MONTGOMERY TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

2020
ANNUAL REPORT
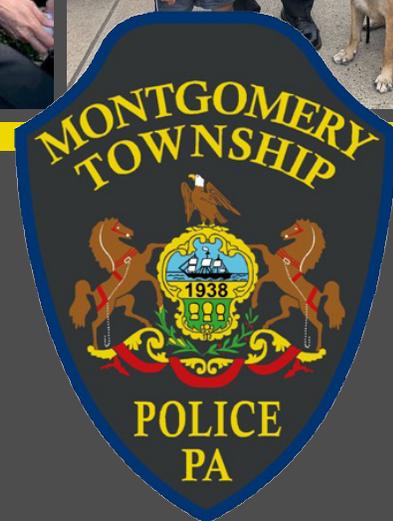
Message from the Chief

It is my privilege to present the Montgomery Township Police Department's Annual Report for 2020. To say that 2020 has been a challenging year is an understatement! The events of 2020 have resulted in a reexamination of nearly every aspect of policing in our community, whether it be our response to simple calls for service or our training, policies, and procedures. As such, I am proud to say that the Department has been at the forefront of many proactive initiatives, many of which began prior to 2020.

These include:

- A department-wide in-car and body-worn camera deployment since 2018
- Comprehensive departmental training, to include implicit bias and de-escalation training
- A strong foundation of community policing based programs
- A yearly review of critical policies and procedures

One of our most significant accomplishments that display the Department's commitment to professional policing is the Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association's Law Enforcement Accreditation Program. Since 2001, the Department has been accredited under the program, which was designed and developed to provide a strategy for the continued professionalization of law enforcement agencies within our Commonwealth. The program also involves developing and incorporating best practices and procedures in over three hundred identifiable benchmarks targeted to improve a police department's performance. On March 12, 2020, the Department was recognized as a Premier Agency for its ongoing commitment to excellence through the Accreditation Program, becoming only the tenth police department in the Commonwealth to receive this distinction.

In closing, the members of our Department appreciate and thank you for your continued support. Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,
J. Scott Bendig
Chief of Police

Premier Agency Status

The Montgomery Township Police Department is proud to announce they have received the Pennsylvania Law Enforcement Re-Accreditation status for 2020. The Montgomery Township Police Department has been accredited since 2004, and now holds the distinction of being a Premier Agency.

Out of nearly 1,100 police departments in the Commonwealth, there are only 126 who are accredited, and ten who are deemed a Premier Agency. The police accreditation program was designed and developed to provide a strategy for the continued professionalization of law enforcement agencies within our Commonwealth. The accreditation program is administered by the Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association, which is responsible for the inspection and review of accredited police departments once every three years.

The assessment completed for accreditation and re-accreditation requires a police department to have policies that cover over 390 police standards and sub-standards. Further, accredited police departments must show accreditation inspectors not only that they have a written policy covering the required standard, but that they are following their written procedures.

Accreditation standards topics include law enforcement best practices:

- Use of Force
- De-Escalation
- Personnel Complaints
- Police Hiring
- Employment Background Investigations
- Body Camera Usage

2020 Arrests

Adult—723

Juvenile—57

2020 Part I Offenses
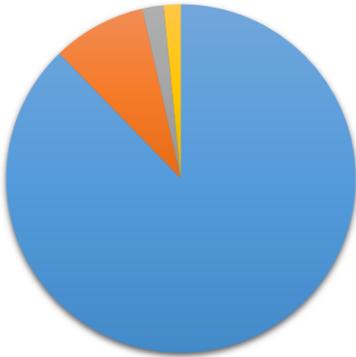
Theft—222

Assault—22

Burglary—5

Auto Theft—4

2020 Part II Offenses

Forgery—11

Fraud—187

Vandalism—68

Drug Violations—260

DUI—89

Other—762

Emergencies and disasters can happen at anytime, often without warning. Make sure you and your family are prepared!

