



ANNUAL REPORT 2021

Buckingham Township Police Department

police@buckinghampa.org
www.buckinghampa.org
BAN@buckinghampa.org
www.buckinghamtwpd.org

215-794-8812
4613 Hughesian Drive
Buckingham, PA 18912



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Chief's Message

As 2021 started there were hopes of returning to normalcy after a tumultuous 2020. Neighbors, family, and friends all chimed in that 2020 would soon come to a merciful end. Well, 2020 did end but 2021 looked similar. Our businesses continued to suffer with restrictions and employees and labor were at a premium. The workforce was depleted from sickness and labor shortages. 2021 was a year of police adapting to COVID and learning to live with the new normal.

Officers are required to recertify on weapons, case law, de-escalation, and a myriad of other mandatory training. Some of this training posed problems with classes being cancelled and re-scheduled, and some done virtually for the very first time. Our DARE instruction had to be done virtually at Cold Spring Elementary while Buckingham Elementary creatively scheduled in person instruction. Despite these challenges new bonds were forged between the students and our officers. Adjusting to virtual training is difficult as many of us struggled to learning outside of the classroom. Putting a stop to training our officers, was never an option.

In the summer months things seemed to return pre-covid life. Our restaurants were seeing crowds and foot traffic was again bustling at Peddler's Village. Our department was again engaging our residents in a more relaxed manner, and solving problems and issues in a collaborative way. It felt good to be doing proactive policing again. We were again tackling future issues before they materialized. Our traffic safety officer was handling complaints with education and enforcement. Various methods of traffic calming were used to respond to citizen's requests. As we progressed into the new school year, covid began to creep back into all decisions. By the end of the year the virus was raging through our department. Our two-year battle with this seemed to finally be getting the best of us. We had officers get the virus for the first time since the pandemic started, and others getting it for the second time. Near Christmas we were very close to asking for outside help from other police departments. Fortunately, this was never necessary. Our officers cancelled plans and rallied around their fellow police officers. They filled in around the clock to cover open shifts, showing their dedication to our community.

Personnel was a concern throughout 2021 and beyond. Two new officers were added in January and have policing in their families. Both Officer Will Moller and Officer Matt Ofner are sons of police officers. Both are adapting well to life in Buckingham and provide great service to our residents. There were two (2) planned retirements and two others that came as a surprise. Detective Logan was planning a December retirement and Corporal Foltz last day

would be early January. The two others that came as a surprise was Corporal McLeod's departure in the end of September and Detective Johnson's retirement commencing on the same date as his partner Bob Logan. Buckingham Township's Detective Bureau would lose both investigators on the same date, leaving a massive void. Our police department would also lose two squad leaders in Rob McLeod and Rob Foltz. Both had been supervisors with a combined forty (40) years of supervisory experience and over fifty-five years (55) of policing expertise.

These massive losses in our investigative and leadership teams would require much preparation to close these personnel voids. First, a police test was scheduled to replace the obvious loss of uniformed police officers. Secondly, we had to plan a promotional test to fill the upcoming vacancies. Lastly, an interview process was initiated for the detective vacancies. Testing for the new officer positions would be conducted in October. The department received approximately sixty (60) applications for the anticipated vacancies and approximately forty (40) applicants were asked to compete for the vacancies. A Corporal's Test was administered in November, with both a written and oral examination. The detective candidates were sent to various trainings to prepare them for taking over all investigations. Our candidates were trained in DNA collection, photography, crime scene processing, and criminal investigative case law. These promotions and new assignments will take place in early 2022.

In many ways 2021 is the culmination of years of preparation. A complete overhaul of our policy and procedures along with physical changes to our building, will hopefully bring state accreditation to our police department in early 2022. This year we have collected proofs of our adherence to Pennsylvania Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission's (PLEAC) standards. This means we have to follow policy that meets all the standards of our industry. It is up to our police department to prove that we do, in fact, adhere to all these standards. In closing, I believe that the Buckingham Township Police Department has adhered to our Vision of the pursuit of excellence in every aspect of our police service. We are constantly improving the delivery of police services to our community and all that come here. I believe that we have achieved excellence in some aspects of the job we do. This achievement gives me great pride, but I know we can always do better. We will not rest but continually set new goals and push to achieve them. Thank you to all of our residents who support us continually, you will never know what your support means to the men and women of this police department.

Michael Gallagher

Chief of Police



Chief Michael Gallagher has been a police officer since 1990 and Chief of Buckingham Township Police since 2017. He is a graduate of the New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police Command and Leadership Program, the DEA Drug Unit Commanders Academy and the FBI National Academy. He holds a certificate from Penn State in Municipal Leadership and has been certified as an Accreditation Manager with The Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). Chief Gallagher holds a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice from Temple University; and a Master's Degree in Public Safety Management from Saint Joseph's University. Prior to his tenure in Buckingham, he was a police officer in Abington Township. He received over 25 letters of commendation from the Board of Commissioners for Meritorious Service while employed by Abington. He has held the rank of Detective, Sergeant, Detective Sergeant, and Lieutenant before coming to Buckingham Township.

Patrol Division Year-End Report



Our department began with great optimism as we brushed 2020 off into history. However, just as the fireworks smoke from the New Year's Eve celebrations would clear, our short-lived celebration would end with the not-so-subtle news of an Omicron variant. Unrelenting, our officers, now better informed were determined to provide the high-quality professional services and protections to the residents and visitors of Buckingham Township.

Our agenda had already been adopted; our focus rested on three major areas of concern. Retirements, Replacements, and Education. Our planning for success would factor in all three of those components and position ourselves with several options to accomplish them. We were determined to respectfully say goodbye, welcome the new, and better prepare our staff for new and evolving law enforcement challenges. I am happy to report that all three benchmarks were accomplished.

Command staff lost 2 Corporals, Corporal Robert McLeod, and Corporal Rob Foltz, both retired after significant and dedicated years of service to the township of Buckingham. We knew the loss of these two key positions and years of experience, may cause us to slow our pace and challenge other members to step up and take the lead. Late into the fall we began the arduous testing process to replace these leaders and look forward to filling the positions left vacant by the retirements.

We congratulate both Corporal's Mcleod and Foltz and wish them both success and good health, as they move into the next stages of their lives.

As law enforcement agencies across the nation struggle to find interested and qualified officers, in early 2021, we were fortunate to add Officers Matt Ofner and Will Moller to our ranks. Matt and Will both have a family connection to law enforcement, Matt's father a former Chief of Police in Bedminster township and Will's father Bob, retired from Buckingham Township as a Corporal in 2019.

Personnel issues and deployments made for some challenges during the year, however, with the dedicated officers from the Buckingham Township police department, we prevailed! Especially, when the Omicron variant worked its way into our department. We are immensely proud of our members and appreciate their demanding work and efforts to minimize these challenges.

Calls for Service, Equipment, and Training

Last year Buckingham Township Officers handled 13,676 calls for service, a slight decrease in calls. However, the amount of time it takes officers to manage these assignments has increased nearly 11%. This increase can be explained by the higher value and understanding of our involvement in societal issues and our inherent drive to provide quality and complete services.

