



Wisconsin Dells Police Department 2020 Annual Report

Prepared by: Chief of Police Jody Ward





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Department Snap Shot

Personnel

- 15 Full Time Sworn Officers
- 5 Full Time Dispatchers
- 4 Limited Term Officers
- 1 Part-Time Dispatcher
- 4 Community Service Officers

Special Assignments

- 1 School Resource Officer
- 5 Field Training Officers
- 1 Summer Investigator
- 1 Columbia County ERT Member
- 1 Senior Citizen Liaison Officer

2020 Hires

- Devan Dollar, Full Time Dispatch
- Daniel Sullivan LTE Police Officer
- Jason Marten, Community Service Officer

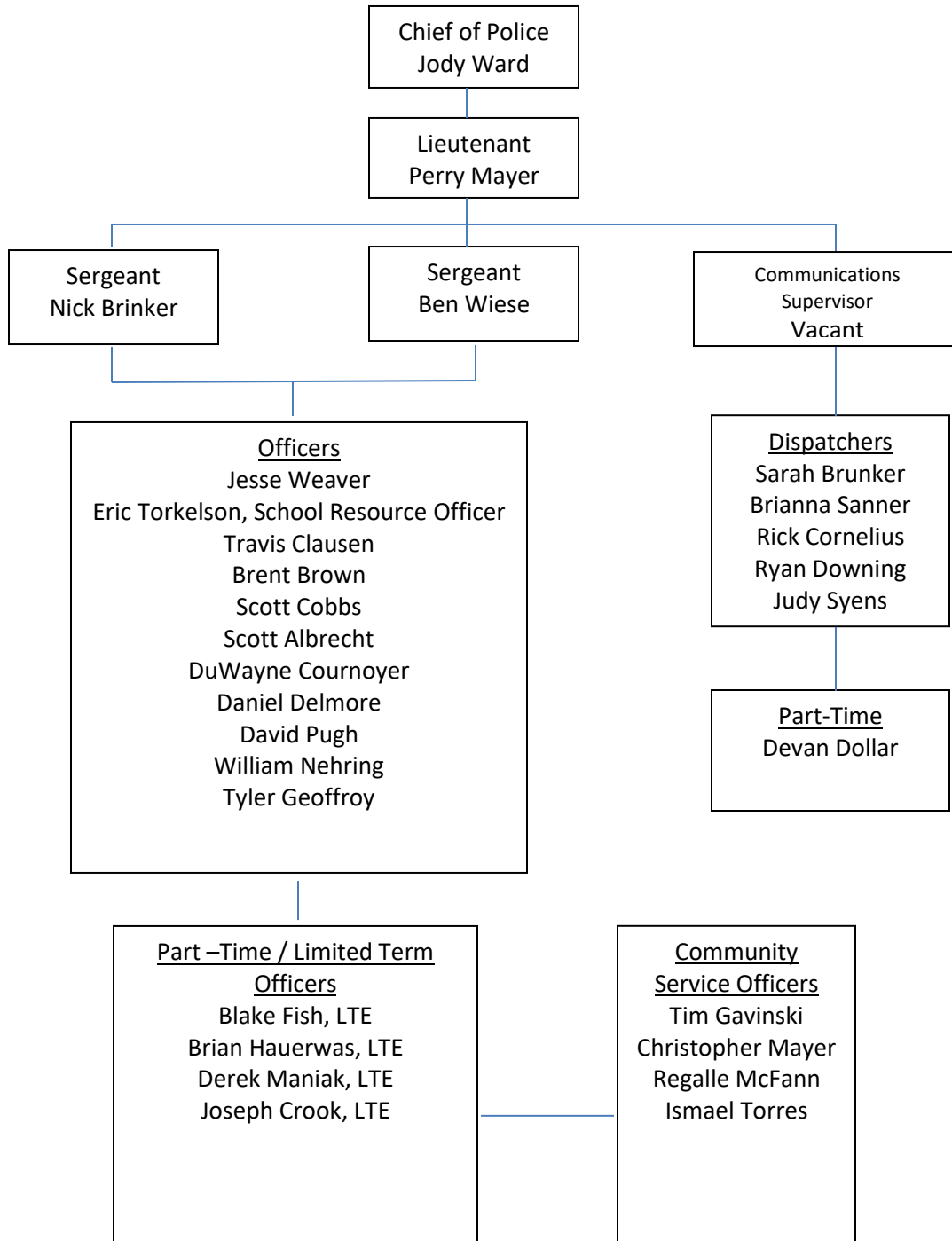
2020 Retirements

- Judy Syens, Dispatcher

“Working together with the community, providing the highest level of service and professionalism, while assuring fair and equal treatment to all.”



Organizational Chart / Chain of Command





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City Council 2020

Ed Wojnicz
Mayor

Jesse Defosse
Alderson District 1

Nancy Holzem
City Clerk / Admin Coordinator

Brian Holzem
Alderson District 1

Mike Freel
Alderson District 2

Karen Terry
Treasurer

Terry Marshall
Alderson District 2

Ben Anderson
Alderson District 3

Dan Anchor
Alderson District 3

Public Safety Committee

Dan Anchor Chair
Ed Wojnicz, Mayor
Ben Anderson, Alderson
Brian Holzem, Alderson



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Police Chief Introduction

Submitted by Chief of Police Jody Ward



This will be my last annual report for the Wisconsin Dells Police Department. In December of 2020 I met with the personnel committee and informed them that I would be retiring in April of 2021. I started creating annual reports when I became Chief in 2011. This will be my 10th and final report.

In the annual report I usually report significant events, hiring and community services the police department offers. I will leave this up to Lt. Mayer. COVID was the significant event that happened in 2020 and our department and community handled the challenge incredibly well.

Retiring is truly bittersweet. I still love my job and the community of Wisconsin Dells. There is no other community like it. I am sure that phrase has been stated in every community. However, I really feel this way.

I started my career in 1989 and was hired by Chief Frank Schoeninger. There was not a formalized field training program, and I was literally handed the keys to a squad my first night of work. What did I do?.....I took a note pad and I went out and learned how the houses and streets were labeled and numbered. Since I was assigned the night shift, I had to shine the spotlight on the houses to see the house-numbers. Two complaints were called in on me, the cop shining houses. Things sure have changed. We now have an extensive field training program and I feel confident that every officer that completes it, is very well trained and ready to be on their own.

After working the night shift for several years, I was assigned to be the first School Resource Officer. I went from breaking up bar fights to counseling school children and teaching DARE. This was a big change but a very important one for me. I spent 5 years as School Resource Officer and enjoyed the assignment very much. Over twenty years later I still have past students reaching out to me.

Shortly after my School Resource Officer assignment I was promoted to Lieutenant in March of 2003. In November of 2003 I was promoted to Assistant Chief. In February of 2011 I was promoted to Chief of Police.

In 2003 upon the retirement of Chief Dean Edgington, I was not only promoted to Assistant Chief I also accepted the duties of IT and computer management. I am proud to say that right up until retirement I handled all electronics, computer, website, phone electronics in the police department, squads and parking utility. In area departments our size, this budget item for computer management and support can exceed sixty thousand dollars annually.



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After becoming Chief I was placed on the parking board and took over all parking enforcement responsibilities. During my time as chief I increased the parking revenue significantly by adding more pay stations and integrating a smart phone app to pay for parking.

