



THE COP OBSERVER



CITIZENS ON PATROL
(JANUARY—JUNE 2016)
ISSUE #18





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CITIZENS ON PATROL
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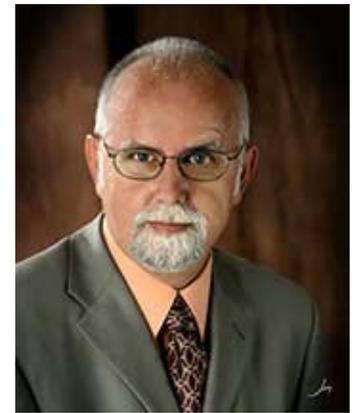


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LONGWOOD COMMUNITY EVENTS

Cruise In Car Show: 2nd Saturday of every month, 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., downtown Historic District

Longwood Dance: Every Sunday, 7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., Longwood Elementary School

Senior Matinee: 3rd Wednesday of every month, 1:30 p.m., Longwood Community Building

Longwood Community Yard Sale: 3rd Saturday of every month, Longwood Elementary School

J.O.S.H. (Just Our Soldier's Helpers)

Donations are being collected for our Troops.

The Longwood Police Department has a collection box in their lobby. Please visit their website for suggested care package items.





A NOTE FROM CHIEF EUGENE GRAY

We have come a long way in the last five years, growing a new group of volunteers called Citizens On Patrol. We started the COP Program with 7 members. We now have 34 active COP members and 11 active COP Auxiliary members.

We started with one vehicle and now we have five vehicles, two trailers, one golf cart, the use of one golf cart, and one T-3 special Events Scooter.

We had our office in the Longwood Police Department and we have now moved to the Longwood Elementary School where we have four offices and a training room.

We put together a Longwood Citizens On Patrol Christmas Parade and this parade has been going on for three years now. The Parade is on the first Saturday of December of each year.

We have several positions that have come about over the years and they are as follows:

Administration: COP Lieutenant Maureen Duffy; Training/Investigations: COP Commander Johnnie Richardson; Operations Officer: COP Commander George Moy; Area Patrol Officer: COP Captain Aaron Holland; Chaplain: COP Ed Benore; Community Relations: COP Lieutenant Jack Caldwell; COP Observer Editor: COP Lieutenant Elsie Richardson; Parade Manager: COP Lieutenant Audrey Karwandy; Donations Managers: COP Vito Napoletano and COP Sergeant Tom DeNegre; RuOK Manager: COP Lieutenant Hap Clark; Park Ranger Manager: COP Lieutenant Ronald Allegro; Maintenance Manager: COP Lieutenant Paul Jenny; Photographers: COP Sergeant Ed Morrow and COP Jeffrey MacBeth; Auxiliary & Special Events: COP Lieutenant Sandra Wallace; Alpha Squad Leader: COP Lieutenant Fran Leason; Bravo Squad Leader: COP Lieutenant Jeff Leason; Charlie Squad Leader: COP Lieutenant Paul Jenny

All of the other Citizens On Patrol members work patrolling the City of Longwood. The Citizens On Patrol Auxiliary members work the trailers and Special Events.

We want to thank each of you for making the Longwood Citizens On Patrol a great place to give back and help support our great City of Longwood. Without you, there would be no Citizens On Patrol in Longwood. It feels good to give back!

By COP Chief Eugene Gray







COPS RELOCATE TO THE LONGWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



In January, 2016, the Longwood Citizens On Patrol Organization moved from the Longwood Police Station on Church Avenue to its' new location at the Longwood Elementary School, 840 Orange Avenue, Longwood, FL.

The move provided the COP Organization with a boost from a single office environment to a facility having multiple offices and much needed floor space for the purpose of conducting the many day to day ongoing functions including, Administrative, Operations, Recruiting, Training and meeting rooms for conducting both regular and special staff meetings and other specialized training.

The move was welcomed by all and has resulted in a significant improvement in moral and overall efficiency of COP operations and training. A special thanks goes out to our Public Safety Director, Troy Hickson, COP Chief Eugene Gray and all the members of the COP Organization who helped make this transition and move possible.

By COP Commander Johnnie Richardson



LONGWOOD ACCEPTS THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VIETNAM WAR COMMEMORATIVE FLAG

On June 4th, 2016, at a ceremony held at the Hero's Memorial in Longwood, COP Commander and US Army Lieutenant Colonel Johnnie Richardson, in a change of Flag ceremony, accepted the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War Commemorative Flag on behalf of the City of Longwood to be displayed during the Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall Event scheduled for the period of 8-12 June, 2016.

The flag is a special commemorative flag that honors both our military service men and women who served during the Vietnam War and as a reminder of the ending of the Vietnam War in 1975.

The flag was escorted into the City by the Leathernecks, a Veteran's Motorcycle Club and was presented to Lieutenant Colonel Johnnie Richardson by US Army Sergeant Dave Mathews. Lieutenant Colonel Richardson remarked that this flag would be proudly displayed during the period that the Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall was on display in the City of Longwood and it gave him great pride and pleasure to accept the flag on behalf of the Longwood City Commissioners, the City of Longwood and its' Veterans from past wars and conflicts.

By COP Commander Johnnie Richardson





THE COMMANDER'S DIGEST



Having served as your Commander and Executive Officer for the past 4+ years, I wanted to take this opportunity to personally thank each and every Citizens On Patrol member for their loyal support and great friendship during my tenure. We have come a long way since the initial establishment of the COP Program and I can only hope that in some small way I helped contribute to the overall success of the Program.

The COP Program initially began with a very rudimentary program without any specific and detailed guidance, policies and/or procedures that clearly identified exactly what each members responsibilities and obligations were and with little or no organizational structure in place.

During the early years of its' existence, little was known on just how to more effectively manage, organize and train a group of highly motivated community volunteers into a well organized and highly efficient group of individuals whose main purpose and goal was to perform community policing and assist the Longwood Police Department with traffic control, community and business patrols by being the eyes and ears of our Law Enforcement community.

