

Abington Township Police Department

ANNUAL REPORT 2014

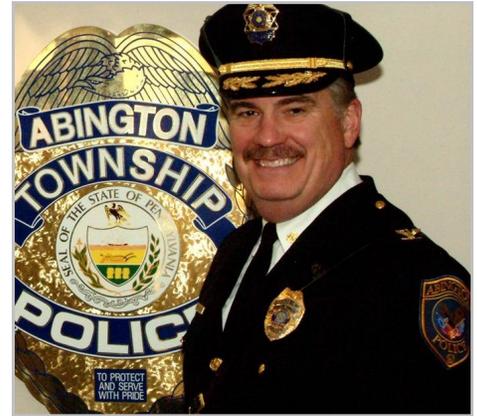
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A Message from the Chief

On behalf of the members of the Abington Township Police Department, I am proud to present our 2014 Annual Report. It reflects their hard work for and dedication to our community and highlights another outstanding year of success and achievement for the protection and wellbeing of our citizens.

As you will read, Abington continues to see a downward trend in major crimes. This downturn is, in my opinion, attributable to a number of factors but certainly to the dedicated effort of our sworn and civilian personnel, our volunteers, and the amazing cooperation of our citizens,



In 2014, the Department participated in several initiatives to reduce the number of drug (especially heroin) overdoses and overdose deaths that are now plaguing our region and our nation. In addition, Abington Officers worked in a Regional Task Force with other law enforcement agencies, resulting in several major suppliers of deadly heroin being taken off of the street. Also working in cooperation with other law enforcement agencies, a major burglary ring was smashed through arrests.

With support from many of our Commissioners, we introduced Red Light Camera technology at three of our most dangerous intersections. By yearend, we were seeing its positive effect on traffic safety in Abington. Further, ever keeping pace with the latest in policing, we added License Plate Reader technology for patrol.

In the winter of 2014, our Emergency Management Team responded to unprecedented power outages in our Township during relentless winter storms. We also continued to conduct vital training to promote preparedness in responding to potential “active shooter” situations, especially at our schools and the Willow Grove Park Mall.

The hard work of adhering to stringent standards was recognized in July when, for the fourth time, the Pennsylvania Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission conferred reaccreditation on this Department. Abington was the first Department in Pennsylvania to achieve State accreditation and is one of only three departments out of over 1,100 State law enforcement agencies to have earned four reaccreditations.

During the year we said good-bye to 100 years of dedicated service with the retirement of a Lieutenant, a Sergeant, and an Officer but were proud that Lt. Karl Knott left to become Chief of Chalfont Police Department. We also saw three of our outstanding Officers attain the rank of Sergeant and welcomed five new Officers.

Please enjoy reading in this report all the details about our many programs!

William J. Kelly
Chief of Police



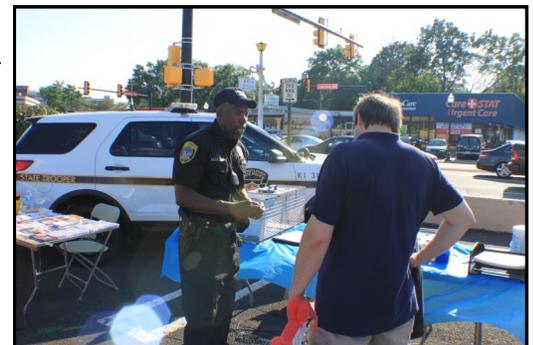
Crime Statistics & Trends

**In 2014,
Major Crimes Are Down 1.7% from 2013!
Major Crimes Are Down 1.8% from 2012!
Major Crimes Are Down 6.4% from 2011!
Major Crimes Are Down 12.3% from 2010!**

	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
Part 1 Crimes (Including Murder, Rape, Robbery, Assault, Burglary, Theft, Auto Theft, & Arson)	1,193	1,213	1,215	1,274	1,360
Total Part II Offenses (Including all of the other less serious crimes)	2,223	1,999	2,098	2,033	1,831
Total Calls for Service	48,131	42,949	48,802	49,625	43,919
Total Number of Arrests	1,986	1,722	1,767	1,657	1,753

Animal Control In 2014, there were 1,378 calls for service related to animals, 27 over the previous year. Of that number, 35 were deer-related accidents, down by 46 from 2013, thus mitigating the previous upward trend. There were 10 deer-related accidents reported on Valley Road, significantly down from 18 the previous year. It can be concluded that the Deer Management Program at Carebrook continues to be productive in reducing deer related incidents on that roadway. In total, the Animal Control Officer removed 45 deer carcasses from Abington Township roadways last year.

There were 202 wildlife complaints in 2014, up 32 from 2013. The Animal Control Officer received an additional 44 complaints about sick or injured wildlife, down by 14 from the 58 reported the previous year. These animals were either relocated, removed for rehabilitation, or dispatched. There were 17 calls related to feral cats, down by seven from 2013. Abington's active trap, neuter, and release program continues to keep the feral cat numbers manageable. There were 14 animal attacks (down by five from 2013) and 19 animal bites (down by one from 2013). The Animal Control Officer continues to issue citations and literature to keep these numbers manageable. In addition, there were 47 Pitbull-related calls, up from 44 in 2013. The Animal Control Officer issued 34 citations for violations ranging from Dangerous Dog to Running at Large, Howling, and Nuisance. This number was down from 39 the previous year.



Animal Control Officer Griffith talks with a citizen at Pre Night Out.

Citizen Complaints Abington Police Department's procedures for handling citizen complaints are consistent with national standards to assure prompt investigation and response to all allegations. This process ensures that these issues are brought to the proper level of Department management and appropriately addressed to maintain a high level of integrity and instill public confidence. In 2014, the Department processed 10 complaints which included three complaints against the Department in general. Four of the complaints were Exonerated, two complaints were Unfounded after investigation, one was Not Sustained, one was Sustained and led to appropriate action, one was handled at the Unit level, and one was reclassified to an Inquiry.

Major Crimes/Events

Throughout 2014, Abington Police Officers and Detectives responded to a variety of crimes committed throughout the Township and were highly successful both in discovering criminal activity and making arrests to remove these men and women from the streets of the community. Highlighted here are some of the many cases that demonstrate the exemplary police work by Abington Officers.

Burglaries Stopped

A string of seven burglaries started in April 2013 and were centered in the Glenside and Abington areas of the Township. It appeared that the burglaries could have been committed by the same suspect; however, little physical evidence was found. A witness helped provide details for a composite drawing of a possible suspect who stopped at her home, and that became key in the investigation.

