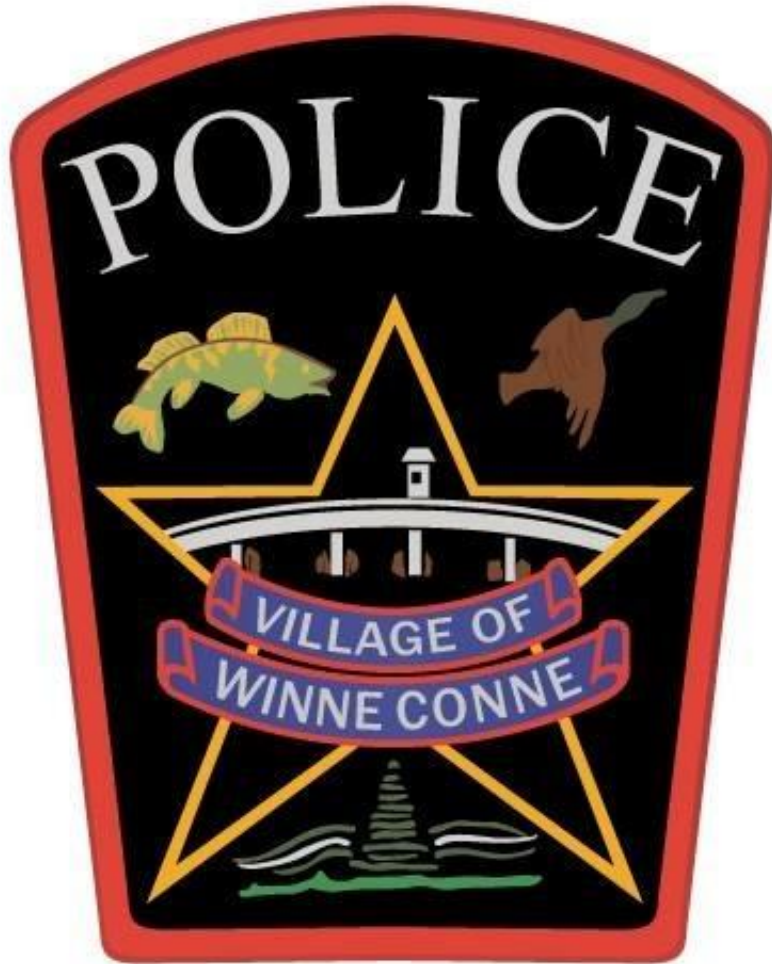


2020 ANNUAL REPORT



Winneconne Police Department

Community



Our Christmas Crusade was enormous this year! We had 80 kids which was the biggest in years. A huge thank you to our Secretary Laura Hulbert for her tireless effort to make this year's Crusade a resounding success!!

Department Staff

Chief of Police Paul Olson

Lieutenant Ben Sauriol

Police Secretary/Court Clerk Laura Hulbert

Full Time Officers

Officer Ben Honer

School Resource Officer, Firearms

Officer Kyle Sorensen

Equipment, squads, FTO

Officer Adam Kelm

FTO, Community Policing

Part time Officers

Officer Carly Burns (done 12/26/20)

Officer Chad Reinhard

Officer Bryana Wulgaert

Officer Kyle Hofacker

Officer Samantha Huempfner

2020 Statistics

Incident numbers are assigned to an officer when they self-initiate a call or are dispatched to a call. In 2020 we had 15492 incident numbers assigned which was a slight increase from 2019.

Traffic stops and traffic accidents were less than 2020 due to COVID 19. Early in the pandemic we took extraordinary measures to limit any contact with the public. The stay-at-home order was being followed which transpired to less people out and about. This lowered the Municipal Court case load, but still put us ahead of 2019's numbers. Although traffic numbers were lower, OWI's doubled from 6 in 2019 to 12 in 2020. Of those 12 two were arrested for a drug related OWI.

