The mission of Spokane Community Oriented Policing Services (C.O.P.S.) is to promote and support a safe community. We provide crime prevention education and public safety programs by neighborhood volunteers in partnership with the City of Spokane, the Spokane Police Department, the Washington State Department of Corrections, and community stakeholders to improve the quality of life in the entire community.

Mission Statement

Acknowledgements

We at Spokane C.O.P.S. want to take a moment to acknowledge the community around us. As an organization, we exist to make this community better and safer. But that only happens when the community steps up and rises to the challenge. Our volunteers give of their time freely and serve passionately to make us all safer. Our Board members do the same. Our Mayor, City Council members, and other city officials all support us and promote us within the community. We can’t be who we are without YOU being who you are.

Thank you.
# Table of Contents

Letter from the Chairman .............................................. 6
Letter from the Chief of Police ...................................... 7
Board of Directors ...................................................... 8
Staff ........................................................................ 9
Neighborhood Resource Officers .............................. 10
Community Corrections Officers ................................. 11
Financial Report .......................................................... 12

## Crime Prevention Programs

- Neighborhood Observation Patrol ................... 14
- Block Watch ......................................................... 16
- Mounted Patrol Unit ............................................. 18
- Operation Family ID ............................................. 20
- Bicycle Registration ............................................. 21
- Property Drop-Off ............................................... 22
- Latent Fingerprinting ........................................... 24
- Safe Streets ......................................................... 26
- Crime Free Rental Properties ............................ 28
- Operation ID ....................................................... 29
- Reporting Code Enforcement Violations .......... 30
- Business Watch .................................................. 31
- Victim Call Backs .............................................. 32
- Identity Theft ..................................................... 33
- Citywide Statistics ............................................... 34
- C.O.P.S. East Central .......................................... 35
- C.O.P.S. North Central ....................................... 35
- C.O.P.S. Neva-Wood ......................................... 36
- C.O.P.S. Northeast ............................................. 36
- C.O.P.S. Northwest ............................................ 37
- C.O.P.S. Southeast ............................................. 37
- C.O.P.S. Southwest ........................................... 39
- C.O.P.S. West ...................................................... 39
- C.O.P.S. North Hill ............................................ 40
- C.O.P.S. Logan .................................................. 40
- C.O.P.S. NEWTECH ............................................ 41

## Events

- Mounted Patrol Fundraiser ................................ 42
- Friendship Park ................................................... 42
- Shred Day ............................................................. 43
- Crime Free Rental Properties Training ............. 43
- National Night Out .............................................. 44
- Annual Meeting/ Volunteer Appreciation ........ 45
- Neighbors Day ..................................................... 46
- Hillyard Parade .................................................... 46
- Halloween at C.O.P.S. West ............................. 47
- Sleigh Ride in the Park ........................................ 48

## C.O.P.S. Newsletter

- What to watch for in 2019 ................................. 50

## Community Partners

- ................................................................. 51
Letter from the Chairman

As we turn the page on another year, I reflect on the achievements and changes which have occurred in the Spokane C.O.P.S. program, most notably the relocation of three shops which could not have been possible without establishing new community partnerships and a lot of volunteer hours to bring each location up to Spokane C.O.P.S. shop standards. Each location posed varying challenges from physical changes to communication upgrades and throughout the renovations, our volunteer staff at each location volunteered at other C.O.P.S. shops and even helped out with painting, cleaning and setting up the new shops.

Another new C.O.P.S. program, the Mounted Patrol Unit, was created in 2018 and quickly became one of Spokane C.O.P.S. most popular programs. The Mounted Patrol Unit could not have come to fruition without the vision and mentoring of Neighborhood Resource Officer Traci Ponto from C.O.P.S. West. Traci took the initiative and lead on lining up volunteer riders and their horses and working with C.O.P.S. staff, secured Spokane city park sites to ride in and interact with the public. I know there are great things planned for 2019 from the Mounted Patrol Unit, so stay tuned.

Besides our partnership with the Spokane Police Department, we continue our long-time partnership with the Washington State Department of Corrections who have Community Corrections Officers in each of our shop locations, making sure that those individuals who are paroled into our community are following the conditions of their release.

On behalf of the Spokane C.O.P.S. Board and myself, I want to extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to the staff and volunteers for their dedication and hard work in making Spokane C.O.P.S. a big part of the solution to crime prevention in our community.

Sincerely,
Kelly Cruz
Chair, Spokane C.O.P.S. Board

Letter from the Chief of Police

2018 has been a banner year for the Spokane C.O.P.S. program and 2019 is only going to be better! From new C.O.P.S. shop locations to innovative programs helping C.O.P.S. volunteers connect with community members, Spokane C.O.P.S. is an organization that continues to grow, progress and work with many groups from a wide cross spectrum of the community. Between Director Striker, his diligent staff and all the many volunteers who show up every day to selflessly give of themselves, they have become a force multiplier in making Spokane the City of Choice. The partnership between SPD and C.O.P.S. is one of the crowning jewels we at SPD enjoy.

As Spokane continues to grow and evolve, the needs of the community change with it. Spokane C.O.P.S. leadership has strategically placed C.O.P.S. shops throughout the city in key locations that most effectively leverage the tools and programs C.O.P.S. volunteers are so good at. The newest addition, located on West 3rd Avenue, will be an invaluable resource to the lower South Hill, Downtown and Browne’s Addition. This is just one of several examples that illustrate the forethought demonstrated in meeting the community where they are.

From the Mounted Patrol Unit, Paws on Patrol, Block Watch, National Night Out Against Crime, and many more, Spokane C.O.P.S. has and continues to be a major game changer for our community. The relationship between SPD and C.O.P.S. is stronger than it has ever been and they have become integral to community safety. I look back on 2018 as a year of major growth and I am excited for the many things planned by Spokane C.O.P.S. for 2019.

Craig Meidl
Spokane Chief of Police
2018 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Patrick Striker
Executive Director

A native from Moscow, Idaho, Maurece fell in love with graphic/visual arts and organizational development of what she calls “the masses” when she was only a teenager...starting with one remarkable summer camp experience. Inspired by her Art and Psychology instructors from high school, college and lifelong opportunities, Maurece quickly developed a deep passion for graphic design, program management and education. This resolve grew and blossomed into the non-profit world of Community Oriented Policing, leading her to Spokane C.O.P.S. Maurece provides support for our volunteers, organization and community through program development, computer education, statistical analysis and accounting support. Needless to say, Maurece is happy spending her days helping to keep Spokane an amazing place to live, one crime prevention program at a time.

Michael grew up in VA Beach, VA., attended high school and college here in Spokane and spent 8 years in the Army reserves. He was a printer before returning to Spokane in 1996. He has worked for Spokane C.O.P.S. for over 20 years, starting as a volunteer at C.O.P.S. Southeast in 1997 and hired by Spokane C.O.P.S. in 2002 as office manager. His job has developed into managing the main office, maintaining the C.O.P.S. Shop facilities and vehicles as well as IT manager of the computer and phone networks.

Abby joined Spokane C.O.P.S. in July of 2017 as the I.D. Theft and Fraud Crime Victim Advocate. Born and bred in Virginia, she is happy to now call Spokane home. Abby joins C.O.P.S. with a Master’s degree in Sociology and a decade of nonprofit experience, primarily in domestic violence and disaster response and education. When not helping her community in crime prevention, she enjoys being outside, Netflix, and hanging out with her weird friends and her cats, Kora and Farfalle.
Spokane C.O.P.S. is a 501c3 organization, incorporated in the state of Washington in 1995. We rely on funding from our partners the Spokane Police Department, Washington Department of Corrections, Office of Crime Victim Advocacy and, of course, we seek donations and sponsorships from throughout the community. We are proud of the partnerships we have cultivated, and the profound difference we are able to make in the community with these funds. Based on the current federal rate for volunteers, our volunteer hours alone (not counting staff hours) provided almost $650,000 of value to the Spokane community this year. We are amazed at this effort and we commend our volunteers for all their hard work!

