



Oshkosh Police Department Newsletter

Inside this issue:

The Chief's Corner	1	OPD Auxiliary.....	39
Administrative Bureau	3	OPD "Out & About"	40
Operations Bureau.....	26	OPD Anniversaries.....	48
Patrol Division.....	27	Job Well Done!	49
CID.....	32		

The Chief's Corner

The first half of the year has proven to be extremely busy with some incredible work being done in the department. In February, I was proud and honored to recommend for promotion a new Assistant Chief and a Captain to the Command Staff, as well as a new Lieutenant to the supervisory staff. I am looking forward to their exceptional development in these new positions. The department celebrated the retirements of five outstanding officers. I would like to extend my sincere gratitude for their many dedicated years of service to the department and to our community. With retirement comes the opportunity for new officers to join the OPD Team, so congratulations to our 5 new Officers who were hired in May! Welcome to all of our new employees who joined the department. We look forward to having you as a part of the team!

As we continue to face recruitment challenges, we would like you to know that one of our top priorities here at the Oshkosh Police Department is to attract qualified officers. I commend the efforts of our Recruitment Team who is working tirelessly to not only recruit the best talent to our department, but also to retain the quality individuals who currently serve our community. The Recruitment Team is stepping up their game, and we're excited to see where it takes us!

I would like to recognize the impressive work of our Detectives, members of the Vice and Narcotics Unit, and Patrol Officers who are working together to send a message to our community that we are serious about taking drugs off our streets and keeping our neighborhoods safe and secure for the citizens of Oshkosh.

As reported in early February, the development of our Community Impact Team is coming together. Sergeant Brenden Bonnett will be supervising a Homeless Outreach Officer, a Behavioral Health Officer and two Co-Responders. The new police substation, located on Opera House Square, was operational on June 1. Together, this highly trained team will directly engage with our unhoused population and citizens struggling with mental health-related concerns, offering resources and assistance in a professional, compassionate manner.

Congratulations to our Community Service Officer who was awarded the distinguished City of Oshkosh Employee of the Year Award as well as one of our Captains who graduated from Leadership Oshkosh 2025. We're proud of their accomplishments, and look forward to their continued success as leaders and future leaders for the Oshkosh Police Department.

Patrol Officers have continued to participate in several activities, special events, and youth-sponsored programs such as Cops 'N' Kids Reading Program, runs and walks, department tours, and Cocoa With A Cop/Lemonade With The Law, to name a few. DARE Officers were busy participating in fundraising events and the annual Timber Rattlers baseball game. You will see your officers "Out & About" throughout the summer months, so I hope you take the opportunity to get to know them!

It has been a great half of the year so far here at OPD, and we're just getting started. Thank you to the hardworking officers and staff of the department who will carry us successfully through the next six months!

Enjoy your time with family and friends this summer. Remember to take good care of yourself and each other!

Stay safe and well,

~Chief Dean Smith

ADMINISTRATIVE BUREAU

Captain Matthew Harris

As the summer season begins, I want to offer my sincere thanks for everyone's hard work this year and hope all of you will find time to spend with family and friends. There is much to report from the Administrative Bureau since the last newsletter with staff turnover, selection processes, and work initiatives.

In January, Investigator Troy Brandl retired after 29 years of service; in February, Sergeant Kari Pettit retired after 30 years of service; also in February, Officer Mark Lehman retired after 28 years of service; in March, Captain Becky Kaiser retired after 29 years of service; and finally, in June, Officer Derek Sell retired after 29 years of service. We thank them for their outstanding service and wish them all a happy and healthy retirement!

Congratulations to our newly promoted Lieutenant, Captain and Assistant Chief of Police in February. We look forward to their continued success as leaders within the department.

We hired several Police Cadets who began the Recruit Academy training at Fox Valley Technical College (FVTC) in Appleton. In March: Nicklas Vey (former CSO for OPD), Jared Rivera, Dante Hesse, and Nathan Dudzinski. In May: Ella Purvis (former CSO for OPD), Connor Cross (former CSO for OPD), and Andrew Simons.

In May, we hired a lateral transfer Police Officer. We welcomed Kyle Feucht as he started the Field Training Program as an Officer. Also in May, we had three Police Cadets graduate from the FVTC Academy and start their Field Training Program as Officers.



ADMINISTRATIVE BUREAU

On the civilian side of the department, we hired several positions. Please welcome our two new Community Service Officers, Evelyn Hoetschl and Mitchell Gonnering. Bethany Jennerjohn filled our vacant Records and Reports Clerk position, Lindsey Whitney filled the Court Liaison Clerk position, Brooklyn Baker was hired as a Telecommunications Clerk, and finally, Tristan Clare, our full-time Report Processor, has moved into the Property Evidence Clerk position.

Congratulations to all of our new hires and welcome to the OPD Team! We are actively working to fill additional vacancies for Police Officer and CSOs. I will have more to report on those positions in the next newsletter.

In the first half of the year, we ran several selection processes for various special teams and assignments. Those added to special teams were Officers Clint Fettig and Michael Hendrickson to the Drone (UAS) Team, as well as Officers Tyler Vanden Hoogen, Reagan Abbey, Austin Magedanz, Sam Schuldes and Jacob Schwartz to the Mobile Field Force Team.

The Administrative Bureau has been focusing on hosting trainings at the Oshkosh Police Department in an effort to bring quality training to our Officers. Several training classes have already taken place, and we are on track to host additional trainings during the second half of the year.

The Administrative Bureau also continues to focus on obtaining national accreditation through the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement (CALEA). Benefits of accreditation are:

1. Increased community advocacy
2. Staunch support from government officials
3. Stronger defense against civil lawsuits
4. Reduced risk and liability exposure
5. Greater accountability within the agency

ADMINISTRATIVE BUREAU

HAPPY Retirement

In January, the Oshkosh Police Department said goodbye to Officer Troy Brandl who retired after proudly serving the Department and the City of Oshkosh for nearly 29 years! Prior to becoming a Police Officer, Troy also proudly served in the United States Air Force from 1990 - 1996 and as a Community Service Officer with the Oshkosh Police Department from 1996 - 1998. During his tenure with the department, he performed the duties of a Patrol Officer, Patrol Sergeant, Vice and Narcotics Unit Investigator and Lake Winnebago Area Metropolitan Enforcement Group (MEG) Investigator for the past 4 years. Officer Brandl served as a former member of the SWAT, Mobile Field Force, and Honor Guard Teams, a Firearm Instructor, Field Training Officer, Defense Technologies Chemical Instructor, and a Professional Communication Instructor. Throughout his career, Troy has received a Distinguished Service Medal in 2006, Noteworthy Performance of Duty Awards in 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019, a Department Commendation Award in 2023, and a Police Officer of the Quarter Award in 2023, along with numerous Supervisor Logs for his commendable actions in the line of duty.