Looking back at my 30 plus years I feel incredibly grateful to all the officers I have worked with. Thankfully, I was never involved in deadly force incident nor were any of the officers I have worked with. Our department has always prided ourselves on training and investigating our own complaints. Personnel limitations have never allowed us to have a full-time investigator, even now. Each and every officer does a great job in handling their own investigations and multiple officers are trained instructors in multiple disciplines.

My pending retirement has made me think a lot about the state of the police department. Although I am steering the ship, all successes have been a team effort. How do you rate how well a police department has performed? If you ask politicians, you will get a variety of answers, most vague and sometimes swayed by personal animosities and relationships. I believe the answer has two parts. 1) Does the community feel safe? 2) Data.

The City of Wisconsin Dells is extremely safe. In my 32 years working for WDPD, I do not recall any conversations with local business owners and community members complaining about their general sense of safety. In a recent budget meeting, discussing our staffing, Mayor Wojnicz reiterated my point and stated that the community feels safe.

As for data, the Wisconsin Dells Police Department during my tenure as chief, has excelled and grown professionally. In the past ten years:

- WDPD has had a few retirements and virtually zero turn-over. This is unheard of in the policing climate right now.
- WDPD hired and trained over 35 Limited Term Officers. After working for WDPD most of these officers went on to successful careers in law enforcement. Many becoming supervisors and two becoming chiefs.
- Creation of the Community Service Officer position. This allowed us to move all limited term officers to the night shift to focus on policing rather than parking. To date we have hired over 15 CSOs. This has provided us with an exceptional opportunity to hire someone out of high school and provide a path to being a police officer.
- Added two officers to the Columbia County Emergency Response Team (ERT).
- Installation of cameras in various locations in the downtown area. These cameras have helped solve many crimes and investigations, notably two missing person complaints that turned into death investigations.
- Creation of community policing programs including Honor Guard, Business Summits, property security notices, DMV service center, Thanksgiving food delivery, "You Are Not Alone" telephone welfare checks and more.



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- No successful lawsuits against the police department
- No successful union grievances. We have made it a priority to work with the union and negotiate successful outcomes.
- No significant employee injuries
- No significant workman's compensation claims

The police department will be left in great hands. Lt. Mayer is extremely qualified and has continually impressed me with his knowledge, work ethic and loyalty to the city. Lt. Mayer is a graduate of the Command College which is a joint venture between the Wisconsin Department of Justice and the University of Wisconsin. During this intense yearlong training, Lt. Mayer earned his State of Wisconsin Certified Public Manager degree. Lt. Mayer still serves on the board for Command College Alumni. Lt. Mayer is also a certified state trainer in several police disciplines. I feel more than confident that he will lead this department in a professional capacity with integrity and focus on community safety.

I will miss working for WDPD very much. I am so happy I made the career choice I did and have little regrets. I personally need to thank the community that has supported me over the years and all the wonderful people I have worked with including city government, city hall and all the public works employees. A special thanks to my mentors and supporters Bret Anderson, Dean Edgington, Eric Helland and Dar Mor. A very special thanks to my Wife Jana and my family for allowing me to miss holidays and special events, getting called out at all hours of the day and the stress that comes along with this job.

Since this report has been completed prior to all statistics being published, there will be a supplement added in the near future.

Stay Safe out There!

Respectfully Submitted,

Jody J. Ward, Chief of Police



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Police Admin Summary

Submitted by Lieutenant Perry Mayer



We entered 2020 like most years in the past. Our eyes were set on staffing for our busy tourist season and planning for special events that lie just a few months ahead. I also finalize scheduling for our annual training to include coordination with the tactical team (8 hours each month) and the county K-9 units (16 hours each month) as well as annual inservice (24 hours annually) for all of our officers.

Some officers also attend specialized training in areas of drug investigations, animal welfare training, community and problem-oriented policing and many others. We also use an in-house online training system where we try to provide at least two hours of training each month on a topic of recent significance to the department. This counts toward our 24 hours and also keeps officers well versed on the topics that are occurring now so they can interact with the public and police more effectively.

In February, we began to hear about an illness that was having a significant health effect on many people in the United States. COVID-19, the Coronavirus, was here and it was spreading quickly. By mid-March, Emergency and Executive Orders were issued and businesses were shut down. Only 'Essential' businesses were allowed to be open and only 'Essential' employees were allowed to attend work. Some of these were defined by those orders and some had yet to be determined. Department heads met to try and plan for the unknown future of our community. Non-essential costs and projects were cut immediately, employee schedules were reviewed and sanitizing resources were pooled together. Public spaces were closed and 'Social Distancing' instantly became the new normal. Many local businesses donated masks and other Personal Protective Equipment to us so we could keep our officers safe as they responded to calls. How we responded to those calls also changed. For the first time in our careers, we began taking almost all of our calls and complaints over the phone. This kept both the officer and caller safe. In cases that required us to go to a scene, we did our best to stay outside and have people come out to us unless it was absolutely necessary to go inside. Some jails changed who they would accept. Courts began to close as well. Online/virtual meetings, court appearances, victim interviews and even employment processes became the way 2020. Most of this remained in place through the end of the year.

Our patrol officers showed incredible resiliency as they worked one officer short, while dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic. When businesses were allowed to re-open in late May and early June, it was directly following stimulus payments and the in-custody death of George Floyd in Minneapolis. Cities across the nation were experiencing demonstrations ranging from peaceful



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protests to extremely dangerous riots where officers were targeted, massive amounts of property were damaged and looting occurred on a daily basis. This was an immeasurably stressful time for all of our officers.

In June we had a change in dispatch when full-time dispatcher Judy Syens left for other employment. We were extremely fortunate to promote Devan Dollar from part-time dispatcher to this full-time position. As our summer season ended, we lost our last part-time dispatcher, Regale Rathman as her job classification with the city changed.

Many of our regular special events for the year were cancelled due to the pandemic. However, we did have a 4th of July of celebration with a brilliant fireworks display and a wonderful crowd. Everyone stayed safe and enjoyed perfect weather. Automotion, held in May every year, was postponed until September. This classic car show still managed to bring a large crowd to town making it a successful event for all.

We ended 2020 without our beloved CP Rail Holiday Train event this year. While that may be disappointing as cheerful events go, we leave 2020 behind with our vision focused on bright recovery in 2021. Our staff is safe and healthy. Our community is ready and excited to accept a new year of visitors and a full schedule of events and entertainment.





Community Policing

WDPD has initiated several “community policing” programs in the past several years. Our focus is on the safety of our community and our goal is to provide only a positive experience and resources to our residents and visitors.

We are proud to offer the below listed programs year-round. Below is a list of the community policing programs we offer. There is more information on www.wdpd.com.

