



# The Informer

Wausau Police  
Department

The Informer  
June 2016

## June News

Many of us attended the Wisconsin Association of Homicide Investigators conference this past April to support Detective Jen Holz as she received the Death Investigator of the Year award. During the awards banquet, DCI Agent, Dave Forsythe, gave an impressive and inspiring speech. Dave has been a friend and professional colleague for many years and is very respected in our profession. I asked Dave if he would be willing to share his speech with us so we could use it in the Informer for others to read his impressive remarks. Thanks Dave for being a great leader.

## 2016 WAHI Conference Banquet Address

**By: David Forsythe**

Much of this WAHI Conference is based around OIS (Officer-Involved Shooting)/ OID (Officer-Involved Death) shootings and investigations. It's a very important and timely topic that needs to be addressed; and, as usual, WAHI has done a great job of doing that and doing it well.

The vast majority of police officers are in the field of law enforcement for the right reasons. They never want to have to shoot someone. Law Enforcement Officers are acutely aware that they could be called upon to give up their lives for others at any time. In John 15:13 it says, "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down his or her life for his friends." I think it even takes more love, commitment, honor and duty to be willing to die for someone who's not a friend. Police officers, by taking their oath to "serve and protect", are saying that they are willing to do this every day they're on duty – and sometimes even when they're off duty. It definitely takes a special man or woman to be a law enforcement officer.

Death is usually NOT like it's depicted in the movies, on television or in video games. An OIS or OID has an incredibly profound effect on the involved officer(s), their families, law enforcement agencies, communities and sometimes the entire law enforcement community across the nation .... and even beyond. I know I'm "preaching to the choir" on these things, but.... The media, special interest groups, politicians and others continue to bring them up.

- It is usually NOT even close to feasible to shoot a gun or knife out of the suspect's hand.
- It's absolutely asinine to put down your gun, walk up to a hostage-taker and offer to talk about his or her

problems.

- Bringing a Taser or OC spray to a gun or knife "fight" is just plain stupid!

Real lives are in the balance! People die, are badly wounded, suffer for years, go through intense agony during physical rehabilitation and a multitude of other after effects. The "ripple effect" of lives that are changed because of OIS/ OID incidents is unfathomable.

The training that police officers receive related to use of force, firearms, less lethal weapons, Defense And Arrest Tactics (DAAT), Special Weapons And Tactics (SWAT), crisis negotiation and many other similar topics has multiplied exponentially over the years.

Most officers never have to fire their gun in the line of duty. Many could have justifiably shot someone, rammed them with a vehicle, or used another lethal type of force but didn't. Instead they chose to wait (sometimes for hours, days, weeks or longer), utilize proper cover/concealment, bring in the SWAT option with a negotiator among other potential techniques.

Some law enforcement agencies never have an OIS / OID incident in their jurisdictions; while others, sadly, have them fairly commonly. Adams County Wisconsin never expected to have two officer-involved shootings within less than 6 months! The officer involved in both of those situations will be one of the people on the panel tomorrow.

With the after affects and fallout from incidents like Rodney King in Los Angeles, Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri, Freddie Gray in Baltimore, Tony Robinson in Madison and others, there's more public scrutiny, media attention, demonstrations, lawsuits, calls for civilian review boards to oversee police officers, and other knee-jerk reactions every day. That's another reason I'm thankful for research and training like that provided by WAHI, Force Science Institute and many others.

We've all heard about (and probably been involved in on almost a daily basis) the multitude of split second decisions that have to be made by police officers in the midst of the screaming of victims, bloody crime scenes, death threats

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**David Forsythe**

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from a career criminal who's trying to get your firearm and use it against you .... as opposed to the months or years taken by judges, attorneys, review boards, and a plethora of other "Monday Morning Quarterbacks" that strive to make sure that every "i" is dotted and every "t" is crossed to ensure that involved officers follow every policy, procedure, case law precedent, statute and constitutional provision remotely related to what happened. I get it! That's our system of criminal justice and that's what we signed up for with this job. That's why we have training before and during our professional careers.

The use of body cameras, squad cameras, booking room cameras and the like is commonplace in our line of work now. The future will be very interesting, indeed.

The fear of the unknown can be immense and even crippling. Proactive awareness and training on what to expect if you're ever involved in an OIS/OID incident is incredibly important. Action beats reaction every time and Proactive awareness is always better than spontaneous reaction without forethought.

