

THE SHERIFF'S ROUND-UP

CLARK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER
NOVEMBER 2024 ISSUE



Dear Clark County Neighbors,

I can't believe it's been almost two years since you elected me as your Sheriff. During this time, I have been out in the community and listening to your concerns regarding public safety. Our duty and responsibility are to keep you safe and maintain law and order. While we do this the best we can with our resources, the need for proper staffing is one resource that has been an issue for over 20 years. CCSO staffing levels are still the lowest in the state, and we need to keep up with our county's population growth. This must change to protect our community properly and for the safety of the men and women who proudly serve here.

In July of this year, I formally requested the Clark County Council to increase our staffing levels to where they desperately need to be. While no action was taken then, they expressed their support for CCSO and requested further dialogue and deliberation. In December, I will again make this request to our Council, and I hope action will be taken. I've heard your concerns about public safety, but now it's time to let our County Council hear from you directly. Please show support in requesting additional deputies for CCSO in order to keep Clark County safe.

Sincerely,
Sheriff John Horch

Council Contact Information:

Gary Medvigy, Council Chair: gary.medvigy@clark.wa.gov

Glen Yung, Councilor District 1: glen.yung@clark.wa.gov

Michelle Belkot, Councilor District 2: michelle.belkot@clark.wa.gov

Karen Dill Bowerman, Councilor District 3: karen.bowerman@clark.wa.gov

Sue Marshall, Councilor District 5: sue.marshall@clark.wa.gov





LA CENTER POLICING CONTRACT APPROVED

The Clark County Sheriff's Office is pleased to begin providing full-time law enforcement services to the City of La Center, thanks to a formal agreement between Clark County and La Center.

On October 15th, the Clark County Council voted to approve a five-year contract with La Center. A temporary agreement for services had been in place since March.

The interagency agreement is a five-year contract in the amount of \$5,332,507, with a renewal option at the end of 2029. The City of La Center will pay for all costs associated with the new contract, which includes:

- Staffing, including one Commander (who will serve as the city's full-time Chief of Police), four Deputies, and one Support Specialist.
- The initial and ongoing cost of vehicles.
- Gear such as body cameras, protective equipment, and weapons.
- Computers and other essential equipment for operations.

The agreement also covers the costs of resources beyond patrol, such as investigations and other specialty services. All Sheriff's Office staff will be in place by February 2025.

The agreement is available on the County's website [here](#).



INTRODUCING: La Center's New Police Chief

We are thrilled to announce that CCSO Commander Phil Sample has been selected to serve as La Center's Police Chief.

Chief Sample has been with CCSO for almost 27 years, doing everything from patrol to Search & Rescue to SWAT. He has served as a Hostage Negotiator, Precinct Commander, and Chief Corrections Deputy. Chief Sample is also very active in the community as a Police Activities League (PAL) board member and a mentor for Rock Solid. Congrats, Chief Sample on this new adventure!



RECRUITING INITIATIVE

BY: CHIEF BRIAN KESSEL

I want to take a moment to update you on a crucial recruitment initiative we've undertaken to strengthen our team at the Clark County Sheriff's Office (CCSO). Recently, we launched a focused effort to bring in experienced lateral deputies from Las Vegas, based on our success with previous hires from that area. The original plan included creating a recruitment video, running a digital outreach campaign, and hosting a roadshow in Las Vegas this November.

The recruitment video was designed to showcase the beauty of the Pacific Northwest and feature testimonials from Deputies Layton and Pizan, who successfully moved from Las Vegas to CCSO. We also intended to target law enforcement officers in the Las Vegas area nearing retirement, offering them the opportunity to continue their careers in our community while enjoying a lifestyle change. While we've received positive feedback and interest from several Las Vegas law enforcement officers, we've realized that our initial timeline was a bit too ambitious. We've shifted our strategy to a more long-term approach to ensure we build the strongest possible recruitment pipeline.

