

AVON LAKE POLICE DEPARTMENT

2022 ANNUAL REPORT

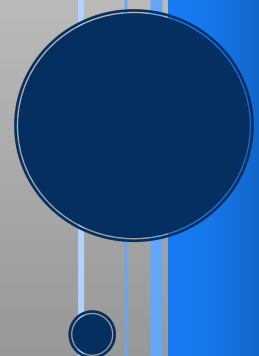


Table of Contents

Letter From Chief Molnar	2
Coming & Going	3
Education and Training	5
Specialized Units	6
Patrol and Calls for Service	7
Calls for Service and Case Reports	7
Traffic Stats	8
Noteworthy Events	9





LETTER FROM CHIEF MOLNAR

The annual report always provides an opportunity to look back on the past year and recall some of the events that shaped the year for the community and the men and women of the Avon Lake Police Department. The year 2022 marked the beginning of my third year as police chief and I'd like to think that I've grown to become more proactive rather than just reacting to situations as they occur. Planning for contingencies and understanding the big picture has taken the place of reacting to the daily struggles of what is happening on the road and in the detective bureau. This can only take place when there is trust in an experienced and capable command staff to address those daily concerns.

The Avon Lake Police Department dealt with a number of challenges in 2021 and some of the efforts to address those challenges paid off in lower crime rates in 2022. Auto Theft was a big problem in 2021 and the number of auto theft occurrences was greatly reduced in 2022 through a combination of factors. A public education campaign asking residents to better protect their property was started and was known as the "9PM Routine". The detective bureau engaged in neighborhood patrols to speak with residents about the crime trends that we were seeing throughout Northeast Ohio and spoke with residents about auto thefts, burglaries, and other crimes. Officers on patrol during the midnight shifts, when most of the auto thefts were occurring, focused their efforts on spotting these groups of cars traveling together through neighborhoods looking for vehicles to steal. The City purchased license plate reading cameras that gave the police department access to technology that would help us to identify potential suspects in these auto thefts and other crimes.

Unifying the efforts of the Police Department, City Administration, and residents behind the shared goal of lowering the number of car thefts proved that we can accomplish great things when we work together. There are a number of other problems that need addressed throughout the community, but it takes all stakeholders recognizing the problem and working together to solve those problems. In 2022 the City of Avon Lake was awarded the AAA Community Traffic Safety Platinum Award. This award is given to select communities throughout Northeast Ohio for "Outstanding service, dedication and the significant impact made by improving the quality of life through traffic safety programming". Reducing the number and severity of traffic accidents is another common goal that we can all work on together. One example of our traffic programming is the radar signs that have been placed in locations where the speed of the traffic had been verified by the police department as being above the posted limit. Traffic calming experts report these radar signs result in a 20% average reduction in speed. That would mean a driver traveling 45 MPH in a 35MPH zone would reduce their speed 9 MPH down to 36 MPH after seeing the radar sign. The result is a decrease in traffic accidents and a decrease in the severity of accidents when they do occur.

I look forward to working with the community, City Administration, and the men and women of the Avon Lake Police Department to continue addressing our shared goals in 2023.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Vincent E. Molnar".

Vincent E. Molnar
Chief of Police
City of Avon Lake



COMING & GOING

2022 NEW HIRES:

A. Gallagher 11/21/22
P/T Dispatcher



T. Goodwin 07/05/22
Officer



J. Leonard 12/19/22
Officer



R. Payne 12/01/22
Dispatcher



A. Rush 12/19/22
Officer



C. Watson 03/28/22
P/T Dispatcher



Lex 06/14/22
K9



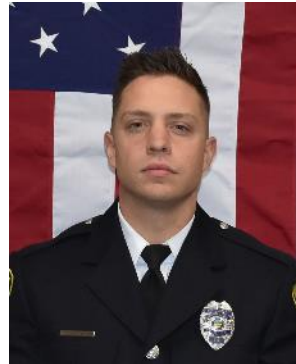
COMING & GOING

2022 Departures:

Disp. Elisabeth Betlisky
22 Years of Service



Officer L. Ody
4 Years of Service



K-9 Ady
10 years of service





EDUCATION AND TRAINING

The Avon Lake Police Department has continued to use the services of LEXIPOL and Police 1 Academy for in-house online instruction in 2022. LEXIPOL has allowed ALPD to have digitized and legally current Policies and Procedures. The LEXIPOL system provides officers with daily training and scenarios related to department policies.

