



LA CROSSE POLICE DEPARTMENT 2009 ANNUAL REPORT

★ ★ ★ COMMUNITY POLICING | MAKING A DIFFERENCE







ABOUT THE COVER



In 2009 the La Crosse Police Department was awarded the “MAKING A DIFFERENCE” award presented by Downtown Mainstreet, Inc. The award was presented to Chief Kondracki at the Downtown Mainstreet, Inc annual luncheon. The award was given to the Police Department for their outstanding contributions toward working with the “City Vision – 2020 Master Plan” and working with the downtown business community on issues, like downtown parking and graffiti complaints.

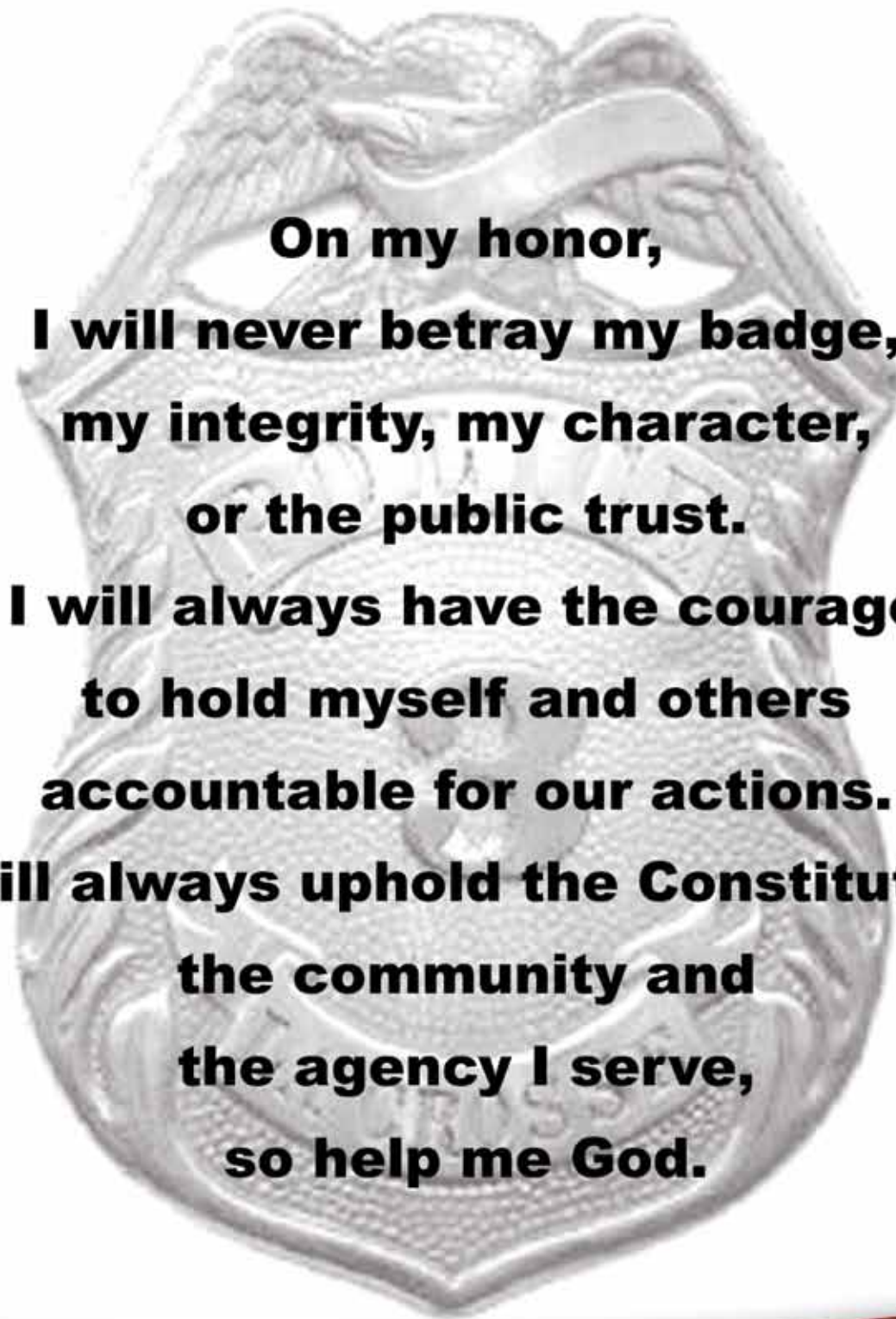


On January 22nd, 2009 members of the La Crosse Police Department accepted the “Sir Robert Peel” award on behalf of Police Chief Edward N. Kondracki at WACOP’s annual training symposium. As the award recipient, the department was offered the opportunity to participate in an exchange program with the Merseyside Police Department from Liverpool in the United Kingdom. Detective Constable Alan Nuttall and Constable Scott Cenci arrived in La Crosse on the opening night of Oktoberfest 2009 and spent the next week working with the La Crosse Police Department. Scott and Alan had the opportunity to work with all of the bureaus within the police department as well as experience some German-American Heritage during the busy Oktoberfest celebration.



Sergeants Kirk Flatten and Drew Gavrilos were selected by Chief Kondracki to represent the agency in the United Kingdom. Kirk and Drew spent a week in Liverpool working with the Merseyside Police Department. Merseyside has 3000 sworn officers and patrols an area with a population of over 1 million. Despite the significant difference in size and structure, Kirk and Drew found that both agencies utilize community policing very effectively and share a very positive working relationship with their respective communities.

LAW ENFORCEMENT OATH OF HONOR



On my honor,

**I will never betray my badge,
my integrity, my character,
or the public trust.**

**I will always have the courage
to hold myself and others
accountable for our actions.**

**I will always uphold the Constitution,
the community and
the agency I serve,
so help me God.**



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Welcome from the Chief of Police.....	1
Department Mission & Vision.....	2
Organizational Chart	3
City Council.....	4
Police & Fire Commission	4
Administrative Services Bureau	5
Field Services Bureau	7
Community Services Bureau.....	9
Investigative Services Bureau	11
La Crosse Area Law Enforcement Day	13
Coulee Region Law Enforcement Chaplaincy.....	14
ERT Emergency Response Team.....	15
Police Reserve Unit	16
Law Enforcement Torch Run	17
Community Policing.....	18
2009 Statistics.....	19
In the News.....	23

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

The 2009 City of La Crosse Police Department Annual Report is herein presented for your review. This report consists of a statistical comparison of the activities of the La Crosse Police Department for the year 2009 as compared to preceding years. The focus of this year's report is on Community Oriented Policing. Community Policing is an organization-wide philosophy and management approach promoting community, government, and police partnerships, proactive problem solving, and community engagement to address the causes of crime, fear of crime, and other community issues.

Every member of the La Crosse Police Department and the community we serve can be proud of this year's accomplishments. By working together major crime dropped another three percent from last year's twenty year low. Traffic citations were up eleven percent while reportable traffic accidents dropped six percent representing a significant savings in property loss and injuries. The relationship between drugs and crime is well known and I am pleased to report that drug arrests rose by thirty-two percent while at the same time major crime clearances rose by eleven percent over last year.

The year 2009 resulted in our agency receiving several outstanding community awards and recognitions. Our department received the Sir Robert Peel Community Policing Award at the annual Wisconsin Association of Community Oriented Police (WACOP) conference in January. The award recognized our department's community policing efforts to reduce the frequency and severity of alcohol related incidents in La Crosse. As part of the Sir Robert Peel Award Program, two Bobbies from Merseyside England visited us during Oktoberfest and Sergeants Kirk Flatten and Drew Gavrilos visited Merseyside England as part of an exchange program.

On Wednesday, June 24, 2009, the La Crosse Police Department was given one of Downtown Main Street's "Making a Difference" Awards. The award was given for the outstanding work of our officers in policing historic downtown La Crosse and the riverfront.

The year 2009 marked the 30th anniversary of the City of La Crosse Police Reserve program. I don't need to tell you how important these unpaid community volunteers are in helping us achieve our mission. During the anniversary celebration Assistant Chief Tom Jacobs presented Reserve Commander Adam Wohlwend with an exceptional service award for his efforts in helping make this community policing program a huge success.

I am convinced that by working together and employing a community policing philosophy we can continue to combat crime and keep the City of La Crosse a safe place in which to live and work. To that end I will remain open to suggestions, constructive criticism and input from our community in order that the La Crosse Police Department might best meet the needs and expectations of the community it serves.

CHIEF EDWARD N KONDRACKI
Chief of Police

Administrative Assistant Ann Willford



MISSION & VISION

MISSION STATEMENT

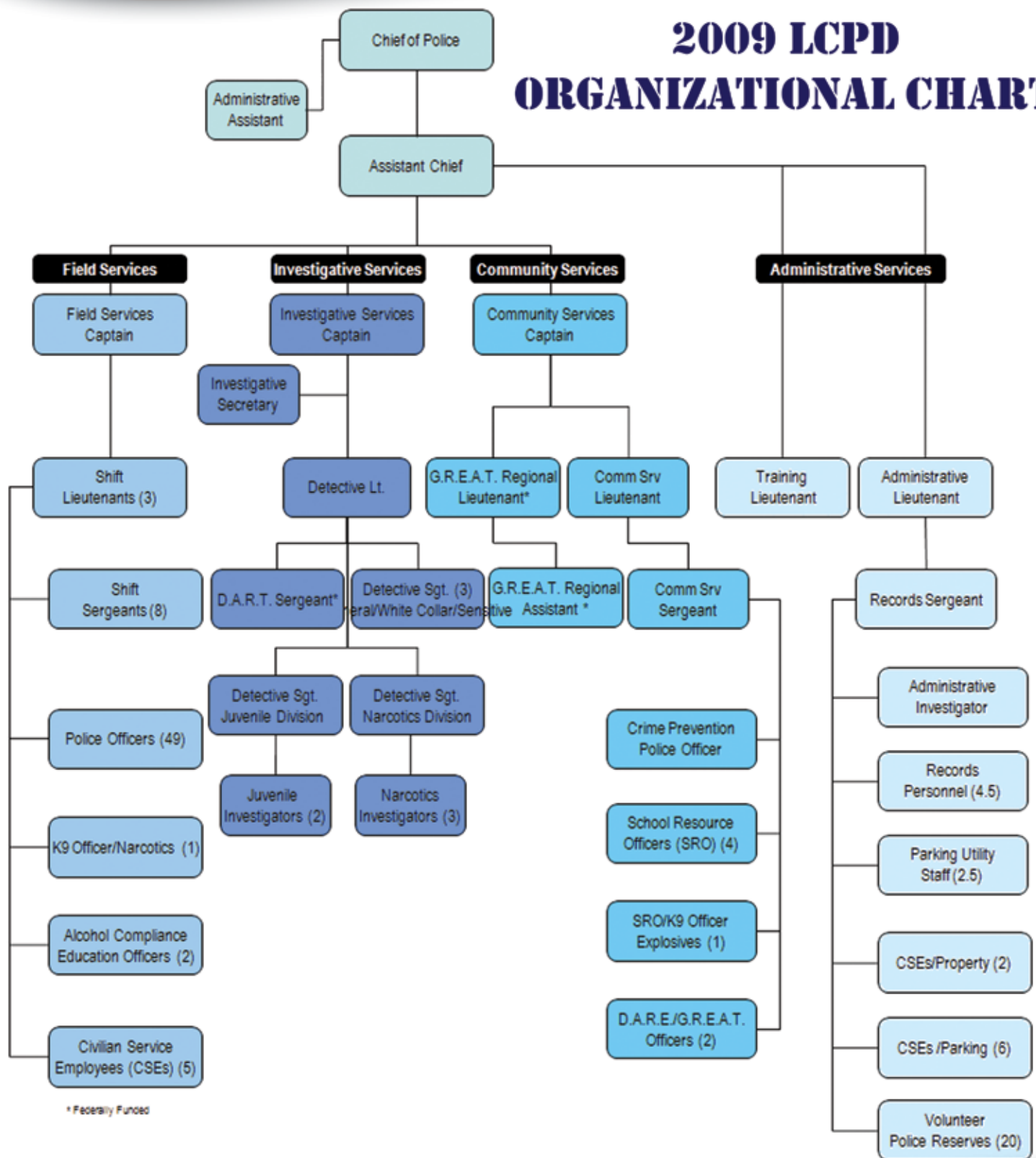
The La Crosse Police Department is committed to serving the citizens of La Crosse to the best of our ability and to improving the quality of life for all within our community. We will accomplish this mission by being proactive in the prevention of crime, and by enforcing the law with the protection and preservation of the rights of offenders and victims as a priority.

