

City of Powell Police Department

2017 Annual Report



Gary L. Vest
Chief of Police

Police Department

Mission Statement

It is the mission of the Powell Police Department to safeguard persons and property through preparedness and vigilance. The department holds true to a community policing philosophy. Its members shall continually strive for excellence in service, training, and professional development.

Core Values

Our core values are honesty, integrity, dependability, service to others before self, and a genuine desire to pursue what is right and good.

Message from the Chief

The department's annual report reflects the previous year's data on the nature of the calls handled by officers and other services provided by our personnel. We included the special events and community outreach initiatives planned throughout the year. This year we highlighted a few brief connections with some very dear people in our community. Actually, we don't run call to call; we are blessed to have the time to talk with those that call, listen to concerns, and work with our community for resolutions. Thank you for giving us the resources to provide this quality of service.



Gary L. Vest, Chief of Police

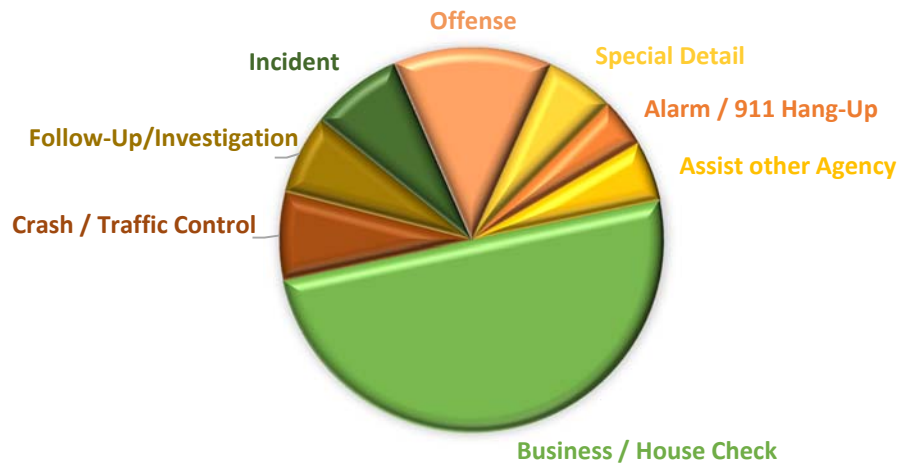
Statistics

	Description	2017	2016	Change
A	Calls for Service	20,493	19,128	7.1%
B	Dispatched Calls	6,093	5,638	8.1%
C	Police Reports	1,360	1,276	6.6%
D	Adult Arrests	160	123	30.1%
E	Juvenile Arrests	61	27	125.9%
F	Traffic Stops	1,525	1,124	35.7%
G	Traffic Citations	290	219	32.4%
H	Traffic Crashes	147	170	-13.5%
I	False Alarms	349	370	-5.7%
J	House Watches	518	439	18.0%
K	Preventative Patrols	1,293	1,221	5.9%
L	Stacked Calls	344	192	79.2%

- A: All activity generated by officers as well as all citizen requests for police response.
- B: Excludes officer-initiated calls.
- C: Offense and incident reports, traffic crashes, arrests, citations, false alarms.
- G: Includes citations written after traffic stops and traffic crashes.
- H: Includes public and private property crashes.

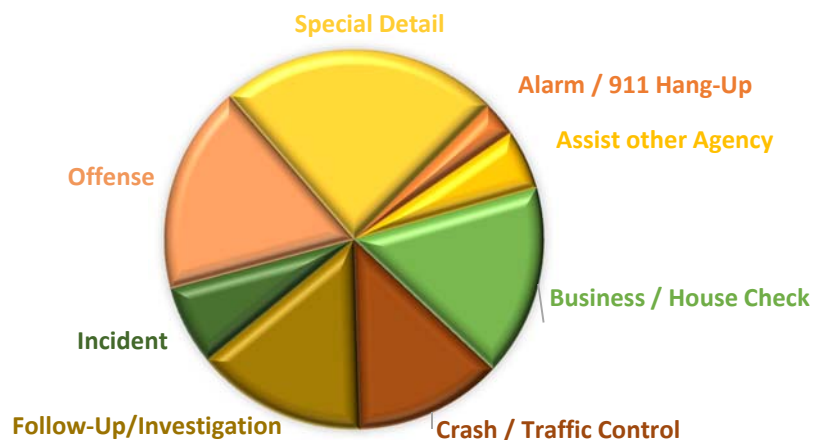
Nature of Calls

NUMBER OF CALLS BY NATURE



Half of our calls are business or house checks which are initiated by officers as crime prevention measures.

