

Investing in the Future

By: Assistant Chief Nicks



As with any organization or business the Spokane Police Department must invest in the future; even when faced with budget, staffing and service delivery challenges. I would like to take this opportunity to share with you the many investments that we are currently making for our department.

About a month ago we vacated the Monroe Court building and have now consolidated our staff into the new Investigative Building and the Public Safety Building. I will not elaborate on the new Investigative Building as that was the subject of the June newsletter, however, I will comment on what a wonderful facility it is and it has allowed us to centralize the majority of our investigative staff and with the added bonus of easy to access parking for those employees. The new facility will service us for many years. Thank you to all that helped bring this to a reality.



Police Planning's new space and Carly Cortright in her new office!

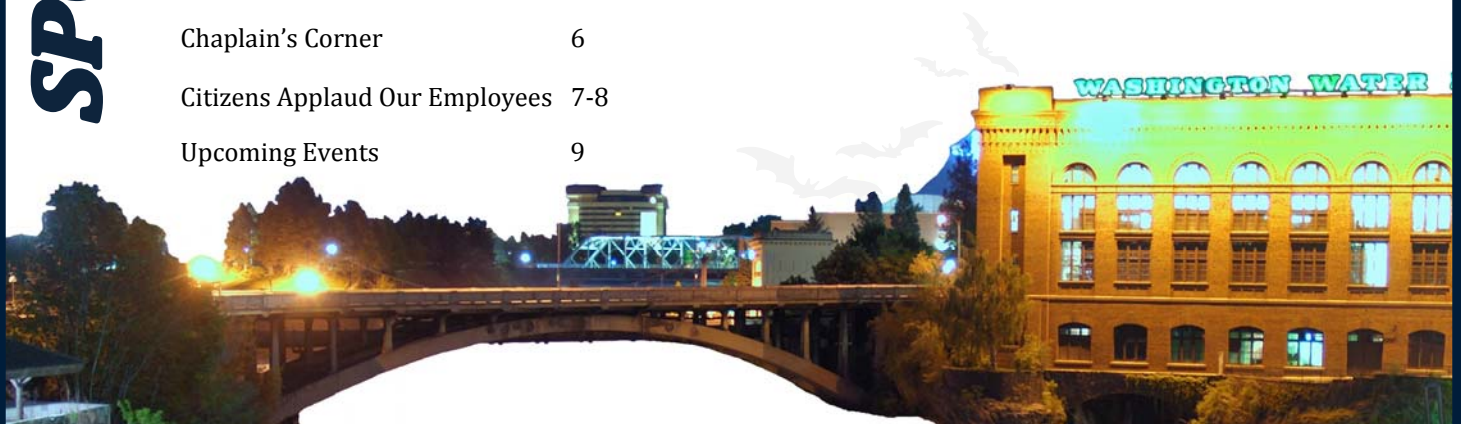
The Public Safety Building remodeling is now complete and the renovated areas are as clean and nice as the Investigative Building. Volunteer Services, Planning, Internal Affairs, Patrol Lieutenants and Captain, and the Traffic Unit (see more

pictures on next page) are now located in the newly remodeled areas of the PSB. With the relocation of the Traffic unit we also have the basement conference room available to us once again. Unfortunately, parking for the staff in these units did not improve. Sorry.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE...

Academy Renovations	3
Excellent Police Work	4
Shriners Event in Spokane	4
Years of Service	5
Summer Academy 2010	6
Chaplain's Corner	6
Citizens Applaud Our Employees	7-8
Upcoming Events	9

Continued on next page...





Traffic Unit

We took possession of the new building for the Property and Evidence Facility in August. In September, the State Street vehicle building was shut down and the vehicles were moved to the new building. Shannon Hallam and her staff are now busily working on the outfitting of this building to include freezers, storage systems, officer area, etc. This is a substantial project and we have tentatively set the occupancy to be complete in June of 2011.

LEIS is working hard on the installation of the encrypted wireless air card system. To date there are approximately 40-air cards installed in various applications. The roll out should be complete by the end of this year so all patrol vehicles will have broadband wireless service throughout the region. The COPS shops router installations should also be wrapping up by the end of the year so officers will also have wireless access while in these facilities. This will greatly enhance usability of our computer systems, such LEWeb, CAD, email, etc.



