



From the Squad Room

FALL 2023

Bucks County Sheriff Fred Harran's Latest News

ISSUE #1

What is CALEA?

Considered the platinum standard for policing CALEA facilitates creation, verification, and maintenance of high-quality policies and procedures through voluntary compliance with performance standards.

Did you know?

Bucks County is ranked the 4th most populous county in Pennsylvania, with 646,538 residents, as of the 2020 census.

Find More on the Sheriff's Office:

Facebook.com/BucksCountySheriff:
BucksCounty.gov/Sheriff

From the Sheriff

When I took office in January 2022, I already had a good grasp of the needs of the county, and I wanted everyone in the sheriff's office to work together professionally toward the goal of bringing us up to 21st Century standards - and strengthen office operations overall.

Initially, I focused on increasing staff by 13%, upgrading equipment, forming a K9 Unit, and growing our outreach to residents. I created a warrant team to specifically work on a backlog of 7,500 high-risk bench warrants, out of 12,000 outstanding warrants and a deputy is already assigned to federal partners in the US Marshals Office.



From the start, I have been committed to building positive relationships within the community, directing office resources to promote public safety and confidence. The sheriff's office regularly attends community events, such as National Night Out and local fairs, offers safety programs, like Ident-A-Kid, and brings along their K9 family to introduce Zeke and Emma, and their handlers, Deputies Christina and Dale to the public. I also aim to better serve at-risk groups via initiatives designed to address mental health issues and crisis when on calls.

Currently, my office is pursuing state accreditation through the Pennsylvania Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission (PLEAC), an accreditation program developed by the Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police. PLEAC has developed specific standards relevant to state legislated legal mandates. PLEAC facilitates next step accreditation through the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). Once PLEAC accreditation is obtained, I plan to immediately move forward to obtain CALEA accreditation for the Bucks County Sheriff's office. Our PLEAC accreditation is on track to be completed the first quarter of 2024.

CALEA Accreditation is one way to develop law enforcement accountability, and clearly express the sheriff's office authority, performance and responsibilities internally and to the community. That is why I am dedicated to ensuring our office abides by these principles and adheres to best police practices across the 54 municipalities, and the associated local and regional police departments, the Bucks County Sheriff's office supports.

Sheriff provides 1st School Resource Officer

In keeping with this mindset, on August 3, county commissioners approved my request to provide, and train, a deputy to act as a School Resource Officer (SRO) for a local high school. In early August, we announced Deputy Robert F. Landis would be assigned to Central Bucks West High School in Doylestown. I hope this is the first of other SROs to be assigned to protect our county school districts.

From the Squad Room



New K9 Unit reaches out to Bucks County

Meet K9s Emma & Zeke with Deputies, Dale & Christina; Sheriff Harran (left) and Lieutenant Chris McMullin (right)



New Deputies Bridget Brenner & Dion Thomas were sworn into the Bucks County Sheriff's Office on July 31. Brenner dedicated 6 years to Bucks County Corrections, transferring to the Sheriff's Office Warrant Unit in January. Thomas served 4 years with Bucks County Corrections and is an US Army Veteran. Sheriff Fred Harran, left; Judge XXX, right.)

Sheriff Sales

Held Monthly every 2nd Friday at 11am.

SEE: BucksCounty.gov/565/sheriff-sales-listings.

Staff Spotlight

Meet New School Resource Officer Deputy Robert F. Landis

Deputy Landis has worked in the Sheriff's office since January 2010, and is a Field Training Officer. He served the Domestic and Criminal Warrant Units for 10 years, the US Marshals Violent Crimes Fugitive Task Force for 2 years, as a firearms instructor since 2012, and operator and sniper member of the South Central SWAT team since 2014. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice from Delaware Valley University and attended Temple University's Police Academy. "I've always had a desire to be an SRO, and when the opportunity presented itself, I jumped on it. I love working with youth. I'm looking forward to being a mentor and role model," says Landis, proud father (and former 7-year coach for his daughter's soccer team) and husband to an elementary school teacher. "I am very excited for this new chapter in my career and can't wait to get started."



Important Updates & Events

BEWARE: The Saturn iPhone app marketed to teens with the slogan "High School Runs on Saturn" is now one of the top 15 iPhone apps found in the App Store. Designed for sharing photos, class schedules and meeting friends, it claims the App is for teen use only. While it specifically targets high school students, ages 14 to 18, for social network opportunities combined with calendar and schedule viewing capabilities, it lacks safeguards such as the typical privacy settings and required identify verification. Literally anyone can join the app, access Saturn's features, obtain full access to the social network, and view all users' data. While Saturn declares it solves the problem of managing social and academic life in high school, it poses serious risk to students' safety and security, potentially exposing them to cyberbullying, stalking, threats, and physical harm.

