

City of Neenah Police Department

2009 Annual Report



Connected
with our
Community



From Chief Kevin Wilkinson



The motto written on the door of LAPD squads back in the 1960's was, "To Protect and To Serve." That motto is still on their squads today. Most modern police departments (ours included) have new, aggrandized mission statements. Too often, they fall into the trap of trying to fit all their policing models and values into a single statement. The result is usually a couple of run-on sentences that are full of catch phrases, but wouldn't impress any grammar teacher.

But if we really focus on mission -what we exist for- rather than feel-good phrases, we should distill a pretty clear purpose for our existence: to protect life, property, and rights. That is what we do. Community policing, being proactive, creating partnerships, holding a high ethical standard; all of these are methods, not mission. They are means to success, but not measures of success.

We are scored on our ability to protect life, property, and rights.

When we issue a traffic ticket to a speeder, or deploy a Taser to disarm a suicidal subject, it is for the specific purpose of protecting life. When we use DNA matching to put a burglar in jail or respond to a warehouse alarm in the middle of the night it is for the specific purpose of protecting property. When we restrain ourselves from searching without a warrant, when we release the "attitude" guy without a citation, when we police ourselves... it is for the specific purpose of protecting rights.

That's what we do.

Sure, there are a number of tangential duties we perform that are not as core to the mission. We give station tours, we unlock cars, we enforce the overnight parking ordinance. But we know those fractal activities build relationships of trust that make us more effective in accomplishing our primary mission.

So maybe instead of a mission statement that is long-winded and hard to memorize, we should aim for a simple motto that sums up what we really exist for.

Perhaps something like, "To Protect and To Serve."

Hey, haven't I heard that somewhere before?

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, and will remain
loyal to my community and
the agency I serve.*

Neenah Police Department Mission Statement

The Neenah Police Department,
in partnership with our community,
will provide excellent
customer service through
proactive problem solving efforts
which protect life and property
while enhancing the
quality of life enjoyed by
the citizens of Neenah.

Guiding Principles

The Neenah Police Department will follow these six guiding principles:

1. We will abide by our priorities...God, family, work.
2. We recognize our employees as the Neenah Police Department's most valued resource.
3. We will strive for excellence in all that we do.
4. We will provide an exceptional work environment that stimulates professional growth, embraces diversity, promotes innovation, and emphasizes mutual respect among all team members.
5. We will maintain uncompromising standards relating to honesty, integrity, and impartiality as we uphold the law and protect the constitutional rights of our citizens.



6. We will develop collaborative community relationships that enable us to adapt to the changing needs and demands of society.

Values Statement #1

“We will abide by our priorities: God, family, work.”

Some may find it odd that a government organization lists God as the most important priority. “Aren’t you promoting a type of religion by saying that? Aren’t you infringing on the separation of church and state?” they may ask.

The simple answer is, “No.”

The most important questions of life are “Who am I?” and “Why am I here?” Those are questions of faith. Not one particular faith, and not even dependent upon a belief in a higher power. But until we wrestle out our own answers to those provoking, essential questions, we have no foundation to structure our lives upon.

Mankind needs a framework to think from, to learn values from, to build character from. For many, that framework has come in the form of organized religion, whether Muslim, Christian, Jewish, Buddhist, or any other organization founded upon belief in deity. For others, the framework comes in the form of philosophy and humanism.

But without some foundation, religious or not, mankind is ungrounded, untethered, adrift. That’s not what we want in our employees. The questions about existence and purpose must be answered before one can achieve trustworthiness, honor, and loyalty. Indeed, a man or woman’s answer to the question, “Why am I here?” may very well be the incentive to pursuing a career in law enforcement.

And that framework will help them decide what a family should be, and how it should function. Clearly then, faith is the foundation upon which both family and career should be built. It must be priority one.