Upon completion of my initial COP Academy Training, then Captain Eugene Gray tasked me to come up with a more effective and efficient organizational structure, develop and implement a robust COP Training Program, develop and implement new policies, procedures and standards for COP operations. In addition, I was tasked to write up job descriptions that clearly defined the many duties and responsibilities for its' members including, administrative, operations, training, logistics, recruiting, newsletters (now The COP Observer), maintenance, personnel, background investigations and records retention to name a few.

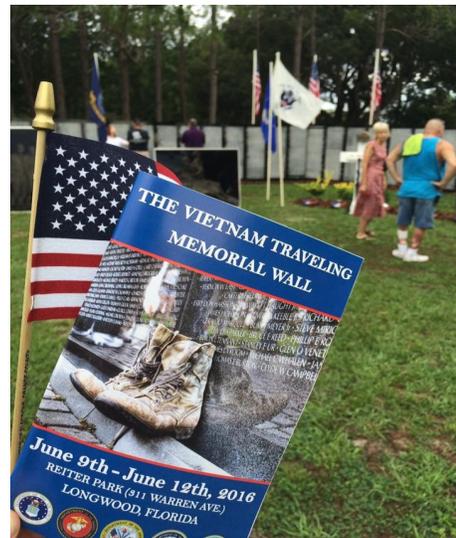
This was a tall order and a huge challenge for me to undertake especially as a volunteer. At the time I was under the impression that like the rest of the group, I would only be required to perform my 12 hours a month by conducting area and community patrols. Well, this tasking requirement turned into being a full time 80+ hours a month through a continuous cycle of constantly updating, revising and undergoing many changes to ensure that the COP Organization was operating at its' peak proficiency level under all situations or possible scenarios. I had to reach deep down and pull together from all of my vast Military and Civilian Management experience to meet this challenge head on and I have to say that I am very proud of the many accomplishments and contributions that we made as a Team to make the Longwood Citizens On Patrol the best in Seminole County and the State.

As I move on to accept a greater level of responsibility, I wanted each and every member of this Organization to know that I did not do this for myself. I did this for the COP Organization by putting forth 110% of my time and efforts in order to leave the COP Organization in much better shape than which I joined it. Without your loyalty, motivation, dedication, cooperation and support, this would not have been possible and I wanted to say that I am profoundly proud to be associated with such a fine group of volunteer men and women who conduct themselves as dedicated professionals and who give back to their communities so much of their valuable time by volunteering as COPs in keeping our communities and the City of Longwood a much safer place in which to work, play and live. It has been my pleasure and an honor to have worked alongside each of you and the everlasting friendships we made along the way. May God Bless each of you and good luck as you continue to make the Longwood Citizens On Patrol the best of the best!


THE VIETNAM TRAVELING MEMORIAL WALL®



**MR. DAVID REEVE, US MILITARY VETS
MOTORCYCLE CLUB
PRESENTING THE FLAG HISTORY**





VIETNAM TRAVELING MEMORIAL WALL COMES TO LONGWOOD



In June, 2015, the Longwood City Commission appointed COP Commander Johnnie Richardson who is also a retired Lieutenant Colonel in the US Army to be the Chairperson to head up a committee to bring the Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall to the City of Longwood. The Commission also appointed Mrs. Lori Rice to be the Vice Chairman for this Event. After a year of identifying our Sponsors, through donations, use of volunteers, coordinating with and attending meetings with Senior Officials at the Federal, State and Local levels, speaking with various Veterans and other groups in an effort to promote the Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall coming into our City and through comprehensive and detailed planning required to ensure that this Event would be a successful one, the Wall arrived without any hitches, void of any problems and on time as scheduled on June 8, 2016.

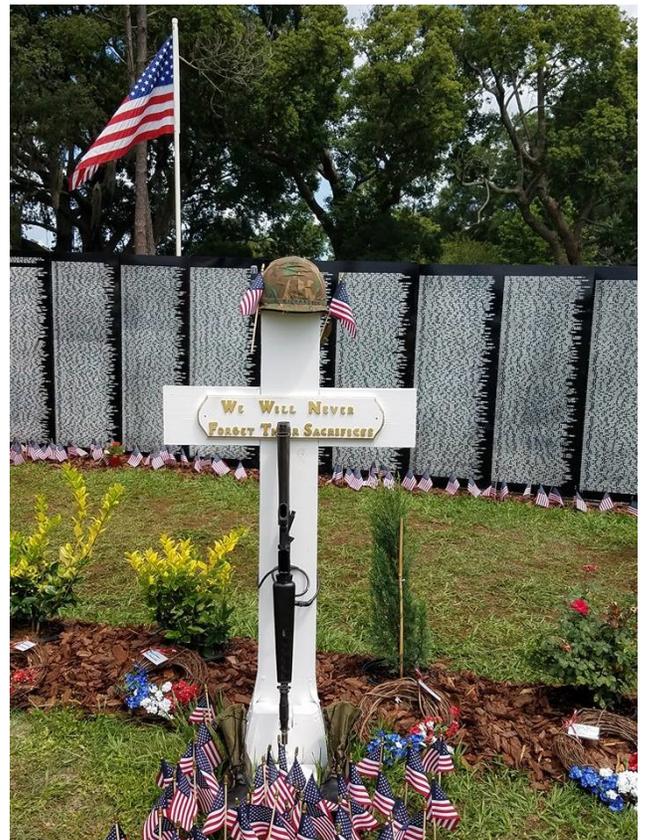
The Wall arrived in the Town of Chuluota, FL, and proceeded to the staging area located at VFW Post 10139 approximately 9:00 a.m. whereas it was met with some 175+ escort riders from various Veterans and other Motorcycle Groups and Clubs across the central Florida area whose main mission was to proudly escort the Wall into the City of Longwood. The route took the Wall through the cities of Oviedo and Winter Springs, and on into Longwood, FL, where many of their residents and individuals lined the route to cheer on and wave their American Flags all in honor of the Memorial Wall as it passed through their communities.

