

VAIL POLICE DEPARTMENT



YEAR IN REVIEW

2018



FROM THE CHIEF

DWIGHT HENNINGER

What a year! 2018 kept us busy at VPD, staffing the town's fantastic special events, conducting vigorous and successful recruiting efforts for patrol and dispatch, promoting work-life balance for employees, and managing the public safety effects of Mother Nature's active fire season in the summer followed by the current ski season's abundant snow. Big snow increases hotel occupancy rates and skier traffic, keeping officers and dispatchers busy with road safety and Vail Pass closures due to weather and accidents. Day to day, all year long, we strive to prevent, detect and deter crime in all its forms to keep residents and guests safe.

A full calendar of special events to enjoy in our beautiful natural setting consistently attracts visitors. With our public safety partners, VPD provides safety and security for festivals, concerts, holiday celebrations, and sporting events. Burton U.S. Open, Pink Vail, Snow Days, GoPro Mountain Games, Vail America Days Fourth of July parade, and Whistle Pig Vail brought huge crowds. The Colorado Classic pro road-cycling race required extensive public safety logistics, aided by partners including the Northwest Colorado Incident Management Team, which includes VPD employees as members. This state-sponsored Team responded to several wildfires in our region. Heightened wildland fire risk led VPD and Vail Fire to provide education about evacuation routes. To better communicate with the public, VPD expanded our social media use on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, and continued our push to get everyone in our community signed up to receive emergency notifications via text message or email by creating a free account online at EAlert.org. These alerts provide vital public safety information directly to you!

Community engagement and trust building are not just education or enforcement – we enjoy events like Polar Plunge and Tip A Cop for CO Special Olympics, National Night Out, the annual Coat Drive with Eagle County’s Law Enforcement Immigrant Alliance, and the always fun Shop With a Cop. Employees also volunteer numerous hours in support of causes they care about. Building partnerships for mental health resources in our community is important, as is providing resiliency and wellness training for our employees to support work-life balance.

Recruiting and training new Peace Officers, Code Enforcement Officers and 9-1-1 Dispatchers was a priority in 2018, with VPD welcoming back 2 officers who had left briefly, and hiring 6 officers, 3 CEOs and 4 dispatcher trainees. We sponsored 4 officers to attend Colorado Mountain College’s police academy in Glenwood Springs, and hired 2 certified officers from departments in Virginia and Florida.

In November, Officer Jim Applegate retired after 27 years’ dedicated service to the Vail community. He trained dozens of officers during his tenure, and he lived and worked by the Golden Rule, always treating everyone as he would wish to be treated. Jim’s philosophy complemented VPD’s culture of inclusivity for the public good – we are here to serve you all.

As anyone who lives or works here, or just loves to visit Vail knows, there’s always something going on in the villages or on the mountain, and the hardworking men and women of the Vail Police Department and Vail Public Safety Communications Center (9-1-1 Dispatch for the entire county) are right here in the middle of it all, keeping you safe. We love it here, and we want all our community members, residents and guests to love it as much as we do. I want to thank the Town Council and Town Manager for all their support over the past year! I am so proud that our efforts paid off in 2018, as evidenced by the highest community satisfaction survey results seen in my 17 years as VPD’s Chief. We look forward to 2019 with our ever-present goal, to be the model resort police department in the country by serving you better every day.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dwight".

Chief of Police
3rd Vice President, International Association of Chiefs of Police