READYMONTCO is a FREE notification program that delivers alerts to your device about severe weather and other important events in Montgomery County. When you sign up, you can choose how to receive the alerts, on any device you choose.

To sign up for READYMONTCO visit,
https://member.everbridge.net/453003085612338/login

NEW 2020 MTPD Ford Police Interceptor

Medical Marijuana in PA

If you possess a medical marijuana card, it is important to understand the regulations and laws here in Pennsylvania. Medical marijuana must be obtained from an approved dispensary. It is illegal to grow your own, even one plant!

Approved forms of medical marijuana are:

- Pills

- Oils

- Topicals including gels, creams and ointments.

- Liquids

- Dry leaf for vaporization only. It is illegal to smoke marijuana.

Medical marijuana may be mixed into food/beverage items to aid with ingestion, however manufactured edibles are illegal. You can't obtain or possess more than a 30 day supply, and medical marijuana must be in its original packaging.

You may only use medical marijuana at home or in a private residence. Use in public is illegal. If you have a medical marijuana card, you may not own or possess a firearm.

Driving under the influence laws still apply! You may not operate a vehicle while under the influence of medical marijuana.

You must carry your medical marijuana card at all times when in possession of medical marijuana.

For more information on medical marijuana, visit
www.medicalmarijuana.pa.gov

Protect Yourself and Your Belongings

In 2020, Montgomery Township Police responded to and investigated 38 theft from vehicle reports in our neighborhoods. This type of theft can be easily prevented by following simple steps:

- Don't leave your valuables in plain sight! Most burglars will not break into a car if they can't see what they are getting.

- If you must leave something valuable in your car, lock it in the trunk or glovebox.

- Lock you vehicle. Thieves will often walk through neighborhoods and parking lots to check vehicle doors.

- Make sure to park your vehicle in a well lit area.

- Keep your windows closed.

- Consider a car alarm system.

Be alert and aware of your surroundings. If you see suspicious activity, please do not hesitate to contact 911 to report it.

Wondering What it's Like to be a Detective?

The Montgomery Township Police Department's Detective Division is currently comprised of one Detective Sergeant and four Detectives. Detectives work to gather evidence and facts for criminal cases. They compile evidence by observing suspects, interviewing witnesses and suspects, and examining physical evidence. Some investigative approaches used by the detectives are:

- Search warrants

- DNA analysis

- Crime scene processing

- Fingerprint analysis

- Facial recognition

- Reviewing surveillance video or conducting surveillance

In 2020, the Detective Division investigated 218 criminal cases. The Detective Division is also responsible for maintaining the department's evidence room. Detectives receive specialized training to stay up-to-date on the latest crime trends and evidence collection techniques.

Don't Fall Victim to Imposter Scams

What is an Imposter?

An imposter is a person who pretends to be someone else in order to deceive others. They may pretend to be a friend, family member, or someone you think you know but haven't met. Imposters may also pretend to work for a company you know and trust. Their goal is to steal your money and/or obtain your personal information.

Some Popular Types of Imposter Scams

Imposters might call, send a text, or email. Often times, these communications can be "spoofed" so they look like they are coming from a legitimate company.

1. You receive communication from a tech support company about a problem with your computer.

2. You receive communication from the IRS or other government agency claiming you owe money.

3. You just won a prize but you have to pay fees to get the prize.

4. A family member or friend is in trouble (bail money or court fees for example) and needs help.

5. You received a check for too much money and you need to send back the difference.

### Imposters are Good at Fooling People

- Never send money to people you don't know.

- Do not give out your personal information to people you don't know.

- Verify the information first! Call the company or family member/friend.

- Government agencies will not call you asking to send money.

- Most scammers will ask for gifts cards or to wire money. Gift cards are for gifts, not payment!

For more information, or to stay up to date on the latest scams visit http:// www.consumer.gov.