VISION STATEMENT

The La Crosse Police Department is committed to sharing responsibility for making our community a safe place to live and work by creating partnership that lead to this goal. We promise to accomplish this by:

- Taking a national leadership role in policing.
- Valuing youth and cultural diversity in our community.
- Being a catalyst for positive change in our community.
- Viewing the community as our customer and partners.
- Develop our employees for future leadership roles.

2009 LCPD ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



* Federally Funded



CITY COUNCIL

The City Council enacts legislation and allocates City resources for program, services, and activities. The La Crosse Police Department sincerely appreciates the support of the La Crosse City Council.

City Council Members

Richard Becker	Andrea Richmond
Lorraine Decker	John Satory
Douglas Farmer	Eric Schmidt
Jai Johnson	Bob Seaquist
Audrey Kader	Richard Swantz
Mike Larsen	Tom Sweeney
Bernard Maney	Al Wagner
Chris Olson	Marilyn Wigdahl
Bruce Ranis	



POLICE & FIRE COMMISSION

The Police and Fire Commission is a non-political board of citizens appointed by the Mayor and subject to confirmation by the City Council. They oversee personnel matters, including the hiring and discipline of sworn staff members, consistent with State Statute 62.13. We appreciate that these Commission members volunteer their time and services to the La Crosse Community.

Commission Members

James Thorton
Louis Ritter
Roger Plesha
Mary Lund
Doug Happel

MAYOR MATHIAS HARTER
City of La Crosse



ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES BUREAU

The Administrative Services Bureau includes the Records Division, Training Division, Court Services, Civilian Services, Parking Utility, as well as the Property and Evidence Section. The Administrative Services Bureau is responsible for accounting, payroll, purchasing, planning, budget development, communications and most other tasks that involve personnel or monies, storage and security of evidence and property. Hiring, research and analysis, appropriations, grants, inventories and funding concerns also fall within this Bureau's purview.

Over the course of 2009, thousands of hours of training were provided to the department. Coordinated by Lt. Robert Lawrence, Director of Training, the Training Division delivered over 12,790 hours of training to both sworn and civilian personnel. This includes 1,365 hours of Field Training of new officers, training conducted in-house and training provided outside the department. Members of our Department, working with the G.R.E.A.T. Midwest Region Training Center, coordinated training and trained officers throughout the Midwest, as well as other parts of the country.

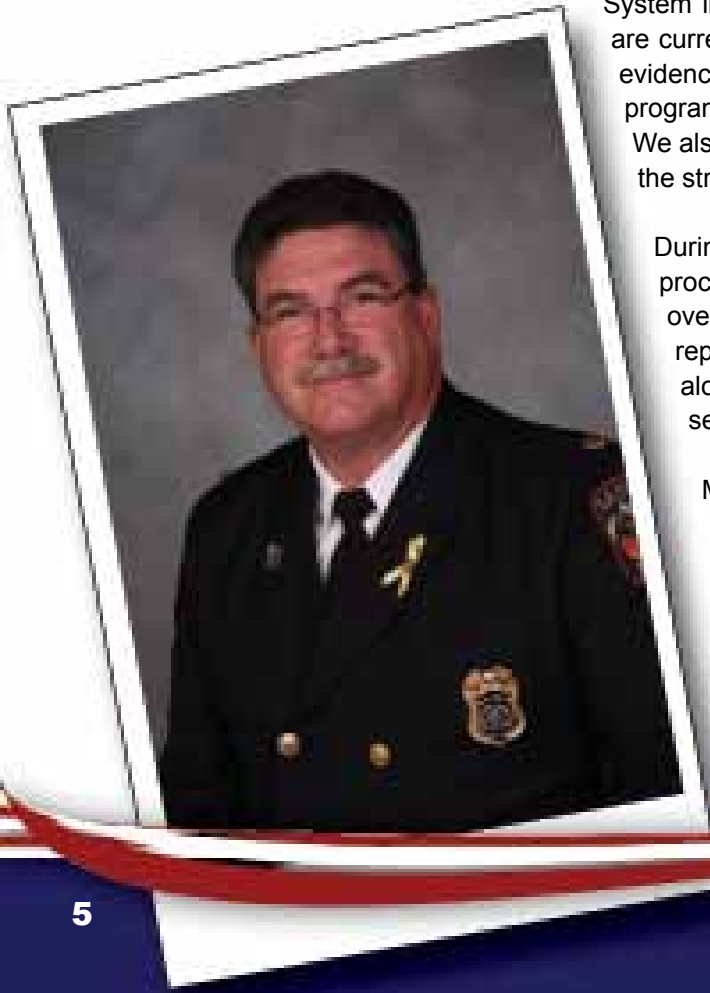
The Records Division, charged with the responsibility to maintain all of our Department records, as well as communication hardware, continues to accurately detail the work of our department members. During the 2009 calendar year with the help of our RMS software company, VisionAir, the La Crosse Police Department expanded the use of our Incident Base Reporting system that we are currently certified in. We have expanded the use of our VisionAir RMS system and currently share information with other agencies across the State of Wisconsin by use of the WIJIS information sharing system. This enables Officers and Investigators to gather information from other jurisdictions across the State of Wisconsin.

During the 2009 year we were able to implement a new Record Management System in the Property and Evidence section of the Police Department. We are currently using the VisionAir Evidence Module to record all property and evidence within the department. We are also currently using a bar code program to bar code all property that comes in and out of the department. We also implemented a new digital camera program in which the officers on the street can take a digital photo and then upload it to our secure network.

During the listed year, the CSE's and parking utility personnel issued and processed over 64,000 parking citation. The Records Bureau processed over 22,000 police reports and 20,500 citations, warnings and crash reports. The Records Clerks handled over 3,400 open records request along with processing over 1,100 license applications. The Property section handled over 5,000 pieces of property/evidence.

Members of this Bureau continue to work hard and support the officers on the street in order to provide the best service for the citizens of La Crosse. We continue to strive towards making the department a better and more efficient department that provides the best service for the citizen's of La Crosse.

ASSISTANT CHIEF THOMAS JACOBS
Administrative Services Bureau





ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Assistant Chief

Thomas Jacobs

Administrative Lieutenant

Patrick Hogan

Training Lieutenant

Robert Lawrence

Records Division Sergeant

Randy Rank

Court Liaison / Traffic Investigator

Evan Stone

Property Section CSE

Kristine Gasch

Lacey Alton

Civilian Service Employees (CSE)

Diane Skifton

Michael Nagy

Teng Thao

Robert Diersen

Kong Xiong

Kong Lor

Ben Burrow

Jason Nesbit

Thao Moua

Corey Colburn

Records Division Civilian Employees

Anne Heilman

Rebecca Smith

Nicole Schneider

Joanne Ruegg

Lisa Putz

Parking Utility Civilian Employees

Antoinette Gelbeck

Mary Sumeracki

FIELD SERVICES BUREAU

The Field Services Bureau Never Closes;
We Protect and Serve 24 Hours a Day, Every Day of the Year!

The primary function of the bureau is the protection of life and property through aggressive enforcement, community policing and problem solving, and education. Patrol tactics include the use of motorized squads, motorcycles, bicycles, foot patrols, mounted horse patrols and K-9 patrols. Two thirds of the sworn officers of the department are assigned to the Field Services Bureau and they are whom the public is most likely to come in contact with. They respond to emergencies, alarms, reports of crimes, calls for service, traffic crashes and traffic enforcement. The services provided range from preliminary investigations and documentation of major crimes, to problem solving complex quality of life issues.

The bureau consists of three shifts; each commanded by a lieutenant and supervised by sergeants. Bureau members conduct day-to-day street-level operations in uniform being highly visible and accessible. The bureau provides command and control for emergency response situations, dignitary escort and protection, community oriented problem solving, and special events public safety.

Support is provided to and received from the police chaplain program, police reserve program and the police internship program. The key to our success is forging a strong partnership with the community and our ability to conduct immediate problem solving by team effort working directly with all involved.

The Field Services Bureau personnel are among the best trained officers in the State of Wisconsin with many bureau officers providing training to other officers throughout the state. Many of the bureau officers have attended Federal Homeland Security Training and State Emergency Management Training. The officers continually demonstrate the highest degree of professionalism under difficult circumstances as they serve the community under the department's mission statement.

To put things into perspective, in 2009, members of the bureau were involved in 59,579 calls for service, issued 9,712 traffic citations and investigated 1,441 reportable traffic crashes. Field Services Bureau members were instrumental in achieving a 52 percent clearance rate of Part I Uniform Crime Report Offenses in 2009.



