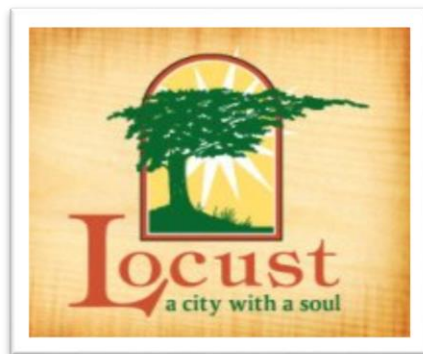




CITY OF LOCUST POLICE DEPARTMENT
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COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER
March 2018
Volume 7 Edition 1



LOCUST POLICE DEPARTMENT COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

EDITOR/AUTHOR

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Welcome to the March 2018 edition of the Locust Police Department Community Newsletter. As you newsletter subscribers should know, this is the first edition released on a “scheduled” quarterly basis as opposed to the “whenever I have time” method I was employing.

Due to the department Facebook page we are beginning to utilize more frequently as well as more routine updates of the Locust Police Department website, I will readily admit that the newsletter will likely become a less frequent “new news” source. But, I will try to include some additional news tidbits or other reminders to make it a worthwhile read (or skimming if you feel more inclined).

Thus far in 2018, Locust continues to grow and our department continues to “rock and roll” our functions and duties as well. The borderline if not full-blown expansive growth of the city has not yet affected our call volume or crime rate which is great news. It’s inevitable however that the more population and business influx we see, eventually there will be an uptick in both required service and protection activities for us as well. We have already begun to monitor some areas where we do believe we’re seeing the “tremors” of increase.

This edition will update department news and activities that have occurred so far in 2018. I’ve also posted a couple of reminders about potential criminal activity you should be mindful of. January and February 2018 crime stats are included as well. March’s stats will be in the next newsletter and will likely be posted on our website prior to that.

<https://locustnc.com/monthly-crime-statistics/>

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.

SCAMS REMINDER

A reminder about being alert for the various scams that target our citizens could be made every single month as we routinely each month field inquiry calls and take reports of scam activity. Fortunately, I believe most people have become more educated about the prevalence of the many types of scams therefore the majority of the calls we take are only to report an attempted scam.

Without going into a lengthy diatribe about scam activity, I will sum it up by noting that potential scams can be attempted by phone, through email, through “snail-mail”, or through sites such as Ebay, Amazon, and Craig’s List to name a few. You will want to stay hyper-vigilant any time you receive correspondence that you allegedly owe money or have won something, and if you are buying or selling an item online. As I always say if it’s true good to be true, it most likely is and you should always be suspicious (unfortunately that’s the time period we live in).

Take the extra steps of doing additional research when you receive suspicious correspondence. Make extra check-up phone calls, use the internet to research scams, or even decide only to do any type of business in person.

The Locust Police Department provides some resources about scam awareness on our website. And of course, you can always contact the Locust Police Department with any questions about potential scams at 704-888-4744.

<https://locustnc.com/police-department-resources/>

RECENT DEPARTMENT ACTIVITIES

Welcome Back To Locust Officers

In the last few months, the Locust Police Department has welcomed back officers to the force that had been away for different reasons. Locust Patrol Officer Dwayne Dietz returned to duty again in January. Officer Dietz missed most of 2017 after breaking his leg in a vehicle pursuit and foot chase of a felony suspect. Officer Dietz had previously returned to duty in September of 2017 however complications arose which resulted in him having to have an additional surgery which sidelined him for two additional months. Officer Dietz was a 2017 finalist for Stanly County Officer of the Year. Since his return, Officer Dietz currently leads the department in arrests related to retail property crime.

Former Assistant Chief of Police and Detective Eric Thomas also returned to the department in January to work part-time as a reserve officer. Officer Thomas served with Locust from 2010 to 2015 before serving as the Captain over the patrol division with the Stanly County Sheriff's Office for the last two and a half years. Officer Thomas has over 30 years of law enforcement experience in Stanly County and is arguably the most respected law enforcement officer to ever serve in Stanly. He was the 2016 Stanly County Outstanding Career Service honoree by the Officer Jeff Shelton Foundation. We are happy to have Officer Thomas back to assist and continue to impart his vast law enforcement knowledge to our officers.

