

POTTSTOWN CITIZENS FOR Enlightened LEADERSHIP

2018 crime at lowest point in 20 years

Crime is in the headlines more than ever.

It's only April, and Pottstown has had its second murder of the year. Keith Robinson was found shot to death in a car at York and Walnut streets the night of March 30. If the police have a suspect in mind, they're not saying.

Joshua Shupard was fatally stabbed Jan. 3 on North Franklin Street. He was killed by an acquaintance of his girlfriend during a tussle.

Last week's big headline: Police seek two 19-year-olds charged with attempted murder for shooting into a house on West Street on March 24. This was allegedly related to a bullying incident at Pottstown Middle School.

All these headlines, and more, add to the perception that crime is out of

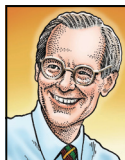
control in Pottstown.

Perhaps, but as shown on the chart below, serious crime in Pottstown has actually decreased over previous years.

In fact, Pottstown experienced the lowest overall crime rate last year in more than 25 years.

Most assaults and murders are committed by relatives, acquaintances, and co-workers of the victim. Another major category of assaults and murders involves people who live dangerous lifestyles: They deal drugs or frequent bars where fighting is common.

The innocent bystander who is murdered by a stranger is quite rare — far less common, for example, than the innocent motorist who is killed or maimed by a total stranger driving drunk, or texting on his smart phone, or distracted by his car entertainment system.



Commentary by
Tom Hylton

	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
Murder/Manslaughter	2	1	0	1	2	2	1	0
Forcible Rape	35	21	22	22	22	37	20	22
Robbery	36	59	48	49	66	63	61	62
Assault	397	401	341	375	328	294	341	350
Burglary	113	110	122	118	179	219	158	125
Larceny-Theft	606	661	753	917	899	960	768	697
Motor Vehicle Theft	34	46	55	57	63	42	36	39
Arson	2	5	4	4	16	7	13	12
Part I Crimes - Total	1225	1304	1345	1543	1575	1624	1398	1307

	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003
Murder/Manslaughter	0	0	2	3	2	2	1	1
Forcible Rape	25	10	16	20	18	23	25	27
Robbery	78	64	81	83	74	48	62	58
Assault	477	426	426	434	386	381	400	405
Burglary	165	165	181	192	232	124	154	175
Larceny-Theft	785	773	973	917	912	915	1004	853
Motor Vehicle Theft	56	73	90	84	88	104	94	94
Arson	10	10	17	22	26	16	10	15
Part I Crimes - Total	1596	1310	1636	1755	1737	1613	1750	1643

	2002	2001	2000	1999	1998	1997	1996	1995
Murder/Manslaughter	1	2	1	1	0	3	0	1
Forcible Rape	11	19	7	7	10	8	18	7
Robbery	68	57	56	46	47	46	47	48
Assault	384	339	359	471	499	463	495	554
Burglary	183	145	136	194	233	253	231	227
Larceny-Theft	879	759	675	779	838	1041	915	659
Motor Vehicle Theft	93	82	86	83	62	89	90	66
Arson	14	11	4	17	26	8	7	8
Part I Crimes - Total	1633	1414	1324	1598	1715	1911	1803	1570

As the charts show, crime has generally decreased over the last 24 years.