

City of New Albany

Police Department

2019 Annual Report



Chief Greg Jones and Officer Joe Catanese receiving CALEA Award.



Dear Citizens and Visitors of New Albany,

Welcome to the New Albany Police Department's 2019 Annual Report. We believe that each of you have a right to know what type of law enforcement services and activities have occurred within New Albany, and more importantly, the resources being devoted to provide an appropriate police response to local problems and concerns.

In this report, you will find New Albany Police Department statistics from 2019. We have also included statistical data from previous years to reflect the way in which different categories of crime and enforcement activities have been increasing or decreasing from previous years. The police department submits the community's crime statistics to the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) system. The UCR divides crimes into two categories. Part I crimes include homicide and forcible rape. Part II crimes include serious but lesser crimes like assault and theft.

In 2019 the department continued its work to provide the community with the highest level of services by hiring the most qualified individuals and developing its staff through leadership and training. Personnel changes included the retirement of Officer Ken Hamilton and the promotion of Terry Nemeth to the rank of Sergeant. Officer Joe Rehnert and his K9 partner Amigo graduated from the K9 training program and the department welcomed two new officers and an administrative assistant to the Chief of Police.

The department was also awarded its initial national accreditation through the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). The ongoing process of accreditation ensures the department is implementing and following best practices while making certain that the department is accountable, transparent, and operates at a high level. I am proud and appreciative of the dedication and extensive work our staff devoted to improving the department and ensuring the accreditation award.

The men and women of the New Albany Police Department are committed to keeping pace with community growth to ensure the safety and security of those who live, travel, and/or work in New Albany. We hope that you find our 2019 Annual Report interesting and informative.

If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions that could improve our annual report, please contact me via email (gjones@newalbanypolice.org), telephone (614-855-1234), or mail at 50 Village Hall Road; P.O. Box 271; New Albany, Ohio 43054.

Sincerely,

Gregory V. A. Jones Chief of Police



CITY OF NEW ALBANY POLICE DEPARTMENT

MISSION STATEMENT

We, the men and women of the New Albany Police Department, in partnership with the community, are committed to the prevention of crime and the protection of life and property. We are proactive in promoting, preserving, and maintaining a feeling of safety and security to all citizens and visitors. We maintain the public's trust by holding ourselves to the highest standards of excellence and professionalism in the delivery of law enforcement services. We provide a quality work environment and continually strive to develop each employee through effective training and leadership.

VISION STATEMENT

To meet the growing needs of the community, the New Albany Police Department will continue to provide the highest level of law enforcement services available through a department-wide community policing philosophy. Provision of police services will be accomplished by hiring the most qualified personnel, providing superior training to all personnel, and providing the most current equipment, technology, and facilities to provide these services.



CITY OF NEW ALBANY POLICE DEPARTMENT

VALUES STATEMENT

We, the men and women of the New Albany Police Department, hold these values and principles to be of the utmost importance:

PROFESSIONALISM

We conduct ourselves, both on-duty and off-duty in a manner that reflects favorably on our profession and the community we serve. We take pride in our appearance and demeanor. We hold ourselves to the highest standards and will not allow friendships, prejudices, or animosities to influence our decision-making when providing law enforcement services. We continuously strive for excellence through training, education, and innovation.

INTEGRITY

We are guided by the principles of honesty and integrity in our daily lives. We constantly strive to maintain the public's trust through honesty and integrity in both words and actions.

RESPECT

We treat all people with the dignity and respect they deserve. This includes the protection of individual rights while upholding the laws and ordinances of the United States of America, the State of Ohio, and the City of New Albany.

