

Town of Menasha Police Department



2015 Annual Report

OUR MISSION

The Town of Menasha Police Department exists for the purpose of providing an enhanced level of public safety in the community, protecting the constitutional rights of all people, and improving the quality of life of each citizen.

OUR COMMITMENTS

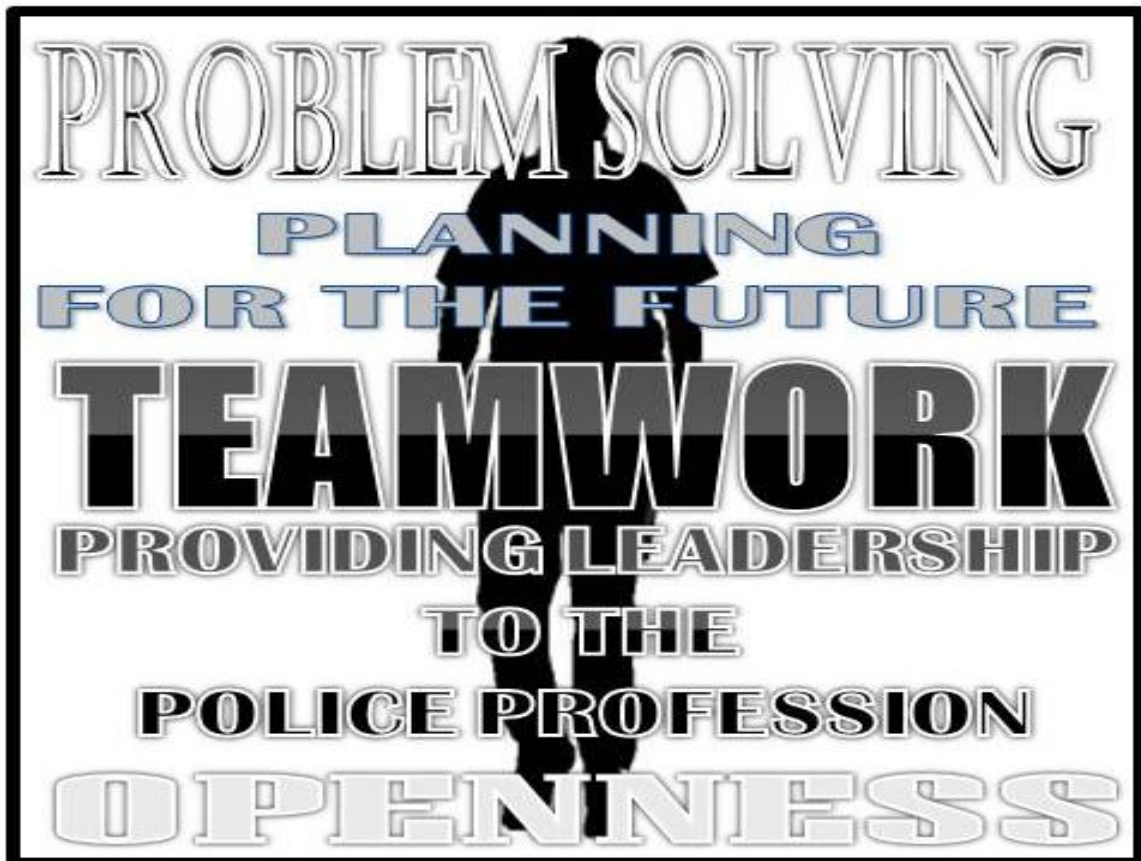


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MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

I am pleased to present our 2015 Annual Report. I hope this report gives you insight into the operations and accomplishments of the Town of Menasha Police Department.

Law enforcement is unique in that services need to be provided 24 hours a day, seven days a week and 365 days a year. Many people think of police work as simply enforcing the law, however there is much more than that. Our officers are problem solvers and work very hard to resolve many issues that occur throughout the year without having to take any enforcement action. Another unique aspect of law enforcement is that success is sometimes measured by what doesn't happen! We are committed to reducing crime by being proactive. This is accomplished by developing partnerships with the community and having effective crime prevention programs in place.

2015 was a challenging year for our officers. As the cover photo reflects, construction embarked throughout the Town of Menasha as the I-41/USH 10/STH 441 construction project started. Not only has this affected all of the motorists that use these freeways but it also has strained the public safety agencies in the town as the heart of this project, a new bridge over Little Lake BDM, literally separates our township.

On May 3, 2015 officers responded to a report of an active shooter on the Trestle Trail Bridge. Upon their arrival, officers were faced with multiple casualties as well as the uncertainty of knowing whether or not the shooter(s) were still at large. In the midst of the chaos, officers were in the position of having to advance out onto the bridge, which essentially was a "fatal funnel." Officers found themselves in a situation where the safety of the community was placed above their own and it was done without hesitation. Their actions during this incident, without question, rose to a level of being "in excess of the norm."

I am proud of the wonderful work that the men and women of the Town of Menasha Police Department accomplish on an annual basis. I would also like to thank the citizens of the Town of Menasha for their continued support. It is through corroboration and cooperation that the community and the police department work together to keep our community a safe one. Although crime does occur in the Town of Menasha, one only needs to look at the crime comparisons to appreciate the safe community in which we live.

