

# Newtown Township Police Department 2024 Annual Report for Wrightstown Township



Chief John L. Hearn

# Table of Contents

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Community Message from Chief of Police .....	3
Mission and Values Statement.....	6
Table Of Organization .....	7
Accreditation .....	8
Re-accreditation .....	9
Promotions .....	10
Awards and Presentations .....	11
Milestone Achievements.....	12
New Officers .....	13
Retirements .....	15
Field Training Program.....	17
Patrol Division .....	18
Criminal Investigations.....	19
Police Support Staff .....	20
School Resource Officers .....	21
Youth Aid Panel.....	23
T.E.A.M. (Teaching, Educating, and Mentoring) School Liaison Program .....	24
Crisis Intervention Team.....	25
South Central Bucks County's Special Emergency Response Team .....	26
Major Incident Response Team .....	27
Commercial Vehicle Safety .....	28
Highway Patrol Motorcycle Unit.....	29
Bicycle Patrol.....	30
Honor Guard .....	31
Bucks County Memorial Ceremony .....	32
DUI Enforcement.....	33

Aggressive Driving Enforcement Initiative .....	34
Speed Timing Devices .....	35
License Plate Recognition.....	36
Community Events.....	37
Connect with Us.....	54
Safe Exchange Zone.....	55
Drug Take Back .....	56
Thank You for All of Your Support! .....	<b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>

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



Thank you for your ongoing support year after year to the men and women of the Newtown Township Police Department. This department has a great history of dedication and service to our community by our officers and professional support staff. We will continue to do so with professionalism and a guardian mindset, always putting our community first.

This year, I want to ask a favor and request your continued support by encouraging our future generations to consider dedicating their lives to public safety. This includes becoming **police officers**, volunteering with the fire service, taking CPR/1<sup>st</sup> aid classes, or volunteering for the local Red Cross chapter.

When I was selected as the police chief, our team and I were tasked with recruiting and hiring the best candidates to provide police services in Newtown and Wrightstown townships. In just six short years since my arrival, with planned retirements, career changes, and unfortunately the passing of one of our own, the Newtown Township Police Department was very busy. We hired 17 new officers, promoted a Captain, Lieutenant, 3 Sergeants, and 5 Corporals, and assigned 2 new Detectives to our detective division. We replaced our aging police vehicle fleet and obtained



grants for technology enhancements, including License Plate readers to assist in criminal investigations, body-worn cameras to support criminal prosecutions, and an additional School Resource Officer to protect our children. We have completed a building study on the need for a new police facility which will, once approved, continue to service the community in the best manner possible, all while operating under the best practices as evidenced by retaining Accreditation status for the fourth time since 2013. This was all possible due to tremendous support from our community & business members, our religious partners, the Township Manager, and the Board of Supervisors.

Although we are progressing, we still struggle, as most organizations do, to get qualified applicants to apply and take on this awesome public safety responsibility. It is demanding: shift work, rotating days off, working weekends and holidays, and often missing many family gatherings and special events. You may even be called to give your life to safeguard others. It is a calling that few are willing to take. Police applicants throughout the county and state have dropped dramatically. Philadelphia County is short over 1300 officers, and the Pennsylvania State Police has recently modified their hiring practices to obtain more recruits. We are all struggling.

In addition to the police department, the volunteer fire service is experiencing the same challenges. As a volunteer firefighter for over twenty-eight years, I also know the dramatic reduction of volunteers that has impacted communities' fire safety. In my early days of being a volunteer, there were over 300,000 volunteer firefighters in the state of Pennsylvania. Today, there are less than 38,000. This impacts public safety as evident with the recent hurricanes, Helene & Milton, in the southern states of Florida, Georgia, North & South Carolinas, and Tennessee, or the terrible wildfire in California. The tragedies would be much higher if not for the efforts of the public safety personnel who have dedicated their lives to risking it all for others.

My ask is simple. If you see an officer, a firefighter, or a medical technician – **thank them!** If you know someone who could benefit our community by serving others in this role, encourage and support them. Encouraging and supporting the younger generations will ultimately positively affect us all by providing safety and security to our communities. Please support the local efforts

of elected officials when decisions are being considered to bolster staffing or replace outdated equipment and facilities.

