

# 2017 Mercer County Sheriff's Office Annual Report



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# Table of Contents

|       |  |    |
|-------|--|----|
| I.    | <b>Message from Sheriff Jeff Grey</b> .....    | 3  |
| II.   | <b>Meet Your Sheriff</b> .....                 | 4  |
|       | Mission Statement & Motto.....                 | 4  |
|       | Code of Ethics.....                            | 4  |
| III.  | <b>2017 Employee Awards Program</b> .....      | 5  |
| IV.   | <b>2016 Award Recipients Photos</b> .....      | 6  |
| V.    | <b>Structure of the Sheriff's Office</b> ..... | 12 |
| VI.   | <b>Fiscal Manager</b> .....                    | 13 |
| VII.  | <b>Executive Assistant</b> .....               | 13 |
| VIII. | <b>Enforcement</b> .....                       | 14 |
|       | Chief Deputy Gery Thobe .....                  | 14 |
|       | Captain Doug Timmerman.....                    | 14 |
|       | Investigations .....                           | 14 |
|       | Patrol .....                                   | 15 |
|       | Total Calls for Service Chart.....             | 16 |
|       | Active Shooter Training.....                   | 17 |
|       | Traffic Enforcement.....                       | 18 |
|       | Crash Investigations .....                     | 18 |
|       | Crash Investigations Continued.....            | 19 |
|       | Crash Investigations Photos .....              | 20 |
|       | Drone .....                                    | 21 |
|       | ALICE Training.....                            | 22 |
|       | K-9 Program .....                              | 24 |
|       | School Bus Ride-Along Program.....             | 25 |
|       | C.I.T. Training.....                           | 26 |
|       | Enforcement Employees.....                     | 28 |
| IX.   | <b>Detention Facility</b> .....                | 31 |
|       | Chief Corrections Officer Jodie Lange.....     | 31 |
|       | Captain Martin Emerine .....                   | 31 |
|       | Inmate Population Statistics .....             | 32 |
|       | Detention Facility Income .....                | 33 |
|       | Commissary.....                                | 33 |
|       | Medical Reimbursement .....                    | 34 |
|       | Inmate Work Release Program .....              | 34 |
|       | Inmates House for other Agencies.....          | 35 |
|       | Warrants.....                                  | 35 |
|       | Body Scanner .....                             | 36 |
|       | Detention Facility Employees .....             | 37 |
| X.    | <b>Central Dispatch</b> .....                  | 40 |

|               |  |           |
|---------------|--|-----------|
|               | 9-1-1 Administrator Monte Diegel.....                  | 40        |
|               | Call Types .....                                       | 41        |
|               | Dispatcher In-Service Training .....                   | 42        |
|               | Central Dispatch Employees .....                       | 46        |
| <b>XI.</b>    | <b>Technology.....</b>                                 | <b>48</b> |
|               | I.T. Administrator Kory Hoffhines.....                 | 48        |
|               | I.T. Technician Ben Stoner .....                       | 48        |
| <b>XII.</b>   | <b>Civil Division.....</b>                             | <b>49</b> |
|               | Lieutenant Lori Knapke.....                            | 49        |
|               | WebChecks.....   | 49        |
|               | Carry Conceal Permits .....                            | 50        |
|               | Transports .....                                       | 50        |
|               | Child Support Enforcement Contract .....               | 51        |
|               | Civil Division Employees .....                         | 51        |
| <b>XIII.</b>  | <b>Fighting the Heroin Epidemic .....</b>              | <b>52</b> |
|               | Enforcement .....                                      | 52        |
|               | Education .....  | 52        |
|               | Treatment .....  | 53        |
| <b>XIV.</b>   | <b>Programs, Organizations, &amp; Volunteers.....</b>  | <b>54</b> |
|               | D.A.R.E. ....  | 54        |
|               | Chaplin Program .....                                  | 54        |
|               | Volunteers .....                                       | 54        |
|               | Explorer Program .....                                 | 55        |
|               | BSSA Communication Vehicle “Comm 9 – 5400”.....        | 55        |
|               | Prescription Drug Take Back Initiative.....            | 55        |
|               | Citizen’s Academy.....                                 | 56        |
| <b>XV.</b>    | <b>2017 Mercer County Fair.....</b>                    | <b>60</b> |
| <b>XVI.</b>   | <b>Law Enforcement Appreciation Dinner .....</b>       | <b>61</b> |
| <b>XVII.</b>  | <b>History of the Ohio Sheriff .....</b>               | <b>62</b> |
| <b>XVIII.</b> | <b>History of the Sheriff’s Office &amp; Jail.....</b> | <b>63</b> |
| <b>XIX.</b>   | <b>Conclusion.....</b>                                 | <b>64</b> |
|               | Integrity.....   | 64        |
|               | Service .....  | 64        |
|               | Professionalism.....                                   | 64        |
|               | Responsibility.....                                    | 64        |

## Message from Sheriff Jeff Grey

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**i** Greetings,

*We are pleased to release the 2017 Annual Report of your Sheriff's Office. The men and women of the Mercer County Sheriffs' Office works hard every day to deliver a feeling of safety and security to our residents.*

*We would like to thank our citizens for their support and the trust they place in us each day. Law Enforcement is a partnership between the law enforcement agency and the citizens we serve.*

*We consider it an honor and privilege to be able to provide services to you.*

*Sincerely,*

*Jeff Grey  
Sheriff*



# Meet Your Sheriff

---

**i** Sheriff Jeff Grey was elected Mercer County Sheriff in November 2000, taking office January 1, 2001. He has been in law enforcement in Mercer and Auglaize Counties since 1980.

Sheriff Grey is a 1977 graduate of Celina Senior High School and received an Associate of Arts Degree in Business Administration from Northwestern College, Lima, OH. He is a graduate of the School of Police Staff and Command, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL, the FBI Executive Leadership School, Buffalo, NY, and the National Sheriffs' Institute, Longmont, Colorado.

Sheriff Grey is the Chairman of the Sex Offender Registration and Notification (SORN) Committee and a past (2012) President of the Buckeye State Sheriff's Association. He is also a member of the Concealed Carry, Community Corrections, DARE/SRO, and Legislative Committees. Sheriff Grey trained newly elected sheriffs in 2004, 2008, 2012, and 2016 on the SORN Laws and how they affect the office of Sheriff.

Sheriff Grey lives in Washington Township with his wife Kay. They have two adult sons, and four grandchildren.

## Mission Statement & Motto

**i** The mission for every member of the Mercer County Sheriff's Office is to consistently seek and find ways to affirmatively promote, preserve, and deliver a feeling of security, safety, and quality services to the citizens and visitors of Mercer County.

This mission is a commitment to quality performance by all employees. Each employee of the Mercer County Sheriff's Office is committed to providing these services in a caring, courteous, and common sense manner.

**“Caring, Courteous, Common Sense Law Enforcement”**

## Code of Ethics

**i** Every newly hired employee shall review the Mercer County Sheriff's Office Code of Ethics. The Code of Ethics shall be signed by the employee in the presence of the Sheriff, thereby acknowledging the employee's affirmation and dedication to protect constitutional rights and freedoms, perform all duties in a professional and competent manner, be truthful and honest in all dealings with others, and serve the public in a courteous, empathetic and humane manner. The original signed Code of Ethics shall be given to the employee and a copy retained in the employee's personnel file.

# 2017 Employee Awards Program



Awards are given for the following: Employee of the Year, Corrections Officer of the Year, Deputy Sheriff of the Year, Dispatcher of the Year, Citation, Certificate of Merit, Award of Valor, Life Saving Award, Commendation Award, Safe Driving Award, Seat Belt Award, Civilian Award, and Certificate of Appreciation. Employees are awarded pins that are worn on their uniforms. The awards are presented at the annual employee breakfast meeting. The Awards program is a great way to showcase employee achievements.

## **In 2017 these employees were given the following awards for accomplishments in 2016:**

|                                 |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Employee of the Year:           | Deputy Keith Schoenherr   |
| Deputy Sheriff of the Year:     | Sgt. Jay Wehrkamp   |
| Corrections Deputy of the Year: | Sgt. Jon Wolfe  |
| Dispatcher of the Year:         | Dispatcher Rachel Williams  |
| Civilian of the Year:           | Administrative Assistant Theresa Berry  |
| Commendation:                   | Ashley Carr, Rachel Williams, Det. Carla Baucher, Dep. Donald Bird, Dep. Luke Wolfe, Det. Lance Crum, Sgt. Jay Wehrkamp, April Gerlach, Connie Cook, Sgt. Darrell Etgen |
| Certificate of Merit:           | Deputy Rachel Hesse   |
| Life Saving Award:              | Dep. Kevin Wynn, Dep. Luke Wolfe, Dep. Patrick Forsthoefel, Dispatcher April Gerlach, Dep. Luke Wolfe, Dep. Deric Kroff   |
| Safe Driving:                   | Deputy James Steinberg – 5 Year<br>Sgt. Det. Lance Crum – 15 Year<br>Captain Martin Emerine – 15 Year<br>Chief Deputy Gery Thobe – 20 Year                              |

The Sheriff also awards service stars at the annual meeting. Stars are awarded to employees who have served in Law Enforcement for at least 5 years. Stars are awarded for every 5 year increments of service.

## **In 2016 the following Service Stars were awarded:**

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| 15 Year Service Stars | Dispatch Supervisor Leah Cramer   |
| 10 Year Service Stars | Theresa Berry & Nicole Grabow   |
| 5 Year Service Stars  | Dep. Kevin Wynn, Dep. Jason Seger, Dep. Scott Geis, & Dispatcher Supervisor Stephanie Stammen |

## 2016 Award Recipients Photos

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**Employee of the Year:  
Deputy Keith Schoenherr**



