We created more partnerships within the community, including a Child Abduction Response Team with other agencies.

A new Chaplain’s program will fill a much needed niche within the Department, and a peer support room was created, which includes a library of resources for employees to use.

Our staff was extremely busy and I could not be prouder of the excellent service they provided to our community. They responded to more calls for service than the year before, and continued to live up to the traditions of the Appleton Police Department.

We improved the patrol vehicles and now have AWD sedans in our fleet, and are looking forward to adding 13 much needed SUV’s for their use in 2018. We are transitioning to a new records management system that will be a monumental change in how we do business and dramatically improve our efficiency and effectiveness.

We created more partnerships within the community, including a Child Abduction Response Team with other agencies.

A new Chaplain’s program will fill a much needed niche within the Department, and a peer support room was created, which includes a library of resources for employees to use.

The members of the Appleton Police Department were involved on many levels to give back to our community, and continue to live up to our core values of Compassion, Integrity, and Courage.

Todd L. Thomas
Chief of Police
Operations

Operations consists of three Districts in which supervisors and officers are assigned with the priority of addressing criminal activity and recurring problems within their assigned areas. Officers focus on fighting crime and solving problems, while building relationships within the community. They not only answer calls for service, they also invest time in the unique needs within each District. Focus areas include: extra patrol and visibility in parks, ramps and around schools; added patrol in areas where crimes have become a pattern, and walk through's of areas where damage or crimes have occurred. Patrol officers are sending a strong message the criminal activity is not welcome in the City of Appleton by tirelessly tracking down criminals, drugs and other illegal behaviors. In 2017, they responded to 51,184 calls for service. The collaborative efforts between officers in patrol and the other units within the Department, as well as with officers in other agencies and in surrounding communities, have resulted in some excellent police work.

The City of Appleton’s Citizens’ Public Safety Academy is an excellent way for several citizens to learn more about the Police and Fire Departments. If you are interested in participating in the 2018 Academy, which will start in fall, please email Sergeant Dave Lund at 832-5509 or david.lund@appleton.org.

Collaborative Efforts to Fight Street Crimes

The Appleton Police Department’s Community Resources Unit (CRU) continued the partnership with Outagamie County Sheriff’s Department, combining forces to better fight crime and solve problems throughout the County. To say this collaborative effort was a success would be an understatement. In 2017, the Community Resources Unit’s statistics are as follows:

- Led or assisted in 45 criminal search warrants
- Conducted 81 administrative search warrants on items such as phones, computers, vehicles, Facebook accounts
- Worked 85 felony cases, 59 misdemeanor cases, including investigations involving: drive by shooting; armed robbers; homicide (assisting Investigative Services); Human Trafficking/Prostitution Stings; Drug Related Deaths; Large Scale Marijuana Manufacturing; Methamphetamine Manufacturing; Drug Trafficking/Possession Arrests (Heroin, Meth, MDMA, Marijuana, Psilocybin).
- 20 public presentations to heighten public awareness (not including Threat Assessment Officer presentations)
- Increased collaborations with Investigative Services Unit, the MEG unit and Department of Criminal Investigations
- Worked with community stakeholders to provide support for victims, awareness training for johns and aggressive prosecution of traffickers (AIM program). Formed a partnership with Damascus Road to address long term victim needs.
- CRU targets and arrests those seeking or providing sexual services for money. (Outagamie Co. Sex Trafficking Task Force/State Human Trafficking Task Force)
- Worked with Assemblypersons Stuck and Jacques to pass a State Statute making 3rd offense prostitution a felony.
- Worked with Outagamie County Deputies to expand enforcement efforts throughout Outagamie County.

