

Oelwein Police Department Annual Report 2016



Jeremy P. Logan
Chief of Police

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Chief's Message

It is with great honor and respect that I present the 2016 Oelwein Police Department Annual Report. As you view this report, I am confident that you will not only observe that the Community of Oelwein is served by a professional and dedicated group of persons; you will also learn that the employees of the Oelwein Police Department are committed to making the community safe and are invested by being involved.

In 2016, the Oelwein Police Department said goodbye to two employees that served the department and community with pride and professionalism. Both will be greatly missed but we wish them well as they have left to serve in other ways. Officer Chet Reagan left the department as he finalized his goal of completing his degree in teaching. We are fortunate to have him remain in our community as he now teaches at the Oelwein Middle School. Chet will be a great teacher and we are proud that he served with us. Also leaving us was our Administrative Assistant/Communications Supervisor Kris McGrane. Kris has left to become the City Administrator for the City of Fayette. While Kris is greatly missed, we know that his desire to serve his community will flourish in Fayette. While we hate to see great employees leave, it is with pride that we realize that they are leaving to continue serving others and for great jobs like what they have found.

Law enforcement has faced many challenges and tragedies in 2016. The unfortunate negativity that our profession has faced only makes our challenges that much more difficult. The loss of our brothers and sisters in law enforcement must not and will not go unnoticed nor will it go without effort to educate our community and political leaders as well as train our staff.

The law enforcement community, has to stand up and be a part of the change to right this ship and bring society back to a time where respect and honor was afforded to all that serve to protect. But we cannot do it alone. All citizens must recognize this harmful path that we are headed down and be a part of the positive change needed for all to live peacefully. Each of us understands that there are some law enforcement officers that should no longer be in this profession and that their service is less than honorable. But judge us on how we respond to those bad apples and don't throw us in the same basket with them. We must continue to work towards providing quality training for our people and to instill in them the legal, ethical and moral practices that we expect from our profession.

We must make every effort to have the media focus on the positives of our service and to understand that our efforts are meant to improve our communities and not damage them. Many of us have seen various incidents, in the news, to where officer's actions are being critiqued and judged with unrealistic recommendations. The day that we allow an individual to determine when he or she will be respectful of others, when he or she will comply with the law, when he or she will obey the lawful commands of a police officer or when he or she will go to jail is the day that society has lost control of itself. This same philosophy goes for schools and at home. The day we allow our children to determine when they will be respectful to a teacher or their parents, when they will listen in a classroom or at home or when they will follow the rules; is the day that we have lost control of those children that will soon be a part of society as an adult and that society in which we are trying to bring back to a day of honoring the rights of others. The actions of some political leaders, the media and yes even some law enforcement officers have made this path more difficult but not insurmountable.

There is an unfortunate and often misguided image of society mistrusting law enforcement, let us break that cycle and be positive. As citizens, we expect our law enforcement to act with all of the facts and not just those that fit an agenda or are based on speculation. Trust that is what we strive for but also what is deserved in return. We will continue to serve you with respect and professionalism and will make efforts to improve on that service.

I would like to take this moment to thank our Reserve Police Officers. This group of dedicated individuals are a huge asset to our department and community. They go above and beyond each day in serving our community. Thank you guys! It is because of these dedicated volunteers that we are able to maintain fiscal responsibility as well as accomplish many of the things we do.

In addition to the Reserve Police Officers, I would like to thank the families of our officers, dispatchers and reserve officers. This life of service comes with many sacrifices. Sacrifice of family time, sleep, privacy and the emotional toll that the nature of the job and the risks associated pay a toll on each person. It is because of their continued support and understanding that our staff is able to stay positive about their choice to serve.

It is with great pride that I prepare and present this document as I believe it displays that our Police Department is comprised of some of the most professional, ethical, sincere and compassionate police officers and communications operators in the state of Iowa.

I would like to thank all of my staff for their devotion to protecting the residents of our community, and I'd like to thank our community leaders for allowing me the opportunity to lead this team as we pursue excellence in law enforcement in and for the community of Oelwein.

In the interest of improving our services to you, please contact me at 319-283-4311 with questions or comments about your Police Department or the Annual Report for calendar year 2016, or you can email me at jlogan@oelweinpolice.org.

