



2019 Annual Report



City of Powell Police Department

Stephen Hrytzik
Chief of Police

Message from the Chief



In 1991 I began my career as a police officer for the Powell Police Department. Today I write to you as the Chief of this dedicated group of men and women that proudly serve the citizens of Powell.

The development of the department and the community over the past 29 years is nothing short of amazing. We work and live in a community that is dedicated to welcoming new people and accepting the challenges that come with growth.

The officers and support staff of the police department have embraced the concept of

community policing and the continued efforts to make Powell a safe and welcoming community to all that live and visit here.

The following pages are a report of the law enforcement work and outreach to the community done by our team. We encourage all members of the community to reach out to the police department and participate in our programs, as well as give us a chance to know you better. I look forward to the opportunity to meet you at one of our many events.



Stephen Hrytzik
Chief of Police

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Hrytzik".

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.



Coffee with a Cop



Law Enforcement Appreciation Day

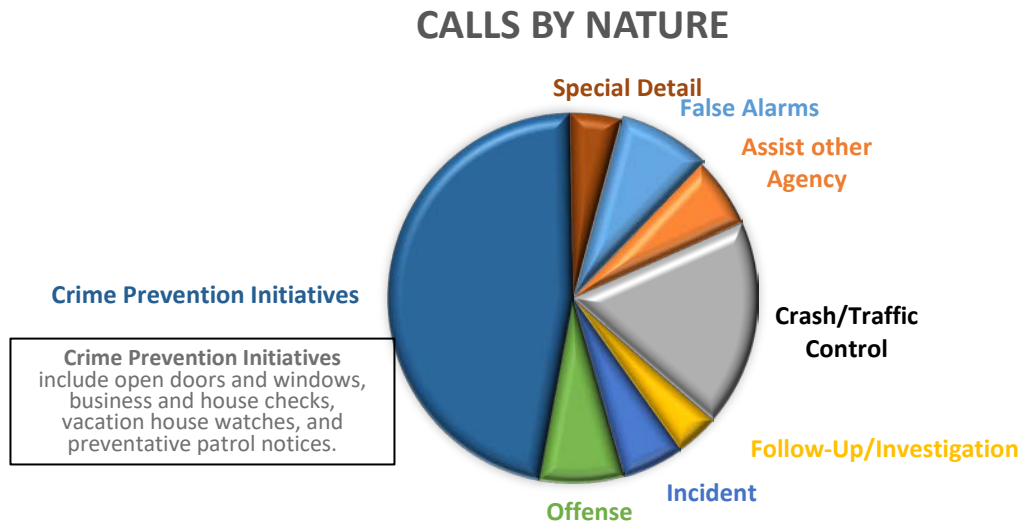
Statistics

	Description	2019	2018	Change
A	Calls for Service	23,714	22,093	7.3%
B	Dispatched Calls	5,408	6,510	-16.9%
C	Police Reports	1,204	1,323	-9.0%
D	Adult Arrests	85	107	-20.6%
E	Juvenile Arrests	10	33	-69.7%
F	Traffic Stops	1,983	1,691	17.3%
G	Traffic Citations	298	252	18.3%
H	Traffic Crashes	146	145	0.7%
I	False Alarms	339	348	-2.6%
J	House Watches	431	469	-8.1%
K	Preventative Patrols	2,136	1,662	28.5%
L	Stacked Calls	244	278	-12.2%

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



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



Crime Prevention calls account for 16% of our time. False alarms and 911 hang-up calls take 3% of our officers' time.

