

# VIP News



## Volunteers In Policing

### A note from your VIP Coordinator: Happy New Year! — What Now?



Well my first full two months on the job have been filled with a lot of learning about the program. I'm excited about the prospects for the coming year.

Our foundation is in good shape. We have a good program that has been in place for several years. We don't have to reinvent the wheel. That's good news! Now, what we need is to recruit and retain.

In the case of our VIP Program, recruitment means bringing new volunteers in as well as bringing past volunteers back. Past, or "inactive," volunteers have skills and training that would allow them to be plugged back into jobs with little muss

and fuss.

One of my goals is to continue and enhance volunteer recognition. We already have an annual awards banquet for this. That's great and a really good way to recognize efforts. We will have a Volunteer Appreciation Day here at the department during National Volunteer Week, April 15-21 2007.

I will add to this by putting letters to the editor in the paper, spotlighting volunteers in this newsletter and on the web site.

Recognition, regardless of the reason people volunteer, is important. Everyone, whether they are paid for a job or do it out of the goodness of their heart, needs to be told they are appreciated. So, we are going to start letting everyone know what a great job our volunteers are doing.

If you haven't see it already, watch the newspaper, listen to the radio and read this newsletter to hear the applause and accolades that are being lauded on the VIPs.

For the future, we are looking into new jobs for current, past and new volunteers. A survey of supervisors in the department and some general brainstorming has been fruitful.

We need to get together as a group and come up with more ideas that appeal to VIPs and will encourage new volunteers to sign up.

A training room has been reserved for 2:00 – 4:00 p.m., January 18. Please let me know if you can be there. The meeting will be just us – any current or past volunteer who can attend and your volunteer coordinator — Gary (glynch@tylertexas.com or 531.1071).

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#### Special points of interest:

- *Welcome to our First Issue for 2007*
- *A note from The Chief*
- *VIPs in Action, Spotlight on VIPs*
- *From the VIP Coordinator*

#### Inside this issue:

*From The Chief's Desk* 2

*Be Safe, Stay Safe* 2

*New Holiday Patrol* 2

*VIP Photo Gallery* 3

## Spotlight on Volunteers!

Pierce and Vivian Moore have been volunteering with the VIP program since July 2001.

In that time, the couple has logged nearly 5,000 hours. Often serving together but also in individual capacities.

Vivian has been working with the department's Crime Scene Unit

while her husband Pierce can be found working on the gun range or in the vehicle barn.

When they team up for an event, like child fingerprinting, they work together like a well-oiled machine. We are proud to have the Moore's with their good hands and helping hearts.



**Fingerprinting at Fall Festival** — Pierce and Vivian Moore made a dynamic duo printing and recording about 150 youngsters at Caldwell School's Fall Festival last October.

# From the Chief's Desk:

The most important goal for the coming year is to have citizen volunteer involvement in every area of the police department. Volunteers like Richard and Shirley Eckerle have worked with us for several years and have served in a variety of jobs.

The Eckerles have been involved in Citizens On Park Patrol, vehicle maintenance, property assistants, Crimestoppers, processing pawn tickets, data entry in the records department and at countless special events and banquets. We want volunteers to feel there is an open door of opportunity to donate their time in these areas and more. This allows citizen volunteers a chance to get to know the officers and the officers get to know more citizens.

"The city gains so much through volunteers," Chief Swindle said. "Not

only does the city save tax dollars by not having to budget and hire someone to do the jobs volunteers do, but citizens get a feeling of being productive through service to their community."

The more citizens get to know their police department the more comfortable they become with the officers and that then fosters an environment of mutual cooperation that benefits both the community and the officers.

We are currently planning another Citizens Police Academy class and hope to announce the date soon. The Citizens Police Academy is a great avenue for citizens to get involved with volunteering. They get to know the department and feel more comfortable about being here. They also take the knowledge gained through the academy back into the community where they spread the word about the work that goes on here at the police department.



Chief Gary Swindle

## Be Safe, Stay Safe

Throughout the department, you'll hear the word "safety" repeated time and time again.

