



Click to see more information on
Carpet • Ceramic Tile • Hardwood • Laminates
Vinyl Flooring • Window Treatments
 107 S. Main St., Fort Atkinson • 920-563-0820 • 1-800-233-9760

Long-term care • Short-term rehab • Alzheimer's
golden living centers
 Enhancing the Independence You Deserve
 Golden LivingCenter - Fort Atkinson
 430 Wilcox Street • Fort Atkinson, WI 53538
 (920) 563-5533
www.GoldenLivingCenters.com

Welcome to the site!
 Login or Signup below.

 Login | Signup

65° Overcast
 Advanced Search

Home News Sports Obituaries Multimedia Subscriber Services Classifieds Advertising Community Extras Submissions

Home News

Chief deputy: Open dialogue No. 1 priority

Story

Print Font Size:

Recommend 13 Tweet 0

Posted: Monday, July 18, 2016 9:37 am | Updated: 2:30 pm, Fri Jul 22, 2016.

By Ryan Whisner rwhisner@dailyunion.com

(Editor's note: The events of recent weeks have refocused attention on the actions of police officers, one of so many divisive issues in this contentious election year. This is the second story in a two-part series sharing the views of Jefferson County law enforcement officials on the importance of community and police working together.)

JEFFERSON — In the aftermath of the Dallas and Baton Rouge tragedies and recent deaths in encounters with police across the country, Jefferson County Sheriff's Office Chief Deputy Jeff Parker says the number-one thing that needs to take place between law enforcement agencies and the communities they serve is to continuously have an open and positive dialogue.

2016 SIDEWALK SALE!
 Baffling Bargains
 Carrot Patch Fri, July 29 9am-6pm
 Enter to Win Sat, July 30 9am-2pm
 The newest Harry Potter story: Harry Potter and the Cursed Child Parts One and Two
 The Velveteen Rabbit Bookshop & Guest House
 20 E. Sherman Ave. Fort Atkinson, WI 53538

Within its rural location between Milwaukee and Madison, Jefferson County has not had to deal with some of the tense police-citizen incidents taking place around the country.

For instance, during Parker's 26 years in Jefferson County, there has never been an officer-involved shooting.

"That's not to say officers don't draw their guns, but in the 26 years I've been here, there has never been an officer that has pulled the trigger on their firearm and discharged it at another person," the chief deputy said.

"Protect and serve is obviously an important part of what we do, but I really feel that the most important thing we do in law enforcement is to establish, gain and then keep public trust," Parker said. "If we do not have public trust,

we cannot police proactively within our communities. Once you establish that public trust you can do so much."

Within Jefferson County, part of that communication connection is accomplished via the sheriff's office's annual citizens' police academy, he noted.

"When you start the (police) academy, you have a certain mindset, and when you leave, you have a total different mindset about what we do and why we do what we do," Capt. Jerry Haferman agreed.

Parker noted that it is a small price to pay to hold those academies compared to the value of community awareness and support.

For the chief deputy, one of his favorite outreaches is to children. He said it always is heartwarming to see young children come up and shake the hand of an officer or offer a hug.

"We have got to focus on establishing that positive relationship in law enforcement with not only the adults, but the children as well," Parker said.

Summer Lovin' your Auto Loan with FCC

 Click Here!
 NCUA

Know us BEFORE YOU NEED US...

RAINBOW
 HOSPICE CARE
 (920) 674-6255 | www.rainbowhospicecare.org

Submit Your News!
 We're always interested in hearing about news in our community. Let us know what's going on!
 Submit news

CompuFort 119 Sherman Ave. West.
 Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin
920-563-8712

JOHNSON BANK

KRIEGER JEWELER

The chief deputy noted that one of the most damaging things is a scenario he has seen all too often, when, in a store or public place in uniform, he hears a parent say to a child, "You'd better behave or that policeman is going to take you to jail."

"That is one of the worst things we can say to our children because they should never look at this badge and this uniform as something to be afraid of," Parker stated. "They should look at it as something to run toward in a time of need."

Reflecting on the Dallas tragedy in which five police officers were killed during a peaceful rally, Parker pointed out how proactive the Dallas Police Department already had been within the community.

"They had a very close relationship with one another between the public and the law enforcement agency on trying to establish dialogue of what the police do and why the police do the things that they do," he said.

Watching news coverage, it has become evident that on the night of the shooting, there were photos and selfies being taken between the Black Lives Matter protestors and Dallas Police officers.

"They were being taken in a positive, role-supporting manner," Parker said. "Law enforcement's understanding that the protestors had the right to peacefully assemble and voice their cause, and that law enforcement is there to provide that safety barrier that is both allowing them to voice their agenda but, at the same time, do it in a manner that keeps people safe."

After the shootings came the emotional stories of the people who were present that night who saw those law enforcement officers so quickly and without hesitation come to their aid while they were lying on the ground — and not thinking about how just a minute before, they were there because of people protesting and the next minute trying to save their lives.

Parker said the number-one takeaway from this is to have an open and positive dialogue between communities and their law enforcement agencies.

"If the public has a question about something they have seen, call in to your local police department and ask them about it," he stressed. "If you are unhappy with operations, policy, expenditures within the local police department, reach out to the officials that are making those decisions and voice what it is that is upsetting you."

In many cases, Parker said, communication can lead to education because it offers another opportunity to explain to the public why law enforcement makes some of the decisions it does.

"It could be a matter of budgetary restrictions that have us utilizing reduced manpower," he said. "It could be the inability to obtain certain equipment that disallows us from doing our job in a more efficient manner, or simply it could be a lack of understanding."

The chief deputy noted that so many times, especially with use of force, there is a genuine lack of misunderstanding by the public about why officers handle situations the way that they do.