Ofc. Farris saw the sketch and provided a name of a person who matched the description. Det. Geliebter found that this suspect and his mother had pawned various items of jewelry in Philadelphia. In one of the pictures from the pawn shop, the suspect was wearing the same hat that was in the composite sketch. Det. Geliebter ultimately obtained arrest warrants which cleared this and other cases.

Robberies and Thefts Halted

In December 2013, a Cheltenham Township bank was robbed by a middle-aged female. On February 6, 2014, the same bank was again robbed by that female suspect. This information was disseminated to local police departments by Cheltenham Detective Motta. On February 7, Ofc. Gibbs arrested a female for retail theft at Macy's at the Willow Grove Park Mall. He observed that the suspect had a strong resemblance to the bank robberies suspect and advised Det. Motta. This action, along with additional information, led to the arrest of the suspect for both robberies.

In the early morning hours of February 10, Ofc. Dinsmore was patrolling the Roslyn section of Abington Township when he observed a vehicle committing a minor traffic violation. He stopped the vehicle and observed the occupants to be visibly nervous. He spied several power tools and other electronic items which appeared to have just been removed from snowy conditions. A search of the prior addresses in one of the GPSs found in the vehicle determined that it had been taken from the 1400 block of High Avenue. Responding Officers found that several unlocked vehicles at that location had been entered and other electronic devices and currency had been taken from them. Ofc. Dinsmore obtained arrest warrants for the suspects and worked to identify the owners of the power tools.



A plain-clothes arrest of a burglary suspect in Glenside.

Traffic Stop Yields Drug Arrest

In mid-February near midnight, Ofcs. Fallon and Fulginiti made a traffic stop for a minor traffic violation. One of the men seemed to be visibly under the influence of an illegal substance. The driver eventually admitted to smoking marijuana earlier in the day. When the driver was taking off his jacket, the Officers heard pills rattling inside. A subsequent search of the vehicle revealed a large quantity of narcotics and pills. A felony arrest warrant was issued for the driver and a criminal summons was filed for the passenger.

Heist of Clothing and Watches

Toward the end of February, Abington Officers were dispatched to an alarm at the JC Penney store in the Willow Grove Park Mall. Ofcs. Saurman and Senne were heading to the scene when Ofc. Saurman observed a vehicle traveling toward him without its headlights on and at a high rate of speed. He quickly turned around and stopped the

Major Crimes/Events

vehicle in question.

Ofc. Saurman observed a pile of shorts with retail tags still attached and a large, clear plastic container filled with watches that also had the tags still attached. Other units arrived at JC Penney and discovered two smashed doors and jewelry cases. The two individuals were interviewed by Detectives and admitted their involvement in the burglary. The stolen merchandise was valued at \$18,612.

Traffic Stop Yields Gun and Drug Arrest

In early March, Ofcs. Saurman and Senne stopped a vehicle for a speeding violation. Upon contact with the driver, Ofc. Saurman detected an odor of marijuana coming from the vehicle. The operator admitted that he had marijuana. Ofc. Saurman retrieved four small bags containing suspected marijuana from the operator. Additionally, Ofc. Saurman recovered three large plastic bags of marijuana and a handgun from the vehicle. The operator was handcuffed and placed under arrest.

Copper Thefts

Thefts of copper continued to be a source of criminal activity. During the second week of July, there were approximately five reported copper thefts from air conditioning units in the area of the Huntingdon Valley Shopping Center near the border of Abington Township and Rockledge Borough. The suspect was targeting large units belonging to area businesses. Abington's Anti-Crime Team was assigned to find the suspects. Ofcs. Fallon and Fulginiti spoke with Rockledge Police and developed a suspect living in their Borough. The Officers located and



detained the man for Rockledge Police. A search revealed that the suspect was in possession of several pieces of copper which had been removed from air conditioning units as well as drug paraphernalia. Rockledge Police took the man into custody, and the copper thefts from air conditioning units in the area ceased after this arrest.

Housecleaner Steals Jewelry

In mid-May, Ofc. Armstrong took a theft

Abington B Platoon Officers sworn to Serve and Protect.

report where the victim stated that \$2,800 worth of jewelry was missing from her bedroom and that she suspected her housecleaner. Ofc. Armstrong spoke with the woman who repeatedly denied any involvement in the theft. Based upon her observations, Ofc. Armstrong asked the woman if she would be willing to return to the station and give a statement to Detectives. The housecleaner agreed, saying she wanted to clear her name. While Det. Burton interviewed the housecleaner, she turned over several pieces of the stolen jewelry that she had on her person, saying, "I'm sorry." The woman gave a voluntary statement, admitting to the theft.

Career Criminal Nabbed

On July 22 and 23, Abington Police responded to two completed burglaries in the Glenside area. Laptops, jewelry, and cash were removed from multiple residences. Det. Sgt. Fink coordinated with other Officers to set up a detail in the Glenside neighborhoods. On July 25, he observed a male aimlessly walking in the residential section of Glenside and notified his team. The male looked at houses and talked on a cell phone as he walked up and down

Major Crimes/Events

different streets. Det. Sgt. Fink then observed him approach a house and knock on the door, walk away, and then come back toward a window on the side of the house. The male took gloves out of his boot and tried to look in the window, but something scared him away. Det. Sgt. Fink arrested the male after he walked up to the front door of another residence. While at the station, the male gave a statement admitting that he was going to burglarize the homes. He was identified as a career criminal with a lengthy history of burglaries.

Missing Down Syndrome Adult

At the end of September, a mother came to the station and reported to Ofc. Junod that her son, who suffers from a form of Down syndrome, had not shown up for work. This raised concern because the son rarely misses work. However, he had been distraught over the abrupt ending of a relationship. The mother had spoken to her son earlier, but during that discussion he had become angry and stormed out. His brother also called Ofc. Junod to express his concerns about the situation, saying he normally speaks to his brother every day but had not heard from him since the argument with their mother.

Ofc. Junod's initial attempts to contact the son were unsuccessful. He next contacted the cell phone company to have the phone "pinged," but that, too, was unsuccessful. Further investigation revealed that the man's debit card had been used to buy an Amtrak ticket. Ofc. Junod then contacted Amtrak Police and provided them with the details of the incident and a description of the man. Within several hours, he was located at 30th Street Station, attempting to board a train.



Graffiti Arrests

In the early morning hours of November 11, Ofc. Dinsmore observed two males walking in the roadway and not using the sidewalk. When he asked where they were coming from and where they were headed, the two became evasive and could not give a valid reason for being in the area. One man was found to have a can of spray paint on his person, while the other had a partially open backpack that revealed a spray paint can. Both men had paint on their hands. The suspects were detained while Officers checked the area for graffiti.

