



2025

ANNUAL REPORT

2025

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MISSION STATEMENT



The mission of the Manchester Township Police Department is to provide the highest level of professional police service to our citizens and visitors by safeguarding lives and property, protecting the innocent, maintaining order, aggressively investigating and preventing crimes, impartially enforcing laws and upholding the Constitution, thereby enhancing the quality of life in our community.

FOLLOW US!



Address
1 Colonial Drive, Manchester, NJ 08759



Phone
732-657-6111



Website
www.manchesterpolicenj.com



AGENCY ACCREDITATION



The Manchester Township Police Department is a New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police (NJSACOP) Accredited Agency. Accreditation is a progressive and time-proven method of assisting law enforcement agencies in evaluating and improving overall performance. It is founded upon the adoption of clearly defined professional standards that establish sound objectives in five core areas: administrative, personnel, operations, investigative, and arrestee/detainee functions.

Participating agencies conduct a comprehensive self-analysis to determine how existing policies and practices align with these standards. Once procedures are in place, trained independent assessors conduct an on-site review to verify compliance. The NJSACOP Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission, comprised of appointed commissioners, reviews assessment findings and approves agencies for accredited status.

On September 22, 2025, the Township Council recognized a significant milestone for the department as Chief Antonio Ellis accepted a Certificate of Re-Accreditation from the New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police through its Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission. This marked the fourth time the Manchester Township Police Department has achieved accredited status—an accomplishment attained by only approximately six percent of eligible law enforcement agencies in New Jersey.

The 2025 re-accreditation followed a comprehensive on-site assessment conducted in March, during which assessors reviewed written directives, examined operational practices, interviewed personnel, and observed areas of compliance throughout the agency. The Commission subsequently determined that the department met or exceeded all applicable standards. Accreditation remains valid for a three-year period, during which the agency must submit annual reports affirming continued compliance.

The department's Accreditation Team, led by Lt. David Fusaro, works continuously to maintain accreditation materials and ensure policies remain aligned with evolving best practices. The re-accreditation process reflects sustained commitment rather than a single evaluation event.

Accredited status represents a significant professional achievement. It acknowledges the implementation of policies and procedures that are conceptually sound, operationally effective, and consistent with statewide best practices. Accreditation strengthens accountability, reduces risk and liability exposure, enhances defense against civil litigation, and reinforces public confidence in the department's ability to operate efficiently and respond to community needs.





FROM THE DESK OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE

It is my honor to present the Manchester Township Police Department's 2025 Annual Report. This report reflects the hard work, professionalism, and dedication demonstrated every day by the men and women of this agency as they serve the residents of Manchester Township and the greater Ocean County community.

Policing is a profession built on service, commitment, and sacrifice. Each day our officers, dispatchers, and civilian staff stand between order and disorder, responding to calls for help, protecting the vulnerable, and maintaining peace in an ever-changing and often challenging environment. Whether responding to emergencies, conducting proactive patrols, investigating crimes, or engaging with our community, the members of this department continue to exemplify the highest standards of professionalism and integrity.

The statistics and accomplishments outlined in this report highlight the scope of our work. In 2025 alone, our officers responded to tens of thousands of calls for service, conducted thousands of traffic stops to improve roadway safety, and handled a wide range of incidents, from community service calls to complex investigations and life-saving emergency responses. Behind every number is a team of dedicated professionals who remain committed to protecting life and property while strengthening the trust placed in us by the public.

Equally important is the spirit of service that extends beyond enforcement. Members of this department remain actively involved in charitable initiatives, youth programs, community outreach events, and partnerships with local organizations. These efforts reinforce the strong bond between our department and the community we are privileged to serve.

As we look toward the future, Manchester Township continues to grow and evolve. With that growth comes the responsibility to ensure that our public safety infrastructure remains strong, modern, and capable of meeting the needs of our residents. One of the most significant initiatives currently underway is the expansion of our 700 MHz communications and dispatch system, which will strengthen coordination between police, fire, and EMS and provide a reliable foundation for emergency communications for the next two decades.

As our community continues to expand, the Manchester Township Police Department must also be prepared to grow in order to meet those demands. Through strategic planning, targeted recruitment, continued training, and investments in technology and infrastructure, we remain committed to providing the highest level of professional law enforcement services to our community.

I could not be more proud of the men and women who wear the Manchester Township Police Department uniform. Their dedication, professionalism, and compassion represent the very best of our profession. It is an honor to serve alongside them and to serve the residents of Manchester Township.

Respectfully,

Antonio Ellis
Chief of Police





RECRUITMENT

As part of our continued commitment to excellence in law enforcement, the Manchester Township Police Department has refined its recruitment and hiring strategy over the past several years to attract highly qualified candidates who embody our core values of professionalism, integrity, and service.

2025 Targeted Hiring Initiative

In 2025, the Department continued implementation of its targeted hiring initiative, designed to streamline the selection and onboarding of fully certified law enforcement officers. This strategic approach focuses on candidates who already possess certification through the New Jersey Police Training Commission (NJPTC), are currently enrolled in an NJPTC-certified academy with anticipated certification or are eligible for a waiver (including qualified Class II Special Law Enforcement Officers).

By prioritizing certified or near-certified applicants, the Department significantly reduced training lead times and enhanced operational readiness. This proactive recruitment model allowed us to efficiently fill vacancies with experienced and well-prepared officers, strengthening patrol operations and overall service delivery to the community.



MANCHESTER TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

RECRUITING

Police Officers

A Rewarding Career for Those Who Are Committed to Serving the Public

A career as a Manchester Township Police Officer offers a competitive salary, excellent benefits, enrollment in the Police and Fireman's Retirement System, and continuous training and education.

GENERAL QUALIFICATIONS

- Possess a Full N.J. PTC Certification for Basic Course for Police Officers. Applicants currently attending a NJPTC certified police academy who anticipate receiving certification and those with certification for the Basic Course for Class Two Special Law Enforcement Officers who are NJPTC Waiver Eligible within 6 months will also be considered.
- Possess a minimum of an associate degree or two years of full-time college credits (64 credits). Credits or degrees must be recognized by the American Council on Education as listed in Accredited Institutions of Post Secondary Education. Active military service may be substituted and/or used in conjunction with college credit for a total of two years of education and/or active military service. Active military service credit will be granted at a rate equivalent to 2.57 college credits for each full month (30 days) of active military service completed.
- Possess a valid New Jersey driver's license.
- Be a resident of New Jersey and a citizen of the United States.
- Between 18 and 35 years of age.
- Have no criminal history and possess a good moral character.
- Must be able to pass one or more oral interviews.

For more information visit:
WWW.MANCHESTERPOLICE.NJ.COM/RECRUITMENT






MANCHESTER TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

ACADEMY \$52,157 - PROBATION \$60,185 - TOP STEP \$164,545

EXPERIENCE - PROBATION STEP AT A HIGHER RANK STEP



Competitive Salary & Excellent Benefits • 4 Days Or



CONTINUATION OF STRATEGIC HIRING IN 2026

Given the measurable success of this refined process, the Manchester Township Police Department will continue this targeted recruitment strategy into 2026. As part of these efforts, unit-specific recruitment flyers were also developed to highlight the various specialized assignments and opportunities available within the Manchester Township Police Department. These materials were designed to showcase the diverse roles and career paths offered by the agency to prospective applicants.

Our objective remains clear: to attract and retain the highest caliber candidates while maintaining the professional standards expected by the residents of Manchester Township.

MANCHESTER TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

PATROL



The Patrol Bureau is the largest and most visible unit within the Manchester Township Police Department, providing around-the-clock service to the community. Staffed by highly trained and dedicated officers, the Patrol Bureau operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year to protect and serve the residents and visitors of Manchester Township.

The primary mission of the Patrol Bureau is to ensure public safety through emergency response, crime prevention, preliminary investigations, proactive patrols, and traffic enforcement. Officers respond to a wide range of incidents while maintaining a visible presence that deters crime and builds trust within the community. The Patrol Bureau operates across day, evening, and midnight shifts to ensure seamless coverage throughout the Township.

