

2017 Annual Report



Chief Duane Streator
Avon Lake Police Department

01/30/2018

Summary

In 2017 the Avon Lake Police Department continued to pursue its goals of building strong relationships with the citizens of Avon Lake, crime prevention, road safety, and officer education and training.

This report is a summary of the activities and events the Police Department encountered throughout the year.

As with other communities, we continued to be challenged by the opioid crisis. We are working with many other agencies and community groups to assist those affected.

In 2017 we experienced an overall reduction in crime in our community. We believe this was due in part to many of the Police Department's community outreach programs outlined in this report. We value collaboration with our community to maintain the best police department possible for the citizens and their needs.

The strength of the Avon Lake Police Department is closely tied to the quality of character of the men and women who comprise our department. These individuals, both sworn and civilian, strive to provide excellent service to the community while maintaining high standards of public safety.

Avon Lake Police Department continues to work to provide safety, outstanding services, and support a high quality of life for residents, businesses, and visitors.



Avon Lake Chief of Police Duane Streater
1/30/2018



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Police Department Personnel

Administration



Chief
Duane Streator



Administrative Lieutenant
Scott Fishburn



Administrative Sergeant
Les Carrender



Administrative Assistant
Rachel Burson

Detective Bureau



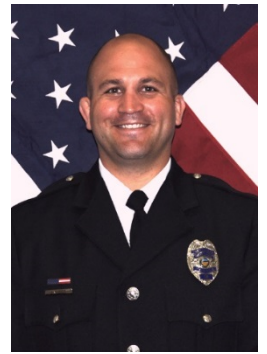
Detective Sergeant
Reed Reikowski



Detective
Mark Pickering



Detective
Caleb Robinson



Detective
Justin Ludwig

School Resource Officer

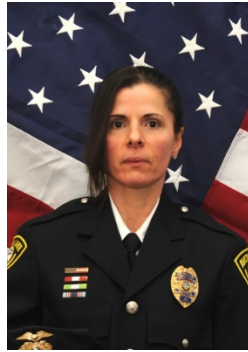


Officer
Brian Hurd

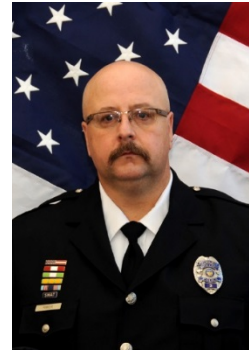


Platoon A

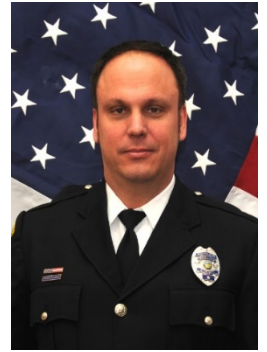
Lieutenant
Vince Molnar



Sergeant
Victoria Rightnour



Officer
Shawn Rinker



Officer
Ron Cantleberry



Officer
Brian Bringman



Officer
Don Godlewski



Officer
Anthony Fabrizi

Platoon B

Lieutenant
Sean Bockelman



Sergeant
Fran Tibbitts



Officer
Tim Schleicher



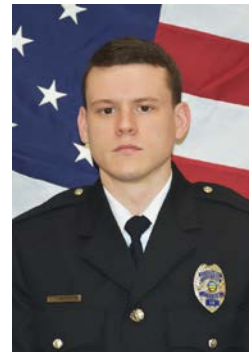
Officer
Nate Toth



K-9 Officer
Jared Rudduck



Officer
Keith Biczynowski



Officer
Troy Descenzo



K-9
Ady



Platoon C

Lieutenant
Mike Bulger



Sergeant
Alex Giardini



Officer
Bernard Koltiska



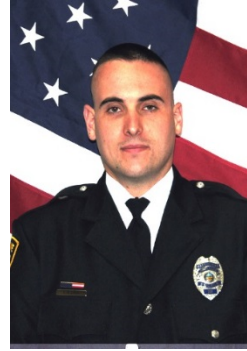
Officer
Tom Anadiotis



Officer
Kirk Seekins



Officer
Jim Valencic



Officer
Robert Walborn

Dispatch

Dispatcher
Patty Schroer



Dispatcher
Libby Reinker



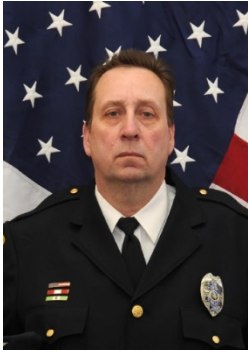
Dispatcher
Cindy VanBuren



