



# Barnegat Police

2023 Annual Report

Celebrating 50 years of Dedication,  
Sacrifice and Service



# Mission & Values

## Mission:

The mission of the Barnegat Township Police Department is to provide for the well-being of the community through effective police provision of order maintenance, law enforcement, emergency services, and crime prevention; to guarantee the constitutional rights of all people, to provide rapid response to those in danger or otherwise in need of aid, and to maintain an open dialogue with citizens in order to identify problems within Barnegat Township and resolve those problems through an interactive partnership with the community we serve.

## Values:

**Integrity** - Integrity is a core agency value and is demanded of every member, at all times.  
We recognize that integrity is the foundation of community trust.

**Empathy** - Empathy is among the most fundamental values that we embrace. Empathy promotes cooperation and understanding. The ability to see a situation from another's perspective is critical to conflict resolution, de-escalation, and collaborative solutions.

**Accountability** - We are accountable to each other, and to the people we serve.

**Fairness** - Treating all people with fairness is basic to human dignity.

**Respect** - Respect for the community is essential for establishing and maintaining the spirit of cooperation needed to be an outstanding police department

## Vision:

Our vision is to create the environment where residents are free to live their lives safe from fear of crime, and confident in the fact that we will be there to help them solve their problem when they need us.



# Table of Contents

<b>Page 2</b>	<b>- Mission &amp; Values</b>	<b>Page 19</b>	<b>- NPZs</b>
<b>Page 4</b>	<b>- Command Staff</b>	<b>Page 20</b>	<b>- Jr. Police Academy</b>
<b>Page 5</b>	<b>- Leadership Academy</b>	<b>Page 21</b>	<b>- Special Needs</b>
<b>Page 6</b>	<b>- CALEA</b>	<b>Page 22</b>	<b>- Paddles &amp; Police</b>
<b>Page 7</b>	<b>- Organizational Chart</b>	<b>Page 23</b>	<b>- Traffic Safety Unit</b>
<b>Page 8</b>	<b>- Promotions</b>	<b>Page 24</b>	<b>- Agency Statistics</b>
<b>Page 9</b>	<b>- New Officers</b>	<b>Page 25</b>	<b>- Training Unit</b>
<b>Page 10</b>	<b>- Retirements</b>	<b>Page 26</b>	<b>- Trading Card Contest</b>
<b>Page 11</b>	<b>- National Night Out</b>	<b>Page 27</b>	<b>- Meet our Detectives</b>
<b>Page 12</b>	<b>- Patrol Highlights</b>	<b>Page 28</b>	<b>- Professional Standards</b>
<b>Page 14</b>	<b>- CRU Highlights</b>	<b>Page 29</b>	<b>- Where are they now?</b>
<b>Page 15</b>	<b>- Detective Bureau Highlights</b>	<b>Page 30</b>	<b>- SHIELD Program</b>
<b>Page 16</b>	<b>- 30 Year Anniversary</b>	<b>Page 31</b>	<b>- 2023 Events</b>
<b>Page 17</b>	<b>- PBA Events</b>	<b>Page 32</b>	<b>- Hoofy Fest</b>
<b>Page 18</b>	<b>- Community Policing</b>	<b>Page 33</b>	<b>- In Memoriam</b>
		<b>Page 34</b>	<b>- In closing...</b>

## COMMAND STAFF

---



Chief – Keith A. Germain

Chief of Police



Captain – Jason Carroll

Executive Officer



Lieutenant – Jeffrey Ryan

Support Services Division Commander



Lieutenant – Andrew Parsley

Operations Division Commander





**Sergeant Nicholas  
Venuto**

## **NJSACOP Command & Leadership Academy**

We are proud to announce that Sergeant Nicholas Venuto has graduated from the NJSACOP Command & Leadership Academy.

The role of a police sergeant is pivotal in maintaining the integrity and efficiency of our law enforcement efforts. As leaders, sergeants play a crucial role in guiding and supervising officers, ensuring adherence to departmental policies and procedures. They bridge the gap between officers and higher-ranking officials, fostering effective communication and teamwork within the department. This significant accomplishment reflects not only on Sergeant Venuto's dedication and hard work but also on the exemplary standards upheld by our police department.

Sergeant Venuto's completion of the NJSACOP Command and Leadership Academy signifies a commitment to continuous improvement and a desire to excel in leadership. We are confident that Sergeant Venuto will bring the skills, knowledge, and leadership qualities gained from the academy to enhance the overall effectiveness of our police force. Congratulations to Sergeant Venuto on this well-deserved achievement. We look forward to witnessing the positive impact his leadership will undoubtedly have on our police department.



## CALEA ADVANCED LAW ENFORCEMENT ACCREDITATION

---

CALEA Advanced Law Enforcement Accreditation is a status of achievement awarded to a police agency which is able to prove that it complies in both policy and practice with nearly 200 different professional standards.

The Barnegat Police Department became the first agency in the history of Ocean County to be awarded CALEA Advanced Law Enforcement Accreditation when it was found to be in full compliance with the standards in November of 2011. Our agency was awarded its second re-accreditation in 2014, its third re-accreditation in 2017 and its fourth in 2021.

The difficulty in achieving CALEA Advanced Law Enforcement Accreditation is evidenced by some simple statistics. Of the nearly five-hundred police departments in the state, only eight have received Law Enforcement Accreditation. Additionally, there are no other CALEA Law Enforcement accredited agencies in either Ocean or Atlantic counties.

What are the Benefits of Accreditation?

**Accountability:** CALEA standards give the Chief of Police a proven management system of written directives, sound training, clearly defined lines of authority, and routine reports that support decision-making and resource allocation.

**Reduced Risk and Liability Exposure:** Barnegat Township receives a reduction in liability insurance fees and deductibles because of the department's accredited status.

**Stronger Defense against Civil Lawsuits:** Accredited agencies are better able to defend themselves against civil lawsuits. Also, many agencies report a decline in legal actions against them once they become accredited.

