



ANNUAL REPORT 2022

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Chief's Message

After an apprehensive start to 2022, Spring brought hope that a post COVID world was following. Mask mandates were going away and interactions with our residents were soaring. People got to see our officers' faces and expressions during our meetings. Intentions and feelings were clearer without the masks covering the non-verbal communications. With new hope came new faces, new assignments, and accreditation for the Buckingham Police Department.

After five years of policy review and creation, Buckingham Police Department contracted with Law Enforcement Accreditation Services (LEAS). This private company evaluated all the work that was completed and assisted in directing the administration toward a successful assessment, by the Pennsylvania Chiefs Association. Very early in 2022, an assessment team came to Buckingham and poured over 140 different policies and procedures. Their job was to make sure Buckingham Police not only adhered to the PA standards, but could prove we did. They looked at reports and incidents to make sure we followed the proper procedures. These experts in the standards of the industry, gave the Buckingham Police Department our first Pennsylvania Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission (PLEAC) Award. This recognition was a highlight of 2022!

A total of five (5) new officers were added to the police department. The end of 2021 brought retirements and new beginnings for veteran Buckingham Officers. Because of this exodus, new officers brought their talents to Buckingham. Justin Gerding came here from Tinicum Township Police Department. Justin is an expert at truck inspection and enforcement. He is an extremely hard worker, who is tireless in making our roadways safer. More importantly, Officer Gerding is a great family man and a great human being. Dylan Sherman followed, and was hired in February from SEPTA Transit Police. Dylan was a member of Transit's SORT Team, with special training in high liability police actions. Dylan is engaged to be married and is also a high character family man. Next, we were able to recruit a local resident who had been working as a police officer in Philadelphia. Officer Ridolfi joined BTPD in May and already knew most of the roads in our 33 square mile township. He was a Central Bucks East graduate, who has been able to connect with "his" Buckingham people. Robert is a married man that brings a sense of enthusiasm to his job that is contagious. I sometimes see his

family in town and thank them for lending us their son, as he makes the police department better. Chris Shaffer and Kyle Mullen joined Buckingham fresh out of the academy. Since they joined at the end of 2022, they are still in the FTO program and learning to be permanent Patrol Officers in Buckingham. More to come on Chris and Kyle, our expectations are high! Along with new faces came new positions within the police department with promotions. Officer Jessica Hannah and Officer Kevin Myslinski were promoted to Corporal in January. Officer Eric Skillman was also promoted to Corporal in April. All endured the promotional process which took them away from their families in order to study books on supervision, investigation, and constitutional law. They have been sent to various trainings on leadership and supervision to magnify all their natural qualities and abilities. All supervisors will complete FBI Law Enforcement Executive Development Association's (LEEDA) Trilogy of classes. Also, in April, Cpl. Rick Hazelett was promoted to Sergeant. Rick has been an excellent officer since his arrival in 2017. He spent his previous years in law enforcement in the city of Philadelphia. Rick has continuously demonstrated his acumen as a proven decision maker who puts the police department and the township at the top of his priority list. Officer Jim Crusemire was also assigned to the Detective Bureau, due to his thoroughness and success as a patrol officer. He has hit the ground running and has been a resourceful addition to our investigative team. I know our new supervisors will continue to perfect the craft of leadership in policing.

Police Chiefs around the country have been talking about recruitment and retention as one of the most important and relevant topics that leadership needs to tackle. In 2020 we saw massive retirements in law enforcement. Major cities were operating at staffing lows never before seen in modern policing. Suburban departments began seeing that they were not immune from the same personnel issues seen in the metropolitan areas. The number of applicants began to dwindle in 2022. We saw academy classes shrink with people choosing a different career path. Departments were fighting over qualified applicants like never before. New workers were now comparing wages and benefits between law enforcement and the private sector. Departments began to lose qualified applicants to corporate America. The new generation of employees are looking for high wages, and are very attracted to a work from home or modified schedule. The 24/7/365 nature of police work makes it difficult to compete with private companies with weekends and holidays off.

It is imperative for police leadership to re-establish policing as the noble profession it is. Once all entering the job market see the nobility of policing, they will be called to this profession.

There is no other occupation that will allow a worker to do an entirely different job daily, while perfecting their core skills. They will make connections as a police officer that will last a lifetime. They will help those in need and have a chance to change people's minds about the profession. Being a police officer is a calling, not a job! Monsignor Gentili and Pastor Lauterbach have given me the highest compliment by comparing their calling with the calling of a police officer. A vocation is defined as *a strong feeling of suitability for a particular career or occupation*. For those of us that felt themselves called to the police profession, we seek our citizen's approval of the job we do. Without this support our authority is eroded. Sometimes in today's society our legitimacy is questioned after an event on the other side of the state or country. This information moves fast and furious through the internet and social media. Impressions are made in a millisecond and may last a lifetime. We in police leadership are currently losing the battle for our profession.

Police Departments must: **“maintain at all times the relationship with the public that gives reality to the historic tradition that the police are the public and that the public are the police, the police being the only members of the public who are paid to give full-time attention to duties which are incumbent on every citizen in the interests of community welfare and existence.”** If we do this, we will not need to worry about recruitment and retention. The best and the brightest WILL continue to be called to this profession.

Thanks to our Buckingham residents for your unwavering support!



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

In 2022, officers handled a total of 16,633 calls for service and self-initiated investigations, an increase of 22% from 2021. I am happy to report that while our calls for services have increased since last year, some of that is in part due to our increased participation in our Active School Patrols. Our officers throughout the school day actively patrol the hallways of each school in the township. This program not only allows our officers to familiarize themselves with the number of buildings within the township, it provides opportunities for them to build positive relationships with school staff and students alike.