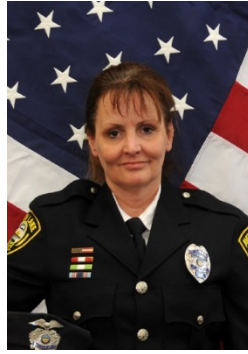
Dispatcher
Mike Cipro



Part Time Officers



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
Vicky Haag



Dispatcher
Kathleen Starkey



Dispatcher
Jennel Trifiletti



Dispatcher
Rebecca Payne

Animal Control Community Service Officers



ACCSO
Jeff Hartz



ACCSO
Frank Wasylko

Support Staff



Maintenance
David Ferguson

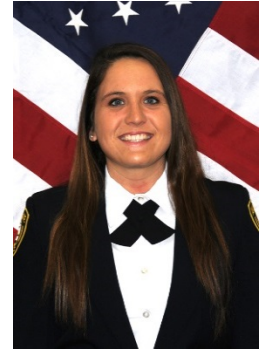


Chaplain
Brian Pachinger

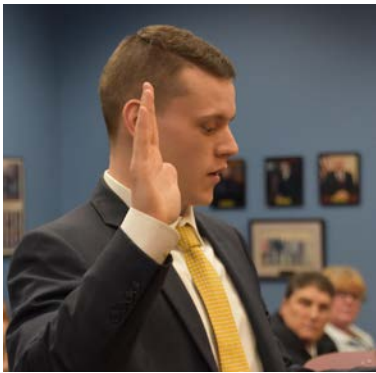
Coming and Going



Officer Timothy Gareau retired from the police department in June of 2017. Tim Gareau served this department full time as a Lieutenant before retiring and returning as a part time patrolman in 2003.

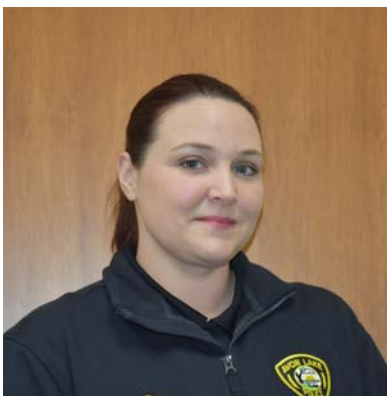


Part time Dispatcher Kaylie Imbrogno transitioned to another police department in March of 2017 where she was able to find full time employment.



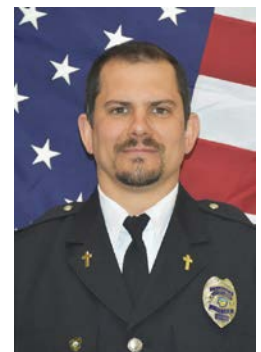
In March 2017 Officer Troy Descenzo was sworn in as Full Time Avon Lake Police Patrolman.

ACCSO Jeff Hartz (left) and Frank Wasylo (right) were hired to the newly created positions of Animal Control/Community Service Officers.



Avon Lake Police Department also welcomed new Part Time Dispatcher Rebecca Payne in 2017.

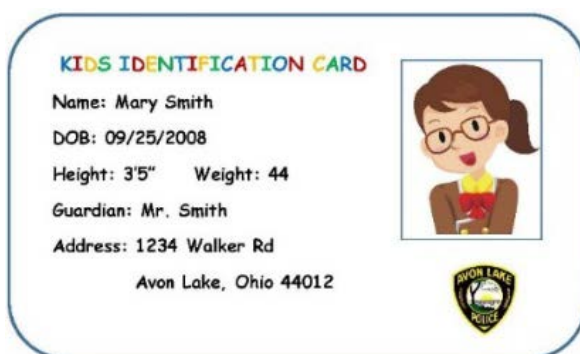
Chaplain Brian Pachinger joined the police department to serve when needed as chaplain and counselor.



Relationship with our Community



Big Trucks continues to be the largest event and opportunity we have to interact with the people of Avon Lake. Children visiting the event get to interact with officers, tour the department, climb around in patrol vehicles, and receive ID cards and gift bags. 2017 Big Trucks provided over 400 children with ID Cards and 500 gift bags which included educational items “After School Safety” coloring books, tips to stop and report bullying, and bicycle safety.



The Police Department provides City ID cards for City of Avon Lake Employees, prints the Miller Road Park Boat Launch passes, and Child ID cards are made at many City events. The Child ID Cards are the largest part of our ID Card Program, hundreds are done every year. The ID cards provide parents a card with their child's photo, current identifying information, as well as a list of steps to be taken in event that their child goes missing.



Relationship with our Community



Avon Lake Safety Town is often the first time kids in Avon Lake interact with a police officer. Officers who are part of the Avon Lake Bike Patrol Unit go to each Safety Town class and teach the children about bicycle safety, safely crossing the street, stranger danger, who to call in an emergency, in addition to answering any questions they may have and letting them tour a police cruiser. All of the Safety Town classes also get a Child ID card.

