Crime Prevention and Community Relations

2010 Annual Report

The Peachtree City Police Department has a broad range of crime prevention and community relations programs that are well established as core responsibilities of our agency. Effective crime prevention efforts help the department reach a balance between reactive and proactive policing, while effective community relations provides a bond or close ties with the members of our community. Both, however, provide a method by which citizens are assured that we, as their law enforcement representatives, are concerned with meeting their needs as well as protecting their quality of life. Our mission relative to crime prevention and community relations for 2010 was, and still is, to seek deterrence while creating community awareness and developing partnerships.

From basic facility tours and Neighborhood Watch groups to holiday season patrol efforts the department strives to educate citizens on crime prevention strategies. During 2010, presentations were routinely made to businesses and civic groups providing them information about crime, crime prevention techniques, and operational aspects of our department. Additionally, members of the department spoke with faith based organizations, Boy Scouts of America, Girl Scouts, community groups, home school and public school groups, and various other organizations to provide them with this information.

During the holiday season, the department also published information bulletins that were distributed to retail and other business entities throughout the city. The bulletins included helpful tips and reminders about safety and security, shoplifting, suspicious people, and robbery prevention, among many other topics. In addition to the bulletins, the department's website also contains crime prevention tips that are accessible to everyone, 24 hours a day.

The Department uses various crime analysis techniques, GIS mapping, intelligence information, incident management systems, and covert operations, to enhance our crime prevention efforts. Business security checks are targeted at providing key businesses with physical security checks during each shift. This includes government buildings, schools and recreational areas. Business security checks also provide for a deployment of foot patrol and records patrol crime prevention efforts. In 2010 members of the department conducted 1,131,574 business security checks (this figure includes both drive-by checks and physical security checks), 16,824 business walk-throughs, 37,653 residential drive-bys, and 3,760 home security checks.

Crime Prevention and Community Relations

2010 Annual Report

Community Relations Activities

In 2010, members of the Department participated in various programs and projects for total logged hours of 179 and a total of 6,793 people contacted. This figure does not include the day-to-day interactions of our officers and the public; hours spent teaching the Adult and Teen Community Emergency Response Teams; hours spent teaching the Citizen's and Junior Police Academies; nor does it account for the numerous hours spent during the holiday seasons providing valuable information to our citizens and businesses.

Typically, programs include tours of the department, child safety and identification lectures, child seat safety checks and presentations on current community topics of concern.

Other community relations activities included:

- Boy and Girl Scouts of America
- Drug Awareness/D.A.R.E. Program
- School Resource Officer Program
- Gang Resistance And Education Training Program
- Bicycle Safety
- Bicycle Rodeos
- Mountain Bike Patrol
- Golf Cart/ATV Patrol
- Home and Business Security Checks
- Fingerprinting Programs
- Personal Safety Programs
- Neighborhood and Business Watch Programs
- Private School and Home School Programs
- Pre-School Programs
- Driver's Education
- PTO Programs
- Distribution of Crime Prevention Pamphlets
- Community Emergency Response Team
- Explorer Post 999
- Auxiliary Program
- Park and Walk Program
- Internet Safety Program
- Booth Middle School Career Day
- Fayette County Public Safety Games
- Georgia Special Olympics
- Honor Guard
- Identify Children Quickly (ICQ) fingerprinting program
- Elementary School Reading Program
- National Night Out
- Citizen Police Academy
- Junior Police Academy
- Child Seat Safety Checks
- Law Week
- Red Ribbon Week
- Facility Tours
- Light Up The Night Toy Drive

