



WPD Newsletter

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

VOLUME 78

SUMMER 2014

Upcoming Events:

July 4

Independence Day

August 5

National Night Out

September 1

Labor Day

September 2

WUSD Schools Begin

September 3

UW-W Classes Begin

September 11

Patriot Day

Inside This Issue:

WPD Police Day	2
Boomer, WPD K9	3
SRO Valadez	3
Personnel Updates continued	4
Scholarship Winner	4
K9 5K/10K Run/Walk	4
Anniversaries and Birthdays	4
Retiree HR218 Shoot	5
WPD Retiree Update	5
Notes of Appreciation	6
Presentations and Speeches Given	6
Community Connection	7

A Closer look at Criticism and Perceptions

By: Chief Lisa Otterbacher

Each of us joined the ranks of public safety, seeking to honorably serve our community and ensure that their safety needs are met. Due to our line of work, every position within the department is faced with criticism and negative perceptions about our work product or the professional decisions we make.

Given recent challenges with criticism and perceptions, I found the parable of the man and his grandson particularly enlightening. “The old man walked while his grandson rode the donkey. As they walked, some people commented, “Would you look at that old man suffering on his feet while that strong young boy, who is totally capable of walking, sits on that donkey?” So the old

man, hearing this, switched places and began to ride the donkey as the boy walked alongside. Now he heard people saying, “Would you look at that, a grown man taking advantage of that little boy, can you believe it?” The man and the boy then proceeded to both ride on the donkey, which was met with the comment, “Would you look at those heavy brutes making that poor donkey suffer?” Finally, the boy and the old man walked alongside some people say, “How pitiful, a perfectly good donkey not being used, what a waste!”

The moral of the parable is if a person’s heart is to criticize, if their heart is to find fault, there is absolutely nothing that can satisfy them. Criticism comes from the lens we perceive a particular issue through; the lens is based on habits and perceptions we have applied to all facets of

our lives. If we chose to see an issue with a negative lens, we will see all that is wrong, if we habitually see life through a positive lens, we will see all the different opportunities available.

The law enforcement profession is one of the most widely scrutinized because of the vested authority we have, coupled with discretion. President Abe Lincoln was a beacon of resilience when it came to perseverance and working through criticism. President Lincoln was an honorable man who endured much criticism throughout his life. To the many that criticized his actions he would reply. “If I tried to read, much less answer, all the criticisms made of me and all the attacks leveled against me, this office would have to be closed for all other business.”

Continued on page 5

Whitewater Police Personnel Updates

Detective Sergeant

We are pleased to announce that Detective Dan Meyer has accepted the position of Detective Sergeant with the Whitewater Police Department. Detective Sergeant Meyer will begin his training immediately and will formally transition into the new position effective August 9th, 2014. Congratulation Dan!



K9 Officer

Officer Joe Matteson accepted the position as the department’s first K9 Officer, which became effective April 2nd, 2014. We have every confidence that Officer Matteson will make an outstanding K9 Officer as he works to build a highly successful program within the police department and throughout the community.





WPD Honor Guard

**P
o
l
i
c
e

D
a
y**



Rev. Jerald Wendt delivering the opening prayer



Walworth Co. Sheriff Dave Graves Key Note Speaker

May 14, 2014



Citizen Award recipients
Jan Bilgen, Dr. Mike Newell of the Animal Medical Center of Whitwater, and Eric Lange and Mary Horning (not pictured) of Me & My Pets



Officer of the Year
Bill Becker



Citizen Award recipient - Walworth County
Assistant District Attorney Josh Grube



Training Officer of the Year
Ofc. Joe Matteson with the newly sworn K9, Boomer.



Distinguished and Exceptional Service Awards recipients - K9 Committee
Ofc. Tim Swartz, Ofc. John Kleinfeldt, Records Technicians Angela Sahr and Cathy Swartz, Ofc. Jake Hintz, Det. Dan Meyer, Det. Adam Vander Steeg, Ofc. Jim Elder, Ofc. Saul Valadez (not pictured)



Distinguished Service Award recipients - Detective Unit
Det. Dan Meyer, Det. Sgt. Tina Winger, Det. Adam Vander Steeg



American Legion Award - Ofc. Jake Hintz with American Legion Rep Steve Nass



Retiree - Mike Ciardo

Boomer, Whitewater PD's K9

By: K9 Officer Joe Matteson



Because of the outstanding support from people in our community and members of the Whitewater Police Department; we are very proud to be able to introduce Whitewater's first police K9, Boomer.

