Mercer County Sheriff's Office

2019 ANNUAL REPORT

Jeff Grey, Sheriff

Mercer County Sheriff's Office — 4835 State Route 29, Celina, OH 45822

T: 419-586-7724 **F:** 419-586-2234 **DD:** 9-1-1 **E:** sheriff@mercercountysheriff.org

Sheriff's Message

Welcome!

We are thrilled to share with you the Mercer County Sheriff's Office 2019 Annual Report! Our dedicated staff works hard every day to ensure the safety and security of our residents and those traveling through Mercer County.

We would like to thank our citizens for their continued support over the years. Law Enforcement is a partnership between the law enforcement agency and the citizens we serve.

It is truly an honor and privilege to be able to provide services to you!

Sincerely,

Jeff Grey
Sheriff

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Sheriff's Message	2
Mission & Motto	3
Sheriff's Office Structure	4
Administrative Staff	5
Supervisors	6
Employees	7
Budget Breakdown	10
2018-2019 Employee Awards Program	11
2018-2019 Award Recipient Photos	12
Detention Facility	14
Enforcement Division	18
K-9 Program	24
Central Dispatch	25
Civil Division	28
Dare Program	30
Explorer Program	31
Citizen's Academy	32
Mercer County Fair	33

Mission & Motto

The mission for every member of the Mercer County Sheriff's Office is to consistently seek and find ways to affirmatively promote, preserve, and deliver a feeling of security, safety, and quality services to the citizens and visitors of Mercer County. This mission is a commitment to quality performance by all employees. Each employee of the Mercer County Sheriff's Office is committed to providing these services in a caring, courteous, and common sense manner.

"Caring, Courteous, Common Sense Law Enforcement"

Code of Ethics

Every newly hired employee shall review the Mercer County Sheriff's Office Code of Ethics. The Code of Ethics shall be signed by the employee in the presence of the Sheriff, thereby acknowledging the employee's affirmation and dedication to protect constitutional rights and freedoms, perform all duties in a professional and competent manner, be truthful and honest in all dealings with others, and serve the public in a courteous, empathetic and humane manner. The original signed Code of Ethics shall be given to the employee and a copy retained in the employee's personnel file.

INTEGRITY

We uphold our positions of trust through honesty, credibility, and by maintaining high ethical standards.

SERVICE

We regard our office as a public trust. We are constantly mindful of our primary obligation to serve the community with "Caring, Courteous, Common Sense Law Enforcement".

PROFESSIONALISM

We value professionalism by having commitment, perspective, and direction. Professionalism is achieved by creating an environment that encourages teamwork, and innovation.

RESPONSIBILITY

We ensure that our behavior earns the support and trust of the public by being responsible for our actions and willing to admit our mistakes.

Meet Your Sheriff

Sheriff Jeff Grey was elected Mercer County Sheriff in November 2000, taking office January 1, 2001. He has been in law enforcement in Mercer and Auglaize Counties since 1980.

Sheriff Grey is a 1977 graduate of Celina Senior High School and received an Associate of Arts Degree in Business Administration from Northwestern College, Lima, OH. He is a graduate of the School of Police Staff and Command, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL, the FBI Executive Leadership School, Buffalo, NY, and the National Sheriffs' Institute, Longmont, Colorado.

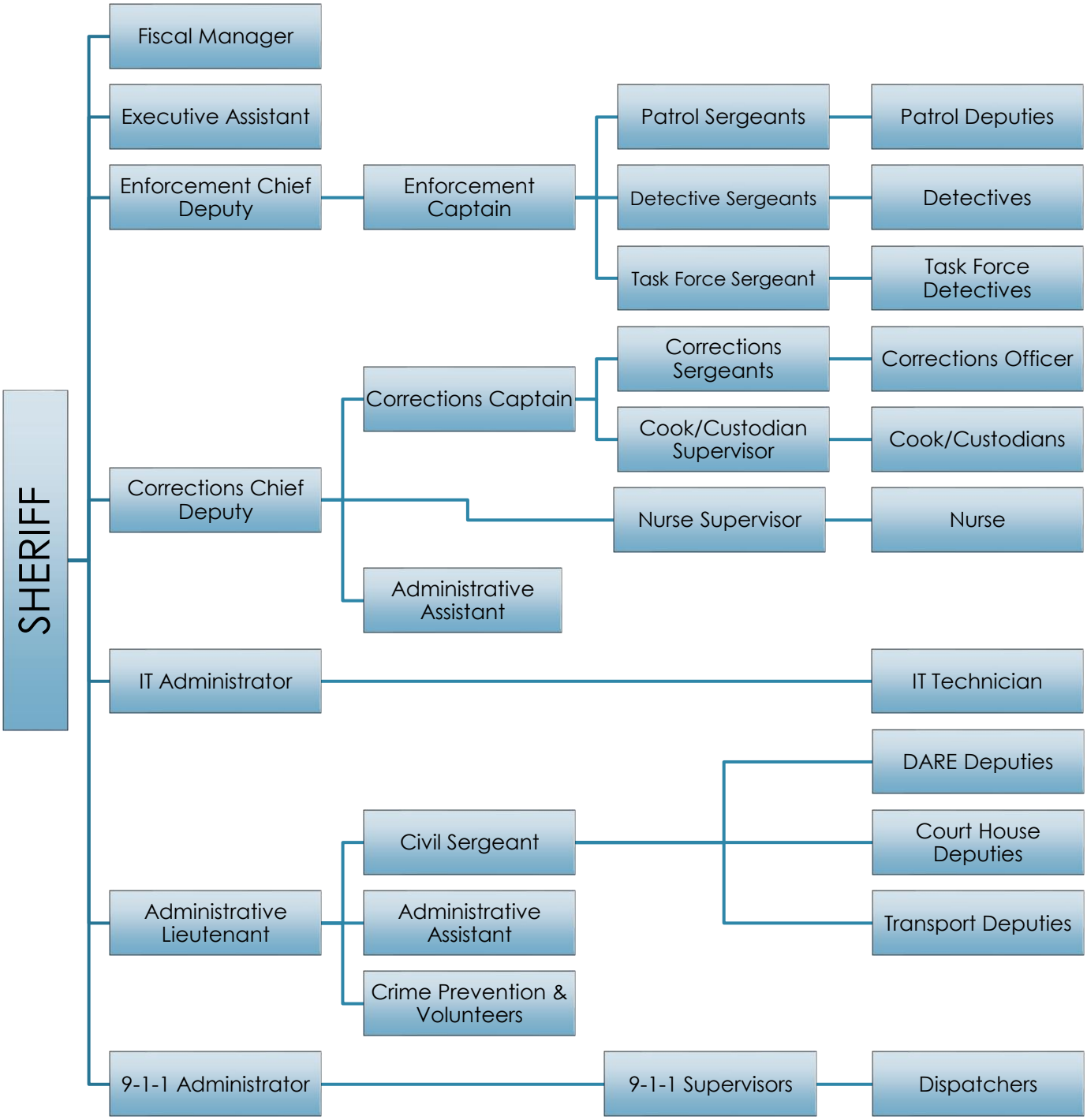
Sheriff Grey is the Chairman of the Sex Offender Registration and Notification (SORN) Committee and a past (2012) President of the Buckeye State Sheriff's Association. He is also a member of the Concealed Carry, Community Corrections, DARE/SRO, and Legislative Committees. Sheriff Grey trained newly elected sheriffs in 2004, 2008, 2012, and 2016 on the SORN Laws and how they affect the office of Sheriff.

Sheriff Grey lives in Washington Township with his wife Kay. They have two adult sons, and five grandchildren.

Past Sheriffs of Mercer County

W.H. Hinkle……1825
John Murdock……1827
Isaac Applegate……1829
Joshua Warfield……1833
James Brown……1835
John Eliot……1836
Sabert Scott……1839
A.T. Stedman……1841
Joseph Carlin……1843
G.W. Timmonds……1846
S.E. Snider……1851
C.H. Hight……1856
Robert Wiley……1860
G.W. Timmonds……1862
Henry L. Johnson……1866
Thornton Spriggs……1870
Henry J. McKirnan……1874
John G. Blake……1878
James F. Timmonds……1884
George H. Houser……1888
George H. Heffner……1892
Lorenz Schunk……1896
Joseph Hinders……1900
A.B. Grothjan……1907
Shell Fisher……1911
William Humphrey……1915
George M. Betz……1919
Charles Creeden……1923
George M. Betz……1927
Ed L. Bernard……1931
Lawrence M. Davis……1935
Bruce Barber……1941
Dwight Raudenbush……1945
Bruce Barber……1953
W.C. Sunderhaus……1961
E. Joseph Gilmore……1977
Carl J. Eichar……1991
Paul O. Gray……1997
Jeff Grey……2001

Sheriff's Office Structure



Administrative Staff

Jeff Grey
Sheriff

Gery Thobe
Chief Deputy, Enforcement

Jodie Lange
Chief Deputy, Corrections

Martin Emerine
Captain, Enforcement

Doug Timmerman
Captain, Corrections

Lori Knapke
Lieutenant, Civil Division

Connie Rinderle
Fiscal Manager

Monte Diegel
9-1-1 Administrator

Kory Hoffhines
IT Administrator

Ashley Carr
Executive Assistant

Nicole Grabow
Administrative Assistant, Civil Division

Theresa Berry
Administrative Assistant, Corrections

Christopher Eilerman
IT Technician

Supervisors

Sergeant Dan Adams
Civil Division

Detective Sergeant Megan Baker
Enforcement

Supervisor Connie Cook
9-1-1 Dispatch

Supervisor Leah Cramer
9-1-1 Dispatch

Detective Sergeant Lance Crum
Drug Taskforce

Sergeant Robert Cupp
Corrections

Sergeant Darrell Etgen
Enforcement

Nurse Supervisor Megan Fokine, RN

Supervisor Connie Kaiser
Custodial

Sergeant Heather Leist
Corrections

Sergeant Nathan Post
Corrections

Supervisor Stephanie Stammen
9-1-1 Dispatch

Sergeant Jay Wehrkamp
Enforcement

Sergeant John Westgerdes
Enforcement

Sergeant Jon Wolfe
Corrections

Employees

Nurse Susan Backs, LPN

Detective Carla Baucher
Enforcement

Deputy Kari Begley
Corrections

Deputy Donald Bird
Civil Division, D.A.R.E.