TIME ON CALLS BY NATURE



But those calls only account for 16% of our time.
False alarms take 3% of our officers' time.

Crime Statistics

Description	2016	2015	2014
Murder	0	0	0
Forcible Rape	0	0	0
Robbery	0	2	0
Aggravated Assault	0	4	3
Total Violent Crime	0	6	3
Burglary/B&E	24	17	23
Larceny Theft	97	63	99
Motor Vehicle Theft	2	0	5
Total Property Crime	123	80	127

*Source: Ohio Incident-Based Reporting System
2017 numbers are not available yet.*



There were 33 thefts from motor vehicles in Powell in 2017, down from 60 in 2016.

Most were from unlocked cars parked in driveways with valuables in sight.

Budget

The City of Powell Police Department strives to be a good steward of tax-payer dollars.

Personnel Costs include salaries and overtime, pensions, and insurance. In July, 2017 the city negotiated new labor contracts with officers and sergeants. One employee was added to the Department.

Operating Expenses include gasoline, uniforms and gear, training, rents, cruiser maintenance, equipment maintenance, cell phones, accreditation, office supplies and miscellaneous. This category includes a number of software licenses such as LEADS and Power DMS.

2017 BUDGET
\$2,847,010



■ PERSONNEL ■ OPERATING ■ CAPITAL



Capital includes miscellaneous equipment and cruisers. The department purchased body-worn cameras and replaced the in-car cameras in 2017. This project was partially funded by a grant. In December, all city-owned AEDs were

replaced with new equipment compatible with the Liberty Township Fire Department's equipment. This was funded by a generous private donation.



Notable Cases



Jewelry Theft | A jewelry theft in March was caught on surveillance video. Police were able to identify the suspects using fingerprint and video evidence, as well as an anonymous tip. The suspects were indicted, and warrants were issued for their arrest. They remain at large.

Forged Travelers Checks |

A suspect passed forged travelers checks at a business on Sawmill Parkway. Powell Police identified the suspect as Anthony Sanders. The United States Marshals Service picked up the suspect and transported him to the Delaware County jail where he confessed to Powell Police Detective Smith. Mr. Sanders was on parole and faces charges for the same crime in locations around the country. His trial will be in January.



Embezzlement | A resident invested \$500,000 in a new restaurant business, only to have the money gambled away by his partner at the Hollywood and other casinos. Powell detectives secured an indictment for theft and receiving stolen property. A trial is scheduled for February.

Traffic Crashes

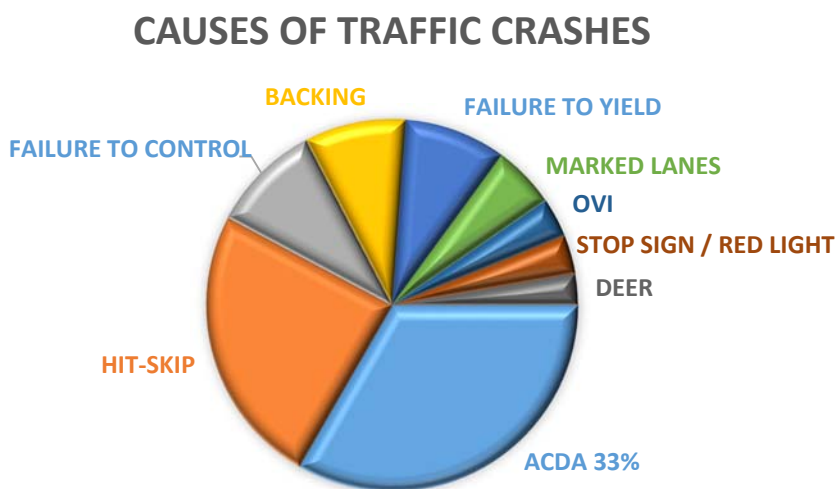
The Powell Police Department took 147 traffic crash reports in 2017 (on public and private property). This represented a decrease of 13.5% from 2016. The most accident-prone roadways were also our busiest roadways: Sawmill Parkway, State Route 750, and Liberty Street.

