



# WPD Newsletter

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

VOLUME 84

WINTER 2016

## Upcoming Events:

**January 1**

New Year's Day

**January 18**

Martin Luther King Day

**January 19**

UW-W Classes Start

**February 2**

Groundhog Day

**February 13**

Whitewater Polar Plunge

**February 14**

Valentine's Day

**February 15**

President's Day

**March 13**

Daylight Saving Time starts

**March 17**

St. Patrick's Day

**March 20**

March Equinox

**March 21 - 26**

Spring Break

**March 25**

Good Friday

**March 27**

Easter Sunday

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## A Year in Review 2015

By: Chief Lisa Otterbacher

A year in review presents an opportunity for the department to reflect on all of the changes we have implemented and acknowledge our achievements throughout the year.

As we navigated through 2015, our most notable change came with two unexpected vacancies in the command staff. This unique situation provided the department with an opportunity to reanalyze the structure of our organizational. Through a critical assessment of the organizational structure we sought to enhance operational efficiencies and narrow the span of control for several key management and supervisory positions. The reorganization of the department has provided more leadership opportunities, increased a dedicated patrol position and modified the leadership in the communications center.

The Citizen Police Academy remains an honored department tradition and in January Officer Martin facilitated the Department's 8th Citizen Police Academy. The 6-week training course provided members of the community with the opportunity to experience the duties and responsibilities of public safety professionals. The goal of the Citizen Academy is to make the members of our Department more accessible to the people we serve and protect and provide them with insight into the realm of professional policing. Through lecture, hands-

on practical applications and frank discussions surrounding public safety, we aspire to create Goodwill Ambassadors throughout our community.

The past year brought forth a number of significant achievements to include the Department's re-accreditation through the Wisconsin Law Enforcement Accreditation Group (WILEAG) governing board. This was the department's 5<sup>th</sup> successful re-accreditation. This recognition is both an honor and a credit to every member of the department. It took a team of highly dedicated personnel to ensure we were successful in our efforts to become reaccredited. Accreditation standards were met because every member of our department sought to deliver a service that consistently follows professional standards with strict adherence to department policies and procedures, while maintaining the founding principles of the department's Mission and Values Statement.

Responding to crime remains an overarching responsibility because public safety is the essence of our profession. Whitewater, as with any community, has crime and disorder, however in 2015 personnel responded to three serious crimes that presented a notable threat to public safety. Department personnel responded to a bank robbery, a rooftop BB shooting incident that injured several citizens and a residential burglary with

children present. These are crimes that create a great deal of concern and fear throughout the community. I am thankful to the dedication and collective efforts of the dispatchers, responding patrol officers and detectives, for their diligence and expertise which enabled each of these crimes to be solved in a short amount of time.

The Whitewater Police Department continues to partner with the community, businesses and school district and other city personnel to strengthen our united response to public safety issues. The department hosted our third annual "By the Community for the Community" K9 5K/10K run fundraiser, the National Night Out event and presented several "Response to an Active Threat" trainings to our schools and community businesses. In 2015, the volunteer Cadets assisted with Citizen Academy classes, traffic control for several parades, our annual K9 run and National Night Out events, and with several undercover alcohol abatement programs.

Our greatest strength continues to be the united and diligent response to public safety needs by every member of the department. The Whitewater Police Department enjoys a reputation of being a highly professional and integrity driven agency and we remain committed to our mission guided by our professional standards and valued code of ethics. ♦

## A Look Back

By: Officer William Oliver

Cardiac Arrest, without warning, can happen to anyone, anywhere at any time. Early use defibrillation with an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) GREATLY increases the chances of recovery, but with each minute that passes, the chances of full recovery decreases markedly.