Deputy Jessica Clune
Corrections/Enforcement

Deputy Maria Diana Contreras
Corrections

Dispatcher Kelci Dodds

Deputy Chasta Driskell
Corrections

Deputy Kyle Fink
Enforcement

Deputy Patrick Forsthoefel
Enforcement/K9 Handler

Detective Chad Fortkamp
Enforcement

Deputy Madison Garland
Corrections

Deputy Scott Geis
Corrections

Dispatcher April Gerlach

Kathy Giere
Custodial

Deputy Maggie Hartings
Enforcement/Corrections

Deputy Rachel Heinl
Enforcement

Deputy Spencer Heinl
Enforcement

Deputy Jacob Huber
Enforcement

Deputy Angela Kaiser
Corrections

Deputy Matt Kremer
Corrections

Deputy Deric Kroft
Enforcement

Deputy Chase Kuhlman
Enforcement

Detective John Marbaugh
Enforcement

Deputy Lisa Meeker
Corrections

Deputy Sue Miller
Civil Division, D.A.R.E.

Deputy Kristen Nixon
Enforcement

Deputy Lori Pease
Corrections

Dispatcher Susan Poeppelman

Deputy Jason Porter
Corrections

Deputy Austin Prenger
Corrections

Deputy Kevin Schnipke
Corrections

Dispatcher Stacy Schoen

Deputy Donald Sites, Jr
Enforcement

Marie Stahl
Custodial

Deputy Kyle Strohl
Civil Division, Courthouse Security

Deputy Kent Taylor
Civil Division, Transports

Dispatcher Brieanna Vest

Deputy Samantha Wehe
Enforcement

Pam Wilder
Custodial

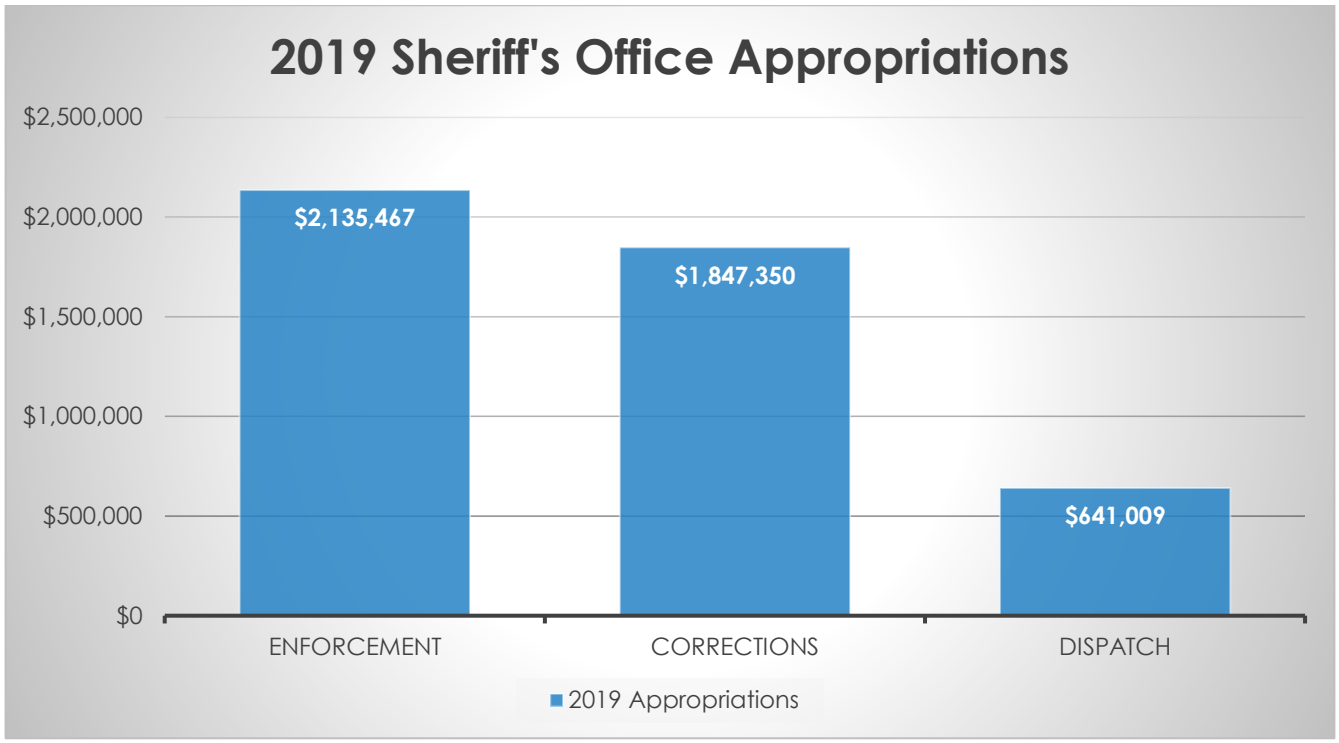
Deputy Logan Williams
Corrections

Dispatcher Rachel Williams

Deputy Douglas Wuebker
Enforcement

Deputy Megan Wycuff
Corrections

Budget Breakdown



2018-2019 Employee Awards Program

Awards are given for the following: Employee of the Year, Corrections Officer of the Year, Deputy Sheriff of the Year, Dispatcher of the Year, Citation, Certificate of Merit, Award of Valor, Life Saving Award, Commendation Award, Safe Driving Award, Seat Belt Award, Civilian Award, and Certificate of Appreciation. Employees are awarded pins that are worn on their uniforms. The awards are presented at the annual employee breakfast meeting. The Awards program is a great way to showcase employee achievements.

In 2019, these employees were given the following awards for their accomplishments:

Employee of the Year:	Deputy Sue Miller
Deputy Sheriff of the Year:	Deputy Kyle Fink
Corrections Deputy of the Year:	Sergeant Nathan Post
Dispatcher of the Year:	Dispatcher Stacy Schoen
Civilian of the Year:	Nurse Megan Fokine
Commendation:	Dispatcher Kelci Dodds, Detective Chad Fortkamp, Chief Deputy Jodie Lange, Captain Martin Emerine, IT Administrator Kory Hoffhines, Dispatch Supervisor Leah Cramer
Life Saving Award:	Sergeant Jay Wehrkamp, Deputy Deric Kroft, Dispatcher Rachel Williams, Dispatcher April Gerlach, Sergeant Nathan Post, Deputy Lori Pease, Deputy Jason Porter, Sergeant Dan Adams
Safe Driving:	Sergeant John Westgerdes – 5 years Deputy Patrick Forsthoefel – 5 years Detective Sergeant Megan Baker – 10 years Sergeant Jay Wehrkamp – 20 years Sergeant Darrell Etgen – 25 years
Office Citation:	Dispatchers Brieanna Vest, Susan Poeppelman, Rachel Williams, Stacy Schoen, and Kelci Dodds, Dispatch Supervisor Leah Cramer, Deputy Scott Geis, Sergeant Heather Leist

The Sheriff also awards service stars at the annual meeting. Stars are awarded to employees who have served in Law Enforcement for at least 5 years. Stars are awarded for every 5 year increments of service.

In 2019, the following Service Stars were awarded:

30 Year Service Stars	Captain Martin Emerine
25 Year Service Stars	Sergeant Jay Wehrkamp & Deputy Diana Maria Contreras
10 Year Service Stars	Deputy Lori Pease, Supervisor Connie Kaiser, & Kathy Giere
5 Year Service Stars	Sergeant John Westgerdes, Deputy Patrick Forsthoefel, Deputy Donald Sites

2018-2019 Award Recipient Photos

Employee of the Year:
Deputy Sue Miller
Deputy Sheriff of the Year:
Deputy Kyle Fink
Corrections Deputy of the Year:
Sergeant Nathan Post
Dispatcher of the Year:
Dispatcher Stacy Schoen
Civilian of the Year:
Nurse Megan Fokine

Commendation Awards:
Dispatcher Kelci Dodds,
Detective Chad
Fortkamp, Chief Deputy
Jodie Lange, Captain
Martin Emerine,
IT Administrator Kory
Hoffhines,
Dispatch Supervisor
Leah Cramer

Life Saving Award:
Sergeant Jay Wehrkamp,
Deputy Deric Kroft,
Dispatcher Rachel Williams,
Dispatcher April Gerlach,

Life Saving Award:
Sergeant Nathan Post,
Deputy Lori Pease,
Deputy Jason Porter,
Sergeant Dan Adams

Office Citations:
Sergeant Heather Leist
Deputy Scott Geis

30 Years of Service
Captain Martin Emerine
25 Year Service Stars
Sergeant Jay Wehrkamp
Deputy Diana Maria Contreras

10 Year Service Stars
Deputy Lori Pease
Supervisor Connie Kaiser

10 Year Service Stars
Kathy Giere

5 Year Service Stars
Sergeant John Westgerdes
Deputy Patrick Forsthoefel
Deputy Donald Sites

Safe Driving Awards
Detective Sergeant Megan Baker – 10 Years
Sergeant Darrell Etgen – 25 years

Office Citation:
Dispatchers Brieanna Vest,
Susan Poeppelman, Rachel Williams,
Stacy Schoen, and Kelci Dodds,
Dispatch Supervisor Leah Cramer

Detention Facility

The Adult Detention Facility has 4 Sergeants who oversee all shifts. The Detention Facility must have a minimum of 3 state certified correction's officers working per shift. This includes both female and male corrections officers. The staff of the Mercer County Detention Facility are responsible for the security and safety of the inmates who are housed within the facility. The inmates are monitored 24 hours a day. In addition to correction's officers, the Detention Facility also has a full service kitchen, one Registered Nurse, and an LPN nurse and a Medical Doctor.

