



2020

OAK CREEK POLICE DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT



CONTENTS

01

FROM THE
CHIEF

03

DEPARTMENT
CHANGES

04

MISSION &
VISION

05

YEAR IN
REVIEW

12

BUDGET

13

EMPLOYEE
REGONITION

19

ORGANIZATION

29

SPECIALTY
UNITS

36

COMMUNITY
RESOURCES

39

SOCIAL MEDIA



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We would like to thank everyone within the Oak Creek Police Department who contributed to the research and development of this annual report.

Collaborators
Lisa Wytrykus Kleppek
Taylor Parry



A MESSAGE FROM CHIEF STEVEN ANDERSON

Among the goals that I set as the Chief of Police was to reestablish the publication of a Police Department annual report, a practice that has not occurred since 2003. This annual report, while not all-encompassing will provide a snapshot into the work product of the employees of the Oak Creek Police Department. These individuals are dedicated employees of the Oak Creek Police Department and work hard to keep our community and those within its borders safe.

The 2020 calendar year has ended but the significant challenges experienced by the country, state, City of Oak Creek, and the Police Department during the past year continue to impact our lives moving forward. The employees of the Police Department worked through these challenges with the vision of ensuring safety for not only our members, but for everyone within the community. One significant challenge beginning in early 2020 was the daily impact of the ongoing COVID-19 global pandemic. Members of the Department worked to ensure the safety of those they came in contact with, as well as each other when handling interactions with the public. This required changes to the traditional ways of how we policed and handled complaints.

In addition to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, 2020 saw demonstrations on several issues take place across the country, in the state, and locally here in Oak Creek. These demonstrations included concerns about the stay at home order, virtual schooling, the presidential election, and social justice issues. While some of these demonstrations occurred here in Oak Creek, some did occur outside of our community and when help was requested, we coordinated our response with other law enforcement agencies to assist. Our response was always guided by our mission and as an organization whose mission it is to protect and serve the public, we continue to look inward to ensure that we treat all people fairly. An integral part of this mission is through our commitment to forward-thinking training and working with various groups within our community. The Police Department has, for many years, offered a strong training program for our employees on many topics with the message of fair and impartial policing. As our community continues to address social justice, we are committed to identifying and offering training to our employees that will improve our department. As an example, in 2020, all sworn personnel went through implicit bias training with all employees having completed the training in early 2021. In 2021 the training unit will continue to schedule implicit bias and cultural competence training for our employees. The majority of our public-facing staff complete crisis intervention training (CIT) to help with assisting those in a mental health crisis, as well as having training on trauma-informed care (TIC). We also have been a leader in the region with our Special Needs Program, in which we partner with the Oak Creek Franklin School District in raising awareness for and fostering relationships with those with special needs in our community. To keep our organization moving forward with these goals in mind, the Department evaluated and updated the Mission Statement, Vision Statement and our Core Values in 2020.

A MESSAGE FROM CHIEF STEVEN ANDERSON

In 2020 the Police Department continued to focus on transparency with the community on many levels. The Department has posted annual use of force statistics, crime statistics, monthly calls for service data, as well as numerous critical public-facing policies on the Department website. We also utilize our social media platforms (@OakCreekPolice) to share annual use of force statistics as well as press releases for critical incidents, and public service information. In December of 2020, we submitted our Use of Force policy to the Wisconsin Law Enforcement Accreditation Group (WILEAG) for review and recently received notice that our policy was certified to meet the standards set by the Federal Government.

As you will see in the following pages, the Department also had significant personnel changes in 2020. With an approved force of 62 sworn police officers (in 2020), the Department hired 9 new officers due to vacancies created from officers leaving. With COVID issues, this created stress within our internal training program. The field training officers did an excellent job preparing these newer officers throughout their training. The Department also saw change in our non-sworn staff in 2020 with vacancies in clerical and dispatch.

Throughout 2021 I hope to continue to have more opportunities for members of the Police Department to interact and engage with the community in a positive setting. Community engagement has been a long-standing practice of the Police Department, but it was severely restricted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We rely on community engagement to effectively meet the needs of those we serve. Although we couldn't do in-person engagements, it did give us the opportunity to utilize technology to engage virtually, with items like our 'Virtual Police Department Tour' series.

I want to thank you for taking the time to review our 2020 annual report. This is another step towards our objective of transparency, and I hope it permits us to continue building a dialogue with you, the community we serve, and members of the Police Department.



Steven J. Anderson
Chief, Oak Creek Police Department



The Oak Creek Police Department, initially formed in 1956 shortly after the signing of the city charter in December of 1955, has long served as a protector of the citizens of Oak Creek. While the location of the department, the officers who serve and even the vehicles we drive changes through the years, our unwavering commitment to the community and to our mission continues each and every day. Some notable changes in the Oak Creek Police Department to meet the challenges of policing in a modern world:



Efficiency – The implementation of several advances in law enforcement technology including electronic fingerprinting, Pro Phoenix, CAD and RMS systems has continued to improve the efficiencies and response times of our personnel.

Productivity – Creation of the Open Records Clerk, and online record request form, to process the high volume of public records requests.

Consistency – Creation of a dedicated training officer whose primary function it is to oversee the development and consistency of all of the department training programs.

Preparedness – We use lessons learned in notable cases, such as the Sikh Temple shooting, to better prepare our officers and dispatchers for all possible incidents.

Proactive – Our proactive training efforts are guided by the state but we go above and beyond; on average our officers receive approximately 4X the training mandated by the state.

Accountability – To employees and to the public through the creation of an online database of all department policies that receive regular review and are updated as warranted.

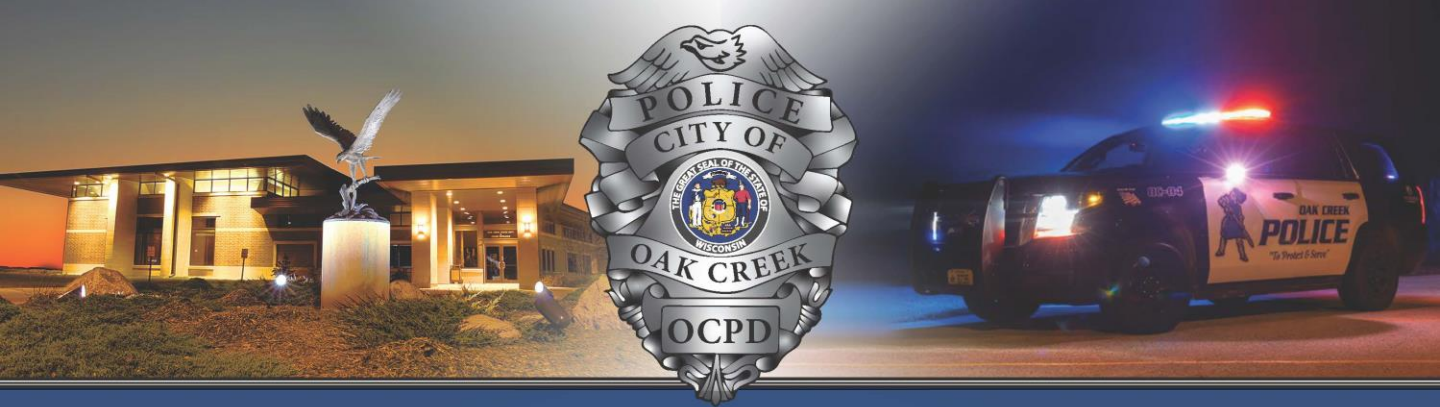
Transparency – Commitment to transparency within the department and with the public through the regular release of department statistics and the posting of critical policies on the Department website.

Compliance – In response to 2009 Wisconsin Act 402, municipal court personnel employed by the court, while still housed in the same building, are separated by signage and are considered a completely separate entity from the police department.

Evaluation – With the same Mission Statement in place for many years, the Administration evaluated and updated its mission statement to better reflect our role.



As described above, the department has made many improvements since our last annual report. Throughout this report, this badge icon will signal a big change made in the department over the last 17 years.



OAK CREEK POLICE DEPARTMENT

Our Mission:

We are committed to partnering with the community to protect life and property, preserve the peace, enforce the law and make Oak Creek a more desirable place to live and work.

Our Vision:

Our success requires cooperation and mutual respect between law enforcement and the public. By committing to strong leadership, professionalism, self-discipline and employee training and development, we will succeed in providing exceptional service and public trust through impartial and intelligence-led policing.

Our Core Values:

We commit ourselves to these core values that guide our actions.

