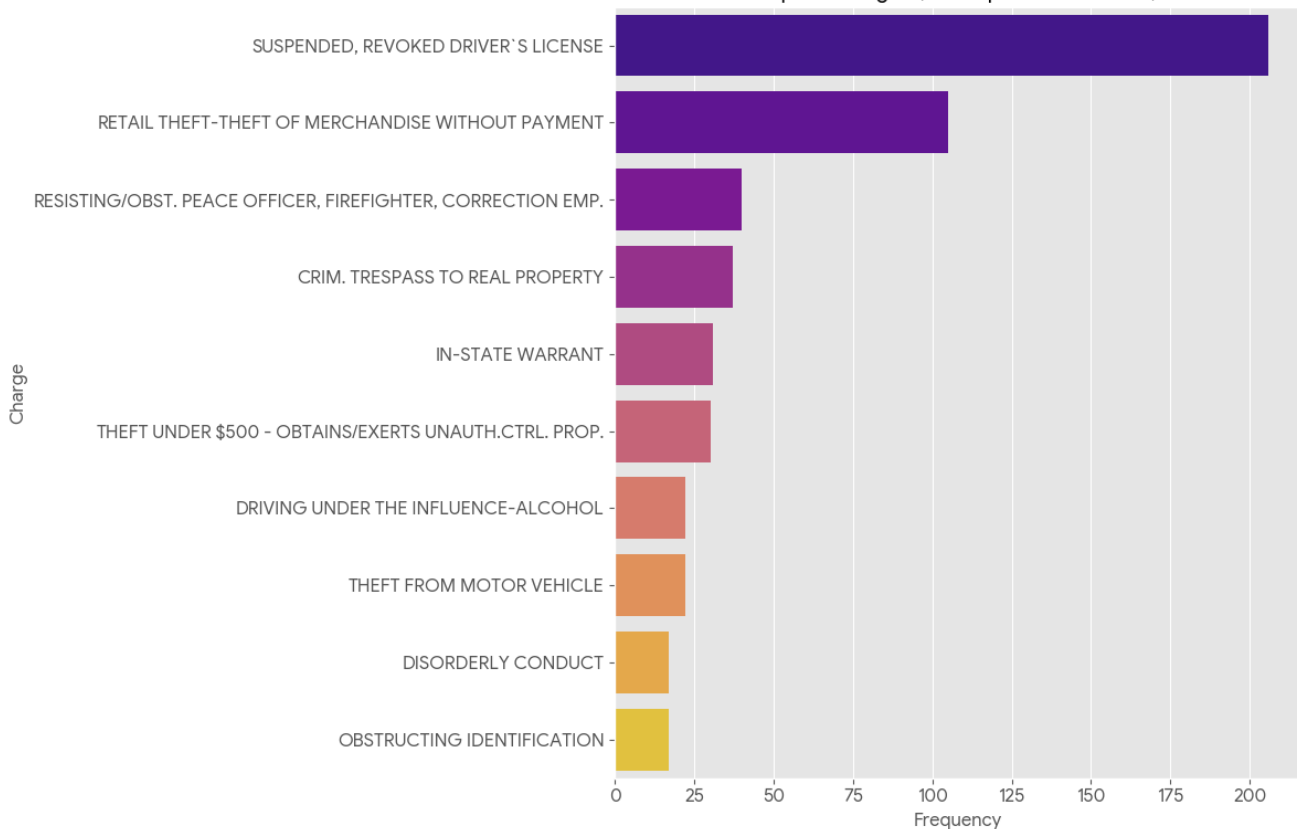
## Key Trends-Arrests

Traffic-related offenses dominated the caseload, with suspended or revoked driver's license violations accounting for nearly one-third of all incidents. Driving under the influence remained a significant concern, concentrated during evening hours and weekends. These patterns underscore the department's ongoing commitment to roadway safety and impaired driving prevention.

Traffic Enforcement: "Suspended and Revoked Driver's License" remains the primary activity, accounting for 206 unique incidents.

Retail Theft: stays consistent at 105 unique incidents.

Public Order & Obstruction: "Resisting/Obstructing a Peace Officer" (40) and "Criminal Trespass" (37) are significant contributors to the unique case count.



