



Fall 2024 Newsletter

Police Department Update

Village Comings and Goings

All Village Board members, including elected trustees and the mayor, are unpaid volunteers. Residents (r) and service providers who decided to move on from their Village responsibilities recently include:

Amy Schamroth (r)
Zoning Board

Suzanne Brook (r)
Architectural Review Board

Roger Cocchi
Village Engineer (retired)

Residents and service providers who have recently joined the Old Brookville Administrative family include:

Stephan Tchorbajian (r)
Zoning Board

Andrew Chalson (r)
Zoning Board

Grace Graziosi (r)
Architectural Review Board

Angela Reali (r)
Architectural Review Board

James Antonelli
Village Engineer

Jack Mancuso
Assistant Code Enforcement Officer

Chief Walsh Announces Retirement Sergeant Michael Coen Promoted to Chief of Old Brookville Police Department



Pictured (left to right): Mayor Bernie Ryba, Police Chief Christopher J. Walsh, and Sergeant Michael Coen

The Village Board of Trustees is pleased to announce that Sergeant Michael Coen has been selected as the new Chief of Police. He succeeds Christopher J. Walsh, who announced that he will retire from the Department as of September 30.

Sergeant Coen joined the Old Brookville Police Department in 2010 after serving 10 years with the New York Police Department and has been Chief Walsh's Deputy Commanding Officer during the past year.

His background also includes attending the NYPD Police Academy in Manhattan and the Nassau Police Department Supervisory School. He graduated from Fordham University with a Bachelor's Degree in Economics.

Chief Walsh served with the Old Brookville Police Department for 35 years. He was promoted to Sergeant in 1999, Lieutenant in 2013, and Chief of Police in 2019.

With Sergeant Coen's promotion to Chief of Police, Officer Joseph Martino has been promoted to Sergeant as of September 1st.

License Plate Readers Deter Crime in Old Brookville

In addition to the two mobile License Plate Readers, and a third on order, the Old Brookville Police Department currently utilizes six fixed LPR cameras that have recently been installed throughout the Village. These cameras were part of a larger New York State \$100,000 grant that Old Brookville and surrounding jurisdictions, including Brookville and Muttontown/Upper Brookville, partnered in. These cameras are web-based and read the license plates of vehicles that pass. An officer on patrol is alerted if that plate is suspended, stolen, a suspect in criminal activity, or linked to a missing person. Alerts are received on the laptops in the police car or on a cell phone. Local jurisdictions have the ability to share the alerts and enter the suspect's plate information into a hot list to advise if a vehicle wanted in

connection with burglaries or stolen vehicles enters an area.

If a crime does occur, detectives are able to view the cameras to ascertain if any unknown vehicles were in the area at the time of the occurrence to assist with the investigation and possible apprehension.



Police Department Retirements

Police Officer Robert Alvino retired from the Old Brookville Police Department on February 28, 2023. Unfortunately, Officer Alvino's career was cut short due to an on-duty auto accident, suffering injuries that precluded him from returning to active duty. During his career, he was not only a decorated active Police Officer, he played a prominent role in the Police Benevolent Association retiring as the PBA president. Prior to his career in law enforcement, Robert attended Ohio Wesleyan University excelling on the men's lacrosse team and earning his bachelor's degree in education.

Sgt. Thomas Fellner retired from the Old Brookville Police Department on January 31, 2024. Tom joined the OBPD in 1991 and enjoyed a 31-plus-year career, rising to the rank of Sergeant in 2016. During his career, he earned numerous

awards for the department and was assigned as the training Sergeant keeping all the New York State certifications for every officer up to date.

Sgt. Michael Butler retired from the Old Brookville Police Department on July 25, 2024 after a 32-year career with OBPD. Mike was a member of the Nassau County Sheriff's Department prior to joining Old Brookville in 1992. He was promoted to the rank of Sergeant in April 2017. During his career, Sgt. Butler earned numerous awards for his actions while on duty.

All three members were integral in the smooth day-to-day operations of the department and their contributions will not be forgotten.

