

2023

WINNEBAGO COUNTY

SHERIFF'S OFFICE

ANNUAL REPORT



SHERIFF'S MESSAGE

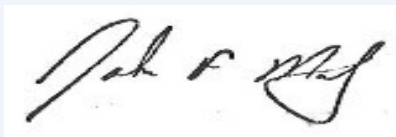
Welcome to the 2023 edition of the Winnebago County Sheriff's Office Annual Report. Featured on this year's cover are key members of our Sobriety and Treatment Assisted Recovery (STAR) program. During my tenure, this programming is arguably the most innovative undertaking the Sheriff's Office has ever embarked upon. Centered on treating both the physical and psychological components of substance abuse, this program provides comprehensive treatment to alcohol and drug addicts who are incarcerated in the Winnebago County Jail.

Unique to the STAR program are the wraparound support services that start in the jail and then follow along with the person back into the community upon their release. Statistically, people are at the greatest risk to relapse immediately following their release from jail. To date, this continuity of care design has yielded impressive recovery results for program participants. I am excited to see the long-term effects this program has in both saving lives and maintaining the quality of life our community enjoys. More information about the STAR program can be found within the Corrections Division section of 2023's annual report.

Also new for 2023 was the realignment of the Sheriff's Office table of organization to better serve both our citizenry and employees. The Field Services Division was formed by combining the Patrol Division and Detective Division. The purpose of this realignment was to internally create a better flow of information and increase the efficiency and effectiveness of investigations. The Support Services Division was created to assist the Sheriff's Office's collective membership. It focuses on employee recruitment, retention, engagement, and overall member wellness.

I hope you enjoy learning more about your Sheriff's Office when reading this year's annual report. As always, I welcome any feedback.

Sincerely,



John F. Matz, Sheriff

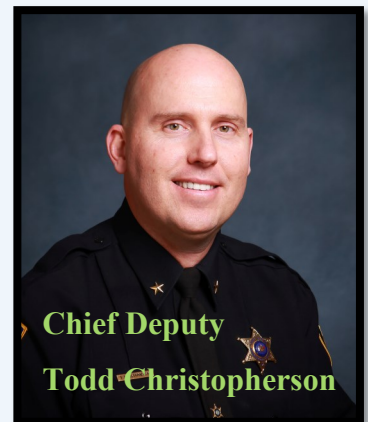


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Mission Statement

The Winnebago County Sheriff's Office is committed to providing comprehensive public safety services in partnership with its citizens to promote a safe and secure community.

In order to achieve the Sheriff's Office mission, emphasis is placed on professionalism, teamwork, and individual growth. The Office strives to be a leader within the public safety community and values integrity, fairness, and compassion.

CORRECTIONS DIVISION

The Corrections Division is overseen by Captain David Mack, Lieutenant Amber Rozek, Lieutenant Ross Johnson, and Lieutenant Mitchell Grube. It is comprised of the Jail, Work Release Unit, and Court Services Unit. The Jail is a 355-bed Direct Supervision facility that provides a safe and secure environment for incarcerated persons. The operational capacity of the facility is 320 inmates.



The Work Release Unit oversees both work release and electronic monitoring programs. The Court Services Unit is responsible for prisoner transportation, interstate extraditions, and video court appearances.

In 2023, we continued the collaboration with Winnebago County Human Services, the Department of Corrections Probation and Parole, Winnebago Mental Health Institute, the Wisconsin Resource Center, the Winnebago County District Attorney's Office, the Winnebago County Overdose Fatality Review (OFR) Board, Solutions Recovery, and Winnebago County Corporation Counsel to address opiate addiction and mental health within the jail population. Through collaboration the entities have worked together to develop programs and individualized plans that begin in the Jail and follow through with services post-release.

The Comprehensive Opioid Stimulant and Substance Abuse Program (COSSAP) Grant was used to fund the Medical Assisted Treatment (MAT) Program within the Jail. The grant was used to purchase Vivitrol medication which blocks the effects of opioids and fund coaching services within the facility. The initial inmate response to the access granted to the OFR's Solutions Peer Response Team (SPRT) was unprecedented and unexpected. The volume of requests quickly outpaced the resources available.

This success led the Sheriff's Office to approach the SPRT Program Director (Solutions Recovery) and request a Lead Recovery Coach position dedicated to the Winnebago County Jail to meet our inmate needs.

September of 2023 marked one year of the program, allowing us to evaluate the first full year of data. The success rate and volume of contacts warranted the program's expansion in 2024 as the inmate response continued to grow.

The successes of the program are as follows:

- ◆ In the program's first year 55 injections of Vivitrol were given to participants of the MAT Program.
- ◆ Solutions Recovery served 399 individual inmate participants in the program.
- ◆ Solutions Recovery had 2,139 contacts with inmate participants.
- ◆ 63 inmates were connected with community resources post-release (29 of those individuals are still utilizing services and in recovery).



With a 46% success rate for program participants who started their recovery journey in the Jail, we began to brainstorm how to cast a wider net and improve our services. The idea to create an all-inclusive recovery housing unit (pod) for those choosing sobriety was the result. The Jail will provide a housing area for like-minded participants to receive support and resources to increase their chances of success.



This group wants the momentum to keep rolling and has set goals for the new **Sobriety and Treatment Assisted Recovery (STAR) Program** for the following year:

- ◆ Create a Housing Unit dedicated to Inmate Participants in the STAR Program.
- ◆ Add 3.5 Recovery Coach Positions within the Winnebago County Jail.
- ◆ Provide daily groups and counseling through Human Services and Solutions Recovery.
- ◆ Hold classes for life skills – employment, financial, parenting, etc.
- ◆ Provide substance use disorder evaluations on the pod and coordinate treatment upon release when appropriate.
- ◆ Coordinate all treatment appointments post-release.
- ◆ Have on-pod resources to apply for/restore insurance coverage.
- ◆ Further expansion of wrap-around services and community resources to include clarifying data collection and reporting for the program.
- ◆ Adding oral naltrexone (Vivitrol) to reduce medication costs.
- ◆ Secured a COSSAP Grant Extension of \$250,000.
- ◆ Partner with the Winnebago County District Attorney's Office for additional Grant Funding (\$70,000.00) and additional data collection.

Having the right players on the team will ensure we are providing top-notch services to those who have chosen a recovery journey. The joint effort will improve participants' chances of breaking their addiction and living a life in sobriety.

**“The only way to guarantee they are alive tomorrow is to break the addiction today.”
Winnebago County Sheriff John Matz**

2023 Jail Population Statistics (Average)

MONTH	Sentenced Inmates	Non-Sentenced Inmates	Felony Probation Holds	Misdemeanor Probation Holds	Extended Probation Sanctions	Working Huber Inmates
JAN	49.39	102.35	39.00	7.45	14.29	0.81
FEB	47.07	91.41	36.21	9.14	19.71	0.00
MAR	45.52	88.90	34.16	11.48	23.26	0.61
APR	46.70	81.90	35.50	7.30	16.87	2.20
MAY	45.23	83.19	40.06	11.16	22.74	1.94
JUN	43.40	81.37	42.23	11.77	30.40	1.70
JUL	32.94	89.84	40.87	11.00	25.61	1.10
AUG	38.00	88.45	37.84	9.87	19.94	2.84
SEP	46.63	83.00	38.53	7.33	22.03	2.33
OCT	53.52	77.42	37.42	6.13	21.55	2.77
NOV	61.70	86.53	38.80	9.77	25.97	1.97
DEC	55.26	85.26	35.29	10.37	33.23	6.21
Monthly Average	47.11	86.64	37.99	9.40	22.97	2.04



Jail Population 5 Year Comparison

Year	Average Daily Population	Admissions	Male	Female	Average Length of Stay (Days)
2019	279.36	5,188	74.77%	25.23%	19.65
2020	218.93	3,909	74.89%	25.11%	20.44
2021	245.34	3,037	77.31%	22.69%	16.42
2022	218.30	3,038	73.83%	26.17%	15.42
2023	221.84	3,146	73.52%	26.48%	15.41



2023 Work Release Unit Program (Average)

	Electronic Monitoring Inmates
JAN	31.94
FEB	29.89
MAR	31.65
APR	31.87
MAY	28.48
JUN	34.37
JUL	31.26
AUG	28.06
SEP	30.33
OCT	34.06
NOV	32.00
DEC	32.90

2023 Prisoner Transportation

	ADULT	JUVENILE
PERSONS TRANSPORTED	2,198	55
MILES DRIVEN	106,953	5,084



Monthly Average 31.40

Captain & Lieutenants

The Corrections Division is comprised of the following staff:

- 1 Captain
- 3 Lieutenants
- 12 Sergeants
- 3 Officers in Charge
- 5 Court Service Deputies
- 2 Electronic Monitoring Deputies
- 46 Deputies
- 11 Booking Security Associates
 - 1 Work Release and Records Unit Supervisor
 - 1 GPS Coordinator
 - 1 Classification Coordinator
 - 2 Account Clerks
 - 1 Warrant and Electronic Monitoring Associate
 - 1 Traffic and Warrant Associate
 - 1 Civil Process Associate