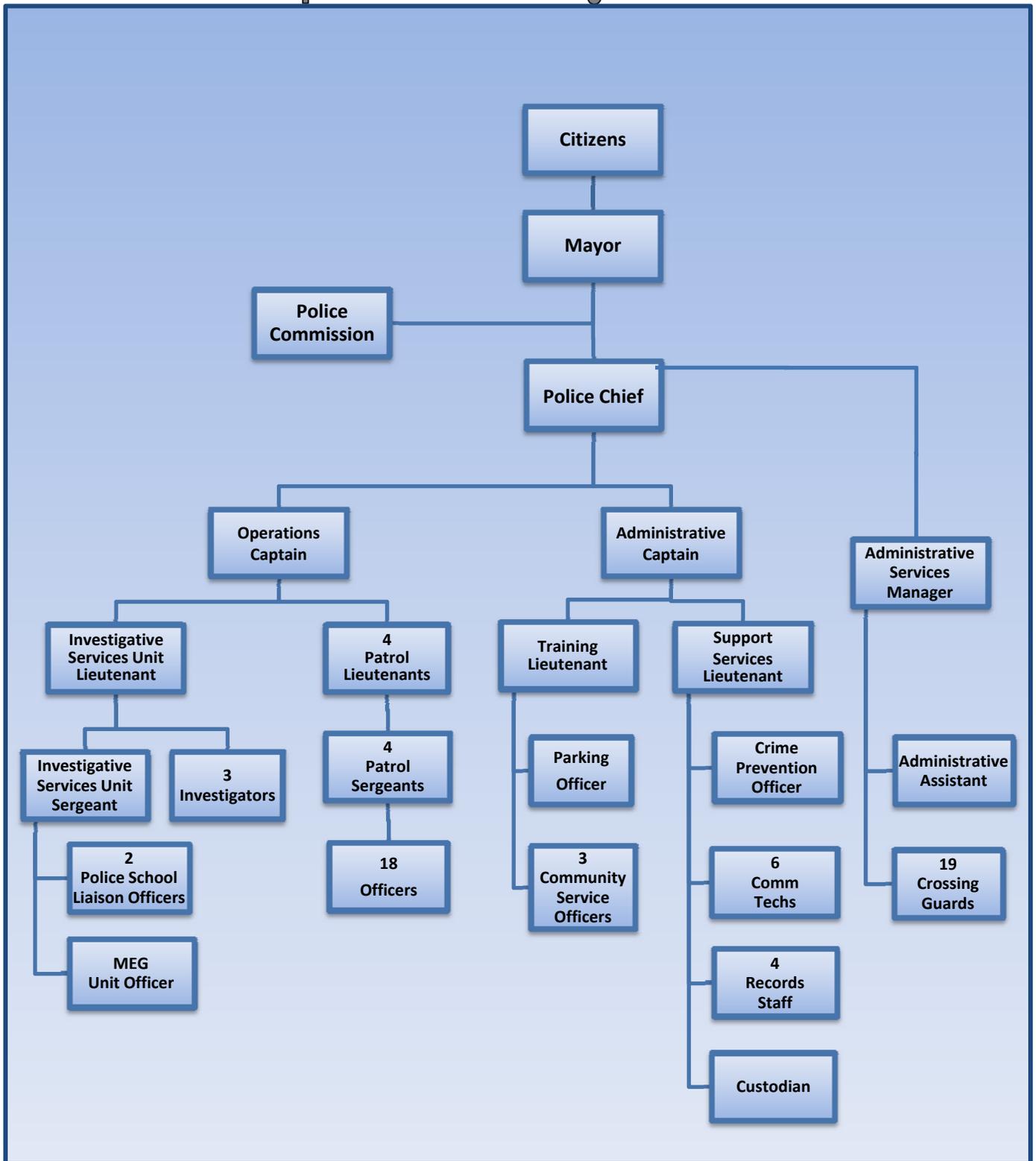
We also believe family should hold a higher priority in a person’s life than work. Police work in particular has traditionally been hard on families, and has led to many divorces and other family turmoil. We don’t want that to be the case for our employees.

The simplest way to spotlight the prioritization of family and work is to ask, “If the two come in conflict, which would you be willing to give up?” We want our employees to understand that their families are more important than their work.

God, family, work: it’s a recipe for success that has been practiced by people and organizations for millennia, including the Green Bay Packers under the leadership of Coach Vince Lombardi.

No, we’re not trying to proselytize. We’re trying to prioritize.

Neenah Police Department - 2009 Organization Chart





Chief Wilkinson was sworn in during the City of Neenah Council Meeting on May 20, 2009, with his wife, Karla, holding the family bible.

Appointments

02/23/2009

Brandia L. Kutchek
Communications Tech

Lindsay K. Petrack
Communications Tech

05/26/2009

Kevin E. Wilkinson
Chief of Police

Promotions

10/12/2009

Chad J. Gruenstern
Patrol Sergeant

Retirements

06/03/2009

Raymond W. Appel



Brandia and Lindsay assuming their new Comm Tech positions at the front desk.

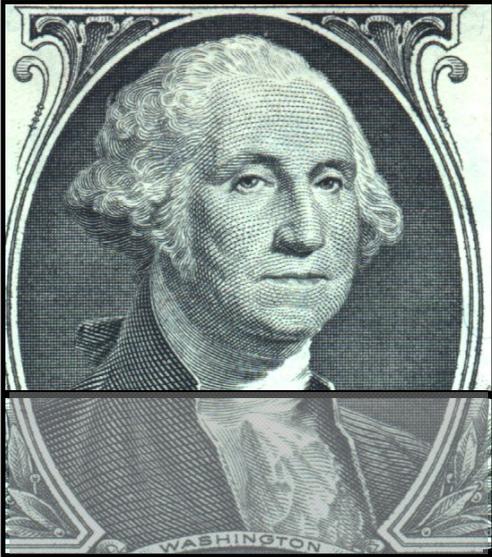


Ray Appel retired on 6/3/2009.



Chad Gruenstern was promoted to Patrol Sergeant on 10/12/2009

Budget



Many people have misunderstandings about how various taxes are used to fund services. The following question and answer discussion is intended to help clarify many of the misunderstood tax and budget facts.

Q: How much of my property tax dollar goes to fund city services?

A: About 34%, or just over a third. The remainder goes to the school district, the county, Fox Valley Technical College, and the State of Wisconsin.

Q: What about the sales tax I pay at the store? How much of that goes to the City of Neenah?



