Time line of the Park Ridge Police Department

Jimmy Han

3/30/2011

Walking through the past

→"Mr. Charles Duwell, the first chief of police for Park Ridge, was born in Germany in 1857 and came to the United States when he was 10 years old. Six years later, he moved to Illinois and in 1892, began his career of service with the Park Ridge Police Department. One of Charlie Duwell's first duties as a police officer was to light 123 kerosene street lamps before going on duty each night and then his share of the village to cover after that. The salary at that time was $45 a month. Nine years later, he was appointed Chief of Police. According to the *Park Ridge Weekly,* Chief Duwell was "one of the best revolver shots in town, never had the slightest suspicion of reproach about his high standard of honesty, and had been a first class citizen in every way." Charlie Duwell was chief of police for 27 years and retired at the age of 71." (Park Ridge Police, 2011) In the early days, the police was a volunteer force, where a number of local citizens wore stars and were subject to call at any hour of the day or night.

Duwell was also a gardener and was able to combine both his pay from his police work and the food from his garden to support himself. Beside lighting streets lamps and patrolling the town on foot, he also dealt with burglaries mostly by youths and thieves; rarely did Duwell's police force deal with professional burglars. The youth's who did cause problems within the community, the police learned to better handle them: Officer Willis Jones was one of the best officers in handling youth related crimes, he would take the troubled youth and take them to their parents. There at the parents' house, he would offer the child an alternative of changing his behavior or face the consequences of the law. Under Duwell's leadership, only 15 people have gone to the state prison and that was after World War II.

"Sgt. Louis Gill was Park Ridge's second police officer. Born on February 20, 1898, Louis Gill joined the police department on October 31,1920 and served until his death on November 29, 1950. Louis Gill was Park Ridge's first motorcycle officer." (Park Ridge Police, 2011)

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Shown here is a picture of the first police department which was housed in the old Village Hall, and built in 1896.

On the left, Lt. Herman H. Herzog and below is Police Chief Harold Johnson

Harry Powers: responsible for the death of the Eicher family

Mrs. Eicher and her three children

→August 1931,Police Chief Harold Johnson, Lt. Herman. H. Herzog and reporter Guy Housley work together to apprehend a murderer named Harry F. Powers. A missing persons case where a family consisting of a mother and her two daughters disappeared from Park Ridge one day, which caught the attention of Police Chief Harold Johnson, who noticed the two children not playing outside anymore started to investigate the their absence. Their investigation lead to a man named Cornelius O. Pierson from the Fairmont Hotel in West Virginia, who was moving furniture into the Eicher's garage, when the police asked what he was doing the man replied that he Eicher's were moving to Colorado and that he was hired to prepare their furniture to be moved. Cornelius Pierson then produced a sign letter from the Mrs. Eicher, the police left the area but told him to come by the police station the next day. However the man had left town and when the police investigated the property, they found that the property's taxes and loans were paid and the house was to be sold; they also found out that the Fairmont Hotel in West Virginia had never heard of a Cornelius Pierson.

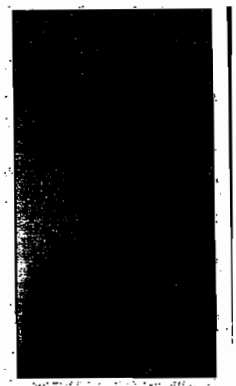
Lt. Herzog then began to dig deeper into the mystery man that the police had talked to, trying to figure who the man was and what connection he had to the Eicher family. While reporter Housley sensed a crime at the Eicher residence began looking through the mail that the family received; the reporter found a love letters that were exchanged between Mrs. Eicher and

Pierson. The reporter also found a receipt from Pierson but had the town's location and address of where Powers lived. Police Chief feared that the Eicher family may be in danger and a warrant sworn out for the charges of kidnapping and possible murder for the Eicher family. Lt. Herzog and reporter Housley went by plane to Clarksburg, West Virginia to meet with local law enforcement there and went to talk with Mr. Powers; while at the Powers residence, the police officers were able to search Powers' garage and found soundproof cells underground, hanging rope, and other devices. A tip from a town local had them dig up Power's drainage ditch where they found the bodies of the Eicher family, they also found letters addressed to other women across town in the United States that Powers was targeting; Lt. Herzog and the Clarksburg police were able to get Powers to confess to the crime. Powers was given a trial and found guilty, he later served his sentence of being put death by hanging.