VALUES

Partnership — Ownership — Leadership
Integrity — Character — Excellence



To be the model resort police department in the country

VISION



**To provide our community with safety and security
through high quality service**

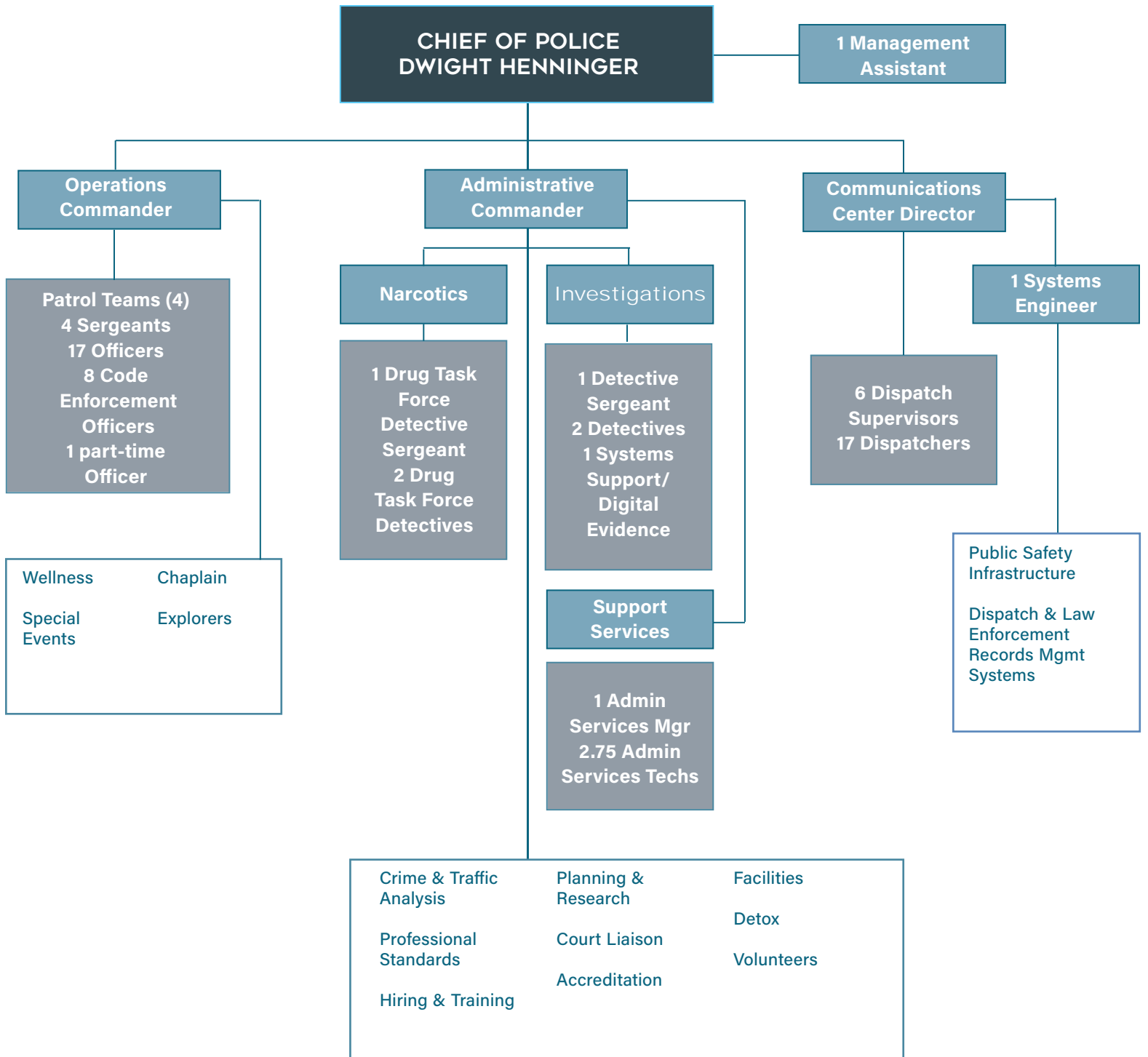
MISSION

TOWN OF VAIL

Town Mayor	Dave Chapin
Town Manager	Greg Clifton
County	Eagle
Year established	1964
Year-round population	5,483
Average daily population	30,000
Winter visitors	1.7 million
Special events held annually	over 100
The Mountain	5,289 skiable acres

STATE OF COLORADO & EAGLE COUNTY

Colorado population	5.61 million
Eagle County population	53,989
Immigrant residents in Colorado	500,000
Hispanic origin in Eagle County	30%
Foreign-born in Eagle County	18%



INTERNAL AFFAIRS

At the conclusion of any professional standards investigation, the disposition will be one of the following findings:

- Sustained when misconduct occurred.
- Not sustained when an allegation is unsubstantiated.
- Unfounded when the allegation is false or did not involve the employee named.
- Exonerated when the employee acted lawfully and properly, or within policy.

In 2018, there were a total of 6 professional standards cases. There were 2 complaints against sworn officers and 4 motor vehicle crashes. Both complaints were of rude and aggressive behavior. One complaint was unfounded and the other was substantiated. The substantiated complaint received a written reprimand and a suspension.

VAIL POLICE DEPARTMENT	
Sworn personnel	30
Civilian personnel	37
Volunteers	12
Average guest to officer ratio in the winter	1730:1
Department budget (% of Municipal Services Budget)	10%
Communications Center budget (% of Municipal Services Budget)	5.8%

USE OF FORCE

In 2018, the Vail Police Department had 30 Use of Force incidents. All incidents were judged within policy. A study of these incidents indicates that our training program is effective and our policies are in compliance with legal standards.

- Dispatching injured wildlife (4)
- Presentation of firearm (14)
- Presentation of taser (7)
- Taser deployed (1)
- Muscling (28)
- Strikes (3)
- Joint lock (9)
- Pressure point (2)
- Complaint of injury (6)



Photo by KD Perino

SPECIAL UNITS

Collateral duties are served in addition to regular assignments.

FIELD TRAINING OFFICERS

Veteran officers run new officers, who have graduated from a police academy or who have transitioned from another department, through a 14-week training program. An upgraded training manual and transition to an on-line evaluation process in 2017 is helping better track the training progress of new recruits.

SPECIAL OPERATIONS UNIT

Highly-trained personnel participate in a county-wide special operations unit which includes snipers, negotiators, tactical personnel and explosive experts. This well-equipped team responds to critical incidents which includes high-risk incidents to serve warrants to dangerous offenders.

INCIDENT MANAGEMENT TEAM

Officers and civilians who join the Colorado Northwest Incident Management Team respond to local/regional/national emergencies, natural disasters and large-scale public events. In 2018, the team responded to numerous wildland fires throughout the region, and assisted with logistics of planned events like the Colorado Classic. A team member also assisted with a flooding incident in Maryland.

CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATORS

CSIs are utilized as a support function in VPD Investigations Unit. They are patrol and code enforcement officers specially trained in crime scene collection, preservation of evidence, classification, documentation, and photography. In 2018, their services were used on stolen vehicle recoveries and burglaries.

INCIDENT DISPATCH TEAM

During 2018 the Vail Public Safety Communications Center's Incident Dispatch Team deployed to 15 separate events for a total of 56 days on assignments including three wildland fires, one search and rescue operation, five planned events, and several community outreach and educational events. They also utilized their Mobile Communications Unit to assist Grand County in setting up an alternate site for their 9-1-1 center while repairs were made to their building.



Chief Henninger on Mountain Patrol

MOUNTAIN PATROL VOLUNTEER

Officers volunteer on their days off to patrol ski slopes. Their primary role is to support Vail Ski Patrol, Vail Mountain Security and Vail Mountain Safety by helping to enforce skier and snowboard safety laws and make arrests for criminal behavior.

SPECIAL EVENTS TEAM

Teams form prior to each large-scale event. Duties include event planning, producing and implementing an incident action plan, and drafting an after action plan for each event. Provision of incident safety and operational coordination are only a few of the established team responsibilities.

CRISIS INTERVENTION TEAMS

The majority of mental health-related calls do not include criminal offending. A partnership with the paramedic service and medical community has changed the way officers respond to highly emotionally-charged calls involving issues of mental illness, substance abuse, autism and more.





Photo by Dominique Taylor

CHECKPOINT CHARLIE

With a daily average of over 100 different tradespeople needing access to core pedestrian areas, this control point ensures safe vehicular traffic flows and well-managed loading and delivery of goods. Code Enforcement Officers stop vehicles at this checkpoint and either restrict vehicles from the area or direct them to a designated spot.

HONOR GUARD

The unit is comprised of seven officers who attend and present colors at line-of-duty death services and at significant events such as the annual Ride in Remembrance event paying tribute to fallen officers and deputies in Eagle County. The exceptionally precise conduct demonstrated by the Honor Guard Detail is practiced quarterly.

POLICE VOLUNTEERS

Our VIPS members provide an enormous benefit during the year. The 12 members who participate in the program contributed more than 700 hours in 2018. Police volunteers help out with special events, administrative duties, lost and found responsibilities, ski and bike registrations, and guest services.

