

# ERIE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

**PAUL A. SIGSWORTH**  
SHERIFF

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To the citizens of Erie County:

Respectfully submitted for your review is the annual report for your Erie County Sheriff's Office for calendar year 2024.

This report covers in detail the activity generated as we carried out our varied statutory and public service duties and responsibilities throughout the year.

Your Sheriff's Office consists of four divisions: the Patrol Division, comprised of Patrol Deputy Sheriffs, Detectives, and Communications Officers; the Jail Division, comprised of Jail Corrections Officers; the Civil Division, consisting of a Deputy Sheriff assisted part-time by an Administrative Professional; and the Administrative Division, consisting of four full-time and one part-time Administrative Professionals.

- We received 14,799 classified complaint calls for service.
- Overall law enforcement efforts by your Sheriff's Office resulted in sworn personnel serving 843 arrest warrants and making 662 criminal arrests. Our traffic enforcement efforts resulted in 4941 traffic stops, 92 impaired driving arrests, and the issuance of 2583 traffic citations and 1885 traffic warnings. We also investigated 725 traffic crashes. Our detectives opened 245 investigative case files and closed 206 investigations during the year.
- Dispatchers were very busy, as always. They answered a total of 120,509 telephone calls or text messages, including 36,099 emergency calls or texts through the 911 system.
- The Civil Division received 2382 writs (subpoenas, protection orders, and other forms of legal process directed to the Sheriff for service) primarily from the Common Pleas and municipal courts throughout Erie County. A total of 73 Sheriff's Sales were carried out based on Common Pleas Court orders.
- Administrative Professionals issued or renewed a total of 817 concealed handgun licenses.
- The Detective Bureau, with Administrative Division assistance, oversees the approximately 135 sex, arson, and violent offenders in Erie County that are

required to register their address with the Sheriff—a number that can and routinely does change on a daily basis. There were a total of 354 offender registrations and over 200 random sex, arson, and violent offender residence compliance checks completed in 2024.

- Corrections Officers were busy in the Erie County Jail, as a total of 3221 arrestees were booked into the jail. The average daily jail population was 101 inmates.

Other information of interest for 2024 for your Sheriff's Office includes the following:

- We continued to maintain Sheriff's Office substations in Groton, Oxford, Huron, Milan, Berlin, Vermilion, and Florence Townships and in the Village of Castalia, Margaretta Township. The existence of these substations allows for our Patrol Division Deputy Sheriffs to report directly to assigned areas of patrol throughout the county at shift changes – rather than reporting to the Sheriff's Office as a group – greatly reducing response times to calls for service and increasing our agency's visibility and crime prevention efforts throughout the rural areas of the county. These substations would not be possible without the cooperative relationships that we continue to enjoy with the township trustees and/or village officials throughout the county.
- Due to the continued cooperation and support of the Edison Local School District, Deputy Sheriff Brian Kingsborough continued in his assignment as the school resource deputy at Edison High School.
- Due to the continued cooperation and support of the Erie County General Health District, Deputy Sheriff Mike Kennedy continued in his assignment at the Erie County Health Department to provide for the safety and security needs of the staff and patients throughout the agency's health care campus.
- Due to the continued cooperation and support of educators at the EHOVE Career Center, Deputy Sheriffs Kyle Winebrenner and Jerome Tyson continued to provide school resource law enforcement services at the school throughout the academic year.
- Due to the continued cooperation and support of educators at Firelands College of Bowling Green State University, Deputy Sheriffs Paul DeFazio and Austin Bolyard continued to provide year-round primary law enforcement services throughout the campus. This collaborative program has been in place for many years. Deputy Sheriff Justin Majoy started the year assigned to BGSU and transferred to Patrol in the fall.
- Due to the continued cooperation and support of educators at North Point Educational Services Center (NPESC), Deputy Sheriff Adam Martin continued to

provide school resource law enforcement services at NPESC's facility on Galloway Road in Perkins Township. In the fall of 2024, and following his promotion, Sgt. Jesse Leon began in his new role as the NPESC school resource deputy; he also serves as the direct supervisor for all of our school resource deputies.

- With the support of the listed school districts, Deputy Sheriff Matt Green continued in his role as our agency's DARE deputy, teaching the DARE program at NPESC as well as the Margaretta and Edison Local School Districts.
- Due to the continued cooperation and support of Erie County Engineer Jack Farschman, Deputy Sheriff Nick Mazur continued to perform commercial motor vehicle weight enforcement duties throughout Erie County.
- Due to the continued cooperation and support of the Erie County Commissioners and the Erie County Department of Job and Family Services (JFS), Deputy Sheriffs Greg Hall and Keith Bodi continued to be assigned to JFS to provide ongoing security for the staff and clients of the agency, to concentrate on the service of arrest warrants issued in cases relating to child support issues, and to also conduct criminal investigations concerning the alleged fraudulent receipt of public assistance funds.
- Due to the continued cooperation and support of the Huron Township Trustees, we were contracted to provide three Deputy Sheriffs and one Communications Officer to provide law enforcement services and supplemental dispatching services within Huron Township. With the additional cooperation of BGSU, Deputy Bolyard's salary is funded by both Huron Township and BGSU a multi-agency public safety collaborative.
- Due to the continued cooperation and support of Townsend Community School (TCS), Deputy Justin Sanchez was assigned as the school resource deputy at TCS in 2024.
- Due to the continued cooperation of the Margaretta Local School District, Deputies Matt McPeek and Dan Eubank provided school resource law enforcement services at the Margaretta Local Schools in 2024. Starting in the fall of the year, Deputy McPeek transferred back to Patrol and Deputy Sanchez provided school resource services at the Margaretta High/Junior High School complex along with the his duties at TCS in a collaboration between TCS and Margaretta Local Schools. Deputy Eubank continues in his school resource duties at Margaretta Elementary.
- Due to the cooperation of the Erie County Common Pleas Court, the Erie County Adult Probation Department, the Erie County Commissioners, and the Erie County Solid Waste District, the Sheriff's Office Community Service Program continued its operation in 2024. Corrections Officer Jeff Kashian coordinates the program that