Boomer is a two-year-old Labrador Retriever that was purchased from the Steinig Tal Kennels in Campbellsport. Boomer is trained in detecting the odor of narcotics to include: marijuana,

methamphetamine, cocaine, heroin, and their derivatives. Boomer is trained to aggressively alert to the source of the odor by scratching, biting, and/or barking. Boomer

has proven himself to be very reliable in detecting the odor of narcotics and has already been utilized on numerous occasions including traffic stops, school searches, and building searches.

Boomer is also trained to track passive individuals including children and the



elderly. He has caught on very quickly to tracking and has been very successful in training.

I would like to thank everyone in the community and the Whitewater Police Department

who has made our first K9 unit a reality through their hard work and support. ♦

School Resource Officer Valadez

By: Officer Valadez

Three and a half years ago, I began my journey as the new Whitewater Police Department's School Resource Officer (SRO). I had big shoes to fill as I was taking over for Officer Michele Martin. Officer Martin was a very effective Juvenile Officer and even to this day continues to assist me with juvenile matters. Officer Martin trained me well and did what she could to prepare me for what was ahead.

I began my assignment as the SRO feeling a bit out of place because I did not know any of the Whitewater School District's staff or employees. Soon though I began befriending the staff and employees and they really made me feel as if I was one of their own. I began working closely with Joe Lynch, the Assistant Principal at the Whitewater High School and we handled each situation as it came.

During my first full year as the SRO, Lynch and I decided that the Whitewater High School would become part of Operation Click. Operation Click is a safe driving initiative program geared toward high school students which was started by Sean McGrath, who is a police officer in Illinois. Lynch and I gathered school leaders together and we began working on the program. The first and second years that the Whitewater High School was a part of Operation Click, two students from our school won a free car at the end of the year Operation Click

banquet. That was a feat that I hope will never be topped by any other school.

Another highlight as the School Resource Officer was implementing a run, hide, fight approach to an active shooter situation in all of Whitewater School District Schools. I recall calling Eric Runez, who is the Whitewater Unified School District's Superintendent, after the Newtown, Connecticut school shooting and discussing our active shooter guidelines. After meeting with Runez and Sergeant Dan Bradford, Sergeant Bradford and I attended an Active Shooter Instructor School and soon implemented the new run, hide, fight guidelines. That was a highlight I will always be proud of.

The last highlight I want to recall is becoming part of the Whitewater Police Department's Sensitive Crimes Team, as well as a member of the Evidence Technician Team. I learned lessons from Detective Sergeant Winger and Detective Adam Vander Steeg that will go with me throughout my career. Being a member of the Detective Bureau was an educational opportunity that I will never forget and will forever enhance my career as a police officer.

I will definitely miss walking through the grade schools and high fiving the kids. I will miss speaking to the kids about general safety, stranger danger, and other issues that they might be going through. I will miss working with all of the principals and being able to find solutions to the issues students are going through. I will miss attending the High School

sporting events and dances where I was responsible for keeping order. I will definitely miss being on a meal plan and enjoying all of the great food our school district offers. Part of my heart will always remain in the Whitewater Unified School District's schools. I served as a SRO, not necessarily because of the hours and perks that come with the position, but because I am passionate about keeping kids safe and educating them for the future.

Thank you to all at the Whitewater Unified School District for investing in my life. Words cannot express how much I respect and appreciate you all. Some of you helped me become a better educator to my children. You have forever changed my perspective on education. I will now go back to the road and patrol Whitewater. I will pass by all the Whitewater Schools and pray that God always keeps our students safe. ♦



Officer Valadez speaks to LINCS students about Summer Safety

Whitewater Police Personnel Updates (continued from pg. 1)

Patrol Officer



We are pleased to announce that Kyle Steger accepted the position of patrol officer effective April 21st, 2014. Kyle currently lives in East Troy, WI with his fiancé. Kyle had been working as a CSO for the Greenfield Police Department as well as a Public Safety Supervisor at the Mayfair Mall in Brookfield, WI. Kyle is a graduate of

