

Franklin County Sheriff

Dallas Baldwin COUNTY STAR



January 2019

Franklin County Sheriff's Office

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WHO WE ARE

The Franklin County Sheriff's Office, Columbus, Ohio, is a full-service law enforcement agency, an arm of the courts and the custodial keeper of those who break the law.



www.myfcso.news



Sheriff's Message



For the past two years, I have had the honor of serving as your sheriff; what an incredible time it has been.

As we all begin the new year, I wanted to take a few moments to recap what a tremendous 2018 we had, and what you can expect from your Franklin County Sheriff's Office in 2019.

Over the past 12 months, we have created new programs, expanded current ones, and continued to strengthen our bonds with the residents of Franklin County.

In our Support Services Division, we have begun the Community Intervention and Diversion (CID) Unit. Working in support of the national Stepping Up Initiative – a program that aims to reduce the number of jail inmates who suffer from mental illness – the CID's goal is to work in coordination with law enforcement and behavioral health entities to help those in crisis as the result of mental illness, or drug and alcohol addiction.

Our Therapy K9 unit grew from two dogs to four, and has been a tremendous addition to our entire team. The Franklin County

Sheriff's Office is one of the only law enforcement agencies in the country that has K9s that both assist in fighting crime, and comfort the victims of crime.

Drug abuse and overdose continues to be an epidemic, but our Special Investigations Unit has worked tirelessly to help rid our streets of heroin and fentanyl, and to confiscate illegal weapons. In 2018, they have seized nearly \$5 million in drugs, guns, and money.

I have said from the first day as sheriff that one of my main goals was to strengthen the bond between law enforcement and the residents of Franklin County. Our Community Liaisons – those who help in neighborhoods, and those who work with our growing Latino and Somali communities, have been pivotal in achieving this goal.

For 2019, I will continue the commitment in working together with all of the residents of Franklin County.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dallas Baldwin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sheriff Dallas Baldwin

Shop with the Sheriff: Spreading love through our community



For the past five years, the Franklin County Sheriff's Office has sponsored "Shop with the Sheriff," which has given our agency an opportunity to bring joy to more than 80 families in Franklin County during the holiday season. This year, we were proud to partner with Franklin County Children Services and provided 18 participants, ages 3-13, with a donated dinner from Chik-Fil-A for their family, care packages, and a chance to meet Santa Claus. In addition, each participant received a \$150 gift card from Target thanks to the donation of Franklin County Sheriff's Office employees, community members, and partners.

Each participant embarked on a two-hour shopping spree with one of our FSCO Deputies and were able to choose what items they wished to purchase with the gift card. Some children spent their money on clothes, toys, and even a stuffed unicorn!

We are proud to sponsor an event that allows Deputies and community members to spend cherished time together. With positive opportunities like this, our community is able to see the FCSO as a beneficial service, while also providing Deputies the chance to learn from families in the community. Shop with the Sheriff is an event that continues to serve our mission of bridging the gap between law enforcement officers and the communities that we serve.



Social Media and the Sheriff's Office

In January of 2018 realizing the impact and reach of Social Media the Outreach and Engagement Unit formed the Social Media Team. Due to the amount of content and updates necessary the team grew and is comprised of Napoleon Bell Outreach and Engagement Manager, Chief Deputy Jim Gilbert of Patrol, Sgt. Jason Ratcliff of Community Relations, Erica Russell of Community Relations and Marc Gofstein Public Information Officer. Over the past 11 months Facebook has increased in numbers 75% Instagram 1050% and Twitter 360% . Through effective posts and responses to the community, using the various social media platforms we have been able to address issues, solve crimes, direct messaging from Sheriff Baldwin and provided proactive safety tips. Thus we continue to build better relationships and lines of communication with the community that we are here to serve.



2nd Annual Star Awards

S.W.A.T.