Instead of rushing into the November roadshow, we're using advanced technologies like geofencing and targeted digital outreach to connect with the right candidates. This allows us to precisely reach the experienced deputies in Las Vegas who are considering relocation or retirement. We are also extending the timeline for our recruitment roadshow to potentially Spring 2025. This will give us more time to generate interest, and by the time we host in-person interviews and assessments, we'll have a larger, more qualified pool of applicants.

In the meantime, we'll continue promoting CCSO as an ideal place for deputies looking for a new career chapter. Our community's natural beauty, strong support for law enforcement, and quality of life are key selling points. The recruitment video and digital content will help us spread the word. Our goal is to bring in top talent from Las Vegas who can make valuable contributions to CCSO and help us continue providing excellent service to the residents of Clark County. We are adapting our timeline to ensure we recruit the right people in the best way possible.

Thank you for your ongoing support of this initiative. I'll keep you updated as we proceed.

-Chief Brian Kessel



Clark County Sheriff's Office

SAVE THE DATE

175 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Est. 1849

COME CELEBRATE WITH US!

Open House

Tuesday

December 3rd, 2024

05:00 PM - 08:00 PM

Clark County Historical Museum
1511 Main St., Vancouver, WA 98660

Street Parking

QUICKFIRE UPDATES



OUR SRO PROGRAM IS BACK!

In August, we introduced the return of our SRO (School Resource Officer) Program and selected Deputy Chelsea Quiggle as the new SRO for Prairie High School ([Battle Ground Public Schools](#)). Before joining CCSO in 2019, Dep. Quiggle worked as an educator at two SW Washington schools. She is the perfect person for the job and we are excited to see the impact she will make at Prairie HS!

LOCAL POLICE ACADEMY GRADUATION

On October 29th, the second Basic Law Enforcement Academy class graduated from the Southwest Washington Regional Law Enforcement Academy in Vancouver. There are 24 recruits in this class, with 8 from CCSO! **With eight graduates, this was our biggest graduating class in *agency history!***

The next Academy class begins December 16th. CCSO hopes to have 12 recruits enrolled.



SHERIFF'S TOWN HALL

Sheriff Horch hosted another town Hall on October 16th, and we were pleased to have a full-house at our West Precinct.