Crime Statistics

Description	2018	2017	2016
Murder	0	0	0
Forcible Rape	3	2	0
Robbery	2	2	0
Aggravated Assault	1	2	0
Total Violent Crime	6	6	0
Burglary/B&E	16	12	24
Larceny Theft	102	98	97
Motor Vehicle Theft	3	1	2
Total Property Crime	121	111	123

*Source: Ohio Incident-Based Reporting System
2019 numbers are not available yet.*



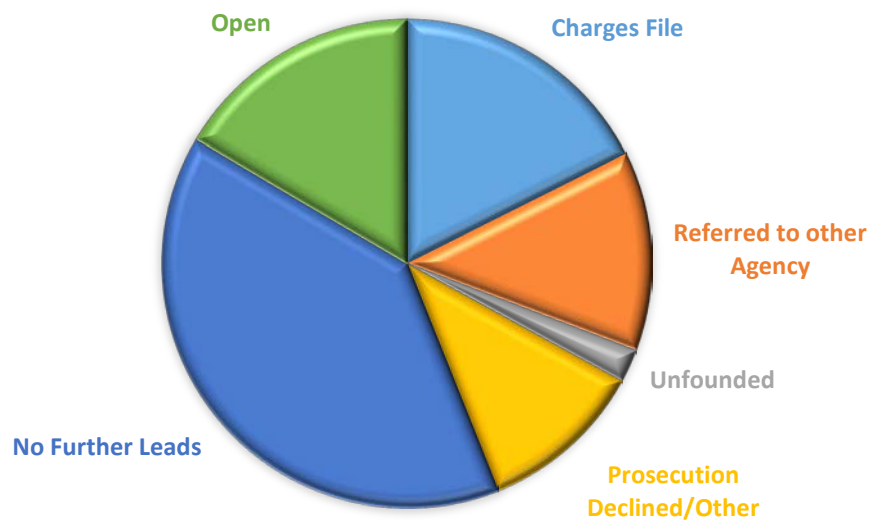
There were 26 thefts from motor vehicles in Powell in 2019, a decrease from 2018.

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

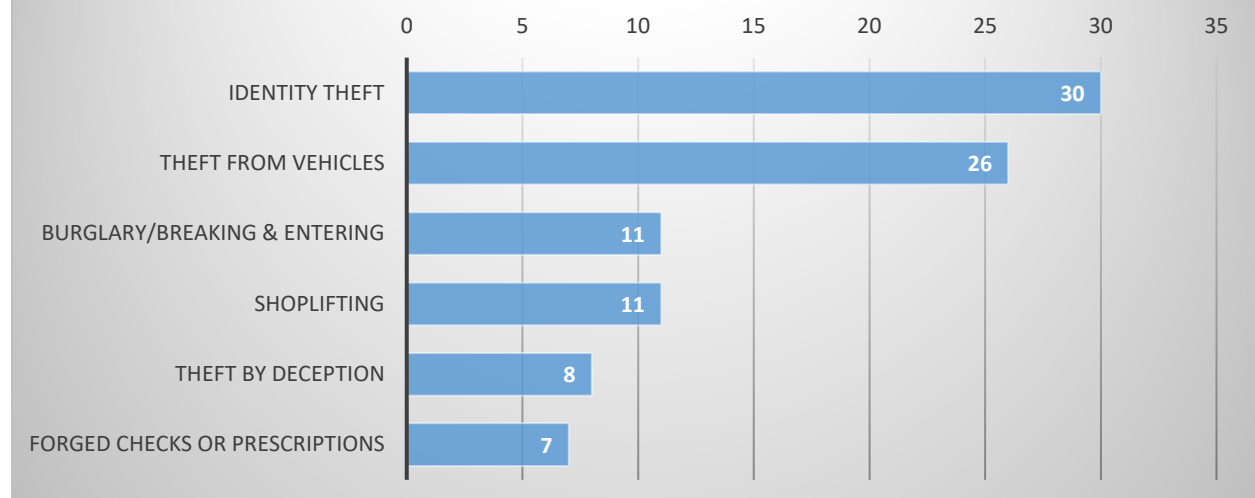
Felonies & Thefts

There were 80 cases involving 91 felonies in 2019. Cases with no further leads may be reopened if new information comes to light.

OUTCOME OF 2019 FELONIES



2019 COMMON TYPES OF THEFT IN POWELL



Traffic Crashes

The Powell Police Department took **146** traffic crash reports in 2019 (on public and private property), one more than in 2018. There were no fatal crashes, but 26 injury crashes were reported in 2019.

