



PORTAGE POLICE DEPARTMENT 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

HIRING OF NEW OFFICERS:

Officers Heather Medina, Josh Troth & Isaac Utecht were introduced to the Common Council on 6-27-19. We were so fortunate to find three dedicated and talented officers; all who came to us with previous military experience.



Officer Heather Medina was sworn in as a full-time Police Officer for our department on 1-07-19. Previously she served our country as a Sergeant in the U.S. Marine Corps for four years and was recognized for many achievements and received many awards. She also is the first female to take first place in the physical agility competition at the Madison College Police Academy. Heather grew up in Portage and has two daughters. She replaced Officer Pete Bartaczewicz who took an early retirement in late 2018.



Officer Joshua Troth was sworn in as a full-time Police Officer on 4-29-19. Previously, he served in the U.S. Army for over six years and served as a Wisconsin State Trooper for over five years. As a State Trooper, he received a life-saving award from our department when he assisted Officer Bill Charlebois in helping to save a woman from drowning in the Wisconsin River. Josh back-filled Officer Pete Warning's slot as Pete was selected to be a full time School Resource Officer and started on 1-02-19.



Officer Isaac Utecht was sworn in as a full-time Police Officer on 6-03-19. Previously, Isaac served our country in the Wisconsin Army National Guard for four years. He graduated from the Police Academy in Wausau in May of 2019. Isaac was hired to replace Officer Klaude Thompson who retired in late 2019.



Officer Klaude Thompson retired on 12-01-19. He started for Portage PD on 1-19-87 and served faithfully for 33 years.



Denise Vater's last day on the job with us was on April 12th, 2019. She faithfully served Portage PD for over six years. She took a position with Columbia County as a Constitutional Clerk at their new administration building.



We hired Zoey Jensen on May 20th, 2019, to fill Denise's vacancy. We had 37 applicants and Zoey came out on top. She had prior experience with Waunakee Police Department & the Sauk County Sheriff's Department. Zoey is pictured with her supervisor, Det. Lt. Dan Garrigan.



We hired Meg Machkovech on June 26th, 2019, to fill Jen Mecum's vacancy; Jen took a position with the DA's Office. Meg had placed second in our selection process and we were very fortunate to have her still available to join our team.



Citizen Police Academy 2019 (Class #10)

In January of 2019, we started up our 10th Citizen Police Academy. We had another great group of citizens attend. Ass't Police Chief Keith Klafke and Officer Sarah Rueth were our main coordinators but many of our officers gave presentations on fields that they have specialized training in. This is a 10 week program to show citizens the different kinds of training that we go through so that we can perform our duties to the best of our abilities. Topics included firearms & Tasers, traffic stops, drug investigations, emergency management, surveillance equipment, cameras, legal issues, sex offenders, Triad, domestic abuse, fingerprinting & DNA, DARE/School Liaison, Amber Alert/ A Child is Missing/ Project Lifesaver, Defense and Arrest Techniques/ OMVWI & SFST (Standard Field Sobriety Testing). If you would like to join the 2020 or 2021 classes, please contact us. (You need to be at least 18 years old, pass a simple background check and have some connection to the City of Portage)



Members of the Citizens Police Academy's tenth class graduated the nearly three-month course on March 26. A celebration was held in the basement at the Portage Police Department. Pictured from left: Sergei Sveshnikov, Brad Allen, Ken Manthey, Kadie Jo Butteris, Derrick Rohwer, Marci Ward, Eric Shimpach, Kirsten King-Vieaux, Tara Woodruff, Doug Petrowitz, Kristen Griffey, Chad Crary, Angela Crary and Keith Klafke.

V.I.P.S. (Volunteers In Police Services) Program



L-R Chief Manthey, Ass't Police Chief (retired) Kevin O'Neill, Barb & Lee Chenoweth, Joan & Bill Maxwell & Ass't Police Chief Keith Klafke

On Tuesday, 3-26-19, VIPS Leader Bill Maxwell and VIPS members Joan Maxwell and Lee and Barb Chenoweth were presented with plaques recognizing their 10 years of service to Portage P.D. and the City of Portage. We are very pleased that Ass't Police Chief (retired) Kevin O'Neill and his wife, Diana, (also retired law enforcement) have joined the VIPS. Kevin is the one who instituted the VIPS program over 10 years ago for our department.

