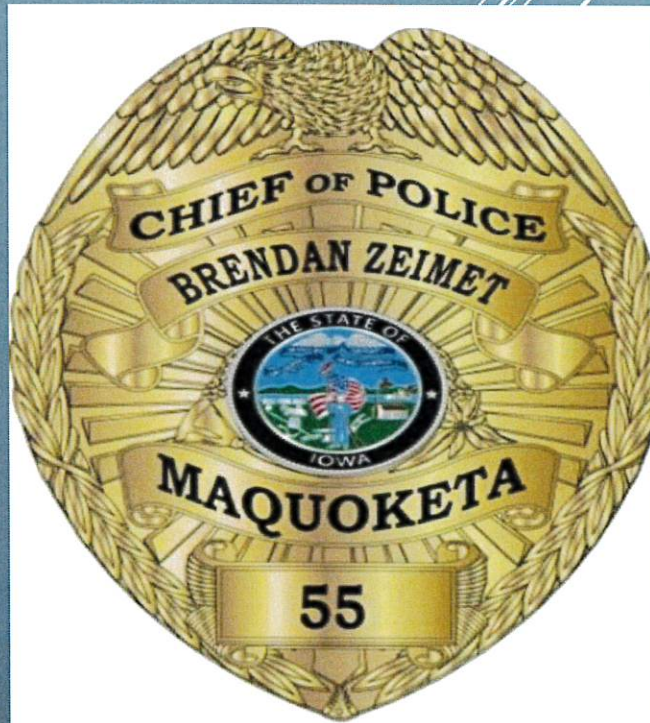


CITY OF
MAQUOKETA
ONE OF A KIND



MAQUOKETA POLICE DEPARTMENT
2022 Annual Report

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Maquoketa Police Department Mission Statement

The Mission of the Maquoketa Police Department is to enhance the quality of life in the community with dedication and excellence. The Maquoketa Police Department is a team of committed employees whose focus is on safety and service. The 24 members make up three divisions: Enforcement, Communications, and Reserves.

The Enforcement personnel are sworn officers who participate in uniforms and plainclothes in traditional policing functions and community interactions.

The Communication personnel are 911 civilian dispatchers and administrative staff who are the answering point for county-wide law enforcement, fire and medical services.

The Reserve personnel are sworn men and women who assist the law enforcement personnel during emergencies and other times when more help is needed.



MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF:

To the Honorable Mayor Tom Messerli, City Council, City Manager Josh Boldt, and the citizens of Maquoketa.

This past year was another challenging year for law enforcement nationwide. Staffing shortages plagued departments locally and across the country. However, despite the challenges, I am proud to say that the members of the Maquoketa Police Department worked together to accomplish many of the goals we set, while demonstrating a high level of professionalism, dedication and competence.

The 2022 Maquoketa Police Department Annual report is herein presented for your review. The report documents the department's challenges, accomplishments, community involvement and crime data from 2022.