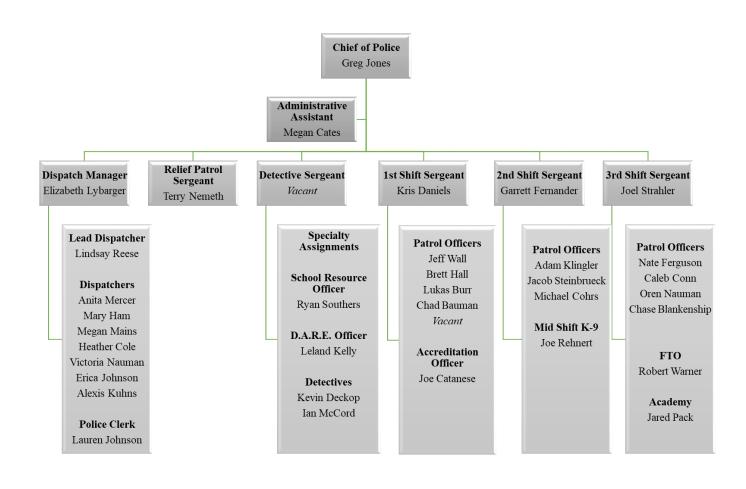
COMPASSION

We conduct all citizen contacts with courtesy and compassion. We are sensitive to the needs of others and possess empathy in dealing with individuals in their time of need.



ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

The chart represents the organizational structure of the New Albany Police Department. This chart depicts the current chain-of-command within the organization.





PERSONNEL

The growth of the city and the attrition of personnel meant that hiring talented and qualified people was a significant priority in 2019. Newly hired full-time staff of the department include:

- Megan Cates, Administrative Assistant to the Chief of Police;
- Chase Blankenship, Police Officer;
- Jared Pack, Police Officer Cadet (currently attending academy and will graduate summer 2020);

Additional personnel updates in 2019 include:

- Officer Terry Nemeth, a six year veteran of the department, was promoted to the rank of Sergeant. Sergeant Nemeth had previously served the department as a detective and in patrol.
- Officer Ian McCord, a three year veteran of the department, was chosen to fill the second detective position.
- Officer Ken Hamilton retired from the department in January of 2019.



The department celebrated Sgt. Nemeth and Det. McCord on their new positions.



COMMUNICATIONS CENTER



Communication Center employees at their annual meeting held December 2019; Dispatchers Mary Ham, Victoria Nauman, Anita Mercer, Erica Johnson, Lindsay Reese, Megan Mains, Heather Cole

In 2019 New Albany Police Department Communication Center received 1278 emergency/911 calls and more than 5,300 non-emergency calls. The communication center logged 14,300 computer aided dispatch (CAD) entries. Entries into the CAD system include emergency and non-emergency calls for service, walk-ins, and officer initiated activity.



National Accreditation

The New Albany Police Department was awarded National Accreditation through the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). Of 1,000 law enforcement agencies in Ohio, ours is now one of less than 70 to be accredited. Through the efforts of the entire police department, the Commission found that the department was in full compliance with all 155 applicable standards covering every aspect of our public safety mission.

The three-year accreditation process included a self-assessment step where policies and operations were brought into compliance with CALEA's proven standards. At the end of the self-assessment the department participated in two mock assessments before beginning the CALEA web-based assessment and the on-site assessment. CALEA assessors then submitted their report to the Commission for consideration. During the national conference in Covington, Kentucky, we participated in a public review hearing to discuss the findings of the assessment. The final credentialing decision was made by the Board of CALEA Commissioners on November 16th, 2019.

I am very proud of everyone's efforts during the accreditation process as well as the professional work performed every day in our community by members of the department. CALEA accreditation provides an advanced and continuous model to help agencies earn and maintain public confidence through professionalism, honesty, competence, and accountability.

Greg Jones Chief of Police



Officer Catanese and Chief Jones receiving the CALEA Certificate at the November conference



Drugs of Abuse

In 2019, the police department continued its efforts to limit the availability of drugs of abuse in the community. The prescription drug drop box, installed in the police department lobby in 2017, continues to be a resource for residents. In 2019, 176 pounds of medication was deposited in the drop box for destruction. The drug drop box continues to play an important role in removing substantial amounts of medications that are no longer needed from the medicine cabinets and night stands of the community. Most importantly, it significantly reduces the availability of drugs that may be abused or accidentally ingested.