Crime Prevention and Community Relations

2010 Annual Report

National Night Out

The Peachtree City Police Department sponsored the "27th Annual National Night Out". National Night Out is a unique crime/drug prevention event sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch (NATW). This year's National Night Out campaign involved citizens, law enforcement agencies, civic groups, businesses, neighborhood organizations and local officials from over 15,000 communities from all 50 states, U.S. territories, Canadian cities and military bases worldwide. National Night Out is designed to heighten crime and drug prevention awareness; generate support for, and participation in, local anti-crime programs; strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships; and send a message to criminals letting them know that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back. The Peachtree City Police Department hosted this year's event with the cooperation of Target at Kedron Village in Peachtree City. Numerous public safety agencies committed their assets for this event. Fire department ladder trucks, helicopters, police vehicles, K-9, and various other public safety equipment and resources were present for educational presentations and viewing. The event was a huge success, with a large number of participants in attendance. Children and youth attending the event participated in an incentive based educational scavenger hunt. Successful completion of the scavenger hunt resulted in prizes donated by the tenants of the shopping center.

Crime Prevention and Community Relations

2010 Annual Report

Light Up the Night Toy Drive

The second annual "Light Up The Night Toy Drive" proved once again to be a tremendous success. The police department sponsors the toy drive in cooperation with local businesses, the Auxiliary Police Force, and the Adult and Teen Community Response Teams. In addition to the dozen or more families sponsored during the 2010 Christmas Season, the department also sponsored over one-hundred senior citizens at Southland Health and Rehabilitation Center and Ashley Glenn Assisted Living and Alzheimer's Care. The toy drive started in early November with the events being held at Kedron Village Shopping Center, Braelinn Village Shopping Center, and Walmart.

Crime Prevention and Community Relations

2010 Annual Report

Special Events

In 2010 the number of special events in the city continued to increase. During the year, the police department processed over 43 special event applications and sponsored numerous smaller events where city approval is not required. Because of the increased activity, (generally on a weekly basis), the police department is actively involved in planning and providing extra-duty manpower for many of these events. Much of this planning is a function of the Special Events Planning Committee, in which the police department is a member. This committee is comprised of representatives from the Police Department, Public Works, Fire Department, Recreation Department and Leisure Services. The committee meets quarterly to discuss upcoming events and recommendations for improvement. There are also special called meetings to discuss newer events or event issues determined through after-action event critiques. Listed below is a sampling of the more noteworthy events the Police Department was involved in:

- Atlanta Track Club Qualifying Road Race
- Kedron Heart Race
- Youth Triathlon
- Adult Triathlon
- Numerous baseball, softball and soccer tournaments
- Crabapple Red Bird Run
- Breast Cancer Walk
- March of Dimes Walk
- Shakerag Spring and Fall festivals
- Amphitheater Concert Series
- July 4th Parade and Fireworks Display
- High School Graduation Ceremonies
- Huddleston Hustle Run
- Touch-a-Truck
- Hispanic Festival
- Alzheimer's Walk
- National/State/Regional BMX Races
- Great Georgia Air Show
- Peachtree City Classic Road Race
- Hometown Holiday Parade
- Youth and Adult Triathlon
- Relay For Life
- Light Up The Night Toy Drive
- Dragon Boat Race and Festival
- Booth Safety Day

These events are not all inclusive. Because of the continued interest in our city's venues and the city's marketing efforts to bring in more events, the number of special events will continue to increase.

