



2018 ANNUAL REPORT

MERCER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Caring, Courteous, Common Sense Law Enforcement

Mercer County Sheriff's Office
4835 State Route 29, Celina OH 45822
Tel 419-586-7724
Fax 419-586-2234
www.mercercountysheriff.org

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Contents

Message from Sheriff Jeff Grey _____	1
Meet Your Sheriff _____	2
Mission Statement & Motto _____	2
Code of Ethics _____	2
2017-2018 Employee Awards Program _____	3
2017-2018 Award Recipient Photos _____	4
Structure of the Sheriff's Office _____	9
Administrative Employees _____	10
Central Dispatch _____	11
9-1-1 Administrator Monte Diegel _____	13
Types Of Calls _____	13
Dispatcher In-Service Training _____	15
Civil Division _____	16
Lieutenant Lori Knapke _____	17
WebChecks _____	17
Carry Conceal Permits _____	18
Transports _____	18
Child Support Enforcement Contract _____	19
Warrants _____	20
Detention Facility _____	21
Chief Deputy Jodie Lange _____	25
Captain Doug Timmerman _____	25
Inmate Population Statistics _____	25
Detention Facility Income _____	26
Commissary _____	27
Medical Reimbursement _____	27
Inmate Work Release Program _____	28
Inmates House for other Agencies _____	29
Enforcement _____	30
Chief Deputy Gery Thobe _____	33
Captain Martin Emerine _____	34
Patrol _____	34
Investigations _____	35
Active Shooter Training _____	37

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Traffic Enforcement	41
Crash Investigations	41
ALICE Training	42
School Bus Ride-Along Program	43
K-9 Program	44
Crime Scene Truck	45
Technology	46
I.T. Administrator Kory Hoffhines	46
I.T. Technician Ben Stoner	46
Programs, Organizations, & Volunteers	47
D.A.R.E. program	47
Chaplin Program	48
Volunteers	48
Explorer Program	48
BSSA Communication Vehicle "Comm 9 – 5400"	48
Prescription Drug Take Back Initiative	49
Citizen's Academy	50
Fighting the Heroin Epidemic	54
Enforcement	54
Education	54
Treatment	55
2018 Mercer County Fair	57
Chaplain Meet & Greet	63
History of the Ohio Sheriff	65
History of the Sheriff's Office & Jail	66
Conclusion	68
Integrity	68
Service	68
Professionalism	68
Responsibility	68
Contact Information	69
Direct Phone Lines:	69

MESSAGE FROM SHERIFF JEFF GREY

Message from Sheriff Jeff Grey

Welcome!

We are thrilled to share with you the Mercer County Sheriff's Office 2018 Annual Report! Our dedicated staff works hard every day to ensure the safety and security of Mercer County residents and those traveling through.

We would like to thank our citizens for their continued support over the years. Law Enforcement is a partnership between the law enforcement agency and the citizens we serve.

It is truly an honor and privilege to be able to provide services to you!

Sincerely,

Jeff Grey
Sheriff



MEET YOUR SHERIFF

Meet Your Sheriff

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

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

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.

2017-2018 EMPLOYEE AWARDS PROGRAM

2017-2018 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 2018, these employees were given the following awards for their accomplishments:

Employee of the Year:	Detective Carla Baucher
Deputy Sheriff of the Year:	Deputy Kristen Nixon
Corrections Deputy of the Year:	Sergeant Heather Leist
Dispatcher of the Year:	Dispatcher April Gerlach
Civilian of the Year:	IT Administrator Kory Hoffhines
Commendation:	Deputy Donald Bird, Deputy Kari Begley, Deputy Scott Geist, Dispatcher April Gerlach, Dispatcher Rachel Williams, & All Corrections Staff
Life Saving Award:	Deputy Patrick Forsthoefel (x2), Sergeant Darrell Etgen, Deputy Deric Kroft
Safe Driving:	Deputy Jerry Wolford – 30 Years Captain Doug Timmerman – 25 Years Lieutenant Lori Knapke – 20 Years Detective John Marbaugh – 15 Years Deputy Deric Kroft – 15 Years Deputy Kyle Strohl – 15 Years
Office Citation:	Sergeant Jon Wolfe & Deputy Logan Williams

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 2018, the following Service Stars were awarded:

30 Year Service Stars	Deputy Jerry Wolford
25 Year Service Stars	Chief C.O. Jodie Lange, Captain Doug Timmerman, & Sergeant Detective Lance Crum
20 Year Service Stars	Lieutenant Lori Knapke & Detective John Marbaugh
15 Year Service Stars	Deputy Deric Kroft, Deputy Kyle Strohl, & Dispatcher April Gerlach

2017-2018 AWARD RECIPIENT PHOTOS

2017-2018 Award Recipient Photos



2017-2018 AWARD RECIPIENT PHOTOS



2017-2018 AWARD RECIPIENT PHOTOS



2017-2018 AWARD RECIPIENT PHOTOS

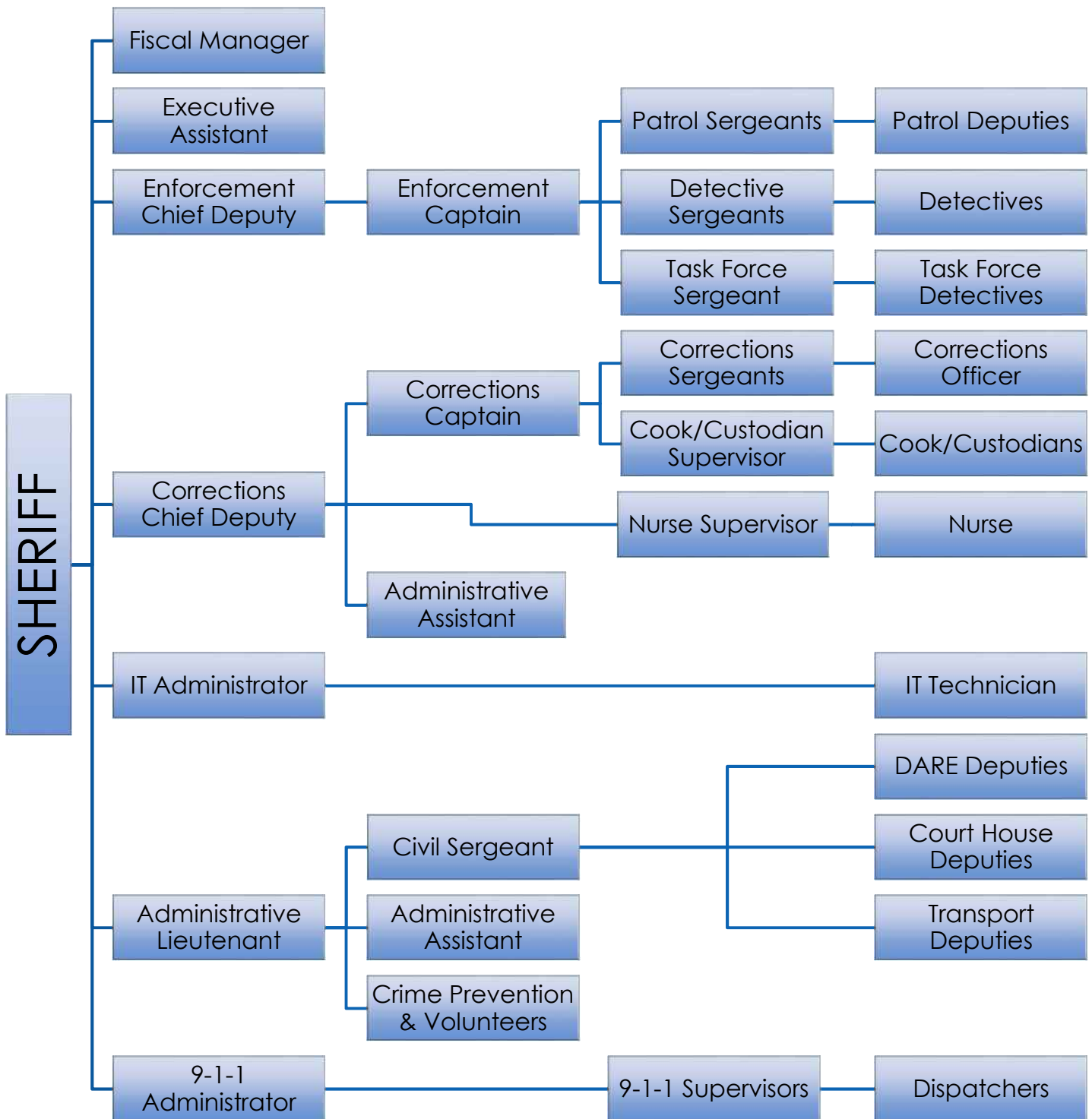


2017-2018 AWARD RECIPIENT PHOTOS



STRUCTURE OF THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Structure of the Sheriff's Office



