



# The Community Beat

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PUTNAM POLICE DEPARTMENT

## SAFETY IS ALL ABOUT OUR CITIZENS

### “Speed Monitors” A Friendly Reminder



“Speed Monitors” on Kennedy Drive and Sabin Street serve as a friendly reminder for motorists to observe local speed limits.

Christmas came early to the Putnam Police Department when it was notified by the Connecticut Department of Transportation that Putnam was the recipient of two solar powered “Speed Monitors.” The monitors, which came at no cost to the community, were provided to municipalities as part of Connecticut’s emphasis on motorist and pedestrian safety.

The monitors, prominently located on Kennedy Drive and Sabin Street, are required to be located on town roads, as differentiated from State designated roads.

“Following some consideration and discussion, the two locations were selected because they are the biggest areas where motorists tend to exceed the posted speed limit. Our goal is driver and pedestrian safety.

Secondly, we want to make drivers conscious and aware of local speed limits,” said Chief Chris Ferace.

“The monitors, operated by an internal radar system, do not replace any traffic enforcement efforts conducted by Department officers. It’s a subtle way to remind motorists and seek voluntary compliance with the speed limit and avoid being stopped for a speeding violation,” concluded Chief Ferace.

The “Speed Monitors” were installed by the Town of Putnam Highway Department.

### New Law Aims to Improve Pedestrian Safety

The center of downtown Putnam, at the convergence of Main St., Front St. and Pomfret St., is a busy congested traffic pattern with automobiles entering the area from four directions. Add to that busy pattern the fact that pedestrians frequenting local shops and restaurants, as well as the theater, is a potential accident waiting to happen.

A new law, which took effect in Connecticut on October 1, 2021, seeks to protect pedestrians and cyclists in an effort to address traffic safety and pedestrian deaths. Automobile accidents, in Connecticut, killed 63 pedestrians in 2020 and as of August 2021 the number was 35.

Under the new so-called “pedestrian rules,” drivers must yield at crosswalks to pedestrians who signal their intent to cross by raising their hand or moving any part of their body (including wheelchair or cane) into the crosswalk entrance. Drivers who fail to yield to a pedestrian under these circumstances can be subject to a \$500 fine.

“Many years ago a pedestrian fatality occurred in this area. Preventing another such incident is important to the Putnam Police Department, especially since we’ve noted a dramatic increase in tourists, visitors and shoppers in our downtown area,” said Chief Chris Ferace.

“We can prevent a pedestrian fatality if drivers just slow down and proceed with caution through the center of town. Pedestrians should also walk with awareness while entering or crossing our busy streets,” concluded Chief Ferace.

Drivers are cautioned to obey the 25-mile-per-hour speed limit on all Putnam city streets but especially through the heart of downtown. Pedestrians are urged to follow the **3 Ws**. **WAIT** on the curb and signal your intent to cross; **WALK** when the automobile has recognized you and comes to a complete stop; and **WAVE** to the driver as a sign of thanks for the courtesy.

Tragedy can only be averted if both the automobile driver and the pedestrian have a mutual respect. Working together we can make 2022 a safe year.

New “pedestrian rules” took effect in October 2021. The rules are intended to provide safety to pedestrians and drivers.



#### WINTER 2022 VOLUME 15 ISSUE 1

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# Chief's Corner

Sitting at the keyboard to compose Chief's Corner for *The Community Beat*, it struck me that this column is a milestone in the history of this publication. I'm into my fourth year of writing this column and coordinating the contents of this message to the Putnam Community. This edition also marks the completion of the 15th year and the beginning of the 16th year of *The Community Beat*.



Putnam Police Chief  
Christopher Ferace

I'm also asking myself, where has 2021 gone? The past year marked the 125th anniversary of the Putnam Police Department. In addition to our primary job of caring for the safety and security of our citizens, we enjoyed an amazing year-long journey recapping the history of the department, while enjoying the opportunity of an occasional celebration.

