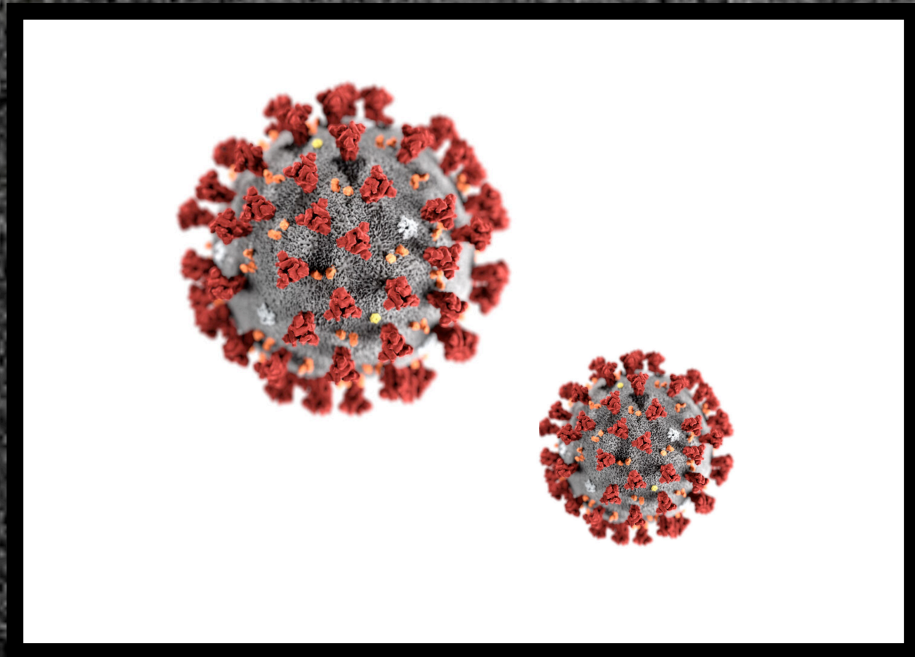


POLICING IN A PANDEMIC



Payson Police Department
2020 Annual Report

L a w E n f o r c e m e n t

O a t h o f H o n o r

**On my honor,
I will never betray my badge,
my integrity,
my character,
or the public trust.**

**I will always have the courage
to hold myself and others
accountable for our actions.**

**I will always uphold the Constitution,
the community
and the agency I serve.**

Table of Contents

Chief's Message.....	Pg. 3
Mission & Values.....	Pg. 4
Lieutenant's Message.....	Pg. 5
Operating Budget.....	Pg. 6
Overtime Usage.....	Pg. 6
Statistics	
Crime.....	Pg. 7
Calls to Service.....	Pg. 8
Personnel Changes.....	Pg. 9
Personnel Roster.....	Pg. 10-12
Organization Chart.....	Pg. 13
Investigative Services Division.....	Pg. 14-16
Special Enforcement Division	Pg. 16
Patrol Division.....	Pg. 17
Administrative Services	
Records.....	Pg. 18
Training.....	Pg. 19
Property & Evidence.....	Pg. 20
Communication Division.....	Pg. 21
Updating	
Patrol Vehicles.....	Pg. 22
Body Cams.....	Pg. 22
Community Services	
Community Service Officer.....	Pg. 22
School Resource Officer Program.....	Pg. 23
Community Policing in the Schools.....	Pg. 24
Time Out Shelter / Coffee With a Cop.....	Pg. 24
Beards on Patrol.....	Pg. 25
Shop with a Hero.....	Pg. 25
Social Media Presence.....	Pg. 26
Community Support.....	Pg. 27-28
COVID 19.....	Pg. 29
Canine Loki.....	Pg. 29
Volunteers.....	Pg. 30



Chief's Message

Ronald J. Tischler

The 2020 Payson Police Department Annual Report is herein presented for your review. Although policing during a pandemic has had its challenges, the Police Department, through the support of the Town Council, was able to accomplish a great deal this year.

As many agencies found themselves short staffed or unable to fill vacancies, the Payson Police Department was able to recruit and hire for several positions. This past year we've hired six officers, four dispatchers, a Communications Manager, and a Community Service Officer (CSO, formerly Police Aide). Payson is one of a few Law Enforcement agencies and Dispatch Centers in the Country that have been able to maintain nearly full staffing levels during this past year of turmoil.

Along with the new faces at the PD, we have also been working on squad car upgrades and replacements. We've received a lot of positive feedback on our new squad car design. We've also upgraded and added new equipment. Through grants, we've been working on replacing our outdated radio system (the officer's lifeline) with a new digital 800 MHz radio system. This radio system will provide exceptional coverage for the officers throughout the Town and surrounding areas. The system should be functional near the end of the year or early January 2021. Along with new radios we've upgraded our rifles and have recently completed testing and evaluation of Body Worn Cameras (BWC's). The BWC's will be a great addition for officer safety, transparency, and evidence collection.

We've renewed a partnership with Star Valley for Law Enforcement and Animal Control Services. Expanding our jurisdictional responsibilities increases efficiency and allow officers the ability to create a safer environment for Star Valley and Payson. We're looking forward to the continued partnership with Star Valley.

Although the COVID crisis has prevented the PD from participating in some community events, we were able to get a few in. The Police Department is a part of the community and the people that work at the PD work hard to give back to the people they serve. The events we did participate in were very successful and the generosity of the residents, businesses, and visitors always amazes us. Next year we can hopefully get back to the usual events and hopefully add a few more. A couple of the ideas we're thinking of is a K9 fundraiser golf outing, and more Coffee with a Cop events.

Our staff is committed to providing the best service possible and collaborating with other Town Departments along with County, State, Tribal and Federal agencies to make Payson and Star Valley a safe and thriving community.

On behalf of everyone at the Police Department, Thank You! Thank you for your gratitude and support. All of the treats, food, donations, emails, phone calls, letters, cards and social media posts in support of the Payson Police Department is truly incredible. This was a tough year for Law Enforcement throughout the Country. We are extremely fortunate to serve a community that supports the mission of the Police Department. We will continue working hard to provide the exceptional services this community deserves.

Mission & Values

Mission

It is the mission of the Payson Police Department to provide the highest quality of police services to our community. It is our responsibility to ensure that the people we serve can feel safe in their homes, at their places of employment, in our schools and wherever they may travel within the corporate limits of the Town of Payson.

Values

Excellence in our Employees

Positive Leadership

Excellent Police Work

Integrity

Creative Problems Solving

Community Involvement

Team Building





Lieutenant's Message

Jason Hazelo

The Lieutenant's Office assists the Chief of Police in the administration of daily Department operations. The Lieutenant provides oversight for all of the divisions within the agency and coordinates Department goals with the division leaders.

I have worked for the department for 21 years, starting as a patrol officer, a detective, sergeant and now as Lieutenant. I am honored to have the opportunity to not only work here, but to have raised my family here and to have created strong relationships within the department and with members within our community.

Through internal and external relationships, together we create a strong unity that is lacking in many other cities around the country. In a year filled with violence, unrest, hatred and discord in many communities, we find ourselves serving a community that stands on principles of strength, honor and commitment. It has been our privilege to serve and represent this great town.