ADMINISTRATIVE EMPLOYEES

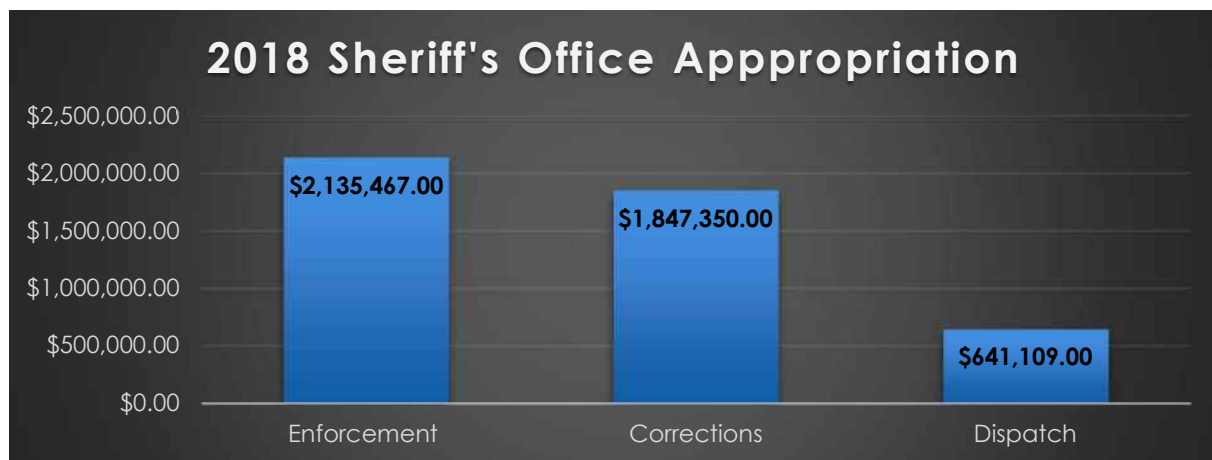
Administrative Employees



Connie Rinderle is the Mercer County Sheriff's Office Fiscal Manager. She oversees all the annual budgets. Connie has been with the sheriff's office since 2005, where she began her career as an Administrative Assistant with our Civil Division. In 2018, the sheriff's office appropriation were just over 4.6 million dollars. The chart below shows each division broken out.



Ashley Carr is Sheriff Grey's Executive Assistant. Ashley is responsible for managing the Sheriff's funds, updating employee records, and maintaining traffic grant information and the Sheriff's schedule. Other responsibilities include updating yearly statistical data for the enforcement division and creating and maintaining yearly reports. Ashley 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.



CENTRAL DISPATCH

Central Dispatch



9-1-1 Administrator Monte Diegel



Dispatch Supervisor Connie Cook



Dispatch Supervisor Leah Cramer



Dispatch Supervisor Stephanie Stammen



Dispatcher April Gerlach



Dispatcher Rachel Williams

CENTRAL DISPATCH



Dispatcher Kelci Dodds



Dispatcher Stacy Schoen



Dispatcher Brianna Vest



Dispatcher Susan Poeppelman

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.

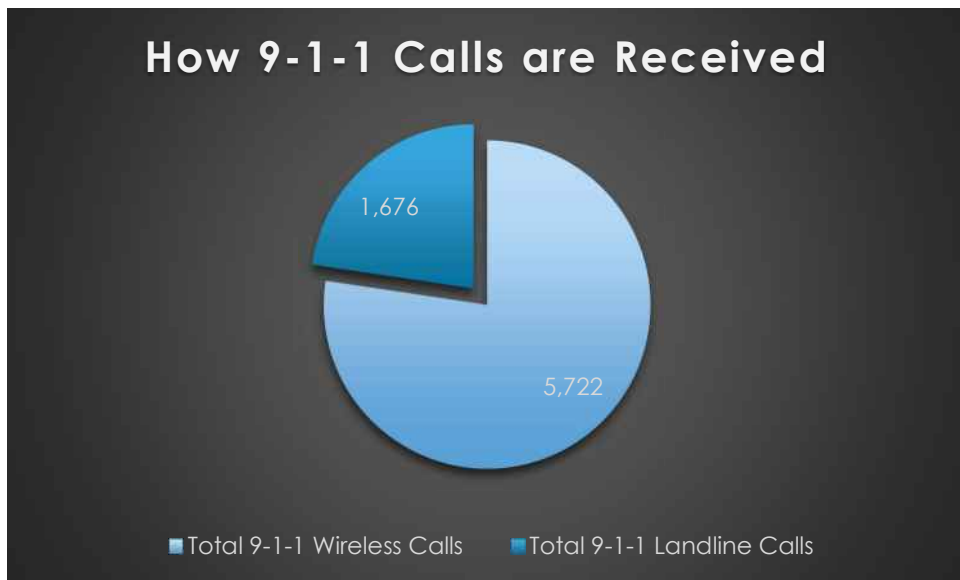
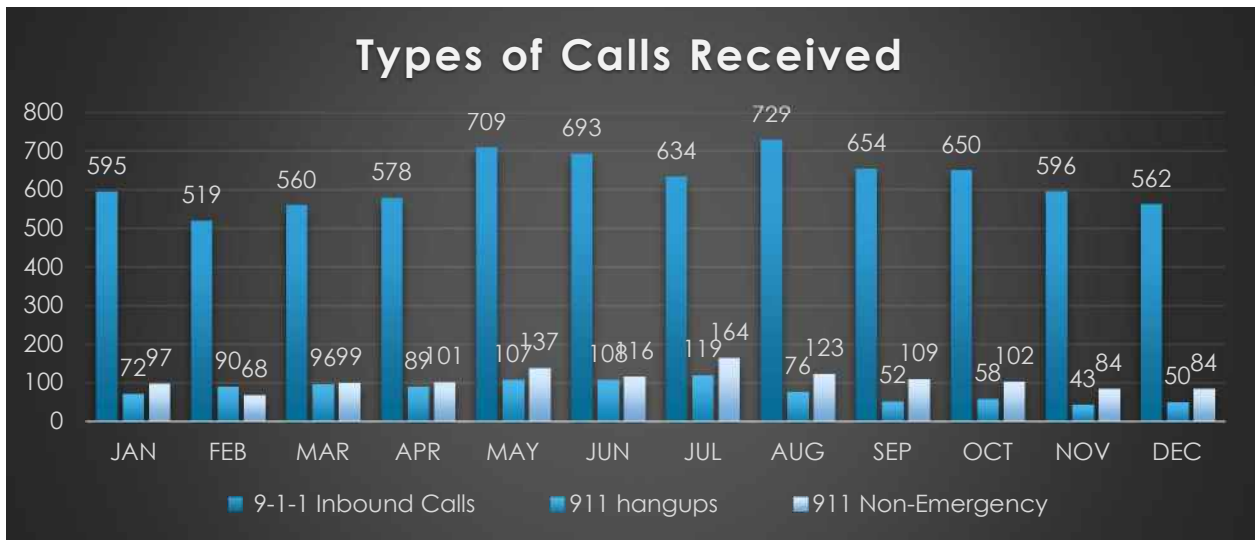
CENTRAL DISPATCH

