WPD Newsletter

Commitment to Service ♦ Leadership ♦ Justice ♦ Compassion ♦ Partnership ♦ Pride

VOLUME 80 WINTER 2015

Upcoming Events:

January 1
New Year's Day

January 19
Martin Luther King Day

January 20
UW-W Classes Resume

Jan 21 - March 4 (Wednesdays)
Citizen's Academy

February 2
Ground Hog Day

February 14
Valentine's Day

February 16
President's Day

March 17
St. Patrick's Day

March 20
First Day of Spring

March 23 - 27
UW-W & WUSD Spring Break

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Year in Review - 2014

By: Chief Lisa Otterbacher

The "Year in Review" has become an annual affair, an opportunity to see if concepts were actualized. An annual review provides an opportunity for the department to reflect, recognize and appreciate all of the changes and accomplishments we have collectively experienced throughout the year.

On January 10, 2014 our tactical officers formally implemented the 'Response to Active Threat" training to the students throughout our school district. The training was hosted by school faculty and supported by tactical officers who were present for the elementary and middle schools cognitive training and facilitated the hands-on training exercise for the high school students. In April the tactical instructors provided similar active threat training to all city employees. These important hands-on tactical exercises were well received and will better prepare our community with life skills to mentally and physically respond to an active threat.

After eighteen months of fundraising efforts the department K9 program became a reality and Officer Joe Matteson became the department's first K9 Officer and our new K9, Boomer, became an official member of the Whitewater Police Department. Officer Matteson and Boomer attended a two week training program and were formally introduced to the Whitewater community on May 15, 2014. Since moving to patrol, Boomer has alerted on a variety of narcotics such as "Molly" or MDMA/ Methamphetamine, GHB (Gamma Hydroxybutyrate), and marijuana during a number of vehicles stops and during building searches. The K9 program continues to be a "For the Community by the Community" initiative thus requires ongoing fundraising efforts to address new and reoccurring K9 expenses. Dispatcher Gempler and Officer Elder have already scheduled our annual K9 5K/10K for May 30, 2015, which has been without question our most successful fundraising event, second only to the generous donations that are received throughout the year.

On August 19, 2014, the Whitewater Common Council voted unanimously to approve the communications center "bridge" concept. This concept was a result of a communications center staff study, which demonstrated that the communications center was understaffed. Capt. Kevin Williams of the Walworth County Sheriff's Office presented this forward thinking concept as a way to join the two dispatch centers to provide assistance during peak call volume. This concept has been over a year in the making and could not have been done without the joint efforts of the Walworth County Sheriff's Office, the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater and City of Whitewater staff.

Officer James Elder, assisted by Officer Derrick Schleis, have dedicated months into creating and implementing our department's first Volunteer Cadet Program.

Continued on Page 3

Whitewater Police Personnel Updates

New Patrol Officer

Please welcome our newest officer Nicholas Borchardt. Nicholas started on December 1st. Nicholas lives in Hartford, WI and is a recent graduate from the UW -Whitewater. He is also a recent graduate of the Police Recruit Academy at Waukesha County Technical College. While at UW-W, Nicholas volunteered at UW-W News and was an anchor for both live and pre -recorded news on campus. He also was an intern for UW-Whitewater Police Services. Welcome Nick!

Chief Otterbacher, Officer Borchardt, and Captain Uhl

K9 Boomer: Not just another handsome face

By: Officer Joe Matteson

I want to give a quick update about how our K9, Boomer, has been doing. I continue to be very impressed with Boomer's ability to reliably detect the odor of narcotics during deployments and training. Boomer has shown me on numerous occasions that he will reliably alert to the source of the odor by biting, scratching, and/or barking. I am fortunate to be working with a K9 that gives such distinct changes in body language when he is detecting an odor of narcotics.

Boomer has assisted us with over 100 deployments so far. The majority of the deployments have been traffic related. We are able to have Boomer quickly sniff the exterior of vehicles during routine traffic stops without unreasonably delaying the contact. It gives us probable cause to search a vehicle if Boomer alerts to the odor of narcotics while sniffing the exterior. This has allowed us to find things that would not have been possible without Boomer's assistance.

