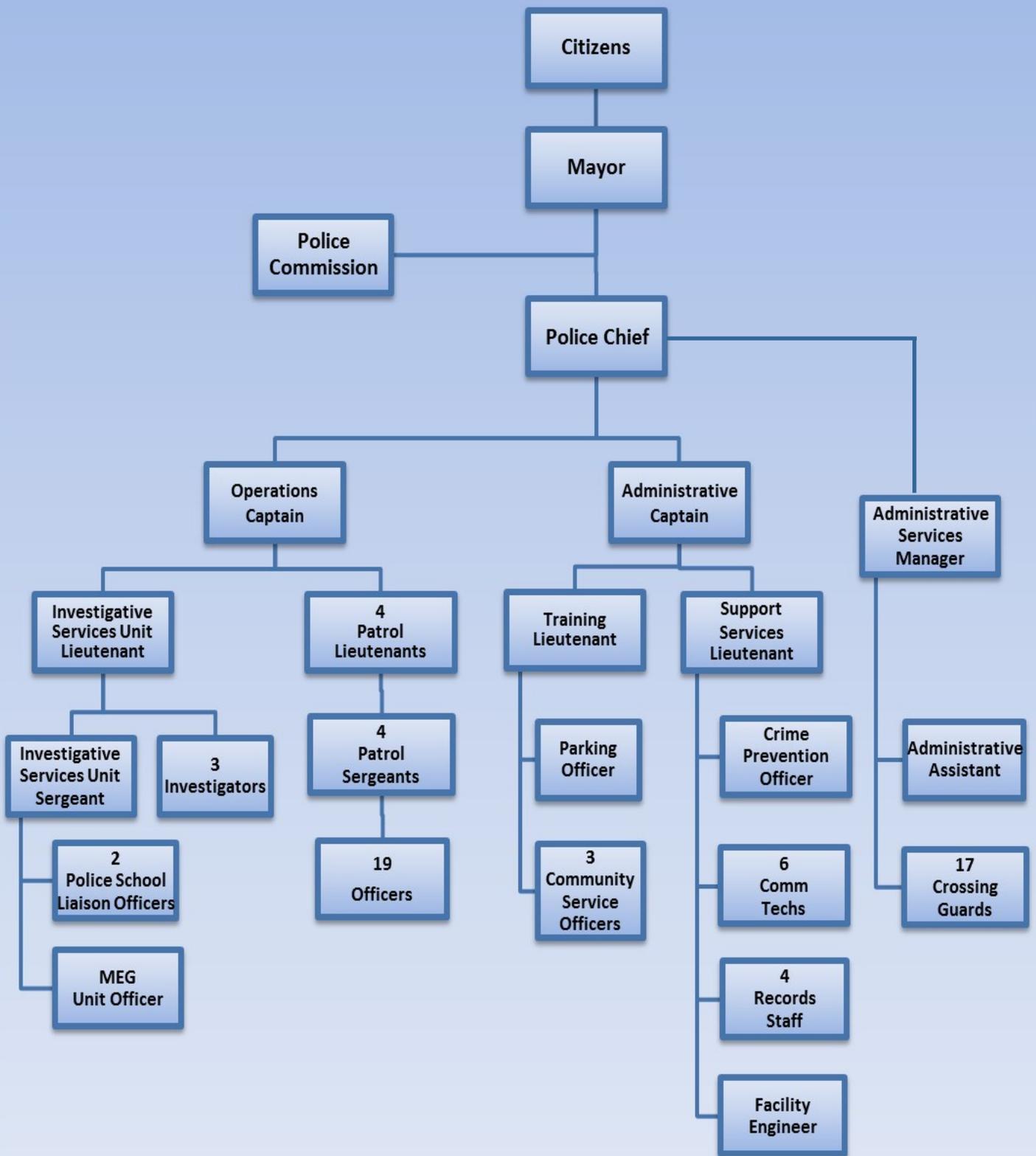




Neenah Police Department Annual Report - 2013

Neenah Police Department
2013 Organizational Chart





Our Calling:

We are Neenah's guardians –
standing between peace and peril
to keep our community safe. We are:

Warriors against evil
Defenders of life
Protectors of rights
Friends of the people

Neenah Police Department's Pillars of PRIDE

Priorities

*God,
Family,
Work*

Our personal convictions about faith define all that we do. And family is valued above work. Ideally, the three are in harmony. But when there is strong conflict, work must bow to the other two.

