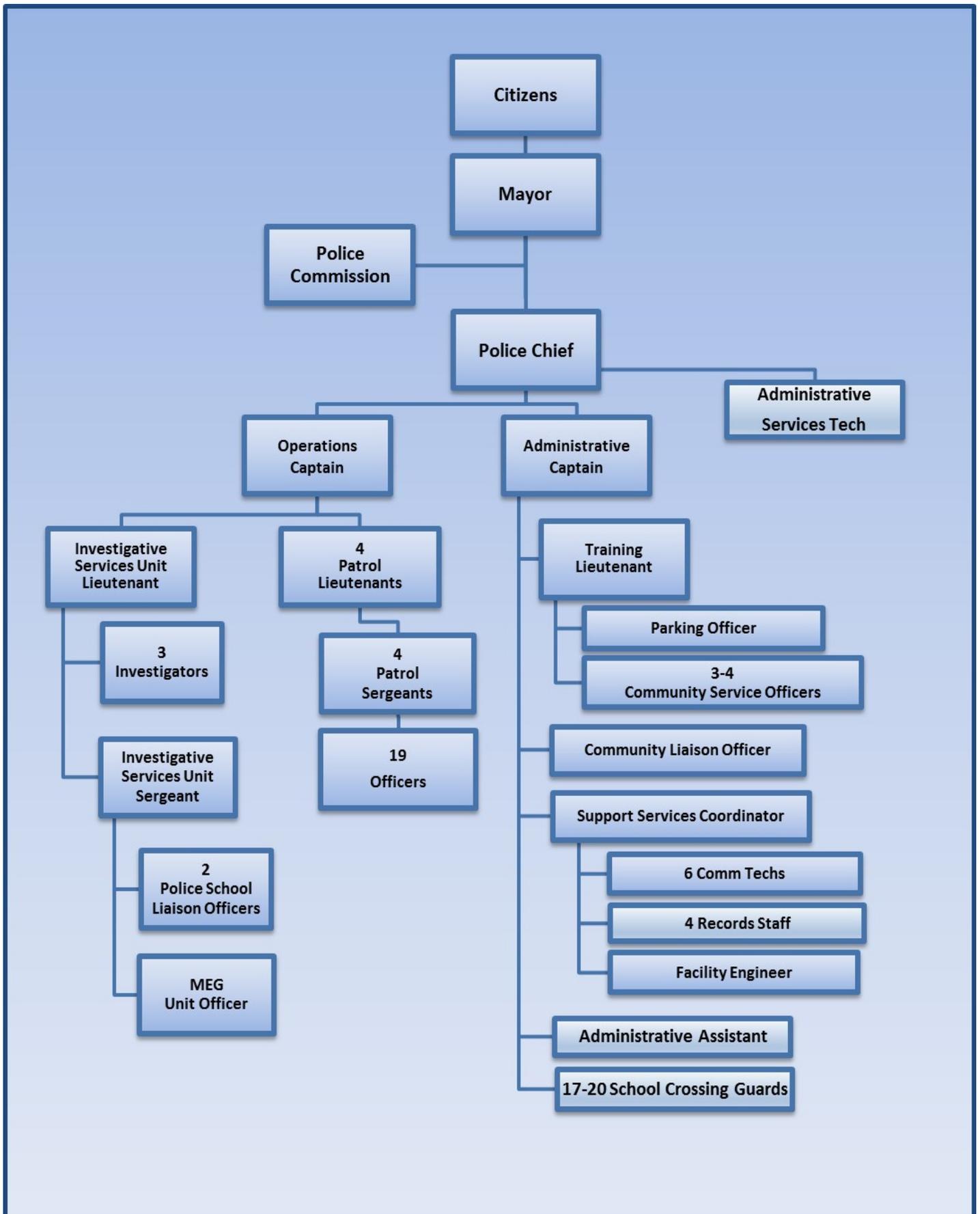




Neenah Police Department
Annual Report - 2014

Neenah Police Department Organization Chart



CHIEF'S MESSAGE



Here's a painful experiment to consider:

If you were a parent, and you had to lose a child, would you rather lose that child at the age of one, or twenty-one? Would it be easier at age ten or at fifty? There really is no answer. I have heard it said that the greatest anguish a person can experience is to lose a child – no matter what age. Even if you are 90 and you experience the death of your 70-year-old daughter, it is crushing. Parents are supposed to pass first, and be survived by the children – not the other way around.

