

KEARNEY POLICE DEPARTMENT



APRIL - JUNE | 2023

A WORD FROM CHIEF WAUGH



“Thank you for taking a moment to read our 2nd Quarter, 2023 newsletter. As always, I hope you find the content informative and valuable. We experienced a unique and isolated act of violent crime during this quarter. I want to ensure our community we have taken steps to prevent and mitigate this criminal behavior and it is not acceptable in our community. Members of our Criminal Investigations Bureau and Uniform Patrol Bureau have worked tirelessly to solve this case and have made several arrests. Additional arrests are pending, we can’t thank the public enough for your patience and partnership with providing tips and information leading to these arrests. In addition to the content within the newsletter, myself and members of the police department have enjoyed participating in several 150th Anniversary events throughout the City and recognizing this milestone event with our commemorative Kearney Police Badge. In May, members of KPD and BCSO gathered once again for our 5th Annual Law Enforcement Memorial event at the Law Enforcement Center. During National Police Week, we pause to remember the service and ultimate sacrifice of fallen law enforcement officers. We also celebrated a milestone anniversary this year, marking 20 years since the formation of the Kearney Police/Buffalo County Sheriff’s Officer Emergency Services Unit (SWAT). We are incredibly proud of this team and the highly trained, equipped, and capable operators, snipers, and negotiators from the past, present, and future. Myself, members of our command staff, and supervisors attended a staff retreat in June. This was a great opportunity to get away from the LEC, collaborate, communicate, plan, and prepare for the current and future needs of our organization. Lastly, thanks to a generous donation from a local private foundation, KPD will begin the process of purchasing thirty police vehicles for a take home vehicle program. This program will once again set KPD apart from other agencies in an ever challenging time for recruitment. As always, we appreciate the incredible support from our community and look forward to more opportunities engage, partner, and communicate. Our commitment to public safety for ALL members of our community is strong.” - Sincerely Bryan D. Waugh, Chief of Police

NEW HIRES/ASSIGNMENTS/PROMOTIONS

Following a competitive application and interview process, Logan Miller was selected to be promoted to Sergeant and was assigned as a Patrol Sergeant for the Uniformed Patrol Division C Shift. KPD also welcomed six new staff members and a summer intern. Officer Hosick and Officer Schroeder joined the department as lateral certified hires and began the Field Training program on April 24th. Recruits Grant Buschkoetter and Michael Reeves started at the Nebraska Law Enforcement Training Center on May 1st and are scheduled to graduate in August. Sara Stauffer was selected as the new Victim Witness Director and started on May 1st. Former intern Mikaela Harbols was hired as a Community Service Officer on June 5th. Jaco Henning joined the department as the summer intern and will complete 240 hours. The department also celebrated the following milestone anniversaries:

- 25 years – Lieutenant Derek Luke
- 10 years – Investigator Matt Young



LAW ENFORCEMENT BALL AND EMPLOYEES OF THE YEAR



On April 29th KPD joined other local law enforcement agencies for the 2nd Annual Law Enforcement Ball. This event gives our officers along with their spouses a chance to spend time together away from work and enjoy an evening of good food and great company. During this year's ball the 2022 Employee of the Year awards were presented. The Officer of the Year Award was presented to Investigator Dan Warrington. The Civilian Employee of the Year Award was presented to Community Service Officer Nate Province and the Outstanding Team Award was presented to the Police Records Bureau. Congratulations to all the well deserving recipients of these awards! We could not be more proud of the dedicated members of our department.

CITY OF KEARNEY 150TH CELEBRATION

Kearney Police Department was honored to help with the City of Kearney's 150th Birthday Celebration on June 24th on the Bricks. It was a great event recognizing Kearney's history and growth over the last 150 years. More upcoming events over the next several months and can be found at <https://visitkearney.org/kearney-150th/>

HEALTHY FAMILIES OFFICER WELLNESS AND PEER SUPPORT

Partnering with the First Responders Foundation, KPD was able to bring a training to Kearney for sworn personnel focused on healthy relationships with family and friends as well as physical and emotional wellness. With the high stress situations our officers encounter we recognize the importance of providing resources to our officers and their families. Sgt Ohri has also been working on forming a Peer Support program. This program will consist of sworn and nonsworn team members that will be available to listen and support their coworkers as well as connect them with any needed resources. The volunteers completed a two-day training this quarter to train the Peer Support team on effective listening skills and available resources. We would like to thank the First Responders Foundation for sponsoring both of these trainings.

CITIZENS ACADEMY AND YOUTH CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY

Lt Koetters's once again did a fantastic job of organizing and coordinating the 23rd Citizens Police Academy. The Citizens Police Academy is an opportunity for community members to get to know local law enforcement and learn more about what a career in policing involves. This year's class was able to hear from a guest speaker from Homeland Security during their graduation.

Kearney Police also offered the 2nd Annual Youth Citizens Police Academy this quarter. School Resource Officers Nate Dennis, Cody Weldon and Boyd Weller organized this class and during 5 3-hour classes were able to show the participants many different aspects of the department and what a police officer's day to day duties entail. We are grateful to be able to offer these classes to get to know our amazing community members.



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