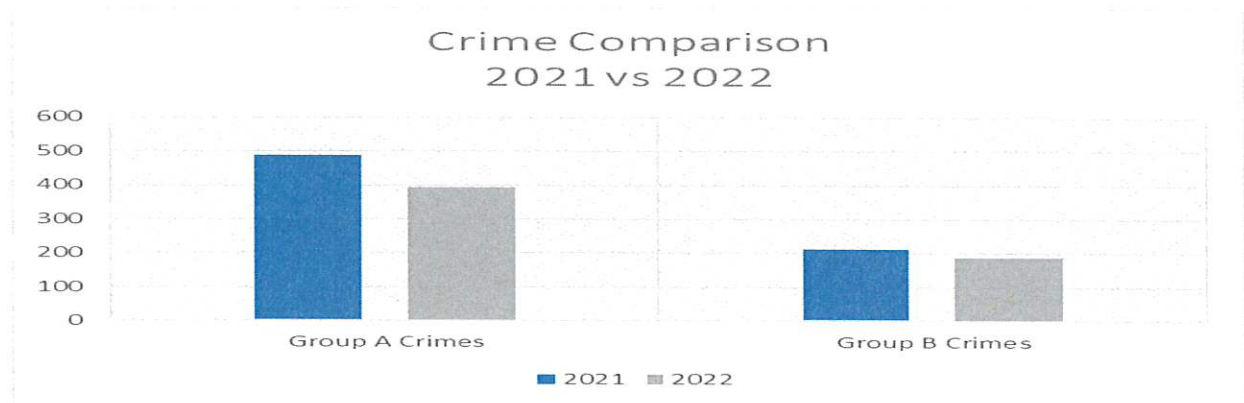




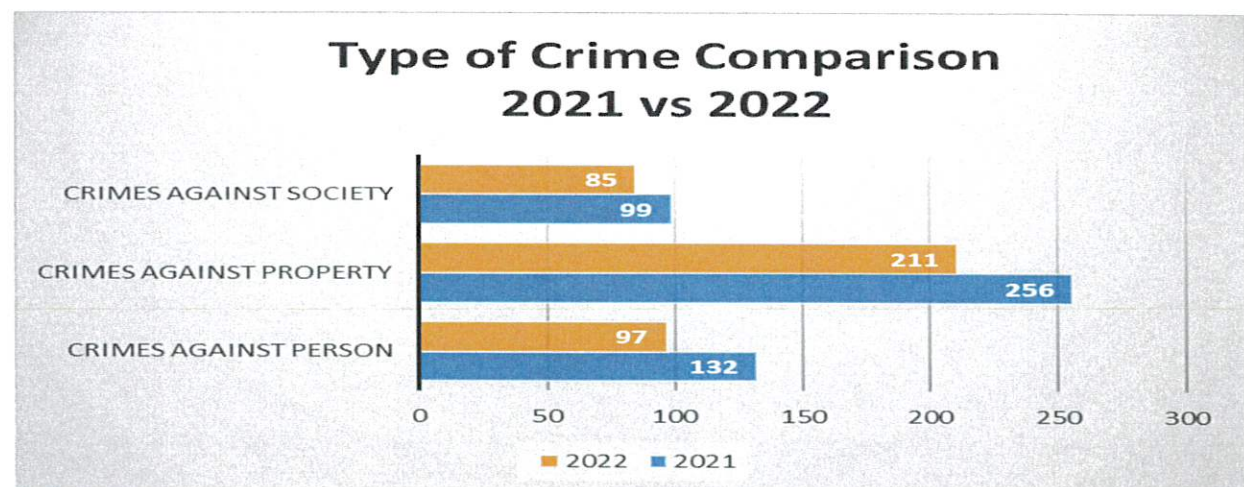
The Maquoketa Police Department operates, manages, and maintains dispatch operations for all of Jackson County. A 911 dispatcher is many things. From answering calls when people are most in need, to coordinating strategies, completing inquiries, providing instructions, and sending help when situations are at their most critical, an emergency dispatcher is a lifeline between people in need and necessary emergency services.

Dispatchers with the Maquoketa Police Department generated 23,811 calls for service into our Computer Aided Dispatching system or CAD. These calls for service (CFS) represent the entire number of emergency and non-emergency calls in all of Jackson County for 2022. A CFS is an event that requires a response from police, fire or Emergency Medical Services (EMS). These events can range from assist public calls, felonies in progress, to a medical emergency.

The Iowa Uniform Crime Reporting System (UCR) breaks crimes into two types of offenses, Group A & Group B. Group A Offenses are generally more serious crimes by nature such as murder, sexual assault, aggravated assault or weapons law violations just to name a few. Group B Offenses are less serious crimes such as public drunkenness, bad checks and trespassing and are only reported when an arrest is made.



Group A & B crimes are then separated into three different types of categories; crime against person, crime against property, and crime against society. The chart above shows a 19% decrease in group A crimes and a 11% decrease in group B crimes. The chart below shows a decrease in crimes against persons, property and society in 2022. While we can't stop every crime from occurring, with positive community involvement and proactive policing it's my hope these numbers will continue trending downward.



Personnel

We entered 2022 being short-handed in both the police department and in dispatch. As the year progressed things got worse before they got better:

Dispatch has an authorized staffing level of 7 full-time employees to cover 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. During the early Spring time of the year in 2022, dispatch was down to just four (4) certified and trained dispatchers to cover those shifts. This left dispatchers with little time off and lots of overtime ensuring that someone was always there to answer that emergency 911 call. I am happy to report that at the end of 2022 Dispatch was officially back up to full-staff with all new employees certified, trained and working independently.