Village Volunteers



Village residents serve as volunteers on the Planning, Zoning, and Architectural Review Boards and the Board of Trustees to help administer the affairs of the Village. I would like to thank them all for their continued service to their community. A special thank you as well to Larry Werfel, Planning Board Chairman, who celebrated 30 years of Village service earlier this year and was recognized by the New York State Conference of Mayors for this accomplishment.

Bernie Ryba, Mayor



Bernie Ryba
Mayor, Village of Old Brookville
201 McCouns Lane, Old Brookville, NY 11545
mayor@oldbrookville.net
516-671-4664

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Fall 2024

Dear Residents:

It has been a little over two years since the Old Brookville Police Department (OBPD) transitioned from a six-village police department to a one-village force exclusively serving the residents of Old Brookville. During this time, the Department experienced four retirements (including one impending disability) and four new hires. Now, with Chief Walsh announcing his retirement effective September 30th, the OBPD will begin a new chapter under the leadership of future Chief of Police Michael Coen.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees and all Old Brookville residents, I would like to express my deep appreciation for the 35 years of service that Chief Walsh has provided to the OBPD. His experience and his leadership were key in ensuring a smooth transition to a one-village police force as of June 1, 2022. For the past two-plus years, the Chief and I have worked closely to ensure that our officers have the latest technology, a modern fleet and the training necessary for the OBPD to be an effective and efficient police force. Chief Walsh will be missed, but he will not be forgotten and will continue to serve as a part-time consultant to the OBPD.

Looking to the future, the Board of Trustees and I decided several months ago that an internal promotion for Sergeant Michael Coen to become the next Chief of the Department was the best decision for the OBPD and for our community. Sergeant Coen has had prior experience with the New York City Police Department and now, under the direction of Chief Walsh, is being prepared to lead the OBPD as of September 30th. Please join me in wishing Sergeant Coen much success in his new position.

During the past two years, OBPD retirements and subsequent hires have right-sized the Department's hierarchy to include a Chief, four sergeants and nine officers. This compares to six sergeants and seven officers as of June 2022. Another retirement or two may be forthcoming in the coming months, resulting in the continuing evolution of the OBPD in becoming a younger force. That said, our Village police will continue to employ an ideal mix of veteran and younger officers to serve the needs of our community. I and the Village trustees look forward to the many years of anticipated service from our new officers.

The enhanced security provided for our Village has come at an increased cost. However, I am pleased to announce that the Village's \$5 million bond used for resurfacing our roads and improving our drainage infrastructure will be completely paid off this month. The Village's remaining debt will then be at its lowest level in many years.

Thank you as always for your support. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, it is our privilege to volunteer our time for the benefit of the Village of Old Brookville.

Yours truly,

Bernie Ryba

Mayor, Village of Old Brookville



Old Brookville Police Department

Emergencies: 911

General non-emergencies: (516) 626-1302

Alarm questions: (516) 626-1302

A LETTER FROM CHIEF WALSH

August 27, 2024

Dear Resident,

After 35 years with the Old Brookville Police Department, I will be retiring effective September 30, 2024. To say I grew up with this department is an understatement. I interviewed for a position with Old Brookville PD at 20 years old and entered the academy shortly after turning 21. Over the years, I was promoted to Sergeant in 1999, Lieutenant in 2013, and Chief of Police in 2019. I have witnessed this department undergo many changes, including expanding to a seven-village jurisdiction and more recently, downsizing to patrol just the Village of Old Brookville. Despite these changes, our mission has remained the same: to serve the public with integrity and professionalism.

Upon my retirement, Sergeant Michael Coen will assume the role of Chief of Police. Mike joined the Old Brookville Police Department in 2010 after serving with the NYPD and has been my Deputy Commanding Officer for over a year. I have full confidence in his ability to lead this department forward and maintain the high standards that the Village deserves from its police department.

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to the mayor, the board of trustees, and the Village residents for the unwavering support you have shown me and the department throughout my career. Your support has been instrumental in our success. I will always cherish the many friendships I have formed and the invaluable experience I have gained during my time with this outstanding organization.



