



2022

# Annual Report

Sheriff Frank Baker

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## Message from the Sheriff

Dear Chairman Storey:

On behalf of the deputies and staff of the Allegan County Sheriff's Office, I respectfully present the 2022 Sheriff's Office Annual Report to the Board of Commissioners and the citizens of Allegan County.

2022 presented us with several challenges; however, we experienced several successes. One of our greatest accomplishments was the deployment of body worn cameras. We were able to design and implement a body worn camera program that we feel will meet our needs. This was a very technical and significant project with consideration to ongoing future costs. It required a team approach with input from stakeholders in the Courts, The Prosecutor's Office, County Administration, Information Services, and the Sheriff's Office. Determining the best way to get the data from the BWC downloaded, stored, and retrieved was a challenge. Being an exceptionally large, rural county with limited broadband coverage in areas, required us to develop a process that would work within our operations. We also had to select and test various BWC systems to determine which would meet our needs. We selected a system, acquired the hardware, and developed policy and procedures, all ahead of schedule and prior to the vendor being on site to assist. I am proud of our staff and thankful for everyone who had a hand in this project.

I hope you find this report helpful in understanding the operations of the Sheriff's Office. I have attempted to provide you a brief but comprehensive outline of the many activities of the Sheriff's Office and staff; however, if you would like more information on law enforcement or corrections topics or any other topic in this report, please feel free to reach out.

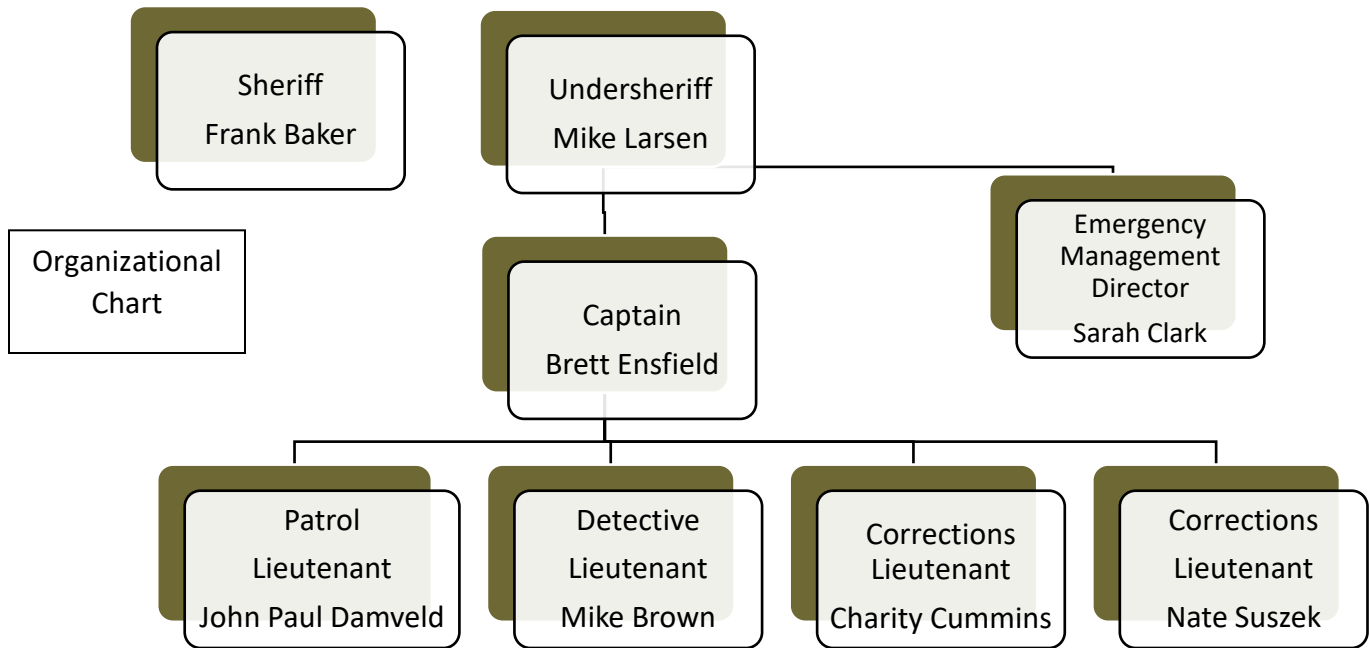
I could not be prouder of the staff and what they have accomplished this past year. It is my hope that through this report, you can see their dedication and desire to proudly serve our citizens.

Sincerely,

*Frank Baker*

**Sheriff Frank Baker**



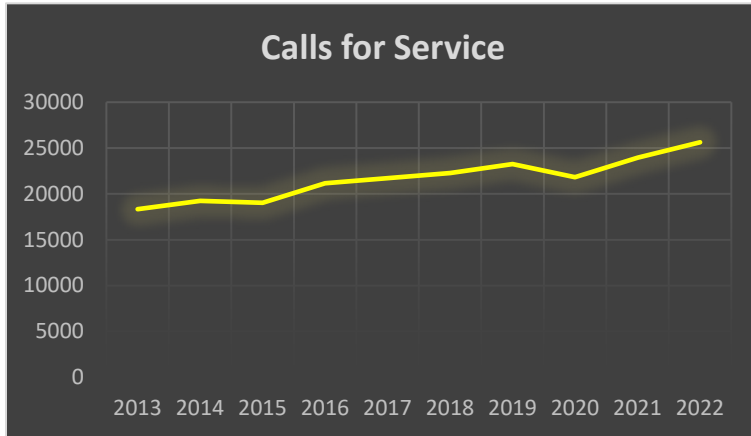


We began a restructuring of the command staff at the conclusion of 2021. During 2022 we completed that restructure with the promotion of Nate Suszek to corrections lieutenant. This establishes a balanced chain of command in the law enforcement and corrections divisions. With the retirement of Captain Matice at the start of 2023 and the subsequent promotions of Brett Ensfield and JP Damveld, we are proud to present to you the command staff as we head into 2023. We are also excited to announce Sarah Clark as the new Emergency Management Coordinator. She is replacing Scott Corbin who accepted a position with another county.

### Some of Our Success Stories

- We entered into a partnership with the Friend of the Court Office assigning a deputy to assist with FOC warrant arrests and FOC operations, while they provided funding for this position. Deputy Kurt Katje has done a great job of reducing the backlog of warrants, which helps to ensure the care and wellbeing of the children of Allegan County who rely on child support.
- Our new Inmate lookup system allows individuals to access arrest records and find information on bond amounts. They can also access instructions on how to bond individuals out of the facility either in person or online.
- We were able to assign a detective to domestic violence investigations. This detective works closely with the victims of domestic violence, the assistant prosecutor assigned to the case, and the patrol deputies handling the original call for service. This detective completes the investigation and conducts follow up investigation to provide the best case for successful prosecution.
- The Sheriff's Office and Emergency Management participated in the Safe Schools Network Emergency Preparedness Seminar. We presented several topics and assisted in coordinating the event.
- We worked with school superintendents, who applied for grants from the state, to fund the cost of assigning school resource officers to their buildings. We are happy to report we now have two deputies already in Hamilton and Hopkins schools finishing up the 2022-2023 school year.

# Law Enforcement Division – Road Patrol

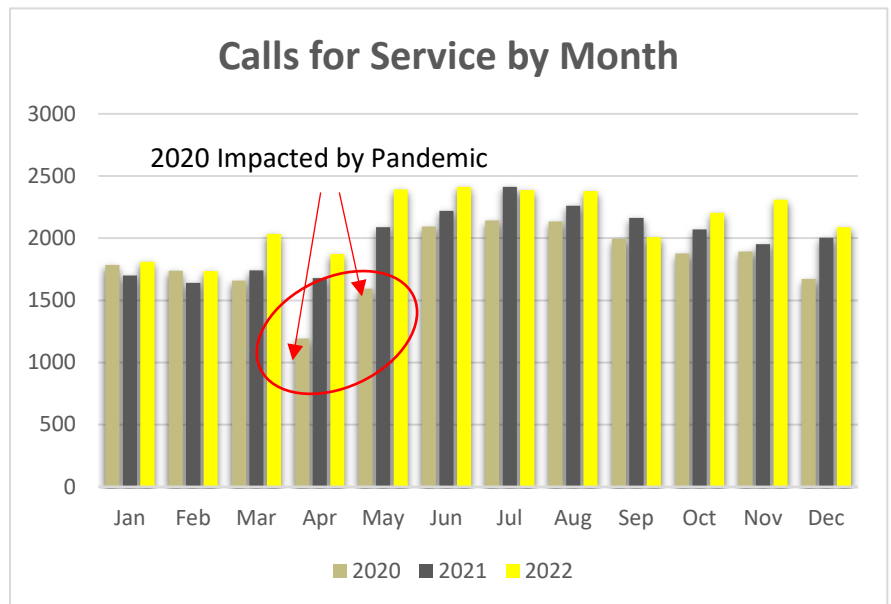


Calls for Service in 2022 were higher than any previous year. The deputies responded to or initiated 25,636 calls for service last year. This is up from 23,956 the year before, which is a 7% increase over 2021.

We anticipate that as our population grows and economic development occurs, the demand for our services will increase along with the call volume. Another factor that we anticipate is that the call volume will increase as we increase staff. Deputies generate additional call volume from initiating arrests and having to take law enforcement action.