Our department also teamed up with the Drug Enforcement Agency's (DEA) annual Drug Take Back Initiative in April and October of 2019. The events gave citizens the opportunity to turn in unwanted medications for destruction. Fifty pounds of unwanted



Officer Ferguson and Sergeant Nemeth at the Drug Take Back Event at the Plain Township Fire Dept.

medication was collected and removed from homes. All medications collected during the take back events and in the drug drop box are disposed of properly.

Our department's detection and enforcement of illicit drugs was greatly improved in 2019 when K9 Officer Joe Rehnert and his new partner "Amigo" graduated from the four week K9 training program at Shallow Creek Kennels. Amigo, a German Short Haired Pointer, has excelled at drug detection, tracking and article locating. The addition of a K9 to the department has proven to be a tremendous benefit to our department and our drug enforcement efforts.

2019-2020 Deer Management Program

The New Albany Deer Management program ran from September 28, 2019 through February 2, 2020. Of the 38 hunters who were eligible for the program, 31 of them were active during the season. The participants hunted in 13 different zones within the city and harvested 42 deer. Of the deer harvested, 34 were does and eight were bucks. Seven deer were donated to the food pantry. The deer management program helps to thin the deer population within the city and reduce the chances of car crashes involving deer.



Bike Helmets and Ice Cream

The city partnered with Johnson's Ice Cream to provide a coupon for a free scoop of ice cream to children found wearing a bike helmet while riding their bikes. The program began in May and ran through the end of September. By the end of the summer, bike officers handed out more than 450 coupons. Of those handed out, 374 coupons were redeemed for ice cream. It is often more practical for a bike officer to approach children on bicycles. The interaction is a great chance for the officers to build a positive relationship with the children in the community and the children have an opportunity to see an officer wearing a bike helmet. We want to thank Johnson's Ice Cream for their partnership and efforts to help promote safety in New Albany.

Wearing helmets can reduce the risk of a head injury by up to 85% and 75% of all fatal cycling accidents involve a head injury. Facts like these led the City of New Albany to enact a bike helmet law in March 2016. The law requires all riders under 18 years old to wear a bike helmet. The intent of the law is to save lives by creating better habits. The City's efforts to promote bicycle safety dates back fifteen years, when the Safety Town program began and children attending were provided free helmets and learned the importance of wearing them while riding.

The ice cream program to promote the use of bike helmets among children has been successful and the community's feedback has reinforced the importance of the message and the outreach. We received the following message regarding the initiative:

"Good morning. I wanted to say a big thank you to the officer that is watching out for the high school kids. My son is enjoying the fine weather and riding his bike to school each day. Yesterday, he was approached by the officer who gave him a free ice cream coupon for wearing his safety helmet each day. I asked him what was going through his head when the officer was approaching. He said he was nervous he did something wrong but had no idea what it could be. He is very particular about doing everything correct. I just love that you are trying to make good relationships with the kids. That is what the world needs and that is why my family and I are so happy and honored to live in New Albany, OH."



New Albany PD Bike Patrol: Officer Burr, Officer Kelly, Officer Southers, and Officer Steinbrueck



Community Outreach

Our police department is fortunate to receive widespread support from the community. Community engagement has undoubtedly played a significant role in our relationship with the people we serve. Although we highlight some of the organized activities in this report, the department's engagement also occurs on a daily basis and often in one-onone contacts between officers, dispatchers and community members. The department remains dedicated to being proactive in maintaining a safe community and the public's trust.

Safety Town

New Albany Safety Town is a safety educational camp held each summer for children entering kindergarten or first grade in the upcoming fall school year. All lessons are taught by state certified teachers, New Albany police officers, and Plain Township Fire Department firefighters, along with teen volunteers, subject matter experts and community partners. Graduate Camp is an advanced safety educational camp held each summer for children who have already graduated from Safety Town and who are entering first or second grade in the fall school year. This program re-enforces key safety lessons and provides a more in-depth education on selected safety topics.

