



# WPD Newsletter

*"Protecting our Community"*

Volume 75

Fall 2013

## Upcoming Events:

- October 14**  
Columbus Day
- October 26**  
UW-W Homecoming
- October 31**  
Halloween
- November 11**  
Veteran's Day
- November 28**  
Thanksgiving Day
- December 14**  
UW-W Winter Commencement
- December 24**  
Christmas Eve
- December 25**  
Christmas Day
- December 31**  
New Years Eve

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## Public Safety Partnerships

by: Chief Lisa Otterbacher

While at the funeral of Whitewater Fire Fighter Scott A. Strait, I was once again struck how intricately connected the police department, fire department and emergency medical services truly are. Throughout the years we have fostered professional partnerships, appreciated, respected and relied on each other's strengths as we navigated through responses to traffic accidents, fires, medical emergencies and public safety needs. Though from varied perspectives, we find ourselves responding with courage, compassion and unity to any tragedy that touches our community.

We all carry enormous pride for our professions. As public safety professionals we proceed through our careers handling similar calls, and

creating bonds with co-workers; knowing that they understand the grind of the job and the hardships of the ever changing hours, multiple shifts and missed family gatherings. Each of us has handled virtually every variety of call, seen many tragic deaths and consoled grieving families. Much to our surprise, we are all of similar breed; we are the individuals that choose to be the ones that run toward tragedy, in lieu of running away.

Public Safety servants and their families are very unique. There is not one of us who sought a position in public safety for financial gain. Each of us has sought to work in public safety to make a difference. Making a difference is about character and how each individual responds to those in need. Making a difference is the mentoring and modeling that is provided to love-ones as they watch you leave the

house at all hours, day and night, to respond to a community in need of your protective services.

Attendance at a police officer, fire fighter or emergency medical service technician's funeral presents the opportunity to show our appreciation to the family for the dedication their loved one provided. You attend, not only because you knew them, but because you lived, shared and honored the same dedication to the profession.

To be remembered and respected for the crimes that have been solved, emergency calls responded to, victims consoled, paths of youths that have been altered, injuries sustained, training conducted, sacrificed holidays and quality family moments are what outline a successful career. But, it is the opportunities you seize and all of the hearts that you have touched throughout your career that outline a successful life. ♦

## Whitewater Police Personnel Updates

- We are pleased to announce that Shawn Reif has been offered and accepted the position of Sergeant with the Whitewater Police Department and will transitioned into the new position effective September 5, 2013. Please join us in wishing Shawn success in his new position as Sergeant.
- CSO Aaron Gross has submitted his resignation to take a full-time position with the Wisconsin State Patrol. Aaron has been a very dedicated, dependable and hard working community service officer, his enthusiasm and quick smile will be missed. Aaron's last day will be October 6<sup>th</sup>. Please join us in congratulating Aaron and in wishing him the very best with his new position as a Wisconsin State Trooper.
- Officer Josh Erickson submitted his resignation effective August 29<sup>th</sup>. ♦



## Whitewater Police K9 Update

by: Capt. Brian Uhl

The Whitewater Police Department's quest to get its first ever K9 unit is 55% complete after nine months. We have been involved in many fundraisers since last January to include t-shirt sales, 5K/10K run/walk, a dunk tank at the National Night Out event, a dog washing event at K9 Hair Care and others. We are about \$20,000 shy of our goal and continue to look for the community's support in helping us achieve this worthy cause. We would like to thank the many individuals and businesses that have helped us reach just over the halfway point. They include: AlphaGenetics, Alpha Sigma Phi, Animal Medical Center, Barbara Bren, Beverly

Stone, Bruce & Ruby Schroeder, Bruce and Shirley Lyon, Cinemas Of Whitewater, Culver's, Dalee Water, Dan & Colette Frodl, Dana Gempler, Sue and Ken Kidd, Dental Perfections, Dolores Boynton, Ellen & David Reddy, Fero's Auto Repair, First Citizens State Bank, Generac, H. Gaylon & Hannah Greenhill, Hypro Inc, Inter-Fraternity Council, James Kempinski, James & Carol Miller, James & Kathleen Schumacher, Janet Marrow, Jimmy John's, Joel & Laura Koenig, John & Eunice Rowe, Judy Crandall, K-9 Hair Care, Kachel Foundation, Karen Ehnert, Kathleen Thayer, Ketterhagen Motors, Kevin Brunner, Kiernan Consulting, Knudsen Insurance, Kiwanis Breakfast Club, Lambda Alpha Upsilon, Lambda Theta

