

## **Police Department**

*Kenneth Witkowski, Chief*

The Mishawaka Police Department recognizes the challenges that come along with a prospering community. The top priority of the Department remains to be the safety and protection of the community by providing professional and effective law enforcement services to its citizens. The Department will continue to target crimes against persons and keep community values intact. The specific duties of the MPD include conservation of public harmony and order, deterrence, detection and solving of crimes, enforcement of state laws and city ordinances, providing non-law enforcement services to the public, assisting in the safe movement of vehicular traffic, and to provide other emergency services as needed.

The MPD is budgeted for 108 officers and 8 Civilian Support Staff dedicated to the safety of Mishawaka city residents and visitors by enforcing the law, protecting property and reducing civil disorder.

The Department is divided into five divisions that include Uniform, Traffic, Investigative, Services, and Training.

Department Personnel	
Position	Number
Chief of Police	1
Division Chief	3
Captains	6
Lieutenants	14
Sergeants	20
Patrol Officer First Class	40
Patrol Officer Second Class	11
Probationary Officers	9
Recruits	2

### **Uniform Patrol Division**

The Uniform Division, commanded by Uniform Division Chief Jason Stefaniak, is comprised of 72 Uniformed Officers, working six sections of the city, and divided into 3 separate shifts. Each shift is supervised by one Captain, one Lieutenant, and 3 Sergeants.

The overall goal of the Uniform Division is to improve the sense of safety and security within the city. The Uniform Patrol Officers know that they are the face of the Police Department. Through daily interactions with the community, the Uniform Patrol Officer works to promote a positive working relationship with the public. The Uniform Patrol Officer understands that a strong relationship with the public will help them enforce laws, maintain order, and preserve peace within the community.

The Uniform Patrol Officer's job is often tedious and demanding. They are called to fight and prevent crime wherever and whenever it occurs. They must be ready to arrest violent offenders and immediately render aid to helpless victims. They are required to document violent crash scenes, protect and maintain crime scenes, gather evidence, and testify in court. The Uniform Patrol Officer must perform under the worst conditions while maintaining their composure and professionalism. The Uniform Patrol Officer understands that they must treat each citizen they encounter with courtesy and respect.

Uniform Crime Report Statistics (2017 vs. 2018)			
Offense	2017	2018	Change
Homicide	3	5	+2
Rape	8	16	+8
Robbery	54	48	-6
Assault	809	829	+20
Burglary	285	248	-37
Larceny-Theft	2,034	2,032	-2
Auto Theft	204	252	+48
Arson	5	15	+10

The Uniform Division utilizes the Uniform Crime Report (UCR) to report crime statistics. This program was conceived in 1929 by the International Association of Chiefs of Police to meet a need for reliable, uniform national crime statistics. Today, several annual statistical publications are produced from data provided by nearly 17,000 law enforcement agencies across the United States.

### **Uniform Division Chief Jason Stefaniak attends the FBI Academy**

Chief Stefaniak was one of 223 members who graduated from the FBI National Academy Program in 2018.

Chief Stefaniak was joined by fellow graduates from 48 states and the District of Columbia. The program, which is held in Quantico, Virginia, lasts 10 weeks and stresses advanced communication, leadership and fitness training. The program is for selected officers having proven records as professionals within their agencies.

In addition to graduating from the program, Chief Stefaniak earned 12 graduate credits through the University of Virginia, as many of the program's courses are accredited by the university. The MPD congratulated Chief Stefaniak on a job well done.



*Uniform Division Chief Stefaniak receiving his FBI diploma*

### **New Officers**

Jaymes Heare, Clayton Pendl, Brent Vanderzwaag and Rachel Wright were all hired as Recruits in October of 2017. They graduated from the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy in January of 2018 and sworn in as Probationary Patrol Officers on February 6, 2018.

Cory Cronk was sworn in as a Probationary Patrol Officer on April 17, 2018.

Recruit Garrett Schock was sworn in as a Probationary Patrol Officer on June 5, 2018.

Recruits Garrett Baresel and Dayne Nordman were sworn in as Probationary Patrol Officers on June 12, 2018.

Recruit Andrew Bauer was sworn in as a Probationary Patrol Officer on October 2, 2018.