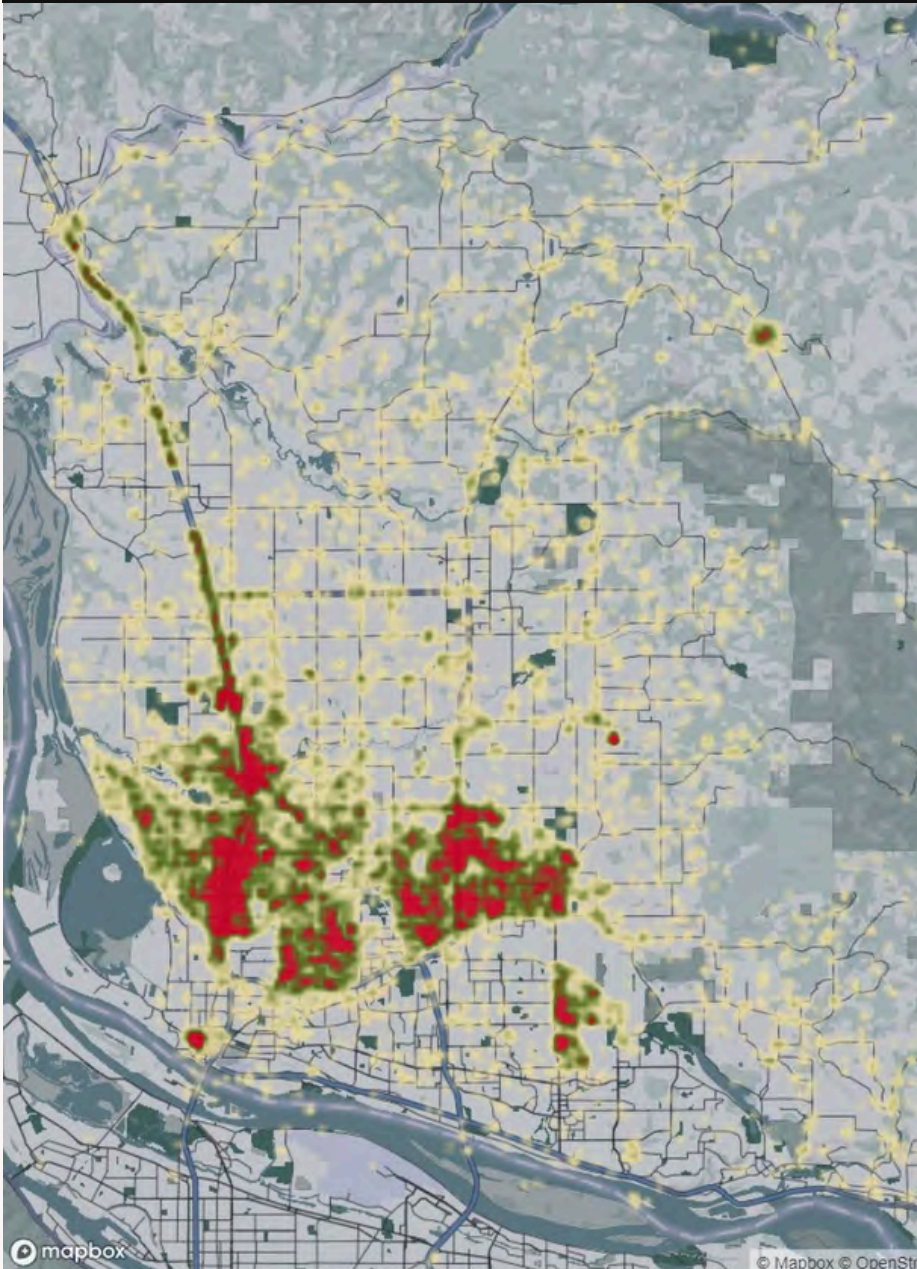
Attendees asked lots of great questions regarding public safety, Sheriff's Office staffing levels and the need for a new facility. Stay tuned for future Town Hall dates!

CRIME DATA

AUG - OCT



Hot Spots



August-October CAD numbers

28,288 total calls for service

Highest call type: Incomplete Call*

Lowest call type: Overdose

Busiest time for calls: Mondays at 4:00 p.m.

3,819 traffic related calls

9% of traffic calls were DUI related

Patrolling 4,742 miles of county roadways

* An "Incomplete Call" is when someone calls 911 - maybe doesn't talk - and a deputy needs to go find out who and why.

KEY ENFORCEMENT HIGHLIGHTS



There are now 11,000 fewer fentanyl pills on the streets thanks to the hard work our dedicated Special Investigations Unit Detectives (SIU) and the Medford Area Drug and Gang Enforcement (MADGE) Task Force. They arrested two people for drug trafficking and seized 11k fentanyl pills concealed in their car. Over the past year, detectives learned one of the suspects frequently traveled to California to obtain large quantities of fentanyl to distribute in Clark County.

Deputies arrested a prolific retail theft suspect involved in dozens of Hazel Dell thefts. The man was wanted for more than 30 thefts in Vancouver dating back to last summer. In some of the instances, he wore a mask and used tools to cut off anti-theft devices. After spotting him in Hazel Dell in August, Dep. Gonzalez and Dep. Bylsma took the man into custody without incident. He later admitted to multiple thefts and faces dozens of retail theft charges.



In October, Deputies took a man into custody after he threatened to blow up his shop, with several people in the home just 50 feet away. Arriving deputies quickly devised a plan, as their armored vehicle was still on the way. They positioned their patrol cars in a line in front of the home to provide cover from the shop, and a rescue team got three women out of the house and into the vehicles. The suspect then came out of the shop and surrendered without anyone getting hurt. The Metro Explosive Disposal Unit (MEDU) used a robot to clear the shop of any explosives. Investigators later found four cans of gasoline inside the shop. The suspect was booked into the Clark County Jail for Malicious Mischief Second Degree.