The philosophy of our committed command staff is that we focus on the development of our members. We believe it is highly critical that we provide opportunities for professional growth that will instill sustainable practices which support our department's values and mission. In 2022, this belief had a profound effect on our development goals. We provided education in the form of academic and practical applications. Various courses that were completed by our members included:

Crisis Intervention Team (CIT)

This is an intense 40-hour course to assist our police officers, as first responders, to incidents involving mental health related crises. Officers learn the importance of collaborative processes, how to form community partnerships to identify mental related resources, and to improve outcomes for individuals and their families during these critical stages of the crisis.

Autism Awareness Training

As first responders, we in law enforcement recognize the importance of understanding behaviors that may identify individuals who may be on the spectrum. Our goal is to help them interact safely to prevent the undue emotional or physical trauma associated with these interactions.

FBI- LEEDA

Also known as the FBI-Law Enforcement Executive Development Association

Our supervisory staff began to solidify their foundation of leadership practices to promote the exchange of information to improve law enforcement management practices. Each first line supervisor has begun their journey to leadership excellence.

This will culminate in the presentation of the FBI-LEEDA “Trilogy Award” which symbolizes not only their completion of the 3 required academic programs, but it will also provide sound footing for each supervisor to identify and demonstrate their leadership abilities to their direct reports and law enforcement colleagues across the nation.

FBI-Rapid Response Training

This hands-on approach to the response and mitigation of an active shooter situation provided each attendee with 16-hours of intense and highly practical situational based scenarios. Reviews of this training were overwhelmingly positive, and have prepared our officers in attendance who may be that first responder to an active shooter incident to tactilely operate in that environment.

FBI- Intercounty Detective Training

An entry level training symposium to assist our new detectives with utilizing available resources and begin the networking processes needed for investigative teamwork and successful outcomes of difficult investigations.

Motor Carrier Enforcement

In 2022, we were very excited to reactivate our MCSAP Team. We have now deployed two highly trained officers to identify, inspect, and require that all commercial vehicles that use our highway systems in Buckingham Township do so, under the State and Federally regulated safety standards. Our officers are deeply committed to this program and have already set the tone for our initiatives to promote safety on our highways.

In addition to these mentioned training events throughout the year, officers are constantly undergoing training to maintain State and Township requirements for certification. This continued concept, supported by the Buckingham Township Supervisors, shows how proud we are to operate the Buckingham Township Police Department as a professional and responsible law enforcement agency.

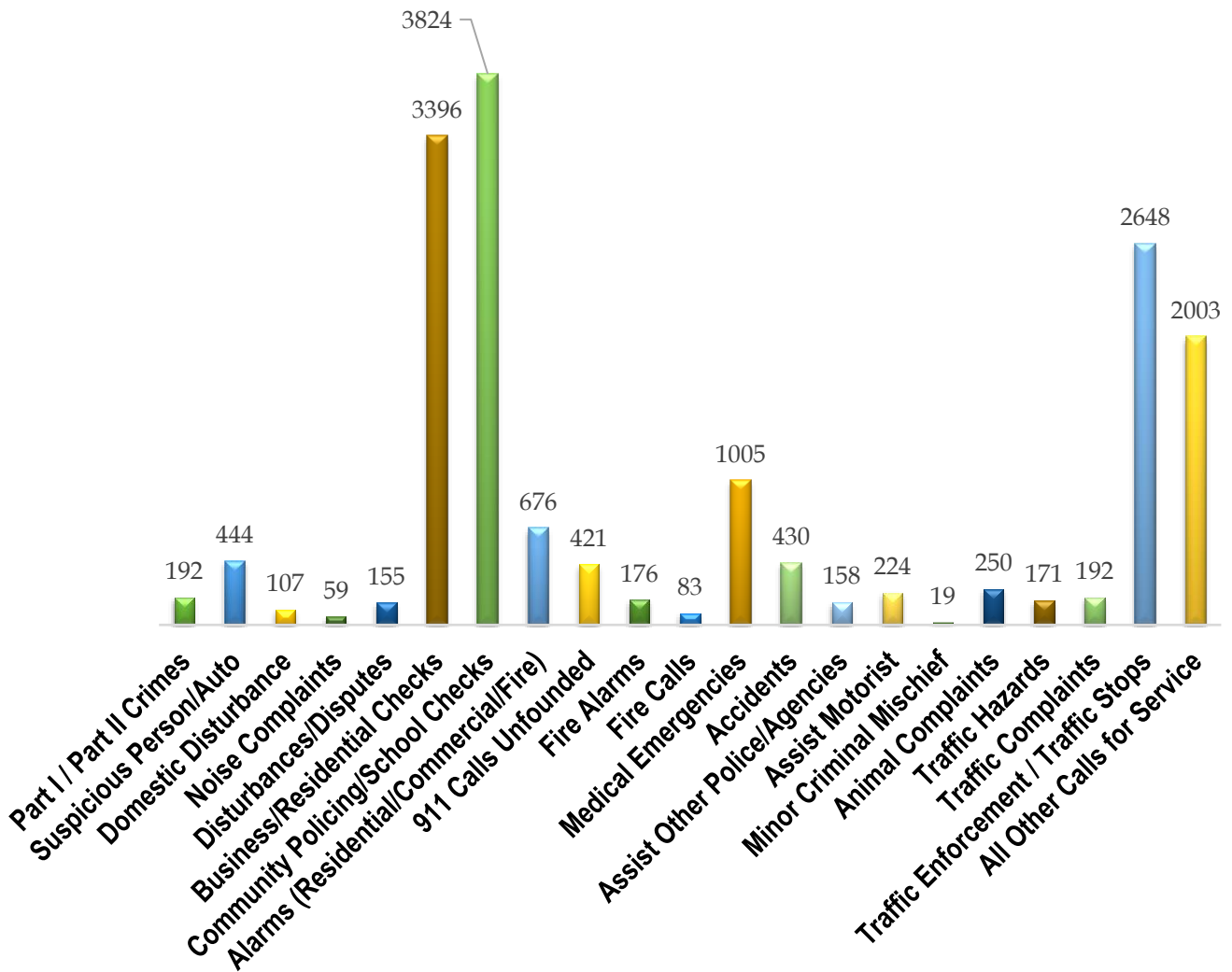
The Officers and support staff look forward to our continued practice of providing professional and accountable law enforcement services to our residents and others who find themselves traveling through Buckingham Township for a myriad of reasons.