Chief Deputy Jodie Lange

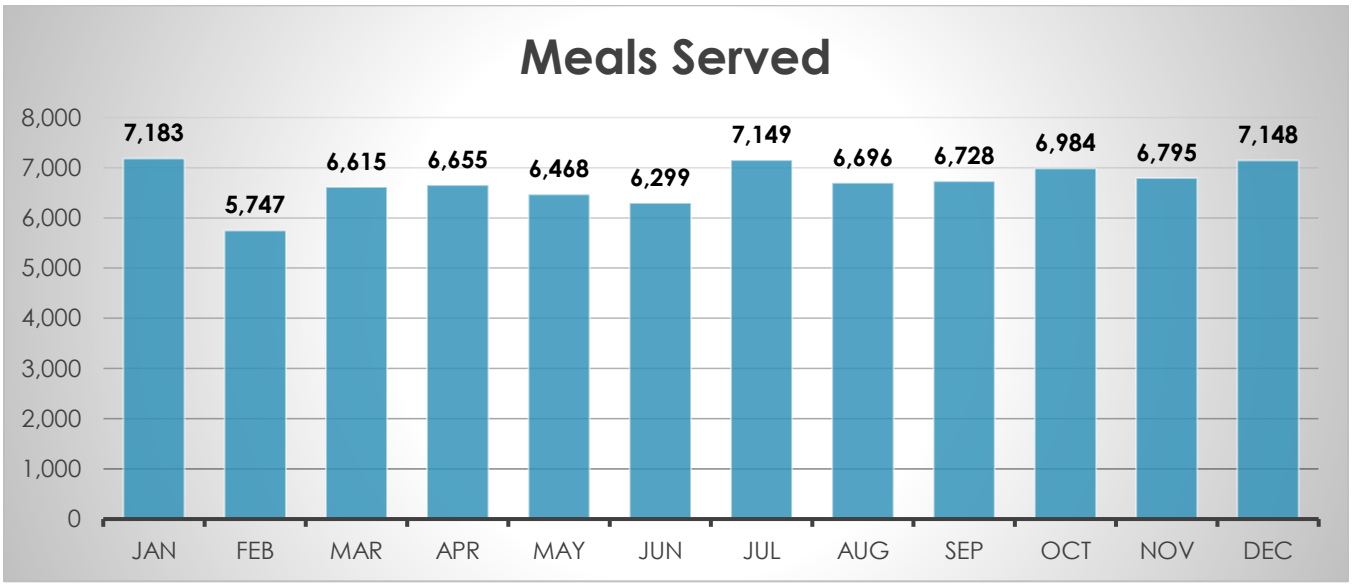
The Detention Facility is under the command of Chief Deputy Jodie Lange. Chief Lange has over 26 years of experience and she has spent her entire career at the Mercer County Sheriff's Office. Chief Lange has held the ranks of Corrections Officer, Sergeant, Lieutenant, Captain, and now Chief Deputy. Chief Lange reviews programs for inmates, and she participates in the Mercer County Prevention Coalition and the Colt CHIP health group. She is responsible for the overall operations in the detention facility.

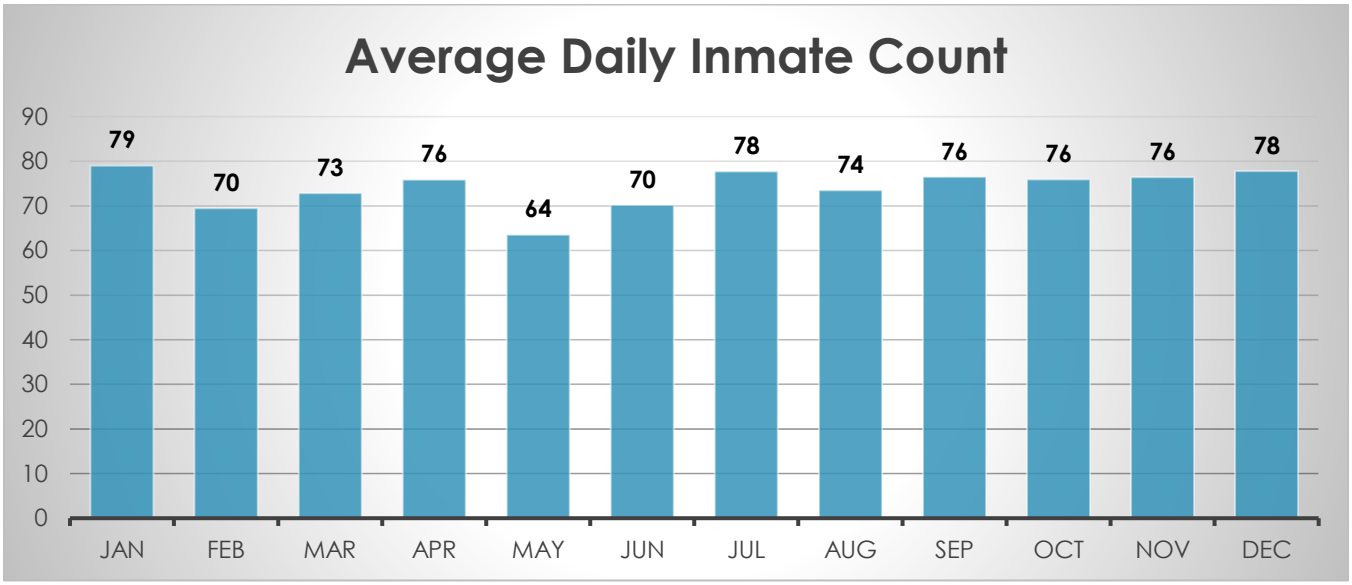
Captain Doug Timmerman

Captain Doug Timmerman oversees all the day to day operations in the detention facility. Captain Timmerman has 25 years of law enforcement experience and has spent his entire career at the Mercer County Sheriff's Office. Captain Timmerman has held the ranks of dispatcher, Patrol Deputy, Detective, Detective Sergeant, and Captain of the Jail & Enforcement.

Inmate Population Statistics

In 2019, the Mercer County Adult Detention Facility booked in 2,272 inmates. Of those inmates; 1,734 were male and 538 were female. The Detention Facility served 80,467 meals in 2019. Daily inmate totals vary. The following chart shows daily inmate trends and meals served by month.





Detention Facility Income

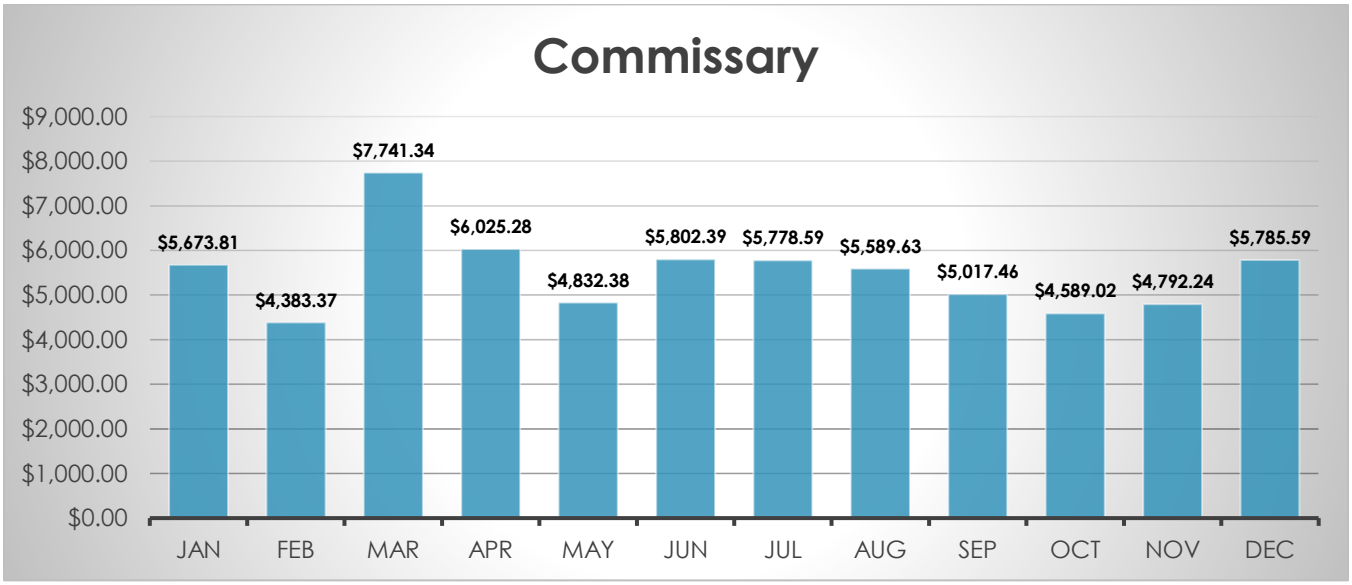
The Detention Facility does generate revenue. This revenue is generated by the inmates through various sources and programs. The following charts show where the revenue comes from and a description of the program. Revenue is received from housing inmates for other agencies, commissary, medical reimbursement, inmate work release. These programs save money for the tax payers of Mercer County. Total revenue generated for 2019 was $352,260.84.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
Money Received for housing	$16,065.00	$7,335.00	$22,545.00	$20,250.00	$14,805.00	$20,835.00
Commissary	$5,673.81	$4,383.37	$7,741.34	$6,025.28	$4,832.38	$5,802.39
Medical Reimbursement	$660.09	$1,027.44	$1,401.82	$741.07	$524.25	$379.36
Money Received from Work Release	$600.00	$775.00	$275.00	$350.00	$150.00	$700.00

	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Money Received for housing	$30,690.00	$33,045.00	$33,660.00	$26,370.00	$23,085.00	$22,725.00
Commissary	$5,778.59	$5,589.63	$5,017.46	$4,589.02	$4,792.24	$5,785.59
Medical Reimbursement	$1,054.61	$829.04	$2,197.22	$471.40	$1,137.40	$141.04
Money Received from Work Release	$700.00	$725.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00