Finally, help to keep our emergency workers safe. When you see an emergency vehicle approaching with its lights and sirens activated, pull to the side of the roadway and stop. Allow the emergency vehicle to pass safely – it may save a life. If you see an emergency vehicle with emergency equipment operating on the side of a roadway, slow down to under 20 MPH, and pass cautiously. They also have families to return home to.

Thank you once again for your continued support!



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 safeguard persons and property through a committed community partnership by upholding public trust, fostering mutual respect and providing 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.

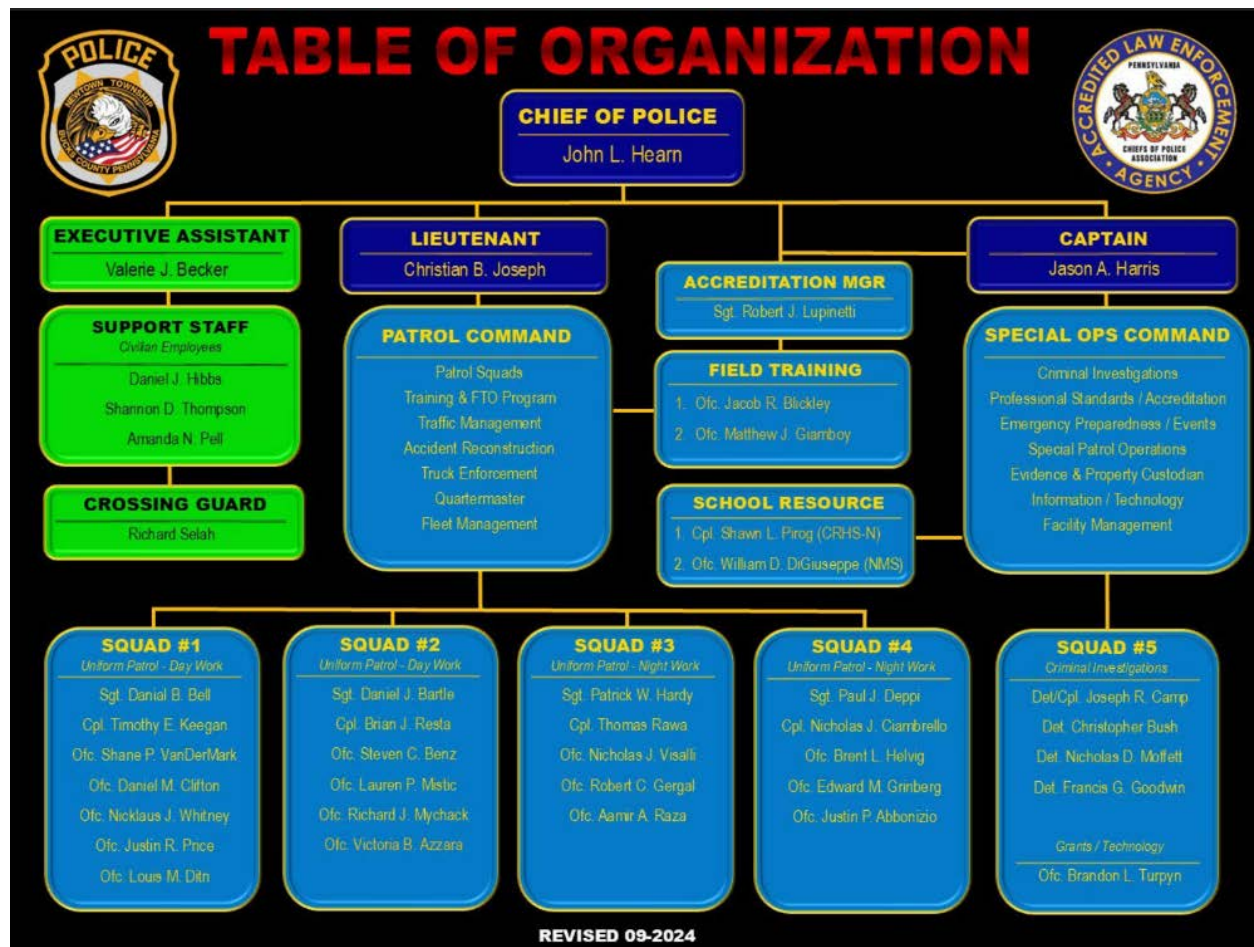
**Teamwork** We encourage teamwork on behalf of our community and organization. Teamwork unites residents and police by sharing talent and expertise leading to the successful identification of common goals, objectives and results.

