

SHELBY POLICE DEPARTMENT



ANNUAL REPORT 2018

2-1-19

Steven Schag, Mayor
City of Shelby
43 W. Main St
Shelby, OH 44875

Mr. Mayor

I am pleased to present the Shelby Police Department Annual Report for 2018. It is a snapshot of our activities throughout the past year, as we continue to look ahead to new challenges.

In 2018, we continued our outreach to the community through established programs. Whether it be tours, DARE, our School Resource Officers, Ride-A-Longs, our Christmas Tree donation project, ringing the Salvation Army Bell, or our frequent social media posts, we continue to strive to ensure that we are a partner with the community that we protect.

We added staff, and are well on our way to being fully complemented with full staff for the first in a number of years. We also began the process for the first time since Chief Carl Rivers, in readdressing our rank structure and eliminated a captain position and added a sergeant position. We continue to work toward a longer term goal of obtaining agency accreditation. Over the past year we added technology, new cruisers, and a beautiful new fountain in memory of Mayor Henry Cline,

You will see by way of comparison from last year, an increase in calls for service, offenses, and citations. All overdoses decreased considerably from the previous year. Some of that is due to education, rehabilitation and early intervention, but it is also likely attributed to changes in drug use from one drug and type of drug to another.

I look forward to 2019 and the opportunities it will afford for us to grow and continue to work toward filling the needs of the community that we love and serve.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Lance Combs', written over a faint background of the Shelby Police Department seal.

M. Lance Combs
Chief of Police

CALLS FOR SERVICE 2018

Calls for Service are the number of calls or “details” that our officers responded to throughout the year. In some cases, the call turns out not to be what was reported. In others, they led us to other crimes or problems, or issues that may require reclassification. Not every call for service generates an arrest, enforcement action or even a criminal complaint. Not included here are “follow up” calls – periods of time spent by officers working on cases by way of phone calls, interviews, research or notes, and does not include times that the officer is “temporarily out”, where an officer stopped to pick up a drink, food or piece of equipment. It also does not include “departmental details” where an officer might have come on station to fill overtime or complete other administrative duties. All jail calls in our Records Management System are listed as jail calls. We are required to keep a separate log that breaks down individual jail events. The jail calls include everything from booking prisoners, to serving meals, giving medications, cleaning the jail, and hour checks and daily prisoner counts. Aside from all of those exceptions, the following represent the number of calls for service that we responded to in 2018.

Offenses Against Persons	320	Property Offenses	598
Assault	57	Theft	260
Domestic	50	Bad Checks	14
Sexual Assault	14	Fraud/Forgery	55
Child Abuse	12	Breaking and Entering	29
Fights	21	Burglary	37
Man w/Gun	6	Auto Theft/Unauth Use	19
Man w/Knife	1	Counterfeiting	3
Suicide	4	Damage to Property	55
Stalking	6	Criminal Damaging	22
Menacing	55	Criminal Mischief	39
Telephone Harassment	91	Vandalism	7
Bomb Threats	1	Littering	22
Carrying Concealed Weapon	2	Trespassing	36
Drug Offenses	68	School Resource Officer	2,356
		Pioneer	1,392
		Shelby	964
Disturbances	997	Traffic Calls	1,265
General Disturbance	281	Traffic Stops	838
Disorderly Person	96	Traffic Control	25
Fireworks	4	Reckless Operation	55
Trouble with Neighbor	62	Drunk Driver	19
Suspicious Person	338	Driving Under Susp	5
Suspicious Vehicle	216	Non Injury Accident	134
Loitering	0	Injury Accident	17
Prowler	0	Hit Skip Accident	33
Liquor Violation	0	Private Property Acc	53
		Road Hazard	60
		Railroad Crossing	26