The Police Department has an authorized staffing level of 11 sworn full-time officers to provide the same round the clock coverage as dispatch. Due to retirement, and officers leaving for other opportunities, the police department found itself down to just seven (7) certified and trained officers at one point during the year. Cory Pirtle rejoined our team in late March, after a long Summer and Fall working short-handed Officers Ronald Paulsen and Kane Kopp graduated the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy on December 16th, 2022 getting us closer to being full-staffed. We hope to get back to full-staff by the Spring of 2023.

These staffing shortages were met head-on by the professional men and women who make up the Maquoketa Police Department and Dispatch Center. These individuals are dedicated, hardworking people who are committed to the success of the Maquoketa Police Department, and the safety of the citizens of this community. We are fortunate to have such dedicated people on our team and I am proud to work alongside of them.

Current Staff

911 Dispatch:

Communications Supervisor	Bob Lane	35 Years of Service
Dispatcher	Andrea Werner	33 Years of Service
Dispatcher	Teri Kaune	15 Years of Service
Dispatcher	Amber Casteel	1 Year of Service
Dispatcher	Jerry Kirton	1 Year of Service
Dispatcher	Ann Magil-Hamilton	1 Year of Service
Dispatcher	Jessica Scharff	1 Year of Service

Police Officers:

Chief	Brendan Zeimet	22 Years of Service
Asst Chief	Jason Thomson	18 Years of Service
Sergeant	Darin Risinger	23 Years of Service
Sergeant	Cory Pirtle	4 Years of Service
Officer	Mike Owen	14 Years of Service
Officer	Jayson Heiar	10 Years of Service
Officer	Richard Ewoldt	5 Years of Service
Officer	Rebecka Aragon	2 Years of Service
Officer	Ronald Paulsen	1 Year of Service
Officer	Kane Kopp	1 year of Service

Promotions

Jason "JT" Thomson
Assistant Chief



Cory Pirtle
Sergeant



Jason Thomson was promoted to Assistant Chief on February 21st 2022. Thomson has been with the Maquoketa Police Department since 2004. Prior to his promotion Thomson was a Patrol Officer who was the Coordinator for the Maquoketa Police Department's Reserve Unit. Thomson served as the departments taser instructor for 3 year and founded a Hooked on Fishing Program he ran teaching grade school kids how to fish.

Cory Pirtle was promoted to Sergeant on September 14th 2022. Pirtle started his career in law enforcement with the Maquoketa Police Department in 2017. Pirtle served the department for 3 ½ years before deciding to take another law enforcement job out of state. In March 2022 Pirtle returned to the Maquoketa Police Department. Prior to his law enforcement career, Pirtle served in the United States Marine Corps for 8 years.

School Resource Officer Program

Community policing is best defined as the implementation of programs and focus in department philosophy regarding Organizational Change, Community Partnership, and Problem Solving. Our School Resource Officer (SRO) program successfully addresses these three prongs and has positively affected the community during its existence.

The School Resource Officer (SRO) was developed in Tucson, Arizona in 1963 and is a position that has existed in the Maquoketa Police Department since 1999. In 2005 and 2006 the position was not filled and there was not a police officer in our schools. The program was renewed in 2007 and is under contract on a year-by-year basis. Under this contract the City of Maquoketa and the Maquoketa Community School District agree to split the cost of the School Resource Officer Position.

The primary focus of the SRO is to provide advanced services to our students and build a positive relationship with the kids. By having an officer in our schools, we are able to offer another resource for the school district, teachers, students, and parents to bridge the gap between law enforcement and our youth.

The SRO program looked drastically different between the Spring 2022 Semester and the Fall 2022 Semester. In July, long time SRO Scott Hansen retired from the police department after 19 years of service. This unexpected retirement forced us to make some tough decisions and it was decided that we would be unable to provide the Maquoketa Community School District with an officer in the schools full-time.

