



MANCHESTER TOWNSHIP POLICE

Lisa D. Parker, Chief of Police

**1 Colonial Drive
Manchester, NJ 08759-3898**

Dear Resident,

As our Township continues to grow, so does our commitment to serve our residents and the community at large. As your Chief of Police, I am committed to connecting with as many community members as possible. Thanks to all of the social media and communication tools we recently instituted, this goal is now a reality.

As you may already know, we manage a very informative Facebook page, located at www.Facebook.com/ManchesterPolice, that is updated several times each week with important police information and highlights of our community outreach efforts. Additionally, Facebook is utilized to ask for the public's assistance in obtaining information related to active investigations. Our website, www.ManchesterPoliceNJ.com, is another key resource containing press releases and comprehensive information about our Department and the many services we provide.

Just as important is our Nixle system, a free-to-use service allowing our Department to communicate directly with residents through text messages, emails, and voice calls. Nixle allows for the instant delivery of high-priority alerts, weather, traffic and/or other public safety advisories, and an assortment of pertinent community notifications. Signing up is easy – send a text message to phone number 888777 with “08759” in the message body.

Our Department is dedicated to upholding Manchester's reputation as a safe, family-orientated community. You may have read that Manchester was selected as the 14th safest city to raise a family in the United States by Safewise.com for the second year in a row. It takes a lot of hard work to maintain that standing; our dispatchers answered more than 50,500 calls last year, with our volunteer Firefighters and First Aiders responding to 14,480 calls for assistance. Our police and emergency personnel work together to provide a dependable service to our community. With the approval of Mayor Kenneth Palmer and the Township Council, our Office of Emergency Management (OEM) recently procured the safety equipment essential to keeping our volunteer Firefighters protected while responding to residences or businesses. Our OEM Officers are also well trained to handle any disaster that may occur in our community.

As part of our commitment to public safety, we have increased our focus on proactive policing. For example, our Narcotics Enforcement Team was formed in July 2014 to combat the drug problems impacting Ocean County towns, including Manchester. Since its inception, NET Officers made 322 drug-related arrests, devoting countless investigative hours into developing cases. These Officers removed more than 4,278 bags of heroin from our streets, with a street value of nearly \$43,000, along with significant quantities of other dangerous narcotics. Many of our tips come from members of the community. Should you witness any suspicious activity in your neighborhood, please contact us at 732-657-6111 or leave an anonymous tip by clicking the “Tip Line” link on our website.

The recent addition of our K-9 Unit, which assists in drug-related searches, among other duties, is another asset new to our town. Our two German Shepherds were purchased at no cost to our taxpayers through funds obtained from drug seizures. These Dual Purpose dogs are trained in patrol operations such as tracking and locating missing persons, suspects, and evidence, as well as in narcotics detection. With one of the largest senior citizen populations in the state with many expansive wooded areas, along with the drug epidemic in Ocean County, these K-9s provide a great service for both rescue searches and narcotics detection.

Our Traffic Safety Section continues to find ways to make our roads safer. These Officers recently provided free training to Fire Fighters and First Aiders, which emphasized the importance of responding safely to emergency calls. They also conduct free monthly child safety seat checks at the Ridgeway Firehouse on the first Wednesday of each month from 4 to 8 p.m. Please feel free to stop by to have your current seat checked, or to have a new seat installed. Additionally, they conduct DWI checkpoints as a method of deterring impaired driving due to alcohol and/or drugs.

In our schools, our School Resource Officer (SRO) is working with Education Administrators to implement a new drug awareness program for our 12th graders. This program will give them the tools and knowledge necessary to make informed, smart decisions regarding drugs and prescription medication as they enter adulthood. Our SRO is the lead instructor of the week-long Police Youth Academy, a summer program for students entering grades 6, 7, and 8 that teaches them about the law enforcement profession. Students in these grades also participate in Stand by Me Day, where they learn about bullying, internet safety, drug and alcohol safety, and the importance of education.

Our Auxiliary Police Unit continues to grow and remains a terrific way for volunteers of any age to help our community; in fact, three of our Auxiliary Officers are over the age of 50. Six Auxiliary Officers recently graduated from our training program, where they participated in a comprehensive selection process that included a thorough background check, and completed 12 weeks of intensive training. They help with traffic/crowd control at events, provide supplemental patrols, engage in community policing activities, and assist Police Officers during emergencies including severe weather events.

Each Manchester Police Officer is invested in the well-being of our community and its residents, which is why you will often see us volunteering. We regularly participate in charity fundraisers, including the Elite Law Enforcement Fitness Challenge, Coach Copeland Scholarship Basketball Game, LMSA Benefit Soccer Match, Special Olympics Snow Bowl, and the PBA 246 Annual Golf Outing, to name just a few. These programs have raised money for Ocean of Love, Garden State COPS, Wounded Warrior Project, and other worthy local causes. Additionally, we recently formed the Manchester Township Police Foundation, Inc., a non-profit organization that works in partnership with citizens, businesses and philanthropic organizations to strengthen the bond between the Police Department and those we serve.

As you can see, we are an active Police Department with a steadfast and sincere focus on community safety. We have developed an excellent partnership with Mayor Kenneth Palmer and the Township Council, as the philosophies and goals we share always put our residents first. Again, I hope that you will connect with us online to stay updated with what's happening in our community. I look forward to continuing our mission of keeping Manchester Township one of the safest communities for our families.

Sincerely,

Chief Lisa D. Parker