Buckingham Township Police Department Calls for Service



Total Incidents Reported

Total of 16,633 incident reports were generated for 2022



Traffic Citations

460

Warning Issued

1516

Total of 62 Part I Crimes reported with 12 arrests

Total of 134 Part II Crimes reported with 64 arrests

Part I Crimes

Part II Crimes

0	➤	<i>Murder</i>
0	➤	<i>Rape</i>
1	➤	<i>Burglary</i>
3	➤	<i>Assault</i>
8	➤	<i>Burglary</i>
44	➤	<i>Theft</i>
0	➤	<i>Motor Vehicle Theft</i>
6	➤	<i>All Others</i>

41	➤	<i>Fraud / Forgery</i>
5	➤	<i>Stolen Property</i>
11	➤	<i>Criminal Mischief</i>
2	➤	<i>Weapons</i>
4	➤	<i>Sex Offenses</i>
16	➤	<i>Narcotics</i>
27	➤	<i>DUI</i>
4	➤	<i>Liquor Law</i>
2	➤	<i>Public Drunkenness</i>
12	➤	<i>Disorderly/Harassment</i>
10	➤	<i>All Other Offenses</i>

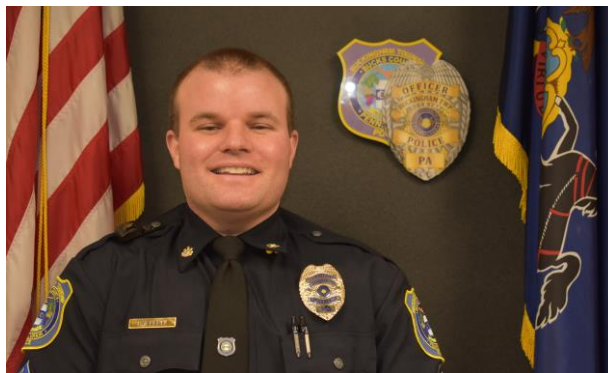
Officers and Staff

Lieutenant



William Moffett

Sergeant



Rick Hazelett

Detective



James Crusemire

Corporals



Steve Thomas



Jessica Hannah



Kevin Myslinski



Eric Skillman

Traffic Safety Officer



Christopher Forbes

Patrol Officers



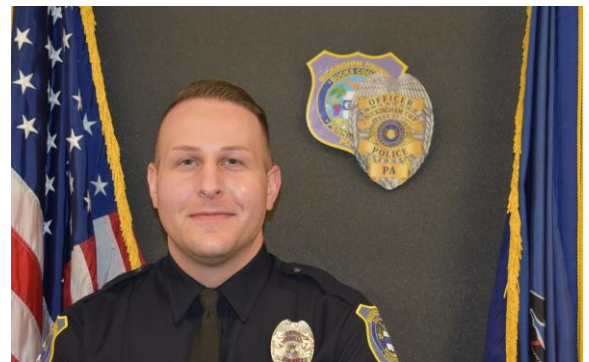
Stanley MacMoran



Michael Davis



Timothy Weber



Steven Dompert

Patrol Officers



Matthew Ofner



Justin Gerding



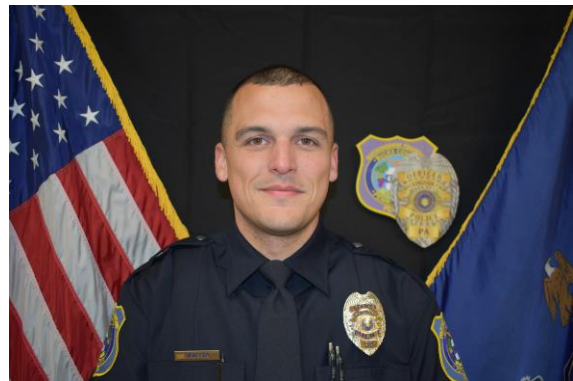
Dylan Sherman



Robert Ridolfi



Kyle Mullen



Christopher Shaffer

Administrative Staff



Wendy Middleman



Heather Stoner

2022 Retirements

This year brought the retirements of Cpl. Foltz & Sgt. Bailey

Corporal Robert Foltz



Sergeant John Bailey



We wish them the best in their retirement!

2022 Promotions

With the retirements towards the end of 2021, Buckingham Township Police Department had positions to fill. The year began with the promotion of Officers Jess Hannah and Kevin Myslinski to Corporals. Officer Crusemire went to the Criminal Investigation Department in February as a Detective. Corporal Hazelett was promoted to Sergeant in April along with Officer Skillman's promotion to Corporal.



2022 Commendations

In 2022, several members of the Buckingham Township Police Department were formally recognized for their outstanding police work and high-quality service to the residents of this township.

