



SUMMER 2012

VOLUME 1

Message from the Sheriff



Hello! Welcome to the first edition of the *COP Beat* newsletter, a publication for our Citizen On Patrol members, about their many community service activities.

I want each and every one of you to know how much I appreciate your valued service. Whether you volunteer at our monthly Shred-A-Thons, Sheriff's Community Days or help to patrol the Broward County community, your commitment does not go unnoticed.

I look forward to seeing you at future events and meetings. If you have any questions or comments for me, please feel free to e-mail me at ask_the_sheriff@sheriff.org or call 954.831.8901.


Sheriff Al Lamberti

A Message from Your C.O.P Coordinator

I would like to congratulate our COP volunteers and the district representatives for putting together our first newsletter for this program.

The Broward Sheriff's Office COP Program is a volunteer group sponsored by the agency that uses a simple approach to safeguarding neighborhoods through the involvement of residents. COP volunteers are local residents who help BSO fight crime by patrolling their community, looking out for suspicious activity or potential hazards and offering assistance to local residents.

Typical assignments in addition to patrol activities include performing checks on unoccupied residences (at the owner's request), checking on elderly or homebound residents (as requested) and reporting potential problems and neighborhood hazards to BSO.

COP volunteers wear uniforms and drive specially marked vehicles, adding to the crime-fighting presence in the community.

Applicants must be 18 years of age, reside in Broward County, pass a background check, possess a valid Florida driver's license, complete at least four hours of the training program and comply with all program policies and procedures.

Deputy Alan Barnes – COP Coordinator



SUMMER 2012

VOLUME 1

Lauderdale-By-The-Sea Works Hard for BSO

Lauderdale-By-The-Sea (LBTS) COP members work very hard to support their district. While their contingent is not the largest, their support is large and meaningful to BSO in many other ways.

The COP's from LBTS reach out to almost every volunteer position available and requested throughout the county. Four COP's also serve as Posse members, supporting numerous functions and attending monthly meetings. Two COP volunteers serve as Parking Enforcement Officers, while also offering back-up to deputies involved in traffic, missing persons and events. LBTS has continually sent COP volunteers to other districts to support parades and special events, as well as provide support at the court house.

LBTS is a proud group that is very effective and makes a difference both within the district and around the county. The group is comprised of representatives from Europe to Asia, and occupations from doctors to entrepreneurs. They may all be different, but their goal is the same as the agency's: *Pride in Service with Integrity*.

Encouragement comes from within the district but their commitment extends to BSO as a whole! They are proud to represent and support BSO, anytime, anywhere.

Weston COP Member Named Top Runner

Barbara Latta, a Weston resident and Citizen Observer Patrol (COP) member, has run on rooftops and cruise ships, on treadmills and front porches, in all seven continents, and in all 50 states. She went out for a run one morning 28 years ago and has never stopped.

Now she has run into the record books, becoming the U.S. Running Streak Association's top female runner, and has run every day for more than 28 years. No other woman in the United States has run that many consecutive days, according to the Running Streak Association's online records.

As of April 12, 2012, Barbara had run 10,356 days in a row and she'll hold the top position until she stops. She is a retired teacher and has always enjoyed an active lifestyle, walking, biking and enjoying the outdoors.





SUMMER 2012

VOLUME 1

In Memory of Dick Sokol

Broward County lost a great man in April. Richard J. "Dick" Sokol passed away after a courageous battle with lung cancer.

Born in Akron, OH, on August 1, 1933, to Paul and Anna Sokol, he was raised in Tallmadge, Ohio. Dick was a volunteer fireman for Tallmadge for 23 years. He served in the U.S. Army and retired from Carolina Motor Freight. Dick was also a member of Teamsters Local 24.



He moved to Dania Beach, a city where he loved and enjoyed the sun, the beach, and fishing. He was very active in the community and belonged to several organization, including the Broward County Citizens Observer Patrol (COP), the Citizens Emergency Response Team (CERT), the Dania Beach Senior Citizens Club where he was recognized for all he did for the city.

He was nominated for the TRIAD Citizen of the year by BSO Deputy Randy Graham and won the prestigious award, presented by Sheriff Al Lamberti.

Dick was also a member of the Mount Sinai United Methodist Church of Dania Beach. He was

preceded in death by his son, Rick Sokol, parents, sister and brothers.

He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Betty L. (Williams) Sokol (a fellow COP member), his daughter Beth Sokol-Lesho, son-in-law Joe Lesho, and his loving grandson Sam Lesho, sisters Betty and Helen, brother Clarence and many nieces and nephews.

Pastor Dixon of Mt. Sinai United Methodist Church said, "We were so lucky to have had him in this church, he was such a hard worker and devoted to his Lord."

There was a stream of mourners at the church service with so many echoing the words selfless, kind, helpful, caring, hard worker, and just really nice guy.

Several City of Dania Beach officials were present along with a Broward Sheriff's Office and Fire Rescue Honor Guard.