Very truly yours,
Christopher J. Walsh
Chief of Police



A Welcome Message from Chief Michael Coen

I am honored to accept the position as the next Police Chief for the Old Brookville Police Department. I appreciate the trust placed in me and am eager to begin this important role. As a law enforcement professional for the past 21 years and a nearby resident, I understand and appreciate the importance of public safety to our community and will do everything in my power to ensure you continue to receive the best possible police service.

Meet the New Members of the Old Brookville Police Department

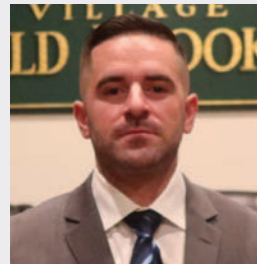


Pictured left-right are: Mayor Ryba, Justin Bourren, Sean Griffin, Nicholas Pounds, Johnny Liquori, Chief Walsh



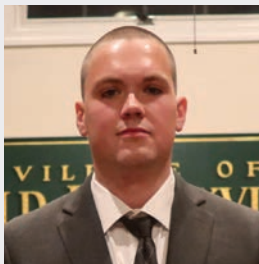
Police Officer Justin Bourren

Police Officer Justin Bourren is 23 years old and joined the Old Brookville PD after serving with the NYPD for 18 months. Justin earned his Associate's degree from SUNY Farmingdale.



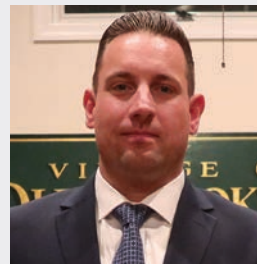
Police Officer Johnny Liquori

Police Officer Johnny Liquori is 32 years old and joined the Old Brookville PD after serving with the NYPD for approximately eight years, rising to the rank of Sergeant. Johnny attended Adelphi University, earning an Accounting degree.



Police Officer Sean Griffin

Police Officer Sean Griffin is 25 years old and, after being sworn in, he attended the Nassau County Police Academy, graduating in mid-June. Sean is a graduate of the University of Delaware, where he received his Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice.



Police Officer Nicholas Pounds

Police Officer Nicholas Pounds is 34 years old and joined the Old Brookville PD after serving with the NYPD for approximately seven years. Nicholas attended Suffolk County Community College, receiving an Associate's in Business Administration.



Officer Martino Promoted to Sergeant

Police Officer Joseph Martino was promoted to the rank of Sergeant effective September 1, 2024. Joe has been a member of the Department since 2017 and served previously with the NYPD since 2014. He is a graduate of Fairleigh Dickinson University with a degree in Criminal Justice.

201 McCouns Lane, Old Brookville, NY 11545

Village Hall Renovations Completed



View of Village meeting room/courtroom



View of Village workspaces from lobby



A \$30,000 federal grant made possible the purchase of a standby propane back-up generator to ensure continuity of electrical power at Village Hall and police headquarters.

Village Board Directory

Board of Trustees

*Meets the 3rd Monday
of every month at 6:00 pm*

Bernie Ryba, Mayor
Lori Golden
William Clarke, Deputy Mayor
Frank Galluzzo
John Vasilakis

Planning Board

*Meets the 1st Thursday
of every month at 6:00 pm*

Laurence M. Werfel, Chairman
David Baron
Michael Beyler
Kevin Glassman
Marshall May

Zoning Board of Appeals

*Meets the 4th Wednesday
of every month at 6:00 pm*

John Golden, Chairman
Paul Armata
Bart Bleiweiss
Andrew Chalson
Stephen Tchorbajian

Architectural Review Board

*Meets the 2nd Wednesday
of every month at 9:00 am*

Paula Leighton, Chairperson
Grace Graziosi
Patricia O'Neill, Consultant
Milla Stanco
Angela Reali

Village Clerk/Treasurer

Sandra Albro

Clerical Staff

Leslie Pecheur
Sharon Moses

Road Commissioner

Frank Galluzzo

Village Attorney

John Chase

Building Inspector

Peter Albinski

Code Enforcer

Peter Albinski

Tree Warden

Richard Weir

Village Engineer

James Antonelli

Village Justice

Edward Jenks

Village Prosecutor

Richard Prisco

Chief of Police

Christopher Walsh