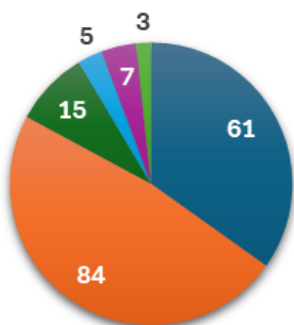
# Group A Offense Report

2025

Offense	Reported in 2025	Reported in 2024	Percent Change	Offenses Cleared	Percent Cleared	Percent Of Category	Rate Per 100,000*
Murder	0	0	NA	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00
Negligent Manslaughter	0	0	NA	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00
Justifiable Homicide	0	0	NA	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00
Non-consensual Sex Offenses:							
Rape	4	0	NA	0	0.00%	5.97%	36.1
Sodomy	0	0	NA	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00
Sexual Assault with Object	0	0	NA	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00
Fondling	1	0	NA	1	100.00%	1.49%	9.03
Aggravated Assault	4	5	-20.00%	2	50.00%	5.97%	36.1
Simple Assault	34	42	-19.05%	26	76.47%	50.75%	306.86
Intimidation	24	27	-11.11%	17	70.83%	35.82%	216.61
Kidnapping/Abduction	0	0	NA	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00
Consensual Sex Offenses:							
Incest	0	0	NA	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00
Statutory Rape	0	0	NA	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00
Human Trafficking, Commercial Sex Acts	0	0	NA	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00
Human Trafficking, Involuntary Servitude	0	0	NA	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00
<b>Crimes Against Persons Total</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>-9.46%</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>68.66%</b>	<b>18.77%</b>	<b>604.69</b>
Robbery	6	4	50.00%	4	66.67%	2.21%	54.15
Burglary/Breaking & Entering	10	65	-84.62%	4	40.00%	3.68%	90.25
Larceny/Theft Offenses	175	206	-15.05%	94	53.71%	64.34%	1579.42
Motor Vehicle Theft	3	7	-57.14%	0	0.00%	1.10%	27.08
Arson	1	0	NA	0	0.00%	0.37%	9.03
Destruction Of Property	31	53	-41.51%	7	22.58%	11.40%	279.78
Counterfeiting/Forgery	1	6	-83.33%	1	100.00%	0.37%	9.03
Fraud Offense	37	47	-21.28%	20	54.05%	13.60%	333.94
Embezzlement	0	0	NA	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00
Extortion/Blackmail	0	0	NA	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00
Bribery	0	0	NA	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00
Stolen Property Offenses	8	9	-11.11%	6	75.00%	2.94%	72.2
<b>Crimes Against Property Total</b>	<b>272</b>	<b>397</b>	<b>-31.49%</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>76.19%</b>	<b>2454.87</b>
Drug/Narcotic Violations	9	15	-40.00%	7	77.78%	50.00%	81.23
Drug Equipment Violations	3	2	50.00%	3	100.00%	16.67%	27.08
Gambling Offenses	0	0	NA	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00
Pornography/Obscene Material	1	1	0.00%	0	0.00%	5.56%	9.03
Prostitution	0	0	NA	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00
Weapons Law Violation	3	5	-40.00%	3	100.00%	16.67%	27.08
Animal Cruelty	2	0	NA	1	50.00%	11.11%	18.05
<b>Crimes Against Society Total</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>-21.74%</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>77.78%</b>	<b>5.04%</b>	<b>162.45</b>
<b>Total Group "A" Offenses</b>	<b>357</b>	<b>494</b>	<b>-27.73%</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>54.9%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>3222.02</b>

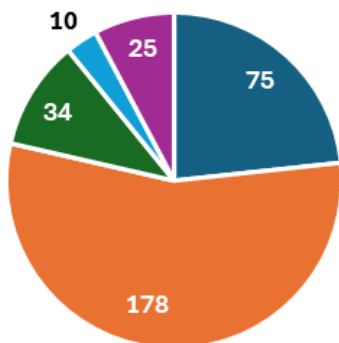
## Arrest Detail

### Group A Offenses-Arrest Count



- Adult On-View Arrest
- Adult Taken Into Custody
- Juvenile Summoned/Cited
- Adult Summoned/Cited
- Juvenile On-View Arrest
- Juvenile Taken Into Custody

