

# LA CROSSE POLICE DEPARTMENT

*Proudly serving the La Crosse community since 1870*



## 2015 ANNUAL REPORT



# **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

Chief’s Letter to the Common Council .....	2
Mission, Vision, and Values .....	3
WILEAG Accreditation .....	3
City of La Crosse Information .....	4
Common Council .....	4
Police & Fire Commission .....	4
Operating Budget and OT Expenditures .....	5
Administrative Services Bureau .....	6 - 11
Bureau Overview .....	6
Records Division .....	6
Administrative Services Bureau Staff .....	7
Organizational Chart .....	8 - 9
Recruitment - New Hires .....	10
Personnel Changes .....	10
Anniversaries .....	11
Retirees .....	11
Field Services Bureau .....	12 - 15
Bureau Overview .....	12
Field Services Bureau Staff .....	13
Traffic Statistics .....	14
Crime Statistics .....	15
Investigative Services Bureau .....	16 - 19
Bureau Overview .....	16
Investigative Services Bureau Staff .....	17
Case Assignments .....	18
Neighborhood Resource Officer Team .....	19
Professional Standards/Community Services Bureau .....	20 - 25
Bureau Overview .....	20
News Blog and Social Media .....	20
Professional Standards/Community Services Bureau Staff .....	21
Training Division .....	22
FBI National Academy Graduates .....	23
Northwestern Staff and Command School Graduates .....	23
School Resource Officer Program .....	24
D.A.R.E. and G.R.E.A.T. ....	24
G.R.E.A.T. Midwest Atlantic Regional Training Center .....	25
Citizens’ Police Academy .....	25
Emergency Response Team .....	26
K-9 Unit .....	27
Bicycle Patrol Unit .....	28
Water Patrol Unit .....	28
Honor Guard .....	29
Police Reserve Unit .....	30
La Crosse Area Law Enforcement Chaplaincy .....	30
National Night Out .....	31
Police Week Awards Ceremony .....	31
A Part of Our Community .....	32 - 33



## From the Chief

### **Common Council Members City of La Crosse, Wisconsin**

The 2015 City of La Crosse Police Department Annual Report is herein presented for your review. This report consists of a comparison of the activities of the La Crosse Police Department for the year 2015 as compared to preceding years.

The year 2015 was a very challenging year for the law enforcement profession. The La Crosse Police Department had its own set of unique problems and issues that we were faced with. I'm proud to say that all of the employees in the Police Department maintained a high level of professionalism and dedication to the citizens we serve. The support for our department from the community would not have been possible without the strong community ties and partnerships that the department has developed over the years.

One thing that the La Crosse Police Department has done, and will continue to do, is ensure that all officers and employees are properly trained. In 2015, the department held diversity training that all members attended at the same time. This was a monumental feat, but given the state of policing in America, was well worth the effort. The department also hosted an internationally recognized Fair and Impartial Policing training. Several officers attended this training and will bring the training to the rest of the department in 2016.

The Department, once again, responded to well over 60,000 calls for service. Even though the officers and investigators were extremely busy this past year, there were also a significant amount of Community Oriented Policing contacts with businesses, residents, students, and people visiting the city. The Neighborhood Resource Officer (NRO) program continues to flourish, and we will add two NROs to the downtown business district in 2016.

The Department's news blog, La Crosse PD Newsroom, continues to expand and contains a lot of great information regarding the department and some of the larger cases we've worked on. There was also greater usage of social media and information given out to the public, increasing our transparency. For the latest information, check us out on Facebook, Twitter, and at the La Crosse PD Newsroom ([www.lacrossepd.org](http://www.lacrossepd.org)).



The Police Department will continue to be a leader in developing strong partnerships throughout the city and region. The Department will strive to build upon the already successful NRO program and work proactively to make La Crosse a great place to live, work, and play.

**Ronald J. Tischer  
Chief of Police**

# Mission, Vision, and Values

## **Mission**

The La Crosse Police Department is committed to the delivery of excellent police service to improve the quality of life within our community, and this is achieved through the following:

- Problem Solving
- Professionalism
- Partnerships
- Ethical Practices



## **Vision**

Our vision is to achieve excellence in policing.

## **Values**

The following values guide how members of the La Crosse Police Department think, feel, and behave to improve the quality of life in La Crosse and, thereby, achieve our mission and vision:

- Excellence
- Loyalty
- Respect
- Integrity
- Accountability

The La Crosse Police Department believes our national recognition as a universal leader in policing has been achieved through the consistent, excellent police service provided by our members.

## **WILEAG Accreditation**

In April of 2014, the La Crosse Police Department completed the accreditation process which included a comprehensive review of the department's policies and procedures, as well as a public comment period. Thanks to the hard work, professionalism, and dedication of our Department members, we were officially awarded our fourth re-accreditation on June 16, 2014, which lasts for three years.



Law enforcement accreditation provides the basis for an enhanced sense of professionalism and pride; the security in knowing that agencies are well-managed; and the assurance that enforcement operations and personnel are consistent and well-directed.

The La Crosse Police Department has been accredited by the Wisconsin Law Enforcement Accreditation Group (WILEAG) since 1995. The goal of WILEAG is to provide a high quality, affordable alternative to national accreditation.



# City of La Crosse

## Statistics

Population .....	52,440
Households .....	20,749
City Area .....	20.52 sq miles
Paved Roads .....	225 miles
Public Schools	
Elementary .....	11
Middle .....	6
High .....	4
Charter/Choice .....	11
Parochial Schools	
Elementary/Middle/High .....	5
Per Capita Income .....	\$21,723
Median Household Income .....	\$40,340

Data: 2014 U.S. Census Bureau State & County QuickFacts <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/55/5540775.html>

## Common Council

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

Timothy Kabat	Mayor	Gary Padesky	District 9
Andrea Richmond	District 1	Richard P. Becker	District 10
Dempsey E. Miller III	District 2	Audrey Kader	District 11
Ryan Cornett	District 3	Francis J. Formanek	District 12
Jai Johnson	District 4	Phillip A. Ostrem	District 13
Elaine Anderson	District 5	Paul Medinger	District 14
David Krump	District 6	Douglas Happel	District 15
James T. Cherf	District 7	Martin Gaul	District 16
Robert J. Seaquist	District 8	Richard Swantz, President	District 17

## Police & Fire Commission

The Police & Fire Commission is a non-political board of citizens appointed by the Mayor, subject to the approval of the City Council. Commissioners 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.

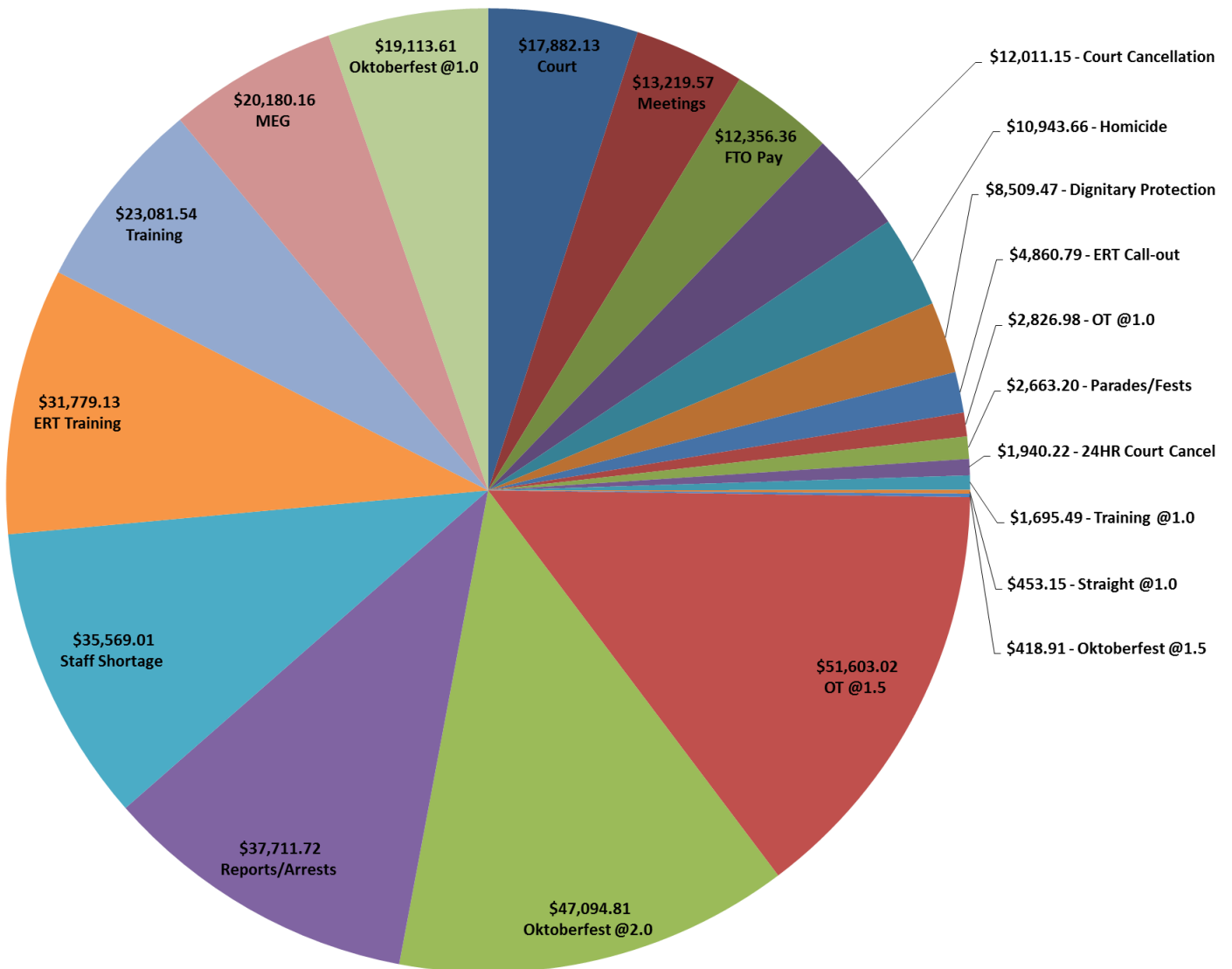
Roger Plesha .....	Chair
Bruce Jentz .....	Commissioner
Mary Lund .....	Commissioner
Douglas Happel .....	Commissioner
Roger Christians .....	Commissioner

