

# Village of Cottage Grove POLICE DEPARTMENT

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## 2017 ANNUAL ACTIVITIES REPORT



*Prepared by:  
Daniel Layber  
Chief of Police*

## **A NOTE FROM CHIEF LAYBER**

It is with a great deal of pride that I present to you the 2017 Village of Cottage Grove Police Department Third Annual Activities Report. The report is a testament to the work being done by all of our police officers and support staff, and represents a compilation of statistical data and crime prevention programs that were a part of our on-going organizational mission of "Keeping Cottage Grove Safe" throughout 2017. Those efforts would not be possible without the dedicated support we are fortunate enough to enjoy from elected and appointed government officials, as well as the citizens we are proud to serve.



**Daniel L. Layber, Chief of Police**

**Police Department:** The Village only police department was created on January 1, 2015 and I am proud to be the first police chief for this department. We are in a professionally remodeled building that will serve the long term needs of the community. We store our vehicles and the sensitive equipment in a climate controlled environment that enhances the longevity and usefulness of the vehicles and equipment. We are able to operate more efficiently and safely for our staff and the public we serve. Cottage Grove has a lot to be proud of and I have found that the police department staff is very experienced and motivated. In 2017, we completed all of the necessary work to be accredited by the Wisconsin Law Enforcement Accreditation Group (WILEAG), with an onsite accreditation inspection scheduled for early 2018. We would then be one of only 42 cities and counties accredited in the state by the WILEAG out of 529 total law enforcement agencies.

**Crime:** The Village of Cottage Grove remains a very safe place to live, work and play. In 2017, we did not have any murders, armed robberies, kidnappings, prostitution arrests, gambling arrests, arsons, animal cruelty cases and no pornography offenses. We had 5 aggravated assaults in 2017, of which, we solved all of them with arrests. We had one non-stranger rape offense in 2017 that was solved with an arrest and charges. We had 4 burglaries in 2017, which is a dramatic decrease from 2016 when we had 15 burglaries. We also had 35 thefts in 2017 compared to 48 in 2016. Our total auto thefts in 2017 was 2, and we had 21 vandalism offenses in 2017, compared with 39 in 2016. The police department obviously cannot take credit for all of the decreases in these various crimes for 2017, and for remaining at such comparatively low rates year after year, but we would like to think that our crime prevention strategies, community outreach, investigative efforts and patrol strategies have been instrumental in helping with these impressive reductions in rates of crime.

Based upon the FBI Uniform Crime Report statistics reported by law enforcement agencies in 2017, Cottage Grove was ranked 13th safest city in the state of Wisconsin. This ranking is based upon all cities with populations above 5000. Cities were ranked based upon the number of reported violent crimes (aggravated assault, murder, rape and robbery) and property crimes (burglary, arson, larceny-theft and motor vehicle theft) per 100,000 people. The variables were then weighted with violent crimes accounting for 55% of the total (due to their severity) and property crimes accounting for 27.5%. The number of drug poisonings, excessive drinking, firearms related deaths and the premature death rate, as calculated by the US Centers for Disease Control, account for another 10%. The remaining 7.5% is self-reported by community members on a scale of 1-5 regarding crime and safety of the place. These rankings are compiled by *Niche* a platform that produces comprehensive rankings that rigorously analyzes public data sets and millions of reviews.

Our officers respond to an average of approximately 819 documented calls for service a month, or an average of 27 calls for service a day. Fewer than 2% of those calls for service result in a criminal arrest and fewer than 10% result in a citation being issued. These statistics reflect our organizational philosophy that emphasizes solving problems creatively, through citizen cooperation with a focus of improving the quality of life in Cottage Grove through voluntary compliance, rather than mere enforcement of the law. Our safety and success as a police department is largely contingent upon the cooperation we get from our citizens. Their support via established programs in 2017 includes social media programs and community outreach that represent a commitment to active citizen involvement that keeps Cottage Grove safe. It is through our partnership with those we serve that we will be able to continue to keep Cottage Grove safe. As we enter 2018, as Police Chief, I thank all of you for your support of our agency and its Mission, and ask you to remain an active partner with us in 2018 as we continue to live the mission of "Keeping Cottage Grove Safe."

### **Persistent Crime Issues**

**Heroin/Opiate Epidemic:** The Village has experienced the statewide heroin abuse epidemic just the same as any other jurisdiction in the state. We had at least five overdoses in 2017 and our officers have been trained and equipped with Narcan to administer to the overdose victims. We are trying to educate the public on the dangers of opiate abuse, however, we are well aware that this epidemic is a national problem. We try to get the word out through press releases and through social media, and our involvement with regional and national law enforcement organizations that have attempted to educate the public to this danger.