Service/Assistance	3,680	Juvenile	229
Lockout/Assist Person	973	Juvenile Complaints	167
Open Building	17	Unruly	20
Civil Matters	304	Runaway/Missing	34
Assist Other Agencies	250	Tobacco Violation	8
Assist Fire	144		
Open Burning	22	Utility Matters	137
Residential/Business Alarms	282		
911 Hang Up	64	Warrant Service Attempts	244
Vehicle Complaint	465		
Animal Complaints	180		
Threatening Suicide	39		
Funeral/ Business Escorts	357		
House Checks	28		
Welfare Checks	230		
Lost/Found Property	168		
Repossessed Vehicle	57		
Business Complaints	4		
Health Dept Complaints	0		
Solicitor Permits	4		
Mental Health Issues	14		
Missing Adult	11		
Violation of Protection Order	4		
Alzheimer Notification	9		
Exterior Property Complaint	54		
Patrol Calls for Service Total	9,898 (+489)		
Jail Calls for Service Total	9,321 (-185)		
TOTAL CALLS FOR SERICE 2018	19,219 (+304)		

OFFENSES 2018

Offenses differ greatly from Calls for Service. While a Call for Service indicates a time that an officer was alerted to, or dispatched to a possible crime, the officer must determine whether or not a crime was actually committed. Once that determination is made, the officer puts the call for service into a reportable format and creates an "Offense Report". Offense reports are used as the basis for investigations and court proceedings, as well as statistical analysis. All law enforcement agencies in Ohio submit data to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) by either using an aggregate method via Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) or by using an incident based method via Ohio Incident Based Reporting System (OIBRS). OIBRS mirrors the National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS). We have been using OIBRS exclusively for several years. Our Records Management System (RMS) pulls data from each offense report and electronically submits the required data to OIBRS. OIBRS data is available for online viewing at <http://ocjs.ohio.gov/oibrs/>. Basic offense reports and accident reports generated by the Shelby Police Department are available online via the City of Shelby website at <http://shelbycity.oh.gov/visitors/police/9-uncategorised/214-shelby-police-reports-online>.

Offenses Against Persons	130	Property Offenses	361
Assault	43	Theft	196
Domestic Violence	34	Bad Checks	9
Sexual Assault	13	Fraud/Forgery	7
Child Abuse	4	Breaking and Entering	18
Robbery	1	Burglary	19
Resisting Arrest	3	Unauthorized Use MV	5
Vehicular Assault	0	Unauth Use Property	0
Menacing	30	Counterfeiting	0
Unlawful Restraint	1	Criminal Damaging	21
Kidnapping	1	Criminal Simulation	2
		Criminal Mischief	32
		Vandalism	2
Juvenile Offenses	45	Criminal Trespass	18
Tobacco	16	Misuse of Credit Card	7
Unruly	17	Receiving Stolen Prop	10
Curfew	0	Possession of Crim Tools	2
Runaway	7	Safecracking	0
Contributing to Delinquency of Minor	2	Receiving Stolen Prop	10
Disseminating Matt Harmful Jueniles	2	Tampering w/Coin Mach	2
Pandering Obscenity Involvr Minor	1	Arson	1

Drug Offenses	177	Weapon Offenses	14
Possession of Drugs	63	Illegal Conveyance	5
Possession of Drug Instruments	29	Weapons Under Disability	1
Possession of Drug Paraphernalia	64	Improper Handling MV	2
Permitting Drug Abuse	0	Carrying Concealed Weapon	5
Trafficking in Drugs	4	Throwing or Shooting Missiles	1
Deception to Obtain Drugs	1		
Illegal Manufacture of Drugs	1	Traffic Offenses	130
Illegal Conveyance	0	Driving Under the Influence	50
Overdose	14	Driving Under Suspension	32
Distributing/Delivering Drugs	1	Other Traffic	48
Other Offenses	110	Animal Offenses	7
Disorderly Conduct	31	Barking Dog	1
Falsification	6	Location of Barn/Coop	0
Complicity	2	Confining/Restraining Dog	6
Impersonating Peace Officer	0		
Open Container	11	Arrest on Warrants	253
Underage Consumption	12		
Obstructing Official Business	9		
Telecommunication Harassment	16	No Charge Code	26
Junk Vehicle	8		
Violation of Protection Order	4		
Failure to Comply	6		
Escape	0		
Engaging in Corrupt Activity	1		
Littering	0		
Tobacco Use in City Building	0		
Inducing Panic	3		
Missing Person	1		
TOTAL OFFENSE REPORTS GENERATED 2018	1,253 (+56)		