Drainage ditch that contained the bodies of the Mrs. Eicher's daughters

A crowd gathers outside Power's property in West Virginia

→In 1948 the city hall and the police department moved from the old village hall into the Carpenter's home, which was formerly a farm house owned by George B. Carpenter. The station was located at 102 N. Northwest Highway.



Peter Disher as he appeared in the 1960s.

"The Officer Friendly program first got started by Peter J. Disher back in 1965. Mr. Disher was the coordinator and co-author of the Officer Friendly program which was aimed at strengthening the safety habits of preschoolers and elementary grade students." (Park Ridge Police, 2011)

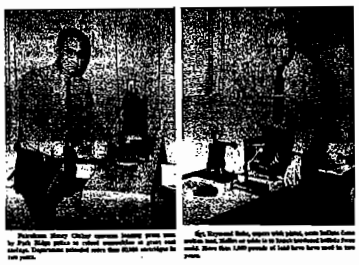
→July 29, 1962, Park Ridge police moves into their new police department located at 505 Park Place. The station had new features such as offices for the chief, lieutenants, and sergeants, a report room, a jail cell for women, 3 two-man jail cells, and an interview room. There other feature that the station allowed such as a dark room, a kitchen, a day room, and a juvenile room. Juvenile room consists of a detention room for the juveniles brought in and a three-man youth bureau.

Police Chief Charles Christensen and Patrolmen Ronald Burkman watches the moving of equipment out of the Carpenter's house.

Sgt. Ned Dolan moves the last of the equipment away from the Carpenter's home

→May, 1960, The Park Ridge Police Department began an operation that would save money for the taxpayers of Park Ridge, they began reloading their spent practice ammunition cartridge casing by filling with gun powder, a new bullet, and replacing the primer at the base of cartridge casing. The police department buys the gun powder, cases, and primers from a shooting supply dealer, while the lead is donated from local manufactures and electrical companies. The department melts the lead themselves into bullets and uses various machines to make a complete bullet to be fired. This idea was started by Patrolman Henry P. Olesky, who had experience in this type of operation; since then officers have shot better scores, buy better .38 caliber revolvers,

and has increased the moral of the police force by having the police officers become excited when it was time to practice shooting at targets.



The four components of a loaded cartridge, (from left) the lead bullet, gunpowder, cartridge case, and primer. Black rings around bullet are grooves filled with lubricant to protect gun barrel when cartridge is fired. Primer fits into base of cartridge at right.

Right: Patrolman Henry Olesky reloads the spent cartridges casings

Left: Sgt. Raymond Buhr casts the molten lead into bullets

Left to Right: Lead bullet, gun power, cartridge casing, and primer

Officers examine the results of their practice shooting

→May 2, 1967: A 17 year old teacher's college student was found fatally wounded inside a store in Park Ridge; the youth named Douglas Allen Moderow Jr. would later die of his gunshot wound at Lutheran General Hospital. The youth's initial intention of being inside the store was to commit a burglary when the store was closed and no one was suppose to be inside the store; however the unique aspect of this case was how Douglas was able to get into the store without being detected. A man, who was an accomplice with Douglas, walked into the store of Harold R. Pine with a box and placed his purchases on top of the box; the man then left the store saying that he would go to another store to buy candy and would return shortly to retrieve his purchased goods. However the man never returned, he called Harold Pine saying that he had to rush his wife to the hospital because of a serious injury and asked if he could keep if belongings at the store and pick them up the next day. It was during the night that the box the man brought in, contained Douglas Moderow, who had waited until the store closed and everyone left that he finally emerged from the box he was hiding in.

