

# 2022 ANNUAL REPORT



## *MISSION STATEMENT*

The mission of the Vermilion Police Department is to maintain social order and provide professional law enforcement services to citizens in the community, within prescribed ethical, budgetary, and constitutional constraints. This agency strives to enforce the law and maintain order in a fair and impartial manner, recognizing the need for justice, and consistent appearance of justice. The Chief of Police recognizes that no law enforcement agency can operate at its maximum potential without supportive input from the citizens it serves. This agency actively solicits and encourages the cooperation of all citizens to reduce and limit the opportunities for crime and to assist in bringing to justice those that break the law.

## Vermilion Police Department Objectives Statement

The following objectives have been established to accomplish the mission within the budgetary and manpower constraints imposed on the agency:

- A. **Protect Life and Property:** To provide services that contribute to the preservation of life, the protection of property, and the safety of the community.
- B. **Maintain Public Order:** To maintain peace and public order. To assist during times of natural or technological disasters and/or other critical incidents. To provide for the safe and effective flow of both vehicular and pedestrian traffic and the investigation of traffic related accidents.
- C. **Prevent, Detect and Investigate Criminal Activity:** To prevent crime through active and coordinated patrols that limit the opportunity for a crime to occur, and through education of citizens that reduces the likelihood of them becoming victims of crime. To provide a thorough, appropriate, and efficient investigation of criminal activity.
- D. **Apprehension of Offenders:** To provide for the expeditious and prudent apprehension of suspected violators of the law, regardless of an individual's status in the community.
- E. **Community Service:** To provide the resources necessary for assisting citizens under special non-criminal circumstances.
- F. **Compliance with Ethical Standards and Professionalism:** To ensure integrity and adherence to the professional standards of the Agency by investigating all complaints against Agency personnel. To provide for the training needs of officers and promote a high rate of proficiency in the officers of the Agency. To address the career development goals of agency personnel.

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To: Mayor/Safety Director Forthofer  
City Council  
From: Chief Christopher Hartung  
Date: 4/15/2023  
Ref: 2022 Annual Report

2022 saw many personnel changes in the Vermilion Police Department. Sgt. Dean Mayer retired after 32 years of service. His position was replaced with Drew Davis's promotion to sergeant. Kyle John was then hired to fill the patrol vacancy. Officer Kinzie Chandler became the School Resource Officer and Officers Beckwith and Sargent returned to road duties. Sergeant Kopniske and Officer Beckwith joined Officer Sargent as new members of the Lorain County SWAT team.

In addition to completing the Ohio Attorney General's mandated Continuing Professional Training for all sworn officers, the department sent: new Sgt. Drew Davis to the First Line Supervisor's Course, Officer Ben Sargent attended Field Training Officer course, Officer Beckwith and Sgt. Davis attended Bike Officer school, Officer Ben Sargent also completed certification as a Watercraft Officer through the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. Sgt. Holmes recertified as a Voice Stress Analyst and attended the Great Lakes Leadership Seminar.

In late 2022, the department received five of the six new cruisers that were ordered at the beginning of the year (the new Canine Unit arrived in January 2023). The department's front-line patrol cruisers are all Ford Explorers. The Detective Bureau still drives the Taurus models but all other department owned Taurus cruisers have been decommissioned and transferred to other City departments or were sold on GovDeals.com (an online auction for governmental property).

Many thanks go to Mayor / Safety Director Jim Forthofer, Finance Director Amy Hendricks and City Council for their efforts to build a new Police Station. The required ordinances were submitted to and passed by City Council and the architectural specifications went out for bid in late 2022. We are currently moving ahead with the selected architectural firm with input from our "New Building Committee", Sgt. Holmes, Communications Supervisor Lulovics and Officer Nick Kowal.

We look forward to another great year serving the citizens of Vermilion by providing a safe environment to live and work.