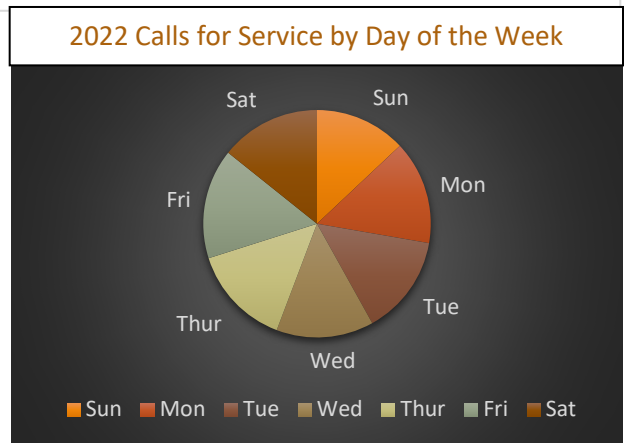
This chart demonstrates that seasonal differences do not greatly impact call volume. For instance, we anticipate that the number of car deer crashes will increase in the fall months and that the number of property damage car crashes will increase in the winter months.



The chart to the right reflects calls for service by day of the week. The daily call volume by percentage ranges from a low of 12.6% on Sunday to a high of 16.5% of the call volume on Friday. The remaining 5 days of the week vary slightly from 13.0% - 14.8%.

Day	%
Monday	14.6
Tuesday	14.0
Wednesday	13.0
Thursday	14.5
Friday	16.5
Saturday	14.8
Sunday	12.6

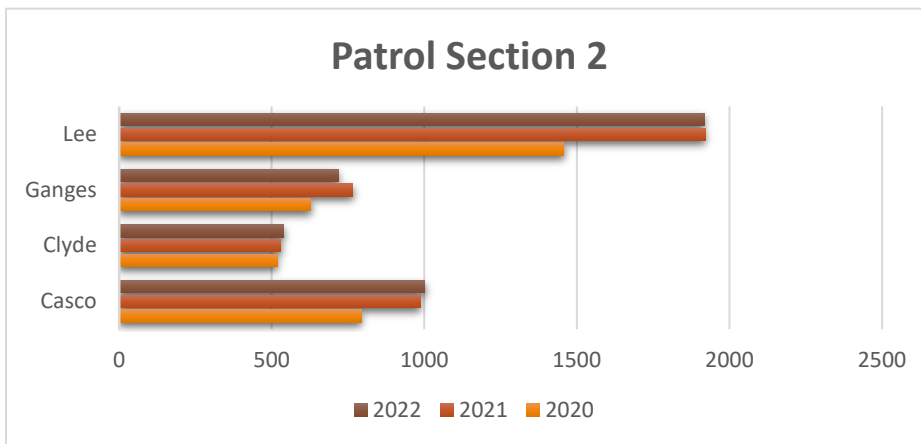
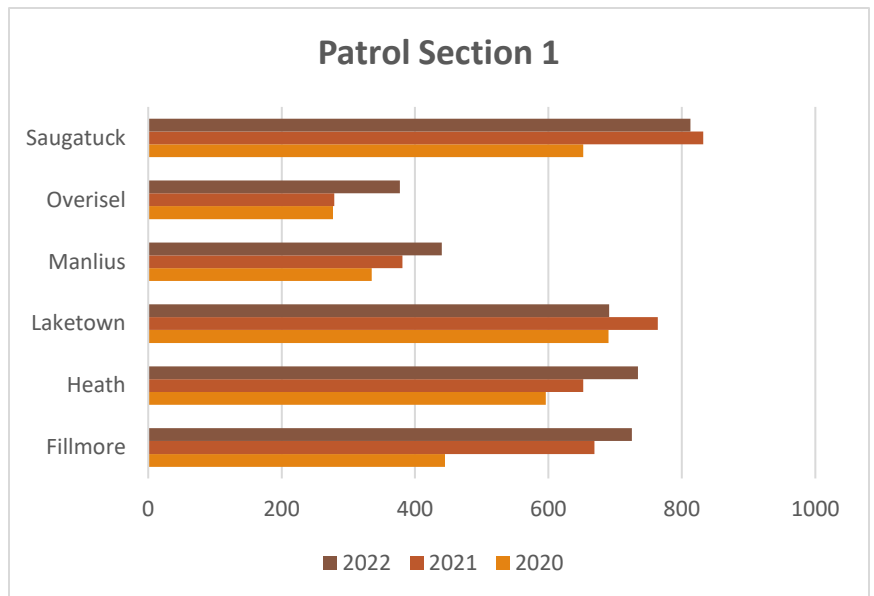
As you can see from these charts, the day of the week has little impact on call volume. There are other factors, however, that do have a greater impact on call volume such as snowstorms, high winds, heavy rains, and other weather-related calls for service. Also, holidays, like the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, community events, or festivals typically impact call volumes.



## Call Volumes by Patrol Area

The total call volume in Patrol Section 1 for 2022 was 3,780. This results in a 5.7 % increase over the call volume in 2021.

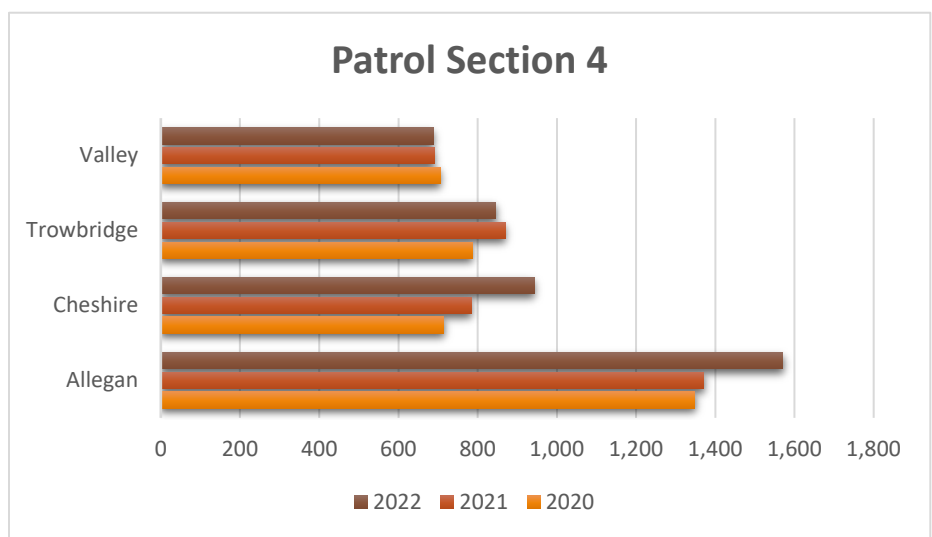
Saugatuck City, which was not included in the above total had a call volume of 1,123. This is a 5% increase over the 1,068 in 2021.



The total call volume in Patrol Section 2 for 2022 was 4,176. This was about a .6% decrease from the 4,203 in 2021.

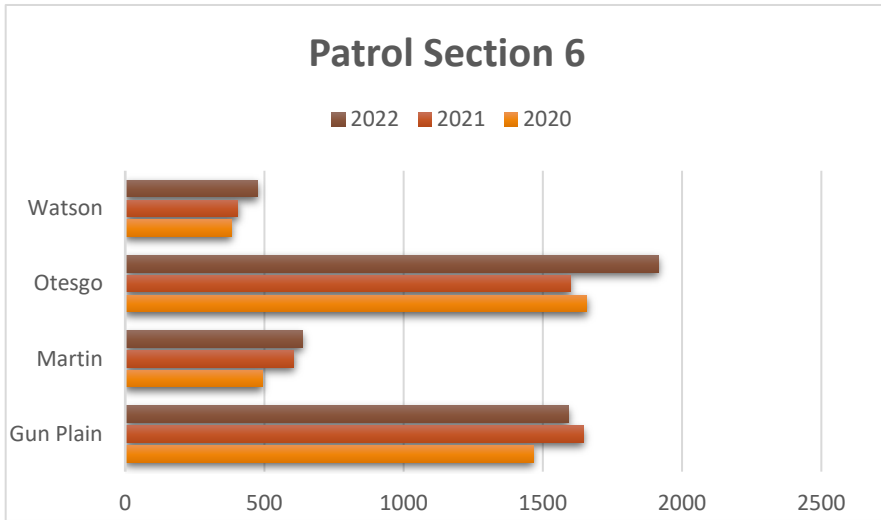
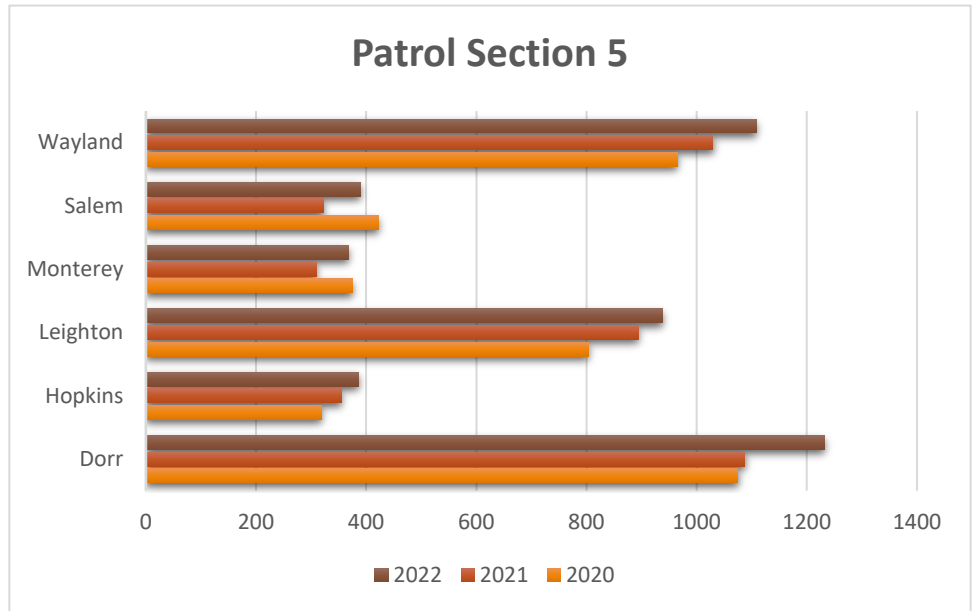


The total call volume in Patrol Section 4 in 2022 was 4,048. This would be almost a 9% increase over the volume of 3,716 in 2021. Allegan Twp had a 14.5% increase and Cheshire experienced the largest increase in volumes at just over 20%.