**Deputy of the Year:  
Sgt. Jay Wehrkamp**



**Corrections Officer of the Year:  
Sgt. Jon Wolfe**



**Dispatcher of the Year:  
Dispatcher Rachel Williams**



**Civilian Employee of the Year:  
Administrative Assistant Theresa Berry**



**Accommodation:  
Executive Assistant Ashley Carr**





**Accommodation:  
Dispatcher Rachel Williams**



**Accommodation:  
Detective Carla Baucher**



**Accommodation:  
Deputy Donald Bird**



**Accommodation:  
Deputy Luke Wolfe**



**Accommodation:  
Sergeant Detective Lance Crum**



**Accommodation:  
Sergeant Jay Wehrkamp**





**Accommodation:  
Dispatcher April Gerlach**



**Accommodation:  
Dispatch Supervisor Connie Cook**



**Accommodation:  
Sergeant Darrell Etgen**



**Certificate of Merit:  
Deputy Rachel Hesse**



**Life Saving Award:  
Deputy Kevin Wynk**



**Life Saving Award:  
Deputy Luke Wolfe**



**Life Saving Award:  
Deputy Patrick Forsthoefel**



**Life Saving Award:  
Dispatcher April Gerlach**



**Life Saving Award:  
Deputy Luke Wolfe**



**Life Saving Award:  
Deputy Deric Kroff**



**5 Year Safe Driving Award:  
Deputy James Steinberg**



**15 Year Safe Driving Award:  
Sergeant Detective Lance Crum**





**20 Year Safe Driving Award:  
Chief Deputy Gery Thobe**



**5 Years of Service:  
Dispatch Supervisor Stephanie Stammen**



**5 Years of Service:  
Deputy Scott Geis**



**5 Years of Service:  
Deputy Jason Seger**



**5 Years of Service:  
Deputy Kevin Wynn**



**10 Years of Service:  
Administrative Assistant Theresa Berry**



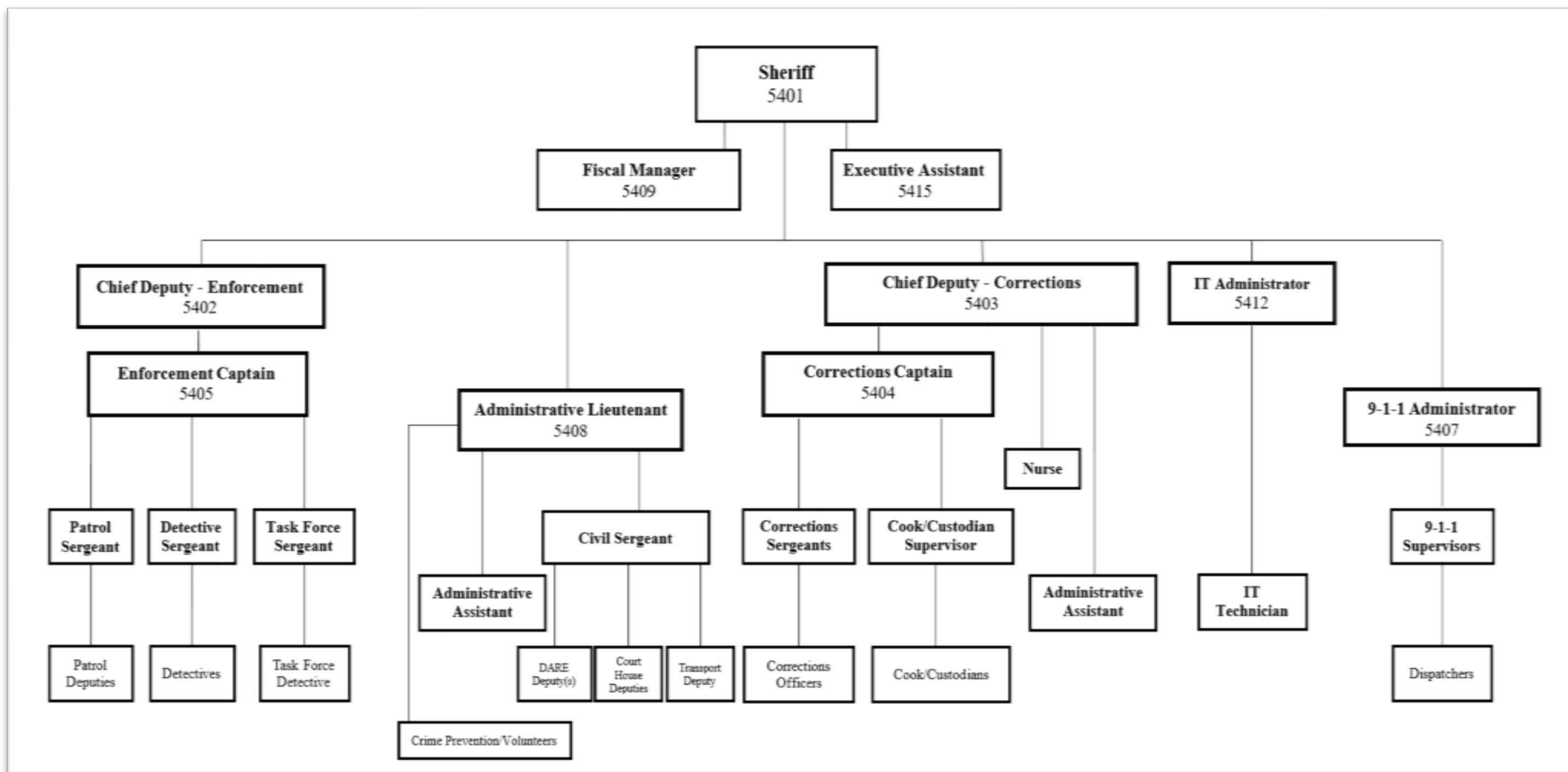
**10 Years of Service:  
Administrative Assistant Nicole Grabow**



**15 Years of Service:  
Dispatch Supervisor Leah Cramer**



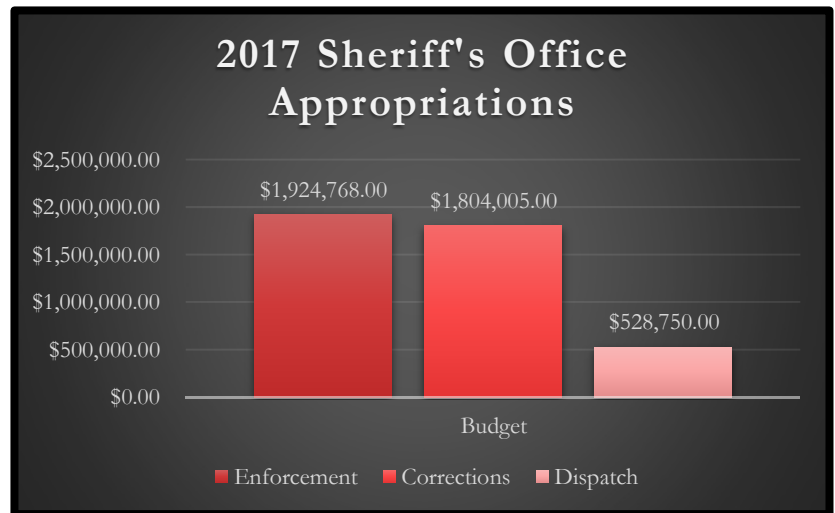
## Structure of the Sheriff's Office



## Fiscal Manager



Connie Rinderle is the Fiscal Manager at the Sheriff's Office, and manages all the annual budgets. Mrs. Rinderle has been with the Sheriff's Office since 2005. In 2017, the Sheriff's Office appropriation were just over 4 million dollars. The chart below shows each division broken out.



## Executive Assistant



Ashley Carr is Sheriff Grey's Executive Assistant. Ashley is responsible for managing the Sheriff's funds and updating employee records. Other responsibilities include updating yearly statistical data for the enforcement division and creating and maintaining yearly reports. Mrs. Carr has been with the Sheriff's Office since 2016, where she began her career as a 9-1-1 Dispatcher. She was promoted to Executive Assistant in July of 2017.





# Enforcement

**i** The Sheriff's Office has four supervisors in Enforcement and they include; three Patrol Sergeants, and one Detective Sergeant. The enforcement Division also includes a Sergeant and a Deputy assigned to the Grand Lake Drug Task Force.

The Grand Lake Drug Task Force is under the command of the Mercer County Sheriff and the Auglaize County Sheriff. The Task Force also includes Police Departments from Celina, Coldwater, Ft. Recovery, St. Henry, Wapakoneta, St. Marys, and Cridersville.



## Chief Deputy Gery Thobe

**i** The Enforcement Division is under the command of Chief Deputy Gery Thobe. Chief Deputy Thobe has 33 years of law enforcement experience. He has held the rank of Deputy, Sergeant, and now Chief Deputy at the Sheriff's Office. He served 10 years as Coldwater Ohio Police Chief. The Chief Deputy is one of the highest, non-elected law enforcement positions in Mercer County and is second in command of the Sheriff's Office.

## Captain Doug Timmerman

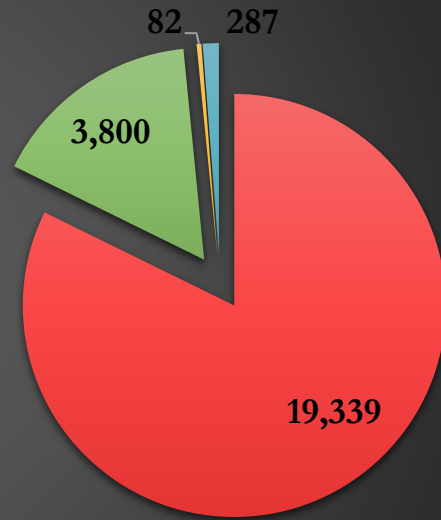
**i** Captain Doug Timmerman oversees all the day to day operations in the Enforcement division which include the Detective Bureau, the Drug Unit, and all Patrol Functions. Captain Timmerman has 23 years of law enforcement experience and has spent his entire career at the Mercer County Sheriff's Office. Captain Timmerman has held the ranks of Communications Officer, Patrol Deputy, Detective, Detective Sergeant, and now Captain.

## Investigations

**i** In 2017, the Enforcement Division investigated numerous crimes. Investigations would include death scenes, sexual assaults, burglaries, computer crimes, cyber-crimes, financial crimes, assault cases and also assisted with traffic fatality investigations. The Mercer County Sheriff's Office had over 22,000 calls for service.

## Totals

- Complaints / Calls for Service
- Total Events (W / Report Typed)
- Total Calls Handled for Other Jurisdiction (Mercer Co)
- Total Assists to other Jurisdiction (Mercer Co)



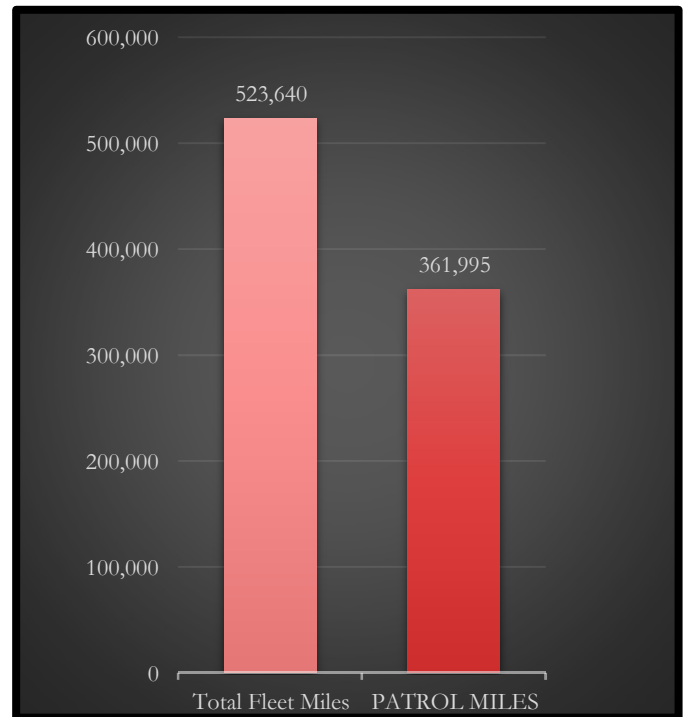
## Patrol



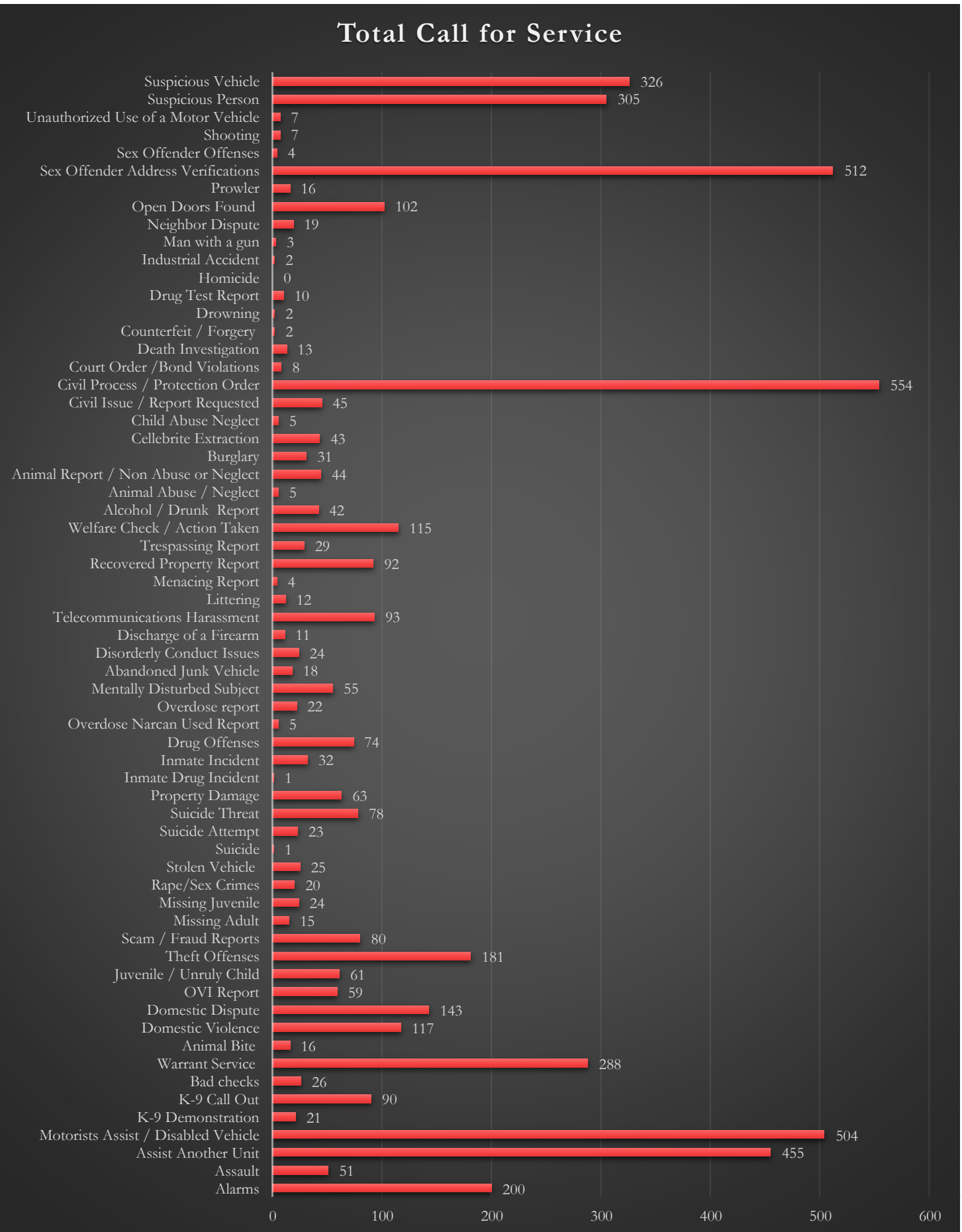
The Patrol division of the Sheriff's Office patrols 472 square miles, which include 14 Townships, one City, and all Villages in Mercer County. In 2017 Deputies patrolled 325,855 miles. Deputies handled 513 traffic crashes, and completed a total of 3375 reports.

