



# Leesburg Police Citizens Support Team

## Monthly Newsletter

## September, 2011

### Prez Sez

As this newsletter goes to press, an unusual earthquake has recently hit Virginia and Hurricane Irene is bearing down on our area. Please remember that one of our functions as Support Team members is to assist the Leesburg Police Department in the promotion of public safety. That may mean making yourself available for emergency call-out after disasters to help with traffic control, manning barricades, performing drive-around damage assessment, or taking logistical items (food, water, batteries, etc.) to police officers performing their critical duties. In advance of known emergencies, such as Hurricane Irene, please ready your own home preparedness kit and then charge up your cell phones and radio batteries, gas up your vehicle, and locate your uniform and Team member equipment (vest, whistle, flashlight, etc.) and be ready to respond if called. "Lean forward in the saddle", as they say. I will have some training coming up for creating home disaster plans.

There have been several recent reports of nighttime vandalism and destruction of property in Leesburg neighborhoods. Vandals opened fire hydrants, spray painted cars and houses, and damaged vehicles. Additional Support Team nighttime patrols would be welcomed. We can make a difference. Stop by Officer Tidmore's office and check out a radio or grab your cell phone and hit the streets.

We still have quite a few upcoming events that require our assistance in traffic and crowd control. Please give me a call for updates on upcoming events and volunteer to help!

### Correction to Last Month's July 4<sup>th</sup> Event News Item

The news item about Support Team participation in the July 4<sup>th</sup> events in Leesburg neglected to note that Deb Walczak (ST-7) performed foot patrol and traffic direction at the Ida Lee concert and fireworks portion of the July 4<sup>th</sup> event. Your newsletter editor regrets this omission. Thank you Deb for your service under high stress (heat) conditions.

### ST-4 Assists Leesburg Police in Locating Possible Assault Suspects

A Leesburg resident reported that he was assaulted by several individuals as he walked along Ft. Evans Road, NE, one afternoon in early August. The dispatch call went out and a Leesburg Police officer was in the nearby. He spotted the alleged assault subjects and ordered them to stop. While several did stop, two continued walking, in disregard of the officer's instructions. Steve Hood (ST-4), who had heard the call go out moments earlier, was also in the immediate area and spotted the two subjects and kept them in sight. As other officers arrived to assist, Steve vectored them in to stop the two who walked away.



## 9/11 Motorcycle Ride Through Leesburg

As over 1000 motorcycle riders roared through Leesburg on their way to Washington, DC, on Friday, August 19, several Support Team members volunteered to perform traffic direction duty to help keep the riders safe. Deb Walczak (ST-7), Maggie Longhurst (ST-3), Lora Tacey (ST-11), and Steve Hood (ST-4) suited up in uniforms and traffic vests and joined Town, County, and State police officers in manning traffic intersections along the route. Thanks to all who participated in making this awe-inspiring, patriotic event a safe one. Chief Price summed it up with his note of thanks: "I want to thank you all for the truly outstanding job that everyone did. Lt. Dube and Sgt McVay working with VSP developed a flawless plan. Each and every one of you implemented your part of the plan perfectly. This moved the ride through Leesburg safely and efficiently with minimal traffic impact. A friend of mine who watched described our officers' performance as a finely tuned machine. To me you all set the example of true professionals. JOB WELL DONE!" Officer Tidmore added his thanks: "To the ST's and Explorers who assisted today, my thanks for coming out. Services from both units were necessary in order to complete the task of moving the 911 ride through town without incident. Thanks again. All did well."

## Support Team Member of the Month - Maggie Longhurst (ST-3)



- Born and raised in England; immigrated to U.S. in 1963.
- Became a "Bicentennial" U.S. citizen in 1976
- Worked for American Airlines in New York and San Francisco until retirement in 1995.
- 12 year member of the Support Team
- Active in Cornerstone Chapel Church.