CITATIONS/ARRESTS 2018

Calls for service and offenses may result in citations, summons, felony charges, or any combination of the three. In 2018 we issued the following charges. For purposes of our statistics, each category is counted as an arrest.

Traffic Citations	408
Misdemeanor Summons	464
Felony Charges	45
TOTAL	917 (+83)

SHELBY CITY JAIL

The Shelby City Jail was opened in April of 2014 and is designated a 12 day holding facility with a maximum capacity of 11 inmates. The jail undergoes a yearly inspection by the Ohio Bureau of Adult Detention. The 2018 inspection checked compliance with 106 jail standards set by the State of Ohio. The Shelby City Jail was in compliance with 96 standards and failed to comply with 10 standards. However, a plan of action was filed with the state and the 10 deficits were addressed through policy changes and additional training. Those standards have been submitted for review and approval.

In 2018 there were a total of 288 inmates booked into the jail, 223 males and 65 females. The inmates served a total of 1300 days with the average length of stay being 4.81 days. These numbers are slightly lower than the previous year, but remain fairly consistent.

Inmates are provided with meals from Crestwood Care Center. The jail pays \$4.00 per meal and spent approximately \$14,800 in 2018. Inmate uniforms, linens, towels, and personal garments are laundered by Colonial Coin Laundry. Approximately \$2,900 was spent for laundry services. A dozen or so gently worn blankets were removed from service due to tattered edges or small holes. These blankets were donated to the Harmony House in Mansfield, Ohio to be distributed to the homeless.

Because the Shelby Jail is designated a 12 day facility we can only house inmates for up to 12 days or 288 hours. Once the maximum 12 days have been met, the inmate must be released or transferred to a full service facility. Full service jail facilities staff physicians and nurses, as well as offer outside recreation and additional programming. Low risk inmates are permitted to serve their time in 12 day increments to reduce outside housing costs. Additional outside housing expenses were approximately \$84,000 a reduction of approximately \$11,000 from 2017.

In 2018 the Shelby City Jail implemented new medical/mental health screening protocols, enhanced suicide prevention programs to include stabilizing inmates displaying signs of acute psychiatric episodes, and implemented an infectious disease control program. In an effort to address the growing concerns with opioid abuse, the Shelby City Jail implemented intoxication and detoxification protocols which include more referrals to outpatient services.

The Shelby Police Department continues to be committed in providing a safe, secure, and efficiently run jail.

DRUG INVESTIGATIONS

In 2018 officers of the Shelby Police Department executed five drug related Search Warrants that resulted in the seizure of fentanyl, carfentanil, heroin, cocaine, methamphetamine, psilocybin mushrooms, marijuana and prescription medications. Also as a result officers seized a 1998 Dodge Caravan, \$917 in U.S currency and a Drone which were all believed to be the "Fruits of illegal Activity". All seizures are completed as criminal seizures, and not civil forfeiture actions. Numerous subjects were arrested on charges of Illegal Manufacturing, Aggravated Trafficking in Drugs, Possession of Drugs, Possession of Drug Abuse Instruments and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia.

In 2018, the Shelby Police Department handled 211 felony or misdemeanor drug offenses including Possession of Drug Paraphernalia, Possession of Drug Abuse Instruments, Possession of Drugs, Aggravated Drug Trafficking and Illegal Manufacturing of Drugs. This number represents an increase of 64 offenses.

