

Honoring a friend's memory

For years since his retirement from law enforcement, Bartlett resident Ray Cowin has been hosting a yearly golf outing with friends from the force that came to be known as The Cowin Open.

This year's event July 8 drew more than 30 golfers to Villa Olivia Golf Course, but it was the absence of one regular in particular that gave the gathering a new name and new sense of purpose.



Friends and onetime colleagues of former Arlington Heights police Deputy Chief Andrew Whowell took part in the inaugural Andy Whowell Memorial Golf Outing this month. The July 8 event raised \$1,725 in Whowell's honor for one of his favorite causes, Lutheran Church Charities' K-9 Police Ministry. – Daily Herald File Photo

Former Arlington Heights Deputy Police Chief Andrew Whowell, a friend of Cowin's since their days together at Luther North High School on Chicago's North Side, died unexpectedly in December at just 62 years old. Whowell served 30 years with the Arlington Heights force, working his way up the ranks from patrol officer to detective to sergeant and then patrol commander, before his 2013 promotion to deputy chief.

With his longtime friend's passing, Cowin decided this year to rename his annual gathering the Andy Whowell Memorial Golf Outing and used the event to raise \$1,725 for one of Whowell's favorite causes -- Lutheran Church Charities' K-9 Police Ministry.

Cowin, who started his career as an Arlington Heights police officer before joining the Chicago Police Department, said the size of the event grew once word got around that it was being held in honor of Whowell.

"A lot of guys jumped in and wanted to take part," he said.

Donating proceeds to the K-9 Police Ministry seemed a natural fit. After his retirement in 2015, Whowell volunteered as a handler for program, which provides crisis response and ongoing support to law enforcement members and their family members in times of need.

On Saturday, Cowin, Whowell's widow, Ingrid, and others will gather at St. Peter Lutheran Church in Arlington Heights for a presentation of the money raised at the golf outing.