

# UPPER MORELAND TOWNSHIP

## POLICE DEPARTMENT

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### 2010 Annual Report



**Thomas J. Nestel III**  
**Chief of Police**

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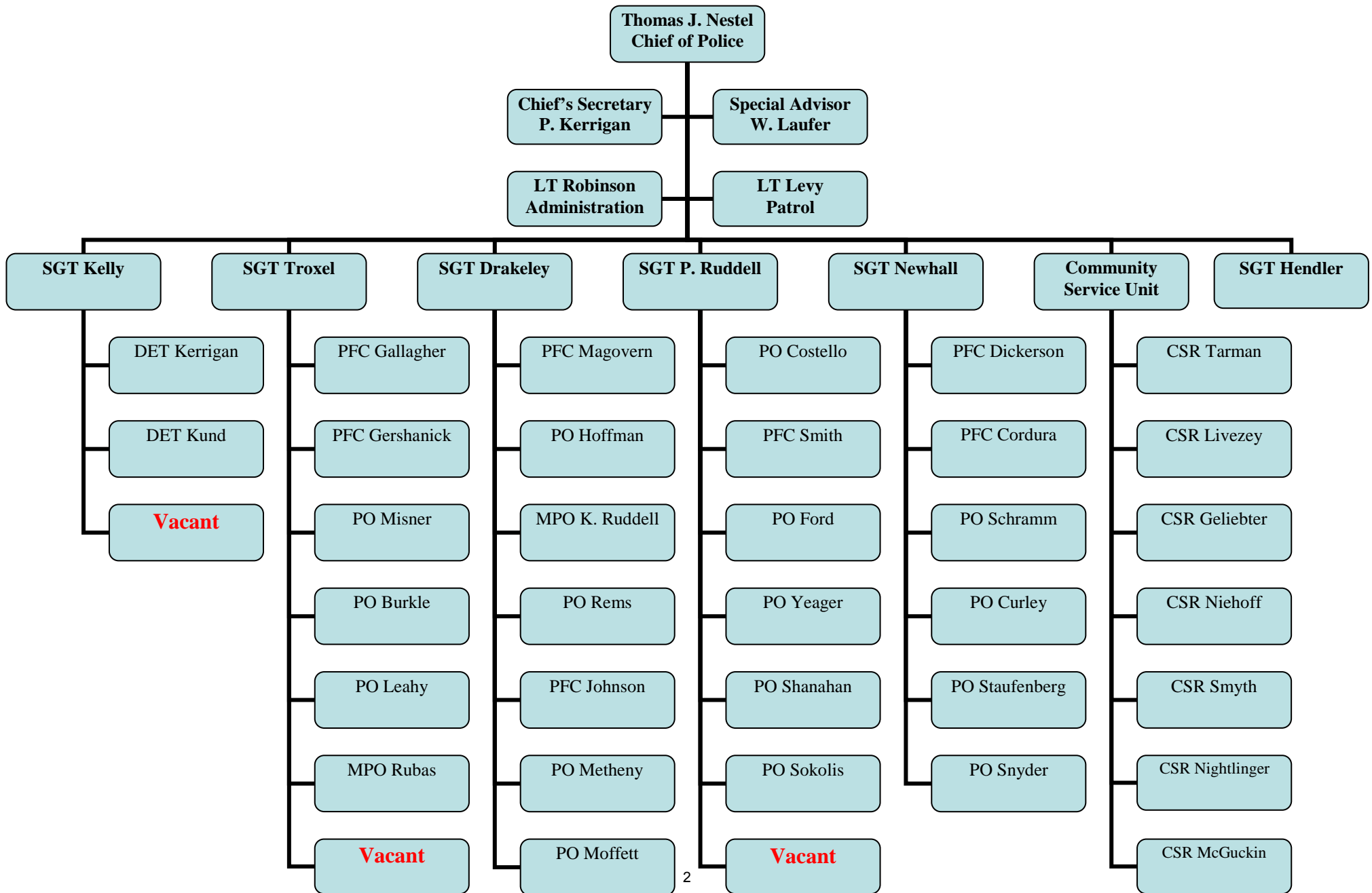
## **Chief Thomas J. Nestel, III**

In the past year, I focused on recruiting residents to become a part of the Upper Moreland Township crime prevention team. We have a safe community and it is my goal to maintain that sense of security that exists in our township. It is my hope that we will continue in our partnership to reduce the opportunity for crime and make our neighborhoods unappealing to individuals looking for the unlocked car door or the block that lacks watchful neighbors.

It is very satisfying working in a community that appreciates the efforts of the police. Upper Moreland's residents staunchly support its officers and that fact is recognized by the entire department. It is important for you to know that when a criminal incident occurs in your neighborhood, the zone officer takes it personally and is very motivated to identify the responsible person. Information that you provide to an officer about problems in your neighborhood does not stop with that officer. It is shared with the entire department so that everyone can be involved in fostering solutions. Your interaction is critical because you are the one who sees the problem at its earliest stage.

This report provides a comprehensive review of reported crime, clearances of those crimes, successes of individual officers, changes within the department and descriptions of new programs. I hope that you find this information worthwhile. Please feel free to email me ([tnestel@uppermoreland.org](mailto:tnestel@uppermoreland.org)) with your public safety concerns.

I hope you and your family have a healthy, safe and prosperous year.



# 2010 POLICE DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL

## COMMAND

Chief Thomas J. Nestel, III  
LT Carl Robinson  
LT Alex Levy

### PLATOON A

SGT Tim Troxel  
PO Bill Gershanick  
PO Tom Leahy  
PO Dave Burkle  
PO Larry Rubas  
PO Frank Gallagher  
PO Deb Dibono\*  
PO Brian Rems

### PLATOON B

SGT Mark Drakeley  
PO Kelly Ruddell  
PO Bill Hoffman  
PO Ken Johnson  
PO John Magovern  
PO Scott Metheny  
PO Kevin Moffett  
PO Richard Gump\*

### CID

SGT James Kelly  
DET Rick Kerrigan  
DET Maureen Kund  
DET Bryan McCauley\*

### SPECIAL PROJECTS

SGT Dave Hendler

### CIVILIAN SUPPORT

Patti Kerrigan, Chief's Secretary  
Michelle Perkins, Crossing Guard  
Joe Reilly, Crossing Guard  
Jim McGhee, Crossing Guard  
Barb Sampson, Dispatcher\*  
Peg Carson, Dispatcher\*

### PLATOON C

SGT Peter Ruddell  
PO Tom Sokolis  
PO Todd Smith  
PO James Costello  
PO Rich Shanahan  
PO Jeff Ford  
PO Peter Yeager

### PLATOON D

SGT Brian Newhall  
PO Joe Staufenberg  
PO Jason Dickerson  
PO Pam Cordura  
PO Stephen Curley  
PO Matt Snyder  
PO John Schramm

### COMMUNITY SERVICE UNIT

CSR Melissa Livezey  
CSR Lynne Geliebter  
CSR Joanna Nightlinger  
CSR Shawn Tarman  
CSR Karen Smyth  
CSR Tara Parrish  
CSR Tina McGuckin

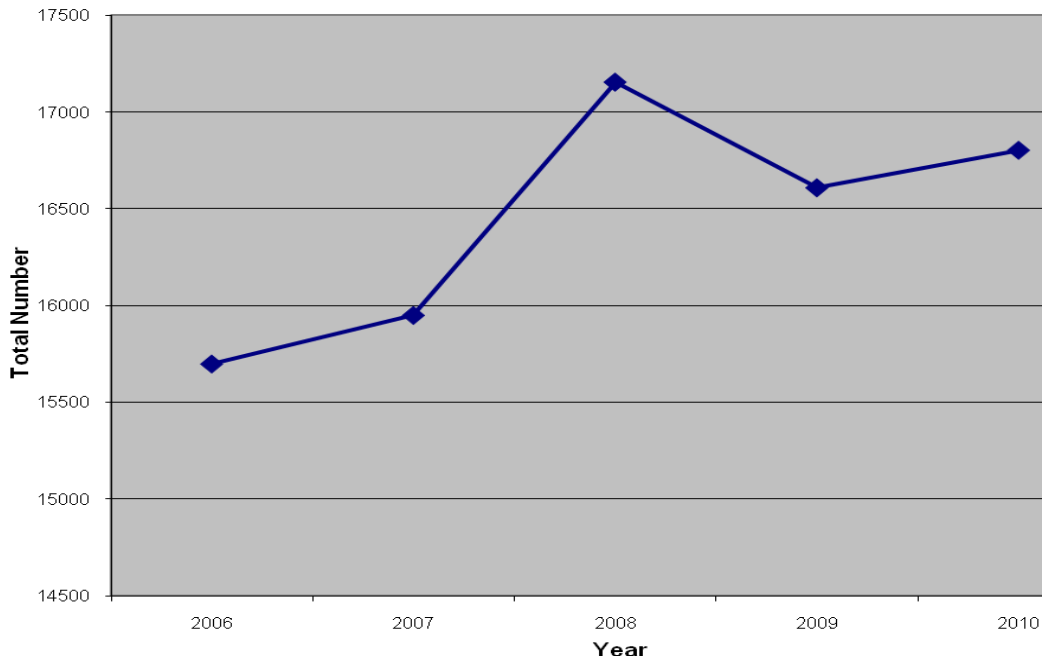
*\*Retired during 2010*

# CALLS FOR SERVICE



Since 2006, the calls for service received by either 9-1-1 or the Upper Moreland Police Department's non-emergency number have increased. The dramatic increase between 2007 and 2008 was directly related to the opening of the Super Wal-Mart store on Blair Mill Road. Calls for service include all requests for the dispatch of police whether emergency or non-emergency. In 2010, the Upper Moreland Police Department responded to 16,804 calls for service.

