



The Informer

Wausau Police
Department

The Informer
July 2016

July News

Reform... injustice... profiling... equality... inequities... disproportionate... change... protests... demonstrations... violence... riots... looting... retaliation... assassinations... bias... discrimination... transformation... fairness... intolerance... militarization... defuse... de-escalate... find a different way... there must be a better way... stop killing our people... the police are the problem.....

The saying goes, “you have to hit rock bottom before it gets better.” A common and regular question I have asked myself and my staff repeatedly over the past 2-3 years, “have we hit rock bottom yet?” I would ask this question after a council meeting or committee meeting when an elected official would berate city staff, or after city staff would be called names or threatened to be fired, or after another law suit or grievance is filed against another staff member, or after another officer involved shooting and police are being scrutinized for not using different tactics. Often, the answer has been yes, we must have hit rock bottom, it can only get better from here. Then something else happens both locally or nationally and I realize that we have not hit bottom yet, we have just reached a new low.....or a new bottom.

Change is difficult. It can be overwhelming and sometimes seem impossible. But I know there is hope for I know that with the right leadership, we can accomplish great things both locally and nationally. Leaders don't allow all of the peripheral minutia to impact their desire to achieve goals, to impact people, or to do the right thing. Leaders find a way to be successful, lead by example, and influence others to give their best. A lack of leadership can get you to rock bottom, but effective leadership can also carry you to where you want your organization, municipality, state, or nation to go.

To say I have been frustrated over the last couple years with both city issues and the national outcry directed towards law enforcement would be like saying Aaron Rogers is a mediocre NFL quarterback. I lay awake at night or get up early because I can't sleep thinking, how did we get to where we are now? What happened? Why all the hate? Where is the support for law enforcement? We are the peace makers that prevent civilization from turning into chaos. I realize its easy to blame police for we are on the front lines of every community issue. But blaming the police for society's problems or painting us as a scapegoat for

others that start violence is ignoring the bigger issue. I have written numerous articles in past Informers about police being used as the fall guy but we have reached epic proportion of the blame game.

These sentiments again surfaced recently during officer involved shootings in Minneapolis, Baton Rouge, Dallas, and Milwaukee. Just like when I thought our City had hit rock bottom, I also thought by now that the tide would have turned and society would understand the important role law enforcement plays in each community and appreciate our efforts to affect change and protect our citizens. I was wrong on both counts.

My perception through this messy time is that we as a society are allowing others to place way too much blame on police rather than focus on the actual behavior that is causing police interaction. Can we/police do a better job? Absolutely we can. We discuss this every day...how can we do better? How can we improve? How can we affect change in our community. How can we provide better service? How can we be more prepared? How can we keep our officers safe?

I will use the Baton Rouge situation as an example. Two officers attempting to arrest a male. The male is fighting/resisting the officers. They are on the ground attempting to affect an arrest. One officer yells, “he has a gun” and that officer appears to be attempting to prevent the male from pulling the gun from his pocket. The other officer pulls his duty firearm out and yells numerous times, “don't pull the gun out.” The officer shoots the male and then both officers backed away. The video shows the handle of a handgun protruding from the males pant pocket. The other officer then pulls the gun the rest of the way out of his pants pocket. The video is posted to social websites and rioting, protests, threats of violence, threats to kill police, and destruction to the city and other property follow.

The criticism is police shouldn't have shot the male. The race promoters are assisted in this situation since the officers are white and the subject being arrested is black. The race card is immediately thrown out which further complicates community relations. But what I haven't heard from the critics is what do they feel police should do when police are confronted with an individual that has a weapon and appears to want to use the weapon against police? Do they

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feel police are so unimportant that police are expendable? Do those critics believe the only way police should be able to respond to deadly force is if the police are injured first or shot at first? Are we then justified to respond to deadly force? If this is the case, we would not be able to recruit reasonable and dedicated individuals to serve their community if the community did not care enough about the lives of police officers to allow them to protect themselves.

