

# POLICE DEPARTMENT



Lyle Lindemulder, Chief

# MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

2020 has been a year like no other in our history. The year of a pandemic has changed the way that we do law enforcement. Our Officers have become very creative in ways to have minimal contact with the public, but still be able to serve our citizens without getting sick. I can say we had very good luck in keeping our department safe and free from widespread Covid 19.

With the above in mind, 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 dropped slightly from 2019. 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 1600 calls. I would attribute that to a decreased level of self-initiated activity due to the pandemic. Our traffic warnings and citations were down by more than the 1600 alone. This was not just our department, all departments in the area were down by similar amounts in order to keep Officers on the road and able to respond to critical calls.

Although the Administrative Office was closed for parts of the year, our Administrative Assistant Kristi was very busy during 2020. She still processed over 350 pistol permits, countless sex offender registries and nearly 100 freedom of information requests. Kristi was able to still get out the neighborhood watch email on a regular basis.

With most of the in-person training cancelled this year, the Officers and command staff were still able to attend more than 8 different and unique trainings during 2020. These classes were in addition to the department wide training that we complete on an annual or semi-annual basis. We also added Web training that was very helpful in keeping the department up to date on many different current training issues.

We were able to apply for a community policing grant in 2020. However, we learned in the middle of the year that we were not chosen to receive the grant.

This year I would like to give a huge thank you to Officer Decker's daughter Christina "Nina". Nina took the time out of her high school senior year to draw our cover for this year's Annual Report. The realistic drawing is the front of our building with an Officer wearing a mask. Nina is a very talented artist and we wish her luck in future endeavors.

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.

# BATH TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT STAFF—2020 "TO PROTECT AND SERVE"

Chief Lyle Lindemulder November 1989

**Chief October 2017** 

Lieutenant Gary Smith May-Oct 1993

March 1996 LT: 2018

Sergeant Matt Mardigian March 2002

Sgt. 2012

Sergeant Christopher Hamilton February 2005

Sgt. 2018

Officer Thomas Decker December 2000

Officer Michael Lapham January 2007

K9 Partner Aiko March 2014

Officer Greg Welch January 1995-2005

January 2010

Officer Marcus Siedelberg November 2012

Officer Bryan Miller February 2013

Officer Avery Lyon February 2015 (resigned Oct. 2020)

Officer Trenton Bailey May 2015

Officer Payton Warner January 2018 (resigned August 2020)

Officer Matt Heffelfinger December 2020

Officer Bradley Bailey December 2020

Administrative Assistant Kristi Colby June 2002

Reserve Officer Clifford "Kip" Harman

Reserve Officer John Moe

Reserve Officer Lenny Thayer

**January 1986 June 2013** 

January 2018

# **2020 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.

### INDEX CRIMES REQUIRING A WRITTEN REPORT

CRIMINAL ACTIVITY	
Murder/Manslaughter	0
Criminal Sexual Conduct	8
Robbery	2
Burglary	18
Larceny	64
UDAA (stolen vehicle)	11
Arson	1
Aggravated Assault	2
TOTAL INDEX CRIME REPORTS	106

### 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

CRIMINAL ACTIVITY	
Negligence Causing Death	0
Non-Aggravated Assault	35
Fraudulent Activities (including Retail Fraud)	40
Stolen Property Possession	2
Damage to Property	23
Weapons Offenses	7
Prostitution & Vice	0
Drug Laws	8
OWI (Drunk Driving)	20
Public Peace/Disorderly Conduct	3

# **PART III: OTHER OFFENSES**

### OTHER OFFENSES REQUIRING A POLICE RESPONSE

CRIMINAL ACTIVITY	
Warrant Arrest	19
DWLS (Suspended License)	16
Hit and Run	20
Trespassing	1
Stalking/ Intimidation	2
Family Abuse/ Neglect	5
Suicidal Subject **	0
Death Investigations	11
Missing Persons & Runaways	16
Assist Other Agencies	5
Obstruction Police/Justice	4
Lost & Found Property	14
Alarms	91
Abandoned Vehicles	57

<sup>\*</sup>no suicides but 43 calls of suicidal subjects\*

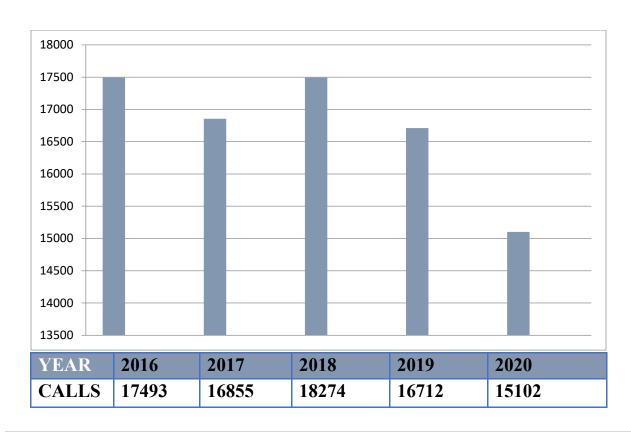
### PART IV: ANNUAL TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT

WARNINGS	313
CITATIONS	124

## **PART V: TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS**

PROPERTY DAMAGE	
ACC.	189
INJURY ACCIDENTS	36
FATALS	2
TOTAL	227

# PART VI: ANNUAL COMPLAINT (INCIDENT) CALLS



# **2020 DEPARTMENT TRAINING**

All Bath Township Police officers participated in annual training including:

- Active Violent Incident (AVI) Training
- Defensive Tactics Training
- Firearms Proficiency
- Legal Updates
- Blood/Airborne Pathogens
- HazMat Training
- LEIN Training
- Security Awareness Training
- De-Escalation Training

