

Bethlehem Authority Police Report

Aug 2024

Eric Yeakel

1. Logging has started in the Penn Forest area. The first day moving logs out had some difficulty. The entrance to the roadway had to be enlarged to accommodate the length of the trailer when turning. When turning the trailers back wheels tracked in a manner that would cause the trailer to enter the ditch and the truck could potentially roll onto the driver side. A longer pipe was put in place and the apron was widened allowing the truck to safely enter the roadway. A large volume of timber has been stored on site until the mill has room to take it. The mill has a quota on the amount of hardwood it can accept.



2. Activity on the property remains low as the Hatchery Rd Turnpike overpass is still under construction. This has drastically reduced the amount of people that would normally hike on the property. But that reduction in traffic has been beneficial for the state as Hatchery Road has just been repaved.
3. On patrol in the Penn Forest area I was approached by two people who were hunting mushrooms. They were asking about what type of mushrooms grow here and where they could be found. When I asked what type of mushrooms they pick they wouldn't give me an answer. I explained there is a large number of mushroom types throughout the property. If they know what they are looking for, it won't take long if they just take a walk into the woods.
4. On August 6, I was patrolling near Weiser State Forest when I saw someone had recently made a small campfire. I found the campfire on State Forest land just a few feet from our Penn Forest property. The fire was no longer active. The fire was encircled by a ring of stones and did not show any evidence of migrating from the area. I did not find any

evidence suggesting someone had made an actual camp site. I informed the local DCNR forest fire specialist of this activity. I have not had a response to date.

5. I sent a few maintenance requests to the city this month. The requests were clearing of fire lanes in Wild Creek and Penn Forest as well as the Long Pond area. I emphasized that Long Pond needs to be cut back hard this year as cutting has not happened for quite a while. Many fire lanes have grown in on the sides making it difficult to find hazards that may damage the trucks or tires. Along with the fire lanes I included fence post replacement due to age and ATV lanes that bypass gates needing to be blocked. Even though the traffic is still low, this will help keep out future violators.