



Frankfort Police News

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February 2022

2021-A Year in Review

In 2021 the Frankfort Police Department continued to move forward with our focus on community interaction, services, and crime prevention. Although we had various personnel changes, our mission to provide high-quality professional services to the community while continuing to be vigilant toward crime and traffic safety remained the same.

As we continue to navigate through the pandemic, the Frankfort Police Department saw a successful return of some of our well-established community events. During 2021 we were able to host our “Coffee with a Cop”, “Night Out Against Crime”, monthly TRIAD (older adults safety meetings), and Safety Trunk or Treat events. Additionally, we were able to participate in many village hosted events. These valuable interactions provide an opportunity for the police to meet with all who live, learn, and work here. The Frankfort Police Department is committed to community-based policing to build relationships and partnerships with all community members.

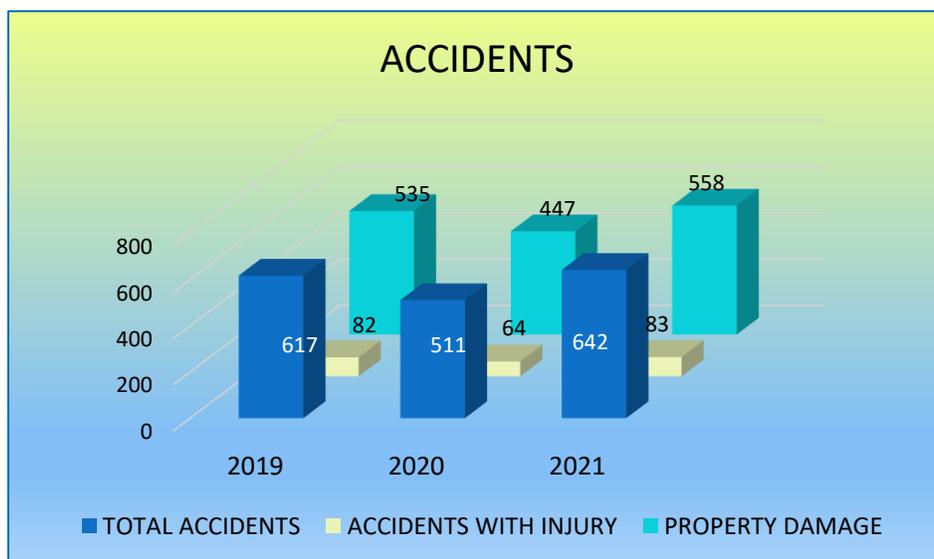
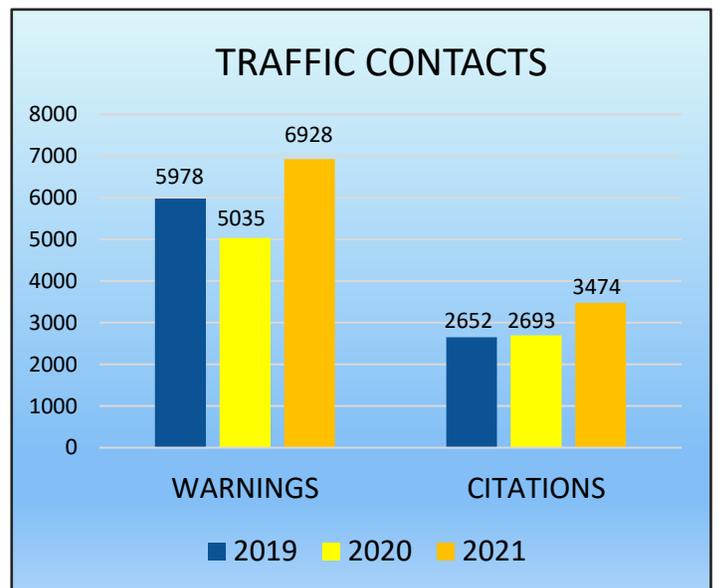
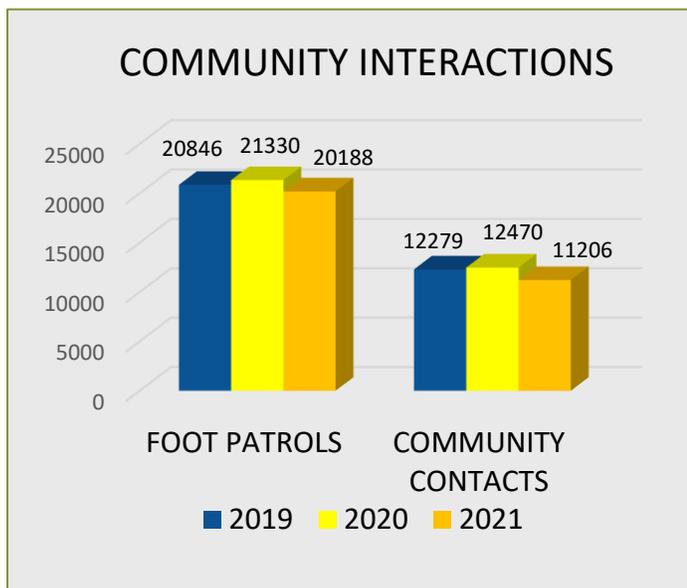
In May of 2021, we added two Neighborhood Patrol Officer positions (NPO). Officers Skanberg and Thompson are assigned to these positions and provide additional attention to cases involving neighborhood concerns, domestic violence, and crimes against older adults. The NPO’s have spent over 300 hours following-up with victims and witnesses to provide them additional resources. The extra outreach is example of our commitment to help those in need and ensure we continue to provide the best service we can.



