



**RICHLAND COUNTY
SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT**
WWW.RCSD.NET (803) 576-3000



LEON LOTT, SHERIFF

REGION THREE NEWSLETTER

6429 Bishop Avenue Columbia, SC 29203 (803) 576-2215



**MERRY CHRISTMAS
FROM
REGION THREE**



PROJECT H.O.P.E.

Hope, as defined in the dictionary, means to have desire or expectations for something. Our senior citizens have hope that each new day will provide them with love, laughter, good health, and plenty of family and friends. For those seniors who don't have the luxury of having family and friends to rely on, the Richland County Sheriff's Department is providing them with our own H.O.P.E. --- Helping Our Precious Elderly.

Our Project H.O.P.E. program services more than 600 elderly residents in Richland County. Assigned to the program are John Edwards, Isaiah Gibson, Virgil Manley, Cletus Powell, and Gus Williams. All of our Senior Coordinators are retired law enforcement and are currently state Constables.

Under Project H.O.P.E., these dedicated workers call and visit senior citizens and disabled citizens each month. Other Volunteers make weekly calls to everyone.

This is another way of staying in touch, and to find out if there is anything we can do for them. These retired law enforcement officers also visit many senior centers, numerous church, and community groups

During their visits to the home, our officers perform a variety of functions. They conduct safety checks of the home, such as putting in smoke detectors or replacing smoke detector batteries. They also put street numbers on their homes so emergency personnel and other programs, like Meals on Wheels, can easily find them.

We also help our senior citizens identify services to assist them, whether by finding rides, supplying them with fans, or getting them specialized counseling. We work very closely with the Council on Aging, area nursing homes, churches, community groups, and the South Carolina Department of Social Services. Our officers constantly train our senior population about personal safety. We teach them how to avoid being the victim of a flimflam operation, and we work with them to make their homes safer. In extreme cases we can also place a citizen in emergency protective custody if we determine they are not being adequately cared for.

Project HOPE can easily be replicated within any agency. The key to the program's success lies with the enthusiasm and commitment of the volunteers. The passion to help our elderly is a prerequisite for being a part of this program. After you have the proper people in place, your first priority is to obtain a list of senior citizens from the area you want to service.

Weekly phone calls and visits to those citizens will serve as the barometer for what resources, agencies, and guidance you will need to provide. Most program expenses such as smoke detectors, batteries, street numbers, fans, etc., are covered by donated funds. The only expenses for the program are salaries for part-time employees.

We are constantly recruiting senior volunteers to assist with the growing demand for our services. As the expansion of Project HOPE continues, so does its positive message. Word-of-mouth has brought in a substantial increase in donations, so the program is financially secure. These funds, coupled with a wealth of talented volunteers, means the program will be very viable for years to come.

Helping Our Precious Elderly is something we feel very strongly about. Without the efforts, knowledge, commitment, and expertise of our senior citizens, the remainder of the population would not be enjoying the freedom and lifestyle they have become accustomed to. Our seniors built this country, fought for this country, and love this country. So now it's our turn to fight and care for them.

If you would like to join, recommend a precious senior, or volunteer to help with Project Hope, you may contact Captain John Edwards at 576-3183 or 576-3109, or you may email Project Hope at, phope@rcsd.net.

RCSD MISSION STATEMENT

It is the mission of the Richland County Sheriff's Department to improve the quality of life of the citizens of Richland County by maintaining a high standard of professional accountability, reducing the fear of crime, and reducing the fear of retaliation from those persons who constitute the criminal element within the county. This mission will be accomplished through the collaborative efforts of the Sheriff's Department and the community, by employing effective Community Policing strategies and problem-solving techniques, supported by aggressive enforcement of Federal, State and Local Laws.

REGION 3 COMMAND STAFF



Capt. McManus



Lt. Gaither

DECEMBER 2011

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IMPORTANT NUMBERS

9-1-1: EMERGENCIES

576-3000: SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

576-2215: REGION 3

CAPT. SCOTT MCMANUS - 576-2218

LT. STEVE GAITHER - 576-2225

Sgt. Malgorzata Zalewska - 576-2221

Sgt. Chris Baggott - 576-2217

Sgt. Ellis Pearson - 576-2215

REGION 3 NEWS

BE A SANTA TO A SENIOR PROJECT

Sheriff Leon Lott announced today the Richland County Sheriff's Department Project HOPE (Helping Our Precious Elderly), has once again teamed up with the Home Instead Senior Care®, Chick-fil-A, and Pink Sorbet to provide gifts to seniors who otherwise might not receive a gift during this holiday season.

