

# Oelwein Police Department Annual Report 2018



Jeremy P. Logan  
Chief of Police

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## Chief's Message

It is with great honor and respect that I present the 2018 Oelwein Police Department Annual Report. As you view this report, I am confident that you will not only observe that the Community of Oelwein is served by a professional and dedicated group of persons; you will also learn that the employees of the Oelwein Police Department are committed to making the community safe and are invested by being involved. This community engagement allows our citizens to know and feel more comfortable around our officers and allows us to be more effective in the performance of our duties.

Law enforcement continued to face many challenges in 2018. The lack of available funds and the unfortunate negativity that surrounds our profession makes those challenges that much more difficult. It takes a special person to want to join or stay in this profession with all of the collectively unwarranted negativity that surrounds us. Society is fortunate that most law enforcement officers don't paint everyone with the same broad brush that our profession has been marked with.

The Oelwein Police Department observed a significant increase in calls for service in 2018. The calls for service increased by 848 more calls in 2018 than received in 2017. That 9.7% increase raised the calls for service for the Oelwein Police Department to an annual high of 9,650 or 26.44 calls for service per day. The increase in calls for service was fairly evenly spread out throughout the types of calls for service however there was a significant increase noted specifically in the area of mental health type response calls.

In 2018, the City Officials and the Oelwein City Council took on the task and challenge of researching and implementing a rental housing code. As we enter 2019, the registration, for residential rental properties begins. A lot of hard work went into implementing a code that would be fair and effective. We ask that the community join together to embrace this progressive step and work towards improving the housing in our community. Improved housing generally brings a reduction in crime. The community of Oelwein and the Oelwein Police Department do not wish to eliminate or hurt rental housing in our community. To the contrary, the goal of this rental housing code is to improve the type of rental housing so that everyone has safe and sanitary living conditions. We hope that after contentious debate on the issue, everyone can now come together to make this program successful for our community.

The community of Oelwein is extremely fortunate to have such a dedicated and involved group of officers and dispatchers work for them. As you will observe in this report, our staff engages in the community in numerous non-enforcement activities and continues to find ways to give back to various areas of our community.

I would like to take this moment to thank our Reserve Police Officers. This group of dedicated individuals are a huge asset to our department and community. They go above and beyond each day in serving our community. Thank you guys! It is because of these dedicated volunteers that we are able to maintain fiscal responsibility as well as accomplish many of the things we do. They are part-time in helping us out but they are full-time in our hearts. Their dedication has proven to be unwavering and we are thankful to have them work alongside us.

In addition to the Reserve Police Officers, I would like to thank the families of our officers, dispatchers and reserve officers. This life of service comes with many sacrifices. Sacrifice of family time, sleep, privacy and the emotional toll that the nature of the job and the risks associated pay a toll on each person. It is because of their continued support and understanding that our staff is able to stay positive about their choice to serve.

It is with great pride that I prepare and present this document as I believe it displays that our Police Department is comprised of some of the most professional, ethical, sincere and compassionate police officers and communications operators in the state of Iowa.

I would like to thank all of my staff for their devotion to protecting the residents of our community, and I'd like to thank our community leaders for allowing me the opportunity to lead this team as we pursue excellence in law enforcement in and for the community of Oelwein.

In the interest of improving our services to you, please contact me at 319-283-4311 with questions or comments about your police department or the Annual Report for Calendar Year 2018, or you can email me at [jlogan@oelweinpolice.org](mailto:jlogan@oelweinpolice.org).

Respectfully,

*Jeremy P. Logan*

Chief of Police



**"The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort & convenience,  
but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy."**

- Martin Luther King Jr.

## **Introduction**

The Oelwein Police Department is a well-trained and equipped police department. While the sworn section of the department is comprised of the Chief of Police and nine Iowa Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA) certified officers, the depth of knowledge, abilities and experience of the officers in the Oelwein Police Department to provide services and expertise is beyond what would normally be expected in a town with an approximate population of 6,400 residents. Our officers utilize their extensive backgrounds with other agencies, the military and service with our department; to provide a high quality of service to the community of Oelwein and the surrounding area. Our officers continue to train in various disciplines and to work as a team in tactical situations, crime scene investigations, and critical incident management.

The Oelwein Police Department embraces the principles of Community Oriented Policing as an operational policy. We employ the principles of Problem Oriented Policing to engage and address specific issues in the City by bringing all of the resources government and private enterprise have to offer to find solutions that benefit the entire community.

## **Vision Statement**

Strive to ensure that those that reside in, work in or visit Oelwein, will be safe. We will work together to solve community and neighborhood problems while maintaining a high level of respect for all citizens and their constitutional rights.

## **Mission Statement**

To safeguard freedom by preserving life and property, protecting the constitutional rights of individuals, maintaining order and encouraging respect for the rule of law by the proper enforcement thereof.

To protect the public through proactive law enforcement & to promote a safe and secure environment for all to live.