The Sheriff is the Chief Law Enforcement Officer in Mercer County, and his Deputies have jurisdiction throughout all of Mercer County including Municipalities. Patrol Deputies conduct criminal investigations, issue citations, warnings, and make arrests and file charges. Patrol Deputies serve warrants and civil papers, and give safety talks and presentations throughout the year.

Patrol Deputies are also assigned to the Communication Truck. The Communication Truck is available for call out 24 hours a day. See the "Programs, organizations, and volunteer" section for further information about the Communications Truck.



# Total Calls for Service Chart



## Active Shooter Training



The Mercer County Sheriff's Office hosted its 3<sup>rd</sup> Active Shooter Training at Parkway High School in Rockford on July 20 & 21. The training was presented by the Mercer County Sheriff's Office.

The training consisted (8) hour training sessions conducted on two separate days. There was a classroom portion of the training followed up with hands on exercises and training scenarios. The focus of the training was "Solo Entry" response with link ups with other officers as they arrived. The use of "Air Soft" guns added to the depth and realism of the training.

The training was provided free of charge to all of the agencies in Mercer County. The Sheriff's Office supplied drinks as well as lunch for the staff and participants. The class was attended by 30 law enforcement officers throughout the county. This training is proving to be invaluable and very important.







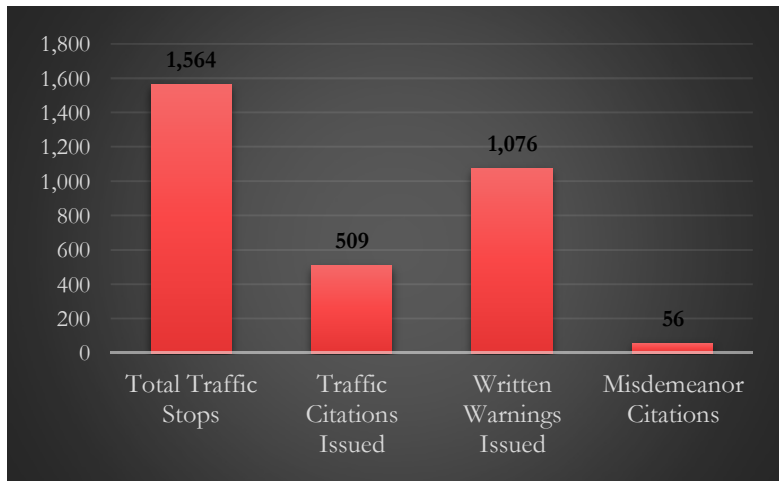
## Traffic Enforcement



Traffic Enforcement is done routinely by Deputies. There are occasions where Deputies are assigned specifically to enforce traffic violations for problem areas. Deputies also conduct traffic enforcement through a grant from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

The speed trailer was deployed 25 times since August, and checked 380,635 cars.

**The speed trailer was deployed 19 times in the year 2017. and checked 254.743 cars.**

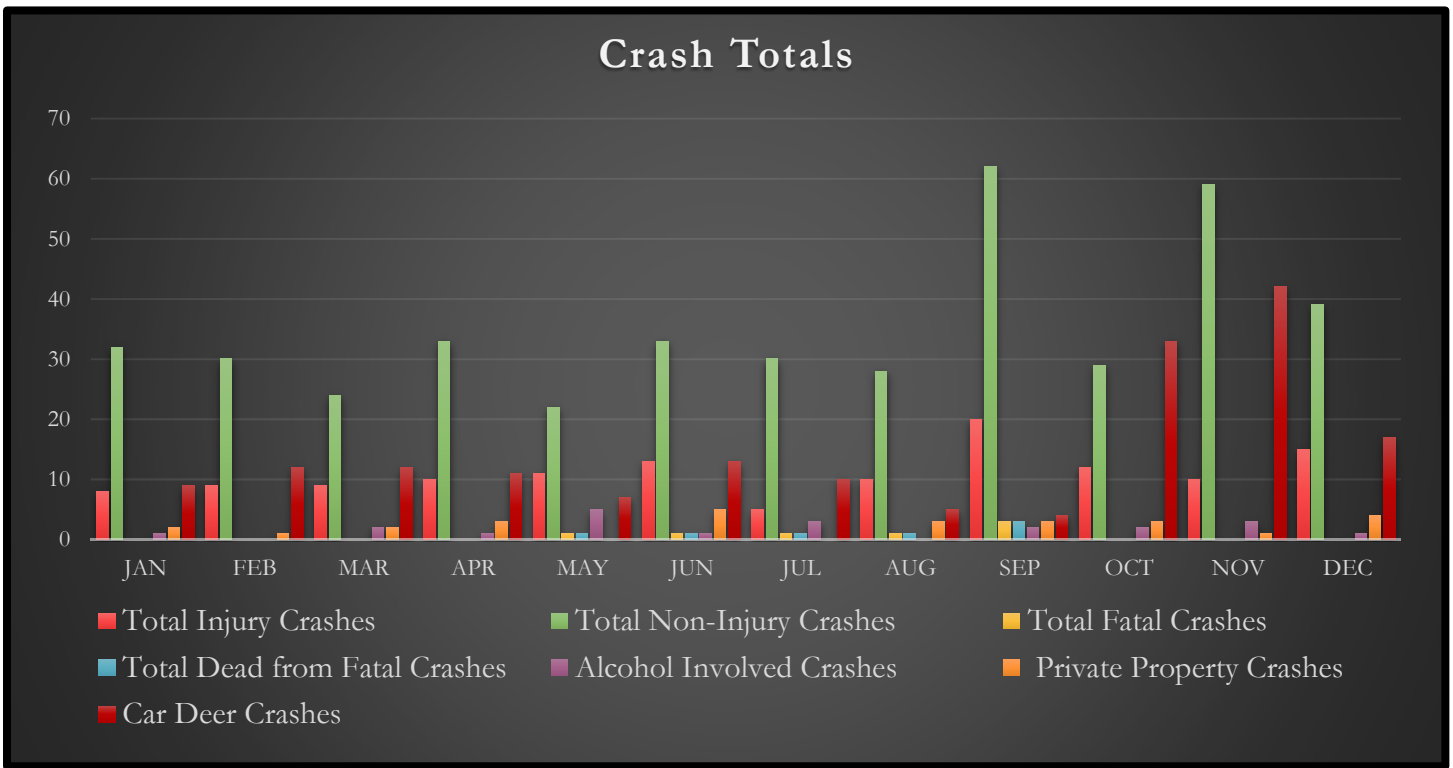


## Crash Investigations



The Sheriff's Office handles crashes reported through the 9-1-1 Dispatch Center. All Deputies are trained in crash investigation. There are three Deputies who have been trained in crash reconstruction. Captain Emerine, Deputy Carla Baucher, and Det. Chad Fortkamp make up the traffic reconstruction team. These Deputies respond to fatal crashes and use state of the art equipment to reconstruct crashes. In 2016 Deputies handled 2 fatal traffic crashes resulting in 2 deaths on Mercer County roadways.

## Crash Investigations Continued

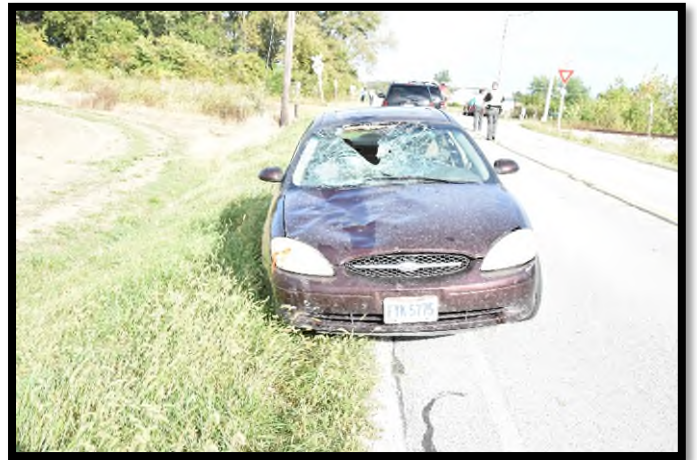
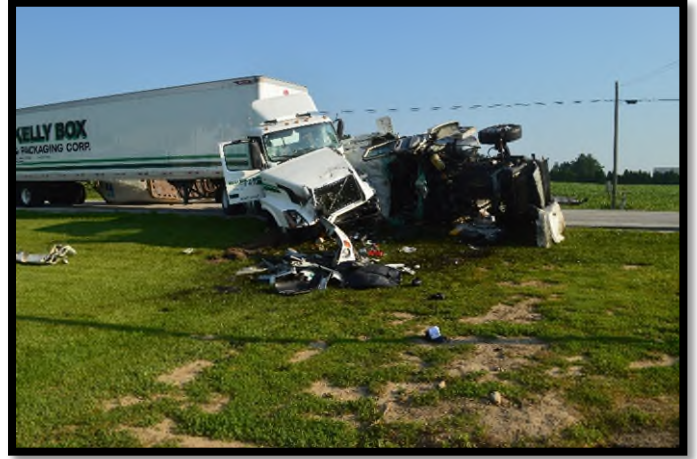


**The Mercer County Sheriff's Office  
Crash Team consists of Captain Martin  
Emerine, Detective Chad Fortkamp,  
and Detective Carla Baucher.**





# Crash Investigations Photos



## Drone



*In April of 2017, the Mercer County Sheriff's Office was gifted a drone anonymously. The drone is considered an "aircraft" as defined by the FAA, requiring a pilot's license to fly it. Our drone operators, Detective Carla Baucher and Detective Chad Fortkamp, both attained their pilot's licenses on August 29th, 2017.*

*The drone is used for crime/crash scene mapping and evidence collection, locating suspects and missing persons, responding to hazardous materials spills, search and rescue missions, Public safety and life preservation missions to include barricaded suspects, hostage situations, active shooters, apprehension of armed and dangerous and/or violent fleeing suspects, and high risk search warrants, disaster response, and training missions.*





## ALICE Training

**i** Alice stands for Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, and Evacuate. The Mercer County Sheriff's Office currently have three deputies from the Patrol Division that are ALICE trained. Deputy Carla Baucher, Deputy Luke Wolfe, and Deputy Don Bird provide training to schools in Mercer County and also businesses. The program gives participants options during an active shooter event. In 2016 the Mercer County Sheriff's Office held 5 training events, and two of those five were refresher training.



**The Mercer County Sheriff's Office  
A.L.I.C.E. Instructors consists of  
Detective Carla Baucher, Deputy Luke  
Wolfe, and D.A.R.E Deputy Donald Bird.**





**In 2017, the Mercer County Sheriff's Office conducted A.L.I.C.E. Training for employees of Mercer County, Mt Tabor Church of God, and the Marion Local Schools.**



## K-9 Program



In 2017, Deputy Kevin Wynk and his partner Deputy Franko, were joined by Deputy Patrick Forsthoefel and his partner Deputy Ossi. The addition of a second K-9 was made possible through several generous donations from private individuals.



## School Bus Ride-Along Program



The Mercer County Sheriff's Office implemented a School Bus Riding Program during the 2013-2014 school year. The program was considered a success by the Sheriff's Office and the participating schools and continued into the 2015-2016 school year. Participating school districts were the Fort Recovery Local Schools, Marion Local Schools, St. Henry Local Schools, Coldwater Exempted Village Schools, Celina City Schools, and Parkway Local Schools. The program allows a road deputy to be assigned to ride a bus each week at one of the schools. The deputy rides that school bus checking for school bus passing violations. While doing so, the deputy has the opportunity to interact with the children that ride the buses. This allows the students to have a positive interaction with the deputy. The School Superintendents have indicated they believe the program is worthwhile for the students, staff, and the deputies. In the 2015-2016 school year the Sheriff's Office has had a deputy ride on 33 buses throughout the six schools districts. Deputy have logged over 45 hours on the buses and have made countless positive contacts with the children of Mercer County.