### Group B Offenses-Arrest Count



- Adult On-View Arrest
- Adult Taken Into Custody
- Juvenile Summoned/Cited
- Adult Summoned/Cited
- Juvenile On-View Arrest

Group "A"	Adult	Juvenile	Unknown	Total Arrests
Murder	1	0	0	1
Negligent Manslaughter	0	0	0	0
Justifiable Homicide	0	0	0	0
Rape	1	0	0	1
Robbery	8	2	0	10
Aggravated Assault	3	0	0	3
Burglary	3	0	0	3
Larceny	85	5	0	90
Motor Vehicle Theft	0	0	0	0
Arson	0	0	0	0
Simple Assault	18	1	0	19
Intimidation	12	1	0	13
Bribery	0	0	0	0
Counterfeiting/Forgery	1	0	0	1
Vandalism	1	1	0	2
Drug/Narcotic Violations	4	2	0	6
Drug Equipment Violations	1	0	0	1
Embezzlement	0	0	0	0
Extortion/Blackmail	0	0	0	0
Fraud	11	0	0	11
Gambling	0	0	0	0
Kidnapping	0	0	0	0
Pornography	0	0	0	0
Prostitution	0	0	0	0
Sodomy	0	0	0	0
Sexual Assault w/Object	0	0	0	0
Fondling	0	0	0	0
Incest	0	0	0	0
Statutory Rape	0	0	0	0
Stolen Property	4	0	0	4
Weapons Law Violations	3	0	0	3
Human Trafficking, Commercial Sex Acts	0	0	0	0
Human Trafficking, Involuntary Servitude	0	0	0	0
Animal Cruelty	1	0	0	1
<b>Total Group A Arrests</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>169</b>
<b>Group "B" Arrests</b>				
Bad Checks	0	0	0	0
Curfew/Vagrancy	0	13	0	13
Disorderly Conduct	10	17	0	27
DUI	31	0	0	31
Drunkenness	0	0	0	0
Family Offenses-nonviolent	0	0	0	0
Liquor Law Violations	8	2	0	10
Peeping Tom	0	0	0	0
Runaways	0	0	0	0
Trespass	10	0	0	10
All Other Offenses	228	3	0	231
<b>Total Group B Arrests</b>	<b>287</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>322</b>
<b>Total Arrests</b>	<b>444</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>491</b>

2025

## Traffic Enforcement

### Traffic Enforcement Summary

In 2025, the River Forest Police Department continued its commitment to roadway safety through consistent and proactive traffic enforcement. Throughout the year, officers conducted 3,735 traffic stops, resulting in a balanced mix of enforcement and education. Of these stops, officers issued 3,088 state citations, addressing violations that presented clear safety concerns such as speeding, distracted driving, and other hazardous behaviors.

In addition to citations, officers provided 647 warnings, emphasizing the department's focus on education and voluntary compliance when appropriate. Officers also issued 698 compliance notices, supporting efforts to correct equipment issues or other non-hazardous violations without formal penalties. This combination of citations, warnings, and compliance notices reflects the department's strategy of maintaining public safety while encouraging responsible driving habits within the community.

Overall, the 2025 traffic enforcement totals demonstrate the River Forest Police Department's ongoing dedication to reducing traffic risks and promoting safe travel throughout the Village.

## TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT SUMMARY – 2025



Traffic enforcement totals for  
River Forest Police in 2025.

## Directed Patrol-Traffic Enforcement Missions

In 2025, the River Forest Police Department continued its Directed Patrol program to improve traffic safety and respond to community concerns. Officers focused on problem locations identified through resident feedback and traffic data, as well as areas with heavy school day activity. Over the year, officers documented 1,504 verified traffic citations and 459 warnings, reflecting the program’s emphasis on both enforcement and driver education. Activity increased during late summer and fall when school resumed and traffic volumes rose, creating the highest risk conditions for pedestrians and drivers. Major corridors such as Chicago Avenue, North Avenue, Lake Street, and Harlem Avenue received the most attention, as these areas consistently showed higher levels of speeding and compliance issues. School zone patrols remained a central part of the program, with officers frequently using warnings to encourage safe behavior during pick-up and drop-off periods. Directed Patrols also operated during late-night and weekend hours to address suspended drivers, impaired-driving indicators, and other high-risk behaviors that contribute to serious crashes. Throughout the year, a dedicated group of officers carried out these missions, maintaining a strong safety presence and helping reduce hazardous driving across the community. The 2025 results highlight a data-driven, proactive approach that helps keep River Forest safe for residents, students, cyclists, and all who travel through the village.

