

# Mentor Police Department



## 2021 Annual Report

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# Foreword

As Chief of Police, I am proud to present the 2021 Annual Report for the City of Mentor Police Department. This report details the activities and progress made by the department in 2021.

The format is a compilation of individual section reports brought together into a single document. This allows for a unique overview of department operations as viewed by the personnel who are responsible for program implementation. The Mentor Police Department continues to receive much support from the City Manager, his staff, other city departments, and City Council. It is vitally important to also acknowledge the support offered by the citizens of this community. Our community continues to reach out a hand to law enforcement, and we are proud to join with you to make this city a safe place to live, work, and play with strong police-community relationships.



One important program we implemented this year is an officer wellness program. The program focuses on the mental and physical well-being of our officers and civilian employees. The stress associated with the policing profession along with the pandemic is a serious matter that we wanted to address. We will continue to provide this support to our officers in 2022.

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Ken Gunsch  
Chief of Police

# Mission Statement

**W**e, the members of the Mentor Police Department, vow to uphold the Constitution of the United States and the State of Ohio, to maintain order, and to protect life and property. We pledge to promptly deliver the highest quality service and wisely use available resources. We shall strive to improve the quality of life for the community and endeavor to be role models.

**W**e will accomplish our mission through innovation, problem-solving and community involvement.

**I**n accepting this challenge, we will genuinely pursue our core values of *Integrity, Caring, Fairness and Professionalism.*

## **INTEGRITY**

**We are dedicated to** individually upholding the public trust and being held accountable for performing our duties ethically, morally, and honestly.

## **CARING**

**We are dedicated to** showing concern, courtesy and sensitivity to ourselves, fellow employees, and those we serve. We will be compassionate and treat everyone as we wish to be treated.

## **FAIRNESS**

**We are dedicated to** treating all persons with respect, understanding and dignity. We will consistently use common sense in a non-discriminatory fashion to promote harmony and equality.

## **PROFESSIONALISM**

**We are dedicated to** providing the community with a competent, responsive and supportive department. We will provide quality service through effective communication, cooperation and personal involvement. Our commitment to excellence in all we do will present a professional image.

The **Mentor Police Department** consists of three major divisions, each responsible for separate duties and functions, but designed to offer support to each other. Currently the Police Department consists of the Administrative Division, Operations Division, and Support Services Division. The Command Staff of the Police Department is made up of the Chief of Police, who oversees the entire Department, and three Captains each of whom command one of the three Divisions. The Command Staff works at coordinating all the efforts of the Police Department to achieve the Department's goals and objectives. The Chief and the Captains are assisted by two full time secretaries. The Victim's Assistance program is directed through the office of the Chief of Police.

## **Distinguished Awards**

To recognize outstanding work and achievement, the Mentor Police Department has adopted the Lake County Association of Chiefs of Police (LCACP) Award Program. The awards consist of a citation bar to be worn on the officer's uniform and a written account of the award to be placed in the officer's personnel file.

Some awards are issued internally through the department. The Medal of Honor, Distinguished Service, Combat Cross, Injured on Duty, and Life Saving Award are normally awarded by the LCACP awards committee. Occasionally an officer is recognized for his or her achievements by outside agencies and businesses.

<b>Ryan Heramb</b>	<b>Officer of the Year (for 2020)</b>
<b>Victoria Hendricks</b>	<b>Civilian of the Year (for 2020)</b>
<b>Timothy Johns</b>	<b>Exceptional Service Award (January)</b>
<b>Keri Thomas</b>	<b>Exceptional Service Award (January)</b>
<b>Audrey Buterbaugh</b>	<b>Exceptional Service Award (April)</b>
<b>Erica Soeder</b>	<b>Exceptional Service Award (April)</b>
<b>Millard Woods</b>	<b>Exceptional Service Award (April)</b>
<b>Michael Fuduric</b>	<b>Letter of Commendation (January)</b>
<b>Mark Fetheroff</b>	<b>Letter of Commendation (February)</b>
<b>Dan Shaw</b>	<b>Letter of Commendation (February)</b>
<b>Mark Fetheroff</b>	<b>Letter of Commendation (June)</b>
<b>Brooke Trader</b>	<b>Letter of Commendation (June)</b>

## **Mentor Police Victim Assistance Program**

The Mentor Police Victim Assistance Program addresses the needs of crime victims in the cities of Mentor and Mentor on the Lake. Our program has served over 6,000 victims since its beginning in 1997. The program currently employs one full time Victim Advocate who works in cooperation with the police department, municipal court, probation department, and prosecutor's office in assisting victims through the criminal justice process. A volunteer also provides clerical assistance to the program.

The goal of the program is to provide prompt, personalized services to citizens victimized by crime. Victims are provided written notifications regarding hearings and made aware of their rights as a victim. Victims are welcome to meet individually with the Advocate concerning their individual needs and concerns. Services may begin from the moment a victim makes a police report and continue through sentencing and probation. The Advocate is available to provide victims with court accompaniment, crisis intervention, complete explanation of the criminal court process, referrals to counselors and social service agencies, notification of court hearings, assistance in obtaining protection orders, notification and awareness of VINE (Victim Information and Notification Everyday), obtaining restitution, and assistance in completing Victim Impact Statements and Victims of Crime Compensation applications. Victims of Domestic Violence are provided with comprehensive services including safety planning, referrals, and information packets. Victims receiving services in 2021 ranged from age 1 through 92 years old. The Victim Advocate assists residents with safety concerns regardless of whether or not a police report is made, or crime is prosecuted.

The Mentor Victim Assistance Program served 211 Victims in 2021. There were 92 victims of domestic violence served, comprising 46% of all victims served in 2021. Given the complexity of domestic violence, these cases typically are provided the most extensive services including crisis intervention, safety planning, referrals, and no contact orders. It is not uncommon for the advocate to work with the same victim over a prolonged period to provide ongoing support and advocacy to enable the victim to leave the abusive relationship.

In addition to domestic violence, other crimes such as assault, menacing, burglary, robbery, and theft are major areas of focus for the program. Services were provided to 44 felony crime victims who were provided advocacy and information during arraignment and preliminary hearings. Additionally, the Victim Advocate contacted victims prior to arraignment for their input and to assess the need for No Contact Orders as bond and/or probation conditions then presented those recommendations to the court. In 2021, 146 No Contact Orders were initiated and processed by the Victim Advocate.

