

SPOKANE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Monthly Newsletter—November and December 2011 Edition



There was a great deal of change for the Spokane Police Department in 2011, with several notable accomplishments that demonstrate our commitment to providing effective, efficient, and unbiased policing to our community. We started the year with the MLK Parade and the subsequent response to the explosive device found along the parade route. Due to the dedication of your Spokane Police officers, no one was harmed and changes were made to our preparation and presence at other parades and large public events to ensure citizen safety.

Our two Patrol Anti-Crime Teams (PACT) rolled out in January as well with immediate success. PACT utilizes plainclothes officers to complete proactive work such as pursuing wanted suspects or patrolling areas experiencing a crime spike. They also work closely with our Targeted Crimes Unit (TCU) detectives, assisting them with their investigations of property crimes. The results? Through November, a 16% decrease in vehicle theft in 2011 compared to our totals in 2010. Vehicle Prowling is also down by 7%. Even with the loss of property crimes detectives, our new approach is proving to be successful at minimizing property crimes victimization.

As the result of our Vertical Staffing Committee, which worked on improving the efficiency and effectiveness for Dispatch, the department was reorganized to align Dispatch and Patrol under the same chain of command. Additionally, cell phones were deployed to all patrol vehicles. This has greatly eased the burden on having dispatchers act as intermediaries between officers and citizens, improving our service delivery.

Other changes in 2011 were made at the Spokane Police Academy and the Property Evidence Facility. The Spokane Police Academy was renovated in 2010 with finishing touches made in 2011 through the use of grants to produce a modern training facility. Additionally, thanks in part to a Federal Recovery grant, the upgraded handgun range was completed in 2011. Work continues on the new rifle range. Also, our new Property Evidence Facility opened in October. This project was long overdue and now the Spokane region has a state-of-the-art facility that ensures the safety of evidence for all local area law enforcement.

This was the year social media invaded SPD. You can now like us, follow us, or watch us on Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube. We have 400 followers on Twitter since October and over 3200 users “like” our SPD Facebook page. This is an increase of over 1000 people from January. We know this will continue to grow in 2012 as more people turn to social media to keep updated on the activity of their Spokane Police Department. We want you to know how we are working to keep you safe and provide the best service possible, so if you haven’t already, check us out!

- Carly Cortright, Strategic Analyst



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“Follow” us on Twitter



“Watch” us on YouTube



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Steve Braun was hired by the Spokane Police Department on March 31, 1969 as temporary police aid, and worked until September 28, 1969 when he was placed on a leave of absence without pay due to active military reserve training, but was re-hired again on June 21, 1970.

Braun was promoted to several ranks throughout his time with SPD; Patrolman First Class on June 16, 1974; Police Specialist on May 25, 1980; Sergeant on June 22, 1980; Lieutenant on March 23, 1986, and then to Captain on June 1, 1997. Due to budget cuts and department reorganization, Braun was demoted to Lieutenant on January 2, 2005. He was re-promoted to Captain on July 15, 2008. Captain Braun's retirement date is December 28, 2011.

Congratulations, Captain Braun, on your retirement!





Dave Richards was hired by the Spokane Police Department on March 4, 1985. He was promoted to Patrolman First Class in February 1990 and to Detective in February 1991 when he was assigned to the Fraud Unit. Det. Richards was then promoted to Sergeant in January 1995 and to Lieutenant in March 1999, where he served as Commander of the Patrol Division, Traffic Unit, School Resource Officers, Neighborhood Resource Officers, and Special Projects. He then served as Commander of Internal Affairs, Explosives Disposal Unit, and his last assignment as Lieutenant was as the Special Investigative Unit Commander with Spokane Violent Crime Gang Enforcement Team, Criminal Intelligence Unit, and Dignitary Protection Unit. He also served as the Explorer Advisor from 1987 to 2000. Richards has been a member of the Washington State Law Enforcement Explorers Association since 1988. He has a Bachelor of Business Administration – Public Accounting from Gonzaga University, 1984, and graduated from the FBI National Academy, Class 224, Quantico, VA in March of 2006. Richards' promotion date to Captain is effective on December 29, 2011 and he will serve as the Investigations Captain supervising all investigative units.