Captain David Mack



Amber Rozek



Ross Johnson

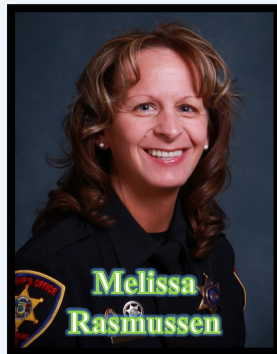


Mitch Grube

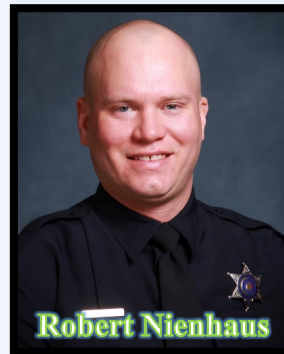
Captain & Lieutenants



Kristen Lemke



Melissa Rasmussen



Robert Nienhaus



James Nozar

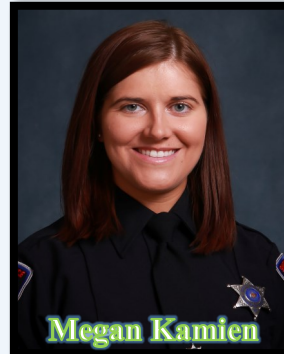
Sergeants



Jason Durrant



John Penza



Megan Kamien



Bryan Nagorny

Sergeants



Nathan Mathwig



Mario Escudero



Samantha Hendrickson



Tyler Patten

Sergeants

Sergeants

Deputies

Deputies



Kevin Farr



Patti DeDecker



Jason Freeman

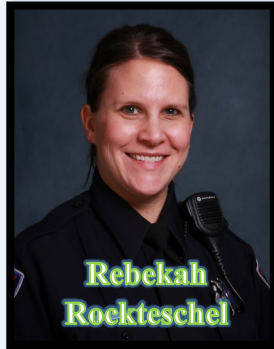


Rick Arent

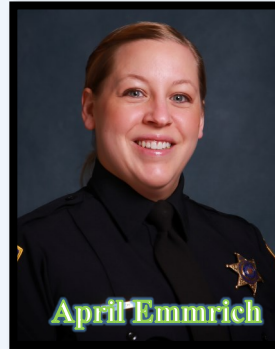
Deputies



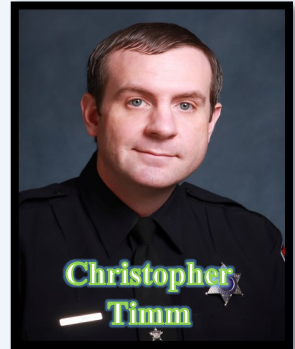
Ryan Verziel



Rebekah Rockteschel



April Emmrich

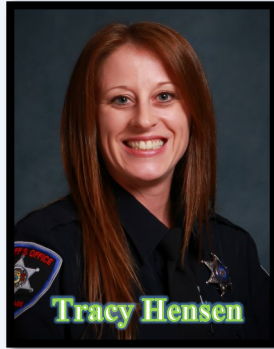


Christopher Timm

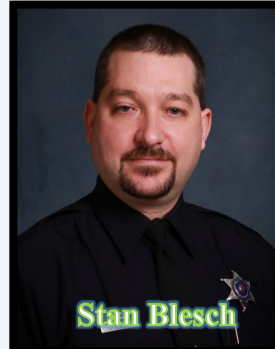
Deputies



Nick Manthey



Tracy Hensen



Stan Blesch



Melissa Krokstrom

Deputies



Holly Tuttle



Justin Treder



Brandon Williams



Heather Shanks-Monott

Deputies



Brian Kastelic



Tim Hayes



Jamie Braasch



Adam Earle

Deputies

Deputies

Deputies

Deputies

Deputies

Deputies

Deputies

Deputies



Anthony Wong



Alex McIntosh



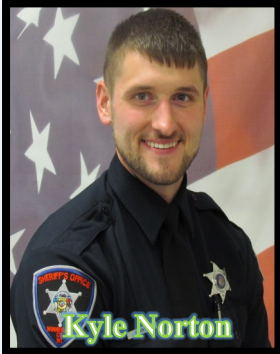
Jimmy Chen



Dyllon Vetsch



Phillip Sobiek



Kyle Norton



Jacob Weber



Ryan Kaul



Devin Wilson



Jason Steward



Tracy Swanson



Taylor Ling



Charles Immel



Dalia McGuire



Ryan Ebert



Jacob Mohnen



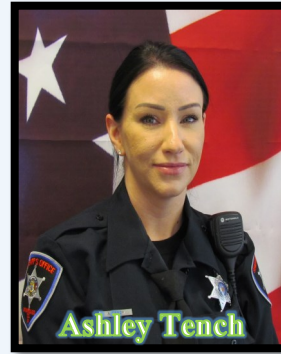
Edward Camis



Dana Berktoide



William Cosgrove



Ashley Tench

Deputies

Deputies

Deputies

Deputies



Berkley Lake



Jack Williams



Madelyn Hanagan



Haleigh Gibson



Brynn Greil



Krystle Starks



Jayden
Langenberg



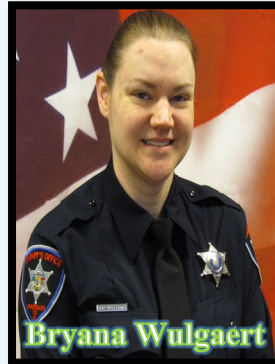
Samantha Veitch



Matthew Goss



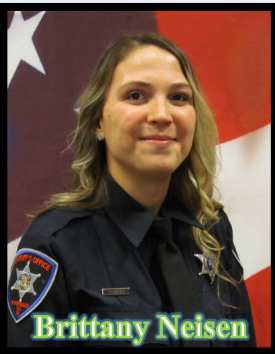
Jacob Carriveau



Bryana Wulgaert



Ethan Neumann



Brittany Neisen



Jacqueline Korth



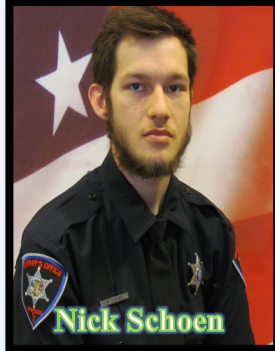
Luke Mueller



Mark
Wedemeyer



Emma Quick



Nick Schoen



Javier Zotti



Deputies

Deputies

Deputies

Deputies

Deputies

Deputies

Booking Security Associates

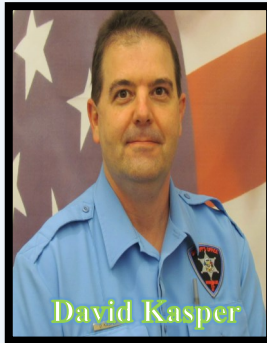
Booking Security Associates

Booking Security Associates

Booking Security Associates



Doug Hornburg



David Kasper



Sydney Stock



Megan Gray



Sarah Lamers



Nicole Nishida



Kristine Mendoza



Amy Earle



Allison Birchbauer

Booking Security Associates perform many critical job duties which are essential to Sheriff's Office operations. Associates control access to the secure area of the building and monitor all security devices for both the Jail and the Courthouse. Additionally, they provide clerical and recordkeeping services related to all prisoner activities and assist with security screening at the Courthouse. Lastly, but not least, they are often the face of the Corrections Division as they are the first point of contact when distraught or emotional people come to visit their loved ones in Jail.



FIELD SERVICES DIVISION

The newly created Field Services Division of the Sheriff's Office is comprised of three units led by Captain Todd Christie. Each of these Units are supervised by a Lieutenant who handles daily operational oversight of their specific Unit. This structure not only combines the Patrol and Detective Divisions into the newly created Field Services Division, but also adds the Special Victims Branch within Investigations. This realignment of responsibilities has created a better flow of information and increased efficiency and effectiveness in solving crimes.

The Field Services Units and Supervisory Lieutenants:

- ◆ Patrol Unit - Lieutenant Darin Rice
- ◆ Investigations Unit
 - ◇ Investigative Branch - Lieutenant Chris Braman
 - ◇ Special Victims Branch - Lieutenant Mike Sewall
- ◆ Courthouse Unit - Lieutenant Scott Rollo



Communication is a critical part of all Patrol and Investigations' efforts in any law enforcement agency and must be prioritized. To increase communication, the previous Patrol and Detective Divisions have been combined under one umbrella. With this change, the Field Services Division has placed an emphasis on the following to improve information sharing and collaboration:

1. Shift briefings between the Patrol Unit and Investigative Unit command to allow communication to intersect in a meaningful and productive way.
2. Break down silos of communication for line staff to better collaborate on issues such as crime hotspots, investigative leads, locating witnesses, and suspicious activity observed by Patrol. Additionally, these conversations assist in building investigative timelines of what is happening with the status of an investigation.
3. Timely sharing of information such as drug tips and other types of activity where both Patrol and Investigations need to be aware of what the other is working on.
4. Providing regularly updated information to all deputized staff (i.e., Corrections) within the Agency regarding criminal activity, leads, and suspects.

