



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

REPORT TO VILLAGE COUNCIL
July 17, 2026

The Police Department continues to operate efficiently. The Independence Day holiday weekend was busy, with large crowds attending events throughout the Village. Officers on duty maintained a highly visible presence to help ensure a safe environment for everyone in attendance. Officers conducted both stationary and foot patrols in high-traffic areas. The increased police presence was a great success, and no major incidents were reported.

The following weekend, the Highland Games also brought heavy traffic to the area. Despite the increased volume of visitors, only a few minor motor vehicle crashes were reported, and fortunately, none resulted in injuries.

I would like to thank the Village Council for appropriating the funding for the temporary additional police officer position. This appropriation has allowed us to maintain full staffing while Officer Clark is on maternity leave and has significantly reduced the strain of covering shifts during officers' vacations, especially throughout the busy weekends over the past several weeks.

I have ordered the budgeted 2027 Dodge Durango Police SUV. The vehicle is expected to arrive in mid-October. Once received, it will be outfitted with the necessary police equipment. Although the installation process will take some time, I anticipate placing the new patrol vehicle into service before the beginning of the New Year.

The 2026 annual firearms qualification was completed on July 16 by the remaining full-time officers. This training had been postponed last month due to inclement weather. All remaining annual in-service training is now available online through the North Carolina Justice Academy, and all officers are expected to complete their required training within the next couple of weeks. In November Chief Turbyfill will conduct the annual in-service training audit required by The North Carolina Criminal Justice Training and Standards Commission.

Officer Kiefer will attend General Instructor Training at the North Carolina Justice Academy at the end of August. Upon completion, he will begin serving as the Department's In-Service Training Coordinator. Officer Brown has successfully managed this responsibility for many years, and Officer Kiefer will work alongside him over the coming months while

completing both the General Instructor Course and the In-Service Training Coordinator Course to ensure this department required responsibility is well staffed for the future.

I would like to remind everyone to remain mindful of the posted speed limits throughout the Village. With warmer weather and increased visitor activity, we expect more pedestrians, hikers, and cyclists enjoying the area. Speed limits are clearly posted: side streets are 15 MPH zones; while Grouse Moor Drive and Sugar Mountain Drive are posted at 25 MPH. Speeding remains one of the leading contributing factors in motor vehicle crashes. Officers will continue conducting RADAR enforcement throughout the Village to address speeding complaints and encourage compliance with posted speed limits. During the reporting period, officers conducted numerous traffic stops for speeding violations and issued both state citations and warning citations.

Officers also continue conducting regular foot patrols and remain vigilant regarding pedestrian safety and traffic concerns during the Wednesday night concert series.

Incident Summaries

Please note that incident summaries from May 4, 2026, through June 10, 2026, were inadvertently omitted from the June report due to a printing issue. The following summaries include incidents from both reporting periods.

05/24/2026 – Domestic Situation

Officer Brown responded to meet with a female who had been involved in a domestic violence incident outside the Village limits. The male suspect had threatened to come to the female's place of employment. Officer Brown assisted the victim in obtaining warrants through the Avery County Magistrate's Office. The Avery County Sheriff's Office arrested the suspect shortly thereafter within their jurisdiction.

05/24/2026 – DWI Arrest

Around midnight, Officer Kiefer conducted a traffic stop on Grouse Moor Drive. During the investigation, Officer Kiefer developed probable cause that the driver was impaired. Following a DWI investigation, the driver was arrested. An Intoximeter test indicated a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of 0.15. The driver was transported before the Avery County Magistrate.

06/06/2026 – Animal Complaint

Following three separate incidents involving livestock (goats) entering the Ridgewood community from a property located outside the Village limits, the animals had become a recurring nuisance and posed a potential property damage hazard. After previous warnings failed to resolve the issue, Chief Turbyfill issued three civil ordinance violations for allowing livestock to run at large within the Village.

06/10/2026 – Theft Reported from a January Incident

A theft involving snowboarding equipment that occurred in January was reported to the Police Department in June. Officer Sanchez investigated and determined that a contract housekeeper had reportedly mistaken the property as abandoned by the previous renter. Most of the property was recovered and has been picked up by the owner. Due to the significant delay in reporting and the lack of additional investigative leads, the case has been closed without criminal charges being sought.

