

VIP News



Volunteers In Policing

Volume 1, Issue 3
Third Quarter 2007

A note from your VIP Coordinator: Getting to know who you are!



With everyone going in so many different directions I just don't get to know all our volunteers personally.

I got to wondering the other day about what some of you have done in your lives — your backgrounds, your experiences and such. So, I have been getting out the files and reading some of the applications.

I have found that our volunteers are a very diverse group with an amazing list of experiences.

Included (but not a complete list) are retired and still actively employed engineers, insurance agents, attorneys, private business owners, school teachers, law enforcement officers, pastors, teachers, office workers, factory workers, health care professionals, pilots and postal service workers. One of our newest volunteers, after 30 years as a director with a state agency in Austin, spent time with the Peace Corps teaching English in Kazakhstan (I had to look this one up on the map, but it is in what used to be the USSR)!

What is still more amazing and more than a little humbling is that with this varied group, you all have one thing in common — you care

about your community and your police department so much that you are willing to spend hours of your valuable time giving of yourselves with no expectation of recompense or recognition.

I am proud to spread the message throughout the city and to the people here at the department that we have a great group of volunteers who are intelligent, mature and caring people who are here to serve.

My message to all of you is to please let me know what I can do to make sure your volunteer experiences here with Tyler PD are meaningful to you, the department and the community we all live in..

Thanks to all of you for what you do!

Special points of interest:

- *VIPs in Action, Spotlight on VIPs*
- *From the VIP Coordinator*

Inside this issue:

Volunteer Appreciation Diner

Watch out for Auto Burglaries

VIP Photo Gallery

Spotlight on Volunteers!

If you ever get the chance to meet Allen Frazier you will quickly find that he is a HOOT!

Allen started volunteering with the Disabled Parking Enforcement volunteers in late February this year. Since then, he has written more than 140 tickets and donated 180-plus hours!

The owner of Medical Center Opticians, Allen has served as a police officer in Dallas and was with the Military Police during his time in the

Army.

We nearly lost him after the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner in April when he was rushed to the hospital with congestive heart failure. After he got out of the hospital and started bragging about "downing another bogie" (which is how he tells me he has written another ticket) we knew Allen was back in the saddle!

We are really blessed to have Allen on our team!



VIP Allen Frazier — Always with a warm smile and willing heart. By the way, Big Al is getting married in August. Congratulations and thanks Allen for all you do!

Tyler Police Department Volunteer Week

Just a little something to show our appreciation!

Mayor Joey Seeber proclaimed the week of April 15-21 as “Tyler Police Department Volunteer Week” at the annual Volunteer Appreciation ceremony here at the department on the evening of April 18.

Mayor Seeber praised the 30-plus volunteers at the dinner and thanked them for their generous donation of time, talents and support to the department and the city.

Following the mayor’s brief visit, volunteers were treated to a catered dinner donated by Brookshire Grocery Company.

Chief Gary Swindle, Deputy Chief Greg Grigg and Volunteer Coordinator Gary Lynch handed out certificates recognizing the number of hours the volunteers have donated and gave each of those in attendance a special gift.

Here is a glance of the time volunteers have donated from the beginning of their volunteer service with the department up to March 30, 2007:

Top Contributor
Chaplain James Ballard — 13,096

2,000-3,000 hours
Frank Ashton

Diane Ballard
Curtis Birtcher
Wilburn Criss
Ray Doty
Richard Eckerle
Shirley Eckerle
Mary Gammell
Margaret MacLeod
Pierce Moore
Vivian Moore
Willie Stoglin

1,000-2,000 hours
J.D. Carroll
Guy Goodwin

500-1,000 hours
Deana Goodwin
Chaplain Jerry Page
Chaplain Brian Poor (retired)

100-500 hours
Honey Brown
Larry Childress
Chaplain Leandro De Leon
Elizabeth Ewell
Chaplain Sam Fisher
Chaplain Clara Gilbert
Chaplain Anwar Khalifa
Bob Lamonte
Mary Kay Lust
Chaplain Jerome Milton
Jim Parson

Tony Robinson, Jr.

