

# Newtown Township Police Department 2025 Annual Report for Wrightstown Township



Chief John L. Hearn

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***Community Message  
from  
Chief of Police  
John L. Hearn***

I would like to thank you for your continued support of the men and women of the Newtown Township Police Department. This department has a rich history of dedication and service to our community, thanks to the efforts of our officers and professional support staff. We will continue on this path of professionalism with a guardian mindset, always putting our community first, and ready to respond to any emergency or call for service.

As 2025 comes to an end, I can't help but look back at the many changes that have occurred in law enforcement over the years. From police equipment and uniforms to vehicles and training - the differences are staggering. When I started my career thirty-seven years ago, we carried a six-shot revolver, a whistle, and a key for the traffic box. We used typewriters with carbon paper. Today, we have computers and cell phones at our fingertips. Officers wear body armor and cameras while carrying semi-automatic handguns and tourniquets. Patrol vehicles are equipped with computers, printers, scanners, cameras, long guns, life-saving AED's, first aid kits, and water rescue equipment. Multiple days of mandatory training are required annually to ensure officers are up to date on all laws and legal rulings, and their job responsibilities are tested regularly. Our detective division is top-notch, possessing the training and capabilities to conduct extensive forensic investigations, including those of computer and cyber-related crimes. We have two dedicated



school resource officers assigned to our local schools. They are there to protect and connect with our children, our future. Several of our officers these days have enhanced degrees from various colleges and universities as opposed to military backgrounds. And while I want to say the new officers appear younger, I think it's just that I'm getting older.



The Newtown Township Police Department has grown along with the community. We went from being a small rural police department to a top-tier Accredited police agency. We serve a residential population of over 23,000 people across two jurisdictions. Our area includes three college campuses, one high school, five middle and elementary schools, and many pre-k and day care

facilities. The average price of a home in Newtown ranges from \$714k to \$950k. Demand is strong. Sales often happen near or above the list price.

The heavily traveled Newtown Bypass runs right through the heart of our jurisdiction, bringing with it traffic, speeding, crashes, and other safety concerns. Criminals now travel from other states and regions to target our community, whether in a car or via the computer. The protection of all people who live in, travel through, or visit this community is the focus of our agency. The goal is to keep the Newtown area free of crime and disorder, enhance the quality of life, and provide an environment to be proud of.

Our department, which includes thirty-seven sworn officers and four professional support staff, is committed and dedicated to our community. We continue to operate under the best practices and achieved our 5th PA state accreditation status in May 2025. Accreditation identifies our agency as operating within the best standards in the state.

I am fully aware of the significant amount of funding - your tax dollars - that my agency receives in the annual budget. I assure you that we will never ask for anything we don't need. We remain careful stewards of the township's allocated funds while always keeping the residents' overall benefit in mind when financial decisions are made.

We couldn't accomplish all we do without our dedicated personnel, the support of our residents, our township supervisors, the management staff, and the various other township departments. I want to thank you once again for your unwavering support and partnership, as together we can continue to call Newtown/Wrightstown our home.



John L. Hearn

Chief of Police

Newtown Township

100 Municipal Drive

Newtown, PA 18940



# **Mission and Values Statement**

The Mission of the Newtown Township Police Department is to be a service model of policing excellence through a committed community partnership to reduce crime, enforce laws, maintain peace, while we protect & safeguard constitutional rights, ensuring public trust and building mutual respect, while also providing exceptional police services to enhance the quality of life.

The department establishes the following values as essential to the organization and the community:

**Honesty and Integrity** Is paramount to our profession and is expected of all employees. Honesty produces an environment of trust. Integrity produces an atmosphere of credibility. Honesty and integrity nurture an open and safe organization for all.

**Leadership** We are leaders in our community and our profession. We share a vision to improve the quality of life through pro-active involvement with the community.

**Work Ethic** We advocate a strong work ethic. As a result, we will provide high quality of service leading to positive results for our community and organization. We strive to provide the highest standard of public service, customer and job satisfaction.

**Communication** We value communication and encourage an honest, constructive and open exchange of ideas that accomplish the goals of the department. Effective and open communication, at all levels, is the cornerstone of a progressive and successful organization.

**Teamwork** We encourage teamwork on behalf of our community and organization. Teamwork unites residents and police by sharing talent and expertise leading to the successful identification of common goals, objectives and results.