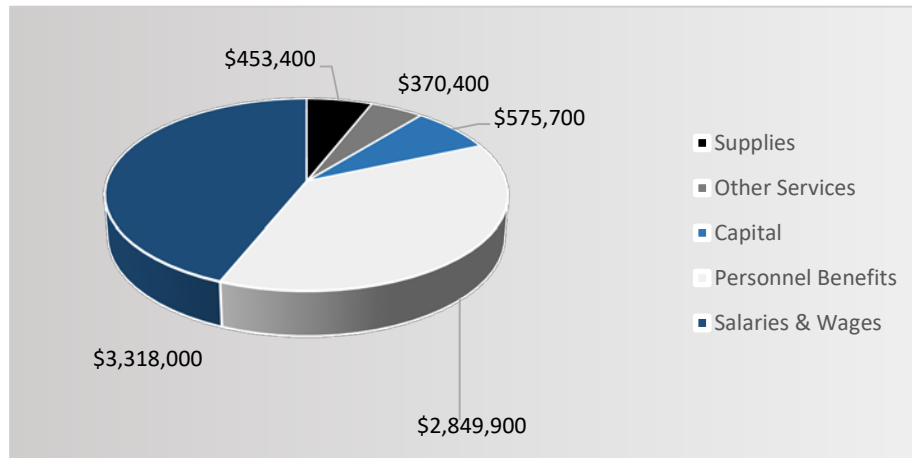
Much of this would not be able to be accomplished without direction from Chief Tischer. We are reaping the benefits of his considerable knowledge and leadership. We have made new and innovative additions in personnel and equipment in our department being a win-win for everyone.

We have been able to create contingency plans for critical incidents, most importantly being COVID-19 measures. We continue to encourage citizen empowerment to recognize and report suspicious behaviors and criminal activities. Traffic enforcement, DUI and drug abuse remain a top priority not only in combatting these issues, but to educate the citizens within our town and community as well.

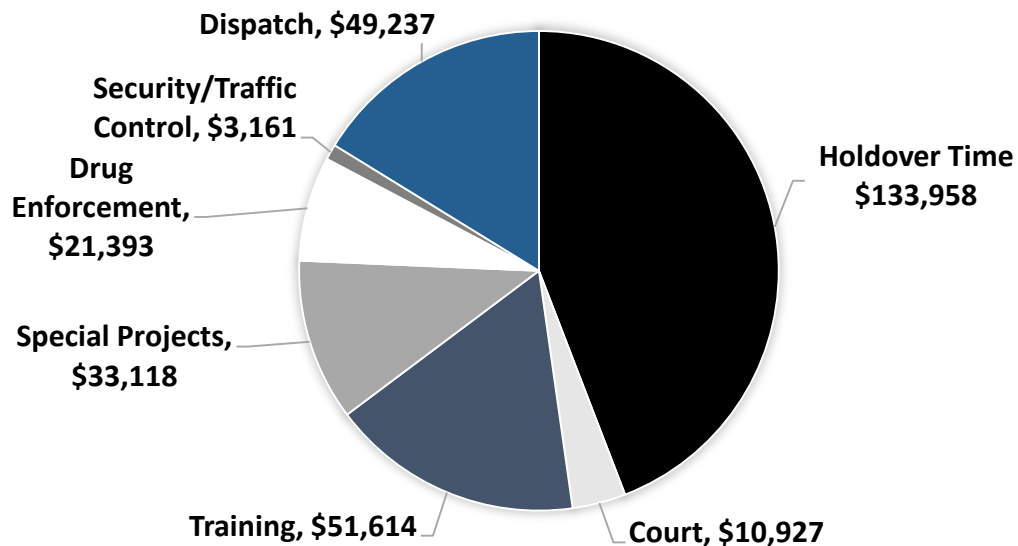
Please do not hesitate to contact myself, Chief Tischer, or any of our dedicated men and women at the Payson Police Department. We welcome your comments and concerns or questions, with the goal of working together to create a strong, safe and valued place in which to live in the Town of Payson.

Annual Approved Operating Budget

Fiscal Year	2018	2019	2020
Salaries	\$3,126,600	\$2,806,823	\$3,181,200
Benefits	\$2,748,400	\$2,310,947	\$2,674,000
Capital	\$23,000	\$329,847	\$380,000
Supplies	\$216,500	\$273,618	\$329,500
Other Services	\$365,600	\$351,180	\$400,700

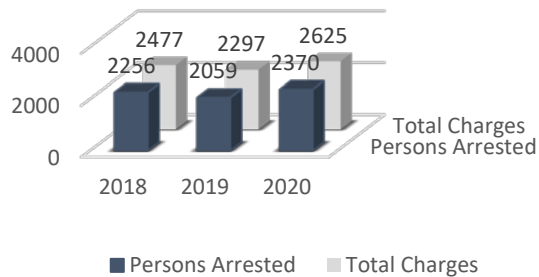


2020 Overtime Usage

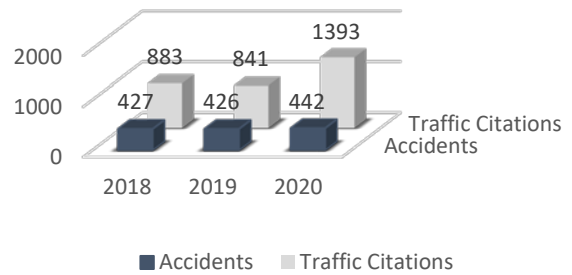


Crime Stats

Persons Arrested and Total Charges Adult & Juvenile



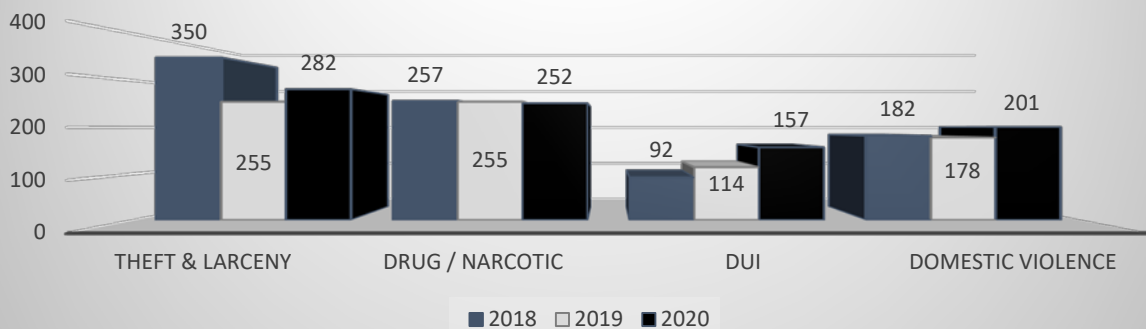
Accidents VS Traffic Citations Adult & Juvenile



