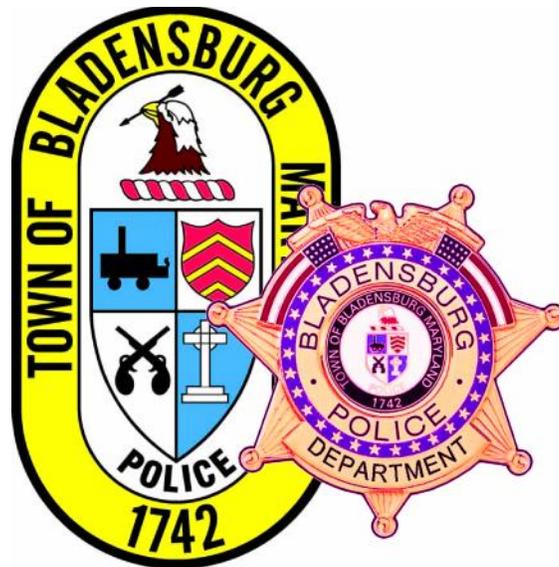


# BLADENSBURG POLICE DEPARTMENT

MONTHLY REPORT  
TO  
MAYOR & TOWN COUNCIL



*"PARTNERS WITH THE COMMUNITY"*

*OCTOBER 2014*

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY:

CHARLES L. OWENS  
CHIEF OF POLICE

# Department of Public Safety

## VISION

A recognized and regional leader in providing comprehensive law enforcement services

## MISSION

The Bladensburg Police Department, in partnership with our community, is dedicated to:

- Preventing crime
- Enforcing laws
- Resolving community problems
- Improving the quality of life

## GOALS

**Maximize department effectiveness targeting the reduction of crime**

- Focused deployment of resources
- Target crime analysis strategies toward worst offenders
- Resolve chronic nuisances and criminal activity using code enforcement, public works, training, and community

**Provide outstanding service to our community**

- Recruit and retain a highly qualified, diverse workforce
- Emphasize customer service internally and externally
- Recognize excellent performance and service
- Maintain professional standards through training, leadership, and mentoring

**Identify and prepare resources for successful response to local and regional public safety needs**

- Identify and leverage new technologies to address emerging issues
- Update, implement, and train emergency preparedness plans
- Maintain and develop partnerships to address criminal justice needs

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## *Security Tips for the Holidays*

### **Stay Alert**

- Keep your mind on your surroundings, who's in front of you and who's behind you. Don't get distracted.
- Walk purposefully, stand tall, and make eye contact with people around you.
- TRUST YOUR INSTINCTS*—If you feel uncomfortable, leave.
- Do not approach your car alone if there are suspicious people in the area.
- Ask mall or store security for an escort before leaving your shopping location.

### **Credit /Debit Cards**

Credit cards are as good as cash and clerks rarely check identification. Most credit card companies hold the owner responsible for all purchases until the card is reported lost. To prevent credit card loss:

- Keep your credit cards in a safe place.
- Report any losses immediately.
- Take only the cards you will need for shopping.
- Check your credit card statements for accuracy.
- Keep a record of your credit cards and phone numbers to call if they're lost.

### **Cash**

The tendency to carry large amounts of cash is greater during the holidays. If you must carry cash:

- Take only the amount you plan to spend when shopping.
- Keep all money in a safe place.
- Avoid flashing your money in public

### **Transporting gifts in your car**

Gifts left unattended on the back seat of your car can be tempting to a thief.

- Always lock your car.
- Pick up major items at the end rather than the beginning of a shopping trip.
- Lock all purchases in the trunk of your car.
- Immediately remove all purchases from your car when you return home.
- Consider a locker at the shopping center.

### **Deliveries**

Do not give criminals an easy opportunity.

- Schedule deliveries for times when you are at home.
- Make arrangements to have your parcels delivered to a neighbor if you are unable to be at home.
- If you live in a multi-unit building, bring packages left outside for your neighbors into a secured area.

## Home security during the holidays

Many people like to keep their presents out for days before or after the holiday; also, homes are more vulnerable, given the time spent shopping and visiting.

- ❑ Close blinds/curtains at night or while you're away.
- ❑ Break up boxes, especially for purchases like televisions and computers. Put the boxes in garbage bags.
- ❑ A light display shows ownership and increases lighting in the area.

## Holiday scams

Know your charities and retailers.