1-100 hours
Martha Birtcher
Malori Bizzell
Mike Breedlove
Evelyn Carroll
John David Creamer
Chris Douzart
Dianne Douzart
Kandee Franklin
Allen Frazier
Avanell Gary
Edith Geske
Betty Johnson
Mandy Jones
Lindsey Marshall
Johnnie McWilliams
L.D. McWilliams
Adrann Miller
James Morton
Myra Obenhaus
Ruth Pennell
Audrey Roffey (inactive)
Paula Shamburger
Toni Smith
John Stanford
Laura Stanford
Chaplain Joe Strickland
Marcy Wheeler (inactive)
Rick Wilbanks
Joy Willadson



(from left) Mayor Joey Seeber, Chief Gary Swindle and Deputy Chief Greg Grigg express their gratitude for the thousands of hours donated by Tyler Police Department Volunteers in the past year. More than 30 volunteers attended the dinner provided by Brookshire’s. Everyone enjoyed lots of good food, good times and good friends. Thanks to you all for all you do!

Keep your stuff safe! Keep it out of sight!

One of the most common crimes we experience is the burglary of our vehicles.

Auto burglars are opportunists who prowl the parking lots of our city’s businesses and recreation spots looking for a quick way to make some money.

Some of the most common items taken are some of the easiest to safeguard — purses, cell phones, and wallets left on a car seat are like candy to an auto burglar.

One example of how fast these thieves act happened on a Saturday

afternoon in a parking lot behind the Discovery Science Place. Thieves broke into five vehicles in less than 15 minutes. They took purses, wallets, personal stereo equipment, video equipment and CDs.

Auto burglars carry hammers, wrecking bars and some carry something as simple as spark plugs to smash windows. Once the window is broken it only takes seconds to reach in and grab whatever they can before walking off with hundreds of dollars in personal

property.

Auto burglars are just like the rest of us — they like to get out in good weather. With summer here the bad guys are coming out of the woodwork like cockroaches.

Take a few extra seconds to hide you personal items. Take your keys, lock your car, carry your handbag, put packages or other personal items in the trunk or at least on the floorboard where they are out of sight.

Make it tough on the thieves and don’t be a target.

Photo Gallery: Volunteers at Work and Play

Retirements, Gun Range, Child Fingerprinting and more! VIPs are Everywhere doing Everything!



VIP John Stanford explains the fingerprinting process at the YMCA's Healthy Kids Day on April 14



Lt. Dianna Jackson gets in the groove and shows she can get down with her bad self at the YMCA's Healthy Kids day.



McGruff feels the love from some of the Healthy Kids at the YMCA's Healthy Kids day last April. VIPs fingerprinted about 25 children.



Thanks for your service. Chief Swindle presents Chaplain Brian Porr a certificate of appreciation for his service upon Porr's recent retirement from the chaplain Corps..



An old face in a new place. Former Tyler Police employee Russ Jackson has joined the Chaplain Corps. Welcome aboard Chaplain Jackson.



VIPs at the Gun Range!



Volunteers helped with setting up and scoring a multi-agency shooting competition at the Tyler Police Gun Range recently. Above left is Richard Eckerle, above right is Jim Parson. Left, Pierce Moore (in blue cap) with Officer Mike Saxion walks targets to the scoring area where Vivian Moore and Shirley Eckerle (right) double check the scoring.



CPA Class 17 goes to the range — for the first time members of the Citizens Police Academy Class get to fire weapons at the gun range: (from left to right) Chief Swindle (in blue) looks on as class members take the firing line, Sgt. David Hall keeps an eye on "Machine Gun" Edith Geske as she fires one of the department's machine guns and John Stanford shows his skill with a handgun.



Volunteers In Policing

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A proud member of:



Volunteers — Making a difference in Tyler

- The value of a volunteer writing disabled parking violations for one hour — \$13.07
- The value of the 239 disabled parking violations written in the first five months of 2007 — \$60,467
- The value of having disabled parking spaces available for those who need them — **PRICELESS!**