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Nemecek promoted to deputy police chief

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Staff Writer

The new Canton Township Deputy Police Chief brings both his experience in law enforcement and his eye toward the future to the job.

With the increase in computer-based crimes, new Deputy Chief Patrick Nemecek said he will help the department adjust to the changes in crime and law enforcement.

“I’ve seen everything change in law enforcement,” he said. “More people are committing high-tech crimes and it take a special kind of investigation to solve them.”

He said the Canton department has up-to-date equipment and hired a forensic detective to deal with the new wave of computer crimes.

“If we don’t make changes, we will fall behind the criminals, who have the equipment to commit these crimes,” he said.

Nemecek became deputy chief two weeks ago. He was promoted to sergeant in 1989 and lieutenant in 1991.

“I am satisfied that the process has identified one of the department’s most capable leaders of the organization,” Public Safety Director John Santomauro said. “The focus was placed on leadership and I am confident that the process has worked.”

As deputy chief, Nemecek is responsible for overseeing division operations which include the detective bureau, crime prevention, ordinance enforcement and specialized units.

He said the department has been helping him make his transition.

“I’ve got a lot of support from the department,” he said. “The outgoing chief has showed me a lot about the procedures.”

Nemecek said he wanted to be a police officer since he was a young child. He began his career as an officer for the Wayne County Sheriff Department in 1984. Since then, he has earned his bachelor’s degree from the University of Detroit-Mercy and his masters degree from Eastern Michigan University.

“I think it is important for all officers to continue their education because they can learn a lot about changes in the field,” he said.

Since working as an officer, Nemecek said he’s learned how to deal with the public more

effectively.

“Officers need to realize that only 1 percent of the population gets involved with negative things like crime,” he said. “I’ve learned that there is a difference between criminals and the general population.”

His wife of 21 years, Karen, and his two children are excited about his promotion.

“They have always been supportive of me,” he said. “When I get phone calls to leave dinner or miss holidays for work, they never complain.”

In his spare time, Nemecek said he likes to vacation in Northern Michigan and watch sports.

“I like going up north because nobody knows who I am or what I do for a living,” he said.

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