### Revenue

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>City</td>
<td>$384,575</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DOC</td>
<td>$33,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCVA</td>
<td>$50,611</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>$34,183</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The first step in crime prevention is to realize that to prevent crime or becoming a crime victim, we must accept that crime prevention is a shared responsibility. It is not a citizen problem or a police problem. It is a societal problem that can only be properly addressed by the entire community. Therefore, safety is truly a shared responsibility.

Three elements must be present for a crime to occur: desire, ability, and opportunity. This is also known as the crime triangle. A person may “want” to commit a crime and have the “ability” to commit a crime, but if we deny them the “opportunity,” then no crime can be committed. Historically, the primary goal of crime prevention has been to apprehend criminals. Although this goal is still important, the goal of preventing crime and reducing the cost of crime has taken on significant importance.

Spokane C.O.P.S. takes providing crime prevention resources to help make our community safe and secure. Spokane C.O.P.S. goal is to help individuals prevent crime by helping them make decisions in their everyday lives to reduce the opportunity for crime to occur. Reporting suspicious persons and/or activities, locking vehicles, securing doors and windows, being aware of your surroundings for personal safety, and most importantly, building strong relationships with your neighbors and developing a strong sense of community are all important risk reduction strategies.

Spokane C.O.P.S. has a proven, well-developed approach to crime prevention through Block Watch, Neighborhood Observation Patrol (NOP), Crime Free Rental Properties (CFRP), CPTED (property inspection of residences, commercial or multi-family properties), Latent Fingerprinting, Operation Family ID (child ID), Bike Registration, Operation ID (engraving ID), Business Watch, Safe Streets, Property Drop Off and Code Enforcement Reporting. These crime prevention programs have been developed to best assist our citizens in taking a responsible approach to reducing crime in their environment. This year saw the addition of the Mounted Patrol Unit.
Spokane, like any city, has its share of crime. Police can’t be everywhere at all times, but citizens can be. And even if officers are around, a police officer doesn’t necessarily know that there is an issue. For instance, an officer doesn’t know that the neighbors are on vacation and aren’t expecting company. But you do. You are the eyes and ears for your neighborhood. You know when something isn’t right, and it’s up to you to report it.

Our volunteers are trained by SPD officers on observing and patrolling. They are the eyes and ears for the police. Our volunteers go out in marked vehicles, or their own vehicles, or even on foot. Whatever it takes to get out and patrol, our volunteers do it!

2018 saw an expansion of the program. Our numbers are up higher than they’ve been in years in terms of the number of volunteers who NOP, as well as the total number of hours. In fact, this year our numbers went up 15-fold in the last 4 years, and double since last year alone.

Not only are our numbers on the rise, but our program is expanding its effectiveness in the community as well this year. With monthly meetings that involved volunteers, NROs, Crime Analysts, and Code Enforcement members, we really focused on how our volunteers can accomplish more while out. Each month, different topics focused on areas where our volunteers could assist. Parks, transient issues, abandoned vehicles, and a number of other topics were addressed.

In addition, we encouraged volunteers to go other directions with NOP. Observing and reporting crime is important and needs to be done, but often just as important are positive interactions with community members. Our volunteers would drive our marked vehicles and visit businesses, say hello to neighbors, and work to provide a presence that was positive in the community.

And, of course, 2018 saw our volunteers continue to seek guidance from their NROs. Part of what makes the C.O.P.S. model so unique is the relationship our volunteers have with their NROs and the guidance the NROs can give. The NROs and volunteers both know our neighborhoods inside and out, they know which houses are being reported by the community, and together, they are able to focus efforts on those problems. The NROs are able to give direction so the NOP patrols are focused and directed, and the volunteers are where they are needed. From nuisance houses to hot spots, our volunteers were all over the city this year.

The volunteers have helped us shut down MANY problem houses because of the information they have provided.

Even the simple act of driving in the NOP vehicles sends such a strong message. Community members that see the NOP vehicles know that someone cares and is out there working to keep our neighborhoods safe. Most community members know that NOP volunteers are trained by SPD officers and are out there on our behalf, and that strengthens the relationship we have with our citizens. It also sends a message to those who are looking to commit crimes that someone is there and this area is patrolled. We appreciate the volunteers more than they will ever know.

Major Eric Olsen, SPD
Return to Table of Contents

**BLOCK WATCH**

You need to get to know your neighbors. It’s as simple as that. When it comes to preventing crime, there is no substitute for having a strong relationship with your neighbors. You know when things aren’t right, you know if there is a car that doesn’t belong in your area. You are the first line of defense. When neighbors look out for each other, it makes life more difficult for those who are trying to cause trouble. A good Block Watch gets people together, helps them get to know each other and look out for each other, and gets neighbors invested in safety. At Spokane C.O.P.S., we can help make that happen and even keep you updated on tips and tricks to stay safe, as well as getting you information you need, such as experts to come talk to you and your neighbors about specific problems you are seeing.

2018 saw a big push to revitalize Block Watch. We are living in a digital age, and that has its benefits. It’s great to be able to text neighbors with issues, post issues to social media, and make use of the technology around us. But the temptation can be to overly rely on technology and not develop relationships with our neighbors. People looking out for each other is your best defense against crime. So we pushed this year to get people to consider Block Watch, consider the benefits of knowing your neighbors, and to have the peace of mind that comes with knowing everyone around you is looking out for you. We presented at Homeowners Associations, Neighborhood Councils, civic groups, religious groups, libraries, and everywhere we could so people would hear this message loud and clear: know your neighbors and look out for each other.

---

**Program Spotlight**

The Gift of Neighbor Uniting With Neighbor and Local Law Enforcement

We are told ‘tis the season for family, friends, love and giving thanks. Out of love and gratitude we buy gifts for those we care for, then we must worry about our gifts being stolen from the very same front porch that we meet and greet our neighbors, family and friends. This was a reality I faced three and a half years ago when I moved from where I was raised in the Spokane Valley into the city of Spokane. In the first six months of living in the city, I had an attempted break in of my garage, had a domestic violence situation between a guy and girl break out on the sidewalk in front of my house, while walking my dog we found a bag of stolen items tossed behind a bush and we found used needles on the grass at the local park. This wasn’t acceptable to me. Community should be a safe place for children and families. I raised my children to believe that when you become aware of a problem, if you turn a blind eye, or chose to not help, then you become part of the problem. I set out for change. First, I purchased a PO BOX to alleviate packages left on my porch and second, I joined Block Watch. Later I agreed to be a Block Watch Representative because there wasn’t one for my area. This is an investment I have never regretted. Block Watch helped me form relationships with my neighbors and with local law enforcement. It has taken away that feeling of isolation that I once had and taught me when and how to be alert. I have gained knowledge of how to work with those around me to make my neighborhood safer. When one of us is out of town, we watch out for the other’s house. There have been many instances where Block Watch has united neighbors over the past three years. Let me just share from this past week.