Patrol Lieutenants' offices

The department commissioned a fleet study to ensure that we are using best practices for rotation, purchase, maintenance and appropriate vehicle application. Several good ideas came from the study, such as a dual track vehicle purchase and application system. We will now purchase Crown Victorias for patrol use and Impalas for administrative and investigative staff. This alone will save \$177,000 in this year's fleet purchase and outfitting of our cars. We are also planning to make one more purchase of Crown Victoria's next spring, which will be the last time they are offered, and carry over this inventory into 2012 at which time we will transition to a different model.



Volunteer Services

The new interoperable radio system is on target for the year 2013. This is a complete radio system replacement as required by the Federal Communications Commission. Every portable and car radio, dispatch console, electronics, radio towers, etc., will be replaced. Motorola is the recipient of the contract and they are providing a state of the art system that will serve us for many years into the future.

As you can see these are major enhancements. Fortunately, we have been the recipients of grants and a voted tax levy to pay for the majority of these projects. Even with the economic challenges of today we recognize the importance of providing safe and reliable equipment and facilities for you. You need to have safe car to drive, your handguns must be reliable, the computer equipment must function, your radio must work and you deserve a comfortable and clean work environment.

ACADEMY RENOVATIONS

The Spokane Police Academy has several large projects underway. The academy has been designated to receive part of an energy grant awarded to the City of Spokane and will allow the academy to get a new state of the art heat/air system.



This will include a new airflow design, temperature controls and energy saving equipment and practices. Not only will the academy be more comfortable, but it will save energy and thus save money.

Until the renovations are complete, the academy staff has moved their offices into the FATS building. While it is an old building on the academy campus, the staff has certainly transformed it into a new space! Stop by for a visit!



The firearms range is in the design and implementation phase of renovation. A new 100 yard rifle range with a covered shooting area is being added, a new targeting system for the entire range will be installed, the berms will be reconfigured, rebuilding the ballistic walls between the ranges, removal of the rail car and miscellaneous cleaning and enhancements are in the works.



Sgt. Cowles is also in the process of replacing our Glock handguns. The replacement will occur over the next few years with the first 31 handguns to be issued this fall. As with past handgun replacement programs officers may be allowed to purchase their old guns from the vendor. In addition to the handguns, we are also replacing the shotguns in the patrol cars. This too will occur over the next few years.

On 09/28/10, Spokane Police Officer Aaron Kirby was patrolling the downtown business corridor when he observed a vehicle fail to stop at the red light at Lincoln and Main. Officer Kirby managed to get behind the violator and before he had a chance to initiate the traffic stop, the suspect slammed his vehicle into park. The suspect then jumped out and began running from Officer Kirby, leaving his vehicle stopped in the traffic lane, causing severe traffic congestion. He also left his small child inside the vehicle while he tried to avoid arrest.

Officer Kirby engaged in a foot pursuit to apprehend the driver; which went around the Federal Building, into the Spokane Public Library, back out and inside River Park Square. The suspect was eventually captured when he ran out the north exit of River Park Square and into the arms of Officer Dave Kennedy.

The suspect was arrested and booked into the Spokane County Jail for Resisting Arrest, 1st degree Driving While License Suspended and 3rd degree Abandonment of a Dependent Person . The suspect had a non-bookable misdemeanor warrant out of Grant County; which may have been why he initially attempted to avoid capture. Responding officers stayed with the small child during the foot pursuit and subsequent arrest. The child's mother worked nearby and responded to take responsibility of the child.

Great job Officer Kirby!

In July of 2010, the Pacific Northwest Shrine Association (PNSA), of Shriners International, had their annual events and competitions in Spokane. The programs went extremely well and the Spokane Police Department played a significant role in that success.

Sergeants Eric Olsen and C.J. Reynolds agreed to assist us by providing judges for the motorized competitions, which consisted of performances by two, three and four wheeled vehicles. Lieutenant Bill Drollinger advised that he would help in any way possible.



Officer Ron Tilley and Officer Nate Spiering were assigned to the competition and were absolutely outstanding. We could not have asked for more professional people, both in their appearance and bearing. They provided personnel inspection and then an equipment inspection prior to individual groups performing their routines. After our competitions were complete, the officers set up and obstacle course and Officer Spiering demonstrated some of his abilities with the police motorcycle. The interaction between the Officers and the Shriners was fun, yet professional.

