



Citizens In Action!

JUNE 2012

Volunteers Say Thanks!

The Alumni members held their first annual Law Enforcement Appreciation Day on Wednesday, May 16 in the station lunch room. Volunteers served up breakfast, lunch and dinner over the course of two days as just one way to express our thanks. The LPCPAAA is proud to recognize these fine folks who actively serve our community!

Whether they are sworn officers, communications officers, correctional officers, dispatch personnel, animal control officers, or administrative staff - they all work each day to see that residents of this community are safe in their homes, businesses, schools and on the roads. They leave their homes and families each day and place themselves in harm's way to protect the homes and families of countless others.



Paula Wonhoutka and Viki Ferguson look on as Officer Digby pulls the next winning name.

In addition to a good meal, some officers enjoyed the benefit of a random drawing for miscellaneous gifts donated by local businesses and volunteers.

The comments from officers and personnel were overwhelming and ranged from, "I've never seen so much food!" to, "Thanks for including EVERYONE!" to, "You don't know how much these means to us." to, "This is so much more than we ever expected." to, "I can really take a To-Go plate?" Mission Accomplished!

While several volunteers brought food and desserts and also helped to set-up and clean the kitchen, Paula W. and Viki F. deserve a special "Thank You." Paula W. spent countless days and hours communicating with local businesses for donations and we'd all have to admit that Viki's Pasta Chicken & Bread was a huge success with everyone. Just wait till next year!!

Volunteer Activities

*****Last Minute Notice*******

Hurricane Preparedness Workshop!

Saturday, June 9, 2012

10AM - 2PM

Pasadena Convention Center

FREE Hot Dogs & Drinks (will they last)

!!!!Door Prizes!!!!

Future Volunteer Opportunities

- June 9 TCPAAA Meeting
- June 10 Sylvan Beach Triathlon
- June/July DARE Summer Camp

WHY DO I NEED TO REPORT MY HOURS?

Volunteer Coordinator, Judy Covin would like to remind everyone that many departments within the PD report on and share our Volunteer Hours.

For this reason, a 3-ring binder will be set up in the Volunteer Office for purposes of tracking hours. Two (2) types of Reporting Forms will be included in the binder:

- Individual Time Sheets
- Group Time Sheets

Please check the binder carefully when reporting your hours.

Judy would also like to remind everyone they can report hours via the website at www.lpcpaaa.org

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"May I Help You?"

The Dispatch Window Greeter program is in full swing and after several training sessions one of our most active volunteers is Paula Rizzuto. Paula typically gives of her time a few days each week to help out at the desk. When talking to her recently, she offered the following advice to anyone thinking of volunteering as a greeter.

"The dispatchers and everyone at the station are very receptive to having someone at the window. Citizens have even commented how nice it is," says Paula. She also shared that just about "anything" can happen and that every day is "completely different." Paula admits that sometimes she just has to shake her head and laugh inside at some of the questions that people ask. For instance, even though the Municipal Court building is in the same parking lot as the Police Station, it is not uncommon to respond several times a day, "Go out these doors, turn left and walk to the blue-windowed building." The funniest part is when the person returns a second time for a repeat of the instructions.

Paula points out that regardless of the circumstances it is important to remember that as a volunteer we are representing the police department. As such, it is imperative that anyone at the window remain professional, courteous, and helpful to those that approach. This might require a bit of restraint someone stands before you telling their life history when all you really want to say is, "Just give me the facts, nothing but the facts, please."

So there you are. In a nutshell, this is an opportunity to see and hear the type of things that dispatchers and officers deal with on a daily basis. Oh, and Paula adds, "Be sure to take along something to keep you busy!"

Visible Valuables Invite Thieves



We all know someone that has had their vehicle broken into or even stolen.

All it takes to become a victim is to accidentally leave your purse or wallet in the car seat or on the dash. One time - for the laptop left on the floorboard, the GPS on the dashboard, the garage door opener or Bluetooth on the visor, or recently purchased shopping bags left in the back seat - and you learn your lesson. Or do you?