**Thefts from Vehicles:** We have a large problem in the Village with thefts from vehicles as do other communities statewide. Almost all vehicle thefts involve unsecured vehicles that are left in the driveway, on the street or in an unlocked garage. These 'crimes of opportunity' could almost always be prevented if citizens would simply lock their vehicles and/or remove all valuables from the vehicles.

## **DEPARTMENT DESCRIPTION**

The Cottage Grove Police Department is responsible for providing 24 hour police services and protection in the Village of Cottage Grove. The department employs thirteen full-time and two part-time police officers, as well as two full-time administrative service personnel. The police department emphasizes the well-known concept of community policing, which is reflected in our organizational structure and enforcement philosophy. We believe in the critical importance of partnering with our community to identify and solve community problems so that we can maintain and enhance the quality of life in Cottage Grove. The department consists of three different programming areas, each with specialized positions which are subsequently then divided into three different shift teams. The programming areas include police administration, the patrol division and the support services division.

**Police Administration:** Police Administration consists of the Chief of Police, Daniel L. Layber, and one Lieutenant (implemented March 2016) and a Sergeant of Police created in late 2017. The Chief of Police is responsible for the organization, control and direction of personnel and resources of the department, budget development and maintenance, and under the provisions of Wisconsin State Law, is given authority in matters of operations, discipline, the development and implementation of Department rules and regulations, policy and procedures. The Police Chief is also the overall supervisor for all three shifts of officers.

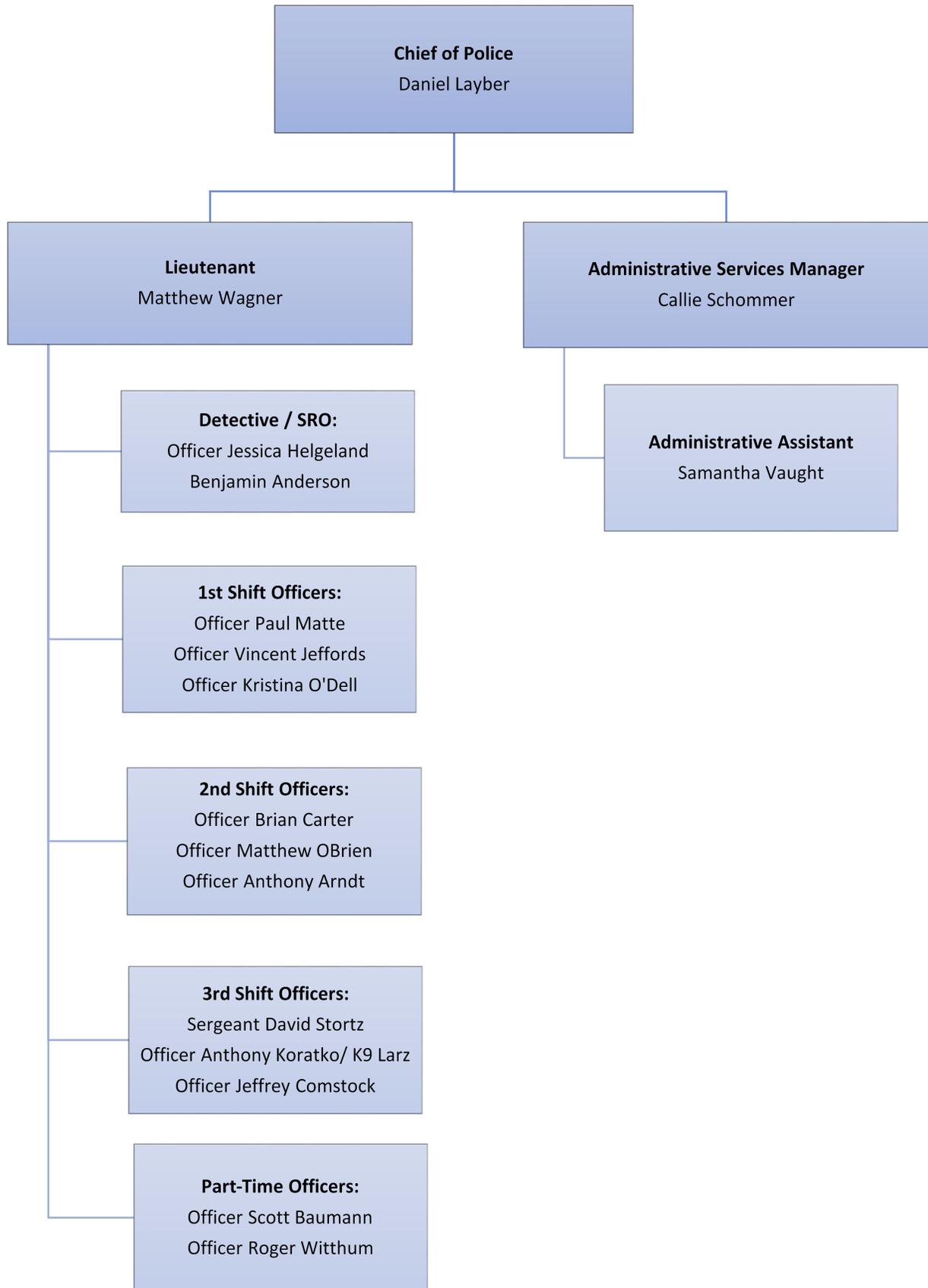
**Lieutenant:** (Matthew Wagner): This position is responsible for coordinating the day to day operations schedule, training, and staff development of all employees of the police department. The position also serves as the court-liaison officer to municipal court. The position is further responsible for assisting in budget maintenance, equipment and fleet maintenance, and oversees all community outreach programs. The lieutenant also manages the department's state accreditation program through the Wisconsin Law Enforcement Accreditation Group and has oversight of all policy and procedure development for the organization. This position is further responsible for overseeing the field training program, including supervision and policy development in our field training program.

