



Gahanna PD Community Bulletin: October 2022

As 2022 draws to a close, I would like to extend the Division's sincerest thanks and appreciation for all of the support our community continues to show us.

The holidays are approaching and while you make plans to spend time with friends and family, please remember that there are those who will take advantage of the unsuspecting and prey upon the spirit of giving. To that note, we ask that you be watchful for telephone, email or social media scams where criminals ask for gift cards to help a family member with a supposed warrant, a stranded friend or to help pay unpaid taxes or debts. Be vigilant when shopping and in parking lots. Have your keys ready when you approach your car, and avoid distractions, such as your phone, when walking in parking lots or crowded shopping areas. Do not leave packages or other valuables in plain sight in your vehicle, and please do not leave unattended vehicles running with the keys in the ignition. This could be seen as an open invitation to have your vehicle stolen.

In closing, please remember the Gahanna first responders – police officers, firefighters, paramedics, 911 operators and their support staff members – all of whom will be working long hours over the holiday season, away from their families and friends, to keep you and your loved ones safe.

On behalf of the entire Division, I wish you a safe and happy holiday season!

-JEFFREY B. SPENCE

Chief of Police, Gahanna Division of Police



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Summary of Division Activity for September

- 911 calls – Communications Technicians handled 649 calls which were answered in an average of 2.4 seconds.
- No Text-to-911 messages were received.
- The Division received 1,696 calls through non-emergency lines.

7227

2022 Year-to-Date
Total 911 Calls

7299

2021 Year-to-Date
Total 911 Calls

-.99%

% Change
Year-to-Date Total
911 Calls

Field Services:

- Offense and arrest reports generated - 333
 - Robbery - 0
 - Thefts from vehicles - 17, with two arrests.
 - Stolen vehicles - 5
 - Criminal damaging - 12
 - Burglary - 0
 - Breaking & Entering - 3
 - Assaults - 8, with an arrest in one incident.
 - Domestic-related responses - 20
 - Overdose responses - 2 (nonfatal)
- Traffic stops - 636
 - 257 citations issued.
 - 19 arrests made.
- Traffic crashes - 43
 - 1 serious injury
 - 402 traffic crashes year-to-date.
- Impaired Driving Arrests - 19
 - 130 impaired driving arrests year-to-date.

Investigative Services:

- The Division's detectives were assigned 112 offense and arrest reports requiring investigative follow-up or other administrative action.

Division Updates

Division Spotlight - Detective Blair Thomas



Det. Blair Thomas has been with the Division since 2009, and she has served in her current role since 2013. Her favorite part of the job is getting to interact with residents and members of the public every day. She loves having the opportunity to positively impact the lives of others. When she is not at work, Det. Thomas spends her time hiking, training in Jiu Jitsu and playing with her kids. She often travels with her two daughters to compete in Jiu Jitsu. She played softball at the University of Dayton and has not lost her competitive spirit. Lastly, she says it is not a myth – the police love donuts, and the picture shows she always enjoys a good one!

TRICK OR TREAT SAFETY TIPS

- Kids should not go out alone on Halloween.
- Kids should not eat treats until they have been examined.
- Fruit should be cut and closely examined before eating.
- Advise children to never enter strangers' homes.
- Give wrapped homemade treats only to children you know.
- Instruct kids not to stray from the group.
- Carry a flashlight.
- Know what route your children are taking.
- Costumes should be made of light-colored, fireproof material.
- Children should wear proper fitting, comfortable costumes and shoes.
- Children should always use sidewalks, not streets, for walking.
- Children should look in all directions before crossing the street.



Crime Information

Help Needed to Identify Credit Card Theft Suspects

On September 24, 2022, the suspect in the photo below used a Gahanna resident's information to fraudulently withdraw cash from a bank in Pickerington.



Bank surveillance image

On October 9, 2022, the suspects in the photos below stole an elderly woman's wallet from her shopping cart at a local grocery store. The suspects were observed leaving the area in a newer model maroon SUV.



In-store surveillance images

If you recognize the suspects or have any information regarding these incidents, please contact the Division's detectives at (614) 342-4240. Callers may remain anonymous.

Crime Updates

Home Repair Theft Indictment



John F. Hall IV, 43

On July 28, 2022, John F. Hall IV of Dublin, was indicted by a Franklin County Grand Jury on two counts of theft, one count of forgery, and one count of receiving stolen property. While contracted to complete home improvement work on a Gahanna home in January, Hall stole a check from the residence and fraudulently cashed it at a Dublin-area bank. Hall also removed a credit card from the home and made several unauthorized purchases from a Dublin-area retailer.

Protect Yourself from These Theft Trends

Recently, we have seen reports related to residential mail thefts. These thefts occur when residents place mail in their curbside mailbox and put the flag up signaling that there is mail inside for pickup by the carrier. The suspects are driving through neighborhoods and removing the mail from the boxes. They are specifically targeting outgoing checks, which they alter and use to withdraw stolen funds. You can prevent yourself from falling victim to these crimes by paying your bills online or by dropping off your mail at the post office. Please remember that even blue area mailboxes are often not secure from a determined thief.

In addition to mail thefts, we continue to see thieves break into unlocked vehicles primarily during overnight hours. Be sure to remove all items of importance from your vehicle, and if you see something suspicious, say something at the time it is occurring. You and your neighbors know when something seems out of place, and we are here to respond.