

KENDALLVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT
"Partners With The Community"

W. SuzAnne Handshoe
Mayor

234 South Main Street
Kendallville, IN 46755

Lance L. Waters
Chief of Police



2022 ANNUAL REPORT

February 2, 2023

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

FROM: Lance L. Waters
Chief of Police

RE: Kendallville Police Department 2022 Year Summary Report

The City of Kendallville covers approximately six square miles of land, over 50 miles of roadway, and is home to just over 10,000 citizens. The Kendallville Police Department consists of nineteen (19) full-time Officers, eight (8) full-time Communications Dispatchers, one Records Clerk, a full-time Building Code Enforcement Officer and a part-time Code Enforcement Officer. 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 14,000 Calls for Service during 2022.

The year of 2022 was a year of development and progress for the Kendallville Police Department. Officer Joseph Handshoe retired in January after twenty years of dedicated service. The department created a new SRO position, opened three Lieutenant positions, hired two officers and a dispatcher. The Lieutenant positions will be filled in the coming year to provide a better organizational structure for the department. The new SRO position will also begin in the coming year.

The following report summarizes the activities of the Kendallville Police Department (KPD) and the crime related statistics for 2022. This year saw another decrease of 15% in calls for service compared to the previous three-year (2019, 2020, 2021) average. The year saw decreases in the number of criminal mischief and batteries, but increases in the number of thefts, burglaries and domestic violence calls. The year saw an increase in the number of drug-related arrests from the three-year average. Eighty percent (80%) of the alcohol-related cases were Driving Under the Influence. The increase in the number of drug-related charges is due in large part to the increased efforts of the Kendallville Police Officers. Officers have actively and aggressively worked narcotics interdiction and utilized the department's canine officers. There has been a significant increase in the amount of fentanyl discovered by officers in the past year, this also added to the increase in drug charges. The department maintaining near full staffing also provided for more officers on the streets which, in turn, increase the amount of traffic patrol and arrests.

In 2022 KPD officers were involved in several major court cases / trials. Convictions were secured on a murder suspect from a 2021 incident, a shooting incident from 2021, and an armed robbery from 2021 and several child molest convictions from 2021 incidents. While it is unfortunate that our city was not spared from these violent crimes, it is our Detectives and Patrol Officers skill, dedication and hard work, which allowed us to apprehended, charge and convict the suspects in these crimes. Our officers worked with other agencies who assisted in these

investigations as well as aided other agencies in their investigations. The Kendallville Police Department Detectives and Patrol Officers work tirelessly to protect the citizens of our City.

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. Police Officers are 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 safety, legal and constitutional issues involved as they respond to each situation. The majority of these situations pose safety issues for not only the public, but inevitably the officer. 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 men and women of the Kendallville Police Department work hard to be “Partners With The Community,” and provide exemplary service to the citizens of Kendallville.

CALLS FOR SERVICE

For the 2022 year, the Kendallville Police Department responded to 14014 Calls for Service. This is down 2106 from the three-year average. There were 448 criminal investigations conducted as the result of crimes reported to the Department, down 30 from three-year average.

REPORTED CRIME

Of the 14014 Calls for Service, 448 were criminal investigations conducted as the result of crimes reported to the Department. This was up slightly from last year, but down 30 from three-year average. Officers investigated, on average, 38 criminal cases per month. These investigations resulted in a total of 477 criminal charges against 238 adults.

Thefts/Burglary

During 2022 there were 178 Thefts (up 45 from three-year average). There were also 8 Burglaries (up 2) during the year. Each year the Department sees that a contributing factor in thefts and burglaries is the failure of individuals to lock their residences and their vehicles to deter criminals from successfully accomplishing the criminal act. This is especially true with citizens leaving vehicles unlocked often with the keys or valuables left in the vehicle in plain view. The majority of the vehicle thefts investigated could have been prevented if the vehicle was locked and/or the keys were not available to the criminal. The Kendallville Police Department strongly encourages citizens to lock both their homes and vehicles when left unattended. Also, do not leave valuable items in view in one's vehicle.

Drug/Alcohol

During the year 2022, there were 311 drug charges, 113 which were meth related. Drug related charges were up 147 from three-year average. Meth charges were up 50 from the three-year average. Again, this increase was from the department being at full staff and officers actively working drug interdiction and traffic patrol. Our department canines also played a significant role in our drug arrests. One canine, Frodo, was involved in approximately fifty-one (51) arrests. There were 45 alcohol charges, 36 of which were DUI. Alcohol related charges are down 19 from the three-year average, DUI charges were up 89 from the three-year average.