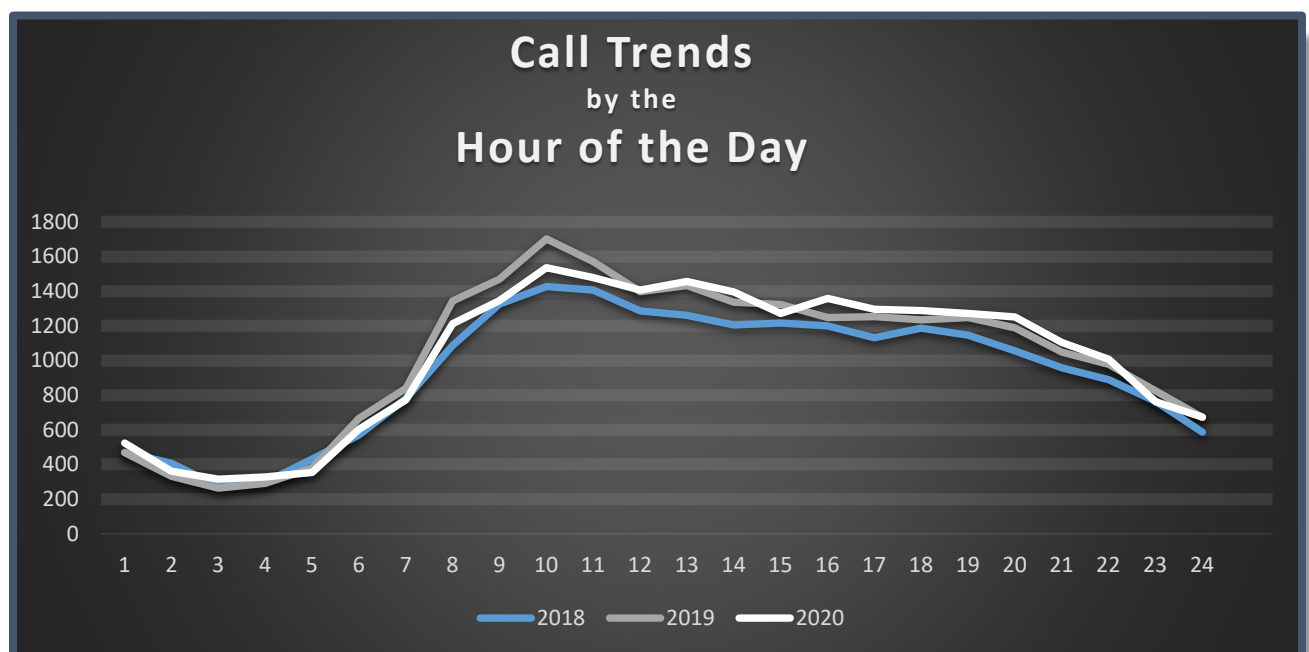
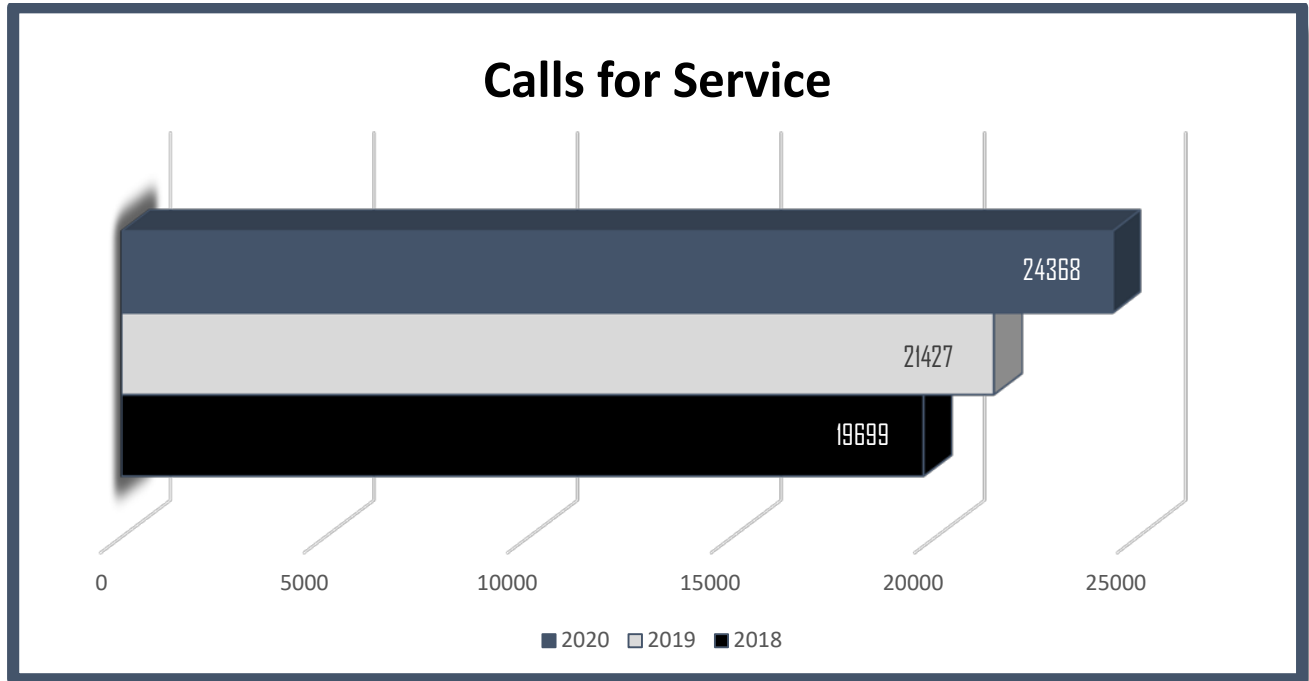
Raw Data

• Homicide	0	• Vehicle Theft	26	• Drug Arrests	252
• Rape	0	• Arson	3	• Alarm Calls	420
• Robbery	2	• Adult Arrests	1010	• Civil Citations	1393
• Assault	277	• Juvenile Arrests	138	• Accidents	442
• Burglary	72	• Domestic Violence	201	• 30 Day Impounds	128
• Larceny	282	• DUI Arrests	157		

Crime Comparison Adult & Juvenile



Call Stats



Personnel Changes

2020 proved to be a year full of growth for the department. Nine new hires joined our team and there were four promotions within the department.

Promotions and Appointments		
Keven Rush	School Resource Officer	February 25 th , 2020
Benjamin Keith	Detective	April 20 th , 2020
Justin Deaton	Sergeant	October 19 th , 2020
Nicholas Bogatko	School Resource Officer	November 9 th , 2020
New Hires		
Gavin Erickson	Police Officer	January 6 th , 2020
Joshua Hocieniec	Communication Specialist	January 6 th , 2020
Eric Dunston	Police Officer	January 24 th , 2020
Kaire Gallegos	Communication Specialist	January 24 th , 2020
Heather Ramage	Communication Specialist	January 31 st , 2020
Ashley Kelley	Communication Specialist	June 9 th , 2020
Lucas Barr	Police Officer	July 20 th , 2020
Carson Frahm	Police Officer	July 20 th , 2020
Max Farren	Police Officer	August 24 th , 2020
Cody Krause	Community Service Officer	December 7 th , 2020
Christina Weiss	Communication Manager	December 28 th , 2020
Retirements		
Sergeant Matt VanCamp	25+ years of service	June 26 th , 2020

Chief Tischer congratulating Officer Carson Frahm and Officer Lucas Barr at their graduation from the academy.