- Community Assigned Patrol
- House/Vacation Checks.
- NIXLE Community/Emergency Alerts
- Citizen Questionnaire/Survey
- "You Are Not Alone (YANA)" telephone welfare check program
- Funeral Escorts
- Bank Escorts
- School Resource Officer
- Senior Citizen Liaison Officer
- Community Service Officers
- Foot Patrol
- Honor/Color Guard
- Police K9 Demonstrations
- Business Summit Annual Meetings
- Kops for Kids
- Home Security Surveys
- Child Passenger Safety Seat Checks
- Property Security/Safety Notice Cards
- DMV Service Center
- Thanksgiving Food Delivery - Partnering with Denny's
- Department Volunteer Day for Salvation Army Red Kettle Bell Ringing



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Dispatch Statistics

Wisconsin Dells Police Department staffs a 911 Communications Center 24/7/365 with only 5 full time and one part-time dispatcher(s). The Comm Center dispatches police within the City of Wisconsin Dells and Fire and EMS to multiple counties and townships adjacent to Wisconsin Dells. Tasked with such an important job and limited resources, our Dispatchers do an amazing job.

| Dispatch Stats | 2020 | 2019 | 2018 | 2017 | 2016 |
|---|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Monthly Average of People Entering Lobby | 807 | 1146 | 1183 | 1195 | 1335 |
| Monthly Average Lobby People Requiring Help | 574 | 808 | 900 | 845 | 992 |
| Annual Law Enforcement Calls | 6485 | 9177* | 11728 | 11924 | 13134 |
| Annual Law Enforcement Reports Generated | 1283 | 1759* | 2061 | 2027 | 2243 |
| Annual Fire, DNR Fire and/or Rescue Pages | 335 | 341 | 305 | 410 | 291 |
| Annual Ambulance Pages | 1094 | 1047 | 1038 | 976 | 1061 |
| Warrants Issued | 18 | 62 | 24 | 57 | 24 |
| Warrants Validated | 187 | 168 | 192 | 195 | 269 |
| Open Records Requests | 188 | 215 | 261 | 206 | 210 |
| Accident Reports Released by Request | 77 | 126 | 116 | 141 | 162 |
| DMV Transactions | 951 | 862 | 974 | 931 | 903 |
| Taxi Operator Licenses Issued | 31 | 50 | 86 | 77 | 62 |
| Bartender License Applications | ** | ** | 224 | 49 | 191 |
| Bar Agent Applications | ** | ** | 6 | 14 | 11 |
| Requests for Fingerprints | 30 | 16 | 27 | 26 | 30 |
| Preliminary Breath Test Requests | 1 | 3 | 0 | 5 | 14 |
| Private Party Paper Service | 6 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 8 |

* Change in reporting & tracking method/parameters made mid-year 2019 due to Software change

** Police Department no longer tracks



Uniform Crime Statistics

As mandated by the Wisconsin Legislature [§16.964(1)(g)], the Wisconsin Office of Justice Assistance (OJA) is responsible for reporting information concerning the number and nature of criminal offenses known to have been committed in the state. This includes collecting crime and arrest data from 399 separate law enforcement agencies for the FBI’s Uniform Crime Reporting Program (a nationwide cooperative statistical effort of more than 17,000 law enforcement agencies voluntarily reporting data on crime). The primary objective of UCR is to generate reliable information for use in law enforcement administration, operation, and management. Today, the American public looks to the Uniform Crime Reports for information on fluctuations in the level of crime, and criminologists, sociologists, legislators, municipal planners, the media, and other students of criminal justice use the statistics for varied research and planning purposes.

This report, prepared by the OJA Statistical Analysis Center (SAC), is a collection of crime data reported to Wisconsin law enforcement agencies in 2015. It contains detailed information on crime volume, rates, and trends on eight major criminal offenses as designated by the FBI: Murder, Forcible Rape, Robbery, Aggravated Assault, Burglary, Larceny-Theft, Motor Vehicle Theft, and Arson.

City of Wisconsin Dells UCR History

| Violent Crimes | 2019 | % Change | 2018 | 2017 | 2016 |
|------------------------|-------------|-----------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Murder | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Rape | 5 | 25 | 4 | 1 | 4 |
| Robbery | 1 | 100 | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| Assault | 59 | 103 | 29 | 52 | 52 |
| Total V. Crime | 66 | 100% | 33 | 57 | 56 |
| Property Crimes | | | | | |
| Burglary | 12 | 33 | 9 | 10 | 16 |
| Theft | 149 | 14 | 131 | 147 | 143 |
| MV Theft | 9 | 50 | 6 | 11 | 9 |
| Arson | 1 | 100 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Property | 171 | 17% | 146 | 168 | 168 |



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UCR Comparisons

Local Agencies

| Violent Crimes | Wis Dells | Lake Delton | Baraboo | Portage | Reedsburg |
|------------------------|------------------|--------------------|----------------|----------------|------------------|
| Murder | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Rape | 5 | 4 | 15 | 2 | 3 |
| Robbery | 1 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Agg Assault | 14 | 17 | 11 | 13 | 2 |
| Simp Assault | 45 | 51 | 44 | 84 | 33 |
| Total V. Crime | 66 | 75 | 72 | 101 | 38 |
| Property Crimes | | | | | |
| Burglary | 12 | 23 | 43 | 7 | 6 |
| Theft | 149 | 417 | 284 | 143 | 147 |
| MV Theft | 9 | 18 | 18 | 14 | 6 |
| Arson | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Total Property | 171 | 458 | 346 | 165 | 159 |
| Total Crime | 237 | 533 | 418 | 266 | 197 |
| FT Officers | 15 | 21 | 29 | 22 | 20 |

Similar Size Agencies

| Violent Crimes | Wis Dells | Sauk Prairie | Mukwonago | Ripon | Mcfarland | Sheboygan Falls |
|------------------------|------------------|---------------------|------------------|--------------|------------------|------------------------|
| Murder | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Rape | 5 | 2 | 1 | 9 | 0 | 2 |
| Robbery | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Agg Assault | 14 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 1 |
| Simp Assault | 45 | 1 | 12 | 80 | 11 | 22 |
| Total V. Crime | 66 | 5 | 15 | 93 | 16 | 25 |
| Property Crimes | | | | | | |
| Burglary | 12 | 5 | 2 | 11 | 9 | 10 |
| Theft | 149 | 34 | 85 | 54 | 45 | 45 |
| MV Theft | 9 | 6 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| Arson | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Property | 171 | 46 | 88 | 68 | 56 | 59 |
| Total Crime | 237 | 51 | 103 | 161 | 72 | 84 |
| FT Officers | 15 | 14 | 14 | 15 | 14 | 15 |



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2019 Society Offenses

| Society Offenses | Wis Dells | Lake Delton | Baraboo | Portage | Reedsburg | McFarland |
|---------------------------|------------|-------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------|
| Weapons | 4 | 1 | 1 | 25 | 5 | 1 |
| Prostitution | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Sex Offenses | 1 | 6 | 3 | 6 | 13 | 0 |
| Gambling | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| OWI | 36 | 49 | 98 | 75 | 90 | 31 |
| Liquor Laws | 43 | 30 | 34 | 8 | 30 | 0 |
| Disorderly Conduct | 72 | 80 | 120 | 168 | 91 | 8 |
| Vagrancy | 0 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| Curfew Loitering | 0 | 0 | 8 | 0 | 6 | 0 |
| Total | 161 | 166 | 231 | 292 | 235 | 40 |

WDPD Society Offense History

| Society Offenses | 2019 | 2018 | 2017 | 2016 | 2015 | 2014 |
|---------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Weapons | 4 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 4 | 12 |
| Prostitution | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Sex Offenses | 1 | 7 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 4 |
| Gambling | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| OWI | 36 | 40 | 54 | 57 | 75 | 75 |
| Liquor Laws | 43 | 68 | 46 | 51 | 76 | 76 |
| Disorderly Conduct | 72 | 115 | 119 | 141 | 116 | 116 |
| Vagrancy | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 35 | 35 |
| Curfew Loitering | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 161 | 236 | 223 | 255 | 318 | 318 |



