

Clark County Sheriff's Office West Precinct

Annual Report ~ 2011



2011 turned out to be a very interesting and at times, entertaining year at West Precinct. We had the laughter and screams of enjoyment of family fun at the County Fair; the thumping of the bass lines and the high-pitched riffs of lead guitarists emanating from the amphitheater stage; the whistles and sounds of brass and woodwinds as the marching bands work their way down Hazel Dell Ave and up Hwy 99. We also enjoyed the festival

like atmosphere of the Open House, complete with the sounds of the oooh's and ahh's as our canines and handlers entertain the crowd with their demonstration and the eyes in the air as the familiar sound of rotor blades swathing through the air, which can only mean that Lifelight is on final approach for it's annual visit.

We have also had our trying times. The murderous act of the loss of Deputy Osborne's canine partner Kane in April stands out foremost in my mind. The increase of suicide calls, most of them end in a peaceful manner similar to the Legacy Hospital standoff. Some not as peaceful as exemplified by the Ridgefield case where an active SWAT intervention was necessary. Of most concerning to me is the apparent increase in the number of multiple car responses. Although the total number of calls was down slightly during 2011, it seems that our patrol squads were every bit as busy, if not more so.

And every year, some things just don't change. Ghim's Village, Callihan's Mobile Park and the Value Motel. The transients in the Hazel Dell area, increasing in both numbers and aggressiveness are a constant issue, kind of like herding cats. And speaking of herding cats, we also had the circus coming through town in July as the Rainbow Family passed through our area enroute to Skamania.

The other things that don't change at West Precinct is the hard work, the professionalism, the dedication, and the call of duty that each supervisor, each deputy and each staff member exhibits day in and day out. They say that the patrol force is the backbone of every police agency. The men and women of West Precinct is a portion of that backbone and because of your efforts, this agency stands tall and proud. I wish to thank you all and this annual report is a mere snap shot of your dedication that you show and display every day.

Commander Keith Kilian

Overview

The Clark County Sheriff's Office West Precinct is housed at the Fairgrounds Public Safety Complex adjacent to the Clark County Fairgrounds. The precinct boundaries start

at the Vancouver city limit to the south and extend to the county line to the north, and extend from the Columbia River on the west to approximately NE 50th Ave on the east. The communities served by the West Precinct include Hazel Dell, Felida, Salmon Creek, Pleasant Valley, Mount Vista, and the unincorporated rural areas north of Ridgefield comprising of approximately 109 square miles. The approximate population served in the precinct is 85,150. Patrol staff at the precinct includes one commander, six patrol sergeants, and 28 deputies. In addition to patrol staff, the precinct is home to the Special Operations Commander, the Tactical Detective Unit, the Community Outreach Unit, and Traffic/Marine Unit supervisor.

Patrol Operations

The patrol function is responsible for the delivery of service to members of our community. The patrol function is the most visible law enforcement function and the function most commonly encountered by the average citizen. Throughout the year, many individuals and community groups express an interest in knowing where patrol spends its time, what it spends its time doing, and what the current trends in patrol operations are.

The following tables and graphs illustrate the majority of West Precinct patrol activities throughout the year. This information is gathered from the Sheriff's Office Crime Analysis Unit.

Top 10 West Precinct Locations for Calls for Service

Locations	West Precinct Rank		
	2009	2010	2011
505 West 179th Street - West Precinct	7	1	1
4617 NE St. Johns Rd - Steeple Chase	0	0	2
9000 NE Hwy 99 - Wal Mart	5	7	3
10804 NE Hwy 99 - Callihans Mobile	2	2	4
2211 NE 139TH Str. - Salmon Creek Legacy	3	5	5
9700 NE Hwy 99 - Winco	4	6	6
708 NE 78TH Str. - Value Motel	1	4	7
7700 NE Hwy 99 - Fred Meyer Complex	0	0	8
17402 NE Delfel Rd - Clark County Event Center	0	0	9
9211 NE 15th Ave - Bridge Creek Apts	3	3	10

As the table on the preceding page illustrates, many of the top locations for calls for service in West Precinct center on the Highway 99 corridor which runs north to south through Hazel Dell and Salmon Creek. This corridor is a mixed use of commercial/retail properties and high-density housing. In comparing the Top Ten West Precinct Call locations from last year, there are a few drastic changes which require further analysis.