ASSIGNMENT BENEFITS

- Serve on the front line of law enforcement and community engagement
- Work a structured schedule with consistent shift rotations
- Participate in proactive patrols, emergency response, and crime prevention
- Gain foundational experience for advancement into specialized units
- Opportunities for additional training and collateral assignments
- Join a motivated, team-oriented environment focused on public service




For more information visit:
WWW.MANCHESTERPOLICE.NJ.COM

MANCHESTER TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

TRAFFIC SAFETY SECTION



The Traffic Safety Section is comprised of highly trained officers dedicated to keeping Manchester Township's roadways safe through a combination of enforcement, education, and engineering. Officers specialize in crash investigations, traffic enforcement, and safety education programs that benefit residents of all ages.

The section also plays a critical role in securing state and federal grants that fund operations such as DWI checkpoints, Click-It-or-Ticket, and Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over campaigns.

Traffic Safety Officers further contribute to the law enforcement community by instructing at the Ocean County Police Academy and assisting the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office Fatal Accident Support Team. Through their efforts, the unit ensures Manchester's roadways remain among the safest in the region.

ASSIGNMENT BENEFITS

- Conduct advanced crash investigations and specialized traffic enforcement
- Participate in community education programs and township events
- Flexible schedule with specialized traffic-related training opportunities
- Receive an annual stipend and take home an assigned department vehicle
- Utilize advanced data collection and roadway safety technology




For more information visit:
WWW.MANCHESTERPOLICE.NJ.COM

MANCHESTER TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

INVESTIGATIONS BUREAU



Become part of a highly skilled team dedicated to uncovering the truth and bringing justice to victims. Detectives in the Investigations Bureau provide comprehensive investigative services for the citizens of Manchester Township and play a vital role in identifying and apprehending criminal offenders.

As a Detective, you'll handle a wide range of complex investigations — including suspicious deaths, missing persons, sexual assaults, burglaries, financial crimes, computer crimes, fraud, and robberies.

Your work will involve locating and interviewing victims and witnesses, preserving evidence, recovering stolen property, identifying and arresting suspects, and preparing cases for prosecution alongside the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office.

ASSIGNMENT BENEFITS

- Be directly involved in major investigations and high-profile cases
- Enjoy great hours with a flexible, investigator-driven schedule
- Receive an annual stipend and dedicated clothing allowance
- Take home your assigned department vehicle
- Work within a close-knit, highly motivated investigative team




For more information visit:
WWW.MANCHESTERPOLICE.NJ.COM

MANCHESTER TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

OCEAN COUNTY S.W.A.T.



The Manchester Township Police Department offers motivated officers the opportunity to serve on the Ocean County Regional SWAT Team — a highly trained, multi-agency tactical unit that responds to the most dangerous and complex incidents in the region.

The team is made up of tactical operators, police snipers, crisis negotiators, and specialized support personnel. Operating across 828 square miles, the unit provides tactical support to all of Ocean County and, when needed, assists neighboring jurisdictions.

SWAT officers are called upon to handle high-risk operations such as narcotics and arrest warrants, barricaded subjects, and critical incidents requiring advanced tactical expertise.

ASSIGNMENT BENEFITS

- Participate in high-risk tactical operations and warrant service
- Receive advanced, ongoing training in weapons, tactics, and crisis response
- Train and operate alongside federal, state, county, and municipal agencies
- Access to specialized equipment, vehicles, and protective technology
- Take part in monthly SWAT training and regional tactical schools
- Represent Manchester Township on one of New Jersey's premier regional SWAT teams




For more information visit:
WWW.MANCHESTERPOLICE.NJ.COM

MANCHESTER TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

K-9 UNIT



The Manchester Township Police Department's K-9 Unit is made up of highly trained police handlers and their canine partners who serve as an essential part of the department's patrol and investigative operations. Each K-9 team is trained in tracking and locating missing persons, apprehending fleeing suspects, recovering evidence, and detecting narcotics.

With one of the largest senior populations in the state and vast wooded areas throughout the township, K-9 teams play a vital role in public safety — responding to calls for missing persons, criminal searches, and narcotics enforcement.

In addition, the K-9 Unit proudly represents the department at community events, demonstrations, and outreach programs, strengthening the bond between law enforcement and residents.

ASSIGNMENT BENEFITS

- Take home an assigned K-9 vehicle
- Receive advanced, ongoing training with your K-9 partner
- Respond to specialized callouts and assist in critical incidents
- Participate in community events, demonstrations, and public engagements
- Become part of an elite, highly respected unit within the department




For more information visit:
WWW.MANCHESTERPOLICE.NJ.COM

MANCHESTER TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT TEAM



Take on one of the most proactive and dynamic assignments in law enforcement. The Narcotics Enforcement Team provides a comprehensive approach to the detection, investigation, and suppression of narcotics activity throughout Manchester Township.

The NET's primary mission is to identify and apprehend those responsible for narcotics-related crimes and offenses. This is accomplished through aggressive highway interdictions, intelligence-driven enforcement, and proactive follow-up on community tips and quality of life complaints.

In addition to field operations, NET detectives conduct in-depth investigations, working to identify, locate, and arrest criminal narcotics suspects and prepare solid cases for prosecution through the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office.

ASSIGNMENT BENEFITS

- Operate in plainclothes and conduct covert surveillance operations
- Participate in high-level narcotics investigations and interdictions
- Opportunities for assignment to DEA, New Jersey State Police, or County Task Forces
- Receive an annual stipend and dedicated clothing allowance
- Take home an assigned department vehicle
- Work as part of a small, motivated, and team-oriented investigative unit




For more information visit:
WWW.MANCHESTERPOLICE.NJ.COM



WELCOME TO THE TEAM



In 2025, the Manchester Township Police Department welcomed eight new patrol officers to the agency: Michael Sceppaguercio, Liam Christensen, Matthew Lee, Joseph Olszewsk, Donald Miller, Colin Geraghty, Tyler O'Brien, and Ashley Ventura. These officers joined Manchester from a variety of law enforcement and public safety roles across New Jersey, bringing experience in patrol operations, corrections, emergency services, and military service.





POLICE ACADEMY EXCELLENCE

In 2025, Patrolman Carlos A. Belardo successfully graduated from the Ocean County Police Academy as a member of Basic Police Recruit Class 119, completing the academy portion of his training after being hired by the Manchester Township Police Department in 2024.

During the academy, Ptl. Belardo distinguished himself through exceptional performance and leadership, earning four awards: the High Physical Fitness Award, High Marksmanship Award, High Overall Award, and the James J. Tracey Leadership Award. These honors reflect his dedication, discipline, and commitment to the profession.



Following graduation, Ptl. Belardo successfully completed the Manchester Township Police Department's Field Training and Evaluation Program and is now assigned to patrol, serving the residents of Manchester Township.



RETIREMENTS

In 2025, the Manchester Township Police Department recognized the retirements of Sergeant Patrick Morgan and Patrolman Arthur Cronk, each concluding distinguished careers marked by dedication, leadership, and service to the community.



Sergeant Patrick Morgan retired on February 28, 2025, after more than 25 years in law enforcement, including service with Manchester Township beginning in 2001. Throughout his career in the Patrol Division, he served as a proactive officer, member of the Traffic Safety Unit, D.A.R.E. and G.R.E.A.T. instructor, and the department's first School Resource Officer from 2009 to 2012. He also served as PBA President and was promoted to Sergeant in 2016, the same year he completed the West Point Command and Leadership Program. His career included participation in the Police Unity Tour and numerous commendations, including Life-Saving, Meritorious Service, Honorable Service, Unit Citations, and Pistol Expert recognition.

Patrolman Arthur Cronk retired after joining the department in 2001 and building a decorated career defined by professionalism and community engagement. His honors include two Life Saving Awards, two Meritorious Service Awards, an Exceptional Duty Award, Administrative Commendations, the Chief's Recognition Award, multiple Unit Citations, and Pistol Master certification. He also received two Valor Awards from the 200 Club of Ocean County. Beyond patrol duties, he served as Drill Instructor for the Manchester Police Youth Academy, was deeply involved in the Police Unity Tour at the chapter and national levels, and held leadership roles within Manchester Township PBA #246.



Both Sergeant Morgan and Patrolman Cronk leave behind legacies of service, mentorship, and commitment to the residents of Manchester Township.