On October 12th Sheriff Dallas Baldwin held the 2nd Annual Law Enforcement Recognition Dinner. 20 Law Enforcement agencies from around Franklin County participated with a member of each agency receiving the STAR award. The STAR award represents an officer who embodies Selflessness, Teamwork, Accountability and Respect. Congratulation to this year's STAR award recipient of the Franklin County Sheriff's Office was Deputy Ray Riska! Keynote speaker Chief Jean Michel Blais of Halifax Regional Police gave an insightful and inspirational presentation entitled "Leadership in Times of Healing" The event continues to grow with over 200 people in attendance each year. Congratulations to all of the STAR recipients.

As 2018 comes to a close, the Franklin County SWAT team is winding down from a busy summer, with hopes of a slower winter to recover and prepare for an even busier 2019. This past year has kept us active with 138 total missions so far this year. We provided assistance to Delaware, Fairfield, Licking, Jackson, Madison, Ottawa, Pike and Pickaway Counties, as well as Columbus SWAT, FBI, and multiple task forces. Also, after several trips to Pike County, members of the Wagner family are now behind bars awaiting trial for the murders of 8 members of the Rhoden family.

Here at home, we've completed 46 SWAT raids, to include 33 drug search warrants, 8 barricades, and countless hours of surveillance. Aside from the call-outs, we stayed busy with the apprehension of 82 wanted felons. 32 of Monday's Most Wanted felons were captured this year with the help of tips from the community. This year also showed an increase in the number of probates for persons with a mental illness in which SWAT served 299 as of the beginning of December.

The SWAT team will be starting 2019 with 5 years of full time status under our belts. We will continue to be the "go-to" group in the Sheriff's Office. We plan to continue offering our services, wherever needed, whatever the task. We are ready.



Update on the new Corrections Center Construction



FCSO New Corrections Center update

Recently there have been a few milestones realized in the construction of the new Franklin County Corrections Center. November 6, 2018 marked the one year anniversary of the projects Ground Breaking. Two days later, on November 8th, another achievement was reached when the “Topping Out” ceremony was held for Phase 1. This signified the last main piece of structural steel being put in place. Represented at this ceremony were the Franklin County Commissioners, Franklin County Sheriff’s Office, Franklin County Public Facilities Management, architects, design team, construction manager, construction workers and ironworkers.

There is still a lot of work to be done. Members of the Sheriff’s Office CORE and Transition Teams have begun initial meetings with architects and design team to discuss the next phase of the Corrections Center.



FCSO Featured on Live PD

The Franklin County Sheriff's Office Patrol Division is one of eight featured agencies on the hit T.V. show Live PD. Film crews began filming live segments of our deputies at work on Friday, November 16th.

Live PD is a reality based television show that is now in its third season. Live PD documents law enforcement agencies as they perform their daily duties of keeping their communities safe. The first Live PD episode aired on October 28, 2016. In just 2 years, the show has become the #1 rated reality based cable television show in the country. Recent television ratings services have estimated the show has had as much as 2 million viewers nationwide each night a live episode airs.

Sheriff's Office officials spent months working with the producers of the show to bring their film crews here. The show not only showcases the hard work put in by FCSO Patrol deputies to keep Franklin County safe, but also the many other agencies and their officers in Franklin County. The Sheriff's Office often works alongside the Columbus Division of Police as well as suburban and township police agencies to serve the citizens of Franklin County.

The following the program gets on popular social media platforms is what makes Live PD unique. Fans of the show have developed large groups of followers on Twitter and Facebook. They refer to themselves as "Live PD Nation" and the hashtag "#LivePDNation" is often one of the most popular trending hashtags on Twitter. These fan groups hold large watch parties to enjoy the live broadcasts together and meet the officers featured on the show.



Getting a Carry Concealed Weapons Permit

Since 2004, the Franklin County Sheriff's Office Carry Concealed Weapons Office has been the go-to place for those looking to obtain, or renew one's CCW permit. In the 14 years since we opened, there have been changes with new laws having been enacted, some amended, and some removed. However, what hasn't changed is the fact that, out of 88 counties, Franklin County continues to process the most permits each year. In fact, for 2018, we will have processed over 10,000 permits, and those numbers will continue to increase. In order to process the demand, the CCW office is staffed by a team of eight full-time employees and one supervisor. Because of demand, regular hours are from 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday-Friday.