# Police Department Annual Operating Budget

	2013	2014	2015
Salaries	\$5,695,872.00	\$5,963,713.00	\$6,112,617.00
Overtime	\$287,500.00	\$279,295.00	\$279,295.00
Benefits	\$4,532,856.00	\$3,109,798.00	\$2,976,346.00
Operating	\$709,770.00	\$695,302.00	\$693,972.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$11,225,998.00</b>	<b>\$10,048,108.00</b>	<b>\$10,062,230.00</b>

## 2015 OT Expenditures

In 2015, the La Crosse Police Department used \$355,914.08 in overtime. Officers also earned overtime pay through grant funding or security services for private events.





## Administrative Services Bureau



Robert Abraham  
Assistant Chief of Police  
Administrative Services Bureau

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

Keeping our citizens informed about crimes and police activities in our city is important. One way this is accomplished is through the use of our online crime mapping tool supplied by CrimeReports.com. This crime mapping tool offers easy-to-use software tools for community members to access free information about current crime trends and up-to-date neighborhood crime data. This helps the community to make informed decisions to improve the safety of the neighborhood and community they live in.

The Police Department has a more robust version of the crime mapping tool that allows us to look at trendcasting maps to see what time of day, week, and locations current crime trends are taking place. We can also look at current crime analysis to help predict crime trends and possible allocation of resources.

Members of the Administrative Bureau continue to work hard to 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 our department a better and more efficient one that provides the best service for the citizens of La Crosse.

## **Records Division**

The La Crosse Police Department Records Division of the Administrative Services Bureau is charged with the responsibility to maintain all of our Department records, as well as communication hardware. In 2015, administrative bureau personnel issued and processed 32,565 parking citations. The Records Division processed 63,156 police incidents. They processed 12,442 citations, 10,369 warnings, and 2,366 crash reports. The Records Clerks handled 4,380 open record requests, which includes 1,860 accident report requests. They also processed 1,130 license applications. The Property Division entered 7,959 pieces of property and/or evidence and disposed of 9,334 pieces. As part of open record requests, the Property Division copied approximately 2,100 DVD discs.



Lt. Avrie Schott and Sgt. Kirk Flatten empty the contents of the "Prescription Drug Drop Box".

---

# **Administrative Services Bureau Staff**

## **Assistant Chief**

Robert Abraham

## **Chief's Administrative Assistant**

Stephanie Churchill

## **Administrative Lieutenant**

Avrie Schott

## **Records Division Sergeant**

Andrew Gavrilos

## **Special Operations/Court Liaison**

Craig Teff

## **Civilian Service Employees**

Diane Skifton  
Kong Xiong  
Kristine Gasch  
Michael Nagy  
Kong Lor

Teng Thao  
Benjamin Burrow  
Sonja Weber  
Faling Yang  
Jared Crouch

Paul McGettigan  
Ryan Ledvina  
Ryan DeFlorian  
Aaron Westpfahl

## **Records Division Civilian Employees**

Lisa Putz  
Rebecca Smith  
Nicole Schneider

Kim Mitchell  
Katie Clements

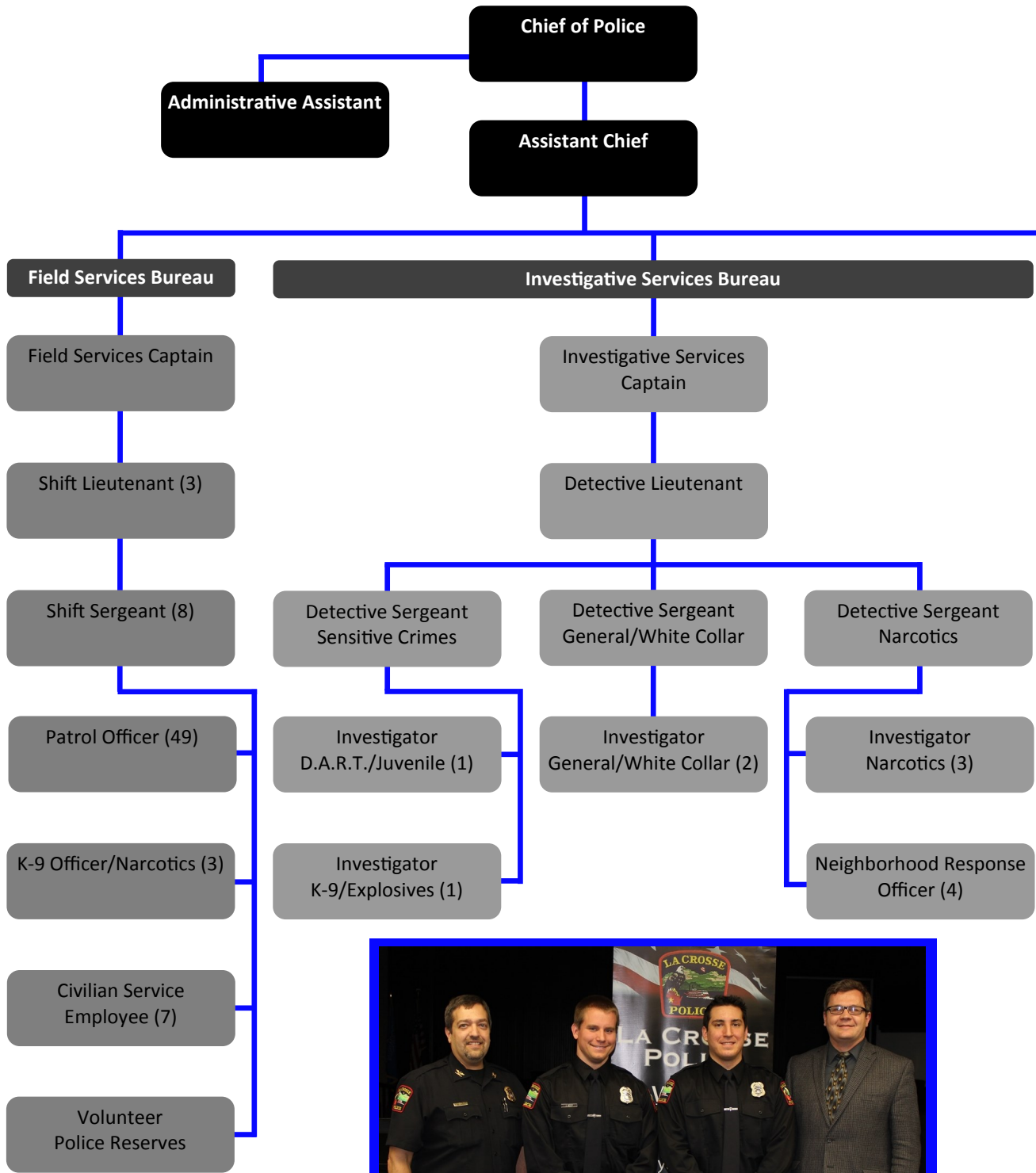
## **Parking Utility Civilian Employees**