RETAIL THEFT MISSIONS

To combat retail theft in our area this year, the Clark County Sheriff's Office Tactical Detective Unit (TDU) teamed up with loss prevention employees at several local retail stores to conduct three successful retail theft operations. The missions resulted in 28 arrests and the recovery of several thousand dollars in stolen merchandise.

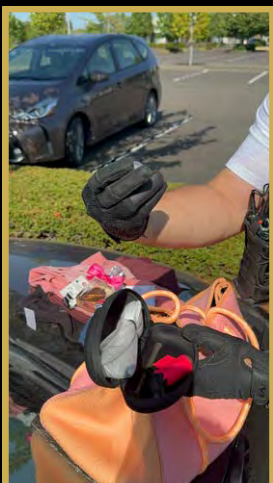
CCSO has also worked to identify and arrest high-frequency retail theft offenders, including one suspect charged with over 30 thefts. Social Media posts on these retail theft missions combating successes have been viewed more than a million times and still counting. These posts were well-received by our community and got the message out that retail theft suspects will be arrested and booked into jail in Clark County.

As a result of these efforts and the work being done daily by our CCSO Patrol Deputies, who follow up on investigations and make arrests at the stores, our local Target store in Hazel Dell leads the region in clearance rates on theft reports by a significant amount. We recently received a letter of appreciation from the loss prevention team at Target, thanking CCSO for all our hard work at their location.

Out of the roughly 100 Target stores in the region (California, Oregon, and Washington), our Hazel Dell Target store has a clearance rate of 40%. The next closest store is 21%, and the regional average is much lower at 8-10%. We are very proud of these clearance rate statistics. Although it is just a tiny glimpse of the extraordinary work being done daily by CCSO, it is an excellent example of how we all make a difference.

Target loss-prevention employees expressed their gratitude, saying, "This would NOT be possible without your help and support, let alone the entire Sheriff's Office. Thank you SO much for everything you have done and keep up the amazing work."

-TDU Sgt. Adam Beck





CASE SPOTLIGHT

STOLEN MUSCLE-CAR RING: BUSTED!

The Clark County Sheriff's Office Tactical Detective Unit (TDU) recently completed a four-month investigation and arrested five people involved in a multi-state stolen muscle car ring, totaling 23 felony charges.

Detectives recovered the following the case:

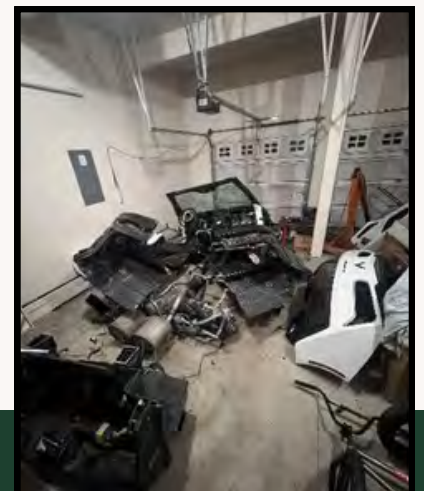
- \$700,000 in stolen cars (11 vehicles)
- \$42,000 in cash
- Nine firearms

Detectives authored and secured 13 search warrants as part of their investigation, which began in June 2024. TDU worked alongside the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office, conducting a similar investigation into high-end stolen cars.

CCSO Detectives learned that suspects in the theft ring had a sophisticated method of selecting their vehicles. They would surveil and then burglarize local car dealerships with a stock of high-end cars like Dodge Hellcats and Chevy Corvettes. The suspects would also pay people to scout out privately owned muscle cars, and members of the organized theft ring would steal them and either sell them or part them out for profit. Though the ring affected communities in different states, detectives learned that suspects in Vancouver supported the theft ring in this manner: suspects would provide the operation's ringleader with information on cars, purchase stolen cars he already had, part them out, or swap the vehicle's VIN (vehicle identification number). Some would sell the stolen car parts to other theft ring members.

