

# BRISTOL POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

## Mission Statement

*To be the finest small police department in the State of Vermont. We are committed to working together within the department and in problem solving partnerships with community stakeholders to improve the quality of life for the people served by the Bristol Police Department.*

The Bristol Police Department continues to promote community policing. We sincerely appreciate your continued support. Notably the members of the Old Farts Club are a wealth of information and are eager to provide guidance and suggestions.

We recently welcomed Police Officer Francis Smith, who filled our vacant full-time position with the Department. I would like to thank him as well as Officers Joshua Turner, Andrew Graham, Michael Major and Matthew Collins, Administrative Assistants Lisa Dupoise, and Elizabeth “Liz” Tracy for their continued dedication and commitment to the Bristol Community.

Thank you to DPW Foreman Eric Cota and his Department for installing our new speed radar sign on West Street. If you see flashing numbers, it’s a good indication you are going a little fast. Please slow down and enjoy the view as you pass through Bristol or better yet, stop and shop or enjoy a coffee or lunch in our great community. We are happy to have completed the installation of the necessary equipment for our 2020 F-150 Police Interceptor truck. It is hard to miss the reflective white “POLICE” lettering on the side.

We are pleased and proud to announce the Bristol Police Department is one of two agencies in the State of Vermont to receive a COPS Grant due to the efforts of Officer Joshua Turner and former Town Treasurer Jennifer Myers. The Grant of \$125,000 will be utilized to add a fourth full-time position to our ranks, which will assist us with more efficient and timely responses. We are excited for this opportunity to better serve our community. Officer Joshua Turner continues to search and write for grant funding to assist in acquiring, updating, or replacing police equipment. He succeeded in securing funding to replace our outdated portable radios.

A reminder if you have unused medication, we have a drug disposal box, which was acquired through CVS with the assistance of Jesse Brooks, United Way of Addison County Prevention Partnership Director. Jesse continues to be instrumental in providing assistance to law enforcement with training as well as facilitating the developing partnerships with other community partners.

We are grateful for Director Jennifer Mayhew of Turning Point Center in Middlebury for providing us with a resource tablet. Not only is she the Director of Turning Point, she is also a resident of our Bristol community. The tablet will provide an opportunity for someone that may be experiencing a crisis the ability to Facetime with a support person 24 hours a day. Our calls for service related to mental health issues have been increasing. The tablet will be an invaluable resource for a person in need.

We continue to build relationships with community partners to assist persons in need. We work with Bristol's 5-Town Partnership, Addison County Restorative Justice Services, Hope, Age Well, WomenSafe, Department for Children and Family Services, Counseling Service of Addison County, and United Way of Addison County to name a few. We also participate in Project Vision North with our Addison County partners to assure people in need are receiving services.

We are thankful for the ongoing support from our Mount Abraham Unified School District partnership. Our commitment to the students and faculty continue to evolve and improve with the positive relationships developed through our interactions. Thank you, Principal Shannon Warden, and the entire Mount Abraham Union High School staff, for your guidance, assistance, and support. We cannot forget to thank the Bristol Elementary School, we appreciate the many parents, staff and most importantly the students who thank us for being there. The thank you cards, notes and coloring pages received from students are proudly displayed around our station.

We appreciate and are grateful for the continued support from our law enforcement partners; Vergennes Police Department, Middlebury Police Department and Vermont State Police for providing support and assistance without hesitation.

A few services we offer are VIN verification & fingerprints at no cost for Police District residents. We will check your property if you are away for a few days. Simply contact us in advance. We can also complete a security evaluation of your property. If there is something we can help with, please do not hesitate to call us. Our transition to the new statewide incident database system continues to be an extended learning curve. Although we encountered a few bumps along the way, we appear to be making progress. Our total calls for service are about the same as last year (approximately 2,400).

We use social media (Facebook) to receive tips, identify people, reunite dog owners, and assist in returning found property. We are open to suggestions of other preferred platforms to provide and receive information. You can reach us at 453-2533; on Facebook, Bristol Police Department; by email [Bruce.Nason@vermont.gov](mailto:Bruce.Nason@vermont.gov) or stopping by the station.

The members of the Bristol Police Department thank the great Bristol community, Bristol Town Departments, Town Administrator Valerie Capels, and the Bristol Selectboard for their continued support. We are looking forward to upcoming community events like the Fourth of July Parade, Pocock Rocks, bands in the park, movies in the park and others that were cancelled due to COVID.

We can't do this without the support of our families. Patricia, thank you for editing, and Connor for your enlightened commentary.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce Nason  
Chief of Police