

## New Riverton Chief Right at Home

### John Shaw was promoted from patrol officer to chief of police

RIVERTON - At 16, John Shaw won a borough youth citizenship award for shoveling out some police cars buried by a winter snowstorm.

At 32, he is the new chief of the borough police department.

More than 60 people crammed into the municipal building Wednesday evening to watch the council promote Shaw from patrol officer to chief of police.

The borough native and seven-year veteran of the force had been the officer in charge of the department since January.

"Riverton is my life," Shaw said. "I thank council for giving me this opportunity. I thank the great bunch of guys that I work with, and I thank the residents for allowing me to be in this position."

"Shaw started working for the department as a patrol officer straight out of the police academy in January 2001, and has spent the majority his professional career in the borough."

He also has been a volunteer with the Riverton Fire Department since 1994. In March 2007, he took a position as a detective with the Burlington County Prosecutor's Office and worked with the Trial Unit and the Sexual Assault/Child Abuse Unit.

While Shaw recounts his time with the Prosecutor's Office as a "great experience" that helped him learn and develop as a law enforcement officer, he left that position in January 2010 to return to the borough police department.

"I missed working directly with people," Shaw said. "Here (in the borough), you're in contact with people during every step of the investigation. At the county, that wasn't always the case. I love helping people, and I love dealing with the community."



**New police Chief John Shaw** is sworn in Wednesday evening by Borough Solicitor Bruce Gunn during a borough council meeting.

One of the new chief's goals is to update the department's operating procedures.

His focus is to have more police involvement with the Riverton School, and allow the department's five full-time patrol officers to have more face-to-face time with members of the community.

"We're working on having more guys out on foot in the borough's business district," Shaw said. "They'll be able to stop and talk with residents so they can feel more comfortable."

Mayor Bob Martin said he was pleased with the council's decision to promote Shaw to chief.

"He knows the town and is uniquely qualified to be the police chief," Martin said Wednesday. "We believe he'll do an excellent job. He's done an outstanding job as patrolman already."

Councilman Bill Brown, who heads the borough's Public Safety Committee, also had some high praise for the borough's new top officer.

"He is very professional, very efficient and very knowledgeable in everything he does," Brown said. "He goes to the extreme with every effort he puts forth."

Shaw replaces former chief Greg Willis, who stepped down from his position in January.

Willis remains a senior patrol officer with the department.

*By Matt Chiappardi  
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