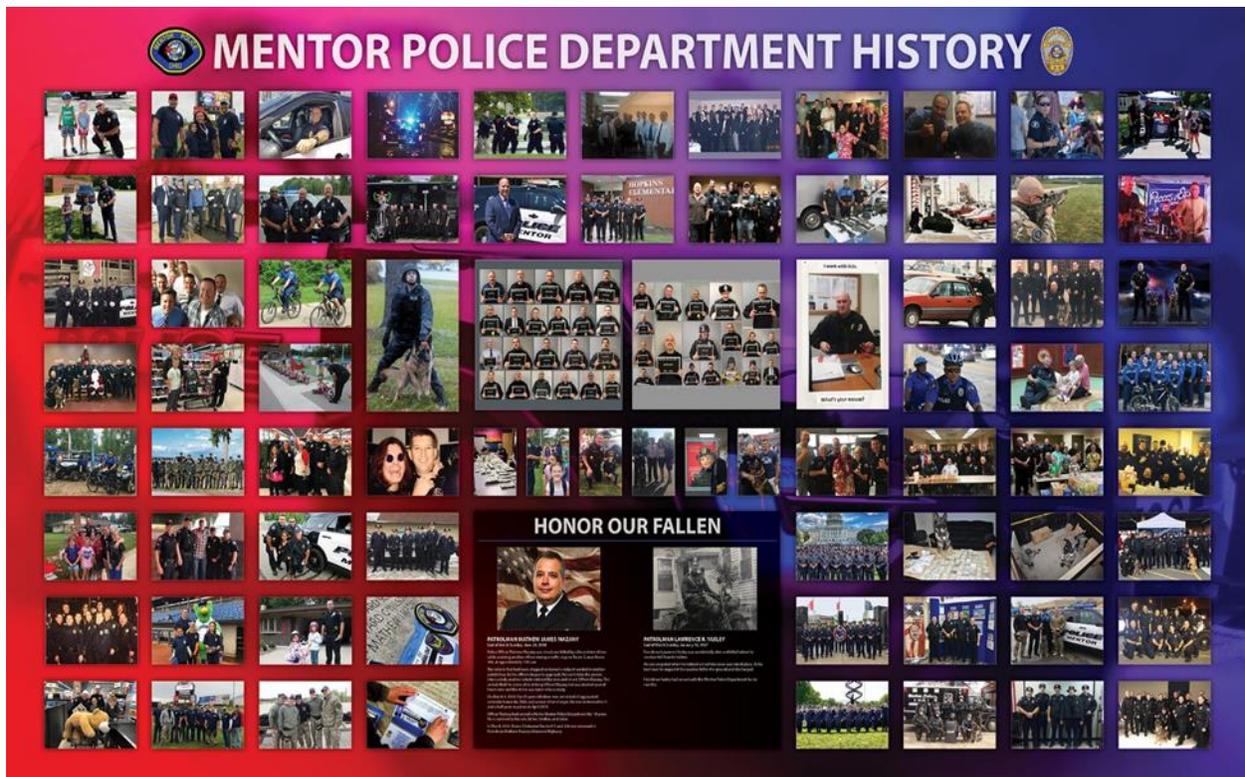
The program works in concert with the Mentor Municipal Court Judge, Mentor Prosecutor, Probation Officers, Lake County Victim Assistance Office, and other community agencies in the best interests of all crime victims to provide quality services. The Victim Advocate is a member of the Northeast Ohio Victim Assistance Taskforce, Lake County Suicide Prevention Coalition, and the Domestic Violence Taskforce.

The Mentor Police Victim Assistance Office receives funding through a grant from the Victims of Crime Act. The program is conveniently located within the Mentor Police Department Building and can be reached at 440-205-2438.

## Historian

In late 2010 it was decided that the police department needed to make a special effort to preserve its history. The volunteer position of a Police Historian was created to document, record, and honor past officers and the history of the department. Sgt. Steve Ondercin has volunteered to be the Historian. In the spring of 2011 display cases crafted by the city road department woodshop were installed in the patrol hallway where officers passing them are reminded of the rich history of their department and the citizens that are served.

Donations were received from retired officers and others to preserve the past and honor those officers with some treasured photographs, memorabilia, and old equipment. Both display cases are filled, but their content is frequently getting updated. Since today is tomorrow's history, the department is constantly collecting items, especially photographs of officers and current equipment.



## **Administrative Division**

The Administrative Division is responsible for the Community Services Unit, Court Services Unit, grant procurement and management, labor contract management, personnel, training, research and project management, and working with Public Works to manage the Department's fleet of vehicles.

Due to several recent retirements the department offered a police officer entrance exam in August 2021. The hiring process is a very detail oriented and involved endeavor and continued through the end of the year. As a result of the hiring process, three officers were offered and accepted positions as police officers. They will be sworn into the position in February 2022. They will attend the Ohio Highway Patrol Academy prior to department training.

One significant technology-related project involved electronic ticketing. This project was finally completed in 2021 and set for full implementation in early January 2022. This will allow officers to quickly and efficiently process traffic violators and streamline the record keeping process associated with such tickets.

The department began the review process for updating our public safety software system. We started reviewing prospective vendors to determine if we need to change systems or continue with our current application. The final decision will be made in 2022 and any implementation processes should start soon thereafter.

We also looked into updating or replacing our body worn cameras. Our existing equipment is aging and there may be better options for us. There were grant opportunities available in 2021 that would make such a purchase more affordable for the city.

## **Court Services**

The Court Liaison Officer, a sworn Mentor Police Officer, is responsible for the security and safety of the Mentor Municipal Court. At the start of the year the position was comprised of four part-time officers. This allowed for flexible scheduling. During the year, however, one court officer retired, and another passed away. In order to keep the same level of service, a patrol officer was assigned to the court officer position full-time to work with the two part-time court officers. There are also two additional part-time officers (unarmed) that manage the front door of the Court and Police Department entrance. They make sure all persons entering have business with these areas and are scanned for weapons, contraband, etc.

The Court Officer performed daily security checks of the courtrooms, all offices, hallways, stairwells, and outer perimeters. Panic alarms were tested monthly, and the results documented. The Court Officer discussed and reviewed safety and security issues with the Bailiffs and the front door Officers.

The Court Officer ensured timely delivery of any official documents to and from the Courts including criminal complaints, arrest reports, traffic citations, warrants, jail commits, and subpoenas. An additional duty included transporting prisoners between the Court and Lake County jail. This took place at least once daily.

## **Community Service Unit**

All members of the Mentor Police Department, as part of an officer's normal operation and contact with the public, perform the function of community service. The Community Service Unit has continued to cultivate a positive image for the police department through education programming in addition to daily interaction with the public.

The Community Service Unit has a very "hands on" approach to reaching the public. This year brought on many challenges to achieve the many different programs that we planned to have throughout 2021. Several had to be cancelled due to the restrictions and measures that had to take place with the COVID-19 pandemic. Although many events were canceled the first half of 2021, we were able to carry on with some events the second half of the year.

The Mentor Community Service Unit is part of a county-wide Safe Communities Coalition. The coalition includes officers from most of the police departments in Lake County and some of the fire departments. The coalition also has representatives from the Lake County General Health District, Ohio Traffic Safety office, ODOT, the Council on Aging, the ADAMHS board, Crossroads, MADD, and Lake Health to name a few. The coalition met every couple of months and planned events and worked in general to make a safer Lake County.



Our first event we were able to participate in was the Buckle Down event held at the Lake County Fair with the Safe Communities Coalition. We observed each vehicle entering in the fair's main entrance between set hours. During the hours we were there, we observed 290 vehicles. Of those observed, 91% were seat belt compliant. Promotional and educational items such as stickers, pamphlets and coloring books were passed out to underscore the Click It or Ticket/Buckle Down Campaign.

National Night out is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make our neighborhoods safer, better places to live. This year we teamed up with Willoughby Police Department. Together we enhanced the relationship between the neighbors and law enforcement while bringing back a true sense of community and providing a great opportunity to bring police and neighbors together under positive circumstances. The event featured K9 and drone demonstrations, music, food, and interaction with our safety force members. A great time was had by all.



National Walk to School is designed to educate students about proper safety procedures when walking to school and to experience the health benefits associated with walking to school every day. This year we had four Mentor elementary schools participate in this event where approximately 500 students, faculty, parents, and police officers walked to school together.

Hometown Hero Day was held at the Great Lakes Mall in September. The Mentor Police Department was well represented. Members of the SWAT team, Bomb Unit, Bike Unit, and the K9, Achilles, and his handler, Officer Terry Wurgler, to name a few. There were other police agencies along with the Mentor Fire Department, Lake Metro Park Rangers, the Lake County Crime Lab, SWAT teams, and other service organizations in the community. Guests had the opportunity to interact with the police officers, fire fighters, and representatives from a variety of service organizations. Children and families enjoyed the bounce house/slide inflatable, world sports game activity center, and music provided by a DJ. It was a great time for all. We look forward to expanding the event next year.



