

***Newtown Public Schools – Security Department  
Community Newsletter (Fall 2021)***

***School Security Update***

Prior to the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year and continuing into the Fall, Newtown Public Schools Director of Security Mark Pompano, along with members of our Information Technology Department and Facilities Department worked to ensure that all existing security systems (e.g. Verkada surveillance cameras, S2 door access system, Raptor visitor management) were upgraded with the latest software and are functioning properly. We also rolled out the district's Anonymous Alerts app, which had been available only to high school and middle school families the past several years, to our intermediate and elementary school students and families. The District Security and Safety Committee (DSSC) maintains the belief that an equitable balance between security and education is essential in assisting every student to reach their full potential. It is the goal of the DSSC and the Newtown Public Schools Security Department to ensure that all parents, visitors, and community members feel welcome and safe at all of our school campuses.

***Getting to Know Your School Security Officers (SSOs)***

For nearly a decade, the Newtown Public Schools has maintained a physical security presence at all seven of our campuses during regular school hours. These are the men and women in the blue uniforms, and generally are the first district employee to greet you when you arrive at one of our schools. Regardless of their status, every school security officer was interviewed and hired based on several criteria, including prior employment in law enforcement, private security, and/or life career experiences. While all of these security professionals are fully dedicated to the safety of students, staff and visitors on a daily basis, each SSO comes from a diverse, well-rounded background and family life.

[Mark Pompano \(Director of Security\)](#): Many people know that Mark worked as an undercover narcotics investigator within a couple of years of graduating high school and was a Sergeant with the LAPD, where he nearly ended the band Van Halen by almost having to arrest singer David Lee Roth. What you probably would be surprised to know is that prior to beginning his law enforcement career, Mark worked on back of a garbage truck by day and was a cook at the Peter Paul Cadbury candy factory by night, where he made mounds and almond joy bars. Mark lives in Southington with his wife Mary Kate (a school teacher) and their five children. In his free time, Mark is a professional bass player in a band that has recorded two albums of original music, and enjoys bicycle riding, traveling, cooking, and water sports.

[Joe Carlino \(HAW\)](#): Many people know that Joe retired from the Norwalk Police Department after 32 years in the Patrol Division. What you probably would be surprised to know is that Joe is an avid bicyclist and races sports cars.

[Alex Ruiz \(HAW\):](#) Many people know that Alex is retired from the Bridgeport Police Department. What you probably would be surprised to know is that during his law enforcement career, Alex worked as a patrol officer, community relations officer, bicycle patrol officer. He was subsequently promoted to the rank of Detective and was assigned to the Robbery-Burglary Investigation Unit until his retirement. In his spare time, Alex enjoys spending time with family and friends.

[Kevin Walsh \(HOM\):](#) Many people know that Kevin served 26 years with the Milford Police Department prior to his retirement at the rank of Sergeant. What you probably would be surprised to know is that Kevin lives in the Town of Monroe with his wife of 32 years, Denise, and their two sons Connor and Kyle, and Beagle Bella. In his spare time, Kevin is an instructor at the East Coast Academy of Tae Kwon Do in Fairfield. He also enjoys riding his motorcycle and golfing.

[Mike Kaylor \(HOM\):](#) Many people know that Mike is a retired Postmaster with the United States Postal Service (USPS). What you probably would be surprised to know is that before Mike was hired at the USPS, he worked as a Corrections Officer with the State of New York Department of Corrections and the Federal Bureau of Prisons. In his spare time, Mike enjoys spending time with his wife Janis, and their 3 daughters and 2 granddaughters. Mike also enjoys watching sports, coaching youth basketball, and cruising on the open waters on his fishing boat.

[Mario Pirulli \(MGS\):](#) Many people know that Mario retired from the Bridgeport Police Department (BPD) following a 27 year career in law enforcement. What you probably would be surprised to know is that during his career with the BPD, Mario was the Lead Firearms Instructor, a certified tactics instructor, and a member of the Emergency Services Unit for many years. Mario resides with his wife and daughters' in the town of Monroe. During his spare time, Mario enjoys playing the drums and spending time with his family and friends.

