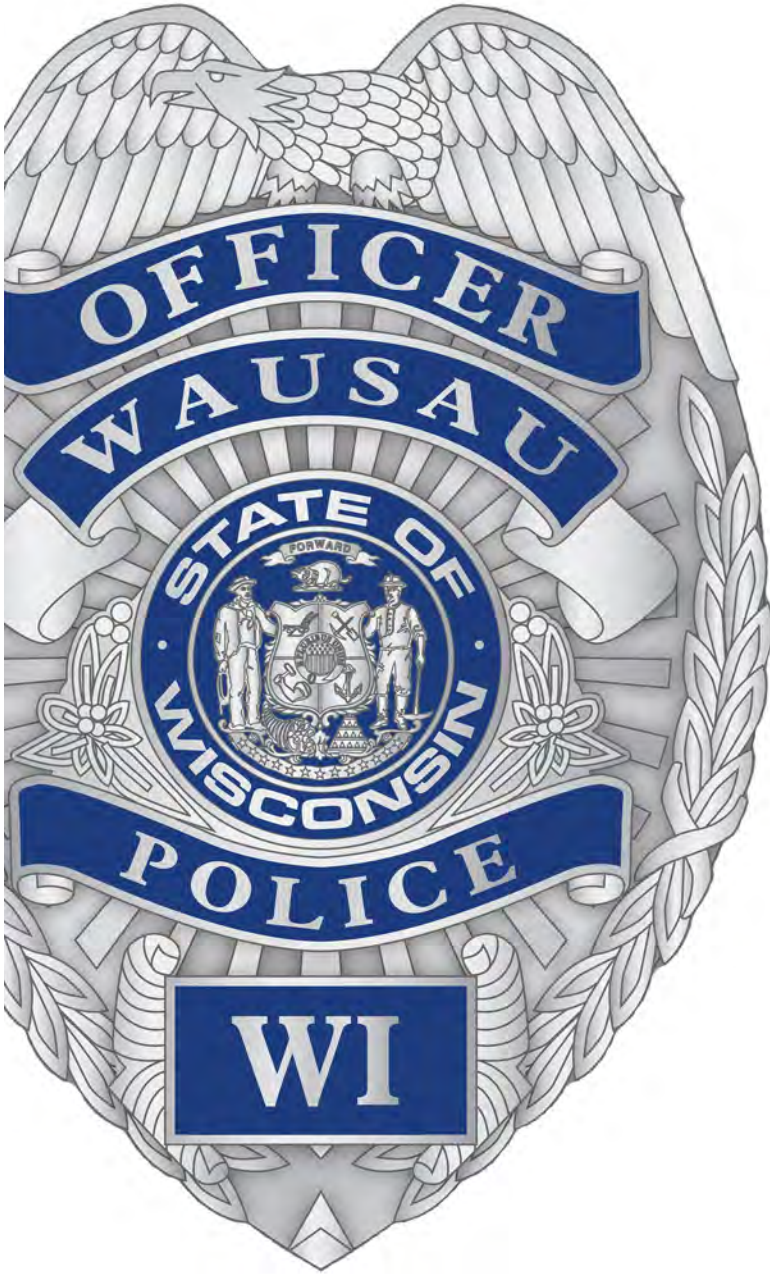




# 2019 Annual Report

*Wausau Police  
Department*

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*“Over every mountain is a path, although it may not be seen from the valley.”*

*-Theodore Roethke*

## COMMAND STAFF



Benjamin Bliven  
Chief of Police



Matthew Barnes  
Deputy Chief



Todd Baeten  
Patrol Captain

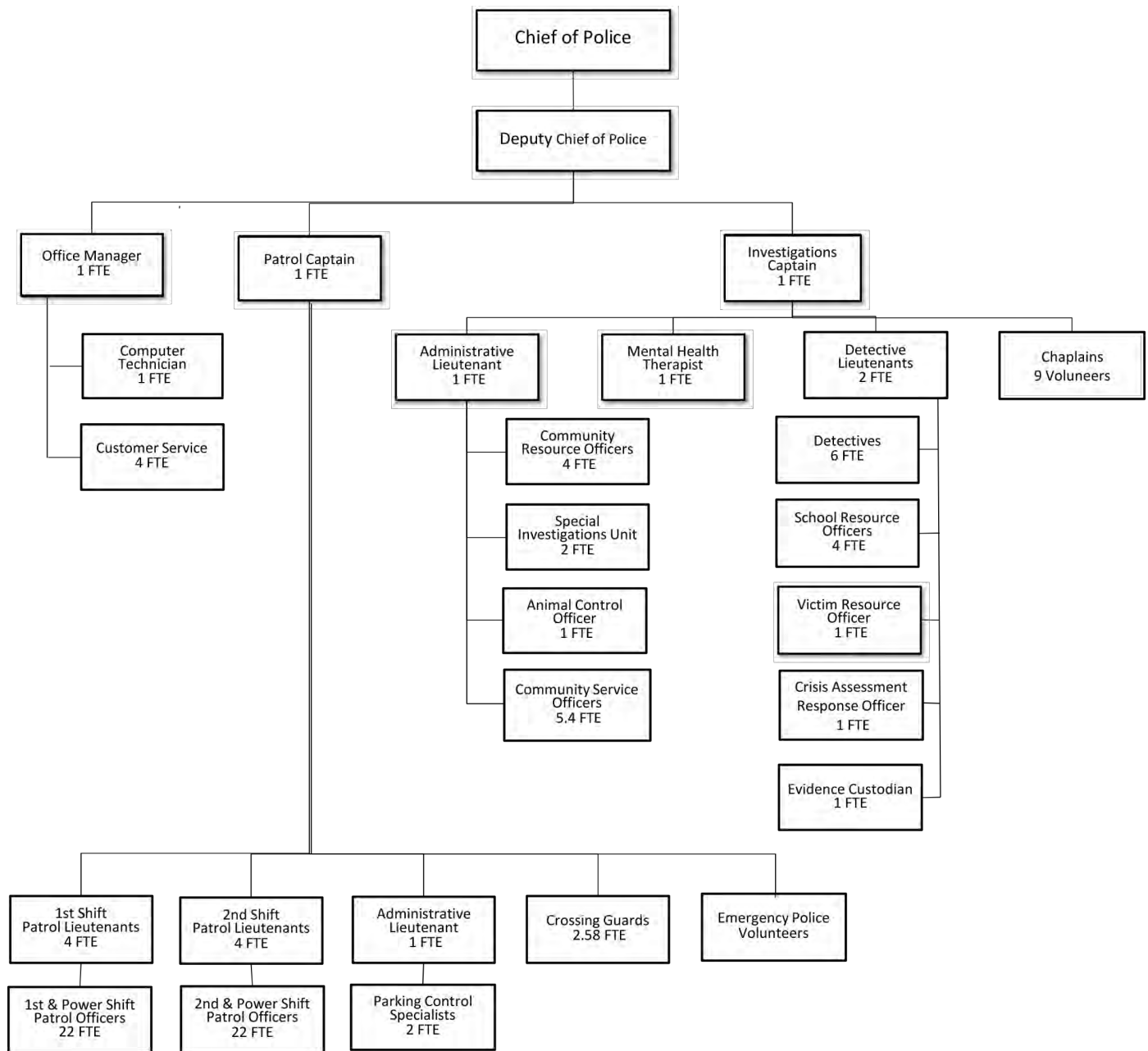


Benjamin Graham  
Investigations Captain

*"I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast  
a stone across the water to create many  
ripples."*

*-Mother Teresa*

# Organizational Chart



*“An organization, no matter how well designed, is only as good as the people who live and work in it.”*