**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.



# **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 184 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.

For our assessment on May 24, 2019, our department was re-accredited for the third time. We received high praise for our policies, procedures, overall leadership and teamwork, and the phrase, “best of the best,” was mentioned. We view this as a win for the police department and the communities of Newtown and Wrightstown as well.

Our most recent accreditation assessment took place on May 24, 2022 and our department was re-accredited 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.





## Promotions



On June 12, 2024, **Officer Nicholas Ciambrello** was promoted and sworn-in by District Judge Petrucci as **Police Corporal**.

On September 27, 2024, **Officer Justin Price** was promoted and sworn-in by District Judge Petrucci as **Police Corporal**.





# **Awards and Presentations**

On January 6, 2025, the following officers were recognized and received commendations:

**Sergeant Danial Bell, Corporal Timothy Keegan, Officer Daniel Clifton, Officer Nicklaus Whitney, Officer Justin Price – Official Commendations for Life Saving**

*On April 30, 2024, at approximately 8:30 AM, patrol units were dispatched to the wooded area of Diamond Drive for a female armed with a knife. Sgt. Bell, Cpl. Keegan, Ofc. Clifton, Ofc. Whitney, and Ofc. Price quickly responded and located the female in the wooded area, where she had sustained significant self-inflicted lacerations on both of her wrists. The officers promptly applied tourniquets to control the bleeding and then carried the female out of the woods to a patrol vehicle for emergency transport due to her blood loss. Once in the parking lot area, they were met by EMS and the fire company, who took over treatment. The patrol squad's quick response and first aid greatly contributed to saving her life.*

**Detective Corporal Joseph Camp – Official Commendation for Life Saving**

*On June 14, 2024, at Meglio's Restaurant located at 3 North Sycamore Street, a woman began choking on her food. Despite efforts from those around her, the food remained stuck in her throat. Fortunately, Detective Corporal Joseph Camp was in the restaurant at the time and witnessed the woman in distress. He immediately applied the Heimlich maneuver and successfully dislodged the food. Detective Corporal Joseph Camp's quick reaction and heroic act undoubtedly saved the woman's life and is a true testament to his training, experience, professionalism, and dedication.*

**Officer Lauren Mistic – Letter of Commendation**

*On June 17, 2024, Officer Mistic successfully saved a 9-year-old autistic boy after he was running in traffic. The incident began when several Newtown Township police officers responded to assist the Newtown Borough Police Department with a missing 9-year-old autistic boy who had run away from home. The mother was unable to chase the boy as she was caring for another autistic child in the house. Officer Mistic located the child, who was standing on the concrete median at Swamp Road and the Newtown Bypass, and saw him run into oncoming traffic. She quickly circled the median and positioned her patrol vehicle across the roadway to block traffic from striking the child. Officer Mistic and a passing motorist ran after the child and were able to secure him in the middle of the highway and lead him back to safety.*

# **Milestone Achievements**

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



Officer Steve Benz - 25 years

## New Officers

We are proud to introduce the newest members of our team!



On April 8, 2024, 22-year-old Victoria Azzara was officially sworn-in as a police officer for Newtown Township Police Department by District Judge Petrucci. Ofc. Azzara graduated from Central Bucks High School in 2019, graduated with a Bachelor of Arts from Temple University in 2023, and completed the Pennsylvania Municipal Officers Training Program in March of 2024. Prior to joining us, Azzara interned with the Bucks County Detectives.



On May 2, 2024, 33-year-old Aamir Raza was officially sworn-in as a police officer for Newtown Township Police Department by District Judge Petrucci. Ofc. Raza graduated from Central Bucks South High School in 2009, obtained credits from both Temple University and the Bucks County Community College, and completed the Pennsylvania Municipal Officers Training Program in 2014. Prior to joining us, Ofc. Raza was a police officer with Upper

Makefield Township Police Department since 2017 and previously worked as a part time police officer with the Pennridge Regional Police Department.