The constant stress involved in the life of a law enforcement officer can tend to eat away at him or her. PTSD is a real concern for those in the police profession. More research has been coming out in recent years to support the fact that the hypervigilance needed to survive as an officer, the constant barrage of dealing with pervasive criminal activity, the inability of people to understand what we go through 24/7 leads to stress..... and that stress increases synergistically when an officer is involved in an OIS / OID incident.

This squad car door in front of me is from an incident that Taylor County Deputy Chad Kowalczyk was involved in where he was shot. According to the surgeon who operated on Deputy Kowalczyk, Chad was within about 1/4" of losing his life. The squad car door showcases the danger we all face everyday just for doing our jobs as police officers. Chad was attempting to talk to a subject about a domestic violence issue when the person shot at him through the front door. The subject continued to shoot at Chad as he radioed for assistance, ran for cover and then ran for his squad car.

I'm also reminded of when I was involved in investigating the Craig Birkholz shooting in Fond du Lac. The shooter was firing from his "sniper's lair" at responding officers, killing and injuring policemen who were doing their best to serve and protect others. While interviewing the involved officers, I heard them talk about how they responded to the scene, saw what happened to Craig, were shot at themselves as they were getting out of their squads or maneuvering into positions and it again shows what we all know too well about how things can change ..... for eternity..... in an instant.

I can't say enough about Trooper Trevor Casper who, on his first day of being on the road on his own went up against a career criminal/bank robber/murderer who ambushed and shot him. While Trevor was bleeding out and dying, he was able to take out the threat and kill it – saving who knows how many lives in the process. From what I was able to learn as the lead investigator in that case, Trevor did everything right. Interviewing the officers, witnesses and others involved in that incident showed what a great Trooper - and man - Trevor was, what a super family he had, the excellent training he and other on-scene officers received, how evil his killer was, how most of the communities we serve do appreciate what we do, and many other things.

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**David Forsythe**

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*Thank you for what you do!*

*Thanks* for working in all the conditions you do – from 30 below to 100 above and everything in between, in swamps, in cramped apartments, in dense forests, in hoarder’s homes, in prisons, in burned out apartments, on school campuses, underwater, in landfills, and untold other environments.

*Thanks* for working the long rotten hours – getting the call to handle a death investigation after already working a full day and just getting ready to go to bed - then working another 24 hours plus before finally getting a few hours of sleep. Thanks for working days, weeks, months, years and sometimes even decades on a case. Thanks for sticking with it, holding the killer accountable and helping to bring some sense of closure to the victim’s family and friends.

*Thanks* for the multitudes of sacrifices made by your families – having to miss so many family get-togethers, missing your children’s extra curricular activities, tournaments, birthday parties, band and choir concerts, scout outings, plans for weekends, holidays, vacations and so many other planned times with friends and families.

*Thanks* for doing things day in and day out that “normal people” rarely have to do and don’t have a clue about – looking at the worst of humanity, seeing the depravity of the horrible crimes people do to each other, dealing with evil psychopaths, sexual deviants, drug dealers, and so many other career criminals to whom life is so cheap. Some of us responded to a case in Wisconsin Rapids yesterday morning. Two young children were killed by the person who was supposed to protect them. It was a gruesome scene and one of those that will never be forgotten by those there dealing with the aftermath of the deaths.

I recall another similar case from River Falls a few years ago when I was at the autopsies of three young sisters who had been killed by their father. I was talking to the doctor who was handling the autopsies as he was sponging the blood off of the youngest victim. He had a Russian accent, had probably handled thousands of autopsies. He was crying as he told me that his own daughter was the same age and looked very similar to the victim. As someone just told me yesterday ..... You can’t unsee what you’ve seen.

And, *thanks* for dealing with the surviving victims of crime – the parents of the teenager who died of a heroin overdose, the spouse of the victim who was killed just for being in the wrong place at the wrong time, the parents and siblings of the officer who was shot in the line of duty and died of the wounds he or she sustained.

In closing .....Fight the good fight! Stand firm! Don’t lose sight of what really matters! Be the sheepdogs who protect the sheep from the wolves! Please don’t give up IN SPITE OF what’s happening in the world today. Most people DO appreciate what we do and why we do it. We (and by that I mean we the police, our families, our communities, the world and society as a whole) need you to keep doing what you do. We need you to continue to do it with excellence, with a professional positive attitude, with compassion and with empathy.

Be safe. God bless all of you. Press on.....