Sheriff Leon Lott stated that anyone can stop by and take an ornament from the tree. When you return the gift to Chick-fil-A (229 Bush River Road) or Pink Sorbet (2726 Devine Street), please leave it unwrapped and attach the ornament that displays the senior's name. Volunteers will then collect the unwrapped gifts, wrap them on December 13th, and deliver the gifts to area seniors on December 14th and 15th.

Sheriff Leon Lott will team up with Rene Kilburn, Senior Care® at 1931 Pineview Road, Richland County Sheriff's Department Victim Services for a press conference at 11:00 AM on Wednesday, December 14, 2011 for a kick off to delivery. For more information about the program, call 803-736-4242 or log on to www.beasantatoasenior.com.

DARRAL LANE MEMORIAL HEART EXAMS SUCCESS

The 2011 Darral Lane Memorial Heart Exams for Deputies were extremely successful (127 people were screened and 8 were referred for further testing) due the generosity of the professionals at St. Jude Medical, the South Carolina Heart Center and the American Heart Association. The heart exams were provided to all personnel of the Sheriff's Department free of charge.

The Sheriff is adamant that everyone in the Department is cared for and healthy. The heart screenings are one of the many services he provides to all employees that may just save their life. The screenings are offered in memory of Darral who had a heart condition, which he was not aware of, and that was not identified during his regular physical exam. The Sheriff and Mrs. Lane want to remind everyone that you cannot take chances with your health and safety; that participating in these screenings is a small time investment that might offer you information about your health and wellness that you were not previously aware of.

The screening will include risk factor assessment, blood pressure, 12 lead EKG, carotid & cardiac echoes, and a consultation with a cardiologist.

The Sheriff added that health and wellness are paramount toward having the most professional law enforcement agency in the State. Likewise, it is extremely important for all citizens to get yearly physicals, heart screenings and to live healthy lifestyles. Sheriff Leon Lott stated that he will continue to require deputies to receive yearly physicals and continue to provide support and resources for optimal

CROSSFIT TRAINING

For the last 15 years Sheriff Leon Lott has worked to create a sound physical fitness and health and wellness program for the Department. The Sheriff's goal is to make sure that all the employees at the Sheriff's Department have the tools, resources and support necessary to return home from work every day. Sheriff Leon Lott knows that law enforcement is a high stress, physically and mentally demanding profession – the Sheriff believes that it is his responsibility to make sure that all of the deputies are equipped to handle those rigors.

Sheriff Leon Lott adds that by requiring physicals every year, by providing health screenings, proper diet objectives and by providing support and resources toward the deputies' health and wellness, that Richland County will have the most professional well rounded agency anywhere. An additional tool, "Crossfit", will go a long way toward this effort.

Crossfit has proven to be a successful holistic fitness program. The Sheriff's Department has seen what "Crossfit" can do in the results of the recent Police Olympics, the participation of a Richland County Deputy in the Television Show One Man Army and in the improved health of several deputies who recently began utilizing "Crossfit" as their fitness regime.

Sheriff Leon Lott added that John Buriss Jr., one of the most recent citizens to graduate the Department's Reserve Deputy Program, has graciously purchased all of the equipment necessary to make the Richland County Sheriff's Department Crossfit Program a success.

Sheriff Leon Lott stated that "Crossfit" will be an additional tool and resource that Deputies can take advantage of – it will be taught by Deputies for Deputies. Deputy Scott Puckett, who will be conducting the "Crossfit" training for the Department, stated The Richland County Sheriff's Department "Crossfit" program will prepare Deputies for the unknown and unknowable – training for inevitable confrontations that can come with the dangers of police work. Sheriff Leon Lott added that "Crossfit" is applicable to law enforcement because it is specific fitness training that mirrors what the deputies do everyday.

COMMUNITY



AWAWARENESS

The Richland County Sheriff's Department Citizens Academy

The Concept of a Citizen's Police Academy began in the City of Exeter, England in 1977 in the Devon & Cornwall Constabulary. The idea came to the United States in 1985 originating in Orlando, Florida followed by Departments in Missouri & Texas.

The Richland County Sheriff's Department established the "Citizen's Police Academy" in the early part of 1998 in response to citizen requests to know more about the Criminal Justice System. Citizens also wanted to find out what types of crimes are occurring in their communities. In response to their requests, Sheriff Leon Lott started a program similar to the ones established in other states, and decided to call it the "Citizens Academy". The purpose of the "Citizens Academy" is multi-faceted. Some of the Objectives of this program are as follows:

Explain The Criminal Justice System

Give the students the opportunity to meet the men & women that make up the Department

Introduce the students to the Special Teams that support the line units

Help the attendees to become Ambassadors, another set of eyes & ears for the RCSD.

