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the city of lakewood newsletter

YOUR NEW LAKEWOOD POLICE DEPARTMENT IS UP AND RUNNING

Beginning September 7 the highly skilled and dedicated Officers of the new Lakewood Police Department took over policing responsibilities for three of the City's six police districts. At the same time the City also took over traffic enforcement and special operations throughout Lakewood. On November 1 the Department became fully operational is now responsible for all aspects of policing for the citizens of Lakewood.

environment for our children. They can be found in both high schools and middle schools.

Operational Highlights

During the first several weeks of operations, the new Department has already taken part in some major law enforcement operations.

Lakewood Special Operations recently played a major role in the apprehension of the infamous "Wheelchair Bandit", so named because of his pronounced limp and a wheelchair spotted in his get away van, he was wanted for a series of armed robberies in Tacoma. There was serious concern because he was becoming increasingly aggressive during the robberies.

Special Operations completed their first prostitution "John" operation. They made a total of 19 arrests for prostitution: 16 Johns and 3 prostitutes. Three guns and over 150 grams of marijuana were seized during this operation.

The Department also focused on the Sage Terrace Apartment complex, which has been the site of major crime activity for the past six months. As a result of a warrant sweep at the complex, five arrests were made. This was done in cooperation between the Police and the new property management team, who have been hired by the owner to clean up the complex.

On October 13, Lakewood successfully reactivated the nationally recognized Raising the Bar program, a joint venture of Lakewood Police Officers along with the Fire Marshal and Washington State Liquor Control agents. Local bars are now regularly checked by this team.

Our Neighborhood Patrol Officer program is again gaining momentum and new Neighborhood Patrol Officers (NPOs) will be named by the end of the year. Plan to attend your next neighborhood association meeting (see page 3 for information) and get to know your Neighborhood Officers.

If you have questions about your new Police Department, contact them by phone at 830-5000 or e-mail at police@cityoflakewood.us.



Officer Sandall shows local kids the inside of a police car during the Open House and Halloween Safety Fair.

The Department formally kicked-off in September with a commissioning ceremony for the first 64 Officers of the new force. More than 300 citizens and family members came to celebrate the Department's new Officers.

The Department also hosted an Open House and Halloween Safety Fair on October 29 as part of its focus on community outreach and providing safe alternatives for our children.

Lakewood Police Operations

The Lakewood Criminal Investigation Unit (CIU) is made up of three units: homicide, assault, arson and robbery make up one unit; the special assault unit is the second unit; and the proactive property crime team, the third. Over the past several years, the citizens of Lakewood have seen a 45% drop in violent crime in the City. CIU intends to increase its focus on property crime and will work to create the same type of drop in crime rates on property crime issues that they have seen in the violent crime area.

The traffic unit is responsible for all traffic enforcement and collision investigations in the City of Lakewood. The Lakewood traffic unit will be teaming up with Pierce County DUI emphasis patrols throughout the year.

Lakewood School Resource Officers are working closely with the Clover Park School District administration to help create a safe learning

To keep up on the latest happenings in Lakewood, sign up to receive City Happenings. City Happenings is the City's bi-weekly mini-newsletter published every other Friday. You can subscribe on-line at www.cityoflakewood.us in the News section.

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