*- Dee Hock*



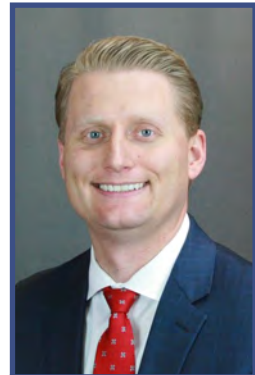
## Police & Fire Commissioners



Tony Patterson  
Chairman



William Graef  
Vice Chairman



Michael Loy  
Secretary



Cheryl Bahr

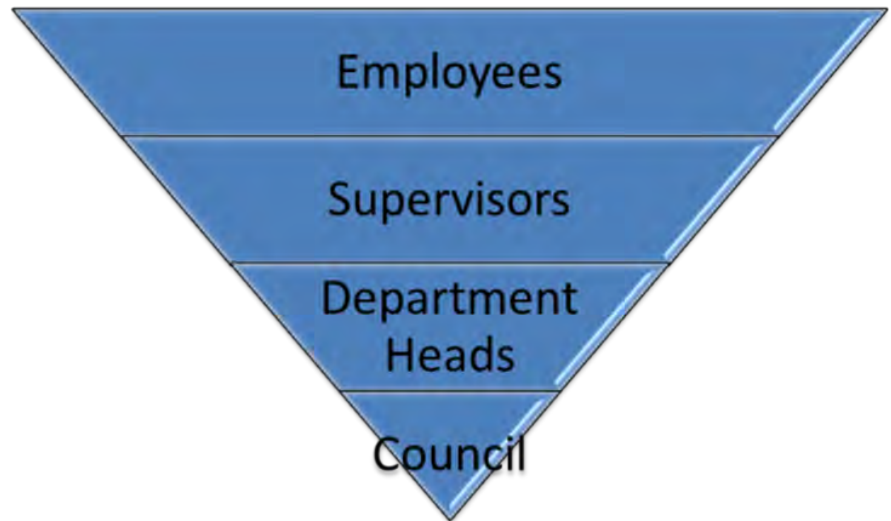


Kathy Strasser



*"No matter the patch, we are all family.  
And family sticks together."  
- Embrace The Badge*

## SERVICE TO OUR CITIZENS



The graph above shows how the City is organized to carry out the Mission Statement and provide service to our citizens. The Council is the foundation of city government and is responsible for setting policy, creating a positive atmosphere, and enabling the City to move forward. The Council works with and supports the Mayor and the department heads in combined efforts to provide the supervisors and employees with what is needed to ultimately serve the citizens. The City's core values are key to guiding daily operations and employee decisions.

*"Divine nature gave the fields, human art built the cities."*

*-Marcus Terentius Varro*

# *Mission*

*The Wausau Police Department strives for excellence and partners with our community to enhance the quality of life.*

---

# *Vision*

*To be regarded as the standard of excellence in policing*

---

# *Core Values*

*Integrity*

*Professionalism*

*Accountability*

*Respect*

*“Vision is a picture of the future that produces passion.”*

*- Bill Hybels*



## Letter from the Chief of Police

### Benjamin Bliven

Law enforcement is a continuous challenge to improve in our ability to respond to crisis. We know that each year will bring opportunities to grow and learn. Each year brings unique challenges that strengthens our resolve to serve our community. In that service, we find ourselves fulfilled and content in the knowledge that how we choose to serve the Wausau community has significant impact on the individual lives of people who live here.

As I indicated in last year's annual report, 2018 was a year of transition. 2019 has been somewhat similar in that we have hired 9 more new police officers. That's a change of 11% of our staff in just one year! That change includes additional promotions and transfers within varying assignments within the department.

Community engagement has been a key component of our success over the last two decades. In 2019, we continued to engage Wausau through neighborhood group meetings, Special Olympics, Big Brothers Big Sisters, events like the Community Thank You, Shop with a Cop, social media and many more. In addition to the normal events, we added Lights of Christmas. We raised several thousand dollars with Culvers and 89Q. Then we bought gift cards and passed them out to people in need during the holiday season.

Following were some of the significant events in 2019:

- Jayme Closs was located alive in Barron County! This case drew ongoing national attention after her parents were killed and Jayme abducted. Our two therapy dogs and our therapist made the trek to Barron County to provide support








*"Because we are truly transparent, we are given the benefit of the doubt many times. Citizens are feeling better about us, and officers feel better about their department."*

*- Michael Harrison*



## Chief, Con't

to their community.

-  Rainbow Laundry on the near west side burned down by arson in April, 2019.
-  The opioid epidemic continued to develop with little progress made in the reduction of opioids or overdoses that resulted from opioid use. We implemented new drug testing procedures as a result of the concern over Fentanyl, a very strong opioid linked to many overdose deaths across the country.
-  Numerous federal convictions for a large methamphetamine distribution conspiracy.
-  For much of the summer and fall, the Thomas Street Bridge, S. 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue, and Townline Road were all closed due to construction. This caused a lot of traffic disruption in the community.
-  In June, 2019, 19 year old Troy Wilcox was killed at his home on 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue. An acquaintance was arrested and charged with 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree Reckless Homicide.
-  On October 3, 2019, a Weston man and ex-employee of Pine Grove cemetery lit his apartment building on fire and walked to the Pine Grove Cemetery where he shot and killed Patti Grimm. Two others were shot and wounded.
-  We had two of our drug K9s retire and purchased two more. Thanks to the new Norman Bradfish fund at the Community Foundation of North Central Wisconsin, we were able to make these purchases. These were the first two drug K9s that are not trained to alert on marijuana.

*“Officers need to understand and sense the noble purpose and meaning of police work; a vocation of selfless service, compassion, and doing good for others.”*

*- Dan S Willis*

## Chief, Con't

🛡️ In October, 2019, the police department brought forward a request for a loitering ordinance because of people sleeping in the stairwells of our downtown parking ramps. This ordinance was passed, but was the subject of heated debate within the community. It led to a number of initiatives to help address homelessness within Wausau.

🛡️ In December, 2019, a news outlet reported that the City of Wausau has an ordinance against throwing snowballs. This eventually turned into a national news story indicating Wausau was one of the worst cities in America. Deputy Chief Barnes and other officers made a Facebook video to counter the claim that we are the worst city in America. The video culminated with Mayor Mielke getting a snowball to the back of the head. The post was viewed 1.1 million times.

These are just a few of the events that occurred in our community during 2019; we typically respond to about 40,000 calls for service each year. Our staff is extremely committed to delivering high-level, professional service during each of those calls. We hire people with tremendous character and provide extensive training so that we can continue to strive toward our vision of being regarded as the standard of excellence in policing.

*“Excellence is achievable, but not without sacrifice and discipline.”*

*- Michael Josephson*

# Letter from the Deputy Chief

## Matthew Barnes



The Wausau Police Department has produced an annual report for many years. It's very interesting to review an annual report from 30 years ago and compare the data and issues facing the city then to today.

The Wausau Police Department is required to collect data and statistics about criminal activity and report it to the state and federal government. The process, and system, for collecting statistical information is dictated to the Wausau Police Department by the Federal Government. In addition to a new records management system implemented countywide for law enforcement, the process and system for collecting and reporting data is also new. Prior to 2019 data was collected and submitted with a summary based system called UCR (Uniform Crime Reporting). Beginning in 2019 crime data is now collected and submitted with NIBRS (National Incident Based Reporting System).

Based on this change in data reporting and collection, comparing 2019 and future data to the data prior to 2019 is not effective. The categories crime data is reported under have changed, and therefore no comparison with prior categories will be useful. It is important for anyone looking at our annual reports to understand this change. The Federal Government states the primary difference between UCR and NIBRS is "the two programs measure an overlapping but non-identical set of crimes". Making a comparison between 2019 and future data and data from prior to 2019, would be like comparing apples to oranges.

The FBI reports "With NIBRS data, analysts can generate state and national statistics that are not available using the traditional Summary Reporting System (UCR) data. The NIBRS provides a more comprehensive view of crime in the United States, and offers greater flexibility in data compilation and analysis".

Wausau Police Department staff work hard collecting and reporting crime data. The change to NIBRS has been challenging and we are proud of our staff in their handling of this transition.

We appreciate the trust the Wausau Community has in the Police Department and we are committed to transparency and sharing information about our work with the community.

*"The secret of change is to focus all of your energy not on fighting the old, but on building the new."*

*- Socrates*

## Records Bureau

Law enforcement would not be able to do its job successfully without access to data. The 76 sworn officers at the Wausau Police Department create a lot of data and paperwork, but it's only useful if it can be found when it's needed, and only if it gets to the correct people. We have 1 supervisor, 5 administrative assistants and 1 computer technician that keep all of our processes moving. They receive information from the officers, be sure it is entered and properly cataloged, forward it to other agencies and departments, and then review and potentially release when requested. This includes paper reports, squad video and body worn camera, photos, and lost and found items.