Eric Olsen was hired by the Spokane Police Department on April 4, 1990. He worked Patrol for five years and was a Field Training Officer (FTO), TAC Team member, and academy instructor for Patrol Procedures and Auto Theft. Olsen was selected for the K-9 Unit and took first place in the US Can-Am Police/Fire Games in 1995 for Narcotic Detection Teams. He was promoted to Detective in 1997 and served in General Investigations. Olsen was promoted to Sergeant in 1998 and was assigned to Patrol. In 2000, Olsen was assigned to the Volunteer Services Unit, and in 2006 was assigned to the Traffic Unit, his last position as Sergeant. Olsen was selected to be the Washington Traffic Safety Commission's Law Enforcement Liaison for Eastern Washington and served as the Spokane County Target Zero Commission Co-Chair. He was sent to Washington DC as the representative for Washington State to a national convention. He served on the most recent Vertical Staffing Committee, and was on the WSCJTC Curriculum Review Committee. Olsen was chosen to lead the Photo Enforcement Program for the city and oversaw that project from inception to completion. Olsen attended Spokane Falls CC and Eastern Washington University where he studied advanced physics and chemistry. Olsen's promotion date to Lieutenant is effective on December 29, 2011, and he will serve as the Shift Commander for Power Shift Patrol.



Steve Braun was hired by the Spokane Police Department on January 25, 2000. Braun has an AAS in law enforcement from Spokane Community College, and has also attended Chapman University and the University of Phoenix. Prior to being hired by SPD, he was a Cryptologic Technician Communicator Petty Officer 3rd Class in the Navy. Braun was discharged from the Navy on February 4, 2000, which was several weeks after he started at the academy. Braun has served as an FTO, a member of the TAC team, and was on the Meth Lab Team. He teaches applied professional ethics at the academy, and is a role-player/evaluator for DV and simmunications scenes at the academy. Braun's promotion date to Sergeant is effective on December 29, 2011, and he was assigned as Patrol Sergeant in north Spokane.



On July 20, 2011 at 9:34am, Carey Smith was driving northbound on Monroe near Dalke when she saw a white male approximately 50 years old, running toward Dalke on Monroe from the area of Wells Fargo Bank. She could see orange powder coming from a bag he was carrying. She thought this was suspicious so she turned around to try and follow him. She saw him run west on Dalke and continued to follow him. When she turned onto Dalke, she saw the male run up to a light colored older Subaru, open the door, get inside and drive off. She was close enough to read the license plate. She did not follow the vehicle but returned to the bank to wait for police response.

Responding Officer Storch confirmed the information from Ms. Smith and bank employees and relayed the information to police dispatch.

Responding officers and detectives were able to locate the suspect based on information provided by Ms. Smith. After a vehicle and foot chase, officers arrested the suspect.

For her actions, Carey Smith was presented with a Chief's Citation award on December 1, 2011.

CENTRAL VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL MARCHING BAND WINS TROPHY



SPD Volunteer Sergeant Martin Anderson has been the Visual/Marching Instructor for the Central Valley High School Marching Band and Color Guard since 2002. He is proud of the 6 foot championship trophy the team recently won! The 2011 season ended at the Northwest Association for Performing Arts Marching Band Championships held October 29, 2011 in Hillsboro, Oregon. The group won High General Effect, High Music, and the prestigious People's Choice Award. They not only won those awards, but took first place in the open division (the top division), and first place overall. They were also undefeated for the entire 2011.

Sgt. Anderson marched competitive Drum and Bugle Corps as a teenager (Drum Corps is like the major leagues of the marching activity), and has taught at many different high schools in the Spokane area and a few in the Tri Cities. He is also one of the Visual Instructors for the Thunder Drum and Bugle Corps from Spokane.

Sgt. Anderson stated that, "Marching is one of the best team activities you can be involved in. Not only is it athletic, it teaches discipline, commitment, and working together as a team. Also, there is no first team or second team, and no superstars. Everyone has to perform together at a very high level – and it has to be done exactly the same way at the same time by everyone."

The Central Valley team strives for excellence by practice and rehearsal, often more hours a week than the football team!



Sgt. Anderson credits the Drum Corps for uniting he and his wife; they met when he was a horn player and she was a dancer/guard member.

Central Valley is a second home for Sgt. Anderson and they treat him like family (maybe because he taught the staff when they were students!)



Sgt. Anderson coaching the band

CONGRATULATIONS

Sgt. Anderson and the Central Valley High School Marching Band and Color Guard!

Thanks to a donation of more than 1,000 new beanie babies to the Spokane Police Department, stuffed animals are being added to patrol cars to help child victims and children at crime scenes.

Many of the cases the Spokane Police Officers respond to involve innocent and frightened children. The purpose of keeping stuffed animals in the trunk of patrol cars is to help small children cope in stressful situations, accidents, domestic disputes, medical emergencies, etc. Handing a child a stuffed animal can help to calm a child and reassure them.

Chaplain Beth Wilson and Det. Julie Reisenauer collected the beanie babies, received a \$50 donation from WalMart for plastic baggies, and SPD PIOs (with help from Capt. Scalise and Ofc. Chris Crane) worked together to stuff the bags with the beanie babies.



Sgt. Yamada standing with 2nd place winner Gerald Denney Jr.

