



Gahanna PD Community Bulletin: April 2021

Members of the Gahanna Community:

Often we receive emails, phone calls or messages through social media from the public complimenting members of the Division of Police. On occasion there is one message that stands out and truly touches one's heart. The following message is one such occasion:

"I just wanted to say something about and to Officer Redman. My wife died on March 12th and Mr. Redman came and sat with me for hours while the investigation and coroner's came. You have forever left an impression on me as to the goodness that police officers must possess. I used to think that people become cops so they can get back at people for hassles in high school or to have control over others. As I have matured mentally and physically due to Officer Redman, I see that there is good inside of police officers and the reason people become police officers is because they want to make a difference in their city. I could not have made it through that night had it been handled any other way. His kindness and compassion have left forever, a mark on my soul and I will never forget his kindness. In my grief I asked him 'Are you sure that there is no way she might just come back to life, I mean doesn't that happen?' I could see the hurt he must have felt for me when he said, 'No she's gone and I'm sorry.'



That had a very profound effect on me and somehow I was able to accept that my wife was gone and that it was okay to be sad and to cry, which I did and am now, writing this. I have moved on and have a new place now still in Gahanna. He helped me when no one else could. Thank him for me and give him a raise and a promotion. He deserves it. He may not want a promotion, but he definitely deserves a raise. Thanks."

Thank you all for your continued investment in your community.

Jeff Spence
Chief of Police

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Summary of Division Activity for March

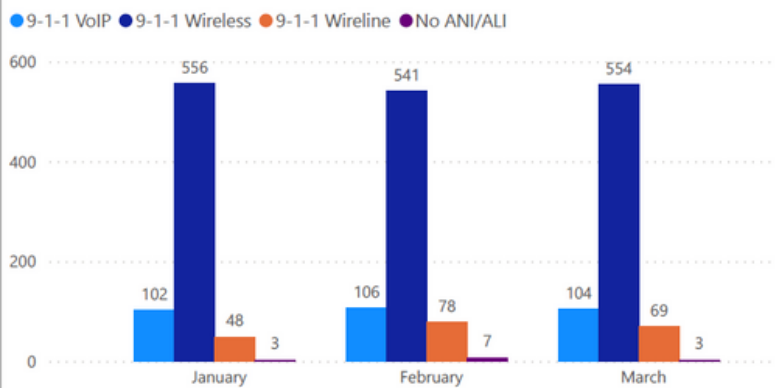
Support Services – Communications Center:

- Dispatchers handled 732 9-1-1 calls throughout the month. 9-1-1 calls received by the Communications Center were answered in an average of four seconds. Four text-to-911 messages were received.
- 76.1% of all 9-1-1 calls received by the Communications Center originated from cellular phones. 14.3% were received from VOIP (Voice Over Internet Protocol) telephone lines/systems.
- An additional 2,499 calls were received through the Division's non-emergency lines in March.
- 2,303 calls for service were dispatched during the month.

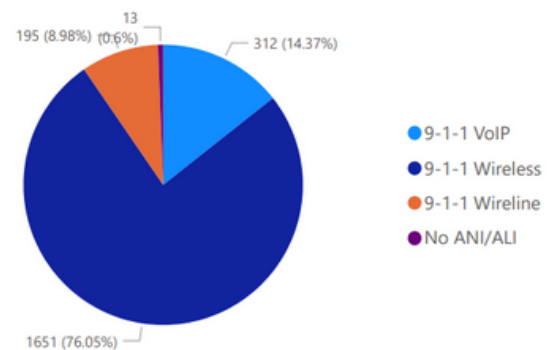
Gahanna 9-1-1 System Data

Month	9-1-1 Total	9-1-1 Wireless	9-1-1 Wireline	9-1-1 VoIP	No ANI/ALI	Average Answer Delay (Seconds)	Abandoned Calls	Rollover Calls	Non-Emergency Lines	Text to 9-1-1
January	710	556	48	102	3	4.00	80	0	2241	0
February	735	541	78	106	7	4.00	65	0	2141	0
March	732	554	69	104	3	4.00	70	0	2499	4
Total	2177	1651	195	312	13	4.00	215	0	6881	4

