

KEARNEY POLICE DEPARTMENT



JANUARY - MARCH | 2024

A WORD FROM CHIEF WAUGH



Welcome to the 2024 Kearney Police Department first quarter newsletter. During this quarter, I am once again reminded of the incredible teamwork displayed among all City of Kearney departments. In Kearney, we don't operate in silos, each department is committed to working together for the betterment of this entire community. The Police Department is uniquely positioned to have a multi-disciplinary approach to most any issue we encounter. We work side by side with nearly every other department in the City and appreciate the strong relationships we enjoy with our fellow employees. When you hear the City of Kearney mantra "*We Provide Solutions, Services, and Opportunities for our Community*", it is on display each and every day by the men and women of the Kearney Police Department and our dedicated co-workers across the entire city. This is strengthened by the strong relationship we have through colocation with the Buffalo County Sheriff's Office. This is an exciting year at KPD, while we continue to provide a high level of professional policing and public safety, we are also poised to continue the great momentum with programs, technology, growth, and positive community engagement. Please enjoy our newsletter, I am hopeful you will find it informative and helpful. We wish you a safe,

happy, and healthy Spring and Summer! – Chief Bryan D. Waugh

NEW HIRES/ASSIGNMENTS/PROMOTIONS

Alex Peyton was promoted to Sergeant at the City Council meeting on January 9th. Officer Grant Buschkoetter and Officer Michael Reeves completed the Field Training Program and joined their Uniformed Patrol Bureau shifts in January. Jaco Henning reported to the Nebraska Law Enforcement Training Center for the 216th session on January 2nd. He is scheduled to graduate the academy on April 12th. Caleb Hollis is training with the Community Service Officers and will be reporting to NLETC on April 28th. Addison Hartman was selected as the Spring 2024 intern and will complete 240 hours with the department.



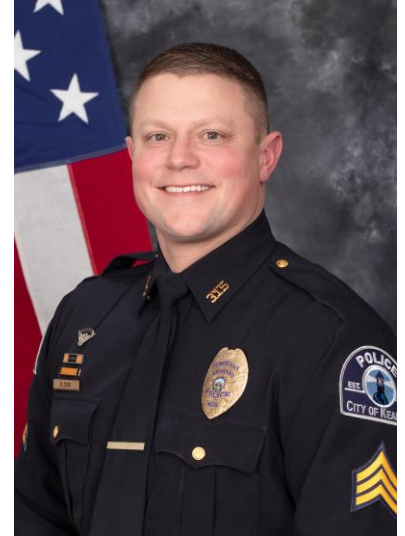
The department also celebrated the following milestone anniversaries:

- 25 years – Sergeant Mike Bogard
- 10 years – Officer Ryan Chramosta
- 5 years – Chief Bryan D. Waugh

SERGEANT RYAN OHRI RETIREMENT



Family, friends, coworkers past and present, and community members gathered on February 29th to thank Sergeant Ryan Ohri for his service to this community and wish him well in his new endeavor. Following a nearly 20-year career, Sgt Ohri retired from law enforcement to pursue a new venture. Over the years he served as a Community Service Officer, Police Officer and Sergeant, Emergency Services Unit member, Motor Officer,



Honor Guard member, Field Training Officer among other specialized assignments. His final project with the department was founding the Peer Support Team. He was an advocate for the physical, mental and emotional wellness of those working in the law enforcement field and the Peer Support Team will provide an important piece of this by having designated and trained staff available to support their coworkers. While we are saddened to see him leave law enforcement we could not be more thankful for the years he dedicated to serving this community. Good luck Ryan!

URBANEK SOUP DAY

Sergeant Greg Urbanek served the Kearney Police Department for over 31 years before his passing on January 12th, 2017 following a battle with cancer. Every year Officer Tracy Suchsland graciously organizes an “Urbanek Soup Day” in January where family, friends and staff gather to remember Sgt Urbanek and his legacy within the department. This year free will donations were accepted to be gifted to local youth serving organizations in Sgt Urbanek’s honor. He was a huge advocate for children in the community and we look forward to continuing this tradition.



RECRUITMENT AND HIRING



Our dedicated recruitment committee has been busy this quarter researching and brainstorming recruitment strategies in Law Enforcement as well as attending career fairs at UNK and UNO. Kearney Police Department is accepting applications for both recruit and lateral Police Officers through April 5th. We are committed to hiring the best candidates that represent the values of honor, duty and integrity. We are consistently looking to future of this department and this community and are dedicated to providing the very best police services to our community. If you or someone you know may be interested in a rewarding career in law enforcement visit [Join KPD](#) for more information.

CITIZEN APPRECIATION AWARDS

Sergeant JC Small nominated citizens Laura and Andrew Clements to receive Community Member Distinguished Service Awards for their actions on April 9th, 2023. “The quick actions that each Laura and Andrew took in this situation not only showcased some outstanding team work, but also went above and beyond what is expected from a couple of concerned citizens, making a welfare check report. These actions further assisted officers to safely, and quickly apprehend a suspect who was not only resisting arrest, but also posed potential threat to himself and/or others in the area. For these reasons, I would like to recommend both Laura and Andrew Clements be recognized with a certificate of appreciation from the Kearney Police Department.” The Clements were presented with these awards this quarter. We appreciate the support this community shows to its law enforcement and are pleased to recognize the Clements for their brave and selfless actions.



MR. MORGAN RETIREMENT

Following 19 years as the City Manager of Kearney Mr. Mike Morgan retired on January 11th, 2024. His commitment to our community during his tenure as City Manager was commendable and he will be missed. He facilitated many projects that makes Kearney the wonderful city that it is today. KPD presented Mr. Morgan with an Honorary Chief of Police Badge, a flag that was flown over the Law Enforcement Center and a framed photograph of the KPD Armored Rescue Vehicle as tokens of appreciation for all he has done for local law enforcement and this community. We thank him for his leadership the past 19th years and wish him all the best in retirement!



MAT CLUB

Kearney Police has started a monthly opportunity for officers to gather and practice their defensive tactic skills beyond the mandatory annual trainings. We are blessed to have several talented Defensive Tactics instructors including Sgt Jace Schanou, Investigator Lacie Lindner, Officer Conner Beard, K-9 Officer Zach Schwarz, Officer Jared Gerdes and Officer Noah Stewart that lead the trainings. All officers are invited to attend these trainings monthly to work on existing skills and learn new techniques. Defensive tactics are important for the safety of law enforcement as well as the individual being taken into custody.



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