

KENDALLVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

"Partners With The Community"



2019
ANNUAL REPORT

KENDALLVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

"Partners With The Community"

W. SuzAnne Handshoe
Mayor

234 South Main Street
Kendallville, IN 46755

Robyn A. Wiley
Chief of Police

January 29, 2020

TO: W. SuzAnne Handshoe, Mayor
Kendallville City Council Members
Citizens of Kendallville

FROM: Robyn A. Wiley
Chief of Police

RE: Kendallville Police Department 2019 Year Summary Report

The City of Kendallville covers approximately six square miles of land, over 50 miles of roadway, and is home to nearly 10,000 citizens. The Kendallville Police Department consists of nineteen (19) full-time Officers, eight (8) full-time Communications Dispatchers, one Records Clerk, and two part-time Code Enforcement Officers. The Department includes the following sworn personnel; Chief of Police, four Supervisors, two Detectives, ten Patrol Officers, and two School Resource Officers. The Officers responded to over 20,500 Calls for Service during 2019.

The following report summarizes the activities of the Kendallville Police Department (KPD) and the crime related statistics for 2019. The year saw a decrease of 12% in reported crimes compared to the previous three-year (2016, 2017, 2018) average. The year saw decreases in the number of burglaries, thefts, battery, domestic battery, criminal mischief, and disorderly conduct. The year saw a decrease in the number of drug-related arrests and alcohol-related arrests. Driving Under the Influence arrests showed a decrease from the three-year average. For the last six months of the year the Department was down three Officers from its authorized number.

In 2019, the Police Department completed the first full year of both the Getac Body Worn Camera program and the county-wide Spillman RMS System. These two programs have been major projects have provided significant advancements in technology for the Officers and Dispatchers of the Department.

The Department continued its emphasis on training KPD Officers and Supervisors through courses in leadership, critical tactical skills, de-escalation techniques, and Constitutional rights. The Department uses on-line, classroom, and hands-on training to increase the quality and quantity received by our Officers and Dispatchers. The Department has skilled and certified instructors in the areas of firearms, physical tactics, CEW (Conducted Electrical Weapons-Taser), and Emergency Vehicle Operations.

In an effort to protect all of our citizens, the Department continues to supply Naloxone (overdose reversal drug) to its Officers to help save drug-overdose victims. Each Kendallville Police vehicle is also equipped with an AED unit for use in cardiac event situations where KPD Officers are the initial first-responders at the scene. The AEDs have been donated by citizens, local businesses, and the local F.O.P.

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The Officers and Communications Dispatchers of the Kendallville Police Department face everyday situations that require them to analyze high-stress problems and make thoughtful and effective decisions to find the appropriate solution. Today's Police Officer is required to be a combination of creative problem solver, lawyer, mentor, counselor, medic, arbitrator, guardian, and sometimes warrior. They must remain always aware of the legal, constitutional, and safety issues involved as they respond to each situation. The Kendallville Police Department has a responsibility to do everything possible to provide our personnel with the training, information, and equipment they need to serve and protect the citizens of our City. The Kendallville Police Department and its men and women work hard to be "Partners With The Community".

CALLS FOR SERVICE

During 2019, there were 20,578 Calls for Service received by the Kendallville Police Department, an average of 56 calls per day. This is down 7 per day from the three-year average, but up 3.8 per day over 2018).

REPORTED CRIME

The number of investigated crimes during 2019 was 696, a decrease of 101 (12%) from the previous three-year average. This is equal to a decrease of 8.4 crimes per month over from three-year average. The 696 crimes equate to 1.9 per day, or 58 per month. The total of crimes investigated consists of those crimes reported by individual citizens, businesses, criminal and truancy-related violations reported by the School Resource Officers, and criminal cases (including drug and alcohol violations) initiated by KPD Officers.

Reductions were seen in the number of Burglary (11, down 9 from three-year average), Battery (34, down 3), Theft (153, down 40), Criminal Mischief (35, down 18), and Disorderly Conduct (6, down 12).

Thefts/Burglary

During 2019 there were 153 Thefts (down 40 from three-year average). There were also 11 Burglaries (down 9) during the year. Each year the Department sees that a contributing factor in thefts and burglaries is the failure of citizens to lock their residences and their vehicles to deter criminals from successfully accomplishing the criminal act. The Kendallville Police Department strongly encourages citizens to lock both their homes and vehicles when left unattended.

Drug/Alcohol

During 2019, there were 100 overall drug investigations, down 32 from the three-year average. Thirty-six (36) of the investigations were for Meth-related offenses. There were 61 alcohol-related offenses investigated in 2019, down 30 from the three-year average. Forty-two of the alcohol-related offences were for Driving Under the Influence.

