

Oshkosh Police Department Newsletter

CITY OF OSHKOSH
Volume 2
December 2023



Inside This Issue

The Chief's Corner.....	1
Administrative Bureau	3
Patrol Division	17
Criminal Investigation Division.....	26
OPD Auxiliary.....	32
OPD "Out & About"	33
OPD Anniversaries.....	42
Job Well Done!	43

The Chief's Corner

Here we are at the close of 2023, and what a year it's been! Because of our recruitment efforts, we once again will finish the year with all of our sworn positions allocated – Outstanding job to our Recruitment Team! Congratulations and thank you to our retired employees for their dedicated service and commitment to the department. Congratulations to our newly promoted Lieutenants and welcome to all of our new employees who have recently joined the OPD Team!

Since the last newsletter, the department remained very active with directed traffic safety and several special events throughout the summer months. Officers could be seen connecting with members of the community at scavenger hunts, Coffee With A Cop, National Night Out, reading to children in the Oshkosh Parks, to name a few.

The School Resource Officers held their 2nd Annual Youth Leadership Camp in August. This year, 22 youth between the ages of 12-15 participated in a week-long leadership/life enhancing camp. It is our hope to continue to offer this opportunity to our area youth.

After 18 years with the current design of our police vehicles, we were excited to launch the brand-new look in November. In addition to the more modern design, the City of Oshkosh was added – something we have never

done in our department's history! This updated look will apply to all new squads coming into the fleet.



December marked the transition of the Command Staff to new leadership positions. The Operations Bureau will consist of Captain Becky Kaiser commanding the Criminal Investigation Division and Captain Matthew Harris commanding the Patrol Division. The Administrative Bureau will be commanded by Captain Brian Schuldes.

In December, our department grieved the loss of our first-ever therapy dog, K9 Magic, due to illness. Our heartfelt condolences went out to Magic's handler, Behavioral Health Officer Scott Sopata and the Mental Health Crisis Specialist Co-Responder Kayla Rodriguez. Although Magic was only with us for a short time, the impact of Magic's service to the department and to the community was significant. On December 12, we honored Magic's memory with a ceremony that was held at the Oshkosh Best Western Premier Hotel.

On December 20, the department successfully completed an online CALEA accreditation evaluation. We are midway in the accreditation process, currently in year 2 of a 4-year CALEA Accreditation assessment.

With the Christmas season upon us, we were once again able to participate in the Lights of Christmas campaign, Shop With A Cop event, and Santa's Workshop. These programs are generously funded through businesses and citizens in the community. We are able to provide: gift cards to those in need, gifts to families and children, and offer heartwarming experiences to youth who shop for themselves and members of their family. My heartfelt thank you goes out to our donors and to the officers who work together to make Christmas a little merrier for others!

Thank you to everyone for the amazing work being done every day throughout the year! It was a great 2023, but I look forward to an even better 2024!!

Enjoy spending quality time with family and friends during the holidays!

~Chief Dean Smith

ADMINISTRATIVE BUREAU

Captain Brian Schuldes

As we reach another year's end, it is exciting to report that we are once again ending the year on a positive note with our sworn officers being fully staffed and over-hired by one. With that being said, there's no dropping the ball, because there is a lot of field training yet to take place and a handful of potential retirements expected to impact us in 2024.

This year, I'd like to draw attention to a few groups of people that keep this place afloat, make a difference and help to insure we are fully staffed, well-trained and responsive to the community; the Recruitment Team, our Field Training Officers and our Records Division.

Shout out to the Recruitment Team for their attendance at over 20 career fairs and hiring events in the last year! In addition, they have provided mentorship and guidance to each candidate that has entered our hiring process, over 60 applicants, making contact, answering questions and conducting ride-alongs.

Co-coordinators: Sgt. Brett Robertson and PAO Kate Mann

Members: Jason Konitzer, Dellas Vandenberg, Cody Rukamp, Adam Poepping, Courtney Scoles, Austin Magadanz, Austin Wunnicke, and Evan Atkinson.

Kudos to our FTOs—We had 11 new hires this year! Proper training takes time, energy and patience. Not just everyone has extra amounts to give. Field Training is a long and arduous process that lasts over 16 weeks for each new officer. We appreciate all you do to ensure our new officers have the best training! Special thanks to FTEP coordinator, Professional Development Sergeant Brandon Ansell, for coordinating all of these busy schedules. We are looking for a few more good men and women to be FTOs; please consider putting in for this very valued position.

FTOs: Miles Bennett, Brendan Bonnett, Tom Kopczyk, Andy Pechacek, Grant Wilson, Trey Johnson, Keith Norkofski, Cody Rukamp, Ben Phillips, Ryne Scopp, Sara Pauer, Ben Fenhouse, Zack Wilkens, Tyler Mentink, and Nick Kawleski.

Cheers to the Records Division! We already know they are the backbone of our department by typing all police reports, reviewing for quality control and preparing for court in a timely manner. Over the last few years, they have seen a drastic increase in open records requests, not to mention more than one unhappy customer. Below are some statistics on the open records requests thus far this year and in comparison, to previous years. These numbers are amazing and represent our outstanding staff that has worked tirelessly this 2023, overcoming multiple vacancies throughout the year.

Open Records Requests Tracking:

Requests Received	2021	2022	2023
January	391	648	862
February	421	626	715
March	532	613	797
April	844	944	1010
May	578	596	978
June	707	884	1025
July	582	655	848
August	689	789	911
September	746	722	830
October	618	664	839
November	639	666	735
December	639	787	229
Total	7386	8594	9779
Avg per month	616	716	861

Requests Received = 9,779
Average requests received per day = 42
Requests completed = 9,738
(99.6% Completed)

Merry Christmas to
EVERYONE and Happiest of New
Year's 2024!!!!