Phi, LSP Whitewater, M. Joyce Sokolowski, Dan & Kimberlee McCrea, Dan & Tera Meyer, National Panhellenic Conference, Olm & Associates, Peter Underwood & Mary Jarosz, Prajukita Bhattacharyya, Randy's, Reflections of the Past, Richard Helmick, Robert & Sharon, McCullough, Sigma Tau Gamma, Simon Law Office, Steven & Julie Letellier, Studio 84, Susan & David Halbach, Terri Parenteau, The College Pub, Thomas Rowley, DDS, Toppers Pizza, Touched by a Paw, Universal Electronics, UW Athletics; Dr. Paul Plinske, Violet De Wind, Wal-Mart, Walworth County Law Enforcement Services, WAMSTAR, Whitewater Veterinary Hospital, and William & Mavis Salske. ♦

## The Tree House is Open! Walworth County's Child Advocacy Center celebrates Grand Opening

by: Det. Sgt. Tina Winger

A 24 year long dream has finally become a reality in Walworth County. On April 15th, a new state of the art child advocacy center opened its doors. The comfortable, non-threatening environment houses all of the necessary services, including state of the art forensic interview rooms where children can be interviewed on camera about an abusive event. For Police Officers, Detectives, Child Protective Services and Advocates who work with child abuse/neglect cases; this is our "holy grail".

In 2012 alone there were 1,328 referrals to the child advocacy center and 311 children received forensic interviews. The Tree House enables us to accomplish our goals of providing supportive services and education, along with a coordinated community response to all children and families affected by sexual, physical and domestic abuse.

Although the center officially opened



in April, the Grand Opening for the Tree House was held on July 31th. Attendance by County dignitaries and community members alike was

overwhelming. Executive board members of the Walworth County Alliance for Children cut the ribbon just as a storm was blowing in. It was irony at its best to show that the Alliance will continue to stand despite the adversity of storms.

As the Vice President of the Walworth County Alliance for Children, I am so proud to have been a part of this process. As a law enforcement officer, I am so happy that we finally have a safe and friendly environment where children can talk about their abuse and know that they are supported and believed. I do not know what the remainder of my career in law enforcement will hold, but I do know that watching this facility be built and being a part of that is my biggest accomplishment. May I always be in a position to give those who need it most their voice.

For more information about the Tree House and the Walworth County

Alliance for children, please visit the website at <http://www.wcac4kids.org/>. You can donate, buy a brick or a leaf, or volunteer for one of the best causes Walworth County has...our children. ♦



The ribbon cutting by the WCAC Executive Board



WCAC President Emeritus Judge Phillip Koss and WCAC Board Member and Deputy District Attorney Joshua Grube



The Winger family with Forensic Interviewer Paula Hocking and WCAC Executive Board Member David Flatten at the Grand Opening.

# National Night Out

The Whitewater Police Department hosted the 30<sup>th</sup> annual National Night Out celebration on Tuesday, August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2013 from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm at Cravath Lakefront Park. Residents were invited to spend the evening outside with their neighbors, police officers, fire fighters, and EMS personnel. National Night Out is designed to heighten crime prevention and safety awareness, generate support for and participation in local crime prevention programs, strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships, and send a message to criminals that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back. The National Night Out event is a simple way for people to meet one another, have fun, and explore how they might work together to improve the safety and the quality of their neighborhoods. ♦



CSI Experience with Retiree Dave Haberman and Dr. Mark McPhail



Child Safety Seat and Bike Safety with Ofc. Oliver



9-1-1 with Dispatcher Ojibway



Home and Vehicle Safety with Ofc. Kleinfeldt



UW-Whitewater Police Services with Ofc. Kersten, Janelle Latsch and Deanne Thornsen



Operation Click golf cart challenge with Det. Vander Steeg and former Ofc. Williams



Snow Cones with SSM Boyd and Chloe Sahr



Whitewater Rescue Squad with Sam LeQuire



Drug and Alcohol knowledge/prevention with UWPD Det. Servi



Music Provided by "The Backups"



Lakeland Animal Shelter Pet a Pup Station



Mercy Health Systems table



Whitewater National Guard



Face/Hand painting with Holly Dow



WAMSAR Search and Rescue Horses



Willy Warhawk offers high fives



Chief Otterbacher waits to be dunked



Chief Otterbacher dunked with Joe Lynch watching



Even the WAMSAR horse dunks the Chief.