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Adult Total Arrests 2019

| Offense | Age | WDPD | LDPD | Reedsburg | Baraboo | Sauk Prairie | Portage |
|--------------------------------------|-------|------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------|------------|
| Aggravated Assault | Adult | 11 | 13 | 6 | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| All Other Offenses | Adult | 127 | 117 | 242 | 93 | 27 | 339 |
| Burglary | Adult | 0 | 8 | 4 | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Curfew/Loitering Violations | Adult | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Disorderly Conduct | Adult | 61 | 76 | 72 | 47 | 26 | 134 |
| Driving Under the Influence | Adult | 36 | 49 | 90 | 95 | 37 | 75 |
| Drug Possession - Marijuana | Adult | 40 | 44 | 21 | 17 | 16 | 59 |
| Drug Possession - Opium/Cocaine | Adult | 3 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 25 |
| Drug Possession - Other Dangerous | Adult | 24 | 3 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 12 |
| Drug Possession - Synthetic | Adult | 4 | 6 | 10 | 2 | 1 | 2 |
| Drug Sale - Marijuana | Adult | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 3 |
| Drug Sale - Opium/Cocaine | Adult | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Drug Sale - Synthetic | Adult | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Embezzlement | Adult | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Forgery & Counterfeiting | Adult | 0 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Fraud | Adult | 5 | 3 | 36 | 4 | 3 | 1 |
| Larceny Theft | Adult | 24 | 181 | 82 | 91 | 6 | 64 |
| Liquor Laws | Adult | 41 | 25 | 22 | 14 | 7 | 8 |
| Motor Vehicle Theft | Adult | 0 | 3 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 3 |
| Murder & Nonnegligent Manslaughter | Adult | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Offenses Against Family and Children | Adult | 0 | 0 | 11 | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| Prostitution & Commercialized Vice | Adult | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Rape - 2017 | Adult | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Robbery | Adult | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Sex Offenses - 2017 | Adult | 1 | 5 | 8 | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Simple Assault | Adult | 18 | 29 | 27 | 11 | 6 | 76 |
| Vagrancy Violations | Adult | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 10 |
| Vandalism | Adult | 8 | 10 | 6 | 16 | 0 | 30 |
| Weapons | Adult | 4 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 24 |
| Totals: | | 418 | 589 | 646 | 412 | 142 | 874 |



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Juvenile Total Arrests 2019

| Offense | Age | WDPD | LDPD | Reedsburg | Baraboo | Sauk Prairie | Portage |
|--------------------------------------|----------|-----------|-----------|------------|------------|--------------|-----------|
| Aggravated Assault | Juvenile | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 0 |
| All Other Offenses | Juvenile | 13 | 4 | 70 | 223 | 47 | 6 |
| Burglary | Juvenile | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Curfew/Loitering Violations | Juvenile | 0 | 0 | 6 | 8 | 0 | 0 |
| Disorderly Conduct | Juvenile | 11 | 4 | 19 | 73 | 14 | 34 |
| Driving Under the Influence | Juvenile | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Drug - Unknown | Juvenile | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Drug Possession - Marijuana | Juvenile | 2 | 2 | 5 | 7 | 3 | 4 |
| Drug Possession - Other Dangerous | Juvenile | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| Drug Sale - Marijuana | Juvenile | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Drug Sale - Other Dangerous | Juvenile | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Embezzlement | Juvenile | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Forgery & Counterfeiting | Juvenile | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Fraud | Juvenile | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Larceny Theft | Juvenile | 10 | 10 | 12 | 8 | 4 | 6 |
| Liquor Laws | Juvenile | 2 | 5 | 8 | 20 | 5 | 0 |
| Motor Vehicle Theft | Juvenile | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 7 |
| Offenses Against Family and Children | Juvenile | 0 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 0 |
| Rape - 2017 | Juvenile | 1 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Robbery | Juvenile | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Sex Offenses - 2017 | Juvenile | 0 | 1 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 3 |
| Simple Assault | Juvenile | 4 | 4 | 7 | 14 | 2 | 20 |
| Vandalism | Juvenile | 0 | 2 | 12 | 17 | 0 | 9 |
| Weapons | Juvenile | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Totals: | | 48 | 33 | 157 | 387 | 84 | 97 |



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Offense Rate per 100,000 Residents

In an effort to be able to compare crime statistics with other jurisdictions, counties and municipalities, the crime statistics are showed per 100,000 Residents. This does not take into consideration times of the year when tourism increases the population of specific jurisdictions including Wisconsin Dells.

Because the City of Wisconsin Dells caters to over 3 million tourists per year, statistics appear to be inflated. These statistics are not a true indicator of crime in Wisconsin Dells.

| | 2019 | National Average 2017 | 2018 | 2017 | 2016 |
|----------------|-------------|-----------------------|------|------|------|
| Murder | 33 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Rape | 167 | 42 | 150 | 35 | 148 |
| Robbery | 33 | 98 | 0 | 142 | 0 |
| Agg Assault | 467 | 249 | 224 | 248 | 481 |
| Burglary | 401 | 430 | 336 | 354 | 592 |
| Theft | 4974 | 1694 | 4892 | 5207 | 5292 |
| MV Theft | 300 | 237 | 224 | 390 | 333 |
| Arson | 33 | 13 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Violent | 700 | 394 | 374 | 425 | 629 |
| Total Property | 5708 | 2362 | 5452 | 5951 | 6217 |



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Clearance Rates Percentage

Clearance rates refer to percentage of reported crimes which were cleared by arrest.

| | 2018 | 2017 | Midwest Average 2017 | 2016 | 2015 | 2014 |
|--------------|-----------|------|-------------------------|------|------|------|
| Rape | 0 | 0 | 31 | 25 | 50 | 20 |
| Robbery | 0 | 0 | 24 | N/A | 50 | 100 |
| Agg Assault | 83 | 57 | 49 | 38 | 67 | 79 |
| Simp Assault | 65 | | | | | |
| Burglary | 33 | 0 | 12 | 13 | 8 | 24 |
| Theft | 15 | 16 | 21 | 10 | 18 | 20 |
| MV Theft | 50 | 45 | 14 | 11 | 27 | 29 |
| Violent % | 49 | 33 | 41 | 35 | 64 | 65 |
| Property% | 33 | 17 | 19 | 11 | 18 | 21 |

Traffic/Ordinance/Warnings

| | 2019 | +/-% | 2018 | 2017 | 2016 | 2015 | 2014 |
|-----------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Warnings | 662 | -8% | 718 | 744 | 1238 | 810 | 1716 |
| Traffic Citations | 661 | -29% | 921 | 866 | 1239 | 847 | 1341 |
| Non-Traffic Citations | 401 | -29% | 564 | 612 | 429 | 487 | 574 |
| Accidents | 186 | -3% | 191 | 209 | 202 | 192 | 186 |