Mary Sumeracki

Nathan Churchill



# Organizational Chart



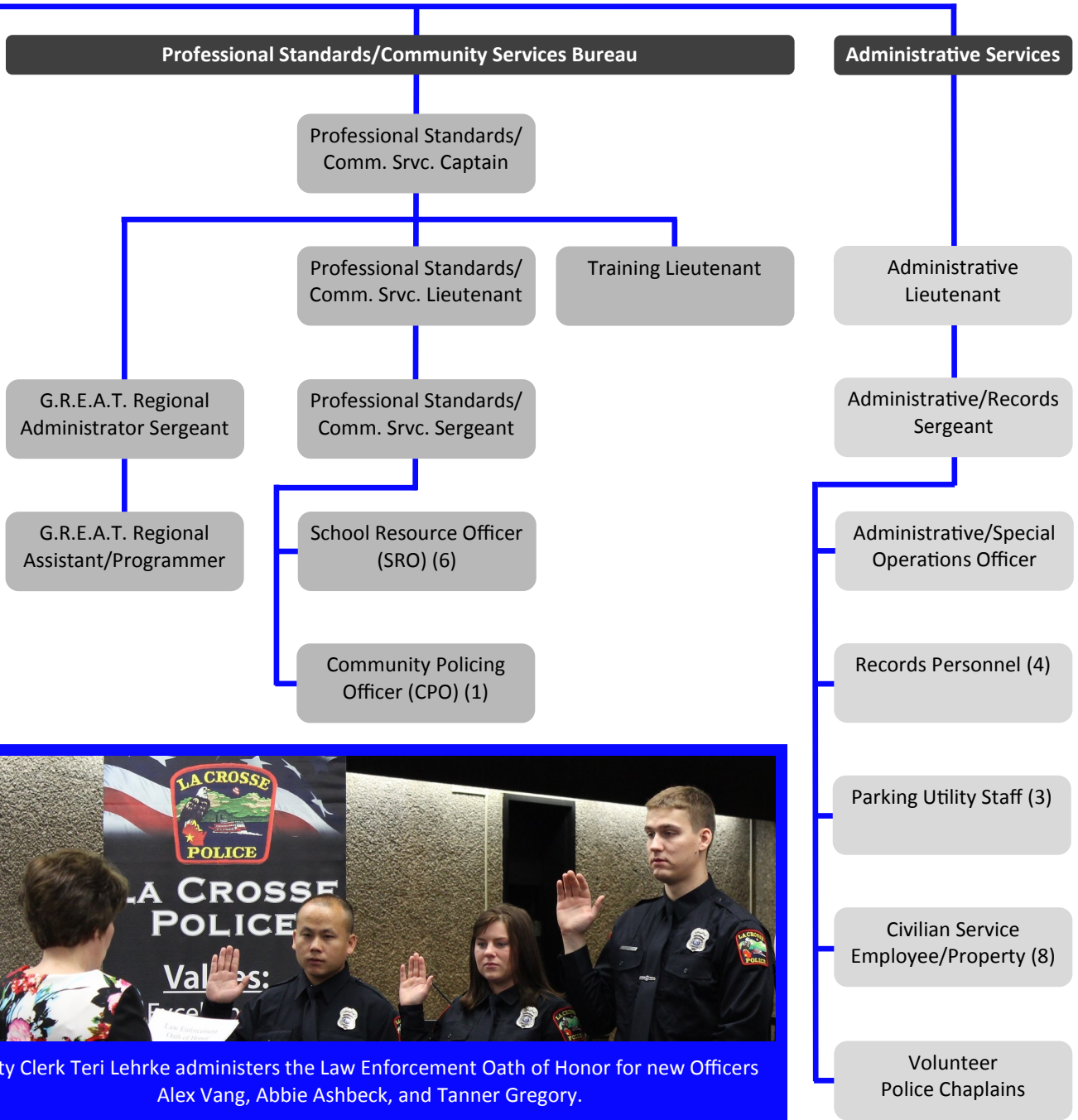
Chief Ron Tischer, Officers Justin Eddy and Daniel Mandujano, and Mayor Tim Kabat at the swearing-in ceremony.

**SWORN PERSONNEL**

Chief of Police .....	1
Assistant Chief .....	1
Police Captains .....	3
Police Lieutenants .....	7
Police Sergeants .....	14
Police Investigators .....	7
<u>Police Officers .....</u>	<u>64</u>
<b>TOTAL SWORN .....</b>	<b>97</b>

**CIVILIAN PERSONNEL**

Civilian Service Employee .....	7
Civilian Service Employee (Parking) .....	8
Clerical .....	6
<u>Clerical (Parking) .....</u>	<u>3</u>
<b>TOTAL CIVILIAN .....</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>TOTAL PERSONNEL .....</b>	<b>121</b>



City Clerk Teri Lehrke administers the Law Enforcement Oath of Honor for new Officers Alex Vang, Abbie Ashbeck, and Tanner Gregory.



## Recruitment—New Hires

Over the past five years, the La Crosse Police Department has undergone much change in staffing due to many retirements amongst sworn and civilian staff. In 2015, the Department increased the level of recruitment as sworn Officer vacancies and civilian openings occurred. The Department was fortunate to hire the best and brightest to fill vacancies throughout the Department. Congratulations to the newest of the La Crosse Police family.



**Justin Eddy**  
Officer  
January 16, 2015



**Daniel Mandujano**  
Officer  
January 16, 2015



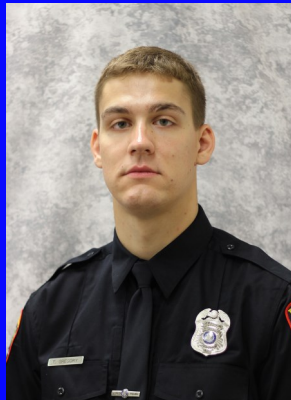
**Nathan Churchill**  
Parking Ticket Processor  
February 16, 2015



**Alex Vang**  
Officer  
June 15, 2015



**Abbie Ashbeck**  
Officer  
June 15, 2015



**Tanner Gregory**  
Officer  
June 15, 2015



**Aaron Westpfahl**  
Civilian Service Employee  
October 7, 2015

Welcome  
to the  
La Crosse Police  
Department!

## Personnel Changes

Congratulations to the following personnel that were promoted to a new position in 2015!

Promotions		
<b>Cory Brandl</b>	Investigator	February 26, 2015
<b>Andrew Rosenow</b>	Investigator	June 4, 2015

## Anniversaries

Congratulations to the members of the La Crosse Police Department that celebrated milestone anniversaries with the department!



Michael Blokhuis  
Detective Sergeant  
January 4, 2015  
*25 years*



Jason Mahairas  
Sergeant  
January 22, 2015  
*25 years*



Thomas Walsh  
Sergeant  
December 14, 2015  
*25 years*

## Retirees



Officer Steve Thornton  
retired January 27, 2015 after over 34 1/2  
years with the La Crosse Police  
Department.

**Congratulations Steve!**



Officer Scott Delaney  
retired July 22, 2015 after over 31 years  
with the La Crosse Police  
Department.

**Congratulations Scott!**



## Field Services Bureau



Jason Melby  
Captain  
Field Services Bureau

The Field Services Bureau (FSB) of the La Crosse Police Department is comprised of uniformed police officers and supervisors who are dedicated to serving the community with excellence. Our primary mission is the protection of life and liberty, order maintenance, and the personal security of our citizens and their property. We are committed to consistent enforcement, community policing, building partnerships with our community, and problem solving.

Officers within the Field Services Bureau conduct day-to-day, street-level operations in uniform and respond to emergencies, alarms, reports of criminal activity, calls for service, traffic crashes, and conduct traffic enforcement. The services provided range from preliminary investigations and documentation of crimes, to problem solving complex quality of life issues. The bureau also provides command and control for emergency response situations, dignitary escort and protection, community oriented problem solving, and special event coverage.

The bureau consists of three shifts, each commanded by a Shift Lieutenant supported by Sergeants who directly supervise all activities while officers are on patrol. Support is provided to and received from the police chaplain program, police reserve program, and the police internship program.

Members of the Field Services Bureau primarily can be seen patrolling in a squad car; however, we continually strive to have staff in a boat, on a bicycle, or on foot. New for 2015 was the addition of two Segways for patrolling. These alternative patrol formats allow for more community contact and interaction with the public. We firmly believe the effectiveness as a police agency is predicated on community interaction and forging partnerships.

In 2015, five new patrol officers were hired to replace retiring staff. This has resulted in a young and enthusiastic Field Services Bureau leading into 2016.

Throughout 2015, members of the Field Services Bureau were involved in 63,156 calls for service, issued 8,701 traffic citations, 11,295 warnings, and investigated 2,353 reportable traffic crashes. Beyond the general calls for service, the Field Services Bureau was instrumental in ensuring a visit from the President of the United States in July was safe and uneventful. In addition, the 2015 Oktoberfest was one of the smoothest in recent memory.

