

# 2019 ANNUAL REPORT



BATH TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

CHIEF LYLE LINDEMULDER

# **Annual Report 2019**

## **MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF**

As with most police departments, there are years that can be more difficult than others. 2019 was one of those trying years. But in law enforcement, and in fact life in general, you hope to learn from every experience you weather. The department was short on personnel two different times during the year. Our Officers were very busy with everyday calls as well as investigations and succeeded in keeping the Index crime rate the same as last year.

Our Administrative Assistant Kristi was very busy during 2019. She processed over 270 pistol permits, countless sex offender registries and nearly 100 freedom of information requests. This along with normal business of police reports and processing paperwork for courts, prosecutors and the township attorney.

The Officers and command staff were able to attend more than 13 different and unique trainings during 2019. These classes were in addition to the department wide training that we complete on an annual or semi-annual basis.

We were not able to apply for a community policing grant as the grants have been on hold while a law suit gets settled at the federal level. However, in early 2020 the grants have opened up and the department submitted the COPS grant application in early March.

Within this report you will see the numbers of all major and minor crimes along with traffic enforcement and traffic accidents. Major crimes within the township have stayed nearly the same as in 2018. Also included is the total number of calls for service the department received for the last five years. The total number of incidents for the department recorded by our computer aided dispatch are down by about 1500 calls. I would attribute that to a decreased level of self-initiated activity due to being down three officers several times this past year.

Some 2020 goals for the department will be purging old records, a County wide active violence policy and direction on the new County wide radio system that will need to be implemented by the end of 2021.

As always, I want to give acknowledgment to the front-line Officers who are out there every day protecting our community. They put their lives on the line when needed most to make sure our community is safe and comfortable to live in or visit.

Chief Lyle Lindemulder  
Bath Charter Township, Michigan

## **BATH TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT STAFF—2019**

### **“TO PROTECT AND SERVE”**

<b>Chief Lyle Lindemulder</b>	<b>November 1989 Chief October 2017</b>
<b>Lieutenant Gary Smith</b>	<b>May-Oct 1993 March 1996 Lt. 2018</b>
<b>Sergeant Matt Mardigian</b>	<b>March 2002 Sgt. 2012</b>
<b>Sergeant Christopher Hamilton</b>	<b>February 2005 Sgt. 2018</b>
<b>Officer Thomas Decker</b>	<b>December 2000</b>
<b>Officer Michael Lapham K9 Partner Aiko</b>	<b>January 2007 March 2014</b>
<b>Officer Greg Welch</b>	<b>January 1995-2005 January 2010</b>
<b>Officer Marcus Siedelberg</b>	<b>November 2012</b>
<b>Officer Bryan Miller</b>	<b>February 2013</b>
<b>Officer Avery Lyon</b>	<b>February 2015</b>
<b>Officer Trenton Bailey</b>	<b>May 2015</b>
<b>Officer Payton Warner</b>	<b>January 2018</b>
<b>Reserve Officer Clifford “Kip” Harman</b>	<b>January 1986</b>
<b>Reserve Officer John Moe</b>	<b>June 2013</b>
<b>Reserve Officer Lenny Thayer</b>	<b>January 2018</b>
<b>Administrative Assistant Kristi Colby</b>	<b>June 2002</b>

## 2019 CRIME REPORT

### PART I: SERIOUS FELONY CRIMES

Bath Charter Township has continued to grow and change in population. Population increases directly relate to the number of dangerous and serious felony crimes that are committed in an area. Bath Township Police vigorously patrol areas that have experienced high growth rates in an effort to keep crime rates in check. This year the Index crime rates have slightly decreased.

#### **INDEX CRIMES REQUIRING A WRITTEN REPORT**

<b>CRIMINAL ACTIVITY</b>	
Murder/Manslaughter	<b>0</b>
Criminal Sexual Conduct	<b>13</b>
Robbery	<b>0</b>
Burglary	<b>17</b>
Larceny	<b>71</b>
UDAA (stolen vehicle)	<b>13</b>
Arson	<b>0</b>
Aggravated Assault	<b>6</b>
<b>TOTAL INDEX CRIME REPORTS</b>	<b>120</b>

## **PART II: CRIMES AND OTHER OFFENSES (LESS SERIOUS)**

Part II Crimes are usually classified as misdemeanors. However, felony exceptions may occur based upon:

- Value of items
- Amount of cash involved
- Number of prior convictions pertaining to a certain offense

Vigorous enforcement of these types of crimes has a tremendous impact on keeping the local non-index crime rate low.