December 17th 2020



Administrative Services Division Staff

Police Chief

Ronald J. Tischer

Lieutenant

Jason Hazelo

Property & Evidence Manager

Todd Bramlet

Support Services Administrator

Celena West

Property Technician – Leslie Zickefoose

Administrative Secretary – Tiffani Cluff

Communications Manager

Christina Weiss

Communication Specialists

Ashly Barnes

Kaire Gallegos

Josh Higgins

Josh Hocieniec

Ashley Kelley

Hailee Krause

Alison Murphy

Prestina Preston-Lynch

Heather Ramage

Jill VanCamp

David Timothy

Records Clerks

Sarah Haynie

Rebecca Highstreet

Kassandra Vieira

Community Service Officer

Cody Krause

Investigative Services Division Staff

Detective Sergeant

Michael McAnerny

Detectives

Chad DeSchaaf

Joseph Johnson

Benjamin Keith

Michael Varga

Patrol Division Staff

Patrol Sergeants

Jesse Davies

Justin Deaton

Michael Hansen

Joni Varga

Officers

Kody Anderson

Lucas Barr

Kyle Bathke

Jirhod Brennan

Eric Dunston

Gavin Erickson

Patrick Evans

Max Farren

Carson Frahm

Geoffrey Gomez

John Lynch

Jared Meredith

Joseph Oldeschulte

School Resource Officers

Nicholas Bogatko

Keven Rush

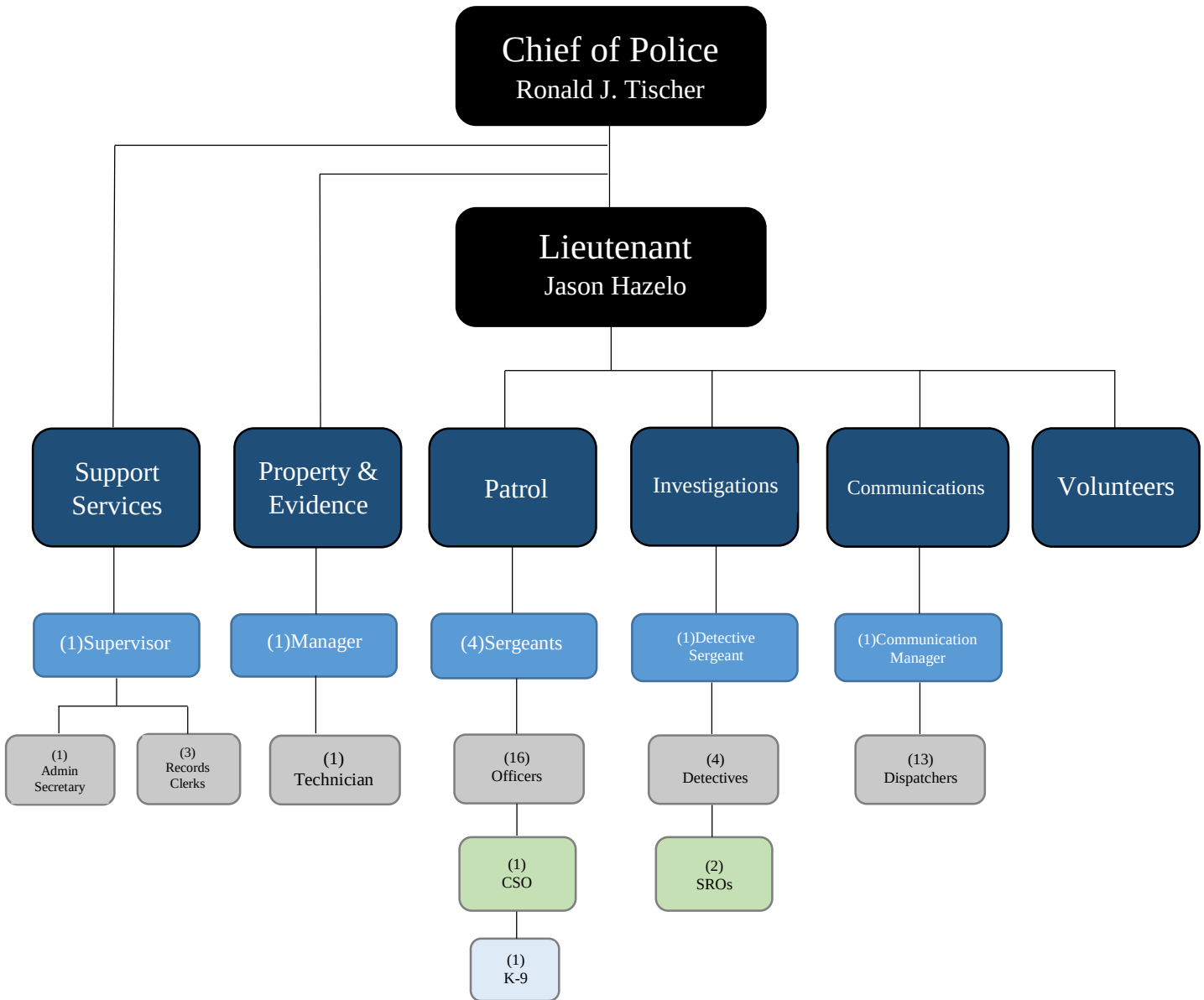
Police Volunteer Division

Nancy Bessler	Bill Broce	Tom Brown
Vicki Chittick	Tom Christopher	Lucinda Corrente
Marie Davis	Clifford Ellis	Charles Gaglio
Dave Golembewski	Robert Graziano	Barbra Greer
Mark Hines	Margaret Holmes	Pamela Jackson
Alan Kline	Richard Ladrigian	Ramona Langford
Sandy Lumsden	Jerry Montoya	Linda Morris
Sarkis Mouridian	Barbara Parish	Ellen Prentice
Pete Reckas	Annamarie Ricci	Gary Sceli
Corliss Tischer	Joseph Vieria	Diana Vincent
Aaron Walp	Darlene Yonker	Keith Zimmermann



Payson Police Department Volunteers leading the Wreaths Across America procession to each of the local cemeteries so wreaths can be placed on the grave sites of fallen veterans.

2020 Organizational Chart



Authorized Personnel

(29) Sworn Officers	(50) Full Time Employees
(2) Property & Evidence	(5) Support Services
(14) Communications	(35) Volunteers



Investigative Division

Michael McAnerny

Detective Sergeant

The Payson Police Department Investigative Division's main objective is to assist the Patrol Division in the completion of criminal investigations. The Investigative Division is staffed with five full time positions. Detective Michael Varga works as our narcotic detective, while detectives Chad DeSchaaf, Joseph Johnson, Benjamin Keith and Sgt. Michael McAnerny work as general detectives. Each of the general detectives have an area of expertise such as white collar crimes, sex crimes, arson and traffic collisions.