Douglas used a carton cutter to cut the sides of the box to exit it, he would then take the money from the cash register and a collection of men's wrist watches; he carried those items to the rear of the store's officer where the police would later find his body. While Douglas was committing his burglary, he had set off the store's alarm; the police arrived to the store but could not find a sign of a break in from outside the store, they then called the store owner who then

sent his son to reset the alarm. When the son arrived and opened the doors, a gunshot was heard at the rear of the store, the son then summoned the police to go and investigate the gunshot sound; the police then found the body of Douglas Moderow with a gun in his hand. An investigation by Detectives Theodore Wagner and Walter Tepler and Sgt. Donald Scheunemann went over the store to piece together the events that lead to the boy's death; inside the box that contained the boy they found a luminous watch taped inside the box, they then found on the boy a burglar tool kit, a knife, a .32 caliber pistol, and property stolen from the store. The police were later able to figure out that boy hid in the box past closing time to commit his crime, but when he thought he heard the police come in, he committed suicide to avoid being caught by the police.

It was almost a perfect crime until the alarm was set off, but the police were able to find the accomplice, John Pawelski who had helped Douglas by planting the box containing his friend inside the store; the two were friends and had even gone to the same school at Lane Technical High School. Pawelski had turned himself into the police through a family friend; Officer John Fisher, a radio operator of the Chicago Police Department arrested the boy and turned him over to the Park Ridge Police Department. Pawelski comments the burglary did not go as planned and has no idea why his friend Douglas had committed suicide.

Demonstrates Use of Box

(Story on page 1)

Sgt. Don Scheunemann of Park Ridge police shows detectives Walter Tepler (left) and Ted Wagner how Douglas Moderow concealed himself in carton to avoid discovery.

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Surrenders, Admits Aiding Thief-in-Box
Chicago Tribune (1963-Current file); Mar 3, 1962; ProQuest Historical Newspapers Chicago Tribune (1849 - 1985)
pg. 1

Surrenders, Admits Aiding Thief-in-Box

Moderow (left) and Pawalski

Moderow on the left

Pawelski on the right

→"On May 18, 1972, George Teune & Ralph Polan were the first Community Relations Coordinators for the Park Ridge program which was a pilot program for the State of Illinois."(Park Ridge Police, 2011)

- They wore full uniforms at all times
- They were the first line of communication between the police department and the public
- They were available to speak at public gatherings, which was part of their duty

- When complaints were made, they would bring the compliant to city department in charge of handling it; then would update the person making the compliant on what actions have been taken

- Ease the burden of the other police officers workload by responding to calls by citizens that are viewed as not related to police work

- Settle neighbor disputes, disputes on issues about residential or commercial land use, or help school children by giving them information about police work to be used in school reports

"On October 5, 1972, Park Ridge police got their first breathalyzer."(Park Ridge Police, 2011)

- The machine replaces an older model that required a licensed operator, who had 80 hours of training

- The new machine only requires officers to simply turn on the machine to administer the test

"On December 7th of the same year the "Operation Identification Program" was started." Park Ridge Police, 2011)

The program was designed to help police in two ways, the first being that it was to help limit home burglaries and the second was to help the police recover the stolen property. A cooperation the citizens was required, they would go to the Chamber of Commerce to get a special engraving tool for a deposit of $10.00; they would then have their property marked with the tool in order to identify the property in an event should the police recover it from a burglary. They would mark all their valuable properties with the tool then make a list of the property that had the engraving mark, the police would then use that list to find and return the stolen property; the residents would also be given stickers to post up in order to deter criminals from coming into the house and steal the valuables inside. The markings on the valuables were to be a unique set of numbers such as the head of the household's driver license number or their social security number. Lieutenant Scheunemann and a local jeweler Tony Wieshuber were the two who combined their efforts to develop this program and present it to the Chamber of Commerce.

