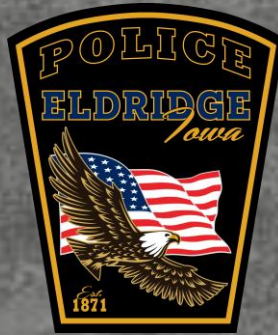


# Eldridge Police Department



# OATH OF OFFICE & CODE OF ETHICS

## 1. ETHICS/CODE OF CONDUCT

*The Eldridge Police Department exists because the community, through government, empowers the police department to do a job on its' behalf. The police department and its' employees are tasked to function effectively, partly through personal endeavors and commitment to the profession, but primarily because the community has faith and confidence in our ability to accomplish the task of enforcing the laws of the land and responding to community concerns in an honest and impartial manner.*

*The citizens of Eldridge are entitled to expect:*

- *A police department that is beyond reproach in matters of integrity.*
- *Impartial and courteous services.*
- *Open and honest communication that encourages trust.*
- *Responsible and accountable management of police department resources.*

*The policy of the department is to ensure that all employees maintain an exemplary standard of personal integrity and ethical conduct in their relationship with other employees and the community.*

## 2. LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS CODE OF ETHICS

*The Law Enforcement Officer, my fundamental duty is to serve mankind, to safeguard lives and property, and to protect the innocent against deception, the weak against oppression or intimidation, and the peaceful against violence or disorder, and to respect the Constitutional rights of all people to liberty, equality, and justice.*

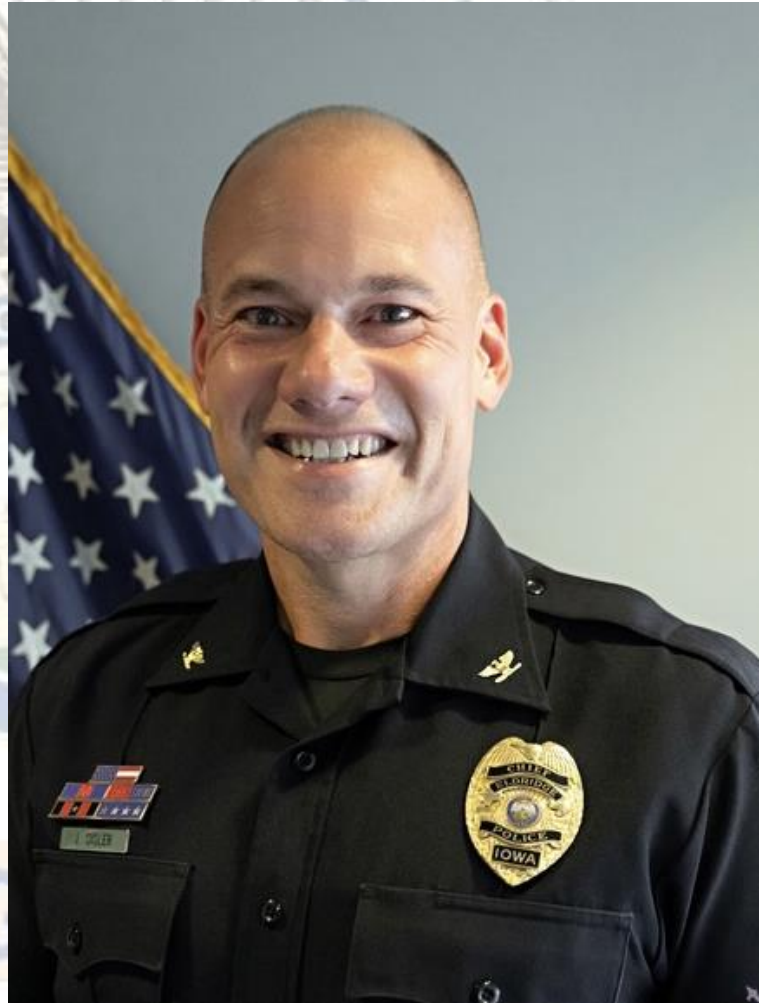
*I will keep my private life unsullied as an example to all, maintain courageous calm in the face of danger, scorn, or ridicule, develop self-restraint, and be constantly mindful for the welfare of others. Honest in thought and deed in both my personal and official life, I will be exemplary in obeying the laws of the land and the regulations of my department. Whatever I see or hear of a confidential nature or that is confided to me in my official capacity, will be kept ever secret unless revelation is necessary in performance of my duty.*