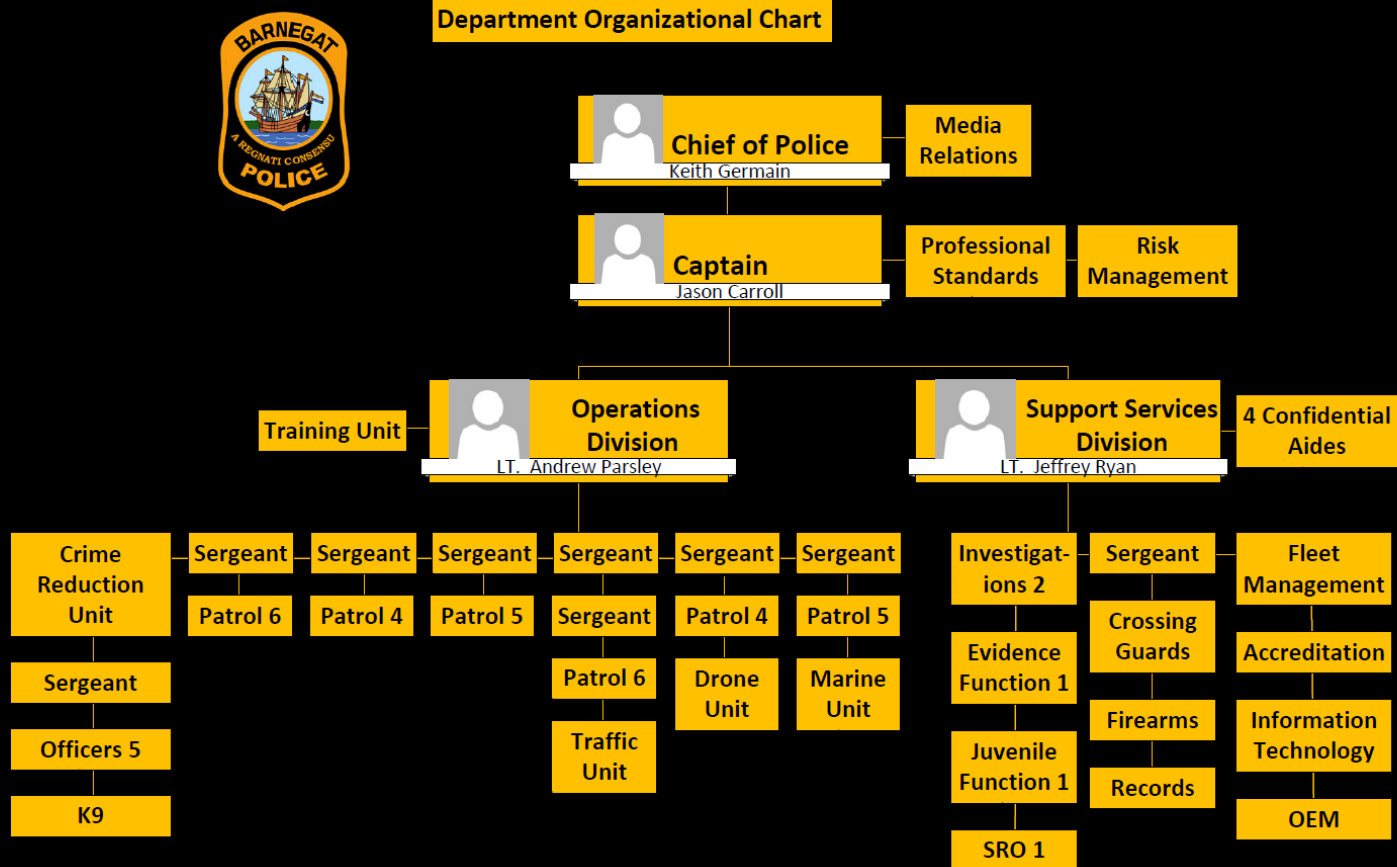
**Increased Community Support:** Accreditation embodies the precepts of Community Oriented Policing. It creates a forum in which law enforcement agencies and citizens work together to prevent and control challenges confronting law enforcement and provides clear direction about community expectations.





# DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

Department Organizational Chart



# 2023 Promotions

## Richard Boyle to the rank of Sergeant



Sgt. Boyle began his law enforcement career with the Stone Harbor Police Department in 2010 as a Class 1 Officer. He returned the following year as a Class 2 Officer and remained in that position until he was hired as a full time Police Officer in August of 2013. He worked with the Stone Harbor Police Department until 2016, before he transferred to the Galloway Township Police Department. In September of 2018, Sgt. Boyle transferred to the Barnegat Township Police Department and was assigned to the Patrol Division.

During his career, Sgt. Boyle has been a member of the Atlantic County and Ocean County Regional SWAT Teams. He was also temporarily assigned to the Ocean County Narcotics Strike Force where he worked as a narcotics Detective. Sgt. Boyle holds certifications as a Drug Recognition Expert, a Firearms Instructor and a Simunitions Instructor. Sgt. Boyle has his bachelor's degree from Stockton University in Criminal Justice.

Currently, Sgt. Boyle is the head of the departmental "Resiliency Program", a member of the departmental Training Unit and a Field Training Officer. Sgt. Boyle is assigned to the Patrol Division as a shift supervisor.

## Kyle Cranmer to the rank of Sergeant

Sergeant Cranmer was hired in 2014. He has 10 years of service in Patrol, all with Barnegat Township. He is one of our most competent officers when it comes to teaching tactics as a result of his SWAT Team experience and personal dedication to training. He joined the Ocean County SWAT Team in 2016 and became a team leader in 2020. He is a NTOA SWAT command and leadership graduate, Defensive Tactics Instructor, handgun instructor, rifle instructor, red dot sight instructor, tactics instructor, pepper ball instructor, former OCPA firearms instructor, Field Training Officer, Simunitions instructor, department armorer, and ALICE active threat instructor. He is also a member of our agency's Training Unit.

Sgt. Cranmer has received numerous awards during his career including the Jim Tracy leadership award at the OCPA, a state PBA citation of merit in 2016, the BTPD Triumphant Award in 2018 and 2021, the BTPD Croix de Negotiator Laurel award in 2018, The Ocean County Police Chief's Pistol match High Team 2 man award in 2018 and 2021, as well as the individual high score in 2021.





## Barnegat Township Police Dept. – 2023 New Officers

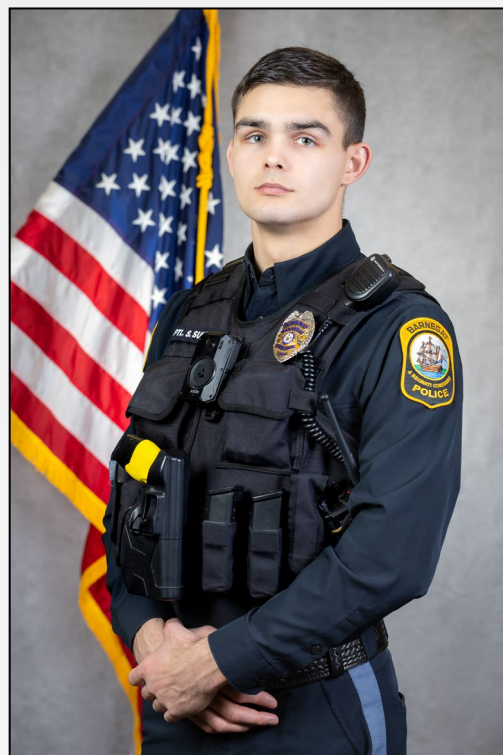


**Ptl. Joseph Duncan**

Patrolman Duncan was hired by the Barnegat Township Police Department on January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023. He attended the Cape May County Police Academy and graduated on June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Prior to becoming a Barnegat Township Police Officer, Patrolman Duncan worked as an Exercise Physiologist in a Cardiothoracic ICU. Patrolman Duncan earned his Master's and Bachelor's Degree in Exercise Physiology from William Paterson University, and attended Columbia University for his Doctorate of Physical Therapy.