Graffiti was found at the nearby Roslyn Nursing Home where a night shift manager verified that the damage was done within the last hour. The two suspects were taken to the station where an inventory of their property confirmed the presence of spray paint and two markers. Their

D Platoon Officers involved in spring training.

vehicle was located, and in plain view were a marijuana pipe and an orange spray paint can. Police later located a number of damaged buildings in Roslyn, including two churches as well as a work van and several street signs. The suspects had driven to Abington Township just to vandalize property and committed damage in excess of \$5,000.

Life-Saving Performances

In late November, Officers were called to the scene of an unresponsive person. Ofc. Senne arrived first and determined that the patient was not breathing and did not have a pulse. He began CPR and attached an AED which advised administering three shocks. Ofc. Senne and assisting Ofcs. Rickards, Farley, and Martinez continued to perform CPR on the victim until the Second Alarmers Rescue Squad arrived. While they were loading the patient into the ambulance, they were able to locate a pulse. A short time after arriving at the hospital, the patient was conscious and alert.

The very next day, Abington Police were dispatched to the Glenside LA Fitness for an unresponsive person. A male victim had collapsed while running on the treadmill. Bystanders began administering CPR. Responding Ofcs.

Major Crimes/Events

Howley, Welsh, and Corbett, along with Sgt. Scott, continued to render care in an attempt to revive the victim from cardiac arrest. Working as a team with the responding Second Alarmers crew, they were able to resuscitate the victim who had a pulse before being loaded into an ambulance. Following a week's stay in the hospital, the patient was discharged alive and well.

Special Investigations Unit (SIU)

In 2014, Unit Detectives launched more than 20 investigations of drug dealers in Abington Township alone, resulting in numerous felony arrests and seizures of marijuana, cocaine, heroin, MDMA (molly), and prescription pills. In the beginning of the year, the SIU took down a major marijuana sales operation at Penn State Abington where they made three arrests and seized \$15,000 in U.S. currency and a vehicle. Abington Police also worked with the DEA and Bucks County Detectives to arrest a supplier of a deadly batch of heroin which had resulted in three overdoses in the region.

Over the summer, there were numerous burglaries occurring in Glenside. A detail was set up, and Detectives arrested a suspect after they watched him attempt to break into a house. That suspect was also responsible for at least 10 additional burglaries in the Chestnut Hill section of Philadelphia.

Det. Beaghley continued to focus on child abuse cases throughout Abington and Montgomery County. These cases

involved individuals who were in possession of and traded in child pornography. In 2014, many child sexual predators were arrested, including a major suspect who was charged with more than 100 counts of child abuse for sharing child pornography files.

From Local to Federal

In April, Ofc. Gibbs arrested a subject at the Willow Grove Park Mall for fraud and related charges. As a result of this arrest, another investigation was initiated which led to the arrest of five more individuals with several more pending. The investigation has also led to the seizure of large amounts of methamphetamine and other illegal narcotics, two vehicles, and approximately \$12,000 in U.S. currency. Ofc. Gibbs' arrest turned a simple fraud case into a federal drug investigation that has halted a major drug organization.



Officers practice one- and two-person responses to an active shooter situation.

Abington Memorial Hospital provided unused patient space for the Abington Police to hold Department-wide training.

SWAT training at Abington Police range: (left) pistol re-loading drill and (right) executing room entry drill.



Staff Changes



Sgts. Quinn, Toledo, and LaRosa

McKinley Elementary School. A Marine, he served two tours of duty in Iraq and is a decorated veteran. **Ofc. Dave Wiley** also teaches DARE at McKinley and fills in at other schools as needed. He is a member of the Tactical Team and has spent time working with PAL members. **Ofc. Dustin Wittmer** is assigned to St. Joseph's the Protector and St. Hilary's Schools. He is a former golf professional.

Five new Officers joined the force. **Ofc. Andrew Ammaturo** was employed as an architect for six years before moving into a police career. A Marine, **Ofc. Ryan Brown** served for more than six years on active duty with three deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan, ultimately holding the rank of Sergeant. **Ofc. Elizabeth Cartwright** earned a B.S. in Crime, Law, and Justice from Penn State University and earned a paralegal certification from Villanova University. **Ofc. Alison Delaney** is a Petty Officer Second Class with the Coast Guard Reserve and was previously an Officer with the Carrboro, North Carolina Police Department. **Ofc. Drew Saurman** earned his B.A. in Criminal Justice from the University of South Carolina. He was a member of his University's Police Department where his work was recognized by the South Carolina Police Chiefs Association.

The Department said good-bye to three long-time Officers with a combined 100 years of service. Of his 30 years of service, **Lt. Karl Knott** spent five years in the Special Investigations Unit. He advanced through the rank of Sergeant to Lieutenant in 2011, assuming command of one of the Department's four platoons. Karl was a Regional Commander for MIRT (Major Incident Response Team) and went to Pittsburgh in 2009 to provide security for the G20 Summit. He also graduated from the FBI National Academy. Karl is now Chief of the Chalfont Police Department, becoming the third Abington Lieutenant to advance to a Chief's position in Montgomery or Bucks Counties.

Sgt. Bruce Mouat had an astounding 42-year career with the Abington Police Department. He was a founding member of and later a supervisor in the Tactical Unit. He was also a Firearms Instructor, Range Officer, Radio Room Officer, and Field Training Officer. During Abington PAL's early years, he was assigned to the center to help oversee the large gatherings. Later he would make it a point to stop by and interact with PAL members whenever he was working on weekends.

Ofc. Ken Snyder also retired in 2014, with 28 years of service to Abington. During his career, a special crime prevention assignment involved community policing in the Crestmont section of the Township. There, Ken started a Town Watch and took children on enrichment field trips. Over the years, Ken served as a Field Training Officer, a Radio Room Officer, and a VASCAR operator when he was certified to time speeds.

The Abington Police Department was pleased to promote three of its experienced Patrol Officers to the rank of Sergeant in 2014. These three Officers brought a collective 38 years of service to their new positions. **Sgt. Shane LaRosa** was an Abington Patrol Officer for 11 years. He has served as a DARE Officer, a member of the Honor Guard, and a Firearms Instructor. He helped to establish the Patrol Rifle Program. **Sgt. Ed Quinn** joined the Abington Police Department in 1995 and advanced to Detective in 2010. He was a member of the Tactical Team and Anti-Crime Team and has served as a Field Training Officer. **Sgt. Ozzie Toledo** has tallied nine years of service with the Abington Police Department. He served on a highly specialized assignment in recent years.

