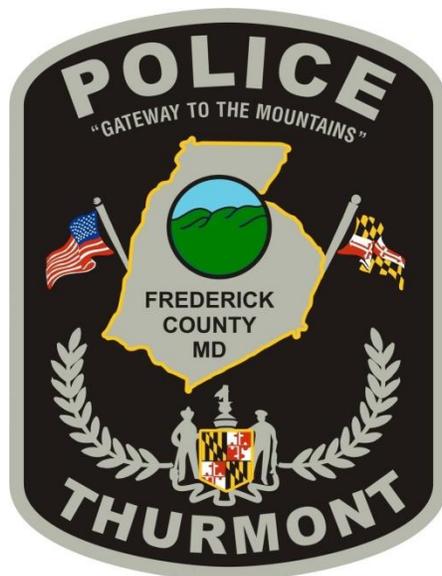


Thurmont Police Department 2020 Annual Report

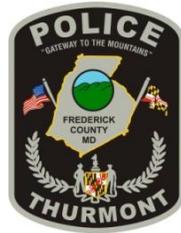


Thurmont Police Department E-Mail Address:
ThurmontPolice@FrederickCountyMD.gov

Thurmont Police Department
2020 Annual Report
Colonel Gregory L. Eyer
Chief of Police

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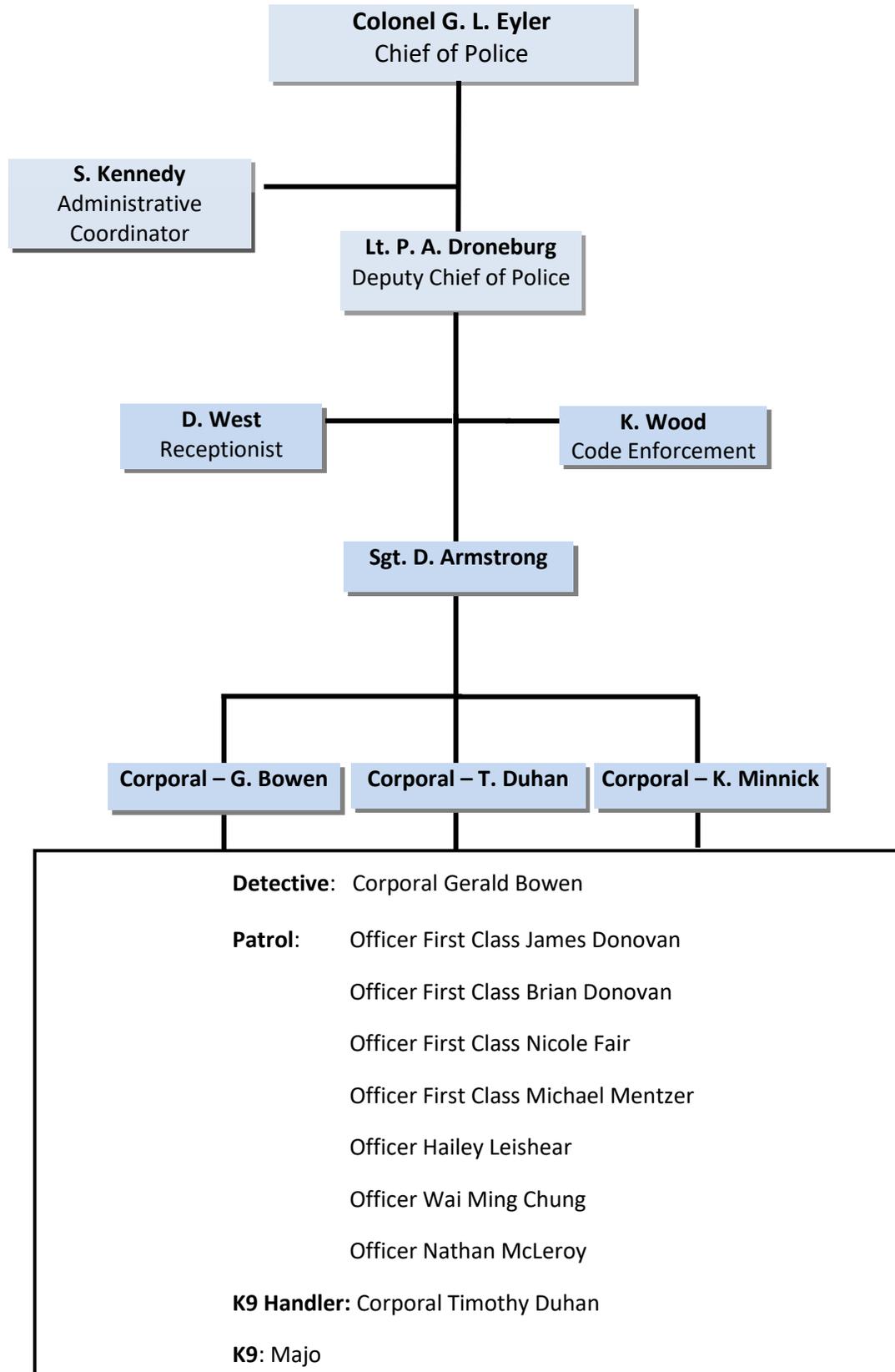
MISSION STATEMENT

