



---

### Inside This Issue

---

The Chief's Corner.....	1	OPD Auxiliary .....	39
Administrative Bureau .....	3	OPD "Out & About" .....	40
Patrol Division .....	24	OPD Anniversaries .....	45
Criminal Investigation Division.....	33	Job Well Done! .....	46

# *Oshkosh Police Department* **Newsletter**

CITY OF OSHKOSH  
Volume 1  
June 2024

---

## The Chief's Corner

Hard to believe we are midway through the year and summer is upon us! Several changes have taken place during this first half of the year. I will start by thanking our retired employees for their many dedicated years of service to the department and to our community. Congratulations to our officers who were selected for promotions; we look forward to your leadership and professional development. Welcome to all of our new employees; we are excited for you to be a part of the team!

The department continues to actively engage in training that tests our ability to provide the highest level of safety and security to our community. Our annual Full-Scale Exercise training happened in March through collaboration with Evergreen Retirement Community. We appreciate the opportunity to expand our training with the support of our community partners.

Team Policing plays a vital role in our connection to the community. Officers have been very busy participating in many activities, special events, and youth-sponsored programs. In May, nine officers were recognized for their dedicated service to the "Bigs With Badges" program and in June, School Resource Officers held their 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Youth Leadership Camp. As summer heats up, you will see your officers out and about in the community!

The Oshkosh Police Department is proud to introduce two new K9s to the K9 Unit! Their addition brings our K9 Unit to four teams, increasing our efforts to keep our officers and the community safe and protected.

The Recruitment Team has been in high gear already this year. I'm happy to report that we continue to see the impactful benefits of their efforts to bring new candidates to the department. This team not only mentors our new recruits, but they are also instrumental in the retention of our officers.

I would like to commend the entire Criminal Investigation Division, Patrol Division, along with our Evidence team and Records Department for the exceptional work that has been done to solve several crimes and drug related complaints in the City. This is an incredible display of what working together as a team can accomplish!

It has been a very busy start to the year, but we are ready and looking forward to what's coming in the next half of the year. Thank you to all the hardworking officers and staff of the department – you are what makes OPD great! Enjoy the summer months with family and friends but remember to take good care of yourself and each other.

Stay Safe and Well!

*~Chief Dean Smith*

## ADMINISTRATIVE BUREAU

### *Captain Brian Schuldes*

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 enjoying the warm weather. There is much to report from the Administrative Bureau since the last newsletter with staff turnover, selection processes, and work initiatives.

In January, Assistant Chief Kurt Schoeni retired after 30 years of service and Sergeant Jeff Nelson retired in March after 24 years of service from the Oshkosh Police Department and 5 years of service with the Kenosha Police Department. Finally, Officer Rachel Van Horn retired in May after 24 years of service and School Resource Officer Tracey Grubofski retired in June after 23 years of service. We thank them for their service and we wish them well in their future endeavors.

In February, there were a couple of changes to the Operations Bureau! On February 19, Officer Brenden Bonnett was promoted to the rank of Sergeant, assigned to 2<sup>nd</sup> Shift, and School Resource Officer Heather Brickham was promoted to the rank of Detective.

In March, we hired Kaylee Raabe as a Police Cadet and she began the Recruit Academy training at FVTC in Appleton. In June, we hired Aaron Petkovsek and Alexys Schneider as Police Cadets (both former CSO's for OPD) and they began the Recruit Academy training at FVTC in Appleton.

In May, we had four Cadets graduate from the FVTC Academy and start their Field Training Program as Officers. We welcome Officers Garrett Dahms, Olivia Riley, Jeffrey Pennings and Zachary Radde! Also in May, we hired two graduates from the NWTC Academy in Green Bay and they start the Field Training Program in May as well. We welcome Officers Elizabeth Lozano and Justin Krull.



## ADMINISTRATIVE BUREAU

We wish all of our new hires well and expect big things from them in the future! 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. This began in January with the completion of a Field Training Officer process leading to the additions of Officers Mike Hendrickson, Jacob Schwartz and Jack Rew to the Field Training Officer position. There was a School Resource Officer process also in January that led to the addition of Officer Angel Nunez – Officer Nunez was assigned to Oshkosh West High School. Officers Rasmussen, Vandenberg and Rennie are all on the eligibility list through January 2, 2025. There was a K-9 process in January that led to Officer Jacob Schwartz obtaining the Handler position and he attended K-9 training along with Officer Roberto Martinez (who was appointed to K-9 handler in 2023) in Pennsylvania in March.

In the beginning of January, there was a SWOT Analysis (Strengths/Weaknesses/Opportunities/Threats) of the Field Training Officer Program by a committee made up of FTOs and the FTO Supervisors. Chief Smith met with this committee and three areas were identified to address the SWOT Analysis:

- 1) Revision of Training Manual
- 2) Technology & Equipment Needs
- 3) Training/Incentives

The committee members broke into three groups that were each led by the FTO Supervisor for each shift. Chief Smith gave a deadline for the analysis to be completed by June 1, 2024. On May 21, 2024, committee members gave Chief Smith a demonstration of the new PowerReady software and revamped FTO Program that the FTOs and their officers will be using. This is the first change to the FTO Program in over 30 years!!! A lot of hard work and dedication went into this change so that the FTO Program could be better used for both the FTO and their officers in training. Great work to all those involved with this process!!

