

# 04/2025

APRIL

## Contact Us

La Crescent Police Department  
315 Main ST.  
La Crescent, MN 55947

Phone  
507-895-4414

fax  
507-895-8183

Online  
[cityoflacrescent-mn.gov/police-department](http://cityoflacrescent-mn.gov/police-department)

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# LA CRESCENT POLICE DEPARTMENT

## MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



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## EVENT SPOTLIGHT - BRINGING BOOKS TO LIFE

By Police Administrative Secretary Lisa Olson

Tuesday, March 11, La Crescent-Hokah Elementary School hosted another popular evening of "Bringing Books to Life". According to Principal Jeff Copp, this event was started nearly 27 years ago by Lisa Kroner. Teachers and Community Members present a chosen book to read to the elementary kids and their parents/guardians. Some groups make it into a play or add other props for fun. Many dress up and even hand out trinkets or treats.

Sergeant Michael Ernster of the La Crescent Police Department says he has only missed out on two of the BBTL nights during his employment with LCPD. "Ernster" has a way of recruiting fellow officers into the fun and always has a humorous twist to his chosen book. Even through the pandemic, he was able to create videos of the book for kids to watch, learn, and most of all - laugh.

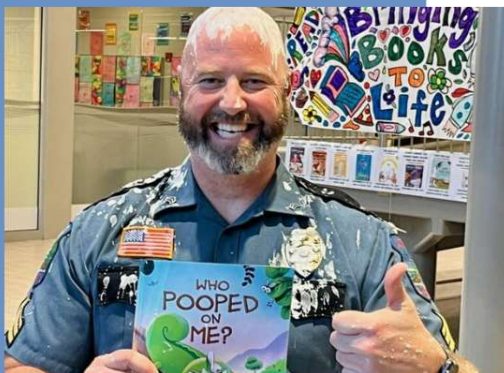
This year Sergeant Ernster was unsupervised when he chose the book titled, "Who Pooped on Me" written by David Cunliffe, (Ivan Barrera, Illustrator). As always, it turned out to be a silly reading and the kids (and adults) laughed a lot!

In the story there is a bird above the main character, a chameleon. This is where Ernster enlisted Police Administrative Secretary Lisa Olson to read and voice as other characters in the book, and talked Investigator Darin Daveau into being the bird. The Investigator was a great sport, wearing a giant inflatable toucan costume, and he 'perched' above Ernster on the elementary balcony.

While Ernster exclaimed, "Who Pooped on Me?" and "Splat!", Investigator Daveau would call out "Look out below!" and squirt from a large bottle containing white shaving cream mixed with water. The attendees hooted and hollered when one giant splat landed directly on Ernster's head and uniform.

Spoiler - in the book it is actually ice cream that the bird is eating above the chameleon. Or was it . . . ?

Kids each got a candy treat after the two readings. And then something wild started to happen as the crew was cleaning and packing to leave. More kids and parents showed up thinking there was a third production. Ernster, Daveau, and Olson quickly set up to have an Encore performance! La Crescent Police Department truly enjoys being part of BBTL and is already planning for next Spring's event.





## RESERVE REVIEW

*By Corporal Clark*

In March, the La Crescent Police Reserve Unit focused on training for traffic stops. While reserves are not authorized to conduct traffic stops themselves, they receive hands-on training in various law enforcement topics. The training included classroom instruction on the procedures and safety protocols for traffic stops, as well as live-action, controlled scenario training. During these scenarios, reserve officers conducted mock traffic stops on closed property with department personnel, allowing them to experience firsthand the dynamics of such situations.

Special thanks to the La Crescent Snowmobile Club for giving our Reserve Unit a safe space to train!

Are you interested in joining the La Crescent Police Department Reserve Unit? Applications are opening in May for qualified applicants! See the .pdf version at <https://www.cityoflacrescent-mn.gov/wp-content/uploads/Police-Reserve-Unit-Application-1.pdf>, contact the Police Department, or scan the QR Code below to fill out an application!



## TRAINING TOPICS: MIDWEST COUNTERDRUG TASK FORCE TACTICAL MEDICINE

*By Officer Weinfurtner*

In March, Officers Peterson and Weinfurtner attended a Tactical Medicine course in Johnston, Iowa, through the Midwest Counterdrug Task Force. This two-day training, led by Iowa National Guard Combat Medics, focused on Tactical Emergency Casualty Care (TECC)—a critical skill set for law enforcement officers responding to high-risk incidents.

The course emphasized intervening in the most common causes of trauma-related deaths, such as severe bleeding, airway obstructions, and chest injuries.

They practiced applying tourniquets, wound packing, and chest seals—techniques that can mean the difference between life and death in situations where immediate medical help is unavailable.

These skills are vital for law enforcement, as officers are often first on scene for accidents, assaults, and medical emergencies.

The course ended with a written exam and hands-on scenarios, where they applied their training on state-of-the-art manikins. This experience reinforced the importance of quick, effective care in critical moments.

They are better prepared to protect not just themselves, but their fellow officers and the community they serve. It was an invaluable experience, and they're excited to bring these enhanced skills back to La Crescent.



## ASK A COP: POR REGISTRATION

*By Chief Ahlschlager*

The La Crescent Police Department is committed to protecting the public by ensuring that residents are informed about predatory offenders in our community. Minnesota law mandates the registration of certain offenders and provides guidelines for community notification. Understanding these processes helps ensure community safety and awareness.

