

East Aurora / Town of Aurora

Police Department

2021

Annual Report

Mission Statement

The quality of neighborhood life, its safety and welfare comes from the commitment of each of its citizens. The East Aurora / Town of Aurora Police Department takes pride in its role as a citizen of the community, partners with its members in the delivery of quality law enforcement services. We dedicate our full-time efforts to the duties incumbent upon every community member. As we act, we are universal citizens deriving our authority from those we serve. We accept our law enforcement mission to serve the Village of East Aurora and the Town of Aurora with the enduring belief that in so doing, we serve ourselves. As professionals, we view our responsibilities as a covenant of public trust, ever mindful that we must keep our promises. As we succeed, our effectiveness will be measured by the absence of crime and fear in our neighborhoods and by the level of community respect for our efforts. In accomplishing this all-important mission, we are guided by the following principles:

To recognize that the primary purpose of our organization is not only the skillful enforcement of Federal, State and Local Laws, but also the delivery of humanitarian services which promote community peace.

To understand that we must maintain a level of professional competence that ensures our safety and that of the public without compromising the constitutional guarantees of any person.

To base our decisions and actions on ethical as well as practical perspectives and to accept responsibility for the consequences.

To foster a collaborative relationship with the public in determining the best course in achieving community order.

To strive for innovation yet maintain prudent in sustaining our fiscal health through wise use of resources.

To never tire of our duty, never shrink from the difficult tasks and never lose sight of our own humanity.

To the Residents of East Aurora and Town of Aurora,

The following pages will explain who the East Aurora Police Department is and what has transpired in the department and the Town and Village in the year 2021, relating to emergency services.

The department is made up of 16 full time sworn officers, 1 part-time sworn officer, 4 full time public safety dispatchers, 5-7 part-time public safety dispatchers, a police clerk and 6 crossing guards.

First and foremost, we are a community-oriented police department. We strive to assist our residents and visitors when called upon. Our officers are well trained, and we continually search out further educational opportunities which will enhance our knowledge in areas that pertain to our work and better the department's ability in handling any and all situations.

The department continued to offer personalized services in 2021, such as, premise checks of resident's homes upon request, vehicle lock outs, finger printing and holding firearms for safe keeping - all items that are no longer done in many surrounding jurisdictions. Our officers continued to perform foot patrol, especially in warm weather months, through parks, business districts, railroad right of ways and any area that was experiencing repeated quality of life issues.

Going into 2022, I and the command staff are looking forward to introducing new training and equipment to better assist our Officers, especially with several new officers hired recently, in protecting the 36 square miles we patrol, to prevent or disrupt dangers to our community when they exist and help all in need. Every member of the Police Department is proud to protect and aide the residents and visitors of this community.

Sincerely,

Shane Krieger

Administration

The office of the Chief of Police is responsible for the overall operation of the Police Department and Dispatch Center. The main functions of the Chief of Police are:

- Developing and overseeing the police department budget
- Addressing concerns from the public, businesses, and elected officials
- Overseeing the Detective Bureau and Crossing Guard functions
- Attending seminars / training regarding new trends or new education available for all levels of law enforcement, to keep the department current
- Networking with all avenues in law enforcement and civilian partnerships

It is vitally important that the Chief of Police network and be engaged with law enforcement partners and associations to gain new knowledge and work together for the common goal. At this time, I am involved with the following organizations and will be expanding the list when possible:

- Village of East Aurora Safety Committee
- Town of Aurora Disaster Advisory Board
- Erie County Association of Chiefs of Police
 - Past President
- New York State Association of Chiefs of Police
 - Selected by the NYSACOP Board of Governors to become the Zone 10 Representative on the Board of Governors starting in the beginning of 2022. Zone 10 covers the western counties of Erie, Niagara, Cattaraugus, and Chautauqua.
- International Association of Chiefs of Police

Grants and Donations

The Department receives several donations that enhance the product that we can supply without affecting the cost to residents. The following are donors of money or services:

- | | |
|---|----------------|
| • East Aurora Police Quaker Club | Handguns |
| • NOCO Corporation | Training funds |
| • Dr. Michael Keem, Aurora Pet Hospital | Vet care - K-9 |
| • Purina Dog food | K-9 |
| • Terry Tomczak, Terry's Photo Studio | Dept. Photos |
| • William & Louise Grupp Foundation | DARE |
| • National Child Safety Council | |
| • Value Home Center | |

The Department seeks out grants that, along with the donations, can aid in supplying a better product with lower costs. We participate with the programs below which bring cost savings for required equipment such as Officers bullet proof vests (grant pays $\frac{1}{2}$ the cost of a \$800 vest and each vest is required to be replaced every 5 years). The Erie County Stop DWI program reimburses the department with some funds from court fines to purchase equipment used in DWI enforcement.

- | | |
|---|---------------------|
| • Police Traffic Service Program | Traffic Enforcement |
| • Stop DWI Program | Equipment |
| • Naloxone Initiative – NYSAG Office | Overdose Medication |
| • CVS – Medical waste return box | public service |
| • Bulletproof Vest Grant – US Dept of Justice | |

Community Outreach

The Department has an official FACEBOOK page, [East Aurora Police Department](#) that is administered from the Chief of Police's office. The objective of this page is to release information directly to the community, in some cases as an event is happening. It also allows for the Department to show aspects of police work that are not always visible to the public. Utilizing FACEBOOK, and Twitter, the Department can disseminate information to the public in a fast and accurate way. We encourage all to connect with the Department through FACEBOOK, and/or Twitter.



