

# **New Sewickley Township Police Department 2023 Report**



**Gregory A. Carney, Chief of Police**

**233 Miller Road | Rochester, Pennsylvania | (724)774-2473**



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## *Message from the Chief*

As Chief of Police, on behalf of the men and women of the New Sewickley Township Police Department, I am pleased to present to you the New Sewickley Township Police Department 2023 Year End Report. 2023 presented significant changes to the New Sewickley Township Police Department as long time Chief of Police Ronald Leindecker retired in December 2022. In February 2023 I was promoted to Chief of Police. This significant change to the makeup and normalcy of the police department presented unique challenges to all our officers. Our officers faced these challenges and provided me with their full support as we moved forward through a safe and productive year.

Like law enforcement agencies nationwide, we faced police staffing shortages. We were able to recruit several new part-time officers throughout the year at a time when part-time policing is becoming extremely rare. We were able to secure several significant grants which improved safety within the community while also lowering the police department burden on tax-based funds. Through these successful ventures, we were able to promote two new full-time officers in November.

Several notable accomplishments were achieved by the police department in 2023. These accomplishments include successfully navigating the reaccreditation process through the Pennsylvania Chief's of Police Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission, the creation of a 5- and 10-year Strategic Plan, receipt of the 2023 AAA Platinum Traffic Safety Award, and increased participation in community events. The administration of the police department also identified five goals that we believe are imperative to the success of our department. These goals are crime prevention, providing effective police service, building, strengthening, and sustaining partnerships, officer training and development, and limiting the increased reliance on tax-based funds to improve service and the department.

Our officers are dedicated to reducing crime and enhancing the quality of life of our residents through their professional response to issues that arise in the community. Our officer's endeavor to provide ethical police services that serve to amplify our positive relationship with our community.

*Gregory A. Carney*  
Chief of Police

## Mission

While performing their duties, members of the New Sewickley Township Police Department will be mindful that the mission of this department is: to establish partnerships with all members of our community; citizens, businesses, and schools; to proactively solve problems which will reduce the frequency of calls for police service; to embrace technological advances, and to use these advances to assist in our service to the community; and to be responsive to the needs of our community in addressing school issues, crime prevention, and quality of life issues that affect all of us. By working with members of the community to find solutions to problems faced in New Sewickley Township, the members of the police department will be helping to create and maintain a safe and productive community for all to enjoy.

## Vision

We envision the New Sewickley Township Police Department as the benchmark of professionalism and leadership, not only in Beaver County, but also throughout Pennsylvania. By taking an aggressive stance against criminal activity and by using traditional and progressive means of performing our duties, we assist in creating a safer, more productive township. Through working together with citizens and businesses, we contribute to the economic development of New Sewickley Township and help to make it a truly vibrant community.

# Values

The values of Honesty, Professionalism, Loyalty, Thoroughness, Adaptability, and Courageousness make a New Sewickley Township police officer what he or she is. These are simple values, yet very important; and they form the foundation upon which the New Sewickley Township Police Department stands to provide professional service to all.

**Honesty** – The single most reliable mark of an officer’s value is his or her honesty. Honesty requires that a department member deal in a truthful, straightforward, and open manner with co-workers and members of the public.

**Professionalism** – Being a professional means maintaining a high degree of knowledge, skill, and ability in order to perform any police related duty, so that when called upon, the member is prepared to act in an efficient, effective, courteous, and respectful manner.

**Loyalty** – First, an officer must be loyal to his/her oath of office and to the Law Enforcement Officers’ Code of Ethics. Second, members must be loyal to the New Sewickley Township Police Department, and to fulfilling our mission. Finally, members must be loyal to each other so that we all might succeed in our roles. Supervisors must display loyalty to their subordinates and subordinates must be loyal to their supervisors.

**Thoroughness** – If it is worth doing, it is worth doing right. This means members must be thorough and give full attention to all task-related details.

**Adaptability** – Officers must maintain flexibility in performing their jobs so they can quickly adapt to changing circumstances. An officer’s job is never the same from one day to the next. Being adaptable requires the individual to consider alternative methods of performing the job, while staying focused on the objective.

**Courageousness** – Officers must have the strength of character to face adversity head-on in the performance of their duty. Mental and physical preparedness are essential to acquiring confidence in one’s ability to handle the challenges the job presents, even when there is risk to one’s own life and safety.

## Community Overview

New Sewickley Township was formed in 1801 when the original Sewickley Township was divided into North Sewickley Township and New Sewickley Township. Since that time, thirteen other boroughs and townships have been formed from the original Sewickley Township. Today, New Sewickley Township consists of 32.7 square miles with a population of approximately 7,200 residents. The makeup of New Sewickley Township is mixed with residential areas, commercial areas, and sprawling rural areas. New Sewickley Township is home of the Freedom Area Senior High School and portions of the Freedom Area Middle School.

New Sewickley Township is a second-class township and is governed by a five-member board of supervisors. The board of supervisors is supported by a Township Manager, Township Secretary, and Township Treasurer. In addition to the police department, New Sewickley Township has a fully staffed Road Department, a part time park employee, a Planning Commission, a Municipal Authority, a Zoning and Hearing Board, and a Recreation Board.

The 2023 New Sewickley Township budget was \$4,149,777.46, with \$1,756,833.57 of the overall budget being utilized by the police department. The administration of the police department recognizes and understands that the significant costs associated with the operation of the police department must be addressed. The police department is committed to applying for and obtaining grant funding to ease the tax burden of police department operations while also identifying and instituting cost saving measures.

## Organizational Overview

The New Sewickley Township Police Department operates day to day by providing 24/7 police service to the residents of New Sewickley Township. The New Sewickley Township Police Department is also contracted to provide police services to Marion Township during times when the Marion Township Police Department does not have officers on duty. In 2023 Marion Township paid New Sewickley Township \$27,325.00 for police services.

The New Sewickley Township Police Department began 2023 by employing 12 full time police officers, 3 part time police officers, and 1 non-sworn full time civilian employee. The New Sewickley Township Police Department ended 2023 by employing 14 full time police officers, and 1 non-sworn civilian employee. The current structure of the New Sewickley Township Police Department consists of a Chief of Police, 2 Patrol Sergeants, 1 Patrol Corporal, 1 Detective, 2 School Resource Officers, 1 K-9 Officer, 1 K-9 Handler, and 6 Patrolmen. The New Sewickley Township Police Department is contracted to provide 1 full time School Resource Officer to the Freedom Area Senior High School and 1 full time School Resource Officer to the Freedom Area Middle School. The current School Resource Officer program is partially funded by the Freedom Area School District and awarded grant funds.

In 2020 the New Sewickley Township Police Department achieved accredited status with the Pennsylvania Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission (PLEAC). In 2023 there are 1,116 law enforcement agencies operating in Pennsylvania with only 147 agencies being accredited through the Pennsylvania Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission. In June of 2023 the New Sewickley Township was evaluated by PLEAC assessors for re-accreditation. The New Sewickley Township Police Department was successful in being reaccredited through 2026. The New Sewickley Township Police Department is only one of two law enforcement agencies in Beaver County to achieve an accredited status, with the other department being the Hopewell Township Police Department, who received their initial accredited status in 2023. In early 2023 the New Sewickley Township Police Department became Active Bystandership in Law Enforcement (ABLE) certified. The New Sewickley Township Police Department is the only ABLE certified department in Beaver County.



# Police Department Roster



Chief of Police Gregory Carney

Administrative Assistant Christine Ziter

Traffic Sergeant  
Timothy Gatehouse

Crime Sergeant  
Daniel Swab

Corporal  
Vacant

Corporal  
Timothy Sovich

Patrolman/K9 Handler Keith Haburjak

K9 Beny

School Resource Officer Richard Jones

School Resource Officer Gregory Pullen

Detective Samantha Vinson

Patrolman James Kopaz

Patrolman Ethan Fuchs

Patrolman Markus DeNapoli

Patrolman Alexandra Lizzi

Patrolman Jeremy Brown

Patrolman Sierra Sicilia



## Fleet Information

The New Sewickley Township Police Department maintains a fleet of marked and unmarked patrol vehicles. All department owned vehicles are equipped with in-car cameras that record both audio and video. All department owned vehicles are also equipped with emergency lighting, sirens, Patrol PC mobile computers, mobile printers, scanners, patrol rifles, patrol shotguns, spike strips, fire extinguishers, warming blankets, first aid kits, vehicle lockout kits, reflective tearaway traffic vests, flashlights, and small tool kits.

Additionally, patrol officers carry duty bags in their vehicles during their patrol shifts which contain AED's, binoculars, night vision optics, and a ballistic helmet. Five new Dodge Durango patrol vehicles have been ordered and will be placed into service in 2024. These vehicles were purchased through Local Share Grant funding.

In 2023 our officers patrolled 158,513 miles.

### Inventory:

- Marked Patrol Squad 340 – 2018 Dodge Durango
- Unmarked Patrol Squad 341 – 2019 Dodge Charger
- Marked Patrol Squad 342 – 2019 Dodge Charger
- Unmarked Patrol Squad 343 – 2019 Dodge Charger
- Marked Patrol K9 Squad 344 – 2023 Chevrolet Tahoe
- Marked Patrol Squad 345 – 2019 Dodge Durango
- Marked Patrol Squad 346 – 2019 Dodge Charger
- Marked Patrol Squad 347 – 2017 Dodge Charger
- Marked Patrol Squad 349 – 2016 Ford Explorer



# Public Information

## Right to Know Requests

Right to Know Requests can be made either in person at the police department Monday through Friday from 7:30 am to 3:30 pm or online through the tab on the police department website.

## Social Media

The police department has a Facebook page titled "New Sewickley Township Police Department." The police department has made a concerted effort to increase their social media presence in 2023. Weekly information and educational posts have been made available to the public. Additionally, traffic issues, road closures, and department events have been posted regularly.

## Unused Medication

The police department has an unused medication drop box located inside the front door of the police department. This drop box can be utilized by anyone while the offices are open. Each month the box is emptied by the Beaver County Drug Task Force. The unused medications are then turned over to the DEA for disposal in a safe manner.