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 fourteen (14) 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 Enforcement Officer.

The Thurmont Police Department hired one (1) new officer in 2020: Officer Wai Ming Chung. Additionally, one (1) officer recruit graduated from the police academy in 2020: Officer Nathan McLeroy. In January 2020, the Thurmont Police Department hired a new Administrative Coordinator: Stephanie Kennedy.

Position	Authorized	Actual
Chief of Police (Colonel)	1	1
Deputy Chief of Police (Lieutenant)	1	1
Sergeant	1	1
Corporal	2	2
Corporal/Detective	1	1
Patrol Officers	8	7
Total Officers	14	13
Civilian		
Administrative Coordinator	1	1
Receptionist	1	1
Code Enforcement Officer	1	1
Total Civilian	3	3
Total Number of Employees	17	16

In July 2020, Officer Wai Ming Chung was sworn in as a Police Officer with the Thurmont Police Department. Officer Chung previously served as a police officer and retired from D.C. Metropolitan Police Department.



In August 2020, Officer Nathan McLeroy graduated from the MPCTC Police Academy and joined as Thurmont Police Department's newest Police Officer.

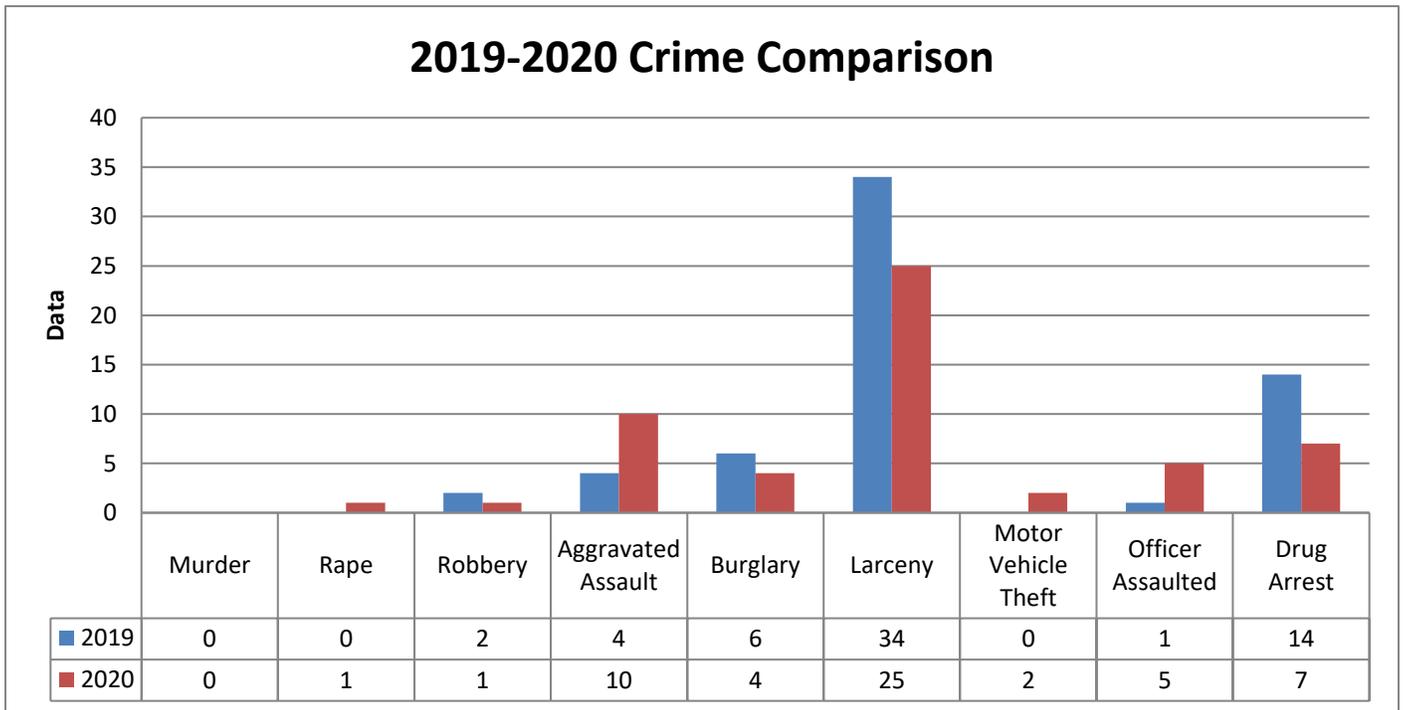


MOUNTAIN BIKE PATROL:

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 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 State's Attorney Office and other allied agencies.

The following significant cases of 2020 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 10, 2020

On March 10, 2020, at approximately 1:10 am, Thurmont Police Officers responded to the Dollar General at 218 N. Church St. for a Burglary Alarm. Upon their arrival, the officers found a suspect coming from the rear of the store with a backpack. The suspect was detained. The officers found the rear door of the business had been forced open and the suspect had numerous stolen items in the backpack. The suspect was identified as: David P. Nolte, age 24, of Jefferson, MD. The suspect was transported to Central Booking and was charged with: 2 counts of Breaking and Entering; 2 counts of Destruction of Property; 2 counts of Theft \$100 - \$1,500.

