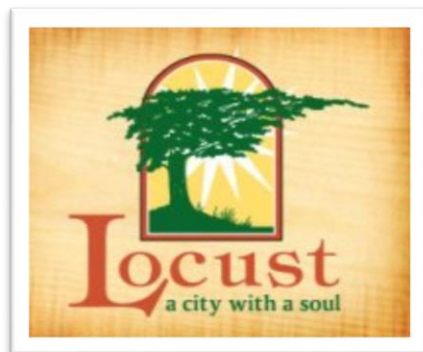




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COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER
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LOCUST POLICE DEPARTMENT COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

EDITOR/AUTHOR

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Welcome to the December 2017 edition of the Locust Police Department Community Newsletter. Unfortunately, this is just the third newsletter I've had time to produce this year. I've been working the last few days to catch up on departmental statistics for the calendar year to see how things appear to be shaking out in the wonderful city of Locust. So far through the end of November's stats, I'm still seeing positive or neutral trends in a city that is without a doubt growing quickly. I knew from my own job duties that this past summer was much more uneventful than is usual in the city but October tried really hard to make up for that summer lull. Still after compiling incident reports and reported offense types through the end of November we appear to either be around the same as our typical annual number if not lower which is always great news. There will be no statistics printed in this newsletter, just some recent department news. I should have the annual statistics edition ready for print sometime in January or February at the latest however. I hope everyone has a wonderful, prosperous, and safe 2018!

As always, 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.

RECENT DEPARTMENT ACTIVITIES

2017 Crime Briefs To Date

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

- On September 24th, Locust officers responded to a larceny in progress at the Locust Wal-Mart where the suspect Mr. Tyrone Gleaton of Polkton was attempting to leave the area. When officers attempted to stop Gleaton he fled at a high rate of speed entering the eastbound lane of NC 24/27 striking a vehicle. Gleaton then attempted again to flee by traveling westbound in the eastbound lane of NC 24-27. Just prior to Pine Bluff Road Gleaton struck two other vehicles which disabled his vehicle. He was arrested without further incident. Gleaton was charged in Stanly County with a felony larceny

offense and he was charged in Cabarrus County with multiple charges related to fleeing to elude arrest.

- On September 27th, a vehicle operated by Mr. Duran Davis of Albemarle was stopped for failing to maintain lane control. Davis was found to have a suspended driver's license and officers also smelled marijuana in the vehicle. A search of the vehicle uncovered a controlled substance medication, marijuana, and more than eight grams of cocaine. Davis was arrested on multiple drug charges.
- On October 1st, Ms. Amanda Hamed of Concord was arrested after Locust officers responded to a fraud investigation at Wal-Mart. During investigation, Hamed was found to have methamphetamine concealed in her sock.
- On October 16th, Mr. Nathaniel Payne of Locust was found to have used a family member's debit card without authorization at the Locust Wal-Mart and Woodforest Bank located inside of Wal-Mart. Payne used the debit card to withdraw \$200 and then also utilized the card to purchase more than \$80 worth of merchandise from the business. Felony warrants were obtained for Payne and he was arrested on October 29th. Another investigation involving Payne was initiated in December after suspicious activity was reported by First Bank of Locust. After the completion of that investigation, multiple felony warrants were obtained for Payne for charges related to identity theft and financial fraud.
- On October 27th, Mr. Damon Broussard of Columbia, South Carolina attempted to cash a check for \$3800 at the Locust Wells Fargo location. That check was determined to be fraudulent and Mr. Broussard was arrested by Locust officers.
- On November 10th, Locust officers responded to a report of suspicious activity at Wal-Mart. The involved vehicle driven by Ms. Hayley Broadway of Oakboro was stopped on a Locust highway after officers confirmed Broadway had a suspended driver's license. Investigation during the stop implicated Broadway and vehicle passengers Ms. Brandy Bracey, and Mr. Brandon Sells of a larceny at the business of more than \$170 worth of merchandise. A search of the vehicle uncovered methamphetamine and a rifle that was later confirmed to be stolen from a Stanly County residence. Broadway was arrested for the possession of meth and later charged by the

Stanly County Sheriff's Office on charges related to the theft of the firearm. Bracey and Sells were cited for misdemeanor larceny.

