



Frankfort Police News

Volume 8, Issue 1

February 2021

2020-A Year in Review

2020 proved to be a trying year for a multitude of reasons. The pandemic created new challenges for the police department and certain adjustments were made to continue providing the Frankfort community with a high level of service. Traffic statistics for 2020 were reduced in comparison to previous years due to procedural changes for COVID-19. Our officers did a tremendous job of responding to community concerns and providing services despite the pandemic.

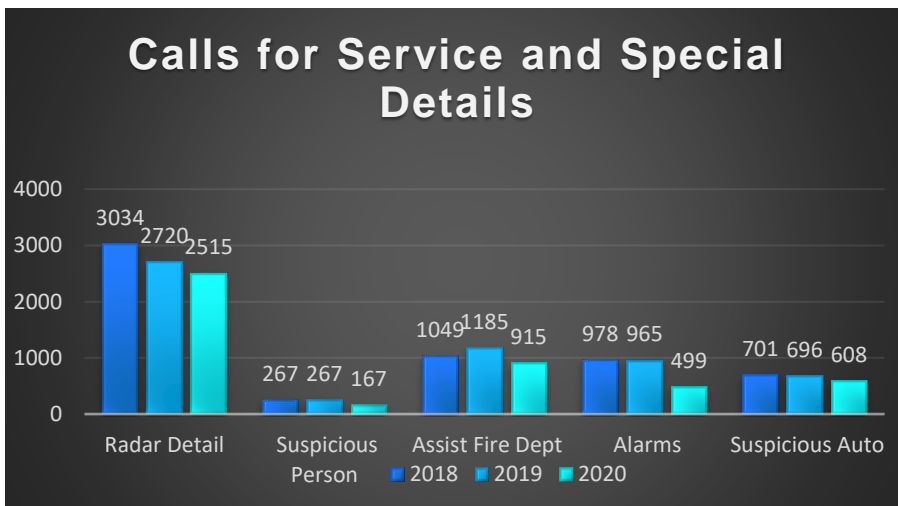
Burglaries to motor vehicles continued to occur in Frankfort, as well as, throughout Illinois and the nation. The Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES) scam became one of our most prominent calls. This is evident in the number of identity theft cases reported this year, the vast majority were related to IDES fraud. This statewide scam occurs when an individual receives unsolicited unemployment benefits through the IDES. The benefits are typically arriving in the form a notice sent to an employer or an unemployment benefits card unexpectedly arriving in the mail. We recommend those who have been a victim of this scam monitor their credit to detect any additional breaches in personal information. If you are a victim of the IDES scam, you should first report the fraud by contacting the IDES by phone (800) 814-0513 or visit the IDES website at: https://www2.illinois.gov/ides/Pages/Reporting_Unemployment_Insurance_Fraud.aspx

One of the biggest disappointments of 2020 was not being able to host many of our regular community events. These events are important because they allow us opportunities to engage with residents and business owners in a relaxed setting. We are hopeful our “Coffee with a Cop”, “Night Out Against Crime”, TRIAD (senior safety meetings), Safety Trunk or Treat, and other events will return in 2021.

During 2020 we welcomed three new officers to our ranks, Officer Krupa, Officer Smock and Officer Tamme. Officers Smock and Tamme recently graduated from the police academy and are now beginning their field training program. Upon successful completion both will be released to solo patrol. These added officers will

