

# NEWS

## TOWNSHIP OF WOODBRIDGE



### MAYOR JOHN E. McCORMAC

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### Mayor John E. McCormac Heralds' Woodbridge Police Department with Appointment of New Officers, Promotion(s) and Recognition for Outstanding Achievement



(Left) Newly appointed WPD Police Officers George Awad, Meghan Lyons and Cristian Lazaro Minsal  
(Right) WPD Lieutenant Benjamin Stevenson takes the Oath-of-Office

Woodbridge – Mayor John E. McCormac today announced the appointment of three new police officers, a promotion to the rank of Lieutenant, the WPD Officer of the Year for 2022, and recognition of officers for Excellence in Education and life-saving actions above and beyond the call-of-duty.

“We are pleased to announce that the Woodbridge Police Department continues to advance the delivery of law enforcement services to the Woodbridge Township community with the appointment of new police officers, the promotion of deserving officer(s) and the recognition of enforcement and life-saving actions that underscore the professional ranks of the Woodbridge Township Police Department,” Mayor McCormac said. “The public safety mission of the Woodbridge Police Department is our most important priority. As a result of our commitment to public safety, combined with the increased assignment of uniformed officers to street patrol, the Woodbridge Police Department continues to maintain police ranks at a maximum staffing level effectively protecting public safety.”

Joining Mayor McCormac to announce the appointment of the new police officers were Police Director Robert Hubner, Deputy Police Director Joseph Nisky, Captain Scott Kuzma, Chief Law Enforcement Officer, Municipal Clerk John Mitch, Council President Gregg Ficarra, Councilwoman Sharon McAuliffe, Councilman Cory Spillar, Councilwomen Debbie Meehan, members of the WPD Command Staff and Officers, families and friends.

**Promotion to Lieutenant:**

Lt. Benjamin Stevenson  
(Photo attached)

**WPD Officer of the Year ~ 2022:**

**WPD Officer Matthew Murdoch**, assigned to the Radio Patrol Division - Squad 12, has demonstrated a commitment to policing, law enforcement and public safety through the employment of a proactive approach to include patrol activities and traffic enforcement, criminal investigation, arrest procedures and public safety initiatives. During 2022, Officer Murdoch responded to 2,037 Calls-for-Service that included 441 Special Checks and 241 Motor Vehicle Stops, along with self-initiated law enforcement-related investigations, which resulted in enforcement actions to include the issuance of traffic summonses, Driving While Intoxicated (DWI) summonses, enforcement of outstanding arrest warrants and the arrest of defendants on violations of New Jersey Criminal Statutes.

(Photo Attached)

**Mayor's Award for Excellence in Academic Achievement:**

**WPD Officer William Petrovey** has demonstrated a commitment to Public Safety and Law Enforcement through his career as a Woodbridge Township Police Officer and while so engaged determined to pursue further education to include a Bachelor's Degree, Rutgers University; Master's Degree, Seton Hall University Police Graduate Studies Program in the Human Resources Training and Development Track; Education Specialist Degree (Ed.S.) and most recently pursuit of a Doctorate Degree of Higher Education, Seton Hall University. Officer Petrovey authored and presented a Doctoral Dissertation entitled "Are We Prepared? Analyzing Active Shooter Policy Accessibility in New Jersey Institutions of Higher Education" which was submitted to the Department of Higher Education Dissertation Committee, Seton Hall University, in September 2022.

(Photo attached)

**Mayor's Award for Excellence in Public Safety & Life-Saving Action:**

**WPD Detective Perry Penna and WPD Officer Orlando Faria**

On November 27, 2022, WPD Detective Perry Penna and WPD Officer Orlando Faria responded to an emergency Medical Assist in the Avenel section of the Township on a report of an adult female in medical distress. Upon arrival at the scene, Detective Penna and Officer Faria determined that the female was unconscious and not breathing. Detective Penna immediately began chest compressions while Officer Faria prepared and initiated the Automated External Defibrillator (AED) and administered a resuscitation shock to the patient. The AED, in conjunction with implementation of airway-assisted breathing apparatus employed by Detective Penna – a New Jersey Certified Emergency Medical Technician - served to revive the patient who regained a pulse and normal breathing. The patient was transported to the hospital where she made a full recovery.

**WPD Officer Preet Karan Singh**

On November 6, 2022, WPD Officer Preet Karan Singh was dispatched to the bridge on US Highway 9 North on a report of disabled vehicle. Upon arriving at the location, Officer Karan Singh observed an unoccupied van parked on the shoulder of the roadway with the keys in the ignition. Officer Karan Singh immediately conducted a search of the area fearing that the occupant of the vehicle may be in distress and attempting suicide. Officer Singh observed a male (subsequently identified as 58 years of age) standing on a small ledge on the outside of the guardrail threatening to jump. Utilizing training and experience, Officer Singh engaged the distraught male in conversation in an attempt to distract and calm him and ultimately convinced the male to climb back over the railing to safety.

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