In conjunction with the “Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over” campaign, the Lake County Crime Prevention Task Force and the police department co-sponsored the “Protect and Serve Tavern” at the Great Lakes Mall. Guest servers were local chiefs of police affiliated with the Lake County Chiefs Association, local judges, and special guest Jenn Harcher, Meteorologist for Fox 8 News. Several hundred shoppers participated in this event. Non-alcoholic beverages provided by local businesses were offered along with mocktail recipe booklets and good advice from the chiefs about sober driving. Raised awareness was achieved through police/public interaction. The Fatal Vision Goggles, along with a cornhole board, were used to “show” shoppers the effects of alcohol.



The “Prevent-A-Gram” program was still in effect. Daily reports were received from patrol regarding observations of potential criminal targets (such as open garage doors, bicycles left out overnight, etc.). Residents living at the addresses identified were then made aware through a police department mailing. In 2021, the unit sent out 220 Prevent-A-Grams to citizens.



The week prior to homecoming, the unit held demonstrations with high school students at Mentor High School and Lake Catholic High School regarding current roadway safety issues. Some of the topics covered were distracted driving, seat belt usage, and sober driving. Once again, the fatal vision goggles and cornhole boards were used to “show” the effects of alcohol.

The Unit holds certifications as child safety seat technicians and assists residents with proper child safety seat installations. Along with inspecting and installing the safety seats, they educate the parents and children on the proper use and care of the seat. There are two certified technicians in the unit, who just recently renewed their certifications. The certified technicians participated in continued education classes to keep up with the ever-changing car seats. In 2021, the unit installed and/or inspected 83 car seats. The technicians have noted that over 90% of the child safety seats inspected upon arrival had not been properly installed.

The City of Mentor offer a reduced priced bicycle helmet program. Quality, reduced price helmets were offered to purchase for children and adults. Helmets were sold to the public and were fitted by the Crime Prevention Unit to insure a proper fit. Twenty-six bike helmets were sold and fitted by the unit in 2021.



The Community Service Unit continued to coordinate the police department's Helmet Safety Citation program. This program rewards children for wearing their helmets while practicing safe riding techniques. When officers issued a safety citation it could be redeemed at the Mentor Police Department for great prizes! In 2021, we had five officers that

participated, issuing 53 safety citations to area children. Officer Hatch won the title as the top bicycle helmet citation writer for the department for the second year in a row.

Since 1963, the Mentor Police Department has maintained adult school crossing guards to assist children walking to and from high traffic corridors. School crossing guards work throughout the school year at four strategic locations in the city. They are trained to ensure for safe movement of school children, to be alert for vehicular traffic, and to report vehicular violations to the police for appropriate enforcement action. The Community Service Unit continued as the police liaison for the crossing guards. Throughout the 2020-2021 school year, the school crossing guards had a perfect safety record.



In conclusion, 2021 ended up being a busy year after a slow start. In addition to the above-mentioned events, we participated in a variety of activities such as the Beach Fest, City Fest, Lake County Fair Parade, Saved by the Helmet, Shop with a Kop, Drive Sober Get Pulled Over Kickoff event, and various safety talks at local day care centers. We look forward to getting back to full programming in the year 2022.

## Personnel and Training Unit

Training is a crucial function that prepares the committed police officer to safely meet every challenge on the job. As the largest municipal police department in Lake County, the Mentor Police Department strives to provide all officers with the tools they need to set the department above all others in the area. Our commitment to training maintains our police department on the cutting edge of police professionalism.

During 2021, the department invested 10,201 hours in training to maintain and improve the skill levels of sworn officers and civilian employees. Of those, 1,546 hours were free training. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, 171 hours of scheduled training had to be canceled. Due to the COVID-19 restrictions, 109 hours of training had to be completed virtually.

Police Administration, Supervisory Staff, and Specialty Unit Commanders continue to receive leadership training to include *The First Amendment* and *Social Media*. Two commanders completed the FEMA/EMA required ICS (Incident Command System) training. One sergeant completed ten weeks of free training at the prestigious Ohio State University John Glenn Leadership Academy.

The Detectives received training in several areas specifically suited to their job such as *Cell Phone Investigation* techniques, *Identifying Deceptive Behavior*, and *Interview & Interrogation Techniques*. Two Narcotics Detectives completed *Drafting Narcotic Search Warrants*, *Criminal M.A.P.P. (Motel, Airport, Parking Lot, Parcel)* training, *Managing and Recruiting Resources*, *Witnesses and Courtroom Testimony*. Two detectives attended *Harnessing Resources for Missing/Exploited Children Investigations*.

Officers from the Patrol Division completed Street Drugs training and Crisis-Intervention Team training. One Officer was a Panel Speaker for the Advanced CIT Course.

Training is required for specialized units as well as for basic police functions. Several specialty team members and leaders attended various training throughout the year to improve operations and knowledge.

Our specialized in-house instructors are the backbone of our training program. Utilizing in-house instructors saved 2,142 hours of paid instruction during 2021. Added to our list of instructors during 2021: two Standard Field Sobriety Testing instructors, one Basic Academy Driving instructor, two Realistic De-escalation instructors, and two R.A.I.D.E.R. instructors (Rapid Deployment, Awareness, Intervention, Decisiveness, EMS, Recovery).

During 2021, four Patrol Officers were hired and two attended the Basic Police Academy, 880 hours each, at Cuyahoga Community College. The four new recruits completed the 14-week Field Training Officer (FTO) Program.

As we pursue our core values of Integrity, Caring, Fairness, and Professionalism, the Mentor Police Department will continue to train officers to do their job to the best of their abilities to help keep the community safe.

## **Field Training Officer (FTO) Program**

The Mentor Police Department Field Training Officer program consists of three weeks of “in house” training and fourteen weeks of on the road training. During that time the new officer will have three different training officers and work both day shift and night shift. Once a new officer completes the program they are cleared to begin working as a single-officer unit.

2021 was a busy year for the FTO program. We had a total of four officers go through the program. Three officers successfully completed the program. The fourth officer resigned from the department before completing the program.

We currently have sixteen training officers. Sergeant Kloski does a great job managing the program and is assisted by Sergeant Ondercin.

The training officers are expected to train the new officers in everything from department forms, laws of arrest, building searches, and everything in between. They document everything they do and test the new hires regularly. They really are the backbone of the department.

With plans to swear in four new police officers in early 2022, the Mentor Police FTO program looks forward to another busy year.

## **Range and Defensive Tactics**

The Police Department continued its very active range program in 2021. This program is traditionally run twice each month in conjunction with the Defensive Tactics program. There were several range courses designed to not only simulate real world scenarios, but to also keep officers proficient with their duty weapons. To further train and challenge our officers, one monthly range was held at the Cuyahoga Community College campus using their virtual range simulator. This allowed officers to be faced with a 300-degree video and forced to decide if and when they needed to use force. The video was reactive to the choices made by each officer.

There are currently nine range officers in the department. Having this number of qualified range officers allows for more flexibility in scheduling and training options. Each brings a unique element to the Range Program, though all are committed to improving the firearm capabilities of our officers.

## **Operations Division**

The Operations Division is at the center of the Police Department. Both the Patrol Bureau and the Detective Bureau fall under the Operations Division. The patrol officers are responsible for handling all calls for service, taking initial reports of crime, completing investigations, enforcing traffic violations, and providing a safe environment for our

residents and businesses. The detective bureau is responsible for investigating more serious crimes, crimes that are more complex, or those that require investigation outside of the city. The detective bureau also provides valuable support to the patrol division with various investigative tools. Each unit has its own objectives and responsibilities to provide effective and efficient delivery of police services which is the overall goal of the Operations Division.

