

Fanwood Police Department

2023

Annual Report



2023 Executive Summary

2023 was a great year for the Fanwood Police Department. The agency continues to provide a high level of professional police service even during challenging times.

Other than some internal reassignments, there were no departures and no new hires in 2023. Our Administrative Assistant / Records Clerk was elevated to full time status and given additional administrative responsibilities within the agency

The profession of law enforcement is ever changing. As a result more diverse and technological training classes are necessary. In this spirit, the agency continues to send all of its personnel, sworn and civilian, to the necessary courses to accomplish our mission.

2023 saw the most successful National Night Out since its inception. This cannot be accomplished without the support of the many local businesses that provided financial support.

In 2023, the Police Department received a \$4,100 donation from Dr. Cesar DePaco, Founder and CEO of Summit Nutritionals. The funding was used to purchase 2 new police bicycles. Dr. DePaco has donated over \$14,000 over the past 2 years to the Fanwood Police Department.

With the support of the Honorable Mayor Colleen Mahr, members of the Borough Council and recently hired Borough Administrator Jesse Moehlman, the Fanwood Police Department continued its mission in Community Engagement. The department participated in numerous community related activities aimed at increasing the already solid relationships with all members of the Borough of Fanwood.

Fanwood Police Department

Mission Statement

“We, the members of the Fanwood Police Department, are committed to excellence in law enforcement and are dedicated to the people, traditions, and diversity of the Borough. We will provide service with understanding, response with compassion, and performance with integrity.”



From the Fanwood Police Patrol and Operations Division led by Lt. Dan Kranz.....

In 2023, the Fanwood Police Department created and/or revised a significant number of policies as it continues the goals of becoming an even more professional police agency. This work continues and is conducted with the best practices in Law Enforcement as the model.

A total of 110 policies, directives and orders were issued in 2023 (as compared to 79 in 2022)

General Orders: 17

Attorney General Guidelines: 14

Personnel & Special Orders: 11

Miscellaneous Orders/Bulletins: 68

The members of the Fanwood Police Department pride themselves in community engagement well above and beyond the daily calls for service that residents and businesses see them involved in. Some of these community based events include:

March: Law Enforcement Recruiting Fair-Kean University

April: Easter Bunny Egg Hunt

May: Ruck March, Memorial Day Parade

June: Ladies Night, Special Olympics Torch Run

July: Movies in the Park

August: National Night Out

October: Walk to School Day, Fanny Wood Day, Fanwood 5K, Halloween Parade, Police & Pumpkins Event

November: Blue Mass, Raiders Don't Risk It, Veterans Day, Shop Small Saturday

December: Santa Run, Paterson Road Christmas House, Tree Lighting and Giving Tree, Menorah Lighting

As in any organization, our personnel have life changing events outside of the department. During 2023:

Two officers got married (Officer Tim Green and Officer Sean Murphy)

One officer got engaged (Detective Tyler Flowers)



Fanwood Giving Tree

L-R Standing: Officer Carlos Gonzalez, Sgt. Dan Piccola, Officer Dan Hudspith, Det. Tyler Flowers. Kneeling is Officer Tim Green

Moving into 2023, the Fanwood Police Department has again raised the bar and continues to strive towards reaching these goals and objectives.

General Goals:

- Continue providing transparent and communicative correspondence with the Fanwood community.
- Increase our social media exposure and townwide alerts for major incidents, road closures, and weather events.
- Continue to evaluate staffing needs and work towards staffing goals.
- Increase proactive patrol to include DWI, narcotics, and overall traffic enforcement.
- Continue issuing and updating General Orders and other policies.
- Hire a Special Class 2 Officer to be utilized in various capacities.
- Upgrade handguns/long guns as our current models are at life expectancy.

Training Goals:

- ◆ Have two more officers certified in Crisis Intervention Training.
- ◆ Hold training events with community organizations and schools focusing on active shooter response.
- ◆ Continue to meet with all schools in town to progress the risk assessments completed in 2022.
- ◆ Have another officer certified as a firearms instructor.
- ◆ Have additional personnel trained as Field Training officers, OC Spray Instructor, and other applicable disciplines.
- ◆ Continue to send supervisors to leadership/management classes.

Community Policing Goals:

- ◇ Continue the current community policing projects.
- ◇ Develop unique events and ideas to bring the police department together with the Borough community

From the Fanwood Police Traffic Bureau, led by Sergeant Daniel Piccola.....