- ❑ Fake charities: If you're asked for a donation, verify the legitimacy of the charity before giving.
- ❑ Gift cards: Only purchase gift cards from trusted retail outlets. Make sure gift cards have not been tampered with before buying them.
- ❑ Scam emails and online shopping: Shop only at trusted retail Web sites. Do not respond to unsolicited emails or click on links in them.

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## Holiday fraud—How not to be scammed



### Holiday Shopping Tips from the FBI

This holiday season the FBI reminds shoppers that cyber criminals aggressively create new ways to steal money and personal information. Scammers use many techniques to fool potential victims, including conducting fraudulent auction sales, reshipping merchandise purchased with stolen credit cards, and selling fraudulent or stolen gift cards through auction sites at discounted prices.

### Fraudulent Classified Ads and Auction Sales

Internet criminals post classified ads and auctions for products they do not have, and make the scam work by using stolen credit cards. Fraudsters receive an order from a victim, charge the victim's credit card for the amount of the order, then use a separate, stolen credit card for the actual purchase. They pocket the purchase price obtained from the victim's credit card and have the merchant ship the item directly to the victim. Consequently, an item purchased from an online auction but received directly from the merchant is a strong indication of fraud. Victims of such a scam not only lose the money paid to the fraudster, but may be liable for receiving stolen goods.

Shoppers may help avoid these scams by using caution and not providing financial information directly to the seller, as fraudulent sellers will use this information to purchase items for their schemes. Always use a legitimate payment service to ensure a safe, legitimate purchase.

As for product delivery, fraudsters posing as legitimate delivery services offer reduced or free shipping to customers through auction sites. They perpetuate this scam by providing fake shipping labels to the victim. The fraudsters do not pay for delivery of the packages; therefore, delivery service providers intercept the packages for nonpayment and the victim loses the money paid for the purchase of the product.

Diligently check each seller's rating and feedback along with their number of sales and the dates on

which feedback was posted. Be wary of a seller with 100% positive feedback, with a low total number of feedback postings, or with all feedback posted around the same date and time.

### **Gift Card Scam**

Be careful when purchasing gift cards through auction sites or classified ads. It is safest to purchase gift cards directly from the merchant or retail store. If the gift card merchant discovers that your card is fraudulent, the merchant will deactivate the gift card and refuse to honor it for purchases. Victims of this scam lose the money paid for the gift card purchase.

### **Phishing and Smishing Schemes**

In phishing schemes, a fraudster poses as a legitimate entity and uses emails and scam web sites to obtain victims' personal information, such as account numbers, user names, passwords, etc. Smishing is the act of sending fraudulent text messages to bait a victim into revealing personal information.

Be leery of emails or text messages that indicate a problem or question regarding your financial accounts. In this scam, fraudsters direct victims to follow a link or call a number to update an account or correct a purported problem. The link directs the victim to a fraudulent web site or message that appears legitimate. Instead, the site allows the fraudster to steal any personal information the victim provides.

Current smishing schemes involve fraudsters calling victims' cell phones offering to lower the interest rates for credit cards the victims do not even possess. If a victim asserts that they do not own the credit card, the caller hangs up. These fraudsters call from TRAC cell phones that do not have voice mail, or the phone provides a constant busy signal when called, rendering these calls virtually untraceable.

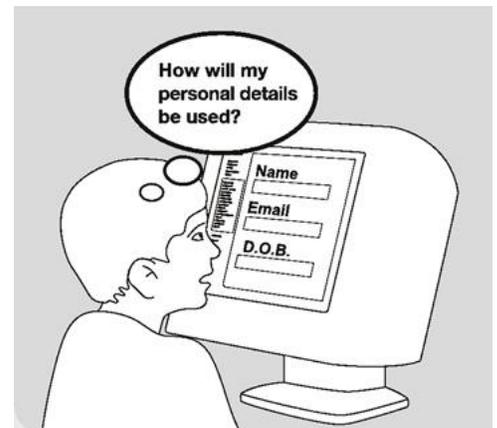
Another scam involves fraudsters directing victims, via email, to a spoofed web site. A spoofed web site is a fake site that misleads the victim into providing personal information, which is routed to the scammer's computer.

Phishing schemes related to deliveries are also rampant. Legitimate delivery service providers neither email shippers regarding scheduled deliveries nor state when a package is intercepted or being temporarily held. Consequently, emails informing of such delivery issues are phishing scams that can lead to personal information breaches and financial losses.