Sincerely,  
Dave Forsythe



### **Congratulations Officer Cornell Wausau School District's Caught in the Act Award**

Officer Kevin Cornell, School Resource Officer at John Muir Middle School, consistently provides the support needed to help maintain a safe and productive environment for our students. He is not only there to help in crisis situations, but offers friendly advice to students and follows through to try and make sure students are set up for success. He is always willing to lend a hand “above and beyond.” He volunteers to assist with various building, staff, and student situations, which is a great benefit to all involved. His time and expertise in working with families and students is invaluable.

Officer Cornell is also SRO at Grant, Lincoln, G.D. Jones and Jefferson Elementary Schools. The Pupil Services Team at Thomas Jefferson had this to say: “There is not a day that goes by that the Team is not incredibly appreciative and thankful for the way Officer Cornell responds to student and family needs, and the way he engages and supports them in a crisis. He goes ‘above and beyond’ to provide on-going follow up, resources, and support to families, while keeping open lines of communication and collaboration with staff. Officer Cornell changes lives through the ways he positively supports staff and children. When he comes to the schools, students are happy to see him and know he works to keep everyone safe. His expertise is absolutely invaluable.”

The nature of situations involving Officer Cornell is often sensitive and confidential; he consistently goes “above and beyond” for students and families because he cares. Each and every day, the impact of his service creates a positive ripple. He truly demonstrates what it means to go “above and beyond” and inspires others to do the same. Officer Kevin Cornell has been *caught in the act* for excellence and is so appreciated at all five District schools.





### National Police Week Officer's Wives Banner

This banner was created by the families of officers of the WPD in honor of Law Enforcement week. "Behind every strong police officer is an even stronger family who stands behind them, supports them and loves them with all their heart."

Officer John Phillip's wife, Michelle, coordinated this project. Every effort was made to get all families handprints.



Thank you to all the families that participated!



### Spring Citizen's Academy

Twice a year the police department hosts a Citizen's Police Academy exposing interested citizens to the work of our department personnel.

Citizens are given a department & jail tour, learn about dangerous drugs, arrest tactics, firearms, OWI investigations, computer crimes, SWAT, Dive & K9 teams

Congratulations to the graduates of the Spring Citizen's Academy.

Special thanks to Officer Stetzer for planning & coordinating the academy.





### Special Olympics Submitted by Lt. Hartwig

First and foremost, I would personally like to thank everyone for their generous donations and participation in the 2016 Law Enforcement Torch Run! This has marked my 9th year working with Special Olympics, and I am honored to be able to represent the Wausau Police Department. In addition to the Torch Run, I have also had the pleasure of being involved with the Special Olympics Polar Plunge, Cop on a Roof Top, Tip-a-Cop, and coming in the near future, Run with a Cop.



2016 Law Enforcement Torch Run, Wausau WI

I am often times asked, "What does Special Olympics mean to you?" The answer is quite simple. Special Olympics has personally taught me how blessed I am in my life. It has also given me the opportunity to make life-changing differences in the lives of those with intellectual disabilities, WORLD WIDE, with commitment. I tell others that the smiles on the athletes' faces are addicting. These smiles are seen year-round at simple meet-n-greets as well as at the Summer Games held in Stevens Point, Wisconsin.

The picture at the end of this editorial includes Officer Nick Stetzer, Officer Nate Stetzer, the Chairman of Special Olympics, Timothy Shriver, and myself. It was an absolute honor to meet Mr. Shriver and even more rewarding to have gotten the opportunity to take a photograph with him. Mr. Shriver is the son of Eunice Kennedy Shriver, the late founder of Special Olympics. I can sincerely attest that Mr. Shriver instills pure, heart-felt energy when he speaks to employees, officers and athletes.

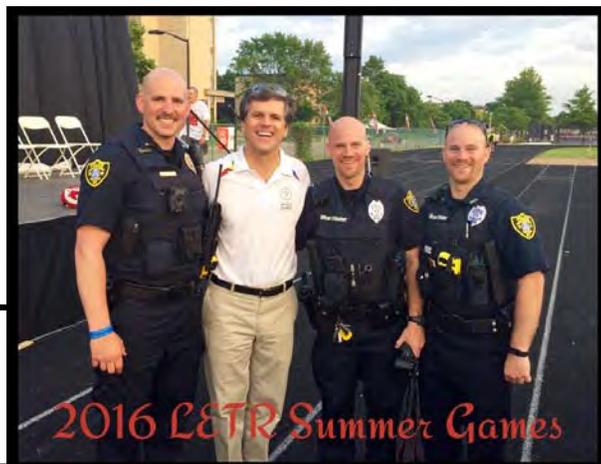
#### **Mr. Shriver's background:**

*"Timothy Shriver is a social leader, educator, activist, film producer, and business entrepreneur. He is the third child of Eunice Shriver, founder of the Special Olympics. As chairman of the Special Olympics, he serves more than three million athletes in 180 countries. He cofounded and currently chairs the Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL), the leading research organization in the United States in the field of social and emotional learning.*