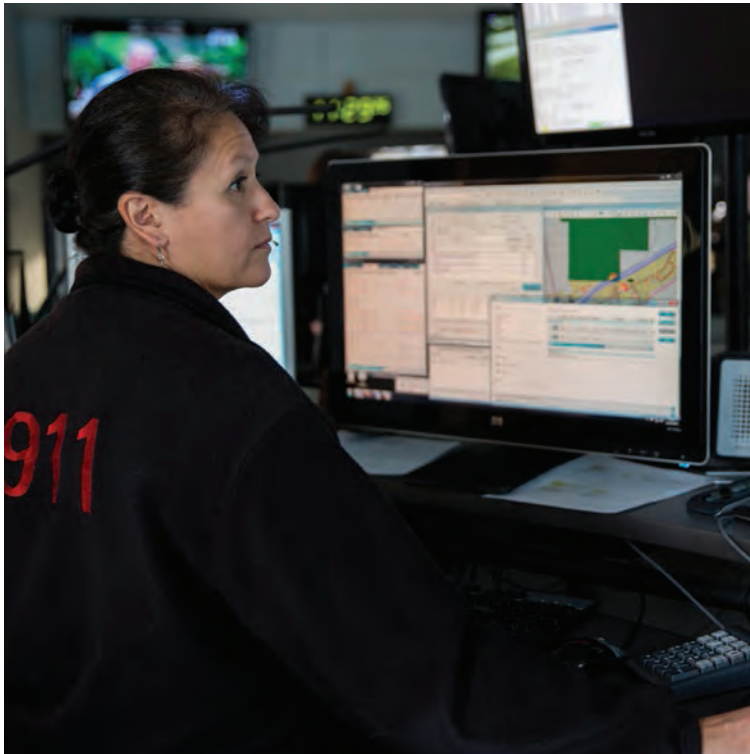
GRANITE

DRUG TASK FORCE

The Gore Range Narcotics Interdiction Team is a cooperative effort between the Vail Police Department, the Eagle County Sheriff's Office, the Drug Enforcement Administration, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation to disrupt established criminal networks and target individuals involved in the illicit drug market.

TOBACCO & LIQUOR ENFORCEMENT

VPD and the Colorado Liquor and Tobacco Enforcement Division conducted compliance checks at 59 businesses selling liquor and tobacco in three days. Of those 59 businesses, four were in violation of sales to minors and intoxicated individuals.







INTERSTATE TRAFFIC VOLUME

When Interstate 70 opened in 1979, the average daily traffic volume was 12,595 through the mountain corridor. In 2018, the highest daily volume reached 44,110 vehicles.

STRATEGIC PILLARS

Strategies of the Vail Police Strategic Plan are organized around the six pillars outlined in the President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing Report. Pillar Champions work with staff, the community and our partners to carry out our strategic plans.

1

BUILDING TRUST & LEGITIMACY

- Community outreach
- Emergency preparedness
- Procedural justice
- Fair and impartial policing

2

POLICY & OVERSIGHT

- Internal policy oversight
- After action reports
- Ideas & Issues Committee

3

TECHNOLOGY & SOCIAL MEDIA

- Outreach expansion
- Prudent use of technology and well-planned implementation

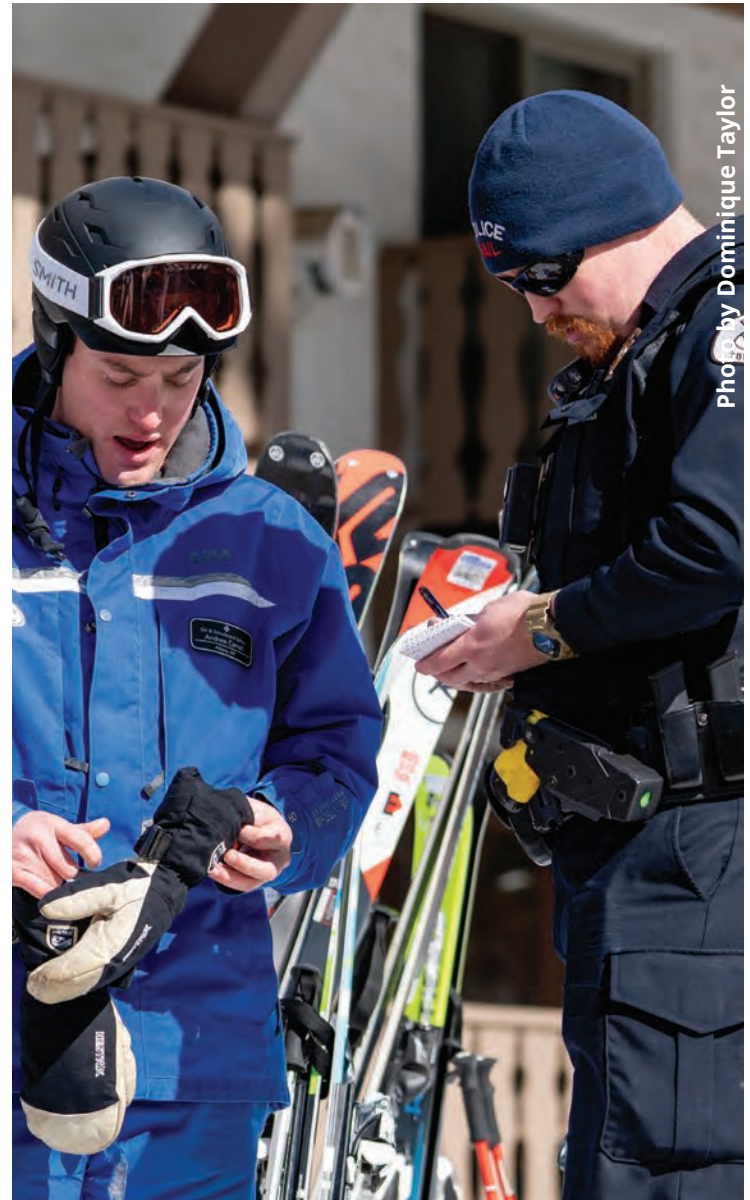


Photo by Dominique Taylor

4

COMMUNITY POLICING & CRIME REDUCTION

- Detect, investigate, prosecute
- Educate, enforce, prevent
- Positive impact programs
- Crime reduction programs
- Volunteers in Police Service

5

TRAINING & EDUCATION

- Succession planning
- Leadership development
- Mentoring program
- Hiring & onboarding
- Change management

6

EMPLOYEE WELLNESS & SAFETY

- 7 core elements of wellness/resiliency
- Wage & benefits review
- Cost-of-living issues
- Spatial needs and safety at work



Photo by Dominique Taylor

1

BUILDING TRUST & LEGITIMACY

ACTIVITIES

- Engage the Community.
- Counter negative criticism.
- Demonstrate impartiality to an individual's nationality, race and ethnicity.
- Demonstrate inclusivity through programs that spread friendship.
- Build emergency preparedness skills.
- Deploy Northwest Colorado Incident Management Team members to disasters and large-scale events.