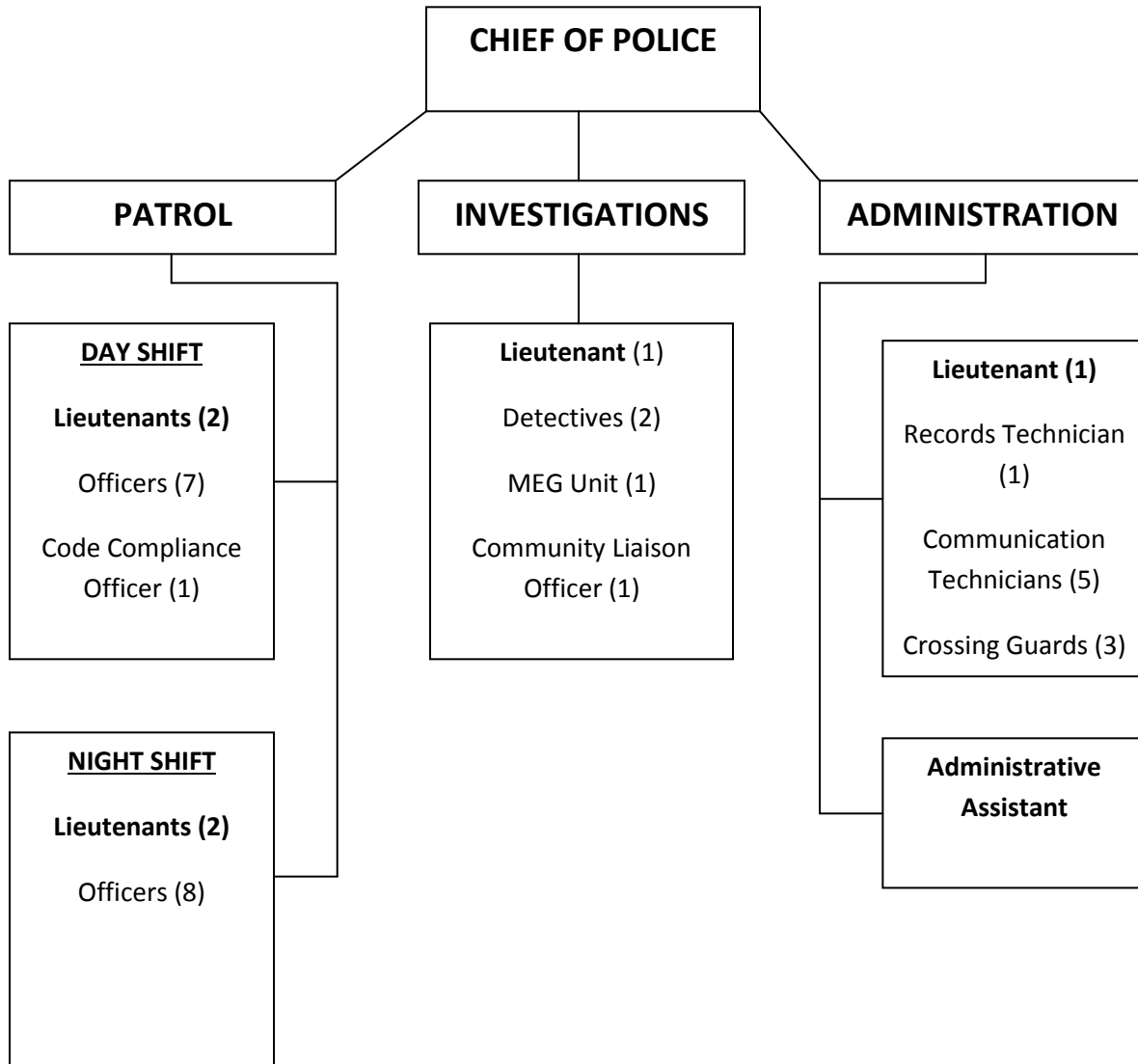
Chief Rodney McCants



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ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