Calls For Service

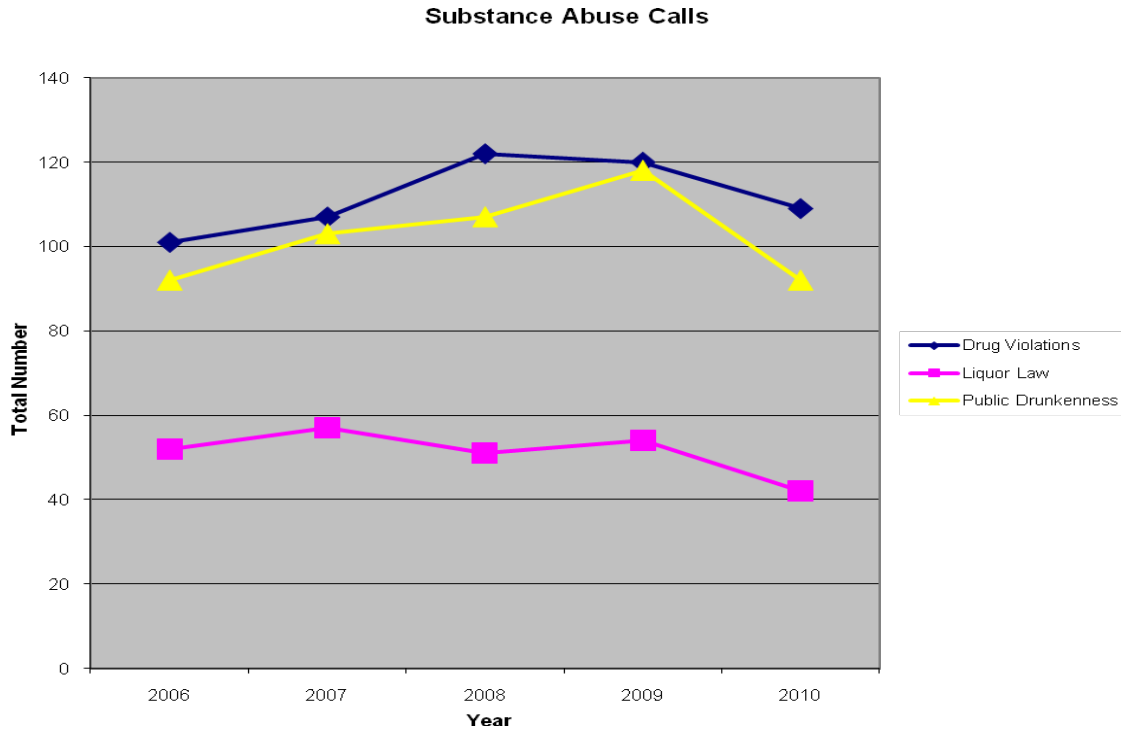


# SUBSTANCE ABUSE CALLS

During 2010, there were 92 public drunkenness reports, 42 liquor law violations, and 109 drug violations. The total for the 9-1-1 calls reporting substance abuse do not reflect the number of arrests for this offense.

In 2010, the Upper Moreland Police Department responded with the Second Alarmers Rescue Squad to 40 incidents of suspected drug or alcohol overdose. The average age of the persons seeking medical assistance for this problem was 38. The victims ranged in age from 16 to 70 years of age. Four residents died in their homes from drug overdoses.

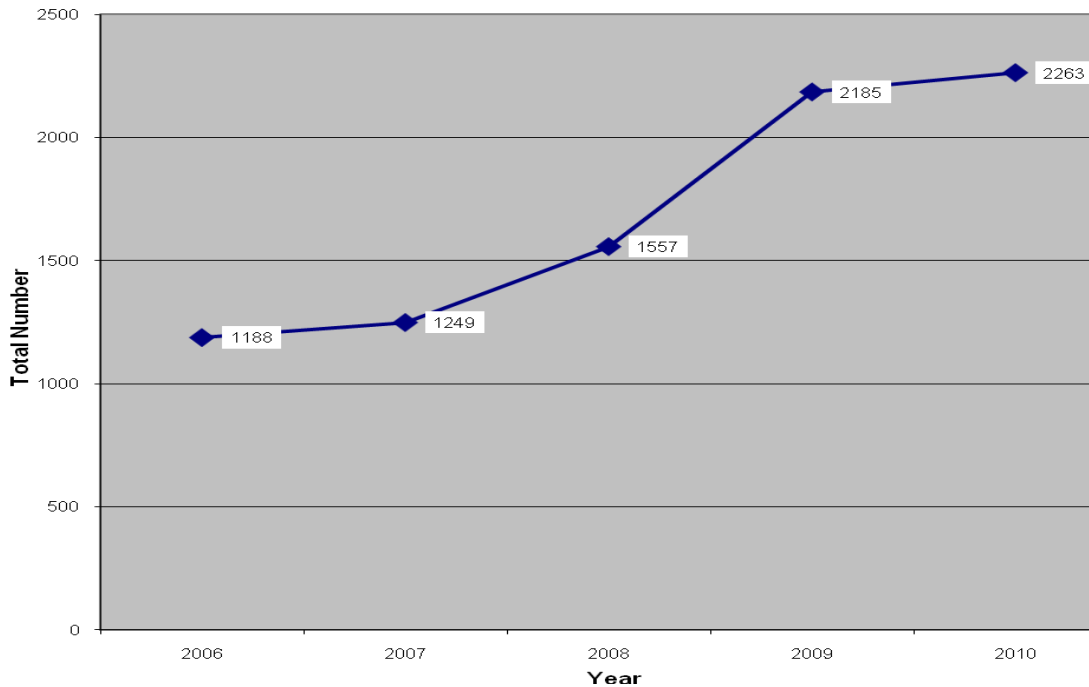
The UMPD engaged in 24 undercover drug operations which resulted in multiple arrests and the recovery of narcotics and firearms.



# The Wal-Mart Phenomenon

In May 2008, a Super Wal-Mart opened at 2101 Blair Mill Road. Prior to the opening of the Wal-Mart, that geographic area had a yearly average of 1,193 calls for service. In 2010, the calls for service increased to 2,263. Prior to the opening of the Wal-Mart, that geographic area had a yearly average of 4 calls for retail theft. In 2010, the calls for retail thefts increased to 82. Prior to the opening of the Wal-Mart, that geographic area had a yearly average of 166 vehicle crashes. In 2010, the calls for vehicle crashes increased to 196 vehicle crashes. The Super Wal-Mart has had a substantial effect on the Upper Moreland Police Department workload.

Wal-mart Area Calls For Service

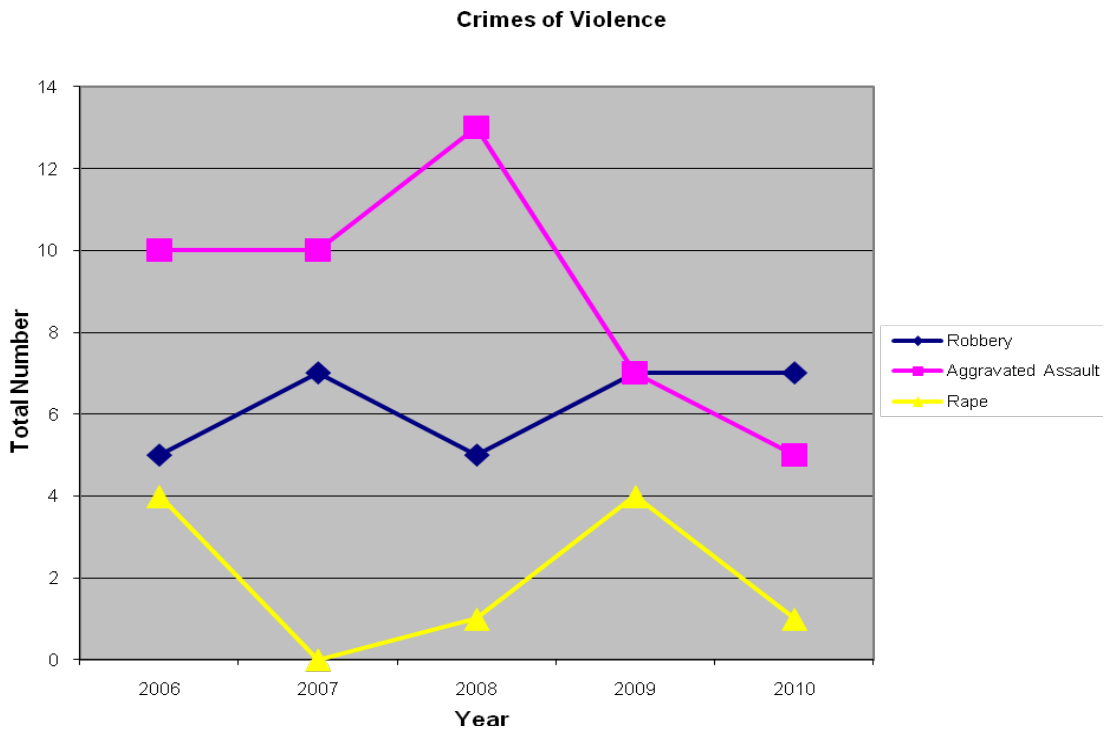


# CRIMES OF VIOLENCE



Crimes of violence are offenses that are committed against a person. Crimes of violence are murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault. In 2010, there was no increase in crimes of violence. Murder and rape are offenses that generally do not require a definition. In 2010, there were no murders and one rape which was committed by a domestic partner. Robbery is the act of forcibly taking property from a person. Contrary to popular belief, when a house is broken into it is burglarized and not robbed. The number of robberies stayed constant at 7. Aggravated assault is an

intentional act which results in serious bodily injury. The number of aggravated assaults decreased to 5.