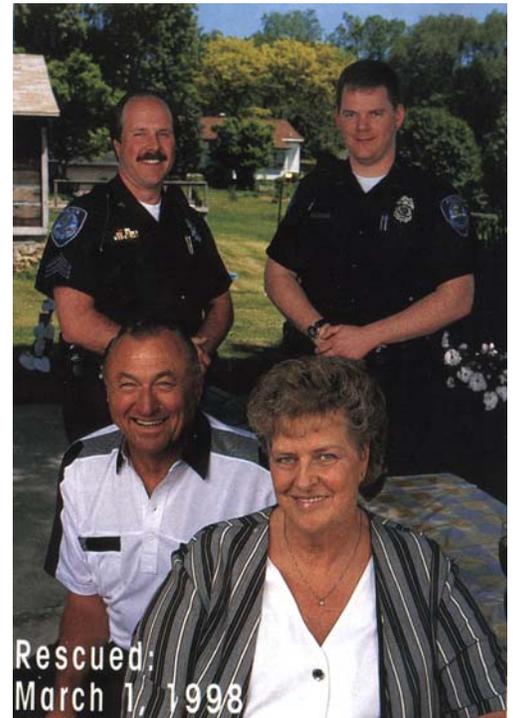
I recently re-read a community profile article written in 2005 related to our AED program, which talked about its inception and how it impacted our community from the start. Several years ago, a Whitewater benefactor passed away and left her estate to assist with building a local hospital. At the time, Whitewater was surrounded by three nearby hospitals and it was decided to redirect the funds to the Whitewater Rescue Squad.

Members of the Whitewater Rescue Squad, to include Doctor Ken Kidd, Captain Tom Schopen and at the time, Whitewater Police Department Lieutenant Lisa Otterbacher, participated in a new pilot program

sponsored by the State of Wisconsin which gave Whitewater Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) the ability to use early defibrillators. Data was collected and it resulted in several successful saves. With that success and early defibrillation in mind, Doctor Ken Kidd and Whitewater Rescue Squad members looked at the possibility of training police officers and placing defibrillators in the squads. The decision was made and the Whitewater Rescue purchased five Heartstream defibrillators, making the Whitewater Police Department the first Wisconsin police department to carry defibrillators in their squad cars. Within days of the purchase of the defibrillators, Captain Tom Schopen's wife, Judy Schopen, suffered a cardiac incident. Tom Schopen commenced CPR and Whitewater Police Sergeant Michael Ciardo and Officer Daniel Bradford used one of our new defibrillators supported by EMS medical interventions and Judy Schopen's life was saved.

I'm thinking that it's pretty cool that the Whitewater Police Department was not only the first department in the

State of Wisconsin with 911 call capabilities, but was also the first department to carry defibrillators in their squads. ♦



Pictured in photo: (l to r)  
Retiree Officer Mike Ciardo,  
Officer Dan Bradford  
with Tom and Judy Schopen.

### Presentations and Speeches given by WPD Personnel

- ★ On November 8th Officer Valadez gave a presentation on the consequences of underage alcohol consumption to UW-Whitewater Sorority members.
- ★ On November 12th Detective Sergeant Meyer and Detective Lindsey gave a Drug Education presentation to the employees of Anderson Machining.
- ★ On December 2nd Detective Schleis, Officer Borchardt and Officer Stuppy gave a presentation on Career Preparation to the UW-Whitewater Legal Eagles Learning Community.
- ★ On December 22nd Captain Meyer gave a presentation on Internet Safety to Association for Prevention of Family Violence parents. ♦

### WPD Anniversaries & Birthdays

#### January

Kim Millis, 8 years on 1/2  
Angela Sahr, 6 years on 1/4  
Dan Meyer, 6 years on 1/4  
Mel Lentz, 36 years on 1/7  
Saul Valadez, 9 years on 1/12  
Dave Gempler, birthday

#### February

Jake Hintz, 4 years on 2/6  
Holly Brown, 1 year on 2/17  
Cathy Swartz, 13 years on 2/18  
Michele Martin, birthday  
Derrick Schleis, birthday  
Jeff Edmonds, birthday  
Dan Meyer, birthday  
Angela Sahr, birthday

#### March

Joe Matteson, 15 years on 3/21  
Kyle Hathorn, 2 year on 3/28  
Bill Oliver, birthday  
Adam Vander Steeg, birthday

## Whitewater Police Personnel Updates

### Telecommunicator Resignation



"I wish to announce that Dispatcher Cathy Pierce has formally accepted a position as a police officer with the Germantown Police Department. Cathy will leave a large void in our department, she is a highly dedicated and professional dispatcher, the Germantown Police Department will gain much as she joins the ranks of their public safety officers. Cathy's last work day at WPD will be Sunday, October 11, 2015. Please join me in extending our fond wishes to Cathy in her new professional journey and our appreciation for the valuable teamwork she provided to each of her co-workers and for the honorable service she has provided to the community of Whitewater. Be safe and keep in touch Cathy." ~ Chief Lisa Otterbacher