We made it a point to see that our ordinances were followed. In 2019 we had 315 ordinance issues, where in 2020 we had 245. The Police Department wrote 66 ordinance citations in 2020. Violations ranged from marijuana and paraphernalia violations, damage complaints, junk vehicles, boat mooring violations, long grass, harassment, snowmobile violations, trespassing and truancy. We also spent time doing Community Policing and Building Security in 2020. Community Policing numbers were 1840 and Building Security numbers were 10063. Being very proactive in Ordinance enforcement, Community Policing and Building Security will reduce the amount of criminal activity as it relates to property crime (burglary, damage, and theft). Once again in 2020 we had 0 burglaries, thefts went from 33 in 2019 to 17 in 2020 and damage complaints stayed the same at 15.

Our School Resource Officer Ben Honer has done a fantastic job at the school as our regular patrol spends much less time on calls at the schools. Please see Officer Honer's report in this packet.

In 2020 drug related calls dropped to 20 calls during the year. Where the types of drugs seemed to be harsher than in years past. We dealt with more methamphetamine and heroin than years past. We believe that drugs will never go away but actively enforcing our drug laws has a positive effect on the community.

Disturbances increased 10 from last year. I attribute at least part of this to the stress and uncertainty that COVID 19 brought to our community.



From the Desk of Paul Olson, Police Chief

To the Village Board and Residents of Winneconne,

I am proud to present the Winneconne Police Department's 2020 Annual Report to our community. The Department remains committed to working proactively and in close partnership with the community and its residents. I am very thankful for the residents of Winneconne and for the support that they have given me and my staff during this unprecedented past year.

In early 2020 the Winneconne Police Department began reporting crime data through the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) system and has been striving for the past year to become certified in the Wisconsin Incident Based Reporting System (WIBRS). On March 20, 2020, the Winneconne Police Department received a letter from the State of Wisconsin, Department of Justice, approving our agency as a WIBRS certified agency. With that certification the Winneconne Police Department now plays a key role in continuing a nationwide statistical program that will enhance quality, quantity and timeliness of crime data collected from our community.

Across the country law enforcement has seen a drastic decline in the number and quality of candidates for jobs. The Village of Winneconne Police Department often struggles to maintain six part-time officers on our staff to cover time off, training, and other necessary shifts. Winneconne is a training ground for part time officers seeking full time employment. We have been fortunate to maintain the current full-time staff. I would like to commend and thank all the members of the Winneconne Police Department for their dedication and service to the Village of Winneconne. The Winneconne Police Department will strive to provide the highest quality police services to our community.

Thank you,

2020 Roster Changes

As it is the same across the nation, Police Officers are short supply. It is imperative to keep our fulltime roster intact to maintain the quality service that our residents enjoy. We have gone through 9 part time officers in 2020. We are a training ground for Departments that are offering full time positions. We will continue to try and maintain our part time officer staff. As of today, we have five full time officers and four part time officers.

2020 Training

Each year the Department of Training and Standards requires each officer to have 24 hours of training. Of this, 24 hours each officer is required to have firearms training certification once a year and Emergency Vehicle operations every other year. We have firearms training twice a year. Because of the difficulty having in person instruction this year Departments across the State were struggling to meet the 24 hours for each officer. Training and Standards changed 2020's requirement of 24 hours for 2020 only. One of our fulltime officers was unable to meet the 24 hours threshold this year but was given an exemption as this was a common theme across the State. I did have this officer signed up for training in May and it was cancelled. Officer Honer is our firearms instructor, and our mandatory firearms training was completed this summer. In the first quarter of 2020 we will hold our department meeting. At this meeting we will review 2019 statistics and training. We will also look at our goals and training for 2020. This year at our annual meeting we are planning on having an Elder Care Specialist from Winnebago County in to discuss dementia related calls pertaining to Chapter 51 and 55 of the Wisconsin State Statutes. We do a fair amount of training of new officers as we cycle through them. Typically, we train each new officer approximately 100 hours to get them on their own. Through LEXIPOL our officers review policies and take a quiz on these policies monthly. This gives each officer one to two hours of training per month.