The words I started this article with are words that continue to be used when describing police actions, however, I would like our community and nation to start thinking about two other words that I feel have been lost as others have pushed their specific narrative. We have lost sight of ACCOUNTABILITY AND COMPLIANCE. My expectation of the community is that they hold everyone accountable, police, citizens, protestors, community leaders, and those that break the law and are arrested. The majority of the police involved shootings start with subjects that are non-compliant and most officer involved shootings involve a weapon being used against the officer, or the subject attempting to fight with the officer and remove the officer's gun to use against him/her. This should not be okay. The community should hold these subjects accountable for their actions, just like they would if an officer used undue force on a subject or used deadly force when it was not justified.

We have become a society of blame. It seems people/society need a scapegoat to blame or fault. An elected official who belittles, berates, disrespects, creates conflict, threatens, and bullies others, spins a tornado of conflict then steps back and blames everyone else for their actions, taking on the role of a victim. The protest/demonstration for Dylan Yang blamed police for arresting Dylan because he was Hmong. Signs and blogs stated we were racist and targeted Dylan because of his race. (For the record...Dylan was arrested because he murdered another human being...race had nothing to do with it). The ESPY's even started the popular show with NBA stars demanding change, demanding law enforcement reform, referencing police violence.

As we have shown in the past, we will continue a dialog with our community to create the most effective and efficient police department that uses the best practices and the least amount of force to accomplish the task at hand. I also expect the community to hold all community members accountable for their actions...not just the police, everyone. Creating a safer community, partnering with stakeholders, and creating change that helps the good of all will take leadership. Leadership from every level of our community. National leaders and local leaders. Community leaders and law enforcement leaders. Law enforcement is usually on the front line of every social or community issue and we will continue to request community partners to assist in making the right changes for our community. I have one caveat to this partnership. I will not and cannot be part of change that might include the idea of law enforcement being expendable or creating more danger for officers by restricting their ability to protect themselves...that we cannot compromise on. People need to be held accountable for their actions and their behavior. Should they decide to present a knife, or any other weapon that could cause serious injury or death, officers need to be able to protect themselves and those individuals need to be held accountable for their actions.

Leadership is the most powerful force available to us...let's all show our leadership, work together, be accepting of others, show kindness and compassion, demonstrate respectfulness all the time, unite our forces, and be the model other communities strive to achieve.

Photo from
Police Law Enforcement Magazine

The Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department posted a photo on Facebook of an officer's children praying for their father's safe return.





Best Wishes on your Retirement Detective Hansen!

Congratulations and Best Wishes on your retirement Detective Hansen!

Detective Kay Hansen was hired in October 1996. Kay's area of specialty in the detective bureau was child abuse investigations. She never quit learning and improving her expertise in this area right up until her retirement. A number of children in this community have been put in better situations over the years thanks to Kay's efforts.

Best Wishes on your retirement Kay!



Left to right: Lt. Cihlar, Lt. Kolb, Detectives Strobach, Pauls, Hansen, Captain Hagenbucher, Detective Kindlarski

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### Best Wishes on your Retirement Officer Hines & Officer Peterson!

Congratulations Officer Hines and Officer Peterson on your retirement!



Officer Tom Hines and Officer Tom Peterson

Officer Tom Peterson retired after 25 years with the Wausau Police Department. He worked 6 years in dispatch, 3 years as a Corrections Officer, 3 years counseling juveniles released from Lincoln Hills & Wales Boys Schools. Tom received numerous awards and commendations, the most notable being three life-savings awards. Best Wishes on your retirement Tom!

Officer Tom Hines retired after 24 years as an officer with the Wausau Police Department. During that time, Tom worked as a range instructor, field training officer, and a traffic re-constructionist. In addition Tom received numerous recognitions and awards, the most notable being the Award of Valor presented to him in May 2009 by the WPPA, relating to an officer involved shooting that saved Officer Timken from being stabbed. He also received honorable mention for this same incident at the Nation Association of Police Organizations in Washington DC, in 2009. Best Wishes on your retirement Tom!



### Welcome Officer Vang!



Captain Bliven, Officer Vang, Captain Barnes, & Mayor Mielke

Xai Vang was sworn-in as an officer on June 27, 2016.

