



NEWFIELDS POLICE DEPARTMENT
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Wayne Young
Chief of Police

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As I enter my third year as Chief of the Newfields Police Department, I continue making it a priority to meet as many residents and business owners as I can. The police department and I have taken every opportunity to participate in town activities, such as the Senior Luncheon, Memorial Day Parade, Fall Festival, Trick or Treat, Turkey Trot, Holiday Celebrations, and the Easter Bunny Parade. Other successful events included Coffee with a Cop at the Town Hall in March 2023 and the Helpful Hands Program & Community Garden. The police department will continue with the Helpful Hands Program & Community Garden in 2024.

Even though we are a small town, I continue to see how Newfields is like a big family and how the citizens of our community come together to make these events possible. I want to thank the residents and business owners who donated and have continued to make these programs so successful. A special thanks to Dennis Boyle, who took care of the Community Garden once again this year, especially with the challenges of the wet summer months we had. I also want to thank the Exeter Area Lions Club who worked with us helping families with heating assistance.

The last few years, law enforcement has seen retention & recruitment challenges throughout the country. Newfields was not immune to these challenges, as we tried to be fiscally responsible with our budget throughout the year, while trying to fully staff the police department. In 2023, we saw the departure of Executive Assistant Lisa Soiett, Officer Mike Schwartz and Officer Chris Hutchins. All three served the Town of Newfields for several years, and I want to thank them for their service, and wish them the best of luck with their future endeavors. We were able to fill the Executive Assistant position with Tina Maneiro. Tina has done an incredible job adjusting to her new position, and oversees the Helpful Hands Program. Tina is the face and voice of the department when you stop by or call. We were also able to hire two experienced part-time officers who retired after long careers as full-time officers in NH law enforcement. We hired Officer Chris Call who retired from the Stratham Police Department, and Officer Tim McClare who retired as a Conservation officer with NH Fish & Game. Officer Call and Officer McClare bring a tremendous amount of knowledge and experience to the Town of Newfields.

In 2023, our police department was one of the first in the state to begin the New Hampshire Law Enforcement Accreditation Program. This new accreditation program, which began July 1, 2023, provides law enforcement agencies with a systemic pathway for self-assessment and outside review of their compliance with established professional standards. This will help strengthen community trust, accountability and transparency.

I'm a strong believer in having the department active in the community, particularly Newfields Elementary School. During 2023 the DARE program returned to Newfields Elementary School. Sgt. LaValley did an exemplary job with the students, teaching them invaluable life skills about making good decisions, being safe, healthy and responsible. We continue to work closely with the Newfields Elementary School and SAU 16 in creating, updating, and maintaining an emergency plan that covers the full spectrum of safety hazards. The Newfields Police Department will continue to be a familiar face at Newfields Elementary School as well as at the Piscassic and Main St crosswalks during school student arrivals and dismissals.

While balancing the needs of the police department and being fiscally responsible, we applied for and were awarded various grants which provided us with the necessary equipment & extra patrols. We were able to purchase new in-car radars which replaced our two-decade old outdated radar units. We were awarded extra patrol money from the NH Office of Highway Safety which allows us to put additional officers on the road to combat speed, aggressive drivers, distracted drivers, and impaired drivers. We were also awarded fifty youth bicycle helmets & lights from the Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center, which were given away to children at the Fall Festival.

A special thanks to The Doorway at Wentworth Douglas Hospital who donated naloxone (Narcan) which will assist the department with the opioid epidemic. The department continues to utilize the two signboards which the town obtained with a grant last year. The signboards throughout town are used for speed enforcement, community and town events, and emergency information.

On January 1, 2024, Genasys was selected as the new emergency notification system in NH. Residents should download the Genasys Protect mobile app to receive local and state emergency and non-emergency notifications through a variety of methods (phone, text, e-mail). If anyone has any questions, please feel free to call the police department at 603-772-9010.

Community Policing continues to be a priority for the department. I continue to look for creative ways to connect with the community, and will be launching new programs in 2024. Once these new programs are launched, the information will be distributed on our Facebook page, Town Hall email list, and at the police department.

I am grateful for being able to serve as the Newfields Police Chief. I am committed to the community-oriented policing practice and look forward to working with the citizens, business owners, town employees, and elected officials in 2024.

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