→June 20, 1974, An 18 year old male murders his entire family, sets fire to his home, and commits suicide. The male was Jeffery Fuchs, a student that just had graduated from Maine East High School when he decided to take the lives of everyone in his family. He first started with his older brother Scott by strangling him with a nylon cord, then moved onto his mother Ruth, who was lured down into the basement then was knocked unconscious and later strangled and stabbed multiple times. Jeffery then used the firearms in home to shoot his father in head and his younger sister when she came home from an ice cream social from the Park Ridge Church. The young male then walked the family dog to a neighbor Mrs. Roller and left the dog there along with his high school diploma and a wristwatch, he then set fire to the basement so that the whole family had burned with him; the fire department were the first to discover the family as they fought to put out the fire.

An autopsy revealed that Jeffery had died by a combination of consuming aspirin, sleeping pills, and alcohol; however that was not the cause for the young males violent actions. Investigators and psychiatrists believe that he was suffering a mental illness that no one in the family or people in the school had known about. Jeffery was described as a loner who would not share his problems or talk much to other people, his behavior had become even more puzzling just before his graduation; his mother had described that he had no plans after high school and that he did not want to attend the graduation ceremony, but just receive his diploma at school. No one knew Jeffery because he had no friends unlike his brother and sister that had some friends, and he did not ever talk to any of the school faculty. It remains a mystery on what caused the young Jeffery Fuchs to murder his entire family, then commit suicide.

Jeffery Fuchs

The Fuchs family: Raymond and his wife, Ruth, and their children [from left] Jeffery, Lynda and Scott in a portrait made about two years ago. The five were found dead Monday.

The Fuchs family

- "The "First Contact" program began on September 5, 1974 and was implemented to prevent further police contact or arrest." (Park Ridge Police, 2011)
- "The Joint Police Communication System was set up on September 25, 1975." (Park Ridge Police, 2011)

→Park Ridge's police and city officials look into the new radio equipment and communication system. The new network would include both Park Ridge and Rosemont to use the network, which would be funded through a grant from the Illinois Law Enforcement Commission (ILEC) where they would be funded by the Department of Justice; the grant would fund 95% of this new network project. Advantages of using this new network would be everyone using the radio band would work in a uniform fashion, the dispatch operator would use the same terminology, and the reduction of using a duplicate equipment. Radio equipment used for communication would use an ultra-high frequency system, that would allow officers to carry portable radios inside homes while still being able to broadcast and receive radio traffic.

- On October 2, 1975 application for an FCC license occurred.

→The radios that would be used operate on a Ultrahigh Frequency radio channel, the radio channel would be part of a joint communication network with the Rosemont Public Safety Department. If the application is approved, both Park Ridge and Rosemont would have exclusive use of the UHF radio frequency; this would help them move beyond the old Very High Frequency that has become crowded with radio traffic from other departments such as Orland

→ February 6, 1978, At U.S Universal, located on 216 W. Higgins, four men are discovered dead in an elevator, they died of multiple gunshot wounds that covered their body. The men were Joseph LaRose, John F. Vische, Donald Marchbanks, and Malcolm I. Russell; three of the men, LaRose, Marchbanks, and Russell had their front pockets ripped out, but still had their expensive rings and watches, along with some cash in their wallets. The police estimate that the assailant responsible for this murder, may have taken $5,000 from the three men; all four men were shot to death by a .22 caliber weapon at close range, which was evident because of the powder burns that were on the victims clothing and shell casings found at the scene. One of the men John F. Vische, made a phone call to wife before his death, the police have a theory that the gunman may have either hid and waited for the men to get in the elevator or forced them into the elevator one at a time before killing them. A prime suspect was made, the person was a former business partner of the victims and had a violent argument with them, but that person was dismissed because they had an alibi.

