



# VALPARAISO

## Police Department



Annual Report  
**2017**





# Message from the Chief

## Welcome from Chief Jeffrey A. Balon

Thank you for taking the time to review the 2017 Valparaiso Police Department's Annual Report. The annual report is a summary of department statistics, crime statistics and community programs sponsored by the Valparaiso Police Department. It also provides an opportunity to share the accomplishments of our department and our officers, including photographs taken throughout the year.

The last year has brought change to the Valparaiso Police Department, and it is with great pride that I assumed the role of Chief of Police. It is my firm belief that our officers are a credit to our department and our community, thereby making the Valparaiso Police Department an exemplary agency.

I would like to thank the members of my Administrative Team, including Assistant Chief Michael DeHaven, Captain David Richardson and Captain Brian McDonald, for their dedication and leadership in 2017.



**Chief Jeffrey A. Balon**



# Mission Statement

The members of the Valparaiso Police Department are committed to being responsive to our community in the delivery of quality service and to our profession by continuously seeking excellence.

By partnering with the community, we will strive to efficiently improve the quality of life by providing a safe and secure environment for all.

## DEDICATION

We value dedication and a strong commitment in providing quality service to our community. Individuals are encouraged to set goals for self-improvement. We value professionalism and being accountable to the highest standards of law enforcement.



## INNOVATION

We value our employees as our greatest asset. We believe in empowering individuals who reflect the organization's values through greater autonomy and control within their scope of responsibility. We encourage an atmosphere of creative problem solving and providing the equipment and technology necessary to accomplish our mission.

## INTEGRITY

We value truthfulness and honesty, and consider them vital to our organization. We are committed to ethical conduct by all members of our department, and the highest standards of moral character in serving our community. We are committed to justice and fairness and will abide by the Law Enforcement Code of Ethics.



# City of Valparaiso

## MAYOR OF THE CITY

Jon Costas

## CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Diana Reed District 1

Robert Cotton District 2

Matt Murphy District 3

Lenore Hoffman District 4

George Douglas District 5

Deb Porte At-Large

Trista Hudson At-Large



# Police Officer Prayer

Lord I ask for courage

Courage to face and  
Conquer my own fears...

Courage to take me  
Where others will not go...

I ask for strength

Strength of body  
to protect others

And strength of spirit to  
lead others...

I ask for dedication

Dedication to my job,  
to do it well

Dedication to my community

To keep it safe...

Give me Lord, concern

For others who trust me

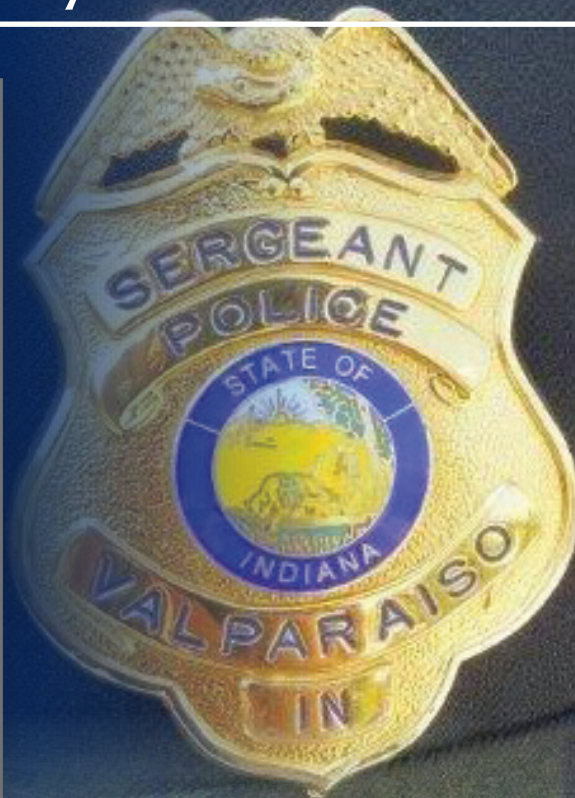
And compassion for those

Who need me...

And please Lord

Through it all

Be at my side...





# Executive Staff

The Valparaiso Police Department's Leadership Team is composed of a Chief of Police, an Assistant Chief, a Captain of Patrol, and a Captain of Investigations.

The Chief of Police has multiple responsibilities that include administrative duties, planning a yearly budget, directing and controlling all divisions within the police department, and research and future planning for the department. It is also his duty to remain apprised of the community's attitude and the needs shaping the department to provide the services required. Chief of Police Jeffrey A. Balon is the Commanding Officer, or Chief Executive Officer (CEO), of the entire Valparaiso Police Department.