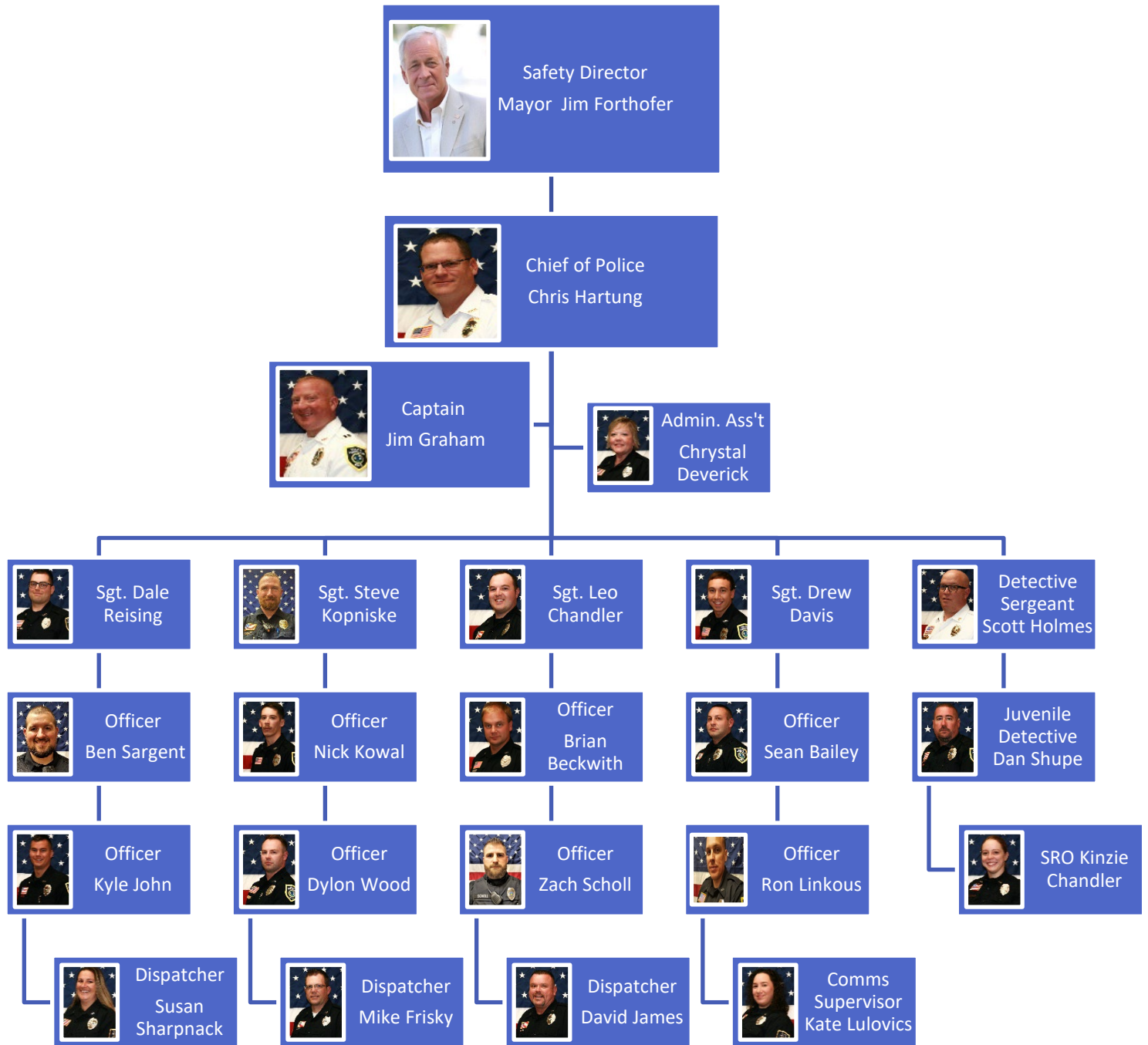
Respectfully,



Christopher J. Hartung  
Chief of Police  
Vermilion Police Department

# Vermilion Police Department

## Full-time Roster



# Vermilion Police Department

## Part-time Roster

Officers	Dispatchers
Michael Fink	Lori Spreng
Van Mis	Jenna Heery
Robert Kish	Jennifer Kuehn
Randall Krichbaum Jr	Kaitlyn Fannin
Travis Murphy	Ryan Snyder
Marshall Murphy	Larry Miller Jr
Ben Chrapczynski	Courtney Kovalan
Chris Lewis	
Emily Cobb	

Essential for sound budgeting is the deployment of Part Time Officers and Dispatchers. By subtracting vacation, holiday, personal time and average sick time from 2080 hours per full time employee, you have a base line of time that needs to be covered.

Using part time labor, the overtime costs are half of what they would be without them. Part Time employees offer a cost savings measure that allows us to continue to staff without breaking the bank. With the rising cost of labor, more reliance will be made in the future on part time employees to help curb costs. While part time employees are almost 50% of the staffing, they represent a small percentage of the total budget.

Part-time staff attend the same training as their full-time counterparts. They perform the same basic duties of the officer or dispatcher that they are replacing.

Part-time staff are mandated to work 12 hours per month to maintain proficiency in all areas of the job.

## **Patrol Officer Ronald Linkous III receives proclamation for saving woman from house fire.**

Mayor Jim Forthofer recognized Officer Linkous for his quick actions in rescuing Nicole Skinner from her burning home.

The fire occurred about 3am on November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Officer Linkous responded to the structure fire call and found the house in flames. He observed a young boy standing outside crying. He then saw the boy's mother in the window of a house. He stepped onto the gas meter to access the window and was able to reach through and grab the woman, bringing her to safety.



Pictured from left to right:  
Officer Ronald Linkous III, Nicole Skinner, Mayor Jim Forthofer

Detective Sergeant Scott Holmes received high praise from Lorain County Prosecutor J.D. Tomlinson. With perseverance and exemplary police work, Detective Holmes was able to connect and, in conjunction with the Lorain County Prosecutor's Office, subsequently charge two drug dealers with the overdose death of a Vermilion resident.



Pictured: Prosecutor JD Tomlinson  
and VPD Detective Sergeant Scott Holmes.