*Newly Sworn Officers:  
Officers Vanderzwaag, Wright, Pendl and Heare*

## Promotions

- Probationary Officer Evan Stahley, of the Uniform Division, was promoted to Patrol Officer Second Class on February 21, 2018
- Probationary Officers Jacob Craft and Dustin Boyd, of the Uniform Division, were promoted to Patrol Officers Second Class on February 21, 2018
- Psc. James Bartlett, of the Uniform Division, was promoted to Pfc. on March 17, 2018
- Psc. Jeff Grzegorek, of the Uniform Division, was promoted to Pfc. on March 17, 2018
- Sgt. Eric Beckham, of the Street Crimes Unit, was promoted to Lt. on April 10, 2018
- Probationary Officer Harold Yost, of the Uniform Division, was promoted to Psc. On May 2, 2018
- Psc. Keith Holzer and Tyler Heckaman, of the Uniform Division, were promoted to Pfc. on July 14, 2018
- Pfc. Nathan Wojtysiak was promoted to Sgt. and transferred from the DIU to the Uniform Division on August 1, 2018



*Indiana Law Enforcement Academy Graduates:  
Uniform Division Chief Stefaniak, Recruits Schock and  
Baresel, Chief Witkowski and Recruit Nordman*

## Retirements

- Pfc. Frank Keen, of the Uniform Division, retired on January 5, 2018 after 41 years of service
- Pfc. Louis Iuston, of the Uniform Division, retired on January 14, 2018 after 34+ years of service
- Pfc. Kirby Stoner, of the Uniform Division, retired on April 2, 2018 after 31 years of service

## Resignations

- Recruit Nicholas Nielsen, hired on January 29, 2018, resigned on February 20, 2018
- Psc. Joshua Biggs resigned and moved back to his hometown of Valparaiso, IN on July 31, 2018
- Pfc. Jeff Price, of the Uniform Division, resigned and accepted a job with the Canadian National Railroad Police Department on August 13, 2018
- Pfc. Tyler Heckaman, of the Uniform Division, resigned and moved to Memphis, TN on October 31, 2018

## **Recognitions**

### *Officers of the 1st Quarter – Detective Lt. Kevin Will, Sgt. Scott Robinson, and Psc. Daniel Braniff*

On March 19, 2018, Kroger Grocery Store reported an armed robbery that had just occurred. The suspect, who was armed with a handgun, placed a gun to an employee's head and demanded money from the cash register. The suspect was told the money was not placed in the registers yet and was locked up in the safe. After the suspect was informed of that, he ran out of the store and rode off on a bicycle down the street. Officer Braniff, responding to the area, located the suspect's getaway bicycle, took possession of it, processed it and placed it into evidence.

Detectives Lt. Will and Sgt. Robinson then investigated this case together.

Sgt. Robinson collected DNA samples from the bicycle and lifted latent prints off the handle bar. The prints were taken to the South Bend Police crime lab for processing, and the prints identified to the suspect.

While searching for the suspect to be interviewed, SBPD investigators had apprehended the suspect who was just involved with a shooting and armed robbery in South Bend.

Detectives Will and Robinson interviewed the suspect where he confessed to the robbery at Kroger.

This was outstanding police work by all three officers, from Officer Braniff locating the bicycle and processing it, to Detectives Will and Robinson doing a thorough investigation, gathering statements and processing evidence that eventually lead to the suspect responsible for this crime.

### *Officers of the 2nd Quarter – Lt. Eric Laudeman, Psc. Evan Stahley, Probationary Officer Brent Vanderzwaag, and Pfc. Anthony Stachowiak*

On April 12, 2018, Lt. Laudeman responded to a call where witnesses observed someone pointing a firearm at a juvenile. Officers were advised that the suspect was a student at Mishawaka High School. Lt. Laudeman is familiar with the suspect and began searching the area and located him near the intersection of Fourth and West Streets. He was located with another subject and they both began walking away from Lt. Laudeman as he approached.

Lt. Laudeman ordered the suspect to stop, but he continued to walk away. The suspect began walking backwards, facing Officer Laudeman, as he walked toward the middle of Fourth St. The suspect put his right hand toward the pocket of his hooded sweat shirt and kept looking over his shoulder as if he were looking for a place to run. Lt. Laudeman then closed the distance and made physical contact with the suspect. A physical fight ensued where the suspect was placed on the ground and placed in handcuffs.

During a pat down, a silver .380 handgun was removed from his shorts pocket. As the search continued, Lt. Laudeman located a black .40 Caliber handgun in the suspect's sweatshirt pocket. He was then taken to the Juvenile Justice Center where he was charged with Resisting Law Enforcement and 2 counts of Possession of a Firearm.

On April 24, 2018, Officer Stahley was patrolling on Fir Road when he observed two suspicious people standing in front of the storage units on Fir Road and, also, observed damage to an overhead door nearby. When back up officers arrived, they entered the storage facility where they located a suspect inside, hiding in a dark corner of the building. He was immediately taken into custody. As the suspect was taken to jail by Officer Stahley, he pointed out his accomplice who was walking away from the scene. The accomplice was also taken into custody. On April 26, 2018, both men were charged with burglary through the St. Joseph County Prosecutor's Office.