In April 2020, Detective Keith transferred to the Investigative Division and took over the duties of our sex crime unit. He is responsible for the sex offender registration and compliance for Payson and Star Valley. When a sex offender moves into our jurisdiction Detective Keith meets with them, verifies their information and sends out community notifications if needed. Detective Keith also leads our ICAC (Internet Crimes Against Children) and follows up on cases assigned to our jurisdiction.

2020 has been a challenge for the Investigative Division. Not only is it responsible for major crimes and investigations we have been assisting the Patrol Division by covering over 75 patrol shifts. The need for assistance has been compounded by the addition of Star Valley for coverage. The Investigative Division also conducts In-House training for the department. This includes crime scene processing, fraud investigations, high risk vehicle stops, and training for the police volunteers.



Major Crimes

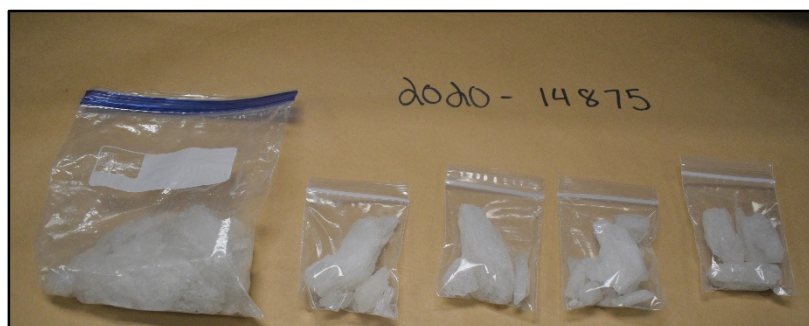
June 13, 2020 - The Payson Police Department responded to an address in Payson reference a child that had overdosed on drugs. Several Detectives were involved, but Detective Varga spearheaded the investigation due to it being drug related. During the investigation, it was discovered that the suspects involved with the child overdose were also involved in a stolen vehicle ring that covered several jurisdictions. Detective Varga

worked with Sergeant Varga during the investigation of the stolen vehicle ring while also investigating the narcotic portion of this case. Due to the hard work of Sergeant Varga and Detective Varga several stolen vehicles were recovered and drug search warrants were executed. Numerous suspects have been arrested and charged with crimes in conjunction with these investigations.

October 20, 2020 - The Payson Police Department responded to a call of an armed robbery with a carjacking. Detective Keith responded and worked with patrol. The suspects met the victim over an online app and when they met in person, the suspects pointed a gun at the victim and took his vehicle. During the course of the investigation it was determined that the suspects were involved in a police vehicle pursuit on October 19, 2020. They abandoned their vehicle and fled into the forest area north of Payson. They then robbed a male in Payson and stole his vehicle which they later abandoned in the Phoenix Metro area. Additional suspects stole another car from New Mexico and came to Arizona to pick up the initial suspects in the Metro area. On October 21, 2020 these same suspects were involved in another Police Pursuit involving DPS on Beeline Hwy. They traveled through Payson where they got into a vehicle collision and were arrested. Detective Keith worked all of these cases and the four suspects were charged for their various crimes.



November and December 2020 - There was a rash of vehicle burglaries occurring at several motels and businesses. The suspect was breaking vehicle windows, taking items, and using stolen credit cards at different stores in Payson. The suspect was seen with video surveillance at several of the burglary scenes and while making the purchases with the stolen cards. Due to the amount of burglaries a task force was established with Detective Keith at the helm. He was tasked with connecting the cases and identifying the suspect. Detective Varga conducted surveillance of the hotels and business in hopes of catching the suspect. Photographs of the suspect and his getaway vehicle were provided to the patrol division in order to increase awareness. On December 4, 2020 despite being off duty, Officer Gomez recognized the suspect vehicle and identified the driver as the suspect involved resulting in the suspect being arrested with his accomplice. Detective Johnson and Detective Keith worked these cases tying the suspects to several burglaries which resulted in a large amount of Methamphetamine being located in the vehicle.



Special Enforcement Unit

The year 2020 was a different type of year for the Special Enforcement Unit (SEU). Unknown to the community at large, the SEU is not only tasked with monitoring and enforcing issues involving narcotics, but also monitoring community threats through Threat Liaison Officers (TLO). These TLOs network with the Arizona Counter Terrorism Intelligence Center (ACTIC) coordinating with local, state, and federal agencies to monitor and investigate threats to our community. In years past, this obligation has been less of a necessity, but with the events 2020 has brought us, the TLO position has taken on a key role within the police department. Monitoring protest and riot activity along with organizing election security and the security of election officials during campaign events was also a large priority this year. As an added task, the Special Enforcement Unit was also in charge of monitoring COVID-19 on not only the state and nation levels, but international as well. Essentially, the TLO's function is to inform command staff and town officials about threats to the community and also coordinate responses with other agencies.

Drug enforcement was also a priority this year. The Special Enforcement Unit arrested or assisted in the arrest of 72 individuals and served 17 drug related warrants. 39 arrests involved methamphetamine, 19 involved heroin, and 10 involved fentanyl pills. In our community, heroin is becoming less prevalent due to the uptick of fentanyl pills, which is a much more powerful opiate drug comparative to heroin. Mexican drug cartels are now focusing on the distribution of fentanyl through the manufacture of counterfeit oxycodone pills. These pills can easily be the cause of a drug overdose due to the potency of fentanyl. The intention of the SEU is to conduct another televised town hall special about the concerns of fentanyl both locally and nationally.



Raw Statistics

Meth seizures-489 grams (UP from last year)

Heroin seizures- 29 grams (DOWN from last year)

Fentanyl- approximately 2,300 pills (wildly up from last year)

Children removed by DCS - 12 (Slightly up)

Money seized - \$11,558 (UP)



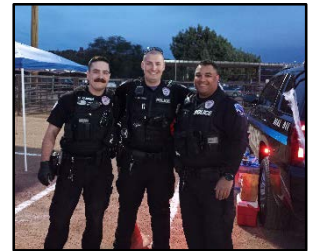
Patrol Division

The Patrol Division of the Payson Police Department is responsible for conducting the initial response to the vast majority of law enforcement calls for service, investigating crimes that may not require the expertise of Payson Police Department Detectives, handling Animal Control services after-hours, and conducting both proactive and reactive traffic enforcement patrols, along with other assorted responsibilities. The calls range from citizen service calls, such as assisting an elderly female who doesn't know how to shut

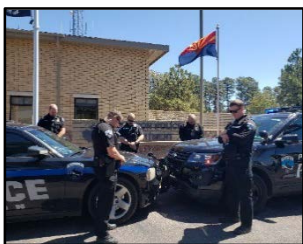
off her water, all the way up to violent crimes in progress.

The Patrol Division currently consists of four patrol squads, two assigned to day shifts and two assigned to night shifts. Each squad is led by a patrol sergeant, and staffed by patrol officers. The Patrol Division currently has 13 officers, including two in training, for a total of 17 officers including the sergeants. During 2020, officers handled over 15,000 calls for service, which was an increase from 2019. This was despite a noticeable downturn in activity during the early weeks of the pandemic. Patrol officers also conducted over 4,600 traffic stops throughout the year, and made over 800 arrests.