Through a determined effort, law enforcement recovered multiple high-end cars in Vancouver that were stolen as far south as San Francisco and north as Bellingham, Washington. Detectives believe this particular theft ring started as early as July of 2023.

Detectives recovered a safe holding \$36,000 in cash along with the stolen vehicles. The money was concealed in ammunition boxes and is believed to be connected to the theft ring. The safe's owner is one of the five people charged in the case. The Clark County Sheriff's Office appreciates our partnership with the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office, the Multnomah County District Attorney's Office Auto Theft Task Force, and the Washington County Sheriff's Office.



SCAM

BEWARE OF PHONE SCAMS

We want to remind you that phone scammers are posing as law enforcement officers and targeting Clark County residents! The scammer claims to be from the Clark County Sheriff's Office (or other agencies) and threatens that the victim will be arrested if "unpaid fines" are not paid immediately. They spoof government phone numbers to appear affiliated with law enforcement agencies. They often pose as a sergeant, detective, or deputy and can be convincing. CCSO often calls people but does **not** ask for money and **never** indicates that money can be paid instead of arrest.

Scammers often ask victims to deliver cryptocurrency or gift cards so money can't be tracked. We've taken reports from people scammed out of amounts as high as \$8,000, but the most common amount the scammers ask for seems to be \$2,500. If you receive a suspicious call from someone claiming to be from a law enforcement agency, immediately call the non-emergency dispatch line – 311.

HOLIDAY SHOPPING SAFETY TIPS

DON'T BE A VICTIM, PROTECT YOURSELF

- ✓ Lock your vehicle
- ✓ Hide packages in trunk
- ✓ Be aware of your surroundings
- ✓ Don't carry large sums of cash
- ✓ Park in a well-lit area
- ✓ Report suspicious activity
- ✓ Keep an eye on your credit cards at all times
- ✓ Monitor bank statements for fraudulent activity



CLARK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

COLD CASE HOMICIDE

TIPS NEEDED

CLARK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE MAJOR CRIMES UNIT



CATHERINE DAWES

Catherine Dawes, a 27-year-old mother of three, was murdered on January 18th, 1982. She had only recently begun work at a Minit Mart in Southeast Vancouver and was trying to make extra money so her family could pay their bills.

Catherine had just locked the door to close the store for the evening and when a man with a gun shot and killed her. He also attempted to rape her but was interrupted by customers trying to enter the store.

There is one person of interest in this case: a man described as between 6' to 6'2" and slim, with long dark hair and an olive complexion. A witness reported seeing a blue motorcycle helmet on the counter at about 1 a.m., when the front doors were locked. After he left, another witness, a taxi driver, saw the front door open, but no one was in the store, and the helmet was gone.

A unique pair of motorcycle gloves, along with the helmet, were found on the counter. The gloves are described as black and elbow-length, with white stitching around the hand and finger portions. It is possible that the helmet and gloves belonged to the person of interest, or to someone else entirely.

**ANYONE WITH INFORMATION ON THIS
CASE SHOULD CALL THE CCSO COLD
CASE TIP LINE AT 564-397-2036.**

NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS



ANGELS WITH BADGES

The Clark County Public Safety Alliance presented eight of our employees with awards. The “Angels with Badges” awards recognize lifesaving actions by law enforcement anywhere in Clark County. They express the thanks and admiration of the community for these quietly heroic professionals and for the non-sworn professional staff who make essential contributions to public safety. CCPSA presented awards to Deputies Brett Anderson and Billy Childers, Detective Tanya Johnson, and Support Branch staff members Sheila Viken, Brittany Hughes, Liz Beaman, Amber Kolb, and Lori Bryan. Congrats to all! Thanks to CCPSA and Burgerville!