ARRESTS / WARRANT SERVICE

During 2019, Kendallville Police Officers arrested 253 adults and 9 juvenile offenders on 368 charges (down 58 from 2018 and down 115 from the three-year avg.) related to reported crimes. Eighty-two (82) individuals were located and arrested on active warrants.

TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT

In 2019 Kendallville Officers issued 213 traffic citations and 1356 traffic warnings. The citations issued in 2019 were a decrease of 167 from the three-year average. The warnings issued in 2019 were a decrease of 480. There were 42 Driving Under the Influence arrests during 2019, a decrease of 29 from the three-year average.

Kendallville Officers investigated 71 Personal Injury accidents (down 6) and 332 Property Damage accidents (down 30). There was one (1) fatal accident during 2019.

During 2019 KPD Officers participated in the following Federal and state grant traffic projects; Operation Pullover, Aggressive Driving Patrol, and Driving Under the Influence Patrol.

MISCELLANEOUS CALL RESPONSES

The following are a listing of the number of responses made by KPD Officers to selected call types during 2019.

| | |
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| Mental Health Crisis/ Suicide Threats | 151 |
| Juvenile Incidents | 326 |
| Welfare Check | 356 |
| Civil Complaints/Disturbance | 346 |
| Citizen Assist | 544 |
| Assist Other Agency | 220 |
| Dog Complaints | 351 |
| Domestic Disturbances | 210 |
| Suspicious Activities | 985 |
| False Alarms | 109 |
| Handgun License Permits | 120 |
| Death Inv. (non-criminal) | 29 |
| Parking Complaint | 127 |
| Vehicle Pursuits | 11 |
| Foot Pursuits | 10 |
| Traffic Direction/ Hazard | 249 |
| Disabled Vehicle Assist | 256 |
| Community Policing Contacts | 355 |

COMMUNICATIONS DISPATCH CENTER

The eight (8) Dispatchers of the Kendallville Police Communications Center processed 20,578 Calls for Service during 2019. The Communications Center received and coordinated the response to 2,776 E911 calls during the year.

DEPARTMENT PROGRAMS and ACTIVITIES

During 2019, the Police Department was involved in several new and ongoing programs and activities designed to promote safety in the community and to promote professionalism within the Department. Through these efforts, we strive to reduce the threat of crime to our citizens and elevate the knowledge and capabilities of our personnel.

Getac Body Worn Cameras: In October 2018 the Police Department went live with Body Worn Cameras for each of its sworn Officers. The program was the result of over a year of testing and planning for the implementation of the cameras. Each Officer is provided an assigned camera unit, accessories, and training for the proper use of the equipment. Data collected by the camera is downloaded from the camera each workday and stored in the Microsoft Cloud system. Department policy provides direction to each Officer for the proper use of the camera and protection of the collected visual data. The utmost consideration is given by the Department to assure the privacy rights of citizens while also providing transparency to the public of the activities of our Officers.

Spillman RMS/Cradle Point System: The Spillman RMS System is a state-of-the-art data system that provides extensive access to county-wide data collected by all of the law enforcement agencies in Noble County. The system was activated in October 2018 and has added significant data and communication improvements for all Kendallville Officers. The Cradle Point internet router in-car system was installed in each Department vehicle during the first quarter of 2019. The Cradle Point system has provided a strong, uninterrupted internet signal for the Spillman System to send and receive data no matter where geographically the KPD vehicle may be located.

Code Enforcement: The City of Kendallville has two part-time civilian Code Enforcement Officer (CEO) positions that are contained within the organizational structure of the Police Department. This position is responsible for enforcing City ordinances, including complaints regarding trash and rubbish, tall grass, abandoned vehicles, and substandard/blighted housing and business facilities. The CEO works in conjunction with the Kendallville City Attorney and the City Building Inspector to identify substandard housing and to then use the appropriate ordinances and laws to assure that the properties are brought up to code or demolished. Abandoned property or substandard housing has been shown to contribute to criminal activity by providing areas where criminals feel comfortable in committing illegal acts because they believe it is an area that the community doesn't care enough about to keep in repair.

During 2019, there were 496 Violation Notice Letters delivered; 221 for grass/weeds, 179 for rubbish, 46 for abandoned vehicles, 2 for garbage container violations, and 2 for animal neglect. Three-Hundred sixty-one (73%) of the violations for which notice letters were issued were corrected without further action needed. There were 162 ordinance violations cited and 93 UTT summons issued for violations during year.