Department Training News

In 2017, Locust officers combined for more than 1,000 hours of training and the department has not let up thus far in 2018. As an agency, we strive to have the most well-trained officers in Stanly County and multiple officers completed various types of training and certifications already in the current year.

Officer Dustin Wells not only completed a five-day death investigation training class, but he also completed training and testing to become a certified RADAR operator. Detective Jeff Shew and Officer Kevin O'Connor completed a one-day prescription drug crime training class. Officer Hannah Claiborne successfully completed the two-week Police Law Institute training class. And Officers Brandon Stancil and Brittany Tucker completed a three-day suicide investigation course. Great job guys and gals!!

2018 Crime Briefs To Date

March 2018 Felony, Domestic And DWI Arrests

03/02/18 – Zachary Tyler Thompson of New London, NC – Driving while impaired

03/06/18 – Paul Jeffery Mauldin of Concord, NC – Assault on a female

03/09/18 – Brandon Chase Hill of Locust, NC – Assault on a female

03/21/18 – Sheila Kay Lane of Stanfield, NC – Driving while impaired

03/24/18 – Kenneth McDaniel II of Concord, NC – Driving while impaired,
misdemeanor larceny

03/25/18 – Charles Horace Furr of Mt. Pleasant, NC – Obtain property by false pretense

January And February 2018 Felony And DWI Arrests

01/08/18 – Kristina Jenel Hicks of Rockwell, NC – Possession of heroin, possession of drug paraphernalia.

01/08/18 – Michael Earl Perry of Gold Hill, NC – Possession of methamphetamine, felony possession of Schedule II.

01/12/18 – Ashley O’Mia Herndon of Albemarle, NC – Attempt to obtain property by false pretense.

01/20/18 – Rebecca Lynn Prince of Midland, NC – Obtain property by false pretense, misdemeanor larceny.

01/20/18 – Dallas David McSheehan of Midland, NC – Obtain property by false pretense.

01/20/18 – Carlos Enrique Garcia of Locust, NC – Felony possession of Schedule I, felony possession of Schedule II, simple possession of Schedule VI, unauthorized use of motor vehicle.

01/25/18 – Rayfield Taylor of Charlotte, NC – Felony larceny, felony larceny by removal of anti-theft device.

01/29/18 – Shae Eileen Sansbury of Landis, NC – Obtain property by false pretense.

01/30/18 – Donny Ray Baker of Mint Hill, NC – Felony larceny by removal of anti-theft device, misdemeanor larceny.

02/13/18 – Stanley Maurice Walker of Midland, NC – Driving while impaired.

02/16/18 – Terry Clyde Hatley of Waxhaw, NC – Driving while impaired.

02/28/18 – Cameron Alexzander Horne of Stanfield, NC – Felony larceny by removal of anti-theft device.

LOCUST POLICE PLAY MAJOR ROLE IN ARREST OF TWO-STATE SERIAL ARMED ROBBERY SUSPECT

As reported on both WSOC television and in the Stanly News & Press among other publications, the Locust Police Department and specifically Patrol Officer Hannah Claiborne played a major role in the arrest of Ron Houser of Stallings, NC. Houser is suspected of multiple armed robberies of Dollar Generals in both North and South Carolina since 2016 including three recent robberies of Dollar General stores in Stanly County.

After learning of the three robberies in Stanly County as well as discovering that the same suspect was believed to be responsible for numerous other robberies in both Carolinas, Locust investigators began compiling information about the other robberies to send alert advisories to Locust officers to combat the possibility of a robbery at the Locust Dollar General location. On February 21st, Officer Claiborne was patrolling West Main Street and observed a vehicle fitting the description of one believed to be associated with other robberies parked at Dollar General in Locust. Officer Claiborne was able to acquire the license plate information of the vehicle and discovered it was registered to Houser. Security camera video acquired from the business showed that Houser, and specifically the clothing he wore, had a strong resemblance to the serial armed robbery suspect. Houser's criminal history also showed a previous 19-year stint in prison for armed robbery offenses. Further review of the surveillance video at Dollar General showed Houser to commit a larceny of energy shots while in the business. In addition to acquiring an arrest warrant for Houser on the misdemeanor larceny charge, information obtained by Officer Claiborne was distributed to other agencies investigating similar robberies. Those agencies were able to confirm through investigation that Houser was in fact the individual who committed the robberies in their jurisdictions including one where he also beat a female store clerk. Houser was located and arrested less than 24 hours later.