9-1-1 ADMINISTRATOR MONTE DIEGEL

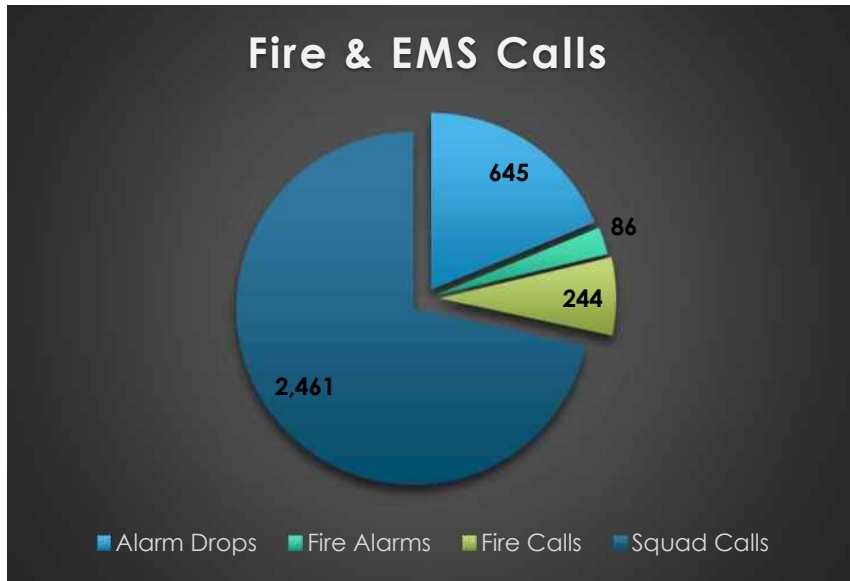
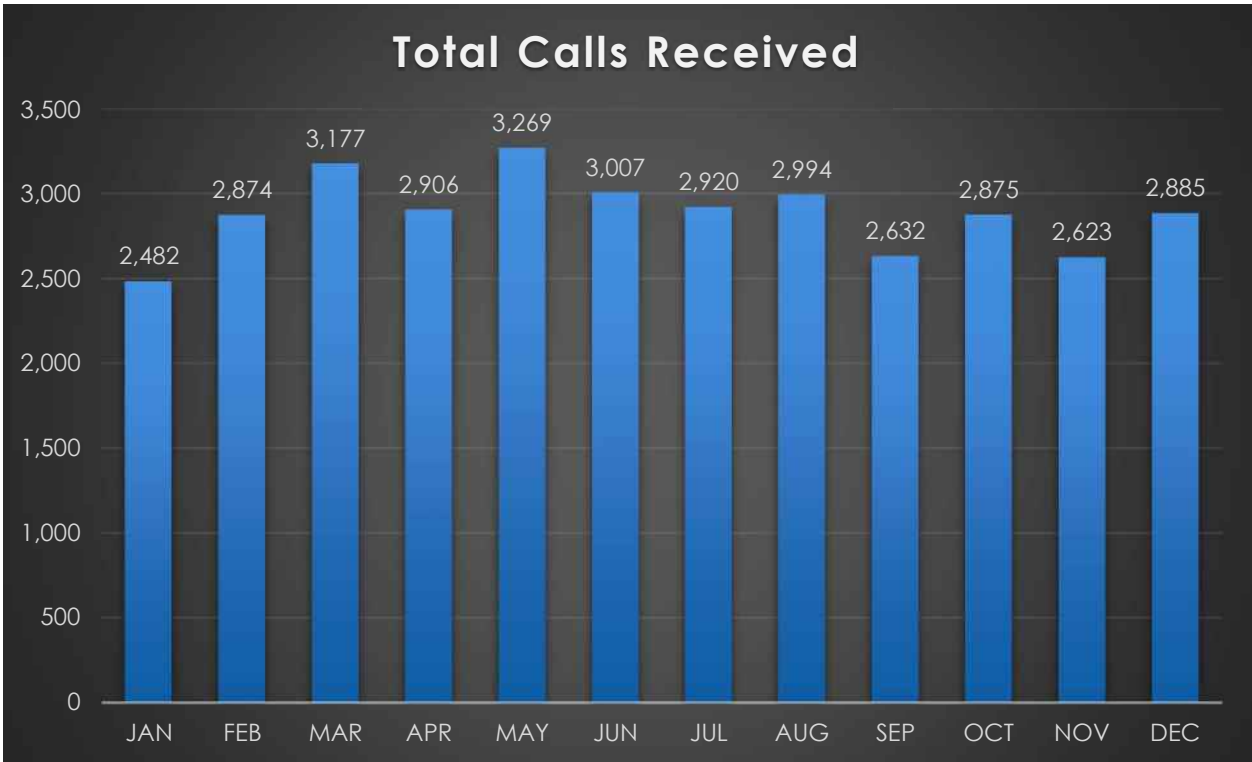
The Communications Division is under the direction of 9-1-1 Administrator Monte Diegel. Administrator Diegel has been at the Mercer County Sheriff's Office for 24 years, and has 29 plus years of experience in communications.

TYPES OF CALLS

In 2018, the Dispatch Center received 34,644 incoming calls into the Sheriff's Office. That is an average of 2,887 calls per month.



CENTRAL DISPATCH



CENTRAL DISPATCH

DISPATCHER IN-SERVICE TRAINING

In 2018, 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 2018, over 40 Agencies from the state of Ohio and Indiana attended the training. The In-Service has been held for over 10 years.



CIVIL DIVISION

Civil Division



Lieutenant Lori Knapke



Sergeant Dan Adams



Deputy James Steinberg



Deputy Kyle Strohl



Deputy Sue Miller



Deputy Donald Bird

CIVIL DIVISION



Administrative Assistant Nicole Grabow

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 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 2018, the Civil Division handled a minimum of 64 registrations of Sex Offenders who currently reside in Mercer County. Currently, Mercer County has 65 registered Sex Offenders. Civil and Patrol Deputies also did a total of 440 sex offender verifications throughout 2018 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 20 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

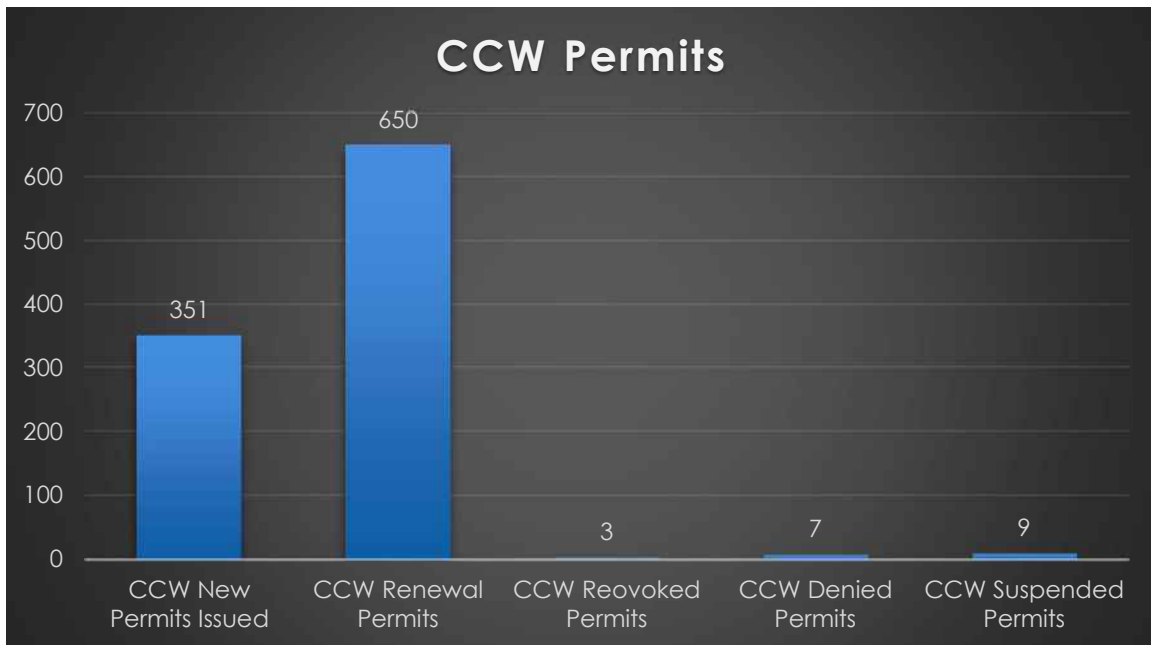
The Sheriff's Office used National WebCheck®, which electronically captures and submits fingerprints for background checks. Federal and State laws mandate fingerprinting and background checks for various occupations with an emphasis on those who work with the elderly or children. The National WebCheck® program was developed for BCI&I and is a secure web-based program. Only authorized Agencies can submit fingerprints, and conduct searches