The volunteers have trained one evening per month with the primary focus on emergency management. Here are the calls for service in 2019:

VIPS (Volunteers In Police Services)

- Several of our VIPS attended our Citizen Police Academy
- Two VIPS assisted us with the various interview processes with police officer candidates on 3-05-19, 3-06-19 & 3-12-19, 3-13-19
- Four VIPS (two couples) were recognized for their 10 years of service as VIPS on our CPA graduation night; Bill & Joan Maxwell; Lee & Barb Chenoweth
- Four VIPS assisted with the Wine Walk downtown on 4-26-19
- Monthly training meeting was held on 4-30-19 and they discussed a lot of community events coming up

- VIPS leader Bill Maxwell provided security with a circus at the fairgrounds on 5-02-19
- 3 VIPS assisted with Best Fest on Friday; 5 VIPS assisted with the Run/Walks on 5-18-19 & 1 VIPS was there on Sunday
- 11 VIPS assisted with the Memorial Day Parade on 5-27-19
- 18 VIPS attending training on 5-28-19; Fire Inspector Craig Ratz gave a very nice presentation on various safety issues
- 3 VIPS assisted with DSH Run/Walk on 6-01-19
- 10 VIPS assisted with the Canal Days Parade on 6-01-19
- 10 VIPS assisted with music & fireworks @ Pauquette Park on 6-29-19
- Five VIPS assisted with the Concert in the Park @ Pauquette Park on 7-12-19
- Two VIPS assisted with Tractor Daze at the fairgrounds on 7-12-19 and one VIPS assisted on 7-13-19
- Two VIPS assisted with the “Ride to Read” event on 8-10-19
- One VIPS assisted with the Portage Cross Country team’s triathlon at Silver Lake Beach on 8-22-19
- Six VIPS assisted with the Taste of Portage on 8-23-19 & 8-24-19
- 17 VIPS attended the planning meeting on 8-27-19 for the upcoming large American Legion 100 year anniversary event
- 9 VIPS assisted with the “Celebration Freedom” event on 9-06-19 and 8 VIPS assisted on 9-07-19
- 3 VIPS assisted with the K-9 fundraiser on 9-08-19
- 5 VIPS assisted with the Alzheimer’s Walk on 9-08-19
- 8 VIPS assisted with the Touched Twice Event on 9-21-19
- 7 VIPS assisted with the Homecoming Parade on 10-04-19
- 3 VIPS assisted with the “Saturday in the Cemetery” on 10-05-19
- 2 VIPS assisted with the Police/Fire Open House and the River Haven Homeless Shelter fundraiser/Open Houses on 10-12-19
- 2 VIPS assisted with the S.O.S. (Step On Stigma) 5K run/walk fundraiser on 10-19-19
- 5 VIPS assisted with the Costume “Walking Parade” downtown on Saturday, 10-26-19
- 16 VIPS attended Narcan training on 10-29-19
- 5 VIPS assisted with Trick of Treating on 10-31-19
- 4 VIPS assisted with the 2nd annual “Turkey Trot” on 11-28-19
- 3 VIPS assisted with Santa Claus @ the airport on 11-29-19
- 11 VIPS assisted with the Holiday Parade on 11-29-19
- 5 VIPS assisted with the Holiday Train on 12-04-19
- 4 VIPS assisted with Living Windows on 12-14-19

Halloween Walking Parade on 10-26-19



L-R, VIPS Leader Bill Maxwell, VIPS Andy Saloun, VIPS Tamara Brantley, VIPS Steve Aldridge, VIPS Marie Leone and CSO Kevin Todryk



DARE/School Liaison Officer/School functions

Starting in January of 2013, our department began daily visits to our schools because of the Sandy Hook shootings. This has been a very positive experience for the officers, the teachers and the students. Officers have been greeted with friendly waves, questions by students, and a few high-fives. Police are not there to interrupt classes, but are walking the hallways and greeting staff and students to let them know that they are there and available when they are needed. In the past, police visited only when there was trouble; the new practice will allow students and staff to get to know the officers in a more relaxed and pleasant way. The policy also will help officers get to know where classrooms are located. It gives each of the officer's better knowledge (of the schools) so if there is an emergency, they will know the layout.

We continue to support the DARE training in all of the schools in the City of Portage not only for the educational value but for the bonding that takes place between the officer and the students.

- When needed, we supply an officer at dances, football games, basketball games, or other community events.
- We also assist the schools with their Homecoming Parade, the High School graduation and the Project Graduation lock-in. Detective Bob Bagnall, Det. Lt. Dan Garrigan and I attended the new teacher program held in August.
- We are happy to give talks or presentations in the schools on just about any law enforcement related topic. We also give tours of the police department and have students “job-shadow” with police officers.
- We help the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and Cub Scouts in Portage by assisting them in earning their badges. We have fingerprinted them, given them tours of the Police Department and Safety Talks and attending their ceremonies.

