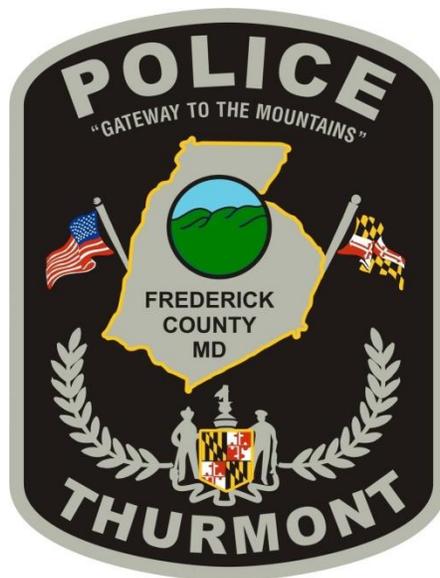


Thurmont Police Department 2019 Annual Report

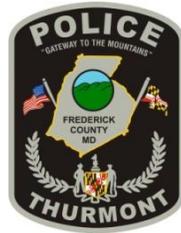


Thurmont Police Department E-Mail Address:
Thurmontpolice@FrederickCountyMD.gov

**Thurmont Police Department
2019 Annual Report
Colonel Gregory L. Eyler
Chief of Police**

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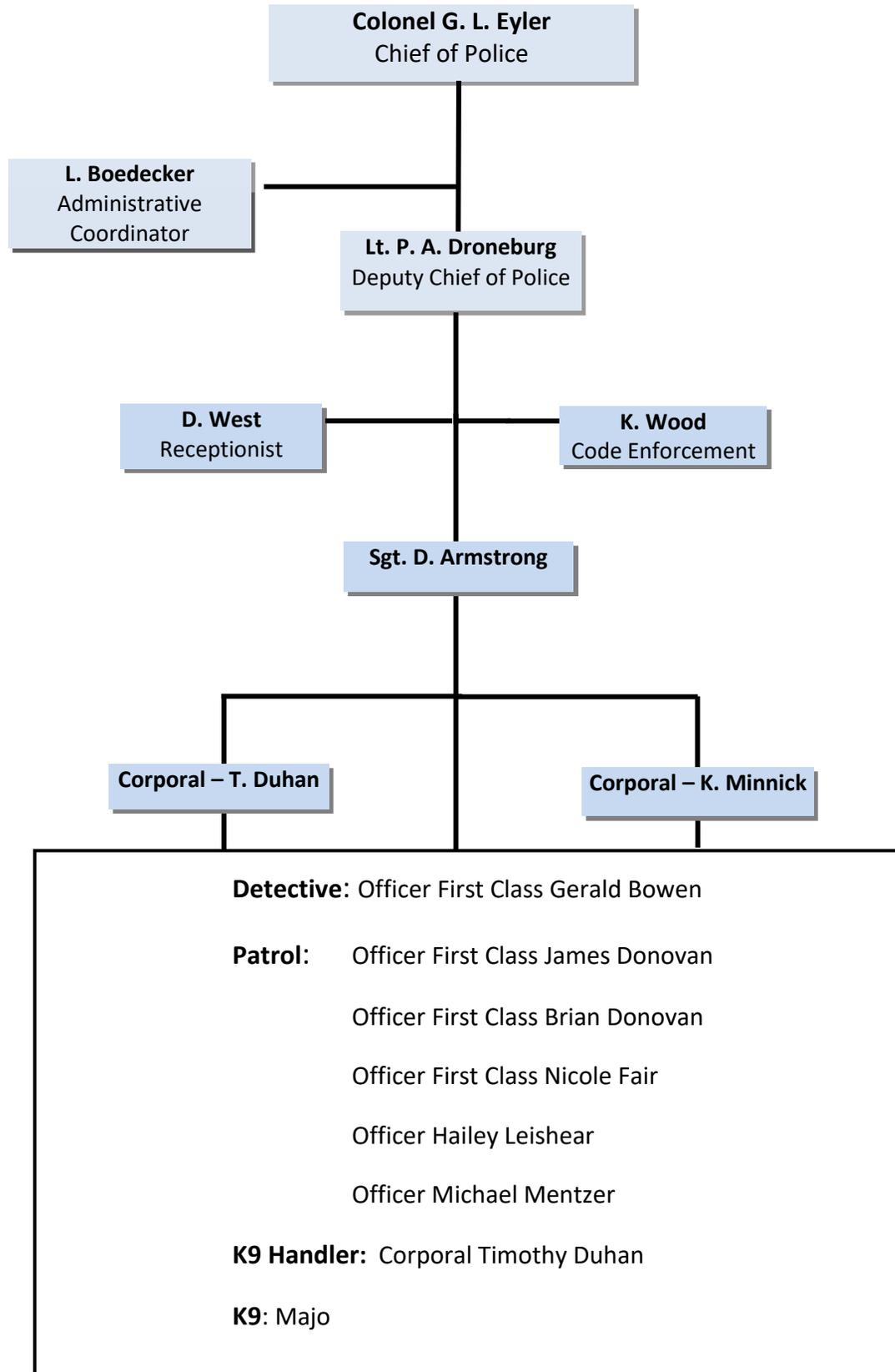
MISSION STATEMENT

