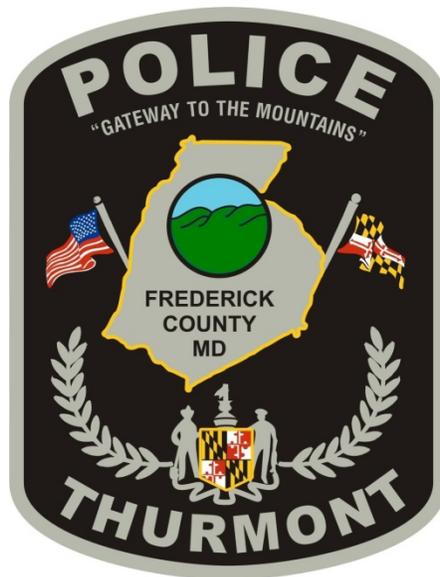


Thurmont Police Department 2017 Annual Report

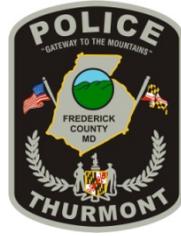


Thurmont Police Department E-Mail Address:
Thurmontpolice@Frederickcountymd.gov

**Thurmont Police Department
2017 Annual Report
Colonel Gregory L. Eyer
Chief of Police**

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MISSION STATEMENT

The Thurmont Police Department is dedicated to serving the residents within the corporate limits of the Town of Thurmont. Pursuant to the protections afforded by the Constitution of the United States, we will strive to protect life and property of our citizens, and will enforce all laws of this state and local ordinances in a fair and impartial manner. In partnership with our citizens through Community Policing, we will strive to detect and prevent crime and provide the best quality of life for the citizens of Thurmont. We will promote professionalism of our employees by holding ourselves to the highest possible standard of integrity, ethics, and morals.

VISION STATEMENT

The Thurmont Police Department is committed to providing services that are fair, impartial, and effective while holding employees to the highest standards of efficiency, morality, and professionalism. We maintain the highest standards of law enforcement ethics and personal integrity. The Thurmont Police Department is committed to the philosophy of community policing and problem solving with those that we serve. We are responsible and accountable to each other as well as the public we serve. We believe in the concept of continuous improvement in all our endeavors, always striving to be the best we can be.

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



STAFFING:

The Thurmont Police Department is authorized thirteen (13) sworn positions, which include the Chief of Police (Colonel), and Deputy Chief of Police (Lieutenant); as well as one (1) full-time Administrative Coordinator, one (1) full-time civilian Receptionist, and one (1) full-time Code Enforcer.

The Thurmont Police Department hired two (2) new officers in 2017: Richard Gast, Christopher Smith. Both are no longer with the department.

Position	Authorized	Actual
Chief of Police (Colonel)	1	1
Deputy Chief of Police (Lieutenant)	1	1
Sergeant	1	1
Corporal	3	3
Patrol Officers	7	7
Total Officers	13	13
Civilian		
Administrative Coordinator	1	1
Receptionist	1	1
Code Officer	1	1
Total Civilian	3	3
Total Number of Employees	16	16

TPD VEHICLE FLEET:

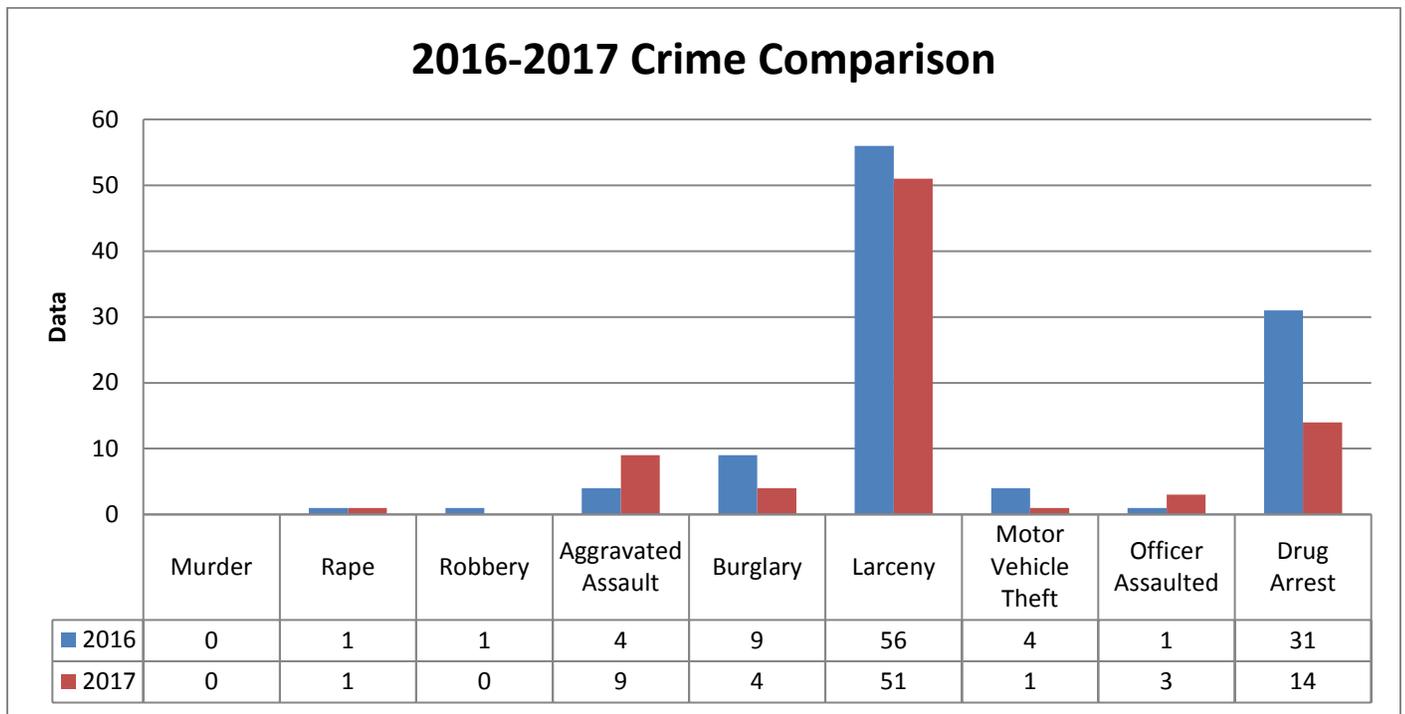


MOUNTAIN BIKE PATROL:

The Thurmont Police Department’s Mountain Bike Unit maintains two Trek Mountain Bikes with full police packages. Both bikes are equipped with red and blue emergency lights, sirens, and a cargo bag. The lights and siren are powered by a rechargeable power pack shaped like a drink bottle; that fit into a standard mounted bicycle bottle holder.

PATROL DIVISION:

The Thurmont Police Patrol Division consists of thirteen (13) sworn Officers, including the Chief of Police, Deputy Chief of Police, one Sergeant and three Corporals. The patrol officers rotate in their schedule to provide twenty four (24) hour coverage seven days a week working three different shifts. The officers are the first to respond to all types of calls for service while providing an average response time of two minutes. Other than taking prompt action, the Officers are excellent in resolving conflicts while exemplifying community policing. While handling more involved or serious incidents, the patrol Officer may handle the initial call for service and then refer the case to the Department’s Criminal Investigator for further investigation.



SIGNIFICANT CASES:



The Thurmont Police Department has one Officer assigned as the Criminal Investigator. This position allows timely resolutions to involved cases. The Criminal Investigator conducts a follow-up investigation which is an extension of the initial investigation in order to obtain additional evidence/information for the identification and possible apprehension of a suspect(s). Once the investigation is completed, and a suspect is identified and charged, the investigator is responsible for preparing the case for court. The investigator also serves as the agency's liaison with the States Attorney Office and other allied agencies.

The following significant cases of 2017 were disclosed to the citizens of Thurmont and distributed to media outlets to document police investigations that had occurred within the town limits of Thurmont.

May 26, 2017

On January 16, 2017 at approximately 6:20pm, three male subjects entered the Weis Grocery Store in Thurmont wearing hoodie sweat shirts with the hoods covering the heads. The subjects proceeded to the Pharmacy area. As two of the subjects stood by, one of the subjects jumped the counter and began grabbing bottles of Promethazine Cough Syrup. Then all three subjects ran out of the store. Detective Bowen of the Thurmont Police Department began collaborating his investigation with other agencies who had experienced this same type of incident. Detective Bowen was able to identify two of the suspects and served them with charges on a Criminal Summons on May 25, 2017. The suspects were identified as: Deon James Nelson Jr, age 23, of Germantown; and Jahandar Rahman Darvish, age 20, of Rockville. Nelson was charged with: Theft-less than \$100, Theft-Scheme-less \$1,000, Conspiracy to Commit Theft, and Possession of CDS. Darvish was charged with: Theft-less than \$100, Conspiracy to Commit Theft, and Possession of CDS.