Recruitment Team News

With hiring in full swing the second half of the year, the Recruitment Team stepped up to meet the challenge! The Team attended a variety of recruitment events at Fox Valley Technical College to include: Community Service Officer Orientation Day, presentations to the Recruitment Academy class, and conducting mock interviews. They even got creative and attended a Saturday Oshkosh Farmer's Market in August. In October, they participated in the Pointters Career Fair event for diverse high school students, as well as the Criminal Justice Exploration Day at Moraine Park Technical College in Fond du Lac.

In addition to local events, the Team traveled to Western Technical College in La Crosse, WI; the University of Northern Iowa located in Cedar Falls; Iowa State University located in Ames; and Northern Michigan University in Marquette, MI.

The efforts of the Recruitment Team have been very successful and they continue to not only recruit candidates, but also mentor them through the process.



ADMINISTRATIVE BUREAU



The Oshkosh Police Department celebrated the retirement of Susan Miller on August 24. Sue proudly served the Oshkosh Police Department for nearly 15 years beginning on October 8, 2008. Susan began her career as a Telecommunications Clerk, transitioned to a Records Clerk and most recently served for the past two years as the Administrative Secretary to the Captains. During her tenure with the Department, Sue earned the Civilian of the Year Award in 2016, a Noteworthy Performance of Duty Award in 2018, as well as Supervisor's Logs and citizen commendations for her positive attitude and work performance.

Thank you for your dedicated service to the Oshkosh Police Department and to the City of Oshkosh. Congratulations Sue; we wish you the very best for a happy and healthy retirement!



ADMINISTRATIVE BUREAU



The Oshkosh Police Department said goodbye to Nancy Otradovec on August 30. Nancy proudly served the Oshkosh Police Department for over 18 years beginning on May 2, 2005. Nancy performed the duty of Report Processor exceptionally well throughout her career with the Department, providing coverage when needed and maintaining a "can do" spirit through many system transitions.

Thank you for your dedicated service to the Oshkosh Police Department and to the City of Oshkosh. Congratulation Nancy; we wish you the very best for a happy and healthy retirement!

ADMINISTRATIVE BUREAU



On Monday, October 2, 2023, the Oshkosh Police Department said goodbye to Officer Ed Skeels who retired after proudly serving the Department and the City of Oshkosh for 26 years. During his tenure with the department, he performed the duties of a Patrol Officer exceptionally well, earning numerous letters of recognition from citizens and Supervisor's Logs for his commendable actions in the line of duty. Throughout his career, Officer Skeels served as a Background Investigator, a member of the Bike Patrol Team as well as the Crash Investigation Team where he also served as a Crash Reconstruction Expert.

We sincerely thank Officer Skeels for his outstanding service and dedication to the Oshkosh Police Department and to the City of Oshkosh. Congratulations on your retirement Ed; we wish you the very best for a happy and healthy retirement!



ADMINISTRATIVE BUREAU

Congratulations!

On Tuesday, July 11, 2023, during a Police and Fire Commission meeting, the Oshkosh Police Department celebrated the promotions of Sergeant Robert Kraemer and Sergeant Mark Beggs to the position of Lieutenant. Lieutenant Robert Kraemer will supervise 2nd shift Patrol and Lieutenant Mark Beggs will supervise 3rd shift Patrol.



Lieutenant Rob Kraemer has been with the Oshkosh Police Department for over 14 years beginning on May 10, 2009. Lieutenant Kraemer has served as an active member of the United States Army Reserves since 2004. He currently holds the rank of Major and has been selected for a promotion to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. During his tenure with the department, he has performed the duties of Patrol Officer and Patrol Sergeant. Lieutenant Kraemer currently serves as a member of the Honor Guard Team and the Crash Investigation Team. He previously served as a Field Training Officer. Throughout his career, he earned a Medal of Valor Award in 2016, along with numerous citizen letters and Supervisor's Logs recognizing him for his commendable actions in the line of duty.

Lieutenant Mark Beggs has been with the Oshkosh Police Department for 8 years beginning on June 8, 2015. During his tenure with the department, he performed the duties of Patrol Officer and Patrol Sergeant. Lieutenant Beggs actively serves on the Bike Patrol Unit. Throughout his career, he earned a Noteworthy Performance of Duty Award in 2017, a Lifesaving Award and Police Officer of the Quarter Award in 2018, as well as citizen commendations for his commendable actions in the line of duty.



ADMINISTRATIVE BUREAU

Welcome!



On Tuesday, October 24, 2023, during a Police and Fire Commission meeting, the Oshkosh Police Department celebrated the hiring of Police Cadet Daniel Rucinski to the position of Patrol Officer. Daniel Rucinski joined the Oshkosh Police Department as a Cadet on June 5, 2023. He completed his Wisconsin Law Enforcement Certification on October 13, 2023, through Fox Valley Technical College.

Daniel Rucinski is originally from Oshkosh, Wisconsin. He earned his Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice in May 2023 from the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh. Prior to becoming a Police Officer, Daniel was employed by a moving company in Milwaukee and completed an internship with the Mequon Police Department.



ADMINISTRATIVE BUREAU

Welcome!