Crime Prevention and Community Relations

2010 Annual Report

Auxiliary Police Force

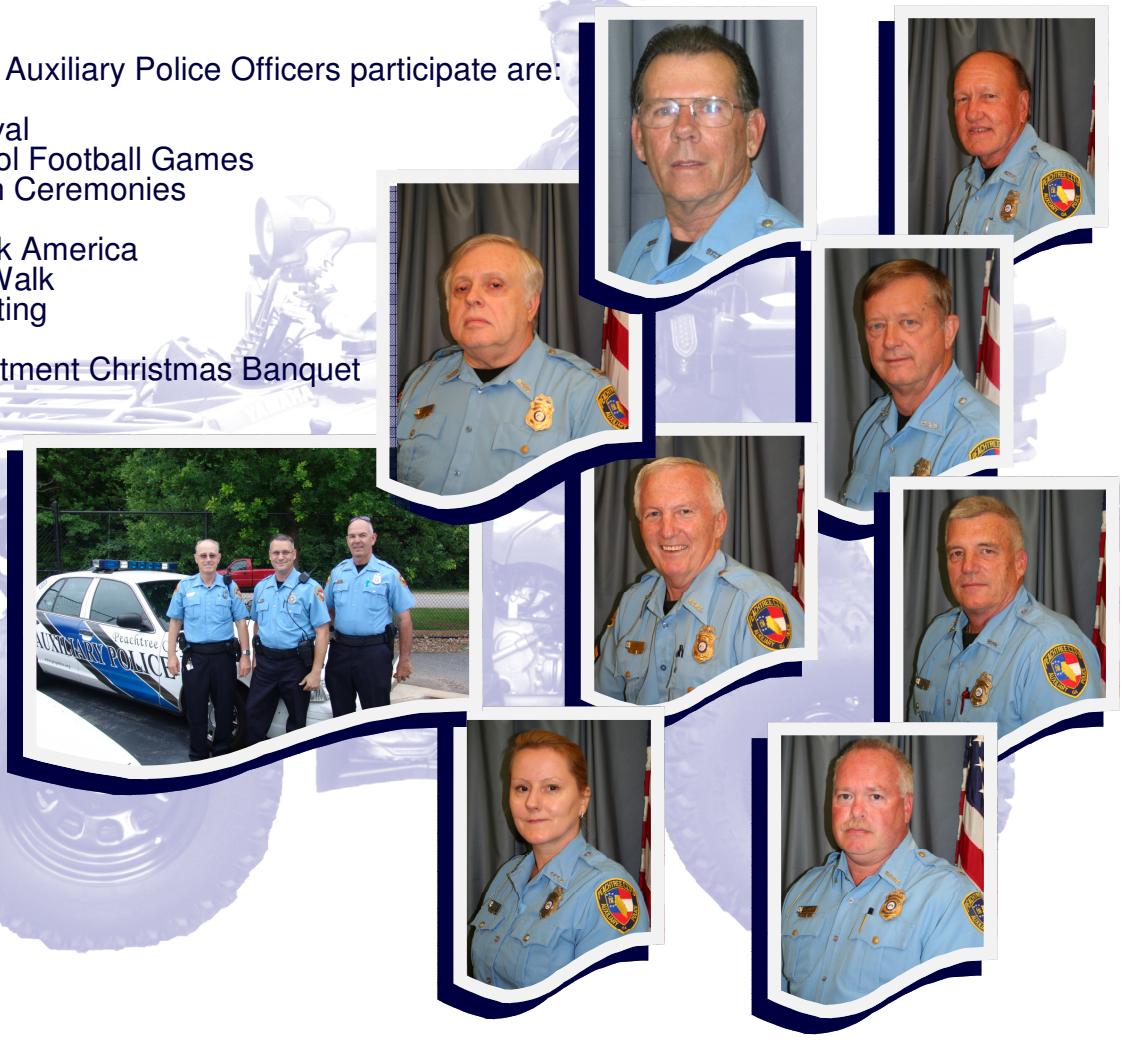
The Auxiliary Police Force was established in 1987 to allow volunteer, non-sworn, citizens to participate and assist officers of the Peachtree City Police Department with various aspects of their duties. The Auxiliary Police are made up of citizens whom are both retired and actively working in other professional fields. The unit has several retired military officers, a business owner, an electrician, an aircraft mechanic, healthcare equipment distributor, homemaker, teacher, and Delta executive, to name a few.

In 2010 these dedicated men and women volunteered 3,398 service hours to the City and the Citizens of Peachtree City. They performed prestigious roles throughout the year. They served at over twenty scheduled events such as the Adult and Youth Triathlons, Peachtree City Classic Road Race, and The Great Georgia Air Show. They also conducted traffic control for the Summer Concert Series at the Fredrick Brown Jr. Amphitheater.