**Sergeant:** (David Stortz): This position is responsible for the 3<sup>rd</sup> shift officers that patrol the Village from 10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. daily. David is also an evidence tech, a hostage negotiator and a field training officer, and he has been with the department for 17 years. The Cottage Grove Police Department has promoted Officer David Stortz to the position of Sergeant. Sergeant Stortz will begin his new role on January 1, 2018. David was a deputy for the Jackson County Sheriff's Office prior to joining Cottage Grove.



*Sergeant Stortz*

**Patrol Division:** The patrol division is made up of three (3) teams of officer deployment. Officers are deployed in permanent shifts, which make up the day team (6:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.), the afternoon team (2:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.) and the night team (10:00 p.m. – 6:00 a.m.). All three shifts have 3 officers assigned on a rotating 6 days on, 3 days off schedule. Each shift has officers with specialized training designed to enhance the service of the police department to our residents. A breakdown of each shift team and specialized training is provided below:



***Day Shift Team (Detective and Three Full-Time Sworn Officers):***

Detective: (Ben Anderson): The full-time detective position is responsible for follow-up on all criminal investigations reported to the patrol division from all 3 shifts. Detective Anderson is trained as an instructor in Emergency Vehicle Operations, vehicle contacts, child forensic interviewing, and he is a field training officer and an evidence technician. Ben has been with the department for 16 years.

The Cottage Grove Police Department has appointed Officer Ben Anderson to the position of Detective. Detective Anderson will began his new role January 1, 2018.



***Detective Anderson***

Patrol Officer / 1<sup>st</sup> Shift: (Vince Jeffords): This position is a regular patrol officer position. Officer Jeffords is also a field training officer and has served with the department for 19 years.

Patrol Officer / 1<sup>st</sup> Shift: (Kristina O'Dell): This position is a regular patrol officer position. Officer O'Dell is a firearms instructor, evidence tech, policy review and update expert, field training officer, fleet management, and has served with the department for 16 years.

Patrol Officer / 1<sup>st</sup> Shift: (Paul Matte): This position is a regular assignment in the patrol division. Officer Matte's trainings include death investigation, financial crimes, drug investigations, sexual assault, property room management, first line supervisor, evidence technician and field training officer schools and certifications. Officer Matte has served with the department for 19 years.

***Afternoon Shift Team (Lieutenant and Three Full-Time Sworn Officers)***

Patrol Officer / 2<sup>nd</sup> shift: (Matthew OBrien): This position is responsible for responding to calls for service on the afternoon team of officers. Officer OBrien has been with the department for one year and is pictured below during his swearing in this past year.

Patrol Officer / 2<sup>nd</sup> shift: (Anthony Arndt): This position is responsible for responding to calls for service on the afternoon team of officers. Officer Arndt has been with the department for one year and is pictured below during his swearing in this past year.

Patrol Officer / 2<sup>nd</sup> shift: (Brian Carter): This position is responsible for responding to calls for service on the afternoon team of officers. Officer Carter is a standardized field sobriety test and OWI instructor and has been with the department for 6.5 years.



*O'Brien Swear In 2017*



*Arndt Swear In 2017*

### ***Night Shift Team (Three Full-Time Sworn Officers)***

Patrol Officer: (Jeff Comstock): This position is responsible for responding to calls for service on the night shift team of officers. Officer Comstock is a drug recognition expert (DRE) and has served with the department for 7 years.

Patrol Sergeant: (David Stortz): This position is responsible for responding to calls for service on the night shift team of officers and supervision of the other officers on this shift. Sergeant Stortz is also an evidence tech, a hostage negotiator and a field training officer, and he has served with the department for 17 years.