I met with Maquoketa Community School District Superintendent Tara Notz to talk about goals, and expectations for the 2022/2023 school year in absence of a full-time SRO. The goal was simple, make officers a normal presence within or schools on a day-to-day basis to increase positive interactions with kids and staff. Throughout this school year, Maquoketa Police Officers not only met our expectations, they exceeded them. Multiple officers, making multiple stops,

multiple times a day at different schools. While nothing will replace the presence of a full-time SRO in our schools, I am extremely proud of how the officers of this department have stepped up, not only ensuring the safety of our students, but developing relationships along the way.

While we fully expect to have an SRO in the schools at the start of the 2023/2024 school year, we will continue to have an increased presence in the schools, using our regular patrol staff and SRO to provide an elevated presence and further develop those positive relationships with kids.

I've attached a letter addressed to Maquoketa City Council Members from Maquoketa Community Superintendent Tara Notz. In the letter Notz commends the efforts of the Maquoketa Police Department and its officers.




**MAQUOKETA COMMUNITY
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

612 South Vermont Street
Maquoketa, Iowa 52060
Phone: (563) 652-4984

www.MaquoketaSchools.org


2-15-23

Dear Maquoketa City Council Members,

The collaboration and support I've had with Police Chief Zeimet and the Maquoketa Police Department as I've started my position as Superintendent of Maquoketa Community School District has been superb. Chief Zeimet was one of the first collaborative community partners I reached out to during my first month as Superintendent as school safety is at the forefront of everyone's minds. We immediately began to discuss our current safety needs and how to bring together all emergency services that may support Maquoketa CSD. This led to us planning a day where all Maquoketa PD officers, the Sheriff's office, members from the DNR and other county officers participated in a tour of all of our buildings to understand the layout, where the safe rooms were located and also to provide feedback on safety improvements. A significant improvement that came from this meeting included updating the school ID badges for all emergency responders.

In addition, Chief Zeimet and I discussed throughout the summer of 2022 that Maquoketa PD staffing was down and we would most likely not have an SRO position to start the school year. Although having an SRO position would be our first option, we also knew that we wanted to improve relationships and visibility between officers and our students and staff. Our goal was to have students interact with officers for positive reasons and not solely focused on reacting to negative behaviors. We discussed a vision where officers would be able to stop at the schools periodically throughout the day and make connections with students and staff. Chief Zeimet communicated and implemented this plan with officers and we have seen very positive results. Students are excited to see officers and interact with them during school activities. The teachers and public are no longer "scared" when they see a patrol car outside of the school and are starting to understand that it's a "normal" part of our school day to have officers visit and interact with our students. I have been able to talk with officers on a regular basis about how they feel about this school year and interactions with students and they have overwhelmingly shared that it has been positive. They feel they've had fewer negative interactions with students and enjoy visiting and creating relationships with students during lunch and also at sporting events.

Tara Notz
Superintendent of
Schools

Kristy Haxmeier
Business Manager

Stacy Marcus
Director of Curriculum/
Instruction and Student Services

Dustin Cogan
Technology Director

Scott Hansen
Director of Support Services/
Transportation Director

OUR MISSION: To ensure all students and staff are learning at high levels.
OUR VISION: To develop a culture of collaboration and communication that supports continuous improvement for all.



**MAQUOKETA COMMUNITY
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

www.MaquoketaSchools.org



612 South Vermont Street
Maquoketa, Iowa 52060
Phone: (563) 652-4984

We are very excited about adding an SRO back to our staff while at the same time my hope and goal would be that we continue with the same types of interactions and relationships that have been formed with the rest of the department.

The partnership between Maquoketa CSD and the Maquoketa PD is something that has been extremely valuable for our students, staff community and myself. I believe we can be a model for other communities to show when you develop positive relationships between schools and law enforcement there are many amazing outcomes from students, staff and communities.