New Albany Safety Town welcomed its 16th class and Graduate Camp, started four years ago, has grown in popularity each year. For the most part, enrollment has steadily increased over the years and we continue to have approximately 40% of the campers joining us from surrounding communities such as Westerville, Gahanna, Blacklick and Columbus.

Our primary focus during the 2019 season revolved around accommodating the New Albany - Plain Local School's request to conduct all of our sessions in June. The driving force of this request was to provide the staff the time needed to prepare the building for the return of faculty and students in early August. While this has been tested in the past (both years we reduced capacity), this year we were given the space to double our capacity, holding 12 classes at one time rather than 6. This allowed us to accommodate the demand of the program while not reducing the program's maximum capacity. There were challenges associated with doubling our capacity at one time, but the program remained very successful, achieving the highest satisfaction ratings from our parent surveys. We continue to evaluate conducting all sessions in June as a permanent option and will continue partnering with NAPLS administration to finalize required changes necessary to sustain the annual program.

Adventureland 2019 site improvements were mostly associated with maintenance and repairs. We plan landscaping, lighting and bench seating in the area, ideally partnering with Boy/Girl Scouts.









Block Watch Program

New Albany Police Department maintains an active Block Watch program in several neighborhoods. This program not only consists of neighbors keeping an eye out for suspicious activity, but also provides a great way for neighbors and the police department to work together to resolve concerns and challenges. Our officers assist several neighborhood Block Watch groups with their summer Block Watch Picnics, which gives officers the opportunity to get to know the community members. We have found that this program helps build a sense of community in active Block Watch neighborhoods.

R.A.D. (Rape Aggression Defense System) Course

The department conducted six R.A.D classes this year, with an overall total of 78 participants. The largest class had 25 participants, which was our largest class ever to date. R.A.D. is offered to women (teens to seniors) to enhance situational awareness and self-defense. The free 12-hour course is offered by the department several times per year and classes can be provided to groups or organizations upon request.



Officer Kelly and Probation Officer Boyd with a R.A.D class



New Albany Special Olympics

The New Albany Special Olympics team held a basketball and flag football game against the New Albany Police Department and Plain Township Fire Department. After both games, staff participated in a meet and greet with the athletes and their families over pizza and Johnson's Real Ice Cream. Officer Leland Kelly (D.A.R.E Officer), who organized the events, has dedicated a significant amount of time on and off duty to support the Special Olympic community and has consistently led efforts to support the children and their families in improving their lives through the joy of sports.



Members of New Albany Police Department & Plain Township Fire Department with the NA Special Olympics Team



Officer Kelly, Officer Southers, Probation Officer Boyd, Sergeant Fernander & Chief Jones on the field with the NA Special Olympics Team

Leadership New Albany

Dispatch Manager Elizabeth Lybarger and Sergeant Joel Strahler completed the Leadership New Albany program offered by the New Albany Chamber of Commerce. They participated in LEAD Now training and gained a better understanding of the New Albany business, economic, civic and government landscape. Both graduated from the program and were recognized at the Annual Chamber of Commerce Community Luncheon.



Dispatch Manager Lybarger and Sergeant Strahler at the Chamber Banquet



Light Ohio Blue Campaigns

To honor National Police Week and Peace Officer Memorial Day, the department participated in both Franklin and Licking County's Light Ohio Blue Campaign in May 2019. During the holiday season, the department participated in Light Ohio Blue's *Operation Santa's Sleigh*, a parade of public safety vehicles traveling around Nationwide Children's Hospital to provide a light show to the young patients.





