

# KENDALLVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

*"Partners With The Community"*



2016  
ANNUAL REPORT

# KENDALLVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

*"Partners With The Community"*

W. SuzAnne Handshoe  
Mayor

234 South Main Street  
Kendallville, IN 46755

Robyn A. Wiley  
Chief of Police

January 16, 2017

TO: W. SuzAnne Handshoe, Mayor  
Kendallville City Council Members  
Citizens of Kendallville

FROM: Robyn A. Wiley  
Chief of Police

RE: Kendallville Police Department 2016 Year Summary Report

The following report summarizes the activities of the Kendallville Police Department (KPD) and the crime related statistics for 2016. The year saw an increase of 21 reported crimes compared to the previous three year (2013, 2014, 2015) average. The year saw decreases in the number of thefts, physical battery, criminal mischief, drug offenses, and alcohol offenses. There were increases in burglary, domestic battery, and disorderly conduct. Driving Under the Influence arrests also increased over the three year average. The year also saw the hiring of three new Officers, the loss of one experienced Officer, and three KPD Officers graduating from advanced leadership training courses.

The Department continued its emphasis on training KPD Officers and Supervisors through advanced courses in management, leadership, tactical skills, de-escalation and proper use of force, and evidence collection. Providing the most current training is a significant part of the foundation of a professional organization and the Department's goal is to increase the quality and quantity received by our Officers in this and other critical areas at every opportunity, using both on-line and hands-on training.

The year 2016 was a time when the Police Department continued with its efforts to increase the amount of, and improved the quality of, the technology available to our Officers and Dispatchers. Improvements were made to the computer capabilities of the 800MHZ communications system which in turn makes the system more reliable and efficient to meet the needs of the Officers on the street. New I Phones were distributed to all Officers to improve the Department's ability to distribute data, photos, and other information to Officers when they are out of their patrol vehicles and away from their in-car computers.

The Officers and Communications Dispatchers of the Kendallville Police Department are confronted every day with situations that require them to make split-second decisions and to analyze high-stress problems to find the appropriate solution. Today's Police Officer is required to be a combination of creative problem solver, lawyer, mentor, counselor, medic, arbitrator, guardian, and sometimes warrior. They must remain always aware of the legal, constitutional, and safety issues involved as they respond to each situation. The Kendallville Police Department has a responsibility to do everything possible to provide our personnel with the training, information, and equipment they need to serve and protect the citizens of our City. The Kendallville Police Department and its men and women work hard to be "Partners With The Community".

### **CALLS FOR SERVICE**

During 2016 there were 21,170 Calls For Service received by the Kendallville Police Department, an average of 58 per day. This is a decrease of 1,423 Calls For Service from 2015 (down 4 calls per day).

### **REPORTED CRIME**

The number of reported crimes during 2016 was 1036, an increase of 21 over the previous three-year average. This is equal to an increase of 1.75 crimes per month. The 1036 reported crimes equates to 2.8 per day, or 86 per month. The total of reported crimes consists of those crimes reported by individual citizens, businesses, criminal and truancy-related violations reported by the School Resource Officers, and criminal cases (including drug and alcohol violations) initiated by KPD Officers.

Reductions were seen in the number of Thefts (223, down 29 from three-year average), Battery (45, down 33), Criminal Mischief (76, down 4), Drug Offenses (147, down 24), and Miscellaneous Alcohol Offenses (50, down 29).

Increases were recorded in Burglary (22, up 1 over three-year average), Domestic Battery (33, up 11), and Disorderly Conduct (30, up 3).

#### **Thefts/Burglary**

One prevalent theme in both thefts and burglaries is the failure of citizens to lock their residences and their vehicles to deter criminals from successfully accomplishing the criminal act. The Kendallville Police Department strongly encourages citizens to lock both their homes and vehicles when left unattended.

#### **Drug/Alcohol**

During 2016 there were 147 overall drug arrests, down 24 from the three-year average. Sixty-four of the arrests were for Meth-related offenses (up 15) and eighty-three for various other illegal substances. There were 72 charges filed for Possession of Paraphernalia (up 26).

There were 50 alcohol-related offenses filed in 2016, down 29 from the three-year average.

### **ARRESTS / WARRANT SERVICE**

During 2016 Kendallville Police Officers arrested 437 individuals on 571 charges related to reported crimes. 114 individuals were located and arrested on active warrants.

### **TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT**

In 2016 Kendallville Officers issued 552 traffic citations and 1,909 traffic warnings. The citations issued in 2016 were a decrease of 79 from 2015. The warnings issued in 2016 were an increase of 7 over 2015. There were 70 Driving Under the Influence arrests during 2016.