2020 Training

The COVID-19 Pandemic presented many challenges to law enforcement in 2020, including the ability to conduct ongoing training that is critical to maintain a professional law enforcement organization. In 2020, the police department pivoted from a robust in-person training strategy, choosing to utilize video conferencing and other online platforms, resulting in over 3,565 hours of training for department personnel. These platforms include the Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Virtual Training Network as well as the PoliceOne Academy. In personnel received training in a multitude of topics, including:

- Critical Department policies

- Management of Aggressive Behavior (MOAB)

- Implicit Bias

- Responding to People with Mental Illness

- De-Escalation and Minimizing Use of Force

- Use of Force

- Handling juvenile arrests

- Legal updates
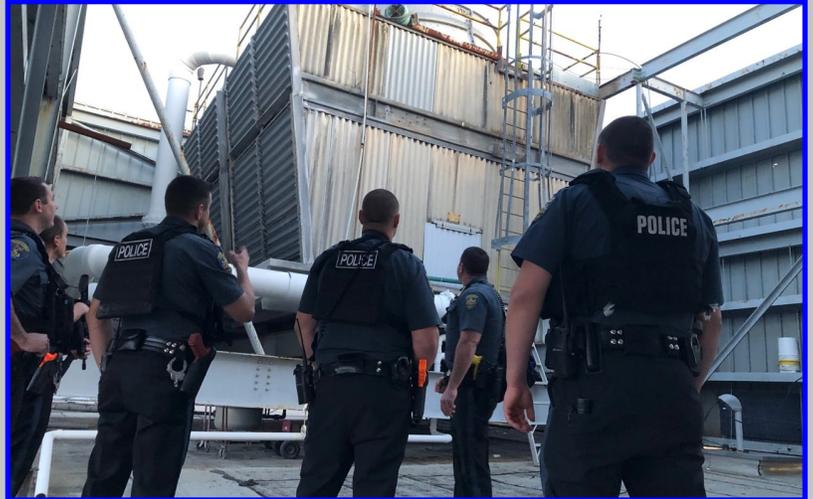
Welcome Officer Dobson!

Officer Anne Marie Dobson was sworn in on March 23, 2020 by Chairwoman of the Board of Supervisors, Tanya Bamford. Congratulations Officer Dobson!

Town Hall with Chief Bendig

On July 2, 2020, Chief Scott Bendig and Township Manager Carolyn McCreary conducted a live Town Hall discussing the department's community policing initiatives and policies. Missed the Town Hall? Check out the link below to watch!

https://youtu.be/lWogUjLkIuc

Make Sure to Register!

Creating a safety profile with Smart 911 will give useful information to call takers and first responders in the event of an emergency. You can provide information such as people and household information, medical conditions or allergies, and a variety of other pertinent information that could be critical during an emergency. Smart 911 is a free service provided to you by the Montgomery County Department of Public Safety.

Ready to get started?
Visit http://smart911.com

Heatstroke Prevention

Know the Facts

- In just 20 minutes, a car can heat up by 40 degrees and become deadly.

- A child's body temperature rises three to five times faster than an adult's. When a child is left in a hot vehicle, that child's temperature can rise quickly and they could die within minutes.

Help Prevent Hot Car Deaths

- Never leave a child unattended in a vehicle.

- Make it a habit to check your entire vehicle. **Park, Look, Lock**.

- If you see a child alone in a locked car, get them out immediately and call 911.

- Always lock your car doors and trunk, year-round, so children can't get into unattended vehicles.