Police K9 Patrol Officer: (Anthony Koratko): This position serves as the department K9 coordinator and handler for canine "Larz," a 6 year old German Shepherd trained in tracking, drug detection, apprehensions and patrol techniques. The K9 team averages 100 deployments per year for the Village of Cottage Grove and mutual aid requests in the Dane County area. K9 Larz and Officer Koratko attended Steinig Tal Kennels K9 Academy in Campbellsport, WI in August of 2013 for four weeks, successfully completing the 160-hour handler course. They are certified in drug detection, building and area search, apprehension and article/evidence search. The K9 team attends two maintenance trainings per month, one with the Madison Police Department and the second with Steinig Tal Kennels. Officer Koratko is also a field training officer, a firearms instructor and has served with the department for 11.5 years.



*Larz's official police photo*



*Larz performing a training exercise*

***Administrative Services Division (2 Full-Time Civilian Employees)***

Administrative Services Manager: (Callie Schommer): Callie grew up in Cottage Grove and worked as an intern with the police department while in college. She was then hired as an LTE for the transition of the Town/Village department to Village only department. In 2016, she was hired as a permanent part-time employee. For the budget year of 2017, she was hired as the full-time Administrative Assistant. In June of 2017, Callie was promoted to this supervisory position based upon her excellent work habits and knowledge of the job. This position functions as a principal support staff person to the Chief of Police and provides comprehensive administrative and clerical support services to all police department staff. This position is responsible for coordinating the dictation and oversight of all records and records management, as well as establishing priorities within the police department and providing training for the staff. The police department processes over 10,000 records annually, ranging from full incident criminal arrests to written warnings. Proper processing is coordinated with Dane County's shared records management system and the routing of all those records to various agencies requiring them, such as the DA's Office, health and human service departments, as well as outside agency requests, which are processed through this position. This position creates monthly statistical reports on police expenditures and prepares confidential correspondence, as well as generating statistical information and monthly police department activity reports for the Village of Cottage Grove Law Enforcement Committee. Equipment purchases, payroll, personnel issues, budget development and maintenance, answering non-emergency telephone calls during business hours and processing walk-in complaints/payments/inquiries are all among the many responsibilities of this position. This position also schedules and supervises support staff to ensure maximum coverage for clerical support and other duties as assigned by the Chief of Police.

Administrative Assistant: (Samantha Vaught): The Administrative Assistant position is full-time. Sam was hired in August of 2017 to fill this full-time position. She graduated with an Associate's Degree in Criminal Justice. Prior to becoming the department's new Administrative Assistant, Sam worked as a dispatcher in Madison for the Capitol Police Department for two years. This position maintains and updates department files, enters data into the records management software, to include arrests, incidents, referral, etc., and also transcribes recorded dictations. Sam also maintains police records in accordance with established procedures, such as filing, scanning and updating reports. This position also answers non-emergency telephone calls during regular business hours and processes walk-in complaints. When you stop down at the police department, Sam is the first face you will see. She will greet you from the front office and assist you in any way she can, either by getting information for you or getting you in touch with the correct officer for your situation.



***Callie Schommer***



***Samantha Vaught***

### **TOTAL CALLS FOR SERVICE 2017**

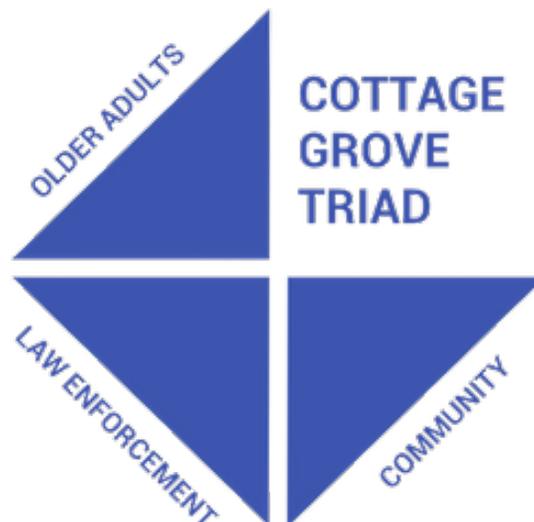
The Cottage Grove Police Department responded to a total of 9,828 documented calls for service in 2017. In 2016, we responded to 11,200 calls for service. In 2015, the Village/Town of Cottage Grove Police Department responded to 7,598 calls for service. These incidents include not only calls for service, but officer self-initiated activity as well. Self-initiated calls can be traffic stops, property checks, foot patrols, or other calls that are proactive in nature instead of reactive responses. The call volume for the police department represents approximately 819 calls for service a month, or approximately 27 documented calls for service a day. The department responded to 394 EMS assists in 2017 compared to 328 in 2016.