There were no fatal crashes in 2017, but 21 injury crashes were reported in 2017.



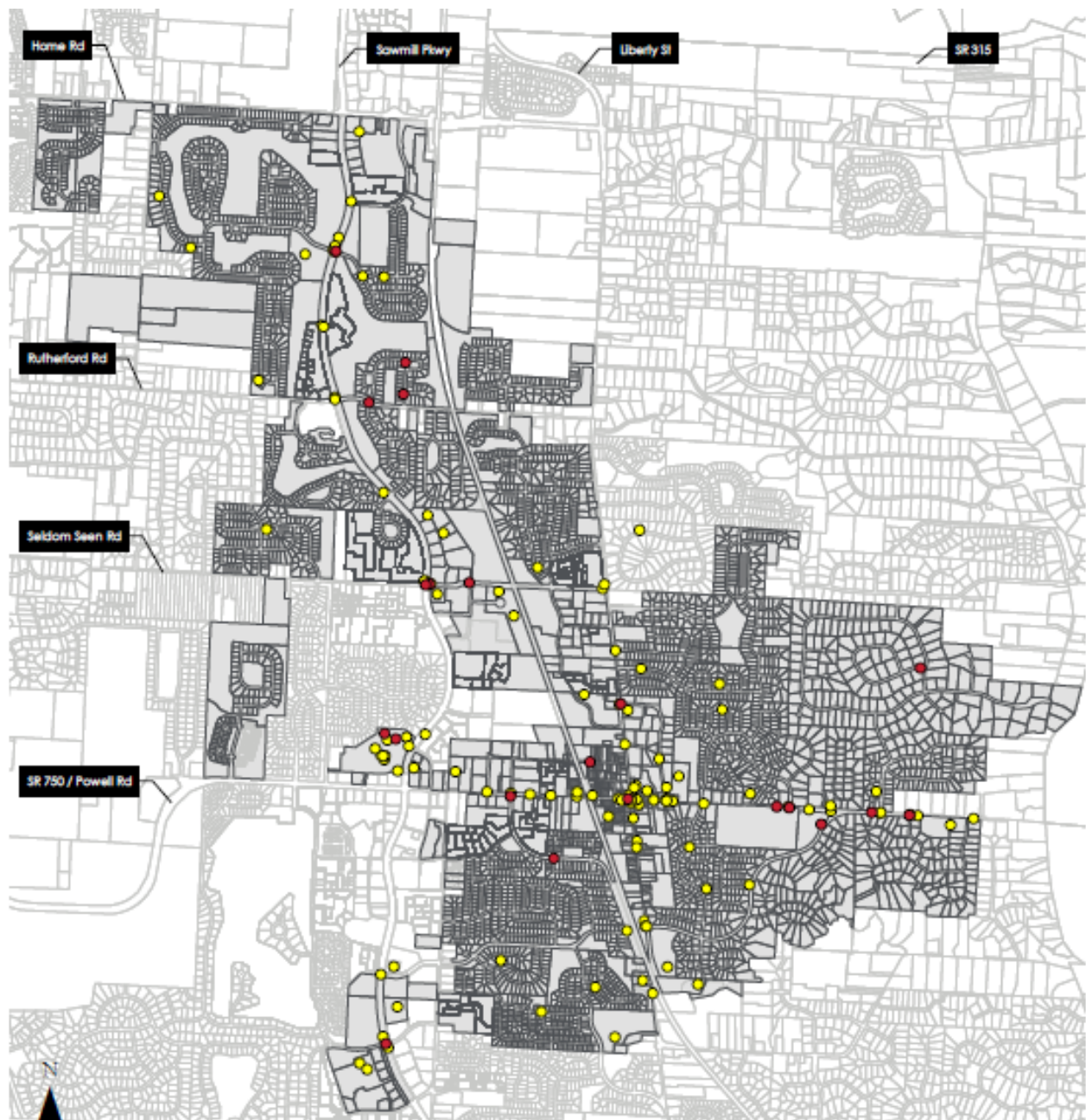
The main cause of crashes handled by the Powell Police is Assured Clear Distance Ahead (ACDA), vehicles following too closely and thus not having enough time to stop once traffic begins to slow on these main routes.

