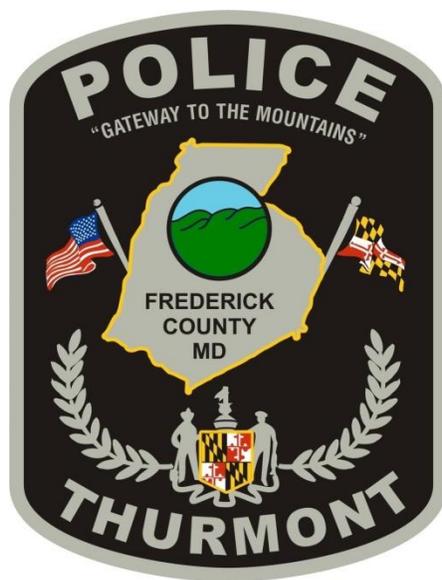


Thurmont Police Department 2015 Annual Report

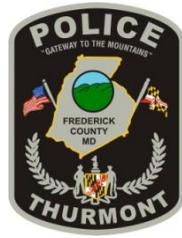


Thurmont Police Department E-Mail Address:
Thurmontpolice@Frederickcountymd.gov

Thurmont Police Department
2015 Annual Report
Colonel Gregory L. Eyer
Chief of Police

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MISSION STATEMENT

The Thurmont Police Department is dedicated to serving the residents within the corporate limits of the Town of Thurmont. Pursuant to the protections afforded by the Constitution of the United States, we will strive to protect life and property of our citizens, and will enforce all laws of this state and local ordinances in a fair and impartial manner. In partnership with our citizens through Community Policing, we will strive to detect and prevent crime and provide the best quality of life for the citizens of Thurmont. We will promote professionalism of our employees by holding ourselves to the highest possible standard of integrity, ethics, and morals.

VISION STATEMENT

The Thurmont Police Department is committed to providing services that are fair, impartial, and effective while holding employees to the highest standards of efficiency, morality, and professionalism. We maintain the highest standards of law enforcement ethics and personal integrity. The Thurmont Police Department is committed to the philosophy of community policing and problem solving with those that we serve. We are responsible and accountable to each other as well as the public we serve. We believe in the concept of continuous improvement in all our endeavors, always striving to be the best we can be.