2021 continued to bring new challenges to our officers, as we continued adapting to the COVID-19 pandemic and prioritized the health and safety of our officers. Officers continued taking on challenges to prepare for possible unrest after incidents such as Kenosha, WI, the Capitol Riot, and the Presidential Inauguration. Our patrol officers also provided help and security at vaccination PODS, and meetings at both the Health Department and Mentor School Board meetings as tensions rose over pandemic-related mandates. We were able to safely provide security at all of these with no issues. As things somewhat resumed to normal our patrol officers provided security at City events such as the Mentor Rocks Concert Series, Tunes at the Lagoons, City Fest, Beachfest and other smaller city sponsored events. Our goal was to ensure there were no problems at these family centered events, and we are happy to report we were successful in ensuring that.

The Mentor Police Department had received a COPS Grant to start a Wellness Program within the Police Department. We were able to work with our community partners, Lake Health and Crossroads Health, to establish a wellness program geared toward both the mental and physical health of our employees. Included in this project was the establishment of a Peer Support Team and an in house Certified Physical Fitness Instructor. We plan to continue to build on the Wellness Program as we move forward.

## **Patrol Bureau**

Officers assigned to the patrol bureau work 12-hour shifts. This allowed for maximum patrol coverage throughout the day. The Mentor Police Department had two retirements in 2021 and one officer resigned. Four officers were hired in January of 2021. Three of those officers successfully completed their training program and are now patrolling the city streets on their own.

We continue to look for tools and ways to help our officers with their job. This year the City of Mentor purchased FLOCK license plate reader cameras that have been installed at various points in the city. These cameras have been a great asset to our department to not only find wanted persons and locate suspects but have helped us locate elderly persons that have been reported missing. Our patrol officers are now using electronic citations for traffic violations which allows them to clear traffic stops in a timelier fashion and be available for calls.

In addition to normal patrol duties, patrol officers will at times conduct special details including warrant service, targeted traffic enforcement, and aggressive criminal enforcement in higher crime areas. We continue to combat retail crime with our Retail

Theft Program. Officers also assisted with monthly produce distribution for our senior citizens.

During the past year, our patrol division has seen an increase in the number of arrests for weapons violations. Most of these occur during pro-active traffic enforcement. Officers also investigated a negligent homicide, kidnapping, attempted murder, stabbing at a local bar, arsons, and sex offenses as well as our more routine investigations.

The call activity in the department remained relatively the same as in 2020 with only a 1% increase. The total number of arrests significantly increased by 64%. Traffic citations were also up significantly by 63%. These increases are more in line with pre-pandemic levels. There were significant decreases in arrests and citations in 2020 due to pandemic shutdowns. Thefts and drug offenses were again the leading arrest categories. We did see a significant increase in the number of assaults in 2021 compared to 2020 with an increase of 56%.

A major goal and objective of the Patrol Bureau is traffic enforcement directed at reducing the number of motor vehicle accidents occurring on the city’s roadways. The Mentor Police Department actively participated in three State of Ohio Department of Public Safety sponsored traffic enforcement programs: “Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over”, “What’s Holding You Back,” and “Click it or Ticket.” Although traffic accidents were up from 2020, they were still below pre-pandemic levels.

	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>Difference</b>	<b>Percent Change</b>
<b>Calls for Service</b>	21,064	21,286	222	1%
<b>Criminal Offenses</b>	1,725	2,043	318	18%
<b>Adult Arrests</b>	796	1,309	513	64%
<b>OVI</b>	136	193	57	42%
<b>Total On-Street Accidents</b>	1,062	1,251	189	18%
<b>Total Injury Accidents</b>	272	285	13	5%
<b>Traffic Citations</b>	3,347	5,464	2177	63%
<b>Written Warnings</b>	857	957	100	12

## **Traffic Services**

Traffic law enforcement is a responsibility of patrol throughout the year, but at times there were specific issues that needed to be addressed. Traffic complaints were addressed in one of several different ways. The department utilized two portable, speed monitoring trailers that were towed to sites with speed-related problems. Other enforcement measures included: requests for special attention that was relayed to patrol officers during daily roll calls, a selective enforcement program where officers were assigned specific locations for enforcement efforts, and a designated traffic calming program.

The traffic calming program ran from April 5 through December 13, 2021. Select locations were designated in residential areas during the year in an effort to keep citizens safe and to promote safe driving habits. The City Public Works Department assisted in the traffic

calming program by posting signs at targeted locations. The program was divided into six-week segments with each ward having a designated street throughout the season. Patrol officers conducted traffic enforcement activities at each location throughout the year.

In 2021, Lieutenant Dan Molnar managed traffic services for the police department. This included fielding and responding to complaints, communicating, and assigning enforcement activities, and organizing the traffic calming and speed trailer programs. Lt. Molnar was also a member of the city's traffic working group. The group deals primarily with traffic safety and consists of representatives from several city departments.

The department was awarded \$58,807.26 in federal traffic safety funding. This was part of a grant through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. It will be used to pay for officers' overtime to aggressively enforce traffic laws with an emphasis on OVI, speed, distracted driving, and seatbelt violations. The goal of the grant is to promote safe streets and to reduce fatalities. The grant started in October 2021.

There were fifty-eight complaints received through various channels in 2021. Most came directly from citizens or through City Council members. The most common complaint was speeding vehicles. Twenty-three of those complaints were assigned selective enforcement details. The others were handled by deployment of the speed trailers or passed on to patrol officers during roll call.

Traffic law enforcement will continue to be a priority with the Mentor Police Department patrol division in an effort to promote safe driving habits and reduce accidents.

## Special Events

The Mentor Police Department provided security for several special events in 2021. These events included the 4<sup>th</sup> of July festivities, CityFest, BeachFest, Tunes at the Lagoons, and the Mentor Rocks concert series. MPD coordinated with Parks and Recreation and the Public Works departments to provide the safest outcomes possible. Officers were assigned to foot patrol, ATV's and bike patrol for these events. There were no significant incidents at any of the festivities this year.



## **Criminal Investigations Bureau**

The Mentor Police Department Detective Bureau consists of a Detective Lieutenant, a Detective Sergeant, six general duty detectives, two narcotics investigators, one juvenile detective, one school resource officer, and a secretary. The Detective Lieutenant and Detective Sergeant are responsible for the administration of the Detective Bureau, management of the Narcotics Unit, Internal Affairs investigations, the School Resource Officer program, the Evidence Technician program, the Video Forensic program, the Computer Forensic program, the detective assigned to the U.S. Marshals Task Force, the detective assigned to the FBI Cryptocurrency Task Force, and the overall management of all investigations assigned to the Detective Bureau.

Training for detectives and evidence technicians is a priority for the Mentor Police Department. This year not all training could be done in person. The training classes completed in 2021 reflect a mix of both in-person and online webinar training. Both narcotics detectives attended a class on MAPP (Motel, Airport, Parking lot, and Parcel interdiction). One Narcotics detective also attended training on instructing the standardized field sobriety tests. The general duty detectives completed multiple courses on topics such as interview and interrogation, computer and cell phone forensic examinations, missing and exploited children investigations, and arson investigations. Two detectives attended the annual Ohio Identification Officers Conference. The conference offered several training opportunities in all evidence collection disciplines. The School Resource Officer completed a course in averting school violence. He also attended the School Resource Officer annual conference. Detective supervisors completed a course on Amber Alert procedures and the National Incident Management System.

