

The following are duties conducted by sworn members of the West Amwell Township Police above and beyond the norm with most police departments, also there are mentions of some routine duties/services provided to West Amwell residents.

#### **SCHOOL SECURITY:**

**Ever since the events which took place at Sandy Hook Elementary School it was immediately recognized by our department that, although we have been vigilant about school security, safeguarding our children rose to a whole new level. Anyone who say's it cannot happen in our community has not researched where these acts of violence occur, they occur in small communities such as ours. It can be easily Googled to add substance to this statement.**

It is policy of the WAPD for every police officer on duty during the day shift to enter South Hunterdon High, West Amwell Elementary and the ESC School to enter each school at staggered times, twice or more daily to make contact with the front desk, walk the hallways to promote police visibility, interact with students in a positive way, note any potential security issues such as unlocked exit doors etc. Officers also will make these contacts after normal school hours for extra-curricular activities by exiting their patrol units and walk the grounds.

Our police officers attend all Active Shooter Drills at all schools to observe and make any security suggestions/corrections.

Our Police Officers when not in the school(s) will do reports and other patrol related activities when not busy in the parking lots of the schools. Frequently when something is noted as suspicious, vehicle/person, police will confront and determine the purpose of being on school property. At West Amwell School any vehicle who drives to the back area of the school which is off limits is immediately stopped and steps are taken to confirm purpose.

Our Police Officers for the safety of the children, staff, school busses and parents picking up and dropping off children conduct traffic control in front of the school. Officers both morning and evening stop traffic on the highway in intervals to allow safe passage of busses and vehicles entering the highway.

Our Police Officers provide several programs a year to the elementary school. The purpose of these programs is to gain the confidence of children at a young age to promote lasting positive relationships with the township police officers throughout and beyond their time in school. Programs involve officers speaking to the class, interacting, handing out various educational materials pertaining to the topic at the grade level of the child. The following programs are conducted but are not limited to same.\

- \* Halloween Safety Program
- \* Dial 9-1-1 for an emergency
- \* The Police Officer is Your Friend
- \* Stranger Danger
- \* Bicycle Safety

Patrolman Joseph Cesare is the lead instructor to the West Amwell Township Police L.E.A.D. ( Law Enforcement Against Drugs). This program is approximately 4 months in length, once a week. It is provided to the 5<sup>th</sup> grade classes at the West Amwell School. It teaches a variety of lessons including but not limited to Drug Resistance, Confidence building, Standing up to Peer pressure, anti-bullying and building a positive long lasting, trusting relationship with township police. At the end of the program the student are rewarded by the police department with a day at the Somerset Patriots Ballpark. Officers and office staff volunteer to chaperone this event.

**IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT PATROLMAN CESARE CONDUCTS THIS PROGRAM YEARLY FOR FREE. HE DOES NOT CHARGE OVERTIME OR COMPENSATORY TIME FOR CONDUCTING THIS PROGRAM.**

Our Police Officers participate in the spring field day at West Amwell School, some are part of the cooking duties others interact with the children in various games to promote positive images and relationships with township police. Some are on duty officers, many in the past were off duty and donated their time.

Our Police Officers attend the yearly “ Jump Rope for Heart” at the West Amwell School. Uniformed Officers participate in the activities to promote positive relationships with township police.

Our Police Officers provide both traffic safety, security of the grounds at the West Amwell School Back to School Carnival. This year Patrolman Cesare donated his time to suit up in an old, worn and unserviceable uniform and sat in the “ Dunk Tank”. We were informed that it collected a substantial amount of money to benefit the PTO.

Our Police Officers conduct programs such as “ The Police Officer is Your Friend”, “ Stranger Danger” and “ Halloween Safety” at the Happy Time Pre School and The Half Pint Daycare yearly both located on State Highway 179. Again, the purpose of these programs is to interact with children at the earliest age possible to build long lasting, positive relationships with both the children and parents/guardians.

Our Police Officers provide security at South Hunterdon High School sporting events when requested. In cases where a request was not received by the school police officers routinely stop at the sporting event for purposes of visibility and to deter potential problems and/or criminal acts.

Every year we are a part of the LAEF ( Lambertville Area Education Foundation) auction. We normally receive high bids from parents to have their child escorted to the West Amwell School for a day and be an honorary township police officer. On a designated day officers meet the child at their home in the early morning, swear him/her in an honorary township police officer, he/she is provided with a junior police officer certificate and badge after the child is sworn in by the Police Captain. After photos the child is escorted to the school in a marked police unit, is met at the school by another. Officer collect the child’s backpack and other items walking him/her to their classroom. Officers return to have lunch with the child, engage on the playground. At the end of the day the child is escorted to police headquarters accompanied by parents. There they are given a VIP tour of police headquarters, our cars etc. At the end of the day the child is provided with various items to remember their day including a framed certificate showing they were police officer for a day and framed oath of office.

