



To: Members of the Common Council

From: Chief Tim Styka 

Date: May 11, 2016

RE: Police Week Recognition Awards

During National Police Week we take the time to reflect upon the past year. As part of the events during the week we recognize officers and community members for their actions. The Citizen Awards will be presented at the Council Meeting on May 16th and the Officer Awards will be presented at the Awards Dinner during Police Week.

On behalf of the Police Department I would like to thank you and the community as whole for your support over the past year. Our ability to effectively provide police services is dependent upon community involvement and maintaining the trust you have placed with us. We appreciate the opportunity to serve the citizens of Menasha.

CITIZEN LIFE SAVING AWARD

During the Trestle Trail Incident countless people ran to get out of harm's way. However, upon noticing that Erin Stoffel had run off of the bridge and was critically injured Sera Buck and Jeff Wolfram ran back to Erin to tend to her injuries. Thomas Bean was also at the park and heard the shots, thinking they were firecrackers. He spoke with Erin when she was running off of the bridge and she told him she had been shot. Thomas and Jeff both called 911 for help. Based upon the quick actions of Sera, Jeff and Thomas, Erin's injuries were tended to and she survived her injuries.

TEAMWORK AWARD NOMINEES

Lt. Thorn, Inv. Gruss and Officers Oleszak, Groeschel and Edwards for their response and investigation on a smash and grab theft at a gas station.

Lt. Bonneville, PSLO Jorgenson and Officers Heidemann, Edwards and Groeschel for their ability to deescalate a suicidal subject armed with a knife who was threatening to harm himself on Christmas.

Investigators Mauthe and Gruss and Officers Oleszak, Hoernke, Miller and Abrahamson for their work investigating a stabbing complaint at an apartment complex on 3rd Street.

Lt. Bonneville, Inv. Gruss, PSLO Gollner and Officer Picard for their response and investigation of a substantial battery complaint on 1st Street.

SERVICE AWARDS

Nick Oleszak – 20 Years

Tim Styka – 20 Years

Matt Lenss – 10 Years

NEW OFFICERS

Joel Nelson

CHIEF'S AWARD

2 Chief's Awards will be handed out at the annual dinner this week.

OFFICER OF THE YEAR NOMINEES

Inv. Stephanie Gruss: Inv. Gruss was recognized by the FBI for her dedication on a complex child pornography investigation. In addition to her caseload, Inv. Gruss is always willing to help on patrol calls. She also comes in on her when she is off to help with complex or specialized cases. Officer Gruss has also helped out with a number of community events such as the bike rodeo and licensing bikes at the Downtown Farmers Market.

Inv. Pete Sawyer: In Inv. Sawyer's position he has done an outstanding job keeping the lines of communication open between the MEG unit and the Department. He has been willing to work with officers and be a resource finding and identifying suspects in numerous incidents. He was also involved or led the investigation of a number of high profile drug cases in Menasha.

Officer Sara Swenson: Officer Swenson has helped the Department in a number of capacities over the past year. She filled in at Maplewood Middle School for a short term school liaison officer vacancy and has now taken on the CSO program. She is the first officer who has taken on the CSO supervisor (or coordinator) responsibilities. In addition to the extra duties Officer Swenson was involved in a variety of critical incidents over the past year, one of which was talking a suicidal teenager off of the Racine St Bridge.