The Payson Police Department added Gavin Erickson, Eric Dunston, Max Farren, Lucas Barr, and Carson Frahm to their ranks this year. It also saw the retirement of Sgt. Matt Van Camp after over two decades of service. Sgt. Van Camp's patrol sergeant responsibilities were assumed by Justin Deaton, who was promoted to sergeant a few months after returning to the Payson Police Department full-time this year. We also hired Colten White and Zakary Buzzard, who will be attending the police academy early in 2021.



As for all of us, COVID-19 presented some new challenges during the year. Officers had to get into the habit of wearing masks, taking extra precautions on traffic stops (especially involving interstate travelers), handling many calls by telephone to avoid unnecessary in-person contacts, regularly cleaning patrol cars and workspaces, and undergoing more extensive decontamination procedures after potential exposures, or after completing death investigations that may have been related to COVID-19.



Here are some of the more notable calls that the Patrol Division either handled, or at least initiated, during 2020:

Sgt. Varga obtained information about an extensive auto-theft ring tied to the Phoenix area that resulted in several arrests, numerous recovered vehicles, and collaboration with several outside agencies.

After the MHA's COVID-19 testing site was burglarized in May, patrol officers noticed some of the stolen equipment on a routine call, which resulted in the service of a search warrant, at least one arrest, and the recovery of some of the stolen property.

In November, the Payson Police Department investigated multiple vehicle burglaries that were determined to be connected. An off-duty patrol officer observed the suspect and suspect vehicle and provided the information to on-duty officers. This resulted in the recovery of stolen property, cash, drugs, and several weapons.

During routine traffic stops, officers identified at least five "load" vehicles that were either transporting drugs believed to be for sale, or traveling to purchase drugs with the intent of selling them in numerous communities throughout the United States. These efforts resulted in the seizure of large quantities of cocaine, heroin, codeine, fentanyl pills, and methamphetamine, as well as numerous firearms.



Administrative Services Division

Celena West

Support Services Administrator

Police Department Administration was kept busy this year facilitating the build of our CAD system upgrade. Each portion of the system needed to be built to fit each department's specialized needs including Records, Dispatch, Patrol and Property. Upgrading this system not only provides necessary tools, but improves work flow as well.

Another function of the Support Services Administrator is scheduling and maintaining the AZ POST certified training hours for each officer. Not only is each officer required to meet the minimum POST certified hours in continued, proficiency and firearms training each year, but the state of Arizona conducts an annual audit as well.

With the addition of new officers, dispatchers, and a communications manager, there was much to do in making sure all qualifications and deadlines were met. Each new person hired at the police department is required to pass a series of tests, background investigation, polygraph screening, psychological exam, physical exams, and health and drug screenings. Additionally, housing and transportation also needed to be arranged for the new recruits attending the police academy.

Records

The Records Division is staffed with three Records Clerks; Sarah Haynie, Rebecca Highstreet and Kassandra Vieira and supervised by the Support Services Administrator Celena West.

The Records Division is responsible for the transcription, indexing and dissemination of all police reports. The Records Division plays a very important role in the judicial process; providing prompt and essential items to the County Attorney Office and Town Attorney Office to assist with prosecution. The Records Clerks stay busy completing hundreds of public records requests as well as requests from insurance companies, attorneys, and background checks for employment and military purposes.

Maintaining an effective workflow proved to be difficult during COVID. The records clerks were forced to work from home for a short period of time during the shutdown which resulted in a longer turnaround time for records requests and processing reports. Towards the end of the year, things returned to normal and the clerks worked persistently to get caught up. With all the obstacles that came with COVID, staff were able to work diligently on record retention. Over one hundred boxes of old police reports were destroyed per Arizona retention laws.



Kassandra Vieira
Rebecca Highstreet
Sarah Haynie

Training

Each year, AZ POST requires all sworn personnel to complete 8 hours of continuing training, a qualification shoot, and a judgement/discrimination shoot. Every three years, AZ POST requires 8 hours of proficiency training as well.

Radar Training

Detective Keith and Sergeant Davies hosted the Payson Police Department's first Radar Certification Course. 5 Payson PD officers and 2 TAR officers attended. Each Officer received 16 AZ POST certified training hours.



Legal Updates

Each year, all sworn personnel attends a training to become familiar with the ever changing laws. This year, there were substantial changes revolving around marijuana. These trainings ensure that our officers stay current and understand each new law, and

it effects the legal process.

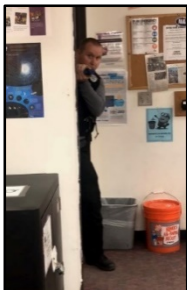
Latent Prints

Detective Johnson held a training on how to properly process collect latent prints from a scene. Each officer that attended the training received 4 Post Certified training hours.



Judgement Shoot

During a judgement shoot, each officer engages in a scenario that tests their ability to make a split second decisions about which targets are lethal and which are not. In this fun Halloween twist, officers were tasked with finding poor Timmy in a house full of Zombies. Both rifles and pistols were used during the scenario.



Active Shooter Training

In June/July, officers attended an active shooter simulation. This scenario was held at Julia Randal Elementary School and required officers to navigate the hallways, check each classroom, and avoid active fire while seeking out suspects and diffusing the threat. These types of trainings are meant to prepare the officers for the types of threats happening all over the country.



Property & Evidence Division

Todd Bramlet

Property Manager

The Payson Police Department impounds evidence, safekeeping and found property for a variety of reasons. The following statistics show what the Property Room processed in 2020:

Total Items Impounded: 3,905

Drugs and Drug Paraphernalia Items: **1,713**

Found Property: **112**

Vehicles Impounded: **46**

Safekeeping: **288**

Bikes Impounded: **32**

Firearms Impounded: **107**

Property Disposed of: 1,825

Property Destroyed: **1,278**

Property Returned to Owner: **423**

Property Donated: **44**

Property Converted to PD Use: **80**

*Some categories overlap

In February, we switched prescription drug collection box companies. The new MedSafe box was installed in the inner lobby resulting in a more secure environment. Once the liner inside is full, we seal it up and the box is shipped to a disposal site. We have the ability to track each shipment, weight and disposal date. Since we started this new program, we have shipped and disposed of 636.45 pounds of unwanted and expired prescription drugs the citizens have dropped off. That is 636.45 pounds of prescription drugs that will not be abused or pollute our water supply.

In May, we moved out of three full storage units from Swiss Village Self Storage. This was a huge endeavor that required a lot of teamwork and muscle from other departments. With this move, the town was able to save on the monthly storage fees and we were able to dispose of a large number of older items.

In July, we coordinated a trip to the Freeport-McMoRan mine in Globe to incinerate 600 pounds of illicit drugs, paraphernalia and prescription drugs.

In December, we converted 35 firearms that were forfeited to the agency for various reasons into “store credit” for the Department. This credit will help to outfit our officers with ammo and duty weapons.