Looking ahead

With several retirements over the past couple of years and the addition of two officers' positions, the department has experienced a hiring boom. The challenge going forward is to provide the training and guidance to our young officers, so that they can reach their potential and provide the level of service that this community expects and deserves.

In 2021 we began the remodeling of several of the areas of the police department left vacant when the Village offices moved to the new municipal center on Oakwood Ave. A new office was created for the chief of police as well as moving and updating offices for the police clerk, lieutenants, and detective. The old police clerk's office was made into a patrol office where

officers assist citizens with complaints, moving that office away from the booking room and cell block area.

The previous lieutenants and detectives' offices will be reworked and become our juvenile office. Prior to this move we are mandated by New York State to use an unsecure room in the basement for the juvenile office that must be away from any area used to process adult arrestees.

The next phase of this project will see the dispatch window being moved to the front foyer of our building, directly in front of the main entrance and the main hallway will be secured with doors, restricting movement from the public from that area. This will provide a better over all working conditions, with greater security and safety for employees and visitors.

Detective's Office

The Detective Bureau currently consists of one full time Detective who is under the supervision of the Chief of Police. Detective O'Brien was promoted provisionally to detective in 2020 and received civil service appointment in 2021. When manning allows going forward in 2022, a second detective position will be filled. The following are the main responsibilities of the Detective:

- Continue detailed investigations that may have been initiated by patrol's preliminary investigation or assisting patrol with investigations. At times the Detective may take an investigation from the onset.
- Serve as evidence/property technician and custodian.

- Assist patrols with interviews, interrogations, photo lineups and applying for search warrants.
- Process crime scenes, secure fingerprints, DNA, photographs, and other evidence.
- Log, process and maintain warrants, orders of protection, and criminal summonses handed down from both local, county and state courts.
- Monitor and document any registered sex offenders who reside within the Town of Aurora.
- Act as Department liaison to the New York State Intelligence Center (NYSIC) and the Erie County Crime Analysis Center (ECCAC). NYSIC is a branch of Homeland Security which keeps local law enforcement apprised of developing or potential events or threats. ECCAC is the same on a local level.
- Represents the department at the Mutual Assistance Group (MAG) meetings, network with other LE agencies as well as private organizations, regarding trends and investigations around the area.

Through 2021, Detective O'Brien worked 30 involved criminal investigations, of which included crimes of Criminal Sex Act 1st degree, Promotion of Obscene Sexual Performance by a Child, Burglary, Grand Larceny, Forcible Touching, Scheme to Defraud, Tampering with a Witness, Leaving the scene of an injury accident, Reckless Endangerment, Rape, Endangering the Welfare of a Child, along with several other crimes.

Detective O'Brien processed 17 criminal summonses, 4 orders of protection, 18 warrants and 92 evidence/property control sheets. Being the custodian of evidence collected, Detective O'Brien logs all evidence and transports narcotics, guns, and other evidence to the Central Police Laboratory for processing and/or destruction.

Patrol Functions

The majority of the Police Department and most visible is the Patrol Division. The Patrol Division is currently made up of 4 Lieutenants and 10 Officers who utilize 5 marked police utility vehicles. Each utility vehicle is equipped with the following:

- digital car cameras
- automated external defibrillators
- first aid supplies
- fire extinguisher
- radar unit
- Stinger Spike System
- Mobile Data Terminal
- Patrol rifle and shotgun
- LPR license plate reader (on one vehicle)

This department was one of the first in the area to purchase body worn cameras and have 11 available for Officers to use.

There are 2 patrol sectors, the North/East, and the South/West as indicated in the map below.



Although the S/W sector is much larger than the N/E sector, the population is denser in the N/E. When manpower is available, one Officer is assigned to each sector, with a Lieutenant in charge of the shift.



The EAPD Bicycle Patrol Unit was reinstated in 2017, with one lieutenant and four officers. Due to manning issues, the Unit was mainly used for special events, with hopes of regular summer patrols in the future.

Juvenile Unit

The Juvenile Unit is comprised of Det. O'Brien. In 2022 a new Resource Officer should be in place to work with the Detective and the schools when dealing with or teaching juveniles in the community. Det. O'Brien is the department's Juvenile Officer, processing all paperwork generated through patrols contacted with juveniles and is the custodian of such documentation.

Juvenile Officer: Dealing with juveniles is different than dealing with adults since juvenile crimes are covered under the Family Court Act. A Juvenile Officer is required to attend specialized training and

certification before being assigned to the position. In addition, the Officer needs to attend numerous schools and seminars to retain certification, keeping abreast of updated and new legal matters, trends, and tactics. The Juvenile Officer is available to assist patrols with juvenile investigations, having more training in the requirements in dealing with minors. Pursuant to the guidelines set by the Family Court Act, the Juvenile Officer enters juvenile contacts into the Juvenile Justice System, a database tracking juvenile arrests.

Drug Abuse & Resistance Education: This area is currently not being taught due to the SRO position being vacant.