### **Tips**

Here are some tips you can use to avoid becoming a victim of cyber fraud:

- Don't give out personal or financial information on the internet.
- Deal directly with reputable websites and stores.
- What appears to be a huge bargain is a fraud.
- Do not click on links contained within an unsolicited email.



- ❑ Be cautious of email claiming to contain pictures in attached files, as the files may contain viruses. Only open attachments from known senders. Scan the attachments for viruses if possible.
- ❑ Avoid filling out forms contained in email messages that ask for personal information.
- ❑ Always compare the link in the email with the link to which you are directed and determine if they match and will lead you to a legitimate site.
- ❑ Log directly onto the official web site for the business identified in the email, instead of “linking” to it from an unsolicited email. If the email appears to be from your bank, credit card issuer, or other company you deal with frequently, your statements or official correspondence from the business will provide the proper contact information.
- ❑ Contact the actual business that supposedly sent the email to verify if the email is genuine.
- ❑ If you are asked to act quickly, or there is an emergency, it may be a scam. Fraudsters create a sense of urgency to get you to act quickly.
- ❑ Verify any requests for personal information from any business or financial institution by contacting them using the main contact information.
- ❑ Remember if it looks too good to be true, it probably is!

*Community Service Unit officers work in partnership with community members, community groups, schools, businesses, other governmental departments and agencies to help bring all available resources to address crime and disorder problems. For more information about our Community Service Unit, call the C.O.P.'s Program Supervisor, PFC David Calloway, at (301) 927-8126 or E-mail [cops@bladensburg.net](mailto:cops@bladensburg.net).*

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# POLICE BLOTTER

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October 2014

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## COMMUNITY SERVICES

19 Families Fresh Vegetables Donated By Christian Life Center.

2,805 children received after school snacks from the Family League of Baltimore, a USDA sponsored program.

14 residents received assistance with healthy living resources.

October 7, Transforming Neighborhood Initiative (TNI) meeting.

October 11, Bullying Seminar and Rogers Heights Community Fair.

October 18, Second Annual Bladensburg Community Day.

October 25, Port Towns Elementary Community Career Fair.

October 30, Met with Brickman Company, restoration and cleanup of vegetation at Evergreen Cemetery.

October 31, Magic Johnson Empowerment Center, Halloween Celebration.

### Community Oriented Policing Services

October 8, Emerson House resident meeting.

October 8, Peer mediation and parent conference at Bladensburg Elementary School.

October 8, Safety presentation to students at Rogers Heights Elementary School.

October 10, Mediated a neighbor dispute on 54th Place.

October 11, Rogers Heights Community Day.

October 11, Guest speaker at a Bullying Seminar at Bladensburg Recreation Center.

October 13, Mediated neighbor dispute in Gateway Gardens.

October 15, Presented safety recommendations to residents of Newton Green.

October 25, Port Towns Elementary School, Fall Festival.

### Police Explorers

The Bladensburg Police Explorers recruited 10 new members this month, expanding our program to 25 members.

## THE BEAT

October 1, Vandalism in the 6000 block of Emerson Street.

October 2, Vandalism in the 4300 block of 57th Avenue.

October 2, Robbery in the 4400 block of Blue Heron Way.

October 3, Missing Person in the 3900 block of 53rd Street.

October 3, Sex Offense in the 5000 block of 57th Avenue.

October 4, Vandalism in the 4200 block of 58th Avenue.

October 5, Stolen Vehicle in the 5000 block of Townsend Way.

October 5, Fraud in the 5700 block of Emerson Street.

October 6, Theft in the 5800 block of Annapolis Road.

October 6, Theft in the 4200 block of 58th Avenue.

October 7, Theft in the 4900 block of Annapolis Road.

October 7, Stolen Vehicle in the 5000 block of 57th Avenue.

October 7, Assault in the 4800 block of Annapolis Road.

October 7, Theft in the 5600 block of Annapolis Road.

October 8, Assault in the 4400 block of Blue Heron Way.

October 8, Assault in the 5000 block of 57th Avenue.

October 9, Vandalism in the 5800 block of Annapolis Road.

October 9, Trespassing in the 5000 block of Emerson Street.

October 9, Missing Person in the 4200 block of 58th Avenue.

October 10, Theft in the 5700 block of Emerson Street. An adult female was arrested.

October 11, Theft in the 5800 block of Annapolis Road.

October 11, Theft in the 5800 block of Annapolis Road.

October 11, Theft in the 4800 block of Annapolis Road.

October 12, Burglary in the 5400 block of Taussig Road.

