

DANVILLE PD TIMES



To safeguard and engage our community through collaborative policing to ensure a safe Danville for all.

Looking Back at 2024

Recapping Ten of the Top Stories and Events from the Year

The Danville Police Department continued to build on past success of reducing violent and property crime in 2024, which has been an ongoing trend for the past five years*. Here's a quick look back at notable happenings from the year that was 2024.

1. New Branding

After nearly 70 years of use, DPD began displaying a new patch during the spring after the City of Danville seal was updated.

The old patch featured transportation, agricultural, and other items including textiles from the former city seal. After the seal update, it was time to rollout a new look for DPD.

The new seal features a bridge, rising sun, and the Dan River symbolically flowing underneath the bridge.

Additionally, "Police" changed from red lettering to silver on all uniforms. For sergeants and above, the lettering is in gold on all Class A uniforms.

DPD prominently features the new patch on police vehicles, shirts, printed materials, and more.



Chief Chris Wiles, from left, Sergeant B. Langley, Lieutenant J. Dixon, Sgt. D. Lancaster, and Investigations Captain Sam Bray pose with the IACP Excellence in Criminal Investigations Award in Boston, MA in October 2024.

2. Honors

DPD earned several awards during the year at the international and state level.

The **Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police Valor Award**, the highest honor that can be bestowed to an officer, was presented to Sergeant Clarence Goins, Officer Seth Parker, and Officer Nicholas Smithers in August. Sergeant Jacob A. Amos and Officer Isaiah T. Rossier were honored with the 2024 VACP Award for Lifesaving.

In January, officers responded to a report of a man with a gun in the area

of Westwood Middle School. Over 45 minutes in freezing temperatures passed with unsuccessful de-escalation attempts. The suspect pulled out a revolver and fired it, then turned it towards officers who returned fire. The suspect was struck, and lifesaving aid was rendered. Because of the officers' efforts, the suspect survived.

The **International Association of Chiefs of Police** Excellence in Criminal Investigations Award was presented to the DPD Special Investigations

See PAGES 2 and 3 for more.



Section for their efforts in reducing gang related offenses, drug trafficking, substance abuse, and overdoses.

Accepting the award on behalf of the Department was Lieutenant J. Dixon. In addition, Chief Chris Wiles, Captain of Investigations Sam Bray, Sergeant B. Langley, and Sergeant D. Lancaster attended the ceremony held in Boston.

This is the first IACP award earned by DPD.

James Denfeld, the DPD Crime Analyst was awarded the **Virginia New Analyst Award** by the Virginia Crime Analyst Network (VCAN) Friday, Oct. 18. He was presented the award at their Training Symposium at the Virginia State Police Academy in Richmond, VA.

3. First Option 6 Academy Graduation

In December, six new DPD officers graduated from the Option 6 Academy held by the Piedmont Regional Criminal Justice Training Academy. This specialized academy is a shortened, 12-week training for those who were previously jailers and corrections officers.

4. Attorney General Visits DPD

In April, Virginia Attorney General Jason Miyares visited the DPD headquarters and spoke before an audience on the efforts of law enforcement to reduce violent crime across the Commonwealth.

Specifically, Miyares highlighted DPD's efforts to reduce violent crime and reported this community has experienced a 25% reduction in violent crime.

Since the fall of 2022, Operation Ceasefire has assisted law enforcement agencies with reducing gun and gang violence, and additionally, prevention and intervention.

5. Community Engagement Holds 216 Events

Countless hours from volunteers and DPD staff were poured into the Danville community during 2024, with 216 events held during the calendar year.

A multitude of residents were reached due to these efforts, including neighborhoods through 12 community engagement walks held citywide.

In June, the 6th session of the DPD Youth Police Academy graduated 30 area students.

Annually, the Youth Police Academy gives officers and students an opportunity to learn from each other, and for students to learn what officers do each day.

6. Boys to Men Graduates 15

In February, the fourth graduation ceremony for Boys to Men was held at DPD.

The program began in 2023 under the leadership of Sgt. D.C. Ferguson. Boys to Men provides young men



with resources and tools they need as they make the transition from their youth to adulthood.

In all, 66 teens have completed the program.

Boys to Men is an informative and educational program aimed at young men ages 12-17 to discuss becoming a man of courage with strength, wisdom, ambition, and gentleness.

7. Honor Guard Attends, Assists with National Police Week

DPD stood guard during National Police Week in Washington, D.C. as family members of fallen officers arrived by plane to have their family member's name added to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial during the week of May 13-17. Representing the Danville Police Department were Honor Guard members Lt. D.T. Shively, Officer S.C. Parker, Corporal K.L. Shackett, and Corporal M.E. Gleber.

