



17 Wheat Ridge Police Volunteers recognized for more than 4,700 hours of service in 2015

Twelve new volunteers join the force after graduating from Volunteer Academy

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Wheat Ridge, CO – At the annual appreciation ceremony on April 13, Wheat Ridge Police Department’s 17 trained volunteers were recognized for providing 4,725 hours of service to the department and the Wheat Ridge community in 2015. Twelve new volunteers graduated from the Volunteer Academy at the event, including one new chaplain.

The number of volunteer hours in 2015 represents a 55% increase over hours served in 2014. The increase was due in part to the creation of the Police Chaplain program and expanded responsibilities for volunteers.

“Volunteers are a force multiplier for us here in Wheat Ridge,” said Police Chief Dan Brennan who spoke at the ceremony. “The tasks they take on and the jobs they do free up our police officers to be out in the community more. Their support is invaluable.”

At the ceremony, six volunteers were recognized for years of service with WRPD:

- Helen Daly, 10 years
- Rita Pilger, 10 years
- Ed Running, 10 years
- Mike Gallagher, 5 years
- Terry Jackson, 5 years
- John Marisco, 5 years

The Volunteer Program was expanded in 2015 under the supervision of Sergeant Brian Wilkinson of the Crime Prevention Unit. Volunteer duties grew to include shuttling police cars to city mechanics shops – a task that required training approved by the Colorado Intergovernmental Risk Sharing Agency (CIRSA) and freed up police officers’ time for more critical work.

WRPD Volunteers regularly help staff special events in Wheat Ridge, including the Carnation Festival, Dia de los Niños, Operation Blue Santa, the Criterium, city clean up days and various other programs. Volunteers also were essential to Walk and Watch, a program that deploys volunteers to walk through parks, providing a visible presence in the community.

The Police Chaplain program launched in May, 2015 with three chaplains, who are members of the Rocky Mountain Police Chaplains Association. Through the association, chaplains are able to arrange for a Class C recreational vehicle on the scene of lengthy incidents or SWAT call-outs, providing shelter, food and rest for officers. Chaplains also provided three meals for on-duty officers on Thanksgiving and Christmas Day.

For information about how to volunteer with the Wheat Ridge Police Department, visit:
<http://www.ci.wheatridge.co.us/477/Volunteer-Programs>.

2016 Volunteer Academy Graduates

Bud Burleson
Courtney Allsopp
Jesse Ackerman
Jodi Dalton
John Corder
Kim Davia
Kimberly Cross
Lois Fentress
Mary Dalton
Mel Casper
Stephen Pflug
Joel Newton, Police Chaplain

WRPD Volunteers

Bernadette Moreno
Ed Running
Gerri Ramirez
Helen Daly
John Marsico
John Vescio
Judy Maxfield
Karin Bartlett
Lorrie McLain
Margy Platter
Mike Gallagher
Rita Pilger
Sherry Boles
Terry Jackson
Trisha Ferlic

Police Chaplains:

Chris Black
Kevin McKelvy
Scott Moore

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