Officers responded to 14 drug related overdoses in 2018. This is down from 39 overdoses in 2017. Three of the 14 overdoses resulted in fatalities. Officers successfully administered 6 doses of Naloxone to overdose victims; all of which aided in the revival of the subject. The reduction in overdoses is attributed to a number of issues including improved awareness and outreach due to the Opiate Response Team response, which is resulting in more people receiving treatment, success of drug court, increased enforcement, and unfortunately a transition back to methamphetamine. The methamphetamine transition is not noticed due to increased meth labs, but rather a higher grade crystal methamphetamine that is being imported; it is cheaper and easier to obtain than heroin currently.

In a continued partnership with the METRICH Enforcement Unit Shelby officers submitted 62 drug intelligence forms which provided information in regards to drug trafficking offenses in the Shelby and surrounding areas. The drug intelligence forms are complaints received from citizens and outside agencies. The intelligence forms are used to identify high traffic areas pertaining to drug trafficking as well as the individuals suspected of trafficking in drugs. Many of the complaints received resulted in the execution of a search warrant as well as the arrest of numerous subjects involved in the sales, manufacturing or possession of drugs.

USE OF FORCE/FIREARMS TRAINING

2018 saw a change to our duty weapon platform. Our agency transitioned from the Sig Sauer P226R .40 caliber platform to the Sig Sauer P320 9mm platform. The new weapons also came equipped with a TLR-1 light attached to the weapon rail system. A great new addition since the majority of law enforcement firearms encounters happen in a low level light environment.

After debriefing a lethal encounter with the patrol rifle in 2018 officers reported issues with lack of lights on the rifles. The Chief responded to this by adding lights on the rifles that are similar to the handgun lighting system

All officers and dispatchers were re-certified in the use of the TASER in 2018. Regional TASER instructor courses were again hosted by the Shelby Police Department, which allowed us to recertify our TASER instructors at no cost.

All officers and dispatchers maintained certification in the use of OC spray in 2018.

All officers and dispatchers were trained and tested quarterly in our Use of Force policy.

All officers successfully completed the minimum state requirement for the handgun, shotgun, and patrol rifle. All Shelby officers receive firearms training 4 times per year. This is above the state minimum requirement (once per year).

OFFICER USE OF FORCE TRACKING

The Shelby Police Department continues to operate with the goal of maintaining low rates of Use of Force Incidents. An annual review of our Use of Force Policy is complete, we continue to review and tweak it based on emerging law enforcement trends, court cases, and to continue to guide our compliance with the standards set forth by the Commission on Accreditation of Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA).

In 2018, our software vendor, Sundance Systems added a Use of Force component to our Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) software. Now, when we submit data to the State of Ohio, our Use of Force data is also automatically submitted. We still separately log and document every use of force both in reporting by policy and also by a spreadsheet that is used to evaluate our encounters over a period of time, in an attempt to identify any trends or obvious problems.

When an officer uses force, a packet is completed and sent up the chain of command, reviewed at each step, ultimately being reviewed by the Mayor/Safety Service Director.

While we maintain a full complement of body camera and in car camera systems, those cameras are starting to show their age and are beginning to fail. We continue to repair and replace as we look at other vendors to supply our needs for the future.

In 2018, we had 7 incidents that involved the use of force by Shelby Police Officers. Out of over 19,000 calls for service including 838 traffic stops, and 917 arrests, officers used force seven times in all of 2018. Those three incidents included the following types of force, moving up the force continuum:

Verbal commands/Officer presence – 7 times

- Assistance from other officers – 6 times
- Escort position – 4 times
- Joint manipulation/Pressure Points – 4 times
- Takedowns/Grounding techniques – 6 times
- Electrical Device/TASER – 5 times

The types of calls that resulted in a Use of Force Incident included:

- Assist Other Agency – 2 times
- Arrest on Warrant – 2 times
- Neighbor Problem/Mental Illness – 1 time
- Vehicle Pursuit – 2 times

In all but one case, officers were determined to have used an appropriate level of force. In one case, force was reviewed and determined to be improperly applied, and disciplinary action resulted.