*I will never act officiously or permit personal feelings, prejudices, animosities, or friendships to influence my decisions. With no compromise for crime and with relentless prosecution of criminals, I will enforce the law courteously and appropriately without fear or favor, malice, or ill will, never employing unnecessary force or violence and never accepting gratuities.*

*I recognize the badge of my office as a symbol of public faith, and I accept it as public trust to be held so long as I am true to the ethics of the police service. I will constantly strive to achieve these objectives and ideals, dedicating myself to my chosen profession – Law Enforcement.*

# *A Message from* **CHIEF JOSEPH SISLER**

*Challenging, unprecedented and stressful are what most of us will remember about 2021. Not only The City of Eldridge, but the Eldridge Police Department went through so many challenges and multiple changes. We were hit not only with the COVID pandemic but with changes within the department and throughout our Nation with Police Reform. We had to adjust and overcome being short-staffed due to COVID and the departure of former Officers. We were challenged with staffing shortages with only 4 to 5 Officers on multiple weeks to provide our city with 24/7 coverage, the city's first homicide in over 30 years, the arrest of a former Officer, equipment shortages, the struggles with finding qualified applicants, and keeping the morale up within the department.*



*Despite the Challenges being Faced, we were determined to keep moving forward as a department. Being made the new Chief of Police, I, reminded the Officers of the Eldridge Police Department we were a family, and we would get through this together. Together, we created a new patch and badge for the department along with painting and making some much-needed changes inside of our department. We went from a 9 Officer department to adding 2 more Officers putting us to 11 full-time Officers. We are working on a 5-year plan in*

***hopes to continue building the police department into a stronger, better trained, and highly professional organization. We have added a Deputy Chief as a part of the Command Staff for the department, giving us a Chief, Deputy Chief, Sergeant, and Corporal. We have moved forward in our commitment to community policing by being more involved within our community. The police department is up to date on its mandatory training, department records are organized, and the department policies are up to date. We continue to update our records, evidence/property room, training, equipment, and community relations. We are pushing to learn and apply for grants in an attempt to assist the city in every way we can to assist in cost. We cannot thank your City Council and the Citizens of Eldridge enough for all of your support. We are looking forward to 2022, in hopes we can continue to build the police department and our relations with the City of Eldridge as we are all proud to serve this community.***

***With this annual report and the department's 5-year plan, we hope to provide you with the information showing the importance of quality equipment, training, and staffing needed to give the best and most professional service to the City of Eldridge. We are in a continued state of improving not only the department but all of us as law enforcement officers. The restructuring of the department and updating of the department records, Officers, policies, training, and equipment will be a long process but well worth it.***

***Honored to Serve the City of Eldridge***

***Joseph Sisler  
Chief of Police***

# Department Overview

## Vision

The Eldridge Police Department strives to provide the highest level of public safety through professionalism and community partnerships, ensuring a safe place to live, work, and visit.

## Mission

The Eldridge Police Department's mission is to provide professional, impartial, and ethical law enforcement services through Compassion, Accountability, Respect, and Empathy (CARE).

## Core Values

We will serve our community as GUARDIANS by adhering to these fundamental components.