The centerpiece of our historic year was the publication of *The Community Beat* Anniversary Edition, which was mailed to more than 3000 homes and businesses in Putnam. There are some copies remaining if anyone is interested. I've also personally signed copies as a way of saying thank you to those businesses and individuals who helped finance the project with an ad in the historic booklet.

The Anniversary Edition hit the mailboxes on approximately the same day the Department and the community enjoyed an evening of revelry and reminiscence on Saturday, September 11, 2021. Being honored with state and local proclamations in the presence of a large throng of our citizens at Rotary Park is an evening that will live in my mind for years to come.

Our anniversary year celebration concluded with the Holiday Dazzle Light parade and our selection as parade Grand Marshal. It was also an honor and pleasure to share our history on WINY Radio with Gary O in the Morning and the crew of Remember When featuring Chief Ed Perron and Chief Rick Hayes.

We're now into 2022 and into the 126th year of the Putnam Police Department. As we turn the corner with the publication of the winter issue, our readers can enjoy a recap of the some of the events in photos. In this issue the reader will also be introduced to our two newest officers, Nicholas "Nick" Ustin and Roy Hicks. We're also proud to share the promotion of Officer Kevin Cardonne to the rank of sergeant. In November, Putnam held its municipal elections. There were some changes in the makeup of the Special Services District Board, the entity that governs the activities of the Police Department. You'll meet the new members and the remaining officers.

The winter season always brings attention to the special precautions that drivers must remember as we encounter the snow, sleet, cold and ice. We'll provide some Winter Driving Dos and Don'ts, as our effort to keep our citizens safe on the town roads and highways. Drivers who travel Sabin Street and Kennedy Drive will also note the new 'speed monitors' that were installed recently.

Wishing all our readers a safe, happy and healthy 2022. Remember my door is always open.

## Special Services District Team 2022

The Special Services District Commission, the group that oversees the activities of the Police and Fire Departments, has much the same look this year as the previous Commission, although two new faces are on board following the November 2021 elections.



Normand Perron,  
Commission Chairman

Normand Perron, who was Commission Chairman previously, and Brian Maynard the Commission's previous Vice Chairman, were unanimously re-elected at the January 13, 2022 meeting. The pair will lead the Commission for two more years. The remaining returning member of the Commission is Steven Gagnon, who is in his second term.

"I'm happy to serve a second term as Chairman. Our role as Commission members for two important areas, police and fire, can't be understated. I plan on keeping the lines of communication open with the members and the departments so we can continue to serve as an effective body," noted Chairman Perron.

The two new faces on the Commission are Sharon Stewart and Kathy Noel-Johnson, individuals who have served on local boards in the past. Noel-Johnson, who was previously elected to the Board of Education and Board of Finance, stated, "I ran for this office because I felt it was my civic duty. I believe this is a very important Commission."

"I served on the Commission a number of years ago. When I was asked this time, I was happy to get involved once more," said Stewart. "I also feel this is an important aspect of Putnam government," she concluded.

## Cardonne Promoted to Sergeant

Kevin Cardonne, who has been in law enforcement for more than 25 years, was promoted to the rank of Putnam Police Department Sergeant on August 9, 2021. The new sergeant, who has been in the Putnam department for approximately two years, takes over as the 'evening shift' supervisor.



Sgt. Kevin Cardonne

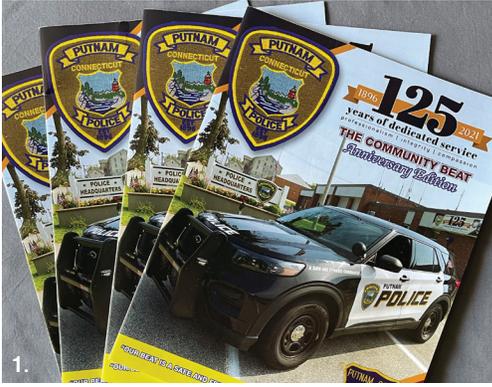
"The evening shift is the busiest shift of the day. We see increased activity because of the restaurants and events that make Putnam a busy community. Our team is alert and geared toward maintaining safety and security in Putnam," said Cardonne.