Safety is a major part of training for officers. It is of prime concern with our volunteers, too.

In December, there was a story about a VIP in Scarborough, Maine who was struck by a car and killed while directing traffic.

Volunteers working within the community need to keep their eyes and ears open for possible dangerous situations. Watch for traffic, be aware of your surroundings and others within

***"Don't put yourself at risk needlessly. When possible, work with a buddy or partner."***

the immediate area. Don't put yourself at risk needlessly. When possible, work with a buddy or partner.

Here within the building, volunteers need to be careful with office ma-

chinery, operating vehicles, lifting heavy objects and other environmental hazards.

Our volunteers are precious to us and we value them not just for their contribution but because they are giving, caring human beings. Volunteers are a part of the police department family and what hurts one family member hurts us all.

We all are exposed to hazards in our roles as volunteers, staff members and human beings.

Please look out for your safety and the safety of those around you.

## Holiday Patrol Targets Auto Burglaries

A new program for Volunteers In Policing was started just before Christmas.

The Holiday Parking Lot Patrol features volunteers patrolling local public parking lots with the intent to inform vehicle owners when they are at risk for auto burglary.

Volunteers inspect parked vehicles looking for personal items such as purses, Christmas presents, keys left in ignitions and other valuables.

A "report card" is left on the vehicle windshield with information that lets the

owner know what they can do to prevent an auto burglary or if they pass inspection.

The Vehicle Burglary Report Card was created and first used by Sgt. Eddie Sheffield and patrol officers, but because of increases in workloads, the program was temporarily set aside.

Looking for new opportunities, the program was picked up by the VIPs and may become an ongoing project.

Four new volunteers, L.D. and Johnnie McWilliams, Toni Smith and Wayne Grissom got the program going.

Do you have an idea for a new volunteer program?

Write, call, e-mail or come in and let's talk it over!

# Photo Gallery: Volunteers at Work and Play

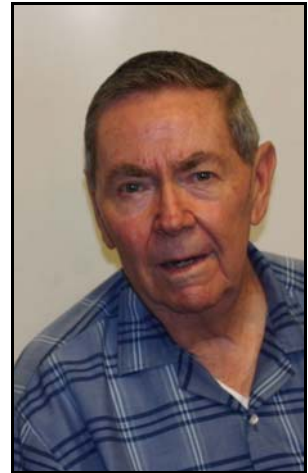
## Meet and Greet Reception for new VIP Coordinator Nov. 9



Smilin' Jim Parson — Vehicle Maintenance VIP.



Public Affairs Officer Don Martin (l) , Tyler Police Chief Gary Swindle . Don, just what is in your glass of punch?



Long-time VIP J. D. Carroll serves with the Tyler Citizens for Traffic Safety.

Volunteers are an invaluable gift to our organization — thanks many times over!

## Servers at the Church and Community Luncheon Dec. 1



VIPs Richard Eckerle (l) and Pierce Moore man the tea glasses while ...



their wives, Vivian Moore (l) and Shirley Eckerle, share a moment while dishing up the food.

Volunteering can be a family affair! Spouses make great VIP teams.



Easy does it VIPs! Chief Swindle (background) looks on as Richard and Shirley Eckerle manage bowls of iced tea.

Volunteers are the life of the party! Volunteering is a great gift.

## Merry Christmas — VIP Christmas Party Dec. 5



VIP Marcy Wheeler works with Accessible Parking Enforcement Program.



A big help in Vehicle Maintenance and other places, Ray Doty (l) visits with Shirley Eckerle and Elizabeth Ewell (r ) VIP receptionist at the North Substation.



Chaplain Jim Ballard (l), watches over his bird feeder as VIPs Paula Shamburger (c), and Betty Johnson (r) react to a "gift poacher" during the party.

## Volunteers In Policing

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All VIP Meeting:  
Jan. 18 @2:00 at the  
police station.  
RSVP 903.531.1071.



*We have an opportunity for you!*