



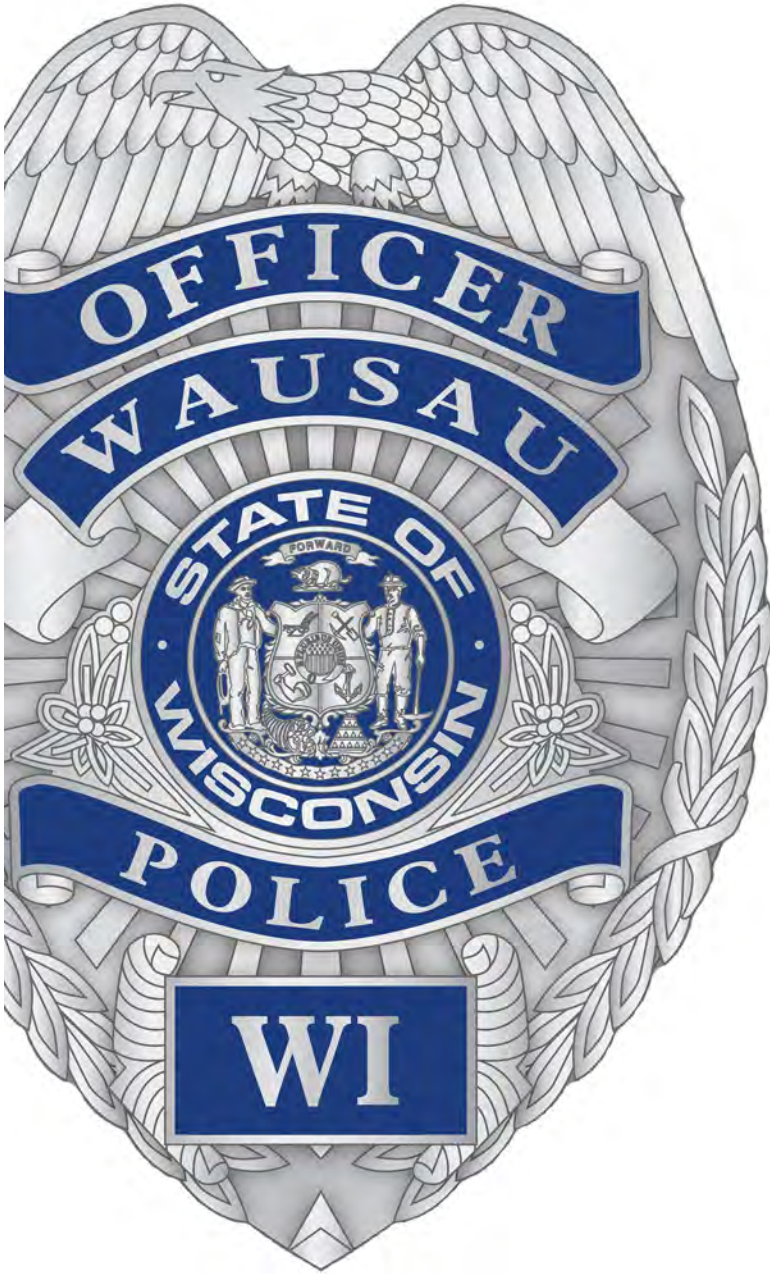
2020

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

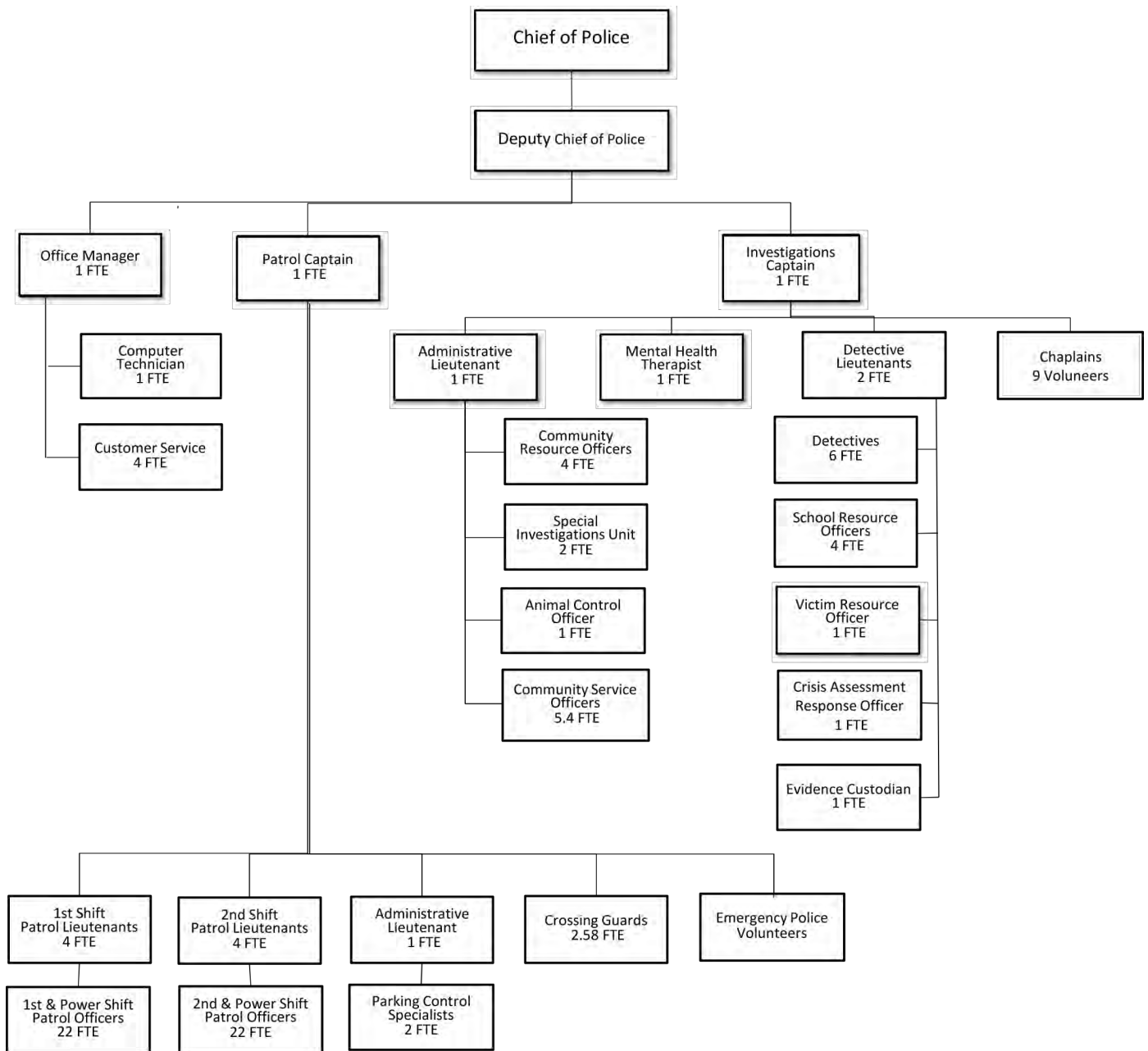


Benjamin Graham
Investigations Captain

"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



Michael Loy
Chairman



William Harris
Vice President



Kathy Strasser
Secretary



Cheryl Bahr

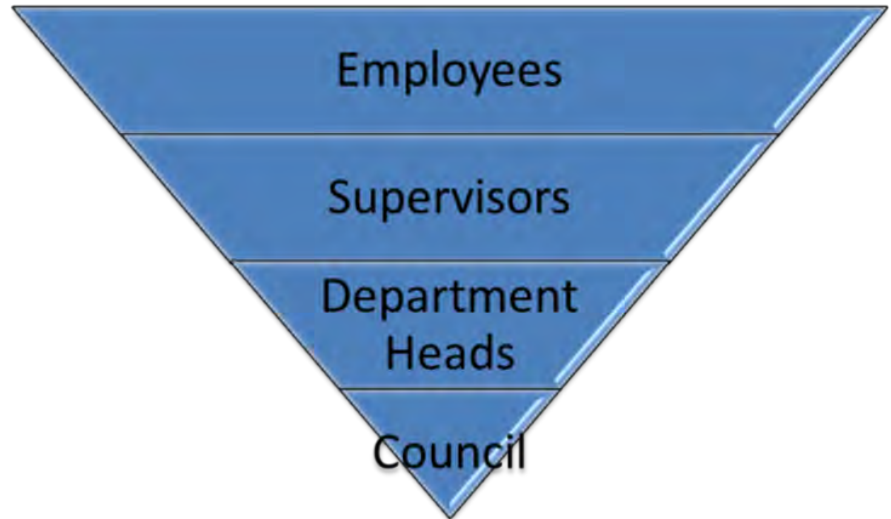


William Graef



*“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

2020 was unlike any year we have experienced in memory as a law enforcement agency. Our ability to adapt and respond to extraordinary challenge was tested. Our team here at Wausau PD responded valiantly and is better positioned to achieve excellence in the coming years as a result of 2020. Police officers join this profession because we want to be of service to our community. Especially through challenging times, people in the law enforcement profession cement their resolve to service.

We continue to add more staff to our department in 2020 hiring six new police officers. As our department becomes younger, we will likely see a slowing trend of hiring. In addition to hiring more staff, our team continues to innovate and find new ways to deliver even better services. Our community needs the leadership that can be found within all of our ranks to provide a better service to Wausau.

We continue to provide outstanding service to victims of crime in our Victim's Resource Unit, to citizens experiencing mental health issues in our Crisis Assessment Response Team, to combat the opioid epidemic through our Community Resource Unit, and in 2020 a full-time officer was deployed to impact chronic homelessness. This is another partnership with North Central Health Care who has provided a case manager to build relationships and resolve chronic homelessness. We are at the forefront in Wausau of leading the way to resolve complex community problems.

In 2020, The world and our community responded to the COVID 19 pandemic. This resulted in most of our department working an emergency schedule. Nearly everyone in a special assignment was moved back into the Patrol Bureau. Four groups of 16 officers (eight on dayshift and eight on night shift) were created. Officers worked six days on and 18 days off for nearly 3 months. Someone reading this might think the schedule was a "luxury," but it proved to be a strain for our team. Nobody will forget the challenge of the pandemic, but there have been many lessons learned.

Of course, the pandemic was a major story of the year, but our team still had to do the work of police officers. Crime and community problems don't stop when there is a pandemic. Below is a summary of some of the major events and incidents that occurred in 2020:








🛡️ January 2, 2020: An armed gunman who had already fired rounds was peacefully

"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

arrested after a standoff with officers.

-  January 16, 2020: Wausau police officers and Marathon County Sheriff's deputies were involved in an officer involved shooting on N 12th Ave near Arctic Ln. A subject was attempting to steal vehicles and pulled a firearm and shot at officers. Officers and Deputies received valor awards for their actions. Here is a link to the press conference following the officer involved shooting: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Az3ef8-MIG0>.
