



Press Release

Date: May 19, 2015

Re: Awards, recognition, and room dedication

At a May 14th ceremony several Neenah Police Department employees were recognized for significant acts or service. Recipients included the following:

**25 years of service at NPD: Lieutenant Shaun O’Bre
Officer Marly Heiting**

**“Outstanding Arrest” award: Lieutenant Kathy Voelker
Officer Wes Bone**

Both officers were awarded for their work in recovering over 10 pounds of marijuana and other drugs during a routine traffic stop in February 2015.

“Exceptional Service” award: Officer Pat Pedersen

Officer Pedersen was recognized for his years of creative and effectual service as a school liaison officer, serving on countless boards, committees, and project groups, and recently being appointed President of the Wisconsin Juvenile Officers’ Association

“Officer of the Year” award: Officer Wes Bone

Officer Bone received the department’s highest award for sworn officers as a result of his compassion, positive attitude, work ethic, and inspiration to other officers.

In addition to the department awards, the event focused on the official naming of the “D. J. Forcey Jr. Community Room” at the police department.

The community room is a large meeting room adjacent to the police department lobby that is available for group meetings. Users of the room have included sports organizations, faith-based project teams, AODA coalitions, animal welfare groups, crime prevention organizations, and many law enforcement groups. The room also serves as a public voting site and as an emergency operations center for city leaders during large-scale incidents.

NEENAH’S GUARDIANS

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Former Neenah Police Chief D. J. Forcey Jr. and his wife, Linda, were present for the event. Chief Forcey led the department from 1986-2004, after being promoted to the top spot while serving as the department's first school liaison officer. Under Chief Forcey's visionary leadership, many new programs and facilities were initiated, including the design and erection of the current police building and the placement of the skate park.

The community room itself became a point of contention for city leaders during the design phase of the new building. Chief Forcey advocated strongly for the inclusion of the room, and was passionate about having a place within the police department where citizens could come and enjoy positive interactions with police employees.

At the naming ceremony, current NPD chief Kevin Wilkinson extolled the leadership of Chief Forcey, and asserted that Forcey had "professionalized" the department during his tenure. D. J. then took a few moments to recognize the team of fellow employees that made him successful, and recognized the high level of quality service that current NPD employees provide. As a recent crime victim himself, he explained how impressed he was with the compassion and expertise of Neenah officers who responded to his call. He described feeling tremendous pride when he sees the Neenah Police Department continue its pursuit of excellence and caring service.



Lt. Kathy Voelker, Officer Wes Bone, and Officer Pat Pedersen with their department awards.

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Chief Kevin Wikinson and former chief D. J. Forcey Jr. in the newly named community room.



Former chief D. J. Forcey Jr. at the community room named in his honor.

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