## ADMINISTRATIVE BUREAU

# Congratulations!

Congratulations to Captain Matthew Harris who graduated from the 10th Class of the Wisconsin Command College! The Wisconsin Command College is a collaboration between the Wisconsin Department of Justice and the University of Wisconsin - Certified Public Manager Program. This six-week program, over the course of several months, is designed to enhance their command and management abilities. We are so proud of your accomplishment Matt!!





## ADMINISTRATIVE BUREAU



On Friday, January 12, 2024, the Oshkosh Police Department said goodbye to Assistant Chief Kurt Schoeni who retired after proudly serving the Department and the City of Oshkosh for nearly 31 years. Kurt started his career with the Oshkosh Police Department on August 8, 1993. Kurt was promoted to the rank of Sergeant on March 9, 2003, and Lieutenant on March 12, 2007. He was then promoted to Captain on April 7, 2008. During this time in his career, he worked in Uniform Patrol and then as Operations Commander, ensuring that the Department was successful in all that it worked towards. Kurt was instrumental in bringing Team Policing to the Department. He also spent time as the Commander of Administration learning the aspects of the civilian side of the police department. On June 12, 2017, he was promoted to Assistant Chief of Police where he served with honor and integrity for the City of Oshkosh.



Kurt was a sounding board and confidant in his role as Assistant Chief. He served as a leader among leaders, helping to keep the Department on task and doing the things we needed to do as servants of the citizens of Oshkosh.

We want to thank Kurt for his many years of dedicated and exceptional service to the Oshkosh Police Department and to the City of Oshkosh. Congratulations Kurt; we wish you a long, healthy and happy retirement as you begin the next chapter of your life!

## ADMINISTRATIVE BUREAU



The Oshkosh Police Department said goodbye to Sergeant Jeff Nelson who retired after proudly serving the Department and the City of Oshkosh for 24 years! During his tenure with the Department, he performed the duties of a Patrol Officer before being promoted to the rank of Sergeant in July 2007. He served as a Patrol Sergeant, Criminal Investigation Sergeant in 2019 and Vice and Narcotics Unit

Sergeant in 2023 until his retirement in January. Sergeant Nelson served as a member of the Mobile Field Force Team and SWAT Team for 20 years, serving as a Sniper/Observer for nearly 5 years before he left the Team. Jeff also served as an instructor in various training programs within the Department. Throughout his career, he has received numerous letters of recognition, Supervisor Logs, a Medal of Valor Award in 2004, Department Commendation Awards in 2005 and 2020, Supervisor of the Year in 2020, and a Service Award in 2023, for his commendable actions in the line of duty.

We sincerely thank Sergeant Nelson for his exceptional service and dedication to the Oshkosh Police Department and to the City of Oshkosh. Congratulations on your retirement Jeff; we wish you the very best for a happy and healthy retirement!





## ADMINISTRATIVE BUREAU



In May, the Oshkosh Police Department said goodbye to Officer Rachel Van Horn who retired after proudly serving the Department and the City of Oshkosh for 24 years! During her tenure with the Department, she has performed the duties of a Patrol Officer exceptionally well, earning numerous Supervisor's Logs, letters of recognition, a Department Letter of Commendation in 2000 and a Medal of Valor in 2004 for her commendable actions in the line of duty. Officer Van Horn served as a member of the Bicycle Patrol Unit.

We sincerely thank Officer Van Horn for her exceptional service and dedication to the Oshkosh Police Department and to the City of Oshkosh. Congratulations on your retirement Rachel; we wish you the very best for a happy and healthy retirement!



## ADMINISTRATIVE BUREAU



The Oshkosh Police Department said goodbye to Officer Tracey Grubofski who retired after proudly serving the Department and the City of Oshkosh for over 23 years! During her tenure with the Department, she has performed the duties of a Patrol Officer and School Resource Officer. Tracey served the Oshkosh Area School District as a School Resource Officer and D.A.R.E. Officer from 2009 until her retirement. Officer Grubofski served as a Background Investigator and a member of the Mobile Field Force Team. Throughout her career, she has received numerous letters of recognition, Supervisor Logs,

a Letter of Commendation in 2002, a Community Service Award and Officer of the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Award in 2018 and a Community Service Award in 2022 for her commendable actions in the line of duty.

We sincerely thank Officer Grubofski for her exceptional service and dedication to the Oshkosh Police Department and to the City of Oshkosh. Congratulations on your retirement Tracey; we wish you the very best for a happy and healthy retirement!





## ADMINISTRATIVE BUREAU

# Welcome!



On Tuesday, May 21, 2024, during a Police and Fire Commission meeting, the Oshkosh Police Department celebrated the hiring of Police Cadet Garrett Dahms to the position of Patrol Officer. Garrett Dahms joined the Oshkosh Police Department as a Cadet on January 10, 2024. He completed his Wisconsin Law Enforcement Certification on May 17, 2024, through Fox Valley Technical College.