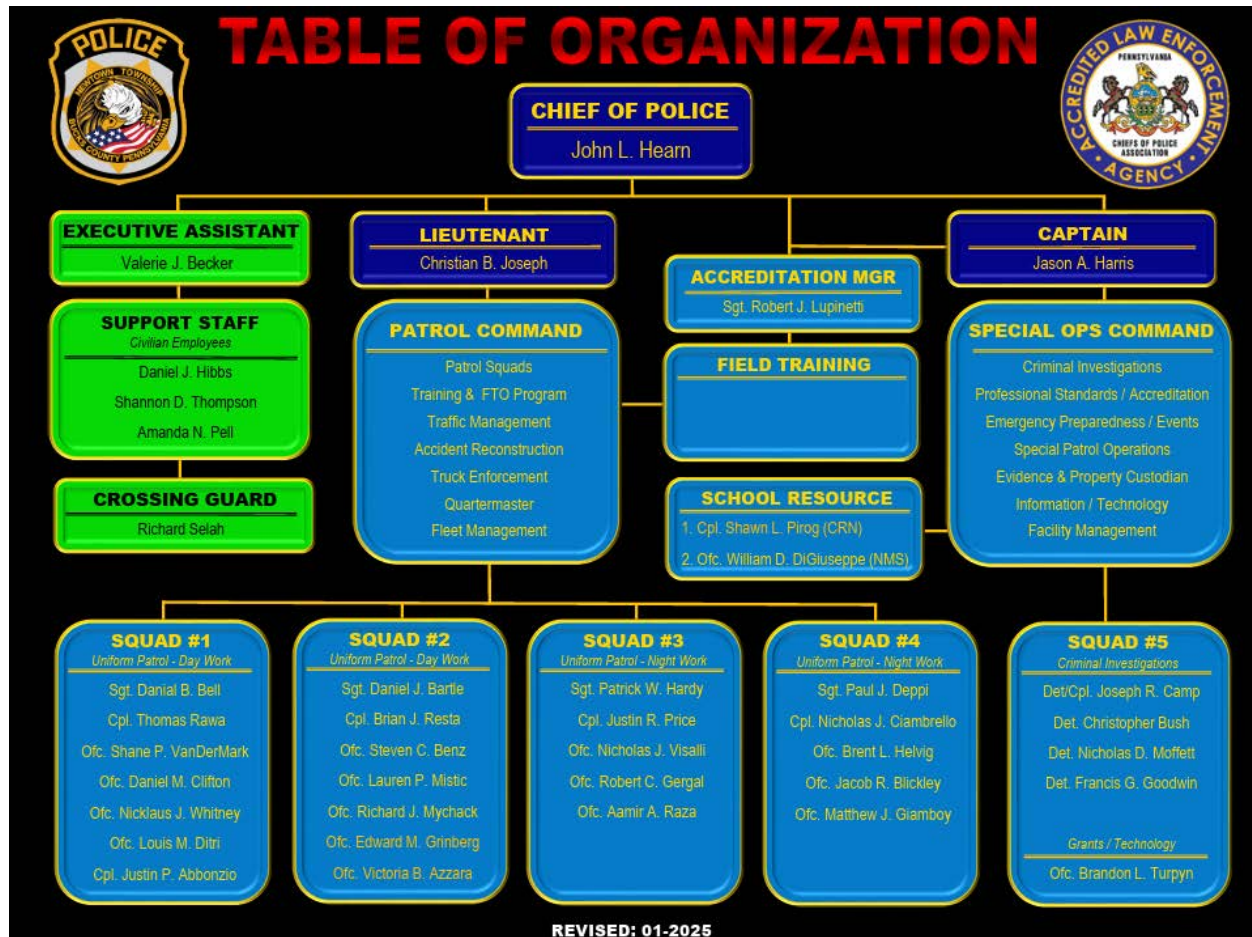
**Community** We will develop programs that seek solutions to community issues through a partnership with the people we serve. Through this partnership we recognize and respect individual differences and encourage residents to work cohesively to promote positive solutions to community concerns.

**Fairness** We treat our employees with dignity, respect and fairness. Rewards and discipline will occur as a result of merit. We will follow the tenet of treating others, as we would expect to be treated.

**Recognition** We strive to recognize all employees for their contributions. We reward them for quality work and the excellent service they provide to the community and organization. We believe our employees are our most valuable assets.

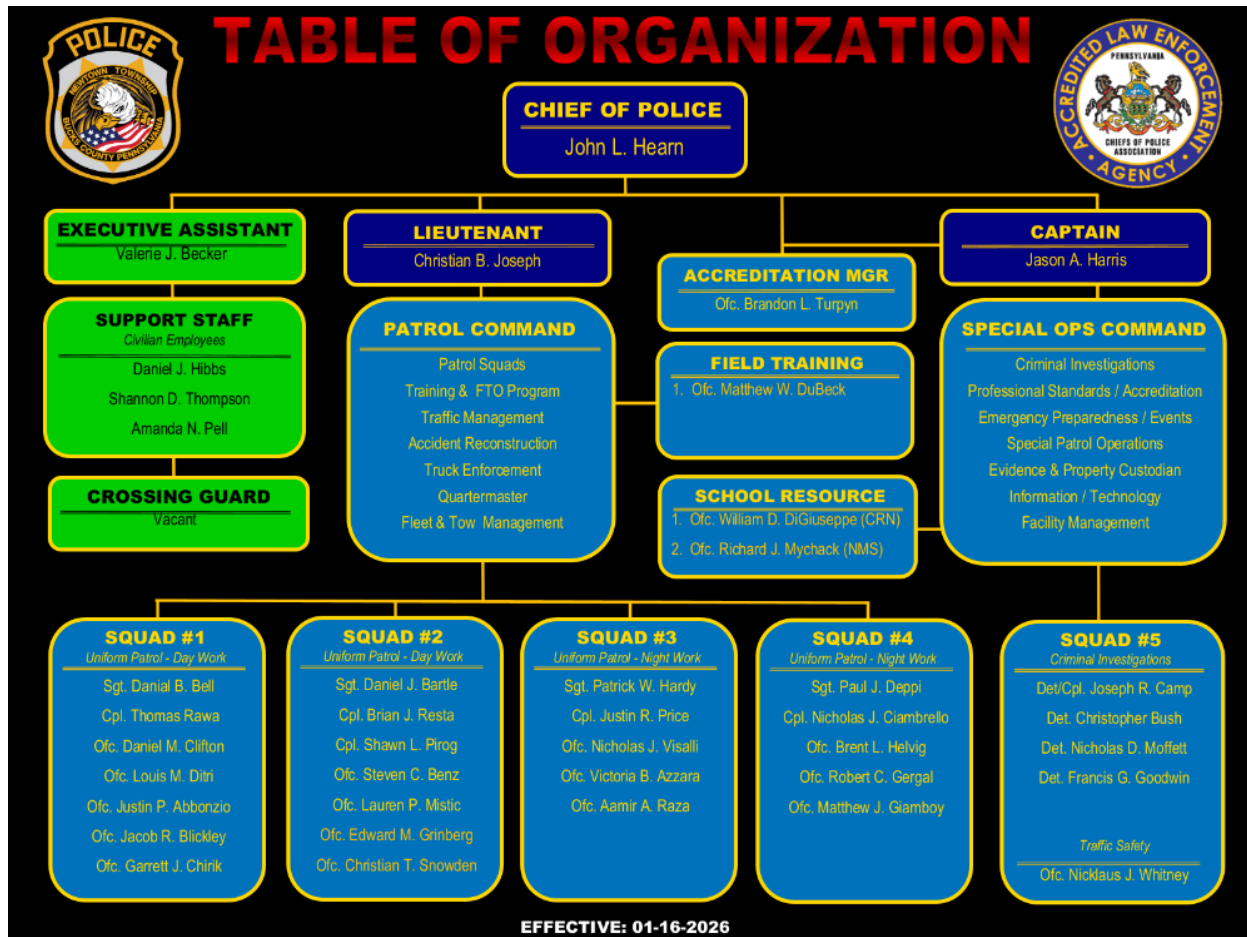
**Employee Development** We support the professional growth and development of all employees. We do this through consistent and collaborative processes involving supervisors and subordinates to develop career goals supported by the organization.