Crisis Intervention Team (C.I.T.): During 2019 KPD Officers continued using the C.I.T. training which deals with individuals suffering from a mental health or drug crisis. Kendallville Officers conducted 12 C.I.T. evaluations during the year that resulted in individuals receiving further evaluation at Parkview Noble Hospital. They responded to 62 requests to assist individuals in Mental Health Crisis and to 76 suicide threats. Through the C.I.T. Program the Police Department works closely with mental health providers (Northeastern Center, Parkview Behavioral, and Bowen Center), Parkview Noble Hospital, and other social service agencies to provide the best response and service possible for those individuals in need.

Naloxone Program: Since May 2017, all Kendallville Officers have been issued Naloxone, a substance that reverses the effect of Opioid drug overdoses. The drug is administered by the Officer into the nasal cavity of the overdosed individual and has the ability to reverse the effects of the Opioid substance until the individual can be treated by a medical facility. Each Officer receives training to be able to administer the Naloxone substance. During 2019, KPD Officers used Naloxone on two opioid overdosed individuals.

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School Resource Officer Program: Sgt. John Dixon and three Officers working part-time as SROs continued to provide security, mentoring and positive role models for the East Noble High School, Kendallville Middle School, along with North Side, Southside and Wayne Center elementary schools. Their areas of responsibility include over 2,600 students and staff.

The School Resource Officer Program, now in its thirteenth year, has been tremendously valuable to both the school and the Police Department in providing an atmosphere more conducive to learning, deterring crime, and allowing KPD Officers and students to develop a better understanding of each other. Sergeant Dixon's canine, Knight, is a partner in the SRO Program in deterring the presence of drugs on the school campuses.

Kendallville Police Department Sergeant John Dixon was named the 2018 School Resource Officer of the Year by the Indiana School Resource Officers Association and the KPD/East Noble School Corporation School Resource Officer program was honored as an exemplary program by the National Association of School Resource Officers in 2015.

TRAINING PROGRAMS: In 2018, the Department continued providing state-of-the-art training to its Officers through various training programs. The Department uses the Digital Firearms Simulator System in conjunction with physical tactics training and de-escalation to allow Officers to participate in life-like scenarios while practicing their responses to situations they are likely to encounter during their normal patrol activities. This training allows the Department to integrate de-escalation techniques and physical tactics into our firearms training to provide Officers with a full continuum of potential responses so that the training is as real-life as possible.

The Department also uses the Police One training system to provide Officers with an extensive range of on-line courses (use of force, de-escalation, ethics, etc.) tailored to the needs of Kendallville Police Officers. This system allows KPD to provide highly effective training, during the Officer's shift, on-line, at a very low cost per course.

PUBLIC SAFETY PROGRAMS: In 2019, the Department continued its efforts to provide information to the citizens of Kendallville that would assist them in reducing their risk of becoming victims of crime. The Kendallville Police Department website and Facebook page provide information on how citizens can prevent property theft, identity theft, personal violence, and other types of crime. The Department will be initiating the use of Twitter and Instagram in 2020 to reach an even wider segment of our citizens with helpful information. The Department assists with the Officer Phil Safety Program which is presented at local elementary schools to teach children safety lessons they can use during the school year and their summer vacations. KPD also provides drug prevention and safety booklets to community groups and schoolchildren during presentations by Officers in the community. Officer presentations to community organizations were used during the year to inform citizens of current safety and drug abuse updates.

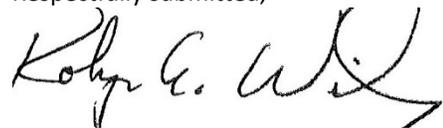
MEMORIAL AND RECOGNITION SERVICE: During May 2019 the 14th Kendallville Police Memorial and Recognition Service to honor those Officers from around the State of Indiana who have lost their lives in the service to their communities and to recognize the Officers actively serving their communities today. Members of the community and Officers from other Public Safety organizations attend this annual event to pay honor to their fellow Officers.

ASSIST WITH COMMUNITY EVENTS: During 2019, Officers of the Department provided traffic direction and security at the following community events; 4th of July Fireworks/Philharmonic Concert, 4H Fair Parade, The Kendallville Triathlon, Downtown Car Show, Light the Night, Apple Festival, Halloween Patrol, and the Holiday Parade.

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The Kendallville Police Department is dedicated to collaborating with the citizens of our City, civic groups, private sector organizations, and other criminal justice agencies in an effort to reduce crime, assure highway safety, protect individual rights, and develop partnerships with those who visit and live in Kendallville. We appreciate the support of the community members during 2019 and look forward to continuing cooperation in 2020.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robyn A. Wiley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "R" and a long, sweeping tail.

Robyn A. Wiley
Chief of Police