

Annual Report

SILVIS POLICE DEPARTMENT

600 Illini Drive, Silvis, Illinois



2025



Mark VanKlavern, Chief of Police



The City of Silvis Illinois has a rich and unique history rooted in industry, community, and steady growth that continues to shape its identity today. Originally known as Pleasant Valley, Silvis was officially incorporated in 1906 and took its name from early settler Richard Shippen Silvis, whose family operated a local mining company. From its earliest days, the city's development was closely tied to the railroad industry, which played a defining role in both its economy and culture.

The arrival of the Rock Island Line locomotive repair shops in the early 1900s transformed Silvis into a thriving railroad community. The large-scale rail yard and repair facilities brought jobs and attracted a diverse workforce, including many immigrant families, particularly from Mexico. These workers helped build not only the infrastructure of the railroad, but also the foundation of the community itself. Neighborhoods such as "La Yarda" developed during this time, contributing to the city's cultural heritage and sense of identity.

Throughout the 20th century, Silvis continued to grow as part of the larger Quad Cities region, benefiting from its strategic location near major transportation routes and neighboring communities such as East Moline and Moline. Today, Silvis remains a proud member of the Quad Cities metropolitan area, with a population of just over 8,000 residents and a reputation as a "City of Progress." The city is also home to notable landmarks such as Hero Street USA, a nationally recognized tribute to the many residents who served in the United States military, reflecting the community's long-standing tradition of service and sacrifice.

Public safety services have been an important part of Silvis since its early years. The Silvis Fire Department was established in 1908, just two years after the city's incorporation, demonstrating an early commitment to protecting life and property. While detailed early records of the Silvis Police Department are limited, the department has grown alongside the city, evolving into a modern, professional law enforcement agency dedicated to community-oriented policing.

Today, the Silvis Police Department is comprised of sworn officers and support staff who work collaboratively with regional partners, including multi-jurisdictional task forces and shared emergency dispatch services. The department emphasizes visibility, professionalism, and strong community partnerships, continuing a tradition of service that reflects the values upon which the city was built. Officers regularly engage with residents and businesses, reinforcing trust and cooperation as key components of public safety.

From its origins as a railroad town to its current role as a vibrant and connected community, Silvis has demonstrated resilience and progress through each generation. The continued development of its public services, including its police department, highlights the city's commitment to safety, growth, and quality of life. As Silvis looks to the future, it remains grounded in its history while continuing to move forward as a strong and proud community within the Quad Cities.

Silvis, IL

Place in: [Rock Island County, IL](#), [Davenport-Moline-Rock Island, IA-IL Metro Area](#), [Illinois](#), [United States](#)

7,955
Population

4.3 square miles
1,856.3 people per square mile

Census data: ACS 2024 5-year unless noted



Income

\$39,370

Per capita income

a little less than the amount in the Davenport-Moline-Rock Island, IA-IL Metro Area: \$40,505

about 80 percent of the amount in Illinois: \$46,406

\$62,375

Median household income

about 90 percent of the amount in the Davenport-Moline-Rock Island, IA-IL Metro Area: \$72,738

about three-quarters of the amount in Illinois: \$83,390

Household income



Households

4,156

Number of households

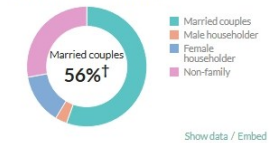
the Davenport-Moline-Rock Island, IA-IL Metro Area: 161,702
Illinois: 5,036,449

1.9

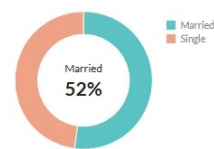
Persons per household

about 80 percent of the figure in the Davenport-Moline-Rock Island, IA-IL Metro Area: 2.3
about three-quarters of the figure in Illinois: 2.5

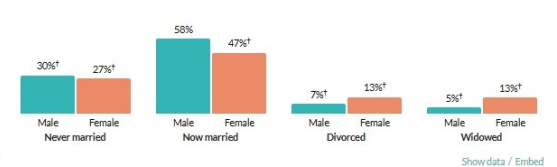
Population by household type



Marital status



Marital status, by sex



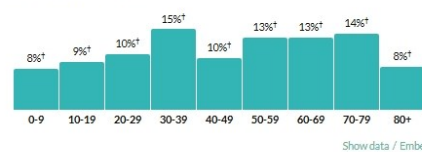
Age

47.1 ±8.4

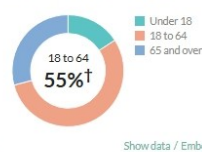
Median age

about 20 percent higher than the figure in the Davenport-Moline-Rock Island, IA-IL Metro Area: 40.4 ±0.2
about 20 percent higher than the figure in Illinois: 39 ±0.1

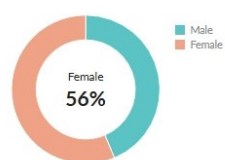
Population by age range



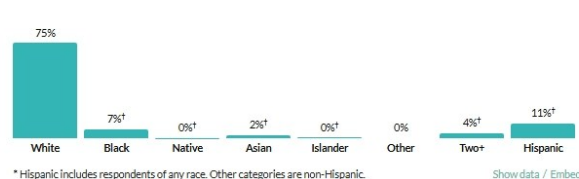
Population by age category



Sex



Race & Ethnicity





Silvis has **4,039** households, with an average of **1** members in each. Of these, **55.5%** are families, while the remaining **44.5%** are made up of individuals living alone or with non-relatives, such as roommates.

Silvis occupancy rates

Out of the **4,039** occupied housing units in Silvis, **54.2%** are owner-occupied, while **45.8%** are lived in by tenants. Meanwhile, **11%** of all homes on the local market sit vacant.



Occupancy breakdown

Graphic Table

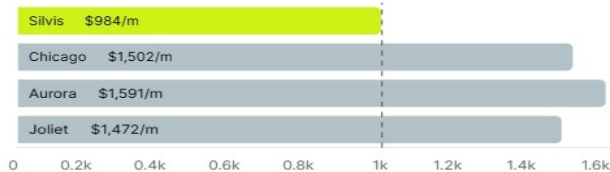


Silvis housing costs

Housing costs in Silvis come to a median of **\$984** per month, while tenants specifically pay a median gross rent of **\$975**.

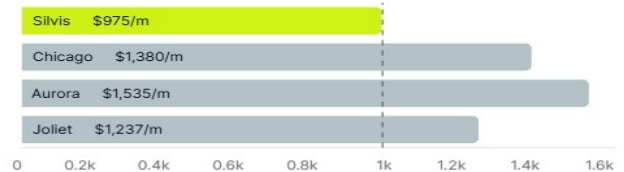
Median housing costs per month

\$984/month



Median gross rent in Silvis

\$975/month



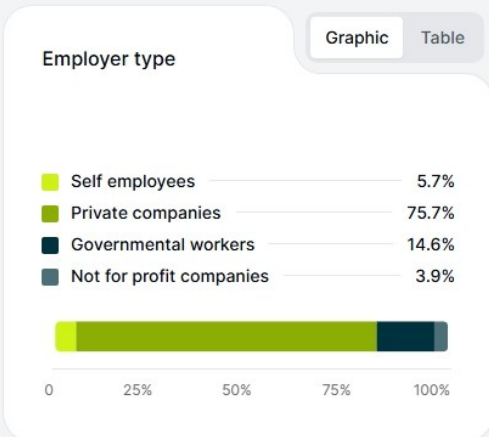
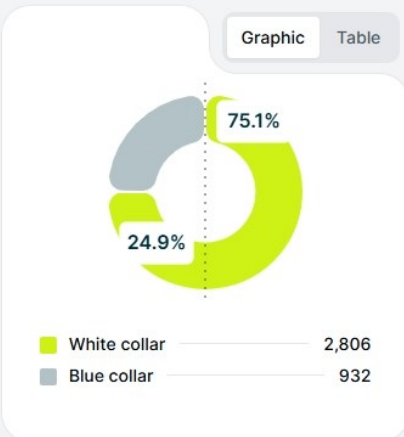
This figure sums up typical monthly housing costs for all households in the area. If you own, it includes mortgage payments in addition to property taxes, insurance and HOA fees. If you rent, it accounts for rent plus extras like utilities. It's useful for seeing how local living expenses stack up compared to other places.