## Vacation Checks

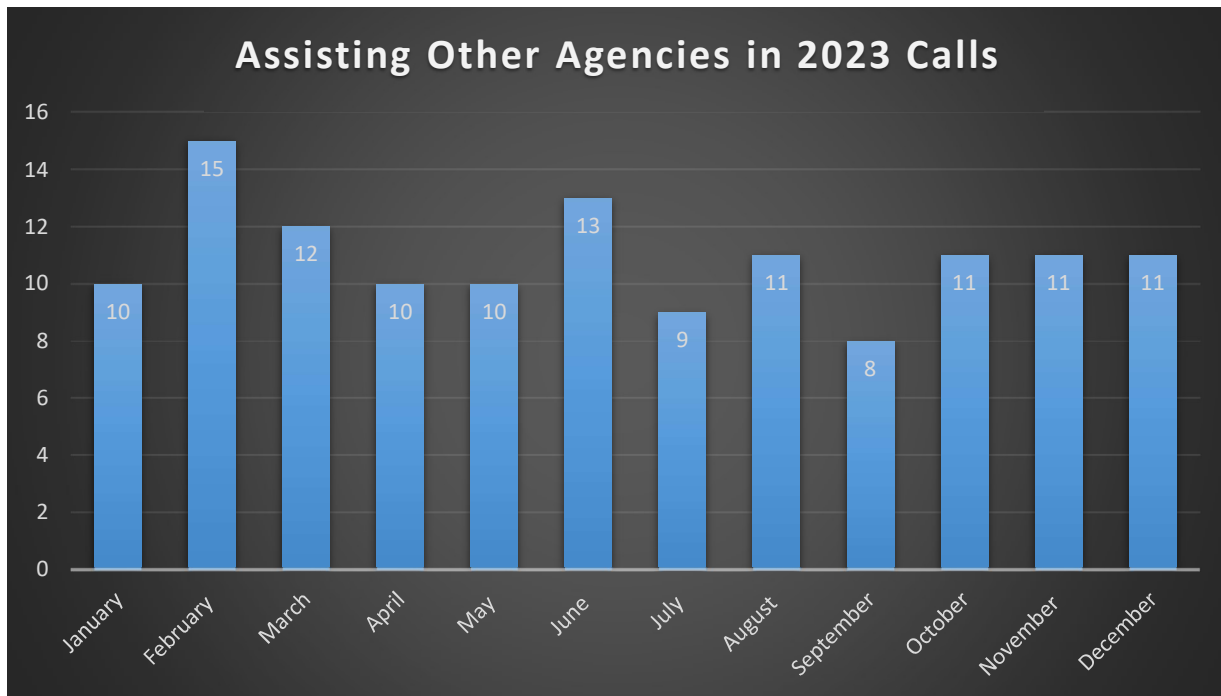
If residents are going to be away from their homes on vacation, they can contact the police department at 724-774-2473 to provide the following information to our officers:

- Departure and Return Dates
- Vehicles on the property
- Animals inside the residence
- Alarm Company and status at the residence
- Emergency Contact information

During their shifts, officers will check on the residence to ensure that nothing has been disturbed while the owners are away.

## Assisting Other Agencies

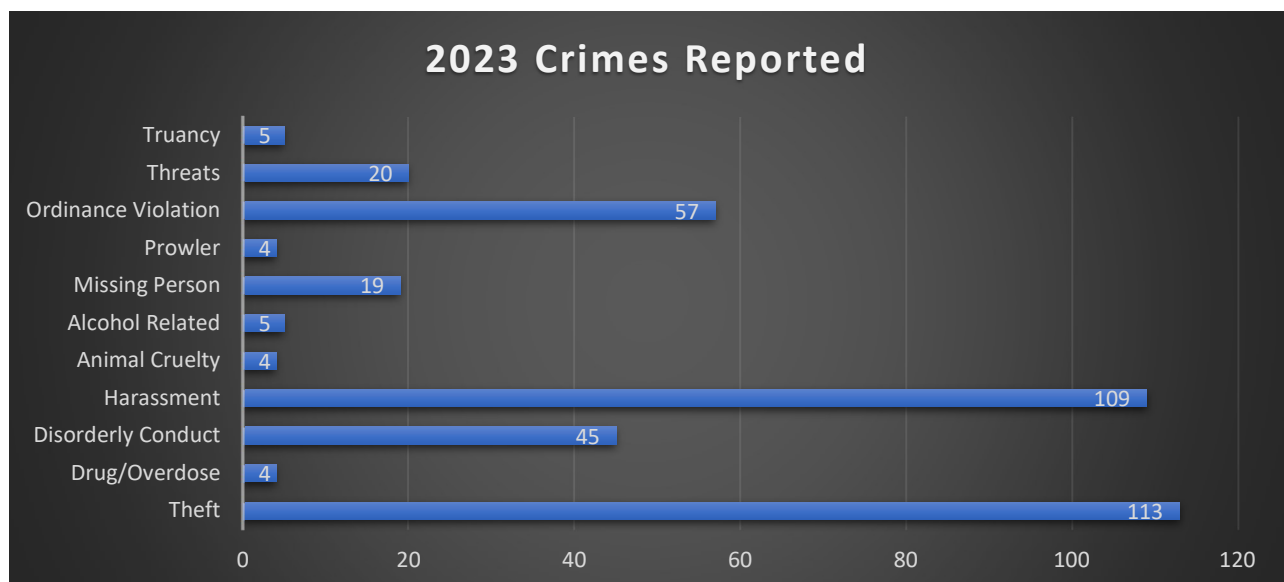
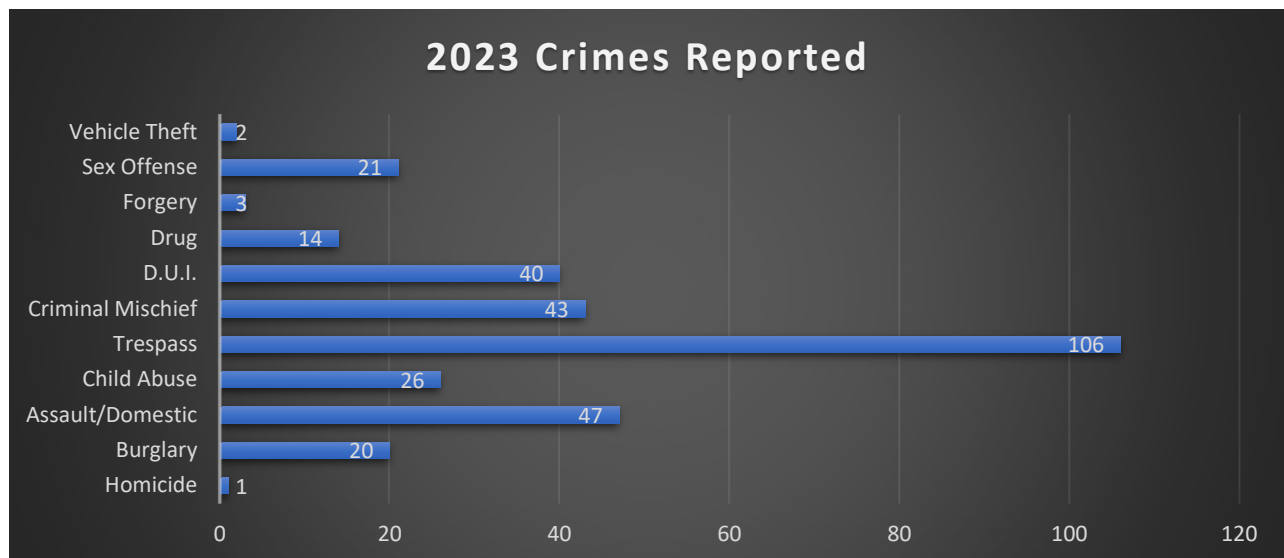
Officers of the New Sewickley Township Police Department often are called upon to assist other agencies. Our officers work to foster relationships with area law enforcement agencies at the local, state, and federal level. Our officers also work to maintain strong working relationships with non-law enforcement agencies that assist our residents. These agencies often include Beaver County Mental Health, Beaver County Behavioral Health, Beaver County Children and Youth Services, A Child's Place at Mercy Hospital, and Beaver County Office on Aging.



**The New Sewickley Township Police Department answered a total of 131 calls to assist other agencies in 2023.**

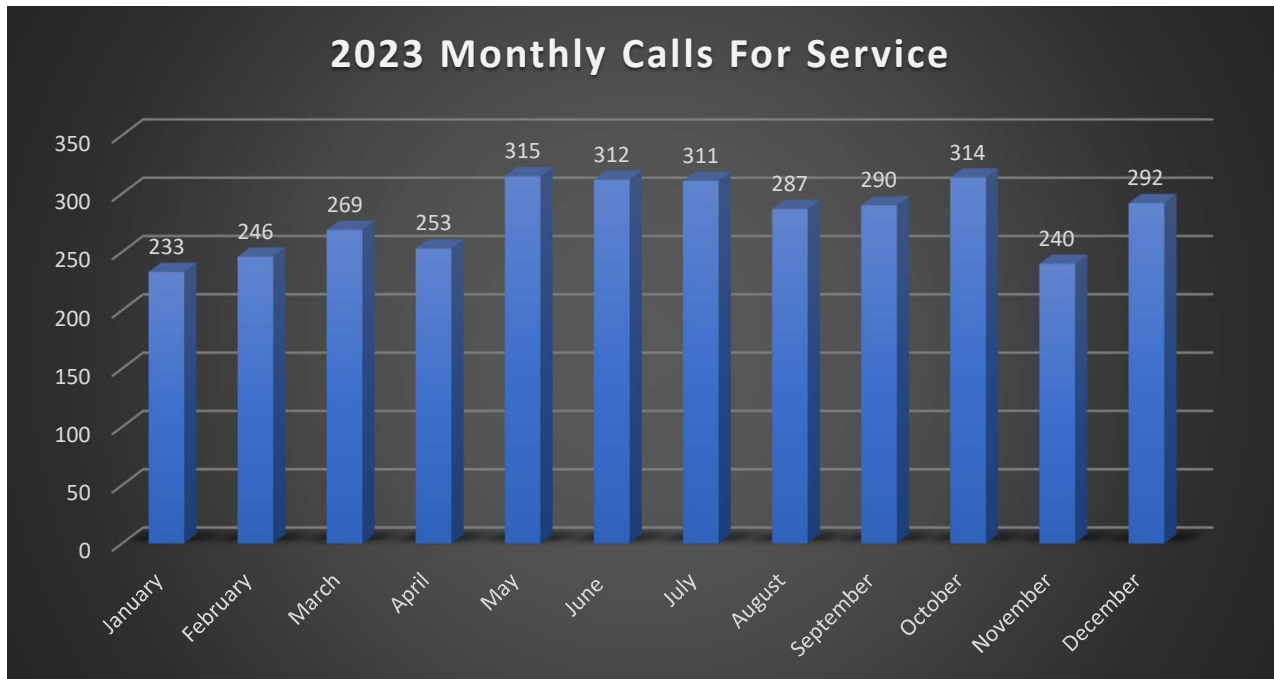
# Crime Statistics

During March and April of 2023, the New Sewickley Township Police Department transitioned from the traditional Uniform Crime Reporting System (UCR) to an improved, nationally standardized and recommended National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS). In coming years, all law enforcement agencies will be required to transition to utilize NIBRS when reporting criminal statistics to the federal government. NIBRS allows us to have the ability to capture details from each criminal act and report separate offenses within the same incident. This includes victim information, offender information, relationships between victims and offenders, and property involved in crimes. Unlike the UCR system, NIBRS provides useful statistics that allow for informed policing.