Garrett Dahms is originally from Omro, Wisconsin, graduating from Omro High School in 2020. In June 2020, Garrett enlisted in the United States Army Reserves where he has been actively serving as a Military Police Officer. Garrett Dahms attended Fox Valley Technical College, earning his Associate degree in Criminal Justice in December 2023. Prior to becoming a Police Officer, Garrett was employed by the Oshkosh Police Department as a Community Service Officer.



## ADMINISTRATIVE BUREAU

# Welcome!



On Tuesday, May 21, 2024, during a Police and Fire Commission meeting, the Oshkosh Police Department celebrated the hiring of Police Cadet Jeffrey Pennings to the position of Patrol Officer. Jeffrey Pennings joined the Oshkosh Police Department as a Cadet on January 10, 2024. He completed his Wisconsin Law Enforcement Certification on May 17, 2024, through Fox Valley Technical College.

Jeffrey Pennings is originally from Appleton, Wisconsin, graduating from Neenah's St. Mary's Catholic High School in 2020. Jeffrey Pennings enlisted in the United States Army Reserves where he has been actively serving as a Military Police Officer since January 2021. Jeffrey Pennings attended the University of Wisconsin - Platteville, earning his Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice with a minor in Spanish in December 2023. Prior to becoming a Police Officer, Jeffrey Pennings was employed as a Residence Advisor and Ambassador for the Criminal Justice program while attending college.





## ADMINISTRATIVE BUREAU

# Welcome!



On Tuesday, May 21, 2024, during a Police and Fire Commission meeting, the Oshkosh Police Department celebrated the hiring of Police Cadet Olivia Riley to the position of Patrol Officer. Olivia Riley joined the Oshkosh Police Department as a Cadet on January 10, 2024. She completed her Wisconsin Law Enforcement Certification on May 17, 2024, through Fox Valley Technical College.

Olivia Riley is originally from Franklin, Wisconsin, where she graduated from Franklin High School in 2021. Olivia attended Fox Valley Technical College, earning her Associate degree in Criminal Justice in January 2024. Prior to becoming a Police Officer, Olivia was employed as a Community Service Officer with the Oshkosh Police Department.



## ADMINISTRATIVE BUREAU

# Welcome!



On Tuesday, May 21, 2024, during a Police and Fire Commission meeting, the Oshkosh Police Department celebrated the hiring of Police Cadet Zachary Radde to the position of Patrol Officer. Zachary Radde joined the Oshkosh Police Department as a Cadet on January 10, 2024. He completed his Wisconsin Law Enforcement Certification on May 17, 2024, through Fox Valley Technical College.

Zachary Radde is originally from Downer's Grove, Illinois, graduating from Downer's Grove South High School in 2015. Zachary Radde attended the University of Wisconsin – Oshkosh where he earned his Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice in June 2019. In March 2020, Zachary completed the Jail Officer Training Academy at Fox Valley Technical College. Zachary Radde was previously employed as a Corrections Deputy with the Winnebago County Jail prior to becoming a Police Officer.





## ADMINISTRATIVE BUREAU

# Welcome!



On Tuesday, May 21, 2024, during a Police and Fire Commission meeting, the Oshkosh Police Department celebrated the hiring of Elizabeth Lozano to the position of Patrol Officer. She completed her Wisconsin Law Enforcement Certification on May 14, 2024, through Northeast Wisconsin Technical College.

Elizabeth Lozano is originally from Green Bay, Wisconsin, where she attended Green Bay West High School. Elizabeth Lozano was employed by Guardian Life as an Onboarding Specialist prior to becoming a Police Officer.



## ADMINISTRATIVE BUREAU

# Welcome!



On Tuesday, May 21, 2024, during a Police and Fire Commission meeting, the Oshkosh Police Department celebrated the hiring of Justin Krull to the position of Patrol Officer. He completed his Wisconsin Law Enforcement Certification on May 14, 2024, through Northeast Wisconsin Technical College.

Justin Krull is originally from Nichols, Wisconsin, where he graduated from Seymour Community High School in 2017. Justin attended Fox Valley Technical College, earning an Associate degree in Criminal Justice in December 2022. Prior to becoming a Police Officer, Justin was employed in various service industry jobs.





## ADMINISTRATIVE BUREAU

# Congratulations!

On Tuesday, February 13, 2024, during a Police and Fire Commission meeting, the Oshkosh Police Department celebrated the promotion of Officer Brenden Bonnett to the rank of Sergeant.

Sergeant Brenden Bonnett has been with the Oshkosh Police Department for 15 years beginning on January 19, 2009. During his tenure with the Oshkosh Police Department, he has performed the duties of a Patrol Officer. Officer Bonnett actively serves as a member of the SWAT Team, Drone Team, Bike Patrol Team, Honor Guard Team, is a Field Training Officer, Firearms and Active Shooter Instructor, and a Department Armorer. Throughout his career, he earned a Distinguished Service Medal in 2014, and a Community Service Award in 2016 for his commendable actions in the line of duty.



## ADMINISTRATIVE BUREAU

# Congratulations!

On Tuesday, February 13, 2024, during a Police and Fire Commission meeting, the Oshkosh Police Department celebrated the promotion of Officer Heather Brickham to the position of Detective.

