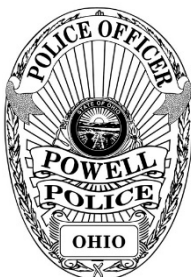


# City of Powell Police Department

## 2018 Annual Report



Gary L. Vest  
Chief of Police

# Message from the Chief



As in past years, this annual report reflects the previous year's activities and services provided by our personnel. We included special events and community outreach initiatives scheduled throughout the year.

The Powell Police Department is preparing for a change in leadership in the spring of 2019. As the retiring Police Chief, I offer a special note of appreciation for those who serve and those we serve. I have enjoyed a great partnership with my co-workers and my community.

The members of the Powell Police Department are well trained, very dedicated, and fiercely committed to providing the services that are expected in such a fine community.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary L. Vest".

Gary L. Vest, Chief of Police

# Police Department

## Mission Statement

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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

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

*In 1996, when Chief Vest joined the department, Powell's population was about 4,000. There were 12 full time sworn officers, five part time officers and one civilian.*

*The Powell Police Department now consists of 20 sworn officers, a K9 and two civilians, serving a population over 14,000.*



# Statistics

	Description	2018	2017	Change
A	Calls for Service	<b>22,093</b>	20,493	7.8%
B	Dispatched Calls	<b>6,510</b>	6,093	6.8%
C	Police Reports	<b>1,323</b>	1,360	-2.7%
D	Adult Arrests	<b>107</b>	160	-33.1%
E	Juvenile Arrests	<b>33</b>	61	-45.9%
F	Traffic Stops	<b>1,691</b>	1,525	10.9%
G	Traffic Citations	<b>252</b>	290	-13.1%
H	Traffic Crashes	<b>145</b>	147	-1.4%
I	False Alarms	<b>348</b>	349	-0.3%
J	House Watches	<b>469</b>	518	-9.5%
K	Preventative Patrols	<b>1,662</b>	1,293	28.5%
L	Stacked Calls	<b>278</b>	344	-19.2%

## NOTES

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.

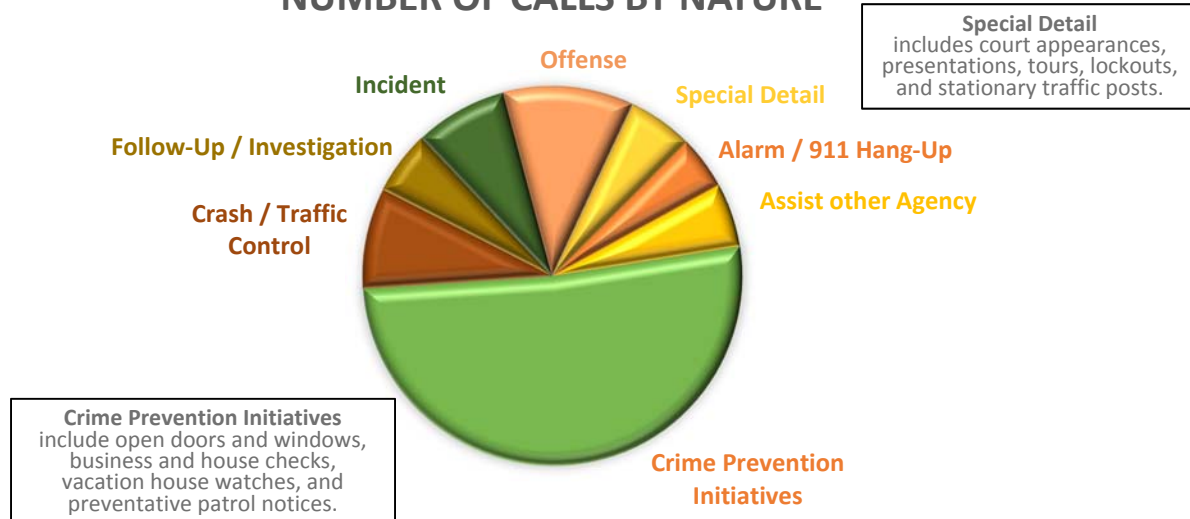
G: Includes citations written after traffic stops and traffic crashes.

H: Includes public and private property crashes.