# 2025





# 2026





# **Accreditation**

## **What is Accreditation?**

The Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association introduced the Pennsylvania Law Enforcement Accreditation Program to the Commonwealth in July 2001. Since then, over 375 agencies have enrolled, and 193 agencies currently maintain accredited status.

Accreditation is a progressive and time-proven way of helping police departments evaluate and improve their overall performance. The cornerstone of the strategy lies in the formation of standards containing a clear statement of professional objectives. Participating administrators then conduct a thorough analysis to determine how existing operations can be adapted to meet these objectives. When the procedures are in place, a team of independent professionals verifies that all of the applicable standards were successfully implemented. The process concludes with a decision by an authoritative body that the institution is worthy of accreditation.

Some of the benefits of an accredited police department are:

- Establishes a credible framework for evaluating agency practices and procedures
- Reduces agency risk and exposure to lawsuits
- Increases employee input, interaction, and confidence in the agency
- Improves law enforcement and community relations
- Extends agency accountability to the public and elected officials
- Encourages problem-solving activities within the agency
- Furnishes a solid foundation for the agency to build upon for further progress



# **Re-accreditation**

## **Worthy of Accreditation:**

Newtown Township Police Department has been an accredited law enforcement agency since May 30, 2013. This recognition is something that the entire police department holds in high regard due to the amount of dedication and teamwork that is involved in keeping this standard of professionalism. Every three years, an assessment takes place as required by the Pennsylvania Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission to ensure that the department is achieving and demonstrating the highest acknowledged standards.

Our most recent accreditation assessment took place in May of 2025, and our department was reaccredited for the fourth time. The Pennsylvania Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission unanimously voted to re-accredit the Newtown Township Police Department, and documented that our work in this program demonstrated the type of leadership that law enforcement in Pennsylvania should strive for. Chief Hearn is proud of every sworn officer and the professional support staff for their dedication and professionalism for maintaining the best standards in law enforcement as an accredited police department.



# Awards and Presentations

## **Corporal Nicholas Ciambrello, Officer Justin Abbonizio, & Officer Edward Grinberg – Letter of Commendation**

*On December 19, 2024, at approximately 2208 hours, patrol responded to a traffic accident that involved extrication and a vehicular fire. Upon arrival, Cpl. Nicholas Ciambrello, Ofc. Edward Grinberg, and Ofc. Justin Abbonizio found that a vehicle had crashed into a tree. The front of the car was on fire and the occupant was severely injured and trapped inside. The officers all braved dangerous conditions and removed the victim with the assistance of fire personnel. Unfortunately, the victim succumbed to her extensive injuries. The effort made by each officer to extricate the victim while the vehicle was ablaze, putting themselves in a life-threatening situation, was truly commendable.*



# Awards and Presentations



## **Officer Nicholas Visalli & Officer Robert Gergal – Letter of Commendation**

*On March 15, 2025, at approximately 0341 hours, Officer Robert Gergal and Officer Nick Visalli responded to the area of Stoney Hill Road and Langhorne Yardly Road to assist Lower Makefield units in establishing a perimeter at the request of Sgt. Landis. Both officers observed what appeared to be a Lyft driver arrive in the area of Cardinal Drive and Hawthorne Lane. Realizing that it is a common practice for perpetrators to order transportation to flee an area, officers spoke with the Lyft driver and gained information regarding the possible suspects. As a result of their investigation, it was discovered that subjects were actively canceling the Lyft ride as the officers made contact. Ofc. Gergal then noticed a suspicious subject about 25 yards from his position. The subject fled, leading both officers on a brief foot chase. Ofc. Gergal and Ofc. Visalli eventually caught the subject, and he surrendered without injury to himself or others. The subject was previously arrested for theft from vehicles and was most likely in the process of committing similar crimes when interrupted by police. Due to the officers' teamwork, persistence, communication, and extraordinary effort, they secured an onsite arrest and gained information on the second subject who fled.*



## **Milestone Achievements**

### **Years of Service with the Newtown Township Police Department**



Sgt. Danial Bell – 30 Years



Cpl. Shawn Pirog – 25 Years



## New Officers

We are proud to introduce the newest members of our team! Please join us in welcoming Officer Christian Snowden, Officer Garrett Chirik, and Officer Matthew DuBeck.



On October 17, 2025, 28-year-old Christian Snowden was officially sworn-in as a police officer for Newtown Township Police Department by District Judge Petrucci. Ofc. Snowden graduated from Saint Joseph High School in 2015, obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice in 2019, and completed the

Pennsylvania Municipal Police Officers Training Program at the Temple University Police Academy in 2025. Ofc. Snowden is excited to begin his law enforcement career serving the residents of Newtown and Wrightstown Townships.



On October 17, 2025, 25-year-old Garrett Chirik was officially sworn-in as a police officer for Newtown Township Police Department by District Judge Petrucci. Ofc. Chirik graduated from Central Bucks South High School in 2019 and completed the Pennsylvania Municipal Police Officers Training Program at the

Allentown Police Academy in 2024. Prior to joining us, Ofc. Chirik worked as a police officer with the Bethlehem Township Police Department. He is excited to continue his career serving the residents of both Newtown and Wrightstown Townships.

## **New Officers**



On December 4, 2025, 23-year-old Matthew DuBeck was officially sworn-in as a police officer for Newtown Township Police Department by District Judge Petrucci. Ofc. DuBeck graduated from Father Judge High School in 2021, obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice from West Chester University in 2025,

and completed the Pennsylvania Municipal Police Officers Training Program at the Temple University Police Academy in 2025. Ofc. DuBeck is excited to begin his law enforcement career serving the residents of Newtown and Wrightstown Townships.

## Retirement



We invite you to join us in congratulating Crossing Guard Richard Selah on his retirement and express our heartfelt appreciation for his many years of dedicated service. Since September 2018, he has served our department and the community exceptionally well.

With unwavering devotion and loyalty, Rich diligently assisted children in safely crossing the street on their way to and from school, regardless of the weather. Rain or shine, he was always there when we needed him. Beloved by students and

parents alike, he established a strong rapport with everyone he interacted with and was fondly known for his “joke of the day.” He will be missed.

## Retirement



After dedicating 28 years of service to the Newtown Township Police Department, Ofc. Shane VanDerMark performed his final Bucks County Radio sign-off on September 5, 2025.