With more than 20 years' experience as a defense and arrest tactics and use of force instructor, Parker is well versed with the expectations placed on law enforcement officers, as well as the ongoing training that takes place within the agencies to maintain the officers' proficiency level with firearms and all the other tools they carry on their belt, including a nightstick or baton, handcuffs, a Taser and oleoresin capsicum or "pepper spray."

From there, he said, it moves on to the hands-on training in hand strikes, knee strikes and a focus on the appropriate target areas.

"What is the whole purpose of it (training)? It's for the officer to maintain control," the chief deputy said. "To be in a position of advantage. The general rule of thumb in any use of force situation is that the officer is supposed to be one level of force higher than the level of aggression that the subject is displaying."

As an example, Parker said, if a subject is punching at the officer, the officer is not supposed to raise a fist and say 'let's go and we'll physically fight here,' but, rather, reach for his or her baton or deploy a canine, or use other, less-lethal methods and maintain proximity.

"The other thing to remember is the purpose of deadly force is to stop the threat," Parker emphasized. "The word 'kill' is not part of the legal definition."

Citing the text manual for the Department of Justice training and standards, the chief deputy said, "behavior which justifies the use of deadly force is that which is caused or imminently threatens to cause death or great bodily harm to you or to another person or persons."

"That is what an officer has to evaluate in a tenth of a second to make that use-of-deadly-force decision," Parker said.

In recent years, he said, more and more situations are being videotaped as they unfold by videocameras and cellphones.

"You have to remember those phones are also capturing only one angle of a total incident, and are they actually capturing what the officer is visually seeing by being closer to the subject that is resisting?" Parker asked. "Was there something else occurring prior to the point of them coming outside and being captured on video?"



Today's E-Edition



Sign up for our email alerts

Daily Sports

Want to receive daily sports alerts? **Sign up today!**

News Updates

Want to receive our daily news? **Sign up today!**

He noted that the officers are trained to use the minimal amount of force necessary to control an actively resistive subject.

"No officer wakes up on any given day and ever states to themselves, 'Boy, I hope I have to use force today,'" Parker said.

When addressing any given situation, Parker said the first two things law enforcement officers have available to them are presence and dialogue — how they look and how they speak.

The chief deputy noted that, according to an International Association of Chiefs of Police study, 99.5 percent of interactions that law enforcement encounter are handled through presence and dialogue.

Due to the recent media coverage and protests in the wake of black men being fatally shot by white police officers, he said law enforcement officers have been placed in a difficult situation.

"I believe communication, education and to truly have an open door policy at your department is important so the public can be welcomed to stop by, call and ask questions of law enforcement, and have us be able to give that answer they deserve," Parker concluded.

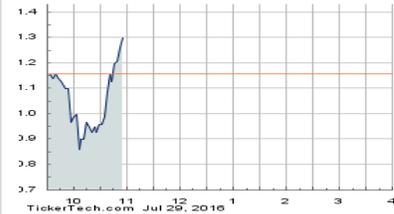
Manage Your Lists

Stocks

Enter symbol Get Quote

Symbol lookup

NYSE NASD S&P



Nyse ETF	111.16
▲ 0.14	▲ 0.13%
Nasdaq	5154.98
▲ 15.17	▲ 0.29%
S&P 500	2170.06
▲ 3.48	▲ 0.16%
Russell 2K	1217.33
▼ 1.6	▼ 0.131%
10Yr Bond	1.511
▼ 0.004	▼ 0.26%

Active Markets
Last Updated: 6:55PM EDT 07/28/2016

Recommend 13

Tweet

G+1

0

Print

Posted in News, Jefferson, Jefferson County Area on Monday, July 18, 2016 9:37 am. Updated: 2:30 pm.

Stories You Might Like



The 20 Best Places To Take The Kids
Parenting.com



Remembering Steve Smith, 1989-2016
Red Bull



What Might Happen If You Walk 30 Minutes a Day
PureWow



6 Movies You Need to Watch
Screening Room by Amazon Video

Recommended by

Promoted Stories

The 20 Best School Districts in the U.S.

The Street

11 Small Colleges That Cost the Least but Reap the Most Earnings

The Street

Why This Shirt Company Is Causing so Many Guys to Switch

Proper Cloth

50 Celebrities Who Support Trump. #21 Will Shock You

History Fanatic

Sean Foley reveals how you can dramatically improve your consistency with every club...

Revolution Golf

Marlins trade rumors: Josh Naylor is the only big prospect name Marlins have

FishStripes

Trending Now

Fort motorist appears to have died from medical event prior to crash

Creek man charged in domestic abuse assault

Brazilian Grilling with Medal-Worthy Skewers

How to Prevent Mosquito Bites

Pledge to Pack a Healthier Lunchbox

Johnson's best not enough, Jefferson falls to Horicon, 1-0

Recommended by

Sections

Home

Services

About Us

Contact us

dailyunion.com

Search

- News
- Sports
- Obituaries
- Multimedia
- Community
- Extras
- Online Features
- Weather

- Contact Us
- Advertising
- Subscriber Services
- Submissions
- Site Index
- Add Search Toolbar

Daily Jefferson County Union
Phone number: 920-563-5553
E-mail:
dailyunion@dailyunion.com
Address: 28 Milwaukee Ave, West
Fort Atkinson, WI 53538

Search in:

- | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All | <input type="checkbox"/> Obituaries | <input type="checkbox"/> Photos |
| <input type="checkbox"/> News | <input type="checkbox"/> Community | <input type="checkbox"/> Video |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sports | <input type="checkbox"/> Extras | |

© Copyright 2016, [Daily Jefferson County Union](#), Fort Atkinson, WI. Powered by [BLOX Content Management System](#) from [TownNews.com](#).