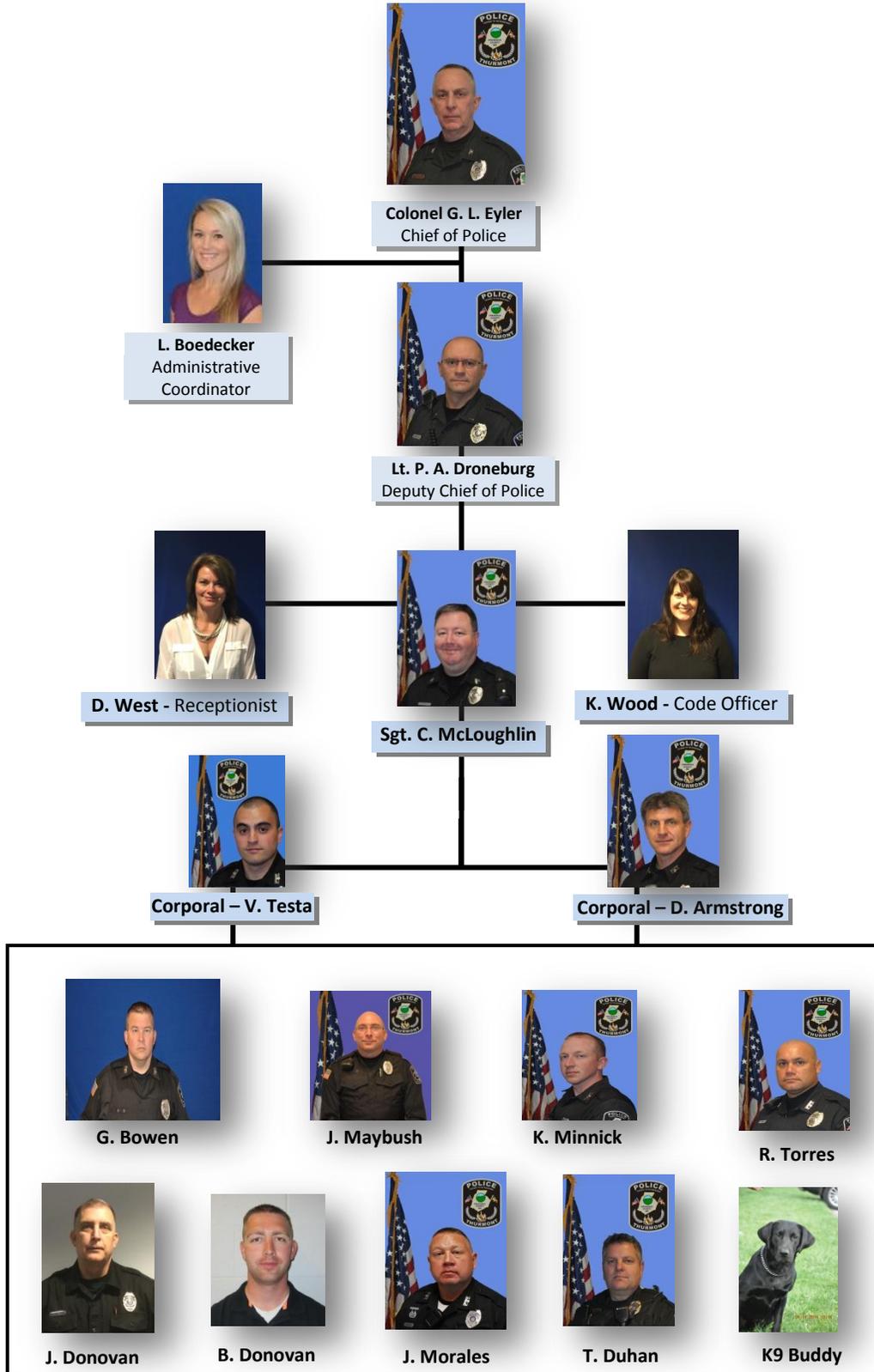
We're pleased to publicize that Thurmont made the top 10 list of Maryland's Most Beautiful, Charming Small Towns in Maryland!

In 2015, *Only in Your State*, named Thurmont #10 on their list of "Most Beautiful, Charming Small Towns in Maryland" stating, "Thurmont is known as the gateway to the mountains where you can drive through covered bridges, walk around Main Street, or explore their many parks." ¹



¹ <http://www.onlyinyourstate.com/maryland/charming-small-towns-md/>

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



STAFFING:

The Thurmont Police Department is authorized thirteen (13) sworn positions, which include the Chief of Police (Colonel), and Deputy Chief of Police (Lieutenant); as well as one (1) full-time Administrative Coordinator, one (1) full-time civilian Receptionist, and one (1) Part-time Code Enforcer.

The Thurmont Police Department hired two new Lateral Officers in 2015: Brian Donovan and Jim Donovan.

Position	Authorized	Actual
Chief of Police (Colonel)	1	1
Deputy Chief of Police (Lieutenant)	1	1
Sergeant	1	1
Corporal	2	2
Patrol Officers	8	8
Total Officers	13	13
Civilian		
Administrative Coordinator	1	1
Receptionist	1	1
Code Officer (<i>Part-Time</i>)	1	1
Total Civilian	3	3
Total Number of Employees	16	16

TPD VEHICLE FLEET:

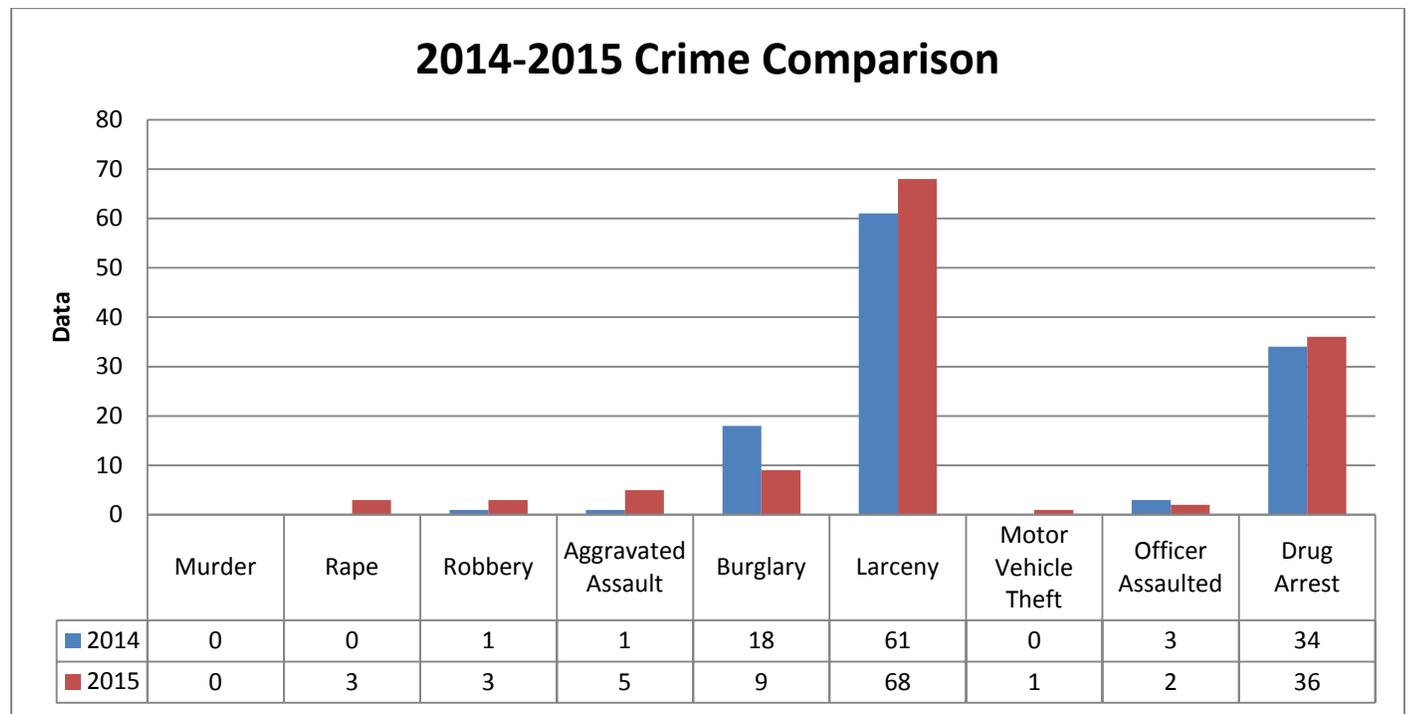


MOUNTAIN BIKE PATROL:

The Thurmont Police Department’s Mountain Bike Unit maintains two Trek Mountain Bikes with full police packages. Both bikes are equipped with red and blue emergency lights, sirens, and a cargo bag. The lights and siren are powered by a rechargeable power pack shaped like a drink bottle; that fit into a standard mounted bicycle bottle holder.

PATROL DIVISION:

The Thurmont Police Patrol Division consists of thirteen (13) sworn Officers, including the Chief of Police, Deputy Chief of Police, one Sergeant and two Corporals. The patrol officers rotate in their schedule to provide twenty four (24) hour coverage seven days a week working three different shifts. The officers are the first to respond to all types of calls for service while providing an average response time of two minutes. Other than taking prompt action, the Officers are excellent in resolving conflicts while exemplifying community policing. While handling more involved or serious incidents, the patrol Officer may handle the initial call for service and then refer the case to the Department’s Criminal Investigator for further investigation.



