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COVER STORY

Hot on the tracks
MAP members who are part of the Metra Police Department serve more than 100 communities and 241 stations throughout Chicagoland and protect thousands of commuters on their daily rides .................................................................Page 16

Cold fashioned
Cracking a 44-year-old case is no small feat, but the Lisle Police Department found the clues to finally solve the murder of Pam Maurer, one of a series of cold cases that detectives have worked relentlessly to decipher .................................................................Page 19

Traffic jamming
Buffalo Grove Police Officer Michael Carlson has thrived on working traffic detail, which recently crescendoed with achieving accreditation as an internationally certified traffic accident reconstructionist .................................................................Page 22

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Flame On
MAP members like those from the Matteson chapter pictured on the cover of this issue give their all to be part of the Law Enforcement Torch Run that supports Special Olympics Illinois. The run that culminates with officers from across the state carrying torches into the opening ceremonies of the Special Olympics Summer Games in Normal is the highlight of a year-round effort. MAP members have been part of this extravaganza for many years, and the union has become one of the Torch Run’s most inspired advocates.

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Thank you, MAP members, for your response to the pandemic

Who had ever heard of COVID-19 two months ago? Certainly not me, and I am married to a nurse who works at a local hospital. I can say today, however, “Who hasn’t heard of COVID-19?”

This pandemic has the world buckling at the knees after only two months. As I write this, we have eclipsed 200,000 cases in the U.S. That number continues to climb, along with the death toll. The world is already a different place.

We are different, too. We have suffered – and will continue to suffer – financially, medically, socially, personally, mentally, physically and professionally. Every day, though, I personally observe our MAP chapter leaders stepping up and working to protect their own union brothers and sisters. Our members, to a person, have answered the call to endanger themselves and their families for the benefit of their fellow citizens. I thank all of you.

A lot of people wanted COVID-19 to be the cover story for this issue of the RAP Sheet. However, our members have lived, seen and heard COVID-19 every second of every day. In addition, as this situation continues to evolve on a daily, if not hourly, basis, anything we write may prove to be outdated by the time you read this. Every day, our members are on the front lines of this battle against an invisible (but deadly) enemy. I am so proud to count all of you as members of the Metropolitan Alliance of Police.

Instead, we have chosen to promote a much more positive and uplifting story about the Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run which, not surprisingly, many of our affiliated chapters support every year by participating in the many Torch Run events. In addition to the efforts, MAP has increased its support for Special Olympics Illinois. By the time you read this, I hope that it has reached you and your families.

I was a police officer for 31 years. I went through the Y2K scare, which turned out to be nothing at all. The computers proved to be smarter than the people who built and used them every day. A lot of people hoarded food, water and other household necessities. It turns out, people overreacted to the Y2K concerns.

Then, 9/11, with its uncertainty, anger and collective sadness, followed. When 9/11 hit, everything pretty much shut down. There were no planes in the sky, and people craved information about our fellow Americans in New York, at the Pentagon and in a field in rural Pennsylvania. Our members, along with scores of other first responders, volunteered to go to New York to assist their fellow sisters and brothers, as well as the citizens. It changed how we travel, how we view the world, our notions of privacy and our identity as Americans. Life was different!

The COVID-19 pandemic will leave us changed again. Washing your hands, covering your mouth while coughing or sneezing and respecting personal space will no longer be viewed as a social nicety. Remember when we used to shake hands?

But you know what hasn’t changed – the people on the front lines. Police officers, telecommunicators and other first responders once again are answering the call. We cannot telecommute. We cannot shelter in place. Our members are spouses, parents, children, siblings, friends, neighbors and citizens who say goodbye to their loved ones every day and go to work. You know why? Because we are essential, and we took an oath to serve our fellow citizens.

Police officers understand there are certain risks involved with their work. They train and prepare for anticipated risks. Officers have bulletproof vests, tasers and a sidearm to keep them and their fellow citizens safe. COVID-19 renders most training and equipment useless. Prior to March 2020, officers and telecommunicators had received little or no training regarding this invisible threat. This is uncharted territory for everyone and has affected police officers of all ranks, as well as dispatch centers and correctional facilities. Yet they all continue to report for duty because they are ESSENTIAL.

MAP has convened a COVID-19 workgroup made up of union reps, attorneys and members. Each day, members of the group deal with workplace trends, identify and anticipate problems and formulate solutions. If you have a problem, question or need, please contact a MAP Board member, and we will provide the support you need.

In closing, I have to say that I have never been prouder to be associated with our profession than I am right now. MAP has continued to support its members with the latest information from the CDC, the Department of Public Health, other first responder unions and the best available resources to give them the most up-to-date information available that will keep them safe.

Thank you all for helping to keep us safe and healthy at your own personal risk. We are all in this together, and MAP has your back.

May God bless each and everyone one of you and your families!

May God bless each and everyone one of you and your families!
Well, it happened. We understand, members are not happy. However, Consolidation Act is now the law of the land. On Dec. 18, 2019, Governor Pritzker signed into law P.A. 101-0610, an act consolidating the assets of Illinois’ 600-plus downstate police and fire pension systems. The Associated Fire Fighters of Illinois supported the move to consolidate; MAP did not. So, now what?

First, the Consolidation Act does not impact disability or retirement benefits…at least, not yet. Also, it does not impact administration of benefits…at least, not yet. Finally, the Consolidation Act does not change who determines disability, death, or retirement benefits…at least, not yet.

Instead, the Consolidation Act provides a process by which the assets of all Article 3 (downstate police) and Article 4 (downstate fire) pension plans are administered. There will be two funds: one for police and one for fire. Those boards have already begun to meet and move toward transferring assets from local funds. Per the Act, funds have until June 30, 2022 to complete the transfer of assets to the appropriate consolidated fund. However, due to less-than-optimal drafting, it appears the consolidated funds may have the power to extend that deadline.

Currently, the process is overseen by a nine-member “transition board” appointed by the governor. There are three active police officers, two retirees, three municipal officials and a paid lobbyist (IML Executive Director Brad Kole). Largely, the transition board will be responsible for determining election processes, hiring interim employees (including an acting executive director), hiring attorneys and other basic systems needed to seat the regular board. The transition board may also implement an asset allocation and investment policy.

Once an election is conducted, a permanent board will be seated with a similar composition. The permanent board must be seated by no later than Jan. 1, 2021. The permanent board will not be bound by any contract entered into by the transition board.

While there are many nuances, largely, the Consolidation Act can be summarized as follows: 1. There will be a downstate fire investment board and a downstate police investment board. 2. The consolidated boards will be governed by a board made up of three active members, two retired members and four municipal representatives. 3. The consolidated boards will be responsible for management/investment of fund assets. 4. All other functions of the pension will be managed by the local board (for now).

I write “for now” because the IML and its cronies have continued to beat the drum for total consolidation. Meaning, they would like to eliminate all local pension boards and have the consolidated board make all decisions regarding Article 3 and 4 benefits. Some suburban news outlets have already run with the false narrative about the “out-of-control” administrative costs spent by local police and fire funds.

What is the temporary board doing?

I spoke with the president of the temporary board, Shawn Curry. Shawn Curry, Shawn is a patrol sergeant with the Peoria Police Department, serves as the president of the Peoria Police Pension Board and is a member of the Board of Directors of the Illinois Public Pension Fund Association (“IPPFA”).

Shawn explains that the role of the temporary board is to “provide a solid footing for the permanent board to hit the ground running and transfer money in a seamless manner.” Commenting further, Curry explained, “As police officers, we did not support taking away local control over pension funds; however, since this was forced upon us, we need to ensure we are building a fund that will stand the test of time and protect the security of these pensions.” Per Curry, the temporary board is focused on performing due diligence in order to select employees who will guide this pension fund in a “police friendly, union friendly, and pension friendly” manner.

As of print time, the temporary fund has already fought off a cash grab by the Illinois Finance Authority when it tried to impose above-market interest rates on the consolidated fund on a start-up loan. In addition, the temporary board has issued a request for proposals for interim executive director and general counsel. Once those positions are filled, the board will be able to move things along a bit more rapidly.

Curry noted that once the interim executive director is named, the process of completing an election will be set in motion. President Curry said, “We hope to have the election for a permanent board complete by the end of November.” Curry continued, “We encourage officers across the state to attend our meetings. This is their money.” Information regarding the Illinois Police Pension Fund Investment Board is available on Facebook and LinkedIn. Once an executive director is named, the board will launch a website.