In 2021 as projected, the department put in place its in car video system. All our patrol vehicles have been equipped with the Watchguard video system. After department wide training and reviewing department policies regarding the system and expectations for their use, the cameras were officially put in place in September.

As we enter 2022, we hope to have all the pieces in place. Officer replacements and promotions should finally be at a point where our focus can shift to greater development of our officers. One lesson we have learned over the course of the last 5 years is that change is inevitable and will occur when you least expect it.

We've already begun with our new leadership group, with the goal of enhancing their leadership competencies, the command staff will attend training to develop their personal

leadership qualities, performance management skills, and develop a greater understanding of their responsibility toward risk management.

As mentioned, we began our promotion process late in the fall. A process where eligible officers prepare themselves by studying relevant coursework for a written examination. Following the written portion of the process, officers sit before a panel of selected area police Commanders and are challenged to answer questions and respond to changing scenarios, scenarios that require higher reaching decisions, critical to command leadership.

Next year our young group of Supervisors can expect to attend courses like the Pennsylvania State Police Leadership Develop Program (LDP), FBI-LEEDA programs, and Northwestern University's School of Police Staff and Command. These programs along with senior command members will put forth best-practice strategies and offer up mentoring opportunities for greater levels of personal and professional development.

Our patrol officers continue to grow as well. Wasting no time, our young officers are encouraged to jump into all sorts of training opportunities. Building from the foundation of the police academy, we are committed to provide our officers with the latest training in all aspects of patrol responsibilities. Topics from courtroom preparation to situational de-escalation, we promote it.

As Spring approached, selected members of the department successfully completed the International Police Mountain Bike Association (IPMBA) training program. Newtown Township Police Corporal Joe Camp, a certified IPMBA instructor provided our officers with the essential training that combines emergency vehicle operations for bike officers with patrol procedures, tactics, night operation, and basic bike maintenance. As the warmer weather arrived, our bike units began with selective patrol assignments across the township. These details continued throughout the summer and into Halloween. During which time they received great praise and support. Each officer is highly approachable and looking forward to this continued community partnership.

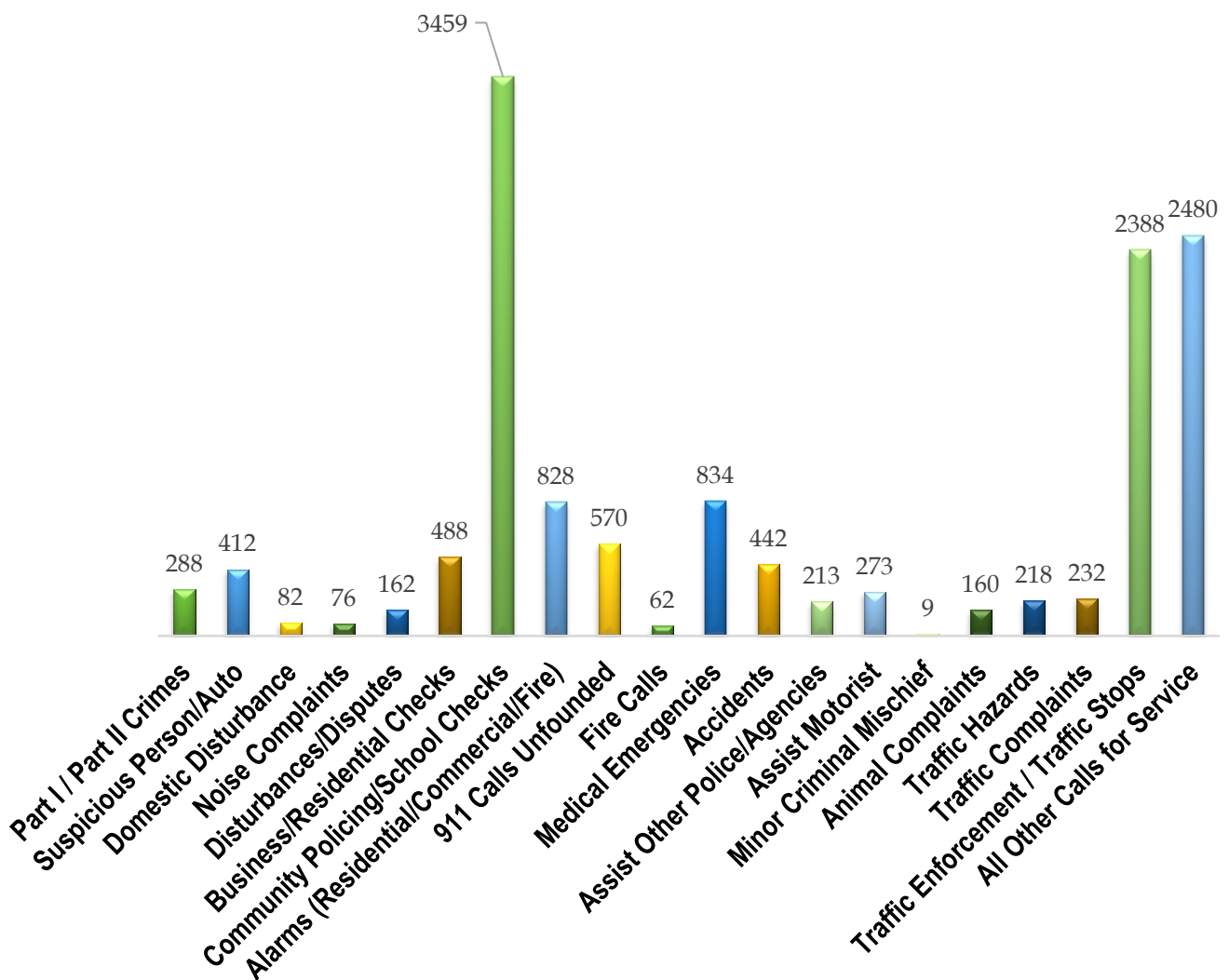
Finally, our officers and staff look forward to providing our residents and surrounding communities with the highest quality law enforcement services. We strongly believe that our community partnerships are what makes Buckingham Township a wonderful place to live, work, and relax.

Buckingham Township Police Department Calls for Service



Total Incidents Reported

Total of 13,676 incident reports were generated for 2021



Traffic Citations

672

Warning Issued

1646

Total of 85 Part I Crimes reported with 49 arrests

Total of 207 Part II Crimes reported with 83 arrests

Part I Crimes

Part II Crimes

| | | |
|----|---|----------------------------|
| 1 | ➤ | <i>Murder</i> |
| 1 | ➤ | <i>Rape</i> |
| 22 | ➤ | <i>Assault</i> |
| 8 | ➤ | <i>Burglary</i> |
| 51 | ➤ | <i>Theft</i> |
| 2 | ➤ | <i>Motor Vehicle Theft</i> |

| | | |
|-----|---|------------------------------|
| 104 | ➤ | <i>Fraud / Forgery</i> |
| 2 | ➤ | <i>Stolen Property</i> |
| 8 | ➤ | <i>Criminal Mischief</i> |
| 2 | ➤ | <i>Weapons</i> |
| 6 | ➤ | <i>Sex Offenses</i> |
| 19 | ➤ | <i>Narcotics</i> |
| 32 | ➤ | <i>DUI</i> |
| 5 | ➤ | <i>Liquor Law</i> |
| 2 | ➤ | <i>Public Drunkenness</i> |
| 14 | ➤ | <i>Disorderly/Harassment</i> |
| 13 | ➤ | <i>All Other Offenses</i> |