To identify, address and resolve the root causes of community problems and concerns in concert with citizen groups and representatives through the use of community oriented policing strategies.

## Community Policing

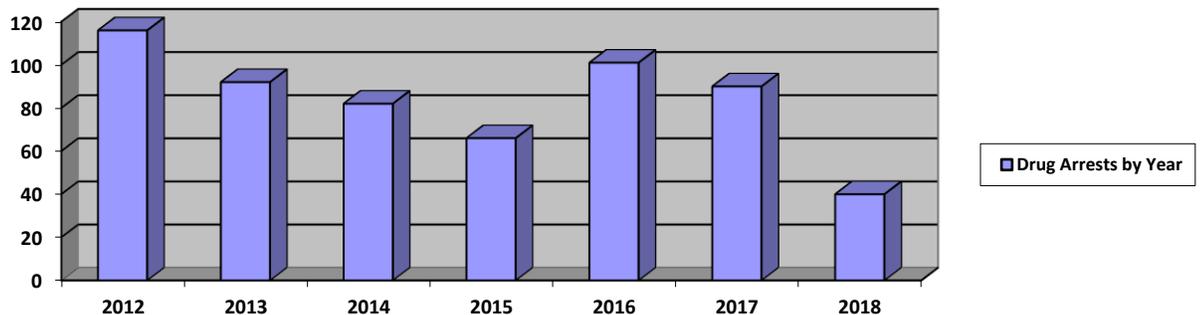
Community policing is a policing strategy and philosophy based on the notion that community interaction and support can help control crime and reduce fear, with community members helping to identify suspects and bring problems to the attention of the police. Often programs like DARE, Neighborhood Watch or foot patrols are mistakenly viewed as the sole answer/definition of Community Policing. Community Policing may incorporate these programs and many others into an overall strategy, but should not be viewed as the sole answer.

The Oelwein Police Department performs regular foot patrols of the downtown area and residential neighborhoods. We are actively involved in the DARE program and perform a variety of informative speaking engagements in order to educate the public. Just as important are the everyday contacts officers make and the conversations that rise from them. We strive to earn trust and confidence from the public so they feel more open to discuss concerns but also share what they observe or hear. Having a community that is willing to be constantly observant of their surroundings, magnifies our abilities to prevent and solve crime.

## Criminal Activity/Crime Solving

Oelwein is not any different than other communities our size. All communities experience property crimes, drug related offenses and assaults on persons. The Oelwein Police Department is vigilant in our efforts to enforce and deter this activity.

Our department is fair and consistent in our enforcement of the laws. While some may question the need to address minor violations, our belief is that, “if we address the little problems, we may prevent the big problems.” If you keep an area clean, well-lighted and secure, you deter a burglar. If you let a drug dealer/user understand that we will constantly be watching you until you give up your behavior or leave our community, you make them less apt to wanting to behave that way in your community. It is our goal to see the number of drug arrests decline each year in hopes that it reflects people conforming to the community’s attitude towards that crime.



**"I sometimes wish that people would put a little more emphasis upon the observance of the law than they do upon its enforcement."**

- Calvin Coolidge

## Project “One”



The members of the Oelwein Police Department are proud of the community in which we live and serve. We understand that only by being involved, in various aspects of our community, can we effect positive change and foster an environment of helping others.

The community engagement program, implemented by the Oelwein Police Department is entitled “One”. Project “One” is based on the belief that One Gesture, One Effort, One Action, One Person, One Team and/or One Community can make a difference. We believe in partnering with our community stakeholders to help others and improve the community.

Each year, every officer performs at least one “Community Project”. Officers choose areas that they would like to become involved in or activities that they feel can be used to benefit others. In 2018, officers performed the following Community Projects:

### **Cedar Valley Veteran’s Honor Flight Fundraiser “Party in the Park”**

The employees of the Oelwein Police Department, their families and the great people at the OCAD joined together to host a fundraiser for the Cedar Valley Veteran’s Honor Flight. The event was a “Party in the Park” with live music, great food and numerous raffle prizes and raised over \$3,300 to help provide funds needed to allow for the opportunity for area veteran’s to see the memorials of the respective war they fought in Washington, DC, at no cost to the veterans.



## Poker Run for St. Jude's Children's Hospital

Annually, the Oelwein Police Department sponsors a Motorcycle "Poker Run" to raise funds for St. Jude's Children's Hospital. Officer Brandon DeJong organizes this great event.

Area law enforcement and citizens mark their calendar each year to participate in this activity which benefits children in need.



### Arrest Hunger!

Officer Matthew Schmelzer organized the "Fill the Patrol Car – Arrest Hunger Event". Officers partnered with Fareway Stores to benefit the Community Cupboard. Officers spent the day outside of Fareway and received donations of food that were subsequently delivered to the Community Cupboard. Oelwein and surrounding citizens again showed their generosity by donating just over 2,000 food items in one day! Thank you!