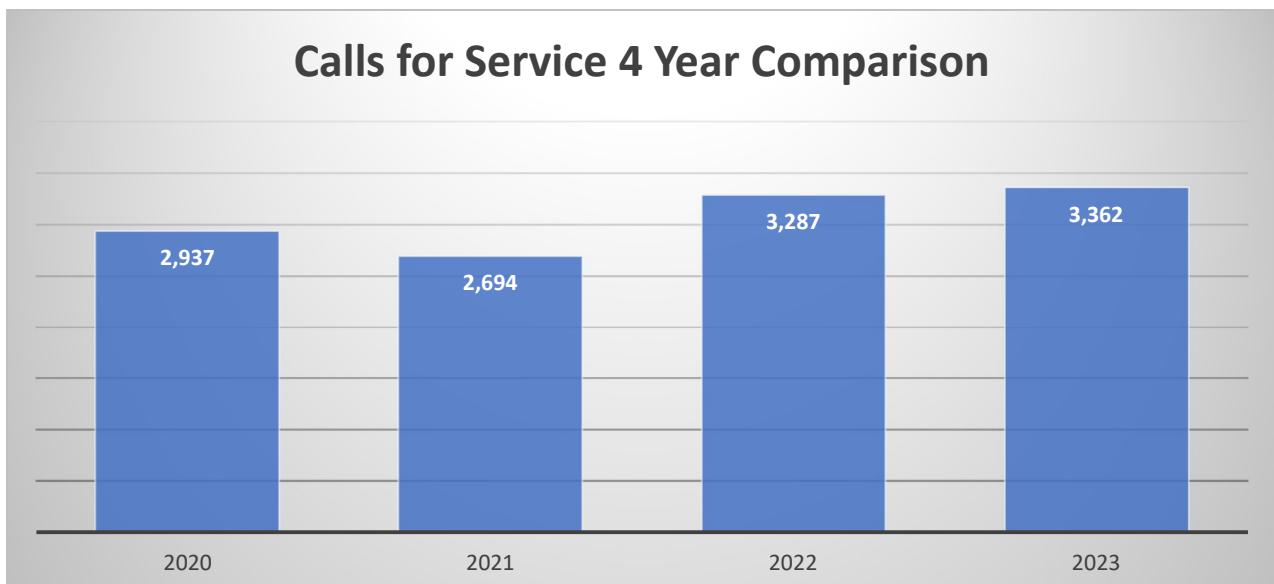


## Calls for Police Service

The New Sewickley Township Police Department response to all calls for police assistance. The types of calls received by officers vary greatly on any given day. Our officers are dispatched to calls received by the Beaver County 911 Center as well as responding to calls for assistance that are received by telephone at the police department.



During 2023 the New Sewickley Township Police Department received an increase of 75 calls for police service over 2022.



## School Resource Officers

The New Sewickley Township Police Department is contracted with the Freedom Area School District to provide two School Resource Officers to the school district. Through these two contracts, a significant portion of the officers' salaries are paid for by the school district. In 2023 Patrolman Greg Pullen was assigned to the School Resource Officer position at the Freedom Area High School and Patrolman Richard Jones was assigned to the School Resource Officer position at the Freedom Area Middle and Elementary School. Our School Resource Officers diligently work every day to ensure the safety of all students, staff, and administration in the school district, while maintaining strong relationships with the students, staff, and administration. In addition to their responsibility to ensure the safety of everyone on campus, our officers also routinely make and coordinate presentations for students. We regularly receive compliments from parents, staff, and school administration regarding the quality of work and professionalism of these two officers.

Each year the New Sewickley Township Police Department works with the Freedom Area School District to conduct Active Treat training and evacuation drills for students, staff, and administration of the school district. The New Sewickley Township Police Department has also partnered with the Chippewa Township Police Department for several years to conduct yearly Active Threat training for officers and administrators in both the Freedom Area School District and the Blackhawk Area School District.





School Resource Officer Pullen and School Resource Officer Jones handle a variety of incidents within the school district. In 2023 our School Resource Officers handled a total of 158 calls while assigned to their post. The types of calls and frequency of each call are shown in the chart below.

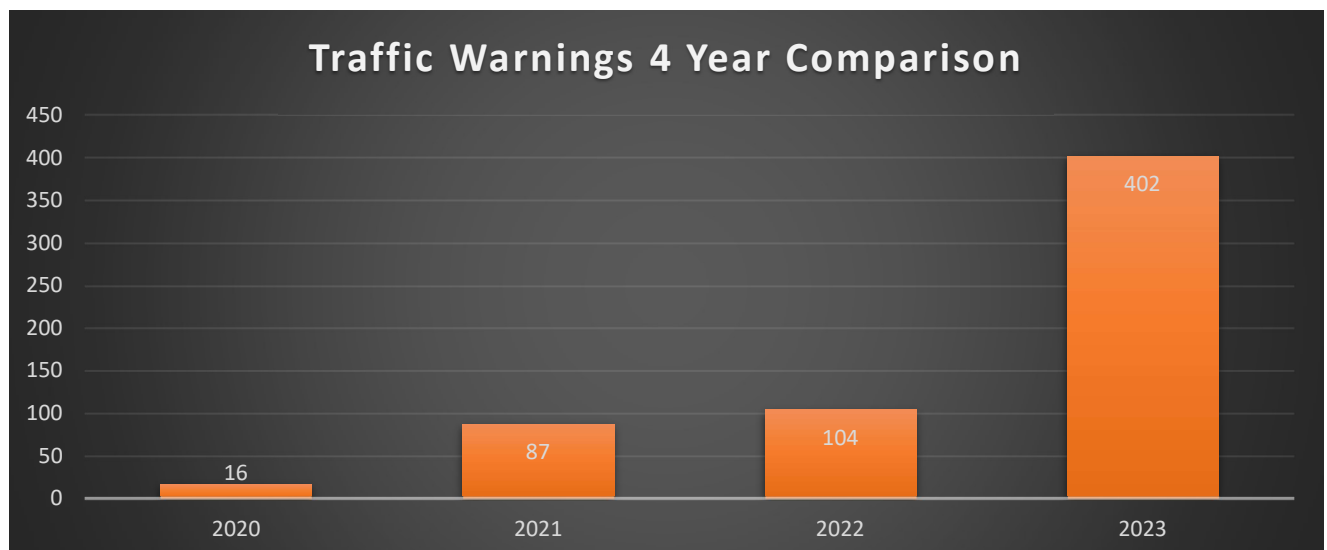
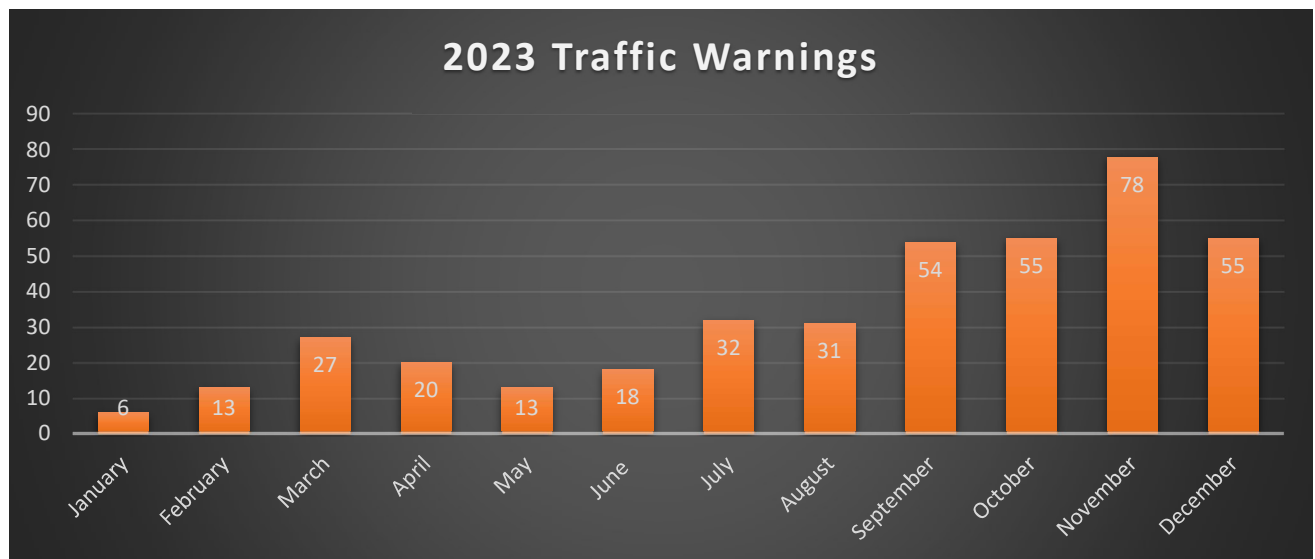




# Traffic Enforcement

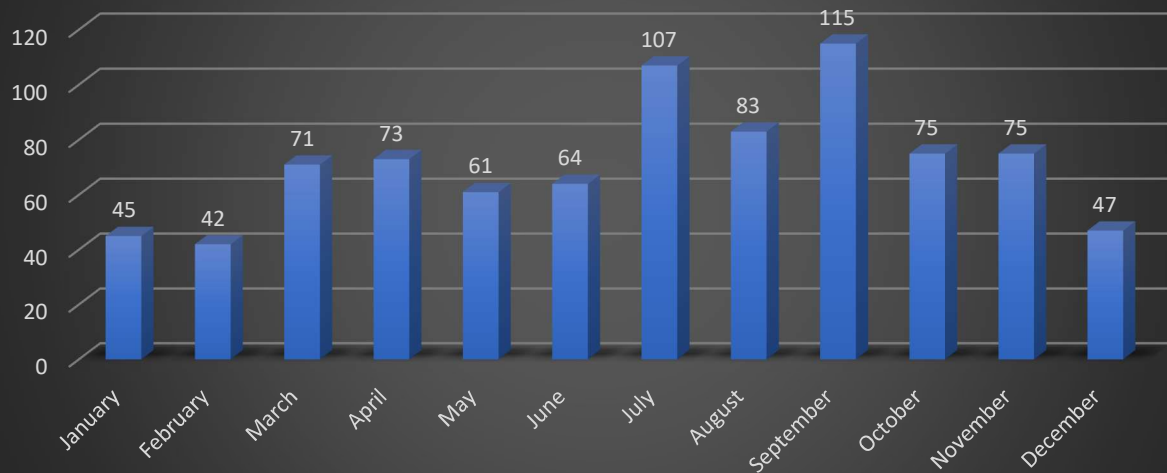
Traffic enforcement plays a critical role in our ongoing efforts to create a safer community. Studies have shown that traffic enforcement can help to reduce crime and traffic accidents. When our officers conduct traffic stops, their visibility to our residents and those traveling through our community increases. Traffic stops also increase the legitimacy of our department as they show our residents that we are taking a proactive approach to create a safer community. Our officers have discretion when conducting a traffic stop to issue either a written warning or traffic citation to the operator of the vehicle.