Commander Michael Grimm, Executive Officer of Dania Beach, was a neighbor of the Sokol's and spoke of the caring things that the couple did for him while he was recovering from a broken clavicle. They always stopped in to check on him and brought him lunch which meant so much to him. He credits the low crime rate in their neighborhood to the many hours the Sokol's patrolled the streets in their COP car.

"Dick was the ideal civic-activist," said an emotional Grimm. "He never brought problems to the city but always solutions."

Sokol memorial continued on next page...



SUMMER 2012

VOLUME 1

Dick's family said he never met a stranger and had many wonderful friends in the community. He will certainly be missed by all who knew him and will be in their hearts forever.

District 12 Welcomes New Members

Last Month an e-mail went out asking for COP and Posse volunteers to work the information desk at the Courthouse. The newly initiated "Friends of the Courthouse Program" has been in operation for more than a month thanks to Oakland Park District 12 COP Members, lead by Col. Starr Sidelinker. The Oakland Park COP's have made a tremendous impact in the front lobby, relieving the DLE personnel from giving directions to citizens entering through the security checkpoint. So far it has been a great adventure as well as an eye and ear opening experience. There is never a dull moment at the courthouse. District 12 welcomes Barry Fitzgerald, Charles Meyer, Marion Glassford, Jason King, Kim Hill and Kiki Ammonds

Pompano Beach Finger Print Team



This team attends various events in the City of Pompano Beach, and finger-print the children who

attend. They also visit the day care centers and fingerprint the children who attend. Parents are given electronic print outs of their children's prints with pictures included to keep for their records. If an emergency occurred, parents could have this information readily available.

The team includes Colonel Edythe Lamb, Major Connie Mitchell, Major Carmel McCormick, Sandy Hutchings and Bo Daugherty.

South Broward District

COP members Ellen and David Roach may very well be Broward Sheriff's Office longest active volunteers.

This husband and wife team, attended the very first COP training class in 1994 and have been active members ever since.

The Roach's just celebrated 42 years of marriage together and are still going strong. They met while Ellen was still in High School and got married on the same day as her graduation. Ellen boasts that she graduated in the morning and then got married that same afternoon!

Together they have two daughters and three grandchildren. Their youngest daughter, Heather, was also an active COP member for several years.

Ellen is a native Floridian, while David is originally from Washington D.C., but grew up in Florida. David is a retired physical education teacher now works for the City of North Miami Beach Parks and Recreation Department. During the upcoming summer months, he is the Director of a children's summer camp program.



SUMMER 2012

VOLUME 1

Ellen stays active in as many BSO community related programs as she can. Throughout the year, she is busy making toys and dolls for the holiday toy give-away program. She also participates in the S.A.L.T./TRIAD program, Neighborhood Watch, the SHARE Food Drive, and the Pembroke Park/West Park District R.A.G.G. program (Residents against Gangs and Graffiti) where citizens paint over gang related graffiti in the community to keep our neighborhoods clean and safe.

In 1996, Ellen was nominated as Broward County's Citizen of the Year and was presented with an award from then acting Sheriff Ron Cochran.

David has received numerous awards as a member of the District One COP Unit for his countless hours of service and dedication.

In 1997, this husband and wife duo joined the BSO Posse group and attended the Citizens Police Academy.



As members of both the COP and Posse group, Ellen and David are the "go to" people when extra assistance is needed in the district. The deputies of South Broward have adopted them as part of the BSO family. At least once a month, they generously

bring the deputies a large home cooked meal to their office. They have assisted with numerous prostitution stings, traffic check points, and community related parades or events.

When asked about their most memorable moment so far in the COP Unit, David just laughed. One evening they were assisting the BSO SET with a prostitution sting. According to David and Ellen, they got the shock of their lives when they watched a father get arrested for soliciting a prostitute, then moments later, his son got arrested at the same location for the same thing!

We are very proud of Ellen and David Roach and all they do for the community. Their never ending service to this agency will not be forgotten and the district looks forward to many more years of friendship and team work with them!

Updates from Lauderdale Lakes/Central Broward

05/20/12: COP members assisted with the heavy flow of pedestrian traffic and also observed the vehicle parking area at the Unifest annual Caribbean Festival held at Vincent Torres Park.

05/22/12: The City of Lauderdale Lakes held a dinner for Teacher Appreciation Month. Our members were invited and recognized because of their appreciated assistance in the city.

05/28/12: Celebrating Jamaica's 50th Independence at Central Broward Regional Park in Lauderdale. COP members were given permission by Chief Andrew Dunbar to attend the event in uniform and represent the Broward Sheriff's Office and their district.



SUMMER 2012

VOLUME 1

Southwest Ranches

On Wednesday June 6th, COP Colonel Vishnu Singh and COP Ramson Bowen were patrolling the 345 Plat of Southwest Ranches. During their patrol they observed a blue Hyundai Sonata travelling through the neighborhood very slowly and periodically stopping in front of vacant homes. Earlier on Alpha shift, this vehicle's tag and description had been broadcast as a stolen vehicle out of Weston and was connected to two missing run-a-way juveniles. As instructed in their training, they maintained a visual contact with the vehicle and called for deputies.