A SPECIAL REUNION

What an unforgettable moment to bring together 7-year-old Shelby Wolff and those who helped rescue her! In mid-August, Shelby got lost near Lake Merwin while camping with her family and was rescued the next morning on a steep hillside. Shelby wanted to thank Ian Roadifer, the hero fisherman who found her, as well as the Search & Rescue members and Deputies who rescued her. In this line of work, it's not often our crews get the chance to reunite with the people they help save, so this was an extra meaningful day for everyone!



WATCH VIDEO OF THE RESCUE [HERE](#)



CITIZENS' ACADEMY #2

In October, CCSO completed its 2nd Citizens' Academy for 2024! Participants spent seven weeks learning about all areas of the Clark County Sheriff's Office. For their graduation night, participants watched a K9 and UAS demonstration and checked out the inside of a patrol vehicle! Visit the CCSO Citizens' Academy [website](#) to join a future class!

CERTIFIED PROPERTY AND EVIDENCE SPECIALIST LYNNE BOWDEN

We want to congratulate Lynne Bowden, who attended IAPE (International Association for Property and Evidence), tested & became the first “Certified Property & Evidence Specialist” in our area. This designation is an incredible accomplishment and we are proud to have Lynne on our team!



CCSO'S BODY-WORN CAMERA PROGRAM



Greetings,

We are nearing the first anniversary of going live with our Body-Worn Camera (BWC) program. All Deputies, Sergeants, Commanders, Chiefs, and the Sheriff have been trained and issued a BWC. Nearly every marked patrol car in the Sheriff's Office fleet has two in-car cameras, one forward-facing and one prisoner compartment.

The BWC program has proven invaluable in aiding investigations and promoting transparency in the community. By posting videos on the Sheriff's website and other social media platforms, Sheriff Horch is committed to being open about his staff's work.

Work continues in other areas; the Public Disclosure Unit receives approximately 50 monthly requests for BWC and in-car camera footage. Each request generally has multiple videos, but typically at least three, depending on the number of deputies on the scene and the call type. We have increased the number of BWC unit staff by adding one deputy to assist the BWC Sgt.

With the number of newly hired deputies, CCSO has had to purchase more equipment. Another \$250,000.00 (=/-) left over from the original BWC budget has been used to purchase body-worn cameras, in-car cameras, Taser devices, licenses, and other items.

We are grateful for the community support and hope you see the value of the BWC program, too.

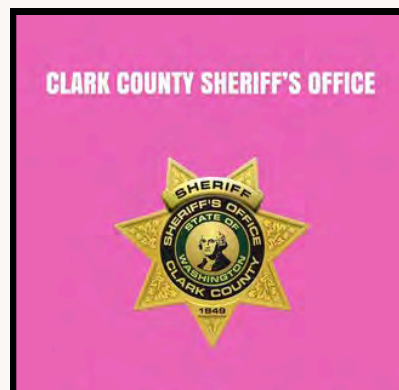
Thank You,
Brian Ellithorpe
BWC Unit Sergeant

3RD ANNUAL PINK PATCH SUCCESS!



To support Breast Cancer Awareness Month, the Clark County Sheriff's Office once again proudly participated in the Pink Patch Project!

In addition to deputies wearing a pink patch on their uniforms this month, CCSO sold 200 specially designed, limited edition 2024 pink patches. All proceeds went to the Pink Lemonade Project, a local non-profit whose mission is to educate, empower, and support all communities affected by breast cancer in Oregon and Southwest Washington. **Special thanks to Det. Bethany Lau for all her hard work on this project for CCSO!**



IN THE COMMUNITY



HELPING HANDS



We want to take a moment to recognize the good work of one of our graveyard squads. Deputies responded to a welfare check for a woman who ran out of batteries in her electric wheelchair on her way home. It was too far for deputies to push the wheelchair to the house, so they instead used the resources they had.

Sgt. Gilberti (with assistance from his team) secured the chair to the tailgate of his own pickup truck using knots he learned from years of experience on Marine Patrol and Search and Rescue.

The deputies then gave the woman a ride home in a patrol car and all ended safely!



