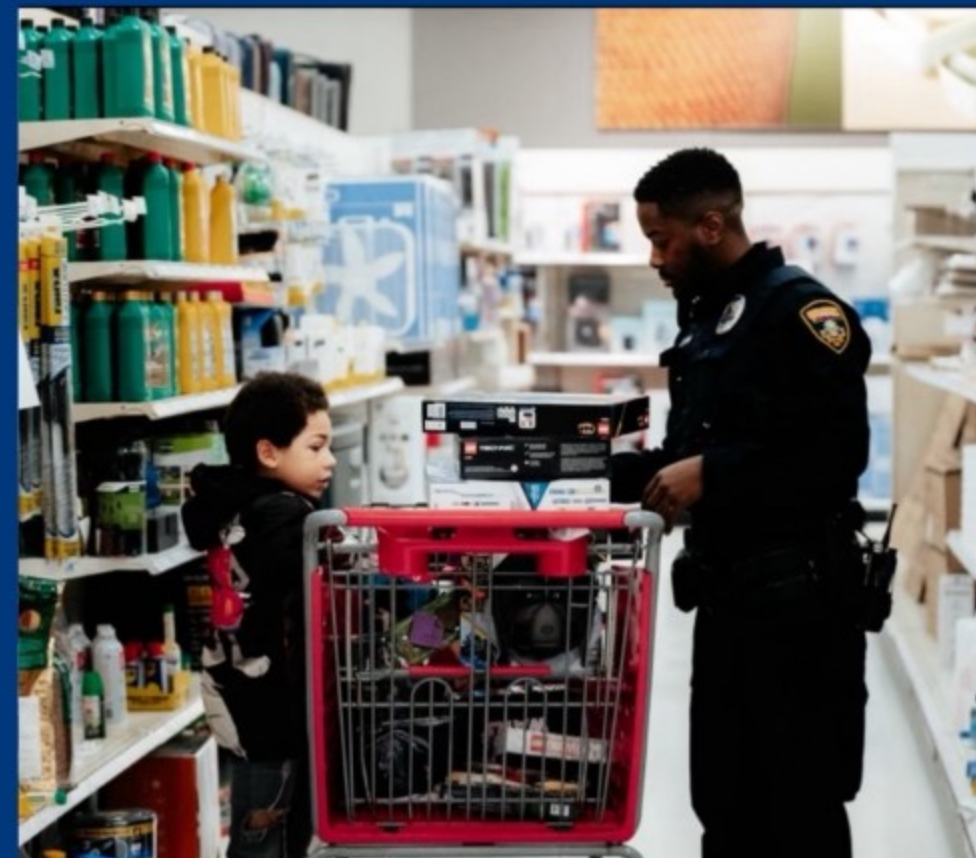
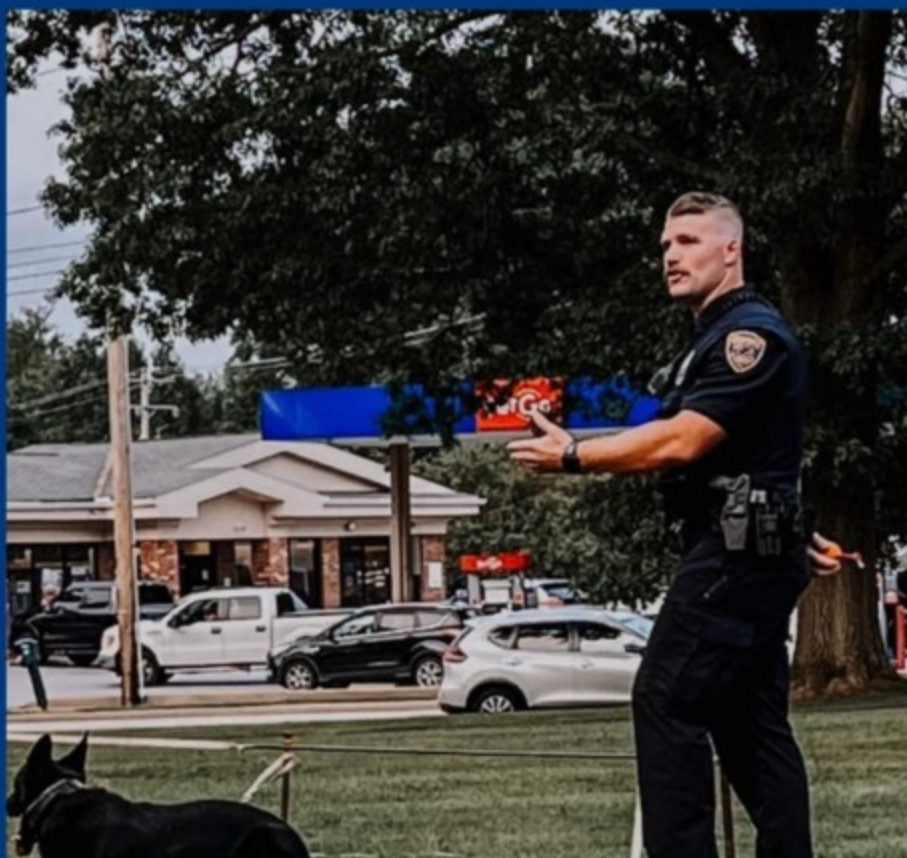




Stow Police Department

ANNUAL REPORT

2023



A Message from Chief Jeff Film

Mayor John Pribonic,

It has been privilege to serve as the Chief of Police for the City of Stow for the past nine years. Through a collaborative effort with the City Administration, City Council, community leaders, and my department personnel, we have been working hard to provide the best possible services to our community. It is my privilege to present to you and City Council the 2023 Annual Report of the Stow Police Department. This report is a compilation of statistical information as well as an outline of the multiple services that we provide to the community.

We lost some very experienced and knowledgeable officers with the retirement of Lieutenant Mike Titus and Detective Jeff Swanson who had a combined 60 years of law enforcement experience. Their leadership and tenacity for the profession will be duly missed, but we are excited to see the newly promoted supervisors and detective who I'm sure will keep the organization moving in the right direction.

Recruiting continues to be a challenge for law enforcement agencies across the country, but we are working diligently to keep our agency at full staff. In 2023, we hired one officer to fill one of the unfilled vacancies left by a retirement. We are now utilizing lateral transfers in addition to our civil service testing.

I am very excited about our addition of Dr. Samantha Pfeiffer who will be working part-time in our Youth Division as an alcohol and substance abuse advocate. Dr. Pfeiffer's education and background in substance abuse will be a great resource for our youth and their parents. I am not aware of any other youth diversion program in the area that has a substance abuse counselor on their staff.

In October, our dispatch center moved to the Summit Emergency Communications Center (SECC) forming the largest regional dispatch center in the county. It provides dispatch services for 75% of the county's population. We are very excited about this transition and look forward to working with their new administration. We miss our dispatchers greatly, but we know that they are in a state-of-the-art facility providing the best services to our community.

I am very proud of the men and women who represent the Stow Police Department. Their performance during the past year is a reflection of their commitment and dedication to our citizenry. It is our honor to work for this community and we strive to perform to the highest level by always serving with a service-above-self mentality.

Respectfully Submitted,



Chief Jeffery E. Film



Stow Police Department



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<https://stowohio.org/departments/police/>



[Stow Police Department, Stow, OH](#)



[stowpolicedepartment](#)



[@StowPD](#)

Mission, Vision Statements, and Core Values



Mission Statement

Our mission is to be a visible deterrent to criminals and a visible assurance to the public; to protect those who have been wronged and pursue those who have done wrong, and to serve all with dignity and respect.

Vision Statement

We will meet challenges and inspire public confidence through innovation, professionalism, and a commitment to excellence.

Core Values

- Integrity:*** We adhere to a code of honesty and ethical principles in all that we do.
- Service:*** We faithfully and selflessly serve those who have entrusted us to perform the duties of a Stow Police Officer.
- Commitment:*** We are dedicated to performance reflective of the highest standard of personal and organizational excellence.

Uniformed Patrol

Out of the 45 full-time sworn police officers at Stow PD, 36 are assigned to the Uniformed Patrol Division. These officers are dedicated to patrol duties and are first responders to all emergencies and calls for service from the community.

In 2023 the Stow Police Department received a grant award through Walmart to purchase the Evolution Fingerprint Scanner. The Evolution captures fingerprints and provides an objective, fast, and reliable method of determining a person's identity through Ohio's Automated Fingerprint Identification System and the FBI's Repository for Individuals of Special Concern.

Some circumstances for which the Evolution may be used include:

- When an individual is unconscious and their identification could assist in medical treatment.
- When an individual is unable to provide reliable identification due to physical defect or mental incapacitation.
- When investigating an event involving a fatal or critical injury in which the identity of the deceased/injured is uncertain.
- When the identity of a deceased individual is unknown.
- When an individual conceals their identity and uses another person's identity as their own.

