



Wausau Police Department

The Informer

July, 2020

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2020 has been a brutal year.

I gave serious thought to just ending this article after that sentence because... well... why not? But of course, the world will continue spinning and we have to be resolved to not just "get through it" but to thrive. That may seem impossible when our profession is under great scrutiny... in some parts of the country our profession is literally under physical attack. I've heard and read a lot of rhetoric from police officers and supporters of law enforcement. I've also heard and read a lot of rhetoric from people who want to defund or abolish the police.

But I've heard very little from people who want to collaborate, listen to people with opposing viewpoints, and build something positive out of all the heartache our country is experiencing. That willingness to sit and listen to understand each other's perspective is an imperative building block of trust. Michael Nila of Blue Courage described it best in a recent webinar. He said **"We are way too certain in a world that is uncertain"** and he later followed up by saying **"We're too willing to believe that our certainty is right."**

Everyone has an opinion and it is generally formed based on life experiences, education, relationships, etc. But, just because a person has an opinion doesn't make the person right. At

the end of the day, being "right" shouldn't even really be an end goal of communication or discussion. In our professional lives as police officers, it's essential that we listen with the intent to understand the other person so we can use empathy, respond appropriately, and serve professionally.

Today more than ever, it's important to just serve. Whoever we are interacting with, whatever the reason for the contact, and no matter that person's opinions, let's decide to listen intently and then serve the needs of our citizens. It's certainly the more difficult road, but it's the high road. That's who we are in this profession. We are and we strive to be people of character. Let's put that character on display and do the talking with our actions.



New Officer



On June 17th, we welcomed our fourth new officer of 2020! Officer Michael Bedish, 3204, was sworn in at City Hall. There wasn't the usual fanfare, but he was able to have his sister, Officer Sarah Bedish, there with him. We are happy to add you to our blue family!

"Live in such a way that if someone should speak badly of you, no one would believe it."
Zig Ziglar

"Conflict cannot survive when only one person participates." *Unknown*

"The high road of grace will get you somewhere a whole lot faster than the freeway of spite." *Aaron Lauritsen*

"The essence of life is to serve others and do good." *Aristotle*

"Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on earth." *Muhammad Ali*

Awards & Promotions

2020 Awards Banquet

Civilian Service Award

Wausau Police Department Chaplains



It seems like forever ago, but in March we held our annual Awards Banquet and honored many of those who gave outstanding service last year. A big thank you to Wausau Smiles, the premier sponsor of this event!

Lifesaving Awards

Lt Luis Lopes Serrão & Officer Aaron Karlen



Outstanding Team Award

Pine Grove Incident Response Team



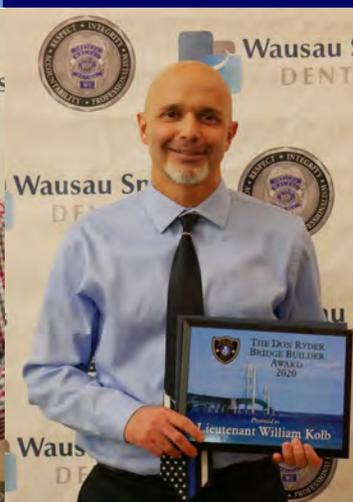
Valor Award

Lt Nate Pauls



Bridge Builder Award

Lt Bill Kolb



The Educator Award

Deb & Shane Heilmann



Officer of the Year

Officer Garrett Carr



Awards & Promotions

2020 Award Recipients

Community Partner Awards

City Employee/Department of the Year Award.....	Kristin Sorenson, City County IT Commission
Dispatcher of the Year Award	Julie Hillman, Public Safety Telecommunicator
Community Caretaker Award	Lee Shipway
Community Partner Award	89Q—Coy Sawyer & Culver's—Elizabeth Moens
The Educator Award	Deb Heilmann & Shane Heilmann
Public Official Partnership Award	Representative Patrick Snyder