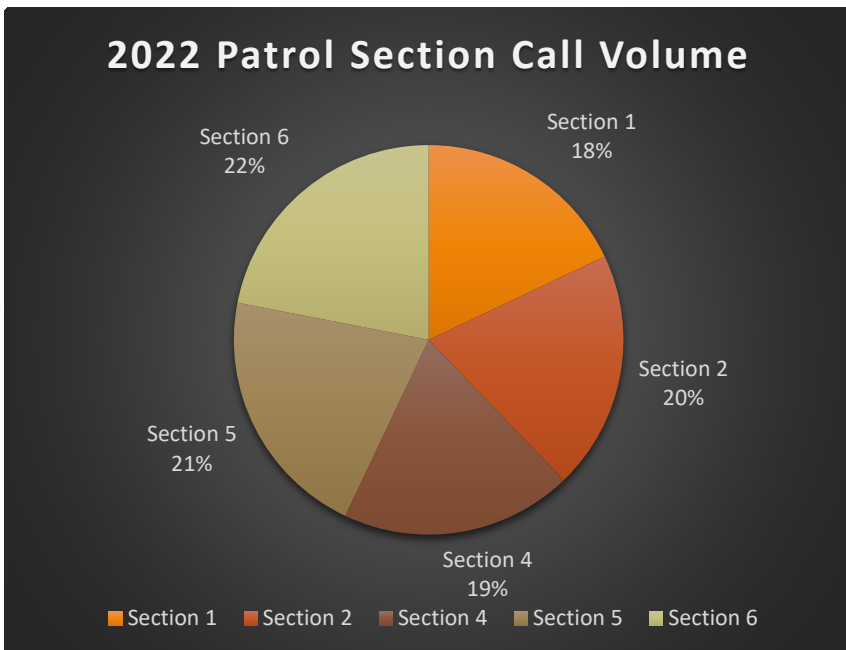
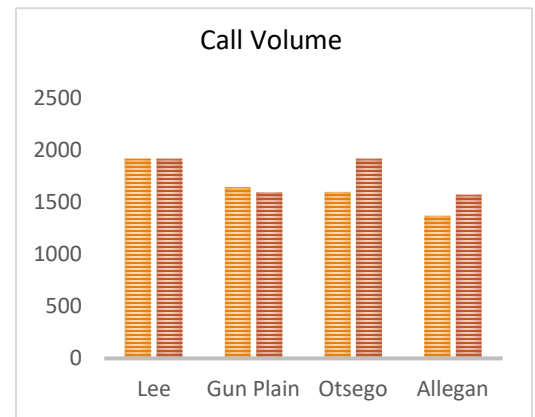


The total call volume for Patrol Section 5 in 2022 was 4,421. This would be an increase of 10.6% from the volume of 3,996 in 2021.

Every township experienced an increase; however, Dorr Township had the largest increase at over 13%.



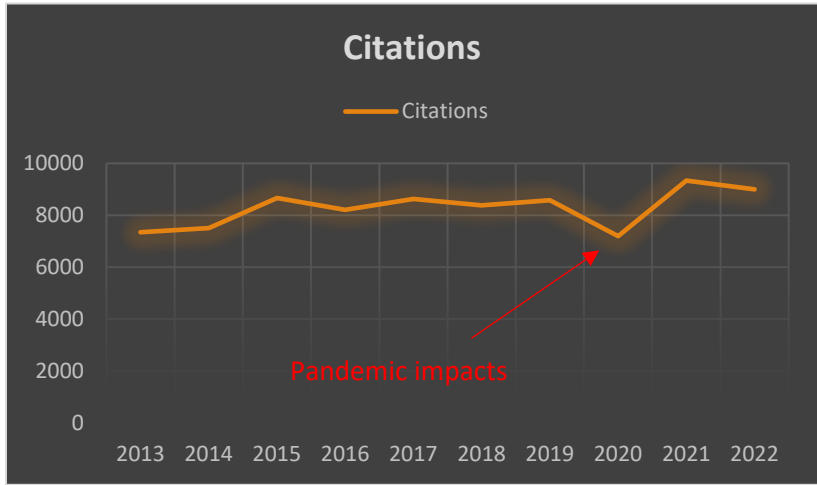
The total call volume for Patrol Section 6 in 2022 was 4,617. This is a 8.6% increase over the volume of 4,251 in 2021. The largest increase occurred in Otsego Township which experienced a 19.8% increase.



One of the objectives in designing patrol areas is to balance call volumes. The pie chart to the right would indicate that we are highly successful in achieving that objective.

We also we handled 1,123 calls for service in Saugatuck City, 429 in Fennville City, 118 in Hopkins Village, and 67 in Martin Village. This is in addition to the calls for service reported by the patrol section.

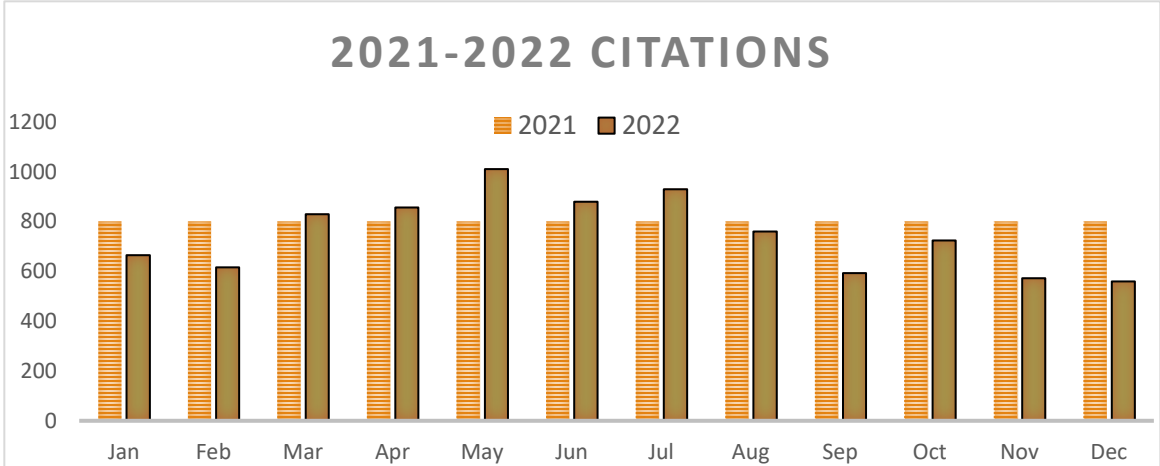
# Traffic Enforcement



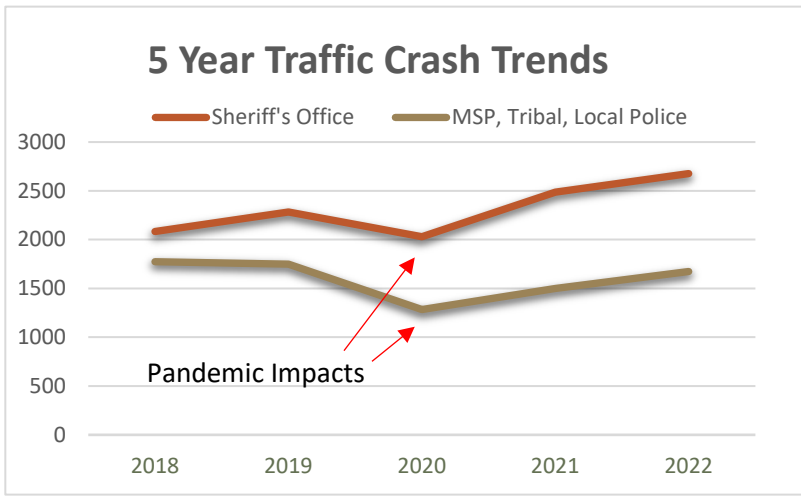
The overall number of traffic citations issued in 2022 was down slightly from 2021. The number of citations issued seemed to be down during the winter months and could be attributed to weather.



The number of citations issued in 2021 was 9,337 and 8,996 in 2022 resulting in a 3.6% reduction.