The State of Ohio required every Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy certified officer to complete 24 hours of continuing professional training in 2022. Four hours of training in the subject of Cultural Humility: Diversity, Inclusion, Equity was mandatory for every officer. Twenty additional hours of training could be chosen from the following six topics:

- Responding to a Mental Health Crisis
- Use of Force
- Legal Updates
- Officer Personal Wellness
- Responding to Sexual Assaults
- Domestic Violence

Listed below are additional classes attended by Avon Lake Officers and Dispatchers.

- ARIDE – Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement
- Basic SWAT
- CIT – Crisis Intervention Training
- De-escalation
- Driver's Training
- Evidence Room Management
- FBI - Basic Crisis Negotiations
- FBINAA – Meeting the Challenges of Law Enforcement "First Line Supervision"
- Field Force – Law Enforcement Response to Mass Protests/Demonstrations
- Police Service Dog Handler's Course
- School Resource Officer Training
- Stop Stick Deployment Training

SPECIALIZED UNITS



Detective Bureau: Sgt. Reikowski, Det. Ludwig, Det. Godlewski, & Det. Seekins

K-9 Unit: Ofc. Rudduck & K-9 Ady, Ofc. Blankenship & K-9 Lex

OVI Task Force: Lt. Giardini, Ofc. Schleicher, Ofc. Seekins, Ofc. Walborn, & Ofc. Fabrizi

School Resource Officers: Ofc. Hurd & Ofc. DeScenzo

Motor Unit: Sgt. Carrender, Ofc. Biczynowski, Ofc. Ludwig, & Ofc. Riggs

Bike Patrol: Sgt. Carrender, Ofc. Bringman, Det. Godlewski, Ofc. Toth, Ofc. Fabrizi, Ofc. Walborn, & Ofc. Melda

Animal Control Community Service Officers: Jeff Hartz & Frank Wasylo

Lorain County SWAT: Ofc. Anthony Fabrizi, Ofc. Andrew Robinson, Lt. Sean Bockelman, Ofc. Tim Schleicher