On May 22, 2018, Officer Vanderzwaag was on routine patrol when he observed a vehicle disregard an automatic signal at Lincolnway and Logan Street. Officer Vanderzwaag attempted to initiate a traffic stop, however the driver of the vehicle did not stop. A vehicle pursuit ensued that led Mishawaka officers into the City of South Bend.



*Officers of the 2nd Quarter: Officers Vanderzwaag, Laudeman, Stachowiak, Stahley, Mayor Wood and Chief Witkowski*

During the pursuit, Officer Vanderzwaag and other midnight shift officers communicated effectively and drove with due regard. The driver stopped his vehicle in front of a house in South Bend and fled the area on foot. Several Mishawaka Officers were assisted by several South Bend officers and the suspect was quickly located. The suspect had four outstanding warrants from St. Joseph County. On May 23, 2018, he was charged with two counts of Resisting Law Enforcement, Leaving the Scene of an Accident and Possession of Marijuana.

On June 7, 2018, Officer Stachowiak was traveling westbound on 12th Street when he observed a subject he recognized as being wanted on a robbery warrant through St. Joseph County. Officer Stachowiak turned his squad car around at 12th Street and Byrkit and proceeded to Commonwealth and 12th Street where he observed the subject still walking eastbound. He then made contact with the subject and placed him under arrest. The suspect had an outstanding warrant from St. Joseph County for robbery and was also wanted in connection with a recent homicide in South Bend.

*Officer of the 4th Quarter – Lt. Eric Laudeman, Pfc. Frank “Bo” Ennis, and Don Siders*

On October 28, 2018, South Bend Police Department reported that an armed robbery had occurred at a restaurant in South Bend and were in a vehicle pursuit with the suspects. Information relayed to the MPD was that a black Saturn was being pursued that contained two stolen handguns and a knife.

Lt. Laudeman joined the pursuit in Mishawaka. As the pursuit continued into St. Joseph County, the driver continued to flee in a reckless manner. When Lt. Laudeman had the opportunity, he performed a PIT Maneuver which successfully stopped the pursuit. The PIT, or Pursuit Immobilization Technique, is the intentional pushing of the suspect vehicle at an angle from the rear in an attempt to force it to spin out of control or into the opposite direction. The PIT is highly dangerous and by MPD Standard Operating Procedures, can only be performed by trained individuals.

Lt. Laudeman's execution of this technique was near flawless. His bravery and determination to remove a dangerous criminal from the streets is commendable.

On November 14, 2018, a female in labor, her boyfriend and mother, pulled into the parking lot of the MPD after business hours. The mother ran into the lobby where she informed dispatch that her daughter was in labor outside. Officer Ennis and Siders were first on scene. Six minutes later, with the help of the officers, the mother-to-be delivered a healthy baby.

Both officers acted in a professional and courageous manner during this event. They not only helped save a life, but they helped bring one into the world. Days later, both officers met with the mother and her baby to check on them and to meet the rest of family.



*Officers Bo Ennis and Don Siders*

### **Other Notable Officer Recognitions**

- Pfc. Frank "Bo" Ennis – Outstanding job performance performing CPR
- Pfc. Joshua Watts and Jonathan Phipps – Outstanding job performance with a narcotics arrest and seizure
- Pfc. Joshua Mortimore – Letter of Commendation for the recovery of stolen auto related to a SBPD homicide
- Sgt. Eric Petersen – Outstanding job performance with the apprehension of a parolee in possession of a firearm
- Psc. Kendy Baker – Two Letters of Commendation for traffic stops relating to narcotics seizures and warrant arrests.
- Psc. Keith Holzer – Lifesaving Commendation for saving a suicidal subject attempting to hang himself.
- Capt. Bryan Fox, Sgt. Matthew Smith, Psc. Holzer, Psc. Kendy Baker and Pfc. Jeff Grzegorek – Letter of Commendations for the murder investigation of Breana Rouhselang



*Officers Vanderzwaag and Baresel assisting a Mishawaka citizen*



*Officers Sam Nan and Dave Ruiz patrolling Central Park*

### **Officer of the Year for 2017 – Lt. Craig Nowacki** (*Award presented in 2018*)

In 2016, the Mishawaka Police Department Administration, City Attorney and Controller's Offices established a plan to purchase, develop and implement an online attendance system for the MPD. These efforts were made, in part, to streamline attendance and payroll, create a more efficient and accountable attendance system and to further move the MPD into the future.

