

# *Protecting a Great Community*

## UPPER DARBY POLICE DEPARTMENT

2008 ANNUAL REPORT



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## SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

It is with great pride that we present to you our second Upper Darby Township Police Department annual report. As always, I am incredibly fortunate and honored to work with an outstanding group of police officers, civilian staff and community leaders, all of whom play a major role in helping to make our community a safer place to live, work and raise our families.



In keeping with a recent trend, our department has been honing in on several key areas in an attempt to improve and enhance the safety of our residents. We continue to wage an aggressive war against drugs by removing dealers from our neighborhoods and partnering with individuals and businesses. We are identifying, locating and arresting more criminals as we send a strong message that crime, drugs and violence will not be tolerated in Upper Darby.

We also continue to honor our own through our officer recognition program by recognizing the bravery, heroism and outstanding efforts put forth by the men and women of the Upper Darby Police Department.

I am very proud to be part of such an extraordinary department and to be partnering with the community at large as we strive to create a better quality of life for all township residents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael J. Chitwood". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michael J. Chitwood

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# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Upper Darby Police Department would like to thank the many individuals whose tireless contributions help make our community a safer place to live, work and raise families. In addition to the courageous men and women who protect our community every day, we also salute the members of our civilian staff. It is their commitment and dedication to the community at large that keep our operations running smoothly and efficiently.

## Upper Darby Township

Mayor - Thomas N. Micozzie  
Chief Administrative Officer - Thomas Judge, Jr.

## Township Council

President - Jack Clark  
Vice President - Edwin J. Truitt  
Secretary - Dennis Carey  
Donald Bonnett  
Constance Darmiento  
Jack Shingle  
Thomas P. Wagner  
Nathaniel Goodson  
John Rankin  
Marianne Grace  
Jean Koroly

## Public Safety Committee

Chairman - Dennis Carey  
Constance Darmineto  
Thomas P. Wagner

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# UPPER DARBY POLICE DEPARTMENT

## Mission Statement

To partner with the community in an effort to increase and enhance the quality of life for all residents of the Township. Through the auspices of law enforcement, we will strive to increase public safety, thereby reducing the fear and incidence of crime. We are committed to providing the highest quality services at all times with honor and dignity.



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## UPPER DARBY AT A GLANCE

### Upper Darby Township

Incorporated:	1736
Government:	Township Council/Mayor
Mayor:	Thomas N. Micozzie
Area:	7.62 Square Miles

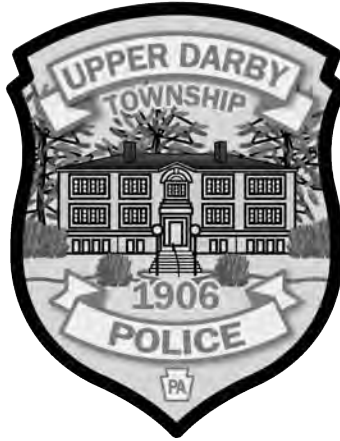
### Upper Darby Township Police Department

Organized:	1906
Superintendent:	Michael J. Chitwood
Calls for Service:	72,760
Police Budget:	21,762,142.00
Headquarters:	7236 West Chester Pike Upper Darby, PA 19082

