



Bi-Monthly Newsletter

November & December 2023

VISION:

“To be fully engaged in our community to co-produce public safety that reduces crime and improves quality of life.”

PERSONNEL:

Officer Brian Sklut (pictured below) has been promoted to the rank of Sergeant. Sergeant Brian Sklut was sworn in on January 8th, 2024, as our newest Sergeant. Sgt B. Sklut has been a Shrewsbury Police Officer since 2015, and previously served as a police officer in Leicester, MA, and Wellfleet, MA, where he began his law enforcement career in 2011. Sergeant B. Sklut holds a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice, and is a certified Field Training Officer, Firearms Instructor, and Boat Operator for our Marine Unit.

SPD has also selected Officer Brett Wester to be assigned to the Detective Bureau. Detective Wester has been a Police Officer in Shrewsbury since 2015, and for the past four years has served as a Field Training Officer. Detective Wester is a veteran of the US Army National Guard, where he served as a Military Police Officer for 6 years, including a deployment to the Middle East in 2012.

Officer Elias Salman (pictured below) graduated from the Lynnfield Police Academy on Thursday January 4th, and was sworn in this morning as a full time Shrewsbury Police Officer. Officer Salman holds an Associates Degree in Criminal Justice and is currently continuing his education in Criminal Justice at UMass Lowell. Officer Salman will begin his first patrol shift tomorrow, when he will begin his field training phase, in which officers ride with veteran training officers for the first several months.

Thank you to Sergeant Brian Sklut & Detective Brett Wester for their dedication to the Town of Shrewsbury, and welcome Officer Salman!



PERSONNEL (continued):

On December 8th, Officer Timothy Charland was recognized for the impact he made in somebody's life. A brief summary is as follows, to read more please click [here](#). In October 2012, US Army Sgt. Natanael Radke was driving erratically when Officer Charland spotted him, and pulled him over. Mr. Radke explained to Officer Charland that he was planning on taking his life that night. After an extended period of time on the traffic stop and speaking with Mr. Radke about his family, friends and military career, Mr. Radke got out of the vehicle, and Officer Charland went with him to UMASS, where Mr. Radke was able to receive the help that he needed. We would like to highly encourage anyone suffering from mental health challenges, suicidal thoughts, or any substance abuse challenges, to please reach out to us anytime. Our officers, along with our in-house mental health clinician, are trained to support those with all of these challenges, and can provide life changing resources and support. Life gets hard for all of us sometimes. There is hope and things DO get better, let us help you to get there, just like Officer Charland helped Natanael Radke. Resources are listed in the link above. Picture down below is Mr. Radke with Officer Charland in 2016 (left) and 2023 (right).

SPD welcomed Nicole Corsi as a Dispatcher. Dispatcher Corsi holds a degree in Criminal Justice and a Master of Science in Emergency Management, as well as many years of Public Safety experience as an Emergency Communications Specialist and 911 Dispatcher. Dispatcher Corsi also holds many notable FEMA/ICS certifications in the field.

SPD also welcomed Bryan Tolliver as a Dispatcher. Dispatcher Tolliver holds a Bachelor of Science in Administration of Justice, and has many years of Public Safety experience as a Woonsocket, Rhode Island Police Officer and Emergency Dispatcher. Bryan also holds many notable certifications in the First Responder/Public Safety field.

SPD is looking for one more dispatcher to complete the team, and enhance efficiency. Click [here](#) to follow the link to the job posting on the Shrewsbury town site!

As we continue to implement our 5 year strategic plan, we will be assigning a Sergeant to be a full time Community Services Sergeant. This position will consist of assisting the Community Services Division Commander with many different tasks including planning and overseeing community engagement activities and department sanctioned programs (youth police academy, RAD Kids training, etc.) social media, elder affairs, and assisting with public records requests. This division also oversees our 2 SRO's, Animal control, and our Mental Health Co-Response Clinician program. Additionally, this Sergeant will be responsible for Body Worn Camera management, including public records requests, CIMS (Critical Incident Management System), and a future traffic enforcement unit.



