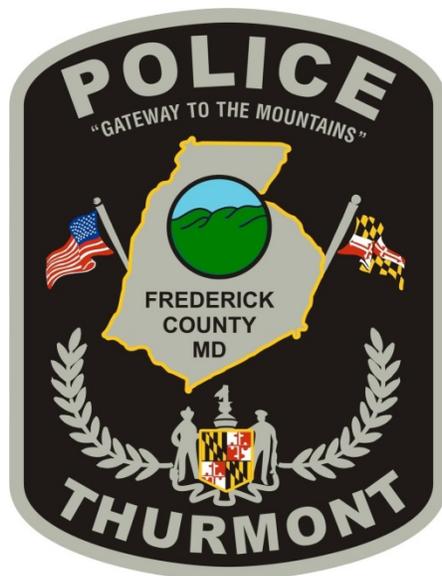


# Thurmont Police Department 2018 Annual Report

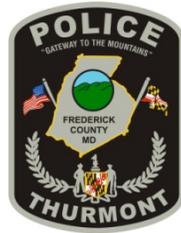


Thurmont Police Department E-Mail Address:  
[Thurmontpolice@Frederickcountymd.gov](mailto:Thurmontpolice@Frederickcountymd.gov)

Thurmont Police Department  
2018 Annual Report  
Colonel Gregory L. Eyler  
Chief of Police

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## **MISSION STATEMENT**

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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**

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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 was ranked the 3rd safest city in Maryland!*

SafeWise ranked the city of Thurmont as the 3rd safest city in Maryland due to its commitment to the safety and security of its residents.



SafeWise is proud to present this award to the city of

# Thurmont

for its officials' efforts in **community safety** and **crime prevention**.

*Thurmont was ranked the 3rd Safest City in Maryland due to its commitment to the safety and security of its residents.*