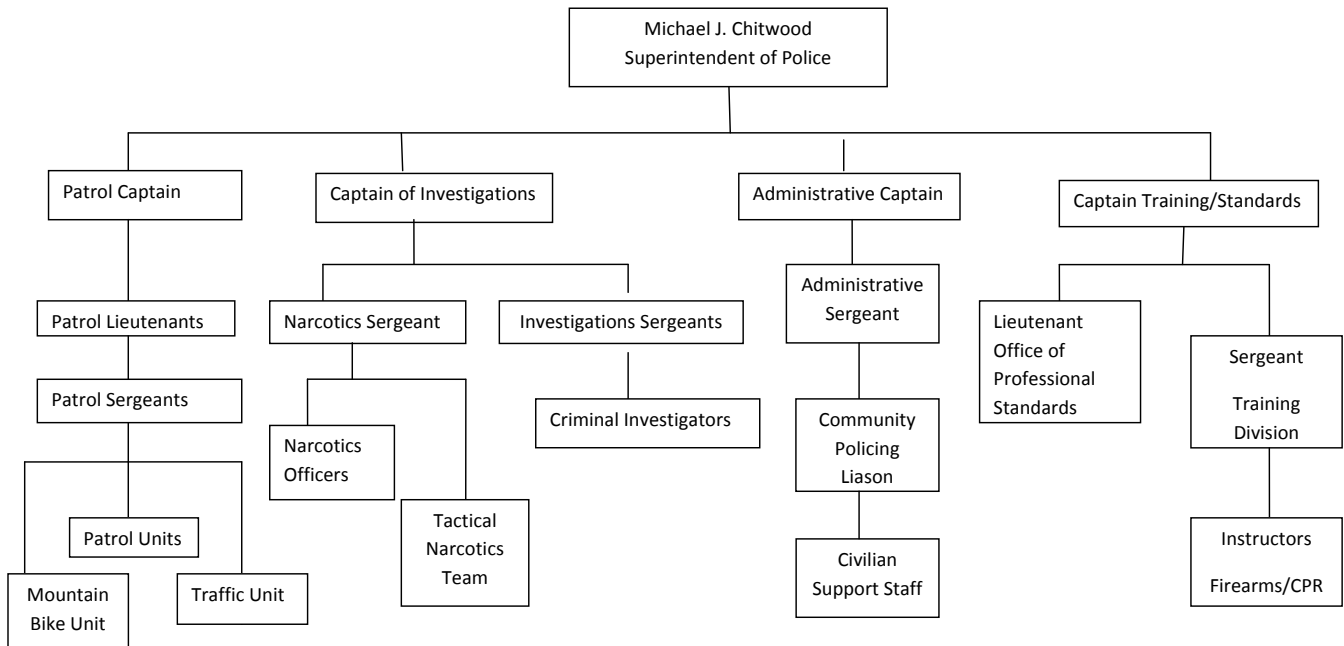
### Police Action-2008

Arrests:	1,939
Criminal Investigations:	1,965
Non-Traffic Citations:	3,872
Traffic Citations:	18,894

Upper Darby Township prides itself on the diversity of its population. Spoken within its boundaries are 50 languages representing 62 countries. The divergence of its residents, cultures, religions and races sets the township apart from other similarly sized areas and adds to its richness. The Upper Darby Police Department recognizes and respects each and every individual it is sworn to serve and protect regardless of race, color or creed.



**Upper Darby Township Police**  
*Organizational Chart*



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# 2008 Upper Darby Police Annual Report

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## *Employee and Citizen Recognition*

Each month, either a sworn officer or civilian employee is recognized by exceptional performance and dedication to their jobs. Following is a list of 2008's top employees:

<b>Month</b>	<b>Employee</b>	<b>Month</b>	<b>Employee</b>
Jan	Ofc. Fran George	July	Ofc. John News
Feb	Ofc. Anthony Bateman	Aug	Mr. Mike Antenucci
March	Ofc. Shawn Webb	Sep	Ofc. Amanda Klingensmith
April	Ofc. John Redheffer	Oct	Ofc. David Ostien
May	Ofc. William Sides	Nov	Ofc. Frank Devine
June	CI Don Beese	Dec	Ofc. Daniel Lanni

Each year, the Upper Darby Police Department holds a formal awards ceremony to recognize the outstanding efforts of departmental employee and members of the community. Following is a list of award presented in December at the 2008 Awards Ceremony:

## **Merit**

### **Officers Thomas Thompson and David Ostien**

For conducting a pedestrian stop, which led to the arrest of a group, committing a strong armed robbery.

### **Captain Anthony Paparo, Lt. Thomas Johnson, Ofc. Riocard Russel**

For their work in negotiating with a male who was attempting to hang himself.

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**Officers Lance Simpson, Rob Bennett**

*Felony car stop after a threats incident that resulted in recovering a loaded weapon.*

**Officers Steve Turnbull, Anthony Capodanno and Rob Bennett**

*Cell block suicide attempt in which a prisoner was resuscitated successfully.*

**Officer Raymond Blohm**

*Apprehending two males on Marshall Road field for robbery. One male was found to have a firearm on his person.*

**Sergeant Michael Kerhle, Officer Anthony Capodanno**

*Apprehending a group of purse snatchers that fled into Cobbs Creek.*

**Officer Ray Blohm**

*For apprehending a male that had committed a home invasion after a foot pursuit into the City of Philadelphia.*

**Officer Ray Blohm, Officer Dustin Clark**

*For their apprehension of a male involved in a gunpoint robbery.*

**Officer Rob Bennett**

*While investigating a burglary Officer Bennett observed an onlooker and discovered that she had been involved in the incident.*