As part of educating and promoting positive interactions with the children of Avon Lake, Bike Patrol Officer also participate in the Bike Rodeo reviewing helmet, bicycle, and traffic safety with the kids.

This year the Avon Lake Police Department also teamed up with local businesses Feniks Frozen Custard and Dairy Queen. If an officer on patrol saw a child wearing a helmet they were rewarded with a coupon for a free ice cream cone.



Avon Lake Police Department has participated in numerous and safety classes and/or tours of the department for several Avon Lake youth organizations. Patrol officers also regularly visit all of the schools in Avon Lake. Interacting with kids in these ways promotes safety education, maintains a dialogue between police officers and the youth of Avon Lake, encourages an interest in law enforcement, and provides the kids level of comfort interacting with police and knowing a familiar face at the department.



Relationship with our Community

Every year the Avon Lake Community Police Academy proves to be of great interest to residents and a useful tool in educating the public about police work. Residents get a taste of what really goes into patrols, report taking, case building, evidence collection/processing, firearms training, and emergency response.

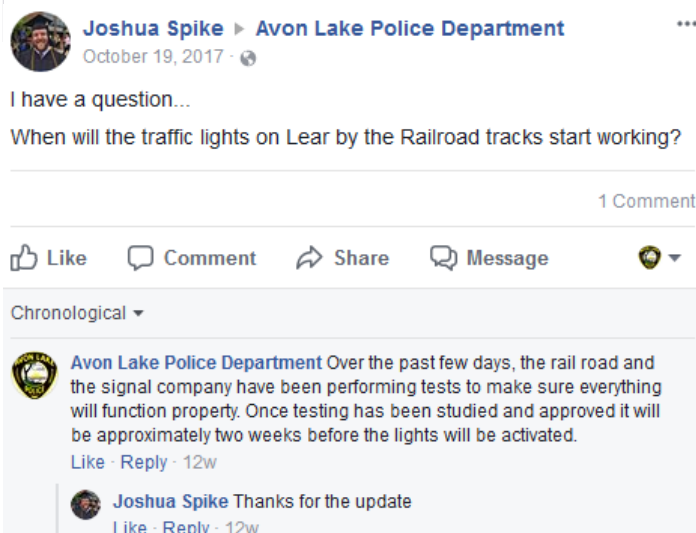


Facebook has also proven to be helpful in educating and communicating with our community. The Police Department's Facebook page receives many questions on posts and through private messenger. Some residents feel more comfortable communicating in this fashion for non-emergencies rather than over the phone or in person. With this tool we are able to keep people informed, send links to more information, and they feel they have one more resource for interacting with the Department.

The Avon Lake Police Department has also increased efforts to prevent property crimes and fraud in 2017 by educating the community in how to avoid scams and protect their properties. The results of these efforts can be seen in the nearly 39% drop in burglaries and 40% drop in fraud reports from 2016 to 2017. Details of these stats can be found in the "Patrol and Calls for Service" section of this report.



Social Media use for the department also continues to expand. Each platoon has 2 officers assigned to update our Facebook page in the event of road closures, extreme weather conditions, and other events that may affect a large portion of our community.



Patrol and Calls for Service

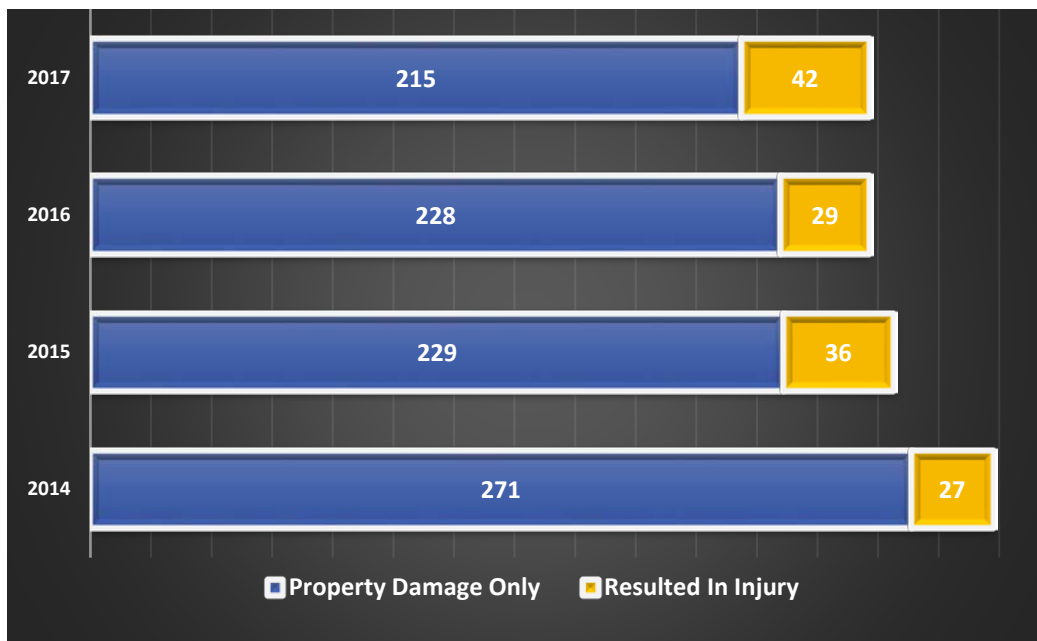
Utilizing data analytics collected from previous year's crime stats, the Detective Bureau was able to pin point certain days of the week and times that may be at higher risk of occurrence of property crimes. The Burglary Prevention Detail used this information to increase and focus patrols during these times. As part of the Burglary Prevention Detail, officers who were on patrol would stop and speak with residents often showing them simple ways to prevent their homes from becoming a target to burglars. Residents were also provided a Security Tips Check List of ways to protect themselves and their property. Avon Lake Police Department attributes the over 39% drop in burglaries to our target patrols, information sharing, and resident's increased awareness of security vulnerabilities on their property.