Steeple Chase Apartments – 4617 NE St. Johns Rd.

This high density residential apartment complex is well outside of the Highway 99 corridor. Also, this is the first time this apartment complex has appeared on the West Precinct Top 10.

In reviewing the calls for service at this location, I found that there were 321 total calls for service. Further analysis of the specific calls, I found that 166 calls for service were attributed to one mental subject living at the apartment complex. This one individual accounted for 51.7% of the total calls for service at this location. Removing these calls from the premise count, this apartment complex would have fewer calls for service (155) than the Bridge Creek Apartments (218), listed as number 10.

Fred Meyer Complex – 7700 NE Highway 99

Fred Meyer is located at the southwest corner of NE 78th Street and Highway 99, a major intersection within the Highway 99 corridor. They are listed as number 8 on the top ten. They have not been in the top ten for the two years prior. In reviewing the types of calls for service, I found that of the 220 calls, 82 of the calls were attributed to traffic stops, traffic accidents, or traffic information. In other words, in 37.2% of the time, the Fred Meyer complex was utilized merely as a reference point for these traffic occurrences. There were 138 calls that were directly attributed to Fred Meyer, the Chase Bank inside of Fred Meyer, or the Salvation Army on the south side of the Fred Meyer complex. Again, this would be fewer calls than the Bridge Creek Apartments.

Clark County Event Center – 17402 NE Delfel Rd.

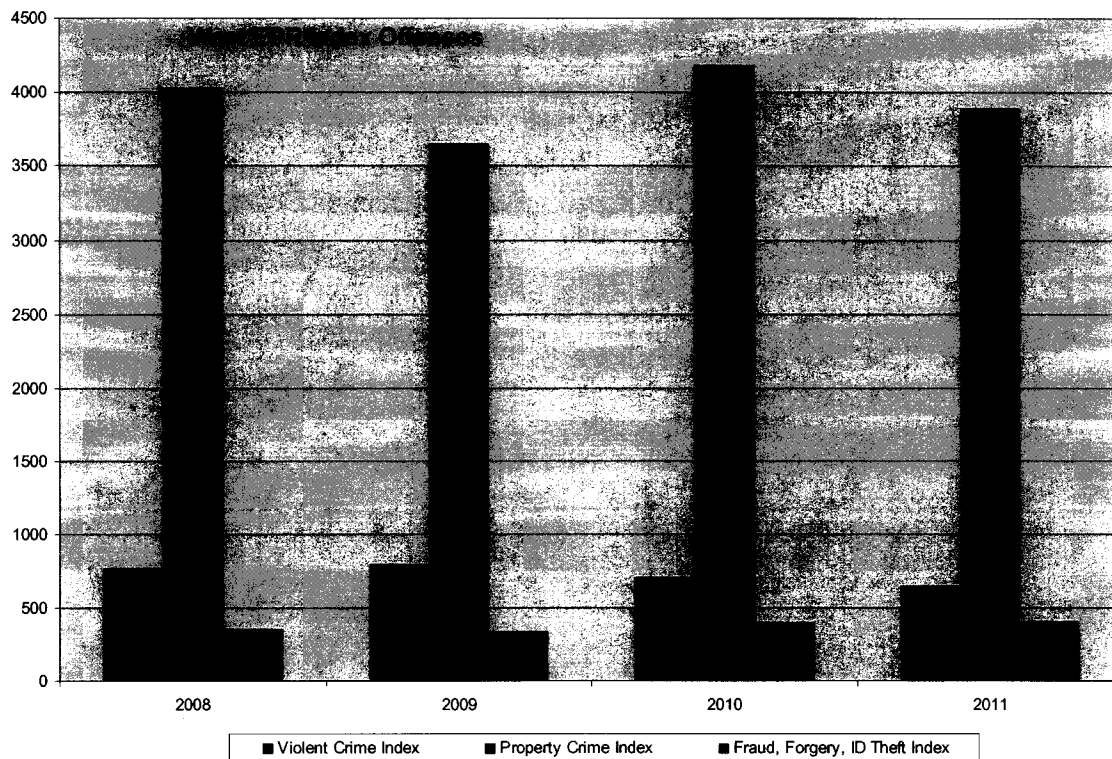
This is the first time the Event Center has been on the West Precinct Top 10 list. As the graph depicts, it has not been on the list prior to 2011. In looking at the calls related to the Event Center, I found that there were 197 total calls. 178 or 90% of the calls were during the time of the 2011 Clark County Fair. The other remaining calls were related to other events occurring at the Event Center. There is no explanation as to why the Event Center would be in the Top 10 list this year and not prior years as we have the County Fair on an annual basis. It should be noted that there are no calls attributed to the Amphitheater, as it has its own physical address.