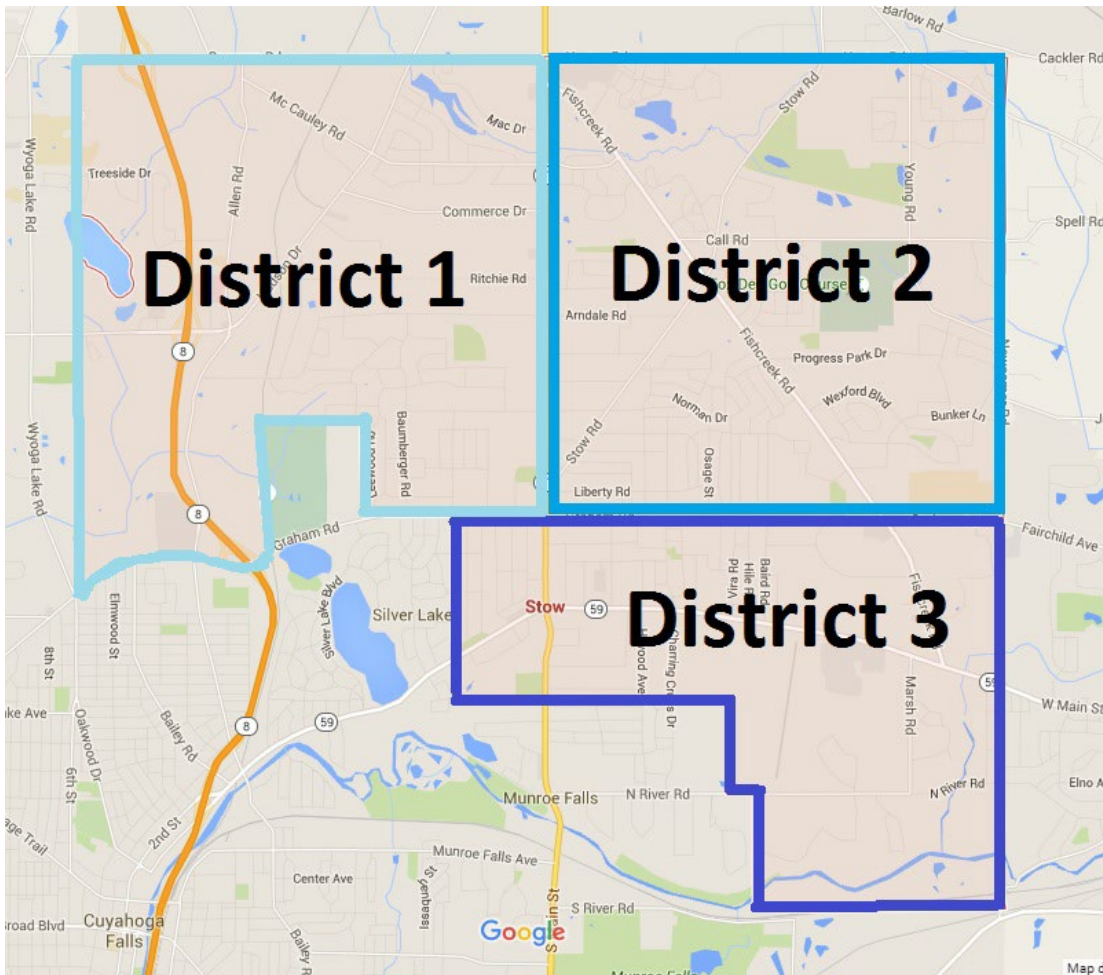
The Evolution has proven effective since its inception at the Stow Police Department. In one such circumstance, an individual attempted to use his brother's identity to conceal the fact he did not have a license and had warrants out for his arrest. Officers were able to positively identify the individual and charge him appropriately, which also prevented his brother from becoming a victim of identity theft and potentially being arrested on warrants for crimes he did not commit.

The Stow Police Department is constantly looking to stay true to our Vision Statement; to inspire public confidence through innovation, professionalism, and a commitment to excellence. The Evolution Fingerprint scanner is an innovative tool to enhance our effectiveness and efficiency to better serve the public.



Patrol Districts

The city is divided into 3 separate districts for police coverage. Each officer is assigned a district at the beginning of their shift. Supervisors and officers who are not assigned a designated district are referred to as “District 4” cars which means they cover the entire city. Each district has unique characteristics. District 1 houses industrial areas, business districts, SR-8, an Army National Guard armory, area hotels, a hospital, and residential areas. District 2 is largely residential, but does contain some business districts, large areas of green space, and the city’s high school. District 3 has large areas of retail business, along with the Kent State Airport, three schools, and many residential streets.



The City of Stow shares a border with seven different cities: Cuyahoga Falls, Franklin Township, Hudson, Kent, Munroe Falls, Streetsboro, and Tallmadge.

While the police department is responsible for law enforcement duties in the city, other law enforcement agencies also have shared jurisdiction in Stow. These agencies include the Summit County Sheriff’s Department, the Ohio State Patrol, as well as other state and federal law enforcement agencies.

2023 Night Shift

Night shift operates from 11:00 PM – 7:00 AM and traditionally leads the patrol division in OVI (drunk driving) and alcohol-related incidents and arrests. In 2023, night shift made a total of 48 OVI arrests. Overall call volume for the shift decreased by 15% from the previous year.



2023 Day Shift

Day shift operates from 7:00 AM – 3:00 PM and typically bears much of the responsibility for interacting with schools, courts, local businesses, and banks. In 2023, the shift saw a 15% increase in total calls from the year before. A total of 9,123 calls were handled by day shift officers.



2023 Afternoon Shift

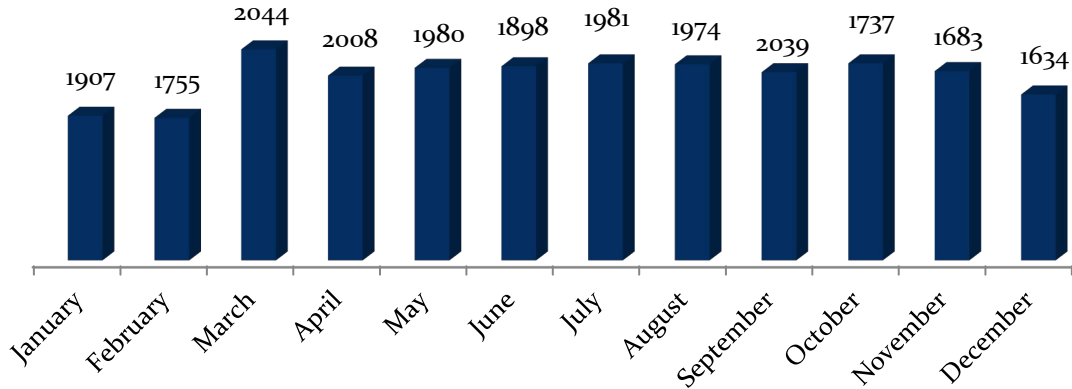
Afternoon shift operates from 3:00 PM – 11:00 PM. This shift handles a wide variety of incidents, such as vehicle crashes, domestic-related calls, neighbor disputes, shoplifting, and welfare checks. In 2023, afternoon shift officers responded to 5,454 calls for service, which was a 5% increase from 2022. Proactive, officer-initiated calls saw a sharp increase, jumping up 21%.



Statistical Information

In 2023, Stow Police handled 22,640 calls for service. This was an increase in 7% in total calls from 2022. Self-initiated, proactive policing saw a 10% increase. The below charts and graphs will help give you an idea of when our calls for service occurred.

Calls for Service Monthly Breakdown



Crime Statistics

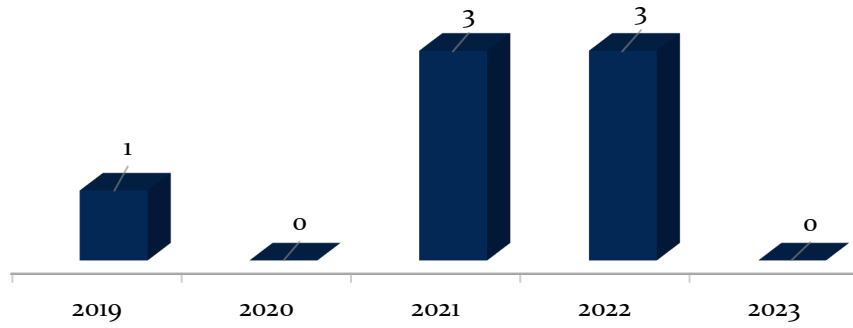
Calls are classified using FBI Uniform Crime Reporting standards. This method of reporting breaks down calls into Part I and Part II offenses. Part I crimes consist of Murder, Rape, Robbery, Aggravated Assault, Burglary/Breaking & Entering (B&E), Theft, Auto Theft, and Arson. Part II crimes cover all other offenses.