CIVIL DIVISION

against State and FBI criminal records. The Sheriff's Office also provides traditional "ink-rolled" fingerprint processing. Total National WebCheck® submission for 2018 was 2,251.

CARRY CONCEAL PERMITS

In 2018, the Mercer County Sheriff's Office Civil Division issued 351 new CCW permits, and renewed 650. During 2018, the Sheriff's Office also revoked 3 permits, denied 7 permits, and suspended 9.

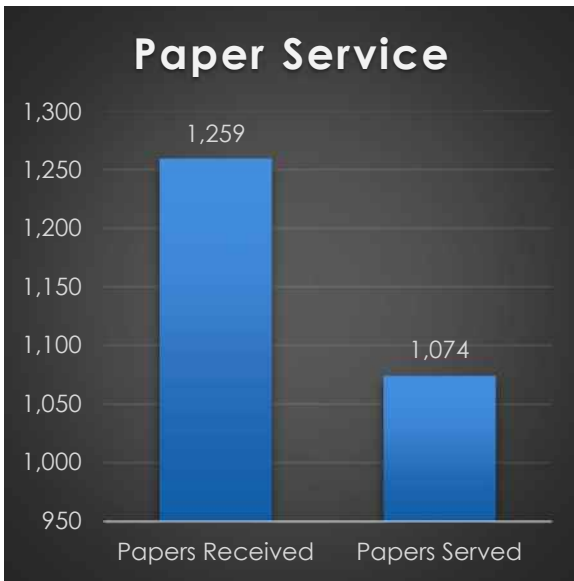


TRANSPORTS

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 2018, deputies made 792 transports and traveled 49,754 miles. Deputies also traveled out of state on 19 trips to Indiana (11), Florida (2), Tennessee (2), Illinois, Texas, Nevada, and Michigan.

TRANSPORT Yearly Totals	
# of Transports	792
Transports Mileage	49,754 Miles

CIVIL DIVISION



CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT CONTRACT

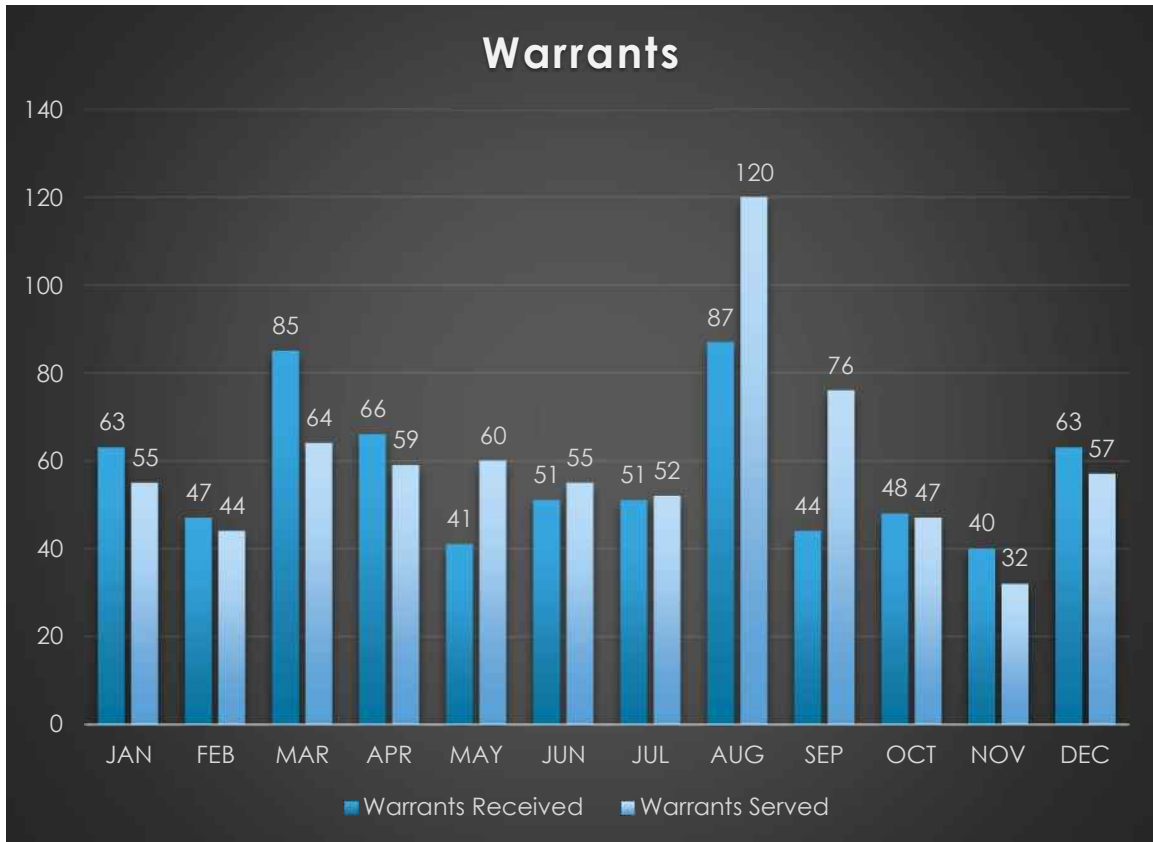
In 2018, the Mercer County Sheriff's Office continued to contract (IV-D contract) with the Mercer County Child Support Enforcement Agency. The purpose of the contract is to provide services to the Agency, which allows the Sheriff's Office to be reimbursed for those services through a grant. The services 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	3,343 Miles
Child Support Enforcement Mile Fees	\$1,537.78
Child Support Enforcement Hours Worked	313.25 Hours
Child Support Enforcement Hourly Fees	\$4,473.21

CIVIL DIVISION

WARRANTS

The Mercer County Sheriff's Office received 686 warrants, and served 721 warrants in 2018. The Sheriff's Office currently has 406 active warrants.



DETENTION FACILITY

Detention Facility



Chief Deputy Jodie Lange



Captain Doug Timmerman



Sergeant Jonathan Wolfe



Sergeant Nathan Post



Sergeant Rob Cupp



Sergeant Heather Leist

DETENTION FACILITY



Deputy Diane M Contreras



Deputy Jason Porter



Deputy Lori Pease



Deputy Jessica Clune



Deputy Lisa Gross



Deputy Kari Begley

DETENTION FACILITY



Deputy Scott Geis



Deputy Megan Wycuff



Deputy Angela Kaiser



Deputy Logan Williams



Deputy Kevin Schnipke



Administrative Assistant Theresa Berry

DETENTION FACILITY



Supervisor Connie Kaiser



Marie Stahl



Kathy Giere



Pam Wilder



Nurse Supervisor Megan Fokine



Nurse Terri Keller

DETENTION FACILITY

The Adult Detention Facility has 4 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, one Registered Nurse, and an LPN nurse and a Medical Doctor.