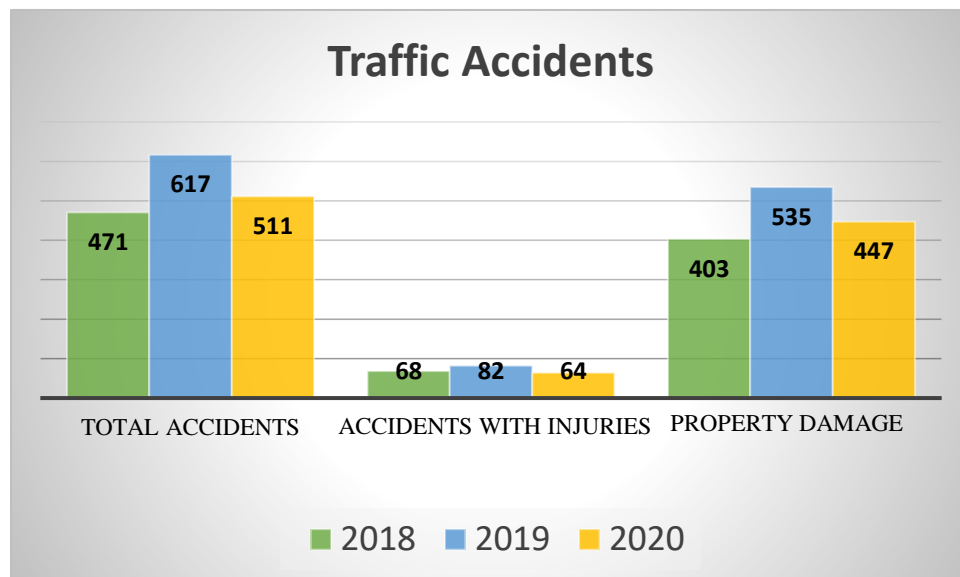
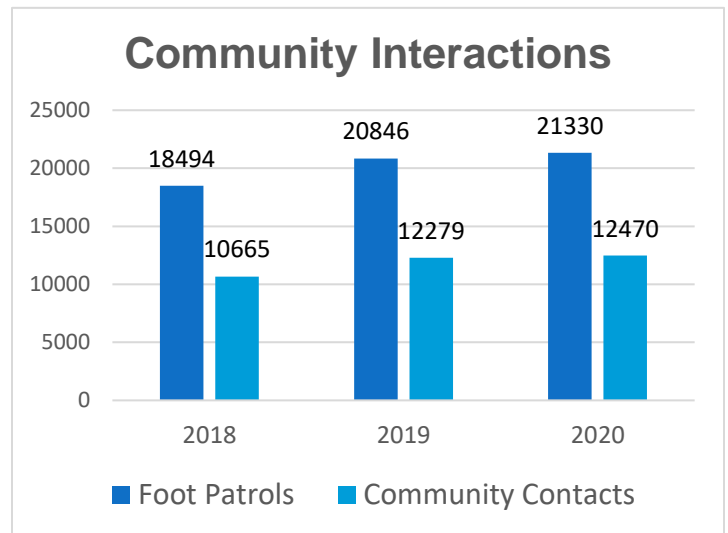
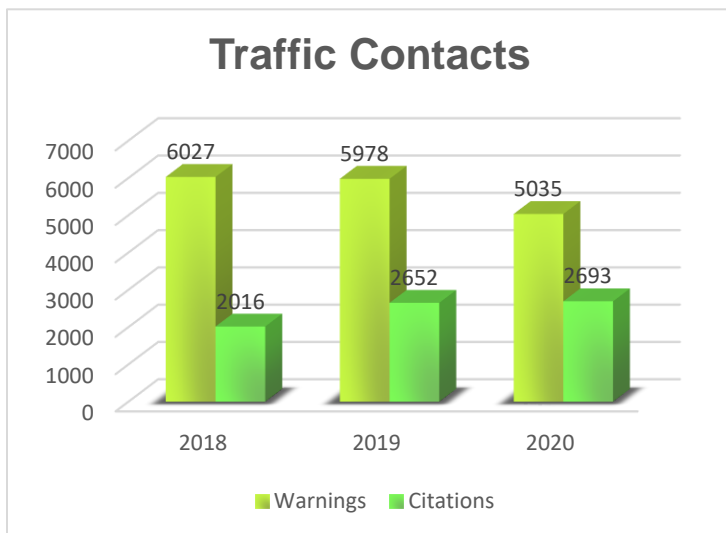
allow us to have enhanced patrol coverage and support our new Directed Patrol Officer positions (DPO). Directed Patrol Officers are assigned to address specific crime trends, traffic concerns, and allow additional follow up on high profile investigatory cases. As always please contact us with any questions or concerns and if you see or hear something suspicious call us immediately. We look forward to serving you in 2021.

