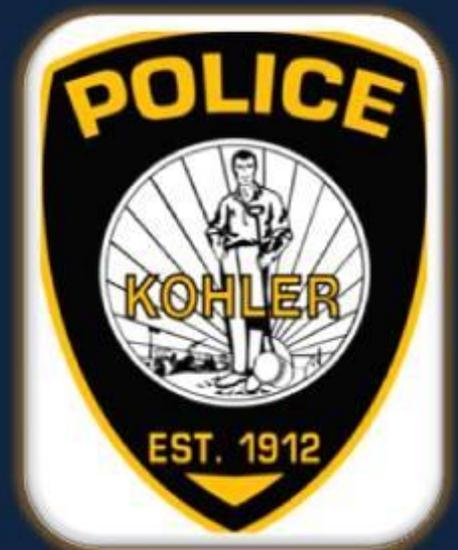


# *“Serving the Community”*



# 2014

KOHLER POLICE DEPARTMENT  
YEAR END REPORT



EST. 1912

**Mission:** The Kohler Police Department has the mission of providing the best possible police services that it can provide. “Serving our Community” is on the sides of our squads, but is our true mission. The department then supplements that with programs and events to educate the public and to provide the safest environment for the citizens of the Village of Kohler.

**Overview:** The Kohler Police Department has completed another year of service for the Village of Kohler. The department remains committed to providing the best police protection to the Village as well as providing related services that no other entity could. The police department is a team of professionals that enjoys working for the Village and responding to the public’s needs and complaints. The Sheboygan County Law Enforcement Community was in their fourth year of Spillman, the new Computer-Aided Dispatch and Records Management System. The system is a windows-based system that includes mapping features tied to GPS by cellular technology for connectivity in the squads. All the agencies in the county can now see officers on the screen in real time and be able to share reports and contact information immediately after reports are completed. The system was a major change in the way that the departments process their reports and maintains its records. The Kohler Police Department now only maintains its reports electronically with all the secondary reports scanned and added to the electronic database. We are still involved in the transition to having all reports forwarded to agencies like the District Attorney’s office via E-referral (electronic transmission). This has been a bit more challenging than Sheboygan County Law Enforcement expected, but should occur sometime in 2015. The Kohler Police Department upgraded its in-squad computer equipment in 2014 and has transitioned to BadgerTracs10. This is the latest version of our mobile computer software for the completion of accident reports, citations, and warnings in the squads. The transition is done, but we are working with the State of Wisconsin in fixing some bugs.

These transitions involved a lot of hard work and training by the members of the department. We were able to make the changes that are needed in the use/reporting side of the job and not let it bog down the response to calls and efficiency of the services that we provide. As with the initial switchover to the new system, Administrative Assistant Jodie Kuklinski was the major driving force in making this transition as smooth as it could be. AA Kuklinski is the Kohler Police Department’s Administrator for Spillman and is on a countywide team that keeps up-to-date on issues involving the new system. Jodie also has been the person working with the State of Wisconsin on finding and resolving the bugs for BadgerTracs10. She works with the contracted IT personnel and the State of Wisconsin to make the system work. The transition looks smooth on the outside, but many hours of work are necessary to make that come about.

**Calls for Service:** In 2014, the Kohler Police Department handled a total of 2,913 incidents of officers responding to calls as compared to 2,772 in 2013. These service calls include all the traffic enforcement, which includes 480 traffic citations (up from 427 in 2013), 51 municipal ordinance citations (as compared to 54 in 2013), and 687 written traffic warnings or municipal code violations (as compared to 573 in 2013). The ordinance violations include incidents such as resisting, drugs, disorderly conduct, retail theft, fraud, trespass, and animal at large complaints. Included in the traffic citations were four OWI arrests with an average of .180% Blood Alcohol Content. Two of the violations were 3<sup>rd</sup> offense and two of the violations were 1<sup>st</sup> offense violations. The highest was .245% and the lowest was .145%. The numbers for the citations and warnings may include multiple citations or warnings per incident.

In 2014 officers handled 2,697 complaints, which were either called-in by citizens or were on-view complaints initiated by the police officers compared to the 2,570 handled in 2013. The types of calls included a range from sexual assault, battery, domestic disturbances, fraud, bank alarms, retail theft, embezzlement, warrants, etc. During the course of the year, the department had 25 subjects arrested for misdemeanors or warrants and 10 subjects for felony arrests other than traffic-related incidents. In many of the cases, we had multiple violations in each incident. Also, the department had 23 juvenile arrests in 2014 compared to 11 in 2013. These violations would be similar to arrests if the violator were an adult. These violations were primarily for Disorderly Conduct or Theft.