Franklin County's Light Ohio Blue Campaign



Officer Klingler with Westerville PD and Columbus PD at the Operation Santa's Sleigh Event

Officer Recognition

Officer Leland Kelly was recognized at the Franklin County Sheriff's Office Law Enforcement Recognition Dinner. He received the STAR award, as he exemplifies Selflessness, Teamwork, Accountability and Respect, both on and off duty. As New Albany's D.A.R.E. officer, Officer Kelly interacts with the youth in our community daily and has development meaningful relationships with students, staff and parents. In addition to serving as the department's training officer, female self-defense instruction and school resource officer, Officer Kelly routinely volunteers to participate in local Shop with a Cop programs and Special Olympic events.

Whether jumping in the cold water in February for the Special Olympics Polar Plunge with New Albany students or handing out medals at Special Olympic Games, Officer Kelly can be found compassionately serving the community. Officer Kelly has dedicated a significant amount of his professional and personal time serving the special needs population and is viewed as a model police officer.

Officer Kelly was also recognized at the State of Ohio Accreditation Resource Coalition (SOAR)'s December meeting and was presented with the Douglas L. Knight Award for his commitment to public safety and community relations.



Chief Jones and Officer Kelly at the STAR recognition dinner



2019 K9 HIGHLIGHTS & STATISTICS

K9 Amigo successfully completed his first full year with the New Albany Police Department. Amigo (a German shorthaired pointer) is enthusiastic, intelligent and well trained. The breed has served traditionally as a hunting and tracking dog because of their keen sense of smell and intelligence. Amigo's natural abilities coupled with excellent training and an exceptional handler (Officer Rehnert) has proven to be a great addition to the department. He has been instrumental in narcotics enforcement, tracking, article searches and assisting area local and federal law enforcement.



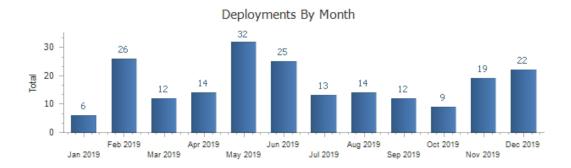
Training Summary

In 2019, K9 Amigo and K9 Officer Rehnert conducted over 330 hours of training. Each week they trained with other Central Ohio K9 teams. Together they participated in 235 detection training exercises and 143 patrol training exercises. Their training included tracking, evidence searches, obedience and agility.



Deployment Summary

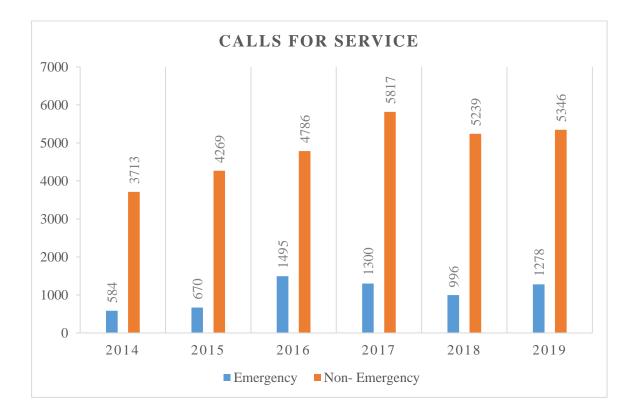
K9 Amigo and K9 Officer Rehnert conducted a total of 204 deployments in 2019, 200 of which were drug detection deployments and 4 patrol deployments (for evidence and/or people).





Calls for Service

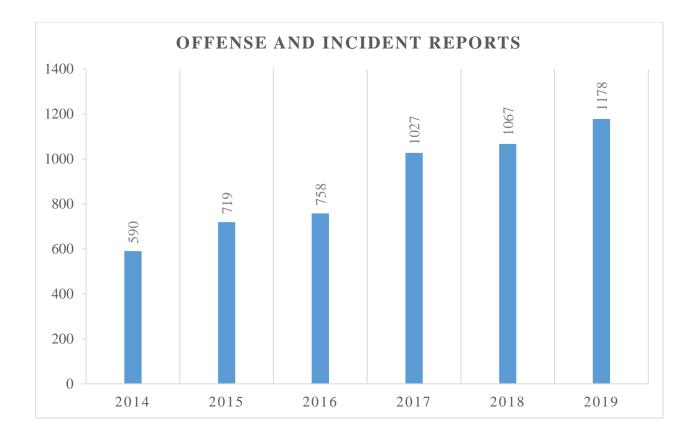
The number of calls received by the Communications Center is outlined below. Calls for service are the number of calls for assistance that were received and dispatched. The chart below separates these calls by emergency and non-emergency.