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

COURSE:	
Grant Writing	
Surviving Verbal Conflict	
Taser Instructor	
Internal Affairs Policies and Practice	
Legally Justified	
Field Training Officer	
TAC Training (Terminal Agency Coordinator) Administrative Assistant	

Firearms Training Day

New MPS Pistol Permit Program —Administrative Assistant



### **COMMUNITY RELATIONS**

Bath Township Police completed <u>6289</u> Property Checks and <u>1633</u> Business Checks. Property Checks consist of citizens registering property/vacation checks with the department. Officers stop at the residence until the date given when the residents return. Business checks are when Officers stop by regularly during their patrol to ensure doors and or gates are secured. If the business is open, the Officer may go in and make contact to see how things are going. Officer completed <u>224</u> Welfare/Wellness Checks. We often receive requests from friends/family members to check on individuals.

This year due to the virus, we did not do most of our normal community relation activities as the majority were cancelled. We did however go to many "Birthday Drive by Parades". It was heartwarming to see our residents trying their best to acknowledge special days for the young and old (we did have a 100 year old that celebrated a birthday) in this very unusual year of 2020.

**Other Police Services:** A Neighborhood Watch email goes out weekly to hundreds of residents as well as community block captains. It informs the public on police activity and alerts them to crime and potential local scams. Bath Police Administrative Secretary processed <u>353</u> pistol sales records and purchase permits.

Officer Siedelberg completed <u>39</u> inspections in 2020. There are very few officers in our area trained to do these inspections for the public. These inspections are mandatory for a crashed vehicle that has been repaired to get back on the road. He usually has a much higher number of inspections, but again due to the virus, they were suspended for the majority of the year.

Sgt. Matt Mardigian was the Team Commander of the Clinton County Special Operations Team for several years (retired from SOT in December 2020). Officer Chris Hamilton now serves as the Team Commander. CCSOT trains monthly to prepare for any call outs they may have throughout the year. Most, if not all of the departments in Clinton County have an Officer representing their jurisdiction on the team.

Did you know?? Our 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.

The Police Department has a brand-new drop box in the Police 24/7 lobby. Pistol sales records, witness statements, etc., can be dropped off at any time there. It is a secure, locked and private way to drop these items off to the Police Department.

### K-9 AIKO

In addition to the numerous 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. Officer Aiko's ability to detect subjects and alert other Officers continues to make him a valuable asset to keeping the community safe and for the safety of the officers working with him. They are also routinely called to assist Bath Schools with numerous sweeps during the school year for narcotics.

Our AIKO K9 "Baseball Card"



### **2020 INVESTIGATION HIGHLIGHTS**

### CRIMINAL SEXUAL CONDUCT (CSC):

Bath Township Police investigated numerous sexual assault complaints in 2020. 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.

Sexual assault investigations involving adults utilize a "victim-centered" approach and rely on evidence collection, in-depth victim, witness, and suspect interviews. Five of the most notable sexual assault complaints from 2020 are awaiting preliminary hearings and/or trial dates.

#### **POSTING A MESSAGE:**

In September 2020, Bath Township Police were advised by the Bath Middle School of Instagram accounts with posts alleging sexual conduct involving Bath middle school students as well as other vulgar content including names of Bath students. Working in conjunction with the school, Officers attempted to contact the family of every student identified in the posts to ensure their health and safety, and see how they were affected by the posts. Search warrants and interviews of those accused uncovered those responsible for the posts. The named students which suffered harassment and/or emotional distress as a result of the posts, lead to the juvenile court adjudication for those responsible. The seamless investigation is credit upon the Bath School system working hand in hand with the police department.

#### ARMED ROBBERY:

In October of 2020, Bath Township Police were dispatched to an Armed Robbery which occurred at the Bath Township Meijer. When confronted by store associates in the parking lot for stealing items from the store, the suspects displayed a handgun and fled the area. Witnesses followed the suspects as they fled to Clark Road and into Dewitt Township. After a short pursuit, Dewitt and Bath Township Police were able to apprehend the suspects. The truck, golf cart, trailer, and handgun found inside the vehicle, had all been previously reported as stolen out of northern Michigan. The suspect's charges included Flee and Elude, Carrying a Concealed Weapon, Possession of Stolen Property, Possession of Narcotics, Resisting and Obstructing Police, and Armed Robbery.

#### **DRUGS & WEAPONS:**

In January of 2020, Bath Township Police began receiving complaints of suspicious behavior within an apartment in the Hawks Ridge complex. Patrol officers were able to identify the problem and concentrated proactive patrols in the area. Multiple arrests were made for Carrying Concealed Weapons, Possession of Methamphetamine, and Possession of Methamphetamine

with Intent to Distribute. The problem tenants were subsequently removed from their apartment by the leasing office.

#### **LARCENY SOLVED WITH PROACTIVE POLICING:**

In December of 2020, Bath Township Police took a report of lumber stolen from a home-build site in Hawk Hollow. Given the nature of the crime there were no immediate leads or evidence available. Due to a proactive traffic stop performed by Sgt Hamilton earlier in December, potential suspects that were in the area of Hawk Hollow with an empty trailer were identified. From the information obtained by Sergeant Hamilton during the traffic stop, Detective Miller was able to interview the suspects and obtain enough evidence to criminally charge a husband and wife with the theft of the lumber from Hawk Hollow. Furthermore, information gained through the investigation was passed along to other police agencies with the potential of other crimes in the area to be solved in East Lansing and Eaton County.

#### *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