



The Informer

Wausau Police
Department

The Informer
April 2016

April News

The Bank of Trust

You've heard Captains Ben Bliven and Matthew Barnes talk about the Bank of Trust (BOT), making as many deposits in the BOT as we possibly can so that when we need to make a withdrawal from the bank we have some reserve to keep us afloat. We talk often about the level of engagement we feel is important and necessary in our community to attempt to understand the needs and complexity of our community. The more exposure WPD can have with our community partners, the better they will understand us and trust us. We know that every contact we have with our citizens is an opportunity to make a deposit into the BOT.

Our trust and our credibility were clearly challenged when Minister Laurie Bushbaum made an allegation of "racism" against the WPD. A very serious and damaging allegation that has the potential to ruin relationships and to crumble the foundation of trust that we work so hard every day to build with our community. Yes, we needed to go to the bank...to the Bank of Trust and make a withdrawal. We needed our community stakeholders and our community partners to withhold judgement until they had all the facts. If we had not built up the trust in our trust account it might have been too late. Citizens might have believed Minister Bushbaum's narrative and felt that we violated someone's rights, in fact, someone's civil rights. We cannot sit idle while our reputation is at stake and specifically, the reputation of the officers involved.

Because the officers believe in making deposits into the BOT, our department does have credibility in the community and we do have allies throughout. This was obvious when we hosted our awards banquet, many community partners were in attendance to show their support.

The community heard from Minister Bushbaum as she leveled a very damaging allegation of racism against

WPD. This allegation places us in a very delicate situation. If we respond and defend ourselves against this allegation, people might think we are overly aggressive and feel we might be racist for getting defensive. However, if we do not respond, the only voice the public will hear is that of Minister Bushbaum and people might think the allegation is true since we haven't responded. Like many other law enforcement situations, we usually are in a no-win situation.

Ultimately, we realize that the community needs as much information as possible to form an educated and objective opinion. We started by meeting a reporter from the Wausau Daily Herald to give them ALL the information reference the case in question. In fact, we met with the reporter for approximately 45 minutes discussing the actions of the officers, the reason for the contact, the need to identify, and the actions of the subject that prompted the police response. We gave the reporter copies of all the reports, including the squad car video DVD which carried the audio of the arrest.

The next day when the article appeared in the print paper, we were extremely disappointed. The article only included a fraction of the information that was relayed. Among other things, the squad video was NOT mentioned in the article and therefore, there was no link to the video for the community to view or hear the conversation between the officers and the subject arrested. We understand the media has time restraints and space restrictions but this was a serious enough allegation that we felt strongly the community should have ALL the information. We decided to use our Facebook account to tell the whole story and include a link to the squad video.

We formulated our response to include the reasonable suspicion the officers had to make contact with the subject, the dialog that occurred between the officers and the subject, and the probable cause that officers had to make an arrest.....we told our story. The response was overwhelming. The Facebook views, the

Continued on next page



The Bank of Trust Continued from previous page

likes, and the comments gained momentum as fast as Steph Curry can fire a 3 ball. Comments posted came from all over the world showing their support and thanking us for releasing the video so they could see for themselves how our officers handled the situation. All the comments had a similar theme.....the officers handled themselves perfectly. They were patient, clear with instructions, gave the subject numerous opportunities to tell the truth, and were reasonable in using force when the subject resisted.

Did it feel good to have over 630,000 views on our Facebook post, 260,000 views on the video, and nearly 700 comments supporting the officers? Well, I can tell you personally, it felt amazing. We work hard to gain community trust and when someone tries to erode that trust or undermine the fruits of our labor, it hurts. Granted, we will never gain the support of everyone. In fact, some of the conspiracy theorists, anti-law enforcement crusaders, still believe that we pepper sprayed the subject while he was handcuffed and while he was handcuffed kneed him in the eye to break his eye socket. Of course, that's what Minister Laurie Bushbaum said during her press conference. Even though the video is clear on when the officers disengaged from the struggle to pepper spray in an attempt to gain control of the subject.

These are the same conspiracy theorists that have accused us of arresting a mayoral candidate because we want another candidate to be Mayor. Basically, accusing us of intentionally following the candidate until he violated a traffic law so we could stop and arrest him. The same conspiracy theorists that stated police officer, Darren Wilson, shot Michael Brown when Brown had his hands up, prompting the phrase, "Hands Up, Don't Shoot." When the truth was revealed that the "hands up, don't shoot" was a lie, they continued to push that platform with the phrase even though it wasn't true.

