

## POLICE DEPARTMENT

Carrying on the tradition as Newton's finest since 1910, Officers reliably carry out their duties each day mindful of their mission to serve, to safeguard the public trust and to always perform competently and professionally. Chief Michael Richards is proud to lead this department and is committed to the continual process of improving the efficiency and effectiveness of its service.

### ADMINISTRATION

Chief Richards provides for the general direction, control and planning as well as the budgeting for the Police Department. He develops and ensures adherence to the Department's established Rules & Regulations as well as all applicable case law and policies, procedures or directives from agencies like the NJ Attorney General and the SC Prosecutor. Through continual policy review and development, and training of personnel combined with leadership, accountability, public engagement and communication, he always strives to exceed expectations.

Evidence of the department's continual improvement can be seen in the development and implementation of innovative programs such as the C.L.E.A.R. program, **Community Law Enforcement Addiction Recovery** [[clearprogram.org](http://clearprogram.org)] (now expanded across Sussex County), Coffee with a Cop, Project Medicine Drop and Crime Reports (crime mapping and anonymous tip service). Additionally, we were proud to receive a \$10,000 community policing grant in 2017 to fund the **#NotEvenOnce** opioid education program at the High School. These programs help improve quality of life, prevent and reduce criminal activity and engages the community as proactive public safety partners.

Chief Richards is serving in his second year as the President of the Sussex County Police Chiefs' Association whose mission, in part, is to promote and enhance the highest ethical and professional standards in law enforcement across the County and to strive for advancements along all lines pertaining to the prevention and detection of crime and the promotion of police efficiency in general. He also serves on the Board for Ginnie's House, a Child Advocacy Center, a vital resource for child abuse victims located here in Newton.

Chief Richards' administration consists of two Lieutenants who command the two divisions of the department; the **Operations**

**Division and the Support Services Division.** The **Detective Bureau** also reports directly to the Chief of Police.

### OPERATIONS DIVISION

The Operations Division is under the leadership and management of Lt. Robert E. Osborn Jr. He oversees the main patrol operations function of the Department. Two Patrol Sergeants report directly to him. The Patrol Sergeants each supervise and work with a squad consisting of 3 Patrolmen. Patrol squads work 12-hour shifts to give constant police coverage to the Town every day of the year.

On average, Police Officers handle over 50 calls for service per day ranging from domestic violence incidents, theft investigations and burglaries to aiding someone with a medical emergency, helping to locate a missing child or an elderly person or investigating the cause of a car crash. Officers have often prevented criminal activity through proactive patrolling, checking on suspicious vehicles, interrupting acts of disorderly conduct and locating people who were wanted for outstanding warrants. They also regularly conduct traffic enforcement to help keep our roads safer for travel and to help ensure that all pedestrians, particularly the many children who walk to and from schools, can do so safely. At arrival and dismissal times, Officers conduct safety patrols in the area of each school every day. Officers also regularly conduct premises checks on businesses after they close for the day and routinely check homes when residents are away on vacation.

Lt. Osborn serves as our Public Information Officer as well as our Internal Affairs Officer. He is also responsible for departmental training, administering the performance evaluation system and he handles officer scheduling and planning for special details like parades, similar events and outside employment requests, such as security at school sporting events and traffic direction during construction projects. Lt. Osborn reviews all accident reports, public records requests and Court discovery for the Police Department.

The Internal Affairs function of the Police Department plays an integral role in building and maintaining public trust. Our ability to deliver effective public safety services depends on our credibility and reputation and thus must be safeguarded through a proactive internal affairs process consisting of regular personnel inspections and training, investigation of complaints, counseling

and progressive discipline when appropriate.

To be transparent about the process, we've prepared the following statistical report summarizing complaints received about Officers and their dispositions for 2017. Matters investigated and documented within our internal affairs process may have originated from a citizen complaint, anonymously or from within the department, resulting from inspection or supervision of personnel. If no complaints were received, then that category of complaint has not been listed, such as domestic violence, complaints of improper search and other criminal violations. Cases that do not have outcomes at this time are listed as pending.

TYPE OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS COMPLAINT	#	OUTCOMES
Demeanor	3	1 sustained   1 exonerated   1 unfounded
Other Rule Violation	11	7 sustained   3 exonerate   1 unfounded
Total	14	No disciplinary action was taken that resulted in a fine or suspension of 10 days or more
Pending 2017 cases	1	1 other rule violation is pending final outcome in 2018

The Newton Police Department approaches professional standards and citizen complaints very seriously. It is reasonable to expect Officers to consistently perform professionally, lawfully, safely; consistent with policy. Each complaint receives priority attention from department supervisors. Each time an employee uses force, is involved in a motor vehicle accident or is accused of misconduct, a complete and thorough internal affairs process is strictly adhered to and followed to its logical conclusion, consistent with the guidelines issued by the NJ Attorney General's Office. The internal affairs process also seeks to identify any needs for training or policy revision. Any disciplinary action imposed is progressive and corrective. We hope that providing this information will prove to be both helpful to understand our process and reassuring to the public we serve.