Part 1 Crimes

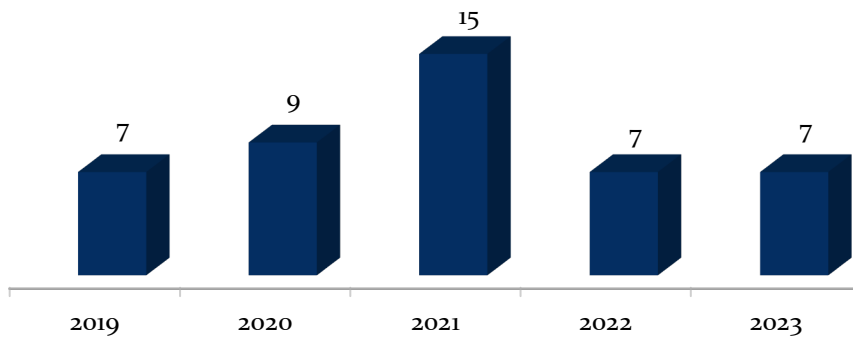


Part 1 Crimes – 5 Year Look Back

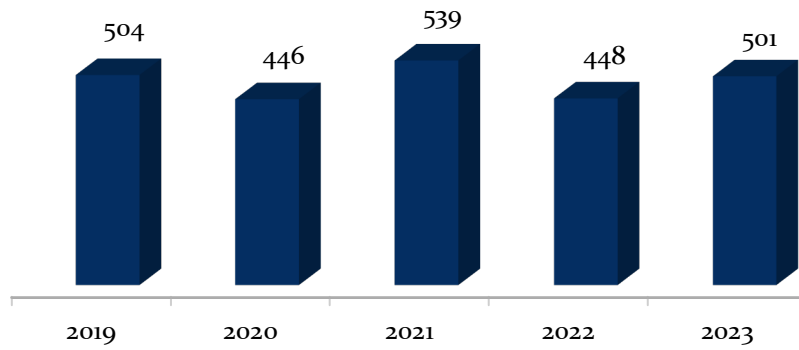
Arson



Auto Theft

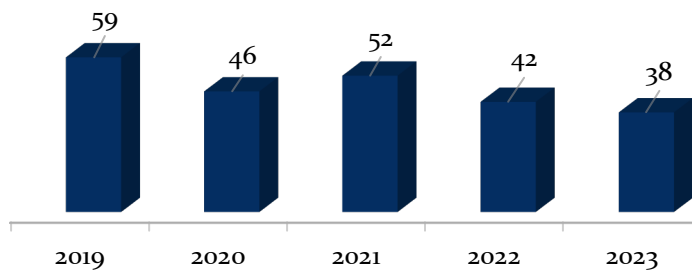


Theft

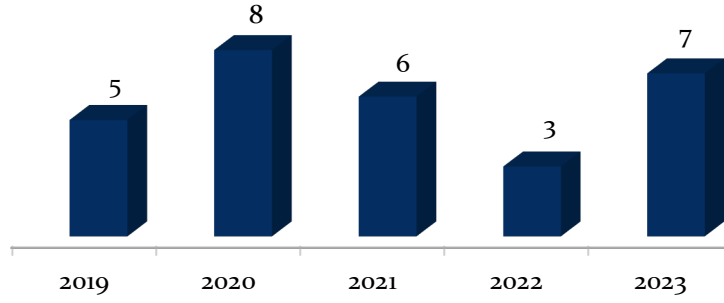


Burglary / B&E

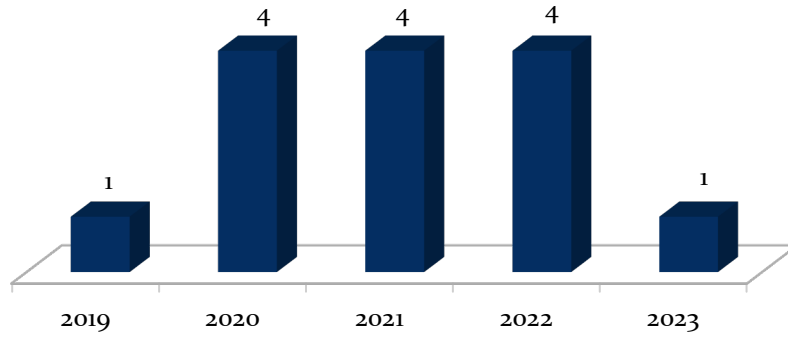
Burglary & B&E



Aggravated
Assault

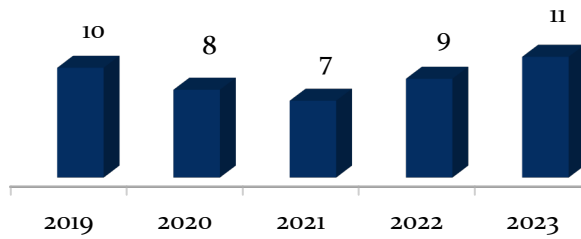


Robbery



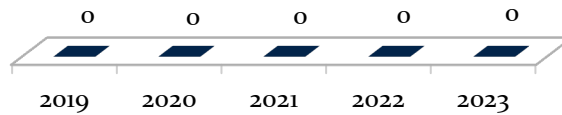
Rape

Rape

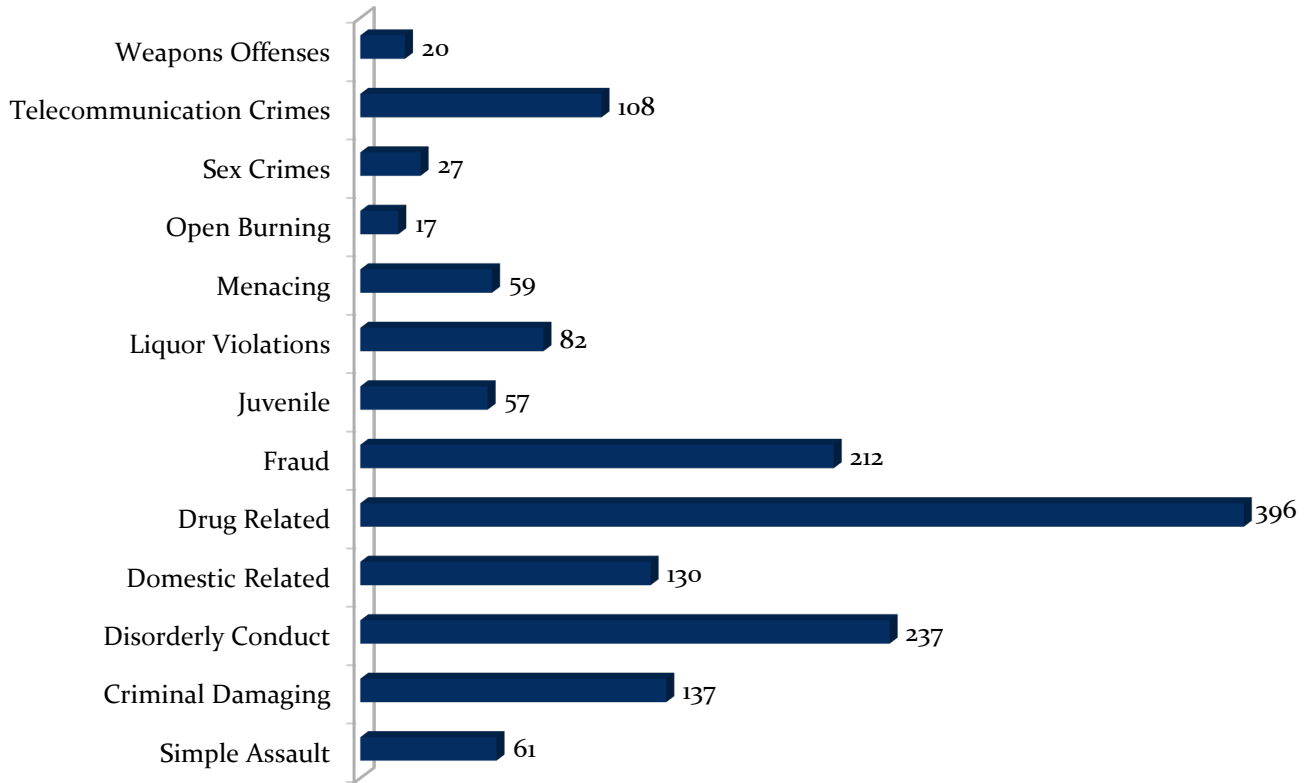


Homicide

Homicide

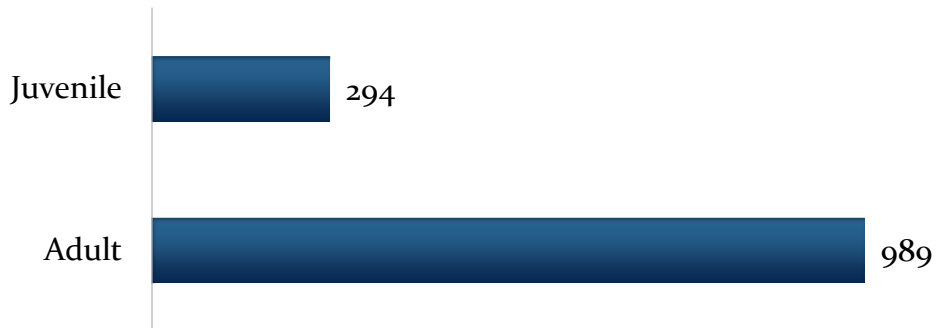


Other Reports & Part II Crimes

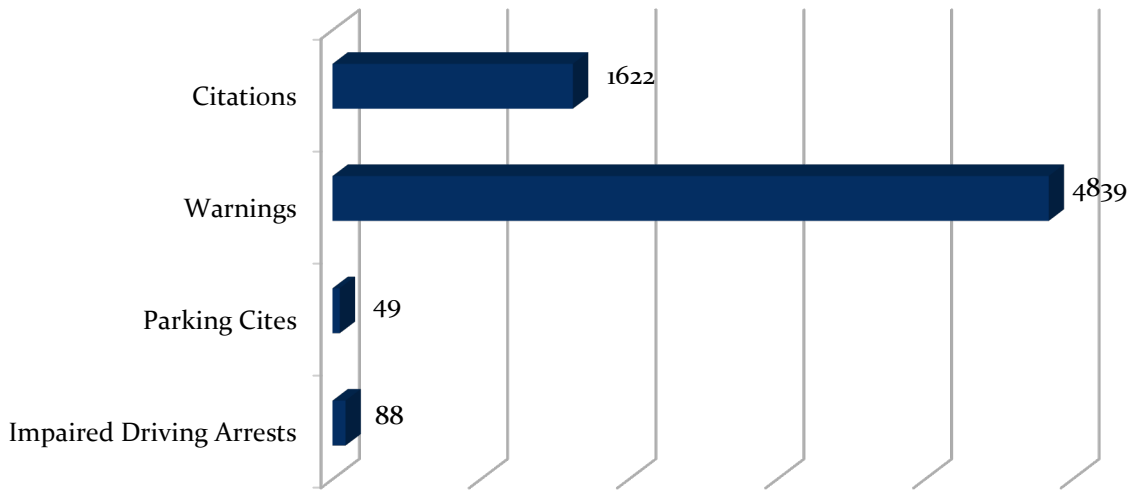


Arrests

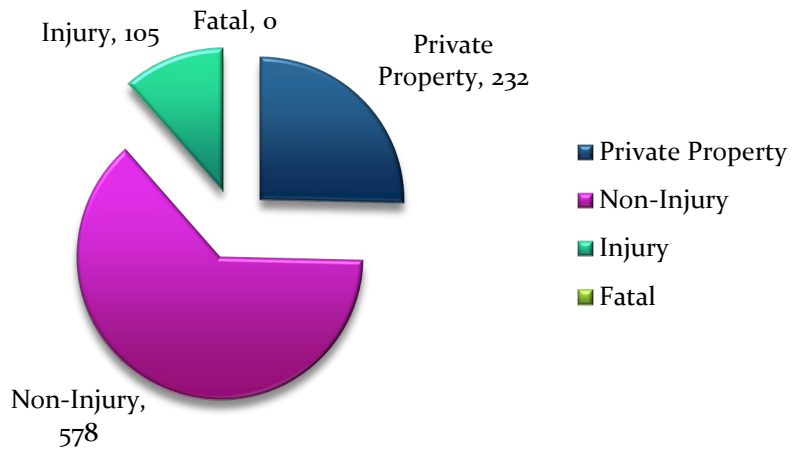
In 2023, Stow Officers made 1,283 arrests. Arrests were a 1.1% increase from the prior year. Juvenile arrests and referrals made to Stow Youth Services by officers were down 18% from 2022.



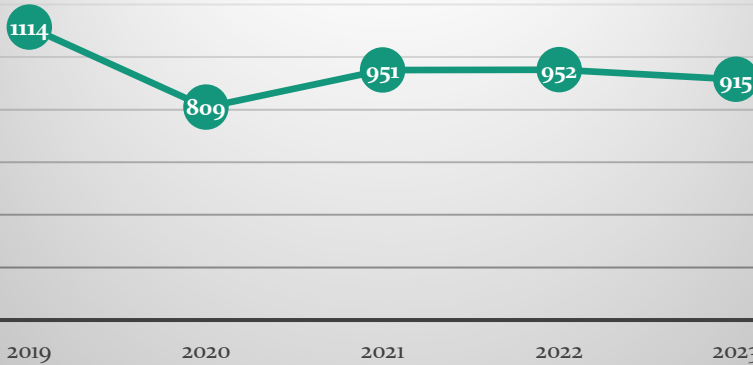
Traffic Enforcement



Traffic Crashes



Traffic Crashes - 5 year data



Retirements, Promotions, and New Hires

Retirements

Detective Jeffrey Swanson

Detective Jeff Swanson retired on March 31, 2023, after almost 33 years in Law Enforcement. Det. Swanson graduated from Kent State University with a Bachelor's degree in Psychology. He started his career on July 2, 1990, with the Stark County Sheriff's Office. During his six years with the Sheriff's Office, he worked in the Stark County Jail, the Stark County Common Pleas Court, and the Juvenile Court. He was selected to be a member of the Stark County Sheriff Emergency Response Team (SERT),



where he was part of the entry team. Det. Swanson was part of the biggest drug raid of its time when they hit eleven houses in one day connected with the drug cartel in New York and Detroit.