Last week I experienced the unity of my neighborhood working together twice. First when a neighbor’s puppy escaped, and we worked together driving in a methodical pattern through the neighborhood streets and alley’s until the pup was found. I hadn’t know this neighbor prior. She was an emotional mess. I would be too if one of my pups was lost. My heart was warmed when the pup was safe and out of the cold. This same week we had a horrific crime take place in our Garland community. My front windows were illuminated by bright flashing lights. I went out on to my front porch thinking it was likely a firetruck. I wanted to make sure my neighbors were okay. The street was lit up by police cars. My head immediately went to concern, not only for our neighborhood, but also for those in law enforcement. Daily they put their lives on the line to protect all of us even though there are too few officers. It reminds me of the importance of all of us working together. I hear an officer on the bullhorn saying “Stay in your houses and lock your doors.” I didn’t have to be told twice. I called my Block Watch Coordinator to alert him to the situation. Within minutes, neighbors were messaging me, so we could all stay informed and alert. I posted the happenings to our block Watch neighborhood Facebook page. There is enormous potential when we tap into the use of social media for good. Another neighbor checked their camera to see if part of the crime was caught on video. This quick response and neighbor to neighbor uniting is the foundation of what makes Block Watch work. It is the heart of what makes me, and my family feel safe in a city we love and call home. As you settle in to enjoy the holidays, consider the investment and gift of joining Block Watch.

Danyll Van Lierop, Block Watch Representative

Not only is a Block Watch of value in fighting crime, but it means better relationships with neighbors and those geographically close to you. A win, win on any block! Taking that step a bit further, social media such as Nextdoor and Facebook neighborhood groups is a great source of information and increase awareness.

Victor Frazier, Block Watch representative, C.O.P.S. Northwest volunteer, Chair-Audubon/Downriver Neighborhood Council

---

**Stats**

583
Block Watches across Spokane

---

Return to Table of Contents
MOUNTED PATROL UNIT

In February 2018, a Spokane City Mounted Patrol Unit began its journey back into the history books after a 20 year absence. The volunteer unit, consisting of 14 horse and riders, came on under the Neighborhood Observation Patrol for the C.O.P.S. non-profit organization. After spring training, the Mounted Patrol Unit hit 13 parks across the City of Spokane, from June 1st through September 30th. We made it our mission to host events in the city parks that would draw families and kids into the parks and ultimately move out some of the unwanted behavior neighbors were seeing. Volunteers patrolled these parks, giving families the opportunity to meet their horses while at the same time engaging the community on why we were in their parks, our C.O.P.S. organization and speaking about crime prevention.

In addition to our Summer City Park schedule, we attended 6 National Night Out events, partnered with Wishing Star in Mission Park, Coffee with a Cop, a professional photo shoot with the iconic Centennial Mills building, and participated in Deer Park and Hillyard parades. Volunteers and their horses were in the city parks just about every weekend, making about 150 contacts per shift. Volunteers logged over 1500 volunteer hours between, June 1st and October 1st. In September, we opened up our application process and as of November 1st have a total of 39 volunteer horse and riders and 6 additional staff on the books. We ended our first successful year with an event called ‘Sleigh Bells in Corbin Park’ where we hosted a free event which included horse drawn wagon rides, refreshments, and photographs with Santa and Mrs. Claus. The event brought in about 1200 people and received great reviews. We had 31 volunteers and logged 200 hours for this event to make it a success!

Friends of the C.O.P.S. Mounted Patrol Unit has a Facebook page and we also have Instagram.

We have exciting plans for 2019 which include a Drill Team to open for rodeos. This will be the first Drill Team the City of Spokane has had in over 60 years! In addition, we will have trading cards and host a scavenger hunt in September. We have continued our legacy with “We Ride With Pride” motto taken from the Spokane Police department Mounted Patrol Unit in 1970.
OPERATION FAMILY ID

A Message to All Parents

Your toddler suddenly disappears in a crowd at the county fair. Your 10-year-old little boy waits at the school bus stop, but never got to school. A teen simply says “Mom, I’m going to the store and be right back.” Hours pass, and she hasn’t returned. Every year, hundreds of thousands of kids in the U.S. are reported “missing.”

So, here’s the message: parents, have information that helps identify your child ready to hand to law enforcement the instant you report your child missing.

Spokane C.O.P.S. provides parents with their child’s photograph, fingerprints, a DNA swab and vital other identification documentation which are used by law enforcement in tracking children who have been reported as missing. This packet is a great tool for parents to have at their disposal to help protect their children.

Providing your child’s fingerprints is vital. Not only are fingerprints unique to each person, but they don’t change over time like physical appearances. We recommend that you update the fingerprint and photo process of your children at least once a year. You keep the photo, fingerprints, DNA swab and information yourselves in a safe place in case you need to provide the packet to law enforcement in an emergency.

In 2018, Spokane C.O.P.S. was requested to provide OFID at numerous events in the Spokane community. In addition, several of our shops have provided OFID in-house to make it very convenient for parents to have their children’s photos and fingerprints done during shop hours.

Our C.O.P.S. volunteers and staff took our OFID process to various community events and for special requests. The list of requests gets bigger each year! This year, we’ve been able to provide OFID at city libraries, apartment properties, community centers, safety fairs, neighborhood events, Block Watch neighborhoods, National Missing Kids Day, West Central Neighbor Days, Shilo Hills Neighbor Days, 1st Presbyterian Church, South Perry Street Fair, Garland Street Fair, Jr. Police Academy, Hays Park Concert Series, National Night Out, Gonzaga University...and the list just goes on!

If you are interested in having this process done for your kids to help keep them safe, continue to look for us in the community or talk to your neighborhood shop!

BICYCLE REGISTRATION

Fighting Bike Theft is the Right Thing to Do.

Bike theft from public places and private property is a sad reality, and it’s a big and growing problem. While many types of property theft have declined in recent years, bicycle theft is on the rise according to FBI statistics. The increasing popularity of bicycling as a sport and a means of transportation have made bicycles an easy target for thieves. The FBI estimates that over 1.5 million bicycles are stolen every year. Wouldn’t it great if one day you would be able to buy a bike that can’t be stolen. But in the meantime, there is a lot you can do to minimize the risk of losing your bike to criminals.

Bicycles are an extremely popular form of transportation in Spokane. When using your bike for transportation, not only is it great exercise, but you get to park right outside your destination (no walking from the parking lot), and you can avoid traffic jams and searching for a parking space. But with these benefits comes the fact that bikes are often the target of theft. With a few simple suggestions, Spokane C.O.P.S. strives to make your biking experience safe and enjoyable while helping you avoid becoming a victim of theft.

Registration for your bike is free and quick at our C.O.P.S. shops. By registering your bicycle, we could both return stolen bikes to their owners, catch more thieves, and deter theft. Our volunteers will record your serial number and personal information, then enter it into the city database. Without a serial number, your bicycle cannot be entered into a database, and, if found, it couldn’t be proven to belong to you without that key information. Once registered, we can provide a free helmet if you need one, as well!

In 2018, Spokane C.O.P.S. volunteers registered 360 bicycles. Our C.O.P.S. volunteers register bikes at two of Spokane’s largest bicycle events – the Annual Bike Swap at the Spokane County Fairgrounds and SpokeFest – as well as a myriad of other events around the community such as safety fairs, block watch events, bike rodeos, and even local colleges.

For 2019, our goal is to expand our bike registration reach to partner with bicycles and pawn shops in Spokane to have all bikes registered at time of purchase, create events with multi-family housing properties to provide bike registration, bike rodeos and child safety education.

Stats

470 Kids served in 2018

360 bicycles registered by our C.O.P.S. shops this year
PROPERTY DROP OFF

When you lose something—or worse, have an item stolen—it’s hard to know what to do next. If your heart drops at the realization that you left your wallet in a cab or restaurant, or just suddenly discover you don’t have it, we know how frustrating that can be. If you’re like most people, half of your life is in your wallet. Credit cards, debit cards, ID, insurance cards, money — you name it, it’s in there. And if it falls into the wrong hands, it could be devastating.

