

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.

Community policing has been defined as a “**philosophy, management style, and organizational strategy**” with the end goal of building community relationships and not only solving crime but addressing the causes of crime within a community. Community policing involves any body of people (whether that be schools, businesses, residents, community organizations, churches, or anyone in the community) collaborating with the police to identify problems within the areas they live and how to solve them.

We encounter many community members during our foot patrols who share their concerns or express their appreciation for the ability to speak with an officer. During school arrival and dismissal, we often hear “Thank you” from students and parents and receive an occasional “Thank You” note from students.

We stop during events at the Town Park, Holley Hall, Bristol Recreation Club, Mount Abraham Unified School District Schools, Local Businesses, Organizational Groups and Clubs, and more. During these encounters, we learn from community members what we are doing well and how we can continue to make the community safe. Members of the Old Farts Club are a wealth of information and are eager to provide guidance and suggestions. We appreciate these collaborative discussions; working together, we can accomplish more. Please do not hesitate to contact us; we are willing to meet with you or your group to have meaningful discussions.

Thank you, Porter Knight, for developing and promoting Bristol Social Justice Discussions. These discussions have been informative and bring us together as a community to understand, discuss and learn how we can improve relationships to ensure all feel welcome and included. I look forward to continued discussions. If you would like more information or be added to an event notification list, email Porter knight@gmvat.net. The Lawrence Memorial Library provides the information in its newsletter and the adult events page on its website as well; <https://www.lawrencelibraryvt.org>. Please take the time to sign up and take advantage of these great discussions.

We welcomed Matthew Tatro and Logan Young to work part-time in the past year. Andrew Graham was promoted to sergeant and now works full-time for the Bristol Police Department. I appreciate their commitment and dedication to the Bristol Community. As well as the continued dedication and commitment from full-time Officer Francis Smith and part-time officers; Michael Major and Matthew Collins. Officer Joshua Turner left the department at the end of the year, and we thank him for his service and wish him well. We would not be as organized without the continued support from part-time administrative assistant Elizabeth “Liz” Tracy.

Our speed radar message signs continue to receive positive reviews. Many people express that they appreciate the signs as a reminder that you are entering a 30 MPH area. We try to change the messages two times a month, if you have a suggestion, please contact us.

This past year we purchased a 2022 Dodge Charger to replace our 2014 Ford Explorer. All our vehicles have the same reflective white lettering.

As a reminder, if you have unused medication, we have a drug disposal box, which was acquired through CVS with the assistance of Jesse Brooks.

We continue to build relationships with community partners to assist persons in need. We work with Bristol's 5-Town Partnership, Turning Point Center of Addison County, Addison County Restorative Justice Services, Hope, Age Well, WomenSafe, the 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 continues to evolve and improve with the positive relationships developed through our interactions with the schools. Thank you, Principal Shannon Warden and the entire Mount Abraham Union Middle High School staff, for your guidance, assistance, and support.

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.

We complete fingerprint requests, no need for an appointment, the best time to stop is between 9 AM-2 PM or after 3:30 PM. Bring a completed fingerprint form and two forms of identification. There is no charge for Bristol Police District residents, all others \$30 check or cash. VIN verifications, property checks (if you are away for a few days, simply contact us in advance), and security evaluation of your property are a few services we provide. If there is something we can help with, please do not hesitate to call us.

It was great to see everyone at the 4th of July parade and other events returning. We appreciate the collaboration with event organizers and fellow first responders to provide a safe and joyful experience during the events.

We completed 3,795 calls for service in 2022. They include all incidents reported and/or responded to, proactive patrols, and traffic-related encounters.

We use social media (Facebook) to receive tips, identify people, reunite dog owners, and assist in returning found property, for example. We are open to suggestions of other preferred platforms to provide and receive information.

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.

You can reach us at (802) 453-2533; on Facebook @BristolPoliceDepartment; by email at Bruce.Nason@vermont.gov or stopping by the station. Due to a shortage of dispatchers, your call may be answered by our auto attendant, leave a message and we will return your call as soon as we can. Please remember if you have an emergency dial 911.

We can't do this without the support of our families; there are times we work extended hours; thank you for your understanding and support.

Thank you, Patricia and Connor; I appreciate your unquestionable support.

Respectfully submitted

Bruce Nason,
Chief of Police



Photo: Ian Albinson