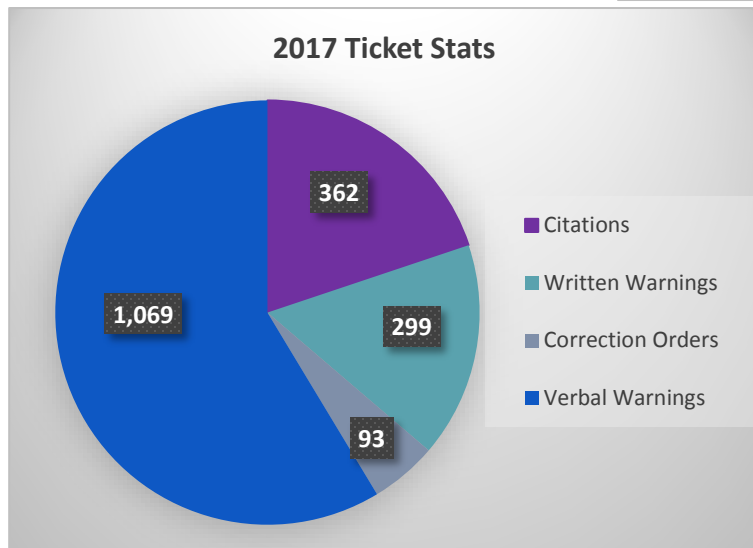
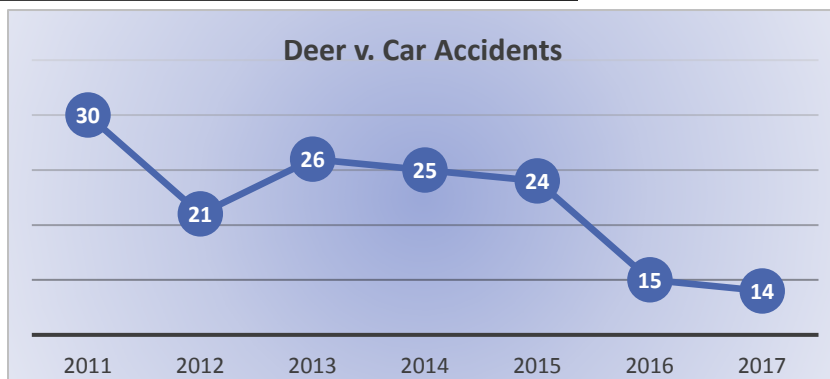
Fraud reports also saw a significant drop this year, falling from 72 in 2016 to 43 in 2017. As seen in the chart above, this represents a 40% decrease. Increased warnings about scams on our Social Media and increased outreach to our elderly community helped our City see a decline in these types of reports. Law enforcement recognizes that our senior population is often the targeted of financial scams and fraud crimes. As part of our efforts to reduce this type of crime the Avon Lake Detective Bureau regularly visited our 3 senior living campuses throughout the year. Detectives speak with Avon Lake's senior residents and educate them on current scams and how to avoid falling victim to them.

Patrol and Calls for Service

Traffic Stops and Motor Vehicle Accidents (MVAs) make up a large part of patrol duties. 2017 continued to show a decline in MVA reports. While there was a 6% decrease in total MVA reports compared to 2016, there was an increase in reports that resulted in an injured person. The top cause of Injury Accidents continues to be Following Too Closely, which totaled 28.8% of Injury Accident Reports filed. Failure to Control caused 24.4% Injury Accidents. Failure to Yield was the third leading cause of Injury Accidents totaling 22.2%.