Greenfield High School, the Milwaukee Area Technical College and the MATC Law Enforcement Academy. Kyle enjoys sports and the outdoors. We feel that Kyle will be a strong asset to our team and has a bright future with our department. ♦

New Babies

- > Detective Dan Meyer and wife Tera welcomed their baby boy, Ezekiel, in April. Congratulations!
- > Officer Bill Becker and wife Traci welcomed their baby boy, Billy, in May. Congratulations! ♦

WPPA/Chief Don Simon Memorial Scholarship Winner

On May 28, 2014, Juvenile Officer Saul Valadez presented Sarah Malek with the Whitewater Professional Police Association (WPPA)/Chief Don Simon Memorial Scholarship during the Whitewater High School Scholarship night. Sarah will be attending UW-Milwaukee in the Fall. ♦

WPD Anniversaries & Birthdays

July

- Kathy Boyd, 15 years on 7/8
- Ellen Reddy, 6 years on 7/21
- Dave Gempler, 21 years on 7/26
- Dan Bradford, birthday
- John Kleinfeldt, birthday
- Kim Millis, birthday
- Ryan Weston, birthday

August

- Cathy Pierce, 7 years on 8/27
- Shawn Reif, 17 years on 8/28

September

- Adam Vander Steeg, 12 years on 9/13
- Brian Uhl, 7 years on 9/17
- Ellen Reddy, birthday
- Jim Elder, birthday
- Mel Lentz, birthday
- Tim Gray, birthday

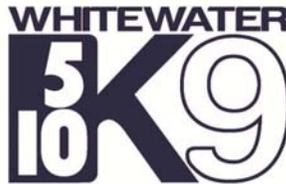
K9 5k/10k Walk/Run Success

By: Capt. Brian Uhl

The 2nd Annual K9 fundraiser was a huge success! Many thanks go out to all of our sponsors and all of those who donated items for our silent auction. We would also like to thank all of our volunteers with a special thank you to Jim Elder and Heidi Gempler for coordinating a very professional race that was fun for the participants of all ages including our four-legged friends! Because of the generosity and time given by so many, we were able to raise

a little over \$5,000 this year for our K9 Unit and its ongoing expenses. The Whitewater Police Department, Officer Matteson and especially Boomer are extremely grateful for everyone's support!

For Race Results please check out the Whitewater K9 Run/Walk website at <http://www.whitewaterk9run.com/>. ♦



WPD Retiree Update

What's New with Our Past....

Mike Strauss

"I retired May 1, 2002 after 28 years with the Whitewater Police Department. We sold our house in April of the next year and moved to Wautoma, WI. At the time of my retirement, I was WPD Crime Prevention Coordinator, OWI Supervisor, Intoximeter and PBT Technician, Squad Maintenance Supervisor, and Patrolman. However, my favorite position was Crime Prevention Coordinator.

I have met many people - I enjoyed the children and letting them know that police officers are the good guys; working with the kids in the community with the Safety Fair and Safe Night Out.

I have many memories of WPD- a few are fresh in my mind:

- Early in my career I saved a college girl with CPR. She lived five short days, but it was five more days with her family and they were grateful for that.
- I also had the satisfaction of being

involved in two successful murder convictions.

- I had the honor of granting a terminally ill boy's wish of becoming a police officer. I arranged to have him "arrest" of friend of mine. Needless to say, he was in his element!

I miss the people of WPD, we were like family and I still consider them as such. The one thing that I do not miss is getting called in for OT at 2:00am!

I now work two days per week at Ho Chunk Casino in Security. It is great getting out of the house and meeting people. There is no way I could quit cold turkey!

After my retirement, my wife and I built our new house in the woods. So when I am not hunting on our 77 acres, Heidi and I also like to travel. We have visited many different states now, and plan on many more! When she is travelling for her photo shoots, I have the privilege of carrying all of her gear. Most days I enjoy sitting on my back deck and having my coffee.