Respectfully,

Jeremy P. Logan

Chief of Police



**"The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort & convenience,
but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy."**

- Martin Luther King Jr.

Introduction

The Oelwein Police Department is a well-trained and equipped police department. While the sworn section of the department is comprised of the Chief of Police and nine Iowa Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA) certified officers, the depth of knowledge, abilities and experience of the officers in the Oelwein Police Department to provide services and expertise is beyond what would normally be expected in a town with a population of 6,415 residents. Our officers combine their over 140 years of experience, from extensive backgrounds with other agencies, the military and service with our department; to provide a high quality of service to the community of Oelwein and the surrounding area. Our officers continue to train in various disciplines and to work as a team in tactical situations, crime scene investigations, and critical incident management.

The Oelwein Police Department embraces the principles of Community Oriented Policing as an operational policy. We employ the principles of Problem Oriented Policing to engage and address specific issues in the City by bringing all of the resources government and private enterprise have to offer to find solutions that benefit the entire community.

Vision Statement

Strive to ensure that those that reside in, work in or visit Oelwein, will be safe. We will work together to solve community and neighborhood problems while maintaining a high level of respect for all citizens and their constitutional rights.

Mission Statement

To safeguard freedom by preserving life and property, protecting the constitutional rights of individuals, maintaining order and encouraging respect for the rule of law by the proper enforcement thereof.

To protect the public through proactive law enforcement & to promote a safe and secure environment for all to live.

To identify, address and resolve the root causes of community problems and concerns in concert with citizen groups and representatives through the use of community oriented policing strategies.

Community Policing

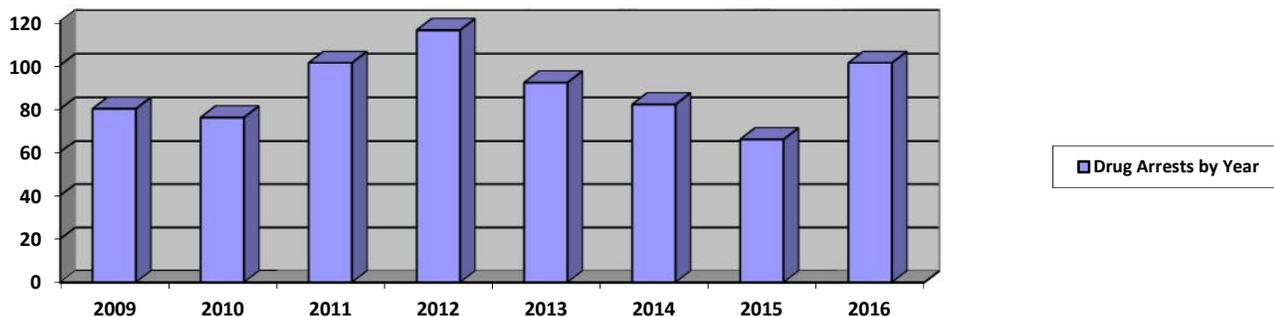
Community policing is a policing strategy and philosophy based on the notion that community interaction and support can help control crime and reduce fear, with community members helping to identify suspects and bring problems to the attention of the police. Often programs like DARE, Neighborhood Watch or foot patrols are mistakenly viewed as the sole answer/definition of Community Policing. Community Policing may incorporate these programs and many others into an overall strategy, but should not be viewed as the sole answer.

The Oelwein Police Department performs regular foot patrols of the downtown area and residential neighborhoods. We are actively involved in the DARE program and perform a variety of informative speaking engagements in order to educate the public. Just as important are the everyday contacts officers make and the conversations that rise from them. We strive to earn trust and confidence from the public so they feel more open to discuss concerns but also share what they observe or hear. Having a community that is willing to be constantly observant of their surroundings, magnifies our abilities to prevent and solve crime.

Criminal Activity/Crime Solving

Oelwein is not any different than other communities our size. All communities experience property crimes, drug related offenses and assaults on persons. The Oelwein Police Department is vigilant in our efforts to enforce and deter this activity.