# Traffic Crashes

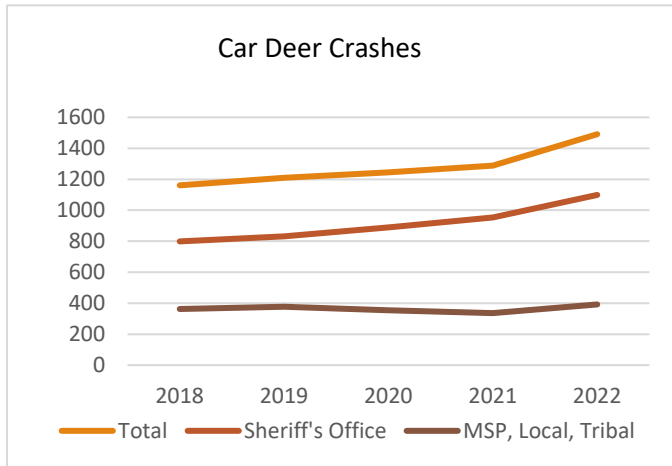
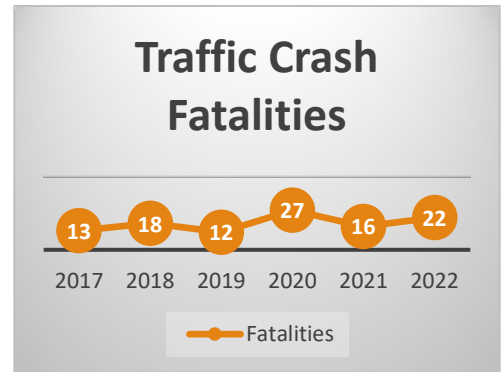


There were 4,351 traffic crashes in Allegan County in 2022. The Sheriff's Office investigated 2,677 of those crashes. Our law enforcement partners from the State Police, Tribal Police, and City Police Departments investigated the remaining 1,674.





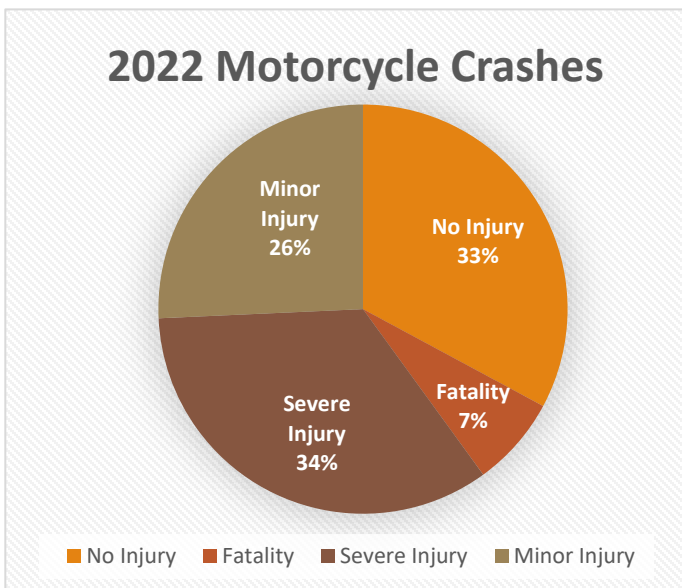
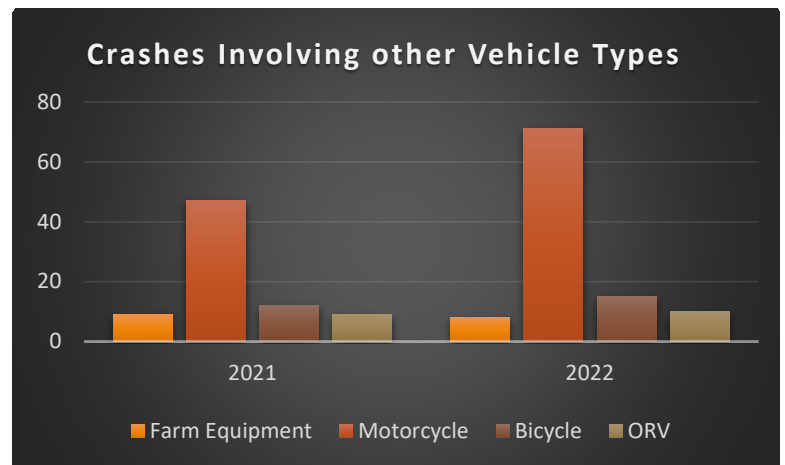
We did see an increase in the number of fatal crashes in Allegan County in 2022. The Sheriff's Office investigated 14 of the 22 fatal crashes last year.



There were 1,491 car deer crashes in Allegan County last year. The Sheriff's Office handled 1,099 of those crashes. The remaining crashes were handled by our law enforcement partners.

There were reports of 71 crashes in Allegan County last year involving motorcycles, 8 involving Farm Equipment, 10 involving ORVs, and 15 involving bicycles.

4 of the crashes involving ORVs occurred on a roadway. 1 of the roadway crashes resulted in a fatality. The remaining crashes that were reported occurred off road.

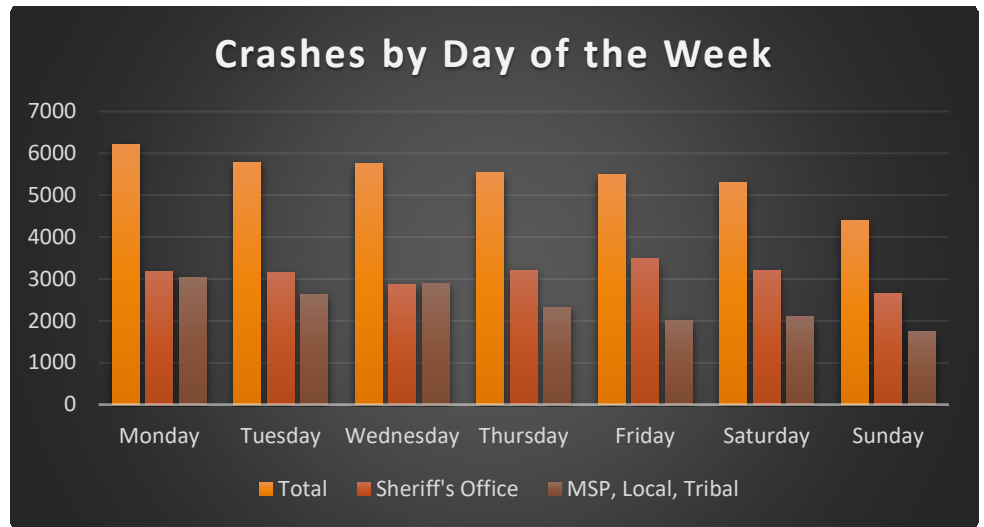


The Sheriff's Office investigated 45 of the 71 motorcycle crashes occurring in Allegan County last year. The remaining 26 crashes were investigated by our law enforcement partners. The Michigan State Police handled 10, the Holland Police Department handled 8, The Allegan Police Department. and the Plainwell Department of Public Safety handled 3 each, and the Otsego Police Department and Wayland Police Department each handled 1.

There were 5 fatalities last year involving a motorcycle. This accounted for 23% of the fatal crashes occurring in Allegan County in 2022.

Helmets were not worn in 21 of the crashes last year. Two of those were fatal and 14 resulted in injury.

Monday was the day of the week which experienced the most crashes. Sunday experiences the least. The remaining days were very consistent, indicating that there is not much variance in the number of crashes by day of the week.

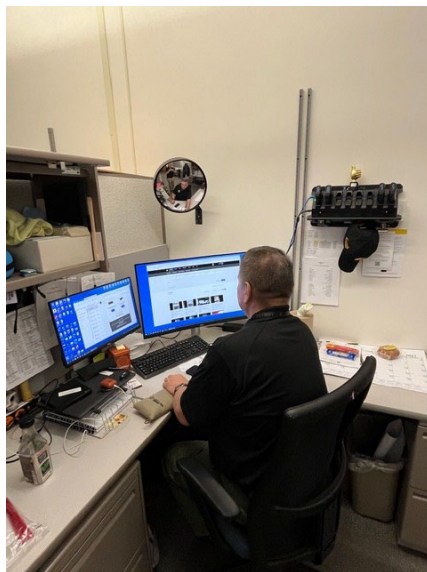


## Body Camera Project



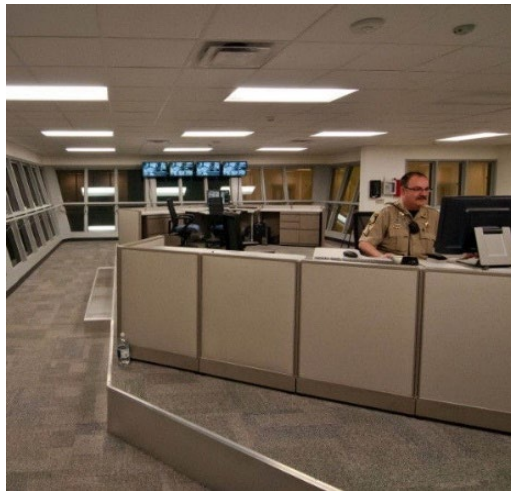
With the funding and support of the Allegan County Board of Commissioners we were able to successfully implement and deploy body cameras throughout the law enforcement division. This was a monumental undertaking requiring the support of County Administration, Project Management, Information Services, Project Team Members, and the entire Command Staff.

This project lasted several months due to costs and complexity. The project required the testing and evaluating of cameras, decisions on how data would be stored, forecasting data storage costs, developing a methodology for the download and transfer of data to either a cloud based or server solution, hiring personnel to review and redact video, developing policy and procedures for the handling of digital evidence, training staff in the use of cameras and new policies. We are very pleased at this time; however, we plan to continue reviewing and monitoring the functionality to make sure we are meeting the goals and objectives identified by the project team.