If you are in the area, stop by!" ♦



Mike and Heidi Strauss



Mike and his father in law



Retiree HR218 Shoot

On June 11, 2014, firearms instructors Sgt. Bradford and Officer Weston conducted the department's third annual law enforcement retiree qualifications in support of the H.R.218 Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act of 2004. Those retirees who qualified this year were Mike Strauss, Larry Meyer and Dave Haberman. ♦



A Closer look at Criticism and Perceptions

Continued from page 1

"I do the best I know how, the very best I can and I mean to keep on doing this down to the very end. If the end brings out all wrong, ten angles swearing I had been right would make no difference. If the end brings me out all right, then what is said against me now will not amount to anything." We can learn much from President Lincoln surrounding integrity and perseverance; how to withstand the scrutiny from

those who do not walk our narrow road of justice.

Balancing the laws of justice and standing on an honorable foundation that is continually criticized and questioned can be a challenging path to travel. However, this is the profession each of us has chosen, which is upheld by a sworn oath and civilian commitment. As you are faced with daily challenges, take solaces in those who have walked before you. Those who have walked in the footsteps

before us were no stronger, more intelligent or less criticized than each of us; they simply remained loyal to the honor and integrity they so valued. So, the next time you are questioned on a decision you made or a task you performed, if your foundation was honorable and your focus was to serve others, take heart in knowing you are not alone in your perseverance. ♦

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.

- Chief Otterbacher: Our family was in Whitewater on Saturday, March 22, 2014, to move our son's stuff into his apartment as he just relocated to Whitewater. We were quite upset over the apartment's condition. We called the landlord and he wouldn't come up. Being new in town and in on a Saturday, we didn't know where to go for some advice, so we stopped at the police station. The woman at the front desk was extremely nice and helpful. She called Police Officer Michele Martin to come and talk with us. Officer Martin went above and beyond the call of duty that day! She was so pleasant and helpful and respectful to the citizens of Whitewater. She calmed the "worried mom" down and gave us some insightful information to help us out. There was a male officer (CSO Stuppy) that came into the conversation, but we didn't get his name. Equally as nice and respectful. It's not everyday that you hear great things about your employees. You should be very proud of your staff! We left our son in Whitewater knowing that he is being protected by a fine department! We just want to let you know. Thank you for your time! ~ Jeff and Sheila Schreiner
- Lisa, Training today was outstanding, really something we needed as a city personnel, the trainers were very good and I really appreciated the time they took in providing this important training. The trainers made it comfortable environment for everyone, really gave us all some things to think about. ~ Pat Canon, CDA Coordinator
- Lisa, Outstanding training, I would pay to attend this training and I would encourage the city to provide budget money to the police department to ensure this training is offered more often, I know this training is costly to the department. This is training we all need and I'm really glad we had this training. ~ Bob Bonk, Water Department
- Lisa, I just wanted to thank you personally and your officers for presenting the "armed intruder" training event, this is a topic long overdue to be discussed. We all hope that we will never be put in this situation but as the news reports, we all know that it is certainly possible. I believe that everyone enjoyed the training and was able to take back many good ideas to their work environments from the comments I have heard from staff. The officers were extremely knowledgeable and their relaxed teaching style put all of us at ease. Please let everyone involved in the production of this training know how much it is appreciated! GOOD JOB!! ~ Rick Lein, Water Superintendent
- Dear Whitewater Police, I just wanted to send a thank you to everyone that was on scene at Randy's Saturday night during our cardiac arrest call; Officer Ludlum, Officer Weston and Sgt. Reif. By far this was the smoothest code I have ever run because everyone had a job to do and we had your help and support to get what we needed done so we could do our job. Studies show that only 7-10% of people survive cardiac arrest outside a hospital setting. We got a pulse back and the patient is now recovering. There is something to be said about our Whitewater Police officers, I for one am thankful when they are on scene. Their support and willingness to help when needed is always very much appreciated. ~ Dawn Kiernan, EMT
- Please pass along my thanks to your dispatchers who did a fantastic job today!!!!!! They also made my job very easy along with the great crew I had coupled with the outstanding deputies and officers that responded to the accident. ~ Jr. Freeman, Firefighter
- Dear Whitewater Law Enforcers - Thanks for joining us for lunch and making the kids' day! ~ Dara Keng, Volunteer Coordinator LINCS
- Thank you for your continuous support to our church during the Living Stations of the Cross. God Bless you and protect you on your service to the community! ~ Carla Del Pozo, Hispanic Ministry Director, St. Patrick's Church
- WWPd - Thank you for responding so quickly, within 7 minutes, to my call of concern to you. ~ Mary Jo Egnoski♦