The Assistant Chief performs supervisory and technical duties in research, planning and directing assigned divisions within the police department. Assistant Michael DeHaven ensures that personnel adhere to the rules, regulations and policies of the Valparaiso Police Department, and assists with the preparation of the annual department budget. He is directly responsible for the supervision of the Investigations Division, School Resource Officers and officers assigned to the Porter County Narcotics Unit. He also assumes the role of Police Chief in the absence of Chief Balon.

The Captain of Patrol, David Richardson, is responsible for serving as Patrol Division Commander. Captain Richardson's responsibilities include implementing and over-seeing all patrol enforcement policies and practices.

The Captain of Investigations, Brian McDonald, is responsible for serving as Investigations Division Commander. Captain McDonald's responsibilities include, implementing and over-seeing the Detective Division, as well as supervising daily procedures and day to day investigations.



**Jeffrey A. Balon**  
Chief of Police



**Michael J. DeHaven**  
Assistant Chief



**David S. Richardson**  
Captain of Patrol



**Brian M. McDonald**  
Captain of Investigations







# Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies

## Valparaiso Police Department an Accredited Agency Since 2010



On November 5, 2016, the Valparaiso Police Department earned their third accreditation through the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). The department earned their first accreditation in August of 2010.

In April 2007, Mayor Jon Costas and Chief Brickner signed the official contract with CALEA. This marked the official start of the three-year, self-assessment phase of the accreditation process.

During the self-assessment phase, the department reviews its General Orders. It is through these General Orders the department conducts daily business as a police agency. Numerous General Orders have been researched, analyzed, modified, initiated and implemented thus far.

Without the self-assessment process, the department would not remain pro-active or current towards the many changes occurring locally and nationally in the law enforcement field.

CALEA was created in 1979 as a credentialing authority through joint efforts of law enforcement's major executive associations, including:

- **International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP)**
- **National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE)**
- **National Sheriffs' Association (NSA)**
- **Police Executive Research Forum (PERF)**

In 2016, a CALEA team was initiated to assist with the daily task of maintaining the accreditation process. The team's duties include: review and maintenance of General Orders; record documentation that supports the department's General Orders; yearly analysis and review of statistics/data; assist with building confidence and accountability with community members; and ensure compliance with General Orders.

The CALEA team is coordinated by Chief Adjutant Michael Grennes, Accreditation Manager. Members of the team include: Dana Kinne, Glenda Walsh, IT Officer Phil Rochon, and Assistant Chief Mike DeHaven.





# 2017 Department Accomplishments and Officer Awards

The Valparaiso Police Department is proactive, progressive and dedicated to being the area's leading department in all aspects of law enforcement and community safety. In order to provide the best police protection for our community, the department continues to accomplish many goals on a regular basis.

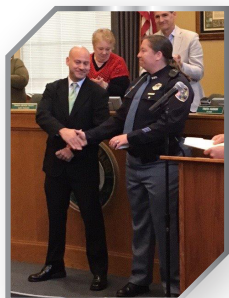
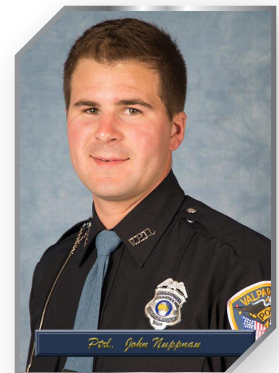
## The following is a list of some accomplishments attained by the department in 2017

1. Initiated a video monitoring area in the department's parking lot for child exchanges/ internet transactions.
2. Purchased seven new police vehicles.
3. Purchased 15 new mobile data terminals- computer lap tops for vehicles.
4. Hired seven new police officers.
5. New interview recording surveillance system, used to interview suspects.
6. Initiated a new virtual training academy for officers to train online in connection with ILEA.
7. New Police Chief appointed – Jeff Balon
8. New Administration Staff appointed—Assistant Chief Mike DeHaven; Captain Brian McDonald and Captain David Richardson.
9. Two new Patrol Lieutenants promoted--- Jerame Simpson and John Patston.
10. Four new Patrol Sergeants promoted- Chris Allison, Joe Hall, Andrew McIntyre and Todd Kobitz.
11. Two new members added to the Emergency Response Team (Porter County Sheriff's Department)
12. Initiated a Division of Technology within the police department, (2 officers assigned).

## Officer Awards for 2017:

### Honorable Mention Award

On April 29, 2017 at 1:30 a.m. Officer John Nuppnau, while on patrol, located a male subject near a parked vehicle near Washington St/ Harrison Blvd. Officer Nuppnau began investigating the individual and while speaking with him located a handgun in the subject's possession. Further investigation learned that the handgun had been stolen a month earlier from a vehicle in Valparaiso. The handgun was recovered and the male subject arrested on numerous charges. Due to Officer Nuppnau's actions he was awarded the department's Honorable Mention Award.