The Wall arrived at Reiter Park approximately 11:30 a.m. on June 8th, 2016, where it was met with many enthusiastic and highly motivated community volunteers who immediately jumped in to help erect the Wall in its' designated area in Reiter Park. Once erected, landscaping and other infrastructure was put in place and security of the Wall began on a 24 hour basis until the Wall left the City.

Opening ceremonies were held on a daily basis at 9:00 a.m. and were hosted by Lieutenant Colonel Richardson, along with Longwood City Commissioners. The ceremonies were filled with many distinguished Military guest speakers, Veterans and Patriotic symbolism to honor the brave men and women who gave the ultimate sacrifice defending the freedoms we so often take for granted today. On Sunday, June 12, 2016, at 2:00 p.m., a formal closing ceremony was held by Congressman John Mica and Lieutenant Colonel Johnnie Richardson to honor those names on the Vietnam Memorial Wall with the playing of Taps, a 21 Gun Salute, Bagpipes playing Amazing Grace and followed by a Vietnam Era Cobra AH-1 Gunship Flyover.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the many individuals who contributed in making this Event possible. They were: Longwood Police, Fire, COPs and CERT Organizations, the Longwood City Commissioners, Longwood City Manager, Longwood Leisure Services, Longwood Public Works, South Seminole Hospital, our many Sponsors, Law Enforcement personnel from Seminole County, Winter Springs, Oviedo, Sanford, Orlando, the many Veterans groups and the Veterans Affairs Office of Seminole County but most importantly, my Vice Chairperson, Mrs. Lori Rice, and the Volunteer Coordinator, Mrs. Ardel Cheffer and her many volunteers whose hard work and dedication turned this Event into a well organized and uneventful highly, visible and well attended Event of historical proportions for the City of Longwood over a four day period. Congratulations to all on a job well done!

By COP Commander Johnnie Richardson







LONGWOOD MAYOR JOE DURSO



LONGWOOD COMMISSIONER MARK WELLER



LONGWOOD COMMISSIONER BRIAN SACKETT



LONGWOOD COMMISSIONER JOHN MAINGOT



CONGRESSMAN JOHN MICA



LIEUTENANT COLONEL JOHNNIE RICHARDSON



LONGWOOD POLICE EXPLORERS



DR. DU HUA, VIETNAMESE VETERAN



**LET
US
NEVER
FORGET**

THE POW-MIA MISSING MAN TABLE

Set for five, the empty chairs represent Americans who were or are missing from each of the services—Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard.

The meaning of this Table:

The Table is round to show our everlasting concern and symbolizing eternal unity that comes full circle.

The cloth is white, symbolizing the purity of their intentions to respond to their country's call to arms, so that their children could remain free.

The lone candle symbolizes the frailty of a prisoner alone, trying to stand up against his oppressors.

The black ribbon on the candle reminds us of those who will not be coming home.

The single red rose reminds us of the lives of these Americans and their loved ones and friends who keep the faith while seeking answers until they return.

The Bible represents the strength gained through faith to sustain those lost from our country, founded as one nation under God.

A slice of lemon is on the bread plate to remind us of their bitter fate, captured and missing in a foreign land.

A pinch of salt symbolizes the families tears of our missing and their families who long for answers after decades of uncertainty.

The glasses are inverted, as they cannot toast with us tonight, maybe tomorrow.

The red, white and blue ribbon is tied to the flower vase by a yellow ribbon that symbolizes our continued uncertainty, hope for their return and determination to account for them that was won by thousands who awaited their return.

The chairs are empty—they are missing.



FROM THE OPERATIONS COMMANDER'S CORNER



I am dedicating this article to the men and women of the Longwood Citizens On Patrol whose pledge is to help when we can, as much as we can, and as long as we can for the betterment of our Police Department, City and our neighbors. During the first half of this year, this pledge has never been more prevalent. We have had the opportunity of working with the Christian Sharing Center, not once but twice, in helping distribute food and needed items to those who otherwise would have done without.

We have had emergency calls to assist the Police Department with traffic control, one of which was due to a major accident in the intersection of Grant Street and State Road 434 requiring COP's support into the early morning hours, and then there was an emergency call to assist with a fire on 17-92 and General Hutchinson. The COPs that worked these emergencies responded quickly without hesitation.

Then finally, the City of Longwood Leisure Services Department sponsored Events. On the second Saturday of each month, our COPs and Events staff work our food trailer during the monthly car shows and the Mustang Show that was another success this year.

To end the first half of the year, the City hosted the Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall which required the involvement of almost all of the COPs and our Events Staff. The people that worked this four day Event have to be commended for their dedication for helping make this Event a success.

I would like specifically to commend one of our new COPs, Priscilla Haynes, who volunteered to help four days of the Event and Lt. Ron Allegro and COP Tom Stuter, each working three days. It wasn't easy with the adverse weather conditions that we had, but they wanted to help.

Aside from the extra curricular, thousands of hours are volunteered on our regular duties of area patrol, RuOK Program (checking on the elderly), and Park Rangers.

I would like to thank everyone in the COP Organization for their help in living up to our pledge and look forward to your continued support.

By COP Commander George Moy





RUOK PROGRAM MEETS A VALUABLE NEED IN THE CITY OF LONGWOOD

As head of the RuOK Program, I feel compelled to compliment all of the COPs who sacrifice so much to see that those in need are looked after. We work hard to make sure the elderly, handicapped or seriously ill have someone to look out for them. We look at their need for food, medicine or just to have someone talk with them. We have had people who were being taken advantage of by friends and/or relatives. We have had people whose air-conditioner was broken and in Florida that can be deadly. We have seen to it that ramps have been repaired or replaced for those who are wheelchair bound, or perhaps use walkers. We fill a need and at the same time, free up the Police to watch over the safety of the whole City by following up and solving crimes, watching out for traffic violators, doing accident investigations, etc.

