



COMMUNITY BRIEFING

Westminster Police Department

8200 Westminster Blvd., Westminster CA 92683

<http://www.westminster-ca.gov/depts/police/default.asp>

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Words from Chief Hall

Welcome to the *Community Briefing*. This issue highlights department activities during the first quarter of 2007. In it you'll see many new faces and a few "old" ones. A lot has taken place at the Department. We are saddened by the loss of one of our police chaplains, Ron Stephens, but encouraged by the addition of two others, Larry Pyle and Faátuiese Savusa. This brings the total number of chaplains to five.

I have now returned to my full-time duties as police chief and am no longer serving as Interim City Manager. The City has hired Ray Silver to be our new City Manager, and I have a great deal of confidence in him.

The year 2007 will be an exciting one for the WPD, and I am pleased to have the chance to share ideas with you. Thank you for your continued support, and please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of service to you in any way.

2006 "Citizen" and "Organization" of the Year!

On February 20, 2007, over 150 guests gathered at the Rose Center to honor recipients of the Westminster Chamber of Commerce Public Safety Award.



During the award luncheon, **Chief Andrew E. Hall** (middle) was honored as the "Citizen of the Year." He accepted the award from Chamber representatives Jennifer Gonzalez and Keith Morrisey.

The **Westminster Police Officers Association** (below) was honored as the "Organization of the Year." Congratulations to both!



Members of the WPOA and sponsor Tish Murry, Executive Director of the Boys & Girls Club of Westminster (bottom middle), were at hand to accept the award.

Two Sworn In as Police Chaplains Larry Pyle & Faátuiese Savusa

Pastor Larry Pyle (right) was sworn in on January 22, 2007, and he became a member of the WPD Chaplain Program. Larry is the Senior Pastor of the *Strong Tower Church*. One



of his many glowing references came from Governor Mike Huckabee of Arkansas, in which Larry was described as "a man of the utmost character and integrity."



Chaplain Faátuiese Savusa (bottom right) was sworn in on March 5, 2007, by **Chief Hall**. Faátuiese is the Senior Pastor of *The First Samoan Assembly of God Church*. He

was born in Nuuuli, Pago Pago, American Samoa, attended Aloha Bible College in Hawaii, and moved to Westminster in 1976. During that same year, he began working at *The First Samoan Assembly of God Church*. Faátuiese speaks Samoan and looks forward to helping our department whenever possible.

Westminster Police Officers Association (WPOA) Awards

On December 14, 2006, the Westminster Police Officers' Association (WPOA) honored deserving police employees during the annual WPOA Awards Banquet. As always, all winners are nominated and voted on by their peers and colleagues. Here are the results for 2006.

Supervisor of the Year
Sergeant Jim Kingsmill



Civilian Employee of the Year
Police Services Officer
Sergio Cruz



Rookie Officer of the Year
Officer Scott Gump



Athlete of the Year
Officer Michael Nguyen



Officer of the Year
Officer Van Woodson



Reserve Officer of the Year
Reserve Officer
Gary Hooper



Ron Weber Investigator of the Year
Detective Dave Ferronato



Congratulations to all award recipients!

The WPOA 2007 Board

President: Sergeant Dan Schoonmaker
Vice-President: Officer Al Brackett
Treasurer: Detective Dave Ferronato
Secretary: Special Services Clerk Doreen Van Lith
Board of Directors: Lieutenant Kevin Baker, Officer Bill Drinnin, Officer Alan Iwashita, Detective Cameron Knauerhaze, Detective Michael Ogawa, Officer Norma Vasquez, Sergeant Tim Vu, and Officer Don Webb.

Memorial Fundraiser Dinner on April 28, 2007

The WPOA is hosting a Memorial Fundraiser Dinner on **Saturday, April 28, 2007, from 6pm-10pm at the Rose Center.** The event will raise funds to build a police memorial which will stand for eternity to honor those who paid the ultimate price in public service.



Artist's rendition of the proposed memorial site (located within the Civic Center) and memorial statue.