ARRESTS / WARRANT SERVICE

During 2022, KPD Officers filed a total of 477 criminal charges against 238 adults. 68 individuals were taken into custody by officers on outstanding warrants.

TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT

Throughout 2022, Officers issued 318 traffic citations (264 in 2021) and 3111 warnings (1919 in 2021). This was an increase in the number of citations by 27% and an increase of traffic warnings issued by 38%. Kendallville Police Officers average approximately 1 citation for every 10 warnings. Officers investigated 76 personal injury accident and 445 property damage accidents.

MISCELLANEOUS CALL RESPONSES

The following are a listing of the number of responses made by KPD Officers to selected call types during 2021. This does not include every call type responded to, but provides information on some of the most common calls for service.

Mental Crisis/ Suicide Threats	144
Juvenile Incidents	302
Welfare Check	373
Civil Complaints/Disturbance	427
Citizen Assist	555
Assist Other Agency	231
Medical Assists	248
Animal Complaints	372
Domestic Disturbances	173
Suspicious Activities	576
False Alarms	154
Handgun License Permits	67
Death Inv. (non-criminal)	27
Parking Complaint	123
Vehicle Pursuits	27
Foot Pursuits	1
Traffic Direction/ Hazard	106
Disabled Vehicle Assist	302
Community Policing Contacts	186
Sex Crimes/ Crimes Against Children	41

COMMUNICATIONS DISPATCH CENTER

The eight (8) Dispatchers of the Kendallville Police Communications Center processed all 14,014 Calls for Service during 2022. The Communications Center received and coordinated the response to over 2,000 E911 calls during the year.

CANINE PROGRAM

2022 was a year of great successes and great sorrow for the Kendallville Police Department Canine Program. In February Canine Officer Knight suddenly and unexpectedly passed away. Knight began his tour of duty on September 22, 2011. Knight served with Sergeant John Dixon for 11 years. Knight was responsible for over 105,000 searches during his career. Knight will be missed. Shortly after Knight's passing, a canine breeder, having heard the heart wrenching story, offered to donate a puppy to our canine program. Sergeant Dixon, after much deliberation, accepted a new canine partner. She was named by the East Noble High School student body. With the donation we welcomed Guinevere (Winnie) to our department. The Kendallville Police Department, with the assistance of the Allen County Sheriff's Department Canine Training Program began a new way of training SRO canines. Winnie began her training almost immediately. What better way to acclimate a canine to a school setting than to raise and training the dog in a school. That is exactly what has occurred. Winnie has performed beyond expectations at her young age. She is still less than a year old and has already conducted over 4,400 searches.

Sgt. Dixon and Knight



Sgt. Dixon and Guinevere



Our two Patrol canines, Frodo and Bobi, continue to conduct searches resulting in numerous narcotics arrests. Frodo alone had been involved in over 50 arrests during 2022. Our canine officers, their handlers and the patrol officers who assist with them, have worked diligently of the past year to reduce drug trafficking in our community. Their efforts are the main reason for the increase in drug charges during this past year.

DEPARTMENT STAFFING

Officer Joseph Handshoe retired from the Kendallville Police Department after twenty years of service, he and his experience will be missed. This left the department two members below our staffing needs. In August of 2022 the Kendallville Police Department hired two officers. This brought the department to full staff. The newly hired officers, Chase Cleckner and Brandon Cox, will attend Indiana Law Enforcement Academy beginning in January of 2023. These two young

gentlemen are welcome additions and have fit in well with the department. The department also hired one new full-time dispatcher. Dispatcher Misty Pegan was also hired in August. Misty has successfully completed the required training and is performing exceptionally well.



DEPARTMENT PROGRAMS and ACTIVITIES

During 2022, the Police Department was involved in several new and ongoing programs and activities designed to promote safety in the community, engagement with our staff and 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. The Kendallville Police Department desires for our officers to be involved in the community.

REAL MEN READ PROGRAM: Officers from the Kendallville Police department have and are participating in the Real Men Read Program at our local elementary schools. This program is an effort to increase interest in reading at a young age. KPD Officers also participate in the Lunch Buddy program, meeting during lunch at schools with an individual child to provide a positive influence in the child's life.

UNMANNED AERIAL SERVICE (DRONE) PROGRAM: The Kendallville Police Department purchased an unmanned aircraft in 2021. Sergeant Matt Gillison became a certified and licensed pilot for our Drone Program. The drone has been used to document crime scenes, search for lost individuals and escapees, provide added perimeter security at crime scenes and document special events. Below is a picture of the KPD drone, a Matrice 300 and a photo taken by the drone of the Kendallville Car Show held on September 10, 2022.



