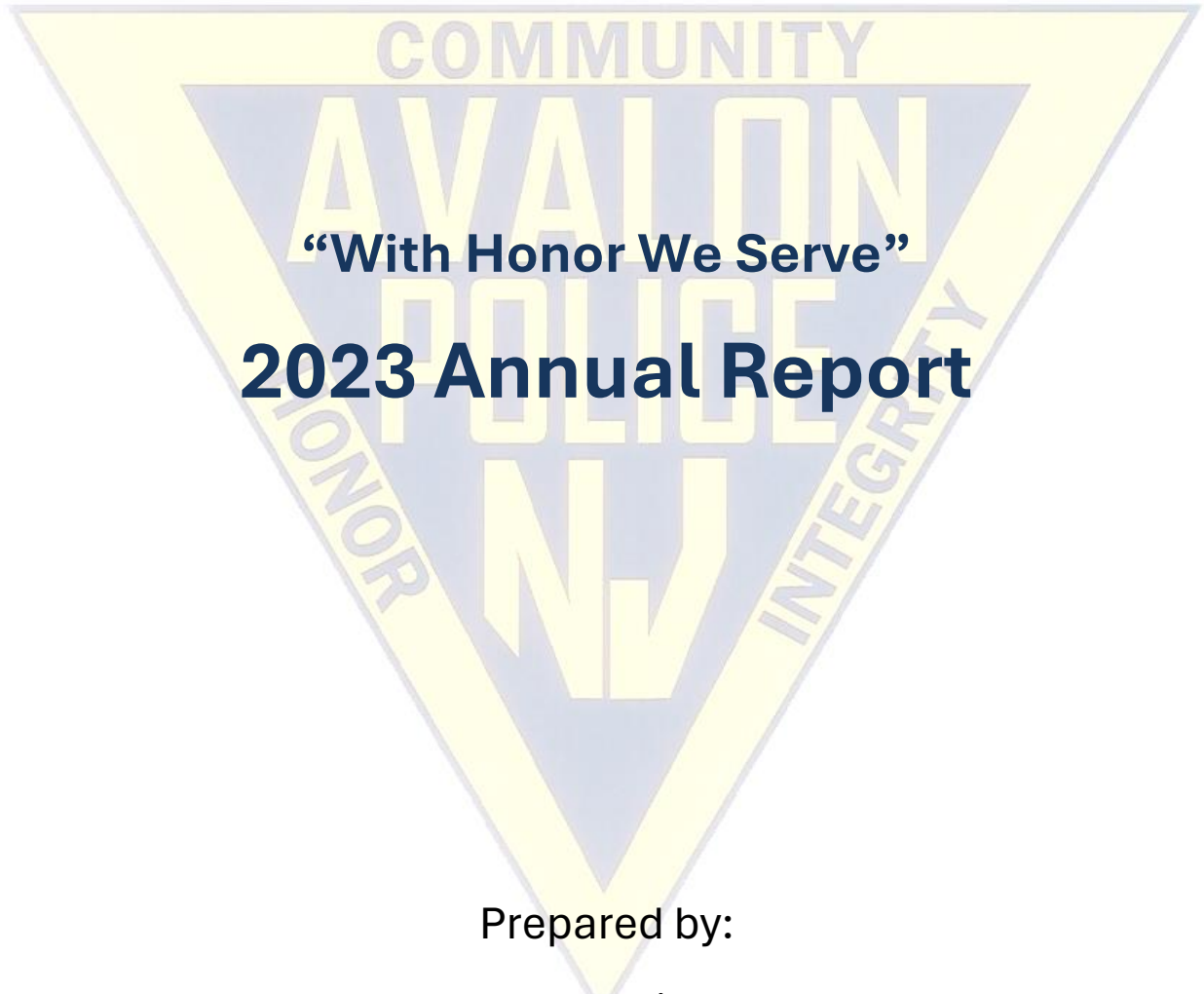


# AVALON POLICE DEPARTMENT



**“With Honor We Serve”**

## **2023 Annual Report**

Prepared by:

Jeffrey R. Christopher

Chief of Police

## Chiefs' message

To: Mayor John McCorristin, Council President James McDermott, Council Vice-President Maura Coskey, Councilman Greg Johnson, Councilwomen Barbara Juzaitis, Councilman Sam Wierman, Business Administrator Scott Wahl, and Assistant B.A. James Waldron.

I am proud to provide you the Avalon Police Department Annual Report for 2023. This report is prepared to provide you an in-depth, comprehensive account your police department by the officers and civilian staff, including administration, patrol, detectives and records. I will summarize changes that occurred within this year that will reflect the commitment to service, community outreach, and dedication to duty of the men and women of this department.

Jeffrey R. Christopher  
Chief of Police



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**Executive summary:**

There were several personnel changes to the department this year. In April Brandon Cirillo was hired as a full-time officer to fill a vacancy within the ranks. The Police Department is now fully staffed with full-time officers for the first time in many years. Lukas Hill and Joe Stoltenberg were assigned as part-time members of the Cape May County Prosecutor's Office, High Tech Internet Crimes Task Force. They have contributed to many significant arrests throughout the county. This marks the first time in A.P.D history that a member was assigned to this unit. James Savini was promoted to patrol sergeant and selected to join the Cape May County SWAT Team. He attended basic SWAT operator course in Moyock North Carolina. Lukas Hill was transferred to the detective bureau.

New Jersey Police Licensure went into effect on January 1, 2024, after years of preparation. All current officers have received an initial license. The Police Training Commission will be the arbiter for all future decisions regarding renewals, denial, and revocations. After each officer has been renewed once, licenses will be valid for three years.

A previous goal of implementing a borough wide camera surveillance system was completed. This system utilizes the latest technology of cameras, placed in strategic areas throughout the borough that are heavily trafficked with vehicles or pedestrians.

Our community outreach and social media presence was bolstered this year by participating in many more community events and posting often on our Facebook and Instagram pages. The purpose of community outreach is to build relationships and trust within the community. Utilizing social media brings attention and credit to the police department. A fully wrapped patrol vehicle, with the HERO logo was unveiled to promote the responsible use of designated drivers.

The hiring of special officers for the summer remains a major challenge. The lack of interest in law enforcement is causing numerous positions to go unfilled. For that reason, a recruiting unit was created, led by the Administrative Sergeant Eric Heisman, and Sergeant William Robinson. The recruiting unit attends various college job fairs throughout the tri-state area. This year they attended twelve separate job fairs. While this has been helpful obtaining some additional applications, there remains a lot of work to be done. The lack of special officers puts a strain on manpower that could force officers to work additional hours, as well as prioritizing the utilization of patrols. We employed six (6) total special officers this summer.

The records bureau is responsible to report crime statistics monthly to the FBI. Historically, it has been submitted through the Uniform Crime Reporting, (UCR). This year they have successfully transitioned to the National Incident Based Reporting System, (NIBRS).

Time spent on training and instruction has reached an all-time high. The Cape May County Police Academy requires the utilization of certified officers from local departments to staff as instructors for various required courses of training. The Police Training Commission has strict standards regarding the ratio of instructors/recruits. Additionally, more training is required for officers due to updates on law and N.J. Attorney General Policies. This causes significant demand for officers which takes time away from their daily duties as well as creates the need for overtime on an already demanding shift work.

