



in the News

February 2005

Delray Beach Police Department
“Senior Patrol Group is Eyes and Ears of Delray’s Police Department”
***The Sun-Sentinel* (Miami, FL)**
February 1, 2005

In Delray Beach, FL, seniors volunteer their time in the name of national security. After September 11th, the Delray Beach Police Department decided they needed more eyes and ears on the street to make the community more secure. Chief Larry Schroeder and Officer Skip Brown started the Home Front Security Squad in the summer of 2002. Fourteen senior citizens, many retired military, make up the unit. Members wear special uniforms and use a volunteer patrol car to patrol the city. After receiving training in emergency response with a focus on terrorism, from both the fire and police department, volunteers work three-hour shifts in pairs. They monitor public buildings and city landmarks and alert the department of any suspicious activity. For more information on the Delray Beach Police Department’s volunteer opportunities, click on the links below.

Registered VIPS program page:

http://www.policevolunteers.org/programs/index.cfm?fuseaction=dis_pro_detail&id=1139

Delray Beach Police Department-Volunteer page:

<http://www.mydelraybeach.com/Delray/Departments/Police/For+Residents/Programs.htm>

Picayune Police Department
“Retired and PROUD of it”
***The Sun Herald* (Southern Mississippi)**
February 14, 2005

In February, the Picayune Police Department marked the one-year anniversary of their senior citizen volunteer program. A group of 11 seniors form P.R.O.U.D, which stands for, “Picayune’s Retired: Organized, United and Dedicated.” The members assist the department with administrative duties, such as filing and answering telephones. They also patrol the community in marked cars, keeping an eye out for suspicious activity. The group recently began a reading program at area elementary schools where members read stories to students. Chief of Police, Jim Luke, could not be happier with the success of this program. “We are blessed as a city to have people willing to give their time to help us.” For more information on the Picayune Police Department’s volunteer opportunities, click on the links below.

Registered VIPS program page:

http://www.policevolunteers.org/programs/index.cfm?fuseaction=dis_pro_detail&id=1335

Picayune Police Department:

<http://www.picayunepolicedepartment.com/>

For link to the complete article featured in *The Sun Herald*, go to:

<http://www.sunherald.com/mld/sunherald/news/local/10894006.htm>

Framingham Police Department
“True Blue”
***Framingham Tab* (Boston, MA)**
April 8, 2004

Why volunteer at your local police department? To members of the Framingham Auxiliary Police, the answer is simple-to give back to their community. That is what prompted Wayne Larkin twenty-six years ago to join Framingham’s all volunteer Auxiliary Police unit. Larkin spends his days as a nurse and his free time as an Auxiliary Police lieutenant, patrolling the streets of his community.

The requirements to become an Auxiliary Police member are strict. Applicants must be over 21 years of age, have a clean record, take an entrance exam, submit to a board review, background check, 120 hours of academy training, and be certified in First Responders aide and CPR. Bryant Tarr, a podiatrist by day, is in charge of recruitment for the program. He says the requirements are extensive because of the commitment members must make to the department. The Auxiliary Police serve the department by patrolling the community in marked cars, monitoring town property, assisting at accident scenes and on emergency calls, and provide security during public events, such as town fairs and parades. Funding for the program comes from an annual craft fair. The entrance fee is used to fund equipment, uniforms, and training for the members. The fair also allows the department to set up informational booths, such as one for the Child Identification Program. For more information on the Framingham Police Department’s volunteer opportunities, click on the links below.

Registered VIPS program page:

http://www.policevolunteers.org/programs/index.cfm?fuseaction=dis_pro_detail&id=582

Framingham Police Department-Volunteer page:

<http://aux.framinghampd.org>

Escondido Police Department
“Volunteers Not Only Efficient, They Also Save Police Time, Money”
***Union-Tribune* (San Diego, CA)**
February 18, 2005

More than 40 citizens of Escondido, CA make up the police department’s Volunteers in Police Service program. The use of volunteers has saved the department an estimated \$250,000, which is a huge payoff in comparison to the small investment the department makes towards uniforms, badges and gas to keep the program running. Many of the volunteers are retired citizens who were looking for something to keep active. Bob Powell spent 45 years behind a desk, working as an engineer for a major defense contractor. The chance to volunteer with the Escondido Police Department gets him outside and keeps him active.

Volunteers must complete 80 hours of academy training, be certified in CPR and basic first aid, and commit to 4 hours per week. Volunteer duties include administrative duties as headquarters, assisting with traffic control, checking on vacationing residents homes, and processing abandoned vehicles. In 2004, the volunteers handled 830 abandoned vehicles, 383 code-enforcement checks, and 189 vacation checks on homes. They also handed out 546 tickets, mainly handicap parking violations. However, the volunteers still aren’t satisfied with all they do to help the Escondido Police Department. They have planned to create a non-profit organization to raise money for equipment for the department. For more information on the Escondido Police Department’s volunteer opportunities, click on the links below.

Registered VIPS program page:

http://www.policevolunteers.org/programs/index.cfm?fuseaction=dis_pro_detail&id=1345

Escondido Police Department:

<http://www.ci.escondido.ca.us/police>

The Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS) Program works to enhance the capacity of state and local law enforcement to utilize volunteers. VIPS serves as a gateway to resources and information for and about law enforcement volunteer programs. The International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) manages and implements the VIPS Program in partnership with and on behalf of the White House Office of USA Freedom Corps and the Bureau of Justice Assistance, U.S. Department of Justice. This project was supported by Award No. 2002-DD-BX-0010 awarded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Justice Programs. The opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Justice.