

ALTAVISTA, VIRGINIA

APD



2022
ANNUAL
REPORT

Message From The Chief

Thomas E. Merricks



I am proud to present the 2022 Altavista Police Department Annual Report. Our officers continue to serve the community upholding our mission to safeguard the lives and property of the citizens we serve, to reduce the incidents and fear of crime, and to enhance public safety while partnering with the community to improve their quality of life. Our mandate is to do so with honor, integrity, and excellence, while always conducting ourselves with the highest ethical standards to maintain public safety.

We extend our gratitude to the citizens that we serve, as we could not accomplish our mission alone. I appreciate that service and dedication that our officers show daily. Their hard work makes our community a better place.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'TE Merricks'.

Col. Thomas E. Merricks, Chief of Police.




TABLE OF CONTENTS

Message from Chief	1
Meet the Team	3
New Hires	8
Promotions	9
Recognitions	10
Crime Statistics	11
Traffic Accident Locations	12
Community Outreach	13
Special Events	14
Organizational Chart	15

Meet The Team



Col. Tommy Merricks, Chief of Police

Tommy is a 34-year veteran in law enforcement, starting his career in 1989 as a patrol officer with the Danville Police Department. He has worked in many aspects of law enforcement, serving as an Investigator in the criminal and narcotics divisions of DPD, as a Lieutenant and Captain. Tommy was also the SWAT commander at DPD for over 20 years. Tommy is a graduate of Danville Community College and Averett University with a BS degree in marketing. He also has a master's in criminal justice degree from Averett University.

Tommy attended the Institute for Leadership in Changing Times at Virginia Tech and Professional Executive Leadership School at the University of Richmond. He presently serves on the Patrol Tactical Committee for the International Association of Chiefs of Police, and serves as Secretary of the Supervisory Committee at the URW Federal Credit Union in Danville.

Tommy is a resident of Altavista, along with his wife Patricia, and two daughters. They also have two adult sons. He is a Master Mason with the Campbell Lodge 316 in Altavista, VA., and a member of the Altavista Baptist Tabernacle. In his spare time, he loves to cook BBQ and all University of Virginia sports, "Go Hoos"

Captain Kenneth Moorefield, Deputy Chief

Captain Moorefield is a 16-year veteran with the Altavista Police Department (APD).

He is a graduate of Gretna High School, the University of Richmond, and the Professional Executive Leadership School (PELS).

He has served as a General & Defensive Tactics Instructor for the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice (DCJS).

When not on duty, he enjoys Martial Arts, hiking, and traveling.



Administration & Sergeants

Mary Hall, Administrative Asst.

Mary is the glue that holds everything together. She is the first smiling face you see when you come into the police department. She is also the evidence clerk and keeps track of all our evidence. Mary has been employed by the town since 2003 and has worn many hats. She became full-time with the police department in July of 2018.



Sergeant, Larry P. Rigney, Jr.

Sergeant Rigney is a 14-year veteran of the Altavista Police Department. Larry previously served with the patrol division of the Danville Police Department for 11 years. Rigney is a graduate of the New River Criminal Justice Academy and the Virginia Department of Forensic Sciences, Forensics Sciences Academy. In his off time Rigney enjoys taking part in mechanical and architectural projects.



Sergeant, John T. Henderson

Sgt. Henderson is from Keeling Va., graduated from George Washington High School, and attained a bachelor's degree from Averett University in Criminal Justice & Sociology.

John served in the United States Air Force on the Security Police Force. After receiving an honorable discharge, he was a Police Officer for the Danville Police Department. After 27 years of service, including Patrol, Investigations, Police Services, and the Street Crime Division, John retired from Danville as a Lieutenant.



Investigator & Corporals

Investigator, Donnie Osborne

After serving with the Danville Police Department, Investigator Osborne made a change to the Altavista Police Department, where he has been for the past five years. Osborne was promoted to Investigator in June 2020. He is a Certified General Instructor, Certified Firearms Instructor, a Glock Armorer and AR 15/ M4 Armorer.