Prior to his time with us, Shane VanDerMark previously worked at Upper Makefield Township Police Department. Then he was hired by Chief Duffy and joined the Newtown Township Police Department on September 24, 1997.

Throughout his career, he spent time as a D.A.R.E. Officer and served on the Major Incident Response Team (M.I.R.T.) and our Highway Patrol Motorcycle Unit. He received several commendations, including one for Bravery for an outstanding arrest involving an armed and dangerous subject that occurred in 2015 and one for Life Saving for an off-duty incident that occurred in 2019. He also received countless letters of appreciation and recognition from members of the community and neighboring police departments. Words often used to describe him were kind, understanding, helpful, fabulous, professional, personal, respectful, persistent, sensitive, considerate, and prompt.

Shane VanDerMark was truly an exemplary member of this department. We thank him for his service and wish him a long, happy, and healthy retirement.

# Retirement



After dedicating over 28 years of service to the Newtown Township Police Department, Sgt. Robert Lupinetti retired on December 31, 2025.

Robert Lupinetti began his career with the Newtown Township Police Department when Chief Duffy hired him on April 25, 1997. He was promoted to Corporal on January 11, 2012, and promoted to Sergeant on November 13, 2013.

Throughout his career, Robert Lupinetti has endlessly contributed to the betterment of the police department.

He served as our Accreditation Manager, ensuring that the department achieved and demonstrated the highest acknowledged standards and best practices. He was also the Field Training Coordinator, overseeing all newly hired officers and our field training program to ensure a high level of competence and to enhance our department's performance. Further, he was a champion of community policing. This was especially evident in his work with the Youth Aid Panel, a community-oriented program that empowers the community to participate in problem-solving and offers alternative programs of restitution and community service for first-time juvenile offenders. On November 13, 2025, the Bucks County Youth Aid Panel recognized Lupinetti for his selfless dedication and attention to detail for the program and for keeping the joint Newtown Township, Upper Makefield, and Newtown Borough program so successful.

He was also a member of the department's Awards Board Committee, the South Central Emergency Response Team, the Honor Guard, and the Bike Patrol, and oversaw our social media platforms and outreach. He received two Commendations of Merit, a Commendation for Life Saving, and countless letters of appreciation and recognition from members of the community, the PA House of Representatives, Bucks County Community College, and neighboring police departments. Words often used to describe him were thoughtful, respectful, dedicated, professional, skilled, compassionate, patient, kind, prompt, and humble.

Robert Lupinetti was truly an exemplary member of this department. We appreciate the legacy of his work, thank him for his service, and wish him a long, happy, and healthy retirement.



## **Field Training Program**

The Newtown Township Police Department is committed to attaining a high level of performance, integrity, and professionalism in police work. To achieve this, a field training and evaluation program is instituted for all newly hired officers. The program ensures a high level of competence among officers and enhances the performance of the police department.

In this program, the newly hired officers are paired with Field Training Officers and rotate field assignments. The Field Training Officers (FTO's) are specially trained, highly qualified, veteran officers selected by the Chief of Police and Lieutenant.

The Field Training Program consists of three phases of training. Trainees may proceed through one or more phases of the program based on factors such as prior experience or by successfully meeting phased training objectives. All trainees are required to complete at least 160 hours in the program.

In the first phase, known as Orientation, the FTO teaches the trainee department policies, procedures, geography, and officer safety. In the second phase, Demonstration and Partnership, the FTO demonstrates the working skills needed for a patrol officer. The trainee is a passenger/observer and gradually switches roles with the FTO. In the last phase, Shadowing, the trainee is expected to work interdependently, and the FTO functions as an observer only. Throughout each phase, the FTO completes Daily Evaluation reports and End of Phase reports to detail the trainee's progression until successful completion.

## **Patrol Division**

The Patrol Division is the backbone of the Police Department and is commanded by Lieutenant Christian Joseph. Each of our four dedicated Patrol Squads consist of at least a Sergeant, Corporal and three officers.

The patrol officer is typically the first point of contact with the citizens of our community. A tour of duty may find our officers effectuating an arrest, in control at the scene of a major crime, investigating a traffic accident, assisting at a medical emergency and handling routine calls for service.

Another important function of the Patrol Division is crime prevention. Their high visibility and presence help to serve as a deterrent. Officers can routinely be found actively checking business locations, parks, neighborhoods, parking areas and enforcing traffic laws.



# **Criminal Investigations**

The Detective Division is supervised by Detective Corporal Joseph Camp and consists of Detective Christopher Bush, Detective Nicholas Moffett, and Detective Francis Goodwin. Those who are selected and assigned to this division have proven that they are distinctly knowledgeable, self-motivated, and detail-orientated investigators who can work independently.

Overall, from the initial report to referred complaints, the detectives spend the vast majority of their time investigating complex cases and crime scenes including, but not limited to, that of deaths, thefts, burglaries, cybercrimes, sexual assaults, and narcotic complaints. Detectives also assist patrol with countless other cases but don't assume responsibility for the investigation. The time dedicated to each investigation ranges from a few hours to consuming weeks of time, and one to all three detectives may be involved. The detectives are constantly training to stay current and to be prepared for any situation they may be tasked with.

The division also provides around-the-clock scene processing for crimes against a person or property, fatalities, serious traffic crashes, and fire scenes. A detective is on call at all times, and the average response time is under 20 minutes until the first detective is on location.

In addition to the typical responsibilities of detectives, they act as the liaison between other law enforcement agencies, handle all aspects of seized evidence/property, and maintain the township's video surveillance systems.



## **Police Support Staff**

The Support Staff in the Police Department consists of: Dan Hibbs, Shannon Thompson, and Amanda Pell, who are supervised by Executive Assistant, Val Becker. The Support Staff serves as liaisons between law enforcement personnel and members of the community. For anyone entering police headquarters, they are the first point of contact. The role of the support staff is to assist the public with situations that may not require an officer's presence, while at the same time knowing when to summon an officer. These individuals screen phone calls and direct them to the proper police personnel and take information for house checks while residents are on vacation. Residents can also make appointments to be fingerprinted for their jobs and licensing applications. Having office staff available to accomplish these tasks allows officers to remain available to respond to emergency situations.