In 2014 we became very involved in two significant cases where parents were frantic for their children. They were there one moment, and gone the next. Both occurred in August.

In the first incident, 22-year-old Kyle Blohm picked up his truck from the shop, loaded up his bike and computer, and left a short ambiguous note. No one heard from him again. Was he alive? Was he okay? The Neenah Police Department poured hours of investigative time into the case, but with no significant results.

Kyle had been missing for a full year. Just as accurately, Kyle's parents and other family members had been heartbroken for a full year. Every time a news story popped up about a body being found, their hearts jumped to their throats and they feared the worst and prayed for the best. It's an awful position to be in. There is no closure. You and I cannot truly imagine the pain and difficulty of being in those circumstances.

Then, just as we were preparing to print this annual report, Kyle's body was found in a woods in Oconto County. He died of an apparent gunshot wound, alone, probably very near the time of his disappearance. Now the family has an entirely new kind of pain to deal with. Our hearts go out to them.

The second incident, occurring just a few days after Kyle's missing person report, involved a 6-year-old boy missing at Riverside Park. When the call came out there was no sense of panic. We search for missing children all the time. They are almost always found safe and secure. Nonetheless, we treat them all with high priority.

As with all cases where young children are missing, the radio call is followed by a hum of activity. Officers who are on traffic stops tell the drivers to be on their way and they hurry to search for the child. Detectives who are following up on burglaries and abuse cases hustle to their unmarked squads and head for the area. Even administrative personnel like me pitch in to do what we can. The radio buzzes with updates, coordination, and requests for other resources. The description of the missing person was repeated over and over: "Elijah 6 years old... red hair.. shorts.. camouflage tank top."

I was one of the officers responding to Riverside Park that day. Investigative Sergeant Christine Walsh arrived before me. I felt good about her taking early control of the scene because she has a big heart and good coordination skills. She had already found two witnesses who had seen the red-haired boy playing near the water, and she asked me to check the shoreline. I walked it carefully, looking into the water for any sign of a little boy. I found nothing. No toys, no pieces of clothing, not even a splash mark on the rock and concrete retaining wall. We expanded the search.

An hour later the frantic mother noticed the ambulance suddenly leave the park with lights and siren activated. Her intuition told her something was wrong. As calmly as I could, I pulled her out of earshot of the other children and gave her the news that Neenah-Menasha Fire Rescue had found the boy in the water, and he was being rushed to the hospital.

After we found a safe means of transportation for mom, and arrangements for the care of the other children, I walked back over to where the NMFR personnel were. I asked them to show me where they had found the boy. It was 15 feet from where I had searched at the direction of Sergeant Walsh.

If only...

Our commitment as Neenah's Guardians is to do our diligent best to find missing persons, especially children. Since the incident at Riverside Park we have made it standard response to dispatch Neenah-Menasha Fire Rescue promptly to all missing children cases, not just those near a body of water. More eyes are better, and those firefighters are more than happy to help.

And we will continue to look for and follow up on every lead in all missing person cases, whether child or adult. We will look behind every proverbial bush and under every rock. We will be diligent. We don't want to ever hear that we missed someone by 15 feet.