STAFF

SWORN

CHIEF OF POLICE

Rodney McCants

ADMINISTRATIVE LIEUTENANT

Tim Seaver

INVESTIGATIONS LIEUTENANT

Scott Blashka

PATROL LIEUTENANTS

Rick Leneau

Pete DeBoer

Gary Cutler

Jason Severson

DETECTIVES

Christopher Anderson

Jason Feucht

Jeremiah Gustafson

COMMUNITY LIAISON OFFICER

Jason Weber

PATROL OFFICERS

Thomas Tralongo

Scott Boehlen

Gerard Stephanie

Daniel Wiechman

John Swenson

Christopher LaSage

Tim Callan

Seely Moe

Christopher Brandt

Megan Hickey

Michael Weinberger

Scott Farrell

Corey Colburn

Evan Merkes

Erwin Davis

CIVILIAN

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Taylor Maccoux

RECORDS TECHNICIAN

Erin LeMahieu

COMMUNICATIONS TECHNICIANS

Angela Oppor

Theresa Coenen

Christy Scott

JoAnn Richards

CROSSING GUARDS

Jacquelyn Lovejoy

Lori Davis

Robert Birkholz

Stacy Plath

CODE COMPLIANCE

Scott Glasel

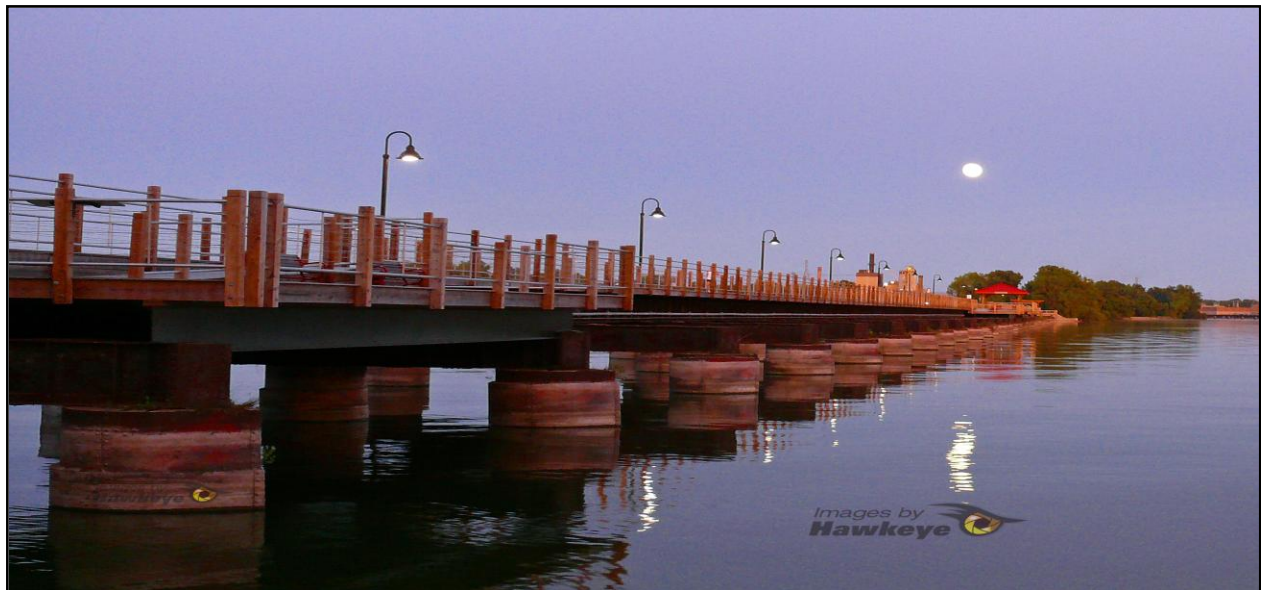
COMMUNITY PROFILE

The Town of Menasha can trace its roots back to before Wisconsin was even a state. A territorial government was set up for the State of Wisconsin in 1836 and land was ceded by the Native Americans that later became the Town of Menasha. In 1847, the Township of Neenah was created and organized by an act of the territorial legislature. The original township included the present day cities and towns of Neenah and Menasha, and the towns of Clayton and Vinland. Vinland and Clayton were split off and given independent statuses in 1849. By 1855, the Winnebago County Board split the remaining Town of Neenah, with its two settlements, into two parts: the Town of Neenah on the south and the Town of Menasha on the north. The more urban areas of both towns later incorporated into cities – Neenah in 1873 and Menasha the following year in 1874.

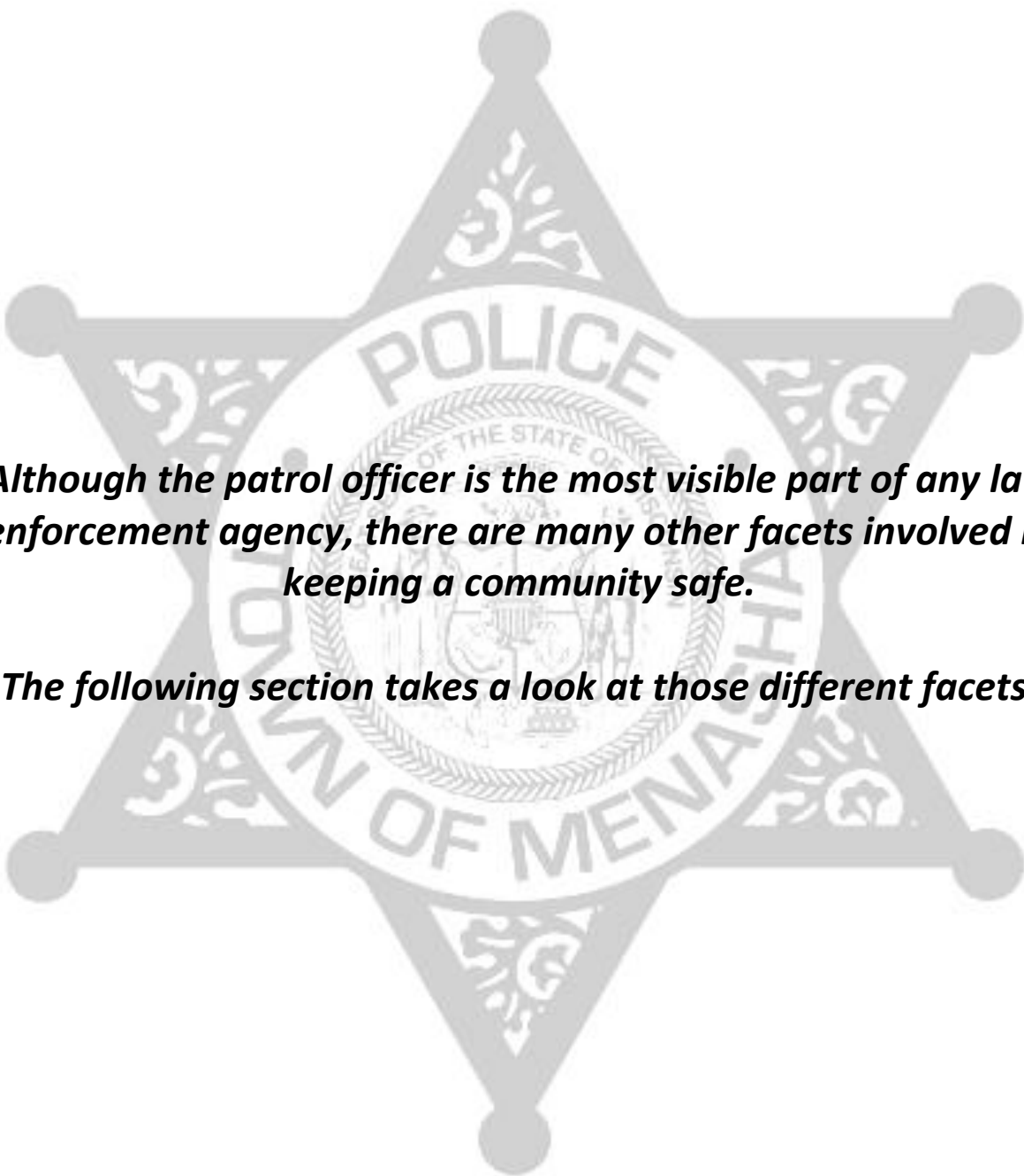
The Town of Menasha lies in the “Fox Cities” area of Wisconsin, near the northwest corner of Lake Winnebago, about thirty minutes southwest of Green Bay. The Town of Menasha has enjoyed steady growth for many years, and is presently the second largest township in Wisconsin with a population of 18,582.

The Town of Menasha has a service area of 12.3 square miles that includes two major federal highways that intersect within those boundaries. Approximately 66,000 vehicles cross USH 10 each day, and another 91,000 vehicles travel on I-41 each day. In addition, the Town of Menasha maintains approximately 100 miles of local roadways.

The Town of Menasha has a variety of zoning types within its jurisdiction, ranging from industrial/commercial to agricultural/residential. The economy of the area is based upon the paper industry and the Town is home to many large corporations including Pierce Manufacturing, Kimberly Clark, SCA Tissue, ClearWater, Miron Construction, Outlook Corp., Great Northern and many other great businesses.



AGENCY PROFILE



Although the patrol officer is the most visible part of any law enforcement agency, there are many other facets involved in keeping a community safe.

The following section takes a look at those different facets.

POLICE ADMINISTRATION

The administration division of the police department consists of the chief of police, administrative assistant and administrative lieutenant. This division is responsible for the coordination and direction of the department.