School Resource Officer: As stated above, we hope that the position is filled in the beginning of 2022. The SRO is an instrumental position and that other piece of the puzzle to not only build relationships with the students, but to aide the students and staff in a well-rounded learning environment. An SRO is a resource that many facets of our community can and have utilized, from students, teachers, parents, and our police officers have used the SRO's knowledge and training to assist in helping in our mission.

Crossing Guards

The Department utilizes Crossing Guards for the safety of our children walking to and from village schools, and for special events. In the morning and afternoon, Crossing Guards are stationed at main crossing intersections to assist the children. For special events, Crossing Guards may direct traffic, cross pedestrians, or a combination of both. When a Crossing Guard is hired, they are trained and then periodically reevaluated.

Accident Investigation

Lt. Waldron, Lt Bastine and Officer Becker are the Departments accident investigators. They are called upon to investigate all serious injury, fatal or unusual vehicular accidents.

K-9 Unit

Due to the legalization of marijuana in New York the departments K-9 Clip was forced into retirement early and the Unit disbanded in 2021. The Unit consisted of Lt Waldron and Clip.

Arson Investigation

Lt. Welch is the department arson investigator and works closely with the fire departments in investigating fires throughout the town.

Training

Lt. O'Hara and P.O. Braeuner were the main department training officers in 2021. Lt. O'Hara is responsible for all department training, including ensuring all members are up to date on recertification's, i.e., Radar, Data Master, and firearms. Lt O'Hara over sees which certifications may be needed biannually, annually or every few years, as well as advanced trainings which prepare officers to perform specialized tasks. The training may be in-service, at the Erie County Police Academy, or offered at another location throughout the state. Lt O'Hara also assigns monthly trainings to all members of the

department on various topics as well as searching out trainings that will improve the services that we provide.

P.O. Braeuner was the department's Range Officer until his retirement in 2021, and along with Lt. O'Hara schedules 2 range courses a year and selects the course of fire for those days. Lt O'Hara has been selected to be the departments next range officer and will be attending Instructor Development School, a prerequisite for Range Officer School, and Range Officer School in 2022.

Over the course of 2021, the East Aurora Police Department has participated in numerous training events involving classroom settings, hands on training, webinars, and other online training programs. The department including both sworn Police Officers and Dispatchers have maintained current certifications in the required fields as well as have gained new certifications for advanced skills. The following are schools' officers have attended.

· Field Training Evaluation Program

Four newly hired Police Officers have successfully completed the Field Training Evaluation Program throughout the year while being trained by certified Field Training Officers over the course of 8-10 weeks. Four (4) Officers have successfully completed the training program, and a fifth (5th) Officer has begun the FTEP program, in 2021, with positive remarks thus far from the field training officers.

· Police Officer Annual Perma Training

Officers successfully completed four Perma Safety Institute online training programs throughout the year which includes both interactive video teaching as well as a post video exam. The trainings include:

1. Officer safety and tactics for chemical and bomb threat response
2. Sexual harassment prevention
3. Bloodborne pathogens for law enforcement officers
4. Rise up against workplace bullying

- **DCJS online training**

Officers completed four DCJS online trainings during the year including:

1. De-Escalation-common sense tips for all cops
2. Where to look- A law enforcement guide for missing persons searches
3. Use of force
4. MPTC- What is de-escalation

- **Firearms Training**

Officers participated in two firearms training events during the course of the year involving both live fire events utilizing department issued Glock 21 (.45ACP) handguns, Remington 870 shotguns, and Ruger AR-15 patrol rifles as well as a firearms training simulator.

1. In January, Officers participated in a 4-hour range training event at the Orchard Park Police Department utilizing the departments firearms training simulator. All officers in attendance qualified in the given course of fire and participated in additional simulated training scenarios with the firearms simulator.
2. In June, Officers participated in an 8-hour range training event at the East Aurora Fish and Game Club in which all officers in attendance re-qualified with their Glock 21 service weapons. The training event also included classroom instruction on Article 35 use of force and range safety. During the training, Officers also qualified in the use of the Remington 870 shotgun and Ruger AR-15 patrol rifle.
3. Newly hired Officers who were not active during range training were qualified using the Glock 21 service weapon by a Range Officer from OPPD at the East Aurora Fish and Game Club when they began their employment with the East Aurora Police Department.

- **New certification training**

Multiple Officers attended advanced training throughout the year leading to additional certifications. This training included advanced roadside impaired

driving enforcement, crisis intervention team, breath test analysis operator, field training officer, and accident investigation unit.

1. ARIDE- Five (5) Officers attended ARIDE, which is Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement
2. CIT- completed by two (2) Officers, Crisis Intervention Training
3. FTO- completed by three (3) Officers. Field Training Officer school
4. BTO- completed by two (2) Officers. Breath Test Operator school
5. AIU- completed by Officers Becker and Bastine

· Additional Training

Officers throughout the course of the year attended additional training both through online webinars and instructional training programs at the Erie County Law Enforcement Academy including:

