

# 2014 ANNUAL REPORT

## *Avon Lake Police Department*

This report is a summary of the activities and events the police department has encountered throughout the year.

Chief Duane Streator

3/2/2015



# Coming and Going

In January 2014 David Owad retired as Avon Lake Police Chief. He served the police department and the City of Avon Lake for 35.5 years with dedication.



Following Owad's retirement, Duane Streator was promoted from Lieutenant and sworn in as the new Avon Lake Police Chief. Chief Streator has served with the Avon Lake Police department since 1987.

Also in January 2014 Officer Joe Dicesare retired. He served the community well since 1979.

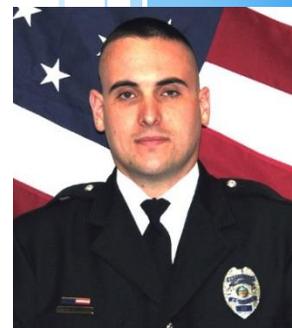


December 2014 Police Secretary Nancy Frank retired from the police department. She served as police secretary since 2002 after working in other departments for the City of Avon Lake.



Part time Dispatcher Price left the police department and is currently working as a full time dispatcher for the Avon Fire Department.

2014 brought two new full time officers to the Avon Lake Police Department. Officer Justin Ludwig and Officer Robert Walborn were hired and sworn in as Avon Lake Police Officers in June 2014.



# Police Department Personnel

## Administration



Chief  
Duane Streator



Administrative Lieutenant  
Scott Fishburn



Administrative Sergeant  
Fran Tibbitts



Police Secretary  
Nancy Frank

## Detective Bureau



Detective Sergeant  
Reed Reikowski



Detective  
Tim Schleicher



Detective  
Mark Pickering



Detective  
Caleb Robinson

## School Resource Officer



Officer  
Brian Hurd



# Police Department Personnel Continued

## Platoon A



Lieutenant  
Vince Molnar



Sergeant  
Alex Giardini



Officer  
Shawn Rinker



Officer  
Ron Cantleberry



Officer  
Brian Bringman



Officer  
Don Godlewski

## Platoon B



Lieutenant  
Sean Bockelman



Sergeant  
Les Carrender



Officer  
Nate Toth



Officer  
Luke Hagedorn



Officer  
Tom Anadiotis



K-9 Officer  
Jared Rudduck



Officer  
Justin Ludwig



K-9  
Luke

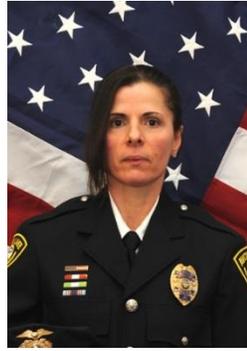


# Police Department Personnel Continued

## Platoon C



Lieutenant  
Mike Bulger



Sergeant  
Vicky Rightnour



Officer  
Bernard Koltiska



Officer  
Keith Biczynski



Officer  
Kirk Seekins



Officer  
Jim Valencic



Officer  
Robert Walborn

## Dispatch



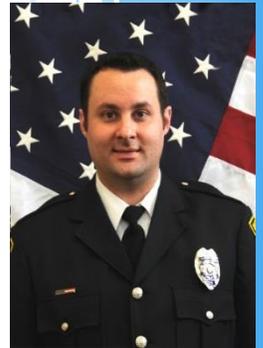
Dispatcher  
Patty Schroer



Dispatcher  
Libby Reinker



Dispatcher  
Cindy VanBuren



Dispatcher  
Mike Cipro



# Police Department Personnel Continued

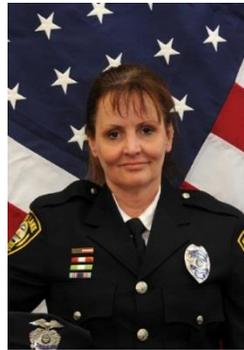
## Part Time Officers



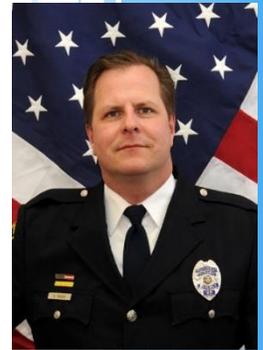
Officer  
Tim Gareau



Officer  
David Dolezal



Officer  
Elizabeth Reese



Officer  
Keith Riggs



Officer  
Randy Bennett



Officer  
Jason Melda



Officer  
Sean Yonkers



Officer  
Tony Ciresi

## Part Time Dispatch



Dispatcher  
Dawn Lucey



Dispatcher  
Cindy Price



Dispatcher  
Julie Martin



Dispatcher  
Vicky Haag



Dispatcher  
Kathleen Starkey



Dispatcher  
Jennel Trifiletti



# Police Department Personnel Continued

## *Support Staff*



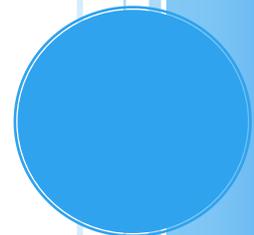
Admin. Assistant  
Rachel Burson



Maintenance  
David Ferguson



Dog Warden  
Ali Wadham



# Education and Training

Education and training have continued to be a priority for our department. Both officers and dispatchers have attended courses to update past training and to acquire new skills.