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 2019: Off. Michael Mentzer
Recruit Nathan McLeroy

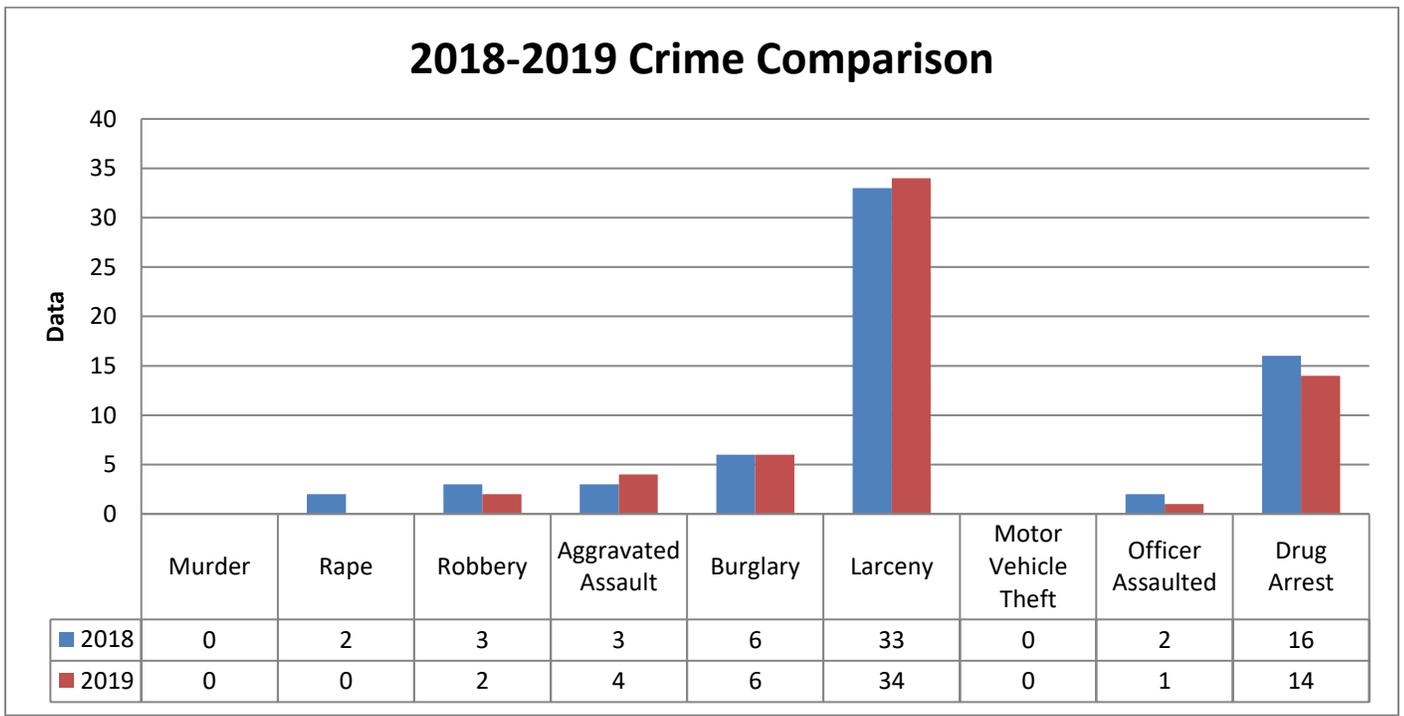
Position	Authorized	Actual
Chief of Police (Colonel)	1	1
Deputy Chief of Police (Lieutenant)	1	1
Sergeant	1	1
Corporal	2	2
Detective	1	1
Patrol Officers	7	5
Recruit Officer		1
Total Officers	13	12
Civilian		
Administrative Coordinator	1	1
Receptionist	1	1
Code Officer	1	1
Total Civilian	3	3
Total Number of Employees	16	15