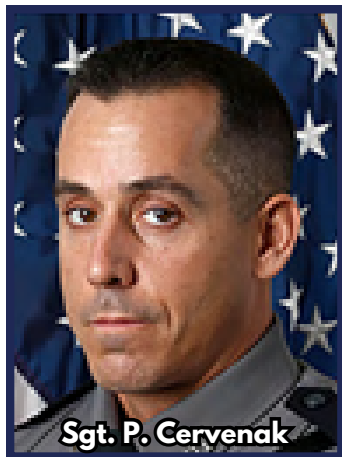
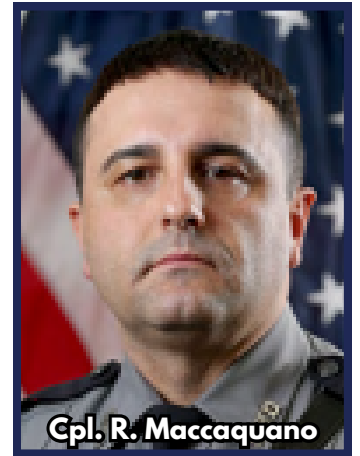


PROMOTIONS & ADVANCEMENTS



In 2025, the Manchester Township Police Department recognized several personnel advancements within the agency.

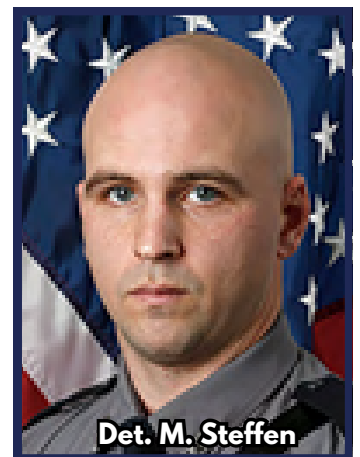
Promoted to the rank of Sergeant were Patrick Cervenak, Jason Wiener, and Adam Emmons. Sgt. Cervenak, a member of the department since 2007, previously served in the Patrol Division before being assigned to the Investigations Bureau as a Detective. Sgt. Wiener joined the department in 2011 and served in the Patrol Division prior to his promotion. Sgt. Emmons began his law enforcement career in 2002 with the Seaside Heights Police Department before joining Manchester in 2005 and has held assignments in the Investigations Bureau as an Arson Investigator, Humane Law Enforcement Officer, and Narcotics Officer.



Patrolman Robert Maccaquano was designated as Corporal. Hired in 2005, Cpl. Maccaquano has served in both patrol and investigative roles and has held several specialized instructor assignments within the department.



Two officers were assigned to the Investigations Bureau as Detectives. Detective Thomas Chant, who joined the department in 2013, previously served in the Patrol Division and held a part-time assignment in the Investigations Bureau before his full-time transfer. Detective Michael Steffen, also hired in 2013, has served as a Field Training Officer and was selected for the Ocean County Regional SWAT Team in 2015. These personnel advancements reflect the department's continued commitment to developing experienced leadership and strengthening investigative operations.





POLICE TRAINING

During 2025, each Officer received over 140 hours of mandated police training. Instructors (subject matter experts) will undergo additional training to ensure proficiency in their specific areas of expertise. They will also spend additional time developing lesson plans, power point presentations, etc.

Note: This does not include any outside agency training officer's attend.

Annual Minimum Mandatory Training Hours (Per Officer)

Firearms Qualifications Training	20
Bias	1
CPR/AED/ First Aid	10
40MM Less Lethal Recertification	4
Rifle and MP-5 Operators	20
Less Lethal Weapons	10
Handcuffing, Defensive Tactics	4
Domestic Violence	4
Use of Force	4
RADAR Recertification	4
Alcotest Recertification	4
WatchGuard BWC	3
Conducted Energy Devices	4
Vehicle Pursuit	2
Critical Incident/Active Killer	8
Oleoresin Capsicum	2
On Point	2
Blood Borne Pathogens	1
Hazardous Materials Awareness	1
Detainee Processing/PREA	1
De-escalation	2
Supervisor Critical Incident Training	4
Legal Updates criminal/MV law	1
Right to Know	1
CJIS	1
Critical Incident Response Scenarios	4
Critical Incident Debriefings	1
Ethics Training	1
Handling the Mentally Ill	1
HMMWV/MRAP Training	2



N.J. Attorney General's Office Mandated Training Hours (Per Officer)

ACADIS	8
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Specialized Units Minimum Mandatory Annual Training Hours (Per Officer)

Ocean County Regional SWAT	240
K9	240
MPD Drone Unit	60
MPD Traffic Safety Section	40
MPD Firearms Unit	40



POLICE TRAINING

In addition to the mandatory training courses required each year, the Manchester Township Police Department is committed to exceeding minimum standards to ensure our officers are equipped with the knowledge and skills necessary to best serve the community. In 2025, our officers attended approximately 60 additional training courses covering a wide range of topics, including impaired driving detection and investigation, methods of instruction, leadership development through the FBI-LEEDA Leadership Institute and the New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police Command and Leadership Academy, as well as updates on emerging case law.

In 2025, the department continued to emphasize hands-on, practical training. Officers conducted Active Killer response training at one of our district schools alongside Manchester Township EMS, the Manchester Township Fire Department, and school staff serving as participants. These realistic, scenario-based exercises focused on coordinated response efforts, communication, and unified decision-making in high-stress situations.

The department also conducted woodland training designed to enhance officers' ability to operate in challenging terrain. This training incorporated coordinated field movements and the deployment of department-owned drones to improve situational awareness and response capabilities in wooded and remote areas, further reinforcing the department's commitment to preparedness and public safety.





PATROL BUREAU

The Patrol Bureau is the largest and most visible organizational unit within the Division and provides the bulk of policing services to the public. The Patrol Division provides a staff of highly trained and qualified officers that work 24 hours a day, 7 days per week, 365 days per year.

The primary mission of the Patrol Bureau is emergency response, crime prevention, preliminary investigations, proactive patrol and traffic enforcement.

The Patrol Bureau is divided into two platoons: Platoon 1 works Sunday through Wednesday, and Platoon 2 works Wednesday through Saturday. Each Platoon has three squads: days, evenings, and midnights.

PATROL BY THE NUMBERS

34,315
TOTAL CALLS FOR SERVICE

72

MISSING PERSONS

418

DOMESTICS
AVERAGE TIME ON CALL 02:50:30

4792

TRAFFIC STOPS

381

ARRESTS

55

DUI ARRESTS

617

DISORDERLY/ CIVIL MATTERS

542

MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS
AVERAGE TIME ON CALL 01:30:40

1734

ALARM CALLS

1514

WELL-BEING CHECKS

1151

CRASHES





PATROL BUREAU

NOTABLE INCIDENTS

OFFICERS LIFT VEHICLE OFF MAN

Patrol Officers Brendan Brush, Robert Campolei, and Joseph Stapleton, all assigned to the Manchester Township Police Department's Patrol Bureau, responded to a life-threatening emergency involving a man trapped beneath a vehicle.

On November 22, 2025, the officers were dispatched to a residence on Cedar Street for a report of a male pinned under a vehicle. Upon arrival, they observed the individual trapped beneath the driver-side front tire, with his leg pinned underneath. Recognizing the seriousness of the situation and the potential for severe injury, the officers acted immediately.

Before additional resources arrived, the officers coordinated their efforts and physically lifted the front of the vehicle, creating enough space for a nearby resident to pull the victim to safety. Their quick response, teamwork, and decisive action allowed the individual to be freed and receive immediate medical attention.

The officers' actions demonstrated strong situational awareness, teamwork, and a clear commitment to preserving life during a rapidly evolving emergency. Their response reflects the professionalism and dedication of the Patrol Bureau in serving the Manchester Township community.



PATROL BUREAU

NOTABLE INCIDENTS

FATAL DIRT BIKE CRASH

In 2025, members of the Manchester Township Police Department's Patrol Bureau responded to the Heritage Minerals property for a report of a dirt bike crash involving an unconscious rider.

