

# Allegan County Sheriff's Office



## 2019 Annual Report

Prepared by:

**Sheriff Frank Baker**

Undersheriff Mike Larsen, Captain Scott Matice, Captain Chris Kuhn, Lieutenant Jim Miller, Lieutenant Charity Cummins, and Lieutenant Brett Ensfield

## Message from Sheriff Frank Baker

Dear Chairman Storey:

On behalf of the dedicated Deputies and Staff of the Allegan County Sheriff's Office we respectfully present the 2019 Sheriff's Office Annual Report to the Commissioners and citizens of Allegan County.

2019 saw increases in many of our activities and programs. Several are very familiar, with such as the Road Patrol and the Corrections Center. Our call volume, inmate population, and bookings into the Corrections Center are all increasing. Fortunately, many of these increases have been anticipated and planned for; however, some will require the need to work with County Administration and the Board of Commissioners to plan and prepare for our future.



*The Mission of the Allegan County Sheriff's Office is to provide a full spectrum of Corrections, Law Enforcement, Emergency Preparedness and Court Services contributing to our community's growth and progression as a safe and secure place to live, work and visit*

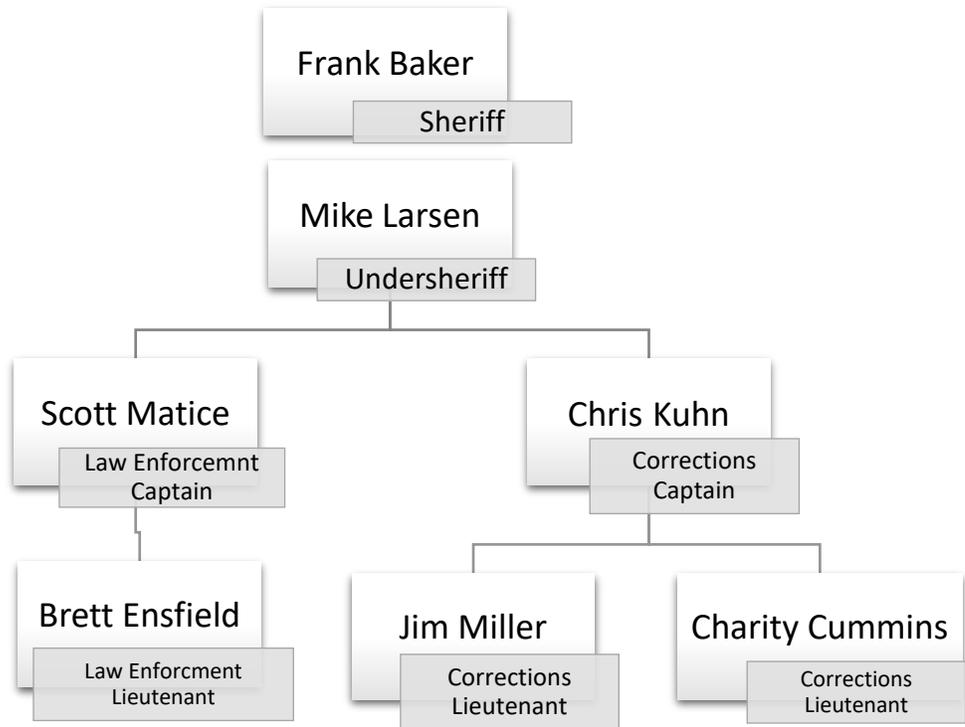
We feel we have been successful in achieving many of our goals during my first term in office. Goals such as increasing our presence in the schools, increasing our inmate program utilization rates, increasing our inmate program opportunities, and increasing our educational opportunities in the Corrections Center. We have made significant improvements in reaching other goals such as increased workplace diversity, increased community involvement, and a refocus and commitment to narcotics investigations.

It is truly an honor to serve the citizens of Allegan County as your Sheriff. I am very proud of the Deputies and staff of the Sheriff's Office who serve our communities. The level of professionalism, dedication, and commitment is remarkable. Each and every member takes pride in their work and willingness to serve. Allegan County is a great place to live and raise a family and we are grateful for the opportunity to do our part in improving the quality of life for all Allegan County residents.

Sincerely,

Sheriff Frank Baker

Sheriff's Office  
Organizational Chart



## Promotions in 2019

Law Enforcement

Corrections



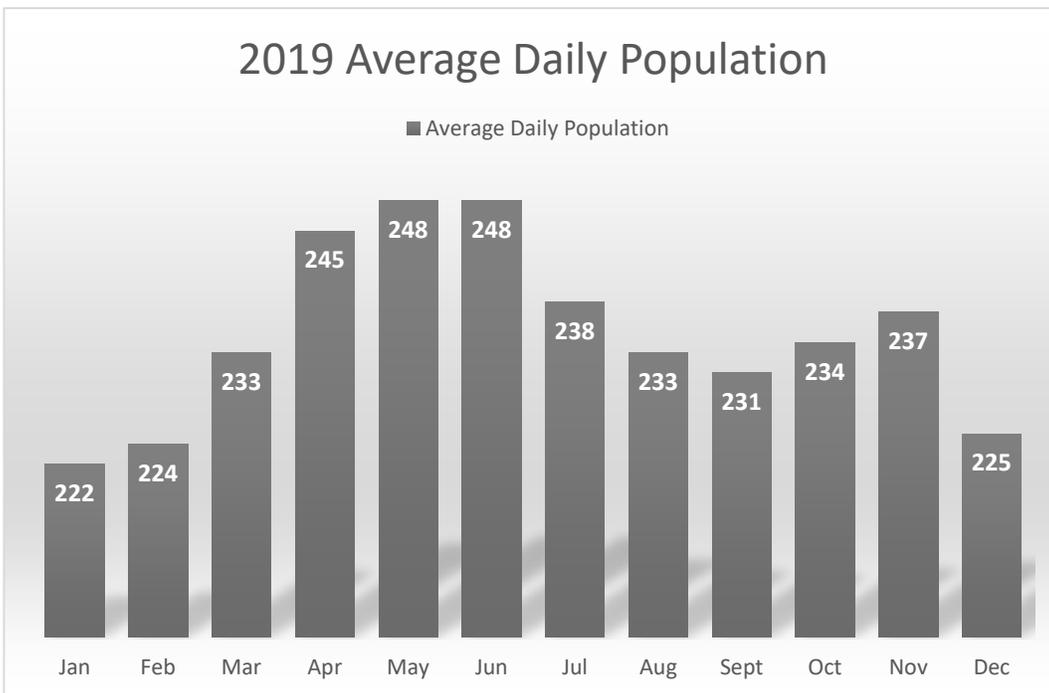
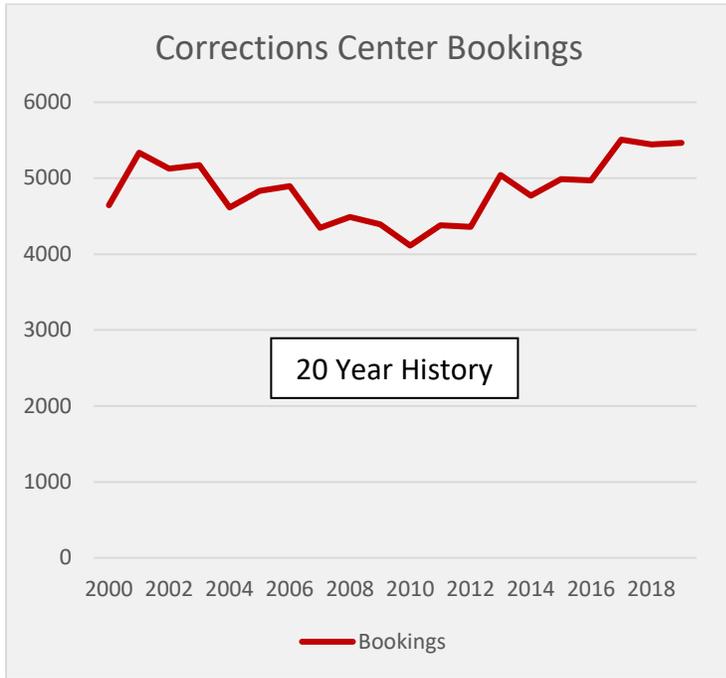
Detective  
Phil Arnsman