TARGETS MET

- Neighborhood picnics, immigrant community forums, food/coat drive, Shop with a Cop.
- The Colorado Northwest Incident Management Team is building skill sets through multiple deployments.
- Disaster preparedness drills and readiness trainings were conducted in 2018.
- The Incident Dispatch Team deployed to 15 law and fire events.
- Vail Mountain School co-funding a School Resource Officer position in 2019.
- Safe exchange site implemented at the VPD for Craigslist/eBay and other exchanges.

Eagle County Law Enforcement Immigrant Alliance – LEIA

Since 2010, LEIA has united local law enforcement leaders from incorporated municipalities in Vail, Eagle and Avon, along with the Eagle County Sheriff's Office, with community partners such as Catholic Charities, Bright Future Foundation, Salvation Army, and Eagle County Schools, in support of cooperation, communication, and trust-building between law enforcement and our immigrant communities. LEIA members meet regularly to plan and conduct outreach and educational events, fostering good relationships across cultures.



Photo by Dominique Taylor

2

POLICY & OVERSIGHT

ACTIVITIES

- Hold trainers and new recruits accountable for progression through the Field Training Officer Program.
- Recognize notable performance.
- Promote the good work of the Ideas & Issues Committee.
- Carry out policies based on constitutional law and on both traditional and modern best practices.

TARGETS MET

- A focus on shared consciousness at the Vail PD is cultivating new ways towards extreme information sharing, encouraging initiative and empowering decision-making.
- A member of each division of the department is represented on the Internal Policy Oversight Committee.
- After Action Reports were written on each emergency management drill for lesson learning and to ensure exercises accurately assess capabilities.
- Radio User Manual updates are underway. New guidelines will keep chitchat offline and transition to more universally-adopted emergency codes.
- Revisions to the Comm Center's Quality Assurance protocols and its peer review process are in progress.



Photo by Dominique Taylor



3

TECHNOLOGY & SOCIAL MEDIA

ACTIVITIES

- Continue to expand our digital space presence.
- Vet new technology and provide information on selected technologies to the community.
- Conduct cost/benefits analysis of technologies.
- Create strong project implementation plans.

TARGETS MET

- An Unmanned Aircraft System "UAS" is available. A Dispatch Supervisor is a trained UAS operator.
- Active social media accounts hosted by TOV departments. a have a solid base of followers. Messages allow us to refute unsubstantiated negative comments.
- Everbridge, the company powering the Eagle County (EC) Alert system, allows routine and emergency notifications to be sent in English and in Spanish.
- Concepts for short videos communicating PSA-type messages are being developed.
- Targeted messaging through IPAWS, the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System, is translated and sent to all phones within a specific area regardless of carrier or sign-up.



Photo by Dominique Taylor



4

COMMUNITY POLICING & CRIME REDUCTION

ACTIVITIES

- Apprehend felony drug traffickers.
- Increase messaging on crime prevention.
- Channel resources to victims of crime.
- Positive Impact Programs.
- Publicize special events to inform all vacation rentals, hotels, and other properties impacted by an influx of motorists and pedestrians.

TARGETS MET

- Active Shooter Trainings at local schools.
- Emergency preparedness training at hotels includes instruction on preparing "Go-Bags" equipped with maps, keys and other essentials needed for emergencies.
- Table-top exercise with local hospital focusing on the "Why's" and "Why Nots" of calling 9-1-1.
- Crime reporting by the Hispanic community has seen a rise and fall from 13% in 2014, 19% in 2017 and 16% in 2018. Hispanics arrested rose from 32% in 2014 to 36% in 2018. The percentage of Hispanics victimized increased by 37% between 2014 and 2018 as a result of increased reporting.
- An informed community continues to be the best detection tool for VPD. (See Something/Say Something Campaign.)



Photo by Dominique Taylor



5

TRAINING & EDUCATION

ACTIVITIES

- Give all employees greater exposure to policing responsibilities.
- Build a large pool of skills and competencies among staff.
- Sustain succession planning and leadership development opportunities.
- Ensure staffing levels are not compromised during training-related absences.
- Carry out improved recruitment, hiring and onboarding practices.

TARGETS MET

- Two in-service trainings were conducted. Topics addressed perishable and non-perishable skills.
- Major refinements have been made to the Field Training Program including an update to the program manual.
- Three new Field Training Officers.
- Five police officer recruits and 4 code enforcement officer recruits were trained under the improved FTO Program.
- A former officer and detective in Virginia joined VPD in 2018 and brings great lateral experience and photography skills.

Heros in the Shadows

Fernando Almanza, a bilingual dispatcher at the Vail Public Safety Communications Center, has taken his own life experiences to heart in his effort to spread knowledge about calling 9-1-1. In his self-made presentation — First Responders: Heroes in the Shadows — Fernando not only describes the process of making such a call, but also addresses the fears associated with calling 9-1-1 when the caller has immigrated illegally, a reality he once faced himself. Over 800 local immigrant community members have heard Fernando's presentation that he gives in his off-duty time.



3 new Code Enforcement Officers joined VPD in 2018.

6

EMPLOYEE WELLNESS &
SAFETY

ACTIVITIES

- Provide health assessments, metabolic testing, and dietary planning to all employees.
- Educate personnel on the use of the Employee Assistance Plan.
- Examine wage/benefits and cost of living challenges.
- Examine technologies and trends that support employee safety.
- Explore peer-to-peer counseling opportunities.

TARGETS MET

- 100% participation in the Vail Police Wellness & Resiliency Initiative.
- 17 Colorado law enforcement agencies have incorporated SIGMA Tactical Health into their wellness programs.
- A Peer Support Group is now active.
- A Mentoring program is helping to onboard new employees at the VPD.
- Participation in Colorado Responder Strong is changing our culture around mental health and how to support First Responders and their families.
- AWARE training provided in the fall with a focus on occupational, medical, psychological, trauma, physical, relational, financial, recreational and spiritual wellness, resiliency and retirement.
- Decades-old job descriptions for every position at the town updated for the purpose of compensation analysis, recruiting job candidates, understanding job expectations, and managing performance.



Photo by Dominique Taylor

MENTAL HEALTH FOCUS

VPD participation in the One Mind Campaign improves its response to those suffering from mental illness in the community. The campaign — initiated by the International Association of Chiefs of Police — requires participating agencies to pledge to implement at least four practices to address mental health. Sustainable VPD practices include the creation of guiding principles and policies to achieve positive outcomes on mental health-related incidents, a co-responder model, crisis intervention training, and a partnership with Speak Up Reach Out which focuses on mental health awareness.