Reducing traffic crashes in the City of Powell continues to be one of the priority goals of the Powell Police Department.



Officers watch for vehicles in these high-crash zones that are following too closely, speeding, or otherwise driving recklessly.

2017 Crashes



Red – Injury
Yellow – Property Damage

Map by Powell Development Department

Patrol

Patrol officers are first responders to all police-related calls for service. They must have the skills, knowledge, and ability to handle virtually every aspect of police work, including emergency and routine calls for service, traffic crashes, and criminal investigations. They are tasked with drug enforcement, enforcing state and local laws, and making contact with the public. They solve problems, write reports, testify in court, and actively promote crime prevention and reduction strategies.



The Patrol Division consists of three shifts, each supervised by a sergeant. The sergeants report to the Deputy Chief, who reports to the Chief of Police. The sergeants oversee day-to-day operations and implement the goals and objectives of the Powell Police Department as a whole, as well as the duties

assigned specifically to their particular shifts.

For first shift, this most often means traffic enforcement, business checks, and administrative duties.

Second shift officers also perform traffic enforcement and are usually the friendly faces seen at children's Scout meetings and homeowner association meetings.

Third shift is the driving force behind our agency's Preventative Patrol program, checking for open garage doors, unlocked businesses, and other behaviors that raise the risk of crime. Together, the three shifts provide a seamless approach to community policing.

Investigations

The Detective Bureau is comprised of two detectives supervised by Deputy Chief Hrytzik. Detectives Darren Smith and Ryan Pentz process crime scenes, interview witnesses, contact outside jurisdictions, write reports, work closely with prosecutors' offices, and testify in courts in Delaware and Franklin counties. They are the liaison with the Grand Jury.

Detective Smith is assigned to the Cyber Crimes Task Force that includes members from the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) and other surrounding agencies. Detective Pentz is assigned to the Human Trafficking Task force. Both detectives are also part of the Central Ohio Investigative Network (COIN).



Detectives Smith and Pentz search a car.

The bureau manages criminal intelligence information, conducts employee backgrounds, processes crime

scenes, and stores collected evidence and photographs. Detectives investigate both violent and property crimes.

Investigations are reviewed and assigned a priority based on the seriousness of the offense and/or the solvability of the crime. Some crimes may take months, even years, to fully investigate and prosecute. Detectives assigned to investigate these crimes have developed an advanced level of expertise by attending specialized training and from years of experience working complex cases.



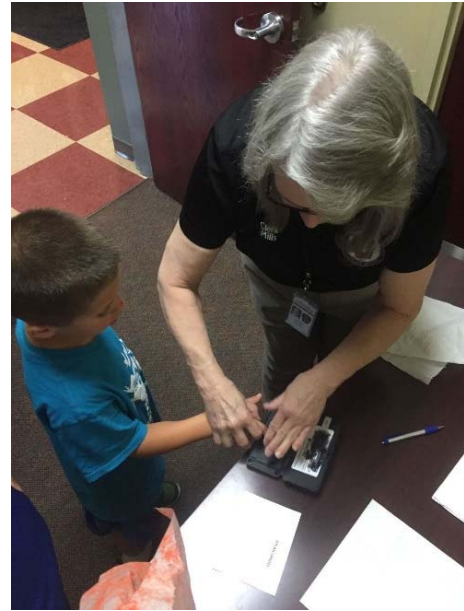
Other Services

Fingerprints | We are the only police department in Central Ohio to offer ink fingerprints to the public. That service is free to Powell residents. We also do electronic fingerprints, collecting over \$23,000 in fees.