**Ptl. Seth Summers**

Patrolman Summers was hired by the Barnegat Township Police Department on January 23<sup>rd</sup> 2023. He began the Cape May County Police Academy on January 24<sup>th</sup> 2023. During the Police Academy, he was elected by his peers as the President of Class 54. Patrolman Summers graduated the Police Academy on June 9th 2023. Prior to becoming a Barnegat Township Police Officer, Patrolman Summers received an honorable discharge from the United States Navy and continues to serve in the reserves.



[Click here to see our 2023 Diversity Report](#)

# 2023

## Retirements



### Sgt. Edward Smith

Sergeant Smith began his career as a Patrol Officer in May of 1998. In June of 2000, he transitioned to a case investigator in the Detective Bureau where his primary responsibility was to conduct investigations of crimes and prepare criminal cases for prosecution. Then Detective Smith's success as an Investigator was credited to his interview and interrogation skills along with his detailed crime scene processing. In January 2005, he was promoted to Detective Sergeant. He maintained that assignment till January of 2010. As a Detective Sergeant, he oversaw the operation of the Investigations Division and its personnel. He managed case assignments, personnel training and background investigations. He also served as the department's Megan's Law Liaison and was responsible for maintaining and providing Bureau statistical data for analysis. In January of 2010, Smith was reassigned to the Patrol Division as a Sergeant. There he provided front line supervision for officers under his command. Finally, in July of 2017, Sgt. Smith returned to command within the Detective Bureau where he stayed until his retirement on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023.

### Sgt. Gary Larussa

Sergeant Gary Larussa started his career with the Barnegat Township Police Department in May of 1998 when he was hired as a Class II Officer. He continued in that capacity until September of 1999 when he was hired as a full time Patrol Officer. In the following years, he operated as a narcotics investigator, a SWAT team member, a firearms instructor and a crash investigator within the departments Traffic Safety unit before eventually being transferred to the Detective Bureau. In January of 2005, Ptl. Larussa was promoted to the rank of Sergeant within the patrol division. In addition to his duties as a patrol Sergeant, he helped the department gain and maintain its status as a CALEA Advanced Law Enforcement Accredited agency. On July 1<sup>st</sup> of 2023, Sgt. Larussa concluded his decorated career and entered into retirement.





National Night Out 2023 was a huge success! Thank you to everyone who came out to support this great community building event.



National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make our neighborhoods safer, more caring places to live. National Night Out enhances the relationship between neighbors and law enforcement while bringing back a true sense of community. Furthermore, it provides a great opportunity to bring police and neighbors together under positive circumstances.

Millions of neighbors take part in National Night Out across thousands of communities from all fifty states, U.S. territories and military bases worldwide on the first Tuesday in August. Neighborhoods host block parties, festivals, parades, cookouts and various other community events with safety demonstrations, seminars, youth events, visits from emergency personnel, exhibits and much, much more.



This year the community had the opportunity to meet with Barnegat Officers. We launched our Department Trading Card Program at this event and children had the opportunity to collect individual Officer's cards. This program fostered positive interactions between our agency and the public and resulted in many new relationships. We had a record number of families that came to the event and look forward to NNO 2024.







## 2023 Patrol Highlights

**January 2023** – An employee at a local business had been avoiding charging customers for items and pocketing the proceeds totaling \$3500 over the course of months. The accused was charged with theft.

**January 2023** – During a MV stop, an officer developed suspicion that the driver was being untruthful about his identity. A follow up investigation utilizing facial recognition led to the subject being identified, who had multiple warrants for his arrest. He was later apprehended and lodged in county jail.

**January 2023** – Elderly parents located suspected heroin belonging to their adult son which they turned over to this agency. The accused was contacted via phone and advised of pending charges. Coincidentally, he was pulled over by Ocean County Sheriff's Department on an unrelated traffic offense where he turned over additional CDS thinking that it was the investigating officer.

**February 2023** – A father and son argument led to an intoxicated adult son grabbing a box cutter and cutting his father. The accused was charged with multiple weapons and domestic offenses.

**February 2023** – During a MV stop, an officer developed suspicion that narcotics were located in a vehicle. This ultimately led to the discovery of approximately 19 grams of methamphetamine.

**March 2023** – A suspicious vehicle parked at a closed business was observed by a patrolling officer and a MV stop conducted. This stop ultimately led to the discovery of multiple hypodermic needles and a quantity of crystal methamphetamine.

**March 2023** – A manager confronted a subordinate about his attitude while speaking to a customer. In response, the employee pulled a knife on the manager and threatened him with the same which led to multiple weapons charges.

**March 2023** – A group of young adults were traveling in the area utilizing an "Orbi Blaster" to shoot pedestrians walking in the area. An investigation led to the arrest of three subjects on weapons and assault charges.

**March 2023** – A disagreement concerning a bill for groceries led a store employee to grab a knife and threaten to kill the customer with the same. He was charged with multiple weapons offenses.

**March 2023** – An intoxicated individual utilized an aluminum bat to break his girlfriend's windshield which resulted in a laceration to his hand. Upon officer arrival, the subject began to fling blood into the faces of officers.

**May 2023** – A drugged/intoxicated driver caused totaling damage to a parked vehicle and fled the scene. Officers made contact with the vehicle on a dead end road at which time the driver jumped a fence and attempted to flee. A foot pursuit resulted in the subject being arrested for DWI and possession of CDS.

**June 2023** – An employee was challenging other employees to engage in a physical altercation. The subject fled the area and abandoned a bag which resulted in the discovery of a quantity of heroin. The subject was located and charged with CDS offenses.

**July 2023** – A distressed complainant contacted HQ to state someone was stealing from her. She was eventually brought to the hospital due to her state where a quantity of methamphetamine was discovered.

**July 2023** – A call for a subject unconscious behind the wheel of a vehicle parked at a fast food restaurant led to the discovery of a quantity of heroin, crack cocaine and ecstasy.





## 2023 Patrol Highlights

**July 2023** – Two juveniles struck a pedestrian walking at the docks. Leads were developed during the investigation which led to a juvenile falsely implicating another. Ultimately, two arrests were made for assault by auto and falsely implicating another.

**August 2023** – A female struck a male with a crowbar after falsely accusing him of watching child pornography. She was charged with weapon and assault offenses.

**September 2023** – A disturbance call led to the discovery of a subject hiding inside of a home in which she was banned from entering per a restraining order. During arrest, the subject resisted and spit on arresting officers.

**September 2023** – A suspicious person call led officers to the women's locker room at Planet Fitness where a male was discovered with multiple utility knives. The subject was charged with multiple weapon offenses and violation of a restraining order offense.

**September 2023** – A mechanic took a customer's vehicle without her consent to Atlantic City to purchase CDS. The CDS was later discovered and the subject was charged with possession of cocaine and taking a vehicle without consent.