This department is also the first point of contact for customer service for the public. They are a cheerful, resourceful group who go out of their way to be sure needs get met in as timely a manner as possible.

- ☎ Records Requests - 1946
- ☎ Pages Released - 21424
- ☎ Body Camera Requests - 130
- ☎ Hours of BWC redacted - 284

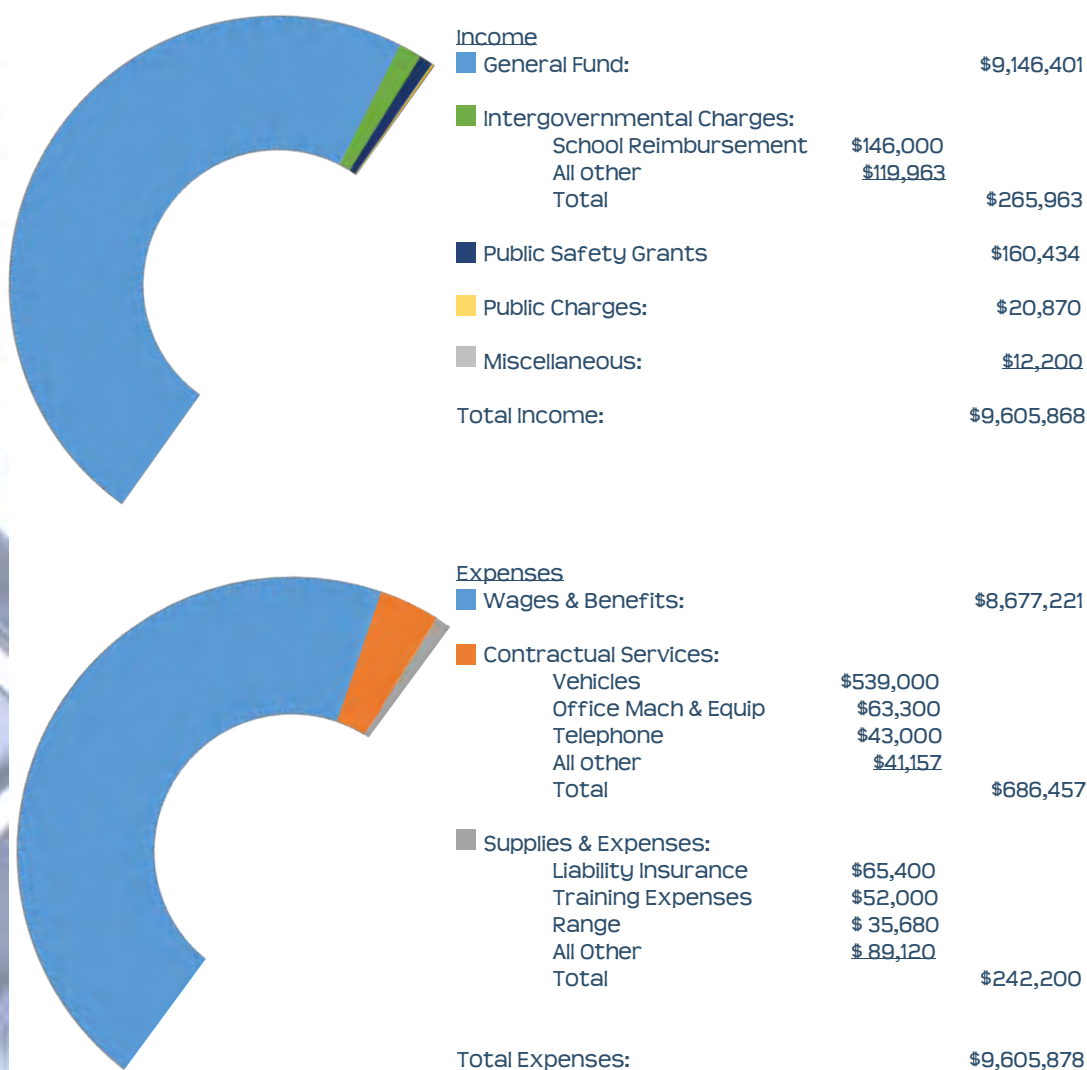


*“The most damaging phrase in the language is ‘we’ve always done it this way.’”*

*- Rear Admiral Grace Murray Hopper*



# 2019 Police Budget Summary




The police department accounts for 30% of the City of Wausau budget and is the largest department in the city.

*“A budget is more than just a series of numbers on a page; it is an embodiment of our values.”*

*- Barack Obama*

## Calls for Service



Top 25 Calls For Service Types	Quantity
Traffic Stop	7981
Criminal Miscellaneous	3951
Service Miscellaneous	2920
Extra Patrol	2193
Welfare Check	1694
Suspicious Activity	1611
Traffic Crash	1411
Traffic Miscellaneous	964
Parking Miscellaneous	962
Mental Subject	956
Disabled Vehicle	851
Vehicle Lockout	788
Animal Complaint	787
Family Disturbance	783
Medical Emergency	773
Civil Complaint	756
Lost And Found	690
911 Hang Up	668
Warrant Service	562
Traffic Hazard	560
Alarms	523
Probation/Parole	498
Juvenile At Large	406
Noise Complaint	369
Vehicle At Large	365

*“The art of being helpful is behaving as if everything we do matters - because we never know which things might.”*

*- Gloria Steinem*

## Crime Data

### Crimes Against Persons Offenses

Murder	1
Manslaughter by Negligence	1
Sex Offenses, Forcible	74
Sex Offenses, Non Forcible	16
Assault	385
Kidnapping/False Imprisonment	35
Human Trafficking	0

### Crimes Against Property Offenses

Robbery	6
Burglary	80
Theft/Larceny	405
Motor Vehicle Theft	45
Stolen Property	12
Arson	3
Counterfeiting/Forgery	55
Fraud	121
Embezzlement	14
Extortion/Blackmail	6
Bribery	0
Destruction/Vandalism	247

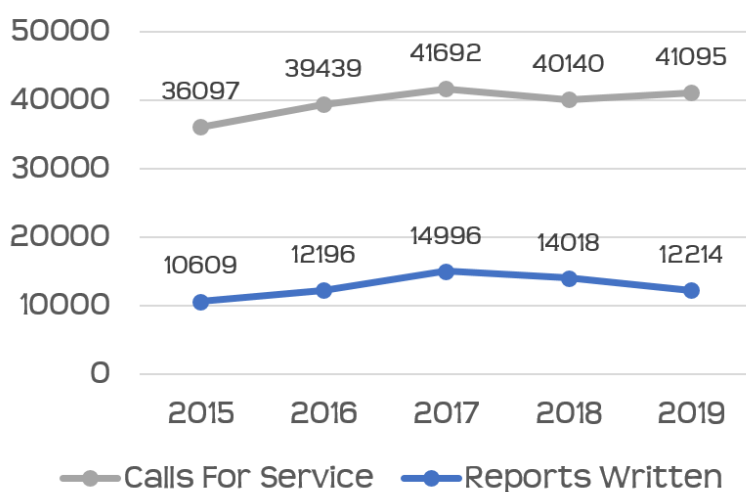
### Crimes Against Society Offenses

Weapon Law Violation	53
Prostitution	2
Drugs/Narcotics and Paraphernalia	833
Gambling	0
Pornography	21
Animal Cruelty	2

### Other Arrests (Group B)

Bad Checks	1
Curfew/Loitering/Vagrancy	0
Disorderly Conduct	246
Driving Under the Influence	288
Family Offenses, Nonviolent	16
Liquor Law Violation	102
Peeping Tom	0
Trespass	14
All Other	667

### 5 Year Trend



*“The chief problem in any community cursed with crime is not the punishment of the criminals, but the preventing of the young from being trained to crime.”*

- W. E. B. DuBois

## Traffic Statistics

Total Traffic Citations Issued	4423
Top Traffic Citations Issued	Quantity
Operate While Suspended	506
Speed Related	447
No Insurance	362
Operate While Under The Influence	323
Operate While Revoked	279
Veh Operator Fail To Wear Seatbelt	261
Operate Without Valid License	234
Operate With Prohibited Alcohol Concentration	217
No Proof Of Insurance	201
Non Registration Of Auto	201