Technique Used | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017
---|---|---|---|---|---|---
Passive Countermeasures | 61 | 67 | 53 | 44 | 42 | 39
Focused Strikes | 10 | 21 | 20 | 9 | 10 | 16
ECD Activations | 16 | 18 | 22 | 14 | 15 | 14
Vertical Stun | 4 | 10 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 7
OC Spray | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0
Baton | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0
Deadly Force | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1

Use of Force Incidents

In 2017, all use of force incidents were determined to be within policy guidelines.
High Standards

The Appleton Police Department holds the highest standards for hiring, training, and retraining its personnel. We are grateful for in-house expertise and for a facility that accommodates training. The Department actively seeks to recruit quality candidates to maintain authorized staffing levels of 111 sworn officers and 27 civilians.

All policies are reviewed routinely, addressing evolving technology and legislative changes. Audits are conducted annually to ensure proper compliance, including audits of the TIME system, Identification Unit, procurement cards, and periodic reviews of pursuits, use of force and internal affairs.

In 2017, training included:
- Defense & Arrest Tactics
- Emergency Vehicle Operation
- Bi-annual firearms proficiency
- Monthly open gun range time
- Mandatory State of Wisconsin handgun qualification course
- SWAT training
- Legal update
- Unified tactics
- Vehicle contacts
- Rescue Task Force Training
- Report Writing
- Peer Support
- Crisis Intervention Team Training
- Tactical Emergency Combat Care
- Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training (ALERRT)
- ALICE Training (Alert, lockdown, inform, counter, evacuate)
- Simunition/scenario training
- Less lethal training
- Active shooter training
- Narcan training
- Fair and Impartial Policing training

2017 Major Incidents

- Numerous overdose deaths investigated, several resulting in arrests.
- Dieter’s Ale House stabbing incident
- Burglaries to storage units; Mary’s Restaurant; The Wishing Well
- Robberies at U.S. Bank; Sally’s
- Attempted armed robbery on State St.
- Numerous frauds including Fox Community Credit Union frauds; Korean Church fraud; Refugees: Suspects from Detroit re-encoding credit cards
- Shots fired incidents
- Apple Pub Incident

V.I.P. Volunteer Program

The Appleton Police Department is blessed with 57 incredibly giving, active volunteers.

In 2017, the APD volunteers accomplished more than ever, providing tours, making McGruff appearances, archiving police reports, handling clerical assignments, shredding documents, creating newsletters, conducting the Handicapped Parking Program, readying the prescription drugs dropped off for destruction, filing thousands of tickets, entering data into spreadsheets, documenting the Department’s history and numerous other assignments. They are worthy of accolades!

Ride Alongs: 198 people went on a police ride-along during 2017. If you’d like further information, please contact Sue Gallagher at 832-5500.

2017 Major Incidents

- Attempted armed robbery on State St.
- Numerous frauds including Fox Community Credit Union frauds; Korean Church fraud; Refugees: Suspects from Detroit re-encoding credit cards
- Shots fired incidents
- Apple Pub Incident
Investigative Services

The Investigative Services Unit is comprised of investigators with specialized training and years of experience working complex cases. They investigate major felonies, such as homicides, sexual assaults, burglaries and robberies. Investigators work closely with patrol officers to identify witnesses, preserve crime scenes, gather critical information and develop leads.

Rapidly changing technology has increased the burden to provide and maintain certain types of evidence. Some investigators specialize in computer forensics, pulling evidence from computers and cell phones. We continue to collaborate with the Grand Chute Police Department.

Appleton Police Department Military Wall

In 2017, Retired Sergeant Arnie Nettekoven’s long-time dream came true—to create an Appleton Police Department Military Wall to honor all of those members of the department, current and retired, who served in the military. This impressive wall contains 113 photos of those employees who served in the military. Photos on this wall are from as early as the Civil War. The wall continues to grow, as the Department hires more men and women who had served or are still serving in the military.

Cold Case

Investigators remain determined to make an arrest in this cold case:

On November 14, 2006, Connie Boelter was found murdered in her home in the City of Appleton. Officers continue to follow up on tips received in this case. Connie’s homicide was featured on America’s Most Wanted. A reward is available for any tip leading to the arrest of the person responsible. Please contact the Appleton Police Department with any information.