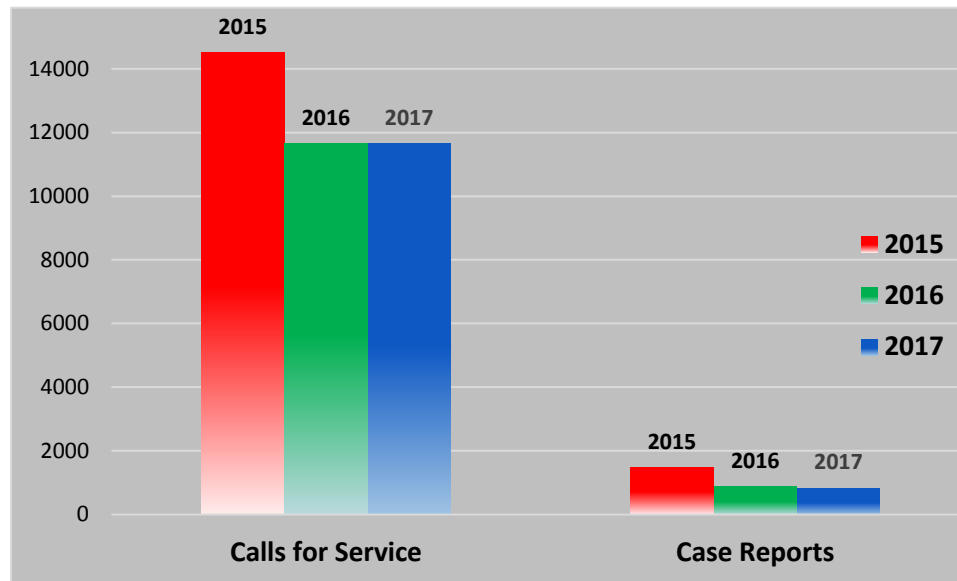
Reported deer involved crashed continued to decline. The 2017 total is less than half of what it was in 2011. None of the deer involved crashes in 2017 led to an injury of a person.



In 2017 Officers initiated nearly 1,900 traffic stops. This is a 21% increase from traffic stops in 2016. These traffic stops resulted in 26% more Arrests, 13% more Citations, 22% more Correction Orders, 41% more Written Warnings, and 31% more Verbal Warnings than Traffic Stops in 2016.

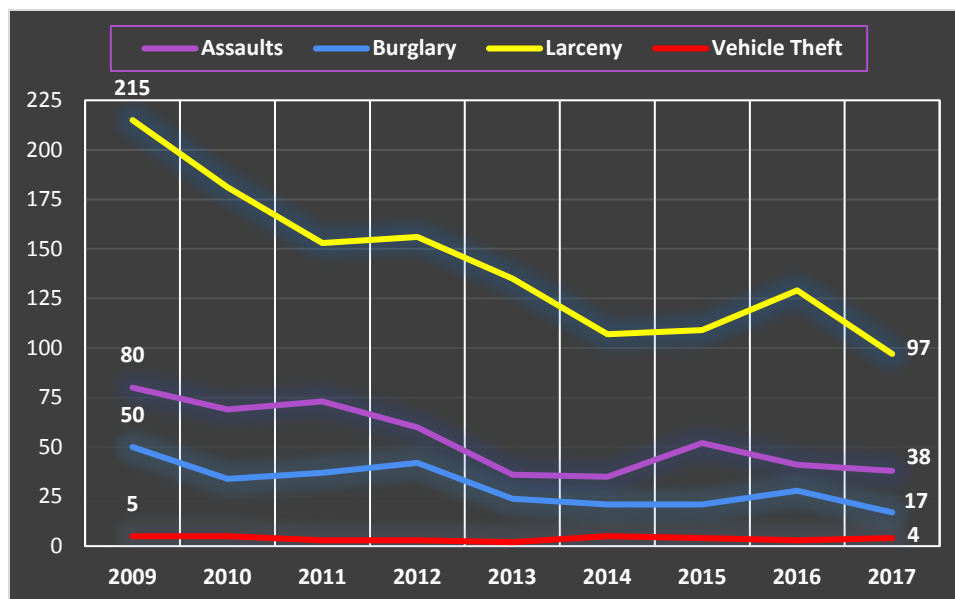


Patrol and Calls for Service



Total Calls for Service remained near the same level they were last year. Case Reports resulting from these Calls for Service also matched the totals from 2016. Assaults, Burglaries, and Larceny reports have continued their downward trend decreasing from 2016 by 7%, 39%, and 25% respectively. Looking at past stats, over the course of 9 years Assaults have decreased 55%, Burglaries decreased 52%, and the Police Department has seen a 66% decrease in Larceny.