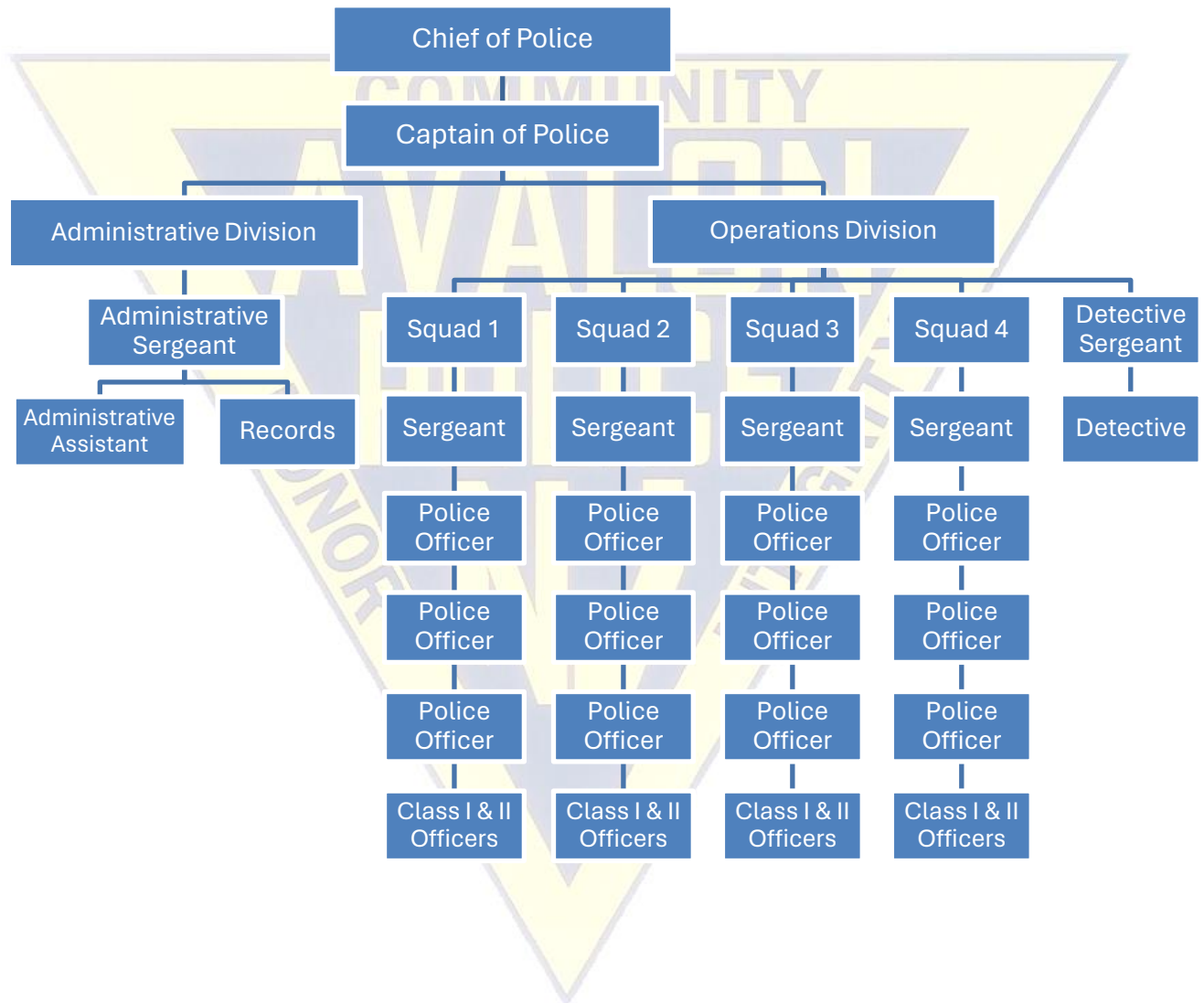
This year we began a new effort to prevent juvenile delinquent activity, while diverting these incidents from Superior Court. A station-house adjustment program was implemented to attempt to counter the negative effects of recently imposed laws by the N.J. Legislature. The SHA involves signing agreements with parents, which required juveniles to perform a wide range of community service such as washing borough vehicles, and cleaning trash from the dunes if they were found to have committed a petty disorderly or disorderly persons offenses. If the agreement was satisfied, no official charges were filed, and no record is maintained in juvenile court. The intent is to create an environment, through word of mouth, that Avalon does not tolerate juvenile delinquent behavior and will hold those individuals accountable for their actions.

Despite challenges, the police department patrol and detective division remain vigilant. Detectives continue to pursue criminals responsible for indictable crimes and motor vehicle thefts.


Patrol officers have stepped up visible efforts to enforce traffic laws to ensure safe streets. The Juvenile unit continues to proactively deter juvenile delinquent activity. Bicycle violations remain a constant concern as does parking and safety issues created at or near construction site.



## ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE



## Mission Statement

A large, faint watermark of the Avalon Police Department badge is centered in the background. The badge is shield-shaped with a yellow border. Inside, the word 'COMMUNITY' is at the top, 'AVALON' is in the middle, and 'POLICE' is at the bottom. The words 'HONOR' and 'INTEGRITY' are written vertically on the left and right sides respectively.

“The mission of the **Avalon Police Department** is to protect and serve the citizens of Avalon With the utmost professionalism to create a safe environment to live and vacation, by providing equitable enforcement of laws, diligent patrols, thorough investigations, and outstanding community relationships.”

## PERSONNEL

The Avalon Police Department is comprised of twenty-one (21) sworn law enforcement officers and three (3) administrative support staff personnel. The number of special officers fluctuates yearly.

Jeffrey R. Christopher

**Chief of Police**

Sean McNair

**Captain of Police**

**Sergeants:**

Eric Heisman  
William Robinson  
Steve Bowers  
Greg Armstrong  
Matt Ardelean  
James Savini

Administration  
Patrol  
Patrol  
Detective Bureau  
Patrol  
Patrol

**Patrolman:**

Matt Sykes  
Tu-Juan Baile  
Robert Hampf  
Mark Glassford  
Nick Brady  
Anthony DeCesero  
Andrew Peahota  
Joseph Stoltenberg  
Quar'tus Byrd  
Owen Prickett  
Kyle Roscoe  
Brandon Cirillo

**Detective:**

Lukas Hill

**Records Administrator**  
Dawn Brady

**Assist. Records Administrator**  
Debbie Foley

**Administrative Assistant**  
Alexis Hagner



## SPECIAL OFFICERS

### Special Class 1 Police Officers

Alexis Hagner      also, administrative assistant  
Ed Szubski      marine unit  
Shjon Bill  
Isla Meyer

### Special Class 2 Police Officers

Colby Walk      resigned  
Sarah Frazier      resigned  
Brendan Egan      resigned mid-summer  
Scott Stevens      resigned  
Salvator Grassi      resigned  
Evan Chinosi      resigned  
Robert Shepherd      marine unit

## ADMINISTRATION



**Chief Jeff Christopher**

**Chief Jeff Christopher** is the head of the Avalon Police Department and is responsible for the day to day operations and to administer and enforce rules and regulations of the department for its efficiency. Chief Christopher has nearly twenty-three years of experience as a full-time police officer and three additional years prior as a special class 2 officer. The chief assigns the duties of personnel and manages the department including purchasing within budgeted resources. The chief sets policy and procedures, issues directives and orders, attendance at borough council meetings, meets with community organizations, and delegate's authority as appropriate for the efficient operation of the department. The chief of police shall exercise any and all rights, authorities, powers, and responsibilities reserved solely as set forth in NJSA 40A:14-118 and reports to Avalon Borough Council once per month.

**Captain Sean McNair** commands the operations and administrative divisions of the police department and reports directly to the chief. Captain McNair has 15 years of experience as a full-time officer and three years prior as a special class 2 officer. Duties include: supervision of the administrative and operations divisions, has charge of the department in the chief's absence, Internal affairs supervisor, department payroll, department training, approves time off, assigns officers engaged in activities to protect persons and property within the borough, reviews reports, reviews daily logs, evaluates sergeants, interviews and hires special officers, and performs any duties as needed by the chief.