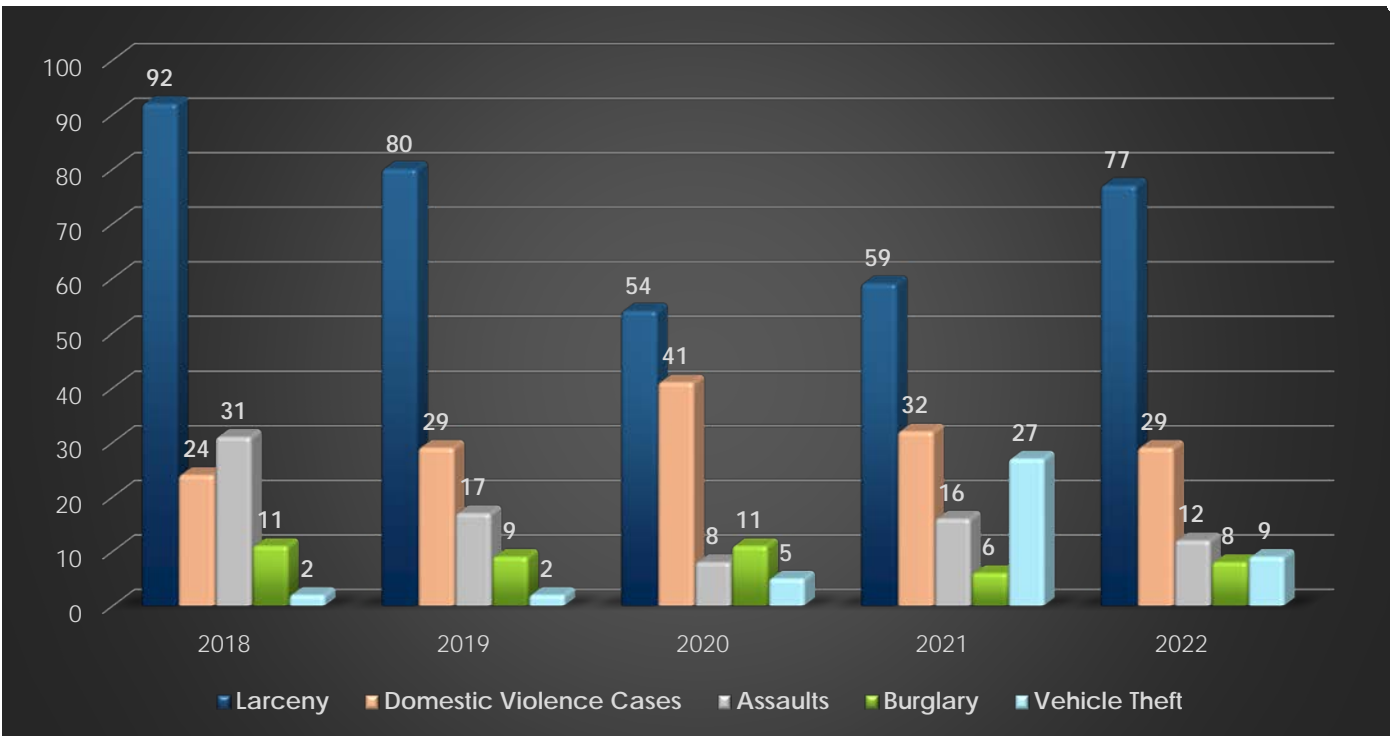
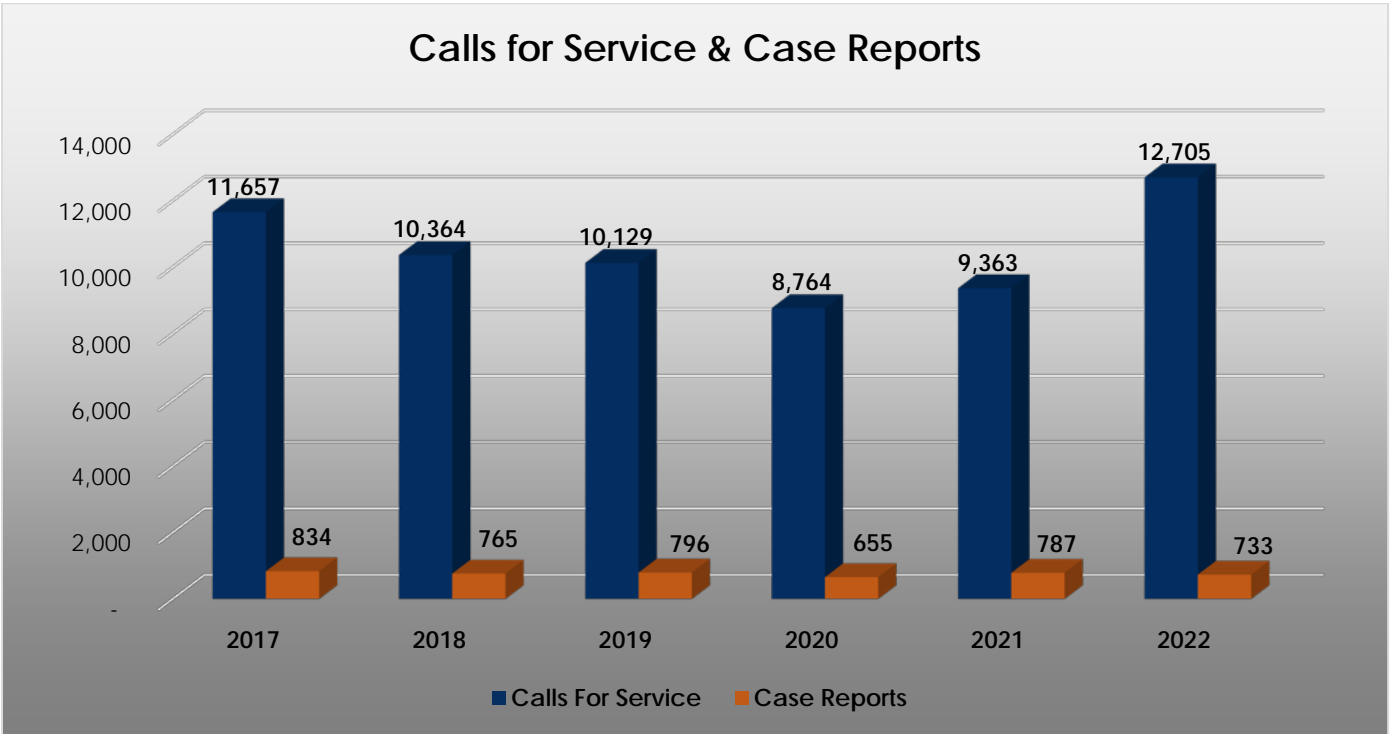
Honor Guard: Sgt. Carrender, Lt. Tibbitts, Lt. Valencic, Sgt. Cantleberry, Sgt. Robinson, Ofc. Toth, Ofc. Schleicher, Ofc. Fabrizi, Ofc. Riggs, Ofc. Melda, & Ofc. Yonkers