-  Several stabbings and cases with significant injuries.
-  In relation to our facility, we added wall padding to our workout room so we can provide better defensive and arrest tactics training for our team. We also decided to have a vegetable garden in areas around the parking lot and department. This was well received by staff and the community.
-  In February, our team achieved reaccreditation through WILEAG – Wisconsin Law Enforcement Accreditation Group. This took a lot of time and energy from many of our staff members and their dedication continues to pay dividends for our community.
-  COVID 19 – This pandemic lasted most of the year and impacted lives in many ways, both personally and professionally. There were protests and debate about the effectiveness of masks, the Safer at Home order which restricted non-essential travel outside of the home, and it impacted how we greet each other (i.e. no hand shakes or hugs). There was much dissension over these issues in our community and in our country; especially as the presidential campaigns kicked into high gear. Our team has sometimes been in the middle of this controversy and it has been difficult.
-  In May of 2020, George Floyd died while being arrested by the Minneapolis Police Department. This led to protests and riots across the country. There was a peaceful march held in Wausau that was the largest 1st amendment gathering our community has seen. This event was the catalyst for Mayor Rosenberg's Policing Task Force. More information can be read on the task force here: <https://www.ci.wausau.wi.us/Departments/CityCouncil/BoardsCommitteesCommissions/WausauPolicingTaskForce.aspx>
-  In addition to protests and demands for law enforcement reform, our relatively new Mobile Field Force team was deployed across the State of Wisconsin to help keep peace and protect cities and communities against violence during protests. Our team

“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

members performed admirably and quickly became recognized as one of the best teams in the state.

- After years of planning, the Wausau Fire Department opened their newly constructed Fire Station 2 on the west side. In addition to that construction project, we were able to finalize the construction of our new large item evidence storage building in the industrial park. This will help us protect large items of evidence like vehicles.
- We minted a new squad design thanks to our committee that worked to develop it. We moved from the traditional black and white squad to an all-black squad with an image of the Dudley tower and blue lettering.

And, of course, our team was exceptional as they have been for many years by savings lives, arresting scores of people for felony crimes, and serving the citizens of our community with tremendous care, compassion, and concern. We are blessed to live and work in a community that supports law enforcement and that support is a reflection of the way in which our team carries out their duties on a daily basis.