As this was a particularly hastily drawn-up law, followup legislation regarding consolidation is likely. We will continue to monitor all litigation and legislation related to this important issue.
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Updates from our attorney about collective bargaining agreements for MAP chapters

Joseph Mazzone
Crest Hill Patrol and Sergeants
- Retroactive to May 1, 2018.
- Increases probation period from six to 18 months.
- Four-year deal with the increases of 0 percent, 1 percent, 1.5 percent, 2 percent.
- Increase in meal compensation.
- Creates stipend for evidence custodian.
- Increase in vacation.
- Holidays scheduled on actual day of holiday not city-observed.
- Expands funeral leave to include aunts and uncles.
- Grandfathers in all current employees for compensation for education. (Future employees will not get educational pay.)
- Retiree insurance tradeoff for wages and the elimination of educational pay as follows:
  - Employees with 20 years of service who are 50 years old – city will pay 50 percent of their retiree insurance.
  - Employees who retire at the age of 55 or older with a minimum of 20 years of service – city will pay 75 percent of HMO plus one coverage or 90 percent of the HMO single program until the employee reaches Medicare eligibility.
  - Employees who retired on or before Dec. 31, 2019 – city will pay 75 percent of HMO plus one coverage or 90 percent of the HMO single program until employee reaches Medicare age.
  - In the event the retired employee would like to participate in any other city-offered plan, the employee shall be eligible and shall pay the difference between that plan and the HMO-plus-one plan.

Waukegan Sergeants
- Contract term is May 1, 2018 to April 30, 2022.
- Increases of 2.5 percent, 2.5 percent, 3.75 percent, 3.75 percent.
- Wages retroactive to May 1, 2018.
- Steps reduced from seven to four.
- Top wage for a sergeant on April 30, 2018 was $107,514.72. At the end of this contract, top wage will be $119,225.20.
- Modified and streamlined grievance procedure.
- Increase from one to two personal days each year effective fiscal year 2019-2020.
- Compensation for working holidays increased to double-time-and-a-half and triple-time for being forced to work a holiday.
- Provides for sellback of up to 80 hours of unused vacation or holiday time.
- Special division work schedule and flexing of hours to accomplish work goals in divisions at the sergeant’s discretion with the agreement of a supervisor.
- Maintains status quo on compensatory time from the city’s request to diminish that benefit.
- Modifies purge of personnel file to comply with statute and required removal of disciplinary matters three years after an incident.
- Maintains 10 percent contribution for insurance.
- Increases specialty stipends for evidence techs and designated interpreters from $30 to $75 per month.
- Increases specialty stipend for detectives and gang intelligence units to $1,200 annually.
- Sergeants acting as FTO supervisors will be compensated at time-and-a-half for performing duties on a weekly basis.
- Drug and alcohol policy modified to take into consideration the legalization of marijuana.
- Longevity reduced from 20 to 15 years. It will become 1 percent instead of a flat rate and will be provided not only to current members but also to four retired sergeants.

Waukegan Lieutenants
- Same terms as sergeants.
- Wages: Lieutenants will be paid 6.75 percent above top sergeant.

Richard Reimer
St. Charles Patrol (self-negotiated)
- Salary increases: May 1, 2020 – 3 percent; May 1, 2021 – 2.75 percent; May 1, 2022 – 2.75 percent; May 1, 2023 – 2.75 percent.

Matteson Patrol and Matteson Sergeants
- Five-year agreement.
- Salary increases: May 1, 2019 – 2 percent; May 1, 2019 – 2.25%; May 1, 2020 – 2.25 percent; May 1, 2021 – 2.5 percent; May 1, 2022 – 2.5 percent.

Keith Karlson
Crystal Lake Patrol
- Wage increases: 2.5 percent, 2.75 percent, 2.75 percent.
- Improved OIS language.
- Improved language regarding vacation usage and overtime.
- Holiday pay made pensionable.
- Increased clothing allowance by $50 per year.
- Improved discipline language.

DeKalb County Sheriffs Communications, Corrections and Patrol
- Wage increases for all covered employees: 2 percent, 2.25 percent, 2.25 percent, 2.75 percent.
- Patrol officers paid an additional equity adjustment of 1.0 percent, 1.25 percent and 1.5 percent.
- Improved OIS language.
- Improved discipline and arbitration.
- Increased acting shift-supervisor pay.
- Improved overtime callout language.
- Expanded health insurance options for covered employees.
- Caps to increases on premiums.
- Increased life insurance value.
- Improved fitness for duty language.

Steve Calcaterra
DCSI Deputy Chiefs/EM Sergeants
- Wage increases:
  - June 6, 2019: 2 percent.
  - June 6, 2020: 2 percent.
- Modification of overtime rules.
- Addition of insurance coverage for two months in the event of layoff.
- Two personal days permitted for religious holidays.
- Addition of carryover for personal days.
- Expungement of records of three-day suspension or less after 12 months.
- Clarification of job postings and bidding rights.
- Creates limitations period for disciplinary action.

Morris
Wage reopener for 2019: 3 percent increase.

Carol Stream Sergeants
- Wage increases: 2019 – 3 percent; 2020 – 3 percent; 2021 – 2.75 percent.
- Expanded eligibility of sick leave to extended family members.
- Modification of tuition reimbursement.

Oswego
- Wage increases: 2019 – 3.0 percent; 2020 – 2.75 percent; 2021 – 2.75 percent.
- Improved fitness test with additional compensation benefit.
- Clarification of shift trading rights.
- Increased specialty and on-call pay.
- Clarification of overtime rights.
- Increased vacation leave for senior officers.
- Increased vacation accrual balance.
- Expanded eligibility of sick leave to extended family members.
- Expanded bereavement leave.
- Expanded on-duty training compensation.
- Addition of cell phone reimbursement.
Elwood PD
• Wage increases: 2017 – 2.5 percent; 2018 – 2.5 percent; 2019 – 2.5 percent; 2020 – 2.5 percent.
• Addition of off-duty care time for K-9 officers.
• Addition of $1,000 longevity pay after 15 years of service.
• Addition of half-day vacation for New Year’s Eve.
• Addition of 16-hour personal time incentive to limit sick leave use.
• Expanded eligibility of sick leave to extended family members.
• Addition of reimbursement for damaged property.

Jerry Marzullo
Wheeling Patrol
• Four-year contract expiring on April 30, 2023 with raises of 2.5 percent, 2.75 percent, 2.5 percent, 2.75 percent. (Pay retroactive to May 1, 2019.)
• New experienced officers (possible future laterals) will start at Step 1A on the pay steps.
• Light duty on regularly assigned patrol shift.
• Insurance premiums increase from 12 percent to 13 percent then to 14 percent July 1, 2020 through remainder of contract.
• Voluntary wellness program.
• New streamlined secondary employment form.
• Addition of MAP officer-involved shooting language.
• Expanded paternity leave: Once mother/baby are released from the hospital, within the next 144 hours (six days), the officer may use three sick days on the officer’s normally scheduled work day to care for the mother and baby.
• Implementation of favorable sunset side letters and MOUs into the body of the permanent contract.

Hoffman Estates Sergeants
• Three-year contract with wages increases 2.5 percent, 2.5 percent and 2.5 percent (full retro).
• Member choice on comp time vs overtime.
• Health insurance capped at 14 percent through lifetime of contract.
• Addition of tactical sergeant to specialty pay eligibility.

Montgomery
• Five-year contract with increases of 2.5 percent, 2.5 percent, 2.5 percent, 2.5 percent and 3.0 percent (full retro).
• Increased advance notice requirement for forced shift changes.
• Increased comp time from 40 to 80 hours.
• FTO pay increase from $2 to $3 per hour.
• Current status quo on health insurance:

May be raised from 15 to 18 percent only if all other employees of the village also have insurance raised.
• Increased personal days from one to two.
• New unused sick time payout at retirement of up to 320 hours.

Ron Cicinelli
University of Illinois-Chicago Security Personnel
• Five-year contract.
• Wage increases:
  • Security Officers from $18.26 to $19.23 with annual increases.
  • Security Guards from $15 to $15.75 with annual increases.
  • Vacation and sick time.
  • Life, disability and AD&D insurance.
  • Defined pension plan.
  • Flex account.
  • Holidays and floating holidays.
  • Tuition reimbursement.
  • EAP.

Chicago Heights Civilians
• Three-year contract.
• Wage increases: 2017 – 2 percent; 2018 – 2.0 percent; 2019 – 2.0 percent; 2020 – 2.0 percent; 2021 – 2.5 percent.
• 12 vacation days.
• Two personal days.
• Life, disability and AD&D insurance.
• IMRF pension.
• 12 holidays.
• 12 sick days.
• Tuition reimbursement.
• EAP.

Woodridge Civilians
• Two-year contract.
• Wage increases: $29.40 to $35.10 job description plus annual COLA increases.
• Stipend for admin: $4,000.
• Compensatory time optional.
• Callback minimum two hours.
• Court time minimum one hour.
• Eight holidays.
• 32 hours of personal holidays.
• Life Insurance: $70,000.
• Health and dental insurance.
• Sick Leave: 3.70 hours for each bi-weekly pay period with buy back after 10 years.
• Uniform allowance: $675.

Roy Garza
Palos Hills
• Wages: 2.5 percent (2019); 2.5 percent (2020); 2.5 percent (2021).
• Added arbitration of discipline.

E-Com Dispatch Center
• Wages: 2.5 percent (2019); 2.5 percent (2020); 2.5 percent (2021); and 2.5 (2022).