When not at work, Osborne enjoys traveling with his family. He is also an avid hunter and fisherman.



Corporal Gary Wilson

Gary is a graduate of the Northwestern University School of Police Staff and Command, has a BS Degree from Averett University, and is a Certified Polygraph Examiner, with over 40 years of law enforcement experience. Before coming to Altavista, Gary retired from the Danville PD in 2020 as a Lieutenant, from a career as an officer, supervisor, detective, and a School Resource Officer. Gary also served on the Police Honor Guard, the Negotiations Unit, and thirteen years as a SWAT Operator.



Corporal Chelsea Pugh

Previously working in a civilian job, Corporal Pugh felt a calling to serve in law enforcement. She is a graduate of HCS, Liberty University, and CVCJA. She received numerous awards in the academy to include top academic student, most improved physical fitness, and the Trooper Lucas Dowell Officer Survival Award.

When not at work, Corporal Pugh enjoys casting a fishing line, kayaking, or sitting in the woods hunting.



APD Officers



Officer Michael Abbott

Officer Abbott is a 5-year veteran of the Altavista Police Department. He previously served with the Bedford County Sheriff's Office and the Blue Ridge Regional Jail Authority. Mike is a Certified Firearms, Defensive Tactics, CPR/AED/First Aid, Incident response to Terrorist Bombings, and ASP Instructor. Officer Abbott spent 15 years assigned as a SWAT Operator and team leader. Officer Abbott has a degree from Western International University in Criminal Justice.

When off duty Officer Abbott likes to fish and enjoy the outdoors.



Officer Cory Earhart

Cory previously served four years in the United States Army before joining the Altavista Police Department. Cory graduated from William Campbell High School and has an Associate Degree in Criminal Justice from Central Virginia Community College. Cory received the Top Shot Award from the Police Academy in 2020.

When he is not at work, he loves to hunt, fish, and work on his farm.



Officer Logan Anthony

Logan is beginning his career as a Law Enforcement Officer after graduating from the CVCJA in December 2021. He recently won the 2022 MADD award for his work in preventing DUI's.

In his spare time Officer Anthony enjoys hunting, fishing, watching Hokies sports and spending time at his family farm.

APD Officers

Officer Jeffrey Williams, Jr.

"I am Officer Jeffrey Williams Jr. It is an honor for me to serve the Altavista community. Having a relationship with Christ is number one for me. I love spending time with my family and in my spare time, I enjoy hobbies such as playing Fortnite, reading, cooking, and shopping. One of my favorite quotes is, "Be a bush if you can't be a tree. If you can't be a highway, just be a trail. If you can't be a sun, be a star. For it isn't by size that you win or fail. Be the best of whatever you are." -MLK."



Officer Chase Smith

"I am Officer Geoffrey C Smith. It is an honor to have been given the opportunity to serve the Altavista community, especially since I have family ties to this community. I love spending time with family and loved ones on my days off."

Favorite bible verse: Isaiah 6:8, Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!"



Officer Priscillia Elias

Officer Elias has been with APD for 5 months. She previously worked at the Campbell County Sheriff's Office as a Road Deputy; then as an SRO. Priscilla has a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice: Crime Scene Investigation, and a minor in Psychology. She is currently seeking a Master's degree, specializing in Forensic Science. She is also Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) certified, specializing in dealing with mental health. As a musician, she enjoys playing instruments in her spare time, as well as spending time outdoors.



New Hires

Officer Priscilla Elias

was sworn in by Mayor Mattox in October 2022, as a Certified Officer coming from another agency.



Police Intern Jolie Hewitt

All the way from the golden state of California, Jolie currently attends Liberty University studying Criminal Justice and International Relations. In her free time, she enjoys spending time outdoors, travelling and exploring the country, painting, and learning new things. One of her goals is to visit all 50 states and all 7 continents! Jolie is assisting us in our preparation for accreditation.

Promotions

Officers Gary Wilson and Chelsea Pugh were both promoted to the rank of Corporal.