CHIEF DEPUTY JODIE LANGE

The Detention Facility is under the command of Chief Deputy Jodie Lange. Chief Lange has over 25 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 Deputy. Chief Lange reviews programs for inmates, and is participates in the Mercer County Prevention Coalition and the Colt CHIP health group. She is responsible for the overall operations in the detention facility.

CAPTAIN DOUG TIMMERMAN

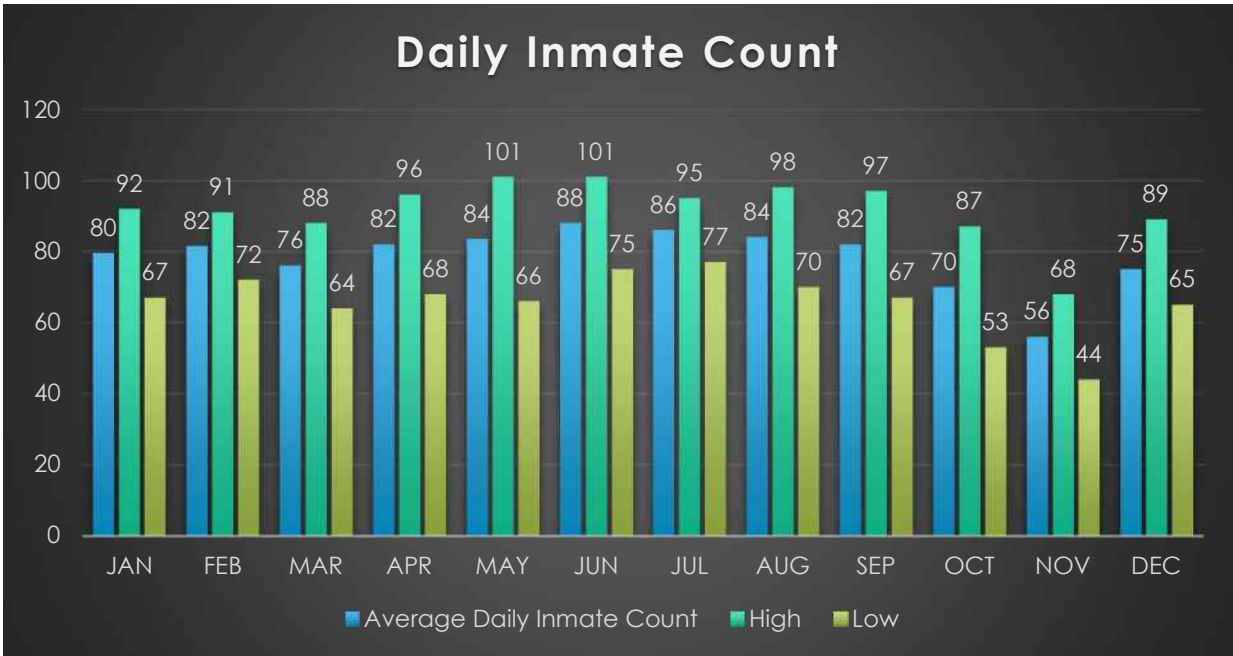
Captain Doug Timmerman oversees all the day to day operations in the detention facility. Captain Timmerman has 24 years of law enforcement experience and has spent his entire career at the Mercer County Sheriff's Office. Captain Timmerman has held the ranks of dispatcher, Patrol Deputy, Detective, Detective Sergeant, and Captain of the Jail & Enforcement.

INMATE POPULATION STATISTICS

In 2018, the Mercer County Adult Detention Facility booked in 1,539 inmates. Of those inmates; 1,139 were male and 400 were female. The Detention Facility served 83,178 meals in 2018. Daily inmate totals vary. The following chart shows daily inmate trends and meals served by month.



DETENTION FACILITY



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 2018 was \$252,224.25.



DETENTION FACILITY

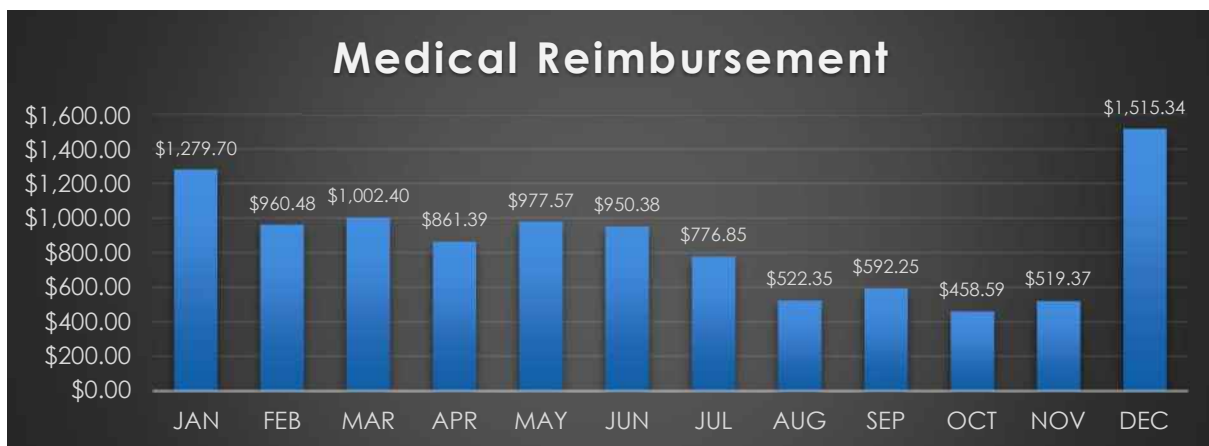
COMMISSARY

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 \$77,577.58 was collected through commissary in 2018.



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 2018, a total of \$10,416.67 was collected through the medical reimbursement program.



DETENTION FACILITY

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.

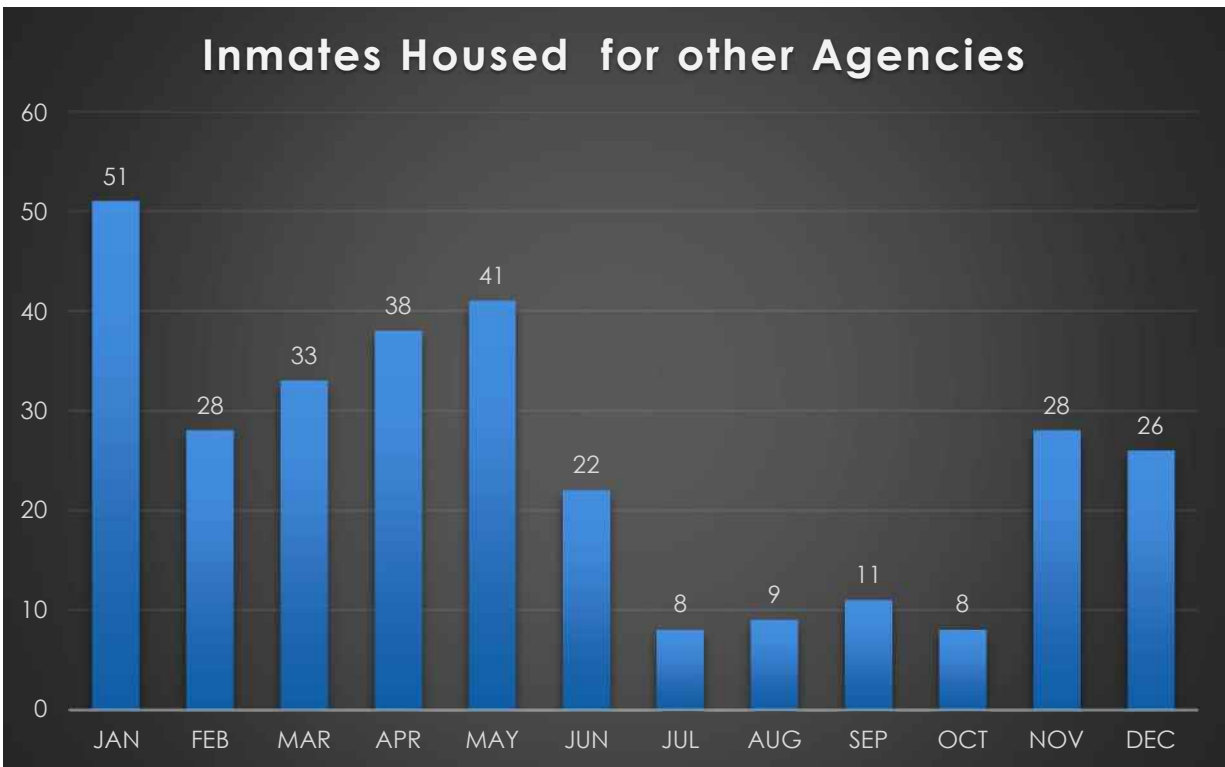
Inmates pay to be in the work release program, and payment guidelines have been set up according to wages earned. Mercer County Sheriff's Office staff periodically visit the workplace to ensure the inmate is working. Program violators are terminated from the program and the courts are notified. In 2018, a total of \$4,795.00 was collected through the inmate work release program.