On Tuesday, October 24, 2023, during a Police and Fire Commission meeting, the Oshkosh Police Department celebrated the hiring of Police Cadet Maggie Steele to the position of Patrol Officer. Maggie Steele joined the Oshkosh Police Department as a Cadet on June 5, 2023. She completed her Wisconsin Law Enforcement Certification on October 13, 2023, through Fox Valley Technical College.

Maggie Steele is originally from Appleton, Wisconsin. In April 2019, Maggie enlisted in the Army National Guard where she continues to actively serve as a Military Police Officer. She earned an Associate degree in Criminal Justice in December 2022 from Fox Valley Technical College. Prior to becoming a Police Officer, Maggie was employed by Fox Valley Technical College as a Security Officer.



ADMINISTRATIVE BUREAU

Welcome!



On Tuesday, October 24, 2023, during a Police and Fire Commission meeting, the Oshkosh Police Department celebrated the hiring of Police Cadet Jonathan Ehley to the position of Patrol Officer. Jonathan Ehley joined the Oshkosh Police Department as a Cadet on June 5, 2023. He completed his Wisconsin Law Enforcement Certification on October 13, 2023, through Fox Valley Technical College.

Jonathan Ehley is originally from Horicon, Wisconsin. Jonathan served in the United States Marine Corps from 2018 -2022, serving primarily in Okinawa, Japan. Jonathan completed the Fox Valley Technical College Jail Academy in November 2022. Prior to becoming a Police Officer, Jonathan worked as a Correctional Officer with the Washington County Sheriff's Office.



ADMINISTRATIVE BUREAU

Welcome!



On Tuesday, November 21, 2023, during a Police and Fire Commission meeting, the Oshkosh Police Department celebrated the hiring of Police Cadet Justin Mitchell to the position of Patrol Officer. Justin Mitchell joined the Oshkosh Police Department as a Cadet on June 29, 2023. He completed his Wisconsin Law Enforcement Certification on November 9, 2023, through Northeast Wisconsin Technical College.

Justin Mitchell is originally from Wauconda, Illinois. In 2021, Justin enlisted in the Army National Guard where he actively serves as an Indirect Fire Infantryman. Justin last attended the University of Wisconsin—Oshkosh and continues to work toward completion of his Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice. Prior to becoming a Police Officer, Justin worked as an Asset Protection Investigator for Walmart in Oshkosh.



ADMINISTRATIVE BUREAU

Welcome!



On Wednesday, December 20, 2023, during a Police and Fire Commission meeting, the Oshkosh Police Department celebrated the hiring of Police Cadet Owen Braatz to the position of Patrol Officer. Owen Braatz joined the Oshkosh Police Department as a Cadet on August 7, 2023. He completed his Wisconsin Law Enforcement Certification on December 15, 2023, through Fox Valley Technical College.

Owen Braatz is originally from Oshkosh, Wisconsin. In May 2023, Owen graduated from Fox Valley Technical College with an Associate degree in Criminal Justice. Prior to becoming a Police Officer, Owen worked as a Community Service Officer with the Oshkosh Police Department.



ADMINISTRATIVE BUREAU

Welcome!



On Wednesday, December 20, 2023, during a Police and Fire Commission meeting, the Oshkosh Police Department celebrated the hiring of Police Cadet Jason Rose to the position of Patrol Officer. Jason Rose joined the Oshkosh Police Department as a Cadet on August 7, 2023. He completed his Wisconsin Law Enforcement Certification on December 15, 2023, through Fox Valley Technical College.

Jason Rose is originally from Jackson, Wisconsin. In May 2023, Jason graduated from the University of Wisconsin—Platteville with a Bachelor's degree in Forensic Investigation. Prior to becoming a Police Officer, Jason was employed by Pick 'N Save.



ADMINISTRATIVE BUREAU

Welcome!



On Wednesday, December 20, 2023, during a Police and Fire Commission meeting, the Oshkosh Police Department celebrated the hiring of Police Officer Sara Harring-Spoerl. She completed her Wisconsin Law Enforcement Certification on December 7, 2023, through Waukesha County Technical College.

Sara is originally from Muskego, Wisconsin. In January 2021, Sara graduated from the University of Wisconsin—Oshkosh with a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice. Prior to becoming a Police Officer, Sara worked as a Parking Control Officer with the Oshkosh Police Department.



PATROL DIVISION

Captain Matt Harris

The Operations Bureau is comprised of the Criminal Investigations Division and the Patrol Division. This accounts for approximately 95% of our 106 law enforcement officers at the Oshkosh Police Department. 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.

Over the summer and fall, I hope you have noticed the District Newsletters that have gone out, updating our neighbors of what is happening in the district they live in. The newsletters continue to go out on a quarterly basis, and if you would like to subscribe to your district newsletter, please go to this link <https://www.oshkoshpd.com/TeamPolicing/Default.aspx> and sign up at the bottom of the page.

As we approach the start of winter, there was a change to the Oshkosh Police Department Patrol Division! Captain Harris moved to the Captain of the Patrol Division while Captain Schuldes moved to the Administrative Bureau.

In honor of the passing of K9 Magic on November 25, 2023, the Oshkosh Police Department held a memorial service on Tuesday December 12, 2023, at the Best Western Premier Waterfront Hotel. The service was well attended by the department, the public and several service K9 handlers from Journey Together who came to show their support. We want to extend our sincere appreciation to the medical staff at Animal Hospital of Oshkosh and Blue Pearl Pet Hospital who assisted with the care of Magic. We are also grateful for the incredible support we have received for Officer Scott Sopata, Kayla Rodriguez and the entire Oshkosh Police Department. K9 Magic will be greatly missed by everyone in our department!