Bridge Creek Apartments – 9211 NE 15th Avenue

The Bridge Creek Apartments have also experienced a drastic change on the West Precinct Top Ten, but in a positive direction. In 2009 and 2010, they were at number 3. Although the entities for the top ten aren't directly contacted, the new owners and

management were well aware of the history of the apartment complex. The management was willing to work and fully cooperate with law enforcement. Management hired armed security dedicated to their property to handle the trivial calls and complaints from the tenants. They also contacted and worked well with law enforcement on those situations that were warranted. In a cooperative effort with law enforcement and management, they were able to drastically reduce the number of calls for service at their apartment complex.

West Precinct Index Offenses



This bar graph reflects the total number of UCR index crimes reported in West Precinct in 2011 and provides a comparison to the three previous years. Index crimes are those crimes reported annually to the Federal Bureau of Investigation and include crimes such as murder, rape, robbery, arson, vandalism, and thefts. Property crimes are traditionally more prevalent than violent crimes or larceny crimes and this trend continued in 2011.

Violent Crime Index, which includes such crimes as Homicide, Rape, Robbery, Aggravated Assault and Assaults are at a four year low with a reduction of 7.8% from the preceding year.

Property Crime Index which includes such crimes as Burglary (both commercial and residential); Theft (including Theft of a Firearm, Theft of Vehicle Parts, and Auto Theft); Malicious Mischief and Arson were down 7.9% from 2010, but still up 6.3% from 2009.

Identity Theft Index which includes Fraud, Forgery and Mail Theft is category that with the exception of a slight dip in 2009, has increased year after year. During 2011, there was a 2.3% increase.