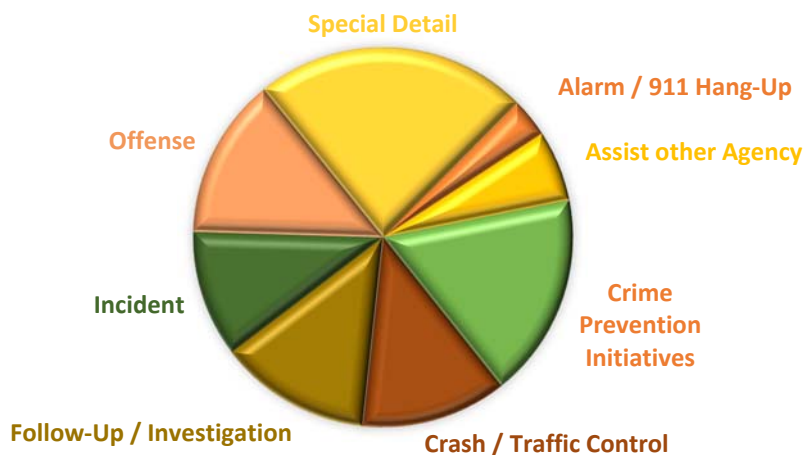
# Nature of Calls

**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**



Crime Prevention calls account for 16% of our time.  
False alarms take 3% of our officers' time.

# Crime Statistics

Description	2017	2016	2015
Murder	0	0	0
Forcible Rape	2	0	0
Robbery	2	0	2
Aggravated Assault	2	0	4
<b>Total Violent Crime</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>
Burglary/B&E	12	24	17
Larceny Theft	98	97	63
Motor Vehicle Theft	1	2	0
<b>Total Property Crime</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>80</b>

*Source: Ohio Incident-Based Reporting System  
2018 numbers are not available yet.*



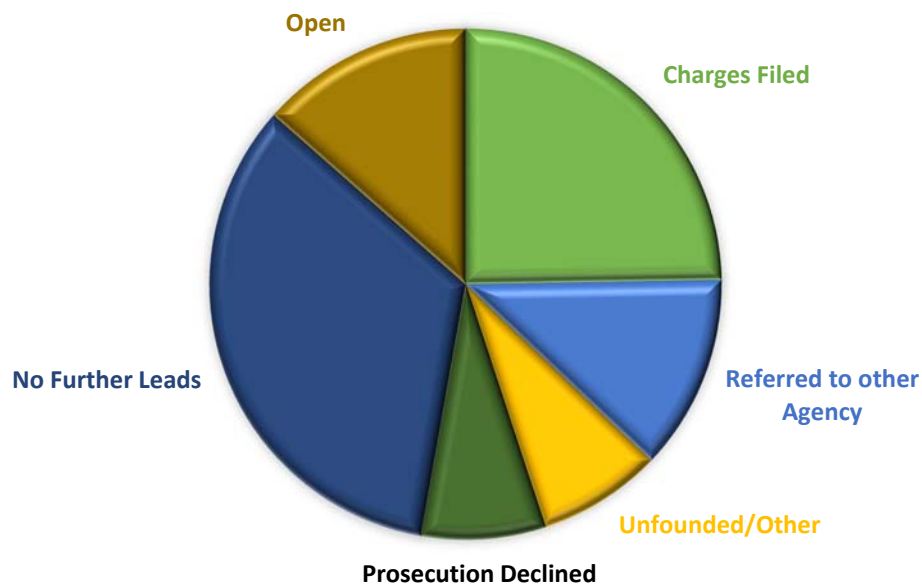
*There were 33 thefts from motor vehicles in Powell in 2018, the same as in 2017.*

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

# Felonies

There were 89 cases involving 107 felonies in 2018. The agency resolved over half of the cases within the year.

## 2018 FELONIES



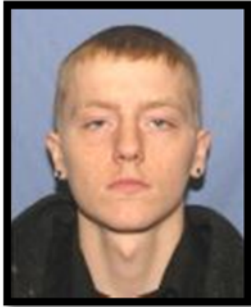
Some frequent offenses (not all felonies) in 2018 were:

1. **Theft from Vehicles** (33)
2. **Shoplifting** (23)
3. **Identity Theft** (15)
4. **Theft by Deception** (9)

*Scams included IRS, jury duty, tech support, excess check or money order, online dating, and a car sale on eBay.*



## Notable Cases



**Thefts from Vehicles** | After a theft from a vehicle was reported, a suspect was apprehended walking away from the scene of the theft. Landon Muncy confessed to being involved in more than a dozen car break-ins plus drug offenses. He did 20 days jail time and will be on probation for two years.