Three Abington Officers graduated from training to become the Department's newest DARE Officers. A member of the Tactical Team, **Ofc. Joe Blei** teaches at



DARE Ofcs. Wittmer, Wiley, and Blei



Retirees Lt Knott, Sgt. Mouat and Ofc. Snyder

Emergency Management

Emergency Management Administrator Tom McAneney and Sgt. Tom Scott serve as Deputy Emergency Management Coordinators for Abington Township and were kept busy with storms, training, and assessments and improvements throughout 2014.

Weather: The early part of 2014 involved multiple weather events. A February ice storm caused power outages for more than 21,000 Township residents and businesses. Critical Township infrastructure also lost power, including the Township Building/Police Department, Abington Memorial Hospital, four of five fire stations, all 12 waste water pumping stations, the Waste Water Treatment Plant, and more than half of the Township traffic signals. The Emergency Operations Center (EOC) opened at 5:00 AM on February 5 and was staffed continuously for 38 hours. It remained in operation until the conclusion of the February 13 nor'easter. In mid-April, high winds wreaked havoc in the Highland Farms section of the Township where dozens of trees were blown over. In late May, a fast-moving thunderstorm brought high winds to the Glenside area, bringing down five poles and electrical wires on one street alone.



Windstorm brings down trees and wires in Glenside.

Training: EMAP continued their outreach to assist community organizations in preparing and planning for disasters. In early January, Chief Kelly, Lt. Saurman, and Tom McAneney presented on situational awareness and active shooter response to Penn State Abington faculty and staff. EMAP also provided training to every Abington School District bus driver regarding procedures to follow in the event of a school evacuation. The drivers additionally received training in spotting indicators of violence and reporting them to help avert incidents. In April, EMAP and Abington Police conducted a lockdown drill at St. Basil's Academy and offered suggestions on how to improve their process. They assisted Abington Memorial Hospital in conducting their first ever tabletop exercise on active shooter response.

In September, EMAP met with the security and maintenance staff at the Pavilion, a nine-story retail/office building in the Township. They discussed basic emergency procedures and situational awareness and helped the staff to understand that they are the first responders until police, fire, and EMS arrive. EMAP also met with the staff of A Step Up Academy, an autism support school in the Township. Again, they focused on situational awareness training, active shooter response, and basic emergency response but took into account the special needs of the student population.

Incident: In early June, at 3:34 PM, Penn State Abington Security notified the police of a reported gunman on campus. The entire campus was placed on lockdown. The first Officer arrived in one minute and headed to the area of the reported threat. A minute later, six Officers were on location searching for the gunman, and by four minutes, there were more than 10 Officers on location. Abington Police Command, Penn State Administration, and EMAP integrated into a joint command post and worked seamlessly to resolve the crisis. Fortunately, the actor called in to explain that the weapon in question was an "airsoft"



Lockdown at Penn State Abington due to a report of an active shooter.

Emergency Management

rifle. In August, Tom McAneney and Penn State faculty and staff evaluated the response which led to Penn State implementing suggested solutions.

Training Exercise: In October, the Montgomery County Departments of Public Safety and Public Health participated in a large-scale public health exercise titled “From Philly, With Plague.” It included federal, state, local, and private emergency management partners from 11 counties in four states. Abington Township was one of only four local municipalities selected to participate by setting up a medical point-of-distribution site to simulate a drive-through medication dispensing operation in the event of a bioterror or pandemic event.

Standardized Database: In December, EMAP began to implement a standardized database of CIKR (Critical Infrastructure and Key Resource) information. They included any facility that poses a unique challenge to an emergency responder, such as schools, hospitals, nursing homes, and shopping centers, and developed a questionnaire that is being sent to all CIKR facilities in the Township. The resulting data is being compiled into a three-page template containing all of the information needed by an incident commander in the first moments of an emergency situation. This information is also made available to Abington Police Officers on patrol car computers as well as to fire and other first responders. Gathering and keeping the date up-to-date is an ongoing process

Community Efforts: EMAP staffed the Field Com truck for the Komen 3-Day Walk. They also became a presence on social media, setting up Facebook and Twitter accounts. In July, the Finance Office received the final payment of \$70,244.32 from PEMA for reimbursement of expenses incurred by the Township in the form of manpower, equipment, and supplies expended in response to Hurricane Sandy in October 2012. The total amount recovered from PEMA and FEMA from this storm is \$316,284.07.

Accreditation

The Abington Township Police Department strongly believes in the values of accreditation, both at the state and international levels. In July of 2014, the Pennsylvania Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission (PLEAC) conferred state reaccreditation on the Abington Police Department for the fourth time.

There are approximately 1,500 police departments in the state of Pennsylvania. Of that number, only 96 are state accredited. This status among law enforcement agencies is an indication and recommendation that other agencies can come to such a department for accreditation assistance. During the July Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association conference, Deputy Chief Livingood, Lts. Webb and Warner, and Liz Webb accepted the award on behalf of Abington Township Police Department.



Members of the Command Staff and Executive Assistant Liz Webb (second from right) with State Assessors (seated) at the Department's onsite State reaccreditation inspection.

Designated Department members Lt Kelley Warner, Accreditation Coordinator Kathleen Przybylowski and Executive Assistant Liz Webb work year-round to maintain and update written directives, ensuring compliance with State and National Standards. In addition, the Department spent 2014 preparing for its fourth international reaccreditation with the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). Assessors will conduct an onsite inspection in December of 2015.

Special Units

In addition to the Patrol and Detective Divisions, Abington Officers can serve in a variety of specialized positions. Each of these assignments requires additional time, training, and dedication. These assignments include:

- Accident Investigations
- Bike Patrol
- Crisis Response Team
- DARE Program
- Drug Task Force
- Field Training Officer
- Firearms Range Officer
- Honor Guard
- Internet Crime Task Force
- K-9 Unit
- Mall Unit
- M.I.R.T. (Major Incident Response Team)
- PAL Program
- Tactical Unit

K-9 Unit At the beginning of 2014, Sgt. Magee was assigned to head this Unit. Early on, the Department received a generous, directed gift for the purchase of ballistic- and stab-proof vests for Abington's four K-9s. This donation came from local veterinarian Dr. Joe Fecher, V.M.D. who was carrying out his late wife's wishes to contribute in this way. The vests are fitted to each dog individually so that they can work comfortably in them in all four seasons of weather. The Department also added medical packs to K-9 patrol vehicles. Now, each K-9 officer has the necessary supplies to



Abington's four K-9 Officers' K-9 partners are now protected with bullet- and stab-proof vests.

treat his or her injured dog on the scene until transport can be arranged to a medical facility. Also in 2014, Ofc. Doyle and K-9 Bella were added to the county-wide bomb team that is called out for large-scale incidents when multiple dogs and handlers are needed at one time. Ofc. Fiscaro and his K-9 Mathews competed successfully at the local PD1 (Police Dog 1) competition in September. Mathews took first place in obedience and second place in agility. In August, Ofc. Doyle was instrumental in the introduction of a Dog Walk & Watch initiative within the Town Watch program. She went on to lead five training sessions for citizen volunteers who had applied to serve their community in this way. In general, this Unit was called upon to provide more than 30 demonstrations for churches, scouts, and schools throughout 2014.



