



# The Informer

Wausau Police  
Department

The Informer  
November 2016

## November News

### Thanksgiving --- A Time of Thankful Reflection

We all have our own perceptions, experiences, and/or opinions of specific dates in history or specific events. Events may trigger fond memories and make us smile or an event could trigger a time of reflection for someone that we miss who has influenced our life. As the Holiday season approaches, I look forward with great anticipation to getting together with family and taking a break from the daily work routine to reconnect with those that are important in my life.

For me, Thanksgiving in its simplest form means: *A time to give thanks for all our blessings and a chance to spend quality time with family and friends and share great food and conversation.*

For the pilgrims, their first Thanksgiving feast was meant to celebrate their freedom and triumph in their ability to overcome the many obstacles they had faced in their journey; obstacles that so many families and friends could not overcome. Today, the meaning of Thanksgiving is still present. We acknowledge our freedoms, we celebrate life, we give thanks for our health, and we enjoy our family and friends with a holiday meal.

All of us experience challenges in our lives, some more than others, or we have family members or friends that are experiencing one of the many hardships that can consume life, i.e., difficult economic times, loss of a job, relationship troubles, parental challenges, health issues, depression, loss of a loved one, etc., etc.. During these times of great challenge, I am always reminded of someone else's story and/or life challenges that seem much worse than what I might be experiencing. Hearing of the struggles that others endure stabilizes my thoughts and prevents me from focusing on my personal obstacles and moves me to want to do more for others.

As Thanksgiving 2016 approaches, please allow me to list a few thoughts of what I am most thankful for professionally. This list is not all encompassing but rather what's on the forefront of my mind in the past year:

- Officer Jim Martin was involved in an "Officer Involved Death" (OID) on April 30. I am thankful that Officer Martin was not physically hurt and was able to protect himself and prevent a citizen that was assisting Officer Martin from getting hurt. I am also thankful that Officer Martin's team members provided support for him during this difficult time and continue to provide support for Jim and all others impacted by traumatic events.
- I am thankful that WPD was able to appropriately and effectively address the "racism" claim that Minister Laurie Bushbaum publically labeled WPD with in March of this year. Such a claim can be devastating for a department that works very hard to gain community trust and places trust, integrity, and ethical decision making as a fundamental cornerstone of the department. I am thankful that Officer Jacob Chittum and the other officers on scene handled the situation perfectly and that the video supported the officers handling of the situation. I am also very thankful that our community defended us once the claims were properly refuted by video evidence.
- I am thankful for supportive elected officials. Our new city council has committed time to educate themselves on city services, the needs of the community, and understand the demands of city staff. The previous four years were the darkest of my professional career dealing with such a dysfunctional council. We lost city staff and other leaders, that were chosen to replace staff that left, withdrew

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## Thanksgiving --- A Time of Thankful Reflection

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or declined positions because of the dysfunction. The new council has invigorated us, made us much stronger, and is providing effective direction for our future.

- I am thankful for an incredible executive team (Captain's Greg Hagenbucher, Ben Bliven, & Matt Barnes) who provide leadership, direction, and vision for our department. And an incredible leadership team of lieutenants and officers who have shown great leadership and have committed themselves to making a difference in this department and our community. These leaders are our future and these leaders make us all feel that the future is bright.
- I am thankful that we have been able to "rise above the noise" and continue to focus on our mission of providing great service to our community despite a few unsupportive detractors who impede our progress of making a difference in our community. Anti-law enforcement rhetoric is heard almost daily. Officers are being targeted for hate and harm simply because they wear a badge and for what they stand for. We are able to rise above the noise because we know we are doing the right thing, our community relies on us, and without our presence, chaos and uncivility would take over. Having a supportive community that vocalized their support and demonstrates their support makes it much easier to overlook the actions and behaviors of the few vocal anti-police detractors.

Yes, we are blessed. Take time to give thanks to those who are important in your life. Give thanks for the simple things that we might take for granted, our health, our family, our friends, our ability to enjoy life and to help others, job security, and pride in working in the most noble and rewarding profession. Never lose sight of the important role that each of you play in the security and stability of our community.

Enjoy the Thanksgiving Holiday!





### Lt. Baeten recipient of the "Friends of Education" Award



Lieutenant Todd Baeten

Congratulations to Lieutenant Todd Baeten on receiving the "Friends of Education" award from the Wausau School District. Todd's recognition was "for volunteering his time to speak with high school students about their rights and responsibilities and creating a positive connection between police and students."

Congratulations Lt. Baeten! Thank you for building partnerships with the youth of our community.

### Turkeys for The Neighbors' Place

On Wednesday, November 2, 2016, the Wausau Police Benefit Association donated 84 (8-10 lb) turkeys to The Neighbors' Place.