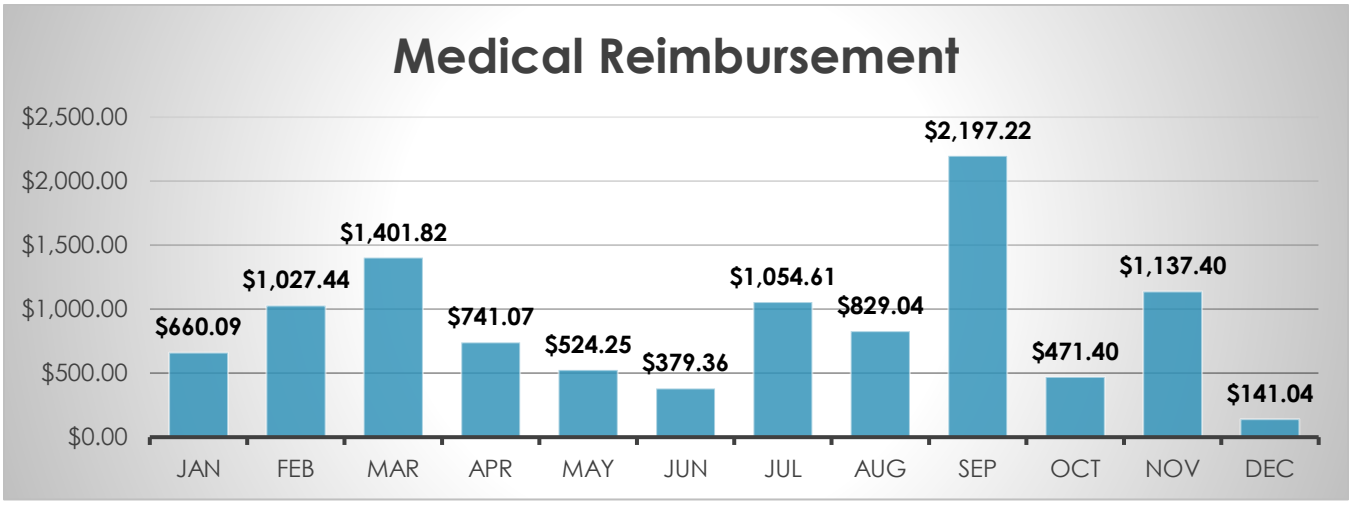
Commissary

Commissary are items that have been approved for inmates to purchase. Items include coffee, personal hygiene, socks and underwear, snacks, paper, envelopes, and various other items. The profits generated by commissary purchases can only be used to benefit inmates. Commissary funds inmate programs such as the garden and landscaping. Commissary is also used to purchase equipment, work clothes, work boots, and work tools used for the inmate garden. A total of $66,011.10 was collected through commissary in 2019.



Medical Reimbursement

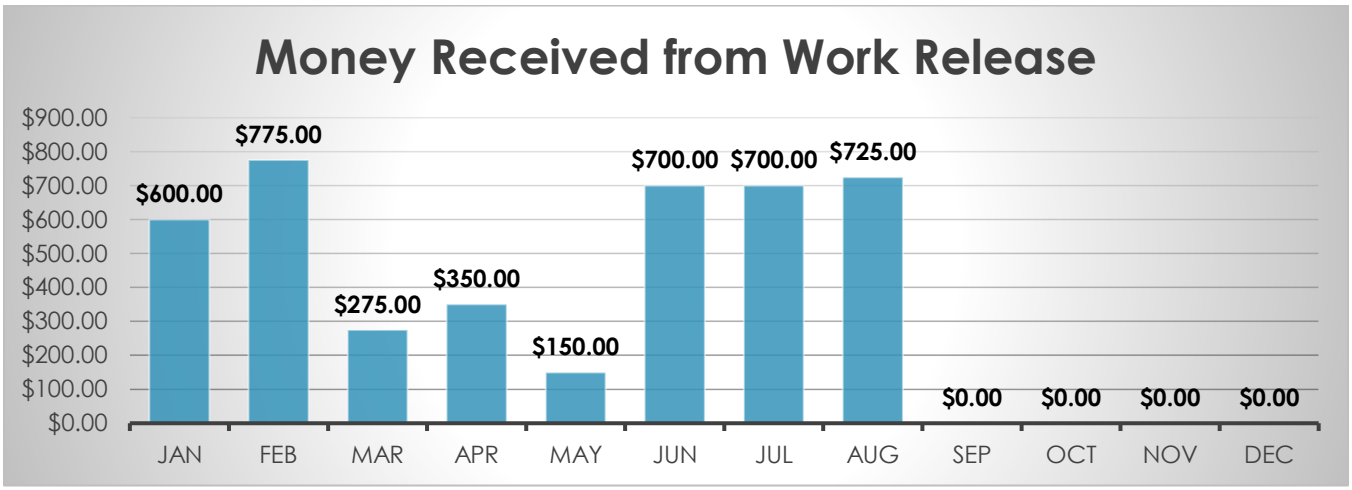
Medical Reimbursement funds are collected from inmates that require medical treatment while incarcerated at the Detention Facility. Inmates are billed for medical costs incurred while housed at the Detention Facility. When money is deposited on an inmates' account, a portion of the money is used to pay their outstanding medical expenses. In 2019, a total of $10,564.74 was collected through the medical reimbursement program.



Inmate Work Release Program

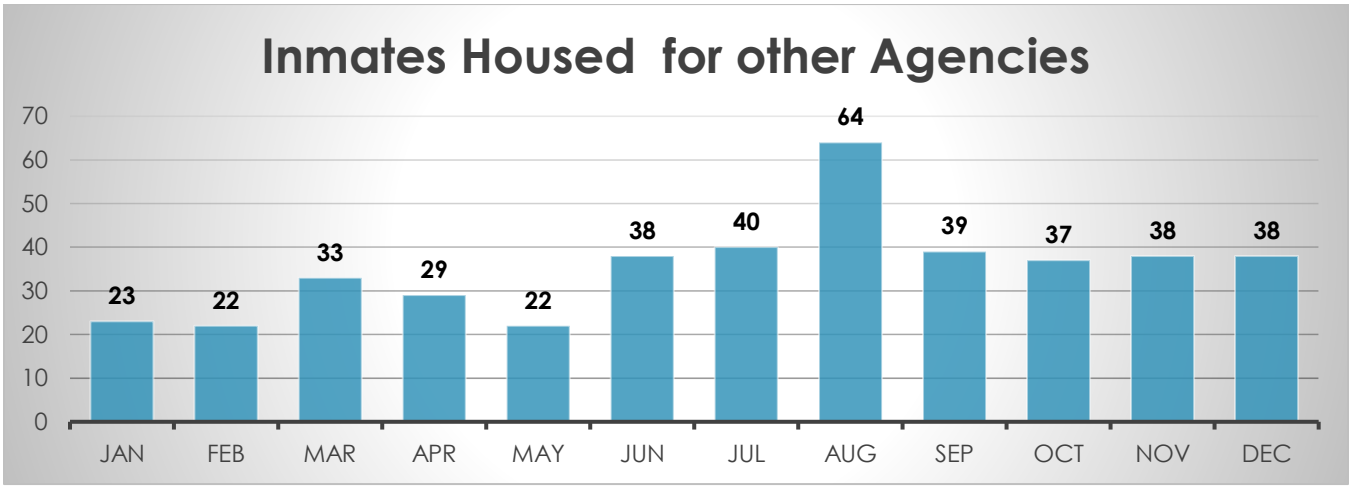
Work Release is a program by which inmates can be allowed to be released from the county jail during the time he or she is scheduled to work. Participants in the work release program must have a job and hours that can be verified. Inmates are released during those work hours. Program participants are required to sign and follow the work release guidelines, and also must follow all the jail rules & regulations to participate in this program.

Inmates pay to be in the work release program, and payment guidelines have been set up according to wages earned. Mercer County Sheriff's Office staff periodically visit the workplace to ensure the inmate is working. Program violators are terminated from the program and the courts are notified. In 2019, a total of $4,795.00 was collected through the inmate work release program.



Inmates Housed for Other Agencies

In 2019, a total of 423 inmates were held in the Mercer County Detention Facility for other agencies. Many agencies are experiencing overcrowding issues. The money generated by housing inmates for other agencies goes into the County's General fund. By agreement between the Sheriff and the County Commissioners, the money is portioned out and a percentage of it is returned the Sheriff's Office. A total of $271,410.00 was collected for housing inmates for other agencies in 2019.



Enforcement Division

The Sheriff's Office has five supervisors in Enforcement and they include; three Patrol Sergeants, and two Detective Sergeants.

The Grand Lake Drug Task Force is under the command of the Mercer County Sheriff and the Auglaize County Sheriff. The Task Force also includes Police Departments from Celina, Coldwater, Ft. Recovery, St. Henry, Wapakoneta, St. Marys, Cridersville, New Bremen, Minster, and Waynesfield.

Chief Deputy Gery Thobe

The Enforcement Division is under the command of Chief Deputy Gery Thobe. Chief Deputy Thobe has 35 years of law enforcement experience. He has held the rank of Deputy, Sergeant, and now Chief Deputy at the Sheriff's Office. He served 10 years as Coldwater Ohio Police Chief. The Chief Deputy is the highest, non-elected law enforcement position in Mercer County and is second in command of the Sheriff's Office.

Captain Martin Emerine

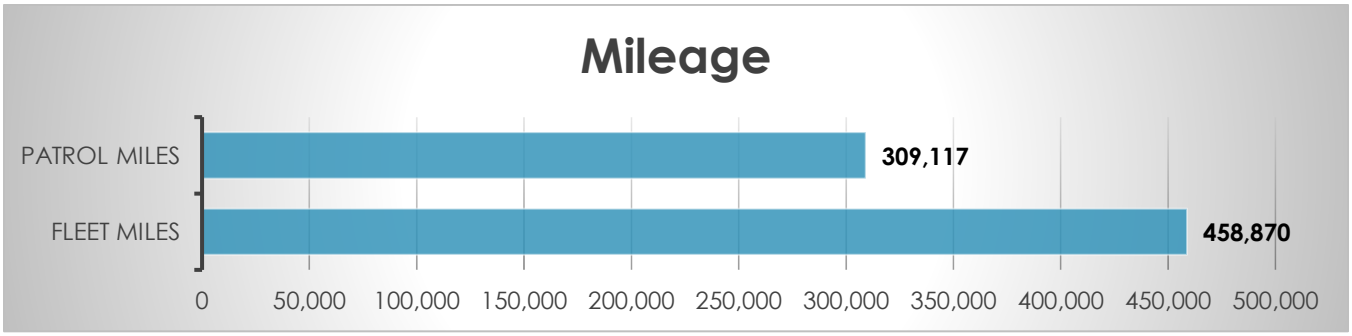
Captain Martin Emerine oversees all the day to day operations in the enforcement division. Captain Emerine has 28 years of law enforcement experience and has spent his entire career at the Mercer County Sheriff's Office. Captain Emerine has held the ranks of Deputy, Lieutenant, Captain of Jail, and now Captain of Enforcement.