“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 - 1936
- ☎ Pages Released - 29254
- ☎ Body Camera Requests - 99
- ☎ Hours of BWC redacted - 547



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

- Rear Admiral Grace Murray Hopper

2020 Police Budget Summary



| | | |
|------------------------------|-----------|--------------------|
| Income | | |
| ■ General Fund: | | \$9,540,980 |
| ■ Intergovernmental Charges: | | |
| School Reimbursement | \$154,400 | |
| All other | \$32,263 | |
| Total | | \$187,663 |
| ■ Public Safety Grants | | \$184,000 |
| ■ Public Charges: | | \$20,870 |
| ■ Miscellaneous: | | \$23,000 |
| Total Income: | | \$9,956,513 |



| | | |
|-------------------------|-----------|--------------------|
| Expenses | | |
| ■ Wages & Benefits: | | \$8,929,840 |
| ■ Contractual Services: | | |
| Vehicles | \$539,000 | |
| Office Mach & Equip | \$63,300 | |
| Telephone | \$45,000 | |
| All Other | \$56,538 | |
| Total | | \$703,838 |
| ■ Supplies & Expenses: | | |
| Liability Insurance | \$65,400 | |
| Training Expenses | \$57,000 | |
| Range | \$ 35,680 | |
| All Other | \$164,755 | |
| Total | | \$322,835 |
| Total Expenses: | | \$9,956,513 |

The police department accounts for 29% 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 | 6387 |
| Extra Patrol | 4732 |
| Criminal Miscellaneous | 3440 |
| Service Miscellaneous | 3012 |
| Welfare Check | 1823 |
| Suspicious Activity | 1738 |
| Traffic Crash | 1043 |
| Animal Complaint | 866 |
| Mental Subject | 827 |
| Family Disturbance | 805 |
| Civil Complaint | 774 |
| Parking Miscellaneous | 765 |
| Traffic Miscellaneous | 747 |
| 911 Hang Up | 746 |
| Medical Emergency | 694 |
| Lost And Found | 601 |
| Vehicle Lockout | 580 |
| Alarms | 503 |
| Disabled Vehicle | 501 |
| Noise Complaint | 455 |
| Traffic Hazard | 386 |
| Vehicle At Large | 333 |
| Criminal Theft | 310 |
| Juvenile At Large | 253 |
| Gas Skip | 208 |

“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 | 0 |
| Manslaughter by Negligence | 2 |
| Sex Offenses, Forcible | 52 |
| Sex Offenses, Non Forcible | 11 |
| Assault | 430 |
| Kidnapping/False Imprisonment | 30 |
| Human Trafficking | 0 |

Crimes Against Property Offenses

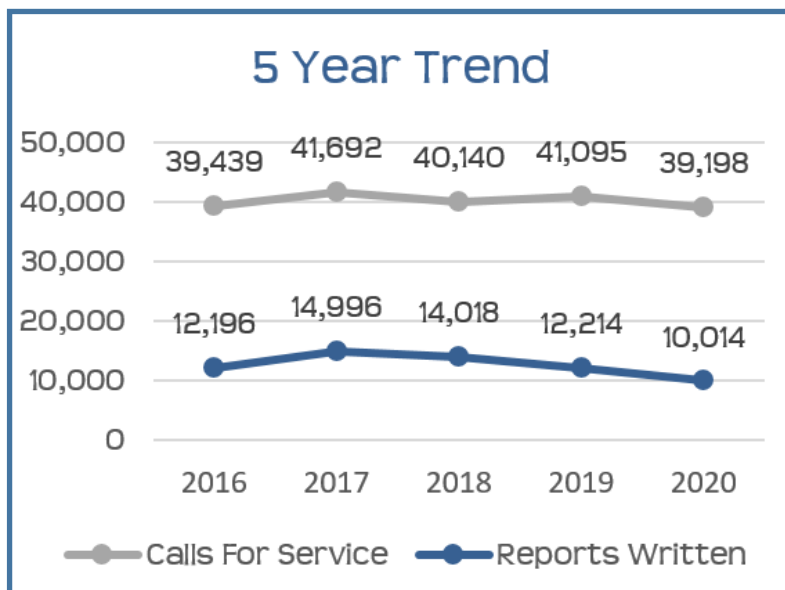
| | |
|------------------------|-----|
| Robbery | 14 |
| Burglary | 69 |
| Theft/Larceny | 454 |
| Motor Vehicle Theft | 61 |
| Stolen Property | 7 |
| Arson | 4 |
| Counterfeiting/Forgery | 36 |
| Fraud | 117 |
| Embezzlement | 3 |
| Extortion/Blackmail | 1 |
| Bribery | 0 |
| Destruction/Vandalism | 246 |

Crimes Against Society Offenses

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-----|
| Weapon Law Violation | 70 |
| Prostitution | 0 |
| Drugs/Narcotics and Paraphernalia | 745 |
| Gambling | 0 |
| Pornography | 14 |
| Animal Cruelty | 9 |

Other Arrests (Group B)

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| Bad Checks | 0 |
| Curfew/Loitering/Vagrancy | 2 |
| Disorderly Conduct | 217 |
| Driving Under the Influence | 216 |
| Family Offenses, Nonviolent | 8 |
| Liquor Law Violation | 43 |
| Peeping Tom | 0 |
| Trespass | 20 |
| All Other | 327 |



“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 | 3584 |
| Top Traffic Citations Issued | Quantity |
| Operate While Suspended | 507 |
| Speed Related | 348 |
| Operate While Revoked | 322 |
| No Insurance | 313 |
| Operate While Under The Influence | 272 |
| Veh Operator Fail To Wear Seatbelt | 229 |
| Operate Without Valid License | 216 |
| Operate With Prohibited Alcohol Concentration | 184 |
| Non Registration Of Auto | 136 |
| Violate Red Traffic Light | 109 |

| | |
|---|-----------------|
| Total Traffic Warnings Issued | 4515 |
| Top Traffic Warnings Issued | Quantity |
| Speed Related | 784 |
| Non Registration of Auto | 414 |
| No Proof Of Insurance | 285 |
| Operate Without Required Lamps Lighted | 242 |
| Fail To Maintain High Mounted Stop Lamp | 218 |
| Failure To Obey Traffic Sign or Signal | 171 |