A huge thank you to the officers of the Spokane Police Department from myself and my PNSA committee members.

~Von Chimienti, President 2010 PNSA

YEARS OF SERVICE



Stephanie Barkley
25 Years



Randy Lesser
25 Years



Pam Ames
20 Years



Vic Carroll
20 Years



Mylissa Coleman
20 Years



Keith Cummings
20 Years



Kellee Gately
20 Years



Brian Hamond
20 Years



Crystal Jolley
20 Years



Phil Lasswell
20 Years



Eric Kannberg
20 Years



Greg Vandenberg
20 Years



Dan Lesser
15 Years



JC Collins
15 Years



SPD Explorers thrive yet again at this year's WLEEA Summer Academy. Although there were only five explorers representing Spokane, they took home four awards and all five graduated!

Alisha Fiskvik's excellent physical condition enabled her to take 1st place in the Physical Agility course for advanced females. Along with that outstanding accomplishment, she took 3rd place in the shooting competition and accumulated enough total points to earn 3rd place overall out of the whole Advanced Academy!

The fourth award was presented to Autumn Ladines for taking 3rd in the Physical Agility course for advanced females. Congratulations also to Joshua Foley who graduated from Leadership Academy; Alisha Fiskvik, Autumn Ladines, and Deidre Steppe for graduating from Advanced Academy; and Isaac Foley for making it through Basic Academy!

A special thanks from all the Explorers goes out to Officer Elina Bishop for making the trip possible!

Are You Infecting Others or Being Infected?



It's that time of year when we are constantly reminded to get our flu shots, but I'm not talking about being infected by the Influenza. I *am* talking about catching what others have, though. When someone starts disrespecting another, do you chime in or do you change the subject or comment that it shouldn't be a topic of conversation? Do you make others smile when you know they are having a bad day and need to be cheered up or do you try to tell them how much worse your day has been? We catch colds and illnesses but we have to work at health. It is the same with emotions. It's easier to go with our feelings and explode and get angry than to control ourselves and not infect others with our bad attitude. However, you *do* have the power to infect others positively and *not* let others infect you. Thanks for your continued support of the Chaplains. If you would like to contact them, you can always call 625-4091.

CITIZENS APPLAUD OUR EMPLOYEES



David Staley called the Police Department and could not thank the officers enough for what they did for him and his whole family. David's garage was burglarized and our officers recovered all of his stolen property. Mr. Staley advised that Officer Bill Hager who took the lead on this, the corporals who took pictures, the NRO and all responding officers did an outstanding job for him and his family with a 200% effort. David advised his whole family was devastated by the burglary. He advised that his 11 year old son just loves Officer Hager, and due to the efforts of our officers, their family has been made whole again. He can't thank us enough, and he advised that he is very vocal against budget cuts to our department.



I was woken up one night around 11pm to a man standing over my bed. I pushed him away and started screaming. He ran out of my front door and I called 911. Officers came to my house within minutes and by 12pm, two officers had the man that was in my bedroom in handcuffs. Because of their dedication and their awareness, another predator is locked in jail. Thanks to Officers Greg Rogan and Nick Spolski, my roommates and I can sleep safely with our children in our beds. The families of those officers, the wives and daughters should be proud because if that man wasn't caught that night, imagine what could have happened to the next woman asleep in her bed. From the bottom of my heart, thank you, Officers Rogan and Spolski. You both are truly my heroes.



Over the month of August, south side patrol units responded to multiple calls in which BB and/or Air Soft guns were used to shoot and damage property and even more seriously, citizens of Spokane. On 08/29/10, Officer Tiffany Iverson responded to another of these calls. Officer Iverson contacted the complainant at Sacred Heart Hospital. The victim stated he had been shot with some type of BB/pellet gun while walking near Manito Park. He gave a description of two white male suspects in a white SUV. Officer Iverson was able to locate a witness to the incident who provided a license plate, which turned out to be inaccurate. Officer Iverson ran numerous variations of the six-digit plate and through persistence, finally came up with a plate that belonged to a Chevrolet Trailblazer at an address in the general location of the incident. Officer Iverson responded to the registered owner's address where she located a juvenile suspect. Through her interviewing skills, she elicited a confession from the suspect regarding this incident as well as numerous others. She also developed information on the second suspect and obtained an additional confession from him. Officer Iverson's persistence and dedication resulted in the arrest of the two juvenile suspects for Third Degree Assault, saved department resources in follow-up and brought about a quick resolution for the victim, enhancing the reputation of the Spokane Police Department. Great job, Officer Iverson!