## Corrections Division

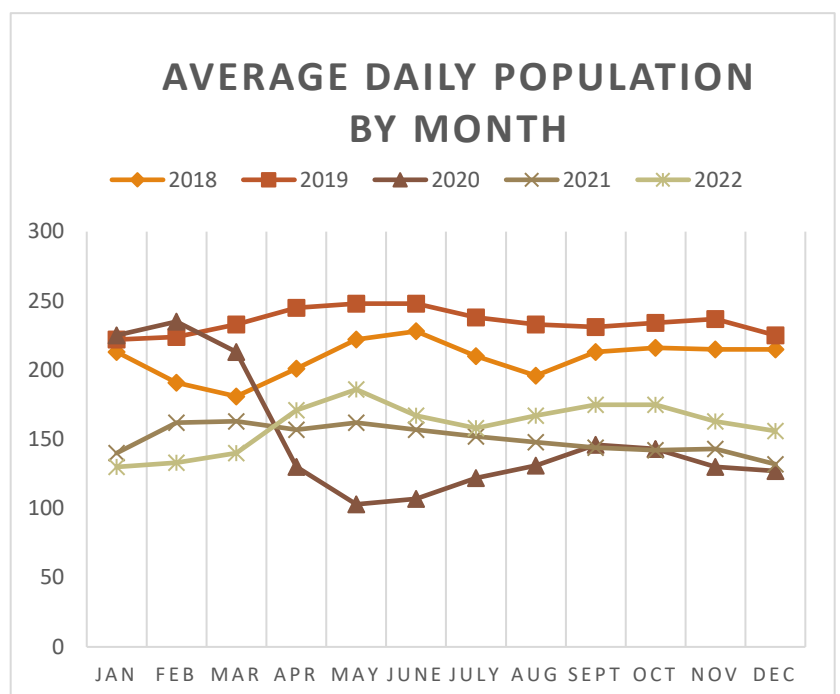
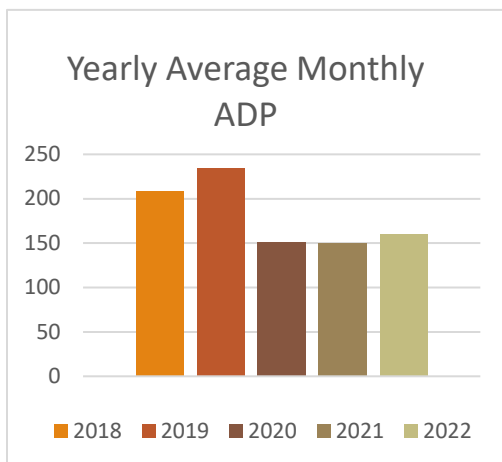
The Corrections Division continues to utilize certain protocols and measures to protect the staff, the inmates, and the facility from outbreaks of covid. The staff has done an outstanding job of minimizing the potential transmission through the strategic use of quarantining new arrests. This was only possible due to the design advantages this building offers.



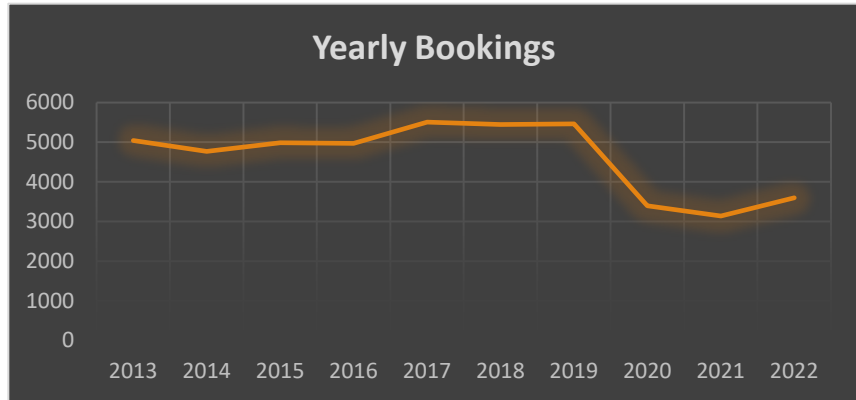
We did have several occasions in which we suspended the use of inmate workers who leave the corrections center during the occasions when it was necessary to mitigate the transmission of covid.

We continue to closely monitor the inmate population due to concerns that the average daily population would increase to prepandemic levels; however, we have yet to experience a substantial increase. This is likely due to several factors such as, legislative changes in when we lodge individuals in jail, bond reform, and opportunities for pretrial services.

The average daily inmate population numbers continue to be lower than prepandemic; however, we anticipate those numbers will continue to rise. Our desire is that this number rises slowly to reduce impacts on staffing and operations as we return to pre pandemic numbers.



The number of yearly bookings continues to be lower than pre pandemic times; however, you can see we are beginning to trend back up. The probable cause of the slow rise in bookings is the legislative changes that impacted when we lodge on certain non-violent offenses. For instance, we now issue a citation to appear in court rather than lodge on these certain non-violent offenses.



## Inmate Programs

Inmate programs are an integral part of the Corrections Division operations. Our goal is to return inmates back to the community with a better chance of being successful and not reoffending. Much of the focus of our programs involves dealing with their substance abuse, educational needs, employment skills, their ability to gain successful employment, and their relationships with family.

### D.E.B.T.S. Crew (Detail Enabling Better Transition to Society)

There were 29 participants in the D.E.B.T.S. program in 2022. 26 of those participants finished the program successfully. This resulted in 602 bed days being saved as the participants earn good time for their participation. This was an 83% increase in bed days saved over the previous year. The significant increase is due to the ability to run the program without too many shutdowns during 2022.

### Community Service

There was a total of 88 participants in Community Service last year. This resulted in a savings of 696 bed days in 2022. We did experience a slight reduction in bed days saved as the number was 708 in 2021.

### Case Management / Inmate Workers

This consists of the inmate workers assigned to job functions such as the kitchen, laundry, and cleaning crews. We also provide inmate workers to assist Health Department and Wishbone Pet Rescue at the animal shelter. We had 135 participants in 2022 and 103 of them completed the program successfully saving us 2,556 bed days. The previous year we had 126 participants and 88 successful completions for a savings of 2,306 bed days.

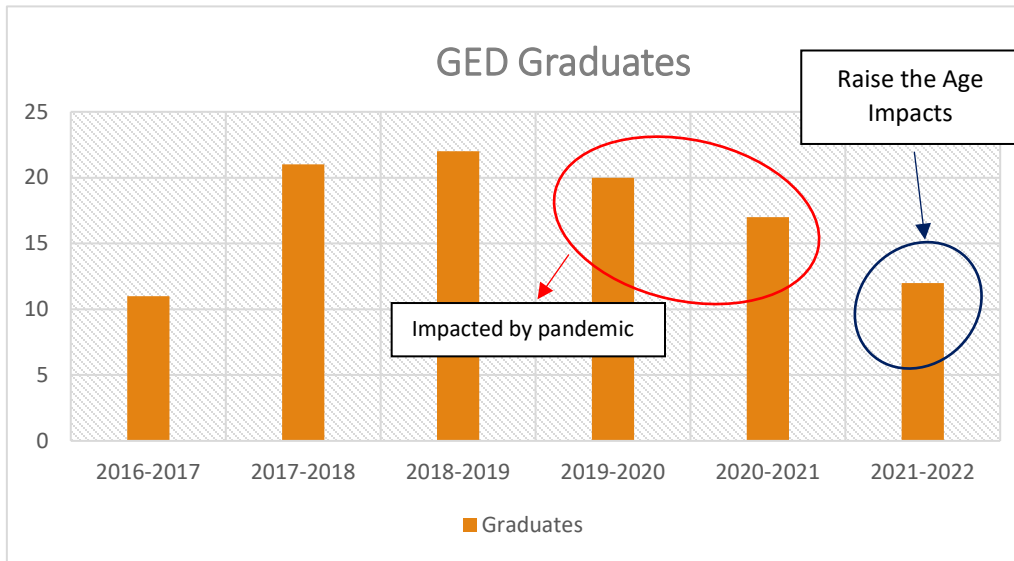
### Faith Based Programs

We partner with Reach the Forgotten Ministries to provide faith-based programs for inmates who ask to participate. Their volunteers educate and minister to the inmates. Their services include things such as:

- Men's Bible Study
- Moms in Prayer / Women's Bible Study
- Church Services / Catholic Mass
- Anger Management

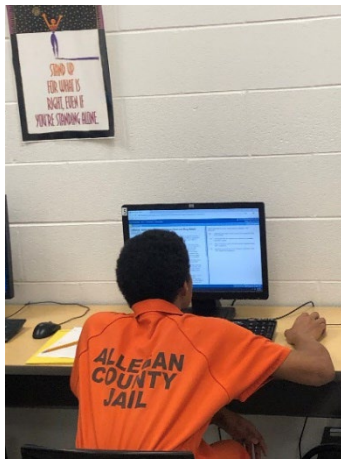


## General Educational Development (GED)



We anticipated fewer graduations in the 2021-2022 school year due to legislative changes in the law. 17-year-olds who made up a significant part of the GED program are no longer housed in the Corrections Center. We still managed to have 12 completed GED graduations.