One of the most notable changes took place at the beginning of November as the State of Ohio implemented a new policy whereby the standard CHL fee is waived for any active military personnel (with proper identification), or anyone who carries an HONORABLE DD214. You do have to be at-least 21 years of age to apply for the license and, if your military service concluded more than 10 years ago, you are required to take an 8-hours certification course.

Sheriff Baldwin encourages anyone who is eligible, and interested in applying for the CHL, to do so. If you live in Franklin County, or one that is adjacent, please visit our website at: sheriff.franklincountyohio.gov to make an appointment.

Next time: A look at our Internet Crimes Against Children Unit.



Therapy K9 program

Shortly after taking office in 2017, Sheriff Baldwin established Ohio's first Therapy K9 program with Mattis K. Nine, an English Labrador Retriever with Deputy Darrah Metz as his handler. In August 2018, the Therapy K9 program became a unit when Sheriff Baldwin swore in Stark, a German Spitz with Deputy Tyler McDowell, Kit a Standard Poodle with Sgt. Jason Ratcliff and Woody an Australian Labradoodle with Lt. Mike D'Errico. The Therapy K9's are not trained in any type of traditional law enforcement capacity (i.e. drug/explosives detection, tracking, bite work, etc.). All Therapy K9 teams hold certification through a nationally recognized certifying body.

The program revolves largely around victim's advocacy work. The Therapy K9 unit has established partnerships and work closely with Franklin County Children's Services, Nationwide Children's Hospital (NCH) Center for Family Safety and Healing, NCH Center for Family Safety and Healing Adult Services, NCH Livingston Ambulatory Center Outpatient clinic, FBI Columbus Field Office, Franklin County Prosecutor Ron O'Brien's Office, TIES (Drug) court, MAVS (Veterans) court and several Franklin County elementary and middle schools with high risk behavioral children. The majority of those the unit assists are diagnosed with a mental health disorder such as PTSD, anxiety, depression and/or suicidal ideations. Many are victims of emotional, sexual and/or physical trauma. The Therapy K9's work diligently with these partnerships and have successfully obtained disclosures from victims resulting in multiple indictments. Law enforcement agencies worldwide have contacted the FCSO Therapy K9 unit in order to duplicate the program.

The Therapy K9's are cared for by donations and community partnerships, not by the Sheriff's Office. This encompasses items such as cruiser kennels, food and supplies, training, grooming, boarding and veterinary services.

Follow the Therapy K9 unit on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram @FCSOTherapyK9.

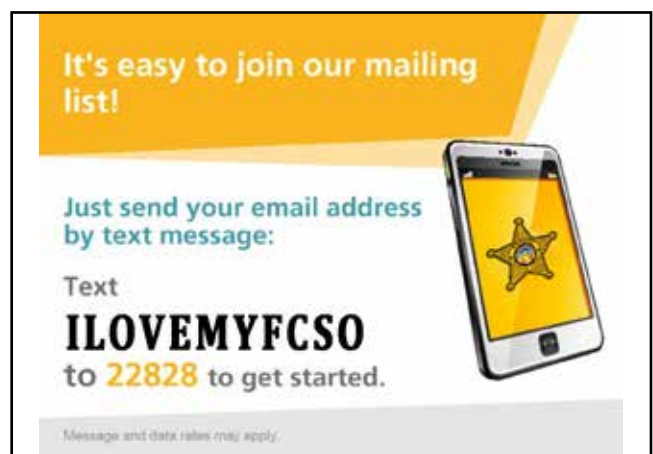


CONTACT US



The Franklin County Sheriff's Office partners with Nextdoor.com, the private social network for neighborhoods.

Those interested in joining their neighborhood's Nextdoor website can visit www.nextdoor.com and enter their address.



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www.myfcs0.news