### Officer Resignation



"I wish to announce that Dan Bradford will be formally ending his law enforcement career to pursue a new career in the health care field as a nurse. As many may recall Dan started his career in public education as a History teacher, then transitioned into policing and intends to end his professional working career in the medical field. To successfully navigate and master two honorable public service careers and pursue a third is an impressive accomplishment. Dan will leave a large void in our organization as he has dedicated many years to professional policing and spent the majority of his years with the Whitewater Police Department as a master trainer. Dan's last day with the Department will be Saturday, January 16, 2016. Please join me in wishing Dan well in his new professional journey as we extend our genuine appreciation for the dedicated service he has provided to the department and the community of Whitewater." ~ Chief Lisa Otterbacher

### New Telecommunicator



"The Whitewater Police Department and the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater Police Services is pleased to announce that Michael Wasielewski has accepted the position of part-time Telecommunicator. Michael will start his new position on Tuesday, November 3, 2015. Michael and his wife Robin currently reside in Lake Mills. Michael served in the United States Army in a variety of positions to include a Military Police Officer, a pilot and a flight instructor. Upon his retirement from the United States Army he became a 7<sup>th</sup> grade Social Sciences teacher with the Glenview Public School District in Glenview Illinois until his retirement. Michael comes to us with a Master's Degree in Teaching and Learning from DePaul University. Please join me in welcoming Michael as he begins his new career as a Telecommunicator." ~ Chief Lisa Otterbacher ♦

### Captain Promotion



"Under the authority granted me by the Whitewater Police and Fire Commission, I am pleased to announce that Dan Meyer has been offered and accepted the position of Captain with the Whitewater Police Department. Captain Meyer will begin his mentoring training and formal leadership position on Friday, November 20, 2015. Please join me in wishing Dan Meyer success in his new position as Captain." ~ Chief Otterbacher

### Detective Lieutenant Promotion



"Under the authority granted to me by the Whitewater Police and Fire Commission, I am pleased to announce that Neal Kolb

has been offered and accepted the position of Detective Lieutenant with the Whitewater Police Department. Detective Lieutenant Kolb will begin his mentor training immediately and his formal leadership position will begin on Tuesday, February 2, 2016. Please join me in wishing Neal Kolb success in his new position as Detective Lieutenant." ~ Chief Otterbacher

### Lieutenant Promotions



"Under the authority granted me by the Whitewater Police and Fire Commission, I am pleased to announce that Adam Vander Steeg and James Elder have been offered and accepted the position of Patrol Lieutenant with the Whitewater Police

Department. Lieutenants Vander Steeg and Elder will begin their mentoring training and formal leadership positions on November 1, 2015. Please join me in wishing Adam and Jim success in their new positions as Patrol Lieutenant." ~ Chief Otterbacher



Elder

### Telecommunicator Promotion



Dispatcher Holly Brown has accepted the full-time telecommunicator position. She was previously the part-time telecommunicator. She began her new schedule on October 16, 2015. ♦

# 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 Chief Otterbacher- I would like to let you know how much I appreciate the service of two of your officers. My daughter and I were fortunate enough to meet Patrol Officer William Becker and Lieutenant Shawn Reif on the coldest night of the year. As I was driving home from my daughter's volleyball tournament, I realized something was wrong with my truck. I pulled over on Starin Rd. and discovered that I had a flat tire. It was Sunday night, January 17th and my husband was out of town. The temperature was -4° with a -20° wind chill. My plan was to try somehow to get my truck towed, or just leave it there overnight and have my mother come and get my daughter and me. I called the Whitewater Police Department to let them know that my truck was disabled in case it was in a no parking zone. The nice woman that I talked to (Dispatcher Holly Brown) said that she would send an officer over. The first officer to arrive was from UW-Whitewater Police Services, his name is Officer Josh Kuehl. Shortly after, Officer Becker arrived. I asked them where I could tow my truck to and instead they offered to change my tire for me. I never expected them to do that. This was no easy task considering how bitterly cold it was, I was parked next to a snow bank, and my eight year old spare tire was never used so it was rusty. Since my truck was not cooperating I thought now it was time to call a tow truck. Officer Becker replied, "Oh we are not giving up yet! No way!" He then called in Lieutenant Reif to see if he could get the tire on. Together they did it! I was so happy. The thing that stands out in my mind about the incident is how much professionalism and kindness