Northern Ohio Violent Fugitive Task Force: Det. Godlewski & Det. Ludwig



PATROL AND CALLS FOR SERVICE

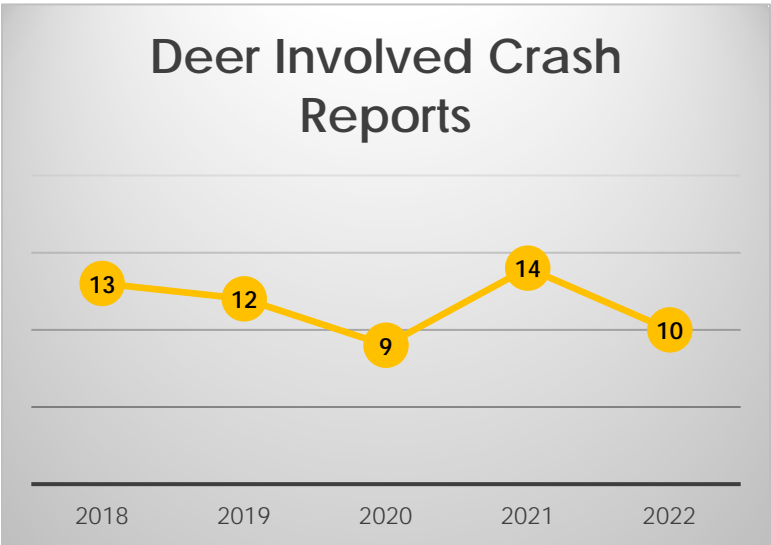
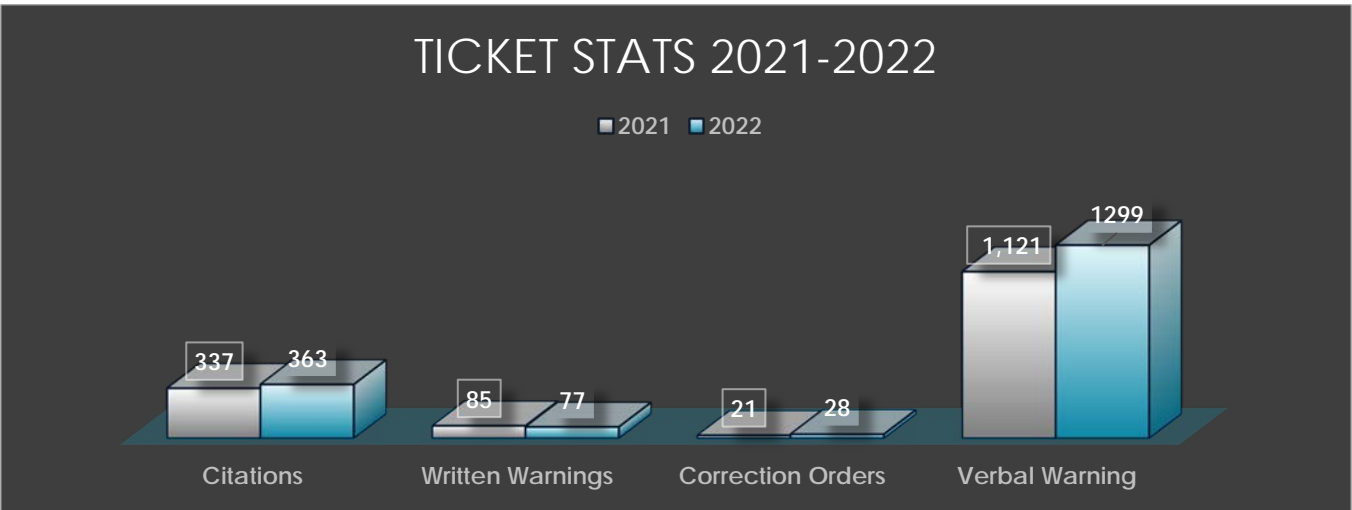
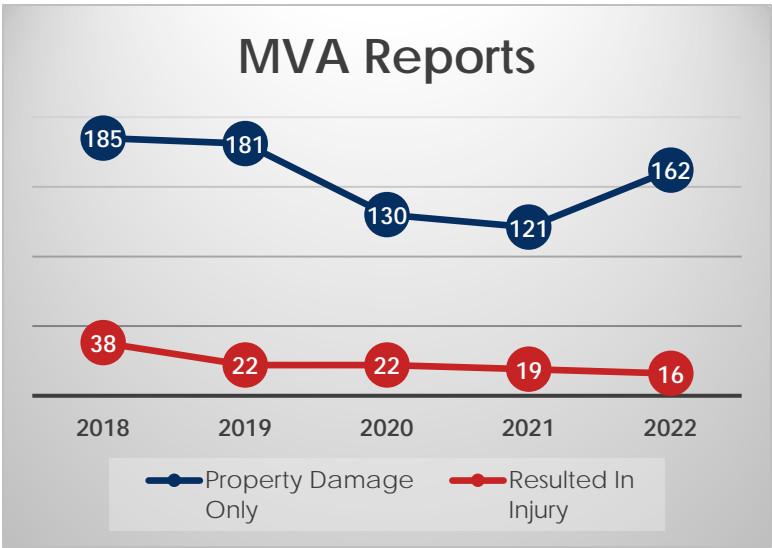
Calls for Service and Case Reports