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 fits 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 two 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 2019 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.

March 18, 2019

On March 18, 2019, at approximately 11:00 pm, Thurmont Police Officers responded to the 200 Block of North Church St. in Thurmont for a 911 Call. Upon their arrival, the officers found a female sitting on the ground crying with ripped clothing. Upon further investigation, the officers learned that the female had been sexually assaulted by a male at the residence. The female advised that the assault occurred inside the home and she had repeatedly told the male to stop. A witness at the scene corroborated the victim's account of the assault. The suspect had remained on the scene and was identified as: Steven Michael Perry, age 57, of Thurmont. Mr. Perry was taken into custody and charged with: Third Degree Sex Offense; and Second Degree Assault.

September 10, 2019

On September 9, 2019, at approximately 7:00 am, the Thurmont Police were alerted to a burglary at Thurmont Liquors on Tippin Drive. Upon arrival, Thurmont Police found the front glass door of the liquor store shattered. A cinder block was found inside and an undetermined amount of merchandise was missing. A surveillance photo of the suspect was provided by the owner. Later in the day, a citizen assisted the police by identifying the suspect in the photo. Thurmont Police located the suspect in the 300 Block of West Main St. and identified him as: William T. Carbaugh, age 40, of Thurmont. Numerous bottles of merchandise were recovered. Mr. Carbaugh was arrested and charged with: 2 cts of Breaking and Entering; Destruction of Property; and Theft-less \$1,500.

November 18, 2019

On Sunday, November 17, 2019, at approximately 2:00 pm, Thurmont Police responded to the 100 block of N. Altamont Ave. for a domestic dispute. Upon arrival, the officer began speaking with an involved male subject. The officer learned that the dispute was over a possible theft of money from the female. While showing the officers pay stubs to justify his explanation of the disputed money, the officers observed a CDS smoking device on the male's person. A search of the male produced syringes and three (3) capsules of suspected heroin. The male was placed under arrest. The male was identified as: Michael R. Wilson, age 21, of Frederick. Mr. Wilson was charged with: Possession of CDS: to wit: Heroin.

December 9, 2019

On Sunday, December 8, 2019, at approximately 2:00 am, Thurmont Police were notified by Howard County Police of a possible theft occurring at Criswell Chevrolet on Frederick Road. Howard County Officers advised that they had located suspects, who they had been targeting, on the Criswell lot. Officers began to surveil the activity on the car lot and observed the suspects stealing wheels off of vehicles. The officers moved in and located two of the three suspects and placed them under arrest. The third suspect fled on foot and was not located in the area. The suspects were identified as: Eric Wallace, age 56, of Washington D.C., and Donovan Keith Braxton, age 34, of Washington D.C. It was further learned that the suspects had stolen a U-Haul truck from 7th Street in Frederick City and were loading the tires into the truck. This vehicle was recovered on scene. Thurmont Police charged both suspects with: Theft; Destruction of Property; Continuing Course of Conduct to commit Theft; and Theft of Motor Vehicle.