Officer Brandl is shown receiving his retirement shadow box on March 4, 2025

ADMINISTRATIVE BUREAU

HAPPY Retirement

In February, the Oshkosh Police Department said goodbye to Sergeant Kari Pettit who retired after proudly serving the Department and the City of Oshkosh for 30 years! During her tenure with the department, she performed the duties of a Patrol Officer, K9 Officer, School Resource Officer, Detective, and Patrol Sergeant. Sergeant Pettit was instrumental in developing the first Oshkosh Police Department K9 Unit in 1999, earning her a Meritorious Service Medal in 2001. Kari went on to earn a Letter of Commendation in 2005, a Noteworthy Performance of Duty Award in 2024, along with numerous citizen commendation letters and Supervisor Logs for her commendable actions in the line of duty. Sergeant Pettit served as a Co-Coordinator of the Mental Health Resiliency Committee and was actively involved in the Big Brothers Big Sisters "Bigs With Badges" program and the Kiwanis sponsored Cops 'N' Kids Reading program through the Boys and Girls Club of Oshkosh.



Sergeant Pettit is shown receiving her retirement shadow box on May 15, 2025, during the OPD Awards Ceremony

ADMINISTRATIVE BUREAU

HAPPY Retirement



In February, the Oshkosh Police Department said goodbye to Officer Mark Lehman who retired after proudly serving the Department and the City of Oshkosh for 28 years! During his tenure with the department, he performed the duties of a Patrol Officer exceptionally well, earning a Medal of Valor in 2004, a Distinguished Service Medal in 2007, a Lifesaving Award in 2017, a Department Commendation Award in 2022, Officer of the Quarter Award in 2022, Service Award in 2024 for his 26 years of dedicated commitment to the Honor Guard Team, along with several commendation letters and Supervisor Logs for his commendable actions in the line of duty. Officer Lehman served as a member of the Honor Guard Team, Motorcycle Unit since 2017, a former Field Training Officer and former member of the Crash Team.



Officer Lehman is shown receiving his retirement shadow box on May 15, 2025, during the OPD Awards Ceremony

ADMINISTRATIVE BUREAU

HAPPY Retirement

The Oshkosh Police Department said goodbye to Captain Becky Kaiser in March. Captain Kaiser proudly served the Oshkosh Police Department and the City of Oshkosh for nearly 29 years, serving over 7 years as a Captain. She started as a Community Service Officer in 1996 and was a Telecommunications Clerk before becoming a sworn officer in 1998. During her tenure with the department, she performed the duties of a Patrol Officer, School Resource Officer, Detective, Patrol Sergeant, Criminal Investigation Sergeant, Criminal Investigation and Professional Standards Division Lieutenant, Captain of Administration, Operations Bureau Captain, and Criminal Investigation Division Captain. Captain Kaiser is a 2020 FBI National Academy graduate and 2017 Wisconsin Law Enforcement Command College graduate. She completed numerous specialized training courses and served as a former D.A.R.E. Instructor and as a member of the Crisis Negotiator Team. Throughout her career, Becky has received a Letter of Commendation in 2004, a Noteworthy Performance of Duty Award in 2024, and several Supervisor Logs for her commendable actions in the line of duty.



Captain Kaiser is shown receiving her retirement shadow box on May 15, 2025, during the OPD Awards Ceremony

ADMINISTRATIVE BUREAU

HAPPY Retirement

In June, the Oshkosh Police Department said goodbye to Officer Derek Sell who retired after proudly serving the Department and the City of Oshkosh for 29 years! During his tenure with the department, he performed the duties of a Patrol Officer, a Drug Task Force Officer and a Lake Winnebago Area Metropolitan Enforcement Group (MEG) Investigator for 4 years exceptionally well. He earned Distinguished Service Medals in 2006 and 2015, a Noteworthy Performance of Duty Award in 2017, a Department Commendation Award in 2021, along with several commendation letters and Supervisor Logs his commendable actions in the line of duty. Officer Sell served as a former Field Training Officer and Background Investigator, a former member of the SWAT and Mobile Field Force Teams, and an instructor in a variety of law enforcement tactics.



Congratulations!

On Tuesday, February 4, 2025, during a Police and Fire Commission meeting, the Oshkosh Police Department celebrated the promotion of Captain Brian Schuldes to the rank of Assistant Chief of Police.

Assistant Chief Brian Schuldes has been with the Oshkosh Police Department for nearly 30 years beginning in September of 1995. Assistant Chief Schuldes served in the United States Marine Corps as a Military Police Officer and Traffic Accident Investigator. During his tenure with the department, he has performed the duties of Patrol Officer, Patrol Sergeant, Patrol and Criminal Investigation Lieutenant, Operations Bureau Captain and Captain of Administration. He previously served as a Background Investigator, Field Training Officer, a Firearms and Vehicle Contact Instructor, served as a former member of the Honor Guard, Crisis Negotiation Team, Mobile Field Force Team, Supervisor of the Recruitment Team, Coordinator of the Mentor Program, and Co-Coordinator of the Mental Health Resiliency Committee. Throughout his career, he earned the 2000 Winnebago County Top Award for teamwork, a Letter of Commendation in 2005, a Meritorious Service Medal in 2007, a Lifesaving Award in 2017, Noteworthy Performance of Duty Awards in 2019 and 2020, and two Service Awards in 2023 for dedicating 18 years on the Negotiator Team and 25 years on the Honor Guard Team, along with numerous letters and Supervisor Logs recognizing him for his commendable actions in the line of duty.



Congratulations!

On Tuesday, February 4, 2025, during a Police and Fire Commission meeting, the Oshkosh Police Department celebrated the promotion of Lieutenant Andrew Lecker to the rank of Captain.