### Life Saving Award

On March 2nd, Officers Michelle Kodicek and Jason Hamilton responded to the report of an individual not breathing in the 1200 block of Pine Creek. Officers arrived and found a 43 year old male subject not breathing and not having a pulse. Officer Kodicek utilized her portable AED and began chest compressions. When Officer Hamilton arrived, he assisted Officer Kodicek with CPR until Valparaiso Fire/EMS arrived and transported the subject to the hospital. The male subject has recovered due to the actions of Officer Kodicek and Officer Hamilton. Due to the actions of Officer Kodicek and Officer Hamilton they were each awarded the Department's Life Saving Award.



# Valparaiso Police Department 2017 Survey Summary

**A total of 157 surveys were sent out during the 2017 calendar year. The department received a total of 25 surveys back or a 16% return. The following are the results of the surveys for each category. The percentage is the result of the returned surveys.**

Helpfulness	Excellent 76%	Good 12%	Fair 12%	Poor 0%
Knowledge	Excellent 76%	Good 20%	Fair 0%	Poor 4%
Concern for Your Problem	Excellent 72%	Good 12%	Fair 12%	Poor 4%
Putting You at Ease	Excellent 72%	Good 20%	Fair 8%	Poor 0%
Professional Conduct	Excellent 88%	Good 12%	Fair 0%	Poor 0%
Politeness	Excellent 84%	Good 16%	Fair 0%	Poor 0%
Officer Appearance	Excellent 100%	Good 0%	Fair 0%	Poor 0%

Considering the most recent time the Valparaiso Police Department responded to your call for service, please rate the following:

Response Time	Excellent 72%	Good 28%	Fair 0%	Poor 3%
Initial Greeting by Officer	Excellent 80%	Good 20%	Fair 0%	Poor 0%

If a Detective was assigned to your case, please answer the following questions. A total of seven surveys were returned with ratings for the Detective Division:

Promptness of follow-up call or contact	Excellent 57%	Good 28%	Poor 0%	
Knowledge of Detective	Excellent 43%	Good 43%	Poor 14%	
Explanation of your case options	Excellent 43%	Good 29%	Poor 14%	
Detective's politeness	Excellent 71%	Good 29%	Poor 0%	
Fairness of Detective	Excellent 43%	Good 43%	Poor 14%	
Detective Appearance	Excellent 83%	Good 17%	Poor 0%	
Do you feel safe in your neighborhood?	Yes- 91%	No- 9%		
Do you think the police patrol your street or block enough?	Yes- 62%	No- 38%		
How safe do you feel on the roads in your neighborhood?	Safe- 68%	Comfortable- 28%		
Feel safer in Valparaiso than you have in another community you lived in?	Yes- 65%	No- 35%		
Overall, Valparaiso Police Department's rating?	Excellent 80%	Good 12%	Fair 4%	Poor 4%



# Community Relations Division

The Valparaiso Police Department places a great emphasis on Community Relations. Department members take pride in building strong relationships with community members.

A top priority of the department is always to focus on improving communications and expanding relationships with our community. Through many community programs, department members partner with the community to enhance safety and build relationships with community members.

A strong community relations program between police and community members will assist police in fighting crime and help keep Valparaiso a great place to live, shop and raise a family.

## Community programs coordinated by the Valparaiso Police Department:

- Adopt a School Program
- Department's Website
- Citizens' Police Academy
- Department's Facebook Page
- Junior Citizens' Police Academy
- G.R.E.A.T. Program
- Valpo Alert Notification System
- Department Twitter Page
- Email Notification System
- Volunteers in Police Service (MPS)
- TIP 411 Program (anonymous crime tips)
- Senior Care Program
- Neighborhood Watch Program
- Prescription Drug Drop Off Program
- A Child is Missing Alert System
- Community Survey Program
- Operation Pull Over
- Department Annual Yearbook
- National Night Out
- Church Security Training Program
- Coffee with a Cop Program
- Online Case Reporting





# Community Programs

## 2017 Brief Summary of Our Programs

### Citizens' Police Academy

The Citizens' Police Academy (CPA) was introduced in the spring of 2003. During this eight-week program, citizens gain a basic knowledge of Valparaiso Police Department operations and interact with officers. The classes, which are held once a week, build positive community relationships and enhance transparency. In 2017, a total of 24 students graduated from the CPA. Over 265 community members have graduated from the academy since its inception.