Xai worked as an Emergency Police, crossing guard, and Community Service Officer.

Welcome Xai!

To show you the high quality of his character, please read the resignation letter addressed to the Emergency Police by Xai Vang.

Good Afternoon Larry,

I will get right to the point. I have been hired by the Wausau Police Department and will begin June 27<sup>th</sup>. I have my gear and will find time to meet with Scott and turn it in. The PD will have a swear in ceremony sometime in the future. So I will be in the swear in ceremony with the next group of hires.

I want to thank you Larry for letting me serve the community as a Crossing guard and a Emergency Police volunteer. Because you gave me the opportunity to work as a crossing guard and emergency police, I was able to meet members of the police department which allowed me to get to know officers and for officers to get to know me. That eventually led me in the direction of a CSO and ultimately an officer. I want to thank you for the opportunity you provided me because if it wasn't for you, I would not have been where I am today. Thank you Larry!

I want to thank the WEP for giving me the opportunity to be a member of a great team. The community is much safer and better because of the WEP and all of it's members. I highly recommend this volunteer auxiliary unit to anyone who is looking to make a difference in their community, meet new people and to be part of a family. I have met great people within this unit and wish the best of luck to everyone. I am proud to have been a member of the WEP. I will miss everyone but will be right here at the PD as an officer, so I will not be far. I want to thank Lt. Dachel, Larry, Frank, Bob, Captain Dawn and Captain Eugene for displaying great leadership to the unit and for all the work they do for this unit. Thank you everyone and see you soon.

Xai Vang



### Cop on a RoofTop



Special Olympics Wisconsin / Law Enforcement Torch Run will again be partnering with Dunkin Donuts!

All donations will assist Wisconsin athletes with training, equipment and travel expenses.

Cop on a RoofTop will be held on August 12, 2016 From 6:00 am to 11:00 am

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Parking Control Specialist Hellrood Has more than one talent!

Jim Hellrood and his daughter participated in the downtown's Chalk Fest.

Due to them winning the event last year, they were not judged this year.

We can only imagine what they will come up with for next year's competition!





Welcome Parking Control Specialist Block!



Ken Block

We would like to welcome Ken Block as our newest Parking Control Specialist with the Wausau Police Department. Ken comes into our law enforcement family after retiring from federal service as a national park interpretive ranger and manager for the past 33 years. He has had the privilege of working across the country with people of diverse cultural backgrounds, presenting to groups of all sizes and ages, providing orientation and information. Ken’s extensive background and experience in public service, public education and enforcement of rules, regulations and laws makes Ken a great fit for our parking control position. Ken will transition from his duties as a CSO to Parking Control Specialist on Monday, July 18, 2016.

Welcome Ken!

**Department Appreciation from Wausau Fire Department
Email from Fire Chief Kujawa to Chief Hardel**

Chief, since the incident in Dallas with the cold blooded murder of 5 Police Officers, I continue to think about your Department personnel and wonder how difficult this must be to understand. I want you to know that our Department is certainly supportive of your team and believe in your efforts to protect our community. My prayers are for the protection of your members during this difficult time. If our Department can be of assistance in some way please let me know. Thank you for what your Department does for our community it is greatly appreciated.



Chief Tracy Kujawa

**Department Appreciation
Email from local citizen**

Dear Sheriff Parks, I hope you are receiving many thoughts like mine. The recent events in Louisiana, Minnesota, and Dallas remind me that our communication and care of each other is a high priority need in our present time. We all need to take time for self examination and reflection on the roots of our fears and prejudices, as we live together in our wonderful multi-cultural society.

As a member of our Wausau community over the past 40 years, and as a former teacher in the Wausau School District for 30 years, I’ve grown to appreciate the efforts the police and sheriff’s departments have put into positive community relationships. Our community is in constant change with the multi-ethnic and multi-cultural mix of our population. Thanks for all you do.

PS. I don’t have Chief Hardel’s email. Can you forward to him.