In March of 2022, Officer William Moller stopped a vehicle for heavy window tint in the area of Buckingham Green. The vehicle, which was reported stolen out of Philadelphia, fled at a high rate of speed, but was later stopped on Route 202 by Buckingham officers after a pursuit. During a subsequent interrogation by Officer William Moller and Officer Steve Dompert, the occupants admitted to being in the area to commit thefts from USPS mailboxes with fishing devices. After a search warrant was executed on the vehicle, other evidence including pieces of stolen mail from Montgomery County was recovered. For their efforts, Officer Moller and Officer Dompert were awarded Class 4 letters of Commendation.

In July of 2022, Buckingham officers took a report of stolen catalytic converters from work vehicles along Skyron Drive. From nearby video cameras, Detective James Crusemire was able to quickly identify a vehicle and male suspect committing the thefts. After further investigation, the male was taken into custody and numerous pieces of evidence were seized from the vehicle during a search warrant. Detective Crusemire was recognized for his diligent investigation, with a Class 5 Commendation.

In September of 2022, Officer Justin Gerding stopped a vehicle for failure to maintain its lane on Route 413. During his investigation, Officer Gerding seized two Glock handguns from the driver, who did not possess a concealed carry permit. He also seized illegal narcotics (psilocybin and marijuana) from the vehicle. Officer Gerding was awarded a Class 5 letter of Commendation for this arrest.

In October of 2022, Buckingham officers were notified of a stolen vehicle that was operating in the Doylestown area. Additionally, information was relayed that this vehicle was stolen during a robbery in Delaware County and that the operator may be armed with a gun. Officer Forbes came upon the vehicle on Route 202 by Holicong Park. The vehicle fled down Holicong Road until the driver bailed out around the railroad tracks by Buckingham Mountain. After a

coordinated containment of the area, the driver was ultimately taken into custody along the railroad tracks by Sergeant Rick Hazelett and Corporal Eric Skillman. These officers along with Lieutenant William Moffett, Officer Dylan Sherman, and Detective James Crusemire were awarded a unit citation for their teamwork.

2022 Police Leadership

Lieutenant Will Moffett graduated from the Northwestern University School of Police Staff and Command. SPSC offers an unparalleled excellence in public safety and leadership management education that helps prepare experienced law enforcement professionals for success in senior command positions.

Law Enforcement agencies throughout the U.S. and around the globe have recognized the important impact SPSC makes on their leadership and management teams. Through an innovative combination of academic principles with practical applications, their intensive curriculum focuses on such critical areas as planning and policies, media relations, organizational behavior, budgeting and resource allocation, human resources, contemporary policing, and more.



Criminal Investigation Division

The Criminal Investigations Unit of the Buckingham Township Police Department is responsible for investigations beyond what is normally handled by patrol. Over the course of 2022, the unit has had some personnel changes. Detective Jim Crusemire was appointed Detective in February 2022. Our detectives receive specialized training in crime scene processing, photography, fingerprint analysis, interview and interrogation. As the world of technology keeps growing, more time falls into investigations involving cellular devices, fraudulent practices, and internet base crimes. Our detectives are members of several crime information sharing groups. Crime is not a local phenomenon and crosses over into other jurisdictions, states, and countries. Without information sharing between police departments many of these crimes would go unsolved.

Buckingham Detectives assisted patrol officers with crime scene processing, securing search warrants for homes, vehicles, and electronic devices. Many of these investigations require hours of investigations that would take patrol officers away from their primary duties of patrolling Buckingham Township. Detectives also handle all the evidence handling and storage. This is a huge undertaking since the police department is responsible for all property officers come into contact with. There is illegal property like drugs, which must be packaged and preserved for court. There are also many firearms that come into our care. The police department must take weapons when there are assertions of violence in homes. Court ordered seizures of weapons is becoming something that individual police departments may now have to enforce. There are always incidents were lost or stolen items come into our care. These items must be identified, labeled, and entered into evidence. Detectives are given this huge administrative task, which they have exceled at.

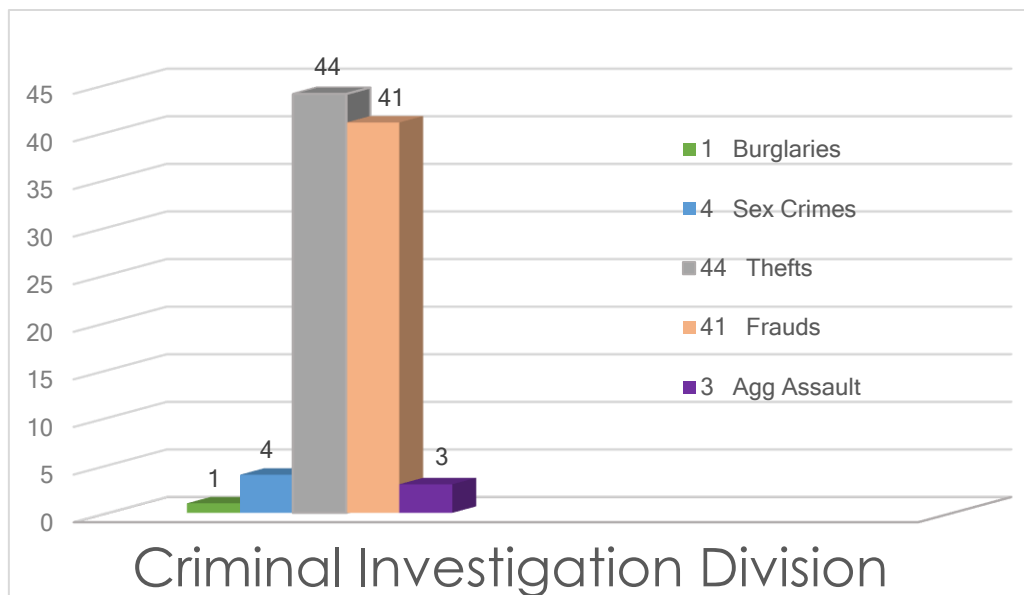
Throughout 2022, several cases were handled by the detective division that resulted in arrests. Since December of 2021, Peddlers Village has experienced retail thefts from several vendors involving the same suspect. In June, a male returned to Peddlers Village after committing several thefts in May and the previous December. Patrol officers were able to locate the male who was positively identified and taken into custody for Felony Retail Theft. His vehicle was impounded for a search warrant. Detectives were able to recover several items from the vehicle. These items were stolen from various locations in the Pennsylvania

area. After further investigation, the male was charged with additional thefts throughout the village.