An investigation into the business that the four men ran uncovered that the transaction they made were borderline legal or may have overstepped those bounds; the business sold home fire and burglary alarm kits for more than they were worth. Police interviewed hundreds of people, pursued leads, made business and personal phone calls to those who may have known the men, and even had a grand jury investigation, but the murders still remains a mystery. The best theory that the police are leaning towards for the commission of this crime was a robbery, the four men held a seminar on the night of their murder where they showed off between $500 to $1,000 to the crowd.

Coroners take away a victim of the shooting

Elevator in the basement where the bodies of the four men were found

→ 1979, the Park Ridge Citizen's Patrol is organized; the purpose of the program is to assist the police department in patrolling the city, organized events, crash scenes, and an aftermath of a natural disaster. Members of the program drive around the city and report to the police and criminal activities they see, but never take direct intervention; they also help the police direct traffic around crime or accident scenes. Patrol members volunteer 2-3 nights a month in patrolling the city and can sometimes work 40 nights in a year when called upon to do so. The program helps shares the burden between police officers and residents, it is a resource for the police department to use to improve the services they provide.

→ March 31, 1981, Businessman Frank J. Paul from Park Ridge was stabbed several times before he walks from his work at Interport Co., 747 W. Devon Ave. and enters Park Ridge

Colonial Coffee shop across the street, where he says that he has been stabbed and collapses; he was later taken to Resurrection Hospital where he died a hour later. Frank Paul suffered 17 stab wounds in the chest and abdomen, which resulted him dying from massive bleeding. Police were able to arrest Dr. Ralph H. Harbold and charge him with the murder of Mr. Paul; Dr. Harbold was then tried and found guilty of the murder, he would later appeal that decision twice, once in 1982 and the other in 1989; the Illinois Appellate Court had overturned both those convictions. The argument that was made by the prosecution was that Dr. Harbold suffered a cut to his hand that matched a cut found on a rubber glove near the crime scene, the other argument was that the doctor knew Mr. Paul. In August 19, 1999, Dr. Harbold would later plead guilty before his third trial and accept a 30 year prison term.

Before the murder of Mr. Paul, the wife of Dr. Harbold was found dead in their home; the wife had been baking cookies for her church club when someone she knew had shot her in the head four times with a .22 caliber weapon. Investigators believe she knew the assailant because there were no signs of forced entry and nothing was disturbed within the home. Her children were the first ones to find her body on the floor with four shell casings laying beside her; both the children left for school at 8:00 a.m. and the father left for work at 8:15 a.m., which is the time police believed that the Mrs. Harbold was killed.

→ November 18,1982, Park Ridge Police Department takes a further steps in adapting to the computerized age by installing the Police Information Management System (PIMS). The systems allows the department to link arrests and criminal activity data from networks in eight other towns; the systems allows information to be gathered from those towns and be put into a central computer so that the information can be then distributed when needed; it also allows better record keeping and be able to input new kinds of information such as property custody. This new computer system replaces the Law Enforcement Agencies Data System (LEADS), which only provided information on a person's driver and automobile license.

- This new PIMS computer system also allow police departments to:

1. Provide a computerized index for their own records.

2. Tell the departments on how much time an officer spent performing various police activities.

3. Make a pattern of crimes that occur on a regularly basis by telling the department what kind of crime occurs, where it happens, when it happens, and what area in the city the crime occurred.