Mike Butler
Pingree Grove
• First collective bargaining agreement.
• Four-year agreement with wage

increases of 3 percent for 2019 and 3 percent for 2020.
• Salary re-opener on Jan. 1, 2021 to establish raises for the last two years of agreement.
• $300 signing bonus.
• Limitations on usage of part-time officers.
• Three hours of overtime for court appearances.
• Establishes compensatory time bank capped at 80 hours.
• FTO pay.
• Compensation for village’s declining health insurance plan: $3,000 per year.
• Employer purchases all initial issue uniform items; officers receive $500 annual maintenance check.
• No blood tests for officer involved shootings.
• Longevity pay beginning after five years.
• 10 holidays with overtime pay if officer works the holiday.
• Vacation time topping out at five weeks.
• Personal days in addition to vacation and holiday time.
• Incentive personal time for not using sick days.
• Sick time buy back upon retirement at 50 percent.
• Health insurance payments:
  • 90 percent village, 10 percent officer for HMO
  • 85 percent village, 15 percent officer for PPO.
• Educational reimbursement.
• Written warnings and reprimands removed from personnel file after 18 months.

Bargained by chapter without attorney
Mount Prospect Patrol
• Three-year deal.
• Wage increases: 2.75 percent, 2.5 percent and 2.5 percent.
• Clarified and improved operational language.
• Improved discipline language.
• Improved employee surveillance language.
• Improved fitness-for-duty language.
• Increased employee healthcare contributions by dollar amount.
• Improved officer-involved shooting language.
• Increased use of unused employee sick time toward retiree healthcare.
• Improved maternity/paternity leave language.
• Specialty pay for truck officer and drug recognition officer.
Checking in with dispatch

I am writing this column in late March as we are in a crisis of health and financial insecurity. Hopefully, as you read this, our world is back on track. This is a time we reach back to those moments of history we will never forget — the deaths of President John F. Kennedy, Martin Luther King Jr. and Robert Kennedy, the resignation of President Nixon, 9/11 and now this virus crisis. But never before have our faith communities been faced with not being completely available to fully minister; and yet that is where we find ourselves. My prayer is that we will heal and recover.

Unit 920 — Code 4? That is a familiar call out to the cop on the street, checking their safety. Last quarter, our magazine had a wonderful article on those who serve us in our communications centers, and I thought I would add my own thoughts. Then I read an article of commendation for a dispatcher for her work on the fire side, when a mayday was called at a fire scene. In the midst of hurried radio traffic at a working fire, she heard the mayday call. With controlled calm, she relayed the distress call to command and began the process of search and successful rescue of the firefighter.

Like the cops on the beat, dispatch days run the path of mostly quiet times and then, in a flash, the world turns wild and crazy. Taking calls ranging from ordinance violations to calls for help in a domestic situation, dispatching medics and watching over police calls in progress, their days are full of challenges. Back in the day when I was riding along, when we got back to the station, I usually would try to stop in at dispatch and fill in the blanks of what happened out on the street. There they are handling an emergency call with lots of radio traffic, with no view of exactly what was happening, and for sure they would love to hear the results, and so that was what I would try to do.

But that was back in the day, and today we have many consolidated centers that are away from your stations. You may have little or no contact with dispatch. So I was wondering and maybe suggesting (if not against orders) if now and then when back at the station, one could reach out to dispatch and fill in the blanks with the overall picture. It would be a way to say thanks for their support in a situation. I would think it would be well received and allow for a better working relationship between the groups. Living in this new world of separated forces, I think we need to find ways to reinforce how all parts of the team are needed to keep everyone safe and the public served.

On to spring and looking forward to getting back to life as we knew it, and appreciation for the everyday little things that surround our lives. Be safe and back one another. Take time to enjoy family now more than ever. Find time for the practice of faith.

God bless.
Chaplain Tom Ross Sr.
sligo8@wowway.com
This article aims to assist patrol officers in zeroing a patrol rifle. However, if you have an S.O.P. reference zeroing your rifle, please follow the S.O.P. If you have a bullet drop compensated (BDC) scope or optic, follow the instructions provided by the manufacturer.

The information I present assumes a 16-inch barrel with M193 ball ammunition and a standard-height sight, or red dot. Different sight or red dot offsets, ammo, or barrel length will change these figures. Also, keep in mind, we are discussing patrol carbines, not sniper rifles.

During my early patrol carbine instructor days, it was assumed that you would zero the carbine at 25 yards for a 100-yard zero, shooting low by 2.6 inches, or the offset between the top of your AR15 A2 sight (standard fixed sight) and the bore. That zero puts you exactly on at 100 yards, theoretically. Ideally for a 100-yard zero, you should shoot at an exact 100 yards and adjust your sights accordingly. Unfortunately, most of us only have access to police ranges with a maximum of 25 yards. The offset for a 50-yard zero shot at 25 yards is 1.2 inches low from point of aim; the bullet will impact 1.2 inches low at 25 yards with a standard offset.

**Shot spread of the 100-yard zero**

With a 100-yard zero, all shots beyond 100 yards should be low and holdovers. Meaning, when shooting beyond 100 yards, the officer should aim higher. Compensating for the increased distance can be relatively easy if the distance is known. For instance, a 100-yard zero gives you a -2.6 inches at 0 yards, 0 at 100 yards, a 3.25-inch drop at 200 yards, a 5-inch drop at 225, a 7.25-inch drop at 250, a 13.3-inch drop at 300 yards. Maximum shot spread from 0 to 250 yards is 9.85 inches.

**Shot spread of the 25-yard zero**

The 25-yard zero puts you dead on at 25 yards, realistically the most common distance we encounter — roughly the distance of a curb to the front door of a residence. Where the 25-yard zero starts to have issues is everything out past 25 yards: -2.6 inches at 0 yards, 0 at 25 yards; at 100 yards, you are shooting 6.2 inches high; at 225 yards, 10.1 inches high; at 250 yards, 9.7 inches high; and 7.4 inches high at 300. Maximum shot spread from 0 to 250 yards is 12.3 inches.

**The case for the 50-yard zero**

The 50-yard zero is my preference for a patrol carbine. With the 50-yard zero, the officer has -2.6 inches at 0 yards; 0 inches at 50 yards; 1.5 inches high at 100 yards; 0.7 inches high at 200 yards; 0.5 inches high at 225 yards; and -2.1 inches at 250 yards. The 50-yard zero produces a maximum shot spread of 4.7 inches.

In simplest terms, I believe the 50-yard zero provides the greatest accuracy in the variable environment experienced by a patrol officer. Any engagement from 0 to 250 yards with a center mass shot taken will yield a lethal center mass hit without having to consciously calculate range.

I recommend that officers choose a specific zero and make a range day out of it. Shoot at all distances out to 250 yards. I like to use a label maker and put on my carbine the zero range and some holdover distances. For example, with a 50-yard zero, the label would read: “50 YARD 0, 300 YARDS +7 INCHES.” If you have backup iron sights and they are two thirds co-witness (or any size that does not have a 2.6-inch offset), your optic zero and sight zero will be very slightly different as it applies here. A good free source for downloadable optic zeroing targets is Arma-Dynamics.com. They also have accessible ballistic charts and a graphic representation of the information I’ve provided.

Andrew Nelson is a law enforcement shooting instructor, a veteran 25-year South Elgin police officer who also serves as the MAP Chapter President, an NRA Life Member and the maker of the best grilled cheese sandwiches.
Take a detour from present day affliction down a feel-good path, which runs south on Cicero Avenue toward Lincoln Highway. An entire lane has been shut down, filled with MAP members from Matteson, Olympia Fields, Park Forest as well as their family members, other volunteers and even some elected officials.

The officers are jogging in a pack, almost like the end scene in “Chariots of Fire,” except without splashing through the water by the ocean. The uniform of the day features everybody wearing the same T-shirt. They are all following the guy at the front carrying a torch, raising it high like the Statue of Liberty.

Traffic has stopped, but nobody is worried about getting to work on time today. Drivers heading northbound honk their horns and stop to yell out their car windows.

Hullabaloo has broken out here, an endowment from the Law Enforcement Torch Run (LETR) for Special Olympics Illinois (SOILL). Nothing is as exhilarating or infatuating as the Torch Run, which is the single largest fundraiser for Special Olympics that raises $5 million annually so SOILL athletes can compete in more than 30 sports.

“It’s something you can’t describe; you can’t even comprehend it unless you experience it. It’s one of those things you never forget,” gushes John Bending, the public information officer for the Hoffman Estates Police Department and the torch run coordinator for its MAP chapter. “You’re doing something to help raise money for people who otherwise would not be able to do what they do. For athletes to participate in the sports they love.”

**BY MITCHELL KRUGEL**

MAP members have a burning desire to be part of the Law Enforcement Torch Run and give their all for Special Olympics athletes.
Cool running

For one week each year, all roads are filled with torch runners completing 22 legs of the Torch Run relay that leads to the SOILL Summer Games in Normal. More than half of those legs include MAP chapters, which is one reason the union has become one of the major LETR sponsors in the state.