*Congratulations to our Graduates!*



## MRT – Moral Reconciliation Therapy

The MRT program is a type of behavioral therapy with a goal of decreasing the chances that someone will return to substance or alcohol abuse.

There were 93 participants in MRT in 2022. This was a 16% increase over the 80 participants we had in 2021. The number of successful completions of the program also went up. We had 44 successful completions of the program which is a 47% success rate. Last year's success rate was at 44%.

This program does not provide bed days saved as inmates do not earn good time for participation.

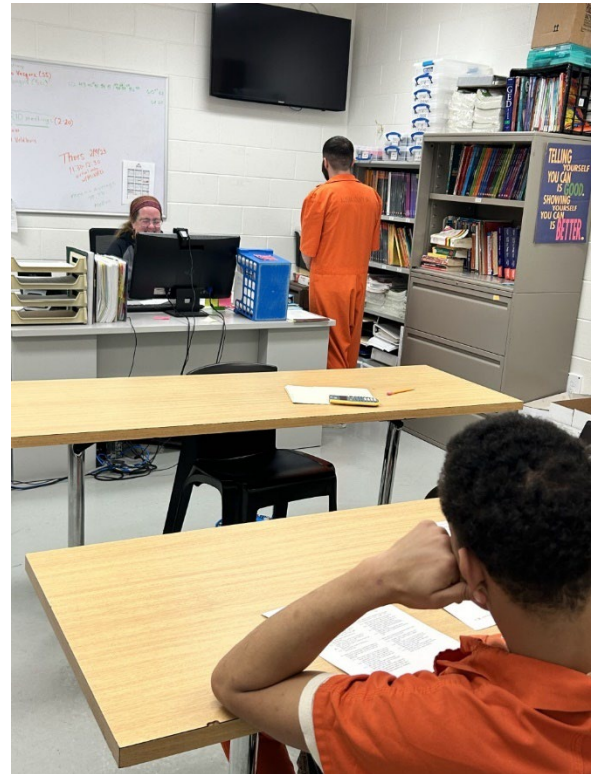


## Career Readiness (CCAB funded)



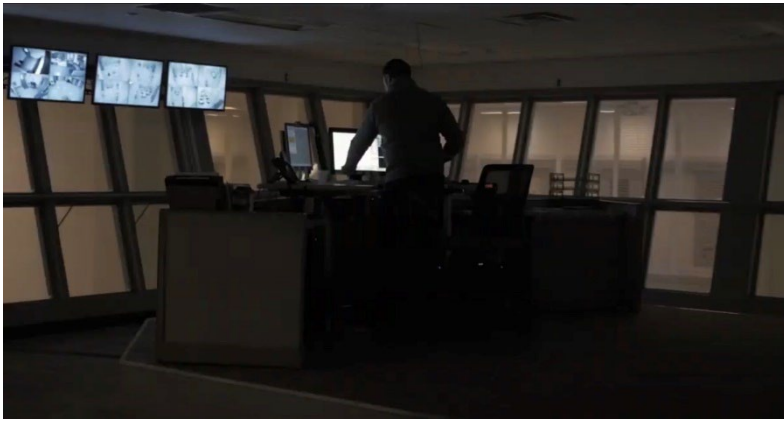
working on an on-line college course

We are enormously proud of the Career Readiness program. It is one of the newest programs offered. We collaborate closely with partners such as Michigan Works to assist in finding employment for inmates with area businesses. The program helps the inmate to prepare a resume, practice job interviews, complete college applications, financial aid forms, and set up and facilitate actual online job interviews from the Corrections Center. Successful inmates have had jobs waiting upon their release.



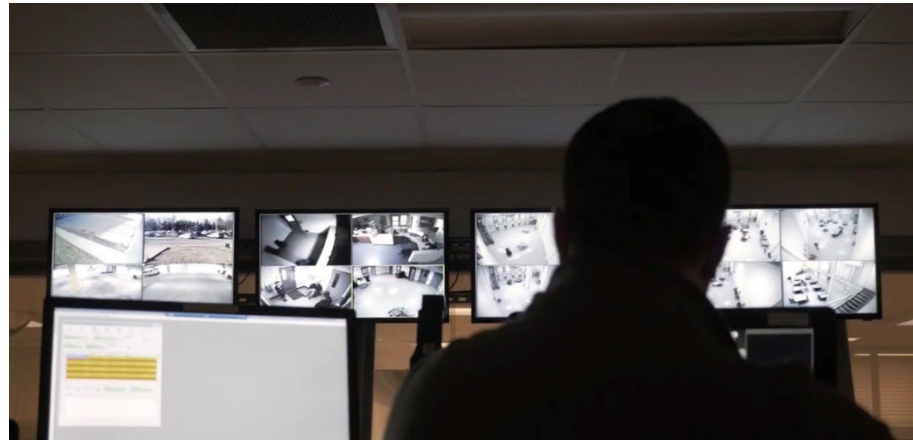
There were 97 participants in the Career Readiness program last year and there were 28 successful completions of the program. This resulted in a savings of 75 bed days at the Corrections Center due to good time earned.





## Control Center

The responsibilities of deputies assigned to the control center include monitoring the facility security cameras and the opening and closing of security doors throughout the facility. Additional responsibilities include the answering of phones and communicating and bond lobby visitors. They communicate with the front lobby after hours.

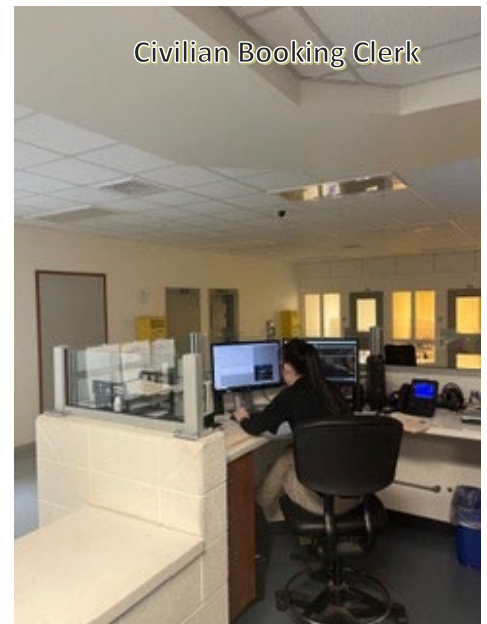
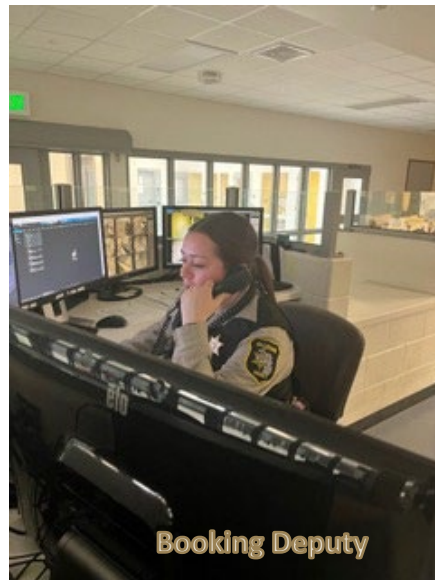


## Corrections Center Courtroom

Deputies assist with hearings, such as arraignments, which are conducted remotely via Polycom from the Corrections Center to courtrooms in the courthouse or other counties.

## Booking

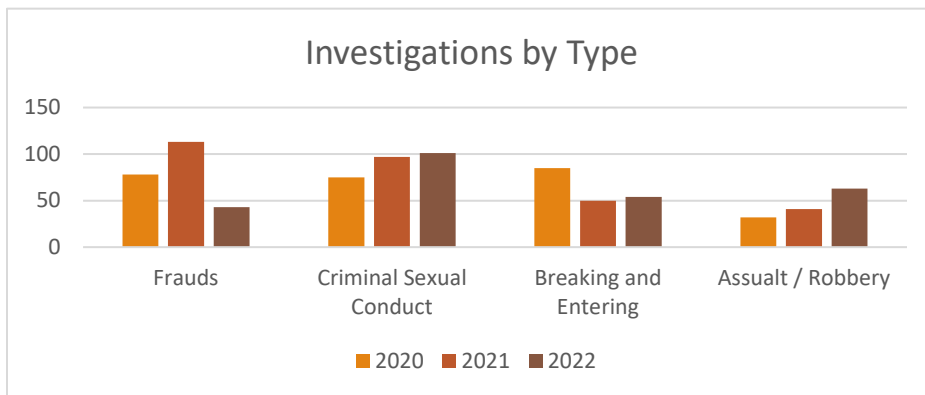
Booking individuals in and out of the Corrections Center is conducted by deputies and our civilian booking clerk.



## Investigative Services Division

911 requests from citizens for assistance are received by Allegan Central Dispatch who dispatch the closest available road patrol officer. Incidents which require additional or specialized investigations are turned over to the Investigative Services Division by the Road Patrol Division.

The Investigative Services Division consists of four general case detectives, a digital forensics detective, a domestic violence detective, and one detective that is assigned to a multijurisdictional narcotics investigation team. This unit is supervised by Lt. Mike Brown.



In 2022, the overall number of cases referred to the investigative services division increased by 16% from 2021. One homicide, reported in 2021 and still under investigation in 2022, resulted in an arrest. That person is currently in custody and awaiting trial.