Total Traffic Warnings Issued	5262
Top Traffic Warnings Issued	Quantity
Speed Related	897
Non Registration of Auto	593
No Proof Of Insurance	508
Operate Without Required Lamps Lighted	310
Failure To Obey Traffic Sign or Signal	277
Use of Mobile Device While Driving	197

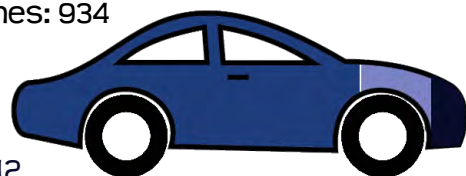
Total Crashes: 1237

■ Reportable, no injury crashes: 934

□ Crash with fatality: 1

■ Crash with injury: 190

■ Non-Reportable crashes: 112

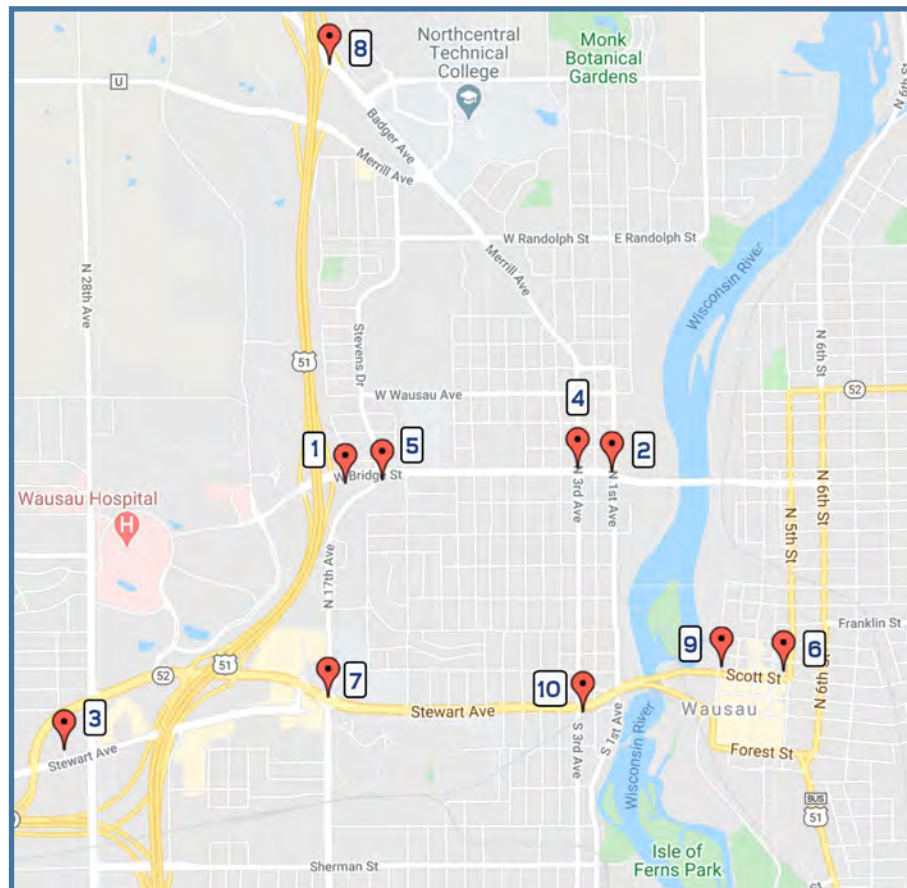


*Sometimes, when there is too much traffic clogging up the road, you need to take a different route. Following the same path as everyone else can stall your progress in reaching your personal goals, too.*

*- Mark Mobias*



# Most Frequent Crash Locations



- |                                |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| 1 - Bridge St & US 51 off ramp | 7 - Stewart Ave & 17th Ave               |
| 2 - Bridge St & 1st Ave        | 8 - Bus Hwy 51 & County Rd K Roundabouts |
| 3 - Stewart Ave & 28th Ave     | 9 - Scott St & 1st St                    |
| 4 - Bridge St & 3rd Ave        | 10 - Stewart Ave & 3rd Ave               |
| 5 - Bridge St & 17th Ave       |  |
| 6 - Scott St & 5th St          |  |

*“Decisions can be like car accidents, sudden and full of consequences.”*

*- Allison Glock*

## Letter from Patrol Captain Todd Baeten



In many ways, the patrol bureau is the backbone of our police agency. The bulk of our sworn staff is assigned there, and the work they do supports and complements other special divisions and units. The success of this work hinges on our adherence to our core values of Professionalism, Accountability, Integrity, and Respect.

2019 was another eventful year for the 47 members of the patrol bureau. Again, we had two of our patrol supervisors leave and move on to other adventures. With their departures, we saw the promotion of two new lieutenants. We are grateful for their desire to serve in this increased capacity. They have prepared well, bringing great experience and leadership to the patrol bureau. Also, we were able to welcome nine new patrol officers to our department. A couple of them served with us previously as Community Service Officers, one worked as an ASL interpreter in a former job, a couple others are career-changers, and one came to us with nearly two decades of law enforcement experience with another agency. All of them have been great additions, and are serving our community well!

I am extremely proud to serve together with the men and women of the patrol bureau as we look for meaningful ways to make a difference and positively impact the lives of Wausau's citizens and visitors.

### Patrol Division



## Patrol

Chances are, if you've interacted with a member of our department, it's been one of our patrol officers. To a large degree, they function in a traditional, uniformed capacity – they respond to calls for service, enforce traffic laws, and patrol their assigned sectors of the city. However, their real effectiveness lies in their comprehensive training and adaptability. Members of our patrol bureau specialize in many different areas. They serve as training instructors or on various committees, some of which are:

Sworn Officers - 75
Squad Cars - 23
Arrests made - 2687
Tickets written - 4423

- Firearms Instructor
- Defense and Arrest Tactics (DAAT) Instructor
- Vehicle Contacts Instructor
- Emergency Vehicle Operator Course (EVOC) Instructor
- Crash Reconstruction Team
- Drug Recognition Expert
- Field Training Officer
- Recruitment Committee
- Community Communications Unit
- Social Wellness Committee



*“The police are the public, and the public are the police; the police being only members of the public who are paid to give full time attention to duties which are incumbent on every citizen in the interest of community welfare and existence.”*

*- Sir Robert Peel*



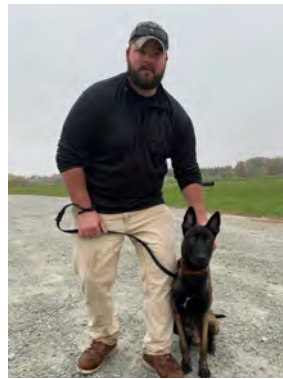
## K9

Our patrol K9s are some of the hardest working members of our team. Their noses provide valuable information, while keeping our officers safe.

2019 brought many changes to our K9 program. Two of our dogs retired at the end of the year, and we brought two more on board. K9 Layla and her handler retired, and K9 Zander's handler was promoted, so nine-year-old K9 Zander retired. In October, we acquired K9 Max and K9 Astor. They, along with their handlers, traveled back and forth to Vohne Liche Kennels in Indiana for six weeks of training and started service here mid December.

