**Patrol**

The Patrol Division is the largest in the police department, with eighteen (18) members who are full-time sworn peace officers. Its primary responsibilities are responding to calls for service from the community, keeping our roadways safe, and locating and arresting violators of the law. Each year, officers respond to various calls ranging from vehicle lockouts to violent felonies. In addition, officers of the Patrol Division are also expected to provide proactive services such as traffic enforcement, conducting business and property checks, and initiating contacts within our community to further enhance the department’s interaction and partnership with the community. These uniformed officers are dedicated to patrolling duties and are *first responders* to all emergencies and calls for service from the community.

Patrol is divided into three duty shifts:

The day shift operates from 7:00 AM – 3:00 PM and is responsible for interacting with schools, courts, local businesses, and banks.

The afternoon shift runs from 3:00 PM – 11:00 PM and is typically the busiest of the three shifts, handling the evening rush hour.

The night shift runs from 11:00 PM to 7:00 AM and traditionally leads the division in OVI (drunk driving) and alcohol-related incidents and arrests.

The total number of police calls for service in 2022 was 15,223, which is a 3.5% decrease compared to 2021, which totaled 15,759 calls. The top calls for service were thefts, traffic accidents, and domestic-related calls.

804 Citations were issued (969 in 2021/down 18%)

242 Felony arrests (210 in 2021/Up 14%)

761 Misdemeanor arrests (811 in 2021/Down 6%)

Drug abuse and overdoses continue to be a problem in Portage County. In Ravenna, we had nine (9) drug toxicity-related deaths. The Portage County Coroner’s office reported 32 confirmed drug toxicity-related deaths.

**Detective Bureau**

The Detective Bureau comprises one supervisor, two full-time detectives, and one part-time detective. Detectives assist officers with more detailed follow-up and oversee crime scene processing. They are trained in advanced interview and interrogation techniques and have access to investigative tools that provide comprehensive data critical to case development. Each detective is responsible and oversees an average of 30 cases at any given time. In addition to managing their issues, The Detective Bureau also works closely with the Patrol Division to assist them in investigations.

Detectives work primarily during daytime hours and are on call 24 hours a day. The bureau typically investigates crimes of a more severe nature or crimes which need detailed or further follow-up. Detectives are assigned cases and investigate those cases until completion.

**Key Information**:

* 102 Criminal investigations
* Two (3) Metro SWAT Team callouts, one at 6751 N. Chestnut involving a suicidal subject.
* Six (6) motor vehicle thefts, which have resulted in four (4) Grand Jury Indictments and two (2) cases pending.
* One (1) shooting that has resulted in Grand Jury Indictments; a trial is still pending.
* Three (3) grand theft investigations over $20,000. Two (2) of which originated in Nigeria.
* Two (2) reported firearms theft. Four (4) firearms seized because of criminal investigations, either stolen and recovered or used in the commission of crimes.

The Detective Bureau also investigated 28 sex-related crimes in 2022. In addition, several significant cases remain under investigation or are awaiting review by the Prosecutor’s Office.

The Detective Bureau manages close to 1,000 pieces of new evidence each year. They maintain the storage and disposition of more than 10,000 pieces of evidence at any given time. In 2021 they revised the evidence management and disposed of 701 pieces of evidence made difficult in previous years due to stricter regulations, closure of facilities, and COVID.

In 2022, over 54 cell phone extractions were forensically examined with Cellebrite Software. This translates to 855 billion bytes of information. With the Cellebrite software, the Detective Bureau can forensically investigate cell phone data. These extractions solved countless crimes without trials after using the data provided.

**Communications**

The Ravenna Police Department Dispatch Center provides public safety dispatch for ten (10) communities in Portage County. The average annual call volume handled by the Dispatch Center is 23,000 calls per year.

The Ravenna Dispatch Center handled 22,793 calls for service in 2022, a 4% decrease from 2021, which totaled 23,683.

The Ravenna Communications Center is now staffed by ten (10) full-time dispatchers and one (1) full-time dispatch coordinator. Each member is certified by Powerphone. All 9-1-1 emergency calls, all non-emergency calls, and most administrative calls are received through the Communications Center.