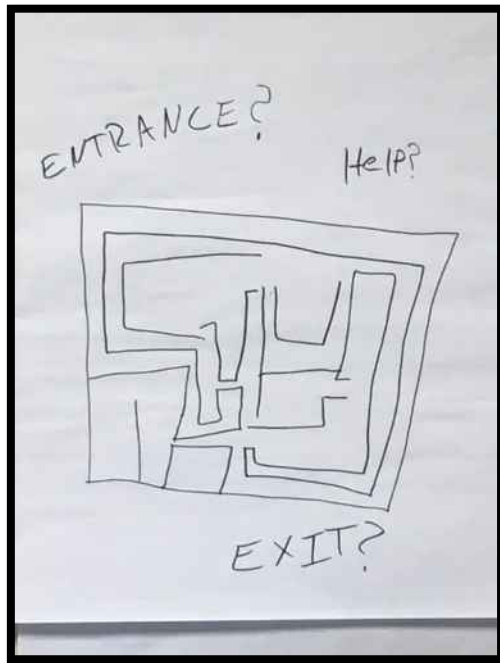
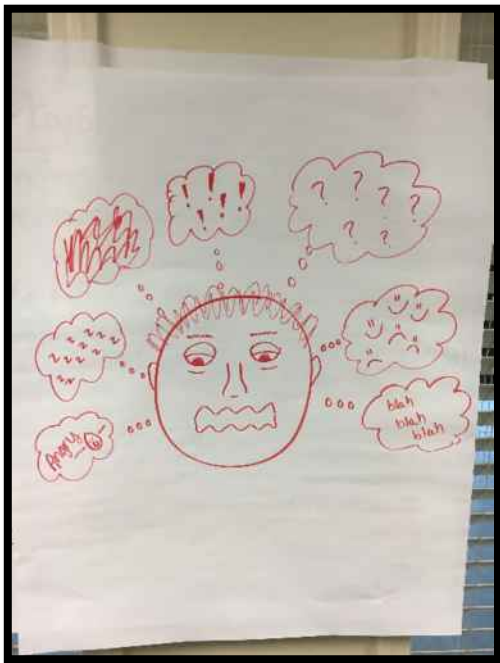


## C.I.T. Training



The Sheriff's Office Co-Hosted third CIT training with the Van Wert County Sheriff's Office, and Foundations Behavioral Health Center. CIT stands for "Crisis Intervention Team". Deputies received 40 hours of training. Mercer County was the host site for CIT for the third year in a row. Deputies from Mercer and Van Wert Counties were CIT trained in 2016. In 2016 16 students successfully graduated from the CIT program. Chief Deputy Gery Thobe is the CIT Coordinator for the Sheriff's Office.





Enforcement Employees



**DETECTIVES**

(Top Left to Right)

- Sergeant Detective Megan Baker
- Detective Carla Baucher
- Detective Chad Fortkamp



**DRUG UNIT DETECTIVES**

- Sergeant Detective Lance Crum
- Detective John Marbaugh





## **PATROL**

**(Top Left to Right)**

**Sergeant Jay Wehrkamp**

**Sergeant Darrell Etgen**

**Sergeant John Westgerdes**

**Deputy Deric Kroff**

**Deputy Kyle Fink**

**Deputy Patrick Forsthoefel**

**Deputy Kristen Nixon**

## PATROL

(Top Left to Right)  
Deputy Douglas Wuebker  
Deputy Donald Sites Jr.  
Deputy Luke Wolfe  
Deputy Rachel Hesse  
Deputy Jason Seger  
Deputy Jerry Wolford  
Deputy Kevin Wynk





# Detention Facility



The Adult Detention Facility has three Sergeants who oversee all shifts. The Detention Facility must have a minimum of 3 state certified correction's officers working per shift. This includes both female and male corrections officers. The staff of the Mercer County Detention Facility are responsible for the security and safety of the inmates who are housed within the facility. The inmates are monitored 24 hours a day. In addition to correction's officers, the Detention Facility also has a full service kitchen, a full time Registered Nurse, and a part-time Medical Doctor.



## Chief Corrections Officer Jodie Lange



The Detention Facility is under the command of Chief Corrections Officer Jodie Lange. Chief Lange has over 24 years of experience and she has spent her entire career at the Mercer County Sheriff's Office. Chief Lange has held the ranks of Corrections Officer, Sergeant, Lieutenant, Captain, and now Chief Corrections Officer. Chief Lange reviews programs for inmates, and is on the Buckeye State Sheriff's Association Community Corrections Committee.

## Captain Martin Emerine



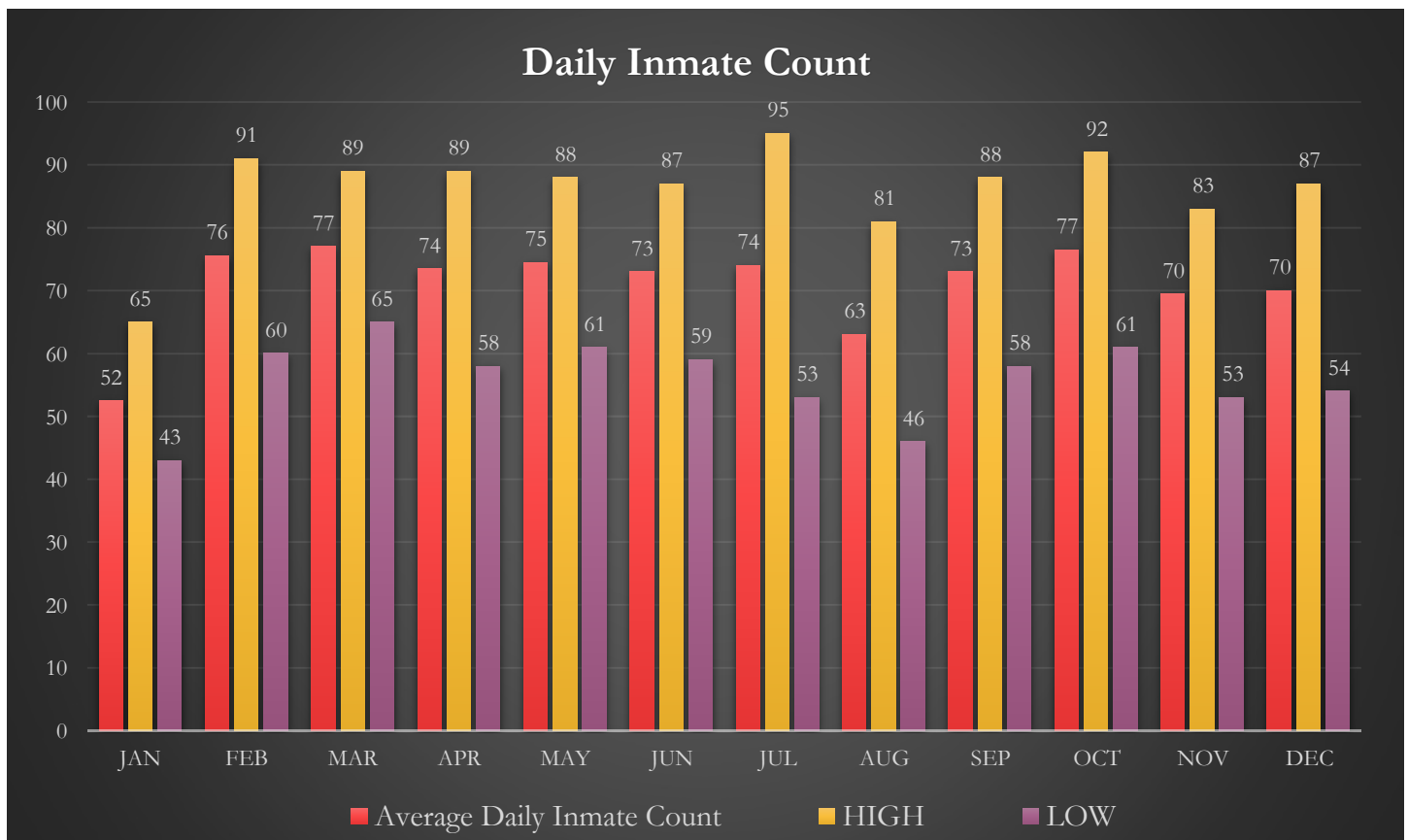
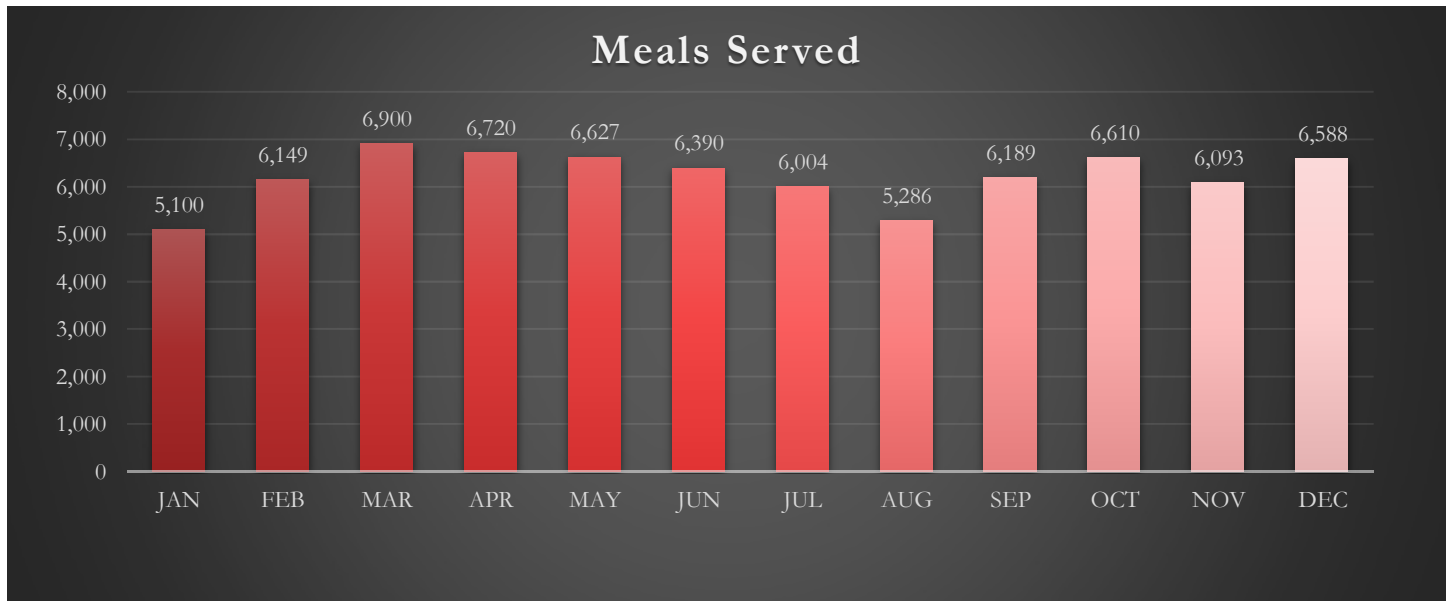
Captain Martin Emerine oversees all the day to day operations in the Detention Facility. Captain Emerine has 26 years of law enforcement experience and has spent his entire career at the Mercer County Sheriff's Office. Captain Emerine has held the ranks of Deputy, Lieutenant, Captain of Enforcement, and now Captain of the jail.



## Inmate Population Statistics



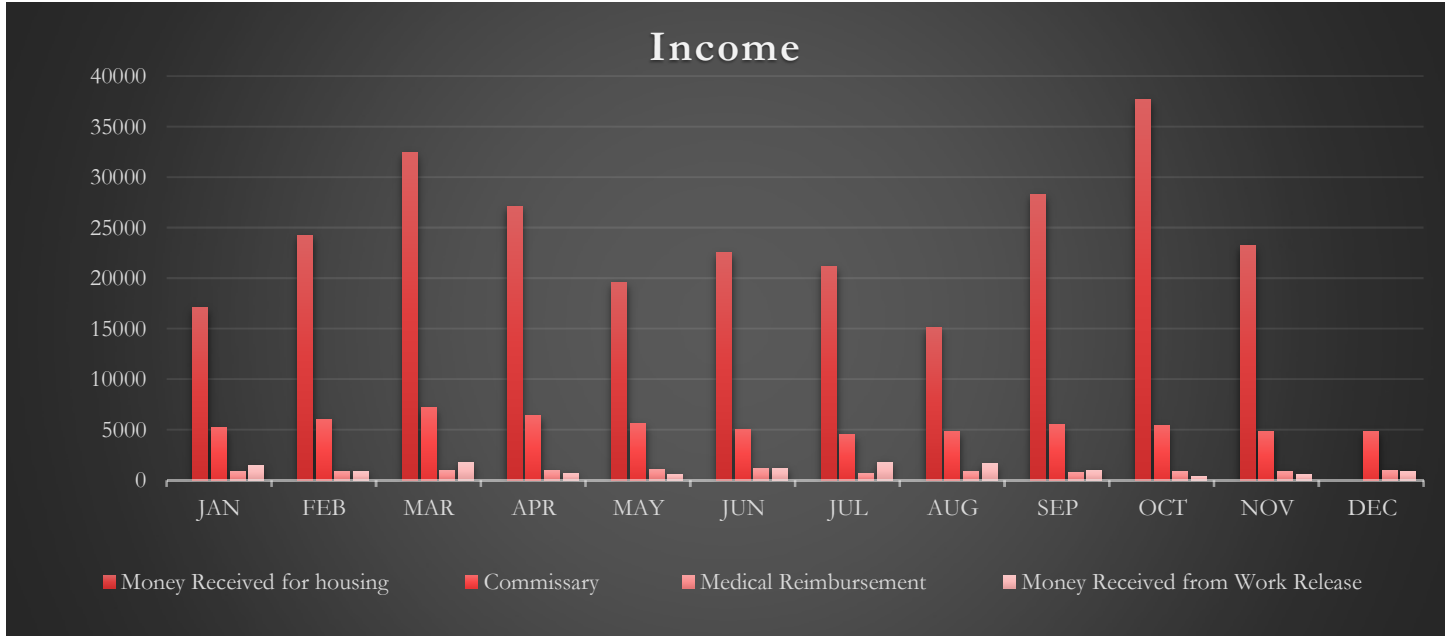
In 2017 the Mercer County Adult Detention Facility booked in 2,464 inmates. Of those inmates; 627 were female and 1820 were male. The Detention Facility served 75,377 meals in 2017. Daily inmate totals vary. The following chart shows daily inmate trends and meals served by month.