Looking forward to 2016, the Field Services Bureau anticipates another large hiring class. We will kick off with the transition to a new radio system that will significantly improve radio coverage throughout the city. With it being a presidential election year, there is also the anticipated "short notice" campaign stops in the La Crosse. In July the Field Services Bureau will also be transitioning to the much anticipated 12-hour shifts which will ensure an even greater presence of our men and women working to make our community safe.

# Field Services Bureau Staff

## Bureau Director - Captain

Jason Melby

## Shift Lieutenants

Joe Smith  
Daniel Kloss

## Shift Sergeants

Gary Hauser  
Kirk Flatten  
Craig Oleson

Grant Gyllander  
Jason Mahairas  
Jon Wenger

Steve Pataska  
Joseph Wiegrefe  
Timothy O'Neill

## Patrol Officers

Scott Delaney  
Steven Thornton  
Mark Rosenmeier  
Rick Rank  
Gregory Fitzsimmons  
Scott Harmel  
Alan Hagen  
James Gegenfurtner  
Eric Christianson  
Teri Roden  
Tony LeQue  
Todd Fischer  
Ryan Stenslein  
Charles Frandsen  
Brian Deyo  
Jovanna Randall  
Brad Schomberg

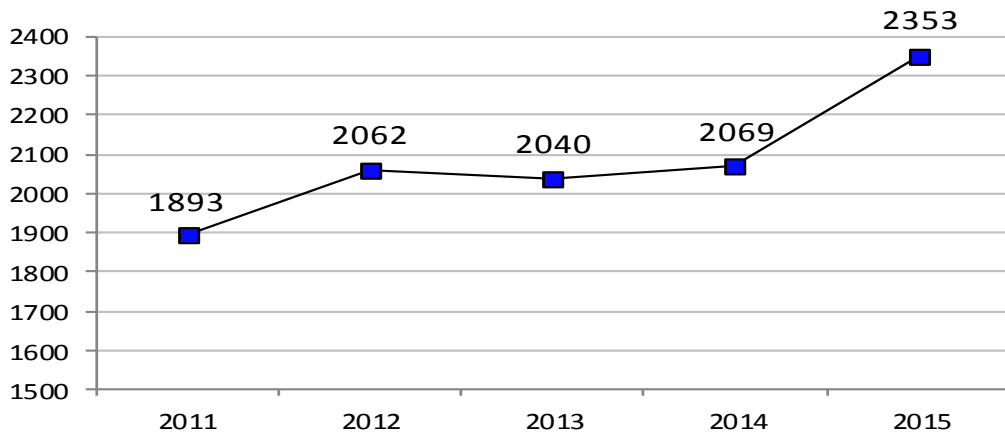
Joel Miller  
Jeremy Rindfleisch  
Frank Racich  
Casey Rossman  
Aaron Erdmann  
Christopher Oates  
Brooke Pataska  
Adam Bembnister  
Jason Nesbit  
Trenton Bowe  
Steven Curns  
Nicholas Raddant  
Andrew Adey  
Daniel Howe  
Casey Kamps  
Alexander Burg

Dustin Darling  
Tyler Rachwal  
Jared Reed  
Stephen Hughes  
Benjamin Levan  
Dakota Jelinski  
Joshua Rollins  
Whitney Hughes  
Dennis Love  
Cody Plenge  
Ethan Purkapile  
Justin Eddy  
Daniel Mandujano  
Alex Vang  
Abbie Ashbeck  
Tanner Gregory

