



# Leesburg Police Citizen Support Team Monthly Newsletter May 2009

## PREZ SEZ

A lot of activity this past month, some of it not so good, some of it very good! Of course, there was the loss of one of our Taurus vehicles, side-swiped by an inattentive driver while it was parked on a Leesburg street. The Taurus was totaled, a considerable loss since we had just recently placed it in service, re-registered it for two years, and installed new LED emergency lights in it. However, State Farm Insurance quickly wrote us out a check for nearly \$5400 for our loss. Almost immediately, the Leesburg Town Council passed a resolution, drafted by the Leesburg Police Department, to donate a 2002 Chevrolet Impala to the Team to replace the Taurus. This vehicle has been titled, registered, and licensed and the Town Shop has installed the LED lights from the old Taurus in it. We will be getting "Community Patrol" decals on it in the coming weeks but it is now ready to go on patrol. The plan is to pass this Impala on to Raymond Kirkpatrick, as the old Chevy Caprice he drives will no longer be maintained by the Town Shop, due to its advanced age and mileage. The old Caprice will be decommissioned and sold at the earliest opportunity.

Keep an eye on the Upcoming Events list and please volunteer for as many of the events as you can. We are starting our busy season! Thanks to all who volunteered last month for Crosswalk duty and the Flower and Garden Festival.

## Diary of a Crosswalk Decoy

Pat Edwards, Maggie Longhurst, Michael Jones, and Lora Tacey performed crosswalk enforcement duty the week of April 7. Their duty was to attempt to cross the street in marked pedestrian crosswalks at several locations around town while Leesburg Police officers watched for vehicles failing to yield to them. What follows is Pat's reaction to performing this duty for the first time!

"Crosswalk duty this week was an eye opener to a first timer. We are lost sheep! No more than drones on the roadway. We had some interesting responses such as "I didn't see her," well then, how did the person being stopped know it was a her? Some people pounded their dash boards, like that was going to get them out of the ticket and even some criers.

Tuesday I learned it did no good to risk my life attempting another crossing if the officers were busy writing tickets, so Wednesday I waited for one of them to return. I wanted a witness should I become road kill! :-)

Thursday was all day with help from Lora in the afternoon. I always let her go out first if we were crossing together. Thanks Lora. I will say time passes quicker when you have someone to cross with and talk to.

Friday was not as profitable as the other days. I don't think anyone wanted to be bad on Good Friday. At the end of the day I actually got to cross at the post office three times. Yes, my eyes were open and I was still alert.

Overall, it was a good experience and I will do it again next year."

Thank you Pat and Maggie and Lora and Michael for risking your lives to help get the point across to drivers in Leesburg that pedestrians in crosswalks have the right-of-way!

### **Leesburg Flower and Garden Festival, April 18**

Three Support Team members (Deb Walczak, Michael Jones, and Steve Hood) manned the DNA and safety information table for this day's event. The day's weather was perfect, as was our location: right on the Town green where various children's events were taking place. Taking turns to do some foot patrolling and talking with parents, the three STs were kept busy all day. While Loudoun Rescue did have to be called twice during the day for some citizen illnesses, the Support Team members encountered no serious incidents. 48 DNA identification kits were provided to parents and \$137 in donations were made to the Team's treasury.



## **Leesburg Flower and Garden Festival, April 19**

The day was a little cooler, for the Support Team members who worked the second day of this event. Deb Walczak returned for another day and was joined by Lora Tacey, Maggie Longhurst, and Pat Edwards. Fewer Festival goers attended on Sunday, but the Team members still handed out 18 DNA kits and collected \$63 in donations. Good show!

## **March of Dimes Walk, April 26**

Steve Hood (ST-4) and two Law Enforcement Explorers (Michael and Ryan) got in some good traffic direction practice while supporting this walk for a good cause. Steve took the Explorers under his wing on Battlefield Parkway and successfully got all the walkers across in the middle of the block and at several other locations on this busy Sunday morning. The weather was perfect (a little on the hot side) but the enthusiasm was there and the walkers were very appreciative of the ST's and Explorers' assistance.