

# Herr

From page 8

When Herr started working patrol in 1992, he and Chief Morris would respond to about 885 calls per year. In 2002 they responded to 2,138, in 2012 2,810 and in 2019 calls for service were 3,200.

"The key is aggressively patrolling the streets at all hours of the day and night," Herr said. "You really don't know how many crimes you have prevented just by being proactive and visible."

## Chief in a small town

Since taking on the role of Police Chief Herr has always been a working Chief.

"I have always enjoyed taking calls, developing cases, serving search warrants and training fellow police officers," Herr said. "I am a perfectionist and have always had high standards."

Herr explained that being a police officer means you are available 24-7 and in a moments notice the public expects you to respond and resolve conflicts.

Whether you are helping victims at a critical traffic crash, standing on the perimeter of a man with a gun or giving CPR to a lifeless person trying to save their life, a police officer is expected to deal with it.

"Police officers will always be dealing with conflict, so it is paramount that they know how to resolve and deal with it in a reasonable manner," Herr said. "I have always tried to do the right thing while making quality split second decisions when all you have is your training and experience to fall back on."

According to Herr, you need to be resourceful if you are a police officer in a small town like Annandale.

"You don't have the resources of a large city or county," Herr said. "We often wear many hats in order to get the job done efficiently and effectively."

## Challenges

"I want this community to know that I took the role of Chief of Police very seriously," Herr said. "No one knows what is in store for you or the City of Annandale that day, but every officer on our force know we will always be ready for whatever comes our way."

Herr is confident that the Annandale Police Department has well trained, well equipped officers who are confident in their abilities to protect and serve the community.

## Two homicides

"Annandale has experienced tragedy in various ways, but nothing hit our community harder than having two homicides within a short period of time," Herr said. "When you know the families of the victims it makes it even more difficult."



Advocate file photos

Above, Herr at his desk as the newly appointed Police Chief in August of 2000. Below, Herr is performing tactical training. At far bottom, in January of 2018, at left is Sgt. Pete Standafer, shaking Chief Jeff Herr's hand. Standafer has taken over as police chief.



Herr admits that those two cases were extremely tough for him and the department.

"Cases like those tested the entire investigative team from Annandale and the Wright County Sheriff's Department, as we sifted through the evidence and developed the cases for the county attorney's office to prosecute," Herr said.

Herr remembers meeting with the families weekly, giving them the updates and assuring them we were working very hard to find those responsible for the loss of their loved ones.

"I am forever grateful to the community and all the law enforcement agencies which helped us out during both cases,"

Herr said, "Many relationships were made in such tragedy. The Ashwill family and Green family will always be close to my heart."

## A supportive family

Herr and his wife Nicole have been married for 22 years and live just outside of Annandale.

"When you deal with the cases our department has to deal with, having a supportive family and spouse is paramount," Herr said. "My wife Nicole has always been there for me."

"Whether it was receiving a call from the APD or SWAT activation from the Wright County Sheriff's office, Nicole would be the one packing a few snacks, water and coffee as I threw my gear together and flew out the door."

"Having a spouse that supports and understands that as you leave it may be the last time you ever see her. Nicole's support has been nothing short of amazing."

## A supportive city

"You are not going to find another person who is more true to their profession and community than Chief Herr," said Annandale Mayor Dewey Gunnarson. "His decades of actions have made him one of the most respected people in his field."

"He's an excellent leader and mentor who has trained and inspired many."

"Annandale was certainly lucky to have him as our Chief and he served us well."

Herr is very thankful of all the City Councils he has worked under the past 28 years.

"They gave me the latitude to carry out my vision for the APD and the training center," Herr said. "The Annandale city leaders have always done a great job on providing the APD not only the tools and training needed to our jobs professionally," Herr said. "But most importantly they have supported and valued our police officers."

Herr has worked closely with the staff and leadership of the city.

"Working with them allowed me to see the bigger picture of Annandale and look forward to not only what was important to the police department, but what was important to the city as a whole."

"I am forever thankful and grateful," Herr said. "I have developed lifelong relationships over the past 28 years and the Annandale Community is priceless."

## Passes the baton

Herr is happy with his replacement, Sgt. Peter Standafer.

"I am very comfortable with the personnel committee's decision to select Standafer as the new chief," Herr said. "I have full confidence in his ability to lead the department into the future."

"Change is good, but can often be hard, but I am excited for the future of the department."

"I know the community will support Pete and all the officers of the Annandale Police Department."

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