**Officer Wayne Whitlock, Officer Shawn Webb, Officer Thomas Thompson, Officer 1st Lieutenant Glenn Gamber, Charles Peterson**

*For their work in an armed pedestrian robbery. Recovered was a gun stolen out of the City that may have been used in other crimes.*

**Officer Randy Desrosiers and Officer John News**

*For the arrest of a robbery suspect after a foot pursuit.*

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**Officer John News and Officer Shawn Webb**

*For apprehending two robbery suspects from Veronica Road. Property and a pellet gun were recovered.*

**Officer Gerard DeSantis**

*For apprehending two males who had just committed a carjacking in the City of Philadelphia. A gun and other evidence was located.*

**Officer Joseph DiFrancesco**

*For observing that a missing juvenile fit a robbery description. A robbery was cleared as a result.*

**Officer Phillip Lydon**

*For seizing 90 pounds of marijuana from the 400 block of Glendale.*

**Officer Stephen Cristinzio**

*For his work on the traffic unit which in the last ten months resulted in 2,471 traffic stops and 2,712 traffic citations.*

**Officer Edward Silberstein**

*For the work he and his K 9 partner did throughout 2008. His partner was utilized to find drugs and suspects.*

**Sgt. Sharp, CIs Dan Oliveri, Cunningham and Officers Randy Desrosiers and Amanda Klingensmith**

*For their work on a double homicide which took place on the 400 block of Hampden Road.*

**CI Daniel Oliveri**

*For his arrest of an armed robbery suspect at 168 Barrington Road. The arrest was made after Oliver tracked down a check that was stolen in the robbery.*

**Sgt. Thomas Sharp and CI Brad Ross**

*For the apprehension of the males who robbed the Condor Travel Agency.*

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**CI Donald Beese**

*For obtaining statements from three actors whom were involved in two separate robberies.*

**Officers Amanda Pombo and William Kiley**

*For the apprehension of a subject wanted for homicide from the 7000 block of Atlantic Avenue.*

**Officer Ron Hill**

*For the apprehension of three burglary suspects from the 1100 block of Harding.*

**Lt. Glenn Gamber and CI John Cunningham, Officers John Brennan, Dave Ostien and, Joseph Dougherty.**

*After a gun point robbery in the area of the 2300 block of Bond Avenue, these officers combined to apprehend two males and recover crucial evidence.*

**Sergeant Anthony Vaughn**

*While conducting a pedestrian stop after a knifepoint robbery, Sgt. Vaughn identified three males and recovered evidence of this and an additional robbery.*

**Officers Steve Ford, Michael Dockery, Ray Blohm, Stephen Tarozzi, Daniel Breslin, and Steve Russo**

*For their work in the arrest of three actors in a home invasion on the 300 block of Beverly Blvd. Also recovered was a loaded firearm and stolen vehicle.*

**Officers Stephen Tarozzi, Michael Dockery, Anthony Bateman, Angelo O'Rangers and Steven O'Connor**

*For apprehending two subjects after a home invasion on the 500 block of Littlecroft Road.*

**Officers Shawn Webb and Ryan Wiseley**

*For the apprehension of two males after a vehicle stop, which lead to the officers being assaulted and the recovery of a large quantity of drugs.*

**Administrative Award**

**The Policy Review Committee**

*For their efforts in revising the policy manual.*

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**Sgt. Jim Reif**

*For his work with UDT schools, especially lock down drills and maintaining an excellent repoire with schools.*

**Training Unit**

*For the transition to the new firearms after numerous issues.*

**Citizen Award**

**Eastlyn Macintosh**

*For calling police after she noticed that her neighbor had not been seen in awhile. The neighbor was found injured in her home but saved by rescue workers.*

**Jim Germschied**

*Whose knowledge of vehicle maintenance has saved the department thousands of dollars in the repair of emergency vehicles.*

**Bob Herdelin**

*For apprehending a subject wanted for assault.*

**Kristen Doonan**

*For her work as a nurse at Delaware County Memorial Hospital when she cared for a family that had suffered the loss of a newborn.*

**Frank Juisti and Gene Tulley**

*Delaware County Communications Dispatchers who radio assistance was crucial in the apprehension of two purse snatchers from the area of the high school.*