Cardonne, who refers to his men as the 'A Team,' works with Field Training Officer Charles "Chip" Carney, and the department's two newest officers Roy Hicks and Nick Ustin. This trio, along with Cardonne, are on the alert for impaired drivers, automobile and property break-ins and defusing and handling assault situations as well as drug related activity. They are also charged with the preventive task of conducting property and business checks.

Despite the high activity, Cardonne sees the shift as "an opportunity to enhance the training and education of the new officers."

"Sgt. Cardonne has a strong law enforcement and educational background. His level headed approach to policing is an asset to our department. Realistically, with his experience he was the logical choice and the ideal candidate for the position," said Chief Chris Ferace.

The promotion of Cardonne gives the Putnam Police Department its full complement of Shift Sergeants. He joins Sgt. Louis Cinque (day shift) and Sgt. Nikko Sezenias (midnight shift).



The year 2021, the 125th Anniversary of the Putnam Police Department, was filled with celebration, recognition and thank you events. The year was a 12-month acknowledgement of the PD's meritorious service to the community. Two major events, the September 11 recognition at Rotary Park and serving as the Grand Marshal of the Holiday Dazzle Light Parade, were Putnam's way of saying thank you to the "men in blue." Appearances on WINY Radio and the historic commemorative booklet served as a thank you to the Putnam community for its loyal support of the PD.

1. Anniversary publication was the centerpiece of the year.
2. Thank you to PBA and President Gary "O."
3. Mayor Seney presents proclamation to Chief Ferace.
4. Thank you to Centerville Bank and President Hal Horvat.
5. Capt. Lussier (l) and Chief Ferace observe a solemn moment on September 11.
6. Putnam PD members on hand to join in on the Sept. 11 recognition.
7. The stars of WINY Radio "Remember When" show, Capt. Lussier and Chief Ferace.
8. Special Services District team congratulates Chief Ferace.
9. Former Officers attended in honor of the PD.
10. All spruced up for the Holiday Dazzle Light Parade.
11. Former PD Officers, Capt. Beaudry and Deputy Chief Konicki acknowledge the crowd.
12. Chief Ferace and former Chief Rick L. Hayes in the parade lead vehicle.
13. The Grand Marshal banner says it all, "125 Years of Dedicated Service."



### Officer Roy Hicks – Dreams Can Become Reality



Off. Roy Hicks

The introduction of one of Putnam’s newest police officers could well be described as, ‘hard working local boy fulfills childhood dream.’ In a nutshell that would be the story of Officer Roy Hicks.

From his early childhood days at Pomfret Community School through his high school years at The Woodstock Academy, Officer Hicks has had one goal – to become a law enforcement officer. Advancing his education, achieving an Associate Degree in Criminal Justice at Manchester Community College, Roy Hicks studied hard while finding work to support his dream and ambition.

In his off time, while advancing toward his degree, Hicks has always been a community servant and first responder. Prior to entering the Police Academy in Meriden in January 2021, Hicks found time to serve as the Assistant Fire Chief of the Pomfret Fire Department, worked as a security officer at Day Kimball Hospital and as a dispatcher at the Putnam Police Department.

His ambition, patience and hard work eventually paid off when he graduated from the Police Academy in July 2021. Since then, Hicks has worked under the supervision of Sgt. Louis Cinque and Officers Charles “Chip” Carney and Richard Stringer, putting in 16 weeks of ‘field training.’

Operating independently as a police officer since November 2021, he’s developed a strong sense of camaraderie with the other members of the department and a great feeling of understanding for the Putnam community.