4. Makes it possible for other suburban towns to share information for their own criminal analysis.

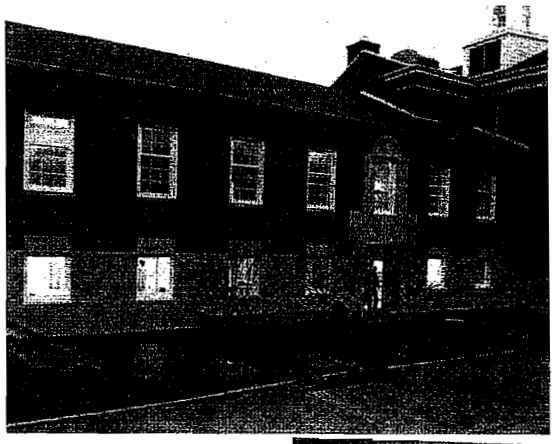
5. Have the Uniform Crime Reports be sent directly to Springfield, thereby saving time of having to manually write out and send the reports in.

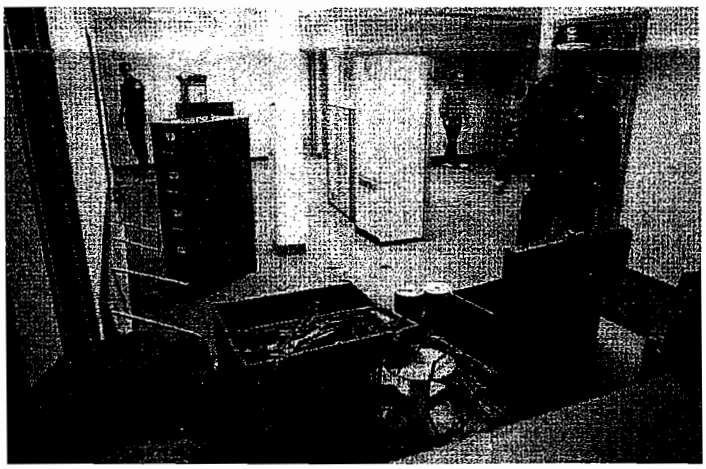
→November 24, 1982, a fund raising drive is organized by a committee of private residents and business owners in Park Ridge, to raise money to buy safety vest or Kevlar vests for police

officers to wear. The goal of the committee was to raise up to $12,000 so that 50 police officers and 13 reserve officers could have get their own vest when they are on the job.

→ December 3, 1987, Park Ridge Police prepares to move into what is now the current police station at 200 South Vine Avenue, which is located underneath the present day city hall.

Police move to new addition





→"On March 27, 1993, the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies conferred full Accreditation status to the Park Ridge Police Department. At that time, the Park Ridge Police department was only the 21st agency in Illinois and the 255th in the nation to attain Accredited status through the Commission. The Commission conducted an extensive and comprehensive review of the Police Department's rules, policies and practices. The standards are designed to increase (1) law enforcement agency capabilities to prevent and control crime; (2) agency effectiveness and efficiency in the delivery of law enforcement services; (3) cooperation and coordination with other law enforcement agencies; and (4) citizen and employee confidence in the objectives and practices of the agency.

The attainment of Accredited status culminated a two and one-half year effort by over 30 members of the police department. The reasons for an agency to become accredited include reduced liability insurance premiums, development of a highly defensible set of policy and procedure directives, and recognition for having achieved internal excellence. The department has maintained their accredited status ever since." (Park Ridge Police, 2011)

→2004, Park Ridge Police Department initiates a rotating 12 hour work shift.

→ 2005, Park Ridge Police Department was awarded the Judge's Award for having the best traffic safety program in the state of Illinois.

→ November 13, 2006, A man who was leaving for work at 6 a.m was on his front lawn when he was killed by a masked assailant who shot him in the chest and in the head. The man who was killed was Gerald Dhamer, he was killed on his front lawn by man dressed in dark clothing, wearing a ski mask, and was holding a long gun. The assailant was apparently waiting outside of Mr. Dhamer's home when the person then approached Mr. Dhamer and shot him twice with a shotgun before fleeing the scene. Police investigated into Mr. Dhamer's plumbing company for any leads on why he was targeted and ambushed outside his home but did not find any connections of employees at the company that would of caused the victims death. This case was investigated by the Major Case Assistance Team (MCAT) for weeks but the case has yet to be solved; other agencies from the Chicago police department to the Federal Bureau of Investigation were brought in a year later to help solve the case by bringing in new leads or theories but they too could not solve the case.