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

EVIDENCE



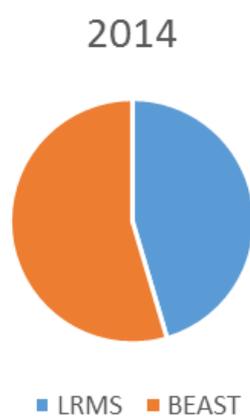
We have a BEAST at the Neenah Police Department. Our BEAST is not dangerous, doesn't eat anything, and has no fur, scales, or fire-breathing capabilities. We use it to guard thousands of items of evidence.

Bar-coded Evidence Analysis Statistical Tracking (BEAST) is our new system to simplify, digitize, and improve the accuracy of our evidence tracking procedures.



The new system allows officers to use bar codes when entering items of evidence. The bar codes are scanned and create a database that is easily accessed and updated. When an item needs to come out of the evidence storage area to be used in a court case, it is scanned out and then scanned back in when it returns. The computer tracks all of the movement, so we know where every piece of evidence is, all the time. And with nearly 5,000 individual items of evidence, from automobiles to fingernail clippings, that's a challenge.

We are transitioning the evidence storage area to this new system over time. Many of the older items are still logged under the old, hand-written system. As the charts below show, we now have over half of our evidentiary items under the watchful eye of the BEAST.



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.

Neenah Police Department

Uniform Crime Reports

as submitted to the Department of Justice Statistical Analysis Center

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
<u>Homicide</u>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<u>Forcible Rape</u>	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
<u>Robbery</u>	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	4
<u>Aggravated Assault</u>	3	1	1	1	2	3	3	9	1	1	4	2	31
<u>Other Assault</u>	8	7	7	15	11	5	11	5	5	10	8	5	97
<u>Burglary</u>	4	0	1	4	7	5	5	12	7	6	16	5	72
<u>Theft</u>	25	27	28	34	23	44	54	39	39	40	18	25	396
<u>Motor Vehicle Theft</u>	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	2	3	2	0	0	10
<u>\$ Value of Property Stolen</u>	15796	6874	30483	12038	7695	21869	24923	34009	31872	18722	6573	26968	237,822
<u>\$ Value of Property Recovered</u>	6207	1534	2319	12664	2843	3213	7944	8517	23260	9602	2164	3994	84,261
<u>Percentage</u>	39%	22%	8%	105%	37%	15%	32%	25%	73%	51%	33%	15%	35%

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	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	10-14 Avg	2014 to 4 yr. Avg
Disturbances	637	642	640	648	698	657	-3%
Domestic (Non-Criminal)	63	64	63	72	65	66	-5%
Fireworks	63	91	103	96	88	95	-33%
Harrasment	284	294	344	330	334	326	-13%
Noise Complaint	206	228	237	262	295	256	-19%
Trespass	28	38	34	33	32	34	-18%
Total without Victim or Damage	1281	1357	1421	1441	1512	1433	-11%

Disturbances/Assaults With Victim or Damage	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	10-14 Avg	2014 to 4 yr. Avg
Damage to Property	174	235	389	300	283	302	-42%
Sex Offenses	42	35	50	55	47	47	-10%
Viol Court Order	40	38	42	36	38	39	4%
Weapon	25	36	19	16	20	23	10%
Battery	12	17	15	40	30	26	-53%
Total with Victim or Damage	293	361	515	447	418	435	-33%

Theft/Fraud Incidents	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	10-14 Avg	2014 to 4 yr. Avg
Burglary	64	51	69	80	86	72	-10%
Forgery	6	4	4	3	3	4	71%
Fraud	123	153	126	126	158	141	-13%
Retail Theft	57	50	56	50	49	51	11%
Robbery	3	6	5	7	1	5	-37%
Theft	557	634	615	604	688	635	-12%
Auto Theft	14	14	14	11	11	13	12%
Total Theft/Fraud Incidents	824	912	889	881	996	920	-10%