Notary Services | We offer notary public services at no charge.

Peddler Permits | We processed a record 67 applications for peddler permits, collecting over \$5,000 in fees.

Public Records Requests | We responded to more than 800 public records requests last year. We are beginning to receive requests for body camera video.



Clerk Mills fingerprints a Safety Camp participant.



Officer Jason Latiolais and K9 Axel at the 2017 Community Bonfire. K9 Axel was deployed 107 times and contributed to 29 arrests in 2017.

Training

The department completed **2,540 hours** of training in 2017.



*Sergeant Roach instructs
Defensive Tactics.*

Powell Police Officers, Detectives, Clerks, and Supervisors are required to attend certain key training classes throughout the year to keep their skills sharp and up to date. These include DT (Defensive Tactics), Firearms Re-qualifications, CPR and First Aid Certification, Active Shooter, All Hazard Training, Ethics, and Legal Updates.

In addition to their mandated training, department employees are encouraged to seek additional training which benefits their job functions. Such training not only

benefits the employee, but also the agency and the community as a whole.

Sergeant Andy Lucas attended the 267th session of the FBI National Academy. This is a professional course of study for U.S. and international law enforcement managers nominated by their agency heads because of demonstrated leadership qualities. This 10-week course is for people who seek to enhance their credentials in their field and to raise law enforcement standards, knowledge, and also cooperation worldwide.



Department Events



Click It or Ticket | From May 22 to June 4, Powell Police participated in the Delaware County Annual Click-it-or-Ticket campaign. This program has been the cornerstone of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's efforts to get Americans to buckle up.

Memorial Day Parade | The Memorial Day parade stepped off with more than 67 units. Olentangy Liberty and Olentangy High School bands performed, and numerous local veterans rode with the Street Elite Corvette Club and other vehicles. After the parade, city officials conducted a brief ceremony honoring those who died while serving in the military. Lt. Col. Ret. Russ Anible delivered the keynote address. Five new bricks were dedicated. Deputy Matt Graham closed the ceremony with Amazing Grace on the bagpipe. Boy Scout Troop 428 held a flag retirement ceremony at the fire pit.



PCPAAA volunteers Susan Christoff and Jennifer Mele.

Mystery Night Out | More than 100 teams followed the clues around town to find a lost puppy. A DJ entertained crowds at Village Green Park. Various Delaware County safety and welfare agencies staffed information booths. Dozens of prizes were awarded to successful teams.



Tobacco 21 | In August, our Police Department visited local businesses that sell tobacco products to discuss the recently passed ordinance restricting the sale of tobacco, tobacco products, alternative nicotine

products or rolling papers to persons under the age of 21.



Officer Boruchowitz visits Stogies.



Community Bonfire | A fall family favorite returned to Village Green Park on October 21, 2017. At the 21st annual Community Bonfire, residents enjoyed free hot dogs, donut holes, cider and marshmallows, to the backdrop of live music and a roaring bonfire. Chief Vest and Liberty Township Fire Chief O'Brien hosted the event.

Candy by the Carload |

The week before Halloween, officers participated in Candy by Carload. On Halloween itself, officers passed out candy from their cruisers.



Officer A. Wilt meets a young visitor to Candy by the Carload.

Veterans Day | The Powell Police Department hosted the ninth annual Veterans Day celebration on November 10, 2017. WWII Navy veteran Craig Carmichael delivered the keynote address. The Columbus Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution presented Mr. Carmichael with a handcrafted patriotic quilt.



Village Academy supplied the music, and Chief Vest dedicated three new bricks in the Greater Powell Veterans Memorial.

Shop with a Cop | Law enforcement officers, led by the Delaware County Sheriff's Office, volunteered to help needy children 12 and under shop for clothing and toys at Meijer and Walmart. The children were nominated for the event by counselors, principals and teachers. Meijer and Walmart donated the merchandise.