Gross rent gives a more complete look at what renters actually pay, including not just base rent, but also utilities and fees. It's a key number for evaluating rental affordability in your area of interest and understanding how it compares to nearby locations.



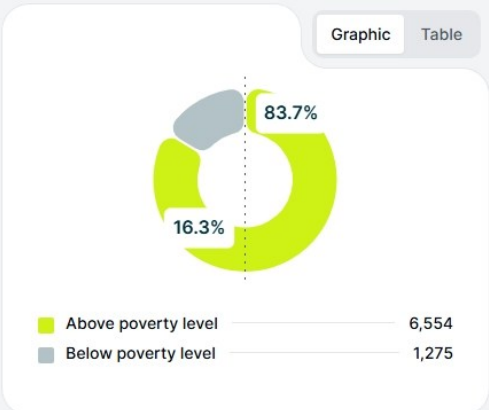
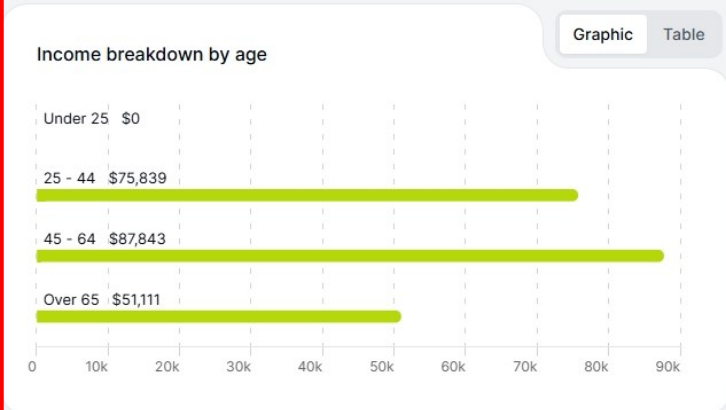
The job market in Silvis is powered by **3,738** working residents, spread across a range of industries and roles. **75.1%** of the working population are employed in professional or administrative positions, while **24.9%** are in hands-on or service-based jobs. Also, **5.7%** run their own businesses, **75.7%** are employed by private companies, and **14.6%** work in the public sector.

Workforce demographics



Silvis income by age

In Silvis, households led by residents aged 25 to 44 — usually in the early to mid stages of their careers — have a median income of **\$75,839**. Those with someone between 45 and 64 in charge, often well established professionally, earn **\$87,843** overall. Overall, **83.7%** of the locals in this community live above the poverty line.







Silvis, Illinois, is served primarily by Silvis School District 34, featuring a diverse student body (52.2% White, 22.1% Hispanic, 14.9% Black) with 66.7% of students eligible for free/reduced-price meals. The district has a 12:1 student-teacher ratio, with 10% math and 13% reading proficiency, lower than state averages. Adult educational attainment is high, with ~91% holding a high school diploma or higher.

Silvis School District 34 (SD 34) Key Demographics

- **Enrollment:** Roughly 580–600 students.
- **Student Diversity:** 52.2% White, 22.1% Hispanic/Latino, 14.9% Black, 9.3% two or more races, and 0.6% Asian.
- **Economic Indicator:** 66.7% of students are eligible for free or reduced-price meals.
- **Performance:** 13% of students are proficient in reading, and 10% in math.
- **Staffing:** 12:1 student-teacher ratio with roughly 52 full-time teachers.

Educational Attainment (Adult Population)

- **High School or Higher:** Approximately 90.9% to 93.8% of adults in Silvis have a high school diploma or equivalent.
- **Bachelor's Degree or Higher:** About 16.4% to 25.1% of adults hold a bachelor's degree or higher.
- **Associate Degree:** Roughly 13.8% of the population holds an associate degree.

Schools in Silvis

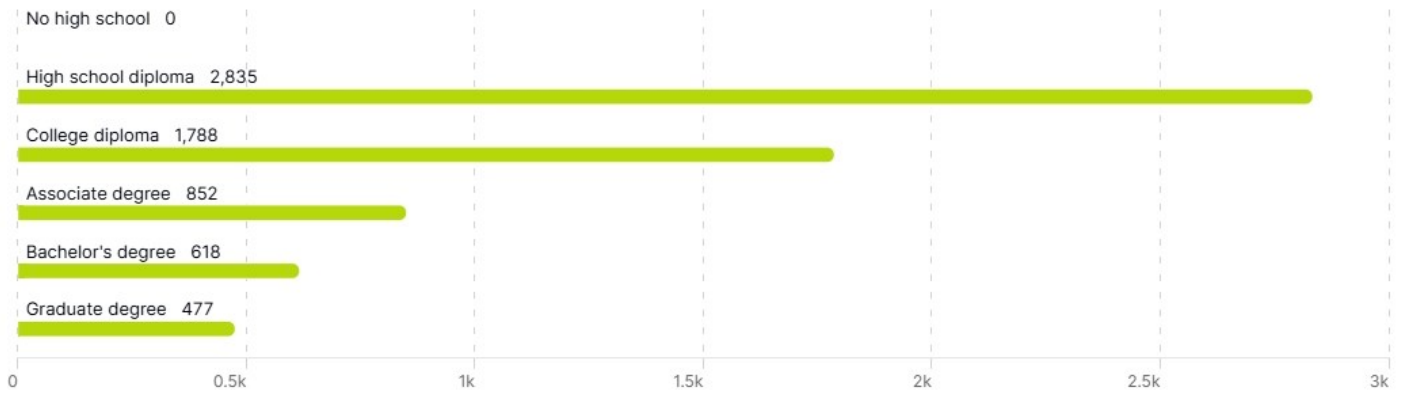
- **George O. Barr School:** The main school serving the district,, which often reports the highest enrollment in the area.
- **Other Districts:** While SD 34 is primary, some areas of Silvis are served by Carbon Cliff-Barstow School District 36 and East Moline School District 37.
- **Staffing:** 107.52 total staff members (including teachers and support).
- **Teacher Salary:** Average teacher salary is \$52,769.



About **43.2%** of the population in Silvis went to high school, while **27.2%** pursued college studies. Another **13%** earned an associate degree and **9.4%** hold a bachelor's. Meanwhile, **7.3%** went even further, earning a master's or doctorate.