After an extensive search, the Visual Computer Solutions, or VCS, was decided upon. Following a meeting with VCS project managers, the program was purchased and installed, however, the project was far from complete. Lt. Craig Nowacki was handed the task to work with the Administration, FOP and Controller's Office to ensure the program would meet everyone's needs. He took on this monumental task, which was extremely time consuming, while maintaining his police training coordinator duties.

Lt. Nowacki devoted a large portion of time and commitment into learning VCS and creating the program to fit the MPD's needs. His efforts and the knowledge it took in transforming the VCS program into a tailor-made program for the MPD is to be commended.

On April 10, 2017, VCS was officially launched and has been working as planned. It is the hard work and determination of officers like Lt. Nowacki that continue to prove the Mishawaka Police Department offers the City and its citizens the best service possible.

### **MPD Firearms Training “Top Shot” Award**

Psc. Andrew Sark, Pfc. Jeff Price and Pfc. Jeff Grzegorek

### **K-9 Unit**

The K-9 Unit's mission is to support the Uniform Division, Street Crimes Unit and the Investigative Division. They aid in the search for fugitive felony suspects, armed suspects, lost and missing persons and the recovery of illegal narcotics and evidence. In addition to these duties, K-9 officers are responsible for training and caring for their K-9 partners.

Early in 2018, K-9 Supervisor Sgt. Chad Thomas retired K-9 Rex. The Department, through the direction of Sgt. Thomas, purchased a new patrol K-9 named Jax. Another addition to our K-9 program is a German Short Hair Pointer named Bailey. K-9 Bailey is a single-purpose dog used in drug detection. The handler for Bailey is Pfc. James Bartlett. The MPD secured a grant through I.D.E.A. and they paid for Bailey, along with a new vehicle and training. Their training, teamwork and dedication continue to show the importance the K-9 program to the City of Mishawaka.

In 2018, Sgt. Thomas and Jax and Pfc. Anthony Stachowiak and his partner Max, continued to assist local agencies such as the South Bend and St. Joseph Police Departments and the Indiana State Police. Both K-9 Officers also participate in the local schools with random searches of school grounds and lockers as well as providing demonstrations for local civic groups.

### **Traffic Division**

Capt. Tim Spencer and Lt. Scott Parker are assigned to this Division and are responsible for the collection, review, correction, and transmission of all crash reports. The Division also investigates any traffic related case reports generated by the Department. This includes the review of case

reports, and all follow-up investigations, the majority of which involve serious injury, fatalities, or are hit and run crashes.

The Division also supplements case and crash reports and refers appropriate cases to the Prosecutor’s Office. Additionally, the Traffic Division conducts traffic studies and makes recommendations to the City’s Traffic Commission.

As re-constructionists, both officers assigned to the Traffic Investigations Bureau serve as Lead Investigators for serious crashes as well as any other traffic related issues that arise, in an on-call capacity, 24 hours per day. Additionally, Lt. Parker serves as a Squad Leader for the County-wide Fatal Alcohol Crash Team (F.A.C.T.). This team investigates serious injury and fatal crashes that occur within the boundaries of St. Joseph County that involve drug or alcohol impairment. Other Mishawaka Officers that serve on F.A.C.T. are: Captains Mike Arney and Bryan Fox, Lt. Tim Williams, Sgt. Mark Flemming and Pfc. Bob Ashburn. Capt. Tim Spencer serves as the F.A.C.T. Commander.

There were 2,415 total crashes reported for 2018 consisting of 2,047 property damage crashes, 364 injury crashes (504 injured), and 4 fatality crashes (4 fatalities).

Operation Pull Over and “Click It or Ticket”

The Division received an Operation Pull Over & Big City/ Big County “Click It or Ticket” grant from the Governor’s Council on Impaired & Dangerous Driving. This grant, for \$153,777 pays overtime for officers to participate in focusing on Seat Belt Enforcement Patrols, Sobriety Check Points, and Saturation Patrols for impaired and dangerous drivers.

Operation Pull Over and “Click It or Ticket”	
Criminal Misdemeanor Arrests	145
D.U.I. Arrests	61
Seat Belt Violations	985
Driving While Suspended	372
Child Restraint Violations	64
Criminal Felony Arrests	20
Speeding	1,020
Warnings	2,416
Other Traffic	1,784
<b>Total Traffic Stops</b>	<b>6,867</b>

Indiana D.U.I. Taskforce

The Division also received a D.U.I. Taskforce Indiana grant for \$92,500 to pay overtime allowing officers to participate in Sobriety Check Points, Saturation, and Wolfpack Patrols targeting Impaired and Dangerous Drivers.