Ofc. Fiscaro and K-9 Mathews put on a demonstration at a community event.

handlers are needed at one time. Ofc. Fiscaro and his K-9 Mathews competed successfully at the local PD1 (Police Dog 1) competition in September. Mathews took first place in obedience



Tactical Unit In 2014, SWAT assisted two jurisdictions with barricaded gunman calls and performed several high-risk warrant arrests in Abington Township. They supported the Department's narcotics operation in Abington, which included two jobs with the DEA. SWAT provided ongoing training in active shooter situations and added a K-9 capability. All four dogs and their handlers began training with the Tactical Team in order to be incorporated into tactical operations going forward. Ofc. Wiley became a chemical agent instructor.

Special Units



Bike Unit: Officers on bikes and one Abington Officer on a Segway for the first time work the July 4 parade in Glenside.



Honor Guard Throughout 2014, 10 members of this Unit served the community at numerous functions. They included the Chiefs of Police Association banquet, the Blue Light ceremony in Horsham for fallen officers, and local parades, including the July 4 and the Memorial Day Parade (above).

DARE Graduations for hundreds of public, private, and parochial students are held each year. Each DARE Officer presents Daren the lion to an outstanding student. Ofc. Blythe is doing the honors for one of his students.



Technology



In 2014, the Abington Police started to use License Plate Readers (LPR). These LPRs are important crime-fighting and anti-terrorism tools in capturing tags and comparing them against a list of stolen or otherwise wanted vehicles/tags. Officers have the capability of changing their viewing positions as needed. Typically one camera is positioned to capture the license tags of parallel parked cars as the officer drives past, while the other captures the tags of cars passing in the opposite direction. However, cameras can be positioned to allow a patrol car to drive up and down parking lot aisles in order to capture license plates on both sides simultaneously. The system works at up to 120 mph, which, among other scenarios, allows two cars to pass with each one traveling 60 mph while the information is recorded.

Additionally last year, the Department bought six more digital 800 megahertz radios and began exploring the use of body cameras.

Commendations & Recognition



Det. Sgt. Steve Fink

2014 saw several high-profile arrests by Abington Officers who, together with Abington Detectives, performed outstanding work to keep the community safe. Striving for a drug-free community, Officers conducted seizures to take illicit drugs from the streets. One such example was an investigation that concentrated on a dealer who was responsible for distributing ecstasy (MDMA) into Montgomery County. The dealer was arrested after a comprehensive investigation that recovered almost two pounds of ecstasy with a street value of \$80,000. Other complex investigations involved the arrest of drug dealers where their bank accounts were frozen and subsequently seized for forfeiture. Although the drug problem persists throughout the Country, Abington officers exert constant pressure on dealers to deter drug sales and usage.

Det. Sgt. Steve Fink was recognized for his excellent work on several cases. He was instrumental in the arrest of a burglar in the Glenside section of the township. He also solved a robbery case where a local store lost thousands of dollars. He and other Officers went above and beyond the call of duty throughout the year to protect Abington.

The Abington Officers listed here have given attention to detail to stop crime trends. Some of these cases involved thefts from vehicles, vandalism, and fraud. These crimes are categorized as non-violent; however, if not halted, they erode the residents' sense of safety.

Det. Anthony Ammaturo, Class IV, Armed Robbery

Det. Rick Beaghley, Class V, Child Pornography Arrests and Class VI, Manufacture of controlled substance

Ofc. Daniel Bullock, Class V, Assault and Robbery

Ofc. Steven Catherman, Class III, Drug Arrest and Class IV, Drug Arrest

Ofc. Scott Dinsmore, Class V, Theft

Ofc. Joseph Fallon, Class VI, Drug Arrest, and Class IV, Drug Arrest

Det. Sgt. Steven Fink, 5 Class IVs, Armed Robbery, Home Burglaries.

Drug Dealer Arrests, and 2 Drug Arrests; Class V, Counterfeiting

Ofc. Matt Fulginiti, Class VI, Drug Arrest

Ofc. Andrew Gibbs, Class V, Bank Robber Arrest

Ofc. Troy Hummel, Class VI, Drug Dealer Arrests

Ofc. Matthew Mahaffey, Class V, Gun and Drug Arrest

Sgt. Edward Quinn, Class V, Spree of Thefts from Vehicles

Ofc. Drew Saurman, 2 Class IVs, Smash and Grab Department Store Burglary and Drug and Gun Arrest

Ofc. Scott Scholl, Class V, Lifesaving CPR and AED

Ofc. Troy Senne, 2 Class IVs, Smash and Grab Department Store Burglary and Drug and Gun Arrest

Ofc. James Taormina, Class V, Lifesaving CPR and AED

Ofc. Paul Welsh, Class IV, Thefts from Vehicles and Thefts of Vehicles

Ofc. Dustin Wittmer, Class V, Lifesaving CPR and AED

Unit Citation: Drug Arrests, Sgt. Oswaldo Toledo, Det. Rick Beaghley, and Ofc. Matt Fulginiti

Unit Citation: Home Burglary, Ofcs. Troy Hummel, Drew Kent, Drew Saurman, Troy Senne, and Robert St. Ledger

Unit Citation: Neighborhood Violence, Sgt. Oswaldo Toledo; Ofcs. Jeffrey Anderson, Joseph Blythe, Ryan Duntzee, Edward Howley, Troy Hummel, Fran Junod, Drew Kent, Gary Martinez, Troy Senne, Anthony Space, and Paul Welsh

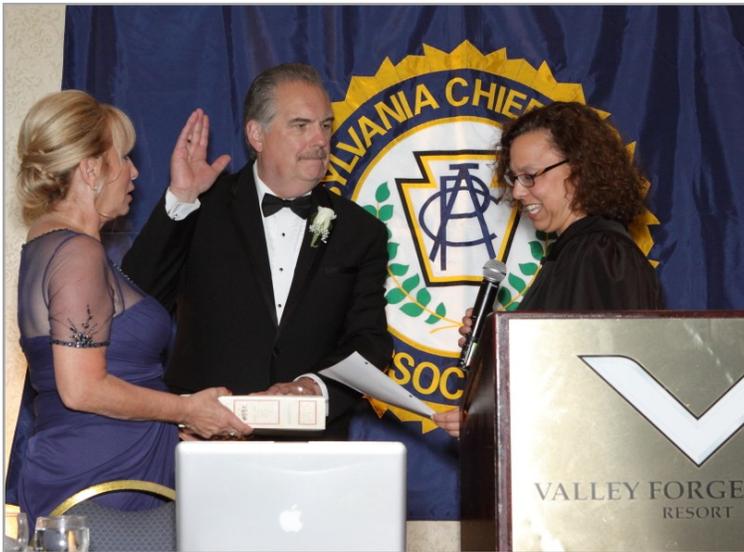


Lt. Mike Gallagher (center) graduates from the FBI National Academy's executive leadership program.