## Coach 5 – 0!

For the second year, the Oelwein Police Department, the Oelwein Community School District and the Oelwein Husky Football program are teamed up for a mentorship program involving student athletes and Oelwein Police Officers. The program, Coach 5-0, is intended and designed to provide an opportunity for officers to interact with youth in a positive way and to build relationships to where the youth and officers understand each other better and to allow the officers to guide the youth towards good life choices as well as learning life skills that student athletes can carry forward beyond this program.

Captain Ronald Voshell received his Iowa Coaching Authorization and quickly volunteered for this assignment. He has since volunteered numerous hours to get the program running and is now a part of the Oelwein Husky Football coaching staff.

Anticipated benefits of the program are:

Bridging the gap between police and Oelwein student athletes through adult mentoring.

Educating students on the role of law enforcement officers and the importance of building positive relationships between the athletes, community and the police department.

Fostering a working relationship between coaches and the Oelwein Police Department to provide resources for possible at-risk student athletes or those who have a need for basic life essentials.

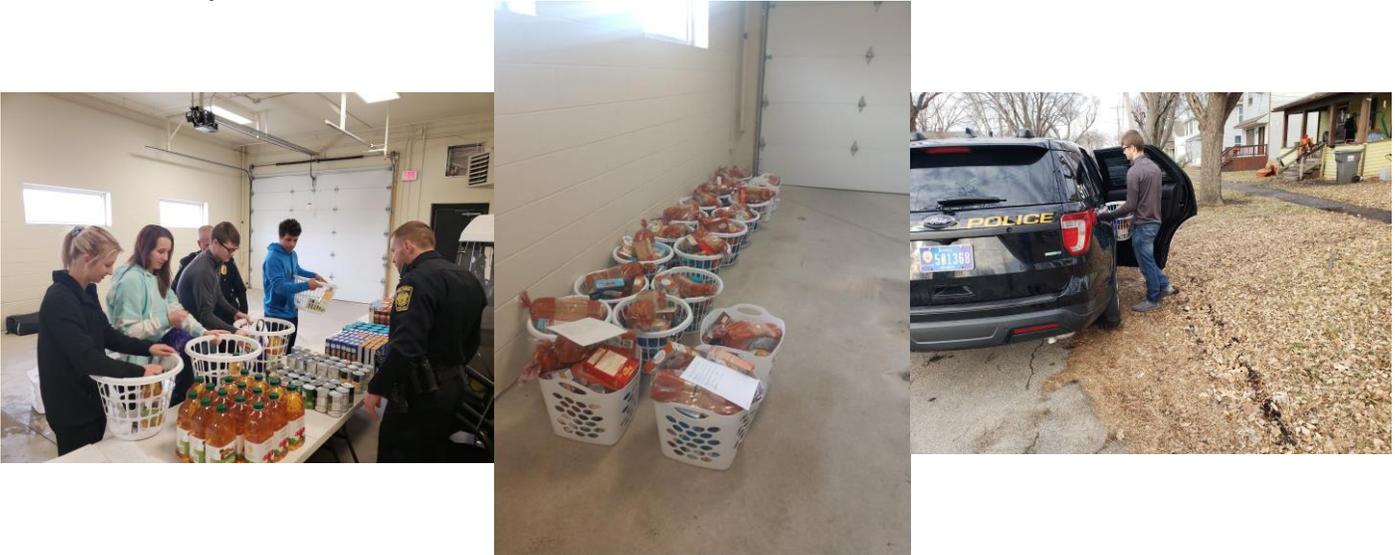
Facilitating access to local social services when the need arises.

The project was a great success! Watch for Coach 5 – 0 next season!



## Compassionate Service

Members of the Oelwein Police Department partnered students from the Oelwein Senior High School to make and deliver twenty holiday food baskets to those in need. The funds for the baskets were donated by a police department employee. The officers enjoyed working with our area youth to help benefit those that needed a little extra help during the holidays.



## Cupcakes with Cops

The Oelwein Police Department partnered with Building Directions For Families to host an evening of Cupcakes with Cops. Officers and youth were able to enjoy some sweet treats while playing games, touring police vehicles, answering questions and hanging out. It was a great time and it was nice change from the normal donut menu!