Indiana D.U.I. Taskforce	
Criminal Misdemeanor	19
Misdemeanor D.U.I. Arrests	37
Felony D.U.I. Arrests	1
Driving While Suspended	75
Underage Alcohol	0
Criminal Felony	2
Speeding	117
Warnings	284
Other Traffic	385
<b>Total Traffic Stops</b>	<b>920</b>

**Investigative Division**

The Investigative Division is supervised by Assistant Chief Dan Gebo and is composed of 16 officers that are tasked with the investigation of crimes that occur within the City of Mishawaka and St. Joseph County. The Investigative Division has six sub-divisions: Street Crimes Unit, Community Relations Unit, School Resource Officers, Special Victims Unit, Drug Investigative Unit, and the County Metro Homicide Unit. (1 officer is assigned to the CMHU, 1 officer is assigned to the DIU and 2 officers are assigned to the SVU.)

All criminal cases filed through the Mishawaka Police Department are referred to the Investigations Division and are reviewed and handled on case by case bases. If no solvability factors are present, the case is closed and kept on file in case further information becomes available. Among other things, Investigators must obtain evidence from suspects, and prepare and serve search and arrest warrants.

In 2018, the Division handled 7,520 cases which is a 1.08% increase from the 7,439 cases in 2017. The Division handled and solved numerous of high profile and serious criminal cases, along with misdemeanor crimes. Through interviewing suspect(s) and witness(es), collecting and combing through the evidence found at crime scenes, and reviewing case reports, cases were solved. Without the hard work of our detectives and the assistance of other outside agencies, these crimes would have gone unsolved or not suspects convicted.

**2018 Investigation Division Statistics (Case referrals)**

Investigative Division Statistics		% +/- 2017
Total cases Direct Referred to Prosecutor, JJC, FVU, etc.	2,687	-0.63
Total cases assigned to Detectives	1,350	
Total cases referred to Street Crimes, Community Relations, SROs	204	-17.44
Total cases referred to Traffic Division	532	+4.02
Total cases - No Investigation	2,213	+8.03
Total warrant arrests (not referred)	196	-15.09
Total property only cases	315	+35.51
Total cases w/information. only (not referred)	23	
<b>Total # of cases reviewed by Investigative Division in 2018</b>	<b>7,520</b>	

In 2018 the Investigative Division handled and solved numerous high-profile crimes and serious criminal cases, along with misdemeanor crimes. Through interviewing suspect(s) and witness(es), collecting and combing through the evidence found at crime scenes, and reviewing case reports, cases were solved. Without the hard work of these officers and the assistance of other outside agencies, these crimes would have gone unsolved or not convicted.

To keep in communication with outside agencies, Mishawaka Police investigators continue attending a weekly crime intel strategy session to share and talk about crime trends, incidents and suspects being investigated. This meeting is attended by all area law enforcement agencies, including the St. Joseph County Prosecutor’s Office, U.S. Prosecutor’s Office, and the community correction officers.

In 2018, the City of Mishawaka showed a 25% decrease in robberies from 2017. The detectives assigned robbery cases solved 45% of these cases. The national average for robbery clearance rates is 25% to 30% for cities.

In April 2018, a victim reports being shot several times during a drug deal. The shooter, according to witnesses, yelled “GDN” (Gangster Disciple Nation) while shooting. Several guns and drugs were collected at the scene. The shooter, later identified as Andrew Howard III, was arrested and

charged. Andrew Howard plead guilty to Robbery and was sentenced to 17 years in the Indiana Department of Corrections.

In May 2018, a victim reported being robbed and shot in the chest while she was sitting in her vehicle in the University Park Mall parking lot. A suspect was developed by a witness who gave investigators a license plate number and a description of a robbery that occurred minutes before the shooting at the mall. Investigators found the suspect identified as Joshua Villanueva-Rose who gave a full confession. He was convicted and sentenced to 24 years in prison.

In September 2018, Mishawaka Police responded to Bleachers Bar on Grape Road on a person shot and killed inside the bar. The scene was every chaotic and volatile as officers arrived. The victim, Avery Brown, was found shot and deceased at the scene. With the help of bar patrons, investigators were able to identify the suspect, Timothy Mayberry. He was arrested and charged with murder. He is awaiting trial in the St. Joseph County Jail.

In December 2018, the City of Mishawaka went through a tough time discovering Breana Rouhselang (17), who was pregnant, was murdered by her boyfriend behind her house. The boyfriend, Aaron Trejo was charged and is awaiting trial in the St. Joseph County Jail. This tragedy affected families, the community, and first responders who handled the investigation.