SIGNIFICANT CASES:



The Thurmont Police Department has one Officer assigned as the Criminal Investigator. This position allows timely resolutions to involved cases. The Criminal Investigator conducts a follow-up investigation which is an extension of the initial investigation in order to obtain additional evidence/information for the identification and possible apprehension of a suspect(s). Once the investigation is completed, and a suspect is identified and charged, the investigator is responsible for preparing the case for court. The investigator also serves as the agency's liaison with the States Attorney Office and other allied agencies.

The following significant cases of 2015 were disclosed to the citizens of Thurmont and distributed to media outlets to document police investigations that had occurred within the town limits of Thurmont.

September 8, 2015

On September 6, 2015 at approximately 2:40pm, a Thurmont Police conducted a traffic stop on E. Moser Rd. The operator was identified and informed of the traffic violations. During this traffic stop, a Thurmont Police K9 Officer had his canine partner "Buddy" perform a K9 sniff of the vehicle and received a positive alert for Controlled Dangerous Substances. The operator was placed under arrest and a search was conducted. The officers located CDS paraphernalia and suspected Heroin in the vehicle. The operator was identified as: Amanda Marie Stottlemeyer, age 25, of Thurmont. Ms. Stottlemeyer was charged with: Possession of CDS Paraphernalia and Possession of CDS to wit: Heroin.

On September 7, 2015 at approximately 5:55 am, Thurmont Police Officers responded to a residence on Sunny Close for a Domestic in Progress. Upon their arrival, the officers found that the female has assaulted her boyfriend by striking him in the face with her elbow. As the female was being taken into custody, she informed the police that her boyfriend was growing marijuana in her bedroom. An investigation was conducted. The officers found a small marijuana growing operation and seized all evidence. The boyfriend was identified and placed under arrest. Morgan D. Roberts, age 25, of Thurmont, was charged with: Manufacture CDS, Possession of CDS – Marijuana, Second Degree Assault, and Possession of CDS Paraphernalia. She received a Bond of \$7,500.

Rusty Lee Morgan, age 30, of Thurmont, was charged with: Manufacture CDS, Possession of CDS – Marijuana, and Possession of CDS Paraphernalia. Mr. Morgan received a Bond of \$20,000.

November 19, 2015

On November 18, 2015 at approximately 6:15pm, the Thurmont Police received a report of a weapons complaint at the Weis Grocery Store parking lot at 2 Thurmont Blvd. This report was quickly confirmed as a carjacking. Upon the officer's arrival, they were advised that the suspect approached a female and demanded the keys to her car by threatening that he had a weapon in his pocket. The suspect stole the victim's car and left the area. The victim advised that the suspect did not display the weapon. Multiple witnesses provided the description of the suspect and the officers learned that the suspect attempted to steal another vehicle prior to confronting the female victim. Based on the suspect's description, he was quickly identified through earlier encounters with Thurmont Police. As the investigation continued, Thurmont Police officers located the suspect at 9:50pm sleeping in the stolen vehicle in the 1300 block of Motter Avenue in Frederick City. The suspect was arrested and identified as: Jeffrey Darnell Rhodes, age 42, of Frederick. Mr. Rhodes was charged with: Robbery; Armed Robbery; Attempted Robbery; Attempted Armed Robbery; Carjacking; Armed Carjacking; Attempted Carjacking; Attempted Armed Carjacking; Theft \$10,000 - \$100,000; Attempted Theft \$10,000 - \$100,000. Mr. Rhodes is currently being held at the Frederick County Adult Detention Center on No Bond.

December 7, 2015

On October 21, 2015, Thurmont Police received a report of a sexual assault that occurred on October 19, 2015. An investigation and interview with the female victim revealed that the incident occurred at an apartment on Water Street in Thurmont. The victim, age 24, reported that a male acquaintance sexually assaulted her while she was incoherent after consuming inebriating substances. Further investigation identified the male subject as: Francisco Galarza-Duque, age 40, of Silver Spring, Maryland. The suspect was served with an arrest warrant on December 4, 2015 and charged with: Rape Second Degree; Sex Offense Third Degree; Sex Offense 4th Degree Sexual Contact; Second Degree Assault; and Perverted Practice. Upon an Initial Hearing with the District Court Commissioner, Mr. Galarza-Duque was released after posting \$100,000 bond.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAMS:

The Thurmont Police Department uses several methods of informing the residents of information of interest.