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Police Staffing Comparisons/Ratios

| Current Staffing Levels | | | | | |
|-------------------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| | WDPD | LDPD | Baraboo | Reedsburg | Lake Geneva |
| | Chief | Chief | Chief | Chief | Chief |
| | Lieutenant | Lieutenant | Captain | Lieutenant | 2 Lieutenants |
| | 2 Sergeants | 4 Sergeants | Lieutenant | 4 Sergeants | 3 Sergeants |
| | 1 PT Detective | 3 Detectives | 4 Sergeants | 2 Detectives | 2 Detectives |
| | 9 Patrol | 12 Patrol | 3 Detectives | 12 Patrol | 16 Patrol |
| | 1 Sro | | 17 Patrol | | |
| | | | 2 SRO | | |
| Total | 15 | 21 | 29 | 20 | 24 |

| Uniform Crime Reports, Arrest Data | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|------|------|---------|-----------|-------------|
| 2019 UCR | WDPD | LDPD | Baraboo | Reedsburg | Lake Geneva |
| Ratio Crime/Officer | 31 | 29 | 28 | 40 | 20 |
| Violent | 14 | 16 | 10 | 11 | 5 |
| Property | 52 | 224 | 147 | 157 | 86 |
| Society | 161 | 166 | 264 | 235 | 138 |
| Drug | 77 | 62 | 33 | 41 | 36 |
| Other | 162 | 154 | 345 | 359 | 208 |
| Total | 466 | 622 | 799 | 803 | 473 |

| Uniform Crime Reports, Arrest Data - Departments with 14/15 Full Time Officers | | | | | | |
|--|------|--------------|-------|-----------|-----------------|-----------|
| 2019 UCR | WDPD | Sauk Prairie | Ripon | McFarland | Sheboygan Falls | Mukwanago |
| Ratio Crime/Officer | 31 | 15 | 24 | 8 | 19 | 13 |
| Violent | 14 | 3 | 8 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Property | 52 | 19 | 44 | 20 | 23 | 61 |
| Society | 161 | 90 | 110 | 40 | 82 | 71 |
| Drug | 77 | 27 | 33 | 16 | 38 | 27 |
| Other | 162 | 87 | 161 | 35 | 143 | 31 |
| Total | 466 | 226 | 356 | 113 | 288 | 192 |



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Use of Force

When use of force occurs, Wisconsin Dells Officers are required to complete a “Use of Force Worksheet”. This worksheet is used to follow up on reports, dissect the incident and provide feedback to the officer. We are continually examining ways to mitigate the use of force. Below are statistics for use of force. Note: One incident may contain more than one use of force technique.

| Use of Force | 2019 | 2018 | 2017 | 2016 | 2015 | 2014 |
|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Passive countermeasures -Physical force to the ground | 6 | 9 | 7 | 6 | 8 | 9 |
| Active countermeasures -Vertical stun(s) | | | 1 | 1 | | 2 |
| Active countermeasures -Focused hand strike(s) | | | | 1 | 2 | |
| Active countermeasures -Focused knee strikes | 1 | 1 | | | | 1 |
| Active countermeasures -Elbow/forearm strike(s) | | | | | | |
| Pepper spray | | | | 1 | 1 | |
| Taser-drive stun | 2 | 1 | | 1 | | |
| Taser-cartridge discharge | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 2 |
| Taser-display | | | 2 | 2 | | 1 |
| Baton | | | | | | |
| LVNR | | | | | | |
| Display of deadly force | 3 | 5 | 6 | 1 | 7 | 7 |
| K9/Other | 2 | 3 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Total Techniques used | 15 | 20 | 23 | 15 | 23 | 23 |
| Total number of incidents | 11 | 12 | 19 | 8 | 17 | 17 |



Drug Investigations

Submitted by Sgt. Wiese

The global trafficking of illicit drugs continues to pose a grave national security threat to our citizens. The Wisconsin Dells Police Department is on the ground working hard to combat this national public health crises to reduce addiction, crime, and overdose deaths through education and enforcement. The department works closely with all our partners at the Federal, State, and County levels.

The opioid threat (including controlled prescription drugs, synthetic opioids, and heroin) continues at ever-increasing epidemic levels, affecting our State, Counties, and City. Meanwhile, the stimulant threat (methamphetamine) is worsening and becoming more widespread as street-level dealers continue to sell increasing amounts of this dangerous drug in our City.

The emergence of new psychoactive substances (synthetic cathinone's and designer drugs) remain challenging too as many come to the market with a lapse in time before legislators can enact laws to prevent their manufacturing and possession. As such, these drug poisoning deaths are the leading cause of injury death in the United States. Drug poisoning in our Country has outnumbered deaths by firearms, motor vehicle crashes, suicide, and homicide.

Fentanyl and other highly potent synthetic opioids primarily sourced from China and Mexico continue to be the most lethal category of illicit substances misused in our State, Counties, and City. Fentanyl dealers are increasingly selling this drug to users both alone and as an adulterant, leading to the rise in fentanyl-involved deaths. Fentanyl dealers also continue to experiment with other new synthetic opioids in an attempt to circumvent current laws.

Heroin-related overdose deaths remain at high levels, due to continued use, availability, and being mixed with Fentanyl. The high-levels of opium poppy cultivation and heroin production in Mexico allow for Mexican Drug Trafficking Organizations to continue to supply high-purity, low-cost Heroin to citizens in our community.

Prescription drugs containing opioids continue to be responsible for the most drug-involved overdose deaths and are the second most commonly abused or misused substances in the United States. The dealers continue to manufacture and distribute counterfeit prescription drugs often containing Fentanyl and other opioids in attempts to expand their customer base and increase profits.

Methamphetamine remains widely available in our community with dealers continually attempting to create new customers. Methamphetamine is mostly produced in Mexico and smuggled across the Southwest Border of the United States. The domestic production of methamphetamine occurs at much lower levels than in Mexico and seizures of domestic methamphetamine labs have declined steadily over the years while overall supply has increased.



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Marijuana remains the most commonly used illicit drug in our community. The Marijuana threat continues to evolve while States vote on referendums and initiatives as well as pass legislation regarding the legal possession and use of Marijuana. Several States that have legalized Marijuana have no limits on its potency or its associated concentrate products, so as potency continues to increase so does demand, adding to our public health crisis.

As the demand and use of illicit substances continues to increase in our Country, the dealers are increasingly taking to rural areas, such as our community, to set up networks with established Drug Trafficking Organizations in an effort to increase profit and be more efficient with the supply and demand. The Wisconsin Dells Police Department prides itself in having zero tolerance for the possession, manufacturing, and delivery of illicit substances.

Sgt. Benjamin Wiese and his K9, Rocky, have been instrumental for the City and surrounding Law Enforcement Agencies in the detection and removal of illicit substances and dangerous criminals from our streets. Sgt. Wiese and Rocky's efforts are second to none in their abilities and are heavily praised by their partners.

In 2019, Sgt. Wiese and Rocky were used over 105 times between the City and surrounding Law Enforcement Agencies. Rocky's deployment reliability is outstanding with a rate of 97.7% in the detection of illicit substances. Sgt. Wiese and Rocky are dedicated and work hard while maintaining a minimum 16 hours of training per month. The duo strives for excellence in every aspect of their work, which is shown by their success rate.

The Wisconsin Dells Police Department is in the process of training its staff in the use of Narcan. Narcan is a nasal spray medicine used in the treatment of a known or suspected opioid overdose, which quickly reverses the drug's effects and thus saving lives. Narcan has shown success in saving lives in our Country, State, and Community and is currently in use by members of Dells-Delton Emergency Medical Services.





