



V.I.P. News

The Eugene Police Department's Volunteers in Policing Newsletter

Summer 2008

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"Always leave enough time in your life to do something that makes you happy, satisfied, even joyous. That has more of an effect on economic well-being than any other single factor."

Paul Hawken

Carrie's Corner

Over the past few months, EPD volunteers have been involved in dozens of department and community activities. From May through July, 97 volunteers contributed 8,126 hours of service!

A few highlights:



What's new?

In May:

- ◆ Five Seniors on Patrol recruits attended a 40-hour training academy.
- ◆ Seniors on Patrol volunteers provided high visibility patrols at the Eugene Marathon to help prevent car clouts.
- ◆ A Speakers Bureau volunteer gave a presentation on consumer scams, fraud and identity theft to a group at the Eugene Public Library.
- ◆ Two volunteers assisted the Property Crimes Unit with compliance checks of used merchandise retailers.



Seniors on Patrol recruits (from left) Bill Evans, Willard Grabofsky, Rich Dohemann, Dennis Lees & Andy Graziano

In June:

- ◆ Thirty volunteers successfully completed an Emergency Vehicle Operations Course, an annual driver training required of all EPD personnel who drive department vehicles.
- ◆ Seven Huckleberry Patrol and Seniors on Patrol volunteers attended a bicycle training.
- ◆ Eight volunteers assisted with bicycle registration events.



Emergency Vehicle Operations Course - June 2008

In July:

- ◆ Squad Car Maintenance Team volunteers shuttled 124 vehicles, washed 63 vehicles, inventoried and restocked 41 trunks, performed 36 minor repairs and changed one tire.
- ◆ Four volunteers assisted with the Police Activities League day camp.
- ◆ Huckleberry Patrol volunteers removed 115 graffiti tags from midtown Eugene.
- ◆ Seniors on Patrol volunteers began conducting focused patrols and theft from vehicle checks in areas requested by the Property Crimes Unit. Registered owners of vehicles found with items of value in plain view receive educational letters alerting them to the risk of leaving valuable property in their vehicles.

EPD Volunteers Provide Support at Olympic Trials

Eugene Police volunteers were among the hundreds of paid and unpaid personnel who had a role in the success of the Olympic Trials. EPD volunteers were given a range of assignments including security support, shuttling law enforcement personnel to their assignments and administrative support. In all, 58 EPD volunteers (including six EPD retirees) donated 2,581 hours of service. Lieutenant Jennifer Bills commented, *"I really want our VIP '08 Trials volunteers to know I thought they did a great job and I appreciated all their help. It was a large event that took a lot of people to make it a success and they were key to that success. Thank you!"*



We are Bethel

By Volunteer Sandra Rochowansky



On Saturday, June 7 from noon to 6 p.m., Eugene Police volunteers participated in the seventh annual We Are Bethel Celebration, a summer tradition that brings friends and neighbors together to celebrate the uniqueness of the Bethel community. The event, held at Petersen Barn (870 Berntzen Road), included activities for all ages, including free music, community demonstrations, local art, games and food.

Bethel partners include the Eugene Police Department who set up a double-wide booth with officers and volunteers from the Bethel and Monroe Street stations, as well as K-9 reps Yasko and Loek led by K-9 officers Tom Eichhorn and Robert Rosales, respectively. Crime dog McGruff made an appearance, and Mayor Kitty Piercy and her husband also strolled the park and enjoyed the fun.

"The We Are Bethel Celebration started seven years ago as a result of the federal Weed and Seed grant and is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Justice," Bethel Safety Station Manager Dusky Steele explains. The purpose of Weed and Seed is to "weed" out crime and "seed" in positive programs, human services and preventive crime strategies. The focus is on solutions to community problems. It's a great way to bring community resources together and for neighbors to meet and learn about some wonderful collaborative efforts that law enforcement provides-including volunteer opportunities.

Incidentally, the Bethel Station is also a result of the original Weed and Seed grant strategy, and the Bethel Celebration is a great venue for the community to learn about this EPD substation (as well as the Monroe Street Station), and other services provided by the Eugene Police Department as a whole.