### **MAJOR CASE INVESTIGATIONS**

On May 30, 2017, a drive by shooting occurred on Crawford Drive in the Village of Cottage Grove. Numerous shots were fired into an occupied dwelling where two adults and several children were present. The subject fled the scene and no injuries occurred. Shell casings were recovered from the scene by police and a neighborhood canvass was completed. An argument occurred at the residence earlier in the day and a person of interest was identified. The subject is a 23 year old male from Milwaukee with known gang affiliations. He was interviewed and denied firing shots at the residence and being in the area at the time. The subjects phone records were acquired via search warrant and the cell phone tracking data showed that his phone was in the area of the residence at the time of the shooting. Shell casings left at the scene of the shooting were recovered and transported to the crime lab for examination. These shell casings were compared to shell casings left at another shooting scene in a nearby community later in the summer. The gun belonging to the subject was tied to both shooting scenes via shell casing comparison and examining the subjects gun. Calls made by the subject, when in the area of the Cottage Grove shooting, were also tied to him by examining who he called during that time, with calls made many times in the past to relatives and associates of the subject. The subject was arrested and charged with 1<sup>st</sup> Degree Reckless Endangering Safety, and Felon in Possession of a Firearm by the Dane County District Attorney's Office.

### **MAJOR CASE INVESTIGATIONS**

Detective Ben Anderson is the full-time investigator for the Cottage Grove Police Department. Detective Paul Matte was the detective during 2017. The Cottage Grove Police Department investigated 47 felony cases in 2017 compared to 65 in 2016. Some of the crimes investigated include 5 aggravated assaults, 2 sexual assaults, 3 burglaries, 5 child abuse cases, and drug and domestic abuse investigations. The detective also completed 100 pre-employment background checks for the Village and police department.



## **DOMESTIC ABUSE**

In 2017, 38 calls for service were documented as domestic abuse arrests, compared to 51 domestic abuse arrests in 2016. The police department is proactive in this area by responding to residences when a possible conflict may occur (exchange of property) and standing by to preserve the peace, which happened 30 times in 2017. Pursuant to the State of Wisconsin mandatory arrest law, many of these incidents resulted in criminal arrests, which account for 1/3 of all criminal referrals to the Dane County District Attorney's Office. In an effort to prevent future domestic violence incidents from our community, officers actively communicate regional resource availability, such as the private, non-profit, Domestic Abuse Intervention Services (DAIS), which provides crisis intervention and community education and prevention programs, the Dane County District Attorney's Office Domestic Violence Unit, and the YWCA of Dane County to all victims of domestic violence incidents. We also educate victims on the availability of obtaining temporary restraining orders and their victim rights. Numerous members of the Cottage Grove Police Department have attended training offered by the Dane County District Attorney's Office/Domestic Violence Unit and the Dane County Sheriff's Office. This one day training taught officers about the root causes of domestic violence, trauma informed response, investigating the violence and how to recognize and investigate stalking and strangulation cases.

## **MEDICAL ASSISTANCE**

Our officers responded to 394 calls to assist our citizens with medical issues in 2017. We assist the emergency medical services with their patients, sometimes arriving before the EMS personnel do. It is extremely important to have officers on scene so fast to administer basic first aid, comfort the patient, assist the EMS personnel, administer Narcan and provide basic life saving techniques. As you can see below, our citizens appreciate the efforts:

*A huge thank you to our Cottage Grove Police! This morning my husband had to call 911 after I had left for work. He has severe asthma and couldn't breathe. The police stayed with him until Madison EMS could get there and then stayed with my kids until their grandmother got there. Once again proving they will go above and beyond. We are so lucky to live in this community! What a great opportunity to teach our children all about how great our police force are and how they are their friends! Thank you!!!!*

## **UNDERAGE DRINKING A NOTED CONCERN**

The seriousness of underage consumption of alcohol is always a concern to the Cottage Grove Police Department. In 2017, officers issued 6 underage alcohol drinking/possession tickets to subjects under the age of 21. In 2016, officers issued 8 underage alcohol drinking/possession tickets to subjects under the age of 21. This number was 24 citations in 2015, which is certainly encouraging for our community. In 2014, officer's report 7 cases of juvenile alcohol/underage consumption resulting in 13 citations for this offense. We will continue to actively enforce the underage drinking laws and encourage parents to watch their children more closely and counsel families when we can about the dangers of this practice. The Cottage Grove Peer Court in association with Briarpatch Youth Services has been an effective alternative to having all high school age juveniles receive underage drinking citation convictions that show up on their record. Through Briarpatch and Peer Court, the juveniles are given an alternative sentence and upon completion of this sentence, they have the violation expunged from their record.