## Detention Facility Income



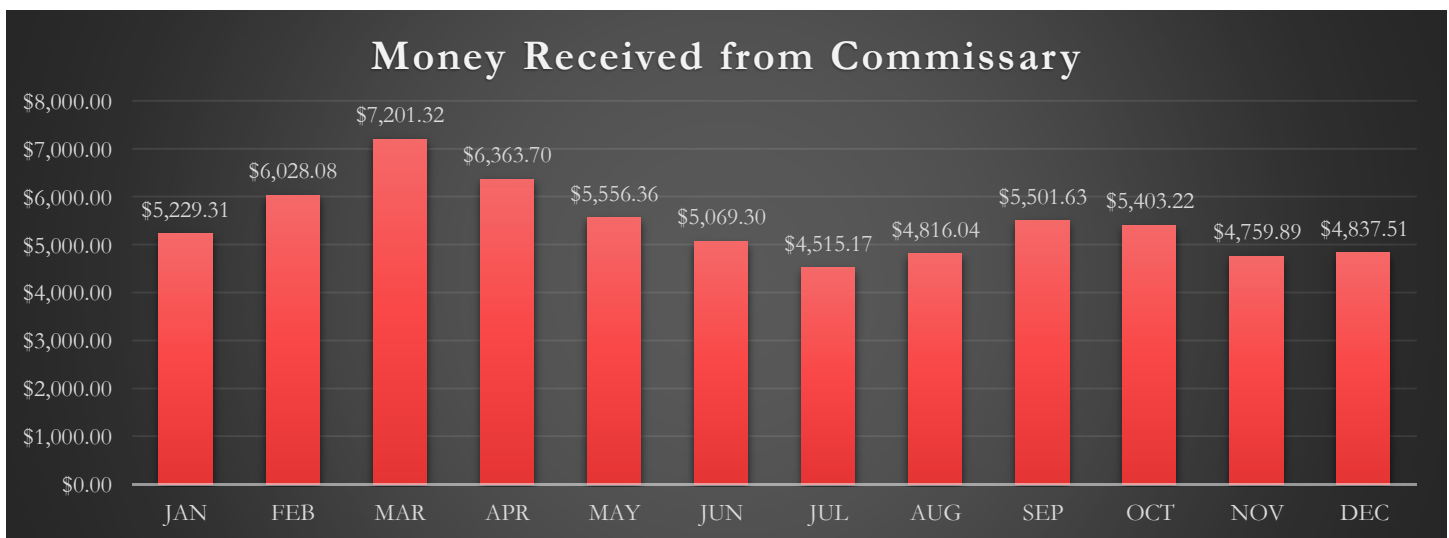
The Detention Facility does generate revenue. This revenue is generated by the inmates through various sources and programs. The following charts show where the revenue comes from and a description of the program. Revenue is received from housing inmates for other agencies, commissary, medical reimbursement, inmate work release. These programs save money for the tax payers of Mercer County. Total revenue generated for 2017 was \$373,241.99.



## Commissary



Commissary are items that have been approved for inmates to purchase. Items include coffee, personal hygiene, socks and underwear, snacks, paper, envelopes, and various other items. The profits generated by commissary purchases can only be used to benefit inmates. Commissary funds inmate programs such as the garden and landscaping. Commissary is also used to purchase jail inmate uniforms, equipment, work clothes, work boots, and work tools used for the inmate garden. A total of \$65,281.53 was collected through commissary in 2017.

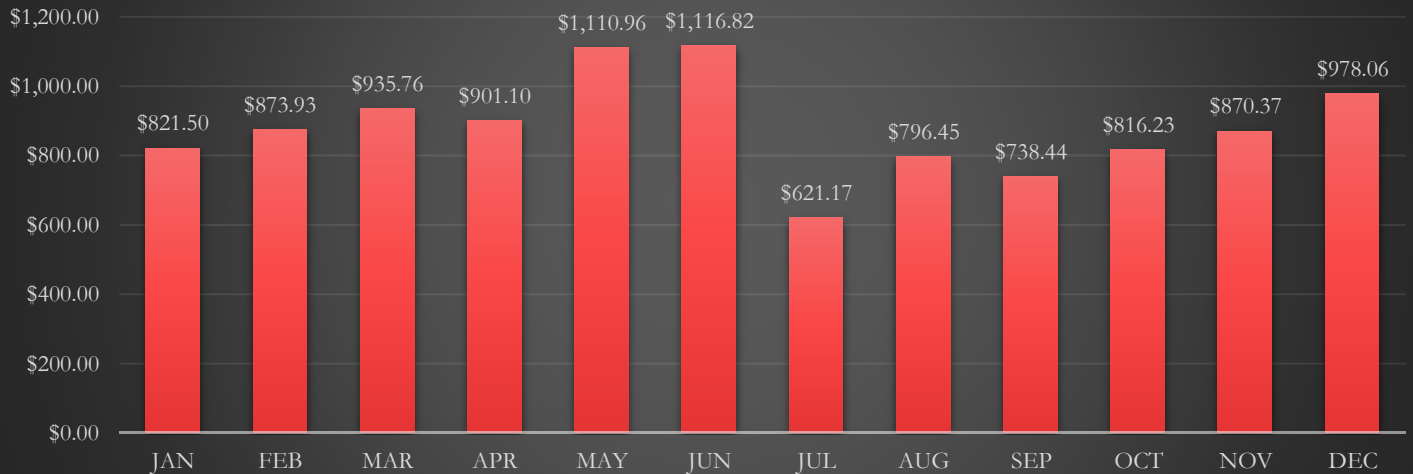


## Medical Reimbursement



Medical Reimbursement funds are collected from inmates that require medical treatment while incarcerated at the Detention Facility. Inmates are billed for medical costs incurred while housed at the Detention Facility. When money is deposited on an inmates' account, a portion of the money is used to pay their outstanding medical expenses. In 2017, a total of \$10,580.79 was collected through the medical reimbursement program.

### Money Received from Medical Reimbursement



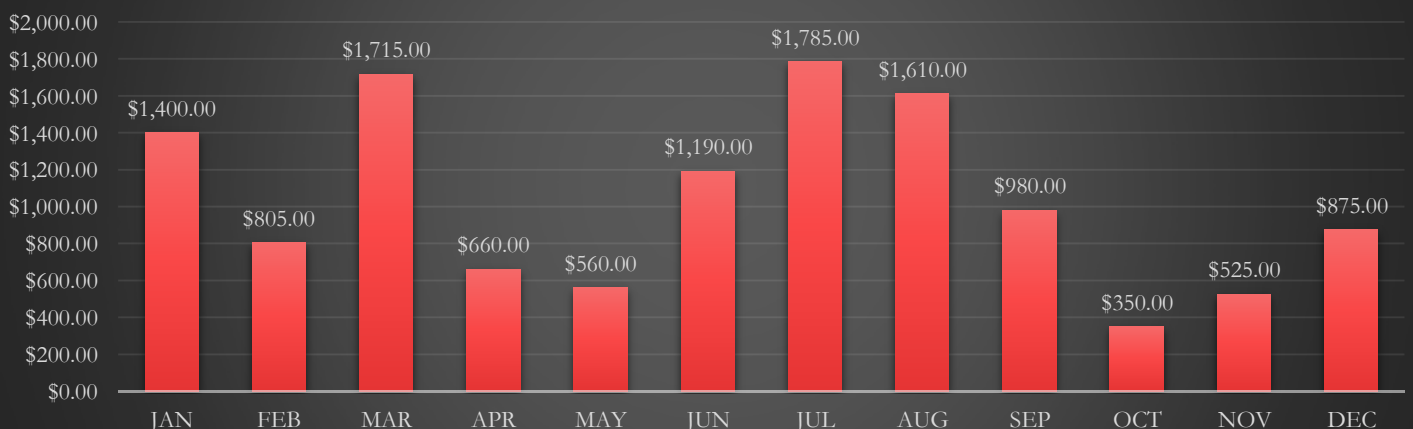
## Inmate Work Release Program



Work Release is a program by which inmates can be allowed to be released from the county jail during the time he or she is scheduled to work. Participants in the work release program must have a job and hours that can be verified. Inmates are released during those work hours. Program participants are required to sign and follow the work release guidelines, and also must follow all the jail rules & regulations to participate in this program.

Inmates pay to be in the work release program, and payment guidelines have been set up according to wages earned. Mercer County Sheriff's Office staff periodically visit the workplace to ensure the inmate is working. Program violators are terminated from the program and the courts are notified. In 2017 a total of \$12,455.00 was collected through the inmate work release program.