DETENTION FACILITY

INMATES HOUSE FOR OTHER AGENCIES

In 2018, a total of 303 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 \$159,435.00 was collected for housing inmates for other Agencies in 2018.



ENFORCEMENT

Enforcement



Chief Deputy Gery Thobe



Captain Martin Emerine



Sergeant Darrell Etgen



Sergeant Jay Wehrkamp



Sergeant John Westgerdes



Sergeant Detective Lance Crum

ENFORCEMENT



Sergeant Detective Megan Baker



Detective Chad Fortkamp



Detective John Marbaugh



Detective Carla Baucher



Deputy Jerry Wolford



Deputy Deric Kroft

ENFORCEMENT



Deputy Douglas Wuebker



Deputy Luke Wolfe



Deputy Patrick Forsthoefel



Deputy Kevin Wynn



Deputy Jason Seger



Deputy Rachel Heintz

ENFORCEMENT



Deputy Kyle Fink



Deputy Donald Sites, Jr.



Deputy Kristen Nixon



Deputy Alex Schoen

The Sheriff's Office has four supervisors in Enforcement and they include; three Patrol Sergeants, and two Detective Sergeants.

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, Cridersville, New Bremen, Minster, and Waynesfield.

CHIEF DEPUTY GERY THOBE

The Enforcement Division is under the command of Chief Deputy Gery Thobe. Chief Deputy Thobe has 34 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 the highest, non-elected law enforcement position in Mercer County and is second in command of the Sheriff's Office.

ENFORCEMENT

CAPTAIN MARTIN EMERINE

Captain Martin Emerine oversees all the day to day operations in the enforcement division. Captain Emerine has 27 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 Jail, and now Captain of Enforcement.

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 2018, deputies patrolled 390,848 miles. Deputies handled 495 traffic crashes, and completed a total of 4,080 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. Patrol Deputies serve warrants and civil papers, and give safety talks and presentations throughout the year.

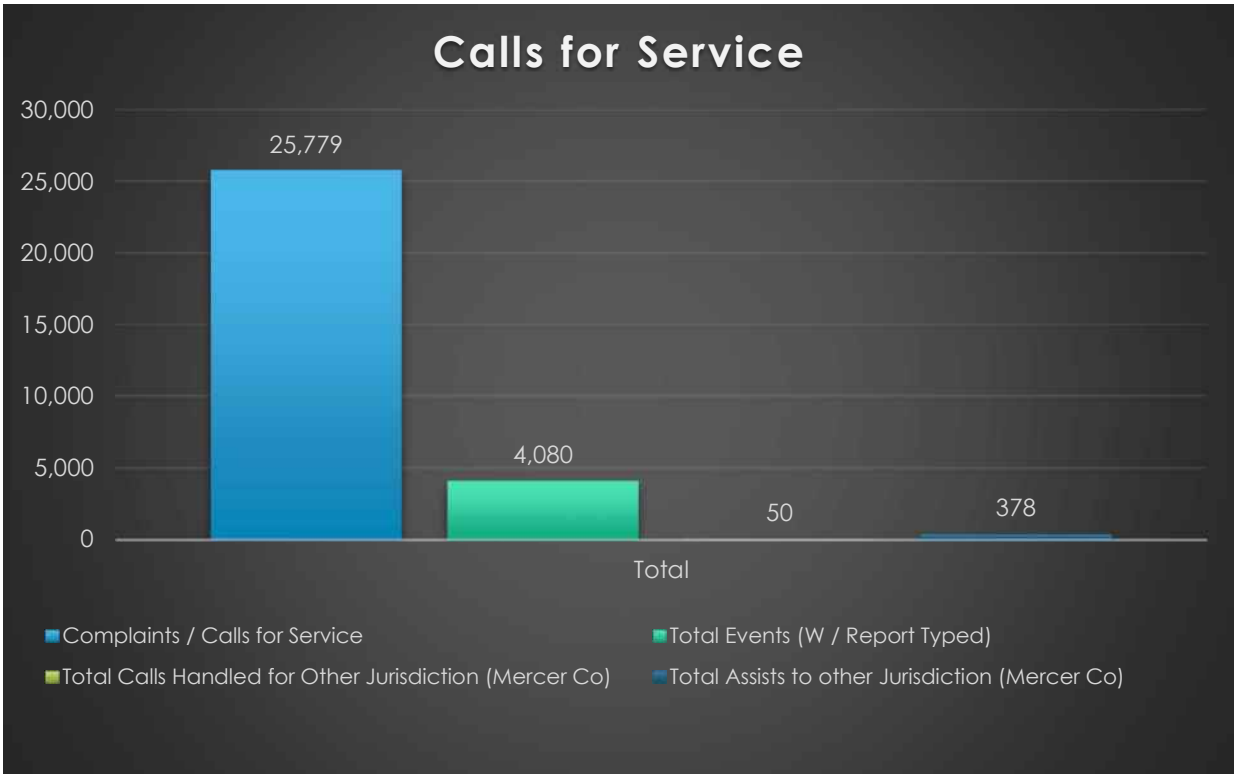
Patrol Deputies are also assigned to the Communication Truck. The Communication Truck is available for call out 24 hours a day. See the "Programs, organizations, and volunteer" section for further information about the Communications Truck.