Goatees for Good

In November and December of 2017, Chief Thomas authorized men to wear goatees and women to wear purple hair extensions to raise funds to support the Ronald McDonald House ($6,048!). These efforts were in honor and memory of “IronMacy” Macy Van Zeeland. She blessed our lives and warmed our hearts during her short life and will always be fondly remembered by us and held closely in our hearts.
Blue
Our Appleton Police Department Therapy Dog

Blue, a golden doodle, joined the department as its first K9 “volunteer” - the APD’s station dog. Chief Thomas and his wife, Stephanie, have been taking him to both behavior and therapy dog training. Blue is another tool to improve employee wellness and the work environment.

(Even the Miami Herald wrote a piece on Blue!)

Photo courtesy of Soul Reflection Photography

The APD Records Unit processes thousands of police field reports, such as incident reports, traffic citations, ordinance tickets, citizens contacts (warnings), accident reports, parking tickets and warrants. They also field numerous inquiries from the public. The unit began cross training efforts to process records more efficiently. A new Records Management System was selected in 2017 (Spillman) and is going live in June of 2018.

The Appleton Police Department Front Desk:
In 2017, the eight Police Communications Specialists fielded 95,165 incoming phone calls, completed 6,095 cash transactions, issued 4,859 animal licenses, entered 12,292 warnings, and documented 8,550 overnight parking requests, in addition to their many additional work duties. The position is staffed 24-hours per day year round.

Social Media
2017 was a year that helped further the Department’s philosophy of transparency and inclusion of the community through use of technology:

- 83 official media releases disseminated to all known media outlets
- 551 media contacts (phone calls, texts, emails, interviews), a 17.5% increase
- The Appleton Police Department’s Instagram account had a 241% increase in followers
- Appleton Police Department’s Facebook account had 34,079 followers at the end of the year. This is the fourth largest following in Wisconsin Law Enforcement. One video of Officer Taschner “Driving the Bus” at a High School football game went viral. The video appeared on Good Morning America.
- 572 Facebook posts (one with a potential audience of over 300,000 potential viewers)
- 1,443 Tweets to over 4,724 viewers (up 31% in 2017)
- Appleton Police Department’s main web page had over 8,500 hits
- Appleton Police Department’s You Tube channel has 19 videos on it and 1,017 total views of the videos
School Resource Officers

The School Resource Officers’ Unit is possible through a cooperative agreement with the schools. Thirteen officers are assigned to provide services to 16,250 students, utilizing a wide spectrum of intervention options while addressing issues.

An approach called the Threat Assessment Team brings all interested parties (schools, law enforcement, etc.) together to discuss concerning behaviors of particular students. It has been working well. The schools have added security access to all officers’ fobs to make entry possible in case of an emergency.

This past year a video went viral of School Resource Officer Jack Taschner leading a cheer at a football game.

Badges & Bobbers

A new program designed to teach children how to fish, while interacting with officers, took place on July 22nd in the pond at Appleton Memorial Park.

Spearheaded by Sgt. Leon Fischer, this event was well attended by many children, as well as Appleton Police Officers, Community Service Officers, Retirees and Volunteers. Members from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and experienced fishermen put on several short presentations. Fun was had by all!

Special Events in the City:
Operations Coordination coordinated well over 125 special events in 2017 (including 21 new events). Special events cost the department $32,030 in overtime costs. They also assisted with all of the Farmers’ Markets, the ADI Summer Concert Series and major events at the Performing Arts Center—all of which require Community Service Officers to provide traffic control.

Mile of Music is an annual event that runs for four days in our downtown. Wild Adriatic, one of the bands participating in Mile of Music, came and played on the Appleton Police Department steps for an impromptu concert.

