



# The Informer

Wausau Police  
Department

The Informer  
August 2016

## August News

### Wausau—Our Community

Submitted by Captain Bliven

I visited Boston with my family earlier this summer. As I was talking with one of the tour guides for the Freedom Trail (a retired Boston-area teacher), he asked “Why is everyone from Wisconsin so nice?!” I told him “that’s how we roll.” His question, though, caught me a little off guard. Coming from the Wausau community, being “nice” is just a way of life here. Sure, there is negativity here like there is anywhere else in the world, but most people here would give another community member their last dollar in a time of need. Sometimes it’s easy to lose perspective when things don’t appear to be going well and negativity can flow easily. I’m an optimist at heart, but that doesn’t mean it’s always easy to avoid being negative. When hate and discontent creep in, having supportive people around makes a great difference.

When prospective police candidates are considering Wausau as a community to serve, one of the things I identify is the kindness and generosity of our community. Every community is unique and has varying strengths and weaknesses. Wausau’s strength lies in the people who live here. Wausau’s roots are traced to lumber barons who founded this community more than 150 years ago. Names like McIndoe, Kickbusch, Alexander, and Yawkey started our community on the path of generosity. These names adorn street signs and businesses as a “shout out” to those who founded our community with a sense of philanthropy more than a century ago.

The founders of our community believed in ‘community’ and wanted to make Wausau a great place to live and raise families. Local foundations in our community continue to lead with a caring and giving mindset by financially supporting projects aimed at a better community. Foundations like the B.A. and Esther Greenheck Foundation, the Judd S. Alexander Foundation, Community Foundation, and the Dudley Foundation aim to enrich the lives of people in the Wausau community through support of local projects and initiatives.

It’s no wonder our community is full of so many kind, generous, and compassionate people. Wausau and Marathon County were built on a foundation of community. Over the

past couple of months, the Wausau Police Department has witnessed, first-hand, the type of compassion and love that exists here in Wausau.

On July 7, five police officers were killed in Dallas, Texas, and on July 17, three more police officers were killed in Baton Rouge, Louisiana simply because they were police officers. Killings of police officers along with protests of police (some peaceful, others not so peaceful) around the country have had a significant impact in the lives of police officers everywhere.

In response to these hateful attacks, the Wausau community set out on an impromptu mission. It wasn’t an organized group of people who set out to show us support. It was a person here and a person there; a family here and a family there, who showed us support in so many ways. It is really difficult to express the tremendous impact our community support has had on the people who work here at the police department.

The community support we have been shown is a testament to our community. It didn’t take a group of organizers to rally people together to show us support. Community members showed support for us because they are kind and generous people who, no doubt, felt compelled to demonstrate their support because of their personal values and character. We received emails, letters, cards, flowers, spoken words, cookies, candy, cakes, ice cream, and, of course, donuts to show Wausau PD that you believe in us. Individual after individual (as well as families) said thank you in their own way. The Wausau community is made up of the best people on the planet, there is no doubt in my mind. Kindness, generosity and compassion radiates from home to home and person to person here in our community. It’s in our DNA and we can’t help ourselves!!

So, thank you! Thank you for believing in us and for supporting us during a time of turmoil in our country. Your overwhelming support is awe-inspiring and many of us in the police department feel a debt of gratitude to you. We stand ready to support each of you during your difficult days and in your time of need. We are happy to be here in Wausau to serve our great community as police officers.



### Best Wishes on your Retirement Officer Wilcox!

Officer Robert “Bob” Wilcox was hired in September 1990 as an officer with the Wausau Police Department. Over the last 26 years, Bob has served in a variety of roles and has provided outstanding service to this community. Bob has served as a field training officer, our domestic violence officer, an advisory board member with the Women’s Community, Chair of the Marathon County AOD Partnership Council, was a key player in introducing crisis intervention training, and was integral in forming a peer support program for officers in Marathon County.



Lt. Cihlar, Captain Hagenbucher, Lt. Kolb, Retired Lt. Heindel, Officer Wilcox, Lt. Felder, & Officer Piskoty



Officer Wilcox’s Farwell with Marathon County Dispatchers

We wish Bob the best on his retirement!

### Best Wishes on your Retirement Officer Pilsner!

Best wishes to Officer Maureen Pilsner on her retirement after 25 years of service with the Wausau Police Department. Maureen has been integral to many youth initiatives in our community during her time as a police officer including DARE, Safety City, Safe Kids, Safety Patrols and so much more.

Officer Friendly, as many would affectionately call Mo, worked passionately for our community since 1991 and we wish her the best in retirement!



