

Hendersonville Police Department

Public Monthly Report

November 2022



Chief's Monthly Summary

First, November cannot pass without us remembering Officer Dennie Enevold who selflessly gave his life in service to this community on November 23, 1981. He was shot the day prior just blocks from where the new police department is located today. He died the next day. We hold an annual memorial ceremony to honor him during the week of his death. Flags at the department are flown at half-staff and Officers wear black mourning bands on both days. It is important that we never let the memory of a fallen officer fade from our minds nor let his death pass unnoticed.

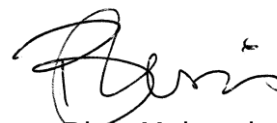
Second, I am thankful that we made it through a tough mid-term election cycle without significant incident. As we become more and more polarized in this country, at least with respect to politics, the risk to public safety during election cycles is becoming more tenuous. We are learning of increases in communicated threats to polling sites, seeing more assaults between voters at polling locations, and frankly a more general distrust in the election process nationally. We see few of these issues locally, but it remains a growing concern for us to deal with. Thank you for keeping the election process peaceful here.

Switching gears again, what is the one food that must be on your Thanksgiving dinner plate? Cranberry sauce, stuffing (or dressing, depending on where you are from), deviled eggs, sweet potato casserole? Mine has become homemade noodles. This is my wife's grandmother's recipe. Imagine dumplings made into long noodles and cooked in broth. That's it. Thanksgiving does not go by at our house without Nana's Noodles on the table.

Of all the people I asked this question to, Police Chaplain Eric Gash claims that his mother, Ms. Betty Gash, makes "legendary" potato salad for their Thanksgiving dinner. Legendary is high praise. That is like saying you make the best banana pudding during a church picnic on a Sunday in July in the south. You might start a fight with a bold claim. Now, I don't know what qualifies something for legendary status, but let's just say I wouldn't turn down the chance to sample her potato salad if you ever get the chance. It would be a mistake on your part.

Lastly, I want to challenge you to do something nice for someone else this month. Find an opportunity where a small gesture on your part would be meaningful for someone. Maybe it's a large tip for your server, groceries for your neighbor, or just telling someone how much you appreciate their hard work. A little goes a long way.

Happy holidays. Drive safely if you are traveling. And remember, "If you drive, don't drink. If you drink, don't drive." Thank you again for your support and your trust in us. We will always strive to provide professionalism in service. And, as always, we strive to provide "Mountain Excellence."



Blair Myhand,
Chief of Police

Calls for Service

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
5,247	3,281	4,479	4,340	4,373	4,399	3,162	4,112	3,076	3,215	3,023	

Traffic Safety

Total Traffic Stops:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
233	299	388	362	311	203	271	297	270	397	368	

Total Citations Issued:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
151	201	243	265	207	144	146	182	185	263	281	

DWI Arrests:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2	8	9	6	9	4	9	7	12	4	7	

Motor Vehicle Crashes:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
115	101	90	111	99	113	146	105	138	114	136	

Top five crash locations:

#1	Chimney Rock Rd & Sugarloaf Rd
#2	Four Seasons Blvd & Linda Vista Dr
#3	Chimney Rock Rd & Highlands Square Dr
#4	Spartanburg Hwy & Shepherd St
#5	Spartanburg Hwy & S Grove St

Crimes, Reports, and Arrests

Criminal Arrests:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
90	93	140	94	118	114	89	141	118	102	78	

(felony-22, misdemeanor-56)

Incident Reports:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
169	134	277	222	259	292	239	205	198	151	114	

Drug Offenses:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
38	34	37	36	51	60	27	45	34	21	23	

Larcenies:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
42	49	47	28	35	48	46	52	32	58	32	

(3 from motor vehicles)

Assaults:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
15	10	17	15	10	11	17	10	13	14	14	

Employee Actions

- Officer resigned employment after being hired by the Henderson County Sheriff's Office.
- Dakota Tittle completed BLET and passed the state exam. She is reassigned from Police Recruit to Police Officer 1 and will begin her field training in January.
- Officer Kyle Gyurina passed the state exam. Kyle is an experienced officer from California. The state requires all out-of-state transfers to attend portions of the Basic Law Enforcement Training program before being fully certified as a Police Officer in NC. Kyle is now fully certified, and we are happy to have him on our team.