### K9 Stats as a group:

- 🐾 Hours on duty - 8320
- 🐾 Hours of training - 800



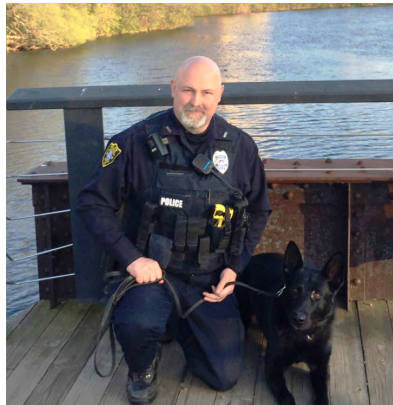
Ofc Peterson & K9 Max



Ofc Pacey & K9 Astor

### New K9 Training:

- 🐾 Hours of training each - 300
- 🐾 Miles driven back and forth to facility - 2472



### K9 Zanto:

- 🐾 Partner: Ofc Shawn Fritsch
- 🐾 German Shepherd, Age - 8
- 🐾 Years in WPD Service - 7
- 🐾 Deployments in 2019 - 249
- 🐾 Demonstrations in 2019 - 4

*"If there are no dogs in Heaven, then when I die I want to go where they went."*

*- Will Rogers*



# K9



## K9 Layla:

- 🐾 Partner: Ofc Mark Jaeger
- 🐾 Belgian Malinois, Age - 9
- 🐾 Years in WPD Service - 5
- 🐾 Deployments in 2019 - 49



## K9 Zander:

- 🐾 Partner: Ofc Luis Lopes Serrão
- 🐾 German Shepherd, Age - 9
- 🐾 Years in WPD Service - 5
- 🐾 Deployments in 2019 - 235
- 🐾 Demonstrations in 2019 - 8



## K9 Rio:

- 🐾 Partner: Ofc Mark Kurtzhals
- 🐾 Chocolate Labrador, Age - 4
- 🐾 Years in WPD Service - 3
- 🐾 Deployments in 2019 - 173
- 🐾 Demonstrations in 2019 - 27

*"Dogs are not our whole life but they make our lives whole."*

*- Roger Caras*

## SWAT Team

Wausau PD is part of the Marathon County SWAT, which consists of personnel from the Marathon County Sheriff's Department, Wausau PD, Everest Metro PD, and Wausau Fire Department. Of the five from Wausau PD, three are part of the entry team and one is a sniper.

The team has training every month. In addition, the sniper group trains an additional day every month to polish techniques specific to their role.

As a team, we receive requests multiple times a month to assist with public appearances and events. Appearances included venues such as the 2019 Business Expo at the Patriot Center and the Community Thank You event on the 400 block. There were also regular call outs, which were down in number for 2019. We had three call outs and one of those was an agency assist in Clark County.

- 🎯 Total SWAT members - 28
- 🎯 WPD members - 5
- 🎯 Team training hours - 104
- 🎯 Call Outs - 3
- 🎯 Counties assisted - 2



## DIVE Team

The Marathon County Dive Team officially became part of the state ALERT team network in 2019, and this network currently has 5 teams throughout the state. The team received approximately \$70,000 in grant funding in 2019 from the state and federal government to enhance our operational capability. 2019 was a light year for callouts; the Dive Team has experienced years in which there have been upwards of 15 - 20 callouts, some of which were in support of various investigations including homicide investigations. The Dive Team is one of only a few in the state with advanced sonar search capabilities (imaging and sidescan sonar capability,) and has responded to locations throughout Wisconsin, as well as Minnesota (including the Port of Duluth-Superior) via mutual aid requests.

- 🤿 Training hours - 106
- 🤿 Call Outs - 1
- 🤿 Counties/Agencies Assisted - 3
- 🤿 Total team members - 11
- 🤿 WPD team members - 3



*"I prefer peace. But if trouble must come, let it come in my time, so that my children can live in peace."*




*- Thomas Paine*

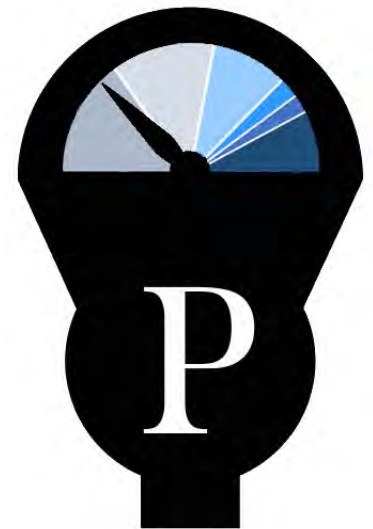








# Parking Control

Our Parking Control bureau, consisting of two full time specialists and assisted by part time community service officers, keeps drivers moving. The idea of parking control is to have spots available for shoppers and visitors to be able to get to local businesses easily, and to have a system in place to aid our road cleaning crews in the winter.

In 2019, Wausau took a huge step into the electronic age with the installation of parking pay stations. No longer are coins needed to pay for your parking! Simply use the pay station in the lot, or use an app on your phone to take care of your parking. Our parking control specialists have cars that can read the license plates and communicate with the pay stations to verify if a car has been parked too long. This new system also allows for warnings for first offenses, so as not to penalize newcomers who might not be familiar with our parking system.

	Total Parking Tickets Issued - 10751
	Handwritten Tickets - 899
	Full time Parking Control Specialists - 2



	Expired Meter - 3258
	Overnight Parking - 2761
	Over Time Limit - 2018
	Private Property - 533
	Snow Emergency - 487
	All Other Tickets - 1694



*"The road to success is dotted with many tempting parking spaces."*

*- Will Rogers*

## Honor Guard

The Honor Guard is a team of officers that represent the department at special events. Officers attend funerals for fallen officers and retired officers, providing casket watch and color presentation. Officers also do color presentations in parades, at business events, special ceremonies, such as officer swear ins, NTC graduations and law enforcement ceremonies.



Members - 7



Public Appearances - 11



## Public Safety Cadets Unit #1274

The Public Safety Cadets Unit #1274 is a program for 14-21 year olds that involves them in activities that help them to learn about law enforcement, provides them opportunities to build confidence and teaches them leadership skills that they will carry into their future.

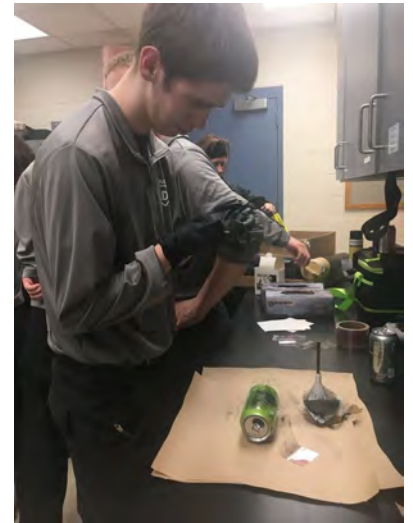
The cadets try to meet monthly and spend time with officers learning how the different parts of an officer's job work and getting the chance to do those things in role play situations. They have the opportunity to compete against other groups in a state-wide competition. They also volunteer at various events to assist our department, such as Paws and Protect and the Community Thank You Picnic.



Meetings held - 19



Members - 6



*"You will never do anything in this world without courage. It is the greatest quality of the mind next to honor."*




*- James Allen*



## Emergency Police

The Emergency Police Unit of the Wausau Police Department was formed in 1951 to assist the department with traffic and crowd control. The Unit assists with all of the major events that bring large groups of people to the area, requiring extra hands to keep the events organized and flowing. The Unit also comes in on an emergency basis such as storm assistance and scene security. This assistance helps to free up WPD Officers to handle other calls that need attention. Wausau Emergency Police have training at various times during the year and work hard to be ready. This year's trainings were Traffic Direction Training, Proactive Safety & Security In Today's Workforce, City HR - WEP Insurance Coverage, and CPR & Basic First Aid.

Membership meetings are generally held on the first Wednesday of each month February to November. The Unit is made up of three Squads; Administrative Squad, Squad One, and Squad Two. Executive Board meetings are held each month January to December. The Board consist of WPD Liaison Officer - Lt. Jillian Kurtzhals; Director - Larry W. Jaeger; Executive Officer - Major Frank Schuelke; Administrative Officer - Captain Bob Wisniewski; Squad One - Captain Michael Lotharius; Squad Two - Captain Carol Stafford.

-  Total volunteer hours - 2506
-  Members - 20
-  Events worked - 23



*“Volunteers do not necessarily have the time;  
they just have the heart.”*

*- Elizabeth Andrew*

# Investigations Bureau

## Captain Benjamin Graham



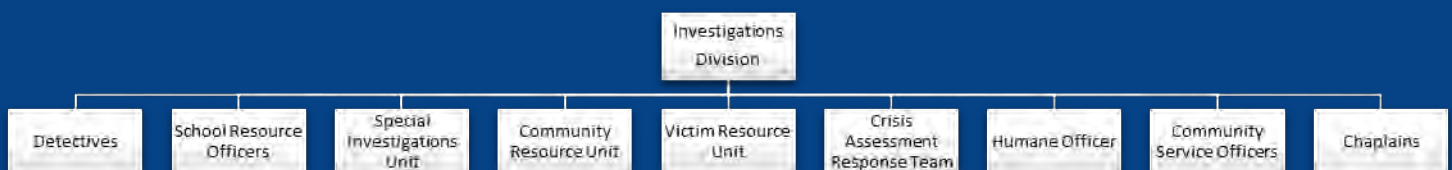
The Investigations Bureau is diverse in composition and exists to provide our community with a specialized and tailored response to crime and quality of life concerns. The center of bureau interest and activity includes:

- Complex or major criminal investigation
- Law enforcement support and engagement in Wausau schools
- Drug enforcement and diversion
- Neighborhood engagement and nuisance abatement
- Personal advocacy and emotional support for victims
- Mental health and crisis intervention
- Animal control
- Community policing and special events staffing
- Promoting the mental, emotional, and spiritual well-being of police and the public

2019 marked a year of transition as staff promoted or reached the conclusion of their special assignments. Processes for Detective, Special Investigations Unit, Community Resource Unit, and the Victim Resource Unit were conducted. They resulted in the promotion or assignment of 6 staff members to new positions at the beginning of 2020.