Officer Pilsner with her family



### Welcome New Officers!



Officers Codere, Pacey, Grover, Piotrowski, & Vang

On August 18, 2016, five new officers joined the Wausau Police Department.

Please give them a warm welcome as they join the PD family!

Christopher Codere 168

Jason Pacey 166

Matthew Grover 167

Mallori Piotrowski 169

Xai Vang 165



### Congratulations Detective Holz Wausau Woodchucks Recognized Holz as a Hometown Hero



Detective Holz being recognized at the start of the game

On August 11, 2016, Detective Jen Holz was honored before the Woodchucks' game as part of their Hometown Hero program. Jen was contacted by the Woodchucks to pick a game that worked for her, and she really didn't tell anyone which game she picked until the day of. Jen and her family were treated to four reserved seats behind home plate and food.

Jen was recognized by the Woodchucks for the Death Investigator of the Year Award she received earlier this year from WI Association of Homicide Investigators.

Congratulations Detective Holz!



### Cop on a RoofTop

On August 12, 2016, Special Olympics Wisconsin / Law Enforcement Torch Run partnered with Dunkin Donuts and sponsored Cop on a Rooftop.

The event was a huge success. This event raised approximately \$3,000 for Special Olympics.

Thank you Dunkin Donuts and all those who participated in this event!



### Coffee with a COP At Vino Latte

Officer Nate Stetzer organizes Coffee with a Cop every few months.

In August, Coffee with a COP was hosted at Vino Latte.

Approximately 20 citizens met with officers and discussed various issues facing the community.



Two local citizens with Mayor Mielke, Lt. Graham & Officer Stetzer



### Note from Retired Detective Hansen

Dear Friends + Coworkers  
I want to thank you  
all for the gifts, cards,  
and flowers you gave for  
my retirement.  
The last 20 years of  
being part of such a  
dedicated team was  
truly rewarding.  
Stay safe  
Kay Hansen

Chief Hardel wanted to share the thank you card we received from Detective Kay Hansen.

We hope she is enjoying retirement!



### Farewell from CSO Jared Pankow

Being a CSO has been an amazing opportunity for me personally. In the four years that I've been at the Wausau Police Department, I learned how to be respectful, accountable, and professional while always demonstrating integrity, the four cornerstone traits everyone I've come to know embodies. I'm thankful for that growth, the people I've worked with and the experiences I'll never forget, which are unparalleled by any job a college student could find themselves in. As special as this was for me, law enforcement is not the career for me, and I will be pursuing Spanish Education. I will always respect the profession and the people who can handle the ever-changing and challenging circumstances. Though I'm fortunate for the personal development, like all of you, I didn't get into public service for myself. I truly wanted to make a positive impact on the community, and that vision remains the same, but I feel like my skillset is better suited to make an impact in the classroom. Ultimately, I hope that I helped maintain and even strengthen the mission of the Wausau Police Department in partnering with the community, the most important aspect of our job. As a CSO, you're ALWAYS in the eyes of the public, and I took great pride in having positive encounters with the citizens not only to assist in any way possible but also to leave a lasting impression that could surface in any possible interactions they may have with an officer. There's not a single person who hasn't helped me in some fashion over my four summers, and I give thanks to all of you.



### Wausau Police—Team Building Event

Once again this year, the Command Staff organized two Team Building Events in which officers and their families can get together and have some fun.

Captain Matt Barnes opened his house on Lake Du Bay on two separate days to bring the members of the department together for a social gathering. Staff and their families enjoyed water skiing, wake boarding, inner tubing, and boat rides. Pot luck dinners were served in the evenings. This was an excellent opportunity for members and their families to have fun and relax.

Thanks Captain Barnes for hosting these events!





### A Future Officer named Noah



Don Ryder and Noah

Don Ryder, a Wausau PD consultant, brought his grandson, Noah, to the Police department's new officer swear-in ceremony and then toured our department.

Noah enjoyed his time with the officers.

Perhaps we will see Noah in uniform in about 18 years!



Officers Pierschalla, Kurtzhals, & Walters with Noah

### Department Appreciation—Flowers From a Local Family



We had a family stop by the police department with beautiful flowers from the Farmers Market.

They wanted to brighten the officers day and thank them for everything they do!

### Department Appreciation—Donuts From a Local Family

Another family stopped by the police department to show appreciation toward our officers. This time officers received donuts!





### Department Appreciation From Papillons



Lt. Pauls, Officer Jaeger, Savannah Pauls, & Officer Umlauf

Papillons wanted to thank the officers for all they do for the community.