**Sexual Assault** | In 2018, two defendants pled guilty to sexual battery in the case of a juvenile who was raped at a party in Powell in 2017. The defendants will serve 42 months in prison each and be labeled Tier III Sex Offenders.



**Shoplifting** | Powell Police were called on 16 cases of shoplifting at one business on Sawmill Parkway. Most of the shoplifters were caught and prosecuted, receiving sentences including jail time, probation, and fines.

**Drug Trafficking** | A resident of Powell found a large quantity of marijuana in his house. A member of the household confessed to holding the marijuana for the purpose of trafficking. He pled guilty and received a residential treatment sentence, fines, and three years of probation.



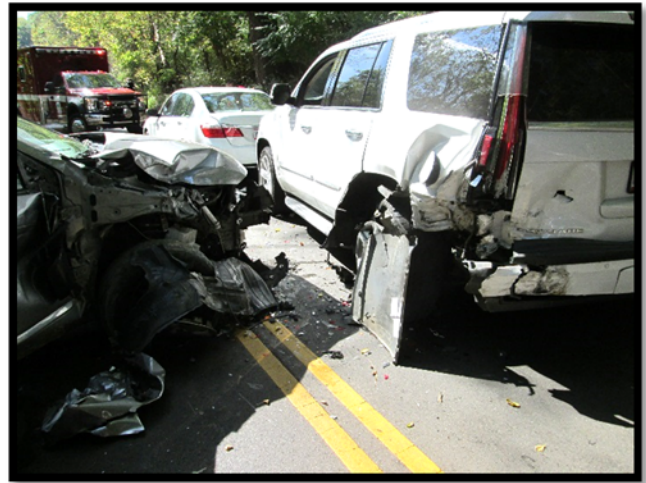


# Traffic Crashes

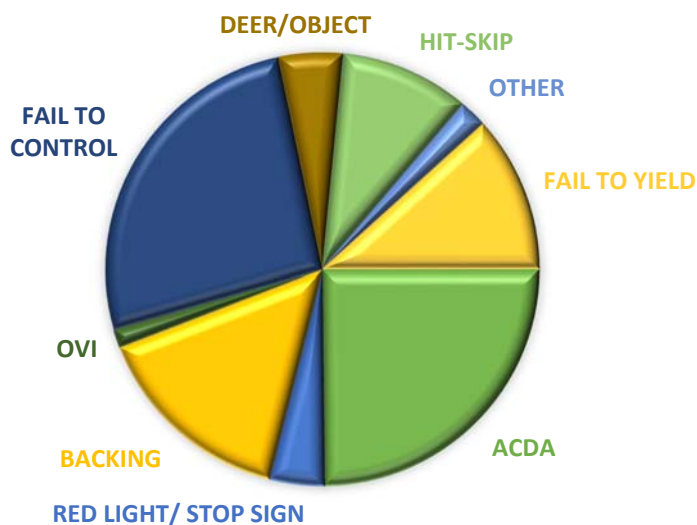
The Powell Police Department took 145 traffic crash reports in 2018 (on public and private property). This represented a decrease of 1.4% from 2017. The most accident-prone roadways were also our busiest roadways: Sawmill Parkway, State Route 750, and Liberty Street.

There were no fatal crashes, but 27 injury crashes were reported in 2018.

A common 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.