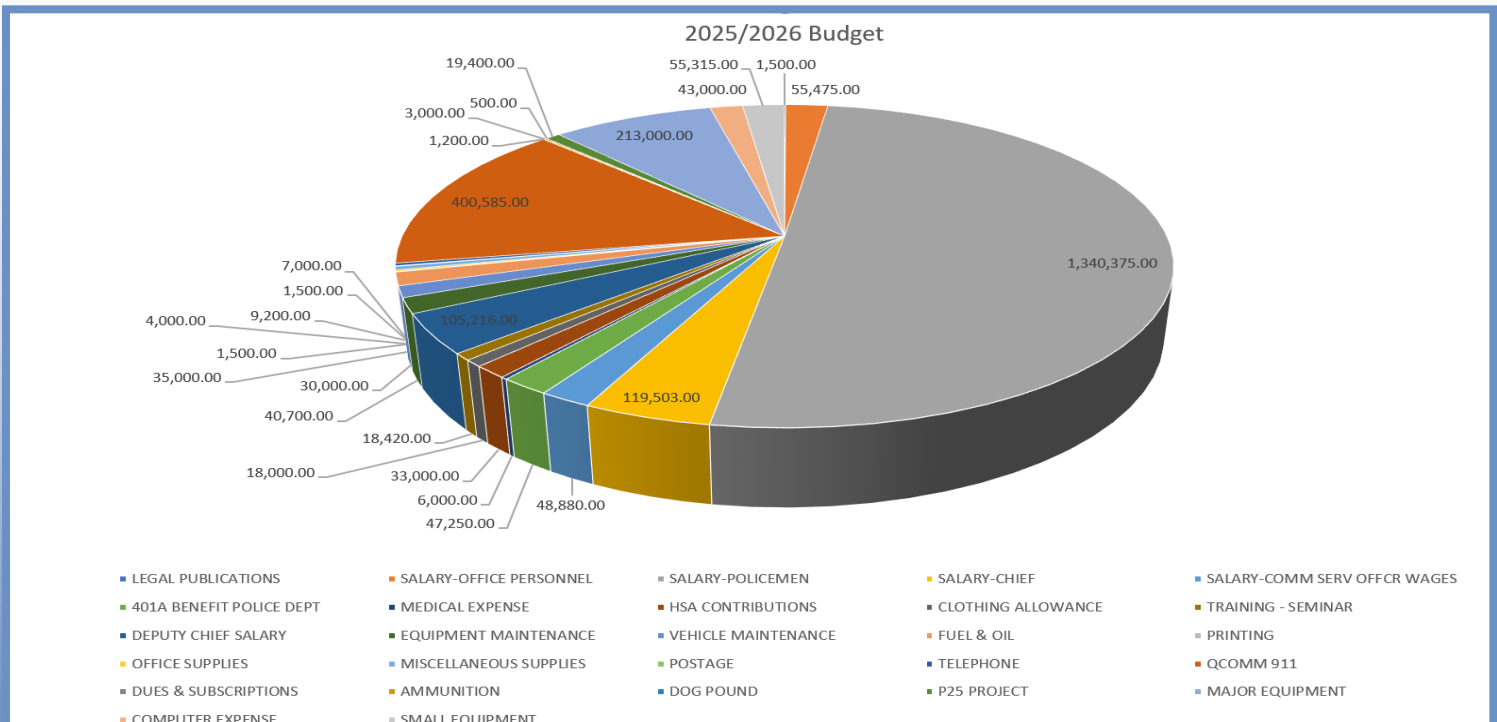
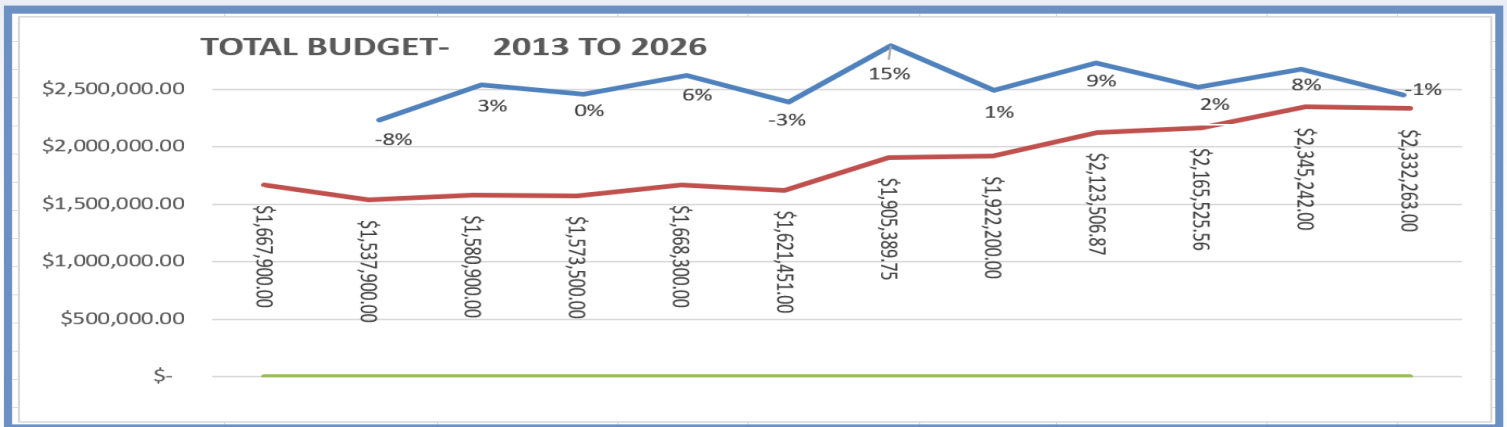
Graphic Table

Education level



A community's education mix can offer insights into the local economy and housing market. Higher levels of education often align with more job opportunities and stable incomes, which can increase demand for homes and influence both rent prices and rental availability.

2025-2026 Silvis Police Department Budget





ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT

Community Role

The Silvis Police Department emphasizes **community-oriented policing**, encouraging collaboration between Officers and residents to prevent crime before it happens. Transparency, accountability, and public trust are central to effective policing and community support.

Organizational Structure

The Silvis Police Department follows a rank structure:

Chief of Police – The highest-ranking official, overseeing the entire department.

Deputy/Assistant Chiefs – Manage major divisions (operations, investigations, administration).

Sergeants – First-line supervisors of Patrol Officers.

Officers/Detectives – Frontline personnel handling patrol and investigations.

Core Responsibilities

- **Patrol Services:** Uniformed Officers patrol neighborhoods, business districts, city parks and public areas to deter crime and respond to calls for service. Each patrol shift experiences different types of calls and therefore each Officer must be able to adapt quickly based on the situation they are responding to.
- **Emergency Response:** Officers handle 911 calls involving accidents, disputes, medical emergencies, fires (alongside fire departments), and active crimes.
- **Criminal Investigations:** Detectives investigate crimes such as theft, assault, homicide, fraud, and cybercrime. Our Investigations Unit is also responsible for maintaining the evidence fault.
- **Traffic Enforcement:** Managing traffic flow, responding to collisions, and enforcing road safety laws. The Silvis Police Department has two solar speed signs that are placed throughout the city based on community requests.
- **Community Policing:** Building relationships with residents through outreach programs, school visits, business checks and neighborhood meetings. The Silvis Police Department is involved with many community events such as Touch-a-Truck, Trunk or Treat, National Night Out Against Crime, Christmas in Silvis and our annual Shop with a Cop.

Special Units: The Silvis Police Department currently has a Quad City Metropolitan Enforcement Group (QCMEG) officer who works covertly to investigate narcotic crimes. The Officer assigned to this role also receives specialized training involving SWAT techniques and investigative responsibilities.



The employees of The Silvis Police Department are essential to providing a safe, thriving and successful community in which every citizen can be proud of. Our department consists of a dedicated and diverse team of sworn officers, supervisory staff and civilian employees whom all work together to provided the absolute best law enforcement services possible. Each member of our department plays a vital role in ensuring that the City of Silvis remains a safe, welcoming community to live, work and raise a family in.

Our sworn officers are highly trained and committed to upholding the law with professionalism, integrity and respect for the citizens they serve. They are skilled in a variety of areas including community policing in which officers volunteer their time to provide informational lectures on cybercrime and elder abuse. They also spend time interacting with the youth of the community and building a trusting bond that will hopefully impact them forever. Our officers are highly trained to investigate crimes, enforce traffic laws and provide emergency medical care. The Silvis Police Department places a high priority on training opportunities to ensure that our officers are well-equipped to respond to the evolving challenges and changes of modern law enforcement.

Our employees commitment to professional development and public service is undeniable. In addition to the standard training required, many of our officers willingly take part in specialized training related to areas such as de-escalation, mental health crisis response, juvenile interview techniques, and advanced investigative strategies. The availability of these training courses allow our department to evolve and grow with the ever changing law enforcement world.

2025 JOHN DEERE CLASSIC



Every summer, The City of Silvis hosts the TPC Deere Run PGA Tour event titled "John Deere Classic". The Silvis Police Department is proud to provide security to all the athletes, staff, volunteers and patrons throughout the week. The Silvis Police Department provides round the clock surveillance on the property along with player escort and concert talent protection. In 2025, The Silvis Police Officers worked a combined total of 750.5 hours of off duty security as well as covering their normal street patrol assignments. This is a fantastic event for our city and The Silvis Police Department looks forward to it every year.