DARE graduation class St. Mary’s School 5-30-19



Triad/S.A.L.T. (Seniors And Law enforcement working Together.)

- We continue to work with TRIAD/SALT. Officer Teresa Johnson and CSO Nicole Lervik are our department liaisons.
- Every spring, a training day is held in the meeting room below City Hall
- Medication collection has taken place due to the partnership formed between TRIAD, Walgreen’s, Portage PD & Divine Savior Healthcare; we also have a drug safe in our lobby where people can drop off prescription medication that is no longer being used
- In October, they had a Senior Safe Afternoon where they get together in the basement of city hall for a nice meal and entertainment.

Spring Drug Take Back Day @ Walgreen's on 4-27-19

Front Row: RN Bev Bisbee, her granddaughter, Terra Torvell, & Candace (Comfort Dog)

Middle Row: CSO Nicole Lervik & Police Officer Teresa Johnson

Back Row: Triad member Herb Jones, Triad member Joan Maxwell,
Paramedic Charlotte Kowalczyk & Paramedic Brenda Short-Mootz



Fall Drug Take Back Day @ Walgreen's 10-26-19

Front Row: CSO Nicole Lervik, Probation & Parole Agent Stephanie Johnson & Drug Court Coordinator Monica Neumann

Back Row: COSO Deputy Emily Leland, Lt. Rich Hoege, Triad member Herb Jones,
Paramedic Jessica Montgomery & Paramedic Brenda Short-Mootz



Regional Sex Offender Notification Team

- Our Sex Offender Notification Team meets monthly and strives to keep the public informed, as soon as possible, of any new released offenders moving into our area. Det. Lt. Garrigan is now our department Liaison and he is assisting Det. Lt. Roger Brander of the Columbia County Sheriff's Department in running this team. Besides Portage PD and the Columbia County Sheriff's Department, the State of WI Probation & Parole, the Department of Corrections, the District Attorney's Office and the Victim-Witness Office make up this team. We also invite Police Chiefs from other communities to attend our meetings if a sex offender is moving into their jurisdiction.

Business Security Checks

- Our patrol officers continue to perform security checks on businesses at night. They will occasionally leave a card informing the business owner that we were checking their business.

Columbia County Crimestoppers:

- We continue to work with Columbia County Crimestoppers. Det. Lt. Garrigan is the liaison for our department
- Crimestoppers continues to help our department solve crimes in and around Portage

Portage Police Chaplains' Program

We continue to be blessed with six Police Chaplains. They are Pastor Alan Boeck (retired from St. John's Lutheran Church but now serving in Lyndon Station), Pastor Scott Dadam-River of Life Church, (Scott is also a military chaplain), Pastor Scott Schultz of Cross of Christ Lutheran Church, Father Gary Krahenbuhl from St. Mary's Catholic Church and Pastor Greg Hovland and Pastor Rod Armon, both from St. John's Lutheran Church.

Fire Calls

- Our officers respond to fire calls and help with traffic control and assist the Portage Fire Department in any way we can. We have a very good working relationship with the fire department.

Ride-Along Program:

- We offer citizens the opportunity to ride with a police officer. We will first do a brief background check on the person and they must sign a waiver of liability form. This gives the general public a better idea what our police officers do and it especially provides them with some insight in the event they're contemplating becoming a police officer.

GOVERNMENTAL/INTERAGENCY:

Our department continues to have solid working relationships with all of the agencies that we associate with. The Columbia County Chiefs of Police Association (representing the Chiefs, Sheriff, DA, Probation & Parole, State Patrol, DNR) have been rotating our monthly meetings around the county and these have been well attended. We work closely with Probation and Parole, the District Attorney's Office, the City Attorney and Human Services. We have assisted other agencies by sitting in on interview panels and vice versa. We have assisted numerous law enforcement agencies at the local hospital with drunk drivers, emergency commitments or violent persons. We have a particularly strong working relationship with the Columbia County Sheriff's Department. They assist us when we execute search warrants; especially when its drug related. We share our range with them for qualifications. We assist each other with accidents and other serious calls in or near the city limits. We trained together in the spring of 2019 for in-service training and we will be together again in 2020.

POLICE FAMILY

LAW ENFORCEMENT TORCH RUN FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS 6-06-19

Every year, our police department, along with other agencies, participates in the Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run. Officer Klaude Thompson has been our liaison for many years. This is held in June every year. We would like to thank owners Chad Stevenson and Jeff Liegel from Culver's for their continued generosity by providing meals and treats for all the participants.