Officers and Staff

Lieutenant



William Moffett

Sergeant



John Bailey

Detectives



Robert Logan



Timothy Johnson

Corporals



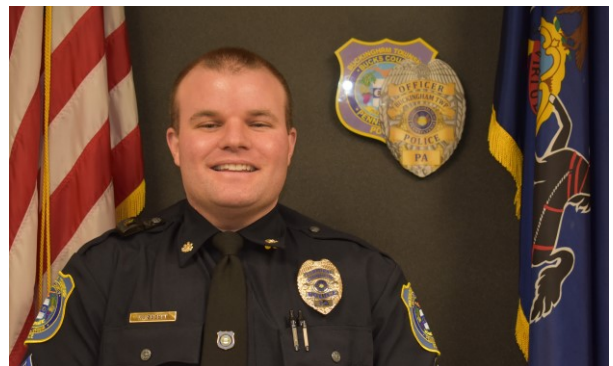
Robert McLeod



Robert Foltz



Stephen Thomas



Rick Hazelett

Traffic Safety Officer



Christopher Forbes

Patrol Officers



Charles Snyder



Stanley MacMoran



Eric Skillman



Samantha Devery

Patrol Officers



Michael Davis



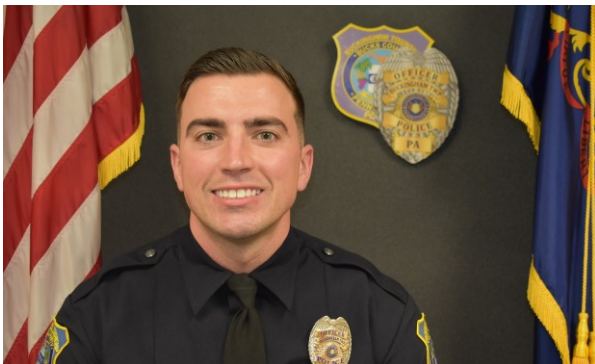
Timothy Weber



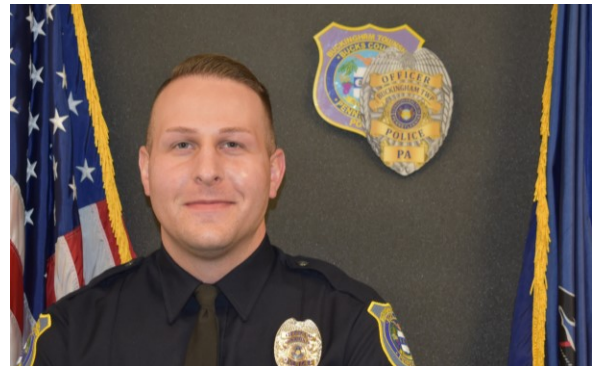
Jessica Hannah



James Crusemire



Kevin Myslinski



Steven Dompert

Patrol Officers



Matthew Ofner



William Moller

Administrative Staff



Wendy Middleman



Patti Kline

2021 Retirements

This year brought the retirements of two of our family members

*Detective Robert Logan (r)
and Detective Tim Johnson (l)*



Corporal Robert McLeod



We wish all of you the best in your retirement!



2021 Promotions

In November of 2021, Buckingham Township Police Department was excited to announce the promotion of Sergeant Will Moffett to Lieutenant Will Moffett. Lt. Moffett has proudly served with the police department for over 32 years.



2021 Detective News



With his strong work ethic and detail to each and every case he worked on, it was no surprise that Detective Tim Johnson was hired by the Bucks County District Attorney's office to work with the Bucks County Detectives. This is the first time any of our officers went to work for the county. We wish him the best of luck in his new position with the County!

2021 Commendations

This year, several of our officers were recognized for some outstanding police work. Officers were recognized at the Board of Supervisors meeting by Chief Michael Gallagher.

Detective Tim Johnson was awarded a Class IV Commendation for his lead in organizing and a managing the investigation and subsequent arrest of Theft from Vehicle crime spree. The crimes were committed throughout Bucks County and across the river in New Jersey over the past two years. Detective Johnson coordinated efforts with the Bucks County District Attorney's office, issuing numerous search warrants, applying for GPS trackers, and placing several hidden cameras. His determination and dedication ultimately resulted in an interview and arrest that cleared nearly 2,000 theft from vehicle cases, as well as, a burglary involving the theft of nearly \$150,000 cash in Philadelphia!



Officer Chris Forbes, Officer Stan MacMoran and Officer Tim Weber were awarded a Class III Life Saving Award when they braved through a significant snow storm in February to render aid and assistance for a resident in cardiac arrest with his wife providing CPR. Our officers worked together as a team and effectively deployed one of our AED units, while conducting CPR, providing the necessary shock needed to bring life back to the victim. We were honored to have Mr. and Mrs. Enders in attendance during the award ceremony and appreciated their kind words, calling these officers their “angels”! Congratulations on the excellent work provided by these officers to our residents and community!

2021 Police Leadership

Corporal Rick Hazelett graduated from the Pennsylvania State Police Leadership Development Program. This elite program is modeled after the West Point Leadership Program used in the military. It gives students the ability to break down personnel situations to theory. Once the problem and the theory are identified, this program gives the student the ability to successfully implement solutions. It is an extensive three-week program given by Troopers who have mastered the leadership development case studies. All students must pass each section of the program in order to graduate. It also requires 100% attendance at the State Police Academy in Hershey PA. We congratulate Rick and thank him for all of his dedication and hard work. The Graduation ceremony was inspirational to both his family and his co-workers!