## Domestic Violence

In 2021 the Allegan County Board of Commissioners approved the addition of a domestic violence investigator to address domestic violence in Allegan County. This position was filled in 2022 by Detective Janel Hagerty. Detective Hagerty conducts follow-up investigations with victims of domestic violence, and assists them through the court process serving as the victim's point of contact with law enforcement. This program has had tremendous success and overwhelmingly positive feedback from victims.

185 incidents of domestic violence were referred to Detective Hagerty for additional investigation in 2022. That does not include the cases cleared by the road patrol without referral to Det. Hagerty.

Below are some alarming statistics regarding domestic violence from the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence are shown below:

- 36.1% of Michigan women and 25.8% of Michigan men experience intimate partner physical violence, intimate partner rape and/or intimate partner stalking in their lives.
- In 2019, 57,018 incidents of domestic violence were reported to Michigan police. Many others went unreported.
- 1 in 2 female murder victims and 1 in 13 murder victims are killed by intimate partners.





## Digital Forensics Lab

The Allegan County Sheriff's Office maintains the only digital forensics lab within the county. It is operated by Detective Dave Ashton. Digital forensics is a branch of forensic science encompassing the recovery, investigation, examination, and analysis of material found in digital devices, such as cellular phones, computers, and tablets. This position was approved by the Allegan County Board of Commissioners in 2020 and has had an incredible impact on our ability to investigate and solve crime. It is also essential in providing evidence to assist in the prosecution of criminal activity occurring within Allegan County.

Detective Ashton has completed hundreds of hours of training and is certified by the International Association of Computer Investigative Specialists. The Sheriff's Office is proud to offer this service to all law enforcement agencies within Allegan County. In 2022 Detective Ashton received 165 devices and examined 19.1 TB of data.



*Allegan County Sheriff's Office digital Forensics Lab*

## Human Trafficking and Child Exploitation

Consistent with nationwide trends, Allegan County continues to receive reports of the online exploitation of children. These reports which includes sextortion, as well as the manufacture, distribution, and sale of child sexually abusive material, also known as child pornography.

To help combat these heinous crimes, The Sheriff's Office has affiliated with the Michigan State Police Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force known as ICAC. We also assigned an investigator to participate in the FBI's West Michigan Based Child Exploitation Task Force known as WEBCHEX. ICAC and WEBCHEX are multijurisdictional task forces which investigate human trafficking and the online exploitation of children.

In 2022 Sheriff's Office detectives investigated 25 incidents related to child sexually abusive material. WEBCHEX special agents and task force officers also assisted in one kidnapping investigation originating in Allegan County and resulting in the recovery of an abducted child in Ohio.

## Southwest Enforcement Team (SWET)

To combat the use and sale of illegal narcotics in Allegan County the Sheriff's Office assigns one detective to the Southwest Enforcement Team known as SWET. SWET is a multijurisdictional task force assigned to investigate illegal narcotics such as Methamphetamine which accounts for the majority of illegal drugs seized in Allegan County.



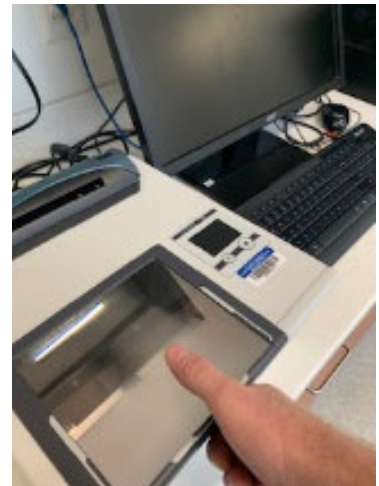
Highlights from 2022 are below:

- SWET detectives received information about a subject selling methamphetamine in the northeast part of Allegan County. During this investigation detectives conducted surveillance and made controlled purchases of drugs through a confidential informant. The investigation culminated in the SWET Detectives being able to purchase methamphetamine from the primary suspect utilizing an undercover detective. They were able to seize one pound of methamphetamine, 8 grams of cocaine, 4 guns, hundreds of rounds of ammunition, body armor, and over \$10,000 in cash.
- SWET detectives started investigating a subject in southeast part of Allegan County who was selling methamphetamine. After doing controlled purchases, they were able to buy directly from the primary suspect utilizing undercover detectives who purchased methamphetamine and firearms. A search warrant was executed at the suspect’s residence where 3 ounces of methamphetamine and several additional firearms were seized.
- SWET detectives received information about a female selling large quantities of methamphetamine in southeast part of Allegan County. SWET detectives were able to set up controlled purchases with the female. After a short time, undercover detectives started buying directly from the female leading to a search warrant of her residence. During the search warrant, a half a pound of methamphetamine, cocaine, and fentanyl were located.

## Administrative Services

The staff transcribing reports and processing documents for the sheriff’s office, the courts, the prosecutor’s office, and the public, did a great job. They prepared the records of the nearly 26,000 calls for service in 2022. Administrative staff also responded to 2,229 Freedom of Information requests, processed 5,055 pistol sales records, and assisted over 5,000 individuals at the lobby window.

Fingerprinting	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Concealed Pistol License	722	607	876	816	709
School Employment	86	95	34	101	134
Criminal Justice	69	115	93	52	77
Totals	877	817	1,003	969	920



Additionally, new administrative staff positions were added to process digital data from the body cameras. The staff working with the digital data are responsible for the redaction and preparation of the videos in response to FOIA requests and criminal prosecution. In addition, the digital evidence must be properly labeled and stored so that it can be located and retrieved when needed.

## Victim Services

Volunteers who are called out to assist families experiencing a tragic event such as family member involved in a fatal car crash, homicide, or suicide.

## Reserve Deputy Division

Sgt. Mike Martin headed up a 24-week Reserve Academy last year. They are now working with the other reserve deputies assisting the sheriff's office and serving our communities.

The reserve deputies worked a total of 3,473 hours last year. They provide essential services including hospital sits with inmates, courthouse security, traffic control, house moves, foot patrols in Saugatuck, traffic control at events, beach patrols, and security at the county fair. Reserve deputies volunteered approximately 1,500 hours riding with deputies on patrol, conducting property inspections, and attending training.



## Specialty Teams

The Sheriff's Office has deputies that train with specialty teams in addition to their regular patrol or investigative duties.

**K-9 Team** – 4 deputies and their K-9 partners train in narcotics detection, tracking, and apprehension.



**SWAT** – Deputies who have applied for, met the physical fitness and background standards, may be assigned to the SWAT Team. The SWAT Team conducts high risk search warrants, responds to armed barricaded individuals, hostage situations, and other appropriate call outs.





**ALLEGAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**  
 Snowmobile Division & Enforcement  
**Snowmobile Safety Classes offered**  
 The Allegan County Sheriff's Office will once again be holding snowmobile safety classes for anyone wishing to operate a snowmobile in Michigan.  
 Classes are free and last 3 to 4 hours in duration. Upon successful completion students will receive a Snowmobile Safety Certificate allowing them to legally operate a snowmobile.  
 Classes can be found on the Sheriff's Office webpage at:  
<http://www.allegancounty.org/sheriff/EventSitePages/Snowmobile.aspx>



Who can operate a snowmobile in Michigan?

**A person, under the age of 12:**  
 may not operate a snowmobile without the direct supervision of the parent or guardian except on property owned or controlled by the parent; may not cross a highway or street.

**A person who is at least 12 but less than 17 years of age:**  
 may operate a snowmobile under direct supervision of a person 21 years of age or older; or have in their immediate possession a valid snowmobile safety certificate; may not cross a highway or street without having a valid snowmobile safety certificate in their immediate possession.

**Snowmobile Patrol** – Utilized and funded through a DNR grant to patrol the snowmobile trails and teach snowmobile safety classes.



**Drone Operators** – Several deputies are trained and authorized to utilize our drones for purposes such as locating lost or missing persons, evidence collection, crime scene measurements, and close observation of high-risk situations.



Drone Operations

**Dive Rescue Team** – Deputies trained as divers and surface personnel to conduct water rescues, body recovery, and evidence collection.



Dive Rescue

**Crash Reconstruction Team** – Deputies specially trained to investigate and able to utilize specialized equipment measuring and determining the facts surrounding fatal and serious injury crashes for purposes of prosecution.



Crash Reconstruction

**Evidence Techs.** – Deputies trained to collect, package, and preserve crime scene evidence for purposes of solving crime and successfully prosecuting suspects.



EVIDENCE TECH



## Marine Patrol

The Marine Patrol conducted 11 boating safety classes in 2022. During these classes they trained 171 students. The Marine Patrol issued 58 citations during last year’s boating season. The Marine Deputies focus their efforts on educating boaters either in the classroom or out on the water.



Specific activity related to the Marine Safety Grant and safety equipment such as personal floatation devices (PFDs).

Safety Equipment	Citations	Warnings
Wearable PFDs	11	31
Type IV / Throwable PFD	5	21
Fire Extinguisher	4	29
Visual Distress Signal	0	5
Sound Producing Device	0	14

The Marine Patrol is also responsible for the inspection of businesses that rent boats, canoes, and kayaks. The conducted 17 inspections of liveries last year. They inspected a total of 260 boats.



The Sheriff’s Office received literally a boat load of life jackets from the West Michigan Association of Realtors last year. The Marine Patrol was able to hand out these life jackets throughout the season to boaters who either did not have life jackets on board or did not have the appropriately sized life jackets for the people on board their boats. The Sheriff’s Office is fortunate to have numerous business partners supporting our efforts and our communities.