Also in 2019, we partnered with the Marathon County Sheriff's Office by acting as a Lead Agency within the newly formed Wisconsin River Valley Regional Forensic Laboratory (WRVFL.) The lab was created to: (1) share the high financial costs associated with digital forensic equipment; (2) increase capacity and improve processing time for digital evidence; and (3) provide our community with enhanced investigatory services that aid in the prosecution of criminal cases.

I am proud to work among the men and women of the Investigations Bureau and continue to be amazed by the passion and dedication they display in their service to our community. Their excellent character and competence will enable the Bureau to make great strides towards policing excellence in 2020.



## Detectives

When an investigation becomes complex and requires a significant amount of time or area of expertise, a detective will get assigned to the case. Death investigations, physical and sexual abuse of children, financial crimes, internet crimes and fire investigations make up the majority of the types of crimes the detectives worked.

- Q Detectives - 6
- Q Cases Investigated - 127
- Q Cyber tips of child pornography from WI ICAC TF - 8

Throughout 2019 detectives investigated a number of shootings with the most significant was the tragic event on the morning of October 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Pine Grove Cemetery. A former cemetery employee shot three people, killing one of them, at two locations in the cemetery before he was apprehended a short distance away from the cemetery. For detectives, it was a challenge to coordinate and process these multiple scenes for evidence. Investigators worked together seamlessly with other municipal, county and state agencies to gather that evidence in support of the shooting victims, their families and the community.



*“Never trust to general impressions, my boy,  
but concentrate yourself upon details.”*

*- Sherlock Holmes*



## Special Investigations Unit

The SIU is a part of the Central Area Drug Enforcement Group, which is a multi-jurisdictional team. It is comprised of officers from the Marathon County Sheriff's Department, Wausau PD and Everest Metro PD. The SIU investigates drug complaints throughout Marathon County.

This year we have partnered with the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Marathon County Sheriff's Office by joining the newly formed Central Wisconsin Narcotics Task Force (CWNTF). CWNTF builds upon pre-existing drug enforcement efforts and increases local law enforcement's capacity to investigate drug trafficking, while improving prosecution at both the state and federal levels.

- Q Misdemeanor arrests - 239
- Q Felony arrests - 388
- Q Firearms Seized - 10
- Q Monies Seized - \$31308.11

### Drugs Seized:

- Q THC 9619.79g
- Q Cocaine 142.40g
- Q Meth 5205.86g
- Q Fentanyl 494.12g

## Community Resource Unit

The Community Resource Unit (CRU) is a unit designed to identify and target underlying conditions that give rise to chronic nuisance activities that diminish quality of life. The unit evolved from one officer in 2013 to four officers in 2015. Since 2015 the unit has continued to work with four officers and a Lieutenant.

It did not take long for officers to identify drugs as the most pervasive underlying condition that precipitated a significant amount of crime and quality of life issues. The Community Resource Unit works in cooperation with neighborhood groups, City departments, the Wausau School District, and many others to create, cast, and carry out a common vision that promotes a greater sense of community in each of our neighborhoods. In 2019 the CRU investigated 22 Heroin overdoses. Most of these ended in charges and arrests of multiple people.

### Arrests:

- Q Warrant - 44
- Q Probation Hold - 69
- Q Misdemeanor - 372
- Q Felony - 470



### Drugs Seized:

- Q THC 5627.45g
- Q Cocaine 13.71g
- Q Meth 887.13g
- Q Heroin 511.92g

*"If we are facing in the right direction, all we have to do is keep on walking."*

*- Zen Proverb*



## Humane Officer

Our Humane Officer focuses on detecting, preventing, and investigating violations of ordinances and state laws related to animal control. The Humane Officer provides information to the public regarding licensing, vaccinations, euthanasia, rabies control, pet-owner responsibilities, spaying, neutering, adoptions and participates in public school and community group presentations.

Last year, the Humane Officer investigated 22 dog bites cases and made 13 dangerous dog declarations.

### Paws & Protect Events:

- 🐾 Vaccinations Given - 228
- 🐾 Animals Microchipped - 95
- 🐾 Licenses Issued - 278

### Citations Issued:

- 🐾 No license - 39
- 🐾 Animal At Large - 17
- 🐾 No Rabies Vaccine - 14



## Community Service Officers

The Community Service Officers (CSO) are non-sworn officers who are seasonally employed by the Wausau Police Department. CSOs go through an interview, a background check and a medical screening prior to employment. Though a Criminal Justice Degree is not required, a large number of employed CSOs are working on obtaining a Criminal Justice Degree as they have a desire to have a career in law enforcement. To date, we have hired numerous past CSOs as full time officers for the City of Wausau.

This year the police department has a total of 12 CSOs walking and biking the streets and parks. CSOs are able to handle complaints and non-criminal enforcement action. CSOs are given the authority to issue parking citations, municipal citations, direct traffic and assist sworn officers when they are needed.

In 2019, CSOs took on more job responsibilities, working year round, doing overnight parking enforcement and downtown ramp patrols.

- 🚲 Events Attended - 108
- 🚲 Hours Worked - 5172
- 🚲 Tickets Written - 356



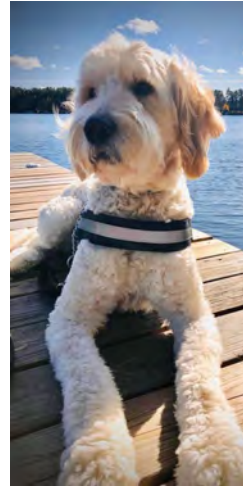
*“Our prime purpose in this life is to help others. And if you can’t help them, at least don’t hurt them.”*

*- Dalai Lama*

# Crisis Assessment Response Team

The Crisis Assessment Response Team (CART) consists of a Wausau Police Officer, a Deputy of the Marathon County Sheriff's Office, and two Crisis Professionals from North Central Health Care. CART personnel respond in teams to individuals in Marathon County experiencing crisis. Assigning personnel with advanced training and experience to focus on crisis intervention and support has reduced the frequency of emergency detention and improved patient outcomes across the number of crisis situations that law enforcement is called to. In addition to crisis intervention, CART assists with ongoing safety planning and evaluation for those needing support, connects people to community programs and social supports, and builds trust with individuals living with mental illnesses.

- 📋 Calls responded to with mental health potential - 3369
- 📋 Emergency detentions - 197
- 📋 Team members - 4



In late December, CART welcomed "Alvin" to the team, a Therapy Dog provided by North Central Health Care.

Calls for service received by Dispatch are coded upon receipt into one of several call nature categories, one of which is "Mental Health." However, we recognize that mental health crisis is very often the primary factor in other types of calls as well, including Welfare Checks, Juvenile Welfare, and Juvenile Disturbances to name a few. In 2019 in the City of Wausau, there were 956 Mental Health calls for service; however, in addition there were 1,694 Welfare Checks, 406 Juvenile Welfare, and 313 Juvenile Disturbances.

## Victim Resource Unit

This innovative unit, consisting of a Crime Response Specialist, a Mental Health Therapist, and a Victim Resource Officer, exists because of Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) and B.A. & Esther Greenheck Foundation grant funding, which was reapplied for and awarded in 2019. The Unit entered its fourth year and continues bridging the gap between victimization and wellness by offering advocacy and emotional support to victims of crime.