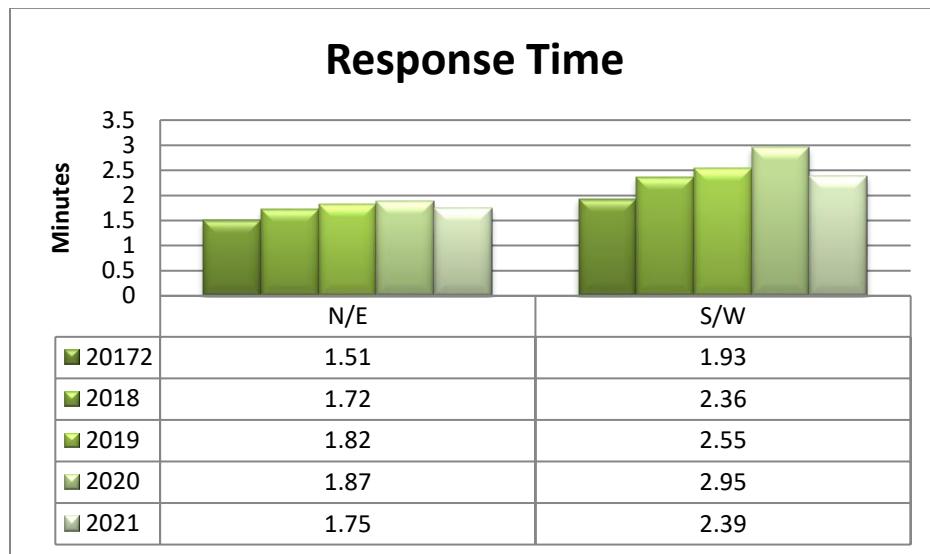
1. Domestic Violence Refresher
2. Use of Force updates
3. Interview and Interrogation
4. Transformational Leadership
5. Manual/ Procedure Policy exams

· Dispatch Training

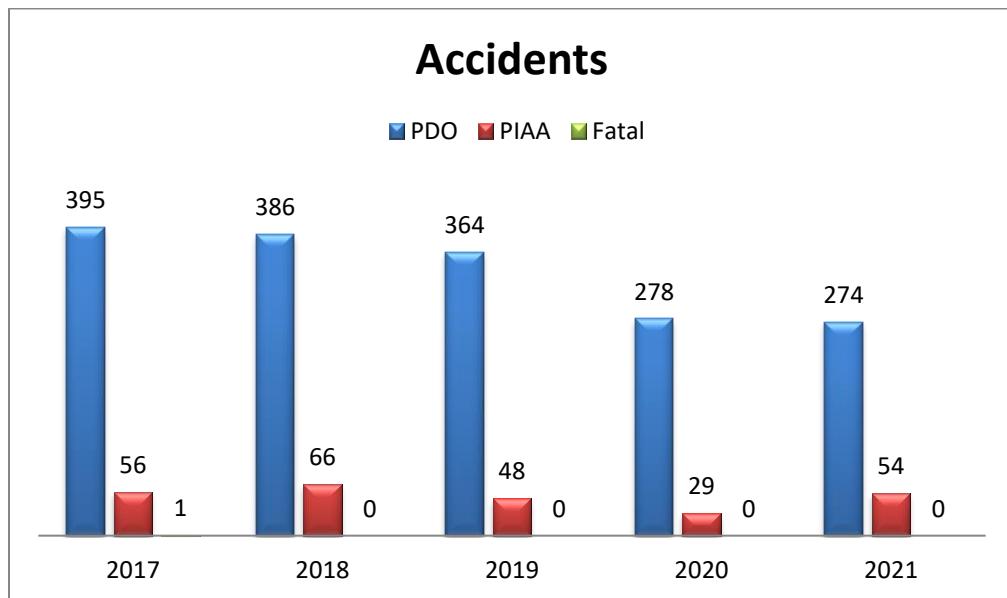
Public Safety Dispatchers (full time and part time) completed three assigned online Perma training programs throughout the year including: sexual harassment prevention, bloodborne pathogens, and rise up against workplace bullying. The communications supervisor attended a three-day CTO training during the year and each full-time dispatcher attended an 8-hour CIT training in October.

Statistics

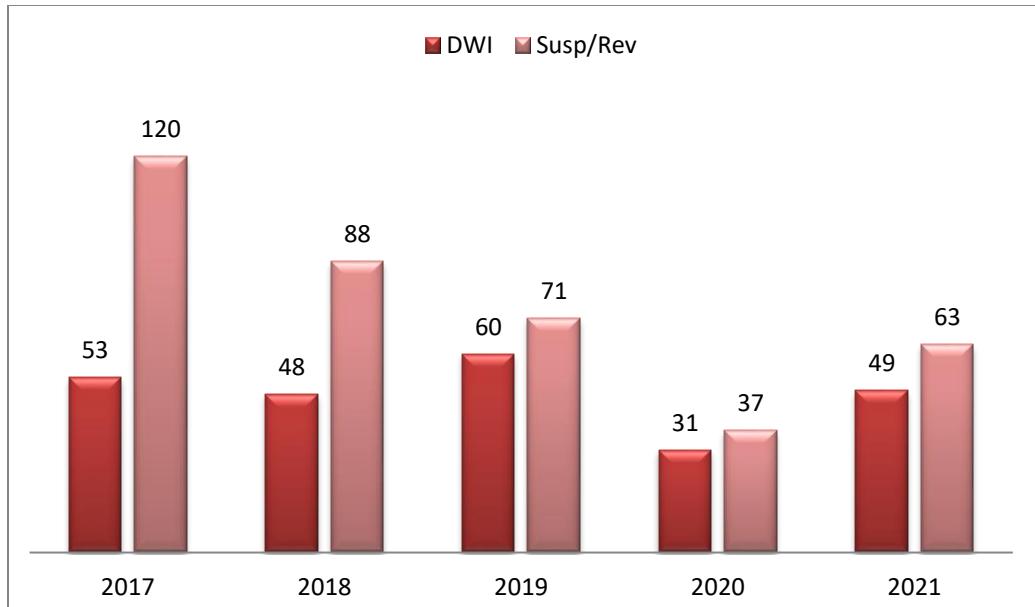
The department takes responding to emergencies and all calls for service very seriously. Below are the average response time calls for the past 5 years.