March 16, 2020

On March 13, 2020, at approximately 10:40 pm, Thurmont Police Officers responded to the 200 Blk of N. Church St. for an assault. The officers located the victim: Steven Perry, age 58, at the Liberty Gas Station. The victim was bleeding from numerous cuts on his arms, hands, and head. The victim advised that he had been assaulted by Robin Spahr with a machete. The victim was transported to Meritus Medical Center in Hagerstown for treatment. The suspect and a witness were located at Beckley's Motel on Willow Rd in Frederick. The suspect was identified as: Robin Ray Spahr, age 62, of Frederick. There was evidence of the assault observed on Spahr, in his truck, and on the machete, which was recovered. Spahr was arrested and charged with: Attempted 2nd Degree Murder; First Degree Assault; Second Degree Assault; Reckless Endangerment. The victim was treated and later released from Meritus Medical Center.

March 19, 2020

On March 18, 2020, at approximately 7:50 pm, Thurmont Police Officers responded to the Verizon Store on Frederick Rd. for an Armed Robbery. An unidentified Hispanic female had entered the business first and then left the area as three Hispanic males entered forcing the employee at gunpoint to get on the floor. The suspects filled two suitcases with stolen items from the store. After the suspects left the business, the employee called 911 and provided a description of the suspects and their vehicle. A Frederick County Sherriff's Deputy observed the suspects' vehicle traveling northbound on Rt. 15 at a high rate of speed. Frederick County Dispatch alerted Pennsylvania State Police. Among the stolen items the suspects placed in the suitcase was a 3SI Security Tracker. Frederick County Dispatch was able to relay the Geographical location of the suspects based on this tracking device to the responding officers. Pennsylvania Police located the suspect's vehicle abandoned in Upper Allen Township. After a search of the area, and with the help of witnesses, four (4) suspects were located and taken into custody by the Pennsylvania authorities.