In July, Buckingham Police took the report of theft involving several catalytic converters totaling \$14,000.00. Detectives were able to obtain video from the incident and identify a vehicle and male subject committing the crimes. An arrest warrant and search warrant were prepared and served in New Jersey. The male was taken into custody and after an extensive interview, more intelligence was gathered and evidence was collected from the vehicle from the night of the thefts.

Buckingham Detectives received information in July regarding a wanted male subject that was residing in the township. The male was bringing narcotics into the house and was wanted by the Philadelphia Police for escape. A search warrant was prepared and Buckingham officers served the warrant and took the male into custody for the outstanding warrant and charged him with additional violations.

Throughout the year Buckingham Detectives have assisted in Fraud, Theft, and Miscellaneous investigations. 2022 our Detective Bureau recovered stolen property, assisted homeowners with contractor fraud, and recovered lost currency for victims of all types of fraud. An aggressive Detective Bureau is sometimes all that stands between certain victims and criminals.



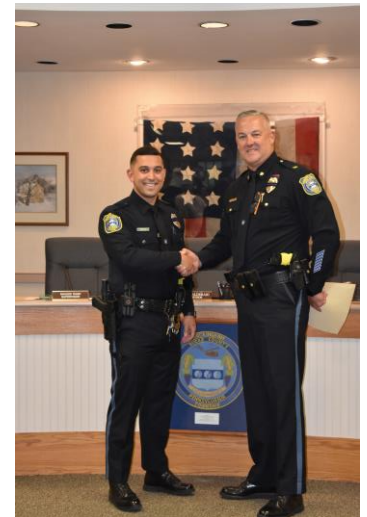
New Officers

Officer Justin Gerding was welcomed to the department in January 2022. He previously served in Tinicum Township and has over 12 years of experience. Justin is a certified Federal Motor Carrier Inspector and accident reconstructionist.



Officer Dylan Sherman was hired in February. Dylan previously worked as a SEPTA Police Officer for 2 years. With SEPTA, he served on their specialized department known as SORT, which is equivalent to the Bucks County SWAT team.

Officer Robert Ridolfi came on board in May. Rob previously worked as a Philadelphia Police Officer in the Kensington Police District where he was assigned on bike patrol. He is committed to serving his community, helping others, and making the world a safer place.



In October, we welcomed Officers Kyle Mullen and Christopher Shaffer. Kyle graduated from the Montgomery County Police Academy in June of 2022 where he earned the “Quest for the Best” Scholarship. After several years into his previous career, Chris decided to follow in his grandfather’s footsteps to become a police officer. Chris graduated from Temple Ambler Police Academy in October 2022. He was Sergeant of his class and was awarded the Physical Fitness Award.

National Night Out

Buckingham Police Department held its first annual National Night Out in August 2022. Across the United States, Law Enforcement agencies participate in this annual event. It enhances the relationship between neighbors and law enforcement while bringing back a true sense of community. Furthermore, it provides a great opportunity to bring police, neighbors, and businesses together under positive circumstances.



Buckingham Township Police Department partnered with Peddlers Village and the event was hosted on the village grounds. We could not have asked for a better turn out! Many contacts were made between the officers and community members. The event was a huge success and we look forward to our continued partnership with Peddlers Village, local businesses and countless supporters in attendance for our next National Night Out on August 1st, 2023.



2022 Firearms Training

We began our 2022 departmental firearms training in January with low light handgun training at the Guardian Training Center in Warwick Twp. All officers completed this training, which included various drills in low light with just night sights, no light with night sights, low light with handheld light, and low light with weapon mounted lights.



Throughout the year 5 new officers were placed through our new officer firearms training and qualifications. This training occurred at both the Bucks County Police Association range in Bedminster, PA and the Newtown Township Police range. Newtown Township Police graciously allowed us to utilize their facilities when the Bedminster range was unavailable.

September and October saw us return to the Bedminster range for our annual departmental firearms training and qualifications. As usual, all officers completed the MPOETC qualification courses for duty handgun, patrol shotgun, patrol rifle, off-duty handgun, and less lethal shotgun. Training this year focused on shooting the duty handgun with the support hand. Each officer fired most of the handgun qualification course with their support hand. In addition, all officers



practiced with handgun malfunctions drills, using both hands, just strong hand, and just support hand. In 2022, the police department took delivery on a new level IIIA ballistic shield. This shield was added to the inventory and updated our original shield which was in excess of 20 years old. The new shield is much more user friendly and has lights mounted on the face, which can be activated by the user. Each officer received instruction on the new shield and utilized it while firing their duty handgun. All officers also practiced exiting a patrol vehicle, advancing down range, and engaging a target(s) with their duty handgun. This exercise was

then repeated with the patrol rifle, where the officer had to remove the rifle quickly and safely from its locked position in the vehicle, advance downrange, charge it, and engage specific target(s). The training ended with several TCS drills which were timed and scored for accuracy.