I guess the thing that really bothered me about this, that really got in my craw, was the attempt by Minister Laurie Bushbaum to divide our community, to create wedges, to generate conflict, to turn the community against the police department. We will fight until our last breath to prevent that from happening. We have many issues that need to be addressed in our community. Many issues that are not just a police problem. Police deal with many issues on a regular basis, but they are community issues not just police issues. They require a caring, involved and united community to help solve these issues. We need to be united, to be all inclusive, to address community issues. To create a better community and to make a difference we need all stakeholders to unite. Calling out a community partner that is highly invested in improving our community by labeling them a racist, is detrimental to the progress we want to achieve.

Thank you to officers Jake Chittum, Luis Lopes-Serrao and Lieutenant Michael Felder for allowing us to tell the truth and thank you to all our supporters for verbalizing your support and allowing us to continue to make deposits into our Bank of Trust.



To read Captain Bliven's article posted on our Facebook page, [click here](#) and scroll down to March 10, 2016



Policing a Community—The Truth Matters

Article by: Jim Palmer

Executive Director of the WI Professional Police Association



Jim Palmer

The scourge of racism is a serious problem facing this country, and one that confronts many Americans of color. Across our nation, controversial incidents of law enforcement misconduct and biased policing have received widespread attention in the national media. To an extent, the narrative that has emerged from these events has painted the law enforcement profession with a broad brush that overshadows the fact that the vast majority of officers are dedicated and honorable. Nonetheless, these controversies have also highlighted how law enforcement, in a number of ways, can and must do better. This is especially true when it comes to engaging the public and building stronger relationships with the people it has sworn to protect.

Wisconsin's law enforcement community has answered that call to action in a manner arguably not seen anywhere else across the country. Our police agencies have been well ahead of the national curve in becoming more transparent and accountable, and in making concerted efforts to increase the diversity of their departments to better reflect the communities they serve. Additionally, Wisconsin was the first state in the nation to require that any officer-related death be investigated by an outside agency, a reform would not have been possible without law enforcement's ardent support and collaboration with citizen advocates.

Notably, the Wausau Police Department stands out through its exemplary efforts to actively engage its diverse citizenry. The agency has been exceedingly open and transparent with the public, as was demonstrated last year when it called for an independent investigation into the *nonfatal* shooting by one of its officers, even though not required by law to do so.

Despite the WPD's exceptional efforts to foster the community's trust, allegations of racism have been brought forth relating to the arrest of an African American man last November. To the department's tremendous credit, it has released the arrest reports and video from the incident to allow the community to judge the truth of the matter for itself. It's incredibly unfortunate that the individuals who have waged these serious claims of racism against Wausau's officers neglected to do the same and learn what actually occurred before staging an accusatory press conference last Thursday on the courthouse steps.

In publicizing sensational allegations of misconduct without properly informing themselves, these accusers reveal an effort designed to pound a round peg into a square hole by attempting to impose a national narrative on a local agency without the factual basis to do so. The stellar men and women of the Wausau Police Department deserve better, as does the public and the true victims of racism, wherever it is exercised.



Officer Lopes-Serrao's response to Captain Bliven's Facebook article regarding racial profile accusations

I would like to extend my appreciation to you and the rest of the command staff for the way you have handled this matter. I understand, and fully expect, a thorough review when any allegations are made. The fact that the department chooses to be so open and descriptive with these matters really helps us maintain the trust of the community. Releasing the videos and documents have obviously worked to extinguish a fire fueled by a lack of information and complete bias. The way you all work with the media and community are a perfect example of why I wanted to work for this department and why I am proud to be here.



Congratulations Lieutenant Hartwig!



Lieutenant Andrew Hartwig

Join us in congratulating Lieutenant Andrew Hartwig on his promotion to Patrol Lieutenant!