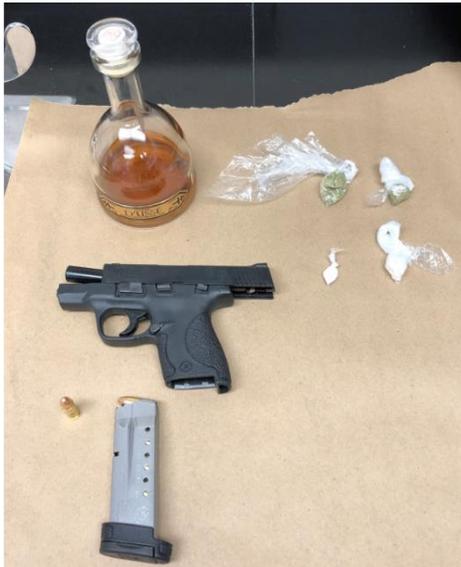
Detectives were responsible for follow-up on all assigned cases until the case can be cleared or satisfactorily closed. Detectives are also encouraged to self-initiate investigations from information developed by other means such as civilian contacts, confidential informants, referrals from other agencies, and other sources. Detectives are responsible for assisting and supporting the patrol division with investigations when the need arises. The Detective Bureau utilizes social media to keep citizens informed of important information and as an aid in their investigations. Several cases have been solved by citizen tips received after a video or photograph has been posted to Facebook asking for assistance in identifying a person. In 2021, the detective bureau was proactive in its crime fighting efforts. The detective bureau worked with the Lake County Narcotics Agency, Lake County Sheriff's Office, Willoughby Police, and Willoughby Hills Police Department to combat drug trafficking and prostitution in high crime areas in the city. Several areas, including hotels, were the focus of the enforcement efforts in drug enforcement, prostitution, and human trafficking.

## **Computer / Cell Phone Forensics Unit**

This unit forensically processes phones, computers, and other electronic devices to obtain evidence of crimes. The crimes can include child pornography, soliciting minors for sex, drug trafficking, and other situations where electronic images, communication, or

data provide evidence of a crime. The department has two officers working with the United States Secret Service Electronic Crimes Task Force for training and assistance with examinations. In 2021, these officers conducted 46 electronic device examinations related to crimes in Mentor and in other jurisdictions within Lake County.

## **Narcotics Unit**



The narcotics unit primarily investigated drug trafficking offenses in and around the city of Mentor. Narcotics Detectives often worked with the Lake County Narcotics Agency and other agencies such as the DEA. They used confidential informants in many of their investigations. The unit also investigates complaints of drug thefts. Detectives use Ohio Automated Prescription Reporting System to check if reports of drug theft are attempts to obtain illicit prescriptions.

In 2021, \$58,885 was seized as the result of drug investigations. The narcotics unit also handles vehicle forfeitures. There were five vehicles seized in 2021. The narcotics unit executed six search warrants in Mentor in 2021. The search warrants were the culmination of months of undercover investigating drug trafficking complaints in Mentor residential districts. Narcotics Detectives also investigate overdose deaths. One of these investigations resulted in charges on a suspect for aggravated trafficking in drugs and corrupting another with drugs.

## **Video Forensic Unit**

This Unit consists of a detective who processes and enhances video and images from various sources. The unit uses a Video Forensic Computer system utilizing Avid and Input Ace software. Video projects are used in identifying suspects and aid in their successful prosecution. This system allows for enhanced still photos captured from videos to be distributed to media outlets and other law enforcement agencies. Many of the suspects identified through social media tips in 2021 were through still images captured with this software. In 2021, the unit processed 40 forensic video requests and placed the images on social media to seek help from the public in identifying a suspect.

## **Evidence Technicians**

The Mentor Police Department Evidence Technician Program consists of 22 patrol officers as well as all nine of the detectives in the Detective Bureau. The Evidence Technicians are an asset to the Mentor Police Department. Their duties include photographing and collecting evidence. The photographs they take are of both crime scenes and victims of crimes. The evidence they collect includes fingerprints, tool marks

and impressions, shoe and tire prints, DNA, and trace evidence, such as hairs and fibers, left at the crime scene.

Evidence Technicians processed 718 cases in 2021. Their work also includes collecting evidence at the scene of traffic crashes. They assist the crash investigators by photographing the marks left on the roadway and the damage to the vehicles. Detectives draft affidavits for records requests and search warrants. In addition to writing search warrants, detectives also process search warrants/consent searches of homes and businesses to collect evidence relating to their investigations. The Detective Bureau is also used to assist other agencies to help process evidence at crime scenes. Evidence Technicians took 10,231 digital photographs of evidence in 2021.

The Detective Bureau and evidence technicians handled several major crime investigations this year. One notable case was the investigation and arrest of two individuals for reckless homicide and child endangering for death of their child at a Mentor hotel. Detectives also investigated an aggravated arson case where a home was intentionally set on fire with four people inside. The suspect was arrested and charged with the crime. Detectives along with the investigators from the Lake County Prosecutors Office processed the scene of an attempted homicide and felonious assault. In this case, multiple gunshots were fired into a home which struck two victims. The suspect was arrested and charged the same day.

Detectives spend a considerable amount of time writing and executing search warrants. The warrants can be for locations, the DNA of a suspect, devices, such as cell phones and computers, and on accounts for web sites and computer applications. The number of search warrants completed and executed totaled 63 in 2021. Eight of those search warrants were at physical locations for either narcotics or child pornography investigations. In addition to the multiple criminal investigations conducted by Mentor detectives, they also complete background investigations on applicants for the open patrol, dispatch, and corrections officer positions. The extensive background investigations provide a foundation for the applicants to continue in the hiring process.

## **School Resource Officer (SRO)**

The SRO is assigned to the Detective Bureau and works at the Mentor High School interacting with the students, faculty, and school administration. He provides a law enforcement figure that students can approach for information, guidance, or help. The SRO is responsible for investigating crimes and complaints that are committed on school property and makes arrests when appropriate. The SRO also teaches classes that are law enforcement related and aids in seeing that School Board rules and guidelines are followed. In 2021 the SRO was limited in his time at Mentor High School due to remote learning. While he was in the school, he handled 20 investigations that resulted in seven arrests. When Mentor High School went to remote education due to COVID-19, the SRO moved to road patrol. The SRO attended the annual School Resource Officer Conference.

## **U.S. Marshals Northern Ohio Violent Fugitive Task Force**

The Detective Bureau continued to have one Detective assigned to the U.S. Marshals Northern Ohio Violent Fugitive Task Force in 2021. This appointment has brought together a great network of investigators throughout the county and this region of the State. During the Detective's service with the task force this year, 61 people were taken into custody for warrants. This number included 18 of our own Mentor warrants.

## **Arson Investigation**

The Mentor Police Department Detective Bureau has one detective assigned and trained to assist the Mentor Fire Department with arson investigations. This detective works with the fire investigators from the Fire Department to collect evidence at the fire scene. There were two arson investigations in 2021. Both investigations led to charges for aggravated arson on those responsible for the fires.



## **Case Load**

In 2021, the Detective Bureau investigated 379 cases. Detectives cleared 135 cases by arrest or other means. They closed an additional 184 cases as pending. This case load involved a variety of cases including homicide, attempted murder, aggravated burglary, bank robbery, felonious assault, financial crimes, theft offenses, sexual assault, narcotics trafficking, overdose deaths, weapons offenses, arson and suspicious fire investigations, child pornography, and missing persons. Detectives use a variety of tools to solve their cases. One new tool the police department obtained is the FLOCK camera system. These cameras are placed in a variety of locations throughout the city to run license plates on passing vehicles. Detectives can use the data to show when and where a suspect vehicle was in the city.

In addition to operation FLOCK, The Mentor Police Department continues to use the Neighbors App by Ring. Joining this app allows our investigators to engage in the community by viewing and responding to crime and safety incidents shared by Ring video users. The police can also share crime alerts and request video evidence from residents who use this application.

The Mentor Police Department Detective Bureau has developed excellent relationships with other law enforcement agencies and the sharing of information has been extremely beneficial in solving crimes. Our detectives coordinate annual evidence technician

training with the Lake County Crime Lab and the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation to keep up with the latest procedures in evidence collection.

## **Volunteer Police Chaplain Program**

This program was formally instituted in February of 2009. The current members are Rev. Francis Miller, Rev. Stoney Drain, Fr. Timothy Plavac, and Rev. Brian Landrum.