Emergency Assists	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	10-14 Avg	2014 to 4 yr. Avg
911 Assist/Hang Up	1078	722	602	546	410	570	89%
Medical Call	223	194	117	139	278	182	23%
Alarm	468	423	378	409	443	413	13%
Attempted Suicide	16	16	20	25	24	21	-25%
Carbon Monoxide	15	6	5	12	5	7	114%
Death	14	21	29	27	23	25	-44%
Emergency Commit	87	106	130	133	135	126	-31%
Fire Alarm	92	9	9	8	3	7	1169%
Fire Call	94	115	97	103	109	106	-11%
Medical/EMS	388	298	283	273	278	283	37%
Total Emergency Assists	2475	1910	1670	1675	1708	1741	42%

DISPATCH SYSTEM (CAD)

Non-Emergency Assists	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	10-14 Avg	2014 to 4 yr. Avg
Assist Motorist	484	445	430	342	396	403	20%
Assists	2469	2698	2717	3355	3027	2949	-16%
Civil Matter	31	23	19	22	17	20	53%
Hazard-Non Traff	192	186	186	201	215	197	-3%
Lost/Found	153	133	170	153	191	162	-5%
Miscellaneous	384	302	295	375	248	305	26%
Missing Person	38	33	34	33	34	34	13%
Open Door	33	23	45	39	34	35	-6%
Transport	26	13	23	19	10	16	60%
Warrant	62	63	69	65	76	68	-9%
Welfare Check	944	906	868	940	1025	935	1%
Total Non-Emergency Assists	4816	4825	4856	5544	5273	5125	-6%

Quality of Life Activities	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	10-14 Avg	2014 to 4 yr. Avg
Abandoned Vehicle	69	43	46	74	96	65	7%
Animal Calls	760	756	816	720	706	750	1%
Ordinance	226	222	234	255	255	242	-6%
Total Quality of Life	1055	1021	1096	1049	1057	1056	0%

Traffic and Parking Incidents	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	10-14 Avg	2014 to 4 yr. Avg
Accident	662	687	622	752	611	668	-1%
Accident with Injury	46	56	41	52	54	51	-9%
Reckless Driving	303	286	330	317	271	301	1%
Traffic Stop	1826	3162	4177	4550	4216	4026	-55%
Bike Stops	9	32	27	26	26	28	-68%
Parking	354	333	294	337	333	324	9%
Total Traffic and Parking	3200	4556	5491	6034	5511	5398	-41%

Juvenile Related Calls	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	10-14 Avg	2014 to 4 yr. Avg
Juvenile (Misc)	487	495	578	495	624	548	-11%
Runaway	71	72	97	102	182	113	-37%
Truancy	1	1	1	2	4	2	-50%
Total Juvenile	559	568	676	599	810	663	-16%

Alcohol/Drug Incidents	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	10-14 Avg	2014 to 4 yr. Avg
Alcohol	105	144	166	229	249	197	-47%
Drugs	227	204	170	131	103	152	49%
Total Alcohol/Drugs	332	348	336	360	352	349	-5%

Suspicious Person or Circumstances	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	10-14 Avg	2014 to 4 yr. Avg
Suspicious Person	257	319	383	311	355	342	-25%
Suspicious Circumstances	403	455	416	387	396	414	-3%
Suspicious Vehicle	294	272	301	262	255	273	8%
Total Suspicious	954	1046	1100	960	1006	1028	-7%

TRAFFIC SAFETY

In any municipality, one of the most important tasks for a police agency is that of ensuring 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 they 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.

Only one of the following statements about traffic law is false. Can you pick it out?

