



# V.I.P. News



## The Eugene Police Department's Volunteers in Policing Newsletter January through June 2015

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*"You can never really live anyone else's life, not even your child's. The influence you exert is through your own life, and what you've become yourself."*  
**Eleanor Roosevelt**

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### Carrie's Corner



What's new?

The past six months have been a whirlwind of activity for the VIP Program! I'll share a few highlights with you below, but be sure to peruse the rest of VIP News to stay fully informed about what has been happening lately.

In February, one volunteer photographer and six volunteer role players were among those assisting with a SWAT

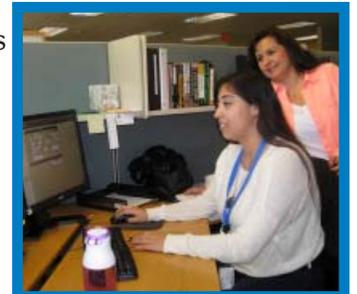


Team training scenario that involved a mock hijacked city bus. Volunteer involvement helped make for a more realistic training for the officers.

In April, we held our annual National Volunteer Week Celebration. Sixty-one volunteers earned President's Volunteer Service Awards! This award, based on hours of service, is the most prestigious volunteer award currently connected to the White House that all Americans can aspire to achieve. Greg Zahar received the President's Call to Service Award for contributing 4,000+ hours of service since joining the VIP Program! Ten volunteers were recognized with Notable Service Awards. After the formal ceremony, all attendees were treated to a build your own ice cream sundae bar.



In June, Western Oregon University student Jessica Goodwin completed a 500-hour practicum/field study experience with EPD. She split her time between the Crime Analysis Unit (CAU) and the Evidence Control Unit (ECU). For the CAU, she reviewed online police reports and entered/inquired about stolen property using a variety of criminal justice systems and databases. For the ECU, her work was focused on researching items and tracking results. In the photo, Jessica is on the left, and her CAU supervisor, Denise Vilanova, is on the right.



You can reach VIP Program Manager Carrie Chouinard at 541.682.5355 or [carrie.f.chouinard@ci.eugene.or.us](mailto:carrie.f.chouinard@ci.eugene.or.us).

## Volunteer in the Spotlight: Sandy Henry

By Janice Wohlert, Sr. Administrative Specialist



Imagine retirement for a minute. This can conjure thoughts of warm

beaches, destinations unknown or maybe just spending time at home. For many though, they think of how to give back, to volunteer. Now imagine retiring after 29 years of service and then returning to the same organization you retired from, as a volunteer! This speaks volumes, doesn't it?

This was the case with EPD volunteer, Sandy Henry. Retiring in 2000 as the Data & Records Manager, she returned in 2001 where she served as a volunteer at the Bethel Public Safety Station until it was closed in 2003. At the encouragement of former colleague Donna Isadore, Sandy again returned to EPD in 2013 to volunteer in the Animal Welfare Unit (AWU). To date, Sandy has contributed nearly 600 hours to EPD!

AWU Supervisor Molly Monette says, "I have been with the AWU under two months and one of the first things I learned is what an invaluable member Sandy Henry is to the team. The support Sandy provides each week is instrumental to the departmental operations and it allows staff to focus their attention on the immediate needs of the community. The AWU feels so fortunate to be able to work alongside Sandy."

Curious to know what motivates someone to voluntar-

ily return to where they spent so many years on the clock, I asked Sandy this. "I spent almost 30 years here. It's kind of a second home. It's about



the people," says Sandy. Though the faces have changed over the years, she enjoys the familiarity, the kinship of fellow police department folks. She is quick to explain that her volunteer work is very different from her career and the change of pace makes the work enjoyable.

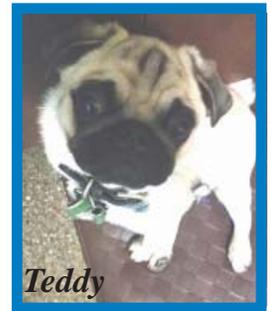
"Sandy has been invaluable to me and has been the glue that has helped hold the unit together during some significant transition. Not only does she process all the Potentially Dangerous Dog paperwork and oversee our finances and contract with Pet Data, but she volunteers at special events and is always available to answer questions and follow-up on issues. Sandy understands the AWU very well as she has been involved with the program almost since its inception. Needless to say, Sandy's hard work and commitment is truly appreciated by all of us in the

AWU," says Lt. Angie San Miguel.

Sandy is an avid animal lover and her work for the AWU is an ideal fit. Additionally, Sandy volunteers once a week for the Willamette Animal Guild, a low cost spay and neuter clinic for dogs and cats. "I help check-in the animals and then help wake them after surgery. I sit with the animals and soothe them and then walk them to prepare them to go home," Sandy says.

When she isn't volunteering, she likes to spend her days at the park with her two dogs, Teddy and Shadow while her two cats Lily and Violet lounge at home.