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**Heather Birl**

*As director of WaWa security, Ms. Birl has been instrumental in assisting the Upper Darby Police when video surveillance needed to be enhanced and recovered for prosecution purposes. Her work has assisted in the identification and arrest of many wanted subjects.*

**Christopher Moore**

*For physically moving another civilian from harm's way when a DUI driver attempted to back into the civilian while fleeing the scene.*

**Mark Wright**

*For his efforts in assisting police after a robbery of a fast food business.*

**Michael Morgan**

*For assisting Officer Bennett in taking a violent subject into custody.*

**Law Enforcement Award**

**Ofc. Robert Kephart**

*The bagpiper who has been requested for numerous events including Jim Disney's funeral.*

**Distinguished Unit**

**Third platoon**

*For assisting the Philadelphia Homicide division in apprehending a male wanted for homicide.*

**Investigations Unit**

*For their work on the murder of a cab driver and subsequent arrest of a suspect.*

**SWAT Team, Narcotics Division and CI Michael Pecko**

*For their work surrounding the attempted robbery at 7086 Ruskin Lane.*

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# 2008 Upper Darby Police Annual Report

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## *Employee and Citizen Recognition*

### **The Officer Dennis McNamara Memorial Award**

Since 2006, the department has recognized an "Employee of the Year" by bestowing upon him or her with the Officer Dennis McNamara Memorial Award. The recipient of this award shall have demonstrated vitality, and intelligence as well as a recognized commitment to his coworkers and public safety. This loyalty is reminiscent of Officer McNamara and the ultimate sacrifice he made on January 30, 2002.



Criminal Investigator Don Beese #51 was recognized as 2008's recipient before Township Council. With over 28 years of law enforcement experience, Don has earned a reputation of being a persistent investigator and dedicated employee. He was instrumental in the solving of brutal home invasion homicide which took place in the latter stages of 2008. Quite fitting also, was that Don was the lead investigator in the slaying of Officer McNamara.

Criminal Investigator Donald Beese

### **Marine Corps League Officer of the Year**

Each year, the Marine Corps League recognizes an officer who has loyally and diligently served the police department in a manner befitting recognition. In 2008, the Marine Corps League named Officer John News as the award recipient.

Officer John News began his service with the Upper Darby Police Department on October 24, 2005. Since then, he has made a positive impression on our department and in our community. John patrols our township, and manages an extremely large volume of calls. These calls are varied in nature and he responds to each call with a determination and a proactive attitude. His tenacity and keen senses have resulted in many quality arrests.



Officer News is exceptional in dealing with the public, calming victims and aggressively pursuing and arresting criminals. He reports for duty with a professional appearance and handles any task assigned to him in a timely, professional manner.

Officer John News

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## Promotion to Sergeant

In 2008, Superintendent Michael Chitwood had the honor and privilege of promoting the first female sergeant in the 102 year history of the Upper Darby Township Police Department.

Sergeant Amanda Pombo, an eight year veteran, received her new rank in December of 2008 after what was considered a distinguished career as a patrol officer. Most notably, was Amanda's 2005 rescue of a female who was being viciously stabbed during a domestic situation. After breaking down the front door, Amanda wrestled and subdued the actor in this incident. Although suffering horrific injuries, the victim made a complete recovery thanks to Amanda.



In regards to the promotion, Superintendent Chitwood stated that he has "no doubt that Sergeant Pombo can effectively lead the personnel in this department based on her experiences, intelligence and wonderful spirit. I anticipate that the remainder of her career will continue along the same path that she has started on—one of promise and success."