LOCUST OFFICER SIDELINED WITH INJURY

We reported back in September that Officer Dwayne Dietz had returned to duty after breaking his leg in a vehicle and foot pursuit the previous January. Unfortunately, some of the hardware installed during the surgery to repair Officer Dietz's leg had begun to malfunction causing Officer Dietz a considerable amount of pain which required an additional surgery in November that would sideline Officer Dietz for two-three weeks. The surgery to repair the area was successful however Officer Dietz developed an infection and again had to be admitted to the hospital for treatment. Officer Dietz will be fine and will be able to return to duty however due to the infection the time table for his return is now six additional weeks.

Officer Dietz is a valued member of the Locust Police Department family and is one of our most popular officers out in the community due to his easy-going and personable nature. If you see Officer Dietz out and about, please send him your best wishes for a speedy recovery.



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 FINISHES DEGREE

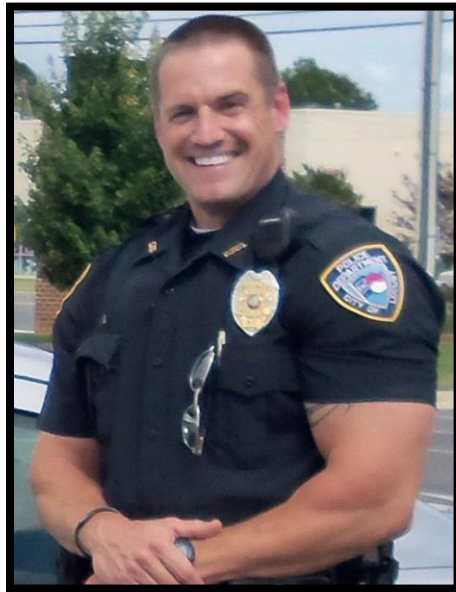
On December 16th, Locust Detective Jeff Shew graduated from Western Carolina University's distance learning program with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice. Detective Shew finished his degree with a 3.971 grade point average earning summa cum laude honors. During his time at Western, Detective

Shew was also awarded membership to the Alpha Sigma Lambda National Honor Society for Adult Learners.

Previously, Detective Shew was a 2014 graduate of Stanly Community College's Criminal Justice program where he also received an Outstanding Criminal Justice graduate recognition as well as being awarded the Edward J. Snyder Jr. Exceptional Scholars Award.

Detective Shew has been with the Locust Police Department since 2009 and has served as the agency's full-time investigator after six years as a patrol officer. Detective Shew currently holds an intermediate law enforcement certification awarded to North Carolina officers by the Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Commission for a specified level of experience, education, and training. Detective Shew earning his bachelor's degree now qualifies him to be a recipient of the Advanced Law Enforcement Certification, the highest certification level North Carolina officers can receive.

Detective Shew will begin pursuing his Master's of Criminal Justice degree in the Fall of 2018 through East Carolina University's distance learning program.



Detective Jeff Shew
During His Tenure As A Patrol Officer

LOCUST TRAINING ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Locust Officer Kevin O'Connor in October completed the two-week General Instructor Certification program and passed the NC State General Instructor exam. Officer O'Connor as a general instructor is able to teach most NC authorized law enforcement instruction topics, and he has already begun instruction of the Domestic Violence response topic at Stanly Community College's Basic Law Enforcement Training program. Officer O'Connor is the fourth certified instructor employed at the Locust Police Department. Great job Kevin!



Locust Officer Kevin O'Connor

AS SEEN ON THE LOCUST POLICE DEPARTMENT FACEBOOK PAGE

*Note – Although we do not utilize it extensively for public relations activities, the Locust Police Department does have an official Facebook page that we invite you to follow (<https://www.facebook.com/Locust-Police-Department-971105932951713/>) . Here are some of the most recent posts:

JUVENILE REPORTED IN FREEZING TEMPS AND EARLY MORNING HOURS

We routinely tell you that the Locust Police Department Facebook page is for investigations involving Facebook profiles only however given the circumstances we believe it's appropriate to share this post:

The Locust Police Department received a dispatched call from Stanly Communications in reference to a juvenile female walking in the parking lot area of the Locust McDonalds and Wal-Mart location at 3:38:10 am. First Locust officer arrived on-scene to attempt to locate the juvenile at 3:38:48 am (38 second response time).