Human Life	We value human life above all.
Equality	We hold that all people must be treated fairly and with dignity.
Integrity	We believe integrity includes fairness, honesty and loyalty, which are essential for public trust.
Respect	We respect everyone including ourselves. We strive to treat each other with dignity and compassion while providing cooperation and teamwork.
Constitution & Law	We believe in both the federal and state constitutions, as well as recognizing and applying federal, state, and local laws.
Excellence	We strive for excellence in all tasks performed. We believe in the importance of knowledge and continual training to strive for excellence.
Accountability	We accept responsibility for our actions and are accountable to our community.
Adaptability	We believe that through a combination of imagination, ingenuity and common sense, we can be effective in our work of identifying and solving problems. We are flexible and innovative, meeting the demands of a dynamic, ever-changing community.

YEAR IN REVIEW

MAJOR EVENTS, CALLS, & CASES

2020 was a historic year for the city of Oak Creek, the State of Wisconsin, the United States, and the world but not for the reasons that many anticipated. While the world was preparing for the 2020 Olympics in Japan, the United States was gearing up for a much-anticipated election year with the city of Milwaukee being the site chosen to host the Democratic National Convention. As COVID-19 infections reached Wisconsin in early February, no one could have predicted the impact that this global pandemic would have on the world, our nation, and right here in Oak Creek.

Originally scheduled for July 13-16, 2020 at the Fiserv Forum, the Democratic National Convention (DNC) was expected to bring 50,000 people to the greater Milwaukee area. Oak Creek community leaders including representatives from the city, OCPD and local businesses met to prepare for the DNC and the potential impact on the city through hotel use and event



planning. As the event was initially postponed and eventually scheduled virtually, the impact on the community was not realized. While the event did not impact Oak Creek, the OCPD remained on alert during the event to potential disruptions that might occur from planned and unplanned events and activist groups traveling to Milwaukee.



Following the interior wall painting in Spring 2019, the Department embarked on an ongoing photo wall project that is anticipated to be completed in 2021. This project memorializes the history of the department through historical photos and other memorabilia. Other important photos were hung and a military wall was created honoring both current and past employees who have served in the military.

YEAR IN REVIEW

MAJOR EVENTS, CALLS, & CASES



In 2020, there were several social issues that resulted in protests being held nationally, in surrounding communities, and locally here in Oak Creek.

Several high-profile police officer involved incidents (in other cities) led to social justice protests locally and nationwide. While the majority of protests had been peaceful, some cities experienced riots and looting. The Oak Creek Police Department was prepared for all possibilities of protests or counter protests.

- A cooperative effort took place between OCPD and demonstration organizers to ensure the safety of everyone involved in a peaceful protest in Oak Creek on May 31, 2020 with a march to/from Drexel Town Square.
- Additionally, an organization called Stand Out hosted a peaceful event on June 11, 2020 called 'Fill the Circle for BLM' which encouraged community members to show support by drawing colorful and positive chalk artwork.
- A peaceful protest march was held on October 20, 2020 that originated in Kenosha and travelled through Oak Creek on their way to the City of Milwaukee.

The first of a handful of peaceful demonstrations regarding the closure of schools occurred at the Oak Creek Franklin School District office on August 20, 2020. Subsequent demonstrations occurred at both the district office and the Health Department.

Oak Creek officers and other law enforcement agencies were on hand at all of these events to ensure the safety of everyone involved.



The Oak Creek Police Department has a long-standing commitment to helping others including other law enforcement agencies. The department has been the recipient of this practice in several circumstances including during the Sikh Temple incident in 2012, when a Mutual Aid request was sent to surrounding law enforcement agencies seeking assistance. While 35 officers were initially requested, over 400 first responders showed up to offer their help. Each year we are asked to help other agencies in their time of need and in 2020, Oak Creek Officers were called to assist other communities in southeastern Wisconsin experiencing protests related to officer-involved incidents.

YEAR IN REVIEW

COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND OCPD'S RESPONSE

March 13

Governor Tony Evers ordered all schools to close, taking the three OCPD SROs out of their school assignments.

March 17

All City Buildings were closed to outside visitors, although the Police Department and Municipal Court have remained open on a restricted basis with enhanced safety protocols.

March 20

City-wide Emergency Operations Center (EOC) was activated with the purpose of communicating with the public regarding all of the rules and changes surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic. Chief Anderson serves on the EOC as the PD representative at their regular meetings.

At the direction of the Chief, OCPD established the first ever Pandemic Response Team (PRT) designed to be a clearing house for all information coming into the police department for dissemination and updating safety protocols as they evolved as well as monitoring the supply of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

March 24

To offer additional protection to the dispatchers to ensure that adequate staffing levels were maintained, the dispatch center was restricted to only essential business. Dispatchers begun asking COVID-19 screening questions prior to an officer being dispatched to the call location. If a caller had COVID-19 symptoms, dispatch would advise the officers to use PPE and proceed with caution.

With Governor Evers' Safer at Home order requiring residents to stay home and non-essential businesses to close, the Oak Creek Police Department assisted the Oak Creek Health Department (OCHD) in ensuring citizen and business compliance with the order. During this time, OCPD received numerous calls regarding confusion around the order and whether their business was considered 'essential'.

In an unprecedented step, officers also started taking certain complaints/calls by phone to mitigate the risk to their own health as well as the health and safety of citizens.

August 12

A state-wide order requiring Wisconsinites to wear masks went into effect. This mandate was strictly enforced at the OCPD requiring that all employees and visitors wear a mask unless in an enclosed office with no other occupants. Officers were required to wear masks when interacting with the public and when traveling together in their squads.

September
28

Oak Creek - Franklin Joint School District (OCFSD) students returned in a hybrid model with each student participating in part time virtual and part time in person. This return to school placed the three SROs back into their assigned schools.

October 19

Schools returned to 100% virtual with no plans to return to hybrid learning before the end of 2020, taking the three OCPD SROs out of their school rotation again.

YEAR IN REVIEW

MAJOR EVENTS, CASES, & CALLS

JUNE
2020

Victim shot during road rage incident in Oak Creek; police seek information on black sedan, suspect

By: CBS 58 Newsroom

Posted: Jun 17, 2020 9:12 AM CST

In June, a motorist was shot but not critically injured during a road rage incident that occurred on West Drexel avenue between Howell Avenue and South 20th street. Following an investigation, arrests were made in the incident.

SEPT
2020

Police: 2 in custody after Oak Creek carjacking incidents

Published September 16 | Crime and Public Safety | FOX 6 Now Milwaukee

OAK CREEK, Wis. - The Oak Creek Police Department on Wednesday, Sept. 16 said that two suspects are in custody after a carjacking and two attempted carjackings earlier in the week.

In September, a series of attempted car jackings and assaults occurred that ultimately resulted in the assault of a man at a gas station on Howell and the assault of an elderly woman who also had her car and cell phone stolen in the incident. In addition, another potential victim was approached by the suspects but they left without taking the vehicle. There was a brief pursuit of the stolen vehicle and accomplice car which was called off because of the dangerous speeds involved. Three suspects were sought in the incident and were eventually apprehended. The stolen vehicle was also recovered.

NOV
2020

2020 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

Trump rally in Kenosha among final stops in president's 2020 election campaign

AP
Monday, November 2, 2020

Joe Biden to return to Wisconsin Friday, marking his third visit to the Badger State in the fall campaign

Bill Glauber Milwaukee Journal Sentinel
Published 3:01 p.m. CT Oct. 26, 2020 | Updated 6:13 p.m. CT Oct. 26, 2020

The 2020 Presidential Election brought both President Trump and FMR Vice President Joe Biden as well as their running mates to Wisconsin multiple times in the weeks leading up to the election. While none of the visits occurred in Oak Creek, the proximity of our city to the airport (and the need to close roads to facilitate transportation of the candidates) impacted our department. In addition, several of our officers were assigned to assist Kenosha with security during President Trump's visit on November 2nd, the night before the election.

CRIME STATISTICS

2020 COMPARED TO 2019



Assault
-7%

2020	2019	#Diff	%Diff
198	215	-17	-7%

Sexual Assault
-24%

2020	2019	#Diff	%Diff
25	33	-8	-24%

Fraud
-5%

2020	2019	#Diff	%Diff
163	172	-9	-5%

Drug Violations
+1%

2020	2019	#Diff	%Diff
586	576	+10	+1%

Vandalism
-17%

2020	2019	#Diff	%Diff
134	162	-28	-17%

Prostitution
+42%

2020	2019	#Diff	%Diff
47	35	+12	+42%

DWI/OWI
-9%

2020	2019	#Diff	%Diff
146	161	-15	-9%

PDO*
-30%

2020	2019	#Diff	%Diff
766	1108	-342	-30%

Traffic Stops
-20%

2020	2019	#Diff	%Diff
4754	5990	-1236	-20%

* Property Damage Only (Motor Vehicle Accidents)

YEAR IN REVIEW

EQUIPMENT ACQUISITION

The acquisition of new equipment is a balance between determining why equipment is needed, what role it serves in the department, what it might be replacing or if it is novel equipment that has not been needed (or not needed at that level) in the past. Much of the new acquisitions in 2020 were directly related to the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on our department.