# 2021 ELDRIDGE POLICE DEPARTMENT



Chief Joseph Sisler



Deputy Chief Andrew Lellig



Cororal Ryan Gale



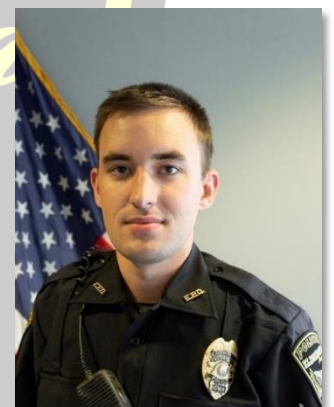
Officer Tony Cavanaugh



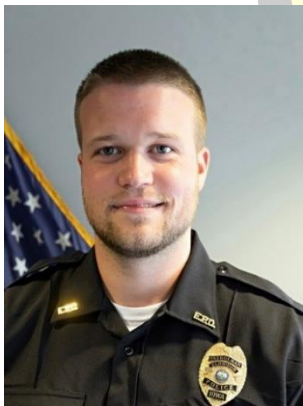
Officer Robert Haxton



Officer/SRO Jack Schwertman



Officer Mike Skocinski



Officer Brandon Pate



Officer Jacob Costas



Officer John Behrens



Administrative Assistant  
Brenda Kiel

Eldridge P.D. Chaplin-  
Steffan Nass

*Sweetkit*  
PHOTOGRAPHY - KELSEY BRASOR

# Our Veterans

**Joseph Sisler**, United States Army Infantry from 1989-1993, Gulf War in 1991, and 2 years with the Department of Defense Contractor in Iraq (Rapid Response Team Leader) and Afghanistan (Personal Security Detail Team Leader) 2009-2011.

**Robert Haxton**, Retired active-duty military service U.S. Army from May 1993 - May 2013. Retired as Sergeant First Class (E-7) with 20 years as a U.S. Army Military Policeman. Duty stations included: Fort Bragg, NC, Korea, Fort Polk, LA, Fort Leonardwood, MO, Schofield Barracks, HI and Rock Island Arsenal, IL.

**Jack Schwertman**, United States Marine Corps, Sergeant, 2010-2018

**Jacob Costas**, United States Army 2005-2009 and Army Reserves 2011-Present, Sergeant First Class



## Retirement

David Kopatich began his career as a part-time officer in Walcott in 1988. He then attended the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy, and after graduating he worked as a full-time officer in Durant. In 1989 he was hired as an officer for the Eldridge Police Department. He left the Eldridge Police Department in 1997 to become Walcott's Chief of Police until he returned to Eldridge in 2009 as Chief of Police. Chief Kopatich finished his career as Chief of Police in May of 2021 after 32 years of service.

## Promotions

**Joseph Sisler**, Chief of Police, July 2021

**Andrew Lellig**, Deputy Chief, October 2021

Sergeant, July 2021

**Ryan Gale**, Corporal, July 2021

## New Hires

Michael Skocinski – July 2021

Brandon Pate – August 2021

Jacob Costas – November 2021

John Behrens – December 2021 – Currently at the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA) completing his 16 week certification

# Training

Eldridge Police Department believes quality training is the foundation of a great department and one of the best ways to ensure officers are ready to protect and serve the community in an ever-changing world. Currently, all the Eldridge Police Department officers are up to date on their mandatory training, which includes child abuse, dependent adult, C.P.R., de-escalation implicit bias policing, taser, firearms, mental health, N.C.I.C., hazmat, hazardous communications, and blood born pathogens. Along with all mandatory training, the Eldridge Police Department completes ongoing training, as listed below.

## Chief Sisler

- Chief Executive Leadership
- First Line Leadership
- Enhanced Force Investigations
- Developing Leadership
- 8 hours of additional Leadership
- Ethics
- Crisis Intervention
- Multiple Leadership Courses
- Reid Interviewing



## Deputy Chief Lellig

- Chief Executive Leadership
- Enhanced Force Investigations
- Internal Affairs & Professional Standards
- Governor's Highway Traffic Safety Conference
- Hostage Negotiator
- Reid Interviewing
- Multiple Leadership Courses

## Corporal Gale

- Evidence & Storage Management
- Internal Affairs & Professional Standards
- Multiple Reid Interviewing Classes
- Field Training Officer (FTO)
- AED

## Officer Cavanaugh

- Field Training Officer (FTO)
- Standardized Field Sobriety Testing
- Reid Interviewing

## Officer Schwertman

- Advanced Interview and Interrogation
- National Basic SRO Certification
- Reid Interviewing