Patrol Sergeants and members of their patrol squads assist with several administrative functions as well. Sgt. Steve Benson conducts firearms training and handles all firearms applicant investigations. In 2017, we issued 108 permits to purchase handguns, nearly double from the year prior. Sgt. Michael Monaco coordinates the service of arrest warrants, conducts applicant investigations related to Town ordinances and is also a firearms instructor. Ptl. Michael Wolanski is our liaison for the Domestic Violence Response Team, a program in collaboration with Domestic Abuse & Sexual Assault Intervention Services.

In 2017 we welcomed the addition of three new Officers, Jared Zappa, Anthony Keiling and Donald Meisinger, who replaced Officers who have retired. The new Officers are men of outstanding character. Officers Zappa and Keiling were previously trained, transferring their education and experience to their new appointments. Officer Meisinger is attending the Police Academy and we look forward to his graduation in June 2018 when he'll then join the ranks.

Lt. Osborn supervises and schedules the Department's Class II Special Law Enforcement Officers (SLEOII). The Special Officers work a foot or bike patrol assignment in the business district most days and evenings. We currently have one full-time and two part-time Special Officers. State law limits the hours and type of work that they can be assigned. They provide a meaningful complement to our staff of regular sworn Officers and help ensure safety in the Town parks and business district areas.

The Department maintains a computerized record system documenting the activity of its Police Officers. Listed on the following page is statistical information about some of the calls that Newton Police Officers have responded to and the amount of certain types of investigations that were conducted. Notably, information about the number of times Narcan was used and the number of anonymous tips received have been included in this year's summary report.

While it is evident that members of the Police Department were certainly quite busy; it should also be pointed out that our effectiveness is often quite dependent on the support we receive. This support comes in the form of continued administrative and investigative emphases in our staffing, adequate resources being made available to the department as well as timely reporting of criminal or suspicious activity from members of the public.



<b>TYPE OF CALL/POLICE ACTIVITY</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
Homicide	0	0	0
Robbery	2	2	0
Kidnapping	0	0	0
Burglary/Attempted Burglary	61	48	29
Sexual Assault/Contact	12	8	18
Assault	33	21	40
Theft	79	93	137
Motor Vehicle Theft	4	9	6
Motor Vehicle Accidents	506	461	513
Medical Emergencies	1,002	1,107	1,257
DWI Arrests	19	8	12
Black Bear	41	41	37
Criminal Mischief	80	54	80
Domestic Dispute/TRO Request	120	169	154
Fight in Progress/Verbal Dispute	390	418	471
Missing Person Adult/Juvenile	20	19	25
Vehicle Lock-Out Assist	207	208	233
Motor Vehicle Stops	9,327	8,129	10,208
Weapons Offense/Guns	4	5	0
Burglar Alarms	368	321	286
Total Arrests Made	264	279	246
Total Summonses Issued	2662	2087	2,731
Total Ordinance Violation Summonses	109	109	72
Narcan Administration	10	12	24
Anonymous Tips Received	30	50	40

### SUPPORT SERVICES DIVISION

Lieutenant Mark Zappa is the Department's Support Services Division Commander. He supervises the 9-1-1 Emergency Communications Center, schedules dispatch staffing, assists with the internal affairs function and manages the department's technology resources, video surveillance recording systems, records management systems, E-Ticket devices, Police, Fire and EMS radios and is responsible for managing the repair and maintenance of all our police vehicles and other departmental equipment. Two Patrol Sergeants report directly to Lt. Zappa. The Patrol Sergeants each supervise and work with a squad consisting of 3 Patrolmen.

Patrol Sergeants and members of their patrol squads assist with several administrative functions as well. Promoted in 2017, Sgt. Thomas Muller oversees/reviews all domestic violence investigations, assists with domestic preparedness functions and alcoholic beverage control (ABC) enforcement/investigations. Sgt. Scott King oversees the alarm ordinance, registering alarms and conducting alarm ordinance enforcement as needed. Several Patrol Officers also assist with supervising and training our school crossing guards, performing website updates and firearms training. The Department currently has 15 crossing guards reliably providing safety to our many students who walk to and from school.

Overseen by Lt. Zappa and the Patrol Sergeants' squad that they're assigned, 4 full-time and 8 part-time Public Safety Telecommunicators (PST) staff the Newton Police Department's modern 9-1-1 Communications Center 24/7, receiving 9-1-1 calls, performing radio dispatching for Newton Police, Fire and First Aid Squad. Our PST's provide pre-arrival instructions to callers while simultaneously sending emergency personnel to the scene. Our PST's are highly skilled, trained and experienced. Our equipment has the latest technological capabilities making us ready for Next Generation 9-1-1. The dispatchers often manage several stressful public safety emergencies at the same time, while also communicating regularly with Officers conducting patrol duties and fielding administrative telephone calls from the public with requests for information.