## **TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT DATA**

One of our primary objectives at the Cottage Grove Police Department is to keep our streets safe for pedestrian, bicycle and vehicular travel. This objective is accomplished through proactive patrol and traffic enforcement that is aimed at keeping our streets safe. Here is a numeric breakdown of some of the work officers addressed as part of their traffic enforcement responsibilities in 2017 with comparisons to previous years. As you can see, the department has increased enforcement efforts in the past 3 years with a corresponding reduction in accidents:

	2017	2016	2015
<b>Motor Vehicle Accidents (Reportable)</b> .....	<b>73</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>(105)</b>
<b>Hit and Run Accidents</b> .....	<b>12</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>(22)</b>
<b>Accidents with Injuries</b> .....	<b>12</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>(13)</b>
<b>Traffic Stops</b> .....	<b>1547</b>	<b>1103</b>	<b>(820)</b>
<b>Traffic Citations</b> .....	<b>453</b>	<b>369</b>	<b>(199)</b>
<b>Operating a Motor Vehicle While Intoxicated</b> .....	<b>28</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>(22)</b>

*Thank you to the Cottage Grove police officer that was in the right place at the right time tonight. My family were driving on 12/18 near millpond road when we saw the police officer turn on his lights and pull a u-turn in front of us. At that point we noticed a driver coming head on towards us. If it wasn't for that officer who knows if we would have seen that other car in time. To the officer, I just want to thank you again for your quick action and service.*



The 3 most frequently issued traffic citations in 2017 were for operating after suspension, speeding, and operating after revocation of driver’s license.

The most 4 most frequently issued types of non-traffic related ordinance citations in 2017 were for disorderly conduct, underage person in possession of alcohol, possession of marijuana, and possession of drug paraphernalia.

*I was pulled over yesterday while coming through. I've never had such a nice encounter with a police officer before. It was very fast and professional without wasting time like so many seem to do.*

## **PROACTIVE PROGRAMMING**

**Neighborhood Watch:** A Village wide effort is being made to engage more citizens in neighborhood watch efforts. When crimes occur in the Village, we communicate directly with residents by canvassing the neighborhood and making contact with as many victims as possible, and to warn others in the neighborhood about the crimes being committed in their area and what to look for to help the police catch these violators. We also post the crime issue to the department Facebook page, the Village website, the local newspaper and the Cottage Grove Crime Watch website. We receive many tips about these crimes and the feedback we receive from citizens has been very positive when we take the time to educate them about what is occurring in their community.



*Chief Layber & Officer Helgeland National Night Out*



**Caught Wearing a Helmet:** We reward children for wearing their helmets when riding their bikes by giving them coupons from various businesses in the community when our officers participate in 'Caught Wearing a Helmet.' This program allows officers on patrol to make contact with children they see on the street wearing their helmets by immediately giving them a coupon for a sport drink, a donut, a bottle of water, an ice cream cone and other items of interest to the children. This greatly encourages the children to wear their helmets and gives our community a chance to get to know our officers in a non-threatening environment. Many children now look for our officers in the warmer months to patrol through their neighborhood in anticipation of receiving one of these coupons. We also hand out water bottles, pencils, key chains, chip clips and other novelty items to children and adults at community outreach events with safety tips thereon.

*Yesterday one of your officers spotted my son and I out for a bike ride. Since he was wearing his helmet you rewarded him with a coupon for a Subway cookie. Thank you!!! Great incentives to keep kids safe.*

