

**Manalapan Twp. Police Dept. Press Releases
July 5 – July 11, 2023**

Residents are reminded to remove any valuables from unoccupied vehicles and remember to lock your vehicle's doors.

*****DO NOT LEAVE KEY FOBS IN VEHICLES! *****

23MN25653 – Fraud

On Tuesday, July 11, 2023, at approximately 6:19 p.m., a 66-year-old Manalapan resident responded to Manalapan Township Police Headquarters and reported that an unknown actor defrauded the victim in the amount of \$126,867.00 via an online dating app during the course of June and July of 2023. Patrol Officer Valerie Vacchiano handled the report, which is pending further investigation.

23MN25643 – Warrant Arrest

On Tuesday, July 11, 2023, at approximately 2:38 p.m., Patrolman Thomas Butz took custody of John Smyczynski, a 27-year-old, unmarried, male resident of Bethlehem, Pennsylvania (occupational status unknown). Mr. Smyczynski was arrested by the Holland Township Police Department regarding a warrant that was issued for his arrest issued by the Manalapan Township Municipal Court. Mr. Smyczynski was subsequently transported to Monmouth County Correctional Institution.

23MN25635 – Harassment

On Tuesday, July 11, 2023, at approximately 1:44 p.m., a 29-year-old East Brunswick resident reported being harassed via text message by an unknown actor. Patrol Officer Valerie Vacchiano handled the report.

23MN25537 – Driving While Intoxicated

On Monday, July 10, 2023, at approximately 9:03 p.m., Patrolman Michael DeCristofaro conducted a motor vehicle stop on Route 9 in Manalapan. The driver of the vehicle, identified as Matthew D. Mercer, a 36-year-old, unmarried, male resident of Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, who is employed as a barber, was found to be driving while intoxicated. Mr. Mercer was placed under arrest and transported to Manalapan Township Police Headquarters, where he was processed and released after being issued summonses.

23MN25527 – Theft of Services

On Monday, July 10, 2023, at approximately 7:50 p.m., a 61-year-old Freehold resident reported that a 73-year-old Manalapan resident refused to pay \$85.00 for a taxi service. This incident is pending the signing of complaints. Patrolman Peter Pagano handled the report.

23MN25290 - Warrant Arrest

On Saturday, July 8, 2023, at approximately 8:41 p.m., Patrolman Justin Barbuto responded to the Mercer County Corrections Center and took custody of Rhasheda Edgerton, a 41-year-old, unemployed, unmarried, female resident of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, regarding a warrant that was issued for her arrest by the Manalapan Township Municipal Court. Ms. Edgerton was subsequently transported to Monmouth County Correctional Institution.

23MN25276 – Possession of a Controlled and Dangerous Substance / Warrant Arrest

On Saturday, July 8, 2023, at approximately 6:03 p.m., Patrolman Christopher Capuzzo conducted a motor vehicle stop on Route 9 North for motor vehicle violations. The driver, identified as Noel Venancio-Morales, a 39-year-old, married, male resident of New Brunswick, who is employed as a construction worker, was found to be in possession of a controlled dangerous substance. The passenger of the vehicle, identified as Kevin Jimenez-Collado, a 29-year-old, unmarried, male resident of New Brunswick, who is employed as a construction worker, was found to have a warrant issued for his arrest by the New Brunswick Municipal Court in the amount of \$1000.00, and was also found to be wanted by the Middlesex County Sheriff's Office. Mr. Venancio-Morales and Mr. Collado were both placed under arrest and transported to Manalapan Township Police Headquarters where they were processed. Mr. Venancio-Morales was released on a summons pending a future court date. Mr. Jimenez-Collado was turned over to the Monmouth County Correctional Institution in lieu of bail.

23MN25183 – Warrant Arrest

On Friday, July 7, 2023, at approximately 8:55 p.m., Patrolman Connor Kelly took custody of Jason Darvas, a 50-year-old, unemployed, unmarried, male resident of Roebling, New Jersey. Mr. Darvas was arrested by the Florence Township Police Department regarding a warrant that was issued by the Manalapan Township Municipal Court in the amount of \$1,500.00. Mr. Darvas was transported to Monmouth County Correctional Institution in lieu of bail.

23MN25152 – Vandalism

On Friday, July 7, 2023, at approximately 2:18 p.m., a 26-year-old Manalapan resident reported that an unknown actor(s) damaged four tires, valued at \$742.00, of a vehicle that was parked on Meadow Green Circle. The incident is reported to have occurred between July 6, 2023 and July 7, 2023. Patrolman Mantas Stanionis handled the report.

23MN25126 – Fraud

On Friday, July 7, 2023, at approximately 9:58 a.m., a 26-year-old Manalapan resident responded to Manalapan Township Police Headquarters and reported that an unknown actor, purporting to be a bank representative, defrauded the victim in the amount of \$15,800.00. Patrolman Jeffrey Emslie handed the report, which is pending further investigation.

23MN25101 – Simple Assault

On Friday, July 7, 2023, at approximately 12:37 a.m., a 23-year-old Manalapan resident reported being assaulted while at Local's Bar, located at 300 Gordon's Corner Road. No injuries were reported as a result of this incident. Patrolman Connor Kelly handled the report.

23MN25010 – Theft

On Thursday, July 6, 2023 at approximately 11:14 a.m., a 40-year-old Farmingdale resident responded to Manalapan Township Police Headquarters and reported unknown actor(s) removed the victim's floor mat from a vehicle while it was parked at the Manalapan Township Municipal Parking Lot. The floor mat was valued at approximately \$80.00. Patrol Officer Valerie Vacchiano handled the report.

23MN25001 – Fraud

On Thursday, July 6, 2023, at approximately 9:44 a.m., a 73-year-old Manalapan resident reported that an unknown actor, claiming to be a tech support employee, defrauded the victim in the amount of \$63,249.33 via a computer repair scam. Patrolman Jeffrey Emslie handled the report, which is pending further investigation.

23MN24874 – Theft of Motor Vehicle

On Wednesday, July 5, 2023, at approximately 10:30 am, 40-year-old Freehold resident reported a vehicle stolen from the Starbucks parking lot, located at 310 Route 9 in Manalapan. The unoccupied vehicle was parked, unlocked and running when an unknown actor(s) took the vehicle, which was recovered shortly thereafter on Route 9 north in Manalapan. Approximately \$5,000.00 worth of items were reported missing from the vehicle. Patrolman Aaron Abeles handled the report, which is pending further investigation.

23MN24858 – Burglary to Motor Vehicle

On Wednesday, July 5, 2023, at approximately 8:30 a.m., a 62-year-old Manalapan resident reported that on July 2, 2023 at approximately 5:30 a.m., three unknown actors attempted to enter vehicles that were parked at a Brittany Court residence. One vehicle was unlocked and the suspects are reported to have removed approximately \$20.00 in cash and change from the vehicle. Patrolman Aaron Abeles handled the report, which is pending further investigation.

23MN24853 – Assault

On Wednesday, July 5, 2023, at approximately 4:00 a.m., a 47-year-old Manalapan resident reported being assaulted by a 49-year-old Manalapan resident, sustaining minor injuries. No complaints were signed as a result of this incident. Patrolman Matthew Mattia handled the report.