

# 2017

Vinton Police  
Department

Annual  
Report



Serving the Citizens of Vinton  
and  
surrounding areas

[WWW.VINTONPOLICE.COM](http://WWW.VINTONPOLICE.COM)

*Proudly with Integrity, Honor, Courage, and a  
Commitment to a Safer Community.*



## *A message from Chief Thomas L. Foster*

First, let me thank you for taking the time to review *your* Vinton Police Department's Annual Report. As you will see, 2017 was an amazing year for our agency. It was a year marked by many "firsts" as we sought new ways to connect with our community, and serve the citizens of our town. During 2017 we unveiled our new Mobile Community Services Unit (MCSU). The MCSU has allowed us to engage our citizens in a very unique way. Through use of the MCSU, we have connected with our citizens through neighborhood cookouts, bicycle safety events, and Operation Child Safe gunlock distribution events. These experiences have given us opportunity to understand what issues are most important to you, and build partnerships that solve problems. Further, we launched our "Safe Exchange Zone" – the first in the Roanoke Valley – where citizens from across the valley can more safely engage in ecommerce; and conduct child custody exchanges. Lastly, the Vinton Police Department has invested in training and equipping our officers to respond to the myriad of emergency events facing our community and nation today. This training and equipment even includes "less lethal" technology, which may give our officers even greater opportunity to save lives in certain volatile law enforcement situations.

Partnerships and Team Building – In 2017, Your Vinton Police Department joined forces with the Roanoke Police Department, Roanoke County Police Department, and the City of Salem Police Department to form S.O.A.R., "Sober On All Roads." This grant funded taskforce strives to educate the community about the dangers of impaired driving; while detecting and apprehending those who choose to drive impaired anywhere in the Roanoke Valley. Through this partnership, "SOAR" removed 295 dangerously impaired drivers from our highways in 2017. Secondly, the Vinton Police Department joined these same agencies, and mental health professionals, in the development of a regional threat assessment team to help better identify those persons in our community needing mental health services. The goal of this initiative is to intervene, when appropriate, and provide care to individuals needing mental health services before there is a threat to public safety. Through our partnerships with other local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies, we have been able to create a cooperative and effective system of interaction and information sharing that has proven to be successful in the investigation of crime, and the prosecution of those who commit criminal offenses; thus, enhancing the safety of our community.

Hiring and Recruiting – 2017 was an incredible year for the Vinton Police Department as we completely filled all of our vacancies. In a time when almost all law enforcement agencies are struggling to find suitable candidates, your Vinton Police Department filled every vacancy with highly trained certified law enforcement professionals. These officers, along with a dedicated staff of veteran officers, are making a difference in our community. To this end, 2017 witnessed an increase of 68% in criminal arrests by our officers as we take on the opioid abuse problem; and the multitude of other crimes that occur related to this nationwide epidemic.

Your Vinton Police Department truly is "Your" department. Our mission to is to provide our citizens and visitors with an unparalleled level of service. Our officers and staff are dedicated professionals who strive every day to make Vinton an even better place to "Live, Work, and Play!" Thank you for the privilege of serving as your chief of police.

Sincerely

Thomas L. Foster

# *Town of Vinton Employee of the Year*



## **Congratulations to Thomas L. Foster, Chief of Police**

Tom Foster was named Town of Vinton's Employee of the Year for 2017

Tom was nominated by Town of Vinton employees. Some of the traits that were mentioned in his nominations were as follows;

- \*Promotes a positive attitude even during challenging times.
- \*Uplifts employees and gives everyone praise.
- \*Always has an open door policy and is willing to sit down and talk whenever something needs discussed.
- \*Has worked very hard to bring the morale of the department up and to get us what we need"
- \*Goes above and beyond in preparing reports and presentations to make sure they are understandable and precise.
- \*Knowledgeable
- \*Gives 100%
- \*Great with citizens,
- \*Is an innovator, incorporating new ideas for the department and the town., and last but not least
- \*Is loyal to department employees

**Congratulations!!**

2017

## *Special Events*



The Vinton Fall Festival. Showing off the new Mobile Community Services Unit and accessories.