## Traffic Warnings



# Traffic Citations

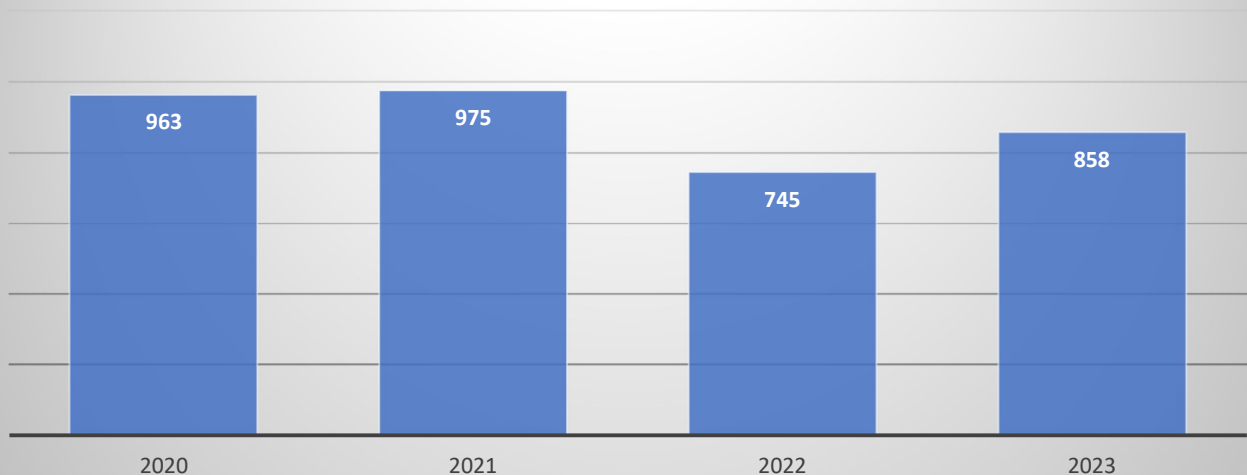
## 2023 Monthly Traffic Citations



## 2023 Traffic Citation Conviction Rate



## Traffic Citations 4 Year Comparison



## Vehicle Code Violations by Section

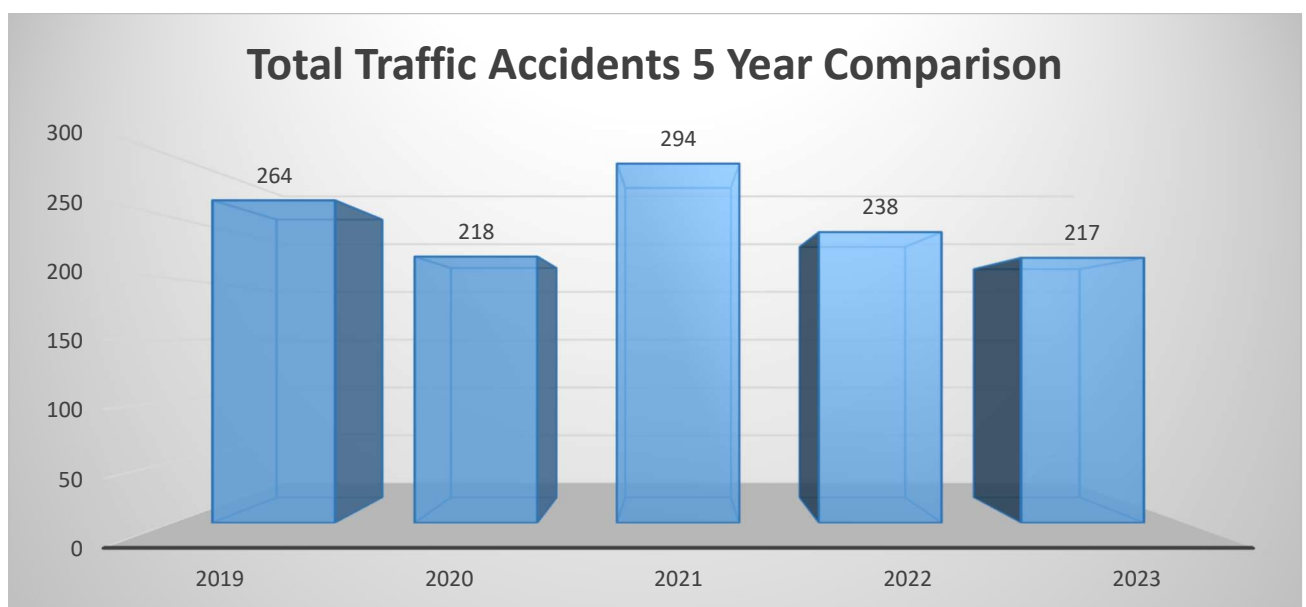
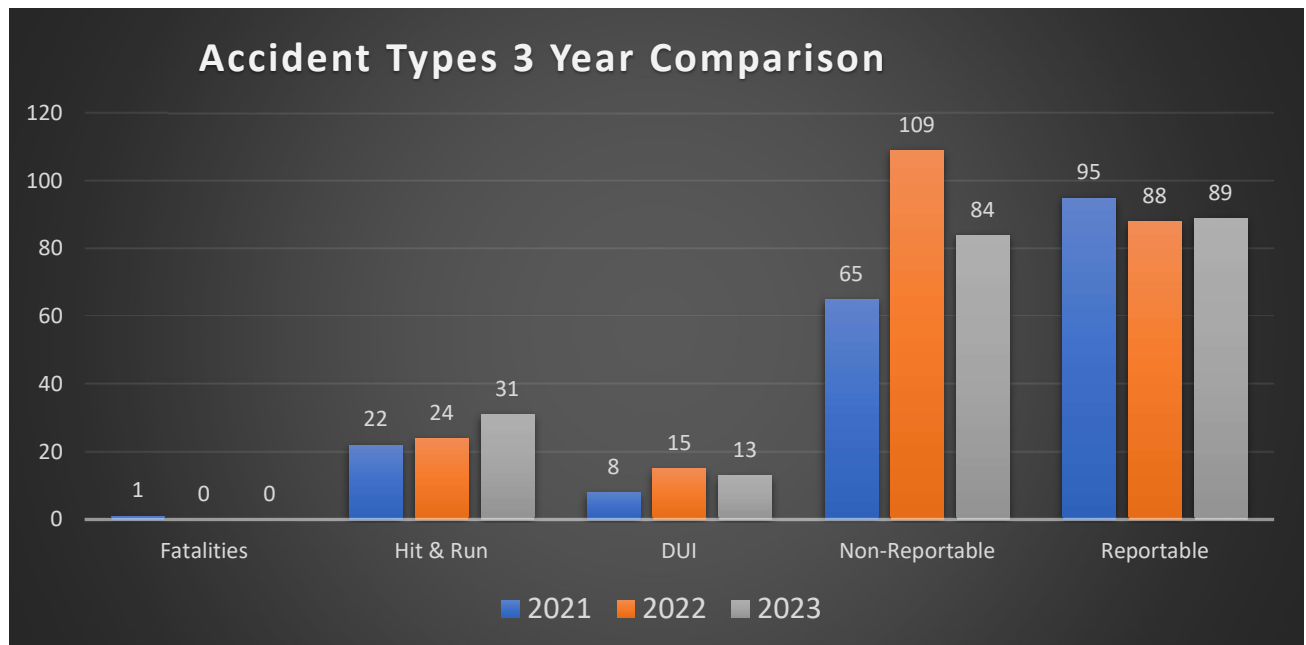
1301A – Registration and Certificate of Title.....	54
1332A – Display of Registration.....	1
1371A – Operation Following Suspension of Registration.....	4
1501A – Drivers Required to be Licensed.....	25
1504A – Class of License.....	2
1543A – Driving While License is Suspended.....	38
1543B – Driving While License is Suspended DUI Related.....	16
1786F – Driving Without Financial Responsibility.....	10
3102 – Obedience of Persons Directing Traffic.....	1
3111A – Obedience to Traffic Control Devices.....	41
3301A – Driving on Right Side of Roadway.....	2
3303A – Overtaking Vehicle on the Left.....	4
3305 – Limitations on Overtaking Vehicle on Left.....	2
3309.3 – Driving on Roadways Laned for Traffic.....	29
3310A – Following Too Closely.....	10
3316 – Texting While Driving.....	1
3322 – Vehicle Turning Left.....	1
3323B – Duties at a Stop Sign.....	61
3324 – Vehicles Entering Roadway.....	1
3334A – Turning Movements and Signals.....	1
3345A – Meeting or Overtaking School Bus.....	24
3353A.3.II – Prohibited Parking.....	9
3361 – Driving Vehicle at Safe Speed.....	43
3362A – Speeding.....	311

3702A – Limitations on Backing.....	1
3714A – Careless Driving.....	20
3736A – Reckless Driving.....	2
3744B – Duty to Give Information or Render Aid.....	5
3745A – Accidents Involving Damage to Unattended Property.....	6
3746A2 – Immediate Notice of Accident to Police.....	3
3809A – Restrictions on Alcoholic Beverages.....	1
4303A – General Lighting Requirements.....	5
4525A – Tire Equipment.....	1
4703A – Operating Vehicle Without Inspection.....	74
4706C5 – Operating Vehicle Without Emissions.....	16
4729 – Removal of Inspection Sticker.....	1
4902B – Restrictions on Use of Highways and Bridges.....	32



# Traffic Accidents

The New Sewickley Township Police Department classifies traffic accidents into five different categories. Those categories are Fatal Accidents, Hit and Run Accidents, DUI Related Accidents, Non-Reportable Accidents, and Reportable Accidents. Non-Reportable accidents are defined as minor traffic accidents where no persons are injured, and all vehicles can be driven from the scene of the accident. Reportable accidents are defined as traffic accidents where either any individual was injured, or vehicles must be towed from the scene, or property damage occurred because of the accident.



# Parking Violations

New Sewickley Township has a snow removal parking ordinance in which officers may issue citations. Officers regularly ask residents to move their vehicles prior to issuance of a parking ticket. Through this method, officers rarely issue parking tickets for snow removal.