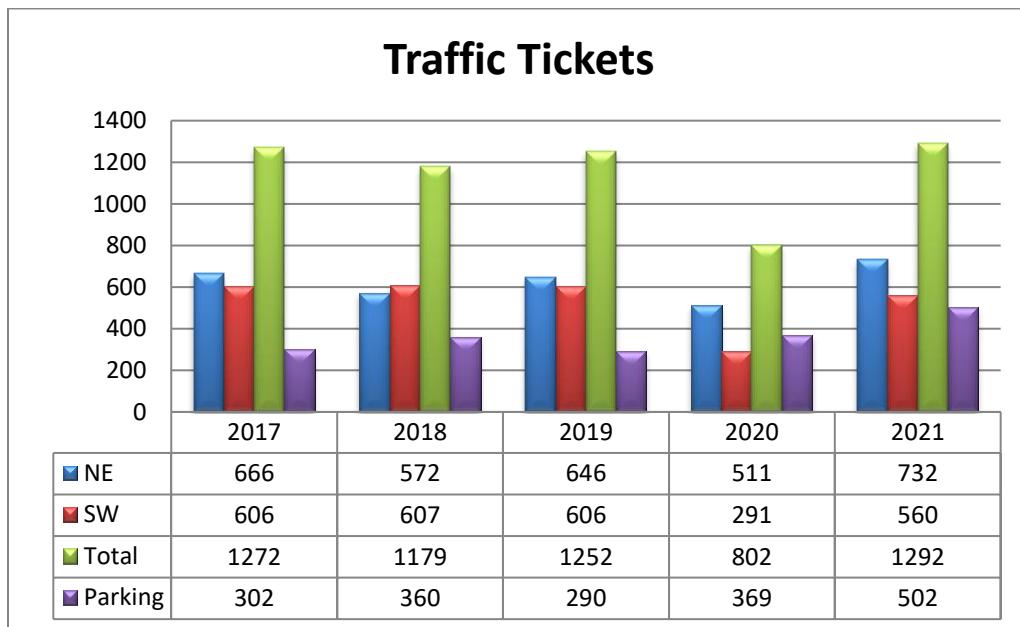
The following charts show the averages of several categories for the past 5 years.

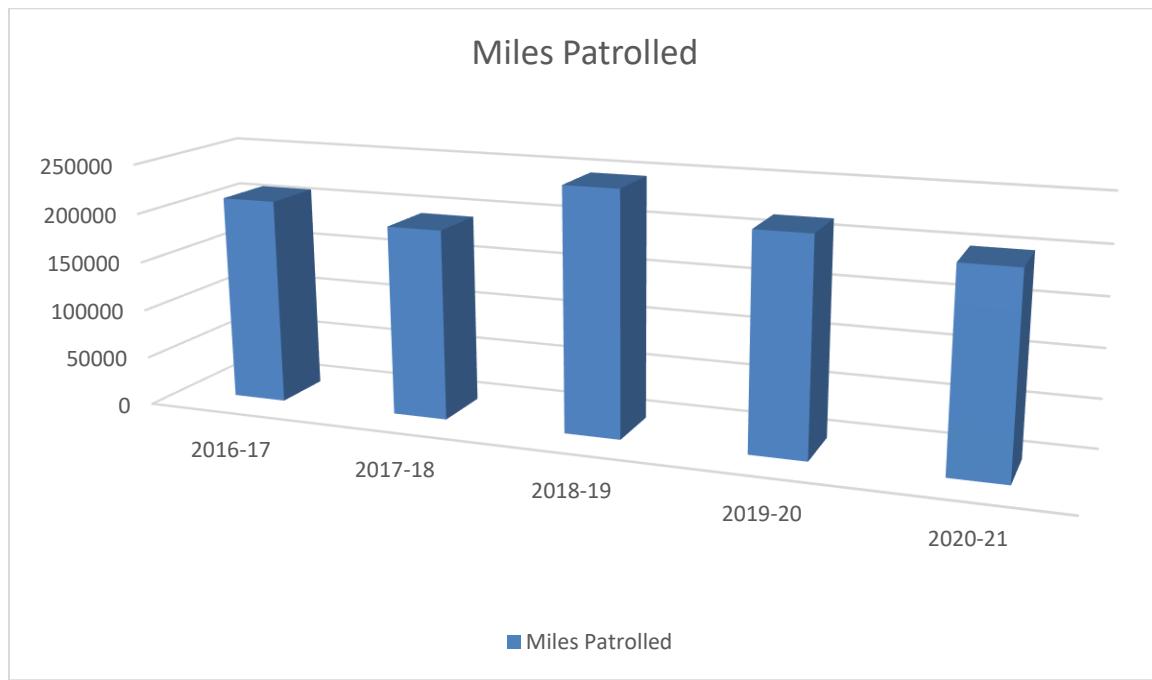
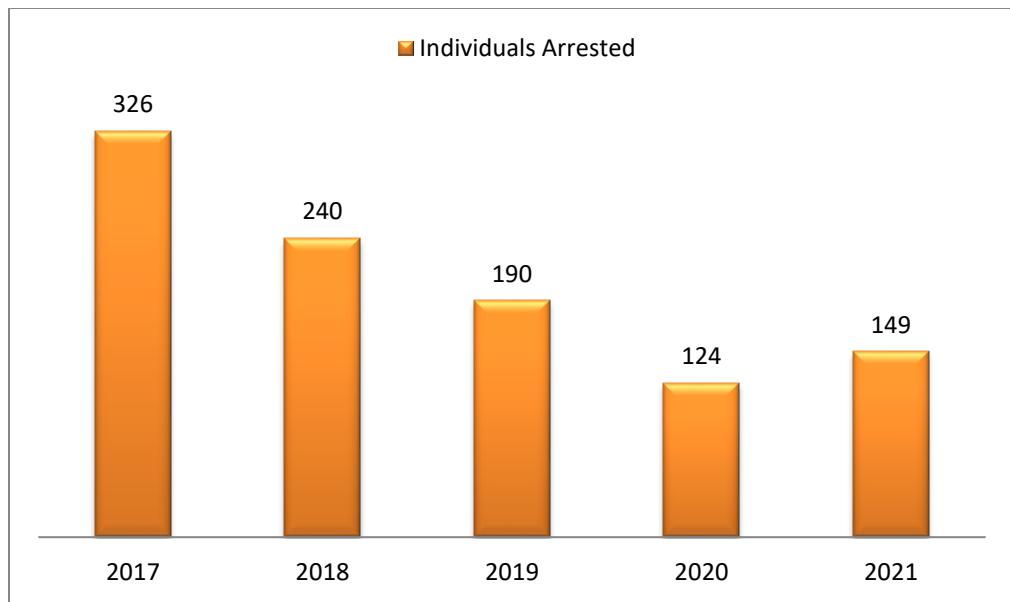