Detective Heather Brickham has been with the Oshkosh Police Department for over 8 years beginning on November 9, 2015. During her tenure with the department, she has performed the duties of a Patrol Officer and School Resource Officer for the past 3 years, most recently assigned to Oshkosh West High School. Detective Brickham actively serves as a Background Investigator, member of the SWAT Team, the Mental Health Resiliency Team, the Child Abduction Recovery Team, and as a DARE instructor. Throughout her career, she earned a Noteworthy Performance of Duty and Team Policing Officer of the Year Award in 2018, a Noteworthy Performance of Duty in 2019, a Community Service Award in 2022, along with letters of commendation from citizens for her commendable actions in the line of duty.



# *Awards 2023*

*The Oshkosh Police Department held their 8th Annual Awards Ceremony on Wednesday, May 15, 2024, at the EAA Aviation Museum – Eagle Hangar. Department employees and citizens were proudly recognized for their exceptional performance, achievements, and service to the Oshkosh community during the 2023 year.*

*Pride Service Honor*





### First Quarter:

**Life Saving Award**—Officer Michael McKeown  
**Department Commendation**—Officer Andrew Knurowski  
**Service Award**—Officer Andrew Pechacek,  
Officer Thomas Kopczyk  
**Officer of the Quarter**—Officer Andrew Knurowski  
**Citizen Award**—Kevin LeClaire, Cory Rosin, Mike Torzala,  
Austin Prudum

### Second Quarter:

**Medal of Valor**—Officer Sarah Pauer  
**Department Commendation**—Officer Jonathan Graminske,  
Officer Andrew Knurowski, Officer Troy Brandl  
**Service Award**—Captain Brian Schuldes, Captain Matthew Harris  
**Officer of the Quarter**—Officer Troy Brandl  
**Noteworthy Performance of Duty**—Sergeant Brett Robertson,  
Detective II Dean Artus, Officer Chi Thao, Officer Evan Atkinson,  
Officer Brayden Ewing, Officer Nickolas Kawleski,  
Officer Benjamin Fenhouse, Officer Grant Wilson, Officer Bradley Fox  
**Citizen Award**—Evan Murray, David Kotula,  
Kristopher Desjardin, Mark Leupold, Brett Rhyner

### Third Quarter:

**Medal of Valor**—Officer Michael McKeown  
**Department Commendation**—Officer Thomas Kopczyk  
**Officer of the Quarter**—Officer Michael McKeown  
**Citizen Award**—Joseph Waterstreet, Joseph Volgmann,  
Gloria Markofski, Andrew McHugh

### Fourth Quarter:

**Lifesaving Award**—Officer Dellas Vandenberg  
**Community Service Award**—Detective Chee Vang  
**Service Award**—Sergeant Jeffrey Nelson  
**Officer of the Quarter**—Detective Chee Vang  
**Noteworthy Performance of Duty**—Sergeant Brett Robertson,  
Detective Joshua Turner, Officer Cody Rukamp,  
Officer Jonathan Graminske, Officer Scott Sopata  
**Citizen Award**—William Welch

### Annual:

**Supervisor of the Year**—Office Manager MaiNue Khang  
**Police Officer of the Year**—Officer Michael McKeown  
**Team Policing Officer of the Year**—Officer Deana Krueger  
**Civilian of the Year**—Records Supervisor Penny Knoll





# PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS DIVISION

*Lieutenant Mike Hotter*

The Oshkosh Police Department is currently in year three (of a 4-year cycle) for CALEA (Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies). We completed the web-based assessment in December 2023 and are currently about 70% complete with providing documented proofs in preparation for our web-based assessment in December. Our on-site assessment is scheduled for August 2025.

We are currently in year three (of a 4-year cycle) for WILEAG (Wisconsin Law Enforcement Accreditation Group), with the next on-site 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.



## OPD Annual Full-Scale Exercise

On March 12, 2024, the Oshkosh Police Department conducted a training of its Incident Command System to include administrative functions, SWAT and crisis negotiations. The police department routinely tests procedures through scenario-based training to assure a high-quality response to emergency situations. The scenario is used to gauge what the department does well and to discover any improvements that can be made. This recent test of our Incident Command System was found to be successful and valuable to those involved. The Oshkosh Police Department would like to thank the Evergreen Retirement Community and staff for their collaboration in conducting this training exercise.





# PATROL DIVISION

## *Captain Matthew Harris*

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.

- Rebecca Kaiser transferred to become the Captain of the Criminal Investigation Division in January.
- Matthew Harris transferred to become the Captain of the Patrol Division in January.
- Brett Robertson transferred to the Vice and Narcotics Sergeant position in February, due to the retirement of Sergeant Jeff Nelson.
- Brenden Bonnett was selected to be promoted to Sergeant in February and was assigned to 2<sup>nd</sup> Shift and had previously been a Patrol Officer.
- Heather Brickham was selected to be promoted to Detective in February and had previously been a School Resource Officer.
- Miguel Nunez was selected to be a School Resource Officer in February and had previously been a Patrol Officer.

