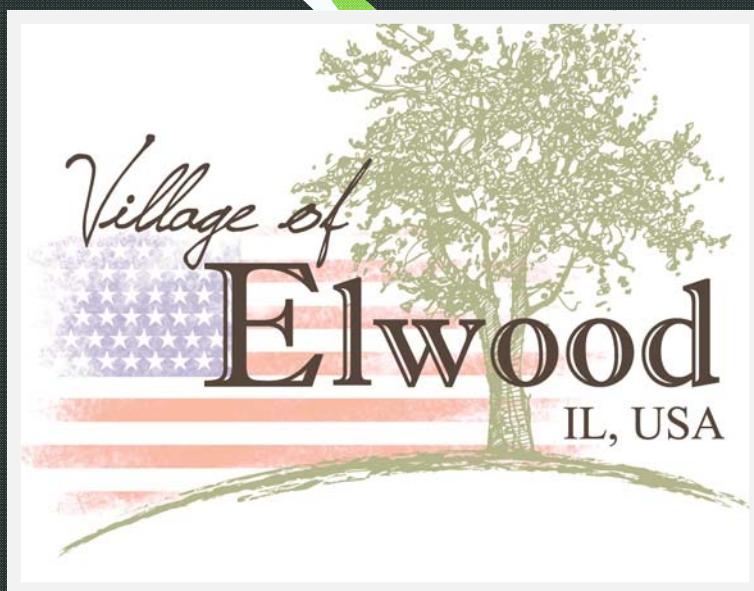
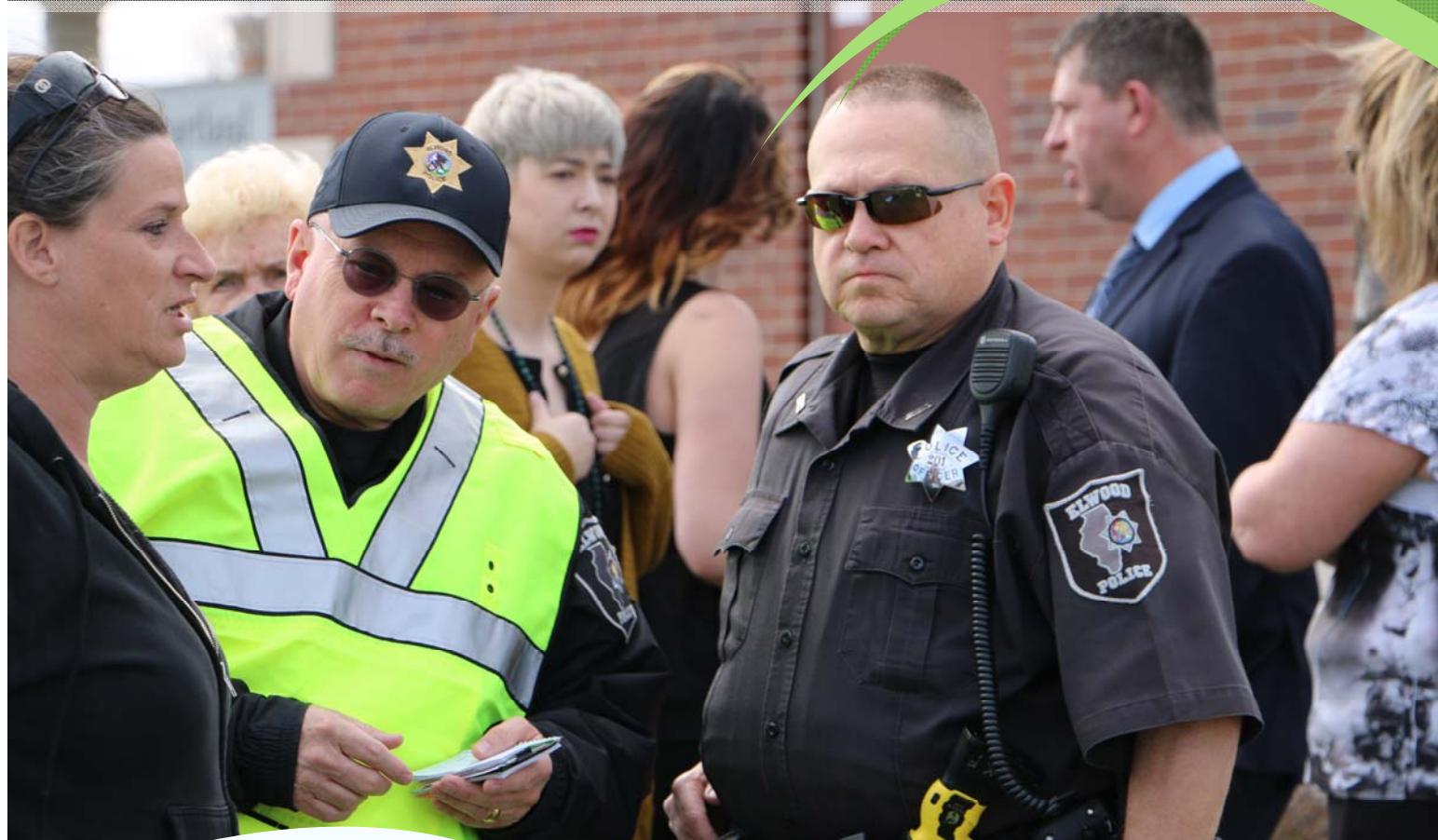


# ELWOOD POLICE



ANNUAL REPORT  
2015

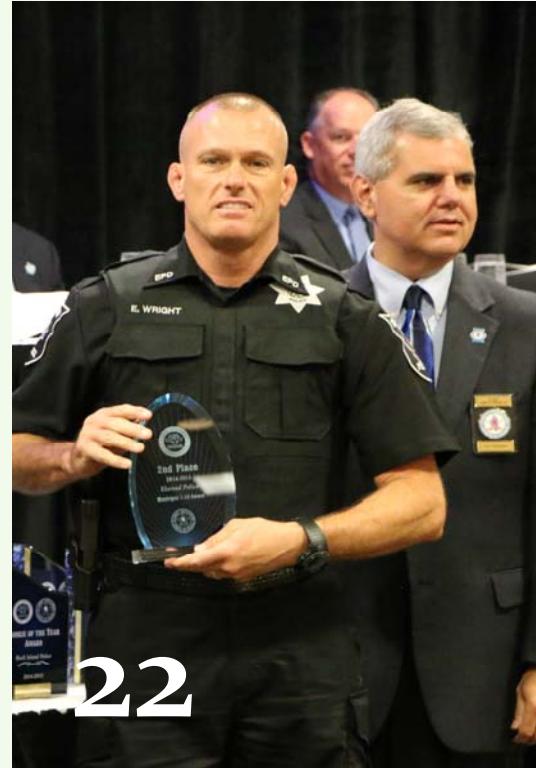
Integrity  
Pride  
Honor  
Professionalism

Community POLICING

Officer Ken Jaburek, Officer Nick Adams, and Officer Randy Lightfoot place flags at the gravesites of fallen veterans for Memorial Day at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery.



NON-EMERGENCY (DISPATCH) 815-423-5411



## SEASON 2015

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Commander Pat Kerr and Officer Nick Adams interview witness's at an injury crash on Route 53 and Mississippi.

**The Official Publication of the Village of Elwood  
Police Department**

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Village of Elwood

## MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Elwood Police Department is to protect and serve the community we police in a legal, ethical and professional manner, using the community policing strategy, and engaging in problem-solving when appropriate.

## DEPARTMENT VALUES

We believe in the principles embodied in our Constitution, and recognize the authority of federal, state, and local laws.

We believe in the dignity and worth of all people.

We believe a disciplined department professional in both conduct and appearance is necessary to maintain public confidence.

We believe we must maintain the highest standards of integrity and honesty in all our actions.

We believe we are accountable to the residents of the community and each other.

We believe our authority is to be exercised responsibly.

We believe in managing our resources in prudent and productive ways.



## INTRODUCTION

It is with great pride I provide you with the 2015 annual report for the Village of Elwood Police Department. Over the past year members of our department have accomplished many great things. Perhaps the most significant was our ability to maintain a peaceful and tranquil community. The dedicated public servants of the Elwood Police Department are proud to preserve and safeguard a community with one of the lowest crime rates in all of Will County.

It's been a busy and productive year here at the police department. This year, our officers were engaged in the most comprehensive traffic safety campaign ever taken in our department's history. The performance exhibited by our officers far exceeded our expectations and their efforts significantly contributed to improved safety on our local roads. In fact the department received statewide recognition for our efforts, receiving the Illinois Traffic Safety Challenge award from the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police.

The purpose of this report is to provide a snapshot of information and statistics affecting our village and the Police Department including crime, traffic, our staffing and budget, along with significant accomplishments during 2015. Multi-year statistics are provided in many categories to show where we've been and where we are now. Although this publication is not all-inclusive of what we accomplished as an agency, it certainly gives an overview of the hard work and professionalism demonstrated by our employees.

Finally, the accomplishments and achievements that we experienced in 2015 would not have been made possible without the continued support of our Mayor, Board of Trustee's, Village Manager and our citizens. We are extremely grateful for the continued support that we receive on a daily basis.

Fred W. Hayes

Chief of Police





Elwood Fire Protection District Deputy Chief Jasen Melahn directs paramedics tending to the injured at a crash on Route 53 and Mississippi.

## TEAMWORK

# Immersed in service



Commander Pat Kerr and Officer Nick Adams interview witness to the crash.



Police and Paramedics work a crash at Route 53 and Mississippi 4/13/15.

