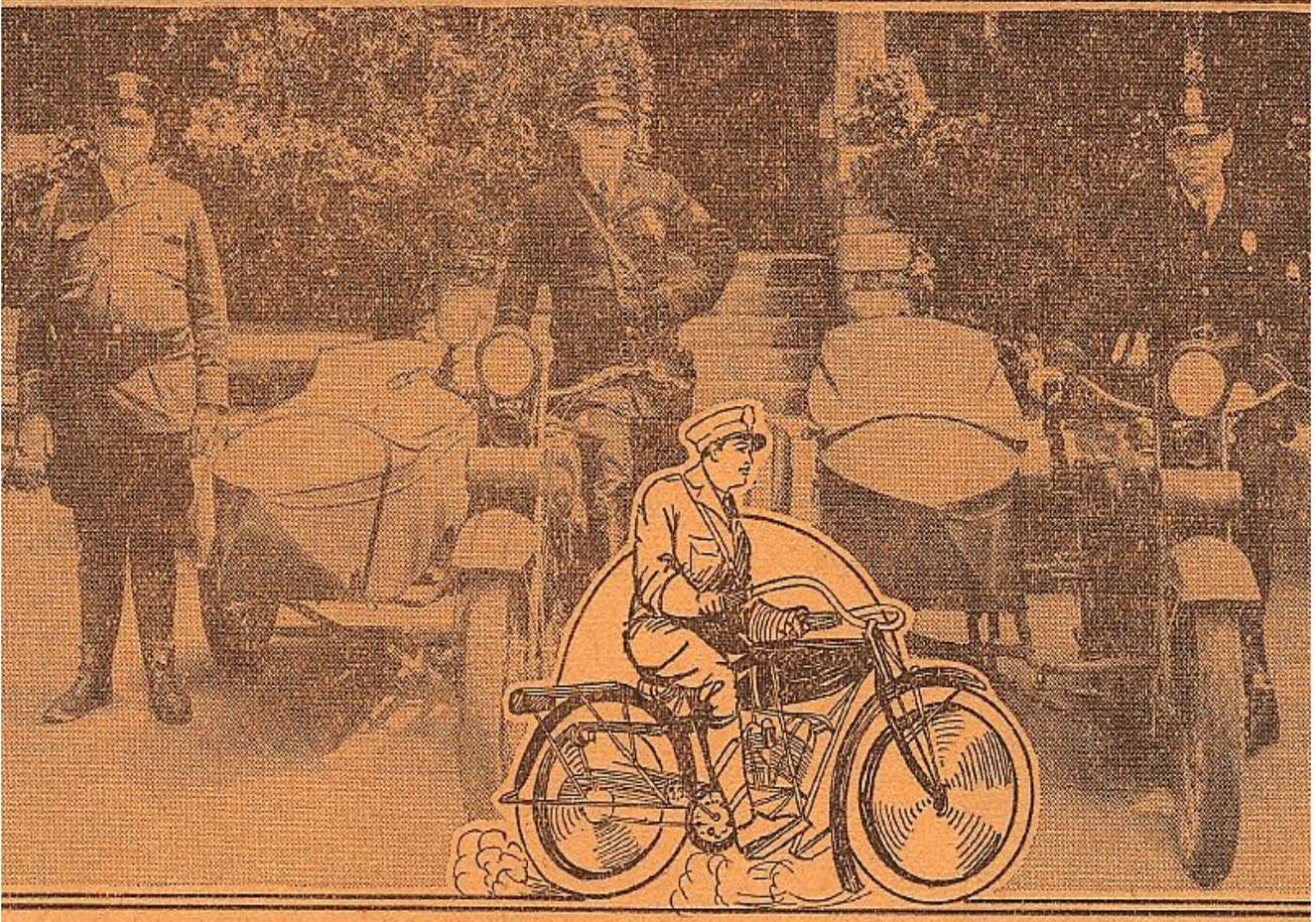


(Old newspaper photograph donated by Arden Oliver)

## *Berwick's Motorized Police Department*



# 2015 ANNUAL REPORT

Borough of Berwick Police Department  
1800 North Market Street Berwick, PA 18603

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## Message from the Chief

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### Year in Review

The year 2015 was a rather challenging year for the police department. Throughout the year the department was without the services of three (3) full time officers. However, even with that adversity, our officers were completely devoted to their duties and worked tirelessly to accomplish the task at hand each and every day of the year. I am so very proud of their exemplary efforts. Ultimately in 2015, **49%** of the open shifts which were created by the manpower shortage were covered without incurring any overtime expenses to the Borough. Unfortunately there were multiple incidents in which officers were forced to neutralize armed assailants in 2015. The character and courage of the responding officers, as well as their training, were key components as to why there was successful conclusions to those life threatening events. In 2015, the police department was significantly under budget at the end of the year, officers responded to a total of 5,402 calls for service and made a total of 828 criminal arrests, of which 308 were narcotics related. That is the most narcotics related arrests in the history of Berwick Police in one year.