#### Personnel changes/transfers in the Investigative Division

- Lt. Matthew Porter, transferred from Special Victim's Unit (SVU) to the Investigative Division
- Pfc. Robert Pfeiffer, transferred from the Uniform Division to SVU
- Sgt. Nathan Wojtysiak, transferred from the Drug Investigative Unit to the Uniform Division
- Pfc. James Bartlett, transferred from the Uniform Division to Street Crimes Unit

#### **Community Relations Unit**

Community Relations Unit is a philosophy and organizational strategy that promotes a partnership with citizens to work together to identify and solve community crime and disorder problems with the goal of improving the overall quality of life in the community. This form of community policing rests on the belief that the citizens and the police department, only by working together, can improve the quality of life in the community. It challenges all unit personnel to find ways to develop new proactive initiatives aimed at solving community problems, targeting, and identifying criminal and quality of life issues within the City of Mishawaka.



*Cup with a Cop Event*

The CRU is commanded by Capt. Robert Reppert with assistance from six officers. The unit is divided into three entities; Community Relations Officers, D.A.R.E., School Resource Officers (SROs) and an IAD/New Hire Recruiter. The Unit serves as

a specialized enforcement unit that handles neighborhood complaints, provides patrol, and investigative support utilizing various measures to accomplish their goals and objectives.

The Community Relations Officers handle various public relationship events such as Community Outreach Programs, Neighborhood Watch meetings, National Night Out, MPD tours for boy scouts and schools, reading to children, and bike safety rodeos.

The Unit also assists Code Enforcement, Park Patrol, the Uniform and Traffic Division, Drug Unit, Investigative Division identifying vacant houses to deter scrapping, and assisting outside agencies at the local, state and federal level when requested. In 2018, the Unit brought in approximately \$3,000 in revenue by performing salvage titles for citizens.



*Capt. Reppert and Lt. Williams*



*Little Explorer Camp*

The Unit also attended Community events in 2018 such as: Coffee with a Cop, Chill with a Cop, National Night Out, Trunk or Treat and the Christmas Tree Lighting, to name a few.

### D.A.R.E.

The D.A.R.E. Program operated by Lt. Tim Williams, is an early intervention program that works with young students to encourage drug free lifestyle. The programs are presented to ten 5th grade classes in public and parochial schools in Mishawaka.

Lt. Williams continues to instruct the middle school program, "Keepin' it REAL." Lt. Williams instructs the middle school program at Mishawaka Catholic (St. Monica) and Covenant Christian School.

Lt. Williams awards students from each class for the best essay. The winning essays from each semester competes against each other to be crowned City Champion. Ava Atkinson from Liberty School and Tony Wang from Queen of Peace School were named the City Champions for having the best essays. The Mishawaka D.A.R.E. program has had 4 State Champion essay winners since 2004.



### Stranger Danger

The Mishawaka Police Department provides a Stranger Danger program for local schools. Lt. Tim Williams talks about child lures, internet safety and bullies.

### Kid Print IDs

The D.A.R.E. program had several requests for Kid Print IDs. Since its debut of the equipment, more than 800 IDs were made at local and private events: Summerfest, AAA Credit Union, Centier Bank, University Park Mall, United Methodist Church, Lexus of Mishawaka, Diabetes Walk, Cub Scouts, and LaSalle Elementary School.

### School Resource

Sgt. Steve Madison is assigned full-time to John Young Middle and Pfc. Bruce Faltynski is the School Resource Officer assigned full-time to Mishawaka High School. Pfc. Nathan DeVreese is assigned full-time to rotate between all School City of Mishawaka elementary schools. Lt. Tim Williams, a part-time School Resource Officer, serves as a liaison between the school community and the Mishawaka Police Department. These officers conduct short-term educational projects such as speaking to classes, the student body, parents and the school staff. The officer coordinates with the school administration to provide a safe and secure environment. Resource officers initiate and follow-up on cases that happen on and off school property involving students enrolled in school.

### **Street Crimes Unit**

The Street Crimes Unit is a special investigatory unit staffed by Lt. Eric Beckham, Sgt. Ryan Corbett and Pfc. James Bartlett. The primary function of the Unit is to investigate “vice” type crimes and to address various quality of life issues as they arise within the City. The SCU works in conjunction with the Investigative Division and the Community Relations Unit to identify criminals and solve crimes within neighborhoods. With the assistance of the Community and other units within the MPD, along with crime analysts concerning pertinent data on the type of criminal activity where the problem is most severe, where crime awareness and prevention activities would be most productive, and what type of program would be most effective in combating the problem. The Unit also identifies areas that generate repeat calls for service so problem solving efforts can be initiated.