# Elwood Crime Remains Low in 2015

by Uniform Crime Report



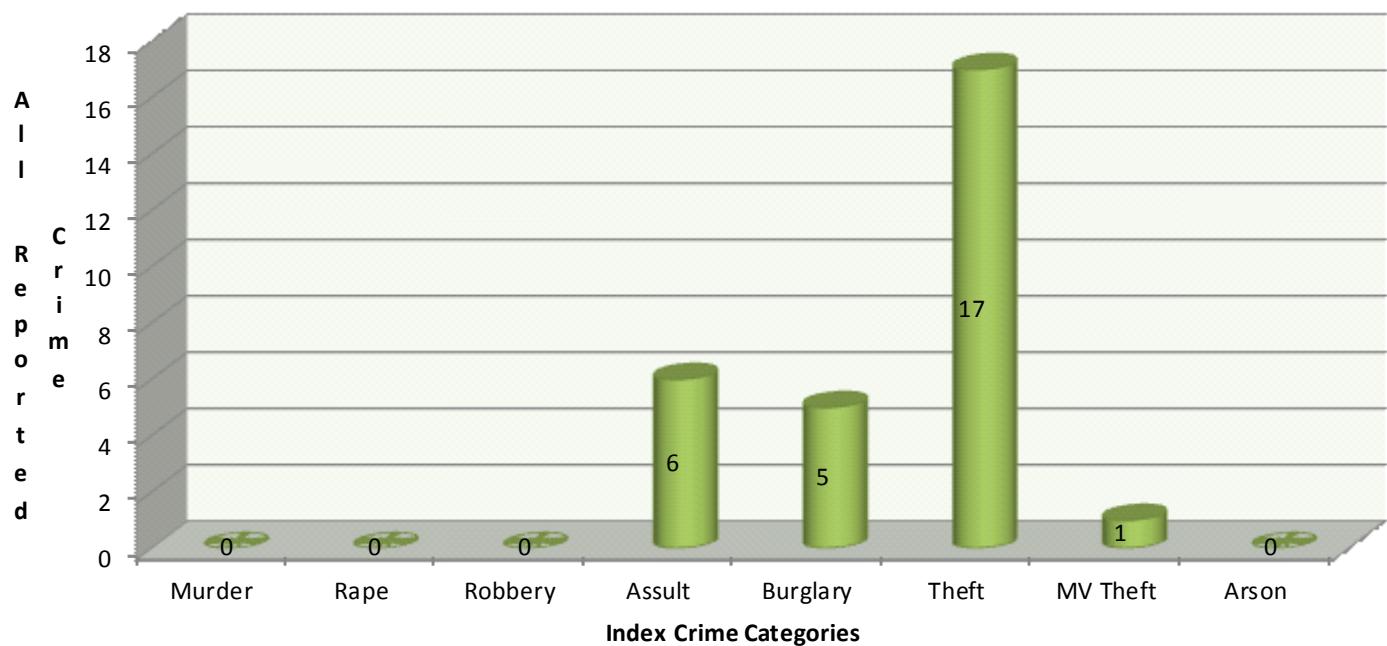
Officer Jim Hartley and Officer Ed Wright at O'Connor Park

You can rest assured the Village of Elwood still remains one of the safest towns in all of Will County. During 2015 Elwood Police received 29 reports of crime compared to 22 for 2014. The majority of crimes continues to be theft-related with no reports of any violent crime.

The Elwood Police Department is in compliance with the FBI Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program and Illinois State Police I-UCR as mandated by state statute. The police department submits documented reported crimes to I-UCR under the following two main categories, 1. Violent Crimes Against People 2. Crimes Against Property. A total of eight

crime categories are then recorded as follows, Violent Crimes (Murder, Forcible Rape, Robbery, Aggravated Assault) and Crimes Against Property (Burglary, Theft, Motor Vehicle Theft, Arson).

A sizeable portion of the reported thefts occurred within the intermodal industrial park. The department also investigated several cases of disturbances between workers at the warehouse distribution centers. The reported cases of work place violence typically involve disputes or disagreements between co-workers or supervisors and occasionally involve domestic battery between co-workers who are romantically involved.





## ELWOOD CRIME STATISTICS

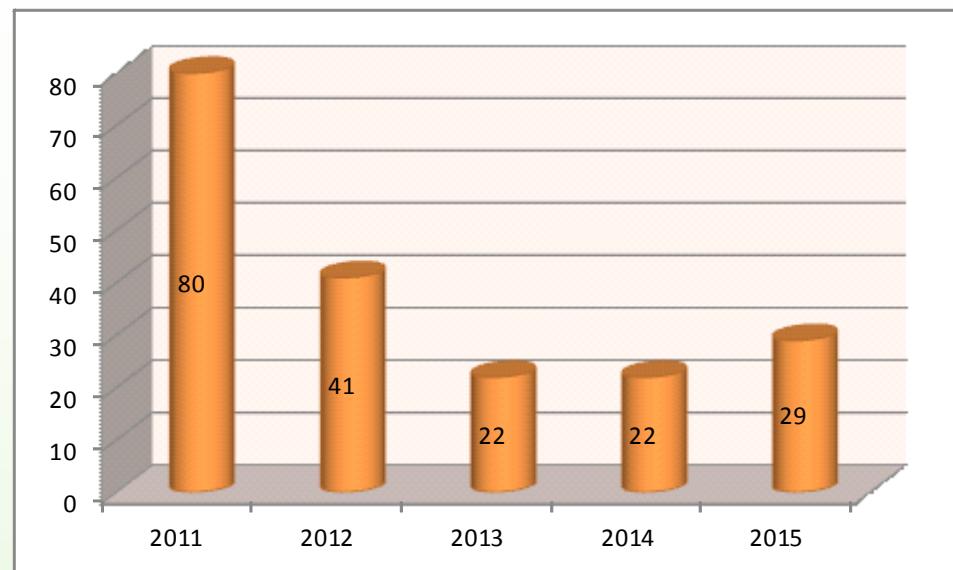
- THEFT
- BURGLARY
- ASSULT
- MV THEFT



# Crime Statistics

by Uniform Crime Report

## FIVE YEAR TREND



### MODERNIZED TRAINING AND REDUCED COSTS WITH ONLINE COURSES Crime Down by 64%

The Department responded to 7 more reported crimes in 2015 compared to 2014. It's important to note the reported crime in 2015 was 64% below the reported crime in comparison to 2011. The Elwood Police Department submits crime data to the Illinois State Police, Illinois Uniform Crime Reporting (I-UCR) program on a monthly basis. The data is then reported to the FBI Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program.

When comparing the crime statistics of one agency to those of another, many factors should be taken into consideration before drawing conclusions. Geographic and demographic factors specific to each jurisdiction must be considered and applied if one is going to make an accurate and complete assessment of crime in that jurisdiction.

Several sources of information are available that may assist the responsible researcher in exploring the many variables

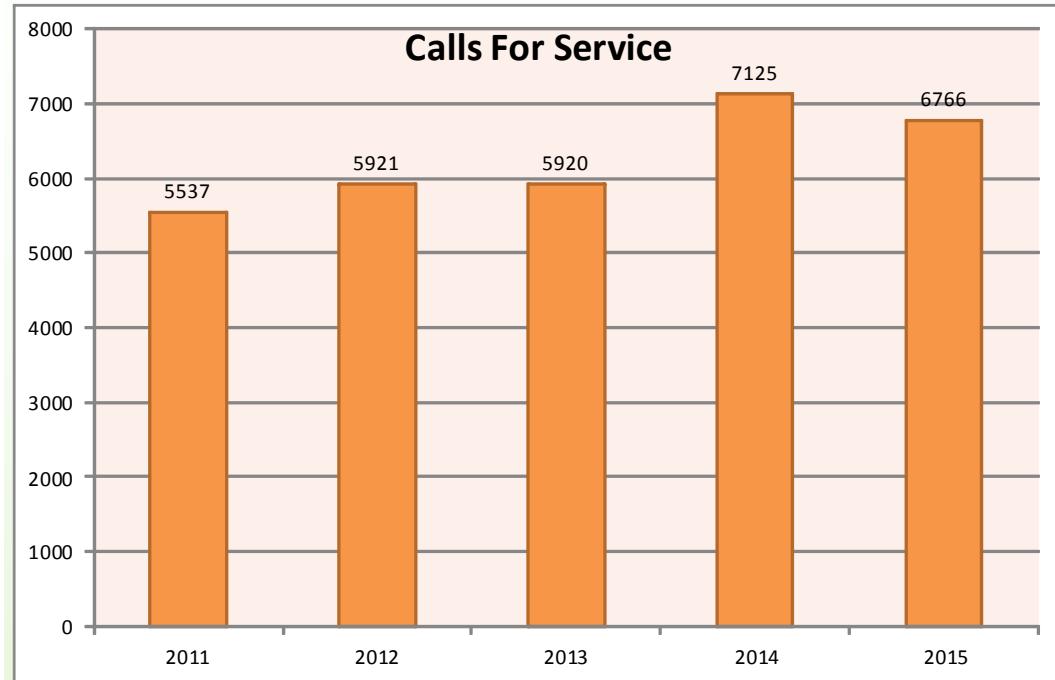
that affect crime in a particular locale. The U.S. Census Bureau data, for example, can be used to better understand the local population composition. The transience of the population, its racial and ethnic makeup, its composition by age and gender, educational levels, and prevalent family structures are all key factors in assessing and comprehending the crime issue.

In addition, uniform crime reporting statistics reflect "offenses known to police." In other words, these crime counts and rates only reflect information on crimes reported to police, not necessarily all crimes that occurred. Propensity to report a crime varies by type of crime and the individual characteristics of the victim. For more information, see the National Crime Victimization Survey,

administered by the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics.