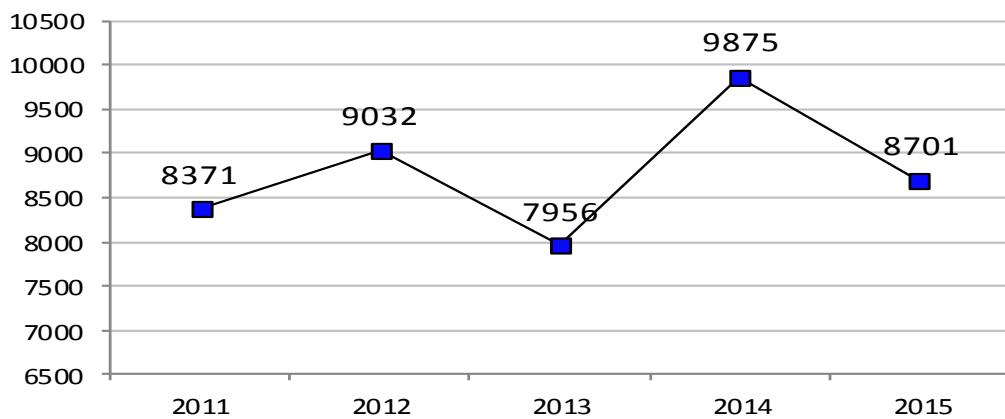


# Traffic Statistics

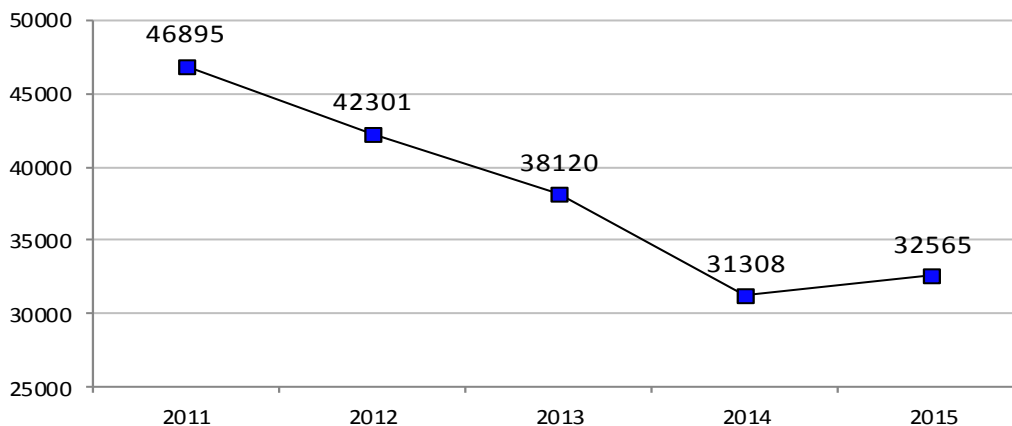
## State Reportable Accidents



## Traffic Citations

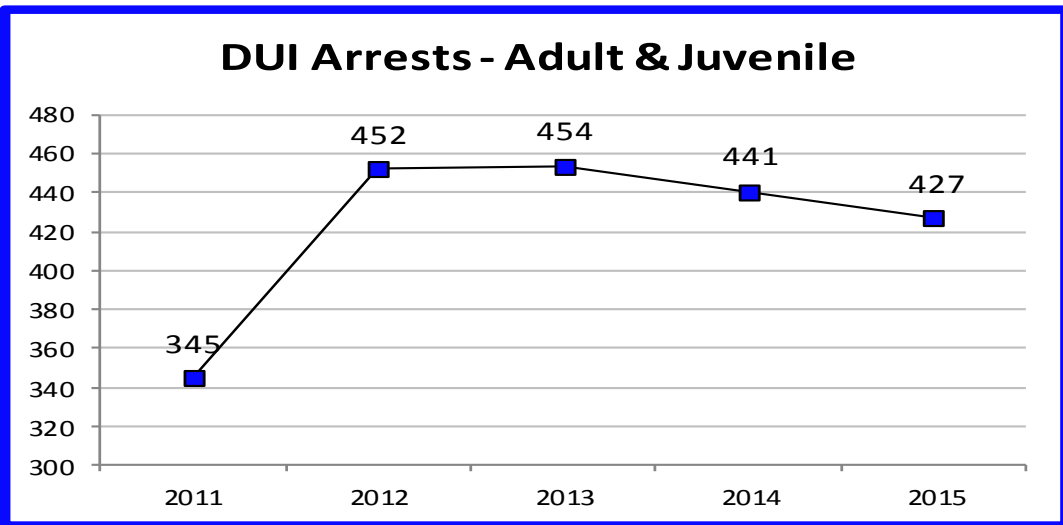
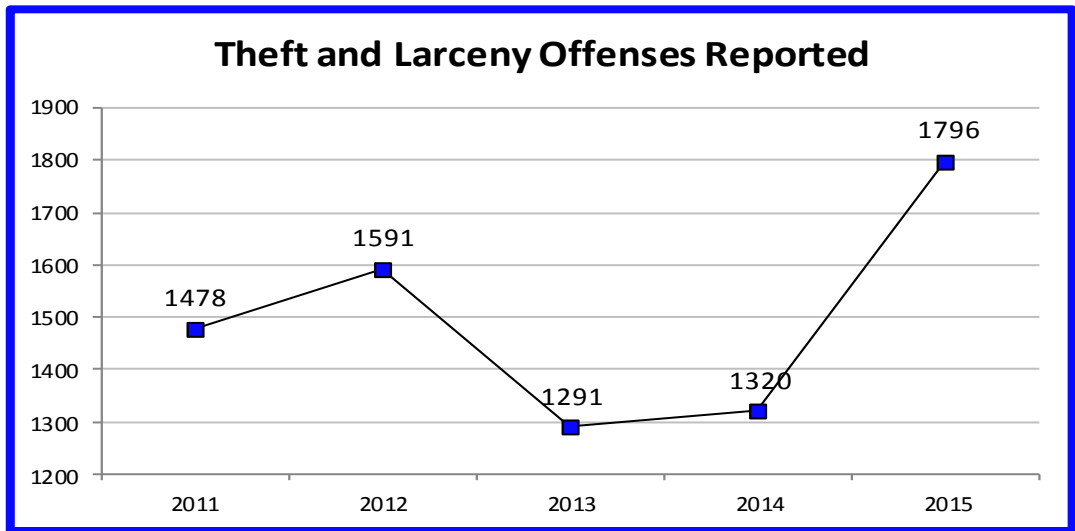
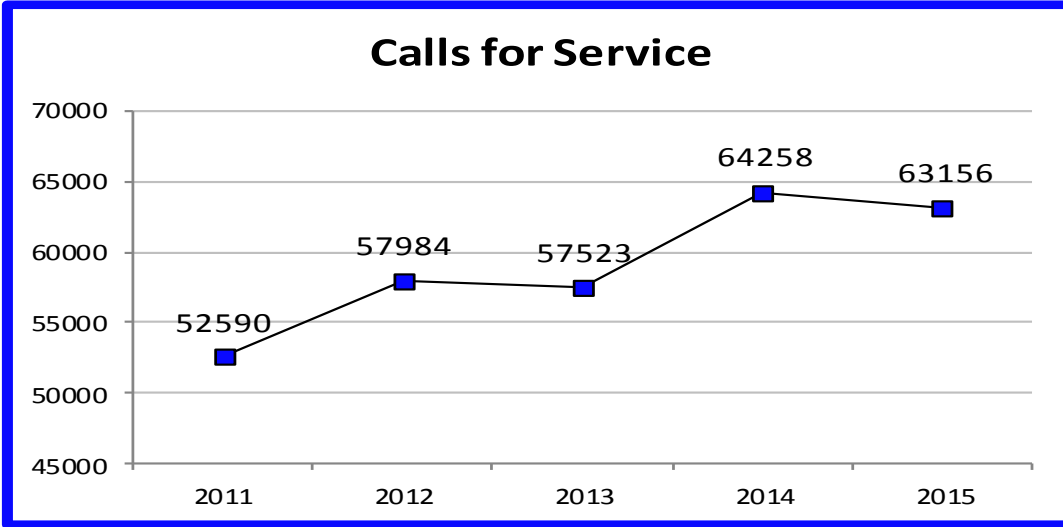


## Parking Citations



For the 2015 Police Annual and its statistical reporting of crime, the LCPD switched over to Incident Base Reporting (IBR) from Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR). IBR reporting involves counting **ALL crimes** that took place in a single incident, where UCR reporting only counted the most **serious crime** during a single incident.

# Crime Statistics



Because of IBR reporting, you may see a small increase in crimes, because **multiple crimes** may be reported on one **single incident**. Law Enforcement agencies across the country are converting over to IBR reporting from UCR reporting.



## **Investigative Services Bureau**



Shawn Kudron  
Captain

Investigative Services Bureau

The Investigative Services Bureau (ISB) is primarily responsible for the investigation of all criminal cases within the City of La Crosse. The Bureau has a staff of sixteen members divided into four areas of expertise: White Collar & General Investigations; Narcotics & Vice Investigations; and Sensitive Crimes, which includes domestic violence, juveniles, sex crimes, and elderly victims' incidents; and the Neighborhood Resource Officer Team.

Even though there are areas of expertise, all Investigative Services 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 also initiate investigations, develop sources of information, and serve as liaisons to other organizations within the community.

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.

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 Associations, Citizens' Police Academy, and area public schools at all levels.

The Department's Domestic Abuse Reduction Team (DART) is assigned to the Investigative Bureau and plays a key role in the La Crosse community by investigating cases of domestic violence. The DART team works diligently to reduce the incidents of domestic violence and provides a variety of services to aid those in need within the community. The D.A.R.T. program is funded primarily by a federal grant and is an excellent example of the La Crosse Police Department finding alternative funding sources to provide the community with needed services. Along with the La Crosse Police Department, other organizations play a role in D.A.R.T., including members of area law enforcement, health and human services agencies, private victims services agencies, and the local hospitals.

The Investigative Services Bureau draws from a wide variety of resources to respond to criminal activity in La Crosse. The Bureau strives to provide excellence in the area of criminal investigation and to respond to the needs of the La Crosse community. Through community policing efforts and improvements in law enforcement technology, the Investigative Bureau will continue to actively work to keep the La Crosse community safe.

---

# **Investigative Services Bureau Staff**

## **Bureau Director - Captain**

Shawn Kudron

## **Bureau Lieutenant**

Matthew Malott

## **White Collar & General Investigations**

Detective Sergeant Michael Blokhuis  
Investigator Tony DeLap  
Investigator Ryan Fitzgerald

## **Narcotics & Vice Investigations**

Detective Sergeant Andrew Dittman  
Investigator Thomas Hansen  
Investigator James Mancuso  
Investigator Andrew Rosenow

## **Sensitive Crimes Investigations**

Detective Sergeant Linnea Miller  
Investigator Ron Secord  
Investigator Cory Brandl

## **Neighborhood Response Officers**

Officer Daniel Ulrich  
Officer Nathan Poke  
Officer Tyler Pond  
Officer Dale Gerbig



## Case Assignments

In 2015, the Investigative Bureau investigated approximately 2,300 criminal cases. A few examples of these cases include:

On February 27, 2015, Investigators responded to the Northside of La Crosse to assist Onalaska Police Department after a bank robbery had occurred. Two investigators located a subject inside a Coney Island restaurant who seemed suspicious. The Investigators detained the subject for further investigation. The subject was indeed the bank robber, and he had changed his clothes and shaved his facial hair. La Crosse Investigators brought a quick and safe conclusion to the Onalaska bank robbery.

On July 1, 2015, while preparing for a visit from President Barack Obama, Investigators responded to the Main Branch Library to investigate a threat that was made against President Obama. As a result of the information gathered by Investigators, Brian Dutcher was subsequently arrested. With the assistance of the Secret Service, Dutcher was prosecuted and convicted in U.S. Federal Court and sentenced to three years in prison.

The homicide of George Miller on August 21, 2015 involved a significant investigative effort by officers and investigators. The shooting death of Miller involved a large crime scene encompassing two city blocks. The arrest of homicide suspect Deshawn Randall occurred approximately 15 hours into the investigation, after a lengthy stand off, where members of the La Crosse Police Emergency Response Team safely took him into custody.

In October of 2015 the Investigative Bureau's Narcotics Unit along with the West Central MEG Unit announced felony drug conspiracy charges were being filed against seventeen (17) individuals as a result of a year-long drug investigation. Drug Investigators worked tirelessly to develop information that connected numerous individuals to the trafficking of methamphetamines. This investigative effort made a significant impact on the sale of methamphetamines in the La Crosse area.

The Investigative Bureau is dedicated to the mission of community policing by providing expertise in all areas of criminal investigation.



Investigators Ryan Fitzgerald and Tony DeLap were recognized by the United States Secret Service for their work which led to the arrest and conviction of Brian Dutcher.

L-R - Investigator Ryan Fitzgerald, Chief Ron Tischer, Investigator Tony DeLap

# Neighborhood Resource Officer Team

The Neighborhood Resource Officer Team, formed through a Federal Grant and a unique public-private partnership, focuses efforts on community concerns within assigned neighborhoods - Washburn or Lower Northside Depot. The four Officers that make up the unit are the frontline of community policing and enforcement efforts, working with the La Crosse citizens, business owners, and students to address the needs of the specific neighborhoods and the greater La Crosse Community.

Along with fulfilling their regular law enforcement duties as Police Officers, the Neighborhood Resource Officers (NROs) are able to closely interact with their neighborhoods by meeting with business leaders and members of local organizations; attending community meetings and events; and visiting with the citizens living in the neighborhoods.

In 2015, the Neighborhood Resource Officers continued to make a significant impact in the La Crosse Community. The NROs made 951 community policing contacts throughout the La Crosse community.