Advanced Reid Interview and Interrogation, Tactical Communication, Firearms Investigations, Crime Scene Management, Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement, Narcan, and First Aid/CPR are just a few examples of classes and training attended in 2014.



The Avon Lake Police Department joined the county wide Narcan program with the Lorain County Board of Health in 2014. As deaths from drug overdoses rise nationwide, our department decided the use of Narcan could be a powerful tool to combat these trends in our community. This year officers were trained to carry and use Narcan in emergency situations. Narcan (also known as Naloxone) is known to help reverse the effects of narcotics and can help prevent overdoses.

Rapid Deployment and the Mass Casualty Drill training were large scale practical training events for the department. In August, in conjunction with other city departments, a Mass Casualty event was staged at Avon Lake High School. Utilizing skills and techniques covered in the rapid deployment training, the police responded to a simulated mass casualty, active shooter situation. Officers cleared the school of students and staff, aided in getting the injured to paramedics and subdued the shooter.



# Specialized Units

## Detective Bureau

The Detective Bureau investigates crimes once the road officers respond and conduct an initial investigation. Crimes that can't be solved or require additional follow up are sent to the Detective Bureau. Once a case has been passed on to the Bureau it is assigned to one of the four full time detectives. Detective Sergeant Reikowski, Detective Schleicher, Detective Pickering, and Detective Robinson are assigned to the Bureau.



In 2014, the Detective Bureau primarily worked on theft related cases, burglaries, breaking and entering cases, fraud complaints, sex crimes, and assault complaints. Other matters like investigating suspicious conditions; serving arrest warrants; assisting arson investigations; working multijurisdictional cases; and serving and executing search warrants also fall under the responsibilities of the Detective Bureau. All of these tasks were part of their case load in 2014.

In addition to investigating cases, the Detective Bureau is also responsible for processing, cataloging, tracking, storing, and disposing evidence and property.

One of the most interesting and involved cases of 2014 occurred in October. Sweet Briar / Legacy staff reported two males attempting to steal a Ford F-250 from the maintenance area of the gold course. The initial call resulted in neighboring agencies being notified, which evolved into a pursuit through Avon and Westlake. The pursuit ended with one suspect crashing into the Dover Gardens Bar on Detroit Road in Westlake. The crash caused injury to more than a dozen people, some very severely. The second suspect was arrested without incident a short distance from the golf course.

The two males were both arrested and it was determined that prosecution of the case would be through Cuyahoga County. The suspects were indicted on numerous felony charges and are awaiting trial.



# Specialized Units Continued

## *Detective Bureau continued*

In 2014 the Avon Lake Detective Bureau obtained an indictment through the Lorain County Grand Jury stemming from a 2011 homicide case. This case was very time consuming and included assistance from federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies. The case investigation included extensive interviews, DNA analysis, and document analysis. The charged female is currently awaiting trial through the Lorain County Common Pleas court system.



## *Motor Unit*

The Avon Lake Police Motor Unit started in the spring of 2010. Officers went through training provided by Harley Davidson and Northwestern University learning valuable exercises that would enhance the daily riding and operations of being a motor officer. The Motor Unit has two officers, Sgt. Carrender and Officer Biczynski.

Motor Officers participate in the same responsibilities of the patrol division, handling normal traffic duties as well as responding to calls for service. The motor unit also provides an additional resource in the area of traffic complaints within the city.

In addition to regular patrol operations, the motor unit assisted with many local parades, charity runs, memorial rides, and funeral escort services in 2014.



# Specialized Units Continued

## **K-9 Unit**

The K-9 unit continued to be very popular with the general public and a useful tool for the police department in 2014. K-9 Ady and his handler Officer Rudduck have been working together for the police department since 2011. Ady is a Belgian Malinois trained for both narcotics and patrol work. In 2014 Officer Rudduck and Ady completed calls involving tracking, vehicle sniffs, school searches, luggage sniffs, and a narcotic building sniff. As well as regular patrol work, the K-9 unit also made appearances and demonstrations at various community events.



## **Bike Patrol**

The Avon Lake Police Bike Patrol Unit began in 1998 with four officers equipped with police mountain bikes riding from spring to late fall. In 2002, the unit was expanded to enable each platoon to have at least one officer per shift to throughout the season.