### Grants and Donations

In 2015 the police department was extremely fortunate to have received \$26,000 in grant awards. I would like to thank the Volunteers in Philanthropy (VIP) Grant Committee and the Central Susquehanna Community Foundation for believing in, and generously approving our grant applications. Also in 2015, due to a \$2,500 donation from the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks No. 1138, the police department was able to purchase and upgrade several Tasers.

### Partnerships

The police department remains an integral part of the *Columbia/Montour County S.W.A.T. Team* and the *United States Marshals Service's Fugitive Task Force* and has worked collaboratively on multiple *OCDETF Task Forces* with the Pennsylvania Office of the Attorney General. Overall the Borough of Berwick will be reimbursed **\$40,542.40** for overtime hours spent working on Methamphetamine and Heroin OCDETF investigations throughout 2015.

### Looking Ahead

As always, we shall continue to work together with our citizens and law enforcement partners to do everything possible to make our community a safe and comfortable place to live and work.

Sincerely,

*Kenneth J. Strish*

## Specialized Training

Each year the Borough of Berwick Police Department enrolls officers in a variety of specialized training. This list itemizes the training attended by officers of the Borough of Berwick Police Department in 2015. It is the goal of the Chief of Police to provide officers with the best training opportunities. A progressive approach with training officers will consistently produce a more capable police force.

Training	Officers	Hours
First Aid/CPR/AED	14	56
2015 Eastern PA Chapter Re-Trainer	1	16
Israeli Krav Maga Defensive Tactics Instructor	2	80
PPCT Defensive Tactics Instructor Certification	1	24
SWAT Annual Tactical Training	4	160
SWAT Annual Weapons Qualifications	4	32
NRA Law Enforcement Tactical Shooting Instructor	1	40
Close Quarter Battle	1	16
Investigating Strangulation	1	4
Child Abuse Investigation	1	24
Multi-Disciplinary Investigative Team Training	1	16
EMT	1	24
Breath Test Instrument Operator Update	2	32
Standardized Field Sobriety Testing	1	24



## Monthly Statistics

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### January

401 total calls received, 36 criminal arrests, 9 warrants served, 23 traffic accidents, 39 traffic arrests and 12 warnings issued.

### February

367 total calls received, 42 criminal arrests, 6 warrants served, 26 traffic accidents, 22 traffic arrests and 8 warnings issued.

### March

391 total calls received, 49 criminal arrests, 13 warrants served, 21 traffic accidents, 69 traffic arrests and 24 warnings issued.

### April

492 total calls received, 77 criminal arrests, 20 warrants served, 29 traffic accidents, 60 traffic arrests and 23 warnings issued.

### May

561 total calls received, 71 criminal arrests, 29 warrants served, 18 traffic accidents, 114 traffic arrests and 46 warnings issued.

### June

475 total calls received, 99 criminal arrests, 17 warrants served, 27 traffic accidents, 53 traffic arrests and 8 warnings issued.

### July

540 total calls received, 115 criminal arrests, 22 warrants served, 20 traffic accidents, 46 traffic arrests and 23 warnings issued.

### August

455 total calls received, 80 criminal arrests, 28 warrants served, 15 traffic accidents, 88 traffic arrests and 15 warnings issued.

### September

486 total calls received, 53 criminal arrests, 12 warrants served, 22 traffic accidents, 52 traffic arrests and 11 warnings issued.

### October

462 total calls received, 81 criminal arrests, 10 warrants served, 17 traffic accidents, 79 traffic arrests and 14 warnings issued.

### November

381 total calls received, 71 criminal arrests, 13 warrants served, 22 traffic accidents, 23 traffic arrests and 6 warnings issued.

### December

391 total calls received, 54 criminal arrests, 19 warrants served, 24 traffic accidents, 16 traffic arrests and 8 warnings issued.

