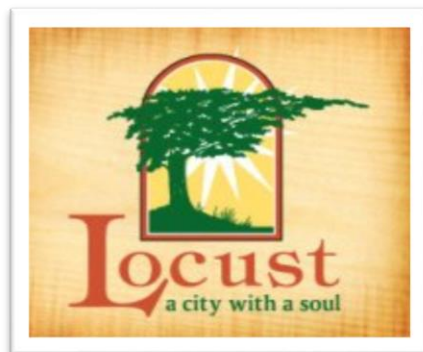




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**COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER**  
**September 2017**  
**Volume 6 Edition 2**



**LOCUST POLICE DEPARTMENT COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER**

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Welcome to the September 2017 edition of the Locust Police Department Community Newsletter. This is just the second newsletter I've had time to produce this year. Although I have found the time to write a newsletter up for this month, this edition will be limited to a few updates and the statistics from March and April of this year. I have also provided a comparison for the first four months of 2017 and the same time period in 2016.

In terms of those statistics, you will notice that things have remained very consistent from a crime perspective in the city. You probably have noticed all the news regarding the coming growth to Locust with multiple apartment complexes and housing developments. Some are even projecting the city's population to double within the next 3-5 years. Obviously at some point it's inevitable with so much growth that crime will also increase. We will always do our best to provide the highest level of service and protection to residents and visitors in Locust, the rest we will have to leave up to the leaders of Locust to assure that our department continues to be staffed and equipped accordingly. I will say that our department enjoys outstanding support from city administration and elected leaders, so we have no doubt they will plan effectively.

That being said, if you ever have any questions, comments, or concerns feel free to contact me at 704-888-4744 or through my email at [jbslpd@gmail.com](mailto:jbslpd@gmail.com). Everyone take care and in case it's a few months before I can get another newsletter out, I hope everyone enjoys the pleasant Fall months.

**RECENT DEPARTMENT ACTIVITIES**

**2017 Crime Briefs To Date**

(Some of the notable crime events and arrests by the Locust Police Department from June to August 2017)

- On June 22<sup>nd</sup>, Locust Police responded to Wal-Mart and the report of a female using counterfeit \$100 bills to purchase merchandise. This was reported to be the third incident involving the same suspect. Locust officers

were able to apprehend Ms. Christy Russell Gainey of Albemarle. After investigation and interview, Ms. Gainey was charged with multiple felony counts involving fraud and counterfeiting for all three incidents in Locust, and additional incidents occurring in Albemarle. On July 31<sup>st</sup>, Gainey pled guilty to the charges.

- On July 19<sup>th</sup>, a victim from Stanfield reported her bank debit card being used to withdraw money multiple times from Locust ATMs without her authorization. Total reported loss was \$1320. After investigation, Ms. Shelly Dawn Page of Stanfield was identified as the offender and a warrant was issued for her arrest on multiple felony charges involving fraud and identity theft. Page was arrested on July 29<sup>th</sup>.
- On July 29<sup>th</sup>, a vehicle driven by Ms. Shannon Marie Laney of Stanfield was stopped on West Main Street due to the vehicle displaying a fictitious registration plate. During investigation, a consent search of the vehicle uncovered multiple pipes containing a substance that field tested positive for methamphetamine and multiple bags containing an identical substance. Laney was arrested and charged with felony possession of methamphetamine and the possession of drug paraphernalia.
- On August 5<sup>th</sup>, a vehicle driven by Mr. Christopher James Dennis of Stanfield was stopped after a Locust officer observed a failure to maintain lane control violation on West Main Street. During the stop, a plain view observation of drug paraphernalia in the vehicle was made and a search of the vehicle followed. During the search, multiple items of drug paraphernalia were found including a digital scale and multiple small plastic baggies. Also found was a plastic bag containing 2.2 grams of a substance believed to be methamphetamine. Dennis was arrested and charged with felony possession with intent to manufacture, sell, or deliver a Schedule I controlled substance as well as the possession of drug paraphernalia.
- On August 8<sup>th</sup>, a vehicle operated by Mr. John Wayne Simmons Jr. of Mt. Pleasant and occupied by Ms. Sherry Ann Reed of Mt. Pleasant was stopped for displaying a fictitious plate on West Main Street. Simmons attempted to provide false information to Locust officers during investigation. Reed, who was established to be the owner of the vehicle consented to a search of the vehicle and also admitted to having a firearm in her purse. Drug paraphernalia was found in the vehicle and Reed was charged with the possession as well as a concealed weapons violation. After investigation it

was determined that the firearm Reed possessed had the serial number removed from the gun. A warrant was issued for Reed for felony possession of a gun with an altered or destroyed serial number.

- On August 9<sup>th</sup>, a motorcycle operated by Mr. Steven Austin Cline of Midland was approximated to be traveling in excess of 60 mph on West Main Street near Commercial Boulevard, a 45 mph zone area. When Locust officers attempted to stop Mr. Cline he began weaving heavily through traffic and failed to yield to oncoming traffic as it turned onto Pine Bluff Road. Cline then began traveling at speeds between 80 and 100 mph attempting to elude Locust officers. Cline was apprehended when he lost control of the motorcycle at a driveway on Hopewell Church Road. Cline did not appear to be injured and he was apprehended for multiple charges including felony flee to elude an officer. Cline's motorcycle was seized and impounded.