CAPTAIN GARY UTING
Field Services Bureau



FIELD SERVICES STAFF

Bureau Director—Captain
Gary Uting

Shift Lieutenants

Raymond Serres

James Ballas

Troy Nedegaard

Shift Sergeants

Jerome Korger

Andrew Gavrilos

Joseph Smith

Gary Hauser

Charles Frandsen

Brian Thomson

Craig Oleson

Thomas Walsh

Officers

Steven Holinka

John Matuska

Gary Clements

Alan Baldwin

Brian Olson

Scott Delaney

Steven Thornton

Andrew Angst

Mark Rosenmeier

James Kirby

Richard Rank

Scott Harmel

Craig Teff

Gregory Fitzsimmons

Todd Fischer

Lisa Barrix

Corrie Korn

Dale Gerbig

Faling Yang

Alan Hagen

Jovanna Nedland

Stephanie Welch

James Gegenfurtner

Casey Rossman

Teri Roden

Eric Christianson

Tony Leque

Grant Gyllander

Frank Racich

Steven Pataska

James Mancuso

Ryan Fitzgerald

Brian Deyo

Ryan Stenslien

Christopher Schuster

Daniel Kloss

Andy Rosenow

Joel Miller

Brad Schomberg

Ryan Prock

Jeremy Rindfleisch

Quintin Schaitel

Timothy O'Neill

Tom Hansen

Andrew Dittman

Dan Ulrich

Melissa Sommers

Phillip Martin

Matthew Geenen

Aaron Erdmann

Joseph Wiegrefe

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

COMMUNITY SERVICES BUREAU

The Community Services Bureau is directed by Captain Robert Abraham. The Community Services Bureau is primarily responsible for community crime prevention education, news media relations, and school safety programming. They also provide staff and logistical support to the Patrol and Investigation Bureaus. Additionally, the Community Services Bureau has the primary responsibility for soliciting, administering and reporting for the majority of grants in the Department. In 2009, the Community Services Bureau administered federal and state grants totaling over \$500,000 which included such grants as the Justice Assistance Grant; Bullet Proof Vest Partnership Grant; G.R.E.A.T. Local; G.R.E.A.T. Regional; OJA Homeland Security; COPS Secure our Schools; Justice Assistance Recovery; as well as various Department of Transportation grants. Through the solicitation of and use of a variety of granting sources, we were able to truly make a difference in our community.

Some of the major programs which fall under the responsibility of the Community Services Bureau include the delivery of the D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) Elementary and Middle School Curricula and the delivery of the G.R.E.A.T. (Gang Resistance Education and Training) Curricula in our schools. The School Resource Officer program falls under the direction of the Community Services Bureau and has an officer assigned to each middle school and high school within the City. Other major programming responsibilities include the Crime Stoppers Program, G.R.E.A.T. Summer Programming, Intern Program, Neighborhood Watch, Community Policing and the School Crossing Guards. Community Services is also responsible for the maintenance of the Department's Accreditation files which ensures that the Department as a whole is operating at peak professional levels. The Bureau is also responsible for administering the G.R.E.A.T. Midwest Regional Training Center. The G.R.E.A.T. Regional Training Center's responsibilities were increased in 2009 with the addition of six states; the region was renamed the Midwest-Atlantic G.R.E.A.T. Region and we now provide certification training for police officers in sixteen states.

In 2009, the Community Services fingerprinted 368 members of the community; taught over 1800 children the D.A.R.E. and G.R.E.A.T. programs in the local school districts; and received over 300 Crime Stopper tips which resulted in 29 arrests.

Looking forward to 2010, the Community Services Bureau will continue to provide quality community based prevention programming designed to prevent crime and maintaining La Crosse as one of the safest communities in the nation.



CAPTAIN ROBERT ABRAHAM
Community Services Bureau



COMMUNITY SERVICES STAFF

Bureau Director—Captain
Robert Abraham

Bureau Lieutenant
Robert Berndt

G.R.E.A.T. Lieutenant
Jason Melby

Bureau Sergeant
Kirk Flatten

DARE / GREAT Officers
Kurt Weaver
Jon Wenger

School Liaison Officers
Heath Graves
Bradley Stoner
Ronald Secord
Avrie Schott
Andrew Dittman

Alcohol Compliance & Education Officers
Robert Wiczorek
Alan Iverson

G.R.E.A.T. Civilian
Teri Serres
Roger Barnes

INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES BUREAU

The Investigative Services Bureau is responsible for the investigation of all criminal cases initiated within the community through the police department or by the police department. The Investigative Bureau is a proactive division dedicated to the mission of community policing providing expertise in all areas of criminal investigation. The Bureau is divided into four areas of expertise: general investigations, narcotic/vice investigations, juvenile crime and victimization as well as domestic violence incidents.

The General Investigative staff handles all types of criminal cases involving both crimes against persons and property. The Narcotics Unit focuses their efforts on drug, vice and street crimes. The Juvenile Division handles all juvenile related matters including child abuse, sexual assault and juvenile criminal activity reported to the police department. The Domestic Violence Reduction Team (D.A.R.T.) investigates all incidents of domestic violence with an emphasis on prevention and deterrence.

All Investigative Bureau members are trained in a variety of disciplines and therefore are capable of performing a wide variety of specialized tasks outside their normal assignments. This provides greater flexibility in their work assignments when the need arises. Personnel not only provide expertise in crime investigations, they initiate investigations, develop sources of information, and provide the community with personnel specific to their needs.

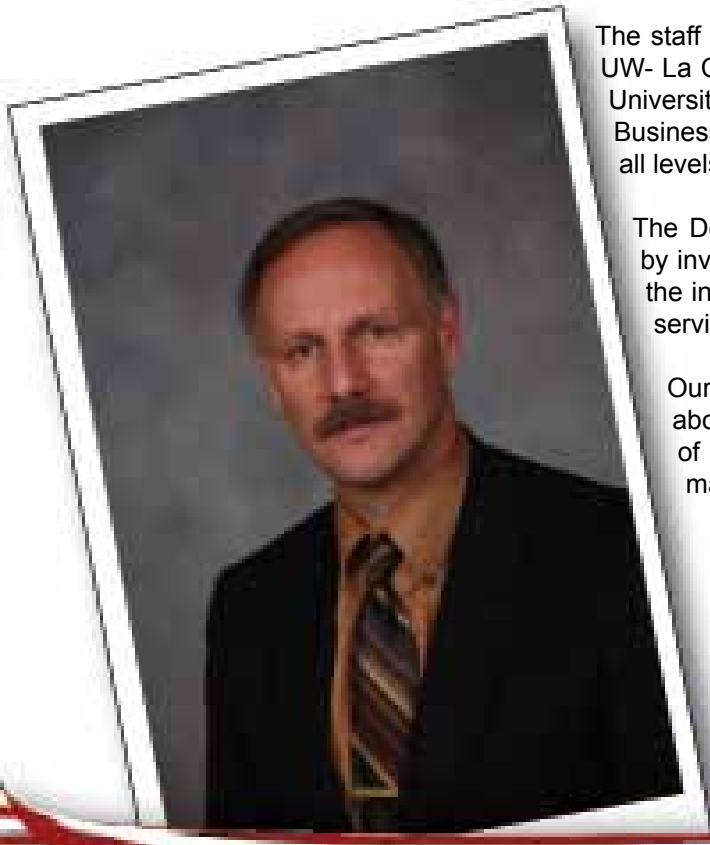
Members serve on a variety of local, state and national committees including the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, the Child Advocacy Center, Drug Endangered Children Task Force, La Crosse County Drug Court, Violence Against Women Association, New Horizons, Wisconsin Association for Identification, Wisconsin Association of Homicide Investigators, the National Association of Gang Investigators and Outlaw Motorcycle Gang Investigators to name just a few.

The staff also provides educational and instructional training presentations at UW- La Crosse, Viterbo University, Western Technical College, Winona State University, both local hospitals, a variety of neighborhood groups, Downtown Business Association, Citizen Police Academy and the area public schools at all levels.

The Domestic Abuse Reduction Team plays a key role in the community by investigating cases of domestic violence and works diligently to reduce the incidents of domestic violence as well. The team provides a variety of services to aid those in need within the community.

Our Part I Crime Clearance Rate (the most serious crimes) remains well above the state and national averages. This is a direct result of the efforts of the patrol officers and the investigative staff working as a team to make our community a better and safer place to live and work.

CAPTAIN MICHAEL BROHMER
Investigative Services Bureau





INVESTIGATIVE STAFF

Bureau Director—Captain
Michael Brohmer

Bureau Lieutenant
Raj Ramnarace

Juvenile Division Sergeant
Linnea Moren

D.A.R.T. Sergeant
Sally Newman

Bureau Sergeants
Cary Joholski
Michael Blokhuis
Patrick Marco
Shawn Kudron

Bureau Investigators
Jacob Jansky
Rick Pfennig
Matthew Malott

Juvenile Division Investigators
Tony DeLap
Jason Mahairas

Bureau Secretary
Kristi Jensen

LA CROSSE AREA LAW ENFORCEMENT DAY

Each May during National Police Week the nation pauses to recognize the service and sacrifice of U.S. law enforcement. La Crosse Area Law Enforcement agencies held their annual Law Enforcement Day on Tuesday, May 12th, 2009 in front of La Crosse City Hall. In attendance were officers from several area jurisdictions, dignitaries, local media and the general public.

Established in 1962 by President John F. Kennedy and a joint resolution of Congress, National Police Week pays special tribute to those law enforcement officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty for the safety and protection of others. Ceremonies are held in Washington, DC, and in communities across the country.

Fewer U.S. law enforcement officers died in the line of duty in 2009 than in any year in the past half century—an encouraging trend tempered by a disturbing increase in the number of officers who were killed by gunfire, many of them in brutal, ambush-style attacks.

As of December 28, 2009, 124 law enforcement officers had died in the line of duty from all causes, a 7 percent reduction from the 133 fatalities in 2008, according to preliminary data compiled by the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund (NLEOMF). The last time officer fatalities were this low was in 1959, when there were 108 line-of-duty deaths.

“This year’s overall reduction in law enforcement deaths was driven largely by a steep, 21 percent drop in the number of officers killed in traffic-related incidents,” reported NLEOMF Chairman and CEO Craig W. Floyd. “However, that bit of good news was overshadowed by an alarming surge in the number of officers killed by gunfire.” According to Mr. Floyd, 48 officers were shot and killed in 2009, compared to 39 in 2008, which represents a 23 percent increase.



HONOR GUARD



CHAPLAIN PROGRAM

The Coulee Region Law Enforcement Chaplaincy Program continued its operation in 2009 serving the police department personnel and the citizens of the City of La Crosse for a 9th full year.

Twelve area clergy served with the program during the year from a wide variety of denominations. These licensed/ordained ministers served strictly as volunteers, and received 76.5 hours of training during the year. Chaplains were available to respond to calls for service 24 hours a day, 365 days per year - as they serve in an on-call capacity on a rotation schedule. The on-call chaplain was equipped with a pager and duty bag to be able to respond as needed.