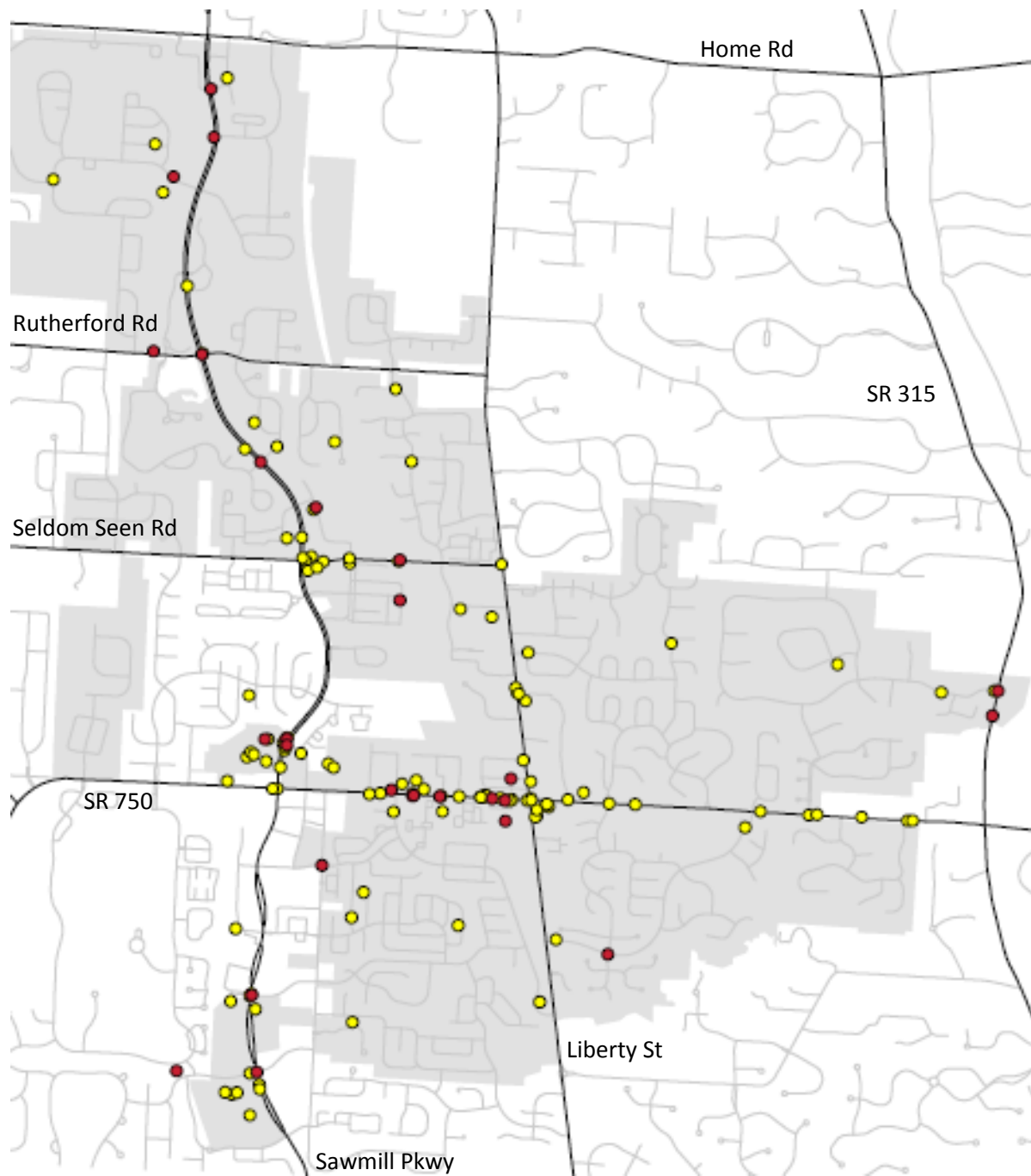
## CAUSES OF 2018 TRAFFIC CRASHES



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.

# 2018 Crashes



Red – Injury

Yellow – Property Damage

*Includes private property crashes*

*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.