Due to the size and terrain of the more than 7,000-acre property, officers first had to gain access and then work to narrow down the exact location of the crash. After locating a dirt bike operator who guided them to the scene, officers found the rider unresponsive and immediately began providing life-saving measures.

Officers quickly assessed the patient and initiated high-quality CPR, including chest compressions, rescue breathing, and the use of an automated external defibrillator (AED). At the same time, additional officers entering the property from a separate access point located responding EMS and fire units and utilized mapping resources to guide them through the complex terrain to the scene.

When paramedics and additional first responders arrived, officers continued providing CPR and other life-saving measures while medical personnel prepared advanced treatment and coordinated transport. Officers rotated through CPR for more than thirty minutes before the patient was transported from the remote location to an awaiting ambulance along State Highway 70.

Despite the extensive and coordinated efforts of all personnel on scene, the patient was later pronounced deceased at the hospital. The incident required teamwork, navigation through difficult terrain, and sustained life-saving efforts under challenging conditions, reflecting the professionalism and dedication of the Patrol Bureau and all responding emergency personnel.



PATROL BUREAU

NOTABLE INCIDENTS

MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT

Patrol Bureau responded to a report of a stolen vehicle from the Corner Store on Ridgeway Road. The vehicle's owner reported that he had briefly left his 2019 Chevrolet Trax running in the parking lot while he entered the store, and when he returned, the vehicle was gone. Officers quickly confirmed the theft and broadcast a notification to surrounding agencies. The vehicle was entered into NCIC as stolen, and officers immediately began several investigative steps in an effort to locate it.

Those efforts included attempting to obtain surveillance footage from the business, checking nearby witnesses, reviewing the Vigilant Vehicle Manager system, notifying the New Jersey State Police Auto Theft Task Force, and contacting OnStar to assist with tracking the vehicle. The owner's cellular phone was also believed to still be inside the vehicle, adding further urgency to locating it.

With assistance from an OnStar representative, officers were able to quickly determine that the vehicle was stationary in the area of Pine Street in the Cedar Glen Homes section of the township, just a short distance from where it was reported stolen. OnStar was able to disable the vehicle's ignition, allowing officers to establish surveillance and identify a potential suspect connected to the incident.

Through the officers' coordinated investigative efforts, the suspect was located and placed under arrest for motor vehicle theft. From the time the call was received to the suspect being taken into custody, the investigation was resolved in under two hours. The incident highlights the Patrol Bureau's ability to quickly coordinate resources, utilize technology, and bring a criminal investigation to a swift and successful conclusion.





PATROL BUREAU

NOTABLE INCIDENTS

JACKSON TWP. SHOOTING SUSPECT ARRESTED

On October 24, 2025, at approximately 2135 hours, Ptl. Sean Rembach, Ptl. Brendan Brush, and Sgt. Michael Guarino responded to a Monmouth Ocean County Incident Broadcast (MOCIB) regarding an armed shooting suspect who had fled from Jackson Township.

While monitoring the broadcast area, Ptl. Rembach located the suspect vehicle and provided real-time updates to dispatch regarding its location and direction of travel. When the vehicle stopped prior to the initiation of a planned felony motor vehicle stop, Ptl. Rembach established control of the situation, issuing clear verbal commands while maintaining officer safety due to the report that the suspect was armed. Ptl. Brush and Sgt. Guarino responded to assist and worked together to safely secure the suspect without incident.

During a subsequent check of the vehicle, officers observed a handgun in plain view. Officers from the Jackson Township Police Department responded to the scene and assumed control of the investigation.





PATROL BUREAU

NOTABLE INCIDENTS

HIDDEN LAKE LIFE SAVE

On July 30, 2025, at approximately 1616 hours, Sgt. Michael Guarino, Ptl. Sage Sysol, Ptl. Taylor Schandall, Ptl. Liam Christensen, and Ptl. Sean Rembach responded to Hidden Lake in the Whiting section of Manchester Township for a report of a 16-year-old male unconscious in the water.

Upon arrival, officers encountered remote and difficult terrain that prevented vehicles from reaching the scene, requiring them to proceed on foot to the lake. Guided by bystanders, the officers located the unresponsive juvenile being held above the water by friends. Officers immediately placed the victim on a backboard and conducted a rope-assisted extrication up a steep embankment.

After reaching the top of the embankment, officers coordinated with other first responders to transport the victim approximately three miles through rugged terrain by UTV to the main roadway. The patient was then transferred to Manchester EMS and transported to a medevac helicopter staged at Bowker Field in Whiting. The victim was subsequently airlifted to Jersey Shore Medical Center for advanced medical treatment.

The coordinated response and rapid actions of Sgt. Guarino, Ptl. Sysol, Ptl. Schandall, Ptl. Christensen, and Ptl. Rembach were instrumental in the successful rescue and emergency medical transport of the victim under challenging conditions.



FIRST RESPONDER NIGHT

In 2025, Patrol Officers Taylor Schandall and Sean Rembach, both assigned to the Manchester Township Police Department's Patrol Bureau, were nominated for the Fallen Ocean Gate Officer Jason Marles #271 DWI Award during the Jersey Shore BlueClaws First Responder Night. The nomination recognized their exceptional efforts in impaired driving enforcement during 2024.

Together, Officers Schandall and Rembach were responsible for nearly 25% of the department's total DWI arrests in 2024. Throughout the year, both officers demonstrated a proactive approach to traffic safety and impaired driving investigations. In addition to his enforcement efforts, Officer Rembach also engaged with the community through educational outreach during events such as Manchester Day and National Night Out.

Their nomination highlights the department's continued commitment to roadway safety and the proactive efforts of our Patrol Bureau officers to remove impaired drivers from our roadways and help keep the Manchester Township community safe.





COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

The Communications Section consists of 13 full-time Public Safety Telecommunicators, 7 Per Diem Public Safety Telecommunicators, 2 Senior Public Safety Telecommunicators, and 1 Communications Supervisor. The Communications Center operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year, providing uninterrupted service to the community.

All Public Safety Telecommunicators are certified by the State of New Jersey and hold, at a minimum, a New Jersey-recognized Basic Telecommunicator Certification, with many maintaining additional credentials and ongoing professional training.

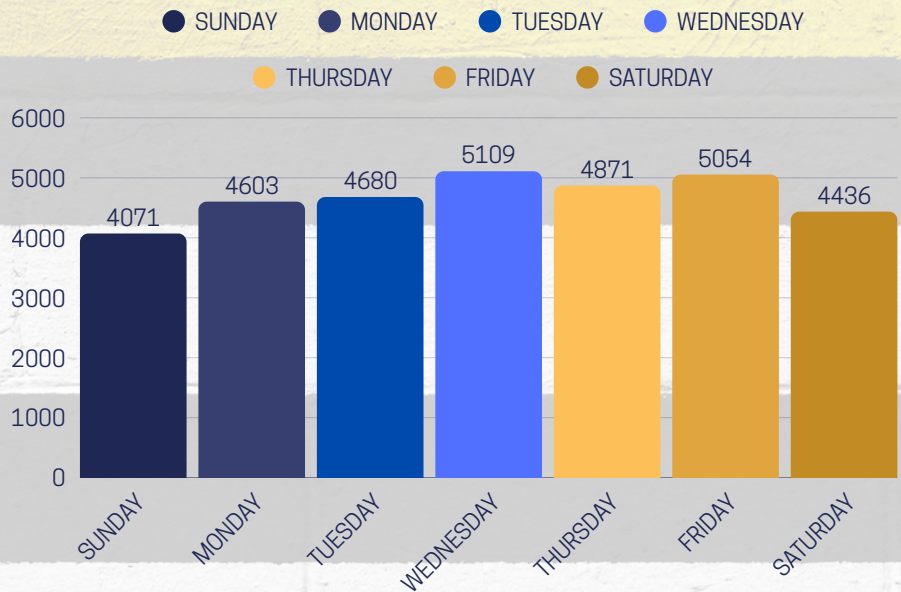
Personnel are responsible for answering administrative and emergency calls, obtaining critical information, and prioritizing calls for service. Their duties include dispatching police, fire, and emergency medical personnel; relaying pertinent information to field responders; monitoring radio communications and officer status; documenting incidents in the Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system; and accessing information through the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) and other law enforcement databases.