PATROL AND CALLS FOR SERVICE CONTINUED

Traffic Stats





NOTEWORTHY EVENTS

The Avon Lake Detective Bureau in 2022 was staffed by Det. Sgt. Reed Reikowski, Det. Justin Ludwig, Det. Don Godlewski, and Det. Kirk Seekins. The Bureau is tasked with following up on and investigating criminal activity. These investigations range from fraud and thefts to sex assaults and narcotics cases.

In 2022, there was a noted decrease in the number of auto thefts. In 2021 there were 28 reported stolen vehicles; which decreased in 2022 to 9 reported stolen. It is believed one component of this decrease is due to a departmental community awareness campaign. This Social Media campaign, known as the "9pm Routine" is aimed at making city residents more aware of their responsibilities in limiting crime by securing their property. By following these actions to protect their property; residents and police are able to strengthen the partnership that makes Avon Lake a safe place to live.

The Detective Bureau was able to obtain indictments on several burglary cases in 2022. In one, a serial burglar was indicted by multiple cities for burglarizing homes. Through solid investigative work and cooperation with other departments, Avon Lake was able to indict the individual with three additional burglaries. In another multi-jurisdictional case involving Avon Lake, a Lorain County burglary ring was convicted and sentenced to 7-10 years for their crimes in Avon Lake and surrounding cities.

Another growing area of responsibility for the Bureau is employee background investigations. The department is currently experiencing a lot of retirements. Hiring new personnel requires extensive background checks and these are also performed by detectives. These checks are time and resource consuming. The checks are an integral part of selecting the best candidates as officers at the Avon Lake Police Department.

Detectives also assist the Northern Ohio Violent Fugitive Task Force. This group consists of US Marshals and local police whose main task is to arrest subjects with active warrants.



NOTEWORTHY EVENTS CONTINUED

In 2022, K-9 Ady was retired. After 10 years of service, he is enjoying spending his time as a pet and companion to Officer Rudduck and his family.

K-9 Lex started with the department in June of 2022. Lex came from the Netherlands and began training with Officer Blankenship at Gold Shield Training in Columbus, Ohio. K-9 handler Officer Blankenship has been with the Avon Lake Police Department for 2 years. K-9 Lex passed all state certifications and is trained in tracking, criminal apprehension, area searches, narcotic detection, and article searches. Lex has performed various demonstrations throughout the city. Local business DEI held a fundraiser for Lex in the summer of 2022, raising funds to purchase safety equipment and supplies for Lex.

The School Resource Officer (SRO) program is a partnership between the Avon Lake Police Department and the Avon Lake City Schools. The SRO program continues to maintain a beneficial working relationship with students, parents, school personnel and law enforcement.

Officer Troy DeScenzo started his first year as an SRO in 2022 at Learwood Jr. High School. He was also assigned to Eastview Elementary, Erieview Elementary, and Troy Middle schools.

Officer Brian Hurd continued as the High School SRO for the 15th year. He is also assigned to work with Westview Elementary, Redwood Elementary, and Saint Joseph's schools.