### Junior Citizens' Police Academy

The Junior Citizens' Police Academy (JPA) is geared toward high school students with an interest in law enforcement. Our goal is to create a program that bridges the gap between police officers and young members of the community. While the program may not produce a single law enforcement officer, the JPA equips tomorrow's citizens with an understanding of the law enforcer's role in society. In 2017, a total of 19 students graduated from the Junior Citizens' Police Academy. Since the start of the program, 185 students have graduated.

### Volunteers in Police Service

The Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS) are CPA Alumni, who remain connected with the department and active in various community related events. The VIPS accumulated over 90 volunteer hours in 2017, participating in events such as National Night Out, Popcorn Festival, K-9 Race, Downtown Trick-or-Treat, and assisting with the G.R.E.A.T. program. Many also attended the department's annual Police Week ceremony. Currently, there are 45 members in the program.

### Coffee with a Cop

In 2014, the department initiated Coffee with a Cop, which was based on a simple concept. No speeches, just officers and community members coming together in an informal, neutral environment to discuss community issues and build relationships over coffee. This event provides a unique opportunity for community members to ask questions and learn more about the department's work throughout the city. In September 2017, the department hosted the event in Central Park. It proved a great opportunity for community members to meet the newly appointed Chief of Police, Jeffrey A. Balon.

### Prescription Drug Drop Off

In late 2010, the department initiated the Prescription Drug Drop Off Program. In partnership with the DEA and the Porter County Substance Abuse Council, the Valparaiso Police Department installed a drop box for community members to dispose of prescription drugs 24-hours a day/seven days a week. All types of medication can be disposed of using this resource. In 2017, an estimated 1,198 pounds of prescription drugs were collected and destroyed by the department through the program. Over 7,698 pounds of prescription drugs have been collected since the program began in 2010.

### National Night Out

In 2017, the department participated in the 33rd National Night Out. This was the department's 13th year participating in the national program, which is designed to bring neighborhoods together on the first Tuesday in August to show support against neighborhood crime. This year, a total of 15 neighborhoods hosted events throughout the city. A total of 25 participants from the K-9 Unit, Bicycle Team, Detective Bureau, Administration, Patrol Division and the Record's Division attended the event. As usual, the night was a huge success!





# School Resource Officers & Adopt-A-School Program

## High School and Middle School Resource Officers Summary Report 2017

It is the primary mission of the School Resource Officer to assist the Valparaiso School System with keeping its buildings a safe place to learn and work. Protecting the lives of staff, students and all visitors is paramount to this position. It is also the mission of the School Resource Officer to establish and maintain a mutual respect between students, parents and school personnel. This will help further the education process by providing the faculty with assistance in areas where law enforcement may specialize; such as drug awareness, criminal law and anti-violence. Lt. Ed Blakley and Officer Terry Cox are an additional source of help which the students may access in times of need. In 2017, Lt. Blakley at the high school, initiated 25 cases, which included 36 arrests. Officer Cox, at the middle schools, initiated 7 cases, which included 8 arrests. Lt. Blakley conducted 25 classroom presentations.

They will help generate a positive understanding of law enforcement and promote good citizenship with the Valparaiso community through daily interaction with the students. The day-to-day duties of School Resource Officer's include, but are not limited to, enforcement of law within the school campus by investigating cases and making arrests, mediation counseling, building positive relationships with students, public speaking, security surveillance analysis and law related education. The School Resource Officer's are a positive role model for the students.

In addition to their roles in the schools, Officer Cox coordinates the Gang Resistance Education and Training Program (G.R.E.A.T.) Seventh graders throughout the Valparaiso Community Schools learn about the dangers of gangs and drugs. Many life skills, such as, goal setting, anti-bullying and anger management are taught during this program. Each year, at the end of the program, a party is put on for all the students which graduated from the program. In 2017, over 451 students participated in the course which included students from four separate schools. The program is funded through donations and fund raising events.



### Adopt-A-School Program

The Valparaiso Police Department's Adopt-A-School Program was initiated in 2005 as an ongoing partnership with the Valparaiso Community School System. Through the program, officers become familiar with elementary school campuses, students and staff. Research has shown that when officers spend positive time with children at a young age, the trust and respect that is formed can last a lifetime.

Officers are assigned to a designated elementary school within the Valparaiso School System, and routinely make visits throughout the school year. The visits are made at different times of the day, and students are encouraged to ask questions and speak with the officer. Officers are also made available to conduct specially assigned lectures on a range of topics which can include safety topics. This program not only helps form connections between law enforcement and schools, but it also keeps our children safer by having additional officers present at designated times throughout the school day.

In November 2013, Officer Terry Cox was assigned to the middle schools as a School Resource Officer. Also in 2013, the Valparaiso Police Department partnered with the Porter County Safe Schools Committee. The Valparaiso Police Department is one of the most active agencies participating in the Safe Schools Committee.