## Annual Statistics

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### Total Calls Received

(5,402)

### Criminal Offenses

\*Overall – (323) persons were arrested for (828) criminal charges\*

Homicide/Attempted – (1) arrests  
Rape - (0) arrests  
Sex Offenses (other than Rape) - (21) arrests  
Kidnapping – (0) arrests  
Robbery – (4) arrests  
Aggravated Assault - (6) arrests  
Burglary – (11) arrests  
Trespass – (24) arrests  
Forgery – (0) arrests  
Arson – (0) arrests  
Disorderly Conduct – (89) arrests  
Harassment – (69) arrests  
Simple Assault – (47) arrests  
Theft – (62) arrests  
Fraud – (2) arrests  
Criminal Mischief – (21) arrests  
Public Drunkenness – (32) arrests  
Receiving Stolen Property – (17) arrests  
Resisting Arrest – (15) arrests  
Persons not to Possess Firearms – (4) arrests

### Domestic Related

Domestic Violence calls – (231)  
PFA Violations – (4) arrests

### Traffic Related

Accidents – (264) (includes both reportable and non-reportable accidents)  
DUI Arrests – (34)  
Traffic Citations – (661)  
Parking Tickets – (148) parking tickets – written by officers of the police department  
Warning Notices – (198) warning notices were written by officers of the police department

### Warrants

The Borough of Berwick Police Department served (198) arrest warrants in 2015

## Annual Statistics

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### Narcotics Arrests

\*Overall – (105) Persons were arrested for (308) narcotics related charges

### Methamphetamine

(39) Persons were arrested for (174) Methamphetamine related charges and (12) Methamphetamine laboratories were dismantled

### Heroin

(37) Persons were arrested for (81) Heroin related charges

### Marijuana

(25) Persons were arrested for (47) Marijuana related charges

### Illegal Prescription

(2) Persons were arrested for (2) illegal prescription related charges

### Psychedelic

(1) Person was arrested for (2) Psychedelic drug related charges

### Cocaine

(1) Person was arrested for (2) Cocaine related charge

\*Crime statistics do not reflect investigations which did not produce enough sufficient evidence to pursue the case in court, where the victim/witness refused to cooperate with the investigation and/or when the investigation produced sufficient evidence to arrest a suspect for a different criminal act other than what was initially reported. \*



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## Financial Report (Revenue)

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<u>Fines</u>	<u>DJ (Criminal)</u>	<u>DJ (Traffic)</u>	<u>Columbia County</u>
Jan	\$1,127.78	\$974.04	\$41.26
Feb	\$1,762.90	\$1454.49	\$240.23
Mar	\$809.74	\$1094.39	\$133.91
Apr	\$1,332.16	\$1378.24	\$57.56
May	\$536.98	\$796.08	\$279.19
Jun	\$768.64	\$917.24	\$738.83
Jul	\$1,780.16	\$591.04	\$482.90
Aug	\$862.40	\$1201.18	\$188.38
Sep	\$678.31	\$544.76	\$359.12
Oct	\$728.45	\$1080.81	\$698.22
Nov	\$544.73	\$760.58	\$660.83
Dec	\$1,469.49	\$728.27	\$471.44

**Fines – (\$28,274.73)**

(These are the fines that have actually been paid, not the total owed)

**Parking Tickets – (\$1,250)** paid parking tickets – written by police officers

**Accident Reports – (\$2,355)** was paid for copies of accident reports

**Total Revenue Received in 2015 – (\$31,879.73)**



## Financial Report (Reimbursement)

**Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF): (\$40,542.40)**

Jan	\$2,098.85
Feb	\$4,581.75
Mar	\$5,386.75
Apr	\$3,464.06
May	\$4,972.01
Jun	\$5,299.52
Jul	\$1,833.44
Aug	\$0
Sep	\$217.61
Oct	\$3,111.00
Nov	\$5,279.64
Dec	\$4,297.77

**United States Marshals Service: (\$807.11)**

\$120.30  
\$160.40  
\$287.70  
\$238.71

**Homeland Security: (\$147.55)**

\$147.55

**North Central Highway Safety Network Incorporated: (\$1,128.01)**

\$836.50  
\$291.51

**Special Duty: (\$401.31)**

\$401.31

**Total Reimbursement Received in 2015 – (\$43,026.38)**

## Annual Crime Study

Serious Crime	2015		2014		2013		2012	
	Reports	Arrests	Reports	Arrests	Reports	Arrests	Reports	Arrests
Attempted Homicide	0	1*	0	2	0	1	0	1
Sex Offenses	26	21	13	39	20	15	19	3
Aggravated Assault	15	6	3	30	25	17	1	19
Robbery	6	4	6	12	7	23	6	13
Burglary	58	11	67	9	116	54	60	25
Simple Assault	26	47	12	39	13	42	18	43
Trespass	58	24	68	9	55	41	55	35

\* (5) charges of *Attempted Homicide* were filed by the Pennsylvania State Police regarding two (2) Berwick Police Officer involved shootings that occurred in 2015.