Presentations and Speeches given by WPD Personnel

- ★ On April 6th, McGruff made an appearance at the Jefferson Annual Spring Home Show with CSO Stuppy.
- ★ On April 9th, Detective Meyer and CSO Stuppy represented the WPD at the UW Career Fair.
- ★ On June 4th, 5th, 9th and 10th, SRO Valadez and Ofc. Hintz presented "Summer Safety Tips" to Lakeview and LINC's elementary students.
- ★ On June 6th, SRO Valadez presented "Sex Crimes" to Whitewater High School Health Class Students.
- ★ On June 19th, SRO Hintz presented "Operate while Under the Influence/Texting while Driving" to Whitewater High School Driver's Ed students.♦



Community Connection

LINCS Law Enforcement Lunch

By: Ofc. Michele Martin

The 2014 LINCS Law Enforcement Appreciation Lunch was held on Wednesday, May 21st. This year, 17 officers from 5 different agencies joined the students and staff at LINCS for lunch and recess. This year's attendees were: Deputy Corey Neumann and Sgt. Tim Otterbacher from the Walworth County Sheriff's Office; Chief Lisa Otterbacher, School Liaison Officer Saul Valadez, Officer Michele Martin, Officer Derrick Schleis, CSO Kyle Hathorn, CSO Justin Stuppy, NSO Brody Fiedler and Records Technician Cathy Swartz of the Whitewater Police Department; Warden Mike Katzenberg and Warden Jason Swaney from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources; Trooper Aaron Gross from the Wisconsin State Patrol; and Sgt. Jason Burt, Sgt. Matt Schwartz, Officer Becky Schmall, Officer Kelsey Servi of the UW-Whitewater Police Services Department. The students especially enjoyed viewing the various police vehicles on the playground and obtaining autographs from all the attendees. A great time was had by all! Thank you to the students and staff for hosting this event each year! ♦



Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics

By: Ofc. Neal Kolb

The 2014 Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics was held on June 5th this year. This year's Torch Run was the 12th consecutive year for the Southern Leg, which runs through Walworth County. The Torch Run converges on Stevens Point, WI with the opening ceremonies for the annual Wisconsin Special Olympic games. The Law Enforcement Torch Run is the single largest fund raiser for Special Olympics and are held throughout the country. Officers and Deputies representing Walworth County Sheriff's Office, University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, Elkhorn PD, Kenosha PD, Delavan PD and Whitewater PD participated in this year's Southern Leg of the Special Olympics event. Those involved in this year's Law Enforcement Torch Run included Chief Lisa Otterbacher, her husband Sergeant Tim Otterbacher; Det. Sgt. Tina Winger, and her husband Deputy Dan Winger and sons Brady and Travis Winger; Ofc. Jacob Hintz, Juv. Ofc. Saul Valadez, Ofc. Derrick Schleis, Records Technician Cathy Swartz and son Drew; Ofc. Jennifer Ludlum and daughter Ava; Captain Brian Uhl; Sgt. Dan Bradford; Ofc. Michele Martin and daughter Alex; and City of Whitewater Parks and Recreation Events Manager Michelle Dujardin. A special thank you goes out to Bicyclewise for their very welcoming support along with their generous food and beverage donations. ♦



SRO Saul Valadez with the Whitewater High School Operation Click students.



SRO Saul Valadez, Ofc. Jennifer Ludlum, and Ofc. Bill Oliver spend time at the Whitewater Middle School.



Whitewater Police Department

312 West Whitewater Street, Whitewater, WI 53190

Non Emergency Phone: 262.473.0555

E-mail: police@whitewater-wi.gov

Web: www.whitewater-wi.gov/departments/police

Chief of Police: Lisa K. Otterbacher

Editor: Kathy Boyd, Support Services Manager

Designer: Cathy Swartz, Records Technician

Photos by: Tom Ganser

La Belle Studios

Members of the WPD