October 12, Theft in the 5400 block of Annapolis Road.

October 12, Theft in the 4200 block of Edmonston Road.

October 12, Stolen Vehicle in the 5000 block of Townsend Way.

October 13, Stolen Vehicle in the 5200 block of Newton Street.

October 13, Theft in the 4700 block of Annapolis Road.

October 13, Theft in the 4800 block of Annapolis Road.

October 13, Vandalism in the 4200 block of 58th Avenue.

October 13, Burglary in the 5800 block of 58th Avenue.

October 13, Trespassing in the 5700 block of Emerson Street.

October 13, Assault in the 5600 block of Annapolis Road.

October 13, Domestic in the 5000 block of Townsend Way.

October 14, Theft in the 5000 block of Townsend Way.

October 14, Warrant Service at 56th Avenue and Spring Road. An adult male was arrested.

October 14, Domestic in the 5000 block of Townsend Way. A warrant was issued for an arrest.

October 15, Vandalism in the 4300 block of 54th Place.

October 15, Vandalism in the 5200 block of Newton Street.

October 16, Domestic in the 5200 block of Newton Street.

October 16, Robbery in the 4500 block of Annapolis Road.

October 16, Assault in the 6000 block of Logan Way.

October 16, Vandalism in the 5400 block of Tilden Road.

October 17, Robbery in the 4800 block of Annapolis Road.

October 19, Recovered Vehicle in the 5200 block of Newton Street.

October 19, Assault in the 5000 block of Townsend Way.

October 19, Vandalism in the 5700 block of Emerson Street.

October 19, Death in the 5500 block of Volta Avenue.

October 22, Vandalism in the 5300 block of Shepherd Street.

October 22, Vandalism in the 5000 block of 57th Avenue.

October 22, Theft in the 5000 block of 57th Avenue.

October 22, Stolen Vehicle in the 5800 block of Annapolis Road.

October 22, Vandalism in the 5100 block of Annapolis Road.

October 23, Theft in the 5200 block of Newton Street.

October 23, Stolen Vehicle in the 4400 block of 56th Avenue.

October 23, Theft in the 3800 block of Kenilworth Avenue.

October 23, Domestic in the 5000 block of Townsend Way.

October 23, Missing Person in the 4900 block of Tilden Road.

October 23, Assault in the 5400 block of Annapolis Road.

October 24, Vandalism in the 5100 block of Varnum Street.

October 24, Fraud in the 4900 block of 57th Avenue. Case was referred to Baltimore City Police.

October 24, Assault in the 4900 block of Tilden Road.

October 25, Vandalism in the 4100 block of 46th Street.

October 25, Theft in the 4900 block of Tilden Road.

October 25, Vandalism in the 4200 block of 58th Avenue.

October 25, Theft in the 4400 block of Blue Heron Way.

October 25, Domestic in the 5800 block of Annapolis Road.

October 26, Trespassing in the 4300 block of Kenilworth Avenue. Two Hispanic males were arrested.

October 26, Theft in the 5800 block of Annapolis Road.

October 26, Recovered Vehicle in the 4300 block of 57th Avenue.

October 26, Stolen Vehicle in the in the 5500 block of Decatur Street.

October 26, Vandalism in the 4100 block of 46th Street.

October 27, Vandalism in the 5100 block of Upshur Street.

October 28, Theft in the 4900 Block of Tilden Road.

October 28, Warrant Service in the 5100 block of 57th Avenue.

October 29, Drug/ Warrant Service in the 4400 block of Blue Heron Way. An adult male was arrested.

October 29, Burglary in the 5800 block of Annapolis Road.

October 29, Assault in the 5400 block of Annapolis Road.

October 29, Robbery at Emerson Street/ 57th Avenue. Two juvenile males arrested.

October 30, Vandalism in the 4200 block of 54th Street.

October 30, Trespassing in the 5000 block of 57th Avenue.

October 30, Missing Person in the 6000 block of Logan Way.

October 31, Theft in the 5600 block of Annapolis Road.

## **INVESTIGATIONS**

October 1, A 16-year-old missing person was located and returned to parents.

October 7, Federal indictments issued for two suspects responsible for several convenience store robberies in the Maryland and the District of Columbia, including a robbery of the 7-Eleven Store on Kenilworth Avenue, on January 5, 2013.

October 28, Circuit Court trial for a 1st degree assault (stabbing) that took place at 5800 block of Annapolis Road on August 11, 2013.