Downtown Trick or Treat. We set up our Mobile Community Services Unit to hand out lots and lots of candy.

The 4th of July Event held at the Vinton War Memorial



VA State Police Event  
Longwood Manor Apartments and Glade Town Reunion





2017

## *Special Events*

The Drug Take Back program was held on Saturday, April 29th, and October 28th, at several locations in Roanoke, Vinton, and Salem. Medication was safely collected and then destroyed by local law enforcement and DEA Agents.



The Vinton Police Department partnered with the General Federation of Women's clubs, and The Vinton Women's

Club, to recognize National Child Abuse Prevention Month. The Women's Club signified the event by planting pinwheels in front of the Municipal Building. This event was recognized by Town Council in the April meeting.



2017

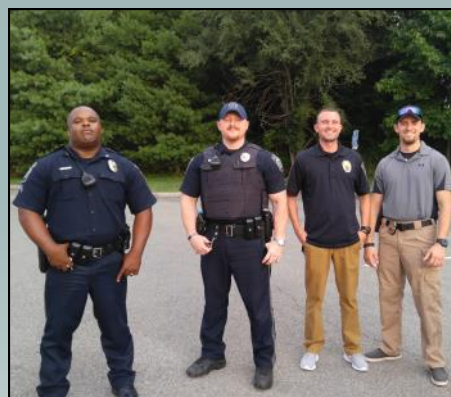
## *Special Events*



### **National Night Out 2017**

was a huge success. The event was held at the Vinton Senior Center. National Night Out is a night when the town of Vinton residents get together and network with local law enforcement, and show support for the Night Out Against Crime initiative. There were over 150 people in attendance, including the Mayor and Council Members, town staff and other local police and sheriff departments.

A Huge Thanks to Vito's Pizza, Steve FM and all of those that participated and came out to make this event a success.