Since 2020, the Communications Section has provided dispatch services for the Manchester Division of Emergency Services and Manchester Volunteer Fire Companies, with services expanding in 2021 to include Manchester Township's Career and Volunteer Fire Departments. In 2022, the State of New Jersey formally recognized communications personnel as 9-1-1 First Responders. Public Safety Telecommunicators serve as the vital link between the public and emergency services, forming the foundation of an effective and timely emergency response system.

In 2025 Manchester Police Dispatch answered 15,089 9-1-1 calls and 44,471 administrative phone calls. We were unable to track the total number of radio transmissions due to our radio system going down midway through the year and switching to a backup system



AVERAGE CALL VOLUME PER DAY





COMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE MODERNIZATION

At the end of 2024, the Manchester Township Police Department began a comprehensive communications modernization project designed to replace the Township's aging 500 MHz radio system, which had been in service for more than 23 years and had reached the end of its operational life. In partnership with the Township's governing body and administration, the decision was made to transition to a modern 700 MHz communications platform operating under the umbrella of the New Jersey State Police radio network. This upgrade will significantly improve reliability, interoperability, and resiliency during large-scale emergencies and regional incidents. The project represents the largest investment in public safety infrastructure ever undertaken by the Township and reflects a forward-looking commitment to protecting residents and ensuring reliable communications for decades to come.

The new system will replace aging equipment, expand coverage, and provide modern communications capabilities for police, fire, and EMS services while also supporting other municipal partners including the Board of Education, Public Works, and the Manchester Township Utilities Authority. By integrating with the statewide network, the Township will benefit from improved system redundancy and resiliency while also reducing long-term maintenance costs that would otherwise be required to sustain the legacy system.

Construction and infrastructure improvements are currently underway, including tower upgrades, dispatch center renovations, and installation of new radio equipment and technology. The project timeline anticipates system testing and dispatcher training in 2026, with full activation of the new 700 MHz radio system expected in the fall of that year. In conjunction with these improvements, the Township is also pursuing accreditation for its communications center, further enhancing the training, professionalism, and capabilities of the dispatchers who serve as the first point of contact during emergencies. Once completed, the new communications and dispatch center will stand as one of the most advanced municipal public safety communications facilities in the State of New Jersey.





INVESTIGATIONS BUREAU

The Investigations Bureau consists of two sections, the Detective Section and the Narcotics Enforcement Section also known as the Narcotics Enforcement Team (N.E.T.). Each section has a Detective Sergeant assigned to supervise the daily operations of their respective sections.

The Detective Section provides comprehensive investigation services for the citizens of Manchester Township. The Detective section's primary function is to identify and apprehend criminal offenders. Assigned Detectives handle a variety of complex, in-depth investigations, including but not limited to suspicious deaths, missing persons, sexual assaults, burglaries, financial crimes, computer crimes, fraud, robberies and narcotic related offenses.

The Detective Section is primarily responsible for locating and interviewing victims and witnesses; locating, identifying and preserving physical evidence; recovering stolen property; identifying, locating, interviewing and arresting criminal suspects; and presenting criminal cases to the County Prosecutor for criminal prosecution.



CASES ASSIGNED



CASES CLOSED



CRIMINAL CHARGES



DETECTIVE SECTION

NOTABLE CASES

ATTEMPTED MURDER

On June 27, 2025, officers of the Manchester Township Police Department responded to the Pine Acres Manor Mobile Home Community for a report of a female in distress inside a residence. Upon entry, responding officers located a 71-year-old female victim who had sustained severe and obvious injuries to her face and body. The victim was immediately transported to Jersey Shore University Medical Center in Neptune, where she received extensive medical treatment for her injuries.

Upon arrival, Detective Chant promptly coordinated with patrol personnel and the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office and assumed command of the scene. Within a short period of time, he successfully obtained a telephonic search warrant, allowing the investigation to progress rapidly and effectively. At various points during the investigation, there was a legitimate concern that the victim might succumb to her injuries, elevating the matter to a potential homicide. Undeterred, Detective Chant worked tirelessly through the night, identifying witnesses, conducting recorded interviews, and collecting critical evidence necessary to ensure a successful prosecution.

The investigation ultimately revealed that the suspect was the victim's son. The evidence showed that a verbal dispute escalated into a violent physical assault inside the victim's residence, resulting in the victim losing consciousness and suffering a concussion, fractured ribs, a fractured skull, and multiple facial fractures. The suspect was taken into custody without incident on June 27, 2025, and has remained detained at the Ocean County Jail since that date.

On January 30, 2026, the suspect pled guilty to Attempted Murder stemming from the incident. This timely and significant outcome was the direct result of Detective Chant's thorough, diligent, and well-coordinated investigative efforts, which ensured the case was presented in a clear and compelling manner to the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office.

At sentencing, scheduled for March 26, 2026, the State will seek a term of ten (10) years in New Jersey State Prison, subject to the provisions of the No Early Release Act (NERA).



DETECTIVE SECTION

NOTABLE CASES

PINE LAKE PARK VEHICLE BURGLARIES

On Monday, November 10, 2025, members of the Manchester Township Police Department's Patrol Bureau responded to multiple reports of vehicle burglaries in the Pine Lake Park section of Manchester Township, with assistance from the Ocean County Sheriff's Department Crime Scene Investigations Unit.

Following the initial response, Detective Steffen conducted follow-up investigations into the reported incidents. During the course of the investigation, Detective Steffen obtained surveillance video depicting the suspects involved. That footage was released to the public in an effort to identify those responsible. With the assistance of surveillance footage and information received from the community, he identified the suspects involved and a vehicle linked to the reported incidents.

Detective Steffen's investigation led to the identification of the adult suspect of Manchester, NJ. Det. Steffen also identified two additional suspects, a 15-year-old juvenile and a 14-year-old juvenile, in connection with the incidents.

As a result of the investigation, the suspect was charged with Conspiracy to Commit Burglary and Theft, as well as Use of a Person 17 Years of Age or Younger to Commit a Criminal Offense.

Due to Detective Steffen's proactive approach, meticulous attention to detail, and diligent investigative efforts, he successfully identified all suspects involved in the incident. His swift and decisive actions likely prevented further criminal activity and protected additional residents from victimization.

Manchester Police
Published by Manchester Police NJ · November 11, 2025

Vehicle Burglary Alert - Pine Lake Park

The Manchester Township Police Department is seeking the public's assistance following a series of vehicle burglaries and attempted burglaries that occurred on November 10, 2025, between the hours of 6:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. in the Pine Lake Park section of the township.

The suspect vehicle is described as a silver sedan with dark-colored rims, possibly a newer model Honda Accord. The driver was observed slowly driving through the neighborhood while two suspects exited the vehicle to check for unlocked car doors.

The suspects were wearing full face masks in the surveillance video and have not yet been identified.

Residents are reminded to secure their vehicles and residences, remove valuables from inside their cars, and promptly report any suspicious activity.

Anyone with information, or who may have additional video footage of the suspect vehicle, is asked to contact the Manchester Township Police Department.

Anyone with information regarding this investigation, please contact us at 732-657-6111.

You can also private message us on our various social media pages or use our anonymous tip line at:
<https://manchestertwp.com/.../investigations.../tip-line/>





DETECTIVE SECTION

NOTABLE CASES

EXPLICIT ONLINE ACTIVITY

Between October 28th and November 5th, 2025, Manchester Township Police coordinated with the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office (OCPO) regarding allegations involving a suspect age 47, alleged to be having explicit online activity with juveniles. Initial consultations with OCPO determined there was insufficient probable cause for a search warrant; however, Det. Greenwood continued follow-up efforts.

On November 3rd, 2025, detectives made contact with the suspect and his mother at their residence. During this interaction, the suspect denied any inappropriate communications with juveniles and claimed his electronic device had been hacked, and attributed ongoing issues to online harassment and vigilantism. He acknowledged prior encounters with online groups accusing him of misconduct. The suspect ultimately provided voluntary consent for a search of his tablet, which he identified as his sole electronic communication device.