On December 18, 2019, the third suspect involved in the theft noted above was arrested. Dominic Marcel Fowler, Mount Rainier, Md., was arrested by Howard County Police and a Thurmont Police Department warrant was served. Fowler was charged with: Theft \$1,500 to under \$25,000; Theft of Motor Vehicle; Conspiracy to commit Burglary and Theft; and 4th Degree Burglary.

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.

Community Alert System (CAS): This is an e-mail based system. To join this system and to receive e-mail notices, send your name and 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.

At this year's event, there was free food and drink, tours of the Police Station, demonstrations of emergency vehicles, information for local and county services, Pony Rides, an Inflatable Fun House, and of course "SafetyPup."



Shred Event:

On Saturday, September 28, 2019, The Thurmont Police Department, Town of Thurmont, and Woodsboro Bank held a second Shred Event for 2019. This Shred Event was another success. We collected over 9,000 pounds of paper and received a truckload of donations for the Thurmont Food Bank. I would like to thank our co-sponsor Woodsboro Bank, the Town of Thurmont, and Mayor Kinnaird for helping with Saturday's event.



MSP Career Night:

Lieutenant P. Droneburg participated in MSP's Career Night on September 26, 2019. Several agencies were in attendance to promote and encourage careers in public safety.

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), aerosolized medication, oxygen tanks, and blood products.

Shop-With-A-Cop:

In December 2019, the Thurmont Police Department participated in the “Shop with a Cop” program. Corporal Timothy Duhan of the Thurmont Police Department joined other Law Enforcement Agencies in collaborating an officer with selected children to assist them with Christmas shopping for themselves and their families.

Fish-With-A-Cop:

In 2019, 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 a fun day of fishing. Cpl. Duhan offered not only his time but also his reflective role model characteristics.

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 owner's 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 School Crossing Guards: Faye Grimes, Kristi Wood, and Eleanor Putman, 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.

AUTOMATED SPEED CAMERA:

In 2019, the town of Thurmont launched its automated speed monitoring program in an effort to decrease drivers' speeds in school zones throughout the Town. The Town's primary goal is to provide consistent enforcement to make our streets safer for our children, citizens, and motorists.

An automated speed enforcement system (ASE) is an enforcement technique with one or more motor vehicle sensors producing recorded images of motor vehicles traveling at speeds above a defined threshold. Images captured by the system are processed and reviewed in an office environment and violation notices are mailed to the registered owner of the identified vehicle.



THURMONT POLICE COMMISSION:

Each holiday season, the Thurmont Police Commission puts together a fundraising drive to help families in need. Whether it's money for groceries, to pay rent, or to get a child a toy for Christmas, the goal is the same: To help someone less fortunate than yourself. The importance is not placed on who is being helped, but rather on how they can be helped. The donations are all anonymously done, with the families typically receiving the holiday gifts from local churches.

As the Thurmont Police Commission has done in the past, this year's goal was to help as many families as they could, and their success is entirely driven by donations by individuals who are able to help and the business community.

The commission takes donations all the way through November and the first week of December, and will give VISA gift cards to local churches to help out during the holidays.

This is a special group of people who come together to make a difference in their community. "The neat thing about this is, everything we collect stays in our community, and to us that's truly working together with our police departments, our business community, and everybody working together," Shawn Martyak of the Thurmont Police Commission said.

If you would like to donate to help out a family in need this holiday season, you can mail VISA gift cards to the Thurmont Police Department at 800 East Main Street, Thurmont, MD 21788, with attention to the Police Commission.

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 2019 are 401.
35 of those cases had more than one complaint.