The COVID-19 pandemic caused a global shortage of necessary PPE (Personal Protective Equipment). This includes: masks, latex gloves, and protective suits. In response to a shortage of 'disposable' masks, the department purchased half mask respirators that were issued to all sworn personnel. As a result of the follow-up review of this acquisition, the department will now issue half mask respirators to all new officers moving forward.



Half Mask Respirator

Following the Governor's mask mandate that went into effect on August 1st, the department obtained a variety of washable masks for employees to wear on calls for service and in public spaces within the building.



Morpho ID Unit

Morpho ID unit is a mobile ID scanner that was purchased to verify fingerprints on the road in order to limit transportation of subjects back to the department. This unit resides in the supervisor vehicle (and one resides in the jail) and was already a planned purchase prior to the COVID-19 pandemic but was fast-tracked because it is more efficient and safer for both officers and the public.

Internal information displays were mounted in the Roll Call room and Report Writing rooms. These displays are constantly updated with current analytic data for patrol and updated with important information for all employees. This was also crucial in disseminating current COVID-19 information for everyone's safety.



Internal Information Display

Cases are now referred to the Milwaukee County DA's office electronically with DA Protect 'software'. This process was in the works for months, but the timeline was accelerated due to the COVID-19 pandemic as this process eliminates personal contact.

YEAR IN REVIEW

EQUIPMENT (CONT.)



An additional speed detection sign was purchased with the assistance of a Wisconsin DOT traffic grant. The sign will assist with traffic complaints around the city.



Four additional Fire Suppression Tools (FSTs) were purchased with a safety item match grant through our insurance provider, Cities and Villages Mutual Insurance Company (CVMIC), with the goal to eventually equip every squad.



The department purchased four 2020 Ford Explorers to replace older squads in compliance with the policy of replacing vehicles which had reached the mileage threshold for vehicles within our fleet. With 24/7 use in every conceivable form of Wisconsin weather, Oak Creek squad cars experience a 3-4-year life span in our fleet and are often retired to other city departments where they can still provide many serviceable years or if they are not needed, are sold at auction.

DID YOU KNOW?

While an average American puts approximately 13,500 miles per year on their car, police officers patrolling the 28 square miles of Oak Creek average approximately 50,000 miles per year on the patrol cars.

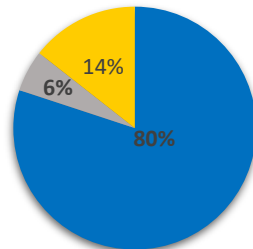
YEAR IN REVIEW

BUDGET OVERVIEW

DID YOU KNOW?

The Oak Creek Police Department operates under a budget funded through the City of Oak Creek budget process. The PD is specifically funded by three separate funds: the General Fund (fund 10), the WE Mitigation Fund (fund 19), and the Consolidated Dispatch Services Fund (fund 55).

Overall Police Department Budget



■ General Fund ■ WE Mitigation ■ Consolidated Dispatch

The main fund for the Police Department is designated in the General Fund which had a budgeted amount of **\$9,059,976**. This fund covers the majority of the personnel costs as well as the daily needs to effectively run the Department.



The WE Energies Mitigation Fund had a budgeted amount of **\$626,022**. This is a fund that has been supplementing the Police Department budget since 2006 from an agreement between the City of Oak Creek and Wisconsin Electric. This fund supplements a portion of the operating budget for the Department.

The Consolidated Dispatch Service Fund had a budgeted amount of **\$1,630,837** for 2020. The fund was created in 2015 when the City entered into an agreement to provide dispatch services to the City of St. Francis Police and Fire Departments. By separating dispatch services into this fund, it allowed for the Finance Department to properly allocate the expenses that needed to be billed to St Francis in accordance with the signed agreement.

We also utilize alternative funding sources, such as grants, to assist with initiatives by the organization. The Department has received grants for traffic enforcement initiatives such as Seatbelt Violations, Speeding, and Operating While Intoxicated. By participating in these initiatives, the Department is able to pay for the officer's wages and benefits while they are participating in the grant enforcement. This allows the Department to focus on these violations in high incident areas in an effort to make operating on the roadways safer. The Department has also applied for a Bullet Proof Vests grant for the officers and continues to get additional funding to offset these costs.

Department of Transportation *Speed, OWI, and Seatbelt Enforcement Grants* - \$23,071.63

Department of Transportation *Equipment Grant* - \$3,955.80

Department of Justice *Bulletproof Vest Partnership* - \$5,220.72

CVMIC Insurance - \$1,689.96

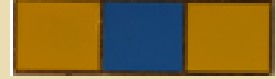
Historically the PD has always responsibly operated within the yearly funded budget. Although the final reconciliation of the 2020 budget was not completed at the time of this report, it is expected that the PD will again operate under budget for 2020. To view the 2020 budget, click [here](#).

YEAR IN REVIEW AWARDS CEREMONY

Every Spring, the Oak Creek Police Department recognizes excellence in our officers, dispatchers and staff who throughout the past year have achieved the highest standards of excellence in the performance of their duties. Also impacted by COVID-19, the awards were delayed until December of 2020 but still reflected achievements that occurred from Spring 2019 through Spring 2020. The following staff were recognized for their achievements:



Gold Physical Fitness Award



Sgt. Georgina Wettengel
Sgt. Andrew Ahearn
Sgt. Anthony McQuestion
Det. Gary Schneider
PO Michael Schultz
PO Scott Sadowski
PO Nathan Basting
PO Ryan Curran



Meritorious Arrest



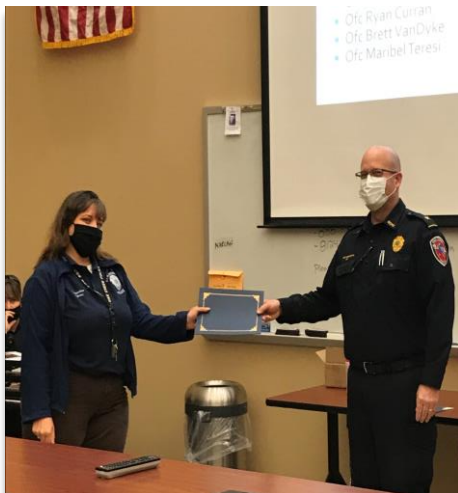
Det. Brett Mendola
Det. Robert Michalski
PO Ashley Chapman
PO Daniel Gitzlaff
PO Danielle Itsines x 2
PO Adam Mahon
PO Chris Schuerman
PO William Eisenhardt x2



Excellence in Training



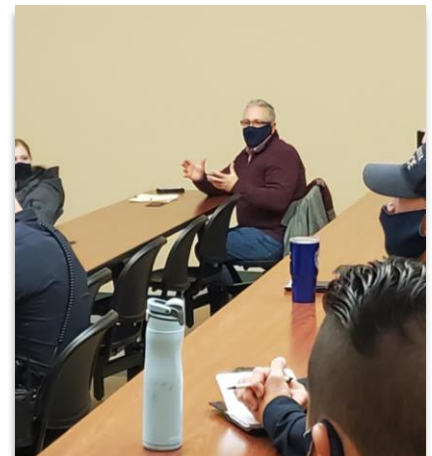
Capt. David Stecker
Sgt. Robert Carter



Telecommunications Life Saving Award



Disp. Sandra Herrmann



YEAR IN REVIEW

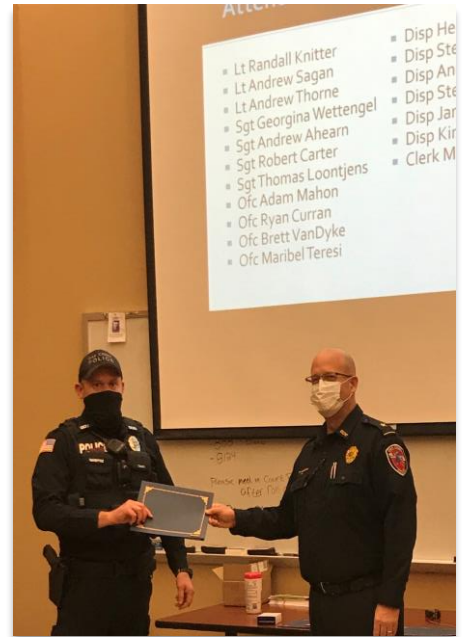
AWARDS CEREMONY (cont.)



