

LEWISTON POLICE BLOTTER

The following activity occurred Monday, Feb. 13, to Sunday, Feb. 19, as reported by the Lewiston Police Department. LPD reported 170 response calls during this period. For more information on arrests and other activity, visit the Lewiston Police Department's mobile app or its page on Facebook.

Monday, Feb. 13

- **400 block of Burt Circle, 911 hangup call** – Officers responded; no further information.
- **5300 block of Elm Drive, alarm burglary** – Residential burglar by provider via 911 call. Patrol said a dog triggered a door alarm; all secure.
- **800 block of Pletcher Road, assist public** – Caller to 911 wished to report an unwanted party at the residence. Responding patrols said the tenant was requested earlier to move out of the residence; the party left and they moved back in.
- **5200 block of Lewiston Road, disturbance not domestic** – 911 caller reported a dispute with a visitor of a resident at a nursing home facility. The visitor had been asked to leave the premises. The visitor complied and then returned. Patrols responded.
- **400 block of S. Fourth Street, assist** – Patrols on location at Art-park to assist NYS Parks personnel.
- **1000 block of James Drive, assist public** – Caller said an elderly male drove past a school bus with its lights flashing. Caller said the incident occurred a few weeks earlier but wanted to discuss it with patrol.
- **University Drive, Niagara University campus, assist public**

– Female caller to 911 reported being scammed out of \$2,000. Caller now receiving threatening messages, threatening harm and receiving images of a bloody male. Patrol responded; report taken.

- **Creek Road/Washington Drive, noise complaint** – Officer initiated call. Report received of yelling heard in the area; patrol checked with negative results.

Tuesday, Feb. 14

- **600 block of Cayuga Drive, animal complaint** – Caller reported an animal problem in the garage; a possum was found inside with blood on its head. Female caller said she has been feeding the possum. Patrol contacted Wild Critters and provided their contact information to the caller. Patrol cleared at this time.
- **700 block of Ridge Road, forgery** – Officer initiated call. Officers on scene; report taken.
- **University Drive, NU campus, mental health check** – Patrols on location for a 911 call; report taken.
- **4800 block of Military Road, robbery, armed** – Patrols on scene for a 911 call; no further information.

Wednesday, Feb. 15

- **5800 block of Chew Road, theft** – Cab driver reported to 911 that he dropped off an unknown female and she never returned to pay the fare; patrol requested to check area for the subject. Cab driver said he had not followed protocol on collecting the fare and will now have to cover the expense on his own.

- **5300 block of Military Road, Mount St. Mary's Hospital, MVA-injuries** – Caller to 911 reported a two-vehicle injury accident in front of the hospital. Patrol responded; vehicles towed. Report taken.

- **800 block of Moyer Road, suspicious activity** – Caller reported a maroon Dodge had entered the lot as the caller was leaving. Patrol responded.

- **5200 block of Walmore Road, MVA-injuries** – Caller reported one vehicle in a ditch. Patrols responded with EMS; occupant transported. Vehicle towed.

- **2200 block of Saunders Settlement Road, check welfare** – Caller to 911 reported a male driver was passed out at the gas pumps of a business. Caller said a dog was in the vehicle and the male had a metal canister on his lap. Other patrons attempted to wake him without success. Patrol responded; male driver taken into custody for driving while impaired by drugs.

Thursday, Feb. 16

- **200 block of Tuscarora Street, damage to property** – Caller to 911 reported a tree fell on a vehicle; no power lines impacted but a cable wire was down. Patrol advised the homeowner to remove tree as it was on her property.

- **5900 block of Mayflower Road, animal complaint** – Caller to 911 reported a dog was found earlier in a yard on Saunders Settlement Road; patrol spoke with the homeowner.
- **300 block of N. Seventh Street,**

damage to property – Caller to 911 said a vacant residence had sustained fire damage in the basement. Patrol and fire company responded. Report taken.

- **5900 block of Miller Road, vehicle/traffic stop** – Call officer initiated. Driver cited for failure to stop at a stop sign.

Friday, Feb. 17

- **4400 block of Dickersonville Road, check welfare** – Patrols on location for a 911 call; no further information.

- **800 block of Madison Avenue, follow-up** – Officer initiated call. Patrols on location; no further information.

Saturday, Feb. 18

- **2100 block of Upper Mountain Road, domestic disturbance** – Patrols on location for a 911 call.

- **1000 block of Escarpment Drive, suspicious activity** – Officer initiated call. Patrols on location.

- **300 block of S. Fourth Street, suspicious activity** – Patrols on location for a 911 call.

- **300 block of Seneca Street, suspicious activity** – Patrol responded for a phone complaint. Report taken.

- **Locations at Indian Hill/Upper Mountain roads; the 700 block of Ridge Road; the 1800 block of Saunders Settlement Road; the 2200 block of Saunders Settlement Road; the 4600 block of Creek Road; Upper Mountain/Moyer roads; and the 4500 block of Townline Road, vehicle/traffic stops. All**

calls officer initiated – Violations per stop were: registered owner cited for uninspected motor vehicle; driver, uninspected motor vehicle; registered owner, speed in zone; driver, uninspected motor vehicle and unregistered motor vehicle; registered owner, uninspected motor vehicle; registered owner, speed in zone; and driver. Speed in zone. Uniform traffic tickets issued to all violators for Lewiston Town Court.

Sunday, Feb. 19

- **5300 block of Chew Road, suspicious activity** – Patrols on location for an anonymous 911 complaint.

- **300 block of Kerr Street, theft** – Caller to 911 reported a bicycle had been stolen off the porch over the last 48 hours. Patrol responded.

- **1400 block of Ridge Road, MVA-property damage** – Caller to 911 reported a car-deer accident. Patrol responded; report taken.

- **800 block of Ridge street, MVA-property damage** – Caller to 911 reported a two-vehicle, rear-end accident; vehicles pulled off to the shoulder. Patrols responded, report taken.

- **1100 block of Saunders Settlement Road, domestic disturbance** – Patrols on location for a 911 call.

- **Townline/Lower Mountain roads, vehicle/traffic stop** – Officer initiated call. Driver cited for failure to obey a traffic control device. Uniform traffic ticket issued for Lewiston Town Court.

Niagara County district attorney announces guilty plea in hate crime case

Submitted by the Niagara County District Attorney's Office

Niagara County District Attorney Brian D. Seaman announced Howard J. Murphy, age 61, of the Town of Niagara, entered a guilty plea in County Court to the crime of criminal mischief in the second degree, as a hate crime. Murphy admitted to vandalizing a neighbor's fence on May

16, 2022, by spray-painting onto it a violent message containing a racial slur. The incident occurred just two days after the mass shooting at Topps in Buffalo.

"This was not just a property crime," Seaman said. "This was a hate crime meant to terrorize a family. To have someone deliver that message, in the climate created by the events

of two days before, was a traumatic event for this family. They were in real fear that the defendant, or someone else, would take action along the lines of the message this defendant painted on their fence."

Murphy returns to court on April 19 to be sentenced by County Court Judge Caroline Wojtaszek, who could send Murphy to state prison for as

long as 2-1/3 to 7 years.

"When this defendant is sentenced, we will urge the judge to sentence him not just for vandalism, but for the fear-inducing hate crime that he committed and plead guilty to," Seaman said.

He added, "I would like to commend the Niagara County Sheriff's Office, the Town of Niagara Police

Department, and Assistant District Attorney Susan Bjornholm of my office for their work on this case. They immediately recognized the seriousness of this matter, and made solving and prosecuting this case their highest priority. Identifying who did this, and calling him to account quickly, sent a clear message to the community."

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