## New Officers



On September 27, 2024, 25-year-old Matthew Giamboy was officially sworn-in as a police officer for Newtown Township Police Department by District Judge Petrucci. Ofc. Giamboy graduated from Roman Catholic High School in 2017, obtained an Associate in Arts from LaSalle University in 2020, and completed the Pennsylvania Municipal Officers Training Program at the Philadelphia Police Academy in 2022. Prior to joining us, Giamboy was a police officer with the City of Philadelphia since 2022

and was assigned to the 25<sup>th</sup> District for the duration.



On September 27, 2024, 31-year-old Jacob Blickley was officially sworn-in as a police officer for Newtown Township Police Department by District Judge Petrucci. Ofc. Blickley graduated from Neshaminy High School in 2011 and completed the Pennsylvania Municipal Officers Training Program at the Montgomery County Municipal Police Academy in 2016. Prior to joining us, Blickley started his career with the Tullytown Borough Police Department in 2016 and was a police

officer with the Falls Township Police Department since 2017.



## Retirement



After dedicating over 33 years of service to the Newtown Township Police Department, Officer Renee Hurst retired on February 29, 2024.

Prior to her time with us, Renee Hurst graduated from the Police Academy in 1986 and worked as a police dispatcher for the Bucks County Department of Communications from 1985 to 1990. She was also employed as a police officer at Chalfont Borough Police Department from 1986 to 1987 and at Yardley Borough Police

Department from 1987 to 1990.

Hired by Chief Duffy on October 18, 1990, Renee began her law enforcement career with the Newtown Township Police Department as a part-time police officer and transitioned to full-time on February 9, 1994. During her time with the department, Hurst also served as a detective and school resource officer.

In her role as our school resource office, Officer Hurst developed strong working relationships with the staff and students at Council Rock High School – North. She established strong connections with many of the students as she taught and mentored them and encouraged them to turn to her with any questions or concerns. She has received countless letters of appreciation and recognition from members of the community, the Council Rock School District, the PA House of Representatives, the PA Senate, the PA Office of the Attorney General, the Newtown Township Board of Supervisors, the Youth Aid Panel, and neighboring police departments.

Renee Hurst was an exemplary member of this department. We thank her for her service and wish her a long and happy retirement!

## Retirement



After dedicating over 27 years of service to the Newtown Township Police Department, Cpl. Timothy Keegan retired on December 31, 2024.

Prior to his time with us, Timothy Keegan was a Park Ranger. Then he was hired by Chief Duffy and joined the Newtown Township Police Department on October 27, 1997. In 2012, he was promoted to Corporal.

Throughout his career, he received several lifesaving commendations and countless letters of appreciation and recognition from

members of the community, neighboring police departments, and even the Mayor of Houston, Texas. He was always available to help a member of the community and let them know that they were being heard. He was also always willing to share his vast knowledge of wildlife, especially birds.

Tim Keegan was an exemplary member of this department. We 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, Lieutenant, and Field Training Coordinator. Sergeant Robert Lupinetti is the Field Training Coordinator designated to oversee all aspects of this program.

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 supervised 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 necessary to ensure that our officers have the backup and support that they need.

## **Grant Funding Received**



On November 26, 2024, the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency School Safety and Security Committee awarded us \$75,000. Funding for the project was requested due to our department's analysis that school violence poses a significant threat and risk to the community. Furthermore, the number one concern of parents in our school district, according to a recent survey, is school safety. The funds were awarded to address these concerns and introduce a second School Resource Officer (SRO), who is responsible for covering multiple schools within our district. There are five schools. Previously, the sole SRO was assigned specifically to the High School. The additional SRO plays a crucial role in expanding our existing school safety initiatives and strengthening our efforts to build positive early relationships with the youth in our community.

## **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) 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 with the Council Rock School District Administration and the students and staff that are encountered 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.