Citizens Police Academy

The Powell Police Department hosted its ninth Citizens Police Academy in 2017. This program, which is free and open to all, aims to educate the public about the role of law enforcement in our community. The classes meet once a week for two hours a week, and at least one four-hour ride-along with police officers is encouraged.



Officer A. Wilt with a CPA student.

The program includes training on traffic stops, crime prevention, criminal law, firearms, CPR, media, and crime scene investigation. The instructors are drawn from Powell's patrol officers, sergeants, and detectives.

At the conclusion of the program, graduates receive a certificate of completion and an invitation to join the Powell Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association. Members of the association volunteer their time helping with various Police Department projects and activities.



New Hire



In August, the department welcomed **Brandon Phenix** from Toledo. He will complete the Ohio State Highway Patrol's Academy in January and begin the field training process.

Phenix graduated from Lake Erie College with a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice. While in high school, Brandon ran track and played football. He won a football scholarship to Lake Erie College.

CALEA Accreditation



In March, the Powell Police Department received accreditation for the sixth time from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). Officer Scott Sanford led the accreditation process, although all agency staff participated.

The department underwent a Gold Standard assessment in October of 2016. According to the report:

"The team found the Powell Police Department to be well prepared, hospitable and exhibiting the highest levels of professionalism one would expect of a CALEA accredited agency."



Chief Vest, Officer Sanford, Deputy Chief Hyrtzik and Officer Boruchowitz accept CALEA accreditation.



In addition to receiving the Meritorious Advanced Accreditation for Law Enforcement with Excellence during CALEA's conference, Police Chief Gary Vest was awarded the **Egon Bittner Award**. This award is presented to police chiefs who have commanded a CALEA accredited agency for 15 or more continuous years. It was created to recognize these leaders for their significant contributions to the public safety profession and to CALEA.

Awards & Recognition

Officer Cook was named Officer of the Year. He came to us as a seasoned officer and quickly fit into our agency. Officer Cook has been supportive of co-workers and is an asset to the department.

Officer Waymire, Officer Hart and Detective Smith received five-year safe-driving awards. **Officer J. Wilt, Officer Hiltz, Officer Dennison, Detective Pentz and Sergeant Sallows** received ten-year safe driving awards.



Officer Cook accepts the Officer of the Year award from Chief Vest.



2017 Staff Meeting in 'No Shave November'.

Clerk Wenden and Officer Waymire received five-year service awards. **Officer Dennison** received a 10-year service award. **Detective Smith** received a 20-year service award.

Touching Lives

Sometimes we are fortunate to be in the right place at the right time to make a difference in the community.

Officers Boruchowitz and Cook responded to a burglar alarm in September and discovered a woman who had fallen into a window well next door and broken her leg. She threw rocks at her neighbor's house to attract his attention, but he was not home. Fortunately, she set off his burglar alarm, bringing our officers to the scene. Officers stayed with the injured woman until medics could help her.

In February, Officers Waymire and A. Wilt visited a young man with developmental disabilities on his birthday. He was a big fan of police and was thrilled by the visit. He was excited to explore the inside of the cruiser and loved hitting the siren. Sadly, the boy passed away a few months later. The department made him an honorary police officer posthumously.

In April, Sergeant Lucas helped a woman load her (large) gravely ill dog into a vehicle. She wrote, in part, "Thank you so much for your help with my dog during the very early morning hours last week. He took a very bad turn quickly and would have had a rough, long night if I had waited until morning. It's always tough to do, but with your help, I was able to get him to Med Vet and relieve him of his pain."



*Officer Hart with
a preschool class
from Powell
United Methodist
Church.*

Goals & Objectives

Traffic safety in the City of Powell remains the top priority for the Patrol division in 2018. We will use social media to keep the community informed of traffic conditions and focused enforcement efforts.

In addition, the agency is committed to the following goals:

- Create a five-year strategic plan for the department.
- Find opportunities to work with volunteers such as the Powell Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association.
- Extend community outreach efforts including radKIDS.
- Review departmental processes to identify areas where technology can improve delivery of service.



Detectives Smith and Pentz at CSI Day at Tyler Run Elementary.