# DIRECTED PATROL PROGRAM 2025

Traffic enforcement by the River Forest Police Department

**1,504**  
TRAFFIC  
CITATIONS



**459**  
WARNINGS

High-visibility enforcement on major corridors  
Suspended and impaired driver interdictions

Focus corridors: Chicago Ave, North Ave, Lake St,  
Harlem Ave

# Implementation of Analysis and Forecasting

## Enforcement Priorities

Temporal analysis revealed that incidents were most likely to occur during late afternoon and nighttime hours, particularly on Fridays and Saturdays. This concentration of activity provides actionable intelligence for optimizing patrol schedules and deploying resources during high-risk periods. Arrest data indicates that approximately 37 percent of cases resulted in custodial action, while the remainder were documented as reports or logs, reflecting a balanced approach between enforcement and documentation.

## Community Initiatives

The department's response to these trends emphasizes collaboration with residents and businesses. Efforts to mitigate retail theft include partnerships with commercial establishments for improved surveillance and rapid reporting protocols. Traffic safety campaigns aim to reduce violations through education and enforcement, while DUI prevention strategies focus on targeted patrols during peak hours. These initiatives reinforce the department's commitment to proactive policing and community trust.

## Strategic Outlook

Looking ahead, the insights gained from 2025 will inform a data-driven approach to policing. Priorities include enhancing traffic enforcement during high-risk periods, strengthening property crime prevention through community partnerships, and leveraging analytics to anticipate emerging trends. By aligning resources with evidence-based strategies, the River Forest Police Department will continue to uphold its mission of maintaining a safe and welcoming environment for all residents and visitors.

## Facility and Technology Investments

In 2025, the Department made strides to update and enhance our facilities, technology and services. A summary of these improvements is captured here.

### Facility Improvement-Women's Locker Room

The Village Hall and Police Department opened in 1998. In 2025, the focus was on renovation of the Women's Locker Room. A committee was formed and various elements of the project were selected by the committee to provide a fresh and inviting area for personnel.

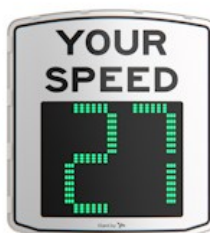
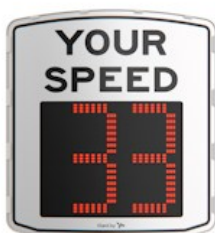


# Facility and Technology Investments

## Technology Improvements

### Pole Mounted Radar Units

The Village purchased replacement equipment for Pole Mounted Radar Units. The five (5) new units are used as a solution for traffic calming in residential neighborhoods, park areas, school zones, business districts, financial districts, and any location where vehicular, pedestrian, and bicyclist traffic is intermingled. These highly visible signs are strategically designed to get drivers' attention and provide an immediate reminder to slow down. These signs act as a 24- hour a day force multiplier to police patrol units and can be used to address/monitor citizen-driven complaints.



### Unmanned Aerial System

The new Skydio X-10 was added this year to replace the original device purchased in 2021. The Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) has on-board, AI-powered obstacle avoidance that will allow officers to search at low altitudes in remote, complex environments without the fear of crashing. The UAS provides the highest quality video and images to spot life-saving details, safely. Any responder can be flight-enabled with just a few hours of training.

The UAS can capture images and videos with both color and thermal cameras to spot missing persons in dense forests or expansive terrain. The UAS can cover wide areas with FLIR and thermal cameras, get close to ascertain your subject's well-being and ensure an adequate rescue response. The UAS' foldable, durable design makes aerial intelligence accessible anywhere so officers are prepared for any mission. The UAS allows for streamed real-time video to coordinate a response between a field team, dispatch, and hazmat. The streaming service allows officers to give everyone a common operating view and make better, faster decisions.