I have, in my own experience, been able to get a renter out of a lady's house because he was taking advantage of her hospitality by stealing food and looking at her mail. I had a person with terminal cancer who just needed someone to talk with and watch out for him in case he passed out or had some kind of emergency.

Another job we have is traffic control. When a traffic light goes out or an accident is so serious it requires more help than Police can handle and still do their regular coverage of the City, the COPs are called out to help. For example, we had a train hit a truck on the tracks, killing one, and blocking a major roadway. We assisted at five intersections to redirect traffic around the area. We have helped numerous times at intersections when traffic lights malfunctioned or there is a power loss or didn't function at all.

We do all this plus our regular patrols through the neighborhoods, office complexes and shopping areas which we do everyday to act as eyes and ears for the Longwood Police Department. We volunteer because we are community oriented. Some of us work at our regular jobs and some of us are retired. The requirements are simple: (1) We give a minimum of 12 hours a month; (2) We live or work within the City limits; and (3) We pass a comprehensive background check. The only other requirement is a desire and ability to help.

Training starts with four or more weeks of class and continues with CPR, emergency response and traffic control. There are further classes and online training one can do additionally. I stress, we are volunteers, carry nothing but a radio and avoid responding to Police incidents unless requested specifically by the Police. We carry no weapons. Our patrol cars are donated by businesses and our uniforms and other equipment are covered by donations from the public or the City. Anything other than that, we pay for ourselves, including extra uniform shirts and pants.

We are always on the lookout for volunteers to join our nearly 40 men and women in the COP Program. If you want to help, get in touch with us because we need you. We have fun and have activities to keep us together.

By Lieutenant Hap Clark, COP #18



MUSTANG CAR SHOW
IN THE
CITY OF LONGWOOD

Mustang Show



On February the 27, 2016 the Mustang Club held their annual show in the city of Longwood. It is always a pleasure to do this show as they have so many Mustangs there. The show this year featured two hundred forty cars all the way from the first Mustang up to the newer models. They presented the city with a check for a Thousand dollars for our help with the show on April 27. On hand for the presentation were members from the Mustang Club, Police Department, Fire Department, Citizens on Patrol, CERTs and Leisure Services.

By COP Captain Aaron Holland



Photo of Lt. Mike Anderson (left) and Chief Eugene Gray (right)

A Tribute to Citizens On Patrol Lieutenant Mike Anderson

COP Lieutenant Mike Anderson began serving the citizens of Longwood as a volunteer Citizen On Patrol in September 2012. I remember the first time I met Mike during his initial training at the Police Department. He was a very respectful, quiet and soft spoken man of very few words. Mike was a doer and not a talker. Throughout the next three and a half years as I became more acquainted with Mike Anderson, I began to respect him greatly. He graciously volunteered to accept the enormous responsibility of managing the RUOK program for the Longwood Police Department. The RUOK program monitors, evaluates and checks on Longwood senior citizens who request this service. Mike routinely visited the RUOK members and always kept a protective watch over them through his many phone conversations and home visits. He made certain that every single RUOK member received regular visits from not only himself but other assigned Citizen On Patrol members and Longwood Police Officers. He was loved by all of the RUOK members and he genuinely loved each one of them. Lieutenant Anderson was in essence their "Sheep Dog."

I remember sometime last year when Mike took ill, I visited him in the hospital. As we had fellowship together, I asked him if he needed anything. He responded by saying that he just needed to get released from the hospital so he could check on his people, the RUOK members. Mike's heart and soul were invested in his people and he was dedicated and passionate about the Longwood RUOK program.

Just a few short months ago COP Lieutenant Mike Anderson passed away due to his protracted illness. All that know him are left with a giant void that only Mike could fill. The passionate work that Lieutenant Anderson was dedicated to continues on by the other wonderful members of the Citizens On Patrol. To us, Lieutenant Mike Anderson gave much, yet he asked for very little in return. His sensitive, gentle, caring, gracious and unselfish qualities made him the ideal person to be working as a volunteer in the Longwood Citizens On Patrol. We are all better people to have known Mike and will always carry his precious memory in our hearts and minds.

I continually recollect the last words that Mike, Cop Chief Eugene Gray, COP Commander George Moy and I exchanged just a few short days before Mike's passing. As I sincerely thanked Lieutenant Mike Anderson for his unselfish sacrifices and service to the City of Longwood, Citizens On Patrol and the RUOK program, while in an out of consciousness Mike mustered up a gracious smile in spite of his pain, and humbly replied, "Thank You!"

A light has gone out without so much as a flicker and all we have left is the precious memory of how brightly it burned and the warmth it gave us! My Friend, until we meet again rest in eternal peace in the loving arms of our Lord and Savior.

Written by: Troy K. Hickson, Longwood Director of Public Safety



CITY OF LONGWOOD EASTER EGG HUNT



The City of Longwood hosted the 2016 Magic 107.7 Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 26th from 9:30 a.m. until 12:00 noon. The event was kicked off with the “Bunny Breakfast” held at the Longwood Community Center Building from 8:30 a.m. until 10:30 a.m. Breakfast was open to everyone and the little ones 2 years and under got to eat free!

The free event featured multiple food services, games and egg hunts according to age groups. Hundreds of parents, aunts, uncles and grandparents came with the little ones in hand ready to find all those eggs and prizes. People told us at the COP Trailer that they come every year from Winter Springs, Apopka, Sanford and Lake Mary and that it is their favorite event of the year. One lady said she is from New York and tries to make it an annual activity with her grandchildren.

The Hunt ended with a visit from the Easter Bunny himself much to the delight of the little ones. Another great Longwood event enjoyed by all. Many thanks goes out to the traffic division of the Longwood Police Department for keeping us all safe and to the COP and CERT groups for their participation along with the many other groups who headed up various activities.