**September 2023** – A subject called police to report a theft. While speaking to officers, a quantity of cocaine was seen in plain view and she was charged with possession of the same.

**September 2023** – During a MV stop, an officer developed suspicion of CDS being in the vehicle. Ultimately, a quantity of crack cocaine and prescription pills were discovered and the driver was charged with the same.

**October 2023** – A homeowner discovered an intoxicated male inside of her vehicle upon coming outside of her home. The male assaulted officers and spit on an officer during the encounter. He was charged with burglary, criminal mischief and assault charges.

**October 2023** – An officer assisted Animal Control containing a loose emu in a neighborhood.

**November 2023** – Patrol officers responded to the scene of a double homicide. The subject was located and placed under arrest for murder a short distance from the scene.

**November 2023** – A patrolling officer noticed a subject walking with a ski mask on. He made contact with the subject and ultimately discovered a large kitchen knife hidden in his jacket. A short time later a vehicle burglary was reported in which surveillance footage showed the subject attempting to burglarize a vehicle.

**November 2023** – A MV stop was conducted where the driver was being untruthful about his identity. An investigation led to a positive ID and the discovery of a warrant for a violent crime. Additionally, 28 grams of methamphetamine was discovered on his person.

**December 2023** – Officers responded to the scene of a robbery in which a juvenile was forced to relinquish his bicycle at gun point. At the end of the investigation, the accused juvenile was located along with an imitation handgun. He was charged with robbery and possession of an imitation firearm for an unlawful purpose.

**December 2023** – During a MV stop, an officer developed suspicion that CDS was in the vehicle. Following a positive K9 alert, a quantity of heroin/fentanyl, crack cocaine, prescription pills and 13 grams of crystal methamphetamine were discovered and the driver subsequently charged.



# CRIME REDUCTION UNIT (CRU) – 2023 HIGHLIGHTS

**March 2023** – During a street operation, CRU members placed two subjects under arrest and recovered quantities of cocaine (worth approx. \$1,700), heroin/fentanyl, U.S. currency, and seized a Hyundai Elantra valued at approximately \$6,500. The subjects were charged with 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> degree possession with the intent to distribute and distribution of CDS.

**March 2023** – A month long investigation led to a search warrant execution which produced quantities of cocaine, heroin/fentanyl and U.S. currency. One subject was charged with 3<sup>rd</sup> degree possession with intent to distribute CDS.

**May 2023** - Following the execution of a court authorized search warrant, quantities of cocaine and suboxone were collected and one subject was charged with 3<sup>rd</sup> degree possession of CDS. The male party, a known gang member with an extensive criminal history, was subsequently sentenced to an 8 year prison sentence.

**May 2023** – An investigation and search of a hotel room led to the discovery of quantities of methamphetamine, cocaine and heroin/fentanyl. Two subjects were placed under arrest and charged with 3<sup>rd</sup> degree possession and possession with intent to distribute CDS.

**May 2023** – Members of CRU conducted a 2 month long investigation into the distribution and manufacturing of anabolic steroids, MDMA/ecstasy and male enhancement pills. A search warrant was executed on a shipping container being utilized as a clandestine laboratory to produce the aforementioned substances. Seized during the search were quantities of tamoxifen, oxandralone, oxymetholone, oxycodone as well as packaging material for re-distribution. One subject was placed under arrest and charged with numerous possession and possession with intent to distribute CDS charges.

**June 2023** – CRU members conducted an undercover operation in which Detectives were able to purchase cocaine and imitation CDS from a subject. That subject was placed under arrest and charged with 3<sup>rd</sup> degree possession / possession with the intent to distribute CDS.

**August 2023** – A MV Stop resulted in quantities of methamphetamine (worth approx. \$1,500) and alprazolam. The vehicle was also seized and valued at \$5,550. The subject was placed under arrest and charged with 3<sup>rd</sup> degree possession and possession with intent to distribute CDS.

**September 2023** – An undercover investigation led to the discovery of approximately 500 clonazepam (worth approx. \$2,000) pills. One subject was arrested and charged with 3<sup>rd</sup> degree possession, possession with the intent to distribute and distribution of CDS.

**October 2023** – A 2 month investigation led to two executed search warrants on residences. As a result of the search, a large quantity of cocaine was seized, approximately 500 grams with an approximate street value of \$50,000. Also seized during the investigation were prohibited weapons, a taser (cattle prod), drug paraphernalia, U.S. currency (\$1,245), surveillance cameras, packaging material, and a vehicle valued at \$8,925. Two subjects were placed under arrest and charged with 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> degree possession and possession with the intent to distribute, certain persons not to possess weapons and fortified premises.

**December 2023** – Members of CRU executed numerous Court authorized search warrants after a 2 month long investigation into the distribution of cocaine and marijuana within the Ocean County area. The search warrants were executed on residences in Stafford Township and Barnegat Township as well as two vehicles. Located during the searches were quantities of cocaine (worth approx. \$500), marijuana (worth approx. \$13,500), hashish worth approx. \$3,300), and prescription medication (worth approximately \$700). The investigation led to the arrest of three subjects who were charged with 3<sup>rd</sup> degree possession and possession with the intent to distribute CDS.



# Detective Bureau

## 2023 Highlights

February - During an investigation into car burglaries, a suspect was charged with criminal attempt/burglary and criminal trespass.

March - An investigation into numerous thefts of delivered packages that affected residents of Atlantic Heights resulted in a suspect being charged with numerous counts of theft after it was found that he had taken delivered packages.

April - A suspect was found to have established residency without permission, exploiting "squatters' rights". He was charged with criminal trespass.

May - A suspect was arrested for his involvement in a Grandparent Scam. The suspect, posing as an Uber driver, responded to Barnegat and attempted to obtain money from a resident. He was intercepted as he approached the residence and charged with theft by deception.

July - Two subjects involved in a retail theft ring shoplifted \$3900 worth of merchandise. They were identified and charged with theft.

August - A store employee committed theft by ringing up fake refunds, totaling over \$12,000. The subject was arrested and charged with theft.

August - A victim of an online scam was extorted into paying \$60,000 to a subject. Detectives identified the accused and charged him with 2nd degree theft by extortion.

August - A suspect who completed paving services was charged with forgery and theft by deception after he altered the amount on the check issued by a resident.

September - A suspect was charged with lewdness after he was observed committing a lewd act in front of a school bus occupied by children.

October - A mother was charged with Endangering the Welfare of a Child following an incident in which her 4 year old child accessed a lighter and lit her clothing on fire causing severe burns.

November - 2 counts of motor vehicle theft were charged after a female took possession of a deceased person's property without any claim to the same.

November - A suspect who is part of an international crime circuit (South American Theft Group – SATG) was charged with Burglary, Theft and Criminal Mischief. The suspect targeted a business owner who resides and operates his business in town and was identified through incidents from other jurisdictions.