Kendallville Officers investigated 88 Personal Injury accidents and 400 Property Damage accidents. There was 1 fatal accident that occurred during 2016.

During 2016 KPD Officers participated in the following Federal and state grant traffic projects; Operation Pullover and Driving Under the Influence Patrol.

**MISCELLANEOUS CALL RESPONSES**

The following are a listing of the number of responses made by KPD Officers to selected call types during 2016.

Dog Complaints	296
Domestic Disturbances	142
Suspicious Activities	896
False Alarms	294
Handgun Lic. Permits	252
Death Inv. (non-criminal)	15
Request to Dispatch for EMS	841

**DEPARTMENT PROGRAMS and ACTIVITIES**

During 2016 the Police Department was involved in several new and ongoing programs and activities designed to promote safety in the community and to promote professionalism within the Department. Through these efforts we strive to reduce the threat of crime to our citizens and elevate the knowledge and capabilities of our personnel.

**Code Enforcement:** The Code Enforcement Officer position, which became fully functional in 2013, had its third full year of operation during 2016. The Code Enforcement Officer (CEO) is a part-time civilian position that is contained within the organizational structure of the Police Department. This position is responsible for enforcing City ordinances, with an emphasis on quality of life issues, including complaints regarding trash and rubbish, tall grass, abandoned vehicles, and substandard/blighted housing and business facilities. The CEO works in conjunction with the Kendallville City Attorney and the City Building Inspector to identify substandard housing and to then use the appropriate ordinances and laws to assure that the properties are brought up to code or demolished.

Abandoned property or substandard housing has been shown to contribute to criminal activity by providing areas where criminals feel comfortable in committing illegal acts because they believe it is an area that the community doesn't care enough about to keep in repair. One of the goals of the Code Enforcement Program is to bring these areas of disrepair up to a standard that shows the community is concerned and willing to fight against criminal activity. KPD is committed to working with the community members to improve every part of our City.

During 2016 there were 158 Violation Notice Letters delivered; 89 for grass/weeds, 42 for rubbish, 8 for abandoned vehicles, 3 for garbage container violations, and 1 for animal neglect. One-hundred fifty three (97%) of the violations for which notice letters were issued were corrected. There were 12 Violation Notice Letters delivered for substandard housing issues during the year.

**CRISIS INTERVENTION TEAM (C.I.T.):** During 2016 KPD Officers continued using the C.I.T. training which deals with individuals suffering from a mental illness / drug crisis. Kendallville Officers conducted 96 C.I.T. evaluations during the year. They responded to 94 requests to assist individuals in Mental Crisis, 65 Suicide Threats, 14 Attempted Suicides, and 2 Suicides. Through the C.I.T. Program the Police Department works closely with mental health providers (Northeastern Center, Parkview Behavioral, and Bowen Center), Parkview Noble Hospital, and other social service agencies to provide the best response and service possible for those individuals in need. This training provides our Officers with better insight into the individual suffering a mental health crisis and how to keep them calm and focused on receiving help.

**LETHALITY ASSESSMENT PROGRAM:** The Kendallville Police Department remains focused on providing protection and direct assistance to those individuals who are victims of domestic violence in our community. During 2016 the Department investigated 33 domestic violence situations where the victim was provided the information and offered support from the Lethality Assessment Program. In 2015 KPD entered into a cooperative program with the Indiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence and the Northeast Indiana YWCA to participate in the Lethality Assessment Program. This program, based on a national model, is designed to provide assistance and viable options to domestic violence victims while they are still at the scene. Victims are connected, while at the crime scene, via cell phone to trained advocates at the Northeast Indiana YWCA Women's Shelter who discuss the victim's current situation and options for protecting themselves and their children. Victims are offered assistance at a local women's shelter and a ride (if needed) to the shelter and other assistance by Kendallville Officers.

**WE CAN HELP DRUG ASSISTANCE PROGRAM:** In 2016 the Kendallville Police Department and the Northeastern Center jointly began the We Can Help program to assist those individuals in our community suffering an alcohol addiction, drug addiction, or a combination of the two. The program is not an alternative to arrest, but an opportunity for those that Kendallville Police Officers come in contact with in a non-enforcement manner to receive immediate assistance from the Northeastern Center for their addiction. Officers who make contact with an individual suffering an addiction who is seeking help is put in telephone contact with a Northeastern Center counselor. The counselor will then make arrangements with the individual to meet at that time to immediately start an in-patient program or other appropriate assistance. The goal of the program is to provide immediate help to those individuals who are ready to accept assistance to fight their addiction.