### Money Received from Work Release

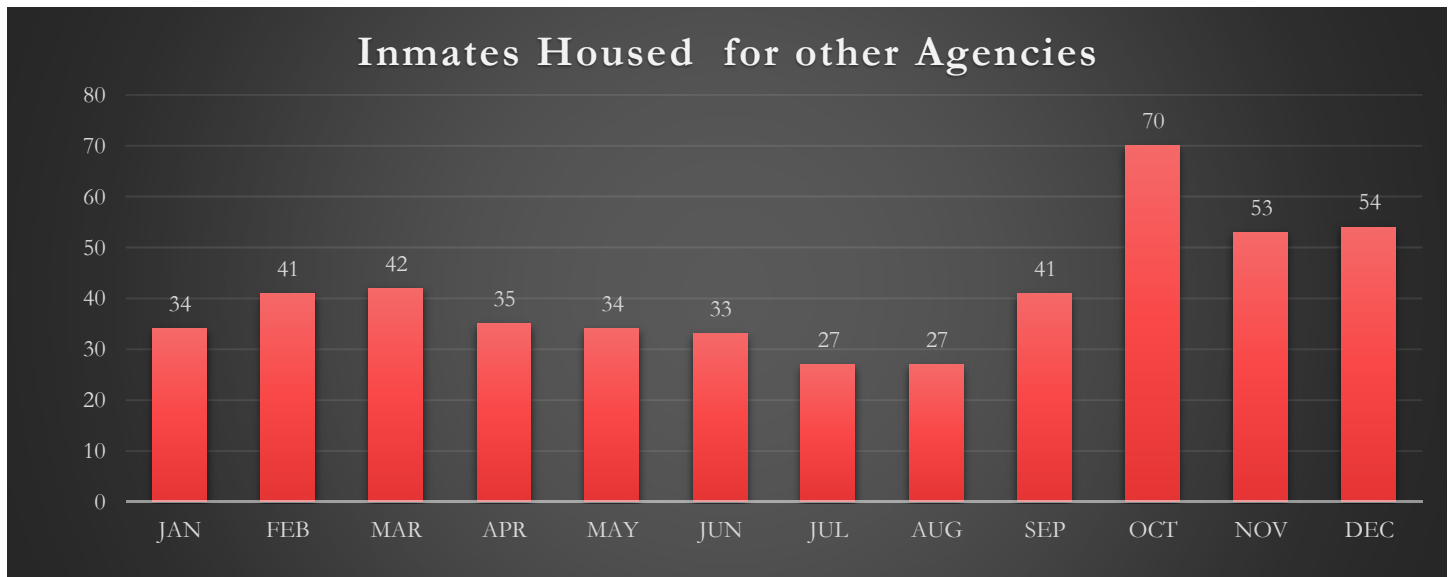




## Inmates House for other Agencies



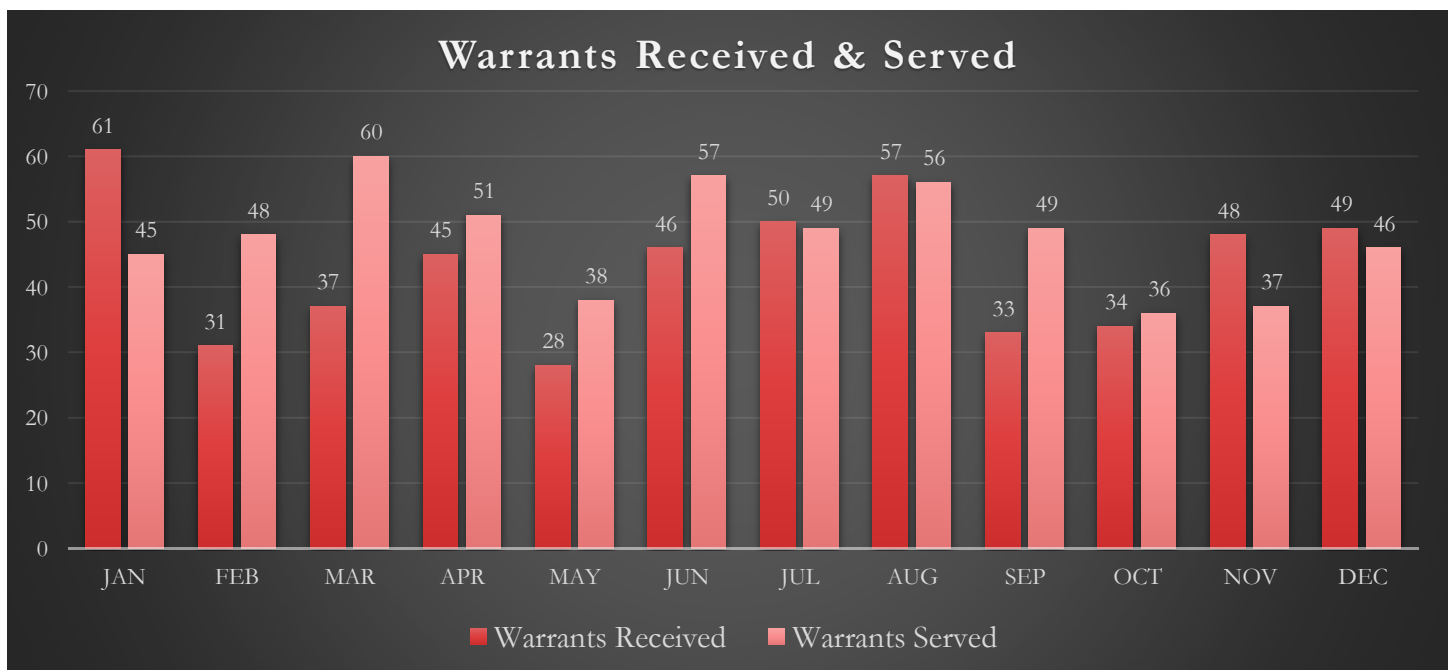
In 2017 a total of 491 inmates were held in the Mercer County Detention Facility for other Agencies. Many Agencies are experiencing overcrowding issues. The money generated by housing inmates for other Agencies goes into the County's General fund. By agreement between the Sheriff and the County Commissioners, the money is portioned out and a percentage of it is returned the Sheriff's Office. A total of \$293,535.00 was collected for housing inmates for other Agencies in 2017.



## Warrants



The Mercer County Sheriff's Office received 519 warrants, and served 572 warrants in 2017. The Sheriff's Office currently has 453 active warrants.



## Body Scanner



*In September of 2017, the Mercer County Commissioners approved the purchase of a body scanner for the jail. The purpose of the scanner is to stop drugs and weapons from entering the jail. The body scanner arrived in November.*



## Detention Facility Employees



### **CORRECTIONS**

**(Top Left to Right)**

**Sergeant Jon Wolfe**

**Sergeant Chez Bonifas**

**Sergeant Nathan Post**

**Deputy Diane M Contreras**

**Deputy Craig Kremer**

**Deputy Nick Uhlenhake**

**Deputy Keith Schoenherr**





**CORRECTIONS**  
**(Top Left to Right)**  
**Deputy Kari Begley**  
**Deputy Jason Porter**  
**Deputy Jessica Clune**  
**Deputy Scott Geis**  
**Deputy Robert Cupp**



(Top Left to Right)  
Supervisor Connie Kaiser  
Kathy Geire  
Pam Wilder  
Marie Stahl  
Nurse Judy Weaver, RN  
Administrative Assistant Theresa Berry

# Central Dispatch



The Mercer County Sheriff's Office operates the Mercer County 9-1-1 Central Dispatch. Dispatchers are dedicated and trained to handle life-threatening emergencies as well as all non-emergency calls that are received in the dispatch center..

The Mercer County Sheriff's Office 9-1-1 Central Dispatch, dispatches for the Sheriff's Office, as well five (5) Police agencies, four (4) Life Squads and ten (10) Fire Stations located in Mercer County. All 9-1-1 calls throughout Mercer County, which include land lines and cell phones, ring into the Mercer County Sheriff's Office including Celina and other Municipalities. Central Dispatch also has the ability to set off tornado warning systems, Informer system for inclement weather, and the NIXLE alert system.

Dispatchers have the additional responsibility of the Ohio LEADS (Law Enforcement Automated Data System) to provide immediate response to an officer request for driver's license or vehicle registration information and checking to make sure that a person is not wanted by any other Agency. Dispatchers are responsible for entering stolen items, warrants, protection orders, missing persons, and conceal carry permits into LEADS/NCIC every day.

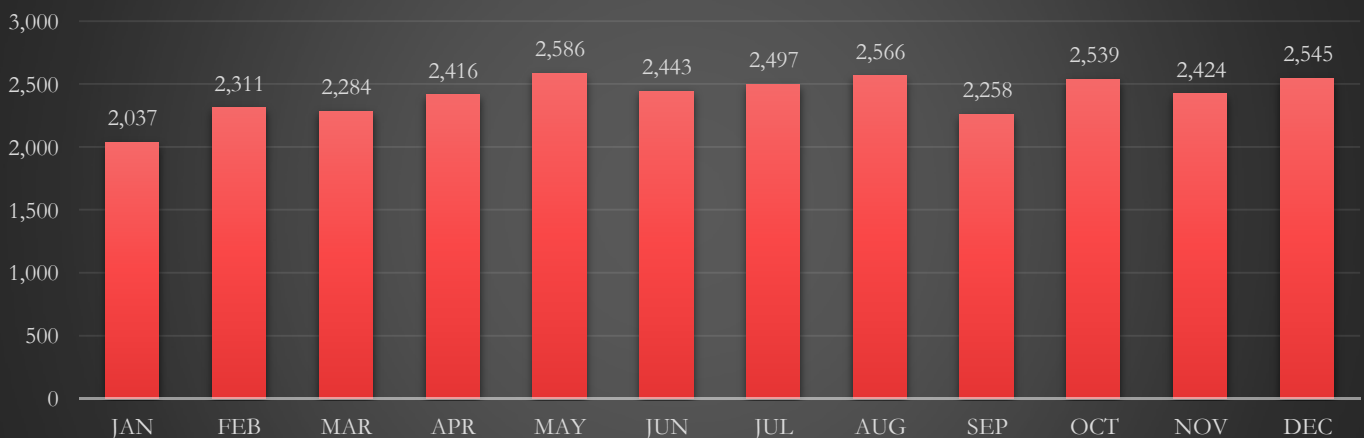


## 9-1-1 Administrator Monte Diegel



The Communications Division is under the direction of 9-1-1 Administrator Monte Diegel. Administrator Diegel has been at the Mercer County Sheriff's Office for 23 years, and has 28 plus years of experience in communications.

### Total Calls Received

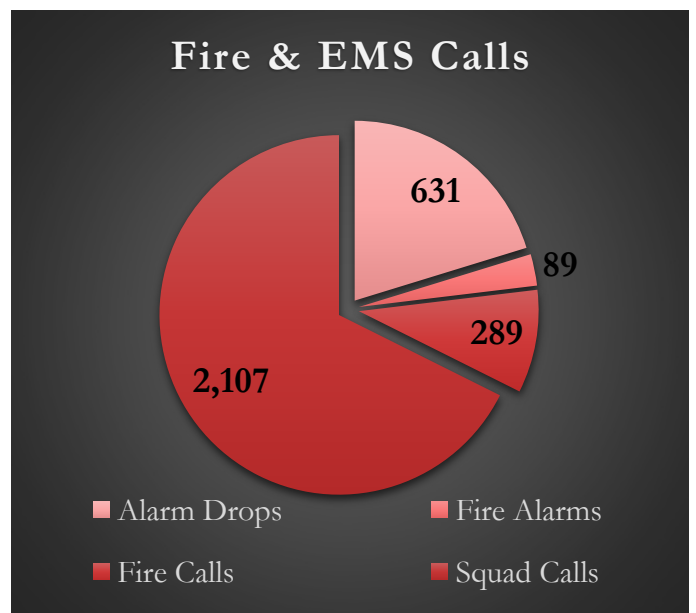
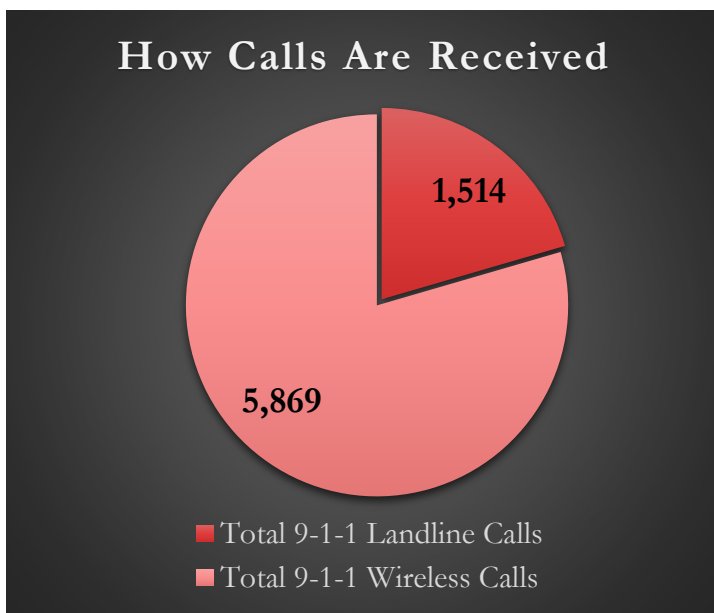
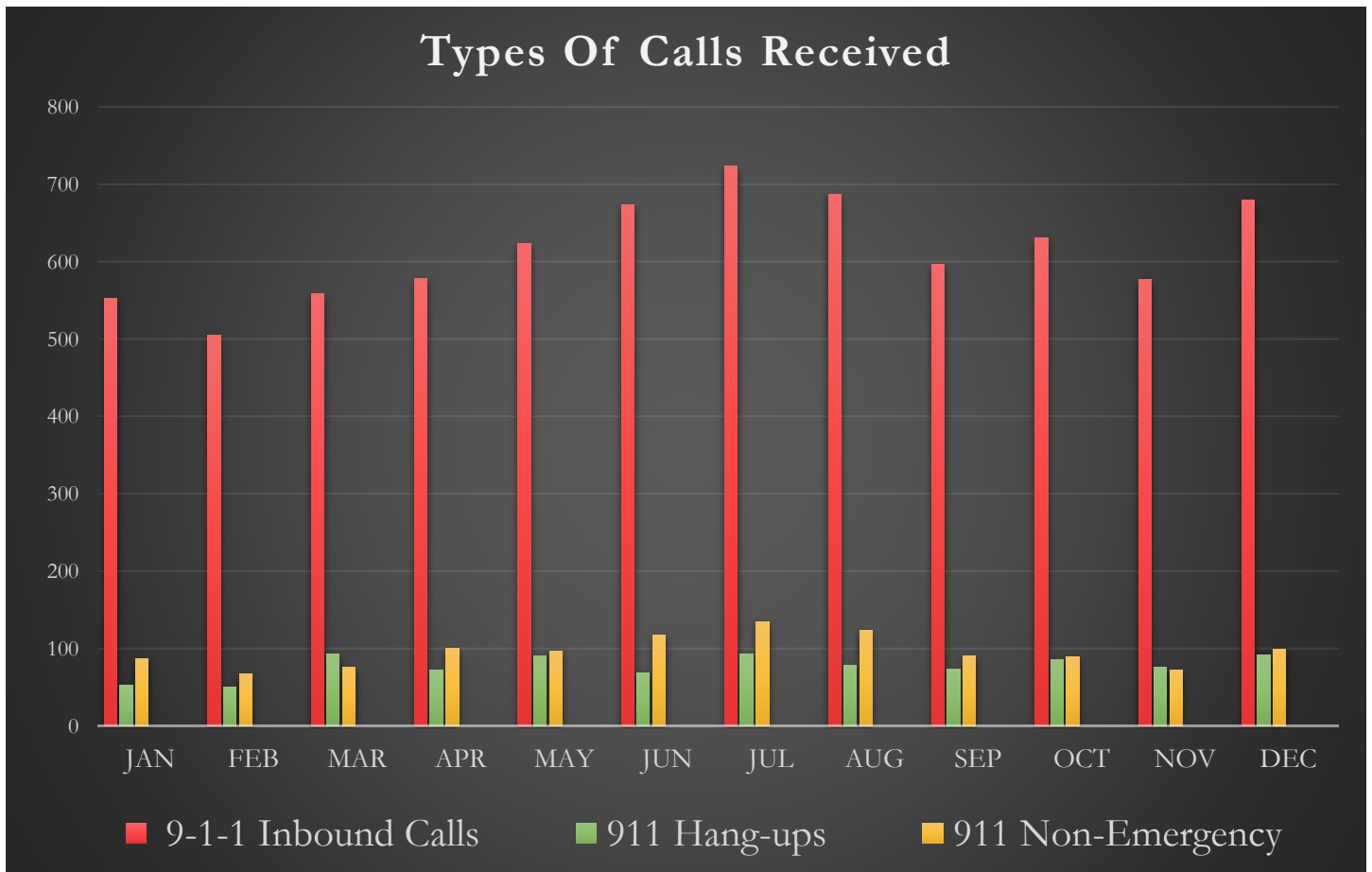




## Call Types



In 2017, the Dispatch Center received 28,906 incoming calls into the Sheriff's Office. That is an average of nearly 2,408 calls per month.