Sandy also enjoys trips



to the Oregon coast or traveling to see family in Seattle. Sandy is active in her church and helps out by teaching classes and bookkeeping. "I get together with other EPD retirees for coffee once a week and monthly for lunch," she says.

Sounds blissful to me, indeed!



## Volunteers in Action

### Annual Torch Run

Seniors on Patrol volunteers were requested to follow the procession of runners to ensure their safety along the route of the Torch Run. According to Officer Bobby McDermed, volunteers played an integral role in this annual event.



*EPD employees and volunteer Greg Gaffney-Bills (behind video camera) cheer the runners*



*Volunteers who escorted the runners: Bob Thomas, Bev Sept, Dennis Brantley, Rich Aufort and Charlie Schneider*



*The runners as they pass by headquarters*

### Ducked Out!

To celebrate the University of Oregon Ducks for making it into the 2015 College Football Playoff National Championship game against the Ohio State Buckeyes on January 12, 2015, Assistant Chief Durr authorized the placement of U of O flags on all patrol vehicles for the weekend. The Squad Car Maintenance Team was tasked with placing the flags on the fleet of patrol vehicles. Volunteer Cliff Flesch is shown below.



## Volunteers in Action



At left, volunteer Willard Grabofsky; at right, Thom Strunk

### Some Assembly Required...

*“Some EPD staff asked me to purchase a picnic table to allow staff a nice place to sit, outside, when the weather was warm. I received authority to make the purchase. When the table arrived, I had just returned from shoulder surgery and had physical restrictions, so I wasn’t able to put the table together. The weather was getting nice and I knew staff would enjoy having the table available. I contacted Thom Strunk and Willard Grabofsky and asked if they would be willing to put the table together for me. As always, they came through! They were great about it and put it together right away. They are always so willing to pitch in and do anything that would help EPD. I can’t thank them enough.”*

– Sgt. Lisa Barrong –

## From Investigations to Database Management – VCU Volunteers are Diverse

By Janice Wohlert, Sr. Administrative Specialist

With only nine detectives and one sergeant assigned to the Violent Crime Unit (VCU), they each have a tremendous workload of current cases and do not have the capacity to investigate cold cases. Fortunately, there are three retired police officers who do actively work cold cases.

Formed in 2010, the Cold Case Squad has solved two previously unsolved cold cases with a third one close to being solved. The current team includes: Bob Walker, a retired Detective Sergeant for the City of Richmond, Virginia; Rick Gilliam, a retired EPD VCU Sergeant and John Ferreira, a retired FBI Special Agent. “Currently they are working three or four cases simultaneously from the 1960s and 1970s” says VCU Sgt. Kris Martes.



The team has a collaborative approach to the investigations, according to Martes. “They bounce each aspect of a case off of each other. They review statements, alibis and evidence. Because of their backgrounds in law enforcement, they each have a different perspective. They view the case

with new eyes. They have the right interpersonal dynamics and meld well with the VCU team,” Martes says.

Additionally, Walker assists the VCU by updating information in the EPD missing person’s database. “Bob updates the database after verifying that dental records and DNA are available as well as by pulling the original reports. This frees up time for the detectives,” says Martes.

Walker and fellow volunteer, Rick Bailey assist VCU by updating and logging information on crimes against children in a database. “We receive an average of 1,200 cases from DHS per year. The work that Bob and Rick do is invaluable. It saves tremendous time,” according to Martes.

Martes said that the compilation of data by Walker and Bailey is invaluable to her and the VCU. They synopsise the cases and provide a snapshot of each, which aids her in assigning them for follow-up.

“I can’t emphasize enough how eternally grateful I am to all the volunteers who assist VCU. Not only do they help out in my unit, volunteers have helped with the various charity donation deliveries throughout Eugene. I cannot praise the volunteers enough for all that they do for me and for EPD,” says Martes.

## Thank You Notes to Shining Stars



\*I just wanted to let you know how appreciative I am for all that volunteer **Dave McGovern** does for me. He is always on time, if not early. He is hardworking, willing to do whatever job I ask of him. He sits down to a task taking it head-on and not stopping until it's done. Like today, he took some items over to Springfield for our seamstress to work on, and right after he left, a sergeant dropped a jacket off that needed some work done. Dave was happy to turn right around when he got back and take the jacket to our seamstress to ensure the work got done for him. His willingness to run errands for me saves me sooooo much time. I am truly grateful for all he does and that he is able to volunteer with me.

Cheryl Dumas, Quartermaster, Operations Support Division

\*Please pass my thanks on to volunteers **Holly Alexander, Sarah Alexander, Bev Sept, and Candy Whitney** for their help with the tow envelopes. I send out about 20-30 tow notices every week and before they stepped in to help, it took me hours to prep the envelopes. I very much appreciate their willingness to step in and keep me supplied.