**FIREARMS / PHYSICAL TACTICS TRAINING PROGRAM:** In 2016 the Department continued its efforts to provide state-of-the-art training to its Officers through the use of the department's Digital Firearms Simulator System and hands-on physical tactics training. The simulator system allows Officers to react to life-like scenarios while practicing their responses to use-of-force and shoot-don't shoot situations. The training requires the Officers to analyze developing reality-based encounters, use verbal/listening skills, determine the appropriate response, and to then implement de-escalation techniques, physical tactics, less-lethal force, or lethal force to resolve the incident. This training allows the Department to integrate de-escalation techniques and physical tactics into our firearms training to provide Officers with a full continuum of potential responses so that the training is as real-life as possible.

**LEXIPOL / POLICE ONE ON-LINE INFORMATION SOURCES FOR OFFICERS:** The implementation of two new information sources for KPD Officers began in 2016 and will increase in importance during 2017.

Lexipol is the Standard Operating Procedures management program now being used by the Kendallville Police Department. Lexipol helped develop new operating procedures for the Department and will continually review and update the policies and procedures to assure they are compliant with the most current court rulings, state and Federal laws, and best practices from across the United States and beyond. In today's world it is imperative that public safety organizations constantly review their methods of performing their duties and assure that their actions are in step with legal and constitutional requirements.

PoliceOne on-line is a training resource that allows Officers to complete video-based training while on their regular shift, at their own pace, and following curriculum chosen by the Department training personnel. Officers have exposure to a broad spectrum of training at a significant savings in time and cost.

**COUNTY-WIDE MULTI-AGENCY EFFORTS:** During 2016 the Kendallville Police Department was active in several multi-agency programs directed at impacting community issues, including; Drug Free Noble County, Noble County Drug Court, Noble County Community Corrections, Noble County School Safety Committee, and the Noble County Sexual Assault Response Team.

**POLICE EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP ACADEMY:** During 2016 SRO/Sergeant John Dixon attended and graduated from the Indiana Association of Chiefs of Police Leadership Academy program and Corporal Nathaniel Stahl and Corporal Matthew Gillison attended and graduated from the PELA Basic Police Leadership Course. These leadership and management training programs consist of 160 hours and 40 hours respectively of extensive classroom work. Each session concentrates on key areas of knowledge necessary to successfully lead and manage a criminal justice agency. The training is directed at preparing officers for future supervisory and administrative assignments that they may undertake and to enhance their overall leadership abilities.

**SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER PROGRAM:** Sgt. John Dixon and Sgt. Chris Shearer continued to provide security, mentoring and positive role models for the East Noble High School, Kendallville Middle School, along with North Side and Southside elementary schools.

The School Resource Officer Program, now in its ninth year, has been tremendously valuable to both the school and the Police Department in providing an atmosphere more conducive to learning, deterring crime, and allowing KPD Officers and students to develop a better understanding of each other.

**CRIME PREVENTION AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS:** In 2016 the Department continued its efforts to provide information to the citizens of Kendallville that would assist them in reducing their risk of becoming victims of crime. The Kendallville Police Department website and Facebook page provide information on how citizens can prevent property theft, identity theft, personal violence, and other types of crime. The Department assists with the Officer Phil Safety Program which is presented at local elementary schools to teach children safety lessons they can use during the school year and their summer vacations. KPD also provides drug prevention and safety booklets to community groups and school children during presentations by Officers in the community.

**COMMUNITY WALK and TALK PROGRAM:** Beginning in 2016 and scheduled to continue through 2017 the Kendallville Police Department has conducted a Walk and Talk program that involves the Chief of Police and various supervisors walking the neighborhoods of Kendallville and stopping at residences to talk with the citizens living there. We hope each citizen contacted will provide insight into what they may have concerns about and what things going on in the City are having a positive impact. The Department will then use the information to help determine the priorities and programs to be emphasized during the coming year and for long-term strategies.

**BUSINESS CRIME PREVENTION:** In 2016 the Kendallville Police Department conducted security and critical incident response planning with several businesses in the community, including Kraft-Heinz, Horizon Bank, Graphic Packaging, and LSC Communications. These cooperative security reviews and planning sessions allow for a more effective response to critical incidents by both KPD and the business itself.

**ASSIST WITH COMMUNITY EVENTS:** During 2016 Officers of the Department provided traffic direction and security at the following community events; 4<sup>th</sup> of July Fireworks/Philharmonic Concert, 4H Fair Parade, KPC Triathlon, Downtown Car Show, Kid City, Light the Night, Apple Festival, Halloween Patrol, and the Kendallville Holiday Parade.

The Kendallville Police Department is dedicated to collaborating with the citizens of our City, civic groups, private sector organizations, and other criminal justice agencies in an effort to reduce crime, assure highway safety, protect individual rights, and develop partnerships with those who visit and live in Kendallville.

Respectfully submitted,

Robyn A. Wiley  
Chief of Police