Total 9-1-1 Calls by Month & Type



Year-to-Date 9-1-1 Total Calls



Summary of Division Activity for March

Field Services

- 288 offense and arrest reports were generated, including:
 - Two robberies, with one arrest approximately 48 hours later.
 - Six theft from vehicle reports.
 - Eight criminal damaging incidents occurred, and two related arrests.
 - One burglary and one breaking/entering were reported.
 - Four stolen vehicles were reported, one related arrest and recovery of the stolen vehicle.
 - Incidents of assaults (non-domestic) are as follows:
 - One aggravated assault with two arrests.
 - Two simple assault reports; seven arrests.
 - Domestic-related responses include:
 - 21 documented disputes that did not involve a criminal offense.
 - Seven incidents resulted in arrests.
 - Two offense reports were forwarded for investigation or further prosecutorial review.
 - Drug offenses for the month include:
 - Drug/Narcotics violations: Five offense reports; eight arrests; one warrant issued.
 - Drug equipment violations: Three offense reports; five arrests
 - Two overdose responses occurred during the month with one fatality. Opioids are suspected in both cases.

Summary of Division Activity for March

Field Services (continued)

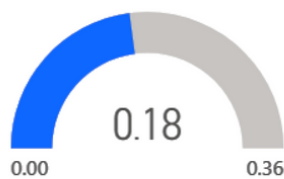
- 16 arrest warrant entries were made during the month.
- Officers conducted 507 self-initiated traffic stops. 200 traffic violators were issued citations & 16 arrests were made from the stops.
- The Division responded to 42 motor vehicle crashes:
 - No traffic fatalities occurred.
 - No crashes were classified as serious injury suspected.
 - One was classified as minor injury suspected – 2.3% of crash responses.
 - Two were classified as injury possible – 4.7% of responses.
 - The remaining 39 crashes were classified as Property Damage Only (PDO) – 84.4% of responses.
 - Nine crashes occurred on IR-270 – 21.4% of all crash responses in Gahanna.
 - Two incidents involved alcohol and/or drug impairment – 4.7% of crash responses.
 - Four commercial vehicle crashes – 9.5% of crash responses.
 - Distractions were reported in seven of the 42 reported crashes – 16% of all crashes.
- Patrol officers effected 15 arrests for impaired driving (OVI).
 - Five arrestees refused to submit to chemical testing.
 - The laboratory results of bodily fluids submitted in three arrests are pending.
 - The average blood alcohol content for the seven arrestees that submitted to testing was .19 or just over twice the legal limit of intoxication in Ohio.

Summary of Division Activity for March

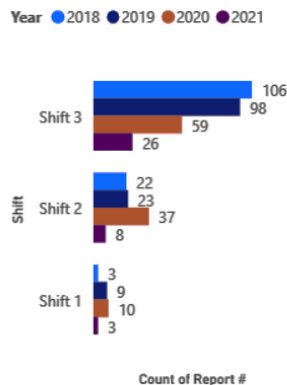
404

TOTAL OVI ARRESTS

Average BAC

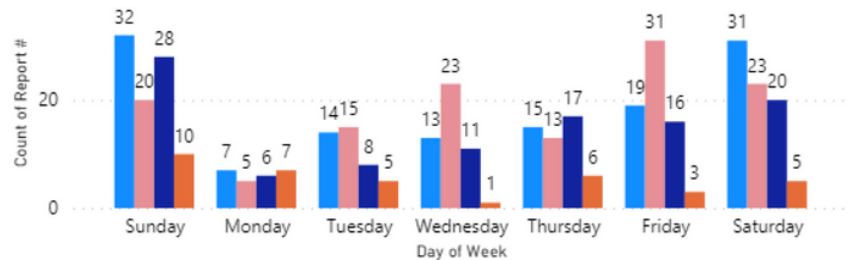


OVI by Year and Shift



Arrests by Day of Week

Year ● 2018 ● 2019 ● 2020 ● 2021



**Don't
Drink &
Drive**

Investigative Services

- The Division's detectives were assigned 74 offense and arrest reports requiring investigative follow-up or other administrative action.
- Detectives obtained 21 investigative subpoenas and executed 16 search warrants during the month.

