



BLUECOATS OF BARNSTABLE

NEWSLETTER

SUMMER
2024

Letter from the President

**AS I SIT AT MY DESK
WRITING THIS LETTER TO
OUR MEMBERS, I AM
REMINDED THAT IT IS
SPRING ON CAPE COD.**

My daffodils are blooming and I am watching Boston news on TV and seeing the remnants of yesterday's snow just north and west of the city. However, being the perennial optimist that I am, and watching the returning swans on the Centerville River with my thermometer reading 40 degrees, I know for sure that spring has arrived on Cape Cod.

The official start to spring was March 19. Regardless of the temperature and the current form of precipitation, to this life-long Cape Codder, spring has always started for me when I watch Little League Baseball tryouts. When my now 52 year-old son was 10, his tryout was canceled with him at the plate and the coaches watching him swing during a complete white-out squall. The tryout was postponed to Sunday. In those quiet and peaceful days in Hyannis, The Cape Cod Standard Times reported on an increase in crime. There were breaking and entering events and an occasional arrest for possession of marijuana which today isn't even a crime if the person is at least 21 years old. The Cape still has no real spring with our meteorological calendar feeling like January, February, March, April, and May, followed by two weeks of real spring.

However the new Cape Cod Times now reports Hyannis shootings, hostage takings, sexual assaults, armed robberies, and multiple drug arrests involving heroin and fentanyl amongst other drugs. Gunshots in the villages are now as common as a Kennedy sighting on Main Street



**DAVID HIRSCH
PRESIDENT**

in the sixties. I mention this because these are just some of the crimes our Barnstable Police Department must be able to deal with on a day-to-day basis. Whether it is talking a student out of jumping off the roof of the High School, or our SWAT team being the target of multiple shots fired at them during a recent hostage standoff where the only injury was to the State Police's robotic dog and the sheet metal and armor of our cruisers and SWAT vehicle. In both events, the Barnstable Police Department distinguished

themselves; once by talking the student off the roof and in rescuing the hostage by causing the hostage taker to surrender without further violence.

The men and women of the Barnstable Police Department are highly skilled and trained both mentally and physically and ready for the new normal in law enforcement here on the Cape. This is due to the excellent training they receive at the Police Academies, and the ongoing training received after graduation from the academy. Over the past many years you, our Bluecoats of Barnstable members have learned about many of the divisions within the BPD. We have heard from "Hidden in Plain Sight", and learned how to spot drugs and drug paraphernalia. You have seen and met our SWAT team and had the opportunity to see some of their equipment given by you, our Bluecoats members. This past September we learned about Cyber security and fraudulent scams which are everywhere on the Cape due to the average age of our residents in Barnstable County. We had an excellent presentation two years ago from our Domestic Violence division. This is all part of the work our incredible men

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Letter from the President CONTINUED

and women do on a day to day basis while keeping the residents and visitors of Barnstable safe.

On behalf of each and every member of the Bluecoats of Barnstable, a special thanks to our amazing Barnstable Police Department for keeping us, the residents of Barnstable safe and informed.

I look forward to welcoming you to our 2024 Annual Dinner being held once again at the Oyster Harbors Club in Osterville. This year's dinner is on September 11. The date 9/11 should be easy to remember for everyone.

This year our program will include the honoring and recognition of five Barnstable officers who have gone above and beyond the call of duty in keeping our villages and our citizens safe through their acts and deeds. You as Bluecoats members will all want to be there to thank each and every honoree.

David Hirsch

David Hirsch
President

Letter from the Chief

IN MAY THE BARNSTABLE POLICE DEPARTMENT WILL GATHER FOR THE FIRST TIME TO COMMEMORATE THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF ITS MEMBERS. These

exceptional and meritorious achievements vary from outstanding acts of bravery and heroism and valiant lifesaving measures to incredulous philanthropic community policing initiatives. The award recipients include both sworn officers, telecommunicators, and civilian staff and leave little doubt as to the exceptional professionalism and competence of the Barnstable Police Department

I have personally reviewed each award submission and I am struck with pride by the sincerity and selflessness of these acts and the impact each one has made upon our community. Reflecting on these moments of greatness has led me to a deeper appreciation of the professionalism and dedication to duty of the sworn officers and the highly trained civilian staff of our agency who collaborate daily to achieve our Department Mission.

Policing has never been for the faint of heart, but particularly not in the wake of the COVID Pandemic. George Floyd riots, nationally sensationalized acrimony towards law enforcement, and the expansive and abrupt impact of police reform. With over 26 years of police experience, I recognize now more than ever the true sacrifices made by our officers every day and that those meritorious and distinguished acts are, in fact, a regular occurrence within the ranks of the Barnstable Police Department.



JEAN CHALLIES
CHIEF OF POLICE

Even as the blueprint for policing has transformed over the past 4 years, so have the mindsets and strategies of our officers. They have faced each challenge and uncertainty with unparalleled fortitude and have adjusted their methodologies to comply with newly instituted standards and law. They have done this gracefully, seamlessly, and professionally while remaining under the scrutiny of the public at large.