“The Putnam Police Department, from Chief Ferace on down, has been very welcoming. The atmosphere is like being a member of a family that gets along very well. I also sense strong vibes from the people of the community, that they appreciate the presence of the officers on the streets,” said Hicks.

Although he’s only been on the Department for a brief time, Hicks says he intends to make a career of this opportunity. Hicks and his wife, Tori, who is working on her BSN, reside in Eastford with their two dogs, ‘Rocky,’ a Husky and ‘Piper,’ a German Shepherd. Hicks, who loves animals, especially dogs, says his goal is to someday become a K-9 officer. Currently his main goal is to be the best Putnam Police officer he can be.

### Officer Nick Ustin – Putnam in His Blood



Off. Nick Ustin

One of Putnam’s newest police officers, Nicholas “Nick” Ustin, has quickly adapted to the community and the police department. There are good reasons why he feels comfortable, both in his role as a police officer and as a citizen.

“I’m proud to serve the community that I also call home,” said Officer Ustin.

Officer Ustin grew up in Putnam County, New York where he graduated from Carmel High School, about 60 miles from New York City. In addition to being familiar with the word Putnam, Ustin grew up with a dad who was a police officer in White Plains, New York.

“The fact that my dad was a police officer had some influence on me, but it would be a while before I decided to pursue a career in law enforcement,” notes Ustin.

Following his graduation from high school, Officer Ustin received an Associate Degree in Automotive Technology from Columbia Greene Community College, which led him to a position as part of a road racing organization. Through that connection he became familiar with Putnam and Northeastern Connecticut. He also worked in early childhood education for several years, teaching both Preschool and Pre-K classes.

A few years after moving to Putnam and eventually purchasing a home here, Ustin learned of an opening in the Putnam Police Department and pursued the opportunity.

Officer Ustin graduated from the Police Academy in Meriden on July 22, 2021 and then spent 16 weeks in field training under the guidance of Sgt. Nikko Sezenias, Sgt. Louis Cinque and Officer Charles “Chip” Carney. Since November 2021, he’s been a regular officer, primarily on 2nd shift.

“I’m grateful to be working with a fine team under the leadership of Chief Chris Ferace and Capt. Justin Lussier. The Putnam community has been very welcoming. I love the spirit of the town and hope to be a part of it for years to come,” said Ustin.

Officer Ustin notes that he works every day to gain the trust of the people of Putnam by espousing the philosophy of ‘community policing.’ He and his fiancé, who is employed as an Occupational Therapist, are planning a May wedding. Another strong indication of his feelings toward his position in the department and commitment to the Putnam community.

### PUTNAM POLICE WINTER DRIVING TIPS

#### DOS

- DO wear your seatbelt at all times
- DO be sure the tires are properly inflated
- DO keep gas tank half full
- DO clear snow off windshields, mirrors, roofs
- DO check wiper blades & battery life
- DO have a survival kit - shovel, blanket etc.

#### DON'TS

- DON'T speed
- DON'T warm up your car in an enclosed area
- DON'T use parking brake in cold/wet weather
- DON'T tailgate snow plows or other vehicles
- DON'T use cruise control on wet/icy roads
- DON'T talk on cell phone or text while driving

**In General – Stay off the roads in snowy weather except for emergencies. STEER INTO THE SKID. REMAIN CALM. DON'T JAM ON BRAKES. REMOVE FOOT FROM ACCELERATOR.**

- Always lock your automobile.
- If you start your automobile to warm it up, DON'T leave the vehicle unoccupied unless it can be locked.
- Remember, in winter driving keep your eyes on the road. Driving on wet/slippery roads is hazardous.

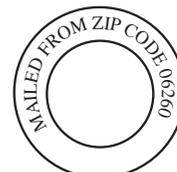
*Standing Left to Right: Donald Musial, WIN Waste Innovations, Manager; Hal Horvat, the President/CEO/ Chairman of the Board of Centreville Bank; Gary Osbrey, Putnam Business Association President. Seated: Chris Ferace, Putnam Police Chief*

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