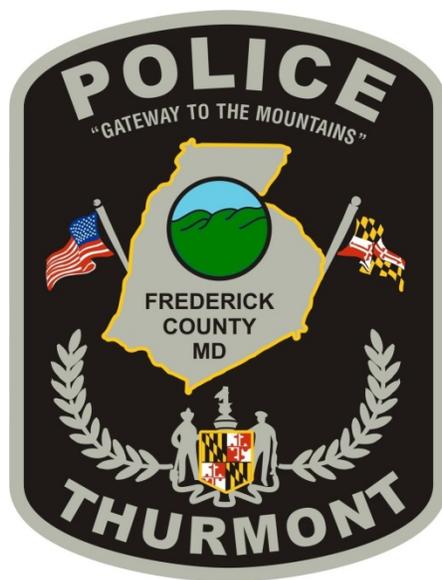


Thurmont Police Department 2014 Annual Report



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Thurmont Police Department
2014 Annual Report
Colonel Gregory L. Eyer
Chief of Police

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF OF POLICE:

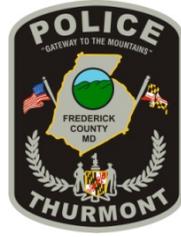
On behalf of the men and women of the Thurmont Police Department, I am proud to present the 2014 Annual Report. This report depicts our activities and accomplishments for the calendar year 2014. Once again, the members of the Department have worked hard to make this a progressive, proactive, innovative, efficient community-oriented law enforcement agency.

The Thurmont Police Department continues to be committed to the citizens of Thurmont, as you will see from the information in this document. I am very proud to be your Police Chief, and I assure you that all of my energy will be utilized to make our community the best place to work, live and visit.



Sincerely:

Colonel Gregory L. Eyler
Chief of Police



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.

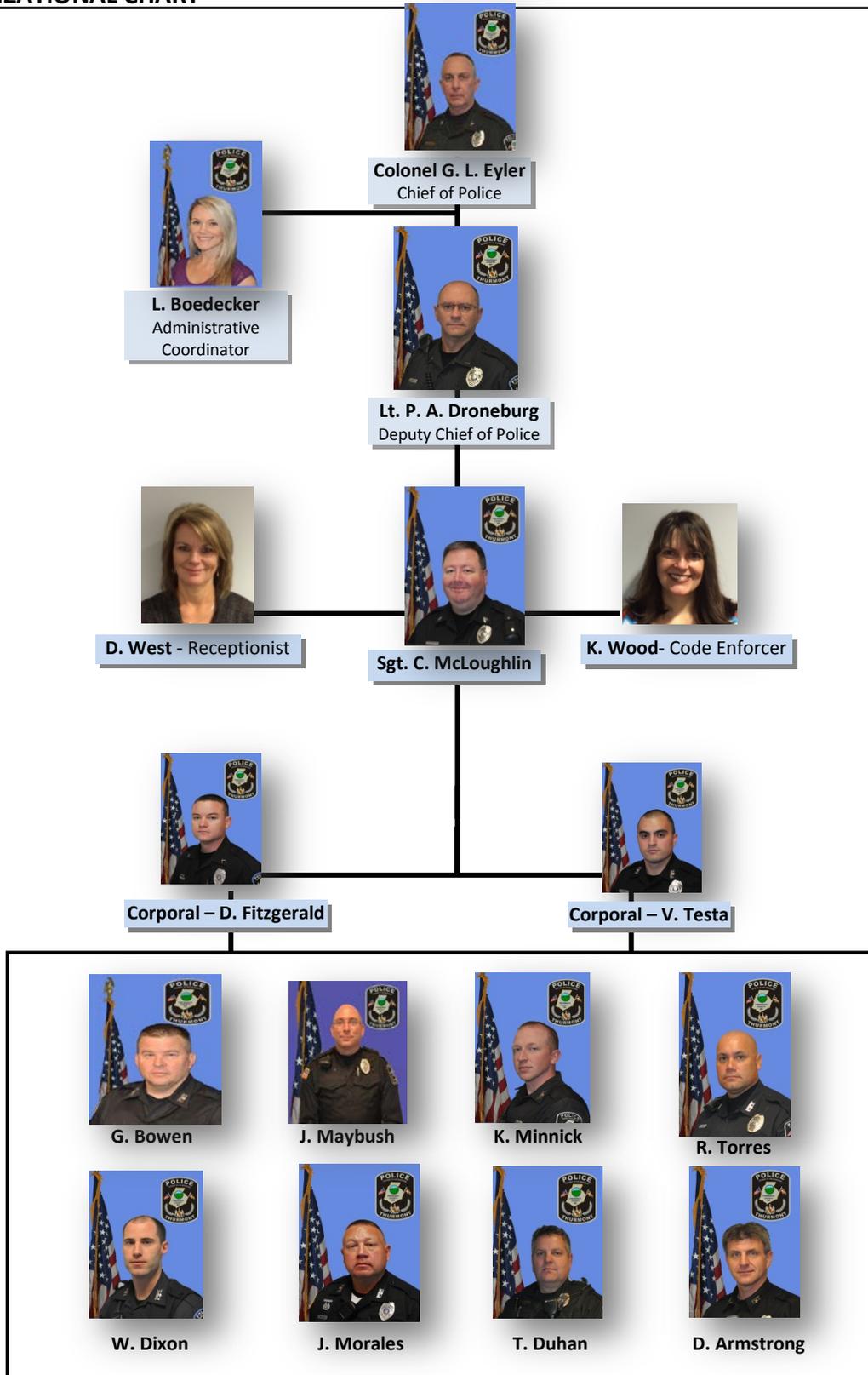
We're happy to announce that Thurmont made the SafeWise 10 Safest Cities in Maryland list!