Co-Responder Model

Integral to a co-responder model is the relationship between members of law enforcement, paramedics and clinicians who all share a common goal — to keep individuals in a mental health crisis from being incarcerated or from being admitted to an emergency room. In Vail and Eagle County, a coordinated response to the mental health crisis is helping to provide the best outcome for individuals. From June to December 2018, the Vail Police Department, the Eagle County Paramedic Services, and the Hope Center handled over 300 calls for service utilizing mental health resources.

Crisis Intervention

Although not everyone with suicidal thoughts is mentally ill, mental health issues are a big part of suicides and suicide attempts. In 2018, Vail officers handled 96 calls involving suicidal parties. Of the 12 suicide attempts, all were transported to medical facilities, with one passing away later in the hospital. The most common suicide attempt type was drug overdosing, in some cases using legal prescription medication, and in others using illegal drugs such as heroin and cocaine. Other attempts included cuttings and poisoning.



Dispatchers play a key role in recognizing whether a caller may be suffering mental health issues or mood disorders. Information gained by dispatchers is relayed to officers and crisis response teams even before they arrive on scene.



45th Annual Colorado Peace Officers Ski & Snowboard Race

Over 100 Colorado Peace Officers are drawn to this race in Vail from year to year. In March 2018 nearly \$3,000 was raised for the Douglas County, Colorado Fallen Officer Fund.

7 REALMS OF GOOD EMPLOYEE HEALTH

The **Vail Police Wellness & Resiliency Initiative** includes 7 complementary realms that work together to keep our sworn and civilian personnel resilient and physically, emotionally and mentally healthy.

The first realm — **SIGMA Tactical Wellness** — includes medical and exercise stress tests, education and counseling on healthy living, behavior intervention in the form of cardiac risk factor modification and physician-prescribed treatment plans as determined by the outcome of tests. Over 17 Colorado agencies have incorporated **SIGMA** into their own wellness programs.

Joining **Colorado Responder Strong** in 2018 bolsters support for personnel and their families. Ready access to VPD's **Peer Support System** and **Mentoring Program** facilitates open conversations.

The **Mindfulness** component of the resiliency and wellness program is a culture of looking for what

could go wrong (situational awareness), before it does. It also includes being mindful of the need for self care and an awareness of others and perceptions.

The **Work-Life Balance Imperative** includes finding ways to meet the right work-life mix of each employee. What resonates for one, may not for another. As long as saying yes to a request for time off does not jeopardize the safety of fellow officers, supervisors will ensure an employee is granted time away from work.

New to this innovative initiative in 2018 was the introduction of **Adaptable Wellness and Resiliency Evaluation** training for employees and their families. Group and one-on-one sessions were considered by department staff to be one of the most beneficial training they've received. **AWARE** was founded by Dr. John Nicoletti and is the same training given to Columbine High School students and their families following the tragic shooting.

VAIL POLICE WELLNESS & RESILIENCY

- Colorado First Responders and the National Mental Health Innovation Group collaborating to improve support systems for responders and their families.
- Vail's innovative police-specific health-based program includes comprehensive medical tests and individualized treatment plans prescribed by a physician.



● Confidential discussions between advisors and employees seeking help on work or life issues. Referrals to resources and services are given.

● Encouraging mindful awareness of self-care, awareness of others, job readiness, safety, and outlooks on career and life.

● Experienced employees provide new hires with non-judgmental support to reduce stress during rigorous training phases. A mentor also orients their mentee on social and other activities in the area.

● As an example, saying yes to requests for time away from police work.

● AWARE's 10 domains for long-term maintenance of wellness and resiliency are Occupational, Medical, Psychological, Trauma, Physical, Relational, Financial, Recreational, Retirement and Spiritual.



INCLUSIVITY – FOR THE PUBLIC GOOD

Like so many communities across the United States, the Vail Valley is home to a large immigrant community – our country is a melting pot, after all. Local law enforcement officers are sworn to protect and serve all residents and guests in our community, in the interest of public safety and security, regardless of any individual's presumed nationality or citizenship status. Victims or witnesses of crime should never be afraid to come forward to report crimes or ask for

help. This policy is in the best interest of the safety of our community as a whole. Trust and cooperation supports effective policing. As a result of ongoing community outreach efforts and education about 9-1-1, Vail has seen increased reports of victimization from Hispanics as well as increased numbers of arrests due to higher volumes of reporting. When community members feel safe calling 9-1-1 for help or to report crimes, it makes us all safer.



The last thing we want is for undocumented people to be afraid to call us to report they've been victimized. The basic life safety issue is one of the tenets of our country. We should be willing to take care of victims no matter a person's status.



CHIEF HENNINGER

EAGLE COUNTY LAW ENFORCEMENT IMMIGRANT ALLIANCE

Outreach Events

Successful programs include coat drives, food drives, Shop With A Cop, the Police Explorers Program, and the Hispanic Police Academy. Forums and presence at churches, fairs, and schools are productive because children are important social change agents.

Living in the Valley Resource

This guide will provide information on driving and road safety such as winter driving, seat belt laws, insurance requirements; on legal issues and the workings of the court system; employment rights including compensation; and on community information such as public transportation, use of libraries, school activities, and more.



Frequently Asked Questions

An FAQ brochure addresses a variety of topics including witnessing and reporting a crime, being a victim, traffic and driving rules and general police adherence to the rule of law.

Volunteer Interpreters Program

Trained Spanish, French and Russian-speaking individuals help with a growing need for in-person, third-party interpreters when doing interviews, victim statements and investigations. When put in a stressful situation or when asked to express emotion, people often revert back to their first language.

Working across differences

Training is sponsored for both officers and the immigrant community in English and Spanish languages around communications, cultural norms, emergency services, immigration laws and cultural differences.

ADVOCACY AND ALLIANCES

We strive to advance the police profession and public safety through legislative advocacy, research and training opportunities, and sustainable partnerships.

Justice Reform

International Association of Chiefs of Police executives met with White House staff in March 2018 in the Eisenhower Executive Office to endorse the First Step Act, a bill that was later signed into law on December 21, 2018.

The First Step Act is considered the most comprehensive federal prison reform bill in decades, influencing the release of over 50,000 low-level federal prisoners over the next 10 years. IACP commended the work in drafting the legislation and confirmed the urgency and necessity of this transformational reform.

1.2 million people are incarcerated in the U.S.



Vail Police Chief Henninger with the IACP executives at the White House in March 2018 conveying their support for the First Step Act.

Mental Health Alliances

The Vail PD and Hope Center, whose specialization is their Stabilization Program, have partnered to bring co-responses to citizens who need these services. The partnership provides options to individuals in crisis. Rather than going to jail or the E.R., they are assisted in making safety plans and cared for through followup attention.