In Memory of K9 Magic



2020 – 2023

The Oshkosh Police Department is saddened by the passing of Oshkosh Police K9 Magic. K9 Magic became unexpectedly ill on November 25 and it was discovered that she had cancer surrounding her heart and other organs. Medical staff determined that there was nothing further that could be done to help Magic recover.

K9 Magic (Golden Retriever) was almost 4 years old and was acquired by the Oshkosh Police Department in March 2022 from Journey Together. Magic was the department's therapy dog and she helped provide emotional support to both members of our community and Officers. She worked with our Behavioral Health Officer, Scott Sopata, and the Mental Health Crisis Specialist Co-Responder, Kayla Rodriguez. They respond to behavioral health related calls, highly sensitive/emotional calls for service, as well as being used to support employees of the Oshkosh Police Department after Critical Incidents. Magic had 364 deployments during her 20 months of service with the department.

Magic was such a kind and happy dog. Aside from the calls for service that Magic was a part of, she was often seen out and about in the community, spreading warmth and calming those in need. Magic made a significant impact on the department and on the community during her tenure. She will never be forgotten and will be forever in our hearts. Magic was truly one of a kind and the first of her kind in our community.

Always in our thoughts, Forever in our hearts

PATROL DIVISION

Patrol Division

1st Shift



This fall, we said goodbye to an employee who has been on day shift longer than many of us have worked here. During his career, Officer Ed Skeels was a Field Training Officer and a member of the department's Crash Team, and those are just a couple of his accomplishments. Ed's last day was October 2nd. The shift sent him off with a fresh pair of white New Balance walking shoes. Enjoy retirement, we'll see you around!

Officers could be seen spending time out in the community. They are shown enjoying a coffee break at Aspire Senior

Living. The Oshkosh Fire Department was invited to join us as well. Officer Kawleski is shown reading to



a group of students at a local Kindergarten. Officers participate in a program called Cops and Kids. This is a partnership with OPD and the Oshkosh Kiwanis Club. The Kiwanis Club supplies books to promote literacy to small children and our officers get to pass these books out in the classroom. Sometimes the officers will even get to read to the children and answer whatever questions they might have for us.



Recently in Roll Call, officers participated in "Minute to Win It" games. These were organized by members of the Mental Health and Wellness Committee. Here we see Officer Johannes and Officer Lehman competing to stack as many pennies as they could in a minute, and a good time was had by all!



From the First Shift crew at OPD, we hope you enjoy the holidays and have a happy and safe 2024!

PATROL DIVISION

2nd Shift

With recent staffing changes to the shift since the previous newsletter, we have welcomed Officers Jacob Rennie and Ahmed Awadallah to the shift, as well as Sergeant Brett Robertson. In July, Lieutenant Rob Kraemer was promoted from one of the 2nd shift Sergeant positions to the shift Lieutenant with the departure of Lieutenant Hotter to the Professional Standards Division. The shift will miss Lieutenant Hotter and are thankful for his leadership and guidance over the past couple of years.

Officers have been active with training to enhance their knowledge and ability to perform their duties. We recently had officers complete the following training events and courses: Crisis Intervention Training; Less Lethal Projectile Launcher; Taser Instructor; De-Escalation Instructor; Smith and Wesson Handgun Armorer; K9 Decoy; WI DOJ Leadership in Police Organizations; Instructor Development Certification; Pepper Ball Launcher/Armorer; ALERRT Civilian-Response-to-Active-Shooter-Events (CRASE); and “SWAT for Patrol.”

Within the community of Oshkosh, officers have partnered with Big Brothers Big Sisters of East Central Wisconsin to create, “Bigs with Badges”. This partnership focuses on building a bridge of understanding between youth facing adversity and local law enforcement officers. They have continued their partnership with the Kiwanis club, reading with local youth at the Boys and Girls Club, and participated in a number of “Trunk or Treat” events within the community.

On Patrol, Officers on 2nd shift are busy with handling calls for service as well as proactive enforcement, and engagement with community businesses and citizens to deter and solve crime in our community. The shift handles the highest percentage of calls for service for the department, and engages in a number of community events and activities in the afternoon and evening hours.

Bigs with Badges



Kiwanis Reading Program in the Parks



PATROL DIVISION

3rd Shift

The second half of 2023 is coming to a close and has been very eventful on 3rd Shift.

We welcomed Officer Casey Schrage and Officer Reagan Abby to the third shift roster, as they successfully completed their FTEP training, while at the same time, sending another officer off to his new position as a VNU Investigator. Officer Kayla Johnson also transitioned to third shift. Best wishes to everyone in their new positions.

Third shift officers have continued to work diligently to combat underage persons getting into local alcohol establishments. These ongoing efforts have resulted in numerous underage drinking citations, citations for fake ID's, and citations issued to servers for serving underage persons. Officers will continue to partner with these establishments to monitor underage activities.

Third shift had several officers who received Department awards throughout 2023 for their commendable actions in the line of duty. Officers Sarah Pauer and Michael McKeown were awarded Medal of Valor Awards, Officer Jonathan Graminske was awarded a Department Commendation, and Officers Chi Thao, Even Atkinson, and Brayden Ewing received Noteworthy Performance of Duty Awards. Congratulations to award recipients—Keep up the great work!!

Officer Jonathan Graminske successfully completed his probation period and received his numbered badge, Congratulations Jon.

Officer Magedanz recently welcomed a new baby girl to his family and is currently enjoying some family time.

The Officers of Third Shift are keeping the Night Watch and looking forward to the upcoming opportunities of the New Year!

