

QUARTERLY BULLETIN

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Upcoming Events

- Citizen’s Police Academy
March 31—May 12
- Youth Police Academy
June 8—25

January 23 News Conference

Link: <http://www.danville-va.gov/DocumentCenter/View/25081/01-23-2020-Press-Conference>



Bike Patrol

CRIME CONTINUES TO TREND DOWN IN DANVILLE

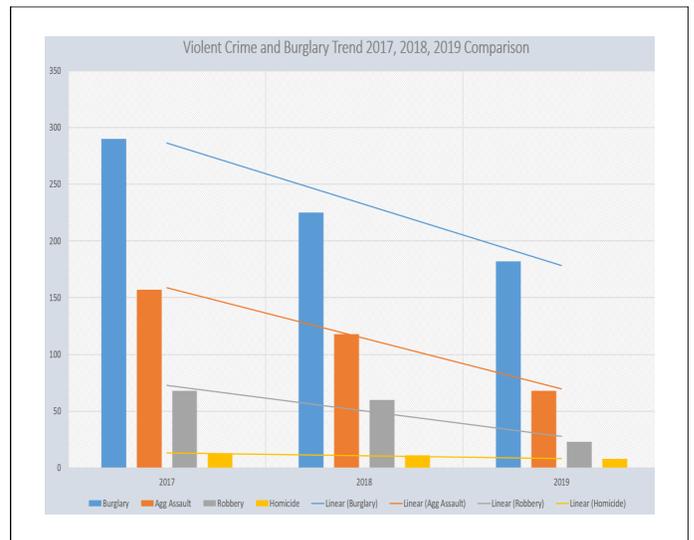
Yes, you read that right—crime is trending down in Danville for the second straight year.

After a Jan. 23, 2020, news conference, local headlines read, “Crime is trending down in Danville,” or “Danville sees another decline in serious crime,” and “Chief praises department after 2019 drop in violent crime.”

Police Chief Scott C. Booth said during the news conference, “We have had some pretty good successes with our crime decline in the city of Danville in 2019. We want to talk about those numbers and give an accurate picture of what is going on here in our city.”

Violent crime was down 20 percent compared to 2018 with a notable 59 percent decrease in firearm-related aggravated assaults.

Overall, Danville saw a 15 percent crime decline in 2019. That does not mean our work is done. We will continue to take a leadership role in the



Three year trend for burglary, aggravated assault, robbery and homicide.

community to reduce violent crime and give those who work, live and play in Danville a feeling of safety and security.

Looking ahead, 2020 is all about partnerships. Your community involvement is the key to successful long-term problem-solving for our city.

- Burglary – down 19 percent from 225 in 2018 to 182 in 2019.
- Aggravated assaults - down 44 percent from 122 in 2018 to 68 in 2019.
- Robbery - down 62 percent from 60 to 22.
- Murder - down 27 percent from 11 to 8.

TECHNOLOGY AND TRAINING FOR DE-ESCALATION

DPD continues to focus on de-escalation training.

We incorporated a training simulator that utilizes computer technology to enhance an officer’s decision-making capabilities in the field.

Called the Milo Range, it is a “portable simulator for use of force, crisis management, de-escalation and tactical judgment training” according to the manufacturer.

This scenario-based training subjects officers to realistic

and stressful situations in a training environment.

This training tool complements the Department’s de-escalation and less than lethal training each officer receives.

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@DanvilleVAPolice



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"Deeds Not Words"



Lt. McLaughlin bell ringing

"Let me tell you what makes police officers special, it is their willingness to spring into action and lead by example," said Booth when praising this group of officers. They received awards for distinguished service in complex criminal investigation, saving the life of another, and other outstanding achievements."



2019 Awards Ceremony

Partnership Award – William "Billy" Chaney and Special Agent Pete Gonzalves

Officer of the Year – Off. Roger Woody

Specialty Officer of the Year – Det. Randy Merrill

Distinguished Service Award – Off. Jonathan Masi, Cpl. John Dixon, Cpl. Kyle Newcomb, Cpl. Harry Torres, Cpl. Richard Wright, Lt. Richard Chivvis, Lt. David Whitley, Capt. Henry Richardson

Lifesaving Award – Off. Melissa Carey, Off. Gerrit Clay, Off. Matthew Gleber, Off. Ian Smith

Chief's Award (Officer) – Cpl. Derrick Lancaster ; **Chief's Award (Civilian)** – Pierotti 'Pepper' Travis

RESPONSE TO OPIOID EPIDEMIC

More than a dozen agencies representing the spectrum of public safety and public health and human services have come together to begin developing a strategy to address opioid addiction in Danville.

After a serious of overdoses and a fentanyl-related death in the fall of 2019, DPD saw the necessity to initiate a comprehensive opioid response strategy.

Since that time, three meetings with a variety of stakeholders have taken place.

DPD was humbled to learn there were so many local agencies who also recognized the need and were willing to roll up their proverbial sleeves and meet this need head-on.



Officers briefing before community walk

The Danville Commonwealth Attorney's Office informed the public about the safe reporting of overdoses. This bill was designed to save lives by encouraging those need emergency help related to an overdose to report it without fear of prosecution (18.2-251.03).

The Virginia Department of Health provided opioid overdose-reversing drug, Narcan, to DPD at no cost. Danville Pittsylvania County Community Services provided the funds for DPD to purchase carrying cases for every officer.

After completing RE-VIVE! training on how to recognize and respond to an opioid overdose emergency, Narcan was issued to every officer.

Though we have not experienced the epidemic that other jurisdictions are seeing, it is imperative that we as a community recognize that opioid addiction is a disease. While facilitating lifesaving and rehabilitative treatment for abusers, DPD has focused its efforts to arrest those who traffic this poison in our community.