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 CE Officer 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 2022, there were 347 Violation Notice Letters delivered; 189 for grass/weeds, 75 for rubbish, 35 for abandoned / junk vehicles. In June of 2022, Chad McKinley was hired as our full-time Building Code Enforcement Officer. His duties include enforcing municipal codes on residential and commercial structures, issuing warnings and citations, working with the city attorney's office and appearing in court. Since beginning in June CE Officer McKinley has issued 48 Violation Notice Letters / citations. We are pleased with how this new program for the City of Kendallville has begun. The program will continue to develop as it progresses.

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 2022, KPD Officers responded to over 30 overdosed individuals. The Naloxone administered by officers continues to save lives in our community. The Kendallville Police Department continues to equip each Patrol vehicle with an A.E.D. to further provide medical/first responder assistance to the citizens of the City of Kendallville.

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER PROGRAM: Sgt. John Dixon is the supervising sergeant of the SRO program. Officer Sidney Shartzer is the full-time SRO assigned to the East Noble Middle School. Officer Dwight Miller has worked part-time as an SRO primarily at South Side Elementary, but does travel to North Side as well. Working with East Noble School Corporation and the Kendallville City Council, the Kendallville Police Department received approval to

appoint a third full-time SRO. This position will be filled by Officer Dwight Miller, beginning in January 2023. Officer Miller will rotate between all five elementary schools in the East Noble School District. These Officers provide continued security, mentoring and positive role models for the East Noble Schools.

The School Resource Officer Program, now in its sixteenth year. We have found the program to be 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. This collaborative program between East Noble School Corporation and the Kendallville Police Department has twice been recognized nationally as an exemplary program.

TRAINING PROGRAMS: In 2022, The Kendallville Police Department sent several officers to various levels of instructor training. Detective Sergeant Angela Handshoe became a certified Firearms Instructor through the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy. Officers Ben Jones and Kevin Pegan became certified Instructor through the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy. Officer Pegan then went on to become a certified Physical Tactics Instructor. This will allow the Kendallville Police Department to maintain the high level of training we provide to our officers. 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 and de-escalation training to allow Officers to participate in life-like scenarios while practicing their responses to situations they are likely to encounter during their normal work-related 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 realistic as possible.

The Department also uses the Police One training program to provide Officers with an extensive range of on-line courses (use of force, de-escalation, ethics, implicit bias 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. We have also had instructors from other areas come to Kendallville to provide training. We also co-hosted a Physical Tactics Instructor Course with the Avilla Police department which was held and the Community Learning Center.

PUBLIC SAFETY PROGRAMS: In 2022, 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. 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.

The Kendallville Police Department, in partnership with the Community Learning Center, hosted a series of Women's Self-Defense safety programs during the past year. The program was presented to civilians at the Community Learning Center with nearly all classes filled to

capacity. The program was started in 2021 and has continued this year with classes in the spring, fall and winter.

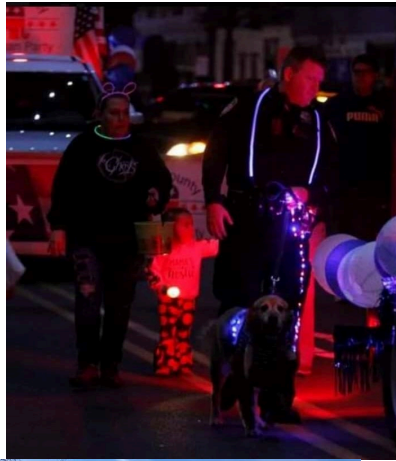


COMMUNITY EVENTS: The Kendallville Police Department also assisted with and participated in numerous Kendallville events. As members of the Kendallville Police Department we embrace our community, we don't just work here, we are part of the community. Here are a few of the events we have been involved:

Kid City



Kendallville Lantern Parade and Trunk-o-Treat

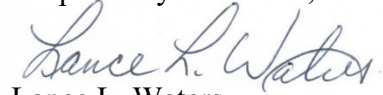


Veteran's Day Services



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 are grateful for, and could not succeed without, the support of the community. The members of the Kendallville Police Department look forward to continuing these cooperative efforts in 2023. We look forward to the opportunities which will allow the Kendallville Police Department to engage with, provide instruction to, and assist the Citizens of Kendallville.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lance L. Waters". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lance L. Waters
Chief of Police