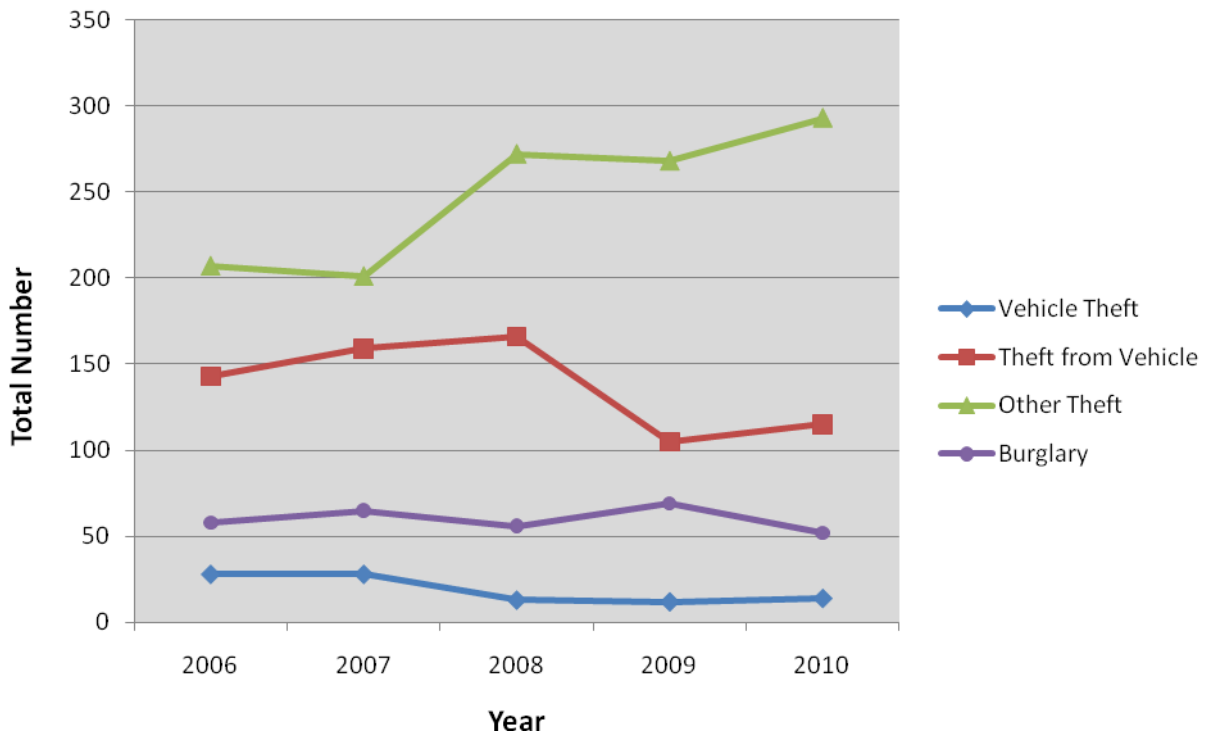


# PROPERTY CRIMES



Property crimes include the offenses of burglary and theft. During 2010, the Upper Moreland Police Department responded to and investigated 52 burglaries, 115 thefts from vehicles, 14 vehicle thefts and 293 other types of theft. Fifty-three percent of the persons arrested for burglaries committed in the township were Upper Moreland residents. Overwhelmingly, burglaries occurred during daylight hours while thefts from vehicle occurred during the overnight hours. *The majority of thefts from vehicles occurred from unlocked cars.*

Property Crime



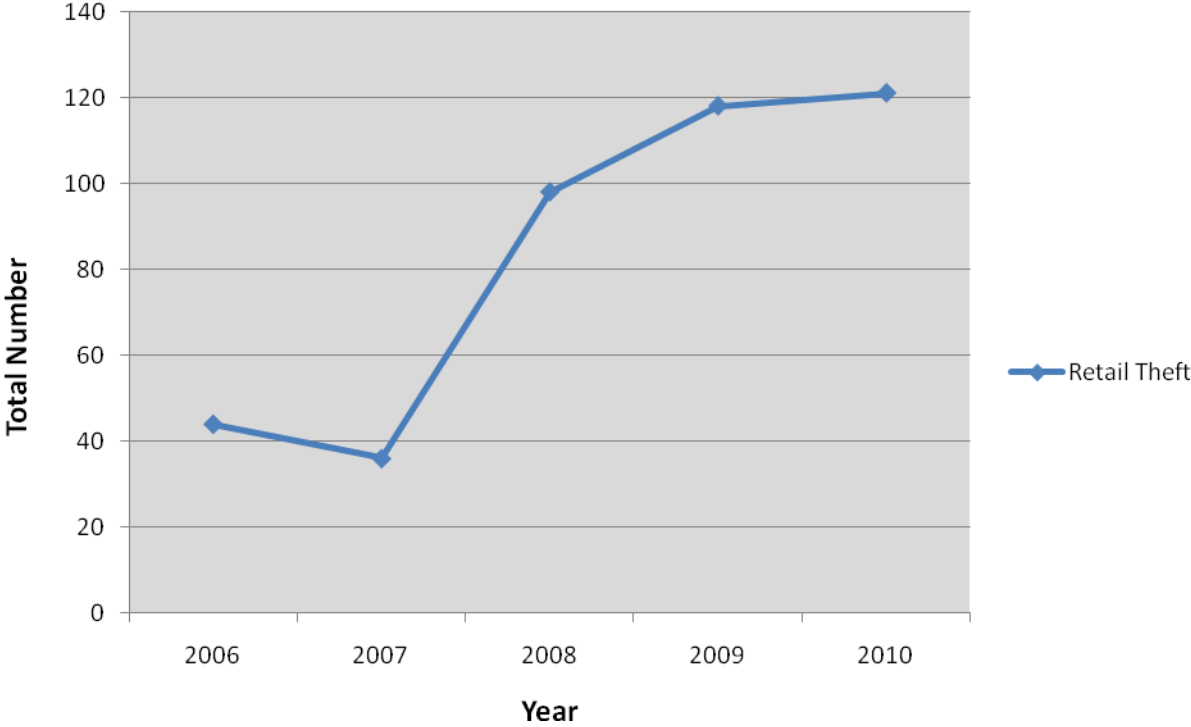
# Retail Theft



Retail theft is a problem that keeps getting worse. The dramatic spike in Upper Moreland retail theft cases is tied directly to the Super Wal-Mart store. During 2010, the Upper Moreland Police Department responded to and investigated 121 retail thefts which is a 275% increase from 2006. Of the 121 retail theft cases investigated, all but 33 were cleared with an arrest or refusal to prosecute by the store.

Upper Moreland residents accounted for 19 of the 122 people arrested in 2010. Although Wal-Mart is responsible for the majority of the retail theft incidents in the township, fairness dictates the need to note that several other large retail stores do not report thefts. Credit should be given to the Wal-Mart management for their willingness to accurately report criminal activity and the aggressive approach towards prosecuting retail theft offenders.