Relationships

*People
Matter*

We value each other as employees. We treat everyone with dignity and respect, regardless of circumstances. We engage citizens and organizations as critical public safety partners.

Innovation

*A Passion for
Improvement*

We are not satisfied with the status quo or industry standards. We constantly look for new and creative ways to get the job done right.

Duty

*Conduct that
builds Pride
and Trust*

We hold ourselves accountable for our actions on and off duty. We are proud of our work and we want the community to be proud of us as well.

Excellence

*Excellence
Exceeding
Expectations*

We strive for the highest quality in all we do, creating value for our citizens- every task, every time, every day.

CHIEF'S MESSAGE

In 2013, two women in Neenah came fearfully close to death, and survived. As a result of two completely unrelated incidents in August, both women will bear physical and emotional scars of their ordeal. You'll read their stories in this annual report. But the scars aren't limited to the victims themselves.

In every traumatic incident, there are collateral victims – those who are strongly affected, even though they may not have been injured, robbed, or threatened. There are witnesses, bystanders, and those who pitch in to help. Sometimes they are very strongly and negatively affected by the sights, sounds and smells of a crisis.

Too often, we forget that the emergency responders are also sometimes affected. Paramedics, firefighters, and other emergency personnel aren't immune from nightmares and acute stress after witnessing a horrific scene.

Neither are cops.

We are just beginning to understand the impact of Acute Stress Syndrome and Post Traumatic Stress on those in emergency services. We've recognized it in the military for decades, and the American military professionals have found ways to address the phenomenon. In emergency services, we're still trying to figure it out.

I recall a fellow police officer who was called to a bad accident in the Fox Valley a couple of decades ago. Upon arrival, she found four young people sitting in the vehicle, all freshly consumed by an instant fire that had erupted upon collision. I can't even begin to imagine the process of trying to move past that imagery, all branded into her mind's eye.

For officers who have been psychologically damaged from witnessing those kinds of scenes, memory triggers are everywhere: the sight of a flame, the smell of something burnt, and every single collision call that goes out over the radio. Remarkably, most officers end up processing those memories and emotions pretty well, even without professional help.

But not all do. Some struggle mightily with guilt, regret, anger and other emotional reactions that sometimes seem disproportionate to the incident. So they find ways to compensate. Police Officers across the nation have high alcohol abuse rates and high divorce rates. And it may

surprise many people to learn that the rate of suicide among cops is six times higher than the rate for officers feloniously killed.

That's not acceptable.

Here at the Neenah Police Department we are committed to caring for the entire health of our employees. Yes, we emphasize fitness and healthy habits. But we also work to make sure that officers are mentally and emotionally healthy. To that end, we utilize Critical Incident Stress Debriefings with trained counselors for the officers who have been exposed to difficult scenes. We utilize the services of a chaplain as well as a contracted counselor who is a former law enforcement officer himself. And like most other employers, we have an Employee Assistance Program.

This year, thanks to the example set by the Kenosha Police Department and a few other agencies around the country, we have begun the groundwork to create a Peer Network for our officers. This multi-agency effort, led by the Menasha Police Department, creates a trained team of officers to be available for confidential support to other officers who may be struggling. They can make referrals to healthcare professionals, or just be a listening ear. No one can understand the stresses of being a cop as deeply as another cop.

In the stories of the two women who found themselves in a life-or-death situation in the summer of 2013, there are many heroes: bystanders, medical professionals, neighbors, and even complete strangers. We are proud to count Neenah's Guardians among those who helped these women become survivors.