During the pandemic, the Panel incorporated Zoom into the program. Zoom is an easy, reliable platform for video, voice, chat, and content sharing, and has access on mobile devices, desktops, and telephones. With virtual meetings, the Youth Aid Panel can be flexible and continues to offer the benefits of the program to juveniles.



# **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 the Villanova Championships, Philadelphia Eagles parade, the NFL Draft, Democratic National Convention, and the Papal visit. In 2020, the Bucks County Major Incident Response Team assisted other police agencies in the area with civil unrest incidences, and throughout the pandemic, members of the team were also stationed at various vaccine and test distribution sites to provide safety and assistance.



# **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. 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 25 checkpoints in 2024, stopping and inspecting 230 commercial vehicles. Overall, 21 trucks were taken out of service for major safety violations, and 56 citations and 99 warnings were issued.

Our Certified Officers and specialized truck enforcement vehicle continue to enhance the team's ability and visibility throughout the community.





## 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.



## **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.





## **Honor Guard**

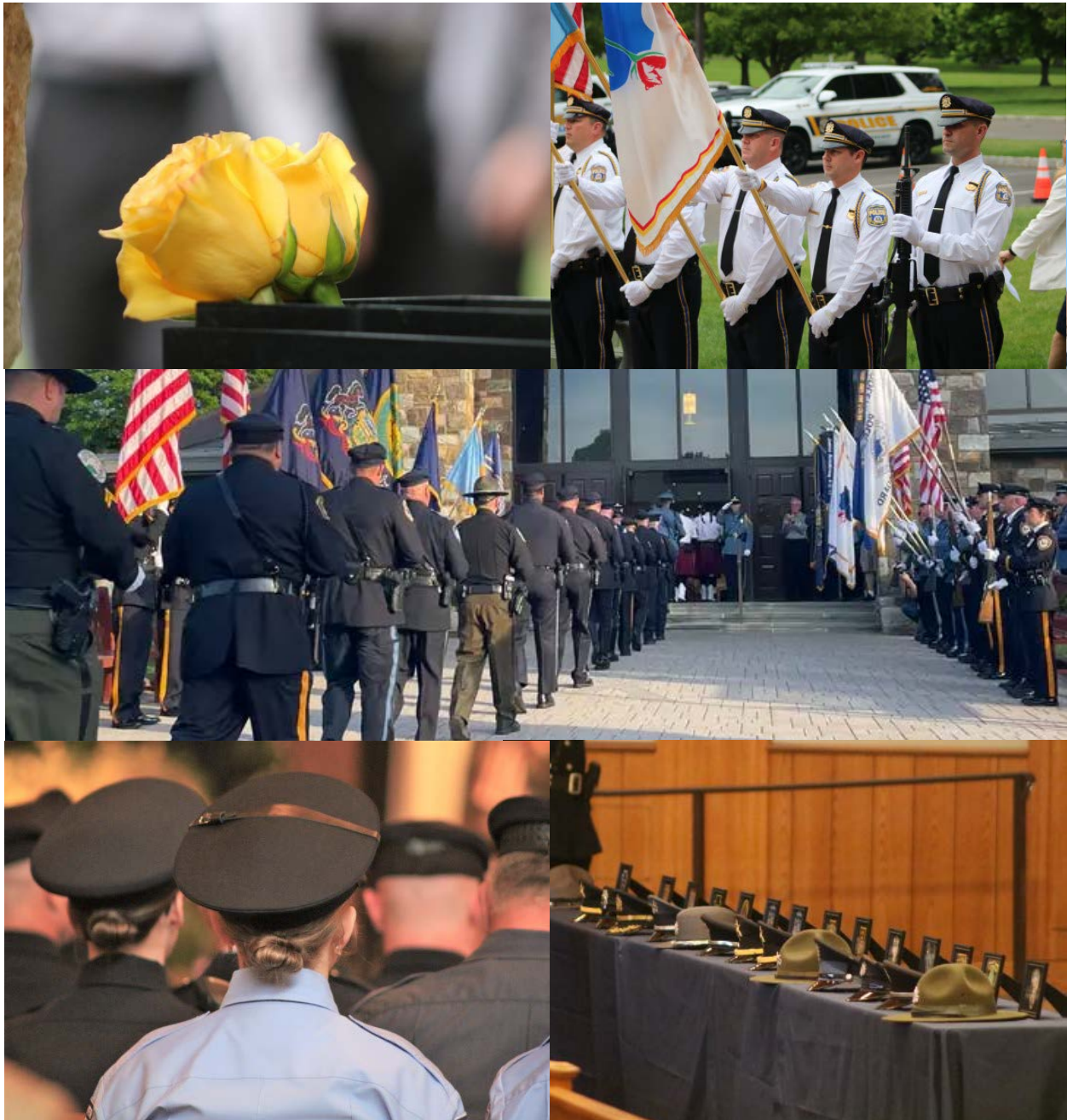
The Newtown Township Police Department has five dedicated officers of our department who are currently serving on the Honor Guard. Each officer gives their best efforts to represent the department with a high level of pride and professionalism. The mission of the Honor Guard was initially meant to pay 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 20, 2024.