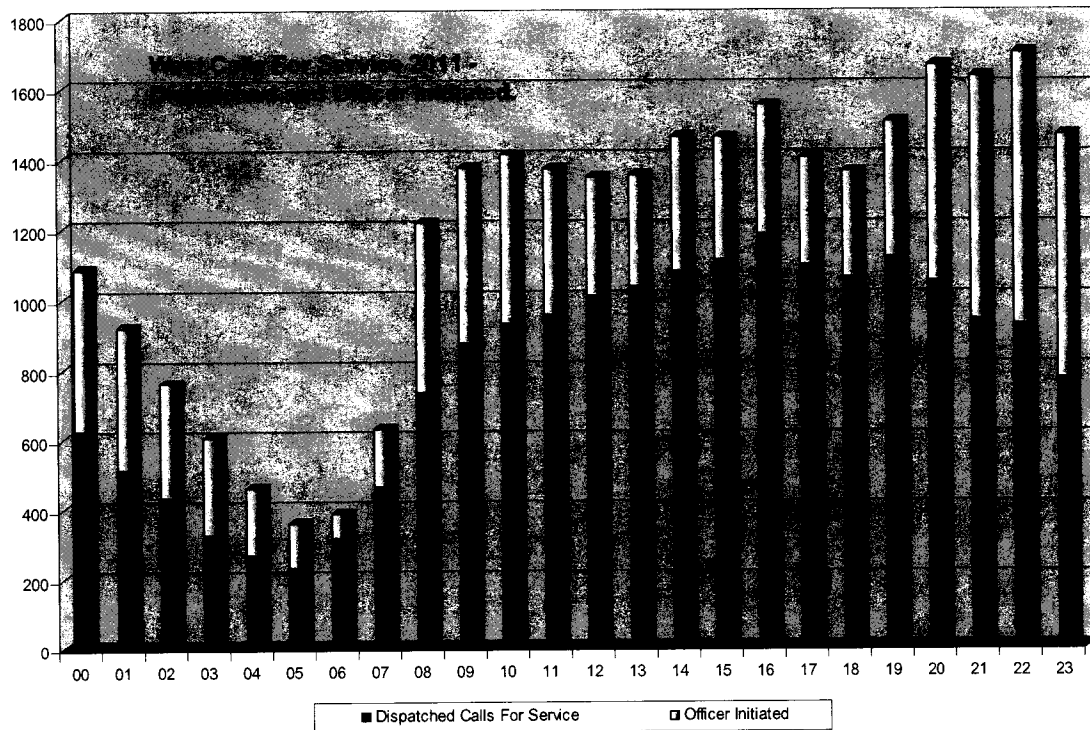
**West - Reported Offenses
EPR**

	2007	2008	2009	2010
AGGASSAULT	109	114	74	72
ALCOHOL	104	99	71	47
ARSON	24	19	18	12
ASSAULT	567	596	550	506
AUTOTHEFT	434	333	274	279
BURGCOR	130	102	133	108
BURGRES	318	375	394	420
DRUG	231	181	208	175
DWI	119	187	158	170
FORGERY	98	75	61	53
FRAUD	204	235	297	264
KIDNAP	30	35	23	34
MAILTHEFT	50	23	37	87
MALMISCH	828	725	927	814
RAPE	54	40	44	31
ROBBERY	34	36	34	38
SEX	55	60	64	60
THEFT	1662	1529	1746	1659
THEFTFIREARM	17	19	30	22
TRAFFIC	887	495	755	460
VEHPROWL	611	547	657	577
WEAPON	19	30	33	27

	2008	2009	2010	2011	
Violent Crime Index	784	786	702	647	-7.80%
Property Crime Index	4024	3649	4178	3891	-7.90%
Fraud, Forgery, & Theft Index	352	333	385	404	2.30%

Deputy Patrol Activity – Dispatched Calls vs. Self-Initiated Calls

The following graph gives a good visual representation on how many the total calls are result of a 911 initiated event versus a deputy initiating activity based on routine patrol activities. The vertical axis of the graph indicates the total number of calls while the horizontal axis represents the hours of the day reported in the 24 hour-time format. The green section of the bar indicates a 911 initiated event while the yellow portion indicates a deputy initiated event.



The graph clearly indicates that over a 24 hour period, call load is lowest during the early morning hours but then increases as day moves into the afternoon and evening hours. The peak call load occurs between 8:00 PM and 10:00 PM. Also during this same time, deputy-initiated activity also increases. Many of these deputy-initiated events are the result of deputies conducting traffic stops, DUI investigations or investigating other suspicious circumstances they run across while on patrol. On average, 33% of a West Precinct Deputy's time is on self initiated activity or other activity such as neighborhood association meetings, administrative meetings, community events, etc.

Total Calls for Service – West Precinct

Priority	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
1	52	52	39	42	51	46	46	52	42	36
2	1971	1840	1789	1944	1623	1645	1610	1442	1357	1354
3	16015	17554	16798	16006	18614	16321	18300	17736	16370	15663
4	7665	8377	8992	9554	8634	7971	9668	9422	9774	9754
5	1590	1578	1684	1539	1965	1779	1623	1463	1304	1029
Other									268	641
	27293	29401	29302	29085	30887	27762	31247	30115	29115	28477

-2.20%

The above chart shows the number of calls for service handled by deputies within West Precinct. These calls are also broken down by Priority type of call. A priority one call is the most serious incident. These incidents involve the very high likelihood of serious injury or death. Examples of such incidents would be a homicide, aggravated assault with a weapon, etc. Priority 5 calls are those incidents that are a least likelihood of involving any threat to person or property. Examples of such incidents would be area check for fast traffic, abandoned vehicles, etc.

In 2011, we experienced a 2.2% reduction in the number of calls for service. This number has been gradually declining at approximately the same rate since 2008. The glaring difference is in the category “other” where we went from 268 calls to almost 650 calls. These calls are those “queued” for the desk officer to handle. Beginning sometime in 2010, there was a priority 9 call established. This would queue the desk officer that these calls were designated for the desk.