### **NON-INDEX CRIMES REQUIRING A WRITTEN REPORT**

<b>CRIMINAL ACTIVITY</b>	
Negligence Causing Death	0
Non-Aggravated Assault	37
Fraudulent Activities (including Retail Fraud)	68
Stolen Property Possession	0
Damage to Property	25
Weapons Offenses	6
Prostitution & Vice	0
Drug Laws	3
OWI (Drunk Driving)	20
Public Peace/Disorderly Conduct	9

## **PART III: OTHER OFFENSES**

### **OTHER OFFENSES REQUIRING A POLICE RESPONSE**

<b>CRIMINAL ACTIVITY</b>	
Warrant Arrest	93
DWLS (Suspended License)	51
Hit and Run	21
Trespassing	3
Stalking/ Intimidation	3
Family Abuse/ Neglect	8
Suicides (& attempts)	2
Death Investigations	6
Missing Persons/Runaways	5
Assist Other Agencies	5
Obstruction Police/Justice	8
Lost & Found Property	13
Alarms	136
Abandoned Vehicles	41

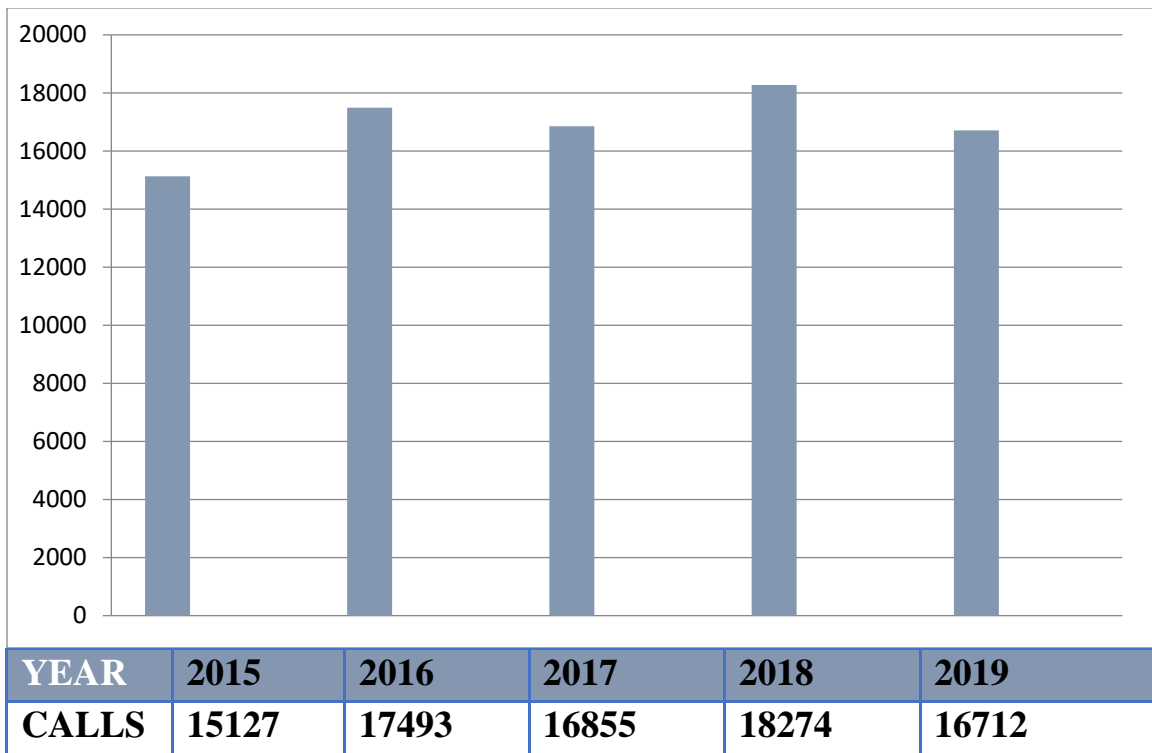
## **PART IV: ANNUAL TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT**