Department Awards

Community Volunteer Award	Officer Benjamin Price
Victim Advocacy Award.....	Kristen Seidler
Emergency Police Volunteer of the Year Award.....	Bob Wisnewski
Civilian Service Award	Chaplain David Forsythe, Chaplain Julie Goranson, Chaplain Duane Hamilton, Chaplain Jennifer Hoffman, Chaplain Rob Love, Chaplain Joe Pinzl, Chaplain Don Ryder, Chaplain Greg Schmidt, Chaplain Brian Whitaker
Police Support Staff Member of the Year (Non-Sworn).....	Jack Thao
Supervisor of the Year Award	Lieutenant Matt Van Lieshout
Bridge Builder Award.....	Lieutenant William Kolb
Training Officer Award	Officer Shawn Meyer
Core Values Award.....	Officer Joshua Bigger
Youth Mentorship Award	Officer Nick Stetzer
Lifetime Achievement Award	Officer Mark Jaeger, Retired
Bullseye Award	Officer Shawn Meyer
Outstanding Team Award	Officer Jacob Albee, Officer Joshua Bigger, Officer Garrett Carr, Officer Kevin Cornell, Officer Mason Hagenbucher, Officer Sandra Hunt, Officer Mark Jaeger, Retired, Officer John Jurasin, Officer Houa Lee, Officer Nathan Porath, Officer Corinne Rizzo, Officer Jeffrey Schremp, Officer Dale Zander, Detective Nate Stetzer, Lieutenant Jacob Chittum, Lieutenant Brent Olson
Problem Solving Officer.....	Officer Joshua Bigger
Lifesaving Awards	Officer Michael Horejs, Officer Nicholas Walters, Officer Aaron Karlen, Lieutenant Luis Lopes Serrao, Officer Nathan Porath
Excellence in Policing Award.....	Officer Sarah Bedish
Distinguished Service Award	Officer Paul Piskoty
Valor Award	Lieutenant Nathan Pauls
Back-Up Officer Award.....	Officer Sandra Hunt
Rookie of the Year Award	Officer Aaron Karlen
Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award	Officer Garrett Carr

Acknowledgements & Other News

Producing Produce



The planters in and around the police department parking lot historically house flowers during the warmer months of the year. This year, we decided to try something else and planted a variety of vegetables and herbs. Our employees and families had a great time planting them, and now they are growing like weeds! What started as cute little seedlings have now become a bonanza of mini produce! We have already harvested chili peppers, banana peppers, cucumbers, lettuce and green beans.



Department Appreciation

Treats!



Although we declared a general moratorium on accepting food due to the COVID-19 pandemic, some things were catered or prepackaged and able to be accepted lately. Here are some of the wonderful things we were blessed with! Thank you all for thinking of us.



Department Spotlight

We love our dogs!

Max



Our stuffed K9s are back in stock! Since it's hard to slow the K9s down enough to get them to cuddle, the stuffed version is the next best thing! They are \$15 each and can be purchased at the customer service window at the police department.

Zanto



Rio



Astor



Badge



Theo



Department Spotlight

Community Service Officers

Every summer we hire additional staff to help out patrolling the spots that our squad cars have a hard time getting to, as well as the additional needs of summer events and people in city parks and trails. These additional staff are known as CSOs, or Community Service Officers. You will see them on bicycles, mopeds, and on foot, as well as in the parking control vehicles and the humane officer truck. They are authorized to write municipal citations and are in constant contact with officers as they try to mediate situations and lighten the officers' load. Be sure to wave as they go by!



CSO Scott Dauel 3586



CSO Ryan Lynch 3593



CSO Mason Dallman 3565



CSO Toulee Yang 3566



CSO Hunter Stark 3541



CSO Cong Lor 3542



CSO Natalie Simkovic 3544



CSO Erin Achatz 3545



CSO Caleb Dauel 3546



CSO Chase Frankel 3547



CSO Reed Symonds 3548