Capt. Brian Uhl getting dunked.



Ryan Ojibway winding up to dunk Asst. Principal Lynch



Principal Parker waiting to be dunked



Scoopie attempting to dunk JO Valadez



JO Valadez getting dunked.



Pamela Brotzman dunking JO Valadez



Chief Lisa Otterbacher announces the prize winners from the K9 dunk tank participants.

Winners of the donated bikes from Walmart were (l to r): Red Bike - Drew Swartz, Angry Birds Bike - Connor Ojibway (Sabrina pictured), Lalaloopsy bike - Cassidy McQuillan and Kelly Richards, and Blue bike - Owen Hicks.



## W PD Retiree Update

### What's New with Our Past....

#### Jerry A Grant

"Jerry A. Grant retired. Jerry began his police career in June 1962, prior to several of the current officers being born. Jerry retired July 31, 1995, working there 33 years.

Jerry retired at the rank of Sergeant, holding that position for 27 years. During his time of service, he also held the positions of Court Officer, Range Officer, Liaison Officer with D.O.T. for O.A.W.I. cases, was a Breathalyzer Technician. Probably other positions he doesn't recall. Jerry liked every position he held.

If Jerry would take the time and think long enough, he possibly could think of some funny moments, but at present time can't. Maybe he took the job too seriously.

Jerry doesn't miss the work, but does miss contact with the people he worked

with. Never has time to report in for a coffee break either.

Jerry's favorite thing about retirement is the monthly check that he doesn't have to report to work almost every day to collect. Jerry does enjoy retirement, and keeps very busy. Currently Shirley and Jerry attend and support two churches, Walworth County MRP, Shirley is President, Jerry is on the Board, Whitewater High Schools Alumni Association-Jerry is President, Shirley Secretary, Kiwanis-Jerry is President, Walworth County Board, on year# 16. The Grants also like to travel, having covered the country, from the North border to the South border, West border to the East border and a lot of country in between. The Grants also like to attend various programs at Young Auditorium and the Fireside Theater.

Jerry and his wife Shirley live... here in Whitewater. There is no intention of becoming a "snowbird".

Jerry and Shirley have six children, scattered around the U.S., San Diego

CA., Spokane WA., Omro WI., Bruce WI., Grafton WI., Delavan WI., along with twelve grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

There are several hobbies in the household. We play pool almost every day, bowl with the seniors in the winter months, golf in the summer months, work jigsaw puzzles. Shirley does needle work. Jerry tries some craft type projects, and would like to get back to his stained glass.

Sincerely, Jerry A. Grant" ♦



In 1994, Sgt. Grant, Ofc. Otterbacher and Ofc. Giorno with an Appleton PD trainer.

## C OPS Kids Camp

by: Officer Jacob Hintz

On July 29, 2013, Officer Ciardo and Officer Valadez arrived at Mitchell International Airport to welcome families to Wisconsin for the annual C.O.P.S Kids (Concerns of Police Survivors) Camp. C.O.P.S. is an organization that "provides resources to assist in the rebuilding of the lives of surviving families and affected coworkers of law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty as determined by Federal criteria."

The program started in 1984 with 110 members and has now grown to 15,000 families. Attendees include spouses, children, parents, siblings, significant others, and affected coworkers of officers killed in the line of duty. "C.O.P.S. programs for survivors includes scholarships, peer-support at the national, state, and local levels, "C.O.P.S. Kids" counseling reimbursement program, the "C.O.P.S.