The crime statistic data collected this year is consistent with crime trends we have experienced the past few years. We attribute the decline in burglary to motor vehicles to the 9 p.m. Routine Campaign. Residents locking their vehicles regularly, takes away the opportunity for this crime to occur. Retail thefts and business burglaries are also crimes of opportunity. Frankfort officers conducting regular foot patrols of businesses is one strategy we utilize to deter these crimes. Our officers log over 20,000-foot patrols annually. Identity theft cases continue to be one of the most frequent crimes committed. All identity theft victims are provided a resource packet containing prevention tips and information on how to secure their credit.

Crime Statistics 2019-2021

Type of Crime	Number of Calls 2019	Number of Calls 2020	Number of Calls 2021
DUI/Traffic Arrests	143	136	101
Retail Theft	34	31	40
Identity Theft	61	217	206
Theft	70	61	56
Burglary to Vehicle	61	55	26
Stolen Vehicles	17	16	15
Residential Burglary	8	15	6
Business Burglary	11	9	14
Criminal Trespass	35	31	32



Training Changes in 2022

Certified law enforcement officers throughout the State of Illinois are now required to complete a specified amount of training every three years to meet Illinois mandates under the newly enacted Illinois Safety, Accountability, Fairness, and Equity- Today Act or “Safe T Act”. Even before the enactment of the “Safe T Act”, the Frankfort Police Department and its officers trained annually in many of the same areas and topics now considered mandates by the State of Illinois and its governing body, the Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board. Some topics covered in the mandates include legal updates, officer wellness, crisis intervention training, emergency medical response, procedural justice, civil rights, and cultural competency. Use of force and de-escalation applications have increased from the previously required annual training. In a three-year-period, officers are to complete 30 hours of use of force training in the following areas: content focused on high-risk traffic stops, de-escalation, officer safety, and search and seizure. Some of this training is required to be in-person and scenario based. The training mandates take effect on July 1, 2022.

**Join us for Frankfort
Police Department's**



Tuesday, March 8, 2022

9:30am to 11:00am

**Butera Market, 20825 S. La Grange Rd,
Frankfort, IL**

**No speeches, no agendas, just an
opportunity to meet with those who serve
your community.**

We Never Walk Alone

The Frankfort Police Department is one of the first agencies in Will County to join “We Never Walk Alone”. We Never Walk Alone is a program that provides a variety of mental wellness resources and can be accessed by officers through a mobile application or website. Peer support personnel from various police agencies are available any time day or night. This allows officers to confidentially speak to a trained peer support member about personal or work-related topics, despite shiftwork restrictions. We Never Walk Alone is available to the family members of police personnel as well. Other resources available through the program include the ability to speak with trained clinicians, contact information for a variety of specific support services, and the ability to choose peer support personnel based on a specific need. We Never Walk Alone is one component of the police department’s officer wellness program that will be implemented in 2022. In the past year, five members of the Frankfort Police Department have been trained to serve as peer support team members. In upcoming “Frankfort Police News” issues we will highlight various aspects of our 2022 focus on officer wellness.

Retired-Hired-Promoted

Police Department Personnel Changes

Our agency had numerous changes in personnel in 2021. The retirement of Chief John Burica led to the appointment of Leanne (Bender) Chelepis to the position of Chief of Police. Kevin Lanz was promoted to Sergeant and took over as the Sergeant of Special Operations. Kevin oversees the positions of investigations, neighborhood patrol, directed patrol, training, and school resource officer. Sergeant Joel Panattoni retired after 27 years of dedicated service in January 2022. This led to the promotion of Tom Buividas as Patrol Sergeant. We would like to thank John Burica and Joel Panattoni for their service and leadership and wish them well in their retirements.



Officer Jamie Dulkowski

Additionally in 2021, we welcomed one new officer to our ranks, Officer Jamie Dulkowski. Jamie graduated from Lincoln-Way Central High School and obtained a bachelor's and master's degree in Psychology from Lewis University. Jamie worked as a mental health professional for the Crisis Line of Will County, ultimately moving on to work at outpatient counseling centers in the Will County Area. Officer Dulkowski's work experience and specialized training were in victim services and mental health; particularly crisis intervention, suicide risk assessment, and treating victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. Jamie cited several reasons for wanting to be a police officer. The first being a desire to do something she could be proud of while putting her previous training and experiences to good use. She is highly energized by people, wanting to help others, and feels policing is a noble profession that serves a critical purpose. Jamie strives to be a positive role model for her son and all those she encounters through police interactions. We are confident that Officer Dulkowski's education and background will be a tremendous asset to the Frankfort Police Department and our community.



February 23rd at
10AM
Clarendale of
Mokena.
21536 Wolf Rd,
Mokena.

Join us for the Frankfort/Mokena TRIAD meeting for seniors and older adults.

Guest Speaker: Patrick Sullivan of Frankfort Law Group.

Presenting: Will and Estate Planning

- **TRIAD** works to improve the quality of life for older adults by providing an opportunity for the exchange of information between law enforcement, senior citizens, and other community members

FRANKFORT POLICE

The Frankfort Police Department will be issuing a newsletter quarterly with up-to-date information on current crime trends, community events, and laws. To get a copy of our newsletter go to www.frankfortil.org

Frankfort Police
STAY CONNECTED



www.frankfortil.org

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To Receive Frankfort Area Text Alerts:
Text "FRANKFORT" to "888777"

Non-Emergency: (815)485-2500

Emergency: DIAL 911