On December 16, 1996, Det. Swanson was sworn in with the Stow Police Department. He began on the night shift, moved to the afternoon shift, and then to the day shift. In May of 2007, Det. Swanson was selected to join the Detective Bureau. After a year of general assignments, Det. Swanson took over the sexual assault cases.

During Det. Swanson's time in the Stow Police Detective Bureau, Det. Swanson flourished. In 2015, he won the Detective of the Year award. In March of 2023, Det. Swanson won the Top Cop award. When speaking of Det. Swanson, Chief Film stated, "He is truly a class act that never worried about getting credit or acknowledgment. He came to work every day and did his best."

Congratulations to Detective Swanson and we all wish him the best in his retirement. He has earned it.

Lt. Michael Titus

After serving the community as a sworn officer for over 28 years, as well as serving our country in the Armed Forces for several years in different aspects, Lt. Michael Titus retired from the Stow Police Department on June 2, 2023. Lt. Titus became a United States Marine in 1983. He was stationed in California as a Helicopter Crew Chief until 1987. He then moved to Clearwater, FL, where he became a licensed aircraft mechanic. He was a member of the US Coast Guard Reserves, working on C-130 planes. Lt. Titus then moved to Ohio, where he attended Kent State University and obtained a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting. He was a part of the Ohio National Guard as a helicopter mechanic from 1990-1994.



Lt. Titus became a Reserve Officer with the Stow Police Department in the fall of 1993. In 1995, he was hired full-time. During his time as an officer, Lt. Titus worked all three shifts. In 2003, Lt. Titus was promoted to Sergeant, where he worked the night shift and then the afternoon shift. In May of 2009, Lt. Titus was promoted to Lieutenant. During his time as a supervisor, Lt. Titus was the shift commander on each shift he worked and ultimately became the Patrol Commander for the entire department.

Congratulations to Lieutenant Titus; he will truly be missed.

New Hires



Alonte Williams

Officer Alonte Williams was sworn in as a Stow Police Officer on 7/10/23. Alonte grew up in Akron, OH where he graduated from John R Buchtel High School. Growing up, Alonte planned on being a home interior decorator. He instead decided to become a police officer. He graduated from the Kent State University Police Academy and was hired as an officer at the Cleveland Clinic Hospital Akron campus. He was employed there for over 3 years before being hired by the Stow Police Department. One of his goals is to join the Metro SWAT Team.

Promotions

Sgt. Justin Burgess

On June 5, 2023, Officer Justin Burgess was promoted to Sergeant. Sgt. Burgess has been with the Stow Police Department since 2017. He was an officer on Afternoon shift his entire career, but transitioned to Night Shift after the promotion. Sgt. Burgess will be attending the Supervisors Training and Education Program (STEP) in 2024. The Stow Police Department strives to have well-trained and highly developed leaders.

Sgt. Burgess was the department's first Drug Recognition Expert (DRE)

and continues to serve in this capacity. He oversees the OVI Task Force and the Click It or Ticket and Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over campaigns. Sgt. Burgess organizes officers to work OVI checkpoint details targeting impaired driving enforcement. He also tracks statistics regarding the number of enforcement actions taken during these targeted enforcement details and seeks reimbursement funds provided by the State. Sgt. Burgess will begin assisting with the coordination of the Citizens Police Academy, and join the department's grant writing team.





Lt. Ted Bell

Sgt. Ted Bell was promoted to Lieutenant on June 5, 2023. Lt. Bell was a former K-9 Officer and Field Training Officer before getting promoted to Sergeant in December of 2018. Lt. Bell now oversees several different programs and committees within the Police Department. One of these programs is Targeted Traffic Enforcement. When a citizen contacts the police with a persistent traffic safety concern, the Stow Police Department will provide officers with a list of these concerns to assist with while patrolling the city. Lt. Bell also oversees the Pursuit Review Committee, the Grant Resource and Development team, as well as the Awards and Ribbons Committee.

Awards

Life-Saving Award



On March 20th, 2023, Officers Dylan Gabel and Sam Williams responded to an address on Chestnut Drive in regards to a welfare check on an individual who sent his girlfriend a picture of himself with a noose around his neck. Officer Gabel and Officer Williams responded to the residence without delay. They were able to make entry into the dwelling through the unlocked front door. The male was located unresponsive, hanging from a rope attached to a railing above the stairs. Officer Gabel cut the rope, releasing the pressure from the male's neck, and began CPR. EMS arrived on the scene and transported the male to the hospital, where he later gained consciousness and survived. On July 31st, 2023, Officer Gabel and Officer Williams were awarded the Life Saving Award for their heroic actions, which undoubtedly saved a life that day.

Michael J. Kelly Excellence and Innovation Award



Congratulations to Captain Bryan Snavely, who received the Michael J. Kelly Excellence and Innovation Award from the Ohio Chiefs of Police Association for his innovative idea behind the Capstone Archival Project. The award is presented to a police executive to recognize the pursuit of excellence in police leadership through innovation and creativity, which exemplifies the vision, mission, goals, and values of the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police.

CLEE (Certified Law Enforcement Executive) is a year long course of study that higher-level Law Enforcement Executives attend. Captain Snavely attended CLEE in 2018 and now serves on the board. While attending CLEE, the students work on a project in which they address or improve a specific issue at their

particular agency. Captain Snavely's idea was to come up with a searchable database which stores all of the previous students' Capstone projects. This would be a valuable resource for an agency to use if they need information or resources on a particular issue or idea.

Training

Members of the Stow Police Department train several times a year in various disciplines in order to stay proficient in their skillset. SPD has several certified Ohio Peace Officer's Training Academy (OPOTA) training instructors within the department. These officers provide practical training in the areas of Defensive Tactics, Less Lethal defensive weapons, Firearms, Rapid Deployment (Active Shooter Response), De-Escalation, Tactical Medical, Riot Control, and other various topics throughout the year. In 2023, Stow PD conducted 36 hours of continuing education in-house which exceeded the 24 hours mandated by OPOTA.

Less Lethal/ De-Escalation

Officers often respond to people in crisis or situations that increase rapidly in intensity or seriousness. When feasible, officers may use de-escalation tactics, which will attempt to calm a subject, prevent further conflict, and gain compliance. Since 2017, the Stow Police Department has incorporated de-escalation tactics into our annual Less Lethal training.

Officers are trained on several different types of less lethal equipment available to them including a Taser, O.C. Spray, ASP Baton, 40MM Launcher, and a PepperBall launcher. During training, Officers are given complex scenarios, similar to real-life calls, which force problem-solving.



In 2023, we completed annual training in both Taser and the 40MM launcher. For Taser training, Stow Police Department is fortunate to have a “Simulation Training Suit”, which has been utilized during annual taser training since we obtained one in 2019. This protective suit allows the trainer to role-play a realistic scenario. Officers are able to deploy live training Taser cartridges at the role player, without an electrical current being delivered, but first, they must try to de-escalate the situation when feasible before deploying their Taser. During training, officers are required to deploy a minimum of two (2) training cartridges for recertification. If officers can diffuse a situation without Taser use, they deploy their cartridges during drills, using a conductive target.

The 40MM Launcher is another less lethal option that the Stow Police Department has available to its officers when encountering a subject whom police need to be able to gain control of for the safety of themselves and/or the community. The 40MM launcher utilizes “Exact Impact” sponge rounds. This is a “point-of-aim, point-of-impact” direct-fire round that is most commonly used in situations where you would want to incapacitate an aggressive, non-compliant subject. Training includes the deployment of the sponge rounds against paper and rubber targets.



Defensive Tactics

Stow Police Officers are trained annually in Defensive Tactics. The techniques demonstrated and practiced in this training class give officers the knowledge and skills of self-defense and the ability to safely and effectively arrest, control, or respond to a subject’s aggression or resistance using hands-on force.



Outside Training

The City of Stow regularly invests in advanced training for members of the police department. This allows members to stay up to date on current case law, tactics, and law enforcement trends. Many of our officers also hold advanced training certifications in specific disciplines.

Training courses were much more readily available this year. In 2023, officers attended 187 days of outside training courses. Some of the courses span multiple days or weeks. Stow Police completed 1,539 hours of training for the year!



The Crisis Intervention Team is a group of officers who have advanced training in understanding mental health and mental health encounters in a law enforcement setting. All of the Stow Police Department patrol officers are trained in crisis intervention, de-escalation, and mental health encounters but about half of the officers have extended training with a CIT certification. In 2023, we expanded the number of

officers who have received CIT certification. Officer Childers, Officer Paxton, Officer Wike, and Officer Beganovic all received their 40-hour training course certification in 2023 giving us 25 total CIT-trained officers!





Instructional Skills is a two-week, 80-hour course that prepares officers to write, present, and teach in a law enforcement setting. The skills taught in this course include but are not limited to, lesson plan development, teaching techniques, student learning objectives, facilitative learning, and evaluation of peers.

Sgt. Burgess is certified to teach more than 15 different courses, including Standardized Field Sobriety Testing (SFST), Advanced Roadside Impairment Driving Education (ARIDE), and several patrol, traffic, and investigation courses. Sgt. Burgess has advanced training and knowledge in these areas of expertise, specifically in drug and OVI-related courses. He is a Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) with specialized training in recognizing drug and alcohol influence and impaired driving. The Instructional Skills

courses aided Sgt. Burgess in presenting his knowledge of Alcohol and Drug recognition to other officers to enhance their skills and education. Sgt. Burgess received his Instructional Skills certification in February 2023, adding to the other training staff who have completed this valuable course.

Investigative Division

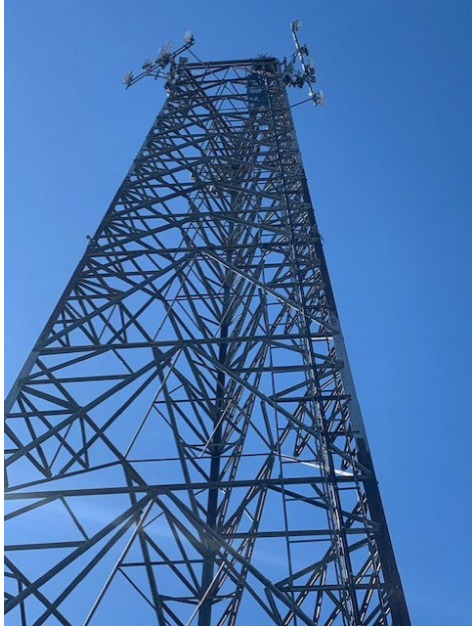
The Detective Bureau is comprised of one supervisor and five detectives. Overseen by Lt. Prusha, these detectives investigate crimes of a more serious nature within our community. Detectives also assist officers with more detailed follow-ups and help manage crime scene processing. They are trained in advanced interview and interrogation techniques and have access to investigative tools that provide comprehensive data critical to case development.