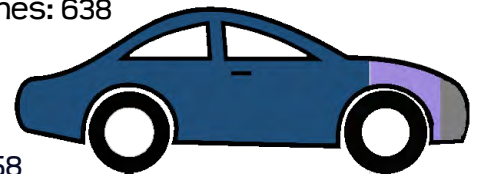
Total Crashes: 824

■ Reportable, no injury crashes: 638

□ Crash with fatality: 1

■ Crash with injury: 126

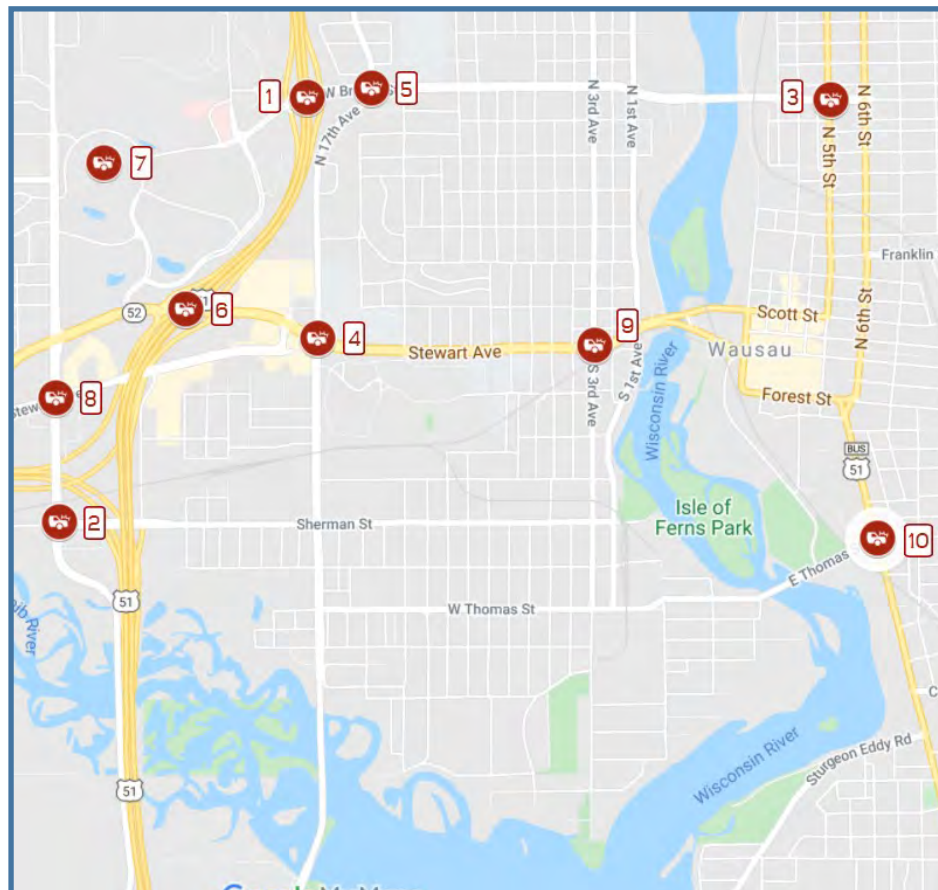
■ Non-Reportable crashes: 58



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 - 333 Pine Ridge Blvd Parking Lot |
| 2 - Sherman St & 28th Ave | 8 - Stewart Ave & 28th Ave |
| 3 - Bridge St & 5th St | 9 - Stewart Ave & 3rd Ave |
| 4 - Stewart Av & 17th Av | 10 - Grand Ave & Thomas St |
| 5 - Bridge St & 17th Ave | |
| 6 - Hwy 52 Pkwy & US 51 | |

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

- Allison Glock

Letter from Patrol Captain

Todd Baeten



The past year was anything but uneventful! Across the country, we saw disruptive protests, calls for social change, and lots of public discourse replete with both civility and incivility. All of this was further exacerbated by the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, Wausau continued to show its support for our department and a desire to work together to enhance the quality of life here.

Our uniformed patrol bureau responded to these challenges as the rest of our community did – with adaptability and resilience. Although we modified how we did things a bit, we definitely stayed busy. We responded to 39,198 calls for service in 2020. That’s just about one call for each of Wausau’s residents. With the bulk of these calls being handled, at least initially, by one of our 42 patrol officers, it’s easy to understand just how active our officers are during their shifts!

Our department continues to embrace technology to enhance our ability to serve. In fact, we recorded over 123,000 pieces of digital evidence this past year, much of that being squad and body camera footage. Our marked squad cars are packed full of technological advances designed to increase officers’ efficiency and safety as they seek to meet the needs of our citizens. However, despite all the current and emerging technology, our staff members remain our most important resource!

I would be remiss if I failed to acknowledge the amazing work our patrol staff continue to do, despite many difficulties and challenges. As our department worked to keep officers safe during the infancy of our COVID-19 understanding, they were asked to adapt to numerous changes. These ranged from adjusting work schedules and utilizing personal protective equipment, to limiting in-person contacts with citizens and finding creative enforcement solutions. Many of our officers were quarantined early on in the pandemic, sometimes more than once, due to exposures to suspected virus infected individuals. I am grateful to them and their loved ones for this sacrifice.

It is a great privilege to serve in the patrol bureau of the Wausau Police Department. The work of our patrol staff keeps our streets safe, demonstrates an abiding commitment to apprehending criminal suspects, and enhances the overall quality of life in Wausau.

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.

2020 brought new challenges to everyone, and our K9 unit was not exempt. We had to look at how to safely utilize our K9s during a pandemic and find new search techniques to keep everyone safe. With those challenges, we saw a decrease in our overall deployment numbers, however, the dogs remained very active, continuing to get dangerous drugs and weapons out of our community. K9 Max and K9 Astor completed their first years of service and are doing great!



K9 Zanto:

- 🐾 Partner: Ofc Shawn Fritsch
- 🐾 German Shepherd, Age - 9
- 🐾 Years in WPD Service - 8
- 🐾 Deployments in 2020 - 73



K9 Rio:

- 🐾 Partner: Ofc Mark Kurtzhals
- 🐾 Chocolate Labrador, Age - 5
- 🐾 Years in WPD Service - 4
- 🐾 Deployments in 2020 - 57

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

- Will Rogers

K9

We continue to be extremely thankful to all of the donors to our program, whether it be cash donations, or through the purchase of our stuffed K9s and other merchandise. We also want to thank our community partners, who help keep our K9s happy and healthy. Our two biggest donors are Marathon Town & Country, who continues to provide our dogs food at no cost, and VCA Animal Hospital, who continues to provide our dogs with discounted care. Without partners like them, and so many others, we could not keep this program running.



K9 Astor:

- 🐾 Partner: Ofc Jason Pacey
- 🐾 Belgian Malinois, Age - 2.5
- 🐾 Years in WPD Service - 1
- 🐾 Deployments in 2020 - 206



K9 Max:

- 🐾 Partner: Ofc Dennis Peterson
- 🐾 Belgian Malinois, Age - 2.5
- 🐾 Years in WPD Service - 1
- 🐾 Deployments in 2020 - 156

“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 generally has training every month. In addition, the sniper group would train an additional day every month to polish techniques specific to their role. Like everything else, this was condensed due to COVID-19.