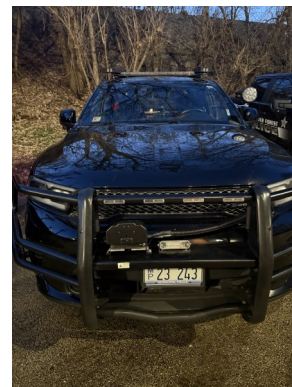


# Facility and Technology Investments

## Technology Improvements-Grant Funded

### StarChase

The Police Department was awarded \$40,000 in funding from the Illinois Attorney General's Organized Retail Crime Grant. The funding was specified for purchase of StarChase Guardian VX Vehicle-Mounted GPS Launcher Systems. The StarChase Guardian VX system provides a safer, more controlled alternative by enabling officers to deploy a GPS tag onto a suspect vehicle, allowing real-time tracking without the need for a high-speed pursuit. The Guardian VX integrates with existing fleet systems and offers live tracking capabilities through a secure monitoring platform. This technology supports the department's commitment to safe and effective pursuit management, aligning with best practices and national standards for reducing risk during vehicle chases.



### Axon Taser 10

The Police Department was awarded \$21,600 in funding from the Illinois Law Enforcement Alarm System (ILEAS) for the purchase of new TASER 10 Devices. The award allowed the Department to add six (6) additional devices for use by personnel. The Taser 10 is Axon's most advanced model, offering enhanced reliability, improved effectiveness, and significant technological upgrades. The addition of these devices will equip both Patrol and Support divisions with modern, consistent tools for deployment. The Taser 10 platform also provides improved evidence capture and reporting features, enhancing policy development, training practices, and overall transparency. The device's improved performance contributes to greater safety for both officers and the public. The Village's insurance carrier, IRMA, supports the use of Tasers due to their demonstrated ability to reduce injury and liability risk.



## Specialty Positions

In addition to the traditional patrol and investigative functions of a suburban law enforcement agency, our department is also able to provide training and opportunities in several areas including:

Firearms Instructor	Evidence Technician
Armorer	Field Training Officer
Bicycle Officer	Rifle Instructor
Breath Alcohol Operator	Hostage Negotiations
Defensive Tactics Instructor	Juvenile Officer
Child Passenger Safety Technician	Lead Homicide Investigator
Crisis Intervention Team	Less Lethal Instructor
School Resource Officer	NARCAN Instructor
Elderly Services Officer	Peer Support
Narcotics Investigator	Rapid Deployment Instructor
Shield Instructor	Truck Enforcement
Honor Guard	Drone Pilot



## Task Force Assignments

Officers are also assigned to task forces throughout the region, including:

- Northern Illinois Police Alarm System (NIPAS) Mobile Field Force
- Illinois Law Enforcement Alarm System (ILEAS)
- West Suburban Drug and Gang Initiative (WEDGE)
- West Suburban Major Crimes Task Force (WESTAF) Investigations Team
- West Suburban Major Crimes Task Force (WESTAF) Forensics Team
- West Suburban Major Crimes Task Force (WESTAF) Major Crash Team



## Training

In 2025, the River Forest Police Department completed a total of 1,029 training courses, reflecting the department's continued commitment to professional development and service excellence. These courses accounted for 10,749.25 total training hours, covering a wide range of law enforcement competencies. This is an average of over 350 hours per officer. Of these, 1,266 hours were dedicated specifically to critical areas such as procedural justice, community policing, crisis intervention, medical response, duty to intervene, and use of force, demonstrating the department's ongoing focus on accountability, preparedness, and community-centered policing.

### Police Academy

The Police Department is proud to announce the graduation of Officers Jean-Pierre Bourdeau, Andrew Richter, Xavier Saldana, Juan Acevedo, Andrew Cassin, Luke Thomas, and Carlos Trejo from the Cook County Law Enforcement Police Academy in 2025. Over the course of an intensive 16-week program, the officers received comprehensive training in law enforcement practices and procedures. Following graduation, each officer entered the Department's Field Training and Evaluation Program, where they complete fourteen weeks of supervised, on-the-job training with experienced Field Training Officers. The Department congratulates these Officers and wishes them success as they begin their careers in River Forest.