# Calls For Service Summary

SEASON 2015



- 911 Calls
- Criminal Reports
- Accidents
- Traffic Stops
- Loud Noise Complaints
- Assist Fire and EMS
- House or Building Checks
- Park Patrols
- Assist Other Police Departments
- Suspicious Persons
- Solicitors in the Neighborhood



Officer Rand Lightfoot and Officer Andrew Anderson participate in Shop With A Cop.

Every time a citizen or resident requests the Police Department to respond to their home to take a police report or meet with an officer, a Call For Service (CFS) is generated. A CFS is also created for police officer self-initiated activity. CFS's encompass a wide variety of activity.

After a significant increase in the amount of calls involving a police response in 2014 with an increase of 20% over the previous year we experienced a 5% drop during 2015.

Overall Elwood police officers responded to 6766 incidents in 2015, resulting in a 5% decrease over the previous year. This amounts to police responding to approximately 18 calls per day. They include from every ticket written, accidents, suspicious vehicle complaints, domestic disputes, worker disturbances, and even barking dog calls.



# THE FUTURE STARTS HERE



## ELWOOD TRAINING HIGHLIGHTS

- COMMUNITY POLICING TRAINING
- LAW RECORDS REPORT BUILDER.
- CONSTITUTIONAL LAW UPDATE.
- ILLINOIS JUVENILE COURT ACT.
- LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE FOR SUPERVISORS.
- LEAD HOMICIDE INVESTIGATOR.
- BREATH ALCOHOL TESTING.
- TECH INVESTIGATION TECHNIQUES.
- CRISIS INTERVENTION TEAM (CIT).
- BASIC CRIME PREVENTION.
- ADVANCED FIREARMS TRAINING



In 2015 members of the Elwood Police Department participated in 730 hours of training. This represents an average of 91 hours per member. Many of our officers and civilian staff received specialized job-specific training. As a department we received training in many topics in which all or most of our members participated. These topics included: Basic Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED), Community Policing, High Tech Investigation Techniques, Firearms Training, Accident Investigations, Railroad Crossing Crash Investigation, Constitutional Law Update, Homicide Investigations, and Crisis Intervention, DUI Enforcement, and Commercial Vehicle Enforcement.

A total of 379 hours or 52% of all department training was dedicated to traffic safety enforcement. On average each officer received 54 hours of traffic safety instruction. Officer Nick Adams attended 80 hours of Crash Investigation 1 and 80 hours of Crash Investigation II From Northwestern University Center For Public Safety.

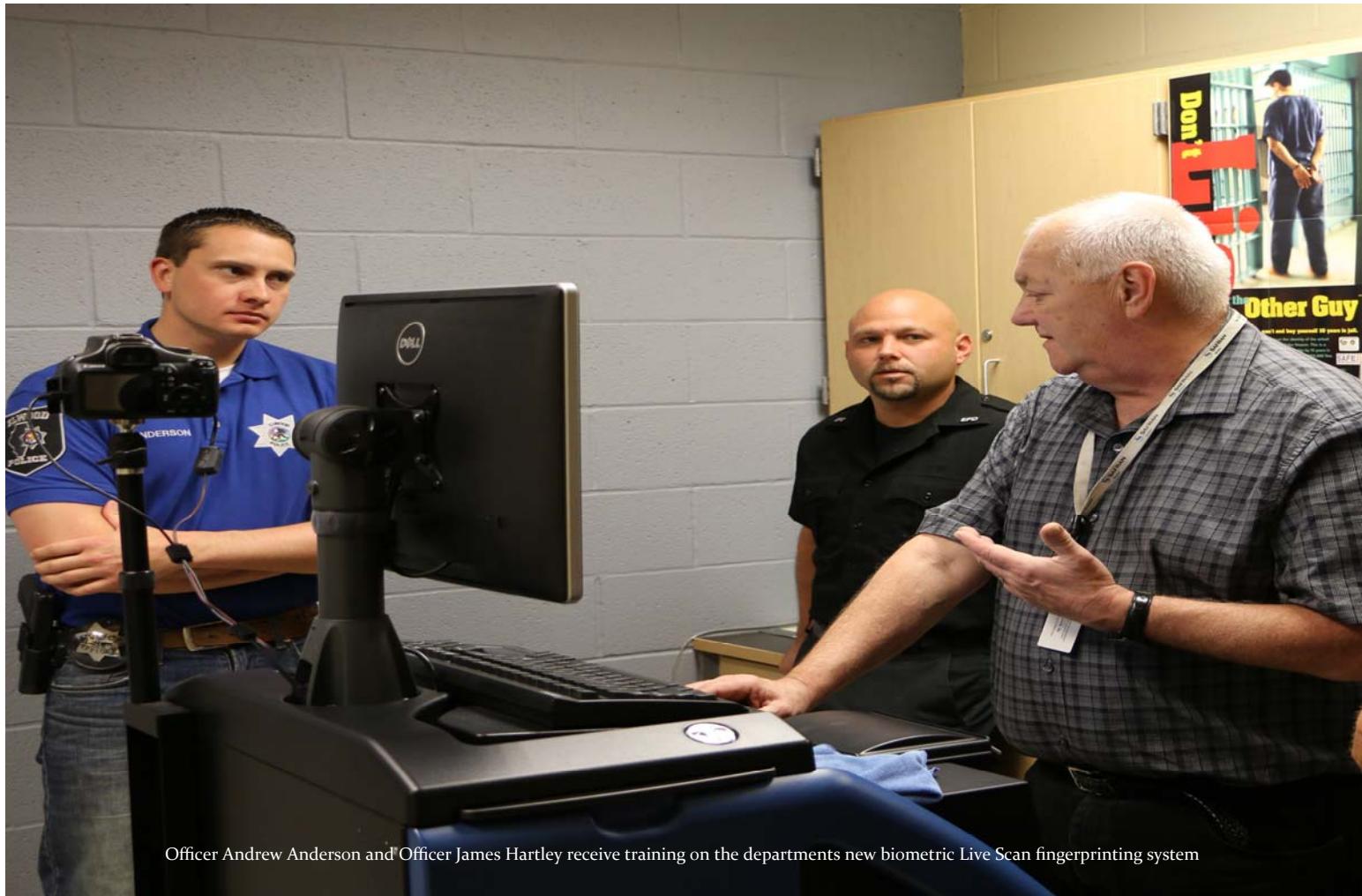
## MODERNIZED TRAINING AND REDUCED COSTS WITH WEB-BASED (ONLINE) COURSES

The Department initiated a new training program in the fall of 2015 by joining the Police One Academy. The Police One Academy offers affordable, reputable and certifiable online training. Elwood Officers now have access to more than 900 high definition training videos and 170 courses to choose from covering topics like Active Shooters, Traffic Safety, OSHA and Subject Control.

The law enforcement training courses help to keep our officers safe on the street by providing access to information which supports professional development and career advancement. The web-based (online) training allows officers to complete the courses when time permits. If an officer needs to respond to an emergency, the officer can simply finish the training at a more convenient time. Our officers are committed to building trust and mutual respect between police and our community. The training offered basic awareness and understanding of the fundamental principles and best practices of community policing.

- Constitutional Policing.
- Community Policing Strategies.
- Cultural Awareness.
- Traffic Stops & Safety
- General Orders.

# INNOVATION



Officer Andrew Anderson and Officer James Hartley receive training on the department's new biometric Live Scan fingerprinting system

## Significant Accomplishments 2015

### CUTTING EDGE TECHNOLOGY

**D**uring the past year the Department continued to make significant progress towards achieving organizational excellence. Although not all inclusive, several of these accomplishments are highlighted below:

Received the IPRF Award, Illinois Public Risk Fund (IPRF) for zero workers liability claims and accident free work place

Provided significant supporting documentation regarding the Illinois Commerce Commission's decision resulting in the closure of Walter Strawn railway crossing on January 28, 2015, significantly reducing tractor/trailer traffic on Route 53 near Elwood.

Meet with citizen groups regarding scofflaw truck drivers violating the 6 and 15 ton roadway restrictions, as well as illegal truck traffic in the Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery.

Improved the efficiency and effectiveness of the prisoners booking process and reduced manpower requirements by launching the biometric Live Scan fingerprinting system.

Received the Illinois Traffic Safety Challenge Award by advancing the department's overall traffic safety efforts in the areas of policies and procedures, training, public education and outreach, enforcement initiatives, and achieved a reduction in personal injury crashes.

Created and participated in a unique crime prevention event sponsored by the Department of Justice, Community Oriented Policing (COPS). public education and outreach with the first annual Village of Elwood National Night Out Campaign.

Improved the safety of the motoring public by intensified DUI enforcement and increase department DUI arrests by 25%

Worked closely with Elwood Community School Superintendent and Principal in emergency response protocol.

# LENDING A HELPING HAND

## Significant Accomplishments 2015

by Elwood Police Department



Officer Jennifer Kickert and Officer James Hartley receive a department commendation award for their community policing efforts.

Officer Nick Adams investigates a crash at Route 53 and Hoff Road



Officer Ken Jaburek works with Elwood Paramedic Nick Yangas



# NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

## Significant Accomplishments 2015

by Elwood Police Department

The Elwood Police Department participated in it's first ever National Night Out on August 5th, 2015. The event was a huge success with well over 1000 residents in attendance.

National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make our neighborhoods a safer, better place to live. The annual event enhances the relationship between neighbors and law enforcement and fosters a true sense of community.

Elwood is a community where neighbors know each other, and families feel comfortable approaching their local police and fire officials. The National Night Out event is a way to continue to preserve those relationships.



## Significant Accomplishments 2015

by Elwood Police Department

On July 18, 2015 at 12:42 a.m. Officer Anderson heard a series of continuous shots being fired in close proximity to the southwest of the police department, and moments later, received a radio dispatch of "shots fired" in the vicinity of Chicago and Gardner Streets. The caller, who wished to remain anonymous, indicated that the location of the call was 100 E. Wood Street, but from his experience and past calls for service at 110 S. Wood Street, he suspected that this was the actual address of the incident.

