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A Partnership in Excellence



Gary George, Director

On behalf of all the employees of the Alpharetta Dept. of Public Safety and the members and supporters of the Alpharetta Public Safety Foundation I welcome you to our newsletter!

We have many exciting changes taking place in Alpharetta Public Safety that will enhance services to our citizens and continue to make us the benchmark for others to follow.

We are moving forward with the creation of a new state of the art command and control 911 communications center coupled together with the upgrading all public safety software. The combination of these two changes will improve our efforts and shorten our response time to get our citizens help in time of need. We will have the ability to see all public safety assets in real time. Knowing the location of police and fire units in relation to a call for help will drastically lower the response time enabling us to help to citizens quickly!

We are placing new technologies in the field such as our license plate reader recognition system. This system will allow our officers to quickly identify offenders and take the appropriate steps to ensure the safety of our citizens.

We are moving forward in the area of professional development. Recently nine fire

fighters completed a rigorous tactical rope rescue training course which will greatly enhance their rope rescue techniques and abilities. Recently a number of existing employees have been promoted to supervisory ranks. As these promotions take place we will fill the open positions with quality employees.

Recently the Mayor and City Council made significant changes to the City of Alpharetta Employee pension and benefits package. These changes will allow Alpharetta to attract and retain the highest quality employees and prospective applicants. Alpharetta has one of the best benefit packages available!

We have created numerous community outreach programs designed to facilitate two way communication between the Alpharetta Department of Public Safety and our citizens. We have the PACT (Police And Citizens Together) program. Each residential area in the city has their own assigned police officer. This officer will attend three mandatory meetings each year with the residents. The officer will maintain contact with a representative to handle questions relating to quality of life issues.

The business community watch program assigns an officer to assist the business community in the city by maintaining two way communication and the exchange of information. We are in the process of creating an alert system so that we can target a certain type of business for alerts when needed. An example would be alerting all banks warning them of a fraud check cashing suspect.

In closing, we are always looking forward, always striving to set the example, and most importantly we are focused on our citizens! The Alpharetta Department of Public Safety is committed to providing the best possible public safety services to our citizens!

The Alpharetta Department of Public Safety has benefitted greatly during the last year by having the Alpharetta Public Safety Foundation as a solid partner. Together this partnership shares a common goal of bringing to the citizens of Alpharetta the best possible public safety services.

The foundation exists to enhance public safety by providing the necessary funding to assist public safety employees in time of need and to allow the purchase of requested items outside the normal budgetary process.

The Alpharetta Public Safety Foundation promotes a positive image of the Alpharetta Department of Public Safety. The foundation works to strengthen the bond between our business community, our citizens and the Alpharetta Dept. of Public safety.

Together we work toward a common goal of providing the very best public safety services! Truly a partnership in excellence!

Sincerely,
Gary George

Foundation Update



John Albers Chairman

As we enter our second full year of the foundation, I am more proud than ever to serve. I am simply amazed by our Public Safety personnel. As a former Firefighter/EMT, I understand and appreciate the role of public servants. Our police, fire and communications family in Alpharetta is second to none. Never take for granted what we have in Alpharetta.

2007 was an outstanding year. Gary Cann, our former Chairman worked tirelessly to make the first year a success and build a strong foundation. We will continue to honor his good work by building upon this foundation for years to come.

In 2007 we accomplished the following milestones:

- ✓ Received endorsement from the Alpharetta City Council
- ✓ Conducted forums which allowed business leaders and citizens to provide input
- ✓ Raised funds from a variety of corporate supporters
- ✓ Purchased the License Plate Recognition system for use by the Police Department in crime prevention
- ✓ Supported several DPS employees in times of personal crisis
- ✓ Purchased ALCO sensors for use in DUI detection
- ✓ Initiated a communications project which will allow local participating businesses to install camera systems which will link to the new C3 Center
- ✓ Provided supplemental funding for High Angle Rescue training for Firefighters
- ✓ Provided funding for air bags for the Fire Department
- ✓ Allocated funds that permit the Office of Homeland Security to improve training materials to businesses
- ✓ Sponsored the DPS Awards luncheon
- ✓ Held first annual Benihana Event
- ✓ Held Donor appreciation event
- ✓ Started a Business Advisory Council

We have many exciting plans for 2008. The Advisory Board is working diligently to develop a budget and priorities. The 2nd Annual Benihana event will happen this fall. Save the date and practice your cooking skills! Our #1 priority will always be to support our fire, police and communications family as needed.

I would like to congratulate Debi Wingate for her new role as the Foundation Co-Chair. Debi has been instrumental to the success of the foundation over the past year and will also lead the Business Advisory Council.

Special thanks to Janet Rodgers (our Marketing Chair) who has worked tirelessly to develop

outstanding materials, ideas and coordination for the foundation.

If you have any questions or thoughts, please do not hesitate to contact me at jalbers@apsfoundation.org or (770)833-4340.

Sincerely,



Annual Awards Ceremony

Seventeen people were honored at the third Annual Alpharetta Public Safety Awards ceremony on February 8 at the Alpharetta Presbyterian Church.