Detective Murphy, Detective Dolezal, Detective Gaffney, Detective Schulz

Notable Cases

Some notable accomplishments for the Detective Bureau in 2023 include:



In March 2023, Verizon Wireless and AT&T reported stolen coaxial cable (approximately 1,500 feet total) from two different cell phone towers. The cables were lined with copper and removed from the property within a three-month period. Officers who took the initial report located beer cans near one of the towers. These beer cans appeared to be new and not weathered by the elements so the officer suspected that the cans belonged to the suspect. The beer cans were taken for evidence and sent to the Bureau of Criminal Investigations (BCI) for DNA testing.

Similar incidents were reported in neighboring counties and a few suspects were identified, however, they were not linked to Stow.

The Stow Detective Bureau got involved and started an investigation, which included detectives speaking with other agencies, who were still investigating cell phone tower coax cable thefts. Detectives also coordinated with a Public Safety Intelligence Analyst of the Ohio Department of Public Safety and were briefed on the thefts that occurred in Stow. Doing this added information to the Ohio Homeland Security Intelligence Bulletin.

Several months into the investigation, the Bureau of Criminal Investigations (BCI) completed their laboratory testing on the beer cans and returned the DNA results to the detective bureau. The DNA results identified a known male who was suspected in another coax cable theft. Detectives spoke with that investigating agency who had the suspect incarcerated in their jail. Detectives went to the facility to interview the male. After the interview, the Stow Law Department authorized felony charges for the coaxial cable theft.



T CROSS CRIME SCENE DO NOT CROSS CRIME SCENE

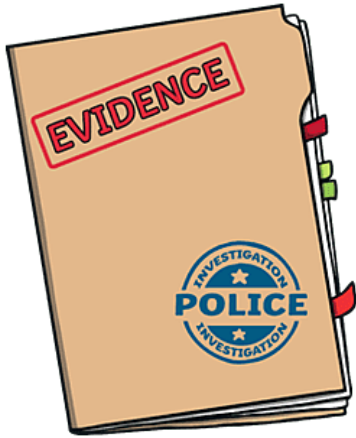
In May 2023, police and EMS responded to a report of a male subject who had just been stabbed by a known female. Patrol officers arrived on scene and found the male subject injured. Officers learned that the female and male were in an argument that quickly escalated and resulted in the female cutting the male in the ear and neck with a knife.



The male was transported and treated at the hospital for his injuries and the female was taken to the Stow Police Department to be interviewed.

At the police station, the Detective Bureau took over the investigation and attempted to interview the female. The female refused to speak with police detectives or answer any questions related to the male's injuries. Stow detectives took photographs and DNA swabs of the female's blood-stained hands and her blood-stained clothing was seized for evidence. The male victim was also interviewed and afterward, Stow Detectives consulted with the Stow Prosecutor's Office regarding the details of this incident. With authorization from the Stow Law Department, the female was charged with felonious assault. The case went to a jury trial and the female was convicted and sentenced to seven to ten years in prison.

T CROSS CRIME SCENE DO NOT CROSS CRIME SCENE



In June 2023, a female victim reported a large sum of money was missing from her home. The money belonged to both her and her elderly mother.

An investigation revealed that approximately \$2,000 in cash was taken from the reporting party and approximately \$23,000 was taken from a lockbox belonging to the elderly victim. After speaking with friends and family members of the victims, it was discovered that a relative had unlimited access to the areas where the money was taken from. This relative was also the only unsupervised person inside the house.

An evidence technician collected latent fingerprint evidence from the lockbox and its contents and Detective Dolezal interviewed this relative (who was hired to care for the elderly victim). Ultimately, the relative admitted to finding and taking all of the money that was reported missing. The accused was charged with Theft; a felony of the 3rd degree, and another charge of Theft; a felony of the 5th degree.

During court proceedings, the 3rd degree felony theft was amended to a 4th degree felony. As an agreement with the victims, the defendant was ordered to participate in the Prosecutor's Diversionary Program and pay all fines and fees. If she fails to do so in a timely manner, the court may order the defendant to perform community service and/or serve a prison term.



In addition to their Stow duties, detectives from the bureau work in conjunction with multiple specialized units including:

Ohio Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force
Stow detectives participate in Ohio's Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force (ICAC). This task force is also comprised of local and federal officers whose mission is to identify, arrest and prosecute individuals who: (1) use the Internet to lure minors into illicit sexual relationships; or (2) use the Internet to produce, distribute or solicit child pornography.



Summit Regional Human Trafficking Task Force

The Stow Police Department joined the Summit Regional Human Trafficking Task Force in September 2021 with one of Stow's five detectives assigned to the unit. The task force began as a part of the Summit County Collaborative Against Human Trafficking and is funded by a federal grant. It is made up of a partnership between seven law enforcement agencies and numerous social services entities. The purpose of the task force is to strengthen victim service programs for victims of human trafficking and to provide justice for those victims through the apprehension and prosecution of their traffickers. The task force covers Summit, Stark, Portage, and Medina counties.



Summit County Drug Unit

One of Stow's five detectives is assigned full-time to the Summit County Drug Unit (SCDU). This is a multi-jurisdictional task force comprised of officers from eight (8) local agencies in Summit County, as well as federal agents from the DEA, ATF, FBI, and Ohio Parole Authority. They investigate major organized groups involved in the illegal distribution of drugs throughout the county. This unit not only focuses on large-scale violators but also conducts undercover drug purchases and responds to mitigate all methamphetamine labs discovered in the county. Additionally, they provide training and educational classes to both officers and citizens of the community. The Summit County Drug Unit has joined with the Akron Police Department Task Force to form the Akron/Summit County HIDTA (High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area) Initiative. Northern Ohio has been designated a high intensity drug trafficking area by the federal government. The staff at HIDTA provides training, intelligence, de-confliction, and financial support to participants. The Ohio HIDTA coordinates intelligence information with over 20 other HIDTA areas throughout the United States. The Akron/Summit County HIDTA Initiative is the largest in Ohio.

Specialized Units

Metro SWAT



Metro SWAT is comprised of 25 area police departments from Summit and Portage Counties including Stow, as well as fire personnel from those jurisdictions. The SWAT team is comprised of tactical operators, negotiators, technical support staff, medics, and doctors, as well as a drone team and sniper team. Metro SWAT has five vehicles including an Armored Lenco Bear Cat, Command Post, Negotiator truck, Utility box truck, and Entry van.

SWAT stands for Special Weapons and Tactics and the team is called out for situations including criminal barricades, hostage rescues, high-risk warrant services, dignitary security details, and land navigation searches for criminals or missing persons. The team trains monthly on all these topics and more.

The Stow Police Department provides five officers to Metro SWAT. These officers are Commander Ryan Schulz, Operator Sam Williams, Operator Brett Balog, Operator Brian Haddix, and Negotiator Team Leader Kasey Olesinski. In 2023, Operator Sam Williams completed his fifth year as a member of Metro SWAT while Commander Ryan Schulz completed his fifteenth year.



Metro SWAT was activated 42 times in 2023. Every year on July 4th, the City of Stow hosts a parade that travels the length of Kent Road through the city. This year, the Metro Swat team was activated as an Incident Response Team during the Fourth of July parade. They were stationed in a few calculated locations to assist in case a serious incident arose during the course of the parade.

Summit Metro Crash Response Team (SMCRT)

The Summit Metro Crash Response Team (SMCRT) is a multi-jurisdictional crash response team founded in 2002. Stow was a founding member of this team and continues to participate in this unit which includes eighteen (18) different police departments. The team consists of highly trained crash investigators and reconstructionists who respond to assist with crash investigations. Stow Officer Kristopher Maruna had been an active member of the team since November 2019. He stepped down in 2023 to concentrate on K9 duties and Officer EJ Wonner joined the team in November 2023. Situations where the unit might be activated include crashes resulting in serious injury or fatality; crashes involving pedestrians; crashes involving motorcycles or commercial vehicles; or any other complex crash. In 2023, the team was called to assist at thirty-two (32) crash scenes, none of which occurred in Stow.



Honor Guard



The objective of the Honor Guard is to represent the department at various ceremonial events held throughout the year. In 2023, the Honor Guard unit was comprised of nine members of the department, which included Detectives Dolezal, Murphy, Officers Molody, Haddix, Reedy, J. Smith, Frisina, Bailey, and Gabel. Training is conducted on a quarterly basis in order to maintain a high level of precision.

In 2023, the Honor Guard participated in several events and ceremonies throughout Stow & surrounding areas. One of these included coordinating the police portion of Lt. Altomare's funeral. John Altomare was a retired Lieutenant of the Kent Police Department and current Sergeant of the Munroe Falls Police Department. He passed unexpectedly on September 8, 2023, while on vacation in London, England. Det. Murphy spent many hours coordinating the officer's involvement during the funeral. This included training officers of different agencies in their movements while standing guard at the calling hours as well as casket movements at the funeral.

The unit stood guard at Officer Wike's calling hours. Thomas "Tom" Wike Jr. was an active officer of the Ravenna Police Department and the spouse of a Stow Police officer. He passed away unexpectedly on October 27, 2023.

The Honor Guard also presented colors at the Summit County Chaplain Dinner at the Sheraton in Cuyahoga Falls as well as at the 9-11 ceremony at Stow City Hall. They attended the Greater

Cleveland Peace Officer Memorial's Grave Marker Ceremony and placed a marker at Officer Bastock's grave during Police Memorial Week. On July 4th, the Honor Guard marched in the Fourth of July Parade.



At the conclusion of 2023, Officer Justin Smith stepped down from the Honor Guard after ten years of honorable service. His service and the countless hours he spent maintaining the high standards the unit has come to expect are greatly appreciated! Two officers are expected to join the Honor Guard in 2024 to bring the unit back to full staffing of ten members.

School Resource Officer (S.R.O.)



Since 1996, the Stow Police Department has had a full-time School Resource Officer(SRO) assigned to the Stow-Munroe Falls High School. Officer Barry Smith has held this assignment since 2004. SRO Smith is a uniformed presence in the school and is responsible for providing the safety and security of both the staff and the students who attend the school. In addition to providing security, he provides instruction in law-enforcement-related matters and answers calls for service within the school and its immediate vicinity. The SRO program is partially funded through both a grant from the Ohio Attorney General’s Office as well as funds from the school district.