WE'RE HIRING

Join the Shrewsbury
Police Department!



Police Dispatcher

Shrewsbury Police Department

CONTACT KRISTINA ORDUNG AND CHRISTINE
MATTERO FOR QUESTIONS:
kordung@shrewsburyma.gov
cmattero@shrewsburyma.gov

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT/EVENTS:

On November 3rd, Shrewsbury Media Connection produced a tour of the new police station with Chief Kevin Anderson. Click [here](#) to watch!

On November 11th, Veteran's Day, SPD took part in a Veteran's Day Ceremony in front of the old Beal School. Thank you to all who have served and those still serving, as well as their families. Thank you, also, to the many veterans working here at SPD-including all four members of the Honor Guard unit present at the ceremony.

On November 15th, Officer Trevor Andrews and Lieutenant Jason Palmatier had a group consisting of Cub Scouts and the just plain curious came for a station tour with their parents recently. These chances to interact with our community and show off the new facility are such rewarding experiences!

On November 16th, SPD was honored to partner with the Massachusetts Military Support Foundation, the Patriots Foundation, Job Lot, and Home Depot through the Coats4Vets event. Officers Belanger and Walker drove cruiser five to Gillette Stadium and picked up brand new coats, which were then delivered to Veteran's Inc. right here in Shrewsbury.

On November 17th, Officer Walker represented SPD at the "Stuff the Cruiser" event, held at the UMASS Chan School campus. Over 2000 pounds of food was collected, to be donated to the Why Me & Sherry's House, and Veteran's Inc.

On November 20th, Lt. Palmatier had the distinct pleasure of giving a tour of the police station to a wonderful group of friends from the Residence at Orchard Grove!



On December 5th, Sgt. Vitols, along with SRO Valliere and Brownell, welcomed a group of inquisitive students from the RISE Program of Shrewsbury for a station tour recently. These student came well prepared with good questions, and everyone had a fun time!

On December 11th, SPD's annual "Fill the Wagon" event was a huge success once again this year. Thank you for all the support. Our communities generosity will surely make a difference for many children this holiday season!

The Town of Shrewsbury has been ranked #5 safest community in the country with a population of 30k-100k! Click [here](#) to read more.

SPD would also like to wish everyone a safe and Happy New Year.



TRAINING:

SPD's Professional Development and Training Coordinator, Sgt. Michael Vitols, is continuously striving to develop the most comprehensive, up-to-date, progressive training program to ensure that all officers receive the best training available.

SPD's new training room has been put to good use lately! Classes for officers have included trainings on Drug Hides/Vehicle Contraband Identification, Juvenile Justice, Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving, and Biohazard Safety. SPD supervisors also participated in a suicide prevention training. In addition, various departments within this town have utilized the training room as well.

January is the time of year that our department begins to ramp up our annual trainings for officers. Over the next several months all of our officers will conduct training in First Aid/CPR, Firearms, Taser, Defensive Tactics/Use of Force/De-Escalation, Officer Wellness, Legal Updates, Report Writing and Courtroom Testimony, Motor Vehicle Law, and OUI Refresher. These annual trainings are in addition to many other types of specialized training that our officers attend regularly.



LOOKING AHEAD:

SPD would like to remind everyone to be mindful of some common scams. "Spoofing," or when phone scammers use an existing software technology to modify what number actually appears on the victim's caller ID, has become increasing in frequency lately. Never give out personal and/or banking information over the phone.

We would like to remind every to please remove your vehicles from any public streets before snow! As a reminder any vehicles that obstruct snow plows on public ways are subject to a civil fine and if necessary, having the vehicle towed at the owner's expense.