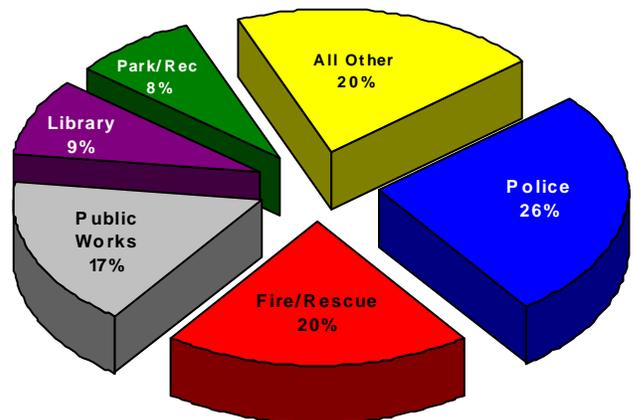
A: None of the sales tax in Winnebago County stays local. It is all forwarded to the State of Wisconsin.

Q: How much of the City's operational budget goes to police services?

A: About 26% of the city's operations costs can be attributed to the police department. Police, Fire/Rescue, and Public Works account for well over half of operational expenses, primarily because those departments have the largest numbers of employees.

Q: How does the police department use its funds?

A: As with most organizations, the bulk of expenses are wage and benefit related. We also purchase uniforms, gasoline, vehicle repairs, evidence materials, office supplies, training supplies, and many other types of equipment. But not all of it is paid for by taxpayers. The Neenah Police Department aggressively seeks grants and outside donations to support special projects. In 2009 we received over \$20,000 in grants, and found alternative funding sources for special programs.



Operations

While on your way to work, you spot a pair of Neenah police officers engaged in some kind of traffic stop along the side of the road. Instinctively, you glance at your speedometer and ease up on the gas pedal.

Then you see the officers' faces. You recognize them, but struggle to remember why they look so familiar. Your mind races with possibilities:

- *Was he my daughter's soccer coach?*
- *Was she the soloist at that wedding last weekend?*
- *Didn't I see him playing a guitar in the praise band at church?*
- *Is she the gal who volunteers at the Boys' & Girls' Brigade?*
- *Was that the man who was in the coffee shop yesterday with his granddaughter?*
- *Isn't she the freshman girls' basketball coach?*
- *I think he taught my son's hunter safety course last year.*
- *Wait, no... isn't he my child's karate instructor?*
- *Maybe she is the one I saw mentoring kids at the YMCA after school.*
- *Hmmm... maybe he's the father of one of my son's friends... Ryan's dad?*

Interestingly, not only are all of these plausible, they are true descriptions of Neenah police officers. We are coaches, mentors, volunteers, instructors, musicians, mothers, fathers, and even grandparents.

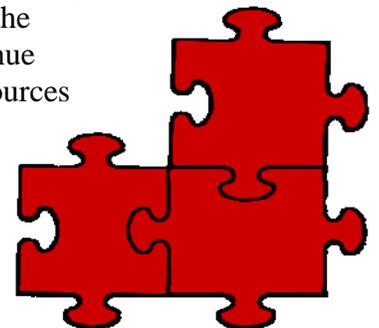
Neenah Police Officers proudly wear the uniform and badge that makes them highly visible on the streets as public servants. They are; however, also engaged with the community in many quieter roles that extend far beyond the job. Professionally, we are honored to focus on principles of fairness, service, and justice. Personally, we count it a privilege to find ways to connect with our community and let our talents positively impact others.



2009 was filled with many operational successes as well as some significant challenges. A few of the highlights include:

- *NPD was fully staffed for the first time in many years.*
- *Six new squad cars were put into service with a modern black & silver design.*
- *Calls for service continued to increase, up 10% over the prior 4-year average.*
- *Violent crimes were lower than in 2008, but we investigated 25% more property crimes*
- *A partnership with the Town of Menasha Police Department improved our computer forensic investigative capabilities through training and joint hardware and software acquisitions.*
- *Officers completed the first full year of traffic enforcement using electronic citations.*
- *Traffic contacts increased by over 12%, and traffic collisions decreased by a similar percentage.*
- *Our MEG (drug unit) officer participated in some major investigations, warrants, and arrests, several of which he was the lead investigator for.*
- *Our officers had regular, positive interaction with children in each school.*

Throughout 2010, we will work closely with our partners in neighboring jurisdictions and in the community to continue maximizing our resources and improving services.