Through concentrated enforcement effort, the NROs strived to disrupt drug trafficking in the Washburn and Lower Northside Depot neighborhoods. During a February 25, 2015 drug-related search warrant, the NROs seized over 600 grams of marijuana, \$7000 in cash, and a firearm.

The NROs' efforts at community engagement and focused enforcement has resulted in successful policing and continued community support.



NROs enjoy patrolling via bicycle due to the increased interaction with our community.



NRO Andy Tolvstad and Sergeant Andy Dittman visited a local middle school during Halloween and found a student dressed as a Police Officer!



Two generous citizens donated gift cards with the intention of having the NROs hand them out to deserving kids during the holidays.



# Professional Standards/Community Services Bureau



**Robert Lawrence**  
Captain  
Professional Standards /  
Community Services Bureau

The primary responsibility of the Professional Standards/Community Services Bureau (PS/CSB) continues to be community crime prevention, education, media relations, and school safety programming. Additional responsibilities include, but are not limited to: training, accreditation, recruitment and retention, policy review and development, nuisance property abatement, maintaining accreditation, internal investigations and administering the GREAT Midwest Atlantic Regional Training Center.

Several of the department’s major crime prevention programs fall under the responsibility of the PS/CSB, including the delivery of both the D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) program in the elementary schools and G.R.E.A.T. (Gang Resistance Education and Training) curricula in our elementary and middle schools. Along with this formal curricula, the PS/CSB also leads the La Crosse School District Safety Patrol annual trip to Washington, D.C., and spearheads the G.R.E.A.T. Summer Programming which allows Officers to work with the Boys and Girls Club of Greater La Crosse and Camp Send-A-Kid

Additional duties performed within the PS/CSB include overseeing the internship program, finger printing, Citizens’ Police Academy, Neighborhood Watch, National Night Out, La Crosse Area Crime Stoppers program, the School Crossing Guards, our social media outreach programs. Another responsibility of the PS/CSB is the application for and the administration of the Police Department’s grants. These grants are alternative sources of funds, which are vital in maintaining the level of police service being provided, despite diminishing budgets.

The Professional Standards/Community Services Bureau, together with the community’s support, will continue to provide quality community-based prevention programming designed to prevent crime.

## News Blog and Social Media



In an effort to further improve our community relations and transparency, we have increased our utilization of social media to interact with our citizens. Besides using our Facebook and Twitter accounts to share news with our community, the La Crosse PD Newsroom blog allows us to share full, in-depth stories about the Department, community interaction, crime and criminals, upcoming events, and traffic advisories, as well as relaying our important press release information.

@lacrossepolice



---

# **Professional Standards/Community Services Bureau Staff**

## **Bureau Director - Captain**

Robert Lawrence

## **Training Lieutenant**

Troy Nedegaard

## **Bureau Lieutenant**

Patrick Hogan

## **G.R.E.A.T. Regional Administrator - Sergeant**

Thomas Walsh

## **Bureau Sergeant**

Randy Rank

## **School Resource Officers**

Heath Graves

Bradley Stoner

Rick Pfennig

Kurt Weaver

Phillip Martin

Andrew Tolvstad

## **Community Policing Officer**

Lisa Barrix

## **G.R.E.A.T. Regional Assistant - Civilian**

Amanda Marshall



## Training Division



Troy Nedegaard  
Lieutenant  
Training Division

The Training Division is part of the Professional Standards/Community Services Bureau and has several main functions including training newly hired police officers; supervising the Field Training Program; educating members on new equipment and policing techniques; and providing in-service, legal updates, and instructor updates. The Training Division also focuses on career enhancement and management education. Overall, the Training Division strives to create a more professional department that can provide an effective and safe environment for all its employees and for the community.

In 2015, the La Crosse Police Department completed 12,120 hours of training among all its employees. A Department emphasis on supervision or management training resulted in 1,243.50 hours of training for administration and supervisors. Lt. Dan Kloss was presented with the opportunity to attend a 10-week supervisory course sponsored by Northwestern University.

The La Crosse Police Department also continued its emphasis on diversity and ethics training and was able to complete 518.5 hours of training.

The Field Training Program trained 5 newly-hired officers in 2015. The training required to certify a probationary officer for solo patrol takes approximately four months. The Field Training Officers and Field Training Coordinators are very dedicated to the training process for new officers.

The Training Division continues to adjust to department and community needs, providing needed training emphasis on officer safety, supervision, legal updates, and community trends.

Certified Training Instructors		
Captain Robert Lawrence	Sergeant Grant Gyllander	Officer Rick Rank
Lieutenant Joe Smith	Sergeant Jason Mahairas	Officer Craig Teff
Lieutenant Dan Kloss	Sergeant Timothy O'Neill	Officer Al Hagen
Sergeant Randy Rank	Investigator Tony DeLap	Officer Ryan Stenslien
Sergeant Mike Blokhuis	Investigator Ron Secord	Officer Dale Gerbig
Sergeant Gary Hauser	Investigator Andrew Rosenow	Officer Jeremy Rindfleisch
Sergeant Kirk Flatten	Officer Bradley Stoner	Officer Frank Racich
Sergeant Craig Oleson	Officer Kurt Weaver	Officer Aaron Erdmann

# FBI National Academy

## Current Department Graduates



Ronald J. Tischer <i>Chief of Police</i>	247 <sup>th</sup> Session October 3, 2011 to December 16, 2011
Shawn P. Kudron <i>Captain of Police</i>	243 <sup>rd</sup> Session September 26, 2010 to December 10, 2010
Patrick J. Hogan <i>Lieutenant of Police</i>	216 <sup>th</sup> Session January 11, 2004 to March 19, 2004

## Northwestern Staff and Command School

In April 2015, Lieutenant Dan Kloss graduated from the Northwestern University Staff and Command School. The School is a ten-week, intensive and dynamic police management program intended for mid- and upper-level supervisory personnel. Students who complete the SPSC are better prepared to deliver services more effectively and efficiently, mitigate legal exposure, and think globally, rather than remain task-oriented. Congratulations Lt. Kloss!



Lt. Dan Kloss and Chief Ron Tischer at the NU Staff & Command graduation.

## Current Department Graduates



Assistant Chief Robert M. Abraham	January 2008
Captain Jason J. Melby	April 2011
Lieutenant Joseph L. Smith	April 2013
Lieutenant Daniel G. Kloss	April 2015



## School Resource Officer Program

The La Crosse Police Department School Resource Officer (SRO) program is a significant program under the direction of the PS/SCB. Our SROs provide public safety and crime prevention presence to our children and staff in all public schools. The SRO program has an officer assigned to each public high school and middle school within the city, and they also provide services and presence in all of our elementary schools.

Our School Resource Officers have become an integral part of their schools and provide specialized classes tailored to the needs of the school or community. Some of the topics instructed are: internet safety, constitutional law, over-the-counter and prescription drug abuse, driver education, bicycle safety, bullying prevention, and school safety.

## D.A.R.E. and G.R.E.A.T. School Programming

The PS/CSB oversees in-school programming for Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) and Gang Resistance Education and Training (G.R.E.A.T.) for public elementary and middle schools in the City of La Crosse.

In 2015, 3 D.A.R.E. Officers administered the curricula to 10 schools, reaching 444 5th grade students.

For the G.R.E.A.T. program, 5 Officer instructors taught at 4 schools and reached 405 6th grade students.

Along with in-school programs, D.A.R.E. and G.R.E.A.T. offer summer opportunities for area youth including P.L.A.Y. (Participating in the Lives of Area Youth), a 4-week session held at all greater La Crosse Area Boys & Girls Clubs, averaging around 25 students each day; and “Camp-Send-A-Kid”, which is held for one week at Camp Ehawee for 85 at-risk and underprivileged youth.



Northside Elementary 5th-grade students celebrate their graduation from D.A.R.E. with a special “National D.A.R.E. Day” ceremony.



Officers Kurt Weaver and Heath Graves had helpers during the annual State Bank Financial Chili Cook-off held to raise funds for area D.A.R.E. and G.R.E.A.T. programs.

## G.R.E.A.T. Midwest Atlantic Regional Training Center

The PS/CSB was also responsible for administering the G.R.E.A.T. Midwest Atlantic Regional Training Center in La Crosse which provided certification training for police officers on the topic of Gang Resistance Education and Training, a violence prevention program that has components directed towards elementary school, middle school, summer, and family programming.

In 2015, the G.R.E.A.T. Midwest Atlantic Regional Training Center conducted 5 separate training sessions, training a total of 172 officers from throughout the United States.



