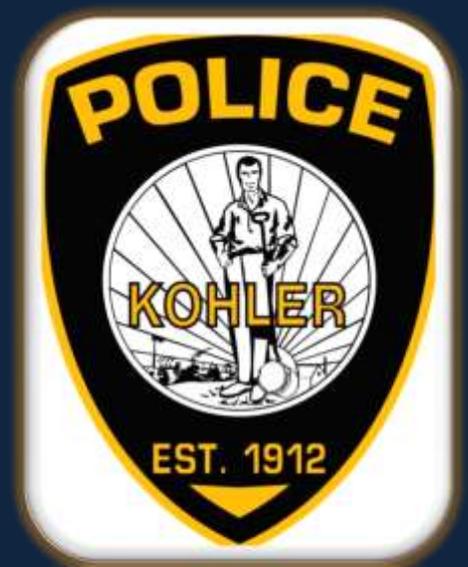


“Serving the Community”



2015

KOHLER POLICE DEPARTMENT
YEAR END REPORT



2015

Mission: The Kohler Police Department has the mission of providing the best possible police services that it can provide. “Serving our Community” is on the sides of our squads, but is our true mission. The department then supplements that with programs and events to educate the public and to provide the safest environment for the citizens of the Village of Kohler.

Overview: The Kohler Police Department has completed another year of service for the Village of Kohler. The department remains committed to providing the best police protection to the Village as well as providing related services that no other entity could. The police department is a team of professionals that enjoys working for the Village and responding to the public’s needs and complaints. The Sheboygan County Law Enforcement Community was in their fifth year of Spillman, the new Computer-Aided Dispatch and Records Management System. The system is a windows-based system that includes mapping features tied to GPS by cellular technology for connectivity in the squads. All the agencies in the county can now see officers on the screen in real time and be able to share reports and contact information immediately after reports are completed. The system was a major change in the way that the departments process their reports and maintains its records. The Kohler Police Department now only maintains its reports electronically with all the secondary reports scanned and added to the electronic database. We have started using the E-referral, which is the electronic submission of reports to the District Attorney’s office. This has been used on a very limited basis and needs things fixed outside of the control of the Kohler Police Department. The Kohler Police Department strives to be ahead of the curve for change and we are again doing that with E-referral in Sheboygan County. Included in our software changes in the Kohler Police Department was the installation of a new server in-house for the police department. In the past, we utilized the City of Sheboygan for all our IT issues. This year, we were able to transition to our own server and now have less need of the outside IT departments. We also transitioned to the use of the Sheboygan County IT Department for any of our IT issues, which has been going well.

All these changes involve a lot of hard work. We were able to make the changes that are needed in the use/reporting side of the job and not let it bog down the response to calls and efficiency of the services that we provide. Administrative Assistant Jodie Kuklinski was the major driving force in making these transitions as smooth as it could be. AA Kuklinski is the Kohler Police Department’s Administrator for Spillman and is on a countywide team that keeps up-to-date on issues involving the new system. Jodie also has been the person working with the State of Wisconsin on finding and resolving the bugs for BadgerTracs10. She works with the contracted IT personnel and the State of Wisconsin to make the system work. The transition looks smooth on the outside, but many hours of work are necessary to make that come about.

Calls for Service: In 2015 the Kohler Police Department handled a total of 2,708 incidents of officers responding to calls as compared to 2,913 in 2014. These service calls include all the traffic enforcement, which includes 377 traffic citations (down from 480 in 2014), 69 municipal ordinance citations (up from 51 in 2014), and 525 written traffic warnings or municipal code violations (as compared to 687 in 2014). The ordinance violations include incidents such as resisting, drugs, disorderly conduct, retail theft, fraud, trespass, and animal at large complaints. Included in the traffic citations were three OWI arrests with an average of .228% Blood Alcohol Content. The arrests consisted of 1st, 2nd, and 4th offense violations. The highest was .240% and the lowest was .215%. The numbers for the citations and warnings may include multiple citations or warnings per incident.

In 2015 officers handled 2,462 complaints, which were either called-in by citizens or were on-view complaints initiated by the police officers compared to the 2,697 in 2014. The types of calls included a range from sexual assault, battery, domestic disturbances, fraud, bank alarms, retail theft, embezzlement, warrants, etc. During the course of the year, the department had 34 subjects arrested for misdemeanors and 19 subjects for felony arrests other than traffic-related incidents. In many of these cases, we had multiple violations in each incident. Also, the department had 44 juvenile arrests in 2015 compared to 23 in 2014. These violations would be similar to arrests if the violator were an adult. These violations were primarily for Disorderly Conduct or Theft. Many of the misdemeanor and felony arrests are incidents called in by victims of the crimes. As the Kohler Police Department continues to get calls and investigate more important crimes, all the other self-initiated activity will typically go down due to the increased amount of time spent on the crimes. The lower self-initiated activity would also be reflected in the overall number of incidents handled by the department. The investigation time involved in many of the criminal offenses is typically many hours versus other types of complaints.