As Officer Anderson was the only officer on duty, he called for and received backup assistance from Braidwood Police Officers, Chief Ficarello and Officer Altieri, to more safely allow him to investigate the complaint. While approaching the suspect location on foot, Officer Anderson confirmed his suspicions by observing six subjects gathered around a bonfire in the yard of 110 S. Wood Street.

As Officer Anderson approached this group of subjects, he announced his office and warned the gathering to show their hands. Despite Officer Anderson's warning, one subject stood up from his chair and began to walk quickly towards the garage. In spite of Officer Anderson's second warning for him not to enter the garage, he entered it through a service door, and returned with a Hi-Point .45 caliber carbine mounted with a flashlight, which he leveled at Officer Anderson and the other officers, illuminating the light.

Officer Anderson and the other officers were presented with a deadly force confrontation and had to repeatedly order the offender to drop the firearm before he eventually did so, at great risk to themselves. The subject was taken into custody without further incident and admitted to firing eight rounds. Officer Anderson displayed incredible courage and bravery. The Valor Medal is awarded to a Department member who, faced with a clear and present danger, and at great risk to his or her personal safety, performs an act of valor or self-sacrifice considered above and beyond the call of duty.

Officer Andrew Anderson receives the Medal of Valor Award



# TRAFFIC SAFETY AWARD

## Significant Accomplishments 2015

by Elwood Police Department



### Elwood Police Receive Statewide Recognition for Traffic Safety Efforts

**Elwood, Illinois** – The Elwood Police Department was awarded Second Place in the Illinois Traffic Safety Challenge for Municipalities with 1-10 full-time officers. The program is supported by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) by a grant administered through the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT), Division of Transportation Safety, and coordinated by the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police (ILACP), as well as much-appreciated funding from private entities.

The second place award in the 2014 Illinois Traffic Safety Challenge distinguishes Elwood as one of the top agencies in the state for their overall approach to traffic safety. Traffic safety is one of the highest priorities for the Elwood Police Department. Officers work year-round to help keep our village streets safe and educate our citizens, on the importance of being safe in a vehicle, on a bike, and as a pedestrian. Aggressive and consistent traffic enforcement, coupled with educational efforts, offer the greatest chance of reducing the incidence of traffic crashes, injuries and fatalities.

The following statistics support the department's traffic safety efforts:

Seat Belt use is up! More people are buckling up in the Village of Elwood. Our seat belt compliance rate increased from 92.4% to 93%.

DUI arrest increased by 50%

600 speeding citations were issued resulting in a 47% increase over the previous year.

The total number of traffic crashes with injuries was reduced by 47% and the number of crashes in our high traffic volume loca-



tions was also reduced when compared to the 2013 statistics.

The Challenge rewards creativity, commitment and innovation in traffic safety. The program format is designed to encourage agencies to set comprehensive goals, develop positive traffic safety programs, share their experiences with others, and recognizes the best overall traffic safety programs in Illinois. The program targets three major traffic safety priorities: occupant protection, speeding and impaired driving. It recognizes agencies for the approach and effectiveness of their overall highway safety programs. Agencies are evaluated not just for enforcement initiatives, but for innovating problem solving in their communities, using public information activities and creating departmental policies that support their traffic enforcement campaign efforts. The Traffic Safety Challenge provides law enforcement agencies with an opportunity to make a significant difference in the communities they serve. Winning programs effectively combine many different strategies to reduce crashes and injuries in their jurisdiction.

# Criminal Investigations Function

by Elwood Police Department

Officer James Hartley serves as the department investigator with responsibility to conduct follow-up investigations of reported crimes (i.e. murder, robbery, burglary, fraud, cargo theft, etc.). These investigations consist of interviewing suspects, victims, and witnesses; analyzing information for validity, reliability, and accuracy; and compiling a comprehensive and factual case file to be presented in court.

The departments Evidence/Property Section is staffed by Officer Nick Adams. As the Evidence Custodian he must receive, store and release evidence and property in compliance with Department policy and procedure and applicable laws. Officer Adams must inventory each item received, assign a storage location, and record the location in the Department Evidence Property records system. As such he must ensure all property is adequately identified. He must also maintain the Evidence/Property records system reflecting the status of all property held by the Department including final court disposition.



Officer Jim Hartley and Officer Nick Adams

Case Number	Investigation Period	Investigation Type	Case Status
15-001	1 Day	Battery /D.C.	2 Arrested on Criminal charges
15-092	2 Months	Container Theft	No further leads
15-111	1 Month	Theft Over \$500	No further leads
15-204	5 Days	Retail Theft	Restitution made
15-327	1 Day	Criminal Damage to Property	Restitution made
15-328	1 Day	Criminal Damage to Government Property	No Criminal Complaints
15-346	1 Day	Crisis Intervention	No Criminal Complaints- Medical
15-361	1 Day	Death Investigation	No Crime Occurred – Natural
15-362	2 Months	40 Residential Burglary Investigations	Assist Will County Sheriff Police - 3 Arrested
15-374	1 Day	Aggravated Assault / Criminal Damage to Property	1 Arrested on Criminal Charges
15-394	8 Days	Battery	1 Arrested on Criminal Charges
15-404	1 Day	Aggravated Battery / Disorderly Conduct	Refused complaints- Ordinance Violation issued for disorderly conduct
15-427	3 Days	Residential Burglary	Offender identified, complainant did not want to pursue criminal charges, restitution made.
15-476	3 Months	Forgery / Financial Institutional Fraud / Continuing criminal enterprise / Organizing criminal enterprise.	2 arrested
15-501	2 Days	Criminal Damage to Property	No further leads
15-526	1 Month	Disorderly Conduct / Neighborhood Trouble	Ongoing to rectify neighbor complaints
15-527	4 Months	Forgery of ~\$100,000.00 of Village Overweight Permits	Ongoing at this time.

# Criminal Investigations Major Case Summary

by Elwood Police Department

## CASE #1

On November 5, 2015 Officer Hartley initiated a three-month, multi-jurisdiction check forging investigation. On that date, a suspect attempting to cash a fraudulent check from the Troy Fire Protections District at the Heartland Bank and Trust in Elwood, IL. Within a short time of taking the original report, Officer Hartley was able to gain the co-operation of the suspect in this case, and learned that she was involved in the cashing of numerous fraudulent checks in Elwood, Joliet, Shorewood, Lockport, and New Lenox, and the checks were provided to her by 2 suspects whom she only knew by their nicknames.

Officer Hartley was able to document ten banks victimized by this group, and collected numerous closed circuit videos of the suspect cashing fraudulent checks and meeting with the actual check forgers, corroborating her statements of their involvement. Officer Hartley learned that the suspect's real names were Charles J. Benson of Matteson, IL and Lance D. Woodard of Calumet City, IL. As the case progressed, Officer Hartley was sworn to the Grand Jury to further investigate this case and obtain subpoenas. Officer Hartley discovered evidence in the trash of the suspected forgers in Calumet City and Matteson IL, recovering valuable proof on forgery of checks. Other Elwood Officers assisted with the voluminous analysis of the evidence found in the trash containers from the suspect's residences.

During the investigation, Officer Hartley learned Federal Agents were interested in his investigation, and began to jointly work with them. United States Postal Inspectors' and Elwood Officers obtained a court-ordered eavesdropping order and an undercover Postal Inspector obtained conversation from Lance Woodward recruiting the undercover Inspector to cash fraudulent checks for him.

Following the collection of volumes of evidence from the trash searches, and the subpoenaed bank records and videos, Officer Hartley applied for a search warrant, which was executed at 1007 Purdue Lane in Matteson, IL in concert with Matteson PD and the US Postal Service. More evidence was recovered at this residence, the home of Charles J. Benson.

Interviews of Benson and Woodard resulted in statements against interest being taken, improving an already excellent investigation. Based on this investigation, Charles J. Benson of Matteson, IL and Lance D. Woodard of Calumet City, IL were charged with Organizer of a Continuing Financial Crimes Enterprise (Class X Felony).

## CASE #2

Following two motor vehicles break-in's in Elwood in mid-July 2015, Officer Anderson developed information indicating that a subject named Jesus DeJesus and another unknown male subject, possibly a recent parolee from the Kankakee, IL area, were responsible for car burglaries in the area.

Based upon this information and other narcotics and gang related information, Officer Anderson created a six-page intelligence briefing that he distributed to fellow officers and officers from adjoining communities. While continuing to investigate the motor vehicle burglaries, Kankakee County Sheriff's Police contacted the Elwood Police inquiring about the whereabouts of DeJesus and his involvement in numerous rural residential burglaries in their jurisdiction.

Almost simultaneously, Will County Sheriff's Police contacted the department also looking for DeJesus and his associates, and Officers Anderson and Hartley were able to direct them to his heretofore unknown local address, 217 West Gardner Street, and assist them in surveillance of this hangout, and eventual traffic stop leading to the arrests of Jesus DeJesus, Tony Adams, and Kamary Alexander. Officers Anderson and Hartley then assisted Will County Sheriff's Police in the execution of a search warrant to this address, recovering thousands of dollars in stolen merchandise.

Due to Officer Anderson's vigilance and tracking of suspected Elwood criminals, information was garnered that greatly assisted in the arrest of Jesus DeJesus, Tony Adams, and Alexander Kamary in over 40 burglary investigations on September 1, 2015. Their arrests also led to the recovery of approximately \$30,000 of stolen merchandise from burglaries in Elwood, Livingston County, Will County, and Kankakee County. Officers Anderson and Hartley received a letter of commendation from Deputy James Reilly of the Will County Sheriff's Police regarding their assistance with this investigation.