Our department is fair and consistent in our enforcement of the laws. While some may question the need to address minor violations, our belief is that, “if we address the little problems, we may prevent the big problems.” If you keep an area clean, well lighted and secure, you deter a burglar. If you let a drug dealer/user understand that we will constantly be watching you until you give up your behavior or leave our community, you make them less apt to wanting to behave that way in your community. It is our goal to see the number of drug arrests decline each year in hopes that it reflects people conforming to the community’s attitude towards that crime.



"I sometimes wish that people would put a little more emphasis upon the observance of the law than they do upon its enforcement."

- Calvin Coolidge

Community Investment

The members of the Oelwein Police Department are proud of the community in which we live and serve. We understand that only by being involved, in various aspects of our community, can we effect positive change and foster an environment of helping others.

Each year, every officer performs at least one “Community Project”. Officers choose areas that they would like to become involved in or activities that they feel can be used to benefit others. In 2015, officers performed the following Community Projects:

Police v. Firemen Blood Drive

Police Officers and Firemen challenge each other to see who can involve the most people in donating blood. The Oelwein Police Department is proud of this event and the good natured fun involved in the contest. The event is organized annually by Lt. Jesse Paul and the American Red Cross. The police department retained the title in 2016. Better luck next year fire department!



Poker Run for St. Jude's Children's Hospital

Annually, the Oelwein Police Department sponsors a Motorcycle "Poker Run" to raise funds for St. Jude's Children's Hospital. Officer Brandon DeJong organizes this great event.

Area law enforcement and citizens mark their calendar each year to participate in this activity which benefits children in need.




**St. Jude Children's
Research Hospital**

ALSAC • Danny Thomas, Founder

Finding cures. Saving children.

Arrest Hunger!

Lieutenant Chris Hartmann organized the “Fill the Patrol Car – Arrest Hunger Event”. Officers partnered with Fareway Stores to benefit the Community Cupboard. Officers spent the day outside of Fareway and received donations of food that were subsequently delivered to the Community Cupboard. Oelwein and surrounding citizens again showed their generosity by donating just under 2,000 food items in one day! Thank you!



“Leaving” A Better Place

Oelwein Officers provided ten trees and planted them at the Oelwein Veteran’s Sports Complex. Officers saw a need for beautification of a park while creating an inviting substance free environment for people to gather and utilize during recreational events. Officers volunteered their time to plant the trees in the hopes that future generations will enjoy them.



School Liaison/School Safety

Oelwein officers take the safety of our children seriously. Officers regularly patrol the areas in and around the schools before, during and after classes. The community of Oelwein is fortunate to have an excellent school system. Our officers periodically visit the schools to speak to classes on various topics as well as teaching the DARE Program.

The Oelwein Police Department has one certified instructor and has trained officers in the area of responding to critical incidents in a school setting.

The Oelwein Police Department completed its nineteenth year of teaching DARE at the Oelwein Middle School and Sacred Heart School. Officer Brandon DeJong is the DARE Instructor for our department and enjoys this interaction with the students. The program has allowed for positive interaction between the department and youth as well as guiding the students on making positive choices in their life. Along with the classroom activities, students are also treated with a DARE trip to Adventureland.

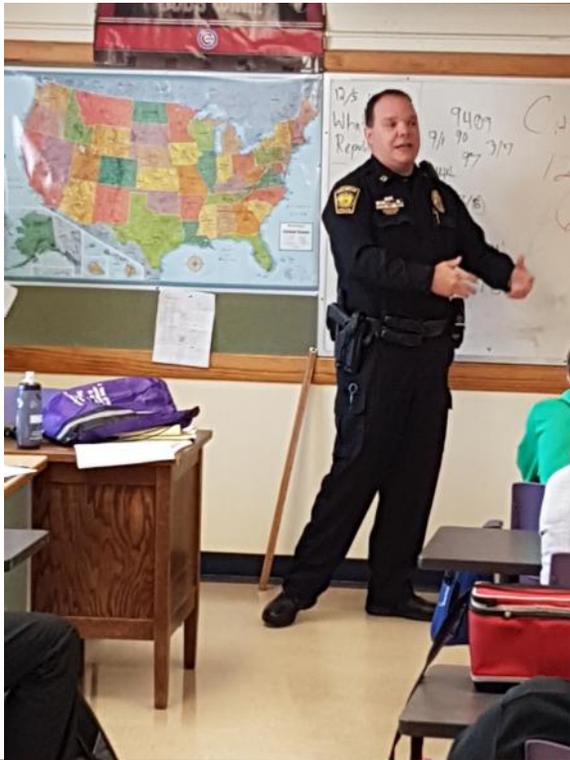


School Safety

Officers worked with Oelwein School Staff to perform a training for all parties. This training allowed staff to train on critical incidents that may occur within the school and allowed our officers to train on our response to those incidents. This training was valuable for all involved and was a great partnership between our department and the schools.