Sergeant  
Bill Greene

Sergeant  
Randy Schafer

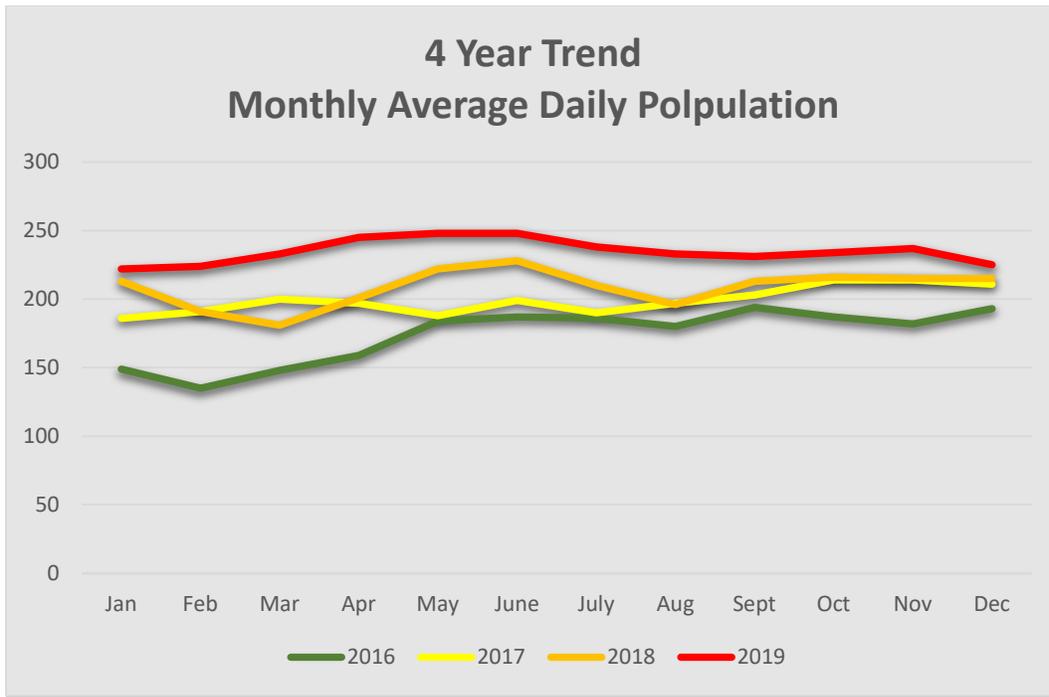
Sergeant  
Nate Suzsek

# Corrections Division



2019 was challenging, as bookings continued to be over 5,400 and our monthly average daily count was at or over our rated capacity. As you know, we purposely rated the facility lower than the actual capacity for budgetary reasons. Raising the capacity could end result in additional posts and increased costs for medical, mental health, and food service

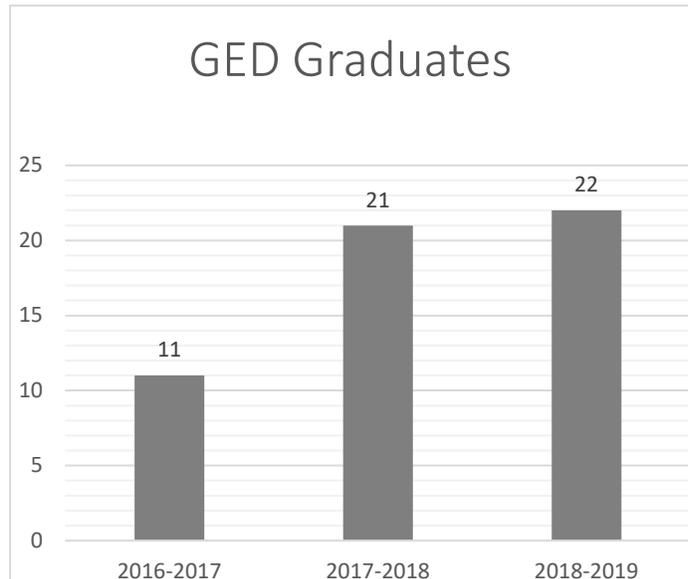
ADP is monitored daily and when necessary action is taken per our jail population management plan to bring us in-line



The ADP trend indicates that we may need to evaluate our rated capacity in the future and utilize more of our existing unused bed space in the Pods.

## Inmate Programs – GED/Career Readiness

The 2018-2019 school year experienced an increase in graduates from the GED program in the Corrections Center. Our Teachers do an amazing job of working with the inmates to motivate and inspire them to complete their education.

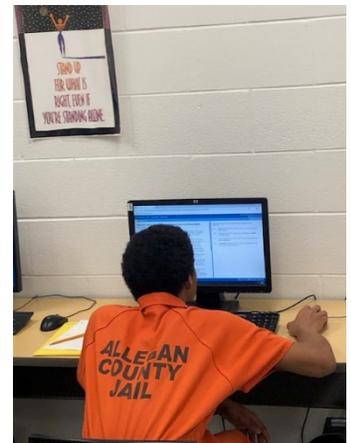


*“You mean I can go to college; you really mean I can go to college, I never thought that was something I could do”*

*“Me getting my GED is going to change everything for my family, now that I did it, I am going to make sure my kids do it.”*

### Quotes of inmate students

The teachers also work with the student inmates on college applications, financial aid forms, resume, and various tasks preparing them for employment. 137 participated in the GED program and another 106 in Career Readiness saving a total of 103 bed days saved.



## Inmate Programs- D.E.B.T.S. Crew (Detail Enabling Better Transition to Society) Community Service

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The DEBTS Crews can be seen around Allegan County working with the Drain Commissioner's staff, Allegan City Dept. of Public Works, the Allegan Conservation District, and the Animal Shelter. They work with various municipalities and non-profit organizations providing services. DEBTS Crew participants are sentenced to a period of time in Corrections Center

The DEBTS Program had 75 participants in 2019. 55 of those successfully completed the program and saved us 734 bed days.