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2019 Drug Arrest Statistics

| Arrests | WDPD | Lake Delton | Baraboo | Portage | Reedsburg | McFarland |
|-------------------------------|-----------|-------------|-----------|------------|-----------|-----------|
| Opium/Cocaine Sales | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Marijuana Sales | 1 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 3 | 0 |
| Synthetic Narcotic Sales | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Other Drug Sales | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Opium/Cocaine Possession | 3 | 5 | 1 | 25 | 1 | 1 |
| Marijuana Possession | 42 | 46 | 24 | 63 | 26 | 10 |
| Synthetic Narcotic Possession | 4 | 6 | 2 | 2 | 10 | 0 |
| Other Drug Possession | 25 | 3 | 5 | 14 | 0 | 5 |
| Total | 77 | 62 | 33 | 110 | 41 | 16 |

WDPD Drug Arrest History

| Arrests | 2019 | 2018 | 2017 | 2016 | 2015 | 2014 |
|-------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| Opium/Cocaine Sales | 1 | 1 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 5 |
| Marijuana Sales | 1 | 1 | 5 | 0 | 3 | 4 |
| Synthetic Narcotic Sales | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Other Drug Sales | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Opium/Cocaine Possession | 3 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 6 | 9 |
| Marijuana Possession | 42 | 75 | 58 | 50 | 70 | 76 |
| Synthetic Narcotic Possession | 4 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 1 | 3 |
| Other Drug Possession | 25 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 2 |
| Total | 77 | 87 | 78 | 60 | 83 | 100 |



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School Resource Officer Statistics

Submitted by SRO Torkelson

Often being a School Resource Officer means more than enforcing laws or making school a safe place. SRO Torkelson works with all kids from 4K to 12th grade. There are 1700 students in the Wisconsin Dells School District. SRO Torkelson responds to many different complaints ranging from Health and Human Service issues to criminal activity to simple conflict resolutions. SRO Torkelson not only responds to complaints he is very involved in giving classroom presentations including presentations on alcohol and drug awareness, stranger danger and traffic laws. SRO Torkelson is present at most extracurricular events that occur on school property. These events range from home football games, basketball games, homecoming events dances, prom and graduation.

| School Arrests | 2020/2021 | 2019/2020 | 2018/2019 | 2017/2018 | 2016/2017 |
|----------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Disorderly Conduct | 3 | 5 | 12 | 17 | 7 |
| Theft | 9 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 3 |
| Criminal Damage | 0 | 0 | 5 | 2 | 1 |
| Battery | 1 | 0 | 5 | 4 | 0 |
| Truancy | 13 | 13 | 22 | 23 | 43 |
| Underage Alcohol | 1 | 0 | 2 | 8 | 3 |
| Child Abuse | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Use of MV to Disturb Peace | 0 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| Drug | 6 | 4 | 15 | 2 | 5 |
| Tobacco | 9 | 2 | 19 | 7 | 1 |
| Mental Commitment | 4 | 7 | 5 | 4 | 5 |
| Warrant | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Missing Person | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Sexual Assault | 0 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 1 |
| Resisting/Obstructing | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Bomb Threat | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 47 | 36 | 93 | 82 | 71 |



2020 Training

Submitted by Sgt. Brinker

In 2020, The Wisconsin Dells Police Department continued its trend to exceed training requirements as required by the state. WDPD Officers compiled nearly 920 hours of training for the year which is approximately 61 hours of training per officer. This exceeds the Department of Justice standards of a minimum of 24 hours of continuing education. These trainings include classroom, web-based training, and hands on training. Some of the specialized trainings that officers attended include: Defense and Arrest Tactics, Pursuit and emergency vehicle operation training, and Forensic Interviewing. Officer's complete monthly web-based trainings covering a variety of topics and recertification's as well. Every year officers are also required to attend a 16-hour county wide in-service training. The Wisconsin Dells Police Department attempts to keep most training in-house to avoid costly over-time. Below is a list of Officers who are certified to teach specific unified tactics.

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| Chief Ward | Emergency Vehicle Operations (EVOC), Radar, Fitness, General Police Instruction |
| Lt. Mayer | Professional Communication Skills, Firearms, SFST, Hazmat Awareness |
| Sgt. Brinker | Firearms |
| Sgt. Wiese | Firearms |
| Officer Brown | EVOC, Vehicle Contacts, Defense and Arrest Tactics |
| Officer Delmore | EVOC, Professional Communication Skills, Defense and Arrest Tactics, Firearms, Vehicle Contacts, Standardized Field Sobriety Tests |



2020 Columbia County Emergency Response Team Participation

Submitted by Sgt. Brinker

The Wisconsin Dells Police Department currently assigns one officer to the Columbia County Sheriff's Office Emergency Response Team (ERT). The assigned officer is Sgt. Nick Brinker. Sgt Brinker currently serves as the Team leader for the ERT. The Columbia County ERT is trained in hostage rescue, barricaded subjects, sniper situations, high risk apprehension, high risk warrant service, crowd control, and personal protection. The ERT trains twice a month, with the training material varying from training to training. This accounts for nearly 100 hours of additional training per year for Sgt. Brinker. The members of the ERT are on call for emergency situations 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The members are on a pager system, which provides for a rapid response in emergencies. In 2020, the Columbia County ERT responded to nine emergency calls for service:

- May 31st, June 1st, June 2nd, 2020, Madison, WI – ERT responded to State Street of Madison, WI to assist the Madison Police Department for civil unrest. The ERT assisted in crowd control operations on State Street and at the State Capitol over the course of three days.
- June 6th, 2020, Wisconsin Dells, WI – ERT was requested by the Wisconsin Dells Police Department to assist in apprehending 2 armed homicide suspects from Milwaukee. The suspect's vehicle had been located at a motel in the Wisconsin Dells. Members of the ERT were able to successfully take the subjects into custody without incident.
- July 23rd, 2020, Columbia County, WI – ERT responded to a rural Columbia County location to execute a search warrant pertaining to a drug investigation in which the suspects were known to be armed.
- August 7th, 2020, Columbia County, WI – ERT responded to a "shots fired" call in rural Columbia County. The suspect was apprehended upon arrival.



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- August 23rd, 24th, 25th, 2020 Kenosha, WI - ERT responded to Kenosha, WI to assist the Kenosha Police Department with civil unrest as a result of the Jacob Blake shooting. The ERT assisted in crowd control operations at the Kenosha County Court House over the course of 3 days.

Parking Statistics

The City of Wisconsin Dells has approximately 300 parking meters scattered throughout the downtown area. Pay stations are located in municipal parking lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8 and Lacrosse Street in front of JAG. The City also contracted with Passport Parking to bring a “Pay by Smart Phone” option to all paid spaces including mechanical parking meters. The Smart phone app will show increased use annually.

| Parking Revenue | 2020 | 2019 | 2018 | 2017 | 2016 |
|---------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Lot 1, 700 Oak | | 65635.64 | 58544.66 | 58744.06 | 55069.49 |
| Lot 2, 700 Elm | | 9250.37 | 8187.12 | 6120.88 | |
| Lot 3, 800 Oak | | 11960.77 | 5948.75 | 5472.68 | |
| Lot 4, Chalet | | 18864.91 | 15714.75 | 13254.96 | |
| Lot 5, 700 Superior | | 11652.36 | 28094.68 | 27164.53 | 15476.79 |
| Lot 6, 800 River | | 28288.82 | 26857.23 | 27057.16 | 14665.54 |
| Lot 8, Lacrosse | | 56504.20 | 49103.07 | 46870.42 | 30195.09 |
| Total Lot Revenue* | \$250,143.00 | 202,157.10 | 192,450.30 | 184,684.69 | |
| Meters | \$113,538.00 | \$177,192.81 | 197,856.86 | 200,664.68 | 171751.24 |
| Overtime Parking Fees | \$82,379.00 | \$141,320.28 | 126,146.32 | 134,764.04 | 72313.13 |
| Stall Rental / Other | | | | 506.25 | |
| Pay Station Stalls/Rent | | \$393,504.53 | 342,311.08 | 349,685.39 | 63384.22 |
| Total | \$446,060.00 | \$712,017.62 | \$666,314.26 | \$685,620.36 | \$398,225.50 |