This program regained stability after being set back in 2021 due to COVID-19. The Chaplains continued to make their services available by way of counseling, counseling children of officers, visiting an officer in the hospital, presiding over a funeral for an officer, and call-outs to community members as requested by the police department. They delivered packages to the elderly as a part of the Christmas to a Senior program, bought lunches and dinners for officers, and attended the dedication of the Police and Fire Memorial. Two of the Chaplains attended the annual “Kops and Kids” Christmas party and the department’s Christmas party. The Chaplains, combined, volunteered over 160 hours in 2021. Chaplain Don Knipp officially retired a police chaplain. Chaplain Knipp had been a Chaplain with the Mentor Police Department since the program began.

## **Specialty Units**

### **Accident Investigation Unit**

The Mentor Police Department’s Accident Investigation Unit (AIU) is headed by Sgt. Michael Danzey. The four members of the Mentor Police AIU, two of whom are reconstructionists, also serve on the Lake County Crash Reconstruction Unit (CRU).



In 2021, Mentor’s Accident Investigation Unit assisted in the investigation of 13 cases, including mutual aid to the Lake CRU. These crashes included four fatalities, three motorcycle crashes, one pedestrian crash, one public safety vehicle crash, and one Aggravated Vehicular Assault case.

AIU members attended monthly training at MPD, which often included follow-up on crash investigations (vehicle inspections, calculations of technical data, diagramming, and interviews). Two team members also became certified as CDR Technicians.

## Aggressive Criminal Enforcement



In 2021, the Aggressive Criminal Enforcement Unit (ACE) remained proactive during another unique year. The ACE unit focuses on proactive police techniques which include, but are not limited to, criminal patrol, drug interdiction within the city or interstates, short term traffic/hotel interdiction, and a focus on high crime activity areas.

The members of the ACE Unit for 2021 were: Officers Kupchik, Heramb, and Swindell. The ACE Unit works in conjunction with the K9 Unit along with the Narcotics Unit. The ACE Unit collectively were responsible for making 77 drug related arrests during their shifts. The following was seized by the ACE Unit: 1.3 kilos of marijuana, 193 prescription pills, 112 grams of methamphetamine, 70 grams of cocaine, 17 grams of heroin/fentanyl, 6 grams of PCP, 2 grams of MDMA. Nine of the arrestees were also charged with drug trafficking. The Unit also seized \$5,948 in currency and two vehicles.

Additionally, the ACE Unit made multiple arrests for illegally possessed and/or stolen firearms. Eighteen firearms were seized this year by the unit which is the largest recovery of firearms in a year to date. Each of the weapons recovered were confiscated and removed from our community. The ACE unit also made ten OVI arrests in 2021.

Despite the obstacles put forth in 2021 the ACE Unit continued to work hard as ever with their proactive enforcement within our community. In 2022 the unit plans to potentially add recently trained interdiction officers to the Aggressive Criminal Enforcement Unit. Ideally each of the four platoons would have a two-officer unit.

## Bike/ATV Unit

The MPD Bike Unit is comprised of ten officers and four supervisors. There are currently four officers assigned to the ATV Unit which includes one supervisor. In 2021 we added three new officers to the unit while two officers retired. Bike officers were assigned to many events in 2021. These included a Racial Justice March, the Mentor Farmer's Market, Ridge Elementary Specials Needs Summer School, Mentor Beachfest, the 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration, the Wildwood Wine Festival, the Civic Center Car Show, the Velosano Ride for the Cure, and National Walk to School Day.



Additionally, bike officers were assigned to the City concerts and several sports tournaments. There was a clear increase in bike patrols over 2021 due to many COVID-

19 restrictions being lifted. The side by side was again used for special events and continues to be a great high visible public relation tool. This year it was used for City Fest, Beachfest, the Irish Fest, patrolling the Mentor Lagoons, and several City concerts.

Both the Bike Unit and the ATV Units continue to make a positive impact on community. The MPD Bike/ATV Unit made numerous public contacts in 2021 during the mentioned events. In 2022, we look forward to increasing bike patrol usage during regular patrol days along with all the special events.

## **Bomb Squad**

The Lake County Bomb Squad continued its tradition of providing excellent response to and coverage of incidents involving hazardous materials and devices in Lake, Geauga, and Ashtabula counties. The squad was formed in 1992. Since that time we have trained and gotten equipment to be able to respond to a wide array of hazardous incidents. The squad is recognized as an Accredited Public Safety Bomb Squad by the FBI and the National Bomb Squad Commanders Advisory Board.



The team consists of four bomb technicians, one explosive detecting K9 team, and one paramedic. The team members were from five area agencies: Mentor Police Department, Concord Township Fire Department, Eastlake Police Department, and the Geauga County Sheriff's Department. One paramedic retired during 2021.

The team trains twice each month to ensure continued familiarity with equipment and methods introduced by the FBI and ATF. The FBI coordinated several advanced courses in the Cleveland area for local bomb squads. This afforded our bomb squad members the opportunity to learn new techniques and discuss trends with other squads from the area.

The bomb squad is required to submit incident reports to the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives. This system tracks all bomb squad activities and incidents to allow for trends to be identified and communication between squads to be simplified. During the year our bomb squad was utilized 60 times. Examples of incidents to which the squad responded include: improvised explosive devices, recovery of bomb making materials, suspicious packages, recovery of munitions, military ordnance, response to explosions (one of which was fatal), and recovery of improvised explosives, among others. Each incident presented a unique challenge for the squad. Fortunately, there were no injuries or accidents related to the calls.

The Bomb Squad received several necessary tools in 2021 through grant funding. These included, among other items, two new bomb suits and a radiation identifying tool. The

addition of all grant items help ensure the squad is well equipped and prepared to address a wide array of hazardous incidents.

In conclusion, the Explosive Ordinance Disposal Unit has provided a necessary, important service to the residents of Lake, Geauga, and Ashtabula Counties for over 20 years. In light of the ever-present risk of attacks by foreign and domestic terrorists, the Squad has proven to be a valuable asset to our community and to the various cities within the three-county region. Continued operation and support are essential to the safety and well-being of the citizens of the City of Mentor and the region.

## **K-9 Unit**

The K-9 Unit continued to be an essential asset to the Mentor Police Department in 2021. Our two teams consist of Ptl. Mackey with K-9 Bak and Ptl. Wurgler with K-9 Achilles.



The K-9 teams perform a wide array of duties throughout the year not only in Mentor, but also for surrounding law enforcement agencies. These duties include patrol, apprehension, drug detection and interdiction, tracking, searches, crime deterrence at special events, and community policing. Both teams were also involved with the community throughout the year at various events. Although special events were limited due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the teams did visit schools and businesses allowing social interaction with the K-9s. In September, the team attended a 9/11 ceremony at Mission BBQ.

The primary responsibility of both teams is criminal enforcement. In 2021, the teams performed 40 K-9 uses for the Mentor Police Department and 21 assists to other law enforcement agencies. These included 8 suspect controls and apprehensions, 10 community policing activities, 10 subject tracks, 48 narcotics detections, and 2 article searches. The teams were also either directly responsible for or assisted with 4

misdemeanor arrests and 4 felony arrests. In one incident, Ptl. Wurgler and K-9 Achilles assisted with a sniff of a vehicle on a traffic stop in Mentor. A subsequent search located 9 grams of heroin, 3 grams of methamphetamine, and a loaded firearm.

The K-9 Unit stays up-to-date with necessary training. The teams regularly train twice a month and often with other K-9 units from around Lake and Cuyahoga counties. Both handlers travelled to Michigan in October to attend a week of training by the National Association of Professional Canine Handlers.

The support for the K-9 Unit from the Mentor community continued in 2021 with several businesses and residents offering support in the form of services, supplies, food, and monetary donations. PetSmart continued to donate food for the teams, and the Lakeshore Animal Hospital continued to donate health care services.