Robbie Rokovitz served as Master of Ceremonies. Featured speakers included Council Member Jim Paine and Alpharetta Public Safety Director Gary D. George. The keynote speaker, Dr. Jack Enter, discussed leadership principles and heroism.

Recognition was given to five officers recently promoted to sergeant: Greg Davis, Jason Hiott, Todd Hood, Shannon Layne and Justin Wilson.

Two Dillard's employees, Derrick Parker and Brady Pugh, were named Citizen of the Year for their bravery. A police officer tried to apprehend an armed shoplifter in Dillard's on November 7, 2007. These men helped the police officer by kicking the shoplifter's handgun away and by physically fighting with the suspect.

Firefighters Cal Hamilton and Casey Beyond received a life-saving award for their actions on May 19, 2007. Upon answering a call to an Alpharetta restaurant they found a mother-to-be lying on the floor. Her placenta had ruptured and she had lost a great deal of blood. The firemen placed her on a sheet and accompanied her to the hospital. Their decisions and actions helped save not one, but two lives.

Four Alpharetta Public Safety employees were recognized for their actions during an incident that occurred the evening of October 7, 2007.

- A man involved in a domestic dispute fled out his back door into the woods behind his house, armed with a shotgun.
- Three officers who arrived on the scene located the man. Each was in jeopardy, as the suspect could have shot at any of the three.

- James Harrison located the man and requested that he drop the gun. The suspect refused and pointed his gun at the officers. Harrison was forced to shoot the suspect (who survived). He was awarded the first Medal of Valor ever to be issued by the Alpharetta Public Safety Department for his bravery.
- Russ Woody and Michael Stewart, the other officers on the scene, were awarded the Police Cross for Valor for also drawing their weapons to fire.
- Senior Communications Officer Patricia Spalcher was named Non-sworn Civilian Employee of the Year for her calm and effective coordination of police, firefighter and ambulance services during the incident.

Alpharetta Public Service Department personnel are awarded the title "Employee of the Year" based on job performance, professionalism, dedication, attitude and commitment of the profession of public safety. These awards are especially meaningful because the recipients are secretly selected to their supervisors and peers.

- Billy Waddell was named 2007 Police Officer of the Year.
- Charles Simms was named Fire Officer of the Year. He was also named Georgia's 2007 Fire Educator of the Year.
- Shawn Blood was named 2007 Fire Fighter of the Year.
- Pat Selvaggi was named the 2007 non-sworn Public Safety Employee.

Gary Cann contributed countless hours, effort and insight as the chairman of the Alpharetta Public Safety Foundation during its inaugural year. Although he was unable to attend the ceremony his wife Cindy Cann accepted the Civilian Volunteer of the Year award on his behalf. Cann also received a proclamation from the Georgia Secretary of State recognizing his many contributions to the community.

Gary D. George presented Master Police Officer Rob Wessell a two foot golden metallic eagle on a black marble base, the symbol of this year's Director's Award. Wessell has been assigned to the Alpharetta Police Department's traffic unit as a commercial vehicle inspector. He also serves as the department's liaison to the new Verizon Amphitheater project, working to coordinate a new traffic plan and anticipate other security issues. He was cited for his integrity, professionalism and dedication to the public safety profession.

The services were well attended. Notables in the audience included Mayor Arthur Letchas, Council Members Derito, Monson and Oakes.

This event was sponsored and paid for by the Alpharetta Public Safety Foundation, Inc.

Alpharetta Knocks Auto Thieves on their Heals

Once every 26 seconds, a car is stolen in the United States. These vehicles are often used to commit other crimes such as robberies, drug trafficking and drive-by shootings. As a result, prosecuting offenders and recovering stolen vehicles is a top priority when attempting to *prevent* crime.

Thanks to the generosity of the Winward Business Center Association, the Alpharetta police department is now evaluating a new law enforcement tool, the Remington-Elsag license plate recognition system. This system was created to locate stolen vehicles and others that spell "potential trouble."



The Remington-Elsag system multiplies the effectiveness of our police force because it works in the background without any action by an officer, letting him keep his hands on the wheel and attention on the road. Devices installed in his police car use infrared light to illuminate the

license plates of all passing cars. A high speed camera takes a photo of each plate which digitized and compared with a database. If a match is not found, plate numbers are immediately discarded; when a match is found, the policeman is immediately alerted.

On average, these systems read 24,000 plates a week. In Alpharetta kits have been installed in six squad cars so each unit can be used twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week.

Information from the GBI is refreshed every 24 hours and local information is added in as needed.

There are five types of alerts when there's a "hit" on a plate:

1. Stolen vehicles
2. Stolen plates
3. Wanted or missing people
4. Suspended or revoked license
5. Scofflaws, people with numerous tickets or those who fail to report at court

On its first day of operation Officer John McDonald was demonstrating the system at North Point Mall. The system spotted the plates of a person wanted for a felony who, incidentally, turned out to be a mall employee. Everyone (other than the criminal) was astounded and delighted with the system's usefulness.

**Maintaining world class public safety in Alpharetta
Supporting those who protect us...**