Patrol

The Patrol division of the Sheriff's Office patrols 472 square miles, which include 14 Townships, one City, and all Villages in Mercer County. In 2019, deputies patrolled 309,117 miles. Deputies handled 477 traffic crashes, and completed a total of 3,743 reports.

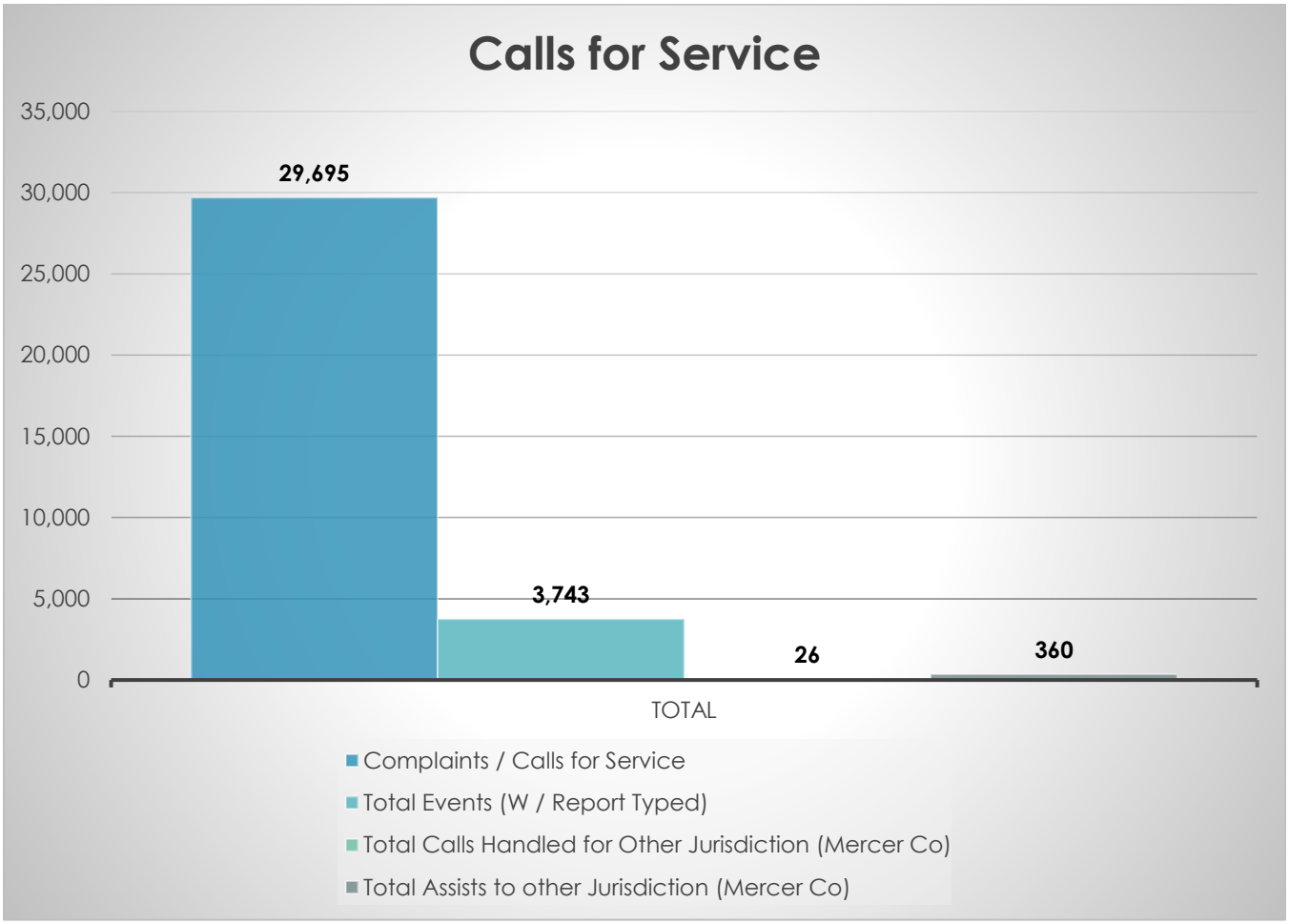
The Sheriff is the Chief Law Enforcement Officer in Mercer County, and his Deputies have jurisdiction throughout all of Mercer County including Municipalities. Patrol Deputies conduct criminal investigations, issue citations, warnings, and make arrests. Patrol Deputies serve warrants and civil papers, and give safety talks and presentations throughout the year.

Patrol Deputies are also assigned to the Communication Truck. The Communication Truck is available for call out 24 hours a day. See the "Programs, organizations, and volunteer" section for further information about the Communications Truck.



Investigations

In 2019, the Enforcement Division investigated numerous crimes. Investigations would include death scenes, sexual assaults, burglaries, computer crimes, cyber-crimes, financial crimes, assault cases and also assisted with traffic fatality investigations. The Mercer County Sheriff's Office had 29,695 calls for service.



CALL TYPE	#
Abandoned Junk Vehicle	12
Agency Assist	309
Alcohol / Drunk Report	1
Animal Abuse / Neglect	18
Animal Bite	4
Animal Report / Non Abuse or Neglect	10
Assault	30
Bad checks	11
Bomb Threat	2
Burglary	15
Business Checks / House Checks	6947
Cellebrite Extraction	27
Child Abuse Neglect	14
Civil Issue / Report Requested	42
Court Order /Bond Violations	21
Criminal Citations Issued	16
Death Investigation	14
Discharge of a Firearm	25
Disorderly Conduct Issues	31
Domestic Dispute	66
Domestic Violence	48
Drug Interdiction miles driven	4639
Drug Interdiction Total citation issued	37
Drug Interdiction total felony arrests	8
Drug Interdiction total misdemeanor arrests	20
Drug Interdiction total Stops	67
Drug Interdiction total written warnings issued	35
Drug Interdiction vehicles searched	33
Drug Offenses	20
Felony Arrests	462
Fraud / Scam Reports	72
Industrial Accident	8
Inmate Incident	16
Jail Drug Incident	3
Junk Yard Inspections	1

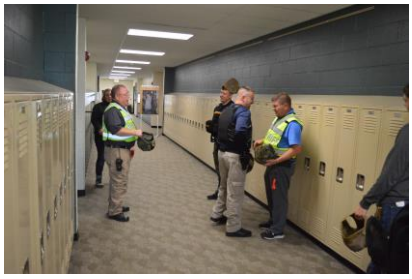
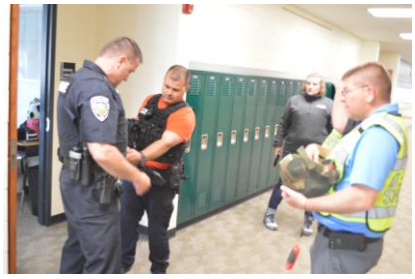
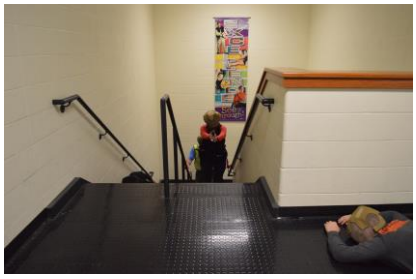
Juvenile / Unruly Child	49
K-9 Call Out	138
K-9 Demonstration	22
Littering	20
Menacing Report	16
Mentally Disturbed Subject	19
Misdemeanor Arrests	392
Missing Adult	8
Missing Juvenile	6
MOVING VIOLATIONS	304
Neighbor Dispute	9
NON MOVING VIOLATIONS	116
Overdose Narcan Used Report	1
Overdose report	4
Property Damage	94
Prowler	1
Recovered Property Report	43
Sex Crimes	18
Sex Offender Address Verifications	177
Sex Offender Offenses	2
Shooting	6
Stolen Vehicle	8
Suicide Attempt	11
Suicide Threat	42
Telecommunications Harassment	50
Theft Offenses	84
Total Offenses for Citations	215
Total Traffic Stops	1199
Total Written Warning Offenses	330
Total Written Warnings Issued	800
Tow / Impound	1
Traffic Citations Issued	388
Trespassing Report	46
Unauthorized Use of a Motor Vehicle	5
Warrant Service	168
Welfare Check / Action Taken	40

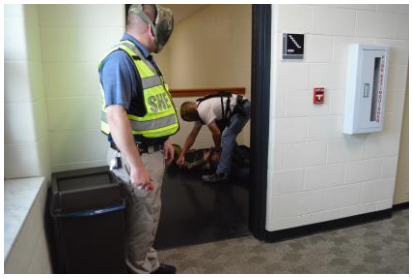
Active Shooter Training

The Mercer County Sheriff's Office hosted its 5th Active Shooter Training at Coldwater High School on July 11th & 12th, 2019. The training was presented by the Mercer County Sheriff's Office.

The training consisted of (8) hour training sessions conducted on two separate days. There was a classroom portion of the training followed up with hands on exercises and training scenarios. The focus of the training was "Solo Entry" response with link ups with other officers as they arrived. The use of "Air Soft" guns added to the depth and realism of the training.