As a team, we typically receive requests multiple times a month to assist with public appearances and events. There were also regular call outs, which were down in number for 2019. The biggest event we were involved with this year was the President Trump appearance in Mosinee.

- 🎯 Total SWAT members - 28
- 🎯 WPD members - 5
- 🎯 Team training hours - 104
- 🎯 Call Outs - 10
- 🎯 Counties assisted - 1



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. 2020 saw four callouts; more than last year but still well below the years in which there have been upwards of 15 - 20 callouts. 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 - 96
- 🤿 Call Outs - 4
- 🤿 Counties/Agencies Assisted - 4
- 🤿 Total team members - 11
- 🤿 WPD team members - 3






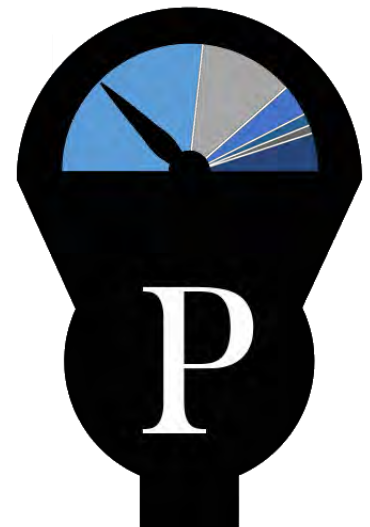
"I prefer peace. But if trouble must come, let it come in my time, so that my children can live in peace."







- Thomas Paine

Parking Control

Our Parking Enforcement team consists of two full-time specialists, several part-time community service officers, and record-keeping staff. Parking enforcement is integral to promoting efficient traffic flow and to ensuring qualified, convenient access to the variety of parking spaces available to the public. Although “enforcement” is in their title, our team members are involved in a variety of additional efforts, including public education, assistance to citizens, and support to other city departments.

| | |
|---|---|
|  | Total Parking Tickets Issued - 12818 |
|  | Handwritten Tickets - 311 |
|  | Full time Parking Control Specialists - 2 |



| | |
|---|--------------------------|
|  | Expired Meter - 6850 |
|  | Overnight Parking - 3032 |
|  | Over Time Limit - 1011 |
|  | Private Property - 379 |
|  | Snow Emergency - 266 |
|  | All Other Tickets - 1280 |



“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 - 4



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.

 Meetings held - 8

 Members - 6



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. Although COVID-19 impacted many of the events in 2020 that our cadets usually participate in, we were still able to attend 8 in person meetings and enjoyed a team building activity at Cracked Escape Room.




"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 typically have training at various times during the year and work hard to be ready. This year all trainings were cancelled due to COVID-19, as were the majority of the monthly meetings and events we help with.

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; Deputy Directory - Scott Dael; Executive Officer - Major Frank Schuelke; Administrative Officer - Captain Bob Wisnewski; Squad One - Captain Michael Lotharius; Squad Two - Captain Carol Stafford.

 Total volunteer hours - 1091
 Members - 20
 Events worked - 13



*“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
- Crime scene processing and evidence storage
- Law enforcement support and engagement in Wausau schools
- Drug enforcement and diversion
- Neighborhood engagement and nuisance abatement
- Homelessness outreach
- 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

The Investigations Bureau accounts for 30% of the department's sworn personnel. In unprecedented fashion, the Bureau experienced a dramatic 2-month reduction in its staffing, dropping from 23 down to 6 personnel between later March and the end of May. 17 personnel were temporarily transferred to the Patrol Bureau to ensure basic law enforcement services continued during the initial stages of the COVID-19 pandemic. Whether it was adapting to an emergency schedule and temporary assignment, taking on additional work-load, or triaging staffing issues created by isolation and quarantine orders, Investigations Bureau staff displayed exemplary flexibility, commitment, and character as they pivoted and provided uninterrupted service to the citizens of Wausau.

Despite the many challenges faced in 2020, the engine of ingenuity continued to run and we saw the birth of a new work unit within the Investigations Bureau. In the fall, a Housing Task Force, consisting of an officer and a North Central Health Care employee, was created as a pilot program and designed to give full-time attention to the chronically homeless. A house was secured, partnerships established, and services rendered. While in program infancy, it has already produced great outcomes in ushering individuals into substance abuse treatment and permanent housing.

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.



Detectives

In 2020 a significant investigative challenge was the department's Covid-19 emergency. For 2 1/2 months, five of the seven detectives worked as patrol officers, leaving the remaining two detectives and a lieutenant to cover cases coming into the bureau. Those five "patrol" detectives continued to work their cases as they could amongst responding to patrol calls for.

Q Detectives - 7

Q Cases Investigated - 196

Total cases worked by detectives in 2020 was 196, which was an increase from the two previous years (2019 - 148, 2018 - 144). Amongst those 196 investigations were five overdose deaths due to illicit drugs; two resulted in arrests and two are still being actively investigated. A baby death investigation led to the arrest of the mother due to neglect of care. There were four cases of firearm shootings, two of which included a single victim with non-life threatening injury. Arrests resulted in three of the four shooting cases.

Evolving advances in science played a significant role in a 2020 arrest of a stranger sexual assault suspect. Wisconsin Department of Justice Crime Lab analyst worked with an unidentified suspect DNA profile from our case. Using genealogy with identified offenders in a DNA databank known as the Combined DNA Index System (CoDIS), the analyst was able to determine the sexual assault suspect was a close relative to three known persons in CoDIS. With several possibilities, our detective was able to obtain DNA from a suspected relative. The Crime Lab eventually reported that submission of DNA was a match to the sexual assault suspect DNA, leading to the suspect's arrest.

The Wausau Police detective assigned to the Wisconsin River Valley Regional Forensics Lab housed at the Marathon County Sheriff's Department worked on 19 drug cases, ten child pornography cases and assisted other agencies in five cases. A significant amount of that investigative work involves the processing of cell phones and computer-related equipment, which has become a evidentiary part of many of the significant cases.

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





- Sherlock Holmes

Property Room

The Wausau Police Department Property Room is managed by Detective Jon Kindlarski, our Evidence Custodian. His responsibilities include ensuring the proper storage, security, records management and disposition of evidence and other property, as well as protecting evidence chain of custody. Other day-to-day tasks include preparing and transmitting evidence to the WI State Crime Lab, sharing evidence records with the District Attorney's Office, assessing older cases for disposition or purging, providing court testimony, and organizing evidence to be used in court. Detective Kindlarski also assists with crime scene processing, documentation and evidence collection.