The Fanwood Police Traffic Unit continued to work with the Borough Engineer to install one (1) traffic box (AKA Do Not Block The Box), which was painted in the north bound lane of North Martine Avenue at Paterson Road, to help deter drivers from blocking that intersection. Three (3) more traffic boxes will be installed at the intersection of North Martine Avenue at Watson Road, as well as the entrance and exit driveways of the Fanwood Municipal Complex, in the south bound lane. New signage has also been installed at those intersections to make drivers more aware.

Due to the Fanwood Police Traffic Unit and Patrol Division continuing their hard work enforcing traffic laws and preventing traffic violators throughout the Borough, we have seen a decrease in traffic complaints, parking complaints and, more importantly, an almost 8% decrease in motor vehicle crashes from last year. All officers who encompass these units work very hard to keep order on the roadways in Fanwood. Like last year, the Traffic Unit continues to deploy the message board and warn residents, visitors and anyone who may travel through the Borough to slow down, keep their phones down, watch for pedestrians and monitor speed in high-traffic areas or roadways that are utilized as “cut-throughs” to avoid main throughfares.

Many towns, including Fanwood, have seen an increase of motor vehicle thefts, motor vehicle burglaries and various other crimes, so in response to that, messages to keep your vehicles locked and keep your valuables secured in your home are also posted as a constant reminder.

Major events that are handled by the Fanwood Police Traffic Unit are the annual Memorial Day Parade (with the assistance of the Scotch Plains Police Traffic Bureau), Fanny Wood Day, the Halloween Parade and the Fanwood 5K. The Traffic Unit, along with members of the Patrol Division, assisted the Fanwood Fire Department by escorting Santa Claus for his visit to the Borough. The Fanwood Police Traffic Unit also received grant money from the state to conduct the “Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over” campaign.

The Fanwood Police Traffic Unit received the Silver Level Recognition for the New Jersey Safe Routes to School Program, which focuses on bicycle and pedestrian safety, annual crossing guard training for all guards, assisting schools with community events like bicycle rodeos and the donation of bicycle helmets for kids who don't have them.

Lastly, because of the generous monetary donation from Dr. César DePaço and the hard work of the Fanwood Police Traffic Unit, we were able to acquire two (2) brand new Specialized Sirrus 2.0 bicycles to assist the Fanwood Police Bicycle Unit during Borough events and to patrol during the warmer months.



From the Fanwood Police Investigative Division, led by Sgt. Phillip Ugone.....



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Detective Bureau Annual Report - 2023

In 2023 the Fanwood Detective Bureau was comprised of a Sergeant and one Detective. They are dedicated to investigating crimes ethically and diligently to help ensure the successful prosecution of all of those that wish to harm Fanwood Borough residents or visitors.

In 2023 the Detective Bureau responded to nine crimes outside of regular scheduled hours.

The Detective Bureau investigated, reviewed, and spoke to crime victims for the cases listed in our 2023 statistical chart.

In addition to follow up investigations the detective bureau performed the following:

Issuance of 54 subpoenas and preservation requests.

Applied for and executed 1 search warrant on a motor vehicle.

Applied for 1 CDW (Communications Data Warrant) and a Geo Fence warrant.

Conducted 76 background/record checks.

Conducted 48 videotaped statements from crime victims, witnesses, and suspects.

Fingerprinted 19 citizens at their request for various reasons.

Eight subjects were charged and arrested or issued a summons for the following crimes committed in Fanwood.

1 - Criminal mischief

2 - Criminal sexual contacts

2 - Shoplifting

2 - Domestic violence offenses where actor fled the scene

1 – Possession of a weapon for an unlawful purpose

This year was a productive year for digitizing thousands of files to give better access to detectives while claiming valuable space in the shared office. There was extreme progress made on the management of evidence from cases dating back to the early 1990's. Although there is more work to be done, the detective bureau is more organized and functional than it was in prior years. Special thanks to Sergeant Chisholm, Patrol Officer Gonzalez and Administrative Assistant Adrienne Relford for helping with these projects throughout the year.

Significant Cases in 2023

February 27, 2023- An unknown individual was viewed on surveillance video tampering with Borough of Fanwood Property. The property specifically tampered with was public wooden benches and a temporary Fanwood Library sign. The incident was documented by patrol officers and forwarded to the Detective Bureau where the actor was identified and charged with Criminal Mischief.