[Joann Sanches \(MGS\):](#) Many people know that Joann was previously a school security officer at Bassick High School and Norwalk High School. What you probably would be surprised to know is that Joan also worked as a loss prevention officer with the Reads and Jordan Marsh department store chains, as well as a records clerk with the Bridgeport Police Department. In her spare time, Joann enjoys spending time with family and friends, traveling, and going to the beach.

[Rich Mercado \(SHS\):](#) Many people know that Rich is a long suffering New York Giants football fan. What you probably would be surprised to know is that Rich retired from the Bridgeport Police Department after a 30 year career in law enforcement. During his career, Rich worked as a patrol officer, traffic investigator, detective, motorcycle officer, SWAT member, and as a K9 handler with his dog Aris. In his spare time, Rich enjoys riding his Harley Davidson motorcycle, cruising in his 1955 Chevrolet, and listening to classic rock music.

[Tom Conway \(SHS\)](#): Many people know that Tom was a patrol officer and detective with the Naugatuck Police Department for over 27 years. What you probably would be surprised to know is that prior to beginning his law enforcement career, Tom worked for his family's funeral home business and was also a loss prevention officer at the former Bradlees Department Store in Waterbury, CT. Tom lives in Torrington and enjoys spending time with his wife Jeanie, their 3 children and 2 grandchildren, along with playing golf, relaxing at the beach, and chasing after women.

[Jim Pacific \(RIS\)](#): Many people know that Jim is a graduate of Immaculate High School, wherein he participated in several sports and is a member of the I.H.S. Hall of Fame. Upon graduation, Jim attended college and worked at the Morefar and Ridgewood Country Clubs. What you probably would be surprised to know is that Jim began his 36 year career in law enforcement with the Danbury Police Department in 1979. In 1989, Jim received the highest commendation; the Medal of Bravery. Jim was recently inducted into the Danbury Oldtimers Association Hall of Fame, and resides in Brookfield with his wife Sharon. In his spare time, Jim enjoys golfing, boating, attending his grandson's youth athletic events, and vacationing in Rhode Island.

[Greg Fasold \(RIS\)](#): Many people know that Greg retired from the Connecticut Department of Probation after a 20 year career. What you probably would be surprised to know is that Greg chose this career path after completing a summer internship at the Bridgeport Probation Office back in 1997. Greg was born and raised in Stratford, and he and his wife Krista, who he thanks for introducing him to the Jersey shore summer experience, presently reside in Seymour. Greg loves to spend as much time as possible outdoors, and enjoys traveling to Prince Edward Island, Canada, and Sanibel, Florida. Greg and his wife are always up for a nice meal at one of their favorite local restaurants, and enjoy checking out new, local craft breweries.

[Mike Delvecchio \(NMS\)](#): Many people know that Mike is a lifelong Connecticut resident and resides in Trumbull. What you probably would be surprised to know is that Mike retired from the Darien Police Department after a 37 year career in law enforcement. He was a certified MPTC academy instructor, having taught many topics including First Responder Medical Training, HAZMAT Recognition, and the Stop the Bleed national program. Mike is also a Law Enforcement Tactical Medic, a certified Public Safety Driver, and a CT Emergency Medical Instructor (EMT-EMR). He also formally served as the Assistant Chief of Operations for the Trumbull Emergency Medical Service after being a member of the organization for 44 years. Mike is currently the President of the Board of Directors for the Southwest Regional Communications Center and is a member of the Blue Knights Motorcycle Law Enforcement and Blue Bloods Motorcycle organizations. In his spare time, Mike enjoys spending time with his family and German Shepard 'Shadow', along with motorcycle riding, dirt bike riding, jet skiing, and 4x4 trail riding.

[Jim Jensen \(NMS\)](#): Many people know that although Jim was born in Connecticut, he actually grew up in Springfield, Massachusetts and then Youngstown, Ohio. What you probably would be surprised to know is that Jim earned his Bachelor's Degree from the University of New

Haven, and served 38 years with the United States Postal Service, retiring after spending his last ten years as the Postmaster in Ansonia, Connecticut. In his free time, Jim enjoys cheering for the Boston Red Sox baseball team, playing golf, restoring older model cars, and spending time with his three grandchildren, family and friends.