<b>WARNINGS</b>	<b>1712</b>
<b>CITATIONS</b>	<b>400</b>

## **PART V: TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS**

<b>PROPERTY DAMAGE ACC.</b>	<b>192</b>
<b>INJURY ACCIDENTS</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>FATALS</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>238</b>

## **PART VI: ANNUAL COMPLAINT (INCIDENT) CALLS**



## **2019 DEPARTMENT TRAINING**

All Bath Township Police officers participated in annual training including:

- Active Violent Incident (AVI) Training (during Firearms)
- Defensive Tactics Training (instructed by Sgt. Hamilton)
- Firearms Proficiency (instructed by Sgt. Mardigian)
- Legal Updates
- Blood/Airborne Pathogens (instructed by Officer Welch)
- HazMat Training

The following classes for specialized training were attended to by one or more Officers:

<b>COURSE:</b>
Property and Evidence Management
Stress Management in Law Enforcement
Fire Fatality Investigation
Crisis Intervention
Advanced DNA Evidence Topics
Active Assailant Class
Michigan Tactical Officers workshop
K-9 Re-Certification
Detective/Criminal Investigations
Hiding in Plain Sight
Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement
Salvage Vehicle Inspector Refresher
Child Death Scene Investigations

### ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT CONTINUING EDUCATION:

Bath Police Administrative Secretary processed 272 pistol sales records and purchase permits. She also attended the following: Pistol Permit Disqualifiers, Michigan FOIA (by Attorney General Staff), MSP MICR (Michigan Crime Reporting) Training Renewal, Spread sheets, and Police Records Retention Guidelines in 2019.

Did you know?? Our front lobby has a phone that contacts Clinton County Central Dispatch. That lobby is open 24/7 to assist the public with police contact when the office is closed. Our inner office lobby (open only when office is) has a medicine disposal box. This is to help keep unused medicine off the street, out of little hands and out of our water table.

## COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Bath Township Police completed **5184** Property and Business Checks. Homeowners register property/vacation checks with the us and officers patrol it until the residents return. Officers check businesses regularly during their patrol to ensure doors and or gates are secured.

Community Policing had over **204** entries and include items such as parade road blocks, Bath Days Festival, Park Lake Summer Solstice, Neighborhood Watch gatherings, Girl/Boy Scouting discussions, Bath Library events, and many school functions. These help to enhance police and community relations and our officers enjoy interaction with the residents.

Bath Parks and Recreation hosted a public birthday celebration for our K-9 Officer Aiko. It was held on a Farmer's Market Day, with lots of fun things to do. It was nice to see three Bath Township Departments together under one roof. BTPD also had a police car with a trunk full of candy and glow sticks for the annual Halloween "Trunk and Treat" event. Chief Lindemulder and Lt. Smith handed out over 500!

The Department is also very busy with community events during the holidays such as Shop with a Hero. Bath Police and Bath Fire team up with Meijer of Bath Township to Christmas shop with local school children. We also participate with Clinton County Sheriff's Department Shop with a Cop, held in St. Johns.

We participate in "Fill a Cop Car" with other area Police agencies. We gather community donated groceries to then give to the local Bath food bank. Old Newsboys is another fun yearly event that we participate in. Several officers gather donations for a spoof Lansing State Journal. One hundred percent of the money donated goes to buy shoes, boots and sox for local area needy children, many of whom live in our township/county.

We also send officers to help box and deliver baskets for "No Senior Citizen without a Christmas". Several area seniors received one, sponsored by TRIAD. Another worthwhile event is the Bath High School "Teacher Lock up", which raises funds to help local families. We even had two Officers paddle a cardboard boat in the annual Park Lake Solstice gathering. Bath Schools Science class put a lot of hard work into putting the boat together for us.