Attendance Award

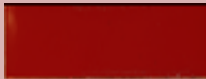


Lt. Randall Knitter
 Lt. Andrew Sagan
 Lt. Andrew Thorne
 Sgt. Robert Carter
 Sgt. Thomas Loontjens
 Sgt. Georgina Wettengel
 Sgt. Andrew Ahearn
 PO Adam Mahon
 PO Ryan Curran
 PO Brett Van Dyke
 Disp. Stephanie Uljanec
 Disp. Heather Ulatowski
 Disp. Stephanie Marks
 Disp. Janelle Williams
 Disp. Angela Sayeg
 Disp. Maribel Teresi
 Disp. Kimberley Arendt
 Clrk. Mary Young



- Lt Randall Knitter
- Lt Andrew Sagan
- Lt Andrew Thorne
- Sgt Georgina Wettengel
- Sgt Andrew Ahearn
- Sgt Robert Carter
- Sgt Thomas Loontjens
- Ofc Adam Mahon
- Ofc Ryan Curran
- Ofc Brett VanDyke
- Ofc Maribel Teresi
- Disp He
- Disp Ste
- Disp An
- Disp Ste
- Disp Jar
- Disp Kir
- Clerk M

Lifesaving Award



Lt. Randall Knitter
 PO Scott Sadowski
 PO Henry Narrai
 PO Brian Zangl
 PO Shawn Lentz
 PO Chris Schuerman



Unit Citation



Det. Jason Baranek
 PO Kelly Romel
 PO Dawn Hanizeski
 PO Wes Jerving
 PO Danielle Itsines



Chief's Award



Lt. Randall Knitter
 Mechanic John Kanter



YEAR IN REVIEW

OTHER AWARDS



On March 19, 2020, Officer Dawn Hanizeski was presented with the 2019 Wisconsin Association of Women Police Merit Award for her outstanding dedication to her profession and her amazing K9 work.



On June 25, 2020, Officer Ashley Schnering was presented with the US Postal Inspectors Award for her assistance coordinating training for the group.

In addition to staff recognition, the Oak Creek Police Department recognizes citizens who have gone above and beyond in their service to others in the community.



Citizen Awards

**Renee Bucio
Shelby Hemm**

In the 2019-2020 recognition awards, citizens Renee Bucio and Shelby Hemm were recognized for their selfless bravery. On May 31, 2019, a large, storm-damaged willow tree fell onto a power pole and disconnected the live wires which fell and subsequently electrified a nearby fence which enclosed a playground with children present. Renee Bucio and Shelby Hemm lifted 12 children over the live wires and sheltered them inside of a wooden shed until they could be safely escorted from the area.

DID YOU KNOW?

On May 11, 2013, eight members of the Oak Creek Police Department were recognized as some of America's "Top Cops" by President Obama for their brave response in the Sikh temple shooting. Brian Murphy, Sam Lenda, John H. Finco,

Julie Grauberger, Dean Kleinhans, Michael Shultz, Derick Slamka, and Kelly Romel all received this award from the president during a ceremony inside the White House.



YEAR IN REVIEW

NEW EMPLOYEES

In 2020, we welcomed several fresh new faces to our department.



JANUARY

- **Dispatcher Nicole Jackson** was hired as a Dispatcher on January 6, 2020 and comes into the department with over 5 years of public service experience at the Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office.
- **Jonathan Melcher** was hired as a Police Officer (Badge #147) on January 14, 2020 and attended the Police Academy at MATC (*pictured above*).
- **Evan Brunn** was hired as a Police Officer (Badge #148) on January 14, 2020 and attended the Police Academy at MATC (*pictured above*).
- **Alexander Savaglia** was hired as a Part-Time Squad Cleaner on January 24, 2020. Alex works as a Squad Cleaner while he is in college studying Criminal Justice.
- **Jane Marcowka** was hired as a Part-Time Court Liaison on January 27, 2020 and comes into the department with over 26 years of experience as Deputy Sheriff with the Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office.

APRIL



- **Officer Richard Prince** was hired as a Police Officer (Badge #150) on April 6, 2020 with over 11 years of experience with the Racine Police Department (*pictured above*).
- **Officer Nicole McManus** was hired as a Police Officer (Badge #151) on April 6, 2020 with over 4 years of experience with the Chicago Police Department (*pictured above*).

JULY



- **Officer Alexander Riha** was hired as a Police Officer (Badge #152) on July 6, 2020 after completing the Police Academy at MATC.
- **Officer Matthew Bublitz** was hired as a Police Officer (Badge #153) on July 13, 2020, with almost 2 years of experience with the Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office (*pictured above*).
- **Officer Evan Stanger** was hired as a Police Officer (Badge #154) on July 13, 2020 after completing the Police Academy at MATC (*pictured above*).

YEAR IN REVIEW

POSITION CHANGES

Advancement on the job is one of the hallmarks of a successful career and we are proud of the following employees whose achievements were recognized through promotions and next career steps.

- Police Officer Garrett Hamilton worked at OCPD as a Police Aide from January 13, 2019 through January 13, 2020, when he was sworn in as Police Officer (Badge #146) on January 14, 2020 and attended the Police Academy at MATC.
- Police Officer Maribel Teresi worked as a dispatcher from August 22, 2016 through January 13, 2020 when she was sworn in as a Police Officer (Badge #149) on January 14, 2020 and attended the Police Academy at MATC.
- Police Clerk Faith Sromalla worked for almost 9 years a dispatcher with OCPD and moved to the Clerical Unit as a Police Clerk in February 2020.



Sergeant Anthony McQuestion (*pictured above*) took the role as Acting Sergeant at the end of October in 2019 and was officially sworn in as Sergeant on February 17, 2020.



Detective Benjamin Lockwood (*pictured above*) served on the evidence unit for 10 years and as a temporary detective in 2019, and was sworn in as a Detective on March 2, 2020.

- Dispatcher James Dooley transitioned from Police Officer to Dispatcher on May 14, 2020.
- Acting Detective Gary Schneider served as a temporary detective in 2019 and was assigned as an 'Acting' Detective on March 27, 2020.
- Officer Kelly Romel was assigned to Training Officer of the department on June 1, 2020.
- Officer Ashley Schnering returned to patrol duty on First Shift after serving as the Training Officer from June 2016 through May 2020.
- Officer Timothy Zwicke returned to Patrol on First Shift after serving as the SRO at the high school.
- Officer Henry Narrai returned to Patrol on First Shift after serving as the SRO at east middle school.
- Officers Ashley Chapman and Officer Zachary Case were assigned as the new SROs along with Officer Shawn Lentz.

YEAR IN REVIEW

ANNIVERSARIES, RETIREMENTS, & RESIGNATIONS

We appreciate the dedication of these employees who are celebrating these milestone anniversaries with the department.

▪ 5 YEARS

- Ulatowski, Heather - Dispatcher
- Lentz, Shawn - Officer
- Schoenike, Ryan - Dispatch Supervisor
- Basting, Nathan - Officer
- Gitzlaff, Daniel - Officer
- Marks, Stephanie - Dispatcher

▪ 10 YEARS

- DeFord, Adam - Dispatcher

▪ 15 YEARS

- Sadowski, Scott - Officer
- Possing, Christine - Property Room Clerk
- Hausner, Aaron - Officer
- Bauknecht, Jason - Dispatch Manager

▪ 20 YEARS

- Young, Mary - Clerk

▪ 25 YEARS

- Joel Bateman - Detective
- Steven York - Sergeant

The Oak Creek Police Department has been fortunate to employ many long-term employees who have committed themselves to serving the community through their dedication to the department. In 2020, we said goodbye and good luck to several respected members of our department:

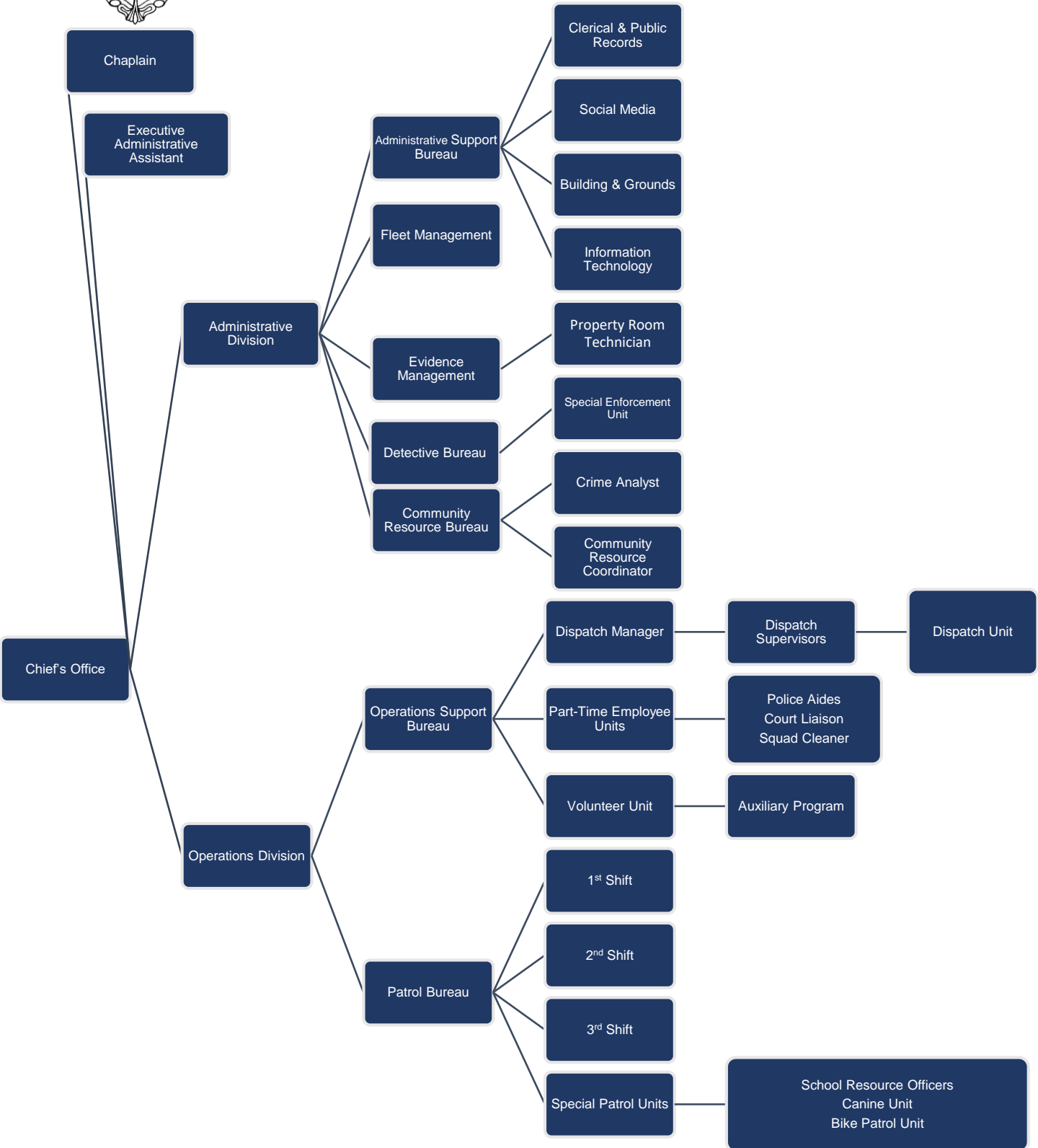
- Sue Ventela retired on December 31, 2019 after 22 years with the OCPD (31 years total with the City of Oak Creek).
- Deb Paget retired on December 31, 2019 after 6 years as a Dispatcher and 19 years as a Clerk.
- Sergeant Ronald Piojda retired on February 14, 2020 after 27 years of service with OCPD.
- Officer Julie Grauberger retired on July 2, 2020 after nearly 29 years of service with OCPD.
- Officer Steven Gallagher retired on July 31, 2020 after 27 years of service with the OCPD.
- After a short-lived one-and-a-half-month retirement attempt in 2011 from his position as the full-time Mechanic, John Kanter returned as a part-time Mechanic and served in that role until his official retirement on December 31, 2020 after 21 years with OCPD (34 total years with the City of Oak Creek).
- Jeff Brown retired from the position of Part Time Mechanic on December 19, 2020 after 8 years with OCPD.
- Christine Possing retired from her position as the Part-Time Property Technician in December 19, 2020 after nearly 16 years in the position.

2020 saw the resignations:

Officers Grant Johnson, Evan Brunn and Alex Riha, Police Aide Nathaniel Cramer, and Dispatcher Adam DeFord.



ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



ORGANIZATION

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF

The Oak Creek Police Department is directed by the Chief of Police (under the supervision of Mayor Bukiewicz) and is composed of two divisions—the Administrative Division and the Operations Division.

Office of the Chief

Chief Steve Anderson has been with the Oak Creek Police Department since 1991 and has served as Chief since 2016. The overall responsibility for the department is overseen by the Office of the Chief and while 2020 saw many challenges, the department remained prepared to respond to those challenges while supporting the Mission of the Oak Creek Police Department. Any impact felt by the department in response to the pandemic, social justice issues or shutdowns were in addition to the normal day-to-day operations which remained steady throughout the unusual year. The department's responsibility during the pandemic meant keeping employees safe while being able to adapt to ever-changing policy and circumstances.

Chief Anderson's participation in discussions with other leaders in law enforcement and in joint command centers related to the pandemic and other events ensured that the department stayed current in our understanding of the events and our measured response.



The Oak Creek Police Department Chaplain is Pastor Dean Noonan from Faith Baptist Church in Oak Creek who is responsible for support, as required, for all members of the Department in matters which are both personal and professional in nature. He stops in periodically, will ride with officers, and is usually on hand for the annual meeting which was unfortunately cancelled this year. The chaplain is also available to provide support during critical incidents for officers and members of the community who are experiencing a crisis.

The Executive Administrative Assistant handles many of the administrative responsibilities of the department including payroll, confidential record-keeping, purchasing, travel scheduling, equipment acquisition and provides general support to the entire department. Taylor Parry, new to the position as of October 2019, has taken ownership of her role and oversaw much of the acquisition of the department's PPE in the face of supply shortages and backorders. Taylor also managed the creation of this Annual Report alongside Community Resource Coordinator, Lisa Wytrykus Kleppek.



DID YOU KNOW?

The Police and Fire Commission is a commission of 5 citizens to act as liaison between the Citizens of Oak Creek, Police and Fire Departments and appointed City Officials. The Board's primary duties include hiring the respective Chiefs and approving their sworn personnel appointments. The Commission is also responsible for certain disciplinary procedures. The mayor appoints the commission members to a 5-year term. Current Members of the commission include President Scott Koenig, Secretary Jeff Sageser and fellow commission members Gene Hibbler, Alexa Alfare, and Jesus Carrillo.

ORGANIZATION

ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION



Administrative Captain Dave Stecker



The Administrative Division provides administrative support to the operational units of the Department. Led by Captain Dave Stecker, the Administrative Division is responsible for several bureaus within the organization as well as all the Hiring, Internal Affairs, Response to Public Contact, Social media communication and monitoring, Building and Grounds, and Technical Support. As the pandemic drastically affected the way in which the non-patrol employees interacted with the public, Captain Stecker oversaw the development and enforcement of building restrictions and the acquisition of equipment to facilitate virtual meetings.

ORGANIZATION

ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION

The Vehicle Maintenance Mechanic oversees 14 patrol squads, 3 School Resource Officer squads, 7 unmarked police vehicles, 7 admin vehicles, 1 evidence collection van, 1 command post, and 1 tactical vehicle.



OCPD has transitioned from squads that were primarily sedans in the early 2000s to the use of (mostly) SUVs, both Ford Explorers and Chevy Tahoes.



White Squads

1994 - 2008



Black and White Squads

2017 - Present



Silver Squads

2008 - 2017

The Clerical Department currently employs 3 full time Police clerks and one full time Public Records clerk. The clerks are responsible for transcribing the reports of the officers into written reports, verifying Incident Based Reporting (IBR) data and attending to the public who come to the department. One dedicated public records clerk prepares records for the public as they are requested.

The Public Records clerk position was created in 2016.



In 2020, our Public Records Clerk processed **2,240 records requests**.

The Property and Evidence Clerk is a civilian employee who maintains the chain of custody for materials that have been entered into evidence for ongoing cases. The property room is additionally maintained by one officer and a supervising sergeant.

DID YOU KNOW?

In 2020, the property room inventoried 2,703 items of evidence and responsibly destroyed 767 lbs. of medication (196 lbs. of that collected at the medication collection event in Oct. 2020).

ORGANIZATION

ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION

Detective Bureau

The Detective Bureau, commanded by Lt. Dave Ashenurst, is a lively, energetic, experienced group of 6 full-time detectives which serves the department and the community by providing comprehensive investigations into a variety of criminal cases that have occurred within the community. The 2020 Detective Bureau is staffed by five detectives and one 'acting' detective; one detective is also assigned to a Drug Task Force in the Milwaukee Area. The Detective Bureau investigate criminal cases requiring additional follow-up in Oak Creek including death investigations, road rage, reports of fraud, burglaries, robberies and fleeing vehicles. Notable cases in 2020 include:



Road Rage Incident with Shots Fired – suspect was arrested after identification from retail surveillance camera.

Homicide Case - death was the result of an impaired driver involved in a motor vehicle accident.

Sexual Assault – Detectives Michalski and Mendola investigated a sexual assault that occurred 10 years ago and were successful in charging the suspect with 1st degree sexual assault of a minor. This case, which is awaiting trial, resulted in a Meritorious Arrest Citation for the detectives involved.

DID YOU KNOW?

The OCPD Detective Bureau is a lead agency for the Milwaukee Area Investigational Team which responds to scenes of officer-involved incidents throughout Milwaukee County and the City of Waukesha.