# Emergency Management

Director Corbin, his team, and the many volunteers through E.M. had a busy year. One of our challenges was replacing our Emergency Management Coordinator. Scott Corbin accepted a position with a larger county near the end of 2022. We will be transitioning to a new coordinator in 2023 and look forward to working with the new EM Coordinator Sarah Clark.



EM Director Scott Corbin

Besides our law enforcement agencies and fire departments, Director Corbin coordinates and works with our Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC), Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), Allegan County Search and Rescue (ACSR), Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Radio Service (RACES), and several other volunteer organizations.



Allegan County Search and Rescue



Brett Apelgren, LEPC Site Area Specialist



Jim Steuer, EM Deputy

Additionally, Jim Steuer, our EM Deputy, transitioned to a new role as the Compliance Specialist working with the new body cameras and body worn camera project.



Philip Holscher, who has been volunteering with Emergency Management and the Community Emergency Response Team, has transitioned into the role of EM Deputy



## Animal Control

The Animal Control Deputy oversaw approximately 1,000 calls for service last year. We anticipate that the number of calls will substantially increase in 2023 as we have added a second deputy assigned to animal control. This will increase our capacity to respond to calls for and reduce the calls diverted to patrol deputies.



## Contracted Patrols



The sheriff's office provides additional contracted patrols to several townships and one city in Allegan County. During 2022 the Allegan County Sheriff's Office contracted to provide two deputies in Wayland Township and two deputies in a partnership with Leighton and Dorr Townships. We had one contract deputy in Gun Plain Township, one deputy in Lee Township, one deputy in Casco Township, and one deputy in a partnership with Overisel and Fillmore Townships. We also provide four contracted deputies to the city of Saugatuck. We have also had several conversations with other local units of government about the possibility of future contracted police services.

## Challenges and Looking to the Future

Our biggest challenge is recruiting law enforcement and corrections deputies. We received a grant to fund the costs of advertising and marketing for recruitment. You may notice billboards on the freeways or see advertisements pop up on Facebook or YouTube. Additionally, the State of Michigan and the Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards has provided funding to pay police academy costs and the salary of new recruits. These steps are making positive impacts on the number of applicants. The county has also assisted with implementing a retention strategy that we hope will positively impact our operations.

Technology is rapidly changing the way our profession does business. We issued body cameras throughout the road patrol and began utilizing them in the Corrections Center in 2022. We deployed our first hybrid patrol vehicles and have increased the use of drones for traffic crash reconstruction and investigation. We have increased our capabilities in regard to digital forensic investigations.

We are excited to begin an increased presence in our public schools. We have already secured partnerships in Hamilton and Hopkins Public Schools. We anticipate the possibility of additional schools due to the availability of grant funding.

We have also been in contact with an additional township looking inquiring about contracted patrols in their community.

## Community Involvement



Shop with a Cop



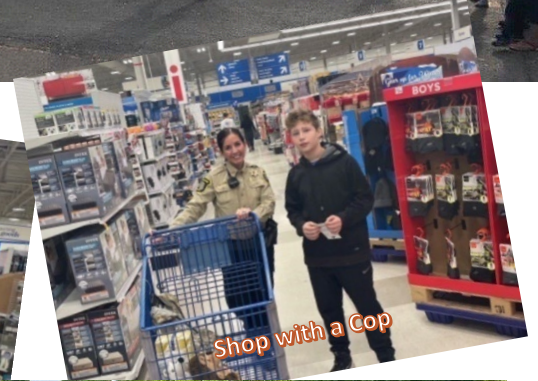
Moline Christian 5K Run



Staff donation to American Red Cross



Shop with a Cop



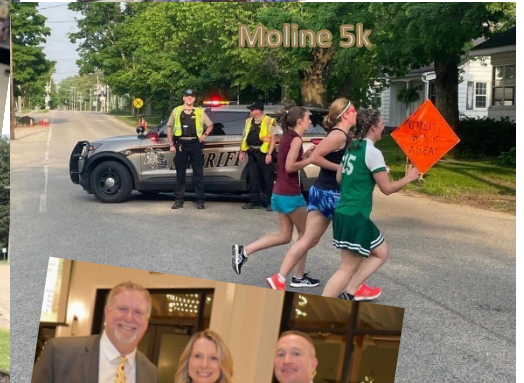
Shop with a Cop



Christmas Parade



Staff donation to Wings of Hope Hospice



Moline 5k



Wayland Chamber Gala

**Community support is the key to our success**



Allegan County Fair Parade

## In Conclusion

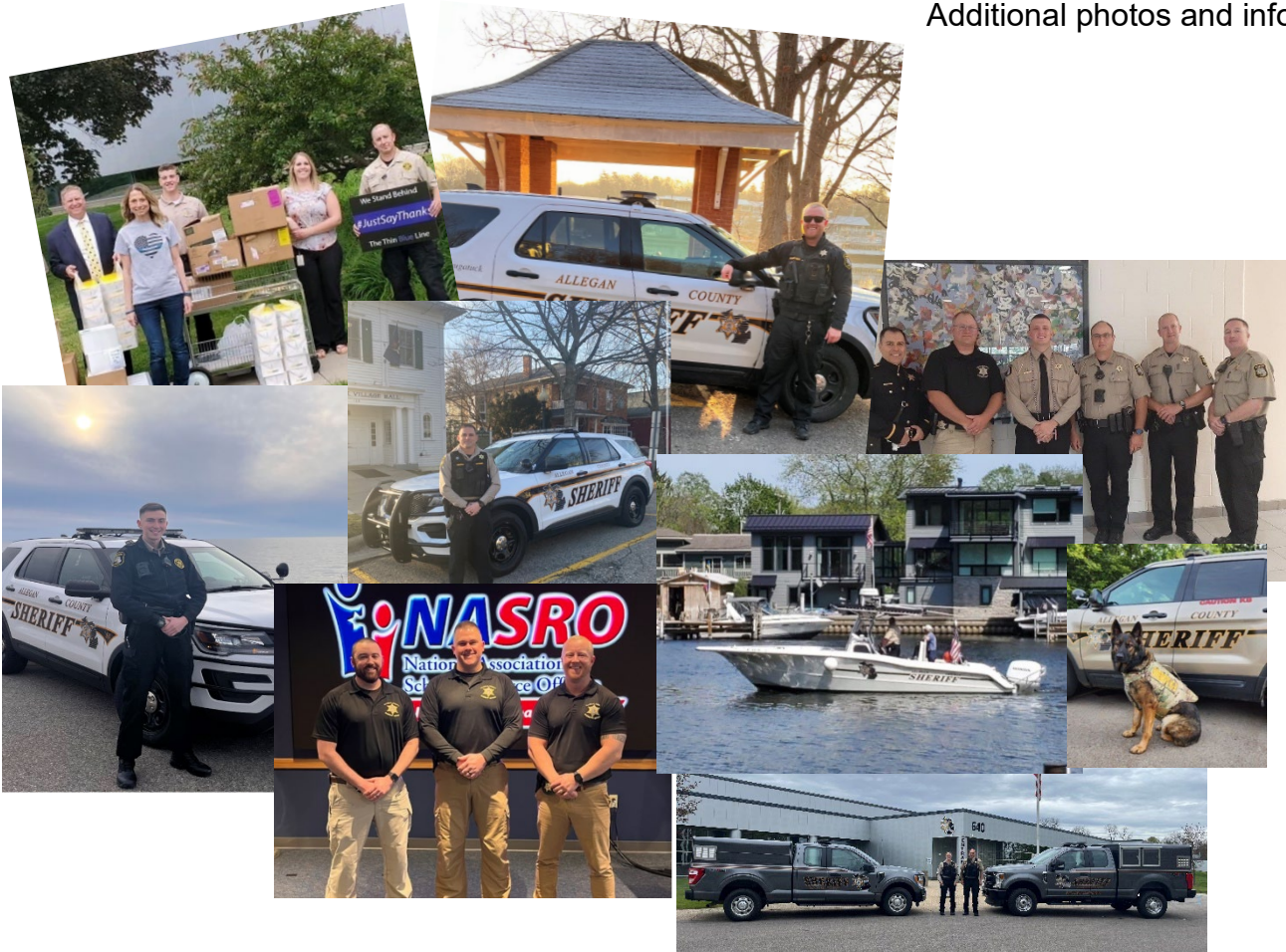
The Sheriff's Office would like to thank the Board of Commissioners for your support over this past year. Please reach out should you have any questions, would like more information, or are looking for something specific that was not included in this report.

The deputies and staff at the Allegan County Sheriff's Office would also like to thank the communities, the businesses, and the citizens we serve for all their support.

It is an honor to serve Allegan County as your sheriff and all of us at the Sheriff's Office look forward serving you in 2023.



Additional photos and information



**Sheriff's Office Staffing (full time):** law enforcement and corrections combined:

Sheriff	1	Corrections Deputies	33
Undersheriff	1	Patrol Deputies	20
Captain	1	Contracted Patrols	12
Lieutenants	4	Court Security	1
Sergeants	16	Friend of Court Deputy	1
Detectives	7	School Resource Deputies	2
Administrative	10	Compliance Specialists	2
Mechanic	1	Total	112

We currently have vacancies and additional staff attending the police academy to back fill vacancies created due to additional retirements, contracted patrols, and SRO positions.

We also have numerous part-time staff working as reserve deputies, court security, marine patrol, and snowmobile patrol.

We are also very thankful for our volunteers working in the Victim Services Unit.