Communication Department

Christina Weiss

Communication Manager

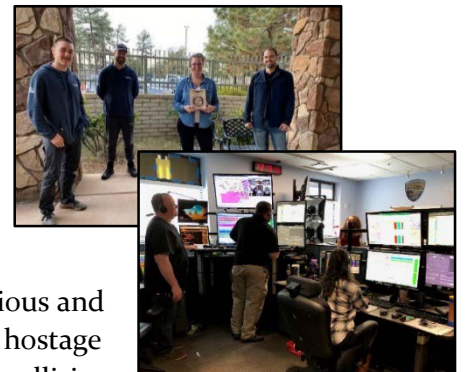
While COVID-19 was the center of discussion worldwide, the Payson Communication Center was devising a plan to maintain a crew of healthy communication specialists who would continue to provide the level of service our town and surrounding communities have come to depend. Though we share desks, chairs, computers, phones, radio equipment and are in close proximity of each other every day, our communication specialists remained vigilant in our mission to maintain a healthy staff.

Since working remotely was not an option and social distancing within the 9-1-1 center is difficult, it became evident that the only way to keep the center healthy was to initiate comprehensive sanitizing procedures and to isolate our center from the rest of the department. We implemented a cleaning routine consisting of cleaning each station thoroughly at the beginning and end of each shift. Our center went into immediate lockdown, only allowing contact with necessary personnel and began self-monitoring for symptoms. Additionally, each communication specialist was given their own phone to help prevent the spread of infectious disease.

Maintaining a fully staffed dispatch center is a struggle for most agencies. Our center started this year with thirteen full-time dispatchers and ended the year with twelve full-time dispatchers including a full time Communication Manager. We are also excited to welcome a new communication specialist, Teryn Shaw the first week of 2021. Many improvements have been made within our communication center to promote employee longevity, and the changes we have made have proven to be a success.

Over the span of 2020, the communication center answered 76,913 calls and 69 texts to 9-1-1. These calls include 9-1-1 emergencies, traffic accidents, crimes in progress, citizen reports of issues such as fires and road blockages, etc... The dispatch center not only handles calls from the Payson/Star Valley town limits police and fire departments, but the surrounding fire departments including Pine, Strawberry, the Christopher/Kohls area, and Waterwheel as well. A few of the more serious and tragic incidents that our dispatchers faced are; A possible shooting and hostage situation at T-Mobile, multiple pursuits through town (one ending in a collision at Highway 87 and Highway 260), the suicide of a young Payson local, and an unwanted subject with a bomb strapped to him in a house on Chatham. There were also a number of vehicular accidents that unfortunately resulted in death requiring dispatchers to not only assign the proper medical and police personnel, but to stay calm and keep their callers calm as well.

Though there were some very difficult moments in 2020, our communication department is looking ahead to 2021 with renewed hope. The Communications Center is working towards getting a facelift and upgrade that will expand our center and will hopefully include new computers, a CAD upgrade, and a rigorous training schedule.



Updating for the Future

Vehicles

In 2020, we rolled out not only two Brand new Chevy Tahoes, but a whole new look. Our streamlined graphics Have brought new life to an aging fleet and gives our patrol vehicles a commanding police presence. Moving forward, we plan to equip all new vehicles with the updated graphics while converting the older vehicles with aging graphics as well.



Body Cams

During the Fall of 2020, several officers began testing various body camera systems to see which best suits the needs of the Payson Police Department. After months of testing, we are excited to roll out Axon Body Cameras for the entire department in early 2021.

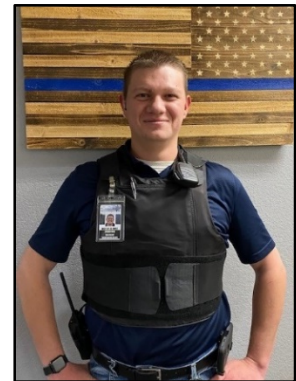
Community Services

Community Service Officer

The Payson Police Department has created a new Community Service Officer (CSO) position within the Department. For many years Payson PD has had an Animal Control Officer. As we re-evaluated this position, we felt the additional duties carried out could be a good stepping stone for someone that was looking for a career in law enforcement.

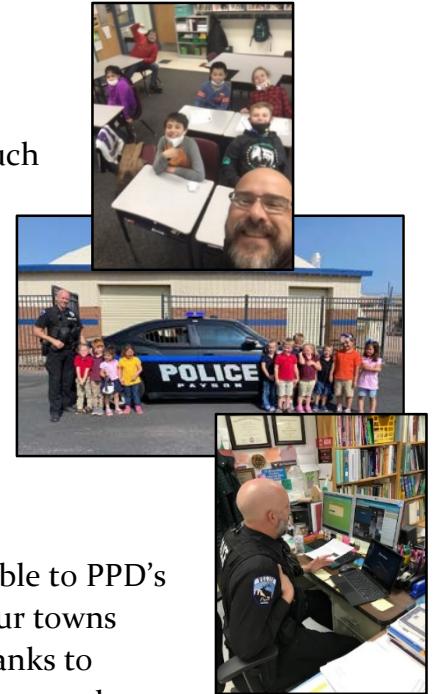
Along with animal control officer duties, the CSO will carry out a variety of police related functions. Many of these functions will help create efficiencies in the department by freeing up officer's time. This is turn will allow the department to provide better service to the public. Some of these additional duties will be investigating abandoned vehicle complaints, picking up found or abandoned property, assisting officers with traffic control, and taking minor complaints.

Cody Krause has been selected to fill this newly created position. CSO Krause is looking forward to continually developing this position to best fit the needs of the department and serve the community.



School Resource Officer Program

The position of SRO is unlike any other in law enforcement. It routinely provides unique opportunities to connect, educate, and work with our Payson community. 2020 saw the addition of a much needed and greatly anticipated second resource officer position through grant funding. Now, in addition to Rim Country Middle School and Julia Randall Elementary School, Payson High School and Payson Center for Success have been provided an on-campus SRO. This new appointment represents a big step for our school district, as well as an increased opportunity for prevention efforts within our community. This opportunity has been met with much enthusiasm by PPD.



Historically, the school resource officer position has been invaluable to PPD's community policing and prevention efforts, especially amongst our town's juvenile population. This past year was no different, however, thanks to Covid-19 our school resource officers were also faced with many new and previously unanticipated obstacles. With "distance learning" becoming a household term, our SRO's not only found ways to continue to teach effectively via the school's online platform, but sought out new opportunities to connect with the student population. Our resource officers frequently made home visits to connect with students that appeared to struggle with the online environment. They also made frequent visits to the parks and other local hangouts where students were spending their time. Additionally, our resource officers attended school sporting events, and were involved in club and student government activities.

Despite the obvious frustrations of distance learning, our SRO's continued to provide a number of law related education courses. These courses included cohorts on Bullying/Cyberbullying as well as a number of universal courses including marketing fraud, how to manage social drama, DNA in law enforcement, safe driving habits, and campus safety to name a few. Additionally, we were able to continue to focus educational efforts on the ever growing vaping issue with our youth.