CALLS FOR SERVICE					
Call Types	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Animal Complaints	190	202	297	283	260
Assaults	16	18	24	25	32
B&E and Burglaries	22	23	49	33	27
Civil Matters	113	146	162	162	159
Criminal Damaging	7	28	23	17	24
Disabled Motor Vehicle	75	133	115	108	121
Disturbances	158	151	241	195	194
Domestic Violence	73	79	68	63	98
Fraud	71	88	53	56	83
Harassment / Menacing	91	84	63	112	121
Juvenile Complaints	190	175	264	239	285
Lockouts	182	174	112	196	215
Damaged-Lost-Found Property	125	100	115	124	126
Mental Health Concerns	8	11	15	13	12
Missing Persons	9	9	14	11	12
Narcotics Complaints	20	27	46	21	43
Neighbor Troubles	48	50	31	47	44
Noise Complaints	64	79	97	83	76
Overdose	6	16	21	12	25
Overdose – Fatal*	0	3	2	3	1
Parking Complaints	167	219	150	197	183
Railroad Complaints	55	60	40	41	79
Robbery	0	2	1	0	1
Sex Offenses	5	10	8	13	20
Suicidal Subject	36	30	37	41	59
Suspicious Activities	218	310	503	423	592
Thefts & Vehicle Entries	98	76	141	117	238
Trespassing	39	27	49	34	66
Weapons Offenses	7	13	22	20	26
Welfare/Concern	194	248	193	203	180

This table is a snapshot of our most frequent call types. The calls listed above had officers dispatched and *may or may not* have resulted in incident reports being written or arrests made.

\*Indicates only incidents where officers responded to locations within City limits and subject was deceased upon officers' arrival or is pronounced deceased on scene.

GENERAL STATISTICS					
Description	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Adult Citations	1097	1,488	1,048	1,781	1,483
Juvenile Citations	51	39	61	73	89
Total Citations	1148	1,527	1,109	1,854	1,572
Traffic Crashes	123	141	98	119	117
Private Property Crashes	32	39	30	36	34
Incident Reports	1,922	2,324	1743	2,161	2,036
Calls for Service	27,014	31,856	39,288	39,891	39,000
^Business Checks	6,352	6,835	8,496	9,111	9,500
^House Checks	846	1,361	2,875	1,832	3,009

^ included in the Calls for Service Totals.

# VERMILION POLICE DEPARTMENT

## USE OF FORCE

### DEFINITIONS AND STATISTICS

- **Hands on** – An incident in which the Officer was required to employ some measure of physical contact in order to subdue a suspect. The most common form of force employed.
- **OC/pepper spray** – An incident in which the officer deployed pepper spray to gain compliance.
- **TASER Display** – An incident in which an officer displays the TASER as a measure to gain compliance from a suspect.
- **TASER Drive Stun** – An incident in which the officer uses the TASER without the probes/cartridge being attached and discharged.
- **TASER Full Deployment** – An incident where the TASER is discharged and the probes are fired.
- **Use of an impact weapon** – An incident in which an ASP expandable baton, PR-24 baton or flashlight is used for strikes to gain compliance or used for joint manipulation holds.
- **Display of a Firearm** – Firearm is pointed at a suspect or even removed from the holster. Most common examples are a report in which a weapon is being used or possessed or a felony traffic stop.
- **Discharge of a firearm** – A firearm is used in an incident of force.

<i><b>Description</b></i>	<i><b>2022</b></i>	<i><b>2021</b></i>	<i><b>2020</b></i>	<i><b>2019</b></i>	<i><b>2018</b></i>	<i><b>2017</b></i>
Total Incidents*	14	17	19	17	18	18
Hands On	8	13	14	15	11	8
OC / Pepper Spray	0	0	0	0	0	0
TASER Display	3	1	4	2	4	4
TASER Drive Stun	0	0	0	0	1	0
TASER Full Deployment	1	0	0	0	0	0
Use of an Impact Weapon	0	0	0	0	0	0
Display of a Firearm	6	7	6	2	6	7
Discharge of a Firearm	0	0	0	0	0	0

\*Please note that Total Incidents indicates only the number of incidents where Use of Force was implemented. More than one type of force may be used in any incident. For example, if an officer is unable to gain compliance being Hands On, another officer may implement OC/Pepper Spray or Display the TASER.

# Vermilion Police Department Dispatch Center



Dispatchers are the sorters and senders of the department. They filter and disseminate a large volume of calls, sending Police, Fire and EMS to the appropriate destinations. They handle a large volume of paperwork and send it to the court as well as maintaining all data entry and records keeping. The dispatcher also provides a critical service by filtering calls. Dispatchers can answer many questions quickly leaving the patrol officers to focus on their duties.

The Vermilion Police Department operates on 4 full-time shifts, biweekly. Each dispatcher is assigned to a shift along with a Sergeant and 2 patrol officers.