When not working scheduled events, Auxiliary Police Officers conduct routine patrols of neighborhoods and business areas, with an emphasis on directed patrol to high target areas. Auxiliaries are also trained to operate the department's all-terrain vehicles and spend a considerable amount of time patrolling the city's multi-use path system. Many of these officers are even certified to ride the police mountain bikes, which they utilize to conduct parking lot patrols during the busy holiday shopping season. The work put forth by the Auxiliary Police Force is impressive. Its impact on the community is invaluable. .

Other activities in which Auxiliary Police Officers participate are:

- Shakerag Arts Festival
- McIntosh High School Football Games
- McIntosh Graduation Ceremonies
- Youth Arts Festival
- March of Dimes Walk America
- Alzheimer Memory Walk
- Christmas Tree Lighting
- Jingle Bell Run
- Annual Police Department Christmas Banquet



Crime Prevention and Community Relations

2010 Annual Report

Citizens' Police Academy

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Crime Prevention and Community Relations

2010 Annual Report

Junior Police Academy

In 2010, two Junior Police Academy classes were sponsored by the police department. The first class, beginning in January, met on Saturdays over a six week time frame. The second class began during summer break in July, (Monday through Friday) and lasted two weeks. During both academies, students ranging from 12 to 16 were introduced to and took part in numerous aspects of law enforcement administration and operations, including:

- Traffic Stops
- Arrest Procedures
- Officer Safety
- Crime Scene Processing
- Georgia Criminal and Traffic Law
- Use of Lethal and Less Than Lethal Force
- Taser Demonstrations
- K-9 demonstrations
- SRT (Special Response Team) demonstrations

In addition, students were instructed on techniques for special entry and room clearing, and participated in practical exercises at the fire department's burn building. There, students participated in role playing scenarios where they were the officers and department members played the role of offenders. This gave the students a hands-on opportunity to demonstrate what they had learned during the class. Each student was also allowed to go on a ride-along with an on-duty officer during the duration of the classes, which exposed the students to real life traffic stops and response to calls for service. Upon graduation, students were awarded diplomas in front of City Council and the citizens who attended the council meeting.

Adult CERT
Community Emergency Response Team

As emergency/disasters operations often overwhelm conventional emergency services, local government agencies continuously look to citizens for assistance. When responding to these emergencies, delays of hours or even days may occur. CERT recognizes that a well-prepared community is a vital resource to professional first responders and understands the value of "basic skills training". Realistically, it is not a question of “if” Peachtree City will face a disaster, but “when.” CERT is about being prepared for that disaster whenever or wherever it comes.

CERT training emphasizes personal accountability for self, family and community by stressing the importance of personal preparedness and accountability. Prior to an emergency, CERT members are expected to have an awareness of their own neighborhoods, and to pre-determine possible evacuation routes and sites that will facilitate effective, safe and rapid response during an emergency. The program’s training also provides participants with an effective and efficient first response capability that, when applied correctly, can be accomplished without placing CERT members or their families in unnecessary danger. The Peachtree City CERT program is slightly unique in its approach to basic CERT training. In fact, Peachtree City’s program has an expanded ten-week course curriculum, where CERT members can expect to learn how to:

- Manage utilities and extinguish small fires
- Treat the three medical killers by opening airways, control bleeding, and treating for shock
- Provide basic medical aid
- Search for and rescue victims safely
- Organize themselves and spontaneous volunteers to be effective
- Collect disaster intelligence to support first responder efforts
- Operate a chainsaw safely and conduct traffic direction and control

Additionally, the Peachtree City CERT program offers its students, free of charge, the opportunity to become CPR and AED certified.

After the graduation of its first class on September 11, 2005, community and business leaders, as well as members of several local civic organizations, began to take an interest in the program. Subsequent classes have been filled to capacity. In 2010, the program celebrated its fifth anniversary, counting in its ranks 372 adult members and 60 teen members, for a total of 432 graduates.

The Peachtree City CERT program’s success is evident in the activities and events where its members participated. In total, the Peachtree City CERT program logged approximately 2,300 volunteer hours in an assortment of volunteer opportunities in 2010.