Evidence comes in many forms, from something as small as trace DNA samples and as large as a motor vehicle. Evidence in felony cases is generally required to be retained until a convicted defendant finishes serving all sentencing, including time on parole or probation. Considering lengthy sentences issued in homicides and other major cases, our Property Room maintains storage of evidence in cases that are decades-old at any given time.

In 2020, Wausau PD conducted a audit of sexual assault kits from 2017 to 2020. This effort followed the WI Department of Justice's Sexual Assault Kit Initiative in 2016. From 2017- 2020, Wausau P.D. took in 80 kits from sexual assault investigations. In a unique partnership with the WI State Crime Lab, Wausau PD had all of its kits reviewed by forensic lab managers to ensure they were properly accounted for and the appropriate testing was completed where needed.

-  Pieces of evidence - 3102
-  Cases w/evidence - 870
-  Controlled Substances - 808
-  Drug paraphernalia - 747

“The important thing is to get clear facts and evidence to help us discover the truth.”

- Claudio Fava

Central WI Narcotics Task Force

The Central Wisconsin Narcotics Task Force (CWNTF) is a multi-jurisdictional team that is a part of the Central Area Drug Enforcement Group (CEADEG.) It is comprised of officers from the Marathon County Sheriff's Department, Wausau PD, Everest Metro PD, Lincoln County Sheriff's Department, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Department of Criminal Investigations, and the State Patrol.

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 - 217
- Q Felony arrests - 331
- Q Firearms Seized - 16
- Q Monies Seized - \$48,916

Drugs Seized:

- Q THC 4767 g
- Q Cocaine 151.3 g
- Q Meth 2444.33 g
- Q Heroin 82.4 g
- Q Fentanyl 80.83 g

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 2020 the CRU investigated 29 Heroin overdoses. Most of these ended in charges and arrests of multiple people.

Arrests:

- Q Warrant - 30
- Q Probation Hold - 34
- Q Misdemeanor - 176
- Q Felony - 302



Drugs Seized:

- Q THC 4207g
- Q Cocaine 37.7g
- Q Meth 244.5g
- Q Heroin/Fentanyl 175g

"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 15 dog bites cases and made 8 dangerous dog declarations.




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 11 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 2020, CSOs continued working year round, doing overnight parking enforcement and downtown ramp patrols.




Paws & Protect Events:

-  Vaccinations Given - 222
-  Animals Microchipped - 95
-  Licenses Issued - 279

Citations Issued:

-  No license - 103
-  Animal At Large - 10
-  No Rabies Vaccine - 10



-  Hours Worked - 5386
-  Municipal Tickets Written - 356
-  Parking Tickets Written - 2917



“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 two law enforcement officers, and two Crisis Professionals from North Central Health Care. CART personnel respond in teams to individuals 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.

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. The CART team is often more successful at handling these calls than a traditional officer.








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. The Unit entered its fifth year and continues bridging the gap between victimization and wellness by responding to the emotional, psychological, and physical needs of crime victims. The unit welcomed a new Crime Response Specialist, Lauryn Erdman, who has been a fantastic complement to the team. Lastly, Soco joined, not as the unit mascot, but as a much needed therapy dog.

Calls responded to:

-  Mental health - 880
-  Welfare Checks - 1918
-  Juvenile Disturbance - 176
-  Juvenile Welfare Check - 268
-  Emergency detentions - 132

Top 5 Victimization Types:

-  Domestic Violence - 42%
-  Child Sexual Assault - 13%
-  Adult Sexual Assault - 11%
-  Child Physical Abuse/
Neglect - 9%
-  Adult Physical Assault - 8%
-  Victims Served - 239
-  Therapy Sessions Given - 527



"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 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, and to enhance the quality of life and scholastic growth in the schools. In addition to law enforcement duties, a SRO also serves as an educator, an informal counselor, and a resource person for so numerous other things. Although they are assigned to a building, they also work in the elementary schools, doing many of the same things. Two of the officers have K9 therapy dog partners that assist them in their duties.

Due to the pandemic, schools state-wide closed in March of 2020, and transitioned to virtual learning. For much of the remaining spring, the SROs were temporarily reassigned to Patrol duties, as part of WPD's emergency staffing schedule. In November, in-person learning resumed on a hybrid basis, and the SROs returned to their roles in the schools. In addition, the SRO's partnered with pupil services staff to connect with those out-of-building students and families in need of support or experiencing crisis. SROs are regularly assigned to follow up on concerns for students in response to content flagged by the District's information technology monitoring system. In 2020, all four SROs completed an updated SRO certification course conducted by the National Association of School Resource Officers (NASRO.)

- 🍏 Schools served - 13
- 🍏 Team members - 4







“You can go as far as your mind lets you. What you believe, you can achieve.”

- Mary Kay Ash

Housing Task Force

The Wausau Police Department and North Central Health Care have recognized that untreated substance use and mental health disorders is the primary common factor present with those individuals in the downtown Wausau area who are chronically homeless. Over the past several years, Officers have regularly assisted these individuals to resolve a short-term crisis; however long-term success requires ongoing, individualized management and treatment in order to overcome their circumstances, barriers and health risks.

| | |
|---|---|
|  | Individuals assisted? moved to housing of some sort - ? |
|  | Bedrooms in temp house - |
|  | 5 |
|  | - 31 |

Beginning in late September, WPD and Northcentral Health Care temporarily reassigned staff to start providing full-time care and attention to this population, with the goal of building relationships with them and helping them achieve stable housing. This is a pilot program that is looking to identify service needs and successful strategies for 2021, to help the City, NCHC and our community partners determine how resources should be applied to our local issue of homelessness. Our objective is to not apply a one-size-fits-all approach to intervention with this group, but rather to spend significant time gathering information from these individuals to understand their unique stories and needs. The team (Officer Eric Lemirand and Peer Specialist Monica Mynesberge) conducts individualized outreach to accomplish this objective, to earn their trust, that we will continue to be there for them in a journey to recovery. Our partnership has facilitated more immediate access to treatment options and housing, giving our team more tangible options to offer people when they tell us they are ready for a change. A notable addition is a leased residence on McClellan Street, where our team can offer some transitional housing, without sobriety conditions, while coordinating options for clients who are ready and willing to accept the help. This new option for our team was made possible through financial support of the B.A. & Esther Greenheck Foundation, and partnership with Holster Management.

Though 2020, the team helped transition several individuals to housing and/or treatment. For those who have lived with addiction and homelessness for months or years, staying housed is likewise challenging, and requires the continued connection and support from the team.



“Homelessness is not a choice, but rather a journey that many find themselves in.”