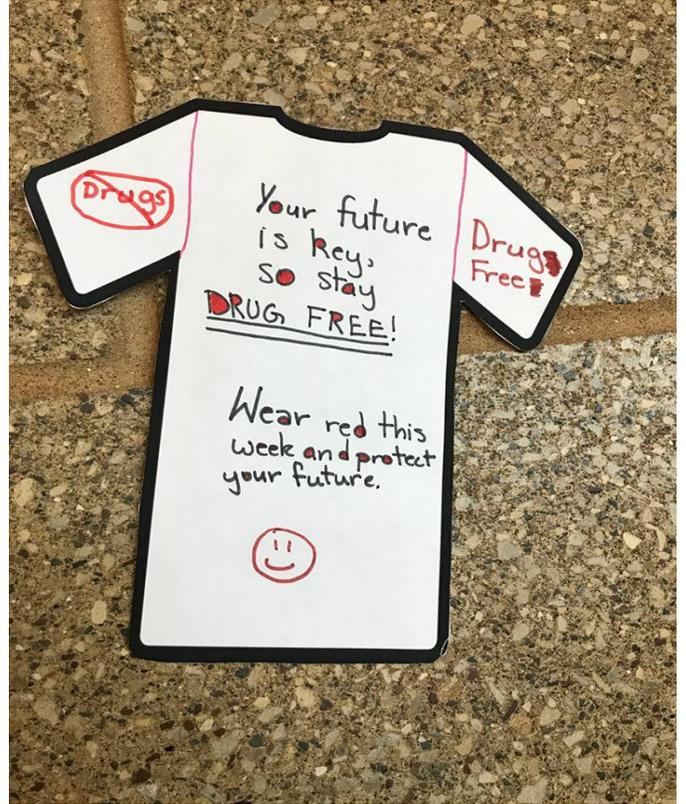
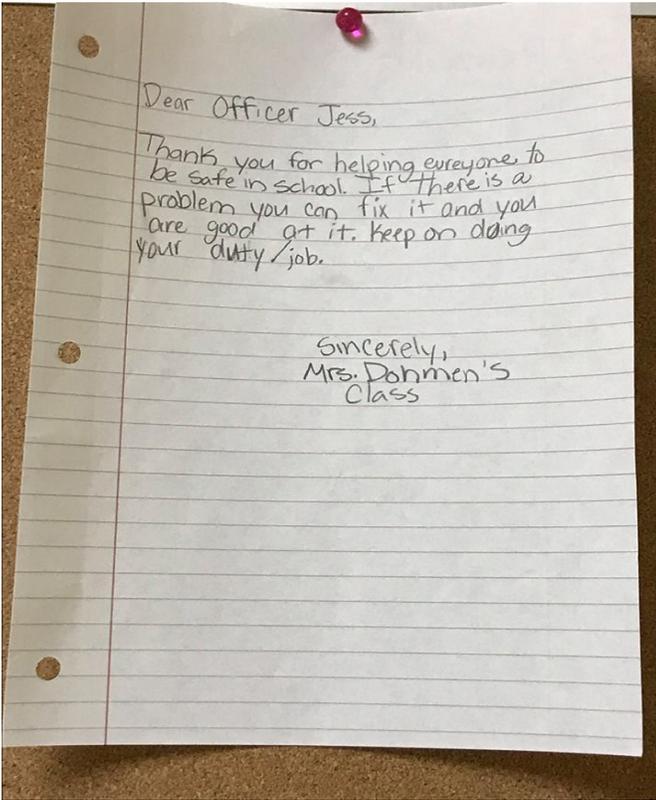
**Cottage Grove Police Department Special Needs Awareness Program:** As part of our desire to provide the very best police services to our residents, the Cottage Grove Police Department is seeking to enhance its base of knowledge and awareness of the special needs children and adults in our community. As a police department, we regularly have contact with children and adults who have a variety of special needs. While in many instances, we are aware of the individual needs of a particular person with whom we are in contact and how to best help them during a stressful event, at other times we are not familiar with an individual and this can cause difficulty in determining how to best help them. The goal of this program is to coordinate with family members in gaining the valuable knowledge that will help prepare us to assist an individual in need. We encourage the parents and caretakers of special needs children and adults to participate in the program. To find out more about and/or participate in the program, click on the link below to download the Emergency Profile Information Sheet below, fill it out and mail, drop off or email to Officer Jessica Helgeland.

**Vehicle Lockouts:** We are one of a few remaining police departments that will open a vehicle that has been locked with the keys inside. We provide this as a service to our community members for free and we have received much praise for providing this service. We respond quickly and only ask that the citizen sign a waiver that holds us harmless for any damage caused by attempting to unlock their vehicle.

*Always willing to help no matter how tedious of a job it is and I thank them all for what they do every day!  
Thank You Cottage Grove Police Dept. for unlocking my nephews truck to recover the keys. Thanks Again!!!*

### **SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER**

In 2017, the Cottage Grove Police Department and the Monona Grove School District entered into a three year contract to fund a school resource officer for the three schools in the Village of Cottage Grove. In previous years, the Monona Police Department SRO served Monona and Cottage Grove Schools as part of his duties. This arrangement provided only part-time SRO outreach to Cottage Grove with a much greater involvement needed. With 1,000 middle school students, the need was great for a full-time SRO position. Officer Helgeland was selected for this position and she has performed admirably so far. She serves all three Cottage Grove schools, but is primarily providing services at Glacial Drumlin Middle School. She stays extremely busy and has numerous interactions with students daily, and is truly having an impact on these young people. The role of a SRO is providing safe learning environments in our schools, providing valuable resources to school staff members, fostering positive relationships with youth, developing strategies to resolve problems affecting youth and protecting all students, so that they can reach their fullest potentials. A SRO is not only a police officer, they are educators and informal counselors/mentors.



*SRO Helgeland with Glacial Drumlin 5<sup>th</sup> Graders*

# Heroin

## THE REALITY IN COTTAGE GROVE AND MONONA

February 29 • 6:30 p.m.

NEW LIFE CHURCH  
7564 Cottage Grove Rd.  
Madison, WI 53718

Join us for this important presentation, followed by questions and answers. Experts will be on hand to address issues of education, community, law enforcement and support.




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Sponsored by Cottage Grove Cares and Monona Cares Coalitions

**The Cottage Grove Coalition Cares** organization is made up of law enforcement (CGPD), community members, educators, parents, drug treatment and awareness groups, and other volunteers interested in teaching drug and alcohol abuse prevention to our community and especially our school aged children and young adults. We host drug take back days twice per year at Forward Pharmacy in Cottage Grove and also present seminars to educate the public about the abuse of drugs and alcohol. The above poster advertised our efforts in 2017 to present this Heroin Education to our community at New Life Church. The event was well attended and hopefully made a difference to those in need of such education.