Sgt. Sam Yamada has been active in Martial Arts since he was a kid, competing in various styles over the years.

Earlier this year, Sam took 3rd place at the local State Games of Washington, in Judo. This qualified him for the National 2011 State Games of America, held in San Diego, California. This is a national multi-sport event, held biennially for athletes of all ages and skill levels. Medal winners from 45 State Games nationwide earn the right to compete against other winners and match their skills and competitive desire in a national arena.

Sgt. Yamada and his family traveled to San Diego on August 3, 2011 where he competed. Sgt. Yamada's youngest son won 1st place, middle son won 3rd place, his daughter won 2nd place, and his wife won 2nd place in their respective age and weight Judo divisions. Sgt. Yamada won 1st place in his age and weight division.

Sgt. Yamada currently practices and is an assistant at the Pacific Judo Academy. The Academy was founded in 1957, and teaches the art of Kodokan Judo. Classes are held at the Spokane Police Academy on a weekly basis.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE YAMADA FAMILY!

Spokane Police began investigating a burglary of the Wishing Star Foundation and its connection to other burglaries in the area and wanted to do what they could to help.



Ofc. Ryan Snider with Wish Child Sari Lipp

“We’ve been involved in this investigation from the very beginning and the story really hit home for us. We’re members of this community, we all have kids and couldn’t imagine having them face a similar situation, especially when dealing with a serious illness,” said Officer Ryan Snider. “We are committed to not only investigating and closing this case, but also to help the victims regain a sense of normalcy as well.” The Spokane Police Guild presented a donation of \$500 to the Wishing Star Foundation.



Ofc. Christopher Kirn, Chief Kirkpatrick, Ofc. Dale Harvey



Ofc. Toby Bryer and Interim Chief Scott Stephens

The Spokane Police Department recently welcomed three new lateral officers to the department.

Officer Chris Kirn and Officer Dale Harvey were hired on November 14th, 2011; and Officer Toby Bryer was hired December 12th, 2011.

All three are currently working on the street with their Field Training Officers (FTOs) before they hit the streets on their own.

Congratulations, and welcome to our team!



Ofc. Tamie Johnson helping with turkeys

During the Fall Semester of 2011 students of the NEWTECH Skills Center Criminal Justice classes conducted an annual Food Drive. This year they collected over 400 lbs of canned food to benefit the SNAP food bank at the North East Community Center.

In cooperation with NEWTECH staff members and officers of the Spokane Police Department and Academy over \$480.00 was collected. On Tuesday, November 22nd NEWTECH Criminal Justice students used the money donations to purchase over 400 pounds of frozen turkeys to add to the food donation.

The Argonne Village Yoke's store was kind enough to take a pre-holiday order for the frozen turkeys and the students and Ofc Tami Johnson delivered the food to SNAP.

I would like to thank all the SPD staff and the staff and students of NEWTECH Skills Center for their time, efforts and generosity. SNAP was able to distribute the frozen turkeys to many needy families in Hillyard in time for Thanksgiving.



The SpokAnimal Drive is complete! The Spokane Police Records Division raised \$75 cash, as well as items collected at City Hall, Communications, Water Department, and the Public Safety Building. This is wonderful, especially with all the other fundraisers/drives going on right now!

The donations were delivered and the SpokAnimal staff were all very excited. The Outreach Coordinator, Bridgette Bossio, will be writing an article for their newsletter. Bridgette was most appreciative of the vacuum cleaner and the blue pens for their office. Of course the animals will appreciate the full bellies, clean kennels, warm beds, and fun toys!



**We would like to thank everyone for your support!
Thanks for making this a very successful event!**



YEARS OF SERVICE—NOVEMBER/DECEMBER



Matthew Mathiason
10 Years



Catherine Caron
5 Years



Jason Franklin
5 Years



Dear Santa,

This is what I'd like to write on my Christmas list:
A car, a trip, a diamond ring, is there something that I missed?

How about the thought that most gifts are better given than are got;
And I've so much to be thankful for and I mean a lot.

So let's all spend this holiday giving what we can,
to better other's lives this year and help our fellow man.

P.S. Blessings from all the Chaplains and have a Happy New Year!



The new board for the Spokane Law Enforcement Museum is Glen Whiteley, Dave Thompson, Sue Walker, Tom Heckler, John McGregor, Rae Anna Victor, and new additions: Lisa Beckman, and Dennis Walter.

We have several new acquisitions in the past few months, and we have had several tours. People have enjoyed, and are amazed at the extent and quality of our collection. We are still looking for volunteers and would like to be open for more days and hours.

As you are thinking about the holidays, remember that the museum has many items that would make great gifts for under the tree. These items are also available through the SPLEM Historical Office. For a full list of items for sale, visit the Law Enforcement Museum page on the SPD website!