- Asa Don Brown

Chaplains

The department and community are fortunate to have dedicated volunteer chaplains and we thank them for their continued service. 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, training, and experience that enables them to properly serve, support, and strengthen others, even in the midst of some of life's more significant trials. Our cadre of chaplains experienced some change in 2020. Joe Pinzi accepted a call to active duty in to the United States Navy Chaplain Corps and moved to Naval Weapons State Earle in Monmouth County, New Jersey. Meanwhile, Don Ryder, a cherished long-time consultant turned chaplain, "retired" from official chaplaincy, but we expect he will still stop in from time-to-time. We wish Joe and Don the best.



Dave Forsythe



Julie Goranson



Duane Hamilton



Jen Hoffman



Rob Love



Greg Schmidt



Brian Whitaker

"A chaplain's biggest gift is to be present and just listen."

- Diane Johnson

Retirements



Officer Mark Jaeger

Badge #924

September 1992 - January 2020



K9 Layla

April 2015 - January 2020

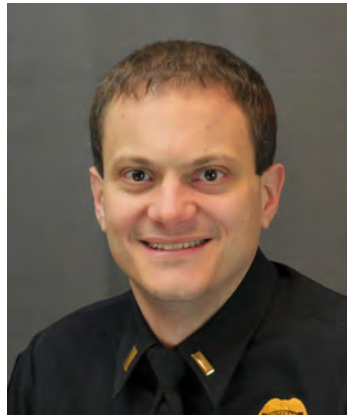
“Retirement is wonderful. It’s doing nothing without worrying about getting caught at it.”

- Gene Perret

Promotions & Assignments



Jacob Chittum
Promotion to Lieutenant
January 2020



Brent Olson
Promotion to Lieutenant
January 2020



James Martin
Promotion to Detective
January 2020

“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 Andrew Kutchenreiter, Hnia Thao and Seth Cate



Officer Michael Bedish



Officers Cody Holder and Claire Aschenbrenner

“Every expert was once a beginner.”
- Helen Hayes

Fifth Annual Awards Banquet 2020 Award Recipients

Community Partner Awards

| | |
|---|---|
| City Employee/Department of the Year Award..... | Kristin Sorenson, City County IT Commission |
| Dispatcher of the Year Award..... | Julie Hillman, Public Safety Telecommunicator |
| Community Caretaker Award..... | Lee Shipway |
| Community Partner Award..... | 89Q—Coy Sawyer & Culver's—Elizabeth Moens |
| The Educator Award..... | Deb Heilmann & Shane Heilmann |
| Public Official Partnership Award..... | Representative Patrick Snyder |

Department Awards

| | |
|--|---|
| Community Volunteer Award..... | Officer Benjamin Price |
| Victim Advocacy Award..... | Kristen Seidler |
| Emergency Police Volunteer of the Year Award..... | Bob Wisnewski |
| Civilian Service Award..... | Chaplain David Forsythe, Chaplain Julie Goranson, Chaplain Duane Hamilton, Chaplain Jennifer Hoffman, Chaplain Rob Love, Chaplain Joe Pinzl, Chaplain Don Ryder, Chaplain Greg Schmidt, Chaplain Brian Whitaker |
| Police Support Staff Member of the Year (Non-Sworn)..... | Jack Thao |
| Supervisor of the Year Award..... | Lieutenant Matt Van Lieshout |
| Bridge Builder Award..... | Lieutenant William Kolb |
| Training Officer Award..... | Officer Shawn Meyer |
| Core Values Award..... | Officer Joshua Bigger |
| Youth Mentorship Award..... | Officer Nick Stetzer |
| Lifetime Achievement Award..... | Officer Mark Jaeger, Retired |
| Bullseye Award..... | Officer Shawn Meyer |
| Outstanding Team Award..... | Officer Jacob Albee, Officer Joshua Bigger, Officer Garrett Carr, Officer Kevin Cornell, Officer Mason Hagenbucher, Officer Sandra Hunt, Officer Mark Jaeger, Retired, Officer John Jurasin, Officer Houa Lee, Officer Nathan Porath, Officer Corinne Rizzo, Officer Jeffrey Schremp, Officer Dale Zander, Detective Nate Stetzer, Lieutenant Jacob Chittum, Lieutenant Brent Olson |
| Problem Solving Officer..... | Officer Joshua Bigger |
| Lifesaving Awards..... | Officer Michael Horejs, Officer Nicholas Walters, Officer Aaron Karlen, Lieutenant Luis Lopes Serrao, Officer Nathan Porath |
| Excellence in Policing Award..... | Officer Sarah Bedish |
| Distinguished Service Award..... | Officer Paul Piskoty |
| Valor Award..... | Lieutenant Nathan Pauls |
| Back-Up Officer Award..... | Officer Sandra Hunt |
| Rookie of the Year Award..... | Officer Aaron Karlen |
| Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award..... | Officer Garrett Carr |

“Man gives you the award but God gives you the reward.”

- Denzel Washington



Fourth Annual Awards Banquet



Bridge Builder Award
Lt Bull Kolb



Officer of the Year
Ofc Garrett Carr

 Dinner Attendees - 197
 Award Recipients - 56



The Educator Award
Deb & Shane Heilmann



Valor Award
Lt Nate Pauls

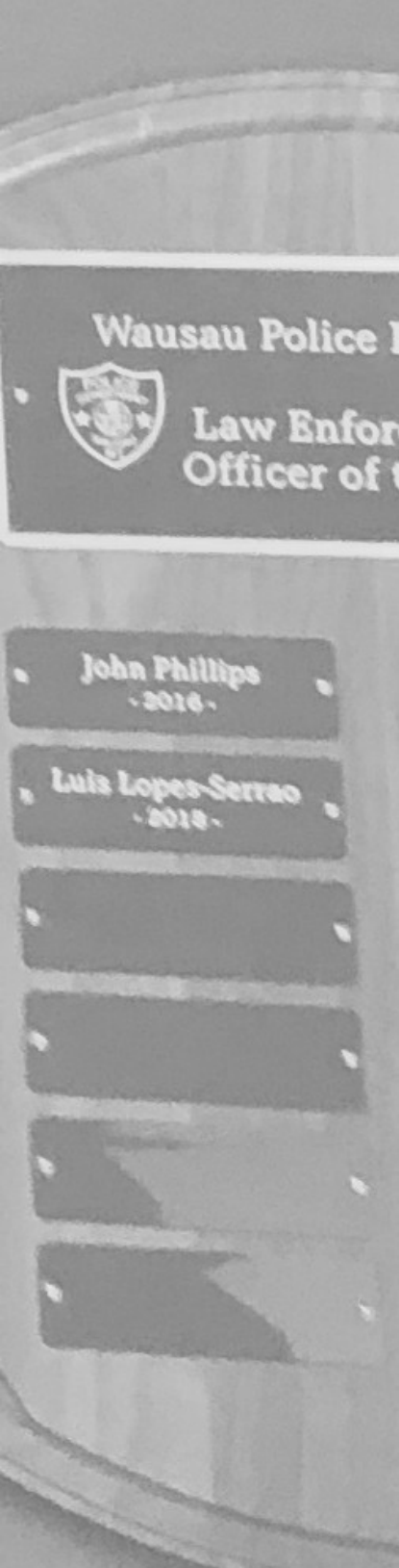


Civilian Service Award
Wausau Police Department Chaplains

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

- Nelson Mandela

Awards



Captain Benjamin Graham
Women's Community
Outstanding Achievements in
Supporting Victims of
Domestic Violence Award
October 2020

*“True success is not done for individual glory,
but for the commitment to and love of the
them.”*

- Unknown

Community Events



Ofc Stetzer, Lt Cihlar and Ofc Price at Freezin' For A Reason at Sunnyvale Park in February 2020.