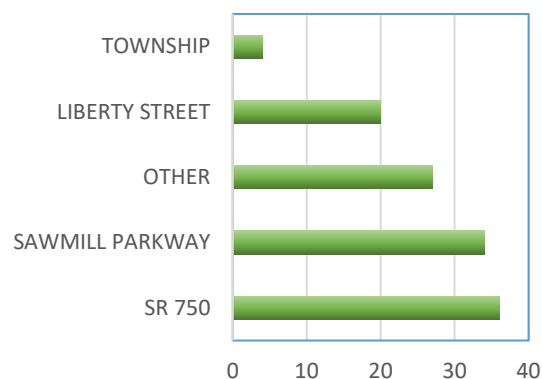


A common cause of preventable crashes is **Assured Clear Distance Ahead (ACDA)** - vehicles following too closely and thus not having enough time to stop once traffic begins to slow on these main routes.

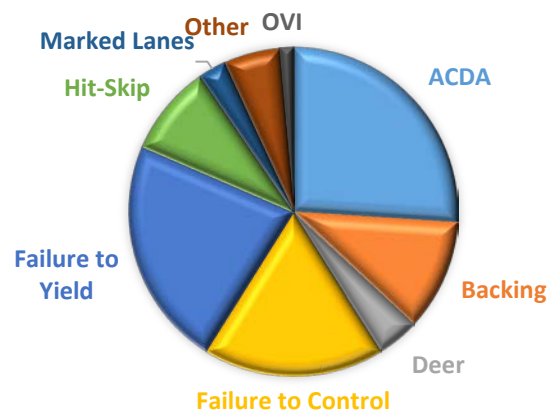
Reducing traffic crashes in the City of Powell continues to be one of the top priorities of the Powell Police Department.

The most accident-prone roadways were also our busiest roadways: Sawmill Parkway, State Route 750, and Liberty Street. Officers watch for vehicles in these high-crash zones that are following too closely, speeding, or otherwise driving recklessly.