Community Resource Bureau

The Community Resource Coordinator, Lisa Wytrykus Kleppek is responsible for providing resource information to residents about community-related issues including safety, security and crime-prevention. In addition, the Community Resource Bureau is responsible for organizing community events most notably, National Night Out, Bike Rodeo, Coffee with a Cop, Cop on a Rooftop, Women's Self Defense along with other events. Please see the Community Resource section of this report for a full list of community events and resources available to you.



The Crime Analyst, Dan Carranco, assists with reviewing information and giving data-driven information on when and where to deploy police services. This intelligent-led policing has proved very useful since this position was established in 2019.



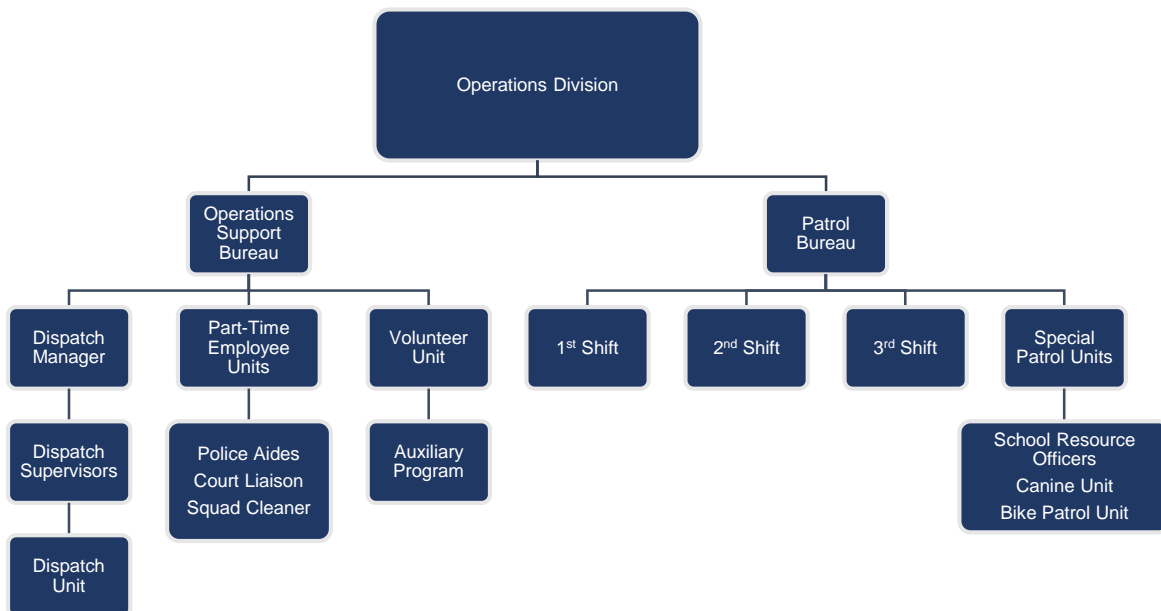
ORGANIZATION

OPERATIONS DIVISION

The Operations Division provides primary police services to the community through traffic enforcement, accident investigation, initial response to calls for service and enforcement of municipal and state laws. The Operations Division, commanded by Captain Mike Bolender, consists of the Patrol Bureau, the Dispatch Unit and the Operations Support Bureau.



Operations Captain Mike Bolender



ORGANIZATION

OPERATIONS DIVISION

The Patrol Bureau which includes 44 sworn personnel consists of three 8-hour continuous shifts providing coverage 24 hours a day 365 days of the year.

Each shift is commanded by one lieutenant with two sergeants. Of all the suburbs in Milwaukee County, Oak Creek is in the top three for call volume and experiences a large variety of calls each and every day. The Oak Creek Police Department has consistently focused on the best training for our officers to ensure that their response is measured and any use of force, reasonably necessary.



BEHIND THE BADGE

While policing in any community requires a strict adherence to the laws of the community, it is the heart of the officers in Oak Creek that is routinely on display. Take a look behind the badge.

In 2020:

- OCPD officers voluntarily escorted the body of an Oak Creek Marine, Pfc. Evan Bath, killed in a training accident from the location of his funeral to the cemetery in another community.
- OCPD officers have begun CPR multiple times upon arrival on the scene prior to the arrival of the OCFD and have been recognized for these life-saving measures.
- OCPD officers quietly purchased groceries and provided social service guidance for a mother who was accused of shoplifting groceries for her struggling family.
- OCPD officers responding to a call found a family in need on their child's birthday and pooled some money together to purchase some birthday gifts and food for the family.
- OCPD officers participated in several drive-by birthday celebrations for Oak Creek Residents.



Pfc. Evan Bath



The Oak Creek Police Department is fortunate to have the support and appreciation of many in the community. From the residents who drop off cards and food to those who show appreciation during routine interactions, we say thank you!

From a resident who called in November 2020 after our officers helped find a missing loved one, "I want to relay my thousands of thanks to them in working with her and being kind to her and getting her back to (her residence). It means an awful lot to me."

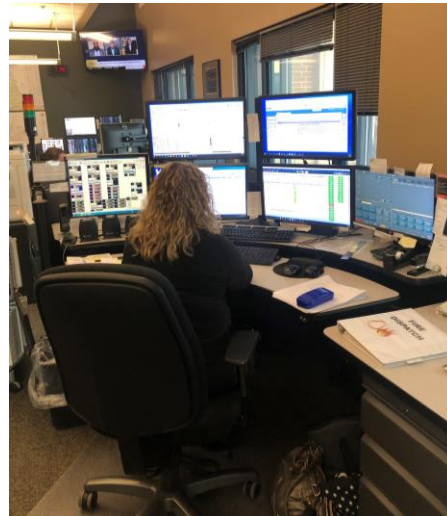
ORGANIZATION OPERATIONS DIVISION

Dispatch Unit



The Dispatch Unit is staffed by 18 dispatchers (which includes 2 working dispatch supervisors) and one dispatch manager. The Dispatch Unit answers both police and fire 9-1-1 (and non-emergency calls) 24/7 for the cities of Oak Creek and St. Francis (since March 2015).

- Each shift is assigned 6 dispatchers to accommodate the minimum staffing requirements of 3 dispatchers working at all times. During the shift, each person focuses on one position, either the OCPD radio, the SFPD radio or the combined OCFD/SFPD radio channel.
- While the primary duties of an Emergency Services Dispatcher include call taking (information gathering) and radio dispatching (information dissemination and unit tracking), dispatchers perform many other support functions. Some of these functions include looking up information and providing it for first responders, monitoring police department cameras, controlling building access points, entering critical data to the nationally shared law enforcement database and responding to critical incidents including natural and manmade disasters.
- Dispatchers are trained to provide medical instructions for certain kinds of medical calls. Our very own dispatchers have successfully delivered babies over the phone, coached callers through providing CPR, and have also given critical prearrival instructions for things like uncontrolled bleeding, seizures, and what to do to stay safe in a variety of emergency situations. Many members of our staff have earned Telecommunications Lifesaving Medals and other awards over the years.



DISPATCH UNIT

DID YOU KNOW?

In 2020 the Oak Creek Police Department Dispatch Center received approval from the Common Council to begin taking our own 911 cell phone calls. These calls were previously handled by the Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office and transferred to our dispatch center. This change should improve efficiencies as the caller no longer requires transfer.

ORGANIZATION OPERATIONS DIVISION



In comparison to 2019, Radio transmissions were down just over 15,000 from 2019 most likely directly related to the ongoing pandemic. With more people working from home and many restaurants and bars closed or partially closed down, there were less people out and about.

While radio transmissions were down, actual 911 calls were up by 1475 calls (an increase of 15%) from 2019 to 2020 although not all of these calls were due to actual emergencies. Several variables increased this number including phone issues with the 911 calls (that caused the lines to keep recording even when no longer in use), 200 more 911 hang ups and instances when 911 lines were down in other cities and needed to be rerouted to our dispatch center.

353,618

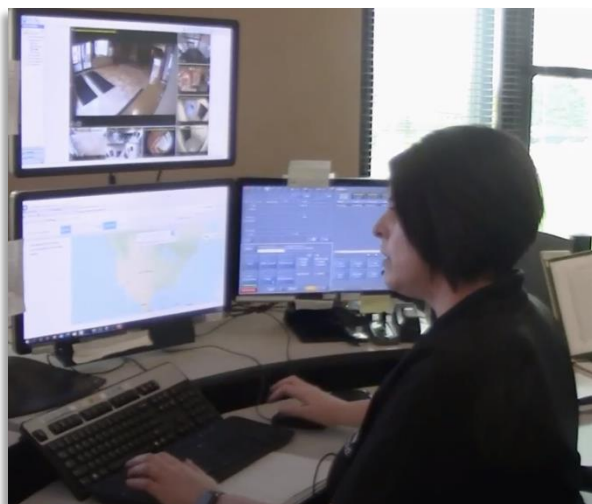
Radio Transmissions handled by Dispatch for a total of 990 hours, 25 minutes, and 7 seconds

9,778

911 Calls answered for a total time on 911 calls of 295 hours, 56 minutes, and 30 seconds

88,118

Phone calls answered (non-emergency and 911 combined) for a total time on the phone of 1,721 hours, 52 minutes, and 13 seconds



DISPATCH UNIT

ORGANIZATION

OPERATIONS DIVISION

The Operations Support Bureau oversees the service of both paid and unpaid support staff to the patrol division.