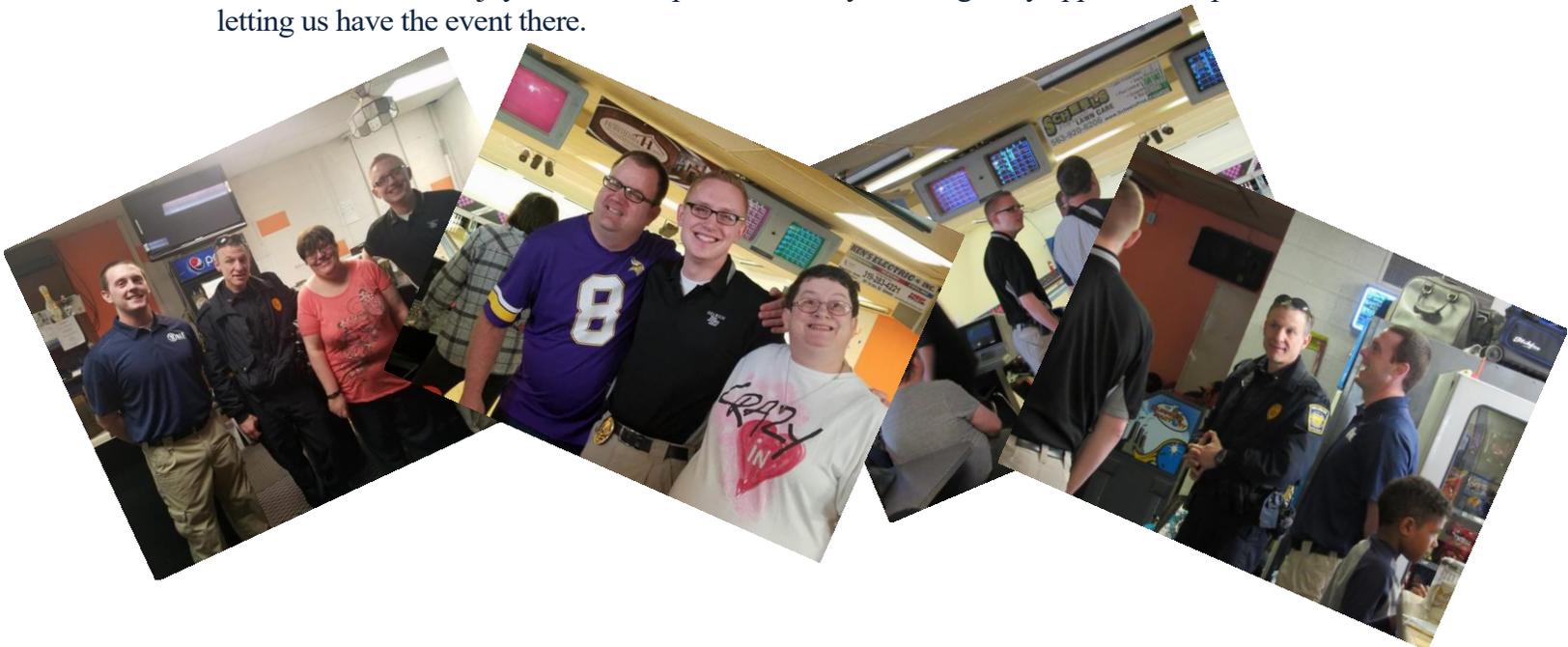
## Enjoying Time with Our Elders

Officers spent an evening at Grandview Nursing Home to have the opportunity to talk with, interact and serve meals to the residents. The residents were great to talk with and the staff at Grandview was very patient with our order taking and food serving skills...or lack thereof!



## Bowling with a Cop

Officers spent time bowling with members of Full Circle Services and Goodwill Services. Our staff enjoyed the time spent with everyone we greatly appreciate Viper Lanes letting us have the event there.



## School Liaison/School Safety

Oelwein officers take the safety of our children seriously. Officers regularly patrol the areas in and around the schools before, during and after classes. The community of Oelwein is fortunate to have an excellent school system. Our officers periodically visit the schools to speak to classes on various topics as well as teaching the DARE Program.

The Oelwein Police Department has one certified instructor and has trained officers in the area of responding to critical incidents in a school setting.

The Oelwein Police Department completed its twentieth year of teaching DARE at the Oelwein Middle School and Sacred Heart School. Officer Brandon DeJong is the DARE Instructor for our department and enjoys this interaction with the students. The program has allowed for positive interaction between the department and youth as well as guiding the students on making positive choices in their life.



### Student interaction

Officer Boyd Eser Voshell attended various Oelwein School classes to discuss an array of topics. Officers periodically speak to High School Government, Health and Driver's Education Classes. Our officers enjoy the interaction with students and having the opportunity to answer the questions and concerns of our youth.



## Officers in the Community

Our officers are proud to work in Oelwein and enjoy non-law enforcement interactions with the public. They seek out opportunities to talk and interact with people in all parts of our community.

Lt. David Niedert gets a quick photo taken with Miguel, the owner of the new Mexican restaurant, Hacienda. Lt. Niedert stopped in to welcome him to our community.



Where is Officer Waldo! Officer Waldo, from time to time, tends to wander off and we keep finding him in the strangest places! Thank you to several area youth that are keeping an eye out for him and getting their photo taken with him to let us know where he is at. Officer Ted Phillips started this fun activity. He randomly places Officer Waldo throughout our community and the first youth to find him wins a prize. Keep an eye out for Officer Waldo in 2019!

Officer DeJong enjoyed some lemonade on a hot summer day. These young men were testing their entrepreneurial skills with a lemonade stand and Officer DeJong took advantage of the opportunity to visit them.



# Oelwein Police Department

## Summary of Incidents in 2018

The Oelwein Police Department Communications Center received 9,650 calls for service in 2018.