May 30, 2017

On May 11, 2017 at approximately 4:00am, Thurmont police were dispatched to 3 Frederick Road for an assault in progress. The responding officer found two male subjects standing on the porch of this residence arguing. The victim male showed signs of being severely beaten by the other male subject. The victim advised that the suspect had forced his way into the victim's residence and began beating him. The victim was treated and transported by EMS. The victim received stitches in his face and had a severely swollen face from the assault. The suspect was identified as: Brandon Michael Gooden, age 18, of Catocin Furnace Rd., Thurmont. Mr. Gooden was arrested and served with an arrest warrant on May 29, 2017. Gooden was charged with: First Degree Assault, Second Degree Assault, Third Degree Burglary, Fourth Degree Burglary, Destruction of Property, and Theft Less \$1,000 value. Mr. Gooden is currently being held at the Frederick Adult Detention Center on a No Bond status.

June 26, 2017

On July 16, 2016 at approximately 3:30 am, a Thurmont Police Officer observed a vehicle travelling at a high rate of speed on Boundary Ave. near the Carnival grounds. When the officer attempted to stop the vehicle, the operator fled and crashed into a house in the 100 blk of East Main St. The operator then fled on foot. It was then determined that the vehicle had been stolen from an address on Catocin Furnace Rd. Through the course of an investigation, the officer was able to gain a possible identification of the operator. DNA evidence was collected from the vehicle and submitted for DNA Analysis. Results were received last week, which identified the operator and suspect in this incident as: Robert Ryan Springer, age 24, of Thurmont. On June 25, 2017, Mr. Springer was served with the following charges on a Criminal Summons: Unlawful taking Motor Vehicle, Reckless Driving, Negligent Driving, Failure to stop after accident, Fleeing and Eluding Police.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAMS:

The Thurmont Police Department uses several methods of informing the residents of information of interest.

 **everbridge:** A communication platform that empowers individuals and organizations to take timely action to support emergency notifications, primarily focused on delivering communications to very large groups (100,000+) of people at the same time to keep them informed before, during and after emergencies.

Nixle  : To sign up for Nixle go to: **WWW.NIXLE.COM** to create an account, once you have created an account you will begin to receive information sent out by the Police Department via e-mail as well as on your smart phone.

Community Alert System (CAS): This is an e-mail based system, to join this system and to receive e-mail notices, which are the same as those on Nixle, send your e-mail address to:

Thurmontpolice@frederickcountymd.gov.

Sign Board at Police Station: The Thurmont Police Department had a sign board donated by a resident so the Department may place notices or messages of upcoming events.



Bicycle Registration: The department offers, free of charge, to anyone who wishes to have their bicycle registered. Once your bicycle is registered it is entered into a county-wide database; if your bicycle is ever lost or stolen and it is found by a member of any law enforcement agency, it can be returned to you.



SafetyPup: SafetyPup is part of the National Child Safety Council, who has been sent to the Town of Thurmont to promote a positive approach for children to learn safety techniques for daily life. SafetyPup is a special friend to all children who makes learning about safety issues fun, entertaining, and non-threatening. You may see SafetyPup at events with the Thurmont Police Officers or greeting children after school with a special message.



National Night Out: Every year the Department participates in the National Night Out, which is sponsored by the Department and the Thurmont Police Commission. It is held in the rear parking lot of the police station where the Department as well as allied agencies display their equipment and host a picnic for the community.





Shred Event: On April 29, 2017, the Thurmont Police Department held their second annual Shred Event and was co-sponsored by Woodsboro Bank. With the help of the Thurmont Police Commission members, the event was a success. 10,000 pounds of paper was collected and shredded. Generous contributions from the residents yielded a pickup truck load of non-perishable food items for the Thurmont Food Bank.



Drug/Medication Disposal: In the lobby of the Thurmont Police Department, residents of Thurmont are able to safely dispose of their medication(s). Below is a list of what is acceptable and what is unacceptable.



Acceptable items include but are not limited to: Over the counter medication(s), medical samples, pet medications, medicated ointments and lotions, and prescription medication(s).

Items that are not accepted include: thermometers, IV bags, infectious waste, business medical waste, liquid medication(s), syringes (no sharps), oxygen tanks, and blood products.

Shop-With-A-Cop: The Thurmont Police Department participated in the “Shop with a Cop” program. Our agency joined other Law Enforcement Agencies in partnering an officer with selected children and assisting them with Christmas shopping for themselves and their family.

Fish-With-A-Cop: In May 2017, the Thurmont Police Department participated in the “Fish with a Cop” program, sponsored by the Optimist Club. An officer who volunteers for this event is teamed with a selected child and provides the child with fun day of fishing.

Corporal Timothy Duhan volunteered for both events this year and enjoyed spending time with the kids. He showed them his expertise in both fishing and putting thought into a simple gift for someone special.