Several new Officers started in May. We welcomed 6 new Officers into the field training program after their completion of the law enforcement recruit academy:

- Jeffrey Pennings
- Olivia Riley
- Garrett Dahms
- Zachary Radde
- Elizabeth Lozano
- Justin Krull

## Patrol Division

During the first half of 2024, Patrol Officers remained busy with directed traffic and safety plans, addressing overall quality of life issues, and conducting Team Policing activities in the community.

### 1st Shift

The "Cops and Kids" events took place at numerous kindergartens throughout Oshkosh. Officers engaged in these sessions by reading books in classrooms, distributing literature to children, and addressing their queries about the police profession. Rotational school visits facilitated personal connections and promoted literacy. This initiative significantly enhanced the relationship between officers and young community members, fostering trust and community spirit.

In March, we celebrated the retirement of Officer Rachel Van Horn. Officer Van Horn was hired in March 2000, and served many years with us on First Shift. She was a District 4 officer, and also participated in Bike Patrol. Best wishes to Rachel as she embarks on her next chapter.

Several initiatives were undertaken to improve road safety and reduce traffic violations. The focus was primarily on addressing speeding and ensuring compliance with traffic signals, especially in school zones. Operations involved increased patrols in high-incident areas identified through data analytics, the use of speed monitoring devices.

Looking ahead, we will be getting ready for a busy summer. While you are out and about, please focus on water safety, bicycle safety, and general summer hazards. Additionally, more "Cops and Kids" events will be planned for the next school year, but until then, join us this summer in Menominee Park and South Park as we bring out the Command and Community Outreach Vehicle (CCOV) where you will see officers handing out books and other goodies!



## PATROL DIVISION

### 2nd Shift

Another busy six months of personnel moves on 2<sup>nd</sup> shift. We added Sergeant Brenden Bonnett to our supervisory team, as we said good-bye to Sergeant Brett Robertson. Sergeant Robertson took an assignment with the department's Criminal Investigation Division. Sergeant Bonnett comes to the shift with a high level of experience and training as a firearms instructor and SWAT/Sniper Team member as well as a previous Field Training Officer. We look forward to his leadership on the shift. We have also added Patrol Officers Justin Mitchell and Owen Braatz to the team. Both are in their first year of law enforcement experience and are learning quickly.

In the first six months of the year, we have again focused on the development of officers through outside and inside training opportunities. Officers have completed training and certification in the following disciplines: certified instructor; firearms instructor; Crisis Intervention Techniques; K9 Handler Basic; Basic Intoximeter Testing; FEMA Field Force Operations; Motorcycle Operation Recertification; Investigation of Child Maltreatment; Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement; WLEEDA Conference.

Traffic safety continues to be a point of emphasis on the shift. The afternoon commute sees far too many motorists in a hurry, creating unsafe roadway conditions. Since the beginning of the year, officers have logged over 900 Traffic Safety calls for service during our shift hours of 1 pm to 9 pm. During uncommitted time, officers will generate a "Traffic Safety" call for service in an area known or suspected to be a problem area. The officer will record his/her activities and observations in order to better compile overall data for trend analysis. Traffic safety remains a quality of life issue for many community members, and we are working hard to educate drivers to make our streets and neighborhoods safe for everyone!

---

*Officers Aaron Roberts, Sam Schuldes and Evan Atkinson did Team Policing at the Illest Wisconsin Car Group's Season Opener event at the Leach Amphitheater on Sunday, April 14. They're shown here with a couple little car enthusiasts!*



## PATROL DIVISION

### 3rd Shift

The first half of 2024 has absolutely flown by.

Officers have been very busy with responding to calls for service and proactive patrols. 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 and Officer Kayla Johnson 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.

The first half of the year has also been filled with officers attending training to increase their abilities and improve their service to the community. Several officers attended ARIDE training, which is the next level in impaired driving enforcement, to better detect drivers who are impaired not only by alcohol, but also by controlled substances. Two officers attended Sexual Assault investigation training, and four officers attended Crisis Intervention Team (C.I.T.) training to better respond to those in our community who may be experiencing personal crisis. Two supervisors attended and successfully completed Leadership In Police Organizations (LPO) school, which is the second level of leadership training, to better attend to the needs of the officers. The Oshkosh Police Department prides itself on its highly trained workforce.

Third shift has welcomed two new officers to the shift who successfully completed their Field Training program, Officer Daniel Rucinski and Officer Jonathan Ehley. We also gained a new K9 partner with Officer Jacob Schwartz earning his K9 Kyo and successfully completing their training and certification this spring. We look forward to the great work they will do for our community.

From the Third Shift Crew at OPD, have a Safe and Happy Summer. We will keep the night watch for you!



*Officers are shown receiving Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training on April 16. This awareness training is conducted by NAMI Oshkosh.*





## PATROL DIVISION

# K9 NEWS

The Oshkosh Police Department welcomed 2 additional K9s to the department and training was completed in May. Both K9s are trained in tracking/searching, apprehension, and narcotics (Cocaine/Methamphetamine/MDMA/Heroin).