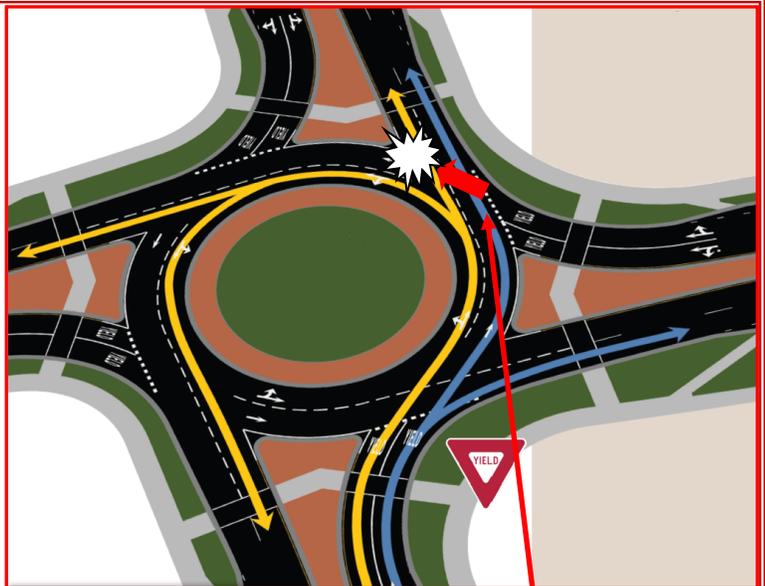
1. Mopeds are not allowed to carry passengers.
2. Drivers can be stopped by police for not wearing their seatbelt.
3. After stopping, it is legal to proceed through a railroad crossing when the lights and bells are sounding as long as there is no train approaching.
4. A relatively new law in Wisconsin makes it legal to make a U-turn at signal-controlled intersections, unless there are signs prohibiting the maneuver.
5. It is illegal to drive a vehicle while barefoot.
6. The owner of a vehicle that is operated with the radio excessively loud can receive a citation for the offense even if they weren't in the car when the violation occurred.
7. Drivers must yield to pedestrians in marked and UNMARKED crosswalks.

Was it easy? Did you find the false statement? All of the statements are true except #5. It is not illegal to drive barefoot.

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.

TRAFFIC REPORTING

	2014	2013	2012
Reportable - Property Damage	302	329	295
Reportable - Personal Injury	97	86	106
<i>Fatalities</i>	0	0	0
<i>Incapacitation Injuries</i>	4	4	7
<i>Non-Incapacitating Injuries</i>	51	43	45
<i>Minor Injuries</i>	66	52	74
Non-Reportable	10	5	2
Pedestrian Accidents	5	3	4
Bicycle Accidents	5	11	7
Parking Lot Accidents	75	79	65
Roundabout Accidents	76	85	81
<i>Green Bay/Winneconne</i>	42	57	56
<i>Lake/Winneconne</i>	6	6	3
<i>Shopko</i>	0	1	0
<i>Fox Point Plaza</i>	2	2	0
<i>1st St/EN Water Street</i>	3	0	2
<i>Cecil/Green Bay</i>	4	3	1
<i>Tullar/Breezewood</i>	3	0	4
<i>Breezewood/Harrison</i>	1	6	4
<i>Breezewood/Northbound 41</i>	3	2	6
<i>Breezewood/Southbound 41</i>	9	4	5
<i>Breezewood/Gillingham</i>	3	4	0
Daylight Accidents	338	345	316
Darkness Accidents	71	75	87
Totals	409	420	403

	2014	2013	2012
Traffic Citations	1662	2535	3220
Written Warnings	1283	2153	2835
Parking Tickets	7597	5787	5797

Drunk Driving Enforcement 2014	
<i>Intoximeter Tests</i>	51
<i>Blood Tests</i>	26
<i>Refusals</i>	14
<i>Refusal-Test Forced</i>	7

Traffic Violation Detail 2014	Citations	Warnings
<i>Speeding Related</i>	197	479
<i>Reckless Inattentive</i>	42	23
<i>Right of Way</i>	43	27
<i>Hit & Run/Failure to Report</i>	39	0
<i>OWI</i>	98	0
<i>License Status Violations</i>	282	28
<i>Registration</i>	210	79
<i>Equipment</i>	123	291
<i>Seatbelt/Child Restraint</i>	49	13
<i>Insurance Violations</i>	345	128
<i>Misc. Moving Violations</i>	85	95
<i>Misc. Alcohol/Contr. Substance</i>	79	0
<i>Stop Sign/Signal</i>	60	103
<i>Misc. Non-Moving Violations</i>	10	17

RECORDS DIVISION

Neenah Police Records and Front Desk Activities

Wisconsin enjoys a broad open records environment that makes it relatively easy for citizens to get copies of most government documents, including police reports.