### DETECTIVE BUREAU

The day to day direction of the Detective Bureau is managed by Detective Sergeant Steve VanNieuwland. DSG. VanNieuwland oversees all criminal investigations conducted in the Town of Newton. He also reviews and prepares required classification and reporting for Uniform Crime Reports. With this responsibility, he supervises two Detectives; Det. Thomas Tosti and Det. Joseph D'Annibale. Each year, the Police Department faces challenges in the form of major crimes that occur, and it is generally left to the members of the Detective Bureau to follow through on these difficult investigations until they are successfully prosecuted, a process that often takes several years.

Detectives are involved in numerous criminal investigations. They collect and analyze intelligence, develop informants and work cooperatively with Detectives from the Sussex County Guns, Gangs & Narcotics Task Force, our neighboring jurisdictions, the

State Police, State Parole and other law enforcement agencies; County, State and Federal. Detectives monitor and track registered sex offenders subject to Megan's Law. They collect, store, inventory and arrange for appropriate disposition of all property and evidence that is found or seized by members of the Police Department. Detectives also have the responsibility for investigating liquor license transfers and for conducting ABC enforcement and inspections of the 11 licensed premises in the Town of Newton.

Det. Thomas Tosti performs the function of Juvenile Officer and serves as a liaison to our schools. He assists with juvenile/family crisis incidents, maintains State required records related to juvenile delinquency cases and administers the stationhouse adjustment program for eligible juvenile offenders. Nine juveniles were taken into police custody in 2017. Det. Tosti also instructs the L.E.A.D. program (**L**aw **E**nforcement **A**gainst **D**rugs) to 5<sup>th</sup> grade students at Merriam Avenue School and the #NotEvenOnce program to high school students. He also oversees our crime prevention program and is often seen at various community events with DSG. VanNieuwland, who is a certified Child Safety Seat installer, providing another valuable service to our residents.

The department's Domestic Preparedness function is also handled by the Detective Bureau; planning and exercising of drills at each of the schools for lockdowns and evacuations in the event of an emergency. Domestic preparedness also involves training for response to an Active Shooter Incident, meeting regularly and public safety planning with facilities such as the Newton Medical Center and the Sussex County Community College as well as other businesses and churches in Town.

Detectives also coordinate Project Medicine Drop, a program designed to help halt the abuse and diversion of prescription drugs. Residents can anonymously and safely dispose of their unwanted or expired medications. We collected, secured and arranged for the destruction of 497 pounds of medications in 2017.

Working cooperatively, the three Detectives remain available for duty call-out at any time, every day of the year whenever crimes occur. Detectives receive and coordinate responses or necessary follow-up to anonymous tips through our Text-A-Tip service. They process crime scenes for latent evidence. Detectives are specialists in conducting interviews and

interrogations, preparing search warrants and criminal complaints. The investigative strength, diligence, determination and inter-agency cooperation of the Detectives at the Newton Police Department continually yields successful outcomes for investigations into the most serious criminal activity and help keep Newton safe.

Police Department success is tied to the support we receive from the community we serve. With this in mind, we'll continue to engage the public and communicate information about our activities in an effort to enhance our community partnership. Please visit our website [www.newtonpolice.org](http://www.newtonpolice.org) and visit us on social media to see the many other services provided by the Police Department. View information about our activity which is updated on a daily basis and published to a map via a service called Crime Reports to a page on our website. As we strive to constantly improve the quality of law enforcement services provided, we look forward to ongoing public support and cooperation as we do our part to help make Newton continue to be a great place to raise a family and to conduct business.

## PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

The Public Works Department maintained its normal busy schedule during the 2017 calendar year, devoting one day each week (Tuesday) to collecting recyclable items at the curb, in accordance with past practice. In addition, DPW staff carried out all of the routine maintenance activities during 2017. They also conducted a Spring and Fall Leaf and Brush Collection Program in which the crew collected leaves and brush that were placed at the curb in bio-degradable bags, lasting each time for approximately six weeks.

A sweeping schedule was maintained throughout 2017. Crews sweep the entire Town once a month while the downtime area is maintained once to twice a week. Garbage collection and litter patrol on Spring Street is done on a daily basis. Storm basins are inspected yearly and crews rigorously repair/rebuild throughout the year weather permitting. Routine road work is also done throughout the year which includes pothole repair, crack sealing, and minor resurfacing projects.

The DPW crew focused on maintaining and caring for the parks in Town during 2017, as well as monitoring the restrooms in Memory Park. Litter and garbage was regularly picked up in the parks and a crew is scheduled on Saturdays for park maintenance.