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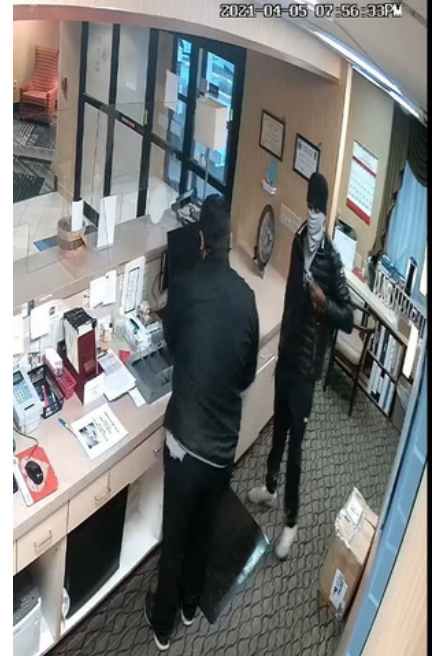
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Hotel Robbery Suspect Arrested

In the evening hours of April 5, the Holiday Inn Express located at 460 Waterbury Ct. was robbed by a lone suspect armed with a handgun. Later that same evening, the same suspect is believed to have robbed a hotel in Pickerington and two in Lancaster. The suspect later identified as Wilbert Andres Romero Natera (age 20) of Columbus, was apprehended by deputies of the Fairfield County Sheriff's Office following a vehicle pursuit.

Natera is believed to be responsible for over 20 robberies in the last month that have included massage parlors and hotels throughout the Columbus metro region to include Union, Franklin, Licking, and Fairfield counties. All incidents involved the display of a firearm and were "take over" style robberies in which Natera jumped the counter demanding cash from employees.

The clothing Natera was wearing when apprehended was identified from images captured on surveillance cameras within the Holiday Inn Express. In addition, the vehicle driven by Natera was captured on intersection cameras near the hotel. The Gahanna case, along with others, will be presented to a federal grand jury in the United States District Court, Southern District of Ohio.



Holiday Inn Express surveillance image

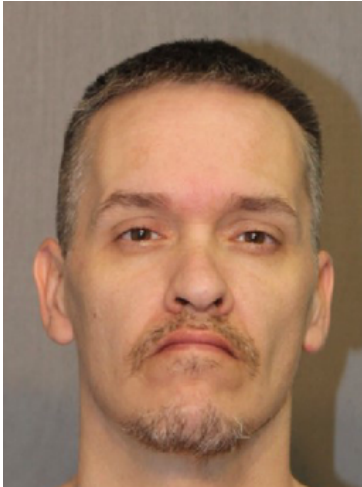


Wilbert Andres Romero Natera

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Child Pornography Suspect Arrested



James S. Darnell

On March 17, the Gahanna Division of Police executed a search warrant on Daventry Lane with the assistance of the Franklin County Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force. The search warrant was related to a child pornography investigation involving one of the home's residents. Evidence related to the investigation was located during the search leading to the arrest of James S. Darnell, age 41. On March 25, Darnell was indicted by the Franklin County Grand Jury on six felony counts including Pandering Obscenity.

Stoneridge Drive Homicide Update

The investigation continues into the February 26 murder of Tyronn Brown, age 22, that occurred in the parking lot of the Stoneridge movie theater. A second female victim of the shooting survived and is recovering from gunshot wounds she sustained that evening. Investigators continue to follow leads as they become available, but the Division's detectives are asking for members of the public to contact police if they have any information in this case.



Vehicle Stolen at Speedway

On April 6, 2021 a white BMW four door sedan entered the parking lot of Speedway located at 240 S. Hamilton Road. The vehicle was operated by a black female and was displaying an Illinois license plate that returned to a 2020 Honda.