By COP Lieutenant Fran Leason



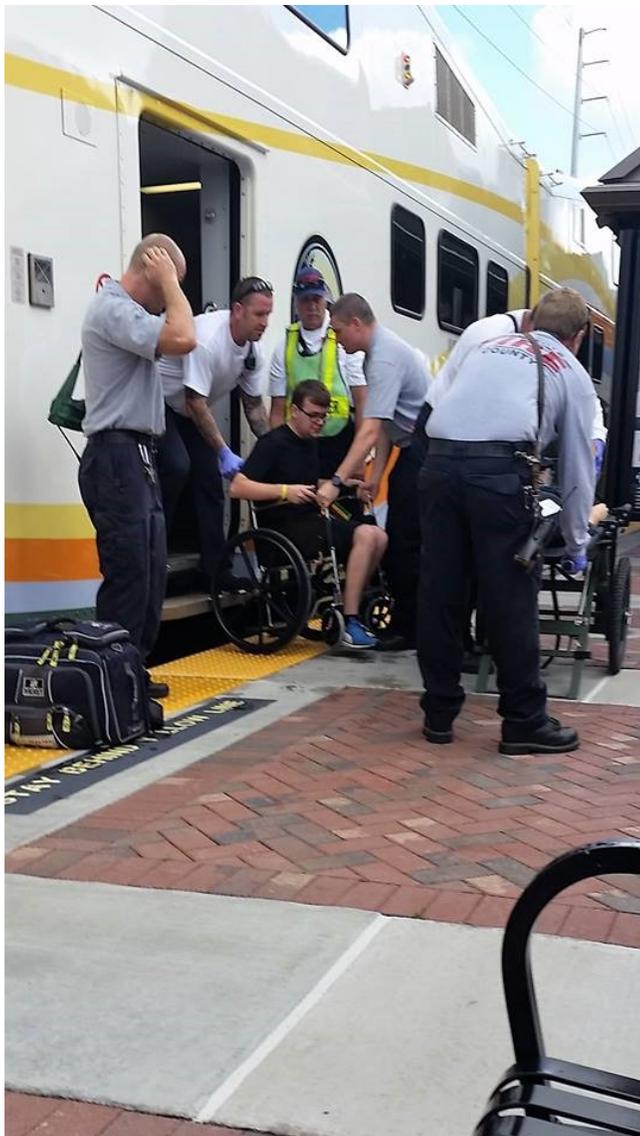


SEMINOLE COUNTY SUNRAIL EXERCISE



Everyone involved started arriving at the train station around seven thirty Saturday morning, April 23, 2016, for the Sunrail training exercise. There were Boy Scouts, Citizens On Patrol members, CERT members, County personnel, Police and people from the community. We signed in, were warned about metals and put into a holding area (the retention pond). We were then taken to the waiting train to get on board. After everyone was on board and seated, the organizers came around and gave some of the riders roles to play. Some had cuts, some bruises, some broken bones and some had been shot. Then the real exercise began. There were gunshots, yelling, screaming and running around trying to get off the train. After the train was secured by Police and Law Enforcement, the medics came to take care of the wounded and the deceased. They did bandages, stabilized broken bones and carried the victims away to care facilities. This was good training for everyone involved. It gave local police and fire teams a chance to work together with county personnel and medical responders. Additionally, it was fun, some of us are ready to do it again.

By Capt. Aaron Holland



COP Captain Holland refers to the picture below as "The Walking Dead"



CITIZENS ON PATROL
UPCOMING STAFF MEETINGS & EVENTS

By Commander Johnnie Richardson

Wearing of the COP uniform, unless otherwise authorized, is mandatory for all meetings. Staff Meetings are scheduled for August 9, September 13, October 11 and November 8. All Staff Meetings will begin at 7:00 p.m. and be held at the Longwood Elementary School. December 13th will be our Christmas Dinner and will be held at the Longwood Community Building. Don't forget the COP Christmas Parade on December 3!



LONGWOOD POLICE EXPLORERS
POST 212





Longwood Police Department

Explorer Post 212

David P. Dowda
Chief of Police

235 West Church Avenue
Longwood, FL 32750
Phone: (407) 260-3400
Fax: (407) 332-4780

The Longwood Police Explorer Post 212 is made up of fourteen teenagers, ranging from age 14-21. Much like the other explorer post in the area, we strive to teach these teenagers life skills and lessons to further their success as an adult.

We host meetings twice on a month, every other Monday. At these meetings we instruct all different aspects of law enforcement. For example, we teach them how to conduct building searches, vehicle stops, dusting for finger prints at a crime scene, driving under the influence, defensive tactic techniques. We also conduct a lot of role playing scenarios that allow the explorers to learn how to handle calls for service. Although, most explorers are members for an extra-curricular activity, we do have some that have goals and aspirations of becoming a police officer and use this as training.

Even if our explorers don't become police officers, being in this program looks great on a resume and will only help them obtain jobs and maybe even their career. This program has helped several of our explorer's land jobs while in high school. This program also is a part of the bright futures scholarship. This allows the explorer advisors to sign off on the community service hours as a part of the bright futures scholarship that is afforded to the high school students. There are several opportunities for the explorer to collect community service hours. Throughout the year we attend an estimated 15-18 events throughout the county, offering our assistance where it is needed.

Our explorer also have the opportunity to attend a two week long Police Explorer Academy in the summer months. This academy has a variety of different classes, all based on law enforcement. At the end of the two weeks they attend a graduation ceremony where they are awarded a certificate of completion. This academy mimics the very same one that all law enforcement officers go through before becoming a police officer.

In the program, we have a total of 4 explorer advisors. Right now they are Corporal Ryan Short, Officer Adam Bryant, Officer William Humphries and Officer Joe Rodriguez. All four of these advisors each have a hand in helping all of our explorers through the difficult time of being a teenager and becoming an adult. We want nothing but the best for each of our explorers and strive to guide them into a successful career.