Other Crime	2015		2014		2013		2012	
	Reports	Arrests	Reports	Arrests	Reports	Arrests	Arrests	Reports
Disorderly Conduct	102	89	146	77	118	105	113	82
Harassment	99	69	143	69	178	99	124	82
Theft	198	62	243	57	316	114	353	81
Criminal Mischief	159	21	182	15	197	25	190	34

## Annual Crime Study

**2015**

- Total Calls for Service (5,402)
- Total Criminal Arrests (828)
- Total Traffic Arrests (661)
- Domestic Violence Calls (231)
- Arrest Warrants Served (198)

**2014**

- Total Calls for Service (6,506)
- Total Criminal Arrests (818)
- Total Traffic Arrests (836)
- Domestic Violence Calls (256)
- Arrest Warrants Served (299)

**2013**

- Total Calls for Service (6,581)
- Total Criminal Arrests (1,137)
- Total Traffic Arrests (1,123)
- Domestic Violence Calls (256)
- Arrest Warrants Served (303)

**2012**

- Total Calls for Service (6,410)
- Total Criminal Arrests (896)
- Total Traffic Arrests (624)
- Domestic Violence Calls (249)
- Arrest Warrants Served (201)

**2011**

- Total Calls for Service (6,316)
- Total Criminal Arrests (714)
- Total Traffic Arrests (551)
- Domestic Violence Calls (286)
- Arrest Warrants Served (222)

## Significant Investigations

On January 26, 2015 the Borough of Berwick Police Department working in conjunction with the Pennsylvania Office of the Attorney General concluded a lengthy investigation regarding the distribution of Heroin from 107 Jessup Street. Officers and agents executed a search warrant at the residence. As a result of the warrant service, police seized \$4,886 in US currency and 693 packets of Heroin. Three (3) persons were arrested and charged with eight (8) Heroin related crimes.

On February 26, 2015 the Borough of Berwick Police Department working in conjunction with the Pennsylvania Office of the Attorney General concluded a lengthy investigation regarding the distribution of Heroin from 511 LaSalle Street. Officers and agents executed a search and seizure warrant at the residence. As a result of the warrant service, police seized \$13,177 in US currency; 1,378 packets of Heroin; one Taurus .40 caliber semi-automatic handgun; one 2005 Cadillac CTS and one 2003 Lincoln Aviator. Five (5) persons were arrested for fourteen (14) Heroin related crimes.

On March 10, 2015 the Borough of Berwick Police Department working in conjunction with the Pennsylvania Office of the Attorney General concluded an investigation regarding the distribution of Heroin from 124 East 8<sup>th</sup> Street. As part of that investigation, one person was secured into police custody and \$958 in US currency as well as 457 packets of Heroin were seized as evidence. The person was arrested and charged with two (2) Heroin related crimes.

On March 30, 2015 the Borough of Berwick Police Department working in conjunction with the Pennsylvania Office of the Attorney General made a controlled purchase of Cocaine from the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor apartment at 540 Monroe Street. A field test of the suspected Cocaine produced a positive reaction for the presence of Cocaine. Later on that date, two persons were taken into custody as they left the residence. At the time of the arrest, one person was found to be in possession of \$2,635 U.S. currency, \$100 of which was recorded buy funds which were supplied during the aforementioned controlled purchase of Cocaine. Officers and agents executed a search and seizure warrant at the residence. As a result of the warrant service, police seized numerous items of drug trafficking including marijuana, electronic scales, numerous coffee filters with suspected Methamphetamine residue and assorted drug paraphernalia. Additionally, officers and agents discovered a number of trash bags. The trash bags contained numerous items consistent with Methamphetamine manufacturing; including one Methamphetamine manufacturing vessel (one pot). Ultimately, three (3) persons were arrested and charged with eight (8) Methamphetamine related charges, two (2) Cocaine related charges and two (2) Marijuana related charges.