December - An investigation into a shoplifting of \$1,700 worth of product resulted in a 2nd degree warrant being issued for a subject involved in a retail theft ring.

December - A retailer reported 2 incidents of a male leaving a store with a cart full of items valued at approximately \$2,000. The male was identified, arrested and charged with 2 counts of shoplifting.





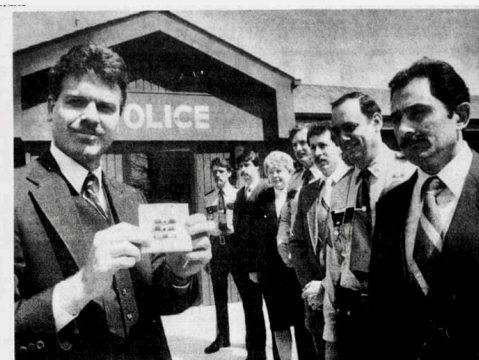
On July 3rd, 2023 at precisely 8:00am, the Barnegat Police Department turned 50 years old.

At 8:00am on July 3, 1973, Chief William Brazzel, Ptl. Kenneth Vogel, and Ptl. Harold Powell opened the doors of Barnegat's first full-time police department (then called the Union Township Police Department).

Our little town has seen a lot of change throughout the past 50 years, including growing into a not-so-little town. What started as three police officers is now 53 police officers, and the town's population of less than 2,000 in 1973 is now nearing 26,000.

Our thanks to all the men and women who have served this community over the past 50 years, and thank you to the amazing residents of this town, both old and new, who have helped build this community into one of the safest in Ocean County.

Here's to the next 50.



Asbury Park Press

### Rewards of service

Barnegat Township Police Chief Edward Smith holds up examples of the outstanding service awards nine members of his department received. Those who received awards are (from front), Detective Sgt. Joseph Manger, Sgt. George Pterro, Detective Douglas Carey, Patrolman Robert Andrews, clerk Nancy Maloney, Detective Earl Nielsen and Patrolman Michael Howard. Patrolmen John Martin and Lawrence DiCaro also received awards.

## 44 ASBURY PARK EVENING PRESS, Tues., July 3, 1973

### Police Department Created for Union

UNION TOWNSHIP — The township's first full-time police department begins today with a police chief and two patrolmen.

The Township Committee last night adopted an ordinance creating the department, and another ordinance which set salaries for the policemen.

Chief William Brazzel, who will receive \$10,000 annually, said the force also has three special police officers and two specials who have been sworn in by the township to work in the Pinewood Estates Mobile Home Park.

The new patrolmen are Harold Powell Jr., who had been a patrolman in Surf City for two years, and Kenneth Vogel, a veteran of seven years with the Hillside police department. Patrolman Powell said he left Surf City for personal reasons, and Patrolman Vogel said he desired to live in this area.

Mr. Powell and Mr. Vogel were graduated from the Ocean County Police Academy and the Essex County Police Academy, respectively.

Chief Brazzel, who had been acting chief on a part-time basis, said the department would have a police car on the road for 16 hours each day. The new police telephone number is 698-3905.

Starting salaries for patrolmen were set at \$8,500 for new policemen, and \$9,000 for those with one year's ex-

### Girl Treated For Injuries In Mishap



# PBA 296



## PBA 296 SOFTBALL TEAM

PBA 296 took part in a local co-ed softball league. Pictured here are members of the team including Officers, First Aid members, township workers and their families. PBA 296 took their team work to the baseball field and enjoyed the fierce competition.

## 23 TORCH RUN

Barnegat Township Police Officers participated in the 40th annual Law Enforcement Torch Run benefiting the Special Olympics. This event raises awareness and Funds to support children and adults with intellectual disabilities who compete in athletic events. Our leg of the event spans 18 miles beginning in Holgate and ending in Barnegat Light.

From Left to Right: Det. Carlo, Ptl. Moran, Ptl. Santos, Ptl. Peragine, Ptl. Amir



## 2023 TOY DRIVE

Barnegat Township Police Officers joined with the Barnegat Board of Education to collect toys for families during the Christmas season. The toys were distributed by the schools to families in need. A big thank you to everyone who donated.





# COMMUNITY POLICING



The Father of Modern Policing, Sir Robert Peel, published 9 Policing Principles that formed the bedrock of American Policing. Among these is the concept that the police and community are one. In his own words:

*To maintain at all times a relationship with the public that gives reality to the historic tradition that the police are the public and that the public are the police, the police being only members of the public who are paid to give full-time attention to duties which are incumbent on every citizen in the interests of community welfare and existence.*

Barneget officers practice this principle every day when they go above and beyond their normal duty obligations to interact with the people of our community to build relationships and solve problems.





# NEIGHBORHOOD POLICING ZONES



In the old days— before policing became so dependent upon the automobiles that put both a physical and psychological barrier between officers and the residents— residents knew who their police officers were. They knew them by name. They were comfortable approaching them when there was a problem in their neighborhood. In turn, the officers knew the neighborhood. They knew the residents. They could identify isolated problems and solve them before they grew into larger, community-wide problems.

As Barnegat grew and became busier over the past 50 years, officers became increasingly disconnected from the community. We lost that neighborhood connection and the ability to collaboratively solve problems at the neighborhood level. The Neighborhood Policing Initiative is being embraced to reconnect the community with officers at the hyper-local level. The agency has set up 9 Neighborhood Policing Zones (NPZs) and assigned officers to each zone. Those officers will work the assigned NPZ on a regular basis, allowing a return to the days when residents and officers knew each other by name and worked together to address issues impacting the neighborhood.

When there's an emergency, call 9-1-1. But when you have a problem or issue in the neighborhood that doesn't require an immediate or emergency response, we encourage you to reach out for one of your neighborhood officers.

Zone 1: areas east of Route 9 including Pebble Beach, Bayfront, and downtown

Zone 2: areas west of Route 9 and south of West Bay Avenue to include Settlers Landing, Heritage Bay, and Freedom Hills

Zone 3: Brookville Manor, Atlantic Heights, Hawthorne, and Laurel Oaks

Zone 4: Timbers, Deer Chase, Rosehill Manor, Union Blvd

Zone 5: Ocean Acres

Zone 6: Mirage and Windward developments

Zone 7: Pheasant Run, Heritage Point North/South

Zone 8: Horizons, Seacrest Pines, Paramount Escapes

Zone 9: Pinewood Estates, Brighton at Barnegat, Brookville, Warren Grove

**Would you like to know who your Neighborhood Policing Officer is and how to contact?**

**Visit [BarnegatPolice.us/Neighborhood-Policing/](http://BarnegatPolice.us/Neighborhood-Policing/) to lookup your street and NPZ Officers**



# Junior Police Academy



The 2023 Junior Police Academy was held at the Joseph Donahue School for 1 week in July. Each student received instruction and participated in multiple law enforcement activities and trainings.