First Responder Program: In addition to being a law enforcement agency, the Kohler Police Department is licensed by the State of Wisconsin as a First Responder Unit, the only police department in the county to hold such a license. Every officer is either a certified First Responder or a licensed Emergency Medical Technician. Officers respond to every medical call in the Village proper and any at the Kohler Co. when requested and provide lifesaving care until the ambulance from Orange Cross arrives. In 2015 our department responded to 125 Emergency Medical calls, not including injury accidents. In addition to the ambulance calls, our officers handled 8 personal injury accidents where medical assistance was needed. Routinely our officers have to apply oxygen to someone that is in distress and have used our Automated External Defibrillators to attempt to revive patients. On several occasions we have been needed to drive the ambulance to the hospital during an emergency situation.

Continuing in our mission of being a community oriented police department, the department has provided many other services to the Village residents that you as Board members or the general public may or may not be aware of. The following are synopses of those services:

Bicycle Safety Program: The Kohler Police Department hosts a bicycle safety program annually where approximately 45 junior kindergarteners to 4th graders were taught bicycle safety by the officers in a series of practical tests. This year's event was held at the Kohler Police Department/Village Hall as well as utilizing the Kohler Co. parking lot and was coordinated by Officer Hocevar and Administrative Assistant Jodie Kuklinski. This is supplemented by Officer Hocevar's classroom instruction that is given to the students in those grades during the school week. This year was the third year that we did not get free helmets from a donor. We purchased the helmets at a great discount from Aurora and had assistance from that organization with the fitting of the helmets at the event. We also continue to supply a bike accessory valued at about \$15.00.

CounterAct: The Kohler Police Department continues to put a great deal of effort into educating our children about making the right decisions when it comes to drugs. Officer Reinemann teaches the nationally recognized curriculum of CounterAct to the 5th grade students. The six different sessions, approximately one hour each, included a graduation ceremony for the 65 students and their parents.

Deer Abatement: The Kohler Police Department continues to be proactive in the area of the excessive deer population throughout the Village. The department coordinates the deer abatement program and had sharpshooters come in to assist the program and has waivers signed for donation of the meat. The program culled 38 deer from the herd in 2015.

House Checks/Vacation Checks: The Kohler Police Department provides a service to its residents that go on vacation to have their residences checked while they are away. The department keeps a book of the residences and checks them several times a week. The department handled 142 house checks in 2015 compared to 116 in 2014. The department continues the use of the police department's web page, www.kohlerpolice.com, where residents can request house checks online as an added convenience. The department routinely gets requests for vacation checks through this internet service. The department gets many comments of appreciation from our citizens for providing the vacation checks.

Masterlock Program: The Kohler Police Department continues to provide gun trigger locks for the Village residents. These locks are purchased through Masterlock at a reduced rate for law enforcement. The department also is involved in the Project Childsafe lock federal program, which provides gunlocks to any citizen. These cable locks are effective, but not as good of quality as the ones provided from Masterlock.

School Resource Officer: This by far is the most visible community oriented program when it comes to the youth of the Village. Officer Hocevar started his first year in the school in the fall. He attended SRO training in Indianapolis and has started picking up where Officer Gross left off last spring. The SRO position is used as a community resource program as well as a position for officers to improve in their skills of lecturing, investigation work, and networking with the school administration to keep the department in tune with what is going on at the school or related functions. The SRO is the point of contact for the school to get law enforcement services such as K-9 searches of the school or training on how to handle special law enforcement issues. The SRO also continues to provide programs such as a street crossing program for the junior and senior kindergarteners; Halloween trick-or-treating program to promote safety during trick-or-treating which is done in conjunction with providing glow necklaces for the evening of the trick-or-treating as well as bags; and any special classes that teachers may have requested such as a presentation on Search and Seizure. All of these additional programs supplement the presence of the SRO during the school day where he is made available to the school for police complaints. We believe that the School Resource Officers have had a positive impact on the students of the Kohler Schools. This can be seen with the requests that we receive for him to chaperon events such as Prom and Casino Night and the thank you cards and gifts received at years end.

UAW Local 833 Strike: This section could take up several pages if all the issues were detailed in this report. The strike started in mid-November and ended in mid-December. The issues were wide ranging, dealing with inbound and outbound traffic for non-represented employees and occupied the majority of the department's time initially. The issues then transitioned to dealing with ordinance violations around the picketing areas, including occupying the driveways, roadways, and driving violations, etc. Contact was kept with the leadership of the UAW 833 and also with the Kohler Co for all the different issues that would arise. The Kohler Police Department entered into mutual aid agreements with the other local area law enforcement agencies. The Sheboygan County Sheriff's Department was used the most for traffic control and other crowd control events. Also utilized were

the Sheboygan Police Department and the Sheboygan Falls Police Department. The Wisconsin State Patrol didn't assist within the Village of Kohler, but backfilled the Sheboygan County Sheriff's Department, so that agency could send officers in the Village of Kohler at times. All in all the strike was handled appropriately and no major violent events were responded to.