The Memorial Fundraiser Dinner will include a no-host bar, catered dinner, entertainment, raffle, and live auction. Tickets are \$50 each, and all proceeds from the event will go towards the police memorial.

If you would like to attend, need information, or would like to make a contribution, contact **Sergeant Tom Finley by April 13, 2007**, at 714-898-3315, ext 341.

WPD CHAPLAIN PASSED AWAY

It is with sadness that we write about the passing of **WPD Chaplain Ron Stephens.** He lost his 2-year battle with cancer on March 4, 2007. He was 48. Ron is survived by his wife Marilee, daughter Lindsay, parents, sister, nephews, niece, and his WPD family.



Born in Arizona and raised in Las Vegas, Ron moved to Westminster in 1994 to become the Senior Pastor of Westminster Foursquare Church. Two years later, he became our Police Chaplain. Serving for over 10 years with his adopted law enforcement family, Ron was always available to console families and reassure officers with his presence. He truly enjoyed being a part of the department, and even was on the WPD Softball Team!

True Story: During a ride-along, Ron heard a sergeant yell "Get him!" just as a suspect ran past him. Thinking that it was an order to him (but it was really for the officer near him), Ron took off running after the suspect. He was the first, and last, Chaplain to ever catch a suspect!

Ron was a strong advocate for our city, department, and the police profession in general. Ron helped countless individuals deal with crisis, and his service to the citizens of Westminster as a police chaplain was exemplary. We will miss him greatly.

Update on the Use of Federal & State Funds

Three grant programs are currently in place at the WPD. Funds are dedicated to be used for distinct purposes, yet all contribute to our ability to provide better police services to the public.

Forensics Grant

Funds from the **U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ)** will be used this year to send our Forensic Services Technicians to training. Courses are being identified and more updates will be forthcoming.

DUI Grant

The **W.I.D.E.** (**W**estminster **I**mpaired **D**river **E**nforcement) program continues to reach our goals of arresting drunk drivers and educating the public on the dangers of driving under the influence. Recent 2006 statistics for DUI arrests are at an all time high of 552 arrests!



Funding for this program was provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Human Trafficking Grant

Lieutenant Derek Marsh, co-chair of the *Orange County Human Trafficking Task Force*, reports that about \$3,210 in grant funds from the **U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ)** have been used to send WPD officers to training on investigative techniques in prostitution and human trafficking investigations.



Did you know? **Lieutenant Marsh** was invited to speak to the

U.S. Department of Homeland Security subcommittee on border, maritime, and global terrorism at Washington D.C. on March 20, 2007. He testified on the local law enforcement perspective of human trafficking, described working relationships with federal agencies, identified current challenges for the police, and recommended legislative and funding changes for the future.

WPD Community Involvement Beyond Policing

“Read Across America”



On February 26, 2007, several WPD police officers spent the morning reading to students in Finley Elementary School as part of the 3rd annual **Read to America** day.

The purpose of the program is to convey the importance of reading and how it applies to various professions, including law enforcement.



Above: Officer Rachel Archambault captivated her audience. Top: Officer Van Woodson answered questions about police work.

Each officer (such as *Officer Rich Mize*) read a *Dr. Seuss* book and answered questions from the students. Most of the questions were centered on what it takes to become a police officer. Our offi-

cers reinforced the importance of reading and writing, and explained how these skills play a major role in their success on the job.

Special Awards And Community Recognition



Westminster Chamber of Commerce Public Safety Awards

Officer Bill Drinnin was recognized for his many contributions to the WPD. As a Motor Officer in 2006, Bill wrote 1,367 traffic violations, impounded 68 vehicles from suspended or unlicensed drivers, investigated over 30 traffic collisions, and, perhaps most importantly, arrested 67 drunk drivers.



Officer Bill Drinnin accepted his award from Chamber representatives Jennifer Gonzalez and Keith Morrissey.

Bill is also a coordinator for the WPD Chaplain Program, the team captain of the WPD Honor Guard, a sniper on the West Orange County SWAT team, and a director for the Westminister Police Officers Association. In addition, he volunteers as a member of the Shelter for the Homeless Developmental Team.