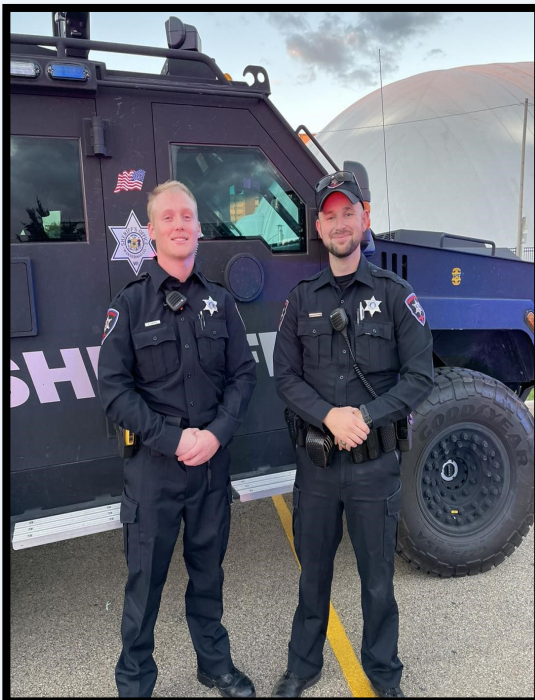


PATROL UNIT

The Winnebago County Sheriff's Office Patrol Unit provides law enforcement services for the entire County with primary jurisdiction in rural and unincorporated areas. Deputies patrol the Interstate, US, State, and County Highways, as well as township roads throughout Winnebago County. They investigate traffic accidents and criminal activity while enforcing state laws and County ordinances. The men and women of the Patrol Unit engage in proactive policing and community interaction to enhance the safety and quality of life for all residents of, and visitors to, Winnebago County. Deputies are encouraged to conduct proactive traffic enforcement, community policing initiatives, and collaborative problem solving, and are empowered to address emerging or persistent issues through alternative solutions when appropriate.

The following tables include data on enforcement action and accident information for 2023, as well as comparisons to previous years.

2023 CALLS FOR SERVICE



MONTH	DEPUTY INITIATED	REPORTED	TOTAL
JAN	2,832	1,243	4,075
FEB	2,447	1,262	3,709
MAR	3,249	1,300	4,549
APR	3,119	1,275	4,394
MAY	3,050	1,659	4,709
JUN	2,774	1,609	4,383
JUL	2,922	1,893	4,815
AUG	3,203	1,308	4,511
SEP	3,298	1,119	4,417
OCT	2,978	1,109	4,087
NOV	2,681	1,114	3,795
DEC	2,717	1,006	3,723
TOTAL	35,270	15,897	51,167

CALLS FOR SERVICE 5 YEARS AT A GLANCE

YEAR	DEPUTY INITIATED	REPORTED	YEARLY TOTAL
2019	33,202	17,617	50,819
2020	31,528	15,309	46,837
2021	29,266	17,599	46,865
2022	28,069	16,567	44,636
2023	35,270	15,897	51,167



2023 ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS

MONTH	TRAFFIC CITATIONS	OWI ARRESTS	ORDINANCE VIOLATIONS	GRANT ENFORCEMENT CITATIONS	MONTHLY TOTAL
JAN	296	12	12	17	337
FEB	257	15	16	46	334
MAR	185	11	5	139	340
APR	210	7	12	87	316
MAY	207	12	18	107	344
JUN	292	14	11	57	374
JUL	233	13	20	83	349
AUG	240	9	12	76	337
SEP	267	8	19	175	469
OCT	189	13	13	0	215
NOV	215	10	20	32	277
DEC	159	7	18	21	205
TOTAL	2,750	131	176	840	3,897

**ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS
5 YEARS AT A GLANCE**

YEAR	CITATIONS	OWI
2019	5,093	216
2020	3,459	215
2021	3,633	177
2022	3,374	216
2023	2,750	131

CRASH HISTORY 5 YEARS AT A GLANCE

YEAR	TOTAL CRASHES (INCLUDES INJURY)	FATAL CRASHES	YEARLY TOTAL
2019	1,991	7	1,998
2020	1,390	8	1,398
2021	1,569	6	1,575
2022	1,702	6	1,708
2023	1,267	8	1,275

2023 CRASH HISTORY

MONTH	PROPERTY DAMAGE	INJURIES	FATALITIES	MONTHLY TOTAL
JAN	143	17	0	160
FEB	123	23	1	147
MAR	105	20	1	126
APR	42	5	0	47
MAY	81	15	0	96
JUN	71	22	0	93
JUL	62	16	1	79
AUG	64	13	0	77
SEP	69	4	0	73
OCT	117	15	2	134
NOV	121	17	3	141
DEC	91	11	0	102
TOTAL	1,089	178	8	1,275



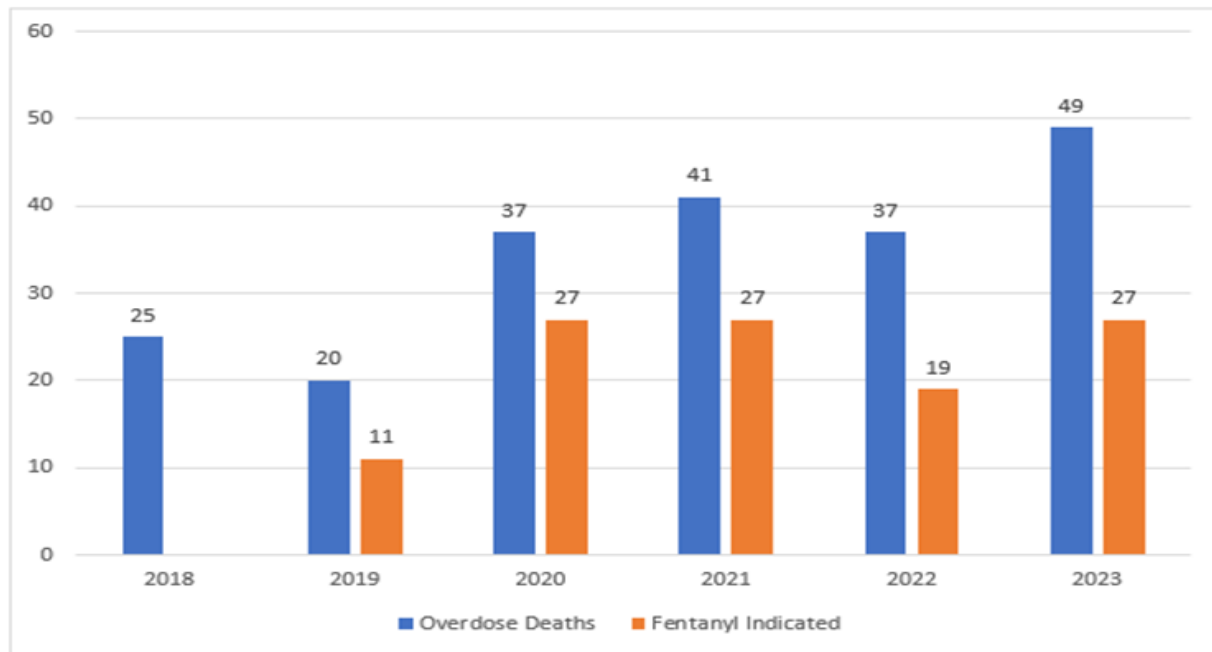
INVESTIGATIONS UNIT

The Investigations Unit is responsible for investigating complex felonies and misdemeanors, missing and found persons, and other incidents that may be assigned to the Unit by policy or through specific instruction of Administration. The Unit consists of the Investigative Branch and Special Victims Branch. It is primarily responsible for the follow-up investigation of crime and is comprised of a staff of specialized and highly trained investigators. Major investigations of the most serious violent offenses such as homicide, robbery, and sexual assault, as well as property crimes such as fraud and burglary are all conducted by the Unit. Additionally, this Unit oversees forensics which includes crime scene investigations, evidence collection, analysis, and storage, and is the liaison between State and Federal crime labs.

The Investigative Branch of the Sheriff's Office handled a large variety and volume of casework in 2023. The Branch handles drug and drug-related crimes, as well as crimes against property, arson, and violent crimes. They assist the Patrol Unit with major crash investigations and help with animal welfare inquiries.

Currently, an Investigative Unit investigator averages a caseload of approximately 16 cases. Drug cases, including drug overdose deaths or poisonings, continue to be a major cause for concern in Winnebago County. In 2023, Winnebago County had 49 deaths related to overdose or poisoning which is more than any previous year. Besides the overdose deaths, Winnebago County is currently experiencing 30.5 non-fatal overdoses a month (data courtesy of the Winnebago Medical Examiner's Office). The availability, variety, and potency of illicit drugs has increased exponentially, even in the last two years. Pressed fentanyl pills and fentanyl-laced street drugs are rampant.

**Overdose Death Totals-
Winnebago County**



Investigative Unit Significant Cases

- ◆ On New Year's Day members of the Investigative Unit responded to a fatal traffic crash in the Town of Omro. A young man was found on the roadway deceased, presumably from being struck by a motor vehicle. This investigation utilized drones, crash reconstruction, and interviews as well as several search warrants. The State Crime Lab sent a crew to Winnebago County to assist with the case. The case is still pending, as detectives work with the District Attorney's Office to move the case forward.
- ◆ Early in March of 2023, the Sheriff's Office assisted the Omro Police Department with a homicide investigation. The Investigative Unit was responsible for the processing of the scene, evidence collection, and follow-up. Several witnesses were interviewed, and forensic analysis was completed on the electronic devices of both the suspect and the victim. A suspect was taken into custody and charged with the homicide. The trial will take place in 2024.
- ◆ A week later, the Sheriff's Office responded to a 911 open line call in the Town of Wolf River. Once on scene, deputies discovered a double homicide had taken place at the residence. Two well-known local business owners and beloved members of the community had been killed. Detectives worked diligently through the crime scene, gathering and documenting evidence of the traumatic event. The Investigative Unit worked several days of long hours putting the pieces together on the case. Charges for two homicides were filed against the suspect, who currently is awaiting trial.
- ◆ In September of 2023, the Sheriff's Office assisted the Winneconne Police Department with a road rage shooting case. The Investigative Unit coordinated the Sheriff's Office response, handling two separate initial scenes. Detectives and patrol deputies worked together to identify a possible suspect. The Investigative Unit coordinated with outside agencies in an attempt to take the suspect into custody; however, the suspect subsequently took his own life in another county. The victim of this crime is recovering from their injuries.