they showed me. It may have "just" been a tire change but considering the weather conditions, it was a big deal. They never once complained about the bitter cold, my stubborn tire, or anything. Officer Becker had a constant smile on his face and was even cracking jokes to me, which made me feel better. I offered to pay them, but of course they laughed at me. My family will donate \$100 to Boomer. Also, I brought in cupcakes for everyone to enjoy with a winter theme to them as I thought that was appropriate. My family and I are very grateful to your wonderful staff! Sincerely, Tracy Anonich, Mukwonago"



➤ "To Whom It May Concern: This letter is in response to the case of which my son was a victim of an attack the morning of October 31, 2015. My son was visiting close friends that attend the UW-Whitewater and was separated from the group while out. My son went to find his friends and was attacked by a young man that my son didn't know. During the course of the attack, policemen from the Whitewater Ponce Department happened to come upon the attack and were able to stop it. My son had injuries from the attack, but without the intercession of the police,

his injuries would have been much worse, If not even death. We cannot even begin to thank these officers, of whom we have only two names: Officer Adam Vander Steeg and Detective Sergeant Daniel Meyer. We had the opportunity to thank Detective Sergeant Meyer personally. We thank all of them for being "heroes", In our eyes. In lieu of all of the national attention with regard to negative publicity concerning police officers and departments nationwide, I thought it was very important to recognize the good officers. My son has very little memory of this incident still to this day. Our entire extended family is so grateful that these officers were there and were able to stop this attack in progress. While we have all be effected by this unexplained attack, it is still duly noted that out of something bad, we run across great people who we would have never had the opportunity to meet otherwise. Thank you for your time and efforts in handling this case. - Dawn"

➤ "Officer Hintz - An officer from Whitewater Police Department left me a message last night that my dome light was on in the car. My son parks it there and takes the school van to transport a student to school... and he left the light on. I didn't catch the officer's name... but could you tell him THANKS!!!!!! It was GREATLY appreciated. - Doug Parker"

➤ Lt. Shawn Reif and Officer Tina Winger "...I constantly receive comments on how professional the Whitewater Police Department has been. You are true public servants and I hold you all in very high esteem. - Mike" ♦

# Community Connection

On October 6<sup>th</sup> Communications Supervisor Lentz attended the Washington School Pick A Day Come and Play with the students.

On October 13<sup>th</sup> Chief Otterbacher, Officers Oliver, Ludlum, Elder, Becker and Schleis attended the Whitewater Police, Fire and Rescue Appreciation Dinner at Fairhaven.

**WHITEWATER**  
**5K9**  
 Saturday  
**June 4, 2016**

**1mi kiddie run**  
**5k run/walk**  
**10k run/walk**

**START**

*Run/Walk with your Dog!*

All benefits go to:

**Race Day Schedule and Fees**  
 Same Day Registration: 7:30am-8:30am  
 Kiddie 1-mile Sprint: 8:30am, Cost \$10  
 5k/10k Individual: 9:00am, Cost \$20/\$25  
 5k/10k Team(3+ People): 9:00am, Cost/Person \$15/\$20

**Register Online or by Mail!**  
 Organized by the Whitewater PD K9 Committee, contact Heidi or Jim at 262-473-0555

**For more information visit our race website: [www.k9run.com](http://www.k9run.com)**

## Donations

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

- ★ Mavis Salske
- ★ Tracy Anonich

(the funds will be used toward the K9 program)



## Whitewater Police Department

312 West Whitewater Street, Whitewater, WI 53190

Non Emergency Phone: 262.473.0555

E-mail: [police@whitewater-wi.gov](mailto:police@whitewater-wi.gov)

Web: [www.whitewater-wi.gov/departement/police](http://www.whitewater-wi.gov/departement/police)

Chief of Police: Lisa K. Otterbacher

Editor: Kathy Boyd, Support Services Manager

Designer: Cathy Swartz, Records Technician

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