Sergeant Marcus Frank (retired) was also honored for his long service as a law enforcement officer in the area of Asian gangs and organized crime investigations.

A police officer for over 26 years in Westminster, Marcus spent over 19 of those years dedicated to

fighting crime impacting our Asian community in Little Saigon. Due to his expertise, Marcus has been asked to provide information to the *President's Commission on Organized Crime*, has testified on Asian criminal enterprises for the *California Governor's Commission on crime*, and for the California State Senate Sub-Committee on drug trafficking. Marcus has won numerous prestigious awards for his education and research efforts, and has provided training across the country, Canada and Vietnam.



Retired Sergeant Marcus Frank (left) posed with Chief Hall after receiving his Public Service Award.

Forensic Services Technician Sara Nguyen was recognized for her work in the Forensic Service Unit (FSU). She was given the responsibilities of running FSU, training new employees, managing a large backlog of cases, and managing a grant awarded to the department.

By the end of 2006, FSU had processed over 550 pieces of evidence, taken over 2,400 crime scene photographs, and classified and processed over 8,500 latent fingerprint cards. Sara had trained four new employees and managed the use of \$34,000 worth of new equipment obtained through grant funding. Sara also volunteered to run the one-of-a-kind **CSI Explorer Post**, which introduces and instructs youth explorers about a career in Police Forensic Sciences.



Chief Andy Hall's long-standing, exceptional record of public service in Westminster and participation in community-based programs can be traced to his genuine care and concern for people. He quietly defends and assists those less fortunate, volunteering in a hands-on fashion with numerous community service organizations, such as *St. Anselm's Cross-Cultural Community Center, Abrazar, Kiwanis Club, Boys & Girls Club of Westminster*, and others.



MADD Award

On February 28, 2007, *Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD)* recognized four WPD officers for their work in arresting drunk drivers during the year of 2006.



These officers were honored during the City Council Meeting: (from left to right) **Officer Scott Gump** (28 arrests), **Officer Nick Tran** (30 arrests), **Officer Paul Walker** (64 arrests), and **Officer Bill Drinnin** (69 arrests).

29th District American Legion Law & Order Awards

Sergeant Darin Upstill and **Officer Al Brackett** were honored on March 22, 2007, at the 29th District American Legion Law & Order Awards. Sergeant Upstill was nominated for the *Award of Valor* for his valiant actions during a SWAT operation. Officer Brackett was nominated for the *Award of Merit* for his outstanding service to

the WPD Police Explorer program, the "Every Fifteen Minutes" program, and the countless hours of volunteer service provided to the community.

Narcotics Seizure

In February 2007, **Sergeant Tom Finley** and detectives from the **Crimes Against Public** unit arrested a male who was using a hydroponics system to grow marijuana inside his rented house.



The detectives seized approximately 10 pounds of finished marijuana that were packaged for sale (highest quality available), 72 marijuana seedlings, and a vehicle used to commit drug sales.



Thanks to their investigation, another drug dealer who was manufacturing marijuana in our city was put away in jail!

Traffic Bureau Your Question

Q: "What are some of the new traffic laws that came into effect on January 1, 2007?"

A: Here are a few new laws that every driver should know about.

"Trunking"— California Vehicle Code (CVC) Section 21712(c) prohibits drivers from knowingly allowing a person to ride in the trunk. CVC Section 21712(d) specifically prohibits a person from riding in the trunk.

“Reckless Driving / Racing”—CVC Section 23105 provides for increased penalties for first conviction of reckless driving or engaging in a speed contest resulting in specified injuries to a person other than the driver.

“DUI: Under 21 Years of Age”—CVC Section 23136 replaces a previous law (CVC 13390) and makes this offense an infraction subject to criminal fines.

“DUI License Suspension”—CVC Section 13352.1 increases the mandatory driver license suspension period to ten months for persons convicted of a first offense of DUI if the individual’s blood alcohol concentration level was .20% or greater.



**Reminder:
Headlight Use**

Since 2005, CVC mandates that drivers must use headlamps during darkness *and* when driving conditions require windshield wipers to be on continuously. So, remember to turn on your lights when driving in the rain!