Members of the Wausau Police Benefit Association bring the annual donation of Thanksgiving turkeys to The Neighbor's Place in November 2020.



Shop With A Cop continued it's annual tradition of teaming up to help needy kids buy Christmas gifts for their families in December.

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

- Margaret J Wheatley

Staff Photos



Chief Benjamin Bliven 001



Deputy Chief Matthew Barnes 005



Captain Todd Baeten 022



Captain Benjamin Graham 084



Lt William Kolb 931



Lt Michael Felder 934



Lt Melinda Pauls 024



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



Lt Brent Olson 053



Lt Jacob Chittum 131



Det Jeff Strobach 913



Det Jennifer Holz 012



Det Jon Kindlarski 081



Det Anthony Reince 047



Det Max LaPorte 042



Det Nate Stetzer 121



Det James Martin 153



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 Jeffrey Schremp 072



Ofc Shawn Pierschalla 075



Ofc Houa Lee 082



Ofc Kyle Buchkoski 083



Ofc Eric Lemirand 093



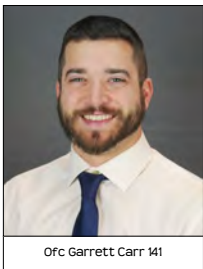
Ofc Sarah Bedish 111



Ofc Koua Thao 113



Ofc Nick Stetzer 123



Ofc Garrett Carr 141



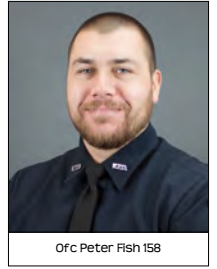
Ofc Dennis Peterson 151



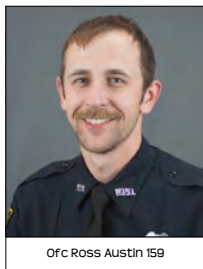
Ofc Jena Zinkowich 154



Ofc Brady Copas 157



Ofc Peter Fish 158



Ofc Ross Austin 159



Ofc Shawn Meyer 150



Ofc Benjamin Price 162



Ofc Snow Thao 163



Ofc Xai Vang 165

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

- Unknown

Staff Photos



Ofc Jason Pacey 166



Ofc Matthew Grover 167



Ofc Mallori Buchkoski 169



Ofc Michael Horejs 173



Ofc Ben Siempkes 174



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 Josiah Kaetterhenry 192



Ofc Andrew Bloch 193



Ofc Mason Hagenbucher 194



Ofc Robert Pfaff 195



Ofc Ivy Tiriy 196



Ofc Brady Olson 197



Ofc Michael Grund 198



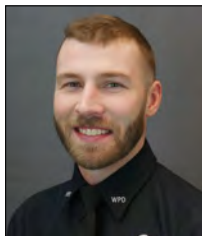
Ofc John Shear 199



Ofc Seth Cate 201



Ofc Andrew Kutchenreiter 202



Ofc Michael Bedish 204



Ofc David Bertram 156, CART



Dep Jackie White, CART



Chuck Kerstell, CART

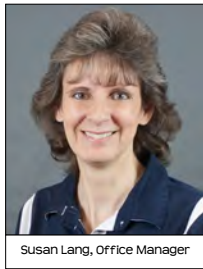
“And maybe remind the few, if ill of us they speak, that we are all that stands between the monsters and the weak.”

- Michael Marks

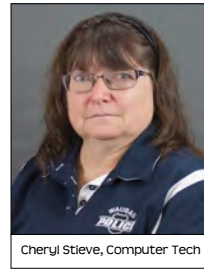
Staff Photos



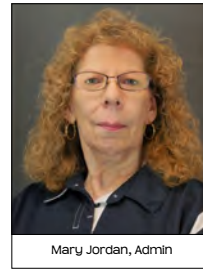
Stacy Rozelle, CART



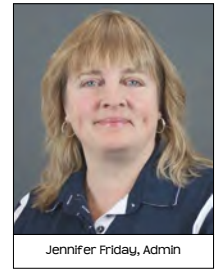
Susan Lang, Office Manager



Cheryl Stevie, Computer Tech



Mary Jordan, Admin



Jennifer Friday, Admin



Amy Lund, Admin



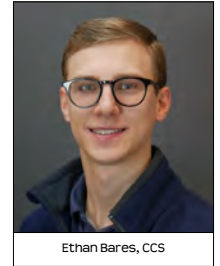
Jean Frankel, Admin



Kristen Seidler, Therapist



Lauryn Erdman, Crime Response



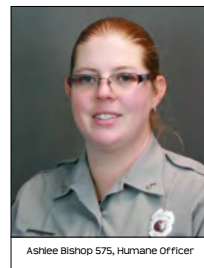
Ethan Bares, CCS



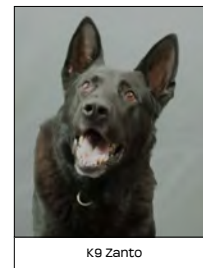
James Hellrood 097, Parking Control



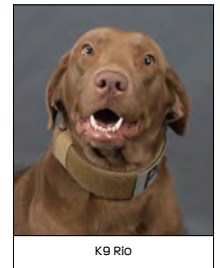
Jennifer Merriam 098, Parking Control



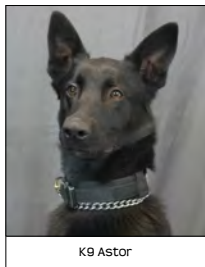
Ashlee Bishop 575, Humane Officer



K9 Zanto



K9 Rio



K9 Astor



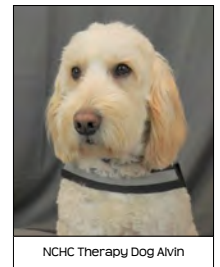
K9 Max



Therapy Dog Badge



Therapy Dog Theo



NCHC Therapy Dog Alvin

“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