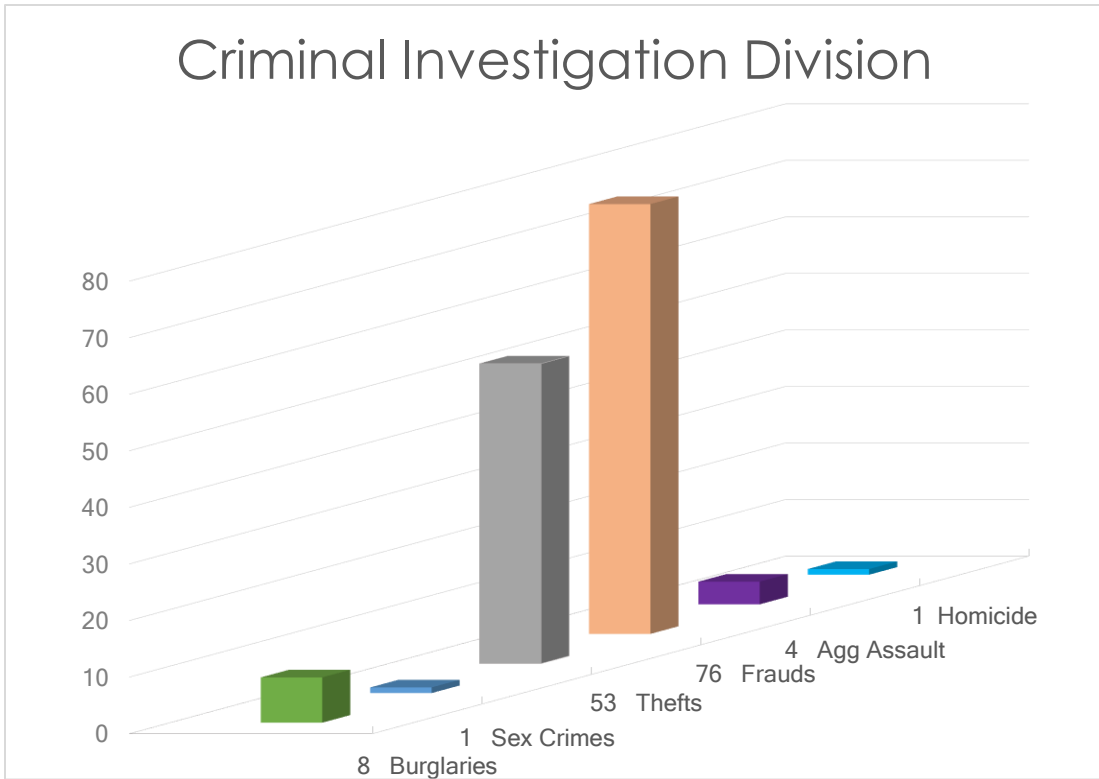
Criminal Investigation Division

The Criminal Investigations Unit of the Buckingham Township Police Department is responsible for investigations beyond what is normally handled by patrol. The unit is comprised of two officers who have shown investigative ability while in the patrol division. These officers attend specialized training on topics such as crime scene processing, photography, fingerprint analysis, interview and interrogation as well as classes that would enhance their abilities in the field of investigation.

2021 was a banner year for the Buckingham Township Criminal Investigations Unit. In March, after a lengthy investigation that spanned two states, our detectives developed a suspect who had been entering unlocked cars and stealing items of value. A search warrant yielded thousands of dollars in contraband and solved several other crimes in Philadelphia, Montgomery, Bucks and Mercer County (New Jersey). This arrest was the culmination of hours of investigation, surveillance and research. In the end, the accused gave a full confession and was remanded to Bucks County Prison. Detectives were successful in solving another large-scale theft by using groundbreaking technology. This case is currently in litigation. In the final weeks of 2021, detectives in combination with patrol solved a residential arson that resulted in the murder of an elderly resident. As fire personnel extinguished the flames, Buckingham Township Police developed a suspect and had him in custody within hours. Throughout 2021, detectives remained busy investigating or assisting patrol with seventy-six Frauds, fifty-three Thefts, eight Burglaries, four Aggravated Assaults, two Theft of Motor Vehicle, one Rape and one Homicide.

2021 also brought changes to our Detective division. On December 17, 2021, Detective Robert Logan retired after serving over thirty years with the department to pursue a career in real estate. After serving 20 years, Detective Timothy Johnson accepted a position with the Bucks County District Attorney's Office where he will serve as a County Detective. After a challenging selection process, Officer Samantha Devery was appointed to replace Detective Logan and Officer James Crusemire replaces Detective Johnson which will happen in early 2022.

Criminal Investigation Division



Among the Safest in Pennsylvania

Buckingham Township was ranked #5 among the safest communities in Pennsylvania. Safewise uses FBI crime statistics data to rank cities in each state and across the country. To add extra insight and depth to that assessment, they include demographic information and the results of a proprietary State of Safety research study.



*Much excitement within the department
with two new officer hires and two new
administrative assistants!*

*Officer Matthew Ofner &
Officer William Moller*



In the summer of 2021, the department lost both of their professional office staff. Both left for different opportunities outside of the police department. Tia DeCesare left to be trained for an insurance underwriting career while Jenn Cottrell left for Bucks County Communications Center. Good Luck to you both.

The police department advertised for their replacements and received dozens of applications from qualified individuals. Ultimately, we selected two very impressive candidates. Wendy Middleman worked in the private sector for decades. She worked as an executive assistant and came highly recommended. She is a professional in an office setting, with great expertise in software and programs. She brings great experience with her to Buckingham, but she impresses most often with how fast she learns new operations. The second position was filled by Patti Kline, who separated herself from competition by her unique skills inside of the police department. Patti comes from Abington Police Department where she worked in the detective division. She is very knowledgeable in criminal justice systems like JNET, CLEAN, and NCIC. APD was sad to see her depart.

Both women have fit in well with our officers and were immediately welcomed into the Buckingham family. They handle the public and our residents with great care and empathy. Both ladies are constantly attempting to improve the administration of our police department. Buckingham Township is excited to see all they will bring to our citizens and police department.

2021 Firearms Program

At the end of 2020, the police department took delivery of new Glock Gen4 duty pistols. These consisted of 22 full size Glock 21's for patrol officers and 2 compact Glock 30's for detectives. Beginning in January, all officers were instructed in and completed transition training for the new pistols. Each officer then completed the MPOETC pistol qualification course with the new pistol before they were issued the new weapons for carry on-duty. These qualifications, as well as low/adverse light training was conducted at Guardian Training Center. The low/adverse light training was conducted with both the new duty handgun and some use of the patrol rifle.



In January, Officer Forbes completed the training and became a certified patrol rifle instructor. Along with Officer Skillman, Officer Forbes he is now certified to train and qualify officers with the patrol rifle.

Officers Forbes, Skillman, and MacMoran all received training on the use of the firearms simulator at the Bucks County Police Training Center. These three officers then conducted simulator training for all other officers. This training was conducted one-on-one during each officers scheduled shift. Each officer was put through various scenarios which could require use of verbal de-escalation, less lethal force, or lethal force. These scenarios could be tailored by the instructor based on the students' actions. The officer's actions were critiqued after each scenario.

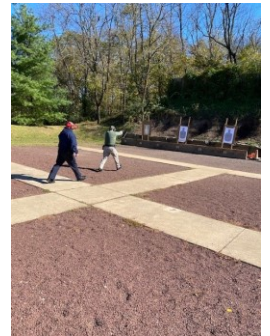
In late September and early October, we conducted our yearly firearms training and qualifications at the Bucks County Police Association Range in Bedminster, PA. This consisted of a full eight hours (0900-1700 hrs.) on the firing range for each officer. As each officer had already qualified with their duty pistol earlier in the year, qualifications were still needed for duty shotgun, patrol rifle, less lethal shotgun, and off-duty weapon. All qualifications followed the MPOETC courses for the specific weapons.



Following qualifications, we moved on to firearms training. This year's training focused on several areas. First, we covered the clearing of the common types of pistol malfunctions. After confirming the absence of ALL live ammunition, each officer practiced the clearing of these malfunctions using "dummy" rounds. These exercises were then repeated simulating the shooters strong or support hand/arm as if their arm was disabled. We then conducted several stages of the handgun qualification course using the officers support hand. This provided each officer with more experience and confidence shooting with their support hand.

Officers then practiced exiting their patrol cars under stress, approaching the range, and then engaging target(s). This was done with both the handgun and then the patrol rifle.