As we enter into the new year, our school resource officer position will continue to seek new and inventive ways to connect with Payson's youth. Our efforts will focus on ways to combat the negative effect of social media, drug, alcohol and tobacco interdiction, as well as mentoring youth in the skills of making good decisions. Although Covid-19 precautions have made today's environment unique, our SRO program will continue to mentor, teach, and to effectively influence the student population we serve.

Community Policing

Dr. Seuss' Birthday

Officers visited Payson Elementary School and Payson Christian School to read to the students in honor of Dr. Seuss' birthday.



Time Out Shelter / Domestic Violence

During the month of October, officers wore purple badges and the Payson Police Department was lit up purple to help spread awareness about domestic violence. #LightingAZPurple #EndDVinAZ

On October 21st, Chief Tischer and Gwen Zorn of the Time Out Shelter signed an agreement to build upon the already strong relationship between the Payson Police Department and the Time out Shelter. This agreement ensures that both agencies work together to promote domestic violence awareness and keeping victims as safe as possible. #TimeToTalk



Coffee With A Cop

Officers took over Starbucks, Taking orders, making drinks, And serving food while collecting Donations. A total of \$662.25 Was raised given to the Time Out Shelter to support domestic violence victims right here in Payson.



Beards on Patrol



This year, for No Shave November, the Payson Police Department raised money for Gus Phillips. Gus was diagnosed with colon cancer two years ago. Since then, the cancer has metastasized to his liver and lungs and is expected to start another round of Chemotherapy in January.



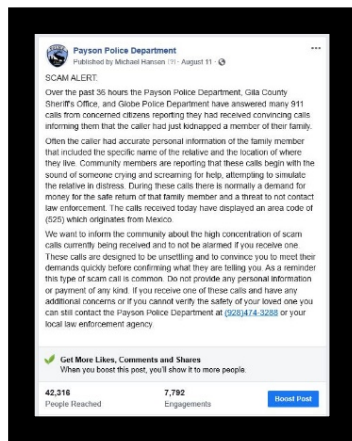
Shop With A Hero

On December 19th, PPD Officers joined the Gila County Sheriff's Office and Payson Fire Department for the annual Shop With A Hero. This program helps underprivileged children of Payson shop for Christmas presents through donations raised by local Law Enforcement and Fire agencies. Our guys love going out and spending time with the kids.



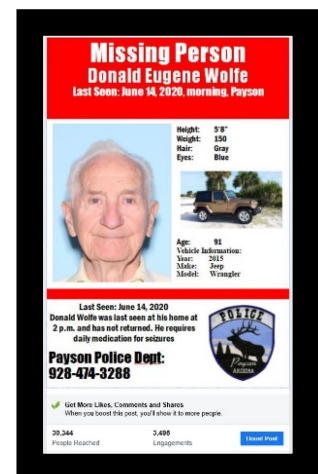
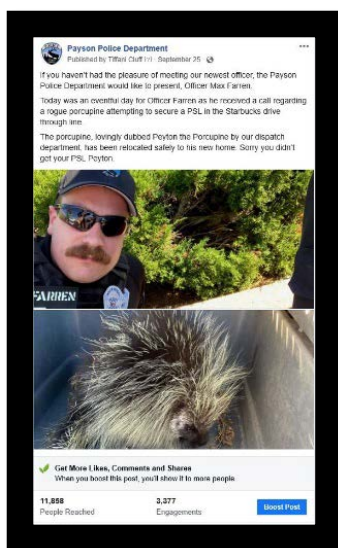
Social Media Presence

During 2020, The Payson Police Department has expanded our social media presence on Facebook. Currently, we have 5,628 followers with more and more each day. Our PD Facebook page is quickly becoming a source for updates, closures, urgent news, press releases on current events etc.



Recently, we have started posting “tips” for the public. Some of these tips include, text to 911 availabilities, submit an owner notice of sale to the MVD when you sell a vehicle, and reminders of common scams.

We utilize this platform to reach out to Payson Citizens when Amber Alerts and Silver alerts are issued. This particular post reached 30,344 people.

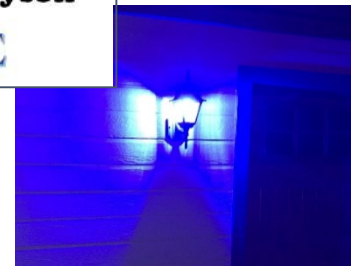


The PPD Facebook page is used to engage the community we serve as well. We want the citizens of Payson to see our softer side, to know that we are people too and feel comfortable approaching us.

Community Support

Light Up Payson Blue

The Payson community came together to Light Payson Blue on October 24th and 25th in support of local law enforcement. This was a community organized event that included participation from not only local citizens but local businesses as well.



Pens By Bud

Bud Huffman presented handmade pens to each of the officers in the department as a thank you. Each of these pens was crafted with our officers in mind and the attention to detail was unmatched.



Multiple citizens and business owners sent thank you cards, stopped by to shake hands, and visited the station.

Payson Proud

Chief Tischer and Lieutenant Hazelo thank our citizens as they rally to show their support despite the difficult times law enforcement is facing across the country.



Covid-19

Many local citizens and businesses reached out to donate everything from masks, gloves, and sanitizer, to hand painted rocks and signs. Custom masks with the PD patch and each badge number were also donated. The officers wear them proudly while on every call. We are so thankful for the community outreach that has been demonstrated in support of our officers.



What a difference a year can make!



Loki

K-9 Officer Loki is now 15 months old and 80-85lbs. He has been continuing his training in drug detection, tracking, article searches, and bite/patrol work.

This year, Loki reverse tracked to a motorcycle ditched in the woods after a short pursuit, he had his first exposure to a full bite suit in training, and continues to build confidence through bi-weekly training with GCSO as well as daily training at PD. By early 2021, we expect Loki to be ready to certify in drug detection with Methamphetamine, Heroin, and Cocaine and Officer Anderson is looking in to adding MDMA and bath salts to his training.

Volunteers



Currently, the Payson Police Department has 33 Active Volunteers assisting the department with its daily function. These volunteers do everything from filing, patrolling, record's retention, vehicle maintenance, vacation home watch, and much more. Two of the most prestigious programs the department offers are PATH and Guardian Angel. These programs are 100% ran and maintained by our volunteers.

PATH Program

Police Access To Homebound. Elderly citizen from all over Payson receive daily phone calls from our volunteers. This program has proved not only to be beneficial for the health and welfare of our citizens, but too often these daily phone calls may be the only call the person receives that day. If the citizen does not answer during their designated time slot, an officer conducts a welfare check on the person. These welfare checks have saved lives, found family members much sooner than they would have, and helps these citizens get the medical attention they may need.



Guardian Angel



The Guardian Angel Program is a 100% volunteer maintained program. This program provides citizens with a pendant they wear around their neck. If they happen to fall or injure themselves and need assistance but cannot reach a phone, they can press the button on their pendant. A call will then automatically go out to a predetermined phone number and act as a phone so assistance can be requested. Some citizens opt to have their friend, family member, or neighbor's numbers programed into the Guardian Angel. Others prefer it to notify dispatch directly so medical attention can be sent immediately.