# **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. In 2023, alcohol-related crashes decreased to 8,337 from 8,683 alcohol-related crashes in 2022. In 2023, alcohol-related fatalities decreased to 308 from 320 alcohol-related fatalities in 2023. In 2023, alcohol-related fatalities were 25% of the total traffic fatalities, and on average each day, 23 alcohol-related traffic crashes occurred. 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. Both of these machines greatly help the police with traffic enforcement.

# 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

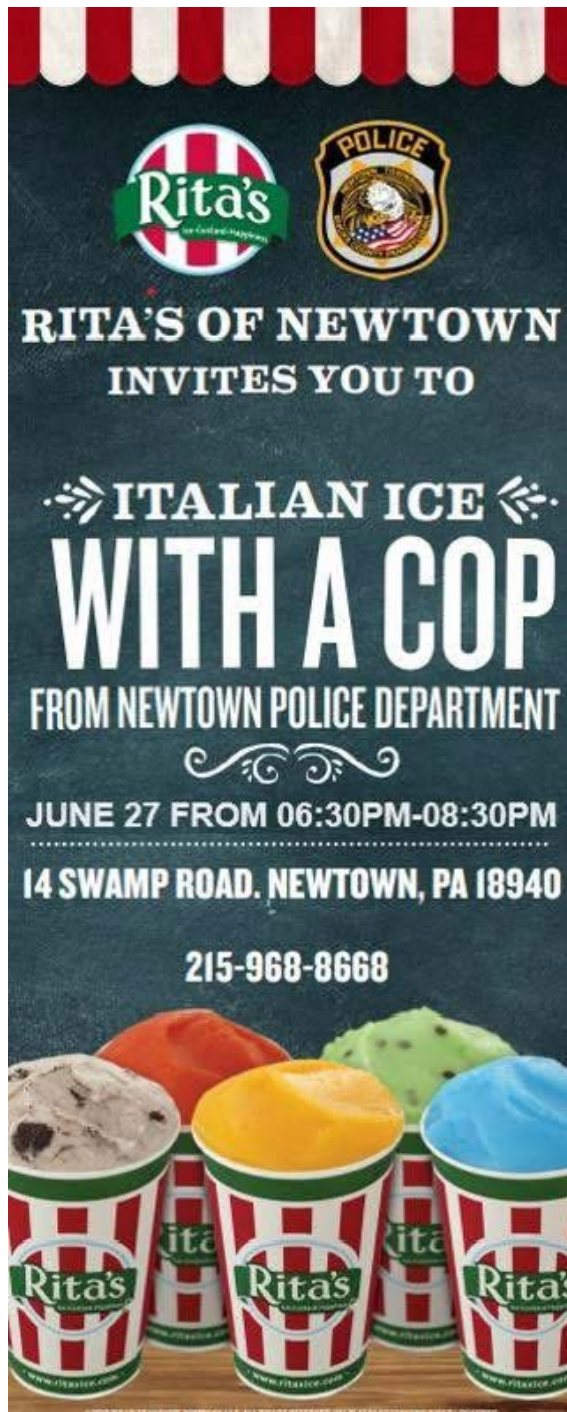


The Newtown Township Police "Coffee with a Cop" events have become a great way for our community members to meet with officers in a casual setting. "Coffee with a Cop" is a national initiative that started in 2011 in Hawthorne, California. The goal of "Coffee with a Cop" is to provide an opportunity for police officers and citizens to interact in an informal setting over a cup of hot coffee. There are no predetermined agendas, leaving topics open to anything the residents would like to discuss. We are pleased that the Newtown Township Police Department is able to host

this event, and we get some great insight from our local residents and business owners. This program has been met with positive responses from our residents and we look forward to continuing the practice.