- Beckham promoted to Lieutenant of the SCU
- Lt. Beckham was able to successfully obtain a grant through the Indiana Drug Enforcement Administration granting the SCU \$70,000 for a K-9, vehicle, equipment and training.
- Our SCU selected Pfc. Bartlett and K-9 Bailey to fill the open position created by the IDEA grant. Pfc. Bartlett is scheduled to go to K-9 school in January 2019 at Vohne Liche Kennels

SCU partnered with Homeland Security and recovered a large amount of narcotics from a storage unit and apartment complex in the northern part of the City. The suspect in this case was stopped on the highway with a large amount of narcotics that he was bringing back to Mishawaka. The subject that he met with was also taken down with over \$280,000 in his possession.

SCU assisted the Uniform Division with a robbery to a person on the south side of the City. This subject reported being robbed at gunpoint by three armed men. During the robbery the men took a credit card that they began using at local stores. SCU went to the stores and identified a vehicle and suspected subject who were using the card to purchase items.

Drugs Seized (grams)		
	2017	2018
Cocaine	53	27.1
Crack	13.8	395.4
Marijuana	2,001	6,030
Synthetic Marijuana	37	237
Meth	250.71	1,309.54
Heroin	85	668
Other	124.5	528

Seized Drug Street Value (\$)		
	2017	2018
Cocaine	6,360	3,252
Crack	1,656	47,448
Marijuana	30,015	90,450
Synthetic Marijuana	0	0
Meth	10,028	52,382
Heroin	8,500	66,800
<b>Total</b>	<b>56,559</b>	<b>260,332</b>

### **CAP Program**

Civilians in Alliance with Police (CAP) program partners with the Mishawaka Police and Parks Departments with community volunteers to help report on acts of vandalism in the parks and along the Riverwalk. The volunteers are given basic training in first aid and on what to do if they encounter a problem. After completing this training, they are named as a member of CAP, equipped with a Mishawaka Police radio and sent out in a golf cart to patrol the downtown parks and Riverwalk.

They also assist with events throughout the season such as, fireworks, festivals, Memorial Day Parade, park concerts, the IMEA Lineman Rodeo, etc.

These volunteers are a very dedicated and loyal group of people that truly care about the City of Mishawaka. We at the MPD are thankful for their commitment to the CAP Program and appreciate their service.

### **Services Division**

The Services Division is assisted by 5 Civilian Support Staff and one officer. They provide administrative services for the Department. These services include the Department budget, management of the Property Room, and administration of the Training Division. The Division is also responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of the Police Department facility along with the Department's inventory of officer equipment, cars, and supplies.

Throughout the year the staff handles numerous requests for copies of reports, criminal background checks, fingerprints, gun permit applications, motor vehicle checks and parking ticket payments. The staff also assists other governmental and police agencies when they request reports and information for their investigations.

The Services Division is responsible for maintaining Department records, processing reports and citations, data entry, updating dispositions on cases in the Records Management System, and for

the preparation of statistics, including the monthly Department of Justice Uniform Crime Reporting. The Services Division is also responsible for the management of the IT Division.

Property and Evidence stores and transacts numerous property and evidence items each year. Each of these items are counted and inventoried as part of a chain of custody. Every transaction of property, whether it is to go to court, lab for testing, returned to the owner or destroyed, is documented with the date, time and reason.

### **Training Division**

The Mishawaka Police Department’s Training Division recognizes the importance for sworn officers to receive real-life training. This training is “scenario-based” and “hands-on.” Officers are presented with situations they will observe on a daily basis and are trained by certified instructors to deal with and react to those situations. The officers are critiqued on how they respond to the situation. This type of training gives the officer confidence and the self-assurance necessary to handle the situation when he or she is faced with it on the street.

#### *Training Highlights from 2018*

In 2018, the MPD met and surpassed the state mandated minimum 24 hours required of each officer. Out of the 106 officers at the department, the average training time per officer was 65.8 hours. The total hours of training time provided was 6,973.5 hours in 2018. Even subtracting the top ten highest and ten lowest officers, in regard to training time, MPD Officers averaged more than double the state requirement at 54.29 hours.

In 2018, Mishawaka Police Training Division had 301 classes/opportunities for training. This number does not include online training, online certifications or roll call trainings.

MPD began provisioning in the year for Motorola PremierOne Records Management. These involved training sessions to plan and build the system that the department went live with on January 16, 2019. This huge task was led by Assistant Chief of Services, Russell Haimbaugh. Train the Trainer sessions were conducted for several officers of the department to be experts in the software and facilitate the transition that was to come. The actual training sessions for all officers did not occur until January 2-15, 2019. This was a huge undertaking in preparing for a new records-keeping system while integrating records from the past 10 plus years.