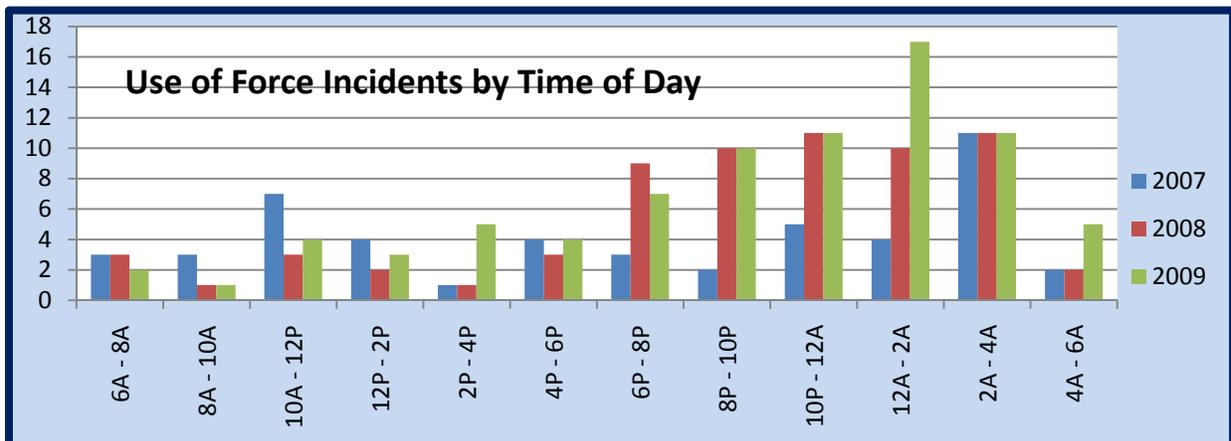
Use of Force Report

The Neenah Police Department carefully tracks each officer's use of force, even in minor incidents. A use of force may be the use of light or heavy physical control, pepper spray, electronic control device (commonly referred to as a Taser), baton, or handgun. It also includes the threat of some of these tools, even if they are not actually used. For example, an officer may point an electronic control device at an assaultive subject who then becomes compliant, even though the device is not activated. Similarly, officers may be at the scene of a silent alarm and begin clearing the building with handguns drawn when they come upon a person who is legitimately at the location. All of those would be applications of force that require separate documentation by our employees.

Annual Comparison	2007	2008	2009
Total Number of Reports	67	105	121
Physical Incidents	49	72	65
Taser Deployment	7	9	9
Threats of Taser Use.	8	15	29
OC Deployment.	2	0	0
Other Threats	1	9	18

In 2009, there were 80 documented instances of force used by Neenah Police Officers. In many of those, more than one officer displayed or used force resulting in multiple force reports for a single incident. Some highlights from the year's data include:

- There were no uses of pepper spray by Neenah police officers the entire year.
- Electronic Control Devices (ECDs) were deployed 9 times, and threatened to be used 29 times.
- Firearms were pointed at subjects 18 times (but not fired).
- More than 75% of the incidents involved physical force, such as control holds or overcoming resistance to handcuffing.
- More than 75% of the incidents occurred on night shift (6 p.m. to 6 a.m.).
- 80% of the subjects being controlled or restrained were male.
- The overwhelming majority of people who were subjected to force were Caucasian
- The median age of a person subjected to force was 25 years.
- The oldest person subjected to force was an intoxicated 75-year-old man who was ransacking a house and at one point had armed himself with a knife. Officers restrained his arms and put him on the floor for handcuffing.
- The youngest person subjected to force was a raging 8-year-old boy whose mother was attempting to restrain him. Officers used physical restraint on the boy and held him to the ground until he could be restrained on an ambulance gurney and transported to the hospital



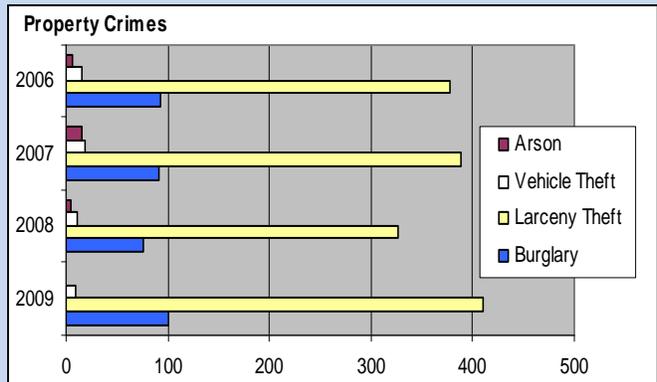
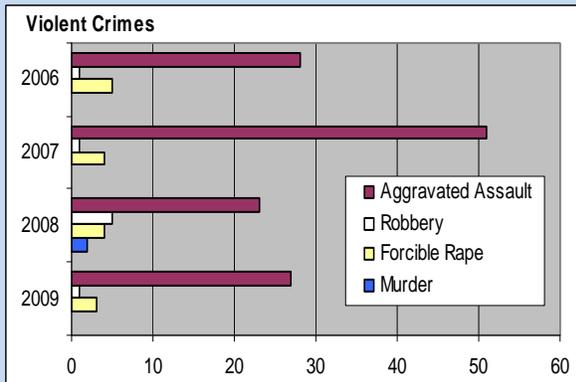
2009 Calls for Service & 4-Year Comparison

Incident Type	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	09 YTD	08 YTD	07 YTD	06 YTD
Crimes	217	183	246	203	267	270	251	324	271	236	198	190	2856	2820	3122	2940
Ordinance Violations	99	109	119	97	118	138	200	105	118	107	87	80	1377	1369	1455	1414
Traffic	346	441	439	451	406	420	550	621	335	316	320	374	5019	4459	3849	3543
Services & Assists	614	554	629	687	770	749	784	793	727	649	643	591	8190	8024	8388	7402
Medical	64	45	71	63	62	75	59	69	72	84	51	58	773	811	676	668
Other	23	16	27	21	21	20	23	16	21	21	15	20	244	286	315	413
TOTALS	1363	1348	1531	1522	1644	1672	1867	1928	1544	1413	1314	1313	18459	17769	17805	16380

Yearly Comparison of Police Activity by Category

Category	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	05-08 Average	% Change 2009 to Avg
Disturbances/Assaults w/o victim/damage	1594	1582	1706	1580	1443	1578	1.0%
Disturbances/Assaults with victim/damage	422	476	629	600	538	561	-25.0%
Theft/Fraud Incidents	1122	1000	1060	1062	991	1028	9.1%
Emergency Assists	1597	1639	1545	1506	1399	1522	4.9%
Non-Emergency Assists	4986	4839	4964	4224	4089	4529	10.1%
Quality of Life Activities	1054	1195	1127	1203	1154	1170	-9.9%
Traffic and Parking	5385	4789	4210	3817	3945	4190	28.5%
Juvenile Related Calls	856	845	1006	922	730	876	-2.3%
Alcohol / Drug Incidents	343	394	378	393	353	380	-9.6%

Wisconsin Unified Crime Report – Index Offenses for the City of Neenah





COMMUNITIES/LAW ENFORCEMENT BENEFIT FROM RESOURCE SHARING TO SOLVE CRIMES

2009 was highlighted by a number of major cases being solved through cooperation between area law enforcement agencies, as well as information-sharing between police and community members.