We would like to thank County Market for selling the turkeys at a reduced cost for this donation to The Neighbors' Place.



Officers Mark Kurtzhals, Sandy Hunt, The Neighbors' Place Director Tom Rau, Officer Lisa Rennie, and a Neighbors' Place volunteer



### Icon Fundraiser for Special Olympics

November 11, 2016 to November 24, 2016 is the Special Olympics \$1 icon fundraiser.

Lieutenant Nathan Cihlar stopped at the Kent Street Kwik Trip on November 11th. It was the first morning of the Special Olympics \$1 icon fundraiser. Lt. Cihlar bought his Special Olympics icon, put "Wausau PD" and his badge # on it, stuck it above the checkout, and thanked the clerk for her efforts.

Then, he stuck around to watch the next 3 people in line answer "yes" to the ...clerk when she asked them if they wanted to purchase a Special Olympics icon. She started pointing at Lt. Cihlar's icon and asking people to join the cops in donating.

Fun, right? Then Lt. Cihlar went directly to the Grand Avenue store and did the same thing. He was grateful to see the same result. Each time his one dollar generated at least another 3 dollars right away.

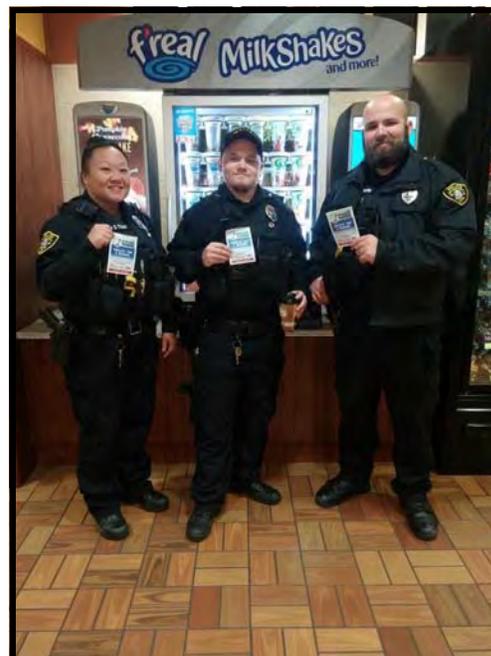
The Kwik Trip clerks were awesome and thankful to see the support.

So, Lieutenant Cihlar talked to our four School Resource Officers and they all went to Kwik Trip to support Special Olympics. This picture was the result!

Officers continue to support this cause by stopping at Kwik Trip when time permits. Thanks to Kwik Trip for a great partnership.



Lt. Nate Cihlar, Officers Jeff Schremp, Nick Stetzer, Anthony Reince, & Kevin Cornell



Officers Snow Thao, Brady Copas, & James Martin



**Birth Announcement!**



Congratulations to Officer Ross Austin and his wife Megan on the arrival of their new baby boy. Bruce is a healthy 9lb 5oz.

Congratulations Ross & Megan on your new addition to your family!



# Christmas Lunch

This year's Christmas lunch will be on  
Wednesday, December 21, 2016  
starting at 11:00 in the Community Room

The sign up sheet will be in the  
Records Bureau. Please bring  
a dish to pass, or a \$5 donation.





## Officer Involved Documentary

Wausau PD was fortunate to have film producer Patrick Shaver travel to our community and provide an opportunity for our officers to learn more about the impact on Officer Involved Shootings (OIS). Officers, family members, and a few key community members viewed a screening at NTC of a documentary called "Officer Involved." Patrick is a police officer in Georgia and spent the last 3 years with his wife traveling the country on their off time to interview officers who have been involved in shootings to document the impact that a shooting has on a police officer. Patrick also interviewed police psychologists and other law enforcement experts on the impact of an OIS.

This film was very impactful and told the story of the life-changing impact an officer involved shooting has on officers. Generally speaking, police officers get into law enforcement to help their community become a better place. We want to help people in our community and many times, it's on their worst days when they need help. We train relentlessly in hopes that we will never have to use deadly force in the line of duty.

Unfortunately, the possibility of being involved in a deadly use of force situation is real. This film helped us and our families understand what an officer might experience and feel in the hours, days, months, and years after an officer involved shooting. I feel like we are in a better position and more prepared to support the officer mentally and emotionally should we experience another OIS. I feel strongly that this documentary could help every department understand, to a deeper level, what officers are experiencing after an OIS.

If you were not able to attend the viewing, below is a link that gives you more insight to the documentary film. Thanks Captain Ben Bliven for reaching out to the producer and scheduling the viewing.