Captain Andrew Lecker has been with the Oshkosh Police Department for nearly 23 years beginning in April of 2002. During his tenure with the department, he has performed the duties of Patrol Officer, Patrol Sergeant, Patrol Lieutenant, Professional Standards Division Lieutenant, and Criminal Investigation Lieutenant. He previously served as a member of the Bike Patrol, Mobile Field Force and SWAT Teams, and served as a Field Training Officer, and DAAT/SPEAR/Scenario Instructor. Throughout his career, he earned a Letter of Commendation in 2004 and 2007, a Commendation Medal in 2014, and a Service Award in 2020 for recognition of 13 years dedicated to the SWAT Team, along with numerous letters of recognition and Supervisor Logs recognizing him for his commendable actions in the line of duty.



ADMINISTRATIVE BUREAU

Congratulations!

On Tuesday, February 4, 2025, during a Police and Fire Commission meeting, the Oshkosh Police Department celebrated the promotion of Sergeant Brett Robertson to the rank of Lieutenant.

Lieutenant Brett Robertson has been with the Oshkosh Police Department for over 22 years beginning in August of 2002. During his tenure with the department, he has performed the duties of Patrol Officer, Detective, Patrol Sergeant, and Sergeant of the Vice and Narcotics Unit in the Criminal Investigation Division. Lieutenant Robertson is a former member of the Mobile Field Force and SWAT Teams, a former Background Investigator, and a former Drug Recognition Expert. He currently serves as a member of the Drone Team, Recruitment Team, Child Abduction Response Team, and is on the U.S. Marshals Fugitive Task Force. Throughout his career, he earned a Letter of Commendation in 2003, a Distinguished Service Medal in 2005, numerous Noteworthy Performance of Duty Awards, a Commendation Medal in 2014, Officer of the Quarter Award in 2017, and a Department Commendation Award in 2019, along with several citizen commendation letters and Supervisor Logs recognizing him for his commendable actions in the line of duty.



ADMINISTRATIVE BUREAU

Welcome!



On Tuesday, May 6, 2025, during a Police and Fire Commission meeting, the Oshkosh Police Department celebrated the hiring of Kyle Feucht to the position of Patrol Officer.

Kyle Feucht is originally from Neosho, Wisconsin, where he graduated in 2020 from Hartford Union High School. He completed his Wisconsin Law Enforcement Certification on December 9, 2022, from Blackhawk Technical College. Kyle earned a Bachelor's degree in Criminology in May 2025. Prior to becoming a Police Officer, Kyle was employed as a Campus Service Officer and a Police Officer with the University of Wisconsin - Whitewater Police Department.



Welcome!



On Tuesday, May 20, 2025, during a Police and Fire Commission meeting, the Oshkosh Police Department celebrated the hiring of Police Cadet Kelsey Gill to the position of Patrol Officer. Kelsey Gill joined the Oshkosh Police Department as a Cadet on January 2, 2025. She completed her Wisconsin Law Enforcement Certification on May 16, 2025, through Fox Valley Technical College.

Kelsey Gill is originally from Hubertus, Wisconsin, where she graduated from Hartford Union High School in 2018. She attended the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, earning her Bachelor's degree with a double major in Criminal Justice and Political Science in June 2022. Kelsey was previously employed as a Telecommunications Clerk with the Oshkosh Police Department.



Welcome!



On Tuesday, May 20, 2025, during a Police and Fire Commission meeting, the Oshkosh Police Department celebrated the hiring of Police Cadet Gabriella Schmidt to the position of Patrol Officer. Gabriella Schmidt joined the Oshkosh Police Department as a Cadet on January 2, 2025. She completed her Wisconsin Law Enforcement Certification on May 16, 2025, through Fox Valley Technical College.

Gabriella Schmidt is originally from Winneconne, Wisconsin, where she graduated from Winneconne High School in 2021. She attended Fox Valley Technical College, earning an Associate degree in Criminal Justice in May 2023. Gabriella earned a second Associate degree from Fox Valley Technical College in Forensic Science in December 2024. Gabriella was previously employed as a Community Service Officer with the Oshkosh Police Department.



ADMINISTRATIVE BUREAU

Welcome!



On Tuesday, May 20, 2025, during a Police and Fire Commission meeting, the Oshkosh Police Department celebrated the hiring of Police Cadet Mercedes Eichstedt to the position of Patrol Officer. Mercedes Eichstedt joined the Oshkosh Police Department as a Cadet on January 2, 2025. She completed her Wisconsin Law Enforcement Certification on May 16, 2025, through Fox Valley Technical College.

Mercedes Eichstedt is originally from Berlin, Wisconsin, where she graduated from Berlin High School in 2020. Mercedes attended Fox Valley Technical College, earning an Associate degree in Criminal Justice in May 2022. She was previously employed as a Correctional Officer with the Green Lake County Sheriff's Office in the jail.



ADMINISTRATIVE BUREAU

Congratulations!



On April 22, 2025, Community Service Officer Ella Purvis was presented with the City of Oshkosh Outstanding Service Award, Employee of the Quarter and Employee of the Year Award from City Manager Rebecca Grill.

When a runner participating in a 1/2 marathon was having difficulties, Ella ran to his aid and got him to a safe area, immediately calling for medical assistance. Her quick actions saved him from sustaining more serious injuries. The runner's families nominated Ella for an award, stating they are forever grateful for her alertness and compassion.

Congratulations Ella on a well-deserved award!

LEADERSHIP oshkosh

Congratulations! to Captain Matthew Harris who successfully completed the 2025 Leadership Oshkosh class!

Leadership Oshkosh is a community leadership program designed to bring together a diverse group of individuals who share a genuine interest in and commitment to Oshkosh. Its mission is to inspire people to want to serve and make a difference in the community.

The knowledge and understanding gained from the program will prepare individuals for leadership roles in both their organizations and the community.