To show their appreciation they delivered cheese fries and sandwich wraps for the officers.

Thank you, Papillons, for your generosity!



### Department Appreciation Ice Cream from a Local Citizen

Again, we have to say THANK YOU to our community for being so kind, thoughtful and generous. Below is a portion of an email Chief Hardel received:

"Since I have a huge part of my heart that is committed to policing I wanted to extend a huge Thank You for everything that every single officer of yours does for this community. Since it has been really hot out and I know the polyester uniforms are not the best on hot days plus your duty belts I wanted to offer something for you and your entire force."



Officers Ben Price, Kyle Buchkoski, & Jake Chittum

This citizen worked out a tab with Briq's Ice Cream. Any officer that worked on August 16, 2016, was offered an ice cream entrée off the menu and was paid for by the citizen.

Thank you for being so supportive of our law enforcement!



Officer Sandy Hunt



### A Special Note to the Community From the Wausau Police Department

Due to the tremendous outpouring of support from our community over the past few months the Wausau Police Department officers would like to give thanks back to the Community. This is an outstanding community that we are proud to serve.

Please join us on August 30th between 11:30 am and 1:00 pm on the 400 Block.

We'll be the ones grilling.....



### Community Invite

The Wausau PD wants to show our appreciation to the Wausau Community for their support.

Officers will provide brats, hotdogs, Beverages, & other goodies

Tuesday, August 30, 2016  
Between 11:30 am to 1:00 pm  
On the 400 Block





**Officer Appreciation for Detective Holz**  
**Excerpts from a letter of a Grateful Citizen sent to Lt. Kolb**

We would like to take the opportunity to express our appreciation for Detective Jennifer Holz. She handled the case involving our daughter and her friend. We can only imagine the position she was put in given her friends brother is also one of your officers. She handled the case with not only professionalism but extreme care and concern for all involved. We are forever grateful to her for all she had done and continues to do.

Detective Holz has been a huge source of support and understanding for us from the moment this unfolded. Her strength in sorting through this has given us strength also. She is a true blessing to our family. I am sure you are proud she is part of your department.

We appreciate the efforts of all law enforcement across the country as you face such trying times. Please stay safe out there.



Detective Jen Holz

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**Officer Appreciation for Lt. Van Lieshout, Officers Buchkoski & Price**  
**Email from staff at North Central Health Care to Captains Bliven & Barnes**



Lt. Matt Van Lieshout

Just sending you an email to inform you of the Officers that were incredible last night in helping with the situation with the Client that is transported to WMHI today.

Lt. Matt VanLieshout, Officers Kyle Buchkoski, and Ben Price. Officers Buchkoski and Price were in the Crisis Center for several hours in order to observe Client and maintain her safety and the safety of the Crisis Staff. Additionally, they were very helpful in figuring out the situation and organizing things to make the process run smoothly. Big thanks to these two for helping Crisis Staff with this process, we could not have been as successful as we were without their help!

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**Captain Bliven's Response**

Great job in your work to facilitate a solution in this difficult situation. Respect and professionalism are two of our core values and you certainly exhibited these values during this difficult, if not frustrating, call for service. Thanks for being great representatives of our agency.



Officer Kyle Buchkoski



Officer Benjamin Price



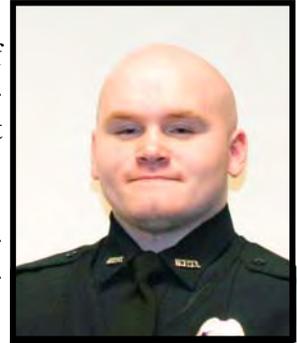
**Officer Appreciation for Officer Copas  
Email from Lt. Pauls to Captains Bliven & Barnes**

Just wanted to pass on an AWESOME job by Officer Copas.

Officer Talg dealt with an incident involving a 1 month old baby, left in the care of someone for an unknown amount of time, who was not provided formula for the infant. The person was staying at a hotel, and because of 2 other small children, could not go get formula.

Officer Talg tried getting formula through Women’s Community and the Salvation Army, both of which did not have any to donate. Officer Copas went and bought baby formula, with his own money, so the baby would be cared for during the night.

Just wanted to say job well done and thank you Officer Copas for stepping up and showing compassion.