In addition to patrolling areas most heavily populated and least accessible to motorized patrol, bike patrol officers routinely concentrate their efforts on positive community relations and crime prevention activities through daily interaction with citizens, merchants, and those who visit the city. This unit is a huge asset during the 4<sup>th</sup> of July event due to their mobility, and having easier access to congested areas and can cover a larger area in a shorter amount of time than officers on foot.



# Specialized Units Continued

## Lorain County SWAT Team

The Avon Lake Police Department continues to support the Lorain County Swat Team. Lt. Fishburn, Sgt. Tibbitts, and Officer Rinker are assigned to the SWAT Team, Lt. Bockelman and Detective Schleicher are assigned as Negotiators.



The Lorain County Swat Team was established in 1991, and operates under the authority of the Lorain County Sheriff's Department. The L.C. Swat Team originally started with only 13 members, but has since grown to over 27 members including dedicated Tactical Emergency Medics (T.E.M.) from the Avon & Avon Lake Fire Departments.



This is a multi-jurisdictional team, currently consisting of team members from; Amherst, Avon, Avon Lake, LaGrange, L.C. Sheriff's Department, N. Ridgeville, Oberlin, and Vermillion.

Team Members are on call 24/7, and upon activation operate as sworn Sheriff Deputies. Team Members have the authority to go anywhere within Lorain County, and have full powers of arrest. Average response time anywhere within Lorain County is approximately 45 minutes.

Some of the specialized operations they perform include; Drug Raids, Barricaded Suspects, Suspect Searches, Hostage Situations, High Risk Incidents, V.I.P. & Dignitary Protection, and Rapid Deployment Against Active Shooters.



# Specialized Units Continued

## SRO

The School Resource Officer program maintains a beneficial working relationship with students, parents, school personnel and law enforcement. Officer Hurd has been the department's SRO for 7 years. Officer Hurd works primarily out of the high school but assists in all the schools in the Avon Lake School District.



Officer Hurd is involved in various programs working to keep students safe. The SRO conducts safety drills at the schools and instructs students and teachers in using the A.L.I.C.E. procedures. He has also been involved with the school's Psychology and Contemporary Social Issues classes, S.A.D.D., and speaks on topics including internet safety, drug awareness, and other safety or law enforcement related topics.

As part of the Positive Choices Community team, Officer Hurd works with school administrators, parents, and local government to educate the youth of Avon Lake and provide sources for making positive choices in their lives.

## Dog Warden



Dog Warden Ali Wadham works part time for the police department. The dog warden works with Love-A-Stray to catch dogs at large and reunite them with their owners as well as responding to complaints and advising the public on Avon Lake's laws concerning animals and their care.



# Specialized Units Continued

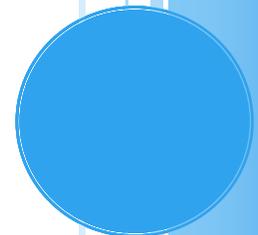
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## Honor Guard

The Avon Lake Police Department Honor Guard was officially established in 2005. It was created to allow the police department to dispatch a trained and organized unit to represent the department at ceremonial events and funerals. Since its creation, the honor guard has had the privilege of representing the police department at numerous parades, funerals, and public events.

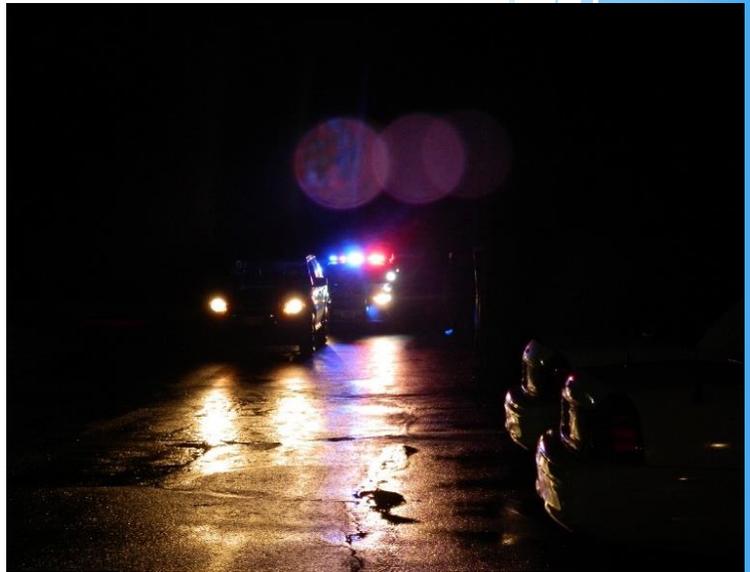
In 2014 the Avon Lake Police Honor Guard participated in the Lorain County Police Officer Memorial, the Avon Lake Memorial Day parade, and the USO Bob Hope Golf Outing at Sweetbriar Golf Course.