Community Service participants are sentenced to weekend duty. The Community Service Crews are also out in our Communities performing various duties such as spring and fall clean ups in cemeteries and parks. There were 98 participants in 2019 with 78 successful completions saving us 798 bed days.

## Inmate Programs – Case Management

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Case Management accounts for the greatest number of bed days saved. 2,336 bed days were saved in 2019 as a result of this program. Additionally, this program saves a considerable amount of budget dollars. The inmates participating in Case Management work in the Kitchen preparing meals for the other inmates, they provide custodial services on a facilities management crew within the Corrections Center, They provide car wash services for our patrol cars, and porter services within the their pods.

## Other Inmate Programs – MRT, Relapse Prevention, Work Release, Re-Entry Case Management

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The MRT Program (Moral Reconciliation Therapy) had 109 participants with 34 successful completions.

The Work Release Program allows inmates to leave the facility wearing a GPS tether to verify they went to the work location. 31 inmates participated in 2019 and 21 successfully completed their sentence saving 134 bed days.

The Relapse Prevention Program is for substance abusers. We had 51 participants in 2019 with 29 successful completions.

The Re-Entry Case Management Program began in 2018. It is for females released from custody. 21 participated in 2019 with 8 successfully completing.



## Community Re-Entry Units (Male and Female)

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The Community Re-Entry Units are faith based programs. The volunteers from Forgotten Man Ministries, under the leadership of Chaplain Sarah Lindstrom, provide services to the inmates who are accepted into the program. We are very fortunate to have a tremendous group of volunteers who give so much of their time to helping these inmates.



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*Examples of some of the Programs offered:*

*Individual and Group Therapy  
Bible Study  
Budgeting  
Anger Management  
Creative Writing  
Alcoholics Anonymous*

*Successful Living  
Mom's In Prayer  
Families Victorious  
Relapse Prevention  
Parenting  
MRT*



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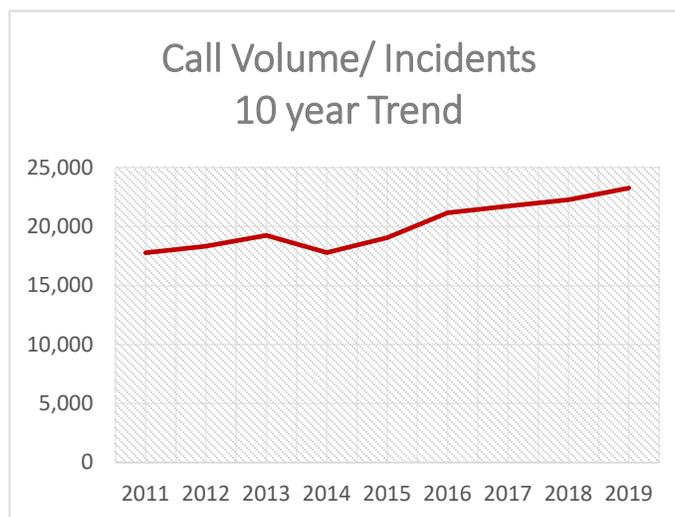
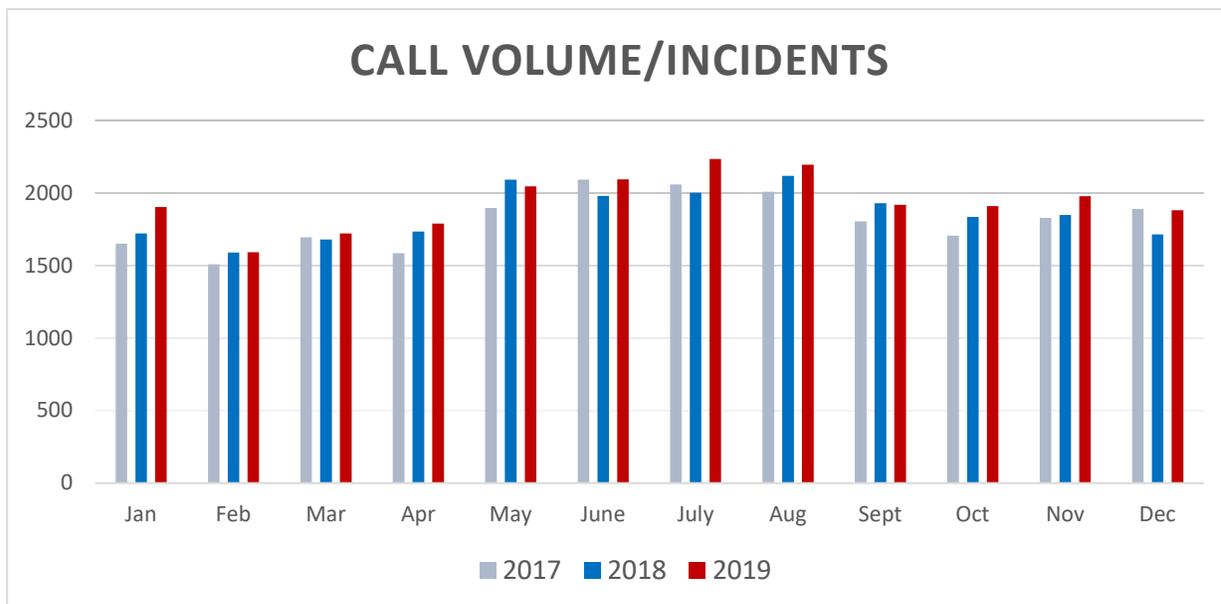
## Challenges in Corrections

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- Recruiting and retention continue to be a challenge in Corrections. Speaking with other Sheriffs this is an on-going issue in their counties as well. Some of our Corrections Deputies have accepted positions teaching at the Grand Rapids Community College Corrections Academy to assist us in recruiting candidates for hire.
- The Increased inmate population is a growing concern.
  - Lt. Jim Miller worked on the Governor's Task Force on Pre-Trial Detention reform.
    - Recommendations from this task force may provide some relief