As happy as it makes me to have Boomer's alerts substantiated by narcotics finds or admissions, I am equally pleased with Boomer when he doesn't alert on vehicles. It is very important to be able to show that Boomer does not randomly alert on vehicles for reasons other than detecting the odor of narcotics. I make sure to train Boomer with "blank vehicles" and "blank rooms" to ensure he is not falsely alerting. I have seen Boomer ignore food and other items during vehicle sniffs that dogs would normally find enticing. An example of this occurred when I took Boomer around the exterior of a stopped vehicle and there was a fresh Topper's Pizza on the passenger seat. Boomer went around the car, sniffed near the open driver's door window, and then moved on without alerting.

We have also made it a point to have Boomer conduct narcotics sniffs at the schools. We have been fortunate to have a great deal of cooperation with school administrators and staff. We will continue to have Boomer sniff parking lots, lockers, and classrooms at random intervals.

Boomer has been a pleasure to work with and I am thankful every day to have this opportunity. ♦

Boomer training at the Police Department

Community Service Officers

By: CSO Justin Stuppy

The Community Service Officer (CSO) position is more than just a college job; it is the beginning of a career. Community Service Officers for the City of Whitewater are part-time, non-sworn employees of the police department. CSOs in Whitewater are students who are interested in a career in law enforcement, and have a passion for learning more about the law enforcement profession. CSOs do much more than just write parking tickets. Other duties include, but are not limited to, handling animal complaints, assisting in traffic control, enforcing city ordinances, solving quality-of-life issues, participating in community events, and completing city tasks as needed.

The CSO position prepares individuals for a career in law enforcement through trainings, on-the-job experience, as well as the ability to network with other police personnel. These experiences and trainings help to put CSOs a step above a law enforcement candidate whose only experience is in a classroom setting. The knowledge and experience gained as a CSO opens many doors for these individuals. Having a CSO program gives men and women the unique opportunity to be able to work an entry-level position for a law enforcement agency, and better their knowledge to achieve success for a future career in the law enforcement field. The CSO program has become beneficial for the citizens of Whitewater, the police department, and the CSOs themselves.

On the uniform patch of a Whitewater CSO reads the phrase, "Serving our Community." Just like a police officer for the City of Whitewater, a CSO serves the community with compassion, integrity, and pride. Whitewater CSOs continue to provide necessary assistance to the department to help ensure that calls for service and assignments are handled efficiently and thoroughly. This helps create a department that can better serve the citizens of Whitewater. For me, being able to become a CSO while attending college has been a very honorable and enjoyable experience. There is no better feeling than looking forward to work every day, knowing that I will learn something new and benefit greatly from the experience. ♦

CSO Stuppy, CSO Hathorn, and NSO Fiedler

Survive and Thrive in the 911 Center

By: Dispatcher Marsha Petersen

On November 18th and 19th the Waukesha County Communications Center hosted a training for dispatchers and communication supervisors on comprehensive stress and resilience strategies led by James Marshall, III, MA of the 911 Training Institute. The instructor, a trauma therapist, has focused on the support and wellness of public safety telecommunicators at risk due to the stressful nature of their work. Mr. Marshall and the 911 Wellness Foundation are part of a growing movement to assist dispatchers in safeguarding their careers and personal life from the negative health effects of trauma and stress in the 911 center.

The effects of stress and trauma are well known. Increased heart rate, respirations, adrenalin and a hyper aroused state prepare the individual for "flight or fight" response or, as observed in women, the "tend and befriend" response. As long as the energy is expended and the body returns to balance (homeostasis) there are no negative effects. When trauma is ongoing, extraordinary, or triggers personal memories it can have damaging results. The human brain can also amplify stress by recalling memories, misinterpreting events and worrying about future unknowns.

Contributing factors in the dispatch role like uncertainty, lack of information and loss of control, can overload the nervous system. As it continually responds to the "danger" signals, the body remains on constant alert or hyper vigilance. When normal situations and experiences trigger the memories of traumatic events the individual can experience post traumatic stress or P.T.S.D. Studies have shown 911 professionals have a risk of PTSD three times higher than the normal population.