Special Events/Community Policing: The Kohler Police Department also gets involved in numerous special events that occur during the year. The main special event that the Kohler Police Department was involved in during 2015 was the PGA Championship. The golf event was held outside the Village's corporate limits, but much work was still necessary to ensure that the event ran smoothly. There is significant planning that goes into hosting a major tournament and the Kohler Police Department was intricately involved in all aspects of the planning to make sure that the event was successful. There were several special events scheduled in the Village during the week golf tournament as well as having the majority of the players either staying or frequenting areas in the Village up to a week ahead of time. The Kohler Police Department also gets involved in numerous special events that reoccur every year, which can also be considered Community Policing. Some of the main events were the involvement of the Kohler Police Department in the foot races that either start in the Village or run through the Village. The Kohler Classic held in June starts and ends at the school and is always a good community function the department gets involved in. In addition, the department continued to be involved in the Two Left Paws half marathon that ran through the Village. The run dramatically increased its numbers from about 200 in 2009 to over 600 runners in 2015. In 2015 the race again had a 5k run which started and ended in Kohler which was coordinated so both runs ended at about the same time. Again, the Kohler Police Department was instrumental in providing services to make it a fun and safe event. The Kohler Police Department does charge for its services when the organizations utilizing us are not from the community. Despite that charge, the race organizers were extremely happy with our assistance and the results.

Another big event was the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation walk that was in its third year. This year the event was a 1 mile walk and a 5k walk that started and ended at the High School. The event was very well attended and will be held again in 2016 due to its success. This event also is charged for officer's overtime, etc.

The same assistance is given to the Kohler Co for its Beer Runs or the events such as the Kohler Co Picnic. We are the conduit for the village resources and the immediate response when something needs to get done. These collaborations are not by mistake, but are relationships built up over time within the community by our department.

Deer Trace is part of Kohler too: In addition to the Village proper, the Kohler Police Department continues to handle and monitor the number of calls received from the Deer Trace business district. In 2015 the Kohler Police Department responded to 225 calls for service at that location, slightly up from 219 calls in 2014. The officers respond to a wide variety of complaints at Deer Trace including Alarms (53 up from 39 in 2014), EMS calls (10 up from 6 in 2014), Vehicle Accidents (21 compared to 28 in 2014), Suspicious Circumstances (20 up from 7 in 2014) and Thefts/Fraud (34 as compared to 45 in 2014). We had a significant heroin overdose that occurred in the parking lot by a traveler passing through the community. The shopping center is a major stop along I43 for the criminals that travel up and down I43. The vast majority of the retail thefts and fraud are perpetrated by these well traveled criminals. There have been some new trends that have been occurring in that district as well. These trends include the use of counterfeit money that gets passed at multiple stores in one day. The

Kohler Police Department will continue to monitor this area for call volume. These types of calls are very time consuming and impact the overall response time to the rest of the Village. The amount of time can be attributed to the arrests or proactive procedures utilized during peak shopping times. The Deer Trace area is a more remote area of the Village and the calls for service are usually more involved, including the initial report, investigation/follow-up, and the report writing.

Training: The department's full-time personnel were stable in 2015. The Kohler Police Department hired a new part-time officer, Kevin Post, who started mid-November. The part-time officers respond to all the same types of calls that the full-time officers respond to. The Kohler Police Department has Field Training Officers that will give Officer Post instruction on responding to calls. The Kohler Police Department had last hired a new full-time officer in 2008 and continued on the path of training the newest officers in the areas that needed to be addressed in their individual areas of need. In the pursuit of this goal, the Kohler Police Department continues to train all the officers to be at the highest level possible. All of the Officers of the department have attended ALERT training, which is an active shooter training that is co-sponsored by the FBI. In addition to that major training, all of the department's First Responders were recertified in 2015, which occurs on a bi-annual basis. The state requirement of 24 hours of training can easily be exceeded with all the new state requirements as well as keeping the officers skills up in Defense and Arrest Tactics and Firearms training.

Summary: This year-end report is a synopsis of the important role that the Kohler Police Department plays in this community. This role continues to expand as the needs arise. The Kohler Police Department does not shy away from this role, but rather embraces it and does so in a professional and efficient manner. I believe that the Village Board should be aware of all the good that the Kohler Police Department does for the Village and its residents. If anyone has a more specific question about the Kohler Police Department, please do not hesitate to ask.