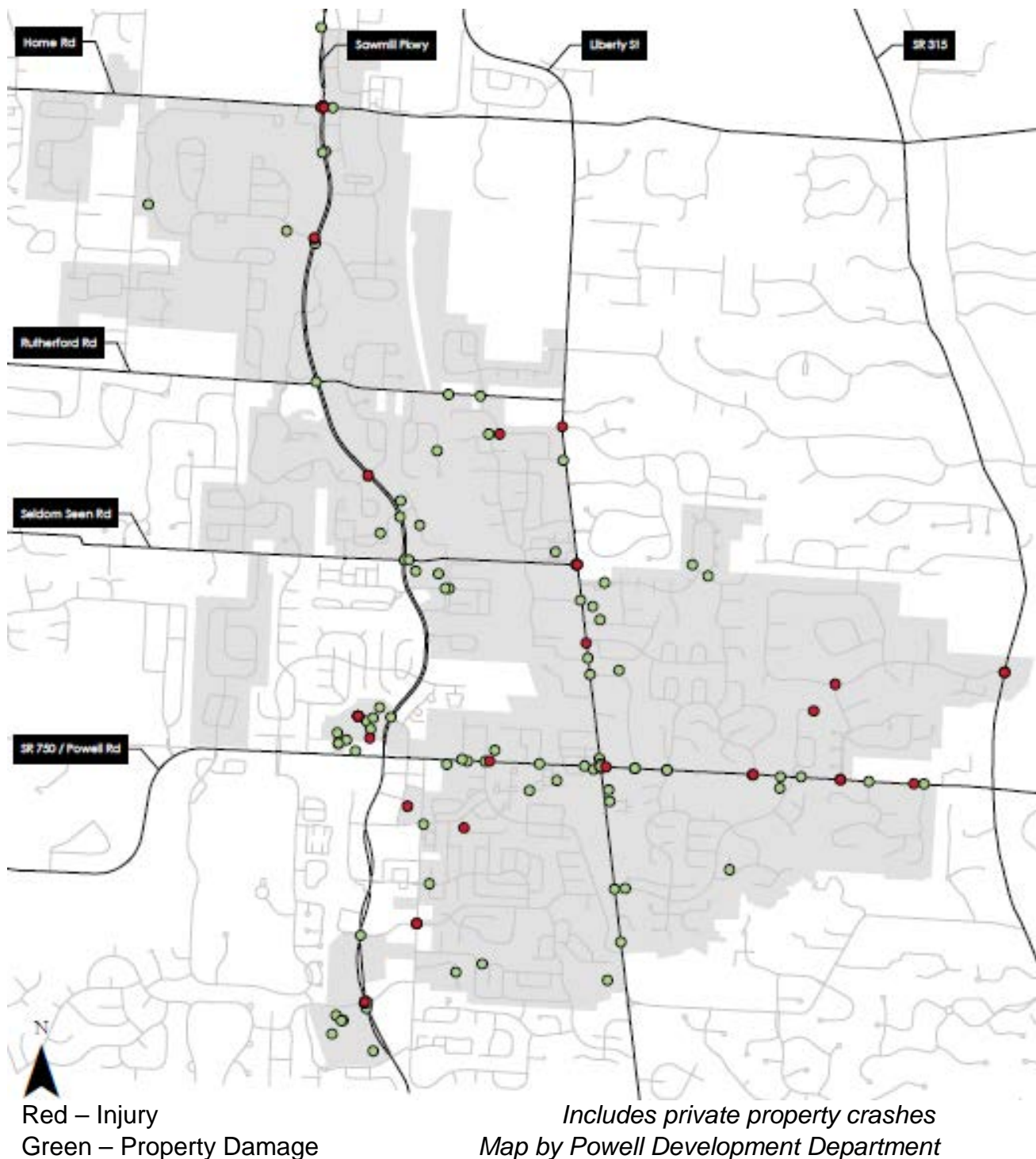
LOCATION OF 2019 CRASHES



CAUSES OF 2019 CRASHES



2019 Crashes



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.

Patrol issued a record **2,136** Preventative Patrol Notices in 2019.

Investigations

The Detective Bureau is comprised of two detectives supervised by Deputy Chief Ron Sallows. 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 Investigation (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 **447** sets of ink fingerprints in 2019. This service is free to residents of Powell.

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

Public Records Requests | Clerks responded to more than **540** public records requests last year.



Golf Cart Inspections | Officers checked **24** golf carts to ensure roadworthiness. Beginning in 2019, there was a \$10 charge for this service for non-residents.

Peddler Permits | Clerks processed a record **86** applications for peddler permits, collecting \$6,450 in fees.



In view of the increasing number of peddlers and solicitors operating in Powell, the city and the police department produced these window clings for residents who do not wish to be disturbed. They are available free in the lobby of the municipal building and in the police department.

Above and Beyond



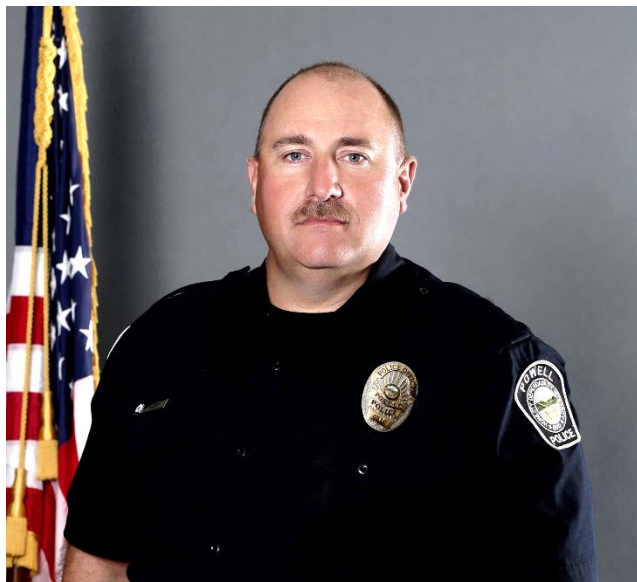
While assisting the Delaware County Sheriff's Office, Powell Police Officers Waymire and Hiltz negotiated with a suicidal subject for almost an hour as the young man stood on the edge of a bridge

threatening to jump. When the man began to slip due to hypothermia, officers sprang forward and pulled him onto the bridge at the risk of their own safety.