## Training (continued)

### Northwestern University School of Police Staff and Command

The Department proudly congratulated Sergeants Glen Czernik and Michael B. Fries on their successful completion of the School of Police Staff and Command at Northwestern University in 2025. This intensive 10-week program focuses on leadership, management, and organizational improvement within law enforcement agencies. Sergeant Czernik's and Fries' achievement reflected the Department's ongoing commitment to professional growth, effective leadership, and enhanced service to the River Forest community.



### In-Service Training

In 2025, River Forest Police Department personnel completed a broad range of in-service training designed to maintain high professional standards and ensure readiness for evolving community needs. Training included Crisis Intervention (CIT) updates, Use of Force and Defensive Tactics, Rapid Deployment training, and both firearms qualification and scenario-based firearms instruction. Officers also completed Taser and less-lethal refresher training along with legal updates covering current case law and statutory changes.

Additional coursework focused on trauma-informed response, mental-health-related calls, procedural justice, and related topics. Lifesaving skills were reinforced through CPR, AED, and Stop the Bleed certification. Officers also participated in Emergency Vehicle Operations (EVOC), evidence handling and report-writing refreshers, and updated training related to domestic violence and juvenile law.

These training efforts ensured that personnel remained prepared, skilled, and aligned with best practices in modern policing.

2025

## Awards

In 2025, the River Forest Police Department recognized 48 outstanding achievements across the organization. Awards highlighted exceptional investigative work, lifesaving actions, proactive policing, and strong teamwork. Officers received Commendations, Honorable Mentions, Letters of Recognition, Unit Citations, and Officer of the Year nominations, reflecting a wide range of contributions.

Several complex cases, including armed robberies, shootings, burglaries, a stabbing, and major narcotics arrests, resulted in multi-officer recognition due to coordinated investigative efforts, effective use of technology such as ALPR and video systems, and successful suspect apprehensions. Lifesaving interventions, including CPR and critical first aid, were also prominently acknowledged.

Recognition peaked in February, January, and June, driven by major incidents requiring extensive collaboration. Multiple officers, including Zermeno, Labriola, Niemann, Dosen, Cassidy, Mika, Lenz, and Gonzalez, were recognized several times for their sustained excellence and impact. Overall, the awards demonstrate a year marked by professionalism, initiative, and dedication to community safety.

### Celebrating Officer Lissette Barcenas!



We were thrilled to announce that Officer Lissette Barcenas was nominated by a WGN viewer to be featured on "Spotlight Chicago" on July 22, 2025. This was a first-of-its-kind nomination and award for a member of our Police Department.

Lissette's dedication to our community is truly inspiring. She recently rescued and adopted an abandoned dog, spends time with an elderly lady who has no family nearby, and shows incredible kindness to the homeless by buying them lunch and treating them with respect. Her efforts have not gone unnoticed, and she is loved by all. In honor of Lissette's outstanding service, Mancini Law Group made a \$1000 donation to The 100 Club of Chicago in her name.

## AWARDS SUMMARY – 2025

# 48

### AWARDS PRESENTED

COMMENDATIONS • HONORABLE MENTIONS • LETTERS OF RECOGNITION  
UNIT CITATIONS • OFFICER OF THE YEAR NOMINATIONS

Awards recognized exceptional investigations,  
lifesaving actions, proactive policing, and  
teamwork in complex cases.

## Community Outreach

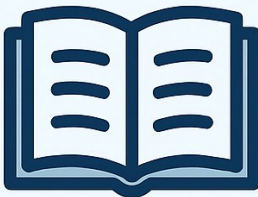
In 2025, the department delivered a strong year of community education and safety engagement. The *Too Good For Drugs* program reached students through 46 classroom sessions, reinforcing healthy choices and decision-making skills. Officers also conducted 85 River Forest Community Safety presentations, offering residents practical guidance on personal and community safety.

Beyond these core programs, staff participated in nine additional events, including bike safety sessions, parent cybersafety education, campus safety awareness, staff trainings, and school presentations. These partnerships strengthened our connection with local schools, universities, and community organizations.