DRUG RECOGNITION EXPERT (DRE)

In 2018 Sgt. Bushey conducted 1 drug evaluation on a male subject arrested for OVI. Upon receiving toxicology results from the Ohio State Highway Patrol Crime Lab the following drugs were found in the male's urine sample obtained during Sgt. Bushey's evaluation: Zolpidem, Tramadol, Hydrocodone, Dihydrocodeine, Temazepam, Oxazepam and N-Desmethyldiazepam.

BULLETPROOF VEST PARTNERSHIP GRANT

In 2018 Shelby Police Department again applied for a Federal Grant that assists with reimbursement of up to 50% of the cost of bulletproof vests for full time officers. This year 3 officers received new vests at a total cost of \$2085.00. The Bulletproof Vest Partnership (BVP) Program reimbursed the City of Shelby \$1042.50 or %50 of the total cost.

Shelby Police Department has utilized this grant since it was first offered in 2000. To date we have been reimbursed a total of \$14,734.52 to provide bulletproof vests to all of our full time officers, which is not only required by labor contract, but allows us to have the most up to date ballistic protection for our officers.

PIONEER SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER

Officer John Magers is the current School Resource Officer (**SRO**) for Pioneer Career and Technology Center (**PCTC**). Officer Magers previously served 10 yrs. as a D.A.R.E. Officer for the Shelby City Schools and spent the last several years as a backup SRO for PCTC. Officer Magers completed SRO training through the Ohio School Resource Officer Association, of which he is an annual member. The assigned duties of the SRO are:

Traffic Enforcement/Safety

- Monitor student parking lot during arrival and dismissal to ensure student safety.
- Monitor staff parking areas and school grounds for school compliance, safety issues.
- Parking enforcement, verifying student parking passes.

Crime Prevention

- Presence in the hallways, cafeteria, parking lots, classroom and labs.
- Formal and informal interaction with the students, staff and visitors.
- Participate, advise and train, if necessary, on the PCTC School Safety Plan.
- Participates on the PCTC Health and Safety Committee.
- Participates on the PCTC Safety and Security Committee.

Law Enforcement

- Issue citations, summons, warnings or other alternative enforcement as needed.
- Issue detentions and reminders on a daily basis.
- Attend truancy meetings, formal and informal hearings.
- Assist Shelby P.D. officers and other law enforcement agencies with issues concerning PCTC students.
- Investigate all law enforcement related issues concerning the school or students.

Education

- Presence in the school, parking lots, classrooms, labs, assemblies and special events.
- When requested discuss issues in classrooms related to law enforcement topics.
- Assist in safety drills including lock down (A.L.I.C.E.), tornado and fire evacuation.
- Open door policy for students/staff involving legal issues and questions.
- Positive interaction with students and staff on a daily basis.

Officer Magers assumed the Pioneer Career and Technology Center SRO position full time in the spring of 2018. The role of an SRO is to provide security in the schools, assist school personnel in enforcing rules and having positive interactions with the students and staff.

Since the implementation of the SRO program at Pioneer, calls for service have decreased as has the decrease in unreported vandalisms to PCTC property. Pioneer and the Shelby Police Department have been exceptionally satisfied with the program.

SRO – SHELBY SCHOOLS - 2018

Officer Keith Swisher is the current SRO for Shelby Senior High, Shelby Middle School, Dowds Elementary, and Auburn Elementary school. His office is currently at Shelby Senior High. The assigned duties of the SRO are as follows:

Traffic Enforcement / Safety

- Presence in the area on the roadways / parking lots enforcing traffic laws, and watching the overall safety of students / staff while walking on foot.
- Ensuring that proper vehicle, pedestrian, and bus routes are being followed

Parking Enforcement

- Crime Prevention
- Presence both in and outside the buildings during arrival / dismissal times, parking lots, hallways, cafeteria, classrooms, and special events
- Formal and informal interaction with the students, staff, and visitors
- Participate, advise, and train, as needed on the Schools Safety Plan