Kids" Summer Camp, "C.O.P.S. Teens" Outward Bound experience for young adults, special retreats for spouses, parents, siblings, adult children, in-laws, and co-workers, trial and parole support, and other assistance programs." The money for this program comes from donations provided by the public, companies, and law enforcement agencies from all over the country.

Officers Ciardo and Valadez were two of over fifty officers from Wisconsin and parts of Illinois who greeted and assisted approximately 80-90 families who flew into Mitchell airport throughout the day. After all the attendees arrived they were provided a motorcade escort from Mitchell Airport to Army Lake Camp, located in East Troy, WI. The camp was completely dedicated to the C.O.P.S campers throughout the entire week.

From July 30<sup>th</sup> through August 3<sup>rd</sup>, I had the opportunity to spend time with the campers and participate with the

kids in numerous events. The campers are broken into small groups, which rotated through different activities. The mornings were a time for open discussion and counseling, where some family members sought to share their emotions and the challenges they experienced in losing a parent in the line of duty. The afternoons were filled with fun activities that included swimming, tubing, canoeing, shore fishing, boat fishing, archery, .22 caliber target shooting, nature hikes, and much more. I spent my time with the kids boating and shore fishing.

I am looking forward in participating in this event in the years to come and recommend that others attend the event as well. It is a great feeling knowing that this organization exists in case the unfortunate should happen to any of us. For more information on this event, how to make donations, and on the C.O.P.S. organization, visit their website at [www.nationalcops.org](http://www.nationalcops.org). ♦

# 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.

- A huge thank you for arranging a police squad to be down at this year's Parks & Recreation Big Rig Gig! The kids absolutely loved learning about JO Saul Valadez and the squad. THANKS! ~ Michelle Dujardin, Park & Recreation Program Coordinator
- I would like to say "Thank you" to your police department. Recently I have noticed that when I run EMS calls at night that your officers are leaving their 4-ways on to help us better locate houses. This comes in very handy at 3 in the morning when house numbers are such a treat to find. I'm not sure if you have been doing this for awhile and I just haven't had any calls, or maybe I just haven't been working; but either way...Thank You. Thanks! ~ Todd Lindert, Rescue Squad Captain
- Good Afternoon Officer Martin, I am writing to say a big THANK YOU to you for "rescuing" my daughter from her locked out apartment as she suntanned on her deck. You saved me a long drive in to get a key to her and I told her not to call the police as they would not deal with this but she did anyway and you were way too kind and helped her out - thank you, thank you. I know you didn't have to do this and please know it is truly appreciated. I have to say I would of liked to see video of you two getting into the apartment :) Thanks again SO much. ~ Kim Sells
- My guess is that people don't take the time to share praise as quickly as they do complaints so please extend my appreciation to Officer Martin and Officer Reif for their quick and helpful response to my complaint, they were very professional and responsive and I appreciated all of their assistance. ~ Dr. Mark McPhail
- From our squad to your entire staff, please pass along a BIG THANK YOU for doing such a great job this weekend trying to keep up. I believe we handled approximately 42 calls according to our records starting Thursday and ending this morning. We all want to say THANKS FOR A JOB WELL DONE... THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR EVERYTHING YOU AND YOUR STAFF DO FOR US! ~ Todd Lindert, Rescue Squad Captain
- I wanted to thank Officer Ciardo for the great training presentation he provided to Whitewater Area Search Team and Rescue (WAMSTAR) mounted search and rescue. Officer Ciardo provided a very informative presentation, sharing data on resources, equipment, personnel and other very useful and helpful information to our team. We wanted to thank Officer Ciardo for his time, his information was exceptional. ~ Roger Kincaid, WAMSTAR
- I want to thank the CSO, Aaron Gross, for the help he gave when the neighbor's dog got his eye caught in the fence. I'm sure without his help and quick thinking the injury would have been very bad. He was even thoughtful enough to follow us to the vets office. ~ Sandy Hass
- Dear Chief Lisa, Thank you for your quick response and willingness to help resolve our FOL (Friends of the Library) sale crises. You and your staff were phenomenal. May God bless you and yours. ~ Shirley Hapka, Library Associate.
- Let me just say how impressed I am with the wonderful group of men and women at the Whitewater Police Department. All of the officers and dispatchers I met were very professional, deeply concerned for our community, and friendly, to boot! You should be proud of the team you've assembled. Thanks, again, for the opportunity, to learn from the ride-along experience. Don't hesitate to call on me at any time if I may be of service to you! ~ Andy Jorgensen, State Representative, 43<sup>rd</sup> Assembly District ♦