Losing valuable items like a phone or laptop is enough to send most of us into a full-blown panic attack. Having them stolen is even worse.

Then there is the huge problem of having your bike stolen. You get up one morning to grab your fancy Trek road bike (which you saved forever to buy) from the back patio, and found it was no longer there. You think, “That was weird. I could have sworn I left that thing leaning right there against a chair.” You search the shed and side yards, and everywhere else you’d usually leave a bike. No bike.

But that’s no reason to simply roll over and accept your fate. Our C.O.P.S. shops are here to help.

2018 has been a stellar year for being able to return found items brought to our shops by good citizens. There is a wide range of items that they bring to our C.O.P.S. shops from wallets and purses to bicycles and chainsaws to service uniforms/equipment and medical papers. Our volunteers will attempt a search to find the owner and reunite them with their property or investigate further if the item is stolen and/or linked to a crime.

Numerous bicycles, driver’s licenses, bank cards, social security cards, passports, immigration papers, electronics, checkbooks, keys, clothing, medications, and yes…even cash…are just a short list that isn’t even the end of the plethora of items brought into our C.O.P.S. shops. Some of the more unusual items have been:

- Chainsaw
- Golf cart/clubs
- Baby stroller
- Wheelchair
- Combination Safes
- Floor painter/sander
- Service uniform
- Military awards/certificates
- Passports
- Gun permits
- NASA camera equipment
- Inline roller blades
- Pilot licenses

And those are just from 2018!

Program Spotlight

During Summer 2018, a citizen brought in a wallet with the usual contents: driver’s license, credit cards, vehicle insurance cards and other miscellaneous items. Upon reviewing the contents of the wallet, our volunteers found the contact information from the insurance card for a Tennessee-based insurance company. They called the insurance company and discovered that the owner was enroute moving to Washington State. The insurance rep provided the contact info for the owner’s father for the volunteer to call. When our volunteer called Dad, she heard him yelling in complete amazement “They found the wallet!” He said his son was in the Puget Sound area for a while and suggested sending the wallet and contents to the address for his son.

In September, a Knox Presbyterian Church staff member found a large envelope full of military records, awards and certificates all issued to the same gentleman dating during the 1990s. Our volunteers called the VFW to see if they would have a record of this serviceman’s name and contact information. Councilman Mike Fagan came by the shop and picked up the paperwork in order to access military records and return the valuable documents to their rightful owner. Memorabilia that could never be replaced!

Last, but not least...by pure detective work and doggedness, a wallet and its contents was found with Department of Corrections CCO information. Our volunteer called the CCO listed on the card in Idaho and was told the owner of the wallet was in jail in Moscow, Idaho. The prisoner couldn’t accept anything from the outside while incarcerated. The jail administrative office gave a number for the owner’s contact that may be able to claim the prisoner’s property. The volunteer called the contact in Hayden, Idaho, where that person agreed to come to the shop to pick up the wallet and contents.
**LATENT FINGERPRINTING**

Latent fingerprinting is a critical component of catching car prowlers. With car prowls being a problem in Spokane, every effort is needed to bring justice to the perpetrators. But officers can’t be everywhere and their time needs to be maximized out in the field. So our volunteers step in and do the lifting of prints off of vehicles that are prowled. Our volunteers are trained by the forensics department in the correct methods, learning all the tricks and tips needed to get a good lift. There are few things more exciting than a volunteer being notified that is was their work that caught a bad guy!

2018 saw us expand locations and days so community members could have more access to this much needed service. To maximize effectiveness of volunteer time, community members typically bring their cars to us at the shops (though fairly often we will go to them). We know that community members work, have school, family life, and other time commitments that can minimize the time they have to come to a shop (not to mention all the hassle and frustration of having been victimized to begin with). So by training new volunteers and adding North Central and Southeast as shops were we do lifts, we were able to make it easier on community members to access our services. In addition, the Southeast shop even did lifts on Saturdays to further make it easier on victimized community members who work during the week.

Our volunteer commitment to this community is unsurpassed when you think of our volunteers working in the freezing cold, wind, rain, scorching heat, and everything else in an effort to bring criminals to justice!

---

I’m proud to be a public servant, and my involvement with the latent print program is one of the best ways to continue in that role.

Ed Wattawa
C.O.P.S. North Central

---

**Program Spotlight**

After becoming a volunteer at the new C.O.P.S. North Central location at 806 W Knox Ave, I decided to specialize in the lifting and processing of latent fingerprints from vehicles involved in property crime incidents. I attended on-the-job training and training provided by the Spokane City County Forensics Unit to learn the skills necessary to perform this service. I learned quickly that this work requires a lot of concentration, paying attention to detail, and much paperwork. With my background in public safety and criminal justice, I believe this program is a good fit for me. I’m proud to be a public servant, and my involvement with the latent print program is one of the best ways to continue in that role.

The Latent Fingerprint Program is one the many services offered by C.O.P.S. volunteers and has been embraced with dedication and enthusiasm throughout a number of our C.O.P.S. shops. There is a great demand for this service from vehicle prow victims, and I find the work I do very challenging.

I start by asking the victim probing questions about the condition of the vehicle, such as what the victim observed when discovering that an offense occurred, i.e., door left open, glove box open, signs of break in. We then try to narrow down the most likely entry point the suspect used and where the suspect might have left prints, photograph the victim for positive identification and lift and photograph the latent prints. Special tape is used to lift the prints, and the tape is placed on latent print cards. The paperwork then begins with filling out the latent print cards and the photo log listing the victim’s photo and all photos of the latent prints lifted. I believe the latent print program provides a vital service to our community. Many of the vehicle prow victims I’ve met appreciate the service we perform. I average seven to ten latent prints lifted per vehicle. Sometimes, however, I get no prints at all. Either way victims gain a more first-hand knowledge of the print lifting process. Through my conversations I learn their personal stories. Many tell me about neighbors who have been vehicle prow victims. I also learn about crime trends in their neighborhoods.

With property crimes being a low priority for the Spokane Police, due to their having to respond to more serious crimes, the vehicle prow victims we serve have great assurance that they matter and that there will be some sort of closure, such as the arrest of a suspect.

The C.O.P.S. latent print program is a vital tool to enhance public safety and police/community relations. I take pride in knowing that C.O.P.S. North Central took a major lead role in providing the Latent Fingerprint process for the community. I encourage all volunteers to consider doing latent prints.

Ed Wattawa, C.O.P.S. North Central

---

**Stats**

1,396
Fingerprint requests processed in 2018.
**SAFE STREETS**

We all deserve to live in peaceful neighborhoods — but what about those neighbors who disrupt the quality of life in your neighborhood? Have you ever wished there was a program that allowed good neighbors to regain control of the neighborhood?

Spokane C.O.P.S. Safe Streets program is a resource that was developed to empower individuals and neighborhood groups to use a civil court process to make their neighborhoods peaceful and secure by eliminating nuisance problems. Nuisance houses are defined in the city municipal code, you can effectively take the owner of the house (whether they live there, or the house is a rental property) to court for violating this ordinance. A judgment against the owner results in fines paid to affected neighbors.

Safe Streets can be a much faster way to get results than other options. Oftentimes, even repeated visits by the police is not enough to change behavior. But by facing legal action and potentially large fines for failure to act, owners often deal with the problem immediately as that is preferable to going to court.

Safe Streets consists of a four-step process.