At the end of 2015, the La Crosse Police Department learned that the G.R.E.A.T. Midwest Atlantic Regional Training Center would be closed due to nation-wide G.R.E.A.T. Program budgetary cuts. We would like to thank Sergeant Tom Walsh and assistant Amanda Marshall for their dedication to this program.

## Citizens' Police Academy

In March 2015, the La Crosse Police Department kicked off another Citizens' Police Academy with 22 participants. The Academy was a 10-week course with the goal of helping participants to understand how the Police Department functions on a daily basis, including topics such as:

- Introduction to LCPD with a brief overview of each Bureau, a short Department tour, and information on what it takes to become an LCPD Police Officer.
- Presentation and tour of the La Crosse County Emergency Dispatch Center and Jail.
- Experience driving the department squads; using hand-held speed detection laser; firing department-issued weapons; dusting for fingerprints; and submitting others to Standardized Field Sobriety Tests (SFSTs) and Defense and Arrest Tactics (DAAT).
- Participation in Use of Force scenarios and other training models, as well as a ride-along.

We would like to thank participants for their active involvement, making the course enjoyable for all!





## Emergency Response Team

The Emergency Response Team (ERT) is a part-time team that consists of one commander, one assistant commander, fourteen tactical members, six Tactical Emergency Medical Support (TEMS) members, and six negotiators. The members have regular duty assignments within the Field Services, Investigative Services, and Professional Standards/Community Services Bureaus. In addition, the La Crosse Fire Department supplies the personnel for TEMS. The ERT is assigned to respond to hostage and barricaded persons, high risk warrants and vehicle stops, civil disturbances, natural and/or man-made disasters, and dignitary protection. ERT members are on-call all day, every day.



ERT members commit themselves above and beyond that of the standard officer. They train a minimum of 96 hours per year for ERT duties, work with multiple weapon systems, and are required to pass two physical agility tests each year.

ERT has continued to train with other departments within the community on different tactics such as mechanical breaching and Multi-Assault Counter Terrorism Action Capabilities (MACTAC). The team continues to build better relationships and understanding with regional area departments so that all are better prepared for incidents that may happen. In 2015, ERT conducted a number of high risk drug search warrants and apprehended a barricaded homicide suspect.

A special thanks goes to partnering agencies that have taken part in training with ERT throughout the year: Volk Field, Ft. McCoy, La Crosse School District, La Crosse MTU, Agropur Ingredients, 360 Real Estate, Valley View Mall, FBI SWAT, and La Crosse and Monroe County Sheriff's Departments.

We would also like to recognize the members who retired from ERT during 2015: Officer Chuck Frandsen, Sgt. Jason Mahairas, Lt. Matt Malott, and Officer Brad Schomberg. All together, these Officers represented over 50 years of service to ERT. Thank you for your service!

2015 ERT Members	
Lieutenant Dan Kloss - OIC	Officer Casey Rossman
Sergeant Grant Gyllander - Assistant OIC	Officer Bradley Schomberg
Investigator Andrew Rosenow - Team Leader	Officer Daniel Ulrich
Lieutenant Matt Malott	Officer Andrew Tolvstad
Investigator James Mancuso	Officer Frank Racich
Officer Rick Pfennig	
2015 ERT Negotiators	
Lieutenant Avrie Schott	Investigator Andrew Rosenow
Sergeant Andrew Dittman	Officer Teri Roden
Investigator Cory Brandl	Officer Phil Martin

## K-9 Unit

In 2015, the La Crosse Police K-9 Unit continued working the City of La Crosse's streets in an effort to help control crime. The K-9s and their handlers are frequently requested by members of the department, especially on traffic stops, to aid in the detection of drugs inside vehicles. In addition to the traffic stops, the K-9s are deployed for building searches, evidence recovery, and to track suspects. Other activities in which the K-9s are involved include security detail for dignitary visits, presentations at schools, community events, monthly training, K-9 trials to maintain certification, and much more.

The La Crosse Police Department has four K-9 teams:

Investigator Secord and K-9 Grumman are certified by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, as well as the North American Police Working Dog Association. K-9 Grumman provides explosives detection for the city. He is also used throughout the Midwest region for security details when requested from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms.



Local banks GECU, Verve, and FFCU came together to host the "Paint the Town Blue" fundraiser for the K-9 program.

Officer LeQue and K-9 Ralph are assigned to 1st shift. K-9 Ralph, a drug detection canine, was deployed 84 times and completed 214.88 hours of training. Ralph was recertified in Rochester, Minnesota under the United States Police Canine Association (USPCA).

Officer Bowe and K-9 Zaback, who are assigned to 2nd shift, deployed 94 times and completed 385.81 hours of training. K-9 Zaback was also recertified in Rochester by the USPCA in drug detection, as well as tracking, apprehension, and protection.



The La Crosse Police K-9 Unit was honored to receive a generous donation from Sherry Hougom and the Sara Rose Hougom Foundation. Sherry, together with the Moose Club, hosted a spaghetti dinner with all proceeds to benefit the K-9 program.

Officer Rossman and K-9 Brutus are assigned to 3rd shift. K-9 Brutus was deployed 80 times and completed 167.5 hours of training. Brutus was recertified in Minneapolis, Minnesota by the USPCA in drug detection, tracking, apprehension and protection.

Along with helping to deter crime throughout the City, the K-9 Unit also made positive contacts with our citizens, business owners, and organizations, strengthening our relationship with the community.



## **Bicycle Patrol Unit**



Members of the Bicycle Patrol Unit participated in the Special Olympics Torch Run and rode along the 8.5 mile route to the kick-off ceremony.

The La Crosse Police Department bicycle unit has 9 bicycles and 22 trained operators. Bicycle Patrol duties include patrol support, response to calls for service, parades and festival coverage, traffic enforcement, community policing, bicycle safety education, undercover surveillance, and much more.

Bicycle Patrol provides greater visibility in high crime areas that are more difficult to patrol by motor vehicle, including public housing, retail centers, and walking trails. Officers have easier access to congested areas than officers in motor vehicles and cover a larger area than officers on foot. Bicycles also offer an effective approach to crime surveillance.

The Bicycle Unit maintains a strong relationship with the business community. Patrolling the core areas of La Crosse on bicycle gives members of the Bicycle Unit a unique opportunity to interact with the community. The contact they make with citizens is important. It allows the Department to meet with community members, and listen to their ideas and opinions. In return, it provides an easy means for citizens to personally meet their police force.

## **Water Patrol Unit**

In 2015, the La Crosse Police Department built upon the success of the Water Patrol Unit which began the previous year. The Water Patrol Unit consists of 22 sworn officers specifically trained in Water Patrol Operations who patrol over 19 miles of waterways within the City of La Crosse.

The Water Patrol Officers responded to 159 boating-related contacts and calls for service in 2015. During the 2015 boating season, the Water Patrol unit worked 303 hours on the water, issued 30 boating citations, and 90 written warnings.

The Water Patrol Officers worked during several major boating events which included Riverfest, the Big Blue Dragon Boat Festival, and Oktoberfest. They also worked with the WI Department of Natural Resources and other water patrol units during National Safe Boating Week and Operation Dry Water. Members of the LCPD Water Patrol Unit trained on water safety education and enforcement issues with the United States Coast Guard Unit that came into La Crosse.

The Water Patrol Unit is funded largely by a grant from the U.S. Coast Guard, which is administered by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. The grant reimburses the Police Department for expenses related to the operation of the Unit. We look forward to further development of the Unit.

## Honor Guard

The La Crosse Police Honor Guard is a specialized team of the La Crosse Police Department that attends special professional and/or law enforcement events, as well as funeral services for law enforcement members. The Honor Guard is always ready to represent our department under the most difficult of circumstances.

In 2015, the Honor Guard participated in several events. During Police Week in May, the Rifle Team attended the Memorial Ceremony held by the Holmen Police Department. The detail included OIC Sgt. Wenger



Honor Guard Rifle Team at the Police Week Memorial Ceremony.

with the firing party being Lt. Nedegaard, Investigator Brandl, and Officers Gerbig, Roden, Parshall, Stoner, and Pataska. The Police Week Awards Ceremony was attended by OIC Officer Parshall, Sergeants Wenger and O'Neill, and Officers Roden and Pataska. The Honor Guard also presented colors at the Western Police Academy graduation, the Firecracker Run during Riverfest, the 9/11 Freedom Walk, and represented the La Crosse Police Department at the State of Wisconsin Law Enforcement Memorial.

To ensure the highest level of professionalism, the Honor Guard also spent several days training which included basic drill and ceremony, rifle details, and the posting of colors. In February, the Honor Guard conducted a joint training with the La Crosse County Sheriff's Department Honor Guard Team. The training increased familiarity of policies and practices between the teams and will aid in joint operations.