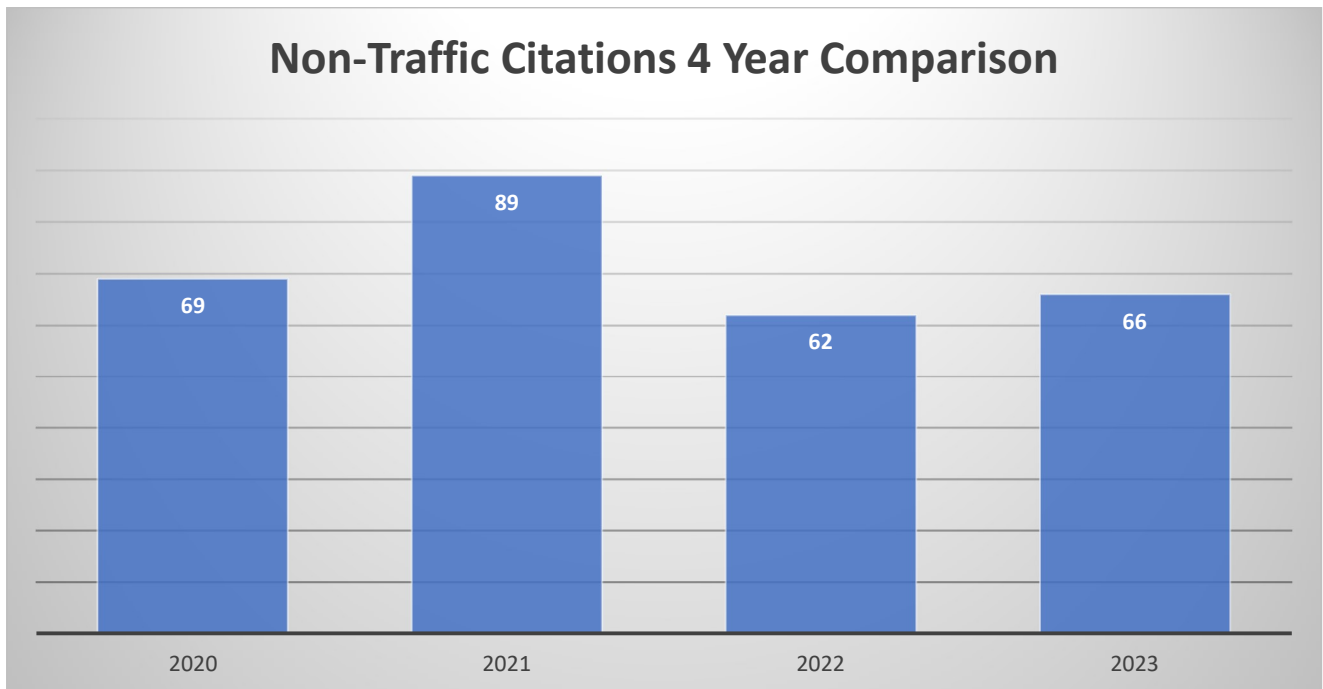
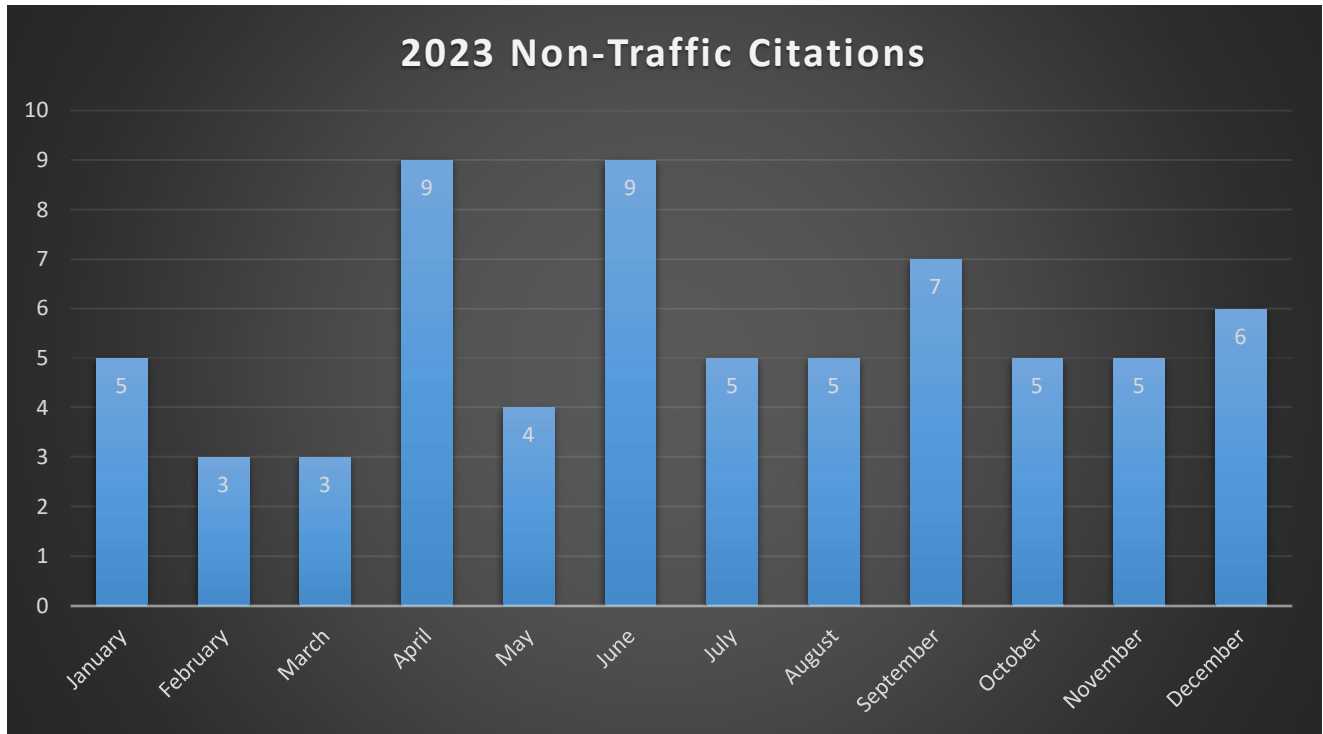
The majority of parking tickets that are issued by officers involve improperly parked vehicles on and around the campus of the Freedom Area School District. These parking issues are routinely found when winter sports activities are taking place on campus.

In 2023 a total of 14 parking tickets were issued by our officers. All of these tickets were issued in and around the campus of the Freedom Area School District.



\*Parking Violations increased significantly in 2022 as the Freedom Area School District hosted all home football games for the Aliquippa School District. These games drew large crowds, which caused parking issues in and around campus.

## Non-Traffic Citations





# Non-Traffic Citations by Section

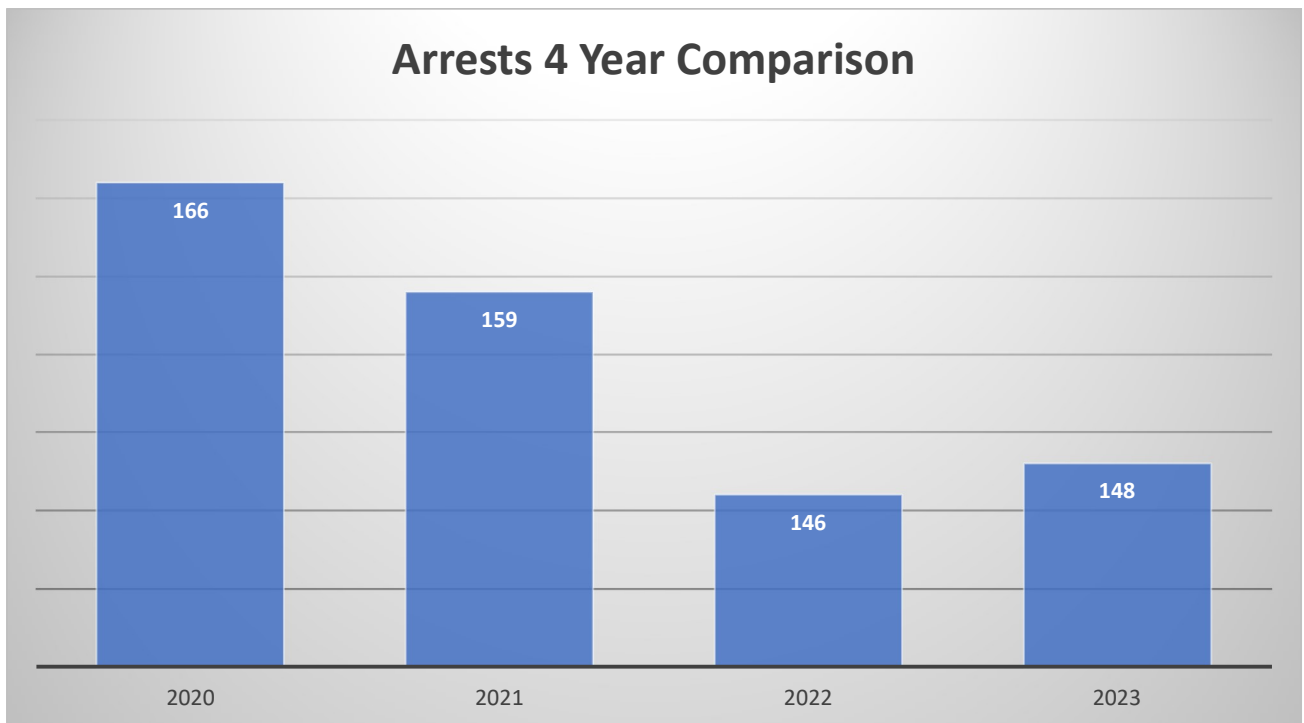
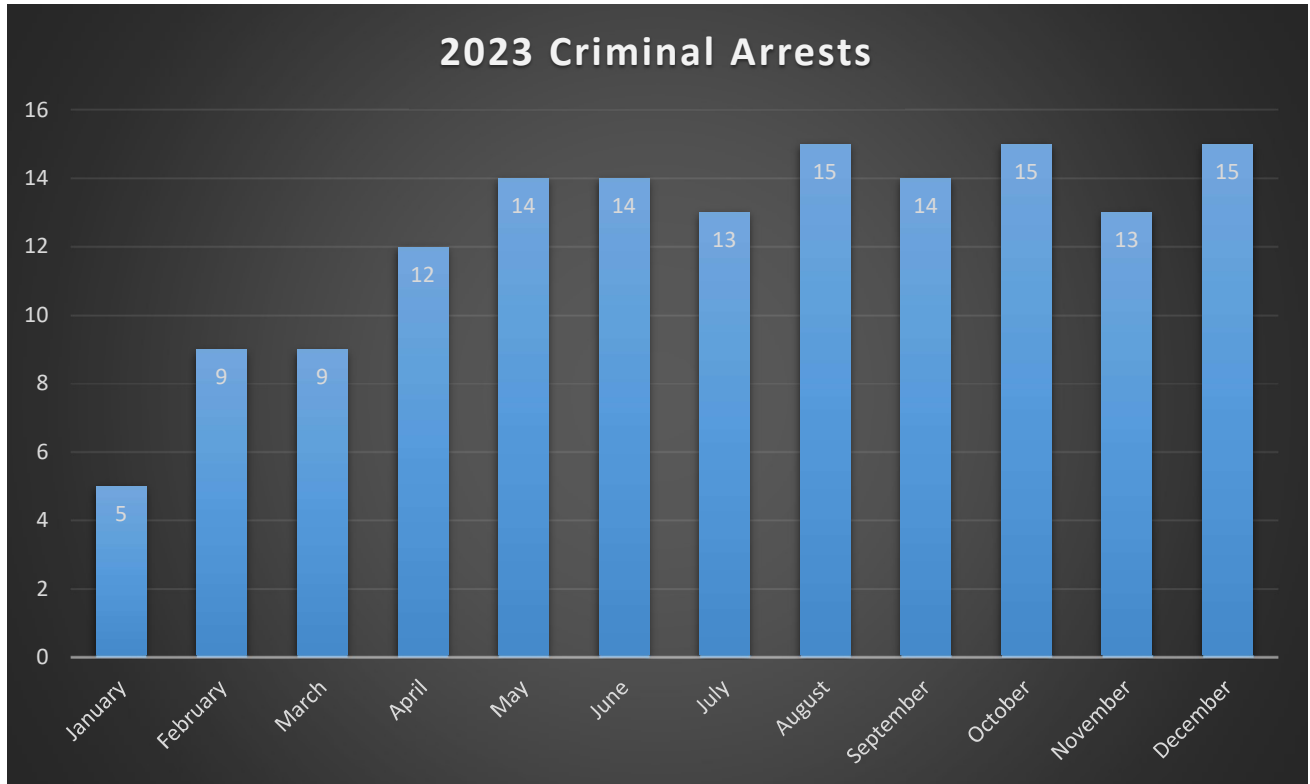
Ordinance 209 – Burning.....	3
Ordinance 215 – Vaping/E-cigarettes.....	7
Disorderly Conduct.....	12
Harassment.....	8
Possession of Alcohol by a Minor.....	3
Criminal Mischief.....	1
Criminal Trespass.....	4
Dogs Running at Large/Leash Law.....	25
Public Intoxication.....	3