The killer of Mr. Dhamer has still yet to be identified and the case has yet to be solved; Mr. Dhamer died at the age of 48 and left behind a wife whom he had with 2 children.

→ 2006, The Park Ridge Police Department in its second consecutive year is awarded third place in the "Illinois Traffic Safety Challenge"; the challenge recognizes agencies for their accomplishments for promoting traffic safety in their communities, the program is sponsored by the Illinois Department of Transportation's Division of Safety.

→ Fall 2007, Officer Leavitt initiates the **Citizens' Police Academy** under police chief Jeff Caudill. The program is taught by a core group of officers numbering from 12-14 who teach ordinary citizens the workings of a police department and the various tasks that police officers handle on a day to day basis. Classes are 10 weeks long and are taught once in the Fall and Spring; people in the academy also have a chance to see the various special units within the department as well as learn about the multi-jurisdictional units Park Ridge police is involved in. The purpose of the program is to build a relations with the community so that they can have an idea on what role the Park Ridge police department has in criminal justice; also for the graduates of the program to share their insights to other people in the community.

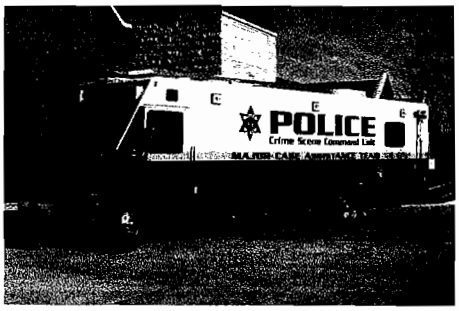
→ In 2008 the department then changes to a permanent 12 hours work shift.

→On January 27, 2010, the free service "Nixle" was setup to be made available to the citizens of Park Ridge. The service is available for anyone who subscribes, who will then be notified of any alerts the Park Ridge police department makes to the subscribers; users of this service can be informed from alerts ranging from traffic accident location so that drivers can divert from that

location, to hit and runs so that people can be on the lookout for vehicles that were described then be able to notify the police when they see it.

*** Notable Involvements:**

→ Park Ridge Police Department joins the "Major Case Assistance Team"(MCAT). The team was formed in 1998 after the 1993 Brown's Chicken Massacre, which highlighted the need for a unit that could investigate serious crimes; this unit consists of 22 municipal agencies of the northwest suburbs. Unit members respond to a member agency when that department has a case involving homicides, serial arsons, major bombing incidents, and other major crimes; members of the unit consists of both investigators and evidence technicians who work together to solve a case. Besides solving crimes, MCAT helps to share resources and cost that is put in when solving a major crime. The Park Ridge Police Department currently has three sworn officers that are part of the unit.



→ Park Ridge Police Department joins the "Northern Illinois Police Alarm System" (NIPAS). Legal framework that passed in 1988 allowed 15 police agencies from northern Cook County and southern Lake County to form a unit that responds to incident when the member agency cannot handle damage from a natural disaster or a unexpected result from a special event with its own resources. When the member agency activates the alarm, it will receive units from other member agencies depending on how severe the problem is; NIPAS currently has 93 police agencies from 5 different counties. In order to use this service, a police department has to pay a certain annual fee so that this alarm system is properly financed and staffed.

If a police agency chooses to do so, they can also be involved in two other NIPAS units that operate under the same principle of sharing resources to ensure the smooth operation of these systems.

- Emergency Services Team: This unit conducts serving high-risk warrants, hostage/barricade incidents, search and rescue missions, dignitary protection, and other tactical operations. Unit was created in Fall of 1987 Park Ridge contributes two officers to this unit.