

# Police Report

August 2020

1. An older model Jeep was found parked near Gate 1 of Penn Forest Reservoir. The vehicle was restricting access to the gate. The Authority Officer was notified. The registration listed the owner of the Jeep as Dayton Passehl, Forest St., Lehighton. Upon investigation of officer, it was discovered the Jeep had tried to drive along the reservoir fence line and became disabled. Address listed on the registration was no longer valid. Vehicle was towed from the area.
2. The Authority Deputies now carry a first responder kit (advanced first aid kit) and AED unit (for heart attacks) in their patrol vehicle. Deputy Leaser made arrangements with the City EMS, who agreed to furnish the equipment and maintain them for the Authority. This is being done at no cost to the Authority.
3. The Bear Swamp and Rocky Ridge Hunting Club both assisted the Authority by mowing open fire roads in their lease areas. The City maintenance crew has not yet begun mowing and most roads are overgrown. Both clubs had permission from the Authority to do the work and were willing to help. It is an advantage to them as well to have access roads open. The Authority Officer has been reporting for years keeping the fire roads open and maintained is critical for the security of the watershed. Fire road maintenance is not a high priority for the City.
4. John Struble of Mt Pocono parked his vehicle in front the gate access to Deep Lake Rd. a fire road in Tunkhannock Township. As the Authority Deputy began to checkout his vehicle, Mr. Struble came walking out of the forest. He explained he had been bird watching in the area. Mr. Struble was given a warning not to block road access as he could be cited and vehicle towed.
5. **Security Concern :**  
Beltzville State Park across from the Wild Creek complex continues to be experiencing overcrowding conditions. The Park, as of August 3<sup>rd</sup>, has placed barriers to parking along their property. The lack of parking has created some new issues for the Authority, as people are now trying to use the Authority lawn and parking lot to park their vehicles, then walk across the street to the Park. Several vehicles have driven through the open gates and driven around inside the Wild Creek Complex. Last weekend, two groups of people, parked their vehicles on the lawn along road. Fortunately, a State Police trooper drove by and had them move. On August 10<sup>th</sup>, Jose Acosta and family from Brooklyn drove his vehicle through the open gate and parked his vehicle next to all the city employees' personal vehicles. The family unloaded their coolers and chairs and walked up to the Wild Creek lookout. The Authority Officer became aware of this activity when they were captured on an Authority camera. The Officer eventually contacted the family while still walking at the base of the dam. They were removed and will be cited for trespass and littering. City employees were initially unaware of the trespass. All City garages were not only unlocked, but doors wide open.

On August 11<sup>th</sup>, two dirt bikes were caught on camera driving around the closed gates at Wild Creek and drove up to the Wild Creek lookout. Their identity is still being investigated.

The Pohopoco Drive, road frontage along the Wild Creek Complex is several hundred feet long. The frontage is wide open since over the years the city has removed trees and other barriers that previously been placed there to restrict access. The locked gates can be easily driven around. New barriers along the road frontage is highly recommended. The Authority Officer contacted Wild Creek supervisor, Eric Behler about the problem. He contacted his supervisor, Jeff Andrews, whose initial response was to post a "KEEP OUT" sign. The frontage is already posted with many "Restricted Area" signs. Keeping the front gate closed for the remainder of the summer should be considered.

6. Recently, an Authority Deputy discovered an advertisement online on "Facebook Market Place" of a person selling a dirt bike. The ad contained a photo of the person and the bike. The picture was taken on top of Wild Creek Dam. Investigation is in progress.