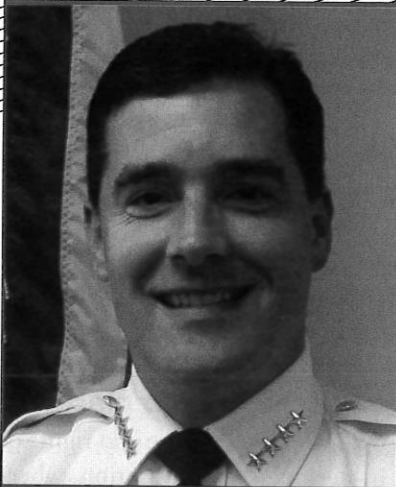


UP CLOSE & PERSONAL *In the Field*

Welcome to Up Close and Personal-In the Field, a regular column in *New Hampshire Town and City* dedicated to giving readers a closer look at staff from New Hampshire municipalities. In this issue, we hope you enjoy meeting Chief Robert Williams, Chief of Police for the Town of Barrington.



Chief Robert Williams



Do you know someone who deserves to be profiled in a future edition of *New Hampshire Town and City* magazine?

If so, please contact the New Hampshire Municipal Association at 800.852.3358 ext. 3408 or tfortier@nhmunicipal.org.

TC: What are your duties and responsibilities as Chief of Police?

RW: As the chief of police, I am responsible for leading the police department by establishing goals and objectives, developing and implementing policies and procedures that meet today's current contemporary law enforcement standards, and continuing to evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of the department. I also develop the department budget, recruit and hire staff, and oversee all aspects and functions of the police department.

TC: What is your biggest challenge in performing your duties?

RW: Staffing. Currently there's a shortage of qualified candidates that are enthusiastic about entering or continuing in the law enforcement profession. This challenge is wide spread throughout the country and not localized to New Hampshire. I am always seeking to recruit and retain professionals who hold themselves accountable to high standards of performance while serving the community with respect and dignity.

TC: How has NHMA helped you to do your job?

RW: By providing professional support through training, I have attended conferences and training seminars put on by NHMA. I recently attended a Right-to-Know Law class led by Attorneys Margaret Byrnes and Stephen Buckley. They nailed it.

TC: What is the public perception about your job and how does it differ from the reality of your job?

RW: The Barrington community is very supportive of their police department. I am often approached and thanked by citizens for the assistance given by the officers during certain events. They understand and appreciate the complexity of any given law enforcement function. However, there are some that perceive my position to be "banker's hours" with holidays and weekends off. The reality is the job never has a true start or end time. It's fluid, multifaceted, and never ends. This position has been the biggest challenge of my professional career and I love it.

TC: Do you dislike any aspects of your job? Which ones? Why?

RW: The time commitment. The time away from my family. I have a young daughter who is growing up quickly. It's challenging to balance quality family time with work time. Even if I'm at home and the phone rings (or texts in today's world) it requires me to tune out family time which can be frustrating. Thankfully, my wife and daughter are very understanding and supportive.

TC: Given the opportunity, what changes would you make to the position?

RW: Nothing. It is an absolute honor and privilege to serve the community in which my wife was raised and now my daughter. There's little that can compare to the rewarding feeling of being a police chief of a beautiful community like Barrington that I get to call home. Sometimes, I just wish there were two of me.