The above cases are a few of the major cases the Investigative Unit worked on throughout the year. These cases take months of follow-up while detectives wait for forensic processing of both biological and digital evidence. Furthermore, the court proceedings can take up to several years to occur.

Investigative Unit - Special Victims Branch

Fraud investigations have increased dramatically over the past three years, in both frequency and monetary loss. Cases involving Winnebago County victims with suspects located outside of Wisconsin have totaled approximately \$6,000,000 and that number continues to grow each day. Often major fraud cases have an expansive reach outside of the United States. In one of these cases, and with assistance from the FBI, the victim from Winnebago County is testifying at trial for a fraud that originated in India.

As an Agency, we hope to continue to combat this epidemic of fraud through proactive measures with education for our community. The Winnebago County Sheriff's Office has begun hosting several Fraud Schools for community members to teach them how to protect themselves from the seemingly never ending attempts to scam our community members. A current trend that is sweeping the country is called *synthetic identity theft*, where a suspect utilizes a piece of legitimate data (like a social security number), along with some fictitious information, to create new identities to take out loans, cash checks, and create new credit.



Since 2015 and the inception of the Winnebago County Sheriff's Office Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) program, the unit has arrested over 100 individuals involved in crimes relating to the trafficking of children through child enticement. These individuals are not only Winnebago County residents, but predators from other states who have made the decision to travel to our county to harm a child.

- ◆ In October of 2023, Winnebago County Investigators were able to rescue a five year old victim in the Detroit, Michigan area. A live-in boyfriend was sharing images and videos of the victim with the undercover investigator. Utilizing the help of Federal partners, the suspect was taken into custody within 24 hours of first contact.
- ◆ Also in October, three Flint, Michigan children ranging in age from 10 months to four years old were rescued from repeated sexual abuse by their father. Once again, the Winnebago County Sheriff's Office was able to identify this offender and work with Federal partners to ensure a rapid arrest.

Sextortion, defined as the extortion of money or sexual favors from someone by threatening them with revealing evidence of their sexual activity, is another current digital crime trend. Agencies throughout the country, including the Winnebago County Sheriff's Office, have seen a dramatic uptick in sextortion related cases involving juvenile victims.

In 2023, eight total sextortion cases were handled by the Winnebago County Sheriff's Office, all of which have a suspect in another state or country. Many of these cases rely upon other agencies for follow up and eventual resolution of the investigation. As technology advances and the artificial intelligence revolution continues, it is important for children and parents to understand the risks involved with communicating with anyone online. Unfortunately, there is no way to verify who is real and who is fake. The Winnebago County Sheriff's Office is currently working on creating a program to help both children and parents stay safe on the internet, identify risky behaviors and grooming tactics of offenders, and what steps potential victims needs to take if they find themselves in a sextortion situation.



Courthouse Unit

The Courthouse Unit is responsible for providing a safe courthouse environment for judges, attorneys, court personnel, and the public. The purpose of Court Security is to assure that order and control is maintained in the court system. Specifically, Court Security staff maintain order and decorum in courtrooms and court premises, patrol courthouse facilities, affect arrests and confiscate contraband, ensure safe prisoner movement within the courthouse, guard and isolate sequestered juries, and assume responsibility for all emergency medical, fire, and bomb threats. The Unit's ultimate goals are to:

- ◆ Deter security problems from occurring.
- ◆ Detect security problems when they do occur.
- ◆ Take appropriate action whenever security problems are encountered.



DAILY SECURITY SCREENINGS

YEAR	YEARLY TOTAL	DAILY AVERAGE
2021	106,888	418
2022	121,212	472
2023	107,418	462
Yearly AVG	111,840	451

DAILY ACTIVITIES (SECURITY REQUEST/ARREST)

YEAR	SECURITY REQUESTS	ARRESTS
2021	53	164
2022	68	167
2023	190	214
Yearly AVG	104	182

Captain & Lieutenants

The Field Services Division is comprised of the following staff:

- 1 Captain
- 12 Lieutenants
- 9 Investigators
- 39 Deputies
- 1 Evidence Coordinator



**Captain
Todd Christie**



William Anthes

Captain & Lieutenants



Chris Braman



Lori Seiler



Craig Quick



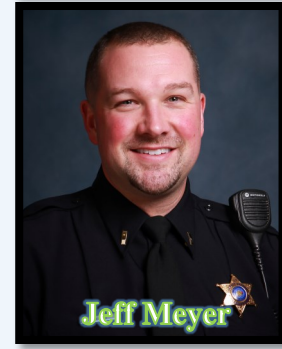
Darin Rice



Tim Dalle Nogare



Scott Rollo



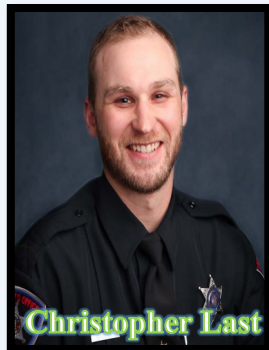
Jeff Meyer



Tyler Sleeter



Dean Pankratz



Christopher Last



Mike Sewall



Captain & Lieutenants



Captain & Lieutenants

Captain & Lieutenants

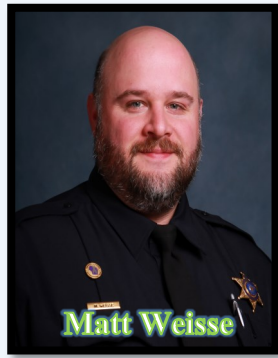
Captain & Lieutenants

Deputies

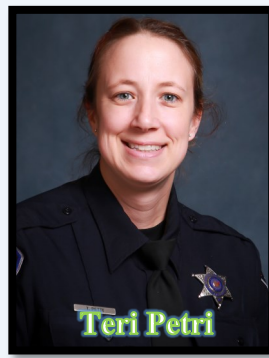
Deputies



Jason Rippl



Matt Weisse



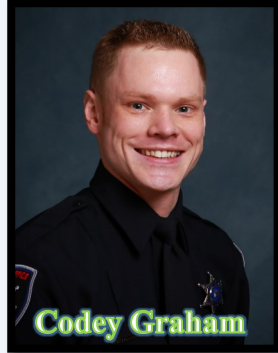
Teri Petri



Brad Vinje



Kyle Schoonover



Codey Graham



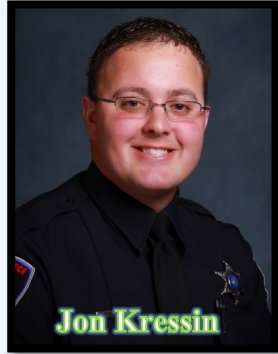
Robert Zill



Nick Beaman



John Gende



Jon Kressin



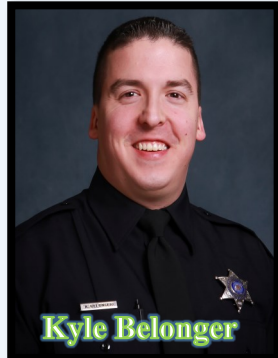
Ryan Miller



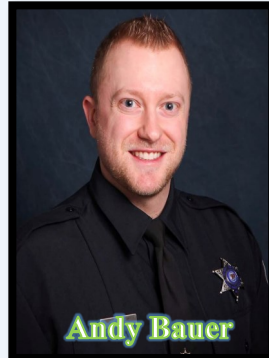
Eric Houle



Kyle Beck



Kyle Belonger



Andy Bauer



Chue Vue



Charlie Hebert



Tyler Wuest



Hunter Veness



Brent Exner

Deputies

Deputies

Deputies

Deputies

Deputies

Deputies

Deputies

Deputies



Jesse Simmons



Wesley Kubiak



Jacob Noffke



Alec Fenrich



Kyle Peotter



Gabriel Wildeman



Tyler Loyato



Braden Christie



Taylor Rasmussen



Nick Erickson



Sawyer Stehli



Josh Janikowski

Deputies

Deputies

Deputies

Deputies



Deputies

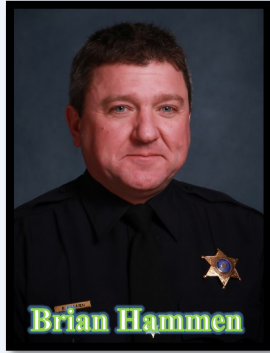
Deputies

Detectives

Detectives



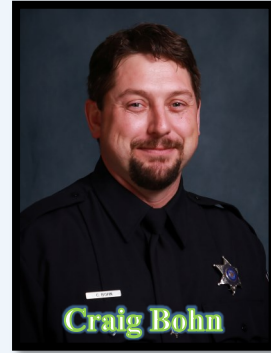
Ron Timm



Brian Hammen



Jack Theyerl



Craig Bohn



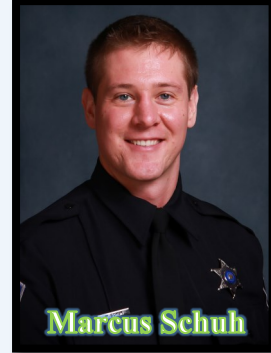
Kyle Schroeder



James Megna



Ryan Hathaway



Marcus Schuh



Chase Willis



Detectives

Detectives

Detectives

Detectives

Detectives

Detectives

COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION

The Winnebago County Sheriff's Office operates a county-wide Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP), or Communications Center, which is overseen by Communications Captain Lara Vendola-Messer and Communications Lieutenant Jesse Jensen. The PSAP is the only 911 PSAP in Winnebago County.