**Communications Supervisor Kate M. Lulovics:**

Supervisor Lulovics began her career with Vermilion Police Department in 2004 as an intern with Leadership Lorain County. Once her summer internship concluded, she was offered a part time position in 2004. After completing Civil Service testing, she accepted a full-time dispatch position in 2006. In 2011, Mrs. Lulovics was promoted to Communications Supervisor. In addition to dispatching, her additional duties include overseeing all dispatching duties for police, fire, and EMS dispatchers, maintaining 911 training, monthly FBI NIBRS reporting, administrator for CAD system, and she is the Terminal Agency Coordinator for LEADS. Mrs. Lulovics holds an Associate in Police Science from LCCC and a bachelor's in criminal justice from Youngstown State University.

**Dispatcher David James:**

David James was hired as a full-time dispatcher from the Civil Service eligibility list in 2011. David retired as a Chief in the US Coast Guard. He was last assigned to the Lorain Coast Guard Station. In addition to his dispatch duties, David also assists Captain Graham with managing the maintenance of the department's Harbor Patrol Unit.

**Dispatcher Susan Sharpnack:**

Susan Sharpnack started her career with Vermilion Police Department as a part-time dispatcher in 2015. In 2016, she was hired as a full-time dispatcher from the Civil Service Eligibility list. Dispatcher Sharpnack's additional duties includes double checking arrest entries for errors.

**Dispatcher Michael Frisky:**

Michael Frisky was hired as a part-time dispatcher in 2015. Through Civil Service examination, he was hired as a full-time dispatcher in 2020. Mr. Frisky has worked for the Vermilion Fire Department since 2006. Dispatcher Frisky's additional duties include entering expungements and maintenance of the warrant files.

# Vermilion Police Department

## Patrol Division



Patrol Office and  
Interview Room



Evidence Processing &  
Part-time Patrol lockers



Patrol Office mailboxes  
and door to lobby



Booking room bench

The patrol officer is the first responder of the Department. They will be the first on scene for any call and have the responsibility to identify and resolve whatever problem they are faced with. Most cases begin and end with the patrol division. They make the most personal contacts of any member of the department.

Rank	Name	Serving Since	Additional Assignments
Corporal	Sean Bailey	2011	
Patrol Officer	Brian Beckwith	2015	SWAT
Patrol Officer	Dylon Wood	2016	Range Officer / Field Training Officer
Patrol Officer	Nick Kowal	2016	US Marshal's Task Force
Patrol Officer	Ron Linkous	2019	
Patrol Officer	Ben Sargent	2019	Field Training Officer / SWAT
Patrol Officer	Zach Scholl	2020	Range Officer
Patrol Officer	Kyle John	2021	

# Vermilion Police Department

## Sergeants



The four road sergeants share this office. Each has their own filing cabinet for their records. There is typically only one sergeant on duty at a time so overcrowding is not an issue the majority of the time. However, storage space is difficult to come by in most areas of the station but we have made the most of what is available.

Sergeants are known as the “Backbone of the Army” and hold a status no less prestigious in a Police Department. Sergeants are responsible for receiving and implementing the commander’s intent. They are responsible for mentoring, training and overseeing the road operations of the department as well as providing purpose, motivation and direction to those who serve under them. Sergeants are tasked with the responsibility of supervision while still assuming a patrol function.

The Patrol Sergeants for the Vermilion Police Department are:

**Sgt. Dale Reising**: STEP\*, Ohio Cyber Reserve, Internet Crimes Against Children Investigator, Bike Patrol

**Sgt. Leo Chandler**: STEP\*, K9 handler (Falon)

**Sgt. Steve Kopniske**: STEP\*, Bike Patrol

**Sgt. Drew Davis**: Enrolled in STEP\* 2023, Bike Patrol

Sergeants are assigned additional duties beyond their road patrol duties to enhance the department’s capabilities. Some of these duties include but are not limited to vehicle maintenance and mileage reporting, vehicle service scheduling, overseeing part-time patrol officers for training, vacant home watch records maintenance, digital imaging maintenance and storage.

STEP\* Supervisor Training & Education Program

# Vermilion Police Department

## Fleet Program

Unit #	Year and Make	Mileage	Officer Assignment	Maintenance Costs
801	2019 Explorer	83,753	Ptl. Z. Scholl	\$673.16
802	2015 Taurus	122,240	Ptl. N. Forrider	\$363.16
803	2015 Taurus	135,354	Ptl. B. Sargent	\$3,501.86
804	2015 Taurus	86,987	Ptl. D. Wood	\$622.07
805	2019 Explorer	31,987	Sgt. D. Reising	\$1,958.25
806	2019 Explorer	27,036	Cpl. S. Bailey	\$486.41
807	15 Interceptor	89,482	Ptl. N. Kowal	\$4,063.28
808	2019 Explorer	48,439	Sgt. S. Kopniske	\$1,262.86
809	2014 Taurus	98,673	Ptl. B. Beckwith	\$472.97
810	2019 Explorer	41,463	Sgt. D. Davis	\$1,550.65
814	16 Ford Explorer	87,388	Sgt. L. Chandler / K9	\$2,760.35
816	2019 Explorer	86,733	Ptl. R. Linkous & K. John	\$2,339.14
835	2014 Taurus	107,176	Detective Sgt S. Holmes	\$2,552.59
837	2014 Taurus	92,961	Detective Cpl. D. Shupe	\$1,379.59
838	2015 Taurus	117,243	Part-time Officers / SRO	\$2,525.79

Maintenance includes all major and minor repairs, oil changes, tires, body work and miscellaneous repair parts, including, but not limited to: wiper blades, headlight bulbs and fuses.