BUDGET

A large task of this division is budgeting and fiscal management. With the current state of economy and the need and demand for law enforcement services, this is no easy task. Through careful planning, the Town of Menasha Police Department has been able to maintain and in some instances increase the level of service all while maintaining a little to no impact on tax dollars. The budget established for the police department in 2015 was \$3,213,950.

As the info graphic to the right shows, the largest area of our budget is personnel. The administrative division coordinates the management of personnel from recruitment to promotions and internal investigations.

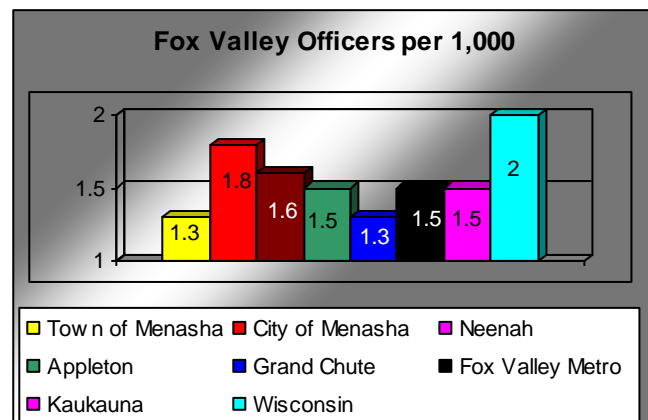


PLANNING

We have been fortunate to continue to maintain staffing levels over the years, however we continue to look at the future with the anticipated growth that is projected to occur once the 441/41/10 interchange is completed. Construction has already started on the new headquarters for Community First Credit Union and a large Thedacare clinic and there is anticipated construction in 2016.

The average number of officers per 1,000

people in Wisconsin in 2014 was 2.03. Here in the Town of Menasha we have consistently “done more with less” and have operated at a high of 1.6 officers per 1,000 people in 2009 and since that time we have decreased to our current level of 1.3 officers per 1,000 people. This decrease can be attributed to both a rise in population along with budget constraints limiting the hiring of personnel.



The department is also looking towards the future with its current space needs. Our police department and town municipal complex was constructed in 1996 and the growth of the town over the past 20 years is starting to have its effect on space throughout the building. In 2015 we were able to renovate a portion of the garage area into an evidence/property storage area to accommodate the growth in items being retained.

TRAINING

The State of Wisconsin requires that sworn officers attend a minimum of 24 hours of training annually to maintain their law enforcement certification. ***Our officers attended over 1,343 hours of training in 2015. This averages to over 51 hours of training for each officer.***

This training included firearms qualification- which occurs twice a year, along with annual legal updates on new laws and court rulings. Officers also attended a variety of specialized training such as: Children's Justice Summit; Wisconsin Association of Homicide Investigators; Child Exploitation Interviews; Child Abduction Search Tactics; and Civilian Response to Active Shooter Incidents.

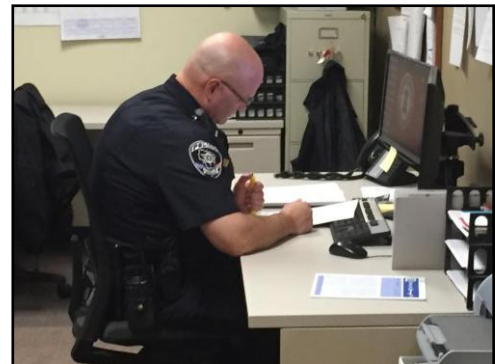
The police department continued to be a leader in law enforcement training in Wisconsin as we were a host agency for the Wisconsin Problem Oriented Policing conference in May as well as the Wisconsin Crime Prevention Practitioners Association conference in October. Collectively, these conferences were attended by 200 officers from across Wisconsin.



ACCOUNTABILITY

As outlined in our mission statement and commitments, the Town of Menasha Police Department takes great strides to ensure that we maintain a high level of service to our residents, businesses and visitors. The police department maintains several methods of receiving and processing comments and/or concerns regarding staff performance.

This can be done by speaking with a supervisor on the phone, filling out a form at the police station, emailing the department, through direct contact with any supervisor, or by contacting the Town of Menasha Police and Fire Commission. When a report is filed that may indicate a possible violation of department policy, the complaint is referred to the supervisor of the employee. The supervisor will gather information regarding the circumstances of the complaint and ensure that it follows through the chain of command. If the finding warrants, appropriate disciplinary action and/or training will be administered. Regardless of the outcome, the complainant will be contacted and advised of the findings.



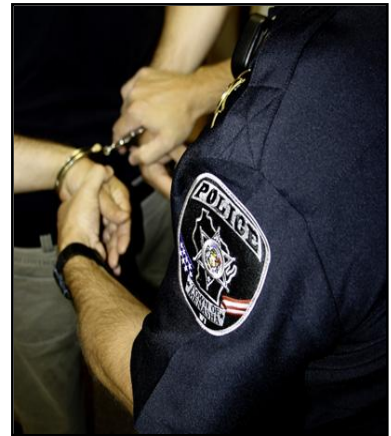
In 2015 there were no citizen complaints filed against Town of Menasha staff.

USE OF FORCE

The Town of Menasha Police Department requires an officer to complete a Use of Force report each time an officer uses any type of force, such as: empty hands, intermediate weapon (baton, OC spray, TASER) and lethal force.

The Town of Menasha Police Department had 42 documented uses of force incidents in 2015. Because most use of force incidents happen during arrests, it is important to consider the number of use of force incidents in relation to the number of arrests made. The police department used force in only 8% of all arrests.

There are several options of force that an officer has available to them ranging from the use of hands to deadly force. In 2015, the use of force was limited to hands and deployment of an electronic control device (Taser). There were no incidents that resulted in OC spray, baton use or deadly force.



TRAFFIC PURSUITS

Vehicle pursuits can expose citizens, law enforcement officers and fleeing violators to the risk of serious injury or death. Officers must weigh the safety of the public and themselves against their law enforcement duty to apprehend violators of the law when determining whether or not to engage and continue in a pursuit. The Town of Menasha Police Department reviews all pursuits in which officers are involved to ensure that officers follow policy and minimize the risk of pursuit related crashes.