Student interaction

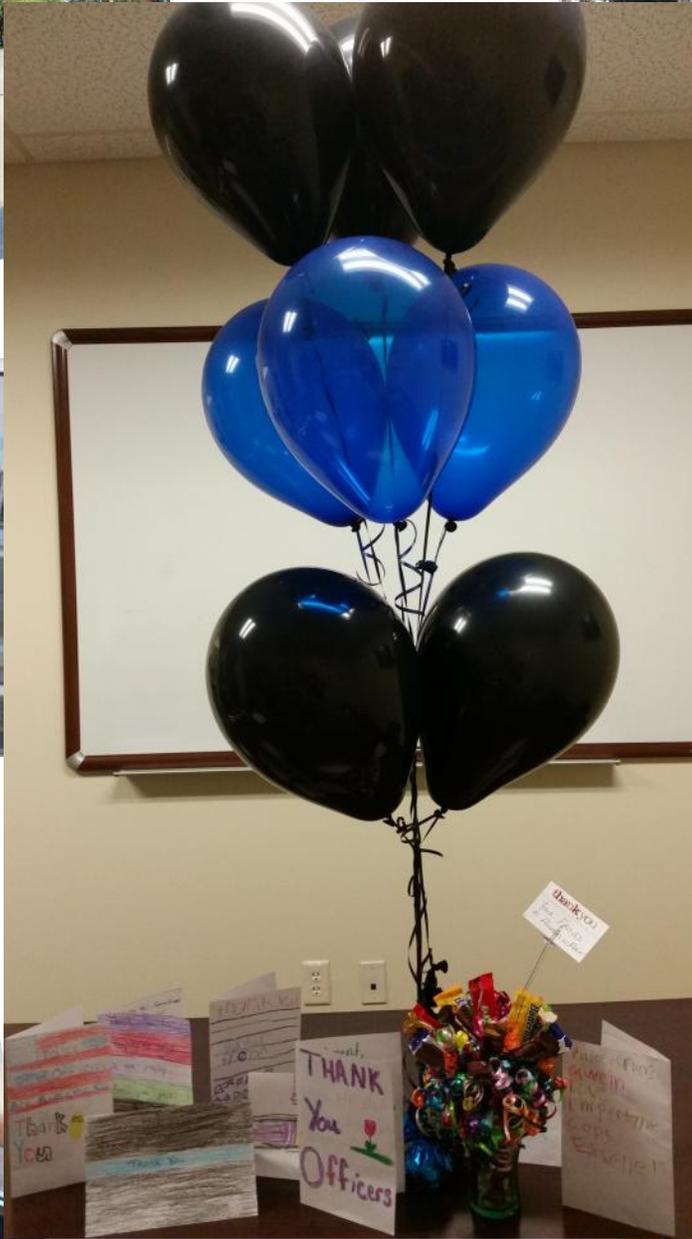


Captain Ronald Voshell attended various Oelwein School classes to discuss an array of topics. Officers periodically speak to High School Government, Health and Driver's Education Classes. Our officers enjoy the interaction with students and having the opportunity to answer the questions and concerns of our youth. Officer Chet Reagan periodically visits the schools and reads to the students.



Captain Voshell, Lt. Hartmann and Officer Phillips enjoyed the opportunity to give Oelwein Elementary students a tour and discussing the life of a police officer with them.

Officers In the Community



Oelwein Police Department Summary of Incidents in 2016

The Oelwein Police Department Communications Center received 8,885 calls for service in 2016. This is an increase of 691 (8%) calls for service over 2015.

There were 114 reported property damage traffic accidents in 2016 and an additional 18 traffic accidents in which a person was reported to be injured. Unfortunately, one fatality accident was reported as well.

Officers assisted 61 citizens in vehicles that were broken down, stuck in the snow or having other mechanical issues.