In 2009, our team of chaplains responded to 27 calls rendering support to our local law enforcement and to victims and families during times of tragedy. Chaplains were contacted for assistance with accidents, death notifications, suicides, a homicide, additional follow-up on a call, and situations in which a chaplain's presence, to provide counsel and comfort, would be beneficial.

In addition to emergency calls, other services our chaplains provided during the year included: hosting the 9th Annual Police Department Family Picnic, honoring retiring department personnel with a plaque and police retirement book, providing counsel to members of law enforcement and related emergency services personnel in 2009.

The Chaplains of the Coulee Region Law Enforcement Chaplaincy consider it a great honor and privilege to assist and serve alongside the faithful and dedicated police officers of our community.

REV. MARK D. CLEMENTS
*Coulee Region
Law Enforcement Chaplaincy*



EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

The Emergency Response Team (ERT) is a part-time team that consists of 3 commanders, 17 tactical members and 10 negotiators. The members have regular duty assignments within the Field Services, Investigative Services and Community Services Bureaus. ERT is assigned to respond to hostage and barricaded persons, high risk warrants and vehicle stops, civil disturbances, natural / man-made disasters and dignitary protection. ERT members are assigned pagers and are able to respond 24 / 7.



ERT members are required to maintain a higher level of physical fitness and must pass two different physical tests a year. ERT has regular monthly training to enhance their knowledge of specialty equipment, verbal skills, tactics and teamwork. Members show a high degree of dedication and commitment to their duties.

ERT has partnered up with a number of local entities to assist with training needs; Gundersen Lutheran Hospital, WTC, Volk Field and the La Crosse School District. ERT is also a part of the Regional SWAT Team and is able to assist other departments throughout Wisconsin with high risk situations when needed. The primary goal of ERT is to solve matters in a safe and peaceful manner.

OIC

Lt. Troy Nedegaard

Assistant OICs

Sgt. Michel Blokhuis
Lt. Joseph Smith

Team Leaders

Officer Corrie Korn
Officer Faling Yang
Investigator Jason Mahairas
Officer Robert Wiczorek

Negotiators

Sergeant Sally Newman
Sergeant Thomas Walsh
Officer Avrie Schott
Sergeant Linnea Moren
Sergeant Andrew Gavrilos
Officer Eric Christianson
Officer Steven Pataska
Officer Andrew Dittman
Officer Teri Roden

Tactical Members

Investigator Rick Pfennig
Sergeant Grant Gyllander
Officer Tony LeQue
Investigator Jacob Jansky
Sergeant Charles Frandsen
Sergeant Matthew Malott
Officer Alan Iverson
Officer Joel Miller
Officer Andy Rosenow
Officer Daniel Kloss
Officer Christopher Schuster
Officer James Mancuso
Officer Casey Rossman
Officer Bradley Schomberg





RESERVE PROGRAM

The La Crosse Reserve Police Unit responded to 12 emergency callouts during 2009. They spent 44 hours protecting La Crosse's citizens and ensuring that the Police Department had the necessary manpower to complete its job. The following table details how and where the Reserve officers spent their time based on hours and number of events. The major implication in this chart is the numbers of hours are up greater than the number of events so this means that the Reserves are working longer at the events even though the numbers of events are increased. Riverside Park Patrol continues to be our largest event in terms of hours. The number of meetings was also increased from last year but they were shorter in duration.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Police Reserve Unit of the La Crosse Police Department is committed to serving the citizens of La Crosse to the best of our ability and to improving the quality of life for all within our community. We will accomplish this mission by working with residents and our members with professionalism, integrity, and accountability.

VISION STATEMENT

The La Crosse Police Department is committed to sharing the responsibility for a safe community and to creating partnerships that lead to this goal. The partnership created with the Police Reserve Unit is a fine example of the intent of our vision statement.

HOW OUR TIME WAS SPENT

EVENTS	HOURS	PERCENT	NUMBER OF EVENTS	PERCENT
Meetings	592	+12%	28	-4%
La Crosse Center	866	-14%	65	-11%
Riverside Park Patrol	2,090	+14%	159	+2%
Parades	77	-81%	12	+17%
Baseball	28	-40%	11	-45%
Peer Court	0	0%	0	-0%
Bike Patrol	52	-61%	32	-63%
Training	190	+5%	24	+29%
Community Events	826	+42%	85	+14%
ERT Support	35	-74%	2	-50%
Alcohol Task Force	62	+11%	8	-25%
Emergency Callouts	44	+3%	12	+17%
Investigation Support	54	+56%	8	+75%
TOTAL	4,914	+10%	446	-3%



LAW ENFORCEMENT TORCH RUN

For the 23rd year, hundreds of law enforcement officers from around the state of Wisconsin gathered to participate in the Law Enforcement Torch Run® (LETR) for Special Olympics Wisconsin on Wednesday, June 3rd and Thursday, June 4th. As Guardians of the Flame®, these officers transported the torch from all corners of Wisconsin to light the cauldron at the Opening Ceremonies of the State Summer Games in Stevens Point.

Locally, the La Crosse Police Department and over 20 of its member's, teamed up with other law enforcement personnel from the area and ran/biked the first leg of the torch run. The local run started on the far south side of La Crosse, went up Highway 16 to the Mall area and then on through Onalaska and finally on their way to Stevens Point, Wisconsin. The Torch Run is held in all 50 States, 10 Canadian provinces and territories, and 35 nations, and involves more than 85,000 law enforcement participants from all over the world. In 2009, this international program raised more than \$34 million to support Special Olympics.

Last year in Wisconsin, more than \$1.8 million was raised through LETR events with more than 1,000 registered participants representing more than 170 law enforcement agencies, making Wisconsin the fifth largest Torch Run program in the world!





COMMUNITY POLICING

Beyond Binging: A Community Confronts Its Drinking Problem

In April of 2004, the La Crosse Police Department created an internal action team to develop and implement a community-based response to address a growing public concern over the high level of binge drinking, and the associated harm it caused. This team included both line and staff officers from each of the major bureaus in the department. The team utilized the S.A.R.A. (Scanning, Analysis, Response and Assessment) problem solving model to identify the core issues of binge drinking and to develop a comprehensive response to address them.

After much consideration, the team selected two goals for immediate action:

- Engage and mobilize community resources.
- Enhance community safety and reduce harm linked to acute alcohol abuse.

The plan went operational in January 2005 combining intensive, targeted enforcement of alcohol related crimes and a comprehensive education campaign designed to enhance beverage server training and educate the public on the risks associated with binge drinking. This multi-faceted approach is how the action team got its name – A.C.E. (Alcohol Compliance & Education).

Over the next three years, the A.C.E. team saw a significant increase in the compliance rate of licensed liquor establishments and a notable decrease in the frequency and severity of alcohol related crimes.

In 2008, the project was submitted to the Wisconsin Association of Community Oriented Police (WACOP) for consideration of the “Sir Robert Peel” award recognizing a Wisconsin police agency for outstanding problem solving; an award based on the internationally recognized Herman Goldstein Award. On January 22nd, 2009 members of the La Crosse Police Department accepted the “Sir Robert Peel” award on behalf of Police Chief Edward N. Kondracki at WACOP’s annual training symposium.

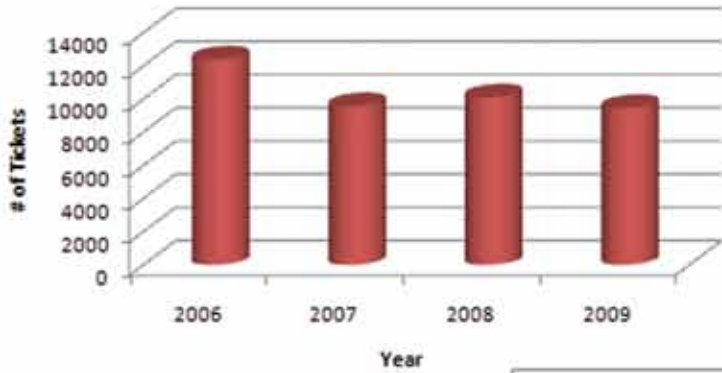
As the award recipient, the department was offered the opportunity to participate in an exchange program with the Merseyside Police Department from Liverpool in the United Kingdom. Detective Constable Alan Nuttall and Constable Scott Cenci arrived in La Crosse on the opening night of Oktoberfest 2009 and spent the next week working with the La Crosse Police Department. Scott and Alan had the opportunity to work with all of the bureaus within the police department as well as experience some German-American Heritage during the busy Oktoberfest celebration.

Sergeants Kirk Flatten and Drew Gavrilos were selected by Chief Kondracki to represent the agency in the United Kingdom. Kirk and Drew spent a week in Liverpool working with the Merseyside Police Department. Merseyside has 3000 sworn officers and patrols an area with a population of over 1 million. Despite the significant difference in size and structure, Kirk and Drew found that both agencies utilize community policing very effectively and share a very positive working relationship with their respective communities.