On a sad note, Bak and Achilles' predecessors, Bo and Titan, both passed away from natural causes in 2021. Ptl. Mackey had previously been the handler for K-9 Bo, and Ptl. Wurgler was the handler for K-9 Titan. Both K-9s retired in 2019 and spent the remainder of their lives with their handlers and families.

## Hostage Negotiation Team (HNT)



The Hostage Negotiation Team (HNT) is a unit within the Mentor Police Department that has been trained to handle communications in crisis and hostage situations. The primary goal of the HNT in any crisis situation is the preservation of life and the peaceful resolution of the crisis through open communication and negotiation, thereby minimizing the need for the use of force. All members are trained as CIT officers.

During crisis situations, the HNT is under the control of the scene commander and works alongside patrol officers, SWAT team members, bomb disposal officers, and/or other specialized units. The HNT is called upon to communicate primarily with suicidal, armed, and/or barricaded subjects. In 2021 the team assisted Mentor SWAT in one incident, and individual negotiators utilized their training and skills in countless other incidents.

Ptl. Shawn Wilson joined the team in 2021, filling the vacancy left by Ptl. Mike Bruening's retirement. Ptl. Wilson attended the FBI's Crisis Negotiator course. The HNT met twice for team training throughout the year, and two team members also attended the Midwest Crisis Negotiator Conference.

## Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT)

In 2021, the Mentor SWAT team provided tactical support to the city of Mentor and the Lake County Sheriff's Office during unusual or high-risk incidents. In May, the team was activated to assist the Mentor Detective Bureau with a search warrant and arrest warrant at a home in Mentor regarding a child pornography investigation. In August, Mentor SWAT officers were requested by the Lake County Sheriff's Office to assist



with the search of a known drug location in Painesville. In October, the SWAT team was activated to assist the Lake County Sheriff's Office SWAT team with the apprehension of an armed male who had committed multiple, violent felony offenses.

Two officers attended the week-long Ohio Tactical Officers Association conference in June where they received classes and training to enhance their skills. This training was then disseminated to all team members to increase the team's overall competency and effectiveness. On several occasions, the sniper team conducted joint training with snipers from other area police departments. This training created better preparedness and collaboration among the sniper teams, should a situation arise where they need to work together at an incident. Throughout the year, the SWAT team continued to train monthly at various sites around Lake and Geauga county to maintain proficiency and stay current with updated practices and tactics.

## Support Services

The Support Services Division of the Mentor Police Department is comprised of the Safety Forces Communications Unit (Dispatch), Corrections Unit (Jail), Records Unit, and Property & Evidence Unit. Managed by Captain Robert Valley, the dedicated men and women of Support Services provide a strong supporting cast to the Operations Division and reflect the mission of the Mentor Police Department. Each of these units is vital to the successful operations of the police department and the professional services we provide to the community. These departments are faced with constantly changing legal mandates, and each continues to meet or exceed strict state and federal standards or 'Best Practices' related to their responsibilities.

In 2021, the Mentor Police Department continued to counter the opioid crisis and needless overdose deaths through the administration of the drug, Naloxone. Naloxone, better known by the brand name Narcan, is carried by all Mentor Police and Corrections Officers trained to identify an opioid overdose and administer the drug as needed. In 2021, Mentor Officers administered 43 doses of Narcan to 16 individuals suffering an opioid overdose. Fourteen lives were saved in 2021 through the administration of Narcan. The Lake County General Health District stands behind our efforts to save lives by helping to supply the Mentor Police Department with Naloxone. The number of known opioid overdoses in Mentor has decreased since



2019, but the average amount of Naloxone necessary to counter an opioid overdose has increased due to stronger emerging opioids such as fentanyl.

<b>MENTOR POLICE DEPARTMENT - NALOXONE PROGRAM</b>				
<b>NASAL NARCAN PROGRAM YEAR</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
<b>NUMBER OF KNOWN OPIOID OVERDOSES</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>NUMBER OF DOSES OF NALOXONE ADMINISTERED</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>NUMBER OF DOSES OF NALOXONE PER OVERDOSE</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>2.7</b>



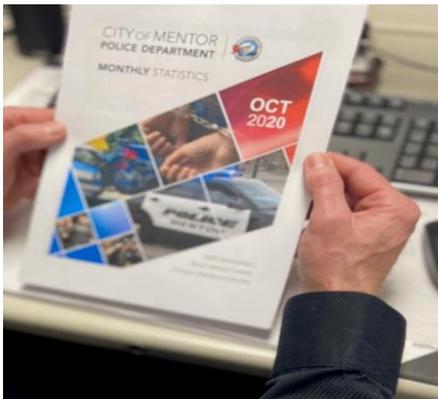
Also responsible for our police facilities, the Support Services Division continues work with the city's Public Works Department to renovate an aging Police Department, built in 1982. Phase 3 was initiated in 2021, with the focus being the patrol area of the building. Cracked and stained flooring, ceiling tiles, and old paint, were updated throughout this area. New lockers replaced worn and rusty lockers, and locker room bathrooms were completely updated.

## Records Department



The Records Department is the central repository for all records produced by the Police Department with the responsibility to securely store and produce records as required by our judicial partners or through public record requests. To manage the vast number of records produced by the police department, we utilized New World Systems Law Enforcement Records Management software. This software provides us the ability to serve our customers, both internal and external.

Visitors to the Mentor Police Department are welcomed by our Records Department staff. Our staff assists the public with filing police reports, public records requests, solicitor permit applications, vehicle releases as well as answering many police-related questions.



Each month our Records staff provided numerous reports to various requestors, both internally and externally. Internally, ad hoc data queries were run to provide patrol supervisors, up to the Chief of Police, with information to aid them in effectively planning directed patrol activities. A consolidated monthly report was prepared and delivered to city officials to keep them apprised of criminal and traffic incidents and trends occurring in the City of Mentor. A copy of each monthly report was made available on the City of Mentor website.

Externally, reports were provided to the media, local businesses, homeowners' associations, and citizens, based on their specific requests. To satisfy all requests efficiently, Records staff continued to receive advanced public records training in 2021, to stay compliant with current rules and laws. Many reports required the redaction of identifying information, per Ohio Sunshine Laws, before they were released.

Our Records Department continued reporting all criminal cases and arrests through the Ohio Incident Based Reporting System (OIBRS). Additionally, they submitted all accident report data to the State of Ohio. This benefits those who seek to obtain accident reports by allowing easy access to them through the Ohio BMV website.

## Communications Division



The Mentor Safety Forces Communications Division is committed to providing efficient, attentive, quality service to the residents and safety forces we serve. We promote TEAMWORK in our center; RESPECT those who have given us their trust: are ACCOUNTABLE to those we serve; maintain

INTEGRITY in the performance of our duties and DEDICATE ourselves to the profession we have chosen.

Mentor's Public Safety Emergency Telecommunicators answered 102,216 incoming emergency and non-emergency telephone calls in 2021. Of those calls, 13,578 were 9-1-1 calls, with close to 55% originating from mobile devices. Telecommunicators dispatched 40,274 police incidents, 8,832 fire rescue incidents, 22 MABAS alarms and entered 611 warrants into LEADS/NCIC. There were 528 Mir3 personnel notifications sent out, which is the equivalent of making 14,537 individual outgoing phone calls.



Several personnel changes occurred within the Communications Unit in 2021. Dispatcher Linda Speck retired June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021 after over 30 years of service. Part-time Dispatcher Britani Kish completed fire radio training in March and was promoted to full time status on July 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Megan Francis joined our team as a part time dispatcher on August 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021 and completed call taker training in December.