But shame on us if we don't also take care of the wounds - though they are much harder to see - on the Guardians themselves.



CRIME

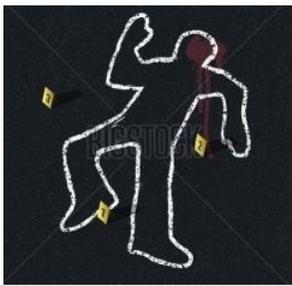
When most people open a police department's annual report, this is the page they are looking for. Discussion about programs, neat organizational charts, and pictures of officers doing their jobs are all interesting enough, but most people want to know how the community stacks up in terms of crime rates.

Neenah has long enjoyed a reputation for safety, and our crime rates are much lower than the averages for Wisconsin and the nation, as the below graphics illustrate. Neenah is a safe city, in a safe region, in a safe state. That makes us among the safest of the safe.

That doesn't mean bad things don't happen here; the Walmart shooting is evidence aplenty. But Neenah isn't the kind of community where you need to be afraid to go out at night. Our parks are safe. Our downtown is safe. Our schools are safe. Our neighborhoods are safe (albeit, some more than others). That should make people feel very good about the community.

This is not to put a feather in our cap as a police agency and claim responsibility for that success. We are just one player. The biggest factor in maintaining community safety is the attitude of the public. In communities where crime is tolerated, crime flourishes. In communities where citizens call immediately to report illegal acts, crime slinks away. Here in Neenah, our citizens are among the best at deterring crime by simply not tolerating it.

Comparative Violent Crime Rates (per 100,000 residents)

United States:	Wisconsin	Neenah
387 per 100,000	280 per 100,000	137 per 100,000
		

While violent crimes include Homicide, Rape and Robbery (which are VERY rare in Neenah), property crimes include all types of theft (shoplift, auto theft, thefts from yards and buildings, etc.), burglaries, arson, damage, and financial crimes. Thus, they encompass a much larger arena of criminal activity, and the crime rates are correspondingly higher.

The property crime trends we have experienced in Neenah mirror those of the larger area. Frauds, identify theft, and various other financial transaction crimes continue to grow.

Much of the property crime rate is fueled by drug addiction. No community is immune from the rapid rise in heroin use and abuse that has taken place across the country. Heroin use leads to quick addiction, and addiction leads to all kinds of thefts and frauds.

What can you do? Be alert, be a good witness, and partner with us to identify and report crime. And do your share of crime prevention by keeping doors, cars, and bicycles locked.

Comparative Property Crime Rates (per 100,000 residents)

United States	Wisconsin	Neenah
2859 per 100,000	2435 per 100,000	1932 per 100,000
		

UNIFIED CRIME REPORTING

Quantifying What We Do

There is more than one way to count police activity. If a citizen calls to report their vehicle stolen and three officers search for ½ hour each before it discovered that the car was legally repossessed, how should that be counted? Was it a car theft, or was it nothing?

Actually, we count it both ways using two different systems.

One way to count is the FBI's Uniform Crime Reports system. All agencies report certain crimes to the FBI through the UCR system. The table below shows those UCR counts for the Neenah Police Department. The UCR report only tracks actual crimes. The above incident would not have been scored as a vehicle theft.

	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008
Violent Crime	45	36	36	46	32	38
Property Crime	561	498	414	448	525	414
		-	-	-	-	-
Homicide	0	0	0	1	0	2
Forcible Rape	6	2	3	14	4	2
Robbery	4	2	2	1	1	5
Aggravated Assault	35	32	31	31	27	29
Other Assault	103	61	111	144	141	157
Burglary	55	75	72	88	101	75
Theft	497	410	334	351	414	328
Vehicle Theft	9	13	8	9	10	11
Assaults Against Officers	3	0	0	3	1	4
		-	-			
Value of Property Stolen	\$270,618	\$239,804	\$275,594	\$254,937	\$315,104	\$189,159
Value of Property Recovered	\$50,931	\$70,465	\$27,206	\$61,586	\$82,995	\$25,295
Percent Recovered	18.80%	29.40%	9.90%	24.20%	26.30%	13.40%

On the other hand, the hypothetical call above did account for a significant expenditure of resources, and should be counted in some way. Our Computer-Aided Dispatch system (CAD) takes care of that. It counts all calls as they are dispatched, regardless of what the outcome was.