March 11, 2023- patrol officers responded to the area of Trenton Avenue on a report of an assault. Upon arrival, officers spoke with a female who stated that she was assaulted by her boyfriend inside of his vehicle. The boyfriend fled the scene in his vehicle prior to patrol arrival. Members of the Detective Bureau canvassed the area and spoke with several witnesses. Video surveillance was obtained and assisted in the investigation. Utilizing various investigative means, members of the Detective Bureau were able to identify the male actor, a 59-year-old Jackson resident, and charged him with simple assault.

April 4, 2023- patrol officers responded to the police department for a report of a past occurred sexual assault. The incident was documented, and members of the Fanwood Police Detective Bureau conducted a follow up investigation and subsequently charged the actor, a 70-year-old Fanwood resident with criminal sexual contact.

May 06, 2023- patrol officers responded to a Terrill Road home for a report of a missing resident, a 70-year-old Fanwood resident. Upon arrival, officers documented the incident, and it was forwarded to the Fanwood Police Detective Bureau for further investigation. The Detective Bureau followed investigative leads for over a month and detectives were able to locate the subject in New Brunswick. He was found to be of sound mind and health at the time and did not want to return to Fanwood.

May 9, 2023- patrol officers responded to the police department for a report of a past occurred sexual assault. The incident was documented, and members of the Fanwood Police Detective Bureau conducted a follow up investigation. The investigation led to a 70-year-old Fanwood resident who was subsequently charged with criminal sexual contact.

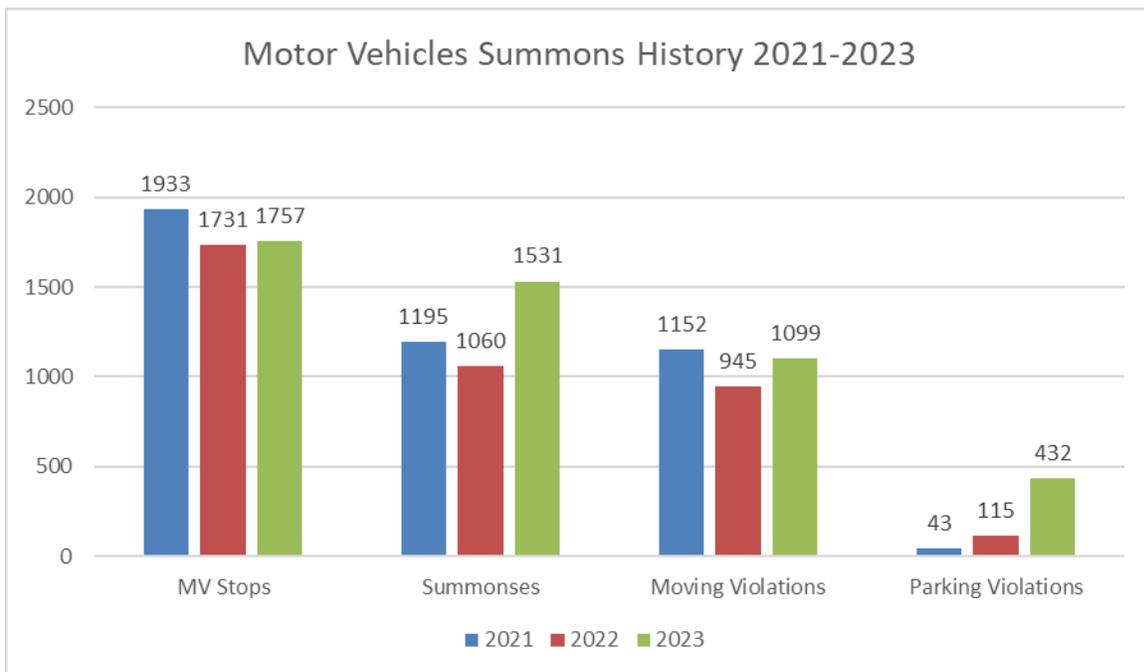
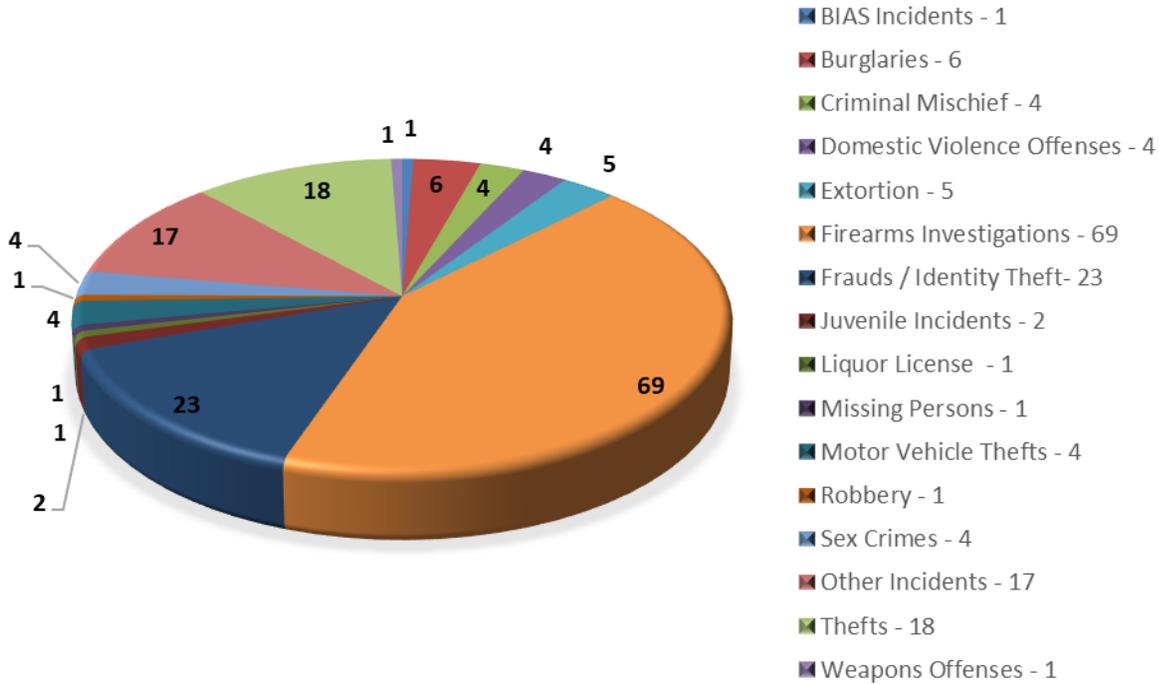
July 04, 2023- patrol officers responded to a Martine Avenue home for a report of shots fired. Upon arrival, officers discovered a firearm projectile inside the bedroom that penetrated through the rear side of the residence. The Fanwood Detective Bureau responded and processed the crime scene, with the assistance of the Union County Sheriff's Office Crime Scene Unit. It was determined that a neighbor, a 63-year-old Fanwood resident, fired several rounds from his property, which struck the victims residence. Williams was arrested and charged with possession of a weapon for an unlawful purpose, a 2nd degree crime, and criminal mischief, a 4th degree crime.