Tara Notz
Maquoketa CSD
Superintendent

Tara Notz
Superintendent of
Schools

Kristy Haxmeier
Business Manager

Stacy Marcus
Director of Curriculum/
Instruction and Student Services

Dustin Cogan
Technology Director

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OUR MISSION: To ensure all students and staff are learning at high levels.
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Maquoketa Reserve Program

The Maquoketa Reserve Officer program is made up of dedicated individuals who volunteer their time to the Maquoketa Police Department. These individuals have full-time careers outside of Law Enforcement but a desire to serve the Community of Maquoketa in a volunteer capacity. Member of the Reserve Unit go through online and in person training to become Certified Reserve Officers for the State of Iowa. Certified Reserve Officers have the same arrest powers as Certified Officers when they are on duty and are required to complete the same mandatory trainings. We utilize our Reserve Officers serving as back-up officers to our full-time staff. Reserve Officers provide us with an extra set of eyes and will be called in to assist at crime scenes. Reserve Officers also provide security for special events and school functions. Numerous former and current officers with the Maquoketa Police Department started their Law Enforcement journey as Reserve Officers. Currently our Reserve Unit consists of four members.

- Jon Eggers – Serving Since 2014
- John Sitzmann – Serving Since 2016
- Danny Eads – Serving Since 2018
- Joshua Collister – Serving Since 2019

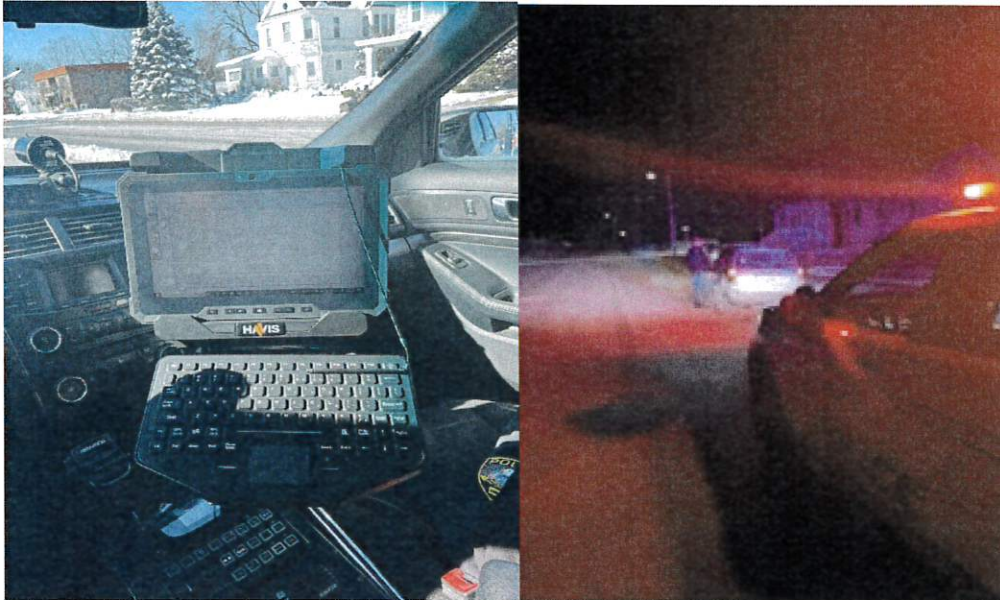


Infrastructure & Vehicles

The current police department was built in 1989, housing the Maquoketa Police Department and Dispatch since that time. The current building provides adequate room for current staff needs but does not offer room for growth. In the past 30 years Dispatch has gone from the presence of one computer monitor in the room, to 11 computer monitors at each dispatch station with a total of 24 computer monitors in the room. Currently, there are two dispatch stations at the police department with no room for growth. In 2022 we purchased additional licensing, allowing for Communication Supervisor Bob Lane to work on administrative work at a third computer station. This station cannot be used to dispatch from, but gives Lane have access to the State NCIC System allowing him to do administrative work when the other two stations are being utilized. This extra computer station will also prove useful when its time to train a new employee.

The property/evidence room is being managed properly and is adequate for our current needs. On occasion we do have to utilize our storage building in the parking lot behind the fire station for larger objects. Currently, Sgt Darin Risinger oversees and maintains our property/evidence room for the police department. Risinger is not only responsible for checking evidence in and out of the property room, he also responsible for evidence destruction and return.

