



Frankfort Police News

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Frankfort Police Training

Police training has become a very popular topic in recent months. There have been many questions about the amount and type of training officers receive. The Frankfort Police Department and Village of Frankfort value training and we work hard to provide frequent and relevant training to all officers to provide them with the tools they need to provide professional, prompt service to our community. However, before officers begin at our agency they are trained and certified through an academy certified by the Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board. Below is a list of the training required of a new officer.

Police Academy

Officers attend a 14-week, 560-hour basic law enforcement training course required for all new officers in the State of Illinois. During the academy recruits will receive training on laws, evidence collection, de-escalation, report writing, firearms training, defensive tactics, crisis invention, community policing, patrol procedures, traffic enforcement, criminal investigations, physical training, traffic control, active threat response, and other topics. New recruits are required to pass a state written test in addition to passing the police academy before they are certified police officers.

Field Training

Upon completion of the police academy officers begin a field training program which is typically an additional 14 weeks. During the field training, new officers are paired with a field training officer (FTO) who ensures they are familiar Frankfort policies, procedures, and assesses the individual's comprehension and application of skills taught at the academy. The length of field training can be extended based on individual performance and the recommendation of the field training officers.

Our next issue of Frankfort Police News will provide details on annual department training.

Crime Statistics

January through August 2019 vs. 2020

Type of Crime	Number of Calls 2019	Number of Calls 2020
DUI/Traffic Arrests	90	54
Retail Theft	23	17
Identity Theft	34	76
Theft	53	38
Burglary to Vehicle	51	42
Stolen Vehicles	15	8
Residential Burglary	6	11
Business Burglary	7	5

In February of this year the Frankfort Police Department launched a "9 p.m. Routine" on social media. This was in response to the increase of burglary to motor vehicle (BMV) cases seen statewide. Although the reported number of burglary to motor vehicles may be down slightly, this type of crime is still occurring. Be sure to lock vehicle doors, remove valuable possessions, and never leave keys or key fobs inside of your car. We have also seen more Bmvs occurring during daytime hours, so be aware of your surroundings and call in suspicious conduct, vehicles, and persons to the Frankfort Police Department immediately.

The residential burglaries occurring in 2020 are primarily instances of BMV offenders entering garages without permission, by law this is a residential burglary.

The increase in identity theft can be attributed to the unemployment benefits scam listed in this edition of Frankfort Police News. If you receive a credit card or benefit you did not apply for in the mail, be sure to contact the company and complete a credit report to check to ensure you have not been the victim of identity theft.

Excellence in Policing- Utilizing 21st Century Policing as a Guideline

This year the Frankfort Police Department has been featuring the six pillars outlined in the Task Force on 21st Century Policing guidelines and recommendations. This issue we will look at the third pillar, technology and social media. Here are ways the Frankfort Police Department uses technology and social media to build relationships and to provide information and transparency to our community.

- The Frankfort Police Department utilizes Nixle, an online warning system which provides safety information, alerts, and more to community members.
- The Frankfort Police Department is in compliance with providing information requested under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).
- The Frankfort Police Department posts a weekly blotter which allows citizens to remain aware of criminal activity.
- We optimize the use of available technology to enhance accuracy, accountability and timeliness of data. Some examples are in-car video cameras, electronic citations, electronic accident reports, records management system and report writing systems.
- We utilize forms of social media to share information on community events, crime trends, and safety information.
- The Frankfort Police Department publishes a quarterly newsletter electronically that includes crime statistics, crime trends, safety tips, and community events.

TRIAD

Our TRIAD group, (Safety Group for Older Adults) is now meeting virtually. The Frankfort Police Department is making videos with safety information for our TRIAD group to view.

Are you interested in receiving a link to the safety information? E-mail us at admin@frankfortil.org.

UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS SCAM

Many have heard of a popular scam circulating the Chicagoland area, the unemployment benefits scam. This scam involves victims receiving a debit card for unemployment benefits, although they have not filed an unemployment claim or requested a card. The debit cards bear the Illinois State Insignia and are used to load unemployment benefit payments after a claim has been approved. If you or a family member receive a letter and a debit card from the Illinois Department of Employment Security, please contact the Frankfort Police Department as you may be the target of fraud. Also, we encourage those who receive the unsolicited mail and debit card to contact the Illinois Department of Employment Security, the agency that oversees the unemployment compensation program, at 800-814-0513. Please share this information with friends and family to create awareness.