Within the PSAP, all public safety incidents and related radio traffic and phone calls are coordinated by an allotted 31 extensively trained dispatchers, with at least five dispatchers working at a time. Professional public safety dispatchers are responsible for continuously monitoring six primary radio talk groups assigned to law enforcement and fire departments within Winnebago County 24/7/365. The Winnebago County PSAP handles emergency (911) and non-emergency calls, radio communications, and dispatching resources and services for all law enforcement, fire, and emergency medical service providers within Winnebago County to include:

- ◆ 8 law enforcement agencies
- ◆ 15 fire departments
- ◆ 13 first responder groups
- ◆ 4 ambulance services

In order to maintain professional public safety dispatchers, each new dispatcher receives a minimum of 1,072 hours of on-the-job training, eight hours of CPR, 32 hours of Transaction Information Management of Enforcement (TIME) system certification, 24 hours of Emergency Medical Dispatch, and a minimum of 24 hours of continuing education every two years.



ANNUAL STATISTICS

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
911 Landline	2,749	3,494	7,917	7,536	7,646	8,161	8,618
911 Wireless	49,949	42,668	42,757	35,741	37,535	32,897	32,070
VOIP	4,776	4,915	X	X	X	X	X
911 Text	133	82	35	X	X	X	X
Total Incoming 911	57,607	51,159	50,709	43,277	45,181	41,058	40,688
Non-Emergency Calls	80,611	82,285	85,065	85,967	89,663	88,643	91,666
Outbound Calls	37,496	35,117	40,111	36,060	39,482	37,752	40,255
Total Phone Calls Handled	175,581	168,479	175,885	165,304	174,326	167,453	172,609
CAD Calls for Service	194,840	179,013	180,327	164,877	174,768	170,685	171,631



In 2023 the Winnebago County PSAP dispatched 194,840 calls for service to police, fire, and emergency medical services while averaging 534 calls for service per day, or 178 calls for service per shift.

In 2023 the Winnebago County PSAP handled 175,581 incoming and outgoing telephone calls while averaging 481 phone calls per day, or 160 phone calls per eight-hour shift.

The 911 call handling software can quickly capture the time it takes for a dispatcher to answer a 911 call from the time it rings in the PSAP. The generally accepted industry best practice standard for 911 call-answering times is that 90% of all 911 calls should be answered within 15 seconds and 95% should be answered within 20 seconds. We are proud to report that with the 57,474 911 calls in 2023, the PSAP answered 98.22% within 10 seconds, 99.69% within 15 seconds, 99.87% within 20 seconds, and 99.99% in under 40 seconds.



Radios

In 2019, the Communications Division began working on replacing our subscriber units (radios), which would reach end-of-life in 2023. With the Sheriff's support, the Communications Division embraced the role of project manager to replace all of the county-owned radios used by county departments on the Public Safety Communications System within Winnebago County, to include the Sheriff's Office, Highway Department, Facilities, Emergency Management, Winnebago County Public Health, the District Attorney's Office, and the Medical Examiner's Office.

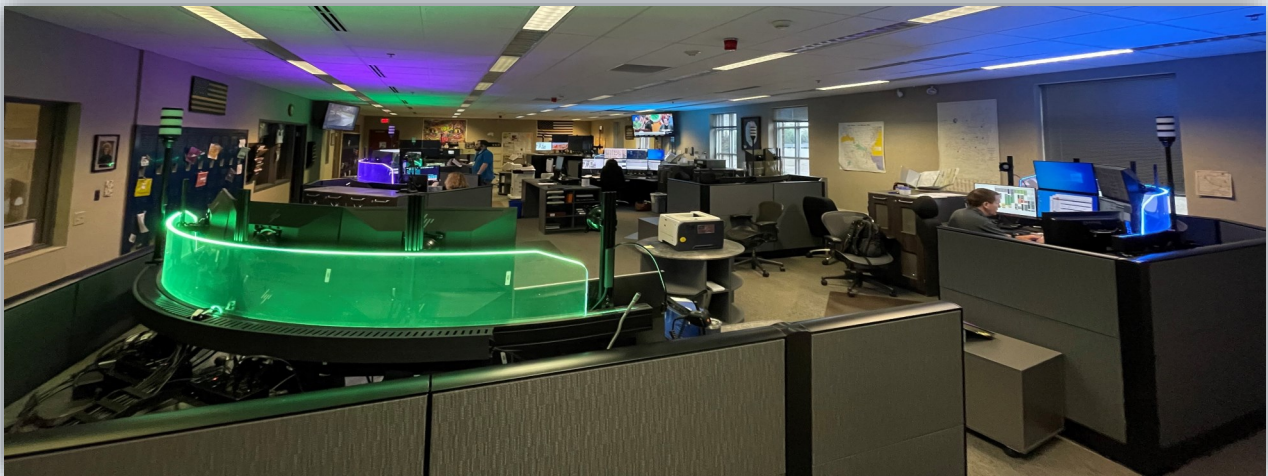
For a little bit of history, Winnebago County underwent a massive countywide radio system upgrade from 2011-2013. At that time, \$5 million was invested in the radio system infrastructure and an additional \$5.5 million was spent on subscriber unit radios (approximately 1,500) for all public safety entities in Winnebago County (all police and fire). The system adheres to federally mandated narrow banding standards, and is an 800 MHz P25 compliant Motorola Astro 25 system.

After much planning, the Sheriff's Office placed an order in 2023 of 422 radios for all county departments. The radios arrived in late fall and are being programmed and installed in phases. We would like to thank the ARPA Strategy and Outcomes Commission and the Winnebago County Board for authorizing monies from the Spirit Fund for this endeavor.

Console Workstations Remodel

The PSAP functions 24/7/365, and the console workstations that were original to the building (2003) were in dire need of replacement. Those consoles came with a five year warranty and a 10–12-year life expectancy. The PSAP was designed as self-contained and with floor room for expansion, although this has not been needed. There is a small kitchen and restrooms attached, along with the nine workstations (eight in primary Comm Center, and one in the adjacent Emergency Operations Center). The console workstations must be ergonomic and suitable for 24/7/365 use, and adjustable to fit 31 different employees operating two keyboards, two mice, and observing seven monitors per station. They must be designed to house very sensitive electronics and computer units. In short, the workstations are not pieces of simple office furniture.

After a competitive bidding process, the PSAP formed a small committee of Dispatchers to evaluate the responses. The committee looked at features, style, shape, layout, and overall aesthetic appearance and selected a vendor. After a very long two weeks of active construction in the PSAP, the workstations were completed in August.



The Future of Next Generation 911 (NG911)

A noteworthy trend highlighted in the statistics provided is the continual decline in 911 calls received from traditional landlines. In 2023, only 4.78% of all 911 calls originated from traditional landlines. Comparatively, a mere ten years ago in 2013, 24% of all 911 calls originated from traditional landlines. While antiquated technology, the records for landlines are maintained in databases, and are attached directly (via a hard wire) to physical properties. In simplest terms, it is very easy to look at a map and determine which properties belong to which 911 Comm Center, and landlines can be appropriately routed. This is wholly not the case for wireless and voice over internet protocol (VOIP) lines.

As fewer and fewer landlines exist, and reliance on GPS locations of devices continues to increase, this becomes crucial to understanding why nationwide improvements to the 911 system are ongoing today. The Winnebago County PSAP has been working diligently to move towards connecting to the Wisconsin Emergency Services IP Network (ESInet), which is currently slated for Q4 2024. In furtherance of this goal for Winnebago County, the PSAP staff has been working closely with the Winnebago County GIS Department to ensure data standards within the Winnebago County Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system will be ready for the future of NG911.

