

Bethlehem Authority Police Report

Dec 2024

Eric Yeakel

1. The two most popular hunting seasons, bear and deer firearms, arrived in November. Bear season came and went without any issues. Only one harvested on our property that we are aware of.

Deer firearms is currently open with hunter numbers staying low since COVID. Several hunters have had success with deputy Meixell coming across one hunter that needed help with how to field dress a deer. The hunter then completed the straightforward process successfully with our instruction.

2. I have received many calls from hunters about access to the property. Several are individuals who have hunted here for years but are interested in a different area. I answered every question and directed them to the Authority website where they can find maps to help in planning their outing.
3. ATV traffic is low without any new sign found this month. Also, the cameras have not captured any activity.
4. Parking around the gates has not had many issues. A few vehicles parked in a manner that made gate access a little difficult. I placed business cards with some vehicles asking to call me. The other vehicles owners were present when we found the issues. I told each person to keep the area clear enough for a vehicle as big as a fire truck to gain access. Those with business cards did call saying they will pay more attention next time.
5. With deer season every year we get hunters that like to hunt on the fire lanes that border the reservoirs fencing. These individuals continually shoot at deer down the length of the fire lanes. This is always a safety issue for Authority officers who patrol this area as well as City Maintenance personnel that travel these lanes to perform work. When officers find persons on the lanes, we ask that they move due to safety concerns. They move only to go right back where they were after we leave. For next year I think it would be beneficial to post the area surrounding these specific fire lanes "No Hunting."