The final leg features an alliance of cops running into Hancock Stadium at Illinois State University each carrying their own torch for the Summer Games opening ceremonies. Against a dark stadium filled with more than 15,000 athletes and fans screaming at the top of their lungs, the torches emit a glow that looks like a sunrise.

MAP Vice President Rick Tracy has run with this final leg three times to honor his son, Adam, who is a multi-sport Special Olympics athlete. The LETR is filled with connections to the athletes and the cause that keep them coming back year after year, and admiration from the athletes toward law enforcement that is life-changing. It turns 40 years old next year and has spawned traditions and rituals that give the event addictive charm and character.

Tracy submits, “It brings out the best in us.” But, respectfully, he understates it.

“This program has grown tremendously over the years because of the dedication and passion of law enforcement throughout the state,” praises Katie Risley, the SOILL Torch Run director of development. “They have shown a passion and love for the athletes and they absolutely have raised awareness, as well as significant funds.”

Make a run for it

The run circumnavigates the state, but the Law Enforcement Torch Run extends even further. The actual run is one week of a year-round calendar of events under the LETR multi-million dollar fundraising umbrella that includes Polar Bear Plunges, Plane Pulls, Cop on a Rooftop, the Five-O at the Dirty-O, Texas Roadhouse Benefit Day, Red Robin Tip a Cop, truck convoys and Harley Davidson raffles. And multiple MAP members flock to each one.

The urgency and legacy of participating flows through South Elgin member Jim Creighton. Just out of the academy after serving four years with the Marines Corps, Creighton's FTO had him do the Polar Bear Plunge – the mid-winter run into the lake – in Lake Bluff.

“I've been hooked ever since,” relates Creighton, who has been coordinating his department's LETR events for most of his 13 years on the job.

Many members and many chapters are constantly jonesing for the LETR. From running into Hancock Stadium for the opening ceremonies to running through town to running into the lake to running a police race car around the Dirty-O, the LETR generates unconditional participation, adulation, much-needed positive reinforcement and off-the-charts benevolence and fraternalism indigenous to law enforcement.

Fortunately for the LETR, there are many devotees like Lockport member Debbie Schenk. She coordinates Leg 5 of the Torch Run. She does the plunge. She has done the Super Plunge in Evanston where participants dip into icy Lake Michigan in February every hour for 24 consecutive hours. She has raced the Five-O. She has danced with the wait staff at Texas Roadhouse. She has done the Plane Pull, the event in which a group from a department moves a jet plane 12 feet as fast as possible, competing against other groups for best time.

And Schenk participates with an attitude that reflects what makes the LETR so successful.

“As long as I'm alive, I will dedicate my time, energy and money to Special Olympics,” she declares.

Best of all, the LETR inspires enthusiasm that, as Tracy pledges, brings out the best in the police. A glimpse of the good time had by all comes through Matteson chapter members' annual plunge extravaganza.

Torch run coordinator Bob Christensen reports that his group of up to 30 members, family and friends come out in crazy outfits each year. The first year, they came as characters from “Reno 911.”

“It was the short shorts,” he recalls. “That's what started it all.”

In ensuing years, Matteson has paid homage to short shorts with such themes as superheroes and 1970s NBA players, complete with goggles and afro wigs. Such images are worth more than a thousand words, but Christensen has this to say about being part of the LETR:

“We're not missing it no more.”

More than 97,000 law enforcement officers, including the U.S. Secret Service, the FBI, military police and correctional officers in 51 programs and 23 countries generate $60 million annually through the LETR. Each one of those officers seems to go up on top of a Dunkin Donuts for the Cop on a Rooftop event each spring. The 2020 event has been rescheduled for Aug. 28, so there's still time to get on up.)

There are more than 300 Cop on a Rooftop locations in Illinois. Hoffman Estates expanded to three last year, as did Alsip where MAP member Rocco Merlo leads the effort that raised nearly $20,000. The view from on top certainly captures the LETR spirit.

“It's awesome to see a line of cars backed up maybe two miles,” Merlo describes. “People are honking their horns, stopping to see what's going on and drop some change in the bucket.”

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14
Light up their lives

The Torch Run leads to a crossroads of connection and emotion that any law enforcer who has ever competed will describe in two ways: It’s something they have never experienced before; and it makes it all worth it.

South Elgin’s Creighton arrived at this intersection on at least two unforgettable occasions. One year he was selected to culminate the final leg of the Torch Run relay by escorting the Special Olympics athlete to the cauldron to light the flame at the Summer Games opening ceremonies.

“It was the chance of a lifetime,” he explains. “As I’m walking up, I’m thinking, ‘Don’t drop the torch.’”

Creighton has also developed a close friendship with Bree Bogucki, one of the most renowned Special Olympics Illinois athletes ever. A four-sport athlete and Special Olympics global messenger, Bogucki has appeared on the “Today Show.” When she won a gold medal in gymnastics, Creighton presented it to her.

Actually, there is a third one. For the SOILL 50th anniversary in 2019, Creighton brought a white uniform shirt and had athletes sign it. They covered it with signatures, and it now hangs in the lobby of the remodeled South Elgin PD headquarters.

“Everybody should go to the opening ceremonies to experience the high-fives, hugs and thank you’s,” he adds. “There’s so much love for law enforcement.”

Matteson has also come back with a fully autographed shirt on several occasions, and Christensen notes that it’s the interaction with the athletes that compels so many members to come running back. He tells about how the LETR leads to opportunities to have fun playing with the athletes and how that means so much to them.

“A cop might try a dead lift that an Olympian just made in a competition,” Christensen begins. “The cop does it. So they go up higher in weight. And the cop can’t do it. But the Olympian says, ‘I can do it.’ That’s why we love it. It puts a smile on their faces and bumps up their confidence.”

The love, sweat and tears dripping from the Torch Run culminates with a special privilege reserved for those who make the journey. At the Summer Games, the officers get to award the medals and ribbons to the athletes.

Schenk has done that repeatedly for her brother, John Sola, who has competed in volleyball, basketball, bocce ball and just about any other ball played through SOILL. Sola has had a ball being an Olympian. It’s his pride and joy.

Recently, she had another occasion to present.

“I handed a ribbon to somebody who placed fourth out of four people,” Schenk recounts. “You would have thought I just handed him a million-dollar necklace. That makes it all worth it.”

Run on

The all-in-this-together law enforcement mentality that makes the world turn – now more than ever – fuels the Torch Run. It is a weeklong relay during which chapters and departments hand the torch off to each other until the flame reaches Normal.

Along the way, everybody is fired up because it’s not an easy run. Parts of some legs run on for more than three miles. But along the way, spectators line the streets and cheer. And you
might imagine what cops are feeling when they are running amid such support and admiration.

“It’s infectious. It’s contagious. It makes you want to keep pushing on through,” Merlo shares. “You hand off to the next department and know it’s heading toward the cauldron for the start of the Special Olympics. It’s a humbling experience.”

So as you read this, forget about present-day life for a while. Envision the leg of the Torch Run pushing through, Oak Forest, Orland Park and Harvey toward Mokena, Frankfort and New Lenox. You can almost hear the “Chariots of Fire” theme.

_Bump-bump-bump-bump-bump-baaaah. Bump-bump-bump-bump-bump-baaaah._

“There’s no stopping us,” Christensen confirms. “We have to keep going.”

Members from Naperville come out in force.

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David Kielczewski gave chase, actively listening for the rumbling chug of a train. He darted around the tracks. A prevailing thought ran through his mind: “We got to get this guy. We can’t let him get away.”

The Metra Police Department officer was down on the tracks chasing a man who refused to pay his train fare. That morning had been calm, but when he responded to what seemed like a routine call, the scene clearly indicated that lives were at stake.

He had just walked through the door when the attacker pushed an officer off the platform. Kielczewski’s heart raced while watching his fellow officer take the six-foot drop. As soon as the perpetrator jumped down to escape on the tracks, Kielczewski bolted after him.

After a few high-intensity minutes of chasing the man and ensuring that no trains were barreling down the tracks, Kielczewski finally cornered him in a bit of brush. This is what the officer had trained for. Kielczewski arrested the runaway commuter.

“This guy could’ve seriously hurt myself and any other officers,” he confirmed. “A train could’ve came to hit any one of us. But we got him and brought him to justice.”

Members of the Metra Police Department frequently make death-defying runs to derail offenders. The work involves keeping commuters safe on a daily basis. The ubiquity of a department that serves more than 100 communities with 241 stations on 11 lines impacts nearly everyone in Chicagoland. From civilian complaints to criminal activity, Kielczewski knows the importance of his work.

“You see something new every day,” he disclosed. “You’re dealing with people of various backgrounds. You get to hear people’s stories, find out what’s going on, and it’s different every time.”

