



# Leesburg Police Citizens Support Team

## Monthly Newsletter April – August, 2018

### Leesburg Flower and Garden Festival - 20-21 April

The annual Flower and Garden Festival was blessed this year with two beautiful days of temperate weather and record crowds. Six Support Team members (Maggie Longhurst, Deb Walczak, Vicky Petty Nawrath, Jan Hepburn, Chris Miller, and Ray Delpesche) took shifts of foot patrol at the event over the two days. Chris and Maggie were contacted by a vendor who found a purse left behind by a customer. They took custody of the purse and transported it to the centrally-located gazebo, where it was reunited with its owner. Later, Chris' wife, Alejandra, located a little girl who had become separated from her parents. Chris and Maggie radioed her find to the police officers at the gazebo and headed there again with the young girl. Along the way, they encountered an officer with the child's father and the father and daughter were reunited. Also during the festival, Maggie and Jan were called into traffic control duty to help monitor and clear traffic from the Town and County parking garages. Great job, all Team members, and thank you for your volunteerism!

### Get Smart 5K Race - May 5

Steve Hood assisted Leesburg Police officers in controlling traffic for this fundraising foot race in NE Leesburg.

### Volunteer Fair - May 19

Support Team members Jan Hepburn (ST-10) and Steve Hood (ST-4) set up a promotional table at this event and recruited for new Team members. Several interested adults stopped by and took applications.







## Vehicle Pinball! ST-4 is First on Scene

On the afternoon of May 25, Steve Hood (ST-4) was parked in the parking lot of the Giant grocery on East Market Street when he suddenly observed several cars crashing in the lot, directly in front of him. Steve quickly radioed the Leesburg Police dispatcher and ran to check for injuries. According to the statement of an elderly woman driving one of the cars, her brakes failed and she crashed into the rear of one car, pushing it into another car in the lot. Her car then continued forward and sideswiped another car. The woman claimed no injuries, but Loudoun Fire and Rescue vehicles soon arrived to check her out and make sure the scene was safe. Leesburg Police officers took over the scene and gathered information.



## Emergency Call Out for Barricade Situation

On the afternoon of June 14, Steve Hood (ST-4) received a call from the Police Department to immediately report to the area of Sycamore Hill Drive, NW, where an incident command post had been set up to coordinate law enforcement response to a barricade situation. Steve reported as instructed, prepared to help distribute water to officers blocking streets in the vicinity or relieve those officers and divert traffic. Neither function was needed but Steve remained on the scene for nearly three hours until the situation was resolved and a subject was in custody.



## ST-6 Reports Another Vehicle Accident, July 5

On his way home from work on East Market Street, Support Team President Ray Delpesche was first on the scene of a vehicle crash (second time in the last few months) and promptly reported it to Leesburg Police Dispatch. We can make a difference!





## ST-11 and ST-4 Assist in Search for Shoplifter, July 10

While on neighborhood patrol in the vicinity of the Leesburg Outlet Mall, Chris Miller and Steve Hood responded to the mall in an unmarked Support Team vehicle along with Leesburg Police officers to help search for a shoplifter. While officers were combing the interior of the mall, Chris and Steve kept an eye on the parking lot and soon spotted the shoplifter. Unfortunately, the shoplifter also spotted our Team members and hot-footed it back into the mall and disappeared. Disappointing that the subject was not caught and identified, but perhaps he will think twice about returning to steal from the mall in the future.

## Village at Leesburg Block Party, July 15

Hot time in the old Village! Four Support Team members braved the heat and humidity this day to fire up the police department's barrel train to give kids rides and also man a DNA kit and safety information table to provide help to parents. Lots of kids rode the train and we "certified" Team member Chris Miller (ST-11) in the fine art of piloting the train. We now have several experienced train engineers, a good thing, as a number of train events are scheduled for the month of August! Maggie Longhurst (ST-3), Ray Delpesche (ST-6), and Steve Hood (ST-4) participated with Chris in this event.



## National Night Out Not a Complete Washout, August 7



LOTS of kids! Several Support Team members carrying goodie bags, DNA identification kits, safety information, and a table and chairs trekked over to The Fields of Leesburg complex from the Leesburg Police Department next door for this event. The event, designed to bring neighbors out to meet other neighbors and local police officers was highly successful. Even before the event was scheduled to begin, the kids began lining up to ride the LPD barrel train, so Support Team members Ray Delpesche (ST-6), Jan Hepburn (ST-10), and Steve Hood (ST-4) fired up the train and the rides began. Chris Miller (ST-11), Maggie Longhurst (ST-3), and Deb Walczak (ST Reserve member) manned the DNA kit and safety information table, handing out goodie bags to the kids. About the time Chris gave Ray a break and engineered the train, light rain



began falling and only a few more train rides were possible before the rain became heavier. How many kids got to ride the train in one hour and a half? Well over 100!





## Child Public Safety Day, August 11

Wow! Was it ever hot! Not a bit of shade for the barrel train, riders, or engineers or conductors. ST members Maggie Longhurst and Steve Hood sweated this event out and made a couple of hundred kids happy with train rides. Officer Travis Lotz and several Law Enforcement Explorers gave Maggie and Steve a break toward the end of the afternoon. Even the train was flagging a bit in the heat toward the end of the event. Good donations were received from the public to help with the upkeep of the train.



## America's First 9/11 Motorcycle Ride, August 17

ST members Jan Hepburn, Maggie Longhurst, and Steve Hood provided traffic direction as they manned intersections along King Street this date as hundreds of motorcyclists roared thru the town.

## Leesburg 5K/20K Race, August 19

Steve Hood and Chris Miller worked traffic direction at this event to keep vehicles and runners separated around Harrison Street and Catoctin Circle.