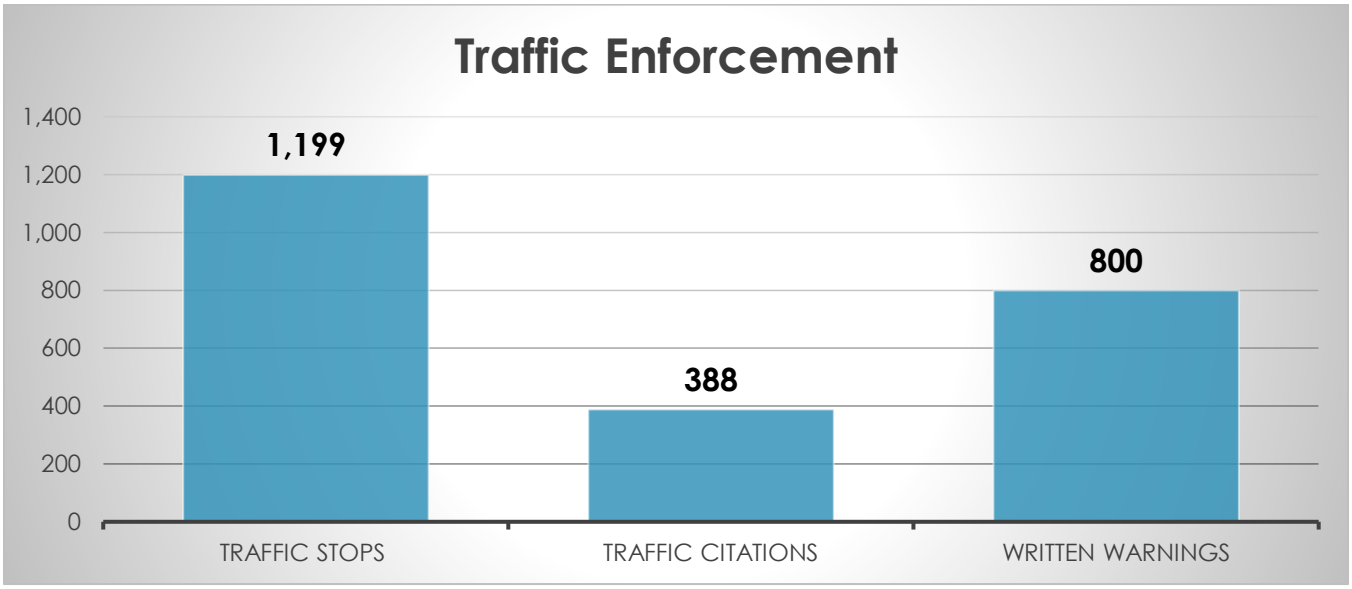
The training was provided free of charge to all of the agencies in Mercer County. The Sheriff's Office supplied drinks as well as lunch for the staff and participants. The class was attended by 49 law enforcement officers throughout the county. This training is proving to be invaluable and very important.



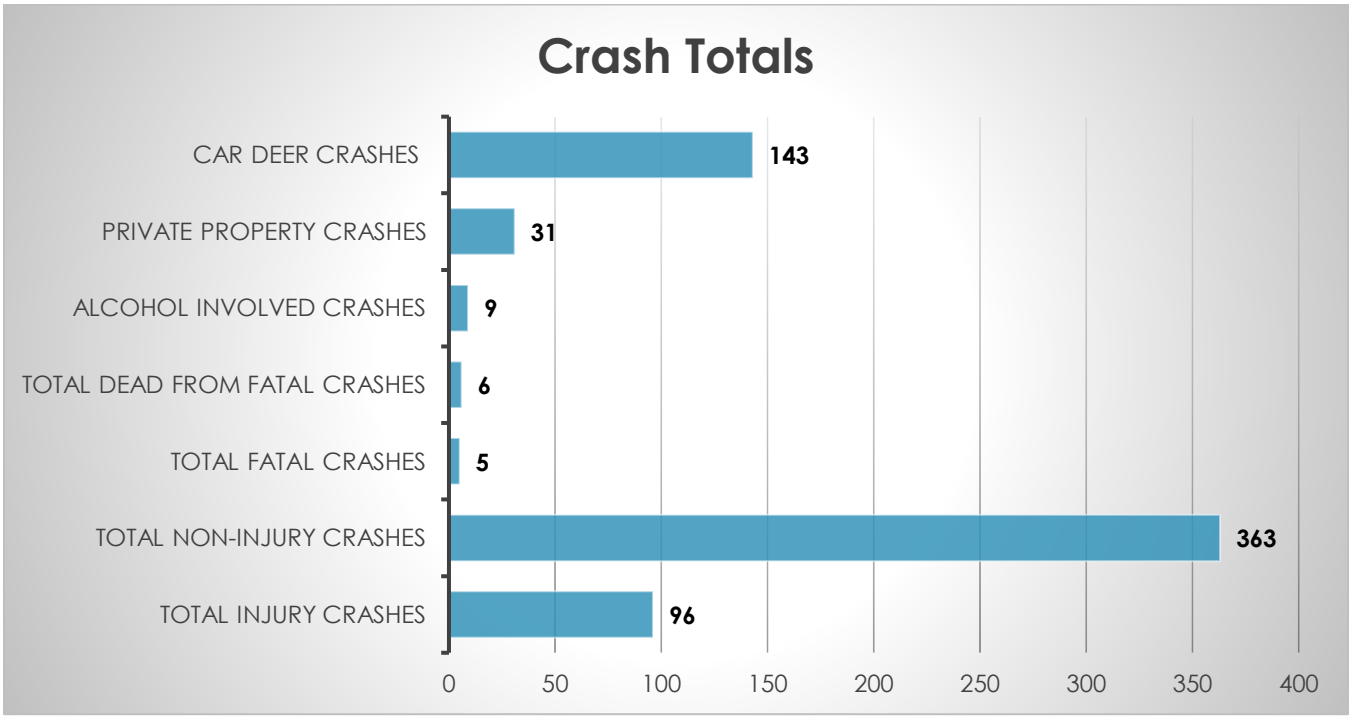
Traffic Enforcement

Traffic Enforcement is done routinely by Deputies. There are occasions where Deputies are assigned specifically to enforce traffic violations for problem areas. Deputies also conduct traffic enforcement through a grant from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.



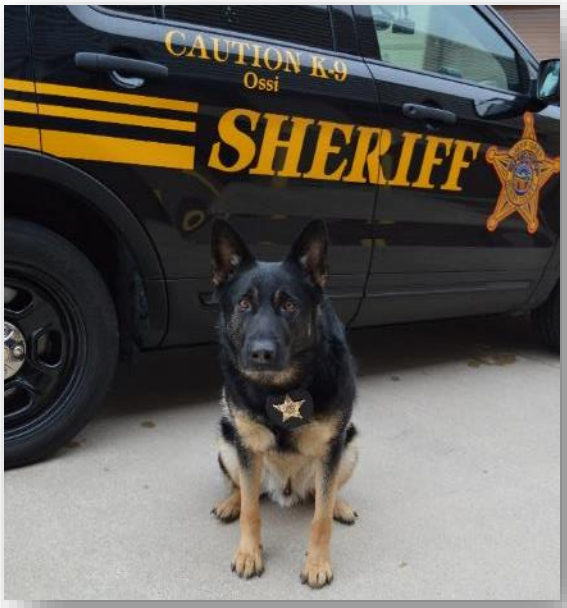
Crash Investigations

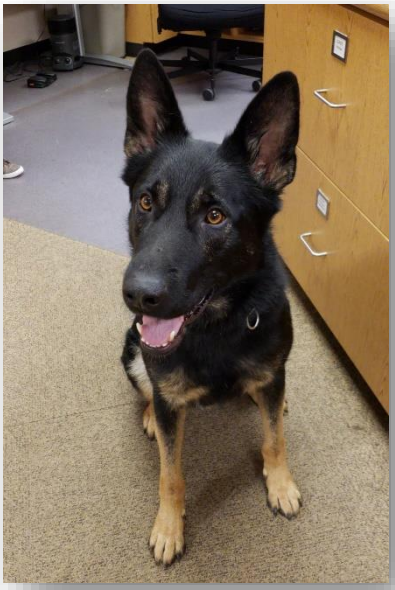
The Sheriff's Office handles crashes reported through the 9-1-1 Dispatch Center. All Deputies are trained in crash investigation. There are three Deputies who have been trained in crash reconstruction. Captain Emerine, Detective Carla Baucher, and Detective Chad Fortkamp make up the traffic reconstruction team. These Deputies respond to fatal crashes and use state of the art equipment to reconstruct crashes. In 2018, deputies handled 2 fatal traffic crashes resulting in 2 deaths on Mercer County roadways.


Crash Totals
CAR DEER CRASHES
143
PRIVATE PROPERTY CRASHES
31
ALCOHOL INVOLVED CRASHES
9
TOTAL DEAD FROM FATAL CRASHES
6
TOTAL FATAL CRASHES
5
TOTAL NON-INJURY CRASHES
363
TOTAL INJURY CRASHES
96
0
50
100
150
200
250
300
350
400

K-9 Program

Our K-9 Program consists of Deputy Patrick Forsthoefel & his partner Deputy Ossi. Deputy Forsthoefel has been partnered with K-9 Ossi since 2017. The Mercer County Sheriff's Office uses trained and controlled canines in support of law enforcement operations where the dog's superior sense of smell, hearing, and physical capabilities, can efficiently and effectively aid in the accomplishment of tactical objectives.





Central Dispatch

The Mercer County Sheriff's Office operates the Mercer County 9-1-1 Central Dispatch. Dispatchers are dedicated and trained to handle life-threatening emergencies as well as all non-emergency calls that are received in the dispatch center.

The Mercer County Sheriff's Office 9-1-1 Central Dispatch, dispatches for the Sheriff's Office, as well five (5) Police agencies, four (4) Life Squads and ten (10) Fire Stations located in Mercer County. All 9-1-1 calls throughout Mercer County, which include land lines and cell phones, ring into the Mercer County Sheriff's Office including Celina and other Municipalities. Central Dispatch also has the ability to set off tornado warning systems, Informer system for inclement weather, and the NIXLE alert system.