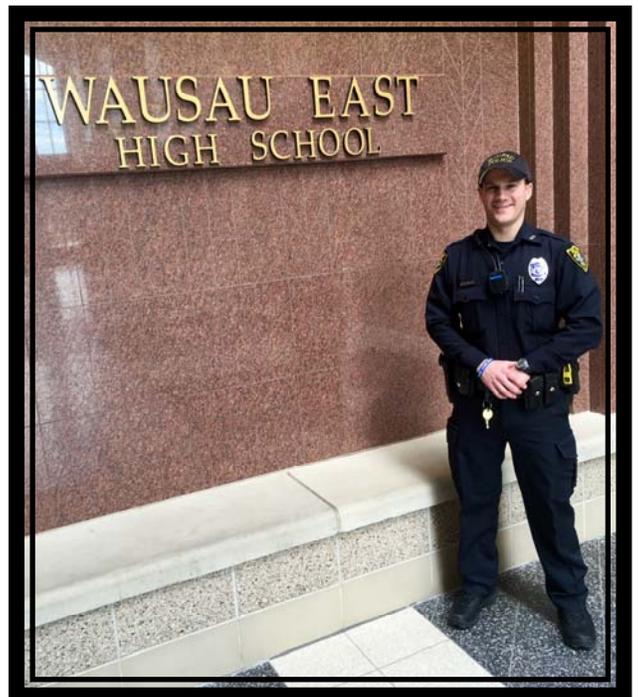
Lt. Hartwig was hired in 2007 and assigned to patrol duties on the night shift. Lt. Hartwig was assigned as a School Resource Officer in 2013. Andy was also a field training officer and a current member of the Marathon County SWAT team. Lt. Hartwig also volunteers and helps coordinate numerous Special Olympics events for WPD and our community.



Officer Stetzer Named School Resource Officer

Join us in congratulating Officer Nick Stetzer as he is Assigned as a School Resource Officer at Wausau East High School.

Officer Stetzer was hired in 2012, after three years he became a firearms instructor, an FTO, an Explorer Post advisor, coordinated the Citizen's Academy & the 'Teen Driving Program'.





Best Wishes on your Retirement Officer Landretti!



Captain Greg Hagenbucher & Officer Dave Landretti

Congratulations and Best Wishes on your Retirement Officer Landretti!

The Wausau Police Department hired Officer Dave Landretti in 2000.

Officer Landretti spent a few years on the MNSO joint SIU task force and then became a K9 Handler in 2005. Dave met his new partner K9 Foster. They were partners for 9 years until Foster died unexpectedly. Officer Landretti and Foster performed many K9 demonstrations and received many awards.

Best wishes on your retirement!



Officer Dave Landretti & K9 Foster



Best Wishes on your Retirement Lieutenant Heindel!

On April 1, 2016, I said so-long to a close friend, my law enforcement career. This friend has been with me for the past 30 years. I met my friend in the small town of Edgerton, WI. in Rock County in 1986. This friend attended our wedding when I married my wife Diane in 1987. He moved with us to Wausau in 1988 when I started working for the Wausau Police Department. My friend came along with me in the late 80s to help keep the peace at the boat landings in northern Wisconsin during the spearfishing protests. He was with me during the birth of our son Ben in 1991 and our daughter Kaitlyn in 1995. He was with me during the homicides, the suicides, shootings, stabbings and general rough times. He was also with me during the good times. He got to see the faces of the kids light up when I was speaking to them at Wausau Child Care, or with the Scouts as they took tours of the PD with their parents. My friend got to see the relief on the victim's face after her abuser was arrested and taken to jail. My friend was by my side in November of 1994 as I rode to the hospital in the ambulance with an 8 year old girl who was shot. Together we watched her die on that trip. She would have been 30 this year and I often wonder what her life would have been like had she not been in the wrong place at the wrong time. I was with my friend when I saw the curious faces of the attendees at the Citizen's Academy as they asked questions to understand how the police department works. I was with my friend as we were training the new recruits that WPD hired, from 1990 when the Wausau Police Department started its formal field training program to 2016. I found out how close my friend was to me when my father died, and when my wife was diagnosed with breast cancer. He staunchly stood by me in support when I crashed the squad car on April 12, 2005 as a result of a seizure, and was subsequently diagnosed with Epilepsy. My friend has truly been an understanding soul who has stood by me for the past 30 years. On April 1st I said so-long to my friend the law enforcement career. That career is built around the men and women who have become my extended family and had an impact on me through the entire journey. I recognize that it's time to pass the torch and introduce my friend to the new officers so they can start their own journey on this life long career. Even though I say so-long to my friend, "the career", I will always cherish the relationships I have made in the past 30 years as a law enforcement officer.

So-long my friend,

Luke....



Luke in captivity



Lieutenant Luke Heindel with family



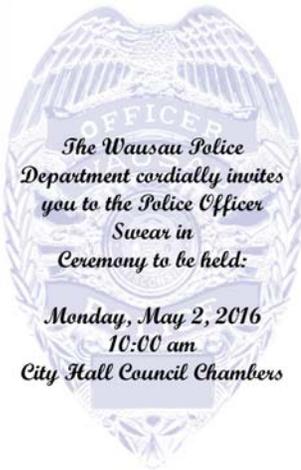
New Officer Swear-In

Integrity
Professionalism
Accountability
Respect

The Wausau Police Department strives for excellence in policing by partnering with the community to enhance the quality of life.

