



City of De Pere

Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

De Pere police awards highlight commendable, life-saving service

DE PERE, WIS. - The City of De Pere Police Department recently honored several of its officers and sergeants with awards for commendable work done during the past year. Here's a summary of the incredible work that went above and beyond the call of duty for the residents of the City of De Pere:

LIFESAVING AWARD (four individuals honored):

In July, Sergeant Ronald VanPrice, Officer Nathan Mrstik and others were dispatched to a person on the Claude Allouez Bridge appearing to be suicidal. The scene was tense as the subject was inches away from jumping into the Fox River. Officer Mrstik and Sergeant VanPrice arrived first, assessed the situation, and immediately began to build a rapport. The subject had wild mood swings, but Sergeant VanPrice and Officer Mrstik remained calm and showed great compassion even when the subject moved closer to the edge several times. The subject eventually was talked off the edge of the bridge pier and was taken into protective custody. For the outstanding professionalism and performance in a difficult situation that was directly responsible for saving a human life, Sergeant VanPrice and Officer Mrstik were each awarded the Lifesaving Award.

In November 2016, Sergeant Ken Stephenson, Officer Corey Rodewald and others were dispatched to a traffic crash where a vehicle hit a tree at a high rate of speed. Both driver and passenger were trapped. Upon arrival Sergeant Stephenson and Officer Rodewald observed heavy vehicle damage and one person hanging part way out of the vehicle on the driver side between the top of the window frame and the top of the roof, and another person in the passenger side seat. Both had severe injuries. Sergeant Stephenson and Officer Rodewald forced their way into the vehicle by pulling the tops of the door frames down to gain access to the locked vehicle. They were able to extricate the two people from the vehicle just as the vehicle started on fire. For their outstanding professionalism and performance in a difficult situation that was directly responsible for saving a human life, Sergeant Stephenson and Officer Rodewald were awarded the Lifesaving Award.

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT:

In July, Officer Russel Holcomb conducted a traffic stop on a subject for a seatbelt violation. During the stop, Officer Holcomb recalled a shift bulletin discussing suspected drug activity at the address the driver identified as his own. A K-9 was deployed around the vehicle, drugs were found, and an arrest made. Officer Holcomb carried the investigation further and conducted more interviews. As a result of his investigation Officer Holcomb recovered 1.75 pounds of marijuana at the subjects address that was being sold in our community. Because of Officer Holcomb's initiative and determination after the initial stop and his thoroughness in the investigation and for getting drugs out of our community, he was awarded the Certificate of Merit.

DEPARTMENTAL CITATION:

(*Due to the undercover nature of the following work, the name of this officer is not being released publically and will be referred to here simply as De Pere Officer). De Pere Officer was assigned as an undercover Brown County Drug Task Force Agent and as a Temporary Federal Officer with the US Drug Enforcement Agency for four years. De Pere Officer distinguished himself while in the units by his leadership and untiring work in high profile methamphetamine and cocaine investigations - culminating in rare wire taps and resulting in the dismantling of significant and high level drug trafficking organizations. De Pere Officer has distinguished himself as an outstanding narcotics investigator and leader and for these reasons he was awarded the Departmental Citation.

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