The following is a breakdown of the type of violations reported:

Complaint Type	Number	Complaint Type	Number
Tall Grass/Weeds	115	Uncovered/Untagged Vehicles	51
Trash/Litter	47	Premise ID	40
Sign on Pole	26	Snow on Sidewalk	23
Tree Limbs/Shrubs Overhang Street/Sidewalk	13	Yard Waste	9
Bagged Grass on Curb	8	Grass in Street	7
Boat/Trailer Stored on Street	6	Dog at Large	6
Shrubs Blocking View of Street	6	Dog Feces	5
Outdoor Storage	4	Plant/Tall Grass in Curb	4
Bamboo	3	Dead Tree	3
Feeding Wildlife	3	Violation Inquiry	3
Broken Tent	2	Bush Blocking Transformer	2
Items on Sidewalk	2	Parking Complaint	2
Pothole	2	Property Damage	2
Tree Limbs on Curb/Sidewalk	2	Tree Limbs in Bagged Grass	2
Bagged Grass not on Curb	1	Blown Trash	1
Broken Fence	1	Broken Window	1
Bulk Trash	1	Bush in Street	1
Cat at Large	1	Cat Feces	1
Collapsed Roof on Shed	1	Dead Animal	1
Debris in Drainage Ditch	1	Discarded Material	1
Dog in Yard	1	Dumpster in Street	1
Fallen Tree	1	Fire Concern	1
Fire No Burn Permit	1	Ground Water	1
HOA Inquiry	1	Interior Trash	1
Litter Inquiry	1	Loud Vehicle	1
Mailbox Location	1	Mosquitoes	1
Motorcycle on Sidewalk	1	Parking Inquiry	1
Permit Inquiry	1	Property Violation Inquiry	1

Recreational Burn Inquiry	1	Roof Repair	1
Rooster Noise	1	Sports Equipment in Street	1
Sump Pump Water in Street	1	Tree Limbs Block Stop Sign	1
Unsecured Vacant Property	1	Vacant Property	1
Wild Animal Complaint	1	Woodpile Against Building	1
		TOTAL	436

The following is a breakdown of the source of the complaint for the year of 2019:

Source of Complaint	Number
Code Officer	251
Resident	125
Town Employee	10
Property Owner	6
Chief	3
Board of Commissioners	2
Mortgage Company	2
Mayor	1
TPD Officer	1
TOTAL	401

TECHNOLOGY:

E-TIX: The Department is always trying to update 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, it helps solves cases and deter crime. In 2018, TPD applied for a Homeland Security Grant to obtain an additional LPR for patrol and successfully was awarded one.



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.



ANNUAL TOWN EVENTS:

The 56th Annual Catoctin Colorfest:



The 56th annual Colorfest was held on the weekend of October 12th and 13th. 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.

2019 Guardian Hose Fireman's Parade and Carnival:



Every year the Guardian Hose Fire Company holds 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.

RECOGNITION & AWARDS:

Life-Saving Award:



Cpl. Kyle Minnick, Off. B. Donovan:

The Life Saving Award is given to Officers of The Thurmont Police 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.

Letters of Acknowledgement from the Chief:

Presented to:

Sgt. Dave Armstrong, Cpl. Kyle Minnick, Cpl. Tim Duhan, Detective Gerald Bowen, Ofc. Nicole Fair, and Ofc. James Donovan for their dedication, professionalism and high level of performance which was displayed on December 8, 2019, during a Theft investigation on Criswell Chevrolet lot. As a result, the suspects were promptly arrested and charged. Congratulations on their achievement.

Officer of the Year:



This year, the nomination for Officer of the Year was: *Detective Gerald Bowen*.

Detective Bowen was recognized as Officer of the Year by the Thurmont Lions Club and the Maryland State Society of the Sons of the American Revolution: Frederick Town Fife & Drum.



Detective Gerald Bowen

Detective Gerald Bowen joined the Thurmont Police Department in 2013, after serving nineteen years with the Frederick Police Department. Detective Bowen is currently serving his third year as a Criminal Investigator with the Thurmont Police Department. His service in the critical position has prompted this recognition. He has fulfilled this position in an exemplary manner. He has responded to numerous call-outs for death investigations and other significant criminal investigations. His investigations have been thorough and meticulous. All of his case closures have been successful and have reflected well for our agency.

Detective Bowen also conducts Background Investigations on new-hire applicants. His backgrounds have proven to be of the utmost stringent investigation which protects the agency and maintains a high standard for future officers for this agency. Detective Bowen serves as a liaison for numerous law enforcement partners in the county. Detective Bowen has a great work ethic and has served this agency well.