In 2014, SafeWise combined data from the 2012 FBI Crime Reports with their own research to create a list of the safest communities in Maryland.

Through the dedication of Thurmont Officers and their commitment to community policing, Thurmont has established a reputation of having a safe environment for their residents. Thurmont is a small town where residents are proud of their community and take pride in maintaining a place of peace to raise their families and enjoy life!



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) Part-time Code Enforcer.

Late in 2014, The Thurmont Police Department hired a new Receptionist, Donna West, and also a new Code Enforcer, Kristi Wood.

Position	Authorized	Actual
Chief of Police (Colonel)	1	1
Deputy Chief of Police (Lieutenant)	1	1
Sergeant	1	1
Corporal	2	2
Patrol Officers	8	8
Total Officers	13	13
Civilian		
Administrative Coordinator	1	1
Receptionist	1	1
Code Officer (<i>Part-Time</i>)	1	1
Total Civilian	3	3
Total Number of Employees	16	16

TPD VEHICLE FLEET:



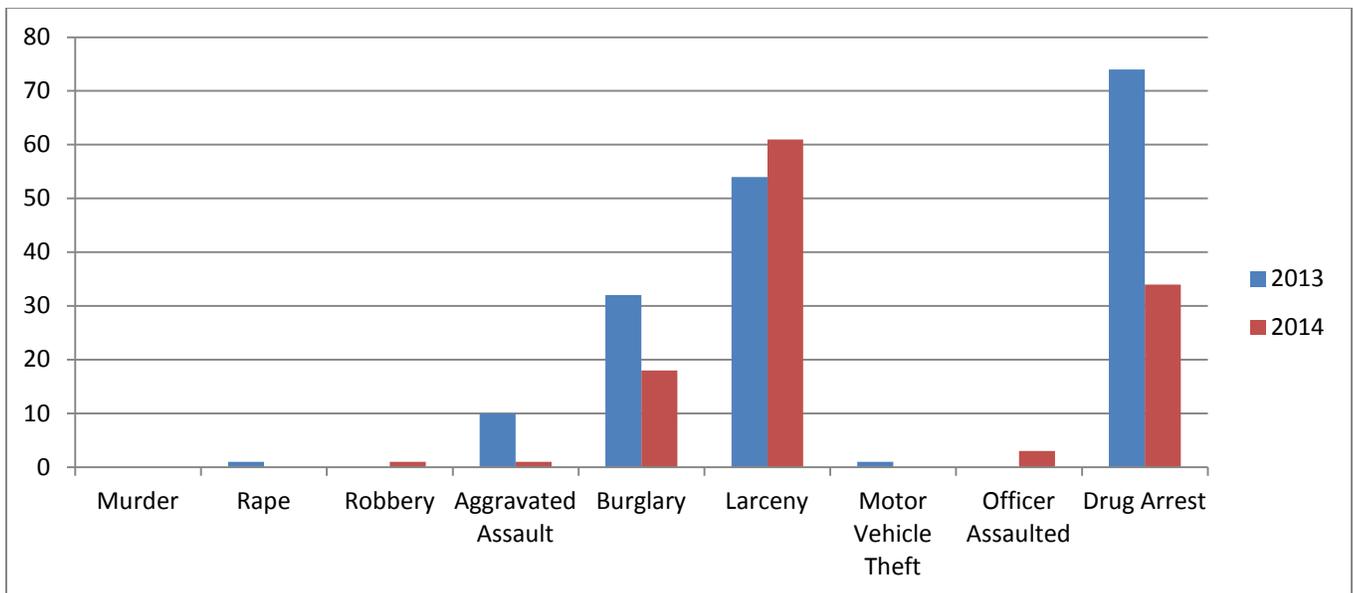
MOUNTAIN BIKE PATROL:

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 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.



	Murder	Rape	Robbery	Agg.Assault	Burglary	Larceny	MV Theft	Officer Assault	Drug Arrest
2013	0	1	0	10	32	54	1	0	74
2014	0	0	1	1	18	61	0	3	34

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 2014 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 17, 2014

On February 27, 2014, members of the Thurmont Police Department served a Search and Seizure Warrant on a residence in the 100 Blk of Dogwood Avenue, Thurmont. Residents Charles Michael Shifflet, age 42, and Mary Beth Shifflet, age 36, were identified and detained as the officers conducted a search for controlled dangerous substances. During the search, the officers discovered a marijuana growing operation in the lower level of the residence. A complete search of the residence produced a quantity of suspected marijuana, marijuana growing equipment, live marijuana plants, and CDS paraphernalia. On March 11, 2014, Mary Shifflet was charged via a Criminal Summons with: Possession of Marijuana; and Possession of Controlled Dangerous Substance Paraphernalia. On March 14, 2014 Michael Shifflet was indicted by a Frederick County Grand Jury on the following charges: Manufacture a Controlled Dangerous Substance, to wit: Marijuana; Possession of Controlled Dangerous Substance with intent to Distribute, to wit: Marijuana; Possession of Controlled Dangerous Substance to wit: Marijuana; Possession of Controlled Dangerous Substance with Intent to Distribute, to wit: Methadone; and Possession of Controlled Dangerous Substance, to wit: Methadone. Mr. Shifflet was served with these charges on March 15, 2014.

March 10, 2014

On March 8, 2014, at approximately 2:30pm, a Thurmont Police Officer observed a subject littering in a parking lot of the 300 Block of Tippin Drive. As the officer approached and attempted to confront the subject, the subject fled on foot dropping cash and other items from his pockets. The subject was apprehended after running through the brush and was eventually identified as: John Shelton Hough III, age 33, of Walkersville. Frederick County Sheriff's Office Deputies responded to assist and a K9 officer and his partner was utilized to locate the articles discarded by Mr. Hough as he ran through the brush. The officers located

approximately \$400 in cash and recovered packaging containing suspected Marijuana, Cocaine, and Heroin. Mr. Hough was charged with: Littering; Resisting Arrest; False Statement Concerning his Identity; Possession of Marijuana; Possession of Heroin; Possession of Heroin with Intent to Distribute; Possession of Cocaine; Possession of Cocaine with Intent to Distribute; Possession of CDS Paraphernalia. Mr. Hough was also wanted by the FCSO on open warrants.

July 17, 2014

On July 16, 2014 at approximately 1:00pm, the Thurmont Police Department was alerted that a wanted subject was travelling from Indiana and would be stopping in Thurmont during the afternoon hours of this date. Further investigation revealed that the suspect, identified as: Jack Lee Wright, age 52, of Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, was wanted for Bank Robbery in Glenwood Springs, Colorado. An informant advised that Mr. Wright was traveling in a black pickup truck with Florida tags. The informant assisted the Thurmont Police Department by directing Mr. Wright to a location on Tippin Drive. The Thurmont Police Department staged an arrest team and took Mr. Wright into custody when he pulled into the area. During a search of Mr. Wright's pickup truck, a large amount of cash and evidence was recovered. A Thurmont Police Investigator interviewed Mr. Wright. Mr. Wright admitted committing the Bank Robbery in Colorado and also advised that he was involved in two more bank robberies; one in Gainesville, Florida, and one in San Antonio, Texas. Thurmont Police Department is currently working with agencies from those cities. Mr. Wright was taken to the Frederick County Adult Detention Center where he was being held on a Fugitive Warrant.