During 2022, several new officers were sworn in. Officer Jeffrey Williams Jr and Officer Chaz Smith were both sworn in after completing their basic academy training. Officer Priscilla Elias was sworn in as a Certified Officer coming from another law enforcement agency. All three have been a welcome addition to the Altavista Police Department.



Officer Chaz Smith



Officer Jeffrey Williams, Jr.

Recognitions



Sergeant John Henderson and Officers Mike Abbott and Cory Earhart were all recognized for their Military Service. Officer Logan Anthony was recognized for receiving the 2022 M.A.D.D. award. Corporal Pugh, Sergeant Henderson, Sergeant Rigney, Officer Williams, and former Officer Scott Earhart were all recognized with awards for their life-saving efforts during an incident on Staunton River in English Park.



ALTAVISTA POLICE	2021	2022
Criminal Arrests "Felony"	25	41
Criminal Arrests "Misdemeanor"	96	131
Warrant Executed	82	131
Uniform Traffic Summons Issued	223	438
# Traffic Stops	746	1516
BOLO'S (Be on Look Out)	51	64
DUI	9	19
IBR	283	254
MVA	130	132
Calls for Service	3,889	4,714
Alarm Responses	170	230
ECO/TDO	15	7
Court Hours	67.75	65.5
Citizen Contacts	19,026	14,963
Businesses, Residences Check "Foot Patrols"	2,406	2,769
Follow Ups	92	62

CRIME STATISTICS

- Crime statistics are an important element for Police Departments, in keeping the communities they serve safe.
- Statistics can be very important in predicting current trends and maintaining proper resource allocation.

<u>Primary Street Name</u>	<u>Crash count</u>
3RD ST	1
7TH ST	1
AMHERST AVE.	1
AVONDALE DR	1
BEDFORD AVE	3
BROAD ST	1
CLARION RD	4
DEARING FORD RD	3
FRANKLIN AVE	1
FRAZIER RD	2
LOLA AVE	1
LYNCH MILL RD	4
LYNCH RD	2
MAIN ST	14
MELINDA DR	1
PITTSYLVANIA AVE	1
SHADY LN	1
WARDS RD	2
WARDS RD RAMP	1

TRAFFIC ACCIDENT LOCATIONS

Community Outreach



Drug Take Back Box

APD has partnered with Horizon Behavioral Health to offer the public a drug take back box. Located in the police department lobby at town hall, the drug take back box allows citizens to drop off old or unused medication for destruction. Horizon has partnered with APD to provide us with an incinerator to dispose of the medications properly. This partnership encourages safe disposal of medications, so they don't end up in the wrong hands or harm the environment.

SPECIAL EVENTS



NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

The Altavista Police Department participates in National Night Out, slated for the first Tuesday each August. This is a community-centered activity that brings law enforcement and communities together for a night of fun and entertainment. This activity is solely supported by community donations; APD has no budget funds for this.

For the past few years, our local sponsors have been generous enough that the APD is able to provide the "Embers" to perform. Donations of food and door prizes also help to guarantee a fun time.