DARE



Stealing A Police Officer's
Watch 😂 #shorts
181K views

The Stow Police Department provides D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) to the sixth-grade class at Stow-Munroe Falls Schools. D.A.R.E. consists of police officer-led lessons that teach students how to resist negative peer pressure and to become leaders by being sources of encouragement (positive peer pressure). Other than drugs, some topics include risks and consequences, resistance strategies, healthy ways to deal with stress, effective communication, bullying, and help networks. D.A.R.E. emphasizes the D.A.R.E. Decision-Making Model (Define, Assess, Respond & Evaluate) to teach students how to live productive lives, free from drugs and violence. Officer Jason Bailey completed his training and took over the D.A.R.E. program in September of 2020. Officer Bailey educates approximately 430 students annually. The program is partially funded through a grant from the Ohio Attorney General's Office. The grant covers D.A.R.E. and School Resource Officers who provide students with education and counseling services.

In the picture to the left, Officer Bailey is shown during a school assembly in which Magician Rick Smith Jr. performed. Officer Bailey was gracious enough to assist, which nearly led to the theft of his watch.

School Security Detail

Since 2012, the department has partnered with the schools in our city to provide an additional security presence at the intermediate school and the six elementary schools. Since its inception, this program, which is fully funded by the school district, has proven to be beneficial to both the schools and the department. It has allowed officers to become familiar with the operations and layout of the schools and it gives students, staff, and parents the ability to interact with officers in a non-enforcement setting.



Evidence Technician

The Evidence Technician team consists of officers who are specially trained to process crime scenes. These officers work in conjunction with the Detective Bureau and respond to scenes in which there is potential for forensic evidence to be collected. Forensic evidence can be anything from photographing a crime scene, lifting latent prints from a surface, collecting bloodstain evidence, and beyond. Any evidence collected is sent to Ohio's Bureau of Criminal Investigations (BCI) crime lab for processing.

To become an evidence technician, officers must go through an advanced 80-hour course. Many evidence technicians have advanced training beyond 80 hours. The evidence technician team consists of Ofc. Jesse Reedy (Master Evidence Technician), Ofc. Brian Haddix, Ofc. EJ Wonner, Ofc. Bethany Childers and Ofc. Jacob Pajestka.



Polygraph Examiner

Stow Police Department is one of the few local departments that have a polygraph examiner in-house.

Detective Nick Dolezal is certified through the American Polygraph Association and conducts numerous examinations throughout the year.

These examinations are done for pre-employment screening for new police officers, firefighters,

dispatchers, and reserve officer candidates. Additionally, numerous evidentiary examinations are conducted on people suspected of committing crimes. These criminal examinations are often at the request of the Stow Detective Bureau but also come from other law enforcement agencies who partner with Stow PD.



Community Service Officer (CSO)

The department has one full-time Community Service Officer to be of assistance within the department and the city. CSO Edward Young handles all animal control issues and is certified by the National Animal Control Association. He also assists the community with service calls that do not require a sworn officer, such as when citizens lock their keys in their vehicles. In addition to handling animal control and service calls, CSO Young is responsible for maintaining the department's fleet of vehicles and equipment and is often tasked with other miscellaneous jobs and special projects. In 2023, CSO Young handled 399 calls for service, with the majority of these calls involving animal complaints.

K-9 Unit

In 2023, Stow PD welcomed its newest K-9 team. On May 12th, Officer Kristopher Maruna & K-9 Rip completed a six-week training course at Von Der Haus Gill German Shepherds & Police K-9 Academy located in Wapakoneta, Ohio. K-9 Rip, who is a two-year old German Shepherd, was born in the United States to his parents who were imported to the United States from Germany. The team is trained in narcotics detection, tracking, apprehension, and handler protection. They are certified in Patrol Related Testing & Special Purpose Testing through the State of Ohio & the National Association of Professional Canine Handlers. At the completion of their training, Officer Maruna & K-9 Rip were assigned to Afternoon Shift for the remainder of the year.



In addition to Officer Maruna & K-9 Rip, Stow PD's second K-9 team, consisting of Officer Patrick Myers & K-9 Diesel, was assigned to Day Shift in 2023. K-9 Diesel was born in December of 2016 in Wapakoneta, Ohio, at Von Der Haus Gill German Shepherds. In 2018, Officer Myers & K-9 Diesel attended a 6-week Police K-9 Academy at Von Der Haus Gill. K-9 Diesel is a certified dual-purpose dog. He is used for narcotics detection (marijuana, cocaine, heroin, methamphetamine, and all of their derivatives), tracking, criminal apprehension, building searches, area searches, and article searches. K-9 Diesel is certified by the Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission, as well as the National Association of Professional Canine Handlers.



K-9's are a valuable resource and a major asset to both the department and the community. K-9 Diesel and K-9 Rip, guided by their handlers, have been instrumental in tracking and apprehending numerous criminal suspects and have seized thousands of dollars worth of illegal narcotics that pass through the city.

Some notable deployments for these K-9 teams in 2023 include:

On 03/19/2023, Officer Myers & K-9 Diesel were requested to assist Cuyahoga Falls PD on a traffic stop. K-9 Diesel was deployed and indicated on the vehicle for the odor of narcotics. During a probable cause search of the vehicle, approximately 2 grams of methamphetamine and drug-related paraphernalia were located.

On 06/24/2023, Officer Maruna & K-9 Rip were requested by Northfield PD to assist on a traffic stop. K-9 Rip was deployed and indicated on the vehicle for the odor of narcotics. During a probable cause search of the vehicle, officers located drug paraphernalia & a plastic container with suspected drug residue inside. A search of the driver was also performed, and approximately 3 grams of methamphetamine were discovered to be in the driver's possession.

On 10/26/2023, officers responded to an address to attempt to locate a male who had been driving a stolen vehicle and had burglarized an apartment earlier in the day. The male also had an active arrest warrant for Escape. Upon arriving at the address, the male jumped out of a window and attempted to flee from officers. Officer Maruna & K-9 Rip, who were set up on a perimeter, began heading in the direction where the male had fled.



When Officer Maruna observed the male, he gave verbal commands and advised the male to stop fleeing or he would release K-9 Rip. The male complied and was successfully apprehended.

On 11/05/2023, Officer Myers & K-9 Diesel were working a security detail at a vacant business when Officer Myers came across an opened door. Upon entering the business to perform a search of the building, K-9 Diesel indicated to the presence of someone inside of a closed room. It was soon discovered that a male had broken into the building. He was taken into custody and charged with Criminal Trespass.

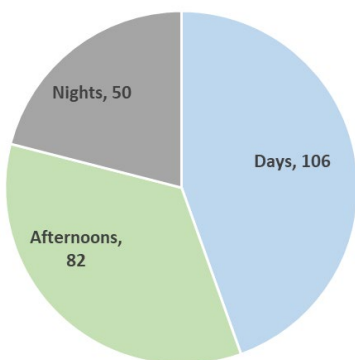
Crisis Intervention Team

The Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) at Stow PD is comprised of a group of twenty-five (25) sworn officers who have attended forty (40) hours of specialized training to recognize and effectively respond to someone experiencing a mental health crisis. Officers routinely use techniques they have learned in order to de-escalate crises with the goal of helping to direct persons with mental illness into treatment.



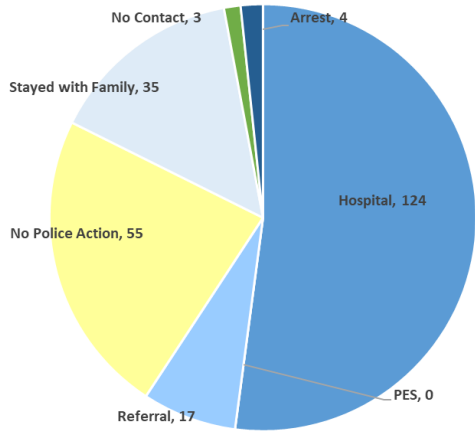
In 2023, Officer Beganovic, Officer Childers, Officer Paxton, and Officer Wike all completed this training and were added to the CIT team. Officer Alonte Williams, who was sworn in during July, came to us already having been previously CIT certified. Over half (52%) of Stow PD's officers assigned to patrol are CIT certified, while all of our officers have training on how to handle mental health crisis calls.

During the course of 2023, officers documented 238 calls involving a mental health crisis. This is a slight increase from the previous year (230). 2023 was the first year Day Shift handled the

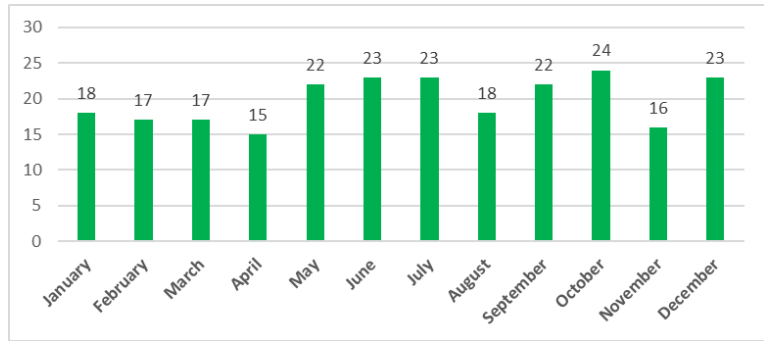


Mental Health Calls by Shift

majority of the mental health crisis calls, leading the way at 106. The month of October saw the most crisis calls, coming in at 24. Out of all of the crisis calls handled in 2023, only four (4) of them resulted in an arrest taking place on scene. In addition to these four arrests, there were nine (9) times when criminal charges were later brought against a subject in crisis. An overwhelming majority of these calls (124) resulted in the subject in crisis being transported to a hospital. Of the 238 crisis calls, a CIT-certified officer was the primary contact 135 times, which is over half of the time.



Disposition of Police Responses



Mental Health Calls by Month

Stow CIT Officers 2023

Sgt. John Ginther	Ofc. Rob Molody	Ofc. Jason Bailey	Sgt. Dan Drummond
Ofc. Justin Smith	Det. Ryan Schulz	Ofc. Brian Haddix	Ofc. Barry Smith
Capt. Bryan Snavely	Det. Steve Heim	Det. Nick Dolezal	Lt. Heather Prusha
Ofc. Patrick Myers	Sgt. Jacob Corfman	Ofc. Brett Balog	Ofc. Kevin Smith
Lt. Erik Dirker	Ofc. Jesse Reedy	Det. Michael Murphy	Ofc. E J Wonner
Ofc. Bethany Childers	Ofc. Taylor Paxton	Ofc. Samantha Wike	
Ofc. Alonte Williams	Ofc. Eldin Beganovic		

Stow Police Reserve Unit

Reserve Officers provide a number of valuable support services for the City of Stow Police Department. They are non-sworn volunteers, although they do receive worker's compensation benefits and a small monthly stipend to cover expenses.

