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**THE VILLAGE OF SUGAR MOUNTAIN POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
**251 Dick Trundy Lane**  
**Sugar Mountain, NC 28604**

**Report to Village Council**  
**February 14, 2023**

As you are all aware, the past month has been very busy. There are no major issues to report.

During recent weather events, several parking citations were issued for vehicles left in no-parking areas and fire lanes. No roadways within the Village were completely blocked. There were a couple of mishaps involving NCDOT during inclement weather due to roadway treatment materials not being loaded onto contractors' plow trucks. This required contractors to return to Newland to obtain materials, temporarily removing them from service and delaying their return due to traffic conditions. I was in direct contact with the NCDOT District Engineer during these incidents, and the issue was corrected relatively quickly, but still caused some traffic incidents.

Sugar Mountain Public Works crews were, as always, ready and prepared during weather events. No motor vehicle crashes occurred on Village streets as a result of roadway conditions. However, three motor vehicle crashes were reported on NC 184 on February 6, 2026, due to roadway conditions. NC 184, from Sugar Mountain Drive to Grouse Moor Drive, was closed for a short period to allow for vehicle removal and improvement of roadway conditions. Once the roadway was cleared, Village crews applied treatment materials to improve conditions while awaiting the return of NCDOT contractors, who had to return to Newland to obtain treatment materials (salt).

I mentioned last month GPS information has been changed on Cross Park Drive, leading the majority traffic to Sugar Mountain Resort through the main entrance of Sugar Mountain Drive; this has assisted in our traffic operation, and caused less congestion at the Sugar Mountain Drive and Cross Park intersection.

Officers have begun completing their 2026 mandated in-service training through the North Carolina Justice Academy as time allows. Courses are released periodically throughout the year. Each sworn officer must complete twenty-four (24) hours annually

to comply with certification standards. All officers have also completed their annual Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) training, which is required to access sensitive criminal justice information systems.

We have received our updated AXON body cameras, which will be placed into service in the coming weeks. Our service contract with AXON provides new equipment every 2.5 years to prevent equipment issues and eliminate downtime during transitions; at the 5 year mark we will receive new cameras again. I remain extremely impressed with the AXON Evidence Library System. This system securely stores all body-worn camera (BWC) footage and allows officers to upload case documents that can be shared electronically with the court system and District Attorney's Office for discovery purposes.

Officer Linkous' last full-time shift with SMPD will be on February 26, 2026. He will continue to serve the department as a reserve officer. Officer Linkous has been an outstanding member of the team and has gone above and beyond by working an extended notice to help us maintain staffing through the end of the month. He is leaving full-time employment with SMPD to return to his family's HVAC business.

I will transition to the night shift for the month of March. I anticipate filling the full-time vacancy soon, as we have a couple of applicants I have already begun speaking with.

Notable incidents this month include:

- **January 19, 2026:** Officer Kiefer responded to assist a motorist stuck in a ditch. Upon arrival, the driver was found asleep in the vehicle with the engine running and the transmission in gear. After further investigation, the driver was arrested for Driving While Impaired (DWI).
- **January 19, 2026:** Chief Turbyfill served arrest warrants on two suspects involved in an assault that occurred the previous night. The victim secured warrants for both individuals.
- **February 7, 2026:** Officer Buchanan and Chief Turbyfill responded to a structure fire at 540 Briarcliff Road. Due to the residence's location beneath the Big Birch Lift, Sugar Mountain Resort was notified, and safety concerns relayed. Upon arrival, the downstairs occupant had already left the residence, but two dogs remained inside. The upstairs occupants were evacuated, and smoke was visible from the structure. A quick response from Banner Elk and Linville Fire

Departments was instrumental in saving the residence, which sustained significant interior damage. Fire personnel located a fire near the cook stove, extinguished it, and cleared the residence of smoke. The downstairs resident later retrieved the two dogs, which were unharmed. The Avery County Fire Marshal's Office will investigate the cause of the fire.

As always, I would like to thank the entire department for their hard work and continued dedication to keeping the Village a safe place to live and visit.

**Monthly Activity Summary:**

- Patrol Mileage: 4,418
- Residence Checks: 291
- Business Checks: 338
- Vehicle Crashes: 6 (no serious injuries)
- Hit and Run (Property Damage): 2 (unsolved)
- Village Ordinance Violations: 23 (parking, chain law)
- Arrests: 1 (DWI), 2 (simple assault warrants served)

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Casey Turbyfill', written in a cursive style.

Casey Turbyfill, Chief

# Activity Log Event Summary (Totals)

## Sugar Mountain Police Department

(01/16/2026 - 02/13/2026)

<No Event Type Specified>	2	911 Hangup	2
ABC Closing	10	Accident	10
Administrative Duty	36	Alarm Activation	4
Animal Complaint	1	Assist County Officer	1
Assist Fire Dept.	2	Assist Home Owner	3
Assist Medical	6	Assist Motorist	24
Assist Other Department	5	Assist Other Officer	4
Assist Security	12	Business Check	338
Calibrate Alco- Sensor	1	Call in Public Works	2
Citation	4	Civil Dispute	3
Community Police Contact	1	Continue Investigation	2
Court	3	Damage to Property	2
Direct Traffic	22	Drunk & Disruptive	1
DWI Arrest	1	Escort	17
Fight	2	Foot Patrol	95
Found Property	1	Hit & Run	2
Intoxicated Person	1	Investigation	1
Larceny	5	Lost Property	2
Mental Subject	1	Noise Complaint	1
Object in Road	10	Other	6
Parking Citation	20	Refer to Magistrate	1
Residence Check	291	See Officer	5
Ski Collision	1	Stationary Patrol	10
Stationary Radar	4	Suspicious Activity	2
Suspicious Person	1	Suspicious Vehicle	11
Training	11	Trespassing	5
Vehicle Stop	22	Verbal Warning	15
Warning Citation	3	Welfare Check	1

Total Number Of Events: 1,049