**\*Please note that vehicles may be reassigned to different officers throughout the year based on extended absences, separation from employer, new hires or reassignment of duties.**

# Vermilion Police Department

## Detective Bureau



The Detective Bureau is responsible for investigations. They take over major investigations and see them through to prosecution as well as handle juvenile matters, court transports and cover routine calls for service when needed. A critical task of detective bureaus is the tracking and identifying of crime trends that affect the community. Once these trends are identified, Detectives also play a large role in intelligence gathering and dissemination to patrol units.

### **Detective Sergeant Scott Holmes:**

Sergeant Holmes began his career with Vermilion Police Department in 2001 as a patrol officer. In 2011, he began the process of becoming the K9 officer for the department. In addition to his K9 duties, Sgt. Holmes became the department's range officer. In 2015, he was promoted to Sergeant. In 2020, Sgt. Holmes was assigned to supervise the Detective Bureau, relinquishing his K9 handler duties when his last partner, Miro, retired. Sgt Holmes is a STEP graduate, CLEE graduate and holds an associate degree in criminal justice.

### **Corporal Dan Shupe:**

Dan Shupe was hired as a full-time officer in 2001. Corporal Shupe has been a range officer, an SRO and is the current Juvenile Officer for the department. His duties include processing juvenile arrests and liaising with Erie and Lorain County Juvenile Courts. He is also responsible for investigating cases involving juvenile victims. He assists Sgt. Holmes with evidence labeling, storage and submission for testing at other agencies.

# **The Vermilion Police Department**

## **Detective Bureau**

### **2022 Year in Review**

- **THEFT:** an investigation was conducted after a local business had several business checks stolen by a caretaker and cashed at local banks. The total combined amount of the fraudulent checks was over \$17,000. The suspect was identified, charged, and indicted for multiple counts of felony theft and forgery. The case is pending at the ECCP Court.
- **CPO VIOLATION:** after investigation, the suspect was charged with multiple counts of violations of a CPO and Menacing by Stalking.
- **CASINO GAMING VIOLATIONS:** The Detective Bureau assisted the Ohio Casino Control Commission in the investigation and execution of a search warrant at the 777 gaming room on Liberty Avenue. The owner of the business was indicted by the Erie County Grand Jury for a ten-count indictment: (1) Engaging in a Pattern of Corrupt Activity, (3) Casino Gaming Violations, (3) Money Laundering and (3) Operating a Gambling House. The case is pending at the ECCP Court.
- **BREAKING AND ENTERING:** Investigation conducted into a breaking and entering incident at a local gas station. The suspects were identified as a team that was working throughout the northern Ohio area conducting the same types of crimes.
- **THEFT:** Investigation conducted for credit cards stolen out of a purse while at a local business and then used for fraudulent purchases throughout the area.
- **RUNAWAY JUVENILE:** Juvenile eventually located and returned home.
- **THEFT:** Two male suspects entered a delivery truck in the parking lot of a local gas station while the driver was inside making a delivery. The suspects stole over \$1000 of cigarette cartons from the truck and fled the scene in a vehicle. A patrol car from a neighboring agency was passing the location during this incident and was able to conduct a traffic stop. The two suspects were arrested and charged with felony theft.
- **OVERDOSE:** A death investigation was started after a 22-year-old male died from a Fentanyl overdose. After a very lengthy investigation and the assistance of several local, state and federal law enforcement agencies, two local suspects were indicted and arrested for Involuntary Manslaughter (F1), Corrupting Another with Drugs (F2) and Trafficking in Fentanyl (F5). The cases are currently pending in the Lorain County Common Pleas Court.
- **DRUG TRAFFICKING:** An investigation was conducting regarding drug trafficking from a motel room in a local motel. A search warrant was executed on this motel room. Fentanyl, crack cocaine, cocaine, methamphetamine, and counterfeit prescription pills (fentanyl) were seized. The two suspects were arrested and indicted for multiple felony drug related crimes. The cases are still pending in the ECCP Court.