- Top 5 Victimization Types:
- 💡 Domestic Violence - 44%
  - 💡 Child Physical Abuse - 11%
  - 💡 Child Sexual Abuse - 10%
  - 💡 Adult Sexual Assault - 10%
  - 💡 Stalking/Harassment - 5%
  - 💡 Victims Served - 218

*"Just because no one else can heal or do your inner work for you doesn't mean you can, should, or need to do it alone."*

- Lisa Olivera



## School Resource Officers

The Wausau Police Department partners with the Wausau School District towards providing a safe and welcoming learning environment for Wausau students and staff, with the School Resource Officer (SRO) program. The four full-time SROs employ a community policing philosophy within their school communities, seeking to build trust and relationships with students and staff, to enhance the quality of life and scholastic growth in the schools. They take ownership in the safety and success of their school community. In addition to law enforcement duties, an SRO also serves as an educator, an informal counselor, school safety training instructor, and legal resource person for students and school staff. They serve as investigators and provide victim support in child sensitive crimes. They help connect students and families in need of support with community resources, including at the elementary schools. The Wausau Police Department and the District continue to share the cost of this service. The current SRO team has a combined 50 years of law enforcement experience.

Wausau West High School - SRO Jeff Schremp  
 Wausau East High School - SRO Nicholas Stetzer  
 Horace Mann Middle School - SRO Koua Thao  
 John Muir Middle School - SRO Kevin Cornell

This past year, the concerning trend of vaping amongst youth brought about some new initiatives, such as rewards for anti-vaping tips and Restorative Justice options for vaping violations. As of 2019, all four SROs have completed Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) certification.

- 🍏 Schools served - 13
- 🍏 School extracurricular events attended - 37
- 🍏 Youth violations diverted to Restorative Justice - 31
- 🍏 Truancy Tickets - 8



## K9s - Therapy

It is no secret that petting animals can help calm those who are agitated and anxious, and we have put that to work for us.

We ended 2019 with 2 full time K9 therapy dogs. Therapy dogs Badge and Theo work primarily at the schools with the SROs, where the dogs give and receive plenty of daily attention.

In addition to their regular duties at schools, Badge and Theo have traveled to other jurisdictions to assist at times of need. In January, they went to Barron County to assist the students when Jayme Closs was welcomed home. They had previously traveled up there in October when she was still missing.



*"You can go as far as your minds lets you.  
 What you believe, you can achieve."*

*- Mary Kay Ash*

## Chaplains

Our nine volunteer chaplains have responsibilities to the department and to the community that include, but are not limited to: making death notifications, providing assistance to victims, and providing counsel and support to members of the department and their families. Each chaplain comes with a background and experience that enables them to properly serve, support, and strengthen others, even in the midst of some of life's most significant trials. Our department and community are fortunate to have such a tremendous resource and we thank each of our chaplains for their dedication in 2019 as volunteer members of the Wausau Police Department.



Dave Forsythe



Julie Goranson



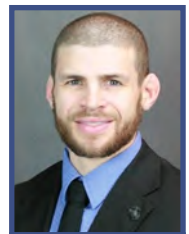
Duane Hamilton



Jen Hoffman



Rob Love



Joe Pinzi



Don Ryder



Greg Schmidt



Brian Whitaker

*“A chaplain’s biggest gift is to be present and just listen.”*

*- Diane Johnson*



## Retirements



Officer Lisa Rennie

Badge #911

March 1991 - January 2019



Ken Block

Parking Control Specialist

May 2016 - August 2019

*“Retirement is wonderful. It’s doing nothing without worrying about getting caught at it.”*

*- Gene Perret*

## Promotions & Assignments



Luis Lopes Serrão  
Promotion to Lieutenant  
August 2019

*“People don’t get promoted for doing their jobs really well. They get promoted by demonstrating their potential to do more.”*

*- Tara Jaye Frank*

## New Hires



Officers Scott Peterson,  
Josiah Kaetterhenry,  
Mason Hagenbucher and  
Andrew Bloch



Officers Michael Grund and  
John Shear



Officers Robert Pfaff,  
Ivy Tiry and Brady Olson

*"Every expert was once a beginner."*

*- Helen Hayes*



# Fourth Annual Awards Banquet

## 2019 Award Recipients

### Community Partner Awards

City Employee/Department of the Year Award	Scott Claxton, City County IT Commission
Dispatcher of the Year Award	Jonathan Kurth, Public Safety Telecommunicator
Community Caretaker Award	Paula Schultz, Restorative Justice
Stakeholder Service Award	Joan Jackson and Sue Nowak
Journalistic Excellence Award	Glen Moberg, WPR Radio
Community Partner Award	Amy Zondlo
The Educator Award	Andy Grimm, Coordinator of School Counseling, Horace Mann MS
Public Official Partnership Award	Theresa Wetzsteon, Marathon County District Attorney

### Department Awards

WPD Special Service Award	Officer Matthew Grover
Community Volunteer Award	Officer Corinne Zimmerman
Civilian Service Award	Larry Jaeger, Wausau Emergency Police
Emergency Police Volunteer of the Year Award	Eugene Hauer
Police Support Staff Member of the Year (Non-Sworn)	Jennifer Friday
Supervisor of the Year Award	Lieutenant Melinda Pauls
Bridge Builder Award	Officer Eric Lemirand, Officer Brian Burkhardt, Officer David Bertram
Training Officer Award	Officer Koua Thao
Core Values Award	Officer Luis Lopes-Serrao
Youth Mentorship Award	Officer James Martin
Community Policing Project of the Year-Sir Robert Peel Award	Officer Nicholas Stetzer & K9 Badge, Officer Jeffrey Schremp & K9 Theo
Lifetime Achievement Award	Lieutenant Dwayne Dachel, Retired
Bullseye Award	Lieutenant Andrew Hartwig
Outstanding Team Award	
In-House Superior Team: Lieutenant Cord Buckner, Lieutenant Michael Felder, Lieutenant Nathan Cihlar, Lieutenant Matthew Van Lieshout, Officer Paul Piskoty, Officer Brian Burkhardt, Officer Luis Lopes-Serrao, Law Enforcement Computer Technician Cheryl Stieve, Administrative Assistant Jennifer Friday	
Problem Solving Officer	Officer Sarah D'Acquisto
Lifesaving Awards	Officer Matthew Grover, Officer Ben Thumann, Officer Xai Vang, Lieutenant Andy Hartwig, Officer Shawn Pierschalla, Officer Garrett Carr, Officer David Bertram,
Excellence in Policing Award	Officer Kevin Cornell
Back-Up Officer Award	Officer Brian Burkhardt
Rookie of the Year Award	Officer Josh Bigger
Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award	Officer Dennis Peterson

*"Man gives you the award but God gives you the reward."*

*- Denzel Washington*

# Fourth Annual Awards Banquet



Rookie of the Year - Officer Joshua Bigger



Problem Solving Officer - Officer Sarah D'Acquisto



Bridge Builder Award - Officers Brian Burkhardt, David Bertram, and Eric Lemirand

 Dinner Attendees - 197

 Award Recipients - 46



Community Volunteer Award - Officer Corinne Zimmerman



Law Enforcement Officer of the Year - Officer Dennis Peterson

*"Everyone can rise above their circumstance and achieve success if they are dedicated to and passionate about what they do."*

*- Nelson Mandela*



## Awards



CART: Deputy Megan Sowinski, Stacy Rozelle, Chuck Kerstell, and Officer David Bertram  
United Way Partners in Caring Award  
January 2019



Deputy Chief Matthew Barnes  
United Way Speaker of the Year  
January 2019



Detective Nate Stetzer, Lieutenant John Phillips and Detective Max LaPorte  
Sir Robert Peel Award  
February 2019

*"True success is not done for individual glory, but for the commitment to and love of the team."*

*- Unknown*



## Awards



SRO Koua Thao  
Samoset Advisor  
of the Year Award  
March 2019



Officer Corinne Rizzo  
Women's Community  
Outstanding Service Award  
April 2019



CART: Officer David  
Bertram, Deputy Megan  
Sowinski, Stacy Rozelle,  
and Chuck Kerstell  
Marathon County AOD  
Partnership Spotlight  
Award  
April 2019

*"In the end it's about the work, not an award  
you get for the work."*

*- Linda Fiorentino*

## Awards



SRO Nick Stetzer  
Wausau No. 1 on Optimist Law  
Enforcement Award  
May 2019



Detective Jon Kindlar  
Wisconsin Woodchucks  
Hometown Hero  
August 2019

*“Be the change you wish to see in the world.”*

*- Mahatma Gandhi*

## Community Events



Therapy K9s Badge and Theo in Barron County after Jayme Closs returned home in January.