2025 JOHN DEERE CLASSIC

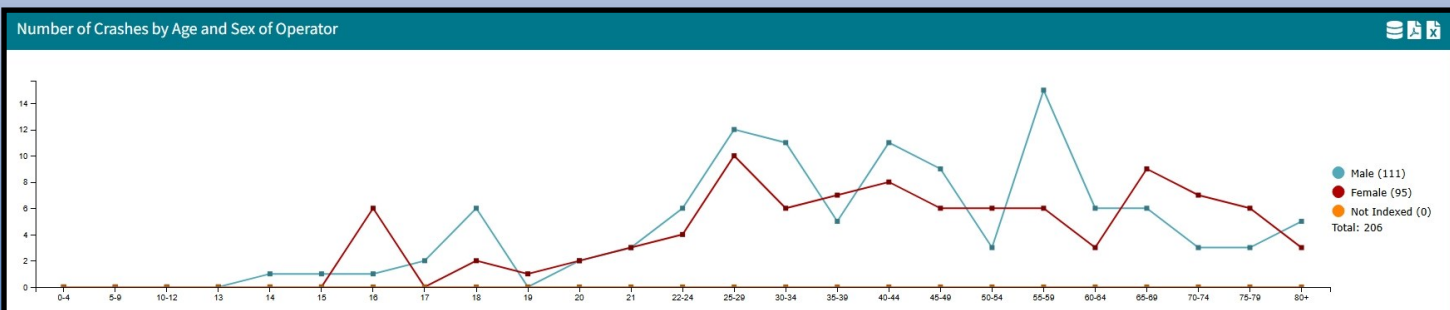
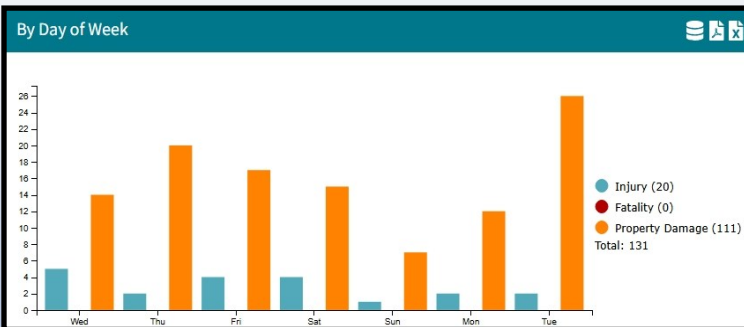
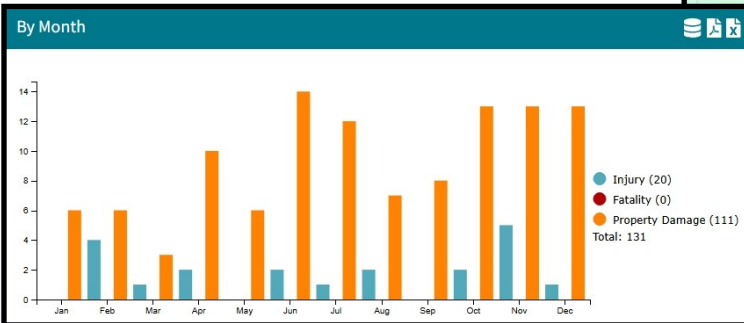
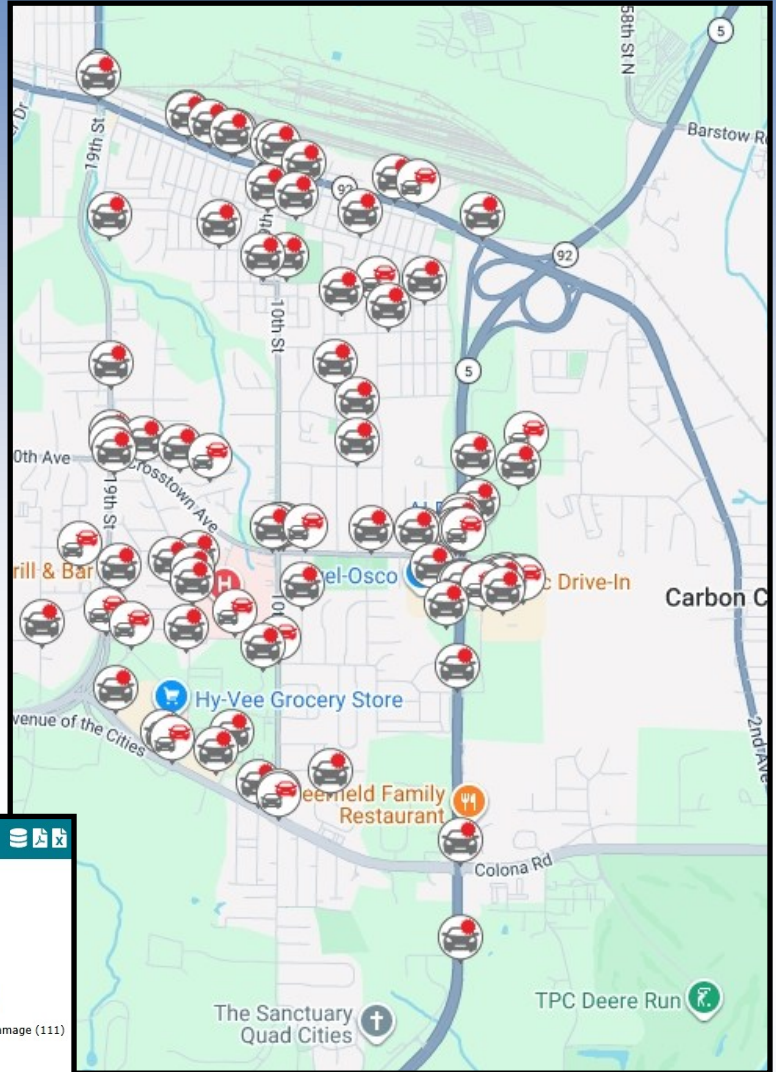


2025 JOHN DEERE CLASSIC



2025 Traffic Crash Da-

In 2025, The Silvis Police Department recorded a total of 131 traffic accidents which was 8 accidents less than recorded in 2024. The significant majority of our accidents occurred along John Deere Rd with the highest accident rate occurring at JDx and Crosstown Av. There were 20 documented injuries sustained and no fatalities recorded.



2025 Records, Statistics and Calls for Service

TOTAL CALLS FOR SERVICE: 15,970

MOST COMMON SELF INITIATED ACTIVITIES

AREA CHECKS – 4,159
PARK CHECKS – 696
BUSINESS CHECKS – 579
TRAFFIC STOPS – 541
SUBJECT CHECKS – 153
VEHICLE CHECKS – 131

MOST COMMON CRIMINAL CALLS FOR SERVICE

ASSAULT/THREATS – 63
BATTERY – 47
BURGLARY – 84
CRIMINAL DAMAGE – 82
DECEPTIVE PRACTICE – 79
DISORDERLY CODUCT – 96
DOMESTIC – 320
DRUG ACTIVITY – 25
FIGHTS – 16
FLED VEHICLE – 16
PERSON WITH A GUN – 16
HARASSMENT – 96
HOME INVASION – 1
NOISE COMPLAINT – 55
RECKLESS DRIVER – 115
REMOVE SUBJECT – 206
ROBBERY – 3
SEX OFFENSE – 17
SHOPLIFTER – 106
SHOTS FIRED – 14
THEFT – 167
TRRESPASSING – 73
WARRANT – 82
VEHICLE THEFT - 24



2025

UNIFORM CRIME REPORTING

PART 1 OFFENSES

Criminal Homicide 0
Rape (Sexual Assault) 3
Robbery 3
Aggravated Assault 3
Burglary 84
Larceny-Theft 167
Motor vehicle theft 24
Arson 0
Human Trafficking 0