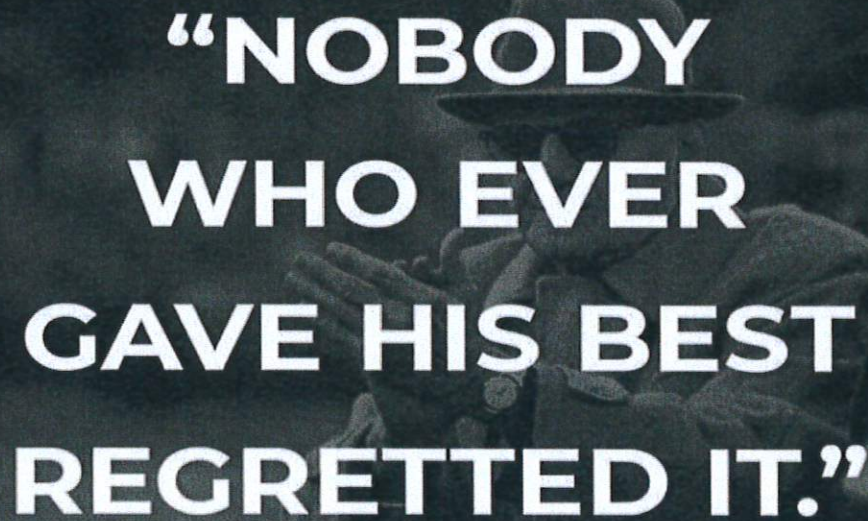
Building improvements were a point of emphasis in 2022. We added lighting to the exterior of the building to improve visibility and safety. With the impending move of the Jackson County Sheriff's Office to their new facility, and our old sign in desperate need of repair, we updated the sign on the north side of the building, going from "Law Enforcement Center" to "Maquoketa Police Department". Inside, carpets were cleaned, and fresh coats of paint were added to multiple rooms/offices. These improvements will continue well into 2023.



We rely heavily on our computer systems both inside the police department and in our squad cars. The computer work stations in the squad room continue to function well and are in no need of updating. Our in-car computers (tablets) were implemented in 2017. According to our tech support service the expected life span for these tablets is approximately 5 to 6 years. Although our in-car computer systems are reaching their end of life, they are functioning well at this time. It is recommended by our tech support that when we upgrade to new tablets, we do them all at once. At this time there is adequate funding in the CIP for new tablets when needed.

Currently the Maquoketa Police Department provides each full-time officer with their duty weapon (Smith & Wesson M&P 9mm). These weapons were purchased in summer of 2021 and will serve our needs for years to come. Each squad car is equipped with a 12-gauge shotgun. There is no uniformity amongst the shotguns and they are in need up upgrading.

The Maquoketa Police Department rifle program allows officers to purchase their own patrol rifle and use it on duty, provided that it meets certain specifications. The City of Maquoketa will cover the cost of the rifle then allow the officer to do a payroll deduction for up to 18 months to pay back the cost of the rifle. The benefit of this program is it allows officers the ability to have access to a patrol rifle without the city having to invest in the cost of patrol rifles. Currently 6 full-time officers utilize their own patrol rifle while on duty. The downside to this program is, not every officer is equipped or has access to a patrol rifle.



**“NOBODY
WHO EVER
GAVE HIS BEST
REGRETTED IT.”**

Patrol Fleet

Our patrol fleet consists of four Ford Explorers and one Dodge Ram Truck. This past year we encountered some unexpected vehicle maintenance issues, the most notable being a major engine repair to the Dodge Ram. The other common issue we encountered was the availability of parts, unfortunately, this problem is not unique to our agency. Overall, our fleet serves us well, and we will phase out the highest mileage vehicle with a new 2023 Ford Explorer sometime in 2023.

- 2016 Ford Explorer >109,000
- 2017 Ford Explorer >123,000
- 2018 Dodge Ram >70,000
- 2020 Ford Explorer >49,000
- 2021 Ford Explorer >34,000

We also maintain a 2013 Ford Interceptor (Taurus) and a 2014 Ford Explorer. These vehicles are not equipped and are unmarked. We use these vehicles when we send officers and dispatchers to out of town trainings. Recently, the Maquoketa Police Department seized a 2014 Nissan Altima with low mileage from a drug related investigation. After an inspection, we will begin to use this vehicle as a travel vehicle when we attend out of town trainings allowing us to sell the 2013 and 2014 vehicles listed above.