But easy access for citizens doesn't necessarily mean that it is an easy process for us. For every request for a police report, a review must be made to determine whether the report should be exempted from release due to an active investigation, protection of healthcare information, or to protect a juvenile. Sometimes, just certain pieces of a report can be removed – a process called “redaction” – such as the name of a reporting person who wants to remain anonymous.

After the reports are approved and redacted as necessary, they are copied for the citizen and then refiled. The process represents a substantial amount of employee time in many cases. Still, we want to make sure we are doing our part to maintain openness and transparency in government, so we are happy to fulfill our role in records release.

This year has been a year of transition for the front desk and records area. As part of a Department reorganization, a supervisory position that had previously been held by a Lieutenant was reclassified as a civilian position. This new position was filled through an internal promotion, creating a vacancy for another position which was filled internally as well. We had two vacancies in Communications Technician (front desk) staffing that were filled by outside applicants.

The reorganization also downsized a full-time position to a part-time position in the Records staffing. This position was filled twice in 2014. All of these personnel changes put a lot of extra duty and responsibility on the staff, who handled the extra hours and training of new employees remarkably well. The Department has also committed two of the Records staff and the supervisor to the newly formed Winnebago County CART (Child Abduction Response Team) team. Those employees recently received related training at Fox Valley Technical College.

Among other activities, Records personnel were responsible for the processing of the following in 2014:

Billing invoices	131
Accidents	409
Traffic citations	1662
Traffic warnings	1283
Parking tickets	7597
Adult and juvenile referrals	534
Adult and juvenile municipal summonses	644
Incident reports processed	Approximately 3000
Warrants	118

The unit was also responsible for fulfilling many records requests, background checks and clearance letters for the public that are not included in the above counts.

USE OF FORCE

Since the incidents in Ferguson, Missouri, and elsewhere around the country, there has been much public discourse about police use of force.

One of the realities we have in this country is that use-of-force models vary from state to state. Procedures that are proper and trained in Louisiana are not necessarily the same procedures that are proper and trained in Montana.

Here in Wisconsin we are fortunate to have strong state-wide governance housed in the Department of Justice, Training and Standards Bureau. Thanks to the strong work of that office, Wisconsin is recognized as a leader in professional law enforcement training and professionalism.

Our state adheres to a system referred to as DAAT: Defense and Arrest Tactics. This unified system of “verbalization skills coupled with physical alternatives” is taught state-wide, and is the standard by which the properness of force is judged.

The purpose for using force is to gain control in pursuit of a legitimate law enforcement objective. If verbalization is effective in gaining control, it is always preferable to physical force. All use of force by police must be “objectively reasonable” under the 4th Amendment’s prohibition against unreasonable seizures.

Use of force in Neenah is pretty rare. As you might guess, it is more common at night time and on weekends, and most often used against males in their 20’s or 30’s. The age of suspects ranged from an 11-year-old kicking-and-screaming female who was physically picked up by an officer and seat-belted into her father’s car, to a 69-year-old man with a rifle who had a handgun pointed at him by police.

We are concerned to note that many of our use-of-force incidents involve people with mental health issues. Of those people who had force used against them, about 16%, or 1-in-6, ended up being placed on an emergency mental health detention after they were controlled.

We therefore continue to invest in training to help officers recognize mental health crises and equip them with tools for peacefully resolving those situations.