The faces of Metra

The Metra Police Department was created in 1983 to serve commuters in six different counties, including Cook, Will, DuPage, Kane, McHenry and Lake. With more than 100 sworn law enforcement officers, the Metra Police Department MAP chapter completes daily functions similar to municipal police departments.

Fare revenue pays for 55 percent of the department’s operating costs; public subsidies, primarily a regional transportation sales tax, pay for most of the rest. However, for its capital costs, including major infrastructure, Metra relies overwhelmingly on local, state and federal assistance.

Metra MAP Chapter President Sharlene Tucker took over the executive role in August 2019. Her law enforcement career began in 1999 and she moved to Metra in 2003; with 17 years of experience working the railway, she’s learned the importance of remaining alert while serving a large jurisdiction.

“We’re the ones that are always at the stations, at the depots, at the trainyard,” Tucker relayed. “So we’re the first people [there] when something happens – we’re already on the scene.”

And new, young energy around Metra is always welcome. In 2015, the department decided to stop hiring only laterally and expand its applicant pool. For Tucker, seeing the change of her department bringing in brand-new state-sworn law enforce-
ment officers was a breath of fresh air.

“It’s a very positive experience,” she affirmed. “A lot of the newer, younger officers have a lot to contribute to the growth of Metra Police Department, and they really want to learn the job. They’re very inquisitive and tech-savvy.”

An eagerness to work radiates off new recruits and helps cultivate awareness around Metra’s top priority, which is railroad safety for those on the job and in all interactions with the massive community the department serves.

Providing opportunities for public safety knowledge is crucial and the goal of the Operation Lifesaver Train Safety Awareness Program, an initiative that provides employees the opportunity to give presentations to community and school groups about safety procedures around trains.

‘Rising to the top’

The desire to be tough and to gain knowledge is vital in the department, Tucker asserted. And she would know. The union president has firsthand knowledge of what it takes to mitigate life-threatening experiences at Metra.

As soon as the train struck a woman’s vehicle, Tucker was immediately on the scene. It was 2003, and the officer had just started at Metra. She called an ambulance and began responding efficiently to a case characteristic of many department incidents.

“The Metra police respond to a lot of train versus pedestrian, train versus vehicle,” Tucker sighed. “It can be very sad when you see somebody that’s been struck by a train, but you have to handle that. And I think [Metra police] do a good job in times of crisis of rising to the top.”

Tucker let out an exhale recalling the train striking the woman’s vehicle, as the victim lived to walk away. She knows that without the help of law enforcement and first responders on the scene, the situation could have been more dire.

“It’s not something you can take lightly,” Tucker conveyed. “You have to be out there still being aggressive and doing the things that you’ve always done, no matter where the work is.”

Keeping those skills sharp and adaptable to changing work demands is a priority, which is why officers like Kielczewski receive specialized certifications to keep up with technological advancements, such as flying drones for crash reconstructions and search and rescue.

Along with certifications, officers receive regular training on criminal and traffic law, firearms, defensive tactics and rapid deployment and use-of-force decision making. The department also offers a 12-week field training program on Metra train operations, procedures and geography.

Metra officers are the experts on keeping railroad policing on track. With specialized technological knowledge and intimate railway familiarity, the department is the driving force for chugging out vital information to other municipal police departments about staying safe during railway incidents.

“We have departments that come for officer training, like close-quarter encounters in train cars,” Kielczewski communicated. “We have officers that go out to academy classes and talk to new recruits, telling them basic safety regulations and how to be safe around the tracks, so they don’t get hit when they’re doing something unrelated to Metra.”

And with the large area that Metra Police Department covers, Kielczewski receives his share of different incidents on a daily basis. From handling civilian complaints to giving chase down train tracks, the young officer couldn’t imagine himself anywhere else.

“What I love about the job is it’s a huge area; the different people you come into contact with sometimes reaches thousands,” he shared. “And you get to help people – that’s the most important part.”

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Lisle detectives show the resolve to solve a series of cold cases, including a renowned 44-year-old murder

**BY MITCHELL KRUGEL**

Green eyes solved one of the most gruesome cold cases that terrorized the Western suburbs and mystified detectives for more than 40 years. For 44 years, the unsolved murder of 16-year-old Pam Maurer permeated the Lisle Police Department, generating thousands of pages of reports and nearly as many suspects.

When Lisle Detective Chris Loudon reopened the case of the high school girl who disappeared when she was on her way to McDonald’s, he, Sergeant Mark Lutz and investigators from the DuPage County State’s Attorney’s office began a quest of epic proportion, perseverance and ingenuity. During an approximately three-year investigation culminating with finally pinpointing Maurer’s killer some 44 years after she was abducted on Jan. 12, 1976, the Lisle-led team whittled a list of suspects through relentless questioning, evidence collection and DNA testing of suspects, deceased suspects’ family members and beyond.

The break in the case came after Loudon connected with Parabon Nanolabs in Reston, Virginia, a group of innovative DNA engineers who used DNA evidence to create an uncanny composite of the killer right down to his green eyes. The trail the Lisle detectives cultivated ultimately revealed that this green-eyed monster abducted dozens of teenage girls, raped many of them and went on a serial killing spree that might have taken up to nine victims.

The story of this cold case fortifies the nature of all law enforcement officers to keep digging until the bad guy is caught because it not only alleviates the terror but means so much to victims and their families.

“It’s the digging part, the what happened, what they did, why they did what they did, in what order – anything that can help give us a clue as to what happened,” Loudon, a former Lisle MAP unit vice president, commented about the mentality that drives working a cold case. “We were all motivated by that 16-year-old girl who did nothing wrong. We vowed to her family to find out what happened, and that was the fuel to keep working to get the answers so they know she isn’t forgotten.”

When warming up a cold case, Loudon confides that a police officer’s natural patience and attention to detail kick in. The allure radiates from looking at the detail to find that one clue, like Loudon did in a cold case he worked before tracking down Maurer’s killer.

He had noticed something from a 30-year-old picture that led to tracking down a man who raped an elderly woman during a home invasion. Seeing where the woman had placed her reading glasses when answering the door that started the invasion...
enabled Loudon to find the man just before he was going to be deported to Mexico.

Working with Bob Guerrieri, a state’s attorney’s office investigator who used to be an officer in Naperville, they found Roberto Noyola in Texas and brought him back to Illinois. DNA evidence confirmed he raped the woman everybody called “Auntie Pat,” and eventually they discovered he was a serial rapist whose victims included his own wife. Loudon was even able to tell Auntie Pat that they caught the man, even though she passed away before he was convicted and sentenced.

“When we told her that we had caught the guy, she was trembling. She was still terrified,” Loudon added. “We were able to tell her that he would never hurt her or anyone else ever again.”

Loudon appeared to be channeling some Lilly Rush when he reopened the case of Illa Venard in 2016. Lisle detectives had repeatedly delved into the case of Venard, who was found dead in her apartment in 1994, and there had always been suspicion that Thomas Spear was somehow involved.

Spear had been caught cashing checks from Venard’s account, which he said he stole in a home invasion. For more than 20 years, Spear insisted that he found Venard dead when breaking in, and a former girlfriend and another friend backed up his story.

But when breaking a cold case, detectives must find the dot that doesn’t connect. Loudon and Lutz had one: an old warrant on Spears, who was living in Peoria. In a well-engineered operation, three teams went out simultaneously to cultivate the arrest. One went to Florida to talk to the girlfriend. Lutz and Loudon went to the Kentucky hills – the “meth head” section as Loudon described it – to talk to the friend. And another team went to Peoria. The friend and girlfriend gave up Spears.

“In a toxicology report, we saw that they found a mineral on Venard that you can only get in a machine shop,” Loudon explained. “Where do you think Spears worked? He was a machinist. He was wearing his work gloves when he broke into her house and put his hands over her mouth to suffocate her.”

When Loudon saw Lutz pulling out the Maurer file, he thought, “It’s time to get the band back together.” He contacted Guerrieri and Dave Zdan, another DuPage County state’s attorney’s office investigator, as Lutz noted, “This was going to be our chance to do this.”

They poured through the thousand pages of reports, filled them with Post-its and compiled a list of suspects. A cold case like this can consume the detectives working on it, and Loudon and Lutz took this one personally, starting with getting confirmation from Maurer’s father and brother that they were OK with another investigation.

They began taking DNA from as many suspects as they could find, asking for family members of those who had since died to cooperate by providing samples. As they ruled out all suspects through DNA testing and interviewing, Loudon read an article about a company that developed next-generation forensic and therapeutic products by leveraging the power of DNA and helped catch the “Golden State Killer,” who committed at least 13 murders and more than 50 rapes in California.

Then-Lisle chief Dave Anderson supported contracting Parabon despite the considerable cost. The lab’s report provided ethnicity, skin complexion, hair color and eye color.

“The report indicated there was a 93-percent chance he had green eyes,” Loudon detailed. “Only 2 percent of the population...
has green eyes."