Officers to be sworn in

Nicholas Walters 161
Benjamin Price 162
Snow Thao 163
Michael Borneman 164



Please join us....

As we welcome four new officers. The Wausau Police Department will hold the New Officers Swear-In ceremony on Monday, May 2, 2016. The ceremony will be held in the Council Chambers at City Hall, at 10:00 am.

All are invited.

~~~~~  
**Thank you note from Pat Peckham**



To the entire department:

Please accept my heartfelt thanks for the honor you so thoughtfully bestowed on me at your excellent award banquet.

From top to bottom, those working for the Wausau Police Department here impressed me again and again, so the award really does mean a lot to me.

Pat Peckham



### Emergency Police News



Wayne Baneck

The Wausau Emergency Police Unit would like to welcome two new officers, Officer Wayne Baneck and Officer Stephen Lotharius to the unit. They were sworn in at the April meeting.

During the April meeting Officer Nathan Porath instructed the unit in Professional Communication Skills. The Emergency Police have contact with a wide variety of people and the training Officer Porath gives is always very helpful.

This is the start of the busy season for the Emergency Police and we are always looking for help. If you know of someone or would like to serve the community yourself, please complete an application. The application can be found on the Police Department Website.



Stephen Lotharius



### Officer Appreciation for Officer Bedish

**Email from Ann Werth, Community Development Director, to Chief Hardel**

After my Department has dealt with a couple of tenants with drug use, Ben suggested that my staff might be interested in drug education. We took him up on the suggestion.

Officer Sarah Bedish gave a drug educational session this morning to myself and staff. She did an awesome job of educating us, informing us of what we should be looking for in the multiply rental units we inspect, and also where to report suspicious activity and what not to touch. It was valuable information.

I just wanted to thank you for making your staff available, and letting you know again, how one of Wausau's finest (Sarah) took the time to inform, answer questions, and educate.



Officer Sarah Bedish



### Officer Spotlight Officer Kyle Buchkoski

Hello, I am Kyle Buchkoski (badge #3083). I currently work the night power shift 3p-3a in off day group "A". I was originally born in Phoenix, Arizona but have lived in the Wausau Area since my family moved here when I was about 4 years old. I grew up near Hatley/Bevent area. More specifically right by Mission Lake County Park for anyone that might be familiar with that.



Officer Kyle Buchkoski

I graduated from Northland Lutheran High School in May of 2005. I attended Northcentral Technical College and graduated in May of 2007. I worked part time for the Athens Police Department from May of 07 to April of 2008 when I was hired for the Wausau Police Department. I enjoy my job very much and the most important and rewarding thing to me is being able to have a positive impact on people and to try and make difference whenever I can.

Secondly, I have come to the realization during the last couple of years that Wausau PD really is my second family. I have become very close and formed some lifelong relationships with some of my coworkers and those relationships are very important to me. I am one of the departments Field Training Officers which I find challenging at times but also very rewarding and enjoyable.

During my off time, I enjoy NFL football, (I'm a fanatic Packers fan), I am very into the auto industry and specifically trucks (some of my friends and family might say I have a bit of an obsession with trucks), I enjoy biking, hiking, traveling, camping, swimming, bowling, anything that involves socializing with my friends, and specifically I enjoy spending time at home and doing anything with my fiancé Caitlin and her two boys. I am honored and blessed to work for such an outstanding department with so many talented and professional individuals. I am proud to work with you all and I will continue to enjoy many more years of service with the Wausau Police Department.



Be safe, always appreciate your blessings, and never take things for granted.

**Jeff Hardel**  
**Chief of Police**  
**Wausau Police Department**

**Leadership Quotes:**  
*The Private Victory must precede the Public Victory.*  
*You can't invert that process any more than you can harvest before you plant.*  
**Stephen R. Covey**

Those close to me know I love music. Music is powerful and can move me to tears or laughter. Prince was one of my favorite artist so in his passing I have decided to give a shout out to an amazing artist and favorite Prince song.

*I never meant to cause you any sorrow*  
*I never meant to cause you any pain*  
*I only wanted to one time to see you laughing*  
*I only wanted to see you*  
*Laughing in the purple rain—"Purple Rain"*  
**Prince 1958—2016 RIP**