[Pete Zaksewicz \(NHS\):](#) Many people know that Pete retired from the Shelton Police Department after a 35 year career in law enforcement, during which he served as a Patrol Officer, Detective, Sergeant, firearm instructor, SWAT team member, accident reconstructionist, and hostage/crisis negotiator. What you probably would be surprised to know is that prior to his law enforcement career, Pete worked as a corrections officer, security officer, factory worker, school bus driver, and grocery store clerk. He also served in the United States Army as a Military Police Sergeant, and also as a volunteer firefighter, EMT, and EMS. Pete resides in Shelton with his wife Kim, and their son Kevin is a police officer in Cheshire, CT. He and Kim are the proud grandparents of their granddaughter Sophie. In his spare time, Pete likes to volunteer in the St. Margaret Mary Church Men's League, and is an avid motorcycle rider and snow ski enthusiast.

[Roger Reid \(NHS\):](#) Many people know that Roger was born and raised in Bridgeport, CT. What you probably would be surprised to know is that Roger served 26 years with the Bridgeport Police Department, working 10 years in patrol division and his last 16 in the Community Services Division.

[Tony Maldonado \(NHS\):](#) Many people know that Tony retired from the Connecticut Department of Corrections after 22 years of service. What you probably would be surprised to know is that during his career with the CT DOC, Tony worked in the Bridgeport Jail for 6 years, 2 years in a female inmate facility, 8 years at Garner Correctional Center in Newtown, and 5 years at the Manson Youth Institution for minors (ages 16-20) in Cheshire. Upon retirement, Tony worked for the Department of Homeland Security in several federal buildings. In his spare time, Tony enjoys his Puerto Rican heritage, cooking, Latin music, and the beach.

[Rene Figueroa \(NHS\):](#) Many people know that Rene retired from the Connecticut Department of Corrections after 20 years of service. What you probably would be surprised to know is that Rene continues to have a passion towards becoming a certified law enforcement officer in the State of Connecticut.

[Cliff Scharf \(NHS\):](#) Many people know that Cliff served 30 years with the Ridgefield Police Department, where he retired at the rank of Captain. What you probably would be surprised to know is that Cliff is a graduate of the FBI National Academy and received his Master's Degree in National Security from the University of New Haven. Upon retirement, Cliff worked as a consultant in the cyber security field before becoming Director of Security & Transportation at a continuing care retirement community. In their spare, Cliff and his wife enjoy backyard beekeeping, hiking, traveling, and riding their Harley Davidson motorcycles with friends.

[Mike Pavia \(NHS\)](#): Many people know that Mike retired from the Connecticut Department of Corrections / Garner Correctional Facility after a 20 year career. What you probably would be surprised to know is that Mike's first job was working as a Sheriff with the Fairfield County Sheriffs' Department in Bridgeport and Danbury for 4 years. He is a lifelong resident of Newtown, and both he and his son Marcello are proud graduates of Newtown High School. In his spare time, Mike enjoys watching sports and spending time with his family and friends. Mike's favorite moment in sports was when he was assigned to work security at the Newtown vs Darien State Championship Football Game on December 14, 2019, and describes Newtown's last play victory as "truly miraculous."

[Nick Ortiz \(Substitute\)](#): Many people know that Nick was born in New York City, raised in Bridgeport, graduated from Warren Harding High School, and retired from the Bridgeport Police Department after 36 years of service. During his career with BPD, Nick worked Patrol, Tactical Narcotics Unit, Detective Bureau, Communications Division, and was the supervisor/program director of the Community Services Division. What you probably would be surprised to know is that Nick is currently the president of the Marilyn Goldstone Foundation (a non-profit organization dedicated to helping families in need), and an active member of the Blue Knights law enforcement motorcycle club. He has two children, Christina and Nicholas, Jr. In his spare time, Nick enjoys motorcycle riding, fishing, billiards, and traveling.

[Charlie Shaw \(Substitute\)](#): Many people know that Charlie retired from the Connecticut State Police following a 22 year career in law enforcement. What you probably would be surprised to know is that Charlie spent 20 of those years as a K9 Officer with multiple canine partners (German Shepherds and Labrador Retrievers) detecting explosives and narcotics. Charlie is a resident of Newtown, and in his spare time enjoys cooking, scuba diving, and spending time with his family.