SEARS REBUILDS SHED AT CANDYLAND PARK

In March, Sears employees and contractors came to Candyland Park in our City to rebuild our storage shed. They started by taking out the outside door along with the rotten steps and then took out the ramp for the golf cart. They then started inside the shed adding insulation, some siding and reworking everything. At lunch Commander George Moy, Lieutenant Maureen Duffy and Captain Aaron Holland of the Citizens On Patrol served all of the workers a lunch. After the lunch of meatball subs, sandwiches of turkey and ham, chips and drinks, they went back to work replacing the steps, door and a new ramp. During this period some were working outside while another crew was inside installing a new air condition system along with insulation and some painting. They did a wonderful job making a run down work area into a revamped great place to store our items needed for Candyland Park. This storage shed is now a source of pride! A special thanks goes out to Sears and their employees for their help!

By COP Captain Aaron Holland





CITIZENS ON PATROL “GET TO KNOW” DINNER

We enjoyed our 2nd annual “get to know” dinner June 4th in the Longwood School cafeteria, and we would like to thank everyone who attended. To those of you who missed it, we’re sorry that you were unable to attend.

We would also like to thank our Command Leadership, Public Safety Director Troy Hickson and his wife, Jennifer, and Police Chief David Dowda and his wife, Michelle, for attending our special Event.

We had many great dishes ranging from appetizers to desserts. Commander George Moy and COP Eduardo Rivera cooked delicious ribs for us. Lieutenant Maureen Duffy baked several chickens, again delicious; Auxiliary member Bob Langley brought a yummy sausage, bacon and cabbage casserole. There were many other mouth-watering side dishes, salads, deviled eggs and amazing desserts, all of which were super good. There were just too many to mention them all.

We would like to thank all of our COP and Auxiliary members who helped organize, set up, decorate, clean up and whatever else I can’t think of right now.

The idea for our theme of the evening, including providing all the supplies, setting up and decorating the tables, was our creative genius, Auxiliary member, Fran D’Alessandro, (thanks to hubby Don for the tablecloths).

Captain Aaron Holland and Lieutenant Ron Allegro handled the coolers, loading them with drinks and ice and hauling them to the cafeteria. Lieutenant Elsie Richardson took care of our entrance table and recorded members so we could account for our attendees. Sergeant Sheila Ayers and Auxiliary member, Gerry Stack, rolled our eating utensils, received and arranged the food and labeled the dishes. Bob and COP Vinny Stack put the heat lamp together and set it up for the meats, and Robbie Holland brought tea and lemonade.

Commander. Johnnie Richardson took pictures of the event, and we were so happy to have our own Chief Eugene Gray and his wife, Alta, with us.

Dinner came to a close around 8:00 p.m. and we were grateful for the help in breaking down and cleaning up. Auxiliary member, Gerry Stack, cleaned and stripped the tables and put all decorations, etc., neatly in boxes and bags. Sergeant Tom DeNegre helped Aaron and Ron load the coolers back up and Vinny, Bob and Gerry loaded all of the other items in vehicles for returning to the trailer for storage,.

If we have missed anyone, we apologize, but your help and support was greatly appreciated.

Another successful “get to know” dinner is over and we hope that we will have an even larger crowd next year. It is a great opportunity for all of us to get better acquainted and have fun at the same time.

By: COP Lt. Sandra Wallace & Sgt. Sheila Ayers





NEW COP RECRUITS COMPLETE THEIR INITIAL COP TRAINING



The COP Class 6-16 began on 12 February 2016 and ended on 5 March 2016 and was the smallest class to date of candidates to graduate from the Longwood Police and Citizens on Patrol Academy. The six new members of COP Class 6-16 received their certificates of completion at the May 2016 Staff meeting. The Certificates of Completion were handed out to each new COP member by Public Safety Director Troy Hickson and Commander Richardson. Director Hickson congratulated each of the new members on their recent accomplishment, mentioned how much he appreciated the time and effort they spent attending the COP Academy as volunteers, and thanked each of them for becoming a COP member. Commander Richardson also congratulated each of them for their initial training completion and stated that they were the smallest class, but asked the most questions pertaining to their COP activities, and listened attentively during the classroom presentations and during their final evaluations. He commended each of them for their unselfish completion of the Longwood Police and Citizens on Patrol Academy and welcomed them into the COP Organization. Please welcome our newest members into the COP Organization. They are COPs Ed Benore, Priscilla Haynes, Daryl Roberson, Tom Stuter, Dennis Volz and William Sparks.

By Commander Johnnie Richardson





YOUR PERSONAL SAFETY IS YOUR MOST IMPORTANT ASSET!



We at the Longwood Police Department have a vested interest in protecting all of our citizens, visitors and businesses. This also includes their personal property as well. It is common for thieves to break into homes and vehicles to make a quick buck. Most thieves are looking for high value items they can sell or pawn quickly. It is impossible to prevent all of the crime that occurs, however, with a few tips, you can help minimize the chances of you becoming a victim.

Let's talk about vehicles. First off, when at a business, it is always best to park as close to the building as possible. This ensures that you are parked in an area that has high foot traffic, or what the thieves see as witnesses. Typically, thieves will target vehicles that don't have anybody around them so they can work stealthily. Also, if a business has exterior surveillance cameras, it might be smart to park in the field of view of the camera. This increases your chance that a thief will not target your vehicle, for fear of being captured on video.

In the event a thief does look in your vehicle, you can minimize your probability of a break in by not leaving valuables in plain view. Most items that are stolen are purses, wallets, GPS systems, phones, tablets, laptops, etc. It is always a good idea to store these items out of view, so your vehicle and property isn't viewed as a quick score. Always keep in mind, a thief needs less than 10 seconds to smash a window, reach in, steal your property and be gone. Even running into a gas station for just a few moments is enough time for a thief to make off with your valuables. It's always a good idea to keep your property hidden.