The data from the 2014 reports show that:

- There were 44 calls in 2014 requiring a force level above simple handcuffing.
- There were 67 individual use of force reports (several calls had multiple officers reporting).
- The average age of the subject was 29 years old.
- 84% of the subjects were males.
- 71% were White, 20% were Black, 2% were Hispanic, and 7% were unknown.

Physical Force	28
Deadly Force Threat	26
Taser	6
Taser Threat	6
Pepper Spray	1
Total Calls in 2014	67

AWARDS

During 2014 Police Week (May 11-17), the Neenah Police Department recognized several employees with awards:



Officers Gorden, Strebel, McDonald, and Heiting display their awards.

Officer Chris Gorden, the department's K9 handler, received an Outstanding Arrest Award for the work he and his partner, Cedric, did to accomplish one of the largest methamphetamine seizures in northeast Wisconsin.

Officer Marlyn Heiting was presented an Outstanding Arrest Award for his timely capture of two burglars who had just broken in and surprised a homeowner, and were fleeing the scene of the crime. Officer Heiting was conducting traffic enforcement duties and had the suspects detained even before the burglary call was dispatched.

Administrative Assistant Brenda Mathison received the department's Employee of the Year Award, which is given to an outstanding non-sworn employee every other year. Brenda provides invaluable technical help to members of the department in graphics, databases, photography and videography, social media, and project work.

Police Chief Kevin Wilkinson commented on the pride he feels for the award recipients, as well as for those who didn't receive awards. "Awards programs only tell part of the story," he said. "They recognize those incidents and acts that become widely known, as they should. But there are so many other selfless, even heroic acts that occur quietly and never find their way into an award nomination."

Also in 2014, at the annual conference of the Wisconsin Law Enforcement Canine Handlers Association (WLECHA), Neenah Police Department's K9 team of Officer Chris Gorden and K9 partner Cedric were recognized.

The Neenah K9 team received the award for Meritorious Narcotics Find. Officer Gorden and Cedric were chosen from among seven teams nominated for the award, for their recovery of over 330 grams of methamphetamine in September 2013.

An excerpt from the nomination reads: "This case was unique not because the team was able to find a large shipment of drugs in a vehicle, but because Officer Gorden showed great diligence and persistence in seeking and finding the vehicle, which put him and his partner into position for the find. Had he not been so committed to the effort, the intercept would never have occurred."



Pictured: Officer Chris Gorden accepts the award for Meritorious K9 Narcotics Find from WLECHA President Todd Skarban.

AROUND THE DEPARTMENT

Appointments:

- 04/21/2014: Brittany A. Streeter-CommTech
05/27/2014: Ashley M. Burrows-CSO
07/07/2014: Robert J. Ross-Patrol Officer
09/08/2014: Kimberly A. Smith-CommTech
09/22/2014: Laurie K. Krueger-CommTech



Officer Ross was sworn in before Council on 8/6/2014 with his family participating.



Brenda Schroeder, pictured with Mayor Kaufert and Chief Wilkinson, retired after 42 years of service.

Retirements:

- 01/01/2014: Steven E. Larson - ISU Lieutenant
07/02/2014: Brenda N. Schroeder - Adm. Services Manager

November 2014

The Neenah Police Department receives the Compassionate Employer Award from Community Benefit Tree.