There were 128 reported property damage traffic accidents in 2018 and an additional 8 traffic accidents in which a person was reported to be injured. Our community experienced zero fatality accidents in 2018.

Officers assisted 67 citizens in vehicles that were broken down, stuck in the snow or having other mechanical issues.

Officers responded to 73 alarm calls at businesses and residences.

The Oelwein Police Department received 169 theft reports and 81 reports of burglary.

Our agency responded to 42 domestic disturbance calls and investigated 12 violations of no contact orders.

Other statistics of interest:

Criminal Mischief	114
Animal complaint	354
Nuisance Abatement	282
Sexual Abuse	11
Trespass Violations	36
Underage drinking	5

Other statistics accounted for in the 9,650:

Oelwein Police Officers conducted 121 residential house checks while persons were on vacation or in the hospital. If a person is going to be gone for 30 days or less, whether it be on vacation, in the hospital or other reason; that person may contact our department to conduct a vacation watch. Officers will, each night, walk around the residence to ensure the residence is secure.

Oelwein Police Officers continue to exit their patrol cars and perform foot patrols in the downtown business district as well as in the residential neighborhoods. Officers performed 322 business district foot patrols and 152 residential foot patrols.

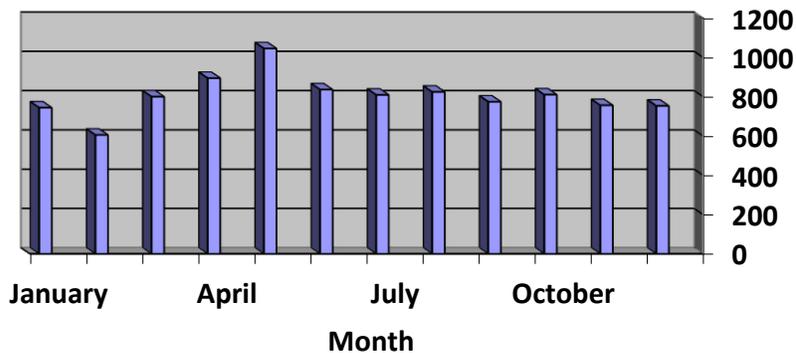
**"Good people do not need laws to tell them to act responsibly, while bad people will find a way around the laws."**

- Plato (427-347 B.C.)

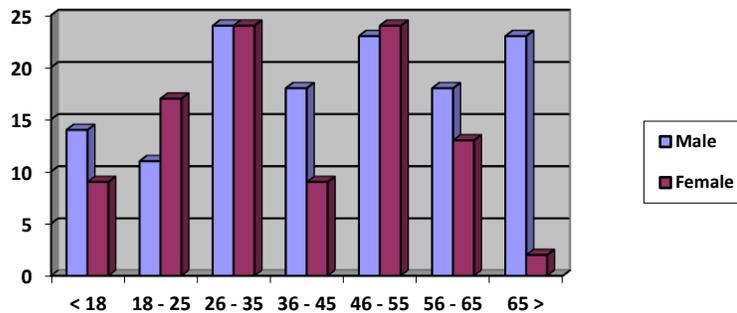
## Oelwein Police Department Summary of Incidents by Month

The following chart displays a summary of incidents by the month in which they occurred. In 2018, the month of May received the highest number of incidents.

### Incidents By Month



### Victim Information by Age



These statistics reflect all reported crimes where there was a citizen victim. Crimes ranging from theft, criminal mischief, burglary, assault, domestic assault and other various crimes are reflected. As the chart above indicates, cumulatively the age group of 26 to 35 experienced the most persons victimized by crime in 2018. Approximately 3.6% of our citizens reported being a victim of a crime in 2018. Less than 2% of our senior citizens reported being the victim of a crime.

## Oelwein Police Department Summary of Arrests in 2018

The Oelwein Police Department strives to be professional, courteous and equitable in the enforcement of the law. In 2018, the Oelwein Police Department filed 457 criminal charges against persons.

In 2018, officers filed 40 drug charges for the manufacturing of methamphetamine, delivery of methamphetamine, delivery of marijuana, possession of methamphetamine, possession of marijuana, possession of illegal prescription drugs and possession of precursors (items used to manufacture methamphetamine). The Oelwein Police Department continues to work with local, county, state and federal agencies to ensure aggressive enforcement and prosecution of drug violations.