Domestic Violence Cases – included in total Assaults – went down 13% from 2016. This type of case has been decreasing each year. Compared to three years ago, Domestic Violence cases in 2017 have decreased 43%.



The increased and focused patrols; educating the public on protecting their property; active investigating of suspicious persons and activity; and arrests made by the Department can be credited with the overall decrease of these types of crime occurring in our City.



Education and Training

In 2017, the Ohio Attorney General's Office mandated that all police officers in the State of Ohio receive 20 hours of training in the following areas:

- 🛡️ 6 Hours: Trauma Informed Policing
- 🛡️ 4 Hours: Practical Application of Force*
- 🛡️ 4 Hours: Officer and Community Wellness
 - Blue Courage
 - Procedural Justice and Police Legitimacy
- 🛡️ 2 Hours: Legal Updates
- 🛡️ 4 Hours: General Law Enforcement / Agency Directed Training

*For the four hours of mandated training in "Practical Application of Force", Avon Lake Detective Justin Ludwig (a certified Subject Control Instructor) provided an excellent block of training to the entire department. This training was broken down in to the following one hour instructional blocks:

- 🛡️ Legal Standard for Law Enforcement Use of Force
- 🛡️ Principles of Weapon Retention
- 🛡️ Principles of Strangle Hold Releases
- 🛡️ Principles of Ground Defense

In the Legal Standard for Law Enforcement, officers reviewed and discussed two main Case Laws: *Graham v Connor* and *Tennessee v Garner*. Detective Ludwig then covered three practical principals of Weapon Retention, Strangulation Hold Releases, and Ground Defense. In each of these principals different maneuvers and techniques were instructed. Discussions were held on how "Graham v Connor" and "Tennessee v Garner" are applied to these situations.



Education and Training

Education and training continues to be a priority for the Avon Lake Police Department. Our training far exceeds the minimum levels mandated by the Ohio Attorney General's Office.

Listed below are training classes that various employees attended beyond the state requirements:

- 🛡️ FBI National Academy Associates 2017 Conference
- 🛡️ 2017 Ohio Attorney General Conference on Law Enforcement
- 🛡️ 2017 Ohio Tactical Officer Association Conference
- 🛡️ 2017 Police Executive Leadership College Alumni Conference
- 🛡️ Subject Control Instructor
- 🛡️ Critical Intervention Response Service Training
- 🛡️ Opiate Death Investigation
- 🛡️ Anti-Defamation Training
- 🛡️ Self-Aid/Buddy Aid: Tourniquet Training
- 🛡️ LEADS Basic Operator
- 🛡️ LEADS Terminal Agency Coordinator Training
- 🛡️ 2017 Ohio School Resource Officer Conference
- 🛡️ Ohio Auto Theft Investigators Seminar
- 🛡️ Command Presence: Dynamics of Officer/Citizen Encounters
- 🛡️ Force Science: Body Worn Cameras
- 🛡️ Basic Arson Investigation
- 🛡️ FBI Child Abduction Response Training
- 🛡️ Combat Marksmanship Skills



In 2017, Lt. Scott Fishburn and Lt. Mike Bulger attended the FBI Great Lakes Leadership Seminar. This is well respected course that provides insight into organization leadership.

In addition to the formal training classes listed above, the police department hosts a monthly prosecutor meeting. These meetings include current legal topics presented by the Avon Lake City Prosecutor, as well as miscellaneous training provided by scheduled speakers.



Specialized Units





Detective Bureau

The Avon Lake Detective Bureau is led by Det. Sgt. Reikowski and manned by Det. Pickering, Det. Robinson, Det. Ludwig, and Det. Godlewski. In mid-2017 Det. Pickering transferred out of the Detective Bureau back to the patrol division. Det. Pickering served in the Detective Bureau since 2006, during his time with the Bureau he assisted with the US Marshals Northern Ohio violent Fugitive Task Force and investigated a wide range of cases.

Detective Godlewski, a 13 year veteran of the department, joined the Detective Bureau in 2017, replacing Officer Pickering. Det. Godlewski is getting on the job training in the Detective Bureau on a range of topics including, but not limited to: Evidence Control & Retention, Enhanced Interview Techniques, Evidence Processing, and Criminal Case Building.

In 2017 the Detective Bureau ran or participated in many specialty programs and events. The Burglary Prevention Detail (detailed in the Patrol and Calls for Service section), the Drug Task Force, Prescription Turn-In, Alcohol Compliance Checks, the Quick Response Team, and the Senior Fraud/Scam Awareness (detailed in the Patrol and Calls for Service section) are all programs the Bureau participates in.