Community Tip

- Tip #5: Safe driving – As the temperatures get colder and the weather changes, driving can become more challenging. Here are some tips to help you stay safe this winter.
 - *Watch for leaves* – as leaves fall from the trees, they can accumulate on the roads making it difficult for drivers to see the pavement and obstacles that may be hidden from view, such as potholes. You also may not be able to see traffic indicators that are painted on the pavement, such as crosswalks. Additionally, slippery surfaces pose a special threat on winding roads or on abrupt turns.
[4 tips for driving on wet leaves. Drivers Ed Courses, Traffic School Courses and more. \(nationalhighwaysafetyadministration.com\)](#)

- *Black ice* - The most basic definition of black ice is a thin coat of highly transparent ice. The thin layer of ice blends in with the road's pavement, making it nearly impossible to see. It's called black ice because it looks black, like the color of the road pavement it forms on. Since black ice is highly transparent, it is unlikely you'll be able to see it while driving down the road. Roadways become very slippery when black ice forms, leading to hazardous driving conditions and an increased risk of car accidents. [What Is Black Ice And Why Is It So Dangerous? | The Weather Channel](#)
- What you can do to avoid the danger
 - a. Reduce your driving speed. When you drive slower, your vehicle can stop for shorter distances.
 - b. Give yourself reaction time by maintaining a healthy distance, at least 3 seconds, between you and the vehicle in front of you.
 - c. Clean off your vehicle. Before starting the engine, clean leaves, snow, and ice off the windshield, top of the car, and hood.
 - d. Make sure your tires have good tread, which helps channel water away from the tires. Less water means more traction.
 - e. Defrost your windows before driving. Trying to drive while looking through a small "window" of clear glass in the windshield is dangerous and exposes you and everyone else around you to unnecessary danger.

Complaints and Findings

- A citizen complaint was received in reference to alleged officer misconduct and excessive force. No force was used in the incident and the Officer's conduct was appropriate. The complaint is Not Sustained.
- A citizen complaint was received alleging an officer acted unprofessionally during a traffic stop. The investigation established that the officer acted appropriately throughout the encounter. The complaint is Not Sustained.

Vehicle Pursuits and Findings

- None

Use of Reasonable Force (UORF) Incidents and Findings

- Officers responded to a report of a suicidal person. When Officers located the male, he was actively attempting to cut himself with a large knife. Officers tased the male to prevent any further injuries to the person, the officers, or other persons when he refused to put the knife down. The internal review found this to be an appropriate and legal use of force.

Operations/Notable Events

- Officers investigated a report of a missing adult male. His vehicle was found in the woods in a remote part of Spartanburg County, SC. His body was located a short distance from the vehicle from an apparent suicide. Detectives are assisting the Spartanburg County Sheriff's Office with the investigation.
- Officers received a report of a non-life-threatening gunshot wound allegedly to have occurred in a drive-by shooting. The victim was not cooperative, and no evidence was found to support his claim. Detectives are investigating this incident.
- Officers and Detectives assisted with the arrest of a fugitive from McDowell County, NC, for Burglary and Assault with a Deadly Weapon.
- Officers observed a male spray-painting graffiti, and he was immediately arrested. It was later determined this was not his first arrest for spray-painting graffiti. Officers will ask the court for a higher penalty for repeated damage to property crimes.
- Officers and Detectives responded to a stabbing outside a local restaurant. Warrants were obtained for Assault with a Deadly Weapon Inflicting Serious Injury. The victim is expected to make a full recovery.
- Officers and Detectives responded to a possible sexual assault of a juvenile. This investigation is continuing, and charges are pending DNA test results from the state crime lab.
- Officers and Detectives responded to a domestic-related abduction of a female. The investigation led to her safe recovery and the arrest of the suspect for kidnapping all within hours of the initial report.

Budget Summary

- We are approximately 40% through the fiscal year.
- \$754,250, or 50.3% of the FY 22/23 operating budget has been encumbered to date. Most of the funds encumbered are for vehicle and equipment purchases.

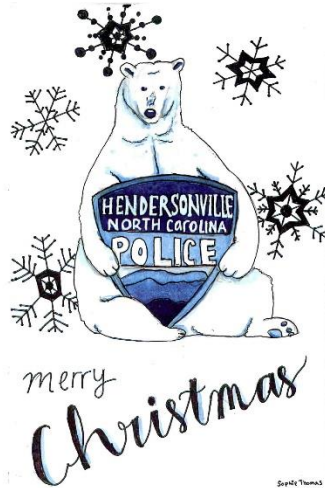
Community Outreach/Special Events

- Coffee with a Cop. This was our third event at Black Bear Coffee. While there is no set schedule for these events, we would like to hold three to four annually. Coffee with a Cop is an opportunity for people to talk to police officers. Simply coffee and conversation. No agendas. While no subject is off limits, typically, the conversation runs from sports, community happenings, pets, etc. It is that simple. Come join us next time.



Awards and Recognitions

- Telecommunications Supervisor Amber Kleppe was recognized as one of [WSPA's First Responder Friday](#) recipients for the great work she does managing our HPD's 911 Center.
- Christmas card winner. Sofia Thomas' design (polar bear) was selected as the 2022 HPD Christmas Card. We presented her with a gift card at Hendersonville High School, along with the four runners-up. This is the second year in a row for this design contest. We love the idea of a young local emerging artist helping us send out more original, and personal Christmas cards.



Grants Management

- \$40,000 accreditations grant is approved. Money to be released in 2023.
- \$50,000 mental health grant is approved. Money to be released in 2023.

Recruiting/Retention

- 2 of 47 Police Officer vacancies exist (one candidate in background phase).
- 1 of 6 telecommunicator vacancies remain (conditional offer made).