After learning that Houser's "MO" was to "case" business locations several days before committing a robbery, it is strongly believed that Officer Claiborne's observance and vigilance prevented an armed robbery from occurring in Locust, and also played a major role in putting Houser behind bars for robberies believed to have occurred in at least 20 different jurisdictions. Outstanding police work Hannah!

http://www.thesnaponline.com/news/arrest-made-locust-officer-assists-in-dollar-general-robbery-investigations/article_74fbe348-1b40-11e8-829e-7b1d694fe9a7.html

http://www.wsoc.tv.com/news/local/locust-police-officer-catches-suspected-serial-robber/707729024?ecmp=wsoc_tv_social_facebook_2014_sfp

CONVICTION NEWS

On August 31st, 2016 Locust officers investigated the report of a burglary, sexual assault, and kidnapping by a female victim residing at a North Central Avenue residence. The alleged offender was the victim's ex-boyfriend who had previously resided with the victim. After investigation, on September 15th, 2016 Jack LaBrittan Smith of Mount Holly, Stanfield, and Locust was apprehended in Gaston County on warrants obtained by the Locust Police Department. Smith was charged with 1st degree rape, 2nd degree burglary, 1st degree kidnapping, felonious restraint, assault with a deadly weapon, assault on a female, and communicating threats. Smith had been incarcerated in Gaston County and the Stanly County Jail since the date of arrest.

On February 1st, 2018, Smith pled guilty to second degree rape, second degree burglary, and first degree kidnapping. As a result of the plea, Smith received a prison sentence of a minimum of 7 years and 2 months to a maximum of 9 years and 8 months. Smith will also be required to be a registered sex offender for life.

LOCUST OFFICER RECEIVES INTERMEDIATE CERTIFICATION

At the February Locust City Council meeting, Locust Patrol Officer Trent Middlebrook was awarded his intermediate law enforcement certification by Locust Chief of Police Frank Hartsell. The intermediate law enforcement certification is awarded by the North Carolina Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Commission and recognizes extensive training completed by the officer as well as years of service. In Officer Middlebrook's case, his previous achievement of completing his associate's degree at Stanly Community College along with other training allowed him to achieve this certification after just four years of service.

Officer Middlebrook has been with the Locust Police Department since January of 2014. He is a two time recipient of Stanly County Officer of the Year by the Officer Jeff Shelton Foundation in 2015 and 2016 and he was recognized by the Stanly County Rotary Club as Stanly County Officer of the Year in 2015.

NOW HIRING

The Locust Police Department (LPD) is accepting applications for the position of Patrol Officer (PO1). Qualified applicants may be invited to participate in the interview process, which includes (but is not limited to) extensive oral interviews and background investigation, as well as medical and psychological assessments. The starting salary is \$33,817 per year with potential salary negotiation for extensive experience, training, and education. The City of Locust is one of the fastest growing municipalities in North Carolina. As the city continues to grow, the Locust Police Department will continue to expand as well resulting in more promotional opportunities, specialized appointments, and salary potential in the future. Apply today to be a member of the most respected law enforcement agency in Stanly County!

Minimum Job Requirements

Age: 21

Education: High School Diploma or equivalency and active North Carolina BLET Certification

License: Valid North Carolina Driver's License

City Of Locust Benefits

Base Salary: \$33,817 (Potential salary negotiation for extensive experience, training, and education.)