The La Porte Police department cares about fighting crime in our community and for this reason they took a proactive approach by establishing the Slap.n.Tag (SNT) program. Officer Yvonne Stanley manages a team of volunteers that randomly target high break-in areas.

The purpose of Slap.n.Tag is to minimize the risk of vehicle burglary, improve communications related to such incidents and increase vehicle awareness among citizens.

Training is easy and can be done on your first day of volunteering. You will learn on how to perform a vehicle inspection, complete the Slap.n.Tag form, and where to place the form on vehicles. Officer Stanley is always in plain sight to communicate with vehicle owners that sometimes approach as pairs of volunteers work their way through the parking lot or neighborhood.

While on patrol, it is not unusual to come across some pretty shocking discoveries. In just one evening a team of SNT volunteers observed 4 iPhones/iPods, a laptop, cell phones, purses, even money, and other personal items of worth in plain sight - all with the vehicle door UNLOCKED.

To date, citizens have been extremely receptive to this program. It is not uncommon to have owners approach a volunteer to ask about the program and the purpose of the "Tags." Once we explain that the tag is not a ticket and share that both violators and non-violators (Atta-Boy's) can receive a tag, they freely open up and often comment how they "think it is a good idea!"

So why not join the Slap.n.Tag team and help us take a proactive approach to fighting crime! Volunteers are requested via email through our Volunteer Coordinator, Judy Covin. If you would like to be notified about this or any volunteer opportunity, send your current email address to JudyCovin@yahoo.com

Photos: Page 3 [Check out the latest Media Release \(www.lpcpaaa.org\)](http://www.lpcpaaa.org) concerning arrests this week regarding car burglaries!!! If it doesn't open your eyes to the importance staying alert and implementing Lock-Take-Hide, nothing will.

Making A Difference



Blue Santa Workshop

Folks, believe it or not Christmas is just six months away! Although our annual Garage Sale was a great success we won't, we can't, stop there.

Less fortunate families and children are depending on us to help provide them with a memorable Christmas.

For more information on the Blue Santa activities, log onto <http://www.lcpaaa.org/blue-santa-2012/>.

C.O.P Team

The C.O.P. Team logged 64.50 hours in May of patrol time and some members also helped Officer Gonzalez on June 2 add nine new members. Our newest C.O.P. members are:

Maggie Stout	Wayne Jones
Doug Hathorn	Emma Zech
Robert Burkey	Darlene Burkey
Debbie Janssen	Emily McDuffie
Liz Lainhart	

This expands the team to twenty-one (21) active members. While conducting his drive-a-long, Doug "Hippy" Hathorn commented, "I never realized there were so many parks in LP!" Yep, it takes about three hours to visit all of them.

Each member has committed to patrol a minimum of eight (8) hours per month and inspect parks, perform handicap/fire zone enforcements, and observe and report other safety violations within our city limits.

May VOLUNTEER HOURS

CPA Hours: 341.25

Explorer Hours: 141.50

YTD : 3123.75



"Fido" Dog House Donations

Visit the LCPAAA website to learn more: www.lcpaaa.org



Penny's for Pets!

Calling all pet lovers. The Fido's Dog House placement program doesn't require a great deal of work.

All you do is pick up a pretty mini "Fido" dog house from Rusty Paulus and place it somewhere for donations. Our best donors have come from local businesses where the house is placed near the check-out area. Another great location has been Michel B.'s camp house. However, that doesn't mean that you can't place a house in your own home and collect pocket change (penny's for pets) all month!

The donations benefit our local Animal Shelter to help provide shots, food, and other needs of animals up for rescue.

If you know of a business or safe location for "Fido" - Contact Rusty Paulus at 713.823.2991 or RustyPaulus@yahoo.com

Don't Forget: Watch soon for the grand opening of the new Animal Control Shelter on Fairmont! We will be in need of volunteers to help out with this event.