# Law Enforcement Division

## Road Patrol



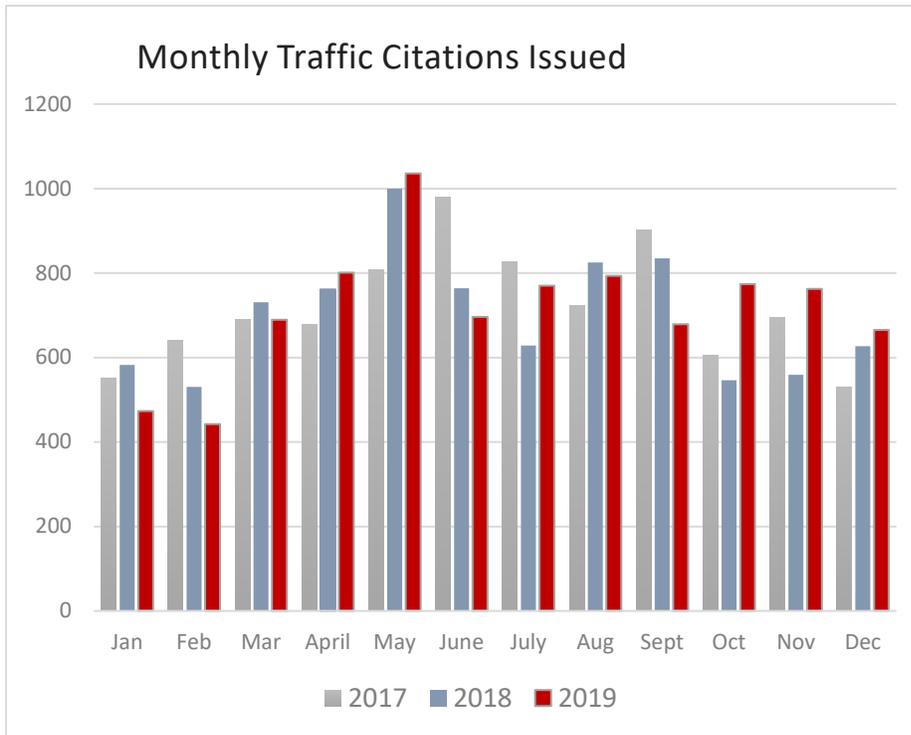
Call volume was up again 2019. Deputies responded to, or initiated, **23,261 calls for service last year**. Increased calls for service incidents seems to be a trend looking back over the last several years.

January last year was very difficult due to the polar vortex that resulted in a high volume of traffic/weather related incidents. Deputies and our public safety partners worked together under challenging conditions with drifting snow and sub-zero temperatures. Numerous Deputies worked overtime or were called in on overtime to provide the necessary manpower and resources to safely respond.



# Law Enforcement – Road Patrol

| Activity                 | 2017  | 2018  | 2019  | Activity                  | 2017 | 2018  | 2019  |
|--------------------------|-------|-------|-------|---------------------------|------|-------|-------|
| Suicides and attempts    | 223   | 260   | 230   | Stolen Auto               | 46   | 73    | 72    |
| Damage to property       | 252   | 184   | 246   | Larceny /shoplifting      | 486  | 503   | 502   |
| Non-aggravated assault   | 554   | 501   | 485   | Carrying concealed weapon | 53   | 60    | 44    |
| Disorderly conduct       | 129   | 191   | 184   | Criminal sexual conduct   | 124  | 117   | 126   |
| Stalking                 | 245   | 228   | 252   | Disputes/civil matters    | 911  | 1,070 | 1,172 |
| Death investigations     | 71    | 78    | 68    | Aggravated Assault        | 73   | 80    | 82    |
| Drugs                    | 451   | 379   | 222   | Missing persons           | 42   | 74    | 71    |
| Suspicious situations    | 1,090 | 1,419 | 1,306 | Frauds and forgery        | 274  | 244   | 256   |
| Weapons offenses         | 138   | 125   | 151   | Mental illness            | 60   | 65    | 71    |
| Burglary                 | 192   | 182   | 167   | Trespassing               | 162  | 214   | 240   |
| Drunk or drugged driving | 467   | 394   | 414   | Loud noise                | 232  | 214   | 152   |

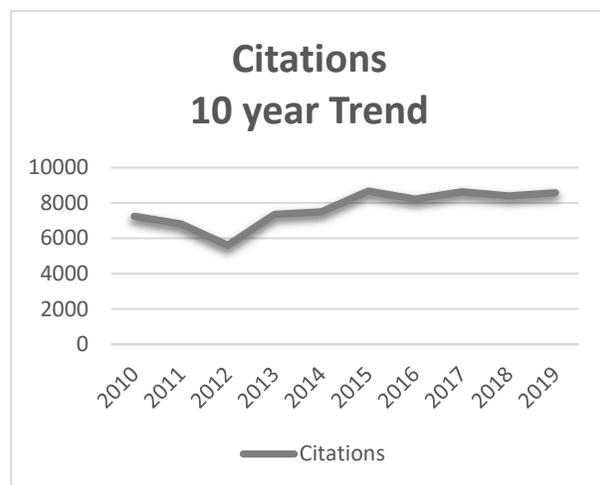


There is a relationship



between call volume, citations, and the weather. Traffic enforcement is done during unobligated time when the Deputy is not on a call or conducting follow up investigation. Calls for service involving weather related crashes can result in increased citations.

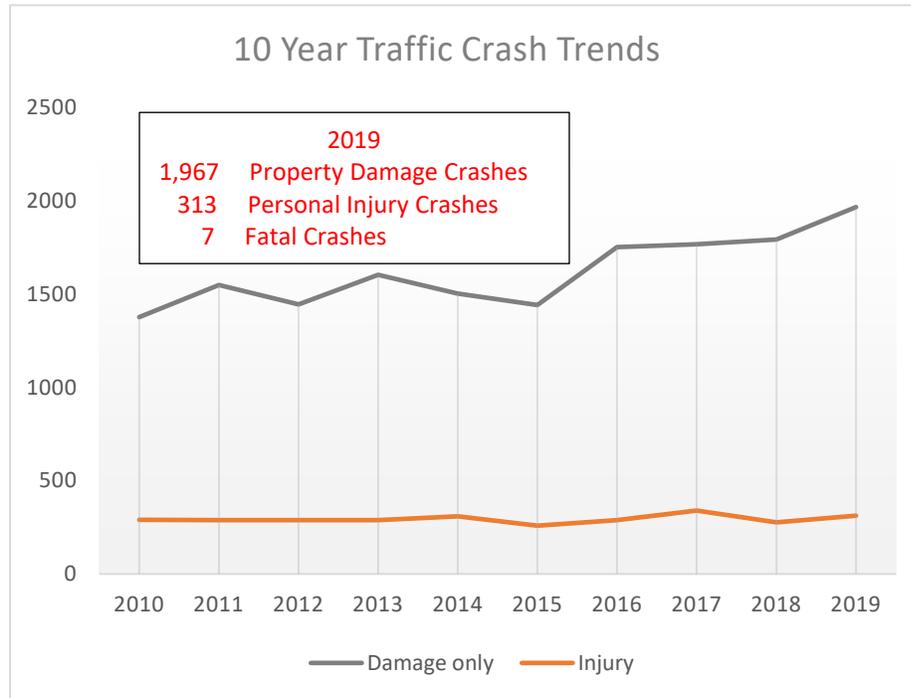
Staffing levels also have a huge impact on the number of citations issued. Increased patrol staffing results in a reduction in obligated time per deputy since Deputies not responding to calls will be conducting traffic enforcement. Several years back we experienced a reduction in staff as a result of economic/budget challenges. We received approval in 2012 to restore 5 positions. You can see from the 10 year Citation trend chart the impact of adding those positions



back into the budget. We had a 2% increase in citations in 2019 compared to 2018. The trend line indicates that based upon our current staffing levels, current call volume, and the motoring public's compliance level we will remain fairly consistent in citations issued.