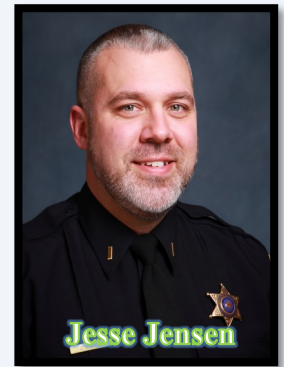
Captain & Lieutenant

The Communications Division is comprised of the following staff:

- 1 Captain
- 1 Lieutenant
- 1 Administrative Dispatcher in Charge
- 6 Dispatchers in Charge
- 24 Dispatchers
- 2 Public Safety Applications Administrators
- 1 Accountant

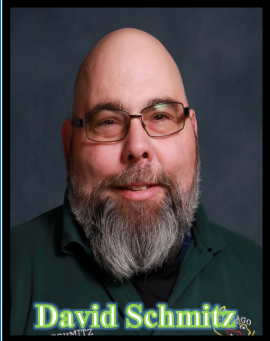


**Captain
Lara
Vendola-Messer**



Jesse Jensen

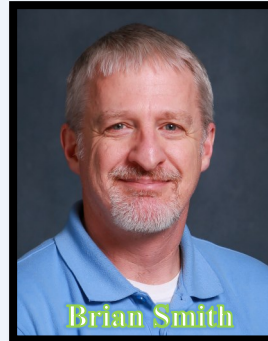
Captain & Lieutenant



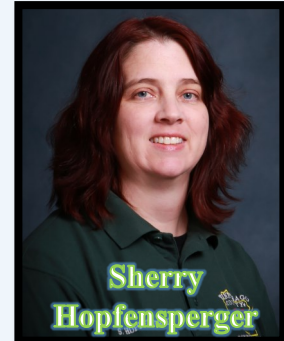
David Schmitz



Shelley Peters



Brian Smith



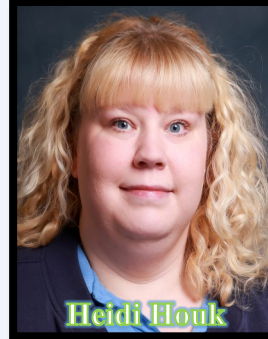
**Sherry
Hopfensperger**



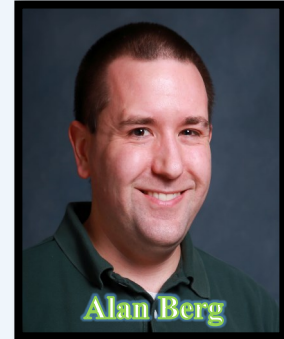
Nicole Binder



Karla Lee



Heidi Houk



Alan Berg



Camera Wright



Patty Williams



Kyle Nachman



Jennifer Davis



Julie Rhodes



Ashley Spratt



Allison Brown



Michelle TeStroete

Dispatchers

Dispatchers

Dispatchers

Dispatchers

Dispatchers

Dispatchers



Chandra Rhyner



Corey Hintz



Alex Servais



Luke Bachman



Adam Ott



Isabella Tremonti-Scopp



Grace Phillip



Kylie Kingery



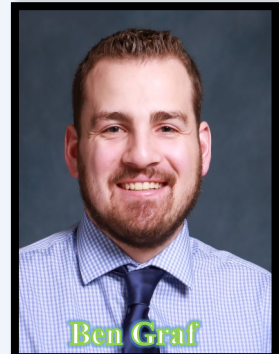
Amy Dalberg



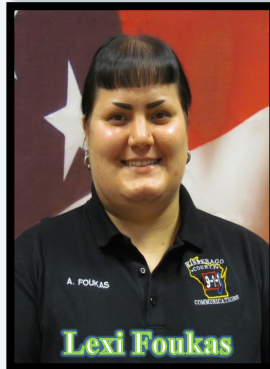
Dakota Ebert



Katilee Rhino



Ben Graf



Lexi Foukas



Dispatchers

Dispatchers

Dispatchers

Dispatchers

SOME HEROES WEAR CAPES OTHERS WEAR HEADSETS 911

Dispatchers

Dispatchers

SUPPORT SERVICES DIVISION

In 2023, as part of a restructuring of the Agency, the Sheriff's Office created the Support Services Division to better address the needs of our most valuable assets, the people who work here. The Support Services Division is overseen by Captain Greg Cianciolo and is comprised of the Training Unit, Records Unit, and the Reserve Unit. The Training and Reserve Units are overseen by Lieutenant Tim Eichman, and the Records Unit is overseen by Records Administrative Supervisor Kim Delcore.

The Support Services Division is employee-centric, and in 2023 heavily focused on recruitment, hiring, and employee wellness. Prior to the creation of the Division, such tasks were performed by multiple members of the Agency. The creation of the Division with dedicated personnel has resulted in a more cohesive, efficient, and effective effort.

To address the need to hire more employees, the Support Services Division has spent a considerable amount of time proactively seeking out candidates. The newly created Paid Internship Program, which may be the first of its kind, became a centerpiece of recruiting efforts within the local colleges and universities. The program resulted in nine interns being retained as full-time Corrections Deputies upon completion of their internships in 2023.

With specific personnel dedicated to hiring, applications are screened more often, selection processes are held more frequently, and candidates are hired quicker. As of the end of 2023, staffing levels were the best they have been in several years, with only a few vacant positions across the Agency.



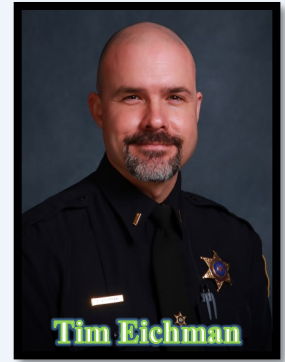
Understanding the correlation between employee wellness and effective service to the community, the Support Services Division built upon the existing Sheriff's Office Wellness Program. The pillars of the Program include Mental Health, Physical Wellbeing, and Resilience. Making sure our employees have the information and resources needed to navigate potential wellness challenges is a priority.

Wellness specific training was offered to all employees of the Sheriff's Office, to include Magnus Ovea Leadership presented by the National Command and Staff College. The training focused on enhancing wellbeing, resilience, and anti-fragility. Physical fitness facilities were updated, and four staff members attended Physical Fitness Trainer courses so employees wishing to live a healthier lifestyle have the resources to do so. A monthly newsletter was created to promote better communication across the Agency with a focus on recognition of employee accomplishments and information about wellness resources and self-improvement.

Captain & Lieutenant

The Support Services Division is comprised of the following staff:

- 1 Captain
- 1 Lieutenant
- 1 Records Administrative Supervisor
- 1 Records & Transcription Associate

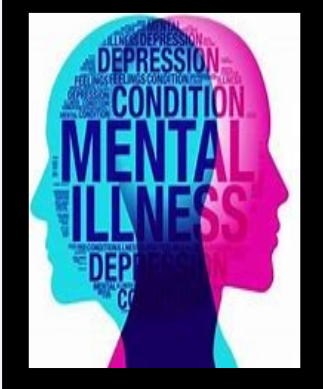


Captain & Lieutenant

Donna Schmitz

In support of the Winnebago County Sheriff's Office Wellness Program, the Agency contracts the services of Donna Schmitz, MA, LPC. Donna is the Agency's dedicated mental health professional and works at the Sheriff's Office eight hours per week. She is available to members of the Agency during weekly office hours, and on an as needed basis, in support of staff mental health and wellness. Donna provides coaching to improve resiliency and overall increases the capacity of the Sheriff's Office Employee Assistance Program (EAP). She also contributes to the monthly employee newsletter by authoring articles related to mental health and wellbeing, to provide staff relevant information to help them be at their best.

Each member of the Sheriff's Office meets with Donna annually for a wellness check-in. The annual meetings provide staff with an opportunity to discuss their current wellness and receive education and resources to help them thrive. The meetings also provide an opportunity for relationship building so that staff members may feel more comfortable seeking wellness-related services when additional resources are needed.



Mental Health Professional

Mental Health Professional

Mental Health Professional

Mental Health Professional

TRAINING UNIT

During 2023, training continued to be a main focus of the Sheriff's Office. Sheriff's Office training falls under the responsibility of Lieutenant Tim Eichman. To ensure staff receive pertinent, timely, and consistent training, the Sheriff's Office has a number of Wisconsin Department of Justice Training and Standards Certified instructors spread throughout the Agency's multiple divisions. Each year, all deputies undergo mandatory in-service training which includes Defense and Arrest Tactics (DAAT), Principles of Subject Control (POSC), firearms, and Tactical Response.



In the 2022-2023 State fiscal year, 125 deputies averaged 137.5 hours of training, exceeding the State of Wisconsin's recertification minimum of 24 hours. In 2023 the Sheriff's Office was able to send deputies to several notable trainings which included:

- ◆ A Corrections Lieutenant began the Wisconsin Department of Justice Command College
- ◆ Agency wide Magnus Ovea presented by Dr. Mitch Javidi
- ◆ FBI Basic Crisis Negotiator
- ◆ Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Certification
- ◆ Operation RUSH Conference
- ◆ Verbal De-Escalation and Conflict Resolution
- ◆ Finding the Leader in You



Additionally, all deputies assigned to the Corrections Division attend twelve additional hours of in-service training to ensure they are following current State of Wisconsin Department of Corrections rules, regulations, and best practices.

In 2023, the Sheriff's Office continued to submit monthly use of force data to the State of Wisconsin. This data is collected via the State's Use of Force and Arrest-Related Death Reporting system. This program is the State's conduit to the FBI's National Use of Force Data Collection program. Law enforcement agencies submit monthly use of force data through the Traffic and Criminal Software (TraCS) program. The Sheriff's Office has been in compliance with this reporting system since its inception in 2020 and has provided data to the State for each month this program has been operational.

Internally, the Sheriff's Office regularly conducts use of force reviews for incidents where force was used. Use of force requires the deputy to complete a separate reporting form. Use of force is preliminarily reviewed by a supervisor. Next, the Training Lieutenant, with oversight from the Chief Deputy, conducts an in-depth analysis of the incident to ensure that a deputy's actions were consistent with Winnebago County Sheriff's Office General Orders, applicable federal, state, and local laws, and the State of Wisconsin Defensive and Arrest Tactics (DAAT) System or the State of Wisconsin Principles of Subject Control (POSC) System.