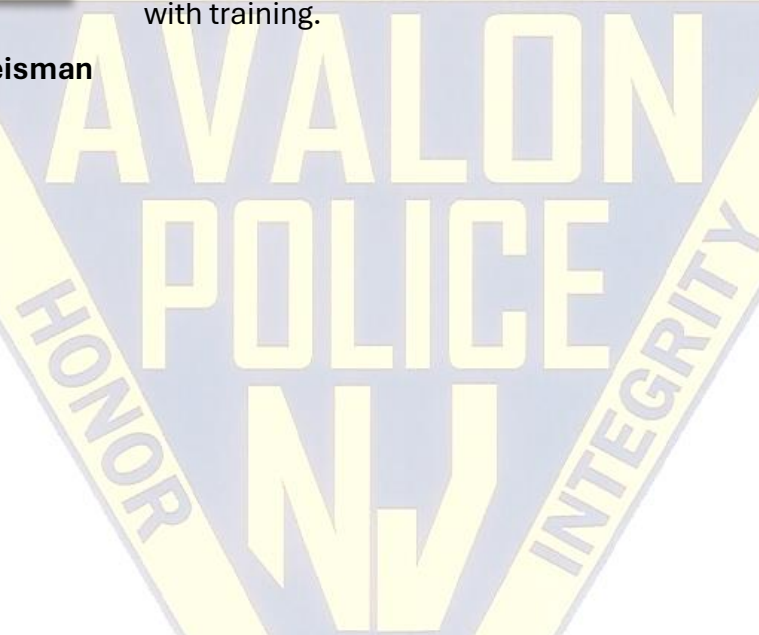


**Captain Sean McNair**



**Sergeant Eric Heisman** is the administrative sergeant and reports to the captain. Sgt. Heisman has 18 years of experience. Primary responsibilities include, but are not limited to: maintaining department accreditation, grants and purchasing, community events, safety, supervision of special officers, vehicle fleet management, supervision of the records bureau, and body worn camera reviews. In addition, oversees the smooth operation and maintenance of the police building, computer systems, technology, and assists with training.

**Sergeant Eric Heisman**



## PATROL

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Sgt. W. Robinson



Sgt. S. Bowers



Sgt. M. Ardelean



Sgt. J. Savini



Ptlm. M. Sykes



Ptlm. T. Baile



Ptlm. R. Hampf



Ptlm. M. Glassford



Ptlm. N. Brady



Ptlm. A. DeCesero



Ptlm. A. Peahota



Ptlm. J. Stoltenberg





Ptlm. Q. Byrd



Ptlm. O. Prickett



Ptlm. K. Roscoe



Ptlm. B. Cirillo

The **Patrol Division** is the most visible part and usually the public's first point of contact. Patrolmen work twelve hour shifts, rotating from day to night shift every two weeks. Shifts begin at either 6 am or 6 pm.

There are four patrol squads. Each squad has four officers, a patrol sergeant and three patrolmen. Patrol officers are always in full dress uniform. There is a minimum of one patrol car required on the road at all times, barring an emergency situation or operational necessity. Primary duties of the patrolmen include: vehicle patrol, criminal law enforcement, traffic enforcement, borough ordinance enforcement, preliminary investigations, accepting reports and complaints, responding to various calls for service, security at accident/fire scenes, responding to medical related emergencies, and protection of all persons and property within the borough. Below is a list of generated reports and calls for service (pgs. 20-23) that reflect the calls for service of the patrolman for the year 2023.



## DETECTIVE BUREAU REPORT



Det. Sgt. G. Armstrong



Det. L. Hill

The Avalon Police Department's Detective Division is comprised of two officers, a detective sergeant, and a detective. Responsibilities include conducting multiple details and investigations, protect the safety of our residents and visitors, Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) licensing checks, Cops in Shops grant application, background investigations, criminal investigations, Project Medicine Drop, licensing background investigation, Drug Testing, firearms applications, Station House Adjustments for juveniles, evidence and property custodian, assists patrol in daily operations and will cover patrol duties when the need arises, along with several other duties.

### **Alcohol Beverage Control**

Prior to the 2023 Summer Season, ABC checks of all establishments who serve alcohol and sell packaged goods were conducted. These inspections ensure all compliance with state, local, and federal guidelines. The inspections consist of checking all liquor bottles for contaminates and proper screen pour tops, ensuring the up-to-date liquor license is clearly displayed, the "Pregnant Women Never Drink Alone" sign is displayed in the female restroom, all kegs match the taps being served, receipts of purchase are from a licensed vendor, and a review of the current employee list. If contaminates are found in any bottle it is documented and the bottle is disposed of. Once the inspection is completed, an ABC approved Division of Alcoholic Beverage Retail Inspection form is completed. If any serious infractions are found the ABC is notified. During the summer months random inspections of these establishments are conducted for any violations of local, state, and federal laws.

### **Background Investigations**

Several background investigations are conducted through the course of the year. These investigations include new and returning officers, jitney drivers, vendors, and camp employees. The thoroughness of these background checks ensures the integrity of the Borough of Avalon is upheld. In these background checks multiple things are checked,

such as criminal records, traffic records, sex offender registry, domestic violence registry, social media, police contacts, contact with references, employment history, and more. New and returning officers are also drug tested on an eight-panel drug test. Ten background investigations were conducted on new and returning officers, along with forty-eight Jitney drivers, and eight vendors.

### **Drug Testing**

Biannual drug testing required by the New Jersey State Attorney General is conducted. The Cape May County Prosecutor's Office is provided with all active members of the Avalon Police Departments identification numbers. These numbers are placed into a random generator and produce a 10% return each time. This is conducted in the presence of the detectives, the department PBA representative and the member of the prosecutor's office operating the random generator. The officers, chosen at random, are then drug tested. The specimens are sent to the state laboratory in Newark New Jersey and the results are returned.

### **Cops in Shops**

The Detective Sergeant applies for a grant annually through the New Jersey Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission. This is funded by the state and consists of two officer teams working in plain clothes, to prevent the sale of alcohol to individuals that are under the legal drinking age. Through the "Summer Shore Initiative 2023" the state granted the Borough of Avalon \$1,440. This allowed for three details to be conducted. Six individuals were charged with misstating age to gain entry into a local establishment.

### **Evidence/Property**

The maintenance of all found property turned into the police department, for safekeeping, and evidence collected during an investigation is the responsibility of the detectives, who are the property and evidence custodians. These items are logged into our property and evidence tracking system (PMI), tagged, and held securely in their proper locations in our evidence room. Utilizing many methods, the detective division, as well as the patrol division, work diligently in locating and contacting the owners of the found property. This resulted in the majority of found property being returned. Several items of evidence collected during investigations were placed into county evidence or the New Jersey State Laboratory system to be tested. The items are securely transported by detectives to ensure the integrity of the evidence. Three audits were conducted of the evidence room in the calendar year of 2023. These consisted of two full audits and one random audit. During the random audit, the Administrative Sergeant partakes for accreditation purposes. During one of the full audits, the Captain of Police conducts an inspection to ensure the cleanliness and correct any deficiencies. During these audits all items were accounted for and in their proper place.

### **Project Medicine Drop**

The Avalon Police Department also participates in Project Medicine Drop. This state initiative allows individuals to discard their old and unused prescription and over the counter medications, excluding syringes and liquids. The medication is collected from the secure drop box every two weeks, weighed, and secured in the evidence room. The medication is then brought to the Cape May County Prosecutor's Office twice per year where it is turned over to the DEA for destruction. Records are kept of the quarterly reports of the medication turned in which is submitted to the state. Thirty pounds of prescription medication was collected and properly disposed of.