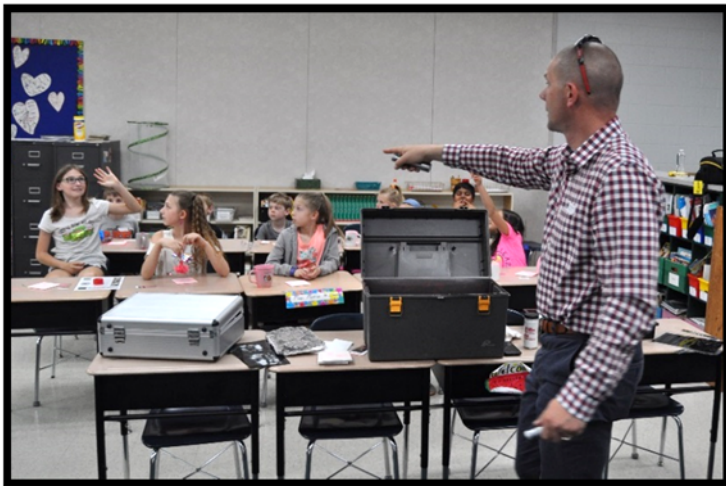
For first shift, this most often means traffic enforcement, business checks, and administrative duties.

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 Stephen 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 Pentz conducts CSI Day at Tyler Run.*

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).

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** | Police Clerks took 532 sets of ink fingerprints in 2018. This service is free to residents of Powell. Fees for electronic fingerprints were \$20,680.

**Notary Services** | Notary services are offered to the public at no charge.

**Peddler Permits** | Clerks processed a record 80 applications for peddler permits, collecting over \$6,000 in fees.

**Public Records Requests** | Clerks responded to more than 620 public records requests last year.

**Golf Cart Inspections** | Officers checked 41 golf carts to ensure roadworthiness. Beginning in 2019, there will be a \$10 charge for this service for non-residents.



*Clerk Wenden fingerprints a Safety Camp participant.*



*Officers Maddox and Phenix enjoy a little basketball with some young friends.*

# Training

The department completed **1,702.5 hours** of training in 2018. This does not include the many hours K9 Axel and his handler spent training.

Powell Police Officers, Detectives, Supervisors, and Clerks 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.



*The agency receives instruction on Marsy's Law at the annual staff meeting. K9 Axel's attention wanders.*

# Budget

The City of Powell Police Department strives to be a good steward of taxpayer dollars. The 2018 budget was \$3,115,615.

**Personnel Costs** include salaries and overtime, pensions, and insurance. One employee, a patrol officer, was added in 2018.

**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.

**Capital** includes miscellaneous equipment and cruisers. The department added one cruiser in 2018 and replaced another.



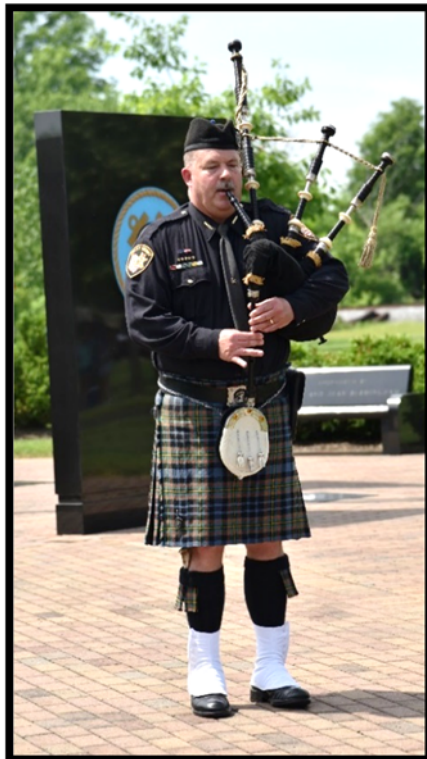


# Department Events



**Click It or Ticket** | From May 21 to June 3, Powell Police participated in the Delaware County Annual Click-it-or-Ticket campaign. This program is 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 59 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. Staff Sgt. David Neal, Ret. delivered the keynote address. Two 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.







*K9 Axel was deployed 95 times and contributed to 21 arrests in 2018.*

**Mystery Night Out** | Teams of all ages followed the clues around town to find the lost key to the city. A DJ entertained crowds at Village Green Park. Various Delaware County safety and welfare agencies staffed information booths.

**Community Bonfire** | A fall family favorite returned to Village Green Park in October. At the 22nd annual Community Bonfire, residents enjoyed free hot dogs, donut holes, cider and marshmallows, to the backdrop of live music. Weather did not

permit the lighting of the bonfire. Chief Vest and Liberty Township Fire Chief O'Brien hosted the event.