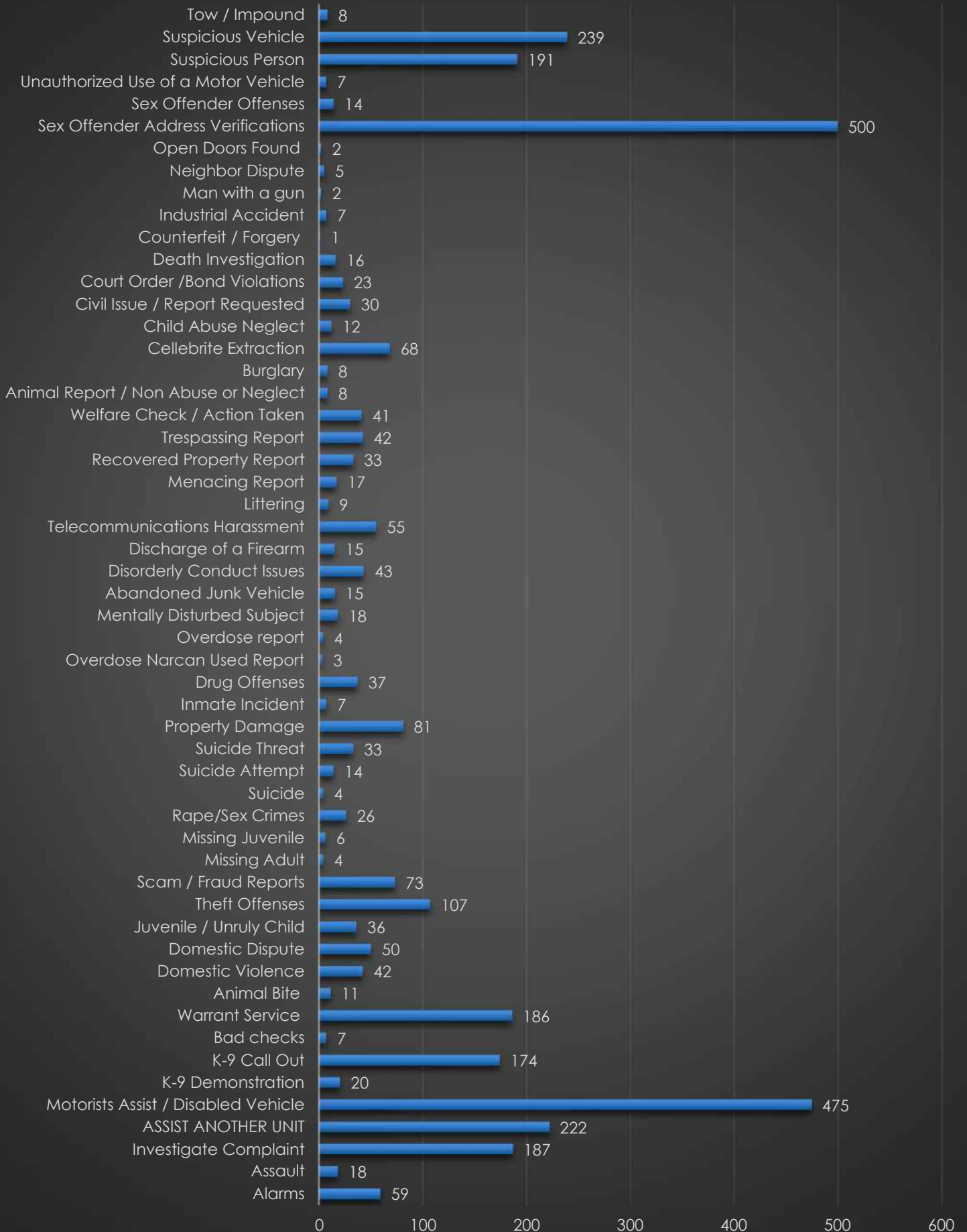
ENFORCEMENT

INVESTIGATIONS

In 2018, 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 25,000 calls for service.



Total Calls for Service



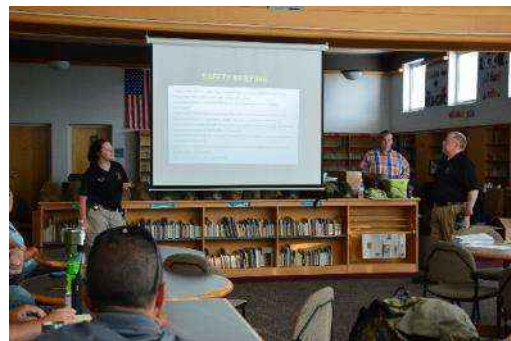
ENFORCEMENT

ACTIVE SHOOTER TRAINING

The Mercer County Sheriff's Office hosted its 4th Active Shooter Training at St Henry High School on June 19 & 20, 2018. 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.

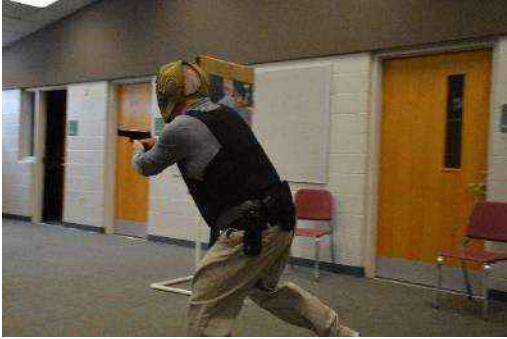
The training was provided free of charge to all of the agencies in Mercer County. The Sheriff's Office supplied drinks as well as lunch for the staff and participants. The class was attended by 53 law enforcement officers throughout the county. This training is proving to be invaluable and very important.



ENFORCEMENT



ENFORCEMENT



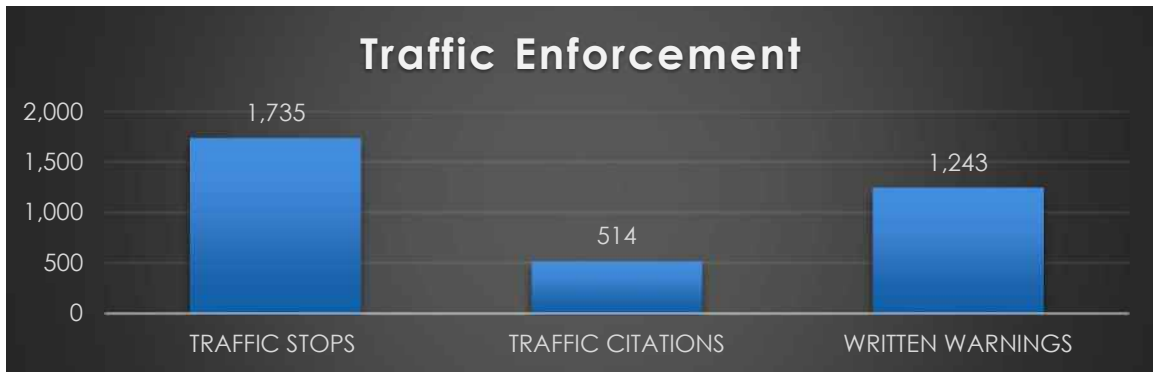
ENFORCEMENT



ENFORCEMENT

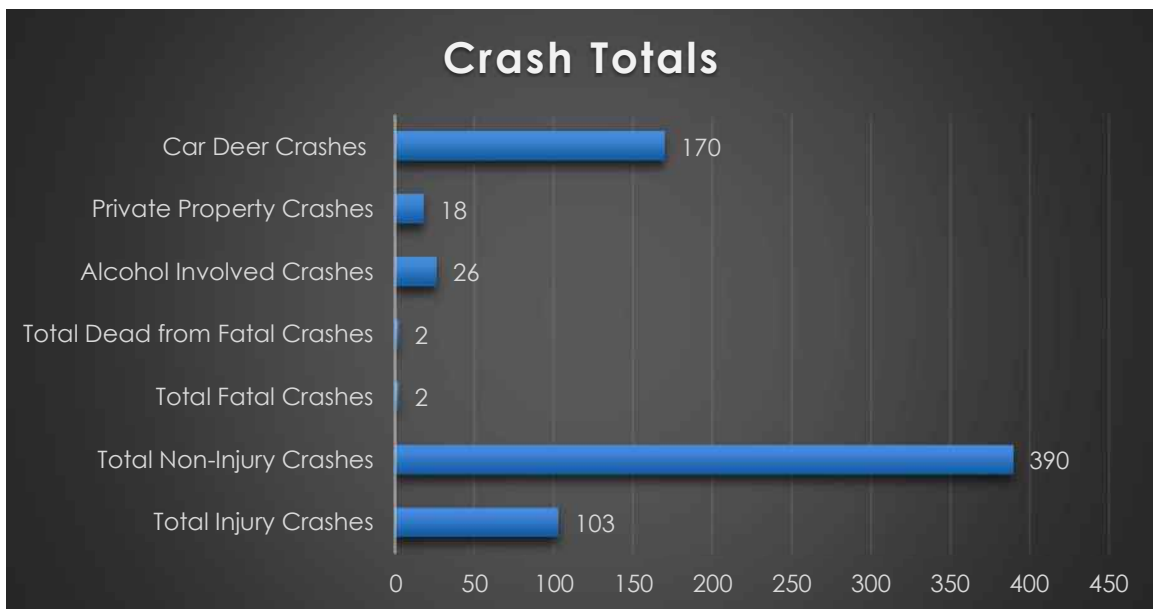
TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT

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.