Richard Manning for helping the Animal Shelter during the June Market Days at 5 Points. The event is the 1st Saturday each Month.

Volunteers in Action!



Viki Ferguson - Head Chef
Emma Zech supervises. :)



Emma Zech & Paula W. help arrange the mass amount of food.



Paula Wahnoutka
Event Coordinator



Officer Y. Stanley (behind car) observes as Darlene Burkey, Judy Covin, and Nettie Warren begin their evening of Slap.n.Tag.



Mrs. Seebreeze Park 2012



Flash Back 2009
CPA Class Graduates



Rusty Paulus is pretty handy around the kitchen. His spaghetti is to die for!!



Be sure and stay up to date on what is happening in other CPA's around La Porte!

Texas Citizen Police Academy Alumni Association

La Porte is one of the featured CPA's in the June Flash 1 newsletter!

<http://tcpaaconvention.org>

Who's Who

Highlighting LPCPAAA Members



2nd Vice President, Chris Copley

Chris Copley currently serves as the 2012 -2ndVP of the La Porte Citizen Police Academy Alumni Association. When asked why he joined the Alumni, Chris shared, " I went through the CPA class and have been plowing forward ever since trying to become more knowledgeable about our city government and police department. In regards to the VP position I thought it would be a great way to help our LPCPAAA meetings by obtaining monthly speakers and helping out with our PAR officers and other police officers wherever and whenever needed."

Chris wished to learn more about the workings of the PD after his son worked as jailer in LP and now in League City. When he learned of the CPA class he immediate signed up along with his wife Vicky. Since then Chris and Vicky have "made new friends, and had lots of fun with the haunted house, Blue Santa program and ride-a-longs with officers and the COP program. " Not to mention "picking" on a few select volunteers.

Chris, along with Vicky, will soon attend the Texas State CPA Conference in Waco and while there he hopes to "seek out ways to keep our organization growing and obtain new ideas on ways to protect my family and our community."

Chris grew up in Mexia, Tx and attended high school there. He has a long career in the paint industry, currently working for PPG. Chris has lived in La Porte for 26 years and will celebrate his 28th anniversary with Vicky in August. He enjoys hunting, fishing, and other outdoor activities as long as the weather cooperates (like between 40-50 degrees)!



2012 LPCPAAA Board Members

President:	Phillip Ferguson
1 st Vice President:	Viki Ferguson
2 nd Vice President:	Chris Copley
Treasurer:	Bob Rivesman
Secretary:	Cheryl Hiser-McCorry



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES?

The best way to learn about opportunities is to attend a monthly meeting. Attending meetings will keep you up to date on all that is happening and all that is planned. Otherwise, regularly visit the website too to learn of new events. Or, check your email regularly for messages from PAR officers, Judy Covin or Deb Hathorn.

NOTE: Be sure to add our addresses to your contact list so that we don't end of up in SPAM.

NEXT LPCPAAA MEETING

When: First Thursday of each month.

July 5, 2012 @6:30PM

Where: LPPD at Spencer Hwy. and N. 23rd St.

Feel free to drop by and listen in on any meeting. We would love to hear what you think of our organization.



Need a Volunteer Badge?

Officer Rick Hilton @ 281.842.3120

Report Volunteer Hours

via the Volunteer Report Form to Judy Covin @
www.LPCPAAA.org

Newsworthy Articles or Photos?

Email to Editor, Deb Hathorn @
Editorlpcpa@att.net

The LPCPAAA helps enhance a variety of community programs through education, networking and sharing of information relative to what other law enforcement agencies, associations and volunteer groups are doing throughout the city and state.

Make A Difference
VOLUNTEER in La Porte!

If you want to touch the past, touch a rock. If you want to touch the present, touch a flower. If you want to touch the future, touch a life. ~Author Unknown