The Ravenna Communications Center dispatches calls for the City of Ravenna Safety Forces and nine (9) other local Fire/EMS customers. The breakdown of calls by all fire departments is as follows:

Charlestown: 240 calls

Deerfield: 445 calls

Edinburg: 306 calls

Palmyra: 354 calls

Paris: 207 calls

Randolph: 46 calls

Ravenna City: 2931 calls

Ravenna Township: 1462 calls

Rootstown: 1023 calls

Windham: 720 calls

Our 9-1-1 dispatchers are responsible for receiving incoming emergency calls, prioritizing calls based on the nature of the emergency, providing instructions on life-saving emergency medical interventions, and dispatching the proper emergency personnel. In addition, dispatchers encourage callers to remain calm during the phone call to provide the information first responders need to understand the full scope of a situation. Our Dispatch Center is now fully compliant with the Ohio 911 Compliance Agency.

The Ravenna Fire Department and Ravenna Township Fire Department successfully transitioned from the old VHF radio system to MARCS in 2019. The MARCS Radio service is also the key means used by the State of Ohio to communicate during widespread emergencies such as natural disasters.

**Lexipol**

We have integrated a national policy and procedure manual system (Lexipol) approved by the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police, CALEA (Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies), and the Ohio Collaborative. With legally defensible, continuously updated policies from Lexipol, it enables our officers and staff to face our challenges with the confidence that our officers are following best practice guidelines. This system is used by over 160 police departments across Ohio and complies with the State of Ohio Collaborative Community-Police Advisory Board.

The Ravenna Police Department policy manual is based on the most current Federal, State, and best practices, and we will soon be certified through the Ohio Collaborative.  This collaborative helps ensure police departments throughout Ohio are compliant and follow the current Federal, State, and best practices in areas such as:

* Vehicular Pursuits
* [Investigation of Employee Misconduct](http://www.ocjs.ohio.gov/ohiocollaborative/links/Final_standard_Investigation_Employee_Misconduct.pdf)
* [Bias-Free Policing](http://www.ocjs.ohio.gov/ohiocollaborative/links/final-standards-bias-free-policing.pdf)
* [Law Enforcement Telecommunicator Training](http://www.ocjs.ohio.gov/links/Final%20LE%20Telecommunicator%20Training%20Standard.pdf)
* [Body Worn Cameras](http://www.ocjs.ohio.gov/links/Final%20Body%20Worn%20Cameras%20Standard.pdf)
* [Use of Force](http://www.ocjs.ohio.gov/ohiocollaborative/links/final-standards-force.pdf)
* [Use of Deadly Force](http://www.ocjs.ohio.gov/ohiocollaborative/links/final-standards-deadly-force.pdf)
* [Agency Employee Recruitment and Hiring](http://www.ocjs.ohio.gov/ohiocollaborative/links/final-standards-employment.pdf)
* [Community Engagement](http://www.ocjs.ohio.gov/ohiocollaborative/links/CommunityEngagementStandardFinal8-3-2016.pdf)

**Records**

The Ravenna Police Department Records Division is responsible for maintaining all records produced by the Ravenna Police Department. The division is staffed by one (1) Administrative Assistant, Ron Fields. Ron processes criminal, incident, and crash reports, among several other police documents. He is also in charge of data entry, preparing criminal and traffic charges, and video evidence for court.

Other duties include:

* Maintaining an efficient filing system.
* Coding and processing invoices for accounts payable.

Long-term projects include digitizing and archiving 20 years of police documents and ensuring proper disposal of obsolete records under state law. To fulfill these duties, Ron attended three training sessions on Ohio's "Sunshine Law" public records laws to ensure legal compliance. These training sessions complement Ron's numerous years of organizational and records-keeping experience in his previous career as a university instructor and program coordinator.

**Portage County Drug Task Force (PCDTF)**

The Portage County Drug Task Force was a multi-jurisdictional task force comprised of Agents and members from the Portage County Sheriff’s Office, Portage County Prosecutors Office, City of Aurora, Kent, Ravenna, and Streetsboro Police Departments, Villages of Garrettsville, Hiram and Windham Police Department, The United States Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) and the United States Department of Homeland Security.

The organization, as organized previously, is on hiatus. Ravenna, Kent, Aurora, and Streetsboro are not currently participating with PCSO in the Portage County Drug Task Force but continue to work aggressively to reduce illegal drugs in their respective communities. In addition, the Ravenna Police Department has a detective dedicated to investigating drug activity by working with various other police agencies in Portage County.