allows for those sentenced by a court to perform community service, probationers, and nonviolent Erie County Jail inmates to complete routine general maintenance tasks for political subdivisions and non/not-for-profit entities throughout the county. In exchange, the community service workers receive credit toward their fines, court costs, and/or jail time.

- Also due to the cooperation of the Erie County Common Pleas Court, the Erie County Adult Probation Department, and the Erie County Commissioners, Deputy Jacob Cooper continued in his assignment for the supervision of those individuals released on bond pending further Erie County Common Pleas Court action. Deputy Cooper is also responsible for monitoring those released on ankle monitors with the approval of the Common Pleas Court judges, thereby reducing the potential number of inmates incarcerated in the Erie County Jail.
- We continued to provide emergency public safety dispatching services to political subdivisions throughout Erie County. Along with dispatching Sheriff's Office personnel and acting as a message relay point for other county offices, we also dispatched the following agencies: Sandusky Police and Fire Departments; Perkins Township Police and Fire Departments; Huron Police and Fire Departments; Bay View Police and Fire Departments; Kelleys Island Police, Fire, and EMS Departments; Berlin Heights Police Department; Milan Police Department and the Margarett Township, Groton Township, and Vermilion Township Fire Departments. The Sheriff's Dispatch Advisory Board, chaired by Sandusky Police Department Chief Jared Oliver and comprised of the chiefs of the public safety agencies that we dispatch for, continued to provide collaborative input concerning administrative and operational issues pertinent to their dispatch operation.
- We provided mutual aid assistance to law enforcement agencies throughout the county on over 437 occasions. We also continued to host monthly meetings of police chiefs throughout the county, with attendees representing law enforcement agencies from various local, state, and/or federal agencies. These meetings allow for direct communication and information sharing between these law enforcement professionals.
- As part of our agency's ongoing effort to utilize technology to combat criminal activity, Sergeant Dennis Papineau has received extensive training in the use of devices to download evidence—many times crucial to the solution of a criminal offense—from personal computers and cell phones. While these services were previously available, there was—in many instances—a delay of several weeks before that information could be received. If crucially needed, Sergeant Papineau is now able to download this information in most cases within several hours. We have made Sergeant Papineau's services available to any local law enforcement agency in the region.



- Fortunately, we did not have any retirements of long-tenured employees in 2024 as we have experienced in previous years.
- Along with Sheriff's Offices in Huron, Ashland, and Lorain Counties, we participated in the HEAL Human Trafficking Task Force, funded by the Ohio Organized Crime Control Commission through the Ohio Attorney General's Office, to combat the insidious crime of human trafficking. Detective Sergeant Alexis Harvey coordinates our agency's human trafficking enforcement efforts.
- Our marine patrol efforts on Lake Erie waters within Erie County continued with the operation of our patrol boat funded by Operation Stonegarden, a collaborative effort with the United States Border Patrol.
- Congratulations to our 2024 Employees of the Year by division:
  - Danielle McGlothlin—Administrative Professional
  - Courtney Straub—Dispatcher
  - Layne German—Corrections Officer
  - Sgt. Hayden Service—Deputy Sheriff
- Last, but certainly not least, we continued our community outreach efforts in 2024 by participating in numerous festivals and functions throughout Erie County—to include the Erie County Fair, the Woollybear Festival in Vermilion, the Berlin Heights Basket Festival, the Milan Melon Festival, the Castalia Cold Creek Festival, Kelleys Island's Islandfest, the Huron Riverfest, Touch a Truck in Sandusky sponsored by the Sandusky Police Department, and Trunk or Treat sponsored by the Perkins Township Police Department, and the Tangos Trot K-9 Dog Walk and Charity Fundraiser to honor the memory of United States Navy Corpsman Maxton Soviak.

In summary, while unique in many ways, 2024 was a typically busy year for the employees of your Erie County Sheriff's Office. While statistics alone can be useful, they do not—and cannot—reflect the true devotion to public safety that all of our staff members demonstrate while performing their day-to-day duties under what can only be described as, at best, difficult conditions. Whether the employee is a 911 Dispatcher, a Corrections Officer, a Deputy Sheriff, or an Administrative Professional, they strive to conduct themselves ethically, professionally, and in a dignified fashion at all times, regardless of the situation that may occur. They are by far the most valuable asset that our agency possesses.

Finally, we wish to thank you, the citizens of Erie County. We thank you for your ongoing support of our agency, both through your tax dollars and your conduct. We thank you for your patience with us when we make a simple human error. We know that the vast majority of you are law-abiding and peaceful individuals who support our efforts to serve and protect you and who realize the trying situations that we face. We are deeply grateful

for that support, and we will continue to work diligently every day to continue to earn and maintain your support and respect.

On behalf of the entire staff of your Erie County Sheriff's Office, I remain,

Very Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Paul A. Sigsworth". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Paul Sigsworth  
Sheriff