Vivian Hammond, Administrative Specialist, Technical Services Division

\*Please pass along my thanks and appreciation to the **Squad Car Maintenance Team**. On Thursday, February 5, I asked that they conduct an inventory of the supervisor patrol vehicles for the different types of equipment carried in each of the cars. I asked to have that little project completed by February 12. Within about 1 ½ hours, I received most of the inventories. And then today, February 9, I found the others were completed as well. EPD is truly blessed to have such a dedicated group of volunteers who are always willing to undertake different tasks and projects thrown at them. My hats off to them all.

Officer John Risko, Patrol Division

\*I want to thank volunteers **Joe Hudzikiewicz and Dan Maxwell** for helping me out with assisting the INET board attendees into the secured parking area at HQ early this morning. It was a success! We had a full staff meeting with all outside agencies attending. Joe and Dan did an excellent job greeting the board members and letting them know where to park. This allowed me to set up for the meeting and greet the board members once they were inside the building. Please pass along my sincere appreciation to Dan and Joe for their assistance! I am very grateful!

Holly Mathews, AIC Executive Assistant, Office of the Chief

\*I have worked two days of the parks bike OT. I cringed going into the first day because the pool patrol bicycles have always been a mess. I was very impressed to find that the first bike I grabbed was in excellent working condition. It's very nice to have the patrol bikes in good working order, with routine maintenance being done! Thanks **Bicycle Maintenance & Repair Team!**

Sergeant Kyle Williams, Patrol Division

\***Seniors on Patrol Team** – I have received numerous thanks from the community for your services recently. (1) I received two donations for your vacation check service, including one with a letter saying how much they've benefited from the service. (2) I received a card of thanks from a citizen who received a letter from us after having left valuables visible while parked at Spencer Butte. She appreciated the "friendly letter" and as an Obsidian, helping with trail maintenance in the area, said that she would put some of the suggestions in their monthly newsletter. (3) I received an email from a vacation check recipient where the paper had not been stopped. She returned to find that her request to stop had not occurred but she was very grateful to have you keep an eye out and to move the papers to a less conspicuous place so as not to leave a "message" on the front porch. You all make a difference every day and are appreciated and valued by the department and the community!

Debbie Janecek, Acting Supervisor, Crime Prevention Unit, Patrol Division

## Retired EPD Sergeant Honored as Volunteer of the Year

By Janice Wohlert, Sr. Administrative Specialist

Greg Zahar was the recipient of EPD's Volunteer of the Year Award and was honored during the annual Awards Ceremony on May 27, 2015 at Valley River Inn. Greg is a retired EPD Sergeant and joined the VIP Program in May 2008. He is a member of the Seniors on Patrol (SOP) Team and the Subpoena Service Team (SST). On both teams, he holds leadership roles and serves as a field trainer for new volunteers. As a member of the SOP, he helped provide security support at the EPD Command Bus during four U of O home football games in 2014. He also participated in a support role at the Torch Run.

In addition to weekly commitments he has with the SOP and SST, he regularly participates in episodic assignments. These assignments range from helping with Safety Town to volunteering at the Police Activities League Camp. He has also provided support at the annual employee EVOC by cooking and serving a BBQ lunch to participating officers.

"I regularly receive positive feedback about Greg's dedication and professionalism. For example, I received a request from Assistant District Attorney Jay Hall, who needed information from a volunteer who had attempted to serve a subpoena. ADA Hall needed the information quickly because of a trial that was scheduled for the following week. Greg immediately came to EPD headquarters to

review relevant paperwork, then went to ADA Hall's office to be interviewed for a motion and affidavit. ADA Hall was very appreciative of Greg's willingness to drop everything and provide assistance.

"Greg has impressed me and others in this department with his above and beyond approach in volunteering. He has an incredible loyalty to EPD and is constantly seeking out new ways to provide support," said VIP Program Manager Carrie Chouinard.



Greg Zahar (middle) is honored with the Volunteer of the Year Award by Chief Kerns (left) and Operations Support Division Manager Tim Schuck (right). PIO Melinda McLaughlin is shown at the podium.



### Interesting Factoid!

A recent survey of active volunteers revealed that 31 out of 69 have served in the U. S. Military. That's 45 percent! Here's the breakdown:

- U.S. Air Force: 4
- U.S. Army: 11
- U.S. Coast Guard: 3
- U.S. Marine Corps: 1
- U.S. National Guard: 3
- U.S. Navy: 9

*Thank you for your service!*



V.I.P. News is a 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 distribution list, please contact Carrie Chouinard, Volunteers in Policing Program Manager, at 541.682.5355 or [carrie.f.chouinard@ci.eugene.or.us](mailto:carrie.f.chouinard@ci.eugene.or.us). For more information on the VIP Program, visit [www.eugene-or.gov/policevolunteers](http://www.eugene-or.gov/policevolunteers).