Powell Police Officers Cook and Waymire delivered a baby on the side of Bennett Parkway in the middle of the night. They were able to think quickly on their feet, stay calm and successfully deliver a healthy baby girl within a minute of arriving on scene. The little girl and her family stopped by the staff meeting to visit.



A man suffered a medical emergency in May, causing his car to go off the road into a bed of mulch. The mulch caught fire and the fire began to spread to the car. Officer Sanford and a bystander acted quickly to pull the man to safety.



In the spring staff meeting, Officer Hart received the 2018 Officer of the Year award for his work as an officer-in-charge, evidence technician, and field-training officer, as well as his role in vehicle/equipment maintenance, traffic and crash programs and the Delaware County SAFE Coalition. He excelled in statistics, investigating identity theft cases, and solving hit-skip crashes.

K9 Axel was deployed 66 times in 2019, contributing to more than 9 arrests. He assisted in multiple building searches. One resulted in a subject surrendering after hiding in a basement. K9 Axel and his handler, Officer Latiolais, attend community engagements throughout the year. They are shown here at the Heroes and Helpers event in December.



Training

The department completed **1,520** hours of training in 2019. 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. The administrative and command staff studied important developments in public records law.

In addition to their mandated training, department employees are encouraged to seek additional specialized training which benefits their job functions. Such training not only benefits the employee, but also the agency and the community as a whole.



Prosecutor Melissa Schiffel instructs the agency on changes in search and seizure law.

Budget

The City of Powell Police Department strives to be a good steward of taxpayer dollars. The 2019 budget was **\$3,245,011**.

Personnel Costs include salaries and overtime, pensions, and insurance. One employee, a patrol officer, was added in 2019.

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 a second, more sophisticated drone in 2019. The drone will be used for crash investigations, finding missing or wanted persons, crime scenes and special events.



Community Support



Elton Sargent (center), owner of Prohibition, presents a ballistic shield to the Powell Police Department. He held various fundraisers to raise money for the shields which will protect officers in the event of an active shooter situation. Three shields were donated in 2019; he expects to outfit the remaining cruisers in 2020.

Powell resident Jill King volunteered over 100 hours in the police department in 2019, greeting callers with her enchanting British accent. This was her thirteenth year with the department. Ms. King is active in the community and supports many city events.



Department Events



Click It or Ticket | From May 20 to June 2, 2019, 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 64 units. Olentangy Berlin 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. Bob Burr, US Army M.Sgt., Korea, Purple Heart recipient, delivered the keynote address. Congressman Balderson spoke as well. Four new bricks were dedicated. Boy Scout Troop 428 held a flag retirement ceremony at the fire pit.



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 family favorite returned to Village Green Park in October. At the 23rd annual Community Bonfire, residents enjoyed free hot dogs, donut holes, cider and marshmallows, to the backdrop of live music. Chief Hrytzik and Liberty Township Fire hosted the event.



Veterans Day | The Powell Police Department hosted the eleventh annual Veterans Day celebration in November. Rusty Dittoe, USN, delivered the keynote address. Chief Hrytzik dedicated two new bricks at the Greater Powell Veterans Memorial. Nikki Friermood, a teacher at Wyandot Run Elementary, played Taps. City Barbeque, Shorty's and Espresso 22 provided a reception after the ceremony.



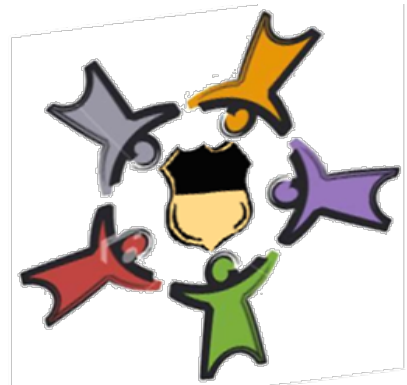
Heroes and Helpers | Detective Smith and Officer A. Wilt organized this event with volunteers from neighboring agencies to benefit needy children. The children were nominated for the event by counselors, principals and teachers. Target, Pepsi, Starbucks and private donors contributed to the success of the event.

