Thank you for reviewing our 2018 annual report. Our staff was extremely busy and I could not be prouder of the excellent service they provided to our community. They continued to live up to the traditions and high standards of the Appleton Police Department.

Last year brought many positive changes within the Appleton Police Department, including a new countywide Records Management system. We went live with this new Spillman system in June, creating a monumental change in how we do business and dramatically improving our efficiency and effectiveness.

We took a renewed look at how we can better address the challenges of mental health issues and wellness as a whole. One of the steps we took was adding a Behavioral Health Officer.

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
The majority of Appleton’s sworn police officers are assigned to the Operations Unit and they serve as the department's most visible component...the uniformed patrol officer. For the most effective and efficient delivery of police services, the Operations Unit consists of three geographic patrol districts. Under the direction of a supervisory team, each district group is tasked with developing strategies and practices primarily designed to:

- Respond to, investigate, and prevent crime.
- Address public safety problems brought to their attention like traffic safety issues and entertainment district order maintenance.
- Prevent and deter quality of life problems through collaboration with other government departments, human service agencies, schools, and advocacy groups.

Nearly all incidents and investigations in which the APD is involved begin with the uniformed police officer. We are proud of our uniformed officers’ versatile skills which are the hallmark of our agency.

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 call or email Officer Meghan Cash at 832-5509 or meghan.cash@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 2018, the Community Resources Unit’s statistics are as follows:

- Led or assisted in 42 criminal search warrants
- Conducted 21 administrative search warrants on items such as phones, computers, vehicles, Facebook accounts
- Worked 44 felony cases and misdemeanor cases, including investigations involving: drive by shooting; armed robbery; 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)
- 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 (John School) for those arrested for attempting to purchase sexual services and aggressive prosecution of traffickers (5 Stones/Christ the Rock Church—AIM program)
- CRU targets and arrests those seeking or providing sexual services for money. (Outagamie Co. Sex Trafficking Task Force)
- Worked with Assemblypersons Stuck and Jacques to pass a State Statute making 3rd offense prostitution a felony
- The partnership with Outagamie County Deputies has had far reaching successful effects in investigations

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Use of Force Incidents

In 2018, all use of force incidents were determined to be within policy guidelines.
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 2018, 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

In 2018, a Behavioral Health Officer position was created at the Appleton Police Department. This will provide a resilient link between individuals with mental health illness and/or substance addiction(s) and the system at large. The Behavioral Health Officer coordinates response as a law enforcement agency and aids individuals experiencing a behavioral crisis resulting from known or suspected mental illness and/or drug and alcohol addiction. This officer is an immediate point of contact with community service providers to expedite the process in connecting an individual to treatment. We are working to strengthen our responses in working with individuals struggling with mental illness and/or addiction(s).

2018 Dedicated Appleton Police Department volunteers invested 2,867 hours.

Ride Alongs: 164 people went on a police ride-along during 2018. If you’d like further information, please contact Sue Gallagher at 832-5500.

More information: https://www.appleton.org/residents/police/ride-along-program

The Appleton Police Department is blessed with 57 incredibly giving, active volunteers. In 2018, the APD volunteers were again right hand helpers for us - providing tours, making McGruff appearances, archiving police reports, handling clerical assignments, shredding documents, readying the prescription drugs dropped off for destruction, filing tickets and reports, entering data into spreadsheets, inventorying and ordering office supplies, documenting the Department’s history and numerous other assignments. We applaud their fine efforts!
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.

Major Incidents

- Numerous overdose deaths investigated, several resulting in arrests.
- Matthias Street shooting
- Shooting on Memorial Drive
- Arrest of person practicing medicine without a license
- Arrest of mother in death of disabled 13 year old child
- Chase Bank robbery
- Multiple states fraud investigation

Goatees for Good

In November and December of 2018, Chief Thomas, for the second year in a row, authorized men to wear goatees and women to wear purple hair extensions to raise funds to support the Ronald McDonald House ($3,000!). These efforts were in honor and memory of “IronMacy” Macy Van Zeeland—the sweet little one who blessed our lives and warmed our hearts during her all-too-short life.
“Blue Justice”

The Department’s therapy dog, “Blue Justice” was certified in 2018. He is a favorite in the halls of the Appleton Police Department and beyond.

IN-HOUSE EXPERTISE:

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

The APD Records Unit processes thousands of police field reports, such as incident reports, traffic citations, ordinance tickets, warnings, accident reports and warrants. They also field numerous inquiries from the public and process open records requests. In June we went live with Spillman Records Management System. Spillman is a County Wide system. This allows the officer to do the majority of their reports out in the field rather than in the station. Reports are routed electronically rather than on paper. Records is continuing cross training all entities of a report increasing our efficiencies.

