

Smith receives Best Badge Award for medication donation to Fox Valley Metro

By Judy Dixon Hebbe
For the Times-Villager

Nic Smith of Smith Pharmacy in Little Chute received an Outagamie County Best Badge Award, which recognizes the achievements of law enforcement personnel and other individuals and organizations that further public safety in our communities.

Coordinated by the Outagamie County District Attorney's office, the awards are presented annually to individuals nominated by local law enforcement agencies. Smith, who was nominated by the Fox Valley Metro Police Department, received a written award and a plaque at the March banquet.

"Outagamie County is so lucky to

have a citizen and business partner like Nic Smith, who is committed to making the community healthier and safer," said District Attorney Melinda Tempelis upon presenting Smith with the award. "It is an honor to recognize him for all he has done."

FVMPD has been dealing with heroin and opioid abuse in the villages of Kimberly and Little Chute for a number of years. In December 2016 when the state legislature passed a bill, signed by Governor Scott Scott Walker, allowing first responders, including law enforcement, to carry and administer naloxone or Narcan to counteract opioid overdoses, FVMPD approached Smith about supplying the depart-

ment. Not only did he agree to supply the department, he donated the lifesaving medication free of cost.

"This is a major donation," Chief Daniel Meister said. "He has a small business with limited resources, but also has a strong commitment to the community. With our tight budget, this helps the department very much."

Within a matter of weeks after officers began carrying naloxone, the nasal sprayers were used two times on drug overdose victims. While Gold Cross Ambulance and Kaukauna Fire Department paramedics both carry naloxone, on most overdose calls FVMPD officers are the first to arrive. Because an opioid overdose compromises the individual's respiratory system, often causing them to stop breathing, timing does matter. Officers, equipped with naloxone, get the needed medication to patients faster and save lives.

In the early hours of New Year's Day 2016, officers administered naloxone on a nearly lifeless subject and successfully reversed the effects of the overdose and saved the man's life. Since then, officers have administered naloxone five times, saving the life of the subject each time.

Officer Philip Serres noted on the nominating form for Smith, "Nic Smith has continued his support of the community by providing the Fox Valley Metro Police Department with a supply of naloxone, even after his initial donation has either been used or expired. He has truly embraced the Fox Valley Metro Police Department's 'Partnership in Policing' philosophy and is deserving of recognition for the lives he has saved and will continue to save through his ongoing donations."



Submitted photo
Nic Smith, owner of Smith Pharmacy in Little Chute, was the recipient of a Best Badge Award for donated lifesaving medication free of cost to the Fox Valley Metro Police Department. Officers now carry and can administer naloxone or Narcan to counteract opioid overdoses.

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Gov. Evers proclaims April 'Sexual Assault Awareness Month' in Wisconsin

Gov. Tony Evers proclaimed April as 'Sexual Assault Awareness Month' throughout the state of Wisconsin.

In an official proclamation, Gov. Evers noted that one in three women and one in six men in Wisconsin will experience sexual violence in their lives at some point. He also noted that one in 10 children will be sexually abused before they turn 18.

"It's important to increase awareness of sexual violence and how it

affects everyone," Gov. Evers said. "We must continue to work together to prevent sexual violence while providing pathways to recovery for survivors."

Gov. Evers' proclamation also notes that women of color are historically marginalized and disproportionately affected by sexual violence.

'Sexual Assault Awareness Month' in Wisconsin is being recognized along with National Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

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