*Shriver earned his undergraduate degree from Yale University, a master's degree from Catholic University, and a doctorate in education from the University of Connecticut. He lives in Maryland with his wife and five children."* - us.macmillan.com

Again, thank you to everyone for your dedication towards Special Olympics and please know that your donations, big and small, are making a huge impact on the lives of athletes around the world. This year has marked the 30th anniversary in which officers have been following the Torch (Flame of Hope). It also marks \$30 million dollars received to help raise awareness and sponsor athletes of all ages.

Lt. Andrew Hartwig  
Mr. Timothy Shriver  
Officer Nate Stetzer  
Officer Nick Stetzer





**Officer Appreciation for Lt. Hartwig  
Email from Julie Drake, Director Law Enforcement Torch Run to  
Lt. Hartwig & Chief Hardel**

I can't thank you enough for all that you do for our athletes, each and every day. The parade and run on the 400 Block were AWESOME and you and your officers had everything so well organized. In our athletes eyes all law enforcement officers are heroes for keeping the Flame of Hope burning for the past 30 years!

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**Email from Chief Hardel to Lt. Hartwig**

Great article Andy. Thanks for all your hard work organizing, planning, recruiting, and working SO events. You are a wonderful representative for WPD and the Wausau community, we are very fortunate to have you on our team. Congrats on your nomination to the Torch Run Hall of Fame and thanks again for all your hard work.

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**New Community Service Officers (CSO)**

We have five new CSOs that started in May. They will be patrolling the downtown area, parks, and assisting with animal control. These new CSOs will be joining our five returning CSOs from last year. Please welcome them!



Ken Block #591



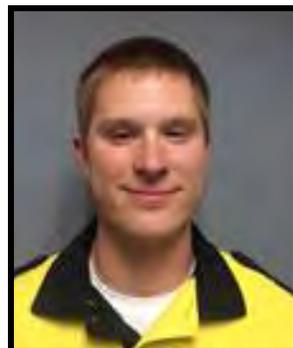
Wyatt Pufall #592



Ryan Lynch #593



Charlie Hessel #594



Mason Hagenbucher #595



## Appreciation for Department of Public Works & Emergency Police Severe Storm on Sunday June 5, 2016

On Sunday, June 5, 2016 a sudden storm whipped through the area producing high winds and causing destruction.



### **Email from Lt. Pekarske to DPW's Brian Petit**

I wanted to express our thanks for the quick response and hard work of the DPW crews that came in Sunday night after the storm went through.

The quick response by your on-call guy and having numerous DPW staff on-duty quickly certainly was appreciated.

Considering the amount of damage and trees down blocking roads throughout the city, the quick response, team work, and efforts of the DPW crews was awesome and helped clear up the major blockages and issues quickly.

I am not certain who coordinated the Parks Dept. response, but their quick response and efforts were also greatly appreciated as well!

### **Email from Lt. Pekarske to Emergency Police Larry Jaeger**

I want to pass along my appreciation for your assistance following the storm on Sunday evening.

It was certainly a great help that you were able to get a group of Emergency Police rounded up and in to the PD to help us out so quickly and on such short notice.

The extra help that your crew was able to provide checking on downed trees and road blockages, performing traffic & scene control, and then managing the damage and onlookers at Marathon Park was very much appreciated and certainly helped us free up officers to continue to handle all the other calls that were in need of attention.

Also, I did not get an opportunity to see all of the EP officers personally before they left; but please express my thanks to all four of them (Frank, Bob, Carol, and Dawn) for their quick response and assistance.

The help of the Emergency Police in a situation such as this was a great display of the dedication that your officers, as volunteers, have to their duties and to the citizens of Wausau.

Our sincere thanks for your help.



### **Appreciation for Wausau Fire Department Email from Officer Lemirand to Lt. Pekarske & Taylor**

Tonight I had the crash up in the NW part of the city, around E. Campus Drive where an 82 YOF crashed into 2 vehicles in 2 different driveways and then ended up in another resident's bushes.

