

NOW WE'RE TOLKIN'

By Helen Marketti

NO MOPES ALLOWED

Chief Oliver of the Brimfield, Ohio Police Department has a very low tolerance for mopers. "Mopes" is a term used for a person who leeches off the public and usually engaged in criminal activity. In his first book, *No Mopes Allowed* (Gray & Company Publishing, Cleveland, 2013). Chief Oliver has a no-nonsense approach when dealing with criminals. He and his staff are not only keeping Brimfield safe but are always involved with the community to build relationships, programs and trust.

"I grew up on Kling Street in Akron which is about as inner city as you can get. We were very poor and I remember reading a lot as a way to escape my situation," recalls Chief Oliver. "I have wanted to be a police officer ever since I was six years old. I actually wanted to be Batman but that was already taken. (laughs) I used to love watching Adam 12 and many other police shows. I had an aunt who loved watching Kojak, which is where I first heard the term, "mopes". I have always thought that being a police officer is a very noble profession. I have subscribed to helping people and doing what we can to solve problems. It was the perfect fit as a profession."

Brimfield's Police Department has over 138,000 "crazy cousins" who follow their Facebook page whereas the city of Brimfield is around 10,500 in population. People check in daily from all over the country and around the world to see what Chief Oliver has to say. Whether it is a Facebook post or a story in his book, Chief is not shy about speaking his mind, writing open letters to mopers and expressing his thoughts on many topics. "I am the kind of person who does not like to follow and fit into a mold set by others. I have been this way my entire life. I believe there is a high ceiling for creativity in any job you can have. I will admit that there probably is a time when specific guidelines would have to be followed if I were to meet the Pope, someone of royalty or a President."

"I really can't explain why we are so popular," said Chief Oliver. "People often ask me what the recipe is for success and all I can say is that we remain consistent. There is a new post on Facebook every day. It is a variety of things that make people laugh, angry or sad. Sometimes we tell bad jokes, talk about Elvis or whatever is on our mind and people generally like it. I compare it to a very large front porch with several pitchers of lemonade and all of our cousins are sitting around having a conversation. I am familiar with several people who follow our page who have suggested to their own police departments to check out our page or read my book. We now have other law enforcement agencies who follow our page which I think is great."

"My open letters to the mopers might make my bosses a little nervous. I remind them that they knew what they were getting when they hired me. (laughs) I am open with everything. I know many are familiar with my open letter to Kayne West as well. I can't believe he wanted to equate what he does as a rap artist and compare it to what our military goes through which is completely ludicrous."

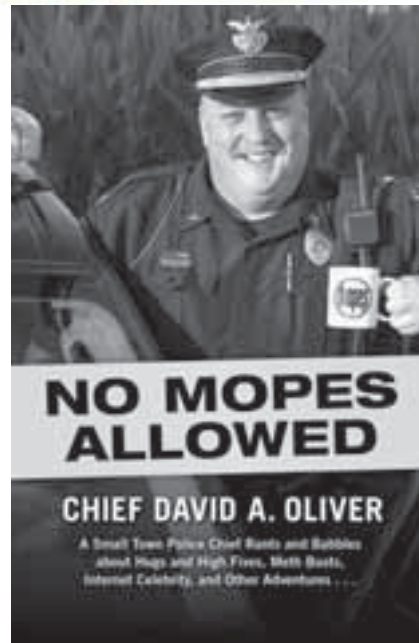
"In the past year I have had people from TV stations ask me if I would like to blog for them or have a weekly segment. I find it very flattering but I have a job as a Police Chief. I really like what I do and I am going to stay until I retire. I have been the Police Chief since March of 2004. I am the same person I always was but now more people are watching," said Chief Oliver.

"I feel I have the best crew working for me. One of the things that I am very up front about is our staff volunteers hundreds of hours for various community programs. The officers are always giving their own time to participate in events and I am very fortunate. I hope my staff would tell you that I am the best chief they ever worked for and they know I have high expectations. We have several programs in place such as "Back to School Shop with a Cop" which was very successful. We were able to take 85 kids who are either on free or reduced lunches at school and take them shopping for school clothes, book bags and supplies. Kids can't help the situations they are in and it means a lot that we can help. The program was made possible from the posting on Facebook. There was a woman who lives very far away from here and wanted to help so she sent a check for \$2,000. We have never met her but because of her generous donation, 20 kids were ready for school with new clothes and the supplies they needed. I think people believe in what we do. We are talking about doing a Citizens Police Academy, which will be open to anyone who wants to attend. It will be a quasi police academy. We will have it one day a week over an 8 to 10 week period. They will learn everything from traffic stops, processing a crime scene, learning about the K9 unit and getting into the cruisers. I think it will be a very successful program."

"My wife, Lisa and I have formed the Chief Oliver Foundation. All book proceeds will be for the foundation, which assists juvenile survivors of sexual assault. When the wheels of justice turn, they turn but when they stop, they stop. The prosecutors, attorneys and police officers all return to their daily routine and onto the next case. It seems after the bad person is sent to prison, people think it's over but the victim is left in a void especially if it is a young person. We want to help them get going again and the money funds programs for art, music and dance or if they want to participate in another activity but are unable to afford it. We can take care of the funding. It helps to give them distance from what has happened. We want to help them heal."

For more information about Chief Oliver and his staff, please visit the Brimfield Police Department's Facebook page. "No Mopes Allowed": www.nomopes.com

For more great books from Gray & Company Publishers: www.grayco.com



Sat. Feb. 8
Ashtabula Eagles
8-Midnight
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!

Sat. Feb. 15
Old Mill Winery
7 -11 pm

www.lostsheepband.com

Magic 1025

Tune in for the magic morning show with

Kid Mitchell...

have some fun in the morning! Listen for the top trends of the day,
 celebrity interviews and winning!!

Mornings from 6a-10a on Today's Magic 1025!

**It's A New Year! Listen For Your Chance To Get
 In On The Winning At Magic1025.Com
 And At Facebook.Com/Magic1025!**

www.magic1025.com

KID MITCHELL IN THE MORNING...THE GREATEST HITS ALL DAY...MAGIC 102.5

Get EVERYTHING MAGIC and WIN
 Click LIKE at FACEBOOK.com/MAGIC102.5