In 2015 there was one pursuit initiated by officers. An officer on radar attempted to stop a speeding vehicle and the driver fled. The officer pursued the car for 1.7 miles and a police lieutenant had the officer terminate the pursuit.



2015 ACHIEVEMENTS

- Implemented plan to provide effective patrol coverage and response time to town citizens during road construction and closures due to the extensive 441 reconstruction project (Improved due to 12-hr shift and increase minimum staffing levels).
- Implemented evaluation system for the officers which will provide feedback, reinforce expectations and hold employees accountable for their performance.
- Increased efficiency in records division by scanning old traffic citations.
- Improved interview room recording capabilities and exterior security cameras.
- Implemented a hotel/motel crime reduction program and ordinance.
- Department was recognized with the 2014 Sir Robert Peel Award and the WI Community Policing Project of the Year for the Good Drugs Gone Bad program.
- Worked with the US Attorney's Office and WI Department of Justice for the 5th year to coordinate the WI Problem Oriented Policing Conference.
- Implementation of Code Compliance Officer.
- Continued with the transition to utility patrol vehicles along with updating automated external defibrillators and squad video cameras.
- Two members of the department continue to be a part of the leadership committee working on forming the Winnebago Countywide Child Abduction Response Team.
- Continued to engage the community through our presence on social media as well as traditional media.



PATROL DIVISION

The patrol division is the backbone of the police department. This division is responsible for handling a majority of the many emergency and non-emergency calls received each year, along with enforcing traffic laws on the freeways and roadways throughout the Town of Menasha.

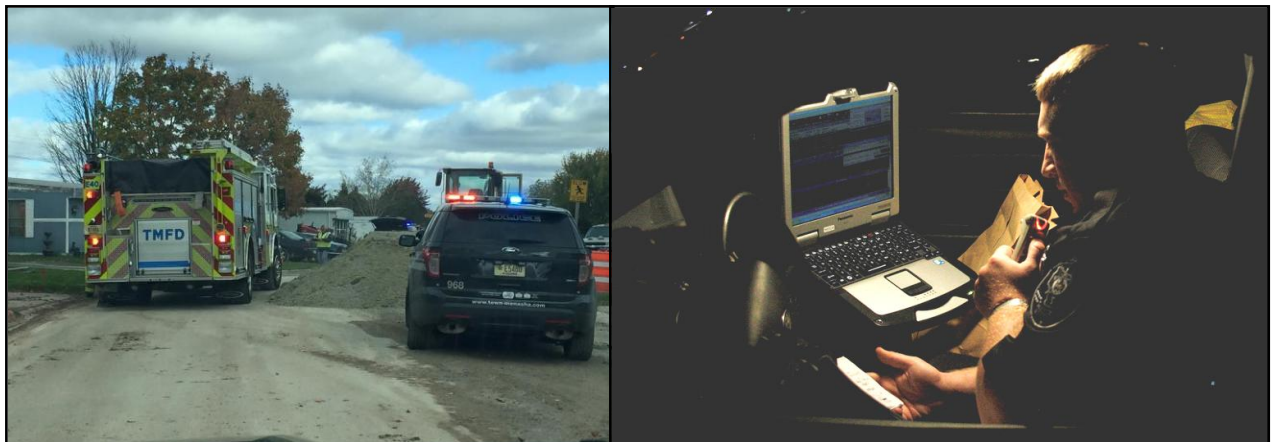
The Town of Menasha presently has 15 patrol officers and 4 patrol lieutenants that are assigned to this division. These officers are then split among 4 patrol shifts, each with a lieutenant, that provide coverage 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. At any given time there are between 3 and 5 officers working each shift, depending on the time of day.



Officers primarily conduct their patrols from police cars. The Town of Menasha utilizes six marked patrol vehicles. This has traditionally been the primary means of providing police services, but we have also initiated alternative patrol methods.

Our officers also get out of their patrol cars and will either patrol certain areas of the town on bicycle or foot. These efforts afford the officers the opportunity to interact more freely with the residents outside the “confines” of a patrol car. Officers are also periodically assigned to a specialized directed patrol. This places officers in certain areas of the town due to a high call volume.

This past year proved to be quite a busy year for our patrol officers. In addition to responding to calls for service, our patrol officers enforce traffic laws on over 100 miles of town roads in addition to USH 10/441 and USH 41. This past year also saw the beginning of the construction of the STH 441 project which will provide some challenges for the next four years.



CALLS FOR SERVICE

In the Town of Menasha, calls for service are received in a variety of ways. Emergency calls are typically placed through 911 calls which are answered and dispatched through the Winnebago County Sheriff's Office. In addition to these emergency calls, citizens can either report crimes in person at the police department or by calling the non-emergency number. These calls are fielded 24 hours a day by a police communication technician at the police department. Lastly, officers on patrol can self-initiate calls for service should they encounter something on their patrols.

CALLS FOR SERVICE				
2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
7,468	7,031	7,172	7,256	7,164

Incident Type	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
Abandoned Vehicles	26	23	26	17	40
Alarm	105	131	116	112	128
Animal	177	167	217	248	192
Civil	24	32	30	24	25
Damage to Property	42	42	90	204	137
Death	16	16	20	10	29
Disturbance	220	183	214	242	246
Domestic	220	184	76	79	79
Emergency Committal	42	42	53	47	50
Fraud	93	113	36	28	37
Harassment	76	82	79	124	115
Junked Vehicles	13	29	52	46	86
Juvenile	101	92	156	152	154
Lost/Found Property	127	76	78	100	105
Missing Person	6	4	1	3	4
Noise	91	75	103	135	113
Open Door	6	4	57	37	26
Public Nuisance	96	88	24	33	26
Runaway	34	70	12	18	20
Sex Offenses	12	22	6	14	14
Suspicious Incident	25	26	176	192	140
Trespass	19	7	21	23	15
Warrant Arrests	189	125	138	125	105
Weapon	16	25	5	7	6
Welfare Check	117	138	167	163	142

TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT

Traffic safety and enforcement is one of the main complaints and concerns that we receive from community members. Officers routinely conduct proactive traffic enforcement during their shift as calls for service allow.