**Other Police Services:** A **Neighborhood Watch** email goes out weekly to hundreds of residents as well as block captains. It is informational on police activity and alerts to crime and potential local scams. Officer Siedelberg is trained in **salvage vehicle inspections**. Officer Siedelberg completed **41** inspections in 2019. There are very few officers in our area trained to do inspections for the public. Sgt. Matt Mardigian is the Team Commander of the **Clinton County Special Operations Team** with Sgt. Chris Hamilton as Co-Commander. Reserve Off. Kip Harman is the sole Clinton County representative on the **Tri-County Dive Team**.

In 2019 we began having a **Clinton County RESA high school student "ride along"** with an officer on Thursday afternoons. These are local students training to hopefully become police officers one day. It is a wonderful program and is so important to bring in interested youth in this ever-changing dangerous line of work. We are proud to be a part of this collaboration.



## COMMUNITY RELATIONS

BATH LIBRARY



READING EVENT

BACK THE BLUE



FOOD TRUCK RALLY



TRUNK & TREAT



BATH TUB RACE BTPD WINNERS!!

ANNUAL "SHOP WITH A HERO" AT MEIJER





## **BATH TOWNSHIP POLICE FACEBOOK**

Once again, we had a very active Facebook year. Officers Lapham, Lyon and Bailey put together the posts. Our page is followed by thousands of people, both local and afar. It is beneficial in solving crimes as well as disseminating information to the public such as road and weather conditions. We also use it for public awareness items like local scams and area crime spree. Frequently we list information for substance or domestic abuse assistance for those who need it, or have loved ones struggling with it.

We have an ongoing fun “rivalry” with East Lansing Police, and both departments routinely post humorous “jabs” at one another. Often times, our officers have to interact with other departments on dangerous and/or unpleasant scenes. This is one small way to promote a brotherhood/sisterhood with other area departments with a positive spin. On occasion, we will even throw a joke or two to our great BTFD Fire Fighters. When people are looking to see the fun posts, we get to use that to our advantage to get the word out for things we need assistance with. Many of the posts are done by the three officers when they are not even on duty. They are very committed to making sure our Facebook stays relevant and informative.

Our local media outlets call on a very regular basis requesting knowledge, comment or opinions from Bath Township Police due to postings they have seen on the department’s page. Our department has benefited from developing a good relationship with our local Lansing area news providers.

It has proven to be a wonderful way to communicate with not only our township residents, but those we may never meet or have the chance to visit our community.

Some of the best Facebook success stories involve lost and found pets. Quite often BTPD Officers come across a wandering pet and post a picture on our Facebook page. Most times we are fortunate and the pets are reunited with their human family shortly, thanks to the help of our residents.

We consistently get contacted from Police Departments all over for advice on how to start and manage their own Facebook Page. Many look at ours as a good example of combining public relations, crime awareness, and the humanization of Police Officers. It is a great way for the public to communicate and feel connected with our Officers (and vice versa of course). It is a benefit we continue to appreciate on a daily basis.

## K-9 AIKO

Aiko was voted “Best Law Enforcement Officer” in a public vote sponsored by readers of a Lansing area newspaper. He and his handler, Officer Mike Lapham, were very honored for the distinction. Bath Township Police are very proud of him and the work/training he accomplishes.



In addition to many calls for assistance by Bath Township Officers and agencies within Clinton County, Officer Aiko and his handler Officer Mike Lapham, assisted agencies in Ingham County, Shiawassee County and Eaton County with various requests. These include narcotics detection and seizures, tracking suspects and missing persons including several requests for assistance in locating missing children and searching structures for suspects hiding inside. Officer Aiko has assisted with several apprehensions of suspects in the area. They are also routinely called to assist Bath Schools with numerous sweeps for narcotics.



## **2019 INVESTIGATION HIGHLIGHTS**

### **CRIMINAL SEXUAL CONDUCT (CSC):**

Bath Township Police investigated numerous sexual assault complaints in 2019. Juvenile victims were interviewed with the assistance from the Voice for Clinton County's Children Child Advocacy Center (CAC) in St Johns where a certified forensic interviewer talks to them using state mandated protocol. The CAC uses a collaborative approach to helping the children with assistance from law enforcement, the prosecutor's office, victim advocates, and the Department of Health and Human Services. The success of the sexual assault investigations is attributed to the collaborative effort.