Other notable criminal charges filed:

Assault	14
Assault on a Police Officer	05
Burglary	49
Criminal Mischief	11
Disorderly Conduct	09
Domestic Assault	14
Operating While Intoxicated	08
Sexual Abuse Offenses	05
Kidnapping	03
Theft	42
Violation of No Contact Order	04
Failure to Abate Nuisance	18

**"A people that values its privileges above its principles soon loses both."**

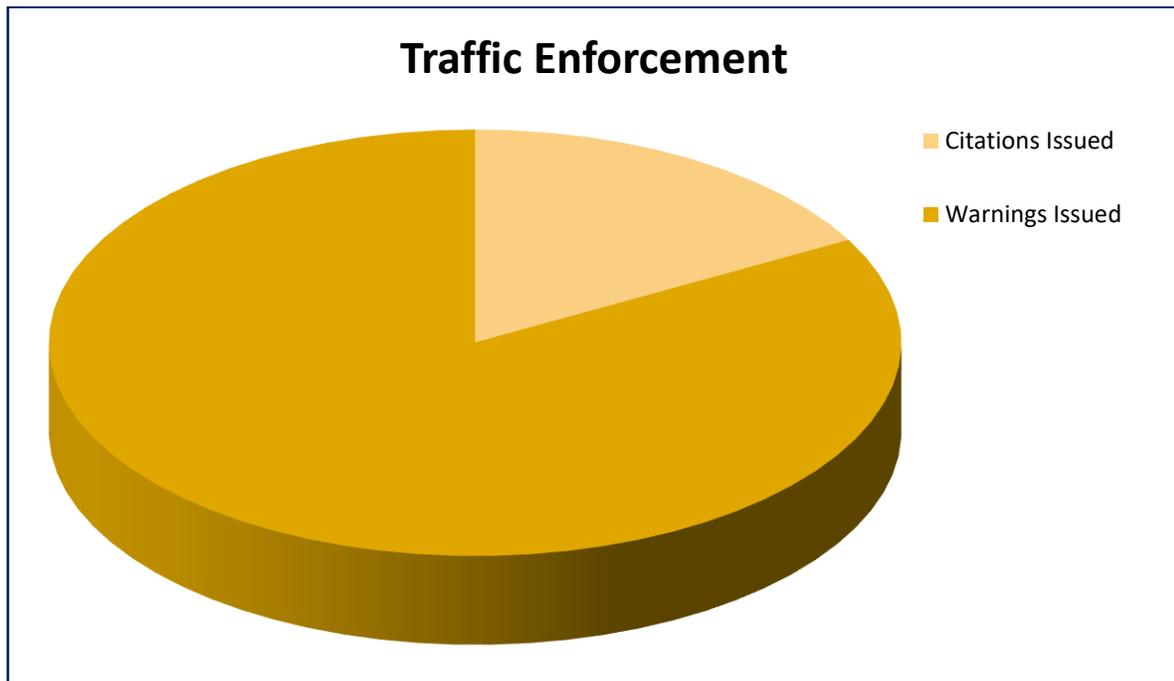
- Dwight D. Eisenhower (1890-1969)

## Oelwein Police Department Summary of Traffic Violations in 2018

The Oelwein Police Department continues its efforts to enforce our traffic laws through education and citation. Our goal is to decrease traffic violations to protect all citizens. Our agency is fair and impartial in our education/enforcement efforts. In 2018, the Oelwein Police Department issued 942 warnings for various traffic violations. That is compared to only 193 traffic citations. That figures to be 4.9 warnings issued compared to citations. Our officers issued nearly five times as many warnings as they did citations. The chart below allows for comparison.

The warning to citation ratio is an interesting statistic as a person considers our officers' efforts. Contrary to public perception about all law enforcement, our officers are fair and take pride in their enforcement efforts and understand that many times education by communication and a warning may go further than a citation. Factors that are taken into consideration are the seriousness of a violation, time and day of the violation, location, and the number of times a person has been previously warned; amongst other factors.