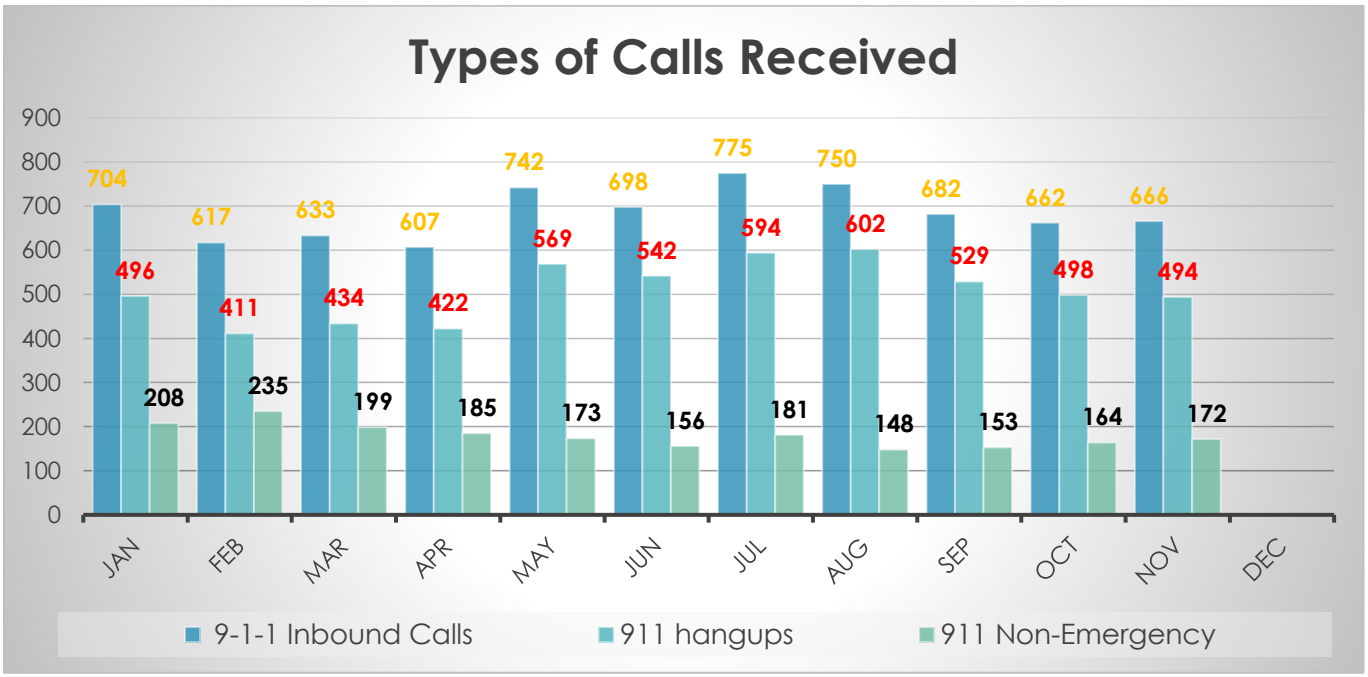
Dispatchers have the additional responsibility of the Ohio LEADS (Law Enforcement Automated Data System) to provide immediate response to an officer request for driver's license or vehicle registration information and checking to make sure that a person is not wanted by any other Agency. Dispatchers are responsible for entering stolen items, warrants, protection orders, missing persons, and conceal carry permits into LEADS/NCIC every day.

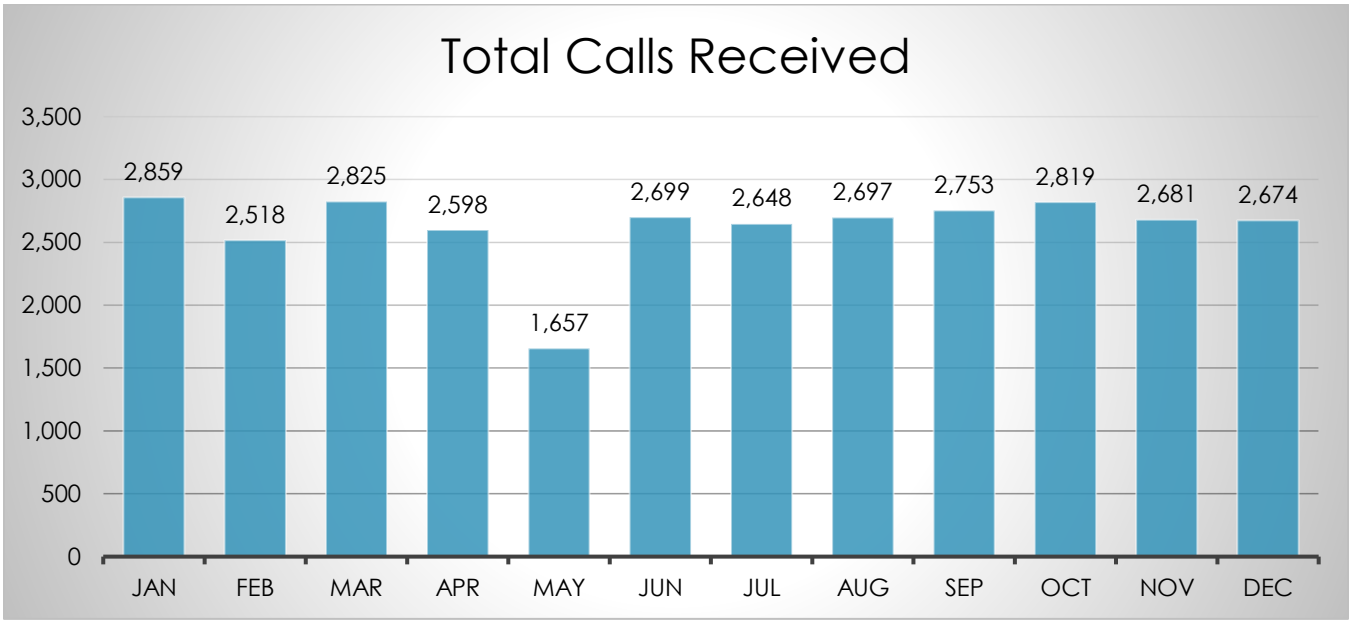
9-1-1 Administrator Monte Diegel

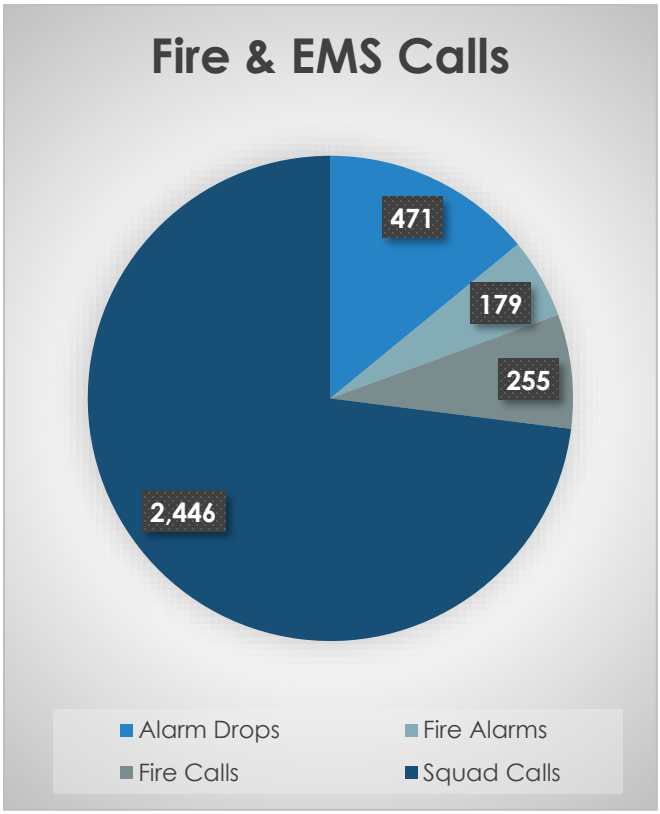
The Communications Division is under the direction of 9-1-1 Administrator Monte Diegel. Administrator Diegel has been at the Mercer County Sheriff's Office for 25 years, and has 30 plus years of experience in communications.

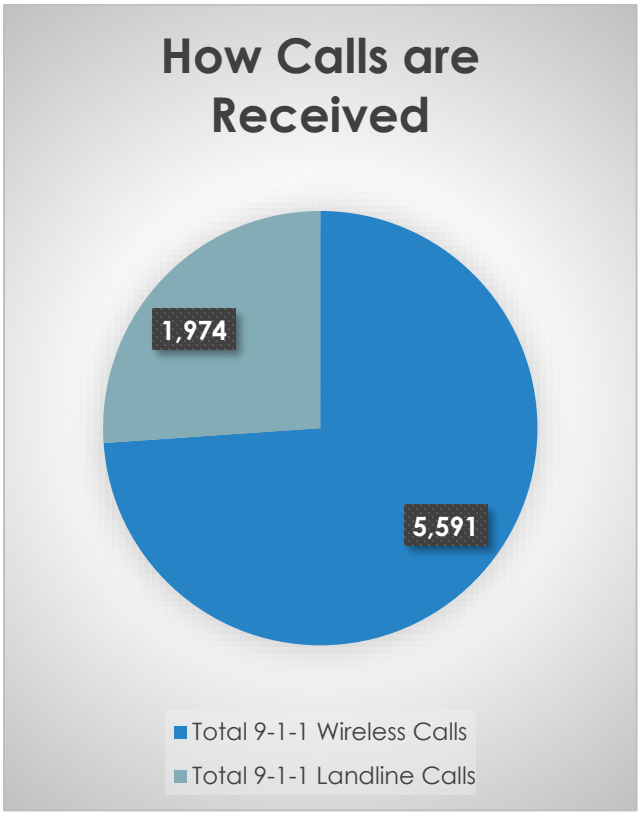
Types of Calls

In 2019, the Dispatch Center received 31,428 incoming calls into the Sheriff's Office. That is an average of 2,619 calls per month.




Total Calls Received
3,500
3,000
2,500
2,000
1,500
1,000
500
0
2,859
2,518
2,825
2,598
1,657
2,699
2,648
2,697
2,753
2,819
2,681
2,674
JAN
FEB
MAR
APR
MAY
JUN
JUL
AUG
SEP
OCT
NOV
DEC


Fire & EMS Calls
471
179
255
2,446
Alarm Drops
Fire Alarms
Fire Calls
Squad Calls


How Calls are Received
1,974
5,591
Total 9-1-1 Wireless Calls
Total 9-1-1 Landline Calls

Dispatcher In-Service Training

In 2019, the Mercer County Sheriff's Office co-hosted the annual dispatcher in-service training with the Celina Police Department. This training is provided for free to other agencies. In 2019, over 40 Agencies from the state of Ohio and Indiana attended this two day event. The In-Service has been held for over 11 years.

Civil Division

The Civil Division is instrumental with record retention for the Sheriff's Office, which includes criminal reports, crash reports, and all other records. The Civil Division also coordinates the Web Check program.