In addition to the big traumas, daily irritants like nuisance calls, working conditions, and relationships in and outside of work can contribute to burnout and compassion fatigue. Physical and emotional exhaustion after dealing with the problems and demands of others known as Secondary Traumatic Stress is another condition attributed to the dispatcher's role. All of the above added to shift work, overtime and long hours can result in sleep impairment, irritability, snap judgments, negative emotions, attitudes and actions. Sadness, pessimism, loss of energy and difficulty concentrating can be signs of clinical depression as well.

Raising awareness of the risk factors of 911 workplace stress has brought forth new research based strategies for individuals and policy guidelines for 911 center decision makers. Support systems that can aid in dispatch wellness include Critical Incident Stress Management that would provide defusing and debriefing sessions after a traumatic incident. Another element is the Employee Assistance Program in which confidential counseling sessions are offered. Peer to peer support can also buffer stress factors on the job.

On the individual level taking care of the caregiver becomes a priority. Strategies to reset your system after traumatic events include identifying the situations that result in positive emotions and choosing to connect with those emotions. Do something good for youself. By taking slow deep breaths you can develop the mindfulness to do the right thing and think the right way in the moment. Journaling can be a way to release stress like a solo debriefing. Avoid the negative self talk and gossip that serves no purpose. With ignorance you harm and with compassion you give support.

This new awareness in education, policy, treatment and emotional support will both enhance the individual's quality of life and improve job performance. In this line of work we should aspire to compassion satisfaction, the positive professional quality of life or reward from doing work well. ♦

Volunteer Cadet Program

By: Officer Jim Elder

We are excited to announce the implementation of a volunteer Cadet program here at the Whitewater Police Department. Twelve Cadets have been selected to take part in the program, which consists of students enrolled in a university or technical college criminal justice program with aspirations of obtaining a career in law enforcement. The Cadets will be required to attend monthly meetings, take part in ride alongs, and volunteer at Whitewater Police Department sponsored events. There are strict eligibility guidelines established to maintain membership and ensure the Cadets are model citizens who will represent the department well. The program was developed through the Crime Prevention Team, as an opportunity to connect with students majoring in criminal justice. I am coordinating the program with assistance from Officer Derrick Schleis. The first meeting was held on December 1st where the Cadets expressed great enthusiasm and truly appear to be exceptional and upstanding individuals. ♦

WHITEWATER CADET VOLUNTEER

Year in Review *continued from pg 1*

The process to become a Cadet included a written application, an essay project, a questionnaire, a background investigation and a clear criminal history.

The Whitewater Police Department Cadet Program will provide students from area universities and technical colleges with a better understanding of law enforcement. The program is structured for the Cadets to observe the operations of the police department and participate in various trainings that are intended to foster potential interest in a future law enforcement career. In exchange the Cadets will assist the department in a support capacity with traffic control, special events, crowd control, search for missing persons and assist with undercover initiatives.

The Detective Bureau, in conjunction with members of the Crime Prevention Team, rolled out the Tipsoft software program. Tipsoft is an effective crime prevention tool that engages the public to share critical information in a safe and anonymous environment. Tipsoft is managed by the Walworth County Sheriff's Office who forwards all information that is germane to the City of Whitewater. In May, Whitewater officers participated in the national "Click it or Ticket" seatbelt safety campaign, which teaches the importance of seatbelt safety. The department continues to dedicate training and resources to the bike patrol to ensure all sworn officers are certified bike officers. Officers appreciate both the more personal interaction with the public as well as the proactive and stealth response to crimes in progress.

Lastly the department has sought members of the department to research, develop and implement a Career Resilience Team (CRT). In recent year's physical fitness, stress reduction and healthy living have taken on a new sense of importance. According to a national study by the National Association of Police Chiefs, approximately 300 police officers annually commit suicide, which are twice as many officers than are killed in the line of duty. A primary goal for implementing a physical fitness/ wellness program is to assist department personnel in completing their professional careers with the same level of enthusiasm, health, and commitment to service that they began with. Several members of the Whitewater Police Department have attended training to develop a multi-disciplinary team focused on the overall health and wellness of people in our organization. Seven members of the department have committed to being to being a part of CRT; we are looking forward to moving the team into full implementation in 2015.