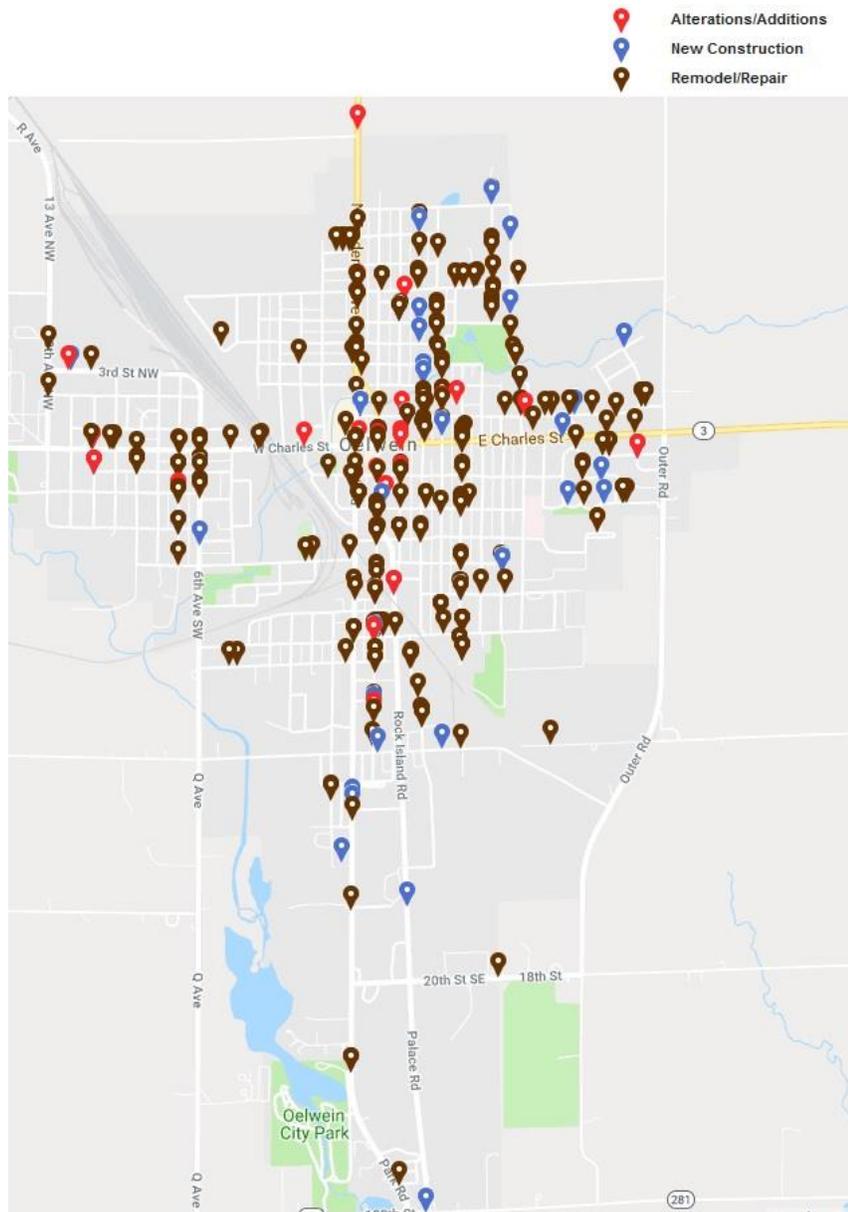
Our officers issued 202 warnings for speed while issuing 37 citations.



# Oelwein Police Department Building Inspections/Code Enforcement

The office of the Building Inspector/Code Enforcement falls under the jurisdiction and management of the police department. In 2018, the department issued 423 building permits that had total project valuations of \$11,325,396.

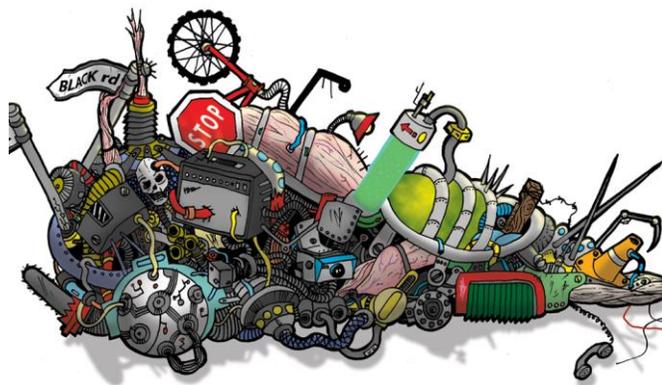
As noted in the following map, Oelwein observed new construction, repairs and remodel projects throughout the entire community. While it may appear that the eastern half of the city had a disproportionate amount compared to the western half, it should be noted that there are more residential units on the eastern side compared to the western side.



## Oelwein Police Department Community Clean-up Effort Nuisance Abatements

The Oelwein Police Department works diligently with our citizens to provide a safe and clean community. As a part of that effort, officers are observant to nuisance violations such as garbage in the yard, junk in the yard, inoperable or junk vehicles and other debris. We work to ensure clean neighborhoods as that provides a better look for our community, protects property values and a clean neighborhood is less welcoming to criminal behavior.

In 2018, officers served 282 nuisance abatement notices.



Through efforts of talking with citizens, working with them to gain compliance, being patient (if there has been progress) and providing information in reference to legal ways to dispose of items; we observed a clean-up compliance rate of 93.6% of the violations.



Only 6.4% of those served did not comply and had to be summoned into court for further action. The results of this is less burden on the taxpayer and cleaner and safer neighborhoods for our residents.

# Oelwein Police Department Special Units

## Reserve Unit

The Oelwein Police Department is very fortunate to have a great group of volunteers that form the Oelwein Police Department Reserve Police Officer Unit. These volunteers are carefully screened and go through extensive training. Each Oelwein Police Department Reserve Officer is certified through the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy and has full authority as a peace officer.

In 2018, the Oelwein Police Reserve Unit worked over 1,500 hours of volunteer time. These officers work many weekend shifts, assist with special events, surveillance and search warrants. Enough can't be said about the asset these members are to the Oelwein Police Department.

## Bicycle Patrol

The Oelwein Police Department utilizes a bicycle patrol for random routine residential and downtown patrols as well as during special events. Our agency utilizes full-time officers as well as reserve officers for this valuable tool.

The bicycles utilized are specially equipped with emergency lights and are official police equipment.

Due to staffing issues, the bike patrol unit, in 2018; was not utilized at the rate that we desire. We hope to improve upon that in 2019.