- Officer Roberto Martinez is paired with K9 Brocca—2nd shift
- Officer Jacob Schwartz is paired with K9 Kyo—3rd shift



## PATROL DIVISION

# Dr ne Team

The Oshkosh Police Department's Drone Team continues to stay busy. As we have gained experience and knowledge in a very fast growing industry, we have applied this to several different calls for service so far in 2024. OPD utilizes our drones for incidents to include: searching for fleeing suspects, drug intelligence surveillance, clearing a residence during a weapons complaint, documenting fatal crash scenes, and monitoring large events for crowd/community safety concerns. In February, the Drone Team took photos and videos of the ice conditions on Lake Winnebago to assist the public in making good decisions for the ice fishing/sturgeon spearing season.

The Oshkosh Police Department also had the opportunity to assist Two Rivers Police Department in a large arial search for a missing child. In this operation, over 50 agencies responded with drones to search a vast area. The use of drones continues to be a vital tool to assist officers in solving crimes, and keeping officers and the community safe!





## PATROL DIVISION

# CSO

2024 is off and running and the Oshkosh Police Department's Community Service Officers are staying busy! The summer events are already beginning and the CSOs are doing a great job helping the Patrol Division with traffic direction and assisting citizens at these events. Some of the significant events that have already taken place, or will be taking place in the near future include: Herd Basketball games, multiple fishing tournaments, Polar Plunge, Festival of Spring, Memorial Day Parade, and numerous 5K events to also include the Oshkosh Half Marathon. Without the hard work from CSOs, these events would not run as smoothly as they do.

I would like to congratulate some of OPD's former CSOs, as several have moved on to become Cadets and will be attending the Police Recruit Academy this summer. This is a huge step and a huge accomplishment as they move forward in their law enforcement careers!



## PATROL DIVISION



The Oshkosh Police Department hosted the year-end "Bigs With Badges" ceremony on Thursday, May 2, 2024. Big Brothers Big Sisters "Bigs With Badges" is a one-to-one mentoring program, connecting youth with law enforcement officers. It helps children see officers in a positive light, helping to build friendships and lasting relationships. "Bigs With Badges" is a wonderful experience for both the children and officers who are willing to spend the time to enrich the lives of the youth in our community. Nine officers were recognized for their dedication to the program: Officers Andy Baltadano, Phil Steffens, Courtney Scoles, Damita Buss, Jacob Rennie, Caitlyn Tohak, Dellas Vandenberg, Sam Schuldes and Kayla Johnson. In addition to the children, their parents, and officers, the ceremony was attended by directors and facilitators from the Big Brothers Big Sisters organization and staff from Jefferson Elementary School.





## PATROL DIVISION

# National Police Week

The Oshkosh Police Department held a Law Enforcement Tribute on Monday, May 13, 2024, in recognition of National Police Week (May 12-18). 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 those officers that died in 2023 in the State of Wisconsin: Peter Jerving, Emily Breidenbach, Hunter Scheel, and Katie Leising.

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



## CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DIVISION

*Captain Becky Kaiser*

The first part of 2024 has proven to be an active one for the Criminal Investigation Division. After returning from his months long training at the FBI National Academy, Lt. Andy Lecker has done an exceptional job guiding the division with their case assignments and monitoring investigations. Under his supervision, the two Sergeants, seven Detectives, three Vice and Narcotics Investigators, five School Resource Officers and the Crime Analyst have been kept very busy.

Notably, January brought in a rash of thefts and attempted thefts of Kia vehicles. Detective Boerner was assigned roughly a dozen cases here at OPD and worked with surrounding agencies with another dozen more that occurred in their jurisdictions. Ultimately, three primary suspects were developed and the investigation led to their arrests, referring 10 cases to the District Attorney's Office and more to follow pending test results from the crime lab. Detective Boerner credits the successes in these investigations to the excellent sharing of information and communication between Patrol and CID. There was a lot of teamwork involved to include dayshift officers processing vehicles for evidentiary value and night shift being tenacious with surveillance and field stops. Furthermore, Crime Analyst Melody Bragdon and Digital Evidence Technician Betsy Fontaine assisted with social media identification and cell phone processing. Property and Evidence Clerks Kris Jahns and Steve Schauz assisted by processing the vast amount of physical evidence submitted and transmitted to the crime lab. Detective Boerner included his appreciation for the Records Division for their patience in dealing with the high volume of open cases to which he was constantly updating and adding new information. In short, this rash of vehicle damage and theft complaints was solved by teamwork that extended to the entire department, and it was a job well done by all!

The following changes occurred to CID personnel since that last newsletter:

- Captain Becky Kaiser transferred from the Administrative Services Bureau to spend her last year in CID where she spent many years during her career.
- Sergeant Jeff Nelson retired after 24+ years with our department. His position as VNU Sergeant was filled by Sergeant Brett Robertson.
- Heather Brickham was promoted to Detective and her position as School Resource Officer at Oshkosh West was filled by Officer Angel Nunez.
- School Resource Officer Tracey Grubofski retired after 23+ years of service, dedicating many years to the children in the Oshkosh Area School District.



# CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DIVISION

## YOUTH LEADERSHIP CAMP

School Resource Officers from the Oshkosh Police Department held their third Youth Leadership Camp from June 17-21, 2024. The Leadership Camp was offered to area youth ages 13-16 years old. The purpose of this camp is to provide life enhancing skills that have a strong emphasis on family and community. Twenty-three youth participated in team building activities/challenges, physical challenges, community service, and listened to guest speakers from within the Oshkosh community. The first day of camp was hosted by Oshkosh Corporation where the students were given a tour of the Oshkosh Defense plant, along with a truck demonstration. Throughout the week, students could be seen volunteering at places such as Wee Wisdom Day Care, the Senior Center, Warming Shelter, Military Veterans Museum, and the Oshkosh Area Community Pantry. Students engaged in physical fitness activities that included a Bulldog Fitness Workout, a SWAT activity/competition, City scavenger hunt, and tested their skills at the Outdoor Adventure Paintball in Fremont. Overall, it was a week filled with opportunities for our youth to expand their knowledge, skills and sense of community.

We want to express our sincere appreciation to 4imprint who generously donated T-shirts for the camp, Bulldog Fitness, LLC who donated the fitness workout, WI Law Enforcement Officers Association for their donation toward food, as well as to all of our community partners who hosted and participated in this year's Youth Leadership Camp. It is our hope that this program continues to grow and enrich the lives of our youth who are the future of the Oshkosh community.



# D.A.R.E.



## Goodbye

And thank you Detective Chee Vang for your years of dedicated service to the DARE program! Detective Vang was a DARE instructor at Emmeline Cook and Jefferson Elementary Schools. He gave his last DARE graduation speech at Jefferson Elementary School on May 23. You will be missed!!





## 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.

In January, Officer Mann attended the Senior Center's Open House and handed out Scams and Frauds information to attendees. Throughout the Spring, Officer Mann presented the "No Time for Crime" and "Yell and Tell" program to 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students, as well as students at Emmeline Cook's Family Night Event.

Officer Mann and OFD Firefighter John Holland went to the Oshkosh Area Community Pantry on several occasions, where they handed out Scams and Frauds information, hygiene items, and fire prevention items.

For the second year, Officer Mann and Officer Scoles attended the Women in Public Safety Event. This event focuses on first responder career exploration for females in high school and college.

In June, Officer Mann conducted Media/Reporter training for new reporters at a news outlet in Green Bay.



## National Human Trafficking Awareness Day



Officer Kate Mann participated in this year's 14th Annual Human Trafficking Awareness Day Rally at the Opera House Square held on January 11, 2024. 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.





# OLD NAVY



## Safety Event

On Saturday, May 11, 2024, Officer Kate Mann partnered with John Holland of the Oshkosh Fire Department to participate in Old Navy's Safety Event. They talked with parents and children about various safety topics and handed out books and several giveaway items.



## 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 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](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.

In May, we celebrated the Unit's 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 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 and were presented service plaques for their years of service.

- **Joe Youngbauer – 55 Years of Service**
- **Marti Hess – 15 Years of Service**
- **Matt Kroening – 5 Years of Service**
- **Brandon Tappa – 5 Years of Service**
- **Marlena Ross – 5 Years of Service**

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

In closing, we look forward to and welcome a busy summer and fall season.





# Out & About

## Dr ne Demo

Sergeant Heath Feavel and Crime Prevention/PAO Officer Kate Mann conducted a drone presentation to members of the Seniors Center in January. He discussed the various ways we use our drones followed by a demonstration. It was so much fun and everyone enjoyed the day!



# Out & About



Officer Jason Konitzer and Officer Dellas Vandenberg gave a local Cub Scout group a tour of the police department. They had a great time and even got their fingerprints taken!



# Out & About

Thank you to a local Girl Scout troop who generously donated boxes of cookies to our officers. We greatly appreciated your kindness, and the cookies were amazing!

## GIRL SCOUTS



Officer Jack Rew and Officer Keith Norkofski are shown with a local Girl Scout troop touring the police department. Everyone had a great time!



# Out & About



Crime Prevention/PAO Officer Kate Mann, Behavioral Health Officer Scott Sopata and Co-Responder Kayla Rodriguez participated in this year's NAMI Oshkosh 5K for Mental Health & Suicide Awareness on May 4, 2024. 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

## CARNIVAL For Kids



On Saturday, June 1, 2024, Father Carr's Place 2B held a Carnival For Kids event from 10A-4P. The family-friendly event featured carnival rides, kids games & challenges, live music, food, drinks, raffle prizes and more! Crime Prevention/PAO Officer Kate Mann, Behavioral Health Officer Scott Sopata, and Firefighter John Holland participated in the event where they handed out items and enjoyed meeting and talking with the families in attendance! Despite the rainy weather, several people turned out to enjoy the day!



## OPD Anniversaries

### January

Kari Pettit	29 Years
Mark Lehman	27 Years
Deana Brandl	24 Years
Tracey Grubofski	22 Years
Brandon Ansell	22 Years
Jody Salvinski	18 Years
Josh Turner	16 Years
Matt Ziegler	16 Years
Brenden Bonnett	15 Years
Phil Steffens	12 Years
Dean Smith	8 Years
Jack Rew	5 Years
Austin Magedanz	3 Years
Kayla Johnson	3 Years
Damita Buss	2 Years

### February

Scott Footit	19 Years
Mike Hotter	14 Years
Ryne Scopp	7 Years
Chi Thao	6 Years

### March

Dean Artus	32 Years
Becky Kaiser	26 Years
Ryan Boerner	22 Years
Miles Bennett	13 Years
Alex Fowler	9 Years
Sarah Pauer	8 Years
Nicole Fisher	7 Years