The report provided a detailed genealogy and a computer-generated image of what the lab thought the suspect might look like. The genealogy linked to the family tree of a local family with four brothers. That was the Lindahl family, which lived in the area at the time of Maurer’s abduction.

The parents had divorced, and two of the brothers moved to Florida with their mother. The oldest brother, Jerry, and Bruce the youngest, remained in the area. Jerry had blue eyes. Bruce had green eyes.

“Bruce had a history of criminal attacks on women,” Loudon reported. “And when we looked at the image from Parabon, it was uncanny how much it looked like Bruce.”

The extent of Bruce Lindahl’s alleged crimes are too numerous – and too gruesome – to warrant space here. Suffice it to say, the Maurer case is the subject of a Netflix documentary in the works.

Further investigation eventually led to getting access to Lindahl’s apartment, where they found more than 200 pictures of young women he had supposedly lured there. Many of the girls in the photos were naked and posed in suggestive sexual positions.

As the investigation went deeper, they procured information that indicated Bruce Lindahl had targeted girls at Downers Grove South High School, where Maurer was a student. He eventually moved to Aurora, where he was also linked to a number of abductions and alleged to have committed at least a dozen rapes. Probably more.

Loudon explained that Lindahl had died during a home invasion. Apparently, he was stabbing a victim during that break-in, cut his own femoral artery and bled out.

Loudon asked Jerry Lindahl for a DNA sample, but he refused. So Loudon pursued an order to have Bruce Lindahl’s body exhumed. The DNA sample was sent to Parabon and the DuPage County crime lab for confirmation.

“The results indicated that the chance of it not being Lindahl were one in 1.8 quadrillion,” Lutz said. “There haven’t been 1.8 quadrillion people living in the entire history of the world.”

To officially close the case, Lutz and Loudon visited Maurer’s father and brother in Texas to deliver the news. Loudon brought photos of Pam he had gathered in the investigation and presented them to her father.

It was then that they felt the impact of their investigation, the motivation and inspiration to keep going on these cold cases no matter how many pages of reports need a forensic review, no matter how many suspects need to be ruled out.

“I know it’s tedious, I know it’s expensive and I know it’s hard to find the time to do the work when you are trying to handle your regular caseload,” Loudon disclosed. “But imagine if it was your mom. Image if it was your sister or somebody you went to school with who was a victim. If we’re going to do this job, we have to care.”

Lutz added that cold case inspiration also comes from honoring those detectives who worked it before. Apparently, there’s a wide range of emotions that consumes detectives coming in from the cold.

“If anything comes out of this, maybe another agency looking at a cold case can look at ours and think, ‘If we can do it, so can they’,” Lutz concluded. “The reason we did it is because her family still cared. That’s why you do it.”
Traffic Heavy

Buffalo Grove officer becomes internationally certified crash investigator

BY MITCHELL KRUGEL

Traffic duty collides with vehicle dynamics and scientific principles spawned from Sir Isaac Newton for Buffalo Grove Police Officer Michael Carlson. The eighth-year officer has become one of the few public safety officials in the state, the country and even the world who can break down a motor vehicle crash with a meticulousness that would make any crime scene investigator envious.

Making the community safer through traffic enforcement and education runs deep in the BGPD. Department Chief Steve Casstevens is one of the founding fathers of the vaunted Illinois Traffic Safety Challenge, and the cream of the crop in this department earns a place on the traffic unit.

Carlson has become extra creamy. He recently earned a certification from the Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board as a Crash Reconstruction Specialist. Illinois and Colorado are the only two states that even offer such distinction.

Carlson then went on to earn full accreditation as a Traffic Accident Reconstructionist from the Accreditation Commission for Traffic Accident Reconstructionists (ACTAR). The commission is an international organization devoted to the forensic science of accident reconstruction.

A glance at the list of certified reconstructionists on the ACTAR website shows about 1,400 worldwide. That makes Carlson the traffic safety and motor vehicle crash expert equivalent of an international touring professional golfer or tennis player.

“With us being the type of agency that is big on traffic and how it can make the community safer, it is always harped upon that you should be good at traffic,” Carlson commented. “I did the DUIs working midnights. I was told I was pretty good. But it’s not just writing tickets all the time. If we can make an impact, that’s the best thing.”

The opportunity to make an impact propelled Carlson to pursue such a distinct and desired skill set. All officers in the Buffalo Grove traffic unit fuel their training by taking the Crash Investigation 1 and 2 courses, which are offered through the Northwestern University Center for Public Safety.

After that, his training ramped up with learning how to apply math and basic equations to crash investigations through a Vehicle Dynamics course. With that qualification, Carlson was ready for the MCAT. Not the Medical College Admission Test, though he is running in the circles with similarly equipped professionals.

MCAT is the Major Crash Assistance Team in Lake County, a 62-investigator unit made up of officers from the 37 agencies throughout the county that responds to fatal vehicle crash scenes – or those with serious injuries – like a homicide task force. Lincolnshire Officer Adam Hyde is the MCAT commander and one of four MCAT members who are ACTAR-certified.

Hyde noticed Carlson’s prowess for investigations and urged him to take the Crash Reconstruction 1 and 2 courses that would move him toward the ACTAR certification. He completed those during the summer of 2019, then took the day-long exam in September.

“It’s taking physics and scientific principles and applying it to evidence found at crash scenes,” Carlson explained. “You look at the evidence on the road and determine what it tells you about the way vehicles move, how fast they are going when they come to impact.”

Energy evaluations and complex collection of data like “stiffness coefficients” are also used in crash reconstruction. MCAT even deploys drones to photograph crash scenes. The photos are used to build a composite that maps points for vehicle positions, lane lines and reveals how the crash transpired, who is responsible and who might have violated the law at a criminal level.

“You have to be slow and meticulous because you have to be right,” Hyde confirmed. “You’re addressing and helping victims of crimes and locking up defendants. At the end of the day, you have to be right for the families and the people accused of these crimes.”

The ascension to the Buffalo Grove Traffic Unit, the state and ACTAR certifications and the assignment to the Lake County MCAT put Carlson in a unique stratosphere of law enforcement. The amount of studying and continuing education required to continue at that level is substantive, and it is worth noting that civilians who are ACTAR-certified include Ph.D.s and engineers.

“It’s definitely out of the normal police wheelhouse, and you have to have the affinity for those types of things,” Hyde added. “It’s truly an important job.”
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Carpentersville duo honored for actions in shootout with suspect

BY DAN CAMPANA

Carpentersville Police Sergeant Kevin Stankowitz sums up the inherent danger of police work very simply — “an ordinary day can turn deadly in seconds.”

“Police officers are placed in dangerous situations countless times per day across the country. Sadly, oftentimes, officers only go home safely after their shifts because the bad guys they dealt with chose not to violently oppose their tactics,” Stankowitz, a 15-year veteran, explained.

In June 2019, Stankowitz and Officer Ian Abrahamsen faced one of those defining moments as they investigated a report of a known gang member possessing a handgun. The pair drove by and were met with the suspect flashing gang signs toward their unmarked squad car. Seconds later, the suspect opened fire.

The resulting shootout ended with the gang member surrendering to police — and the two officers ultimately being honored months later for their work to protect the public and return home safely at the end of their tour.

In February, Stankowitz and Abrahamsen were named the Kane County Chiefs of Police Association’s 2020 Louis Spuhler Award winners as Kane County’s police officers of the year. For four decades, the Spuhler Award has been given to officers who exemplify outstanding police work. The annual ceremony, held in conjunction with the Batavia Moose Lodge, also highlighted the work of nominees from several other agencies in Kane County, including Bartlett Detective Eric Kistler, St. Charles Police Officer Jose Jacobo and Kane County Sheriff’s Deputy Luke Weston.

The Carpentersville incident — and the actions of Stankowitz and Abrahamsen — were the focal point of the event celebrating the best in local law enforcement. They immediately were put in danger when the suspect fired six shots from his .38 Special, hitting their car three times, but missing both men inside. With the dangerous situation unfolding in a residential area, the officers knew they had to respond to protect their lives and people living in the neighborhood.

Abrahamsen returned fire from inside the squad before he and Stankowitz left the car to find better cover. With the gun in hand, the offender attempted to flee and was struck twice by Abrahamsen’s gunfire. The suspect managed to enter a home, which prompted the officers to order him to exit peacefully. A short time later, the suspect complied with their commands, left the residence and surrendered without further incident.

Stankowitz praised the numerous other police agencies that responded to the situation, saying they all deserved recognition for their assistance.

“I would like to thank everyone who responded to this incident. It took an enormous amount of manpower for this incident to be thoroughly investigated,” Stankowitz explained, adding that it was particularly meaningful to earn the award with Abrahamsen. “The fact that both of us were recognized is fitting in that we will always share the memory of that incident together. Policing is a team sport and together we brought this incident to a successful resolution where no one, including the offender, was seriously injured.”

Carpentersville Police Chief Michael Kilbourne credited his officers for reaching the best possible outcome given the potential for tragedy.