Officers responded to 62 alarm calls at businesses and residences.

The Oelwein Police Department received 129 theft reports (a 25% decrease from the previous year) and 56 reports of burglary.

Our agency responded to 69 domestic disturbance calls and investigated 40 violations of no contact orders.

Other statistics of interest:

Criminal Mischief	157
Animal complaint	99
Nuisance Abatement	279
Sexual Abuse	16
Trespass Violations	37
Underage drinking	5

Other statistics accounted for in the 8,885:

Oelwein Police Officers conducted 208 residential house checks while persons were on vacation or in the hospital. If a person is going to be gone for 30 days or less, whether it be on vacation, in the hospital or other reason; that person may contact our department to conduct a vacation watch. Officers will, each night, walk around the residence to ensure the residence is secure.

Oelwein Police Officers continue to exit their patrol cars and perform foot patrols in the downtown business district as well as in the residential neighborhoods. Officers performed 336 business district foot patrols and 150 residential foot patrols.

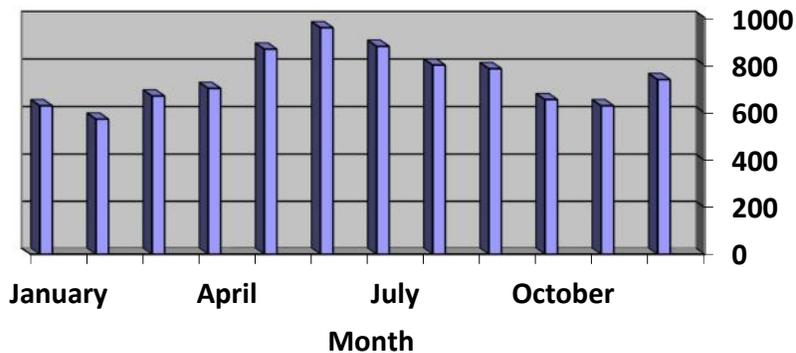
"Good people do not need laws to tell them to act responsibly, while bad people will find a way around the laws."

- Plato (427-347 B.C.)

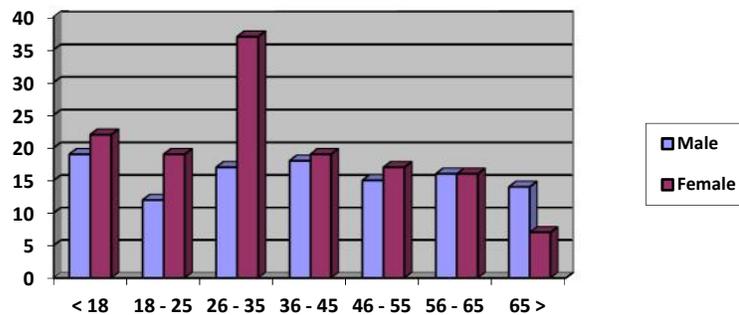
Oelwein Police Department Summary of Incidents by Month

The following chart displays a summary of incidents by the month in which they occurred. In 2016, the month of June received the highest number of incidents.

Incidents By Month



Victim Information by Age



These statistics reflect all reported crimes where there was a citizen victim. Crimes ranging from theft, criminal mischief, burglary, assault, domestic assault and other various crimes are reflected. As the chart above indicates, cumulatively the age group of 26 to 35 experienced the most persons victimized by crime in 2016. Approximately 3.9% of our citizens reported being a victim of a crime in 2016. Significantly less than 1% (.03%) of our senior citizens reported being the victim of a crime.

Oelwein Police Department Summary of Arrests in 2016

The Oelwein Police Department strives to be professional, courteous and equitable in the enforcement of the law. In 2016, the Oelwein Police Department filed 693 criminal charges against persons.

In 2016, officers filed 101 drug charges for the manufacturing of methamphetamine, delivery of methamphetamine, delivery of marijuana, possession of methamphetamine, possession of marijuana, possession of illegal prescription drugs and possession of precursors (items used to manufacture methamphetamine). The Oelwein Police Department continues to work with local, county, state and federal agencies to ensure aggressive enforcement and prosecution of drug violations.