PART 2 OFFENSES

Simple Assault 33
Forgery / Counterfeiting
Fraud 51
Embezzlement
Stolen property
Vandalism
Carrying/possession weapons 16
Prostitution 0
Sex Offenses– not assaults 14
Drug Abuse Violations
Gambling
Offenses against family
Driving under the influence 24

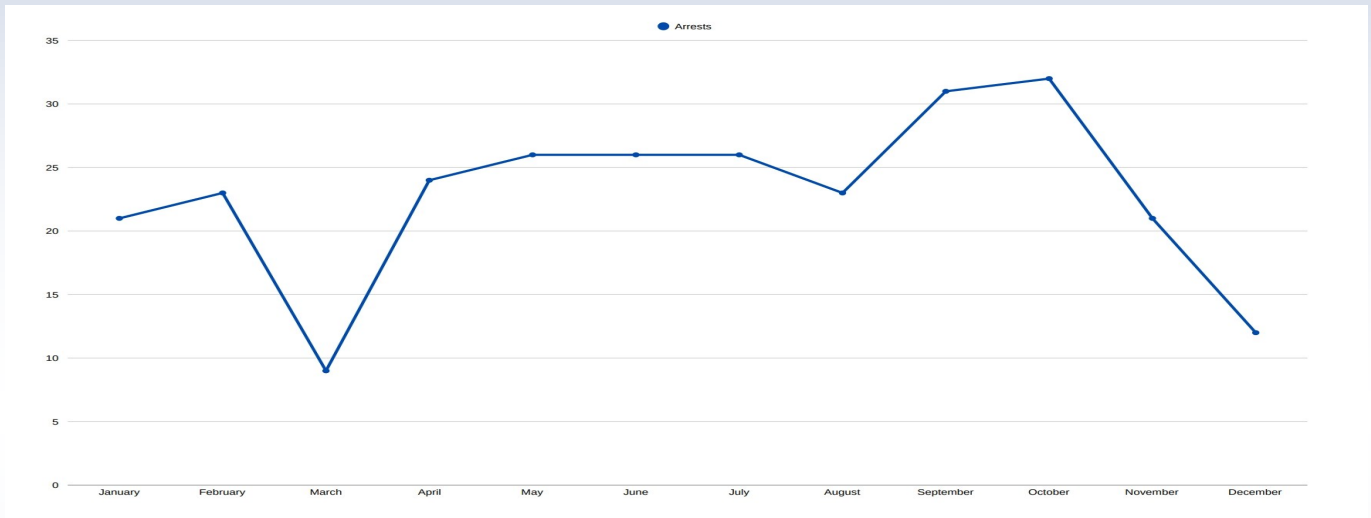




2025 SILVIS POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORTS AND ARREST RECORDS

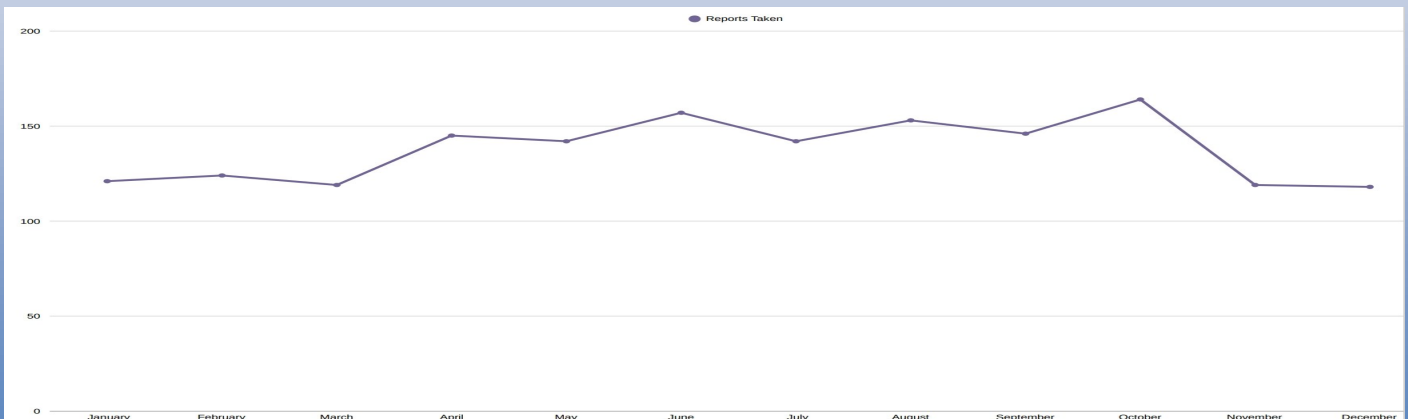
The Silvis Police Department made 274 total arrests during the 2025 calendar year. The following is a month by month breakdown of the totals made.

Jan - 21	May - 26	Sept - 31	FELONY ARRESTS - 36
Feb - 23	June - 26	Oct - 32	MISDEMEANORS - 167
March - 9	July - 26	Nov - 21	ORDINANCE CITES - 71
April - 24	Aug - 23	Dec - 12	



The Silvis Police took 1,650 reports during the 2025 calendar year which include everything from civil assistance reports to felony arrests. Our officers handle a wide variety of different calls and they are equipped to properly assess each one and complete thorough and accurate reports. The following is a breakdown of reports taken month by month.

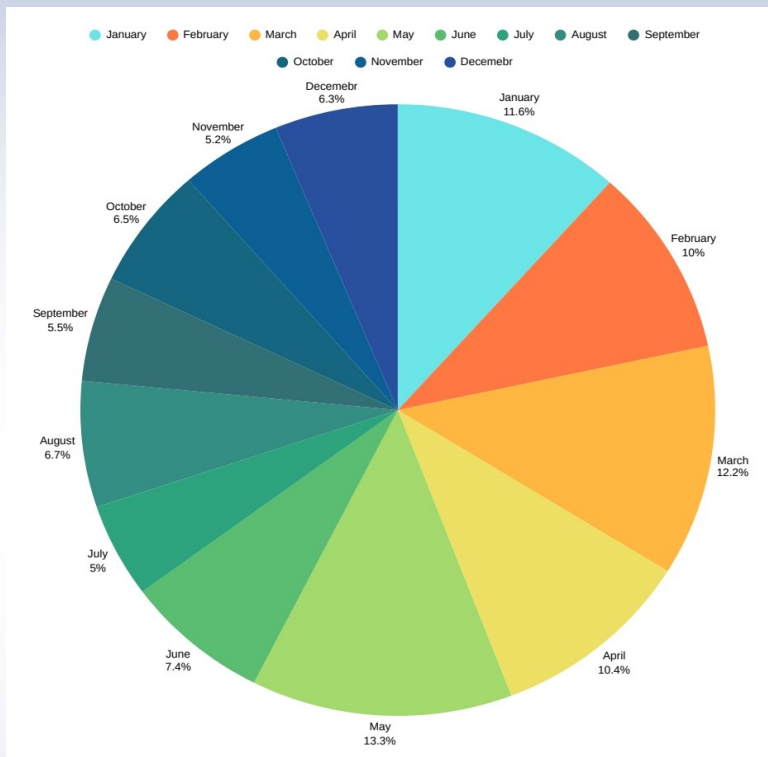
Jan - 121	April - 145	July - 142	Oct - 164
Feb - 124	May - 142	Aug - 153	Nov - 119
March - 119	June - 157	Sept - 146	Dec - 118



TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT



The Officers within the Silvis Police Department were involved in 541 traffic stops throughout 2025 which is 74 less stops that in 2024. This is due to increasingly high call volume demands as well as staffing issues. Despite the ever changing challenges, our officers are dedicated to enforcing traffic laws to make the streets as safe as possible. The chart below depicts the percentages of stops completed month by month.