## Officer Haxton

- Field Training Officer (FTO)
- Reid Interviewing

## Officer Pate

- Reid Interviewing



# AWARDS

Joe Sisler

Professional Service Medal  
Meritorious Service Medal

Andrew Lellig

Chief's Award  
Meritorious Service Medal

Ryan Gale

Commendation Medal  
Professional Service Medal

Tony Cavanaugh

Commendation Medal  
Community Service Medal

Robert Haxton

Commodation Medal  
Commendation Medal

Jack Schwertman

Commendation Medal  
Letter of Appreciation

Mike Skocinski

Certificate of Appreciation

Brenda Kiel

Letter of Appreciation  
Certificate of Appreciation

Brandon Pate

Certificate of Appreciation



## **Medals of High Honor**



**Medal of Valor**

The Medal of Valor is the highest law enforcement medal awarded to officers and it is awarded for individual acts of extraordinary bravery or heroism performed in the line of duty at extreme and life-threatening personal risk.



**Medal of Honor**

The Preservation of Life Medal may be awarded to an officer who has distinguished himself or herself by employing exceptional tactics and exercising sound judgment, beyond the normal demands of duty, to preserve the life of another during a volatile or dangerous encounter while protecting the safety and security of the public and his or her fellow officers.



**Police Medal of Bravery**

The Police Medal is an award for bravery, usually awarded to officers for individual acts of heroism in the line of duty, though not above and beyond the call of duty, as is required for the *Medal of Valor*.



**Purple Heart**

Awarded to any active member of the division who, while on duty or in the act of performing a law enforcement function while off-duty has been killed, wounded, or injured as a direct result of any purposeful or neglected act by an individual or individuals, during the commission of or while fleeing immediately after the commission of a criminal offense, said injuries requiring immediate medical attention or hospitalization.



**Chiefs Award**

Chiefs Award is awarded for outstanding service to the Department by sworn or civilian employees. This award is originated and approved by the Chief of Police or Deputy Chief who shall determine when this citation will be awarded.



**Life Saving Medal**

Life Saving Medal is presented to an officer for the saving of a human life. Intended for all officers directly responsible for the saving of a human life in instances involving fire rescues, potential drowning instances, medical emergency, vehicle accidents, miscellaneous rescues, and suicide prevention, where the sole meritorious action of the officer was the lifesaving act itself.

## Department Rank Bars



Eldridge Police Department Rank Bars will be issued out to all officers as they are promoted through the ranks of the department along with certificates. Rank structure may change through the years as the department grows. This will be changed by the Chief of Police as this occurs.

## Achievement Bars



### **Officer of the Year**

Officer of the Year will be selected by the Chief and Deputy Chief after receiving all nominations by all department employees.



### **Meritorious Service**

Meritorious Service is awarded to a department officer for his/her diligence and perseverance in performing a difficult task in which: a life or property was protected, a criminal was apprehended, or a crime was prevented, in most cases without prior knowledge from an outside source. This service shall be above what is normally required or expected of a good police officer.



### **Professional Service**

The Professional Service Award is presented in recognition of exceptional service to the department over a period of years. This award recognizes an officer, or civilian employee, who has consistently conducted him or herself in a highly professional manner to include such traits as promptness, courtesy, dependability, cooperation, general knowledge, dedication, and loyalty.



### **Duty Citation**

Duty Citation may be awarded to police officers whose service and conduct in the line of duty indicates unusual thoroughness, conscientiousness, determination, and initiative in the performance of difficult or trying assignments. These acts should have been directed to, or instrumental in, protecting the life or property of citizens, thereby furthering the image of the department, or increasing its effectiveness.



### **Community Service**

Community Service Award is presented by the Chief of Police or Deputy Chief for those situations in which an officer or group of officers makes a significant difference in improving the quality of life for the citizens, the community, or the neighborhood they serve. The development, organization, management, participation and the consistent resolution of community conflict or problems by the officer or officers have made a significant impact by enhancing the quality of life.



### Commendation

Commendation Award for an officer in appreciation and recognition for continued dedication and loyalty to the law enforcement profession and for consistent high-quality performance as a professional police officer.