Minnesota law requires specific predatory offenders to register with the Minnesota Department of Public Safety's Predatory Offender Unit. This registration applies to individuals convicted of certain offenses and serves as a tool for law enforcement agencies to track their location and status.

It is important to note that some offenders are required to register but may not be assigned a risk level due to factors such as completing their sentence before the relevant legislation was enacted or not serving time in a state or federal prison.

For further information on registration requirements, visit the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension's (BCA) website at [www.dps.state.mn.us/bca](http://www.dps.state.mn.us/bca) or contact the Predatory Offender Unit at (651) 793-7070 or 1-888-234-1248.

### Understanding Offender Risk Levels

The Minnesota Department of Corrections (DOC) assigns risk levels to certain offenders upon their release. These risk levels determine the extent of community notification that law enforcement provides:

Level 1 - Low risk of re-offending

Level 2 - Moderate risk of re-offending

Level 3 - High risk of re-offending

Community members should be aware that not all offenders are subject to notification, depending on their assigned risk level and placement in supervised facilities.

When an offender with a risk level moves into a community, the La Crescent Police Department follows established procedures to inform residents:

**Level 1:** Information is maintained by law enforcement and may be disclosed only to victims who have requested notification or other relevant law enforcement agencies.

**Level 2:** In addition to Level 1 disclosures, notifications may be provided to schools, daycare centers, and organizations serving vulnerable populations, as well as individuals likely to be at risk.

**Level 3:** Public notifications are conducted to inform community members about high-risk offenders. This process typically involves community meetings where law enforcement provides details about the offender and safety recommendations.

Residents can contact the DOC's Risk Assessment/Community Notification Unit at (651) 361-7340 or via email at [notification.doc@state.mn.us](mailto:notification.doc@state.mn.us) for questions about risk levels and notification procedures.

Law enforcement agencies are responsible for monitoring predatory offenders residing in their jurisdiction. This includes verifying residential addresses and ensuring compliance with registration requirements. If an offender fails to notify authorities of a change in residence, law enforcement may pursue criminal charges.

Community members who suspect a registered offender is not residing at their listed address or who have concerns about predatory offenders can contact the La Crescent Police Department for further guidance.

The La Crescent Police Department is dedicated to ensuring public safety by keeping residents informed and engaged in the community notification process. We encourage community members to stay vigilant and proactive in reporting concerns and seeking information.

For additional details or inquiries, please visit our department's website or contact us directly. Together, we can help protect our community and foster a safer environment for all residents.

## MARCH CALLS FOR SERVICE

**376 Total Calls for Service**  
Notable Call Types:

911 (Hang Ups and Open Lines) - 5  
Accidents - 6  
Alarms - 1  
Animal Complaints - 12  
Assist Other Agency - 20  
Child (Calls Involving) - 4  
Civil Matter - 2  
Community Policing - 17  
Damage to Property - 2  
DANCO - 2  
Death - 1  
Domestic - 2  
Extra Patrol - 7  
Fire - 1  
Found Property - 3  
Harassment - 4  
Juvenile (Calls Involving) - 6  
Lost Property - 4  
MAARC Report - 3  
Medical - 32  
Motor Vehicle Unlock - 4  
Motorist Assist - 7  
Found Open Door - 2  
Ordinance Violation - 4  
Parking Complaint - 13  
Public Assist - 3  
Public Hazard - 4  
Scams - 3  
Suspicious - 18  
Traffic Complaint - 16  
Traffic Stop - 101 (27 Citations)  
Trouble With Party (Person) - 9  
Vehicle Off Road - 3  
Warrants - 2  
Welfare Checks - 12

## EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION:

### SGT. ERNSTER AND POLICE ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY OLSON

*By Chief Ahlschlager and Officer Weinfurter*

This year we're celebrating two employee anniversaries!

Sergeant Michael Ernster's 20<sup>th</sup> consecutive year with the La Crescent Police Department is on September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025. A proud 1994 graduate of La Crescent High School, Sgt. Ernster pursued his passion for law enforcement by attending law enforcement school in Ely, MN. Upon completing his training, Sgt. Ernster returned to his hometown and began his career with the La Crescent Police Department in May 1997. In the early years of his career, Sgt. Ernster gained recognition as a proactive and highly skilled traffic enforcement officer, earning prestigious awards for his exemplary efforts in impaired driving enforcement. His dedication to keeping roads safe showcased his commitment to protecting lives and fostering a secure community. Sergeant Michael J. Ernster's service exemplifies the core values of the La Crescent Police Department integrity, professionalism, and community dedication. We extend our heartfelt gratitude for his unwavering commitment to the safety and well-being of our community and congratulate him on over 20 years of outstanding service.



Police Secretary Lisa Olson's dedication to the La Crescent Police Department reaches an impressive milestone on March 23, 2025. As the backbone of our department's daily operations, Lisa plays a vital role in keeping everything running smoothly—from managing records and assisting officers to being the friendly voice on the other end of the phone line. Her commitment, organization, and hard work ensure we can better serve our community every day. Chief Ahlschlager had this to say about working side by side with Lisa, "I have worked with Lisa throughout her tenure and have always found her to be smart, strong, and full of humor and the sound of her running the vacuum in the department will always remind me that it's a Monday."

Beyond her contributions to law enforcement, Lisa is a woman of many talents. A sought-after speaker and business humorist, she has taken the stage for TEDx Talks, authored two books, created a creativity journal, and even developed a card deck filled with fun prompts.

Lisa's impact on our team and community is immeasurable, and we are grateful for her dedication. Please join us in congratulating her on this well-earned anniversary!