



Amherst Police Department
Chief of Police Scott P. Chamberlin

500 John James Audubon Parkway
Amherst, New York 14228
(716) 689-1322

General Fax: (716) 689-1383 | Bureau Fax: (716) 689-1310



The Amherst Police Department has a long and successful history of community policing. Community policing is defined by the US Department of Justice as “a philosophy that promotes organizational strategies that support the systematic use of partnerships and problem-solving techniques to proactively address the immediate conditions that give rise to public safety issues such as crime, social disorder, and fear of crime.” Some examples of current community policing programs that exist within the Town of Amherst Police Department include:

Town of Amherst Youth and Citizen Police Academies

[Youth Police Academy webpage](#)

[Citizen Police Academy webpage](#)

Town of Amherst Youth Court. Youth Court is a voluntary alternative to the criminal justice system for young people, living within the Town of Amherst who have committed a crime or an offense. The goal of Youth Court is to intervene in early anti-social, delinquent, and criminal behavior to reduce the incidence and prevent the escalation of such behavior. Youth Court strives to promote feelings of high self esteem, a desire for self improvement and to foster a healthy attitude toward rules and authority.

[Youth Court](#)

Shop with a Cop program. This program provides a fun filled day for a number of children and seniors in need throughout the Town of Amherst while creating positive relationships with law enforcement. The participating children and seniors are identified by schools, youth organizations, and social services agencies.

On the day of the event, uniformed officers from the Amherst Police Department volunteer their time to be with the children and seniors for a meal and shopping.

Skate with a Cop program. Officers from the Amherst Police Department participate in an open ice skate event with the community at the Amherst Northtown Center.

Annual Little League Challenger Law Enforcement Day. Officers spend the day playing ball with athletes from the Little League Challenger Baseball League. The league is an adaptive baseball program for kids and adults with physical and developmental challenges.

Community Policing Officer program. These Officers solve problems in communities in order to build relationships and enhance the quality of life in our town's neighborhoods. This involves the use of bicycle and foot patrol, attendance at neighborhood programs, meeting with business owners, employees, and residents in order to develop meaningful relationships to help solve problems.

School Resource Officer Program. This program helps to address security and safety issues within our three school districts, and in doing so helps build meaningful relationships with the young people of our town. Building these meaningful relationships with all citizens is critical to the success of our police department.

Crisis Intervention Team. This program is staffed by specially trained officers and supervisors. These officers train and work together with representatives from Crisis Services of Erie County responding to and following up on calls involving individuals with mental health issues. Many of the most dangerous and complicated calls we respond to involve individuals with some level of mental illness. The goal of this program is to do everything possible to deescalate these encounters and work collaboratively to solve problems.

Amherst Police Community Policing and Training Facility. A large part of our department's community policing program is our new state of the art training facility located at 4220 Bailey Avenue. This facility will be utilized by the police department to ensure that our officers receive the highest level of training possible. The mission statement for this new facility describes the training goals for our department going forward.

Exceptional and dynamic training is critical to the success of our policing mission. In particular, training in the use of force, de-escalation and sound decision making in use of force situations are among the most important and current concerns of both our society and the policing profession. We must take all reasonable and appropriate measures to prevent and minimize the use of force necessary to accomplish the policing mission. We believe a state of the art training facility that provides opportunities and space for realistic use of force training will greatly enhance the performance of our officers. We want to train our officers in a manner that allows them to minimize risk to themselves, our citizens and our community.