### Service Bars



Military Service

Iraq Vet

Afghanistan Vet



FBI Academy



FBI-ELI



FBI-CLI



FBI-SLI



Advanced Leadership



Leadership



Supervisory



Good Conduct



### Years of Service

Years of Service Bar is given to an officer every 5 years. Each star indicates 5 years of service.



### Fitness Award

Fitness Award is given to officers who participate in the annual physical fitness assessment and achieves a passing score per ILEA physical fitness standards for their age group.

### Specialty Assignment Bars



## School Resource Officer

School Resource Officers (SRO) are police officers assigned to liaison with local schools and work collaboratively with administrators, educators, staff, and parents to promote safety and security at the schools while providing a positive learning environment. North Scott had Officer Ryan Gale finishing out the 2020-2021 school year and currently has Officer Jack Schwertman assigned as SRO to achieve this goal. The School Resource Officer responds to calls for service within the schools and conducts criminal investigations if necessary. They are also responsible for planning instruction on current youth-related issues. The School Resource Officer also conducts regular safety checks at all the North Scott Schools to maintain building security. The SRO is in contact with Administration from the high school, middle school, and all elementary schools in the North Scott District. The School Resource Officer also serves as a positive role model to students through coaching and mentoring to help them make good choices and to help them learn about the consequences of negative behavior. The SRO program continues in its 15<sup>th</sup> year to be a great benefit to the North Scott School District, as well as the Eldridge Police Department. It is our goal to continue to be a great resource for all staff, students, and families at the North Scott Schools, and continue to further develop the program to its full potential.



## MILO Training Program

The MILO (Multiple Interactive Learning Objectives) Training program is an immersive, realistic, and stress-inducing use of force training tool and the Eldridge Police Department invited members of the public to come and try it out back in April. The MILO consists of a high-definition projector that is linked to a desktop computer. This computer presents scripted, life-size, video scenarios involving many realistic law enforcement response situations. Scenarios included traffic stops, mental health contacts, domestic violence response, and active shooter incidents, plus everything in between. This simulator provides realistic stress-based training in just about every aspect of the officer-citizen encounter. This journey may cause citizens to understand how a tense, uncertain and rapidly evolving situation impacts police decision-making, perceptual distortions, and failures of memory. This training allows citizens to walk in a patrol officer's shoes.

## Field Training Program

The Eldridge Field Training Program is staffed with five Field Training Officers (FTOs), who have each received 40-hours of FTO training to prepare them as effective teachers and mentors for the recruits. In 2021 we had three lateral officers complete the field training program. A new officer works with different FTOs for three months, learning all the different skills that they will need to be an Eldridge Police officer. They are then evaluated before they are then on solo patrol.

## Security Camera Registration



This year, along with Tara Case with the S.A.F.E Program (Safety Awareness for Eldridge), we asked that residents and businesses register their security cameras. We then are looking to establish a map of exterior facing camera locations throughout the city. Security cameras can be a powerful tool in helping deter crime and help identify offenders when a crime has taken place. To date, we have had 47 residents/businesses register a total of 135 cameras. Registrations can be done on our city website under the police tab.