The following pages detail the CAD data and compares the data to previous years. In these charts, the hypothetical call would be counted as a theft, since that is how the call was dispatched, and the officers used procedures and tools that would be expended on a theft investigation.

COMPUTER-AIDED

Disturbances/Assaults Without Victim or Damage	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	09-12 Avg	2013 to 4 yr. Avg
Disturbances	642	640	648	698	680	667	-4%
Domestic (Non-Criminal)	64	63	72	65	70	68	-5%
Fireworks	91	103	96	88	105	98	-7%
Harrasment	294	344	330	334	332	335	-12%
Noise Complaint	228	237	262	295	407	300	-24%
Total Without Victim or Damage	1319	1387	1408	1480	1594	1467	-10%

Disturbances/Assaults With Victim or Damage	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	09-12 Avg	2013 to 4 yr. Avg
Damage to Property	235	389	300	283	293	316	-26%
Sex Offenses	35	50	55	47	37	47	-26%
Viol Court Order	38	42	36	38	40	39	-3%
Weapon	36	19	16	20	18	18	97%
Battery	17	15	40	30	34	30	-43%
Total With Victim or Damage	361	515	447	418	422	451	-20%

Theft/Fraud Incidents	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	09-12 Avg	2013 to 4 yr. Avg
Burglary	51	69	80	86	98	83	-39%
Forgery	4	4	3	3	8	5	-11%
Fraud	153	126	126	158	168	145	6%
Retail Theft	50	56	50	49	78	58	-14%
Robbery	6	5	7	1	2	4	60%
Theft	634	615	604	688	754	665	-5%
Auto Theft	14	14	11	11	14	13	12%
Total Theft/Fraud Incidents	912	889	881	996	1122	972	-6%

Emergency Assists	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	09-12 Avg	2013 to 4 yr. Avg
911 Assist/Hang Up	722	602	546	410	282	460	57%
Medical Call	194	117	139	278	284	205	-5%
Alarm	423	378	409	443	424	414	2%
Attempted Suicide	16	20	25	24	17	22	-26%
Carbon Monoxide	6	5	12	5	10	8	-25%
Death	21	29	27	23	28	27	-21%
Emergency Commit	106	130	133	135	154	138	-23%
Fire Alarm	9	9	8	3	13	8	9%
Fire Call	115	97	103	109	95	101	14%
Medical/EMS	298	283	273	278	290	281	6%
Total Emergency Assists	1910	1670	1675	1708	1597	1663	15%

DISPATCH SYSTEM (CAD)

Non-Emergency Assists	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	09-12 Avg	2013 to 4 yr. Avg
Assist Motorist	445	430	342	396	451	405	10%
Assists	2698	2717	3355	3027	2898	2999	-10%
Civil Matter	23	19	22	17	26	21	10%
Hazard-Non Traff	186	186	201	215	145	187	0%
Lost/Found	133	170	153	191	176	173	-23%
Miscellaneous	302	295	375	248	197	279	8%
Missing Person	33	34	33	34	32	33	-1%
Open Door	23	45	39	34	56	44	-47%
Transport	13	23	19	10	21	18	-29%
Warrant	63	69	65	76	73	71	-11%
Welfare Check	906	868	940	1025	911	936	-3%
Total Non-Emergency Assists	4825	4856	5544	5273	4986	5165	-7%

Quality of Life Activities	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	09-12 Avg	2013 to 4 yr. Avg
Abandoned Vehicle	43	46	74	96	77	73	-41%
Animal Calls	756	816	720	706	778	755	0%
Ordinance	222	234	255	255	199	236	-6%
Total Quality of Life	1021	1096	1049	1057	1054	1064	-4%