"It is very important for people to be engaged with police personnel and officers in a positive situation to learn how the department can meet their safety needs, and this fun-filled day gives us, along with the volunteers, a chance to accomplish this," Dusky Steele says.

Volunteers Supplement Efforts of Paid EPD Personnel at Annual Safety Fest

Safety Fest, a huge annual community safety event hosted by the Eugene Fire Department, was held on Saturday, June 21st. In 2007, over 5,000 people attended the event! Volunteers helped staff an EPD booth, assisted with bicycle registrations, role played as McGruff the Crime Dog and interacted with kids. A special thank you to volunteer Dmitri Von Klein, for being our photographer extraordinaire!



Thank You Notes to Shining Stars

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank the following volunteers for your assistance at my bike registration events, and let you know that I appreciate your help: **Dave Andersen, Dick Anderson, Claudia Carlson, Matthew Conner, Vern Delk, Willard Grabofsky, Marguerite Halttunen, Carolyn Hansen, Marcia Long, Tony Mohr, and Bill Tabbut. I know how demanding some of these well attended events can be. All of you are friendly, helpful, and professional when working with the public and represent the Eugene Police Department well. Again my sincere thanks.*



From Crime Prevention Specialist Steven Chambers

Just want to say a BIG thanks to volunteer **Jacquelyn Davis for assisting with the Youth Academy graduation on Friday - it's always a pleasure to work with her. Thanks so much Jacquelyn for always being willing to help us out.*

From Court Liaison Administrative Specialist Tonee Webber

I wanted to pass along my gratitude to volunteers **Greg Zahar and Sandy Burr. I was unable to attend Sgt. Lee Thoming's retirement ceremony and spoke with Tonee Webber to see how things went. She stated that Greg and Sandy did a wonderful job and had almost completed the room set up before they got there. I heard that the ceremony went very well and that Greg and Sandy (in Tonee's words) "were both instrumental" in their assistance with Lee's ceremony. I can't thank them enough for all their help. I truly appreciate it.*

From Investigations Senior Administrative Specialist Tammy Breach

Volunteer Anniversaries

Congratulations and thank you to the following volunteers who have recent or upcoming anniversaries with the Volunteers in Policing Program:



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|-----------------------|--------------------|-----------|
| Jim Johnson | 5 year anniversary | May 16 |
| Dick Anderson | 2 year anniversary | May 22 |
| Karen Renko | 1 year anniversary | May 23 |
| Don Bailor | 4 year anniversary | May 25 |
| Bob Blaesi | 4 year anniversary | May 25 |
| Duane Hoerauf | 4 year anniversary | May 25 |
| Cliff Flesch | 4 year anniversary | May 27 |
| Joe Hudzikiewicz ... | 3 year anniversary | May 27 |
| Fred Thomsen | 4 year anniversary | May 27 |
| Fred Zeedyk | 4 year anniversary | May 27 |
| Sarah Alexander | 3 year anniversary | June 17 |
| Tony Mohr | 2 year anniversary | July 7 |
| Wendy Simrin | 1 year anniversary | July 11 |
| Jacquelyn Davis | 3 year anniversary | August 11 |
| John Ahlen | 5 year anniversary | August 14 |
| Rosemary Dyke | 4 year anniversary | August 30 |

Professional Photographer Teaches Class for EPD Employees

By Sergeant Sam Kamkar

Several months ago, I asked volunteer Dmitri Von Klein if he would be interested in teaching photography to the EPD. Dmitri graciously accepted my offer and went to work. On August 27th, he taught a Photography Fundamentals class at Central Training. This was his first class ever taught. I was impressed by the amount of work he had put into creating a PowerPoint presentation and bringing with him an array of photography instruments and reference material. Dmitri's passion for photography and his dedication to EPD was quite apparent in his teaching. Many thanks to Dmitri and all the other volunteers at EPD who selflessly serve us and our community every day.



V.I.P. News is a quarterly newsletter for the Eugene Police Department's Volunteers in Policing Program. We welcome your comments and suggestions. If you would like to be removed from or added to our mailing list, please contact Carrie Chouinard, Volunteers in Policing Program Coordinator, at 541-682-5355 or carrie.f.chouinard@ci.eugene.or.us. For more information on the VIP Program, visit www.eugene-or.gov/policevolunteers.