Coordinated Interstate Response

The Colorado Department of Transportation and public safety in Vail worked to reduce the amount of time Vail officers spend working Vail Pass closures and accidents on I-70 by getting CDOT and other responders in place on incidents to relieve intense VPD manpower demands. CDOT is also working with the VPD and Colorado State Patrol to increase enforcement of chain laws and passenger traction laws.

Tread Safe Campaign

The campaign cautions motorists on the need for good tire treads and encourages safe winter driving behavior to improve Interstate 70 travel. Free tire checks and a public education campaign on social media is a multi-agency collaboration with the Avon PD, Colorado State Patrol and the Colorado Department of Transportation.

Safe Bar Campaign

Officers meet with restaurateurs and with owners and employees of the bar district to reinforce the message of responsible service of liquor and the consequences of failing to manage high occupancy and disorder.

Tobacco & Liquor Enforcement

Vail officers and the Colorado Department of Revenue - Liquor and Tobacco Enforcement Division conducted compliance checks at 59 businesses selling liquor and tobacco in three days for state liquor and tobacco law compliance. Of those 59 businesses, four were in violation of sales to minors and intoxicated individuals.

Explorers

Sworn staff from Vail, Avon and Eagle PDs and the Eagle County Sheriff's Office provide an overview of the law enforcement profession to young adults between the ages of 14 and 21. The program is aimed at prompting critical thinking skills and building character.

Passenger Transportation Management

A municipal decree established a permit system in 2012 to help manage shuttles, taxis, oversized vehicles and address congestion and ease of service issues in high density areas. Over 500 permits were issued in 2018 to transportation companies and individuals needing to access restricted passenger pick up and drop off areas.

Prescription Takeback

Colorado's Household Medication Program helps individuals to safely, responsibly and anonymously dispose their unwanted, unused and expired items. A kiosk in the Vail PD lobby can be accessed year-round. The goal is to tackle high rates of prescription abuse, overdoses and accidental poisonings, as well as protect the water supply by keeping medications from being flushed down a toilet or thrown into a landfill.

Shop with a Cop

Officers from Vail PD and Avon PD were paired with over 50 kids for an excursion to Wal-Mart. Private donations from officers and their families and from local businesses funded the outing.

Other Outreach Programs

Additional programs include crime prevention and awareness presentations to local business groups such as responsible alcohol service classes; National-Night-Out which is a long-standing tradition throughout the country; Adopt-a-Homeroom Program and mock school lockdown drills; a security check program where officers conduct regular foot patrol looking for unsecured windows and doors of residents and owners away for extended periods of time.



Photo by Dominique Taylor

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT STRATEGY AT OVER 100 SPECIAL EVENTS ANNUALLY

A major focus of the department is the public safety coordination of special events held in Vail annually, such as music and dance festivals, headliner concerts, New Year's Eve and July Fourth celebrations, major sport events, parades, art and farmers markets and more.

A significant amount of planning and organization is required for each event. Not least of the challenges is how to manage the flow of people and traffic in and around Vail during and after the events.

One of the department's most tangible achievements for safe and efficient travel of all pedestrians and vehicles during events includes operational plans for the allocation, mobilization and deployment of resources that become daily incident action plans.

One of the Year's Highlights — The Colorado Classic

The professional cycling race, which saw 16 men's and 15 women's teams from around the world come to Colorado to compete, included two stages hosted by the Town of Vail. New this year for the Colorado Classic was a unique circuit race through the Vail and Lionshead Villages, as well as outlying neighborhoods. The traditional time trial was held on August 17th and followed the historic time trial route from Vail Village up Vail Pass. Vail Police took a lead role in the planning and development of the race, coordinating with local, state and federal agencies, the Northwest Colorado Incident Management Team, and many private businesses and non-profits.

Several challenges were overcome, including significantly impacted parking and access, traffic control and management to allow access to Vail Health and course and spectator safety on large scale courses. The race was broadcast on primetime national and international television, as well as being streamed live on the internet.



Photo by Kristin Anderson

The Town of Vail hosts multiple day signature events with crowds surpassing 20,000. Events include GoPro Mountain Games, Snow Days, Burton U.S. Open, and the Colorado Classic.



Photo by Dominique Taylor



Photo by Dominique Taylor



Photo by Dominique Taylor

Reported Crime and Activity

	5-year range	5-year avg	2017	2018	% change from avg	Notes on 2018 data
Calls for Service			35,788	35,211	-	
Total Arrests			728	534	-	17.8% of Vail cases involving sex offenses, aggravated assault, arson, theft were cleared by arrest.
Persons Crime						
Homicide	0-5	2	0	1	-	Attempted murder involving suffocation with a pillow
Sex Offenses	5-10	9	5	9	-	2 cases reported during dance events 2 cases were cold cases from 4 or more years prior
Robbery	0-5	2	0	1	-50	Last incident occurred in 2015
Assault	37-73	54	37	54	-	Over half of the cases resulted in serious injury
Menacing	5-14	8	11	6	-25	3 cases involved a weapon (knife, pistol, AR-15)
Kidnapping/ Imprisonment	2-5	2	5	1	-50	Offender charged with assault by strangulation in addition to imprisonment
Threats/ Intimidation	1-3	1	1	6	-	5 cases involved threats by phone
Stalking	1-6	3	1	3	-	2 cases - ex boy/girlfriend; 1 case supervisor/ employee
Human Trafficking	0-2	1	1	0	-	Case in 2017 involved forced domestic servitude, deprivation of personal freedom
Domestic Violence	36-63	46	38	63	+40	23 male and 14 female offenders; children present in 4 cases
Child Negligence /Abuse	3-8	6	8	6	-	Of the 8 cases, 6 resulted in arrest. Two cases of sexual exploitation. In several cases, the child was present in situations of domestic abuse

Reported Crime and Activity

	5-year range	5-year avg	2017	2018	% change from avg	Notes on 2018 data
Property Crime						
Arson	0-2	1	0	0	-	Last occurred at an interstate construction site in 2016
Burglary	20-29	26	29	23	- 12.2	9 residential and 15 commercial
Theft	275-398	302	278	398	+ 31.6	11 cases of shoplifting
Auto Theft	5-18	10	18	5	- 50	Keys left inside vehicle in 2 cases
Crim. Extortion	0-2	1	1	0	-	No cases of extortion in 2018
Fraud	78-140	94	140	78	- 17.2	Bait advertising and rental schemes predominant
Forgery	5-15	9	10	8	- 11	4 counterfeiting cases; 1 of an employee processing unauthorized refunds to her personal credit card
Trespassing	43-96	64	67	96	+ 49.5	Vehicular trespassing in 52 cases
Vandalism	104-115	107	109	104	- 2.6	Majority involve intoxicated offenders