Subsequently, the original two burglaries in Elwood were successfully closed by the arrest of these offenders, as well as another residential burglary discovered a month later in Elwood.

# Special Events 2015

by Elwood Police Department



Governor Bruce Rauner speaks to the media after his speech at ALNC



Officers Anderson and Matichak maintain crowd safety

## 16th Annual Memorial Day Ceremony Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery



Veterans and supporters wait for the presentation of colors by the ALNC Honor Guard



The reptile show is always a crowd favorite at Elwood Community Days.

Officer Anderson keeps his distance and guard up.



## Special Events 2015

*by* Elwood Police Department

25th Annual Elwood Community Days

# Special Events 2015

by Elwood Police Department

## 25th Annual Elwood Community Days



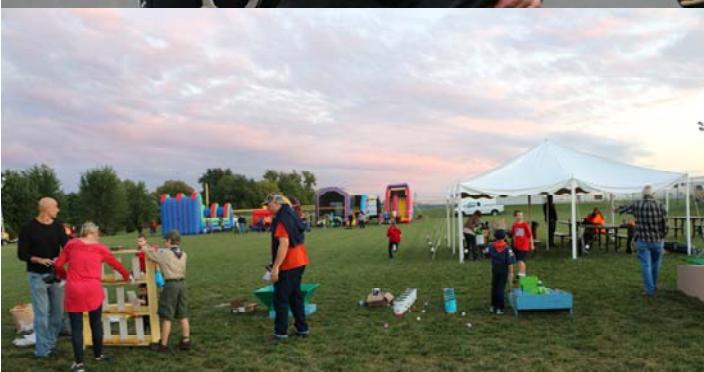
Mayor Offerman and his wife Lisa lead the annual parade past the judges reviewing stand

# Special Events 2015

by Elwood Police Department

## 25th Annual Elwood Community Days

Officers Randy Lightfoot, Nick Adams, and Jennifer Kickert prepare to hand out sticker badges to children.



Deputy Village Manager Max Bosso and his wife Julie watch their children enjoy the game offerings.



Officer James Hartley



# Traffic Enforcement Activity

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) on Tuesday, January 28, 2015 closed the intersection at Route 53 and Walter Strawn Drive in the Village of Elwood. This intersection has been the topic of a year-long Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) investigation due to the dangerous nature of the crossing.

The road was closed at 6:00 am by placing concrete barriers on the northwest corner of the intersection, blocking of access to Walter Strawn Drive from Route 53.

"This temporary closure shows that we hold safety as our top priority here in Elwood," said Police Chief Fred Hayes. "The Elwood International Port is an incredibly important part of our village and we need to make sure that anyone travelling in, out of, or near it are kept safe."

In December of last year, an ICC administrative law judge presided over an evidentiary hearing that lasted from October to December and recommended to the full ICC board

that the crossing be closed, calling it an "immediate safety concern." On January 14 of this year, the ICC board agreed and unanimously approved the judge's order to close the crossing.

The Village is confident that traffic circulation within the Elwood International Port (EIP) will drastically improve as truck traffic will no longer need to combat commuter trains or funeral procession traffic on Route 53. This will lead to lessened delivery times due to the decreased traffic.

"There are plenty of roads available for entrance into the EIP," continued Chief Hayes. "The Village has been working with members of the EIP and truckers to ensure an easy adjustment to the closure. Our goal is to educate truck drivers and the members of the EIP to use the correct roads to ensure a safer, easier, and less trafficked route."

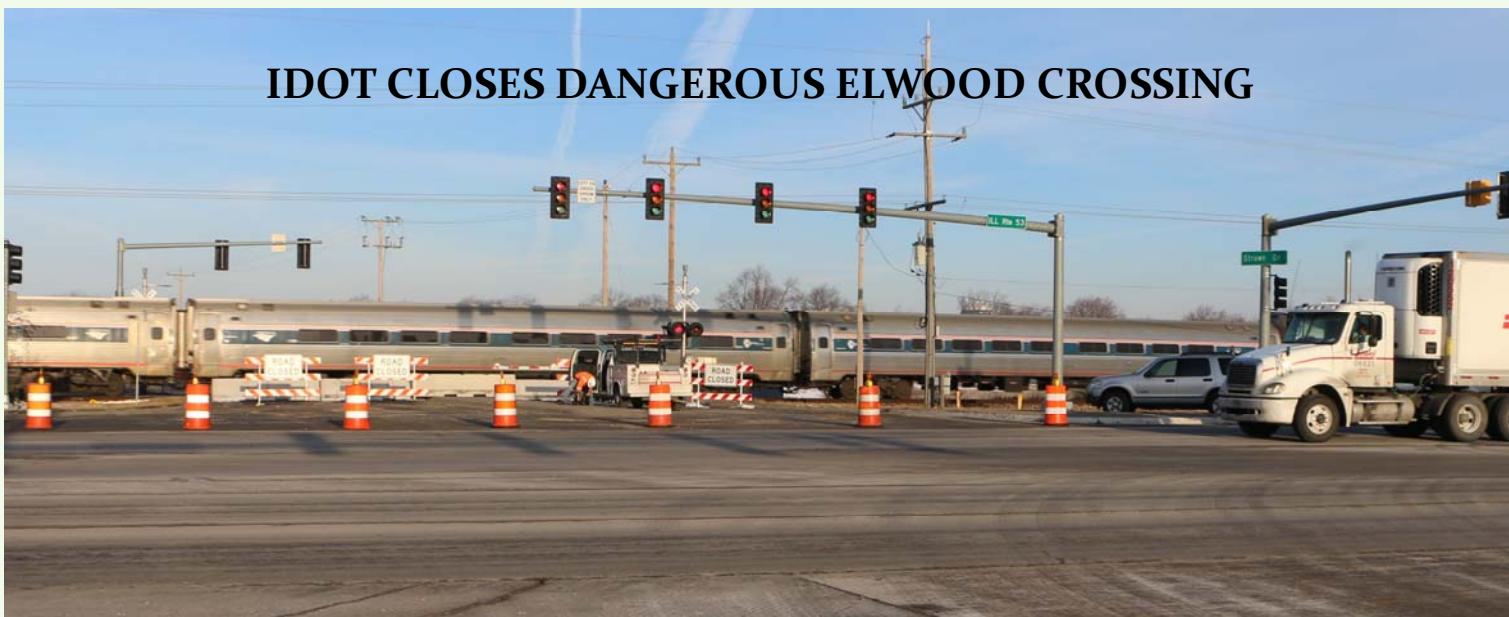


Chicago ABC7 Reporter Leah Hope interviews Chief Hayes at the Walter Strawn Road rail crossing. 1/28/15



Last spring, the Elwood Police Department released a police squad camera video that captured a truck crashing through rail crossing gates at Walter Strawn Drive. Watch the video here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O3mY7AEa1G8>

## IDOT CLOSES DANGEROUS ELWOOD CROSSING



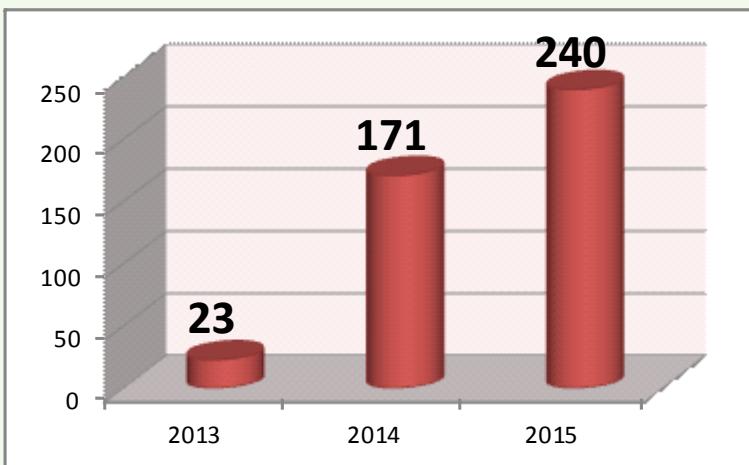
# Traffic Enforcement Activity

## Increase in Seat Belt Citations

by 40.35%

It is the policy of this Department to enforce traffic laws at a level sufficient to ensure the safe and expeditious movement of traffic. Violations will be controlled through preventive measures and proactive enforcement. The heavy commercial vehicle traffic in the area associated with the largest Inland Intermodal Port in North America presents unique challenges for traffic enforcement.

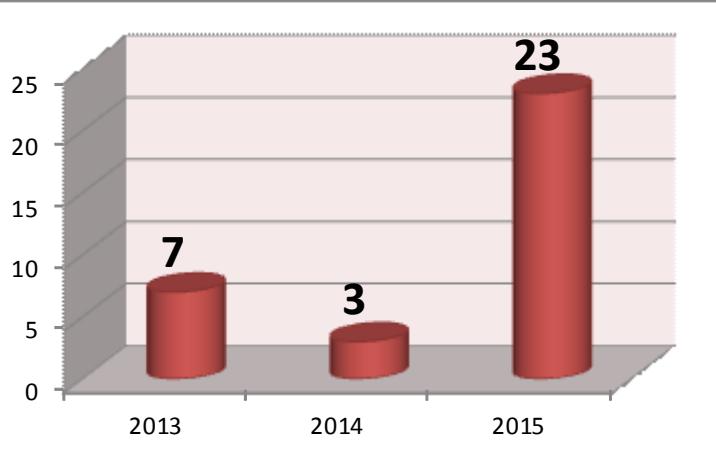
Elwood Officers issued a total of **4,353 citations in 2015**. Police Officers are expected to strictly enforce commercial vehicle traffic laws which include violations of the provisions in Chapter 15 of the Illinois Vehicle Code concerning Size, Weight, and Load Permits.