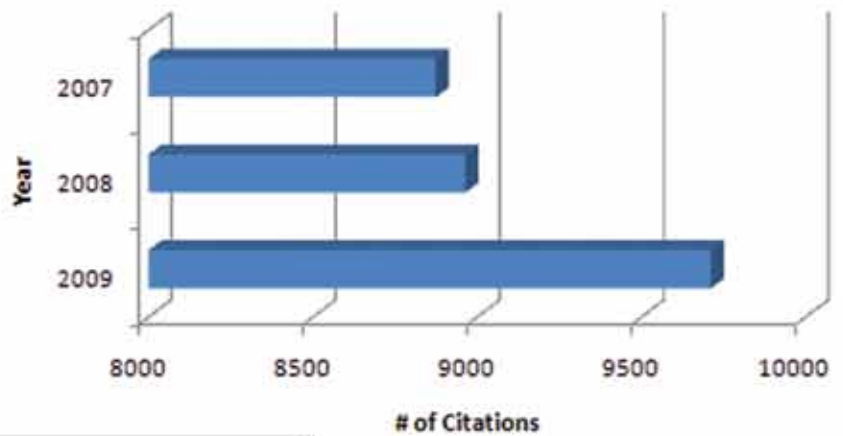
MAKING A DIFFERENCE

2009 STATISTICS

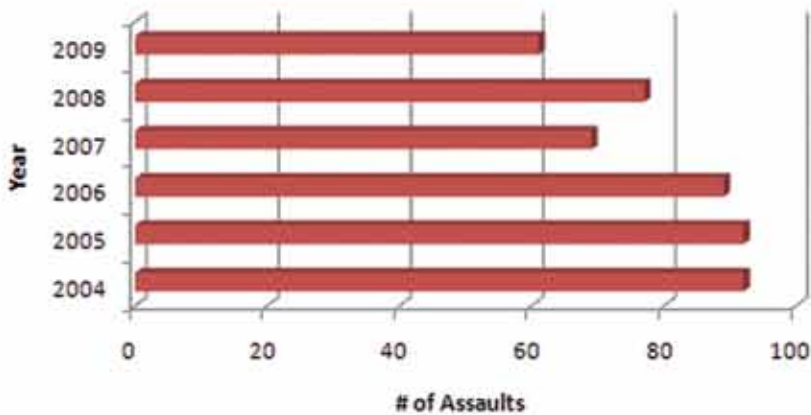
Warning Tickets



Traffic Citations

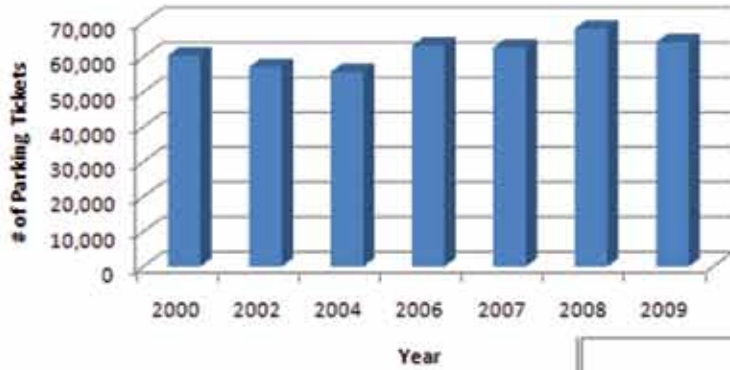


Sexual Assaults

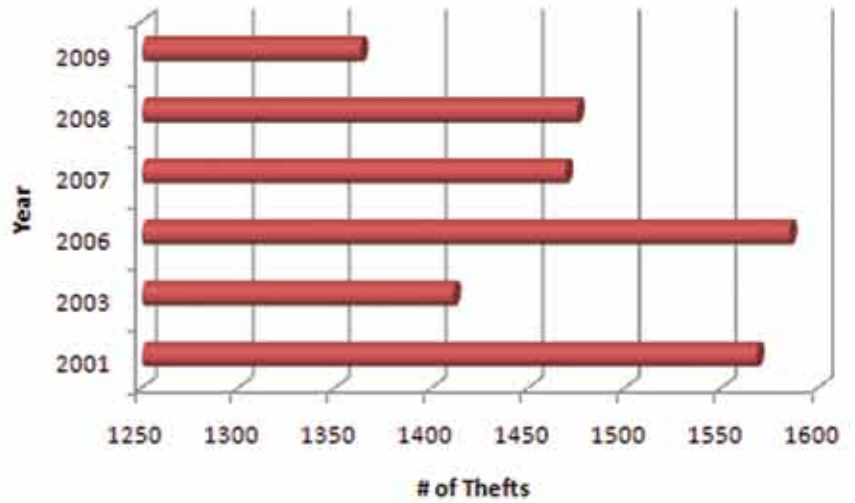




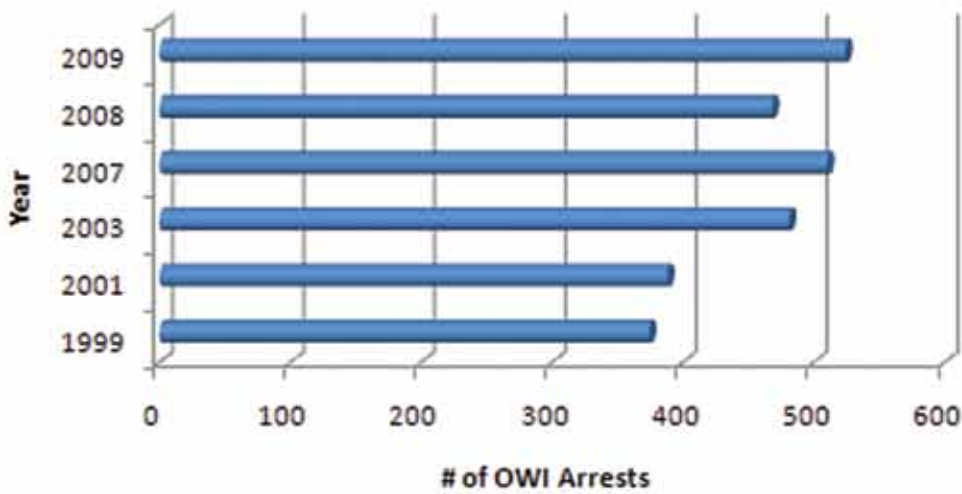
PARKING TICKETS



Theft and Larceny Offenses

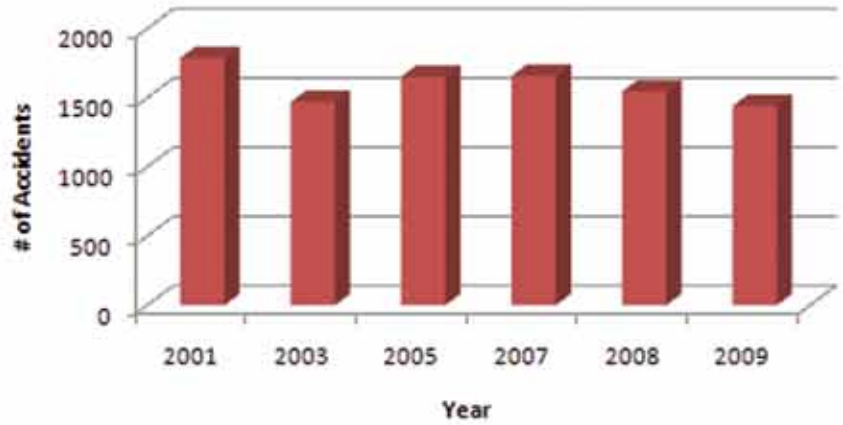


OWI Arrests

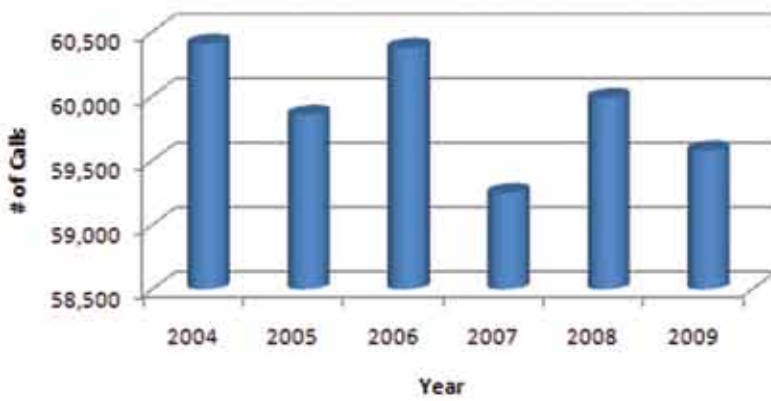


MAKING A DIFFERENCE

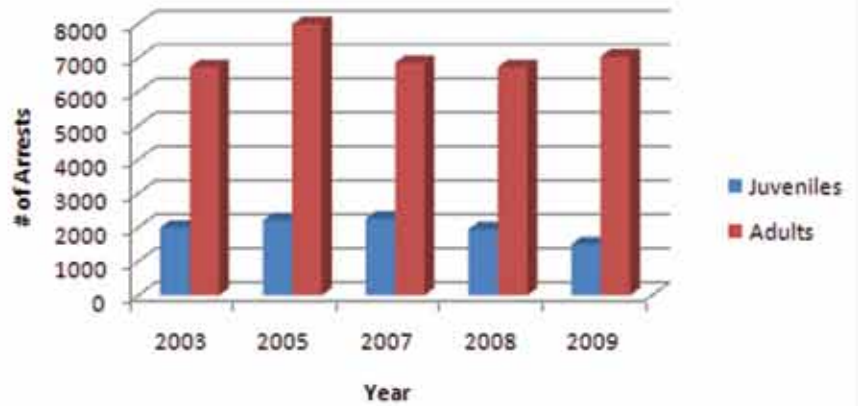
State Reportable Accidents



Calls for Service

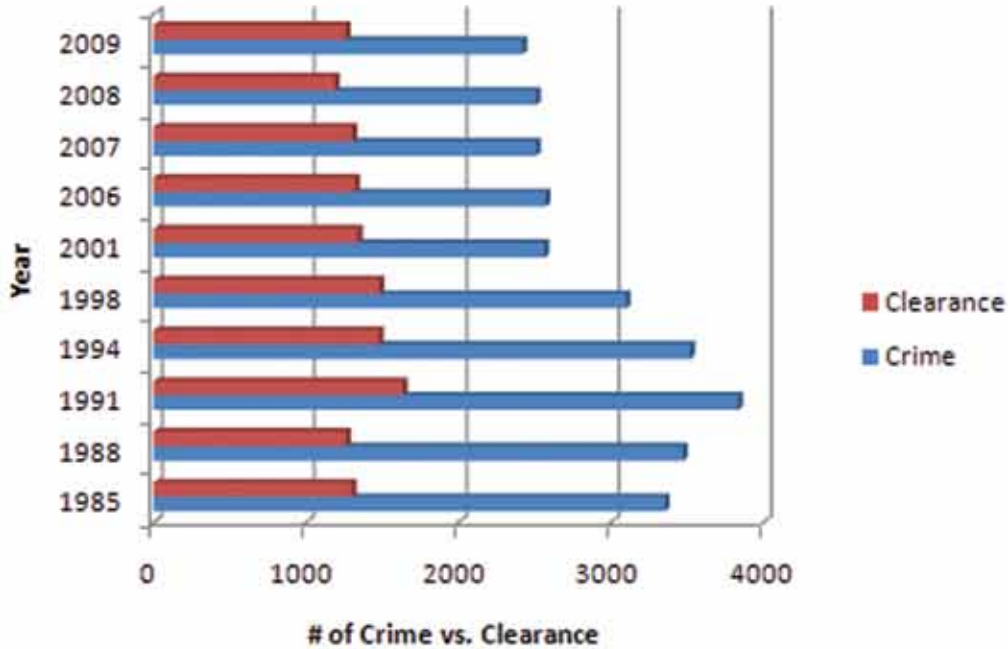


Arrests

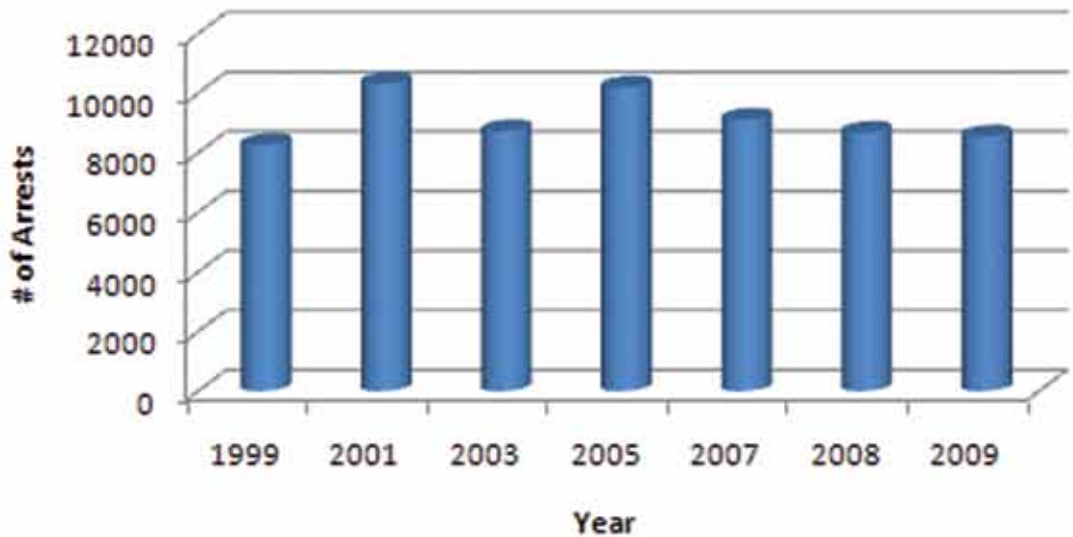




Crime Clearance



Part 1 and 2 Arrests



IN THE NEWS...