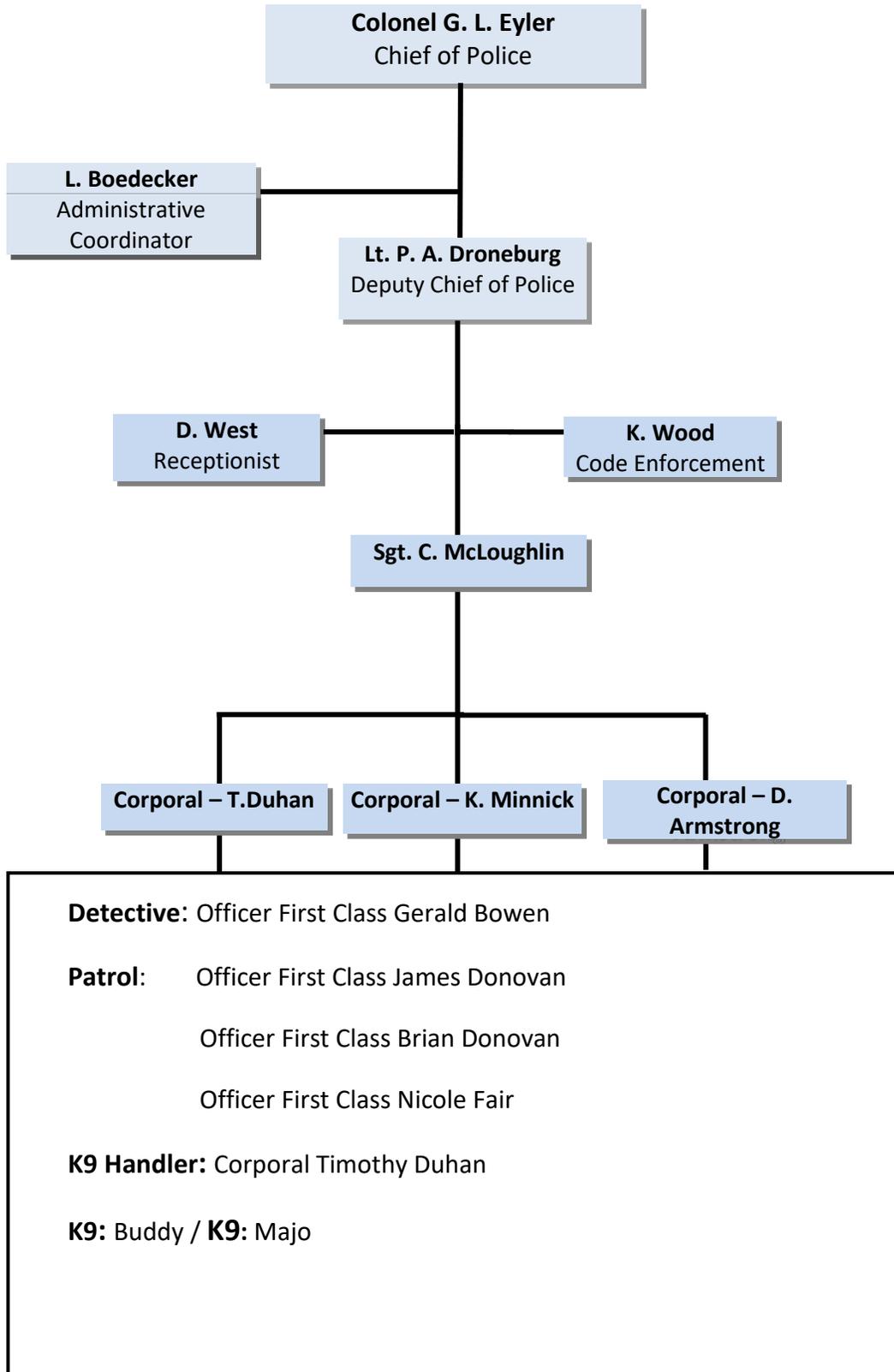


A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Suzi Brzezinski".

Suzi Brzezinski, President of SafeWise

**ORGANIZATIONAL CHART**

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**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) full-time Code Enforcer.

The Thurmont Police Department hired one (1) new officer in 2018: Hailey Leishear

Position	Authorized	Actual
Chief of Police (Colonel)	1	1
Deputy Chief of Police (Lieutenant)	1	1
Sergeant	1	1
Corporal	2	2
Detective	1	1
Patrol Officers	7	4
<b>Total Officers</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Civilian</b>		
Administrative Coordinator	1	1
Receptionist	1	1
Code Officer	1	1
<b>Total Civilian</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Total Number of Employees</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>16</b>

**K9 Retired/K9 Hired:**

In May of 2018, “Buddy” the agency’s first Narcotics Canine, was retired from service due to an injury which occurred during 2017. Through budget approval and Donations, the agency’s second Narcotics Canine was purchased in August 2018. “Majo” was placed in service in September of 2018 and currently serves as the agency’s Narcotics Canine with handler Cpl. Tim Duhan.