We then completed the day performing TCS (Task, Condition, Standard) drills adapted from the Pennsylvania State Police. Officers were ranked based on time, but most importantly accuracy. This added elements of stress and competition to these exercises. After these qualifications/trainings, all department shotguns and patrol rifles were checked and cleaned by the firearms instructors and/or armorers.



The police department also purchased new ambidextrous safety selectors and sling adapters for all department patrol rifles. These were all installed by department armorers.

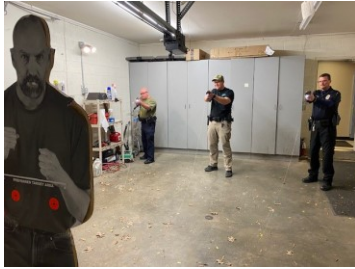
Buckingham Police Department's Firearm Training targeted officer's competency when using all department weapons in a variety of situations. The versatility of this training ensures officer safety along with public safety. It is designed to put officers in situations that call for them to make decisions based on changing scenarios. The training also tries to replicate environmental changes in lighting and weapon malfunctions forcing the officers to take into consideration the unpredictable nature of police work.

Central Bucks Special Response Team

The Buckingham Township Police Department has one Officer on the Central Bucks Response Team (SRT). The team has 19 members comprised of specially selected and highly trained Officers from Police Departments in the northern and central parts of Bucks County. The team responded to seven critical calls in 2021, of which all ended peacefully. The team members are sent to specialized training to effectively construct peaceful resolution to each critical incident. Our trainings were conducted at the Bedminster Range and Fort Dix Military Base in New Jersey. These trainings consisted of building searches and entries, firearm tactics and fundamentals, open field searches and live simulation scenarios. These trainings prepared us for hostage situations, barricaded person calls, high risk warrant service, active shootings, and hazardous/chemical incidents. We continue to improve our abilities and skills to protect and ensure the welfare of the residents of Buckingham Township during these unusual times.



2021 Taser Recertification



Every year, each one of our officers (Chief included) gets recertified on the use of our issued TASER Conducted Energy Weapons (CEW). During this training, we cover the functions and safe handling of the devices. We also practice deploying live cartridges into the preferred targeting zones that have been identified through AXON (the manufacturer) as having the safest and most effective results. We also stay current with recent case law on its authorized use and have taken steps to help prevent accidentally deploying the wrong weapon. We instruct the officers how to use the device in a manner to attempt to deescalate potentially aggressive and violent situations. The TASER is a proven, less lethal tool that we can use to control a subject from a safe distance, preventing possible injury to the officer, suspect, and others alike.



2021 Traffic Safety Unit

As with 2020, the ongoing worldwide Covid-19 pandemic made for an unusual year for traffic safety. The different variants and their associated increases in infection rates, caused a reduction in traffic volumes, contacts, and enforcement. While officers did not stop enforcement completely, there were times when the health and safety of the officers and the public warranted adjustments in practices. Fortunately, the use of both the portable speed



boards and the speed and message trailers were able to continue unabated. These tools act as a force multiplier by targeting problem areas when officers can't always be present. Officers Forbes and Weber shared the responsibility of placing the boards and trailers around the township. In September the department also purchased a new Stalker SAM speed trailer. This unit displays vehicle speeds on a large 18" display. The unit has red and blue lights which can be set to flash when vehicles exceed the posted speed limit. These flashing lights have proved to be a very effective tool in bringing more attention to the board

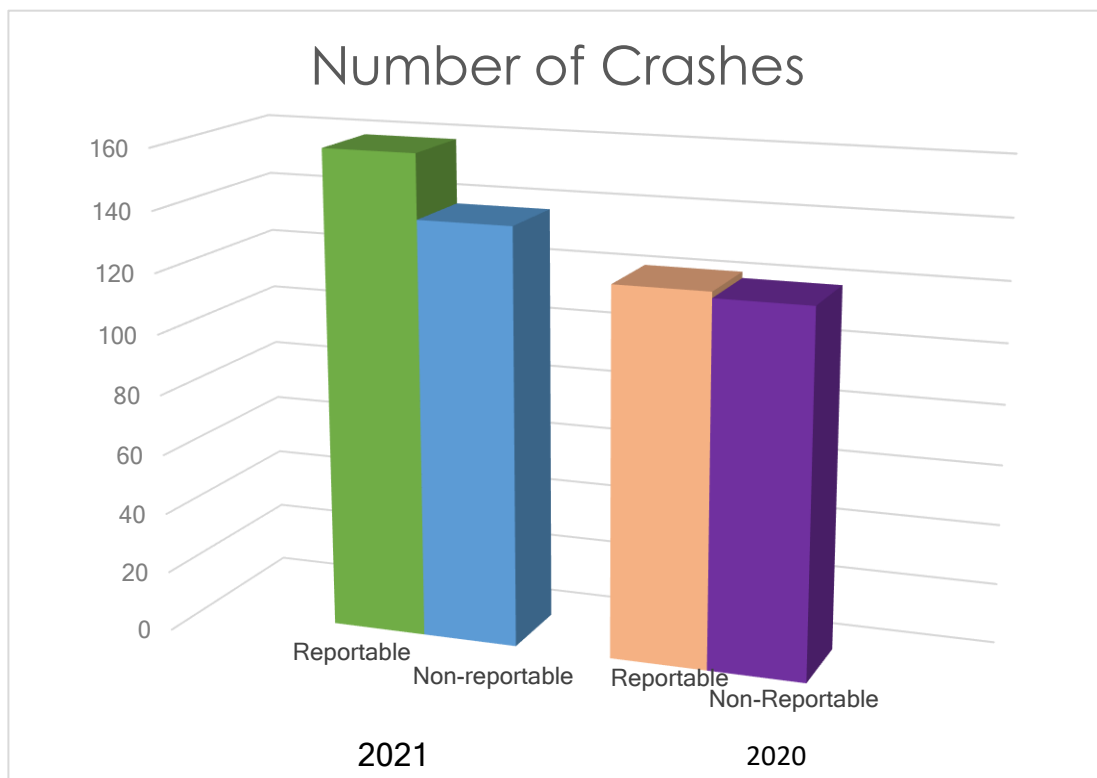
and ultimately slowing the traffic down. This trailer also has the capacity to record and collate the collected data for later download and analysis.

With the combination of the ongoing pandemic along with a partial return to "normal" traffic did result in an increase in the number of crashes. The department investigated a total of 159 reportable and 138 nonreportable crashes in 2021. This is up from 122 reportable and 120 nonreportable in 2020, but still lower than the 196 reportable and 146 nonreportable accidents investigated in 2019, pre-pandemic. The township and department were also fortunate to have no traffic related fatalities in 2021.

In 2021 Ofc. Forbes became a certified technician in the installation and education of child safety seats. This enabled him to assist and educate residents in the proper use and installation of the various types of child safety seats. He conducted these details for both Buckingham residents and assisted neighboring jurisdictions.

The township hired a new public works director with whom the police department has been able to develop a very symbiotic relationship. This relationship resulted in numerous township roadway issues being resolved in both a more timely and effective manner.

Moving forward, we will continue actively placing the various signs around the township both preemptively and in response to requests and problems. Traffic safety has been in communication with surrounding townships to coordinate cooperative efforts in enforcement and patrols on shared roadways. In addition, we hope to begin targeted education programs within the township. As always, all officers are encouraged to aggressively enforce traffic laws with both warnings and/or citations.