* Gross lot revenue listed for purposes of comparing lots

| Parking Technology | 2019 | 2018 | 2017 | 2016 | 2015 |
|-------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Extend by Text | 89,311.62 | 75,370.23 | 47,201.02 | 34,216.18 | 11,434.08 |
| Pay by App (Passport Parking) | 31,105.50 | 27,752.25 | 22,568.00 | 12,335 | 5,688.50 |

| Parking Expenses | 2020 | 2019 | 2018 | 2017 | 2016 |
|------------------------|--------------|--------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Total Parking Expenses | \$276,078.00 | \$282,167.00 | 199,764.57 | 285,110.25 | 209,399.00 |

Does not include “Capital Reserve” “Capital Expenses” or “Transfer to General” Expenses



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2020 Grants

Funded DOT Bureau of Transportation Grants

In late 2014 Chief Ward formed a task force comprising Columbia County agencies. The purpose of the task force was to secure more grant funding through the Bureau of Transportation and Safety (BOTS). In 2020 the task force was approved for only the Speed Grant which focused on speed violation.

| 2020/SPEED | Officers | Allocated | Total Used |
|------------|----------|--------------|--------------|
| Coso | 43 | 11817.2 | \$ 9,578.83 |
| Portage | 21 | 7314.8 | \$ 1,200.55 |
| Lodi | 3 | 3562.8 | \$ 843.57 |
| Wyocena | 2 | 3375.2 | \$ 3,990.00 |
| Fall River | 2 | 3375.2 | \$ 1,469.67 |
| Dells | 15 | 6001.6 | \$ 6,567.97 |
| Columbus | 6 | 4313.2 | \$ 3,561.16 |
| Total | | \$ 39,760.00 | \$ 27,211.75 |



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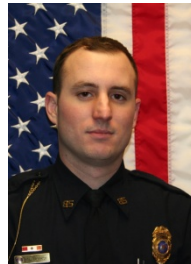
2020 Patrol Staff



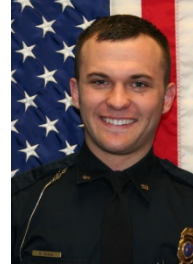
Chief Jody Ward
Since 1989



Lieutenant Perry Mayer
Since 1992



Sgt. Nick Brinker
Since 2011



Sgt. Ben Wiese
Since 2010



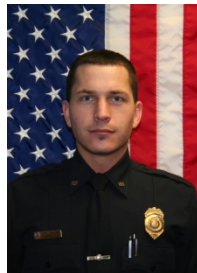
Steve Keller
Police Chaplain



Jesse Weaver
Since 1999



SRO Eric Torkelson
Since 2001



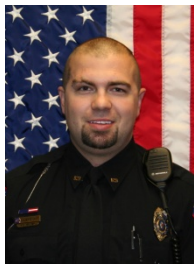
Travis Clausen
Since 2002



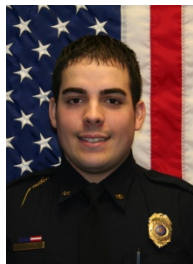
Brent Brown
Since 2003



Scot Cobbs
Since 2004



Scott Albrecht
Since 2010



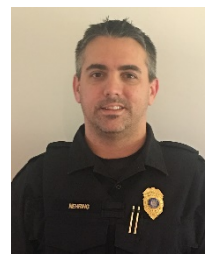
DuWayne Cournoyer
Since 2011



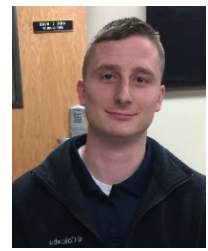
Daniel Delmore
Since 2011



David Pugh
Since 2011



William Nehring
Since 2015



Tyler Geoffroy
Since 2018



2020 Dispatch Staff



Brianna Sanner
Since 2010



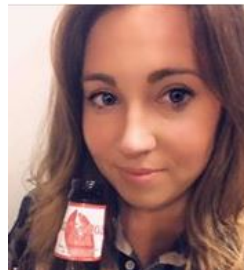
Sarah Brunker
Since 2006



Rick Cornelius
Since 2012



Ryan Downing
Since 2012



Devan Dollar
Since 2020



2020 Part Time / LTE / CSO

Limited Term Officers



Derek Maniak



Danny Sullivan

Community Service Officers



Tim Gavinski



Christopher Mayer



Ismael Torres



Jason Marten



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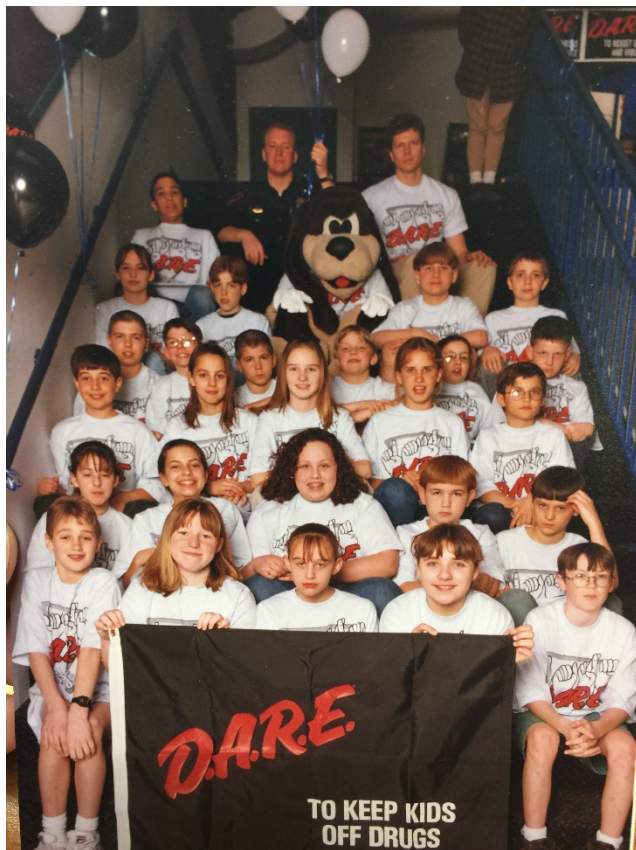
Photos from the Past