### **Firearms Investigations**

Background checks for individuals applying for a firearms identification card, permit to purchase handguns, as well as permits to carry are conducted several times a year. These background investigations are thorough and are in accordance with New Jersey State laws and guidelines. Upon completion of these backgrounds, they are sent to the Chief of Police for review and approval. Fifteen firearms investigations were conducted and approved. The information of individuals approved for purchase of firearms is then updated in the CAD system. This is to ensure officer safety in daily response to calls for service.

### **Discovery/OPRA Requests**

Several discovery and OPRA requests are made from attorneys and the public are requested each year. These requests consist of reviewing all body worn camera footage, as well as, radio transmissions, burning them to a disc and ensuring each disc is in proper working order. The detective division is also responsible for the redaction of any OPRA request. This entails going through all footage and redacting any sensitive or personal information members of the public are not allowed to have. Such things include dates of birth, phone number, license plate, faces of juveniles, and social security numbers.

### **Station House Adjustment**

The Station House Adjustment program is utilized as an intervention for juveniles who commit nonindictable offenses, such as trespassing, fighting, disorderly conduct and other Disorderly Persons and Petty Disorderly Persons offenses. The purpose of this program is to keep juveniles out of the criminal justice system but still having them be held accountable for their actions. As part of the program, juveniles agreed to complete tasks such as cleaning borough vehicles, cleaning the dunes and beaches, write letters of apologies and complete other obligations to help preserve the borough in lieu of charges being filed. The detective division supervised and managed the Station House Adjustment Program. They were responsible for maintaining all records, coordinating dates and times with the juveniles to satisfy the agreement, and providing supervision during the juvenile's work hours. Fourteen juveniles satisfied the program.

## **Investigations**

Several criminal investigations throughout the year are conducted. Detectives also assist patrol in their cases, such as photographing the scene and evidence, interviewing witnesses or suspects, processing of evidence, and processing and charging of suspects. They must be able to balance full and thorough investigations, as well as, completing their other responsibilities. The detective division is on call on a twenty-four-hour basis and are often called to investigate crime scenes, conduct interviews, assist patrol, or to be notified of an incident.

The Avalon Police Department had eight stolen motor vehicle investigations. Through diligent investigations and working with other agencies six of these vehicles were recovered. These investigations are time consuming and difficult to produce a suspect. However, in a recent case, through fingerprinting and assistance through the New Jersey State Laboratory possible suspects and Cape May County Prosecutor's Office, possible suspects are attempting to be identified

**Detective report submitted by Detective Sergeant Gregory Armstrong #179**



## SUPPORT STAFF

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Records Admin. D. Brady



Records Clerk D. Foley

### Records administrators

The records bureau is responsible for the safekeeping, storage, and managing of all records within the police department. Records includes but is not limited to criminal investigation reports, traffic reports, accident reports, summons, employee personnel files, training files, medical files, firearms reports, departmental statistics, issuing of equipment and more. The records bureau is responsible for uniform crime reporting, (UCR) to the FBI, NCIC validations monthly, and reports to the state police and county prosecutor's office. The state is in the process of transitioning from UCR reporting to NIBRS. Records provide all information regarding discovery and OPRA requests. Dawn Brady and Deborah Foley operate the records bureau.

Records Administrator Dawn Brady has nearly 22 years of service with the Borough of Avalon and began her career with the Avalon Police Department in 2002 as a police dispatcher where she worked in that capacity for nearly 17 years. Upon the retirement of the records administrator, Dawn was selected to the position. Dawn is a certified notary. She was trained in records management, Open Public Records, (OPRA), National Incident based reporting system (NIBRS), and is the department alternate TAC officer.

Assistant records administrator Debbie Foley has been employed by the borough of Avalon since 1986 with nearly 37 years of service. She began in the construction office and borough clerks' office. She was transferred to the Police department records bureau in the 1993. She is a certified Notary. Trained in Open public records, (OPRA), and manages department purchases. She is the daughter of retired Chief of Police Joe Foley.



**Administrative Assistant** Alexis Hagner is the departments' administrative assistant. Alexis has been with the department for approximately 10 years. She began in 2014 as a relief dispatcher. In 2018 she applied for and was selected to be a special class one police officer. She completed the Basic course for special law enforcement officers at the Cape May County Police Academy. In 2019 upon the retirement of the department admin assistant, Alexis was selected to the position. She brings a wide range of experience and skills such as: class I special officer working community outreach events and projects, management of special officer equipment and records, personnel files for beach patrol, police equipment management, assists with administrative reports to the Prosecutor, assist with projects as directed by the Chief. While working full-time she is also pursuing her bachelor's degree in graphic design at Southern New Hampshire University.



Admin. Asst. A. Hagner

## SPECIAL OFFICERS

Special officers are a vital part of the organization. Special officers are primarily utilized during the summer months as the population increases. Occasionally, they will supplement shifts for events or shift vacancies during the off season.

The department utilizes class one and class two police officers which are certified by the Police Training Commission. Class one police officers attend an eighty (80) hour academy training course at the Cape May County Police Academy which typically begins the first week of May. The academy is also beginning to offer a part-time class one course from Feb – May beginning in 2023. This academy course provides training on disorderly person's offenses, first aid, and use of force, various patrol concepts, ethics, handcuffing and defensive tactics. Class one police officers are primarily utilized for parking enforcement, ordinance enforcement and boardwalk and beach patrol.

Class two police officers attend one of two academy classes at the CMCPA which consists of over four hundred sixty (460) hours of training. The first class runs December through April, conducted three nights per week, and all-day Saturday. The second is a more condensed course of six days per week, for eight weeks, May through June. Class two officers are instructed in criminal law, motor vehicle law, use of force, first aid, patrol concepts, defensive tactics, handcuffing, patrol tactics, case law, community policing,

and firearms. The most visible difference between class one and class two officers is the carrying of a firearm. Special officer powers are restricted to on-duty only.

Finding and retaining qualified special officers is becoming increasingly difficult. The Avalon Police Department insists on having the highest standards and employ only those that are qualified that would represent the department in a professional manner. In recent years, the applicant pool for special officers has significantly decreased. Ten years ago, it would have been common to receive one hundred-fifty (150) applications per year. That number has diminished this year to thirteen (13). This phenomenon is not Avalon specific; it is occurring nationally, state, and county-wide.

Significant time and manpower is being deployed for recruiting by attending college job fairs throughout the New Jersey, Delaware, and the Philadelphia area. In addition, retirements in the ranks of full-time officer's state-wide cause's resignations from special officers who are offered full-time positions in other jurisdictions perpetuating a cycle of reduced manpower.

There were four (4) class one special officers to start the summer but after a resignation were left with only three (3). One of those officers is assigned to the marine unit due to his extensive experiences with boats and one is our full-time administrative assistant which left merely one for parking enforcement, bicycle enforcement and boardwalk and beach patrol.

There were seven (7) class two special officers to start the summer but after a mid-summer resignation were left with only six (6). One of those officers was assigned to the marine unit. All remaining officers finished the summer but have resigned and accepted full-time positions elsewhere.

## MARINE UNIT

The Avalon Police Department Marine Unit consists of two boats. This year, the marine unit had two officers patrolling the waters. Both officers possess extensive experience in boating. Ed Szubski is a special class one officer and has been employed since 2007. He is a retired Lieutenant from the New Jersey Department of Corrections. Robert Shepherd is a special class two officer. He is a retired Police Captain from the Middle Township Police Department.

The marine unit primarily patrols the back bays but will respond to the Townsends Inlet and ocean if needed. They conduct stops of vessels for various safety violations, respond to emergencies, and provide help and support for stranded boaters, search for overdue boaters, safety, and security at scenes of events, boat parades, fireworks and more.