2021 Field Training Officer

We at the Buckingham Township Police Department recognize that the Field Training Officer (FTO) program is one of the most critical aspects of this department. This program takes newly hired officers and pairs them with experienced and specially trained, veteran officers for the first three-months of their probation period. The first weeks of training are dedicated to a variety of topics which include: specific equipment qualifications, fundamentals of police work, tactics, policy, and procedures. The trainee is also assigned a checklist of numerous topics and issues that they will experience throughout their careers. The assigned FTO works with the trainee on performing the task or at least instructing or demonstrating the task. With each new hire, we continue to adjust the program to make it better.

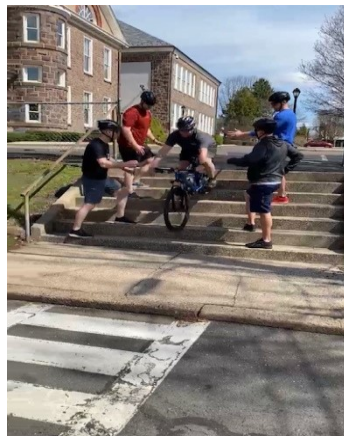
Corporal Thomas continues to lead as FTO Coordinator with oversight by Sergeant John Bailey. Officer Hannah, Officer Crusemire and Officer Weber completed their FTO training and were certified as Field Training Officers. This year these officers were also assisted by Officer Skillman in field training our newly hired officers.

In January 2021, the Buckingham Township Police Department hired Officer Matthew Ofner. Officer Ofner is following in his father's footsteps as he was a former Bucks County police chief. Matt came to our department after graduating from the Allentown Police Academy. Also in January 2021, the Buckingham Township Police Department hired Officer William Moller. Officer Moller also is following in the footsteps of his father (former Buckingham Corporal) and his older brother (current Upper Bucks County police officer). Will came to our department after graduating the Montgomery County Police Academy.

After completing a full year of service with the Buckingham Township Police Department, Officer Kevin Myslinski and Officer Steven Dompert were both released from "probationary officer" status to that of "permanent officer". These new officers have already begun to accept several special assignments/responsibilities and will play an important role in the future of this department. The FTO program has no time to rest and is preparing to train several more officers in the coming year!

Bike Patrol Unit

This year, the Buckingham Township Police Department revived our Bike Patrol Unit. Corporal Stephen Thomas put together the unit after receiving a very generous donation of three new TREK mountain bikes from a local resident. The bikes were outfitted with all the necessary gear and equipment to be an effective unit. After properly equipped, a team of officers was compiled and put through an intensive four-day training course hosted by IMPBA (International Mountain Police Bike Association). Joining Corporal Thomas in this training was Officer Timothy Weber, Officer James Crusemire, Officer Kevin Myslinski, Officer Steven Dompert. Officer Jessica Hannah is also a part of our bike unit and had already been certified through the Philadelphia Police Department, where she previously served on their Strike Unit. So far, the bike patrol has been used in several community relations efforts, such as patrols through the township parks and trails and deployed in the neighborhoods during special occasions such as Halloween. The officers enjoy the extra exercise and ability to connect closer to the residents that they serve. We are hoping to expand the program in 2022 and are looking forward to the nicer weather to increase patrols!



Victims Specialist Unit (VSU)

The Victim Services Unit began in December 2020. The VSU is a grant funded program and involves collaboration with four police departments including Central Bucks Regional Police Department, Buckingham Township Police Department, Plumstead Township Police Department, and Doylestown Township Police Department. The unit is currently made up of two specialists.

The objectives of the Victim Services Unit are to fill the gaps in social services where there are no current resources or advocacy being provided to victims of crime, to create a cohesive and streamlined response to victims of crime, to increase awareness of local and community resources and social services for victims of crime, to increase awareness of Victim's Rights and Responsibilities in the criminal justice process, and to provide comprehensive and on-going training for law enforcement personnel.

In the past year, VSU Supervisor Liz Leone has connected with 345 individuals in Buckingham Township needing assistance. Most of these individuals are victims of crime, specifically Homicide and Attempted Homicide, Physical Assaults, Domestic Disturbances, Arson, Forgery, Fraud, Identity Theft, Harassment, Stalking, Theft from Vehicle, Theft of Vehicle, Robbery and Burglary.

The VSU has also assisted victims with Victim's Compensation for lost funds and victims have received a total of over \$20,000.00 within all four departments.

Victim Services Unit



You are not alone...We are here to help!

Cops De-Escalation Grant Award

A \$159,000 Grant from the federal government was awarded to several Central Bucks County Police Departments to launch a collaborative in-house De-Escalation Program. CBRPD applied for this collaborative grant with their neighbors and partners in Buckingham, Doylestown, and Plumstead Township Police Departments.

Our agencies are the only police departments in Pennsylvania to receive funds toward de-escalation efforts from the Department of Justice's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) grant. 2021 awards totaled \$33 million nationwide.

The program seeks to reduce the intensity of police encounters with the public during intense situations. The two-year grant will fund new virtual/augmented reality equipment, officer overtime, train-the-trainer program and monthly continuous training of all officers throughout the collaboration. Four officer "trainers" were selected, one from each department, to assist in building and delivering the new program.

Comments from the Chiefs:

Michael Gallagher, BTPD - "These ongoing training sessions will enhance and compliment officers' previous classroom training experience in a way that has yet to be delivered in Pennsylvania."

Karl Knott, CBRPD - "Officers will experience and develop new knowledge through real-time comprehensive training sessions that provide immersive hands-on scenario-based exercises with detailed de-briefings and after-action review."

Dean Logan, DTPD - "Implementing this new de-escalation training strategy will reduce the potential for officer and public injury, reduce complaints and liability to the departments."

David Mettin, PTPD - "Our priority in this program is to help officers recognize aggressive behaviors and keep them from escalating, avoid/resolve negative interactions by employing effective de-escalation methods, tactical responses and distraction techniques to promote safe encounters."

Once again Bucks County led the entire state of Pennsylvania in medicine collected.

Adjusting to COVID Contactless Practices

Bucks County Medication Disposal Program



Each year, Buckingham Township Police Department participates in the countywide Drug Take Back Program which is held in April and October at locations throughout the County. Buckingham has two locations within the township. During the 2021 drug take back event, Buckingham Township collected over 415 pounds of prescription and over the counter drugs.

In addition to the bi-annual event, Buckingham Township Police Department has a secure unit in the Police Department lobby which allows for the safe collection and disposal of unwanted prescription and over the counter medications 24/7. Residents are encouraged to take advantage of this program to minimize prescription drug misuse and to safeguard the environment. More importantly, it keeps medications that are no longer needed out of the reach of children.

Community Accountability Program (CAP)

The Community Accountability Program (CAP) is designed to serve the needs of victims, first time selected offenders, and the entire community. It provides an alternative to criminal prosecution for select offenders.

The panel is comprised of volunteer members of the community, including residents and businesspersons. Panel members cannot be elected officials or police officers. Cpl. Jessica Hannah serves as the liaison between this department and the Bucks County District Attorney's Office who oversees the program.

