



# Leesburg Police Citizens Support Team

## Monthly Newsletter

## January, 2012

### Prez Sez

Well, there went another year! How many feel 2011 went by too fast? There we were, working the July 4<sup>th</sup> parade and ZIP! - suddenly we were working the Christmas and Holiday parade! So here we are beginning 2012 and we will have more opportunities to excel and help the Leesburg Police Department and the Town of Leesburg. Let's make it a great year and volunteer!

We have a new member on the Team! Ed Boland was voted in at our December meeting and has gone through radio and neighborhood patrol training with me and will have to get some on-the-job training in DNA kits at our next DNA function.



### Joint Support Team - Explorer Christmas and Holiday Dinner

Our joint Support Team-Explorer Christmas and Holiday Dinner, held on Saturday evening, December 17, in the Community Room of the Leesburg Police Department, was very successful, with many Team members and Explorers and family members attending. A good number of on-duty police officers also passed through for dinner on their breaks. Leesburg Mayor Kristen Umstadd stopped by to chat with and wish all those present Happy Holidays. The dishes brought by all were fantastic and the many leftovers were retired to the police department's kitchen and break room for more officers and dispatchers to work on after the dinner was finished. Thanks to all who helped plan, cooked, attended, and decorated for this event! Let's do it again next year!





## Leesburg Christmas and Holiday Parade, December 10

Several Support Team members donned winter wear on this cold morning and headed out to assist or participate in this wonderful event. Official Barrel Train Engineer Raymond Kirkpatrick (ST-9) safely guided the train full of kids thru the parade route, while Deb Walczak, Maggie Longhurst, and Vinnie Carinelli stood traffic direction and crowd control duties along the route. Thanks to all Team members who helped make this an enjoyable and safe event!

## Operation Pinecone Gets Support Team Member Volunteer Help

The call came from Officer Matt Bennett late in the week of December 5<sup>th</sup> for any Support Team members who might like to help wrap and pack goodie bags and boxes for American soldiers serving overseas on Sunday, December 11. Maggie Longhurst, Lora Tacey, Vicky Petty-Nawrath and granddaughter Olivia, and former Team member Leslie Hayman worked for several hours at VFW Post 1177 in Leesburg with scores of other community volunteers to assemble and wrap hundreds (if not thousands) of packages for the troops. Thanks to all who helped with this worthy cause!



## Support Team Member Participates in LPD SWAT Training Exercise



Support Team member Deb Walczak (ST-7) got the chance of a lifetime in December to play the role of an "armed renegade bad girl" during a SWAT team negotiation exercise. Deb said it was interesting and exciting and even though the weapons being used were not loaded, it was more than a little scary being on the receiving end of SWAT team operation. You go, Bad Girl! We CAN help make a difference - in a lot of different (and exciting) ways.



## Support Team Members Help with “Holidays with the Cops” Event

[ the following is from a Leesburg Police Department press release]

### Leesburg Police Department Officers Take Ten Children Christmas Shopping

On December 19th, ten children from the Town of Leesburg got a chance to do something different, shop for Christmas presents with a Leesburg Police Officer.

This is the first year that the department sponsored the event due to Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #70 closing its doors this year. Officers of the department wanted to make sure those children less fortunate than others would have the chance to go shopping for Christmas. So this year the department sponsored their own “Holidays With the Cops” in partnership with the Leesburg Police Citizens Support Team. The initial goal was to raise enough money for five children shopping and let them spend two hundred dollars. Support was so strong that ten children, identified through the Leesburg Parks and Recreation “ROCK ” program, got to go shopping and spend two hundred dollars on whatever they wanted.

The department sponsored a “pre-shopping party” that was attended by the officers, the children and many volunteers [including Support Team members Ed Boland, Lora Tacey, and Maggie Longhurst] that were there to help wrap the presents. Wegmans and Chick Filet of Leesburg donated much of the food and drinks for the party. Then, all the children, some in police cars, were escorted to the Target in Leesburg, where they paired up with an officer and shopped to their hearts content. Some bought bikes, toys and clothes. One child even bought his family a Christmas tree. Another bought sodas for the officers to drink as the presents were wrapped because he had a little money left over. All of the children received gift bags from Target and Pillow Pets donated by a private citizen.

## Free On-line Law Enforcement-Related Training

Interested in learning more about “Prevention and Deterrence of Terrorist Acts” or preparing for disasters? Go online and enter the link below for free, online courses. These are courses are specially designed by FEMA and Louisiana State University for the community as well as for law enforcement. The courses can be taken at any time by logging on to the eLearning Website (<http://www.ncbrt.lsu.edu/elearn/>). You must register online with the training organization in order to take the free courses. There are many courses offered that would be appropriate for Support Team members to take!

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TEAM