

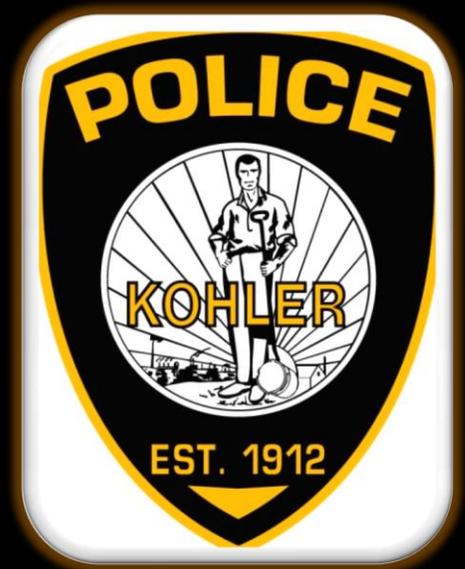
# KOHLER POLICE DEPARTMENT



Photos by Asher Heimermann, Incident Response

# 2017

## YEAR END REPORT



*“Serving the Community”*

**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 seventh year of Spillman, the new Computer-Aided Dispatch and Records Management System, and routinely upgrades the system. 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. Our department also now signs all our criminal complaints with the District Attorney’s office electronically. This is much more efficient as an officer in the past would have to travel to the DA’s office to physically sign a complaint. 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 several years ago. We then transitioned to a new IT provider Patheon, a private IT company. Patheon has assisted our department in minor upgrades to our connectivity to make our work more efficient and headache free. Kohler PD Administrative Assistant Jodie Kuklinski continues to be instrumental in these types of changes and serves as the department’s Administrator for our Spillman network which connects to our server and internal network.

**Calls for Service:** In 2017 the Kohler Police Department handled a total of 2,622 incidents of officers responding to calls as compared to 3,012 in 2016. These service calls include all the traffic enforcement, which includes 291 traffic citations (down from 499 in 2016), 51 municipal ordinance citations (down from 60 in 2016), and 399 written traffic warnings or municipal code violations (as compared to 758 in 2016). 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 .219% Blood Alcohol Content. The arrests consisted of 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> offense violations. The highest was .246% and the lowest was .180%. The numbers for the citations and warnings may include multiple citations or warnings per incident. The number of traffic citations and warnings are down due to the Kohler Police Department not being involved in Click it or Ticket traffic enforcement in 2017. The Click it or Ticket detail encompassed about 200 hours of overtime in 2016 solely for the purpose of traffic control, which was funded by the State of Wisconsin.

In 2017 officers handled 2,276 complaints, which were either called-in by citizens or were on-view complaints initiated by the police officers compared to the 2,740 in 2016. 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 27 subjects arrested for misdemeanors and 9 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 5 juvenile arrests in 2017 compared to 19 in 2016, mainly a reduction in trespassing complaints from the previous year. These violations would be similar to arrests if the violator were an adult. The juvenile

violations were primarily for Disorderly Conduct or Theft from year to year. 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 2017 our department responded to 174 Emergency Medical calls, not including injury accidents. The 174 calls is an all time high. In addition to the ambulance calls, our officers handled 12 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 30 junior kindergarteners to 4<sup>th</sup> 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 fourth 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. This year the department was assisted by Criminal Justice students from Lakeshore Technical College.

**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 5<sup>th</sup> grade students. The six different sessions, approximately one hour each, included a graduation ceremony for the 60 students and their parents. Many other agencies are not funding this program or similar educational programs anymore. We believe these types of programs are essential for education and for continuing to give kids positive contact with police officers.

**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 118 house checks in 2017 compared to 121 in 2016. The department continues the use of the police department's web page, [www.kohlerpolice.com](http://www.kohlerpolice.com), where residents can request house checks online as an added convenience. The vast majority of the vacation checks are initiated 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. A change was made to this program in the fall of 2017. Officer Hocevar completed his 2<sup>nd</sup> year in the schools in June of 2017. In the fall, the Kohler Police Department decided to make every officer on the department a liaison to the school where they would stop at the school during their shift. The officers routinely make contact with the office, study hall supervisor, or the librarians to see if there are any issues during that day. In addition, different officers are assigned to provide services to the school throughout the school year for things such as AODA related roundtables, health class demonstrations, Trick or Treat program, etc. All of these additional assignments add the presence of the officers during the school day where they make themselves available to the school staff or students. We believe that the School Resource Officers have had a positive impact on the students of the Kohler Schools.

**Special Events/Community Policing:** The Kohler Police Department 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 2017. In 2017 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 fifth 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. This event also is charged for officer's overtime, etc.

The same assistance is given to the Kohler Co for its Beer Run, Snowball Run or its newest race, the Run for Clarity. We continue to assist with other events such as the Kohler Co Picnic also. 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 2017 the Kohler Police Department responded to 263 calls for service at that location, up from 224 in 2016. The officers respond to a wide variety of complaints at Deer Trace including EMS calls (20 similar to 24 in 2016), Alarms (62 up from 30 in 2016), Vehicle Accidents (25 down from 36 in 2016), Suspicious Circumstances (15 similar to 22 from 2016) and Thefts/Fraud (30 down from 49 in 2016 but similar to the 34 in 2015). This is just a sampling of the wide variety of calls that take place at the shopping center and that the Kohler Police Department is responsible for the investigation and follow-up of. 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. 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 2017. The Kohler Police Department had a part-time officer that was hired full time in another department, Antonio Padilla. The Kohler PD will look at hiring a new part-time officer early in 2018 to replace. 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 2017, which occurs on a bi-annual basis, so all the officers will be retrained again in early 2019. 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.