Offense/Incident Reports Taken

The New Albany Police Department takes three basic type of reports- offense reports, incident reports and traffic crash (accident) reports. An offense report is defined as a violation of the criminal code. An incident report is used to record non-criminal calls for service, such as found property or domestic disputes. An accident report is a traffic crash that is recorded on a prescribed State of Ohio form (OH-1). The chart below depicts the total number of reports taken.



Please note: prior to 2017, statistics were pulled differently and categories may have been previously combined



Incident/Offense by Category

The below statistics are divided into incidents, Part I offenses and Part II offenses. Incidents are non-criminal calls for service. Part I offenses are defined as index crimes. These crimes are considered serious and tend to be reported more reliably than others. Part II offenses are defined as the following: simple assault, curfew offenses, loitering, embezzlement, forgery and counterfeiting, disorderly conduct, driving under the influence, drug offenses, fraud, gambling, liquor offenses, offenses against the family, prostitution, public drunkenness, prostitution, sex offenses, stolen property, vandalism, vagrancy, and weapon offenses.

Incidents Reported	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Total Incidents
DOA	0	0	0	3	2	4	9
Domestic Dispute - Non Violent	9	16	15	34	54	43	171
Humane Destruction of Animal	6	20	10	10	1	4	51
Lockouts	247	253	245	254	232	225	1456
Mental Health Crisis	4	7	16	8	10	7	52
Push Bumper Release	10	5	14	9	5	4	47
Suicide	2	2	0	0	0	1	5
Suicide Attempt	8	14	12	15	13	23	85
Part I Offenses Reported	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Total by Offense
Aggravated Assault	0	0	0	6	2	7	15
All Other Larceny	11	128	155	31	34	32	391
Arson	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Breaking and Entering/Burglary	9	2	1	6	13	24	55
Justifiable Homicide (Not a Crime)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Motor Vehicle Theft	0	5	0	9	4	10	28
Murder/Non-Negligent Manslaughter	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pocket-Picking	0	0	0	11	3	0	14
Purse Snatching	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Rape - Forcible	1	1	3	2	1	2	10
Robbery	0	3	1	0	1	0	5
Sexual Assault With an Object	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Shoplifting	0	0	0	1	0	7	8
Sodomy - Forcible	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Theft From Building	0	0	0	25	44	25	94
Theft From Coin Operated Machine	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Theft From Motor Vehicle	0	0	0	26	16	45	87
Theft Of Motor Vehicle Parts/Acces.	0	0	0	0	2	2	4