Show and describe the inner workings of the RCSD.

Make the students aware of crimes occurring in their communities and point out crime trends in the County

Give the citizens a first-hand look at Law Enforcement by allowing students to ride along with Deputies while on patrol

The "Citizens Academy" is a twelve (12) week program that attempts to accomplish all of the above objectives. During each class a member of the Richland County Sheriff's Department, who explains his or her field of specialization, such as Investigations, Gang Unit, Canine Unit, Traffic, Narcotics and the many other units within the Department, instructs each class session. After the twelfth (12th) week they participate in a graduation exercise with a photo session with the Sheriff. These weekly sessions are not designed to make the participant a Police Officer. This is an opportunity to receive some of the training that a recruit receives while attending the Police Academy.

This is your opportunity to receive training that will also better prepare you for the efforts you are already giving to your community.

During the program duration, classes are held on Tuesday evenings from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. The final session is a ride-along with on-duty deputies.

Participant Requirements:

Minimum age 21 years old

No misdemeanor arrests within 1 year of application

No felony convictions

The next class will be **January 17, 2011** for more information or to register call the Community Action Team at (803) 419-5331 or visit our website at www.rcsd.net/prog/citsched.htm

Topics of discussion:

Why is the Citizen Academy so important for your department and the citizens of Richland County

What happens once Citizens go through this program.

What other programs do you offer for citizens to get involved.



Community Meeting Schedule

| COMMUNITY | DATE | LOCATION | TIME |
|-------------------------------|-------|--|---------|
| BELVEDERE | TBA | TBA | TBA |
| BOOKERT HEIGHTS | 12/08 | 1625 HEYWARD BROCKINGTON | 7:00 PM |
| BYRNESWOOD | 12/13 | HYATT PARK GYM | 7:00 PM |
| CAPITAL HEIGHTS/BAYBERRY MEWS | 12/28 | TBA | 6:30 PM |
| CEDAR CREEK | 12/26 | CEDAR CREEK COM. CNTR. | 7:30 PM |
| COLLEGE PLACE | 12/15 | CHURCH COLA COLLEGE CAMPUS | 7:00 PM |
| COLONIAL HEIGHT | 12/13 | 3600 COLONIAL DR. | TBA |
| DENNY TERRACE | 12/12 | DENNY TERR. COMM. CENT. | 6:30 PM |
| FAIRLAWN | 12/15 | FAIRLAWN COM.CNTR. | 7:00 PM |
| FOREST HEIGHTS | 12/12 | MEETING CENTER BLUERIDGE TERR. | 6:30 PM |
| GOLDEN ACRES | 12/19 | 1902 JONES ST. | 7:00 PM |
| HASTING POINT | TBA | MEADOWLAKE PARK | TBA |
| HIGHLAND FOREST | 12/12 | OMEGA HOUSE ON WILMETT. | 7:00 PM |
| HOLLYWOOD HILLS/STARKS TERR. | 12/12 | DENNIS CHAPEL ON BERTHA | 7:00 PM |
| HYATT PARK | 12/06 | PRINT BLDG MONTICELLO/ N.MAIN | 7:00 PM |
| JASMINE PLACE | TBA | JASMINE PLACE SUBDIVISION (MODEL HOME) | 7:00 PM |
| LAKE ELIZABETH | TBA | TBA | TBA |
| LINCOLNSHIRE/ROCK GATE | 12/15 | CRANE CREEK REC. CNTR. | 7:00 PM |
| MEADOWLAKES | 12/27 | MEADOWLAKE PARK | 7:00 PM |
| MOSLEY HILLS | TBA | BAYVIEW BAPTIST CHURCH | 7:00 PM |
| NORTH 21 TERRACE | 12/07 | BELMONT CHURCH MASON RD. | TBA |
| PROVIDENCE PLANTATION | TBA | TBA | TBA |
| RIDGEWOOD/BARONY | 12/15 | HOLLOWAY HOUSE RIDGEWOOD | 7:00 PM |
| STATE PARK | N/A | MEADOWLAKE PARK | 6:30 PM |
| SUMMERHILLS | TBA | SUMMERHILL PARK | TBA |
| TWIN EAGLES | TBA | LIBRARY ON PARKLANE RD. | 7:00 PM |
| WASHINGTON HEIGHTS | 12/01 | PROVIDENCE NE HOSPITAL | 7:00 PM |
| WILLOWLAKES/HILLENDALE APTS. | TBA | ALCORN MIDDLE SCHOOL LIBRARY | TBA |
| WINDEMERE SPRINGS | TBA | PRINT BLDG MONTICELLO/ N.MAIN | 6:30 PM |