Retail Theft



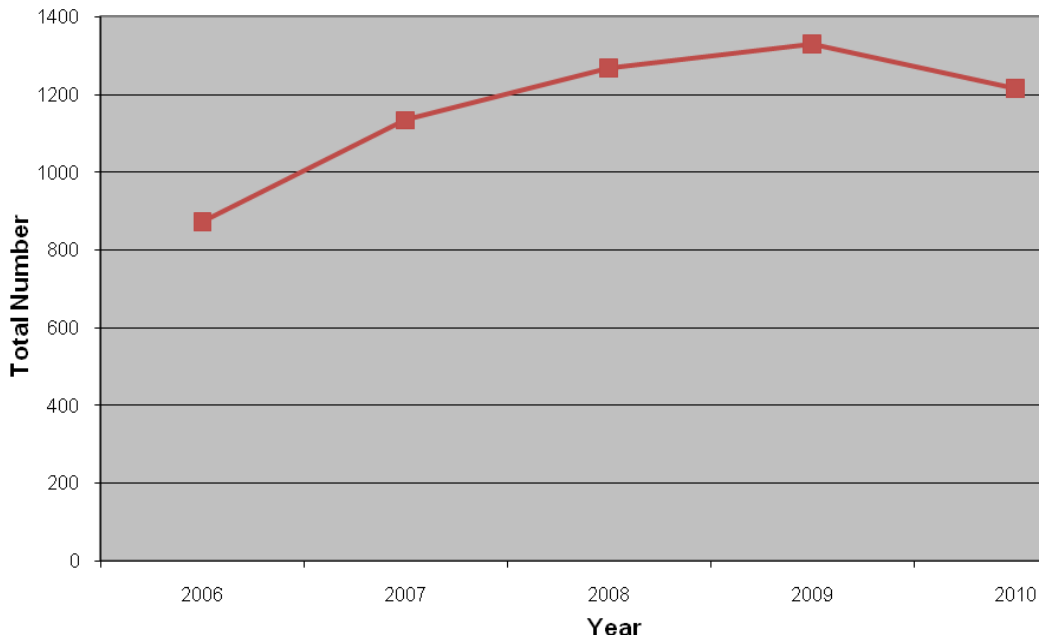
# ARREST TOTALS



When a person violates the law in Upper Moreland Township, the community expects the police to take the appropriate action to deter the violator from re-offending. To prevent crime and harden the potential targets of criminals, the police attempt to be omnipresent. Proactive policing involves officers addressing problems at their earliest stage. Strict enforcement of nuisance crime sends a message to the criminal element that

inappropriate behavior will not be tolerated. Additionally, involvement of the community in identifying suspicious persons assists the police in focusing their attention where it is most needed. For the first time in six years, the Upper Moreland Police Department has seen a decrease in the number of arrests made each year. In 2010, 1,215 individuals were arrested for criminal offenses.

Arrest Totals



# CRIME CLEARANCES

## Comparing Upper Moreland with Other Jurisdictions

	Violent Crime Clearances		Property Crime Clearances	
	2009	2010	2009	2010
Northeast U.S.	51.2%	Not Available	21.6%	Not Available
Surrounding Depts	67.3%	Not Available	32.2%	Not Available
Upper Moreland	82.3%	108%*	25.2%	28.9%

\*The clearance rate is more than 100% because several crimes from 2009 were solved in 2010. The clearance rate for violent crimes occurring in 2010 was 92.3%

Every jurisdiction in the United States submits crime and clearance data to the United States Department of Justice. The information is included in a yearly national Uniform Crime Report (UCR). The report tracks the total number of Part One offenses occurring in each jurisdiction and the total number of offenses cleared. Part One offenses are violent crimes committed against persons and the theft of property. The actual offenses include: Murder, Rape, Robbery, Aggravated Assault, Burglary and Theft.

Clearing crime is a labor intensive effort that requires tenacity, persistence and sound investigative practices. The Upper Moreland Police Department improved the violent crime clearance rate from 82.3% in 2009 to 92.3% in 2010. The department also improved its property crime clearance rate from 25.2% in 2009 to 28.9% in 2010.

The Upper Moreland Police Department consistently has a higher violent crime clearance rate than its neighboring jurisdictions and the jurisdictions in the Northeast Region of the United States.

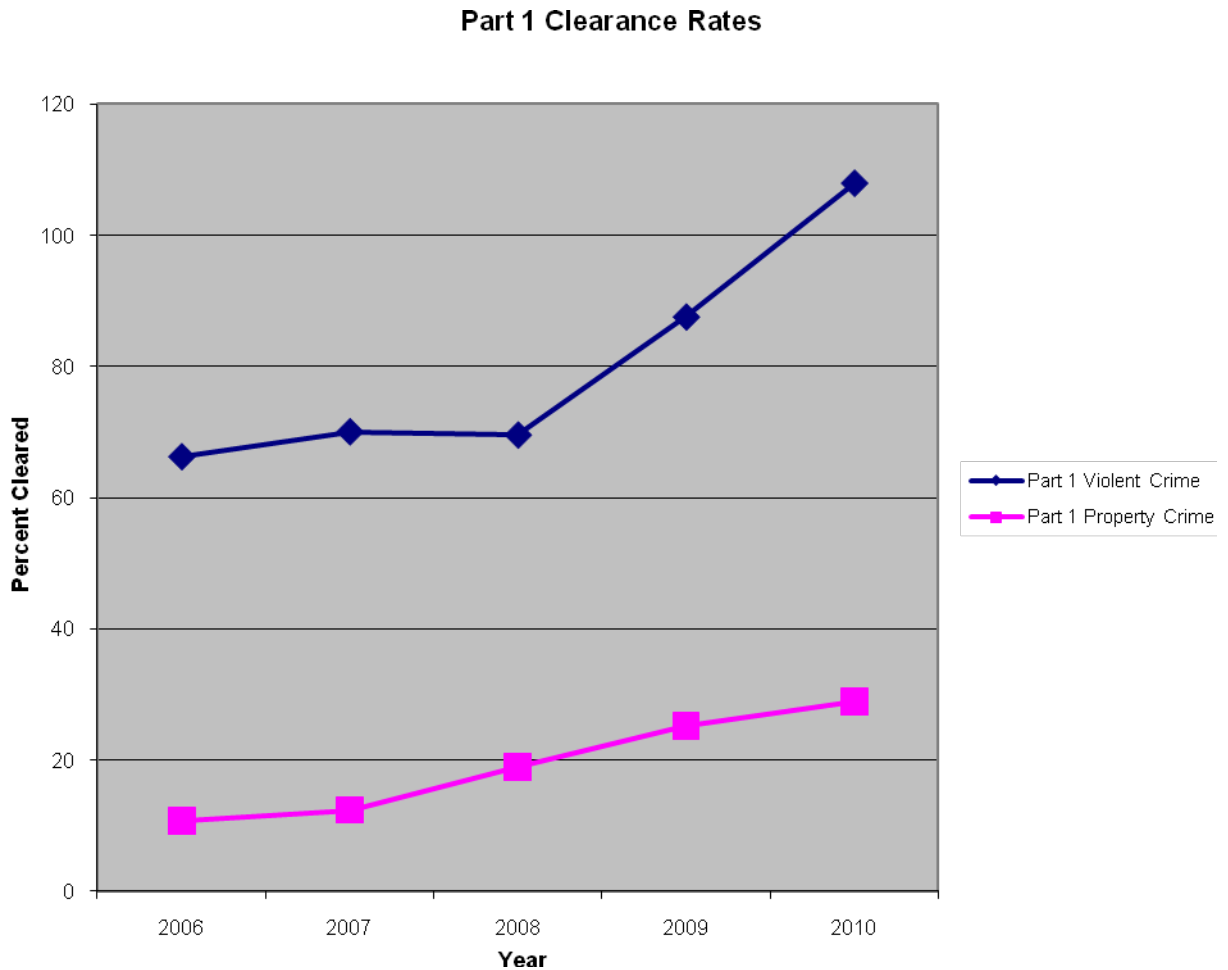


The Upper Moreland Police Department has a slightly higher property crime clearance rate than the jurisdictions in the Northeast Region of the United States. The neighboring jurisdictions had a slightly higher property crime clearance rate than the Upper Moreland Police Department.

The 2010 clearance rate data for the Northeast Region of the United States and the departments neighboring Upper Moreland Township is not yet available.

## Upper Moreland Township Crime Clearance Rate 2006-2010

As shown in the below chart, the Department continues to improve its efforts in solving violent crime and property crime. The percentage of cleared violent crimes in 2010 exceeds 100% because several incidents occurring in 2009 were solved in 2010.



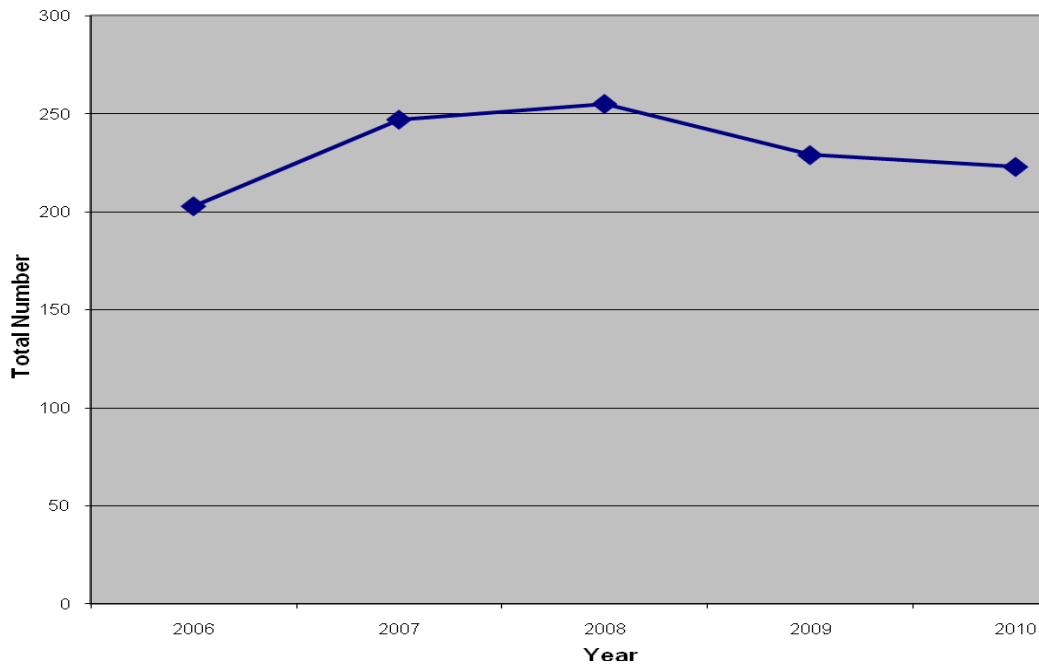
# DUI ARRESTS



The Upper Moreland Police Department aggressively engages in DUI enforcement. Nearly the entire department has been certified in the use of Standardized Field Sobriety Tests. The department has an extremely high conviction rate and while other jurisdictions have suffered from fatal DUI involved crashes, Upper Moreland Township has not had such an incident in several years. In 2009 and 2010, the UMPD arrested the most DUI violators of any police department in Montgomery County.