Officer Nick Adams and Commander Pat Kerr (above left) interview witness at the crash scene Route 53 and Mississippi, while Elwood Paramedics aid the injured (below right). 4/13/15



## Significant Increase in Illegal Cell Phone Use Citations



# Traffic Enforcement Activity

Traffic Safety is a major focus of our policing efforts in the Village of Elwood. Immediately following a tragic fatality crash at the intersection of Route 53 and Mississippi the police department formally requested IDOT to perform a Roadway Safety Assessment (RSA). RSA's are performed by a multi-disciplinary team of traffic safety engineers, accident reconstruction specialists, and highway safety experts to identify short term and long term solutions to reduce the number of crashes on roadways, and the severity of crash impacts. The cost for an RSA is typically around \$20,000 dependent on the scope of the project.

Representatives from the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT), the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), and the Illinois State Police conducted the RSA for IDOT-District 1 and the Village of Elwood, co-owners of the intersection. Numerous infrastructure improvements were identified as key solutions to reducing crashes at the intersection.

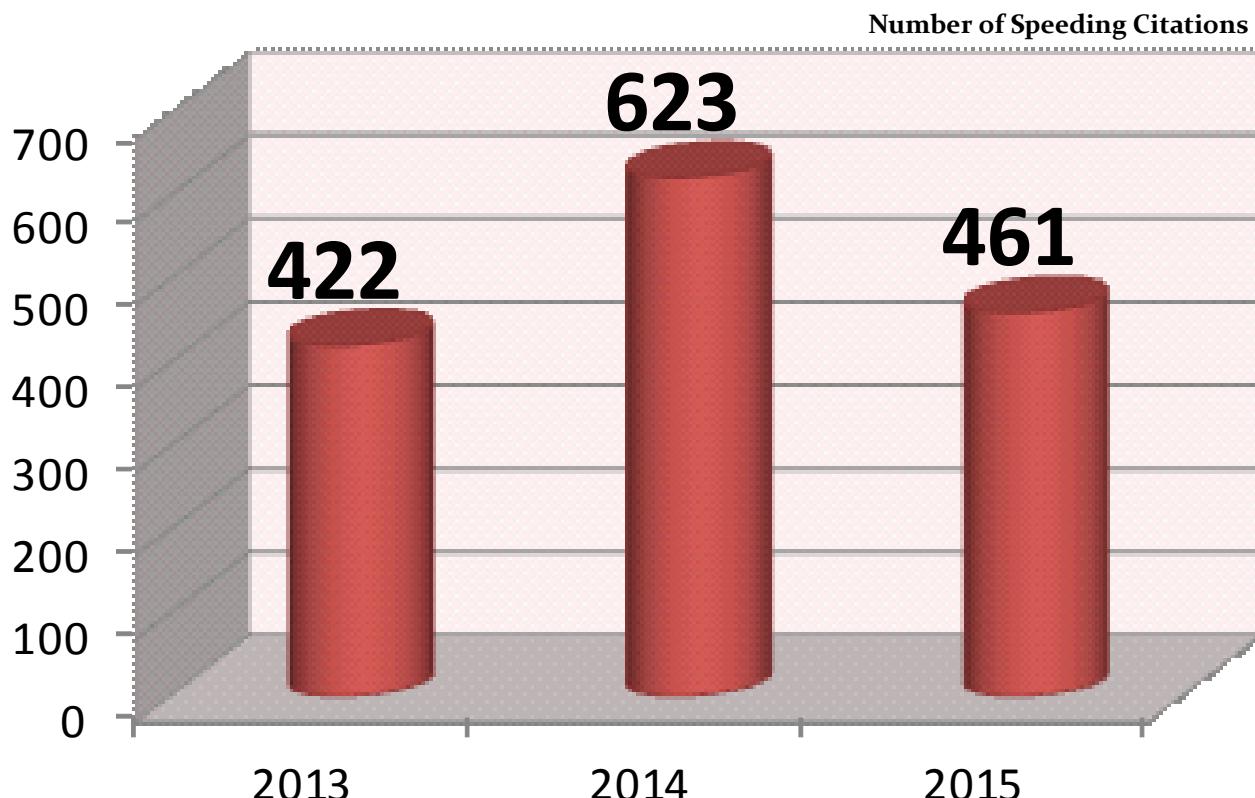
The RSA Team praised the Elwood Police Department for its efforts and encouraged the department to keep a presence in and around the intersection.

The department continues to place a strong emphasis on speed enforcement. The IDOT Roadway Safety Assessment provided field data to identify driver and situational factors associated with speeding on Mississippi and Route 53. Specifically, this effort focused on "who" is speeding, "what" contributes to their decisions to speed, and the RSA helped to identify "which" countermeasures would most effectively work on those drivers who account for a significant proportion of the speeding problem.

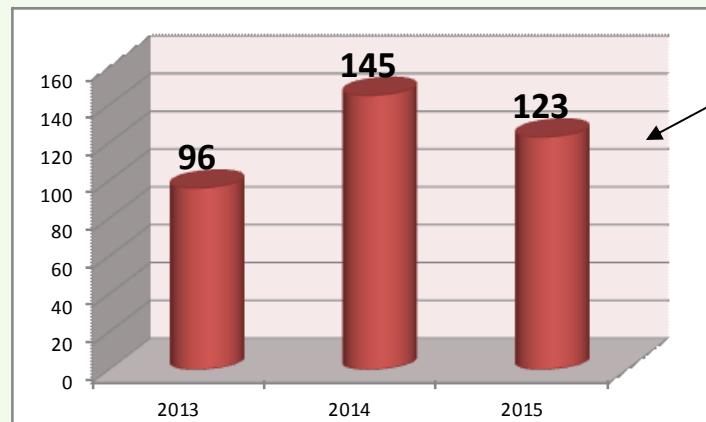
The analysis of field data from the RSA indicated the peak speed period on Mississippi to occur between 2:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. The



identified time period directly correlated with the shift change at a large industrial warehouse nearby which employed 1000 people. On top of the targeted enforcement, the department contacted management at the warehouse company to help distribute educational material on Safe Driving.



# Traffic Enforcement Activity

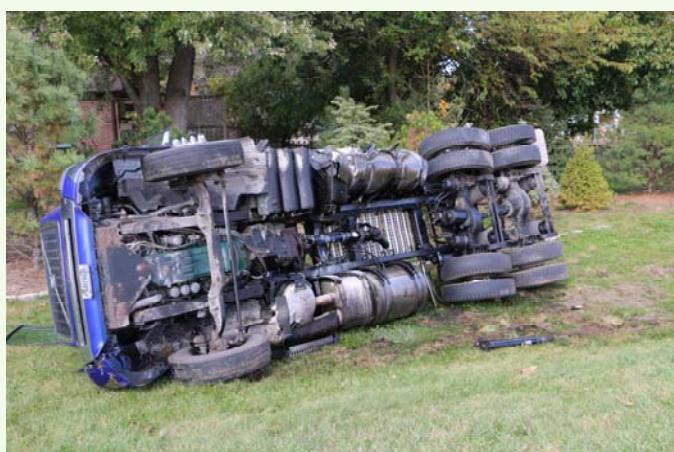


**60.16% of all Crashes involved Commercial Motor Vehicles (CMV)**

The Village of Elwood is home to the largest inland intermodal port in North America and on average 8000 commercial vehicles per day travel through the local system of roadways operated by the village. The intermodal rail yard is operated by the BNSF. A second inland port rail yard operated by the UP opened in 2010 within the City of Joliet. Both rail yards continue to expand and as a result traffic grows exponentially.

**42.27% of all accidents occurred on private property**

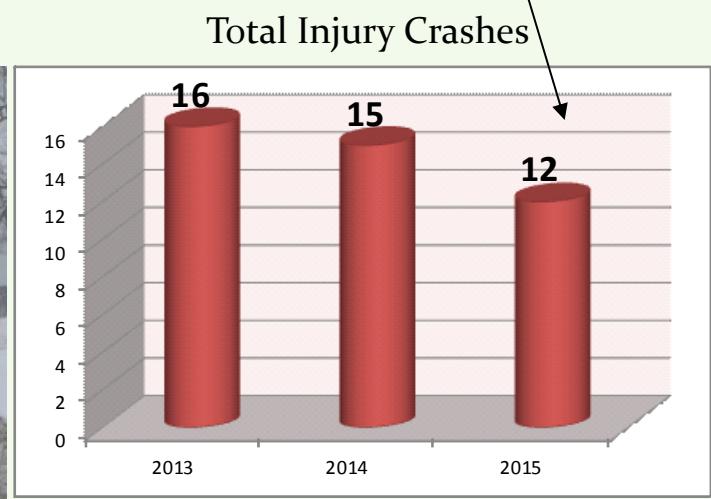
CMV Rollover crash on Manhattan Road.10/15/15



Officer Randy Lightfoot cites drivers of CMV for violation on the 5 ton weight limit at Brandon and Manhattan Road 3/9/15 (below).