*The bonfire was actually lit after the Veterans Day ceremony in November.*

**Veterans Day** | The Powell Police Department hosted the tenth annual Veterans Day celebration in November. Retired US Marine John Bernans (former LTFD Chief), delivered the keynote address. Village Academy supplied the music, and Chief Vest dedicated a new brick in the Greater Powell Veterans

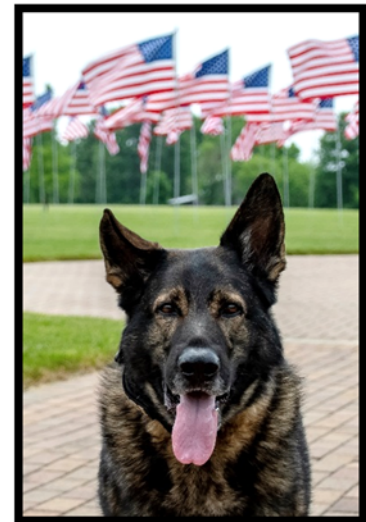


*Chief Vest, Mayor Bennehoof, and Speaker Bernans at Veterans Day.*



Memorial. Nikki Frierhood, a teacher at Wyandot Run Elementary, played Taps. City Barbeque, Shorty's and Espresso 22 provided a reception after the ceremony.

**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.



*Detective Darren Smith participated in Shop with a Cop in December.*



# Citizens Police Academy

The Powell Police Department hosted its tenth Citizens Police Academy in 2018. 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.



The program includes training on traffic stops, crime prevention, criminal law, firearms, CPR, 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.



# radKIDS



The Powell Police Department conducted two classes of radKIDS in 2018, graduating 17 students from this program that educates children and their guardians to enhance their ability to use knowledge, skills and power to protect themselves from unsafe situations.

**radKIDS** is a program designed for children ages 8-12 and focuses on their decision-making skills. The curriculum includes lessons on home, fire, internet, public, road, drug and vehicle safety and information on dealing with bullies and stranger danger. The Delaware County Sheriff's Office assisted the Powell Police Department with classes. Classes are free but limited to 12 students.

**"We believe that helping kids overcome situations that cause fear, panic and confusion is a great investment toward their well-being and the future of our community." – Officer Audrey Wilt.**



# New Hire



In August, the department welcomed **Charles Graves** from Piqua, Ohio as our newest patrol officer. He graduated from Edison State Community college with a degree in Criminal Justice and Computer Forensics. He went on to graduate from the Edison State Basic Peace Officer Academy.

In his free time, Officer Graves enjoys watching sports, playing video games, and fishing.

# Five-Year Plan

In 2018, the agency came together to build a five-year plan. This document outlines not only the vision for this agency but also the steps we plan to take to ensure we make that vision a reality.

We are committed to using all the resources at our disposal to ensure that police response time and the personal level of service we provide will remain constant despite the increased growth in this area.



*An injured deer charged Officer Graves' cruiser on East Olentangy Street.*

# Awards & Recognition



**Officer Sanford** was named Officer of the Year for his excellent work with the CALEA accreditation process.

**Sergeant Roach** received a five-year safe-driving award.

Letters of Recognition went to **Officer Maddox**, **Officer A. Wilt** and **Officer J. Wilt** for shoveling snow for various residents of the community.



# Goals & Objectives

**1**

**Prepare for the transition of administrations as Chief Vest retires in May, 2019.**

After 23 years of service to the City of Powell and over 40 years in law Enforcement, Chief Vest is retiring. The impact Chief Vest has made to the police department, community and the greater law enforcement community can't be measured in years or events. His steady and confident hand on the pulse of the community will be missed. The department is poised to continue his mission of providing professional service while showing compassion to those in need.

**2**

**Work with staff and citizens on projects that directly impact the community.**

Collaborate with our local civic groups and stakeholders to create a city where residents and visitors feel welcome. The mission of the police department and our strategic plan calls for strong community involvement. We will look for new ways that the police department can assist the community and provide a higher level of service.

**3**

**Increase awareness of crime prevention initiatives performed by the police department.**

The police department offers several initiatives to help protect the safety and property of our residents. The agency strives to make the public more familiar with all the safety products offered. Through our vacation house check program, business security inspections, personal safety programs and the traffic safety initiatives, the police department continues to look for ways to promote safety and security for our residents.