2024 **Oshkosh POLICE** *Awards*
1853

The Oshkosh Police Department proudly recognized the following individuals for awards earned in 2024:

Pride Service Honor

Awards 2024

First Quarter:

Community Service Award—Auxiliary Deputy Chief Chad Gutche

Service Award—Auxiliary Captain Joe Youngbauer

Second Quarter:

Department Commendation—Officer Zachary Wilkens,

Officer Miles Bennett, Officer Thomas Kopczyk

Officer of the Quarter—Officer Zachary Wilkens

Noteworthy Performance of Duty—Lieutenant Michael Hotter,

Sergeant Brett Robertson, Sergeant Brenden Bonnett,

Sergeant Kari Pettit, Sergeant Adam Haberland,

Sergeant Aaron Achterberg, Officer Aaron Roberts,

Officer Miles Bennett, Officer Thomas Kopczyk,

Officer Andrew Pechacek, Officer Keith Norkofski,

Officer Trey Johnson, Officer Michael Hendrickson, Officer Jack Rew,

Officer Jacob Schwartz, Officer Benjamin Fenhouse,

Officer Benjamin Phillips, Officer Ryne Scopp, Officer Cody Rukamp,

Officer Sarah Pauer, Officer Nickolas Kawleski, Officer Grant Wilson,

Community Service Officer Ella Purvis,

Report Processor Bonnie Sagmeister

Citizen Award—Thomas Vanahn, James Lazarus

Awards 2024

Third Quarter:

Department Commendation—Detective Ryan Boerner,

Officer Matthew Pierce, Officer Dellas Vandenberg,

Officer Michael McKeown, Officer Austin Wunnicke

Officer of the Quarter—Detective Ryan Boerner

Noteworthy Performance of Duty—Captain Becky Kaiser,

Lieutenant Robert Kraemer, Detective Joshua Turner,

Officer Brayden Ewing, Officer Reagan Abbey

Citizen Award—Cathie Books, Gary Reyes, Mary Jo Annis,

Tom Bremer, Jaxson Rufer, Ruxin Pamperin, William Roch,

Chad Ludwig

Fourth Quarter:

Medal of Valor—Valor Officer (Unnamed)

Lifesaving Award—Officer Michael McKeown,

Officer Cody Rukamp, Officer Matthew Pierce, Officer Zachary Radde

Service Award—Officer Mark Lehman

Department Commendation—Lieutenant Robert Kraemer,

Lieutenant Mark Beggs, Sergeant Kyle Roberts,

Detective Joshua Turner, Officer Zachary Wilkens,

Officer Andrew Knurowski, Officer Cody Rukamp,

Officer Matthew Pierce

Awards 2024

Fourth Quarter:

Officer of the Quarter—Valor Officer

Noteworthy Performance of Duty—Sergeant Christopher Gorte,
Detective Joshua Turner, Detective Paul Frey, Detective Jeremy Krueger,
Officer Keith Norkofski

Citizen Award—Angela Reals, Mandy Tague, Christopher Hill,
Michael Boelter

Annual:

Supervisor of the Year—Sergeant Kari Pettit

Police Officer of the Year—Officer Zachary Wilkens

Team Policing Officer of the Year—Officer Scott Sopata

Civilian of the Year—Telecommunications Clerk Trevor Manthei



PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS DIVISION

Lieutenant Mike Hotter



The Oshkosh Police Department successfully completed year three (of a 4-year cycle) for its CALEA (Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies) web-based assessment, which was done in December 2024. During the assessment, CALEA personnel reviewed a portion of the required standards to ensure the department's compliance with nationally recognized law enforcement best practices. The Oshkosh Police Department successfully completed this assessment and continues to work toward receiving full CALEA accreditation.

CALEA assessments occur annually remotely over a 4-year cycle. A CALEA Assessor will remotely view documentation from June 20-28, 2025, for year 4 of the assessment. Final preparations are being made for the mid-August onsite visit where CALEA Assessors will visit on site and assess the department for continued accreditation.

We are currently in year four (of a 4-year cycle) for WILEAG (Wisconsin Law Enforcement Accreditation Group), with the next site-based assessment scheduled for Spring 2026. The assessments are a continuing process and the department continues to work toward receiving full accreditation from both CALEA and WILEAG.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT/ TRAINING

Sergeant Chris Romanowicz

In 2025, the Professional Standards Division has been busy planning and hosting trainings for our officers and others from around the state and the country. We have hosted the following courses so far in 2025 with many more planned for the second half of the year:

- **February**— Conducting Effective Internal Affairs Investigations
- **May**— SWAT Team Leader
- **May**—NTOA (National Tactical Officers Association) Basic Negotiator
- **May**— NAPWDA (North American Police Work Dog Association) K9 Recertifications
- **June**— Department of Justice First Line Supervisor Training

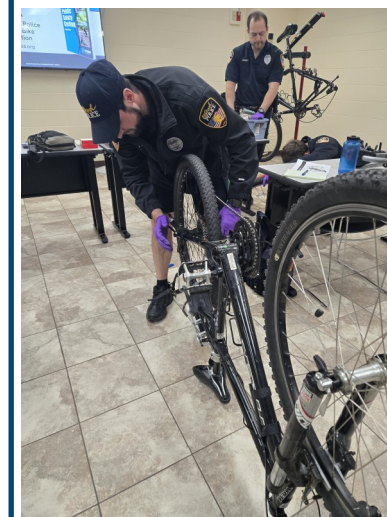
By hosting trainings, it helps stretch our training budget dollars further and provide high quality training for our officers. The training has also brought in agencies from across the state and country, which helps showcase the City of Oshkosh and makes a local economic impact. Our officers have attended various other trainings both locally and across the state. We have also conducted a number of in-house training days with topics including, CPR/First Aid, Frauds and Scams, DAAT refresher, Taser recertification and Firearms training just to list a few.

In May, we also had three of our Mobile Field Force Officers attend IPMBA (International Police Mountain Bike Association) training, conducted by Officer Kopczyk, to enhance our abilities to police events such as Pub Crawl.

We have many more trainings, which we are hosting in the second half of 2025 and are starting to plan for 2026!

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT/TRAINING

IPMBA



OPERATIONS BUREAU

Captain Andrew Lecker

The Operations Bureau is comprised of the Criminal Investigations Division and the Patrol Division. These men and women serve our community selflessly while promoting public safety and enhancing the quality of life in our community through innovative policing and community strategies.

As we approach the start of summer, there have been a few changes to the Oshkosh Police Department Operations Bureau.

- Andy Lecker was promoted to become Captain of the Operations Bureau in February.
- Brett Robertson was promoted to become Lieutenant of the Criminal Investigation Division in February.
- Brenden Bonnett was selected to be the department's new Community Impact Team Sergeant in March.

We welcomed 4 new Officers into the Field Training Officer program after their completion of the Law Enforcement Recruit Academy:

- Kyle Feucht
- Kelsey Gill
- Mercedes Eichstedt
- Gabriella Schmidt

PATROL DIVISION

1st Shift

Greetings from the First Shift Team at the Oshkosh Police Department (OPD)! The first half of 2025 has been both eventful and bittersweet, marked by notable retirements, community engagement, and dedicated recruitment efforts.