## Sheriff's Office Traffic Crash Data

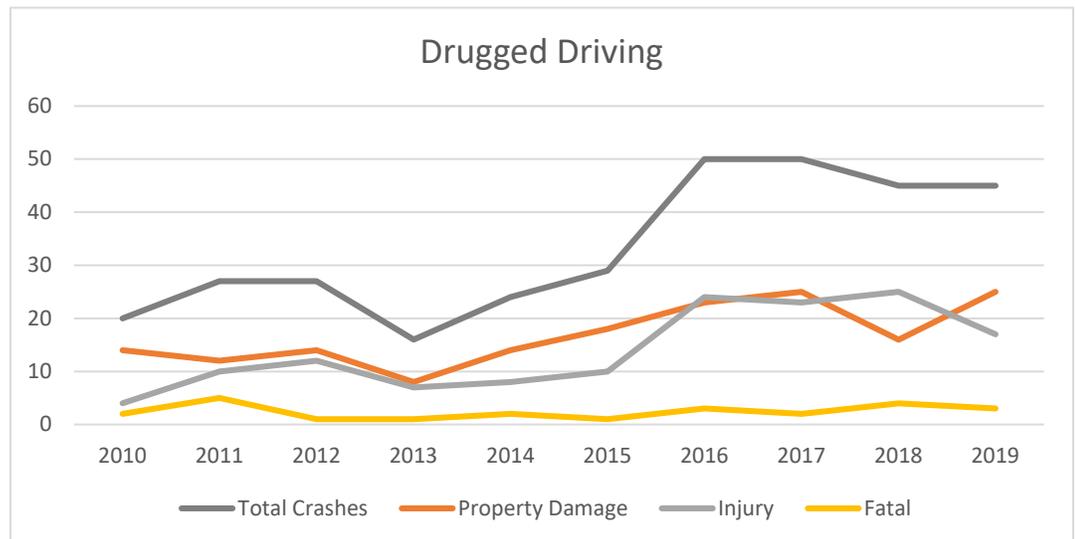
Injury crashes have remained at about the same level; however, we have experienced a rise in Property damage crashes. There could be several reasons for this. We know that better engineering is making our vehicles safer (air bags, side air bags, road design and construction) and we have a high rate of seat belt compliance. Michigan is rated at 94% compared to the rest of the



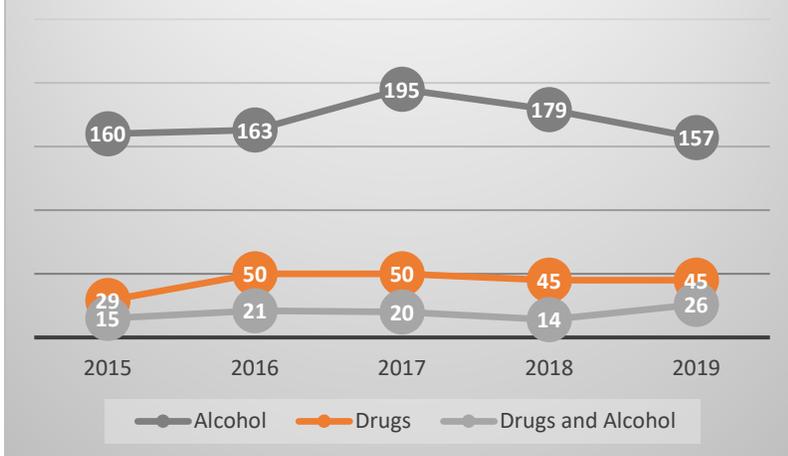
nation which is at 90% according the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Coupling better engineering with more road miles traveled could be why we see an increase in total crashes but a stable number of injury crashes.

### Drugged Driving

We are monitoring the number of drugged driving crashes. We have anticipated that we will see a higher number due to the legalization of marijuana both medically and recreationally.



## Allegan County 5 Year Alcohol and Drug related Crash Trends



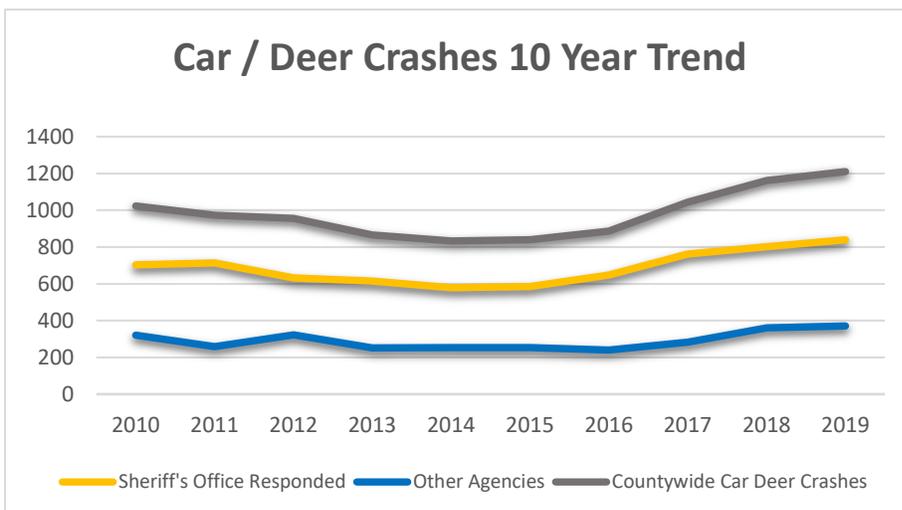
The most recent data indicates that the statewide average for alcohol related fatalities is at 27%. Allegan County was at 25% in 2019. The CDC reports that our drivers in the 21-34 age group are most at risk. Deputies strictly enforce our drunk driving laws and recently several deputies were honored by Mothers Against Drunk Driving for their efforts. We would like to thank and recognize the following deputies who received MADD awards: Deputy Kyle Baker, Deputy Brandon Berens, Deputy Ryan Gerke, Deputy Blair Kacos, and Deputy Michael Murphy.

Allegan County has made great strides in reducing the number of fatal accidents over the years. I located a 1990 Michigan Traffic Facts report from the Michigan State Police indicating Allegan County had 23 fatal crashes that year and of those nearly 70% reported alcohol having been involved.