Employer paid health, dental, and vision insurance

City paid \$50,000 life insurance policy

City paid 5% contribution to 401K

Annual 2% longevity bonus

Regular cost of living and merit-based salary increases

Annual continuing education (College or University) reimbursement up to \$1,000

Take home vehicle if you reside within 10 miles of Locust city limits

Application Information

In Person: 186 Ray Kennedy Drive, Locust, NC 28097

By Mail: PO Box 190, Locust, NC 28097

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2018 STATS FOLLOW NEXT PAGE

LOCUST POLICE DEPARTMENT CRIME STATISTICS

JANUARY 2018

INCIDENTS/OFFENSES

Note – Total incident reports generated number will be lower than number of offenses/incidents listed. This is due to there being multiple offenses within one report on some occasions. Incident reports are generally documented when any interaction with the public or an enforcement action is made on a dispatched call.

Escorts Provided (General, Business Closing, Child Custody Exchange, Funeral) – 26
Assist EMS/Fire Department – 20
Investigation Calls (General, 911 Hang-Ups, Suicide Threats, Open Doors, Etc.) – 17
Alarm Calls (Business, Residential) – 14
Suspicious Activity (Activities, Vehicles, Persons) – 14
Disturbances (General, Domestic) – 11
Drug Offenses (Investigations, Citations, Arrests) – 9
Counterfeiting/Fraud (Forgery, Obtain By False Pretense, Identity Theft, Etc.) – 7
Larceny From Business (Misdemeanor, Felony, Concealment) – 6
Arrest Warrants/Processes Served (Failure To Appear, Subpoenas Etc.) – 5
Damage To Property Calls (Residential, Business, Vehicle, Minor Vehicle Crashes) – 3
Assist Motorist (Stranded, Keys Locked In Vehicle, Tire, Etc.) – 2
Breaking & Entering/Larceny Residence (Attempted, Misdemeanor, Felony, Larceny After B&E) – 2
Calls For Service (Various Community Service Reasons, Animal Complaints, Etc.) – 2
Property Calls (Lost, Found) – 2
Vehicle Traffic Violations (Resulting In Other Charges, Arrests, Vehicle Towed, Etc.) – 2
Driving While Impaired (Alcohol, Illegal Substances, Provisional, Drive After Consuming, Etc.) – 1
Harassment (Phone Calls, Communicating Threats, Etc.) – 1
Mutual Aid Given (Help Given To Other Agencies) – 1
Sex Offenses (Attempted Or Completed Rape, Indecent Liberties, Crimes Against Nature, Etc.) – 1
Weapons Offenses (Unlawful Carry Concealed, Possession Firearm By Felon, Etc.) – 1

Assaults (Simple, Affray, Domestic, Etc.) – 0
Alcohol Charges (All Other) – 0
City Ordinance Violation Calls/Investigations – 0
Death Investigation (Non-Criminal, Unattended Death, Suicide, Etc.) – 0
Illegal Activity (Resist, Delay, Obstruct, Vehicle Pursuits, All Other) – 0
Juvenile Violations (Juvenile Offenses, Contributing To Delinquency, Etc.) – 0
Larceny From/Of Vehicle (Misdemeanor, Felony, B&E, Motor Vehicle Theft, Etc.) – 0
Larceny From Person (Common Law, Snatching, Armed Robbery, Etc.) – 0
Missing Persons (Reported, Found) – 0
Trespassing (1st, 2nd Degree, Domestic Etc.) – 0
Vandalism (Defacement, Arson, Etc.) – 0

TOTAL OFFENSES – 147
INCIDENT REPORTS GENERATED – 137

AVERAGE DAILY INCIDENT REPORTS DOCUMENTED – 4.4

AREA PATROLS/CHECKS

Neighborhood Checks – 813
Business Checks – 763
House Checks – 6
Suspicious Vehicles – 2

TOTAL AREA/SECURITY CHECKS – 1584

DAILY AREA/SECURITY CHECKS AVERAGE – 51.1

ARRESTS/OFFENSE CHARGES/COUNTS

Assault On A Female – 2
Driving While Impaired – 2
Larceny Defeat Anti-Theft Device – 2
Obtain Property By False Pretense – 2
Possess Heroin – 2
Possess Schedule I Controlled Substance – 2
Possess Schedule II Controlled Substance – 2
PWIMSD Schedule III Controlled Substance – 2
Misdemeanor Larceny – 1
Possess Methamphetamine – 1
Unauthorized Use Of Motor Vehicle - 1