Members of the Honor Guard are Lt. Bulger, Sgt. Tibbitts, Sgt. Carrender, Ptlm. Schleicher, Ptlm. Toth, Ptlm. Cantleberry, Ptlm. Seekins, Ptlm. Robinson, Ptlm. Valencic, and Ptlm. Riggs.



# Calls For Service

The Avon Lake Police Department had nearly 16,000 Calls for Service in 2014. Those calls resulted in 1,533 Incident Reports. The City experienced a decrease in residential burglaries and a 20% reduction in theft complaints compared to last year. It is believed that concentrated patrol efforts and information sharing with other law



enforcement agencies has a direct relation to the down turn. In 2014 there were 5 reported car thefts, which was an increase compared to 2013's count of 2 car thefts. Assaults reported to the Police department stayed nearly the same from 36 in 2013 to 35 in 2014.

Avon Lake Police made 717 misdemeanor arrests and 71 felony arrests in 2014. In comparison, Avon Lake Police made 678 misdemeanor arrests and 41 felony arrests in 2013. The .05% increase in misdemeanor arrests was negligible. The 42% rise in felony arrests cannot necessarily be tied to any one specific reason. However, the main bulk of felony arrests in 2014 were related to drugs and traffic related offenses. Factors such as economy, increased access to our community, and drugs also all contribute to the higher numbers.

The number of domestic reports and arrests did not significantly change between 2013 and 2014. Domestic reports filed increased by 1 in 2014, bringing the total to 46 for the year. The total of domestic violence arrests went from 25 in 2013 to 24 in 2014.



# Calls for Service Continued

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## Traffic

Traffic Crash reports increased from 290 in 2013 to 298 in 2014. Traffic crashes that resulted in a person being injured only increased by 2 bringing the total to 27. Leading contributing factors to injury traffic crashes in the city continue to be Failure to Yield and keeping Assured Clear Distance between cars. These two leading factors make up 67% of all 2014 Injury Accidents in the city.

There were 72 arrests for Driving Under the Influence in 2014. 68 of these were Under the Influence of Liquor, 4 were Under the Influence of Drugs of abuse.



# Community Engagement

## Social Media

In 2014 Avon Lake Police Department opened a Twitter account to use as another tool to reach the community. Twitter has primarily been used to aid in notifying the public of road closures, weather alerts, safety tips, and events the police are participating in.

Facebook use for the Department has continued to grow. Our most popular posts have been the Public Service Announcements produced with ALCTV. The PSAs serve to give a public face to our officers while giving helpful information and raising awareness in the community. The PSAs have covered topics including city leash laws, school bus/zone safety, scam alerts, and how to avoid thefts and distraction burglaries.

Due to the design of Facebook we are able to get almost immediate feedback from residents. Whether it is requesting new PSAs, asking questions about City Ord., or simply “Liking” photos of our activity; residents seem to feel comfortable with this new way of communicating with the police department.

## Kids IDs

The Child ID program provides parents an identification card with their child’s current information to give to police in the event that their child goes missing. It’s recommended that the cards be updated every year. The police department sends out representatives to many city events throughout the year to make the Kids IDs. The Safety Fair, Safety Town, Big Trucks, and Homecoming Festival are just a few examples of where you can find the Avon Lake Police Kids ID booth throughout the year. In 2014, approximately 600 ID cards were made for area children.



# Community Engagement Continued

## Community Police Academy

In its 9<sup>th</sup> year the Avon Lake Community Police Academy continued to be a success. Throughout the 10 week program the public is given an inside view of police work. With lectures, demonstrations, and student participation the academy topics cover dispatch, firearms, driving, patrol, drugs, interrogation, and computer forensics. Instruction at the firing range and the building searches are always group favorites.



Interacting with the community in this way has proved to be an asset in giving a real-life perspective of police work to the public as well as strengthening the rapport between the police department and the citizens.

## Big Trucks

Big Trucks is held at the Avon Lake Safety Center every September. It continues to be one of the largest collaborative City-held events each year. Departments from all over the city participate in the event educating and entertaining the public. In addition to City Departments, state and federal agencies as well as area charities set up informational booths and bring vehicles. People from all over the area get the opportunity to tour the Police Department, Municipal Court, and Fire Department while stopping at booths and climbing around in the City's vehicles.



## Safety Town

Each year an officer is sent to Safety Town to meet the kids and review bike & helmet safety, crossing the street, what to do in an emergency, and check them on other safety rules they have learned earlier in the week. Each child in Safety Town also gets a child ID.