'The weekend went fine'

Oktoberfest's opening days mostly quiet; man faces charges after fight with police

By ANNE JUNGEN
ajungen@lacrossetribune.com

Oktoberfest 2009 had a relatively quiet debut that avoided some of the alcohol-fueled incidents of past years.

"The weekend went fine," said La Crosse police Capt. Gary Utting.

The most serious incident was a fight about 1:15 a.m. Sunday in the entrance to the Cognac Club, 121 S. Third St., that left an officer with a deep arm cut that will require surgery, according to reports.

Janarie Payton, 18, had been ordered to stand near the curb when he tried to grab a holstered gun from an officer who had returned to the fight, reports stated.

Despite one officer placing him in a hold and three others trying to control him, Payton continued to resist, screaming, "I will kill you, (expletive)," reports stated.



Payton

The struggle sent the four men into the bar's front window, which shattered, cutting one officer above his left elbow, according to reports.

Payton, of Rochester, Minn., was arrested on charges of attempting to disarm a police officer, attempted battery to police officers, resisting officers, disorderly conduct

See WEEKEND, A5



ERIK DAILY/LACROSSE TRIBUNE

La Crosse police Chief Ed Kondracki looks at the police whistle belonging to Constable Scott Cenci of the Merseyside Police Department. The whistle belonged to Cenci's great-great grandfather. Constable Cenci and Detective Constable Alan Nuttall are in La Crosse to view the department's community policing program.

Visiting British bobbies study Oktoberfest

By CHRIS HUBBUCH
chubbuch@lacrossetribune.com

Don't expect to see them wearing funny hats, but La Crosse police officers are trading notes with British bobbies.

A pair of officers from Liverpool, England, are spending the week in La Crosse to learn how police here deal with drinking and other problems. La Crosse officers Sgt. Kirk Flatten and Sgt. Drew Gavrilos then will fly Saturday to Liverpool to study community policing in the country that invented it.

See BOBBIES, A5

WEEKEND

From A1

and obstruction. He is expected in La Crosse County Circuit Court today.

While Utting termed the majority of fest-goers courteous and well-behaved, several alcohol-related incidents did surface over the weekend.

Tri-State Ambulance paramedics tried to rouse a 25-year-old Avoca, Wis., man found incapacitated on the sidewalk in the 700 block of North Third Street about 1:45 p.m. Saturday during the Maple Leaf Parade, according to reports. Craig Eisenbrandt started swinging at the paramedics before passing out again, authorities said.

He told officers en route to Franciscan Skemp Medical Center for detoxification, "I was drinking since 3 in the morning and am way too drunk," reports stated. He was arrested on charges of possession of marijuana and drug paraphernalia, after officers said they discovered pot and a pipe in his pocket.

BOBBIES

From A1

Their trip will be paid for by the Wisconsin Association of Community Oriented Policing, which this year awarded the department the Sir Robert Peel Award for its work on binge drinking.

Peel, a 19th century prime minister, is considered the father of modern policing, and it's for him that British officers still are called Bobbies. His words — "police are a part of, not apart from, the community they serve" — are inscribed on the wall of the North Side police station, a reminder of the philosophy that guides the La Crosse Police Department.

It wasn't always so, as faceless officers in patrol cars replaced neighborhood cops walking a beat.

"We lost this notion of having a partnership with

the community," said Chief Ed Kondracki.

Something similar happened in the United Kingdom, said Detective Constable Alan Nuttall.

In 2001, Merseyside Police, which patrols the city of Liverpool and the surrounding county, asked people what they wanted. Turns out they wanted beat officers who they could recognize on the street and a police department that was accountable.

Nuttall and fellow Constable Scott Cenci are shadowing La Crosse officers this week. They were on the streets for Oktoberfest over the weekend.

Nuttall wasn't shocked by the drinking — the U.K. has plenty of that — but he was surprised by the parade and the legions of people who stake out real estate along the route.

The Bobbies were impressed by the Aid Station, something they

said they might try. Kondracki liked the Bobbies' fluorescent yellow jackets — if not the black-and-white checked hats — which make them visible.

Cenci doesn't carry a gun when walking his beat in Liverpool — British police have special armed units they call out in emergencies — but relies on his physical presence and "the gift of gab" to handle most situations. The goal is to be friendly while also firm and fair, he said.

Cenci impressed Kondracki with his people skills Saturday night, when a fest-goer approached Cenci and asked about his headgear in a way Kondracki thought sounded combative.

By the end of their conversation, the reveler gave Cenci a high five.

For Cenci, it was just like any day on the job.

"We deal with quite a lot of drunks," he said.

HONORING THE FALLEN



Oroville police officer Lisa Gehrig, third from right, stands in patrol her husband Dale Gehrig as a substitute on the La Crosse Police Department's former guard during a memorial service Tuesday to remember officers killed in the line of duty. Members of La Crosse County law enforcement agencies gathered outside La Crosse City Hall for the service, which coincides with National Police Week. About 100 officers die each year in the U.S. while on the job, while 85,000 are assaulted and 10,000 are injured, according to La Crosse police. Police honors awarded, \$6.



HYBRID JOINS THE FORCE



The La Crosse Police Department awarded its first hybrid law enforcement vehicle Tuesday. The 2010 Toyota Camry Hybrid was presented to patrol officer Tim Johnson. The vehicle is a 2010 Toyota Camry Hybrid. The vehicle is a 2010 Toyota Camry Hybrid. The vehicle is a 2010 Toyota Camry Hybrid.

Night out to fight crime

By Michael

Neighborhood watch groups in La Crosse will spend the evening on Wednesday, when it will be a chance to celebrate the neighborhood watch program.

The La Crosse Police Department will be participating with the La Crosse Police Department.

"It's an honor to have neighborhood watch groups in our city," said Sgt. Mike Johnson, the La Crosse Police Department's neighborhood watch coordinator.

The La Crosse Police Department will be participating with the La Crosse Police Department. The La Crosse Police Department will be participating with the La Crosse Police Department.

MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS

The La Crosse Police Department will be participating with the La Crosse Police Department.

The La Crosse Police Department will be participating with the La Crosse Police Department.

The La Crosse Police Department will be participating with the La Crosse Police Department.

The La Crosse Police Department will be participating with the La Crosse Police Department.

PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL

THE POLICE REPORT

Have a winning hand at the wheel with Lisa Marie, police officer and author.

By Michael



Lisa Marie is a police officer and author. She has written a book about her experiences in the police force. She is a police officer and author.

La Crosse residents, officers honored for community policing successes

By RYAN STEITZ

Community Policing Success

The La Crosse Police Department took time to celebrate being one with the community.



The La Crosse Police Department took time to celebrate being one with the community. The La Crosse Police Department took time to celebrate being one with the community.

The La Crosse Police Department took time to celebrate being one with the community. The La Crosse Police Department took time to celebrate being one with the community.

The department honored seven officers, two civil service employees, a doctor and 10 citizens with awards at a ceremony Tuesday night.

"It's a pleasure to be recognized for what we do," said Officer Matt Jensen, who was given the award.

Officer Matt Jensen was given the award. Officer Matt Jensen was given the award.

Officer Matt Jensen was given the award. Officer Matt Jensen was given the award.

Officer Matt Jensen was given the award. Officer Matt Jensen was given the award.

Officer Matt Jensen was given the award. Officer Matt Jensen was given the award.

Officer Matt Jensen was given the award. Officer Matt Jensen was given the award.

Officer Matt Jensen was given the award. Officer Matt Jensen was given the award.

Officer Matt Jensen was given the award. Officer Matt Jensen was given the award.

Officer Matt Jensen was given the award. Officer Matt Jensen was given the award.

Officer Matt Jensen was given the award. Officer Matt Jensen was given the award.

Officer Matt Jensen was given the award. Officer Matt Jensen was given the award.

Officer Matt Jensen was given the award. Officer Matt Jensen was given the award.

Officer Matt Jensen was given the award. Officer Matt Jensen was given the award.

Officer Matt Jensen was given the award. Officer Matt Jensen was given the award.

Officer Matt Jensen was given the award. Officer Matt Jensen was given the award.

Officer Matt Jensen was given the award. Officer Matt Jensen was given the award.

Officer Matt Jensen was given the award. Officer Matt Jensen was given the award.

Officer Matt Jensen was given the award. Officer Matt Jensen was given the award.

Officer Matt Jensen was given the award. Officer Matt Jensen was given the award.

Officer Matt Jensen was given the award. Officer Matt Jensen was given the award.

Crime Stoppers celebrates 25 years

By ANNE ANGELO

Community Policing Success

The La Crosse Area Crime Stoppers program had a program that offers anonymity to those who tip on crimes, and Crime Stoppers found several cases.

The La Crosse Area Crime Stoppers program had a program that offers anonymity to those who tip on crimes, and Crime Stoppers found several cases.

The La Crosse Area Crime Stoppers program had a program that offers anonymity to those who tip on crimes, and Crime Stoppers found several cases.

The La Crosse Area Crime Stoppers program had a program that offers anonymity to those who tip on crimes, and Crime Stoppers found several cases.

A total of 25 years of help by local citizens, Sheriff said.

A total of 25 years of help by local citizens, Sheriff said. A total of 25 years of help by local citizens, Sheriff said.

A total of 25 years of help by local citizens, Sheriff said. A total of 25 years of help by local citizens, Sheriff said.

A total of 25 years of help by local citizens, Sheriff said. A total of 25 years of help by local citizens, Sheriff said.