TOTAL ARREST CHARGES – 19

DAILY JAIL COMMIT ARREST CHARGES AVERAGE - 0.6

CITATIONS

Speeding – 17
Expired Registration – 13
Driving While License Revoked – 8
Operate/Allow Vehicle With No Insurance – 6
Inspection Violations – 3
No Operator's License – 3
Possess Schedule VI – 3
Speeding In School Zone – 3
Open Container Alcohol In Motor Vehicle – 2
Cancelled/Revoked Registration – 1
Driver's License Violations – 1
Driving While Impaired – 1
Fail To Properly Register Motor Vehicle – 1
Fail To Reduce Speed – 1
Passing Violations – 1
Possess Drug Paraphernalia – 1
Stop Sign/Stop Light Violations – 1

TOTAL – 66

DAILY CITATION CHARGES ISSUED AVERAGE – 2.1

DOCUMENTED TRAFFIC STOPS WITH WARNINGS ISSUED – 80

TRAFFIC CRASHES

Crashes Reported – 18

Injuries Reported – 0

Approximated Total Damage - \$49,450

Street Or Highway - 10

- East Main Street At 101 East Main Street (2)
- West Main Street At Meadowcreek Church Road (2)
- West Main Street At Red Bridge Boulevard (2)
- South Central Avenue At Elm Street
- Midas Lane
- Meadowcreek Church Road (Deer)
- West Main Street At Stanly Parkway

Parking Lot (Public Vehicular Area) - 8

- 1876 West Main Street (Wal-Mart) – 3
- 101 East Main Street (CVS)
- 103 North Central Avenue (Fast Shop)
- 174 Battery Drive
- 515 Redah Avenue
- 1204 West Main Street (Alco)

TOTALS

**TOTAL MONTHLY DEPARTMENT ACTIVITIES
(INCIDENTS/INVESTIGATIONS, CHARGES, CITATIONS, WARNINGS, AREA CHECKS,
TRAFFIC CRASHES)**

1914*

EXCLUDED – DISPATCHED CALLS THAT DO NOT RESULT IN A REPORT GENERATED

MONTHLY DAILY ACTIVITIES AVERAGE

EXCLUDING ABOVE

61.7

FEBRUARY 2018

INCIDENTS/OFFENSES

Note – Total incident reports generated number will be lower than number of offenses/incidents listed. This is due to there being multiple offenses within one report on some occasions. Incident reports are generally documented when any interaction with the public or an enforcement action is made on a dispatched call.

Escorts Provided (General, Business Closing, Child Custody Exchange, Funeral) – 27

Assist EMS/Fire Department – 21
Alarm Calls (Business, Residential) – 14
Investigation Calls (General, 911 Hang-Ups, Suicide Threats, Open Doors, Etc.) – 12
Larceny From Business (Misdemeanor, Felony, Concealment) – 11
Disturbances (General, Domestic) – 9
Counterfeiting/Fraud (Forgery, Obtain By False Pretense, Identity Theft, Etc.) – 7
Calls For Service (Various Community Service Reasons, Animal Complaints, Etc.) – 6
Assist Motorist (Stranded, Keys Locked In Vehicle, Tire, Etc.) – 5
Suspicious Activity (Activities, Vehicles, Persons) – 4
Arrest Warrants/Processes Served (Failure To Appear, Subpoenas Etc.) – 3
Damage To Property Calls (Residential, Business, Vehicle, Minor Vehicle Crashes) – 3
Driving While Impaired (Alcohol, Illegal Substances, Provisional, Drive After Consuming, Etc.) – 3
Larceny From/Of Vehicle (Misdemeanor, Felony, B&E, Motor Vehicle Theft, Etc.) – 3
Mutual Aid Given (Help Given To Other Agencies) – 3
Assaults (Simple, Affray, Domestic, Etc.) – 2
Drug Offenses (Investigations, Citations, Arrests) – 2
Alcohol Charges (All Other) – 1
Harassment (Phone Calls, Communicating Threats, Etc.) – 1
Missing Persons (Reported, Found) – 1
Vehicle Traffic Violations (Resulting In Other Charges, Arrests, Vehicle Towed, Etc.) – 1