06/29/2026 – Damage to Property

Officers Kiefer and Sanchez responded to a residence on Buena Vista Loop after a report of a broken sliding glass door. Following the investigation, officers determined the damage was most likely caused by an accidental impact. Nothing discovered during the investigation indicated criminal intent or an attempted break-in.

06/30/2026 – Intoxicated and Disruptive

Officers Kiefer and Sanchez responded to a report of a male walking in the roadway along Tynecastle Highway between Sugar Mountain Drive and Norwood Hollow. Officers located the individual, who was highly intoxicated and had nearly been struck by passing vehicles. The subject refused to identify himself or provide identification. He was arrested for Intoxicated and Disruptive, Interfering with Traffic, transported to the Avery County Magistrate, and subsequently turned over to the Avery County Detention Center.

06/30/2026 – Vehicle Fire

Officer Brown and Chief Turbyfill responded to the Puerto Nuevo parking area following a report of a vehicle fire. Officers arrived within one minute of the initial dispatch and immediately deployed four fire extinguishers in an attempt to contain the fire. Despite these efforts, the fire continued to spread. Officers secured the scene, moved bystanders to a safe location, and awaited the arrival of the fire department. The vehicle was declared a total loss. Fortunately, no injuries occurred, and no surrounding property was damaged.

07/02/2026 – FLOCK Alert for Murder Suspect

Officers received a FLOCK Safety alert regarding a vehicle associated with a homicide investigation in South Carolina. The vehicle was reported traveling on NC 105. The suspect was ultimately apprehended by law enforcement in Boone.

07/06/2026 – Stolen Vehicle (Watauga County)

Officer Buchanan received notification that a vehicle reported stolen in Watauga County had entered Avery County on NC 105. Later that day, Officer Buchanan observed and identified a suspicious individual walking along NC 184 and relayed the information to investigating agencies. Investigators later confirmed the individual was the person responsible for stealing

the vehicle. The suspect was subsequently arrested by the Avery County Sheriff's Office, and the stolen vehicle was recovered at a business on NC 105.

As always, I would like to thank every member of the Sugar Mountain Police Department for their dedication, professionalism, and hard work. We are fortunate to have a team of highly trained and experienced officers who remain committed to providing the highest level of public safety service to our residents, visitors, businesses, and guests. We will continue striving to improve our operations while maintaining the trust and confidence of those we serve. We sincerely appreciate the continued support of the Village Council and the opportunity to serve the Village of Sugar Mountain.

Activity Summary

- Residence Checks: **343**
- Business Checks: **365**
- Patrol Miles: **4,050**
- Citations Issued: **10**
- Arrests: **1**

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Casey Turbyfill', written over a horizontal line.

Casey Turbyfill, Chief

Activity Log Event Summary (Totals)

Sugar Mountain Police Department

(06/19/2026 - 07/17/2026)

<No Event Type Specified>	2	911 Hangup	6
ABC Closing	23	Accident	3
Administrative Duty	23	Alarm Activation	9
Animal Complaint	7	Assist County Officer	2
Assist Fire Dept.	1	Assist Home Owner	10
Assist Investigation	1	Assist Medical	4
Assist Motorist	11	Assist Other Department	16
Assist Other Officer	3	Assist Security	1
Business Check	365	Calibrate Alco- Sensor	1
Citation	10	Communicating Threats	2
Community Police Contact	16	Damage to Property	2
Deliver Letter	1	Direct Traffic	1
Domestic	1	Drug Related Call	1
Drunk & Disruptive	2	Escort	5
Foot Patrol	113	Found Property	1
Hit & Run	1	In-Service Training	1
Interview	2	Intoxicated Person	1
Investigation	4	Larceny	2
Medical Call	3	Object in Road	3
Open Door	2	Other	15
Parking Citation	1	Release Property	1
Residence Check	343	See Officer	4
Stationary Patrol	54	Stationary Radar	28
Suspicious Activity	1	Suspicious Person	3
Suspicious Vehicle	5	Training	12
Trespassing	5	Unlock car	3
Unwanted Person	1	Vehicle Maintenance	2
Vehicle Search	1	Vehicle Stop	46
Verbal Warning	18	Warning Citation	16
Wash/Clean Patrol Vehicle	4	Welfare Check	2

Total Number Of Events: 1,227