- 
Drug Task Force: This program brings narcotic investigation experience and resources to Avon Lake.
- 
Prescription Turn-In: Avon Lake Police collected over 300 pounds of prescription and over the counter medications. This program collects and destroys medications turned in by residents. Avon Lake Police Department believes that by removing unwanted medications in this manner decreases the likelihood they will be available to be abused.
- 
Alcohol Compliance Checks: This program is overseen by the Detective Bureau and run in cooperation with the ADAS Board and the Ohio Investigative Unit. An adult confidential informant, under 21 years of age, is sent into alcohol retailers and attempts to buy alcohol, if the retailer is found in violation they are cited locally and by the State.
- 
Quick Response Team: The Detective Bureau became involved in this new initiative developed to help combat the heroin/fentanyl issue in this community. Avon Lake Police, the Lorain County Drug & Alcohol Abuse Service, and the Alcohol & Drug Addiction Services Board developed this team to respond quickly to Avon Lake residents who have overdosed. The purpose of this program is to help heroin/opiate users' addiction through treatment and assistance. In 2016 Avon Lake Police responded to 21 overdose calls, which was reduced to 18 calls in 2017. Of these calls, 13% were repeat overdose victims. Avon Lake Police anticipates that the QRT program will have an effect on the recurrence of overdoses in a positive manner.



Specialized Units

Detective Bureau Continued

The Avon Lake Detective Bureau worked a variety of cases in 2017. A few cases of particular interest were a manslaughter case, an armed robbery, and a large scale theft case.

The manslaughter case handled by the Detective Bureau involved a male who fatally overdosed. Detectives worked the case and identified the person involved in supplying the deceased with drugs. That party was located, arrested, and indicted for manslaughter. This case is still pending, but the initiative of seeking out those who are supplying dangerous drugs to residents of our community will hopefully prove to be another effective tool in curbing these drug related deaths in Avon Lake.

The armed robbery involved 3 males reportedly robbing the victim at gun point. Officers were able to get an accurate description of the suspects and their vehicle. The Detective Bureau in cooperation with a surrounding police department located that vehicle and arrested the males. A metal framed pellet gun was located in the car. Subsequent interviews with the suspects yielded enough information for 2 convictions with the 3rd suspect still in the legal process with the courts.

While property crimes may not seem particularly egregious, the Detective Bureau worked an interesting and problematic case of large scale theft. Avon Lake Police Department received numerous reports of a yard signs being taken. After investigation, a suspect was located and interviewed. The subsequent interview yielded a confession and revealed over 500 of the signs at the suspect's home.

K-9 Unit

Officer Rudduck and K-9 Ady have been Avon Lake Police Department's K-9 unit since 2011. The K-9 unit is part of regular shift patrols, performs demonstrations at community events, attends regular training throughout the year, and performs tracking, vehicle sniffs, and school searches as part of their regular duties.

In 2017 K-9 Ady and his handler Officer Rudduck attended 24 days of training, 7 community/school demo events, performed 5 school sniffs, 3 vehicle sniffs, and one house sniff.



Bike Patrol



The Avon Lake Bike Patrol Unit consists of Sgt. Carrender, Sgt. Tibbitts, Ptlm. Toth, Ptlm. Biczynowski, Ptlm. Bringman, Ptlm. Godlewski, Ptlm. Valencic, Ptlm. Walborn, Ptlm. Fabrizi, and Ptlm. Melda.

In 2017 Ptlm. Anthony Fabrizi joined the Bike Patrol. The unit also saw an addition of four new bikes that were donated by the Cleveland Police Department for our participation in the 2016 Cleveland RNC.

The program continues to show the benefits of bike officers being able to interact with the public while on patrol and during events such as Safety Town, bike rodeos, and others. Beyond public interaction, bike officers have the ability to patrol in locations that are not accessible by patrol vehicles.



Specialized Units

OVI Task Force

Lorain County is currently one of the top alcohol related fatal crash areas in the State of Ohio. As a result, the county has received a Federal grant to form an OVI Task Force to combat this issue through saturation patrol and OVI checkpoints.

Departments involved in this Task Force include Amherst, Avon, Avon Lake, Elyria, LaGrange, Lorain, Lorain County Sheriff's, North Ridgeville, Sheffield Village, and Wellington Police Departments. Sgt. Giardini, Ptlm. Schleicher, Ptlm. Anadiotis, Ptlm. Seekins, Ptlm. Godlewski, Ptlm. Walborn, Ptlm. Melda, Ptlm. Yonkers are the Avon Lake Police Officers working in the OVI Task Force.

From October 1, 2016 through September 30, 2017, Avon Lake OVI Task Force Officers conducted 23 saturation patrols and performed 154 traffic stops resulting in 39 traffic citations and 4 OVI arrests. Avon Lake Officers also participated in 3 OVI checkpoints in Avon, Lorain, and Wellington.