West Precinct Response Times

	2007	2008	+/- Chng	2009	+/- Chng	2010	+/- Chng	2011	+/- Chng
Priority									
1	0:04:19	0:03:25	-0:00:54	0:04:58	0:01:33	0:04:17	-0:00:41	0:05:16	0:00:59
2	0:06:54	0:06:11	-0:00:43	0:06:18	0:00:07	0:06:43	0:00:25	0:06:32	-0:00:10
3	0:08:57	0:09:26	0:00:30	0:10:17	0:00:50	0:07:00	-0:03:16	0:05:12	-0:01:49
4	0:17:05	0:18:45	0:01:39	0:18:15	-0:00:30	0:12:06	-0:06:08	0:08:34	-0:03:33
5	0:17:59	0:11:44	-0:06:15	0:17:36	0:05:52	0:12:48	-0:04:49	0:10:18	-0:02:29

This table reflects the average response time to the various priority level calls. These response times are based from the time the officer receives the call to when the officer arrives. Most of the response times showed a slight decrease in 2011 from 2010, with the exception of Priority 1 calls, which showed an average increase of almost one minute. This is of concern since Priority 1 calls are the most serious of incidents. Since the reported change in response time is an average of the total number of Priority 1 calls, I took a cursory look at the location of these calls. Typically, a response time in the rural area of West Precinct would take longer than a response within the core area. Using the 13900 block as the dividing line between rural and core, I found that 1/3 of the Priority 1 calls were in the rural area. Although each call was not examined, it is possible that the number of calls within the rural area skews the total average.

West Precinct Workload

This final chart gives an indication of the workload in West Precinct. Prior years are also provided for comparison purposes.

West			2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
	Patrol Officer		30	30	30	31	31	31	31	32	32	28
	Patrol Population									85150		
	Patrol Area (SQR Miles)									109	109	109
West Calls For Service			27293	29401	29302	29085	30887	27762	31248	30115	29115	28477
Patrol Workload Per Deputy			910	980	977	938	996	896	1008	971	939	1017
Officer Initiated			4829	8049	9287	8843	11566	9424	11046	11491	7787	9421
% Workload			18%	27%	32%	30%	37%	34%	35%	38%	27%	33%

A couple of discussion points regarding the workload chart. First of all, the West Precinct patrol staffing for 2010 is incorrectly listed at 32 deputies. It should have been listed at 28 deputies, the same number for 2011. Taking that information, the Patrol Workload per Deputy for 2010 should be 1039 calls. Comparing 2011 from 2010, there was a reduction of 668 calls for service. If a West Precinct deputy takes just over a thousand calls a year, the annual call reduction does not allow for any reduction of patrol personnel. An interesting side note, there was an increase of 5% of self initiated activity. This could suggest that a deputy will fill their available time with self initiated activity when not

receiving directed calls for service via 911. Deputies authored a total of 8487 police reports within West Precinct. That averages out to a report for every 3.35 calls for service, whether they were directed calls or self initiated calls.

Community Outreach

The Sheriff's Community Outreach Unit is housed at the West Precinct and conducts outreach related activities throughout the county. The unit is staffed by one sergeant and one support specialist. Despite only having two staff assigned to the unit, the unit conducts and coordinates a number of activities throughout the year.

The Clark County Sheriff's Office is committed to supporting and assisting local businesses, schools and citizen groups that are interested in establishing and/or continuing crime prevention and educational programs that will benefit our great community. Working together, we can continue our collective efforts to reduce crime and the fear of crime for all who live, work or visit our wonderfully diverse communities. The Outreach Unit is a critical function to ensure that the Sheriff's Office delivers on that commitment.

In 2011, the Clark County Sheriff's Office provided our citizens with the following crime prevention partnerships, community resources and other useful links to area services:

- Partnership with NACCC (Neighborhood Association Council of Clark County.
- Clark County Sheriff's Advisory Board
- Clark County Citizens' Academy
- Clark County Neighborhood Associations
- Neighborhood Block Watch
- Business & Security Managers
- Reserve Deputy Program
- Disabled parking program
- Sheriff's Office Cadet and Explorer programs
- School Resource Officer Program
- Safe Schools Task Force – SRO's
- Level II Threat Assessment – schools
- PREVENT! Coalition
- Community Drug Action Team (CDAT [Formerly CMAT])
- Partnership with DEA for two regional Drug Take Back events

Seniors and Law Enforcement Together (SALT)

S.A.L.T stands for "seniors and law enforcement together." S.A.L.T is a partnership between the Clark County Sheriff's Office, the Camas Police Department and the seniors

living in Clark County. S.A.L.T has a membership of more than 800 seniors living in Clark County, Washington. To understand the significance of this, the Washington State Crime Prevention Association's total membership statewide is less than 500 members. S.A.L.T provides a monthly newsletter solely dedicated to the education, health and wellness of its senior citizen members. S.A.L.T provides for monthly meetings, annual luncheons and fellowship not seen with any other program in Clark County, Washington.