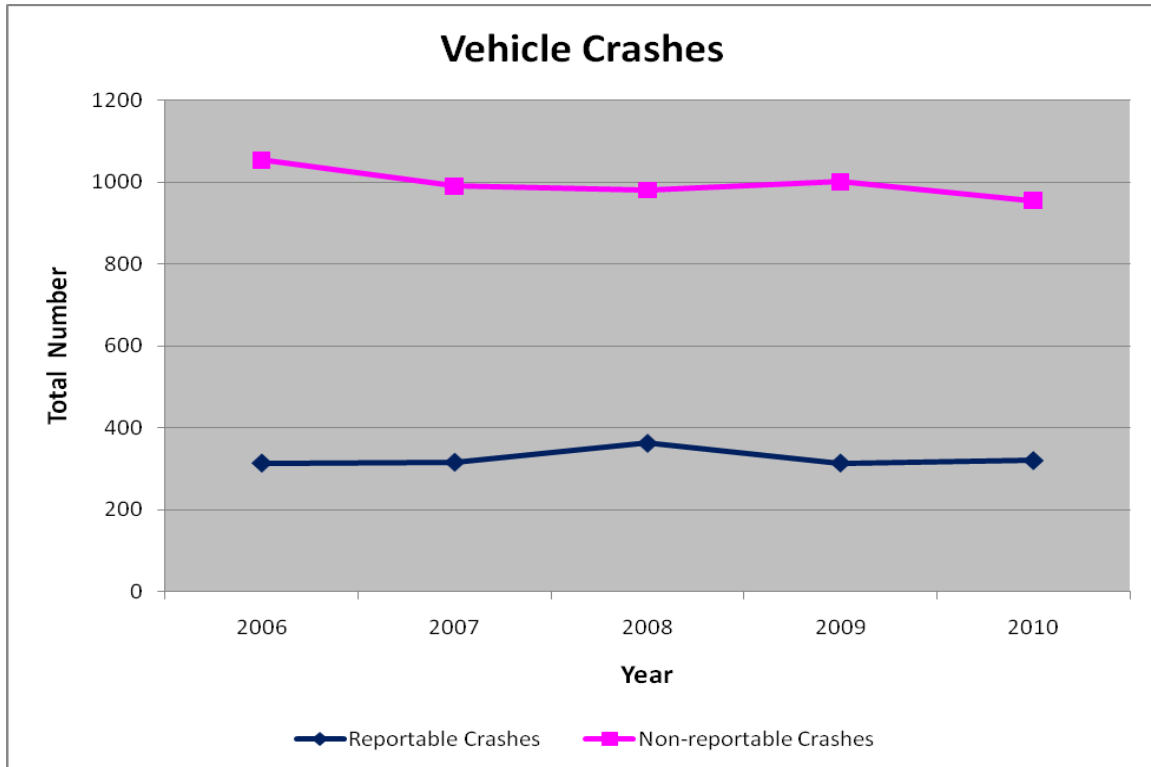
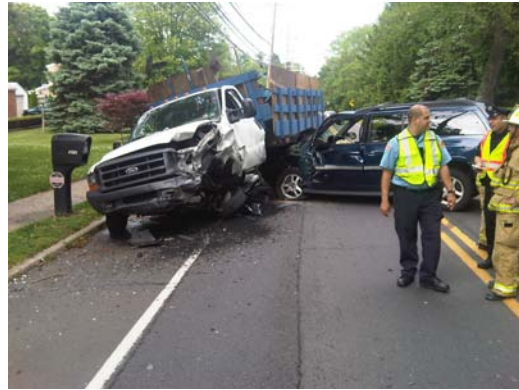
Comparing all of the 1100 police departments in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to the UMPD in DUI arrests, the department ranked 13<sup>th</sup> in 2009. In 2010, the UMPD arrested 222 DUI violators.

DUI Arrests



# VEHICLE CRASHES

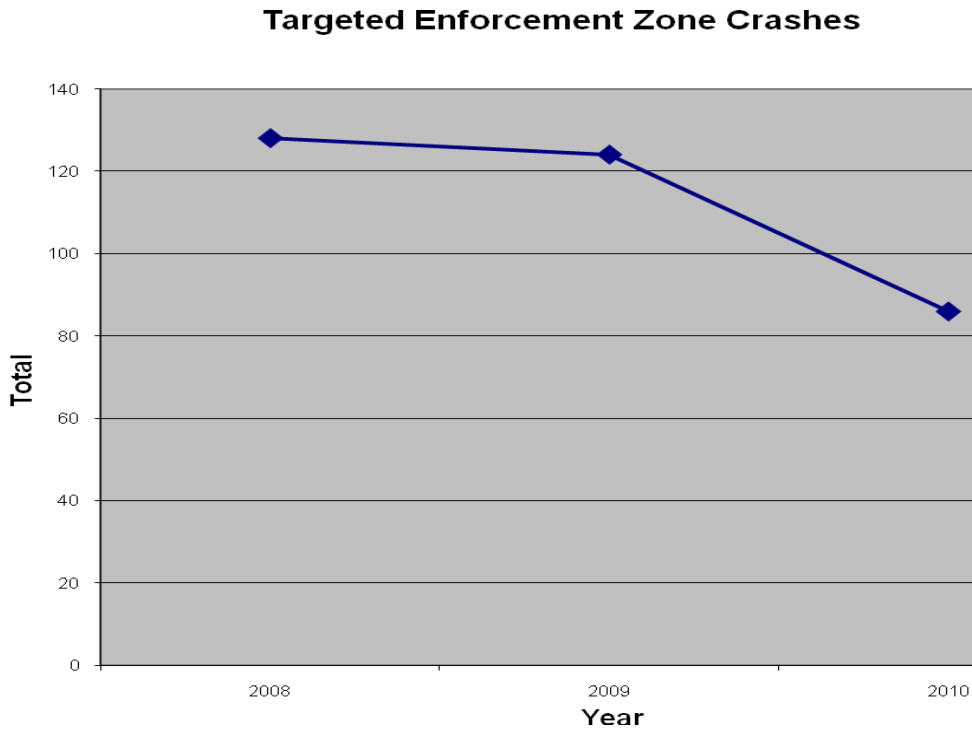
During 2010, the Upper Moreland Police Department responded to 1,275 vehicle crashes. Crashes are divided into two categories: those with injuries or towing are known as reportable and all other crashes are known as non-reportable. The number of crashes that were investigated and deemed to be reportable was 320. The number of crashes that were deemed to be non-reportable was 955. Overall, there was a 3% reduction in crashes comparing 2009 to 2010.



# TARGETED ENFORCEMENT ZONES

A systematic review of data related to crashes in the Township assisted in identifying particular roadways and timeframes during which the likelihood was higher that a crash would occur. Based on that analysis, officers were specifically assigned to those targeted enforcement zones. While visibility was the primary element of the plan, interrupting offenses known to be the underlying causation factors for crashes served as the secondary function of the effort.

During 2010, the department's members were deployed on a daily basis to the targeted enforcement zones during the morning and afternoon rush hours. Additionally, grant funding was used to bolster staffing levels during high crash times. As a result of the additional staffing and focused enforcement, the Upper Moreland Police Department succeeded in reducing crashes in the targeted enforcement zones by 30.7%.



## TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT

Chief Nestel introduced evidence-based policing to the Upper Moreland Police Department. After an analysis of vehicle crashes in the township, targeted enforcement was directed to specific roadways during specific timeframes. The year 2010 was the second full year that the targeted enforcement program was in place. The targeted enforcement program successfully reduced crashes by 30.7% in the high crash areas. An emphasis was placed on visibility and disrupting dangerous driving in the target areas.

When an officer engages in traffic enforcement, s/he possesses the final decision regarding whether to issue a citation. The results highlighted in the below table provide an interesting finding. Although traditional policing holds that an increase in citations results in a decrease in crashes, the data seems to disprove that hypothesis. During 2010, a decrease in citations issued resulted in a corresponding decrease in crashes.

In the below table, the various traffic enforcement actions are noted with the % change from 2009. Hazardous violations are reckless offenses that result in the assessment of points to a driver's history. Non-hazardous violations are equipment, registration, and licensing offenses that do not result in the assessment of points.