**K9 Buddy**



**K9 Majo**



**TPD VEHICLE FLEET:**

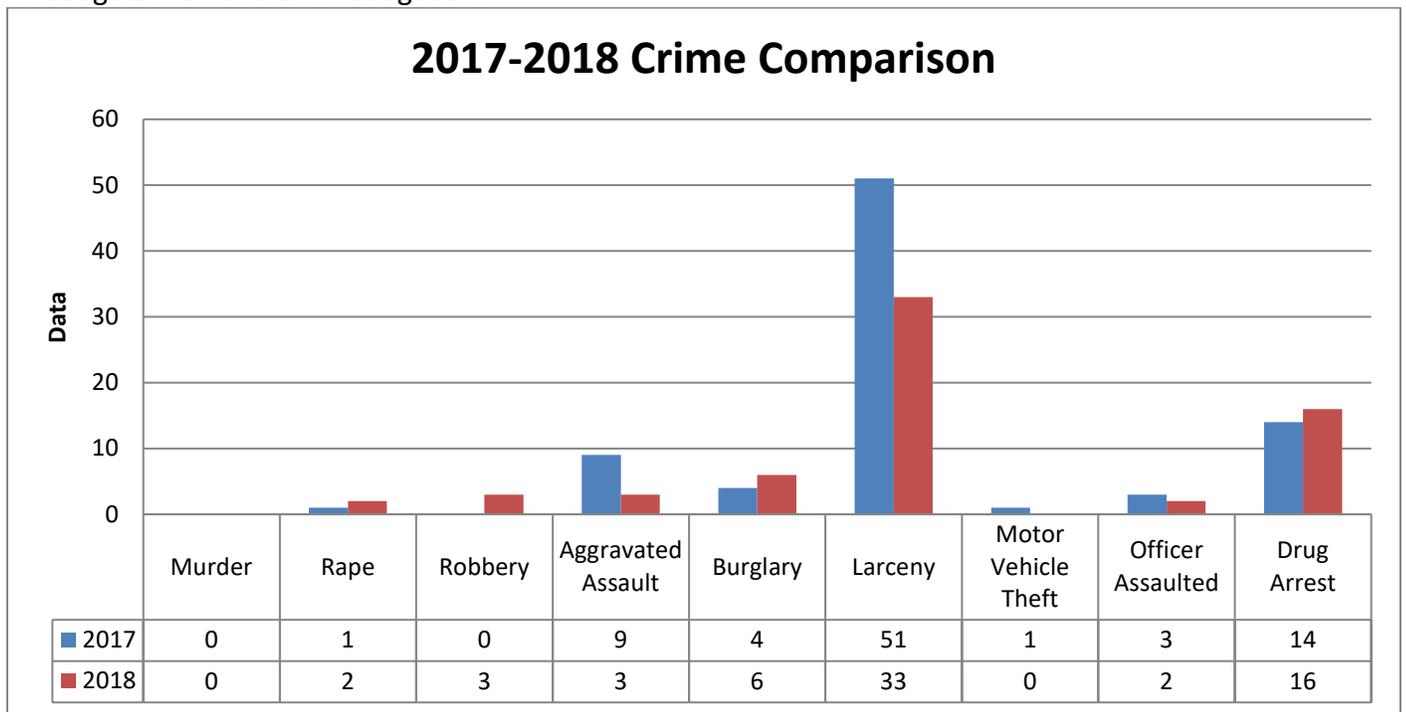


**MOUNTAIN BIKE PATROL:**

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 2018 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.

April 17, 2018

On April 15, 2018, at approximately 7:50pm, a Thurmont Police Officer attempted to conduct a traffic stop on a vehicle being operated by an individual whose driving privilege had been revoked. The operator increased his speed and failed to stop for the officer. The officer pursued the individual until the vehicle came to a stop on Eyer Road in Thurmont. When the operator was being placed under arrest for Fleeing and Eluding, the subject began to resist. The officer was able to secure the operator until another officer arrived to assist. The operator was identified as: William Bud Fogle, age 33, of Thurmont. Mr. Fogle was taken to Central Booking and charged with: Driving on Revoked License, Fleeing and Eluding, and Resisting Arrest.

May 16, 2018

On May 14, 2018 at approximately 10:30pm, Thurmont Police responded to an apartment in the 1<sup>st</sup> Block of East Main St. for a domestic assault. The responding officer found a female victim who reported her husband, who had already left the scene, had choked her during an argument. The victim showed signs of injuries related to strangulation and was transported to FMH for treatment. A medical examination of the victim showed bruising under the chin and petechial on the roof of her mouth. The suspect was identified as: Eddie Wayne Moore, age 40, of Thurmont. Mr. Moore was located in Thurmont on May 15, 2018 at approximately 9:00pm and taken into custody. Moore was charged with: First Degree Assault, Second Degree Assault.

July 6, 2018

On July 4, 2018, at approximately 4:30pm, Thurmont Police were notified of an armed robbery which had occurred at Water Street Apartments. The victim reported through his employer, that two subjects entered his apartment, held him a knife point, and stole his wallet containing a large sum of money. One of the suspects was known to the victim, which aided in the investigation. All suspects were identified, arrested, and charged. It was learned that the robbery had been pre-planned, and the female suspects provided transportation to and from the scene of the robbery. The suspects are: Brandon M. Gooden, age 19, of Thurmont; Joshua L. Toniolli, age 33, of Emmitsburg; Nina C. Martinez, age 20, of Sabillasville; Ashelley D. Smith, age 32, of Fairfield, Pa.; and Danielle E. Albaugh, age 22, of Emmitsburg. They were charged with: Armed Robbery, Assault-First Degree, Theft: under \$25,000, Conspiracy-Armed Robbery, Conspiracy- Assault First Degree, Conspiracy-Theft: under \$25,000.

August 20, 2018

On August 17, 2018, at approximately 10:45pm, Thurmont Police Officers observed a female walking around the downtown area in a suspicious manner. Based on the subject's actions, the Police Officers suspected the female was soliciting. A Thurmont Police Officer approached the female in plain clothes and an unmarked vehicle. During their brief conversation, the female solicited the officer for a sex act for a specified amount of money. Other officers approached and placed the female under arrest. The subject was identified as: Paiten E. Cole, age 25, of Thurmont. Cole was charged with: Solicitation for Prostitution.