**Every accomplishment
starts with the decision
to try.**

J O H N F . K E N N E D Y

Accomplishments

On 01/03/2022, Sgt Keenan Meinecke responded to a medical call of an unresponsive male. Meinecke arrived on scene entering the residence with a Lifepak CR2 Defibrillator. Meinecke located the unresponsive male who was identified as Michael Tubbs. Tubbs was unconscious, pale and his lips were blue. Meinecke removed Tubbs from his chair placing him onto the floor to begin life saving measures. Meinecke used the defibrillator placing the pads on Tubbs and a shock was administered. Meinecke began administering CPR until EMS arrived on scene. Tubbs was rushed to the hospital and survived due to the quick response by Sgt Meinecke, The Maquoketa Rescue Squad and Jackson County Regional Health Center Paramedics. Picture below is Sgt Keenan Meinecke and the man he saved, Michael Tubbs.



Accomplishments Cont...

The Jackson County Prevention Coalition (JCPC) is a group of local residents, professionals and youth who have come together for a common goal: the safety and well-being of our children and communities by working to reduce youth substance use and its negative consequences. This year JCPC was awarded the "Got Outcomes" 2022 Coalition of the Year Award. Sgt Darin Risinger has represented the Maquoketa Police Department on the JCPC since its inception. This week, Risinger traveled to Washington DC with other members of JCPC to accept their Coalition of the Year Award. Congratulations to The Jackson County Prevention Coalition on all their hard work.




Accomplishments Cont...

According to the National Institutes of Health approximately 10% of adults will have a drug use disorder at some point in their lives. Since the year 2000 The National Center for Drug Abuse Statistics states that drug overdose deaths in the United States is nearing 1 Million. Is there something we can do?

The Maquoketa Police Department recognizes that there are times when an individual may want to seek substance abuse assistance but don't out of fear of criminal prosecution. The Maquoketa Police Department's Drug Amnesty Program will allow individuals who are seeking help do so without fear of criminal prosecution. The photograph below shows the two-sided flier containing information about the program and numbers officers or individuals seeking help can call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Let me be clear, although we are encouraging those suffering from addiction to seek treatment, myself and the other officers of the Maquoketa Police Department will continue to actively and aggressively seek out and charge those who choose to continue to use and peddle drugs in our community.



DRUG AMNESTY PROGRAM

The Maquoketa Police Department has implemented a drug amnesty program recognizing there are times when an addict, their family or friends may desire to seek treatment for addiction, but lack the ability to destroy limited amounts of controlled substances in their possession. The purpose of the program is to give citizens the ability to turn in controlled substances and/or paraphernalia anonymously and without fear of prosecution, so that these items can be destroyed in a safe manner.

All that is required is for the person to bring the item(s) to the Maquoketa Police Department and tell the responding officer that the item(s) are for the drug amnesty program. It is recommended that you call ahead to make sure that an officer is available to take possession of the item(s). You do not need to provide your name or any other personal information.

Maquoketa Police Department
102 S. Niagara Street
Maquoketa, IA 52060
563-652-2468

HELP IS AVAILABLE

Detox Services
CADS
563-326-1150

Outpatient and Inpatient Treatment
ASAC
119 S. Main Street Suite 2
Maquoketa, IA
563-652-2215

24 Hour Crisis Lines
Foundation 2
1-800-332-4224

National Suicide Hotline
1-800-273-8255

Work Based Learning

2022 marked the return of our partnership with Northeast Community Schools and their Work Based Learning (WBL) program. The WBL program pairs High School Seniors at jobs they are interested in pursuing after graduation. This year, Northeast Senior Isabelle Brown completed an internship with the Maquoketa Police Department. Brown joined us every other day for a couple hours each day during the fall semester. During her time with us, Brown rode along with multiple officers observing the day-to-day tasks. Brown even participated in trainings with officers, including taser, and firearms. Brown proved to be a pretty good shot too. Brown was our 5th WBL program student that interned with us. This is a program that we truly enjoy being a part of, we see it as a way of attracting the next generation of officers to the profession.



Recognize that every
interaction you have is an
opportunity to make positive
impact on others.