**-20% Decrease in Injury Crashes**



**Total Injury Crashes**

# Traffic Enforcement Activity

## The Highest Number of Citations Issued in the Departments History

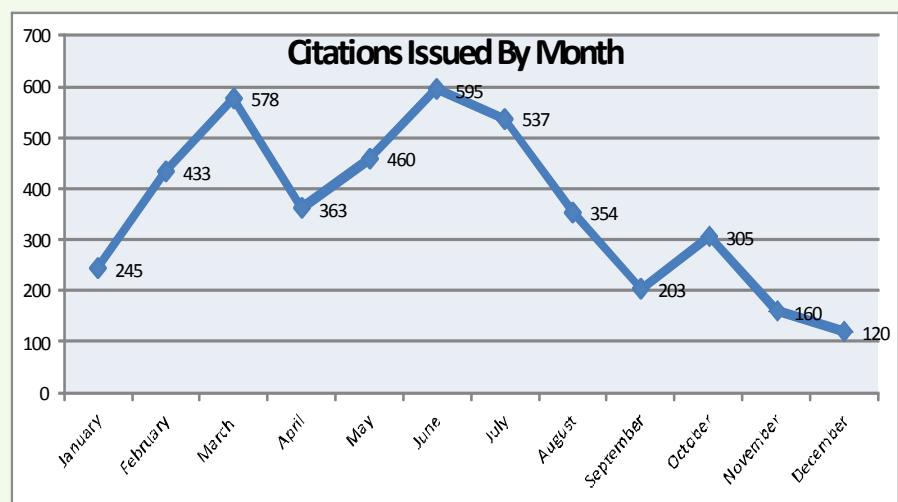
The Elwood Police Department completed an annual analysis from all crash data compiled throughout the year. This data is further broken down to the top five crash intersections. A review of the crashes by month, day, time, reported injuries, seat belt usage, and types of vehicles involved, was completed.

The department closely conducted the analysis with the Director of Engineering for the village, to identify where education, enforcement, or roadway improvements were needed to improve traffic safety. At the start of 2015 the most dangerous intersection was identified as Route 53 and Walter Strawn.

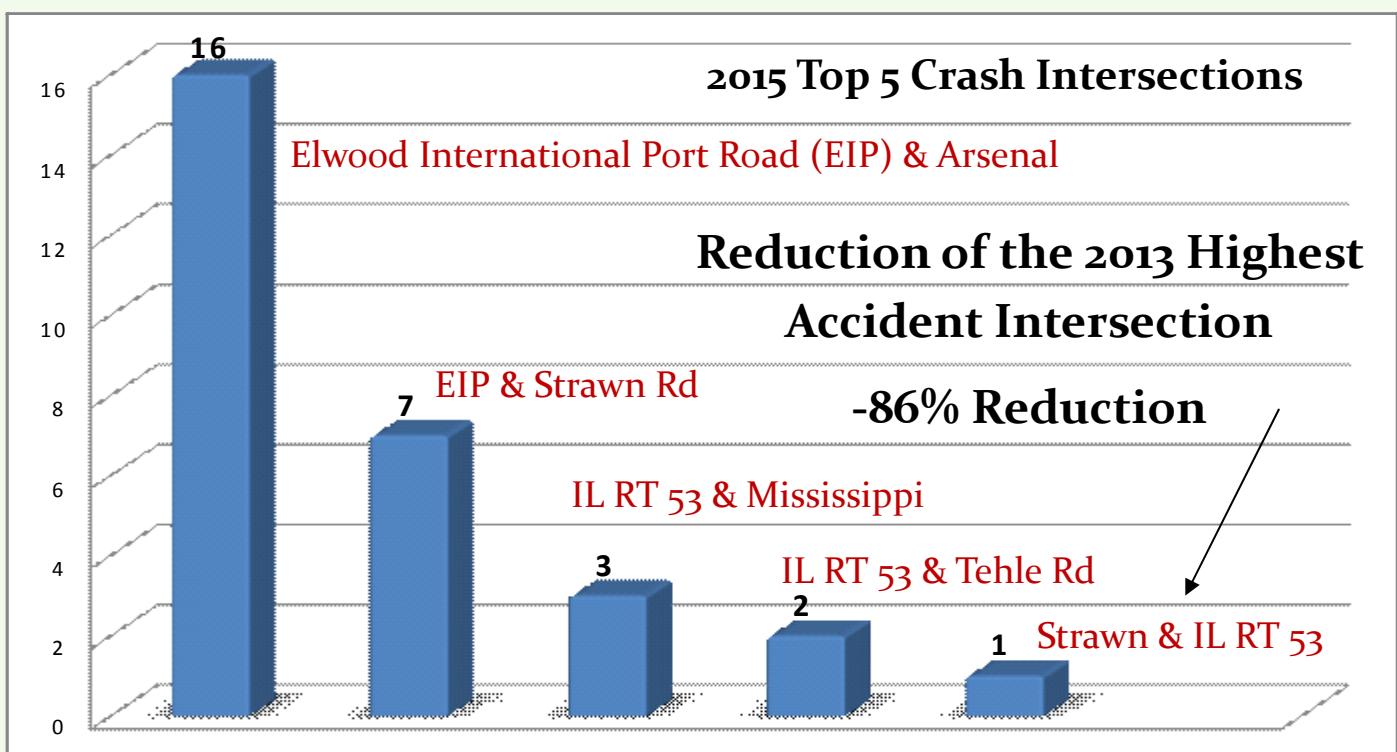
This intersection had the highest number of injury crashes and the strongest likelihood of a catastrophic accident involving a commuter train. The information was used to target enforcement, education, and infrastructure improvements to reduce one of the top accident intersections in the Village of Elwood by -86%, from 7 to 1 crash. We

**4,353**

**2015 YEAR TOTAL**



also worked with IDOT to change the jurisdictional control of Arsenal Road from Will County to IDOT control. The change will allow for future improved safety initiatives at EIP and Arsenal intersection. Of the 16 crashes reported at the intersection of EIP and Arsenal, 15 involved CMV traffic. Although this intersection falls within the jurisdiction of the Village of Elwood, the Will County Sheriff maintains a daily truck enforcement detail of (4) deputies at this location.



# Elwood Launches Regional Traffic Safety Campaign

**C**iting 20 deaths related to trucks in less than two years, a group of concerned Will County residents and the Village of Elwood launched Safe Roads Illinois, a community-based coalition aimed at reducing the amount of heavy truck traffic in the area and making local roads safer.

With thousands of trucks traveling to and from dozens of area intermodal and warehousing facilities each day, Will County has been overwhelmed with heavy truck traffic that has overrun the community in recent years, creating dangerous conditions and putting lives at risk.

Meri Knauer's 8-year-old granddaughter, Madison Frost of Crest Hill, was killed in 2014 when her family's minivan collided with a semi-truck on Route 53 following a birthday party. Knauer, joined the Safe Roads Illinois coalition, called on elected officials to take aggressive action to prevent further truck related tragedies from occurring.

"Families and neighbors are the ones paying the ultimate price when truckers run red lights and cut us off; speed, tailgate and slam on the brakes; crash through railroad crossing safety gates; ignore signs and drive in our neighborhoods; disregard weight limits and vehicle safety regulations; and disobey law enforcement," said Knauer who appears in a video on the group's website - [www.SafeRoadsIllinois.com](http://www.SafeRoadsIllinois.com).

"We deserve to drive on safe streets without fear that any trip might be our last. I won't let Madison's death be in vain. Our lives have been forever changed. We're fighting to make sure that it doesn't happen again."

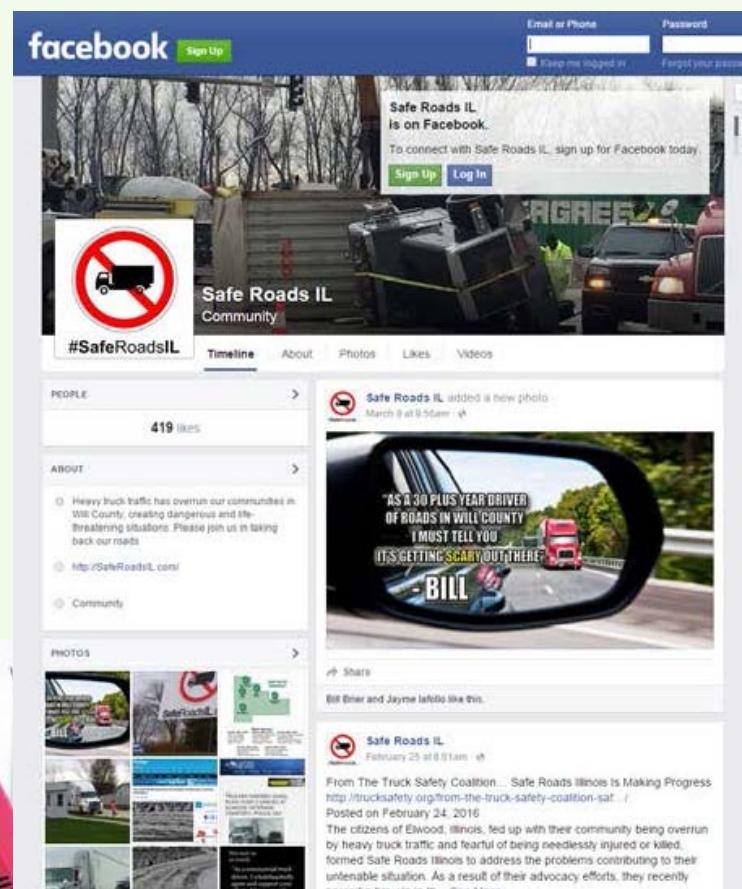
Since 2014, there have been a total of 20 truck-related deaths in Will County. In 2013 alone, there were 738 truck-related accidents and 120 truck-related injuries in Will County, the highest totals for any county in the state.

The growing truck traffic stems from the sprawling intermodal facilities in Joliet and Elwood as well as dozens of surrounding warehouses. More than 8,000 heavy trucks and nearly one million containers are brought in and out of the intermodal facility in Elwood alone each year.

The Safe Roads Illinois coalition is encouraging Will County residents to visit [www.SafeRoadsIllinois.com](http://www.SafeRoadsIllinois.com) and sign an online petition to increase pressure on local, regional and state elected officials and encourage them to act in the interests

of safety. The website, which serves as a platform to give residents a voice to address these issues, also provides updates on new developments, truck-related accidents and deaths, pending legislation and action alerts. In addition, Will County residents who see trucks disregarding the safety of other drivers are encouraged to share their stories, pictures, and videos via social media, using the hash tag #SafeRoadsIL, provided they can do so in a safe manner.