Sgt. Rick Kondan (center) graduates from the School of Police Staff and Command.



Notable Achievements



CHIEF BECOMES PRESIDENT (left) Abington Township Police Chief Bill Kelly was sworn in as President of the Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association for the 2014-15 service year during the Association's annual Education and Training Conference in Valley Forge. This honor came as the Association celebrated its centennial. Chief Kelly had served as President of the Police Chiefs Association of South-eastern Pennsylvania during its 2012-2013 year.



LT. PAT MOLLOY (above) receives the *Policing and Community Service Award* at the 40th Freedom Fund Banquet of the Willow Grove NAACP.



THE ACCREDITATION TEAM of the Abington Police Department received recognition for attaining State reaccreditation for the fourth time at the Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association Conference.



FATHERS MATTER Abington Officers signed a Fathers Matter banner and pledge card for this initiative of the Montgomery County Office of Children and Youth. The goal is to raise awareness of the critical role fathers play in their children's lives and how statistically this involvement can keep children from ending up in the law enforcement system.

Training

The Abington Police Department highly values regular training to keep Officers' knowledge and skills at their sharpest. They conduct training specific to both their supervisors and the wider force. They additionally offer a variety of seminars and workshops throughout the year, with some that are specific to the Department and many others that include the wider law enforcement community.

All Supervisors training was held in February and September of 2014. The winter/spring session opened with a social media presentation by a Philadelphia Police Department Lieutenant and Sergeant specializing in this area. A follow-up afternoon session targeted current and future social media uses for Abington. Supervisors' training also included a debriefing of a huge winter storm as well as less-than-lethal munitions recertification with beanbags and pepper balls. Fall training zeroed in on lessons learned from the response to a Penn State Abington gun incident in which a student was ultimately found to possess an air soft gun. Training further dealt with lines of authority in parole and probation situations and community interaction involving building bridges of communication and trust.

Mandatory Department-wide training took place in March and October. The spring sessions were conducted at Abington Memorial Hospital where Officers learned about resource integration during incidents, such as what hospital security and personnel can do to assist with access. They also learned about critical hospital infrastructure issues, which involved Officers touring the multiple buildings and their connections to determine the challenges they could face in the event of a disaster or shutdown.

Officers engaged in Taser recertification and body shield instruction. Fall training included an FBI presentation on sovereign citizens, a debriefing for Officers on the Penn State Abington gun incident, and community bridge building.



For the first time, Abington enabled Officers to meet mandatory MPOETC (Municipal Police Officers' Education and Training Commission) certification requirements online. This new capability has been made possible by the Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police as a choice over classroom time. SWAT training was conducted twice a month throughout the year.

During 2014, the Abington Police held 58 specialty training seminars for 2,497 participants, both from Abington and numerous area police departments and public safety groups. Some of the newest classes were Flagging School (how to direct and flag traffic to keep it running smoothly), Solar Panels (safety issues), Bus Drivers class (safety issues), and SKIDDS/CATS (advanced techniques for K-9s and their handlers such as off-lead and secret hiding place controls).

Some of the many repeating classes included Bikes for Police, a variety of firearms classes, and the AR-15 Armorers class. Computer Voice Stress Analysis dealt with detecting voice deception. Standardized Field Sobriety Training was held (periodically required) to help Officers detect, recognize, and arrest the intoxicated. Also offered were First Aid, CPR, and Tactical Medical Trauma First Aid classes as well as Car Seat Safety for citizens.

In 2014, the Department's critical incident support service grew to 13 members, comprising Police Officers and civilians who are dedicated to helping fellow employees deal with a variety of sensitive life situations, both on the job and in their personal lives. Either as a small group or individually, these employees provided care, support, and resources in close to a dozen situations last year.

Community Policing

Under the command of Lt. Molloy, the Community Policing Division handled a wide range of programs and activities in 2014. All of these tasks that support the work of the Patrol Division are directed toward the safety and well-being of the community and build positive relationships between Police Officers and citizens. In accordance with COPPStat (Community Oriented Policing and Problem Solving through Statistics), Lieutenants reported on happenings in their quadrants as Sergeants and Officers worked together to devise solutions to problems, many pertaining to quality of life issues.

Crime Fighting and Communications

The Division took the lead in social media to seek the public's assistance in solving crimes. They posted police tips as well as information about the many programs and events offered through the Department and its partner community organizations. This effort proved highly effective as thousands of citizens acknowledged Facebook and Twitter posts and provided helpful input. In particular, some of these citizen tips led to identifying and catching suspects. To further this spirit of keeping citizens informed, Ofc. Gillispie launched a monthly newsletter in December. This publication disseminates key facts about crime and crime prevention. Following the events in Ferguson, Missouri, Chief Kelly and several department members took part in a number of community discussions centered on healthy community relations. Ofc. Gillispie continued to address senior citizen groups about ongoing fraud trends, primarily IRS or PECO scams. The Division members followed up on incidents of graffiti to make sure that the graffiti was promptly removed or painted over.

PAL

The Abington Police Athletic League (PAL), in its 14th year, has a solid following of boys and girls who attend weekend activities year-round. In addition to the popular spring/fall bowling and summer golf camp programs, PAL members enjoyed cops vs. kids basketball games, arts and crafts, yoga and cooking classes, and game nights. Last summer, they put their painting talents to use in decorating their July 4th parade float, and in August, PAL members attended a week-long PAL Police Academy. The third annual "Give Kids A Smile" Dental Day provided quality dental care for children and youth ages 6-18, who lack access.

In view of national events and the misinformation that many young people have, three Officers presented a forum on Handling Police Encounters. They explained the importance of being cooperative and respectful.