August 6, 2014

On Saturday August 2, 2014, the Thurmont Police responded to four (4) reported burglaries. The affected businesses were: Bollinger's Restaurant, Simply Asian Foods, Renovations Salon and Day Spa, and Amber Hill Physical Therapy. Forced entry was made into each business and cash was stolen. The investigation of the Bollinger's Restaurant burglary developed a suspect identified as: David Warren Chilcote Sr., age 62, of Essex, Maryland. On August 5, 2014, the Thurmont Police served an arrest warrant on Mr. Chilcote and transported him to Frederick County Central Booking. Chilcote was charged with: Second Degree Burglary, Fourth Degree Burglary, Theft: Less \$1,000, and Destruction of Property. The other burglaries are still under investigation.

October 20, 2014

On October 17, 2014, the Thurmont Police arrested Ruddle David Janish II, age 23, of Thurmont, for Burglary and Theft of jewelry from a house in the 13,000 Block of Moser Road in Thurmont.

On October 11, 2014, the Frederick County Sheriff's Office responded to a home in the 13,000 block of Moser for a reported Burglary and significant Theft of jewelry. On October 17th, Thurmont Police Officers located Mr. Janish and learned that he was in possession of the stolen jewelry. Further investigation revealed that Mr. Janish had been assisted by Kaitlyn Dyer, age 20, of Thurmont, in pawning some of the stolen jewelry. A large portion of the stolen jewelry was recovered and identified by the victims. Mr. Janish was charged with: (2) counts of Breaking and Entering; Theft: value \$10,000 - \$100,000; Conspiracy to Commit Theft: value \$10,000 - \$100,000. Mr. Janish is being held at the Frederick County Adult Detention Center in lieu of \$350,000 bond. Ms. Dyer was arrested and charged with: Theft: value \$10,000 - \$100,000; Conspiracy to Commit Theft: value \$10,000 - \$100,000. Ms. Dyer was released on Personal Recognizance.

December 8, 2014

On December 5, 2014 Thurmont Police Officers conducted an undercover drug operation targeted to apprehend person(s) distributing controlled dangerous substance in the Town of Thurmont. During this operation, a 20 year old female was arrested when she sold packets of suspected heroin to an undercover police officer. Upon her arrest additional packets of suspected heroin was located on her person, prescription pills, and over \$600 in cash. The female was identified as: Ashley K. Springer, age 20, of Thurmont. Ms. Springer was charged with: (5 cts) of Possession and Distribution of CDS (Heroin); and (3 cts) of Possession of CDS Prescription Medicine. Ms. Springer was released on \$20,000 bond.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAMS:

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

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.



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.



Meet the Chief Night:



Colonel Eyler hosted several Meet the Chief Nights in 2014 where different topics were discussed. On November 6, 2014 a Meet the Chief Night was held discussing the concerning topic of Burglary Prevention for Businesses located in the jurisdiction of Thurmont, Maryland. On October 1, 2014, Chief Eyler and Cpl. V. Testa held a Fraud Prevention Seminar at the Thurmont Senior Center to disclose imperative information when dealing with a potential fraudulent situation.

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.

Disseminated Resources for Drug Awareness: In March 2014, the Thurmont Police Department provided the citizens of Thurmont with a list of resources available pertaining to Drug Awareness, Substance Abuse Services and Crisis Intervention.

P.A.K.N.: In November 2014, the Thurmont Police Department partnered with the Frederick County Parks and Recreation to develop a monthly community event for Thurmont residents ages, 11-17. The goal of P.A.K.N is to come out and enjoy a night with the Thurmont Police Officers to build a trusted relationship between law enforcement and local youth.



Shop-With-A-Cop: In 2014 two of our officers, Cpl. Daniel Fitzgerald and Ofc. Tim Duhan participated in the Shop-With-A Cop Program, where each officer accompanied a boy and a girl from the community and assisted them with their Christmas shopping at **Walmart** for their family and themselves. After completing shopping they were treated to dinner at **OUTBACK STEAKHOUSE**.



Fish-With-A-Cop: In 2014 Ofc. Kyle Minnick and Ofc. Timothy Duhan participated in the Fish-With-A-Cop Program. This program pairs an officer with underprivileged children by taking them fishing. Most of these children are without a father figure in their life; this program provides a positive role model in a “Cop”. This year Ofc. Minnick and Ofc. Duhan took two youths from the Thurmont community to this event and had a successful day fishing at Camp Airy.