PATROL DIVISION

Drone Team

The Oshkosh Police Department’s Drone Team continues to grow and learn in an extremely fast-growing industry. The team has gotten training and flight time with the recently purchased DJI M30T and the Avata drones and are now able to take advantage of the capabilities of both. The team has also worked through regulation changes made by the FAA. Members of the Drone Team continually monitor the current regulations and laws to ensure that we are compliant and safe in all of our flights.

Since July 2023, the Oshkosh Police Department Drone Team has been utilized approximately 7 times. The purpose of each mission often determines which drone is used, as each have different capabilities. The team continues to assist with pre-operational surveillance for high-risk situations, documenting crime/crash scenes, and searching for missing/suicidal individuals. The use of drones has also been incorporated in security and overwatch at community events and parades. The Drone Team was deployed for the 4th of July Parade as well as the Memorial Day Procession. The information gathered from the drones is very valuable to assess crowds and any potential threats to the community.



PATROL DIVISION



On Wednesday, July 19, 2023, the Oshkosh Police Department held their Coffee With A Cop event hosted by Caramel Crisp from 11:00A – 1:00P. Participating in the event were members of the Command Staff, Patrol Division, SWAT Team, Special Operations, Criminal Investigation Division, Co-Responder Kayla Rodriguez, and Officer Scott Sopata and K9 Magic. K9 Magic enjoyed a “pup” cone and made friends with the citizens who stopped by to have coffee and chat with officers. The turnout was great and officers had an opportunity to connect with several members of the community.

The Oshkosh Police Department extends our sincere appreciation to Caramel Crisp and staff for hosting our event. Coffee With A Cop gives us a chance to build better relationships with our community “One Cup At A Time!”



PATROL DIVISION

RUN WITH THE COPS 2023

Oshkosh Police Sergeant Adam Haberland, Officers Keith Norkofski, Craig Johannes, Community Service Officers Olivia Riley, Gabriella Schmidt, and Alexys Schneider and Oshkosh Auxiliary Police were among several local law enforcement agencies participating in the Special Olympics Run With the Cops event on Thursday, September 21, 2023, in Oshkosh. Several citizens and families turned out to support Special Olympics, participating in a unique one-of-a-kind 5K Glow Run/Walk, which even included a special run for kids, the Kids and Cops Donut Eating Contest and an interactive law enforcement vehicle expo. Participants enjoyed an event-filled night of activities during the 2023 Special Olympics Run With the Cops!



PATROL DIVISION



Mental Health & Wellness News!

For the Second half of 2023, Lt. Mark Beggs was appointed to the head of the Wellness Committee concurrent with his promotion to Lieutenant in June.

On August 21, 2023, an organization called Gabriel's Wings Foundation, Inc from Ripon, held their 4th annual golf outing at the Oshkosh County Club. The organization presented the Oshkosh Police Department's Wellness Committee with a donation, specifically to be used to help officers after a

Gabriel's Wings



critical stress incident. Lt. Beggs attended the reception of this event and accepted the donation on behalf of the Wellness Committee. Gabriel's Wings wanted to express their gratitude for the assistance that Oshkosh Police has provided to other agencies in starting up their own wellness committees and expressed that we are a front-runner in Mental Health Care and consideration for our department members.

The Wellness Committee held the annual Wellness Committee Picnic for Officers and their families on September 21, 2023, at Abe Rochlin Park in the City of Oshkosh. There was a bounce house for the kids, multiple sets of Cornhole boards for everyone, lots of delicious food and soft drinks. Many thanks to the community donors who helped make this family event possible! The picnic was well attended and we look forward to the next one!

The Wellness Committee held a round of morale boosting Roll Call games from November 13-22, 2023, in which a quick game was held for approximately 5 minutes at the beginning of each Roll Call for 10 days, in order to avail attendance to as many Department members as possible. Participation was great and we had tons of fun playing the games!

The Wellness Committee also held a Critical Incident Stress Debriefing on October 10, 2023. The Department Mental Health Counselor Sarah Danahy was present at the debrief and is available to Officers at no cost to them through funding by the Wellness Committee. These activities are focused on tending to the mental health and wellness of anyone who is involved in or affected by a critical incident.

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DIVISION

Captain Becky Kaiser

The Detectives, School Resource Officers, and Vice and Narcotics Unit (VNU) Investigators have all been active with a variety of case investigations. These investigations include: drugs, burglaries, robberies, sexual assaults, homicides, frauds, and internet crimes against children (ICAC). Many of these cases have been solved and charges referred to the District Attorney's Office.

Here are two examples of the outstanding work the VNU does in their fight against drugs to keep our community safe:

- In August of this year, a major case investigated by VNU resulted in the arrest of a two male suspects. One male was arrested for 3 counts of Manufacture/Delivery of Cocaine and one male was arrested for Manufacture/Delivery of Cocaine. Seized in the investigation were 126.2 grams of heroin/fentanyl, 161.1 grams of cocaine, 25.4 grams of marijuana, drug delivery paraphernalia, and 3 firearms.
- In October of this year, a major case investigated by VNU resulted in the arrest of a male suspect and a female suspect. The male was arrested for 3 counts of Manufacture/Delivery of Cocaine and the female was arrested for Manufacture/Delivery of Cocaine and Maintaining a Drug Trafficking Place. Seized in the investigation were 197 grams of cocaine, 234.4 grams of marijuana, and 2 firearms. Numerous children also lived at the residence and their welfare was evaluated by Child Protective Services.

