



COMMUNITY OUTREACH REPORT

ISSUE 02

APRIL-MAY-JUNE 2020

IN THIS ISSUE

Sheriff Auxiliary 02

Outreach Events 03

Outreach Programs 04

Outreach Programs 04



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The mission of the Community Outreach Unit is to facilitate effective and meaningful relationships between the Sheriff's Office and our community partners.

The Outreach Unit is responsible for monitoring and tracking community events and ensuring consistency in outreach efforts

The monthly Outreach report provides a summary of the various activities, crime prevention efforts and community collaborations which have taken place.

The Sheriff's Office is committed to supporting and assisting local businesses, schools and citizen groups that are interested in establishing and/or continuing crime prevention and educational programs that will benefit our community. Working together we can continue our collective efforts to reduce crime and the fear of crime for all who live, work or visit our diverse communities.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAMS

Sheriff Auxiliary

The Outreach Unit runs the Sheriff Auxiliary program for CCSO. There are currently 31 volunteer citizens who engage in regular patrol activities as an “extra set of eyes” for deputies. In addition to volunteer patrols, Sheriff Auxiliary personnel serve as ambassadors for CCSO, are active participants in neighborhood crime prevention events, NA meetings and civic gatherings. They also serve as vetted “role players” for Enforcement and Corrections staff. The Disabled Parking Patrol Volunteers have a limited commission that allows them to monitor and enforce Handicapped Parking Access Statutes.

- All Sheriff Auxiliary patrol activities, events and meetings were canceled due to the pandemic. In April, we started a phone patrol for the Senior Wellness Check program (see pg. 4). This allowed Auxiliary to continue volunteering from the safety of their homes. In **April**, Auxiliary volunteered 15 hours; **May**- 51 hours; **June**- 45.25 hours.
- Sergeant Allais took over tagging abandoned vehicles. In **April**, there were 103 abandoned vehicles. Of those; 27 were already gone, 74 were tagged and then moved and 2 were towed. In **May**, there were 61 abandoned vehicles. Of those; 25 were moved, 30 were tagged and then moved and 6 were towed. In **June**, there were 55 abandoned vehicles. Of those; 24 vehicles were already gone, 28 were tagged and then moved and 3 were towed.
- On June 10th, we held a meeting with the CRESA Emergency Mgt. Coordinator, via Webex video conferencing, to discuss the impact of COVID-19 in Clark County. Eight Auxiliary members attended the meeting.

Challenging Times Made Easier by Caring Community

The COVID-19 pandemic changed how we do everything-and without much notice. As the nation began to shut down to stop the spread of the virus, hundreds of homemade face masks were donated by various citizens and groups for CCSO staff, even before they were mandated to be worn.

And then came civil unrest in May with demands to defund the police. Our community responded with thank you cards and treats to show their support and appreciation for our deputies (cover photo). We also had citizens calling to ask how they could help!

We sincerely appreciate and are grateful for the outpouring of community support.

Explorer Post #893

The Clark County Sheriff's Office, in partnership with Learning for Life, has sponsored law enforcement Exploring since 1971. The Explorer program offers youth a fun, hands-on opportunity to learn about careers in law enforcement while developing their growth and character.

Explorer activities were cancelled in April, May and June.

OUTREACH EVENTS



APRIL-MAY

Patrol squads did several roll-by birthday celebration surprises complete with balloons and the “happy birthday song” for kids who weren’t able to have birthday parties due to COVID. Sheriff Atkins joined in on one of the celebrations.

MAY 27

Deputy Childers conducted our first ever virtual Neighborhood Watch meeting via Zoom. 41 people participated.

JUNE 6

The Sheriff’s Office team had 32 team participants in the Law Enforcement Torch Run and raised \$2,084 for Special Olympics. The overall goal was to raise \$20,200 and together all agencies raised \$49,900. <https://impact.sowa.org/team/296719>.

JUNE 20

Sheriff Atkins was a guest speaker on the virtual panel discussion centered around racial justice at the annual Juneteenth Celebration held by the Vancouver NAACP chapter. Many questions focused on accountability at the sheriff’s office. To read the article in The Columbian, visit <https://www.columbian.com/news/2020/jun/20/naacp-vancouver-celebrates-virtual-juneteenth/>.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAMS



Senior Wellness Check Program

Senior Wellness Check program was started in April to help seniors who are isolated and homebound have some reassurance that somebody is checking on them. Sheriff Auxiliary members are paired with seniors who sign-up for the program and mutually agree on a time to call each day. Many of our Auxiliary are seniors themselves. Sgt. Allais and Auxiliary member Renee Fillmore were interviewed about the new program on the KGW news on April 9th. It was also advertised in The Columbian newspaper: <https://www.columbian.com/news/2020/apr/08/clark-county-sheriffs-office-program-offers-check-in-with-isolated-seniors/>.

Our first senior enrolled on April 15th. It grew to 18 within a few weeks. To be in the program, seniors fill out an application and sign a liability waiver in the event that law enforcement is called to do a welfare check.

Seniors And Law Enforcement Together

S.A.L.T. is a partnership between the Clark County Sheriff's Office, Camas Police Department, Vancouver Police Department and the senior citizens living in Clark County. The S.A.L.T. program is a nationally recognized community policing initiative that provides crime prevention education and awareness and health and wellness information for seniors through meetings, events and a free monthly newsletter.

The S.A.L.T. meetings were cancelled due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

The S.A.L.T. Times newsletter is distributed monthly by mail to 846 recipients and 190 by email. It is also available online at www.clark.wa.gov/sheriff/seniors-and-law-enforcement-together. Currently, the newsletter is the only form of communication about scams and other relevant information for our older residents with the S.A.L.T. program.

Problem-Solving

In June, Sharon (not her real name) contacted the Outreach Unit via the S.A.L.T. program because she believed she was the victim of fraud.

With a limited, fixed income, Sharon was devastated by the loss of nearly \$1,400. Her bank would not refund the money because it was considered a valid payment for an insurance policy and not fraud.

She had filed a police report with a different agency, but had not been able to resolve the case and it was becoming time sensitive. That's when we contacted Detective Shields, our Fraud Detective, to see if he could help. And that's exactly what he did.

Even though it wasn't his case, he put his great detective skills to work. It was a confusing case, which turned out to be a billing error, but due to Detective Shields' efforts Sharon will get a full refund from her insurance company.

We are thankful for Detective Shields and his dedication to helping victims of fraud and all of his Outreach efforts with our senior community.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAMS



The Sheriff's Office has increasingly participated with PAL (Police Activities League).

The closing of schools abruptly changed the ability to do regular PAL activities, such as the literacy events, so many activities were done virtually.

<https://www.facebook.com/PALofSWWA/>



During this quarter, CCSO helped with;

- Lunch distribution at Fruit Valley and Orchards Elementary
- Sewing projects with Deputy Lau on Fridays
- Summer camps (science and sports)
- Storytime with PAL
- Rock Solid Teen Zoom Call Mentoring



This Month's (May) Volunteer Spotlight is Bethany Lau!

Bethany Lau, formally awarded with Law Enforcement Volunteer of the Year, has been such an amazing asset to our PAL team. She is always willing to help us, volunteer with us, and participate in all PAL events she is able to. Recently, with the inability to bring literacy events to elementary schools, Bethany has been recording several videos for us to be able to post on social media. She has made herself a fort in her house where she reads children's books, as well as reading chapters of Matilda that are posted every Friday. She has been so willing to help us out during this crazy time. She is always joyful, and her love of working with children shows in her work.

We appreciate you Bethany! Thank you for all you do for us!

-PAL