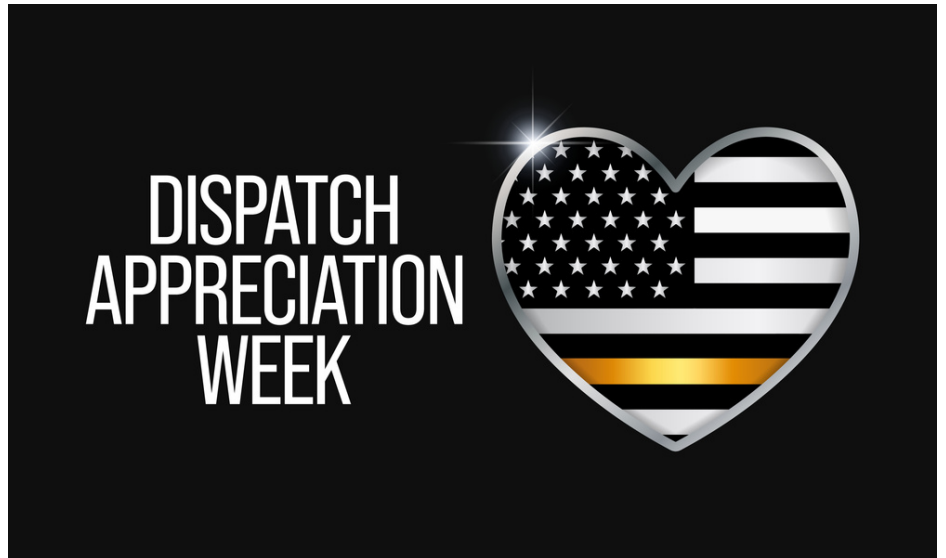


Speedway Surveillance Image

A second suspect, believed to be a male wearing an orange or red hooded sweatshirt, exited the front passenger seat of the BMW, approached a customer's unoccupied Chevrolet Malibu, and drove off. Both the BMW and the stolen Chevrolet were last seen driving westbound on Morse Road, west of the 270 interchange, failing to comply with an officer's signal to stop. The Chevrolet was later recovered nearby in Columbus.

If anyone can identify the suspect or has information pertaining to similar incidents involving a white BMW, please contact the Division's detectives at 614-342-4240.

National Public Safety Telecommunicator's Week



This year, National Public Safety Telecommunicator's Week was celebrated April 11- 17. Mayor Jadwin issued a proclamation honoring our telecommunicators and the vitally-important work they do each day.

We want to recognize and thank our talented, highly skilled and dedicated group of dispatchers. Gahanna Police have 11 dispatchers currently on staff. In 2020, they answered over 9,681 calls to our 9-1-1 dispatch center in an average of less than 4 seconds.

Gahanna dispatchers also handled over 27,743 non-emergency calls for assistance, information, and service runs in 2020. Our dispatchers are the calm voice when everything is in chaos and this week, we salute them. Thank you!

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Ohio Severe Weather Awareness Week



The week of March 21-27, 2021 was Severe Weather Awareness Week. Families can prepare for numerous weather-related events, which may lower the chance of injury or death in the event that severe weather, such as a tornado, strikes. As severe weather season approaches, take some time to put together a safety plan with your family, friends or household members.

Planning includes being aware of the signs of a tornado, including a rotating, funnel-shaped cloud, an approaching cloud of debris, or a loud roar – like a freight train. Pay attention to the weather and to weather reports. Meteorologists can predict or forecast when conditions might be right for a tornado to develop. Tornadoes are usually visible as funnel clouds. Related severe thunderstorms can produce heavy rains, flash flooding and hail. The National Weather Service confirmed that Ohio had 20 tornadoes in 2020. During just two days in April, the 7th and 8th, Ohio experienced 12 of those tornadoes. Take time to prepare today!

Tornado Safety Tips

Whether practicing in a tornado drill or sheltering during a warning, the Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness encourages Ohioans to DUCK!

D - Go DOWN to the lowest level

U - Get UNDER something

C - COVER your head

K - KEEP in shelter until the storm has passed

For additional resources: <https://www.ready.gov/tornadoes>

May: National Bike Month

National Bike Month is an annual celebration that occurs every May. Established in 1956, the designation encourages people to get on their bicycles and ride to work, to school or just for fun! Bike Month is also about increasing awareness of cycling safety. Whether you are a veteran cyclist, a recreational rider, or a motorist, it is important to be aware of the rules of the road when it comes to bicycling safety.

Ohio bicycle laws are vital to safe cycling. Bicycles are defined as "vehicles" under Ohio law, which permits bicycles to be lawfully operated on virtually all Ohio roads except freeways, and certain limited access roadways.

Same Rights, Same Roads, Same Rules

Ohio law requires cyclists to follow the rules of the road when riding a bicycle on a roadway. Like any vehicle operator, a cyclist must ride with traffic, obey basic traffic laws, stop at stop signs and red lights, and follow all traffic control devices. When following the rules of the road, a cyclist has exactly the same "right of way" as any car, truck, or bus driver.

Ride to the Right

A bicycle must be operated "as near to the right side of the roadway as practicable".

The law does permit some exceptions:

- When necessary to avoid items in the roadway, such as parked cars, road hazards or moving vehicles.
- When the roadway is too narrow for a bicycle and an overtaking vehicle to travel safely side by side in the same lane.
- Most roadways in Ohio are "too narrow" to be shared by a motor vehicle and a bicycle.

Cyclists are also permitted to ride "two abreast," meaning side-by-side, in the same lane. Ohio law does not require cyclists to move out of the way of faster traffic.