– Shep Hyken

Community Based Initiatives

National Night Out

On September 13th members of the Maquoketa Police Department and Jackson County Sheriff's Office hosted National Night Out. National Night Out is a joint effort organized by Jackson County Sheriff's Office and the Maquoketa Police Department. Jackson County Sheriff's Office Criminal Secretary Karen Wells plays a huge part in organizing this event each year.

National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make our neighborhoods safer, more caring places to live. National Night Out enhances the relationship between neighbors and law enforcement while encouraging a true sense of community. Furthermore, it provides a great opportunity to bring police and neighbors together under positive circumstances.

A meal of hotdogs and chips was provided free of charge, along with snow cones and nachos. Kids and community members took part in water fights with the Maquoketa Fire Department, rode in MMEU's bucket truck and left their finger prints on a Maquoketa Squad car.



Shop with a Cop

On December 14th the Maquoketa Police Department held Shop with a Cop. Shop with a cop has been a long-standing tradition for the Maquoketa Police Department, for over 20 years we organized this event. This year, the Jackson County Sheriff's Office, Preston and Sabula Police Departments also participated in the event. Twenty kids from three different communities participated in Shop with a Cop this year. Like in years past, kids were paired with an officer and given a gift card to shop for themselves, friends and family. When the shopping was done, member of the Maquoketa Optimist Club, and Dispatchers from the Maquoketa Police Department wrapped the presents for the kids. This event is funded by civic groups, businesses and community members.



No Shave “November”

No shave November is a community service project that the officers of the Maquoketa Police Department came up with approximately 8 years ago. In November officers make a donation of \$100 which allows them to have facial hair outside of the traditional facial hair policy. Traditionally officers were only allowed to have a mustache, however, by participating in No Shave November, officers are allowed to have well groomed beards and goatees all year long.

The participation in this event raises approximately \$900 each year to be donated back into the community. In the past donations have been made to Maquoketa Community Cupboard, The Jackson County Humane Society, Relay for Life, and the Head Start Program just to name a few.

In 2022 part of the money was used to give scholarships to two deserving Maquoketa Seniors. Kennedy Sparks, and Mitchell Roeder were each issued a \$250 scholarship from the No Shave November fund.

Pictured below is Asst Chief Thomson making a \$400 donation to Hospice of Jackson County from the Officer’s No Shave November Donations.



Goals for the Future

0 to 6 Months:

- **School Resource Officer:** We have identified a solid candidate for the SRO position. In the next couple of months, I would like to complete the hiring process and get this candidate started with the department.
- **Continue Building Improvements:** Finish painting the first floor of the police department giving the police department a fresh professional look. The entry and lobby area of the building are in need of improvements. This is the first thing the public sees when they enter our building and we want to fix this area up to send a positive message about our building and department.

6 to 12 Months:

- **Grants:** Explore grant options to subsidize training, equipment and other departmental needs moving forward.
- **ISICS Radio system upgrade for law enforcement:** The ISICS radio system is a 700 megahertz system. Upgrading to this system will allow us to effectively communicate with surrounding counties and the Iowa State Patrol who have already upgraded to the ISICS system. This system was supposed to be in place last year but the “supply chain issues” that plagued industries across the United State slowed pushed the completion date of this project back almost a full year.

12 to 24 Months:

- **Capital Improvement Plan:** Create a long-term capital improvement plan for the police department building. This plan will look at maintenance and possible renovation of the building as we look 10 to 20 years in the future.

Conclusion

A safer community is built on a framework of progressive law enforcement strengthened by public awareness, education and involvement. We have had many positive interactions in our community over the course of 2022. We would like to think we have made some positive strides within the community and the positive interactions we've had with our citizens. We will continue to build these relationships within our community as we move forward.

I am grateful to all of the employees of the Maquoketa Police Department. They are our greatest resource and I am thankful for the leadership, competence, professionalism, and teamwork they have demonstrated this past year. I am extremely proud of their work and the difference they make daily in our community. I am also thankful for our many great partners across all city departments and the strong political leadership in our city. Finally, I am grateful and blessed to have the privilege to work in such an amazing community. I hope that this annual report was helpful when considering the state of the city as it pertains to your police department.

Respectfully,

Brendan Zeimet

Brendan Zeimet
Chief of Police