Abington PAL offers all of its services free so that no child is ever left out due to inability to pay. To that end, it held an April benefit comedy night and its major annual October fundraiser, the International Food Festival. At that event, PAL honored community philanthropist Charles Shorday and K-9 Ofc. Fiscaro and his partner Mathews for dedicated teaching and mentoring of PAL boys and girls.

Other Youth and Children Programs

Abington's **Police Explorer Post #2900**, designed to offer those ages 14-20 an opportunity to learn about a career in law enforcement, enjoyed a full year of learning activities and service to the community. Explorers helped with PAL programs and local events that involve Community Policing, and they served as the Honor Guard for the Abington Community Taskforce's annual community Recognition Reception. These service actions were punctuated by two field trips, one to the 9-1-1 center in Eagleville and another to the Police Memorial in Washington, D.C. Abington remains the only police department in the area to offer this valuable program to teens.

The **After-School Program** at the Roslyn Boys and Girls Club provided educational and recreational opportu-



Lt. Molloy, Sgt. Williams, and ACO Griffith spoke with PAL members about how to handle police encounters.

Community Policing

nities for 34 children last year. This program was also available as a summer camp that offered 56 children an enriching experience. The Division oversaw the efforts of 12 **DARE** (Drug Awareness Resistance Education) Officers in 11 Abington public, private, and parochial schools, reaching more than 700 children. The DARE curriculum includes lessons on prescription drug abuses, bullying, and internet safety in recognition of pressing issues facing young people.

The **Youth Aid Panel** program continued to serve juvenile offenders through three panels of trained citizen volunteers and Liaison Officers. This alternative to court involvement has young people perform community service, research and write essays, and, in cases of under-age drinking or drug use, attend substance abuse prevention programs offered through Aldersgate Youth Service Bureau. In 2014, panels heard 70 cases. Community Policing offered these young people weekend opportunities for community service, overseeing 1,438 service hours. In addition to helping at Community Policing events and shoveling snow for senior citizens and around fire hydrants, kids painted and prepared rain barrels for sale through Abington's Environmental Advisory Council and packed toys for storage and cleaned storage areas at a Toys for Tots facility.

With an eye to the safety and wellbeing of the community's youngest members, the Division's certified members and volunteer technicians conducted 57 child safety seat checks in its **Kids In Safety Seats (KISS)** program. The Division also oversees **School Crossing Guards**, many of whom marked milestones in service to the community in 2014.

Over the summer months, the Abington Police ran the **Good Job Award** program. The goal was for officers to "catch" kids doing good deeds, such as demonstrating acts of kindness, observing the laws by wearing a helmet when riding a bike or riding on the right side of the street. Whenever officers spotted a young person being a good citizen, they presented him or her with a Rita's certificate for a free water ice. This program promoted positive interactions between Abington Officers and the children in the community.

Adult Programs

Ofc. Gillispie ran the largest **Citizens Police Academy** to date. Thirty-eight citizens attended and were exposed to a variety of Department functions that included in-depth presentations and demonstrations from Detectives, the Tactical Team, the K-9 Unit, and other areas of police work. Ofc. Gillispie also supervises the Department's **Internship Program** in which college students majoring in some area of law enforcement may apply for an internship. In 2014, approximately 20 students, coming from Penn State Abington, Temple University, IUP, University of Pennsylvania, Gwynedd Mercy College, Bloomsburg University, and other institutions of higher learning were able to benefit from this experience.

The Division runs a **Victim Services Unit** for which Community Service Officer Harris trains and coordinates a group of volunteers who meet weekly to contact those who have been victims of crimes in Abington Township. The volunteers provide important follow-up to victims by making calls to offer a listening ear and support as well as information on how to avoid being a victim in the future. Victims of crime find these calls both comforting and helpful. In 2014, 824 victims were contacted through this program. Last spring, this Unit spearheaded a collection of art supplies from Township employees and citizens for the Victim Services Center of Montgomery County. These supplies are



Seven of Abington's crossing guards marked 25 or more years of service to the community in 2014.



Ofc. Gillispie with children holding Good Job Awards.

Community Policing

used to provide art therapy to help victims heal from the trauma of crime committed either against them or a loved one.

Another kind of victimization occurs when neighbors have unresolved disputes. Patrol Officers alert Community Policing to these recurring situations. As part of the **Neighborhood Conflict Resolution Program**, a specially trained Division member contacts the involved parties, sometimes bringing them together for mediation of their disputes. Last year, 39 neighborhood disputes were successfully mediated. Of that number, six groups came into the Department for a face-to-face mediation, while other issues were handled either over the phone or by onsite visits.

A **Pedestrian Safety Committee** was formed to explore safety issues for those on foot. The group has representation from Abington School District, Abington Memorial Hospital, Penn State Abington, and the Abington Police.

Volunteers in Policing enables community members to give of their time and talents to their Police Department in a variety of ways. In 2014, the Community Policing Division oversaw 9,374 hours of volunteer work from 201 community members willing to give their time to one or more of 20 programs. This gift of time and talent from dedicated community members represents the work of four to five paid, full-time employees. In particular, 10 volunteers earned the President's Bronze Award for giving 100-249 hours each, three volunteers served between 250 and 499 hours for the Silver Award, and two volunteers distinguished themselves by giving more than 500 hours of service each. In total, all 15 Presidential volunteers accounted for 5,271 hours of the total service to the Department in 2014. Some of the programs that volunteers staffed included the Special Police, Police Athletic League, Youth Aid Panel, Victim Services, the 24-Hour Relay Challenge, DUI Checkpoints, Town Watch, and Pre-Night Out. Toward year-end, the Division hosted a thank-you dinner for all their volunteers and conferred special awards on those who have shown longtime dedication.

The newest volunteer opportunity was introduced in August, The **Dog Walk & Watch** initiative under the Town Watch program invited citizens who are regularly walking their dogs to become a further extension of Officers' eyes and ears and report suspicious activity. K-9 Ofc. Doyle and Animal Control Officer Ron Griffith ran five training classes in the fall.

Community Events

The Division oversees and/or supports a variety of key community events, especially those that provide drug-, alcohol-, and violence-free activities for youth. It is noteworthy that Division members and citizen volunteers achieved the 20th year of running the **24-Hour Relay Challenge**, an event that has had a much shorter lifespan in communities across the country. This major fundraiser enables Citizens And Police Together (CAPT), a unique citizen-police initiative since 1992, to provide mini grants up to \$500 to take a proactive approach to solving community problems and promoting positive activities. School Resource Officers Det. Allmond and Ofc. Gargan coordinated the 16th annual **Rock-A-Thon** for 6th-9th graders, raising money for CPYA (Community Partnership of Youth and Adults, a CAPT sub group) to benefit their youth programs and projects. CPYA members ran the 5th annual **Mini Rock-A-Thon** for 3rd-5th graders who raised money for the DARE program. Under CAPT, the Division also ran the 9th annual **CAPT Bike Day** for which motorcyclists enjoy an escorted ride throughout Montgomery County. With the disappearance of state grant money, CAPT provides significant funding for the Abington Police DARE program, a great accomplishment since many other departments have had to give up their program.