School Resource Officer

2017 was Officer Hurd's 10th year in the position of SRO. Officer Hurd is involved in many programs with the Avon Lake Schools throughout the school year. He is involved with the school club S.A.D.D, Psychology and Contemporary Social Issues at the high school, and conducts Fire & Safety Drills using the A.L.I.C.E. procedure at all Avon Lake Schools. In 2017 Officer Hurd assisted in planning and preparing a Crime Scene Investigation and Forensic Classes for the 8th grade class. He also spent time at the Elementary Schools talking with students involved in the SOAR (Students of Academic Rigor) program and started a Crime Scene Investigation project. SRO Hurd participates in the following classes at the high school: Internet Safety, Altered States of Conscience, Drug Awareness, and Observation Skills.

Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for teens in our nation. To combat those stats, SRO Hurd works to educate high school students on vehicle safety. He held a Safe Driving Awareness program for the high school prior to prom. He also assisted with the "Buckle Up Bowl", a county-wide program with Lorain County Safety Coalition, in which Avon Lake High School came in 1st place. SRO Hurd and ACCSO Wasylo also participated Lorain County Safety Coalition's "Buckle Up for Burgers". This event, in partnership with McDonalds, rewards drivers wearing seatbelts in the drive-through lane with coupons for a hamburger.



Specialized Units

Motor Unit

The Avon Lake Police Motor Unit is manned by Sgt. Carrender, Ptlm. Biczynowski, Det. Ludwig, and Ptlm. Riggs. While the Motor Unit's primary function is focused on traffic enforcement, motor officers respond to calls of service as well. The Avon Lake Unit beyond the normal patrol operations, was involved in assisting local parades, motorcycle charity runs, memorial rides, and funeral escorts within Avon Lake and the greater Cleveland Area.



Animal Control Community Service Officer

2017 was the first year for the position of ACCSO, a part time noncommissioned officer position. Officer Jeff Hartz and Officer Frank Wasylko were hired to the position in March of 2017. ACCSOs have a wide ranging job description. Duties can include: compliance checks of the City's Dog Ordinance, handling animals at large in the city, directing traffic, departmental maintenance, vehicle lock outs, house watches, and engaging and educating the community on issues from park regulations to animal control.

ACCSO Hartz brings 30 years of experience from his work in Bay Village as an Auxiliary Officer. ACCSO Wasylko, retired from the City of Rocky River Service Dept., brings the skills that he learned there benefitting our vehicle maintenance program. In addition to their unique skill sets, both Officer Hartz and Officer Wasylko bring a desire to interact with and build a rapport with the citizens of Avon Lake.



"I take great pride in assisting the officers with traffic control and support in numerous areas, as well as serving and connecting with the citizens of Avon Lake in various capacities." ~ACCSO Jeff Hartz

"What I enjoy most about being ACCSO is meeting and assisting our residents and working with our police officers it is nice to know at the end of my shift I was able to help someone." ~ACCSO Frank Wasylko



Specialized Units

Honor Guard

The Avon Lake Honor Guard members are Lt. Bulger, Sgt. Carrender, Sgt. Tibbitts, PtIm. Schleicher, PtIm. Toth, PtIm. Cantleberry, Det. Robinson, PtIm. Valencic, PtIm. Fabrizi, PtIm. Riggs, PtIm. Melda, and PtIm. Yonkers.

The Avon Lake Honor Guard was again requested to perform the Rifle Honors for the Lorain County Peace Officer Memorial during Police Week. The Honor Guard also participated in local Avon Lake parades as well as being funeral services for retired Avon Lake Officer Lt. Fran Girard.



Lorain County SWAT

The Lorain County SWAT is a multi-jurisdictional team consisting of team members from; Amherst, Avon, Avon Lake, LaGrange, L.C. Sheriff's Department, North Ridgeville, Oberlin, Wellington, and Vermilion. Lorain County SWAT operates under the authority of the Lorain County Sheriff's Department. Team members are on call 24/7 operating as sworn Sheriff Deputies with full powers of arrest and authority to go anywhere within Lorain County. Some specialized operations L.C. SWAT performs are: Drug Raids, Suspect Searches, High Risk Incidents, Dignitary & V.I.P. Protection, Barricaded Suspects, Hostage Situations, and Rapid Deployment Against Active Shooters.

Lt. Bockleman and Officer Schleicher are assigned to this unit as negotiators, Sgt. Tibbitts is an assigned Operator, and Officer Rinker is assigned as a sniper.



Department Chaplain

Chaplain Brian Pachinger took over the Chaplain's position in March of 2017. Chaplain Pachinger serves as Pastor of Church of the Open Door in Avon Lake. As Department Chaplain he makes himself available for specialized guidance and counseling as requested to the Police and Fire Departments and assists the Police with notifications.