Other notable criminal charges filed:

Assault	31
Assault on a Police Officer	01
Burglary	16
Child Endangerment	04
Criminal Mischief	16
Disorderly Conduct	27
Domestic Assault	23
Operating While Intoxicated	19
Sexual Abuse Offenses	02
Theft	41
Violation of No Contact Order	09
Willful Injury	11
Failure To Abate Nuisance	15

"A people that values its privileges above its principles soon loses both."

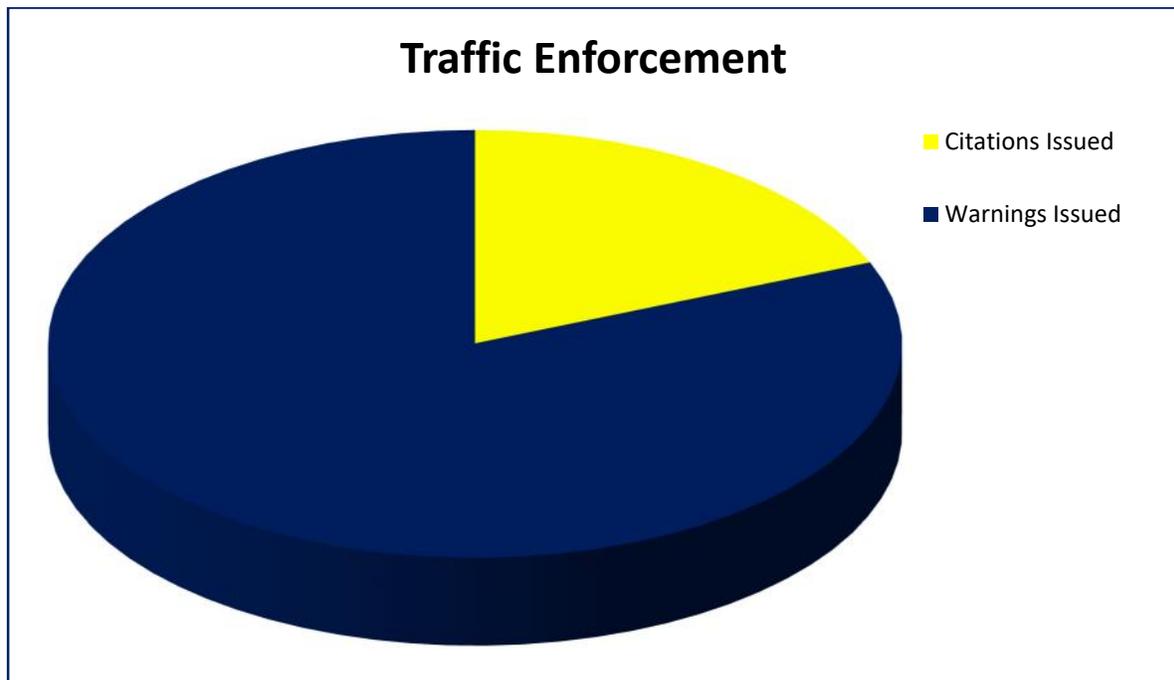
- Dwight D. Eisenhower (1890-1969)

Oelwein Police Department Summary of Traffic Violations in 2016

The Oelwein Police Department continues its efforts to enforce our traffic laws through education and citation. Our goal is to decrease traffic violations to protect all citizens. Our agency is fair and impartial in our education/enforcement efforts. In 2016, the Oelwein Police Department issued 712 warnings for various traffic violations. That is compared to only 165 traffic citations. That figures to be 4.3 warnings issued compared to citations. Our officers issued over four times as many warnings as they did citations. The chart below allows for comparison.

The warning to citation ratio is an interesting statistic as a person considers our officers' efforts. Contrary to public perception about all law enforcement, our officers are fair and take pride in their enforcement efforts and understand that many times education by communication and a warning may go further than a citation. Factors that are taken into consideration are the seriousness of a violation, time and day of the violation, location, and the number of times a person has been previously warned; amongst other factors.

Our officers issued 126 warnings for speed while issuing 28 citations. Officers also issued 27 warnings for seat belt while issuing 1 citation.



Oelwein Police Department Special Units

Reserve Unit

The Oelwein Police Department is very fortunate to have a great group of volunteers that form the Oelwein Police Department Reserve Police Officer Unit. These volunteers are carefully screened and go through extensive training. Each Oelwein Police Department Reserve Officer is certified through the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy and has full authority as a peace officer.

