



# Sharing Ohio's Best Program

Recognizing Outstanding Community Policing



Agency of the Month

## Vandalia Division of Police

April 2021

### ***Endangered Missing Adults and Children Program. . . .***

The Vandalia Division of Police initiated the EMAC program during the summer of 2020. The program focuses on **E**ndangered **M**issing **A**dults and **C**hildren; those who are at risk of walking away from their residence. Parents or guardians of children with autism, Downs Syndrome, and other developmental disorders or senior citizens suffering with Alzheimer's disease, dementia, or schizophrenia can enroll their loved ones into the EMAC program as a safety measure.

Being a participant is as easy as filling out a short questionnaire which provides their physical description and personal traits. A current photograph accompanies the questionnaire. Once completed, an officer enters this data and picture into Vandalia's Computer-Aided Dispatch (CAD) system. If the enrollee walks away or goes missing, officers have important relevant data to assist them with the search as they respond to the residence. Officers can access an enrollee's photograph and data from their in-car, mobile computers. Annually, an officer contacts the parent or guardian to verify the enrollee is still living at the residence and still wants to be part of the program. Chief Kurt Althouse said, "This new program provides a great resource for those at-risk in our community and assists officers in expediting the search process. It also enhances officer-citizen interaction with these at-risk individuals."