## Criminal Arrests by Crime

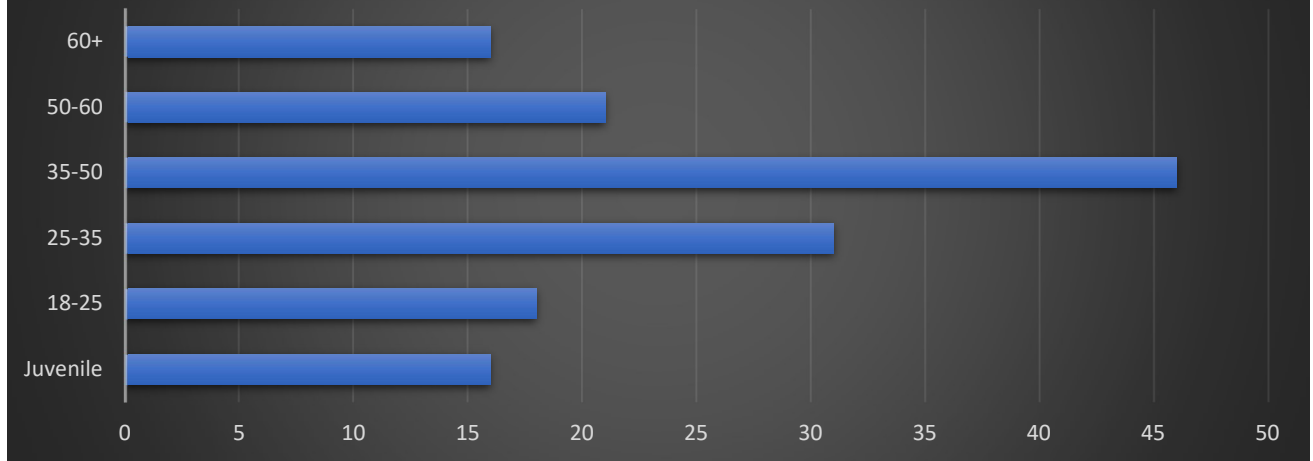
Homicide.....	1
Rape.....	1
Statutory Sexual Assault.....	1
Strangulation.....	1
Aggravated Assault.....	2
Simple Assault.....	11
Burglary.....	4
Indecent Exposure.....	1
Driving Under the Influence.....	34
Possession of Control Substances.....	3
Possession With Intent to Deliver Controlled Substances.....	1
Recklessly Endangering Another Person.....	1
Motor Vehicle Theft.....	2
Theft.....	4
Theft by Deception.....	1
Harassment.....	2
Terroristic Threats.....	3
Criminal Trespass.....	2
Defiant Trespass.....	2
Disorderly Conduct.....	1
Neglect of Animals.....	1
False Alarms to 911.....	2
Ignition Interlock Requirements.....	1

# Arrest Totals

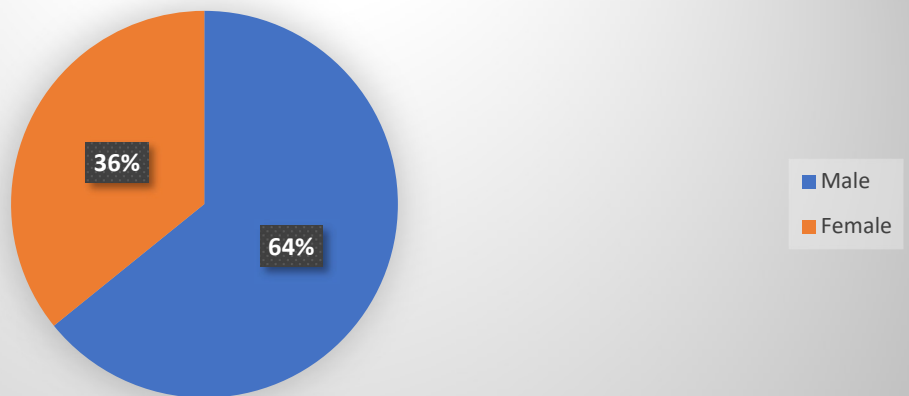


# Arrest Demographics

## 2023 Arrest by Age

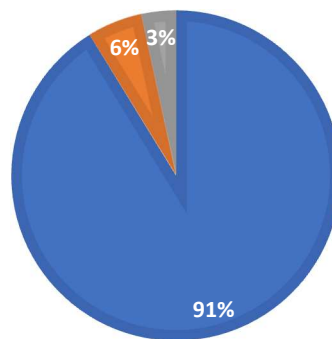


## 2023 Arrest by Gender



## 2023 ARREST BY RACE

■ White ■ Black ■ Hispanic



# Use of Force Incidents

The Use of Force in law enforcement has come under deserved scrutiny in recent years after some highly publicized and often inappropriate and even illegal acts by police officers from across the United States. The New Sewickley Township Police Department is committed to addressing use of force issues in law enforcement. In 2023 the New Sewickley Township Police Department became the first and only law enforcement agency in Beaver County to have all of their officers attend Active Bystandership in Law Enforcement (ABLE) training. The ABLE program is a nationally recognized program that is designed to prevent misconduct, avoid police mistakes, and promote the health and wellness of officers. The basic foundation of ABLE is that any officer regardless of rank, experience, or age can and will stop any other officer from using excessive force.

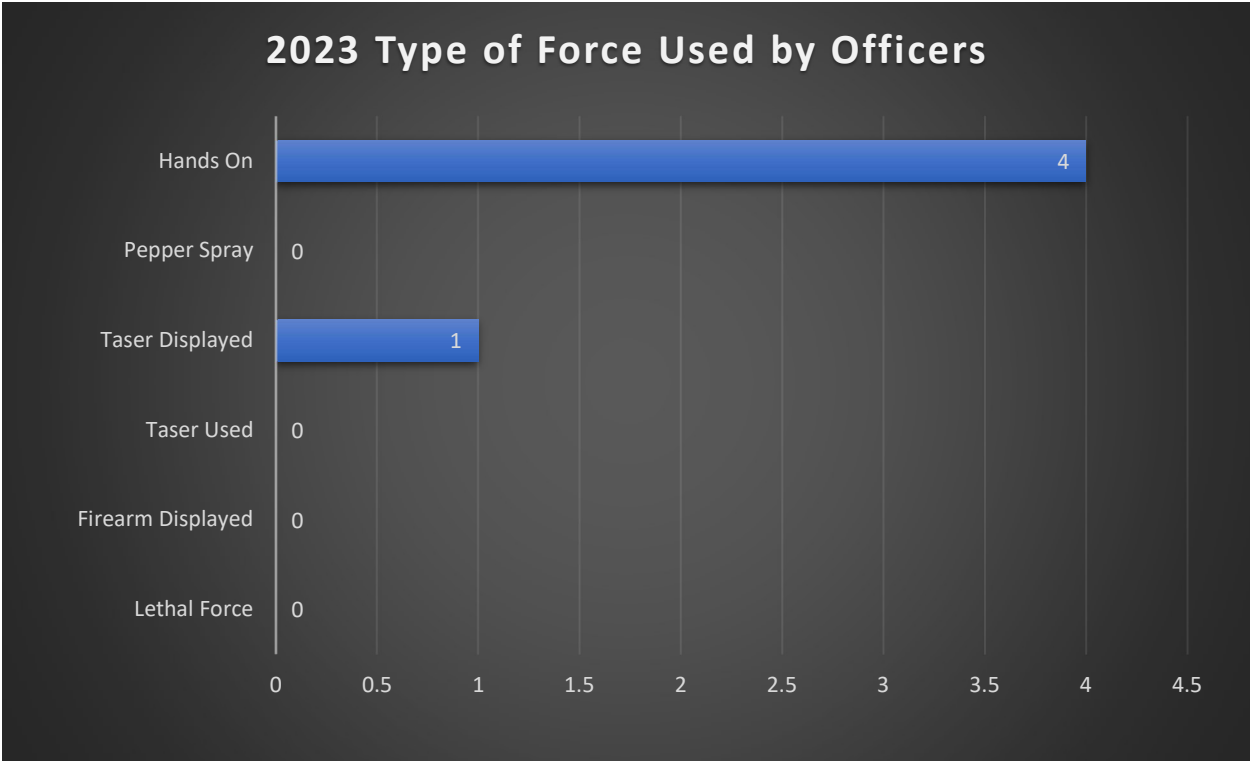
The benefits of being an ABLE certified department are:

- Reducing unnecessary harm to civilians.
- Reducing unnecessary harm to officers.
- Reducing the risk of officers losing their jobs.
- Reducing the risk of lawsuits against the department, municipality, and officers.
- Improving police/community relations.
- Improving officer health and wellness.
- Improving the officer's job satisfaction.
- Improving citizen satisfaction with their police department.

Sergeant Daniel Swab and Corporal Timothy Sovich are ABLE certified instructors.



In addition to our ABLE certification, our officers regularly attend de-escalation training and practice these techniques. De-escalation allows our officers to gain control of a situation with little or no use of force.



Out of the **3,362** calls that our officers responded to in 2023, force was only utilized 5 times.



## 2023 Police Training

All municipal police officers in Pennsylvania are required to complete specific training as identified by the Municipal Police Officer's Training and Education Commission (MPOETC) to maintain their certification as a police officer. In 2023 this training included annual legal updates, firearms qualifications, and Use of Force Control Tactics. All our officers successfully completed all of the required training in 2023.