**NATIONAL VOLUNTEER
WEEK (APRIL 15-21)**



WPD will celebrate the upcoming *National Volunteer Week* and honor seven individuals who have made a difference for the police department. Throughout last year, they have selflessly offered their time and skills without any monetary benefits. Our volunteers perform various tasks, allowing officers and civilian personnel to focus on policing and enforcement. We salute (left to right) **John Correll, Wanda Bell, Max Poper, Doris Schoonmaker, John Goto,** (not pictured) **Andrea Fuentes, Don Kerr, and Jennifer Takayama!**

Fact or Myth?

Frequently Asked Questions

Let this column help separate facts and myths about police work!

***Myth.** If you are involved in a traffic accident, you must leave the vehicles exactly where they are so the police can see what happened.*



***Fact.** NO! If the vehicles can be moved safely out of the lanes of traffic, motorists are encouraged to do so. Otherwise, the officer will have the vehicles moved shortly after they arrive on scene. If there is serious injury and/or fatality at the accident, leave the cars where they came to rest.*

***Myth.** Only marked police cars can pull people over. If there are no light bars or flashing lights, you don't have to stop.*



***Fact.** Wrong. Any police vehicle can initiate a car stop. However, if one is unsure if the vehicle is in fact a police officer, pull over in a lighted area, such as a gas station or shopping center or any place in public view. Remain in your vehicle and ask for identification (for plain clothes officers) if you don't feel safe.*

Missed our last issue?

You can now read and print past issues of the *Community Briefing* on our website! Go to www.westminster-ca.gov, click on “Police Department” for a link to the WPD homepage. You can find the newsletters under “Community Outreach.”

Front Counter Hours

7:00am – 7:00pm, Every Day

Phone Number

714-898-3315, extensions 371, 372, 373, 374, or 375

Easter Is No Time to Give Pets as Gifts!

Animal Control Officers Karen Pickl and Eric Ruvalcaba want to remind parents to avoid impulse buys of bunnies, chicks, ducks or any new pet during Easter. Every year, animal shelters receive a surge of unwanted

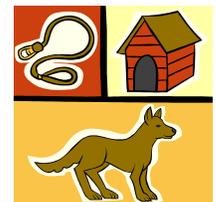


Easter pets that are given up after the owners have lost interest or are unable to care for them.

NEW LAW:

Effective January 1, 2007, it is against the law (**Health and Safety Code 122335**) to tether or chain a dog to a stationary object exceeding a reasonable period (i.e., more than 3 hours in a 24-hour period or otherwise approved by animal control).

Yes, this means that dog owners cannot tie up a dog to a dog-house, tree, fence or any other stationary object for more than 3 hours a day!



If you are concerned about a dog who is frequently tethered or otherwise left outside without proper shelter, food, or water, please contact **Animal Control at 714-898-3315, ext. 364.** If the pet lives outside of Westminster, you will have to notify that city's animal control department.

Police Department News

Officer of the Month October 2006



Officers Steve Booth (left) and Mark Lauderback (right) responded to a residence regarding a man who refused to leave. They found the man at the front door with his back to them. The man kept his hand at his waist, claimed to have a gun, and refused the officers' orders. The officers took the threat of the gun very seriously, but they showed restraint and used a non-lethal weapon (Taser) to subdue the man. Their training and teamwork brought a dangerous situation to a peaceful end.

Officer of the Month November 2006



Sergeant Mark Nye was driving through a mobile home complex in pursuit of two robbery suspects. Sgt. Nye spotted a suspicious man carrying a purse and questioned him. The man was extremely evasive, concocting stories about whom the purse belonged to, not having any ID, and providing a false name and address. Feeling Sergeant Nye's pressure, the man provided an accurate phone number that led Sergeant Nye to the man's mother, who then provided the man's true identity. The man was arrested for providing false information and for \$35,000 in outstanding warrants. A set of car keys were found on the man,

which implicated him in a stolen car case from the City of Norwalk. The purse he was originally carrying was linked to the stolen vehicle. Further questioning by Sergeant Nye resulted in information leading to the recovery of a Huntington Beach carjacked vehicle, as well as information regarding the other carjacking suspect, another stolen vehicle, and a home burglary. A long, but excellent and thorough investigation!