PDO- Property damage accidents PIAA-Personnel injury accidents Fatal-Fatal accidents



Driving While Intoxicated / Suspended or Revoked License or registration





2021 Special Events

Some of what makes this community stand out above others is our special events. With almost 20 events during a normal year drawing thousands of people to town, show casing what a great community this is, this was again not a normal year. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic 2021 had fewer special events held than what we normally have in non-pandemic years. The following is a summary of the events, all of which required police involvement to some extent and traffic control as well as pre-planning by Lt. Welch and organizers. The DPW helps a great deal with road closed signs and barriers needed for these events.

1. **July 3, 2021- The July 3rd parade** was scaled back and much smaller in 2021 due to Covid-19 concerns. There was a parade on Oakwood Avenue from the Town/Village Hall to the fire department. The fireworks were postponed until Labor Day weekend and there was no other 4th of July events.
2. **July 23, 24th 2021 - Reunion weekend and East Aurora Street Festival and Sidewalk Sale:** This annual event is two parts: the Rotary Club holds their annual “Attitude Adjustment Party” on Friday. This event was held at the Healthy Zone Rink for the third year. There were some concerns last year about the change in venue with the crowds and lack of open container law, but the event again went without issue. The East Aurora Chamber of Commerce held their annual Sidewalk Sale on Main St on Saturday, which normally requires the closing of Main St. and permits from the N.Y.S.D.O.T. This year the sales were held on the sidewalk and Main Street was not closed. The event requires Crossing Guards and a Police Officer assigned to the Sidewalk Sale.
3. **August 29, 2021 - Toytown Classic Car Show:** This annual event is a leftover from the years when Toyfest was held in the village. It requires a permit from the N.Y.S.D.O.T. to close Main St. The crowds were good. There was one officer assigned on Bike patrol and one Crossing Guard was used at Main St and Elm St. for pedestrian crossing. Coordination

and traffic control with local churches is also required. Main St. was re-opened at 6:00pm.

4. **September 4, 2021 - Labor Day Weekend Fireworks:** Due to the Covid-19 pandemic the annual July 3rd fireworks at Hamlin Park hosted by the town of Aurora were postponed until Saturday September 4th. The event was held without any issues reported. There was a much smaller crowd than what normally attends on July 3rd.
5. **September 11, 2021 - Taste of East Aurora:** The Taste of East Aurora started ten years ago by the East Aurora Chamber of Commerce. It is organized by Chamber Director Gary Grote. The Taste is another event that closes Main Street and a permit from the N.Y.S.D.O.T. is required. Two Crossing Guards and Two Police Officers on bikes/foot patrol are also assigned to the Taste of East Aurora. The event was well attended, and the event was over by 5:30 pm and Main St re-opened by 6:00pm.
6. **September 18 & 19, 2021 - Borderland Music Festival:** This was the third year for this event. The event was held on Knox Farm State Park with the N.Y.S. Park Police handling law enforcement at the event. The event was attended by thousands and our department prepared for the influx of people into the west end of the village with extra patrols assigned.
7. **October 1st, 2021 - E.A.H.S. Homecoming Parade:** The parade went as planned. The event requires no parking posting on most of the side streets affected by either the detour or parade route. It also requires several Crossing Guards and Police Officers for traffic. The parade went well.
8. **November 25, 2021 – East Aurora TurkEA Trot:** The second annual East Aurora TurkEA Trot was held on Thanksgiving Day. This event was coordinated by Holly Layer, a village resident and member of the EA Run club that regularly runs in the village and is based out of 42 North. There have been unofficial Turkey Trots in the village on the sidewalk in past years; however, the number of attendees had grown large enough for Layer to make it an official event. There were about 300 runners. The race starts and finishes on Paine Street in front of the Boys and Girls