The New Sewickley Township Police Department is committed to providing the best possible service to our community. This commitment includes going above and beyond the minimum training requirements set forth by MPOETC. Regularly attending training ensures that our officers are able to effectively and safely provide services to our community. In 2023 the New Sewickley Township Police Department became the first and only department to have all members of the department become Active Bystandership in Law Enforcement (ABLE) certified. In addition to the required training the following officers completed training in 2023:

### **Chief Gregory Carney**

Active Bystandership in Law Enforcement (ABLE)  
Internal Affairs Today  
First Responder Autism Awareness  
National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS)  
CLEAN/NCIC

### **Sergeant Daniel Swab**

ABLE Instructor  
First Responder Autism Awareness  
Adult Mental Health First Aid  
Juvenile Mental Health First Aid

### **Sergeant Timothy Gatehouse**

Active Bystandership in Law Enforcement (ABLE)



**Corporal Timothy Sovich**

ABLE Instructor  
Body Worn Camera  
CLEAN/NCIC  
Taser Instructor  
Putting the Victim First

**Patrolman Keith Haburjak**

First Responder Autism Awareness  
CLEAN/NCIC  
North American Police Working Dog K9 Certification (K9 Beny)  
Active Bystandership in Law Enforcement (ABLE)

**School Resource Officer Gregory Pullen**

First Responder Autism Awareness  
Active Bystandership in Law Enforcement (ABLE)  
Anti-Terror Israeli Training for School Resource Officers  
VASCAR Instructor

**School Resource Officer Richard Jones**

Active Bystandership in Law Enforcement (ABLE)  
First Responder Autism Awareness  
Anti-Terror Israeli Training for School Resource Officers  
Juvenile Mental Health First Aid

**Detective Samantha Vinson**

Active Bystandership in Law Enforcement (ABLE)  
Manipulation/Grooming in Child Abuse  
Investigative Strategies for Child Abduction  
Amber Alert  
Investigating Crimes Against Children  
Cyber Fraud Investigations  
Advanced Search and Seizure  
Recreational Marijuana  
Basic Homicide Investigation  
Casting the Digital Footprint

**Patrolman James Kopaz**

Active Bystandership in Law Enforcement (ABLE)  
First Responder Autism Awareness  
Allegheny Mountain Rescue Missing Persons  
CLEAN/NCIC

**Patrolman Ethan Fuchs**

Active Bystandership in Law Enforcement (ABLE)  
Managing Property and Evidence in Law Enforcement  
Missing Persons Alzheimer's  
First Responder Autism Awareness  
Interview Techniques  
Firearms Instructor Certification

**Patrolman Markus DeNapoli**

Active Bystandership in Law Enforcement (ABLE)  
Officer Wellness  
Interview and Interrogation  
First Responder Autism Awareness  
Basic Homicide Investigation  
Casting the Digital Footprint  
Response to Abusive Head Trauma

**Patrolman Alexandra Lizzi**

Active Bystandership in Law Enforcement (ABLE)  
Datamaster DMT  
First Responder Autism Awareness

**Patrolman Jeremy Brown**

Act 120 Certification  
OC Certification  
SFST Certification  
Taser 7

**Patrolman Sierra Sicilia**

Act 120 Certification  
Taser 7  
Casting the Digital Footprint  
Interview and Interrogation

# 2023 Grant Funding

## **Local Share Account** **Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development**

The New Sewickley Township Police Department was awarded \$200,000.00 for the purchase of 5 new patrol vehicles.

### **Penn Energy**

The New Sewickley Township Police K9 was awarded \$1,000.00 utilized to make payments on the new K9 patrol vehicle.

### **Energy Transfer**

The New Sewickley Township Police Department was awarded \$17,865.49 for the purchase of 4 solar powered speed limit signs, 2 solar powered stop signs, and 2 solar powered intersection ahead signs.

### **Community Oriented Policing Services**

The New Sewickley Township Police Department was awarded \$250,000.00 to be utilized to cover portions of the salaries of two officers for the next three years.

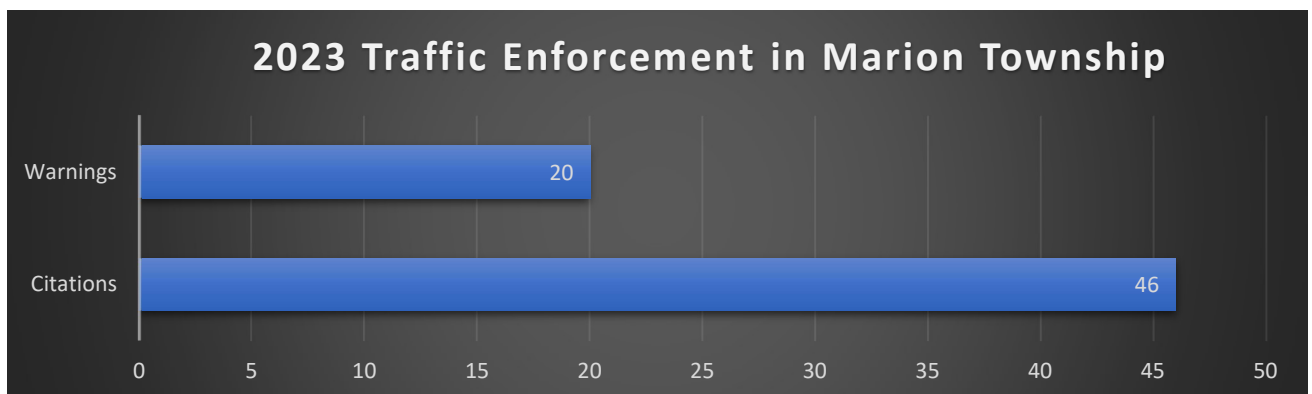
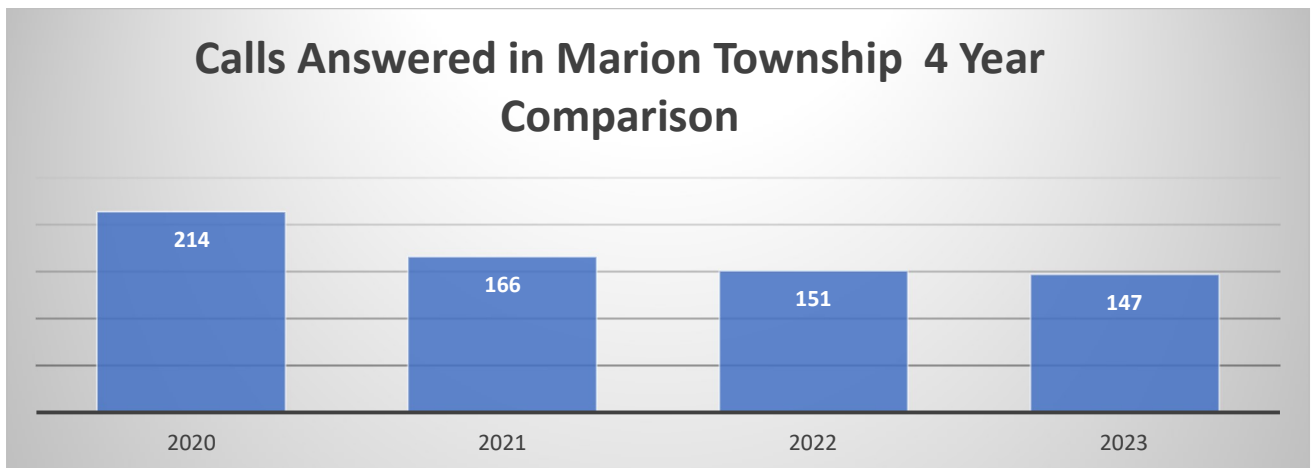
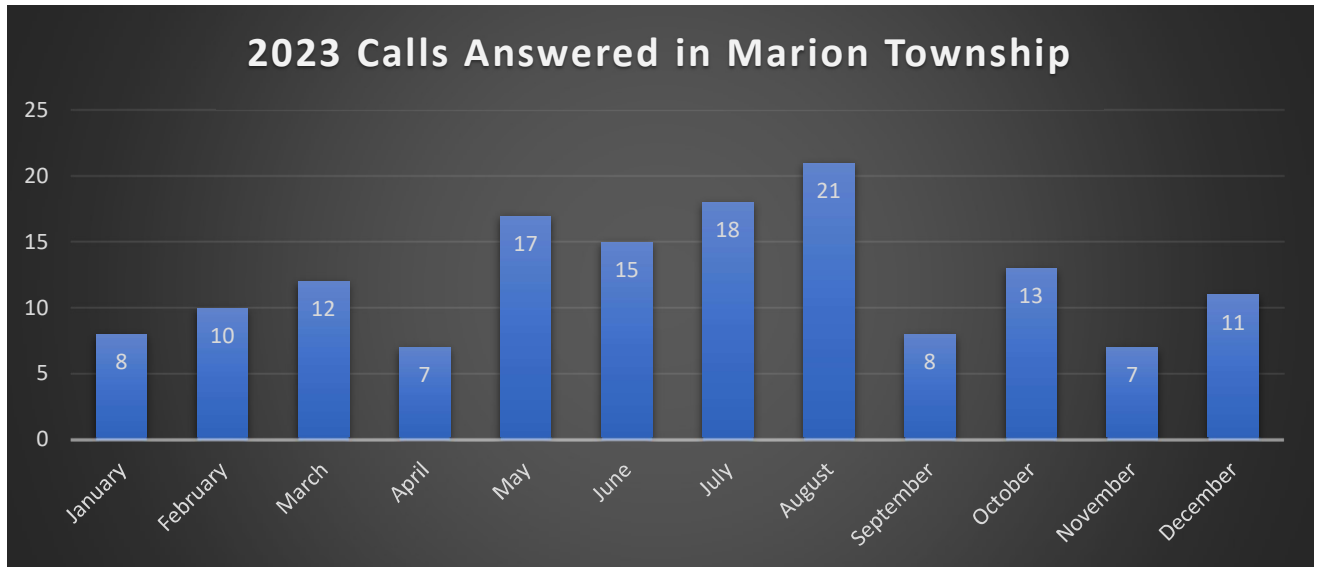
## **Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development**

The New Sewickley Township Police Department was awarded \$74,395.00 to be utilized to purchase Patrol PC computers and CODY Records Management Software Licenses.

**The New Sewickley Township Police Department received a total of  
\$543,260.49 in grant awarded funding in 2023.**

# Marion Township Coverage

The New Sewickley Township Police Department continued to provide contracted police services to Marion Township throughout 2023. These contracted police services are provided to Marion Township when their police officers are not on duty. Our officers primarily provide this coverage during the overnight shift and portions of the day on the weekends.



# Accreditation

The Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association introduced the Pennsylvania Law Enforcement Accreditation Program to the Commonwealth in July 2001. Since then, over 300 agencies have enrolled, and 120 agencies currently have attained accredited status.

Accreditation is a progressive and time-proven way of helping institutions evaluate and improve their overall performance. The cornerstone of this strategy lies in the promulgation of standards containing a clear statement of professional objectives. Participating administrators then conduct a thorough analysis to determine how existing operations can be adapted to meet these objectives. When the procedures are in place, a team of independent professionals is assigned to verify that all applicable standards have been successfully implemented. The process culminates with a decision by an authoritative body that the institution is worthy of accreditation.