Combined they conducted 88 vessel stops and 38 boater assists.



## CALLS FOR SERVICE

There were 3,542 calls for service. That number reflects any call that was received from a citizen. There were 20,107 incidents. This number is reflected anytime an incident is created in our system. An incident can be anything an officer does in the course of their duties such as a call from citizen as well as self-initiated activity.

<b>Incidents: Enforcement</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
Motor Vehicle Stops	804	1632	1930	3774
Motor Vehicle Crash	59	84	89	71
Traffic Summons	153	360	417	578
Traffic Warnings	736	1366	1522	3350
Warrant Arrest	15	11	8	8
Parking Summons	409	717	798	867
Boat Violations Summons	3	14	6	13
Boat Violations Warning	19	35	110	75
Boat Assist	13	32	49	38
Borough Ordinance Summons	130	296	139	318
Noise Unfounded	243	97	90	71
Trash Summons Issued	13	14	9	3
Unlicensed Driver	7	20	25	5
Investigations	72	131	75	74
Driving While Intoxicated	12	21	12	16
Suspended Driver	8	8	20	20
Bicycle Violations – Stops	1197	1828	1137	1577
Criminal Mischief	37	46	17	16



	2020	2021	2022	2023
Missing Person	16	24	27	18
Simple Assault	4	14	5	4
Aggravated Assault	3	4	1	2
Drug Violation Charges	9	2	2	0
Possession of CDS	3	4	3	0
Unlawful Possession of Weapons	1	0	1	3
Suicide/Attempt	3	4	0	2
Receiving Stolen Property	0	1	1	0
Intoxicated Person	34	69	5	7
Burglary	21	18	13	4
Harassment	3	51	56	66
Urinating in Public	6	15	7	41
Misstating age to gain Alcohol	4	11	31	7
Terroristic Threats	1	0	0	1
Domestic Violence	5	4	5	1
Theft of Services	2	1	1	1
Resisting Arrest	3	1	0	0
Underage Alcohol	27	12	17	3
Open Container of Alcohol	18	30	73	228
Dogs on Beach	69	30	19	50
Construction After Hours	8	1	0	1
Fireworks Complaint	4	19	22	15



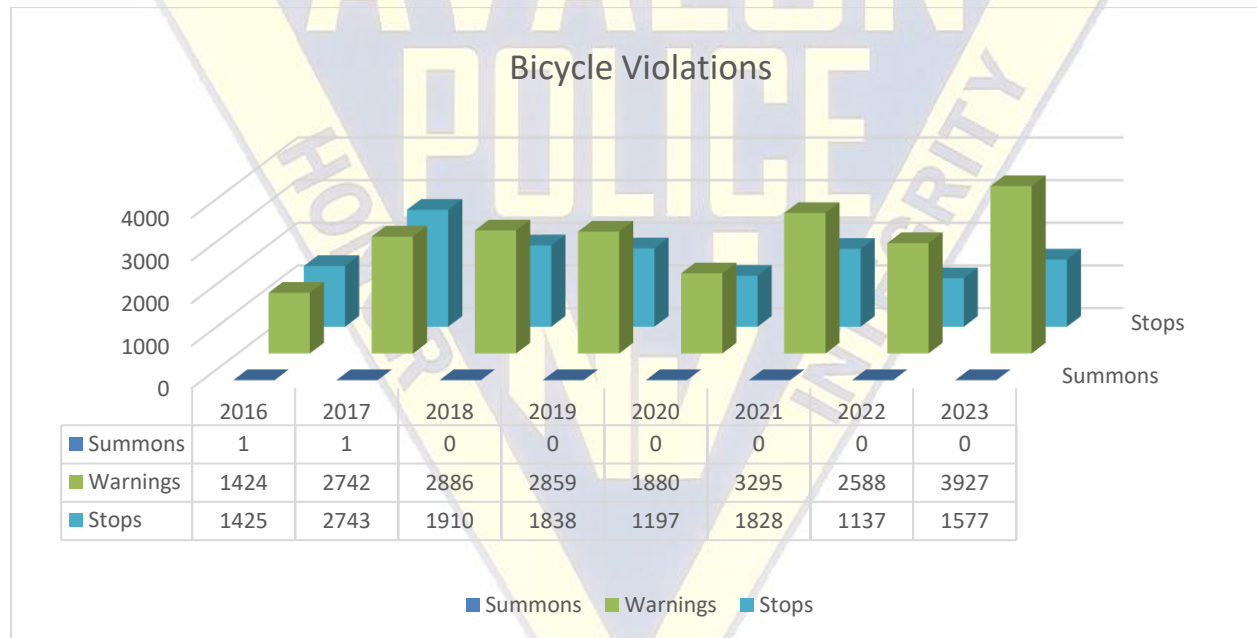
	2020	2021	2022	2023
Shoplifting	0	3	1	2
Community Policing	58	76	269	92
Business Checks	21096	23765	17808	22026
Property Checks	8533	10654	10194	11424
Burglar Alarms	272	283	290	290
Assist other agency	61	116	53	49
Ambulance request	275	352	345	325
Foot Patrol	2590	3035	2060	2702
Death Investigation	1	2	1	3
Suspicious incident	27	66	52	61
Suspicious persons	22	74	47	56
Suspicious Vehicle	16	56	11	51
Street lights out	165	181	212	225
Speed Radar detail	30	4	12	11
911 investigation	78	195	261	301
Animal Complaint	160	94	58	71
Beach Patrol Calls	50	5	3	83
Bridge Jumpers	521	53	63	57
Self-initiated construction parking	1032	806	1014	1143
Boat problem calls	43	43	13	10
Boat Trailer Violation	0	3	1	5
Open Door	63	79	98	133

	2020	2021	2022	2023
Unlocked door	27	10	10	6
Fire Alarms	168	184	267	233
Lock-out	66	60	71	82
Follow up	78	84	96	75



## BICYCLE VIOLATIONS

Bicycle safety is a major focus of the police department. Beginning in 2015 after recognizing the increased use of bicycles throughout town, we adapted and focused directed patrols to enforce bicycle laws and provide education to the citizens. We conduct stops and provide information to bicyclists that may be unknowing violating the law and putting themselves or others in danger. While a summons may be a result of a violation, we believe the key to success is education. Since first recognizing the need for proactive bicycle enforcement, the success of our deployment rests in the reduction of serious bicycle accidents. This summer approximately 3,927 people riding bicycles were stopped and provided safety information relating to bicycle laws.



## COMMAND AND LEADERSHIP ACADEMY



The Command and Leadership Academy is a rigorous, sixteen (16) week course, held once per week, at the Transportation Security Administration Training Center Building 291 E, William J. Hughes Technical Center located by the Atlantic City Airport. It requires full commitment and participation. Supervisory officers are taught complex leadership theories modeled after the fabled West Point Command and Leadership Academy.

In 2018, Chief Christopher was the first in the Avalon Police Department history to attend. Since then, each year one or two command staff or supervisory officers are selected to attend. In 2022, upon promotion to the rank of Captain, Sean McNair attended and graduated.

In 2023, Administrative Sergeant Eric Heisman and Det. Sgt Greg Armstrong attended and graduated from the New Jersey State Chief's of Police Command and Leadership Academy.

## RECRUITMENT

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Ten years ago, recruiting police officers was far less needed than it is now. There were sufficient applications received yearly to accommodate our staffing needs. Currently, the number of applications received is less than the number of positions that are needed to fill. This causes a strain in resources and risks jeopardizing the departments mission.