December 11, 2018

On December 11, 2018, at approximately 5:00am, Thurmont Police Officers responded to the Liberty Gas Station on N. Church St. for an Attempted Robbery. The male suspect left the area on foot without obtaining any currency. At approximately 6:30am, Thurmont Police Officers responded to the Highs Store on Frederick Road for a committed Armed Robbery. The suspect indicated to the store clerk that he had a knife in his pocket. The male suspect's description was similar the Liberty Gas Station suspect. An undisclosed amount of money was stolen. Thurmont Officers were aware of a recent attempted theft on Jimtown Rd., and began to look for the suspect in that case. The suspect was observed driving on Creagerstown Rd. in unsafe manner and was stopped. A male and female suspect were arrested for possession of CDS and CDS paraphernalia which was discovered as a result of the traffic stop. Further investigation and interviews resulted in a confession from both suspects for the early morning robberies. The suspects were identified as: Bradley Michael Faulkner, age 26, and Amanda Marie Stottlemeyer, age 28, both of Thurmont. Mr. Faulkner has been charged with: Attempted Robbery, Armed Robbery, Theft: less than \$500, 2 Cts. Conspiracy to Commit Robbery, Possession of CDS to wit: Heroin. Ms. Stottlemeyer has been charged with: Attempted Robbery, Armed Robbery, Theft: less than \$500, 2 Cts. Conspiracy to Commit Robbery, and Possession of CDS Paraphernalia.

## 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](mailto: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.



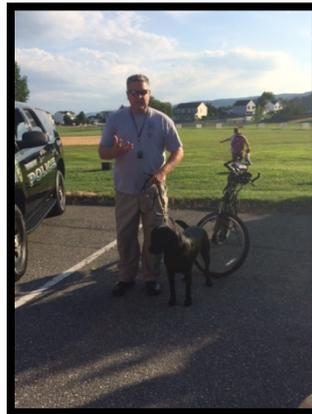
**SafetyPup:** SafetyPup is part of the National Child Safety Council, who has been sent to the Town of Thurmont to promote a positive approach for children to learn safety techniques for daily life. SafetyPup is a special friend to all children who makes learning about safety issues fun, entertaining, and non-threatening. You may see SafetyPup at events with the Thurmont Police Officers or greeting children after school with a special message.



**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.



During National Night out in August of 2018, the Thurmont Police Commission dedicated a memorial stone to "Honor All Law Enforcement Officers." This stone was donated by Kinnaird Memorials and placed by the flag pole in front of our station.



## Shred Event:

On Saturday November 3, 2018, The Thurmont Police Department, Town of Thurmont, and Woodsboro Bank held a second Shred Event for 2018. This Shred Event was another success. We collected over 9,000 pounds of paper and received a truck load of donations for the Thurmont Food Bank. I would like to thank our co-sponsor Woodsboro Bank, Town of Thurmont, and Mayor Kinnaird for helping with Saturday's event.



## MSP Career Night:

Lieutenant P. Droneburg participated in MSP's Career Night on April 26, 2018. Several agencies were in attendance to promote and encourage careers in public safety.

**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.

**Shop-With-A-Cop:** In December 2018, the Thurmont Police Department participated in the “Shop with a Cop” program. Corporal Timothy Duhan of the Thurmont Police Department joined other Law Enforcement Agencies in collaborating an officer with selected children to assist them with Christmas shopping for themselves and their family.

**Fish-With-A-Cop:** In 2018, 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 a fun day of fishing. Cpl. Duhan offered not only his time but also his reflective role model characteristics.

**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 three full-time School Crossing Guards: Faye Grimes, Kristi Wood, and Eleanor Putman, 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.

## CODE ENFORCEMENT SECTION:



The Code Enforcement Section was created in 2008 and is staffed by a full-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 2018 are 410, 37 of those cases had more than one complaint.