 **everbridge:** A communication platform that empowers individuals and organizations to take timely action to support emergency notifications, primarily focused on delivering communications to very large groups (100,000+) of people at the same time to keep them informed before, during and after emergencies.

Nixle  : To sign up for Nixle go to: **WWW.NIXLE.COM** to create an account, once you have created an account you will begin to receive information sent out by the Police Department via e-mail as well as on your smart phone.

Community Alert System (CAS): This is an e-mail based system, to join this system and to receive e-mail notices, which are the same as those on Nixle, send your e-mail address to: Thurmontpolice@frederickcountymd.gov.

Sign Board at Police Station: The Thurmont Police Department had a sign board donated by a resident so the Department may place notices or messages of upcoming events.



Bicycle Registration: The department offers, free of charge, to anyone who wishes to have their bicycle registered. Once your bicycle is registered it is entered into a county-wide database; if your bicycle is ever lost or stolen and it is found by a member of any law enforcement agency, it can be returned to you.



National Night Out: Every year the Department participates in the National Night Out, which is sponsored by the Department and the Thurmont Police Commission. It is held in the rear parking lot of the police station where the Department as well as allied agencies display their equipment and host a picnic for the community.



Shred Event: On April 25, 2015, the Thurmont Police Department held their first Shred Event. With the help of the Thurmont Police Commission members, the event was a success. The morning was steady with residents dropping off boxes of documents for shredding. 9,625 pounds of paper was collected and shredded. Many residents were pleased with the free shredding event and requested more events in the future. Generous contributions from the residents yielded a pickup truck load of non-perishable food items for the Thurmont Food Bank.



**COMMUNITY
RESIDENTIAL SHRED
EVENT**

**THURMONT POLICE DEPARTMENT
800 EAST MAIN STREET
THURMONT MD 21788
SATURDAY APRIL 25, 2015
8 A.M. – 12 P.M.**

SERVICES PROVIDED BY: ALL SHRED MOBILE DOCUMENT DESTRUCTION

BENEFITS:
**THURMONT
FOOD BANK**

*Free when you Bring a NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEM WITH EACH BOX / 5 BOX LIMIT

Sponsored by:
THURMONT POLICE DEPARTMENT & THURMONT POLICE COMMISSION
ALL SHRED DOS – office paper, paper clips, staples, rubber bands, folders, hanging folders, labels
ALL SHRED DON'TS – newspapers & magazines, 3 ring binders, heavy plastics, cardboard, heavy metal, heavy carbon, trash, x-rays, floppy disks, CDs



Meet the Chief Night:



Colonel Eyler hosted a Meet the Chief Night on June 17, 2015 to discuss In-Custody Death Investigations. Advocates for Excellence in Policing also presented on the topic.

Drug/Medication Disposal: In the lobby of the Thurmont Police Department, residents of Thurmont are able to safely dispose of their medication(s). Below is a list of what is acceptable and what is unacceptable.



Acceptable items include but are not limited to: Over the counter medication(s), medical samples, pet medications, medicated ointments and lotions, and prescription medication(s).

Items that are not accepted include: thermometers, IV bags, infectious waste, business medical waste, liquid medication(s), syringes (no sharps), oxygen tanks, and blood products.

Disseminated Resources for Drug Awareness: In March 2014, the Thurmont Police Department provided the citizens of Thurmont with a list of resources available pertaining to Drug Awareness, Substance Abuse Services and Crisis Intervention.

P.A.K.N.: In November 2014, the Thurmont Police Department partnered with the Frederick County Parks and Recreation to develop a monthly community event for Thurmont residents ages, 11-17. The goal of P.A.K.N is to come out and enjoy a night with the Thurmont Police Officers to build a trusted relationship between law enforcement and local youth.