- **Documentation** - Establish a written record of the disruptive activities of detailed disruptive activity such as who is going to the property, what is going on at the property or surrounding area, when is this activity happening and where is all this activity occurring. When appropriate, make a police report of activity to Crime Check and obtain an incident number. When done properly, this written record will indicate the chronic nature of the problem. This documentation provides the essential foundation you should have before you move to the next step.
- **Notification** - The law requires proper notification of the owners of the property on which the disruptive activity is occurring.
- **Negotiation** - Negotiations are typically result in a mutual agreement between parties.
- **Litigation** - If litigation becomes necessary, the Safe Streets process involves filing cases in Small Claims Court.

**Program Spotlight**

**Thank You for Safe Streets**

As we come to the close of 2018, we wanted to express our appreciation to the Spokane C.O.P.S. office for the invaluable assistance provided to our communities. As they are aware, this was a trying year for our general Block Watch area in Northeast Spokane with youth in Hays Park and a nuisance house on Bridgeport posing times where we felt threatened and at risk in our own homes.

Thankfully, the C.O.P.S. program exists and provides the resources to assist residents and police to try to reverse such situations. Our Block Watch has been in existence for four years and has been an impetus to create a sense of community in our area and an opportunity to communicate with a unified voice when such situations arise. Throughout its existence, we have relied heavily on the resources and knowledgeable staff at the C.O.P.S. office. Resources include materials, education, suggestions and guest speakers that have enhanced our meetings and efforts. In addition, our group has now twice relied on the “Safe Streets” program materials to communicate with landlords of properties that we believed to be nuisance properties. The handbook was well written and an invaluable resource when we communicated with the landlords. Literally, we only needed to edit the sample letters to accommodate our situation.

We believe the C.O.P.S. program and initiatives are a highlight for our city. You provide the bridge for the citizens in many situations and especially with our police department. The C.O.P.S. staff have helped facilitate our interactions with our new Resource Officer, Scott Hice who has also provided amazing assistance for us this year.

Marlene Maurer, Block Watch Representative
CRIME FREE RENTAL PROPERTIES

Crime Free Rental Properties (CFRP) offers innovative crime prevention solutions designed to help keep illegal activity off rental property. CFRP is successful because it approaches crime on many fronts. Law enforcement cannot solve crime problems alone. Neither can the management or residents of rental properties. However, by working together, the end result has been the most successful approach to crimes in rental communities.

There are three ways criminal activity comes into a rental community:

1. The criminal lives there
2. They visit friends there
3. They come to the property to commit crimes

CFRP addresses all three of these possibilities. By implementing the principles of the program, the property owners, managers and staff reduce the opportunity for crime on their property and, in turn, reduce the number of visitors who come onto the property with criminal intent (i.e. chronic drug dealing and illegal activity). The CFRP Program uses CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design) techniques to combat crimes that might occur in the parking lots, common areas, or inside the premise. The Crime Free Rental Property program, along with CPTED elements, can be the key for citizens working toward an improved quality of life.

In 2018, we increased our focus on not only apartments and rentals, but also expanded the concept and benefits of CFRP and CPTED to include home owners, businesses, parks, schools and other public areas. Regardless of the type of structure or public space, most properties face the same challenges, concerns, and issues. We look at access control, surveillance options, motivation reinforcement and territorial design to help decrease criminal opportunity.

We have had many residents and businesses that have been affected by some type of criminal activity around their property or neighborhoods. We meet with the owners/managers to help establish parameters that will help curb that unwanted behavior. A few very effective ideas to discourage this behavior are a clear border definition, placing gathering areas in locations with natural surveillance and access control by users, appropriate lighting, locking devices, and landscaping. Some unique examples for businesses are lower shelves for visibility from both inside and outside, parking in front of store, increase natural surveillance, and of course increased visibility and surveillance through appropriate use of landscaping (high and low height limits).

OPERATION ID

Operation Identification (Op ID) is a citizen’s burglary prevention program for use in homes and businesses. It involves all citizens and is designed to discourage burglary and theft by permanently identifying valuables.

The Op ID program has been proven nationally to be dramatically effective in reducing burglary, when it is properly implemented, and helps the police to contact you when the property is recovered and lets you identify it so it can be returned to the rightful owner. This process is one of the oldest and best methods of crime prevention involving the marking or engraving of property with an identifying number with your driver’s license number, state ID Number or Tax Identification Number. These numbers are easily recognized and traced by law enforcement.

Our C.O.P.S. shops encourage citizens to check out an electric engraver for free to mark your personal items, obtain an inventory log form and catalog each engraved item to list all property such as televisions, radios, stereos, toys, bicycles, video games, tools, lawn mowers, edgers, etc. Include make, model and serial numbers that are listed. Items that do not have serial numbers should have unique personal identification text etched into them.

There are 4 important steps recommended:

1. Mark property or valuables with an identifying mark.
2. Inventory your marked property on a form with descriptions including brand, model number, and serial number.
3. It is also recommended that you photograph or video tape your valuables.
4. KEEP THIS LIST IN A SAFE PLACE SUCH AS A FIREPROOF SAFE OR SAFETY DEPOSIT BOX.

Our volunteers and staff partner with Block Watch groups, multi-family properties and businesses to provide engraving on site at meetings and events. We also encourage citizens to stop by any C.O.P.S. shop to have their item engraved on the spot!

In January, the question was asked, “the holidays are over. You have lots of nice things given to you by friends and family. What now? How do you protect them?” And that’s where Operation: ID comes in. The media reached out to us and we were able to do a nice public service announcement to get the community to see the value in making use of this program.

Burglars may think twice about breaking into your home if you’re part of Operation ID.
REPORTING CODE ENFORCEMENT VIOLATIONS

While property owners often think that the way they take care of their property is their own business, the way they keep their home and surroundings maintained impacts the neighbors in safety, property value and quality of life. Getting some owners to sustain their properties responsibly can be a real challenge. Code Enforcement is a powerful tool to maintain the appearance and property values of a neighborhood.

The most obvious function of code enforcement within communities is controlling the battle of the blight in our neighborhoods. Every city faces struggles with vacant buildings, trash, tall grass and weeds, graffiti, and junk vehicles. It stands to reason that if a neighborhood has deteriorating properties, eventually they may see what is commonly known as the “Broken Window Theory” where there is an increase in the amount of crime and a significant decrease in property values.

Often, people are not exactly sure what to do when they have a complaint regarding a possible violation. Many times, people appreciate hearing from our volunteers with possible suggestions to a code situation to help correct the problem. Our volunteers are key in providing that first line of action in making sure that these issues reported to Code Enforcement in a timely and effective manner.

In 2018, Spokane C.O.P.S. has continued to take a proactive approach to training our volunteers in recognizing code enforcement violations for the city of Spokane and can help the community learn what are code violations and what are not, how to report their concerns, and work with the city Code Enforcement officers to bring resolution to the situation. Our NOP patrols are a significant resource in reporting violations in neighborhoods, parks, public right of ways, along the Spokane River, vacant properties and more. Working directly with each Neighborhood Resource Officer (NRO) and opening the communication with the public in the proper steps to eliminate code issues all work towards maintaining our quality of life.

BUSINESS WATCH

Businesses often have concerns that relate to crime and safety around their business. Theft, graffiti, transients, dumpster diving all are just a handful of things that businesses have approached us about specifically. One great way to help is with Business Watch. If you, as a business, are seeing issues that concern you, odds are pretty good that the businesses around you are seeing those same issues. By forming a Business Watch, where businesses work together, work with us, and work with their NRO, we can deal with some of these systemic issues.

