



Richard B. Stillman
Chief of Police

BRIDGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT



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Bridgton Police Department **Monthly Report** **September 2018**

Activities

The police department totaled 599 calls for service in September, with 12 motor vehicle accidents, 9 disturbance calls, 5 domestic violence, 45 citizen assists, 35 alarms, 6 harassment complaints, 2 citizen disputes, 4 blood tech call-outs, 13 arrests, 2 noise complaints, 179 traffic violations, 4 reports of thefts, 2 criminal mischief, 42 911 hang-ups, 26 animal problems, 27 checks for suspicious activity, 35 agency assists, 18 attempt to locate, 3 reports of fraud, and 13 welfare checks.

Our Twitter account, @BridgtonPolice, now with 440 followers. You can follow us on Twitter or just check in periodically by Googling @BridgtonPolice.

Events

Our replacement officer, Brandan George, started his Phase II police training in Vassalboro. Once he completes this training (two weeks) and completes 80 hours of field training by Bridgton Field Training Officers (FTO's) he will be sworn in as a reserve officer. He is scheduled to attend the Basic Law Enforcement Training Program in Vassalboro starting January 22, 2019. This academy is 18 weeks long and is a live-in academy.

We continue to see an uptick in mental health calls and have scheduled a meeting with Tri-County Mental Health for early October to devise a better plan for dealing with these issues.

Our new sign board has been deployed and active. We will put notices for non-profits and community events when there is not a public safety need.

Bridgton Recovery Center opened on September 6th behind the old hospital. This was funded by a grant to Crooked River Counseling and has been very busy since it's opening. I attended the grand opening which was well attended. The center is a safe place for people in recovery to talk, get assistance in job searches, practice interviewing techniques, get other assistance as needed.

I met with the Planning Board to discuss the possibility of marijuana storefronts in Bridgton. I am completely opposed to any kind of storefront after looking at the data from the Colorado experience. Having storefronts normalizes the use of marijuana and would push the age of onset much lower. Our youth are too important to be subjected to marijuana which all studies have shown to be debilitating to young people. Those needing medical marijuana have adequate resources to obtain it through a system of caregivers. Having storefronts is a push by big marijuana to increase demand.