Multiple dispatchers received recognition for their actions in 2021. Dispatchers Timothy Johns and Keri Thomas received the Department's Exceptional Service Award on January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021 in recognition of their outstanding job performance during a major countywide radio system outage that occurred on Christmas Eve of 2020. Dispatchers Audrey Buterbaugh, Erica Soeder, and Millard Woods earned the Department's Exceptional Service Award for the spectacular teamwork they demonstrated during the call handling and dispatch of an infant related medical emergency on March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

Dispatcher Timothy Johns received a Letter of Commendation in recognition of his exceptional call handling of a 9-1-1 call from a frantic mother whose newborn had stopped breathing. Dispatcher Johns provided life-saving CPR instructions while simultaneously dispatching emergency services to the scene. Thanks to Tim's fast work and clear instructions, the infant was breathing upon EMS arrival at the home. The story was picked up by CNN and ran nationwide on CNN's New Day "Beyond the Call of Duty" on October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021. As a result,



Dispatcher Johns was given the chance at an opportunity rarely realized by any of our invisible heroes behind the 9-1-1 headset. He got a face-to-face meeting with the tiny life he helped to save.

## Corrections Division

The Mentor City Jail is classified as a twelve (12) day facility comprised of ten individual cells, two court holding cells, detoxification cell, observation cell, and administrative offices. The jail facility is staffed twenty-four hours a day using seven (7) full-time Corrections Officers and one (1) part-time Corrections Officer. Under the Support Services Division, the jail is managed by Corrections Supervisor Nick Iliano.

The primary responsibilities of the jail staff are the processing of arrestees (booking, fingerprinting, property maintenance, and bond management) and the security and care of our inmates. Additionally, our corrections officers serve inmate meals, prepare inmates for court hearings, operate the jail's 'Intoxilyzer 8000' for breath alcohol testing, conduct in-house jail inspections, and maintain the overall security, safety, and cleanliness of the facility.

While the number of prisoners processed in the Mentor Jail rose slightly from 2020, the Jail continued to see significantly lower statistics as compared to the years leading up to the COVID-19 pandemic. This is in part due to procedural changes within the police department during the pandemic, meant to protect the health and safety of all staff and the public, as well as external factors caused by the pandemic.



In 2021 a total of 1,257 adults were processed through the Mentor City Jail, compared to 1,016 in 2020. In 2021 there were 367 adults temporarily held for court appearances in the Mentor Municipal Court, compared to 363 in 2020. Four adults were sentenced by the Mentor Municipal Court to serve time in the Mentor City Jail, compared to eight in 2020. Corrections officers were responsible for collecting bonds and fines for the Mentor Municipal Court when the court was closed. In 2021 a total of \$151,558.00 in bonds and fines were collected by corrections personnel.

In 2021, twenty-two juvenile offenders were processed in the jail, compared to twenty-nine in 2020. In compliance with the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act, quarterly reports were completed and forwarded to the Ohio Department of Youth Services.

	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>
<b>Prisoners Processed</b>	<b>1,870</b>	<b>1,728</b>	<b>1,016</b>	<b>1,257</b>
<b>People Sentenced</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>People Temporarily Held</b>	<b>661</b>	<b>708</b>	<b>363</b>	<b>367</b>
<b>Juveniles Processed</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>22</b>

The Mentor City Jail continued to maintain effective per day housing costs by maintaining proper food service management. A total of 1,908 meals were served in 2021. Meals served in the Mentor City Jail are approved annually by a state certified dietician with the Lake County General Health District.

	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>
<b>Meals Served</b>	<b>4,276</b>	<b>2,757</b>	<b>1,535</b>	<b>1,908</b>
<b>Amount Spent</b>	<b>\$8,132.74</b>	<b>\$6,975.07</b>	<b>\$4405.94</b>	<b>\$5,818.29</b>

The Mentor City Jail continues to comply with current jail standards that are mandated by the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections, Bureau of Adult Detention. In 2021, the Mentor City Jail was found to be 100% compliant with the Bureau of Adult Detention during our annual state jail inspection.

In early 2021, Corrections Officer Dan Kreft resigned to take a position with the Mentor Municipal Court. To replace C/O Kreft, Riley Powers was hired as a full-time Corrections Officer in October of 2021. C/O Powers had recently completed her Criminal Justice degree at Muskingum University. She successfully completed her corrections training on December 25, 2021. The Mentor Jail also lost full time Corrections Officer Nancy Gasber, who resigned in October after serving nearly ten years in the Mentor City Jail.

Continuing into 2021, additional cleaning and sanitization was completed in the jail facility to protect against COVID-19. These measures were taken to ensure the safety of both the corrections officers and inmate population.

All full-time corrections officers received 31 hours of training in 2021. This training covered department policies and procedures, suicide prevention, fire extinguisher training, stress, officer survival, fentanyl exposure, and the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA), among other topics.

## **Property & Evidence**

The Property and Evidence Unit falls under the Support Services Division of the police department. The primary function of the Property and Evidence Unit is to provide a safe and secure location for all items turned in to the department while following a strict chain of custody for each item. This unit is tasked with making sure the property is ready for

court or, in cases of found property, held until the rightful owner can claim it. We strive to give quick and efficient service to the police department, courts, and the public at large.

In 2021, Property & Evidence handled 4,620 pieces of evidence as compared to 4,129 in 2020. All evidence and property items were tracked to include the submitting officer, date, time, and secure storage location. Any transfer of an item from one person to another, known as the chain of custody, is documented. This includes the transfer of evidence to lab staff for analysis, prosecutor/officer for court, return to owner, or in the case of contraband, destruction.

YEAR	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
<b>Number of Property and Evidence items processed</b>	<b>6,229</b>	<b>4,741</b>	<b>4,891</b>	<b>4,129</b>	<b>4,620</b>

When property and evidence items were no longer needed, they were either given back to the owner, destroyed if illegal, or, if otherwise unclaimed, sold at auction. In 2020 we were unable to hold a public auction due to the COVID-19 pandemic. With a large inventory to dispose of in 2021, we held an auction in June. The police auction generated \$4,944.00 for the city's general fund.



Property & Evidence also has the responsibility to distribute copies of digital evidence as needed, typically photos or videos. Property room staff must burn officers' bodycam and dashcam videos to DVD/CD for our City and County prosecutors as they prosecute our criminal cases. In 2021 over 620 hours were spent burning 2,200 DVD's/CD's, compared to 2020, where we produced 2,142 DVD's/CD's, requiring 604 hours to produce.

The Property & Evidence Unit also maintains equipment used by our Patrol Division. This includes radar and lidar equipment, AED's, and radiological instruments used in the event of radiation leak incidents. All necessary personal protective equipment was acquired and distributed by this unit for officer safety.

Going on 10 years, the Property and Evidence Unit continued to maintain the Lake County Prescription Drug Drop Box located in the Mentor Police Department lobby. The drop box is used by the community to deposit unwanted prescription drugs, preventing thousands of prescription medications from being disposed of improperly into our water supply or getting into the wrong hands. In 2021, 1,704 pounds of medication were collected at our location and properly disposed by the Lake County Narcotics Agency. The total weight of drugs collected at our location, and destroyed over the past 10 years, is just over **9 tons**.



YEAR	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Prescription Drug Box Collections by Bags and Weight	53 Bags 1,610 lbs.	55 Bags 1,860 lbs.	57 Bags 1,743 lbs.	59 Bags 2,088 lbs.	55 Bags 1,704 lbs.



The year saw staffing changes in the Property and Evidence Unit. In June of 2021, our full-time Property Room Manager, Jim Soulsby, retired after 17 years of dedicated service to the Mentor Police Department. Jim will be missed. We were fortunate to be able to promote our part-time Property Technician, Bob Pestak, into the full-time position and replace the part-time position with new hire Ron Sebusch, a retired Euclid Police Department Detective. Welcome aboard Ron.

# Mentor Police Department Organizational Chart

2021