The Support Staff also operates behind the scenes, helping to keep the department organized and prepared. This includes, but is not limited to, office work, research, disseminating information, and managing paperwork. For example, staff process and screen solicitor and burglar alarm applications to issue the necessary permits. Furthermore, they coordinate with the courts; facilitating communication to and from sworn personnel, processing documents, maintaining a court calendar, and ensuring that all the proper paperwork, videos, and evidence are transmitted to the District Attorney's Office for prosecution.

Members of the Support Staff also review accident reports for accurate and complete information and transmit the proper reports to PennDOT, as required for their tracking of the more serious reports throughout the Commonwealth. Additionally, they perform maintenance and audits, as required, regarding the use of criminal justice technology to ensure that there aren't any cases of misuse. This is done in coordination with the Pennsylvania State Police and PennDOT. Overall, the Support Staff's assistance is vital to ensure that our officers have the backup and support that they need.





## **School Resource Officers**

As stated in an article by the National Association of School Resource Officers (NASRO), the School Resource Officers' role on campus is keeping students safe and supporting the education mission as Law Enforcement Officer, Teacher and Counselor.

Our department has now dedicated two School Resource Officers (SRO), Officer Richard Mychack and Officer William DiGiuseppe, to the Council Rock School District. One SRO reports to Council Rock High School North when school is in session and another routinely visits the Newtown Middle School and elementary schools during the course of their shift. Our SROs are highly trained as members of the National Association of School Resource Officers (NASRO) and continues training geared towards the unique police duties as an SRO. Training often focuses on the special nature of school campuses, student needs and characteristics, and the educational and custodial interests of school personnel. Our SROs are highly regarded by the Council Rock School District Administration and the students and staff that encounter them on a daily basis.





## Youth Aid Panel



The Newtown-Makefield Youth Aid Panel is a joint panel that combines Newtown Township Police Department, Newtown Borough Police Department, and Upper Makefield Township Police Department. The current program is comprised of eight panelists, who are volunteer community members, and three police officers, who serve as liaisons between their police department and the Panel. The Youth Aid Panel empowers the community to participate in problem-solving by offering alternative programs of restitution and community service, for first-time juvenile offenders in the Newtown Area. The Panel offers the first-time offender a second chance to avoid a criminal record and helps to make the offender understand the seriousness of his/her actions, as well as the effect their crimes have on their victims and the community as a whole.

The Panel meets on an as-needed basis at a municipal building. Each case is heard individually, and at least one parent must be present while the case is heard. To be eligible for acceptance, the juvenile must not dispute his or her involvement in the offense. The arresting police department and the offender's parents must also agree that Youth Aid is the best choice. The Panel's job then is to interview the juvenile and the parent(s) to determine an appropriate course of action that will benefit the victim, community, and juvenile. The Panel assigns obligations, just as the courts would. Some of the most common obligations are community service, letters of apology, drug and alcohol services, and writing/research assignments.

Since Sgt. Robert Lupinetti retired this year, Officer Victoria Azzara was named the primary police liaison/coordinator of the Youth Aid Panel for Newtown Township.



# **T.E.A.M. (Teaching, Educating, and Mentoring)**

## **School Liaison Program**



The Teaching Educating, And Mentoring (T.E.A.M.) School Liaison Program is a school-based “law related” education program taught by specifically trained law enforcement officers. Unlawful and youthful risk-taking behavior is addressed in this program with lessons on the laws and consequences that commonly affect students; it is age appropriate while remaining flexible and adaptive to trends or the specific needs of the school such as safety or bullying. The program’s goal is to unite educators, students, and law enforcement to play an integral part in preventing crime. The philosophy is that while working together as a team we can create relationships and be united in protecting children from becoming victims of crime.

The T.E.A.M. School Liaison Program is currently implemented in the Council Rock School District elementary schools, and the Department’s T.E.A.M. instructors are Sergeant Paul Deppi and Officer Brandon Turpyn.



## **Crisis Intervention Team**

Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Training is a powerful skill set that our officers use almost every day. We assist individuals to get the much-needed help they need rather than going directly into the legal system. These skills enable the patrolman and supervisor to properly assess, evaluate, and refer those suffering from mental illness and addiction to the pertinent facility for proper therapeutic help. Because of the early intervention aspect that CIT provides, the program has significantly decreased the number of repeat calls to specific households and individuals. CIT has also been successful in reducing the number of injuries to people in crisis and the police. We are committed to ensuring that all of our officers and supervisors have completed the 40-hour training course.

### **The mission of the Bucks County CIT Task Force:**



- To provide a forum for effective problem-solving by promoting collaboration between Bucks County Law Enforcement, Behavioral Health Organizations, Behavioral Health Advocates, and County Government.
- To reduce myths and stigma of mental illness.
- To improve relationships for officers and the community they serve.
- To extend crisis response systems, increase the opportunity for earlier intervention, and improve access to treatment and treatment outcomes.

The program's overall goal is to treat mental illness as a disease and not as a crime. In today's environment, officers need these skills to recognize someone in crisis and have the ability to de-escalate the situation. This training is essential to get individuals the help they need and keep them out of the criminal justice system.

# **South Central Bucks County's Special Emergency Response Team**



The Newtown Township Police Department is a member of this multi-jurisdictional special response team comprised of sixteen police departments from Bucks County. Officers are assigned and train monthly to deal with high-risk situations that require a tactical response. The extensive training focuses on special weapons, entry and arrest techniques, crisis negotiations, and other related situations, including active shooter scenarios. These select officers must pass a vigorous physical endurance test annually.



The team's MRAP vehicle is pictured above at the Newtown Township Park & Recreations Touch a Truck Event. Vehicles such as these allow the team to safely transport personnel in and out of high-risk situations to resolve an incident quickly and safely.



# **Major Incident Response Team**



The Newtown Township Police Department continues as an active member of the Bucks County Major Incident Response Team (M.I.R.T.), which is part of a five-county Major Incident Response Team. Members are trained to respond to man-made or natural disasters. Officers have also been specifically trained to work closely with Philadelphia's Counter-Terrorism unit. All training and deployment expenses are reimbursed to our municipality by Bucks County.

In the past, officers have participated in high profile events such as the Villanova Championships, Philadelphia Eagles Victory parades, the NFL Draft, Democratic National Convention, and the Papal visit.