Some of the goals of CAP are to identify and rectify harm caused by criminal offenses, to better include community members in the justice process, and to provide immediate consequences to offenders who have negatively impacted the community with their criminal behavior.

In 2021, the Buckingham Township Police Department referred 8 offenders to the CAP program.

For further information on the process please visit:

<https://www.buckscounty.gov/173/Programs>

Youth Aid Program (YAP)

The Youth Aid Panel (YAP) of Buckingham Township was formed in 2008. YAP is a diversionary program that provides an alternative to arrest for select juveniles who have committed a first-time, non-violent criminal offense.

Currently, the panel is comprised of 5 community volunteers in addition to Cpl. Jessica Hannah acting as a liaison between the panel and the Bucks County Juvenile Court.



L-R Robin Fetterolf-Dunckley, Denise Calafati, Jonathan Bard, Beth Montanari (not pictured is volunteer Candace Biafore)

The main goal of the program is to identify and rectify the harm caused by the juvenile's actions. The panel can recommend various remedies to the juvenile such as community service, letters of apology to potential victims and to attend classes or outside counseling.

In 2021, the Buckingham Township Police Department referred 12 juveniles to the YAP program.

More information about the Youth Aid program can be found at: www.bucksyouthaid.org

D.A.R.E.

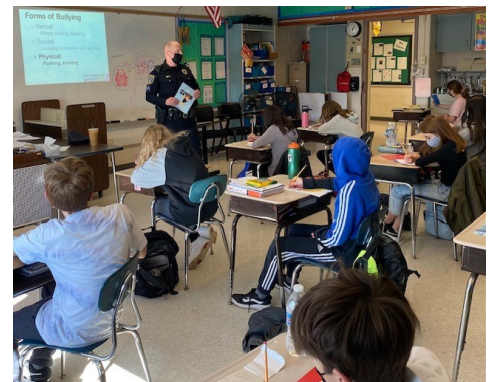
DRUG ABUSE RESISTANCE EDUCATION



The Buckingham Township Police Department has been diligent and creative in presenting the DARE program to the sixth-grade students of Buckingham and Cold Spring Elementary Schools. During these challenging times with COVID, Corporal Stephen Thomas (“Officer Steve”) and Officer Samantha Devery (“Officer Sam”) have used both in-person and virtual instruction methods to connect with the

students. DARE teaches students about wise decision-making skills, risks and consequence, as well as, the dangers and health effects of drugs. DARE also teaches confident communication skills and how to be an effective listener. Finally, it assists young people in how to handle peer pressure, stress, bullying situations, and how to help others struggling through these situations.

Both of our DARE officers are assigned to their own school. “Officer Steve” teaches at Buckingham Elementary while “Officer Sam” teaches at Cold Spring Elementary. “Officer Sam” taught DARE virtually for the first time ever! Her classes were held using a webcam to connect into the classrooms. The kids recognize and accept these officers as their very own special officer. As a result, this bond helps to close the gap between the police and our citizens (of every age). The DARE program revolves around the interworking of the police, the school, and the parents. Together, we strive to make a difference with each and every student, knowing the potential impact we can have on the future of our community.




Plane Crash

On June 15th, Buckingham Police, EMS and fire personnel from Midway, Doylestown and Plumstead were called to a wooded area near Cold Spring Creamery Road and Charter Club Drive for a plane crash. Upon arrival, emergency responders found a small single engine aircraft had crashed into this wooded area. No structures or homes were damaged due to the reaction of the pilot. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) took over the investigation of the crash.

Theft from Autos

In mid-February 2020 Buckingham Township began to experience overnight thefts from unlocked vehicles. Several of these thefts occurred between the hours of 3:00 am and 6:00 am. Surveillance video from these thefts was obtained and the actor was seen wearing a “gaiter” type mask, dark sweatpants, gloves, and carrying a satchel. Over the next months, many Bucks County municipalities were also experiencing the same type of thefts with the same actor being caught on surveillance video. Information on these thefts was shared with police departments in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. It was found that ten municipalities in New Jersey had similar overnight thefts from vehicles. A cooperative effort between several agencies was formed with Law Enforcement from both Pennsylvania and New Jersey. State, County, and Local agencies worked together in attempting to identify the suspect(s) from these incidents. Countless hours were invested in stopping these crimes. These thefts continued through August of 2020 in thirteen (13) Bucks County Municipalities. Some of these cars were parked in garages, where the suspect entered the dwellings with intent to access the vehicles inside.

In September of 2020 the Bucks County District Attorney’s Office put out a Press Release that contained a photo of the suspect. It was at this time that the thefts stopped occurring in Bucks County. New Jersey again began to experience these same types of thefts. In October of 2020 members of the task force found a stolen credit card from New Jersey was used in a convenience store in Pennsylvania. In January of 2021 the investigation identified, Keith Johnson of Yardley PA, as a possible suspect.



Information was developed that led to the execution of two (2) search warrants, the last one being at Johnson's residence in Yardley. Currency, handbags, gift cards, and dozens of other pieces of property were seized as a result of the search warrant.

On March 5, 2021 Keith Johnson, 32 yrs. old was arrested and charged with Burglary, Theft, Receiving Stolen Property, and related crimes. It is believed that Johnson is responsible for over 1000 reported offenses. The arrest of Johnson was made possible with the cooperation of many law enforcement agencies including but not limited to: The Pennsylvania Attorney General's Office, The Buck's County District Attorney's Office, Robbinsville Police Department, Newtown Township Police Department, Central Bucks Regional Police Department, Yardley Borough Police Department, Lower Makefield Township Police Department, and Bedminster Township Police Department.

Chief Gallagher's Letter to Our Officers and Staff December 2021

To the Officers and Staff of the Buckingham Police Department:

As we prepare for the end of another year, I think we all need to stop and think about 2021 while preparing for 2022. This past year was full of challenges and successes. When evaluating this past year, I see much to be proud of. First and foremost, I am proud of the professionals that we have working here in Buckingham. I see people that lead their lives with character and respect for others. Our people are profound family men and women who arrange their loved ones as their highest priority. They conduct themselves as if their husbands, wives, and kids are watching their every movement. They help our residents in the most challenging times. They offer help with a sick or injured person. The proper referrals for people in need of resources, beyond what law enforcement can give them. A helping hand during the most trying times. Also, a firm hand when that is what is called for. Whether it is a phone call, a call for service, or an intervention, all of you use care when handling the most delicate situations, thank you.

Thank you for coming to work in the snow, rain, wind, and flood. We had many of those days in 2021. Thank you for leaving your family to come in to work next to your fellow officers or staff member. This is what we all agreed to do when we swore an oath or agreed to work for a police department. It is a higher calling that we all follow. It is not always easy and doesn't always seem appreciated, but it is. We are reminded later with a smile from a resident, or a tray of food from our many supporters. None of us do this job for the thanks. We do it because there is something inside us that allows us to do it and see things that friends and family don't want to see. This is why we are constantly asked "How do you do this and how do you handle that". This is usually followed by "I couldn't do that job". What we find routine others find life changing.