Police Administration is constantly in contact with administration from all three schools in our jurisdiction updating them on school security procedures. Updates on Active Shooter and Bomb Threat Protocols, it is imperative that we keep our schools safe and prepared for any situation.

Our police officers routinely fingerprint township residents for purposes of employment which requires a background investigation by their prospective employer(s).

Township Police perform full background checks for applications of local volunteer Fire and the Lambertville-New Hope Ambulance and Rescue Squad.

Our Police Officers provide talks yearly to both Local Cub Scouts and Brownies. They are given a presentation of the “The Police Officer is your Friend” or “ Stranger Danger”. This also ends with a tour of police headquarters.

Police Administration accommodates any requests from local civic groups to speak on any law enforcement related topic of their choice.

Township Police have two of our officers certified in child safety seat installations. We frequently post on our social media if anyone would like an officer to either install or check the installation of a child safety seat to contact us. Our officers perform this function several times a year, it is a very positive community interaction.

Our Police Officers provide fingerprinting for young children for identification. This includes fingerprinting, photographs, DNA information all of which is retained by the parents. They are encouraged to update these records every few years.

Our Police Officers speak several times a year to the West Amwell Wonders Senior Citizen Group at their monthly luncheons. A police officer is assigned to speak on various topics relating to crimes against seniors.

Township Police provide anyone who makes a request with a home/business security survey. Upon being requested an officer will visit the home or business making a full assessment of security related issues and make recommendations on how to make the home/business more secure.

Although every police department in the state issues Temporary Handicapped Permits we provide same day service ( in most cases) on the issuance which is a deviation from the norm. In some cases, the Captain will come in off duty just to sign off and prepare the permits if it is an emergency. Officers have also been known from time to time to deliver the Handicapped permits directly to the applicant's door if for some reason they are unable to secure immediate transportation to police headquarters. Caring about our community is what drives us to do these extra outs of the ordinary tasks.

The West Amwell Township Police maintains various avenues of social media. Facebook and Twitter where information on situations in the township exist, traffic accidents resulting in road closures, burglaries, other crimes, scams that are circulating, serious weather approaching, (thunderstorm, snow, hurricanes, tornadoes etc.) We even throw in kudos to our military, acknowledge holidays and we have the yearly visit ( for the Children) from our Police Officer Elf, Officer Mistletoe, who appears each day up until the end of the Holidays in December in various police related activities.

The West Amwell Township Police also partners with our Office of Emergency Management to share use of the NIXLE system which issues vital information regarding serious weather events and other emergencies that affect our township residents.

**Follow us on FaceBook.....@WestAmwellTwpPolice .....also on Twitter....@WestAmwellTwpPD**  
you can sign up for NIXLE alerts online.

The West Amwell Township Police participates in a state-wide program allowing unused prescription drugs to be dropped off at police headquarters in a special container. This is a very effective way of disposing of drugs that could potentially fall into the wrong hands and be abused. We conduct pickups at the West Amwell Wonder's luncheons allowing them to bring their unused prescriptions directly to the Fire House banquet hall. This allows our seniors to by-pass having to make an appointment and physically walk into our police headquarters. We feel this is a step in the right direction to reducing opioid related addictions and deaths.

Officers during Hurricane Sandy went above and beyond in service to the community, aside from being very busy and working long extended hours, police administration kept in touch with both local, state and county emergency management to ascertain that all resources needed were being enacted. Police made their way through trees down, wires etc. to transport several senior citizens without power to the shelter in Raritan Township Hunterdon County. In the far reaching areas of the township officers again make their way through treacherous conditions to deliver cases of bottled water to stranded residents. Police administration also worked with the school board during this crisis to update them on conditions after the storm make informed decisions on when it would be safe to re-open schools.

Police administration issues Firearms Permits of all types after a mandatory background investigation is conducted on the applicant.

Our Police Department is primarily comprised of Officers who have lived and even attended school in the area. We are a 21<sup>st</sup> century professional police agency with emphasis on positive, accommodating continuous interactions with our community. Due to the fact most have all been raised in this area we understand how important it is to apply all updated policing concepts along with incorporating the close-knit community values in which we have experienced in being a part of West Amwell all of our lives. We know the people in our community, some many generations, it is a very effective tool in gauging how we react to a certain situation based exactly on our personal knowledge of the family and in some cases past history of law enforcement interaction, this type of approach results in a positive outcome nearly all of the time. We respect this community, it is considered an honor and privilege to serve the residents, it's not just a job to us, it's a way of life, we work here and we live here which makes us different from many other police agencies, we go that extra yard for our friends and neighbors to make sure they are safe and all negative situations they encounter are turned into a positive one.