### May

Derek Sell	28 Years
Jeremy Krueger	26 Years
Adam Haberland	21 Years
Matt Harris	21 Years
Tom Kopczyk	16 Years
Andy Pechacek	16 Years
Grant Wilson	16 Years
Rob Kraemer	15 Years
Matthew Pierce	12 Years
Steve Schauz	12 Years
Joseph Gogo	8 Years
Angel Nunez	5 Years
Doni Stenzel	4 Years

### April

Andrew Lecker	22 Years
Heath Feavel	20 Years
Chris Romanowicz	19 Years
Clinton Fettig	15 Years
Kyle Roberts	13 Years
Keith Norkofski	10 Years
MaiNue Khang	8 Years
Tyler Vanden Hoogen	3 Years
Caitlyn Tohak	3 Years
Andy Baltadano	3 Years
Austin Wunnicke	3 Years
Evan Atkinson	3 Years
Marleigh McQuown	2 Years
Sam Schuldes	2 Years
Jacob MacDonald	2 Years
Ahmed Awadallah	2 Years
Casey Schrage	1 Year

### June

Chee Vang	17 Years
Brian Denor	17 Years
Aaron Achterberg	16 Years
Aaron Roberts	16 Years
Scott Sopata	12 Years
Mark Beggs	9 Years
Mark Richards	9 Years
Mike Hendrickson	7 Years
Trevor Manthei	6 Years
Jacob Rennie	5 Years
Jason Konitzer	4 Years
Dellas Vandenberg	4 Years
Tristan Clare	2 Years



# Job Well Done!



## Oshkosh Police Department:

A citizen called the non-emergency number wanting to say that he is very proud of the police department and that he appreciates the amount of traffic stops we are doing, as he sees at least one person pulled over every day when he goes to work.

He would also like to thank all the officers for protecting all the “rule followers” in the city and that it does not go unnoticed.

Keep doing great things!

## Oshkosh Police Department:

Chief Smith received an email of appreciation from the Community Bike Program:

“Chief,

I wanted to thank you for your continued support of the Community Bike Program. With your help we were able to repair 521 bicycles and 576 bicycles went out the door to clients.

We worked with 19 different agencies including, Winnebago County Human Services, Oshkosh Area School District, FVTC, World Relief, Tiny House Project, Lourdes, St. Vinnies, Boys & Girls Club, YMCA, Salvation Army, Father Carr’s, Oshkosh Kids, Oshkosh Hero’s, Day by Day Warming Shelter, COTS, and Corrections.

Thank you again for your support of the Community Bike Program, as you can see, it helps a wide array of people in Oshkosh.

Thank you.”

~Steve Sagmeister

## Oshkosh Police Department:

Chief Smith received an email of appreciation from a local retail store:

“Dear Dean,

I wanted to reach out and say thank you to you and your officers for being so responsive. It’s been a challenging year for us with theft and I appreciate the efforts your officers put in to stop it. I moved to this area two years ago from Cleveland and Chicago previous to that. The Oshkosh PD has been much more helpful following up on our retail theft cases.

If I or my team can ever help you out, let me know. In the past, some departments have sent us images of local suspects they are looking for. We use a facial recognition program at our doors that is fairly accurate, if this would be of use, let me know.

Thanks.”

~Julian Franzen  
GM

# Job Well Done!



## Lieutenant Rob Kraemer:

Chief Smith received a letter of appreciation from the Green Bay Police Department:

“Chief Smith,

I would like to express our appreciation and gratitude to you and Lieutenant Rob Kraemer for his time as an assessor for our recent Sergeant Assessment Center that was held on February 6-8, 2024. Lt. Kraemer provided top-notch evaluation and dedication to the assessment that will undoubtedly shape our future frontline leadership team for years to come. His insight and experience allowed for effective and focused evaluation of our Sergeant candidates.

I understand that this was a significant amount of time for Lt. Kraemer to be away from his duties at Oshkosh Police Department. I truly appreciate the time and expertise he has given to us. With the help of Lt. Kraemer, I believe that the best and brightest candidates will be selected for the next Sergeant at the Green Bay Police Department.

If at any point in the future you need assistance from us, please feel free to contact me or any member of our leadership team. We appreciate and value the partnership and collaboration between both agencies.

Sincerely,”

~Chris Davis  
Chief of Police

## Oshkosh Police Department:

Chief Smith received a card of thanks from citizens:

“Thank you for your hard work in regards to this spring’s Pub Crawl. There is some comfort in knowing that we can count on you. It is always a stressful time for the few home owners in the campus neighborhood.

Thanks to all of you!”

## Oshkosh Police Department:

Chief Smith received a letter from the Oshkosh Area Humane Society:

“Dear Friends:

The Oshkosh Area Humane Society has received a generous donation in memory of Magic of the K9 Unit.

Thanks to the kindness of our supporters, we are able to continue our work caring for the lost, homeless, sick and injured animals in our community. Together we will make a difference, one animal at a time.

The shelter staff offers their sympathies to all of you.”

Sincerely,

~Ieva Engel  
President





# 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