# Project Safeway

## 2017 Summary Statistics

In 2017, a total of 41 complaints were received regarding speeding or unsafe driving behaviors. The complaints were documented throughout the entire city. In 2017, there was an increase of 12 complaints from 2016.

The month of August had the most complaints with 7 followed next by March with 6 complaints.

Each complaint received an average of 12 extra patrols. As a result of the 41 Project Safeway's being completed, a total of 506 extra patrols were conducted. Through the extra patrols, 240 traffic stops were initiated. In 2016, officers conducted 335 extra patrols. Officers conducted 171 more patrols than in 2016, a 51% increase. Officer contacts increased by 70 or by 41%.

The area with the most stops generated included the areas of Country Club Rd. near the Valparaiso Country Club with 39 contacts and the Ransom Rd. area with 34 contacts. Three Project Safeway's were generated due to complaints by bus drivers of motorists running bus stop arms.

### Monthly breakdown of complaints:

January:	4
February:	3
March:	6
April:	3
May:	4
June:	5
July:	2
August:	7
September:	4
October:	1
November:	2
December:	0



A Project Safeway activity sheet was completed for each complaint. Included on each worksheet is the documentation of each officer's activity.

# Tip 411

## 2017 Summary Report

A new text tip system (847-411) was introduced to the Valparaiso Community on August 1, 2010. This system was designed to provide an opportunity for community members to use their cellular phones to anonymously text crime information to members of the Valparaiso Police Department. Currently every supervisor and detective receives text information on their cellular phone when a text tip is sent to the department.



When texting 847-411 the key word “Valpo” must be the first word in the message box of the cellular phone before sending the message. Once “Valpo” has been entered into the message field, the crime information/tip can then be entered and sent to the department.

### 2017 Statistics:

The department received 216 anonymous tips in 2017. This was an increase of 90 tips from 2016 when the department received 126 tips. This is a 71% increase in tips for 2017. The most tips received in 2017 were for crime tips with 58 anonymous tips. Drug information or complaints and suspicious vehicles or individuals were next with 55 tips each.

Multiple tips reported resulted in arrests of subjects and many tips helped police solve felony crimes that were being investigated by police.

### Listed below is a breakdown of all the tips received in 2017:

Suspicious Vehicle/Persons:	33	Traffic Complaints	10
Crime Tips:	58	Wellness Requests	3
Drug Information:	22	Fireworks Complaints	4
Noise Complaints:	10	General Questions	5
Test/Empty/Other:	42	Disturbance Tips	5
Other Jurisdiction Tips:	6		
Party Tips - Underage:	14		
High School Tips:	4	<b>Total Tips:</b>	<b>216</b>





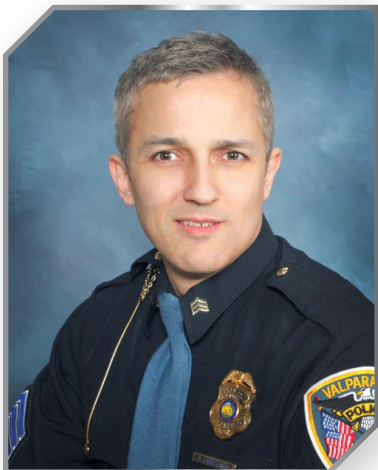
# Investigations Division



(Capt. of Investigations Brian McDonald)



(Det. Lt. Thomas Horn)



(Det. Sgt. Dave Castellanos)



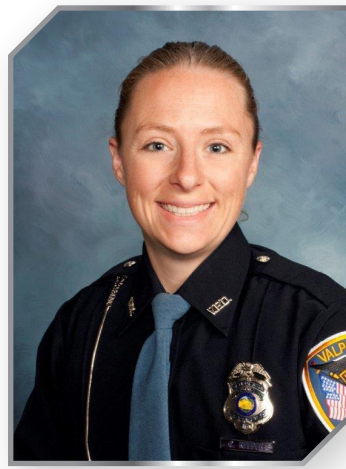
(Det. Brian Thurman)



(Det. Sgt. Melanie Sheets)



(Det. Jason Hamilton)



(Det. Cassidy Schafer)

# Detective Bureau Statistics 2017

## Breakdown by type of disposition/incident Investigated by the Detective Bureau in 2017

Category	Adult	Juvenile
Arrest/Felony	33	0
Arrest/Misdemeanor	17	0
Civil	13	1
Cleared Suspect	32	2
Completed	77	1
Referred to Juvenile Probation	0	8
Remains Open	51	0
Case Pending @ Prosecutors	19	0
Active Cases	9	1
Unfounded	7	0
<b>INTERNAL INVESTIGATIONS 2017:</b>		<b>0</b>