Thurmont Police arrested the following suspects:

Andri A. Delacruz, age 20, of New York, NY

Angel Nestor Collazo, age 20, of Bronx, NY

Noah Pablo Zayas, age 38, of Bronx, NY

Luis J. Filpo, age 20, of Manhattan, NY

All of the above suspects were charged with: 2 counts Armed Robbery; 2 counts Robbery; Theft \$1,500-\$25,000; and 2nd Degree Assault.

June 16, 2020

On Monday, June 15, 2020, at approximately 12:30 pm, Thurmont Police responded to Thurmont Auto Sales on N. Church St. for a reported Theft of a Vehicle. Officers learned that a male subject with a dog approached the car lot from the rear and got into a truck with keys in the ignition. The truck was not for sale and was the property of Thurmont Auto Sales. While gathering information, an alert citizen observed the truck with a Thurmont Auto Sales dealer tag parked at Howard Street Apartments on Howard Street in Thurmont. The citizen contacted Thurmont Auto Sales and the police responded. Upon their arrival, Thurmont officers located the suspect near the vehicle and placed him under arrest. The suspect was identified as: Dionisio E. White, age 50, of Hanover, PA. Mr. White was charged with: Theft of Motor Vehicle; and Unauthorized Use of Motor Vehicle. Mr. White was released on Personal Recognizance by a District Court Commissioner.

2020 Scam & Fraud Cases

This past year, the Thurmont Police Department took an increased number of fraud and scam reports. Our department sent out notifications and Facebook posts regarding common frauds and scams that have been seen in our area.



These people are criminals. Don't let them win your hard-earned money. Do not send them money or provide any account numbers. Do not go to the store and purchase money cards or gift cards as they may have instructed. If you ever think something is suspicious, contact the Thurmont Police Department or stop in to have officers check it BEFORE you send any money. Please contact us with any questions.

Additional information regarding these common scams can be found on the Thurmont Police Department's website and Facebook page.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAMS:

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

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.

Facebook: In March 2020, the Police Department created an official Facebook page. The page exists to provide access to information about the department and safety in the community. It also provides a platform for interaction with the department. The Facebook page is not monitored at all times and should not be used to report crimes in-progress. The Thurmont Police Department Facebook page can be found online at **www.facebook.com/ThurmontPoliceDept**

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.



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.

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 and one part-time School Crossing Guards: Faye Grimes, Eleanor Putman, Kristi Wood, and Ed Himes 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.

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 through November and the first week of December and will give VISA gift cards to local churches to help out during the holidays.

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.

Operation Chill:



Operation Chill is a partnership with 7-Eleven which is designed to enhance relationships among 7-Eleven stores, police and the youth. The program gives law enforcement the opportunity to award kids they observe doing good deeds or exhibiting positive behavior with drink coupons. The coupon is good for a free, medium Slurpee drink at any participating 7-Eleven store. The program makes it easy to interact with kids in a positive way.

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.



SafetyPup is also very active on the department's Facebook Page with various contests and safety tips.

- Where is SafetyPup?
 - Each day at noon during a two-week period in October 2020, Thurmont Police staff posted a photo of SafetyPup at a location in the Town. Focusing on school-aged children, the first person with the correct answer as to the location, won a Slurpee coupon. They also received a SafetyPup Brochure pertaining to Halloween Safety.



- “Gobble Gobble” Turkey Giveaway
 - The week before Thanksgiving, Thurmont Police staff held a contest on Facebook for the chance to win a free turkey from Hillside Turkey Farms in Thurmont. To enter the person or family submitted a video with their best turkey gobble. 3 families submitted videos. The winner was drawn on the Police Department’s Facebook during a live video. Thank you to Hillside Turkey Farms for donating the turkey for the giveaway.
- Where is SafetyPup: Business Edition?
 - Each day from Monday, December 14th through December 18th, 2020, Thurmont Police staff posted a photo of SafetyPup at a business in the Town of Thurmont Each person who correctly identified the business gained one entry into the week’s drawing. At the end of the week, five names were drawn. Each person won a \$20 gift certificate to the Thurmont Kountry Kitchen.