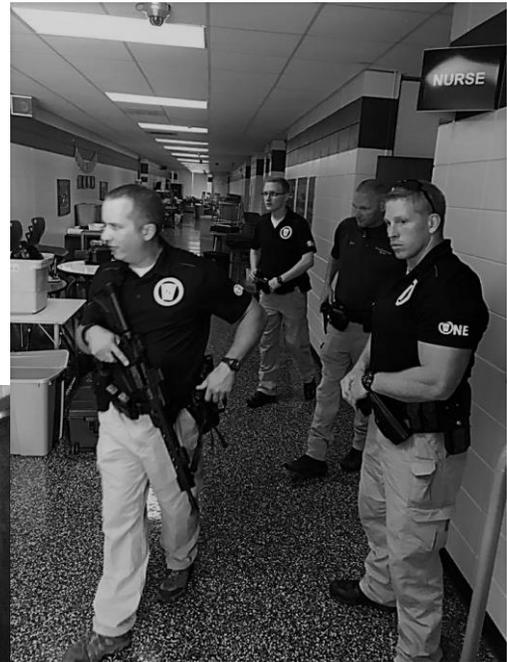
## Chili Cook-Off

While not an “official” special unit within the police department, we would be remiss if we did not point out that the police department, for the second year in a row, walked away with the “City Employee Chili Cook-off” trophy in 2018. While we are not saying that we are better cooks than the other city employee’s. . . .Oh, wait, yes; that is exactly what we are saying! The event is a great networking and teambuilding event for all city employee’s. While we realize we will not win every year, we will trash talk like we will!



## Special Response Team (SRT)

The Oelwein Police Department has several members trained in working together as a Special Response Team (SRT). The SRT is utilized for high risk search warrants, high risk arrest warrants, barricaded subjects and other critical incidents. Our team serves the citizens of Oelwein and is also utilized by area law enforcement agencies to assist with their critical incidents. This team trains regularly and is provided with special equipment to ensure their safety and the safety of those that they seek to protect/rescue. Developing a team such as this is a slow process and we are attempting to locate funds to further and properly equip the members to provide the highest possible quality of service from a team like this. Our agency is proud of these members and we are grateful that they are willing to sacrifice and risk so much to ensure our safety.



**"All that is necessary for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing."**

English philosopher Edmund Burke

## Oelwein Communications Center

The community of Oelwein is fortunate to have a 24 hours E-911 Communications Center.

This Communications Center receives several thousand calls per year. By having this center, the citizens of Oelwein and the surrounding area are provided with more efficient service to their needs and a quicker emergency response time.

Funding for the Oelwein Communications 911 Center has been discontinued by the Fayette County 911 Board. Great strides have been made to update equipment and technology and it is unfortunate that this board failed to see the benefit, value and need to fully fund both centers. State grant funds were applied for and received to update the equipment in 2019.

We are extremely fortunate to have the committed Communications Operators that we have and for all that they do to provide a professional and effective emergency response. These individuals take great pride in assisting the public.



## Quality Through Training

The Oelwein Police Department, in its efforts to provide professional training in an efficient manner, has on-staff several State and Nationally certified trainers/instructors. Our agency has persons certified to instruct officers within our department, with other agencies and at the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy. Areas in which we have instructors are:

- 1) Firearms (handguns & shotgun) – One on-staff instructor
- 2) Rifle – One on-staff instructor
- 3) Defensive Tactics – One on-staff instructor
- 4) DARE – One on-staff instructor
- 5) Defensive Driving – One on-staff instructor
- 6) Taser – Two on-staff instructors
- 7) Tactical Approach to an Active Shooter – Two on-staff instructors
- 8) Radar – One on-staff instructor
- 9) ASP Tactical Baton – One on-staff instructor
- 10) Use of chemical spray – One on-staff instructor
- 11) Field Sobriety Test – One on-staff instructor
- 12) CPR Instructor – One on-staff instructor

The benefits of having a well-trained police department is displayed each day as officers proactively seek out those persons in society that make the choice to not follow the law.

The Oelwein Police Department also has on staff two officers that are certified in the investigation and dismantling of methamphetamine laboratories. These officers are critical in identifying and securing hazardous materials utilized in the “meth cooking” process. By having these officers trained in this area, our agency is better equipped to quickly, efficiently and safely protect our citizens from this horrific problem.

The Oelwein Police Department also has one officer that is trained and certified in the use of the Computer Voice Stress Analyzer (CVSA). This equipment has and will allow for more efficient criminal investigations by detecting deception or honesty in persons.

## Closing

As you can see from this report, the Oelwein Police Department is a professional and ethical organization that is comprised of employees that are strongly committed to serving the community of Oelwein.

Our officers can't perform this high level of service and protection without the assistance from those that reside here. The progress made by law enforcement, to maintain order and safety within a community, is directly tied to the assistance and support that agency receives from its citizens.

Each citizen is encouraged to be a part of the solution and to support your police department.