### CASE ASSIGNMENTS PER MONTH

January	24	July	22
February	26	August	27
March	19	September	25
April	8	October	29
May	16	November	37
June	12	December	21
<b>TOTAL ASSIGNMENTS 2017:</b>		<b>266 CASES</b>	





# 2017 K-9 Summary

In 2017, the Valparaiso Police Department K-9 Unit consisted of five handlers and their K-9 partners, including Program Coordinator Sgt. Todd Kobitz and his K-9 partner Geist; Lt. Jerame Simpson and his K-9 partner Rico; Officer John Cordova and his K-9 partner Sabre; Officer Ryan Sobierajski and his K-9 partner Vega; and Officer Nicholas Kobitka and his K-9 partner Kaiser.

The Unit was responsible for 99 narcotics finds and 103 arrests in 2017, an increase from the 62 finds and 73 arrests documented in 2016. A “narcotics find” is when one of the dogs alerts to actual drugs or drug paraphernalia with drug residue. Since the initiation of the K-9 program in 2000, the Unit has been successful in making a total of approximately 1,595 finds. In 2017, the K-9s were used a total of 346 times. Though the majority of these calls were related to drugs, the dogs were also used for tracking and building searches. The overall use of the Unit increased 40% from 2016.

In May 2017, the K-9 Unit, in conjunction with the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) Lodge #76, sponsored the 5th annual run/walk fundraiser. The event, once again, was a huge success with more than 250 runners and walkers. The K-9 Unit would like to thank all the 2017 sponsors and participants.

The K-9 program continues to be a vital component of the Department’s Community Policing Program. Throughout the year the K-9 Unit participates in numerous events, and they are always popular with the community.



Geist



Kaiser



Rico



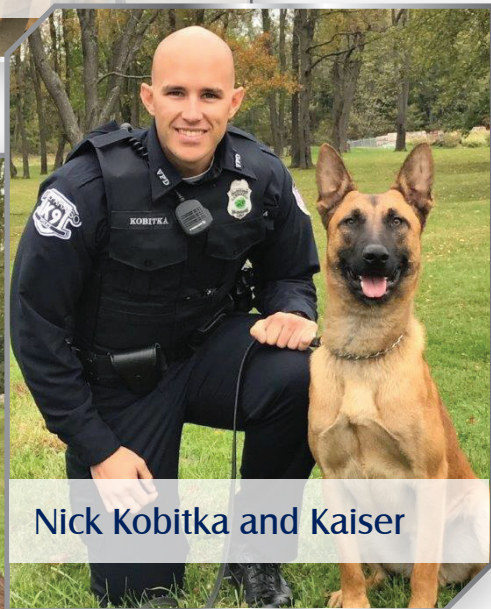
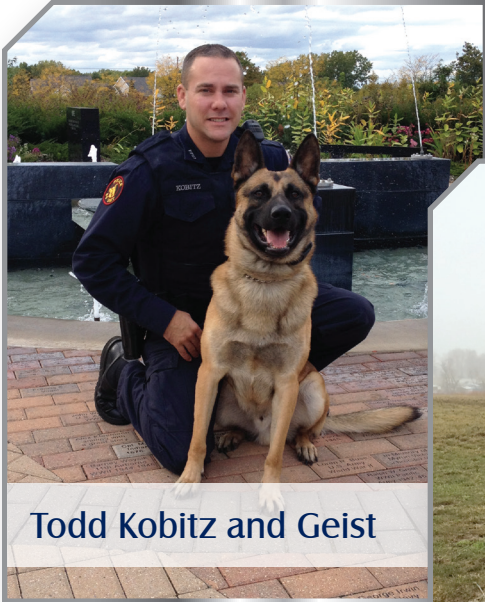
Sabre



Vega



# K-9 Team





# Patrol Division

The Patrol Division has 38 officers assigned to patrol duties and two assigned to the Porter County Narcotics Unit. This division operates four crews, each assigned to rotating twelve hour schedules.

Each crew consists of a Lieutenant, two Sergeants and Patrol Officers. The Patrol Division is supervised by Captain of Patrol, David Richardson. This division is the largest within the police department. During a regularly scheduled patrol shift, most officers work during the hours of 6:00 to 6:00. Two crews alternate the morning to evening shifts (a.m. to p.m.) and the other two crews alternate the evening to morning shifts (p.m. to a.m.). The jurisdiction of our city is broken up into zones, in which patrol officers are assigned on a daily basis. These zones are labeled as zone 1 (North), and 2 (South). Each shift begins with a roll call, where officers are briefed about pertinent law enforcement information, details of earlier incidents and assigned their zones.