A total of 25 years of help by local citizens, Sheriff said. A total of 25 years of help by local citizens, Sheriff said.

HOW TO HELP

Donations for the La Crosse Area Crime Stoppers program can be mailed to P.O. Box 3424, La Crosse, WI 54601-3424. Anyone with more information can call Crime Stoppers 24 hours a day at (608) 754-1111 or (608) 754-3077, or log onto www.crimestoppers.com.

Donations for the La Crosse Area Crime Stoppers program can be mailed to P.O. Box 3424, La Crosse, WI 54601-3424. Anyone with more information can call Crime Stoppers 24 hours a day at (608) 754-1111 or (608) 754-3077, or log onto www.crimestoppers.com.

GUEST VIEW

Celebrate DARE's 20-year legacy

For the past 20 years, anyone visiting a fifth-grade classroom in the city of La Crosse asking this question — "Does anyone have a friend in the Police Department?" — has heard the students in the classroom answering with a resounding "Yes, we do!"

The fifth-graders would, of course, be referring to their DARE officer, who, in the process of teaching them to resist alcohol and other drugs, became a friend they could trust and go to for help.

April 2009 marks 20 years of continuous service in which the La Crosse Police Department has partnered with the School District of La Crosse to educate children about the health risks of using alcohol and drugs, as well as other risky behaviors. The DARE officers recognize that peer pressure is inevitable when growing up, but that skills can be learned to help students make healthy choices.

Sometimes when riding through communities in

We have come to appreciate the diligence, consistency and quality of the DARE officers as they partner with us in dealing with a very real social concern.

Wisconsin and neighboring states, we see signs that say "This Is A DARE Community." We can certainly say that about La Crosse. We have only to review the many business partners who have assisted DARE over 20 years. We would be remiss if we did not acknowledge the tremendous support of State Bank of La Crosse and the many contributions DARE receives from its chill cook-off fundraiser.

As administrators in the La Crosse School District, we have witnessed two decades of quality work with the La Crosse Police Department delivering the DARE curriculum. While no curriculum solves all social problems or is a panacea, we have

come to appreciate the diligence, consistency and quality of the DARE officers as they partner with us in dealing with a very real social concern. We salute them for their excellent work. We thank our DARE officers for being role models for our young men and women and for developing relationships that will have an impact on students' lives in years to come.

National DARE Day was April 8. A special celebration was held to reflect the partnership between the La Crosse Police Department and the La Crosse School District. The celebration was held at Franklin Elementary.

We thank our DARE officers for their commitment to our citizens of tomorrow.

Submitted by elementary school principals Regina Stogel, Jillian White, Harvey W. Ziemer, Nancy Mutchell, Nancy Sikorsky, Marylin Wersholen, Theresia Dink Hunter, Jane Morkel and Jerry Berns.

Police reserve unit celebrates 30 years

By ANNE JUNGEN
ajungen@lacrossetribune.com

FOR MORE INFORMATION

The Sept. 11, 2001 attacks almost immediately propelled Adam Wohlwend to act.

The Trane Co. business planning analyst wanted to give back to his community by joining the La Crosse Police Reserves, a volunteer group that assists sworn officers.

"It's interesting to see how they deal with people," said Wohlwend, 37.

Reserve members do not have arresting powers or authority to issue tickets but help officers with traffic control and other duties at community events, crime scenes, crime prevention activities and staffing Operation: River Watch, said La Crosse police Sgt. Jerry Korger, liaison to the reserves.

"They help free officers up for regular duties," Korger said.

The reserves will celebrate its 30th anniversary tonight with a program and awards ceremony at the North Side Community Policing Center.

La Crosse police Chief Ed Kondracki called the reserves the "finest example of community policing."

"During these difficult budget times, the police department simply could

To learn more about the La Crosse Police Department Reserve Unit, call (608) 789-7238.

not provide the current level of service that it does without their assistance," he said.

The 20 current reserves are among the more than 400 who have served in the program's 30 years. The unit logged 4,400 volunteer hours in 2008 and 4,152 hours so far this year, said Wohlwend, the unit's commander.

About 13 percent of the current police force started in the reserves, including La Crosse police officer Todd Fischer.

Motivated by an interest in law enforcement, Fischer joined the reserves in January 1994.

"It's a great way to work with the community," he said.

The first-hand experience gained through three years in the reserves helped solidify his decision to become a sworn officer in March 1999.

"It's a very good program from anyone thinking about having a career in law enforcement," Fischer said.

Grant to address binge drinking

By Tribune staff

An \$87,000 Wisconsin Department of Health Services grant will be used to help create a plan to combat binge drinking among 18 to 25 year olds in La Crosse County.

La Crosse County is the third-highest ranked county in Wisconsin for binge drinking among ages 18 to 25.

The five-month planning grant was awarded to the La Crosse Medical Health Science Consortium, in partnership with La Crosse County Departments of Health and Human Services and Coulee Council on Addictions.

The partners will work with the Changing the Culture of Risky Drinking Behavior Community Coalition and a team of volunteers to develop the plan for October.

La Crosse was among four counties to receive funding. It is the third-highest ranked county in Wisconsin for binge drinking among ages 18 to 25, at 62 percent.

DARE TO CELEBRATE



Franklin Elementary School fifth graders sing Wednesday during a program to celebrate their graduation from the DARE youth anti-substance abuse program. La Crosse Police Chief Edward Korobocki and La Crosse School District Superintendent Jerry Korber, along with several area community leaders, attended the graduation. A special awards ceremony not only honored the North Side school's graduates but the 20-year partnership between La Crosse schools and the police department. Kondracki also was recognized by DARE America for the department's 20-year history with the program. This year, more than 3,200 elementary students will receive a DARE lesson from the La Crosse Police Department. In its 20-year history, DARE has reached more than 55,000 elementary students in La Crosse. The core curriculum is taught to fifth-graders and focuses on decision-making skills and facts about the dangers of cigarettes, alcohol, marijuana and other drugs. Lessons have been added locally on bullying, prescription and over-the-counter drug abuse, and Internet safety. Except for officer salaries, DARE is completely funded by donations, grants, and other community support.

LOCAL AND REGIONAL NEWS

lacrossetribune.com

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5, 2009

Hello, neighbor

Night Out fosters community awareness

By KJ LANG
klang@lacrossetribune.com

It was a night of neighbor bonding.

National Night Out brought hundreds of neighbors to Viterbo University's backyard Tuesday for feast and fun, just like in numerous neighborhoods across the city and country.

Lynn Dobyns, with Washburn Neighborhood Group, said her neighbors fight crime together through Neighborhood Watch, prevent flooding together by selling and promoting rain barrels, and stand up together when they don't want something built in their backyard.

"Because we are active in city

planning and with our neighborhood, people know we are a force to be reckoned with," she said.

Sister Louise Wisnau with the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration, sat at a table with sisters and other neighbors she had just met.

"When neighbors from diverse backgrounds meet, they realize they have greater commonalities than differences," she said.

Ilen Kruse, 25, from Hood Street, said he already knew many at the picnic.

"When you create friendships with neighbors, you create a sense of community where you live," he said.

Knowing neighbors also gets an extra set of eyes and ears in the



Ayla Landell, 2, plays with a beach ball Tuesday at a National Night Out picnic at Viterbo University.

community, said Sgt. Kirk Flatten. To start a Neighborhood Watch with the La Crosse Police Department, call (608) 789-7240.



Report of meth shuts down area around South Side home



PETER THOMPSON/LA CROSSE TRIBUNE

La Crosse police officer John Matuska works on the scene Wednesday at 3016 S. 22nd St. after a white powder suspected of being methamphetamine was found in the garage.

Former occupant charged earlier in the day

By RYAN STOTTS
rstotts@lacrosetribune.com

La Crosse police and fire crews cordoned off a South Side home for several hours Wednesday on reports it might have remnants of a methamphetamine lab.

The occupants of the home at 3016 S. 22nd St. discovered an envelope with "a white substance" that could have been meth in the garage, said Lt. Bob Berndt.

That led police to seal off the area around the home about 1 p.m., officials said, so a special clean-up crew could be brought in from Madison.

Authorities also obtained a war-

rrent to search the property but did not say what they might have found.

The area was reopened by 7:30 p.m.

Earlier in the day, 33-year-old Joseph Marshall, who had been staying at the same residence, was charged in La Crosse County Circuit Court with two counts each of drug paraphernalia and misdemeanor bail jumping.

Police said they received a tip Sunday after an occupant at the home reported finding a portable meth lab inside a suitcase Marshall stored in the garage, according to the criminal complaint.

City crime rate flat in 2008

Chief Kondracki: La Crosse numbers 'at a 20-year low'

By ANNE JUNGEN
ajungen@lacrosetribune.com

Serious crime in La Crosse held steady in 2008, with just one more offense reported than in 2007, according to recently released crime statistics.

A total of 2,300 serious crimes were recorded in 2008, including an infant homicide, according to the La Crosse Police Department.

"Crime in La Crosse remains at a 20-year low," said La Crosse police Chief Ed Kondracki.

Serious crimes are those tracked nationally by the FBI and include homicide, rape, robbery, assault, burglary, theft, motor vehicle theft and arson. The city reported a 2 percent decrease in the same offenses in 2007 from

INSIDE: A BY-THE-NUMBERS BREAKDOWN OF CRIMINAL ACTIVITY IN 2008, PAGE C7

2008.

The 2008 statistics include the death of an infant born to Indra Book, now 20, of La Crosse, who was charged in July with first-degree intentional homicide after prosecutors said she deliberately failed to care for her daughter after giving birth alone at home.

The child was born Aug. 17, 2007, but authorities did not learn of the death until July 10, 2008. Her case is set for a status conference on Feb. 23.

Robberies in 2008 rose by 53 percent, from 19 to 29, though a group of seven people are believed responsible for 10 of those incidents, Kondracki said.

Four more rapes were reported in 2008 than the year before, according to the statistics. Six more arson cases were reported in 2008 from the previous year.

READ THE REPORT

The 2008 La Crosse Police Department crime report can be viewed online by going to this story at www.lacrosetribune.com.

for a total of eight, though items

See CRIME, C7

LOCAL AND REGIONAL NEWS

Charges filed in storage unit thefts

By CHRIS HUBBUCH
chubbuch@lacrosetribune.com

Charges have been filed against an Onalaska man in connection with a burglary ring police said they believe hit hundreds of area storage units.

Matthew Monti, 30, was charged Thursday in La Crosse County Circuit Court with two counts of burglary in a complaint that claims he worked with a La Crosse man who ran a "store" out of his home, selling stolen

tools, stereo equipment and sporting goods.

The complaint documents break-ins at 96 storage units in La Crosse, Onalaska, Holmen and West Salem between November and March.