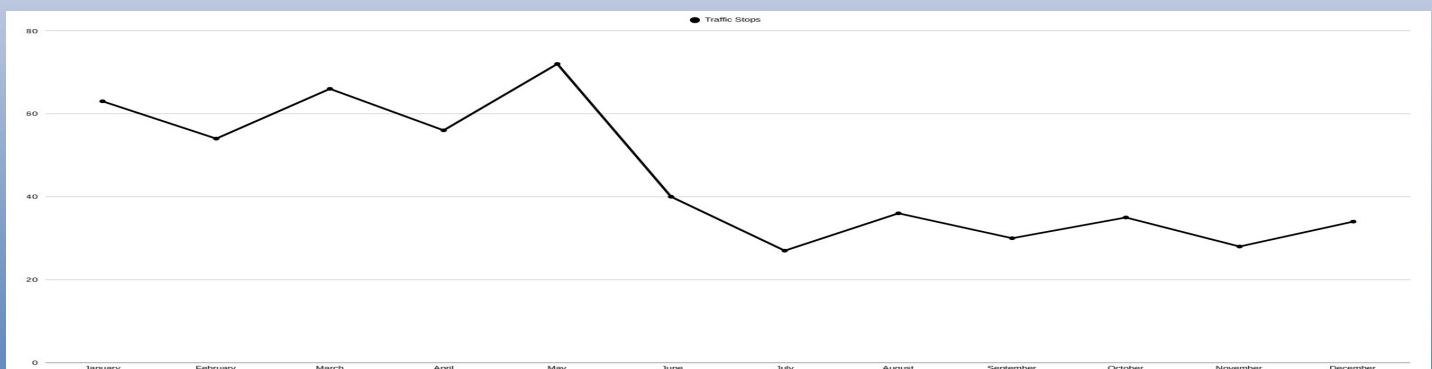


HIGHEST STOP LOCATIONS

1st Street	113 Stops
Crosstown Av	93 stops
John Deere Rd	73 Stops
10th Street	68 Stops

Here is the overall breakdown month by month for traffic stops in 2025.

Jan - 63	April - 56	July - 27	Oct - 35	Citations - 85
Feb - 54	May - 72	Aug - 36	Nov - 28	
March - 66	June - 40	Sept - 30	Dec - 34	Warnings - 359





Chief

Mark VanKlaveren



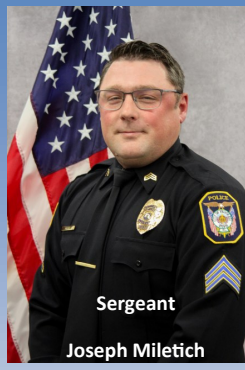
Deputy Chief

Mark Copeland



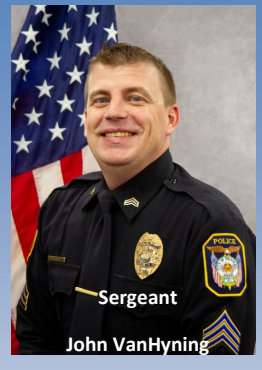
Sergeant

Jose Vargas



Sergeant

Joseph Miletich



Sergeant

John VanHyning



Sergeant

Sean Hackett



Officer

Patrick Robinson



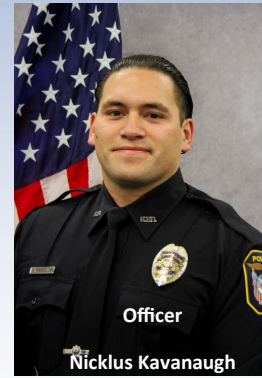
Detective

Allison McNeill



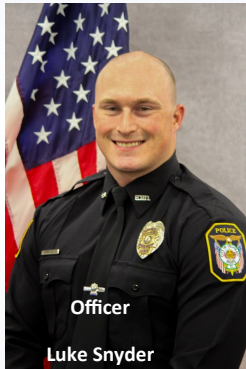
Officer

Thomas Walter



Officer

Nicklus Kavanaugh



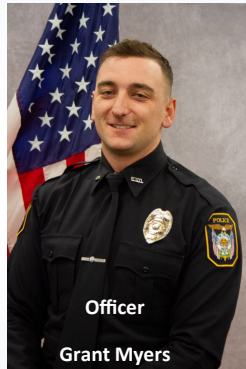
Officer

Luke Snyder



Detective

Kellie Smet



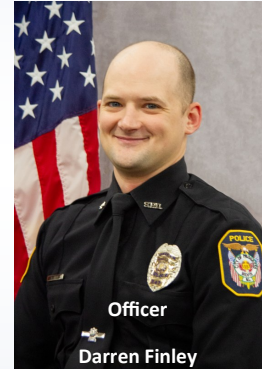
Officer

Grant Myers



Officer

Kailey Johnson



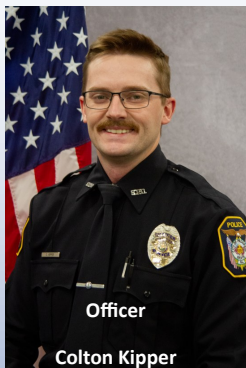
Officer

Darren Finley



Officer

Marco Villagomez



Officer

Colton Kipper



Officer

Nicolas Castro



Executive Assistant

Elizabeth Morgan



2025 Silvis PD Roster

COMMAND STAFF



Chief Mark VanKlaveren has proudly served the citizens of Silvis for over 23 years as a dedicated member of the Silvis Police Department. During his career, Chief VanKlaveren has served on patrol, as a Detective, as a Special Agent with QC MEG, including serving as the Deputy Director. Prior to being selected as the Chief of Police, he was promoted to the rank of Sergeant. Chief VanKlaveren graduated from the FBI National Academy in 2022. Chief VanKlaveren brings strong leadership and excellent guidance to his officers.

Chief VanKlaveren also served his country by joining the United States Navy in 1994 prior to beginning his law enforcement career. Chief VanKlaveren was essential in securing, developing and designing a well needed new Police Department Headquarters in 2016.

He was promoted to Chief in 2015 where he has since lead the department through difficult times such as COVID and staffing shortages all while maintaining a positive attitude and outlook.



Deputy Chief Mark Copeland has proudly served the citizens of Silvis for over 26 years as a dedicated member of the Silvis Police Department, including 8 years as the Deputy Chief. During his career, Deputy Chief Copeland has held positions on patrol, as a Special Agent in QC MEG and over 6 years in the investigations unit as a Detective. Deputy Chief Copeland is the longest tenured Field Training Officer and has been vital in evolving the FTO program and new hire process. Prior to his selection as Deputy Chief, he achieved the rank of Sergeant in 2016.

Throughout his career, Deputy Chief Copeland received certifications in Lead Homicide Investigator and Juvenile Forensic Interviewer. Deputy Chief Copeland is a member of the Rock Island County Integrity Task Force.

Deputy Chief has been vital in pushing the Silvis Police forward by helping to develop a new advance report writing system known as CS Pro. He also coordinated and implemented the mandated body worn camera program.

SERGEANTS



Sergeant Jose Vargas has proudly served the citizens of Silvis for over 14 years as a dedicated member of the Silvis Police Department including over 7 years as a Sergeant. Sergeant Vargas oversees the dayshift patrol officers and the investigations division. Sergeant Vargas handles the department scheduling and manages the mandated and the optional training our officers need to be successful. In addition to his daily responsibilities, Sergeant Vargas is also a Field Training Officer and a High Risk Felony Stop Instructor. Sergeant Vargas has also served as a Detective and with QC MEG.

Sergeant Vargas enjoys spending time with his family, watching the Michigan Wolverines, playing golf and fishing. Sergeant Vargas is an extraordinary leader who has helped shape and grow our department and develop our officers to be the best they possibly can be.



Sergeant Joseph Miletich has proudly served the citizens of Silvis for over 14 years as a dedicated member of the Silvis Police Department with nearly 5 years as a Sergeant. Sergeant Miletich oversees the third shift patrol officers and completes a monthly arrest report that is presented to the City Council. Sergeant Miletich is currently a Field Training Officer, Taser Instructor and a High Risk Felony Stop Instructor. During his career, Sergeant Miletich was also a K9 handler for the department.