The final drill was shooting 13 rounds at a silhouette shaped steel plate from 50 yards with the handgun.

We obtained a second steel plate in 2022. These steel plates are very durable and can be utilized with both handgun and rifles. They provide immediate feedback to the shooter without the need to check a paper target.

The end of 2022 saw Cpl. Skillman and Ofc. Forbes attend a Glock armorers school. This school was a recertification for Ofc. Forbes and new training for Cpl. Skillman. It qualified both officers to perform full armorer inspection on our Glock duty weapons and conduct any necessary repairs.



Central Bucks Special Response Team

The Central Bucks Response Team (SRT) utilized by Buckingham Township members comprised of specially selected and highly trained officers from police departments in the northern and central parts of Bucks County. The team members are sent to specialized training to effectively construct peaceful resolution to each critical incident. The trainings are 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 prepare members for hostage situations, barricaded person calls, high risk warrant service, active shootings, and hazardous/chemical incidents. The team continues to improve their abilities and skills to protect and ensure the welfare of the residents of Buckingham Township during these unusual times.



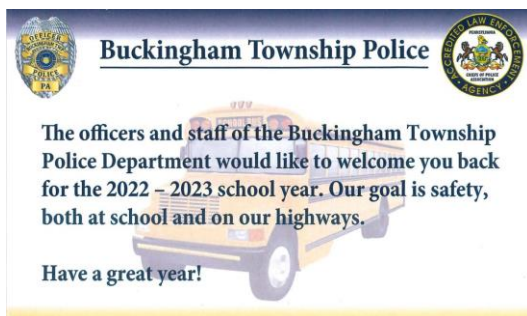
2022 Taser Recertification

Every year, each one of our officers, including the Chief, 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 on how to use the device in a manner to deescalate potentially aggressive and violent situations. During roll call throughout the year, our officers view situations where the TASER has been deployed to reinforce the challenges, effects (or lack thereof), and proper targeting of the device. 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.



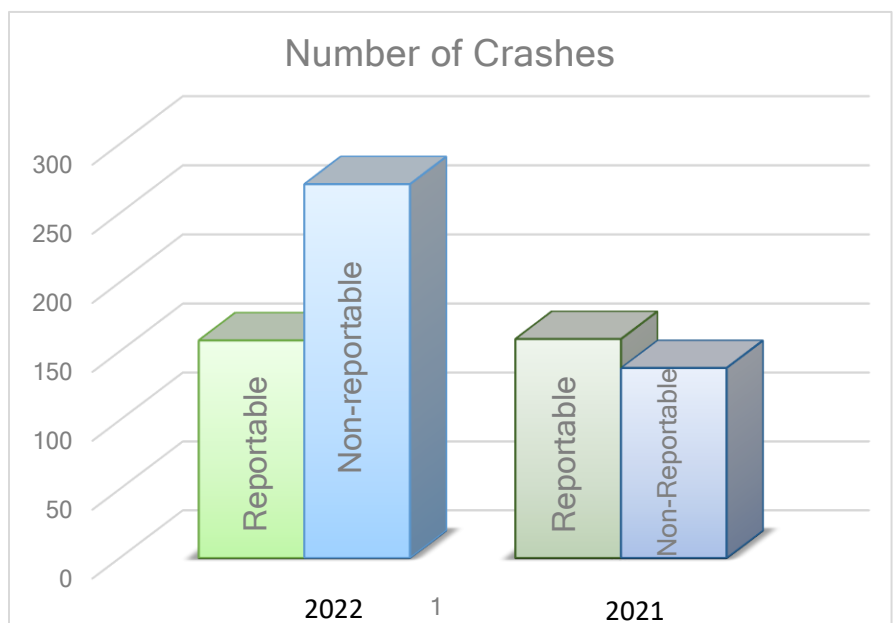
2022 Traffic Safety Report

In 2022 we finally saw a return to semi normal traffic conditions after a couple of very unusual years due to Covid. With the return to semi-normalcy, came a return to normal traffic flow and enforcement. During 2022, the police department investigated 158 reportable traffic crashes, 219 non-reportable traffic crashes, and 52 non-reportable crashes involving deer. This is actually a reduction of 1 reportable over 2021, but 133 more non-reportables. In addition to officers conducting traffic enforcement, we continued to utilize our portable speed boards as well as our speed trailer and message board. Our new Stalker speed trailer experienced some



growing pains, ultimately necessitating a company representative flying here from Texas to test it. That testing resulted in the entire speed trailer being replaced with a new unit. It has been found that the data collection provided by the Stalker board is much more user friendly than that collected by our message board.

One of the portable speed boards suffered a terminal issue and had to be retired from service. After looking at multiple options a Stalker portable speed board (smaller version of the speed trailer) will be purchased in 2023. We began a "Welcome Back and Be Safe" campaign for the start of the school year. This included a small handout (sample to the left) which was handed out to students (primarily seniors) entering the student lot. The first week of school also saw increased traffic enforcement. This included targeted areas, initially involving increased officer visibility, followed by heavy enforcement.



2022 Field Training Officer

We at 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, 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 Rick Hazelett. Officer Ofner completed his FTO training and was certified as a Field Training Officer. This year Officer Ofner was also assisted by Officer MacMoran and Officer Weber in field training our newly hired officers.

2022 was a busy year for our Field Training Officers with the five new hires. The FTO's rotated through a schedule so that each new officer spent individual time with each FTO. Although teaching the same philosophy and principals of the police department, each FTO brings a unique perspective to the trainings.

