



BLUECOATS OF BARNSTABLE

NEWSLETTER

FALL
2020

DEAR FRIENDS,

I hope this letter finds all of you and your families in good health. As we near the end of this unique year and look ahead into the holiday season it can be very easy to lament the things we missed out on and focus on the negative events that have happened. While this year has certainly presented us with some challenges, I think we would be missing the larger point if we were to let negativity and defeat be the prevailing message of the year.

Although 2020 tried its best to bring us down with a pandemic, defunding the police, and concerns over our election process, I believe we have risen above it. No matter what was thrown at us this year we were able to overcome it, and the men and women of the Barnstable Police Department continued to serve with pride and dedication.

I have been very blessed to work each and every day with a professional group of people that take pride in the work they do, in each other, and in their community. As obstacles arose and the national sentiment turned against the police, the men and women of YOUR police department kept coming to work. They kept doing their jobs, answering the calls, responding to emergencies, helping victims, and making other people's lives better.

While many others were safe at home and protecting themselves from the COVID virus, our Officers came to roll call and went out onto the streets and into the community so we could be safe. While people were calling to defund the police, our officers organized drive-by birthday parades for children and the elderly. While people called us fascists, we volunteered to distribute food to the needy and met with community groups to discuss our differences. While the rest of the world seemed to forget who we are and what we stand for, we continued to do our jobs, and more, every day.

That is the main message I choose to take from this year. That no matter what, the men and women of the Barnstable



MATTHEW SONNABEND
CHIEF OF POLICE

Police Department will keep serving our community with Pride, Honor, and Commitment. I am, and always will be, proud of their service.

Such service would certainly be more difficult were it not for the strong support of our friends in the Bluecoats.

After 15 years and more than \$420,000 in donations, you are still going strong. In fact, it seems to me that your support grows stronger each year. With the leadership of a forward-thinking Board of Directors and the passion of your involved membership it will take

more than a pandemic to sideline the Bluecoats of Barnstable.

Such amazing work would not be possible without good people like you, the members. I would like to thank each of you for the many years of dedicated support and generosity that you have shown to the men and women of the Barnstable Police Department. With good people like you in our corner, anything is possible.

I have said this before, but it is worthy of saying again and again. The donations are but one aspect of what the Bluecoats bring to the table. Your behind-the-scenes support of the men and women of the Barnstable Police Department does not go unnoticed and has a powerful impact. Seeing you out in public, or at a meeting, adds a boost of confidence. A quick handshake, a nod, or a thank you from one of your members at just the right time lifts an Officer's spirits. Knowing that you stand with us has been especially important this year.

But, isn't that what community is really about? Lifting each other up when we need it? Working together and conquering challenges? Making a difference in someone else's life? Each and every day the people I work with put on the uniform and go out into OUR community to do just that, and the Bluecoats of Barnstable help to make it possible. 2020 didn't stand a chance against our team.

Thank you.

Matthew Sonnabend

Matthew Sonnabend
Chief of Police

Board Member Spotlight: Jen Curley

My husband Mark and I joined the Bluecoats of Barnstable in 2013 after hearing about the organization from friends. Not until I attended the Annual Meeting dinner that fall did I get a full grasp of the extensive, exact mission of the organization. I was intrigued by the professionalism and the overall collective “want” in the room to support our police department. When Chief McDonald spoke, the room became silent, and the need for this organization was solidified for me. I began to talk about the Bluecoats in my daily life and think about any potential members that could benefit the organization. I was nominated by Sam Baxter to join the Board of Directors in 2014.

The Bluecoat Board members volunteer hours of their time to fulfill the mission of the organization to support our police officers.

I remember the day crystal clear when Sergeant Sean Gannon was killed in our town. I watched the helicopters circle over my daughter’s sports game as word began to quickly spread that an officer was shot and the suspect was



JEN, SAMANTHA, MARK, MIA & MATTHEW CURLEY

at large. Everyone was in a state of shock as the details began to emerge. The very next morning my phone began to ring. It was the board of the Bluecoats of Barnstable. **WHAT CAN WE DO?** For the first time I was able to see the impact of our mission for an actual officer in need. I had a newfound energy to protect and support the Barnstable Police Department.

And then came the death of Sergeant Jason Sturgis, an officer I knew personally. Once again the Bluecoats’ collective response was to deliver financial

support, and to let the Sturgis family know that we were there for them. And that we will always be there for them.

Every day our police department works to protect us. As Bluecoats members we are helping to keep them as safe as possible. I am especially thankful in our current climate that we have the Bluecoats of Barnstable supporting our police officers, creating a safe community for all of us.

Jen Curley

Jen Curley
Vice President

BECOME A FOUNDING MEMBER

ONE QUESTION WE OFTEN GET

is whether a regular member can still upgrade to Founder status.