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.



2014 Business Expo: Every year Thurmont First holds a Business Expo at Catoclin High School where businesses from within and around the Thurmont area show what they have to offer the citizens of the area. Ofc. Bill Dixon represented the Thurmont Police Department offering information as well as answering questions about the Department.

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 two full-time; Faye Grimes and James Hughes, and one part-time, Eugene "Sonny" Grimes, 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.

BACK TO SCHOOL SAFETY EDUCATION:

On August 21, 2014, members of the Thurmont Police Department prepared a demonstration of Crosswalk and Bike Safety for Thurmont Elementary and Middle School Students and their parents. The goal of this presentation was to ensure that the proper precautions were taken for their safety before and after school.

CODE ENFORCEMENT SECTION:



The Code Enforcement Section was created in 2009 and is staffed by a Part-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 2014 are 132.

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

Complaint Type	Number	Complaint Type	Number
Grass	53	Yard Sale Signs/Other	7
Snow on Sidewalk	10	Basketball Hoop	4
Trash	10	Dog Feces	4
Rubbish/Litter/Trash	10	Damaged Sidewalk	3
Trees/Bushes	10	Pool Stagnant Water	2
Untagged Vehicles	9	Premise ID	9
Aggressive Dog	1	Boat Trailer	1
Debris Leaves in Road	1	Discarded Newspaper	1
Ground Hog in Yard	1	Standing Water	1
Storage Pod	1	Sports Equipment	1
Pipe Crossing Sidewalk	1	Structural Concerns	1
		Total	141

The following is a breakdown of the source of the complaint:

Source of Complaint	Number
Code Officer	83
Resident	36
Officer	9
Town Office	2
FCHD	1
Mortgage Company	1
Total	132

TRAINING UNIT:



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

In November, Officer R. Torres held Active Shooter training for both the civilians within the Police Department and also the Town employees of Thurmont.

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.



Automatic External Defibrillator (AED): The Thurmont Police Department received a donation of three 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 51st Catoctin Colorfest: The 51st annual Colorfest was held the weekend of October 11th and 12th. 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.



2014 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.

AWARDS:

Certificate of Appreciation:



On October 8, 2014, Officer Duhan was presented with a certificate of appreciation for, volunteering time and effort in preparing the Thurmont Police Department's firing range for annual qualifications. Officer Duhan's dedication and hard work as well as his ability to be creative, resulted in members of the department successfully qualifying.



On October 8, 2014, Officer Dixon was presented with a certificate of appreciation for, volunteering time and effort in developing plans in collaboration with the State Highway Administration, to restrict truck operations in the Town of Thurmont. Officer Dixon's dedication and hard work resulted in positive changes being made towards providing a safer environment for the citizens of Thurmont.

Life Saving Award:



Corporal Daniel Fitzgerald:



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. During 2014 Corporal Daniel Fitzgerald, without thought of his own safety, came to the aid of a citizen in an effort to save their life. Cpl. Fitzgerald responded to a call to assist the Frederick County Sheriff's Office in Emmitsburg where a subject had been stabbed.

Through his innovative and quick thinking, Cpl. Fitzgerald used a rolled up tee shirt and a wool cap as pressure dressing to prevent the victim from bleeding out until EMS arrived.

For his actions to preserve this individual's life, OFC Fitzgerald received the Thurmont Police Department's Life-Saving Award.

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: *Officer First Class David Armstrong*



Officer First Class David Armstrong:

Officer Armstrong began his career with the Thurmont Police Department in November 2012. He served twenty (20) years as a police officer, Detective, and Corporal with the Frederick Police Department before retiring and joining our agency. He served as an Investigator with the Thurmont Police Department during the past year. His success and service has been outstanding. He has been instrumental in detecting criminal activity and resolving investigations. Officer Armstrong displays an exceptional work ethic. He always adjusts his schedule to conduct surveillance, meet with witnesses, and locate suspects. He has served the Thurmont Police Department as a great liaison with other agencies and the State's Attorney Office; sharing information and coordinating pre-trial preparation.

Officer Armstrong also serves as our "Safe Streets Grant" coordinator; scheduling and preparing objectives to utilize \$2,000 in Grant Funds. This program targets repeat offenders and individuals involved in controlled dangerous substances. Officer Armstrong displays a positive attitude and represents the Thurmont Police Department in the highest professional manner.