2018 saw a large influx of businesses coming to us with concerns. As businesses saw an increase in various areas of concern, we saw them looking for solid, positive methods of curbing those issues. Businesses were looking for creative ways to deal with getting spray painted with graffiti, with transients decreasing the number of people coming to their shops, with brazen shoplifters, and many other challenges.

We began orchestrating meetings with businesses, bringing in the area NRO, and exploring options to deal with these issues. We were able to get businesses working together, learning how to report issues, learning what can be done and what can’t from a legal standpoint for the police department, getting NOP patrols coming out to help provide a presence and act as a deterrent, providing CPTED assessments with recommendations, and working to empower businesses to fight back positively against unwanted behavior.

MOBILE RADAR

It only takes a few minutes for Bob Manion, a volunteer at C.O.P.S. Southwest, to move the portable radar unit to various locations on the South Hill. Moving the radar within a few days of a request is very popular with the citizens who don’t want to be put on the city’s waiting list. Spokane C.O.P.S. hopes to obtain more of this type of portable radar and deploy them upon request in all areas of the city.

Stats

803
Code Enforcement Requests/Complaints Received in 2018
VICTIM CALL BACKS

Property crime, in particular vehicle prowls, are an issue we see in Spokane. Due to these incidents, the Victim Call Back Program at Spokane C.O.P.S. was started as a resource for those victims. Every week our volunteers receive a handful of referrals from the Spokane Police Department and they take on the task of calling those individuals back. They act as an ear to listen, a resource board for help, and an informational guide about tools for safety. They offer fingerprinting to interested individuals, a tool that has very much led to perpetrators being caught in the past. They will offer things like a CPTED for individuals who want to expand the feeling of safety to their whole home or business. And for those who want to turn their incident into a push for action, our volunteers can teach you about how to get involved in things like Block Watch or even becoming a volunteer with Spokane C.O.P.S. in our Neighborhood Observation Patrol, or any of our other crime prevention programs.

Since its reinstatement in 2017, this program has soared in its efficiency and the number of individuals it has reached. Shown by the statistics, which are over double the number reached in 2017, this program is here for the community and will continue to be as long as vehicle prowls continue to be a problem.

Stats

4,992 calls to victims in 2018

IDENTITY THEFT/CRIME VICTIM ADVOCATE

The crime of identity theft is pervasive in our society. Every year studies show that the number of victims continues to grow and while thankfully new legislation and smarter technology are aiding the prevention and recovery front, with each advancement, perpetrators are also getting smarter. From massive data breaches to medical identity theft to credit card fraud, a new person is still being taken advantage of every two seconds. Now in its eleventh year, the Identity Theft and Fraud Program at Spokane C.O.P.S. stands up for the victims of these crimes. Providing education, resources, and advocacy, this program is available for those in need against what is still the fastest growing crime nationally and globally.

In 2018, this program expanded its efforts in the community. While previously the greatest focus was placed on the most at-risk populations, young adults and the elderly, in 2018, the goal became to try and reach everyone. To this end, 2018 saw new partnerships with Lutheran Community Services, the YWCA, the Community Courts, Northeast and West Central Community Center, West Spokane Wellness Partnership, the Elderly Task Force, and several others. Spokane C.O.P.S. has worked diligently to ensure that the services we offer are known and available in the community, as well as at our C.O.P.S. Shops. At the same time, C.O.P.S. has continued to deepen its relationships with the organization partners of 2017, including local high schools and universities, Mid-City Concerns, VALU, SCOPE, COAD, the Homeless Coalition, and Building Stronger Neighborhoods.

As prevention is key to stopping the spread of identity theft and fraud, in 2018, the Spokane C.O.P.S. Identity Theft and Fraud Department also amplified its efforts to lead presentations in the community. Engaging with multiple neighborhood councils, apartment complexes, local advocacy agencies, and law enforcement, and partnering with Edward Jones and S.C.O.P.E., the number of presentations to the community almost quadrupled this year from last. Addressing safety tips, prevention techniques, and steps toward recovery after an identity theft threat or incident, these free presentations are available seven days a week to the community.

In establishing a greater community presence, 1:1 advocacy efforts also increased in 2018, surpassing the number of victims contacted in 2017 in just the first quarter of 2018. Providing information, referral services, and assistance with reporting incidents to law enforcement, credit bureaus, and business fraud departments, the core of this program aims to help those who have gone through this heinous crime. Remember - identity theft and fraud may seem overwhelming when you’re a victim, but Spokane C.O.P.S. wants to ensure you don’t have to go through it alone.

When you called me, I was on the other line with someone asking me if I was still looking for a loan and I’ve never even applied for a loan. That’s scary how someone is using my info! Thank you for calling when you did and walking me through what to do. Kay S.
THE C.O.P.S. SHOPS

From Neighborhood Observation Patrol to Latent Fingerprinting to Block Watch, it all comes together and is coordinated from our 10 shops and 1 mobile unit. The C.O.P.S. shops are the base of operation where all the action is. Here our volunteer presidents work with C.O.P.S. staff to insure that our programs are successfully implemented across the various neighborhoods of Spokane. These shops are in the neighborhoods and work with real citizens across Spokane. They are also community centers where meetings or other events can be held and serve as a stopping place for Spokane Police and Washington State Department of Corrections to write reports and do other work. The shops are great repositories for information, so stop by and meet your local volunteers.

The C.O.P.S. shops are the base of operation where all the action is. Here our volunteer presidents work with C.O.P.S. staff to insure that our programs are successfully implemented across the various neighborhoods of Spokane. These shops are in the neighborhoods and work with real citizens across Spokane. They are also community centers where meetings or other events can be held and serve as a stopping place for Spokane Police and Washington State Department of Corrections to write reports and do other work. The shops are great repositories for information, so stop by and meet your local volunteers.

THE C.O.P.S. SHOPS

From Neighborhood Observation Patrol to Latent Fingerprinting to Block Watch, it all comes together and is coordinated from our 10 shops and 1 mobile unit. The C.O.P.S. shops are the base of operation where all the action is. Here our volunteer presidents work with C.O.P.S. staff to insure that our programs are successfully implemented across the various neighborhoods of Spokane. These shops are in the neighborhoods and work with real citizens across Spokane. They are also community centers where meetings or other events can be held and serve as a stopping place for Spokane Police and Washington State Department of Corrections to write reports and do other work. The shops are great repositories for information, so stop by and meet your local volunteers.

The most effective way we help them is our Neighborhood Observation Patrol program. At times, we go out NOPping to patrol areas and schools, looking for anything out of place or anyone involved in suspicious activity. Other times, our NRO gives us specific nuisance or drug houses to keep an eye on. Manning the front desk is just a small part of what we do. Our potential to reduce crime is unlimited with the many programs we participate in. Our newer volunteers bring great ideas and interest in the specific programs which keeps our volunteer experience fresh and exciting.

All in all, we had a great 2018 and we look forward to 2019 with the possibility of moving to a more effective location with better visibility and access to our services. We are collaborating with the city and SPD on a potential site, so we hope it works out. We are also excited about the very popular Mounted Patrol Unit and the new Paws on Patrol with their potential to make a difference in creative ways very relevant to the safety of our community!

C.O.P.S. NORTH CENTRAL

Since the shop moved last year to this location at Knox Presbyterian Church, C.O.P.S. North Central has seen a marked increase in all areas of activity. Walk-in traffic and phone volume indicate more people are using the shop, justifying the move to better visibility within the neighborhood. “If you build it, they will come!”

The year started with completion of construction of the ramp outside and remodeling of the inside. Offices were created for the NRO and DOC. We are very grateful for the DOC work crews which played a major role in the renovation and move. Once ready, we moved into the new shop with new volunteers. Having completed training in February, the number of volunteers increased to 10. Cliff Drake, a veteran volunteer from the old shop who had taken a few years off, agreed to be our new president with Eric Hansen as vice president.