During the second half of the year, CID welcomed the following changes:

- A new School Resource Officer in August. Officer Matthew Steinert was selected to be the new SRO at Oshkosh North High School.
- A new VNU Investigator was added in November.
- A new Crime Analyst was hired in October and Melody Bragdon filled that position.
- A new Digital Evidence Technician was hired in November and Elizabeth Fontaine filled that position.

We are looking ahead to 2024 with more changes coming, as there are plans to fill open positions within the Division.

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DIVISION

Congratulations!



The Oshkosh Police Department is pleased to announce the graduation of Lieutenant Andrew Lecker from the 288th session of the FBI National Academy. The FBI National Academy is internationally recognized as one of the most prestigious law enforcement training programs in the world. The 11-week program offers rigorous training and educational programs that shape exceptional police leaders. The 288th session of the National Academy consisted of law enforcement leaders from 45 states and 24 countries and provided advanced coursework in intelligence theory, terrorism and terrorist mindsets, management science, law, behavioral science, law enforcement communication, and forensic science.

It is worth noting that less than one percent of Policer's Officers have the opportunity to attend the National Academy and the program is culminated by the "Yellow Brick Road," a grueling 6.1-mile run and obstacle course. After completion of the course, participants receive a yellow brick with their session number commemorating the achievement.

Lieutenant Lecker's successful completion of this program is a significant milestone in his career, and we couldn't be prouder of his outstanding achievements!



CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DIVISION

Youth Leadership Camp



School Resource Officers from the Oshkosh Police Department held their second Youth Leadership Camp from August 7-11, 2023. The Leadership Camp was offered to area youth ages 12-15 years old. The purpose of this camp is to provide life enhancing skills that have a strong emphasis on family and community. Twenty-two 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, COTS men's shelter, City parks, and the Oshkosh Area Community Pantry. Students engaged in physical fitness activities that included a ropes course at FVTC, Bulldog Fitness Workout, a City scavenger hunt, and tested their skills at the Escape Room. 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, 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 – the future – of the Oshkosh community.



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.

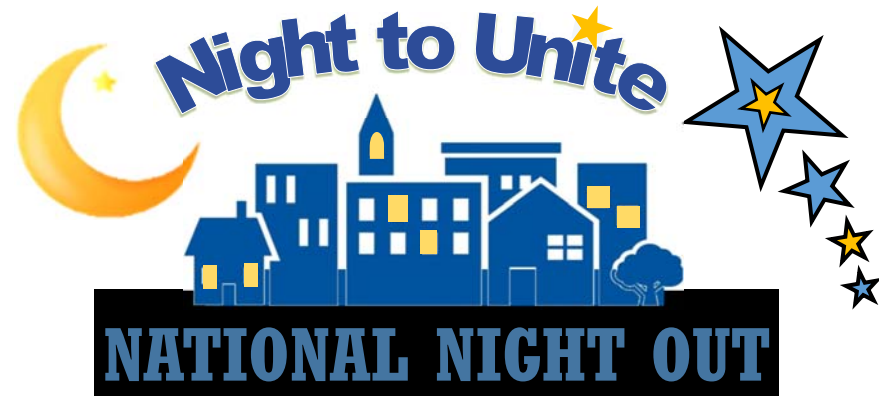
It's been a busy year for Crime Prevention. Unfortunately, scams and frauds are still occurring throughout the nation. The Oshkosh Police Department strives to stay current on the crime trends and educates citizens about what to look for and how to avoid scams. Education is provided through social media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



In July, Officer Mann attended the Wisconsin Resource Center's Health Fair and handed out information about Identity Theft and Scams/Frauds. Seniors received training in August when Officer Mann presented on Scams/Frauds at the Senior Center and at Bella Vista. In September, Officer Mann attended the Health and Wellness Fair at City Hall in which she handed out information about Identity Theft and Scams/Frauds. Members of the Health Care Credit Union received training about the newest Scams and Frauds in November. Officer Mann did an on-camera interview with WFRV about a scam involving a text message from scammers pretending to be USPS.

We are continuing to see graffiti being reported throughout the City. Officer Mann is currently working on new crime prevention initiatives to address this issue. Keeping our City safe and crime free remains a priority of the Crime Prevention Officer!

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DIVISION



National Night Out was held on Tuesday, August 1, 2023. Organizers from 17 neighborhoods hosted block parties with activities, food and friendship in celebration of National Night Out. National Night Out is held on the first Tuesday of every August and brings neighbors together with law enforcement to promote positive police/community partnerships in an effort to make our neighborhoods safer places to live. Several members of the Oshkosh Police Department and Oshkosh Auxiliary Police visited with neighbors throughout the evening. Our specialty teams – SWAT, K9 Unit, Motorcycle Unit, Bike Patrol, Drone, Behavioral Health Officer Sopata and K9 Magic, and our Command and Community Outreach Vehicle (CCOV) provided demonstrations for participants. Public Affairs/Crime Prevention Officer Kate Mann handed out “swag” bags, books from the Reach A Child program, along with stuffed animals donated from Pet Smart!

We want to thank all of the event organizers and neighbors who worked so hard to make this National Night Out such a success, and we look forward to seeing everyone at next year’s event on Tuesday, August 6, 2024!!



CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DIVISION



2023 Citizen's Police Academy

Tuesday, September 19, 2023, was the official kickoff to the 2023 Citizen's Police Academy that ran from September 19 – November 7. Sixteen members of the community participated in the academy this year where they learned about the policies, procedures and personnel of the Oshkosh Police Department. They gained hands-on experience in topics such as: K9 Unit, Investigations, Drug Information and Human Trafficking, Drone, Behavioral Health Officer and K9 Magic, Project Lifesaver, Apex Officer Virtual Reality Simulator, SWAT, DAAT, Personal Safety, Crisis Negotiations, and the Oshkosh Auxiliary. A highlight of the academy is the ride along with an officer, which gives them an up close and personal look at the life of an officer on the job. The Citizen's Police Academy helps build a stronger relationship between the Oshkosh Police Department and the citizens we serve!





AUXILIARY POLICE

Chief Scott Footit



As winter is now upon us, the Auxiliary Police slowly begins to wind down its 64th year of service to the City of Oshkosh and the Police Department.

Dedicated Auxiliary members worked a number of details throughout the later part of summer and into the fall/winter months. From EAA's AirVenture, to numerous 5K runs, many Trick or Treat events, and events at the Menominee Nation Arena, just to name a few. Our members volunteered their time to help all of these events run in a smooth and safe manner.

Our members take great pride in assisting with all of these events held in Oshkosh. It is really something to sit back and look at all of the activities that go on within our city. The types of events that occur within our city are so special and we're very happy to be one small piece of what makes them all successful.

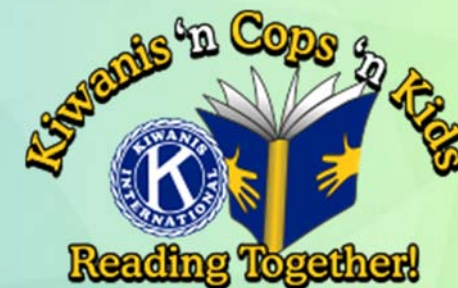
We continued our focus on speed awareness, deploying our 3 speed radar trailers throughout the City. We focus on school zones as well as troubled areas of the city. We rely on citizen input to help us identify areas of concern and then focus our trailers in those areas. A special **Thank You** to our deployment team led by Matt Kirby, Gerry Kargus, Ron O'Bright, and Jim Basler.

Recruiting: This is our number one priority! If you or anyone you know are looking for a way to give back to the community, we're always accepting applications for membership. Please consider becoming our newest member. It takes a large number of volunteers to be able to staff the many special events held throughout the year, and we are always looking for good community-minded people. Please take a look at our website for more information.

In closing, we want to wish everyone very safe and happy holidays. We are looking forward to an amazing 2024 here in the City of Oshkosh!



Out & About



Through a partnership between the Oshkosh Kiwanis and the Oshkosh Police Department called Kiwanis N' Cops N' Kids Reading program, officers have been able to build connections with children through the gift of reading. The program is designed to help youth develop their literacy skills and get to know law enforcement officers in their city. Oshkosh Kiwanis has been sponsoring the program and supplies the police department with new books to read with the kids who then get to keep the books.

The program has expanded to include stops in our City parks this summer. Several officers, along with the department's Command and Community Outreach Vehicle (CCOV), could be found in either Menominee Park or South Park throughout the summer, spending time with kids and their families. Book giveaways, CCOV demonstrations, reading with officers, and even scavenger hunts were all a part of the Kiwanis N' Cops N' Kids program. Attendance was great and everyone enjoyed the positive experience!



Out & About



The Annual Police Lights of Christmas campaign kicked off on July 25, hosted by Culver's. Red Robin Gourmet Burgers hosted the next event on August 30. During these events, officers help deliver meals in the restaurants and the drive thru at Culver's. Officers help bring awareness to the event by speaking with customers about the program. We would like to express our sincere appreciation to these wonderful sponsors for hosting our events and for making a difference in the Oshkosh community!

On November 27, this year's Hand Off Event was sponsored by the Green Bay Packers and included officers from 70 departments who assembled 1,000 Blessing Bags and received \$185,000 in gift cards! The Oshkosh Police Department received \$4,000 in gift cards and 50 Blessing Bags again this year from the Lights of Christmas NE Wisconsin program. Thank you to all the generous donors who help make this outreach possible!



Out & About



Out & About

Birthday Surprise!



A very grateful mom wished to thank Officer Jason Konitzer for the amazing birthday gift for her 7 year-old son—one that he would never forget!

When a party didn't go quite as planned, Officer Konitzer swooped in to save the day! Jason attended the child's birthday at the Mineshaft. Besides playing games with the birthday boy, Jason showed him his Patrol car—letting him sit in the car and even turn the lights and siren on. He also got to try on Officer Konitzer's SWAT gear!

Officer Konitzer commented that it was a great day and he also found out a 7 year-old can throw a baseball more accurately than he could on an arcade game!! Way to go Jason!



Out & About

Trunk or Treat

On October 21, Officers Daniel Neta, Joey Rebedew, and Adam Poepping were invited to participate in the Trunk or Treat event held at Peace Lutheran Church. Officers provided several items for safe trick or treating, free giveaways, Halloween books from Reach A Child, and spoke with families about keeping children safe during Halloween trick or treat hours. Everyone had a great time and enjoyed all the awesome costumes!



Out & About

Roll Call at the Pantry

Officers held Roll Call at the Oshkosh Area Community Pantry on Jackson Street. The program staff provided a great tour and facility capabilities for Officers to take with them during their future contacts with citizens.



Out & About

RUCK MARCH 2023



Lieutenant Matt Ziegler, his son Tucker, Sergeant Brett Robertson, Officer Brenden Bonnett and Officer Reagan Abbey participated in the Veteran's Day Ruck March sponsored by the UW-Oshkosh Student Veterans Association on Saturday, November 11, 2023.