Two annual events stand out as highlights during the year for the SALT program. The first is the annual spaghetti luncheon held in February. This year's luncheon was held on February 21st and was attended by just over 200 seniors. This year we offered a prescription drug take back area for the seniors.



(Drug Take back at the SALT spaghetti luncheon)

The other major event is the annual SALT picnic held in July of each year. This year's picnic was held on July 18th and had just over 120 people in attendance. The menu included fried chicken, green beans, fruit cocktail, and ice cream and included a new item, baked beans.



(SALT Picnic)

Business and Security Managers Group

The Outreach Unit administers a program called the Business and Security Manager's Group, which focuses crime prevention efforts towards our partners in the local business community. Much like the SALT program, this program consists of a series of monthly lunch meetings in which the Sheriff's Office or a business partner provide a guest speaker. Meeting topics over the last year have included how to prevent metal thefts, how to deal with trespassers, the merging of physical and electronic security measures, how to deal with protestors on private property, and regional intelligence sharing between law enforcement and the private sector.

In 2011 we presented a total of 11 individual 1-hour training classes to local business security managers. An end of the year review showed that the business security managers rated this training as excellent.

Disabled Parking Enforcement

Nine citizen volunteers make up our disabled parking enforcement team. In 2011, the team volunteered 284.25 team hours patrolling in Clark County writing 147 citations and giving 609 written warnings. A recent statistic on the Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS: www.policevolunteers.org) shows that in 2009 an hour of volunteer time was valued at \$21.62 in the state of Washington. Totaling the time donated by each volunteer to the program shows 539.25 hours which is worth \$11,658.00!

Although we can attach a monetary value to the time donated, their value to the community is immeasurable. These volunteers give many verbal warnings and show a presence in parking lots around the county, reminding people to leave the handicap parking spots accessible for those who have been given the privilege to park there. They have helped us to build strong relationships with elementary and middle schools in the area where parents often park "just for a moment" in that spot that could be needed by

someone with disabilities. We now have schools calling us requesting the volunteers drive through their parking lots.

School Resource Officer Program

The Clark County Sheriff's Office has school resource officers assigned to four major high schools in Clark County, Washington. The agency also chairs the Regional School Resource Officer Program. Additionally, staff attends the Safe School Task Force meetings and has a regular seat at the table during all Level I and Level II Threat Assessments.

The Vancouver School District, the Evergreen School District and Battle Ground School District, despite continued budget challenges, allocate money from their budget for the sole purpose of keeping this partnership intact. The SRO program's greatest asset may be the relationships it builds between law enforcement and young people.

During the 2010-2011 school year there were 170 screenings received and 87 level II threat assessments completed on children experiencing some form of crisis in our Clark County Schools. To date, no history of significant breakdowns or violence has resulted with a fatal outcome at the hands of these children. Under the watchful guidance of Sheriff Lucas, as well as other local police chiefs, this approach of law enforcement partnering with schools to reduce crime, the fear of crime and to reduce the likelihood of a critical incident perpetrated by a child in crisis has been a major success.

Safe School Task Force Threat Assessment Data

June 20, 2011	Total	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June
Level I building screenings received	170	13	24	13	19	20	25	24	14	17	7
Level II Threat Assessments	87	5	10	7	9	10	11	13	8	6	3

District	Level I Totals	Level II Totals	Level II TA by Grade			Training Offered			Support
			Elem	Mid	High	Review	Level I	#	Level I Assistance
Battle Ground	23	15	3	3	9				1
Camas	3	2			2				1
Evergreen	53	35	13	3	19		3	4	
Green Mt		0							
Hood River	5	2	2				1	2	
La Center		0							
Vancouver	83	30	8	17	5				2
Washougal	3	3	2		1				1
Blind School		0							
Deaf School		0							
Total	170	87	28	23	36	0	5	15	5

Other Agencies		Number
Catholic Community Service	Training	5
SRO	Training	14
OSHS	Training	5

Barb Laurenzo, the Threat Assessment Coordinator with ESD 112, is a fantastic facilitator of the program and is very accommodating to law enforcement to bring us to the table for these assessments. While successful intervention and prevention of a major

incident is hard to prove, the individual successes can be seen case by case and the communication and relationships these assessments build in our community is invaluable.