Once settled in, we made contact with our Block Watches, letting them know we were back in business and assuring them of our support. Next, we set up our Neighborhood Observation Patrol which led to the acquisition of a marked C.O.P.S. vehicle. We went out NOPping, making our presence known in our neighborhoods. Our shop took responsibility for the Latent Fingerprinting of prowled vehicles in the north half of Spokane in July. We participated in the grand opening of the new Monroe Street corridor. The shop assisted with five National Night Out parties in August. The shop hosted a group of 30 students from the Montessori Elementary school on September 26.

Dale Wells is our Neighborhood Resource Officer for the North Central and North Hill territories. Erik Phillips and Todd Fix are the Community Corrections Officers.
C.O.P.S. NEVA-WOOD

C.O.P.S. Neva-wood, a short distance from Northtown Mall, is easily one of the busiest C.O.P.S. shops in the city. The Washington State Department of Corrections has staff offices for the supervisor of the Community Corrections Officers in the other C.O.P.S. shops here as well as three CCOs downstairs. Spokane C.O.P.S. holds its board meetings, MAT meetings and various trainings at our shop. Nevada Heights Neighborhood Council has its office here and holds its meetings in the great room. The community in general uses the shop for various meetings throughout the year. We have potluck parties for a number of celebrations around the holidays. Our building is owned by the city, so maintenance issues are managed within our partnership.

Our leadership changed in the fall, so we all had to get used to different people handling different responsibilities. We do have help taking care of these complaints. Our Neighborhood Resource Officer, Keith Cler, works on them as well as shutting down drug and nuisance houses in the area. Our NRO Scott Hice adds so much fun to what we do here. We give him the opportunity to engage our fellow citizens in shop awareness and otherwise, find their way to us for a boost in the holiday spirit.

Throughout the year, our volunteers gather the found property items collected at the other C.O.P.S. shops, process the paperwork and take it all down to the City’s property facility. This takes quite a bit of time and effort to get the paperwork correct and tour all the shops. Bicycles are the main item we collect. They take up so much room at the shops, we have to collect them often.

Our leadership changed in the fall, so we all had to get used to different people handling different responsibilities. As we settled in to these new roles, our attention turned as always to the Block Watches, NOP patrols, Operation Family ID and fundraisers. We will continue to be successful in these endeavors as we bring on fresh new volunteers.

Winter brings our annual Pet Pictures event to the homeless folks in the parks on our NOP patrols. In December, we donated 453 pairs of underwear and socks to the homeless children at Holmes Elementary School. We also work closely with the Audubon Downriver Neighborhood Council and the Northwest Neighborhood Council by distributing free dump passes about 4 to 6 times a year. Along with our NRO Doug Strosahl, we pay a lot of attention to the homeless folks in the parks on our NOP patrols. We also work closely with the Audubon Downriver Neighborhood Council and the Northwest Neighborhood Council by distributing free dump passes about 4 to 6 times a year.

We also closed the year counting 8 new volunteers among our total of 38 active members who donated over 4,400 hours towards helping the community. Our shop was open Monday thru Friday from 9 to 5, and Saturday from 9 to 1 the entire year.

We had two shred days with more than 700 cars coming through. Not only do the shred days raise money for our shop’s expenses, they tie in with our mission by promoting ID theft awareness.

In August, we sponsored the biggest National Night Out Against Crime party in the city to date at Shadle Park with more than 1200 people enjoying a free movie, hot dogs, chips, soda, etc. People enjoyed interacting with the Mounted Patrol Unit, SPD, Fire Department, DOC and playing human foosball. A great event!

Although we have a good number of volunteers working at our shop, we encourage our members to think outside the box and be creative outside the shop in various NOP activities and crime prevention programs like Paws on Patrol, which everybody can do as part of their normal activities.

C.O.P.S. SOUTHEAST

Hillyard is a busy place for C.O.P.S. Northeast throughout the year at the North Precinct. It seems we roll in and out of events one right after the other. Summer brings the Hillyard Festival with its parade, giving us the opportunity to engage our fellow citizens in shop awareness and Block Watch issues. Talking to people in our neighborhood at such events about crime prevention and their complaints keeps us current in our efforts to assist them. Winter brings our annual Pet Pictures with Santa and the Christmas Store when all the little creatures, human and otherwise, find their way to us for a boost in the holiday spirit.

Our NRO Scott Hice adds so much fun to what we do here. We give him information that comes into the shop and he gets busy addressing the problems of the neighborhood.

Throughout the year, our volunteers gather the found property items collected at the other C.O.P.S. shops, process the paperwork and take it all down to the City’s property facility. This takes quite a bit of time and effort to get the paperwork correct and tour all the shops. Bicycles are the main item we collect. They take up so much room at the shops, we have to collect them often.

Our leadership changed in the fall, so we all had to get used to different people handling different responsibilities. As we settled in to these new roles, our attention turned as always to the Block Watches, NOP patrols, Operation Family ID and fundraisers. We will continue to be successful in these endeavors as we bring on fresh new volunteers.

Dion Mason on the drug houses and nuisance properties in our area. Our NOP patrol keeps a close eye on them. NRO Dion Mason gives us specific information on what to look for and we in turn give him what he needs to deal with them. The homeless population has become a chronic problem throughout Spokane and we are seeing it a lot more on the South Hill these days. No matter what day or what time of the day or night, you can usually find a friendly officer or two in our shop taking a break or working on their reports. We try to keep them well-fed and enjoy interacting with them.
A decision was made earlier this year that the downtown location for the C.O.P.S. shop needed better visibility, more volunteers and more engagement from the neighborhood. Parking has always been an issue for the public to stop in and use the shop. Problem solved with a new home on the west side of the downtown area. The First Presbyterian Church made it known they wanted a C.O.P.S. shop and offered space.

Kelly Cruz partitioned off the different offices and put in new floors and carpeting. He built a kitchen in the break room and a new reception desk in the front office. Once renovation of the space was complete, we moved in and began with renewed energy to serve the needs of our neighborhood.

The name of the new shop was changed back to C.O.P.S. Southwest. The old name, Greater Spokane, had become synonymous with the public, since the use of smart phones, thinking they were calling the Spokane Police Department to report incidental nuisance items. When you google search Spokane C.O.P.S., Greater Spokane would come up and people would and still do get confused and call the shop thinking they are reporting to the police. We are happy to help them anyway, whoever they thought they were calling.

Jeff Overholser and Travis Huntsinger, our Community Corrections Officers, played a major role in the renovation and move. They really took ownership of the move and paved the way for Tim Ottmar, our NRO, to move into his new office.

Our volunteer, Bob Manion, has distinguished himself this year by moving the portable radar trailer around the South Hill. In the new year, we will get a marked C.O.P.S. vehicle to move the radar and use for NOP.

In its 26th year of operation, C.O.P.S. West continues to steadily serve the needs of the West Central neighborhood with crime prevention programs and volunteers who are committed to assisting law enforcement. The phone rings and citizens come into the shop with everything from dogs who won’t stop barking to the stress of trying to deal with a drug house on the block. The volunteers get quite creative in their advice on what to do about these problems. Our goal at the C.O.P.S. shop is not to turn anyone away without doing everything possible to take care of their problem or address their issue. The public knows well that when they need resolution of a neighborhood problem, they can always come to the shop and talk to a caring volunteer.

The Department of Corrections Officers Lindsay Johanson and Ryan Austin, see their clients who come to the shop for supervision. The partnership between Spokane C.O.P.S. and DOC in the C.O.P.S. shops started here at C.O.P.S. West back in 1992 and was implemented as the model for the succeeding shops.