The Village Preparing to Launch a New Website

The Village of Frankfort is preparing to launch a new website. This is designed to be a more user-friendly site packed with helpful information for residents, businesses, and visitors. The Frankfort Police section includes more detailed court information, online police reporting, and a new social services resource section.

Watch for the official release in near future!

Illinois Rail Safety Week

September 20th -26th is the Illinois Rail Safety Week. Each year this week is a great opportunity to remind our community members of the importance of safety around railroad crossings and tracks. Here are some track safety reminders to help keep you safe:

- Freight trains don't have a fixed schedule or direction. A train can come at any time from any direction.
- NEVER walk on or near railroad tracks. It is illegal and the railroad tracks are private property.
- Stay alert anytime you are around train tracks. Refrain from texting, the use of headphones, or other distractions that could prevent you from seeing or hearing an approaching train.
- The only place you should cross train tracks is at the designated pedestrian or roadway crossing.
- Remember trains cannot swerve to avoid a crash and take a long time to stop. A freight train traveling 55mph takes more than a mile to stop.

Slow Down

Officers have noticed an increase in aggravated speeding offenders. Aggravated speeding is when the motorist is driving 35+miles per hour over the posted speed limit. We ask our residents and the motoring public to slow down to reduce the number of crashes and increase motorist/pedestrian safety. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), speeding is a factor in one-third of all motor vehicle fatalities. In addition to violating the law, here are a few additional reasons to obey the speed limits. Driving at a high rate of speed:

- Can result in loss of vehicle control
- Reduces effectiveness of occupant protection equipment
- Increases the stopping distance after a driver perceives danger
- Increases the degree of crash severity leading to more severe injuries
- Increases fuel consumption/cost



Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic many of our community events have been cancelled. The Frankfort Police Department will participate in the annual torch run for Special Olympics-virtually. Officers who sign up can run, walk, bike, or swim as a way to honor Special Olympic Athletes. Officers will record their activity and the Frankfort Police Department will post a video with the hashtag, #globaltorchrun, as a way to show support to these amazing athletes. Keep an eye out for our virtual torch run video on the Frankfort Police Department Facebook Page in September.

New Hires and Directed Patrols

In November of 2018 Frankfort Residents voted to increase sales tax by one percent to increase revenue within the village. The funds were designated for infrastructure improvements, such as roads, as well as to supplement police staffing. In 2019 we hired four new officers: Jessica Kaemerer, Kevin O'Keefe, Joshua Maxwell, and Giovanni Conte, and in 2020 we have hired one new officer, Rafal Krupa. These officers were hired not only to increase existing shifts, but also provided an opportunity to create positions within the department to provide enhanced services to the community.

These new positions are termed Directed Patrol Officer (DPO) assignments. Directed patrol officer's responsibilities vary based on community and agency needs. They do not typically respond to regular calls for service, but instead are assigned to areas where there may be a traffic problem, crime pattern or neighborhood complaint. Because these officers are not assigned to regular patrol but instead are able to quickly move or pivot to focus on specific concerns, this assists in being more effective in discouraging and responding to criminal activity.

We have already received many compliments from residents and businesses on the effectiveness of our DPO positions. We have been able to resolve several major cases successfully due to the flexibility and diligence of our Directed Patrol Officers. The flexibility of the DPO schedules has also allowed the Frankfort Police Department to efficiently and effectively accommodate additional staffing when extra manpower is needed. We are grateful Frankfort residents, Mayor Holland, and the Village of Frankfort Board of Trustees allotted additional funding to create these positions and increase staffing within our agency.



Officer Kaemerer



Chief Burica and Deputy Chief Dowding at the graduation of Officer Conte and Officer Maxwell.



Officer O'Keefe

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To Receive Frankfort Area Text Alerts:
Text "FRANKFORT" to "888777"



Non-Emergency: (815)485-2500



Emergency: DIAL 911

FRANKFORT
POLICE

The Frankfort Police Department will be issuing a newsletter quarterly with up to date information on current crime trends, community events, and laws.

To get a copy of our newsletter go to
www.frankfortpolice.net