In February, we bid farewell to Officer Lehman, whose dedication and service have left a significant impact on our department. A long-time member of the OPD Honor Guard, he proudly represented the department at various ceremonies. As a Field Training Officer, he played a pivotal role in mentoring new recruits, ensuring they were prepared to serve with integrity and professionalism. His passion for law enforcement was also evident in his work as a Motorcycle Officer, where he not only patrolled effectively but also engaged deeply with the community.

In May, we saw the retirement of Officer Sell, who offered his skills and expertise in numerous ways throughout his career. A former member of the OPD SWAT team, Officer Sell excelled in high-pressure situations. He also served as a Department Instructor and Field Training Officer, imparting vital knowledge and tactical expertise to upcoming officers. His commitment to the safety of the community was further demonstrated in his role as a Drug Investigator for the Lake Winnebago Metropolitan Enforcement Group and Vice and Narcotic Unit, where he combated drug-related criminal activities.



While honoring the service of Officers Lehman and Sell, we continued our community engagement initiatives, notably through the Cops and Kids Reading program. Officers handed out books to kindergarteners at various schools around the city, fostering positive relationships with young students. Our Recruitment Team has been equally active, attending career fairs and promoting law enforcement as a rewarding and impactful career. These efforts are vital in bringing new talent and perspectives into our department.

During Police Week, we participated in events honoring fallen officers, including attendance at the Wisconsin Law Enforcement Memorial in Madison and hosting our own Law Enforcement Memorial Ceremony at the Oshkosh PD. These ceremonies serve as a solemn reminder of the sacrifices made by law enforcement officers and reaffirm our commitment to community safety and honor.

Looking forward, the First Shift Team remains steadfast in our commitment to the safety and well-being of the Oshkosh community. We are proud of our past achievements and enthusiastic about the future contributions from both seasoned and new officers. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our officers, community partners, and residents for their ongoing support. Your collaboration is vital to our mission of providing a secure and welcoming environment for all. For those interested in learning more about our operations or considering a career in law enforcement, we encourage you to connect with us. Together, we continue to build a strong and resilient community. Here's to a successful and safe remainder of the year!

PATROL DIVISION

2nd Shift

With the new year, it brought new faces to the 2nd shift. We welcome Sergeant Kyle Roberts, Officer Kaylee Raabe, and Officer Aaron Petkovsek. Sergeant Roberts comes to us after many years on 3rd shift, bringing a wealth of technical and tactical knowledge. As a former Field Training Officer, current DAAT instructor, and SWAT Team Leader, Sergeant Roberts has the ideal background to coach, train, and develop new officers for their career with the Oshkosh Police Department. Both Officers Raabe and Petkovsek were hired at the end of 2024 and completed the department's Field Training and Evaluation Program (FTEP). Each has been assigned to the 1p-11p shift and assigned to District 3.

During the first few months of the year when calls for service generated by the public were lower, the shift officers were able to engage in several different community events and activities. Officers conducted multiple tours and discussions at the police department with community youth; participated in business and school events; conducted DARE classes, K9 demonstrations, and provided input to advisory boards. Officers also focused this time on individual training in order to better develop and enhance their investigation skills and leadership. A few of those training events attended were: Homemade Explosives (HME): Awareness, Recognition, and Response Course; Wisconsin Law Enforcement Executive Development Association Conference; Conducting Internal Investigations Course; Motorcycle Officer Recertification; Advance Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement; NTOA Basic Negotiator; Investigations in Cases of Suspected Child Maltreatment; Active Shooter Level 1 Course.

During the first six months of 2025, officers conducted 2,364 traffic stops on the shift. Traffic enforcement continues to be one of our priority self-initiated activities given citizen complaints and general officer observations during their routine patrol. We kindly ask all citizens to slow down, pay attention, and drive defensively. The top citizen-initiated call for service within the first six months has been Welfare Checks with 654 requests for police. Although typically not an incident that has a criminal element, the overall safety of citizens generates a police response to ensure those who are in crisis can achieve the help that they need with the goal being to achieve the safest resolution possible. We are anticipating Officers Raabe and Petkovsek, the shift's only untrained officers in Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training, to complete training by the end of this year. CIT training is a 40-hour evidence-based behavior health training model focused on first responders. It is one of our core training requirements and is typically provided within the first couple years of employment.

PATROL DIVISION

3rd Shift

Third shift has been very busy with responding to active incidents, addressing quality of life concerns, working on traffic enforcement, and training. We welcomed Officer Alexys Schneider to the shift after she completed her Field Training, and she has been a welcome addition to the shift.

Officers have been diligent with continuing training to stay abreast of the best and most current law enforcement techniques. Officer Schwartz completed his TASER instructor recertification, Officer Hendrickson completed his Firearms Instructor Certification, and Officer Phillips will be completing his Defense and Arrest Tactics Instructor Certification soon. Having certified instructors within the department, and especially on the shift, keeps officers trained on the most current and effective techniques to be as safe as possible in everything that they do. Third shift also has Officer Pierce, Officer Phillips, Officer Rukamp, Officer Hendrickson, and Officer Schwartz who are current Field Training Officers and have been active with instructing new hires. Officer Krause has attended Negotiation Team Training, to best prepare for attending to individuals experiencing personal crisis, or active criminal incidents that may benefit from negotiations to reach a peaceful resolution.

Officers have stayed vigilant at their efforts in crime prevention by conducting regular foot patrols of the City's parks, with a priority on the downtown area, and conducting regular building security checks, especially at those sites actively under construction. Officers have been very busy with responding to calls for service and proactive patrols, but have still made traffic enforcement a priority with 1431 traffic stops since the last newsletter resulting in 647 citations, 69 OWI arrests and numerous other arrests for illegal activities. Our K9 Handlers Sergeant Fox(K9 Odin), Officer Rukamp (K9 Fritz), and Officer Schwartz (K9 Kyo) are very active at detection of illegal narcotics detection, and greatly assist the officers with locating this contraband on our streets. All of our K9/Handler teams have just completed their annual certification, and are ready to go for another year!

Many of the officers also have collateral duties or belong to special teams. Officer Cody Rukamp has instructed CHEERS bartender training classes and worked on Alcohol Sales Enforcement details to make sure that our community is responsibly serving its patrons. Officer Caitlyn Tohak took time to participate in the Bigs with Badges program through Big Brothers Big Sisters. This program pairs officers with juveniles in our community to help create positive relationships with law enforcement. Officer Austin Wunnicke and Officer Austin Magedanz have worked diligently on the recruitment program to help the department locate the best candidates to become Patrol Officers for our community. Officers conduct these duties in addition to their regular Patrol assignments. Third shift also contributes officers to the SWAT Team, Bicycle Patrol Team, Honor Guard Team, and Mobil Field Force.