Traffic and Parking Incidents	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	09-12 Avg	2013 to 4 yr. Avg
Accident	687	622	752	611	637	656	5%
Accident with Injury	56	41	52	54	54	50	11%
Reckless Driving	286	330	317	271	229	287	0%
Traffic Stop	3162	4177	4550	4216	4073	4254	-26%
Bike Stops	32	27	26	26	26	26	22%
Parking	333	294	337	333	366	333	0%
Total Traffic and Parking	4556	5491	6034	5511	5385	5605	-19%

Juvenile Related Calls	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	09-12 Avg	2013 to 4 yr. Avg
Juvenile (Misc)	495	578	495	624	625	581	-15%
Runaway	72	97	102	182	226	152	-53%
Truancy	1	1	2	4	5	3	-67%
Total Juvenile	568	676	599	810	856	735	-23%

Alcohol/Drug Incidents	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	09-12 Avg	2013 to 4 yr. Avg
Alcohol	144	166	229	249	218	216	-33%
Drugs	204	170	131	103	125	132	54%
Total Alcohol/Drugs	348	336	360	352	343	348	0%

Suspicious Person or Circumstances	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	09-12 Avg	2013 to 4 yr. Avg
Suspicious Person	319	383	311	355	417	367	-13%
Suspicious Circumstances	455	416	387	396	369	392	16%
Suspicious Vehicle	272	301	262	255	267	271	0%
Total Suspicious	1046	1100	960	1006	1053	1030	2%

TRAFFIC SAFETY

In any municipality, one of the most important tasks for a police agency is traffic safety. To that end, we enforce traffic violations, maintain high visibility, report and isolate traffic hazards, and partner with the city traffic engineer and Department of Public Works to identify and correct unsafe conditions.

Some traffic violations are intentional, like reckless driving. Some are the result of negligence, such as failure to stop for a stop sign. Other times they occur because of an unawareness or incorrect understanding of the law.

Do you know what the most common citation is that Neenah Officers issue? See if you can put the following violations in order, from most cited to least cited in Neenah:

- Seatbelt/child restraint violations
- No insurance/proof of insurance
- No valid license (suspended, revoked, etc.)
- Fail to stop for stop sign or red light
- Drunk Driving
- Unregistered or expired registration
- Speeding

In past years, speeding citations were by far the number one violation for citations. But recent legislative changes have put that category at number two. Now, insurance violations are highest in Neenah. Speeding is second, very closely followed by invalid license citations.

When warnings are included, speeding violations are still the number one reason for traffic contacts. You'll find the order for the other listed categories – and more – listed below:

Traffic Arrests	2013	2012	2011
Traffic Citations	2535	3220	3651
Written Warnings	2153	2835	3024
Parking Tickets	5787	5797	6320

Drunk Driving Enforcement 2013	
Intoximeter Tests	64
Blood Tests	37
Refusals	6
Refusal-Test Forced	13

Traffic Violation Detail 2013	Citations	Warnings
<i>Speeding Related</i>	382	923
<i>Reckless Inattentive</i>	48	30
<i>Right of Way</i>	73	42
<i>Hit & Run/Failure to Report</i>	27	1
<i>OWI</i>	120	0
<i>License Status Violations</i>	375	43
<i>Registration</i>	289	112
<i>Equipment</i>	202	374
<i>Seatbelt/Child Restraint</i>	259	40
<i>Insurance Violations</i>	479	229
<i>Misc. Moving Violations</i>	94	158
<i>Misc. Alcohol/Contr. Substance</i>	107	0
<i>Stop Sign/Signal</i>	74	148
<i>Misc. Non Moving Violations</i>	6	53