Officer Amanda Pombo

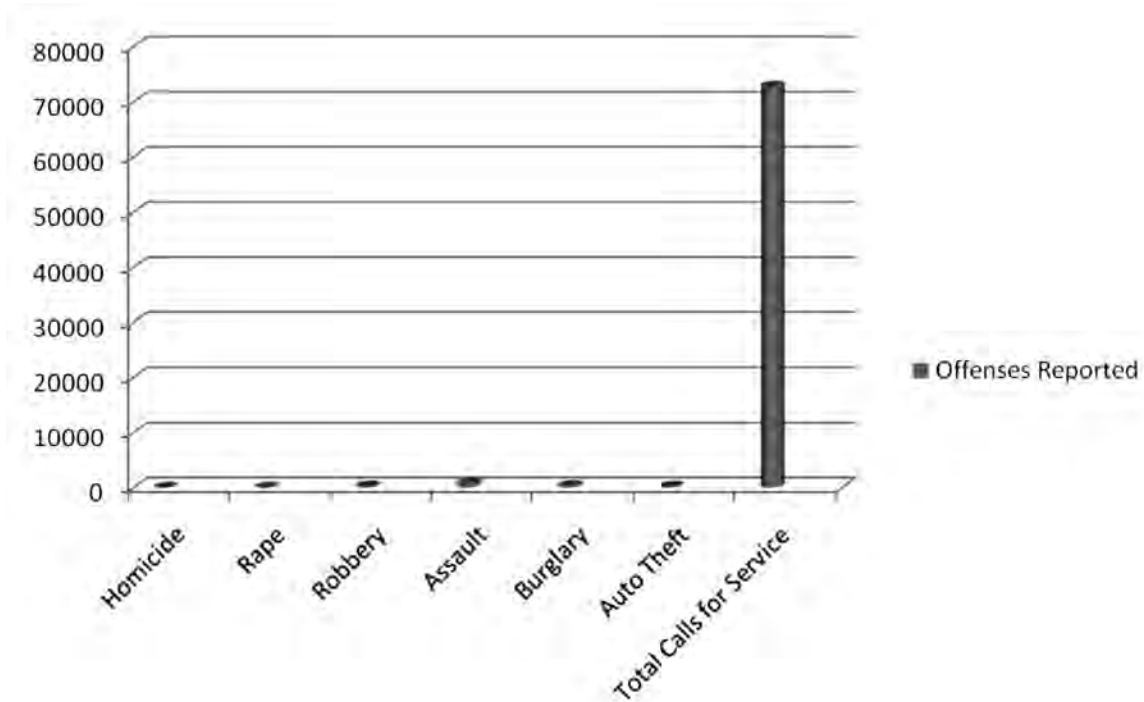


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# 2008 Upper Darby Police Annual Report

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## Offenses Reported-2008



### Offenses Reported\*

<u>Crime</u>	<u># Reported</u>
Homicide	7
Rape	18
Robbery	264
Assault	790
Burglary	339
Auto Theft	205
Total Calls for Service	72,760

\*Reported to PA State Police for Uniform Crime Reporting Purposes (Jan-Dec 2008).  
Actual reporting may not be complete at time of writing.

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# Upper Darby Township Police Safety Tips

*“Crime prevention is defined as the anticipation, recognition and appraisal of the crime risk and the initiation of some action to remove or reduce it.”*

Upper Darby Township Police are proactive in their efforts to prevent crime and address those issues, which destroy the quality of life for the community. To that end though, the public must recognize that they too have a responsibility to assist the police, and without question are an integral part of the crime prevention process. Here are some tips you can use to protect yourself from becoming a victim, and become part of the eyes and ears of the police in your neighborhood.

## Personal Safety

- While walking, present an alert and confident appearance; be aware of people and your surroundings.
- Criminals consider you as a target if you appear intimidated or unaware of your surroundings.
- Walk near the curb facing traffic; and do not pass too close to shrubbery, dark doorways and other places of concealment. Avoid shortcuts and unfamiliar areas with little pedestrian or other traffic present.
- Grip carried items such as purses firmly, and avoid leaving them unattended or in a shopping cart. Thieves will distract you while a second thief walks off with your belongings.
- Become familiar with stores and gas stations that stay open late at night that can provide access to safety.
- Carry some type of personal alarm (whistle or electronic device), and at night carry a flashlight with you as well.
- Know that wearing earphones connected to portable radios, CD players, and other devices can distract you,
- and make you less able to sense potential danger, thus making you a potential target for criminals.
- Before you enter your vehicle look around, have your keys ready, and look inside to ensure it is clear.

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## Identity Theft Prevention

- Do not throw anything away intact that someone could use to assume your identity. Anything with your name, address, date of birth, social security number, or other identifying data must be shredded before throwing it away.
- Be aware of your surroundings and careful at ATM's. Block others from viewing your "Pin Number" entry.
- Don't keep your social security card, birth certificate, passwords, or family members relevant documents with you.
- Make a list of all your credit card and bank account numbers with customer service phone numbers, and keep all this information in a safe place. Do not store this information on your computer if you are always connected to the Internet.
- Never give your information to anyone that requests it in an email. Even if it appears authentic, verify the request.
- Do not put your address, telephone number, or driver's license number on credit card slips or statements.
- Monitor all your bank statements from every credit card each month. If there is anything that you do not recognize, call the creditor to verify the purchase(s) and/or to report the fraud.
- Once a year obtain a free credit report to verify your accounts and identify any potential fraudulent ones.
- Credit Report Companies: Experian: 888-397-3742, Equifax: 800-525-6285, TransUnion: 800-680-7289.
- For more resources visit: <https://www.annualcreditreport.com/>, and <http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/microsites/idtheft/>
- If you realize you are a victim, report it to your Police Department.