Here is the trailer: [Trailer](#)

Here is a link to their website: [Website](#)

You can also follow them on Facebook: [Facebook](#)





### Paws & Protect Clinic

  
**PAWS AND PROTECT**  
**December 3, 2016 10a-2p**  
**@ Marathon Park Youth Building**

Get ready for the Bi-annual Paws and Protect event. On December 3 2016 we will be offering \$10 microchips, and FREE rabies for 200 animals with the purchase of a license. This is open to the residents of the City of Wausau, Village of Weston, City of Schofield and Town of Weston. Proof of previous rabies and spaying/neutering is required.

Licensing your pets is very important. It helps to keep rabies vaccines current. Rabies is a 100% fatal virus that if your pet contracts can be given to humans as well. Also licensing and microchips allow your animal to be returned home if they go missing.

Animal	City of Wausau	Village of Weston	City of Schofield	Town of Weston
Licensing				
Spayed/ Neutered	\$18 dog \$18 cat	\$15 dog \$15 cat	\$10 dog \$5 cat	\$10 dog
NOT Spayed/ Neutered	\$60 dog \$60 cat	\$25 dog \$25 cat	\$20 dog \$5 cat	\$20 dog
Microchip Discount	\$8	\$5	N/A	N/A

It is time to plan ahead for the next Paws and Protect clinic.

December 3, 2016  
Between 10 am & 2 pm

Marathon Park Youth Building

Free rabies shots to the first 200 animals with the purchase of a license.

Clinic is open to residents from the City of Wausau, Village of Weston, City of Schofield, and Town of Weston.

Proof of previous rabies and spaying/neutering is required.

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### Officer Appreciation for Officer Lopes-Serrao Letter, donuts, & gift card delivered from a grateful citizen

Dear Officer Luis Lopes-Serrao,

I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for being there when my mom passed away. I want to thank you for the respect and dignity that you showed my mother and the kindness and compassion that you showed my dad and brothers.

We often have pre-conceived notions of how officers will act during trying times but you conducted yourself as another person there to help a family grieve during a very, very difficult time.

You are most definitely an example to look towards for other officers needing an example to follow.

Wausau PD had once again shown that they are community leaders who take the oath to protect and serve to the highest standard.

I also want to thank your canine Zander for being a champ and sticking the whole thing out. I understand that both of you were near the end of your shifts when you responded. In the case that doughnuts aren't Zander's thing, please get him whatever you see fit in memory of my mom. She is an avid animal lover and would want to make sure he got something too.

Once again, thank you so very much.



Officer Luis Lopes-Serrao



K9 Zander



### Night Shift Appreciation Email from Lt. Pekarske & Lt. Taylor to the Night Shift Officers

We want to pass along our compliments to the entire shift for their efforts in this case and search warrant.

Under the guidance and leadership of Officer Olson, most of our night shift had a hand in helping out with this event in some way and the outcome was excellent.

Officer Olson was able to share his knowledge and experience in providing the guidance and leadership in obtaining and executing the search warrant at the residence and he then put together an outstanding report. I think it would be beneficial to all if you took the time to read Brent's report – it is an outstanding example of a thorough, detailed, and very well-written report for a drug case with search warrant, evidence collection, voluntary asset forfeiture, and encompasses a wide variety of elements related to drug investigations and documentation.



Officer Brent Olson

I believe most, if not all, of our shift had the opportunity to work on this case in some way and we want to commend everyone on your outstanding team work and dedication to your job and to the community. Considering this all took place near the end of everyone's 12-hour shift and resulted in many of you staying over late in the morning finishing up with the search warrant, it is certainly a testament to your dedication to your work. Proactive enforcement activities and drug interdiction activities are strongly encouraged and supported by the department and our command staff and this is an outstanding example of your proactive efforts and dedication.

Thank you to Brent for leading the charge on this and providing the leadership and guidance with this case. Outstanding effort by all involved with the initial investigation, search warrant, evidence collection, transports, and reporting writing and documentation.

Job well done by all!

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**Deputy Dan Glaze Funeral**



A number of Officers attended the funeral of Deputy Dan Glaze from Rusk County Sheriff's Office on November 4, 2016

- WPD Officers from left to right:  
Kyle Buchkoski,  
Garrett Carr  
Mitchael Borneman  
Paul Piskoty  
Xai Vang  
Mallori Piotrowski  
Koua Thao  
Jacob Albee



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

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

**Leadership Quotes:**

*Some people grumble that roses have thorns; I am grateful that thorns have roses.*  
**Alphonse Karr**

*Gratitude is not only the greatest of virtues, but the parent of all others.*  
**Cicero**

*As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them.*  
**John F. Kennedy**