The Court Liaison is a part-time position responsible for taking cases prepared by officers for state criminal and state traffic offenses to the district attorney's office for review. In addition, the court liaison keeps the state records updated as to the ongoing status and disposition of cases, as well as keeping all forms and procedures needed for charging conferences updated.

In 2011, the position of Court Liaison was transitioned from an officer working part time in this role to a part-time civilian (someone typically with a law enforcement background) performing the duties. This effort is a fiscally responsible approach to filling this position with someone knowledgeable about the court system while allowing our officers to focus on their primary responsibilities.



The Squad Cleaner is responsible with the cleaning of the fleet and minor building and grounds tasks.



Police Aides are part-time paid positions for those in college (actively working on a police-related degree), to get experience in the field of law enforcement. that relieves police officers from certain administrative, clerical, and service functions which do not require a sworn officer. Some duties performed by Police Aides include vacation checks, onsite event staffing at events (e.g. Stuff the Squad) and traffic control.

DID YOU KNOW?

Started in 1999, the Police Aide program provides young college students interested in a career in law enforcement with in-depth experience working in the field. Twenty Police Aides who have made their way through program have become sworn law enforcement officers including eight who became Oak Creek Police Officers.

The Auxiliary Unit are 13 non-sworn volunteers with a variety of backgrounds and experience levels. These dedicated volunteers, some of whom have been with the department for nearly twenty years assist with traffic and crowd control at civic events, school events, and court every Tuesday. Auxiliaries are asked to commit to a minimum of 2-4 hours of service per month and attend a training meeting each month. To ensure that all of the auxiliaries demonstrate a consistent response, they receive training in their monthly meetings on subjects such as courtroom security procedures, CPR, Emergency Weather Response and Traffic Control.



ORGANIZATION

SPECIALTY UNITS

DID YOU KNOW?

Many of the officers and some of the non-sworn personnel at the Oak Creek Police Department take on additional responsibilities by becoming members of specialty units within the department. The requirements, duties and training of these units dictate the selection process and it is those who possess the best of these attributes who are chosen to participate. You can read about the specialty units on the next few pages.

AWARDS

The Awards Committee has the authority to review most recommendations, determine appropriate award classifications, and oversee the issuance of most Department awards, excluding shift acknowledgements, the Chief's Award, the Chaplain Father B. Doan Memorial Trust Award, the Career Achievement Award and the Exemplary Officer Award.

The committee meets regularly to review award nominations, vote on nominations and confirm that the received recommendations are consistent with policy and deserving of formal recognition.

The committee plans and runs the annual awards ceremony which is typically held in May during Police Week. The award ceremony was not held in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic; instead the awards were presented to the recipients during roll call in December.



The committee consists of 2 supervisors, 1 officer per shift, 1 detective, and 1 clerk and rotates members through 2-year terms with the Chairperson's term set at 3 years.

BIKE PATROL



OCPD's Bicycle Unit serves as an alternate and highly visible means of patrol staffing, to assist in areas that are difficult to reach by squad car or on foot, high pedestrian count events, and other special events. In addition to these special patrols, members of the bike patrol participate in the Bike Rodeo, a yearly tradition that takes place in spring. The Bike Rodeo, which focuses on teaching bike safety to school-aged children, was cancelled in 2020 because of the pandemic.

ORGANIZATION

SPECIALTY UNITS

CRISIS NEGOTIATION UNIT (CNU)

The goal of the crisis negotiation unit is to save lives and to resolve critical incidents while striving to avoid unnecessary risk and injury to law enforcement personnel, citizens and victims. The Crisis Negotiation Unit (CNU) is used in an attempt to diffuse potentially life-threatening situations through the use of proven verbal crisis management techniques. Incidents involving barricaded subjects, hostage takers, or persons



threatening suicide are especially trying and stressful for law enforcement personnel who respond to them. Crisis Negotiators are called in when the first responding officers determine the situation warrants the additional units. Crisis negotiators must establish contact with subjects, identify their demands, and work to resolve tense and often volatile standoffs without further injuries or loss of life.

CNU averages 1-2 full team callouts per year. In 2020 we were called out to one incident. Our members' training and experience is used frequently while on shift without a full callout throughout the year.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE UNIT (ERU)

In recognition of the fact that certain critical incidents require a response beyond the scope of normal operational control, the Oak Creek Police Department has developed, trained and equipped the Emergency Response Unit. The unit is comprised of Police Department officer 'Operators' and Fire Department 'Tactical Emergency Medical Support (TEMS)' members. The primary objective of this Unit, and each member of the Unit, shall be to protect the lives of citizens, prevent injury, protect property, and in so doing, to keep the citizens safe from harm and add to the citizens' sense of safety and security. The ERU is also utilized in searching for missing or lost individuals and are trained to handle mass evacuations if needed. Procedures utilized shall be consistent with this hierarchy of goals.



The ERU was utilized in 2020, as in other years, when additional support was needed both in Oak Creek and in other communities in SE Wisconsin.

To maintain peak preparedness, the ERU conducts regular training sessions often jointly with the Crisis Negotiation Unit.

ORGANIZATION

SPECIALTY UNITS

EVIDENCE TECHNICIAN UNIT

The Evidence Technician Unit is responsible for the documentation, collection and processing of evidence on an as-needed basis. Photographs, Video, Diagram of Scene, Fingerprints, DNA Evidence Collection – tool marks/footprints /impressions. Technicians process anything of evidentiary value; from small singular items, to vehicles and full-scale incidents.



FIELD TRAINING OFFICER (FTO) PROGRAM



The first step to becoming a confident member of the Oak Creek Police Department team is our field training program. The program typically lasts twelve weeks. This training provides probationary officers with the basics to safely perform the job requirements of a police officer. Most academy training programs leave a wide gap between classroom model and “real world” application of police work. Exposure to actual street experience, patrol activities, and investigations allows probationary officers to apply classroom principles to real life situations. The field training program is also used to determine whether a probationary officer can function effectively as a police officer. Field training officers complete daily and weekly observation reports on a probationary officer’s progress.

All newly hired Oak Creek Police Department probationary officers will first be assigned to two weeks of in-house training. This in-house training includes firearm use, defense and arrest tactics. Probationary officers will then be assigned to a twelve-week field training program. During the twelve-week field training process, the probationary officer will be assigned to various officers and supervisors on all three shifts.

HONOR GUARD

Members of the Honor Guard are trained in drill and ceremony honors according to national standards and wear a distinctive Honor Guard uniform. Honor Guard present the colors at special events such as swearing in ceremonies and retirement ceremonies as well as provide funeral honors for fallen officers.

Each guard member receives an intensive one-week Basic Honor Guard training from members of the Washington DC Metropolitan Police Department Honor Guard which we have been hosting at the OCPD since 2006. Unfortunately, because of the pandemic, this training was not held in 2020.

Members also train quarterly to maintain their skills and conduct as needed training prior to specific details if necessary.



ORGANIZATION

SPECIALTY UNITS

The Oak Creek Police Department is fortunate to have K9s on all three shifts – All OCPD K9s are dual purpose, performing patrol and narcotics duties.

K9 Stanley – Officer Mike Musa

K9 Stanley is a six-year-old Belgian Malinois and works first shift. Stanley started his law enforcement career in 2016.



K9 Stanley's purchase was made possible by a generous donation (\$59,000) from his namesake, Stanley Kass' donation through his estate. A donation of this size will fund the purchase and training of approximately four police K9s.



K9 Nox – Officer Dawn Hanizeski.

K9 Nox is an 8-year-old German Shepherd and works second shift. K9 Nox started his law enforcement career in May of 2013.



K9 Revi - Officer Nicole Raffini.

Officer Raffini attended a six-week handler course in North Carolina in October 2020 where she had extensive training with her new K9. She returned in early November 2020 and began patrols with K9 Revi on third shift.

ORGANIZATION

SPECIALTY UNITS

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS (SRO)

The SROs are Police Department employees who are responsible for school safety, crime investigation, teaching, educating and mentoring students. The SROs act as role models to the students and are a liaison between schools and the department.



Officers Narrai, Zwicke, and Lentz

In 2020, the School Resource Officers were:

OCHS: (Spring) Officer Zwicke and (Fall) Officer Case

OCEMS: (Spring) Officer Narrai and (Fall) Officer Chapman

OCWMS: (Spring and Fall) Officer Lentz

DID YOU KNOW?