## Fatal Crashes



## Car / Deer Crashes 10 Year Trend



The chart to the left represents the number of car deer crashes in Allegan County over the last 10 years. The chart reflects the total number of crashes, those handled by the Sheriff's Office, and those handled by other agencies. The decline is reportedly due to reduced travel, as a result of the economic recession, and the harsh winters of 2012-

2015. The Michigan deer herd is currently believed to be rebounding from those impacts.

## Administrative Services

| Fingerprinting                | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | Trend   |
|-------------------------------|------|------|------|---------|
| Concealed Pistol Applications | 878  | 722  | 607  | Down    |
| Criminal Justice Employment   | 60   | 69   | 115  | Up      |
| School Employment             | 68   | 86   | 95   | Neutral |



| Activity   | 2016   | 2017   | 2018   | 2019   | Trend   |
|--|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|
| Sex Offender Registration/Verifications                          | 1,034  | 1,041  | 1,019  | 1,035  | Neutral |
| Background Requests (CPS, Adoptions, Probation/Parole, FBI NICS) | 428    | 1,102  | 1,206  | 1,353  | Up      |
| Case Reports Transcribed   | 10,544 | 10,989 | 11,888 | 11,921 | Neutral |
| Freedom of Information Act Requests (Attorneys and Public)       | 796    | 906    | 991    | 988    | Up      |

The Sheriff's Office had been experiencing a backlog of administrative work, primarily transcription, needing to be performed during the first and second quarters of 2019. The Sheriff's Office was approved to add a clerical position and by the fourth quarter were able to significantly reduce or eliminate the backlog. The Staff prepare the numerous police reports, arrest packets, and information for the Prosecutor's Office and the courts each day. Much of the work is time sensitive and has to be submitted to the Prosecutor's Office or the Courts each day. Additionally, they are responsible for the data entry, transcription of follow up investigations, filling, and collection of Citations and Crash Reports.

## Marine Patrol



| Boater Safety Classes | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|-----------------------|------|------|------|
| Number of Classes     | 9    | 10   | 9    |
| Students Trained      | 177  | 281  | 309  |
| Students Certified    | 169  | 280  | 306  |



| SAFETY AND EQUIPMENT                       | Citations | Warnings |
|--|-----------|----------|
| Wearable Personal Floatation Devices (PFD) | 13        | 33       |
| Type IV/Throwable PFD                      | 1         | 15       |
| Fire Extinguisher                          | 1         | 16       |
| Visual Distress Signal                     | 0         | 0        |
| Sound Producing Device                     | 0         | 4        |



We anticipate the Marine Patrol will have additional concerns and challenges during the upcoming 2020 boating season due to the predicted high water levels. We anticipate complaints of no-wake violations in areas impacted by high waters. Last year 10 of the 45 citations issued by Marine Patrol were for no wake violations.

## Contracted Patrols



The Sheriff's Office currently contracts with the following Townships for additional policing services:



|            |               |               |                |
|------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| Casco Twp. | Dorr Twp.     | Leighton Twp. | Gun Plain Twp. |
| Lee Twp.   | Fillmore Twp. | Overisel Twp. | Wayland Twp.   |



In addition to the above listed Townships, the Sheriff's Office provides contracted policing to the City of Saugatuck. We currently have 4 Deputies working in the City of Saugatuck.



## Secondary Road Patrol / PA416 (Grant Cycle - State Budget Year)

The PA 416 Grant, also known as the Secondary Road Patrol Grant, is funded through the State. The Grant began in 1978 and funding is based off the number of citations issued throughout the State. A small portion of fines paid for a citation goes to the PA 416 Fund. The State then determines the grant amount awarded to each participating by a formula. Last year the State made an additional appropriation due to a reduction in the number of citations issued throughout the State.

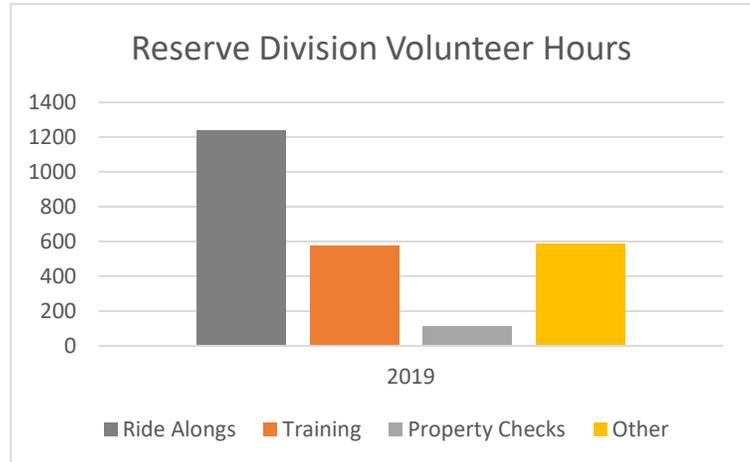
The PA 416 Secondary Road Patrol Deputies focus their efforts on patrolling our secondary roads. 75% of their time is to be spent patrolling; therefore, they only respond to calls for service in the event another Deputy is not available. We currently assign 3 Deputies to Secondary Patrol.

| Activity                                 | Oct. 2017-Sept. 2018 | Oct. 2018-Sept.2019 |
|--|----------------------|---------------------|
| Miles Traveled by PA 416 Deputies        | 87,716               | 83,428              |
| Miles Traveled by County Deputies        | 746,733              | 755,660             |
| Traffic Stops by PA 416Deputies          | 4,443                | 3,763               |
| Traffic Stops by County Deputies         | 11,479               | 12,650              |
| Verbal Warnings by PA 416 Deputies       | 1,881                | 1,696               |
| Verbal Warnings by County Deputies       | 9,063                | 10,320              |
| Citations Issued by PA 416 Deputies      | 2,904                | 2,724               |
| Citations Issued by County Deputies      | 4,454                | 4,383               |
| Crimes Investigated by PA 416 Deputies   | 1,436                | 1,459               |
| Drunk Driving Arrests by PA 416 Deputies | 45                   | 39                  |

## Reserve Division

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Sergeant Morgan Sullivan leads our Reserve Division. The reserve deputies were utilized a total of 6,654 hours in 2019. 2,509 of those hours were volunteered doing various activities, as shown on the chart to the right. The Reserve Division provided 400 hours of police services at the Allegan County Fair while under the direction of a law enforcement deputy.



We graduated a Reserve Academy in the



spring of 2019. Academies are held whenever we have a need to add additional Reserve Deputies. The training takes place here at the Sheriff's Office and instructors are from the Allegan County Criminal Justice System. We also invite local law enforcement agencies to send their Reserve Officers for training.

## Awards and

## Recognition

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Several of our Deputies and Staff were recognized at a County Board meeting for their outstanding accomplishments last year.

Life Saving Awards went to Deputy Kyle Baker, Deputy Cesar Cano, Deputy Tyler Jackson, and Deputy Kurt Katje.

Unit Citations were awarded to Deputy David Ashton, Deputy Brandon Berens, Deputy Randy Beute, Detective (Ret.) Craig Gardiner, Deputy Mike Martin, Deputy Dave Miller, Deputy Ryan Rewa, and Deputy Matt VanderPloeg.

Deputy James Steuer received the Sheriff's Commendation and Deputy Kyle Baker, Deputy Ryan Gerke, Deputy Brandon Berens, and Deputy Mike Murphy, and Deputy Blair Kacos received awards from Mothers Against Drunk Driving.

# Emergency Management Division



Emergency Management Director Scott Corbin has done an outstanding job preparing and managing many of the challenging issues that Allegan County faces. His efforts coordinating and building relationships between the many law enforcement, fire service, governmental agencies, non-profits, and local units of government ensures Allegan County is prepared to respond during an emergency.