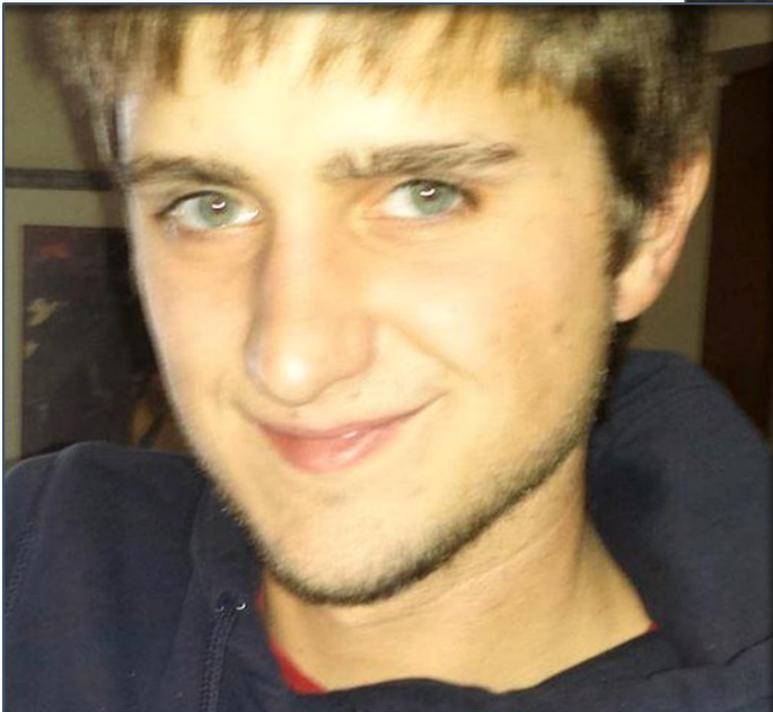
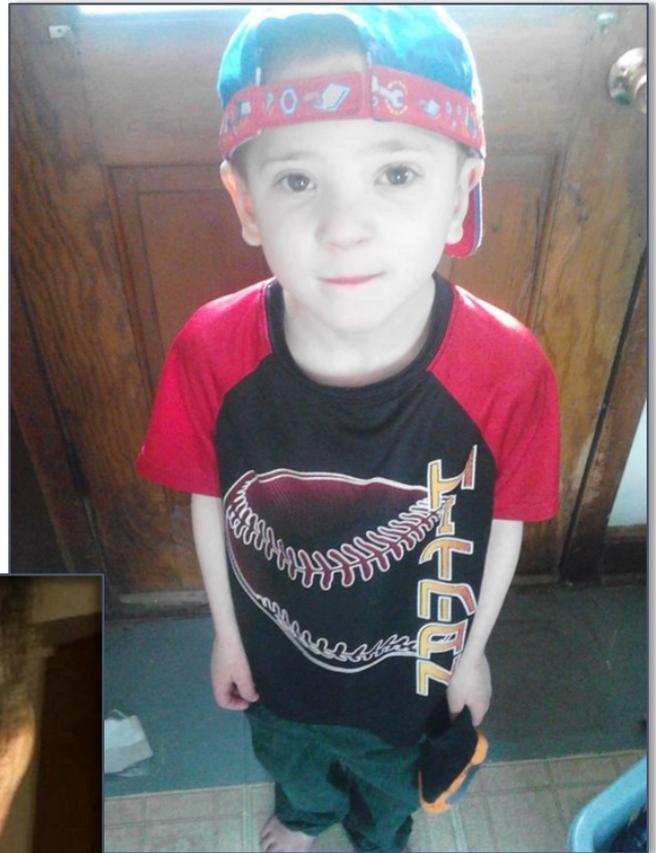
May 2014

Honor Guard officers L. Rodencal, C.Sievert, V. Strebel, and N. McDonald attended ceremonies during National Police Week in Washington D.C..

DEDICATION

The Neenah Police Department dedicates this annual report to these young men and their families.

First, to Elijah Vanderhoof, who went missing one sunny day in August from Riverside Park. After a couple of hours of frantic searching, he was located in the water. Resuscitation attempts failed. Elijah left behind a heartbroken mother and sister, as well as other relatives who loved him dearly.



We also dedicate this report to Kyle Blohm and his family. Kyle was missing for about a year. For his family, the lack of information was heart-rending and painful. Kyle was found deceased at about the time this report was being prepared.

Elijah and Kyle represent the faces of people we serve every day. As Neenah's Guardians, we work hard to prevent people from being given the name "victim."