Citizens Police Academy

The Powell Police Department hosted its eleventh Citizens Police Academy in 2019. 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



Ten children graduated in March from radKIDS, a 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.

The Police Department partnered with Powell Parks and



Recreation to conduct a radKIDS camp in June. This camp included two hours of radKIDS instruction each day in addition to regular summer camp activities. Twenty-seven children graduated from the camp.

“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 **Alex Hale**, a Columbus, Ohio native, as our newest patrol officer. Officer Hale holds an Associate's degree in Criminal Justice from Columbus State Community College. He worked as a Corrections Officer and Case Manager for the Ohio Rehabilitation and Correction System. Most recently, he worked at the Delaware County Sheriff's Office as a Deputy.

Officer Hale reports "It has been an amazing journey, and I am very proud to be a part of such a great community and Police Department."

Officer Hale lives in Columbus with his new wife, Courtney, and their dog, Bear. In his free time, he enjoys lifting weights, drawing, and hanging with friends.

Chief Vest Retires

The Village of Powell hired Chief Gary L. Vest on Memorial Day of 1996. He planned to stay five years. Twenty-three years later, Chief Vest retired from the City of Powell.

Chief Vest's policing philosophy was to connect to the community, not



operate as a separate entity. In line with that, Chief Vest started popular traditions such as Powell Festival, Community Bonfire and Mystery Night Out (Powell's answer to National Night Out).



Chief Vest initiated the CALEA accreditation process which the department has successfully completed since 2002. CALEA accreditation ensures that the department operates with policies which meet strict national standards.

Chief Vest introduced Mobile Data Terminals in the cruisers in 1997, dash cams in 1999, and body cameras in 2017. He retired in May.

Chief Hrytzik Sworn In



Stephen L. Hrytzik joined the Powell Police Department in 1991. He worked as a Patrol Officer, as an Investigator, as a Lieutenant, then Deputy Chief. He was sworn in as Chief on September 17, 2019.

Chief Hrytzik is a graduate of Mount Vernon Nazarene University, the Police Executive Leadership College (PELC) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation National Academy (FBINA). He is active in many law enforcement associations, frequently in a leadership role.

Chief Hrytzik experienced the explosive growth of Powell from a village of 2,400 to a city of 13,300. Hrytzik saw the police department move several times, and oversaw the construction of the station at 47 Hall Street.

Chief Hrytzik advocates the concept of community policing with a professional, service-oriented team of sworn officers and support staff.

Goals & Objectives

1

Update the police department's Five-Year Plan.

With the development of our Five-Year Plan in 2018, and all the transition that has taken place since Chief Vest retired in May, 2019, the department needs to update the plan to include agency patrol officers, specialized, and supervisor positions. The update will also include long term goals for the agency as well as changes that are consistent with City Council's goals.

2

Promote a Deputy Chief and Sergeant, and hire a replacement officer.

The department has seen many changes since May of 2019. The promotion of Chief Hrytzik leaves an opening for a Deputy Chief. Sgt. Sallows was selected in late 2019 to fill that role. He was officially sworn in during a ceremony in early January, 2020. His replacement sergeant will be selected in late March. The department is currently hiring to fill an officer vacancy. This position should be filled by early April.

3

Implement a new Records Management System.

The Powell Police Department participates in a dispatching system that is funded by a county-wide 911 levy. The group has spent the past two years researching and testing various computer aided dispatching (CAD) and records management systems (RMS). The group agreed to extend a contract to Tyler Technologies for both CAD and RMS software. Throughout 2020, we will be working with other county agencies to transfer all data, train employees, and troubleshoot the new system. The plan is to go live by the beginning of 2021. Since we are part of the county-wide system, there will be no additional charge to Powell for the new system.