There was perhaps no greater example of community involvement crucial to an investigation than that of people assisting with the investigation of a hit-and-run death last September. Wal-Mart security personnel worked tirelessly to retrieve video of the incident, which they turned over to law enforcement. Portions of this video were released publicly and ultimately played a major role in the case being solved. Even in the hours immediately after the incident some residents had heard the vehicle description over the scanner and were calling in possible matches. This community partnership is a great example of the results realized through information sharing between the community and law enforcement.

A former employee of a local corporation was convicted of multiple counts of Possession of Child Pornography after corporate representatives contacted Neenah Police upon finding what they deemed to be suspicious material on his business laptop computer. Subsequent forensic computer examination at the Neenah Police Department confirmed their suspicions that the former employee had been downloading child pornography. These employees acted on their suspicions and chose to get involved, ultimately helping to stop an out-of-control individual from committing further computer crime.

Neenah Police investigators were part of a multi-jurisdictional task force looking for several individuals believed to be responsible for violent home invasions, robberies, and burglaries throughout the Fox Cities. Citizen tips led to the arrest of several members of the group living in Neenah, and eventually, the arrest of the group's leader by Neenah investigators at a local motel. Investigators from the Neenah Police Department also continued to work hand in hand with other local agencies in 2009. Our detectives meet weekly with investigators from the City of Menasha and Town of Menasha police departments, sharing information about regional criminal activity. We also participate monthly in regional investigative meetings with many other departments for the same purpose. Additionally, with budget constraints continuing to affect all agencies, joint purchasing and sharing of more expensive yet critical forensic equipment continues to benefit all of the agencies and their respective communities.



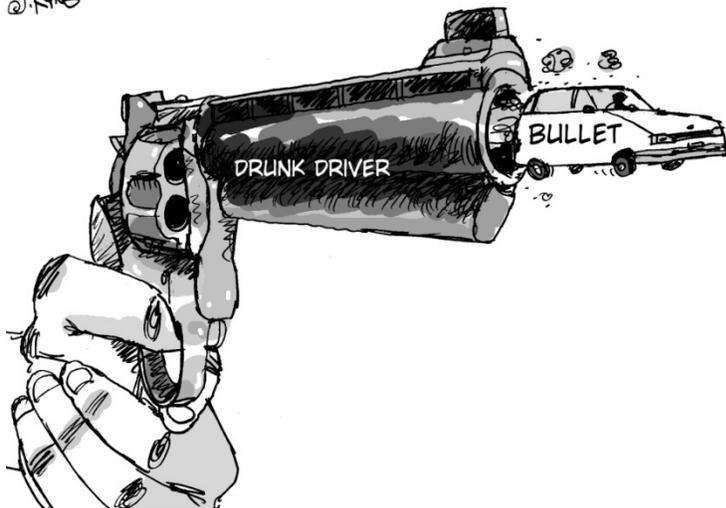
Through a strong connection with our citizens, law enforcement partners, private industry, and schools we are more effective at preventing and controlling crime.

DrUnK Driv1nYb is MURDER

On Our QU@LiTy of LIFE

The Neenah Police Department made news in December 2009 by suggesting the possibility of running voluntary sobriety checkpoints. True sobriety checkpoints, which the Center for Disease Control concluded reduce drunk driving crashes by 20%, are illegal by statute in Wisconsin. Our suggestion to make them voluntary made headlines, lit up editorial pages, and bounced around the blogosphere. It was clear we touched a nerve. Citizens were passionate and vocal on both sides of the issue.

@KRG



Our intention was not to create a firestorm of controversy. We simply think our traditional battle tools have not been effective enough against this public enemy. We need some new weapons.

In the Fox Cities we pride ourselves on our low crime rate, which is substantially lower than state and national averages. We're among the best of the best. But when it comes to drunk driving, we're among the worst of the worst. In Winnebago County alone, 28 people were killed

in drunk driving accidents in the last decade. That's twice as many as the number of people who were murdered by other means.