# **Commercial Vehicle Safety**



Newtown Township Police Department along with Newtown Borough and Upper Makefield Township Police Departments make up the Newtown-Makefield Truck Enforcement Task Force. Three officers from our department are assigned to this enforcement unit and are dedicated to reducing commercial vehicle collisions through the enforcement of state and federal transportation laws: Sgt. Paul Deppi, Cpl. Resta, and Ofc. Clifton. These officers are trained by the Pennsylvania State Police and are certified by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration in North American Roadside Inspection, Hazardous Materials Inspection, Cargo Tank Inspections, and Motor Coach (Bus) Inspections. Officers assigned to this unit are also tasked with weight enforcement on our highways. Every year collisions can be attributed to mechanical defects and excessive driving hours involving commercial vehicles and drivers. Through enforcement and education programs, the Newtown Township Police Department hopes to promote commercial vehicle safety and have a positive impact upon the driving public.

The Task Force focuses on local roads where commercial vehicle traffic is most prevalent and where accidents have occurred. The Task Force conducted 22 checkpoints in 2025, stopping and inspecting 262 commercial vehicles. Overall, 35 trucks were taken out of service for major safety violations, and 55 citations and 176 warnings were issued.

Our Certified Officers and specialized truck enforcement vehicle continue to enhance the team's ability and visibility throughout the community. In 2026, Ofc. Aamir Raza and Ofc. Garrett Chirik will join the team.



# Commercial Vehicle Safety





# Highway Patrol Motorcycle Unit



The Newtown Township Police Department has a Highway Patrol Motorcycle Unit that consists of six trained officers and four Harley-Davidson motorcycles. In addition to motor vehicle enforcement operations, the members of this unit provide assistance to many other agencies for dignitary visits and escorts, funeral escorts, parades, conventions, and public exhibitions.





## Highway Patrol Highlight

We had the honor of assisting with the Philadelphia Eagles' 2024 Super Bowl Victory Parade that took place on February 14, 2025, where our Highway Patrol Officers also hoisted the Lombardi Trophy!





## **Bicycle Patrol**

The Newtown Township Police Department has a Bicycle Patrol Unit that consists of seven officers who have completed training by the International Police Mountain Bike Association (IPMBA). The unit helps to facilitate the department's philosophy of community policing by providing a conduit for interactions between the public and officers. Additionally, bicycles are a versatile tool in law enforcement that create a highly mobile, visible presence and provide our officers an avenue of access to areas that are inaccessible for conventional motorized patrol vehicles.





## **Accident Reconstruction Unit**

The Accident Reconstruction Unit is responsible for the investigation and analysis of serious and fatal motor vehicle collisions. Unit members receive advanced, specialized training in collision reconstruction and apply scientific principles to determine the sequence of events leading up to, during, and following a crash.

Investigations include detailed scene documentation, roadway and environmental analysis, vehicle inspections, event data recorder (EDR) retrieval and interpretation, time-distance analysis, speed calculations, and evaluation of human, mechanical, and environmental factors. Advanced tools such as total station mapping, laser scanning, photogrammetry, and computer-based reconstruction software may be utilized to accurately document and analyze crash scenes.

The unit provides objective, evidence-based findings to support criminal and administrative investigations, court proceedings, and interagency collaboration.

The unit operates with a commitment to accuracy, scientific integrity, and professional standards, ensuring thorough and defensible crash analysis in service to public safety.

## Honor Guard

The Newtown Township Police Department has five dedicated officers of our department who are currently serving on the Honor Guard. Each officer gives their best efforts to represent the department with a high level of pride and professionalism. The mission of the Honor Guard was initially meant to pay tribute to those who have fallen in the line of duty. The responsibilities of the Honor Guard have evolved in recent times to also honor fallen military personnel for Memorial Day ceremonies; Veterans Day tributes; funerals for officers of the department who have passed away; community parade events; and other ceremonial occasions that arise.



## **Bucks County Memorial Ceremony**

Newtown Township is proud to be the host township for the Bucks County Police Memorial Ceremony that is held annually during National Police Week at St. Andrew Catholic Church on Swamp Road. In this ceremony, we honor the fallen police officers who have paid the ultimate price while protecting our communities and acknowledge the current service of our nation's police officers. This year's ceremony was held on May 19, 2025.





# **Bucks County Memorial Wreath**

On November 25, 2025, the County of Bucks remembered its law enforcement officers lost in the line of duty since 1898 with the annual Project Blue Light wreath lighting ceremony.



Each year during the holiday season, the County displays the wreath – adorned with blue lights and 16 white ornaments, one for each fallen officer – from the third-floor rotunda of the Administration Building. “As we reflect this holiday season on the things we’re grateful for, we’ll be remembering the brave law

enforcement officers who gave everything in service to their communities,” said Commissioner Chair Bob Harvie.

This year’s honor roll includes:

Pennsylvania State Deputy Constable Erwin Mondeau, 1898  
Pennsylvania State Constable Henry A. Kolbe, 1914  
Bucks County Sheriff Abram L. Kulp, 1927  
Quakertown Borough Police Officer Edward W. Shearer, 1936  
Dublin Borough Police Chief Eli M. Myers, 1965  
Bristol Township Police Detective George F. Stuckey, 1972  
Bensalem Township Police Officer James K. Armstrong, 1975  
Bensalem Township Police Officer Robert A. Yezzi, 1980  
Bucks County Deputy Sheriff Thomas A. Bateman, 1986  
Bucks County Deputy Sheriff George M. Warta, Jr., 1986  
Bucks County Ranger Stanley E. Flynn, 1993  
Plumstead Township Police Officer Joseph E. Hanusey III, 2002  
Newtown Borough Police Officer Brian S. Gregg, 2005  
Middletown Township Police Officer Christopher C. Jones, 2009  
Bucks County Ranger Thomas Booz, 2020  
Warrington Township K9 Officer Stephen C. Plum, 2022

# **DUI Enforcement**



In Pennsylvania, driving under the influence remains a top safety issue, and the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation releases [annual reports](#) detailing the number of crashes statewide. Pennsylvania continues to take an aggressive stance to prevent and deter impaired driving particularly through the widespread use of sobriety checkpoints, saturation patrols, and task forces.

