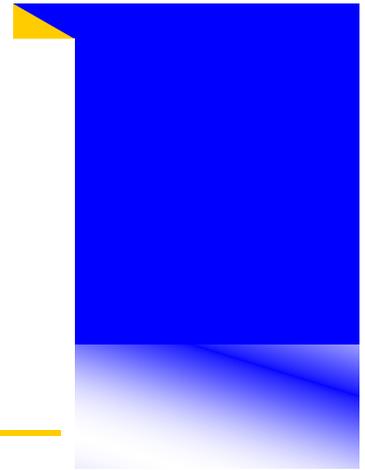




PAYSON POLICE DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2018



Message from the Chief

Capitalizing on the outstanding work of the Payson Police Department Patrol and Investigation Divisions in the early part of 2018 with multiple arrests, we saw a reduction in our burglary and theft crime rate from the previous year. This brought an overall reduction in the index crime calculation for the Town of Payson and we returned to a level much more representative of prior years to a 43.2 index crime rate. Coupled with our resolve to continue to strongly enforce the drug laws of the State of Arizona, a considerable amount of attention was provided to those violating drugs laws by the Special Enforcement Unit. Arrests by the SEU for drug violations increased the 2018 calendar year by 12% and 150% respectively for drug use and sales.

Staffing levels were retained in the patrol division especially as we ended the calendar year. The challenge of staffing the Communication Center remained throughout much of the year, however, as we neared the latter part of 2018, we began to make considerable progress in hiring in that department.

I would like to recognize all of the employees of the police department for their service to their fellow citizens of the Town of Payson. The employees of the department focus on insuring our citizens are safe in their homes, at their places of business and as they travel throughout our community.

Donald B. Engle

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Quick overview of 2018

Index Crimes

• Attempted Homicide....2	• Motor Vehicle Theft.....19	• Alarm Calls.....416
• Rape.....3	• Arson.....2	• Civil Traffic Citations....883
• Robbery.....4	• Adult Arrests.....1003	• Accidents.....427
• Assaults.....202	• Juvenile Arrests.....230	• 30 Day Impounds.....163
• Burglary.....97	• Domestic Violence Arrests...182	
• Larceny.....331	• DUI Arrest.....92	
	• Drug Related Arrests.....257	



PATROL

2018 was another busy year for our patrol division. Officers self initiated 5,286 calls for service which included traffic stops, building checks and consent contacts while on routine patrol. Officers also responded to over 200 assault calls, 400 accidents and made over 1,000 arrests.

During the year Officer McAnerny was promoted to Sergeant and Officers Laura Linkey and Patrick Evans graduated the academy and joined the patrol division



Officer participated in “No Shave November,” also known as “Beards on Patrol”, where they raised over \$11,000 for a local young boy battling cancer. The top money raisers are pictured on the left with the family.

SPECIAL ENFORCEMENT UNIT

During 2018, the SEU conducted 72 drug arrests or assists which was a 12 percent increase since last year. Of those arrests, 15 resulted in drug sales charges which is a **150 percent increase** from last year.

In 2018, SEU executed 18 search warrants which is a 23 percent increase from last year. In the drug related cases, 31 guns were seized.

The majority of the arrests involved either methamphetamine or heroin (or a combination thereof). Comparatively to last year, the drug breakdown has remained relatively unchanged. New information for 2018 is that lab reports have shown that some heroin in the Payson area contains Fentanyl along with counterfeit

pills. Besides drug related activity, the SEU has investigated 13 general cases which did not have a drug nexus. These however are major crimes involving sex crimes, child abuse, fraud, and death investigations.

Through certified advanced forensic techniques and software, the SEU has conducted 42 cell phone data extractions which assists not just drug investigations, but also general investigations and patrol. Obtaining digital evidence, even though time consuming, has proven to significantly strengthen investigations and identify suspects, quickly, in a variety of crimes.

Lastly, the SEU continues to partner with federal authorities such as the FBI and Department of Homeland

Security through the Terrorism Liaison Program. The program is an information sharing program so that local authorities are aware of terror related issues that may affect their communities. Liaison officers also have specialized training in identifying suspicious behavior that may be terrorism related.

Yearly Seizure Amounts:

- 54.9 grams of Heroin
- 121 grams of Methamphetamine
- 31 Firearms

COMMUNICATIONS

Staffing challenges continued in 2018 for the Communications Center. At the beginning of the year there were 7 full time dispatchers and two trainees, one of which completed training shortly into the year. Newly promoted Lt. Hazelo became the acting supervisor for the center. During the year we welcomed new dispatchers Josh Higgins, Rebecca Vieira, Ashly Barnes and Kassandra Vieira.

The dispatchers continue to work 12-hour shifts and dispatch for the Payson Police Department, Gila County Sheriff's Office, Tonto Apache Police Department, 11 fire departments and U.S. Forest Service law enforcements officers. The previous communications recording system was replaced

by a more efficient user friendly program which has allowed for easier access to the various recordings and in preparation of changes and new technology which includes Text-to-911.

Of special note, during the New Year's Eve snow storm, the Communication Center took over 884 calls, 600 of those calls were 911's.

The Communication Center employees are very dedicated to serving the community and strive to provide high customer service.



VOLUNTEERS IN POLICING

During 2018 the volunteers contributed 7,175 hours at the Payson Police Department bringing the total number of hours worked by volunteers to 178,548 since the program began. The volunteers are a huge part of the department and help us with our daily functions. The Payson Police Department is always looking for volunteers. If you would like to volunteer, please come in to the Payson Police Department and ask for an application.

Areas to Volunteer:

- Reception
- Patrol
- Maintenance Projects
- Home Checks
- PATH
- Guardian Angel
- Property & Evidence
- Crime Scenes
- Funeral Escort / Parades

K9

2018 brought a new handler to our department's K-9 program. Officer Jake Lee and K-9 Wiley, a Belgian Malinois, graduated the Handler Certification Course in January and since then have attended the Prescott K-9 Survival Seminar and participated in three public demonstrations in Payson. In 2019 Officer Lee and Wiley hope to receive their Handler Protection Certification.

Throughout 2018 Officer Lee and Wiley had over thirty deployments which included vehicle sniffs, tracking lost persons, search warrant utilization and twice during the year responded to Payson High School and Rim Country Middle School to help keep our school campuses drug free.

Wiley turned six years old this year and continues to serve his handler, our department and this community with loyalty and dedication.





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