## Community Events



Rita's Italian Ice and Frozen Custard kindly hosted us for our fifth ever "Italian Ice with a Cop" event at the Newtown franchise on June 27, 2024. To those that attended water ice was free for children twelve and under.

Similar to "Coffee with a Cop", the event allowed police officers and the community, both children and adults alike, to interact in an informal setting without an agenda. Instead of coffee, frosty treats and many smiles were shared. The turnout to the gathering was an awesome display of the positive relationship we share with the community and of our commitment to them.

The event was a great success, and we are pleased to have established a partnership with Rita's and hope to continue this program in the future.







# Community Events

Since our “Cars, Cops, and Coffee” event at Veterans Park has been a huge success since we started it in 2021, we hosted two more “Cars, Cops and Coffee” events there this year. During these events, we invited 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 were welcome, and both events were hits.









## 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, 2024, 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 Coffee with a Cop, Italian Ice with a Cop, 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 10<sup>th</sup> – Touch a Truck**



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





## More Community Events Through the Year: **May 10th – Charity Softball Game**





## More Community Events Through the Year: **May 27<sup>th</sup> - Memorial Day Parade**



## **June 9<sup>th</sup> - Newtown Welcome Day**





## More Community Events Throughout the Year: **August 14<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> – Grange Fair**



## **August 21<sup>st</sup> – Welcoming Home Council Rock North Baseball Team**





## **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:** **September 13<sup>th</sup> – NBA's Open House Networking Event**



## **October 18<sup>th</sup> – Lingohocken Fire Company Pizza & Prevention**





## More Community Events Throughout the Year: **October 31<sup>st</sup> – Halloween**





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



**December 8<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 11,000 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.*

	2024	2023
<b>TOTAL CALLS FOR SERVICE</b>	6,524	5,060
<b>TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS – FATAL</b>	1	1
<b>TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS – INJURY</b>	82	34
<b>TRAFFIC ACCIDENT – NO INJURY</b>	61	50
<b>STRUCK PEDESTRIAN</b>	0	0
<b>HIT AND RUN</b>	4	8
<b>STRUCK DEER</b>	70	59
<b>PROPERTY DAMAGE</b>	11	16
<b>TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT DETAILS</b>	527	527
<b>TRUCK ENFORCEMENT DETAILS</b>	9	11
<b>TRAFFIC CITATIONS</b>	477	590
<b>NON-TRAFFIC CITATIONS</b>	3	5
<b>WARNINGS</b>	461	439
<b>PARKING TICKETS</b>	0	0
<b>DUI ARRESTS</b>	10	7
<b>ALL OTHER ARRESTS</b>	28	22
<b>TOTAL ARRESTS</b>	38	29

# 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.*

	2024	2023
<b>DEATH INVESTIGATIONS</b>	2	3
<b>OVERDOSE/NARCAN USE</b>	1	3
<b>ASSAULTS</b>	3	5
<b>BURGLARY</b>	1	1
<b>THEFT</b>	8	8
<b>MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT</b>	1	2
<b>RETAIL THEFT</b>	3	5
<b>FRAUD</b>	22	21
<b>ABANDONDED 9-1-1</b>	76	131
<b>MEDICAL EMREGENCIES</b>	139	150
<b>WELL-BEING CHECKS</b>	121	37
<b>SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY</b>	81	73
<b>FIRE ALARMS</b>	42	56
<b>BURGLAR ALARMS</b>	132	135
<b>BUSINESS CHECKS</b>	2,538	1,338
<b>BANKS CHECKS</b>	426	229
<b>SCHOOL CHECKS</b>	577	376
<b>MISCHIEF/VANDALISM</b>	2	1

## **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