## Significant Investigations

On April 17, 2015 the Borough of Berwick Police Department and probation officers with Columbia County Adult Probation uncovered a Methamphetamine laboratory at 320 East 13th Street (Lot#1) in Berwick Borough. The Pennsylvania State Police *Clandestine Laboratory Emergency Response Team* responded to the residence to collect the evidence. Two (2) persons were arrested and charged with sixteen (16) Methamphetamine related offenses.

On May 28, 2015 the Borough of Berwick Police Department working in conjunction with the Pennsylvania Office of the Attorney General concluded an investigation regarding the distribution of Methamphetamine from 325 East 4<sup>th</sup> Street. Officers and agents executed a search and seizure warrant at the residence. As a result of the warrant service, police seized a number of items consistent with manufacturing Methamphetamine, including multiple active and inactive Methamphetamine manufacturing (one pot) vessels. The Pennsylvania State Police *Clandestine Laboratory Emergency Response Team* responded to the residence to collect the evidence. Two (2) persons were arrested and charged with twenty (20) Methamphetamine related charges.

On June 11, 2015 the Borough of Berwick Police Department working in conjunction with the Pennsylvania Office of the Attorney General concluded an investigation regarding the manufacturing of Methamphetamine at 15 Cloverleaf Lane. While at the residence, investigators located a Methamphetamine lab inside the residence. The Pennsylvania State Police *Clandestine Laboratory Emergency Response Team* responded to the residence to collect the evidence. Ultimately, three (3) persons were secured into police custody and charged with eighteen (18) Methamphetamine related charges.

On July 10, 2015 the Borough of Berwick Police Department concluded a lengthy investigation by arresting and charging the suspect in that investigation with six (6) counts of ***Institutional Sexual Assault***. The investigation was initiated by reports of an inappropriate relationship occurring between the suspect and a sixteen year old victim. The suspect was a counselor and coach at the victim's school.

On August 15, 2015 the Borough of Berwick Police Department was dispatched to 1335 Spring Garden Avenue for a report of a domestic dispute involving two males, one with a knife. Upon arrival to the scene, officers observed a male armed with a knife attack another male outside of the residence. Officer Reagan Rafferty then shot the attacker in the left shoulder and neutralized the threat. The Pennsylvania State Police and the Columbia County District Attorney's Office investigated the incident. The Columbia County District Attorney ruled that the officer was *Justified* in discharging his firearm and the Pennsylvania State Police arrested the suspect for ***Attempted Criminal Homicide***.

## Significant Investigations

On October 15, 2015 the Borough of Berwick Police Department played an integral part in a collaborative effort with the Pennsylvania Office of the Attorney General and the Briar Creek Township Police Department to dismantle yet another Methamphetamine laboratory in the area. The laboratory was located at 1026 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Briar Creek Township. Five (5) individuals were arrested and charged with twenty-four (24) Methamphetamine related charges. The Pennsylvania State Police *Clandestine Laboratory Emergency Response Team* responded to the residence to collect the evidence. It was the collaboration and dedicated work that lead to the successful conclusion of the investigation.

On November 9, 2015 a suspect armed with an assault rifle and handgun intentionally opened fire at a civilian and officers inside the BIDA complex. Officer Sprung, who was first on scene, identified that shots were being fired and informed other responding officers of the life threatening event. Officer Rafferty, Detectives Martin and Shultz and Chief Strish responded to the event to assist Officer Sprung. All officers initially established a dialogue with the suspect in an attempt to persuade him to surrender his weapons and himself. However, the suspect initiated rifle fire during negotiations and Officer Rafferty and Detectives Martin and Shultz were under direct fire from the suspect. Officer Rafferty returned rifle fire and neutralized the threat. The suspect was then secured into police custody and officers began administering medical assistance to the suspect until he was transported to the hospital by EMS. Detective Martin sustained multiple shrapnel wounds to his head. Several bullets struck the object of cover that Detective Shultz was positioned behind. The character and courage of the responding officers, along with their training, was the key component as to why there was a successful conclusion to the event and why no innocent bystanders were injured and officer injuries were minimalized. The Pennsylvania State Police and the Columbia County District Attorney's Office investigated the event. The Columbia County District Attorney ruled that the officer was *Justified* in discharging his firearm and the Pennsylvania State Police arrested the suspect for multiple counts of ***Attempted Criminal Homicide***.