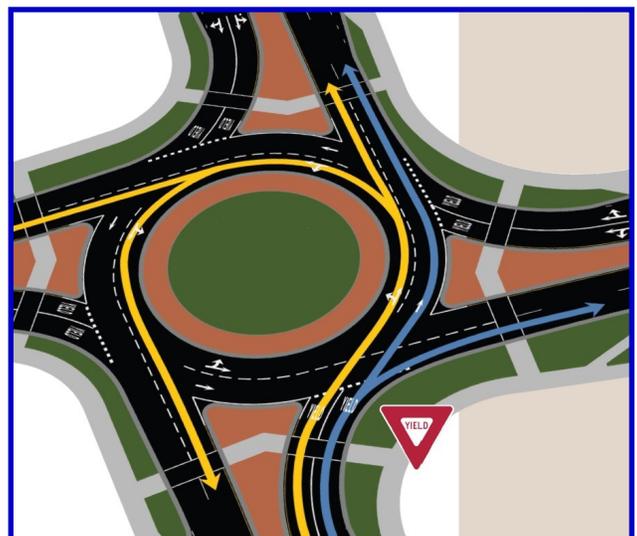
TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS

	2013	2012	2011
Reportable - Property Damage	329	295	369
Reportable - Personal Injury	86	106	115
<i>Fatalities</i>	0	0	0
<i>Incapacitation Injuries</i>	4	7	3
<i>Non-Incapacitating Injuries</i>	43	45	39
<i>Minor Injuries</i>	52	74	90
Non-Reportable	5	2	9
Pedestrian Accidents	3	4	1
Bicycle Accidents	11	7	9
Parking Lot Accidents	79	65	63
Roundabout Accidents	85	81	94
<i>Green Bay/Winneconne</i>	57	56	84
<i>Lake/Winneconne</i>	6	3	0
<i>Shopko</i>	1	0	0
<i>Fox Point Plaza</i>	2	0	0
<i>1st St/EN Water Street</i>	0	2	0
<i>Cecil/Green Bay</i>	3	1	4
<i>Tullar/Breezewood</i>	0	4	4
<i>Breezewood/Harrison</i>	6	4	0
<i>Breezewood/Northbound 41</i>	2	6	1
<i>Breezewood/Southbound 41</i>	4	5	1
<i>Breezewood/Gillingham</i>	4	0	0
Daylight Accidents	345	316	419
Darkness Accidents	75	87	74
Totals	420	403	493

The most dangerous intersection in town, by raw accident totals, is at Green Bay Road and Winneconne Avenue. The roundabout at that location yielded dozens of reportable accidents this year. Fortunately, accidents at roundabouts do not cause any significant injuries.

For the most part, the accidents at roundabouts are not due to intentional or negligent acts. They occur because people do not follow the simple rules of roundabout safety:

- Choose the proper lane and stay in it.
- Yield to traffic that is already in the roundabout (approaching from your left).
- Watch for and yield to pedestrians.
- Do not drive alongside, or attempt to pass, a large truck in the roundabout.



Many accidents at Green Bay Road occur when northbound traffic in the outside lane (blue line) attempts to turn left to get over to highway 41 or the Walmart area.

February

- Neenah officers investigate a complaint that a teacher at Tullar School had her students befriend and write letters to a prison inmate who is serving a sentence for murder.
- A drunk driver collides with a marked squad car.

April

- Police seek new information regarding a 2007 arson case.
- Police request assistance in locating a stabbing suspect.

May

- Suspicious incident of a male driver trying to urge boy into car.

June

- Neenah officers arrest thief very quickly after his bold crime.

July

- A citizen finds and turns in a unique container of cash and jewelry.
- A woman is shot in the face with a BB gun by an acquaintance.

August

- The Walmart shooting is detailed in several press releases.
- A woman is attacked and mauled by two dogs she is caring for.

September

- Lt. Malcore earns major award from state training group.
- K9 team makes huge meth seizure during traffic stop.

December

- Armed robbery at Marathon gas station on the Island.

Walmart Shooting

It was a normal, peaceful and pleasant summer day in Neenah on August 14, 2013. Inexplicably, a Walmart employee chose that idyllic day to walk over to a co-worker and shoot her in the stomach with a handgun. This gruesome act unleashed a flurry of activity by emergency professionals throughout the city, and their quick and smart work saved the life of victim Sharon Goffard – but not by much.