**Department Appreciation
Email from local citizen**

I want to reach out and thank all the men and women of the Wausau Police Department. Here we are with yet another crazy man shooting our brave police officers in Baton Rouge, LA.

I pray for all of you and wish you safe journey's. I do this because, you give yourself to the public and potentially put your lives on the line each day to protect us.

Know I have your back when or if the time ever comes to defend our police.

Thank you so much, and may God bless you every day!!

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**Department Appreciation  
Letter from a local citizen**

Dear Wausau Police Department,

After the tragic events which had happened on Thursday night to the Dallas Police department it has come to my attention that many police department have been treated with disrespect. I understand that there are some police officers who make mistakes in their occupation, and that is only human, and they will regret some things which had happened for the rest of their lives. What most of these insane human beings who cause the shootings on police officers do not understand is the fact that 99.9% of police officers do not want violence and are here to protect residents and serve our communities in the safest way possible. To all of the officers on the Wausau Police department whether you have been serving Wausau for 30 years, or if yesterday was your first day, I support you all. I respect the great work your department does for me and for the residents of the Wausau community to keep us safe. I am fighting for respect for police officers across the country.

God bless the Wausau Police Department and Dallas Police Department.

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**Department Appreciation
Email from local citizen**

In light of the recent attacks on my fellow law enforcement personnel, I just wanted to say to all my police friends "Stay strong, take care of each other and be safe". You are all in my prayers.



**Department Appreciation
Email from local citizen**

All lives matter but I will put up a blue light for you my fellow citizens and protectors.

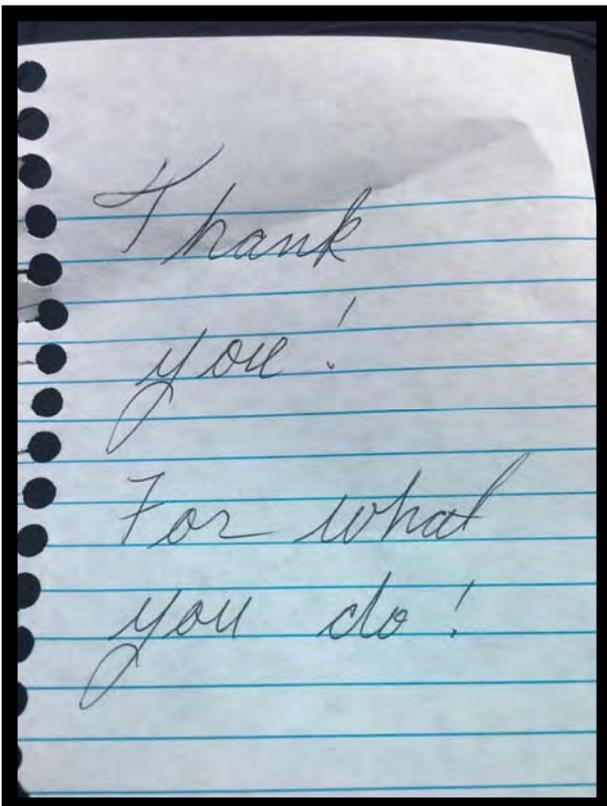
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**Department Appreciation  
Email from Ric Mohelnitzky, DPW to Chief Hardel**

I would like to express my deep appreciation to you and your staff for the great professional job you do to keep our community safe. We here at DPW know you are there to assist us when we need it and please know we will be there for your needs. Regards Ric Mohelnitzky

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**Department Appreciation
Something Nice**



Officer Kurtzhals was in his squad car when a woman put this note on his windshield and walked away.



Department Appreciation From Christie and her son Alex

Christie and her son Alex brought donuts to the police department to say “Thank You for all you do”.

Thank you Christie and Alex for your thoughtfulness!

Department Appreciation Donation from St. Peters Lutheran Church’s Vacation Bible School

Children from St. Peter’s Lutheran Church’s Vacation Bible School came to the police department and dropped of blankets they made.

Officers will use these blankets when they come across children in need of them.

Thank you children of St. Peters Vacation Bible School!



Department Appreciation From Chris and her son Conner



Chris and her son Conner stopped by the police department to express their thank you to officers.