The Whitewater Police Department has enjoyed a reputation as a highly professional and integrity driven agency and in 2015 we will continue with the same highly valued standards. In looking forward we will start off in January with a Citizen Academy, transition to our new records management system and the communications center bridge, followed closely by our reaccreditation process that is scheduled in June. ♦

Walworth Co. Sensitive Crimes Team Protocol in Place

By: Officer Tina Winger

For the past 2-3 years officials from several Walworth County agencies have been revising and preparing a new Sensitive Crimes Team Protocol. Countless hours went into revising the protocol and making sure that we will continue to be the best we can as we handle sensitive crimes in our community. The final draft was completed in early 2014 and it included several important changes. The protocol continues to demonstrate the commitment that we have in Walworth County in dealing with crimes of this nature.

On May 29, 2014, the Walworth County Alliance for Children along with the Walworth County District Attorney's Office held a signing event for the countywide Sensitive Crimes Response Team Protocol. The signing event was held at Hawk's View Golf Club where Lt. Governor Rebecca Kleefish was the opening guest speaker. Participants included the District Attorney's Office, Corporation Counsel, Walworth County Sheriff's Office, all Walworth County Law Enforcement jurisdictions, County Board Administrators, Walworth County Health and Human Services, Aurora Lakeland Medical Center, Children's Hospital of Wisconsin, APFV, and Administrative personnel from all Walworth County School Districts.

On November 06 and November 13, 2014 the Walworth County Alliance for Children sponsored a First Responder Training at Evergreen Golf Club which was open to all law enforcement, Human Services employees, school staff and administration, SANE nurses, and advocates who work in Walworth County. The training was presented by experts from several disciplines who informed the attendees about who they were and what their disciplines did. Officer Tina Winger from Whitewater Police Department was one of the presenters covering law enforcement response. Some of the most important changes to the protocol covered adding Drug Endangered Children Investigations and bringing Walworth County Schools on to the team.

The Walworth County Alliance for Children will be hosting another training in early 2015 for Sensitive Crimes Team Members which will cover victim interviewing, suspect interviewing, evidence collection, and injury/neglect identification. We hope to be able to train all new Sensitive Crimes Team members and/or provide a refresher for current members. ♦

Notes of Appreciation

While many of the Whitewater Police Department employee's efforts are commendable and deserve thanks, here are a few letters and comments that have been recently brought to the attention of the Chief of Police.

- "*Dear McGruff the Crime Dog, Thank you for helping at Walk for Washington. It was nice to see you. From Ben*" student at Washington Elementary School
- "*Dear [Chief] Otterbacher, We seldom hear of the good that we do, most often of our mistakes. Officer Schleis went above and beyond in his investigation and although the person was not caught as he went [out of town]. Officer Schleis did a magnificent job… Sincerely, Alice Estrup*"
- "*Thank you Sgt. Gempler and Ofc. Martin from Carol Schafer of Brookdale Manor*"
- "*City of Whitewater Police Department, On behalf of the Homecoming Steering Committee, we would like to thank you for your participation in the planning and execution of the 2014 Homecoming Parade. It was a pleasure working with you! The parade would not be as successful as it is without your help and dedication and for that we thank you, Sincerely, Bryce Schmieder and Jessica Faust*"
- "*To all Participant's: Thank you from the U.W. Whitewater Community Optimist Club for your tremendous support of our project "Toys for Kids". This year we had served 238 kids. We are very proud that you teamed up with us to support this project, we hope that next year you will continue to support us.*" Al Hutchison, Project Chair.
- "*Hi, My name is Nicole Hamilton. On Sunday evening I was in Milwaukee, downtown at the Amtrak train station. I was there with my 4 yr old son among HUNDREDS of people waiting for the anticipated "Holiday Train." I was frantically searching for a friend, speaking with her on my cell phone, when an unknown number called on the other line. I answered the phone to a friendly unfamiliar voice, that said "Is this Nicole?", I said "Yes", he said, "I found your purse!." In shock, horror and disbelief, I listened to this man tell me he found it in the parking lot, he had it and wanted to return it. Although I was calm on the phone with him, I was actually PANICKED, remembering that I had at least $300 in it. To make an already long story shorter, I met up with him. He returned my wallet, all money all credit cards intact. He told me his name was Jake Hintz. I am forever grateful! He could've passed it by, or taken money, being an officer doesn't make you honest. His level of integrity is what I try to instill in my own children. If it wasn't for him, my Holiday would have been very humdrum. Because of him the Christmas lights shine a lot Brighter! With Gratitude, Nicole*" ♦