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, Detective Carla Baucher, and Detective 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 2018, deputies handled 2 fatal traffic crashes resulting in 2 deaths on Mercer County roadways.



ENFORCEMENT

ALICE 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.

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 2018, the Mercer County Sheriff's Office held 14 training events.



ENFORCEMENT

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 2017-2018 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 2017-2018 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.

ENFORCEMENT

K-9 PROGRAM

Our K-9 Program consists of Deputy Kevin Wynk & his partner Deputy Franko and Deputy Patrick Forsthoefel & his partner Deputy Ossi. The Mercer County Sheriff's Office uses trained and controlled canines in support of law enforcement operations where the dog's superior sense of smell, hearing, and physical capabilities, can efficiently and effectively aid in the accomplishment of tactical objectives.



ENFORCEMENT

CRIME SCENE TRUCK

In 2018, a retired ambulance was purchased from Mercer Health and converted into a mobile crash reconstruction and crime scene truck. The ambulance was once used to transport patients to and from area hospitals, but now houses vital equipment used to solve crimes and reconstruct accidents.



Technology



I.T. Administrator Kory Hoffhines



I.T. Technician Ben Stoner

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

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

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.

NEW SOFTWARE

At the end of 2017, the contract with Spillman Technologies Inc. was signed for the purchase of new software to be implemented in May of 2019. This software would replace our EmergiTech Software, which is used throughout our agency and other local law enforcement agencies. The cost of this software, which includes yearly maintenance and equipment, was just over \$1.1 million dollars.

PROGRAMS, ORGANIZATIONS, & VOLUNTEERS

Programs, Organizations, & Volunteers

D.A.R.E. PROGRAM

"Officer Sue" and Deputy Bird are the Mercer County Sheriff's Office DARE deputies. Sue has been the DARE deputy for over 20 years. Deputy Bird joined Sue in August of 2017. 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 2018, Deputy Miller and Deputy Bird taught over 600 fifth grade students and more students in lower grades.



PROGRAMS, ORGANIZATIONS, & VOLUNTEERS

CHAPLIN PROGRAM

The Sheriff's Office Chaplain Program consists of Pastor Randy Christian and his wife Tricia, Pastor Darwin Dunten and his wife Polly, and several priests and brothers from the Precious Blood Ministries from Saint Charles Seminary. Pastor Randy and Tricia volunteer their time to minister to inmates in the Detention Facility, while Pastor Dunten and other clergy minister to deputies, and their families. All of the pastors and priests 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. Barb helps with filing, insurance requests, and assists with HR data entry. **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 hundreds of dollars annually.

EXPLORER PROGRAM

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"

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 U.S. Homeland Security. 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. Comm 9 is available upon request to all law enforcement, fire, EMS and EMA personnel in our seven county response area which includes Auglaize, Darke, Logan, Mercer, Paulding, Shelby, and Van Wert Counties in Ohio. Comm 9 is

PROGRAMS, ORGANIZATIONS, & VOLUNTEERS

also available to five Indiana counties of Adams, Allen, DeKalb, Jay, and Randolph for use if the need should arise.



PRESCRIPTION DRUG TAKE BACK INITIATIVE

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 2018, the Sheriff's Office participated in drug take back events, and continued the collection box located in the lobby at the Sheriff's Office. Through these events and the collections box, just over 285.59 pounds of prescription drugs were taken in and eventually turned over to the DEA for destruction.

DRUG TAKE-BACK EVENT

HOSTED BY THE
Mercer County Sheriff's Office
& Celina Police Department

April 28th, 2018
from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

The event will be located in the back parking lot of the **Celina Police Department**.
(The parking lot directly across the street from the main entrance of Celina Insurance Group).
We encourage the community to stop by and properly dispose of any unused or expired medications or prescription drugs.

Please aide us in ending the drug and opioid epidemic!

Celina Police Department
226 N Main St
Celina, OH 45822

**We request that you DO NOT
drop off Liquids Or Needles**

DRUG TAKE-BACK EVENT

HOSTED BY THE
Mercer County Sheriff's Office
& Fort Recovery Police Department

October 27th, 2018
from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

The event will be located at the **Fort Recovery Police Department** at Village Hall.

We encourage the community to stop by and properly dispose of any unused or expired medications or prescription drugs.

Please aide us in ending the drug and opioid epidemic!

Fort Recovery Police Department
261 South Main Street
Fort Recovery, OH 45846

**We request that you DO NOT
drop off Liquids Or Needles**

PROGRAMS, ORGANIZATIONS, & VOLUNTEERS

CITIZEN'S ACADEMY

In 2018, the Mercer County Sheriff's Office graduated its fourth citizen's academy. The classes took place from October 23, 2018 to November 15, 2018.

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.



PROGRAMS, ORGANIZATIONS, & VOLUNTEERS



PROGRAMS, ORGANIZATIONS, & VOLUNTEERS



PROGRAMS, ORGANIZATIONS, & VOLUNTEERS



FIGHTING THE HEROIN EPIDEMIC

Fighting the Heroin Epidemic

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

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 Coldwater PD 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

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.



FIGHTING THE HEROIN EPIDEMIC

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 & breath tests every person (who cooperates) that is booked into the facility. The Detention Facility ran 3,521 tests in 2018.

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 2018, a total of 5,715 eye scans were conducted. Total number of eye scans that resulted in a urine drug test was 353, in which 23 failed the test.

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.

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.

Brianna's Hope - A Better Life: Brianna's hope is a participant driven, faith-based, and compassion filled addiction support and recovery group. Their mission is to provide hope through Christ to individuals and communities battling addiction using support, encouragement, and collaboration.

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.

FIGHTING THE HEROIN EPIDEMIC

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.

2018 MERCER COUNTY FAIR

2018 Mercer County Fair



2018 MERCER COUNTY FAIR



2018 MERCER COUNTY FAIR



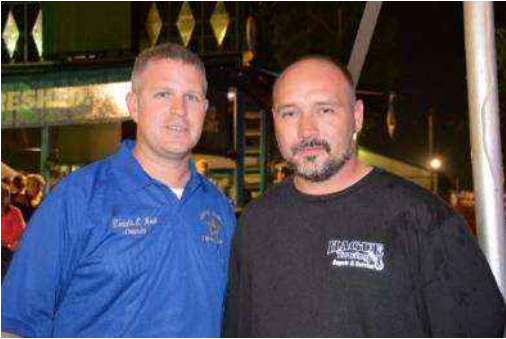
2018 MERCER COUNTY FAIR



2018 MERCER COUNTY FAIR



2018 MERCER COUNTY FAIR



CHAPLAIN MEET & GREET

Chaplain Meet & Greet



CHAPLAIN MEET & GREET



HISTORY OF THE OHIO SHERIFF

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

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

HISTORY OF THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE & JAIL

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

Conclusion

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 2018, and we look forward to serving our community in 2019.

INTEGRITY

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

SERVICE

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

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

RESPONSIBILITY

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.



CONTACT INFORMATION

Contact Information

Mercer County Sheriff's Office
4835 State Route 29, Celina OH 45822

Tel 419-586-7724

Fax 419-586-2234

www.mercercountysheriff.org

DIRECT PHONE LINES:

Civil Division:

Phone: 419-586-5770

Fax: 419-586-2234

Detention Facility:

Phone: 419-586-5753

Fax: 419-586-9142

Patrol Division:

Phone: 419-586-7724

Fax: 419-586-2234

Central Dispatch:

Phone: 419-586-7724

Fax: 419-586-1979