## WPD Anniversaries & Birthdays

### October

Tim Gray, 24 years on 10/9  
 Kathy Hogue, 19 years on 10/17  
 Shawn Reif, birthday  
 Jake Hintz, birthday  
 Tina Winger, birthday  
 Joe Matteson, birthday  
 Heidi Gempler, birthday  
 Mike Ciardo, birthday

### November

Ryan Weston, 14 years on 11/9  
 Sabrina Ojibway, birthday  
 Neal Kolb, birthday  
 Brian Uhl, birthday  
 Cathy Pierce, birthday  
 Tim Swartz, birthday

### December

Heidi Gempler, 10 years on 12/1  
 Marsha Petersen, 18 years on 12/2  
 Jim Elder, 7 years on 12/8  
 Neal Kolb, 17 years on 12/9  
 Dan Bradford, 18 years on 12/27  
 Bill Becker, birthday

# WUSD Staff Participates in Active Threat Scenarios

by: Sergeant Dan Bradford

On August 28, 2013, all teachers and support staff from the Whitewater Unified School District (WUSD) participated in four hours of scenario-based training that detailed responses to an armed intruder in the schools. The original school policy of locking classroom doors and holding students in place has been expanded to include other response options based on recommendations from the Department of Homeland Security and law enforcement agencies around the country. WUSD teachers and staff are now authorized to use a full spectrum of defensive actions including quick evacuation of the building, hiding in

rooms, barricading doors, and as a last resort, restraining or incapacitating the suspect to protect students until the arrival of law enforcement officers to stabilize the situation. These actions are often collectively referred to as the 'run, hide, fight' strategy.

The August 28th training included several hands-on scenarios administered by police instructors from the Whitewater Police Department, Walworth County Sheriff's Office, and Jefferson County Sheriff's Office. A variety of specialized training equipment was brought to the schools to increase the sense of realism and allow participants to practice in a safe manner. Afterward, several teachers remarked that hearing the sound of gunfire, simulated with training blanks, was an important experience as it

made participants more likely to recognize the real sound of a firearm being discharged behind a closed door or farther away in the building.

Throughout the event, school and police administrators were on scene to observe and assist in a support and advisory role. Instructors and participants communicated various ideas and issues that were addressed in policy by the administration at a later date. Particular credit goes to several volunteers from the UW-Whitewater Army ROTC program who served as role players and worked through scenarios that sometimes required physically demanding action sequences. As a department, we would like to thank all those who provided instruction, volunteered to assist, and participated in this unique school training event. ♦



J.O. Valadez, Sgt. Bradford, R.O.T.C. volunteers and C.S.O.s training



Det. Meyer and C.S.O. Gross



Walworth County deputies



Training at the Middle School



R.O.T.C. volunteer and Travis Winger



Det. Vander Steeg



Ofc. Weston, Ofc. Matteson, and C.S.O. Stuppy



Jefferson County deputies

# Community Connection



Juvenile Officer Saul Valadez and a law enforcement enthusiast at the Big Rig Gig



A kid in the squad car at the Big Rig Gig



Jim Leaver (Library), Chief Lisa Otterbacher, RCC Melody Lentz, Lt. Tim Gray, Shirley Hapka (Library), Ofc. Bill Oliver, Det. Sgt. Tina Winger, CSO Aaron Gross, Keegan Stoneworth (DPW), Ofc. Michele Martin, Jack Bullis (DPW), Brady Winger (DPW), Capt. Brian Uhl, and Joe Bullis (DPW) (l to r) assisted the library in moving a large number of boxes from the library basement for their book sale



Sabrina Ojibway, Cathy Pierce, Holly Dow, and Angela Sahr got "dirty" for a cause during the Dirty Girl obstacle course



COPS Camp kids model WPD K9 shirts



Heidi Gempler and Jennifer Ludlum ran in the Color Me Rad 5K



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