Deputies from Southwest Ranches and Weston converged to the area and conducted a traffic stop on the vehicle. Both juveniles were detained until they were released to their parents. The vehicle was returned to the parents undamaged.

Parkland COP Spotlight

The Parkland District would like recognize COP volunteer Joseph Champagne. Joe joined Parkland's COP program in September of 2011. Joe was born in Oak Creek Wisconsin in 1941. At 22, Joe joined the United States Air Force where he served in a variety of specialties. After retiring from the Air Force, Joe began working for Lockheed Martin, a defense related business. After 10 years, Joe retired from Lockheed Martin and began volunteering his time to law enforcement. Joe has volunteered his time with the Oceanside Police Department, the California Highway Patrol and the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office in Arizona.



Joe has been married to his wife for 20 years and he has three children; two sons, a daughter and six grandchildren. One of Joe's sons is a detective with the Broward Sheriff's Office, currently serving in the Background Investigations Unit.

Besides volunteering his time with the COP program in Parkland, Joe volunteers his time assisting the Broward Sheriff's Office Warrants Division. When he isn't busy volunteering, Joe enjoys golfing and target shooting.

The Parkland District would like to recognize and commend Joe Champagne for his dedication to the Parkland COP program.

Tamarac COP Program 500 Strong!

The Tamarac Citizen Observer Patrol program currently has more than 500 members. Those members represent 11 different groups within the city and in 2011 patrolled over 22,000 miles of city streets. These volunteers also assist at special city events and events throughout the county.



The City of Tamarac has 10 parks that occupy over 153 acres of land. The safety and security of residents using these parks is of the utmost importance to the city and district. Theft, vandalism, and a wide variety of criminal activity can take place in a park setting. The COP volunteers are the "eyes and ears" of the agency, and have had a direct affect on lowering criminal activity in neighborhoods.

Thus these two ideas seemed like they fit together perfectly. That is why the Parks Patrol was born. Volunteers will be specially chosen for this new and exciting COP function, the Tamarac Parks Patrol. In addition to the standard COP training program these volunteers will receive specialized training in crime prevention for city parks.



This training will include city ordinances as well as park rules and regulations. Also included will be skills to assist the volunteers in interacting with the wide range of age groups and personalities that visit our city parks. A 2008 Ford Escape was chosen for the patrol and is easily identified with "PARK PATROL" window stickers. Veteran COP volunteer, Jackie Lekacz has been chosen to lead this effort.

News from Deerfield Beach

Deerfield Beach COP's have members who are CPR certified and have training in disaster mitigation, hurricane preparedness and other areas of emergency response such as licensed amateur Radio operators.

We have created and maintain a website for our members and the general public to advertize who we are and what we do. We also use it as an effective recruiting tool. The web site URL is www.deerfieldbeachcop.com

We have established a SALT (Seniors and Law Enforcement Together) Council consisting of our Liaison Officer and several COP members. The council meets monthly with the Broward County TRIAD to discuss issues on their agenda and listen to presentations by TRIAD members and guests. Following the TRIAD sessions, the SALT council later meets to discuss the issues presented at the TRIAD meeting and to develop local solutions to some of the issues. As ideas are developed, COP members are assigned to implement those solutions.

In addition to regular patrols, we support the Sheriff's Department during major city events by providing among other tasks, traffic control, foot patrols, food service and information to the public when necessary.

For example, during the month of April Deerfield Beach C.O.P. was involved in the following events:

April 28 2012 - Arbor Day / Earth Day

April 26 2012 - Law Enforcement Special Olympics Torch Run



April 14, 2012 - Deerfield Beach Storytelling Festival at Constitution Park

April 12, 2012 - Tip-A-Cop for Special Olympics - at Duffy's in Deerfield Beach

April 5, 2012 - 2012 Flashlight Easter Egg Hunt at Constitution Park

April 4, 2012 - Cuisine of the Region Event at the Embassy Suites

Some of the future planned events are:

June 09, 2012 - Winnie Frazer Kiwanis Golf Tournament at Deerfield Country Club

August 2012 - School Patrol - areas near schools during the first week of school

August 07 2012 - National Night Out

Since we have a continuing need for active volunteers, we regularly recruit. This month we welcome 4 new recruits to our ranks:

Stephen Ewing
Patricia Saunders
Calvin Smith
Van Bralen, David

maintain these vehicles to the highest of standards as we do all of the Sheriff's vehicles. Preventive maintenance schedules allow us to inspect these vehicles every 3,000 miles or at least once every six months. The Fleet Division is currently assisting the COP program personnel undergo a large vehicle conversion project to help cycle out our old schemed vehicles with the BSO new design. If you have any questions or vehicle concerns you may reach the Fleet Services Division at the following numbers:

Main Service Center (Central): 954-497-3663
Pompano Service Center: 954-786-2107

Ray Cabrera- COP Chief of Staff

And

Scott Barnett
Interim Fleet Director
Broward Sheriff's Office

A Message from Fleet

The Broward Sheriff's Office COP fleet is comprised of 76 vehicles including four Ford Focus', four Toyota Prius' and 68 Ford Crown Victoria's. Here in the Fleet Services Division we