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

Complaint Type	Number	Complaint Type	Number
Tall Grass/Weeds	125	Uncovered/Untagged Vehicles	40
Snow on Sidewalk	39	Grass in Street	34
Trash/Litter/Rubbish in Yard	27	Bagged Grass on Curb	22
Removed Sign	20	Shrubs/Trees Overhang Sidewalk/Street	17
Contaminated Pool Water	14	Motorhome, Boat, Trailer Parked on Street	13
Outdoor Storage	12	Bush/Trees/Shrubs Blocking View of Street	7
Condition of Property Check	5	Premise ID	5
Yard Waste	5	Broken Fence	3
Dumping/Litter	3	Overgrown Trees/Shrubs	3
Rooster Inquiry	3	Sidewalk Obstruction	3
Tall Grass in Curb	3	Collapsed Building	2
Dog at Large	2	Expired/Untagged Vehicle on Street	2
Overgrown Plants by Utility Box	2	Snow in Street	2
Storage of Trailer	2	Stored Boat	2
Basketball Net Inquiry	1	Bee Infestation	1
Blocking Water Drain	1	Blowing Leaves in Street	1
Broken Flower Pots on Sidewalk	1	Camper Inquiry	1
Camper on Street	1	Cat on Vehicle	1
Damaged Concrete	1	Damaged Property	1
Damaged Roof	1	Dead Tree	1
Dog Feces	1	Dumpster in Street	1
Furniture in Yard	1	Grass Pile	1
Motorcycle Driven on Sidewalk	1	Noise Complaint	1
Noise Ordinance Inquiry	1	Parking Complaint	1

Permit Inquiry	1	Pig at Large	1
Placement of Trash Cans	1	Pool Permit Complaint	1
Pool with no Fence	1	Rat Complaint	1
Tree Branches on Electric Line	1	Unsecured Pool	1
Vehicle Noise	1	Vehicle Parked in Yard	1
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>447</b>

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

Source of Complaint	Number
Code Officer	262
Resident	114
Town Employee	23
Chief	3
Property Owner	3
TPD Officer	3
Mortgage Company	1
Relative	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>410</b>

## TRAINING UNIT:

The Thurmont Police Department has three (3) Maryland Police and Correctional Training Commission (MPCTC) certified instructors, which includes two (2) firearms instructors. As of 2013, the Thurmont Police Department conducts their own complete in-service training classes, including firearms training.



## 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.

**License Plate Reader (LPR):** Enhances law enforcement's ability to spot vehicles tied to investigations and other infractions. In return, helps solves cases and deter crime. In 2018, TPD applied for a Homeland Security Grant to obtain an additional LPR for patrol and successfully was awarded with one.



**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 55th Annual Catoctin Colorfest:



The 55th annual Colorfest was held the weekend of October 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>. 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.

## 2018 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.

## 2018 A Day in the Park:



One of the days for the Summer Rec Program, hosted by the Town of Thurmont, was elected to be Emergency Day. On July 31, 2018, the Thurmont Police Department brought a graphic display, along with items they carry to perform their shift duties, and described to kids, ages 5-15 years old, what their day-to-day operations entail.

## AWARDS:

**Life Saving Award:**



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

During 2018 three (3) Life Saving Awards were presented. Cpl. Minnick received two awards for administering NARCAN to overdose victims. OFC Brian Donovan received an award for administering NARCAN to one overdose victim.

## **Appreciation Award:**

**Lindsay Boedecker, Donna West, Kristi Wood:**

Chief Eyler presented the Administrative staff of the Thurmont Police Department with an award of Appreciation; thanking them for their unwavering support, assistance, and unselfishness to the Department.

**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: *Officer First Class Brian Donovan*.



### **Officer First Class Brian Donovan:**

Officer First Class Brian Donovan has been with the Thurmont Police Department for three (3) years. During his time at TPD, Officer Donovan has excelled in many areas of Police work, with an emphasis on traffic safety enforcement, making more than 353 traffic stops, and finding 458 violations since September of 2017. As a result of those traffic stops, OFC Donovan has made sixteen (16) arrests for traffic offenses and drug offenses, and discovered several wanted persons.

OFC Donovan's off duty time is also spent serving the citizens of Thurmont in a volunteer capacity as the Lieutenant of the Thurmont Fire Department. Often, OFC Donovan will be off duty and on the scene of a Police related incident, and will be asked to come in to assist with the scene. OFC Donovan never hesitates to "change hats" and report back to the scene in a Law Enforcement capacity. The amount of time OFC Donovan commits to the citizens of Thurmont, both on and off duty, is only one of the many reasons he is deserving of "Officer of the Year".

OFC Donovan has administered Narcan to three (3) overdose victims in the Town of Thurmont since September of 2017, and many more times previous to that date. Without OFC Donovan's fast response, and overall ability to quickly notice the signs of an opiate overdose and administer Narcan, these lives may have been lost. He has received Lifesaving Awards from the Thurmont Police Department for his efforts in these circumstances. OFC Donovan is always willing to pick up an extra shift, or go the extra mile when asked. OFC Donovan willingly accepts new challenges, or an extra project for the department.