- **CPO VIOLATIONS:** An investigation was conducted into a repeat CPO violations incident. The suspect was identified, charged and indicted for felony charges of CPO Violation and Menacing by Stalking. The case is pending in ECCP Court.
- **CASINO GAMING VIOLATIONS:** The Detective Bureau assisted the Ohio Casino Control Commission in the investigation and execution of a search warrant at the Jo Jo's Game Room on Liberty Avenue. The owner of the business was indicted by the Erie County Grand Jury for a ten-count indictment: (1) Engaging in a Pattern of Corrupt Activity, (3) Casino Gaming Violations, (3) Money Laundering and (3) Operating a Gambling House. The case is pending at the ECCP Court.
- **CASINO GAMING VIOLATIONS:** The Detective Bureau assisted the Ohio Casino Control Commission and the Lorain County Prosecutor's Office in the investigation and execution of a search warrant at the Lucky Day game room on Liberty Avenue. The owner of the business was indicted by the Lorain County Grand Jury for a seven-count indictment: (2) Engaging in a Pattern of Corrupt Activity, (4) Casino Gaming Violations, and (1) Money Laundering. The case is pending at the LCCP Court.
- **THEFT:** after investigation, the suspect was identified. A large amount of stolen property was recovered. There is an active warrant for the suspect in this case.
- **SEX OFFENSE:** A lengthy juvenile sex offense investigation was conducted. The suspect was identified and indicted by the Erie County Grand Jury for four counts of Rape and two counts of Gross Sexual Imposition. The case is pending in the ECCP Court.
- **ASSAULT:** An investigation was conducted into an incident that occurred at a juvenile house party. The case investigation was sent to the Lorain County Prosecutor's Office for review. A decision from the LCPO is pending.
- **FRAUD:** after investigation, a suspect was identified, charged, and arrested for felony and misdemeanor theft charges for the theft and fraudulent use of a credit card.

Throughout the year, the Detective Bureau assisted with investigating five non-fatal narcotics overdoses, which is a substantial decline from sixteen in 2021. In those five overdose incidents, officers utilized Naloxone nasal spray to temporarily halt the effects of the overdose and potentially saved lives. There were also five investigations conducted regarding drug trafficking. The Detectives assisted in three death investigations, including the one narcotic overdose death. The Detective Bureau conducted eight different sex offense investigations and five Internet Crimes Against Children (child pornography) investigations throughout the year. The Detective Bureau assisted with the investigations of three different incidents that involved weapons offenses.

# Vermilion Police Department School Resource Officer

Officer Kinzie Chandler is the VPD School Resource Officer serving the Vermilion Local Schools District. She attended School Resource Officer training school to become certified as an SRO.

Officer Chandler is involved in many aspects of the schools and divides her time between all three schools as well as some after school activities. Officer Chandler is the resident officer for Safetytown.



SRO Chandler and students at Sailorway Middle School



Cpl. Shupe, SRO Chandler and Det. Sgt. Holmes prepare hotdogs for 8<sup>th</sup> grade student orientation at VHS (sponsored by FOP Lodge 125)



SRO Chandler (right) and Sgt. Chandler (left) pass out candy at VES' Trunk or Treat night.



Article from Vermilion PhotoJournal  
published July 2022

Children recently took part in Vermilion's Safety Town program.

Provided photo/CITY OF VERMILION

# Vermilion's Safety Town graduates 66

**By JIM FORTHOFFER**

Mayor of Vermilion

## VERMILION

Vermilion Safety Town recently completed its 47th year.

It is one of the only two-week Safety Town programs

in the area.

On June 24, the city of Vermilion Safety Town graduated 66 children between the ages of 4 and 6 who are now better-prepared citizens for the experience.

Over the two-week course, the two daily classes of 33

children each were taught bike safety, how to safely cross the street and how and when to call 911. There were also K-9 demonstrations, police cruiser rides, and kids were able to help squirt a fire hose.

"The program is dedicated to helping raise safety awareness in our community's little ones," Vermilion's Safety Town director Kate Lulovics said. She is also the city police department's communications supervisor. "We spend a lot of time on each topic and always send each child home with an art project or informational pamphlet so their families can be involved as well."

People can contact Lulovics at 440-967-6116 or [klulovics@vermilionpolice.com](mailto:klulovics@vermilionpolice.com) for more information.



# Vermilion Police Department

## Canine Unit: Sgt Chandler & Falon

The Vermilion PD K-9 Unit is comprised of Sgt. Chandler and K-9 Falon. K-9 Falon is a 4-year-old German Shepherd that joined the VPD on 4/6/20. K-9 Falon is certified in narcotics detection, tracking, article search and patrol duties. Patrol duties include handler protection, building and area searches, and criminal apprehension.

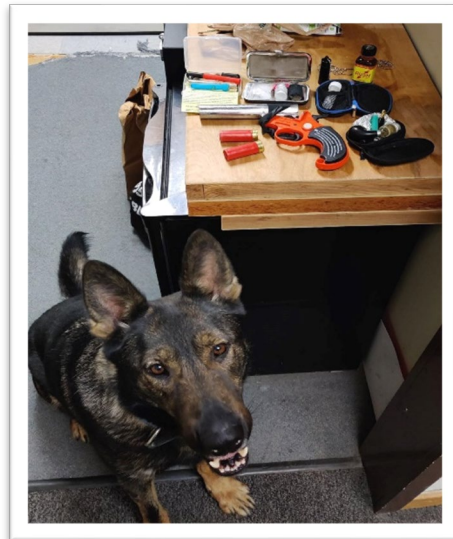
Sgt. Chandler and K-9 Falon conducted 288 hours of K-9 training in 2022 and recertified as a K-9/Handler team in July of 2022. The VPD K-9 Unit trains with many different local K-9 Units on a weekly basis to remain proficient in their duties.