Officer Copas



**Officer Appreciation for Parking Specialists Hellrood & Block  
Email from a Local Agency to Captain Bliven**



Parking Specialist  
Jim Hellrood

Hello, I just wanted to reach out to thank the parking enforcement officers who helped me access my locked vehicle this morning 8/10/16 at North Central Health Care. Ken and his partner were incredibly efficient, kind and mindful of both the vehicle and the stressful situation. I am extremely impressed and grateful!



**Response from Captain Bliven**

Jim and Ken,  
I received this message from the fine people at North Central Health Care. It seems you guys were there recently to help someone with a vehicle lockout. Thank you for representing our department and community with professionalism and respect. Great feedback! Keep up the great work.



Parking Specialist  
Ken Block



### **Officer Appreciation for Officer Zander Email from Lt. Pauls to Captain Bliven & Barnes**



Officer Dale Zander

Just wanted to share a wonderful thing Officer Dale Zander did.

Dale spoke with a mother and her 7 year old son at the PD, regarding some neighbor issues. While talking with them, the 7 year old made several comments that he was scared of police officers because they were mean and bad. Dale said this bothered him, and he talked with the boy for quite some time about what police officers do, how they are there to help him and if he ever needed anything, he should feel safe going to a police officer. When they left, Dale promised the boy he would come to his house the next day to visit, and give him some baseball cards to put in the spokes of his bicycle.

The following day was extremely busy and it wasn't until later in the afternoon that Officer Zander had a chance to visit his new friend. Officer Zander purchased an M&M McFlurry for the boy, because his melted while at the PD the day before, and he and I went to his house. When we got there the boy was so excited to see Officer Zander. He had to show him his bike, skateboard, fishing pole and could not wait to see the inside of the squad. He was also able to meet Officer Zander's K9, Bak. Officer Zander showed him how to put the cards in his bicycle spokes so they made noise when he pedaled, "just like he had when he was a kid."

While they talked the boys' mother explained to me her son was scared of police because he watched her get arrested. She said she has tried to explain to him she made a mistake, and the police were doing their job. She said she wants him to know police are good and safe and she was so happy Officer Zander was going out of his way to do this. His mother was in tears while we talked, so happy that her son was making a new friend and getting to know officers. She said he woke up that morning and told her his new Officer friend was going to visit him today, so she was very happy Officer Zander kept his promise to him.

While watching Officer Zander and his new friend, I am not sure who had a bigger smile on their face. The boy promised us he would wave to every squad he saw from now on, since he now knew police officers were nice, and there to help him.

Officer Zander went out of his way to make a positive impact on a little boys' life. Watching this simple act of kindness displayed by Officer Zander on an extremely busy weekend of call after call for service made me remember why I got into this profession and this department.

Well done Officer Zander!

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### **Response from Captain Bliven**

Outstanding display of professionalism and compassion Dale! Thank you for going out of your way to help a young child understand the people and the purpose behind our profession. I appreciate you going the extra mile for this boy, no doubt it has made an impact in the lives of this boy and his mother. Thank You!



**Confessions of a Parking Attendant  
By Jim Hellrood**

With July marking my one year anniversary with the department, I wanted to share with you an observation I've made regarding the work environment here. In my life, I have had the pleasure of working for six different companies, and having been in a sales/marketing position with many of them, I've seen dozens more.

The first thing that struck me about the PD was its lack of "clicks" or groups. Every company that I've been involved with has had its factions of people who rarely "mingle" with those outside their pay-grade. Office personnel, management, production, transportation, sales, etc... are all equally important to a team's success, but they always seem to associate with only those within their own department. This would often result in factions and divisions within the company that no amount of team-working seminars or company picnics could mend.



Jim Hellrood  
Parking Specialist

When I first started working here, I assumed that this would be the case. After all, common sense would dictate that a police department – with all its levels of specialties would be tailor-made for such divisions. **I could not have been more wrong.** If it hadn't been for the color of their badges, or the titles on the nameplates of their doors, I would never have been able to distinguish between the Chief and the janitor. Everyone was made to feel important and given the respect that every position deserved. I thank you all for that. Instead of looking at me for what I was ( a 47 year old rookie meter maid), you welcomed me as an equal. A comrade. Family.

I am continually amazed at how God had blessed me. One of the main functions of a Christian is to help and serve people. Whereas most people have to look for opportunities to do this, God has seen to it that not only are those opportunities now frequent, but I even get a paycheck from it to boot! Praise God! (Sorry. I'm starting to preach.)

I just wanted to let you all know how much I appreciate the welcome, and that I will do my best to earn the trust and respect you have already given.

May God Bless you all  
Jim Hellrood 3097



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

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

**Leadership Quote:**

*Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.*

**Margaret Mead**