They also brought treats, which we are all thankful for!





Department Appreciation From Anthony & Ariyah



Anthony, Ariyah, and their mother brought yummy homemade banana nut muffins and blueberry muffins!

Thank you, Anthony, Ariyah, & Mom, for the wonderful treats!



Department Appreciation From Gracie & Cheyenne and Jaken & Brennan

Gracie and Cheyenne brought ‘Thank you’ cards to the police department.



Jaken and Brennan brought “Thank you” cards to the police department.

Officers and members of the police department thank you, Gracie, Cheyenne, Jaken, & Brennan for taking the time to visit with us!



Department Appreciation Survival Kits for Police Officers



Aidan & Lily put together dozens of survival kits for our officers.

What an ingenious way to thank the officers!

Survival Kit for Police Officers

LIFESAVER
To remind you of the many times you've been one

STARBURST
For the burst of energy that you need

PAYDAY
Since you're not doing it for the money

HERSHEY KISSES
To show our love for you

GUM
To help everyone stick together

TOOTSIE ROLL
You have to roll with the punches

MINT PATTY
To help you keep your cool

SNICKERS
To help keep your sense of humor

SMARTIES
To give you wisdom for those split second decisions



Department Appreciation A note from a local citizen



☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

The Wausau Police men, (of ~~became~~ police women)

A note to let you know we support and honor you. We thank you for your service of love and duty to protect Wausau citizens of the U.S. of A.

Our prayers are with you. May His angels be in charge over you to keep you in all your ways. Our love & big thank you!

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆



**Department Appreciation
A note from a local citizen**

"Darkness can't drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate can't drive out hate; only love can do that." Martin Luther King Jr.

Our hearts are heavy with what has been happening. We want you to know that we and many many others fully support you and greatly appreciate everything you do for us. Daily you put yourselves on "the thin blue line," placing yourself between us and the evils of this world. We hope this encourages you in

your passion to protect & serve. Know that you and your families will continue to be in our thoughts and prayers daily!

God Bless Each & Every One of you!

stay safe out there!



**Department Appreciation
Note from a local citizen**



In regard to [our family member] who died April 15. I want to thank all of you who responded to our home to try to save him. I want you all to know how much I value what you do every day. I know it's difficult... I will never forget.



Department Appreciation
Note cards from Montessori School

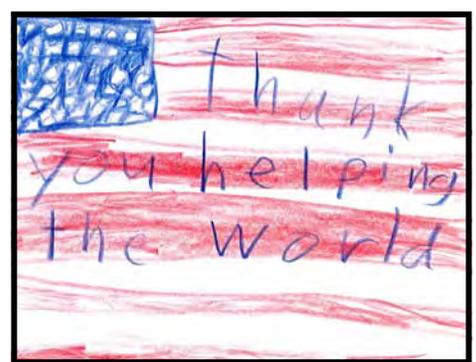
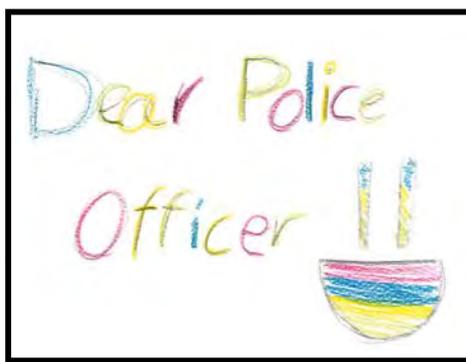
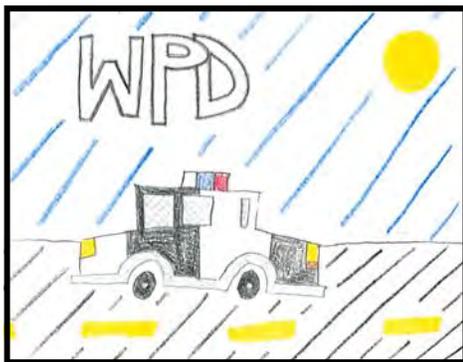
Dear Police,

Thank you for keeping our City safe. I appreciate all of your hard work. No matter how scary or sad your mission gets, you never give up. Keep up all your hard work. You're very good at what you do!