Type of Action	Number	% change from 2009
Hazardous Citations	2340	14.3% decrease
Non Hazardous Citations	1509	19.8% decrease
Warnings Given	2876	10.4% increase
Parking Violations	359	7.5% increase

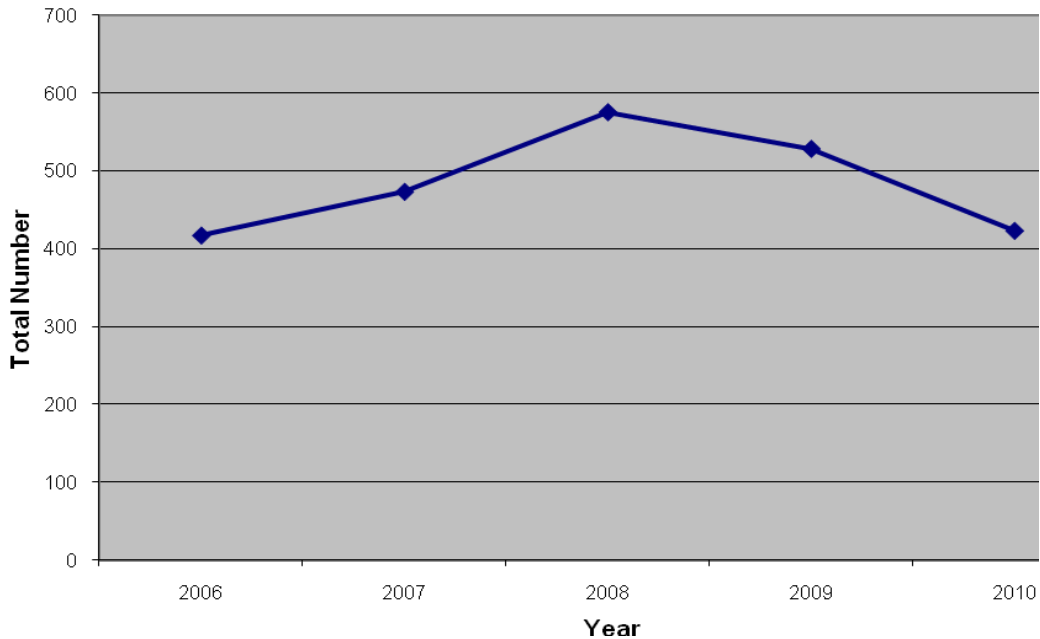
# ANIMAL INCIDENTS



Upper Moreland Township provides a unique service to its residents. While most jurisdictions advise their constituents to contract private animal control companies to address wild and domestic animal issues on private property, Upper Moreland Township has a dedicated Animal Control Officer. In September 2010, the department was restructured to serve the residents better by creating the Community Service Unit. This enhancement in service delivery enables the department to provide animal control capabilities

beyond the historical weekday business hours. The Community Service Representatives address dangerous animals, take custody of lost domestic pets, and investigate nuisance animal complaints. In 2010, the department recorded 423 animal incidents addressed by its employees.

**Animal Incidents**



## COMMUNITY NOTIFICATION

The department has taken tremendous strides in keeping the community aware of criminal activity and public safety information. During 2010, the department adopted some innovative methods to ensure that residents have the opportunity to be active participants in protecting their family and property.

### NIXLE.COM

The Upper Moreland Police Department has initiated a community notification program to advise residents of wanted persons, crime patterns and public safety information. The



use of **Nixle.com** provides a creative method of recruiting the community to become involved in crime prevention efforts. By encouraging residents to register for the free program, alerts are sent in a timely fashion via text and email. The program has become incredibly successful, and Chief Nestel hopes that more residents will opt to join the department in its crime fighting effort.

### CRIMEREPORTS.COM

The police department also initiated a pilot program to enable residents to easily view maps that show reported crime in the neighborhoods of Upper Moreland. Each week, incidents are posted in the form of an electronic pin on their map. If residents see that their neighborhood is suffering from a crime pattern, they can call the department and seek information



regarding the incidents and be advised of steps to take to prevent victimization. Access to the website is free to residents. The department encourages its residents to routinely check the township map on **Crimereports.com**.

### COMMUNITY FLYERS

If a burglary or a theft from an auto occurs on your street or a neighboring street, you will receive a community notification flyer in your mailbox. The department wants you to know about reported crime so that you can be more alert for suspicious activity. The flyers advise our residents to IMMEDIATELY call 9-1-1 if they see something that does not look right. The flyers encourage residents to contact the police whenever an unknown person is on their property or their neighbor's property. The residents have been told that waiting until the following day or thinking that you do not want to bother the police does not help prevent crime or apprehend criminals in our neighborhoods.

## **SPECIALIZED UNITS AND PROGRAMS**

The Upper Moreland Police Department has several specialized functions in which members can volunteer to serve. Every officer and supervisor in the department understands that their most important function is as a member of the patrol division and that all other specializations are secondary to the goal of service to the public. The members who serve in specialized functions train on a regular basis and are expected to be available for emergency recall.

### **MAJOR INCIDENT RESPONSE TEAM (MIRT)**

MIRT is a county-wide element consisting of 117 officers from 40 different police departments in Montgomery County. The Police Chiefs in Montgomery County created the team, and it routinely trains and mobilizes with MIRT teams from Philadelphia, Bucks, Chester and Delaware Counties. This regional force multiplier is specially trained and equipped to respond to events requiring a large-scale police presence. Lieutenant Alex Levy of the Upper Moreland Police Department is the Team Commander.



In addition to Lieutenant Levy, five other members of the Upper Moreland Police Department serve on the MIRT team. In September 2010, MIRT officers traveled to Alabama for a week of training by the federal government. The training program provided officers with advanced crowd control tactics and strategies for responding to terrorism incidents involving improvised explosive devices and chemical agents. The Upper Moreland Police Department

was represented in Alabama by Lieutenant Alex Levy, Police Officer R. Kenneth Johnson and Police Officer John Schramm. Additionally, Officer Schramm has been chosen to be part of an elite “cut” team and will be traveling to Alabama for additional training in dismantling devices utilized by groups who try to defeat dispersal and arrest by locking themselves together.

### **BIKE UNIT**

The Upper Moreland Police Department has six members who are trained and certified to function as a law enforcement bike patrol unit by the International Police Mountain Bike Association (IPMBA). The use of mountain bicycles provides the department with the ability to patrol areas of the township that are difficult to access. Bike patrols also enhance contacts with the community and add a higher degree of stealth to patrol.

The police department uses bikes extensively in shopping centers during the crowded holiday periods, the parks during the summer months, and at the June Fete.

## **POLICE HONOR GUARD**



The Upper Moreland Police Department possesses its own Honor Guard. Nine members of the department serve in this military-like function. The Honor Guard performs at various events and functions throughout the year. In 2010, the Honor Guard attended the opening ceremony of the June Fete, performed at a Phillies ball girl charity softball game, and at the Temple University

Police Academy graduation ceremony. The Honor Guard routinely appears as the department's representatives at high-profile funerals.

## **YOUTH AID PANEL**

The Upper Moreland Police Department utilizes an alternative prosecution program known as the Youth Aid Panel. This program is a way to enhance community awareness and responsibility for the youth. YAP is a combined effort of law enforcement, social services, and trained citizens who help eligible first-time offenders and their families recognize inappropriate behavior and determine a suitable course of action to correct criminal activity. Community service, education programs, and restitution are samples of the possible responses delivered by the YAP.

In 2010, the Upper Moreland Police Department referred 54 youths to YAP. The percentage of participants successfully completing the program requirement during 2010 was 77.8%.

## **TRUCK ENFORCEMENT UNIT**

In 2008, the Upper Moreland Police Department initiated a Truck Enforcement Unit. The fourth largest traffic volume on the Pennsylvania Turnpike passes through the Willow Grove Interchange. In 2006, more than 1.5 million trucks and buses entered or exited the turnpike at the Willow Grove Interchange. A total of 12 state highways traverse Upper Moreland Township. State highways are the most frequently used roadways by commercial vehicle traffic.

Sergeant Peter Ruddell serves as the primary officer on the Truck Enforcement Unit. He has successfully completed training that enables him to weigh commercial vehicles for

excessive loads. He has also obtained a Commercial Driver's License and is certified to conduct state inspections on all types of vehicles. Sergeant Ruddell has completed a training program for criminal interdiction of commercial vehicles and investigations involving commercial vehicles. He has successfully attained the specialized Motor Carrier Safety Assistance Program certification and has assisted a variety of other departments and agencies due to his expertise. In 2010, the Truck Enforcement Unit issued 54 citations with fines totaling \$7,200.

## K9 UNIT

The Upper Moreland Police Department proudly possesses one of the most successful K9 units in the region. During 2010, the department's K9 Unit consisted of: Police Officer Stephen P. Curley and Zeus, Police Officer Larry Rubas and Eraz, Police Officer Brian Rems and Dex, and Police Officer Rich Shanahan and Ozzy.

The Upper Moreland Police Department suffered a devastating blow in 2010. Police Officer Stephen Curley's canine partner, Zeus, passed away in October. Zeus gave the township many years of loyal service.

The Upper Moreland Police K9 unit is a valuable supplement to the patrol division. The canines help patrol officers locate offenders, articles from crime scenes, subdue and control violent uncooperative offenders, and assist with crowd control.