At that time an extensive and detailed search of the area began involving multiple agencies including the Locust Police Department, Stanly County Sheriff's Office, Cabarrus County Sheriff's Office, Stanfield Police Department, and West Stanly Fire Department who provided thermal imaging technology. Additionally, reverse 911 protocol was utilized that initially included a 5 mile radius and was then expanded to 15 miles. Stanly County email notification was also utilized. Multiple media outlets have also reported on this investigation.

After nearly 3 1/2 hours the search was ended after no juvenile was located, no evidence suggesting any type of suspicious activity or foul play was found, and no calls were received reporting a missing or runaway juvenile.

As of 11:15 am this morning (10/30), no calls have been received by Stanly Communications or the Locust Police Department reporting a missing or runaway juvenile.

This investigation is still considered open however at this time there is nothing more that can be pursued based on the known facts and no received reports of missing or runaway juveniles.

The Locust Police Department thanks all assisting agencies, media sources that have reported the situation, and all concerned citizens that have contacted us.

http://www.wsocv.com/news/local/7-year-old-girl-reportedly-spotted-wandering-locust-police-investigating/633497336?ecmp=wsocv_social_facebook_2014_sfp

LOCUST POLICE DEPARTMENT SUPPORTS ONLINE EXCHANGE ZONE AT LOCUST GOVERNMENT CENTER

The Locust Police Department is proud to support the Online Exchange Zone now located in front of the Locust Government Center. This zone allows for safer online purchasing/trade transactions at a location that always has police vehicles present and very often has Locust officers on-scene as well. This online exchange zone idea was completely coordinated by Ms. Katherine Bennett, a West Stanly High School student who has made it her project to establish these zones in every municipality in Stanly County. Katherine is an outstanding example of a young person taking the initiative to present ideas to make Stanly County safer and an even better place to live. To Katherine we say thank you for all of the hard work you did on this project. JOB WELL DONE!

(Reminder - Although the Online Exchange Zone sign is located on a Handicap Parking sign post, please do not utilize the Handicap Parking spot unless you are authorized to do so. Thanks)



Online Exchange Zone Now Located In Front Of Locust Government Center

LOCUST POLICE DEPARTMENT CONTRIBUTES TO OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

The City of Locust and Locust Police Department were once again this year proud to participate in and support Operation Christmas Child. This year city staff and Locust officers packed 25 shoe-boxes full of gifts for underprivileged children in other countries. #ipackedashoebox



From L-R: Officer Dustin Wells, Officer Kevin O'Connor, Detective Jeff Shew, City Administrator Cesar Correa, And City Employee Mandy Thomas with Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes

SHOP WITH A COP EVENT A SUCCESS FOR THE THIRD STRAIGHT YEAR

For the third straight year, Locust Officers Brittany Tucker and Kevin O'Connor along with the assistance of the Stanfield and Oakboro Police Department coordinated the Shop With A Cop event for Western Stanly County children in need. See the link to the Shop With A Cop Facebook page for more information about this year's event as well as a link to a wonderful write-up about the event from the Stanly News & Press. Great job guys and ladies!!!

<https://www.facebook.com/shopwithacoplocust/>

http://www.thesnaponline.com/news/kids-officers-make-holiday-magic/article_f85d73f2-e0d3-11e7-a3c3-e7fbc0becfef.html#utm_campaign=blox&utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=social



LOCUST POLICE DEPARTMENT CONDUCT "MUSTACHEMBER"
PROJECT TO HONOR AND SUPPORT WARRIOR JACE

In honor of the bravest little warrior we know, members of the Locust Police Department grew and kept the classic cop "stache" from November 15th - December 15th in an event we dubbed "Mustachember 2017".....Some of Locust's finest were a little more successful than others (some are still waiting for the facial hair part of puberty to kick in) but nevertheless, we all came together to show our admiration and support for "Warrior" Jace Thompson. Jace will also be receiving a department card and donation in the coming days. Jace.....you are our hero, our prayers are with you, and we will ALWAYS have your six.

Jace is the four-year-old son of NC State Highway Patrol Sergeant Eric Thompson and Cornelius PD Captain Jennifer Thompson. He was diagnosed with a rare brain tumor in October and has been touching and inspiring others every day since then. To learn more about Warrior Jace and how you can help show your support for this special little boy, please visit the Warrior Jace Facebook page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/warriorjace/>



**2017 ANNUAL STATISTICS WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE NEXT
EDITION OF THE NEWSLETTER**