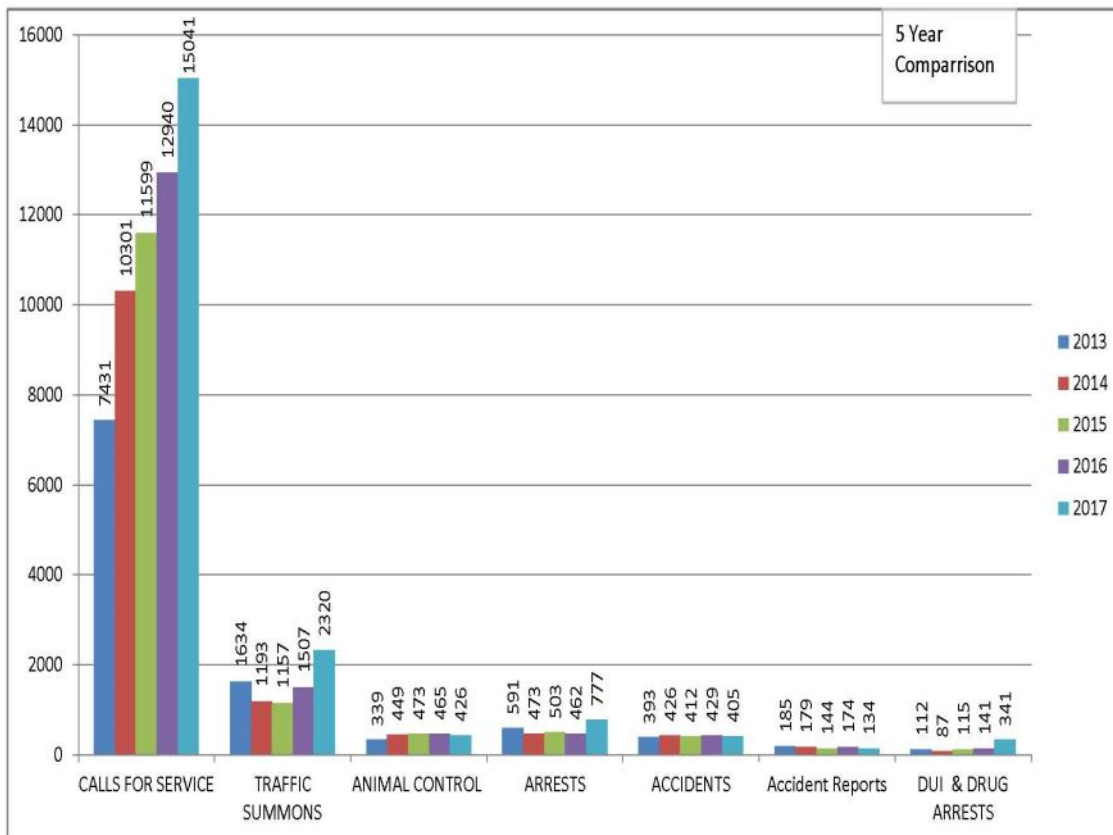


2017

## Yearly Statistics

### Comparison of Statistics over a 5 year period

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
CALLS FOR SERVICE	7431	10301	11599	12940	15041
TRAFFIC SUMMONS	1634	1193	1157	1507	2320
ANIMAL CONTROL	339	449	473	465	426
ARRESTS	591	473	503	462	777
ACCIDENTS	393	426	412	429	405
Accident Reports	185	179	144	174	134
DUI & DRUG ARRESTS	112	87	115	141	341







## GRANTS/New Projects

A Mobile Community Services Unit was purchased in February 2017 after being awarded a grant in the amount of \$20,000.00 from The Department of Criminal Justice. With these funds we also purchased a go-cart and drunk goggles for demonstration of drinking and driving. We also purchased bike



helmets and distributed these to the children in our area during different events. The Foundation for Roanoke Valley awarded the Police Department \$1,820.00,



which we used to purchased 125 art kits. During the year the MCSU attended



several events in the neighborhoods in Vinton, the Police Department was able to interact with the community in a very positive way.



From The Department of Criminal Justice Services bullet proof vest grant, we received 2,000.00. This grant covers 1/2 the cost of a new vest for police officers.

The police department also received \$5,093.00 in funds for 21 Active Shooter Vests.

2017

## *New Projects/Grants*

The Department of Motor Vehicles awarded the Police Department 2 grants this year.

DMV Selective Enforcement Overtime and the DUI Task Force Grant. In 2016-2017 we received \$8,750.00 in DMV Patrol funds to pay for extra patrol overtime. We were also able to purchase two new Lidar/Radar units.



The Department of Motor Vehicles also awarded \$129,789 in DUI Task Force Grant Funds. This is a multijurisdictional grant and funds the

salary, vehicle, accessories, etc., of one of our police officers. This grant is expected to continue for 3 years.



The Safe Zone is an area constructed right in front of the police department. This site was created to allow citizens to conduct safe exchanges. This could be a child custody exchange, sale of goods, or for anything that you need to feel safe doing. There is a camera recording the area during these times.

# 2017

## AWARDS & RECOGNITION



*These awards were held in 2017, but are the 2016 winners.*

Leadership Award Winner  
Sergeant Timothy Lawless

Life Saving Award Winners, grouped for  
different incidents.

Officer Andrew DiCarlo



Sergeant Michael Caldwell  
Sergeant Timothy Lawless  
Corporal Silas Chapman



Sergeant Scott Hurt and Officers Terry  
Pittman and Scott Giles (not pictured)



Sergeant Scott Hurt, Officer Matthew Stafford  
and Deputy Chief Fabricio Drumond





**2017**

## *AWARDS & RECOGNITION*



Traffic Safety Award Winner  
Sergeant Timothy Lawless



MADD Award, presented to  
Office Matthew Stafford for  
his efforts in DUI Patrol



The 2017 Officer of the year Award goes to...

Sergeant Michael “Buck” Caldwell





2017

## *Promotions and New Officers*





**2017***Throughout the year*