The tablet was secured, placed into evidence, and submitted to the OCPO High Tech Crimes Unit for forensic examination. On November 11th, 2025, OCPO advised that a forensic preview revealed multiple images depicting children engaged in prohibited sexual acts. These findings were later reviewed by detectives, and all relevant digital evidence was preserved. Following prosecutorial review, the Assistant Prosecutor approved a 3rd degree charge of Endangering the Welfare of Children and directed that the matter proceed via a complaint warrant.

On December 4th, 2025, the suspect was arrested without incident pursuant to the approved warrant. The suspect was transported to the Ocean County Jail. The investigation was closed pending court proceedings, reflecting sustained investigative effort, interagency collaboration, and adherence to legal and procedural standards throughout the case.



The Narcotics Enforcement Team (NET) is comprised of four Detectives and one Detective Sergeant. Two Detectives are currently assigned as Task Force Officers (TFOs) with external agencies. The NET is responsible for all narcotics-related investigations within Manchester Township and works in coordination with other local, county, state, and federal agencies on multi-jurisdictional cases.

While many investigations originate within Manchester Township, they frequently expand into neighboring municipalities. Additionally, the NET is tasked with responding to and investigating every fatal drug overdose that occurs within the Township.



NAROCOTICS ENFORCEMENT TEAM

OPERATIONAL ACTIONS

- 15 search warrants executed
- 20 pre-planned motor vehicle stops

NARCOTICS SEIZED

- 474 doses of heroin
- 96.5 grams of cocaine
- 3.5 grams of methamphetamine
- 21 prescription legend pills/tablets



NOTABLE INVESTIGATIONS

February 2025

A motor vehicle stop connected to a narcotics investigation resulted in the seizure of 56.5 grams of cocaine. A follow-up search at a related residence yielded an additional 6 grams of cocaine and packaging materials. One individual was arrested.

September 2025

Detectives monitored a vehicle traveling to another municipality for suspected drug activity. A consent search upon its return resulted in the seizure of 16 grams of cocaine, 2 grams of crack cocaine, 350 wax folds of heroin, 10 additional wax folds, and drug paraphernalia. Multiple individuals were charged.

November 2025

A motor vehicle stop led to the discovery of drug paraphernalia in plain view. A subsequent search resulted in the seizure of 32 wax folds of heroin, 4 grams of crack cocaine, and additional paraphernalia. The driver was arrested.

December 2025

A vehicle leaving a residence associated with drug activity was stopped, resulting in two arrests on outstanding warrants and narcotics charges. A search of the vehicle led to the seizure of 20 prescription legend pills, 0.5 grams of cocaine, 18 wax folds of heroin, and additional paraphernalia.



NAROCOTICS ENFORCEMENT TEAM TASK FORCE CONTRIBUTIONS

Two NET Detectives were assigned to outside agencies, contributing to major regional and national investigations.

NJSP DRUG & WEAPONS TRAFFICKING CENTRAL UNIT

Seizures attributed to investigations he assisted or led:

- 3,891 g cocaine
- 185 g crack cocaine
- 4,016 g fentanyl
- 1,875 g heroin
- 19,186 g methamphetamine
- 254,258 g marijuana
- 108 firearms
- \$512,235 U.S. currency



DEA HIDTA II TASK FORCE

Seizures attributed to investigations he assisted or led:

- 4,151 lbs. marijuana
- 81.25 lbs. cocaine
- 2.25 lbs. heroin
- 2,187 MDMA pills/tablets
- 5 firearms
- \$851,965 U.S. currency



U.S. DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION

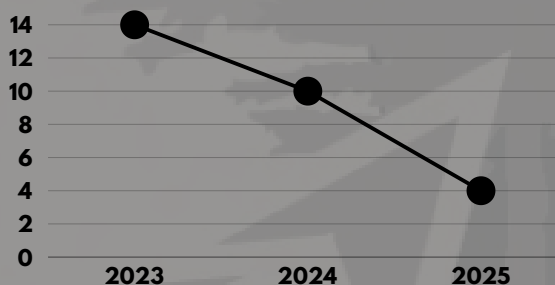
OVERDOSE DATA

64 Total Overdoses

•
4 Fatal Overdoses

•
22 Heroin-related

THREE-YEAR FATAL OVERDOSE
TREND





K-9 UNIT



NARCOTICS INVESTIGATIONS



SCENT TRACKS



DEMONSTRATIONS



PATROL PROTECTION



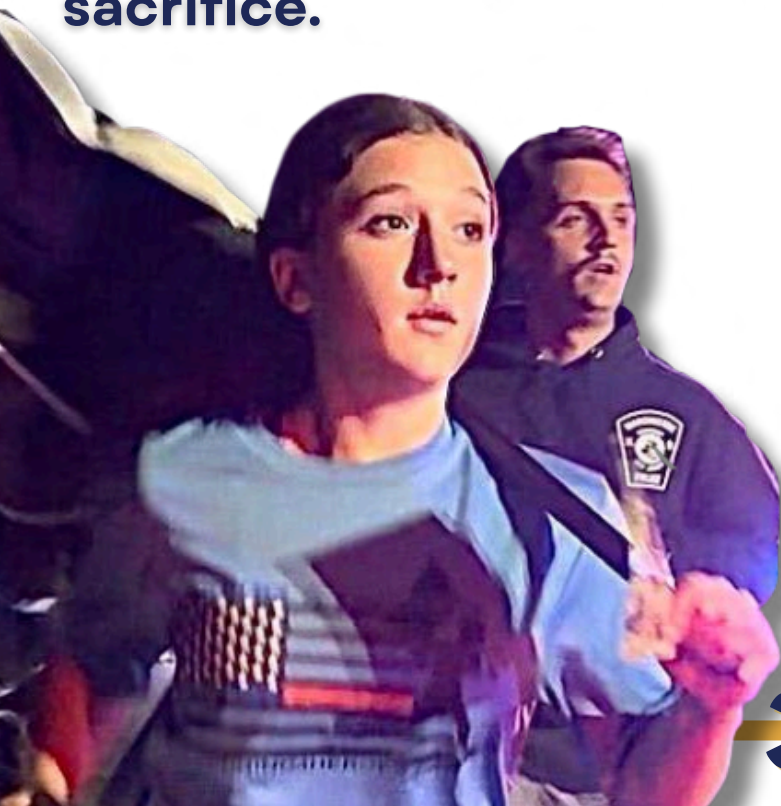


RUNNING 4 HEROES

In 2025, K9 Buck and Ptl. Jonathan Meaney had the honor of participating in a tribute run with Morgan as part of the nonprofit organization Running 4 Heroes, in memory of Chattanooga Police Department K9s Diesel and Buck, who made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty.

Running 4 Heroes honors fallen first responders and K9s through tribute runs while also providing support to injured first responders, their families, and K9 units across the country. Morgan, who turned 15 in August and is a freshman at ALPS, has dreamed of becoming a K9 handler since she was six years old. Her participation reflects the dedication and respect that the next generation has for those who serve.

Members of the Manchester Township Police Department were proud to take part in this meaningful run, helping to honor the memory of fallen heroes and support the mission of remembering their sacrifice.





GOOD BOY, LYNK!

In 2025, the Manchester Township Police Department honored the retirement of K-9 Lynk, one of the department's longest-serving and most accomplished police dogs. A walk-out ceremony was held at police headquarters where officers, family members, fellow K-9 teams from across New Jersey, and Township Council members gathered to recognize Lynk's distinguished career. Chief Antonio Ellis and Sgt. Steve Wendruff reflected on Lynk's service and the strong bond he shared with his handler and the community.



Partnered with Sgt. Wendruff since 2015, K-9 Lynk served in both patrol and narcotics detection capacities for nearly a decade. During that time, he played a significant role in numerous investigations and enforcement operations, contributing to drug seizures totaling more than \$22 million and over \$1.7 million in U.S. currency, as well as multiple firearm recoveries. Lynk also assisted in suspect apprehensions, missing person searches, and many community outreach events.

Originally from Hungary, Lynk was purchased using funds seized from narcotics investigations and joined the department in 2015 after graduating from the Ewing Police K-9 Patrol Academy. He later earned narcotics detection certification from the New Jersey State Police in 2016. Throughout his career, Lynk achieved several notable milestones, including the department's only criminal apprehension during a burglary in progress and serving as one of the last marijuana-imprinted K-9s in New Jersey.