Abby Walthall, the Crime Victim Advocate, has her office here. She assists victims of ID theft and Fraud. SPD provides a list of victims and she calls them back to offer assistance. Abby is also the Outreach Manager for Spokane C.O.P.S. Traci Ponto is the Neighborhood Resource Officer. She takes care of West Central Neighborhood’s problems including drug and nuisance houses. Traci, as a volunteer, runs the very popular Mounted Patrol Unit out of her office. C.O.P.S. West hosted celebrations of Thanksgiving and Halloween this year.
Although C.O.P.S. North Hill does not have a shop location, most of our volunteers work at other shops and some just work on programs behind the scenes. We don’t necessarily need a shop to manage the Block Watches or engage in Neighborhood Observation Patrols. Plus, we attend various events offering Operation Family ID and Bike Registration. We partner twice a year with the North Hill Neighborhood Council to provide the Clean Green Event.

We use our mobile van at some events throughout the year such as the Garland Street Fair, which is the heart of our territory. You may see our van in a parade or two. Our Neighborhood Resource Officer is Dale Wells. We work closely with him on neighborhood problems and he provides information for our NOP activities.

In September, C.O.P.S. Logan moved to its new location at 2927 N. Perry St., a short distance from the Gonzaga Prep campus. The Community Corrections Officers Chris Schilling and Matt Keller were the first to move in and start seeing clients. Various remodeling projects have been completed, including new carpeting and flooring. Gravel was poured to create an extended parking area. The exterior is getting a face-lift with a new roof, all new windows and new paint. The shop plans a grand opening this spring with all new volunteers and students from Gonzaga Prep.

NEWTECH is a high school skills center that serves not only the city of Spokane, but students come from over 9 school districts in the region to attend. Newtech provides a number of tech programs students can get involved with, and their criminal justice program is a dynamite program for high school students who are looking at law enforcement as a potential career path.

In the fall of 2018 saw a new teacher for the program, Tommy Williams. “Mr. T,” as the kids lovingly call him, is a phenomenal teacher with a history in law enforcement. He has added a vibrancy to the program, and we look forward to 2019!
Mounted Patrol Fundraiser

Along with it being their first year in existence, the MPU had their first fundraiser. It was a huge success, with hundreds in attendance and bringing in several thousand dollars. We had live music, horses, games, an auction, great food vendors, and plenty of libations at the 238 Brewing Company.

Coffee with a Cop

The Police Department put on a handful of Coffee With a Cop events this year, and we were there to support and recruit.

Friendship Park

A fun outing at Friendship Park with the Mounted Patrol, motorcycle officers, NROs, and, of course, McGruff.

C.O.P.S. Northwest Shred Day

COPS NW does a phenomenal fundraiser twice a year. The put on a Shred Day, where community members can come drop off paper that they would like to see shredded. It is HUGE each time they do, typically bringing in around 6-8 TONS (yes, TONS) of paper. Not only is it a great fundraiser, it helps keep the community safe, too!

Whitworth Canvassing

Whitworth University and Spokane C.O.P.S. partnered up to go door-to-door in the West Central neighborhood this year. We spoke to neighbors and passed out information on the C.O.P.S. program and ways to stay safe.

Crime Free Rental Properties Training

Every year, we put on Crime Free Rental Property trainings. We bring in police officers, lawyers, social workers, and other experts to educate and empower rental property owners/managers on how to stay crime free. It’s a great training that constantly gets great reviews!
NATIONAL NIGHT OUT AGAINST CRIME

National Night Out is a big event in the neighborhoods of Spokane with many parties large and small throughout the city starting around noon and ending just short of midnight at Shadle Park. The Fire Department displayed their trucks at many parties and SPD officers spread out in their precinct areas. City Council members attended the parties in their districts. Enjoying the various cookouts, residents talked about the crime in their neighborhoods and staff discussed with them the many ways to reduce it. Forming new Block Watches was the main topic of conversation, reminding everyone that this crime prevention tool is very effective when citizens choose to take ownership of their neighborhood.

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DINNER/ANNUAL MEETING

On October 25th, the volunteers gathered for the annual appreciation dinner at Faith Bible Church. The volunteers thoroughly enjoyed the Old West theme this year, dressing up in their cowboy hats and western boots. The chairman of the board, Kelly Cruz, conducted the Annual Meeting of the corporation, in which the volunteers elected the board members and the officers who serve on the board.

The volunteers also enjoyed the fun of the volunteer dinner this year! Jackie Fox and the Hounds provided the live music.
West Central Neighbor Day

Neighbor Day is a fun event that the West Central neighborhood puts on each year. This year, we were there to recruit and do OFID, and it was the grand unveiling of the Mounted Patrol Unit!

Gonzaga Block Party

Gonzaga does their National Night Out in mid-September, when the students are back in session. We are there to recruit, educate, and join in the festivities.

Hillyard Parade

The Hillyard Parade is one of the most fun events we do, and this year was no exception. It is a fun parade with a goofy attitude, and we love to have fun with it! We were there with some vehicles and our Mounted Patrol Unit.

Purple Thursday

Purple Thursday - During the month of October, Thursdays are “Purple Thursdays,” used to promote education and prevention about domestic violence. We joined in on the action this year to show our support for the cause.

Gonzaga Block Party

Gonzaga does their National Night Out in mid-September, when the students are back in session. We are there to recruit, educate, and join in the festivities.

Halloween Party at C.O.P.S. West

This year, COPS West was open on Halloween night. We decorated and encouraged kids to come in for a Halloween costume contest. We had a TON of kids, and costumes were so fun! In addition, we got a special visit from Batman driving a Spokane Police Car. How fun!
W)e have a lot going on at Spokane C.O.P.S. that we can be proud of. Success stories, updates, announcements of new programs, news stories, and even crime prevention tips are all things that we want to be able to share with the community. We have made use of social media over the years, but we wanted to expand that a little to create a monthly newsletter that can keep us in touch with the community.

So this year, we started a newsletter that we send out each month. We aimed to keep each month’s issue focused on highlights, with short, to-the-point articles. We include quick crime prevention tips, two or three articles relevant to what we’re up to, contact info for the shops, list upcoming events, and list times we were in the news that month (which seems to be a LOT these days with all the great things we have going on!). The feedback has been positive as we keep things on point and focused on what matters. The subscriber list keeps growing as more and more people are seeing the newsletter and subscribing to it on their own. We’ll continue that for 2019, so keep looking for us in your email box!

C.O.P.S. Northeast’s Pet Pictures with Santa

Every year, COPS Northeast does a "Pet Pictures with Santa" event. It’s always fun, and it’s a great way to get some fun pictures with your family and animals!

Sleigh Rides in the Park

The Mounted Patrol Unit was done in September this year, but never to give up, they put on an event in Corbin Park right before Christmas. We had a horse-drawn wagon giving rides to families, along with Santa and Mrs Claus for pictures, live music, coffee and cocoa, free giveaways, and a lot of fun! What was supposed to be a two hour event turned into seven because so many people showed up!
For 2019, look for big things from Spokane C.O.P.S.!

The Mounted Patrol Unit will be back out in the parks and with the addition of many more horses! They are putting together a drill team and have some big surprises for the community.

Paws on Patrol, a new program aimed at getting people to make use of walking their dogs to observe and report crime, is on its way and already getting a huge response.

C.O.P.S. Logan will have its grand opening and will help re-energize the Logan neighborhood to fight back against crime.

Our NOP patrols continue to grow in size and efficiency.