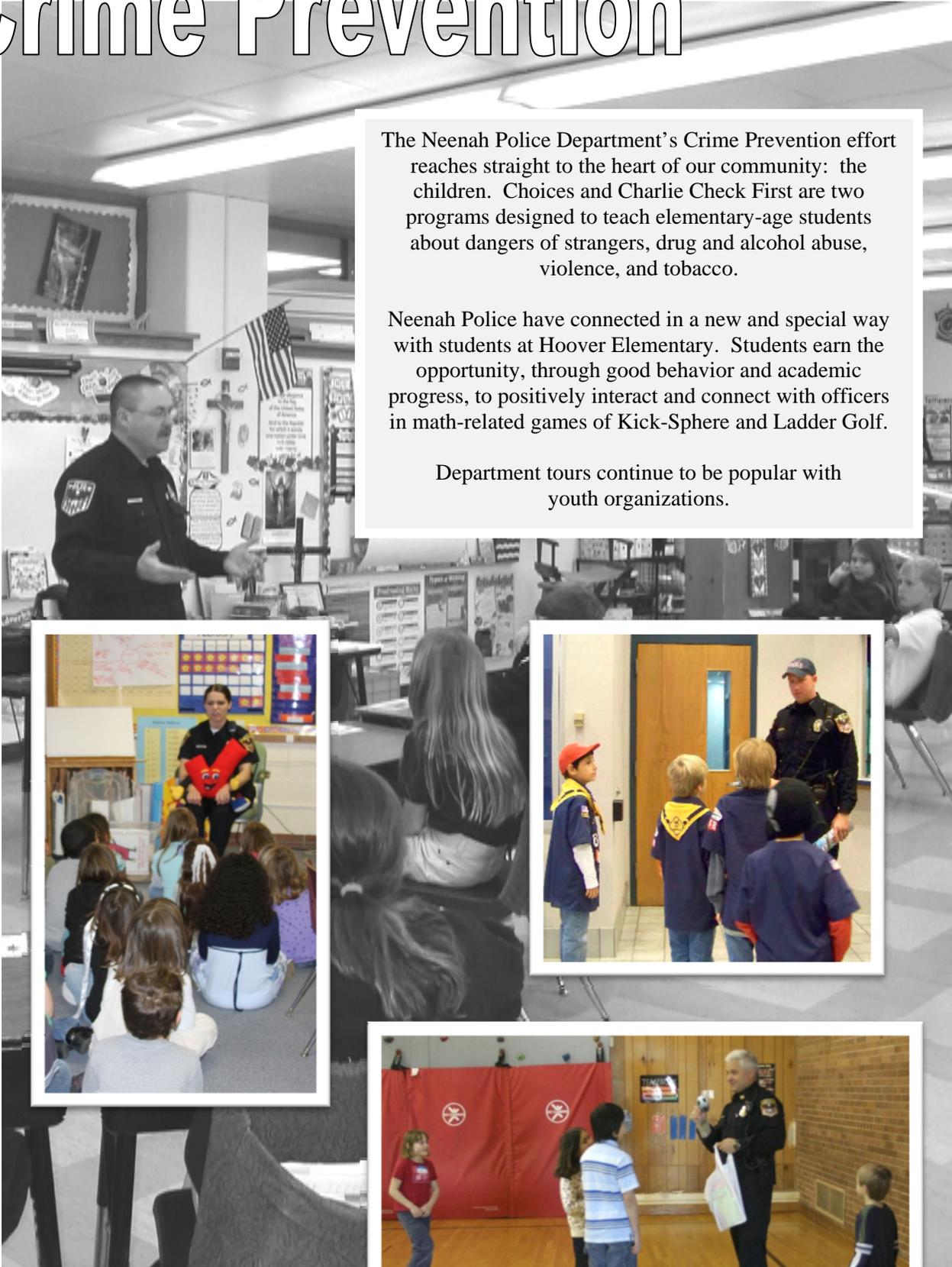
As public servants sworn to protect lives, we cannot accept that.

In 2010 we will be trying some innovative ways to address the drunk driving scourge that has cost us all so dearly. Some new ideas may be ineffective. But nothing is so ineffective as ignoring the problem that is threatening the lives of our friends, neighbors, and children.

Your Neenah Police Department will not ignore this problem.



Crime Prevention



The Neenah Police Department's Crime Prevention effort reaches straight to the heart of our community: the children. Choices and Charlie Check First are two programs designed to teach elementary-age students about dangers of strangers, drug and alcohol abuse, violence, and tobacco.

Neenah Police have connected in a new and special way with students at Hoover Elementary. Students earn the opportunity, through good behavior and academic progress, to positively interact and connect with officers in math-related games of Kick-Sphere and Ladder Golf.

Department tours continue to be popular with youth organizations.



Pistol Team

The 2009 Pistol Team had a safe and successful year competing in both the Fox Valley Police Pistol League and the WPPA State Pistol Shoot.

In the FVPPL, the following awards were earned:

Freshman Champion:	Officer Hoffer
Class D, 1 st in Aggregate:	Officer Kuffel
Class B, 1 st in Aggregate:	Lt. Van Sambeek
Class A, Timed Fire Champion:	Officer Rodencal
Champion of Champions:	Officer Rodencal

Officer Rodencal, Lt. Van Sambeek, and Officer Hoffer also shot in the WPPA State Shoot this year hosted by Marathon County, and received the following awards:

Class B	Timed Fire-2 nd Place Trophy	Officer Rodencal
Class D	Slow Fire-3 rd Place Trophy:	Lt. Van Sambeek
Class D	Timed Fire-1 st Place:	Lt. VanSambeek
Class D	Aggregate 1 st Place:	Lt. Van Sambeek



Support Services

When people think of a police department, they usually conjure images of uniformed officers in squads or detectives working a crime scene. Those are the high-visibility front lines of our effort. But, there is an abundance of “behind the scenes” administrative tasks that are critical to support those patrol and investigative functions. The goal of the support services team is to provide the best possible service to the community with the highest levels of professionalism. Let’s take an imaginary journey to try to better understand the function and duties of our administrative team.