Below is an estimated timeline of the event:

11:12 a.m. Walmart cashier Justine Boyd walks into the liquor department where Sharon Goffard is working. After a brief conversation, Boyd pulls out a handgun and shoots Goffard in the stomach. She then turns and walks calmly back to her work station.

11:13 a.m. The first of many 911 calls begin coming in reporting the shooting. The Winnebago County Communications Center immediately dispatches Neenah Police, Neenah-Menasha Fire Rescue, and Gold Cross Ambulance to the scene. Officers begin coordinating their response and activate their squad cameras.

11:17 a.m. The first squads arrive on scene and Lieutenant Jay Karner assumes incident command. The victim is isolated and the immediate area is rendered safe for EMS workers to enter.

11:18 a.m. Gold Cross Ambulance personnel arrive on scene and assume life-saving care for the victim.

11:23 a.m. The victim begins receiving life-sustaining oxygen and intravenous solution.

11:26 a.m. Neenah police take custody of the shooter and find she is in possession of two handguns.

11:28 a.m. Gold Cross Ambulance conducts a “load and go” emergency procedure to get the victim to the Emergency Room as quickly as possible. A Trauma Blue team activation is initiated at Theda Clark Medical Center. A full team of emergency workers are waiting for Sharon as she arrives in critical condition, losing significant blood. She receives nearly 100 units of blood and emergency surgery to keep her alive.

RELEASES SUMMARY

August 14, 2013

Afterward, medical professionals would say that Sharon's life was narrowly saved primarily because the scene was made safe quickly for EMS personnel, and transport to a trauma center occurred without delay.

Neenah Police booked the shooter at the Winnebago County Jail for one count of Attempted First Degree Intentional Homicide.

The following comments were made by Chief Wilkinson as part of a press conference the day after the shooting:

This incident shocks us as a horrible aberration in a very peaceful community. It happened at a time and a place that is so common, each of can say, "I could have been there."

Despite the tragedy, there have been some things to feel good about after this incident occurred. First, our local EMS personnel were outstanding in response to the victim and giving her the best odds for survival they could. Neenah Menasha Fire Rescue, Gold Cross Ambulance, and the emergency staff at Theda Clark Medical Center have been outstanding.

And our local Wal-Mart management and employees, despite being put in a very difficult situation, have provided great assistance to the police department during the initial response and continuing investigation of this crime.

When something like this happens, it is natural for us to ask ourselves why it happened. It sometimes feels like evil is triumphing over good. Perhaps this is a reminder for all of us to try to find ways to be more benevolent in our lives; to put a little more effort into looking out for the needs of others, and less on ourselves; to reach out a hand of assistance or lend a listening ear instead of isolating or finding fault in others; to do for others what we would have them do for us.

Dog attack

August 17, 2013

At 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, August 17, Neenah Officers responded to a call of a dog bite incident at 1332 Meadow Lane. Neenah Menasha Fire Rescue and Gold Cross Ambulance also responded. A victim of significant dog bites was treated and transported to Theda Clark Medical Center.

The scene is the backyard of a duplex, surrounded by a high wooden fence. Between the two residences is a four-foot wooden fence.

An employee of Never Home Alone Pet Sitting had arrived at 1332 Meadow Lane to care for two English Bull Terriers while the owner was away. While the employee was caring for the dogs, they both began biting her in the legs. The victim was able to hold onto the wooden fence and scream for help while the dogs continued biting her legs.

Several neighbors responded to the adjacent yard and began working to pull the victim over the fence to safety. The dogs continued to bite and resist efforts to pull the victim away from them. Eventually, the woman was successfully pulled over the fence and away from the dogs. EMS personnel began treating her in the backyard.

Police officers were able to contact the owner and the veterinarian for the dogs to try to find a way to secure them safely. Under guidance of the veterinarian, both dogs were fed tranquilizers and then eventually safely coaxed into cages.