2021 reminded many that the Defund Movement was misguided. It is incumbent on all of us to wear our badge and uniform with the knowledge that our every word and action is being watched. A mistake will be talked about and highlighted by those who stand to profit. All of you are up to that challenge.

This past year has brought us babies, new homes, bigger mortgages, and much anticipation. We have said goodbye to our fellow officers and friends as they retire. 2022 will bring more of the same with new arrivals and some goodbyes. As we build our ranks with new faces, I ask that all of you help our new people to assimilate to their new department. We have built a reputation as an up-and-coming agency. Our members have gone to Bucks Detectives for the first time ever. Our people handle every scene like it's the most important case, because it may be. Whether it's a suicide, a fire, or a fraud we conduct complete investigations. It is now being noticed. The Chief County Detective and the DA have both commented on the thoroughness of our department members! They are impressed. In 2022 I expect more of the same.

Thank you all for a great year!

Community Service at its' best



As is the same with every year, Buckingham Township Police Departments works hard to build a bond with the community and show that we are in solidarity with them to keep this township a beautiful and safe place to live. 2021 was no different.



At the beginning of the year, officers received new baseball trading cards with the help of Keenan Mercedes of Doylestown. Upon receiving the cards, the department decided to begin a challenge program where children in the township could collect cards from each of our officers. Officers would stop in the neighborhoods whenever we saw kids out playing, we would give them out while during calls that we were

attending to, and sometimes, kids would just approach us and we were more than happy to hand them our trading cards. Kids and parents were advised that if the kids were able to collect a card from every member of the department, they would receive a gift bag prepared for them with other departmental goodies. Our first winner who collected all 20 cop cards was Bella Santiago! We hope she enjoyed her goodie bag. Bella is pictured with Corporal Rick Hazelett who was excited to congratulate her.



On May, several of our officers attended the annual Bucks County Police Memorial service, which was graciously hosted by St Andrew's Church (Newtown, Pa) for the 15th straight year. It was another somber time of reflection and memory of the officers that had given the ultimate sacrifice protecting the residents of Bucks County. We continue to pray that we never have to add another name to this honorable list.



Officers took advantage of warm spring and summer days and nights to provide bike patrol throughout the township. It provided great opportunities for officers to ride around the parks with kids in the community. Corporal Thomas and Officer Weber were found on bike patrol on Halloween night within neighborhoods trick or treating with families!



In September, officers escorted runners from The Great American Relay through the township on Route 202/263. This was Stage 41 of 415 on their way from Boston, MA to Santa Monica, CA. We appreciated the assistance of the Midway Volunteer Fire Company, until the detail was handed over to Warwick Police and Fire Departments!

Coffee with a Cop was held on a beautiful autumn day in October. We enjoyed a nice morning spending time with residents of all ages! We especially wanted to extend our sincere appreciation to our community partner, Peddler's Village, for hosting this event and donating the excellent coffee and breakfast treats!





In September, we were asked by a Chad Block of Block Communications (a Buckingham Business Owner) if we would team up with him in collecting food items for the Preston and Steve Camp Out for Hunger food drive which collects tons of food to help Philabundance. We were more than happy to get involved and collected! We set up one of our patrol trucks in the parking lots of None Such Farm Market and Keenan Mercedes, along with a truck from Block Communications. The program and partnerships were an overwhelming success. We filled trucks two weekends in a row in October.

Thanksgiving is a time for togetherness and gratitude

This Thanksgiving, members of the Buckingham Advisory Network (BAN) along with Buckingham Township Office Staff joined together in donating a full Thanksgiving meal. Officer Rick Hazelett and BAN Board Member Lynn Crawford delivered this meal to Our Lady of Guadalupe Church for a family of 7 that lost everything due to a recent fire in their home. We were thankful to be able to give back to the community that supports us all year long.





One community event our officers always enjoy participating in is called “Shop with a Cop”. For the 5th year in a row, Plumstead Township Police Department was the organizer of this event in December and there were 11 Police Departments in Bucks County that participated. This event is funded by community donations and pairs officers with kids to help them shop for presents for themselves and family members. Officer Matt Ofner summed up his experience by saying “I enjoyed it because it gave me the opportunity to have a fun experience with some of the kids and our families in our community.”

Warm Up the Neighborhood

During the holidays, Buckingham Township Police Department and members of the Buckingham Advisory Network were honored to team up with Signature Cleaners for their campaign “Warm Up the Neighborhood”. We had an area at our Headquarters where members of the community were welcomed to drop off new or gently used blankets, coats, gloves and scarves. Together, we were able to deliver to Signature Cleaners many extra-large boxes filled with necessities which were delivered to those in the community who needed something to keep them warm.





BUCKINGHAM ADVISORY NETWORK

4613 Hughesian Drive, PO Box 453, Buckingham, PA 18912
Information (215) 794-8812
BAN@buckinghampa.org

A CRIME PREVENTION NETWORK 501c3

In 2021 the Buckingham Advisory Network worked with the Buckingham stakeholders to bring needed items to our community and beyond. Virus mitigation triggered limited fundraising this past year. Many of our residents supported BAN with donations to fund this non-profit's vision of a continuous partnership between the community and the Buckingham Township Police Department. Your support will continue to help BAN to coordinate events and resources that will cement the Peelian Principle of "the police are the public and the public are the police".

If you would like to support the Buckingham Advisory Network with your tax-deductible donation, please contact us by email or telephone. Donations may also be sent to PO BOX 453 at the above address. Thank you for your support! Please visit our Facebook page and look for upcoming events. <https://www.facebook.com/BuckinghamAdvisoryNetwork>

MISSION STATEMENT

B.A.N. is dedicated to crime prevention. The test of police efficiency is the absence of crime and disorder. B.A.N. will seek to strengthen Buckingham through organized community events, educational programs, and the continuous effort to bolster the relationship between the police and the Buckingham community stakeholders.

VISION STATEMENT


B.A.N. is a Buckingham community based non-profit organization which facilitates a continuous partnership between the community and the Buckingham Township Police Department. B.A.N. will coordinate events and resources that will cement the Peelian Principle of "the police are the public and the public are the police".



Left:
Preston and Steve Camp Out for Hunger food drive.

Right:
BAN Fundraiser Thanksgiving Dinner





The Buckingham Township Police Department's mission statement and vision statement were developed by the men and women of BTPD. These statements incorporate a collaborative effort to define what is important to our agency. This is used as a guide to constantly strive to reach our goals.

Our Mission Statement

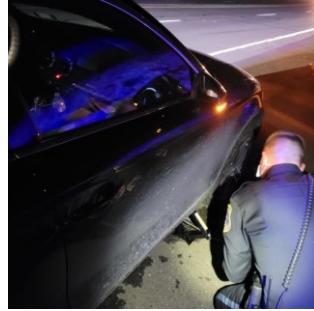
We, the officers and staff of the Buckingham Township Police Department, commit to being responsive to our community's needs and concerns. We will treat all people as we would want our loved ones treated. Our patrols and investigations will begin and end with the knowledge that we have done all we can do to make Buckingham Township safe for all.

Our Vision Statement

Buckingham Township Police Department is in pursuit of excellence in every aspect of our police service.



Thanks to all of you for your support throughout 2021



Thanks to all of you for your support throughout 2021