**Metro SWAT**

There are 23 participating departments in Summit and Portage Counties. Metro SWAT also maintains mutual aid agreements with five other local SWAT teams if there is a prolonged or highly involved operation where relief or operational assistance is needed.  
  
The organization maintains five specialized vehicles: a van, an equipment vehicle (squad), Bearcat (armored vehicle), a command post vehicle, and a negotiator vehicle. Since its inception, Metro SWAT has been activated over 320 times to assist participating agencies in their time of need. Metro SWAT not only trains and performs high-risk operations such as warrant services, barricaded subjects, and hostage rescue, but the team is also capable of performing area searches for lost people or evidence, disaster security, crowd control, and riot response.

The organization has specialized units: negotiators, precision rifles, explosive entry, and medical. Each tactical member trains 22 days per year which is set in advance. To date, there are 44 team members.

Patrolman Duane Kaley, Patrolman Brad McDougal, and Patrolman Cruz Montes are assigned to this unit from our agency. All three (3) officers maintain a high fitness and shooting proficiency level, with Patrolman Kaley and Patrolman McDougal receiving awards last year for their efforts in these areas. Metro SWAT was activated (23) times in 2021.

Those officers completed an additional 176 hours of training with the Metro SWAT in 2022. The training covered hostage rescue warrant service, vehicle assault, crowd control, and extra manpower when participating agencies have other emergencies.

**K-9 Unit**

The Ravenna Police Department currently has three (3) K-9s and three (3) handlers. K-9s are a valuable resource and a huge asset to the department and community. Two (2) Ravenna PD’s K-9 are full-service dogs for drug detection, tracking, and suspect apprehension. One (1) is a fully certified therapy dog to be available to the department’s staff and the public in times of crisis.

Our full-service K-9s are certified by the Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission and the National Association of Professional Canine Handlers.

In 2022 K-9 Mako and his handler, Patrolman Josh Erb was, used 16 times 2022 with some of those calls being: 12 misdemeanor arrests which would be marijuana and paraphernalia possessions, one (1) public relations event, three (3) assist with other agencies which included tracks and drug sniffs and one (1) track.

K-9 Mako and Patrolman Erb had 29.75 training hours with their K-9 group, which meets monthly for training sessions and classes/seminars that include legal updates or K-9 first aid. Unfortunately, after three years of dedicated service to the citizens of Ravenna, K9 Mako passed away on April 9, 2022, from several medical issues.

K-9 Drago and his handler, Patrolman Josh Erb, were used 27 times in 2022, with some of those calls being: 16 misdemeanor arrests which would be marijuana and paraphernalia possessions, one (1) firearm recovered, one (1) assist with other agencies which included tracks and drug sniffs, one (1) building search, five (5) public relation events, and four (4) calls in which K-9 Mako was used for K-9 presence.

K-9 Drago and Patrolman Erb had 46.2 training hours with their K-9 group, which meets monthly for training sessions and classes/seminars that include legal updates or K-9 first aid.

K-9 IX and his handler, Patrolman Dominic Nicolino, were used 11 times in 2022, with some of those calls being: seven (7) misdemeanor arrests which would be marijuana and paraphernalia possessions, one (1) building search, one (1) track, and three (3) public relation events.

K-9 IX and Patrolman Nicolino had 50.25 training hours with their K-9 group, which meets monthly for training sessions and classes/seminars that include legal updates or K-9 first aid.

Our therapy K9 program helps first responders and all staff within the Ravenna Police Department cope with exposure to traumatic events and supports efforts to increase resilience to improve mental health and wellness. The therapy K9 will also be available to help community partners whose mission is to provide services to those affected by trauma, mental health, and crime.

K-9 Tucker and his handler, Patrolman Steve Lincoln, were used 50 times in 2022, with 42 times in which K-9 Tucker was used for K-9 presence.

K-9 Tucker and Patrolman Lincoln had 46.5 training hours with their K-9 group, which meets monthly for different training sessions and classes/seminars.

**School Crossing Guards**

Ravenna PD employs two (2) crossing guards. These dedicated individuals are managed by the Detective Bureau Sergeant and are assigned to help children cross the road at two (2) school locations in the city.