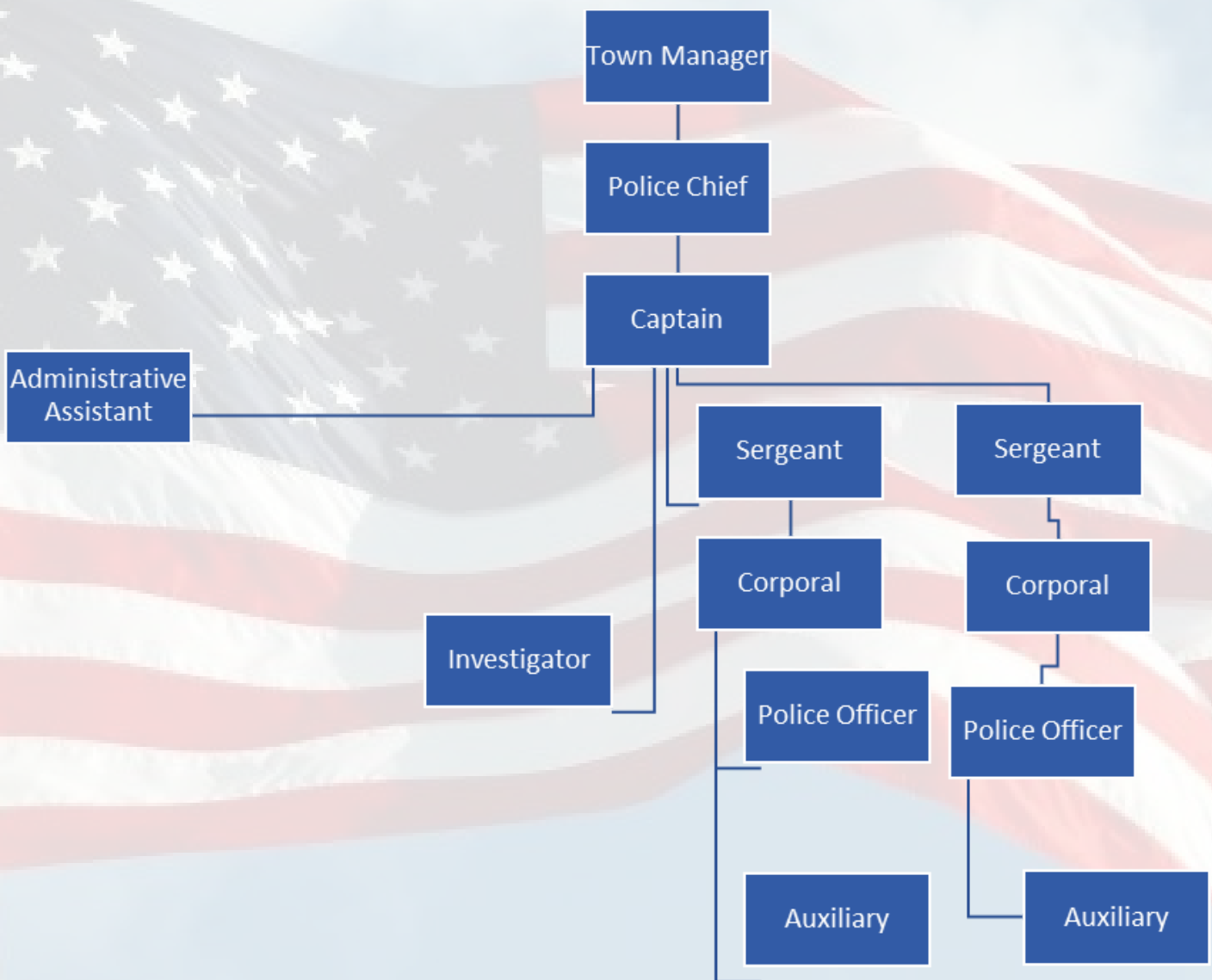
Shop-With-A-Cop

In partnership with our community, every December the Altavista Police Department collects funds for its annual "Shop with a Cop" program. This is a great time to help kids who are in financial need or that are in need of a good experience with the police.

This year the APD partnered with the Campbell County Sheriff's Office, Virginia State Police, DMV, Hurt Police Department, Blue Ridge Regional Jail, CC Probation and Parole, the Evington Fire Dept., and the Altavista Fire Company to give over 60 children a shopping trip with public safety personnel.

Altavista PD

Organizational Chart



Altavista Police Department

The Altavista Police Department would like to thank the Altavista Community for their continued support.



MISSION

The mission of the Altavista Police Department is to safeguard the lives and property of the citizens we serve, to reduce the incidents and fear of crime, and to enhance public safety while partnering with the community to improve their quality of life. Our mandate is to do so with honor, integrity, and excellence, while at all times conducting ourselves with the highest ethical standards to maintain public safety.



- Photo Credits: Scott Doran and the Altavista Police Department
- APD Location: 510 7th Street, Altavista
- Non-emergency Phone #: (434) 369-7425