The Ruck March raises awareness of veteran mental health issues and suicide. It honors those who serve(d) by giving back. During the march, participants are encouraged to carry a ruck: a weighted backpack or rucksack.

This year's Ruck March was a 2-mile walk from Dempsey Hall to Titan Stadium where marchers joined a small parade ahead of the Titan football game that honored soldiers.

Out & About



The Oshkosh Police Department participated in this year's Shop With A Cop event at Walmart on Wednesday, December 20, 2023. Generous donations from local organizations such as Oshkosh Walmart, TelecomPioneers Wisconsin Chapter #4, South Side Ice Yacht Club, and individual citizens made this year's Shop With A Cop possible! Police Officers, civilian staff, and Oshkosh Auxiliary Police shopped with children who bought gifts for their family members and themselves. This year, 20 children, ranging from elementary to high school, were chosen to receive \$200 in gifts per family!

Chief Dean Smith, Lieutenants Matt Ziegler and Rob Kraemer, Sergeant Jeff Nelson, School Resource Officers Tony Flaig, Heather Brickham, Matt Steinert and Deana Brandl, Detective Chee Vang, Police Officers Kate Mann, Rachel Van Horn, Joey Rebedew, Tanner Rasmussen, Jacob MacDonald, Andy Baltadano, Behavioral Health Officer Scott Sopata and Co-Responder Kayla Rodriguez, Crime Analyst Melody Bragdon, Work Study Clerk Madison Maher, Auxiliary Officers Ron O'Bright, Kevin Schouten, and Gerry Kargus, retired Officer Mike Kirby, members of Oshkosh Telecom Pioneers and Walmart staff all volunteered and joined in on the holiday fun!

We want to sincerely thank the generosity of the donors and volunteers who not only make this program such a success, but also provide an opportunity for the police department and the community to come together to provide a heartwarming holiday season for Oshkosh families.



OPD Anniversaries

July

Deana Krueger 22 Years
Craig Johannes 18 Years
Chris Gorte 18 Years

August

Kurt Schoeni 30 Years
Kris Jahns 30 Years
Brett Robertson 21 Years
Nick Kawleski 21 Years
Tony Flaig 12 Years
Brad Fox 10 Years
Jill Engeli 5 Years

September

Paul Frey 30 Years
Brian Schuldes 28 Years
Kate Mann 17 Years
Joey Rebedew 4 Years
Brad Willis 1 Year

October

Ben Phillips 7 Years
Cody Rukamp 7 Years
Trey Johnson 7 Years
Cecelia Krause 3 Years
Brayden Ewing 2 Years
Courtney Scoles 2 Years
Daniel Neta 1 Year
Jonathan Graminske 1 Year

November

Jeff Nelson 23 Years
Ben Fenhouse 15 Years
Heather Brickham 8 Years
Roberto Martinez 8 Years
Tanner Rasmussen 6 Years
Penny Knoll 3 Years
Madison Maher 1 Year

December

Bonnie Sagmeister 23 Years
Tyler Mentink 13 Years
Michael McKeown 4 Years
Matthew Steinert 4 Years
Kelsey Gill 1 Year

JOB WELL DONE!

Oshkosh Police Honor Guard:

Lieutenant Matt Ziegler received an email of appreciation:

"Hello Lieutenant Ziegler,

Thank you for your part in making this pivotal moment happen during the National Anthem at the Miss Wisconsin Competition in Oshkosh. I am very grateful for the Honor Guards you provided and for your support.

All My Best to You!"

~Brenda Baudo

Executive Director

Miss Wisconsin Scholarship Organization



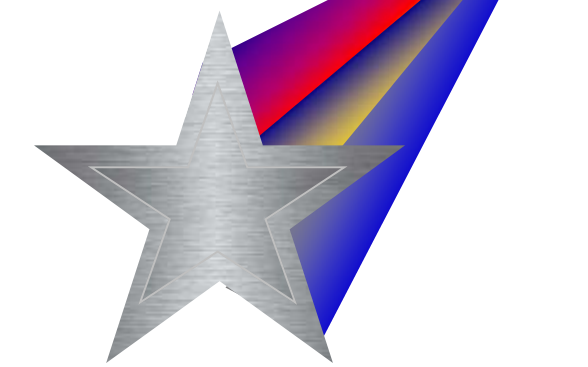
Officer Kate Mann:

Chief Smith received a card of appreciation for Officer Kate Mann:

"Chief Smith,

Just wanted to let you know what a great job Kate Mann did on a seminar at my credit union on identity theft and scamming. Slides were well done and she knew her stuff.

We all learned a lot. Great job she did!! Wanted to let you know (a compliment vs. complaint for a change that you are getting)."



Officer Jacob Rennie:

Chief Smith received a call of appreciation for Officer Jacob Rennie:

A citizen called to let Chief Smith know that Officer Jacob Rennie was a judge for the Annual Christmas Lights for the Miller's Bay Neighborhood Association. He stated that Officer Rennie was a wonderful representative for the department, very friendly and professional. He did a great job with the judging and they were happy to have him!

Officer Kate Mann:

A citizen called from the Senior Center to let Chief Smith know how great Officer Mann was with her presentation on scams and frauds. He was very appreciative of the time being taken to do this and of how helpful Kate was.

Officers Trey Johnson & Jacob Rennie:

A citizen stopped by to personally thank the officers who assisted his son struggling with mental health. He was sincerely grateful for the compassion, professionalism and respectfulness that was shown to his son during the incident.

He wanted to give recognition to the officers for their actions and to commend them for how they dealt with the situation.

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