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## Burglary Prevention

- Make sure external doors have sturdy well-installed dead-bolt locks and are made of solid wood or metal. Sliding glass doors are easily accessible, so install a lock, place a broomstick, or dowel in the track to jam the door. When you move into a new house or apartment, re-key the locks.
- Clearly display your house number, and give an extra key to a trusted neighbor. Never hide a key outside.
- Install a peephole or wide-angle viewer in all entry doors, and cut back shrubbery that hides doors and windows.
- Lock double hung windows with key locks or pins, install bright outside lights, motion detection lighting, and keep them on at night.
- If you travel, use timers to turn lights off and on in different areas of your home throughout the evening.
- Consider buying an audible alarm system, the sound will draw attention to your home in an emergency. If your home or apartment is burglarized, promptly report it to police regardless of whether anything is taken or not.

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# 2008 Upper Darby Police Annual Report

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## *Initiatives*

### **Citizen Police Academy**

The Upper Darby Police Department is committed to partnering with community members to increase the quality of life for all residents. As such, we have designed a seven-week Citizen Police Academy to encourage our neighbors to learn more about the criminal justice system and the Upper Darby Police Department. The Citizen Police Academy will meet once a week for seven weeks. Participants will engage in vigorous lessons designed to provide them with a better perspective on law enforcement and its officers. When asked about the program, Superintendent Michael Chitwood stated "It is my hope that our Citizen Police Academy connects our police to our public in such a way that a long-lasting, meaningful relationship flourishes."

### **Enhanced Website**

In 2008, the police department sought to improve its website so that citizens could easily obtain pertinent information in regards to the agency. While still under constructing, the site promises to be a complete experience for the user, allowing them to view video surveillance in order to identify suspects, peruse our most wanted list, visit our memorial page, and much more. Check in with us at [www.udpd.org](http://www.udpd.org).

### **Computerized Reporting**

As the world moves further into the world of technology, the Upper Darby Police Department has taken steps to keep pace. Real-time reporting is now an actuality as police officers compose digital incident and accident reports from within their patrol vehicles. While in the past, hand-written incident reports were difficult to store and correlate, information is now literally at police officers' fingertips, providing them with pertinent data. Reporting in this manner also affords the department an opportunity to uncover problems, analyze them, and strategize so that a solution may be formulated.

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## Community Outreach

Of all the communities in Delaware County, only Upper Darby Township can claim such a wonderful, rich diversity of people. The fifty languages spoken in the Township span sixty-two countries and can create a challenge for the police department.

To meet this challenge, the department has set out to meet with these various communities and their leaders by holding town hall format discussions. This outreach has proven successful in both relaying vital law enforcement information to various groups and providing the police department with cultural understanding.

“The underlying theme of these discussions is acceptance and understanding”, said Superintendent Michael Chitwood. “The police department must serve the public despite cultural differences, and what better way to learn about these differences than to gather with community members, listen to their concerns, and explain our role as law enforcement officials.”

## Interpreter Services

In association with the Community Outreach initiative, the police department has enlisted the aid of Interpreter Services to assist with victim and witness interviews. Police personnel may come in contact with persons who speak one of fifty languages in the township, presenting first responders with a unique challenge.

With the assistance of **Accent Interpreting LLC**, the Upper Darby Police Department can assist those whose primary language is different from that of the responding officer, thereby insuring quality service to all members of our community.

## Weed and Seed

As a Weed and Seed community, the Upper Darby Township takes a multiagency approach to crime prevention, and community revitalization. The goal is to control and reduce violent crime and drug abuse in problem neighborhoods.

Weed and Seed involves a two-pronged approach: the Upper Darby Police Department “weeds out” criminals and other social agencies “seed” human services, such as prevention. The police department helps to bridge the weeding and seeding elements by interacting frequently with the public.







**UPPER DARBY POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
7236 West Chester Pike • Upper Darby, PA 19082  
[www.UDPd.org](http://www.UDPd.org)