No matter the challenge, the Barnstable Police Department has met it head-on. You can rest assured that,

despite the cultural shift we have experienced, we will be there when you call. And that is you should expect nothing less than the professional, distinguished, and gracious service the trademark of the Barnstable Police Department.

They are human like you. They are husbands, wives, mothers, fathers, sisters and brothers. They are never done giving of themselves for the greater good. They are coaches and volunteer for noteworthy events like Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Special Olympics, and Toys for Tots, and Pan Mass. But they are far from ordinary. They are extraordinary in their mission to protect this community, often facing the worst of humanity, only for the sake of service. They are simply some of the most incredible, heroic, and selfless individuals I have ever known. They are the officers of the Barnstable Police Department.

Jean Challies

Jean Challies
Chief of Police

Citizens Police Academy

THE BARNSTABLE POLICE DEPARTMENT, DURING THE FISCAL YEAR 2023-24, RESUMED ITS CITIZEN POLICE ACADEMY,

which had been suspended for several years due to Covid. Two classes consisting of 33 participants each having the opportunity to get an in-depth view of the everyday happenings of the department Lt. Mike Clark, who was assisted by Sgt. Teddy Cronin and Ofc. Scott Leger, directed this post-covid version. The course schedule was one night per week for ten weeks. These recent classes were the 33rd and 34th in the system.

The BPD had initiated the CPA program in 1999, when management felt a need to create a closer working relationship with the community. Since that time, it is believed that more than 1100 participants have taken part in the program. To become eligible, applicants must reside in the town and pass a security check.

For those who may not be familiar with the course, the attendees are exposed to all facets of current day policing, such as patrol, K-9, record keeping, SWAT, dispatch, traffic enforcement, narcotics enforcement, investigation, school resource, domestic violence and sexual victim services, etc.

The scope is broad and all encompassing, in addition to the weekly classroom presentations, the members have the opportunity to tour the Barnstable County House of Correction, participate in a four-hour “ride-along, shoot a police pistol at a firing range, and even conduct a mock traffic stop by driving a cruiser, with lights and siren.

These two recent classes had a unique addition to the program due to presentations made by State Representatives, Kip Diggs and Steven Xiarhos and by the Cape and Islands District Attorney. The representatives outlined the steps and timeline involved, in the creation of state law as well as commenting on pending legislation.



The DA, then gave in-sight to his office’s processing and prosecution of alleged lawbreakers

In addition to classroom instruction there are several live demonstrations, such as watching Vonnie, one of the K-9 police dogs search for concealed drugs, both in-and out of the classroom. The class members actually viewed the action via the animal’s body cam. Alex, another BPD K-9, then demonstrates the “takedown” and “hold” of a fleeing subject, also with body-cam.

In one of the other demonstrations, several of the class participants are selected to take part in an OUI investigation, where the use of a Breathalyzer is demonstrated on them.

Other live demonstrations include the SWAT team “making entry” and suspect apprehension techniques by Patrol.

The classes also learned about the key features of the “enhanced 911 system, such as caller location identification and the procedures used when handling emergency calls for police, medical, and fire (Hyannis Fire). They process 37,000 police calls, and 11,000 fire and medical emergency calls annually.

Matt Smith, of BCI, gave a presentation about home break-ins and offered suggestions as to how best to prevent such in their own homes. He also conducted “hands on”

class about fingerprinting during which the class members were able to “dust” for prints and then they were shown definitive techniques used in making comparisons of fingerprints.

One of the classes even held their own youth Christmas gift drive and amassed a generous collection of items, which were then passed on to the Cape & Islands Toys for Tots program.

Another new feature to the program was that the graduation ceremonies were held in the James Crocker Room of the



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Citizens Police Academy CONTINUED

Barnstable Town Hall. This change of venue was a welcome addition to the 25-year-old program.

During the course of the ten or so weeks, the participants have the opportunity to make contact with approximately 60 police personnel who have served as presenters and demonstrators. The men and women, who present the course criteria, do so by volunteering their time and it is apparent that they enjoy doing it.

It is believed that graduates become strong ambassadors to the community by conveying their experiences and acquired knowledge to friends, family, and coworkers. Many of the graduates have expressed the desire to “give back as a result of the program. Some have gone on to become BPD Volunteers as well as to become members of the Bluecoats of Barnstable. It is fact that the founders of the Bluecoats of Barnstable were graduates of the CPA and were inspired by it.

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SAVE THE DATE



OYSTER HARBORS CLUB

Annual Meeting
September 11, 2024

AT THE
OYSTER HARBORS CLUB

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

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
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Sponsor a new member today by contacting any member of the Board of Directors or sending an e-mail to Bluecoats@comcast.net.



19
LIFETIME

89
FOUNDING

195
REGULAR

\$460,105

Bluecoats donations to the Barnstable Police since 2005. Thank you, Bluecoats members, for your continued support of our mission.



PO Box 9, Hyannis Port MA 02647
bluecoatsofbarnstable.org
bluecoats@comcast.net