

Bethlehem Authority Police Report

Sep 2024

Eric Yeakel

1. Logging is moving along well in the Penn Forest area. The loggers have had normal minor delays from weather or equipment maintenance. The only significant delays have been with the Mill receiving the logs shutting down for two weeks and then having a fire a few weeks later, which resulted in a fairly large stockpile of logs at the site.



2. ATV traffic is still low. Cameras did not pick up any activity other than people walking or riding mountain bikes. The Labor Day holiday weekend did not have any change in traffic. Normally this weekend does have an increase in activity but that did not occur this year.
3. I found 2 television sets by the Compartment "A" gate in Wild Creek. There wasn't any information to name a suspect. Earlier this past month the PA Game Commission had 2 TVs dumped on game lands near our property in Long Pond. People still do not realize Staples, Best Buy and

others will recycle these items for you. I placed the televisions behind the Maintenance garage for later disposal.

4. On Aug 31 I saw camera activity showing persons intending to camp somewhere in the Penn Forest area. I contacted the deputy on duty and directed him to the area the group was intending to go. I responded to the area as well and we found the group just as they had finished with their tents.

I informed the group we do not allow camping on Bethlehem Authority property. Each person was very cooperative, quickly packed and escorted off the property. I explained we do not allow any fires or camping and that the PA Game Commission is authorized to patrol the area, and they have other infractions that they use to issue citations. The group may enjoy the property for hiking, but if they try to camp again, they will not be allowed on the property anymore.

5. The Night Lights sky lantern festival started this past weekend. The event only occurred on Sunday night. Saturday's event was canceled out of caution by weather concerns. A check of the area Monday showed several lanterns on our property near the Clearview area. The Lantern festival did contact me stating they had a crew out doing cleanup and asked if I had any issues. I directed them to the lanterns that landed on our property which they will take care of. The festival has one day left this coming Saturday and festival personnel will be sure to check in with us again. I will also check for lanterns after Saturday's event.
6. While patrolling, the Deputies and I have removed several downed trees from fire lanes. The storms this month brought down several. I personally removed enough on one fire lane in one day to drain the chainsaw battery completely.