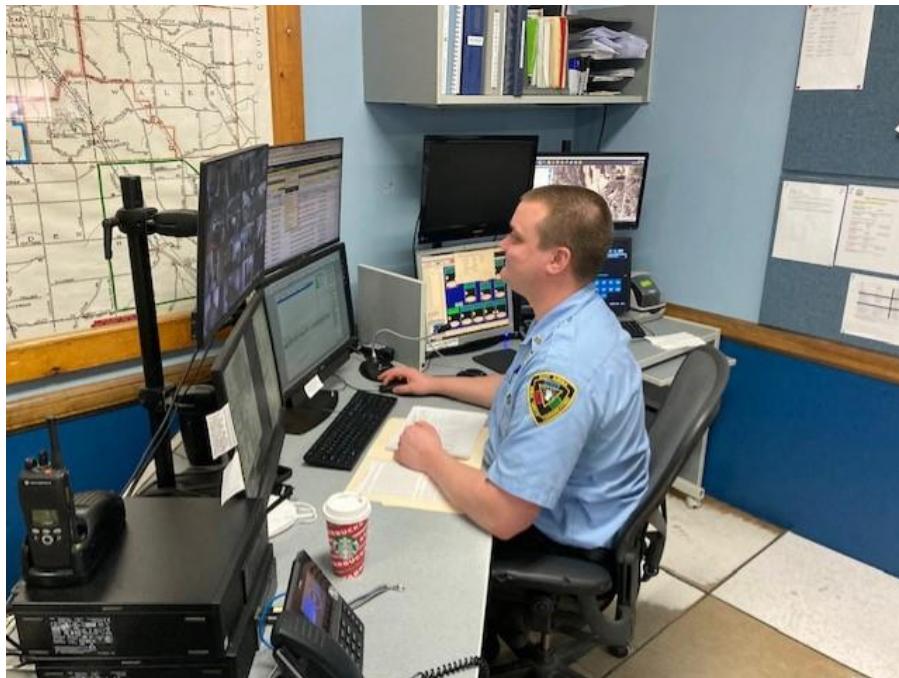
Club. The weather was cold, but it did not seem to have an impact on the race as there were no issues reported.

9. **December 18, 2021 - Carolcade:** The annual Carolcade was held on Main St. with cold temperatures. Two Officers and a Lieutenant were detailed to the event with several thousand people attending. Main St. was closed for approximately 90 minutes with two Crossing Guards detailed to the barricades. The platform that the organizers used was a trailer stage and was again located near Temple Place. The DPW assisted with placing additional barricades that were used to block Main St due to safety concerns. This is one of East Aurora's most popular events with little or no problems reported.

The Department is also involved indirectly with events held at Knox Farm State Park. The New York State Park Police handle events at the park that require law enforcement involvement. These include Polo-Fest, Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra concert, Insane Inflatable 5K, and a few others. Our involvement usually is limited to traffic pre and post events on roadways around the park.