For more information, visit https://www.nhtsa.gov/campaign/heatstroke
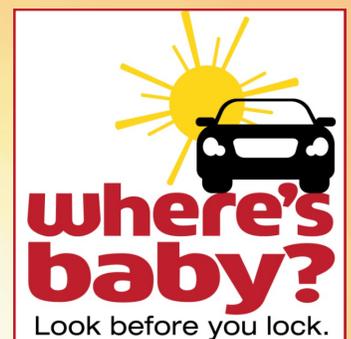
Halloween Drive Through Event

North Montco Tech Canine Donation
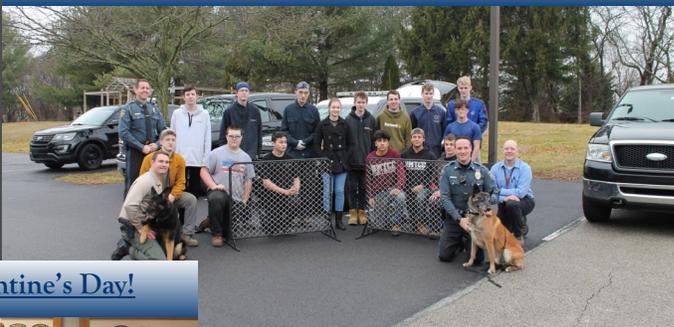
Happy Valentine's Day!

Fill A Truck Event
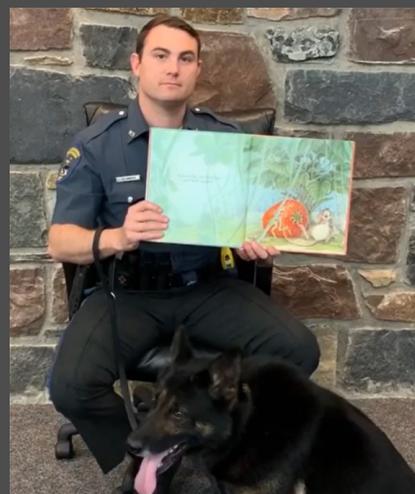
Thank You for Your Continued Support!

Story Time with a K9

Costco Children's Miracle Network Event

Lt. Patty Simons Law Enforcement Food Drive

Officer McGuigan & K9 Cody Welcoming Back Students

2020 GENERAL POLICE ACTIVITY

CALLS FOR SERVICE	**Total Calls for Service**	28915
	Building Alarms	1333
	Directed Patrols	5215
	Vehicle Lockouts	192
CRIMINAL OFFENSES	Part I Offenses	253
	Part II Offenses	1377
	Total Criminal Offenses Reported	1630
	Part I Offense Arrests	87
	Part II Offense Arrests	693
	Total Arrests	780
VEHICLE CRASHES	Reportable Vehicle Crashes	189
	Non-Reportable Vehicle Crashes	603
	Total Vehicle Crashes	792
	Injuries Resulting from Vehicle Crashes	72
	Fatalities Resulting from Vehicle Crashes	1
TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT	Selective Traffic Enforcement Details	1555
	Traffic Stops	7546
	Traffic Citations Issued	3177
	Police Warning Notices	221
	Field Contact Cards	5038

2020 FBI UNIFORM CRIME REPORTING

	Type of Offense	Total Cases	Total Arrests
PART I OFFENSES	Murder	0	0
	Manslaughter	0	0
	Rape	0	0
	Robbery	0	0
	Assault (Aggravated)	6	4
	Assault (Non-Aggravated)	16	13
	Burglary & Unlawful Entry	5	6
	Theft (Excluding Auto Theft)	222	63
	Auto Theft	4	1
	Arson	0	0
	Total Part I Offenses	253	87
PART II OFFENSES	Forgery & Counterfeiting	11	14
	Fraud	187	16
	Stolen Property	11	6
	Vandalism	68	8
	Weapons Offenses	8	8
	Vice & Prostitution	2	1
	Sex Offenses	8	2
	Drug Law Violation	260	309
	Gambling	0	0
	Offense Against Family	205	0
	Driving Under the Influence	89	92
	Liquor Law Violation	6	31
	Public Drunkenness	29	30
	Disorderly Conduct	24	10
	All Other Offenses	469	166
	Total Part II Offenses	1377	693
	TOTAL OFFENSES	1630	780