THANK YOU SO MUCH!
!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

THANK YOU!!!!

What did the police say to the criminal?
I got you!



Lt. Mark Pankow responded to one of the letters written by a little girl.

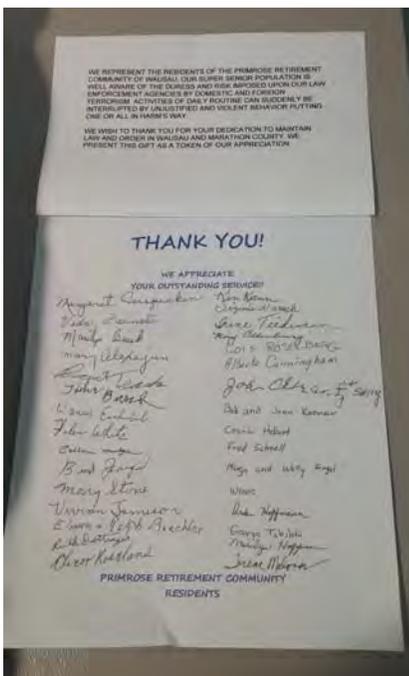
Dear [Sally],

I wanted to thank you and your classmates at Montessori school for the very colorful cards you sent to all of us here at the Wausau Police Department. It is nice to hear that you think we are doing a great job of keeping you safe. We do our best and want a bright future for all of you. Your card was addressed to John. My name isn't John, but we have three officers named John so I will make sure they all see your card along with the other cards. Thank you again.



Department Appreciation Primrose Retirement Community

Mr. Arden Hoffman and a number of members from Primrose Retirement Community came to the police department to relay a message. They do not like the way law enforcement is being portrayed in the media and wanted us to know that 99% of people support us. Arden stated that we need to find a way to change the media’s message—the Police are not the bad guys. He said a group of community members at Primrose have chipped in to purchase a cake to show support to local law enforcement.



Members of Primrose Retirement Community wrote and signed the document on the left.....

We represent the residents of the Primrose Retirement Community of Wausau. Our super senior population is well aware of the duress and risk imposed upon our law enforcement agencies by domestic and foreign terrorism. Activities of daily routine can suddenly be interrupted by unjustified and violent behavior putting one or all in harms way.

We wish to thank you for your dedication to maintain law and order in Wausau and Marathon County. We present this gift [cake] as a token of our appreciation.

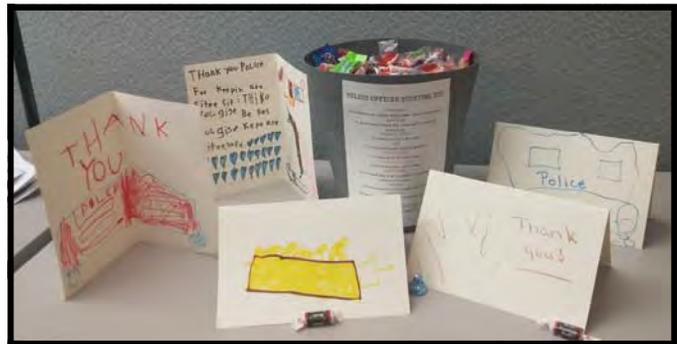


Department Appreciation Cards & Survivor Kits



Two ladies and their sons came to the police department and had thank you cards and survival treats for the officers!

Thank you for your generosity!



Officer Appreciation Motel 6

Motel 6 is under new management. In order to show appreciation and willingness to work with officers, members of Motel 6 came to the police department and brought buckets of treats for the officers!

Officers are always looking for ways to interact with our community!





Department Appreciation Highland Community Church

3 Campuses
One Church

MARATHON
800 River Road

WAUSAU
1005 N. 28th Ave.