The answer is **Yes!**

Any regular member can upgrade to permanent Founder status by paying an additional one-time donation of \$800 with their regular \$200 annual dues. After the onetime Founder payment, the annual fee will revert to the regular \$200 per year.

This is a great way to help strengthen our organization. All donations to the

Bluecoats are tax deductible.

We greatly value your recommendation for new members. Please contact us through our new updated website at

www.bluecoatsofbarnstable.org or email us at bluecoats@comcast.net

Best,

Cliff Carroll

Cliff Carroll
Board of Directors
Membership Chairman

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

REGULAR:

\$200 Per Year

(\$100 Additional for Spouse)

FOUNDING:

\$1,000 Initial Year

\$200 Subsequent Years

LIFETIME:

\$25,000 One-Time Payment

or \$5,000 Five

Annual Installments

Meet Barnstable's New Police Officers

Barnstable Police Chief Matthew Sonnabend is pleased to announce the addition of five new patrol officers to the force. The five officers were sworn in July 24 at the Barnstable Police Department. Four of the five recently completed recruit officer training at the Cape Cod Municipal Police Academy; one officer is a lateral transfer from Hull Police Department. The officers will begin three months of field training prior to being cleared for solo patrol.



Patrol Officer Thomas Fullam is a United States Coast Guard veteran where he earned the rank of Lieutenant. He holds a Bachelor's Degree from the United States Coast Guard Academy. Officer Fullam worked for the Department as a telecommunicator/jail assistant before attending the police academy. He resides in Hyannis.



Patrol Officer Owen Murray is a lifelong resident of the Town of Barnstable. He graduated from Barnstable High School in 2015, and then attended Stonehill College, where he earned a Bachelor's Degree in Criminology in 2019. Officer Murray resides in Marstons Mills.

Patrol Officer Jonathan Moore was born in Ireland and has lived on Cape Cod since 2002. He is a 2004 graduate of Upper Cape Cod Technical High School. Officer Moore is an active member of the community, having coached both Barnstable Youth Hockey and Barnstable Youth Baseball. Officer Moore resides in Hyannis.



Patrol Officer Brandon Sanders is transferring to Barnstable from Hull Police Department, where he has worked full time as a patrol officer for two years. He holds an Associate's Degree in Criminal Justice from Quincy College and is currently enrolled there earning his Bachelor's Degree. Officer Sanders resides in Pembroke.



Patrol Officer Kristina Gustafson was born and raised on Cape Cod. She graduated from Barnstable High School and earned an Associate's Degree in Criminal Justice from Cape Cod Community College. Ms. Gustafson worked for the Department as a telecommunicator/jail assistant before attending the police academy. Officer Gustafson resides in Hyannis.

Police Explorers Program

In September of 2020 the BPD partnered with the Boy Scouts of America to start a Police Explorers Program. The Police Explorers Program is designed to provide local High School-aged students who may be interested in a career in law enforcement a comprehensive program of classroom instruction, officer's personal experiences, and hands-on practical exercises. The explorers are exposed to a wide range of police services the BPD has to offer such as our Community Impact Unit, SWAT Team, K-9 Unit, Traffic Unit, Firearms Training, and Crime Scene Investigations. They will

be taught basic patrol tactics as the program progresses. The program is intended to improve community relationships, expand on youth outreach, improve the explorers' character and confidence, and serve as a potential recruiting tool for future BPD Officers. The explorers meet once a week after school for the duration of the school year. All officers involved volunteer their time to help teach and mentor the students. There are currently 12 Barnstable High School students participating in the program, and all desire a career in law enforcement.



Citizens Police Academy

The Citizens Police Academy has been one of the cornerstone programs of our community policing model for decades. The first session kicked off the program in the spring of 1999. Throughout the years the program has been repeatedly honed to get to where it is today. The last class to graduate was the 32nd session, finishing up in January of 2020. Each session we open our doors to approximately 30 members of our community to get an in-depth look at our department. The CPA meets one night a week for almost four months through the fall and winter. Each week the community is treated to meeting different members and units of our department. There are many interactive classes including patrol tactics, field sobriety testing and defensive tactics. Each session also makes a trip to the Barnstable House of Correction and the shooting range.

\$422,051

Bluecoats donations to Barnstable Police since 2005.

Thank you Bluecoats members, for your continued support of our mission.

Happy Thanksgiving!

May the good things of life be yours in abundance not only at Thanksgiving but throughout the year.



Thank You

Many thanks to Stan Hodkinson for his 7 years of Service as a Bluecoats Board member. Stan served as President for 4 years and Treasurer for 2 years.

Welcome

We are pleased to have Elizabeth Savoia Fleming join the Board of Directors and serve as Treasurer.

**Annual Meeting
Scheduled for
September 29, 2021**

**AT OYSTER
HARBORS CLUB**

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