The Department has a flex shift, or coverage shift, of four officers that work during high call periods to assist with shift change and help provide manpower during the busiest times of the day. The department has a Special Deployment Unit (SDU) that focuses on current issues occurring within the city which require extra patrols due to a rash of crimes in a particular area. These patrols consist of officers working overtime while focusing on the particular issue.

The zoned coverage of the city helps provide a quickened response time to any area of the city, which in-turn supplies the community with reliable emergency coverage. Each officer in the division utilizes an issued squad car during their patrol duties, some of which are unmarked. The duties of an officer working in the Patrol Division consist of traffic enforcement, responding to calls for service, criminal investigations, arrests, as well as crash investigations and the writing of reports which have been deemed criminal in nature. The Patrol Division is the most visible to the Valparaiso residents. We strive to always be professional and courteous while serving and protecting our citizens.



**David Richardson-Captain of  
Patrol Division**



**Lt. Sean Kostelnik-  
Patrol Supervisor**



**Lt. Philip Spence-  
Patrol Supervisor**



**Lt. Jerame Simpson-  
Patrol Supervisor**



**Lt. John Patston-  
Patrol Supervisor**



# Records Civillian Employees

The mission of the Records Division is to provide support service to the Valparaiso Police Department, other public agencies, private agencies and the public at large. We are dedicated to providing quality service in a timely fashion with care, compassion and excellence.

All individuals walking into and calling the police department are first greeted by a member of the Records Division. The Records Division is responsible for securing all incidents and crash reports taken by officers. All inquires for reports by the general public and other outside agencies are answered by the Records Division. The department processes thousands of requests yearly.

Also in the Records Division is the Parking Enforcement Division. All parking tickets issued can be paid at the department or online at [www.valparaisopolice.org](http://www.valparaisopolice.org).

All employees of the Records Division are civilian employees. Our full time records clerks are Terry Gilliana, Glenda Walsh and Kelly Peddle. There is one part time Public Assistance Clerk, Tom Lazar. Parking Enforcement has one employee, Dawn McCulloch.

There are two Administrative Assistants whom are civilian employees. Natalie Mahlmann is the assistant to Chief Balon and Dana Kinne is the assistant to the Investigations Division.



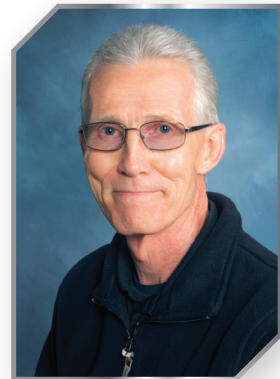
**Terry Gilliana-  
Record Clerk**



**Glenda Walsh-  
Record Clerk**



**Kelly Peddle-  
Record Clerk**



**Tom Lazar - Record  
Clerk**



**Dawn McCulloch-  
Parking  
Enforcement**



**Natalie Mahlmann-  
Administrative  
Assistant**



**Dana Kinne-  
Administrative  
Assistant to  
Investigations**





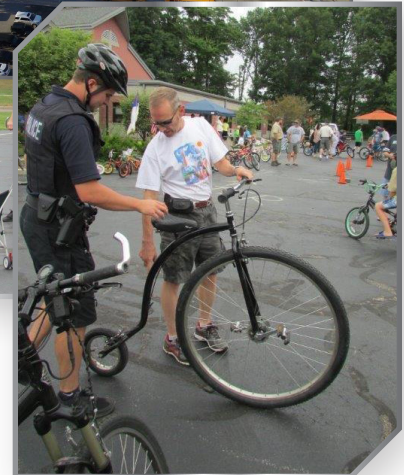
# Drone & Bicycle Patrol

## Department's Unmanned Aircraft Program

In 2016, the department initiated an Unmanned Aircraft Program (drone program). The department applied for and received a jurisdictional certificate of authorization from the FAA to utilize the unmanned air crafts. Five officers were certified as remote pilots and two different drones were purchased by the department.

The two drones purchased included an Inspire with thermal imagery and zoom camera capabilities and a Phantom 3 Advanced drone.

In 2017, a total of 248 flights were flown, this includes officer training. The Unmanned Aircraft Program was utilized for numerous incidents involving the Valparaiso Police Department and utilized for numerous other agencies throughout the county.



## Top Incidents in 2017-

1. Search for Missing dementia patient (Valparaiso P.D.)
2. Search for missing person at Popcorn Festival (Valparaiso P.D.)
3. Search for possible homeless village (Valparaiso P.D.)
4. Search and rescue for missing children (Porter County Sheriffs)
5. Search for missing boater (Indiana Department Natural Resource- DNR)
6. Rooftop search for possible evidence, murder investigation (Chesterton P.D.)
7. Structure Fire assistance (Valparaiso Fire Department)
8. Search for missing suicidal suspect (Porter County Sheriffs)
9. Search for suicidal subject (Valparaiso P.D.)
10. Popcorn Festival security assistance (Valparaiso P.D.)