TRAFFIC CITATIONS			
	2015	2014	2013
Speeding	698	690	725
Non-speeding	1,687	1,847	2,252
Parking	571	1,000	926
OWI	83	109	109
Total	3,039	3,646	4,012

TRAFFIC WARNINGS			
	2015	2014	2013
Speeding	1,722	1,464	1,489
Non-speeding	820	986	1,332
Vehicle defect	917	764	810
Total	3,459	3,214	3,631



ACCIDENTS

State reportable crashes in Wisconsin are those crashes which are defined by one or more of the following criteria: property damage in excess of \$1,000, or any sustained injury. All other crashes which do not meet these criteria are considered as a non-reportable crash.

ACCIDENTS INVESTIGATED		
2015	2014	2013
322	337	290

Note: These numbers do not reflect accidents that occur on I-41, USH 10, or STH 441 as those freeways are the responsibility of the Wisconsin State Patrol and the Winnebago County Sheriff's Office.

CODE COMPLIANCE

Over the years the Town of Menasha Police department has conducted a survey that addresses the level of problems in the community. As we review that survey we routinely find that the areas that tend to be marked at a higher level involve quality of life issues such as junked vehicles, traffic problems, and blighted properties. When compared to other concerns that are marked lower such as gangs and drugs, one can surmise that 'life is pretty good'.



However, these quality of life issues are encountered daily in the neighborhoods and can be extremely frustrating. One thing that we can all practice is to be considerate of one another and maintain our property so that it does not become unsightly and to keep our noise at an acceptable level. Property maintenance goes a long way to reducing crime on our property. There is a pretty popular crime theory called "Broken Windows" that compares lack of property maintenance to increased criminal activity and mischief. The theory is that if you leave one window broken, over time that will invariably lead to other windows broken.



In 2014 the Town of Menasha budgeted for a code compliance officer to assist with ensuring that properties in the Town of Menasha remained up to code. This position was originally assigned to the Community Development Department but after further review it made more sense to have that person assigned to the police department. The code compliance officer started in early 2015 and retired Appleton Police Sergeant Scott Glasel was hired to fill that position. An interesting note is that Scott started his law enforcement career here at the Town of Menasha back in the 80's.



The code compliance officer is responsible for the enforcement of most of the town municipal codes. There were 174 cases that the code compliance officer investigated in 2015. A majority of these cases were for junked motor vehicles and unsightly debris.



ARRESTS

Arrest data is taken from the Uniform Crime Reports and, for their purposes, a juvenile is identified as a person younger than eighteen. However, presently in Wisconsin, a seventeen year old is treated as an adult for criminal purposes. There are also different types of arrests that a law enforcement officer can make.

- **Prosecution requests** are requests to the district attorney's office for state charges, which can result in a punishment of incarceration in jail or prison, probation and/or monetary fines.
- **Juvenile referrals** are requests to the juvenile authorities for charges which can result in a punishment of incarceration in a secure detention facility and/or juvenile supervision through a case worker.
- **Town summonses** are local ordinance violations which can result in a punishment of community service or monetary fines.

	2015	2014	2013
Prosecution Requests	168	210	193
Juvenile Referrals	51	66	41
Town Summons	270	339	357
TOTAL	489	615	591

SWAT

The Town of Menasha Police Department has partnered with the City of Appleton Police Department for over 25 years to provide assistance for any tactical situations in our community. We have two officers that are assigned to the Appleton SWAT team along with one officer assigned as a negotiator.

HONOR GUARD

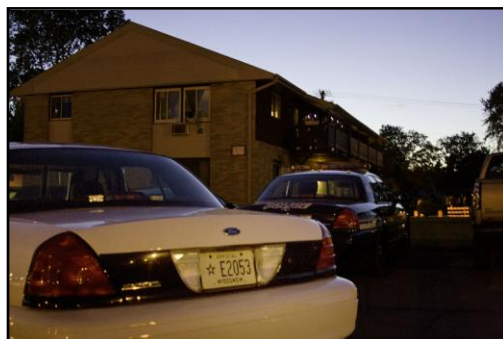
In 2010, the department formed an honor guard to represent not only the police department, but the community at formal events both here in the Town of Menasha and around the state. The unit is comprised of one lieutenant and five patrol officers.

In 2015 the honor guard attended several events such as the annual town meeting, Wisconsin Law Enforcement Memorial Ceremony and funerals for fallen officers in the area. The unit also presented the colors at a Wisconsin Timber Rattler game on July 29.



INVESTIGATION DIVISION

Criminal investigations are an important aspect of the services that we provide. Each Town of Menasha police officer has received training to conduct thorough and complete investigations. Officers routinely conduct investigations and frequently resolve the issue with no additional assistance. Those investigations that require additional or technical assistance are forwarded to the Investigation Division.



The Town of Menasha Police Department Investigation Division consists of one lieutenant, two detectives, one MEG drug unit investigator and one community liaison officer. The Investigation Division is responsible for investigative follow-up and criminal case preparation related arrest and prosecution of persons suspected of committing crimes.

The Investigation Division works closely with the Winnebago County District Attorney’s Office, as well as many other agencies both locally and nationally. Our investigators meet regularly with other Fox Valley agencies to share and obtain information regarding criminal activity in and around the Town of Menasha. The information shared at these meetings has proven invaluable and has directly resulted in crimes being solved not only here in the Town of Menasha but throughout the Fox Valley.

CRIME REPORTING

The Federal Bureau of Investigation’s Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program, which began in 1929, collects information on the following crimes reported to law enforcement: homicide, forcible rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson.

The UCR Program also maintains a database of arrests and clearance rates of law enforcement agencies. Clearance rates reflect the percentage of those cases that are cleared or solved.

The United States clearance rates for 2014 were: 47% for violent crimes and 20% for property crimes.

	2015	2014	2013
Violent Crime			
Murder	0	2	0
Forcible Rape	6	2	2
Robbery	0	2	1
Assault (Battery)	42	34	35
Total Violent	48	40	38
Clearance Rate	90%	90%	79%
Property Crime			
Burglary	39	39	32
Theft	136	137	151
Motor Vehicle Theft	12	4	7
Total Property	187	180	190
Clearance Rate	33%	31%	27%
Total Index	235	220	228

PROPERTY STOLEN/RECOVERED

As shown in the previous page, property crimes have accounted for over 80% of the *Index Crimes* reported by the Town of Menasha Police Department. Property crimes include residential and commercial burglaries, theft and auto theft.