## Dispatcher In-Service Training



In 2017, the Mercer County Sheriff's Office co-hosted the annual dispatcher in-service training with the Celina Police Department. This training is provided for free to other agencies. In 2017, 45 Agencies from the state of Ohio and Indiana attended the training. The In-Service has been held for over 10 years.















## Central Dispatch Employees



(Top Left to Right)  
Supervisor Connie Cook  
Supervisor Leah Cramer  
Supervisor Stephanie Stammen  
Dispatcher April Gerlach  
Dispatcher Rachel Williams  
Dispatcher Kelci Dodds





**(Top Left to Right)**  
**Dispatcher Stacy Schoen**  
**Dispatcher Brianna Vest**  
**Dispatcher Susan Poeppelman**

# Technology

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**i** The Mercer County Sheriff's Office IT department transcends all three divisions at the Sheriff's Office maintaining all the computer systems, camera systems, email network, internet, jail door controls, 9-1-1 system, record management system, and all electronic storage. In addition to maintaining the Sheriff's Office systems, the IT employees also assist with cyber type crimes.



**I.T. Administrator Kory Hoffhines**

**i** Kory Hoffhines is the Mercer County Sheriff's Office Network Administrator. Kory has been with the Sheriff's Office since 2006. Kory maintains the entire Sheriff's Office computer network.



**I.T. Technician Ben Stoner**

**i** Ben Stoner is an I.T. Technician for the Mercer County Sheriff's Office. He assists Kory in maintaining the Sheriff's Office computer network.

## Civil Division



The Mercer County Sheriff's Office Civil Division is responsible to perform Sheriff's Sales, serve civil processes and court related paperwork from Mercer County and other jurisdictions. In addition, the Civil Division is responsible for Sex Offender and Arson Offender registration, and notification as well as all matters pertaining to the application for Carry Concealed Weapons Permits, commonly referred to as CCW. Public record requests and civilian background checks are also the responsibility of the Civil Division.

The Civil Division is instrumental with record retention for the Sheriff's Office, which includes criminal reports, crash reports, and all other records. The Civil Division also coordinates the Web Check program.

In 2017, the Civil Division handled a minimum of 74 registrations of Sex Offenders who currently reside in Mercer County. Currently Mercer County has 70 registered Sex Offenders. Civil and Patrol Deputies also did a total of 478 sex offender verifications throughout 2017 to ensure offenders were living where they are registered.



### Lieutenant Lori Knapke



The Civil Division is under the command of Lieutenant Lori Knapke. Lt. Knapke has over 19 years of experience and has spent her entire career at the Mercer County Sheriff's Office. Lt. Knapke has held the ranks of Dispatcher, Deputy Sheriff, Administrative Sergeant, and now Administrative Lieutenant.

In addition to the Civil division, Lt. Knapke is responsible for inmate transports, Court House security, the DARE program, crime prevention, Child Support Contract, and the Sheriff's Office volunteer program.

### WebChecks



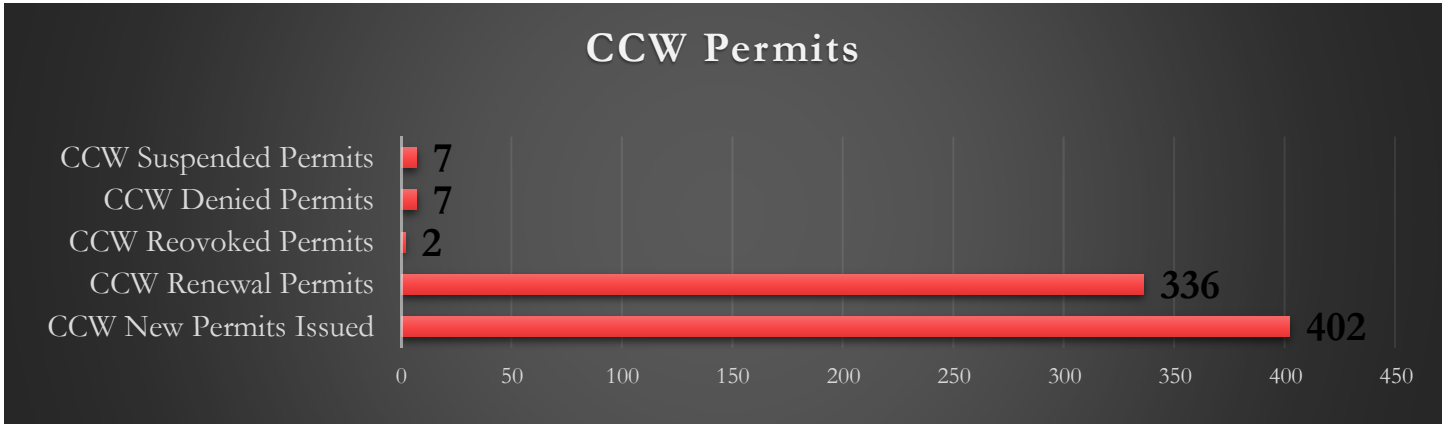
The Sheriff's Office used National WebCheck®, which electronically captures and submits fingerprints for background checks. Federal and State laws mandate fingerprinting and background checks for various occupations with an emphasis on those who work with the elderly or children. The National WebCheck® program was developed for BCI&I and is a secure web-based program. Only authorized Agencies can submit fingerprints, and conduct searches against State and FBI criminal records. The Sheriff's Office also provides traditional "ink-rolled" fingerprint processing. Total National WebCheck® submission for 2017 was 1,691.



## Carry Conceal Permits



In 2017, the Mercer County Sheriff's Office Civil Division issued 402 new CCW permits, and renewed 336. During 2017, the Sheriff's Office also revoked 2 permits, denied 7 permits, and suspended 7.

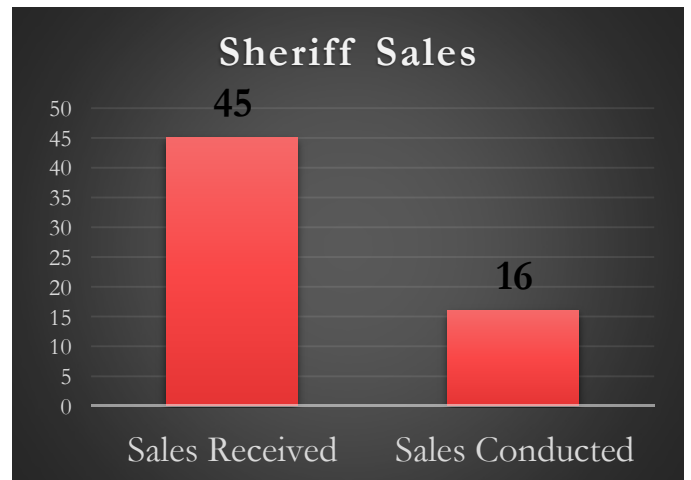
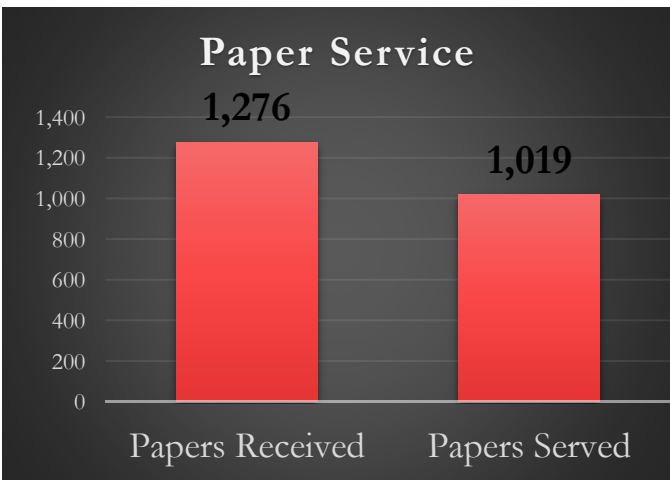


## Transports



Transport Deputies are responsible for transferring inmates to and from Court, which includes all three courts in Mercer County (Municipal, Common Pleas, and Juvenile), as well as transferring inmates to doctor's appointments and taking them to State institutions (Prisons). In 2016 Deputies made 946 transports and traveled 45,889 miles. Deputies also traveled out of state on 8 trips to Florida (1), Indiana (6), and Missouri (1).

| <b>TRANSPORTS Yearly Totals</b> |                     |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| # of Transports                 | 869                 |
| Transports Mileage              | 49,677 Miles        |
| Time Spent on Transports        | 29 Hours 37 Minutes |



## Child Support Enforcement Contract



In 2017, the Mercer County Sheriff's Office continued to contract (IV-D contract) with the Mercer County Child Support Enforcement Agency. The purpose of the contract is to provide services to the Agency, which allows the Sheriff's Office to be reimbursed for those services through a grant. Currently the Deputy assigned to the Civil Deputy performs these duties. The services would include: Child Support investigations, extradition of felony cases, and security for administrative hearings on a needed basis.

### CHILD SUPPORT Yearly Totals

|  |              |
|--|--------------|
| Child Support Enforcement Total Miles  | 2979 Miles   |
| Child Support Enforcement Mile Fees    | \$1,380.54   |
| Child Support Enforcement Hours Worked | 295.25 Hours |
| Child Support Enforcement Hourly Fees  | \$4,212.60   |

### Civil Division Employees



(Top Left to Right)

Administrative Assistant Nicole Grabow

Sergeant Dan Adams

Deputy James Steinberg

Deputy Kvie Strohl

# Fighting the Heroin Epidemic

**i** The Sheriff's Office continues to take an aggressive stance against Mercer County's heroin problem. The Sheriff's Office formulated a plan to attack the heroin issues with a three pronged approach. The three prong approach includes Enforcement, Education, and Treatment.

## Enforcement

**i** Enforcing heroin related crimes became a priority. The Sheriff's Office assigned two deputies to the Drug Unit. The Sheriff's Office also has partnered with the Celina Police Department and formed "HIT" (Heroin Interdiction Team). HIT is a quick strike force that concentrates on heroin users. The traditional Drug Unit (Task Force) concentrates on dealers, but all members work together with a common goal.

The Sheriff's Office also uses its patrol division to work traffic drug interdiction. Several deputies are brought in on saturated patrol, and often work hand in hand with HIT.

## Education

**i** Sheriff's Office Personnel have also attended numerous meetings and given presentations on the heroin problem and resources that are currently available, including presentations to our local schools.

An informational pamphlet was developed to give to inmates being released from the Detention Facility outlining local resources available in Mercer County.

**Report Suspected Drug Activity**

Frequent visitors or activity at odd or all times of the day or night

Discarded syringes (needles), pipes, baggies, etc.

Houses or buildings where extreme security measures seem to have been taken

Heavy vehicle traffic in a specific area or Heavy foot traffic in and out of residence  
Occupants display a paranoid or odd behavior

Chemical odors coming from the house, garbage or detached buildings

Ability to afford items without a job -- cars, TVs, etc.

**Please report this type of activity to your local law enforcement agency!**

**Heroin – A Nationwide Problem**  
A Look At Heroin From A Mercer County Perspective

August 2 at 7 pm  
Presented by Sheriff Grey

**HEROIN**  
**A NATIONWIDE PROBLEM:**  
**A Look at Heroin from a Mercer County Perspective**

Sheriff Jeff Grey, Presenter  
Wednesday, August 9  
6:00 – 7:00 p.m.  
Coldwater Public Library

Sheriff Grey will share information on how the heroin epidemic is affecting Ohio and Mercer County. A question and answer session will follow the presentation.



## Treatment



The Mercer County Detention Facility is an integral part of the treatment process. The Detention Facility is the central drug testing location for Mercer County's Drug Court. In addition to testing for the Drug Court, the Detention facility drug tests & breathe tests every person (who cooperates) that is booked into the facility. The Detention Facility ran 6710 tests in 2015.

The Detention Facility continues to use the Pass Point ocular scan device. This device is a compliment to urinalysis testing. The results are instantaneous. The Pass Port ocular scan device is used on person (s) that are out on bond, on probation, participants in drug court, and inmates that are on work release. The Pass Port ocular scan device drastically reduces the need to use urine drug testing kits, which in turn saves on man power and expense.

In 2016 a total of 10,249 eye scans were conducted. Total number of eye scans that resulted in a drug test was 2,108. Failed eye scans totalled 832.

The Detention Facility has contracted with Foundations Behavioral Health system to provide services such as male and female treatment programs, and intense one on one counseling while in the facility. Roberta Donovan serves as the Detention Facility counselor.