Employee of the Month November 2006



You first heard of **Police Dispatcher Jessica Parsons'** quick thinking and excellent memory in the last issue of the *Community Briefing* when she received a Quality Service Award. Her efforts were so inspiring that she was voted Employee of the Month! Here is a quick synopsis: While getting her daily coffee, she recognized a customer as a wanted suspect in several robbery and forgery cases. Dispatcher Parsons quickly relayed the information to Lieutenant Jack Davidson, who placed the suspect under arrest for outstanding warrants. The arrestee's girlfriend was also held for possession of narcotics.

Officer of the Month December 2006



Officer Brian Marlow responded to two burglary calls involving the same van. He spotted the van, followed it, and saw a passenger

throw out an object as it turned into a cul de sac. Officer Marlow made the initial car stop and waited for backup. His investigation revealed that the van had been carjacked out of Anaheim earlier in the day, and property from the burglaries was recovered. Officers even found the loaded handgun that was thrown out of the vehicle! All five occupants of the van were arrested. Great job!

Officer of the Month January 2007



Officer Alan Iwashita stopped a vehicle for a traffic violation, and asked the driver for a driver license. The driver stalled for a while and eventually presented a license. Sensing that something was wrong, Officer Iwashita did a records check and found that the license was reported stolen a week prior. Subsequent investigation and a search led to the discovery of other stolen property, methamphetamine, drug paraphernalia, and 32 Ecstasy pills. Excellent work!

Officer of the Month February 2007



Officer J. Flores



Officer R. Reyes

Multiple officers responded to a burglary in progress. When they arrived, the suspect had locked himself inside the victim's car. **Officers Jose Flores, Ryan Reyes, Alan Iwashita, Brian Mayer, Alan Emerson, and Kyle Seasock** sealed off all avenues of escape and took up positions of cover. The suspect ignored over

130 commands to exit and surrender. The suspect was a parolee and wanted to be killed via “suicide by cop.” He deliberately baited officers into shooting him by simulating he had a gun.



Officer A. Iwashita Officer B. Mayer

The officers stayed calm, utilized less lethal weaponry (i.e., bean bag shotgun and tasers), swarmed the suspect, and made the arrest. All officers displayed great tactics, communication, and teamwork in bringing a volatile situation to a peaceful conclusion. Good job!



Officer A. Emerson Officer K. Seasock

Quality Customer Service Award

Police Officer Lauren Tromp



Officer Lauren Tromp responded to a call about a girl who was stranded at a local gas station. Apparently, the girl was in the restroom when her father accidentally drove away thinking she was still in the back seat sleeping. The girl had no idea where she was and had no money. Lauren drove the girl to the police station and helped arrange for a ride. Worried that the girl may be hungry, Lauren stopped at McDonald’s and bought the girl a meal with her own money. Thanks, Lauren, you went above and beyond! We appreciate your sensitivity and compassion!

Police Officer Al Brackett

Officer Al Brackett participated in “Shop with a Cop” in December 2006 and was paired with an underprivileged child. The child had three siblings, one of which was hospitalized and undergoing chemotherapy. His father, who had been the sole provider for the family, was also in the hospital. During the shopping trip, the child ran out of his allotted money before purchasing a gift for his sick brother. Without hesitation, Officer Brackett used his own money and paid for a toy for the sick brother. He made sure that everyone would have a Christmas gift.



New Faces at WPD

Dispatcher-in-Training

Erica Solis joined the WPD family on January 22, 2007, as a full-time Police Dispatcher. She was sworn in by Chief Hall in front of family and friends.



Erica has worked as a Patient Account Representatives for a hospital, but she is not a stranger to law enforcement. Erica is related to 2 of our police officers!