Sergeant Miletich spends his free time watching his oldest son compete in mountain bike racing and his youngest son play baseball. His other interests are watching the Iowa Hawkeyes and playing golf. Sergeant Miletich has years of experience in training and teaching which has allowed our officers to thrive.



Sergeant John VanHying has proudly served the citizens of Silvis for over 16 years as a dedicated member of the Silvis Police Department including over 3 years as a Sergeant. Sergeant VanHying oversees second shift patrol and handles our training records. Sergeant VanHying has been pivotal in the pursuit of receiving accreditation for our department. Sergeant VanHying is a Field Training Officer, has served as a K9 Handler and as a Detective.

In his free time, Sergeant VanHying watches his two daughters compete in cheerleading and dance and his son play baseball. Sergeant VanHying enjoys playing golf, cornhole and hanging out in his pool. Sergeant VanHying's investigation skills over the years has solved numerous cases including two homicides.



Sergeant Hackett has proudly served the citizens of Silvis for over 3 years as a dedicated member of the Silvis Police Department and is currently in his 1st year as a Sergeant. Sergeant Hackett previously served in the US Marine Corps and achieved the rank of Sergeant. Sergeant Hackett also served over 5 years as a police officer in Florida where he became a Corporal and participated in SWAT and was a K9 Handler. Before his hire with the Silvis Police Department, Sergeant Hackett worked as a Correctional Officer in the Rock Island County Jail for 1.5 years. Sergeant Hackett's current responsibilities include supervisor on second shift patrol, Field Training Officer, Firearms Instructor and High Risk Felony Stop Instructor.

Sergeant Hackett's wide range of life experiences has provided him with the tools necessary to lead and guide the less veteran officers on the department. They are able to lean on him for advice and direction to develop as officers.

INVESTIGATIONS



Detective Allison McNeill has proudly served the citizens of Silvis for over 17 years as a dedicated member of the Silvis Police Department. Throughout her career, Detective McNeill has worked patrol, worked as a Special Agent with QC Meg and spent over 5 years as a Detective in the Silvis Police Department Investigations Division.

Detective McNeill is also a Field Training Officer and her knowledge has benefited every officer she has trained and mentored. Detective McNeill has incredible interview and investigation skills which has allowed her and the Silvis Police Department to solve numerous serious crimes and bring justice to the victims of such crimes.

Detective McNeill also has a strong dedication to the community and is the leader, organizer and coordinator of the Silvis Police Department's Shop-With-A-Cop program. This program brings the youth of the community and the police department together to build lasting bonds.



Detective Kellie Smet currently serves as a Police Officer and Detective, bringing over 6 years of law enforcement experience to the department, including one year in a detective role. In addition to her law enforcement career, Smet proudly served eight years in the United States Army through both the Illinois and Iowa National Guard, where she was awarded the Iowa Commendation Medal for her service and dedication.

Throughout her law enforcement career, she has been recognized for her commitment to public safety, receiving a Life Saving Award in 2023 and a Certificate of Commendation in 2026. She regularly volunteers and presents at local schools and elder care facilities to strengthen community relationships and provide education on public safety.

Outside of her professional responsibilities, she has coached T-Ball and Coach Pitch softball for the past five years, mentoring young athletes and giving back through youth sports. A former college softball player, Detective Smet continues to stay active in the sport by playing slow pitch softball. She takes pride in serving her community, both professionally and personally, while balancing her career in public service and her role as a mother.



PATROL



Officer Robison has proudly served the citizens of Silvis for over 24 years as a dedicated member of the Silvis Police Department. Officer Robison has held positions on patrol and as a Detective in the Investigations Unit. Prior to beginning his law enforcement career, Officer Robison served over 5 years in the United States Marine Corps.

Officer Robison oversees the Off Duty Patrol assignments by coordinating the events, responsibilities during the assignment, logging the officer hours and sending invoices.

Officer Robison is the lead coordinator for security and protection during the John Deere Classic Golf Tournament every year. This is an in depth and extensive role and Officer Robison has excelled in this position. His responsibilities include course security on a 24 hour schedule, player escort security, crowd control and musician escort and protection.



Officer Walter has proudly served the citizens of Silvis for over 8 years as a dedicated member of the Silvis Police Department. Officer Walter was born in raised in Silvis and has a long family lineage with the City of Silvis including his great-grandparents who migrated from Mexico. When they arrived, they lived withing the railcars which was a settlement referred to as La Yarda. Officer Walter also has two uncles who were a part of the Hero Street Eight.

Throughout his career, Officer Walter has spent time on all three patrol shifts. This experience has given Officer Walter a unique perspective on how the calls for service vary depending on time of day. With this perspective Officer Walter can provide insight on what new officers may expect when being assigned an unfamiliar shift.



Officer Nicklus Kavanaugh has proudly served the citizens of Silvis for over 8 years as a dedicated member of the Silvis Police Department. Officer Kavanaugh has help positions on patrol and as a Special Agent with QC MEG. Prior to beginning his career in law enforcement career, Officer Kavanaugh worked in a Public Safety position.

Officer Kavanaugh's experience in Narcotics with QC MEG allows him to recognize suspicious behavior and possible patterns of drug trafficking while on patrol. The knowledge Officer Kavanaugh possesses is beneficial to the department's goal of preventing drugs in the community.

Officer Kavanaugh enjoys watching Notre Dame football, smoking meats and going to the gym.

PATROL



Officer Luke Snyder has proudly served the citizens of Silvis for over 6 years as a dedicated member of the Silvis Police Department. Throughout his career, Officer Snyder has served on patrol and as a Special Agent with QC MEG. Officer Snyder is currently on the Sergeant Promotional list.

Officer Snyder holds several certifications which include Defensive Tactics Instructor, Filed Training Officer, Standardize Field Sobriety Testing Instructor and Lead Homicide Investigator. With the extensive instructor experience that Officer Snyder possesses he has developed strong leadership skills .

Officer Snyder enjoys spending time with his young son and is excited to announce a second child on the way. Officer Snyder played football and St. Ambrose University and was a volunteer high school football coach for 2 years.



Officer Grant Myers has proudly served the citizens of Silvis for over 4 years as a dedicated member of the Silvis Police Department. Throughout his career, Officer Myers has served on patrol and as a K9 Handler. Officer Myers recently became a Filed Training Officer. Officer Myers and his K9 partner, Drago were able to make several felony narcotic arrests while on patrol.

Officer Myers played Division 3 baseball at Monmouth College before beginning his law enforcement career. He recently welcomed his first child and took a lateral police officer position with the Pekin Police Department in June.



Officer Kailey Butz has proudly served in law enforcement for the past four years and three months, where she has developed strong skills in communication, problem solving, and community service. Officer Butz has attended many community events over the last few years and you may have seen her at Touch a Truck, National Night Out, Shop with a Cop, or Cop on a Rooftop for Special Olympics.

In addition to her law enforcement experience, she holds an Associate's degree in Business Management, a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration and has a history of working in healthcare with elderly, disabled and mentally handicap individuals.

Outside of her career, she enjoys working out, shopping, being outdoors and spending time with her family. Athletics have always been an important part of her life. While attending Riverdale High School in Port Byron, she participated in softball, track, soccer, basketball, and the men's wrestling team, experiences which taught her discipline, resilience, and the value of teamwork.

PATROL



Officer Darren Finley has proudly served the citizens of Silvis for over 4 years as a dedicated member of the Silvis Department. Officer Finley has spent his career on patrol and has experience on all three shifts. Before beginning his law enforcement career, Officer Finley joined the Air Force National Guard in 2008 and has achieved the rank of Staff Sergeant. Officer Finley has been on 3 deployments which include to a COVID Testing site in 2020, a 6 month deployment to a vaccination sight and a overseas 6 month deployment to Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti Africa in 2024.

Officer Finley is currently a Taser Instructor as well as the department's Basic Tactical Medical Instructor. Officer Finley has been instrumental in the set up and maintenance of the department's duty issued Med Bags which were implemented this past year. Officers are now fully equipped to provide medical care in trauma situations.