Ben Honer

WCSD School Resource Officer Winneconne Police Department

As well known, this year has been filled with adversity. As the SRO, my role at the school has not changed this year versus any other year. What has changed is the added stress experienced and seen from students, parents, and staff in our district. Children have a hard time handling stress, as we all know. This year I have done a lot more mentoring, calming people down, taking walk breaks in the halls with students, as well as meeting with high school students to just talk about life. I have had several students reach out to me to transparently discuss all aspects of their life. The term “therapist behind a badge” rings true this year more than any other through the conversations I have shared. This is my 13th year as a police officer with the Winneconne Police Department, and my 2nd year as the school resource officer. I have felt “swamped” this year more than any other year with the number of calls for service. But there has never been a time I felt disconnected from the students, staff, or parents in our district. In truth, I have felt the exact opposite. I have heard a lot this year that “we’re all in this together”, and I have used that mentality to show our students that Officer Ben is always going to be there for them, as well as “go to bat” for them. I have made significant advances in building relationships in 2020, more than I ever thought I would.

This year has obviously had its troubles. Students do not handle anxiety and stress in the best ways and are often angry and bitter: with this comes depression, resulting in poor choices. I would like to think that I am more of a mentor than a punisher, and I have already shown several students just that. There are times it is necessary to enforce the strict side of being a police officer, but there is always an understanding shared that I will not judge them, their families, or their situation. I have responded to over 100 calls for service at all 3 of our schools, 12 “use of force” incidents, several truancy violations, and several juveniles involved sensitive crimes. Along with these calls in the school, I have also responded to several incidents in our community to assist other police officers, as well as incidents that have taken place near our schools. When I am not responding to calls at the school, I am “patrolling the beat” which involves me walking our hallways and interacting with students. I have found that I have become very approachable to all ages of students and am happy that they come to me with their problems, whether big or small.

Starting around the beginning of November, I coordinated with our school counselors to help deserving families in our community for Christmas. This program is called the Christmas Crusade, and I have helped organize and execute it for the 13 years I have been with the department. The program involves people in our community donating gifts, money, and time, to make Christmas amazing for families who have hit hard times. Our list this year was 35 families, which makes up over 80 kids. Our police secretary, Laura Hulbert, headed up this program this year and did an awesome job. I was happy to be involved in coordinating and then delivering presents to these kids, especially this year.

My summer consists of returning to patrol officer duties, and I have found that it is a lot of fun to interact with my students in this manner. Thank you everyone! Bring on 2021! – Officer Ben

Lt. Sauriol's 2020 Annual Lieutenant Report

The following are highlights of 2020:

As we all know, 2020 has been a challenging year due to the pandemic. I want to thank everyone at the police department for their hard work during this challenging time. I also want to thank the residents of Winneconne for their patience and kindness they have displayed. It's a reflection of the values here in The Village of Winneconne



I have completed the yearly evidence room audit and cleaned out evidence that is no longer needed. I also completed the annual 10-33 property audit which means we are complying. Again, due to this program, we have 5 rifles through the Department of Defense's surplus property program.

Earlier this year, I conducted the department EVOC training. The state of Wisconsin requires EVOC (Emergency Vehicle Operations and Control) be completed every 2 years to maintain officer certification. Conducting inhouse training has made training more convenient. I also set the officers up with the MDC (mobile data computer) biannual certification and they are compliant with that for 2 years.

We had a great turn out at National Night Out in August. The more people who are involved with crime prevention and The Neighborhood Watch makes the community even safer and helps build relationships. I have attended meetings for the county wide Overdoses Fatality Review (OFR) committee. The OFR of Winnebago County published their 2019-2020 report. The purpose of the OFR meetings is to come up with ways to prevent overdose deaths in Winnebago County.

Again, thank you to everyone at the police department and the residents of The Village of Winneconne.

Sincerely, Lt. Ben Sauriol

2020