Newtown Township Police Department is an active member of the Bucks County's District Attorney's Office DUI Task Force. Officers from over thirty Bucks County Police Departments participate and staff both roving and stationary DUI patrols on several of the county's longest, busiest, and most accident-prone roads, including the Newtown Bypass. These details coincide with designated holiday periods.

The saturation patrols are a year-long series of enforcement actions that are coordinated by Bucks County's DUI Task Force. The details serve as not only a means to apprehend offenders that are impaired by alcohol, prescription medications, or illegal narcotics but as a high visibility deterrent. The effort is largely funded by a continuing federal safety grant administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation.



# Aggressive Driving Enforcement Initiative



Newtown Township Police Department joined the Pennsylvania State Police and other municipal agencies in conducting targeted aggressive-driving enforcement waves throughout the year.

As part of the Aggressive Driving Enforcement and Education Project, the waves concentrated on reducing the number of aggressive driving related crashes, injuries, and deaths on roadways throughout the state. Any aggressive driver stopped by police received a ticket.

The enforcement waves focused on compliance with Pennsylvania's Move Over Law, school bus safety, pedestrian safety, red light violations, speeding, distracted driving, work zone awareness, and commercial vehicle violations. Motorists exhibiting other unsafe behaviors such as driving too fast for conditions, following too closely, or other aggressive actions were also cited.

The enforcement is part of the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation's Aggressive Driving Enforcement and Education Project and is funded by part of the department's investment of federal funds from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).

## **Speed Timing Devices**

Our Police Department has multiple pieces of equipment to help monitor the flow of traffic and motorists' adherence to the posted speed limits. One valuable tool is the portable Shield Radar Speed Sign that can be mounted anywhere in the Township. The Speed Shield, pictured here in use on Lower Dolington Road, helps with compliance as it draws motorist's attention to just how fast they are traveling and hopefully encourages them to slow down.



Another piece of equipment utilized by the department is called a Stealth Stat Unit. It is deployed throughout the township and discreetly tracks speed, volume, and flow. While the portable speed shield displays the motorist's current speed to slow speeders down, the Stealth Stat does not have that effect to give a true account of vehicles' speeds. The data that is collected helps the department determine where and when more police presence is needed so that the officers can conduct traffic details. Each of these machines greatly help the police with traffic enforcement.

## **Speed Timing Devices**

The newest addition to our speed timing devices: SPEEDALERT 24 RADAR MESSAGE SIGN



The device is programmable and used to monitor and address speeding concerns in various locations throughout the township. It gives drivers immediate feedback by displaying messages specific to their speed (“Slow Down,” “Too Fast!”, “Have a Nice Day”); or can be used to display dedicated messages such as “Flood Warning” or “Amber Alert” depending on the department’s needs.

# License Plate Recognition

License plate recognition (LPR) is one of the most powerful tools now available to law enforcement agencies, and it is utilized by the Newtown Township Police Department. These systems can identify vehicles that may have wants and warrants associated with them and make the public safer by enhancing officer efficiency.



Three things you should know about the technology and its use:

- 1) **It's Not New:** Although LPR is often thought of as 21<sup>st</sup>-century technology, it was actually developed in the United Kingdom in the 1970s as an anti-terror and anti-crime tool and was widely used in Europe for stolen car recovery and other police operations by the 1990s.
- 2) **The Components of LPR:** An LPR system consists of optical character recognition software, analytical software, databases, and cameras with infrared and visible light spectrum imaging capability. The active infrared imaging camera of an LPR system lets it capture license plates in low-light, nighttime conditions, and in sunlight so bright that it would obscure the characters in an image captured by a visible spectrum camera.
- 3) **Benefits of the Technology:** LPR has many uses and offers numerous benefits to agencies that implement and apply the technology. Some of the earliest LPR successes involved the detection of unregistered vehicles, enforcement of parking regulations, and recovery of stolen vehicles, but LPR systems have also helped solve a wide variety of criminal cases in the United States, including murders, abductions, and drug and human trafficking.



## Community Events

Our “Cars, Cops, and Coffee” event at Veterans Park has been a hit since we started hosting it in 2021. During this event, we invite members of the community to bring their classic, collectible, or exotic cars and favorite weekend cruisers out to have a cup of coffee and breakfast (provided by our partner, McDonald’s) with members of the police department and fellow car enthusiasts. All makes and models are welcome, and we look forward to seeing you at our next event.









## Community Events



Shop with a Cop is a national program pairing police officers with children to afford them a better holiday season. On December 7, 2025, the seventh annual “Shop with a Cop” event that Newtown Township Police Department participated in took place. The program allows children to view police officers in a different

atmosphere which helps promote positive relationships. The program was funded solely through the generosity of our local community’s residents and businesses. Volunteers from the community assisted with gift wrapping, hosting, and registration, and all of the police officers volunteered their personal time to support the program.

Our program’s participants were students from the Council Rock School District. The children that were selected face life challenges such as a parent losing a job, homelessness, military deployment, economic shortcomings, and other hardships. Each child was allotted a gift card to purchase gifts for themselves and their family members. Additionally, the families were provided groceries, jackets, diapers, blankets, and other desperately needed items.

The program was hosted by Target on Route 1 in Middletown Township, and multiple police departments shared the date for their “Shop with a Cop” shopping that day.



Many thanks to Target for hosting the program and providing supplies, and a special thanks to all of our wonderful volunteers, our local community partners, contributors, and the Council Rock School District for supporting this program.





## **Community Events**

The Newtown Township Police Department is proud of our visibility and involvement in community events in both Newtown and Wrightstown Townships. Community partnerships and collaboration are key elements of our success. In addition to the Cars/Cops/Coffee and Shop with a Cop programs, we enjoy taking part in events like the Newtown Township Parks & Recreation's Touch a Truck event, Wrightstown Township's Community Day, the Newtown Memorial Day Parade, the Car Show for Autism, Welcome Day, the Middletown Grange Fair, CR North's Salute to Hero's Game, the Newtown Holiday Parade, and more. We are committed to serving and protecting our community with honor and integrity and look forward to more positive interactions in the future.