Shred Event:

On Saturday, September 26, 2020, The Thurmont Police Department, Town of Thurmont, and Woodsboro Bank held a Community Shred Event. 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. We would like to thank our co-sponsor Woodsboro Bank, the Town of Thurmont, and Mayor Kinnaird for helping with Saturday's event.



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.



The following are monthly statistics for the number of violations captured by the ASE in 2020:

<u>Month</u>	<u>Number of Violations</u>
January	32
February	19
March	24
April	45
May	35
June	36
July	21
August	40
September	36
October	45
November	25
December	18
TOTAL:	376

CODE ENFORCEMENT SECTION:



The Code Enforcement Section was created in 2008 and is staffed by a full-time employee. The Code Enforcement 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 Enforcement 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 2020 are 294.
23 of those cases had more than one complaint.

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

Complaint Type	# of Violations	Complaint Type	# of Violations
Tall Grass/Weeds	81	Uncovered/Untagged Vehicles	32
Snow on Sidewalk	25	Trash	25
Tree Limbs in Bags	12	Furniture in Yard/Curb	11
Sign on Poles	11	Shrubs/Trees Overhand Street	9
Premise ID	7	Sports Equipment on Street	7
Trailer/Camper Stored on Street	7	Grass on Sidewalk/Street	6
Grass in Street	5	Dog Feces	4
Rooster Complaint	4	Yard Waste	4
Barking Dog	3	Dead Tree	3
Loose Dog	3	Tall Grass in Curb	3
Toilet In Yard/Street	2	Horse Manure on Sidewalk	2
Bee Hive Inquiry	2	Noise Complaint	2
Outdoor Storage	2	Pothole in Street	2
Bush/Weeds Blocking Street View	2	Abandon Vehicle	1
Broken Window	1	Camper Inquiry	1
Clogged Storm Drain	1	Bagged Grass on Curb	1
Container Inquiry	1	Open Burn Inquiry	1
Overgrown Trees/Shrubs	1	Parking Inquiry	1
Permit Inquiry	1	Premise ID	1
Solar Panels	1	Unleashed Dog Inquiry	1
Dumpster Inquiry	1	Littering	1
Missing Trash Can	1	Stored Boats	1
Tree Limbs on Sidewalk	1	Dead Animal in Road	1
Door Frame in Yard	1	Newspaper Delivery Complaint	1
Poison Ivy	1	State Sign Down	1
Trash Can Placement	1	Trash in Bed of Truck	1
Trash Out Early	1	Tree Blocking Utility Box	1
Truck Speeding	1	Waste in Street	1
Weeds from Adjoining Property	1	Collection Bin Placed Illegally	1
Feces Odor	1	Leaves in Street	1

Parking Violation	1	Recycle Bin on Curb	1
Storm Drain Damage	1	Tree Limbs and Leaves	1
Tree Limbs Overhang on Property	1	Vehicle Parked in Yard	1
Violation Check Request	1	Dumped Cut Grass	1
		TOTAL	317

The following is a breakdown of the source of the complaints for the year 2020:

Source of Complaint	Number
Code Enforcement Officer	166
Resident	109
Town Employee	5
TPD Officer	4
LT	3
Chief	1
Fire Chief	1
HOA	1
Homeowner	1
Mayor	1
Mortgage Company	1
TPD Employee	1
TOTAL	294

The following is a breakdown of how the complaints were closed for the year 2020:

How Complaint Closed	Number
Owner Complied	195
Reminder Letter Mailed	16
No Violation	15
Inquiry Answered	12
Unfounded	9
Removed by Code Enforcement Officer	7
Town Mowed	7
Referred to Town Employee	5
Town Corrected	5
Referred to TPD Officer	4
Referred to FCAC	3
Removed by Owner	3
Removed by Town	3
Courtesy Call	2
Incorrect Property	1
Referred to MDOT	1
Request to Stop Delivery	1
State Corrected	1
Dog Returned	1
Referred to Potomac Edison	1
Removed by Realtor	1
Removed by School	1
TOTAL	294

The following is a disposition breakdown of the eight citations issued for the year 2020.