Sergeants Eric Heisman and William Robinson attended twelve job fairs to seek out qualified applicants and promote the Avalon Police Department. During these events they speak out potential, future police officers and explain the benefits of starting your career in Avalon. This year they attended fairs at local county colleges including Cape Atlantic County College, Burlington County College, Camden County College, Cumberland County College, and Cumberland County Technical School. Additionally, they expanded their recruiting to include Universities in the extended area that have Law Enforcement programs and potentially have students that live or vacation in Avalon. Such colleges include Rutgers University, Rider University, Rowan University, The College of New Jersey (TCNJ), West Chester University, and Widner College. The expansion and bolstering of our recruitment program is surely to have future success.

## STOLEN MOTOR VEHICLES

There were eight high end motor vehicles stolen throughout Avalon this year. Motor vehicle thefts have been occurring in record numbers state-wide and is certainly not limited to Avalon. There are an estimated thirty (30) vehicles stolen per day state-wide. Perpetrators are targeting high end motor vehicles in Avalon. The Avalon Police Detective Division has been investigating these thefts vigorously. Most of these thefts occurring through accessing unlocked doors.



## ACCREDITATION



Administered by the New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police (NJSACOP), the accreditation program requires agencies to comply with best practice standards in five basic areas: the administrative function, the personnel function, the operations function, the investigative function, and the arrestee/detainee function.

The Avalon Police Department must comply with 105 standards in order to achieve accredited status. Accreditation status lasts for three years, during which the agency must submit annual reports attesting to their continued compliance with those standards under which it was initially accredited. Accreditation results in greater accountability within the agency, reduced risk and liability exposure, stronger defense against civil lawsuits, increased community advocacy, and more confidence in the agency's ability to operate efficiently and respond to community needs.

The Administrative Sergeant, Eric Heisman is responsible for maintaining accreditation records and reports. We work with an accreditation consultant, Chris Winters, who advises the department on best practices and standards. Chris is a retired Lieutenant from the Lower Township Police Department. He then worked as an undersheriff with the Cape May County Sheriff's Department, and is currently working with J.A. Montgomery as a risk consultant.

The Avalon Police Department was awarded accreditation status in June 2022. This is the Departments third re-accreditation. Only 5% of New Jersey police departments have been re-accredited for the third time.

## ACCREDITED CHIEF EXECUTIVE



Chief Christopher has become the first Chief in A.P.D. history to achieve accredited status from the New Jersey Association of Chiefs of Police Associations, Accredited Chief Executive Program.

This program encourages continuing education and professional development through attaining sanctioned benchmarks. Some of the benchmarks the Chief attained to obtain this accreditation are: The NJSACOP West Point Command and Leadership program, New Police Chiefs orientation, the Police Executive institute, as well as possessing an Associate degree in criminal justice. Accreditation status is for a period of three years. To maintain the status, the Chief must continue to further education yearly by completing various training courses.

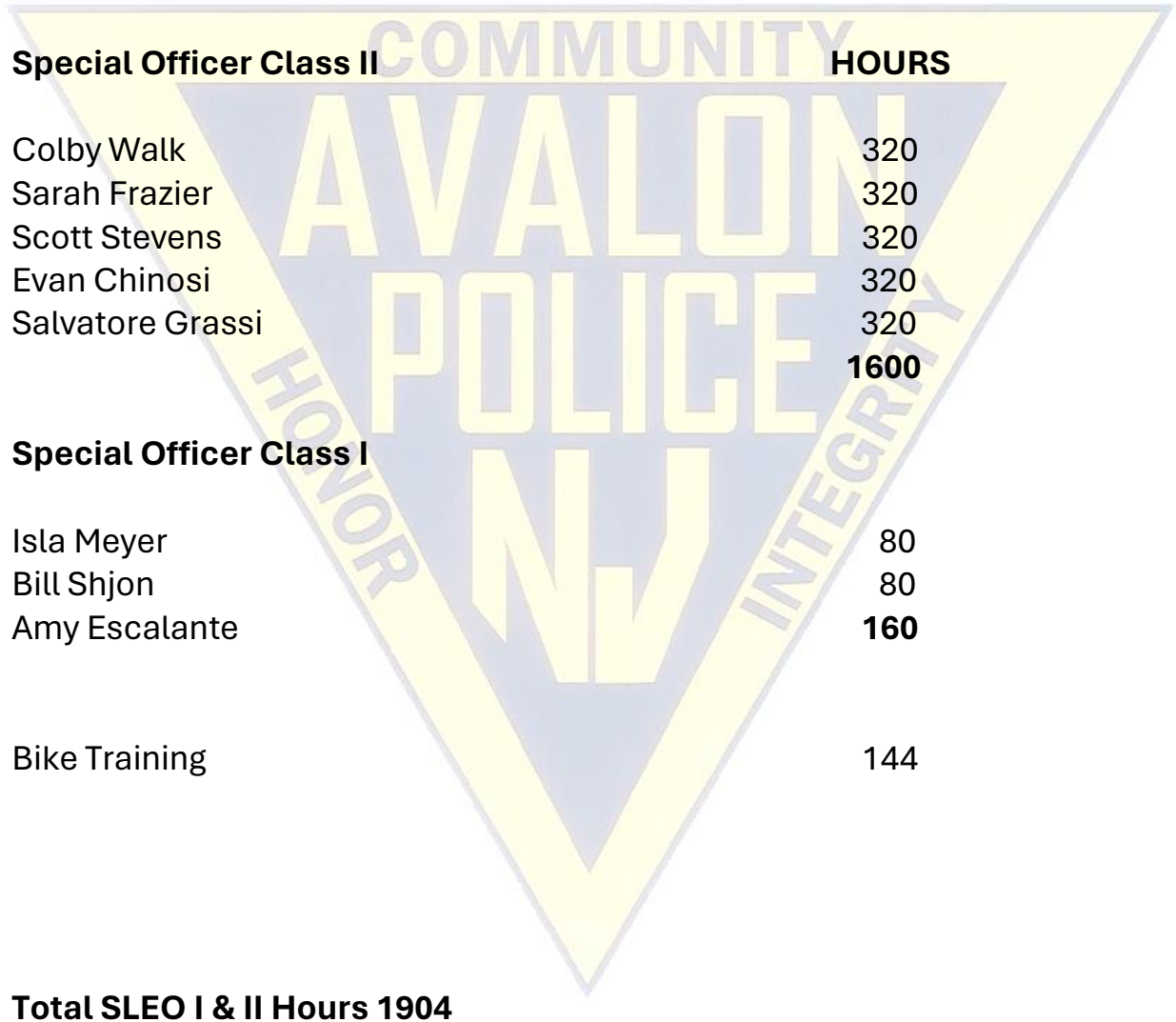
**TRAINING 2023**

A breakdown of the schools attended during 2023 by members of this department are as follows:

SCHOOL	PERSONNEL	HOURS
Command/Leadership	2	148
ALCO Test Recertification	9	18
ALCO Test Initial	1	32
Road Sgt. Tune up	1	8
Leadership training for department	21	69
ARIDE	2	32
Drug Impaired Driving	2	16
Breacher School	1	24
Road Cop Essentials	2	16
Wellness training	2	16
Bomb training	1	4
Seasonal Officer Training	6	8
Grant writing	2	6
Offender Watch Megan Law	2	8
Bomb Training	4	32
Title 39	1	8
Professional and Personal	1	8
Realistic De-Escalation	1	16
MOI	1	32
MILO	1	8
Crisis Intervention	1	40
Drug Impairment	1	8
Agency Training/Inservice	21	168
Active Threat Integrated Response	1	32
ICAP	1	30
Below 100	2	7
Car Seat Certification	1	32
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>826</b>

In addition to the above, each officer (21) had approximately 116 hours of firearms training (Including both handgun and long gun), representing **a total of 2436 hours of training for 2023.**