Teen CERT
Community Emergency Response Team

The program is aimed at young adults aged 13 to 17 and is delivered in two formats. One includes a seven-week course, meeting Sunday afternoons at The Bridge Community Center and culminating in a full-scale disaster exercise and the other is a "summer camp". The summer camp meets daily for a week at the police department, culminating in drill station evaluations.

Both formats teach teens how to:

- Identify the types of hazards most likely to affect their homes and communities
- Take steps to prepare themselves and their families for a disaster
- Apply basic fire suppression strategies and safety measures
- Apply techniques for opening breathing airways, controlling bleeding, and treating shock
- Conduct patient assessments and provide first aid under simulated emergency conditions
- Search for and rescue victims safely.

Unique to the Peachtree City Teen CERT program is the inclusion of CPR/AED course certification and training students on "moulage" or special effects make-up used to simulate injuries on disaster exercise victims.

In 2010, twenty teens graduated from the Teen CERT summer camp program that was held in June. To date, sixty teens have graduated from the program. Many of the teens have joined the program because their parents are CERT members; however, we have also observed the opposite, where parents attend the Adult CERT course after seeing the value of the training their children have received.

During 2010 several of the Teen CERT members volunteered as victims in Adult CERT disaster exercises and joined the adults in events such as the demonstrations at the Boy Scouts "Camporee" (Camp Thunder), the July 4th Parade, community outreach events at Harmony Village, Woodsmill and The Gables, rope rappelling course, Flint River canoeing trip, and the Light Up The Night Toy Drive. Three of our Teen CERT members also attended the Red Cross Shelter Management and Operations course to receive their certification.

Zachary and Brittany Pye were selected as Teen CERT Volunteers of the Year for 2010 and were recognized during the annual CERT Christmas Party.

Crime Prevention and Community Relations

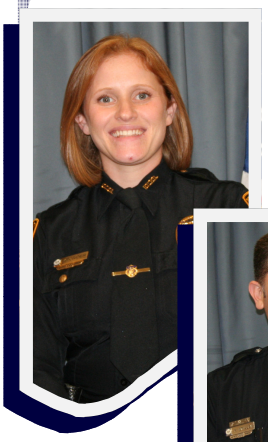
2010 Annual Report

GREAT Program

In 2010, the Peachtree City Police Department started the GREAT Program (Gang Resistance Education and Training Program) in a pilot test stage. This is in response to a growing presence of graffiti and gang related activity that is being seen in our community and the surrounding cities. The first group of 48 sixth grade students at J.C. Booth Middle School completed the thirteen session program in December 2010. The G.R.E.A.T. Program was designed to produce attitude and behavioral changes through a unique combination of skills training, cooperative learning, discussion, and role playing. Students are provided with many opportunities to model and practice relevant life skills through scenarios and group activities. Once students have rehearsed these skills, they will be more likely to use them in real-life situations.

Booth Middle School
GREAT Class Graffiti Clean

Police Explorer Program



Law Enforcement Exploring provides educational training programs for young adults on the purposes, mission, and objectives of law enforcement. The program provides career orientation experiences, leadership opportunities, and community service activities. The primary goals of the program are to help young adults choose a career path within law enforcement and to challenge them to become responsible citizens of their communities and the nation. In 2010 Explorer Post 999 expanded membership to ten explorers and four advisors. In July 2010 the advisors attended the national Exploring Conference, which was held at Georgia Tech in Atlanta, GA. Based on the information learned, the Explorers began a strict training regimen in a number of areas to begin preparation for the Winterfest Explorer Competition that is scheduled for February 2011.