A common vehicle theft ring in the State of Florida is known as "Felony Lane". They work in teams and frequent highly traveled parking lots, where multiple people on foot will blend in. In the Seminole County area, we have seen an increase in Felony Lane type vehicle burglaries. They usually take place in parking lots, shopping centers, day cares and parks, just to name a few. They use the tactic mentioned previously. They will often walk parking lots, looking into vehicles for potential items worth stealing. Once they have found a vehicle with property they want, they break the window, reach in and grab the property and are gone in seconds. Thieves are not looking to break into a vehicle and rummage around for a few minutes. A vehicle with nothing in plain view has a low probability of being broken into. They want to get in and get out quickly. If property is not in plain view, you greatly decrease your chances of becoming a victim.

Now let's talk about your home. What steps can we take to ensure our home does not become a target? The first thing to remember is that perception is very important. If your home appears to be unoccupied or not frequently visited, thieves may view your home as a target. You should be diligent in not letting newspapers pile up in your driveway or your mailbox overflow with mail. This has the potential to create the perception that the occupants are not home often, or possibly on vacation. Thieves might view this home as a target due to the chance they won't be interrupted. It's also smart to install motion detected flood lights on the corners of your house. Anyone who is walking on your property will likely be spooked by lights coming on. Thieves like to work in the cover of darkness. Keeping your home well lit will increase your odds of preventing a break-in. If you don't already have an alarm system, you might think of looking into installing a monitored alarm system. Alarm systems act as a great tool to prevent crime. Thieves will often be startled by the sound of an alarm and law enforcement will be notified and quickly respond to the area.

We hope that these helpful tips will make our community safer and we can all work together to prevent crime.
ALWAYS KEEP IN MIND, IF YOU SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING!

By: Longwood Police Officer, Cpl. Derek Chenoweth



WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN THE **CITIZENS ON PATROL “COP”** IN LONGWOOD? WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE A PARK RANGER?

To be eligible to become a COP, each individual must be at least 19 years of age, must be a resident of and reside within Seminole County or have a business and/or work within the City of Longwood, or be an employee of the City of Longwood. Must complete the Longwood COP Academy, consent to be fingerprinted, photographed, successfully pass a criminal background history check, successfully pass a drug screening and urinalysis test, possess a valid Florida drivers license and be able to volunteer a minimum of (12) hours a month as an Active COP Member.

If you have any

questions concerning the COP Program, please contact:

Chief Eugene Gray, (407) 399-7943 (Cell) or (407) 263-2330 (Office)

(Office Fax) (407) 260-3491

Email: hgray3@cfl.rr.com or hgray@longwoodfl.org

or

Commander Johnnie Richardson, (407) 454-0070 (Cell)

Email: j.richardson50@aol.com or j.richardson@longwoodfl.org



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Longwood Citizens on Patrol

CHRISTMAS



PARADE

DECEMBER 3, 2016



For more information
C.O.P. Chief Eugene Gray
Or
C.O.P. Lt. Audrey Karwandy
longwoodparade@longwoodfl.org





CHRISTMAS PARADE REMINDER

The Longwood Christmas Parade is December 3, 2016. We have been working on the Parade for the past six months and just wanted to remind you that the deadline for registering for the Parade this year is November 14th. Those spaces are filling up fast, so make sure you get your registration in soon to get a good placement in the Parade lineup. If you have any questions about the Parade, please contact COP Lt. Audrey Karwandy at akarwandy@longwoodfl.org. This is a wonderful way for everyone to spend a beautiful day together with family and friends, enjoy the parade, meet your neighbors and relax. Businesses, this is a great way for you to advertise for free! There is no charge to be in the Longwood Parade. Go online to www.longwoodfl.org and click on Christmas Parade on the lower left and follow the instructions. If you have any questions about the parade, please contact COP Lt. Audrey Karwandy at akarwandy@longwoodfl.org or 407-260-3436. Hope to see you at the Longwood Christmas Parade this December!