### WELCOME BACK TO LOCUST OFFICER

Back on January 23<sup>rd</sup>, Locust Officer Dwayne Dietz responded to a felony fraud crime in progress at Wal-Mart. After confronting the suspect's vehicle driven by Mr. Milo Tyler, Tyler fled from the area at a high rate of speed resulting in Officer Dietz and Cabarrus County deputies pursuing. In the area of Allen Fire Department on Hwy 601 in Concord, Tyler lost control of his vehicle and crashed then attempted to flee on foot. Officer Dietz pursued Tyler on foot but his pursuit ended after breaking his lower leg in three places. Tyler was apprehended a short time later by assisting officers, while Officer Dietz was transported to the hospital for emergency surgery.

[http://www.independenttribune.com/news/theft-report-ends-in-high-speed-chase-crash/article\\_212c2c02-e1b5-11e6-9797-17bf374c7de5.html](http://www.independenttribune.com/news/theft-report-ends-in-high-speed-chase-crash/article_212c2c02-e1b5-11e6-9797-17bf374c7de5.html)

Since that incident, Mr. Tyler pled guilty to multiple charges related to that day and is currently incarcerated in the North Carolina prison system. Officer Dietz endured multiple surgeries and intensive rehab on his lower leg, an injury that doctors said could have been career ending. On September 1<sup>st</sup>, more than 6 months after his injury, Officer Dwayne Dietz returned to duty as a patrol officer for the Locust Police Department. Please join us in welcoming back Officer Dietz if you see him out in the community. He is a good man, an outstanding officer, and an integral part of the Locust Police Department family.

Officer Dietz has been with Locust since 2012. He was a 2016 nominee for the Officer Jeff Shelton Foundation “Got Your Six” award and a 2017 nominee for Stanly County Officer of the Year. Welcome back Dwayne!!



Locust Officer Dwayne Dietz presented Locust resident Stan “The Man” Preast with a plaque of recognition and appreciation from the Locust Police Department in 2015.

### LOCUST OFFICER EXCELS

Locust Police Department Officer Trent Middlebrook continues to excel in traffic and DWI enforcement for the Locust Police Department this year. Currently through September, Officer Middlebrook has made 33 DWI arrests in 2017, an astounding number for a population the size of Locust. Although he has only been a sworn officer for three years, Officer Middlebrook discovered very early a knack for the identification of impaired drivers. He has contributed to his natural instincts by completing more than 200 hours of training related to DWI enforcement. Officer Middlebrook is certified as a standardized field sobriety testing (SFST) instructor, and is close to completing certification as one of the regions few

certified drug recognition experts (DRE). Officer Middlebrook has also been qualified in Stanly County court as an expert witness in the testifying of the HGN test included in the SFST battery of testing.

Officer Middlebrook was the 2016 and 2017 recipient of the Officer Jeff Shelton Foundation Stanly County Officer of the Year award and he was the 2016 recipient of the Albemarle Rotary Club Stanly County Officer of the Year. It is well known that Officer Middlebrook could take his talents to any larger agency and he has standing offers with multiple agencies however he has expressed his desire to remain in Locust as long as he can. We hope he is able to make an entire career at the Locust Police Department. Job well done Trent!!



Locust Officer Trent Middlebrook (2<sup>nd</sup> from right) Awarded The Stanly County Officer Of The Year Award By the Albemarle Rotary Club In 2016.

### LOCUST TRAINING ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Locust Officer Kevin O'Connor recently completed a week of training on conducting interviews and interrogation. Officer O'Connor will also be attending the two-week General Instructor Certification program in October. Officer O'Connor who is currently a patrol officer with Locust hopes to move into the investigation field at some point in the future. If he is certified as a general instructor, he will be able to teach most NC authorized law enforcement instruction topics. Upon completion, Officer O'Connor will be the fourth certified instructor employed at the Locust Police Department.

\*Detective Jeff Shew completed the General Instructor Certification program last February making him (at the time) the third certified instructor at Locust. Detective Shew has since taught multiple blocks in Stanly Community College's Basic Law Enforcement Program as well as multiple blocks of mandatory in-service training for Locust officers.

The Locust Police Department prides itself on the emphasis it places on extensive training for its officers and Officer O'Connor and Detective Shew are examples of that strategy. Good job guys!

(\*Note From Detective Shew – I realize I am the author of this newsletter yet I am speaking of myself in the third person. I'm not a huge fan of putting my accomplishments in the newsletters to begin with because although I am very proud of them, I'm afraid they appear as boastful. I just feel like if I did it in first person that feeling would be even worse.)

FIRST FOUR MONTH COMPARISON  
2016/2017

SUBJECT	JAN-APRIL 2016	JAN-APRIL 2017	% CHANGE
Reported Offense Types	583	557	-4.5%
Incident Reports	518	522	+0.8%
Documented Patrols	6183	5231*	-15.4%
Arrest Charges	79	100**	+26.6%
Citation Charges	487	323***	-33.7%

\*For documented patrols, the Locust Police Department was short one full-time patrol officer from January 23<sup>rd</sup> – August 31<sup>st</sup>.

\*\*Arrest charges include 16 more driving while impaired charges during report range.

\*\*\*Citation charges included 134 less speeding citations during report range. This was also influenced by the absence of a full-time patrol officer who was a certified RADAR operator during report range.

**(March And April 2017 Monthly Crime Statistics  
Can Be Found On Locust Police Department Website)**