The four most notable sexual assault investigations of 2019 resulted in serious prison time for the offenders. On 03/04/19, Wei Dong was sentenced to 5-15 years in prison after 2018 jury trial where he was found guilty on (2) counts of CSC in the 3<sup>rd</sup> degree. George Burns and Michael Cantwell both agreed to plea deals instead of taking their cases to trial. On 06/10/19, Cantwell was sentenced to 25-50 years for CSC in the 1<sup>st</sup> degree. On 09/30/19, Burns was sentenced to 4-6 year for Accosting a Child for Immoral Purposes and 14-22 years for CSC 3<sup>rd</sup> degree. On 09/16/19, a jury found Sonny Broskey guilty on all (5) counts of CSC in the 1<sup>st</sup> degree for acts committed against a juvenile victim while he lived in Bath Township in 2011. Broskey, 42 years old, will be spending the next 50-90 years in prison.

### **RETAIL FRAUDS (SHOPLIFTING):**

Bath Township Police had an increase in Retail Fraud reports in 2019, primarily occurring at the Bath Township Meijer. Bath Township Police maintain an outstanding working relationship with Meijer store detectives whom provide surveillance, identify offenders, and provide their reports to assist with the criminal investigations.

08/12/19, Bath Township police were dispatched to Meijer where a retail fraud suspect had fled the store on foot. With the assistance of citizen witnesses, Officer Decker, Detective Miller, and Officer Lapham with K9 Officer Aiko, were able to locate and arrest the offender, John Ansley, who had fled to a nearby apartment in Willow Lakes. After further investigation it was discovered that the apartment belonged to a newly hired Meijer store employee who was also a recent retail fraud suspect. Arrest and search warrants were obtained for the apartment which yielded property recently stolen from the Bath Township Meijer. Interviews of the suspects involved revealed an organized retail fraud ring. The Willow Lakes resident, Ester Gemalsky, would load shopping carts full of valuable items for others to come in and push out of the store without paying. Her boyfriend, Curtis Eldridge, as well as John Ansley, would quickly remove the stolen merchandise from store property. According to confessions from the suspects, the items were then routinely and quickly sold for cash and/or drugs.

Ester Gemalsky plead guilty to (2) counts of Attempted Organized Retail Crime and will serve a minimum of 270 days in jail. Curtis Eldridge plead guilty to (1) count of Organized Retail Crime and is serving a minimum of 300 days in jail. John Ansley plead guilty to Retail Fraud in the 1<sup>st</sup> Degree with a minimum of 12 months jail time.

**EMBEZZLEMENT:**

On 04/22/19, several employees of Timber Ridge Assisted Living reported missing personal items from secured offices as well as cash missing from the company safe. Detective Miller and Officer Lapham worked together on the case to interview all potential suspects. During the investigation, officers found several inconsistencies in the statements made by Michael Feldpausch, a Timber Ridge maintenance worker. It was also discovered that Feldpausch had been using the company credit card to make unauthorized purchases. Surveillance video was gathered from local stores to prove that Feldpausch was indeed the one making the purchases although he claimed it was a reoccurring “mistake” made by his daughter.

After being arrested on his warrant, Feldpausch finally admitted that his conduct was wrong and later plead guilty. He served 30 days in jail and is due to pay restitution to Timber Ridge Assisted Living and the employees involved.

On 05/01/19, Central State Community Services, a parent company for the State Road Adult Foster Care Group Home, reported funds missing from the safe. After investigation, it was found that employee Amanda Abbott was using previous purchase receipts and altering the date to falsely report patient/resident purchases to the parent company. Abbott would then pocket the money from the false reports. The total amount embezzled was approximately \$7,400.

After being arrested for the crime, Abbott plead no contest and agreed to pay restitution and served a 180-day jail sentence.

**2018 HOMICIDE:**

On 11/16/2018, the family of Chong Moua Yang went looking for him after he did not return from hunting after dusk. He was found fatally shot in a remote part of the Rose Lake State game hunting area near the 8500 block of E Clark Road. A backpack Yang was known to carry and his firearm were not recovered at the scene. Bath Township Police continue to work with the family and track down all potential leads and utilize the Michigan State Police Laboratory to examine all possible evidence. This investigation is ongoing as all tips are being investigated.