K-9 Lynk's dedication, effectiveness, and partnership with Sgt. Wendruff left a lasting impact on the department and the community it serves.



TRAFFIC SAFETY

During 2025, the Manchester Township Police Department Traffic Safety Section remained dedicated to its mission of Education, Engineering, and Enforcement, working to improve roadway safety and ensure the safe movement of motorists and pedestrians throughout the Township.

In 2025, Manchester Township experienced a total of 1,151 motor vehicle crashes, representing a 6.3% increase from the previous year. These crashes included 77 property damage crashes, 103 minor injury crashes, 137 non-incapacitating injury crashes, 23 incapacitating injury crashes, 779 crashes involving no injury, and 6 fatal crashes. Each crash was reviewed and analyzed to identify trends, problem areas, and opportunities for enforcement and engineering improvements.

The Traffic Safety Section maintains a 24/7 crash investigation response capability. Serious crashes require extensive investigation involving evidence collection, crash reconstruction, witness interviews, and coordination with the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office, Ocean County Sheriff's Office, and Medical Examiner's Office when necessary. Traffic Safety Officers utilize advanced technology including drone mapping, Pix4D software, and Map360 reconstruction software to create precise scale diagrams and accurately determine crash causation.

Traffic Safety Officers review all NJTR-1 crash reports for accuracy and completeness and provide guidance and training to patrol officers as needed. This ensures accurate crash reporting and reliable crash data, which is essential for traffic safety planning and roadway improvements.

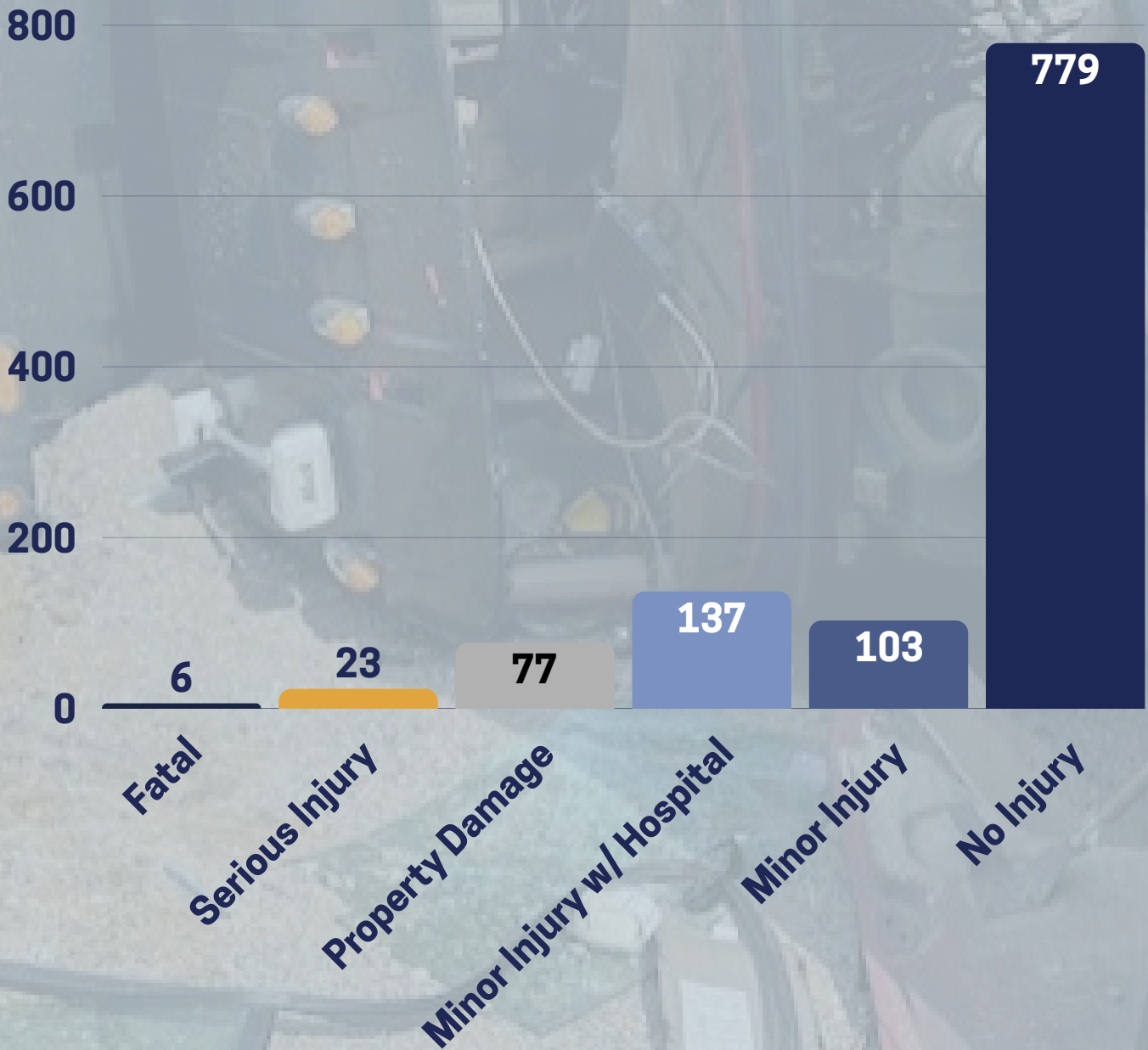
Throughout the year, the Traffic Safety Section responded to numerous traffic-related complaints and conducted traffic studies using specialized equipment, including RADAR speed trailers. These trailers record vehicle speed and traffic volume, allowing officers to identify problem areas and support targeted enforcement and engineering solutions. These efforts assist in improving compliance with traffic laws and addressing community concerns.





MOTOR VEHICLE CRASHES IN 2025

- Fatal
- Serious Injury
- Property Damage
- Minor Injury w/ Hospital
- Minor Injury
- No Injury





Goal:Zero

Campaign

-Zero:Deaths-

-Zero:Injuries-

-Zero:Crashes-

In 2025, the Manchester Township Police Department joined law enforcement agencies throughout Ocean County in participating in the Goal: Zero initiative, a high-visibility traffic enforcement effort aimed at reducing fatal motor vehicle crashes across New Jersey.

The Goal: Zero initiative, inspired by Holmdel Township Patrolman Matt Menosky during its inaugural 2024 campaign, brought together dozens of municipalities to confront the growing threat of traffic-related deaths. The bright green Goal: Zero logo represents high visibility and pedestrian safety, while the black mourning band honors all lives lost in traffic crashes.

Through coordinated enforcement, targeted patrols, and public awareness efforts, the initiative focuses on addressing dangerous driving behaviors that contribute to serious and fatal crashes. Goal: Zero also aligns with New Jersey's Target Zero strategy, which seeks to eliminate traffic fatalities and serious injuries through a combination of enforcement, engineering, education, and community engagement.

The continued collaboration between agencies has shown measurable progress. In 2025, New Jersey experienced a reduction of more than 16% in fatal traffic crashes, reflecting the impact of coordinated enforcement, data-driven deployment of resources, and sustained public education efforts. By participating in Goal: Zero, the Manchester Township Police Department remains committed to improving roadway safety and protecting all who travel through our community.





Byrne Discretionary Grant Program

Following years of planning and collaboration, the Manchester Township Police Department unveiled ten new department vehicles acquired through the Fiscal Year 2024 Byrne Discretionary Grant Program, with no financial burden placed on local taxpayers.

Several years earlier, then-Chief Robert Dolan identified growing concerns surrounding the department's aging vehicle fleet, as many patrol vehicles had exceeded their operational lifespan and temporary repairs were no longer sustainable.

In response, department leadership worked alongside township officials and Congressman Christopher H. Smith to pursue federal funding opportunities aimed at modernizing the fleet and maintaining the level of service expected by the community.

Through the Byrne Discretionary Grant Program, Manchester Township was awarded approximately \$1.148 million, which funded the purchase of nine new Chevrolet Tahoe patrol SUVs and one animal control van. The vehicles have since been fully outfitted and placed into service.