October 30, robbery investigation resulted in the arrest of two juvenile perpetrators. Charges are pending against a third adult suspect.

## Office of the Chief

### Welcome to Bladensburg!

I have the pleasure to introduce:



**Leon Tyrone Scales** resides in Hyattsville, Maryland. He is a graduate of Northwestern High School, and the Prince George's Municipal Police Academy. Prior to his appointment, he worked at his family owned business in the District of Columbia.



**Christopher Bit Sjogren** resides in Waldorf, Maryland. He is a graduate of Maurice J. McDonough High School in Pomfret, Maryland, and the Prince George's Municipal Police Academy. Prior to his appointment, he worked as a Deputy Sheriff for the Baltimore City Sheriff's Office in Courtroom Security.

### Congratulations



Congratulations to Michael Anthony Luciotti for being recognized at the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual National Highway Traffic Safety Administration DUI Awards. In order to receive this award, an officer has to have made at least 15 DUI arrests in 2013.

Thank you for your continuous hard work and dedication in keeping impaired drivers off of our roadways!



### Neighborhood Watch

Neighborhood Watch is a program which enlists the active participation of citizens in cooperation with law enforcement to reduce crime in their neighborhoods. It involves neighbors getting to know each other and working together for the good of the community. Residents are trained to recognize and report suspicious activities in their neighborhoods. Anyone interested should contact the Community Services Unit. If a program is already in place for your neighborhood, you will be put in touch with your block captain. If your community does not have a program in place, we will provide information to you and attend a neighborhood meeting to get you started.

## **How you can get started:**

No one person or law enforcement agency can be aware of every situation that occurs in a neighborhood at all times. That's why neighbors are the best defense against crime! To help build strong neighborhood crime prevention networks, the Bladensburg Police Department sponsors Neighborhood Watch.

Crime and the opportunity for crime go hand-in-hand. Neighborhood Watch reduces the opportunity for crime in your neighborhood. By implementing basic crime prevention techniques, watching out for one another and reporting suspicious activity to police, neighbors create a unified front against crime. This increases the risk to criminals and decreases the likelihood that a criminal will be successful.

## **Organizing a Watch Group**

- Call the Bladensburg Community Police Services Unit. A Police Department representative will help set up a meeting in your neighborhood.
- The Police Department encourages you to hold Watch meetings in your neighborhood. Meetings can be in a living room, garage, or on a deck or back lawn.
- Meetings are scheduled about one month in advance and are held in the evenings. Special arrangements can be made for weekend meetings.
- The Police Department will create a flyer for you, make copies of it and send it to you to distribute to your neighbors.
- A Police representative will assist and facilitate your Neighborhood Watch meeting.

## **Events and Meetings**

- October 8, Maryland Police and Correctional Training Commissions hearing.
- October 13, Council Work Session and Public Meeting.
- October 18, Bladensburg Community Day on the Town Green.
- October 23, Training.
- October 28, Prince George's County Police Chiefs' Association Meeting.
- October 31, Directed Patrol Detail for Halloween.
- Attended all staff meetings.

# Statistical Abstract

<b>Traffic Enforcement</b>	<b>October 2014</b>
State Citations	90
Parking Citations	25
Written Warnings	34
Cellular Telephone Violations	15
Driving Under Influence	10
License Violations	25
Repair Orders Issued	42
Repair Orders Inspected	80
Seatbelt Violations	10
Vehicle Impounds	7

<b>Departmental Activity</b>	<b>October 2014</b>
Arrests	22
Assigned to Calls (in hours)	954
Calls for Service	736
Court Appearances (in hours)	60
Off Duty Response (in hours)	18
Mutual Aid (in hours)	47
Prisoner Processing (in hours)	89
Self Initiated Service (in hours)	313
Special Activity (in hours)	10
Training (in hours)	222