Honor Guard members Carr, Bertram and Thao traveled to Milwaukee for the funeral of Officer Matthew Rittner in February.



Chief Bliven was a guest reader at Thomas Jefferson School for Read Across America in March.

*"There is no power for change greater than a community discovering what it cares about."*

*- Margaret J Wheatley*



## Community Events



Wausau PD led the pack during the Women's Community Chasin' Chocolate event in May.



The annual trips for the local Safety Patrol students went to Milwaukee and Chicago and another trip to Wisconsin Dells.



ADA Kyle Mayo and Officer Grover biked 247 miles to Washington DC for the Police Unity Tour.

*"The mark of community is not the absence of conflict. It's the presence of a reconciling spirit."*

*- Bill Hybels*

## Community Events



Several of ficer s at tended the GD Jones Elementary Scho ol Carnival be fore the end of the scho ol year.



Honor Guard member s Reince and Buchkoski traveled to Racine for the funeral of Of ficer John Hetland in July.



Our 4th Annual Com munity Thank You Picnic was another resounding suc ces s in Augu st!

*“Without a sense of caring, there can be no sense of community.”*

*- Anthony J D’Angelo*



## Community Events



Officers Nick Stetzer and Ben Price went on the Wilderness Connections trip with at risk youth in August.



Wausau Police Benefit Association was able to make a donation of 84 turkeys to The Neighbor's Place for Thanksgiving.



Staff worked at Culver's to promote the 89Q Lights of Christmas program, serving food and collecting donations.

*"In every community, there is work to be done. In every nation, there are wounds to heal. In every heart, there is the power to do it."*

*- Marianne Williamson*



## Community Events



Once again, Wausau PD participated in Shop With A Cop to help local children have a merrier Christmas.



We had several Tweet Alongs throughout the year

*“The world is a dangerous place, not because of those who do evil, but because of those who look on and do nothing.”*

*- Albert Einstein*

## Staff Photos



Chief Benjamin Bliven 001



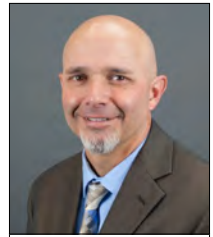
Deputy Chief Matthew Barnes 005



Captain Todd Baeten 022



Captain Benjamin Graham 084



Lt William Kolb 931



Lt Nathan Pekarske 061



Lt Michael Felder 934



Lt Melinda Pauls 024



Lt Bill Taylor 023



Lt Nathan Cihlar 054



Lt Matthew VanLieshout 074



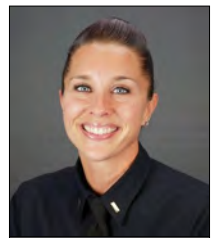
Lt Cord Buckner 974



Lt Nathan Pauls 991



Lt John Phillips 091



Lt Jillian Kurtzhals 043



Lt Luis Lopes Serrão 155



Det Jeff Strobach 913



Det Jennifer Holz 012



Det Jon Kindlarski 081



Det Anthony Reince 047



Det Max LaPorte 042



Det Nate Stetzer 121



Ofc Mark Jaeger 924



Ofc Paul Piskoty 935



Ofc Kevin Cornell 936

*The blue line stands for the Law Enforcement Officers. The top black part stands for the good. And the bottom black part stands for the bad. All together, the blue line (law enforcement) separating the good from the bad.*



## Staff Photos



Ofc Dean Talg 941



Ofc Mark Kurtzhals 961



Ofc John Jurashin 011



Ofc Dale Zander 041



Ofc Sandra Hunt 044



Ofc Nathan Porath 045



Ofc Shawn Fritsch 051



Ofc Brent Olson 053



Ofc Jeffrey Schremp 072



Ofc Shawn Pierschalla 075



Ofc Houa Lee 082



Ofc Kyle Buchkoski 083



Ofc Eric Lemirand 093



Ofc Sarah Bedish 111



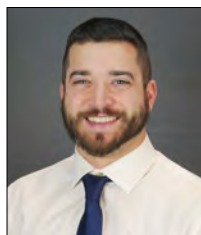
Ofc Koua Thao 113



Ofc Nick Stetzer 123



Ofc Jacob Chittum 131



Ofc Garrett Carr 141



Ofc Dennis Peterson 151



Ofc James Martin 153



Ofc Jena Zinkowich 154



Ofc Brady Copas 157



Ofc Peter Fish 158



Ofc Ross Austin 159



Ofc Shawn Meyer 150

*"A family born not from a blood line, but bonded in life by a blue one."*

*- Unknown*



## Staff Photos



Ofc Nick Walters 161



Ofc Benjamin Price 162



Ofc Snow Thao 163



Ofc Xai Vang 165



Ofc Jason Pacey 166



Ofc Matthew Grover 167



Ofc Mallori Buchkoski 169



Ofc Michael Horejs 173



Ofc Ben Siempkes 174



Ofc Ty Woodward 175



Ofc Corinne Rizzo 177



Ofc Joshua Bigger 178



Ofc Benjamin Thumann 179



Ofc Aaron Karlen 181



Ofc Erick Guzman 183



Ofc Bradley Weeks 184



Ofc Scott Peterson 191



Ofc Josiah Kaetterhenry 192



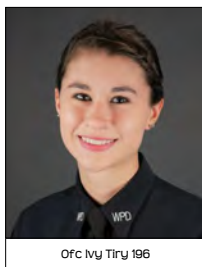
Ofc Andrew Bloch 193



Ofc Mason Hagenbucher 194



Ofc Robert Pfaff 195



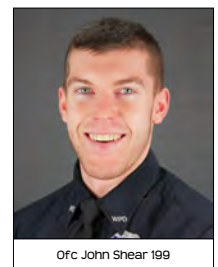
Ofc Ivy Tiry 196



Ofc Brady Olson 197



Ofc Michael Grund 198



Ofc John Shear 199

*"And maybe remind the few, if ill of us they speak, that we are all that stands between the monsters and the weak."*

*- Michael Marks*

## Staff Photos



Ofc David Bertram 156, CART



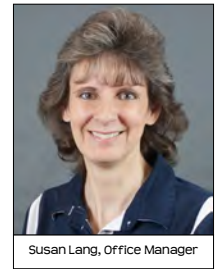
Dep Jackie White, CART



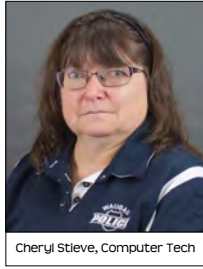
Chuck Kerstell, CART



Stacy Rozelle, CART



Susan Lang, Office Manager



Cheryl Stieve, Computer Tech



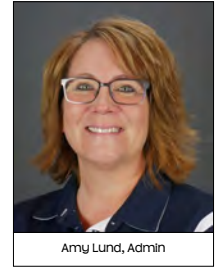
Mary Jordan, Admin



Jennifer Friday, Admin



Teri Daigle, Admin



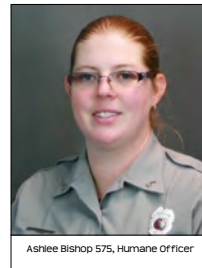
Amy Lund, Admin



Jean Frankel, Admin



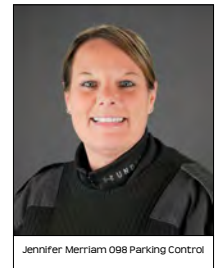
Kristen Seidler, Therapist



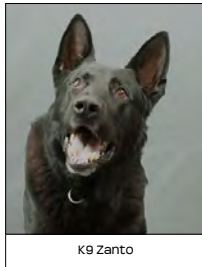
Ashlee Bishop 575, Humane Officer



James Hellrood 097, Parking Control



Jennifer Merriam 098, Parking Control



K9 Zanto



K9 Layla



K9 Zander



K9 Rio



Therapy Dog Badge



Therapy Dog Theo

*"There are people that put their lives in harm's way every day. It's not something they do, it's something they are."*

*- Unknown*