# Eldridge P.D. Incidents/Tickets

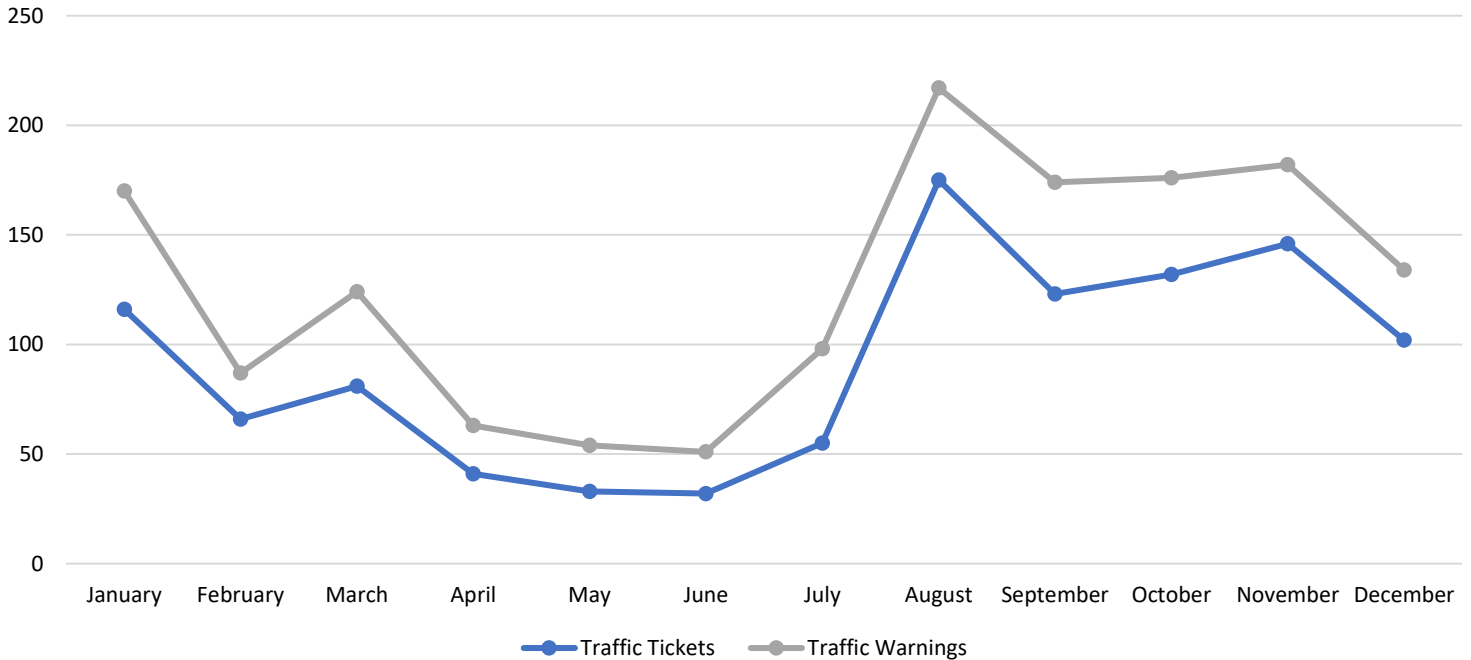
Officers of the Eldridge Police Department received 15,698 calls for service, issued 421 traffic tickets and 1,102 warnings in 2021.

6	- Abuse/Abandonment/Neglect/Child Abuse	44	- Fraud/Deception
133	- Vehicle Accidents	63	- Harassment/Stalking/Threat
1	- Aircraft Accident	3	- Identity Theft
185	- Burglary/Hold up Alarms	3	- Indecency/Lewdness
103	- Animal Problem	31	- Mental/Behavior Disorder/Suicidal Person
22	- Assault	17	- Missing/Runaway/Found Person
16	- Assist Other Agencies	1	- Robbery/Car Jacking
25	- Burglary/Home Invasion	760	- Suspicious/Wanted
47	- Damage/Vandalism/Mischief	88	- Theft (Larceny)
3	- Homicide/Death Investigations	1965	- Traffic Stop
157	- Disturbance/Nuisance	25	- Trespassing/Unwanted
65	- Domestic Disturbance/Violence	46	- Warrant Service
14	- Drugs	19	- Weapons/Firearms
11	- Fail to Stop Vehicle	11695	- All Other Calls for Service



**23%**  
Increase  
in calls  
from 2020

## Traffic Tickets/Warnings



# CONNECTING WITH COMMUNITY

## Coffee with a Cop, On a Roll with Eldridge Patrol, and Ed White Movie Night

The Eldridge PD, along with Sips Coffee, and the Eldridge Community Center helped host many events like Coffee with a Cop, On a Roll with Eldridge Patrol, and Ed White Movie Night- they were excellent opportunities for the public to get to know the Eldridge Police Officers. Everyone got to ask questions, try out equipment, have fun, and learn more about how the officers serve the community.