The VPD K-9 Unit assisted the Patrol Division with many different incidents throughout 2022 and assisted other area Law Enforcement Agencies with mutual aid 20 times. The K-9 Unit conducted 42 “Free Air” Vehicle Narcotics Sniffs” of vehicles in various circumstances throughout the year resulting in numerous drug offense arrests.

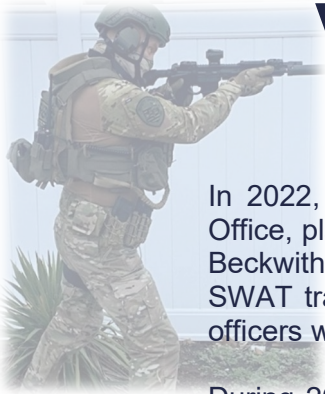
The VPD K-9 Unit conducted (9) K-9 Narcotics Sweep at area schools in 2022. The K-9 Unit has a very close working relationship with the Vermilion School District and conducts K-9 Narcotics Sweeps in the schools on a random basis in an effort to help maintain that the Vermilion Schools remain drug free. The K-9 Unit also assists other agencies with coordinated K-9 Narcotics Sweeps of area schools. The K-9 Unit conducted approximately (38) K-9 Foot Patrols in different areas of the City requiring extra patrol. The K-9 Unit conducted (3) area searches and conducted (4) suspect tracks culminating in the arrests of all (7) suspects. Falon and his handler also tracked and located (1) missing person.



Sgt. Chandler and K9 Falon provide a demo for the SafetyTown students during their visit to the police station.



K9 Falon poses with items confiscated after “alerting” during a traffic stop.



# Vermilion Police Department Lorain County SWAT

In 2022, the Vermilion Police Department in conjunction with Lorain County Sheriff's Office, placed two new members on the Swat Team. Sgt. Steve Kopniske and Ptl. Brian Beckwith joined Ptl. Ben Sargent as SWAT Team members. Both attended a three-day SWAT training conducted by LCSO SWAT personnel. Additional training for all three officers was received in accordance with the LCSO SWAT monthly training schedule.

During 2022, the Lorain County SWAT team was activated approximately 12 times for search warrants in conjunction with multiple agencies, both local and federal, with firearms and narcotics being seized. The team was also emergency activated twice with both situations being resolved prior to the team's arrival on scene. The Lorain County SWAT Team was also activated to provide support to the security teams during President Biden's visit to Lorain.

## Vermilion Police Department Harbor Patrol Program



Watercraft Activities						
	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
Total hours of operation	660.5	656	545.5	578*	260	343
Vessel safety inspections	82	68	232	299	220	204
Spot checks conducted	85	81	72	7	126	98
Written warnings	106	161	90	228	245	224
Citations issued	2	1	15	10	13	10
Boat crashes investigated	0	0	2	2	5	0
Search & Rescue	5	6	8	23	15	14
Vessels Assisted	5	8	22	26	25	12
Investigated Incidents	9	3	12	37	24	16

*\*Increase in Total hours of operation is due to reporting total man hours worked instead of reporting only the boat operation hours, per ODNR reporting standards*

The Vermilion Marine Patrol Unit is supervised by Harbormaster Captain Jim Graham and is comprised of 7 state-certified Marine Patrol Officers and 3 civilian boat operators. The Marine Patrol Unit is operational primarily from Memorial Day through Labor Day but extends patrols longer into the boating season as the budget permits. The Marine Patrol Unit conducts random patrols during weekdays and extended patrols during the weekends.

The Marine Patrol Unit covers the Vermilion River and 64,120 acres of Lake Erie consisting of waters from the eastern to the city's western borders and extending 8 miles North into the Lake. The waters of Vermilion contain approximately 3,000 boat docks, 13 marinas, 7 launch ramps, hundreds of private docks, and numerous private beaches and restaurants.

The primary function of the Marine Patrol Unit is to ensure the safety of all people who are enjoying the waters and beaches of Vermilion, by providing patrols inspections, and educational contacts. The Marine Patrol Unit is equipped for any emergency situations that may arise at any time day or night and often provides mutual aid for surrounding jurisdictions.

The Marine Patrol Unit is also utilized for specialized functions such as the NASBLA-sponsored Operation Dry Water, regattas, boat parades, Festival of the Fish events, fishing tournaments, sailing tournaments, Homeland Security details, and fireworks.

All Marine Patrol Unit officers receive yearly training and updates for the successful operation of the police boat. This training includes operations and navigation skills and laws, rules, and regulation updates.

With approximately 75% of all wages coming from the ODNR Marine Patrol Grant, the Marine Patrol Unit represents great value to the Vermilion community.



**Harbor Master  
Captain Jim Graham**



Sgt. Holmes and Operator Kleinhans pass out ice cream coupons children who followed safe boating practices by wearing their pfd's (personal flotation devices).