Crime Prevention Tip from WPD

DONATION TO CHARITY

The best way to give is to donate directly to a charity or organization you know. Before you donate, follow some important guidelines:

Don't be afraid to ask questions

- Question the purpose for the fundraising.
- Ask about the actual charity who will benefit from your donation.
- Find out what percentage of your donation goes to the cause.
- Request ID and brochures or flyers.
- Ask for written information about the charity.
- Contact the charity to verify program described.

Watch out for Scams

- Beware of similar sounding names that look or sound like legitimate charities.
- If you receive a matching check appeal, you are under no obligation to contribute.

Give Wisely

- Do not give cash.
- Write the check to the organization or charity, not the person soliciting your money
- Call the charity to confirm the solicitor is authorized.
- Keep records of your donations.
- Be wary of groups that offer to pick up your donation; they should have an official mailing address.
- Refuse high pressure appeals - legitimate charities won't rush you.

Westminster Police Officers Association Events & News

A 36-36 “Tie” in the Football Rematch!



The **rookies** (worked less than five years) finally stopped the **old timers** (worked more than 5 years)

from extending their winning streak! Alas, the hard fought battle in the field ended in a dead heat.

Sport Challenge Scoreboard

3	0	1
OLDTIMERS	ROOKIES	TIE

The rookies started quickly with a 16-0 lead after just six minutes into 1st quarter. The old timers quickly regrouped and scored twice before halftime. From then, it was a see-saw battle throughout the game.



Down by 6 points with less than three minutes to go, the old timers successfully drove 55 yards and completed a 12 yard touchdown



with just 24 seconds on the clock. The decisive moment came when the old timers

missed the extra point, ending the game in a tie!

Voted Organization of the Year!

The Westminster Chamber of Commerce honored the WPOA as **2006 Organization of the Year!**

Members of the WPOA are dedicated to serving the community. They lend their support to numerous local organizations including: The Westminster Boys and Girls Club, Shelter for the Homeless, the Westminster Kiwanis Club, the La Quinta and Westminster High School Grad Night committees, Westminster Junior All-American Football and Cheerleading, the Special Olympics, and the American Cancer Society Relay for Life.

The WPOA has also provided a free basketball program to hundreds of Westminster children for the past five years. Members act as coaches, referees, score-keepers, and cheering section for the children who participate in the program. Perhaps the most important aspect of the program is the relationship the officers build with the children of the community.



Each Christmas, the WPOA and Wal-Mart provide the **Shop-With-A-Cop** program for underprivileged children in the community. The children arrive at the store, eat breakfast, take a picture with Santa Claus, and then go on a \$100 shopping spree with a police officer, and receive a gift card to a local supermarket.



"Fab Four" Concert

As part of the fundraising efforts for the construction of a Police Officers Memorial, **The Fab Four** performed in a benefit concert for the WPOA Memorial Foundation right before Christmas in 2006!



Fans of The Fab Four, a Beatles tribute band, were treated to a wonderful concert and helped raised funds during the live auction at intermission. This **"sold out"** event raised over \$18,000 for our Memorial Foundation!

All of us at the Westminster Police Department would like to extend a warm welcome to our new **City Manager, Ray Silver.**



Police Department Phone Numbers

If you have an emergency, call 9-1-1!



For non-emergency or other business, call (714) 898-3315

General Information	ext. 425
Dispatch	ext. 326
Records Bureau	ext. 371
Traffic Division	ext. 339
Administration	ext. 301

E-mail List

If you would like to be on our newsletter e-mail list, please let us know by sending your name and e-mail address to admin@ewpd.org.



**Mayor Margie L. Rice
Mayor Pro Tem Kermit Marsh
Councilman Frank Fry
Councilman Andy Quach
Councilman Tri Ta**

We want to express our sincere appreciation to the Westminster City Council for their support and commitment to public safety!

Community Briefing is a newsletter produced quarterly by the Westminster Police Department. Its main purpose is to share information about the Department with the community we serve.

Further questions or comments regarding the contents of this newsletter should be forwarded to the Research & Planning Unit at (714) 898-3315 ext. 460 or admin@ewpd.org.