### TRAINING FOR SUMMER PERSONNEL



<b>Special Officer Class II</b>	<b>HOURS</b>
Colby Walk	320
Sarah Frazier	320
Scott Stevens	320
Evan Chinosi	320
Salvatore Grassi	320
	<b>1600</b>
<b>Special Officer Class I</b>	
Isla Meyer	80
Bill Shjon	80
Amy Escalante	<b>160</b>
 Bike Training	 144
 <b>Total SLEO I &amp; II Hours</b>	 <b>1904</b>

Total Training for the Department, which includes both **Full Time and Seasonal Personnel is: 5166 Hours**



**INSTRUCTION BY POLICE PERSONNEL****Police Academy**

Sgt. Bowers	16	hours
Sgt. Ardelean	34.5	hours
Sgt. Armstrong	95.5	hours
Sgt. Sykes	55	hours
Ptln. Peahota	79	hours
Det. Savini	195	hours
Ptln. Hill	99	hours
Sgt. Robinson	12	hours
Ptln. Baile	57.5	hours
Ptln. DeCesero	108.5	hours
Ptln. M. Glassford	190.5	hours
Ptln. Brady	206.5	hours
Ptln. Baile	65.5	hours

Total hours instructing **1214.5**

Training and Instructing report submitted by Administrative Sergeant Eric Heisman



Law Enforcement against Drugs, is an organization designed to help educate and prevent youth from participating in dangerous activity such as drug use, drug related crimes, peer to peer/cyber bullying and violence. L.E.A.D is a rapidly growing drug and violence prevention program in the United States and is currently certified with instructors in forty (40) states. L.E.A.D. promotes positive, pro-social attitudes and behaviors as well as resistance to negative peer pressure and resistance to substance abuse and conflict.

The program will discuss the negative norms that are promoted by society as well as the positive norms that we need to encourage. Throughout the course of the year, the L.E.A.D. officer will teach the 6th grade students, ten (10) different lessons which will focus on various topics such as setting reachable goals, making responsible decisions, identifying and managing emotions, effects of alcohol and nicotine and drug use. These lessons will be taught in a classroom setting and each lesson involves fun, informative activities such as visual displays, role-play scenarios, posters, and board games. The L.E.A.D. officer will be a role model for the students throughout the weeks and help develop good character by teaching positive attitudes, beliefs, and behaviors.

The last day of class occurred on March 24, 2023. (Picture below is Sgt. Matt Ardelean and the 6<sup>th</sup> grade class)





## H.E.R.O. Campaign

The John R. Elliott HERO Campaign proudly unveiled the newest addition to our fleet of "rolling billboard" patrol cars. Please welcome [Avalon NJ Police Department](#) to the [#HERO](#) family! Thank you to everyone who came out to support our mission to promote the use of safe and sober designated drivers.



## APPTOUR Championship

The Association of Pickleball Professionals Sunmed New Jersey Open was held in Avalon. Officers assisted with the safety of players and citizens during the event. There were over 100 professional and amateur pickleball players playing in the event.



Our Honor Guard had the privilege in participating in the opening ceremony for the APP Tour Championships. Members of the guard are Sgt. Matt Ardelean, Sgt. Pete Savini, Ptlm. Andrew Peahota, and Ptlm. Kyle





## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Community Outreach will always be a top priority for this police department. It is imperative that we engage with the community and get to know the citizens on a personal level. When positive relationships are built, we establish the mutual trust and respect of the people we serve. It will enable dialogue and partnerships to further enable positive change. The A.P.D participated in many events this year.

The department had our Coffee with a Cop several times this year along with our very successful Christmas Toy Drive. We had officers join in the Law Enforcement Torch Run, Police Unity Tour. The police department actively participated in borough events such as: National Night Out, Trunk-or-Treat, and Festive Friday-Snow-fest Saturday. Adding into the mix Pickle ball and other activities made it a great year to see so many friends and families out enjoying our community!

### **SENIOR ALONE PROGRAM**

The senior along program is supervised by Patrolman Robert Hampf. Ptlm. Hampf has run the program for almost 9 years now. The program allows seniors and family members of seniors living alone within the borough of Avalon to know that someone is there for them if needed. Seniors that wish to register for the program will call into dispatch on a daily basis prior to 11 am. If no call is received, an officer will be dispatched to check on them. Officers will ensure the well-being of the senior and advise family members of any concerns.

### **SPECIAL OLYMPICS TORCH RUN**



10 members of the Avalon Police Department ran in the Cape May County Chapter of the Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch run, to raise money and awareness for the N. J. Special Olympics. Sgt. Matt Ardelean 26.2 miles, Det. Pete Savini 20 miles, Captain Sean McNair 15 miles, Sgt. Matt Sykes 8 miles, Chief Jeff Christopher 5.5 miles, Det. Sgt. Greg Armstrong 5.5 miles, Ptlm. Lukas Hill 5.5 miles, Ptlm. Joe Stoltenberg 5.5 miles, Ptlm. Owen Prickett 5.5 miles, and Admin Assist Alexis Hagner 5.5 miles. Great Job by All!!

### **SPECIAL OLYMPIC GAMES IN NEW JERSEY**

Capt. McNair, Ptlm. Baile, Ptlm. Hill and Ptlm. Cirillo volunteered to hand out medals at the 2023 Special Olympics at The College of New Jersey. We want to congratulate all the athletes on their hard work and accomplishments! It was an honor to participate in the event.



### **Alex Mann Honorary Member of Avalon PD**

The Avalon Police Department welcomed Alex Mann, 23, to our community on Monday, June 26th. Alex is from Malvern, PA and is on the autism spectrum. To date, he has visited over 450 police departments in several states to promote positive law enforcement interactions with individuals who have a disability. Avalon Mayor Martin Pagliughi swore-in Alex as an Honorary Member of the Avalon Police Department to acknowledge his visit. Police Chief Jeffrey Christopher has supported Alex and his mission and pinned a police badge on Alex to commemorate the occasion. Alex was provided with badge number 1043. Alex, thank you for including Avalon on your very worthwhile visits to police departments; we congratulate you on your success and welcome you to the ranks of the Avalon Police Department!





### COFFEE WITH A COP

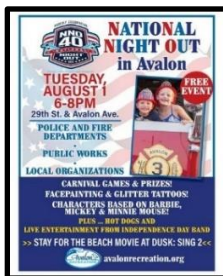


This year Coffee with a Cop was back a couple times this year. Sgt. Bowers and Ptlm. Baile along with many Avalon officers stopped by local businesses such as the Fishin' Pier Grille enjoying time with the staff and citizens. The other events were at the Avalon's Art and Seafood Festival and during the Turkey Trot on Snowfest Saturday with coffee and pastries provided by WAWA.



### NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

National Night Out was a success once again. It is a fun way to give back to the community and build relationships. This year Sgt. Eric Heisman, Sgt. Greg Armstrong, and Detective Pete Savini cooked over 500 hotdogs and provided to everyone free of charge. Special officer Alexis Hagner greeted citizens and provided everyone with A.P.D logo gear including: cups, footballs, pens, stickers and more. Sgt. Matt Ardelean worked an obstacle course using a tricycle and DWI simulated impaired driving goggles. Citizens and kids would wear the goggles and attempt to navigate the course. This course demonstrated the dangers of performing a simple task when you are impaired or under the influence. Chief Christopher spent some time in the dunk tank.



## **POLICE UNITY TOUR**

After 160 miles of riding, Avalon Police Department's Ptlm. Baile and the rest of the Police Unity Tour arrived at the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington D.C. to honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty! Great job!



## **PICKLE WITH THE POLICE**

Avalon Police hosted its second annual "Pickle With The Police." It was a great turnout. Officers teamed up with different members of the community. While some had experience others not so much. The members of the community made it a fun filled afternoon with an occasional dink. Thank you to everyone that participated in the event!