Director Scott Corbin, Emergency Management

Emergency Management has a very small staff guiding the many facets of preparedness and local emergency planning such as our Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) and our Community Emergency Response Team (C.E.R.T.).



Brett Apelgren, LEPC Site Area Specialist

Examples of some of the Emergency Management support units and functions:

|   |               |                           |  |
|---|---------------|---------------------------|--|
| Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services (R.A.C.E.S.) | Citizen Corps | Local Planning Team (LPT) | Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) |
|---|---------------|---------------------------|--|



Robin Wall was honored with the Eagle Award at the Emergency Management Volunteer dinner. Robin has been updating disaster plans, responding to fire scenes, and directing Red Cross volunteers. She has participated in numerous community events and disaster exercises over the year. She was honored, along with several other volunteers, by our Emergency Management Director and several local and state elected officials.

Director Corbin works with the MSP 5<sup>th</sup> District Emergency Management and Homeland Security to coordinate our local response with the State following the National Incident Management System. This coordinated effort allows us to call upon the resources of Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

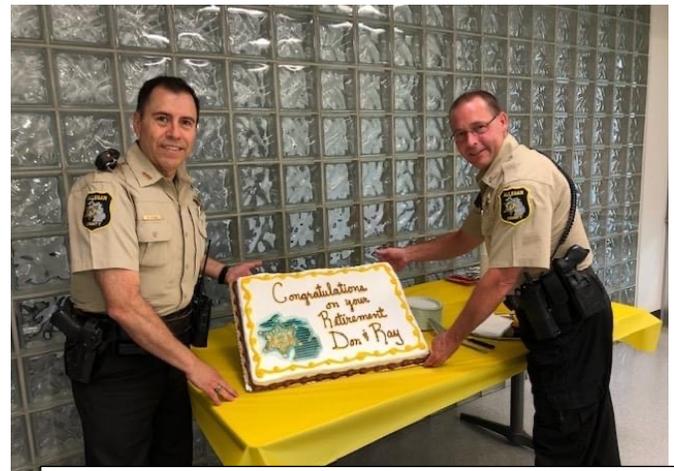


# Retirements



Sgt. Tom Taverna

Congratulations to the following Deputies who retired last year!



Deputy Ray Retamal and Deputy Don Roberts



Det. Craig Gardiner



Sgt. Burt DeBoer

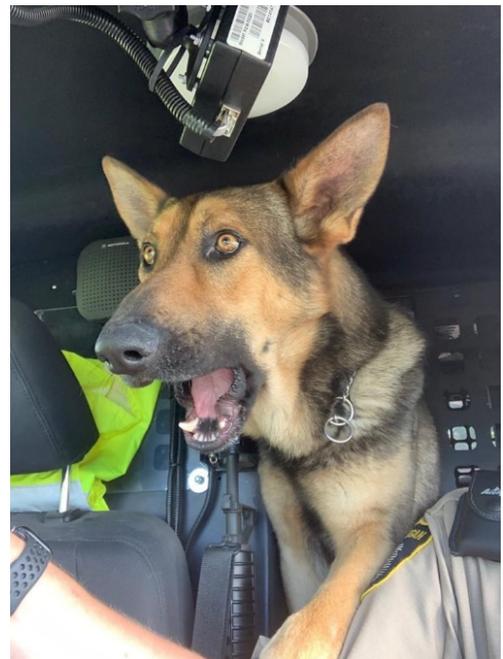


Det. Mary Mendell

## In Closing

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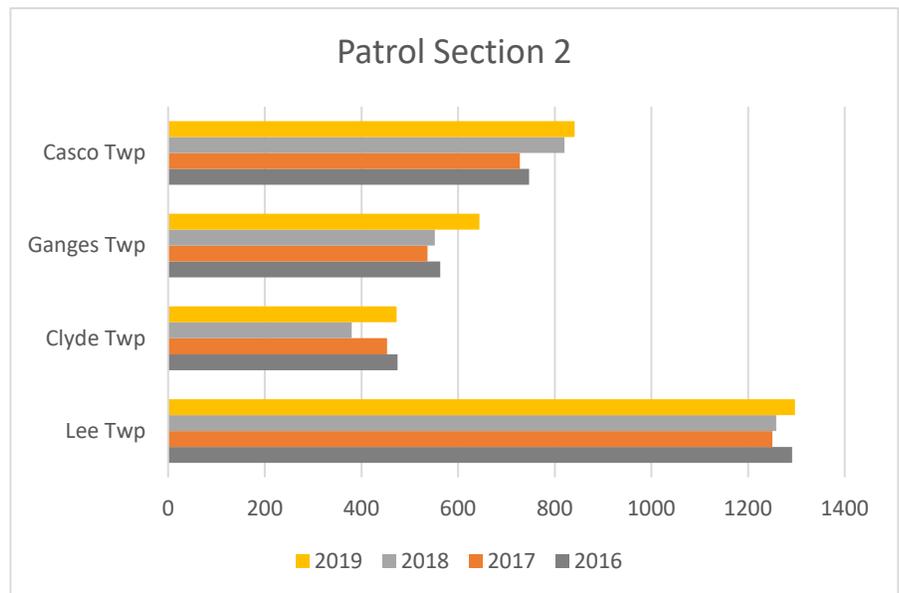
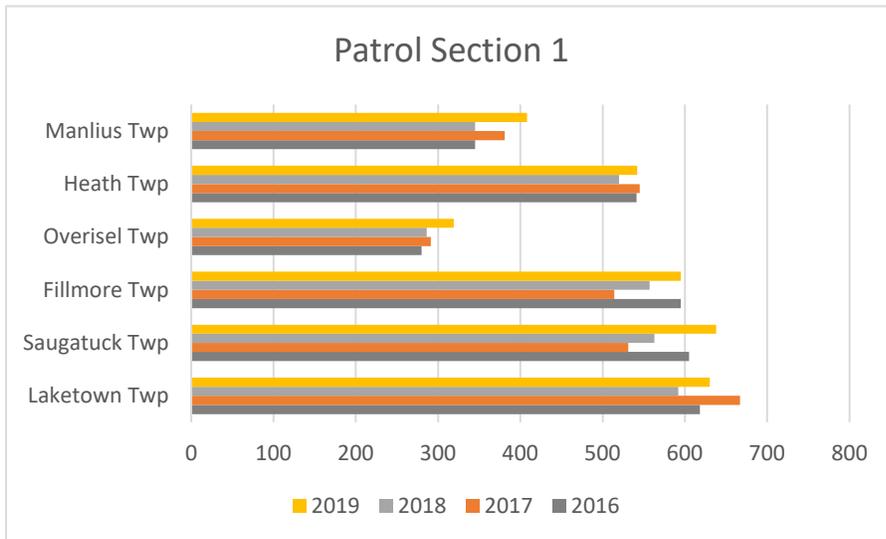
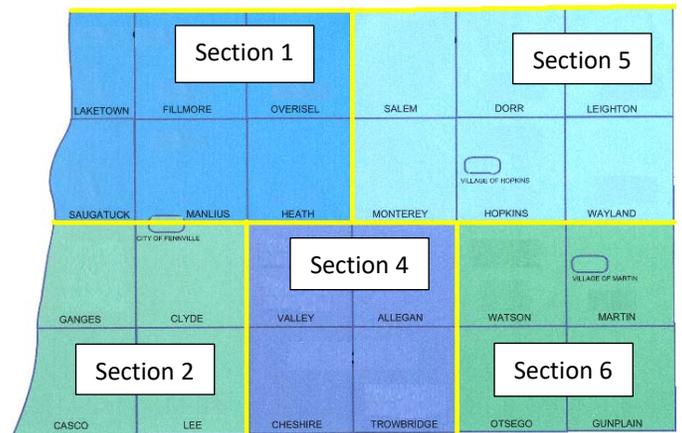
The Sheriff's Office thanks you for taking the time to review the 2019 Annual Report. Feel free to reach out if you have any questions or would like more in-depth information regarding our services or specialty teams such as Detective Bureau, K9, SWAT, Evidence Techs, Accident Reconstruction, Dive/Rescue, Honor Guard, Fleet Service, and Community outreach.

