



BETHLEHEM TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT
MONTHLY REPORT
Chief Gregory J. Gottschall
March 2022

MANPOWER REPORT:

- Chief Dan Pancoast honorably retired after 43 years of dedicated service serving the citizens and community of Bethlehem Township
- The Board of Commissioner appointed three new patrol officers to the police department during March 7 meeting; Jacob Farrell, Amanda Stonehouse and Ryan Bevan.
- Farrell was already enrolled and attending the current police academy session with previous new hire Thomas Kohler, who was appointed by the BOC during the Dec 6 2021 meeting. Kohler and Farrell will graduate from the police academy June 10, 2022.
- Bevan, who was a police officer in Dover, Delaware for the past two years started with the department on April 4. Bevan is currently studying to take a state assessment exam scheduled for May 19. Passing the state assessment testing will allow him to receive credit for his Delaware State Police Academy training and ultimately receive his Pennsylvania police certification.
- Stonehouse, originally from the township, is wrapping up her job and affairs in Florida. We expect her to start with the department some time in mid-May. She will need to attend the next police academy session which starts July 5th.
- Officer Jonas Xiong, who was hired with Kohler Dec. 2021, is progressing through field training. Training officer report that he is learning and doing good work.
- A patrol officer continues to be on light duty but is expected to be released back to full duty in the near future.

TRAINING:

- Five officers attended a one-day seminar hosted by Lower Saucon Twp Police Department - *'Mastering Pennsylvania Search and Seizure'* which is a review of established search and seizure rules & laws. The training also includes updates and recent changes to the law.
- All officers completed annual Defensive Tactics training and Mandatory In-Service Training (MIST) which is required to maintain state certification
- Cpl. Jeremy Anderson and Inv. Ed Fox attended the Pennsylvania Narcotics Officer Association conference in Harrisburg.
- Cpl. Kirk Harryn, who is assigned as the department current Accreditation Manager, attended the Pennsylvania Law Enforcement Accreditation Training Conference in Harrisburg in preparation for our upcoming Re-Accreditation Assessment scheduled for April 25th.

MAJOR ARRESTS & INVESTIGATIONS:

- At the request of Wilkes-Barre Twp Police Dept, an investigation was launched to assist them with an attempted homicide case involving a shooting. An acquaintance of the suspect was known to be staying at the Woodspring Suites (extended stay hotel on Christian Spring Rd). After a short investigation, the attempted homicide suspect was found and arrested at the hotel for possession of a considerable quantity of drugs & cash. Also recovered was the firearm used in the attempted homicide. Suspect was charged by our agency with Possession with Intent to Deliver Controlled Substance & Persons Not to Possess a Firearm.
- An attempted residential burglary is being investigated – possible suspect DNA was collected at the scene
- Motor vehicle theft ring involving multiple jurisdictions which includes the theft of catalytic converters from vehicles is being investigated
- A corrupt organization and counterfeiting charges were filed against three persons due to the involvement in the creation of and cashing of checks from Star Auto Mall on Nazareth Pike.
- An investigation dating from August, 2021 was concluded with the arrest of an adult male suspect for sexual offenses against a child. DNA evidence was a critical piece of evidence to support the charges for arrest.

OFFICER AND DEPARTMENT RECOGNITION:

- Corporal Troy Abelovsky and Officer Seth Williams received recognition from Project Lifesaver for utilizing Project Lifesaver tracking equipment to locate and elderly male township resident who suffers from cognitive impairment after he wandered away from loved ones during the early hours of darkness on March 17, 2022. Residents that have loved ones registered with our program are outfitted with a transponder that they wear at all times. In the event of a wandering situation, officers can quickly deploy tracking equipment to locate the citizen.
- As part of the recognition the officers each received a Lifesaver Angel pin which they may wear on their uniforms.

Project Lifesaver is a search and rescue program operated internationally by public safety agencies, and is strategically designed for “at risk” individuals who are prone to the life-threatening behavior of wandering. The primary mission of Project Lifesaver is to provide timely response to save lives and reduce potential injury for adults and children with the propensity to wander due to a cognitive condition.

SEPTEMBER STATISTICS:

Traffic Accidents:	61	Traffic Citations:	94
Reportable:	8	Written Warnings:	252
Nonreportable:	51	Parking Tickets:	4
DUI Accidents:	1		
Deaths:	1		
Misdemeanor/ Felony Arrests:	31		
Summary Arrests:	2		
DUI Arrests:	4		

Submitted by:

Chief Gregory J. Gottschall