## TRUNK-OR-TREAT

Avalon's Trunk-or-Treat had another amazing turnout with Avalon PD's Monsters Inc. Trunk or Treat car! Thank you for visiting DSG. Armstrong, Admin. Assist. Hagner, and Ptlm. Roscoe at our scene! They put a good deal of effort decorating one of the patrol vehicles and getting into character for the event, so it is no surprise that we won the first-place contest. The kids and their parents appreciated it. Fun was had by all!

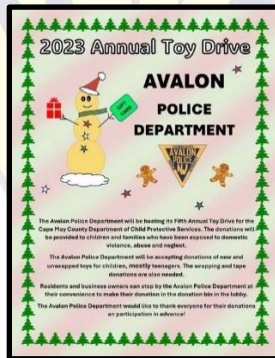


## FESTIVE FRIDAY & SNOWFEST SATURDAY



Thanksgiving Weekend is a busy time of the year in Avalon. The shoppers and families in town made it through the long weekend, out shopping and enjoying the festivities going on in town for the holidays. Sgt. Heisman, Det. Sgt. Armstrong, Sgt. Ardelean, Ptlm. Sykes, Ptlm. Baile, Ptlm. Glassford, Det. Pete Savini, Ptlm. Stoltenberg, Ptlm. Byrd, Ptlm. Prickett. and Ptlm. Cirillo cooked and wrapped 1000 hotdogs and assisted with the parade and tree lighting. While families took tours of The Avalon Police Department with Special Officer Hagner.

## 2023 CHRISTMAS TOY DRIVE



The Avalon Police Department received approximately 300 toys donated for our toy drive. Dawn Brady, Alexis Hagner, Debbie Foley and Det. Sgt. Armstrong meticulously wrapped each gift. Det. Sgt. Armstrong, Det. Hill, Deborah Foley, and Alexis Hagner delivered presents to the Department of Child Protection and Permanency. We are extremely grateful to the businesses and people that donated. Thank you to all that took the time to be a part of the toy drive! Also pictured is retired Avalon P.D. Sgt. Al Gombar, currently working security at the D.C.P.P.



## AVALON POLICE OFFICERS AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS



The Avalon Police Department's Honor Guard had the privilege in participating in the opening ceremony at the Philadelphia Flyers game today vs the Vegas Golden Knights! Guard members were Sgt. Matt Ardelean, Sgt. Pete Savini, Ptlm. Nick Brady, and Ptlm. Kyle Roscoe





Everything from lemonade stands, community meet & greets, summer camp tours, campers learning at the History Center, and yacht club crossing, along with all the previously mentioned events, are what make Avalon Police Department and members of our community what it is today. Thank you!

**Community outreach report completed by Alexis Hagner**



## NEW HIRED OFFICERS

### Brandon Cirillo

Avalon Mayor Martin Pagliughi swore in Avalon's newest police officer, Brandon Cirillo. Brandon was born in Rhode Island and raised in Cape May Court House. He is a graduate of Rowan University with a degree in exercise science. Brandon graduated from the Cape May County Police Academy on June 9, 2023. We are happy to welcome Brandon to Avalon's public safety family!



## PROMOTIONS

### James Savini to Sergeant

Avalon Mayor John McCorristin swore in Avalon's newest police sergeant, James P. Savini. Savini began his career as a special Class II police officer in 2016, and was hired as a full-time officer in 2018, advancing to the rank of detective in 2022. Congratulations!





## AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

### YEARS OF SERVICE AWARD

Records Administrator Dawn Brady has been with Avalon for 20 years.

Sgt. Matt Sykes, Sgt. Eric Heisman and Patrolman Tu-Juan Baile have been officers with the department for 15 years.

### No Sick Time Usage in the 2022 Calendar Year, Presented in 2023

#### **Sgt. Matthew Ardelean                      Dedication to Duty Award**

Sgt. Matthew Ardelean is recognized for his sincere dedication to service and his fellow employees, by faithful attendance to duty on each and every day scheduled to work in the 2022 calendar year.

#### **Ptln. Nicholas Brady                      Dedication to Duty Award**

Ptln. Nicholas Brady is recognized for his sincere dedication to service and his fellow employees, by faithful attendance to duty on each and every day scheduled to work in the 2022 calendar year.

#### **Admin Assistant and Special Officer Alexis Hagner      Dedication to Duty Award**

Administration Assistant Alexis Hagner is recognized for her sincere dedication to service and her fellow employees, by faithful attendance to duty on each and every day scheduled to work in the 2022 calendar year.

### **Life Saving Awards**

#### **Ptln. Lukas Hill #186                      Life Saving Award**

On July 4, 2022, Ptln. Hill responded to the 39th Street tennis courts for an unconscious and unresponsive male. He immediately assessed the patient began CPR, then administered one shock by way of an AED, then resumed CPR. After approximately 80 chest compressions the patient began to breathe on his own. The patient was immediately transported to Cape Regional Medical Center where it was later advised the patient was alert and conscious. Ptln. Hill's quick response and actions resulted in saving the man's life.

**Patrolman Tu-Juan Baile #164      Life Saving Award****Patrolman Joseph Stoltenberg #188 Life Saving Award**

On February 17, 2022, Ptlm. Baile and Ptlm. Stoltenberg responded to the 22nd Street boardwalk for an unconscious and unresponsive male. Ptlm. Stoltenberg assessed the patient and began CPR. Ptlm. Baile applied the AED and administered one shock. The patient was then transported to Atlantic City Medical Center. A few days later, the patient and his wife arrived at police headquarters to thank all emergency personnel for their life saving efforts. The quick response and actions of Ptlm. Baile and Ptlm. Stoltenberg resulted in saving the man's life.

**Distinguished Achievement Award****Detective James Savini**

On June 29th, 2022 Detective Savini began investigating a sexual assault that allegedly occurred over Memorial Day weekend. He put his personal life on hold to urgently investigate so perishable evidence was not lost. He secured electronic evidence and extensive interview statements and quickly identified the suspect. Through further diligent investigation it was determined that the suspect purposely drove from Pennsylvania to Avalon to commit an assault against a minor. Det. Savini obtained enough evidence and probable cause to charge the suspect and obtain an indictment.

**Citizens Commendation****Wawa- Avalon**

The Avalon Police Department would like to recognize and thank Wawa for their sincere generosity and continued support of the community and the police department. During the calendar year of 2022, Wawa donated twenty-one outer carrier uniform vests to outfit all full-time officers. Wawa also donated coffee and pastries for two Cops and Coffee programs and hundreds of hotdogs for community outreach events. These generous contributions caused these events to be successful and confirms Wawa's commitment to the community and police department.

## GOALS AND FUTURE OBJECTIVES

1. I am in the process of exploring a building renovation to transition an unused holding cell, to a fully functional police locker room. This will allow the police department to have adequate locker room space for special officers.
2. We will acquire a drone to assist with police operations. Selected department officers will be trained as pilots. This drone will be utilized in various operational ways such as: Searching areas of the dunes that are difficult to navigate, searching for missing or lost beach goers, criminal investigations are more.
3. Transition selected police weapons from a lethal, to a non-lethal. This will provide officers with an option to de-escalate the use of force, when confronted with a situation that could result in the loss of life. The end goal is to end a confrontation with as little force as possible.
4. Training is a top priority. We continue to strive for the most professional organizations to provide our officers with advanced post academy training. This year officers will utilize the services of J Harris for our training needs.

## CONCLUSION

Thank you for taking the time to review the Avalon Police Department 2023 Annual report. It is an honor to serve the Borough of Avalon and lead the best department in the state.

Respectfully,



Jeff Christopher  
Chief of Police