WESTON
6615 County Rd. J

Dear Members of Wausau Police Department,

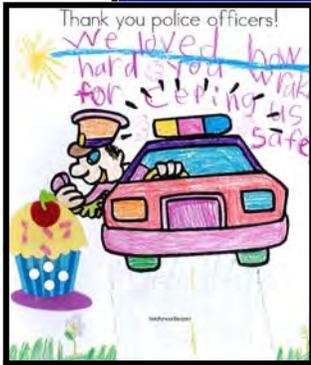
On behalf of the staff of Highland Community Church, we want to thank you for your dedication and service to our community. We live in a time that seems that right is wrong; and wrong is right and those who serve and protect us are under constant attack.

We want you to know that we pray for you; as a congregation we lift you up and ask the Lord to protect you, to guide you, and to keep you safe. We respect you and the work you do greatly and want you to know that as a church body we are here to serve you. If there is any way we can be of service to you, please do not hesitate to contact us; we would be honored.

Thank you for all you do to serve the greater Wausau Community. May the Lord protect you as you protect and serve our community.

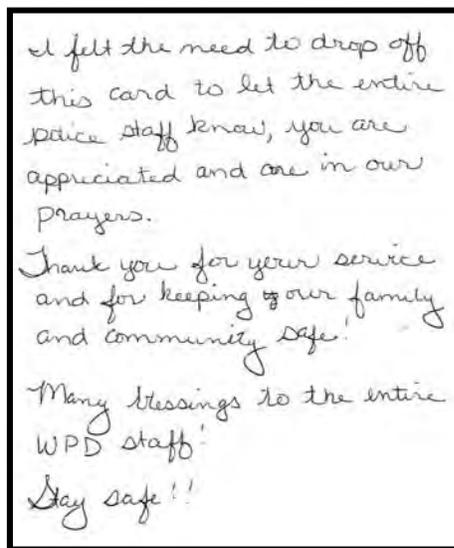
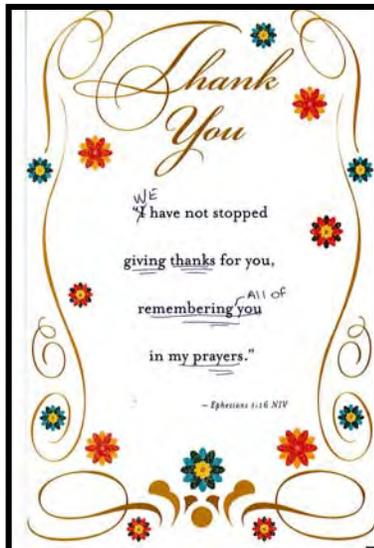
In His Service,

Janna Janke
Community Outreach Liaison
Highland Community Church



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### Department Appreciation Card from local citizen





**Officer Appreciation for Officer Stetzer & Price  
Email from Lt. Dachel to Stetzer & Price**



Officer Nick Stetzer

A citizen called to say what a good job you two did at the Balloon Rally and Glow yesterday. She observed you twice, once with the lost child and once with a teenage boy who appeared to be having emotional issues. She said both times you did a good job and were very professional.

Great Work,



Officer Benjamin Price

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**Officer Appreciation for Officer Pettigrew, Lopes-Serrao, and Deputy Yang
Email from Channel 7 to Chief Hardel & Sheriff Parks**

Please share my thanks with Officers Pettigrew and Lopes-Serrao and Deputy Yang for sharing their time and experiences with our Sunrise team – and our viewers – yesterday morning. I understand from Emily Davies that they all participated on their own time, on their day off, and am sincerely grateful. The conversation was very meaningful and insightful—I appreciated their openness and honesty, and that they trusted us to take part in the interview.

I push the news team to dig a little deeper into issues, provide different voices and perspectives and “teachable moments” in our coverage. That’s not possible unless people like Cheng, Luis and Patrice trust us to be fair and do right by them. It’s also not possible without people like you signing off and giving them the okay to speak with us. Thank you.