There were 29 students that participated in the academy. Some of the topics each student reviewed were Traffic Safety Investigations, Drone Unit Operation, Motor Vehicle Stops, Military Drills and Marching, First Aid, Fire Department functions, Narcotics Investigations, Defensive Tactics, Handcuffing, Crime Scene Processing, SWAT procedures and Marine Unit familiarization.

All students who complete the program participate in a graduation ceremony at the conclusion of the academy.

Each student and officer enjoyed the relationships that were forged through this program, along with the positive influence it fostered between the two. We look forward to continuing this program in 2024.





## *Special Needs Resident Registration Form*

If you or a loved one has special needs and might require assistance during an emergency such as an evacuation, major storm, or power outage, please fill out this form and return it to the police department so that we can add your information to our Special Needs Citizen Response Plan. By providing us with information about your special needs, you will be helping us to ensure that we can provide you with efficient and timely service during an emergency.

If you need assistance completing the form or would like a representative of the department to pick it up, please contact Police Headquarters at 609-698-5000.

*All Information Will be Kept Strictly Confidential*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone#- \_\_\_\_\_

Person to Contact in an Emergency: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone# \_\_\_\_\_

**Challenges: (Please mark all that apply)**

☐ mobility impaired, bed bound    ☐ Dialysis  
☐ wheel chair    ☐ Alzheimer/dementia  
☐ sight impairment, blind    ☐ transportation dependent  
☐ hearing impaired    ☐ other  
☐ oxygen/respirator use



# Paddles & Police

All play pickle ball event with the  
Barnegat Police Department



Paddles and Police was a resounding success and received with great enthusiasm by the members of the Seacrest Pines Community. From the moment the event was announced, there was a buzz of excitement in the air and the turnout on the day of the event exceeded all expectations.

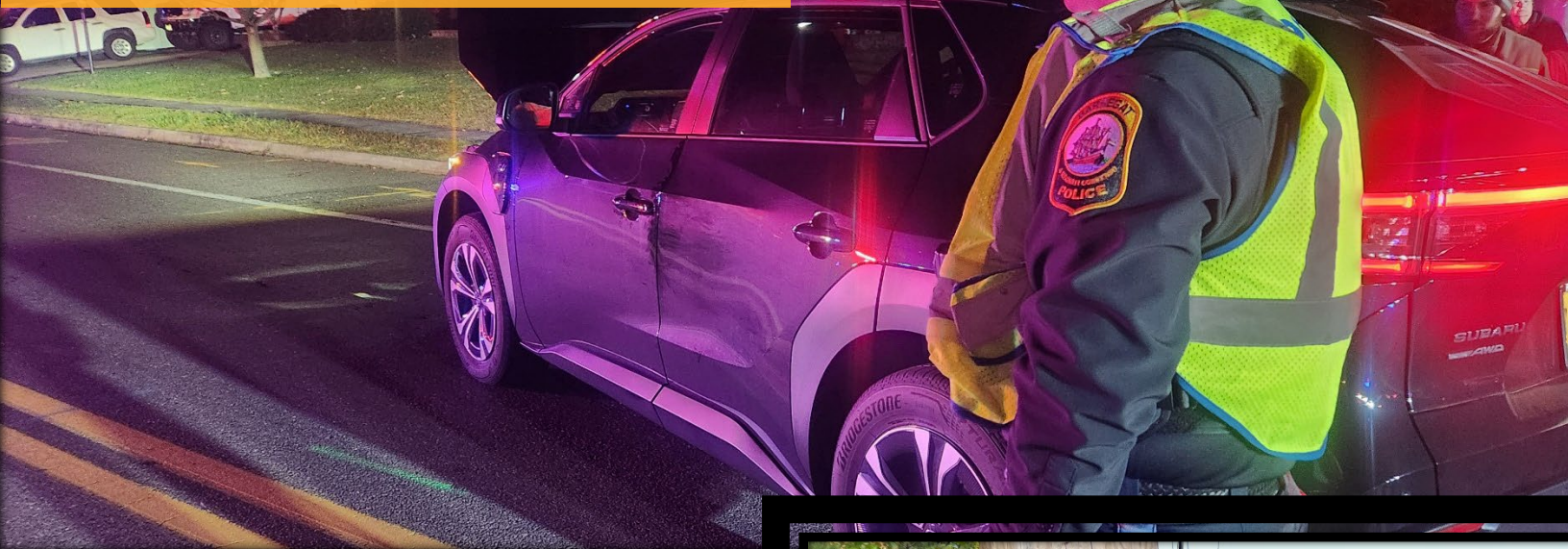
The members of the Seacrest Pines Community were extremely appreciative of the efforts put forth by the Barnegat Police Department. They praised the event for its organization and the sense of camaraderie it fostered among the participants. The Pickleball event not only provided a fun and engaging activity for the community members but also served as a platform for them to connect with our officers.

Paddles and Police hopes to be an annual event held in different locations around the township. Thank you to the members of Seacrest Pines for a successful inaugural event.





# Traffic Safety



## 2023 Traffic Statistics

- 594 Motor Vehicle Accidents
  - 141 of those accidents had injuries
- 2 Fatal Motor Vehicle Accidents
  - 11 accidents involving pedestrians
- 58 accidents involving animals

Officers conducted a total of 2,592 traffic enforcement details on multiple residential streets throughout the township in which 4,427 violations were observed resulting in either a summons, written or verbal warning.

In total, Officers completed 5,403 Motor Vehicle stops in 2023.







## 2023 AGENCY STATISTICS

**Incident Statistics** – Officers responded to a total of 19,910 calls for service in 2023.

**Dispatch Statistics** – Dispatchers handled 34,929 requests and 12,101 phone calls.

**Use of Force Statistics** – In 2023, Barnegat Township Police Officers recorded force on a total of 31 incidents which equates to **0.15%** of calls answered.

**Motor Vehicle Crash Statistics** – Officers responded to 594 motor vehicle accidents in 2023.

**Firearm Permit Statistics** – 530 firearm applications and 136 concealed carry permits were processed in 2023.

**Drug Overdose Statistics** – 24 overdoses were reported in 2023.

**Forfeiture Assets Recovered** – \$126,790.00 worth of assets were recovered in 2023.

**2023 Grants Total** – \$35,966.20 in total County, State and Federal grants received.

**Detective Bureau Statistics** – The investigative Division was assigned 372 cases in 2023. Of those cases, 9.7% are active and still being investigated; while 64.8% of those cases were either deemed to be unfounded, referred to a third party agency or cleared by arrest, summons, warrant, or exceptionally cleared.



## BTPD TRAINING UNIT

The Barnegat Township Training Unit has the responsibility of preparing all of our officers with extensive training each and every year. Logistically, we provide one-hundred and twenty hours of training to our officers on a yearly basis. During training we cover a variety of topics to best serve our officers with the potential challenges they may face when dealing with high stress complex calls for service. We take pride in making sure our officers are fully prepared and have the necessary tools and resources to effectively accomplish any objective.