<b>Honor Guard Members</b>	
Sergeant Kirk Flatten (OIC)	
<b>Rifle Team Members</b>	<b>Colors Team Members</b>
Sergeant Jon Wenger (OIC)	Officer Heath Parshall (OIC)
Lieutenant Joe Smith	Lieutenant Avrie Schott
Lieutenant Troy Nedegaard	Lieutenant Matt Malott
Officer Tony LeQue	Investigator Tim O'Neill
Officer Cory Brandl	Officer Brooke Privet
Officer Brad Stoner	Officer Teri Roden
Officer Dale Gerbig	Officer Kurt Weaver

It was with great pride that our Honor Guard worked to dignify the memories of fellow officers who passed away during the year. In March, Investigator Brandl and Officer LeQue attended the funeral of Wisconsin State Trooper Trevor Casper. In December, Investigator Brandl and Officer Roden attended the funeral for McFarland Police Department Police Officer Ryan Copeland.



## La Crosse Police Reserve Program

The Police Reserve Unit of the La Crosse Police Department is committed to serving the citizens of La Crosse to the best of their ability and to improving the quality of life for all within the community.

The Police Reserve Unit is generally made up of volunteers who are interested in the field of law enforcement and use the unit as a stepping stone into their profession. However, there are also many volunteers that work outside of the field of law enforcement. These volunteers take on an important role and help our Department to connect with our community in new ways.

The Police Reserves Unit had an exceptional year in 2015. They served the community in ways such as assisting officers at crime scenes; providing traffic control at large festivals, parades, and fitness events; and patrolling Riverside Park alongside volunteers of Operation River Watch. Due to their commitment, ten Reserves were awarded the Presidential Volunteer Service Award!

<b>Police Reserve Liaisons</b>	
Sergeant Jon Wenger	
Officer Craig Teff	
<b>Reserve Board Members</b>	
Amanda Marshall	Reserve Commander
Kyle Letner	Field Services Lieutenant
Amber Breidel	Admin Lieutenant
Anna Lee	Field Sergeant
Mike Vo	Supply Sergeant
Ashley Cary	Field Corporal
<b>Reserve Officers</b>	
Kyle Anderson	Spencer Kilbey
Jack Bell	Ben Lee
Nick Benson	Robert Maney
Tyler Christian	RJ Pretasky
Tanner Gregory	Ryan Schreiner
Jake Horning	Monkontee Slobert

## La Crosse Area Law Enforcement Chaplaincy

The La Crosse Area Law Enforcement Chaplaincy provides a ministry of presence, supplying a source of strength to law enforcement officers and their families, department personnel, and members of the community. Additionally, the chaplains are trained to serve the needs of others without religious, racial, social, or gender bias, providing care and compassion for those impacted by traumatic incidents.

The La Crosse Area Law Enforcement Chaplaincy serves the La Crosse and Onalaska Police Departments, and the La Crosse County Sheriff's Department. Each department has appointed a Chaplain Liaison Officer to serve as an interface between the department and the chaplain team.

The year 2015 was a busy year for the Chaplaincy. The team of 12 active chaplains provided on-call coverage 24 hours each day, 7 days each week, all 52 weeks of the year. They provided 8,760 hours of coverage, responded to 27 calls, 4 debriefings, trained 169 hours, and utilized 1,000 hours of administrative support. They also provided non-emergency services such as officiating for funeral services, providing counseling, and hosting the annual Law Enforcement Appreciation Picnic.

In 2015, the La Crosse Area Law Enforcement Chaplaincy celebrated their 15th Anniversary of the program. Congratulations to Head Chaplain Mark Clements and all LALEC Chaplains that have helped to shape the chaplaincy into the nationally-recognized program that it is today.

## National Night Out

The 32nd year of the National Night Out (NNO) campaign involved citizens, law enforcement agencies, civic groups, businesses, neighborhood organizations, and local officials from over 16,000 communities from all 50 states, U.S. territories, Canadian cities, and military bases worldwide. In total, over 38 million people participated in the 2015 National Night Out.

The main goals of National Night Out are to:

- Generate support for, and participation in, local anti-crime partnerships;
- Heighten crime and drug-prevention awareness;
- Strengthen neighborhood spirit and police/community partnerships; and
- Send a message to criminals to let them know that neighborhoods organized and fighting back.

NNO has proven to be an effective, inexpensive, and enjoyable program to promote neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships in our fight for a safer nation.

For the 18th Annual La Crosse Area National Night Out, ten La Crosse neighborhoods hosted block parties, with certainly many more localized celebrations. These neighborhoods come together to volunteer their time and efforts into organizing these block parties, and many of our community partners offer their assistance in the form of donations of supplies, money, and their time. Since the inception of National Night Out in the City of La Crosse, we have continually experienced many great police-community relationships and look forward to many more years of NNO!

## Police Week Awards Ceremony

Each year, as part of National Police Week, the La Crosse Police Department hosts the annual Awards/Recognition Ceremony as a way to “properly recognize, through tangible and public recognition, acts of heroism, outstanding service, or exemplary performances by the officer of the La Crosse Police Department, as well as contributions by involved citizens”.

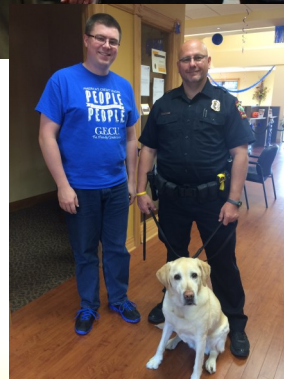
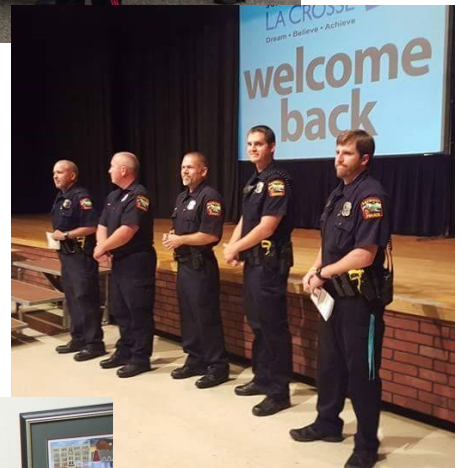
The Department Awards/Recognition Committee gathers to reflect on the Department’s interactions with our community throughout the preceding year. Exemplary cases where a citizen or Police Officer went above and beyond the typical call of duty is recommended for an award.

***Congratulations to all recipients!***

Police Week Award Recipients	
Ethan Palmer	Citizen Award of Excellence
Officer Todd Fisher	Traffic Safety Award
Lieutenant Dan Kloss	Staff & Command Graduate
Officer Dustin Darling	Life Preservation Award
Officer Dakota Jelinski	Life Preservation Award
Lieutenant Avrie Schott	Life Preservation Award
Officer Daniel Ulrich	Superior Achievement Award
Officer Brooke Pataska	Superior Achievement Award
Officer Tyler Pond	Superior Achievement Award
Officer Casey Kamps	Superior Achievement Award
Officer Brian Deyo	Departmental Citation
Officer Rick Rank	Departmental Citation
Officer Charles Frandsen	Departmental Citation
Lieutenant Avrie Schott	Chief’s Achievement Award



# *“The Police are a part of and not apart from*



Photos - Top to Bottom, Left to Right

Special Olympics Torch Run kick-off party. A “Thank You” sign from our supporters at Boys & Girls Clubs. Neighborhood Resource Officer Dan Ulrich and BGC star student Kaden Hanson. La Crosse School District welcomes the La Crosse Police School Resource Officers with a standing ovation. Mayor Tim Kabat recognizes Law Enforcement Appreciation Day with LCPD members. Officer Lisa Barrix with a girl scout troop. Investigator Ron Secord with GECU staff for the “Paint the Town Blue” fundraiser organized by GECU, FFCU, and Verve. Officer Dale Gerbig brings back the “Cops Gone Wild” wing eating contest trophy.

*the community they serve...” -Sir Robert Peel, 1829*



Photos - Top to Bottom, Left to Right

UW-La Crosse Chi Phi Fraternity hosts 3rd annual Sara Softball tournament to highlight violence prevention awareness. Officer Rick Pfennig with summer school tour group. Neighborhood Resource Officers spread some holiday cheer to area youth and their families. La Crosse Police Officers, Texas Roadhouse Staff, and area Special Olympics Athletes host “Tip-A-Cop” fundraiser. Neighborhood Resource Officers Tyler Pond and Dale Gerbig meet with Laquita Becker a behavioral health specialist with BGC. Members of the La Crosse Police and Fire Departments congratulate each other after the 2nd Annual “Guns ‘n Hoses” softball tournament hosted by the La Crosse Loggers to help raise funds for local charities.

*Excellence*

*Loyalty*

*Respect*

*Integrity*

*Accountability*