The School Resource Officer (SRO) program started in 1999 with a grant from the U.S. Justice Dept. Through an agreement with the Oak Creek Franklin School District, there are three SRO's, one at the high school and one at each middle school. The school district partially funds the SRO positions.

SPECIAL ENFORCEMENT UNIT (SEU)



The SEU is comprised of a group of patrol officers, one detective and one supervisor who address problem areas within the city. Specific areas of concern include traffic complaint areas, problem intersections, prostitution, human trafficking, drug interactions and suspicious activities in hotels, businesses and homes. The SEU officers enforce law violations that are outside of the norm either while on duty or on special assignment.

ORGANIZATION

SPECIALTY UNITS

TRAINING UNIT

As part of the mission of the Oak Creek Police Department, a high priority is given to the training of our officers and our department trains throughout the year on various topics.

The Oak Creek Police Department follows the State of Wisconsin Law Enforcement Training and Standards and this training is completed through in-house certified instructors, as well as external entities and experts in various topics. Our training is completed in accordance to law and policy, providing our officers and employees with a clear understanding of the constraints under which they should operate and the expectations they should fulfill.

In 2020, these internal and external trainings continued this year in various forms despite the COVID-19 pandemic. Pandemic safety procedures were implemented including masks, additional cleaning supplies and social distancing, while some training was conducted virtually when necessary and applicable.

The Oak Creek Police Department Training Unit is comprised of multiple members of our department that use various skill sets and certifications to train our members in topics such as, defense and arrest tactics, firearms, professional communications, vehicle contacts, emergency vehicle operation and tactical response. The Training Unit also coordinates and utilizes external trainers for a variety of other topics.



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT: Training Officer

The Training Officer is responsible for scheduling, coordinating, overseeing, conducting, documenting and tracking of all internal and external police department training. Officer Ashley Schnering completed four years in her role as the Training Officer and helped to train Officer Kelly Romel on the role before returning to Patrol.

The Training Officer position was created in 2011, with Joel Bateman as the first TO, and tasked with eliminating the need for outside training support and creating an in-house program that would cover all necessary training within the department. This required a brand-new scheduling system that allowed for the possibility of in-house training every 13 days. This new system saves the department over \$50,000 in overtime costs per year. Additionally, the training can be tailored to specifically fit the current needs of the department.

24

Training hours required by
The State of Wisconsin

147

Average hours an OCPD officer trained in 2020
(down from 151 in 2019 due to COVID-19).

ORGANIZATION SPECIALTY UNITS

P.O.S.T (Police Officer Support Team) and Career Survival

P.O.S.T (Police Officer Support Team) and Career Survival focus on the emotional and psychological wellbeing of employees.



The Police Officer Support Team (P.O.S.T) exists to provide a voluntary and confidential outlet for officers, employees, and their families, who may have experienced a critical incident that has triggered a strong emotional response. POST members receive specialized training through the Milwaukee Police Department. OCPD POST members offer support within our department and may also volunteer to support other law enforcement agencies in an on-call status should the need arise.

Career Survival plans various uplifting activities for members of the department and their families. COVID-19 forced the cancellation of many family events in 2020. In past years, the Career Survival unit planned picnics, Breakfast with Santa, and Family Movie Nights. The unit was able to coordinate one Family Movie Night in February before in-person events were discouraged.



COMMUNITY RESOURCES

COMMUNITY RESOURCE BUREAU

The Community Resource Bureau serves two main functions for the community, providing a variety of community service programs and analyzing criminal activity in the community to help reduce crime.

In 2020, a main focus of Crime Analyst Dan Carranco was analyzing Property Damage from MV Accidents (PDOs), Thefts, Burglary, Theft from Vehicles, and Vehicle Thefts. Ultimately, his work was concentrated on theft from vehicle, vehicle thefts, and burglaries because they are often connected to each other and the potential chain of criminal activity that can result from an unlocked car is well-documented.

An unlocked vehicle provides easy access to whatever the owner has left within the car. That same offender might notice that a garage door remote has been left inside the car which can provide easy access to the contents of the garage and if the garage is connected, the house. If the thief, while inside the house or garage, finds the keys to the vehicle, they now can take possession of the vehicle.

<i>Theft Statistics (2019 compared to 2020)</i>	2019	2020	Previous Year Change
Robbery	5	12	+140%
Burglary	77	71	-7%
Shoplifting	413	389	-5%
Theft from Building	74	57	-22%
Theft from Vehicle	115	75	-34%
Theft of Vehicle Parts/Accessories	29	49	+68%
Vehicle Theft	39	64	+64%

In Oak Creek from 2017-2020:

61% of all vehicle thefts resulted from vehicles being left open (windows) or doors unlocked

35% of all vehicles that were taken had keys inside

70% of all car break-ins were because the vehicle was unlocked/opened

27% of burglaries start from the garage being unlocked/opened.

DID YOU KNOW?

The easiest way to avoid becoming a victim of theft is to lock your vehicle after arriving to your destination, taking your garage door opener with you, and locking your garage after arriving home. These three actions, if done consistently by everyone in Oak Creek would dramatically decrease theft in our city!

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

COMMUNITY RESOURCE BUREAU

While the events of 2020 forced every agency within the city to change its operations, the pandemic, in essence, took the “community” out of the Community Resource Bureau.

With a full slate of activities planned for 2020, the first event to be cancelled was Coffee with a Cop scheduled at the Starbucks in the Target-Oak Creek. This was quickly followed by the Spring Women’s Self Defense Class and a new offering, the Community Dog Walker’s Watch. The Bike Rodeo, normally scheduled in May was cancelled as were the regular school and scout groups that requested tours through the Community Resource Bureau. The National Night Out committee postponed the decision to cancel National Night Out until mid-summer with the hopes that it could be held safely. Ultimately it was determined that any large gathering would be risky and the event was cancelled.



National Night Out 2019



Coffee with a Cop 2019



Cop on a Rooftop 2019



Bike Rodeo 2018



Women’s Self Defense Class 2018

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

COMMUNITY RESOURCE BUREAU

Alternate Programming

In an attempt to provide alternative programming to the public, the Community Resource Bureau sought new ways to provide outreach to the community.

- The newly developed, Dog Walker's Watch was offered in a virtual format with the plan to offer in-person when it is safe to do so.
- With the cooperation of many within the department, a [Police Department Virtual Visit](#) video was created that was provided to the OCFSD for the second graders who would miss their annual tour of the city. Another [video](#) was created for a local veteran's home on the Fourth of July honoring veterans. This video was released again on Veteran's Day in November. A [video](#) featuring photos of past National Night Out events was created and released on August 4th, the date when NNO should have taken place.



- Lisa Wytrykus Klepek, the Community Resource Coordinator, visited a local neighborhood hosting their own small scale NNO and (while wearing masks for safety) talked with the residents about the importance of neighborhood awareness.
- A series of infographics were created and regularly released addressing a number of fraud topics including frauds impacting veterans, families of recently deceased loved ones and several directly related to the ongoing pandemic.
- When it was determined that the OCPD would not be able to coordinate its annual Shop with a Cop, Lisa sought funding from Meijer Oak Creek (who has hosted in the past) and was able to purchase and safely distribute holiday gifts for 28 children in the OCFSD.
- The Oak Creek Police Department continues to receive calls regarding medication collection program and offers a safe place for citizens to bring unwanted medications, ointments, patches, sprays, creams, vials for disposal. Callers are advised that while the Health Department are not currently accepting Needles/Sharps, they can pick up a sharps container for proper disposal. The medication collection program along with the other many services provided by the Oak Creek Police Department can be found on the OCPD website [here](#).



COMMUNITY RESOURCES

SOCIAL MEDIA



In recent years, social media has become one of the most effective ways for the Police Department to communicate and connect with the community. The Oak Creek Police Department uses multiple social media platforms including [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [Nextdoor](#) to interact with the community. With the consistent address @OakCreekPolice, users can get information about:

- Lost pets, job postings, employee new hires, scam/crime/theft alerts and tips
- Ongoing Cases that require assistance from the public: the department will often ask for the community to help in identifying suspects from surveillance videos. The OCPD has seen many positive identifications and solid leads by utilizing help from the public.



DID YOU KNOW?

The Oak Creek Police Department [Website](#) is full of information and resources for citizens with the goal to be as transparent as possible, such as:

Department policies, monthly and yearly crime stats, job opportunities, department history, open records request forms, community resources, current parking regulations, and more!

Social Media Statistics

Facebook:

10,717 followers
587,057 people reached
Increase of 24.4% from 2019
Most viewed post – Loose Dog – 199,315 people reached. *(He was eventually reunited with his owner).*

Instagram:

Followers: 1,233
Posts: 340

Twitter:

Followers: 831

Next Door:

Followers: 6,176 (with a reach to 17,222 households)



T
H
A
N
K

Y
O
U
!