Crime Prevention and Community Relations

2010 Annual Report

School Resource Officer and the DARE Program

Preventing drug abuse and establishing positive relations with the youth of Peachtree City are high priorities for the Police Department. The D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) program is a highly acclaimed program which gives young adults the skills they need to avoid involvement in drugs, gangs, and violence. In 2010 Cpl. Smilley with the assistance of Ofc. Lacourly, implemented a comprehensive D.A.R.E. program at Braelinn, Oak Grove, Huddleston, Kedron, Crabapple and Peachtree City elementary schools. The D.A.R.E. officer conducts a ten-week fifth grade program and a four-week third and first grade program. The fifth grade D.A.R.E. program focuses on drug awareness, peer pressure and effective drug refusal strategies. The first and third grade programs concentrate on basic drug awareness, refusing drug offers and bullying. Second and fourth grade classes receive a refresher course which reviews what the students learned the previous year in D.A.R.E. The D.A.R.E. officer also conducts a thirty-minute D.A.R.E. safety presentation to each kindergarten class. During the 2009-2010 school year, over 2,900 elementary students received the D.A.R.E. program in Peachtree City, and over 500 hours was spent teaching the D.A.R.E. curriculum to fifth through kindergarten classes.

The police department has provided School Resource Officers (SROs) for both McIntosh High School and Booth Middle School since 1999. In addition to being a law enforcement officer, the SRO is looked upon by student as a mentor, counselor, and teacher. This close interaction with the students helps to develop positive attitudes towards police officers in general. The programs' goals are to reduce and prevent bullying problems among school children and to improve peer-to-peer relations at school. At the beginning of the 2010 school year, J.C. Booth Middle School had an enrollment of approximately 1,053 students and McIntosh High School had approximately 1,650 students enrolled. Cpl. Howell continued as the SRO for McIntosh High School. For the first half of 2010, Sgt. K. Crider was the SRO at Booth Middle School; however, in August 2010 Ofc. Lacourly was assigned to the position. With each change of SRO brings a new vision of what the position is and a fresh outlook on the problems faced in the school environment. This fall Ofc. Lacourly, along with the guidance department at J.C. Booth, started the early phases of implementing an anti-bullying program.

Crime Prevention and Community Relations

2010 Annual Report

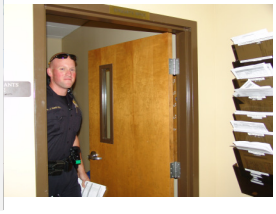
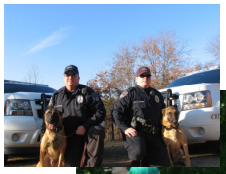
Neighborhood Watch Program

The purpose of the Neighborhood Watch program is to create an alert neighborhood by using simple crime prevention methods. The program works through the mutual aid of neighbors watching the property of other neighbors. This has several advantages, including the fact that your neighbors know who you are, what type of car you drive, and who belongs, as a rule, at your residence. A patrol officer driving by your home might not recognize someone as a stranger in your yard. However, an alert neighbor would recognize the person as a stranger. They would then call 9-1-1 to alert police of the suspicious activity. Neighborhood Watch does not promote vigilantism. Members of Neighborhood Watch groups are never asked to put themselves in harm's way to prevent crime. They only observe and report suspicious activities to the Police Department. This leaves the responsibility for confronting and apprehending criminals where it belongs—with your Peachtree City Police Officers.

During 2010, the Peachtree City Police Department continued its role in further developing and enhancing its program. Although there were only two new neighborhoods that have enlisted into the program several others have begun to show interest in starting a program. The goal of the Peachtree City Police Department is to continue to evaluate and enhance this program and get more involvement from the community.

House Watch Program

The House Watch Program was set up to help protect the homes of people who are going to be gone for an extended period of time. This free Service was designed to allow people living in Peachtree City to have peace of mind while on vacation or away. This program has also assisted individuals wanting to be placed in the program when they have had criminal activity or situations that have allowed for a better peace of mind having officers check their residence.

During 2010 there were 229 residences placed on the House Watch. Whether officers were requested to physically check the residence or just check on a drive-by through the neighborhood. This program continues to benefit the citizens of Peachtree City and with easy access by internet or a phone call it continues to be a program that brings much success.

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