Reserve Officers' regular patrol duties include: checking the homes of residents on vacation, vehicle lockouts, checking disabled vehicles, and assisting with traffic control at accidents. They also assist with weather emergencies and at special events such as traffic at high school football games, 5-K runs, trick-or-treat, National Night Out, and the July 4th parade.



Throughout 2023, the Reserve Unit volunteered a total of 1673 hours, which is a large increase from the previous amount of hours (988) in 2022. The majority of these hours (573.5) were spent out on patrol, while Reserve Officers spent 425.5 working special details. During 2023, the Reserve Unit worked a total of 29 special details, which was the highest amount ever worked by the unit in a year. Some of these special details included Splash Bash, SMF Library Touch-a-Truck, and Stuff-a-Cruiser. Reserve Officers also received 285 hours of training throughout the year in areas including CPR, Taser, Rifle, OC/ASP, Traffic Control, and Defensive Tactics.



In 2023, Stow Mayor John Pribonic swore in several new members to the Reserve Unit, which included Reserve Officers Martin Ashbaugh, Will Kalkhoff, Madison Rutherford, & Mitchell Parker.



Stow Municipal Court



Officially opened in 2009, the Stow Municipal Court serves sixteen (16) communities across northeast Summit County. Cases are filed by Summit County agencies, which reside in the court’s jurisdiction. In 2023, a combined total of 16,886 cases were filed in the court’s traffic, criminal, and civil divisions. This was a slight increase from the previous year. Of these filed cases, the City of Stow accounted for 17.5% of the total caseload. In 2023, the court received a grant worth approximately \$60,000 from the Ohio Department of Mental Health & Addition Services to support their mental health specialty docket (STRIDE Court).

The Stow Police Department assigns one officer to work full-time at the courthouse in conjunction with the security forces there. The court officer is responsible for ensuring the security of the building and overseeing prisoner transports. Additionally, they are tasked with ensuring the safety of the judges, magistrates, and court staff, as well as all visitors to the building. Officer Joseph Hepler is currently assigned to the position.



Communications Division



This was the last year for the Stow Regional Communications Center housed on the second floor of the Stow Police Department. In October 2023 the Summit Emergency Communications Center (SECC), a new dispatch and 911 emergency call center, was opened and operational for northern Summit County. All calls have been routed to the new state-of-the-art facility on North Avenue in Tallmadge. The collaboration of the county of Summit, Summit County Executive Ilene Shapiro's office, and the cities of Tallmadge, Akron,

Cuyahoga Falls, Stow, Fairlawn, and Green made the SECC come to fruition. Stow has over seventeen dispatchers at the new center.

The Summit Emergency Communications Center is built with new technologies including the Consolidated CAD System and serves about 300,000 of the county's 540,000 residents, according to an estimate from the Summit County Executive's Office.



Dispatchers at the center are responsible for receiving incoming emergency calls, prioritizing calls based on the nature of an emergency, providing instructions on life-saving emergency medical interventions, and dispatching the proper emergency personnel. Dispatchers monitor numerous radio frequencies and use the CAD (Computer Aided Dispatch) system to log calls while answering both emergency and non-emergency lines.

Drug Recognition Expert (DRE)

A DRE is a police officer who has advanced training in recognizing impairment in drivers under the influence of drugs other than, or in addition to, alcohol. A DRE is skilled in identifying and detecting drivers under the influence of drugs and in identifying the type or category of drug that is causing the impairment. A DRE conducts evaluations post-arrest that consists of analyzing



appearance and behavior, measuring vital signs, and observing a person's response, reaction, judgment, and coordination during certain sobriety tests. DREs are called to assist Summit County Agencies in drug-related OVI arrests. Drug Recognition Experts represent only 1% of officers in the United States. Officer Burgess is a certified DRE for the City of Stow. Having a DRE in the department has proven beneficial to the City of Stow and Summit County as a whole as he has aided in the arrest of six (6) different drug-related OVI cases in 2023.

Records Division



Stow Records Division is responsible for maintaining all records produced by the Stow Police Department. The division is staffed by a supervisor and three full-time records clerks. They process criminal, incident, and crash reports, among several other various police documents. Staff is also in charge of data entry, preparing criminal and traffic charges, as well as video evidence for court. All members of the Records Division attend training to stay up to date on public records laws. They also manage and distribute all public records requests.

Welcome



In 2023, the Stow Police Department hired Anne Stirm as the Non-Entering Terminal Agency Coordinator (NTAC). Anne Stirm retired from the Stow Police Department in January 2019 as a Captain. She worked 33 years in Law Enforcement, and all of those years were with the City of Stow. As the NTAC, some of Anne’s duties are to verify any warrants or stolen items that are entered into LEADS. She also will make sure that the officers’ LEADS training and certification are up to date and that the officers are using LEADS within the guidelines that the Ohio law provides.

Stow Youth Services



Kathy Christ, Dr. Samantha Pfeiffer, Toni Carter, Ron Clum

Stow Youth Services (SYS) provides alternative rehabilitation for juveniles who have been arrested by local police. The SYS program diverts teens from the Juvenile Court System and provides accountability and assistance to the teens and their parents. This is a cooperative effort between the youth, parents, and SYS staff. Any juvenile who lives in the City of Stow or Munroe Falls and becomes involved with the police is eligible by referral. Walk-ins are also considered when parents need help providing the proper information to their children. The majority of juveniles are placed on a 3-month contract where they are closely monitored and given effective logical consequences to abide by. Other programs that are provided: 4-hour Mandatory Parent/Student Educational Groups, Vaping Education classes, Community Service, and Safety Town.

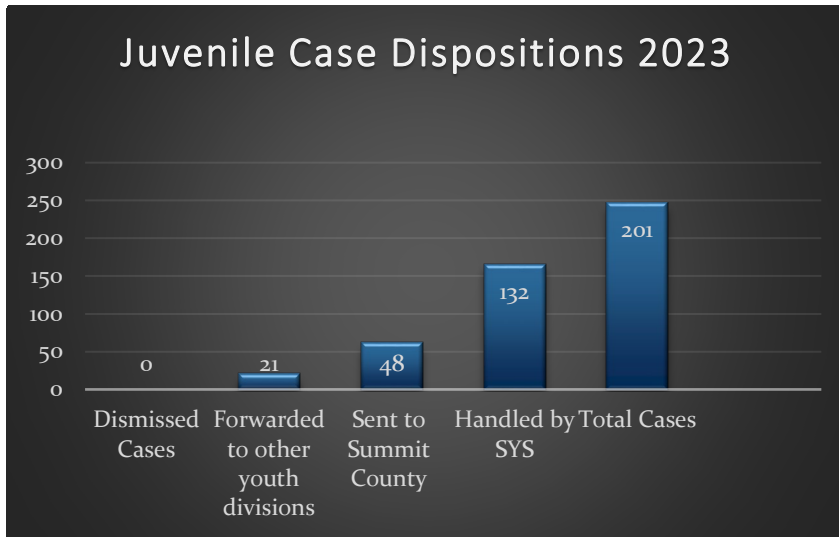
Stow Youth Services along with the City of Stow was able to contract services from Dr. Samantha Pfeiffer using monies from various settlements related to the opiate pandemic. Dr. Pfeiffer is responsible for providing on-site individual support for all clients affiliated with Stow Youth Services who may be at risk for or identified as having concerns regarding substance use, screening for possible substance use issues, brief intervention, consultation and referral into treatment. She is also providing education to staff, parents, and clients. Dr. Pfeiffer began employment on October 1, 2023. During her first two months



with Stow Youth Services, she met with 15 students. Six of those students were recommended to engage in more intensive services. All six have either enrolled in services or have appointments scheduled. The addition of Dr. Pfeiffer has already shown a huge success in combating substance use among our youth.

Participants in the Stow Youth Services program are required to pay an initial diversion fee of \$10 upon entering the program for the first time. Stow Youth Services collected \$540 in Diversion Fees in 2023.

In 2023 there were 95 male juvenile offenders (57%) and 73 female juvenile offenders (43%).



Top 3 Offenses:

- 1) Unruly (Curfew, Incurrigibility, Runaway)
- 2) Theft
- 3) Drugs/ Alcohol



SYS COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT



High School Principals and Guidance Counselors and NEW – City of Stow Parks Pop-Up Events.

In addition to maintaining a steady flow of cases and community supervision, the Stow Youth Services (SYS) participated in many outside community events and programs in 2023. These programs are directly related to youth safety and crime diversion and include The Ohio Police Juvenile Officers Association (OPJOA), The Summit County Truancy Task Force, The Narcotics Overdose Prevention Task Force, Pop-up events in Stow Parks, Safety Town, National Night Out Against Crime, Collaborative Meetings with Stow-Munroe Falls

In 2023, Stow Youth Services briefly continued the Vaping Intervention Program until Stow High School began running the group in April 2023. This program is designed to address the trend of juveniles using vaping devices. This curriculum is a two-hour class. The program is designed to make students aware of how deep their involvement is with vaping and the future consequences of continued use. Four students completed the Vaping Intervention Program this year.

In August 2023, Stow Youth Services provided an alternate class to the Saturday Family Workshop (SFW). While our agency assigns and schedules families for the SFW, there was a long gap anticipated between the classes, and our program had a large number of families that needed to finish their cases. As a result, SYS put on a Substance Abuse Education class that primarily incorporated information presented in the SFW.

In 2023, SYS continued working with the schools to address truancy issues as they arose. The department worked with the schools to specifically address truancy prior to sending them to Summit County Juvenile Court.

As usual, SYS continued to seek meaningful community service projects for youth involved in our program. Youth in the program assisted the city's service department with various tasks, including washing equipment in the city service center, cleaning up the mulch beds around the safety center and cleaning in city parks, as well as setting up and tearing down picnic tables at pavilions at Silver Springs Park.

In addition to this community involvement, SYS also continued to be responsible for crossing guard duties for the elementary and intermediate schools serving Stow. The department was responsible for scheduling and assignments, covering absences at any and all school locations as necessary, and making sure pay stubs were available each payday for the guards to pick up. A new Cross Stop was added in August at Woodland Elementary for students crossing Graham Rd.

