

# KEARNEY POLICE DEPARTMENT

JANUARY - MARCH | 2025



## A WORD FROM CHIEF WAUGH



*Please enjoy the first quarter, 2025 Kearney Police Newsletter. As you will see, we have been very busy; I am so proud of the dedication, commitment, professionalism, loyalty, and shared goals of service detailed in this newsletter. I am particularly happy to report a decrease in several property crime categories and crimes against persons categories. While many factors contribute to these changes, one area we have placed an increased emphasis on is proactive traffic enforcement; research suggests that an increased visible presence of professional police is a strong deterrent to criminal activity. As the spring season brings a sense of renewal and fresh beginnings, it inspires us to step outside and enjoy all the season offers. However, with the change in the weather also comes new challenges and responsibilities that we must keep in mind. Regardless of your*

*plans this spring, always prioritize safety. Many of us will spend more time outdoors during daylight hours. Whether walking, jogging, or biking, always be aware of your surroundings, follow traffic laws, and take the necessary precautions to protect yourself and those around you. This spring and summer, you will notice members of the Kearney Police Department on the hike and bike trail on bicycles, motorcycles, or ATVs; they are there for your safety. Be sure to say hi and collect a custom officer baseball card! The Kearney Police Department remains committed to protecting and serving our community. We genuinely appreciate your continued support and partnership. I encourage you to learn more about a career at KPD and visit [JoinKPD.com](http://JoinKPD.com) or call a recruiter at 308-233-5241.*

*If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to let us know. Wishing you a spring season filled with joy, energy, and safety! – Chief Bryan D. Waugh*

## NEW HIRES/ASSIGNMENTS/PROMOTIONS

Officer Caleb Hollis completed the rigorous Field Training Program and joined the Uniform Patrol Bureau on January 20<sup>th</sup>. Police Officer Recruit Gavynn West was hired this quarter and will report to the Nebraska Law Enforcement Training Center on April 28<sup>th</sup>. Ethan Mrozcek was selected as the spring intern and completed 360 hours with the department.

The department also celebrated the following milestone anniversary:

- 35 years - Records Technician Julie Keough
- 5 years – Records Supervisor Christy Killion



KPD Records Bureau



## CITY OF KEARNEY SPORTSPLEX

The highly anticipated City of Kearney SportsPlex is scheduled to begin hosting sporting events in April 2025, as well as offering the space for local residents to utilize. The facility features an indoor turf field, hardwood court space for volleyball, basketball, and wrestling, pickleball courts, and a 300-meter track. The public will have free access to the track and access to the other areas for a fee. This is an incredible addition for Kearney and we look forward to welcoming visitors to our great city.

## K9 MURPHY RETIREMENT

Following 5 years of dedicated service, K9 Murphy retired in January. Murphy became partners with Officer Zach Schwarz in March 2020 and dutifully served our community alongside our other K9 team, Officer Jon Alstrom and K9 Bane. Murphy was crucial in many drug seizures, building searches, and apprehensions throughout the years. He completed numerous public demonstrations and was always ready to work. He was a valued member of our department and an excellent partner for Officer Schwarz. Enjoy your retirement Murphy, you earned it!



## LIFE SAVING AWARDS



We were fortunate to present several members of our department with Life Saving Awards this Quarter. Officer Dostal, Officer Obradovich and Officer Chramosta (*pictured left*) were recognized for their actions in preserving a life on October 26, 2024. A citizen had collapsed on their lawn. After calling 911, a family member was able to perform CPR as guided by Buffalo County Sheriff's Office 911 Telecommunicator Niki Duncan until first responders arrived. When officers arrived, they continued CPR and utilized their AED. EMS arrived and the patient was transported to the hospital. Officer Hosick, Officer Hughes, and Officer Humphrey (*pictured right*) were also recognized this quarter for their life saving actions on May 13, 2024. Officers were dispatched to Family Fresh for a report of a citizen collapsing and not breathing. Officers arrived on scene and immediately began CPR. The patient was transported to the hospital where he regained a pulse.

The quick response and effective application of training these officers displayed is commendable and we appreciate their dedication to the citizens of this community.

## OFFICER ACTIVITY

Officers responded to 7,987 calls for service this quarter including 389 traffic accidents and 2,110 traffic stops. Officers made 403 arrests that included 79 felonies. The first quarter of 2025 has shown a decrease in several property crime incidents as well as assaults as compared to the first quarter of 2024.

Offense	Mar 2024	Mar 2025	% Change	YTD 2024	YTD2025	% Change
Burglary	3	2	-33%	14	4	-71%
Vandalism	27	14	-48%	80	40	-50%
Larceny	37	32	-14%	107	86	-20%
Assault	53	40	-25%	129	92	-29%



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