Property crimes generally have very few witnesses. As a result, those cases have limited investigative leads and low solvability rates. This is reflected by their low clearance rate. However, a majority of our property crimes occurred with no force, meaning that the property (home, business, and car) was left unsecured or had an unlocked door.

Due to advances in technology and information sharing, a greater percentage of stolen property is being recovered and returned to the rightful owners. Pawn shops and second hand retailers are now entering property taken in by their stores into a database that is accessible and regularly searched by detectives. In 2015, the police department recovered 47% of the property stolen as compared with only 21% in 2003.

PROPERTY	
Stolen	\$223,509
Recovered	\$105,965
Recovery Rate	47%

DRUG INVESTIGATIONS

Many of the people arrested indicate that the reason for committing these property crimes is to support their drug habit. Major drug investigations in the Town of Menasha are conducted by the Lake Winnebago Area Metropolitan Enforcement Group (MEG). The MEG Unit consists of 13 officers from police and sheriff's departments in Winnebago, Outagamie, Calumet and Fond du Lac counties. The Town of Menasha has had officers assigned to this unit since it was formed in 1988.



Drug offenses are a unique category for statistical comparison. Possession offenses typically result from the initiative and investigation of an officer at another incident, oftentimes a traffic stop. Arrests for drug sales generally stem from investigations conducted by the Lake Winnebago Area MEG Unit as a result of a tip or investigative lead.

DRUG TYPE	SALES	POSSESSION
Marijuana	4	36
Opium or Cocaine and their Derivatives (Morphine, Heroin, Codeine, etc.)	1	7
Synthetic Narcotics – Manufactured Narcotics (Demerol, Methadones, etc.)	1	1
Other – Dangerous Non-narcotic Drugs (Barbituates, Benzedrine, etc.)	2	4

COMMUNITY POLICING

Although a major function of the police department is responding to calls for service and investigating crimes that are committed, the Town of Menasha Police Department firmly believes in being actively involved in the community.



Community policing is a concept that saw its origins in England back in the early 1800's. Sir Robert Peel, known as the "Father of Modern Policing," is credited with establishing the modern concept of the police force. He realized that a partnership must exist for the success of the community and the police. Participation by all facets of the community is critical for real problem solving that leads to lasting solutions. A famous quote from Peel is "the police are the public and the public are the police".

COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

Last year our Community Liaison Officer gave 48 presentations on a variety of topics including visits to town schools, area businesses and organizations. Topics of these presentations ranged from scams, active shooter response, emerging drug trends and robbery prevention, along with a few relaxing topics on the history of the town and Valley Fair Mall. Last year also marked the 21st year of the Officer Friendly program which is presented to students in kindergarten through third grade at our elementary schools and daycares.



In response to several high profile use of force incidents in the United States, the police department also partnered with the City of Menasha and City of Neenah Police Departments to put on a Citizen's Police Academy focusing solely on use of force. This was the first public session to be held at Fox Valley Technical College's Public Safety Training Center.



NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

Neighborhood Watch is a program designed to assist neighborhood members in working together and in partnership with the police department to reduce crime through the reporting of suspicious activity to police as well as sharing that information with their neighbors. The purpose of Neighborhood Watch is to have as many neighbors watching after each other's property as if it were their own. Neighbors are asked to be the extra 'eyes and ears' for the police, as they know what is normal for their neighborhood and what isn't and who belongs and who doesn't.



Neighborhood Watch has shown to be the most successful anti-crime tool and the least expensive program in the country to help create safe, pleasant and livable communities. There are currently 7 officially registered Neighborhood Watch groups in the Town of Menasha, however there are an additional 8 loosely organized neighborhoods that meet and communicate infrequently.

SUMMER SAFETY NIGHT

In June we held our Summer Safety Night event. This event has been ongoing for the past 12 years and continues to grow each year! This past year over 1,000 people attended Summer Safety Night and we were treated to great weather along with a variety of activities. This event costs close to \$6,000 each year to put on and is mainly supported through donations from the community!

Department members also participated in the Town of Menasha Fire Department's Safety Day and several town business's picnics and safety fairs.



SOCIAL MEDIA

The Town of Menasha Police Department is active in social media in a variety of ways. We maintain a presence on Facebook, Twitter and Youtube. Social media helps assist the department in distributing timely and emergent information to the public; is a tool used to solve crimes; and helps the department connect with the community by promoting conversation. The use of social media has been a great relationship building tool and has allowed the department to connect with others in a way that we had not been able to.

Facebook was a great crime fighting tool for us in 2015. There were several instances where we had shared surveillance photos of suspects in thefts and were able to identify them through the help of our followers. One post resulted in the suspect being identified within an hour.



PRESCRIPTION PILL AND DRUG DISPOSAL

Through a grant from the National Association of Drug Diversion Investigators, we installed a drug disposal box in the police department lobby in 2012. Since that time, we have collected over 1,300 pounds of unused medication! We are grateful for the assistance of the Fox Cities Victim Crisis Responders, Lake Winnebago Area MEG Unit and the WI Department of Justice for the assistance in properly disposing of these unused medications.



OPERATION SANTA

For over 30 years the police department has participated in some holiday cheer by assisting other town departments with the ever popular Santa Float that visits each neighborhood during a week in December. In 2015, patrol officers took that holiday cheer one step further and 'adopted' 11 underprivileged families. The initial plan was to purchase gifts for the children and partner with Santa Claus to distribute those at a Christmas party. This plan quickly expanded and the children were receiving new shoes and Christmas stockings in addition to the families receiving food baskets.

We would like to acknowledge Scheel's, McDonald's Manderfields, Baker Joe's, Feeding America and all of the volunteers that help make this event a success!



Town of Menasha Police Department
Operation Santa



SUPPORT SERVICES

COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

The Town of Menasha Police Department's Communication and Records Division serves the citizens in a variety of ways. This division is open to the public 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. This division is generally the first point of contact the public has with the police department. Communication Technicians are those employees who receive the public's phone calls and greet those that come into the lobby.