Reported Crime and Activity

	5-year range	5-year avg	2017	2018	% change from avg	Notes on 2018 data
Crimes Against Society						
Drug Offenses	55-126	84	122	53	- 36.7	Heroin, cocaine, fentanyl, methamphetamine, marijuana
Impaired Driving	30-60	50	49	30	- 39.5	Majority liquor-related
Weapon Viol.	1-5	3	5	3	-	Road rage + gun, fights with knives; fights with brass knuckles
Liquor Law	35-55	41	55	35	-15	Underage drinking in 22 cases
Indecent Exp.	0-4	2	2	4	-	1 at library, 2 in open public, 1 at an FBLA dance
Prowler	1-7	4	1	3	-25	1 offender ran off after doorbell app alerted owner
Resisting Officer	10-24	17	18	10	- 40.7	Typically resulted from contact for another purpose
Disorderly	44-64	55	55	44	- 19.7	21 at bars; 1 at chain-up area
Public Drunkenness	24-62	42	33	24	- 42.6	Custodial holds to prevent dangers to themselves/ others



Reported Crime and Activity

	5-year range	5-year avg	2017	2018	% change from avg	Notes on 2018 data
Quality of Life Issues						
Harassment	46-88	71	83	77	+8	Cases most commonly involve neighbors and roommates
Noise Complaints	196-231	210	197	201	- 4.3	Majority are loud party noise complaints
Animal Complaints	261-319	293	261	303	+ 3.4	Barking dogs and dogs at large
Code Violations	361-745	520	745	549	+ 5.6	Educational efforts precede enforcement actions
Suspicious Activity	606-747	669	747	673	-	An informed community helps to report suspicious activity
Civil Standbys	107-168	140	146	168	+ 20.3	Roommate disputes, evictions, child custody exchanges
Welfare Checks	54-96	71	81	96	+ 35.6	Mainly persons making concerning remarks to family
Missing/Overdue Persons	62-88	72	78	62	- 13.6	Overdue individuals and separated family members
Runaways	0-4	2	4	1	- 44.4	Juvenile reunited with his mother
Suicidal Calls	27-92	48	50	92	+ 90.9	Most common suicide attempt type was drug overdosing
Bear Calls	17-60	47	32	49	+ 4.3	'Bear-ly' 5% increase from 5-year average
Bar Checks	289-611	451	502	611	+ 35.5	Officers look for underaged persons & intoxicated persons
Home/Business Checks	319-607	432	381	319	+ 64.2	Exterior property checked when vacant extended periods





TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT & ROAD SAFETY MEASURES

- Encourage reporting of unsafe driving behaviors.
- Promote pedestrian and bicycle road sharing.
- Traffic Incident Management Plan strategies.
- Interstate 70 Education & Enforcement.
- Collaboration with Colorado State Patrol, Colorado Department of Transportation and neighboring agencies.
- Chain law inspections.
- Safe tire tread inspections.
- Radar trailer.
- Speed awareness mannequin.
- Neighborhood speed management.
- Variable message signs.
- Click-It or Ticket.
- Gore Range DUI Task Force.
- Loading and delivery regulation enforcement.
- Commercial Vehicle Passenger Transportation Ordinance.
- Identifying data essential to traffic analysis.
- Info sharing tool with traffic and crime bulletins.

Traffic Education, Enforcement & Response

	5-year range	5-year avg	2017	2018	% change from avg
Motor Vehicle Accidents	389-477	441	442	389	- 11.8
Hit & Run Collisions	58-85	79	82	58	- 24.9
Traffic Activity					
Road Debris	153-199	169	199	199	+ 18.2
Traffic Complaints	409-486	428	409	409	- 4.5
Traffic Stops	1,735-3,356	2,594	2,397	1,735	- 33.1
Traffic Control	316-548	436	528	316	- 27.5
Chain Law	44-66	56	63	66	+ 18.3
Parking Issues					
Parking Problems	2,716-3,691	3,244	3,349	3,691	+ 13.8
Parking Tickets	2,453-3,998	3,308	3,996	4,021	+21.6
Abandoned Vehicles	55-81	66	79	48	+ 27.1

Interstate 70 Education & Enforcement

	2017	2018
Citations issued for speeding	497	624
Custodial or summonsed arrests	161	117
Warnings issued	437	372
Interstate accidents as % of total accidents	22%	20%
Commercial vehicle warnings	21	3
Commercial vehicle citations	11	12



CHAIN LAW

Vail PD works with the Colorado State Patrol and Colorado Department of Transportation to improve the safety of chain-up areas and traffic incident management on Interstate 70. As reported by CDOT, incidents on the Interstate Mountain Corridor involving commercial vehicles account for 57% of the total winter road closures in this area. In October, Officers and Troopers conducted an inspection of 253 commercial motor vehicles for possession of chains. Of those 253 vehicles, only 6 did not have chains and the drivers were written a citation.



Photo by Officer Lachlan Crawford

MAJOR CASES

Great Balls of Ice

Chunks of ice fell from the roof of the Vail 21 building, though this time it was purposeful. Officers responded to a report of a group of children throwing snowballs and ice from the hot tub on the top floor after one such “Hail Mary” struck a bystander walking on the street below. The snowball in question, hardened by water from the hot tub, impacted the victim’s head causing a concussion as well as neck and shoulder injuries. After confirming and securing the victim’s well being, officers spoke with the children, explaining the dangers of such action, and reinforcing the importance of not repeating such an act. A friendly reminder: Always be on the alert for falling snow and ice.

Beer & Loathing in Vail

In this comedy of errors of a case, officers responded to a report of a group of people hiding in the bushes with a keg of beer. Upon arriving at the location, two suspects immediately fled the scene leaving behind their alcoholic treasure. Upon detaining one of the sloshed sprinters, the details of his night of revelry were laid bare. The suspect, who turned out to be both under 21 years old and using a fake ID, revealed that his night went south quickly after getting “too drunk” in the process of bar hopping. At their last stop, the duo had found a way into the back room and decided to abscond with the keg in question. It’s hard to say how this night could have gone, but with the help of the officers involved everything ended up where it belonged; the keg back with its owners, and the suspect in the drunk-tank. In the words of Hunter S. Thompson, “Good people drink good beer.” We just ask you do it legally and in moderation.