## Part 1 Crimes

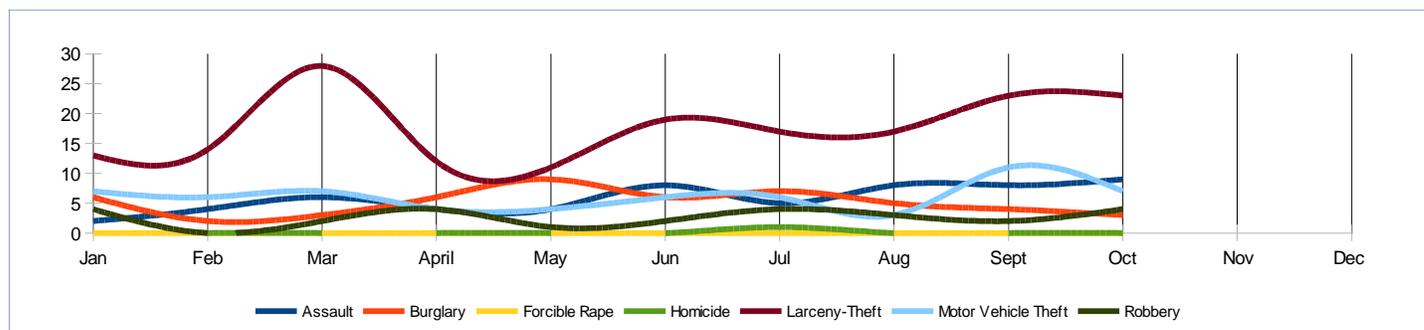
Part I crimes fall into two categories: violent and property crimes. Aggravated assault, forcible rape, murder, and robbery are classified as violent while arson, burglary, larceny-theft, and motor vehicle theft are classified as property crimes. These crimes are considered quite serious, tend to be reported more reliably than others, and are reported directly to the police.

**Bladensburg Police Department  
Part 1 Offense Comparison**

<b>2013</b>	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD
Assault	9	5	3	6	11	3	9	11	14	7	5	8	91
Burglary	18	8	10	3	11	7	8	7	4	6	12	4	98
Forcible Rape	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Homicide	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Larceny-Theft	29	13	9	19	31	21	15	16	21	28	19	28	249
Motor Vehicle Theft	5	5	5	5	5	7	6	4	6	10	19	3	80
Robbery	5	3	1	0	5	1	4	2	4	7	4	4	40
<b>Total</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>559</b>

<b>2014</b>	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD
Assault	2	4	6	4	4	8	5	8	8	9			58
Burglary	6	2	3	6	9	6	7	5	4	3			51
Forcible Rape	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			0
Homicide	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0			1
Larceny-Theft	13	14	28	12	11	19	17	17	23	23			177
Motor Vehicle Theft	7	6	7	4	4	6	6	3	11	7			61
Robbery	4	0	2	4	1	2	4	3	2	4			26
<b>Total</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>374</b>

<b>Variance</b>	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD
Assault	-77.78%	-20.00%	100.00%	-33.33%	-63.64%	166.67%	-44.44%	-27.27%	-42.86%	28.57%			-14.08%
Burglary	-66.67%	-75.00%	-70.00%	100.00%	-18.18%	-14.29%	-12.50%	-28.57%	0.00%	-50.00%			-235.21%
Forcible Rape	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%			0.00%
Homicide	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	-100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%			0.00%
Larceny-Theft	-55.17%	7.69%	211.11%	-36.84%	-64.52%	-9.52%	13.33%	6.25%	9.52%	-17.86%			64.00%
Motor Vehicle Theft	40.00%	20.00%	40.00%	-20.00%	-20.00%	-14.29%	0.00%	-25.00%	83.33%	-30.00%			74.05%
Robbery	-20.00%	-100.00%	100.00%	400.00%	-80.00%	100.00%	0.00%	50.00%	-50.00%	-42.86%			357.14%
<b>Monthly Comparison</b>	<b>-34</b>	<b>-8</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>-4</b>	<b>-34</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>-2</b>	<b>-4</b>	<b>-1</b>	<b>-12</b>			<b>-79</b>
	-51.52%	-23.53%	64.29%	-11.76%	-53.97%	5.13%	-4.76%	-10.00%	-2.04%	-20.69%			-108.86%



Bowie Patch, October 31, 2014  
By Greg Hambrick (Patch Staff)

## Marijuana Candy: Police Say Treats Are A Trick

Several boxes of marijuana infused candy were seized this week by Prince George's County Police.



The threat parents should be looking out for this year won't be razors in candy apples: it's pot in chocolate bars and taffy.

Earlier this week, the Prince George's County Police seized several boxes of candy infused with marijuana.

The confiscated candy includes mint, blueberry and banana-walnut chocolate bars, as well as taffy. Each piece of candy contains 100 milligrams of THC.

The boxes arrived from the west coast and Colorado, according to a PGCP release.

"Despite the on-going investigation, we felt it important to let our community know that products like this exist so parents and guardians ensure the candy doesn't somehow wind up in their children's Halloween candy bag," said Captain Chuck Hamby, Narcotic Enforcement Division Assistant Commander.