We look forward to continuing to provide the highest level of law enforcement services that we can to the Great City of Oshkosh. Rest easy, we'll keep the night watch for you!

PATROL DIVISION

National Police Week

Respect Honor Remember



The Oshkosh Police Department held a Law Enforcement Tribute on Monday, May 12, 2025, in recognition of National Police Week (May 11-17). National Police Week pays special recognition to those law enforcement officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty serving and protecting others. The Oshkosh Police Department honored the Oshkosh Police Officers that were killed in the line of duty since 1853: Louis Hardy, George O'Connor and Walter Spiering, along with Officer Daniel J. Daley of the Beloit Police Department who was honored as one of the fallen officers in the State of Wisconsin in 2024.

National Police Week is also a time to recognize the great men and women who serve and protect our communities each and every day.



PATROL DIVISION

R Recruitment T Team

The Oshkosh Police Department's Recruitment Team is in full swing! Their goal of attracting the brightest and best candidates for a successful career as an Oshkosh Police Officer remains a priority. While recruitment continues to be a challenge, the Team is focused and committed to meet that challenge head on. They have been busy the first half of the year attending events such as:

- University of Wisconsin—Oshkosh Career Fair
- University of Wisconsin—Platteville Career Fair
- Fox Valley Technical College Public Safety Fair
- Oshkosh Area Employment Fair at Sunnyview Expo

If you would like to know more about joining the Oshkosh Police Department Team, please follow the link on our website: <https://www.oshkoshpd.com/Employment/>



CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DIVISION

The first part of 2025 has proven to be an active one for the Criminal Investigation Division. With the retirement of Captain Becky Kaiser, newly promoted Captain Andy Lecker stepped in to command the Operations Bureau. His position was filled by the promotion of Lieutenant Brett Robertson, who has done an exceptional job guiding the division with their case assignments and monitoring investigations. Under his supervision, the two Sergeants, six Detectives, three Vice and Narcotics Investigators, six School Resource Officers, the Crime Prevention/Public Affairs Officer, and the Crime Analyst have been kept very busy.



CID members, along with the Vice and Narcotics Unit and Patrol have conducted investigations into human trafficking operations, shooting and weapons incidents, vehicle break-ins, and significant drug investigations. As a result of these investigations, human trafficking victims are receiving resources, a sex offender has been federally indicted for child pornography, suspects have been arrested in several of our shooting/weapons incidents, and significant

amounts of illegal drugs, guns and cash have been seized and taken off our streets. These are just some of the examples of how our teams are working together to rid our city of illicit drugs and criminal activities that negatively impact the quality of life for our citizens. We're working hard to make Oshkosh a safe city to live, work, and play!

DARE Officers were busy attending events and partnering with local businesses to hold several fundraising events for the DARE program. Thank you to our partners for your positive support of DARE!



With the 3rd annual Youth Leadership Camp coming up on July 7-11, the School Resource Officers have been extremely busy preparing for the camp. The camp has been a great experience for youth ages 12-15 years old. Participants learn life-enhancing skills through

fun-filled activities, team building events, community service, and personal development. We're looking forward to another successful Leadership Camp!

D.A.R.E.



Several Officers participated in a DARE fundraiser on March 11. Culver's Westowne Restaurant hosted the event in support of the DARE program. Officers, along with members of their family greeted and served customers. A portion of all proceeds will go back to the local community. Thank you to Culver's and to everyone who came out in support of the DARE program!



D.A.R.E.



School Resource Officers Tanner Rasmussen and Dellas Vandenberg, along with DARE board members worked the concession stand at the Herd game on Saturday, March 29 to raise money for the DARE program. Thank you to everyone who helped support DARE!

D.A.R.E.

On April 30, DARE Officers from the Oshkosh Police Department and the Brown County Sheriff's Office attended a Timber Rattler's game with local 5th graders, enjoying the game and taking in a DARE lesson from Officers!



CRIME PREVENTION/PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Officer Kate Mann



The Crime Prevention/Public Affairs Officer Kate Mann is part of the Criminal Investigation Division. The Crime Prevention Officer assists citizens by providing information about frauds, scams, traffic and senior safety. Officer Mann is also the Department's Public Affairs Officer and acts as a liaison between the media and the Oshkosh Police Department responsible for the timely and accurate dissemination of public information to the community.

It's been a busy first half of the year for Crime Prevention. Unfortunately, scams and frauds are still occurring throughout the nation. The Oshkosh Police Department strives to stay current on the crime trends and educates citizens about what to look for and how to avoid scams. Education is provided through social media posts and community presentations.

Oshkosh Police Department and local businesses have teamed up with a new proactive Crime Prevention approach. Officers have been placing STOP! It could be a SCAM signs near Bitcoin ATMs to help provide information about possible Bitcoin ATM scams to citizens before they put money into the machine.

During the Spring, Officer Mann presented "No Time For Crime" and "Yell and Tell" program to 3rd grade students, as well as students at Lakeside Elementary during their Community Interest Hour. She also attended the Menominee Elementary Family Night event and handed out books, safety items, and various items to the students.

Officer Mann attended Father Carr's CARRnival where she handed out Summer Safety items, books, and Scams and Frauds information.



National Human Trafficking Awareness Day



Sergeant Brett Robertson participated in this year's 15th Annual Human Trafficking Awareness Day Rally at the Opera House Square held on January 11, 2025. Each year, this event is hosted by the Damascus Road Project, Incorporated. Damascus Road helps raise awareness of this issue through a three-prong approach: Educate ~ Locate ~ Advocate in their effort to serve communities and the victims of sex trafficking and sexual abuse.





Officer Kate Mann is shown at the Cherith Clothing & Resource Center, presenting donated books for the center through the Reach-A Child program.

REACH-A-Child provides books to first responders to give to children in crisis situations, give out at community outreach events, and as resources to build great relationships with our community.



Cherith Clothing & Resource Center provides items to refugee families and low income families in Oshkosh. When Cherith starts working with a family, the kids are able to select a new book. Officers also interact with the families—welcoming them to Oshkosh!