EAST AURORA FIRE CONTROL

Public Safety Communications

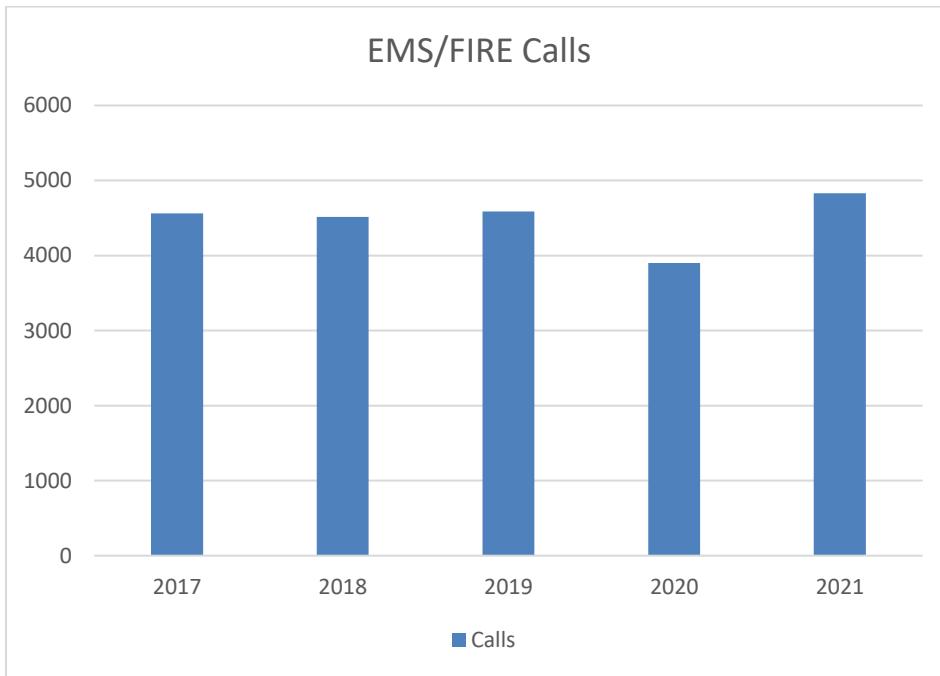
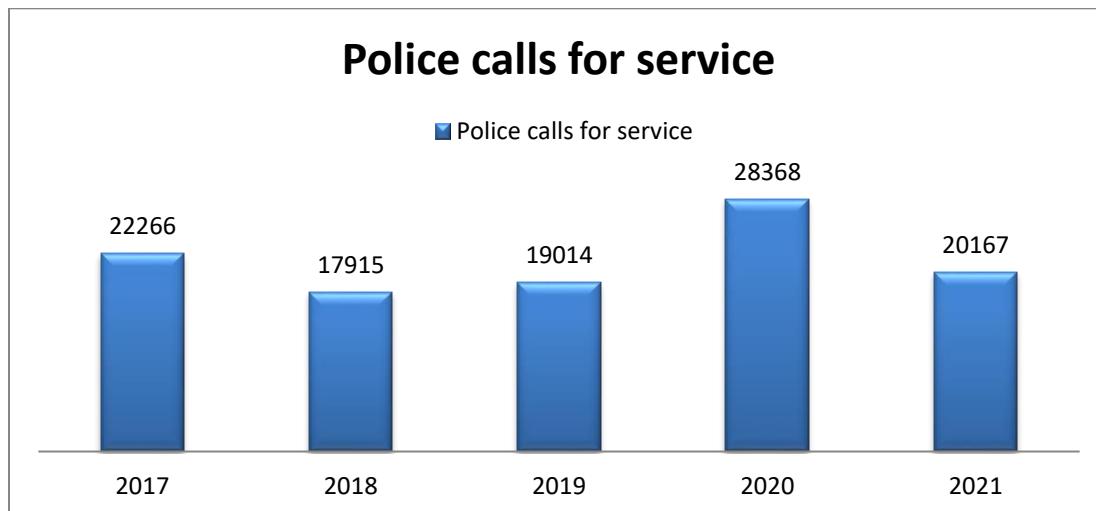


Communications Supervisor Denz

The East Aurora Fire Control consists of 4 full time Public Safety Dispatcher positions and between five to eight part-time Public Safety Dispatchers. EAFC is manned 24 hours, seven days a week, utilizing 4 eight-hour shifts: 7am – 3pm, 3pm-11pm, 11pm-7am and an overlapping 12pm-8pm shift which covers generally the busiest part of the day. The day-to-day operations and scheduling duties are the responsibility of Communications Supervisor, P.S.D. Aaron Denz, who took over the position after Wayne Wypych retired in 2021. CS Denz is also the contact person for the department when dealing with Erie County Central Police Services, radio repair companies, as well as many others.

EAFC dispatches all police-related calls for the Village of East Aurora/ Town of Aurora as well as all fire/EMS calls for the Towns of Aurora, Elma, Marilla, Wales, Holland, and Sardinia.

Dispatchers for EAFC dispatched 4,832 fire calls, logged 20,167 complaint cards, and answered 4,692 911-calls and 30,356 administrative calls in 2021.



Staff Chart

Name	Position	Serving Since
Shane Krieger	Chief of Police	1992
Patrick Welch	Lieutenant	2007
Dustin Waldron	Lieutenant	2008
Brendon O'Hara	Lieutenant	2015
Patrick Bastine	Lieutenant	2019
Paul O'Brien	Detective	2006
Richard Gottstine	Patrol	2002

Kathleen Foster	Patrol	2010
Stephen Cartwright	Patrol	2013
Kurt Kilburn	Patrol	2014
Jonathan Becker	Patrol	2018
Corey Specht	Patrol	2019
Connor Denz	Patrol	2020
Sean Wilson	Patrol	2021 (September)
Mitchell Schultz	Patrol	2021 (October)
Nicolette Pinto	Patrol	2021 (December)
Joseph Ferrara	School Resource Officer P/T	1988 (Retired again, June)
Darlene Williamson	Senior Police Clerk	2018
Aaron Denz	Communications Supervisor	2016
Timothy Shaw	F/T PSD	2017
Alicia Ventura	F/T PSD	2020
John Wilger	F/T PSD	2021 (September)
Dave Zaporowski	P/T PSD	1982
Jerry Whittington	P/T PSD	1997
Tom Ess	P/T PSD	2007
Mike O'Connor	P/T PSD	2014
Kyle Tackentien	P/T PSD	2016
Andrew Atkinson	P/T PSD	2021 (September)

Sheryl Miller	Crossing Guard/Matron	2001
Charlene Schneckenberger	Crossing Guard	2020
Peter Calleri Jr	Crossing Guard	2020
Ron Beyer	Crossing Guard	2007
David Thomason	Crossing Guard	2014
Rene Krolczyk	Crossing Guard	2014