On December 10, 2015 the Borough of Berwick Police Department was dispatched to a domestic dispute at 519 East 9<sup>th</sup> Street. Officers made contact with three (3) persons at the residence. While inside the residence, officers observed items consistent with the manufacturing of Methamphetamine. The three (3) persons were secured into police custody. Officers then working in conjunction with the Pennsylvania Office of the Attorney General secured a search and seizure warrant for the residence. As a result of the warrant service, police seized numerous items consistent with the manufacturing of Methamphetamine. The Pennsylvania State Police *Clandestine Laboratory Emergency Response Team* responded to the residence to collect the evidence. Three (3) persons were arrested and charged with twelve (12) Methamphetamine related charges.

## National Night Out

On August 4, 2015 the Borough of Berwick Police Department hosted its second annual **National Night Out** celebration. Once again, there was more than three hundred (300) people in attendance at the celebration. It was a great evening of neighborhood unity.



The Chief of Police would like to thank the Central Susquehanna Community Foundation, Berwick Fire Chief, Bill Coolbaugh, and his family, the DPW crew, specifically Jack Kyttle, Sergeant Bodwalk, Sergeant LeVan, Sergeant Monico, Cassandra Mowery, James McClintock, Reliance Fire Company, Ranger Hose Company, West Berwick Hose Company, for use of their grill, Berwick Area Ambulance, Berwick Area Community Watch Group, Beyond Violence, *Columbia-Montour SWAT Team*, Columbia County Sheriff's Office, The Pennsylvania National Guard's 109th Field Artillery Regiment, BAE Systems, specifically Scott Deitrich, Talen Energy, Berwick Historical Society and of course the donations made by Charles Anderson from Anderson Ice and by Catherine Mentrikoski from Stuccio's Pizzeria. If not for all their support the celebration could not have been the monumental success that it was.



## PNOA Outstanding Police Performance Award

On March 26, 2015 Detective Greg Martin and Detective Brandon Shultz were recognized by the Pennsylvania Narcotics Officers' Association, along with two other Task Force agents and two Case Agents from the Pennsylvania Office of the Attorney General for "*Operation Gym Candy*", an intercontinental anabolic steroids investigation, involving local Berwick residents.

The award was entitled *Outstanding Police Performance Award* and it states: "On behalf of the PNOA, we are honored to present you with this award for your outstanding performance for Operation Gym Candy. Your commitment to drug law enforcement and superior investigative abilities produced the arrest of major drug traffickers, seizures of two multi-million dollar steroid manufacturing laboratories, 10,000 vials of liquid anabolic steroids, 200,000 capsules of powder anabolic steroids, multiple gallons of liquid and kilos of powder anabolic steroids. Also seized were \$1.2 million dollars of US currency and \$500,000 worth of vehicles and real estate".



## Police Awards Ceremony

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On December 29, 2015 the Borough of Berwick Police Department Police Awards Ceremony was held at the Maria Assunta Society. Members of the police department were presented with commendations for *Valor, Bravery* and *Distinguished Service*. Also an officer was recognized as the overall winner of the *2015 Intradepartmental Physical Fitness Competition*.



## Berwick Area Community Watch Group

In 2013 the Borough of Berwick Police Department and the Berwick Area United Way teamed up to start a Community Watch Program. The intention was to educate citizens on how to properly observe people, vehicles and incidents that may affect them and provide presentations to help them understand and identify with the criminal justice system and personal safety. Please join us at monthly meetings, all residents of Berwick, Nescopeck, Salem, and Briar Creek are invited to attend.

Monthly meetings are held at Berwick Borough City Hall every 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month.

### OBJECTIVES OF THE COMMUNITY WATCH GROUP

- ❖ Develop an awareness program to heighten the community's power of observation and improve neighborhood security.
- ❖ Increase citizens' awareness of criminal behavior.
- ❖ Encouraging all citizens to cooperate with police in reporting crime.



*Help become the extra "eyes and ears" of your local law enforcement.*

Check out their Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/BerwickAreaCommunityWatch> to learn more.



## Personnel

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Chief of Police Ken Strish	<a href="mailto:strish@berwick-pa.com">strish@berwick-pa.com</a>
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Police Clerk Marc Grassley	<a href="mailto:mgrassley@berwick-pa.com">mgrassley@berwick-pa.com</a>