The journey starts at a well-manicured residence in Neenah, where Bob and Jan have just returned home from a gardening store, fresh with new landscaping ideas. Their mood plummets as they discover the service door to their garage kicked in and their new lawnmower missing. Bob quickly uses his cell phone to call the Neenah Police Department.



The first voice Bob hears at NPD is a Communications Technician, or Comm-Tech, as we call them. The Comm-Tech will take the initial information from Bob and enter it into a computer-aided dispatch system. The computer entry will be transferred to the Winnebago County 911 center, which will dispatch a Neenah officer. That officer will respond to the scene for the investigation and report, requesting other resources as he or she deems appropriate.

Meanwhile, back at the station, the Comm-Tech has been typing another officer’s dictated report, and she notes many similarities to the current investigation. She consults with the records management system coordinator, who in turn uses the system to produce a list of similar crimes in the area. The information, which includes a possible suspect, is passed on to the investigating officer.



Let’s jump ahead a few steps in this journey. The officer has followed up on the information supplied by civilian personnel, and has made an arrest. A fingerprint card was completed for the suspect, and a records clerk prepared the necessary paperwork to submit the prints to the Wisconsin Department of Justice. A crime lab analysis then matched the suspect’s prints to several other unsolved burglaries and thefts.

Support Services - Continued

The arresting officer's complete, dictated report (along with all supporting documentation) is processed by one of the records clerks who works closely with the District Attorney's office. All paperwork is reviewed for quality and completeness, edited as necessary, and forwarded for prosecution. The records clerk also sends copies of the report to other local investigators as requested by the arresting officer.

When the criminal complaint is filed with the court, another records clerk with court officer duties swears to the truthfulness of the information in the complaint. This is an important step to initiate the formal prosecution. If the suspect has any related municipal citations (for theft or damage to property, for example) the clerk with court officer duties will manage the citation data through full disposition of the cases.

Finally, Bob comes to Neenah PD in person to express his thanks for the successful investigation and to get a copy of the police report. He waits a short time for a man paying a parking ticket. The clerk, who also has records custodian duties, reviews Bob's report for any redactions necessary, and provides him a copy.

This little journey, although fictitious, gives a glimpse of some of the important support duties performed by our records personnel. It does not, however, describe the volume and variety of complaints, tasks, and liaisons the staff is responsible for. Their work is invaluable to the success of the department, and our service to the community. Their ultimate goal is expressed in our mission statement: "...to enhance the quality of life enjoyed by the citizens of Neenah."



2009 was a steady year for our support services team. We hired two new Comm-Techs early in the year, and then had full position coverage for the rest of the year. While we handled significantly more cases than in past years, we were able to accomplish our work with existing staffing and resources. 2010 will include a transition to digital transcription equipment and voice recognition software for officers' reports. There will undoubtedly be some awkwardness with the changes, but they should help us become more time and resource efficient as we gain proficiency in the new systems.

TRAINING

2009 Highlights

Deadly Force Simulated Encounters, Intoximeter, Understanding and Dealing with Mental Health Issues, Highway Interdiction, Weapons Courses, Neighborhood Watch Training, and Hostage Negotiations are just a few of the topics the Neenah Police Department trains for every year. The State of Wisconsin requires a minimum of 24 hours of training, per officer, per year. In 2009, our officers received a total of 4008 hours of training, averaging 100 hours per officer.

25% of the training received is provided in-house, by our staff of trainers: Lt. Thompson, Lt. Malcore, Lt. Karner, Lt. VanSambeek, Sgt Wagner, and Sgt. Gruenstern. These trainers have over 70 years of combined teaching/training experience in areas of firearms, self-defense, new equipment, TAC, and SWAT.



Continuing to train at the highest level, while adhering to a tight budget, can be very challenging; however, the Neenah SWAT team has found a way. The team trains twice a year at the High Risk Entry Facility at Volk Field in western Wisconsin. This is a state of the art, million dollar facility that gives the team opportunities to face every challenge they may face in real life.

The SWAT Team partnered with the Neenah High School Health Department and the Neenah Park and Recreation Department to teach self defense classes to over 300 participants.



The Neenah Police Department Tactical Team (TAC-Team) is a committed group of trained professionals that work in conjunction with the SWAT Team. Their two primary roles are that of high risk containment and riot control. The TAC Team trains in detailed procedures for safely managing these scenes while insulating the community at large from threats. When civil unrest situations arise, the TAC Team's emphasis is to maintain order and protect our citizenry while simultaneously protecting the constitutional rights and well-being of all involved.





Who voluntarily puts their lives on the line in the most extreme and dangerous situations that arise in law enforcement?

Who put together programming for the youth at the Boys' & Girls' Brigade to show them how to work together to accomplish a common goal?



Who provides much of the in-house training for police officers such as firearms and self-defense?

Who volunteered numerous hours to train hundreds of women and Neenah High School students how to defend themselves?



Who participates in annual community events with their armored vehicle dressed in full gear, giving out candy, and giving kids the chance to explore such a vehicle and interact with the officers?

Who delivered Christmas presents to those in need through the Boys' & Girls' Brigade?

Who helps charitable organizations by auctioning off a "SWAT for a Day" certificate to raise funds?



SWAT



Members of the Neenah SWAT team have made it their mission to interact and help the citizens that they have sworn to protect. SWAT Operators are committed to give back even more to the community.