In May of 2023, our agency had the opportunity to collaboratively train with members of the United States Marshals Service. Members of the Operations Division met and trained with Marshalls at their facility in Robbinsville, NJ. During the training, we had the opportunity to train on the VirTra training simulator. The VirTra training simulator helps prepare law enforcement officers for real-life incidents. It's the first 300 degree reality based situational training



simulator, that is one of the highest standards for law enforcement and military based training. Throughout the training, officers experienced an intense, immersive training environment with an emphasis on cognitive overload stimuli situations. Officers were challenged with judgment based use of force scenarios and decision making training designed to teach and test officers of any experience. We look forward to building upon our relationship with members of the US Marshals Service who afforded our officers an excellent training opportunity.



In 2023, The Training Unit added two new members to our unit. Ptl. Roman and Negron successfully completed all necessary training requirements to become a member of our team. The training unit is now comprised of six officers. Sgt. Venuto, Sgt. Boyle, Sgt. Cranmer, Ptl. Burke, Ptl. Roman, and Ptl. Negron who all work together in an effort to provide the most innovative and advanced training to members of our agency.

We look forward to another successful year.

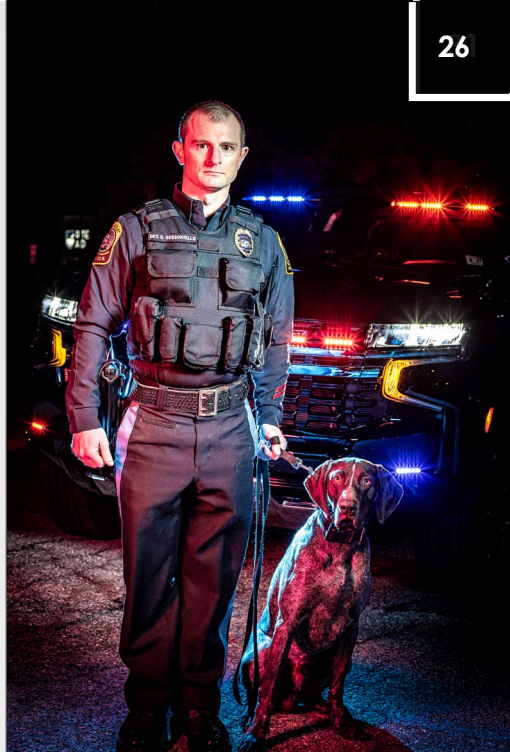


## BTPD TRADING CARD PROGRAM

The Barnegat Township Police Department launched our Trading Card Program this year so that the youth of the community could come to know our Officers better. The contest is for kids in the community to collect one, some or all of the trading cards for all of the Police Officers of the Barnegat Township Police Department.

Card collectors may approach a police officer on patrol when they see them around town and introduce themselves. Officers get the opportunity to ask them questions about themselves and the children get the opportunity to ask questions about each Officer.

The contest concluded with 5 children presenting the full collection of cards to win one of the variety of prizes. The prizes included an Xbox, a Playstation, an iPad or a set of AirPods which were donated by local community organizations.





# Meet our Detectives



## **Det. Sgt. Vincent Damiano**

Sgt. Damiano joined the Barnegat Twp. Police Dept. in 2008 and is currently in his 16th year of service. Sgt. Damiano was promoted to Sergeant of Patrol in February of 2021. He has spent a majority of his career in Patrol, although he was previously assigned to the Detective Bureau for a period of six months. He was recently re-assigned to the Detective Bureau in September of 2023 where he currently holds the position of Detective Sergeant. Sgt. Damiano also heads the agency's Drone Unit. When not at work, he enjoys surfing, photography and spending time with his family.

## **Det. James Purcell**

Det. Purcell started his career with the Lavallette Police Dept. in 2001 and came to Barnegat in 2003 as a patrol officer. During his career, Det. Purcell has been a field training officer, crash investigator, academy instructor, motor officer, crisis negotiator and community policing officer, becoming a Detective in 2019. Det. Purcell currently serves in the Support Services Division investigating crimes and offenses, maintaining the department's vehicle fleet and operating department drones. In his spare time, Det. Purcell enjoys travelling, motorcycling and is an active private pilot.



## **Det. Lauren Keilitz**

Detective Lauren Keilitz has been with Barnegat Township for 21 years. She spent 20 years as a patrol officer, transitioning to the Investigative Division in 2023. During her tenure she was a 12 year member of the agency Training Unit, specializing in firearms instruction. Det. Keilitz also proudly served as a department Field Training Officer. She is responsible for training 14 newly sworn officers, all of which are still serving today. In addition to her responsibilities as an investigator, she enjoys organizing community events.

## **Det. Robert Armstrong**

Hailing from Philadelphia, Detective Armstrong embarked on his professional career with the Barnegat Police department in 2005. Since the inception of his career, he has committed himself to the roles of both a Patrolman and a K-9 Officer, eventually earning the position of Detective. During his tenure in the Investigative Unit, Det. Armstrong has investigated a multitude of cases, from minor criminal mischief complaints to skillfully identifying suspects involved in a multi-jurisdictional grandparents scam, his investigative skills have played a crucial role in ensuring the safety of the community. In his private time, he is an accomplished Marathoner and Ironman triathlete, showcasing his commitment to physical fitness and excellence in every aspect of his life.







## Barnegat Township Police

### Professional Standards Unit

In 2023, nineteen (19) complaints against officers were filed with the Professional Standards Unit of the Barnegat Township Police Department. These complaints were lodged by either citizens or other police officers concerned by the actions of their colleagues.

All of the complaints brought forth by citizens were as follows; 6 complaints of improper demeanor by officers, 6 reported policy violations, 2 complaints of differential treatment and 1 complaint of improper arrest. Out of the 19 total complaints, 4 were generated internally by members of the department for violations of department policies or rules and regulations. Each complaint can result in departmental discipline. Violations of departmental policies or rules and regulations can range in punishment from a Negative Performance Notice to dismissal from the agency.

In each case, the Professional Standards Unit initiated an internal investigation to determine whether the complaint was valid. The outcome of each investigation was documented as follows;

6 Demeanor Complaints:	5 exonerated, 1 unfounded
10 Reported Policy Violations:	4 sustained, 4 exonerated, 2 pending
2 Complaints of Differential Treatment:	2 exonerated
1 Improper arrest	1 exonerated

Of the 4 complaints that were found to be sustained, all resulted in minor discipline.

Officers of the Barnegat Police Department received 302 compliments and notices of positive performance in 2023 from citizens and police supervisors. Every Barnegat police officer is held to a standard of exceptional professional performance and the positive feedback by the public and our supervisors exemplifies those highest standards of dedication and determination.

# Where are they now?



For this year's Annual Report we check in with Retired Chief Joseph Manger.

Chief Joseph Manger (Ret.) remains one of the most consequential and impactful officers in the history of the agency. Chief Manger began his career with the Woodbridge Police Department where he worked for seven years before moving to Lacey Township and joining our department in 1975.