Coffee with a Cop



Ed White Movie Night



Ed White Movie Night



## Eldridge Police Department Fighting More than Crime

Breast Cancer Police patches were designed and sold to the Eldridge Community to raise money for the Genesis Foundation - Center for Breast Health. Officers were also allowed to wear the patches during the month of October.

## Swearing in Honorary Police Officer Hudson McKearney

The Eldridge Police Department, along with many other agencies, joined together to make Hudson's dream to become a Police Officer come true. Hudson was given a police uniform along with a badge and sworn in. He enjoyed pizza donated by Hall of Fame, while visiting with everyone who came to experience this moment with Hudson.



Swearing in of Honorary Officer Hudson McKearney



Coffee with a Cop

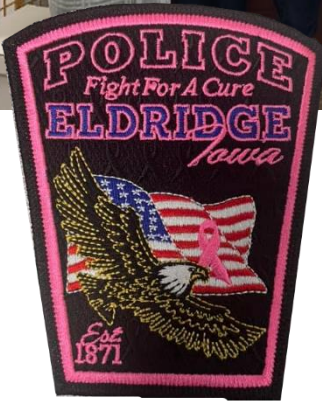
Sips Coffee is yet another example of the impact of small businesses on the community. Deeply rooted in the community with two children and two small businesses, owner April Rus became passionate about helping those who help keep our community safe.

“I think it’s important for people in the community to get to know and support the local police department,” said Rus. “Police have received negative press recently, and that’s not representative of the vast majority of officers. It’s very important to me especially that kids get to see officers in a safe space so that if they need their help one day, kids aren’t afraid to turn to local law enforcement.”

It’s this drive that prompted her to organize events including Coffee with a Cop, On a Roll with Eldridge Patrol, and Ed White Movie Night.

Through these initiatives, Rus got to know the new police chief, Joe Sisler, and learn about some items the police department needs to help keep the community safe.

### Breast Cancer Patch Donation



Sips was first in line to donate, providing a new monitor in the station, and a specialty drink called “Back the Blue.” \$1 from each Back the Blue drink goes directly to the Eldridge Police Department to help support the purchase of items from their needs lists.

A few items on their list include:

- Stop Sticks - Eight sets at \$500 each
- Body Cameras \$1,200 each
- Computers for department \$4,000 each

To date the money raised has helped to purchase some of the needed items.

Rus also connected with another local, small business, Sweekit Photography, to produce trading cards for each police officer. Sweekit took photos of each officer, and Rus, through local non-profit North Scott Community Enhancement Project of which she is president, purchased the cards and a small pop-up tent officers can use at events. Each trading card has the officer’s picture, rank, and a bit

about what they do. Officers hand cards out at community events for another way to help kids and community members get to know them.

“Donating to the police department is just another way that even the smallest donation can impact so many in our community.”

Donating is easy and a tax deduction. If you would like to donate to the Eldridge Police Department, contact Joe Sisler at 563.285.9822