From the 1990's to today, our staff and boats have changed but patrolling the City of Vermilion's Lake Erie Shoreline and the Vermilion River remains a summertime priority for our department in conjunction with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources.

# Vermilion Police Department Chaplain Program



Chaplain Cooper ready to ride-a-long with an on-duty officer.

Chaplain Jim Cooper became our Police Chaplain in 2017. He completed an FBI sponsored online Death Notification Class and received Chaplain Training through Elyria Police Department.

In 2022, he attended the Ohio Tactical Officers' Association training in Sandusky, Ohio, assisted with our annual Defensive Tactics and Range Qualification trainings and participated in additional Chaplain training. He also attended Psychological First Aid training through the Red Cross Training for Emergency and Disaster Response Workers program.

Chaplain Cooper completed over 100 Check-ins with departmental staff and 19 Ride-a-longs. He was called out to assist the department 13 times during 2022. Those call outs Included assisting with death notifications, accompanying officers on deceased subject calls, mediation attempts and assisting citizens. Chaplain Cooper was on site during the multiple day recovery process of a drowning victim and was able to provide comfort to the grieving family members at the scene of the loss.

In 2022, Chaplain Cooper was once again able to attend many community events including the Festival of Fish and Woollybear, as well as school sporting events and dances.

Chaplain Cooper and his home church, Harbourtown Community Church, sponsor the department's award ceremony honoring department members for outstanding service.

# Vermilion Police Department

## 2022 Awards Ceremony

**Please note that while the ceremony was held in 2022, the commendable events all occurred in 2021.**

The 2021 Smolka Bridge repair project affected all areas of the city. Vermilion Police staff did an outstanding job coming up with original solutions to the problems presented by the bridge closure.

### **Sergeant Steve Kopniske, Officer Sean Bailey and Officer Ron Linkous**

Dispatch received a call of a subject entering a vehicle. Officers made contact with James Thompson who drove away and fled on foot to a golf course. Officers continued to monitor and although Thompson evaded capture, officer diligence started a case that led to a dangerous subject being taken off the streets.

### **Sergeant Leo Chandler and Officer Zach Scholl**

Officers responded to a Domestic Violence call involving a subject with a firearm. Upon arrival, officers encountered the subject with a firearm. Officers were able to use patience and de-escalation skills to bring a highly volatile situation to a successful conclusion.

### **Sergeant Drew Davis and Officer Travis Murphy**

During a welfare check, officers were able to locate a deceased subject even though he had collapsed into a frozen ornamental pond and was covered with snow.

### **Sergeant Scott Homes and Corporal Dan Shupe**

Diligence and follow through while coordinating with multiple agencies led to the arrest of James Thompson.

### **Officer Sean Bailey**

A letter from a local resident states that over the years she has had problems with her son. Although many officers have tried, Officer Bailey is the only officer ever to get through to him and is the only time he cried, apologized, and asked for help.

### **Dispatcher Susan Sharpnack**

Dispatch handled 12 calls from the same subject over the course of 2 days. Dispatcher Sharpnack remained professional and gathered valuable info that became part of an attempted murder case.

### **Communications Supervisor Lulovics**

Dispatcher Lulovics was the dispatcher that took the call for the James Thompson incident. She did an excellent job gathering info and dispatching during the incident.

### **Corporal Dan Shupe**

After working with multiple agencies, Officer Shupe was able to bring an investigation regarding a bomb threat made to the Sailorway Middle School to a successful conclusion by getting a confession from the suspect. The subject also confessed to threats made to other schools outside our jurisdiction

### **Officer Randall Krichbaum**

A letter from Joe Wheeler states that while his vehicle was stranded in the snow, Officer Krichbaum went above and beyond to assure his safety and helped him free his vehicle.

### **Dispatcher Lori Spreng**

Dispatcher Spreng received a call from a barricaded subject who was involved in a domestic violence incident with a subject armed with a firearm. Spreng remained calm with the caller and provided officers with needed info.

In a time when the dispatching staff was depleted by covid and maternity leave, Dispatcher Spreng really stepped up to fill shifts.

### **Dispatcher/Watercraft Operator Dave James**

Dispatcher James showed great skill and professionalism in watercraft training and assisting with operations and maintenance of the harbor patrol unit.

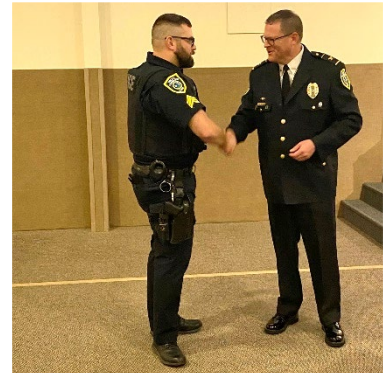
Sgt. Holmes & Chief Hartung



Sgt. Kopniske & Chief Hartung



Sgt. Reising & Chief Hartung



Sgt. Chandler & Chief Hartung



Ptl. Scholl & Chief Hartung



Ptl. Krichbaum & Chief Hartung

