

EARLY BIRD WEEKLY



NewbergRotaryEarlybirds.org

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Last Week, Newberg's Interim Chief of Police, Jeff Kosmicki.

Jeff graduated George Fox in 1993. He worked during, then after, college in a local restaurant until he was hired in 1997 as a full time police officer.

A year later he was moved into a detective position responsible primarily for narcotics.

In 2003, while assigned to YCINT (Yamhill County Interagency Narcotics Team), Kosmicki was promoted to patrol sergeant for three years, then supervised YCINT for a year.

In 2007 he was promoted to Lieutenant which meant leadership of Special Investigations, Evidence Facility, and the Animal Control Division.

Other duties were Emergency Management, Officer Hiring Process, County Major Crimes Response Team, and the department's Public Information Officer.

Kosmicki is also a graduate of the FBI's 10-week [National Academy](#) session in Quantico, VA. His coursework, with classmates from U.S. and international agencies, included intelligence theory, terrorist mindset, law enforcement communication, and forensic science.

Jeff was promoted in 2010 to Captain under Chief Casey, then assumed his current role as Interim Chief this year following Casey's retirement.

Newberg's police department attained accreditation in 2004 by the [Oregon Accreditation Alliance](#).

Why should you care? Because accreditation isn't just an exercise in CYA. It is a uniform standard of best practices surrounding preserving evidence, emergency vehicle operation and pursuits, training, apprehension and prosecution, and use of force. For prospective officer applicants, as well as lawyers and juries, an accredited agency is seen through a lens of credibility and professionalism. As Chief Sweeny, Central Point, OR suggests, it's like "...a Good Housekeeping Seal of Approval for police departments..."

Of Oregon's 167 agencies, Newberg is one of 29 that maintains accreditation.

In 2019 Newberg Dundee Police responded to about 1,200 arrests with 37,000 calls for service. Of those, the department had four official complaints.



Mental health calls are going up and run two to three hundred calls per year. We have access to over a dozen officers trained in mental health issues.

Since having taken over as interim chief we have dealt with a few things. COVID being the most obvious. The events surrounding the George Floyd incident in Minneapolis and [Kosmicki's official statement](#) in May.

We had the first protest in Jeff's time with over 500 people. "That was a lot to corral, but those folks were very peaceful and very energetic."

In positive news we are implementing a \$3 million 800 MHz radio upgrade that is near completion and delivers clearer public safety communication reaching Vancouver to Eugene. "The last thing you want to be doing in the middle of a pursuit is looking down to see what channel you need to be on."

We have a \$500k records management system that will give us much better access to necessary data.

We improved our evidence facility with the same square footage but 60% more storage capacity. The current version is from the 1990s and, as is common when low bid is the deciding factor, was very quickly antiquated.

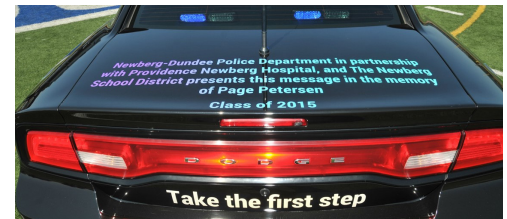
Because of the pandemic officers had a contract negotiation and adopted a zero percent raise to help out the city's budget.

We have six officers that are eligible for retirement from today to two years out. It also helped the bottom line that the department will not be immediately replacing the recently retired chief and a sergeant, holding the headcount at 33.



We have a school resource officer, Jeff Moreland. Some schools have cut theirs, we are in talks to add another. We don't emphasize enforcement with the SRO. Rather, we want to get to know the kids, and want the kids to get to know their police.

Many people have seen our suicide prevention themed cruiser. A project that was locally funded and act as a rolling suicide awareness billboard with a memorial on its decklid to NHS senior, Page Petersen, son of Doug and Lori, that took his own life in 2015.



Our high school youth are some of our most vulnerable suicide risks facing adult issues without adult life experience to lean on. We want to be involved early.

Some other things you may not know our police department does. Breast cancer awareness. Color guard. Vacation home checks (not just for bad guys, look for external leaks, weather damage, etc.). Police internships.

Q: Do Newberg Police wear body cams?

A: No. We have asked for the last five years but the budget says no and at \$90k per year he would rather wait and do it right. Some of those features are just too important, like instant-on when a weapon is drawn without human action.

Q: How do you guys feel about a citizen review board?

A: We are looking in to it. One problem is confidentiality. If I have to discipline someone, I can't just share everything (officers have rights to privacy, too).

Rats, out of room. Thanks Interim Chief!