The Pennsylvania Law Enforcement Accreditation Program was designed and developed by professional law enforcement executives to provide a reasonable and cost-effective plan for the professionalization of law enforcement agencies within the Commonwealth. The underlying philosophy of the program is to have a user-friendly undertaking for the departments that will result in a “success” oriented outcome.

## **The Benefits?**

- Establishes a credible framework for evaluating agency practices and procedures.
- Reduces agency risk and exposure to lawsuits.
- Decreases some liability insurance expenditures.
- Improves law enforcement – community relations.
- Increases employee input, interaction and confidence in the agency.
- Enlarges the outlook and viewpoints of managers, officers and employees.
- Identifies and highlights the capabilities and competence of the agency.
- Furnishes a solid foundation for the agency to build upon for further progress.
- Provides reliable methods to improve essential management procedures.
- Extends agency accountability to the public and elected officials.
- Enhances planning and innovative activities by all agency personnel.
- Develops improved methods for providing services to the community.
- Encourages problem-solving activities within the agency.

In June 2020 the New Sewickley Township Police Department became the first law enforcement agency in Beaver County to become an Accredited Law Enforcement Agency. Our officers are committed to this program and work tirelessly to ensure that we meet these standards each and every day.

The accreditation certification is good for a 3-year period. Our officers must continue to show that we meet the standards of accreditation each year during this three-year period. If our officers are unable to show that we continue to meet these standards, the department will lose their accredited status.

In June 2023, three assessors from the Pennsylvania Chief's of Police Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission spend numerous hours reviewing every aspect of our department to ensure that the New Sewickley Township Police Department meets all the qualifications and requirements to maintain an accredited status. We are proud to say that the assessors found our department to be in compliance with all of the requirements and standards of accreditation. Our department will maintain an accredited status through June 2026.

Did you know that there are approximately 1,200 law enforcement agencies in Pennsylvania? Of those 1,200 agencies, approximately 10% or only 120 agencies meet the Pennsylvania Chief's of Police Standards for Professional Law Enforcement Practices. The New Sewickley Township Police Department is proud to be a member of this elite group of law enforcement professionals!





## Community Involvement

The New Sewickley Township Police Department is a community-oriented police department. Traditional law enforcement agencies may only serve their communities as peacekeepers who only respond to problems when called upon and are viewed by residents in a negative manner because of a lack of investment into the community. We are invested in and committed to being involved in our community, knowing our residents on a personal level, and helping people in ways that do not involve any type of enforcement activity. The incredible relationship we have with our community provides our department with the support of the community as we all strive to make New Sewickley Township better. As part of our commitment to our community, our officers were involved in the following programs throughout 2023:

- Fall Fest at Yeck's Farm was a Faith and Blue Event where community members were able to participate in several different activities with our officers at a local business. This event was held at no cost to anyone who attended the event.



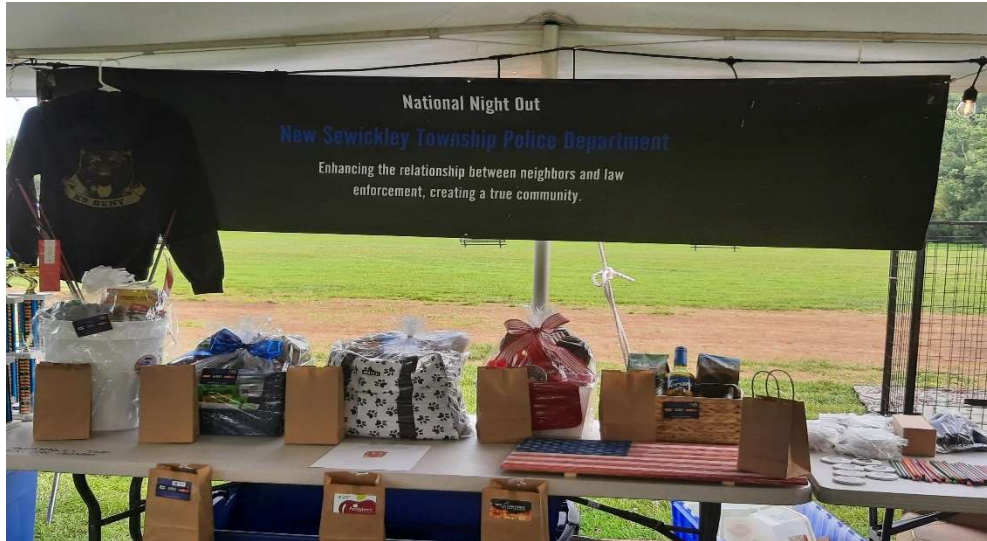


- September 11<sup>th</sup> Memorial Stair Climb was a first responder event where we remember those who paid the ultimate sacrifice on September 11, 2001.



- Toys for Tots Stuff a Cruiser is a yearly tradition during the Big Knob Fair where our officers' collect toys which are then donated to Toys for Tots. Our officers also staffed an informational booth at the Big Knob Fair, which allowed us to interact with our residents and visitors to our community in a positive setting.
- Scouting presentations were made to several groups of Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts. Some of the topics discussed this year were police equipment and responsibility, illegal drugs, and civil rights.
- Scam and Identity Theft presentations were made to several different community groups throughout the year as this is one of the most common calls we receive where our residents are victimized. Presentations were made at Freedom Crossings community meeting and Unionville Presbyterian Church.
- Training with the students and staff of the Freedom Area School District. These trainings included First Responder/Active Threat Training, Technology in the Police Force, CSI week at the Freedom Middle School, Charlie Check First, K9 Safety Sweeps at all district buildings, and full-scale evacuation drills of all district buildings.

- National Night Out Event. 2023 marked our second year of participation in the National Night Out Event which is held on the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of August each year. Numerous first responder organizations, and community service organizations participated in this event which was held at Green Vally Park. Demonstrations were held and food trucks were on site during this event, which was held at no cost to anyone who attended the event.



- A safety presentation was made to the children at the Early Years Community Learning Center Program. Officers met with the children, read them a book, and then showed the children our patrol vehicles and the equipment inside our vehicles.



- Our officers again participated in the New Sewickley Township Community Day event. This year in addition to manning our informational booth, officers also participated in the dunk tank, where we were able to assist the New Sewickley Township Recreation Board in raising money to benefit Green Valley Park.
- Since its inception in 2021, our officers have participated in the Beaver County Unity Games. Unity Games are hosted by the Beaver County Community & Law Enforcement Coalition (BCCLEC). BCCLEC is an organization whose main goal is to promote the acceptance of others, to come together as one community, and to promote unity between the public and law enforcement. In 2023 Detective Vinson, Patrolman DeNapoli, and Patrolman Fuchs participated in the Unity Games events.



- Freedom High School Tractor Parade. The tractor parade is a long-standing tradition at the Freedom Area Senior High School. The police department secured the parade permit for this event and escorted students on their tractors to and from the school on the last day of school.
- Give-A-Christmas. Approximately 15 years ago Patrolman Keith Haburjak responded to a call on Christmas Eve at a residence in New Sewickley Township. Patrolman Haburjak found that mother of two children was unable to purchase presents for her children and did not have a Christmas tree. Patrolman Haburjak and his wife provided a Christmas tree, decorations, and presents for the children that year. Since that time, our officers have come together to provide Christmas to those families needing help in New Sewickley Township. Over the years, this tradition has continued to grow. In 2023 our officers, with the help of generous community donors, were able to provide Christmas Gifts and food to 20 children in our community.



# Community Safety Improvements

Community Safety Improvements are a priority to the New Sewickley Township Police Department as we strive to make New Sewickley Township a safe, successful, and vibrant community. Our officers are dedicated to improving the safety of our community through various programs and improvements within the community. Many of the community safety improvements that were made could not have been possible without the help of the New Sewickley Township Road Department. Our Road Department is comprised of a great group of men who are also dedicated to the improvement and safety of our community. Their contributions to the community often go unnoticed. By working together as a team, we were all able to improve the safety of our community. In 2023 we accomplished the following improvements to our community:

- AAA East Central Community Traffic Safety Platinum Award was received by the New Sewickley Township Police Department. This is the highest level of award given by AAA and shows our commitment to traffic safety in New Sewickley Township.



- School Bus Safety programs were conducted with all students in the Freedom Area School District.



- The Charlie Check First program, which focuses on child safety, was presented by our School Resource Officers to elementary age students.
- Programs focused on the dangers and impacts of drugs, alcohol, and vaping were presented to students by our School Resource Officers.
- Patrolman Haburjak, K9 Beny, and several other K9's which are part of the training group that Patrolman Haburjak and K9 Beny participate in, conducted random, unannounced safety sweeps in all buildings of the Freedom Area School District.



- The Take Me Home Special Needs Wandering Program was instituted. This program allows care givers to provide our officers with detailed information and photographs of residents who may have special needs or a tendency to wander away from home. This program allows our officers to be better equipped to locate individuals who have become lost or are in need of specialized help.
- Fireproof safes were installed in the School Resource Officer's offices in the High School and Middle School. These all the School Resource Officer's to secure evidence while in the school buildings which maintain the chain of custody of evidence, which is necessary in the prosecution of any case. Prior to the installation of these safes, the School Resource Officer's had no way to securely store evidence.
- The Ring Neighbors Application is a program that the police department became involved with in 2023. This program allows anyone with any type of home security system to share videos anonymously with the police department. This program also allows our officers to share information, community alerts, and requests for assistance with our residents in a social media platform.
- Educational posts on social media were also a focus of the department this year. Each week a different topic was shared on the department Facebook page which served to educate our residents on issues that are presented.
- Four large informational road signs were installed which educate the public on the penalties for passing school buses while the red lights were flashing.
- Solar powered flashing stop signs were installed on Glen Eden Road and Brush Creek Road at their intersection with State Route 68 in an attempt to improve the safety of this intersection. These signs were purchased through grant funding.





- Solar powered flashing intersection ahead signs were installed on Route 68 approaching the intersection with Glen Eden Road/Brush Creek Road and on Big Knob Road approaching the intersection with Taffy Run Road in an attempt to improve safety at these two intersections. These signs were purchased through grant funding.



- Through grant funding, 4 solar powered electronic speed limit signs were purchased and installed in the township. These signs will be moved to different locations throughout the coming months. These signs not only educate drivers on their speed, but also allow our officers to review the data gathered by these signs. The data provided by these signs show the busiest times of the day, busiest days of the week, and days and times when most people violate the speed limit on our roadways. This information allows our officers to directly address the issues of speeding in New Sewickley Township.





- The annual Trick or Treat Trail at Green Valley Park is held in cooperation with the New Sewickley Township Recreation Board. This year's event drew a crowd of nearly 1,000 children who were able to trick or treat in a safe environment with their families.