Shop-With-A-Cop: In December 2015, the Thurmont Police Department participated in the “Shop with a Cop” program. Our agency joined other Law Enforcement Agencies in partnering an officer with selected children and assisting them with Christmas shopping for themselves and their family.

Fish-With-A-Cop: In May 2015, the Thurmont Police Department participated in the “Fish with a Cop” program, sponsored by the Optimist Club. An officer who volunteers for this event is teamed with a selected child and provides the child with fun day of fishing.

Practice Parallel Space: The Chief of Police was approached by a resident regarding a safe location student drivers could practice parallel parking without fear of traffic. Colonel Eyler found a location on the rear parking lot of the police station and had it marked off so student drivers could safely practice their parallel parking.



BUSINESS CHECK PROGRAM:

As part of the Department’s continuing Community Policing effort the Department offers, free of charge to all businesses, the option to register their business with the Department, giving us their business name; their address, the owners name and phone numbers of persons to contact in case of an emergency.

RESIDENTIAL CHECK PROGRAM:

Our Residential Check Program is available to all residents of the Town of Thurmont as part of our Community Policing effort. When a resident is going away for an extended period of time they can have their home placed on the Residential House Check; an officer will make checks of their home while they are away to assure their home is safe awaiting their return.

SCHOOL CROSSING GUARDS:

The Town of Thurmont employs two full-time; Faye Grimes and James Hughes, and one part-time, Eugene "Sonny" Grimes, School Crossing Guards, who handle crossing details at the following intersections:



- Summit Ave. at E. Main St.;
- Hammaker St. at E, Main St.;
- Rocky Ridge Rd. (Rt. 77) at the Primary School; and
- E. Main St. at Apples Church Rd.

The remaining school crossing guards throughout the county are funded by the County.

BACK TO SCHOOL SAFETY EDUCATION:

On January 21, 2016, the Thurmont Police Department assisted the Thurmont Elementary School in the coordination of an evacuation plan that becomes in effect should the precautions deem necessary. The Thurmont Police Department will host a safe and secured area for students during a drill or actual evacuation. The goal of this drill was to ensure that the proper precautions were taken for their safety during an evacuation during school hours.



CODE ENFORCEMENT SECTION:



The Code Enforcement Section was created in 2008 and is staffed by a Part-time employee. The Code Officer patrols the Town looking for possible code violations as well as answering calls and e-mails of possible Code violations. There is a continued effort of reviewing and revising the Codes of the Town of Thurmont. The Code Officer does not have jurisdiction over zoning matters and does not handle cases involving wild animals. Any questions regarding zoning matters, the safety of a building, and the condition of the streets and or sidewalks are handled by the Zoning Inspector at the Town Office.

The total amount of code enforcement cases handled for 2015 are 301.

The following is a breakdown of the type of violations reported:

Complaint Type	Number	Complaint Type	Number
Tall Grass	82	Premise ID	51
Snow on Sidewalk	36	Overgrown shrubs, bushes, trees by Utility Boxes	31
Rubbish, Trash, Waste, Liter	27	Trees, Shrubs, Bushes Overhang Sidewalks/Streets	14
Vehicle Untagged/Uncovered	11	Yard Sales/Other Signs	11
Outdoor Storage of Lumber, Furniture, Other Items	11	Tree Blocking Street Sign/Lamp	5
Grass in Street	3	Car Fluid in Street	2
Damaged Sidewalk	2	Dog Feces	2
Flowers Growing on Street Sign/Parking Meter	2	Sign Blocking View of Street	2
Tree Limbs, shrubs Blocking View of Street	2	Basketball Hoop in Street	1
Bridge Built to Sidewalk	1	Broken Fence Removed from Road	1
Bush Blocking Fire Hydrant	1	Contaminated Pool/Broken Fence	1
Cosmetic Look of Fire Hydrant	1	Dog Complaint	1
Free Roaming Chickens	1	Grease in Pavilion	1
Mattress in Parking Lot	1	No Building Permit Displayed	1
Non-Removal of Trash Can at Curb	1	Overgrown Bushes, Shrubs, Weeds	1
Property Maintenance Check	1	Spraying Herbicide	1
Tree Limbs Cut Non-Removal	1	Uncovered Camper	1
		Total	311