**First Responder Program:** In addition to being a law enforcement agency, the Kohler Police Department is licensed by the State of Wisconsin as a First Responder Unit, the only police department in the county to hold such a license. Every officer is either a certified First Responder or a licensed Emergency Medical Technician. Officers respond to every medical call in the Village proper and any at the Kohler Co. when requested and provide lifesaving care until the ambulance from Orange Cross arrives. In 2014, our department responded to 122 Emergency Medical calls, not including injury accidents. In addition to the ambulance calls, our officers handled 12 personal injury accidents where medical assistance was needed. Routinely our officers have to apply oxygen to someone that is in distress and have used our Automated External Defibrillators to attempt to revive patients. On several occasions we have been needed to drive the ambulance to the hospital during an emergency situation.

Continuing in our mission of being a community oriented police department, the department has provided many other services to the Village residents that you as Board members or the general public may or may not be aware of. The following are synopses of those services:

**Bicycle Safety Program:** The Kohler Police Department hosts a bicycle safety program annually where approximately 36 junior kindergarteners to 4<sup>th</sup> graders were taught bicycle safety by the officers in a series of practical tests. This year's event was held at the Kohler Police Department/Village Hall as well as utilizing the Kohler Co. parking lot and was coordinated by Officer Hocevar and Administrative Assistant Jodie Kuklinski. This is supplemented by Officer Hocevar's classroom instruction that is given to the students in those grades during the school week. This year was the second year that we did not get free helmets from a donor. We purchased the helmets at a great discount from Aurora and had assistance from that organization with the fitting of the helmets at the event. We also continue to supply a bike accessory valued at about \$15.00.

**CounterAct:** The Kohler Police Department continues to put a great deal of effort into educating our children about making the right decisions when it comes to drugs. Officer Reinemann teaches the nationally recognized curriculum of CounterAct to the 5<sup>th</sup> grade students. The six different sessions, approximately one hour each, included a graduation ceremony for the 60 students and their parents.

**Deer Abatement:** The Kohler Police Department continues to be proactive in the area of the excessive deer population throughout the Village. The department coordinates the deer abatement program and had sharpshooters come in to assist the program and has waivers signed for donation of the meat. The program culled 22 deer from the herd in 2014.

**House Checks/Vacation Checks:** The Kohler Police Department provides a service to its residents that go on vacation to have their residences checked while they are away. The department keeps a book of the residences and checks them several times a week. The department handled 116 house

checks in 2014 compared to 151 in 2013. The department continues the use of the police department's web page, [www.kohlerpolice.com](http://www.kohlerpolice.com), where residents can request house checks online as an added convenience. The department routinely gets requests for vacation checks through this internet service. The department gets many comments of appreciation from our citizens for providing the vacation checks.

**Masterlock Program:** The Kohler Police Department continues to provide gun trigger locks for the Village residents. These locks are purchased through Masterlock at a reduced rate for law enforcement. The department also is involved in the Project Childsafe lock federal program, which provides gunlocks to any citizen. These cable locks are effective, but not as good of quality as the ones provided from Masterlock.

**School Resource Officer:** This by far is the most visible community-oriented program when it comes to the youth of the Village. Officer Gross is in his second stint in this position and is utilizing his time to the fullest at the school. The SRO position is used as a community resource program as well as a position for officers to improve in their skills of lecturing, investigation work, and networking with the school administration to keep the department in tune with what is going on at the school or related functions. The SRO is the point of contact for the school to get law enforcement services such as K-9 searches of the school or training on how to handle special law enforcement issues. The SRO also continues to provide programs such as a street crossing program for the junior and senior kindergarteners; Halloween trick-or-treating program to promote safety during trick-or-treating which is done in conjunction with providing glow necklaces for the evening of the trick-or-treating as well as bags; and any special classes that teachers may have requested such as a presentation on Search and Seizure. All of these additional programs supplement the presence of the SRO during the school day where he is made available to the school for police complaints. We believe that the School Resource Officers have had a positive impact on the students of the Kohler Schools. This can be seen with the requests that we receive for him to chaperon events such as Prom and Casino Night and the thank you cards and gifts received at years end.