The Three-Foot Law

Ohio law requires motorists passing cyclists on the road allow a cushion of safety during the passing maneuver. A motorist must allow at least three feet of space between the motor vehicle and the bicycle & operator being passed.

Double Yellow Lines

Ohio traffic law allows motorists to cross a double yellow line to pass any slower vehicle, but only if the slower vehicle is traveling at less than the posted speed limit; the faster vehicle is capable of passing the slower vehicle without exceeding the posted speed limit; and there is sufficient sight distance ahead to permit the passing maneuver to be safely accomplished, taking into account the speed of the slower vehicle.

If a motorist can follow the listed rules to pass a cyclist while crossing a double yellow line, they are free to do so.

May: National Bike Month (Continued)

Equipment Requirements

Like all vehicle owners, cyclists must abide by certain equipment requirements when riding on the roadway. They must use a white light on the front of the bike and both a red reflector and a red light in the rear between sunset and sunrise, or whenever the weather makes lights necessary. Many serious or fatal crashes occur at night or when weather causes poor visibility. Helmets are not required by law for human powered bikes but are highly recommended as well as reflective or high visibility clothing.

Malfunctioning Traffic Signals

A new law now permits bicyclists to proceed through an intersection after stopping and yielding the right-of-way if not detected by the traffic signaling device.

Riding on Sidewalks

Cyclist may not operate a bicycle upon a sidewalk within a business district or upon a sidewalk in Gahanna where signs are erected prohibiting such operation. Only bicycles propelled by human power may be ridden upon a sidewalk within the City, where permitted.

Signaling and Signal Devices

A cyclist should signal an intention to turn at least once, but that action does not need to be continuous. Bicyclists do not need to signal if they are in a designated turn lane or if both hands are needed for the safe operation of the bicycle. A bicycle may be equipped with a device to give an audible signal with the exceptions of a siren and whistle which are prohibited.

Electronic Bikes

Ohio law classifies E-Bikes into three classes. Class I bikes provide a boost only while pedaling and cannot exceed 20 mph. Class II bikes provide a boost even if the rider is not pedaling and cannot exceed 20 mph. Class III bikes can travel at speeds up to 28 mph and the operator must be at least 16 years of age, wear a helmet and the bike must be equipped with a speedometer. Remember, only bicycles propelled by human power may be ridden upon a sidewalk within the City of Gahanna where permitted.

Bicycle Licensing

The City of Gahanna Division of Police will provide a bicycle license for any resident. Collect the bicycle identifying information including manufacturer, model and serial number and bring it to police headquarters to request a bike license. When affixed to the bike, the license can be used by officers to assist in the recovery and return of a lost or stolen bike.



Light Ohio Blue: May 9-16



The Gahanna Division of Police has joined the Light Ohio Blue campaign to show and generate support for law enforcement personnel who protect our communities throughout our great state.

In 1962, President John F. Kennedy signed a proclamation which designated May 15 as Peace Officers Memorial Day and the week in which that date falls as Police Week. The Light Ohio Blue campaign coincides with activities associated with Police Week. This year's dates are May 9-16.

Businesses and residents in Gahanna and Franklin County are encouraged to show their support for law enforcement officers who have died in the line of duty and those currently serving, both sworn and civilian staff.

How can you help Light Ohio Blue?

- Place a blue bulb on your exterior porch light;
- Light up your entire home or business with blue flood lights;
- Place blue ribbons on your mailbox, nearby columns or posts;
- Wear Blue on May 15; and
- Tell your friends, family and neighbors what you are doing, and post a picture to social media using #LightOhioBlue2021

Please join us to show support for law enforcement and help light Ohio blue! For more information please visit <http://lightohioblue.org/> or follow us at <https://www.facebook.com/LightOhioBlue/>.

Shredding Day



Shredding Day
8-11:30 am
Saturday, May 1, 2021
775 Taylor Road Gahanna, Ohio

Shred your documents with a minimum donation of \$10.

Paper only. No Cardboard.

Limit to 5 boxes per vehicle (banker box size please).

First 300 cars will get a \$18 Voucher to Moo-Moo Car Wash.

Each car receives 1 blue light bulb.



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Thank you!

GAHANNA DIVISION OF POLICE
"To Serve and Protect"



"The Mission of the Gahanna Division of Police is to serve and protect our diverse community by building partnerships in order to provide professional law enforcement services that safeguard the lives, rights, and property of all."

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