Together, these efforts reflect our continued commitment to prevention, education, and collaboration across River Forest.

2025

### 2025 PROGRAM SUMMARY



TOO  
GOOD  
FOR  
DRUGS

46

Classes



RIVER  
FOREST  
COMMUNITY  
SAFETY

85

Presentations



ADDITIONAL  
EVENTS

9

Events

## Community Engagement

Throughout 2025, the River Forest Police Department remained deeply connected to the community through a wide range of outreach events, collaborations, and service oriented activities. Officers supported Special Olympics of Illinois initiatives, including Cop on a Rooftop and the Torch Run, while also participating in community traditions such as the Celebrating Seniors Breakfast, the River Forest Memorial Day Parade, and the Pride Flag Raising Ceremony.

The department continued its strong partnerships with local schools and universities by attending the Concordia University Early Childhood Touch a Truck Event, hosting the Junior Citizen Police Academy, supporting the Lincoln School 5K, and participating in Tour de Proviso. Officers also took part in Brookfield Zoo First Responder Day, DuPage Safety Saturday, the River Forest Fire Department Open House, and Seat-Check Saturday, all aimed at promoting safety and strengthening public engagement.

Additional community-centered activities included the River Forest Bike Exchange, LemonAid fundraiser, community Tree Decorating, and the annual Shop with a Cop event, providing meaningful support to families during the holiday season.

Collectively, these events highlight the department’s strong, ongoing commitment to visibility, partnership, and positive engagement throughout River Forest.



## Vacation Watch Program

The Village of River Forest offers a long-standing Vacation Watch Program designed to help residents protect their homes while they are away. This free service allows residents to notify the River Forest Police Department of their travel plans so officers can conduct periodic exterior checks of the property. These routine patrols enhance neighborhood safety, deter criminal activity, and provide residents with added peace of mind during vacations or extended absences.

Residents may conveniently submit Vacation Watch requests online through the Village website at [vrf.us](http://vrf.us). Once a request is entered, the home is added to the department's watch list for the specified dates. Throughout the watch period, officers document each premise check, including the date, time, and which officer conducted the inspection. These checks typically involve visual observations of the exterior, ensuring that doors and windows appear secure, mail or packages are not accumulating, and that there are no signs of suspicious activity.

The program also helps strengthen community-oriented policing by encouraging proactive communication between residents and the police department. By sharing travel dates and emergency contact information, residents help officers respond more effectively in the event of any abnormalities found during a check.

In 2025, the program saw 210 individual Vacation Watch requests, with officers completing over 5,400 documented premise checks throughout the year. These numbers reflect both the popularity of the program and the department's ongoing commitment to maintaining a safe, well-monitored residential environment. Regular participation by residents, combined with consistent officer attention, continues to make the Vacation Watch Program a valuable public safety resource within the Village of River Forest.

## VACATION WATCH PROGRAM-2025

**210**  
TOTAL  
REQUESTS

**5,433**  
TOTAL  
OFFICER CHECKS

**25.9**  
AVERAGE CHECKS  
PER REQUEST



A free service to help safeguard homes while residents are away. Submit a request online at [vrf.us](http://vrf.us).

2025

## Conclusion

The River Forest Police Department's accomplishments in 2025 reflect a year of meaningful progress, strengthened partnerships, and continued dedication to public safety. Through more than 1,300 incident responses, focused traffic safety efforts, and targeted patrol strategies, the department worked diligently to support a secure environment for everyone in the community. Investments in training and technology, including enhanced radar systems, updated UAS capabilities, GPS tracking tools, and modern less-lethal equipment, further improved the department's readiness and effectiveness.

Equally important was the department's strong commitment to community engagement. From school-based programs and safety presentations to outreach events and the highly utilized Vacation Watch Program, the department remained visible, accessible, and connected to residents throughout the year.

As we move forward, the department remains committed to data-driven policing, proactive crime prevention, and ongoing collaboration with the residents and partners who help make River Forest a safe and welcoming community. Thank you for your trust, support, and continued partnership.





# Annual Report

2025



**River Forest Police Department**