DEA Sponsored Drug Take Back Events

In April and October of this year, we partnered with the DEA as the lead local agency in a county wide drug take back event. Because all jurisdictions in the county currently have receptacles in their local police stations except for Vancouver, we chose to host this event in their city limits to provide convenient service to their residents. (The event was held at the Fisher's Landing Transit center which had plenty of space and was located next to major freeways for easy access).

In the two 4-hour events we received hundreds of pounds of pills that otherwise would have been flushed, diverted, or thrown away as solid waste. Partnering with Jim Mansfield from the Department of Environmental Services, we recycled the plastic bottles that were turned in as well as donated over the counter medicines, which were still in original packaging, to the free clinic. In April we had over 200 individual participants dropping off a total of over 300 lbs of controlled medications!

Stats from our efforts are in the chart below:

SUMMARY OF PARTICIPANTS AND POUNDS COLLECTED DEA SPONSORED DRUG TAKE BACK EVENTS 2011																	
COLLECTION DATES	Number of Participants	MEDICAL WASTES							RECYCLABLE MATERIALS						TOTAL ALL WASTE	Pounds Per Participant	
		Inhalers ¹	Medications			Thermometers ¹	Mercury	Sharps ¹	SUB- TOTAL Medical Waste	Cardboard ¹	Glass ¹	Paper, Mixed ¹	Plastic, Pill Bottles ⁴	Other ¹			SUB- TOTAL Recyclable Materials
			Controlled ³	Non- Controlled ¹	SW Free Clinic												
30-Apr	211	8.00	336.54	N/A	40.00	0.40	15.00	399.94	12.00	2.00	12.00	106.50	0.00	132.50	532.44	2.5	
29-Oct	171	15.00	178.84	55.00	10.00	0.05	20.00	278.89	4.00	3.00	18.00	60.00	2.00	87.00	365.89	2.1	
TOTALS	382	23.00	515.38	55.00	50.00	0.45	35.00	678.83	16.00	5.00	30.00	166.50	2.00	219.50	898.33	2.4	

¹Estimated Weights

²Actual Weights

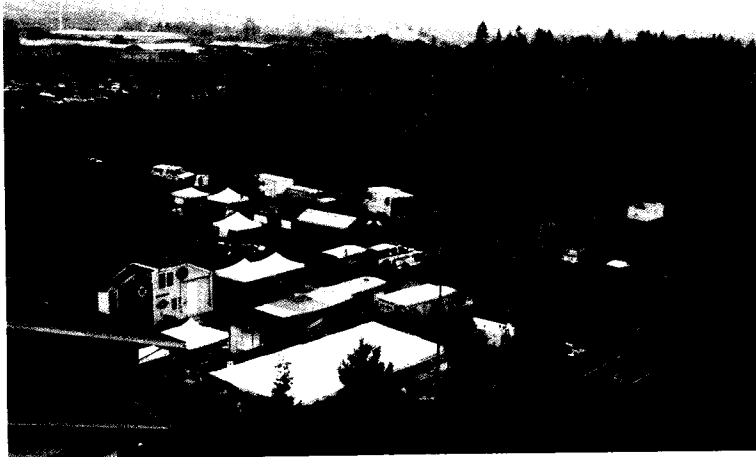
³Non-controlled weighted with controlled in April actual weights, Estimated weights for non-control in October

⁴Actual Weights April, Estimated Weights October

West Precinct Open House

The West Precinct Open House is arguably the highlight event for the precinct each year. The open house is held on the third Saturday of September and is a time for the community to come together at the precinct for fun, food, and education. The open house provides an opportunity for various community groups and government agencies to provide educational information to the public as well as an opportunity for children and adults to view public safety equipment and demonstrations. Some of the more popular

demonstrations include a burn house, a bomb squad detonation, an automobile extraction, a K-9 demonstration, and the opportunity to use a fire hose. The main attraction each year is the arrival of a Lifeflight helicopter which is then opened up for viewing. Although the rain may have made for a wet environment, it didn't dampen the spirits of the participants and community members as over 800 people attended the open house.



K-9 Deputy Ellithorpe and his partner Saver