**We thank the community for their continued support!**





## More Community Events Through the Year: **April 15<sup>th</sup> – Touch a Truck**



## **April 30<sup>th</sup> – NBA Business Expo**



## More Community Events Through the Year: **May 2nd – Scam Jam**





## More Community Events Through the Year: **May 2nd – Annual Police VS. Fire Charity Softball Game**





## More Community Events Through the Year: **May 17<sup>th</sup> – Wrightstown Community Day**



## **May 26<sup>th</sup> – Memorial Day Parade**





## **More Community Events Throughout the Year:** **May 2025 – CR North Peace Officers Memorial**



## **June 8<sup>th</sup> – Newtown Welcome Day**





## More Community Events Throughout the Year: **July 31<sup>st</sup> – WAWA Grand Opening & Hoagie Competition**



## **August 13<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> – Grange Fair**





## **More Community Events Throughout the Year:** **September – First Week of School**



## **September 11<sup>th</sup> – Council Rock North 9-11 Remembrance Ceremony**





**More Community Events Throughout the Year:**  
**November 8<sup>th</sup> – Veteran’s Day Ceremony at**  
**Goodnoe Elementary School**



**December 7<sup>th</sup> - Newtown Holiday Parade**





## Connect with Us

Our Social Media outlets include CRIMEWATCH, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, and Nextdoor. These outlets are great tools to inform residents about road conditions, special events, traffic advisories, and our police activity. Each time something is posted on our social media it reaches more than 12,000 people. Connection is key! We encourage you to connect with us on social media in order to stay up to date with what is going on around you. Our social media accounts broadcast updated information and important police issues.



[www.newtowntwppd.org](http://www.newtowntwppd.org)



<https://www.facebook.com/newtowntownshippolicedepartment>



[https://twitter.com/Newtown\\_Police](https://twitter.com/Newtown_Police)  
@Newtown\_Police



<https://www.instagram.com/newtownpolice>  
@NewtownPolice



<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCz3x2qZE3Lwdi6WtTWJxtSw>



<https://nextdoor.com/agency-detail/pa/newtown/newtown-township-police-department/>

It is important to keep in mind that the accounts are NOT monitored 24 hours a day. No private messages should be sent if you need an immediate response; call 9-1-1 for emergencies or Bucks County Radio Dispatch at (215) 328-8524 for non-emergency calls or questions. The Crime Tip Line number is (215) 504-2201.



## Safe Exchange Zone



Three easily identifiable parking spaces that are painted yellow in our parking lot are designated as a "Safe Exchange Zone."

These spaces are also marked by the sign that you see here. *This area is monitored by video surveillance on a 365-day/24-hour basis, but it is important to understand that they are not monitored by police personnel at all times.*

The intention of this area is to provide an added layer of protection for internet trades, child custody exchanges, etc. You must still always use common sense and be cautious during any internet transaction. Dial 9-1-1 in case of an emergency.

## **Drug Take Back**

Residents and community members are invited to bring any unused or unwanted prescriptions and medications (exceptions listed below) to dispose of them safely in the receptacle located in our lobby. No identification is requested, and no questions are asked. Residents may simply bring the medicine and put it in the secure container. If there are multiple bottles, we ask residents to remove the pills and place the loose pills into a Ziploc bag before bringing them in. The bottles can then be regularly disposed of in residents' homes.

Exceptions to what is permitted include:

- Needles (Sharps)
- Thermometers
- Bloody or infectious waste
- Medication from businesses or clinics
- Hydrogen peroxide
- Aerosol cans
- Inhalers



This service is readily available to our community from 8:00 am until 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday, during our regular office hours. In addition to providing this convenient service, Newtown Township Police Department also partakes in “Drug Take-Back” events. Between the Take-Back Day events and our MedReturn Box, the Newtown Township Police Department has collected well over a thousand pounds of unused or unwanted prescriptions and medication over the years.



# Wrightstown Township Yearly Statistics

*All figures presented are based on preliminary Newtown Township Police data. This data is subject to change, including reclassification upon further investigation.*

	2025	2024
<b>TOTAL CALLS FOR SERVICE</b>	6,106	6,524
<b>TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS – FATAL</b>	00	02
<b>TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS – INJURY</b>	76	81
<b>TRAFFIC ACCIDENT – NO INJURY</b>	63	61
<b>STRUCK PEDESTRIAN</b>	00	00
<b>HIT AND RUN</b>	07	04
<b>STRUCK DEER</b>	59	70
<b>PROPERTY DAMAGE</b>	17	11
<b>TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT DETAILS</b>	394	527
<b>TRUCK ENFORCEMENT DETAILS</b>	11	09
<b>TRAFFIC CITATIONS</b>	373	446
<b>NON-TRAFFIC CITATIONS</b>	08	01
<b>WARNINGS</b>	351	460
<b>PARKING TICKETS</b>	00	00
<b>DUI ARRESTS</b>	06	10
<b>ALL OTHER ARRESTS</b>	14	28
<b>TOTAL ARRESTS</b>	20	38

# Wrightstown Township Yearly Statistics

*All figures presented are based on preliminary Newtown Township Police data. This data is subject to change, including reclassification upon further investigation.*

	2025	2024
<b>DEATH INVESTIGATIONS</b>	02	02
<b>OVERDOSE/NARCAN USE</b>	02	01
<b>ASSAULTS</b>	02	03
<b>BURGLARY</b>	01	01
<b>THEFT</b>	09	08
<b>MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT</b>	00	01
<b>RETAIL THEFT</b>	01	03
<b>FRAUD</b>	22	22
<b>ABANDONDED 9-1-1</b>	92	76
<b>MEDICAL EMERGENCIES</b>	121	139
<b>WELL-BEING CHECKS</b>	244	121
<b>SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY</b>	59	81
<b>FIRE ALARMS</b>	42	42
<b>BURGLAR ALARMS</b>	135	132
<b>BUSINESS CHECKS</b>	2,372	2,538
<b>BANKS CHECKS</b>	480	426
<b>SCHOOL CHECKS</b>	520	577
<b>MISCHIEF/VANDALISM</b>	03	02

## **Thank You for All of Your Support!**

Good policing requires partnerships with the community. We continue to find new ways of making connections, and building those partnerships. I want to thank the community of Newtown and Wrightstown Townships for your continued support of our officers, and for doing your part to make us better. The number of donations, emails, cards, letters, and kind words of support by community members not only encourages us, but also reminds us all why we are called to the noble profession of law enforcement. It is our collaborative goal to make Newtown and Wrightstown Townships the best that they can be. We are committed to serving all the members of our community and will continue to do our part.

John L. Hearn  
Chief of Police