**Community Policing Efforts:** The Kohler Police Department strives to be the problem-solving department for the Village of Kohler. The officers are proactive in bringing issues to the attention of supervision so steps can be taken to make the Village the best community to work and live. We strive to make Kohler the best place to live and work. During the reconstruction of Highland Drive, we were constantly keeping an eye on the new areas and trying to make it as safe as possible. The construction made it necessary to have temporary stop signs on CTH PP at CTH A. After the construction was almost done we realized that they were working really well. We convinced the Sheboygan County committee in charge of those changes to keep the four way stop. Eventually, it will be changed to a roundabout, also in the interest of the public safety.

**Special Events:** The Kohler Police Department worked with the Kohler Fire Department to plan and hold the 100<sup>th</sup> year anniversary events and parade for the Fire Department. The parade and gathering after was well attended by participants and the public and made for a nice event. The Kohler Police Department also gets involved in numerous special events that reoccur every year, which can also be considered Community Policing. Some of the main events were the involvement of the Kohler Police Department in the foot races that either start in the Village or run through the Village. The Kohler Classic held in June starts and ends at the school and is always a good community function the department gets involved in. In addition, the department continued to be involved in the Two Left

Paws half marathon that ran through the Village. The run dramatically increased its numbers from about 200 in 2009 to over 600 runners in 2014. In 2014, the race also incorporated a 5k run which started and ended in Kohler and was coordinated so both runs ended at about the same time. Again, the Kohler Police Department was instrumental in these changes to provide services and to make it a fun and safe event. The Kohler Police Department does charge for its services when the organizations utilizing us are not from the community. Despite that charge, the race organizers were extremely happy with our assistance and the results.

Another big event was the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation walk that was in its second year. In 2013, we helped set up the JDRF run/walk and had two separate routes. In 2014, they wanted to go to just a walk, so we helped set up the walking route and the JDRF had its most successful year in donations ever. This event also is charged for officer's overtime, etc.

The same assistance is given to the Kohler Co. for its Beer Runs or the events such as the Kohler Co. Picnic. We are the conduit for the village resources and the immediate response when something needs to get done. These collaborations are not by mistake, but are relationships built up over time within the community by our department.

**Deer Trace is part of Kohler too:** In addition to the Village proper, the Kohler Police Department continues to handle and monitor the number of calls received from the Deer Trace business district. In 2014, the Kohler Police Department responded to 219 calls for service at that location, slightly up from 209 calls in 2013. The nature of the complaints ranged from Suspicion (7 similar to 8 in 2013) to Animal Complaints (10 up from 6 in 2013) to Alarms (39 a jump up from 29) to Vehicular Accidents/Hit and Runs (36 up from 29) to Thefts/Retail Thefts/Fraud (45 up from 39), and abandoned vehicles which didn't seem like a problem in the past (18 a huge jump up from 2 in 2013) among many other types of complaints that are received. There have been some new trends that have been occurring in that district as well. These trends include the use of counterfeit money that gets passed at multiple stores in one day. We have had four such incidents. The Kohler Police Department will continue to monitor this area for call volume. These types of calls are very time consuming and impact the overall response time to the rest of the Village. The amount of time can be attributed to the arrests or proactive procedures utilized during peak shopping times. The Deer Trace area is a more remote area of the Village and the calls for service are usually more involved, including the initial report, investigation/follow-up, and the report writing.

**Training:** The department's full-time personnel were stable in 2014. The Kohler Police Department had last hired a new full-time officer in 2008 and continued on the path of training the newest officers in the areas that needed to be addressed in their individual areas of need. In the pursuit of this goal, the Kohler Police Department continues to train all the officers to be at the highest level possible. All of the Officers of the department have attended TIME (Traffic Incident Management) training that will help them in time of an emergency dealing with accident and scene safety. Police Officers are used to working on emergencies like vehicle accidents or arrest situations by themselves or with minimal involvement with other agencies. The TIME training, which was recommended as being better enables responding officers to coordinate the efforts of other responding resources. The state requirement of 24 hours of training can easily be exceeded with all the new state requirements as well as keeping the officers skills up in Defense and Arrest Tactics and Firearms training.

January 13, 2015

**Summary:** This year-end report is a synopsis of the important role that the Kohler Police Department plays in this community. This role continues to expand as the needs arise. The Kohler Police Department does not shy away from this role, but rather embraces it and does so in a professional and efficient manner. I believe that the Village Board should be aware of all the good that the Kohler Police Department does for the Village and its residents. If anyone has a more specific question about the Kohler Police Department, please do not hesitate to ask.