Neenah Police Honor Guard

The Neenah Police Honor Guard is one of the most prestigious units within our police department and is staffed with hand-picked volunteers. Officers are selected for their dedication to the Neenah Police Department, the community at large, and most of all, to abide by the principles of integrity, honor, and courage. The Honor Guard has two separate and important functions. The first function is to honor and celebrate the founding principles of our country. The Honor Guard is very active in celebratory community events such as parades, festivals, and dedications.

The Honor Guard also has a somber and difficult assignment, which is to stand watch over the caskets of individuals who have given their lives in protection of their community. The Honor Guard leads the procession when an officer or public servant has lost their life in the line of duty. It cannot be communicated enough how valuable our Honor Guard is to the community and especially to the families that experience such horrible losses.

In 2009, several members of the Neenah Police Department Honor Guard were privileged to be part of the National Police Week Ceremonies in Washington, D.C., through community contributions and fundraising events. Members of the 2009 Honor Guard are as pictured: Officer Rodencal, Officer Moe, Police School Liaison Pedersen, Investigator Sievert, Officer Mohr, Officer Strebel, Officer McDonald, and Officer Martin.



Neenah Police Department Citizens' Academy



This is what our 2009 academy participants are saying about their experience:



"Thank you. It was a great day."



"I was a bit nervous at the beginning, but it was really fun."



"It was eye-opening to find out all the things an officer is going through on a traffic stop."



"Very educational."

"I wish we had more time in the day to continue simulations."



"Thank you for an awesome time."



"It was a positive opportunity to interact with the officers."



"I have always felt safe and protected. Now I actually know how well!"



"Patrol Division training was very well done, and appropriately realistic."



For information on joining our Citizens' Academy, contact the Crime Prevention Coordinator at (920)886-6022.



Neenah Police Department Supports Special Olympics



Neenah Police employees have been volunteering for Special Olympics for decades. Officer Stuart Zuehls, the department's coordinator states, *"When I see the impact and smiles on the faces of the athletes, I melt, and keep coming back!"*

February has "Polar Plunge" supporters jumping into holes cut in the ice and chilly water, raising over \$275,000 in 2009. In April, "Cops-n-Lobsters" gets officers bussing tables and asking for pledges at Red Lobster in Appleton. This event raised \$4,412.

In June, runners carry the Special Olympics torch past schools and businesses raising pledges and curiosity about Special Olympics. The Torch Run destination: Opening ceremonies of the annual Special Olympics competition in Stevens Point.

A favorite event is "Lock-Up-A-Cop" held at the Neenah WalMart. The Fire Department, Gold Cross Ambulance, and area law enforcement unite for this two-day event in October. Citizens donate \$10 or more to handcuff an officer and escort them to a makeshift jail! Volunteers hand out candy to the kids during a special trick or treat time.

"Cops Gone Wild," a similar event to Cops-n-Lobsters, was new in September of 2009. Held at Buffalo Wild Wings in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, this event raised \$3,700 for Special Olympics.





The Victim Crisis Response Team (VCR Team) is a dedicated group of trained volunteers who assist local law enforcement agencies in responding to the immediate needs of victims. It is their goal to ensure that victims and witnesses of crimes are treated with dignity, respect, fairness, compassion, courtesy, and sensitivity.

The VCR Team provides immediate comfort, support, and referral information to people who have been victimized by crime or involved in a critical event or trauma. The program unites the Appleton, Neenah, Menasha, Town of Menasha, Grand Chute, and Kaukauna Police Departments in an effort to better meet the needs of crime victims in a compassionate and effective manner.

Thirty trained volunteers, under the direction of VCR Coordinator Trisha Timmerman, are available 365 days a year to meet the immediate physical and emotional needs of a victim. The VCR program has three main goals: calming the victim and/or family members, assisting the victim(s) for what is to come in the next hours and days, and providing community referrals.

In 2009, VCR volunteers provided over 2000 hours of direct services to victims and the police departments. Calls the VCR's responded to include domestic violence, robbery, burglary, suicide, sudden death notifications, child care, and fire. This program has made a significant difference in the lives of many people who are going through the worst of times. Our team continues to hear from the families how thankful they are that someone was there during a time of need.

For information on the program or learning how to become a Victim Crisis Responder, call Trisha Timmerman at (920) 886-6044.

Thank you VCR Volunteers for making a difference

Dedication



We would like to dedicate this report to our friend, Per Thomsen, who died on Easter Sunday, 2010. Per was a student at Hoover Elementary, a local school our department has informally adopted. Per's parents learned that he had a cancerous tumor in his leg when he was 3 years old. When he was 5, brain tumors were discovered. While there was some early success in battling the cancer, several more brain tumors were discovered growing in December 2009.

Per's parents asked him about things he would really like to do. One of those things was to visit the police department. When we were asked if we would be willing to help this little guy live a small dream, we didn't hesitate.

Per and a friend were picked up at school by Neenah P.D.'s armored vehicle, the "Peacekeeper." They were driven to the station where they received a "hands-on" VIP tour, complete with donning SWAT gear and getting their mug shot taken.

Per had a talent for gaining friends through his smile, and we were instantly won into his fan club. We were touched by his friendship, saddened by his loss, and encouraged to fight the enemies in our arena that prey upon the innocent.



Per N. Thomsen
01/11/01 to 04/04/10