Practice Parallel Space: The Chief of Police was approached by a resident regarding a safe location student drivers could practice parallel parking without fear of traffic. Colonel Eyler found a location on the rear parking lot of the police station and had it marked off so student drivers could safely practice their parallel parking.



BUSINESS CHECK PROGRAM: As part of the Department's continuing Community Policing effort the Department offers, free of charge to all businesses, the option to register their business with the Department, giving us their business name; their address, the owners name and phone numbers of persons to contact in case of an emergency.

RESIDENTIAL CHECK PROGRAM: Our Residential Check Program is available to all residents of the Town of Thurmont as part of our Community Policing effort. When a resident is going away for an extended period of time they can have their home placed on the Residential House Check; an officer will make checks of their home while they are away to assure their home is safe awaiting their return.

SCHOOL CROSSING GUARDS: The Town of Thurmont employs three full-time; Faye Grimes, Kristi Wood, and Eleanor Putman, School Crossing Guards, who handle crossing details at the following intersections:



- Summit Ave. at E. Main St.;
- Hammaker St. at E, Main St.;
- Rocky Ridge Rd. (Rt. 77) at the Primary School; and
- E. Main St. at Apples Church Rd.

The remaining school crossing guards throughout the county are funded by the County.



CODE ENFORCEMENT SECTION:

The Code Enforcement Section was created in 2008 and is staffed by a full-time employee. The Code Officer patrols the Town looking for possible code violations as well as answering calls and e-mails of possible Code violations. There is a continued effort of reviewing and revising the Codes of the Town of Thurmont. The Code Officer does not have jurisdiction over zoning matters and does not handle cases involving wild animals. Any questions regarding zoning matters, the safety of a building, and the condition of the streets and or sidewalks are handled by the Zoning Inspector at the Town Office.

The total amount of code enforcement cases handled for 2017 are 400, 23 of those cases had more than one complaint.

The next page presents a breakdown of the type of violations reported:

Complaint Type	Number	Complaint Type	Number
Tall Grass/Weeds/Brush	121	Dismantled/Uncovered/Untagged Vehicles	42
Sign on Pole	42	Trash/Litter/Rubbish in Yard	28
No Grass Pick Up	22	Tree Limbs Overhang on Street/Sidewalk	18
Bagged Grass on Sidewalk/Curb	14	Snow on Sidewalk	12
Grass in Street	11	Outdoor Storage of Items	11
Yard Waste	10	Trailer Stored in Street	9
Dog at Large	7	Dog Feces	6
Dumping Litter	6	Overgrown Bush/Shrubs by Fire Hydrant/Electric Meters/Splice Box/Transformers	5
Unpaid Citations	5	Bush/Shrubs Blocking Street/Sidewalk View	4
Inquiries of Dumpster/Parking/Tree	4	Items on Curb	3
Overgrown Shrubs	3	Placement of Trash Can	3
Vehicle Parking Violation	3	Broken Fence	2
Chickens Roaming	2	Damaged Shed	2
Leaves/Mud in Street	2	Premise ID	2
Sports Equipment on Street	2	Barking Dog	1
Blown Litter	1	Broken Tent in Yard	1
Bulk Items Exceed Limit	1	Carpet on Sidewalk	1
Cats in Van	1	Collapsed Deck	1
Contaminated Water	1	Dead Tree	1
Dumping of Yard Waste	1	Flowers Encroaching Sidewalk	1
Grass in Plastic Bags at Disposal Site	1	Large Pile of Dirt	1
Noise Complaint	1	Outdoor Storage of Boat	1
Solicitors No Permit	1	Street Sign Broken	1
Tall Bamboo	1	Trash Can at Curb	1
Tree Limbs in Street	1	Unsecured Windows on Vacant House	1
Water in Backyard	1		
		TOTAL	423

The following is a breakdown of the source of the complaint for the year of 2017:

Source of Complaint	Number
Code Officer	276
Resident	81
Town Employee	27
TPD Officer	6
Owner	3
Commissioner	2
Mayor	2
Website Complaint	2
Chief	1
TOTAL	400

TRAINING UNIT:



The Thurmont Police Department now has five Maryland Police and Correctional Training Commission (MPCTC) certified instructors, which includes two (2) firearms instructors. As of 2013, the Thurmont Police Department conducts their own complete in-service training classes, including firearms training.

TECHNOLOGY:

E-TIX: The Department is always trying to up-date its technology,

as its budget permits. Each police vehicle has an E-Tix device. E-Tix allows the officer to see how many times a person has been stopped by any participating agency. With E-Tix the officer can issue a traffic citation, warning or a safety equipment repair order in a short amount of time.