The following is a breakdown of the source of the complaint:

Source of Complaint	Number
Code Officer	200
Resident	82
Officer	3
Town Office	12
Owner of Business	1
Town Commissioner	1
Mortgage Company	1
HOA Board Member	1
Total	301

TRAINING UNIT:



The Thurmont Police Department now has five Maryland Police and Correctional Training Commission (MPCTC) certified instructors, which includes a firearms instructor. As of 2013, the Thurmont Police Department conducts their own complete in-service training classes, including firearms training.

In November, Officer R. Torres held Active Shooter training for both the civilians within the Police Department and also the Town employees of Thurmont.

TECHNOLOGY:

E-TIX: The Department is always trying to up-date its technology, as its budget permits. Each police vehicle has an E-Tix device. E-Tix allows the officer to see how many times a person has been stopped by any participating agency. With E-Tix the officer can issue a traffic citation, warning or a safety equipment repair order in a short amount of time.



In-Car Video: Some patrol vehicles are equipped with an In-Car Video which will record an event as it occurs, which can be used in court as evidence. As well as recording what is occurring in front of the vehicle, it has the capability of recording the behavior of a prisoner seated in the rear of the cruiser. The purpose of the In-Car Video is twofold; officer safety as well as protecting suspects.



Mobile Data Terminals (MDT's): Each patrol vehicle is equipped with a Mobile Data Terminal (MDT) which allows the officer to stay in contact with the Frederick County Emergency Communication Center (Dispatch). It also provides them with an active map of the entire County which would allow them to use it as a GPS if necessary. The officer can receive calls from Dispatch via the MDT as well as complete their paperwork from their vehicle, such as an accident report.



Automatic External Defibrillator (AED): The Thurmont Police Department received a donation of five AED units from a private source for use by the officers in the cruisers while on patrol. Since there are not enough units for each patrol vehicle; a unit is signed out at the beginning of the officer's shift and returned at the end. Every employee of the Department has received training in the proper use of the AED.



Preliminary Breath Test (PBT):



The Department utilizes Preliminary Breath Test (PBT) units as a tool to assist officers in determining if a suspected driver is in fact driving under the influence of alcohol. They also use Standardized Field Sobriety Tests (SFST), where a suspect is put through a series of standardized field tests to assist the officer in making his decision whether to place the suspected intoxicated driver under arrest.

Narcan:

Thurmont Police Department personnel have received training provided by the Frederick County Health Department to administer Naloxone through the Overdose Response Program. Naloxone is a fast-acting opiate antagonist used in emergency medicine to rapidly reverse opiate-related sedation and respiratory depression. Naloxone is marketed under various trademarks including “Narcan,” “Nalone,” and “Narcanti.” Narcan is a scheduled drug, but has no euphoric properties and minimal side effects. If it is administered to a person who is not suffering an opiate overdose, it will do no harm. During an opiate overdose, a patient may suffer a disruption in normal breathing. In some cases breathing may stop altogether, quickly leading to death. Law Enforcement often arrives on scene of overdoses before EMS personnel. The administration of Narcan by trained Law Enforcement officers will help save lives.



The 52nd Catocin Colorfest: The 52nd annual Colorfest was held the weekend of October 10th and 11th. The Thurmont Police staffed this event, as it has in the past with officers working modified shifts, which resulted in a limited amount of overtime being spent to staff this event. With a reported crowd for the two day event of over 100,000 visitors, there were no major events, which resulted in an enjoyable event for vendors and visitors alike.