Officer Marco Villagomez has proudly served the citizens of Silvis for over 3 years as a dedicated member of the Silvis Police Department. Officer Villagomez has spent his career on patrol with the majority being on second and third shifts. Officer Villagomez is bi-lingual which the Silvis Police Department and the citizens have greatly benefited from. Officer Villagomez has an unmatched ability to build rapport with the citizens he interacts with.

Officer Villagomez enjoys spending time with his family and coaching soccer for his kids. He is also a die hard Chicago Bears fans and loves taking his family to Six Flags.

Officer Villagomez left the Silvis Police Department in 2025 to explore other opportunities and returned to the department in 2026.



Officer Colton Kipper has proudly served the citizens of Silvis for over 3 years as a dedicated member of the Silvis Police Department. Officer Kipper has spent his career on patrol with the majority being on second and third shifts. Officer Kipper has an extremely strong work ethic and is detailed oriented. This dedication to hard work stems from his previous employment as a sprinkler system installer and on his time off, he works with his father to pour concrete.

Officer Kipper recently welcomed his first child and purchased the home he and his wife have always wanted. He enjoys watching the Chicago Bears, golfing and is a life long deer hunter.

PATROL



Officer Nicolas Castro has proudly served the citizens of Silvis for just over 2 years as a dedicated member of the Silvis Police Department. Officer Castro began his career with the Rock Island Police Department and was hired by the Silvis Police Department in 2023. Officer Castro has spent his career on patrol working on second shift. Even though Officer Castro is still relatively new to the department, that has not prevented him from being one of the most pro-active officers on patrol. During his short career, Officer Castro has been at the top or near the top in the department in self-initiated activity. Officer Castro is bi-lingual which the Silvis Police Department and the citizens have both benefited from.

Officer Castro is newly married and enjoys weightlifting, running, cooking and golf in his spare time. Officer Castro was elected by his peers as the 2025 Officer of the Year.



2025 OFFICER OF THE YEAR OFFICER NICOLAS CASTRO

The Silvis Police Department is proud to announce that Officer Nicolas Castro has been voted as the 2025 Officer of the Year by his colleagues. Officer Castro has been a dedicated and pro-active member of the second shift patrol unit during the past year. He was at the top or near the top of every category used in the selection and election process. Officer Castro conducted 135 traffic stops which was the most by any patrol officer. He wrote 210 reports during the year which was most among officers. Officer Castro made 63 arrests which was the most for patrol. He handled 1908 total calls for service which was the second most for patrol. Not only was Officer Castro dedicated to pro-active policing during his assigned shift, he worked mover overtime than any other officer and he worked the second most off duty hours during 2025. Thank you Officer Castro for your dedication to the City of Silvis and The Silvis Police Department and congratulations on this most deserved award.











The City of Silvis and the members of the Silvis Police Department extend their deepest gratitude and appreciation to Chief Mark VanKlaveren as he retires after more than 23 years of dedicated service to our community. Chief VanKlaveren's career has been defined by integrity, professionalism, and an unwavering commitment to both the citizens he served and the officers he led. His impact on this department and this city will be felt for many years to come.

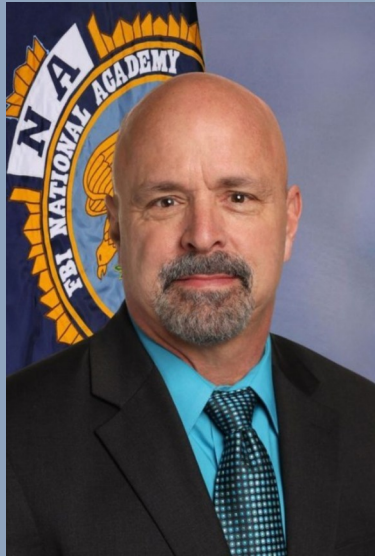
Throughout his distinguished career, Chief VanKlaveren served in a variety of assignments, each time demonstrating a strong work ethic and a passion for public safety. From his early days on patrol to his work as a detective, he earned the respect of his peers through his dependability and leadership. He later served as a Special Agent with the Quad Cities Metropolitan Enforcement Group (QC MEG), including in the role of Deputy Director, where he played an important part in regional enforcement efforts. His dedication and leadership led to his promotion to Sergeant, and ultimately to his appointment as Chief of Police in 2015.

As Chief, Mark led the department through both periods of growth and times of significant challenge. His leadership was especially evident during the COVID-19 pandemic and during ongoing staffing shortages, where he remained steady, supportive, and focused on the wellbeing of both his officers and the community. He consistently demonstrated a positive outlook and a calm, thoughtful approach to problem-solving, which helped guide the department through uncertain times.

Chief VanKlaveren was also instrumental in shaping the future of the department. His vision and persistence were key in securing, developing, and designing the department's current police headquarters in 2016—an accomplishment that continues to benefit the officers who serve and the residents who rely on them. He was a firm believer in training and professional development, leading by example through his own achievements, including graduating from the prestigious FBI National Academy in 2022.

Before his law enforcement career, Chief VanKlaveren proudly served his country in the United States Navy, beginning in 1994. That same sense of duty and service carried forward into his career with the Silvis Police Department, where he consistently put others before himself.

On behalf of the City of Silvis, the men and women of the Police Department, and the community he so faithfully served, we offer our sincere thanks to Chief VanKlaveren. His leadership, mentorship, and dedication have left a lasting legacy. We are grateful for his years of service, proud of all he has accomplished, and wish him and his family all the best in a well-earned retirement.



In 2026, the Silvis Police Department is proud to welcome Chief K. Gene Karzin. Chief Karzin has dedicated over four decades to law enforcement, exemplifying a steadfast commitment to public safety and community engagement. Born and raised in the Quad Cities region of Illinois, Chief Karzin's journey in law enforcement is marked by a series of impactful roles and contributions that have significantly shaped the communities he has served.

Chief Karzin began his law enforcement career in Lake Charles, Louisiana, serving as a Narcotics Vice Detective. He returned to Illinois in 1988, joining the Rock Island Police Department where he spent the next 24 years of his law enforcement career. While serving with the Rock Island PD, he held various positions, including Field Training Officer, K9 Handler, Juvenile Detective and Major Crimes Investigator. His role as a Major Crimes Investigator, particularly with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) Task Force, underscored his dedication to tackling serious criminal activities.

In April 2018, Chief Karzin joined the Geneseo Police Department and within his first six months on the job, he was appointed as the department's first Deputy Chief of Police. This appointment followed an extensive selection process led by Geneseo Police Chief Disterhoft, reflecting Chief Karzin's impressive leadership and extensive experience.

While operating as the Deputy Chief of Police for Geneseo, Chief Karzin supervised various operational aspects of the department, including budget management and community relations. He played a pivotal role in fostering strong connections between the police department, the citizens and local organizations. Chief Karzin also served as the Public Information Officer which allowed the community to be informed on department activities and public safety concerns.

Chief Karzin's commitment to community engagement was evident through his collaboration with the Geneseo Chamber of Commerce. Even though Chief Karzin has only been with the Silvis Police Department for 3 months, it is evident that his communication with his officers and the city will greatly benefit all. Chief Karzin believes in strengthening the bond between the police department and the citizens they serve and protect. Chief Karzin is dedicated to participating in planning local events to encourage engagement with the community.

Demonstrating a commitment to continuous professional development, Chief Karzin completed the Northwestern University School of Police Staff and Command in 2021. He further enhanced his experience by graduating from the prestigious FBI National Academy in 2023. His leadership extends beyond his supervisory roles. He served on the boards of several professional organizations, including the Henry County Emergency Telephone System Board, Vice-President of the Rock Island Police Pension Fund and he is a founding chairman of the Quad Cities Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Board.

Chief Karzin's career reflects a deep-seated dedication to law enforcement and community service. His leadership and active involvement in community initiatives will greatly benefit the Silvis Police Department and the City of Silvis as a whole. The future of the Silvis Police Department is in great hands with Chief Karzin.