OSHKOSH AUXILIARY POLICE

Chief Scott Footit

The first half of the year has been busy with our normal end of winter events and the typical spring events. We are gearing up for what we hope is a beautiful summer filled with great things here in the City of Oshkosh.

Recruiting has proven to be a difficult task; however, we try our best to put our message out through social media and face-to-face interactions with the community. If you or anyone you know have an interest in helping to make Oshkosh a great place to live, please consider joining our organization! We need new members to help keep our events staffed. Please check out our website or Facebook page for more information. https://www.oshkoshpd.com/Auxiliary_Police/index.asp

Our Speed Awareness Team has continued to focus our 3 speed trailers in troubled areas of the City. Our hope is to bring awareness to motorists and slow speeds down through the visual education that the trailers provide. You will see these trailers deployed throughout the City as long as the weather allows.

April marked the 66th Anniversary of the Auxiliary Police Unit serving the Oshkosh Police Department and the Citizens of Oshkosh. A special thanks to all those who have served this unit and those who continue to serve.

This year, several Auxiliary Members reached a milestone anniversary year:

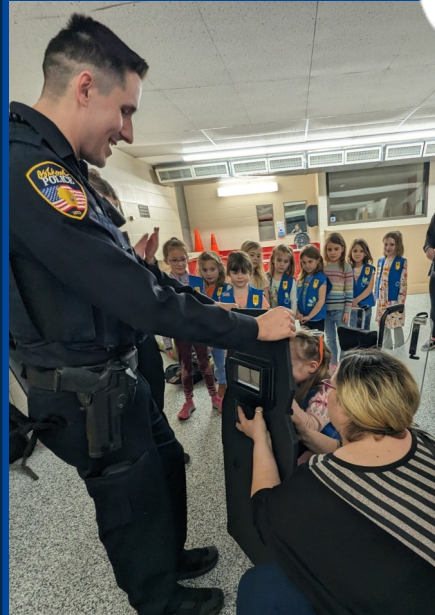
- **Gerry Kargus – 15 Years of Service**
- **Matt Kirby – 15 Years of Service**
- **Larissa Tyler – 5 Years of Service**
- **Jim Basler, Jr. – 5 Years of Service**
- **Michelle Griese – 5 Years of Service**

Thank you for your dedication and outstanding service to the Oshkosh Police Department and to the Oshkosh community!

We're looking forward to and welcome a busy summer and fall season!



Out & About



Daisy Troop Visits OPD: A local Daisy Troop spent time at the Oshkosh Police Department on March 12. Officers Jason Konitzer and Kaylee Raabe provided a tour of the department and demonstrated a squad car. The officers also spoke with the Troop about what it means to be a Police Officer. The Daisy Troop had such a great time with the officers!

Out & About



On March 24, Walmart staff delivered a delicious meal, including sandwiches, drinks, dessert, and a cake to say "Thank You" to the police department. Walmart recognized the officers for their work in the community, especially the positive partnership developed with Walmart.

Thank you to Walmart and staff for their generosity and recognition—we greatly appreciated the amazing lunch!



Out & About



School Resource Officers, along with several Officers and K9 Gema held Cocoa With A Cop events at Oshkosh West and Oshkosh North High Schools, Carl Traeger, South Park School, and Perry Tipler Middle Schools. Students enjoyed meeting Gema and spending time with officers. Cocoa With A Cop is such a great way for students and Officers to start their morning – Great conversation and positive connections– “One Cup at a Time!”



Out & About



School Resource Officers, along with several Officers and K9 Gema held Lemonade With The Law events at Perry Tipler and Vel Phillips Middle Schools. K9 Gema enjoyed meeting all the students who stopped by to talk with the officers and have lemonade before starting their day. Great conversation and positive connections– “One Cup at a Time!”



Out & About

K9 Officer Roberto Martinez and Behavioral Health Officer Scott Sopata received a surprise donation from two very generous donors just before Easter. Each of our K9s: Brocca, Kyo, Odin, Fritz and Gema was given a special Easter basket filled with treats and toys! A basket filled with treats and drinks was also given to the officers and staff.

Thank you so much to our donors for their thoughtfulness and kindness!



Out & About



Officers participated in this year's NAMI Oshkosh 5K for Mental Health & Suicide Awareness on May 6, 2025. This event takes place at Oshkosh North High School on the first Saturday of May and includes many activities such as face painting, snacks, drinks, mascots, music, photos and tons of fun! Proceeds from the run help support training for police officers to learn about mental health and how to better serve citizens they encounter in the community.



Out & About



On May 16, Officers participated in the Dunkin Donuts fundraiser for Special Olympics "Cops on a Rooftop" event. Thanks to everyone who stopped by to support such a great cause!



Out & About



POLICE • COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Mark Your Calendar!



This year's National Night Out Block Parties are scheduled from 5:00—7:00 PM or join your neighbors at the Boys and Girls Club of Oshkosh from 5:30—7:00 PM for fun and festivities!

We hope you can join us for another year of friendship and celebration!

OPD Anniversaries

January

Deana Brandl 25 Years
 Jody Salvinski 19 Years
 Matt Ziegler 17 Years
 Brenden Bonnett 16 Years
 Phil Steffens 13 Years
 Dean Smith 9 Years
 Jack Rew 6 Years
 Austin Magedanz 4 Years
 Kayla Johnson 4 Years
 Damita Buss 3 Years
 Reagan Abbey 2 Years
 Taylor Schulze 2 Years

April

Andrew Lecker 23 Years
 Heath Feavel 21 Years
 Chris Romanowicz 20 Years
 Clinton Fettig 16 Years
 Kyle Roberts 14 Years
 Keith Norkofski 11 Years
 MaiNue Khang 9 Years
 Debra Hernandez 1 Year
 DuWayne Schwartz 1 Year
 Robert Askins 1 Year

February

Scott Footit 20 Years
 Mike Hotter 15 Years
 Ryne Scopp 8 Years
 Chi Thao 7 Years
 Ericka Baughman 1 Year