In-Car Video: Some patrol vehicles are equipped with an In-Car Video which will record an event as it occurs, which can be used in court as evidence. As well as recording what is occurring in front of the vehicle, it has the capability of recording the behavior of a prisoner seated in the rear of the cruiser. The purpose of the In-Car Video is twofold; officer safety as well as protecting suspects.



Mobile Data Terminals (MDT's): Each patrol vehicle is equipped with a Mobile Data Terminal (MDT) which allows the officer to stay in contact with the Frederick County Emergency Communication Center (Dispatch). It also provides them with an active map of the entire County which would allow them to use it as a GPS if necessary. The officer can receive calls from Dispatch via the MDT as well as complete their paperwork from their vehicle, such as an accident report.

License Plate Reader (LPR): Enhances law enforcement's ability to spot vehicles tied to investigations and other infractions. In return, helps solve cases and deter crime.



Automatic External Defibrillator (AED): The Thurmont Police Department received a donation of five AED units from a private source for use by the officers in the cruisers while on patrol. Since there are not enough units for each patrol vehicle; a unit is signed out at the beginning of the officer's shift and returned at the end. Every employee of the Department has received training in the proper use of the AED.



Preliminary Breath Test (PBT):



The Department utilizes Preliminary Breath Test (PBT) units as a tool to assist officers in determining if a suspected driver is in fact driving under the influence of alcohol. They also use Standardized Field Sobriety Tests (SFST), where a suspect is put through a series of standardized field tests to assist the officer in making his decision whether to place the suspected intoxicated driver under arrest.

Narcan:

Thurmont Police Department personnel have received training provided by the Frederick County Health Department to administer Naloxone through the Overdose Response Program. Naloxone is a fast-acting opiate antagonist used in emergency medicine to rapidly reverse opiate-related sedation and respiratory depression. Naloxone is marketed under various trademarks including “Narcan,” “Nalone,” and “Narcanti.” Narcan is a scheduled drug, but has no euphoric properties and minimal side effects. If it is administered to a person who is not suffering an opiate overdose, it will do no harm. During an opiate overdose, a patient may suffer a disruption in normal breathing. In some cases breathing may stop altogether, quickly leading to death. Law Enforcement often arrives on scene of overdoses before EMS personnel. The administration of Narcan by trained Law Enforcement officers will help save lives.



The 54th Catoclin Colorfest: The 54th annual Colorfest was held the weekend of October 7th and 8th. The Thurmont Police staffed this event, as it has in the past with officers working modified shifts, which resulted in a limited amount of overtime being spent to staff this event. With a reported crowd for the two day event of over 100,000 visitors, there were no major events, which resulted in an enjoyable event for vendors and visitors alike.

2017 Guardian Hose Fireman’s Parade and Carnival:



Every year the Guardian Hose Fire Company hold a parade and carnival. The parade is led by vehicles from the Department through town, which begins on East Main Street, past the judging stand at Memorial Park, ending on Boundary Avenue at the Carnival Grounds. Throughout the week of the carnival the Department provides extra officers to patrol the carnival grounds and surrounding area.

Life Saving Award:

The Life Saving Award is given to Officers of The Thurmont Police Department who, during the course of their duty, comes to the aid of a citizen and saves their life. For their actions to preserve each person's individual life, these Officers received the Thurmont Police Department's Life-Saving Award:

Cpl. David Armstrong

Cpl. Timothy Duhan

Ofc. Jody Maybush

Ofc. Brian Donovan

Officer of the Year:



Every year both the Thurmont Lions Club and Shumaker's Roofing seek nominations for Officer of The Year from the Command Staff from which the Selection Committee select only one Officer to be honored as Officer of the Year. This year the nomination for Officer of the Year was: *Corporal Kyle Minnick*.



Corporal Kyle Minnick:

Corporal Kyle Minnick began his career with the Thurmont Police Department in January 2012. Cpl. Minnick was instrumental in writing a Grant to purchase a License Plate Reader (LPR) for our agency. He also maintains the agency's ETIX hardware and software for our police vehicles. Cpl. Minnick was promoted to the rank of Corporal in October 2016. He was then assigned numerous responsibilities and has performed exemplary managing these assigned tasks and has assisted our agency greatly. Cpl. Minnick has prepared excellent written directives to other members and has filled the role of First Line Supervisor in a positive manner for our agency. Cpl. Minnick has also saved the lives of numerous persons suffering from a drug overdose. During the past twelve (12) months, Cpl. Minnick has administered NARCAN to four (4) individuals who were found unconscious and unresponsive due to a drug overdose. Cpl. Minnick's quick response helped these individuals survive.