## Bicycle Patrol Unit 2017 Summary

The Valparaiso Police Department's Bicycle Unit was implemented in the spring of 2004, and started with just four members. This Unit expanded to eight officers patrolling in two-officer teams in 2007. Currently eight officers participate in the Bicycle Unit. The Unit was implemented to focus patrols in neighborhoods, Valparaiso's growing downtown area including Central Park, and to continue and expand our partnerships between the community and the police department. The Bicycle Unit is deployed from May to October each year.

# 2017 Crash Statistics

## Intersections

Calumet/Vale Park/Roosevelt (Roundabout)	65
Morthland/ Washington	41
SR 49/Laporte	36
Morthland/ Strongbow Centre	25
Morthland/ Sturdy	19
Morthland/ Horseprairie	17
Lincolnway/ Sturdy/ LaPorte (Roundabout)	17
Calumet/ Glendale	16

## Streets

Morthland	173
Calumet	118
Lincolnway	116
Silhavy	71
St Rd 49	68

## Totals

<b>Total Accidents</b>	<b>1,806</b>
<b>Total Injury Crashes</b>	<b>230</b>
<b>Total Injuries</b>	<b>299</b>
<b>Total Property Damage Crashes</b>	<b>1,262</b>



# Year End Statistics 2016

## Major Offenses

<b>Homicide:</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Rape:</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Robbery:</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Assault (Aggravated):</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>Burglary:</b>	<b>72</b>
<b>Larceny:</b>	<b>468</b>
<b>Motor Vehicle Theft:</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Arson:</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Arrests:</b>	<b>862</b>
<b>Traffic Stops:</b>	<b>8,102</b>
<b>Calls For Service:</b>	<b>25,841</b>





# Year End Statistics 2017

## Major Offenses

<b>Homicide:</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Rape:</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Robbery:</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Assault (Aggravated):</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>Burglary:</b>	<b>52</b>
<b>Larceny:</b>	<b>432</b>
<b>Motor Vehicle Theft:</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Arson:</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Arrests:</b>	<b>897</b>
<b>Traffic Stops:</b>	<b>9,726</b>
<b>Calls For Service:</b>	<b>26,898</b>





# G.I.S. Mapping System

In 2011, the Valparaiso Police Department began using a new mapping system to map crimes that occur within the city. The new mapping program can be used to help police better utilize man power and obtain a better overall view of where particular crimes are occurring. Data entered into the mapping system is collected through the Records Division.

In 2017, the Special Deployment Unit (SDU), weekly used the mapping system to assist them with assigning officers to extra patrols to help deter particular crimes. This was especially helpful when targeting particular neighborhoods that were experiencing criminal incidents.



## Fraternal Order of Police - LODGE 76 IN 2017

Valparaiso Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 76 is vastly comprised of Valparaiso Police Officers and retired officers. FOP Lodge 76 is always looking for ways to give back to the community. Yearly, numerous events are held by the Fraternal Order of Police to help the community. In 2017, one major event was held to help local individuals. Shop with a Cop provides needed school supplies and clothing to students who are in need. This event was held at Target in Valparaiso.

The Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 76 would like to thank everybody that supports these programs with their donations. Your donations provide the funding for these programs...Thank You!

# Retirement

**In 2017, three officers announced their retirement from the Valparaiso Police Department: Police Chief Michael E. Brickner, Assistant Chief Richard Spicer, and Patrol Sergeant David Smith.**



Chief Brickner announced his retirement after serving the citizens of Valparaiso as a member of the Department for 31 years. He began his journey with the Valparaiso Police Department as a Patrol Officer, and progressed through the ranks of Patrol Sergeant, Patrol Lieutenant, Detective, Public Information Officer, and ultimately, Chief of Police.



Assistant Chief Spicer announced his retirement after serving the Valparaiso community for 30 years as a member of the Valparaiso Police Department. Through the years, he progressed through the ranks of Patrol Sergeant, Patrol Lieutenant, Detective, School Resource Officer, Drug Task Force Detective, Public Information Officer, and ultimately, Assistant Chief.



Sergeant Smith announced his retirement after serving the citizens of Valparaiso for 23 years. He began his career as a Patrol Officer, and retired with the rank of Patrol Sergeant.

We congratulate these officers on their years of service and sincerely hope they enjoy their retirement.



# VALPARAISO POLICE DEPARTMENT

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