Motor Carrier Safety Assistance

Program (MCSAP)

After a four-year hiatus, Buckingham Township Police Department now has two certified Motor Carrier Enforcement Officers, Officer Justin Gerding and Officer Timothy Weber. Officer Gerding came to the department in 2022 from Tinicum Township with over a decade of truck enforcement experience. Officer Weber was selected from over 340 applicants to attend the 2022 MCSAP class and completed over 130 hours of classroom training this year. Officer Weber worked closely with Officer Gerding and Corporal Soldivan from Solebury PD to complete 32 mentored inspections to become the departments second Motor Carrier Enforcement Officer.



This year our officers have inspected 79 commercial motor vehicles. These inspections have led our officers to discover 244 violations, 99 of which were Out of Service Violations. These Out of Service Violations are serious safety violations with the driver or vehicle that make it unsafe to operate on the roadways. These violations led our officers to place 38 vehicles Out of Service, and 12 drivers were placed Out of Service. Officer Gerding and Officer Weber worked diligently to keep the motoring public safe while traveling throughout Buckingham Township. Our officers will continue to educate drivers and enforce federal, state, and local laws to keep our residents safe on the highway.

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. This creates a cohesive and streamlined response to victims of crime in order to increase awareness of local and community resources and social services, 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 597 individuals in all four townships. Specifically, Liz has worked with 57 Buckingham Township residents needing assistance. In all townships, 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.

In 2022, the Victim Service Unit was named a 2022 Honorary Awardee for the National Organization for Victim's Assistance's Tadini Bacigalupi Jr. Award. This status is given to programs for unwavering dedication to supporting victims of crime.

Victim Services Unit



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

Cops De-Escalation Grant Award

In 2021 Central Bucks Regional Police Department (CBRPD) applied for a collaborative grant from the federal government. The grant was awarded to CBRPD, Buckingham Township, Doylestown Township, and Plumstead Township Police Departments to launch a De-escalation training program. This program would involve a combination of classroom de-escalation training, practical de-escalation scenarios, and Virtual Reality de-escalation training.

Beginning in 2022, the initial cadre of 5 instructors attended a 40-hour “train the trainer” course. This Department of Justice approved course was presented by the National De-Escalation Training Center. During the year these 5 instructors began training with the Virtual Reality equipment purchased through the grant. When it became apparent that more instructors were needed, 3 more officers were selected to attend the 40-hour course.

Towards the end of the year, all officers in the four departments were asked to complete a personality assessment. This assessment was based off of the DISC personality model, which has been in use since the 1920’s. The individual results of this assessment would be presented to each officer during their de-escalation training. Each officer would then be able to relate their own personality type to others. This provides a better understanding of the interaction between various personalities, how to understand them, and how to communicate with them.

In 2023, we plan on implementing the de-escalation training for all officers in the four involved departments. This de-escalation training will then be utilized in practical exercises using the Virtual Reality equipment.

The virtual reality equipment consists of two full sets of the following; full headsets (including goggles, microphones, and headphones), backpack power and computer units, as well as training weapons. The training weapons are all linked to the system. The student/user can be placed in hundreds of different 3-dimensional scenarios, which can then be continuously adapted by the instructor, based on the student’s specific actions and/or reactions. The students will be expected to utilize their de-escalation training while handling these scenarios.

This training will assist officers from all four police departments in successfully navigating the wide range of situations and diverse populations faced by present day law enforcement.

CPR and First-Aid

The Buckingham Township Police Department is required to certify its officers every two years in CPR and First Aid. In 2022 Officer Timothy Weber became an instructor in CPR and First Aid. After becoming an instructor, Officer Weber re-certified all the sworn officers in the department and certified all the new officers. Having an in-house instructor not only saved time but also hundreds of dollars in class fees. Officer Weber not only certified the police department, but he was also able to put his skills to use for our community. Officer Weber provided a training to Covenant Presbyterian Church's Safety Committee on First Aid and Stop the Bleed. Officer Weber worked with the Township Safety Committee to certify all interested township employees in CPR and First Aid. This training is essential and can mean the difference between life or death. Officer Weber hopes to continue to train the police department, township employees, and community members in the oncoming years.



As part of a recent service project, Girl Scout Troop 2296 recently donated a brand-new AED unit and three response kits to our police department. These donations will be on the streets with our officers to provide lifesaving measures if called upon. Chief Gallagher and Officer Weber presented the girls with a Certificate of Appreciation and some goodie bags. Thank you again Troop 2296 for your donation to help make our community safe for all!



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

Adjusting to COVID Contactless Practices

**National Prescription
Drug Take Back Day**

**Saturday, April 30, 2022
10 am - 2 pm**



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 2022 Drug Take Back event, Buckingham Township collected over 785 pounds of prescription and over the counter drugs. This is an increase of 47% compared to 2021.

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 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.

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. 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 2022, the Buckingham Township Police Department referred 9 juveniles to the YAP program.

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



L-R Denise Forest, Robin Fetterolf-Dunckley, Cpl. Jessica Hannah, Elizabeth Montanari and Jonathan Bard. Missing from the photo is panel volunteer Candace Biafore.

D.A.R.E.

DRUG ABUSE RESISTANCE EDUCATION

The Buckingham Township Police Department has been diligent in continuing to present the DARE program to the sixth-grade students of Buckingham and Cold Spring Elementary Schools. Corporal Stephen Thomas (“Officer Steve”) and Officer Charles Snyder (“Officer CJ”) were excited to be teaching in-person, beyond the COVID days of trying to interact virtually with the students. DARE has the greatest impact when kids see officers as real people and discuss real life issues. Our officers teach the students about wise decision-making skills, risks and consequences, 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 with how to handle peer pressure, stress, bullying, and how to help others struggling through these situations.