Chief John Burica



Inside the Crime Statistics 2018-2020

Type of Crime	Number of Calls 2018	Number of Calls 2019	Number of Calls 2020
DUI/Traffic Arrests	132	143	136
Retail Theft	53	34	31
Identity Theft	57	61	217* IDES FRAUD
Theft	59	70	61
Burglary to Vehicle	50	61	55
Stolen Vehicles	12	17	16
Residential Burglary	4	8	15
Business Burglary	16	11	9
Criminal Trespass	17	35	31





Frankfort Police Department now has a Business Nixle - Join now to receive business related safety information.

E-mail the following information to us at admin@frankfortil.org.

- Your name and business name
- Your e-mail address
- Your mobile phone number

Join us for Frankfort Police Department's



Wednesday, February 17th

Submit questions or concerns to admin@frankfortil.org by February 15th. During this session we will answer commonly asked questions, concerns, and share information on current crime trends with participants. A link to our event will be posted on the Village Website under police events and on the Frankfort Police Facebook page.

Excellence in Policing- Utilizing 21st Century Policing as a Guideline

Last year, we began featuring articles to address the six pillars of the Task Force on 21st Century Policing guidelines and recommendations for law enforcement agencies. This issue will focus on the fourth pillar, community policing and crime reduction.

Frankfort Police Department utilizes a community policing philosophy where our officers engage the community in important conversations, crime prevention efforts, and regularly communicate information to share with the public.

Our officers participated in over 21,000-foot patrols of businesses, parks, and other public areas last year. We also host events like Coffee with a Cop and Night Out Against Crime.

Frankfort Police Department has partnered with School District 157-C to provide a District Resource Officer (DRO) to the schools. The DRO fosters positive relationships with staff and students, assists the school staff with safety programs and drills, and protects students while on school grounds.

Frankfort Police Department hosts an Explorer Program (Cadet Program) which provides an opportunity for youth to participate in police community events and learn various skills related to law enforcement.

Chief John Burica has developed Directed Patrol Officer positions to address specific crime trends, community concerns, and provide additional patrol resources as needed.

The Frankfort Police Department has various crime prevention programs for older adults such as TRIAD, Seniors on Patrol, and Matter of Balance- Fall Prevention Program.

The next issue of Frankfort Police News will highlight Pillar Five, training and education.

2020: Our Agency's Response

As the year has come to an end, we realize it was difficult and trying time not just for us but for the community. The COVID19 epidemic created uncertainty and many obstacles for everyone. We had to filter through various streams of information to make decisions that would keep our community members and officers safe. We knew that when we took an oath to protect and serve, this service does not stop on holidays, during certain hours of the day, no matter the call, no matter the weather we are here for our community. We are here to serve and protect 24/7, 365 days a year and this holds true even in a pandemic.

Our officers rose to the challenge and showed up dutifully for work even with the fear of the unknown brought on by the pandemic. Chief Burica and Command Staff members spent countless hours on video conferences to develop safety protocols, securing PPE for officers, and applying modified schedules to reduce the risk of infection. Procedures for report taking were modified and sanitizing practices were implemented for squad cars and the police department building. Overall, the planning and protocols were successful in keeping our officers safe while still providing quality service to our residents.

On May 25, 2020 George Floyd died while in the custody of the Minneapolis Police Department. This tragic incident was described by Chief John Burica as "vile, inexcusable, and sickening". Nationwide there were many protests, some peaceful, but others resulting in rioting and civil unrest. The Village of Frankfort had several peaceful protests. Due to communication between community leaders, those who organized the protests and our agency, several plans were implemented which allowed a safe space for these gatherings.

Now we are entering 2021, COVID19 and civil unrest is still plaguing our country. Division and civil unrest are still occurring, we hope we are rounding the corner but that is it yet to be known. Here is what we do know: Frankfort PD is here, ready to serve and protect. The Frankfort Community has shown tremendous support and respect to our agency for which we are grateful. We are and have always been here to learn and listen. We know that the criminal justice system is not perfect, and we are always open for dialogue to discuss and implement changes. We believe a partnership between the community and the police department is the foundation of law enforcement and we will continue to foster and enhance this relationship. We have seen the burden this year has put on those we serve, but also our officers. We are proud of the men and women of the Frankfort Police Department and our high standards and progressive policies. We look forward to carrying out our agency's mission, to serve and protect, in 2021.

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

Non-Emergency: (815)485-2500

Emergency: DIAL 911



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