Presentations and Speeches given by WPD Personnel

- ★ On October 2nd Chief Otterbacher presented "Ethics in Law Enforcement" to the UW-Whitewater criminal justice student LAW group.
- ★ On October 3rd Chief Otterbacher was one of two key-note speakers for the Whitewater Middle School *Dare-Dream-Do* assembly.
- ★ On October 23rd School Resource Officer Hintz presented information on Substance Abuse to the Anderson Machining employees.
- ★ On November 17th Officer Winger participated in the Female Law Enforcement Panel for the Women and Crime Class at UW-Whitewater.
- ★ On November 19th School Resource Officer Hintz presented information on the Police Career to the Whitewater High School Criminal Justice Class.
- ★ On December 1st School Resource Officer Hintz presented information on Travel Safety to the Whitewater Middle School World of Disney Trip students and parents.
- ★ On December 3rd Officer Schleis presented information on Career Preparation to the UW-Whitewater Legal Eagles Learning Community students. ♦

WPD Anniversaries & Birthdays

January	February	March
Kim Millis, 7 years on 1/2	Jake Hintz, 3 years on 2/6	Joe Matteson, 14 yrs on 3/21
Angela Sahr, 5 years on 1/4	Cathy Swartz, 12 yrs on 2/18	Kyle Hathorn, 1 year on 3/28
Dan Meyer, 5 years on 1/4	Michele Martin, birthday	Bill Oliver, birthday
Mel Lentz, 35 years on 1/7	Dan Meyer, birthday	Adam Vander Steeg, birthday
Saul Valadez, 8 years on 1/12	Angela Sahr, birthday	
Dave Gempler, birthday	Derrick Schleis, birthday	

Whitewater Police Personnel Updates

Detective Promotion

Officer Ben Lindsey has accepted the rotational position of Detective. The formal transition date to the rotational Detective position will take place sometime in early 2015. Please join us in wishing Ben success in his new position as a Detective.

New Baby

Officer Saul Valadez and his wife welcomed a baby girl, Leah, into their family in December. Congratulations on the birth of your baby girl Valadez family. ♦

Community Connection

LINCS Elementary 2nd & 3rd Graders Tour to the PD.

Students in 2/3 had the pleasure of touring the Whitewater Police Station and Fire Department to learn all about the important roles they hold within our community. Students learned all about the equipment used by our local firefighters and even had the chance to climb aboard a fire truck! At the police station we ventured inside the holding cells, sat in the police car and learned about safety.

McGruff the Crime Dog Appearances and Police Department Tours

10/2 - Lakeview McGruff tour

10/4 - McGruff appearance at the Treyton's Field of Dreams Opening Ceremony

10/6 - LINCS Elementary PD tour - 39 students

10/7 - Washington Elementary PD Tour- 39 Students

11/4 - LINCS Elementary PD tour - 40 Students

11/5 - LINCS Elementary PD tour - 40 Students

K9 Boomer and Officer Matteson have their own trading cards to be handed out to the community.

Donations

Chief Otterbacher would like to thank the businesses and individuals who have recently given donations to the Whitewater Police Department.

- **Fairhaven Senior Services**
  (the funds will be used towards Crime Prevention initiatives)
- **Rosemary Metzdorff**
  (the funds will be used toward the K9 program)
- **Terry & Sandy Schroeder**
  (the funds will be used toward the K9 program)

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