May

Jeremy Krueger 27 Years
 Adam Haberland 22 Years
 Matthew Harris 22 Years
 Tom Kopczyk 17 Years
 Andy Pechacek 17 Years
 Grant Wilson 17 Years
 Rob Kraemer 16 Years
 Matthew Pierce 13 Years
 Joseph Gogo 9 Years
 Angel Nunez 6 Years
 Doni Stenzel 5 Years
 Tyler Vanden Hoogen 4 Years
 Caitlyn Tohak 4 Years
 Andy Baltadano 4 Years
 Austin Wunnicke 4 Years
 Evan Atkinson 4 Years
 Marleigh McQuown 3 Years
 Sam Schuldes 3 Years
 Jacob MacDonald 3 Years
 Ahmed Awadallah 3 Years
 Casey Schrage 2 Years
 Alexis Gutierrez 1 Year
 Garrett Dahms 1 Year
 Zachary Radde 1 Year

March

Ryan Boerner 23 Years
 Miles Bennett 14 Years
 Alex Fowler 10 Years
 Sarah Pauer 9 Years

June

Chee Vang 18 Years
 Brian Denor 18 Years
 Aaron Achterberg 17 Years
 Aaron Roberts 17 Years
 Scott Sopata 13 Years
 Mark Beggs 10 Years
 Mark Richards 10 Years
 Mike Hendrickson 8 Years
 Trevor Manthei 7 Years
 Jacob Rennie 6 Years
 Jason Konitzer 5 Years
 Dellas Vandenberg 5 Years
 Tristan Clare 3 Years

Job Well Done!



Officer Cecelia Krause:

Sergeant Aaron Achterberg received an email of recognition from the Oshkosh Fire Department for Officer Krause's stellar performance on a medical call:

"We were dispatched to the call of an overdose. The scene was dynamic with multiple bystanders and a very distraught patient. OPD did a great job keeping us safe on the scene as well as quickly identifying that this patient needed medical care even against her wishes. OPD, particularly Officer Krause, did an excellent job getting information from the patient while keeping her as calm as possible. Officer Krause took the lead on communicating with the patient and allowed her to attempt to walk, but when she almost fell, the patient was carried to her cot. Officer Krause kept the patient as calm as possible and was empathetic while still ensuring the patient received all care possible and getting the most information possible. I was impressed with Officer Krause's ability to comfort the patient while still remaining adamant about the needs of the situation like medical care and transport. Officer Krause was able to assist in acquiring patient demographics and even was able to provide photos of the scene to the receiving hospital, which significantly aided my description of what was witnessed.

I'm grateful to be working with peers like this and I feel our community is better for it."

~Nick Ruzek
 Firefighter/EMS Shift Coordinator

Officer Chi Thao:

A citizen left a positive message of appreciation on the department's Contact Feedback Form:

"I would like to extend immense gratitude to Officer Chi Thao. He responded to a harassment call for my mom and was extremely respectful, responsive, caring and diligent. He came back to my mother's residence to check in as the events were unfolding. This was a deeply personal and traumatic attack on my mother through graphic text/voice harassment and he couldn't have been any more accommodating and sensitive. We all felt very cared for and he made sure our safety was of utmost importance. He deserves an honor for his duty as a Police Officer as well as his diligence in supporting the mental well-being of us all.

Officer Thao went above and beyond and we are very grateful."

Job Well Done!

Lt. Mark Beggs, Lt. Rob Kraemer, Officers Jacob MacDonald, Jonathan Graminske, Austin Wunnicke, and Trey Johnson:

BHO Officer Scott Sopata received a phone call of thanks for attention given on a medical call:

"Officers,

Today I spoke with a citizen about last night's medical call involving a seizure. He wanted to thank you for your prompt and professional response. His wife is still in the hospital but is doing much better. He was a big supporter of us prior to this call, but said that he is now an even bigger one! He wanted to express his sincere gratitude to everyone on scene and, again, was very thankful for you. He is hoping to come down to the PD in the near future to thank you in person but doesn't know when it will be.

I know that we do not get a lot of closure on medical calls, but please know that your efforts meant the world to them. GREAT WORK!!"

Officer Jason Konitzer:

Lieutenant Matt Ziegler received a call of gratitude from 2 citizens:

"Two citizens who you dealt with yesterday called and wanted me to pass on their gratitude to you. They said you were extremely understanding and a great officer.

Thank you for giving them a positive experience with law enforcement!"



Officers Scott Sopata, Austin Wunnicke, and Damita Buss:

BHO Officer Scott Sopata received a text message from a very grateful citizen:

"Hey Officer Sopata,

It's been a while. I hope you and Officers Wunnicke and Buss are doing well. I wanted to reach out to let you know that I've recovered from the psychotic episode I was experiencing leading up to and throughout my time in Oshkosh. I no longer experience paranoia or any delusions like before. I'm still struggling with depression, which is ultra difficult, but I'm much closer to my old self than I was when you met me. You all were exceptional professionally and so kind to me during that time.

Without your help, my condition would have almost certainly deteriorated further. I think it's quite possible no one else in my life, friends or family, would have intervened or known how to and been able to effectively encourage me to seek and get medical help.

This is all to say, you're all heroes. I'm so grateful that we crossed paths. Thought you all deserved to know what ended up happening to me as a direct result of your intervention. Please pass this message along to Officers Wunnicke and Buss when you can.

Hugs!"

Job Well Done!

Oshkosh Police Department:

Chief Smith received an email of thanks from a citizen:

"Hello Chief Smith:

I wanted to extend my sincere thanks to you and your team for their response to the gunshot call on the 1000 block of Jefferson Street. Many of my neighbors have expressed their gratitude for the police, noting both the timely response and the professionalism of your officers.

One of my neighbors specifically shared how one of your officers had a calming effect on both him and his wife during a particularly tense situation. That level of composure and reassurance makes a real difference in moments like these.

It's never easy when something like this happens just a few doors down from home, but knowing we have such dedicated individuals in our police department makes it a lot easier.

Please let your team know their efforts were noticed!"

Officer Miles Bennett & Oshkosh Police Department:

Chief Smith received a card of thanks from a grateful citizen regarding the death of a loved one:

"Chief :

Would you please pass along our thanks to one of the officers who came to my home to notify us of a death - Officer Miles Bennett and his younger partner whose name I did not get.

The circumstances of this death were sad but not unexpected. I know your officers need to deal with many not so pleasant things in their line of work, but I really want them to know we appreciate all they do.

Stay safe, well and I'll continue to keep all in prayer."



Mission

The mission of the Oshkosh Police Department is to promote public safety and to enhance the quality of life in our community through innovative policing and community partnerships.

Vision

Our vision is to work as a team to accomplish excellence in our service to the community, to achieve employee fulfillment, and to set an example for others to follow.

Values

Professionalism~Integrity~Teamwork~Pride

Follow us on