According to the complaint, police received a tip that Terrance Whitehead, 29, was involved, and they viewed pawn shop video of him and another man selling stolen goods.

Police searched Whitehead's St. Andrew Street home and

found stolen items as well as a digital camera with pictures of the other man, later identified as Monti.

A search of Monti's home turned up more stolen goods, according to the complaint.

Monti told police Whitehead bragged of hitting 200 to 300 storage units, and that together they stole so many items from so many places he couldn't keep track.

Whitehead told police he also bought stolen goods from Damien

Mracek, 27, of Holmen, who has been jailed since April on receiving stolen property and drug charges.

Whitehead was arrested April 2 and sentenced to 12 months in prison May 27 after his probation for a 2005 forgery conviction was revoked. He has not been charged in the burglaries.

Three others were arrested at Whitehead's home but haven't been charged.

Park it right — or pay up



MIKAL VEJNICK

By SAMANTHA MARCUS
smarcus@lacrosetribune.com

Those pesky green envelopes will be packing an extra punch.

Newly increased parking fines — some double or triple their previous amounts — went into effect Thursday, La Crosse officials announced.

The La Crosse Common Council adopted most of the elevated forfeitures in April, but the police department waited to enforce them until all had passed.

The city's fines had not been adjusted in two decades, officials said, and some are significantly below what cities such as Janesville, Sheboygan and Oshkosh charge.

Now, the former \$8 fine for over-

NEW LA CROSSE PARKING FINES

Violation	Initial fine	After 10 days	After 45 days
Night parking	\$20	\$20	\$40
Overtime parking	\$12	\$24	\$48
No-parking zone	\$20	\$40	\$80
Loading zone	\$20	\$40	\$80
Alley parking	\$20	\$40	\$80
Unauthorized	\$20	\$40	\$80
City Hall parking lot	\$20	\$40	\$80
City lots and ramps	\$20	\$40	\$80
Within 4 feet of driveway	\$20	\$40	\$80
Within 15 feet of crosswalk	\$20	\$40	\$80
Within 10 feet of fire hydrant	\$20	\$40	\$80
Trespass parking	\$50	\$100	\$200
Handicapped parking	\$100	\$175	\$250

Source: La Crosse Department of Public Works

time parking is \$18 and will jump to \$24 after 10 days and \$48 after 45 days.

Parking violations in city lots and ramps, the City Hall parking lot, alleys, loading zones and no-parking zones used to carry an \$8 charge, but today cost \$20 each.

The same goes for parking within 4 feet of a driveway or 15 feet of a crosswalk.

Trespass parking, previously \$20,

will sting a bit more at \$50, which will double after 10 days and quadruple after 45.

The base fine for parking in a handicapped parking stall is unchanged, but will more than 10 days to pay and the fine jumps to \$175, instead of the former \$150. It becomes \$250 after 45 days.

La Crosse in 2008 issued \$750,000 in parking fines, up 5.5 percent from \$717,110 in 2007.

La Crosse police issue 19 alcohol citations

By Tribune staff

La Crosse police issued 19 alcohol-related citations in a 2½-hour span Thursday outside the Citgo station at 1914 State Road, according to police reports.

Officers watched the

location after receiving a tip the gas station was selling alcohol without checking identifications, reports stated.

Vehicles were stopped for traffic violations after police witnessed the driver or passenger buying alcohol from the store.

Citations were given to those age 21 or older who purchased alcohol for minors in the vehicle, underage people who had the alcohol or minors who bought alcohol, reports stated. Penalties for the citations range from \$222 to \$379.

Court dates are set for July and August in La Crosse Municipal Court.

Clerk Inderyas Chiragham, 51, of 5100 S. 33rd St., Apt. 4, was given a \$285 citation for selling alcohol to a minor. He is due in La Crosse Municipal Court on Aug. 12.

Bridge jumpers rare; police trained to be ready

By ANNE JUNGEN
ajungen@lacrosetribune.com

Local law enforcement say they rarely have people threatening to take their lives by leaping off bridges — as happened Monday — despite the number of river spans in the region.

Police managed to coax a possibly suicidal man off the Cass Street bridge Monday afternoon, taking him to a local hospital for



Abraham

a mental health evaluation.

"Fortunately, we don't deal with a lot of situations like that," said La Crosse police Capt. Rob Abraham.

Officers in such situations are trained to talk to the person — try to find out an identity and what led up to this point — and deter-

mine how police can help, Abraham said.

"Obviously we don't want to do anything to trigger a person into making a decision," he said. "We want to be as cautious as possible."

Police also must halt bridge traffic and keep onlookers away.

Reasonable requests from the suicidal person can be arranged. The man in Monday's incident asked for a cigarette and lighter.

"We want to make the environment as comfortable as possible," Abraham said.

Every situation is unique, but the goal always is the same: do whatever is necessary to prevent the person from jumping and get them to a hospital for a mental health evaluation.

"When we have someone in a crisis, we're there to respond and help them," Abraham said.

Dressed for banking?



Masked man ticketed after withdrawing his own money

By ANNE JUNGEN
ajungen@lacrosetribune.com

Eric Harding has no plans to retire his fully masked hooded black sweatshirt with printed skeletal bones.

Even after it made him look like a bank robber Wednesday morning, landed him in the back of a squad car, earned him a 590 disorderly conduct citation and propelled him to file a grievance that will pit him against the La Crosse Police Department.

"It's probably one of the most asinine things I've heard in my life," he said.

Harding, 32, of La Crosse entered the north door of Governmental Employees

Credit Union at 225 La Crosse St. about 10:30 a.m. Wednesday to withdraw \$600 in rent money from his account, he said.

Another member in the

See HOOD, A9

SERIOUS CRIME IN LA CROSSE

	2008 crimes crimes reported	2008 crimes cleared	2007 crimes reported	2007 crimes cleared
Homicide	1	1	1	1
Rape	22	3	18	14
Robbery	25	15	19	11
Assault	598	520	603	545
Burglary	295	40	304	70
Theft	1,481	386	1,475	526
Vehicle theft	71	19	87	36
Arson	6	3	2	1
Totals	2,509	1,192	2,508	1,304

Note: Cleared includes cases that result in an arrest and those cleared without an arrest.
Source: La Crosse Police Department

CRIME NUMBERS STEADY IN '08

From C1

BY THE NUMBERS

set abuse included two portable toilets and a wheelchair.

"We're not talking about learning houses down," Kondracki said.

Theft in 2008 increased less than 1 percent, from 1,475 to 1,481.

Reported burglaries in 2008 dropped slightly, from 295 to 295, and assaults also showed a small decline, from 603 incidents to 598, according to the statistics. Motor vehicle thefts dropped 18 percent, from 87 reports to 71.

Police cleared 47 percent of the 2008 serious crime cases, exceeding the national clearance rate of 44.3 percent, said police Capt. Rob Abraham. La Crosse police surpassed the national clearance rate in each category of serious crimes, he said.

"I think it's a tribute to the officers in the street and the hard work that they put in," Abraham said.

The number of serious crimes reported in La Crosse peaked in 1991 at 3,715, 35 percent more than 2008, Kondracki said.

The FBI doesn't track lesser crimes, such as burglary, drunken driving and drug offenses. The police department keeps statistics for those offenses by arrests made either than

Arrests for lesser or "part two" crimes decreased 3 percent in 2008 from 2007. The FBI does not monitor part two offenses. The La Crosse Police Department tracks statistics by arrests.

Part two crimes	2008	2007	Change
Forgery	9	23	(14)
Fraud	53	62	(9)
Stolen property	33	25	+8
Damage to property	241	271	(30)
Weapons	48	72	(24)
Sex offenses	22	19	+3
Drugs	269	228	+41
Gambling	0	0	0
DWI	468	510	(42)
Liquor laws	1,818	1,858	(30)
Disorderly conduct	1,054	1,194	(130)
Other crimes	1,178	1,219	(41)
Carjacking	99	68	0
Runaway	307	93	+214
Total	7,419	7,653	(234)

Traffic violation	2008	2007	Change
Parking tickets	68,144	62,579	+5,565
Traffic citations	5,964	8,875	+89
Traffic warnings	10,093	9,565	+528
Reportable crashes	1,546	1,609	(113)

Source: La Crosse Police Department

those crimes were down 2 percent, though drug arrests increased by 27 percent from 2007, according to the statistics. The uptick can be attributed to dedicated drug investigators, community tips and the 2008 addition of the department's drug dog, Ralph, police said.

"No police officer has the nose that Ralph does," Abraham said.

"I don't hesitate to state

Man arrested after Cash Advance robbed

By ANNE JUNGEN
ajungen@lacrosetribune.com

One man was arrested Tuesday after the Check Mate Cash Advance was robbed at gunpoint, but an accomplice still is being sought, La Crosse police said.

Raymondo Gallegos, 22, of La Crosse, was found in what police described as the getaway vehicle, within about two hours of the robbery.

But 20-year-old Michael St. Sauver ran from the car, according to police. He remained at large as of Tuesday night.

A man wearing a blue bandanna across his face showed a black handgun

at the business at 1101 Rose St. about 1:11 p.m. and demanded money from two employees, police stated.

He left with an undisclosed amount of cash, but witnesses were able to describe the vehicle he fled to, police said.

St. Sauver is described as about 6 feet 1 inch in height and 200 pounds, with brown hair and eyes.

Anyone with information should call La Crosse police at (608) 785-5062 or La Crosse Area Crime Stoppers at (608) 784-8477 or (800) 947-3577.

Callers to Crime Stoppers can remain anonymous and are eligible for rewards of up to \$1,000.

Couple arrested in suspected bar burglary

By CHRIS HUBBUCH
chubbuch@lacrosetribune.com

Two-way radios, gloves and a bandana were found in a nearby trash can.

A watchful police officer nabbed a suspected burglar coming out of a South Side La Crosse bar early Sunday, police said.

The officer was on patrol about 12:30 a.m. when he saw a man run out the side door of the Class of '08 on Denton Street, which was closed at the time.

The officer caught the man about a block away. Though he denied being in the bar, the man was found to have \$126 in cash — the exact amount police say was missing from a gambling machine inside.

Police also caught the

man's girlfriend, who they said was acting as a lookout, and found two-way radios, gloves and a bandana in a nearby trash can.

Arrested were Justin R. McCulloch, 28, and Anna Finders, 27. Both appeared Monday in La Crosse County Circuit Court.

Finders was released on a signature bond, while McCulloch was held on a probation violation. Charges are expected later this week.

A decorative banner with a blue background and white and red stripes, featuring three white stars on the left and three blue stars on the right. The text "2009 | MAKING A DIFFERENCE" is written in white, bold, sans-serif font across the banner.

2009 | MAKING A DIFFERENCE

LA CROSSE POLICE DEPARTMENT | 2009 ANNUAL REPORT