We would like to send a heartfelt thanks to five members of your department. Once again this year, they helped our school educate our kids and families through their visit, complete with various vehicles they drive at work. Officer Bill Workman, Officer Kenny Applewhaite, Officer Chris Lewis, Officer Brad Moon and Officer Ryan Snider were engaging with the students of our kindergarten and preschool, answering their questions, describing the purpose of their uniforms and especially emphasizing safety rules and reminders. We are truly indebted to them in helping us keep kids safe. The kids are in their most teachable years and your personable officers play a vital part in our success. Thank you! ~Joy Yake



CITIZENS APPLAUD OUR EMPLOYEES



On September 6th, my vehicle was hit head-on while parked in the employee designated parking space at the AutoZone on north Division. My vehicle was a total loss. Officer Gordon Grant, who investigated the collision, is to be commended for his professionalism, courtesy, and exemplary manner in which he conducted himself. He is a fine example of the Spokane Police Department. For most officers, collision investigation is probably routine, but for myself, it was traumatic, to say the least. Officer Grant answered all of my questions, provided accident collision report information and case number and information that allowed me to file a claim against the insurance company and the at fault driver.

As a citizen of Spokane, I have always taken pride in our police officers, but this is the first time to actually be personally involved. That pride was not misplaced. Thanks for a job well done.
~Joseph M.

Thanks to Officer Dean Draper for his visit to the Peaceful Valley neighborhood meeting. Thank you for giving us citizens an idea of the issues and constraints that our Police Department must work with and around. I appreciate your openness and feel that the concerns of the neighborhood were heard. Spokane is fortunate to have such professionals as Officer Draper.

~Collette D.



The jury for the double homicide from last year that occurred near the STA building with Merle Harvey as the suspect returned on 09/29/10 with one count of First Degree Murder with Jack Lamere as victim, one count of Second Degree Murder with Jacob Potter as victim, two counts of First Degree Unlawful Possession of a Firearm and two weapons enhancements on the homicide.

As usual, Detective Gilmore and others worked very hard on this case and produced an excellent result.

I am writing this letter to inform you of the exceptional effort of Senior Patrol Officer Dan Strassenberg. Dan is the Neighborhood Resource Officer assigned to the Mission Avenue C.O.P.S. shop located at Spokane Community College. Officer Strassenberg is always very helpful, but on a recent case has put in an additional effort to seek justice for the victims. On August 20th and April 12th, the SCC security office received reports from two victims that a male who they had never seen before had exposed himself to them. On May 27th, the suspect was reported on campus by one of the victims. The suspect ran from the responding securing officers, but they were able to get the suspect's vehicle information. Using the vehicle information and the victim's description, Officer Strassenberg was able to come up with a possible suspect. He created a photo montage with the suspect's photo from California. Officer Strassenberg met with both known victims and the SCC security officer who witnessed the suspect fleeing from campus. All three immediately identified the suspect from the montage. Officer Strassenberg's work with detectives and the Prosecutor's Office have caused this case to move forward. I believe without Officer Strassenberg's effort this case, while solvable and very important to the SCC campus community, would have been just another report field with no action taken. This case demonstrates how an officer can make a positive difference in our community in general through the C.O.P.S. shops. Thank you for connecting officers like Dan Strassenberg to the Spokane Community.

~Charles Hollen, Campus Safety & Security Supervisor





UPCOMING EVENTS

Car Seat Check

Saturday, November 6—by appointment only
American Medical Response
915 W Sharp

For an appointment, call the Spokane Child Passenger
Safety Team Hotline at 509-232-2985

Police Advisory Committee Meeting

Thursday, November 18—5:30pm
West Central Community Center
1603 N Belt 326-9540

Spokane Police Department

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SUGGESTIONS—COMMENTS?

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Have a safe and



HAPPY HALLOWEEN

Remember these safety tips

while out trick or treating
this year!