### COMMUNITY OUTREACH

**Improved Communication through Technology:** The Cottage Grove Police Department has continued outreach efforts through the use of Facebook. The Facebook site has greatly enhanced our communication with the community in this age of the internet being used by so many. The Cottage Grove Police Department currently has 2182 friends that follow our Facebook page. Many of our press releases are posted on the Village website so that a larger audience can be reached. A link to the Chief of Police's e-mail account is available via the Village of Cottage Grove website so that citizens may contact the department via e-mail to receive updates on cases or reports. Citizens can also submit a crime tip for cash to the Madison Area Crime Stoppers (of which Cottage Grove is a part of) on our website. The Cottage Grove Police Department is also fortunate to have a strong relationship with our community's newspaper, the Herald Independent, in that periodic police related news releases and Facebook posts communicate areas of public safety concern in our community.

**Nextdoor:** The police department is now a full member of Nextdoor and we are currently sharing and receiving information from the almost 1,000 people who belong to Nextdoor. Nextdoor allows communities to easily create private websites to facilitate communication among neighbors and build stronger neighborhoods. Residents can exchange information about crime and safety issues. The following are some of the benefits to having the Cottage Grove Police Department on Nextdoor:

1. Residents get to know local police officers or government representatives
2. Stay in the loop about Crime & Safety issues
3. Be invited to upcoming events, like town halls and “Coffee with a Cop”
4. Organize disaster plans as a community
5. Voice your concerns to government representatives
6. Provide feedback on government initiatives

The Cottage Grove Police Department can post messages, polls, or urgent alerts to the neighborhoods in their service area where the information would be relevant. Community members, can thank their posts, reply to them, or send a local official a private message.

**Crime Prevention:** The mission of the Cottage Grove Police Department includes crime prevention among its areas of greatest concern. The department is committed to the development and fostering of community based crime prevention efforts. We have a crime prevention coordinator for the department and have developed an associated policy. Specific crime prevention efforts include; Preserve the Peace, in which the police department stands by when a situation may need a police presence to keep the situation from getting out of hand and becoming a crime, Vacation Checks for our citizens that are out of town, Operation I.D., Crime Stoppers, Safe Night Out, and Safety Education presentations, such as bicycle helmet awareness, anti-bullying, underage drinking, updates on laws concerning driving, texting, cell phones, and safe use of computers. We are also members of the Cottage Grove TRIAD, which is a partnership between law enforcement and seniors in the Cottage Grove area. Police personnel attend regular meetings and participate in winter driving inspections of vehicles, presentations on issues importance to seniors such as scams and frauds, and helping to keep the seniors in our community up to date on many issues that may affect them. We have a Cottage Grove police officer on the state board of the TRIAD, which has greatly enhanced our contribution to the organization and provided us with more insight on issues facing our senior citizens.

### **EMPLOYEE TRAINING: Professional Growth and Development**

The Cottage Grove Police Department is committed to providing training to its employees so that they maintain their proficiency and learn advanced skills that will advance their knowledge base, and improve our police services to the community. Officers are required to receive a bare minimum of 24 hours of training annually to maintain their state law enforcement certifications. In 2017, the department provided 197 hours of training to its officers and supplemented it with over 320 hours of advanced training. That training included mandatory firearms qualification, pursuit training/emergency vehicle operations, and TASER deployment. Officers also received training from the department and outside experts, in less lethal training, vehicle contacts, defense and arrest tactics, room clearing, legal updates, policy and procedure updates, computer and technology updates, dementia recognition and interaction, major case investigation and force transition training. Other specialized training included topics such as interview and interrogation, crisis intervention training, active shooter training, homicide investigation, white collar crime investigation, instructor development, first aid and CPR, diversity training, and de-escalation of dangerous situations. The K9 team participated in 90 hours of training to build up their skills and to maintain proficiency. This does not include the many hours the team must train to maintain their skills on a daily basis.



*The Cottage Grove Police Department along with Wisconsin Emergency Management, Cottage Grove Emergency Management, Cottage Grove Fire, and Hydrite conducting a training exercise simulating a chemical spill in 2017*

### **EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS TRAINING**

The police department also practices with our many partners in public safety as can be seen by the above exercise conducted in 2017. The Cottage Grove Emergency Government group, county and state emergency management organizations, the Cottage Grove Fire Department, Deer Grove EMS, Hydrite Chemicals, and our police department had a practical exercise that simulated a chemical spill in the Village. Everybody involved in this practical exercise learned a great deal about how to respond to this type of event, how to coordinate resources, and best practices to remediate the hazards. Hopefully, we will be better prepared to respond to an actual emergency (if one happens) in the future.

The pictures below show Cottage Grove police officers engaged in training provided by the Deer Grove Emergency Medical Services personnel. The training involved first aid for adult victims of cardiac arrest, traumatic injuries, infant and child first aid for choking and cardiac events, how to apply dressings, and tourniquets for injuries involving the loss of blood.