**Training**

For the calendar year 2022, Ravenna Police officers received 24 hours of Continuing Professional Training (CPT) in the following areas:

* Diversity, Inclusion, Equity: 4 hours
* Responding to Mental Health: 4 hours
* Use of Force: 4 hours
* Legal Updates: 4 hours
* Officer Personal Wellness: 4 hours
* Responding to Sexual Assaults: 4 hours
* Domestic Violence: 4 hours

In 2022, each officer also received approximately 20 additional hours of hands-on training, including firearms, defensive tactics, use of force, traffic stops, pursuit review, building searches, de-escalation tactics, Taser, etc. In addition, the training staff strives to recertify officers in various disciplines early in the calendar year to allow for any necessary rescheduling or make-up training.

**UAV Program**

Small, remotely operated unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV), also called drones, are an efficient and effective way of providing law enforcement critical information when responding to calls for service, emergencies, or conducting criminal investigations.

The mission of the Ravenna Police Department’s UAV Program is to provide airborne support to police operations in a safe, responsible, and transparent manner to preserve the peace, reduce response times and increase the quality of life in Ravenna.

Some examples include; providing an overhead view of an area or incident for ground personnel, safely clearing the interior of buildings, providing detailed documentation of crime and accident scenes, and searching for lost or missing persons.

Detective Kaley and Sergeant Coy were certified as drone pilots in 2019. We currently use a DJI Phantom 4 Pro and a Mavic 2 Enterprise. The Mavic has night vision, zoom, and thermal image capability, whereas the Phantom does not.

**Body Worn Cameras**

2019 began the implementation of body-worn cameras for our officers. Several studies have shown that equipping officers with body cameras would reduce the number of use-of-force incidents and complaints against officers. Officers received training before the deployment of the camera, and we went live on June 26, 2019.

Since then, we have started to see a reduction in the use of force incidents, and also it has been noted that we have more compliance from individuals when they are informed that their actions are on camera. Equipping our officers with body cameras promotes transparency and will reduce the number of injuries occurring when someone resists the officer and does not obey verbal commands.

**Chaplaincy Program**

Bill Wisniewski continues to serve as the chaplain within the department and volunteers his time to be available to the department’s staff and the public in times of crisis.

# Prescription Drug Take-Back Program

The Ravenna Police Department again collected nearly 1000 pounds of unused prescription medications in 2022, which were collected and destroyed by the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA).

The Ravenna Police Departments Prescription Drug Take-Back Program is focused on alleviating the health and safety concerns from the diversion and abuse of prescription drugs by helping our citizens properly dispose of unused prescription medications.  Many young people who abuse prescription drugs steal them from medicine cabinets. Keeping unused opioids or other common drugs of abuse in a medicine cabinet is no longer safe or responsible.

Many people believe that flushing or throwing away drugs is the best way to dispose of medications; however, if not disposed of properly, the drugs can contaminate the ground and waterways. Wastewater treatment plants are not designed to remove or process the compounds found in medications. Instead, when flushed or put in a landfill, the drugs are discharged into our surface and groundwater.

**Technology Updates**

We continue to order and install new in-car camera systems that replace our outdated ones. As a result, videos from the body and car cameras are now readily available through cloud-based storage. In addition, the system no longer uses a proprietary player and is accessible almost everywhere by logging in with proper credentials.

The new car cameras allow us to live stream the officers' activities, providing a new level of safety and real-time information for supervisors during critical incidents.

Printers were also installed in all cruisers, allowing officers to print traffic citations in their cars. We can also now transfer traffic citations to the state electronically, and we are prepared to move them to the courts when they install the software. This will further help in the vision of the Ravenna Police Department to become paperless.

The Dispatch Center was completely upgraded with new desk computers and software. In addition, it includes new monitors and faster solid-state hard drives helping dispatch accurately and promptly enter information.

**Staffing**

**Retirements**

* Records Clerk/Dispatcher Sandy Byerly- February 2, 2022
* Patrolman Scott Krieger- January 21, 2022

**New Hires**

Patrolman Steve Lincoln- January 7, 2022

Patrolman Chase Fife- January 17, 2022

Administrative Assistant Ron Fields- June 13, 2022

Patrolman Jeff Wisniewski- December 14, 2022

**Promotions**

Joleen Clelland was promoted to Dispatch Coordinator.

**Resignation**

Jessica Ighnat- August 8, 2022

**EOW**

K9 Mako 2018 - 2022