In 2016, the Oelwein Police Reserve Unit worked over 2,000 hours of volunteer time. These officers work many weekend shifts, assist with special events, surveillance and search warrants. Enough can't be said about the asset these members are to the Oelwein Police Department.

Bicycle Patrol

The Oelwein Police Department utilizes a bicycle patrol for random routine residential and downtown patrols as well as during special events. Our agency utilizes full-time officers as well as reserve officers for this valuable tool.

The bicycles utilized are specially equipped with emergency lights and are official police equipment.



Special Response Team (SRT)

The Oelwein Police Department has several members trained in working together as a Special Response Team (SRT). The SRT is utilized for high risk search warrants, high risk arrest warrants, barricaded subjects and other critical incidents. Our team serves the citizens of Oelwein and is also utilized by area law enforcement agencies to assist with their critical incidents. This team trains regularly and is provided with special equipment to ensure their safety and the safety of those that they seek to protect/rescue. Developing a team such as this is a slow process and we are attempting to locate funds to further and properly equip the members to provide the highest possible quality of service from a team like this. Our agency is proud of these members and we are grateful that they are willing to sacrifice and risk so much to ensure our safety.



"All that is necessary for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing."

English philosopher Edmund Burke

Oelwein Communications Center

The community of Oelwein is fortunate to have a 24 hours E-911 Communications Center.

This Communications Center receives several thousand calls per year. By having this center, the citizens of Oelwein and the surrounding area are provided with more efficient service to their needs and a quicker emergency response time.

Funding for the Oelwein Communications 911 Center has been continued by the Fayette County 911 Board. Great strides have been made to update equipment and technology.

We are extremely fortunate to have the committed Communications Operators that we have and for all that they do to provide a professional and effective emergency response. These individuals take great pride in assisting the public.

Quality Through Training

The Oelwein Police Department, in its efforts to provide professional training in an efficient manner, has on-staff several State and Nationally certified trainers/instructors. Our agency has persons certified to instruct officers within our department, with other agencies and at the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy. Areas in which we have instructors are:

- 1) Firearms (handguns & shotgun) – Two on-staff instructors
- 2) Rifle – One on-staff instructor
- 3) Defensive Tactics – One on-staff instructors
- 4) DARE – One on-staff instructor
- 5) Defensive Driving – One on-staff instructor
- 6) Taser – Three on-staff instructors
- 7) Tactical Approach to an Active Shooter – One on-staff instructor
- 8) Radar – One on-staff instructor
- 9) ASP Tactical Baton – One on-staff instructor
- 10) Use of chemical spray – One on-staff instructor
- 11) Field Sobriety Test – One on-staff instructor
- 12) CPR Instructor – Two on-staff instructors

The benefits of having a well trained police department is displayed each day as officers proactively seek out those persons in society that make the choice to not follow the law.

The Oelwein Police Department also has on staff three officers that are certified in the investigation and dismantling of methamphetamine laboratories. These officers are critical in identifying and securing hazardous materials utilized in the “meth cooking” process. By having these officers trained in this area, our agency is better equipped to quickly, efficiently and safely protect our citizens from this horrific problem.

The Oelwein Police Department also has one officer that is trained and certified in the scientific verification and certification of marijuana. These officers have attended extensive training in order to have the ability to scientifically and legally certify evidence that we have collected that is believed to be marijuana. By having this officer on staff, we are able to quickly process evidence and save the expense of shipping/transporting the evidence to the Iowa Division of Criminal Investigations Lab for testing.

The Oelwein Police Department also has one officer that is trained and certified in the use of the Computer Voice Stress Analyzer (CVSA). This equipment has and will allow for more efficient criminal investigations by detecting deception or honesty in persons.

Closing

As you can see from this report, the Oelwein Police Department is a professional and ethical organization that is comprised of employees that are strongly committed to serving the community of Oelwein.

Our officers can't perform this function of service and protection without the assistance from those that reside here. The progress made by law enforcement, to maintain order and safety within a community, is directly tied to the assistance and support that agency receives from its citizens.

Each citizen is encouraged to be a part of the solution and to support your police department.