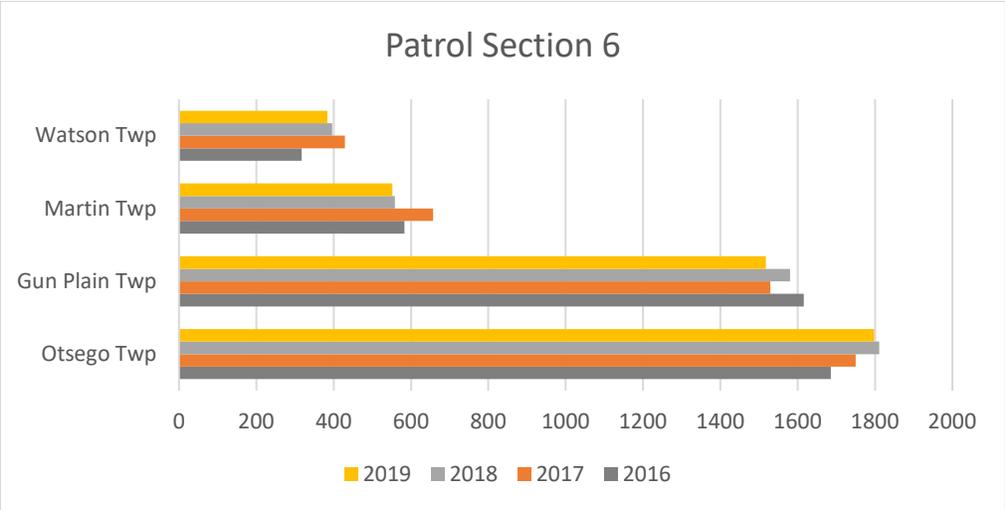
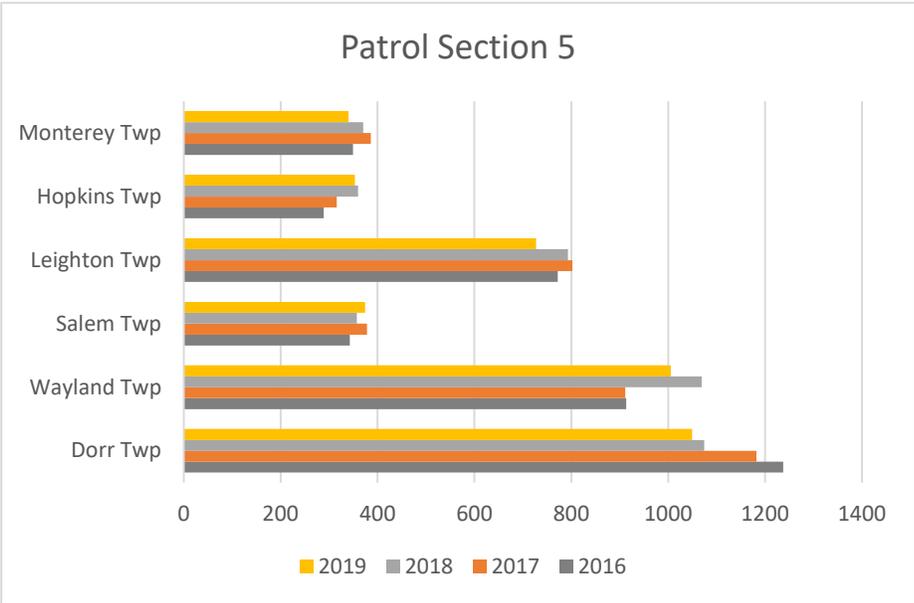
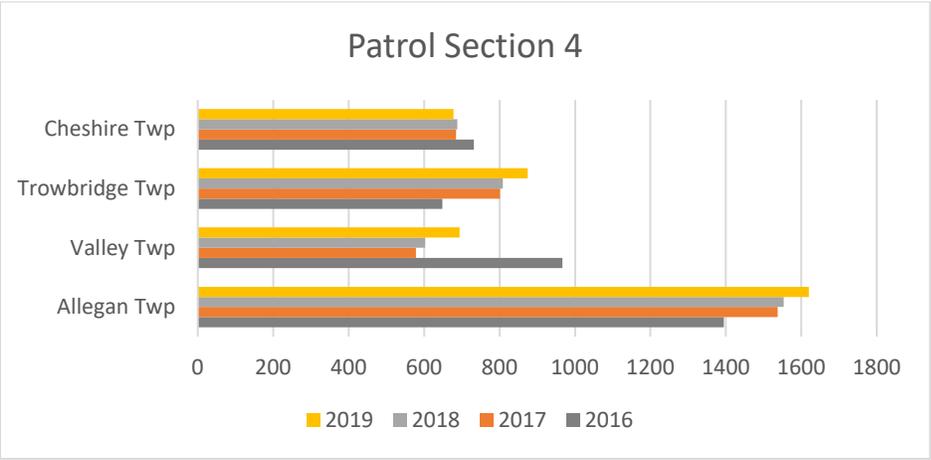


*Additional data is being provided in the next pages. This data is focused at the Township level and is being provided so that Commissioners and Citizens have a better understanding of issues related to their specific geographic area.*

# Township Incidents/Calls for Service by Patrol Section

The Sheriff's Office divides the County into 5 Patrol Sections. The practice dates back decades and was established due to several factors such as geography, call volume, and population. Initially the County was divided into 6 Patrol Sections; however, due to staffing and reviewing current trends it was reduced to 5 Sections. The area of Section 3 was merged into the neighboring Sections to the east and west.





# Allegan County – Total Crashes by Township

These charts represent the total crashes occurring in the Townships of Allegan County. They are organized by the Sheriff's Office patrol areas for comparison purposes; however, include all the crashes so that all the data can be reviewed.