SPD has also created an Anonymous Tip Line. The Tip Line can be called, and users can leave an anonymous voicemail. It is important that residents understand this Tip Line is not intended for emergencies, and is not monitored 24/7. If you have an emergency, please call 911. This line is another tool to help us keep our community safe. If you see something, say something! The Anonymous Tip Line phone number is (508) 841-8420.

SPD held our first annual Youth Police Academy in the summer of 2023, and it was a huge success. We will begin planning our 2024 Youth Police Academy soon! Additionally, we will be holding RAD Kids Safety Courses. These courses will teach children confidence, critical thinking, and physical resistance skills they can use to recognize, avoid, resist, and escape violence. Several of our officers are certified RAD Kids instructors, an organization which is the national leader in children's safety education. Please stay tuned for more information.

With the assistance of grant funding, SPD will conduct car seat installation and inspection events. Officers in our department are certified to conduct safety checks free of charge.

The Massachusetts Special Olympics is holding their 2nd annual Polar Plunge at Polar Park. Please see the link/QR code in the picture below for more information! If you are not interested in the plunge, donations are welcome!

JOIN WORCESTER AREA LAW ENFORCEMENT FOR THE
WORCESTER POLAR PLUNGE
SATURDAY, MARCH 2ND, 2024
POLAR PARK - GATE D (MADISON STREET)
CHECK IN AT 12:00PM | PLUNGE AT 1:00 PM

SIGN UP NOW! LINK IS LIVE!
WWW.POLARPLUNGEMA.ORG

  
FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS MASSACHUSETTS

ALL DONATIONS SUPPORT SPECIAL OLYMPICS MA



GRANTS/TRAFFIC:

In November, SPD received \$28,339.64 under the State 911 Department Training Grant (Executive Office of Public Safety and Security), which will be utilized to train dispatchers in a variety of subjects and classes.

SPD has been awarded \$39,998.66 in grant funding through the FY 24 Municipal Road Safety Grant Program. Funding will be used in several different ways, including participating in six separate traffic campaigns throughout the year, to include impaired driving and speeding campaigns, as well as three separate crosswalk/pedestrian safety campaigns. Bicycle safety equipment will also be purchased, which will be distributed to Shrewsbury youths at community events.

In December, SPD received a \$35,498.63 grant under the Edward J. Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program. This grant will be utilized to purchase additional medical equipment, tactical tools, vests, and helmets for cruisers, as well as equipment to host a kids self defense course, and a command center organizational kit for a supervisor’s vehicle. Some of this funding will be utilized to concentrate additional staffing for drug investigations.

INCIDENTS AT A GLANCE - 2023 RECAP:

- Total Arrests: 345
- Total Incidents: 47,298
- Criminal Summons Issued: 351
- 911 Calls: 11,637
- Accidents/Disabled Vehicles: 1,711
- Animal Complaints: 813
- Arrest Warrants Served: 130
- Burglar Alarm Calls: 894
- Community Engagement: 340
- Disputes & Disturbances: 594
- Domestic Disputes: 158
- Identity Theft: 239
- Investigations: 810



- Lake Incidents: 526
- Larcenies & Shopliftings: 308
- Medical Calls: 3,162
- Mental Health Calls: 240
- Missing Persons: 38
- Motor Vehicle Stops: 7,226
- OUI's: 54
- Overdoses: 27
- Stolen Motor Vehicles: 21
- Suspicious Persons: 2,178
- Threats & Assaults: 112
- Unattended Deaths: 44
- Well-Being Checks: 595

MISSION STATEMENT:

“The mission of the Shrewsbury Police Department is to enhance the quality of life and safety of our community by developing lasting partnerships with our residents and visitors. We dedicate ourselves to serving The Town of Shrewsbury with honor, service, and integrity.”

“We Serve Better Together”

CLICK [HERE](#) FOR PRESS RELEASES

FOLLOW SPD ON FACEBOOK, INSTAGRAM, & TWITTER!



[SPD Facebook Page](#)



[SPD Instagram Account](#)



[SPD Twitter Account](#)