

05/2025

MAY

LA CRESCENT POLICE DEPARTMENT

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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La Crescent Police Department



THIS ISSUE:

- Show and Tell - Patrol eBike
- Ask a Cop - Dog Walking Ordinances
- Training Topics - Pepperball Instructor Renewals
- Reserve Review
- Event Highlight - National DEA Drug Take Back Day
- Calls for Service Report

SHOW AND TELL - PATROL EBIKE

As the weather warms up, you will see the eBike in service more frequently thanks in part to the La Crescent Bike Shoppe! A HUGE thank you goes out to them for tuning up our bike and getting it ready for the season! Operated as part of the La Crescent Area Healthy Community Partnership, the Bike Shoppe is a non-profit all volunteer organization that sells and fixes bikes. Check out their website for information on their mission and services at <https://hcp.lacrescenthcp.org/home>

Did you know? Our eBike is used for both general patrol and community relations by officers throughout the late spring into early fall. You will primarily see it patrolling high foot traffic areas, such as parks and trails, that are more difficult to navigate with a squad car. Officers patrolling on the bike are subject to call, can initiate traffic stops, and are fully equipped with all of their duty equipment including emergency medical supplies. If you see the bike out and about feel free to come say hello!

-Corporal Clark





ASK A COP

"I keep seeing dogs running off their leashes in town. Is that allowed?"

Short answer: no. La Crescent city ordinances require all dogs to be leashed when off their owner's property (§ 90.15), and it's illegal for dogs to run at large within city limits (§ 90.03). Unleashed dogs can create public nuisances—like trespassing, defecating on property, or bothering others (§ 90.01). Dog owners must also carry cleanup tools anytime they're out with their pets. And remember, dogs aren't allowed in most parks—only Vetsch, Eagle Bluff, Vollenweider, and Apple Blossom (§ 90.13). Leashing up helps keep everyone—two- and four-legged—safe!

- Officer Weinfurtner



TRAINING TOPICS - PEPPERBALL INSTRUCTOR RENEWALS

Last month, Sergeant Ernster and Investigator Daveau renewed their instructor certifications for the PepperBall launcher system—a non-lethal tool designed to help officers safely de-escalate high-stress situations. PepperBall launchers provide a flexible response option, whether during routine patrol, crowd control, or tactical incidents.

These launchers range from lightweight, handheld models to larger shoulder-mounted units with greater capacity. Each is powered by CO₂, nitrogen, or compressed air—not gunpowder—so they're not classified as firearms. When deployed, the projectiles release a powdered irritant to help disorient and deter aggressive behavior, allowing officers to resolve incidents with the least amount of force necessary.

EVENT HIGHLIGHT - OFFICER PETERSON RECEIVES MEDAL OF VALOR

On the night of April 23, 2025, Officer Kaleb Peterson (Badge #305) responded to a report of a wrong-way driver traveling eastbound in the westbound lanes of Interstate 90 near the Dresbach Exit. Despite the incident occurring outside of our direct jurisdiction and the absence of other nearby responding units, Officer Peterson took immediate and decisive action to protect the lives of others.

With lights and sirens activated, Officer Peterson drove westbound and encountered the oncoming vehicle head-on. Fully aware of the danger, he made the courageous decision to place his squad car directly in the path of the wrong-way driver, exposing himself to extraordinary personal risk to prevent what could have been a devastating collision with other motorists.

Thanks to his selfless and tactically sound response, the threat was stopped without harm to the public, and the impaired driver was safely apprehended with the assistance of our law enforcement partners.

Officer Peterson's composure, courage, and unwavering commitment to public safety that evening exemplify the highest standards of our department and the law enforcement profession.

-Chief Ahlschlager

APRIL CALLS FOR SERVICE

316 Total Calls for Service
Notable Call Types:

911 (Hang Ups and Open Lines) - 8
Accidents - 2
Alarms - 7
Animal Complaints - 14
Assaults - 1
Assist Other Agency - 20
Child (Calls Involving) - 6
Civil Matter - 2
Community Policing - 14
Damage to Property - 1
Domestic - 1
Extra Patrol - 3
Fire - 2
Fireworks - 1
Found Property - 7
Harassment - 9
Lost Property - 3
MAARC Report - 2
Medical - 23
Missing Person - 1
Motor Vehicle Unlock - 2
Motorist Assist - 3
Noise Complaints - 3
Open Door (Found) - 1
Ordinance Violation - 4
Parking Complaint - 11
Project Lifesaver - 1
Public Assist - 6
Public Hazard - 1
Scams - 1
Suspicious - 11
Theft - 3
Traffic Complaint - 10
Traffic Stop - 55 (8 Citations)
Trouble With Party - 14
Warrants - 1
Welfare Checks - 10



RESERVE REVIEW

April brought another month of valuable hands-on experience and service from the La Crescent Police Reserve Unit. This month's training focused on Tactical Medicine, led by Officer Weinfurtner. The session introduced the Reserves to essential principles of providing emergency care in high-risk situations—skills that could be critical in the moments before EMS arrives. Training topics included wound packing, applying tourniquets, and understanding the basics of the MARCH assessment (Massive bleeding, Airway, Respiration, Circulation, Hypothermia/Head Injury). While Reserves are non-sworn volunteers, this knowledge empowers them to be informed, prepared, and effective team members in support roles during crisis situations.

Outside the classroom, the Reserves continued their strong community presence by assisting with traffic and crowd control during the Bluff Country Family Resources 5K. Their coordination helped keep runners safe and roadways clear, and their visibility added an extra layer of reassurance for everyone attending the event. These types of volunteer assignments are a vital way the Reserves support both the department and the broader community.

In addition to formal training and event support, our Reserves have been lending their time and energy to assist with our department's Spring Refresher training. By acting as role players in scenario-based exercises, they've provided realistic challenges that help patrol officers hone their response tactics, communication skills, and decision-making under pressure. Their participation not only improves officer preparedness, it also demonstrates the strong teamwork and commitment that exists between our full-time staff and the Reserve Unit.

We're grateful for the time, dedication, and professionalism our Reserves bring to every training and event. Stay tuned for more on Spring Refresher highlights in next month's newsletter!