L-R CHIEF MANTHEY, OFFICER UTECHT, OFFICER TROTH, ASS'T CHIEF KLAFKE, OFFICER THOMPSON & CHARLOTTE, OFFICER RUETH, MEGAN THOMPSON, CAPTAIN STILSON, WSP SGT. VASQUEZ, SPECIAL OLYMPIAN STEVE WOODARD



Ass't Chief Keith Klafke, Lt. Rich Hoege, Sgt. Mike Schutz, Officers Brian Loewenhagen & Isaac Utecht assisted with the "Shop with a Cop" on December 7th, 2019 at Wal*Mart



Lt. Rich Hoege graduated from "Command College" in 2019; Chief Manthey & Lt. Garrigan attended the graduation service.

POLICE/FIRE OPEN HOUSE HELD ON 10-12-19

We had our annual open house in conjunction with the Fire Department's open house.



Keith explaining to the audience about the scenario



Despite the bad weather, there was a nice turn-out



High risk traffic stop begins



Suspect vehicle is stopped



Kevin – suspect #1 - is cooperative & complies with orders



Kevin is taken into custody w/o incident



Cameron – suspect #2 – is not cooperative and finds himself being “escorted” by Ares



Arrest team approaches Suspect #2



Suspect #2 safely detained



Suspect #2 patted down for weapons/taken into custody



Cam – Suspect #2- removes “bite suit”



Cam waves to the onlookers showing he’s ok

The BB gun target shooting/safety presentations were popular again this year
(We are very fortunate to have our own indoor range)



Kids of all ages like to color



(Zoey, Eric, Cam, Michael)



Good photo opportunities

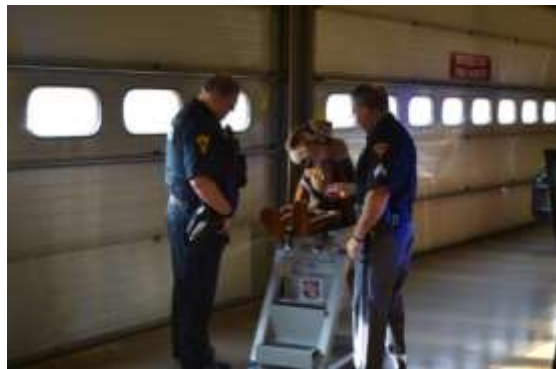


A Police Officer and a Crossing Guard!

State Patrol Sgt. Mike Vasquez with his unmarked black Dodge Charger



This little guy "assumes the position" as he's about to be arrested (by his dad!)



Dennis & Mike & the "Little Convincer" (used to promote seatbelt safety)



Jim & Barb from Divine Savior EMS



Ben & Ares are always a hit with kids



Lt. Rich Hoege and a potential SWAT/ERT member in the making

We are very fortunate to have generous donors/organizations like the Salvation Army and the Elks Club to enable us to give away many free bike helmets



Kevin & Meg handed out free bike helmets



Kevin made sure the helmets fit properly



Meg & Kevin & McGruff



McGruff, Nicole & Meg



Gretchen Lambert representing Triad



Marci DeSomer representing ADRC and Anna Raschein representing Hope House



CP Rail Police Officer Brian Kusmirek promoted safety; especially at R.R. crossings



Brian & Keith & Michael



Portage Elks Club members (Tim Green & Jackie Heitmann and Jackie's husband) had lots of drug prevention information on hand



Citizens were treated to lemonade and other goodies



Marie Darling-Ellis with Emergency Management had a display/hand-out's in the fire department



This little girl won the “blue line” flag



Fire Chief Clayton Simonson & Smokey the Bear

**McGruff was very popular and made lots of contacts!
(Nicole’s daughter – Paige – did a great job as McGruff!)**





Liberty Ludwig, Miss Wisconsin High School America, (former Portage High School student) collected this table full of coats for our local coat drive to donate to needy people



VIPS Leader Bill Maxwell assisted Fire Chief Simonson by picking the winner for a drawing



Deputy Jordan Hauter and his K-9 along with Lt. Todd Horn & Brian



Meg & Mike & Nicole



Ass't Chief Klafke & two of his children (Jazlyn & Knight)



Fire Inspector Craig Ratz & his daughter



Officer Teresa Johnson and Detective Jason Stenberg both celebrated their 20 year anniversaries with Portage PD in January of 2019.



In summary, we once again had a very busy year. I am very proud of our department. We have a very dedicated staff that does their best to fulfill our mission statement every day. ***“Protecting our community and its quality of life by delivering exceptional law enforcement services.”***

Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth R. Manthey

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Chief of Police 1-27-20