The Division provided volunteers and support for the Roslyn and McKinley Memorial Day parades, the Glenside July 4th parade and fireworks display, the Glenside and Roslyn Car Shows, the annual Halloween event in Keswick Village, and holiday celebrations in several areas of Abington Township.

Each May, Division members work with Abington Senior High School students to plan and carry out DUI-related safety events before the senior prom. A **Mock Crash** is staged so that students can see firsthand through student actors the horrific results of a drunk-driving accident. Students also have opportunities to "drive" in simulators to experience driving intoxicated.



Community Policing

In August, the Division coordinates the community block party **Pre Night Out** to raise community awareness of crime prevention. Hundreds of citizens from Abington and beyond came to view police and fire safety equipment displays and collect community resource information from a variety of organization booths while enjoying food and entertainment. For some, the experience results in discovering volunteer opportunities or making helpful connections with community and/or county agencies.

Traffic

The introduction and installation of **Red Light Camera (RLC)** technology was a substantial initiative of the Abington Police Department, with many of its details overseen and carried out by the Traffic Safety Unit staffed by Ofcs. Freed (Traffic Safety Manager) and Posey (Red Light Camera Program Manager). RLC technology was installed at three Township intersections statistically deemed to have the most accidents. The cameras were activated August 1 for a 60-day warning period. From October 1 on, red-light runners received violation notices. Abington's Red Light Camera Program takes a proactive approach to reduce red-light related crashes, especially crashes with injuries. Notably, it is revenue neutral; the Department does not make money from these cameras. Ofc. Posey coordinates review of violations submitted by the administering company and goes out to each site weekly to ensure that signs are correctly placed and lights are all functioning properly.

The Unit works to provide the Patrol Division with additional expertise to keep Abington streets safe. These Officers handle traffic complaints, traffic surveys (89 in 2014), and traffic enforcement. Each June and September, Traffic Safety Officers oversee **SAFE-T** (Safety in Abington through Focused Education and Traffic Enforcement) blitzes to heighten driver awareness of speeding and running lights and stop signs during months when traffic patterns change due to school closing and reopening. They also send **Operation Stop** letters to parents when a driver under the age of 18 is involved in an accident and



Chief Kelly held a press conference to announce that Red Light Camera enforcement would begin October 1.



receive feedback that parents appreciate this information. Further, Traffic Safety assisted with coordination and blocking of roads at numerous 5K runs held throughout the year to benefit various community groups and organizations.

Traffic Safety Officers participated in **30 Motor Carrier Enforcement Details**, hosting three of them in Abington. These Details involve stopping and checking trucks for compliance with safety standards and taking appropriate action. In Abington, 15 trucks were taken out of service, and six truck drivers were taken off the road; 139 were issued citations, and seven were specifically issued

overweight citations. Truck fines amounted to \$31,406, and overweight fines tallied \$7,984.40, up dramatically from \$2,555 in 2013.

In total in 2014, the Unit issued 1,2547 traffic citations and 274 warnings and made 33 arrests. They handled 95 abandoned vehicles and conducted 97 crash investigations. Traffic Safety Unit Officers began their third year of teach-

Community Policing

ing **Survival 101**, a State-prescribed course especially directed at young drivers to teach them the potential dire consequences of distracted driving, particularly due to texting. This course is a requirement for certain Youth Aid Panel young people.

The Division also provides a service to residents and business owners in monitoring parking meters and limited-time parking areas. **Parking Meter Violations** tallied 814 in 2014. The number of parking tickets that staff wrote in 2014 numbered 1,290. Citizens and businesses alike appreciate this attention to violations that create problems in their place of business or residence.

Grants

In the area of Financial Management, the Community Policing Division secured a number of grants and maintained a flow of financial support under existing grants. More than \$60,000 was obtained through grants in 2014. These dollars came from the following sources:

- PennDOT (Pennsylvania Department of Transportation) provided money to cover the costs associated with running sobriety checkpoints.
- North Central Highway Safety Network funded a program for police to enforce seatbelt use and the Aggressive Driver Program.
- The Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board (PLCB) provided the first amount from a two-year grant to cover additional police officers and details to enforce underage drinking laws.



Special Police (top) staff a booth at Pre Night Out. **Explorers** (bottom) volunteering at Glenside July 4 Parade.



CAPT Bike Day led out by Abington Patrol. **ACO Griffith** (bottom, left) with Cub Scout Pack 48.





Abington Police Department

“To Protect and Serve With Pride”

1166 Old York Road, Abington PA 19001
267-536-1100 www.abingtonpd.org

Chief of Police	William J. Kelly	267-536-1061
Deputy Chief	John A. Livingood	267-536-1113
Patrol Division	Lt. Pat Molloy	267-536-1065
Detective Division	D.C. John A. Livingood	267-536-1113
Administrative Division	Lt. Michael Webb	267-536-1060
Community Policing Division	Lt. Kelley Warner	267-536-1070
Emergency Management	Thomas McAneney	267-536-1087

Units:

Animal Control	ACO Ron Griffith	267-536-1100 ext. 1590
Bike Patrol	Sgt. Chris Porter	267-536-1100 ext. 1654
Community Service	CSO Mary Carminati	267-536-1073
Crime Prevention	Ofc. Roger Gillispie	267-536-1077
Crisis Negotiation	Det. Sgt. Anthony DiSandro	267-536-1092
Firearms/Range	Lt. Thomas McNamara	267-536-1093
Internal Communications	John Melair	267-536-1068
Juvenile Unit	Det. Sgt. Steven Fink	267-536-1111
K-9 Unit	Sgt. Kevin Magee	267-536-1100 ext. 1601
Police Athletic League	Peggy Myers	267-536-1100 ext. 1509
Records & Information	Susan Dixon	267-536-1047
Special Investigations	Det. Sgt. Steven Fink	267-536-1111
Special Police	Lt. Steven Hochwind	267-228-9800
Tactical Unit	Lt. Earl Saurman	267-536-1099
Traffic Safety	Ofc. Alan Freed	267-536-1078
	Ofc. Chris Posey	267-536-1076
Training Administration	Bob Sands	267-446-0691
Victim Services	CSO Jan Harris	267-536-1079
Volunteer Coordinator	CSO David Rondinelli	267-536-1074

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