8. IDDU holds 10th Graduation

Since its inception in 2020, Incarceration Doesn't Define Us has graduated 86 people, hitting its tenth cohort of graduates in October, the fourth graduation of 2024.

Community Relations Liaison Ashtyn Foddrell dedicated a total of 32 weeks in 2024 to helping those who participated in the four IDDU programs, which educates residents who have recently been released from jail or have experienced hardship ease back into the community over an eight-week period.

9. Adult Detention Holds Promotion

Danville Adult Detention held a promotion ceremony for two correctional officers Thursday, May 16. Penny Fussell and Taylor Marshall were both promoted to lieutenant during the ceremony, held in the multipurpose room at DPD.

10. Crime Stoppers Founder Retires

During the summer, retired DPD Captain C. Wayne Howerton stepped down from the Danville Crime Stoppers Board. In 1983, Howerton and then-Chief Neal Morris both founded Crime Stoppers in an effort to pay individuals for tips that led to an arrest and conviction of any given crime. The program has experienced much success, and as they both pointed out, was quickly accepted by the community.

**= Official crime data numbers and statistics for calendar year 2024 will not be official until finalized by the Virginia State Police some time in 2025.*

— HONORABLE MENTIONS —



1. **DPD remembers** the lives of retired Officers Percy Rowland, M.O. Dalton, and David Dalton who passed in 2024. The Department also remembers long time partner and friend Tom Powers, who passed away in September. Tom, with Powers Signs, spent decades designing and applying graphics to DPD vehicles.

2. The first **Media Day** was held in October. This first-of-its-kind event gave news media an opportunity to experience what goes into writing a news release, and a chance to write their own based on a scenario.



3. Because of the community's generosity, DPD was able to donate dozens of items to the **victims of Hurricane Helene** in North Carolina in October.

4. Over 550 area children received Christmas presents because of **Santa's Blue Elves**. Around 200 children received **Easter Baskets** in the spring. Both programs were made possible because of the community's generosity.



5. Motor Unit Cpl. Carnell Jackson received a **Guardian Bell for protection** during a bike event in the fall. After it was blessed, he attached it to his motor unit. Three new officers will join Cpl. Jackson on the other motor units in the spring, and he gave the new officers bells of their own following their badge presentation ceremony in December.

Coming this Spring: Flowers

Since the fall of 2024, Danville Public Works has been busy around the Danville Police Department campus landscaping.

Based on a design by City of Danville Horticulturist Jessica Smith, dozens of trees, flowers, shrubbery, and indigenous grasses are expected to transform the look of 1 Community Way this spring.

Nearly all of the plants were grown by Public Works in their greenhouse.

The work to landscape around the Danville Police Department campus and facilities has been in the works since before the building entered the construction phase in late 2021.

DPD began using the building space at 1 Community Way, formerly 2291 Memorial Drive, in August 2022. The building space was originally built in 1966 as the executive headquarters for textile giant Dan River Inc.



SIGN UP FOR CALENDAR ALERTS
Never miss an event from DPD Community Engagement

IN HONOR OF AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH



Deputy Chief
T.W. Jones



Sergeant
D.C. Ferguson



Sergeant
C.L. Goins



Corporal
S.S. Brooks



Corporal
C.L. Jackson



Corporal
R.M. Woody



Officer
L.N. Banks



Officer
T.D. Betts



Officer
S. Britton



Officer
C.K. Cobbs



Officer
J.B. Coleman



Officer
E.K. Coppage



Officer
D. Edmonds



Officer
J.A. Ferguson



Officer
R.R. Ford



Officer
T.J. Graves



Officer
S.T. Hairston



Officer
W.G. Headley



Officer
C.M. Hodnett



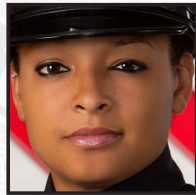
Officer
D.D. Hutchings



Officer
E.D. Lewis



Officer
B.T. McLaughlin



Officer
J.N. Milan-Carter



Officer
J. Parker



Officer
J.C. Pointer



Officer
M. Pollard



Officer
K.M. Robinson



Officer
I.T. Rosser



Officer
T.T. Russell



Officer
J.M. Shelton



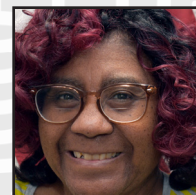
Officer
M.B. Williams



Crossing Guard
Darlise Carter



Crossing Guard
Sylvia Harriott



Nicole
Douglas



Gabrielle
Edmunds



Ashtyn
Foddrell



Estela
Mcgregor



Donald
Smith



Montrell
Stroud



Donna
Wilkins



Sharon
Wilson