



Leesburg Police Citizens Support Team

Monthly Newsletter August, 2009

Prez Says

In the previous newsletter, I indicated three goals that I set for the team during my tenure. To date, we have completed one of those goals. The team purchased a 24-foot trailer in which to store and haul the barrel train. Thanks to the research provided by MPO Tidmore, we were able to make this acquisition at a significant discount. Another goal was to increase team membership. We approved one new applicant to date and will be reviewing another applicant at the September 3 meeting. I encourage each of you to continue to move forward in building the team's membership. A third goal was to provide training on a regular basis. I want to thank Steve Hood for his efforts to help achieve this goal by providing important training sessions for the team members at each of our regularly scheduled monthly meetings.

New Applicant

A new application has been received for membership on the Support Team. After contacting personal and work-place references, who gave glowing remarks about the applicant, an interview was arranged. Pat Edwards/ST16, Steve Hood/ST4, and Sandy Kane/ST14 met with the applicant on September 1. A vote will be taken at the September 3 meeting to determine acceptance for membership. You are encouraged to attend this meeting to voice your opinion on this application.

ST Members Complete Annual Leesburg Streetlight Survey

While doing evening patrols throughout neighborhoods in Leesburg during months of June and July, Raymond Kirkpatrick/ST9 and Steve Hood/ST4 noted several streetlights out. By the end of July, Kirkpatrick and Hood completed the Leesburg annual streetlight survey. The data was handed over to the Street Department for substantiation before forwarding the information to Dominion Virginia Power and NOVEC for repair. Based on previous surveys, it is anticipated that the lights will be repaired before winter.

21st Annual YMCA 10K/20K Race

Sunday, August 9 was a typical hot, humid August day, promising the runners a hard workout whether they elected to run the 10K or 20K portion of the course. The Support Team rallied to the request of the LPD to assist with intersection control and street closures to ensure a safe route for the runners. Participants turned out in record numbers . . . over 2,000 runners. After a 0630 briefing at the LPD headquarters, Vicky Petty/ST13 and Sandy Kane/ST 14 reported to their assigned intersections. Even though minor changes were made to the course this year, the race was completed without a hitch.



Pedestrian Crosswalk Program

Bert Robinson/ST12, Lora Tacey/ST11, and Pat Edwards/ST16 helped bring awareness to some of the drivers in the Town of Leesburg by participating in the Crosswalk "sting." This year, the program was all but routine.

Robinson had a bit of a scare. She reported that she saw her life pass before her eyes along with a little yellow bird. I believe the vehicle may have been a bit close, she reported!

As Edwards was walking back and forth across the crosswalk on Wednesday and Thursday, she was pondering her reasoning for placing her life in harm's way. First, she wanted to help our community be a safer place to cross the road. Second, she was thinking of the fact of submission. She decided to do what she was asked to do . . . simply cross the street. It does not matter what the officers decide during this procedure. They know the laws. Edwards was asked to help by crossing the street. This was her only requirement. She did not need to understand their process. She was given a task to do to the best of her ability. This made Edwards think of a poem she used to teach preschoolers that she thinks would do us well today.

"If a task is once begun
Do not leave it till it's done
Be the labor great or small
Do it well or not at all."

Edwards was very glad the officers were close by when a white Cadillac driver decided not to watch what she was doing and the truck with boys that tooted as they blew through only to be stopped by the two officers.

Leesburg Executive Airport Open House

While 30 volunteers provided parking assistance on airport property, the Support Team was requested to provide traffic direction of vehicles at the entrance of the Leesburg Executive Airport at Sycolin Road, the connector point from the airport property to Miller Drive, and at Miller Drive and Sycolin Road. Although short on staff, Steve Hood/ST4, Pat Edwards/ST16, and Sandy Kane/ST14 managed to cover these points without difficulty. The biggest challenge was surviving the heat, humidity, and the sun beating down on them for the eight-hour shift. Managing to stave off heat exhaustion and all other issues with lengthy exposure to the sun, the STs were thrilled to watch the historic flights of the restored B-17G Flying Fortress "Aluminum Overcast." Having the experience of riding in the B-17G would have been the only highlight to top off the day's event.



Pat Edwards at Leesburg Airport



Sandy Kane at Leesburg Airport





Kudos to ST4

Steve Hood ran across some terrific bargains and purchased 40 boxes of crayons and 20 little water squirters for the goodie bags. Many thanks for your donation and continuing support.

September 3 Training Class

Steve Hood will present a training video immediately following the September 3 meeting. It will cover Emergency Preparedness. In addition, Hood will go over the Leesburg Police Department's "general orders" to the Support Team. Please plan to stay an additional half an hour after the regularly scheduled meeting to participate in these training sessions.

Certificate of Appreciation

The Town Council will present a Certificate of Appreciation to the Support Team in regard to the generous donation of the barrel train trailer at the regularly scheduled Town Council meeting on October 14, 2009. Please plan to arrive at 7:30 PM in the team's Class 'A' uniform.

DID YOU KNOW?

If you think of an event in which the Support Team members might be able to participate, you need to present your idea to the Support Team Board for discussion. If the Board determines to support this suggestion, the idea will be presented to MPO Chris Tidmore for consideration by the LPD. The Support Team may only participate in events that have been previously approved by the Department.

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TEAM