The 2023 summary use of force data is as follows:

- ◆ Deputies from the Field Services Divisions of the Sheriff's Office responded to 51,167 incidents according to Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) records. 26 of those incidents, or 0.061%, resulted in force being used.
- ◆ Deputies from the Corrections Division of the Sheriff's Office responded to 569 formal incidents, which required a police report, according to CAD records. 12 of those incidents, or 2.1%, resulted in force being used.



The Sheriff's Office continues to conduct scenario-based training with role players which focuses on using interpersonal communication and de-escalation tactics to gain voluntary compliance when interacting with people. The statistics listed above confirm that the training we provide works as use of force by our deputies is not common.

SUPPORT STAFF

We have a myriad of support positions that are the backbone of the agency. These are crucial employees that work in an environment of controlled chaos while perpetually multitasking. Their tasks include troubleshooting technical issues, maintaining computer networks, performing financial transactions, organizing paperwork, classifying inmates, verifying warrants, typing and reviewing deputy reports, handling cash, filling open records requests, overseeing and setting up civil process, verifying traffic citations, coordinating the Agency's budget, onboarding and offboarding new employees, managing evidence and the property room, among many, many other tasks. They all possess strong communication skills in order to assist and communicate with customers, inmates, various departments, and other staff members. We could not do it without this group of dedicated professionals!



Sandy Schmidt
Corrections
Financial



Diane Groff
Traffic & Warrant
Associate



Becky Borowitz
Warrant & Electronic
Monitoring Associate



Jodi Noffke
GPS
Coordinator



Lynn Coe
Records
Transcription
Associate



Jennifer Weber
Inmate
Classification
Associate



Alicia Meyer
Work Release &
Records Unit
Supervisor



Cheryl Ryf
Financial
Associate I
(HSU)



Kimberly Delcore
Records
Administrative
Supervisor



Dustin Heideman
Public Safety
Application
Administrator



Heather Verwiel
Civil Process
Associate



Qiauna Ross
Accountant



Nathan Struensee
Public Safety
Application
Administrator



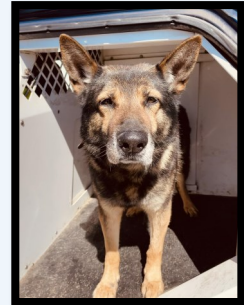
Renee Zemlock
Evidence &
Records
Administrator



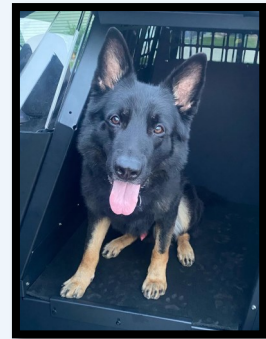
K9 UNIT

In 2023, the Winnebago County Sheriff's Office K9 Unit, which is overseen by Lieutenant Chris Braman, had a strong showing. For the first time in its history, the Agency ran with four teams for the entire calendar year, showing outstanding results.

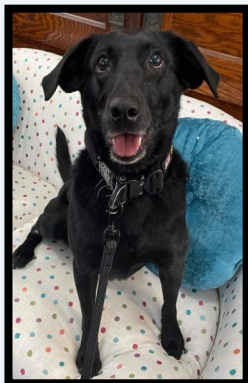
Starting with the senior pair is K9 Tim and his handler Deputy Kyle Schoonover. K9 Tim will be 12 years old in 2024 and had an excellent year. The team logged 44 deployments that included vehicle sniffs, school or building sniffs, suspect and/or lost person tracks, and community demonstrations. K9 Tim located methamphetamine, heroin, and THC, as well as recovered an illegal firearm. This team led the group with 25 arrests.



The team of K9 Athos and Deputy Charlie Hebert are protecting and serving on the night shift. They logged 33 deployments including 20 assist department calls, five tracks, and several apprehensions without bites. This team led the group by seizing over 140 grams of methamphetamine throughout the year.



K9 Haimo and his handler Deputy Jesse Simmons also had a very successful year. They logged 43 deployments and attended SWAT & K9's Interacting During Deployment School, along with K9 Athos and Deputy Hebert. K9 Haimo had multiple major deployments. The team apprehended an armed and fleeing homicide suspect, they successfully tracked a suspect from a robbery in Neenah to an apartment complex, and a fleeing suspect surrendered when K9 announcements were made and K9 Haimo was given the command to bark.



The Explosive Detection team of K9 Skylar and Deputy Robert Zill were the most active of all the teams this year. They logged 65 deployments, 14 of which were for evidence involving firearms or ammunition. K9 Skylar was also utilized for protective sweeps at events such as Wisconsin Herd games, EAA Air Venture, and University of Wisconsin Oshkosh sporting events.

All told, the four teams had over 180 deployments for the year. The community support for the Sheriff's Office K9 Unit continues to be strong and acts as a powerful motivation for our teams!



In late 2023, the Sheriff's Office K9 Unit was excited to add a new member. Meet K9 Gracie, a Facility K9. She will be working in the Corrections Division as part of the new STAR Program. Welcome Gracie!

SPECIAL TEAMS

SWAT TEAM

The Winnebago County Sheriff's Office Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) Team is overseen by Lieutenant Tyler Sleeter, Lieutenant Dean Pankratz, Lieutenant Christopher Last, and Deputy Robert Zill. SWAT Team members are on-call and are required to respond to critical incidents at a moment's notice. Their SWAT responsibilities and training are in addition to their regular job duties. SWAT Team members train a minimum

of 16 hours per month to maintain a high level of proficiency in the skills needed to resolve high-risk incidents. The SWAT Team participates in full-scale training with the Crisis Negotiators multiple times per year.

The SWAT Team is a multi-jurisdictional team having 19 members from agencies throughout the County. The team is currently comprised of the following:

- 14 Winnebago County Sheriff's Deputies
- 2 Village of Fox Crossing Police Officers
- 1 City of Menasha Police Officer
- 1 University of Wisconsin Oshkosh Police Officer

Winnebago County is designated by the State of Wisconsin as a Type 2 SWAT Team and serves as one of nine regional SWAT Teams in the state under the Aligned Law Enforcement Response Team (ALERT) system. This designation places specific requirements on team members for training, fitness, and operational

capabilities. As a regional team, Winnebago County receives funding for equipment and training through the Department of Homeland Security. Team members have received Master Instructor certifications for various tactical disciplines and are required to provide regional training to other SWAT Teams. Additionally, they are often called upon to give advice and guidance on other law enforcement operations.

SWAT Team personnel were called out 13 times in 2023. Mutual aid requests from other agencies were the most prevalent reason for team activation. Requests included delivery and deployment of specialty equipment and team assistance for other agencies during tactical incidents in their jurisdictions.

Mission Capable/Critical Incident Call Types Include:

- ◆ Hostage Rescue Situations
- ◆ Armored Rescue Vehicle Operations
- ◆ Armed Barricaded Subjects
- ◆ Tactical Tracking and Woodland Terrain Operations
- ◆ Execution of High-Risk Search/Arrest Warrants
- ◆ High-Risk Apprehension Operations
- ◆ High-Risk Security Operations
- ◆ Counter Sniper/VIP Protection Details
- ◆ Other Situations Where the Likelihood of Armed Resistance Appears Great



CRISIS NEGOTIATOR TEAM

The Winnebago County Sheriff's Office Crisis Negotiator Team, which is overseen by Lieutenant Mitchell Grube and Lieutenant Ross Johnson, is a multi-jurisdictional unit comprised of deputies and officers from partner agencies. The unit consists of 12 team members who are on-call and required to respond to critical incidents at a moment's notice. Each member of the team attends a 40-hour Basic Crisis Negotiation Course taught by the FBI, or the National Tactical Officers Association (NTOA). This training teaches team members the art of active listening, communication, and managing people in a crisis. The primary focus is ending an incident peacefully. All team members also complete Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training and attend various interview and interrogation courses.



The Crisis Negotiator Team trains a minimum of 40 hours each year. Annual training focuses on equipment use, negotiation fundamentals, and scenario-based role-playing. Members also train with the SWAT Team at least three times each year. These joint trainings are crucial in testing the overall capacity of both teams. The Crisis Negotiator Team is also responsible for transporting and setting up the Winnebago County Command Post during high-risk incidents.

MOBILE FIELD FORCE



In 2023, the Winnebago County Sheriff's Office transitioned from having a dedicated Mobile Field Force to providing training to all law enforcement certified members. The transition was overseen by Lieutenant Jeff Meyer. The decision to expand this specialized training was made after assessing reviews of several recent civil disturbance events in Wisconsin. Providing standardized mobile field force training and protective equipment for first responders became a priority.

Deputies were trained in the curriculum and standards created by the Federal Emergency Management Administration's (FEMA) Center for Domestic Preparedness. Learning objectives included legal considerations for responding to civil unrest, current protester tactics, and mass arrest procedures. The training focused on utilizing group tactics, special protective equipment, and formations to control large gatherings of people with the goal to protect lives and property during an unlawful assembly. The Sheriff's Office remains committed to responding professionally and is well-prepared to fulfill this statutory requirement. In 2023, the Sheriff's Office did not respond to any civil unrest incidents.