“[They] acted the way they were trained in a profession they proudly serve,” said Kilbourne. “The focus of the officers ensured only one outcome: to protect those we serve and go home at the end of their shift to their families.”

MAP is proud of the officers involved, as well as the MAP attorneys who represented them during the entire process.

Conversing with candy

Part of being a police officer is having tough conversations with community members. So what’s a better way to make a tough topic sweeter? With candy.

On Feb. 15, members of the Maywood Police Department partnered with the Glen Elyn alumnae chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority and the Maywood Park district to host Cops, Kids, Conversation and Candy.

The event, which took place at the Lightford Recreation Center, focused on discussing gun violence prevention and participate in games and raffles.
Members of the Crystal Lake Police Department took part in Read Across America Day, which is held on the closest school day to March 2. Some officers took the opportunity to dress up, putting on the red hat from Dr. Seuss’s famous book “The Cat in the Hat” while reading to a classroom at Indian Prairie Elementary School.

Mount Prospect Officer Greg Sill captivates his young audience of preschoolers at Westbrook School for Young Learners during a February “Officer Friendly” visit. Sill talked to the children about how police officers help people in the community. In addition to his role as Officer Friendly, Sill serves as a crime prevention officer for the northwest suburban department.

Waking up at 6:30 a.m. to go to school for eight hours per day might not be every kid’s favorite activity, but going to school in a cop car might be. On the morning of March 10, Officer Simms escorted Mia and Leo to school after their names were chosen in a raffle contest. It’s certainly not every day that you see big smiles like those in the back of a cop car.
Woodridge gives a sweet treat to kids in the community

Valentine’s Day marks a time for sharing treats with the ones that you care about. That’s exactly what happened this year when Chief Brian Cunningham, Sergeant Dennis Brinkman and Officer Jeffery Bean participated in Cookies with a Cop at the Woodridge Public Library. Pictured below (in photo 3), Officer Bean reads to the crowd.

Western Springs honors officers with Enforcement Awards

Western Springs had the opportunity to honor several of its officers on Jan. 16 at its Enforcement Awards ceremony. Officer Michael Belcastro was honored with the awards for Distracted Driving and Railroad Enforcement. Sergeant Dean Harrison also received an award for Railroad Enforcement. Sergeant John Piest earned two awards, one for DUI Enforcement and one for Speed Enforcement.

Park Forest holds honors ceremony

On Feb. 8, members of the Park Forest Police Department gathered at Freedom Hall to celebrate their exceptional work throughout the year. As pictured below, winners received a plaque for their accomplishments.
Lake Forest honors its most valuable investigator

During the week of Feb. 29, members of the Lake Forest Major Crime Task Force awarded Officer Conrad Christansen with the title of “Most Valuable Investigator” for 2019.

DuPage County sheriff’s deputy commended for excellence

DuPage County Sheriff’s Deputy Scott Zalewski (center) earned a Commendation for Excellence from Sheriff James Medrick and Chief Bob Toerpe during a recent roll call ceremony.

Zalewski was honored for his efforts during a Nov. 7 incident in which he peacefully ended a confrontation involving a suspect who threatened two officers and a nearby homeowner while claiming to have a gun.

Carpentersville Officer recognized for saving boy’s life

Carpentersville Police Officer John McDonnell earned recognition from the village board in March for his actions to save a small boy who had stopped breathing.

McDonnell earned the village’s Life Saving Award for a January incident in which he and another officer noticed a commotion outside an apartment building across the street from the department.

McDonnell and the second officer ran from their squad car to the area of the apartment, where they encountered a woman holding her 2-year-old child, who she said had stopped breathing. McDonnell took the child from the mother and observed that the boy had blue lips, while finding only a faint pulse.

Using two finger sweeps of the airway, McDonnell checked to see if the child was choking before performing two back thrusts in an attempt to dislodge anything in the child’s airway. When those attempts did not work, McDonnell began child chest compressions, which resulted in the boy opening his eyes and spitting up. An ambulance then took the boy to the hospital for further treatment.

Niles officer in running for public safety award

Field Training Officer Fotis Markadas (center in photo) with the Niles Police Department is in the running for the Niles Chamber of Commerce’s Public Safety Award of Excellence.

Markadas has spent 17 years with the department, starting as a community service officer. His nomination highlighted a strong ability to train new officers on the right ways to do things as a police officer.

Markadas was also recognized for his strong work ethic, a commitment to volunteer efforts, such as Cop on a Rooftop for Special Olympics, and as a dedicated family man. Winners of the public vote will be honored at a special event scheduled for late April.
Welcoming New Members

23rd Judicial DeKalb County
Elizabeth Brake
Kelly Thompson
Lauren Williamson

Addison
Christina Contreras
Nicholas Oplawski

Alsip
Mark Pedzimaz

Bensenville
Adam Kadlec
Bryan Madden

Bolingbrook
Flo Del Rio

Bolingbrook Sergeants
Vincent Radaker

Bolingbrook Civilians
Sara Aguirre

Carpentersville
Thomas Lesniewski
Nickolas Volzano

Carpentersville Sergeants
Christian Bognetti

Carpentersville Civilians
Jacobo Hernandez, Jr.
Matthew Sachtleben

Crete
Krista Brill
Andrew Lowry
Stephanie Werly

Crystal Lake
Jesus Gonzalez
Joshua Jacobs
Lance Jones
Justin Rueff

Darien
Nicholas Nelson
Konrad Kano

DeKalb County
Bartholomew Ilenikhena
Kane Van Briesen
Lynn Voller

Des Plaines
Thomas Cullotta
Megan Hecht

DuPage County
John Cotter II
Anthony Egan

Grant Fair
Jovan Radenkovic

E-Com Dispatch Center
Amarissa Rivera
Isabel Rivera

Elwood
Sara Zimmerman

Elgin Community College
James Picardi

Elk Grove Village
James Johnson
David Miller
Dominic Vitale

Elwood
Sean Swabowski

Fox River Grove
Slawomir Stachnik

Glenview
Joseph Lazicki

Grundy County Civilians
April Gilbertson
Alyssa Lamb

Hanover Park Sergeants
Theodore Crawford
Gordon Hendry

Hanover Park Civilians
Nayeli Benitez
Julianne Argast

Hickory Hills
Vincenzo Rimmelo

Hoffman Estates
Matthew Capacci
Justin Corniel
Stephanie Hinzé

Hoffman Estates Sergeants
Rodney Penrod
Brian Zaba

Huntley
Christopher Florine

Kane County
Alan Garcia
TaSean Jackson
Hector Perez

Matteson Sergeants
Raymond Murray

Mokena
Owen Price

Moraine Valley Community College
Paul Casasanto
Robert Grossman

Morris
Kyle Aloisio
Sarah Smith

Mount Prospect
Amanda DeGroot

Naperville Sergeants
Timothy Curran
Brendan Moehring

Naperville Civilians
Claudia Uysalogo

Niles
Daniel Carpino

Northern Illinois University
Julia Garcia-Martinez
Nicole Mertens

Oak Lawn
Michael Doyle
Thomas Dunn
Brian Harrison

Armhrad Johnson
Alex Kirchof
Joseph Kuchay
Jonathan Leigh
Thomas Olsson
Luke Turner
Kyle Yaeger

Oak Lawn Detention Officers
James Hunt-Kocher

Orland Park
Daniel Lombardo
Bruce Villanova

Palos Hills
Chivon Johnson
Mark Tokarz

Palos Park
Danielle Scaccia

Plainfield
Cody Columbus
Matthew Sauter

Prospect Heights
Bradley Sigsworth

QuadCom Dispatch
Lynn Richards

Roselle
Eric Dunn

Schaumburg
Thomas Austin
Zachary Bolin
Nelson Lugo
Drew Morgan
Jennifer Niewinski
Andrew Syvertsen
Aeden Young

SEECOM Dispatch
Breanna Cune
Kaitlyn Westworth

Seneca
T Borzick

South Elgin
Robert Brooks
Cory Lamasky
Lari Mitchell
Daniel Taylor
Peter Tschammer