Officer Patrice
Pettigrew



Officer Luis
Lopes-Serrao



Officer Appreciation for Officer Bertram, LaPorte, Zinkowich, Bedish, & Detective Holz Email from Captain Hagenbucher to Wausau Officers & Detectives

Wausau Officers/Detectives,

Over the past 2 months several garages have been entered in the Southwest area of Wausau (between Stewart Av and Thomas Street & South 1st Av & South 9th Av). Numerous items have been stolen from about 12 different garages. These items included weed trimmers, lawn mowers, tools, lights, gold clubs, bikes, gas cans, and numerous other items.

A suspect was developed when Officer Bertram found one of the stolen items at downtown pawn and identified the person that sold it. Contact was attempted at this address, but no one would ever answer the door. The suspect did have a warrant for his arrest from Waushara County.

Officer LaPorte checked "Leads On-line" earlier this week and noticed more items stolen in recent garage burglaries were pawned at Pawn America by the suspect. On Tuesday officers began to monitor his house and vehicle. On Tuesday night Officer Zinkowich located the suspect's vehicle, unoccupied, about a block from his home. This vehicle appeared to contain stolen property.

On Wednesday Officer Bedish was monitoring the house and noticed the suspect's vehicle driving away. A traffic stop was initiated. Stolen property was located in his vehicle. The suspect was taken into custody on the warrant, but would not answer questions reference the stolen property when question by Detective Holz. The vehicle was seized. Officers applied for a search warrant for his home and located numerous items of stolen property that match recent garage burglaries. These items were seized and other stolen property has been collected from the local pawn stores. Over the next few days we will attempt to match the stolen property with our burglaries, but as of right now it appears to be property from about 10 of them. He will be referred for every burglary that we can match with stolen property.

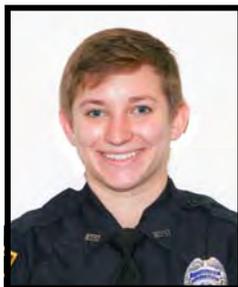
Thank you to everyone involved, I am sure I missed some people. You might say your just doing your job, but the arrest of this suspect and the recovery of the stolen property will be good news to our victims and others in the neighborhood. In addition, his arrest has potentially stopped several other community members from becoming victims. I appreciate all your efforts and teamwork.



Officer Bertram



Officer La Porte



Officer Zinkowich



Officer Bedish



Detective Holz



Officer Spotlight Officer Nick Walters

Hi, I'm Nick Walters, badge number 3161. I'm currently in Phase 2 of the department's Field Training Program, working the 4p-4a power shift in group 'B'. I was born in Wisconsin but couldn't really call this great state "home" until my family relocated to the Fox Valley area in 1999 from Iowa. I have a wife, Kara, and a 1 year old daughter Shelby that are my world.



Officer Nick Walters

I graduated from Fox Valley Lutheran High School in 2005 and left for Army Basic Training 2 weeks later; satisfying a calling I had felt since I was a young boy. I served as a Counterintelligence Special Agent and was stationed at Fort Bragg, NC. I served as a Team Leader/Sergeant and Field Agent in two combat deployments, one to Iraq and one to Afghanistan. During both of my deployments I had the opportunity to work with the local Iraqi/Afghani citizens and governments, with some of the focuses having a direct parallel to policing here in America: Getting bad people off the streets, and protecting the citizens from those who would intimidate them or do them harm. The experience, training, and skills I acquired through my military service I sincerely believe I couldn't get anywhere else, and I hope I can use those attributes to great effect for the Wausau Police Department.

After my separation from the Army in late 2011 I had several different directions in which I could travel. One thought that kept coming back to me and led me to choosing this profession is the desire I have to help solve people's problems and to protect the community in which I live and work. I was extremely excited to be given the opportunity to work for this department and for this community. Despite being very new to the field and this area, I feel like I have a long career and life ahead of me in this department and community! I look forward to learning more from the leadership and officers of this department, and meeting more members of this fantastic community every time I come to work!



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

Jeff Hardel
Chief of Police
Wausau Police Department

Leadership Quote:

"At times it feels like the forces pulling us apart are stronger than the forces binding us together," Bush said. "Too often we judge other groups by their worst examples, while judging ourselves by our best intentions. And this has strained our bonds of understanding and common purpose."

George Bush speaking to the audience at the Dallas funeral