Chief Manger started the Detective Bureau within the Barnegat Police Department as the first detective and created many of the processes and procedures still in place today. He rose through the ranks and was appointed Chief of Police in 2004. Chief Manger engineered the first major restructuring of the department's organizational structure since its inception and was the driving force behind the professionalization of the police department through the pursuit of accreditation.

Despite retiring in December of 2006 after nearly 39 years of service, his influence on the agency as an outstanding detective, leader, and mentor is still evident today-- from the processes and professionalism that he instilled in the agency, to the current leadership of Chief Germain who he hired as a dispatcher and mentored throughout his career.

Today, Chief Manger and his wife, Janet-- both still healthy and active-- reside in Ocean Township. The Chief enjoys staying active, reading, and spending time with his three children and eight grandchildren.

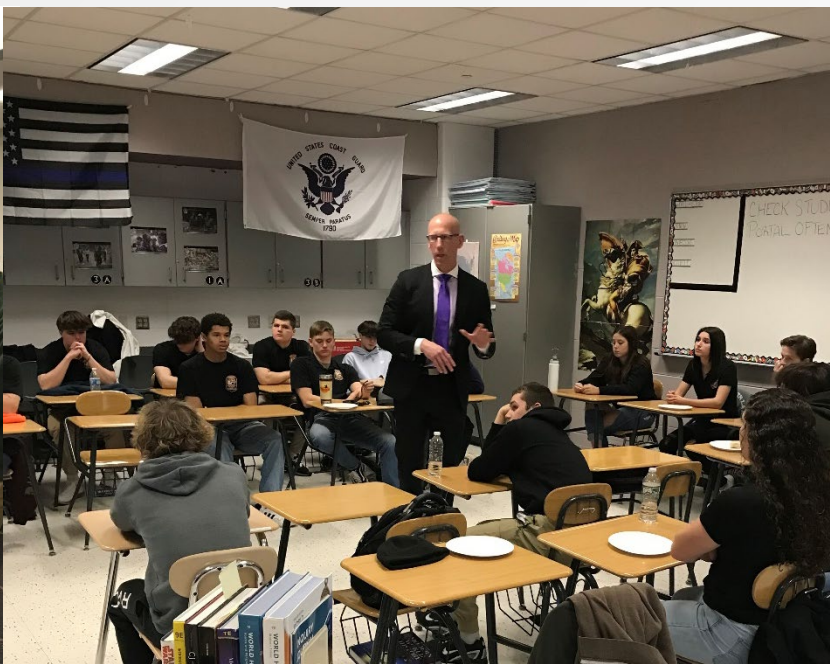


# BTPD SHIELD Program



## Student High Intensity Enrichment and Leadership Development

The SHIELD program at the Barnegat High School is designed to expose the world of law enforcement to a select group of students who think they may have an interest in the field. Just as a recruit would do in a formal police academy, students in SHIELD are expected not only to complete rigorous classroom exercises but are also expected to meet certain physical demands placed upon them as well. Areas of study include, but are not limited to, history of policing in the United States, daily roles and responsibilities of the uniformed officer, forensics, criminal behavior, and special operations to name a few. SHIELD also places a very large emphasis on Community Policing and how important it is for the students to begin giving back even now at this young age. Students who complete this program have a better understanding of the legal system, why we have certain laws, and will overall be better prepared to enter their future careers as law enforcement professionals.





# 2023 Events

Pirates Day 2023 was another great opportunity to engage with our community. We hope you had the opportunity to meet us at our station. Our officers were on scene issuing Child Identification cards and meeting local families.



The 2023 July 4<sup>th</sup> Fireworks were another fun filled experience for the whole family. Onlookers enjoyed the many vendors, music and the open spaces for family fun. The fireworks were an amazing show and traffic flowed freely to get everyone home safely. A big thank you to the Barnegat Recreation Department for all their hard work.







The fourth annual, “Hoofy’s Fall Fest” was held in November, sponsored by PBA 296. This year was our largest event, with the highest attendance yet.

The event was merged with the Barnegat Township Recreation Department, who provided lots of children’s activities creating a great atmosphere for families to enjoy, while helping our agency honor the memory of Alex Hoffman. Ptl. Alex Hoffman was a beloved member of our agency who passed away on October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2019. The event featured 14 food and drink vendors, 10 breweries and 1 winery. A portion of the proceeds support the Alex Hoffman Scholarship Fund which is presented to 2 students at the Barnegat High School, each year. We hope to see you next year on November 2nd, 2024.







## In Memoriam



It's with great sadness that we mourn the passing of Sergeant Craig Lindstrom (Ret.) on 1/03/23.

Sgt. Lindstrom served with BTPD for 27 years before his retirement in 2019. He served as a Patrol Sergeant for a large portion of his career. Sgt. Lindstrom was well known for his knowledge of the job and could light up a room with his laughter. He was well respected by the men and women he supervised over the years and was known to be the Sergeant subordinates wanted to work for. Sgt. Lindstrom loved his family and loved to share stories about them at work. Upon retirement, he devoted his time as a Volunteer Fire Fighter with the Barnegat Township Fire Department and had the privilege to serve next to his oldest son CJ of whom he was extremely proud.

Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife and children.





## IN CLOSING...

"The goal of all leaders should be to work themselves out of a job."-- Simon Sinek

While this is a 2023 annual report, it seems appropriate to address my impending retirement as it will be published in the first (and my last) quarter of 2024.

March 13th will be my last day as a police officer and member of the Barnegat Police Department. It has been an unbelievable dream and privilege to spend the last 30 years working with the amazing team here.

I still love my job and coming to work here every day, but as a student of history and leadership I am strongly committed to the philosophy: "sprint as hard as you can, for as long as you can, and then quietly get out of the way (retirement thank-you post notwithstanding)."

After three incredibly fulfilling and rewarding decades, it's time to make way for the next generation that is better trained, better prepared, and better able to take this agency to the next level.

I am forever mindful that everything that my family and I have in life comes from the opportunities that the Barnegat Police Department has given me, and for that, I will be forever grateful.

Incoming Chief of Police Jason D. Carroll, a long-time Barnegat resident, is the prime example of an exemplary servant leader who has consistently put this town, the agency, and his subordinates before himself. Beyond being a great cop and leader, he is an excellent father and husband who has raised his family in our community.

I have leaned on him and trusted him with critical assignments for as long as I can remember, and we could not have achieved the successes of the last 6 years that I served as chief without him. I would follow him without hesitation and know that he will be a worthy steward of this agency and our amazingly talented all-star team of officers and civilian personnel.

As I look around at the incredibly deep bench of our command staff, first-line supervisors, and up-and-coming leaders in the rank-and-file, I take great comfort in the knowledge that this agency's best days lie ahead.

It has been a blast, Barnegat.

Thank you for giving this Barnegat kid the opportunity of a lifetime.

I'll never forget it.

Keith A. Germain

Chief of Police