2015 Guardian Hose Fireman’s Parade and Carnival:



Every year the Guardian Hose Fire Company hold a parade and carnival. The parade is led by vehicles from the Department through town, which begins on East Main Street, past the judging stand at Memorial Park, ending on Boundary Avenue at the Carnival Grounds. Throughout the week of the carnival the Department provides extra officers to patrol the carnival grounds and surrounding area.

AWARDS:

Thurmont Police Officer recognized for Traffic Safety Contributions, Expertise:



Officer First Class Jody Maybush

On Wednesday, September 23rd, police officers representing law enforcement agencies throughout Maryland gathered in Gaithersburg to be recognized for their distinctive contributions to highway safety in Maryland.

The 2015 Maryland Traffic Safety Specialist (TSS) Awards Luncheon was presented at the Gaithersburg Marriott Washingtonian Center, and acknowledged law enforcement officers who have attained exceptional levels of experience, training and proficiency in highway safety and traffic enforcement methods and procedures.

Thurmont Police Officer Jody A. Maybush was recognized as a 2015 TSS Award Recipient.

The TSS Designation is awarded by the Maryland Police and Correctional Training Commissions (MPCTC), and the program is open to all police officers, deputy sheriffs and state troopers from all Maryland law enforcement agencies, and to certain Federal law enforcement agencies.

TSS Designations are awarded at three levels: TSS-1, TSS-11, and TSS-111, with each successive level reflecting increasing degrees of experience and specialized training in traffic safety. Levels 11 and 111 also require submission of a formal paper which must be reviewed and approved by the TSS Executive Committee.

“Clearly these award recipients epitomize the spirit of the TSS program,” said Thomas J. Gianni, Chief of the Maryland Highway Safety Office. “Effective traffic enforcement translates to fewer crashes, fewer injuries, and fewer deaths on our roadways. Traffic safety is public safety, and we congratulate the awardees on their very distinguished achievement.”

Carroll County Sheriff Jim DeWees delivered the keynote address for the luncheon.

The TSS program is a collaborative project of the Maryland Highway Safety Office, the Maryland Chiefs of Police Association, the Maryland Sheriff’s Association, and the Maryland Police and Correctional Training Commissions. The program is funded through a grant by the Maryland Highway Safety Office.

Life Saving Award:



Cpl. Testa, Cpl. Armstrong, Ofc. Minnick, Off. B. Donovan:

The Life Saving Award is given to Officers of The Thurmont Police who, during the course of their duty, comes to the aid of a citizen and saves their life. During 2015, Corporal Vince Testa, Cpl. Dave Armstrong, Ofc. Kyle Minnick, and Off. Brian Donovan, without thought of their own safety, came to the aid of citizens in an effort to save their life for administering NARCAN, deploying the AED, and also performing CPR.

For their actions to preserve each person's individual life, these Officers received the Thurmont Police Department's Life-Saving Award.

Officer of the Year:



Every year both the Thurmont Lions Club and Shumaker's Roofing seek nominations for Officer of The Year from the Command Staff from which the Selection Committee select only one Officer to be honored as Officer of the Year. This year the nomination for Officer of the Year was: *Detective Officer First Class Jody Maybush.*



Detective Officer First Class Jody Maybush:

OFC Maybush joined the Thurmont Police Department in December 2013. Prior to becoming a Thurmont Police Officer, OFC Maybush served seven (7) years with the United States Navy, and sixteen (16) years with the Frederick County Sheriff's Office; where he retired with the rank of Sergeant. He served as an Investigator with the Thurmont Police Department during the past year. His success and service has been outstanding. He has been instrumental in detecting criminal activity and resolving investigations. OFC Maybush always showed great compassion for victims and their families and provided them with sincere support during the investigations. OFC Maybush displays an exceptional work ethic. He always adjusts his schedule to conduct surveillance, meet with witnesses, and locate suspects. He has served the Thurmont Police Department as a great liaison with other agencies and the State's Attorney Office; sharing information and coordinating pre-trial preparation.

OFC Maybush displays a positive attitude and represents the Thurmont Police Department in the highest professional manner. It has been my pleasure to work with such a devoted individual.