Law Enforcement

- Issue citations / warnings or other alternative enforcement
- Handle habitual truancy complaints within the district / home visits as needed, also conduct informal / formal meetings
- Assist other SPD Officers in conducting follow up investigations
- Assist other Law Enforcement Agencies concerning Shelby District students
- Investigate all Law Enforcement related matters

Education

- Presence in the hallways, cafeteria, parking lots, classrooms, assemblies, or special events
- When called upon discuss topics in the classroom as the topic relates to Law Enforcement.
- Assist in Safety Drills including lock-down (A.L.I.C.E.), Tornado, and fire evacuation.
- Tobacco Education / Driving Education

Officer Swisher completed his first full year as the SRO in 2018. During the school year Officer Swisher was responsible for investigating many types of calls for service / criminal offenses which resulted in 79 criminal reports being filed, 20 criminal summons issued, 2 traffic citations, and several cases forwarded to the Richland County Prosecutor's Office for charges. Types of calls ranging from school violence threats, threats to persons and property, domestic violence, neglect, menacing, falsification, assaults, disorderly conduct, theft, drug, tobacco, inappropriate phone use (sexting related cases), vandalism, truancy, and traffic cases.

Officer Swisher also implemented a Tobacco Education program for first time offenders found to be in possession of Tobacco / alternative nicotine products such as vape devices. A total of 27 students received this education.

D.A.R.E.

The D.A.R.E. program was implemented back into the Shelby School district in late fall of 2017. Officer Swisher completed the D.A.R.E. Instructors course in the fall of 2017, and began teaching the fifth grade students shortly thereafter. The fifth grade class completed D.A.R.E. and graduated in February 2018. The fifth grade class also completed two additional weeks of D.A.R.E. with lessons on Over the Counter Prescription Medication, and Prescription Medication. D.A.R.E. instruction was also given to the 4th grade class prior to the end of the school year to prepare them for middle school. D.A.R.E. online Opioid lesson was also taught to the High School Health Classes.

D.A.R.E. continued in the fall of 2018 with the 5th grade class. Twelve weeks of lessons were completed in December 2018. The 5th grade class will be graduating from D.A.R.E. in January 2019.

D.A.R.E. is primarily funded by private donation. Adams, Albert, and Curry Agency paid for Officer Swisher's D.A.R.E. Instructor's Course, and the graduation ceremony, and any additional needed materials are paid for through donations from our local service clubs. Each student is presented with a D.A.R.E. T-Shirt, and each class writes a D.A.R.E. essay. Each class has a winner, who is presented with a pin, and the best essay is presented with a medal. The students are also treated to a pizza party and cookie cakes following the graduation.

D.A.R.E. was selected as the prevention program of choice for the Middle School Level with the assistance of Councilperson Garland Gates. D.A.R.E. is an evidence based program, certified by the Ohio Attorney General's Office. D.A.R.E. returned to Shelby City Schools with the interest, assistance and support of Shelby City Council, Mayor Steven Schag, and Shelby City Schools. A grant is applied for annually to offset the cost of the program, and brings in approximately \$12,000.00. Because Officer Swisher both teaches D.A.R.E. and serves in the capacity of Shelby City Schools Resource Officer and teaches during his assigned duty hours, 100% of that grant money offsets the Shelby City Schools cost for funding a full time School Resource Officer.

A.L.I.C.E.

The Shelby Police Department has two A.L.I.C.E. (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate) Instructors, Officer Swisher and Officer Magers. Both Officers are assigned as School Resource Officers and work closely with the schools to monitor and conduct safety drills to provide training and to ensure the overall safety of students and staff in the event of an active shooter / threat situations.

The Shelby Police Department again hosted an A.L.I.C.E. Instructional class in January of 2018 in conjunction with North Central State College, and for the past two years have offered the instructional level course to area departments as well as to local businesses.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

The Neighborhood Watch Program has been in existence for several years in the City of Shelby. Specific neighborhoods in the city worked with the Police Department and have started their own Neighborhood Watch. Park Village, Meadow Estates, Myer Meadows and West Park Drive have established their own Neighborhood Watch Programs. Informational meetings and training sessions have been attended by residents to teach them skills and enhance their ability to detect and report crime in their neighborhoods.