A 9-year-old African Spurred Tortoise named Maxine took advantage of an opportunity when her owner accidentally left a side gate open.

Roaming the streets, attempting to blend in during her great escape, Maxine was quickly spotted. Citizens driving by called her in, reporting a "giant tortoise" in the roadway. Neighbors brought her in, providing refuge before turning Maxine over to her owner.

BEHIND THE SCENES

HONOR GUARD TRAINING



In August, several Clark County Honor Guard members attended the 2024 Regional Honor Guard Training hosted by the [Oregon Fallen Badge Foundation](#). The training was held at St. Pius X Catholic Church in Washington County, Oregon, and welcomed over 100 public safety honor guard members from Idaho, Oregon, and Washington

SQUAD PHOTOS

Every year, our patrol squads take team photos, and this one will be hard to top! CCSO's Westside Graves squad recently took their photos at the [142nd Wing](#), Portland Air National Guard base in front of the mighty F-15 Eagle fighter jet. This squad is honored to support our co-worker and friend, Deputy Durbin, a Master Sgt. with the 304th Rescue Squadron (who facilitated the photo shoot). In 2023, Dep. Durbin was recognized by the 920th Rescue Wing as one of the Outstanding Airmen of the Year.



COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

FOR A GOOD CAUSE



CHILDREN'S JUSTICE CENTER FUNDRAISER

Sheriff Horch attended a fundraising gala for the Art Curtis Children's Justice Center (CJC) in September. The CJC provides care, compassion, and ongoing emotional support for child victims and holds perpetrators of these heinous crimes accountable.

As a last-minute auction item, Sheriff Horch took off his cowboy hat and gave it to the auctioneer in hopes of raising additional money for the CJC. The final bid for the hat was 5k!!!

POLICE ACTIVITIES LEAGUE: HEART BEHIND THE BADGE

The Clark County Sheriff's Office was proud to attend the Police Activities League (PAL) 2024 Heart Behind the Badge event in October.

PAL's mission is to foster and facilitate positive relationships between youth and law enforcement.

This year's event was extra special, as PAL honored retired CCSO Deputy Doug Paulson, a longtime PAL supporter and volunteer! Doug gave 33 years of service to his community as a deputy and spent countless hours mentoring youth in Clark County. Thank you for all you've done, Doug!



SPECIAL THANKS TO THE CCSO EXPLORERS FOR HELPING WITH THE EVENT!

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



NAME: EMILY RODRIGUEZ-MEDINA

JOB TITLE: CADET

SUPPORT BRANCH

Emily joined the CPL Unit as a Cadet earlier this year. Upon completing her training, she quickly learned her role and demonstrated to be a valuable resource for her team and our customers. Emily takes the lead in handling challenging situations and consistently assists and guides our customers without hesitation. Emily has demonstrated professional growth, a proactive approach to problem-solving, and a willingness to go above and beyond for others.

Emily's dedication and care for those around her are exceptional. Her excellence in public service is evident in her willingness to assist a wide range of people, from aiding older applicants with the digital CPL application to supporting Spanish-speaking community members with her bilingual skills. The numerous thank-you notes from both customers and co-workers have highlighted her commitment. Emily has demonstrated her passion, skill, and dedication to CCSO's mission and our community.

NAME: MICHAEL RAMON

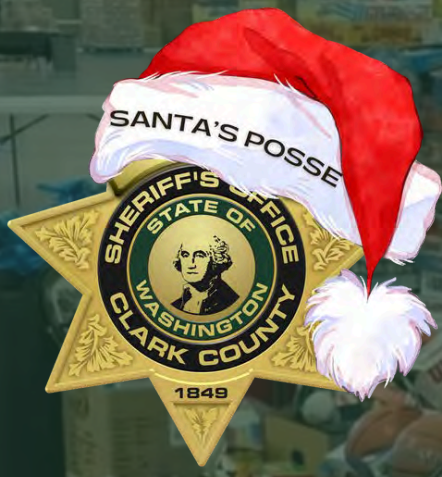
JOB TITLE: COLD CASE INVESTIGATOR

MAJOR CRIMES UNIT

CCSO has welcomed volunteer cold case Investigator Michael Ramon to our team. Mike retired after 24 years with the United States Marshall's Service, rising to the ranks of Chief Inspector, US Marshall of Central California, and Deputy Director of the U.S. Marshall's Service. He holds a master's degree in criminology and criminal justice and has taught as an adjunct professor of Criminology.