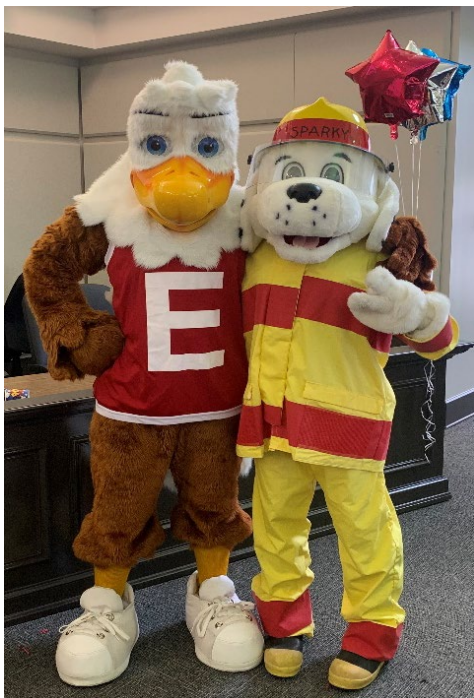


SYS is also involved in the planning and execution of National Night Out Against Crime (NNOC) as well as Safety Town. NNOC includes pre-planning with local businesses, vendors, sponsors, and scout groups as well as the setup and tear down of the event. Safety Town is coordinated and planned by SYS Toni Carter who puts a lot of work in every year to plan and operate 4 sessions during a 2 week period in the summer.



Safety Town

In June of 2023, Stow Youth Services (SYS) had 146 kids come through four (4) Safety Town sessions. A total of thirteen important lessons are covered during the five-day program. Topics covered over the five days include fire safety, playground safety, dog bite prevention, seatbelt safety, weapon safety, poison safety, 9-1-1 safety, bike safety, personal safety, pedestrian safety, bus safety, weather safety, and water safety. SYS partners with other agencies, such as Akron Children’s Hospital, the Stow Munroe Falls School District, Goldfish Swim School, and Sit Means Sit Dog Training, to provide comprehensive, current instruction. Safety Town employs two full-time certified Stow Munroe Falls school district teachers to plan and lead the daily educational process.



**Pictured: Eddie Eagle and Sparky
the Fire Dog at Safety Town**

Stow Safety Town is coordinated by Youth Services Specialist Toni Carter who works diligently for over 6 months to put on a well-loved and educational program.

Safety Town takes a village and Toni had a lot of help! There were 52 total student volunteers from 8th to 12th grade working to make the four classes possible. Our amazing volunteers are such an important part of Safety Town. They help the students by being role models for the kids to look up to and by guiding them through their daily activities. They also lead the students on tours of the Police Department, Fire Department, Dispatch Center, and during their field trip to the Safety Village and Red Park.



In 2023, Safety Town toured our Dispatch Center for the last time. After teaching the students about emergencies and how to call 9-1-1 if/when there is an emergency, they got to see a real-life Dispatch Center and meet some of our very own Dispatchers who answer emergency calls.

Pictured: Dispatcher Jamie McShane with her grandson, Jack, while on his tour of the Dispatch Center during Safety Town.

The Safety Village is one of the most popular field trip sites during Safety Town. Kids learn important lessons while at the Safety Village like pedestrian safety, helmet safety, and bike safety. The Stow Firefighters Local 1662 Safety Village was constructed in 2007 as a permanent site for students to learn and practice these valuable lessons in a realistic setting. In May of 2023, many volunteers gathered to repaint and work on several of the structures that needed a little bit of extra help.



Pictured: Sherwin Williams Employees with Manager Tyler Hardy, Mayor John Pribonic, Safety Town Coordinator Toni Carter, Firefighter/Paramedics Brian Douds and Brian Leising,

School Crossing Guards



In 2023, Stow PD employed thirteen (13) crossing guards. These dedicated individuals are managed by the Stow Youth Services Supervisor and are assigned to help children cross the road at seven (7) school locations throughout the city. These folks are trusted with the safety of the city's schoolchildren. They can be seen out stopping traffic and keeping things running smoothly in the sunshine, rain, sleet, or snow! Challenges continued

throughout 2023 with the rise in the number of students being driven to school, which caused an increase in traffic during the times of crossing students. Inclement weather and snow/ice mounds have added to the difficulty of their jobs. Yet, they remain positive and greet students with a smile and salutation!



Community Events

National Night Out

In conjunction with Target stores, Stow PD participated in National Night Out (NNO) in August. This annual event presents a fantastic opportunity for the police department to interact and engage with the community. This large outdoor festival, which is open to the public, is held in front of the safety center.



The event features large inflatables for kids, face painting, free food, and many police-related activities for families to enjoy, including a K-9 demonstration and a chance to check out police vehicles and equipment.



Stow PD vs. FD Softball Game

On August 27th, Stow PD faced off against the Stow Fire Department in the second annual Stow PD vs. Stow FD softball game hosted at Silver Springs Park. Family members and members of both departments showed up to cheer the teams on and give their support. In the end, Stow PD came out victorious, with the final score being 11-4!



Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics



Each year, the Special Olympics torch passes through the City of Stow as it makes its way across the State of Ohio, proudly carried by law enforcement officers to raise funds for the Special Olympics. Hudson officers pass off the torch to Stow officers at the northern border. Stow PD then runs the torch 3.4 miles to the southern edge of the city where it is transferred to Munroe Falls officers at Adell Durbin Park to continue its journey. On June 20, 2023, Stow had 9 runners participate and led the State of Ohio in fundraising. This year, Officer Beganovic organized the run for Stow PD and took over the position of Northeast Ohio Leg Leader, coordinating 5 days of routes and runners from Painesville, OH (Lake County) to Westerville, OH (Franklin County). He was also afforded the opportunity to escort the Special Olympians into Ohio Stadium, affectionately known as “The Shoe” in Columbus, OH, at the conclusion of the final leg of the run. The 2023 Torch Run experienced the largest fundraising amount year to date, with a 15% increase from 2022! The run also saw growth in the number of registrants, teams, routes, and miles run.



Operation Chill



Officers partnered up with 7-Eleven to enact Operation Chill. This community outreach program is designed to reduce crime and enhance relations between police and youth. Operation Chill allows law enforcement officers to “ticket” kids they observe doing good deeds or exhibiting positive behavior. The ticket is actually a coupon good for a free Slurpee from 7-Eleven. In addition to

encouraging positive behaviors like wearing bicycle helmets, doing good deeds, participating in community activities and organizations, picking up trash, deterring crime or observing street crossing rules, the Operation Chill Program offers opportunities for officers to establish a rapport with kids in a neighborhood. Though the reasons for being “ticketed” may vary, the end result is the same for every youngster: A free Slurpee drink and a smile for a good deed.

Handel’s Ice Cream Rewards

Handel’s Ice Cream Rewards is similar to Operation Chill. Handel’s Ice Cream provides officers with coupons for a free ice cream cone which we also use for community outreach. These coupons are given out to kids who we “catch” doing positive things, or kids who need an ice cream cone to cheer them up due to their circumstances.



MOVEMBER

From November until February, male officers can elect to grow facial hair outside of the normal clean-shaven uniform policy. Participating officers must donate a minimum of \$25 to various charities for each month of participation. This year, we kicked off the event with “No Shave No Trim WishVember” which is a program put on by A Special Wish Northeast Ohio Chapter whose mission is to grant wishes to local children who have been diagnosed with a life-threatening illness. This is followed by donations to Shop With a Cop in December and the Stow First Responders Memorial Foundation in January. This is the first year February was added on, with the donations going to the Ohio Special Olympics Torch Run.



Shop with a Cop



The Stow Police Department continues to be a regular participant in the annual Shop with a Cop (SWAC) event. SWAC gives the police an opportunity to connect and build strong, trusting relationships with children in our community. It also gives families that are struggling financially an opportunity to shop for toys and gifts to help make the season more bright.

This year, Kimpton Middle School in Munroe Falls hosted 16 police agencies and 210 children for breakfast with Santa

and their favorite Disney princesses and superheroes. Breakfast was donated by many local restaurants and businesses.

After breakfast, the children were transported to the Stow Target via all different types of police and SWAT vehicles. Thanks to generous donations from local citizens and businesses, Stow Police were able to provide \$300 Target gift cards to 29 Stow children to shop for Christmas gifts for themselves and their families but the program as a whole raised over \$34,000. Each family was also given multiple gift cards to different restaurants, grocery stores, gas stations, and places of entertainment courtesy of an anonymous Stow resident.



2023 Personnel

Sworn Officers

Chief Jeffrey E. Film	Captain Bryan J. Snively	
Lieutenant Michael A. Titus Lieutenant Erik N. Dirker	Lieutenant Heather M. Prusha	Lieutenant Stephen W. Miller
Sergeant Daniel N. Drummond Sergeant Theodore L. Bell Sergeant Justin M. Burgess	Sergeant Jeffrey A. Breznak Sergeant John L. Ginther	Sergeant Kasey L. Olesinski Sergeant Jacob D. Corfman
Detective Edith F. Gaffney Detective Stephen J. Heim	Detective Jeffrey D. Swanson Detective Ryan M. Schulz	Detective Nicholas F. Dolezal Detective Michael B. Murphy
Officer Joseph J. Hepler Officer Brian R. Haddix Officer Robert D. Frisina Officer Bethany M. Childers Officer Samuel J. Williams Officer Kristopher J. Maruna Officer Christopher B. Demars Officer Eldin Beganovic Officer Tristen D. Kidd	Officer Barry C. Smith Officer Jesse J. Reedy Officer Jason L. Bailey Officer Patrick R. Myers Officer Kevin R. Smith Officer Christopher J. Musarra Officer Dylan M. Gabel Officer Nicholas J. Flasco Officer Antonio Johnson	Officer Robert S. Molody Officer Justin C. Smith Officer Edward J. Wonner Officer Brett M. Balog Officer Jacob M. Pajestka Officer Taylor N. Paxton Officer Samantha R. Wike Officer Shawn M. Baker Officer Alonte O. Williams

Reserve Unit

Captain Tom Sedor

Lieutenant Alisha Greenawalt-Johnson

Sergeant Michael Dolbow

Sergeant Gregory Hunter

Officer Brad Hough
Officer Anthony Villanueva
Officer Will Kalkhoff
Officer Mitchell Parker

Officer Richard Dennis
Officer Martin Ashbaugh
Officer Madison Rutherford

Civilian Staff

Chief's Office

Supervisor: Marguerite Amonett

Communication Specialists

Jamie McShane
Bobbi Smyth
Angie Mack
Francesca Teel
Elizabeth White
Alescia Maxwell

Jessica Dolezal
Susan Novak
Norma Stewart
Adrianna Vaughn
Jessica Viall
Dominick Hicks

Sara Worley
Tara Wilson
Adrienne Fullen
Caitlin Klein
Lindsey Huston
Megan Wise

Community Service Officer

Edward Young

Records Division

Supervisor: Cheryl Black

Michelle Badgley

Pamela Schifano

April Dirker

Stow Youth Services

Supervisor: Kathy Christ

Toni Carter

Ron Clum

Samantha Pfeiffer