October 07, 2023- patrol officers responded to a South Avenue apartment for a report of a domestic violence assault. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim, however the actor fled the scene before patrol officers arrived. The Fanwood Detective Bureau was notified of the incident and charged the actor with simple assault.

November 17, 2023- patrol officers responded to local Liquor store for a report of shoplifting. The Fanwood Detective Bureau was notified and after careful investigation and identification, a 64-year-old Newark resident was charged with 2 counts of shoplifting.

Fanwood Detective Bureau

2023 Breakdown of Significant Investigations





November 2023 Fanwood Police Personnel attended the 30th Annual Blue Mass honoring the dedication and sacrifices of all active, retired, and deceased New Jersey law enforcement personnel. The liturgy was celebrated by Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, Archbishop of Newark, in Newark's Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart. Standing left to right are Det. Tyler Flowers, Lt. Dan Kranz, Off. Tim Green, Director Michael Bramhall, Sgt. Phil Ugone, Sgt. Dan Piccola, Off. Dan Hudspith.



November 2023– Students Against Drunk Driving (SADD) SP-F High School Chapter host Annual Raiders Don't Risk It event with Fanwood and Scotch Plains Emergency Services



April 2023-Annual Easter Egg Hunt

(Left to Right) Director Michael Bramhall, Council Women Eric McElroy-Barker & Patricia Walsh, Mayor Colleen Mahr, Easter Bunny, Recreation Commissioner Eryn Sinclair Friedman, Sgt. Phil Ugone and Off. Sean Murphy

Fanny Wood Day

October 8, 2023

Standing L-R Councilwomen Erin McElroy-Barker, Director Bramhall, Fanwood Bourgh Administrator Jesse Moehlman, Sgt. Dan Piccola, Officer Kyle Rajcevic and Det. Tyler Flowers



April 2023 * Sgt. Dan Piccola receives the Annual Knights of Columbus Father Neligan Award. Joined by (Left to Right) Councilman Jeff Banks, Councilwomen Gina Berry and Police Director Michael Bramhall.