The dogs were transported to the Neenah Animal Shelter, where they will remain during a 10-day quarantine period. Neenah Police Chief Kevin Wilkinson stated that he is pursuing a declaration of "Prohibited Dangerous Animal" for both dogs.

Under city ordinance 3-16, animals with this designation must be euthanized or moved outside of the city. The owner has a right to appeal the decision.

The victim in this case is a 32-year-old female Neenah resident. She underwent surgery and other care for the numerous and significant bite injuries at Theda Clark Medical Center.

The owner of the dogs is also a 32-year-old female Neenah resident. Both dogs are reported to be current in their vaccinations.

Police Chief Wilkinson commented that this case could easily have been much more tragic if not for the heroic efforts of the neighbors who ran to help. "Those people went right to the threat," he said. "They didn't run away from it. One woman was even punching one of the dogs to get it to release its grip on the victim. That bravery certainly saved the victim from much worse harm, perhaps even death. I can't thank them enough."

AROUND THE DEPARTMENT



Officer Joel Benson retired on January 7, 2013, after a 21 year career at the Neenah Police Department



At the Council Meeting on February 20th, the Neenah Police Department K9, Cedric, was sworn in.

Cedric, along with K9 Handler Officer Gorden, gave a drug find demonstration for Council.

In August, Officer Paige Collins was sworn in at the City of Neenah Council Meeting.



At the September, 2013, conference of Wisconsin's Law Enforcement Training Officers' Association (LETOA), Neenah Police Lieutenant Jeff Malcore was presented the award for "Training Coordinator of the Year."



Lt. Malcore has assisted in training programs throughout Wisconsin, as well as for the Texas Rangers and the Chicago Police Department. He headed the effort to get the Neenah SWAT team involved in international training and competition on an annual basis. Jeff is a certified trainer in Firearms, Defense and Arrest Tactics, Force-on-Force training, and Simulations. He is a graduate of Fox Valley Technical College's Executive Development Institute and the FBI National Academy.

Captain Leslie "Lee" Parrott retired from Neenah Police Dept. in 1988, after a 35-year career. He worked his way through the ranks to the position of captain, and served as the supervisor of the Investigative Services Unit. Lee had a passion for investigations, especially those involving crimes against children.

In October, 2013, the Neenah Police Department unveiled its new Lee Parrott Photography Lab, which was accomplished in part through a donation from Lee Parrott's family. The Lee Parrott photography lab will serve for many years in the collection and management of photographic evidence.

Sadly, Lee passed away a year before the lab was dedicated. But his family was on hand for the unveiling.



POLICE WEEK 2013

The theme of our 2013 department-wide meeting and awards ceremony was “honor.” Our guest of honor for the event is no stranger to that term. Gary Wetzel is one of about 80 surviving recipients of this country’s highest award: The Medal of Honor.

Gary’s helicopter was shot down in Viet Nam in January of 1968. His unit was heavily bombarded by mortars and machine-gun fire. During the barrage, Gary’s left arm was almost completely severed. He also suffered gunshots to his legs and abdomen. Despite the life-threatening injuries, Gary fought his way back to the machine gun in the chopper and single-handedly drove back the enemy. He then turned his focus to saving his fellow soldiers, even though he blacked out more than once in the attempt.

Gary’s presence at our meeting was revered by our employees and their families. Gary made poignant remarks about work, dedication, and survival. Truly, Gary Wetzel is an American hero who can claim many titles, including that of “Survivor.”



Guest of Honor USA Sp4c Gary Wetzel leads the department in the annual Oath of Honor.



NPD Quartet Sings National Anthem



NPD Honor Guard

The Neenah Police Department Annual Report for 2013 is dedicated to two brave survivors: Renee Schram & Sharon Goffard.



(Renee is pictured above with representatives from Gold Cross, Neenah-Menasha Fire Rescue, and the Neenah Police Department)



Sharon Goffard