South Holland
Andrea Vazquez

Southcom Dispatch
Brandon Bronson

Streamwood Civilians
Pelarvanh Lopez

Tinley Park
Ahmed Allan
Kyle Heneghan
Joseph Hickey

Tricom Dispatch
Emmaline Rogers

University of Illinois
Carmin Casales
Alexandria Garcia
Christopher Tong

University of Illinois Security
Chris Mennella

Western Springs
Bradley Jausits
Aaron Riley

Wheaton
Brianna Hartmann
Nicole Olsen
Adam Welte
Corey White

Wheeling
Dante Perez

Wheeling Sergeants
Richard Giltner

Will County Management Association
James Zdzinicki

Winfield
Sean Cihak
Jason DePue
Celebrating Promotions

23rd Judicial Kendall
Heather Benner

Addison
Jason Burzynski

Bolingbrook Professionals
Barbara Rose-Cunniff

Buffalo Grove
Hector De La Paz

Carpentersville Sergeants/Lieutenants
John Galason

Channahon
John Blough
Dustin Carlson

DuPage County
Jasen Beymer
Sean Doherty

Harvey
Willie Giddens
Justin Winston

Hoffman Estates Sergeants
Mark Mueller

Huntley
Charles McGrath IV

Morton College
Leilani Cappetta
Joseph Feulner

Oswego
Steven Lawrence

Plainfield
Luke Ostreko
Roselle
Matthew Schmidt

Round Lake Supervisors
David Prus

West Dundee
Jay Antonacci
Nathan Herman

Wheeling Sergeants
James Borchardt

Winnetka
Łukasz Walaszek

Honoring Retired Members

Addison
Douglas Giertz

Bolingbrook
John Alvarado

Buffalo Grove
John Sepot

Carpentersville
James Marsolais

Cook County Telecommunications Supervisors
Lisa Farinella

Des Plaines
Samuel Lopez

Des Plaines Sergeants
Louis Wittmer

DuPage County
Ronald Smith

E-COM Dispatch Center
Jane Stewart

Elk Grove Village
Kevin Finnern
John Otzwirk

Glenview
John Good
Dan McCarthy
Michael Meier

Grundy County Civilians
Judith Anderson
Mary Poundstone

Hoffman Estates
Ronald Gad

Lake County Lieutenants
Brian Keller

LaSalle County
Thomas Pocivasek
Wayne Wright

Naperville Sergeants
Russell Davis

Northlake
Carlos Ortiz

Oak Lawn
Thomas Cronin

Palos Hills
Aaron Boattigh

Westchester
Neal Bojkowski

Wheaton
Edward Fanning

Newly elected chapter board members

Huntley
President: Brad Kummer
Vice President: Alex Panvino
Secretary: Rich Miller

Lisle
President: Andy Pogvara
Vice President: JD Arnold
Secretary: Sean McKay
Treasurer: Luke Rider
Sergeant-at-Arms: John Hoffman

Mount Prospect
President: Chris Berg
Vice President: Anthony Lietzow
Secretary: Johmel Henderson
Treasurer: Lesley Barnett
How to protect yourself from identity theft

Imagine another "you" running around, renting an apartment, draining your accounts and even maxing out credit cards in your name. This is the unfortunate reality for those who have suffered from identity theft, and scores of thieves can’t wait to live your life to the fullest.

Your identity is your treasure — a handful of key pieces of critical information including your name, Social Security number, address, phone number and mother’s maiden name. Thieves are also after account numbers or passwords they can use to access your money.

What can an identity thief do with your information?
• Make charges to your credit cards or open new ones.
• Counterfeit your checks and clone your ATM/debit cards.
• Open accounts or take out loans in your name.
• Obtain driver’s licenses and receive medical services.
• Receive government benefits.
• File fraudulent tax returns.
• Apply for jobs and rent apartments.
• Break the law and blame you.

How did they find your personal information?
Thieves often access information electronically, but they are not above digging through your trash. Common methods include:
• Stealing payment/ID cards or the information on them.
• Eavesdropping on public transactions.
• Hacking information from corporate databases.
• Impersonating a group or business via email (phishing).
• Viewing information you provide on social networking sites.

How can I keep my information safe?
Here’s how to stop thieves in their tracks:
• Be careful anytime you provide your Social Security number.
• Shred all receipts, credit applications, insurance forms, checks, statements, expired cards, and credit card offers.
• Choose intricate passwords for your online logins.
• Password-protect sensitive information on your personal computer.
• Use safety tools such as a firewall or antivirus program.
• Always verify sources requesting information and only provide what is necessary.
• Post personal information sparingly on social networks.
• Beware of conducting important business online over free or unprotected wireless networks. Free can mean less security.

There are identity protection services such as ID theft insurance that provide coverage based on policy limits. Some only cover certain forms of ID theft, like electronic theft, while others cover lost wages. Visit www.ftc.gov to learn more.

Identity thieves can run up bills you’ll be responsible for, and if you don’t discover these charges until they go into delinquency, your credit score could suffer, too. Fortunately, in most cases, the largest cost of ID theft is clearing your name. Prevention and detection are key defenses. Always review your account statements for changes or purchases you didn’t make, and check your credit report at least once per year for any suspicious activity.

Matt Wiseman is the director of marketing at ISPFCU. Membership at ISPFCU is open to all Illinois law enforcement employees and their families. Join ISPFCU today at www.ispfcu.org. Matt can be reached by email at mwiseman@ispfcu.org or by phone at 800-255-0886.

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If you have any questions about this special offer please call us at 800-255-0886.

*All rates are stated as an Annual Percentage Rate (APR). Rates are subject to change at any time. Lowest possible rate is 2.45% APR. Special applies to new non-ISPFUC loans. Rates quoted are for individuals with excellent credit. Individuals with less than excellent credit may be offered higher rates. Fixed loan rate of 2.45% equals payments of $17.73 for 60 months for each $1,000 borrowed. Rates accurate as of 03/15/2020.
MAP COLLECTIVE BARGAINING CHAPTERS

23rd Judicial Circuit Court Clerks
Addison
Addison Consolidated Dispatch Center
Algonquin
Algonquin CSOs/Dispatchers
Alsip
Arlington Heights
Barrington Hills
Bartlett
Bensenville
Bensenville Sergeants
Blue Island
Bolingbrook
Bolingbrook Sergeants/Lieutenants
Bolingbrook Citizens
Bridgeview
Buffalo Grove
Burr Ridge Sergeants/Corporals
Carpentersville Citizens
Carpentersville Police
Carpentersville Sergeants
CenCom E-9-1-1
Channahon
Chicago State
University Police
Chicago State
University Sergeants
Clarendon Hills
Coal City
Cook County DCSI Deputy Chiefs
Cook County Dispatch Supervisors
Cortland
Crest Hill
Crest Hill Sergeants
Crente
Crystal Lake
Darien Police and Sergeants
Darien Police civilians
Des Plaines
Des Plaines Sergeants/Lieutenants
DeKalb County
DuPage County Patrol/Court Services
DuPage County Coroner
DuPage County Forest Preserve
DuPage County Forest Rangers
Dwight
E-Com Dispatch Center
East Dundee
Elgin Community College
Elwood
Elk Grove Village
Fox River Grove
Frankfort Sergeants
Glen Ellyn
Glenview
Glenwood
Grundy County Citizens
Hanover Park
Hanover Park Citizens
Hanover Park Sergeants
Harvey Patrol
Harvey Sergeants
Hawthorn Woods
Hazlet Crest
Hickory Hills
Hoffman Estates
Hoffman Estates Sergeants
Homewood
Huntley
Indian Head Park
ISTHA
ISTHA Call-takers
Joliet
Justice
Justice Sergeants
Kane County Peace Officers
Lake County Sergeants
Lake County Lieutenants
Lake County Correctional Sergeants
Lake Forest
Lake in the Hills Police
Lake in the Hills Dispatch/CSOs
Lakemoor
LaSalle County
LaSalle County Correctional Officers
Lemont
Lemont Sergeants
Lisle
Lockport
Matteson
Matteson Sergeants
Maywood Patrol
Maywood Sergeants
McCook
McHenry County Court Clerks
Morton
Mokena
Momence
Minnock
Montgomery
Moraine Valley College
Morris
Morton College
Mount Prospect
Mount Prospect Sergeants
Mundelein
Naperville Citizens
Naperville Citizens Unit 2
Naperville Sergeants
New Lenox Sergeants
Niles
Norridge
Northlake
Northlake Sergeants
North Aurora
Northeastern Illinois Campus Police
Northern Illinois University
Northern Illinois University Sergeants
Northern Illinois University Security Officers
Northern Illinois Telecommunicators
Northwest Central Dispatch
Oak Forest
Oak Lawn
Oak Lawn Detention Officers
Olympia Fields
Olympia Fields Citizens
Olympia Fields Public Works
Orland Park
Orland Park Supervisors
Oswego
Palos Hills
Palos Park
Park City
Park Forest
Prairie Grove
Plainfield
Prospect Heights
Prospect Heights Sergeants
Quadcom Dispatch
River Valley Detention Center
Supvs
Riverwoods
Romeoville
Romeoville Sergeants
Roselle
Round Lake
Round Lake Park
Round Lake Supervisors
St. Charles
St. Charles Sergeants
Schaumburg
Schaumburg Command
SEECOM
Seneca
Southcom
South Barrington
South Elgin
South Holland
Steger
Streamwood
Streamwood Citizens
Streamwood Village Hall Citizens
Tinley Park
Tinley Park Sergeants
Triroom Dispatch
University of Illinois
Villa Park
Warrenville
Warrenville Sergeants
Waukegan Lieutenants
Waukegan Sergeants
Wescom Dispatch
West Dundee
Westchester
Westchester Citizens
Westchester Sergeants
Western Springs
Western Springs Sergeants
Wheaton
Wheaton Sergeants/Lieutenants
Wheeling Patrol
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