Our goals for the Neighborhood Watch Program in 2019 is to continue to make programs available for any interested neighborhoods and be as involved as the neighborhoods would like us to be.

AUXILIARY UNIT

In 2018 the auxiliary unit finished the year with the loss of two and addition of two members. During 2018 the auxiliary added one officer as Aux Ofc Jordan Swart transitioned from a full-time position to the Auxiliary, and lost one as Aux Ofc Adam Turner returned to a full time position. In addition, Aux Ofc Morgan Scarberry, attending the North Central State College Police Academy was added to the roster.

At the conclusion of 2018 Aux Ofc Dale Humphrey retired. Aux Ofc Humphrey began his career as an Auxiliary Cadet in 1988. He later completed the police academy in 1990 and served as an Auxiliary Officer until 1999. After a three year break Aux Ofc Humphrey returned to the unit and served the department and community until December 31, 2018. As a result of his service and dedication to the unit Aux Ofc Humphrey was awarded the Legion of Merit Award for his nearly 30 years of service. We will miss Aux Ofc Humphrey, but we will continue to expand the auxiliary unit until we reach a more stable number.

The Auxiliary Unit is provided training and some basic equipment, but each officer is responsible for the cost of most of their own uniforms and equipment. Each auxiliary officer is required to volunteer a certain number of monthly hours, and they are required to complete the equivalent of a full time officer's complete field training, as well as maintain the same training and certification as their full time counterparts. Auxiliary Officers are used to both assist full time officers in their duties and to be called upon in times of emergency. If their training is current, they may work in place of a full time officer if a vacancy cannot be filled.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

One of our largest goals is to be an integral and transparent part of the community. In order to that, we stay actively engaged with our residents. Not just being seen, but taking an in-hand approach to improving the community; taking both leadership and support roles, but always being positively engaged. This goes beyond responding to crimes, writing reports, and walking aisles and hallways. It means being approachable, reliable, trustworthy, kind, compassionate and respectful. We must dispel myths and rumors with facts and the truth. To that end, we are very engaged in social media, using the platforms of Twitter, Facebook, and NextDoor. Our Facebook page has over 11,000 followers which is more than the population of our own community. Many of our posts have reached upward of 25,000 people. We also use an opt-in notification text and web system, Nixle to get out real time information to the community.

We conducted an annual pre-Christmas toy drive for the less fortunate, which results in hundreds of dollars of wrapped children's presents that are distributed based on need, with leftover presents going to Shelby Helpline. This has brought a tradition of classes, civic groups and even individuals coming to the station to bring presents and have their pictures taken with an officer.

We conducted a free in-town "taxi" designated driver service at Thanksgiving and New Year's Eve, ensuring that those who might have had too much to drink can get home safely and those that are out and not drinking can get where they need to go more safely.

Twice, in conjunction with the METRICH Enforcement Unit and the US Drug Enforcement Administration, Drug Takeback events were held. In April, we took in 77 pounds of unused medications and in October we took in 71 pounds.

In cooperation with the Red Cross, we held 3 blood drives. We had a total of 112 prescheduled slots available, with 72 scheduled prior to the date of the drive, and a total of 75 units of blood donated.

The Fraternal Order of Police purchased large quantities of candy for officers to hand out in neighborhoods during Halloween, and gas and food gift cards to hand out to good drivers during the Christmas Holidays.

We conducted an active ride-along program, having provided ride along experiences for over 23 people in 2018. We also conducted 5 tours of the police department to civic groups, mostly youth scouting groups.

Again a goal for 2019 is to establish a citizen police academy that we will focus on when we are able to bring our staffing up to appropriate levels.

We continue to look at ways that we can serve the community, continue in positive interactions and engagements, and to work to make Shelby a safe and enjoyable community.