During 2010, the Upper Moreland Police K9 unit was deployed 101 times. Due to the outstanding reputation of the Upper Moreland Police K9 Unit, other agencies in the region frequently request the officers for help.

## EASTERN MONTGOMERY COUNTY SWAT (EMSWAT)



The Moreland Area Emergency Response Team (MAERT) was formed in the late 1980s to respond to high risk situations involving suspects armed with firearms. In 2010, MAERT changed its name to EMSWAT. EMSWAT represents the municipalities of Bryn Athyn, Hatboro, Horsham, Jenkintown, Lower Moreland, Rockledge, Upper Dublin and Upper Moreland. There are thirty-five members on the team including entry operators, snipers and crisis negotiators. The Upper Moreland Police Department has ten officers participating in various capacities on the team,

including the Team Commander, the Crisis Negotiation Unit Team Leader, an Entry Team Leader and an Assistant Entry Team Leader. The team trains monthly and travels to Fort Indiantown Gap every year for three consecutive days of advanced scenario-based training. In addition, EMSWAT is the designated Hazardous Materials SWAT Team for Montgomery County. EMSWAT is currently training and equipping an additional 8 officers to be Hazmat SWAT officers. This will give the team 24 specially trained and equipped officers to handle SWAT operations in a contaminated environment. The team participated in several large scale regional scenarios in 2010. One of the main objectives of the regional drills is to prepare the five County Teams in our region to operate together to solve large and complex scenarios. In 2010, EMSWAT was activated for twelve high-risk/high-threat incidents.

## EXTERNAL FUNDING SOURCES



A fiscally responsible way of funding special projects lies in the successful application of grant programs and the development of corporate and private sponsorships. During 2010, the Upper Moreland Police Department obtained grants from the U.S. Department of Justice, the U.S. Bureau of Justice Assistance, the U.S. Department of Transportation, and the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation. The grants enabled the purchase of ballistic resistant vests for officers, specialized training for sworn and civilian personnel, the deployment of additional assets to reduce vehicle crashes, equipment for SWAT operations, equipment for the Major Incident Response Team, and discreet emergency lights for CID vehicles. The total dollar amount received in 2010 by the Upper Moreland Police Department from external sources exceeded \$75,000.

### DUI Checkpoints

During 2010, Upper Moreland Township conducted two DUI checkpoints. The checkpoints were staffed by officers from several local agencies, along with numerous citizen volunteers. The checkpoint task force rotates from municipality to municipality.

The checkpoints were initiated to educate the public about the dangers of drunk driving. Officers engage in brief contacts with motorists during which observations are made to detect intoxicated drivers. If a motorist is suspected of being intoxicated, he or she is subjected to a battery of field sobriety tests.



The officers working the two checkpoints this year in Upper Moreland stopped 1,740 vehicles. These stops found 35 people who required further testing. As a result of the checkpoints, the Upper Moreland Police arrested 12 drunk drivers and five drug offenders.

In addition to the checkpoint operations, the grant provides for the assignment of roving patrols with the specific goal of detecting drunk drivers. The Upper Moreland Police Department took advantage of this opportunity to deploy additional officers on the roadways of the township and succeeded in arresting several people for liquor law violations.

## PA Aggressive Driving



The PA Aggressive Driving Program is a federally funded program targeting behaviors that increase the probability of crashes. Police enforcement was directed along specific highways where aggressive driving has resulted in crashes. Route 611 and Route 63 were the identified highways in 2010. The most common aggressive driving offenses include speeding, following too closely, unsafe lane changes, disregarding red lights and stops signs, passing improperly and failing to yield the right of way. The Upper Moreland Police Department remains vigilant in identifying drivers who endanger the safety of other motorists. The grant funded 157 overtime patrol hours during which more than 1,000 aggressive drivers were investigated.

## Speed Hump Effectiveness Study

The Upper Moreland Police Department received a Justice Assistance Grant to conduct an academic study of the effectiveness of speed humps in residential neighborhoods. The research and experimentation began in 2010 and will continue into 2011. The result will provide evidence-based guidance for legislators in deciding whether speed humps can be a worthwhile strategy in reducing aggressive driving in neighborhoods.



## K9 Replacement

In the Department's time of need, many individuals and organizations jumped at the opportunity to assist. When one of the Police K9 dogs succumbed to cancer, the Moose Lodge launched an effort to raise funds to enable replacement of this tremendous asset. As a result of a spaghetti dinner fund raiser, the **Moose Lodge** gathered more than \$6000 for the department. **Wal-Mart** donated \$1000, and **Sam's Club** contributed \$2000. Scores of other generous people and businesses sent checks for a variety of amounts. The fundraising was successful and Police Officer Brian Rems and Dex are patrolling the community because of the tremendous support of our friends. Thank you!

# 2010 AWARDS AND COMMENDATIONS

## TOP GUN AWARD

Police officers in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania who arrest 50 or more drunk drivers during the course of the calendar year are officially recognized with the very prestigious Top Gun Award. **Officer Stephen Curley** has consistently led the Upper Moreland Police Department in arrests of drunk drivers. In 2010, he received his 7<sup>th</sup> Top Gun Award. During 2010, Curley arrested 50 drunk drivers. This is a phenomenal accomplishment!



## UNIT CITATION



A call was received by 9-1-1 operators reporting a horrible mid afternoon vehicle crash in the 1000 block of York Road. The responding officers discovered a vehicle on its roof with both occupants critically injured after being ejected from the vehicle. **Officer Scott Metheny, Sergeant Pete Ruddell, Sergeant Brian Newhall, Detective Maureen Kund, and Sergeant Mark Drakeley** responded to the scene. The officers established cervical immobilization for both patients until they were relieved by paramedics from the Second Alarmers Rescue Squad. Abington Hospital medical personnel reported that both patients would probably have suffered paralysis or death had the officers failed to immediately establish cervical immobilization.

## MERIT COMMENDATION



A local check cashing agency reported that a subject was attempting to cash a stolen check. The suspect was arrested without incident by the responding officers. **Sergeant Mark Drakeley** was one of the officers that responded on that day. A month later, Sergeant Drakeley reviewed a wanted person poster from the Philadelphia Police Department. The poster was seeking information on an unidentified bank robber. Sergeant Drakeley recognized the bank robbery suspect as being the individual that was arrested by officers in his squad more than a month earlier. The Philadelphia Police Department was notified of the suspect's name and address. The individual was subsequently taken into custody and admitted to committing the bank robbery.

## MERIT AND UNIT COMMENDATIONS



In the early afternoon, **Officer Frank Gallagher** stopped a vehicle in front of Bally's Fitness Center for a vehicle code violation. While Officer Gallagher was investigating the driver, who had a suspended license, county radio received a report of an armed robbery in progress. The alert county radio 9-1-1 operator heard Officer Gallagher talking in the background of the phone used to report the armed robbery. It was quickly discovered that

one of the vehicle's occupants had called in a fake robbery in an attempt to misdirect Officer Gallagher. The subsequent investigation revealed that the two subjects in the vehicle had just committed several identity thefts from the Bally's Fitness Center locker room. A search warrant for the vehicle's contents revealed a computer, portable identification printing equipment, and numerous false identifications. Also recovered from the vehicle was more than \$14,000 worth of merchandise which had been purchased with false identifications based on stolen identity. One of the apprehended felons is from Florida and the other is from Ohio. Both traveled around the eastern part of the United States committing thefts, identity theft and forgery. In addition to the Merit Commendation awarded to Officer Gallagher, **Sergeant James Kelly and Detective Maureen Kund** received a Unit Citation for their investigative efforts in this case which have cleared multiple thefts throughout the country.

## MERIT COMMENDATION



In the middle of the night, **Officer Matt Snyder and Officer Todd Smith** were patrolling along the York Road corridor when they smelled smoke. The officers began a grid search of the neighborhood searching for the fire. As they narrowed down the area from which they believed the smoke was originating, they exited their car and began searching on foot. Shortly thereafter, the officers discovered a fire inside a detached garage in close proximity to an occupied residence. They successfully evacuated the residents of the home and summoned the Willow Grove Fire Company. A subsequent investigation revealed that the fire was arson and an arrest was made.

## COMMUNITY SERVICE UNIT

As a result of the decision to transfer radio dispatching responsibilities to the Montgomery County Communications Center, Chief Nestel had the opportunity to restructure the civilian element of the police department. Several civilian positions that had been staffed in the department were left vacant when dispatchers left the township for other employment opportunities. As the civilian cadre became smaller, a workload assessment was conducted to determine the most effective and efficient method to complete the various administrative and operational responsibilities delegated to the civilian staff of the department.



It was determined that having specialized civilian positions including Animal Control Officer, Detective's Secretary, Services Officer, and Dispatcher prevented cross training of personnel and an even distribution of a multitude of necessary tasks. By combining the remaining seven civilians into one work element, the Community Service Unit, the department is able to more effectively use its civilian employees to process the myriad administrative tasks generated by a law enforcement organization. It also provides a unique opportunity to utilize the civilians to relieve the officers from handling non-emergency calls for service.

