



# BIRCHWOOD

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | JUNE 2024



## BUILDING A WELLNESS PROGRAM

The Washington County Sheriff's Office has launched two in-house programs, one building on another, to support wellness and encourage mental health awareness among all its employees. Check-In from the Neck-Up launched in fall 2023 to provide employees annual one-on-one sessions with Ridgeway and Associates clinicians, who work exclusively with law enforcement.

Growing out of the yearly sessions, the new In-House Clinician Program launched in early May. This program is designed to provide easily accessible, continuous and personalized support for all law enforcement, correctional officers and emergency telecommunicators. These dedicated clinicians will be on-site at the Washington County Government Center for approximately 18 hours a week on a rotating basis, ensuring that support is readily available when it's needed most.

Together, these programs are aimed at building strong, resilient employees, from the day they sign on through the duration of their career by providing training, connecting them with resources, and supporting them throughout their time as part of the team. These programs complement a peer support program, a wellness steering committee, a wellness app, and an in-house therapy dog, all part of the Sheriff's Office commitment to ongoing wellness.

NUMBER OF  
INCIDENTS

10

TRAFFIC  
STOPS

5

## WC24022438 NOISE COMPLAINT

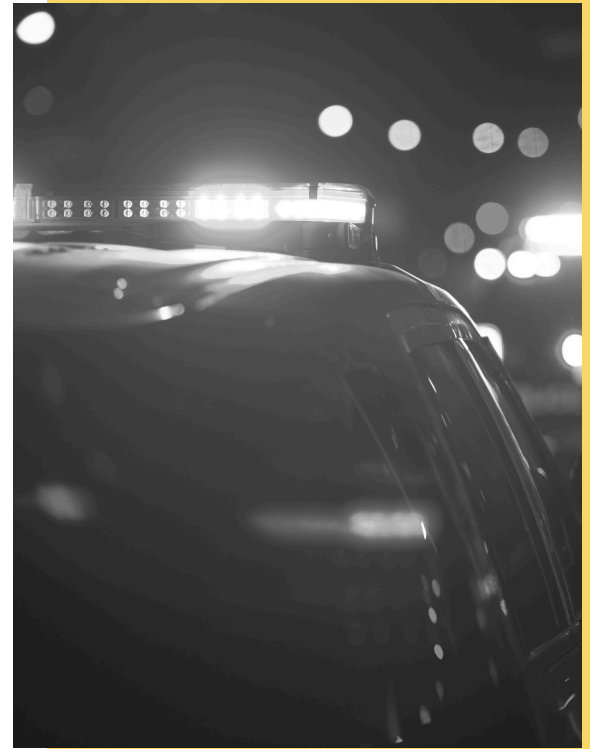
6XX WILDWOOD AVENUE

At 5:25pm on May 5, a deputy responded to a noise complaint coming from a local restaurant. Upon arrival, the deputy saw that it was a Cinco de Mayo festival.

## WC24022565 TRAFFIC COMPLAINT

CEDAR STREET & BIRCHWOOD AVENUE

At 12:34pm on May 6, a deputy spoke with a caller who reported seeing a black SUV run the stop sign at Birchwood Avenue and Oakridge Drive. The caller said the driver then stopped, looked at the caller and said, "What? I don't stop for stop signs." The caller, who didn't respond, said the driver then went through the stop sign at Birchwood and Cedar Street. The caller requested extra patrols in the area.



## MESSAGE FROM THE SHERIFF



We thank those who joined us May 15th for Law Enforcement Memorial Day, a day where we honored the sacrifices of the 137 officers who lost their lives in the line of duty in 2023. These men and women who wore the badge were fathers and mothers, sons and daughters, and so much more to the many loved ones they left behind. And while we honored them all, our hearts were especially heavy for our neighboring agencies — Pope County and St. Croix County SOs — who each suffered the unspeakable loss of one of their own in 2023, and the community of Burnsville who lost three first responders this past February. For an honor roll of heroes, visit the [Officer Down Memorial Page](#) online. Sadly, in 2024 we've already lost 64 more nationwide.

The realities of law enforcement hit home with statistics like that, but there is so much more to this calling — which is why we were so thrilled that our Spring 2024 Citizens Academy filled so quickly. This forum allows any citizen, even those from other counties, to learn about our agency through hands-on engagement with police tools, techniques and situations. We're honored to report this class of 18 graduated on May 30th! We had a wonderful group of participants and are already looking forward to our next academy in Spring of 2025.

In service, Sheriff Dan Starry