Training Statistics		
	Total Training hours	Average Training Hours per officer
106 Officers	6973.5	65.78
96 (minus the top 10 officers with the highest amounts of training time)	5212	54.29
86 (minus the top 10 highest and ten lowest)	4964	57.72

Active shooter incidents going on across the country are a horrible situation you hope never comes to your city, but it is a situation you have to prepare for nonetheless. The Training Division made training for Active Shooter-Rescue Task Force a mandatory requirement for all MPD officers. The training dealt with tactics/teams to eliminate the threat and render the location safe. MPD in conjunction with MFD and surrounding Fire/EMS Agencies went one step further in training for the removal and triage of injured parties due to an active shooter. Kindred Hospital in Mishawaka was used as a training site for practical applications of the training in conjunction with the other

FIRE/EMS agencies. These other agencies training alongside MPD, allowed for real training applications rather than theoretical contingencies. MPD along with other agencies from St. Joseph County conducted a massive drill at Penn High School. This drill was used to evaluate agencies in their response and tactics. The drill also focused on extracting injured parties from an active shooter location.

Half of MPD Officers were trained to use Narcan nasal spray by Robin Vida, the Director of Health Education from the St. Joseph County Health Department. After completing the training officers were given doses of Narcan nasal spray to revive overdosed parties. The opioid crisis affects all facets of public service. Officers having Narcan nasal spray doses not only ensures caring for the public but also helps officers in the unfortunate event of an accidental overdose by a police officer through contact with Fentanyl or Carfentanil in the course of their duties. The other half of MPD officers will complete the training in 2019.

Elizabeth Knight of Knight, Hoppe, Kurnik & Knight, Ltd. was at the Mishawaka Police Department for several training sessions conducting police liability classes. These classes were mandatory for all officers and instructed through case law examples of ways to avoid liability claims as they execute their duties. Supervisors on top of this had another class for supervisor liability that trained supervisors on pitfalls that might befall them due to the nature of their position. The training department was contacted by Elizabeth Knight after the training sessions were completed. Elizabeth “Betty” Knight wrote me and said: “Your officers demonstrated great legal insight into complex constitutional issues facing law enforcement officers. Your department is an exemplary role model of professionalism!”

Training was completed on the use of Motorola body cameras for officers and body cameras have begun to be distributed. These tools are invaluable and help document the challenging job that officers face. Being able to document through video the crimes/crime scenes are a valuable tool for enforcement and prosecution. Handgun sensors were also deployed to provide dispatch real time updates in instances where an officer’s firearm is removed from the holster. Think of a solo traffic stop and the officer has to react by pulling his firearm with no time to call out on the radio, dispatch will be alerted and get backup heading that way for assistance.

The SWAT (MPD in conjunction with St. Joseph County Police) is a unit that responds to the most severe of situations. They have to be prepared and trained to respond. Outside of their mandatory training they do every month on weapons proficiency and tactics, they had an outside training company come to them. The National Tactical Officers Association conducted their Scenario Based Tactical Operations with the SWAT team for a week-long course. SWAT Officers were taught leading edge tactical movements and participated in scenario-based events to sharpen their skills even further.

MPD Officers honed their skills in physical tactics and firearms through a wide variety of classes. Classes ranging from handcuffing combative subjects to countering and strikes were conducted throughout the year. On the firearms side, officers were afforded opportunities for training with their handgun, rifle and shotgun. Several opportunities in tactical handgun training were conducted allowing officers to be able to react in situations and react accordingly with proficiency with their firearms. Police officers have to prepare for the worst and be ready to act when necessary.

## Memorial Service

Every year in May the MPD holds a memorial service for those officers that have passed. It takes place at the Police Memorial in front the MPD. This Service coincides with the annual National Police Week held in May. In attendance are the families of the deceased officers, Mishawaka's Mayor and Dignitaries, the Chief of Police, MPD officers and their families and honor guard, retirees, support staff, surrounding police agencies and citizens of Mishawaka.

## Women's Self-Defense Classes

Self-defense classes for women were held several times throughout 2018 and were instructed by Division Chief Jason Stefaniak, Sgt. Rich Freeman, Sgt. Brian Long, and Pfc. Dave Ruiz. It proved to be a very popular class with a maximum amount of attendance. These classes will continue throughout 2019.

Self-defense is a set of awareness, assertiveness, verbal confrontation skills, safety strategies, and physical techniques that enable someone to successfully escape, resist, and survive violent attacks.



*Division Chief Jason Stefaniak instructing  
MPD's Women's Self-Defense Class*