DIVE RESCUE/ RECOVERY TEAM



The Winnebago County Sheriff's Office Dive Team, which is overseen by Lieutenant Dean Pankratz and Sergeant Jason Durrant, responds to requests for services within Winnebago County and surrounding jurisdictions when mutual aid requests are received. The Dive Team is tasked with underwater evidence collection and victim rescue/recovery incidents. Members complete a minimum of 96 hours of training per year to maintain dive proficiencies. The 10 member team is comprised of sworn personnel of the Sheriff's Office from multiple Divisions of the Agency.

The Dive Team responded to four callouts in 2023. These incidents included responding to human remains located in Little Lake Butte des Morts, assisting the Green Lake County Sheriff's Office with a missing person in Green Lake, assisting Winnebago County Sheriff's Office Detectives in a cold case investigation, and response to an aircraft crash in Lake Winnebago.

The aircraft crash in Lake Winnebago proved to be an extremely complex incident and unfortunately resulted in the death of two individuals. Due to the severity of damage sustained by the aircraft, it took several days to recover both victims of this incident, and much longer to recover the remainder of the aircraft itself. Throughout this incident the Sheriff's Office was assisted by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, the Sturgeon Bay Fire Department, and Radtke's Construction who assisted with the use of special equipment and personnel.

BOAT PATROL

The Winnebago County Sheriff's Office Marine Unit is overseen by Lieutenant Tim Eichman and is comprised of three boats. The Marine Units are tasked with patrol and emergency response to 140 square miles of navigable

waterways in Winnebago County. These waterways consist of Lake Winnebago, Lake Butte des Morts, Lake Poygan, Lake Winneconne, Little Lake Butte des Morts, and the Fox and Wolf Rivers. During the navigational season each Marine unit is staffed with two deputies for patrol and enforcement, generally on weekends and holidays from Memorial Day to Labor Day. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources continues to reimburse the Sheriff's Office for time spent on enforcement and accident investigation.

For the fastest emergency response to rescue calls on the north end of Lake Winnebago, the Sheriff's Office continues to share access to one of its boats with Neenah Menasha Fire Rescue. This boat is stored at Neenah Menasha Fire Station 32, in the City of Neenah. For dive and recovery operations the Winnebago County Sheriff's Office Dive Rescue/Recovery Team also utilizes the marine units.



2023 Boat Patrol Numbers:

26 Citations

50 Warnings

90 Safety Inspections

7 Vessels Assisted

654 Boat Hours worked

ACCIDENT RECONSTRUCTION TEAM

The Winnebago County Sheriff's Office Accident Reconstruction Team, which is overseen by Lieutenant Lori Seiler and Lieutenant Craig Quick, responds to serious injury and fatal crashes. They can

also be requested for major crime scenes when forensic mapping is deemed beneficial to the investigation. Team members use laser scanners and global navigation satellite systems for forensic mapping purposes. They use computer hardware to extract crash data from vehicle systems and computer software to generate diagrams and drawings of the scenes.

The team works closely with the Winnebago County District Attorney's Office and the Sheriff's Office Investigations Unit to investigate each crash. Team members have advanced training that assists in developing a sequence of events to aid the District Attorney's Office as criminal cases are evaluated. The completed investigations are used to help determine if criminal charges are warranted.

The Winnebago County Accident Reconstruction Team is a multi-jurisdictional team currently comprised of:

- 2 Lieutenants
- 1 Reconstructionist
- 4 Sheriff's Office Deputies
- 1 Menasha Police Officer
- 1 Assistant District Attorney

Besides responding to incidents within the Sheriff's Office jurisdiction, the team also assists municipal police agencies within the county when requested. The Winnebago County Crash Investigation Team responded to 17 different crashes and crime scenes in 2023.



CHAPLAINS

The Winnebago County Sheriff's Office Chaplain Program is comprised of 14 volunteers who are ordained or licensed ministers of local congregations, or individuals who have achieved basic certification from the American Police Chaplains Association. Members of the program provide 24/7 coverage through an on-call rotation. When requested, the Chaplains provide spiritual guidance, pastoral counseling, ministry, and comfort to those experiencing crisis or loss. They can also provide food, fuel, blankets, and short-term shelter for individuals that have been displaced or have no money.

The Chaplains were utilized multiple times throughout 2023. These activations included assisting Sheriff's Office and Winnebago County Medical Examiner personnel with death notifications, providing spiritual aid and comfort to individuals whose loved ones passed, and helping to secure lodging for individuals involved in critical incidents.

HONOR GUARD

The Winnebago County Sheriff's Office Honor Guard is overseen by Detective Marcus Schuh and Deputy John Gende. The Team is comprised of 10 Deputies who are dedicated to representing the Agency at police memorial services, funeral services, parades, processions, and posting of colors. Each May, the Honor Guard attends the Law Enforcement Memorial service in Madison during Police Week to honor all fallen officers.



DRONE TEAM

The Winnebago County Sheriff's Office Drone Team, which is overseen by Lieutenant Jeff Meyer and Sergeant John Penza, is comprised of deputies and civilian staff members from various divisions throughout the Agency. All team members are Federal Aircraft Administration (FAA) certified pilots for small, unmanned aircraft systems. The Drone Team consists of 10 members who are on-call for response and work in tandem to safely deploy the unmanned aircraft systems in accordance with FAA regulations.

In 2023, the team responded to 28 law enforcement incidents that included search and rescue, accident reconstruction, tactical surveillance, and crime scene analysis. The team utilizes software to manage all drone flights, pilot hours, and team training to comply with Agency policies. The Drone Team incorporates secure, live-streaming functionality for drone flights to assist incident commanders in their decision making.



SPECIAL EVENTS

EAA AIRVENTURE



As in years past, the Winnebago County Sheriff's Office provided law enforcement services within the grounds of the 2023 EAA AirVenture event held July 24-July 30. An average of 16 deputies provided 24-hour coverage during the event.

While the majority of deputies were assigned to the main EAA event grounds, the Sheriff's Office Dive Rescue/Recovery Team staffed a marine unit at the EAA Sea Plane base located in the Town of Black Wolf. Dive Team members were present to provide an emergent response in the event of an incident on Lake Winnebago. In addition, two dispatchers were assigned each day to handle the increased radio traffic volume associated with such a large event.

AirVenture 2023 set yet another attendance record with an estimated 677,000 people attending the weeklong event. EAA management estimated a total of 13,000 airplane and drive-in campsites that were utilized, accounting for an estimated 50,000 attendees. These camping numbers do not, however, account for the private campgrounds surrounding the EAA grounds.

Deputies working AirVenture 2023 responded to 428 calls for service. This was a 35% increase from the 318 calls for service deputies responded to in 2022. On Saturday July 29th deputies responded to a single aircraft accident on Lake Winnebago, as well as a mid-air collision involving two aircrafts. Unfortunately, these two incidents resulted in four fatalities and critical injuries to two other individuals.



COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) has been a steadfast component of the Sheriff's Office outreach efforts since 1989. The specially trained deputy assigned to DARE teaches in 10 Winnebago County schools to over 750 students each year, presenting two distinct programs based upon age levels. The commonly known 5th grade curriculum is an 11 week program, and the more specialized middle school program is seven weeks. Each program focuses on healthy decision-making skills, social and emotional learning, and overall coping and resistance strategies.



The Winnebago County Sheriff's Office participated in several community events to include:

- ◆ Leadership Oshkosh Law Enforcement Day
- ◆ Boots vs. Badges Basketball Game
- ◆ Several Special Olympics Events
- ◆ Winnebago County Fair 4-H
- ◆ OPD Mental Health 5K
- ◆ Boy Scout Troop Tours
- ◆ Special Olympics Torch Run



CITIZENS' ACADEMY

The Winnebago County Sheriff's Office conducted its 8th annual Law Enforcement Citizens' Academy in 2023. 13 citizens were provided the opportunity to interact with members of the Sheriff's Office and learn how and why the Sheriff's Office operates. Students also sampled the culture of law enforcement and examined the organization as a whole. The 13-week academy provided access to the five areas of the agency to include Administration, Communications, Corrections, Detectives, and Patrol. The academy consists of both classroom and interactive hands-on instruction.

Past participants in the Citizens' Academy have formed an Alumni Association and meet semi-annually to provide additional training for members, as well as assist the Sheriff's Office during events as needed. The Sheriff's Office is scheduling another academy to begin in August 2024. Applications will be available on our website as well as via a link on our social media pages.



SOCIAL MEDIA

The Sheriff's Office remains active with our social media presence. The platforms have provided a cost-effective mechanism to be proactive with community education, outreach, and public relations. Social media has also proven effective in delivering valuable real-time information to followers during emergency situations and routinely is the first source that community members look to for reliable information.

We welcome interaction with the community and invite citizens to message our pages with questions or content suggestions.



NOW HIRING

The Winnebago County Sheriff's Office is recruiting intelligent, open-minded candidates with a variety of life experiences to do important and challenging work as members of our team. Ideal candidates will be motivated individuals who are critical thinkers, problem solvers, and excellent communicators. The Sheriff's Office mission is to provide comprehensive public safety services in partnership with citizens to promote a safe and secure community. Emphasis is placed on professionalism, teamwork, and individual growth. The Sheriff's Office strives to be a leader within the public safety community and values integrity, fairness, and compassion.



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_LeonF4qhFQ