The transition has resulted in members of the Community Service Unit becoming trained as certified Crime Prevention Specialists, Evidence Custodians, and Youth Aid Panel coordinators. The potential remains limitless. If a citizen accidentally locks his keys in the car, a Community Service Representative may be dispatched to assist. If a citizen has a minor vehicle crash, a Community Service Representative may be dispatched to assist. If a citizen requests a police report, a Community Service Representative may be the person tasked with assisting. If a citizen reports a quality of life issue such as an abandoned vehicle, a Community Service Representative may be dispatched to assist.

The department is looking forward to expanding the services available to the public from the Community Service Representatives.

## CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION



When a criminal offense is reported to the police, a uniformed patrol officer conducts the investigation. If the patrol officer is unable to dedicate the time necessary to thoroughly and completely investigate the offense, s/he can request the assistance of the department's Criminal Investigation Division. The Division consists of three Detectives and a Detective Sergeant. The members of CID have received specialized training from a variety of well respected law enforcement sources. These specialists have repeatedly shown their ability to solve complex crimes involving dangerous offenders. During 2010, CID was assigned 378 cases.

In April 2010, several homes were burglarized while residents were at work. CID launched a creative undercover operation that succeeded in apprehending the responsible person. The burglar has received a lengthy prison sentence because of the exceptional work done by Upper Moreland's CID.

Patrol officers routinely develop confidential informants to assist the department in identifying and arresting drug dealers in Upper Moreland. When an informant is recruited, CID uses that individual to purchase narcotics so that criminal cases can be established to remove those persons from the community. During 2010, CID arrested an individual operating in the area selling marijuana by the pound; a pre-parolee in possession of a handgun and dealing cocaine; and an individual involved in a drug and gun selling operation in Philadelphia.

Two customers of Wal-Mart became victims of an armed robbery on a rainy night in the store's parking lot. CID put the pieces together that eventually identified a suspect. Although there was not enough evidence to arrest the suspect, CID used a close friend of the suspect to gather the necessary information to prosecute the offender. He received a lengthy prison sentence.

A local woman concocted a scheme to defraud friends, family and strangers by claiming that she was suffering from cancer. CID conducted an investigation using undercover methods and surveillances to gather enough evidence to prosecute this misguided offender. Even after the arrest, CID continued gathering information that subsequently led to other charges involving identity theft and credit card fraud.

A simple attempt at cashing a fraudulent check in Upper Moreland Township led the CID to investigate throughout the region where multiple crimes had occurred matching the local offense. Due to the tenacious effort by CID, ten Philadelphia residents were arrested and charged with identity felony theft and fraud.

## RETIREMENTS

### Officer Richard Gump



On January 1, 2010, Officer Richard Gump retired after more than two decades of honorable service. Richard Gump joined the Upper Moreland Police Department on January 3, 1984, and served in the patrol division his entire career. Richard served as a squad Officer-In-Charge and was also an EVOC instructor.

Richard Gump was a crime prevention specialist and served on the Pennsylvania Crime Prevention Training Team of the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency. During his career, he gave many crime prevention seminars to businesses in both Montgomery and Bucks counties. Richard Gump was an expert in bike safety. He ran numerous bike safety programs and gave many talks to various civic groups about bike safety.

Richard Gump received numerous awards and letters of thanks for exceptional acts of police work. On March 8, 1986, two individuals robbed a gas station in Upper Moreland and escaped in a vehicle. Officer Gump located the vehicle and arrested both subjects for committing the robbery. On April 17, 1990, and then again on May 22, 1990, the same subject robbed the Cheltenham Bank. After the second robbery, Officer Gump and another officer located the fleeing robber. The subject was caught and prosecuted for both bank robberies.

## Officer Debora Dibono



On December 14, 2010, Officer Debora Dibono retired after over 14 years of honorable service. Debora Dibono joined the Upper Moreland Police Department on May 14, 1996, and served in the patrol division her entire career.

Officer Dibono received numerous awards and letters of thanks for exceptional acts of police work. On January 24, 1998, Officer Dibono conducted a traffic stop of a suspicious vehicle. During her investigation of the two occupants in this vehicle, she found that the two had just stolen office equipment from Staples, and she was able to make an arrest and recover the stolen equipment. In September and October of 2004, several reports of sexual exposures occurred in the area of the SEPTA train station. Officer Dibono was the initial investigating officer on one of the exposure cases. She felt that the offender was probably a local resident. Officer Dibono used neighborhood contacts to develop a suspect. Through further investigation by the detective division, an arrest was made on Officer Dibono's suspect and all the exposure cases were cleared.

Officer Dibono and the four other officers working December 24, 1999, received special recognition from the Montgomery County Department of Public Safety. At 11:50 AM on the 24<sup>th</sup>, the county radio received a 9-1-1 call from a single mother who was very upset because she had no food or gifts for her children for Christmas due to a severe family financial situation. Officer Dibono helped to organize a response to this lady's situation. Debora Dibono and the other four officers gathered their own money, using it to buy a turkey, canned goods, fresh produce, and assorted gifts for the distressed lady's children.

## Dispatcher Peg Carson



On August 15, 2010, Dispatcher Peg Carson resigned after over five years of honorable service. During Peg's tenure, she was a dispatcher and clerk. Carson's primary duty as a clerk was the archiving of old department records. Peg resigned to concentrate on two businesses she owns with her husband. Peg has a business that designs and makes signs. She also breeds, raises, trains, and boards horses in Upper Bucks County.

## PROMOTIONS

### Sergeant Brian Newhall



On March 28, 2010, Brian Newhall was promoted to the rank of sergeant. Prior to his promotion, Sergeant Newhall served in the patrol division since his January 18, 1999, hire date. Sergeant Newhall holds a bachelor's degree in communications from Shippensburg University and a master's degree in Public Safety Administration from Saint Joseph's University. Sergeant Newhall is an EMT, a firearms instructor, and a defensive tactics instructor. Brian Newhall is a member of the Moreland area SWAT team and is one of our department's bike officers. He also serves with the Fort Washington Fire Company and was its Chief for four years. Prior to being the fire department's chief, he served 16 years as a line officer.

## Sergeant Peter Ruddell



On March 28, 2010, Peter Ruddell was promoted to the rank of sergeant. Prior to his promotion, Sergeant Ruddell served in the patrol division since his August 11, 1998, hire date. Sergeant Ruddell grew up in the area and holds dual bachelor degrees from Philadelphia Biblical University. Sergeant Ruddell is a master traffic analyst and has extensive training in vehicle crash investigation. He is also a truck weigh master and has numerous certifications in truck inspections. Sergeant Ruddell founded and is a member of our department's truck enforcement unit. He also has served as a field training officer for our new officer field training.

## NEW EMPLOYEES

### Officer James Costello



The Upper Moreland Township Police Department hired James Costello as a police officer on March 5, 2010. Officer Costello was born and raised in Northeast Philadelphia. He graduated from Chestnut Hill Academy and attended Drexel on a full scholarship for soccer. He played club soccer for FC Delco and won two national championships. He married his high school sweetheart and they have two children. Prior to working in Upper Moreland, Costello was an operations manager for a multi-million dollar property management and real estate investment firm, and also served as a director of marketing for a software development firm.

## Officer Peter Yeager



The Upper Moreland Township Police Department hired Peter Yeager as a police officer on March 6, 2010. Officer Yeager grew up in a large family in Philadelphia and is a graduate of Temple University. Prior to being hired by Upper Moreland, Yeager was a patrol officer with the Philadelphia Police Department. Officer Yeager is actively defending our country by serving with the Pennsylvania Army National Guard.

## Officer Mathew Snyder



The Upper Moreland Township Police Department hired Matt Snyder as a police officer on March 7, 2010. Officer Snyder graduated from Central Bucks East High School and the University of Delaware with bachelor degrees in Criminal Justice and Sociology. While at Delaware, Officer Snyder played rugby and was a member of the National Honor Society. While in high school and college, Snyder worked as a seasonal worker for the Upper Moreland Department of Public Works.

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The members of the department are strongly encouraged to participate in a variety of training opportunities. Although some training is required as a part of yearly certification regimens, many officers routinely volunteer to attend training to enhance their own policing skill sets. The department's members accumulated 6,191 hours of training during 2010.

As part of this year's department mandated training, all officers were subjected to an unscheduled training scenario. The strategy for addressing incidents where armed assailants are shooting innocent victims has dramatically changed in recent years. These scenarios are known as active shooter incidents. To ensure that our officers are adept at delivering the nationally accepted strategy for addressing active shooter incidents, the officers were summoned in pairs to a particular location. Upon arrival, they were disarmed of their service weapon and provided with training equipment. The officers were then interjected into a live drill in which an offender had shot two persons and had barricaded himself in a property with hostages. As the simulation progressed, the offender began executing hostages and the response of the officers was critically evaluated by experts in the field of tactical operations. The performance of the department's members was exceptional.



The department's K9 unit and SWAT Team engage in monthly training to maintain these specialized skills at peak levels. In 2010, the K9 Unit received a total of 808 hours of training and the SWAT element accumulated a total of 611 hours of training. Several department members earned certifications in other specializations such as commercial vehicle enforcement, mental health crisis intervention, accident investigation, emergency medical services, and crime prevention specialist.

While the department has been responsible for arranging a variety of training opportunities for its members, the officers and supervisors have also engaged in self-improvement. Nearly the entire department has earned bachelor's degrees and seven have earned master's degrees.