“Our department, serving more than 45,000 residents across 85 square miles, was facing increasing demands with limited resources,” said Chief Antonio Ellis. “This funding allowed us to implement a long-term plan focused on reliability, safety, and sustainability for both our officers and the community we serve.”

Congressman Smith credited the collaboration between department leadership and township officials for helping secure the grant funding, noting that the investment directly enhances public safety capabilities throughout Manchester Township. Chief Ellis also recognized the continued support of local elected officials in ensuring officers have the equipment necessary to respond safely and effectively to calls for service.





GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY

In 2025, the Manchester Township Police Department remained committed to supporting residents and local families through a variety of charitable and community-focused initiatives. Through partnerships with the Manchester Township Police Foundation, PBA Local 246, local businesses, and the generosity of our community, officers and staff helped raise funds to support individuals and families facing medical hardships, including those battling cancer and other serious illnesses.

Fundraising efforts such as our annual No-Shave initiative and Breast Cancer Awareness campaigns helped provide financial assistance to families and fellow first responders in need, while also supporting organizations dedicated to helping those affected by cancer.

Beyond fundraising, members of the department also participated in community service efforts throughout this year including helping deliver more than 2,000 Thanksgiving meals to residents in need in partnership with local organizations and volunteers.

These efforts reflect the department's ongoing commitment to service beyond the badge. Whether through charitable fundraising, community partnerships, or acts of service, the Manchester Township Police Department is proud to stand alongside the residents we serve and support those in need throughout our community.





POLICE UNITY TOUR



In 2025, members of the Manchester Township Police Department proudly participated in the Police Unity Tour, a nearly 300-mile bicycle ride from New Jersey to Washington, D.C., that honors law enforcement officers who have died in the line of duty and raises awareness for the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial.

This year also held special significance for our department as we commemorated 50 years since the passing of Ptl. Tobias and 10 years since the passing of Cpl. Thompson. During a Police Unity Tour event at Manchester Town Hall, Chief Antonio Ellis proudly unveiled shadow boxes honoring both officers. The shadow boxes were designed by retired Cpl. Brian Collins and were presented in front of fellow officers, family members, friends, and distinguished guests.



The department was also proud that Patrolman Arthur Cronk, a 19-year participant in the Police Unity Tour, had the honor of escorting survivors during the National Police Week Candlelight Vigil in Washington, D.C.

"We Ride For Those Who Died."



Ptl. Robert Tobias
EOW: May 17, 1975



Cpl. Scott Thompson
EOW: April 10, 2015





RUN THE WORLD



In 2025, Manchester Township Police Officers Taylor Schandall and Jordan Weed earned an impressive first-place finish in the Women's Division of the Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst Annual Fit Challenge: Law Enforcement Edition.

In fact, their final times were so strong they even outpaced a few competitors in the male division, including some of our law enforcement friends from the southern regional part of Ocean County.

The event brought together local and state law enforcement agencies for an intense eight-zone fitness course, featuring demanding exercises separated by a quarter-mile run at each station.





FIT CHALLENGE

Several of our officers proudly represented the Manchester Township Police Department at the FIT Challenge held at JBMDL Lakehurst – a grueling event featuring eight intense fitness zones and a .25 mile run between each station.

Patrolman Brendan Brush finished in **FIRST PLACE** in the Singles Division! His incredible effort and athleticism led him to the top of the podium.

Sgt. Adam Emmons and Patrolman Kyle Rickvalsky teamed up and brought home **FIRST PLACE** in the Doubles Division! Their performance was a true example of teamwork and determination.

Our officers showed strength, grit, and perseverance throughout the challenge. Events like this not only highlight peak physical fitness but also embody the values we bring to the job every day—commitment, discipline, and resilience.





YOUTH POLICE ACADEMY

In 2025, the Manchester Township Police Department proudly hosted its annual Youth Police Academy, welcoming students in grades 6 through 8 for a week of hands-on learning about the law enforcement profession. Held from June 30 through July 3, the program introduced participants to the responsibilities, challenges, and teamwork involved in policing through interactive demonstrations and activities.

Throughout the week, cadets learned about the history of the Manchester Township Police Department, participated in physical fitness and first aid instruction, and explored topics such as traffic safety, drones, and police operations. They also had the opportunity to meet members of the Manchester Division of Emergency Services, visit the Ocean County Jail, tour facilities at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, and observe SWAT and K-9 demonstrations.

The academy concluded with a graduation ceremony and celebration attended by family and friends. The success of the program was made possible through the dedication of Manchester Township police officers and the support of numerous partner agencies and organizations who helped provide cadets with a meaningful introduction to public service and law enforcement.





PLAY BALL!



In 2025, the Manchester Township Police Department partnered with the Manchester Police Athletic League and Manchester Little League Baseball-Softball to host the Blue Diamond Baseball Camp for young athletes in our community. Centered around the message “Be a Good Person. Be a Good Student. Be a Good Player,” the camp provided participants with instruction in baseball fundamentals such as hitting, fielding, and base running, while also emphasizing the importance of teamwork, perseverance, and sportsmanship.



The weeklong camp focused on building skills, fostering positive relationships, and creating a fun and supportive environment for the players. The department was also proud to welcome Jake Daubert, a Rutgers alumnus, former Seattle Mariners Minor League player, and current hitting instructor in Toms River, who volunteered his time to share his knowledge and experience with the campers. Programs like Blue Diamond Baseball Camp highlight the department’s ongoing commitment to youth engagement and strengthening connections with the community.





PAY IT FORWARD

As part of Ridgeway Elementary School's National Day of Service "Pay It Forward" project, first grader Elyse and her family visited police headquarters to deliver a heartfelt letter and pizza for our officers.

Inspired by Elyse's thoughtful gesture, members of the Manchester Township Police Department decided to continue the spirit of giving by surprising Elyse and her classmates with a pizza party and Manchester Police Department giveaways.

This simple but meaningful act of kindness served as a reminder that even the smallest gestures can have a lasting impact on a community.





OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

The Office of Professional Standards has the responsibility to investigate all allegations of misconduct by members of the Division, and to review and adjudicate all minor complaints which are handled by supervisors. In addition, the Office of Professional Standards will review all firearms discharges by Division personnel that are not related to training, all use of force incidents, all vehicular pursuits undertaken by Division personnel and all collisions involving Division vehicles.

INTERNAL AFFAIRS SUMMARY

In 2025, eight (8) officer allegations / complaints were filed with the Office of Professional Standards of the Manchester Police Department. Complaints are lodged by either citizens, or members of the agency who identified behavior or actions which did not meet the agency's standards.

The seven (7) allegations / complaints reported by citizens were as follows:

- Violation of Department Rules and Regulations and Policies

The one (1) complaint internally generated was as follows:

- Violation of Department Rules and Regulations and Policies

In each case, the Office of Professional Standards conducted internal investigations to determine whether the complaint was valid. With regard to allegations made by citizens the outcome of each investigation was documented as follows: one (1) allegation involving differential treatment was closed with a disposition of exonerated, meaning that the alleged incident did occur, but the actions of the officer were justified, legal and proper, one (1) allegation involving an improper arrest was closed with a disposition of exonerated, two (2) separate complaints each alleging improper demeanor were closed with disposition of unfounded, meaning that the investigation determined that a preponderance of the evidence showed that the alleged conduct did not occur and not sustained, meaning that the investigation failed to disclose sufficient evidence to clearly prove or disprove the allegation. One (1) allegation involving failure to perform duties was closed with a disposition of sustained, meaning the investigation disclosed a preponderance of evidence that the officer violated a law, regulation, directive, guideline, policy or procedure issued by the Attorney General, County Prosecutor, agency protocol, standing operating procedure, rule or training. One (1) allegation of excessive force was closed with a disposition of exonerated. One (1) allegation of a criminal violation was closed with a disposition of unfounded.

With regard to the internally generated complaint the allegation was documented as follows: one (1) complaint involving violation of department rules and regulations where the investigation is still pending.

During 2025, Officers of the Manchester Township Police Department received (56) compliments and notices of positive performance in 2025 from citizens and police supervisors. Every Manchester Township police officer is held to the highest levels of professionalism, performance and service and the positive feedback received from the public and our supervisors exemplifies these standards.