In 2019, the Civil Division handled 64 registrations of Sex Offenders who currently reside in Mercer County. Currently, Mercer County has 55 registered Sex Offenders. Civil and Patrol Deputies also did a total of 177 sex offender verifications throughout 2019 to ensure offenders were living where they are registered.

The Civil Division is under the command of Lieutenant Lori Knapke. Lt. Knapke has over 21 years of experience and has spent her entire career at the Mercer County Sheriff's Office. Lt. Knapke has held the ranks of Dispatcher, Deputy Sheriff, Administrative Sergeant, and now Administrative Lieutenant.

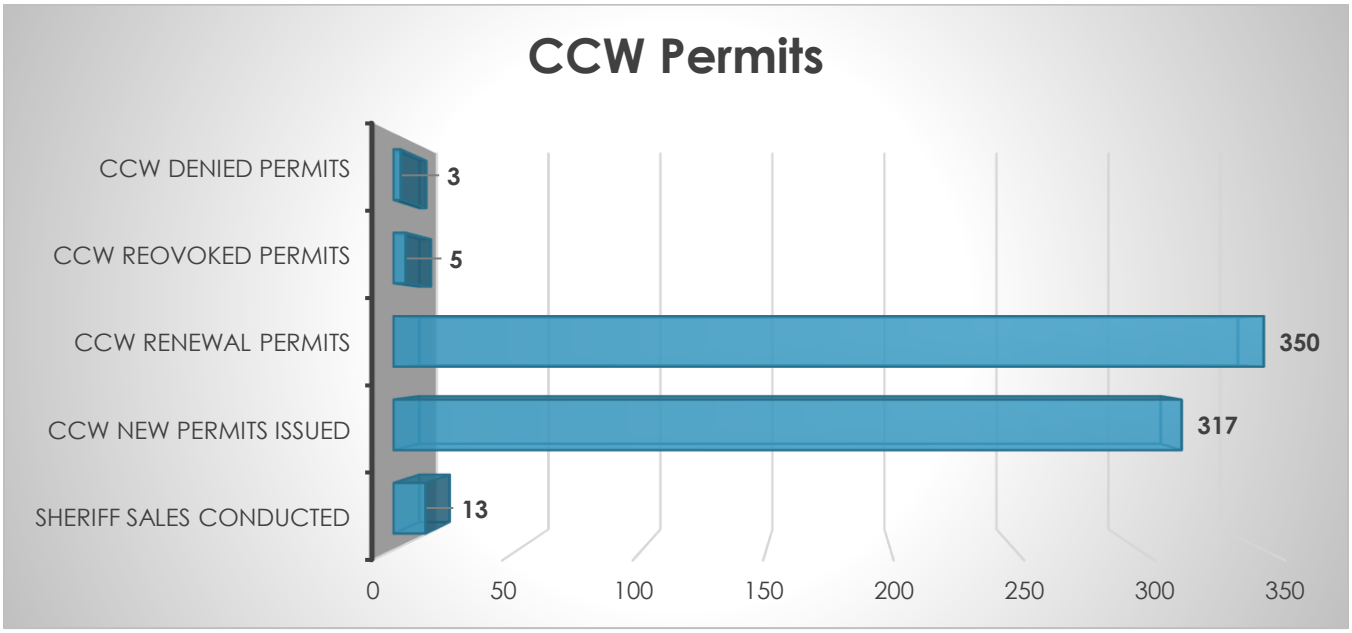
In addition to the Civil division, Lt. Knapke is responsible for inmate transports, Court House security, the DARE program, crime prevention, Child Support Contract, and the Sheriff's Office volunteer program.

WebChecks

The Sheriff's Office uses National WebCheck©, which electronically captures and submits fingerprints for background checks. Federal and State laws mandate fingerprinting and background checks for various occupations with an emphasis on those who work with the elderly or children. The National WebCheck © program was developed for BCI&I and is a secure web-based program. Only authorized Agencies can submit fingerprints, and conduct searches against State and FBI criminal records. The Sheriff's Office also provides traditional "ink-rolled" fingerprint processing. Total National WebCheck© submission for 2019 was 1,689.

Carry Conceal Permits

In 2019, the Mercer County Sheriff's Office Civil Division issued 317 new CCW permits, and renewed 350. The Sheriff's Office also revoked 5 permits, denied 3 permits, and suspended 7.



Transports

Transport Deputies are responsible for transferring inmates to and from Court, which includes all three courts in Mercer County (Municipal, Common Pleas, and Juvenile), as well as transferring inmates to doctor's appointments and taking them to State institutions (Prisons). In 2019, deputies made 548 transports and traveled 42,875 miles. Deputies also traveled out of state on 12 trips to Indiana (6), Tennessee (2), Nevada, Georgia, Kentucky, and Michigan.

Child Support Enforcement Contract

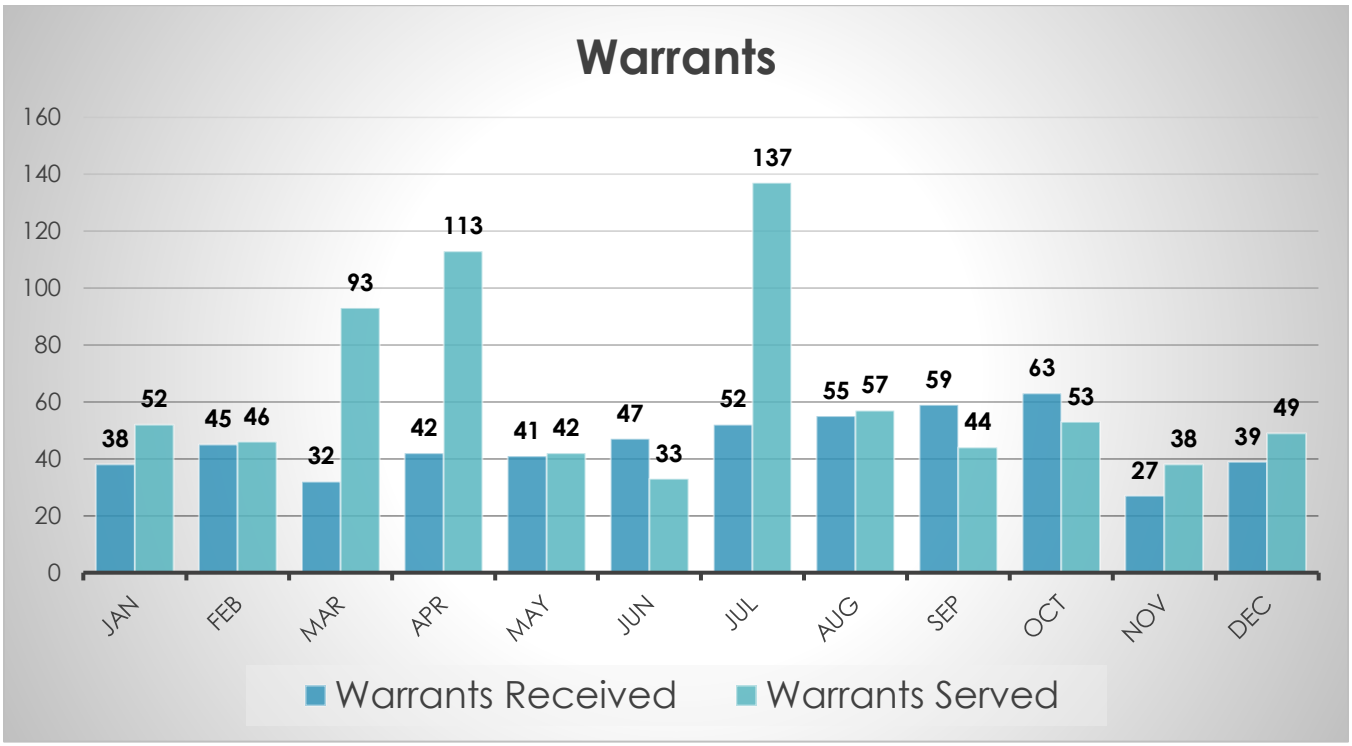
In 2019, the Mercer County Sheriff's Office continued to contract (IV-D contract) with the Mercer County Child Support Enforcement Agency. The purpose of the contract is to provide services to the Agency, which allows the Sheriff's Office to be reimbursed for those services through a grant. The services would include: Child Support investigations, extradition of felony cases, and security for administrative hearings on a needed basis.

TRANSPORT Yearly Totals	
# of Transports	548
Transports Mileage	42,875 Miles

CHILD SUPPORT Yearly Totals	
Child Support Enforcement Total Miles	6,683 Miles
Child Support Enforcement Mile Fees	$3,274.67
Child Support Enforcement Hours Worked	447.5 Hours

Warrants

The Mercer County Sheriff's Office received 540 warrants, and served 757 warrants in 2019. The Sheriff's Office currently has 287 active warrants.



Dare Program

The Mercer County Sheriff's Office DARE deputies include Deputy Sue Miller and Deputy Donald Bird. Sue has been the DARE deputy for over 20+ years and has worked for our office for 28 years. Deputy Bird joined Deputy Sue in August of 2017. He has been a deputy with our office for 9 years.

D.A.R.E. stands for Drug Abuse Resistance Education. It is a drug abuse prevention education program designed to equip elementary & middle school children with knowledge about drug abuse, the consequences of abuse, and skills for resisting peer pressure to experiment with drugs, alcohol and tobacco. Based on the premise that prevention is the only long-term answer to drug abuse, the program includes all 50 states.

Explorer Program

The Explorer program has been in existence since the early 1970's, and is affiliated with the Boy Scouts of America. The program takes young men and women, ages ranging from 14 to 21. Only young people from Mercer County are accepted into the Sheriff's Office Explorer program. The Explorer program currently has 14 members. On average Explorers spend 75-100 hours per year in dispatch, 200-300 in patrol, as well as another 150-200 hours working various events: The Mercer County Fair, Celina Lake Festival, Mercer County Rib Fest, and many DARE activities.

Citizen's Academy

This year's class included Frank Dues, Mike Robbins, Chuck Sanning, Rebecca Dues, Sue Osterholt, Tonita Phipps, Teresa Dysert and Sammi Timmerman. Also pictured is Citizen's Academy Coordinator Sgt Jay Wehrkamp and Sheriff Jeff Grey.

Mercer County Fair