Ed White Movie Night



On A Roll With Eldridge Patrol





Coffee with a Cop



Ed White Movie Night



Brandon Pate



Swearing in of Honorary Officer Hudson McKearney



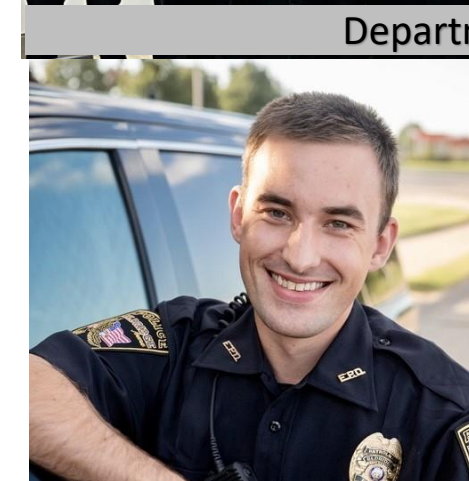
Ed White Movie Night



Department Awards



Swearing in of Officer John Behrens



Michael Skocinski



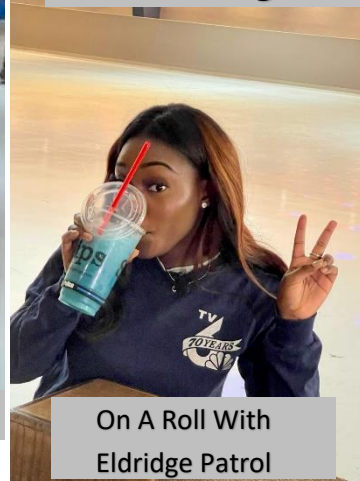
Ed White Movie Night



On A Roll With Eldridge Patrol



Swearing in of Officer John Behrens



On A Roll With Eldridge Patrol



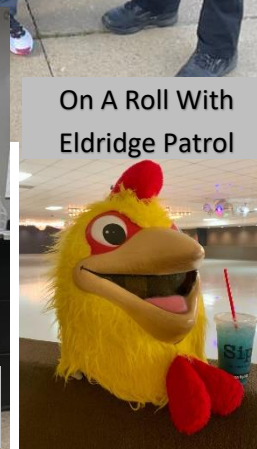
Coffee with a Cop



Swearing in of Officer Jacob Costas



Pallet Flag donation from Grant Haase



On A Roll With Eldridge Patrol



**ELDRIDGE POLICE DEPARTMENT**

*Fighting More Than Crime*

**Police Patches for Sale**

All proceeds will be donated back to a selected organization



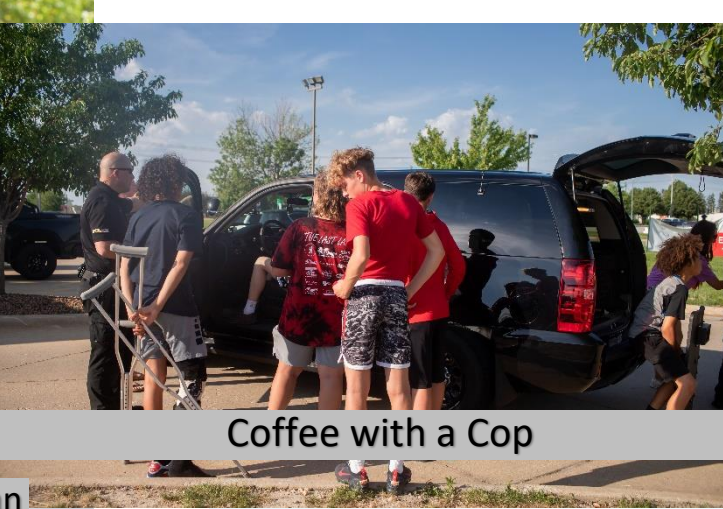
Trunk or Treat



Swearing in of Honorary Officer Hudson McKearney



Jack Schwertman



Coffee with a Cop



Ed White Movie Night



Swearing in of Officer Jacob Costas



Swearing in of Chief Joseph Sisler



Tony Cavanaugh



Meeting Hudson McKearney



Swearing in of Officer Brandon Pate



Life Saving Award for Ryan Gale

# Contact Us

## WHAT THE POLICE NEED TO KNOW

---

1. WHAT happened? (What did he/she do?)
2. WHERE? (Give exact location of the event?)
3. WHO? (Name and/or descriptions of persons involved)
4. WHEN? (When did it happen?)
5. WHY? (Was there an argument? Was house vacant? Etc.)
6. HOW? (How many people were involved? Were they armed?)

Department or Unit	Number
<b>EMERGENCY</b>	<b>911</b>
Non-Emergency	563-285-9822
Eldridge Police Department	563-285-3916
Scott Co Sherrifs Office Non-Emergency	563-388-3904



[www.cityofeldridgeia.org](http://www.cityofeldridgeia.org)

The City of Eldridge's website has a department tab for the Eldridge Police, which has information about the department and other useful tools, including security camera registration, house and security watch forms, information about finger printing, report fees, code red, and animal ordinances.

**Thank You!**

Our work would not be possible without the support of the Eldridge Community.