APD’s K9 Unit

In 2017, K9 Handlers Haney, Rohm and Schneider along with their dogs Jico, Waskos and Eon, were deployed on 240 narcotics incidents, 25 patrol incidents, 18 tracking incidents, 38 explosives detection, along with other searches. They had many successful finds, including:

- 78 marijuana
- 60 drug paraphernalia
- 5 cocaine
- 1 crack cocaine
- 12 methamphetamine
- 3 heroin
- 4 money
- 1 other evidence
- 12 methamphetamine
S.W.A.T.
The highly trained APD SWAT Team was deployed in its entirety on zero occasions in 2017.

This year’s APD Honor Assembly was held at the Radisson Paper Valley for the first time. This annual event is a time to celebrate the fine efforts of those in the department and the community. Nominations are accepted throughout the year, and the Awards Committee submits final selections to the Chief.

Crime Statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>Increase/Decrease</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Group A Crimes</td>
<td>4,389</td>
<td>4,414</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group B Crimes</td>
<td>5,215</td>
<td>5,297</td>
<td>1.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forcible Rape</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>-20.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robbery</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>-13.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aggravated Assault</td>
<td>136</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>-14.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burglary / Breaking and Entering</td>
<td>137</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>-4.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Other Larceny</td>
<td>309</td>
<td>253</td>
<td>-18.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Destructive/ Damage/ Vandalism to Property</td>
<td>577</td>
<td>577</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disorderly Conduct</td>
<td>884</td>
<td>825</td>
<td>-6.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Driving Under the Influence</td>
<td>350</td>
<td>342</td>
<td>-2.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liquor Law Violations</td>
<td>207</td>
<td>216</td>
<td>4.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

APD Honor Assembly—Awards

Officer of the Year: Sergeant Greg Ryan
Distinguished Service: Sgt. Pat Tooley, Officer Adam Nagel, Deputy Jon Cven-gros, Officer Dale Knauer
Life Saving Medals: Officer Brad Lehman, Officer Dane Coonen
Meritorious Service Awards: Sgt. Ignacio Enriquez, Officer Dane Coonen, Sgt. Dave Nimke, Officer Ryan Fergot, Officer Lori Duven, Sgt. Chad Riddle, Officer Matt Anderson, Lead CSO Matt Fillebrown
Civilian Employee of the Year: Larissa Asmus
Humanitarian Award: Sara Derks
Volunteer of the Year: Rodney Helms
Civilian Community Service: Pastor Alvin Dupree, Family First Ministries, Inc., APD Bike Ambassadors, Katie Connell, Beatriz Ramirez, James Peterson, Dan Williams, Chad Hauser

Comings & Goings

Officers hired in 2017: Dominic Hall, Phillip Akins, Ryan Peterson, Turner Botz, Andrew Lindemann, Derek Anderson, Payne Hughes, Anthony Shuman
Community Service Officers hired in 2017: Aaron Schaefer, Kali Thompson
Police Communications Specialists (PCS) hired in 2017: Susan Deruchowski
Records Technician hired in 2017: Whitney Whitenack
Appleton Police Department

**Mission**
Excellence in Police Service

**Core Values**
Compassion
Integrity
Courage

**Vision**
Impacting the Future for a Safer Tomorrow

Promotions in 2017:
Lt. Eric Holdorf
Lt. Ryan Neff
Assistant Chief Larry Potter
Captain Polly Olson
Fiscal Resources oversees the $16.9 million budget for the Department. 90% of that amount is allocated to personnel services. Grants, in excess of $130,000, were received to support initiatives such as bulletproof vests, seatbelt safety, and heroin and meth drug enforcement.

Our Make-A-Wish Officer Jacob Frerking APD #9275, was a joy to have as part of the team. He was sworn in on September 9, 2016 and often partnered with Officer Mallory DePetro. Jacob passed away on January 28, 2018.

Lt. Steve Elliott talking with APD Retiree Earl Jackson during the Chief’s Gathering for the APD Retirees.

Mayor Hanna and Captain Todd Freeman playing a game with a child during Q90’s game day at the Timber Rattler Stadium.

Get connected with us:

Find us on Twitter: @AppletonPD_WI
Facebook: www.facebook.com “Appleton Police Department”
Online: www.appleton.org/police