The Detention Facility also offers the following treatment programs:

Both male and female AA classes

TREM- Trauma Recovery & Empowerment Model (for female inmates only at this time.) This is a manualized group intervention designed for trauma survivors with mental disorders. The goal is to allow members to acknowledge the impact of abuse while focusing their energies on developing techniques for enhancing their existing strengths for coping with current life events.

Freedom 101 is held several times throughout the year for both male and female inmates. This class is designed to guide inmates through the process of facing their past, taking responsibility for their actions, and developing a plan for their future. It teaches them the joy and power in personal choice, responsibility, and commitment.

AAO- Against All Odds is held on Thursday evening. This is for both male and female inmates. This is facilitated by the Sheriff's Office Chaplains Pastor Randy and Tricia Christian. Their desire is to share with the inmates that God's love is greater than any sin or evil we commit. Time in jail can change lives for the better or for the worse and they hope to tip the scales in a positive direction for the inmates.

Reformers Unanimous - Currently this class is held for the females only. This is a faith based addiction program.

Male treatment program. This is held 3 days per week for 1 and ½ hour sessions. The class focuses on addiction issues, how the criminal mind works, and multiple other topics such as anger management, and their roles in the family.

Fatherhood program- The fatherhood program is an 8- week program offered to eligible fathers incarcerated in the detention facility. The program works on developing attitudes & skills for male nurturance. The goal is to help fathers become better parents, partners, and providers for their families.

Church Services- We have Church services for both male and female inmates on Sunday afternoon. We also have bible study on Monday morning.

Job and Family Services- Job and Family Services meets with interested inmates for re-entry services. They assist with writing resumes, job seeking, and mock interviews.

# Programs, Organizations, & Volunteers

## D.A.R.E.



*"Officer Sue" is the Mercer County Sheriff's Office DARE deputy. Sue has been the DARE deputy for over 20 years*

*D.A.R.E. stands for Drug Abuse Resistance Education. It is a drug abuse prevention education program designed to equip elementary & middle school children with knowledge about drug abuse, the consequences of abuse, and skills for resisting peer pressure to experiment with drugs, alcohol and tobacco. Based on the premise that prevention is the only long-term answer to drug abuse, the program includes all 50 states. In 2016 Deputy Miller taught 611 fifth grade students and another 84 in lower grades.*



## Chaplin Program



*The Sheriff's Office Chaplains are Pastor Randy Christian and his wife Tricia. Pastor Randy and Tricia volunteer their time not only to minister to inmates in the Detention Facility, but also to Deputies, and their Families. Pastor Christian has been ministering to inmates for approximately 19 years. He and his wife are available 24 hours a day to assist with death notifications, and provide comfort to citizens and members of the Sheriff's Office during their time of need.*

## Volunteers



*The Sheriff's Office has had a volunteer program dating back nearly 20 years. Citizens volunteer their time to help out at the Office. The Sheriff's Office currently has two volunteers.*

*Barb Bell volunteers every week on average for an hour. Barb helps with filing, insurance requests, and assists with HR data entry.*

*In 2016 Jim Coates has helped at the Mercer County Fair, The Celina Lake Festival, and is very involved in the Sheriff's Office Explorer Program.*

*Sheriff Grey would like to take this opportunity to thank our volunteers, because our volunteers save taxpayers thousands of dollars annually.*

## Explorer Program

**i** The Explorer program has been in existence since the early 1970's, and is affiliated with the Boy Scouts of America. The program takes young men and women, ages ranging from 14 to 21. Only young people from Mercer County are accepted into the Sheriff's Office Explorer program. The Explorer program currently has 14 members. On average Explorers spend 75-100 hours per year in dispatch, 200-300 in patrol, as well as another 150-200 hours working various events: The Mercer County Fair, Celina Lake Festival, Mercer County Rib Fest, and many DARE activities.

## BSSA Communication Vehicle "Comm 9 – 5400"

**i** The Buckeye State Sheriff's Association (BSSA) in cooperation with Ohio Emergency Management Agency banded together to build eleven interoperable communications vehicles for the state of Ohio. The communications vehicles were completely funded through a grant from the federal Homeland Security fund. Each BSSA vehicle fully equipped is worth over \$400,000.00. The eleven BSSA communications trucks are strategically placed around the state of Ohio. Mercer County Sheriff's Office houses one of the vehicles and personnel from the Sheriff's Office are trained in its use and operations.

The Comm 9 vehicle is available upon request to all law enforcement, fire, EMS and EMA personnel in our seven county response area which includes Auglaize, Darke, Logan, Paulding, Shelby, and Van Wert Counties in Ohio. Comm 9 is also available to five Indiana counties of Adams, Allen, DeKalb, Jay, and Randolph for use if the need should arise.



Mercer County  
Sheriff's Office

~Drug Take Back~


at the  
Rockford Fire Department

at  
201 S Main St  
Rockford, OH 45882

on  
July 29th, 2017

from  
9:00 a.m. until Noon (12:00 p.m.)

**No Liquids or Needles**



Mercer County  
Sheriff's Office  
& The Coldwater  
Police Department

will be having a

~Drug Take Back~

at the  
Coldwater Police Department

at  
303 W Main St.  
Coldwater, OH 45828  
(In the rear parking lot)

on  
October 28th, 2017

from  
10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

**No Liquids or Needles**

## Prescription Drug Take Back Initiative

**i** Shortly after DEA's first Drug Take-Back Day, Congress passed, and the President signed, the Secure and Responsible Drug Disposal Act of 2010. This new law amended the Controlled Substances Act (CSA), allowing DEA to develop permanent, ongoing, and responsible methods for drug disposal. Prior to the passage of the Disposal Act, the CSA provided no legal means for transferring possession of controlled substance medications from users to other individuals for disposal.

In 2017, the Sheriff's Office participated in drug take back events, and continued the collection box located in the lobby at the the Sheriff's Office. Through these events and the collections box, just over 248.33 pounds of prescription drugs were taken in and eventually turned over to the DEA for destruction.



## Citizen's Academy



In 2017, the Mercer County Sheriff's Office graduated its fourth citizen's academy. The classes took place from October 17, 2017 until November 9, 2017.

Citizens were from different backgrounds, age groups, and areas of Mercer County. The participants were provided with instruction that included classroom time, hands on demonstrations, and tours of the facility. The students were also given an opportunity to ride along with a patrol deputy, observed in Dispatch and Corrections, and shot at the firing range.

Sgt. Jay Wehrkamp is the Mercer County Citizen's Academy Coordinator.







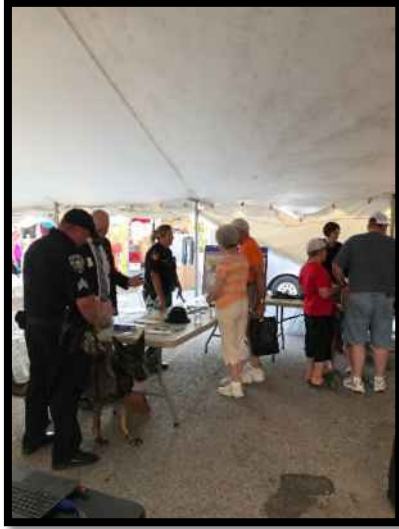






# 2017 Mercer County Fair

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# Law Enforcement Appreciation Dinner





# History of the Ohio Sheriff



The oldest position in law enforcement is the Office of Sheriff. The roots of this job go back over 1,000 years to medieval England. As that country was starting to create an early form of government, the land was divided into shires, which we call a county. Originally the people of the shire chose one of their own to be their guardian and protector called a gerefa, a term later changed to the title of reeve. The words shire and reeve in time combined to become Sheriff. This duty was eventually appointed by the king to someone of his choosing.

In America, William Stone was the first Sheriff to be appointed and sworn into office in 1634. The first colonies had been firmly established and functioning on their own. A shire form of government was set up to replace the military command that had been governing.

A 1651 Virginia proclamation required that each county choose a Sheriff. The commissioners of Northampton County asked the people to elect their Sheriff which had not been done since medieval England. William Waters was elected and although it was not realized at that time precedence was set in motion that would be repeated in the future. Today all Sheriff's in the nation, with the exception of 12, are elected and answer directly to the voters.

Before Ohio became a state, the position of Sheriff was appointed by the Governor. In 1788, Ebenezer Sproat was the first to be given that job in Washington County, which at that time covered all of eastern Ohio from Lake Erie to the Ohio River. Ohio became a state in 1803 and William Skinner was the first man to be elected for a Sheriff's position which had a two-year term limit. That term limit was increased to four-years in 1936.

Ohio has 88 counties and the Sheriff is the chief law enforcement officer for each of those counties. His jurisdiction includes all municipalities, villages and townships within his country. Ohio law requires the Sheriff to preserve the public peace, serve court paperwork, operate and manage the jail, provide extradition services and transport prisoners.



# History of the Sheriff's Office & Jail



On December 29, 1825, the County Commissioners awarded Asa Hinkle a contract to build the first Mercer County Jail. In exchange, Mr. Hinkle received lots 31, 34, 37, 42, and 50, and also \$150 in cash, with the settlement taking place on June 6, 1830. In 1833, the Jail was repaired by covering the door inside with sheet iron using large headed wrought iron nails, set four inches apart.

On July 1, 1842, a contract for a new jail was awarded to Gustavus Darnold. The jail, to be finished September 28, 1842, at a cost of \$397, was partially paid in town lots. On March 4, 1849, the Commissioners ordered an addition to the Jail and debtor's room (a frame building) and awarded a \$630 contract to H.L. Johnson. Contracts for plastering and ironwork were awarded to Levi Lips and Hezekiah Trenary, respectively.

On January 11, 1860, Valeau & Jacobs of Cincinnati, Ohio, received a contract to build a Sheriff's residence on the northeast corner of the Public Square for \$5000. Plans called for a 38-foot 6-inch by 29-foot structure with a 22-foot 8-1/2 inch elevation to the top of the cornice. The structure was to be built of bricks with a stone foundation and covered with sheet iron.

In the spring of 1875, the Commissioners awarded a \$25,000 contract to E.W. Wilson, Van Wert, Ohio, to construct a new County Jail and Sheriff's Residence according to the plans and specifications of T.J. Toland & Son, Delphos, Ohio. On March 8, 1876, the Commissioners ordered the Jail heated with steam and awarded a \$935 contract to C. Buehler & Company, St. Marys, Ohio.

The old Jail was located at 125 W. Livingston St. in Celina. It was constructed in 1939 and cost approximately \$41,000 of which Mercer County paid \$23,000 with the balance paid with a federal grant from the Public Works Administration Program. Sheriff L.M. Davis moved into the Jail and Residence on August 4, 1939. On August 25, 1939, the old Jail on Courthouse Square was sold for \$51 to Shartzler Wrecking & Excavating, Dayton, Ohio. Henry Lechner, Daniel Moeller, and A.E. Morrow were County Commissioners at this time.

Two major renovations/additions occurred at the old Jail and Residence. In 1966, an enclosed entrance ramp was added to the rear of the Jail and an enclosed porch to the residence. The largest addition/renovation occurred in 1973 when Sheriff W.C. Sunderhaus moved from the residence and the residence was converted to office space, holding cells, and a larger radio control room. A drive-through garage was attached to the west of the old Jail, adding security in transferring prisoners from cars. This addition/renovation totalled approximately \$162,000 and was funded with a federal grant from the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration which covered 50% of the cost.

In April 1985, due to limited office space in the Jail, the County Commissioners purchased the Bair home, west of the old Jail's location. Known as the Jail Annex, this structure contained the Sheriff's Administrative, Enforcement, Civil, and Detective Divisions until January 2010.

In November of 2007, the voters of Mercer County passed a .5% sales tax to construct a new jail and sheriff's office at a cost of \$12,000,000. Construction for the facility, which is located at 4835 State Route 29, was completed in November of 2009. Architects for the project were Shremshock Architects of Westerville, with general contractors being Peterson Construction of Wapakoneta. Plumbing, Electrical and HVAC contractors were Ohio Plumbing of Coldwater, Sidney Electric and GM Mechanical of Covington, respectively.

On January 4, 2010 administration and dispatch moved into the new Mercer County Detention Facility, with prisoners and corrections staff following on February 28, 2010.



# Conclusion

**i** In Conclusion the employees of the Sheriff's Office are dedicated and work towards one unified goal, which is the safety and security of the Citizens of Mercer County. Values of our Motto are displayed every day. "Caring, Courteous, Common Sense Law Enforcement".

Many things were accomplished in 2016, and we look forward to serving our community in 2017.

## Integrity

**i** We uphold our positions of trust through honesty, credibility, and by maintaining high ethical standards.

## Service

**i** We regard our office as a public trust. We are constantly mindful of our primary obligation to serve the community with "Caring, Courteous, Common Sense Law Enforcement".

## Professionalism

**i** We value professionalism by having commitment, perspective, and direction. Professionalism is achieved by creating an environment that encourages teamwork, and innovation.

## Responsibility

**i** We ensure that our behavior earns the support and trust of the public by being responsible for our actions and willing to admit our mistakes.