One of the crashes she shoved the resident's vehicle into their garage which partially pushed in the structure of the front of the garage. I asked Wausau Fire to come to the scene to review the structural integrity of the garage wall. Paul Czarapata came over with his crew. They helped the homeowners remove their vehicle from the wall and then made the structure safe.

I understand this is not technically a function of the fire dept., but Paul had someone bring some wooden planks over to assist in this task. In all we had Paul's SUV, Engine 3, and the Rescue there on scene. The Fire Fighters completed the task and helped the residence with a job that was above and beyond the call of duty. I would like this email to get over to the Chief as I know the job they did really made the citizens feel comfortable and safe in their home. I am grateful they came to assist on this issue and they did a fine job.

The community is fortunate to have civil servants like Paul and the other Fire Fighters. I apologize for not knowing by name exactly who was on scene but I would still like to send my thanks and gratitude to them for their assistance. It's really awesome to work with such professionals.

### **Email from Lt. Pekarske to Fire Chief Kujawa**

One of our night shift officers sent the below email to express his sincere appreciation for the assistance from Paul and his crew on Sunday evening – helping us deal with the aftermath of a drunk driver crashing into multiple cars and ultimately pushing one car through the garage of a residence, causing some fairly significant damage to the residence. The efforts of Paul and his crew certainly helped us out and was very much appreciated by the residents.

While this is one example of WFD's dedication and professional in their service to the community – as one of the PD's Night Shift Patrol supervisors, I would like to say that this is an example of the excellent work the WFD performs on a regular basis and the teamwork exhibited on a daily basis with WPD and our officers. Working the night shift certainly brings its share of interesting and challenging situations and it is usually just the PD patrol officers and the WFD staff who handle these situations and have to problem solve and work together to achieve successful and positive outcomes. From the 37 y/o male PNB on Friday's night shift, who was revived, to the strange situation with the car crash into the house on Sunday night – your staff and the teamwork between WFD and WPD has certainly had a positive impact on the community and certainly makes for a great working relationship and work environment!





### Department Appreciation from a little Citizen

This little citizen sent officers High Fives and Hugs to say thank you for all you do.



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### Department Appreciation From Breanne Korenuk



Breanne Korenuk gave this flag as a gift to officers of our department as appreciation for our service to the community.

Pictured with Breanne is Lt. Andrew Hartwig



### Department Appreciation for all Officers Letters from Mrs. Butler & Ms. Donlin's students at Stettin School

Dear Wausau Police Department Officers,

Last week, during National Police Week, I talked with my class about some of the jobs that police officers do. We read some books about police officers and police stations.

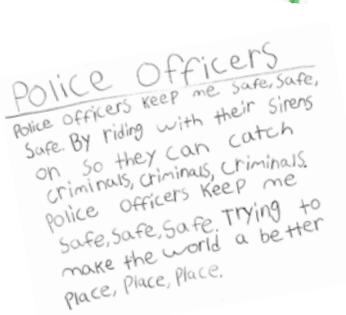
Enclosed with my letter, you will find a thank you note form each of my students.

I would also like to take the time to thank you for your dedication and your service to our community. Than you for putting your life on the line to keep everyone safe.

Mrs. Kristie Butler

These are just a few of the letters written from the first and third grade classes

Along with these letters, Mrs. Butler & Ms. Donlin brought donuts to the police department thanking the officers for all they do.





**Gratitude for the Day  
Submitted by Clifford Heiser, Firefighter/Paramedic**

I saw your Facebook post which began with "MINDLESS APES" today during my lunch break. You requested that the page's Facebook followers express their "gratitude for the day", here's mine:

On my crew's previous work day, my ambulance partner and I encountered law enforcement on two separate incidents.

The first, we were summoned at approximately 1830 for a car vs deer collision on State Hwy 29 W to evaluate a patient. Both of the WPD officers who were on the scene did a fantastic job at protecting the scene, the patient, and us from traffic in the roadway. Cones, emergency lighting, and parking techniques were utilized in a textbook fashion and were extremely effective. The patient was unlikely aware of the situation, but both my partner and I not only felt safe, but were assured that the officers cared for our safety.

The second, we were summoned just after midnight on for a patient with a benign medical complaint. The patient was, by his own admission, intoxicated. He also wished to secure his loaded, uncased firearm in his vehicle outside his residence. My partner and I did not feel comfortable with the man handling his firearm in our presence and so summoned an officer via dispatch. One arrived on scene quickly and happened to be one of the same officers at the previous incident I mentioned above. After explaining the circumstances to the officer, he promptly took control of the situation and mitigated the potential risk - all while treating us and (most importantly) our patient with respect and compassion.