"Life Behind the Badge, The Spokane Police Department's Transforming Years, 1923 – 1944" is almost ready for the printer we hope to have it available at the end of this year; beginning of next. This volume takes the reader from the end of Prohibition to World War II. It also encompasses the term of Ira Martin who is still the longest tenured chief in the department, and many stories of individual officers. We are also making great progress on the Life Behind The Badge: The Spokane Police Department's 130th Anniversary Edition, 1881-2011. There are already over 4,000 images that have been input. This book will only be available to the law enforcement community and their families only.

Both books will be presold, and an edited copy of both will be available to view before you order. Life Behind the Badge costs \$29.95 plus tax and shipping; and the Anniversary Volume will cost \$37.95 plus tax and shipping. Any information you have, or questions you need answered, contact the SPLEM Historical Office at 477-6449 or sswalker@spokanepolice.org.

It seems sometimes that we only hear negative things about the department and its officers. I am writing to tell you that my wife and I were involved in a child abduction situation with our daughter. Her story went from the teacher, principal, counselor, resource officer, to SPD detectives. The detectives involved were Stephanie Barkley, Ben Estes, Steve Wohl, Jeff Barrington, and Bill Marshall. These officers handled the situation with professionalism, courtesy, and respect for my wife, myself, the school involved and most of all, my daughter. I cannot say enough about how the whole situation was handled. We are proud to be citizens of a city where the police dept. care about the people they serve.

- Kathy and Tim



One night last fall, I noticed my 15 year old son was missing. He had been in a fight with his younger brother earlier that evening, and they had to be separated as he is over a foot taller than his younger brother. I'm always in fear he's going to hurt his brother as he reacts out of anger and frustration quite violently sometimes. To make a long story short, my son got in more trouble that evening, and around midnight, I went down to check on him and he was gone. I immediately called 911 and my husband was able to go find our son. Meanwhile, Officer Steve Braun had showed up at my house and I asked him if he would talk to my son. He said he'd be happy to do so, and spent a lot of time explaining to my son what the repercussions of him acting out on his anger like he did could be, and what could have happened to him from running away from his problems and not wanting to deal with them. Especially leaving at that hour, in that weather. I want to sincerely THANK Officer Braun for taking the time to do this. My son not only listened to what he said, but he took it all in, and he heard it! Officer Braun deserves to be commended for deeming it worthwhile to take the time from what I'm sure is a busy schedule to do this to make a difference in my son's behavior, way of thinking and dealing with situations, and quite possibly his future. I owe him a forever debt of gratitude and will be forever grateful to him for taking the time to do this to help my son. Thank you ever so much Officer Braun!



I am writing to say thank you to the officers who responded to my call. I unfortunately had to report a domestic abuse situation and was embarrassed, ashamed, and frightened. Officer Sam Chimienti was professional, compassionate, and sympathetic while remaining objective. He was informative and thorough, and at no time did I feel intimidated or disrespected. Corporal Kevin Keller of the SWAT Team came to take photos of my injuries. He was gentle, sensitive, and professional. I am so grateful to these gentlemen for their service and humanity. What an asset to your team and our community. I wish I could tell them myself. Please do so and pass on to appropriate supervisors. They obviously wear the badge with pride and commitment. - Spokane Citizen



I just wanted to drop you a note about one of Spokane's officers. On November 18th, I was privileged to go on a ride along with Officer Adam Valdez on north side power-shift patrol. I found Officer Valdez to be a very informative and courteous person. The weather was challenging that night to say the least. The different calls that we went on were explained to me on how and why they were handled the way they were. I had a great time. I wanted to thank him again for the interesting evening and for helping me clear the snow off my jeep.

Patricia L., Neva-Wood C.O.P.S. Shop Volunteer



I would like to bring your attention to the outstanding treatment I received by two of SPD's police officers; namely, Officer John Everly and Officer Chris McMurtrey. My girlfriend's car was stolen, and since she was out of town, I was able to retrieve it with these two officers' help. They were very professional throughout this stressful ordeal, and helped take care of my concerns with kindness and respect. Please thank these two fine individuals for me. It is comforting to know the Spokane Police Department has officers of this caliber on its police force. Experiences like these go a long way toward strengthening the public relations between SPD and the community, and I have told friends and acquaintances of this positive experience.

- Russell S.



Officers off on Injury Leave:

Dustin Howe
Bonnie Sherar
Harold Folk
Kelly Busse
Barbara Byington
John Arredondo
Marie Rosenthal
Nick Geren

We hope to see you back soon!

Spokane Police Department
1100 W Mallon Ave
Spokane WA 99260-0001
www.spokanepolice.org



SUGGESTIONS—COMMENTS?
Editor, Kiley Friesen
kmfriesen@spokanepolice.org