Dumpster Diving

What began as a report of kidnapping took a turn for the bizarre when officers responded to a call of a woman found in a dumpster. Once safely moved to a medical facility, the woman, found with a zip tie on her wrist, alleged her ex-husband had kidnapped her when she had left her work, bound and stowed her in his car, and had left her in the dumpster. As the investigation continued, the victim’s claims and actions began to contradict the statement she had given. After further investigation, it was discovered that none of the alleged offenses were possible and that the woman herself had set up the supposed crime; crafting false evidence, inflicting wounds upon herself, and hiding away in the dumpster to call out to passersby. In light of this, the woman was charged with false reporting and arrested.

Correspondence Curtailed

Officers were contacted by a woman with an on-going issue. After a threatening breakup with her ex-boyfriend, the victim continued to receive constant, and at times threatening, correspondence. After blocking the offender’s phone number and social media account, letters began arriving in the mail at her home, followed by packages at her P.O. Box and flowers at her place of work. After two weeks of receiving this unwanted attention, far more than enough was enough. The offender was charged and arrested for Domestic Violence, Stalking — Emotional Distress, and Harassment — Telephone — Threat/Obscene.



Entitled Endearment

In this strange case turned violent, officers responded to a call of assault upon a female victim. After shopping for work supplies with a male coworker, the victim returned to her apartment where other coworkers of hers were having a get together. One such coworker, and a roommate, seemingly took offense to her being out with a man. Despite having no intimate relationship with the victim, and also being married, with his wife visiting, the offender confronted the victim and accused her of being with another man. The offender then assaulted the victim and attempted to kiss her, but he fortunately was pushed away and retreated back to his wife. The offender was promptly arrested and charged with 2nd Degree Assault.

Forbidden Fancy

In October, detectives were clued in to the upload of child pornography images to a specific IP address. Upon receiving the proper warrants, officers searched the residence attributed to the IP address, an apartment with two roommates, and confiscated devices on which the illegal pictures could be stored. The first roommate was compliant and happily gave consent for a search of his personal data, the second roommate however was a different story.

During the interview the man gave off nervous tics, avoiding our interviewing officer's gaze, and was reluctant in answering the officer's questions regarding the morality of the consumption of underage porn. After leaving the interview without consenting to a search of his data, it wasn't too surprising when, after getting a warrant to search his data, it turned out he had hundreds of images and files depicting child sexually exploitative material. The offender was arrested for Sexual Exploitation of a Child – Possession of Material, a class four felony.

No Good Deed Gone Unpunished

In July, officers responded to a report of an assault near the Vail Chapel. Arriving on the scene, the officers made contact with the victim who stated he was approached by two men, both of whom rode bikes up to him. One of the men, the offender in this case, started speaking with the victim, seemingly trying to sell his services as a hitman or thug for hire. The victim, in response, took this opportunity to try and do his good deed for the day. The victim suggesting that the man turn his life around; giving the man his contact info, offering to help mentor the man in business or help him change his skill set. The offender responded by assaulting the victim, choking and beating the victim unconscious. Soon after assisting the victim, officers located the offender and, after a drawn out move to Vail Jail, during which the offender decided to test the durability of our squad car's windows against his kick strength multiple times, he was arrested for 1st degree assault – strangulation.

Gone Too Far

Officers increased bar checks after observing ongoing concerns including capacity violations, noise violations, underage guests, over-service of alcohol, open containers from licensed venues, fighting, public consumption of marijuana, and poor recognition of intoxicated guests. On several occasions, guests were taken out of a bar by paramedics on stretchers. To restore order and safety, meetings between VPD and bar owners were coordinated to discuss the need for change and to evaluate liquor-service training. VPD also followed up with the Vail Liquor Board on license renewal evaluations. To date, the problems have been stemmed.



Vail Police and Fire Departments, Eagle County Paramedic Services, Vail Health Medical Center, Vail Public Works and in-town bus services were challenged by issues of alcohol over-service within the bar district.

Sunshine in a Bag

Vail's sunny days tend to melt away some of the snow, revealing the area's beautiful valley landscapes. Red stone cliffs weren't the only things the sun revealed, however, as a lone sports bag was also discovered. Its contents: over twenty pounds of illegal drugs including meth, cocaine, and heroin.

Once the contents of the bag were retrieved by VPD, the investigation into their origin began in a joint operation between Gore Range Narcotics Interdiction Team (GRANITE) investigators and VPD officers. Using bodycam footage acquired by officers, investigators were able to link the bag to a recent car crash which had happened a few days prior. Reviewing the footage, investigators learned that the man transporting the drugs had rolled his car over during a snowstorm and, during the five minute span when a passing driver had reported the crash and when officers had arrived on the scene, had run into the snow off I-70 in order to bury the bag of drugs, potentially hiding the evidence.

With this footage, and prior evidence given by the Utah Narcotics Division, investigators were able to confirm that the driver was indeed the offender in the case. Since compiling this report and sending the information to the DEA, 20 arrests have been made in relation to this drug trafficking ring, with several other outstanding warrants being issued to potential suspects.





COLORADO MARIJUANA

The average potency of THC in marijuana sold in Colorado is 17.1%, which is triple the potency levels of weed sold during the mid-1990s.



VOLUNTEER SERVICE

Department and Communications Center personnel are often recognized for their volunteer service. We wish we could profile each of our 64 staff members but are only able to share the stories of a few in this report.



Code Enforcement Officer Paul Gallagher spends his time off as a coach for the Battle Mountain High school baseball team. This is his second year volunteering for the team. Paul is pictured back row, far right.



The Vail PD team splashed into the frigid waters of Nottingham Lake in Avon to raise funds for the Colorado Special Olympics.

Another Special Olympics fundraiser is Tip-a-Cop. Chief Henninger and officers wait on tables and collect tips to support Special Olympics Colorado athletes year after year.

Bonnie Collard, the senior operations supervisor at Vail Public Safety Communications Center, celebrated 10 years at VPSCC. She serves as Emergency Medical Dispatching supervisor and the scheduling manager.

In her time away from work, she volunteers in the Susan G. Komen three-day, 60-mile cancer walks. In 2018, she was asked to volunteer and lead other volunteers at six of their events for a total of 35 days.

Mariah Guernsey, Vail Public Safety Communications Dispatcher, has led the Adopt-a-Trail program for two years. And you can tell. Invasive shrubs and more have been removed and beautification of the trails has been enhanced.

She has brought together three different groups from throughout the town to pick up a shovel, a rake, a hoe and make a difference.

Thank you for connecting!



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