The Appleton Police Department Front Desk:

In 2018, the seven Police Communications Specialists fielded 87,008 incoming phone calls, issued 4,443 animal licenses, entered 9,882 warnings and processed 1,493 overnight parking requests, in addition to their many additional work duties. They handle all walk in traffic into the lobby and answer the non-emergency line. The position is staffed 24-hours per day year round.

Social Media

The Appleton Police Department’s use of technology to further the Department’s philosophy of transparency and inclusion of the community continued through:

- Media Releases and contacts via phone, text, emails, interviews
- Instagram account
- Facebook account
- Twitter page
- Main website
- You Tube channel
- Phone App
School Resource Officers

The School Resource Officer Unit is possible through a cooperative agreement with the Appleton Area School District. The partnership between the AASD and the APD has been in place for more than forty years. We currently have twelve officers providing services to over 16,000 AASD students. The SRO Unit also provides services for the private schools in the City of Appleton on an as needed basis. The officers working with the schools investigate criminal issues but more importantly they are there to be a resource to students, families, and staff. They are a large part of creating a safe and secure environment for the school community by utilizing alternative interventions for behavior issues, mentoring students, and being a conduit to needed resources for students and their families.

APD’s K9 Unit

In 2018, K9 Handlers Haney, Rohm and Schneider along with their dogs Jico, Waskos and Eon, were deployed on 174 narcotics incidents, 25 patrol incidents, 21 tracking incidents, 41 explosives detection, along with two area searches. K9 Jico retired on 12/31/2018.

The family of Retired Captain George Weaver donated funds in his memory to purchase a new K9 for the Appleton Police Department. Members of the community donated funds for the training and equipment for this new law enforcement K9, Zuul who will be partnered with Officer Tom Ziemann.

Special Events in the City:
Operations Coordination coordinated well over 94 special events in 2018. Some of the major events include the Flag Day Parade, the Civic celebration, License to Cruise, Octoberfest and the Christmas Parade.

One of the events we sponsored was the Badges and Bobbers event, this year held at Lutz Park. Despite the gloomy weather, many children came out to fish with officers and enjoyed a great day at the park. Some even caught some pretty nice fish!

Summer of Service

The Appleton Police Department, in partnership with the Boys & Girls Club and the Appleton Area School District held the Summer of Service program again in August of 2018. The mission of this program is to engage youth in meaningful, team-based projects to instill positive attitudes and empower youth to acquire life skills. The experience was rewarding to all involved, and many memories and lasting friendships were made.
Passing of an APD Pillar


He played a role in hiring our police officers for the past 42 years and will be greatly missed. Dale brought a wealth of wisdom and good humor to the table. He was humble, straightforward and shared a long, rich history with the APD. He was proud to have hired many APD Chiefs (David Gorski, Richard Myers, James Lewis, David Walsh, Peter Helein and Todd Thomas) and many Appleton Fire Department Chiefs, too.

APD Honor Assembly—Awards

Officer of the Year:  Officer Jack Taschner
Police Star Medal:  Sgt. Ty West, Sgt. Jeremy Haney
Life Saving Medals:  Sgt. Mark Moderson, Captain Rudy Nyman
Team Awards:  Sgt. Adam Nagel, Sgt. Blaine Vander Wielen, Outagamie Co. ADA Alex Duros, Sgt. Greg Ryan, Lead CSO Matt Fillebrown
Civilian Employee of the Year:  Police Communications Specialist Sue Gallagher
Humanitarian Award:  Officer Mallory DePetro, Sgt. Carrie Peters
Volunteer of the Year:  Ret. Sgt. Arnie Nettekoven
Civilian Medal of Gallantry:  Ryan Otto
Civilian Community Service Award:  Jillian Campbell, Dr. James Begotka, Kinga Jacobson

Comings & Goings


Officers hired in 2018:  Nicholas Morelock, Samuel Patek, Amanda Sincere, Paul Christensen, Jason Schmitz, Austin Lawrence, Mitchell Martinez, Cody Lerum, Taylor Justice, Anthony Jenkins


Records Technicians hired in 2018:  Jill Cornell, Linda Maus
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.

The APD Honor Guard participated in 19 events in 2018, including parades, ceremonies, and funerals.
Stay connected with us:

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

Join Neighborhood Watch  
Attend the Public Safety Citizens’ Academy  
Tour the Police Department