In both these situations, the officers demonstrated Integrity, Professionalism, Accountability, and Respect. I've always had confidence that your department and personnel "have our backs" in the field, but these events have reaffirmed such.

Unfortunately, I don't know many of your officers by name, only by face. So, I'm unable to tell you specifically which officers to thank for their service on 5/31-6/1. However, please know, and make it clear to your personnel, that their dedication to their profession and our community is appreciated and admired.

To put it simply: Thank you.



**Officer Appreciation for Officer Kurtzhals  
Email from Lt. Hartwig to Chief Hardel**

On 5/31/16, Officer Mark Kurtzhals had accepted the dayshift overtime to help cover the road during the Peace March. At approximately 1142 hours, Mark had been dispatched in reference to a 3 ½ year old female child that had gone missing. A short time later, the child was safely found two blocks away and returned to an extremely thankful mother.

*Going above and beyond...*

I had been present during this incident with Mark and after the child was released back to her mother, we had discussed the nature of this call. Mark still remained concerned for the wellbeing of the children inside of the house and feared that the 3 ½ year old would escape again. He noted that this was an extremely busy traffic area and did not want for the child to again step onto the roadway. As a result, Mark performed a welfare check at the concerned residence and found it to be in inadequate condition. He made contact with our Humane Officer, Children's Protective Services (CPS) and City Inspector.

The home was deemed unfit for occupancy by the City Inspector and CPS placed 5 children into foster homes; which 2 of the children were later transported to the Emergency Room because of suspected child neglect.

**Another great example of an officer representing WPD excellence!**



**Officer Appreciation for Officer Lee  
Email from Wausau Citizen to Chief Hardel**

Officer Lee initiated a traffic stop on me during the afternoon of Thursday, June 9, 2016. I wanted to take a moment to give you feedback regarding the stop. I felt Officer Lee was very professional, courteous, clear and concise. During the traffic stop, I felt very comfortable communicating with Officer Lee and did not feel as though he was talking down at me. I think this is a great skill for an officer to be able to adjust their communication style according to the particular situation. In addition, at the early part of the year, my roommate was involved in an accident where Officer Lee responded. My roommate spoke very highly of how Officer Lee handled the situation. As a result of these situations, Officer Lee seems to be a very competent and capable police officer.



Officer Houa Lee

Lately in the news, police officers have been criticized for “doing their jobs” and not too often do you hear of all positive impact that officers have with the community. Therefore, I thought I would do the opposite and commend Officer Lee for his good work as an officer. As a result of the traffic stop, I have been paying closer attention to my driving. This not only benefits me but other drivers as well. Please feel free to share this Officer Lee and/or include in his file if you deem appropriate.



**Officer Appreciation for Officer Tidquist and Austin  
Email from Andrew Sims, Marathon Co. Parks to Chief Hardel**



Officer Ross Austin

I just wanted to pass along a ‘Thank you’ to your staff and how they have been great at assisting our department with various situations at Marathon Park. Specifically, your staff responded to my call this morning of an ongoing problem we have been having with non-paying public using the Campground Restroom/Shower building. Your staff did a wonderful job of communicating and addressing this individual. He is a repeat offender and hopefully he tells his friends they are no longer welcome.



Officer Brent Tidquist



**Officer Spotlight  
Officer Peter Fish**

Hello, I am Peter Fish, badge number 3158. I have called Wisconsin home since Junior High when my family and I relocated here from Florida in the late 1990's.

I am a 2003 graduate of DC Everest Senior High School. After high school I attended Northcentral Technical College in Wausau for their Residential Building Systems program. Driven to make a difference, I chose to enlist in the United State Marine Corps in February of 2005. I served as a Machine Gunner with 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion 7<sup>th</sup> Marines and endured two combat deployments in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.



Officer Peter Fish

After exiting the Marine Corps I worked in the electric and power industry. While my work was rewarding, and challenging, I felt a void because I didn't feel I was making a real difference in my community. I found working in the private sector didn't quite come with the same sense of pride in your work or excitement of being in a constantly changing environment like I experienced in the military. Working for the Wausau Police Department, I am happy to say I have filled that void! Working with such a great team of officers and support personnel has made my transition into Law Enforcement a pleasure. Every day I am excited to meet new people and interact with the citizens of our great city!



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

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

**Leadership Quotes:**

*Attitude is a little thing that makes a big difference.*

**Winston Churchill**

*There is no future in any job. The future lies in the person who holds the job.*

**George Crane**