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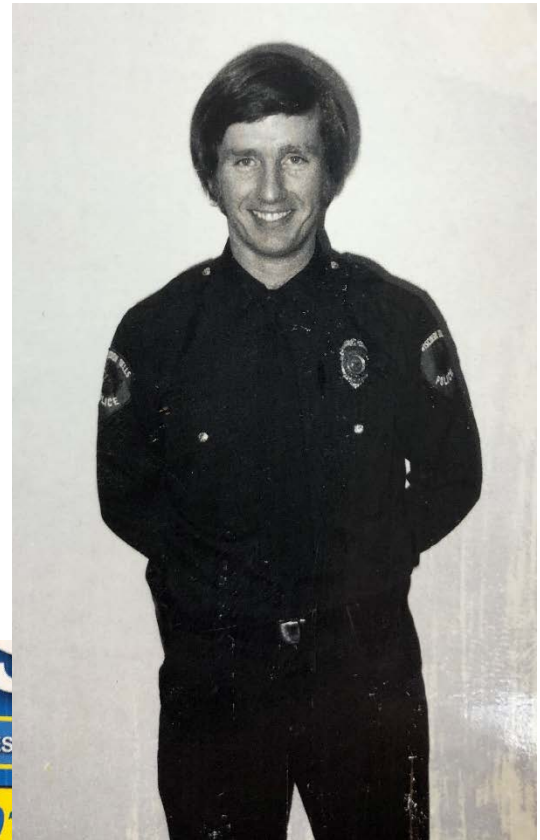
2020





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Free off-season parking OK'd

Metered rates for downtown Dells would go up to \$1 during summer season

Ed Legge
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Like a Dells thrill ride finally slowing down after being stuck for much too long in the "on" position, the seemingly perpetual debate about the downtown Dells' off-season parking policies reached a conclusion of sorts Monday evening at the city's Parking Board's monthly meeting.

The board voted in favor of free parking downtown during the colder, off-season months of the year, with a rate increase to \$1 an hour during the warm-weather months when tourists stream into town and parking is at a premium. Under the recommendation, that season will begin April 1 and last to Oct. 1, and enforcement of metered parking will take place between those dates starting each day at 10 a.m. and concluding at 9 p.m.

The Board's recommendation goes to the Dells Common Council, which meets at 7 p.m. Monday and — based on the entire council's presence at the parking board meeting and participation in lengthy and lively debate, either from the dais (parking board members and aldermen Ed Fox, Michael Freel and Ed Wojnicz) or the audience (aldermen Jesse DeFosse, Brian Holzem and Dar Mor) — the recommendation is expected to pass.

New information plates reflecting the changes will be installed by the Dells Police Department in time for the beginning of off-season come October, said Chief Jody Ward.

The recommendation, which differed slightly from the one approved last week by the city's Business Improvement District (BID), represents a milestone in the debate about how best to handle parking in the Dells during the winter months, when meters have continued to operate, with parking rates and hours of enforcement posted but not actually enforced.

The BID's recommendation included the increase to \$1, but its recommended dates of enforcement parking not to end until a month later — on the first Saturday in May — and for enforcement to last until 8 p.m. each day instead of the recommended 9 p.m.

Other than losing a month
Please see **PARKING**, Page A18



ED LEGGE, EVENT
Wisconsin Dells Police Chief Jody Ward reports that the use of the smart phone application PassportParking Mobile Pay in the Dells is on track, in its third summer in use here, to double in use over 2014.

Use of phone app picking up

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Even as the debate has raged over downtown Wisconsin Dells' parking policies this summer, a parking success story has quietly taken shape.

A relatively new smart phone application for parking in the downtown Dells is nearing its third full summer of successful use by smart phone users — and even traditional cell phone users — in the know.

The app's adoption is increasing so rapidly that the city is having second thoughts about the number of new parking kiosks it may need to employ as its move to an automated system continues, according to Dells Police Chief

Jody Ward.

"We're up 100 percent on that App," Ward reported to the city's Parking Board Monday evening. "It's not where we want it to be, but it's increasing quite a bit."

The app, known as PassportParking Mobile Pay, is available for use to park in almost all of the city's 900 or so metered spaces, which are marked accordingly with a parking "zone" and a "number."

The city's app-connected meters also feature a QR code box for even quicker recognition from your smart phone — as well as an actual phone number in case, like Dells Parking Board Chairman Ed Fox, you still prefer a more traditional cell phone for mobile communications but like the convenience of

parking online.

You do need a credit or debit card to activate the APP — and, of course, to pay for parking. But once you've parked and paid, in either two- and four-hour increments, you can always increase your time at the meter, remotely — say, if you've walked down to the opposite end of the downtown and have decided to stay longer.

The app will even remind you if your time is running short. As one on-line app reviewer wrote, "it saved me a parking ticket or two."

And, as with the parking station kiosks that have begun to populate the downtown landscape, you can use the app to purchase parking all day for \$5

Please see **APP**, Page A18





Dells K9 receives \$13,000 from fudge shop

ED LEGGE
elegge@wiscnews.com

Dogs and fudge don't usually mix, but the "doggy treat" the Wisconsin Dells Police Department received Thursday morning from Swiss Maid Fudge in the downtown Dells surely justifies an exception to the rule.

The entire staff of the long-time local fudge shop — including owner and operator Jane Heller — presented Dells Police Chief Jody Ward and his department with a ceremonial check for \$13,000, to help fund a new K9 Unit for the department.

Ward and two of the department's on-duty officers — Travis Clausen and Scott Cobb — gratefully accepted the giant check in a brief ceremony at the shop's downtown location at Broadway and Superior Street, after which the chief admitted the generous donation — which actually came to \$13,660 — left him "speechless."

"Wow," Ward said as he beheld the giant check. "Wow."

The "Candy Crew," as the group of downtown candy purveyors at Swiss Maid calls themselves, spent most of the past two months working with businesses across the Dells-Delton area as well as with their daily customers to generate the donation, confirmed crew member Kelly Jo Blanchard.

The store also encouraged its daily customers to contribute "Coins for K9s," with contributors having each of their names written on a giant paper paw displayed on the wall behind one of the store's candy counters.

The dollars donated by Swiss Maid will be added to an existing fund the department has been building towards a new K-9 Unit, which the department has not staffed with neither man nor beast since the retirement, at the end of 2015, of the German Shepherd named Eddy.

K9 Eddy served the Dells police — as well as other departments across the region in need of four-legged help — for almost six years.



Dells Police Chief Jody Ward presents Jane Heller of Swiss Maid Fudge with an honorary "Challenge Coin" from the department for her community efforts.

In addition to procuring and training a new dog, the department hopes to add a new K9-dedicated squad car to the mix, with 2018 as the probably date for deployment, Ward said.

"There are a lot of funds involved in (procuring) a dog, it's not just the dog itself," Ward said. "It's obviously the training of the officer, the equipment for the vehicle, and if anyone has seen our K9 squad, it's a really old Crown Victoria. We will be upgrading the squad (car) with the new dog."

Looking for a worthy local cause to support earlier this winter, Heller learned that the dog-less department could use financial help toward a new active-duty K9 and the unit to go with it.

Heller sent letters to businesses across the region, and, in spite of a mix-up with her P.O. Box number that delayed some checks getting to her, the dollars flowed in.

"We set our goal for \$5,000 to start with, and then we kept making the goal and upping it more,

Heller said.

Once he recovered from his momentary speechlessness, Ward praised the fudge shop, its employees and the community for its usual community spirit and generosity toward his department.

"This little community of 2,500 has always supported the police department, incredibly, and I'm very proud to live here," he said, his voice filled with emotion. "It brings a tear to my eye."

Following the informal check presentation only moments be-

fore the shop was set to open for the day, Ward presented Heller with a Dells Police Department "Challenge Coin" for her long-time commitment and service to the community.

"There are certain people I run across on a day-to-day basis who go above and beyond," Ward said regarding Heller as he presented Heller with a coin bearing the department badge and its motto.

Follow Ed Legge on Twitter @DellsEd