Breaking & Entering/Larceny Residence (Attempted, Misdemeanor, Felony, Larceny After B&E) – 0
City Ordinance Violation Calls/Investigations – 0
Death Investigation (Non-Criminal, Unattended Death, Suicide, Etc.) – 0
Illegal Activity (Resist, Delay, Obstruct, Vehicle Pursuits, All Other) – 0
Juvenile Violations (Juvenile Offenses, Contributing To Delinquency, Etc.) – 0
Larceny From Person (Common Law, Snatching, Armed Robbery, Etc.) – 0
Property Calls (Lost, Found) – 0
Sex Offenses (Attempted Or Completed Rape, Indecent Liberties, Crimes Against Nature, Etc.) – 0
Trespassing (1st, 2nd Degree, Domestic Etc.) – 0
Weapons Offenses (Unlawful Carry Concealed, Possession Firearm By Felon, Etc.) – 0
Vandalism (Defacement, Arson, Etc.) – 0

TOTAL OFFENSES – 139

INCIDENT REPORTS GENERATED – 127

AVERAGE DAILY INCIDENT REPORTS DOCUMENTED – 4.5

AREA PATROLS/CHECKS

Neighborhood Checks – 713
Business Checks – 621
Suspicious Vehicles – 1
House Checks – 0
Suspicious Persons – 0
Special Investigations – 0

TOTAL AREA/SECURITY CHECKS – 1335

DAILY AREA/SECURITY CHECKS AVERAGE – 47.7

ARRESTS/OFFENSE CHARGES/COUNTS

Driving While Impaired – 6
Assault On A Female – 2
Embezzlement – 2
Failure To Appear - 2
Obtain Property By False Pretense – 2
Probation Violation – 1

TOTAL ARREST CHARGES – 15

DAILY JAIL COMMIT ARREST CHARGES AVERAGE - 0.5

CITATIONS

Expired Registration – 18
Speeding – 11
Driving While License Revoked – 10
No Operator's License – 7
Misdemeanor Larceny – 6
Fail To Properly Register Motor Vehicle – 4
Inspection Violations – 4
Fictitious Registration – 3
Operate/Allow Vehicle With No Insurance – 3
Parking Violations – 3
Cancelled/Revoked Registration – 2
Careless & Reckless Driving – 2
Driving While Impaired – 2
Lane Violations – 2
Stop Sign/Stop Light Violations – 2
Child Restraint Violations – 1
Driver Seat Belt Violations – 1
Fail To Reduce Speed – 1
Fail To Yield Right Of Way – 1
Littering – 1
Open Container Alcohol In Motor Vehicle – 1
Possess Drug Paraphernalia – 1
Vehicle Equipment Violations – 1

TOTAL – 87

DAILY CITATION CHARGES ISSUED AVERAGE – 3.1

DOCUMENTED TRAFFIC STOPS WITH WARNINGS ISSUED – 91

TRAFFIC CRASHES

Crashes Reported – 13

Injuries Reported – 0

Approximated Total Damage - \$26,850

Street Or Highway - 8

- East Main Street At North Central Avenue – 3
- Bethel Church Road At Christy Lane (Single Car)
- West Main Street At Browns Hill Road
- Locust Level Drive (Trailer Crash)

- West Main Street At 1876 West Main Street
- West Main Street At Locust City Limits (Cabarrus County)

Parking Lot (Public Vehicular Area) - 5

- 1788 West Main Street (Tailgators) – 2
- 416 West Main Street (Uwharrie Bank)
- 1876 West Main Street (Wal-Mart)
- 1878 West Main Street (McDonalds)

TOTALS

TOTAL MONTHLY DEPARTMENT ACTIVITIES
(INCIDENTS/INVESTIGATIONS, CHARGES, CITATIONS, WARNINGS, AREA CHECKS,
TRAFFIC CRASHES)

1,680*

EXCLUDED – DISPATCHED CALLS THAT DO NOT RESULT IN A REPORT GENERATED

MONTHLY DAILY ACTIVITIES AVERAGE
EXCLUDING ABOVE

60