Mike proactively sought the opportunity to use his experience and knowledge to assist the local community where he now lives. Since April, he has consistently volunteered many hours weekly and shown dedication to progressing our cold cases. He is actively working on six cases, which include case reviews, organization, receiving leads, and conducting interviews. This is tedious work, but the real excitement is seeing future results from his labor. His help and effort are greatly appreciated.





SANTA'S POSSE

It's almost time! We are gearing up for Santa's Posse and need your help! Santa's Posse is a grassroots partnership between the Clark County Sheriff's Office and the local community. We collect and distribute toys and food to make a memorable Christmas holiday for less fortunate families in our community.

Santa's Posse was created in 1997 to help families in need during the holiday season and increase positive interactions between law enforcement and the public. What started with delivering food, gifts, and personal care items to 25 families has expanded to 1,500 families. Santa's Posse will deliver items to more than 4,800 children in our community this year!

Please consider volunteering on delivery day, Saturday, December 14th.

You can also donate new, unwrapped toys, non-perishable food, and/or money to Santa's Posse. Food and toys can be dropped off anytime at West Precinct, 505 NW 179th St., Ridgefield, WA 98642.

[LEARN MORE HERE](#)

[DONATE HERE](#)

[VOLUNTEER HERE](#)



Toy Wish List

**Donating toys to Santa's Posse just got easier!
Scan the code to purchase a toy(s) now!****

Toys purchased must be shipped to your address. Toys can be dropped off at Clark County Sheriff's Office West Precinct **or on Wednesday, Dec. 11th at the Event Center from 4-7pm.



<https://a.co/bcUHNHk>





JOB OPENINGS AT CCSO

KNOW ANYONE LOOKING FOR A NEW CAREER?

The Clark County Sheriff's Office is currently recruiting for the following positions:

Deputy Sheriff (12 positions)

Support Specialist II/III (4 positions)

So far in 2024, CCSO has hired 40 employees, including 18 Deputies, 19 Support Specialists, and two Cadets.

If you know someone who would be interested in applying, tell them to visit our [recruiting website!](#)



CCSO Explorer Post 893

DETECTIVE LAYTON: DUWAYNE.LAYTON@CLARK.WA.GOV

CCSO Explorer Post 893 is currently accepting applications. The program is designed to help teens and young adults (15.5-21 years old) interested in law enforcement learn about the career field. Explorers get to do ride-a-longs with Deputy Sheriffs and take part in police tactics training, law enforcement competitions, and community service events.

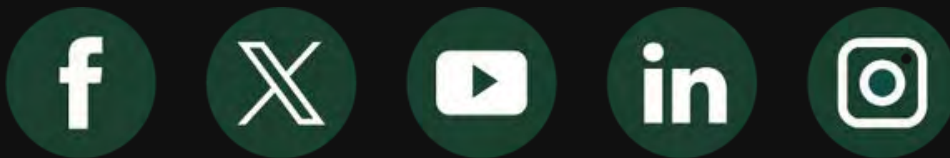


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FOLLOW CCSO ON SOCIAL MEDIA



REMINDER: YOU CAN READ THE CCSO ACTION PLAN [HERE](#).
YOU CAN FIND QUARTER 3 UPDATES TO THE ACTION PLAN
[HERE](#).



For other formats, contact the Clark County ADA Office
Voice 564.397.2322/ Relay 711 or 800.833.6388

Fax 564.397.6165/ Email ADA@clark.wa.gov