Councilwomen Gina Berry and Police Director Michael Bramhall

Sgt. Dan Piccola's annual visit to the Dunk Tank.

National
Night
Out
August
2023



Fanwood Fire Department's Ladder Truck on display for all to explore

Fanwood Rescue Squad take a moment for a group photo at National Night Out in addition to being a big help with the Pie Eating Contest.



National Night Out August 2023

Members of the Fanwood Fire Department served 400 Hot Dogs as well as 25 Pizzas to attendees.



DJ Mr. Socks made sure everyone had a great time





In October 2023, Officer Dan Hudspith made a visit to the SP-F Recreation Hip Hop Class.



In November 2023, Officer Kyle Rajcevic participated in the Annual Hip Hop Dance Battle with Scotch Plains PD, in which Officer Rajcevic was voted as the winner, making this 2 years in a row this battle was won by an Officer from Fanwood Police.

*Police and Pumpkin with a Cop Event
October 2023
Over 50 children participated!*



Special Agent Scott Keenan of the United States Secret Service gives a presentation to the Fanwood Seniors Club on Identity Theft protection and internet fraud.

February 2023



Ribbon Cutting for new Playground Equipment at LaGrande Park * February 2023



(Above) Top row, left to right: Rec Commissioner Rosa Mannarino; Rec Commissioner Mike Lowenthal; Council President Jeff Banks; Rec Commissioner Mike Kelly; Rec Director Bob Budiansky; Rec Commissioner Neil Pierce; Officer Sean Murphy. Bottom row, left to right: Councilwoman Trisha Walsh; Rec Commissioner Arlene Ross; County Commissioner Al Mirabella; Mayor Colleen Mahr; Councilwoman Gina Berry; Rec Commissioner Venessa White; Officer Mike Rusin



April 2023 * Mayor Colleen Mahr recognizes Autism Acceptance Month with (Standing L-R) Police Director Michael Bramhall, Council President Jeff Banks, Officers Michael Rusin and Chris Pineiro and Det. Tyler Flowers

The Honorable Fanwood Mayor Collen Mahr administers the Oath of Office to newly promoted Lieutenant Ryan Gilmore (pictured below with his wife Cheryl and their 4 children) at the Fanwood Borough Council Meeting on December 4, 2023



Members of the Fanwood Police Department came out to support the Promotion of Lieutenant Ryan Gilmore on December 4, 2023.

2023 Statistics

(included is deviation from 2022)



Total Calls

Calls for Service: 12,327 (+5%)

Arrests

Adult Arrests: 29 (-14%)

Juvenile Arrests: 0 (-100%)

Traffic Enforcement

Motor Vehicle Stops: 1,757 (+1%)

Summonses Issued: 1,531 (+44%)

Traffic/Radar Details 1,852(-8%)

Motor Vehicle Violations: 1099 (+16%)

Parking Violations: 432 (+375%)



★ Designed by TownMaps USA, LLC

Training

Training Classes Attended 120 (-48%)



Fanwood Borough Mayor and Council Members (2023)

Mayor Collen Mahr

Council President Jeffrey Banks

Council Member Patricia Walsh (Police Commissioner)

Council Member Katherine Mitchell

Council Member Erin McElroy-Barker

Council Member Anthony Carter

Council Member Gina Berry

Borough Administrator

Jesse Moehlman

Police Department

Director Michael J. Bramhall

Lieutenant Daniel Kranz

Lieutenant Ryan Gilmore

Sergeant Phillip Ugone

Sergeant Kevin Stomber

Sergeant Thomas Chisholm

Sergeant Daniel Piccola

Officer Michael Rusin

Officer Kathleen Case

Officer Timothy Green

Detective Tyler Flowers

Officer Carlos Gonzalez

Officer Christopher Pineiro

Officer Kyle Rajcevic

Officer Daniel Hudspith

Officer Sean Murphy

SLEO Jack Ross

Administrative Assistant Adrienne Relford