In addition to serving the citizens of the Town of Menasha, the Communications and Records Division provides support to our sworn personnel. The division monitors cameras placed in and around the municipal complex, and routinely provides searches of Federal, State, and local databases to assist officers with locating information that is pertinent to their cases and investigations.

The Communications and Records Division is responsible for maintaining the information that is entered into these systems. Information is entered into local, State, and Federal databases, and must be done so in accordance with various laws and system regulations. These entries include missing persons, stolen and recovered articles and vehicles, and arrest warrants. In order to ensure a high standard of accuracy, routine audits are conducted on these systems.

The Communications and Records Division is also responsible for typing all of the officers' dictated reports. Any incident that involves an officer's response and investigation typically will require that officer to dictate a report. These reports are then filed electronically and any attachments are filed in cabinets.

EMERGENCY DISPATCH

The Winnebago County Sheriff's Department is responsible for answering 911 emergency calls and dispatching emergency services throughout Winnebago County. The 911 Communications Center is located on the second floor of the Sheriff's Office. The 911 Communications Center is staffed 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. There are three shifts per day with five or six dispatchers on duty each shift.



AWARDS & RECOGNITION

SIR ROBERT PEEL AWARD – WI ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICE

The Wisconsin Association of Community Oriented Police (WACOP) presented the 2015 Sir Robert Peel Award for Community Policing Project of the Year to the Town of Menasha Police Department for the department's *Good Drugs Gone Bad* program on prescription drug abuse. *Good Drugs Gone Bad* was developed in 2009 as a result of several prescription drug related crimes in the Town of Menasha. The department spearheaded a coalition that created an educator's toolkit aimed at raising the awareness and educating groups such as teens, parents and healthcare. The program also led to the creation of three public service announcements, a movie aimed at reducing the impact of prescription drug abuse and three drug drop boxes that have collected over 10,000 pounds of unused medications.



Since 2009, the program has received both state and national recognition and has been presented to thousands of people throughout Wisconsin and other states. Originally intended for Northeast Wisconsin, the program is also being used in nine other states. Thanks to multiple corporate donors and grants, the materials have been able to be provided free to educators.

MEDAL OF VALOR/LETTER OF COMMENDATION – TOWN OF MENASHA

Medal of Valor Awards were presented to Police Lieutenant Jason Severson, Officer Seely Moe, Officer Christopher Brandt, and Officer Megan Hickey for their Courageous Actions on May 3, 2015 on the Trestle Trail.

On that evening, officers responded to a report of an active shooter on the Trestle Trail Bridge. Upon their arrival, along with fellow officers, all were faced with multiple casualties as well as the uncertainty of knowing whether or not the shooter(s) were still at large. In the midst of the chaos, officers were in the position of having to advance out onto the bridge. Officers found themselves in a situation where the safety of the community was placed above their own and it was done without hesitation. Their actions during this incident, without question, rose to a level of being "in excess of the norm."



Communication Technician JoAnn Richards was presented with a Letter of Commendation for her actions that evening as well. Though JoAnn was not at the scene itself, she was the only communication technician working that evening when the phone calls from the public started coming in about the Trestle Trail shooting, as well as from the officers with requests. She displayed professionalism during the Trestle Trail incident, which brought credit to the department as a whole.

HOW SAFE ARE WE?

CRIME TRIANGLE

Crime trend research indicates absence creates opportunity and can lead to a higher rate of victimization. In 1979 in the American Sociological Review, Lawrence E. Cohen and Marcus Felton wrote, “Most criminal acts require a convergence in space and time of likely offenders, suitable targets and the absence of capable guardians against crime.” Their research laid the foundation for the development of the Crime Triangle.



The Crime Triangle theorizes that in order for a crime to occur, three elements must be present: *an offender with the ability to commit the crime; a desired victim or target; and the opportunity to commit the crime.* Based on this theory, crime can be reduced by removing any one of the three elements. Most crime reduction strategies utilize a combination of approaches to achieve this goal. The easiest way is to reduce the opportunity. Often something as simple as locking our car door or garage door can deter the potential criminal.

HOW DO WE COMPARE

There are two areas that can be studied to compare a community to another in terms of frequency and likelihood of crime. Mathematical formulas are used to break down the numbers and put communities on a level playing field (typically per 100,000 residents) which allow us to compare different sized areas such as Manhattan and Menasha.

Note that these are 2014 numbers as the Wisconsin Department of Justice has not completed their 2015 statistics at the time of publication.

FOX VALLEY CRIME RATES		
Community	Violent Rate per 100,000	Property Rate per 100,000
Wisconsin	290.2	2,088.3
Town of Menasha	107.8	1,008.3
City of Menasha	209.8	2,165.7
Neenah	142.4	1,846.7
Appleton	247.8	1,921.7
Fox Valley Metro	43.6	900.7
Grand Chute	85.8	4,098.2
Kaukauna	139.4	1,216.3

CRIME CLOCK

The Town of Menasha continues to be one of the safest cities in Wisconsin and the Fox Valley. The Town of Menasha experienced a crime rate of only 13 crimes per 1,000 people in 2015.

However, crimes still occur, even in the safest of cities. We took some of our activity and calls that have been referenced throughout this report and listed the frequency at which they occur here in the Town of Menasha.



POLICE CALL: *Town of Menasha officers handle an incident every 1.2 hours.*

TRAFFIC STOPS: *Town of Menasha officers make a traffic stop every 2 hours.*

SEXUAL ASSAULT: *One person is sexually assaulted every 52 days.*

AGGRAVATED ASSAULT: *One person is assaulted every 8 days.*

THEFT: *A theft from a vehicle, business or home happens every 3 days.*

WELFARE CHECK: *Officers check on the welfare of a person every 2 days.*

BURGLARY: *A home or business is broken into every 8 days.*

AUTO THEFT: *A vehicle is stolen every 26 days.*

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: *Someone is victimized by a partner every 1.6 days.*

DRUNK DRIVING: *A driver is arrested for OWI every 4 days.*

ACCIDENT: *Officers investigate a traffic crash every day.*

FRAUD: *Someone is victimized by a fraud every 4 days.*

CREDITS

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STATISTICS

Wisconsin Department of Justice
Town of Menasha Police Department

PHOTOS

Images by Hawkeye
Town of Menasha Police Department