Our DARE officers are assigned to their own school. As a result, the kids recognize and accept them as their very own special officer. “Officer Steve” taught at Buckingham Elementary while “Officer CJ” taught at Cold Spring Elementary. The DARE program creates a bond to help close the gap between the police and our citizens (of every age). The DARE program is dependent on not only the officers and schools working together, but also the parents laying a foundation at home. Knowing the potential impact we can have on the future of our community; we strive to make a difference with each and every student!

Handle with Care

Buckingham Township Police Department was excited to launch the Handle with Care Program through our Crimewatch page. This program allows residents of Buckingham Township to voluntarily register family members that may have special needs, special medical requirements, or residents that may have a tendency to walk away from their residence.

This program allows police to have helpful information in the event that a police officer comes into contact with your family member. This registry provides a secure database that officers and the County Dispatch can quickly ascertain important information about individuals with special needs; whether that be a child or adult with cognitive disabilities, intellectual disabilities, physical or mental disabilities.



Information provided will be added into our secure records management system and will be provided to Bucks County Dispatch. All information is kept strictly confidential. For more information, or to register, please visit:

<https://bucks.crimewatchpa.com/buckinghamtwppd/17016/webforms/handle-care-registry>

Community Service at its Best



As is the same with every year, Buckingham Township Police Department 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. 2022 was no different.



At the beginning of the year, we had a special visit from Alex W. Mann. Alex has visited over 100 police departments in five states to raise autism awareness and show his support towards police departments.

In March, officers and administrative staff participated in Rock Your Socks for World Down Syndrome Day.

In April, Corporal Thomas was humbled at the opportunity to assist in the escort of seven busloads of Bucks County Veterans on their return trip from Washington DC. As part of the Tour of Honor, the Veterans visited the sacred war memorials and then were treated to a heroes welcome at Parx Casino in Bensalem. We are grateful for the sacrifice and service of all our veterans who secured the freedoms we enjoy today.

In May, officers were honored to assist in escorting several Worcester, MA police officers on their 425-mile run to Washington DC to honor their fallen brother, Officer Manny Familia, who drowned trying to save a young teenager in June 2021.

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 16th 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.



Coffee with a Cop was held in June at Buckingham Valley Rehabilitation and Nursing Center. Sgt. Hazelett and Cpl. Thomas enjoyed some coffee and donuts with the residents.



In July, Cpl. Thomas volunteered his time to assist Pennsylvania State



Police Troop K with their Camp Cadet Program held at Valley Forge Military Academy. During this week-long program, cadets were taught self-discipline, teamwork and respect. They were given insight into the many different facets of police work ranging from crime scene investigations, room clearing, courtroom testimony, accident investigation, mounted patrol, K9, aviation, and so much more.

During the hot summer days, officers were thrilled to be able to meet some of our youngest residents and support several lemonade stands in the township.



With the start of school comes the start of football! Officers are always happy to provide extra security under the lights and enjoy watching the players.

In October, our department had a visit from autistic support students and their teachers from Holicong Middle School. The students presented the officers and Chief Gallagher with a gift basket overflowing with Halloween treats, dozens of cards, and thin blue line lapel pins. We are lucky to have such great support from our schools, teachers, staff and student body.



Mid-October, with the help of our partners Linghocken Fire Company and Midway Volunteer Fire Company, we escorted runners from The Great American Relay. Runners began to carry the baton on September 10th in Santa Monica, CA, and the final hand off was on October 16th at the World Trade Center in New York. We were honored to assist as they ran in solidarity for our first responders and military!

Thanksgiving is a time for togetherness and gratitude

Members of the Buckingham Advisory Network (BAN) purchased three Thanksgiving meals for families in the Buckingham area. These meals were delivered to Paster Lauterbach from River of Life Church, Principal Estep from Buckingham Elementary School and Principal Finger from Cold Spring Elementary School.



One community event our officers always enjoy participating in is called "Shop with a Cop". For the 6th year in a row, Plumstead Township Police Department was the organizer of this event in December. This event is funded by community donations and pairs officers with kids to help them shop for presents for themselves and family members. Cpl. Thomas, Officer Mullen and Officer Shaffer had a great time shopping with the kids!

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 welcome 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 by Signature Cleaners 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 2022 the Buckingham Advisory Network worked with the Buckingham stakeholders to bring needed items to our community and beyond. 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".

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

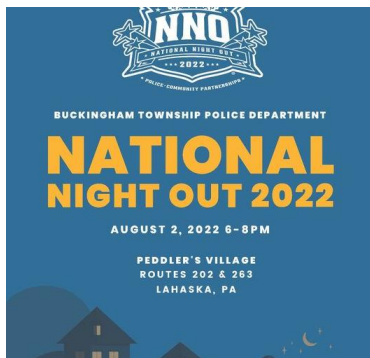
We, the officers and staff of the Buckingham Township Police Department, commit to being responsive to our community's needs and concerns. We will treat all people as we would want our loved ones treated. Our patrols and investigations will begin and end with the knowledge that we have done all we can 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 2022



Thanks to all of you for your support throughout 2022



Bnos Bracha

6/9/22

We would like to express our thanks to Buckingham Township Police Department for helping us. Thank you for coming so quickly, giving drinks and for all your kindness. A special thanks to Corporal Kevin Mystlinski for all that you did for us. We will always have a special memory of this trip. Thanks again!

From: the girls of Bnos Bracha of Monsey, N.Y.

Dvora Nagan

Tamar Bobayof

Batya Swiatycki

Sarah Sternberg

Naami Eidlitz

Tzippy Kohn

Tzivia Eidlitz

Raichel Aron



THANK YOU !!