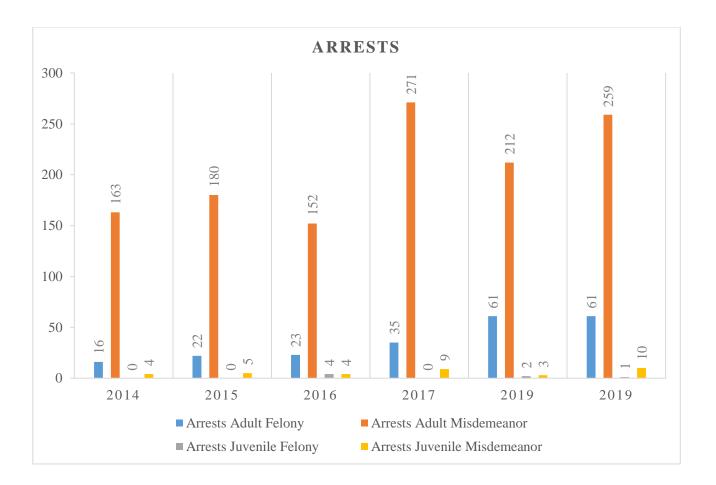


Part II Offenses Reported	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Total by Offense
Abduction	1	1	0	5	2	2	9
All Other Offense (2014-2016 included DV)	20	26	20	43	36	34	179
Animal Cruelty	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Assault (Simple)	16	23	10	31	34	37	151
Bad Checks	0	0	0	1	0	2	3
Bribery	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Curfew/Loitering/Vagrancy	0	0	0	3	0	0	3
Disorderly Conduct	5	5	12	7	5	6	40
Drug Offense	45	56	52	129	149	170	601
Drug Equipment/Drug Paraphernalia	23	35	41	97	115	151	462
Drunkenness	0	0	0	1	1	0	2
Embezzlement	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Extortion	0	0	0	2	1	2	5
False Pretenses/Swindle	0	0	0	5	10	16	31
Family Offense (Non-Violent)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fondling - Forcible	0	0	0	1	1	5	7
Forgery/Counterfeiting	10	3	8	1	3	6	31
Fraud - Credit Card/Auto Teller	42	75	41	4	13	5	180
Fraud - Welfare	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Fraud - Wire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gambling - Betting or Wagering	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gambling - Equipment Violations	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gambling - Operating or Promoting	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hacking Computer Invasion	0	0	0	1	0	1	2
Human Trafficking - Commercial Sex Crimes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Human Trafficking - Involuntary Servitude	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Identity Theft/Impersonation	0	0	0	39	26	38	103
Incest	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Intimidation	21	32	22	24	5	24	128
Liquor Laws	15	14	29	24	33	44	159
Manslaughter - Negligent	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
OVI	114	93	67	105	90	128	597
Peeping Tom	0	0	0	0	1	2	3
Pornography/Obscene Material	0	0	0	3	3	6	12
Prostitution	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Prostitution - Assisting or Promoting	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Prostitution - Purchasing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rape - Statutory	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Runaways (Under 18)	1	4	1	3	0	0	9
Sex Offenses	1	1	1	0	0	1	4
Sports Tampering	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Stolen Property; buying; receiving; possessing	8	7	11	6	6	4	42
Tampering with Evidence	1	1	1	0	0	0	3
Trespass of Real Property	8	20	12	17	6	9	72
Vandalism/Criminal Damaging	34	29	35	49	23	26	196
Weapons; Carrying; Possessing, etc.	9	5	6	7	23	14	65



Arrests

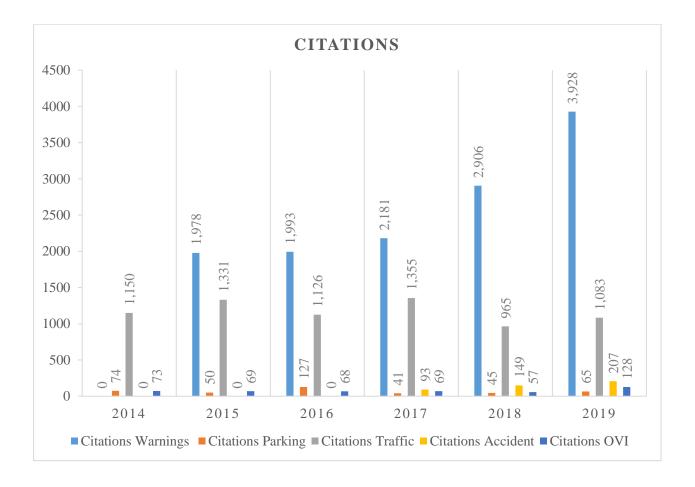
The New Albany Police Department investigates criminal offenses to the fullest extent possible. When a suspect can be identified, it is our policy to file the appropriate criminal charges. Common felony arrests include: Breaking and Entering, Domestic Violence, Drug Possession, OVI (3 or more priors), and Receiving Stolen Property. Common misdemeanor arrests include Assault, Driving under Suspension, Menacing, OVI (1st or 2nd), Theft, and Drug Abuse/Paraphernalia. A breakdown of both adult and juvenile felony and misdemeanor arrests for the past several years is as follows:





Citations

The New Albany Police Department issues both citations and warning to motorists who are observed violating traffic laws within New Albany. Warnings are often issues for minor moving violations, equipment violations and parking violations. When investigating traffic crashes, it is the policy of the department to issue a traffic citation(s) to the at-fault driver. The department also takes an aggressive stance against drunk driving in an effort to minimize the loss of property and life within our community. A breakdown of warnings and the different citations issued are depicted in the chart below.

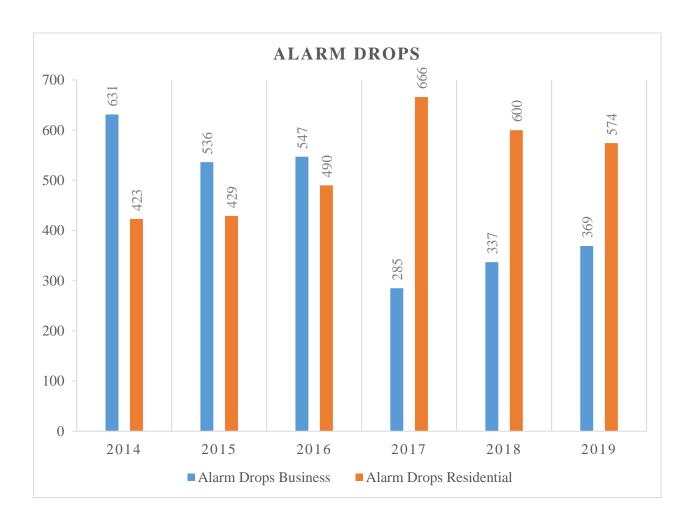


*Please note: "0" indicates data is not available. The department implemented a new records management system in 2017, which is why data is unavailable.



Alarm Drops

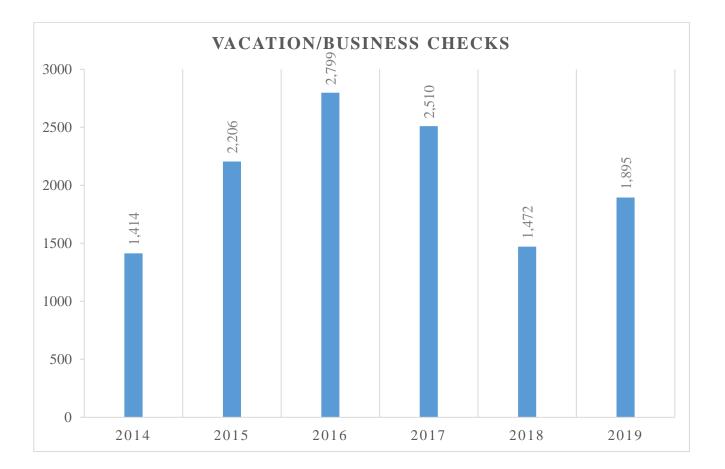
The New Albany Police Department responds to all residential and business alarms that are received by the communication center. Pursuant to Codified Ordinance 705.02, an alarm permit is required for each residential and business alarm located in New Albany. In an effort to prevent habitual false alarms, the city charges a fee for excessive false alarms (after 3) occurrences in one calendar year. Additional information can be found by calling or visiting our website.





Vacation/Business Checks

A resident or business can contact the department to request a vacation check by calling or visiting the website to fill out the form. A breakdown of vacation and business checks completed by officers is depicted in the chart below.





Training

Training plays a significant role in the level of professionalism and competency of the New Albany Police Department. The city has consistently dedicated a great deal of funding and resources towards the development of our employees through effective training. By utilizing various training resources, the department continues to progress in many areas within our department, such as investigations, juvenile crimes, crisis response and leadership. Training allows our department to improve the services provided to our community.