By COP Lt. Audrey Karwandy





JANUARY—JUNE CY-2016 COP & AUXILIARY
STATISTICAL REPORT

VOLUNTEER HOURS WORKED JANUARY THROUGH JUNE

Total Hours Worked This Period - 2,994

SUBDIVISIONS, RUOK, HOUSE, BUSINESS AND INDUSTRIAL
 AREAS CHECKED JANUARY THROUGH JUNE

Total Areas Checked This Period - 2,681



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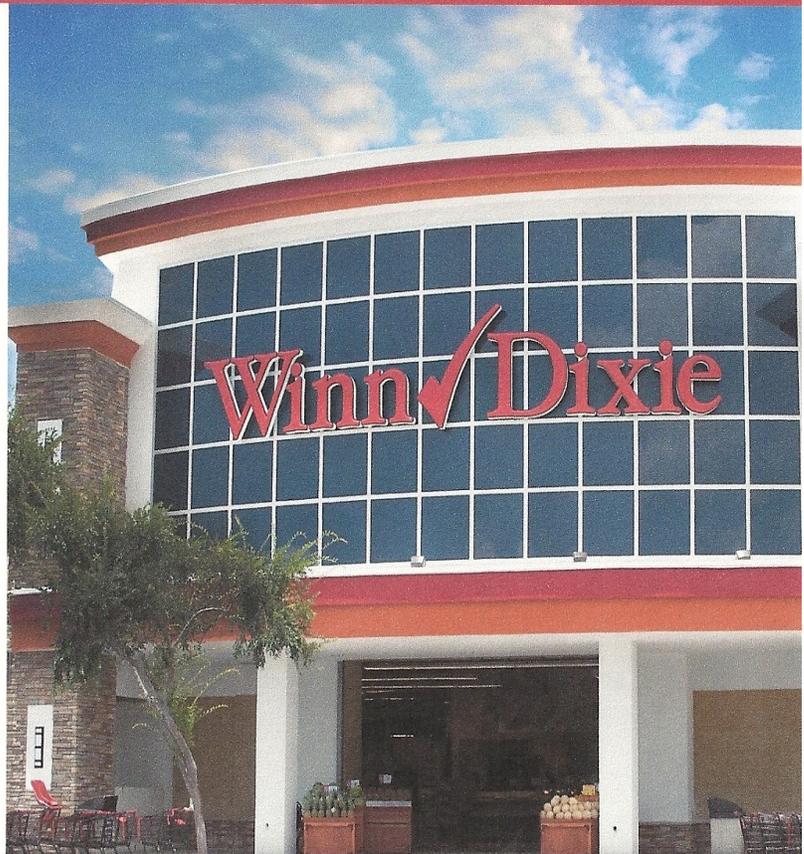
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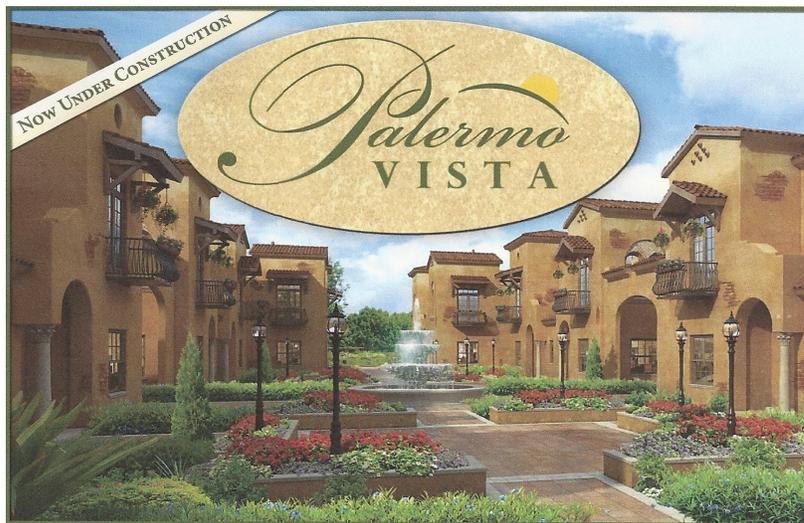
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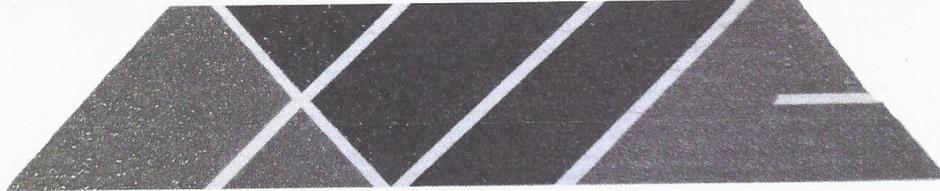
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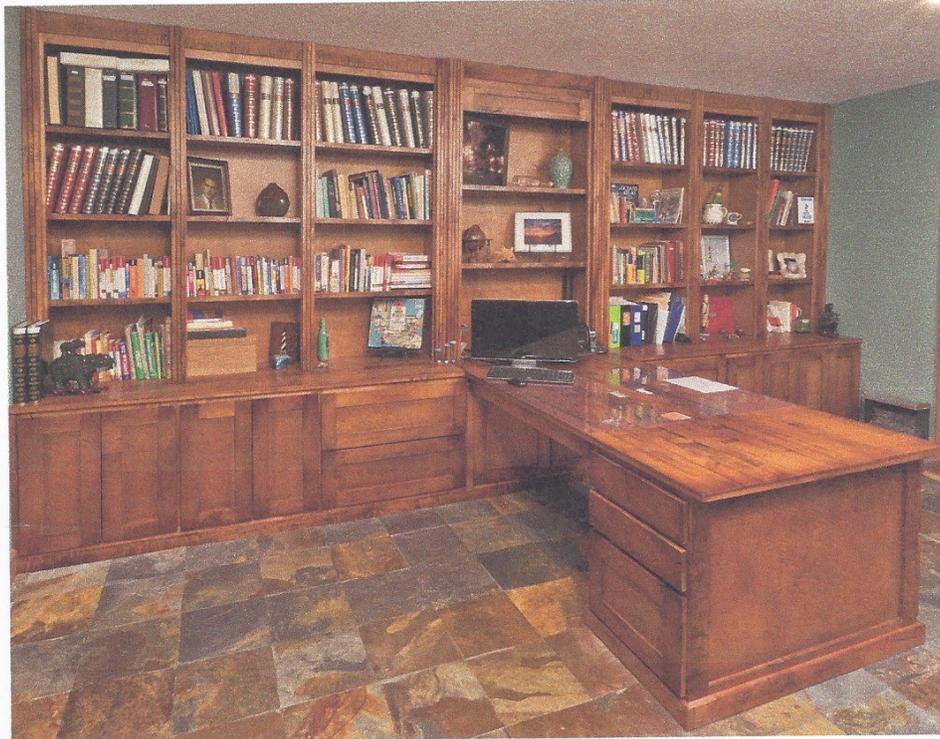
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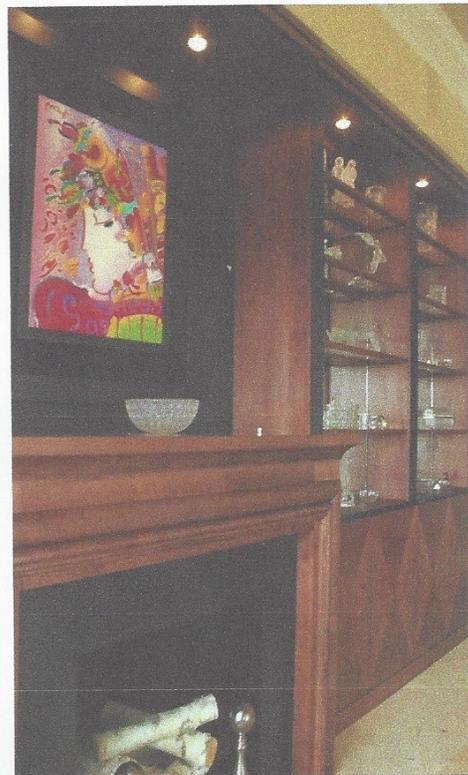
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