## SAFE ROADS ILLINOIS



The screenshot shows the Facebook profile page for 'Safe Roads IL Community'. The profile picture is a red truck with a 'no trucks' symbol over it. The page has 419 likes. The 'ABOUT' section includes a message about heavy truck traffic creating dangerous situations, a link to the website, and a 'Community' link. The 'PHOTOS' section shows a post from 'Safe Roads IL' with a photo of a truck in a rearview mirror and a caption from a 30-year driver. The post has 1 share and was posted on March 9 at 9:54am. Another post from 'Safe Roads IL' on February 25 at 8:11am discusses the truck safety coalition and its progress, with 1 share and a link to the truck safety coalition's website.



Truck Crash Route 53 and Mississippi, 12/2/15



# SAFE ROADS ILLINOIS

## "Safety for Will County residents is our top priority,"

said Elwood Police Chief Fred Hayes, immediate past President of the Illinois Association of Police Chiefs, who supports the effort. "Will County has turned into the Wild West, with brazen truckers blatantly disregarding and breaking the laws. Residents have understandably had enough. They want to reduce the truck traffic and reclaim their neighborhoods, safety and quality of life."

Along with reducing truck traffic and limiting future development, the Safe Roads Illinois campaign aims to hold truckers accountable for disobeying law; make developers liable for their actions; develop smarter truck routes; and toughen commercial driving licensing and penalties.

"It's gotten to the point where you're just wondering who's going to be next," said Sarah Adler of the Wooded Cove subdivision. "I have two little boys who are afraid of semis. I have a daughter who just got her license but I'm too afraid to let her drive because it's just too dangerous. It's ridiculous."

Safe Roads Illinois aims to create and sustain a dialogue with Will County residents, businesses and elected officials to create long-term solutions to the safety problems and unplanned development that continue to persist throughout the county, particularly with more warehouses and intermodal facilities in the works.

Illinois Safe Roads supports jobs, economic opportunity and understand the roads leading in and out of the intermodal facilities play a crucial role in the operations the intermodal facilities and impact businesses throughout the Midwest. Nevertheless, the group supports achieving a balance that enhances safety, ensures vibrant commerce and maintains quality of life for residents.

"We support jobs and commerce but are very concerned about the unplanned, overdevelopment of intermodal facilities and warehouses in Will County, which is threatening our quality of life," said Bob Barney of Jackson Township. "With more developments going up, these problems will only compounding and reaching a dangerous tipping point. The resulting truck traffic is overrunning communities, creating dangerous situations and taking lives."

In the past year, Will County residents have united to gain key victories. In January,



SAFERROADSILLINOIS  
Let's take back our roads! TAKE ACTION

HOME ABOUT NEWS TAKE ACTION

13 Safe Roads Illinois offers solutions for preventing trucks from entering Veterans Cemetery. IDOT plans to install traffic light to stop trucks from damaging veterans' graves in Elwood. 2 Hospitalized After Car vs Semi Crash Elwood residents campaign fo

**"WE  
LIVE IN  
FEAR"**

- GARY VANDER BENT,  
WILL COUNTY RESIDENT

Heavy truck traffic has overrun our communities in Will County, creating dangerous and life-threatening situations for our residents.

[Click here to tell Lawmakers and Elected Officials that Enough is Enough!](#)

the Illinois Commerce Commission closed the Walter Strawn rail crossing at Route 53, citing an "immediate safety concern" after numerous near-misses between trains and trucks, the continuous breakage of railroad crossing gates (more than 50 in less than a year), and the countless veteran funeral processions that were getting cut off by trucks failing to abide the rules of the road.

This fall, Will County lowered the weight limit along Manhattan Road in Jackson Township after residents secured over 500 signatures to restrict trucks, which had been breaking the law and using the route as a short cut. In April, Elwood resident Bob Corcoran was killed when his car collided with a semi-trailer truck illegally traveling on Manhattan Road.

"The continuing threat to our safety and the fight to reign in unplanned development and dangerous traffic condition isn't over," said Dennis O'Connor of Elwood. "We know our elected officials cannot ignore the power of the people and Safe Roads Illinois provides an avenue to ensure our voices get heard. We cannot simply stand by while our roads are being taken from us. Now is the time for Will County residents to join together and collectively say, 'Enough is enough' and commit to taking back our roads."



Will County Resident Shares Concerns Regarding Truck...  
137 views • 3 months ago



A Young Life Lost  
2,356 views • 3 months ago



Will County Resident Dennis O'Connor Says Semi-Trucks Ju...  
4,044 views • 3 months ago



Elwood Police Chief Fred Hayes On The Dangers Of Semi-Trucks  
16,218 views • 3 months ago



Will County Resident Dennis O'Connor Is Tired Of Inconsiderate Truckers  
1,823 views • 3 months ago



Will County Can't Afford Another Truck On The Road  
2,350 views • 3 months ago



Little Villages And Towns Are Not Designed For Big Trucks  
1,282 views • 3 months ago



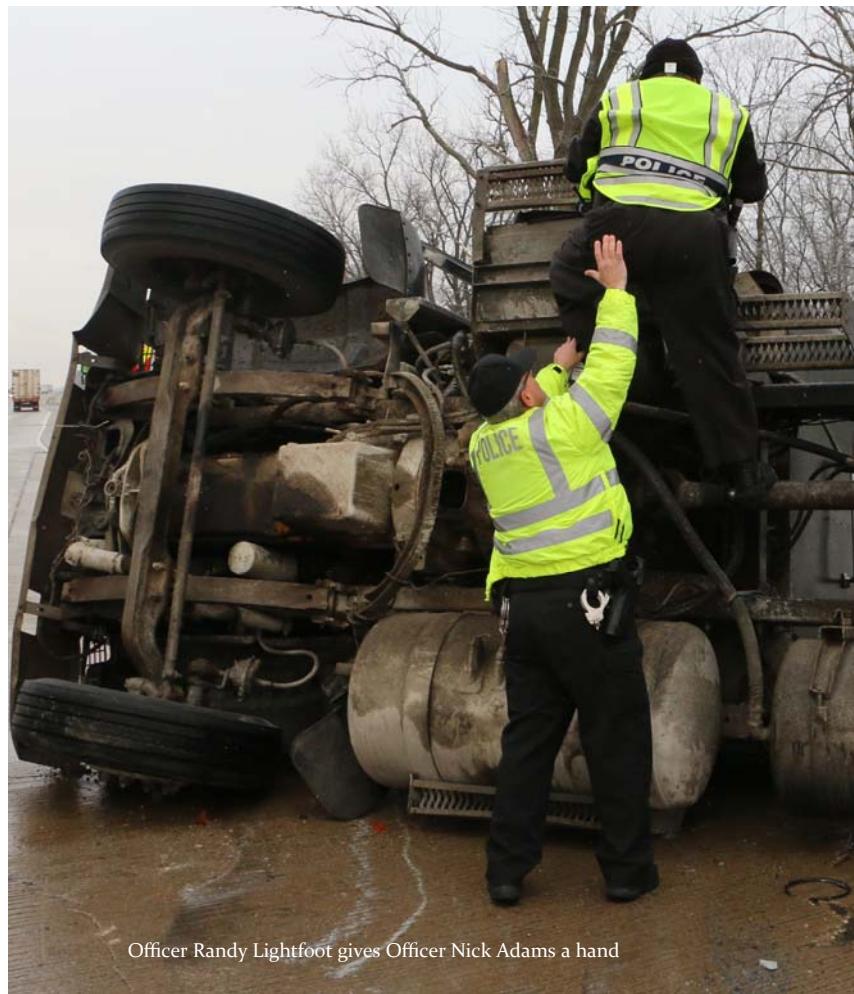
Will County Resident Dennis O'Connor Is Fed Up With...  
2,269 views • 3 months ago



Will County Resident Sarah Adler Concerned About Semi-Trucks  
12,068 views • 3 months ago



OVER 16,000  
YouTube Video Hits



Officer Randy Lightfoot gives Officer Nick Adams a hand



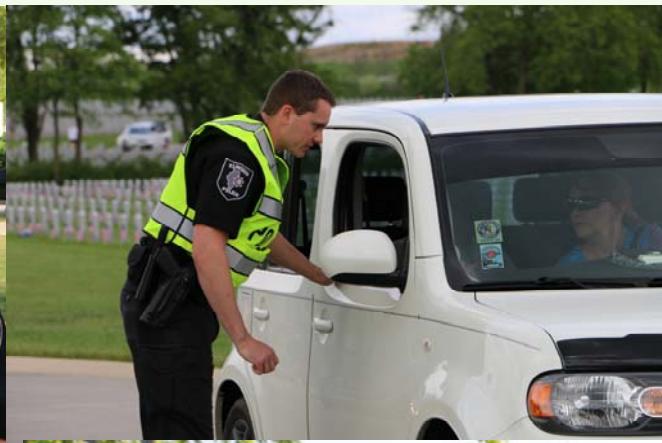
Commander Kerr works on patrol rifle qualification



Officer Jim Hartley gives the Cub Scouts a tour of the department



Commander Pat Kerr discovers Officer Anderson's weakness with chocolate cake during department meeting



## Public Service With A Smile



Officer Randy Lightfoot and Officer Nick Adams



Officer Andrew Anderson and Officer Jennifer Kickert

Law enforcement must remain the facilitator to engage and inform citizens on how to better protect their homes and property. As a result we can build a vibrant safe community and remain vigilant, not fearful.

Please call the Elwood Police Department at (815) 424-1090 and schedule an appointment for a home security survey and information on how you can better protect your home against crime.



Officer Nick Adams

SEASON 2015

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