Citation	Referred to Attorney	Paid	Non Payment	Paid Prior to Court	Plea Guilty or Not Guilty	Paid After Court
1			X			
2			X			
3			X			
4			X			
5			X			
6			X			
7			X			
8		X				
TOTAL	0	1	7	0	0	0

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 solve 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:

Unfortunately, as a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Guardian Hose Fireman's Parade and Carnival, National Night Out, and the Annual Catocin Colorfest were canceled for 2020.

RECOGNITION & AWARDS:

5th Safest City in Maryland

In 2020, Thurmont was ranked by SafeWise as the 5th Safest City in Maryland due to its commitment to the safety and security of its residents.



Detective Bowen Promoted to Corporal

On June 29, 2020, Detective Gerald Bowen was promoted to the rank of Corporal. Detective Bowen currently serves as our department's Criminal Investigator. Congratulations on his achievement and promotion!



Letters of Acknowledgement from the Chief:

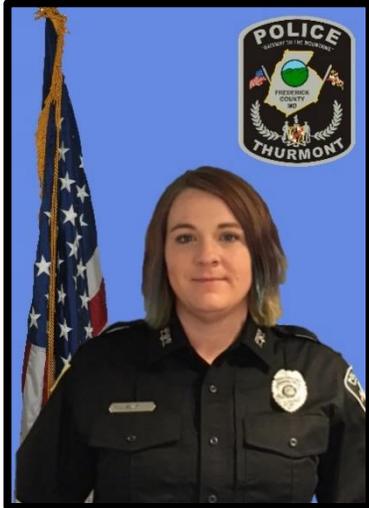
Presented to:

Cpl. Tim Duhan, Cpl. Kyle Minnick, Detective Gerald Bowen, Ofc. James Donovan, Ofc. Nicole Fair, Ofc. Brian Donovan, and Off. Hailey Leishear for their dedication, professionalism and high level of performance which was displayed on March 18, 2020, during an armed robbery investigation at the Verizon store on Frederick Road. 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: *Officer First Class Nicole Fair*. Officer Fair was recognized as Officer of the Year by the Thurmont Lions Club.



Officer First Class Nicole Fair

Officer First Class Nicole Fair joined the Thurmont Police Department in July 2016. She was a graduate of the Western Maryland Police Academy. OFC Fair has always been eager to learn and help with any agency task. She is currently serving as a Patrol Officer and has accepted extra assignments. When the agency was in need of a Property/Evidence Technician, OFC Fair stepped up and has been assigned since April 2019. OFC Fair also took an interest in Juvenile Delinquency and assisted our agency with the adoption of the Juvenile Diversion Program and serves as the agency's liaison with the State's Attorney Office and Juvenile Services. OFC Fair also serves as the agency's Gang Coordinator. She tracks gang activity locally and monitors regional gang intelligence networks. OFC Fair has been trained as an instructor for the agency and has been certified by MPCTC as a Training Instructor.

During the past eighteen months, OFC Fair became involved in some major investigations. In September 2019, OFC Fair investigated a serious Domestic Assault, arrested and charged the suspect. Later, the female victim refused to testify. Regardless, through a well-documented investigation and support from the State's Attorney Office and Heartly House, the suspect was convicted and received a lengthy prison term. In November 2019, OFC Fair received a Thank You letter from a citizen whom she helped through a medical emergency. In December 2019, OFC Fair received a Letter of Acknowledgement from the Chief of Police for her assistance with a theft at Criswell Chevrolet. In March 2020, OFC Fair received Commendatory recognition from the Chief of Police for her assistance with the Robbery at the Verizon Store. OFC Fair has consistently demonstrated a desire to learn, an eagerness to enhance her career, and serves the Thurmont Police Department in an exemplary manner.